

T H A M E S      V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury,  
Oxfordshire (Phase 2)**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Will Attard**

**Site Code: HRB22/200**

**(SP4468 4273)**

# **Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury, Oxfordshire (Phase 2)**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Manor Oak Homes Ltd**

by Will Attard

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HRB 22/200

**December 2022**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury, Oxfordshire (Phase 2)

**Grid reference:** SP4468 4273

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 28th November 2022 - 8th December 2022

**Project coordinator:** David Sanchez

**Site supervisor:** Will Attard

**Site code:** HRB 22/200

**Area of site:** c. 8.3ha

**Summary of results:** 54 trenches opened as intended. A further 20 trenches remain unexcavated at present due to ecological constraints detailed in the text. 23 of the trenches revealed features which appear to relate to post-medieval ridge and furrow, or other agricultural features on the same East-West alignment, which had been located during the geophysical survey. A single undated gully was investigated, but no other features of archaeological interest were encountered. Based on the trenches excavated so far, the site is considered to be of low archaeological potential.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire Museum Service and the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

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# Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury, Oxfordshire (Phase 2) An Archaeological Evaluation

by Will Attard

Report 22/200

## Introduction

This report documents the results of the second phase of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury, Oxfordshire (SP 4468 4273) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr William Main of Manor Oak Homes Ltd, 21 The Point, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7NU.

Planning permission been sought from Cherwell District Council for a residential development on a c. 8.3ha parcel of land. Due to the potential for groundworks associated with the development to damage underlying archaeological deposits on the site, two components of archaeological work were proposed in order to inform the planning process - a geophysical (magnetometry) survey and a field evaluation. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021) and the District Council's Local Plan policies.

The prior geophysical survey revealed limited magnetic anomalies of potential archaeological interest - primarily a large linear anomaly crossing most of the site and frequent parallel linear anomalies interpreted as probably remnants of ridge and furrow (Beaverstock 2021). This report documents the results of the evaluation trench component of this project. The fieldwork was carried out according to a specification approved by Ms Victoria Green, Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services, the archaeological adviser to the District Council, and based on a brief supplied by her (Green 2021). The fieldwork was undertaken by Will Attard, Edmund Cush and Sophie Peng between 28th November and 11th December 2022 and the site code is HRB 22/200.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service and Archaeology Data Service in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the northern edge of Banbury, bounded to the north, west and south by open fields, and to the east by football pitches; in the south-east corner of the site it is bounded by Dukes Meadow Drive (Fig. 1; Pl. 1). The site is a sub-rectangular parcel of land that slopes from c. 132m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the

west to 102m aOD in the south-east. The site is currently under grass and shrubs and is not in use; an unmarked footpath crosses the site running east-west, and several unofficial footpaths are in constant use by dog walkers (Pl. 6). The underlying geology is mapped as Middle Lias silts and clays in the west and Lower Lias mainly clay in the east (BGS 1982).

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a detailed briefing document for the previous phase of the project prepared by Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (Green 2021) and supplemented by the results of a desk-based assessment and geophysical survey (Elliott 2021; Beaverstock 2022) for the current site. In summary, the site lies in an area in which relatively few sites and finds are recorded. However, to the west a probable Bronze Age round barrow that had later been re-used as a post-medieval windmill was excavated (McNicoll-Norbury 2015a and b; Bray and McNicoll-Norbury 2016) and further to the west (centred on SP 4356 4279) an Iron Age to Roman settlement has been excavated (Green 2021; Egan 2017). Other fieldwork beyond the desktop study area boundary has revealed Roman occupation and possible prehistoric landscape features.

An earlier geophysical survey (Beaverstock 2021) and evaluation involved 30 trenches located immediately to the south of the current site: Fig. 2) most of which revealed evidence of ridge and furrow, but no finds or deposits of archaeological significance (Foster 2022).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

Specific aims of the project were;

- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present,
- to determine if the geophysical anomalies are of archaeological origin; and
- to provide information to allow the preparation of a mitigation strategy if necessary.

Seventy-four trenches, 25m long and 1.8m wide were to be dug using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed to expose the archaeologically sensitive levels. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools and sufficient of the archaeological features

and deposits exposed would be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above, without compromising the integrity of any feature that might warrant preservation *in situ* or be better investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation. Spoil heaps were to be monitored for finds and scanned with a metal detector.

## **Results**

Fifty-four trenches were opened with minor alterations in orientation and position to ensure appropriate standoffs were maintained for ecological constraints and the unmarked footpath (Fig. 2, Fig. 4). The trenches ranged from 20m to 31.2m in length and 0.27m to 1.85m in depth. A complete list of trenches giving length, breadth, depth and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Twenty trenches were not opened due to ecological constraints relating to the presence of an area of Adders Tongue Fern and a large badger sett, both located in the west of the site towards the top of the slope.

The trenching revealed a single gully, 1, aligned N-S, which was investigated in Trench 33 but produced no dating evidence (Fig. 3). Extensive remnants of ridge and furrow were visible both from the surface and in 23 of the stripped trenches, corresponding to that visible from aerial photography and geophysical survey. Trenches at the base of the slope, at the eastern end of the site were often heavily disturbed, often with modern truncation and/or thick deposits of rubble and clay.

### Trench 1 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 1 was aligned E-W and was 27.5m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil overlying 0.2m of subsoil overlying mid orange-brown clay natural geology. No finds were recovered.

### Trench 2 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4; Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned NE-SW and was 27.5m long and 0.68m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil and 0.35m of subsoil overlying the fill of a furrow (0.35m-0.68m) overlying natural geology at a depth of 0.68m+. The furrow was aligned roughly E-W and was present along the full length of the trench. No finds were recovered.

### Trench 3 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 3 was aligned NW-SE. This trench was 25m long and 0.55m deep. Observed stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil. 0.13m of subsoil and mixed clay & mudstone natural geology from a depth of 0.38m. No finds were recovered.

#### Trench 4 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 4 was aligned N-S and measured 24m long by 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil, 0.10m of subsoil and mid brown-orange silty clay natural at a depth of 0.40m. Two furrows crossed the trench, aligned E-W, at 3.5-7m from the southern end and 15-20.5m from the southern end respectively. Modern white china was present within the fill of these furrows; no finds of archaeological significance were present within this trench.

#### Trenches 5 to 8 (Fig. 3; Pl. 2)

These trenches were unexcavated due to ecological constraints.

#### Trench 9 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 9 was aligned E-W and measured 28.0m long and 0.85m deep. 0.30m of topsoil overlay 0.20m of subsoil which in turn overlay a mid red-brown colluvial deposit at a depth of 0.50-0.70m. Mid brown-orange silty clay was exposed at a depth of 0.70m. A test pit was excavated to a depth of 1.30m at the western end of the trench to confirm that this latter deposit was indeed the natural geology. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.

#### Trench 10 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 10 was aligned NE-SW, measured 25.3m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil, 0.21m of subsoil and mixed clay/mudstone natural geology at a depth of 0.42m. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.

#### Trench 11 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 11 was aligned NE-SW, measured 25.2m long and 0.70m deep. 0.22m of topsoil overlay 0.20m of subsoil, in turn overlying 0.28m of furrow fill. Natural mid grey-yellow clay was exposed at a depth of 0.70m. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.

#### Trench 12 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 12 was aligned NE-SW and measured 25.20m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.21m of topsoil, 0.15m of subsoil and mid grey-yellow silty clay natural geology. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.

#### Trench 13 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 13 was aligned N-S and measured 29.6m long and 0.57m deep. Observed stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil overlying 0.22m of subsoil. Natural light yellow-brown clay was exposed at a depth of 0.57m. The remnants of furrows were visible at 9.1-11m and 22-24m from the southern end of the trench. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.

Trench 14 (Fig. 2; Fig. 4)

Trench 14 was aligned N-S. It measured 28.2m in length and 0.49m in depth. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.33m of topsoil, 0.16m of subsoil and light brown-orange natural silty clay at 0.49m. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.

Trench 15 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4; Pl. 3)

Trench 15 was aligned E-W and measured 26.33m long and 0.43m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil, 0.28m of subsoil and natural light brown-orange clay with occasional ironstone inclusions at a depth of 0.43m. Furrows crossed the trench at 5.9m and 19m from the western end respectively.

Trench 16 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 16 was aligned N-S. It measured 31.2m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying 0.25m of subsoil overlying light brown-orange silty clay natural geology. A test pit was excavated at the northern end of the trench in order to confirm the natural geology. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.

Trench 17 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 17 was aligned E-W and was 26.06m long and 0.49m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.33m of topsoil overlying 0.16m of subsoil, with light yellow-brown silty clay natural geology exposed at a depth of 0.49m. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.

Trench 18 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 18 was aligned N-S and was 25.7m long and 0.53m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.33m of topsoil overlying 0.20m of subsoil, in turn overlying mid brown-orange sandy clay at a depth of 0.53m. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.

Trench 19 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 19 was aligned E-W and measured 26.40m long and 0.75m deep. The stratigraphy is recorded as 0.50m of topsoil overlying 0.25m of subsoil, with dark orange-brown natural silty clay present at a depth of 0.75m. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.

Trench 20 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 20 was aligned N-S and was 25.50m long and 0.53m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying 0.20m of subsoil, in turn overlying natural mid brown-red silty clay. A furrow is recorded at 22m from the southern end of the trench, and a patch of mudstone is visible at 13.50m-21m. A single sherd of modern pottery was recovered from the fill of the furrow; no archaeologically significant finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.



#### Trench 21 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 21 was aligned E-W and measured 27.50m long and 0.37m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of topsoil and 0.20m of subsoil overlying natural light brown-orange silty clay. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.

#### Trench 22 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 22 was aligned NE-SW and measured 24.8m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil directly overlying light brown-yellow natural clay. Furrows are recorded at 0-1.8m and 13.5-18.3m from the SW end of the trench. A small, irregular dark patch at the south-western end of the trench was investigated, but was not archaeological in origin. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.

#### Trench 23 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 23 was aligned N-S and measured 26.1m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.16m of topsoil, 0.25m of subsoil and light brown-orange natural silty clay at 0.41m deep. Furrows are recorded crossing the trench on an E-W alignment at 2.5m, 8.5m and 17.5m from the southern end of the trench.

#### Trench 24 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 24 was aligned N-S and was 26.0m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.20m of subsoil, in turn overlying light orange-brown silty clay natural geology. A furrow is recorded crossing the trench from east to west at 23m from the southern end.

#### Trench 25 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 25 was aligned N-S and measured 21.50m in length and 1.0m in depth. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying 0.25m of subsoil, in turn overlying 0.30m of mid red-brown colluvium. The underlying natural geology was exposed at a depth of 0.60m, and consisted of a mid brown-orange silty clay with occasional stone inclusions. A land drain was observed running E-W 9m from the southern end of the trench. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.

#### Trench 26 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 26 was aligned NE-SW and measured 25.5m long and 0.84m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil, 0.30m of subsoil and 0.26m of colluvium. The underlying natural geology consisted of mid brown-orange clay-silts with occasional mudstone. Furrows are recorded at 0-2.50m and 12.5-14.5m from the southern end of the trench. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within this trench.

#### Trench 27–32 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

These trenches were unexcavated due to ecological constraints.

Trench 33 (Fig. 2, Fig. 3, Fig. 4; Pl. 9)

Trench 33 was aligned E-W and measured 25.50m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.10m of subsoil overlying mottled light brown-red/blue grey natural silty clay. A small linear feature, 1, was observed running N-S at 19m from the western end of the trench, and investigated in a single slot (Pl. 5). No finds were present within the fill of this feature, nor from the rest of the trench.

Trench 34 (Fig. 3)

Trench 34 was aligned N-S and measured 26.20m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.10m of subsoil overlying natural light yellow-brown silty clay. At the southern end of the trench, a deposit of colluvium was observed to a depth of 0.50m, with the same light clay as above present from this depth onwards. Two furrows crossed the trench at 5.0-6.5m and 17-19m respectively. Modern white china was present within the fill of the southern furrow, but otherwise no finds were present within this trench.

Trench 35 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4; Pl. 3)

Trench 35 was aligned E-W and measured 25m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.20m of subsoil overlying light yellow-brown natural silty clay. An irregular patch of slightly darker clay at 16m from the western end of the trench was investigated and found not to be archaeological or anthropogenic in origin. A modern land drain was recorded at 2.6-4.7m from the western end of the trench, with the cut being 0.10m in width and running NW-SE. An area of modern disturbance including chunks of concrete, part of a modern roadside curb and brick was recorded at 5.20-5.80m.

Trench 36 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 36 was aligned N-S and measured 25.3m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil and 0.25m of subsoil overlying light brown-yellow natural silty clay. A furrow is recorded at 17-20.5m from the southern end of the trench; no finds were recovered.

Trench 37 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 37 was aligned N-S and measured 27m long and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy is recorded as 0.25m of topsoil and 0.24m of subsoil overlying light brown-orange silty clay natural geology. A land drain is recorded at 5.5-7.6m from the southern end of the trench, and two furrows are recorded at 10-14m and 19.5-24.2m respectively. No finds were recovered from this trench.

Trench 38 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 38 was aligned E-W and measured 23.50m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil and 0.23m of subsoil overlying light brown-orange silty clay natural geology. No finds or features of archaeological interest were present within this trench.

Trench 39 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4; Pl. 4)

Trench 39 was aligned E-W and measured 25.50m long and 0.95m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.34m of topsoil, 0.32m of clay with modern construction rubble inclusions and 0.28m of compact and partially truncated buried subsoil. Natural geology was exposed at a depth of 0.94m and consisted of mid orange-brown silty clay.

Trench 40 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 40 was aligned E-W and measured 25.13m long and 0.83m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.64m of topsoil & 0.19m of subsoil overlying light yellow-brown natural clay. No finds or features of archaeological interest were present within this trench.

Trench 41 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 41 was aligned N-S measured 26.52m long and 0.75m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.51m of topsoil and 0.24m of subsoil overlying natural mid orange-brown sandy clay. Towards the southern end of the trench, occasional mudstone inclusions were present within the clay. No finds or features of archaeological interest were present within this trench.

Trench 42 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 42 was aligned N-S and measured 27.27m long and 0.51m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.21m of topsoil, 0.15m of mid yellow-grey clay with construction rubble and 0.15m of subsoil overlying natural mid brown-orange clay silt. A land drain is recorded at 13.5m. The trench had clearly been stripped of topsoil prior to the deposition of the clay deposit. Wheel ruts were visible cutting the subsoil and disturbing the natural geology at the northern end of the trench.

Trench 43 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4; Pl. 4)

Trench 43 was aligned E-W and measured 27.70m long and 0.62m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil and 0.30m of subsoil overlying mid orange-brown silty clay natural geology. The trench was truncated from 9.2m from the western end up until the eastern end. Tarmac chunks, concrete, brick, plastic and roadside curb stones were present within this cut.

Trench 44 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 44 was aligned N-S and measured 21.50m long and 0.57m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil and 0.22m of subsoil overlying mid brown-orange natural silty clay. A furrow was observed 10m from the southern end of the trench running E-W. The southern end of the trench is recorded as being truncated with a similar range of modern debris in the cut as recorded in the large truncation in Trench 43.

Trench 45 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 45 was aligned E-W and was 24m long and 0.52m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil and 0.15m of subsoil overlying light brown-orange natural silty clay. No finds or features of archaeological interest were present within the trench.

Trench 46 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4; Plate 5)

Trench 46 was aligned N-S and measured 25m long and 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.30m of subsoil overlying mid orange-brown natural silty clay. Three furrows are recorded, aligned E-W, at 3m, 7m and 16m respectively from the southern end of the trench. No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

Trench 47 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 47 was aligned N-S and measured 24m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.18m of subsoil overlying mid orange-brown natural silty clay. Three furrows are recorded in this trench at 4.7m, 14.2m and 21.1m respectively from the southern end of the trench. No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

Trench 48 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 48 was aligned NE-SW and measured 25.5m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil and 0.23m of subsoil overlying light brown-red/brown-yellow mottled silty clay natural geology. No finds features or deposits of archaeological interest were present within this trench.

Trench 49–53 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

These trenches were left unexcavated due to ecological constraints.

Trench 54 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 54 was aligned ENE-WSW and measured 22m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil and 0.25m of subsoil overlying natural mid brown-orange silty clay with occasional mudstone inclusions. No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were present.

Trench 55 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 55 was aligned NE-SW and measured 23m long and 0.46m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil and 0.20m of subsoil overlying the same natural geology recorded in Trench 54. No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were present in this trench.

Trench 56 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 56 was aligned N-S and measured 25m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil and 0.17m of subsoil overlying mid brown-orange silty clay natural geology. Two furrows are recorded at 5m and 16m respectively from the southern end of the trench; no finds were recovered.

Trench 57 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 57 was aligned E-W and measured 20m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.15m of subsoil overlying light brown-orange/grey-blue mottled natural clay. No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were recovered from this trench.

Trench 58 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4; Pl. 6)

Trench 58 was aligned NW-SE and measured 24.8m long and 0.52m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.15m of subsoil overlying mid yellow-grey clay natural geology. Two furrows are recorded at 0.8m and 14.5m respectively from the SE end; no finds were recovered.

Trench 59 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 59 was aligned NE-SW and measured 24m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil and 0.2m of subsoil overlying light brown-orange natural silty clay. Two furrows are recorded at 8m and 18m respectively from the SW end of the trench; no finds were recovered.

Trench 60 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 60 was aligned N-S and measured 30m long and 0.69m deep. The stratigraphy observed consisted of 0.10m of topsoil, 0.31m of redeposited clay and 0.27m of subsoil overlying natural mid orange-brown silty clay with occasional stone inclusions. Furrows were present at approximately 0m, 12m and 24m, swiftly submerged by ingress of groundwater during stripping. No finds were recovered.

Trench 61 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4; P. 7)

Trench 61 was aligned E-W and measured 25.96m long and 1.10m deep. The stratigraphy at the eastern end of the trench consisted of 0.14m of topsoil, 0.30m of subsoil and light orange-brown natural geology. The subsoil and underlying natural geology was severely truncated from 0-11m and 16-23.5m from the western end of the trench. The stratigraphy at the western end of the trench consisted of 0.14m of topsoil overlying >0.90m of mid grey-blue clay with plastic, concrete, tarmac, brick and ceramic drain fragment inclusions. The presence of concrete curb stones and a modern Lucozade bottle suggests this debris is related to road construction or upgrades from within the last 15 years or so.

Trench 62 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 62 was aligned NE-SW and measured 25m long and 1.07m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil overlying a 0.93m thick band of redeposited clay and rubble. Natural geology was encountered at a depth of 1.07m, and consisted of a light brown-orange silty clay. The natural in this trench was clearly truncated by the overlying made ground. No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 63 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 63 was aligned NE-SW and measured 26.50m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil and 0.17m of subsoil overlying light orange-brown to yellow-brown natural silty clay. Two furrows are recorded for this trench at 6.5-8m and 18-20.5m respectively from the SW end of the trench; no finds were recovered.

Trench 64 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 64 was aligned NE-SW and measured 25m long and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m of topsoil and 0.07m of subsoil overlying mid to light brown-orange silty clay natural geology. No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest are recorded for this trench.

Trench 65 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 65 was aligned NW-SE and measured 25m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.21m of topsoil and 0.40m of subsoil overlying mid yellow-grey silty clay natural geology. At the northern end of the trench, where it lies closest to the field boundary, frequent disturbance by extant and historic rooting was visible in the natural. No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were present in this trench.

Trench 66–70 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

These trenches were left unexcavated due to ecological constraints.

Trench 71 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4; Pl. 8)

Trench 71 was aligned E-W and measured 25.6m long and 0.27m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of loamy topsoil directly overlying light brown-yellow natural clay. No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were present within this trench.

Trench 72 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 72 was aligned E-W and measured 24m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.15m of subsoil overlying light orange-brown silty clay. No finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were present within this trench.

Trench 73 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 73 was aligned NE-SW and measured 25.6m long and 0.85m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil, 0.27m of blue clay, 0.13m of partially truncated subsoil & 0.20m of redeposited natural clay overlying the natural mid grey-yellow silty clay. No finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were present within this trench.

Trench 74 (Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

Trench 74 was aligned NW-SE and measured 24.8m long and 1.85m deep at its deepest point. The whole trench was heavily truncated and then filled with a series of made ground/levelling deposits. The stratigraphy consisted

of 0.32m of topsoil, 0.18m of blue clay, 0.35m of deposited natural and 0.85m of mixed blue/yellow clay and rubble inclusions overlying a mottled grey/yellow clay tentatively interpreted as natural geology. No finds of archaeological interest were recovered from this trench.

## **Finds**

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

## **Conclusion**

Despite the potential for archaeological deposits being present on site, only features which appear to relate to post-medieval ridge and furrow, which were located during the geophysical survey, were present. The only exception to this was small gully, 1, investigated and recorded in Trench 33. Trenches targeting the large linear anomalies identified during geophysical survey did not reveal a corresponding archaeological feature. On the basis of these results the evaluated areas of the site are considered to have very low archaeological potential

## **References**

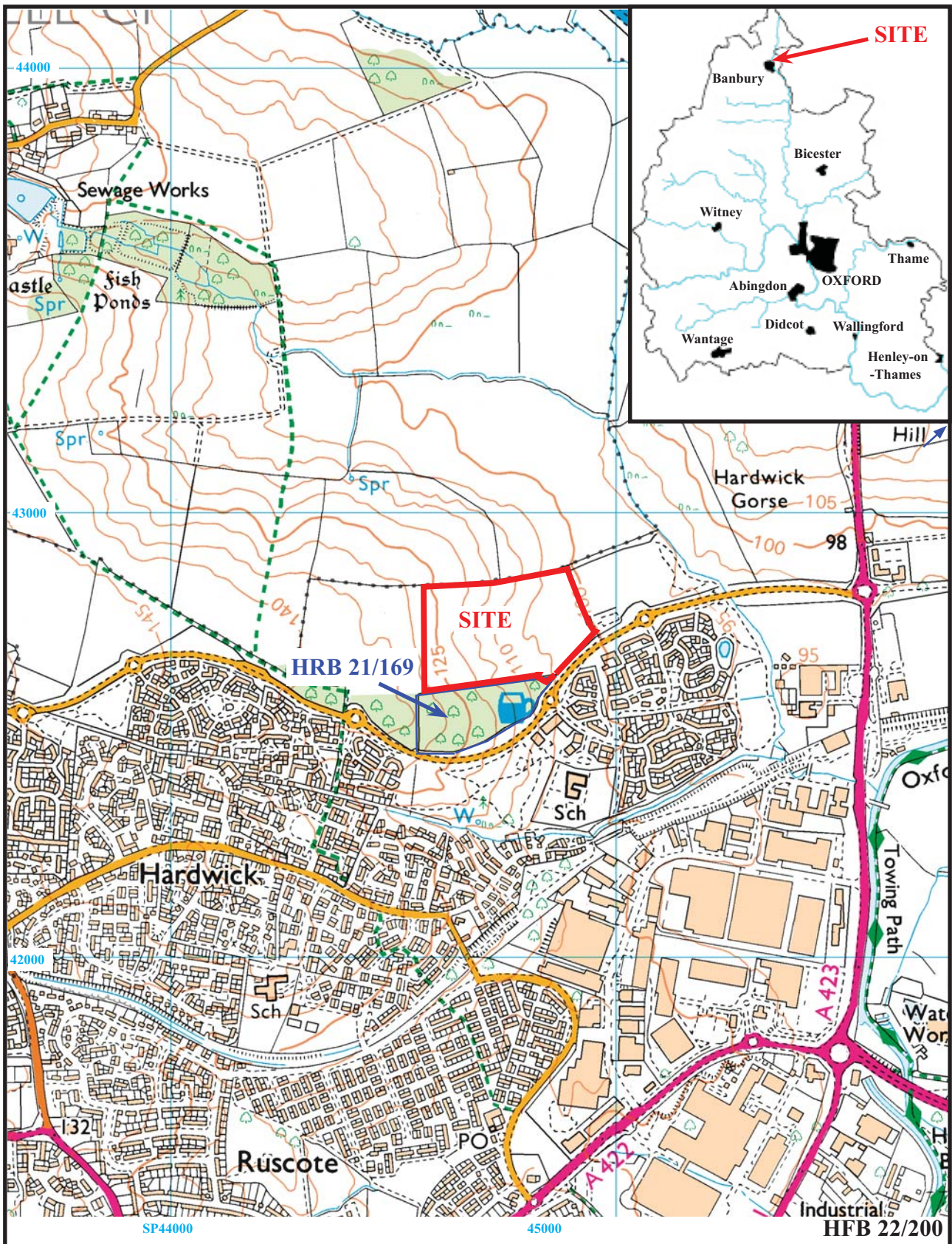
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## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	27.5	1.8	0.48	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ light orange-brown silty clay natural geology. Two furrows.
2	27.5	1.8	0.68	0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23-0.58m subsoil; 0.58-0.68m furrow fill; 0.68m+ mid orange-yellow silty clay natural geology. Furrow. <b>[PI. 2]</b>
3	25.0	1.8	0.55	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ mid orange-yellow silty clay natural geology with occasional stone inclusions. Two furrows.
4	24.0	1.8	0.50	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ mid brown-orange silty clay natural. Two furrows.
5	n/a	n/a	n/a	Trench unexcavated due to ecological constraints.
6	n/a	n/a	n/a	Trench unexcavated due to ecological constraints.
7	n/a	n/a	n/a	Trench unexcavated due to ecological constraints.
8	n/a	n/a	n/a	Trench unexcavated due to ecological constraints.
9	28.0	1.8	0.85	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.50m subsoil; 0.50-0.70m mid red-brown colluvium; 0.70m+ mid brown-orange silty clay natural geology.
10	25.3	1.8	0.50	0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23-0.42m subsoil; 0.42m+ mid orange-yellow silty clay natural geology.
11	25.2	1.8	0.70	0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22-0.42m subsoil; 0.42-0.70m furrow fill; 0.70m+ mid grey-yellow clay natural geology. Furrow.
12	25.2	1.8	0.55	0-0.21m topsoil; 0.21-0.36m subsoil; 0.36m+ mid grey-yellow clay natural geology. Furrow.
13	29.6	1.8	0.57	0-0.35m topsoil; 0.35-0.57m subsoil; 0.57m+ light yellow-brown silty clay natural. Two furrows.
14	28.2	1.8	0.49	0-0.33m topsoil; 0.33-0.49m subsoil; 0.49m+ light brown-orange silty clay natural geology.
15	26,3	1.8	0.43	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.43m subsoil; 0.43m+ light brown-orange clay natural geology with occasional ironstone inclusions. Two furrows. <b>[PI. 3]</b>
16	31.2	1.8	0.55	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.55m subsoil; 0.55m+ light brown-orange silty clay natural geology.
17	26.1	1.8	0.49	0-0.33m topsoil; 0.33-0.49m subsoil; 0.49m+ light yellow-brown clay natural geology.
18	25.7	1.8	0.53	0-0.33m topsoil; 0.33-0.53m subsoil; 0.53m+ mid brown-orange sandy clay natural geology.
19	26.4	1.8	0.75	0-0.50m topsoil; 0.50-0.75m subsoil; 0.75m+ dark orange-brown silty clay natural geology.
20	25.5	1.8	0.53	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ mid brown-red silty clay natural geology. Furrow.
21	27.5	1.8	0.37	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ light brown-red silty clay natural geology. Evidence of disturbance - tyre ruts.
22	24.8	1.8	0.48	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m+ light brown-yellow clay natural geology; Two furrows.
23	26.1	1.8	0.50	0-0.16m topsoil; 0.16-0.41m subsoil; 0.41m+ light brown-orange silty clay natural geology. Three furrows.
24	26.0	1.8	0.60	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ light orange-brown silty clay natural geology. Furrow.
25	21.5	1.8	1.00	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.55m subsoil; 0.55-0.85m colluvium. 0.60m+ mid brown-orange silty clay with occasional stone inclusions.
26	25.5	1.8	0.84	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.40m subsoil; 0.40-0.66m subsoil; 0.66m+ mid brown-orange clay silt with occasional mudstone. Two furrows.
27	n/a	n/a	n/a	Trench unexcavated due to ecological constraints.
28	n/a	n/a	n/a	Trench unexcavated due to ecological constraints.
29	n/a	n/a	n/a	Trench unexcavated due to ecological constraints.
30	n/a	n/a	n/a	Trench unexcavated due to ecological constraints.
31	n/a	n/a	n/a	Trench unexcavated due to ecological constraints.
32	n/a	n/a	n/a	Trench unexcavated due to ecological constraints.
33	25.5	1.8	0.40	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ light brown-red/blue-grey mottled silty clay natural geology. Trench contained Gully [1]. <b>[PI. 9]</b>
34	26.2	1.8	0.50	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ light yellow-brown silty clay natural geology. Two furrows.
35	25.0	1.8	0.50	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ light yellow-brown silty clay natural geology. Trench contained a modern land drain and a modern truncation containing construction rubble.
36	25.3	1.8	0.60	0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23-0.48m subsoil; 0.48m+ light brown-yellow silty clay natural geology. Furrow.
37	27.0	1.8	0.56	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.49m+ subsoil; 0.49m+ light brown-orange silty clay natural geology. Trench contained two furrows and a land drain.
38	23.5	1.8	0.60	0-0.27m topsoil; 0.27-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ light brown-orange silty clay natural geology.
39	25.5	1.8	0.95	0-0.34m topsoil; 0.34-0.66m redeposited clay; 0.66-0.94m compacted, partially truncated subsoil; 0.94m+ mid orange-brown silty clay.
40	25.1	1.8	0.83	0-0.64m topsoil; 0.64-0.83m subsoil 0.83m+ light yellow-brown clay natural



				geology.
41	26.5	1.8	0.75	0-0.51m topsoil; 0.51-0.75m subsoil; 0.75m+ mid orange-brown sandy clay natural geology. Land drain.
42	27.3	1.8	0.51	0-0.34m topsoil; 0.34-0.51m subsoil; 0.51m+ mid brown-orange clay silt natural geology. Land drain & wheel ruts at northern end of trench.
43	27.7	1.8	0.62	0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.62m subsoil; 0.62m+ mid orange-brown silty clay natural geology. Modern truncation. <b>[Pl. 4]</b>
44	21.5	1.8	0.57	0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ mid orange-brown silty clay natural geology. Modern truncation at southern end. Furrow.
45	24.0	1.8	0.52	0-0.27m topsoil; 0.27-0.42m subsoil; 0.42m+ light brown-orange silty clay natural geology.
46	25.0	1.8	0.70	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ mid orange-brown silty clay. Three furrows. <b>[Pl. 5]</b>
47	24.0	1.8	0.40	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ mid orange-brown silty clay natural geology. Three furrows.
48	25.5	1.8	0.55	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ light brown-red/brown-yellow mottled silty clay natural geology.
49	n/a	n/a	n/a	Trench unexcavated due to ecological constraints.
50	n/a	n/a	n/a	Trench unexcavated due to ecological constraints.
51	n/a	n/a	n/a	Trench unexcavated due to ecological constraints.
52	n/a	n/a	n/a	Trench unexcavated due to ecological constraints.
53	n/a	n/a	n/a	Trench unexcavated due to ecological constraints.
54	22.0	1.8	0.60	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.55m subsoil; 0.55m+ mid brown-orange silty clay natural geology with occasional mudstone inclusions.
55	23.0	1.8	0.46	0-0.26m topsoil; 0.26-0.46m subsoil; 0.46m+ mid brown-orange silty clay natural geology with occasional mudstone inclusions.
56	25.0	1.8	0.50	0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ mid brown-orange silty clay natural geology. Two furrows.
57	20.0	1.8	0.50	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ light brown-orange/grey-blue mottled natural clay.
58	24.8	1.8	0.52	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ mid grey-yellow silty clay natural geology. <b>[Pl. 6]</b>
59	24.0	1.8	0.48	0-0.27m topsoil; 0.27-0.47m subsoil; 0.47m+ light brown-orange silty clay natural geology. Two furrows.
60	30.0	1.8	0.69	0-0.41m topsoil; 0.41-0.69m subsoil; 0.69m+ mid orange-brown silty clay natural geology with occasional stone inclusions. Three furrows.
61	25.9	1.8	1.10	0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14-0.44m subsoil; 0.44m+ light orange-brown natural geology. Modern truncations over much of the trench. <b>[Pl. 7]</b>
62	25.0	1.8	1.07	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17-1.07m redeposited clay & rubble; 1.07m+ light brown-orange silty clay. Natural truncated modern disturbance.
63	26.5	1.8	0.45	0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m mid orange-brown/yellow-brown mixed silty clay natural geology. Two furrows.
64	25.0	1.8	0.56	0-0.40m topsoil; 0.40-0.47m subsoil; 0.47m+ mid to light brown-orange silty clay natural geology.
65	25.0	1.8	0.48	0-0.21m topsoil; 0.21-0.40m subsoil; 0.40,+ mid yellow-grey silty clay natural geology.
66	n/a	n/a	n/a	Trench unexcavated due to ecological constraints.
67	n/a	n/a	n/a	Trench unexcavated due to ecological constraints.
68	n/a	n/a	n/a	Trench unexcavated due to ecological constraints.
69	n/a	n/a	n/a	Trench unexcavated due to ecological constraints.
70	n/a	n/a	n/a	Trench unexcavated due to ecological constraints.
71	25.6	1.8	0.27	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m+ light brown-yellow clay natural geology. <b>[Pl. 8]</b>
72	24.0	1.8	0.48	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ light orange-brown silty clay.
73	25.6	1.8	0.85	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.52m blue clay; 0.52-0.65m poss. redeposited subsoil; 0.65-0.85m redeposited natural clay, 0.85m+ mid grey-yellow clay natural geology. Modern truncation.
74	24.8	1.8	1.85	0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.50m blue clay with rubble; 0.5-0.85m redeposited natural; 0.85-1.70m mixed clay with modern rubble; 1.70m+ mottled blue-grey/red-brown clay - possible natural geology. Modern truncation.

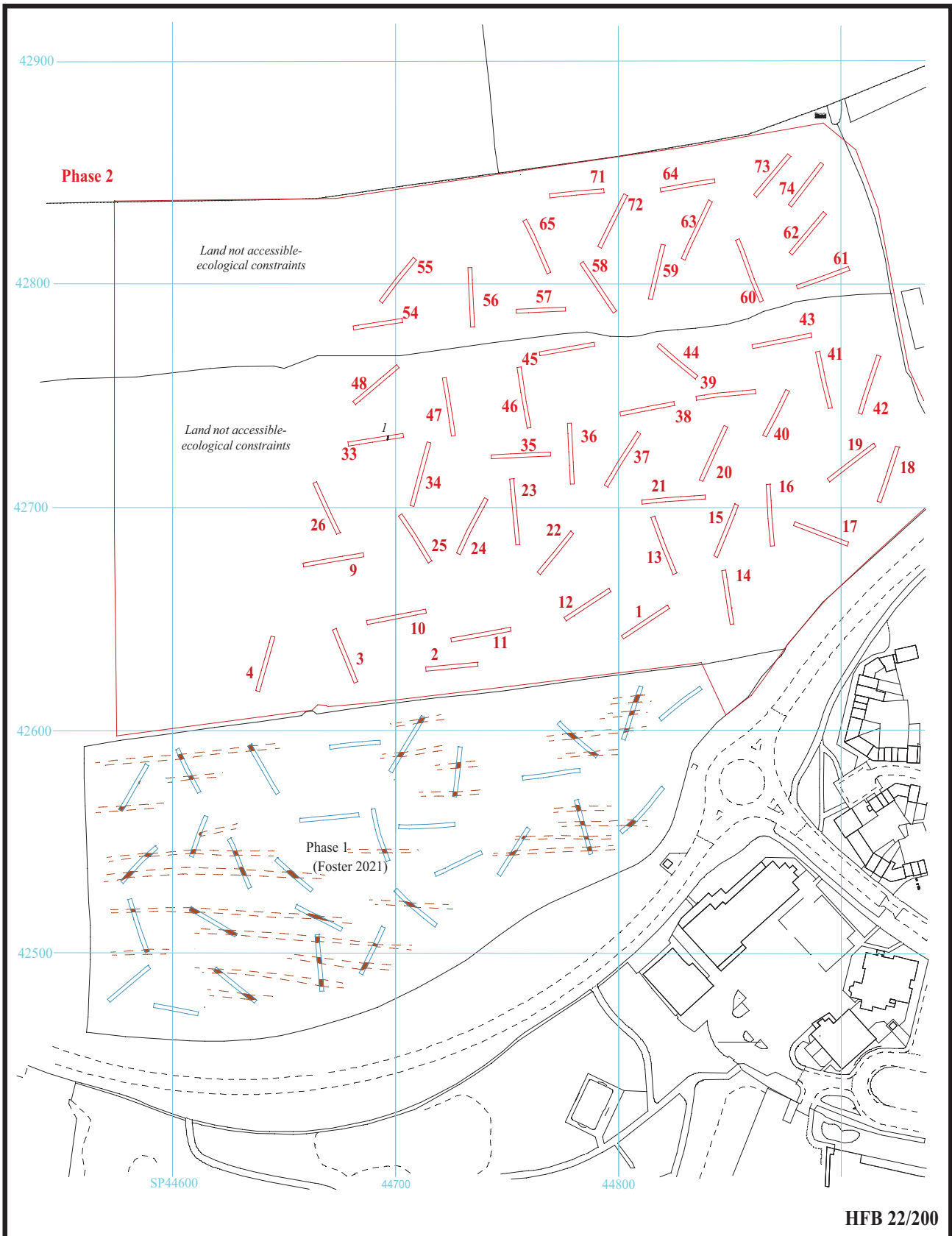


**Land at Hanwell Fields 2,  
Banbury, Oxfordshire  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Banbury and Oxfordshire.

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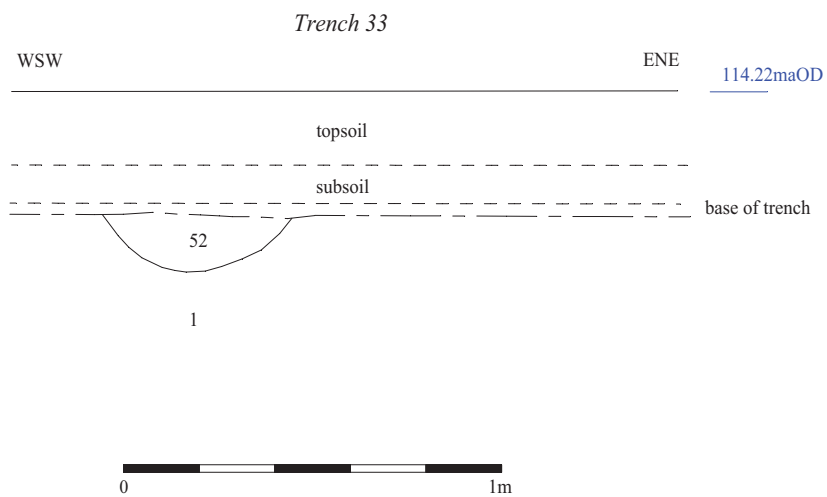
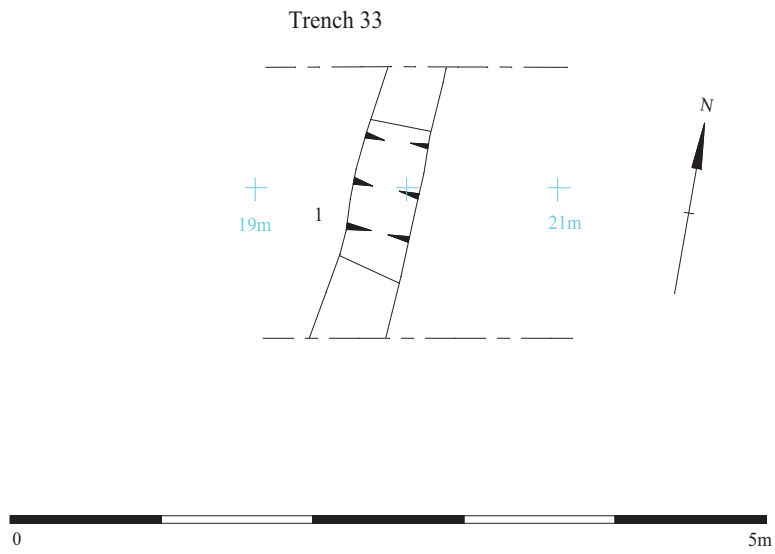




**Land at Harwell Fields 2,  
Banbury, Oxfordshire, 2022  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Plan of Trenches and previous evaluation trenches to south (after Foster 2021).



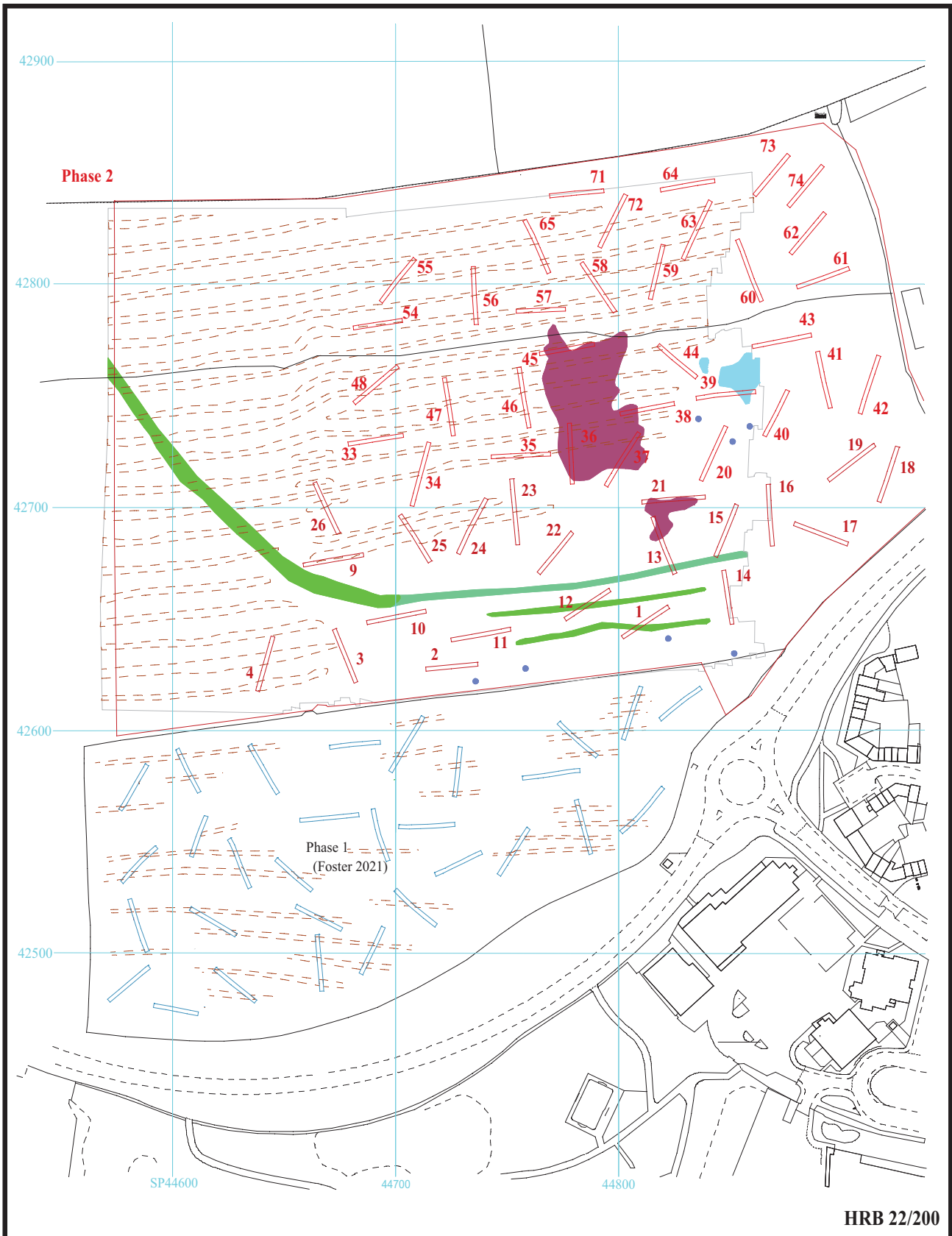


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**Land at Harwell Fields 2,  
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Figure 3. Plan and section from Trench 33.

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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Trenches compared to geophysical survey (Beaverstock 2022).



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Plate 1. General site shot looking south east.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking East, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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**Land at Hanwell Fields 2,  
Banbury, Oxfordshire, 2022  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 15, looking North East, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 43, looking North East, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.4m.

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**Land at Hanwell Fields 2,  
Banbury, Oxfordshire, 2022  
Archaeological Evaluation**  
Plates 3 and 4.

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Plate 5. Trench 46, looking North, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 6. Trench 58, looking North West, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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**Land at Hanwell Fields 2,  
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Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 5 and 6.**

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Plate 7. Trench 61, looking North East, Scales: horizontal 2m, vertical 1m.



Plate 8. Trench 71, looking East, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m.

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**Land at Hanwell Fields 2,  
Banbury, Oxfordshire, 2022  
Archaeological Evaluation**  
Plates 7 and 8.

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Plate 9. Trench 33, gully 1, looking North, Scales: horizontal 0.5m and vertical 0.1m.

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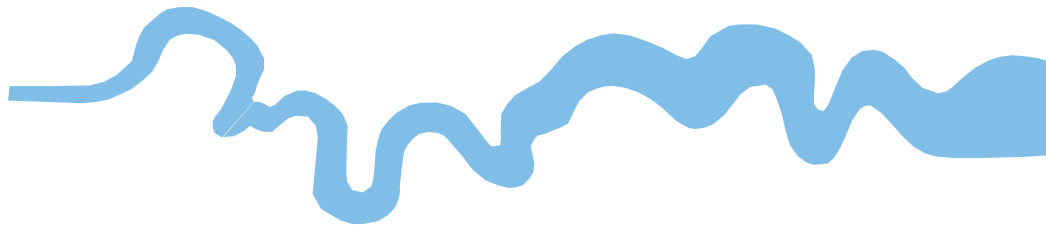
**Land at Hanwell Fields 2,  
Banbury, Oxfordshire, 2022  
Archaeological Evaluation**  
Plate 9.

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## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC





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