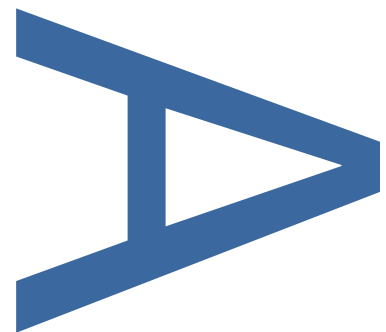
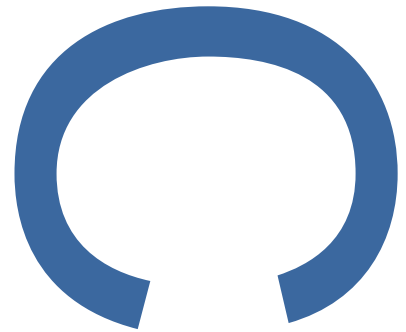


**LAND OFF LONGWATER ROAD,  
FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE,  
RG40 3TT**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION**

**SEPTEMBER 2017**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

**LAND OFF LONGWATER ROAD, FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE,  
RG40 3TT**

**Type of project**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**LAND OFF LONGWATER ROAD, FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE, RG40 3TT;  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**Site Code:** BLRF17

**Local Planning Authority:** Wokingham Borough Council

**Planning Reference:** 171993

**Central National Grid Reference:** SU 79633 62705

**Written by:** Kari Bower

**Project Manager:** Tim Bradley

**Commissioning Client:** EDP on behalf of Catesby Property Group

**Version:** Rev.2

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September 2017**

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## CONTENTS

1	ABSTRACT .....	3
2	INTRODUCTION.....	4
3	PLANNING BACKGROUND .....	5
4	GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY .....	6
5	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND .....	7
6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY .....	8
7	THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE .....	9
8	CONCLUSIONS .....	12
9	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	14
10	BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	14

### Figures and Plates

Figure 1: Site Location .....	15
Figure 2: Trench Locations .....	16
Figure 3: Trench 1, Section 1 .....	17
Figure 4: Trench 2, Section 2.....	18
Figure 5: Trench 3, Section 3.....	19
Figure 6: Trench 4, Section 4.....	20
Figure 7: Trench 5, Section 5.....	21
Figure 8: Trenches overlain on the geophysical survey .....	22
Plates .....	23

### Appendices

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX.....	32
APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX .....	38
APPENDIX 3: LITHIC ASSESSMENT .....	39
APPENDIX 4: PREHISTORIC POTTERY ASSESSMENT .....	40
APPENDIX 5: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT .....	46
APPENDIX 5: THE IRON SLAG AND RELATED HIGH-TEMPERATURE DEBRIS.....	47
APPENDIX 7: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM .....	51

## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned by EDP on behalf of Catesby Property Group to carry out an archaeological evaluation prior to the redevelopment of Land off Longwater Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 3TT (henceforth termed 'the site').
- 1.2 The evaluation was commissioned to support an outline planning application, which has been submitted to Wokingham Borough Council, for a residential development on the site of up to 40 dwellings. This report details the working methods and findings of the archaeological evaluation.
- 1.3 The evaluation entailed the excavation of 5 trenches within the site, which each measured 30m by 1.80m and were excavated stratigraphically to the top of the underlying geology.
- 1.4 The evaluation uncovered limited evidence indicative of sporadic and transient Mesolithic to early Neolithic activity in the form of unstratified flint artefacts and clear evidence of Iron Age/Early Roman activity in the form of archaeological features, deposits and artefacts, specifically pottery and waste indicative of iron smithing activity. Post-medieval remains in the form of land drains and subsoil also identified.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on Land off Longwater Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 3TT (central National Grid Reference SU 79633 62705). The site is located in the south of Finchampstead, immediately east of Longwater Road, and occupies an area that amounts to c.2.26 hectares (ha).
- 2.2 The site is situated within the jurisdiction of Wokingham Borough Council. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the site limits.
- 2.3 The area surrounding the site has previously recorded evidence of various periods of prehistoric activity suggesting that it has the potential to contain similar remains. As such the results of this predetermination exercise will be used to inform future planning decisions relating to the redevelopment of the site.
- 2.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared for the site in August 2017 by PCA (Bradley 2017), and approved by Berkshire Archaeology and Wokingham Borough Council, with the evaluation taking place between 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017.
- 2.5 The evaluation trenches were excavated by a machine operating under continuous archaeological supervision. This entailed the removal of no more than c.1.5m of topsoil and subsequent modern horizons to levels of between 55.54m OD in the north and 53.40m OD in the south.
- 2.6 The site was assigned the code BLRF17. Upon conclusion of all stages of the work the completed archive will be kept at PCA's London Office until a local recipient archive or museum has been agreed.

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 An outline planning application has been submitted to Wokingham Borough Council (planning reference 171993) for the residential development of up to 40 homes.
- 3.2 Following discussions between EDP and Kathleen Leary, Archaeological Officer at Berkshire Archaeology, it was agreed that the scope of archaeological fieldwork required would involve the excavation of five evaluation trenches. Each trench would target potential archaeological features identified in a previous geophysical survey conducted on the site.
- 3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared for the development in accordance with the above approaches (Bradley 2017), which was submitted to and approved by Wokingham Borough Council and Berkshire Archaeology.

## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 4.1 According to the British Geological Survey, the majority of the site lies on the Bagshot Sand Formation, which comprises sedimentary bedrock that formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period.
- 4.2 The site is situated on grassland located to the immediate east of Longwater Road. It is bound to the north by the residential development of Finchampstead, the Longwater Road to the west, further agricultural land to the east and former quarrying (now flooded) to the south. Mature hedgerow boundaries interspersed with mature trees are present on the western, northern and southern boundaries of the site, with the eastern boundary open to further agricultural land.
- 4.3 The site slopes gradually downwards from north to south from approximately 58m OD to 55m OD.



## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 The archaeological and historic background to the site is detailed in the Archaeological and Heritage Assessment (EDP 2017). The following represents a brief summary of the archaeological potential of the site, as presented in that report:

### *Palaeolithic – Iron Age*

*The HER data suggests there is strong evidence for prehistoric iron production activity within the wider area surrounding the site. Due to the similar geology of the application site, and on the basis of the HER data, the potential for similar activity was considered to be high. As such, a geophysical survey was undertaken and identified enclosures and potential features that may be of a similar date range to the sites to the east and west.*

### *Romano-British (AD43 – 410)*

*No definitive evidence for Roman activity has been found within the study area. As such, there is only low potential, with the possibility for the continuation of Iron production in the area of the site during this period. As such, the features attributed to the Iron Age within the site, as detailed by the geophysical survey, may also have continued into this period.*

### *Early medieval and medieval (AD 410–1538)*

*No definitive evidence for medieval activity has been found within the study area. As such, there is low potential, with the possibility for continuing iron production in the area during this period. As such, some of the features attributed to the Iron Age identified in the geophysical survey may date from this period. Other than this, the site has a moderate to high potential to contain 'low value' archaeological remains and deposits related to farming, such as the buried remains of cultivation and former field systems, as indicated by evidence for former boundaries identified within the geophysical survey.*

### *Post-medieval to modern (AD 1485 – Present)*

*The evidence would suggest that the site was in agricultural use during this period, and the geophysical survey identified former boundaries and agricultural features likely to date from this period. As such, the site has a moderate to high potential to contain 'low value' archaeological remains and deposits related to farming, such as the buried remains of cultivation and former field systems.'*

## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

6.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To determine the natural topography of this area of the site;
- To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site;
- To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource;
- To synthesise the results of trenches and findings in the wider area.

6.2 The five evaluation trenches were positioned to target specific geophysical survey anomalies of potential archaeological origin (see EDP 2017). As such the trenches were survey-located on the ground by PCA (Figure 8).

6.3 The southern end of Trench 4 was moved further westwards in order to avoid potential rooting activity associated with a substantial oak tree located nearby. All layers encountered were inspected and recorded in section at 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 using standard single context recording methods. The recording systems adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those widely used elsewhere in Berkshire, that is those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual and presented in PCA's Operations Manual 1 (Taylor 2009).

6.4 A full photographic record was made during the archaeological investigation, comprising digital photographs.

6.5 A single Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) was established towards the south-eastern end of the site using a hand held GPS. The value of the TBM was 53.04m OD. This value was used in conjunction with a dumpy level in order to ascertain the height of all section lines, principal strata and features relative to Ordnance Datum. The complete archive produced during the watching brief, comprising of written, drawn, photographic records and artefacts will be deposited at PCA's office in London and identified by the site code BLRF17.

## 7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

### 7.1 Phase 1: Natural and Geological Deposits

- 7.1.1 All five trenches were excavated down to the underlying natural geology. This generally took the form of silty sand with occasional patches of natural gravel, [12] / [33] / [80], which was friable to firm in compaction and mid yellow-orange in colour. The deposit had occasional amounts sub angular to sub rounded stones throughout but was otherwise sterile and was observed in Trenches 1, 3 and 4. Forming part of that natural horizon in Trenches 3 and 4 were patches of compact sterile sand, [34] / [43], which was a light greenish grey colour, with frequent small pockets of light grey silt resulting from frequent rooting activity (Plate 12), whilst in Trench 5 the natural took the form of [60], a deposit of mid brownish orange, sandy clay, which was firm in compaction, with moderate amounts sub angular stones throughout (Plate 19). The top of these natural horizons were identified at a maximum level of 55.54m OD in Trench 4 and a minimum level of 52.08m OD in Trench 3 thus suggesting that the ancient topography of the site exhibited a gentle slope from north to south that mirrors that evident in the present.
- 7.1.2 One periglacial feature, [30], was noted at the east end of Trench 2, which contained one fill, [29], which comprised of mid reddish brown silt sand with occasional manganese flecking, with moderate amounts of sub angular stones throughout but was otherwise sterile. The feature itself was irregular in shape and was 2.60m in width, 1.90m in length with a depth of 0.12m, the south-eastern extent having been truncated by a modern planting feature, [28] (Plate 8).
- 7.1.3 Extensive rooting and in places animal activity had created numerous pockets of mid brownish grey clayey silt which varied in both shape and size in all of the trenches. A few of these larger natural features were assigned numbers; [7], [9], [40], [42], [55], which were sampled but none showed signs of human activity (Plates 12 to 15).

### 7.2 Phase 2: Mesolithic/Early Neolithic Age

- 7.2.1 In total three pieces of struck flint were recovered from the site; two were recovered from the subsoil layer [23] in Trench 4 and one from a probable root hole [55], in Trench 5. The lithic assessment (Appendix 3) on these states '*The technological and typological character of the two blades and the blade-like flake most likely indicate a Mesolithic/Early Neolithic age*'. Burnt flint was also recovered from the same context, which the assessment concluded as being '*moderate to heavily burnt, 'fire-crazed' and decoloured*'. All evidence from this phase therefore consisted of a small collection of artefacts that were redeposited in secondary contexts. No *in situ* features of this phase were identified within the site.

### **7.3 Phase 3: Late Iron Age/Early Roman Period**

- 7.3.1 A small assemblage of 1<sup>st</sup> century BC to 1<sup>st</sup> century AD pottery was recovered from the site, the majority of which was retrieved from features located in Trench 1. An east to west aligned ditch, [18], was noted at the east end of the trench, which contained one fill, [17]. The deposit comprised friable, mid grey brown sandy silt, with occasional amounts of sub angular to sub rounded stones throughout and very occasional chalk and charcoal flecks. Pottery recovered from [17] has been dated to the late Iron Age period (Appendix 4). The western terminus of [18] was truncated by a northwest-southeast aligned ditch, [73], which was infilled with material that was very similar in composition to [17] but was darker brown in colour. Although no finds were retrieved from [73], the stratigraphic relationships that were recorded demonstrate that it is of a later date than [18] – possibly a post-medieval drain cut.
- 7.3.2 The only other feature to produce datable finds was the large ditch, [71], located at a mid-point along Trench 1. The tertiary fill, [67]/[19], comprised of friable, mid grey sandy silt, with frequent amounts of slag, fired clay and pottery sherds and occasional amounts of small to medium sized sub angular to sub rounded stones and occasional charcoal flecks throughout. Later farming activity associated with the overlying subsoil layer most likely removed the uppermost height of context [67]/[19]. This resulted in the deposit being contained within the cut and not extending beyond it which was likely the case earlier. The pottery recovered from [67]/[19] has been given a provisional date range of 1<sup>st</sup> century BC to early 1<sup>st</sup> century AD (Appendix 4). Large amounts of slag were also retrieved together with fired clay from context [67]/[19], the latter of which has been interpreted as possible kiln material (Appendix 5). The lower two fills [69] and [70] did not contain finds, but did contain charcoal and CBM flecking. This ditch likely forms part of the substantial 'U' shaped enclosure that is shown on the geophysical survey, which would appear to date to the late Iron Age period (Figure 8).
- 7.3.3 The east side of ditch [71] had been heavily affected by burrowing activity as represented by [53], an irregular feature which contained deposit [52] that produced Late Iron Age pottery and slag. This material was no doubt redeposited from the fills of the ditch [71].
- 7.3.4 Several features located in Trenches 4 and 2 contained no dateable finds but, as with ditch [71], they did contain large quantities of slag and, in some cases, iron stone and for this reason they have been assumed to be of a similar date. These included three north–south aligned linear features, [26], [32] and [47], in Trench 2, pit [20] in Trench 4 and ditch [38], also in Trench 4, which may form part of a larger, circular enclosure noted from geophysical survey (Figure 8).

#### **7.4 Phase 4: 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century**

7.4.1 Cutting into these earlier deposits and features were several Victorian land drains. With the exception of Trench 5, these features were in turn sealed by a subsoil layer, recorded as [66], [63], [2] and [23] in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively. The top of this deposit was observed at a maximum level of 55.65m OD in Trench 4 and a minimum level of 52.44m OD in Trench 3. This material consisted of loose mid brown clayey sand with frequent small to medium sized sub-angular to sub-rounded stones. The subsoil contained post-medieval CBM fragments. Later features, mainly 20<sup>th</sup> century post holes and garden features [28], [49] and [57] as well as animal burrows were also present throughout the site truncating the subsoil and other features. The entire area was sealed by modern topsoil.

## **8 CONCLUSIONS**

### **8.1 Archaeological conclusions**

8.1.1 The archaeological evaluation demonstrated that Late Iron Age/early Roman features survived within the investigation area below subsoil horizons and immediately above the natural sand. The findings suggest that iron production was practiced within or close to the site in this period, albeit no in situ metal working surfaces or related structures were identified. The subsoil produced CBM predominantly from the post-medieval period which may have been brought to the site from a surrounding area. Several early modern features are representative of landscape use of the site were also found as well as unstratified Mesolithic and early Neolithic flints thought to be residual.

### **8.2 Response to the Original Research Design**

The investigation aimed to address the following primary objectives:

#### **8.2.1 To determine the natural topography of this area of the site**

Untruncated natural was encountered in all five trenches, which in accord with the British Geological Survey likely consisted of the Bagshot Sand Formation. The evaluation demonstrated that the ancient land surface sloped gently from a maximum height of c.55.54m OD in the north to a minimum level of 52.08m OD in the south, thus mirroring the extant topography that was observed.

#### **8.2.2 To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site**

The evaluation uncovered flint artefacts dating to the Mesolithic or early Neolithic periods, which are likely indicative of sporadic episodes of brief human visitation, perhaps by transient bands, rather than longer-term occupation. Iron Age activity was represented by boundary ditches: at least two of which likely represent enclosures; deposits and artefacts, specifically pottery and waste indicative of iron smithing. Post-medieval remains in the form of 19<sup>th</sup> century land drains were also identified, as was a layer of post-medieval subsoil.

#### **8.2.3 To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.**

The situation of the site, below a grassed field, has resulted in recent impacts on the archaeological resource, the main source of disturbance taking the form of isolated areas of small to medium scale bioturbation, predominantly from tree roots and animal burrows. However, numerous Victorian drains were also located within the site suggesting the site was

#### **8.1.5 To synthesise the results of trenches and findings in the wider area.**

The results of the evaluation broadly accord with the archaeological background data, although the presence of Mesolithic to early Neolithic flint artefacts was not predicted. However, as previously stated, those artefacts likely represent chance finds that were deposited by infrequent, rapid visitations by man to the site and its environs. Therefore, they are not taken to represent the presence of *in situ* remains.

Strong evidence for late prehistoric iron production is evident in the vicinity of the site and this also appears to have been the case within its boundaries, hence the presence of assemblages of iron slag and iron stone within features that have been dated to the Iron Age period. The results of the evaluation in combination with the results of the geophysical survey suggest that at least two potential Iron Age enclosures have been identified in Trenches 2 and 3. The site may have been a location of iron production although no *in situ* features directly associated with this industry have been encountered and the finds recovered consisted only of waste materials of such activity.

The background data predicted that the site was subsequently used for agricultural or pastoral purposes during the post-medieval and early modern period. This was represented by the presence of a layer of post-medieval subsoil and 19<sup>th</sup> century land drains.

## 9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank EDP for commissioning the work and special thanks is given to Phillip Burgess who was so helpful on site. We would also like to thank Kathleen Leary for monitoring the project on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.
- 9.2 The project was managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology by Tim Bradley, the archaeological evaluation was carried out and written by Kari Bower, and the illustrations were prepared by Ray Murphy.

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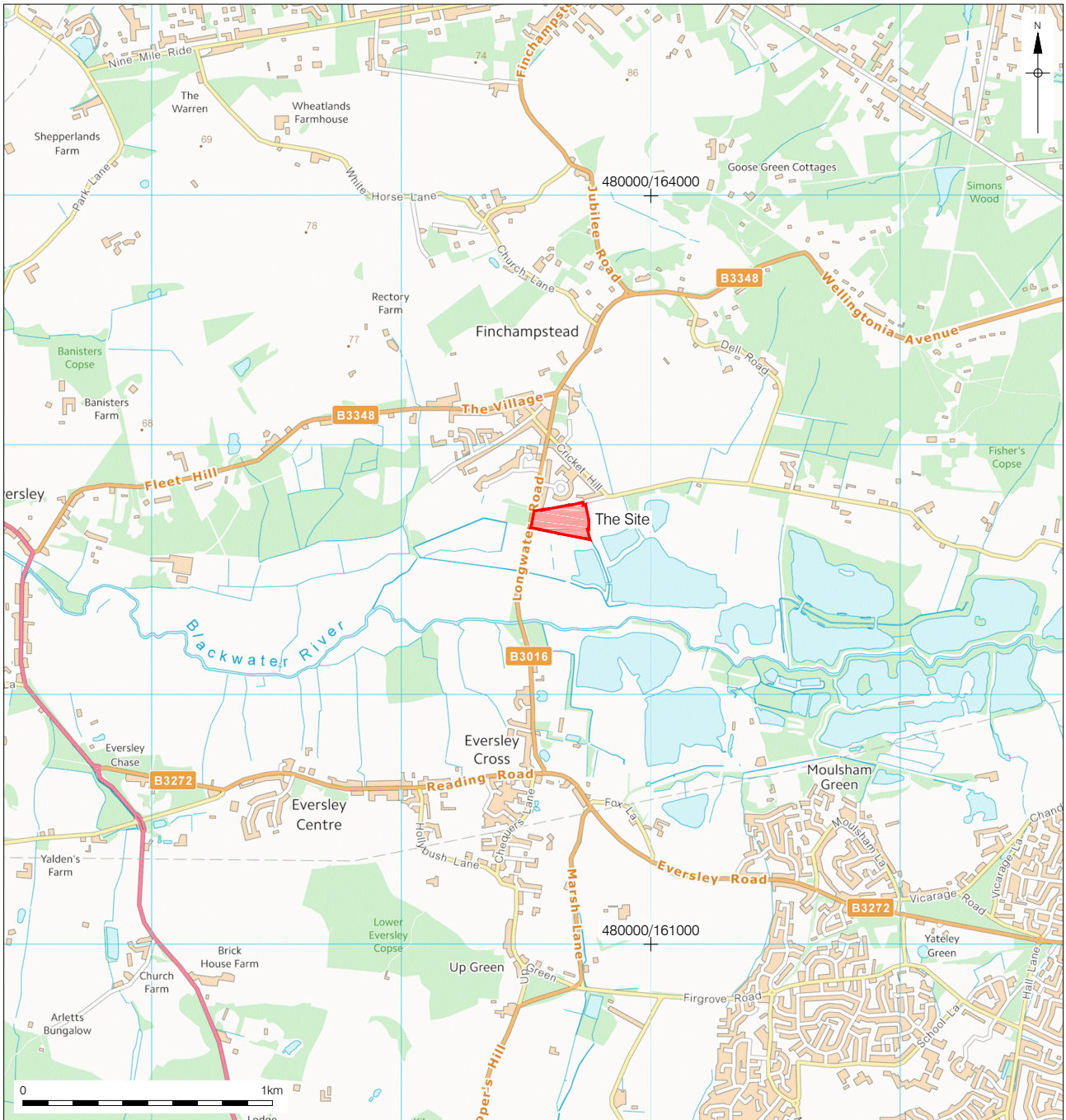
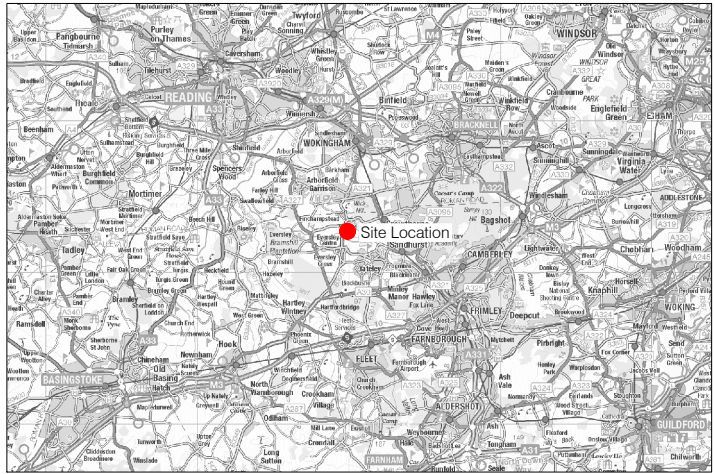
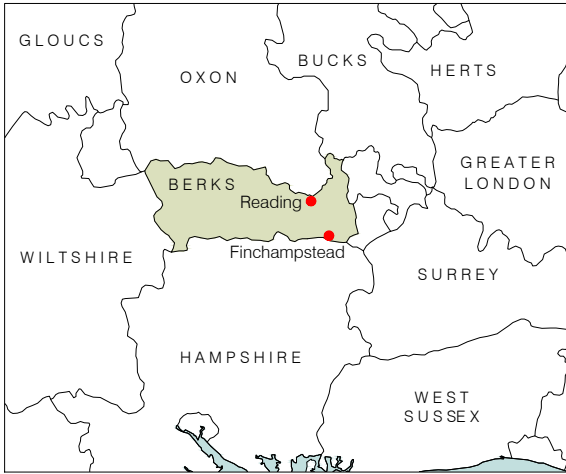
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 06/09/17 RM

Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:2,000,000, 1:500,000 & 1:20,000 at A4



0 50m

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06/09/17 RM

Figure 2  
Trench Location Plan  
1:1,250 at A4



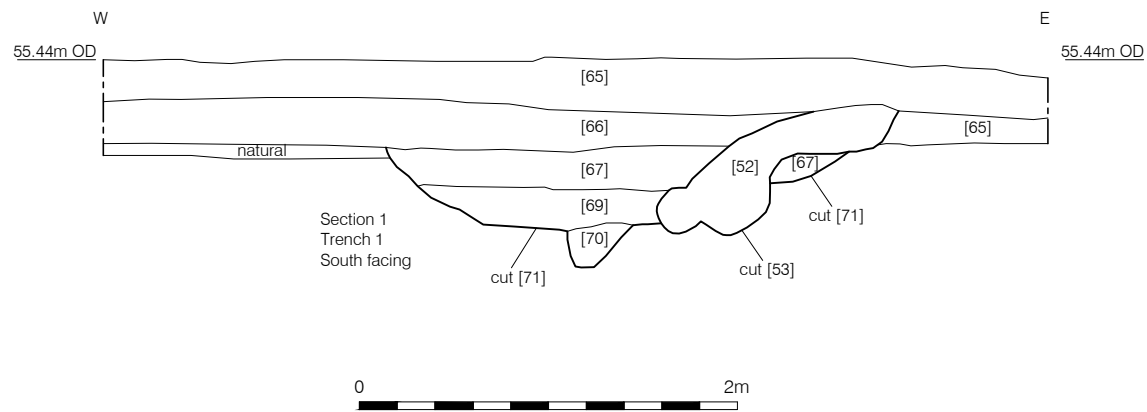
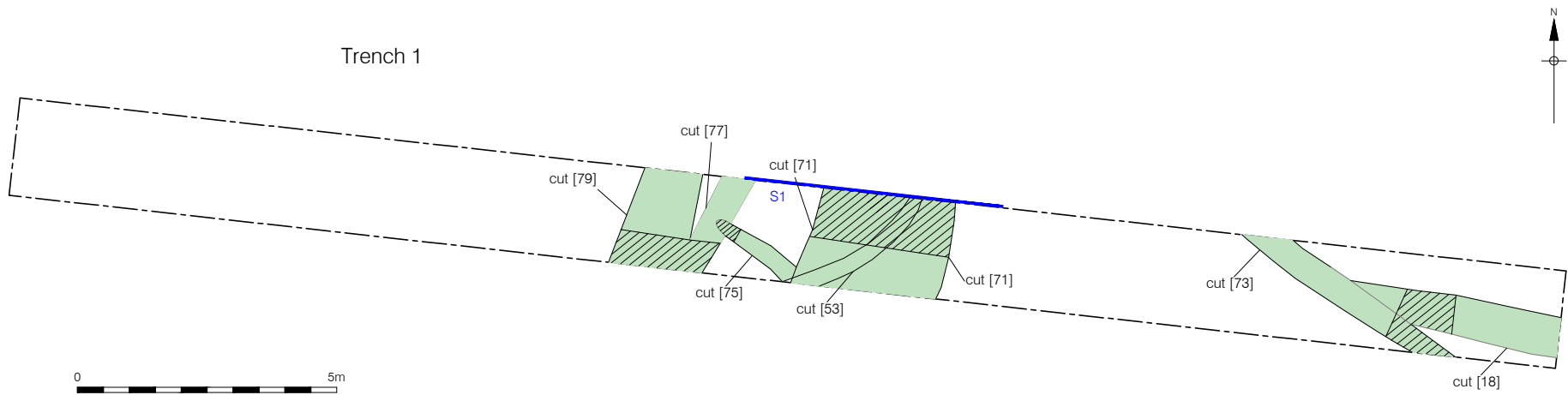


Figure  
Plan and Section of Trench  
Plan 1:125 and Section 1:40 at A

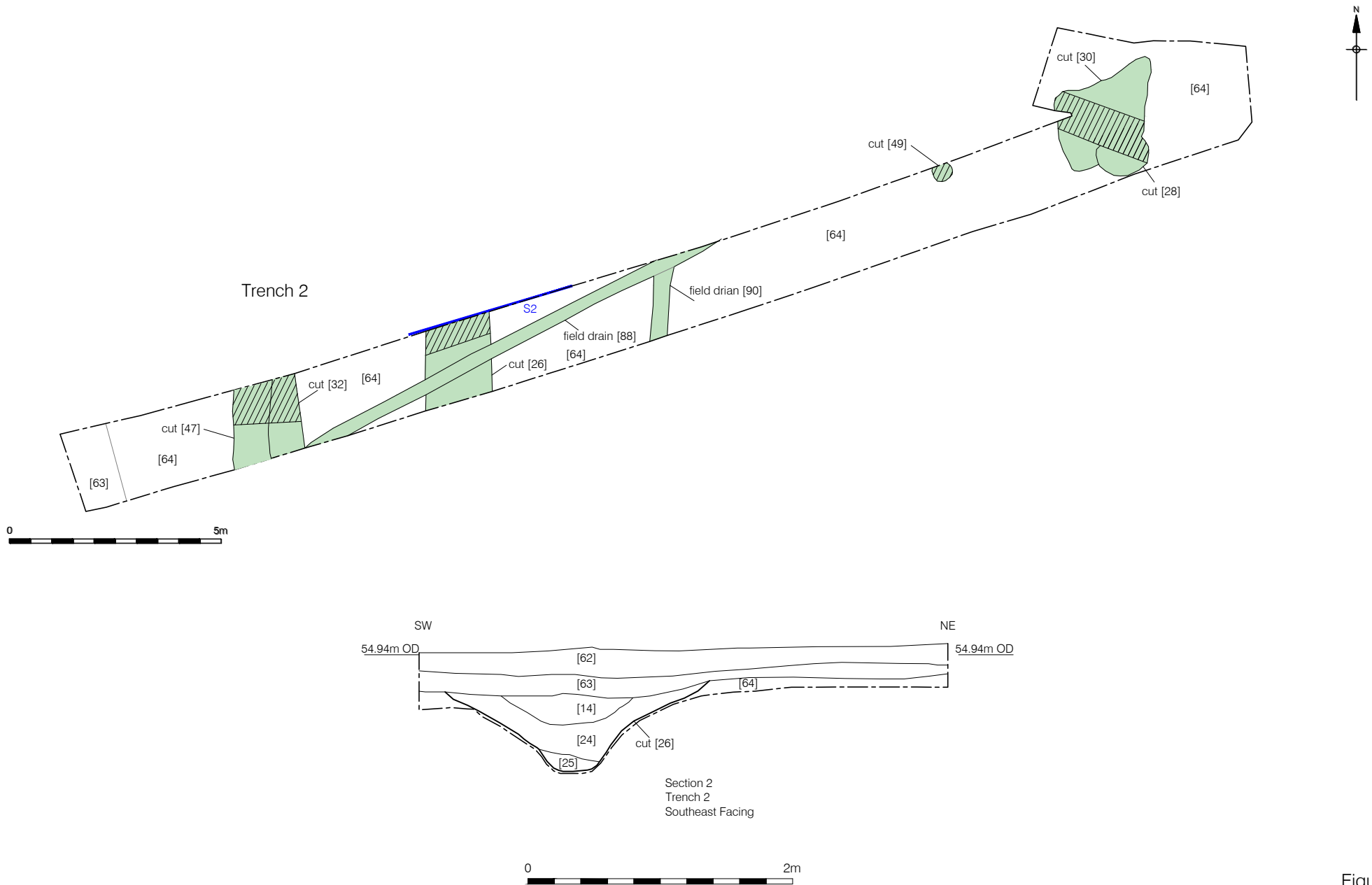


Figure 4  
Plan and Section of Trench 2  
Plan 1:125 and Section 1:40 at A4

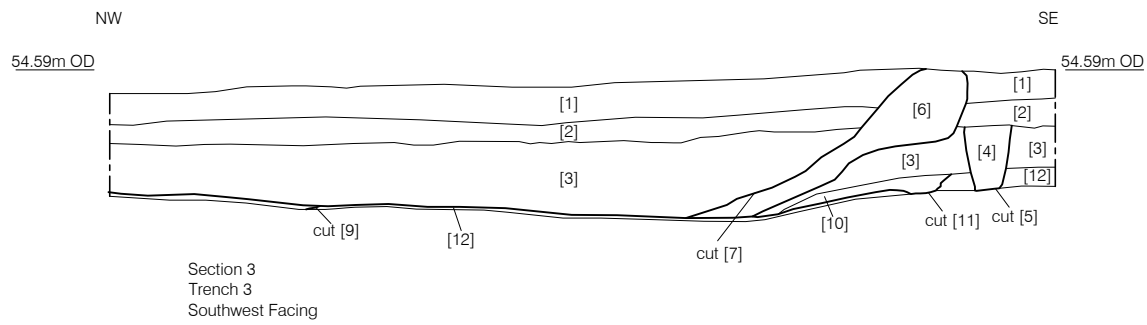
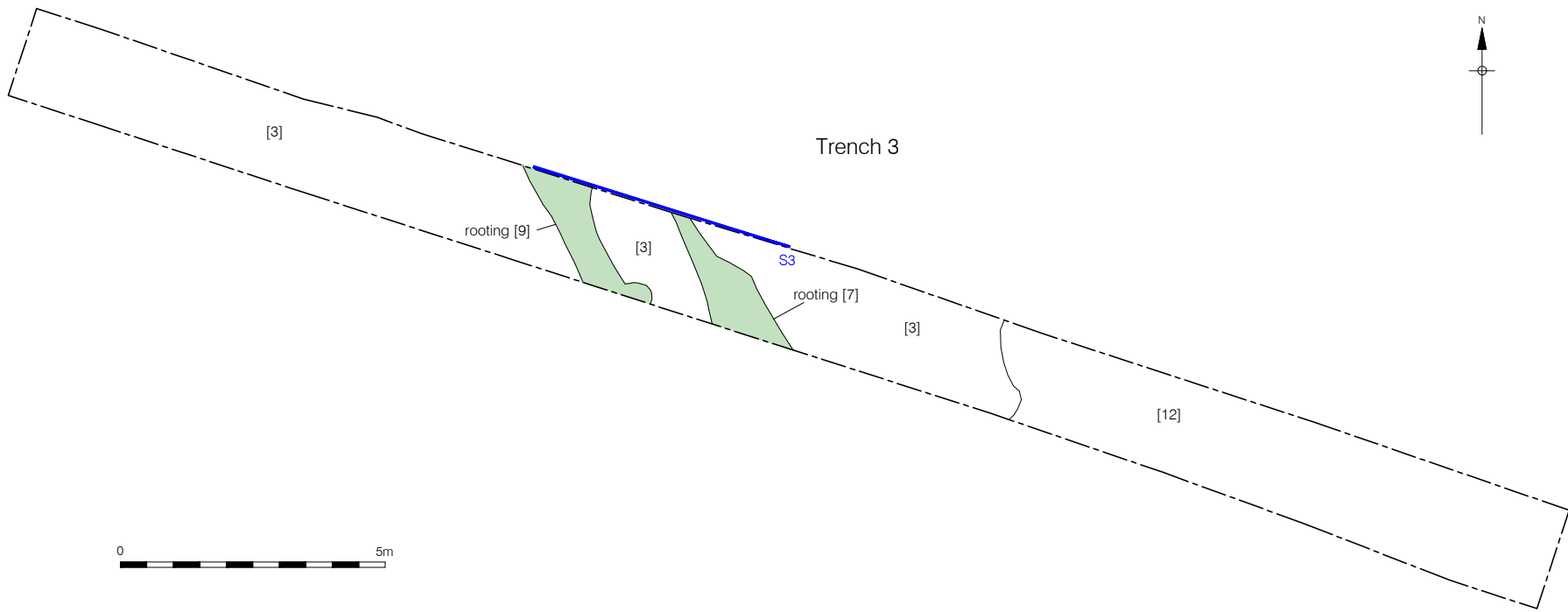


Figure 5  
Plan and Section of Trench 3  
Plan 1:125 and Section 1:40 at A4

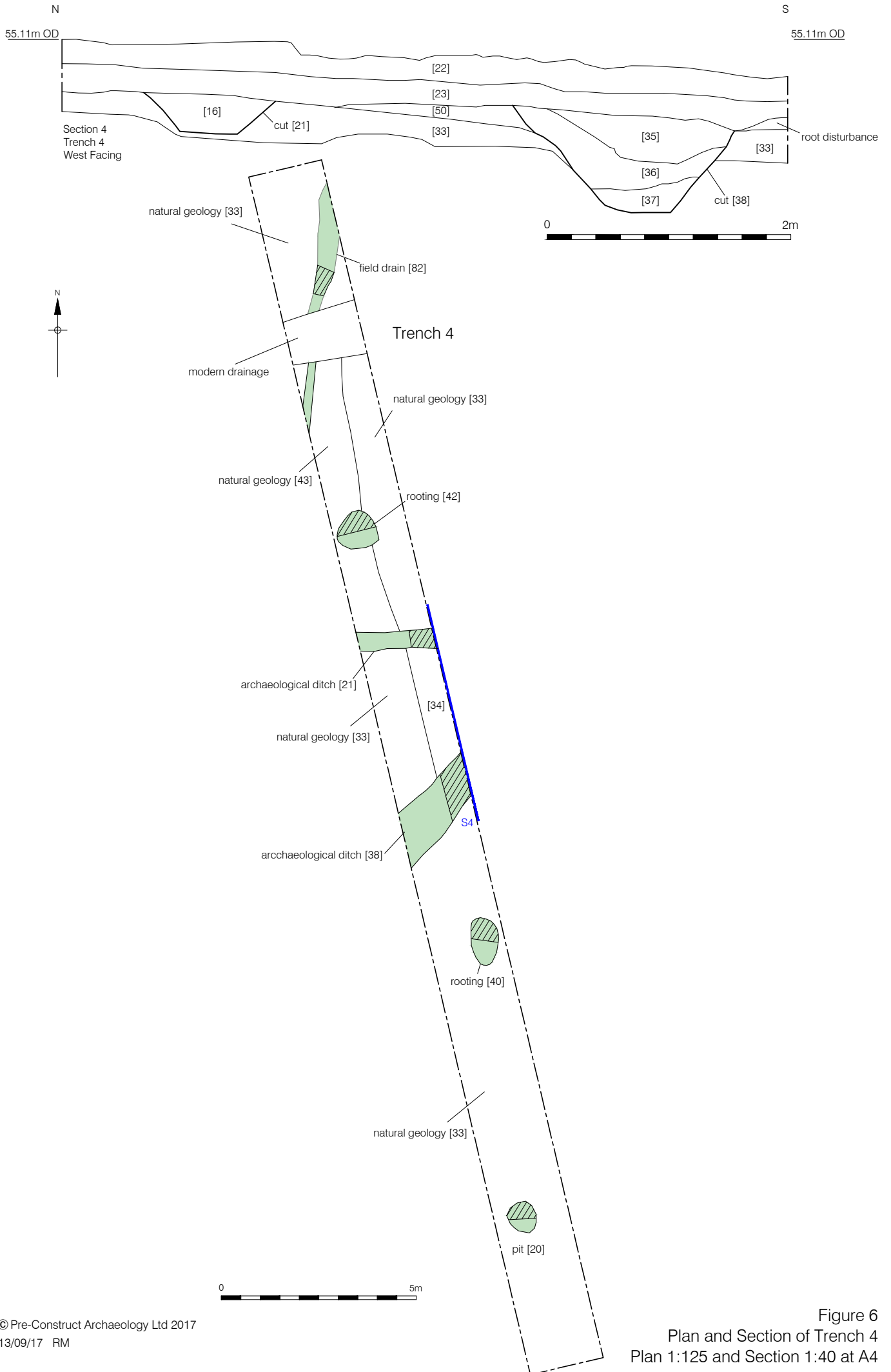


Figure 6  
Plan and Section of Trench 4  
Plan 1:125 and Section 1:40 at A4

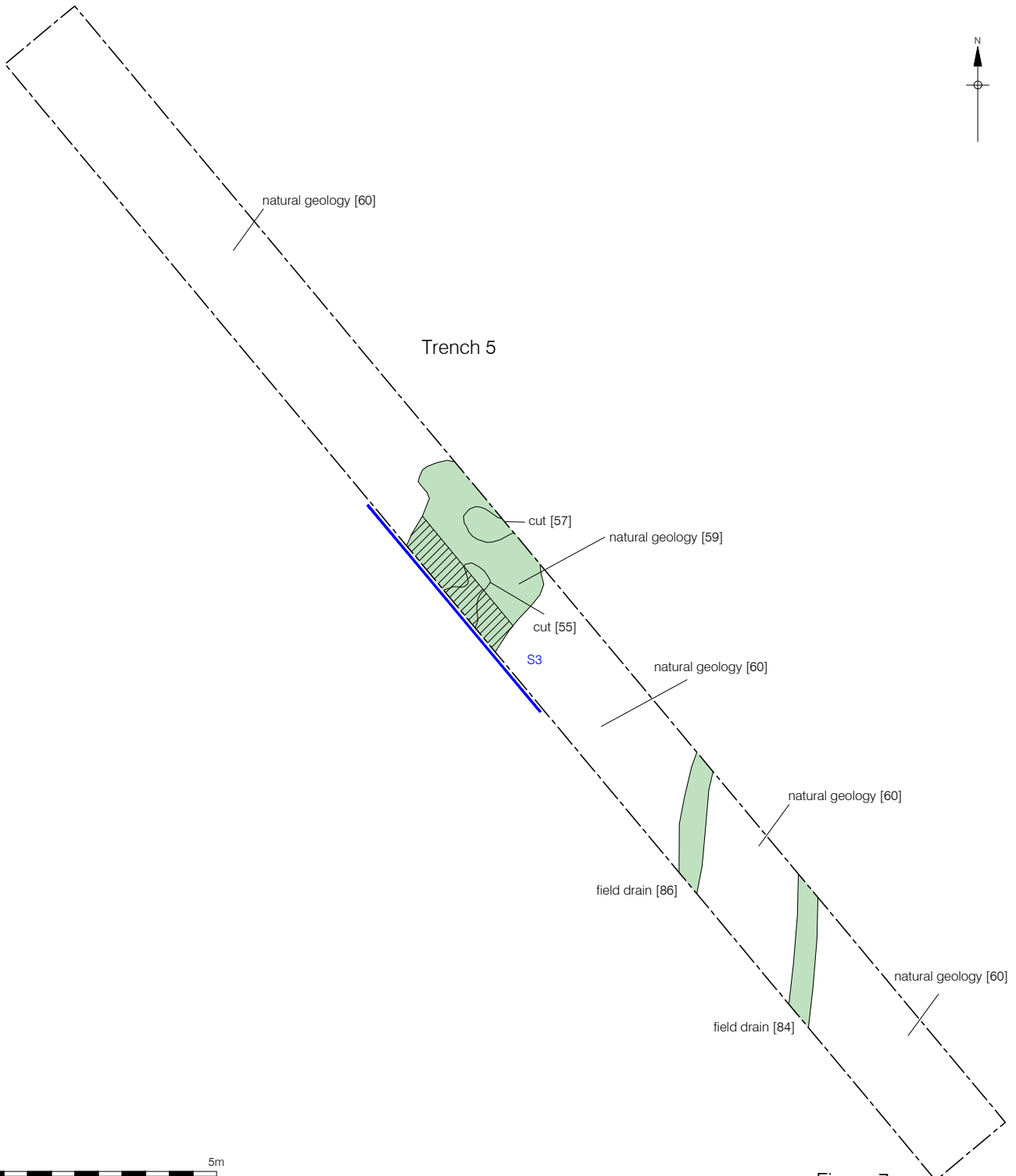
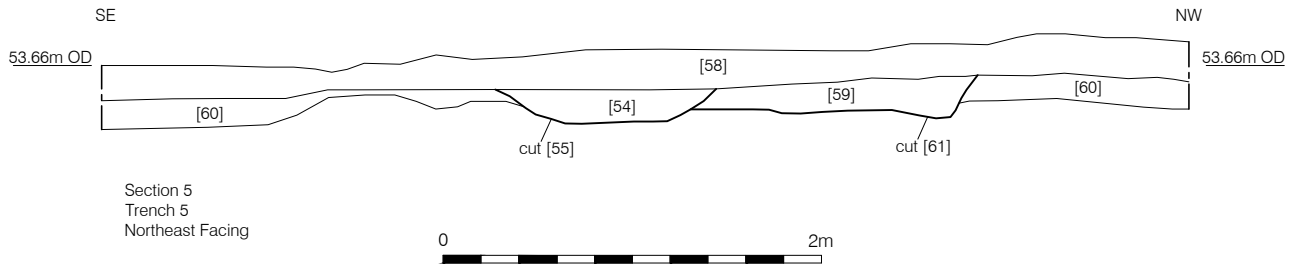
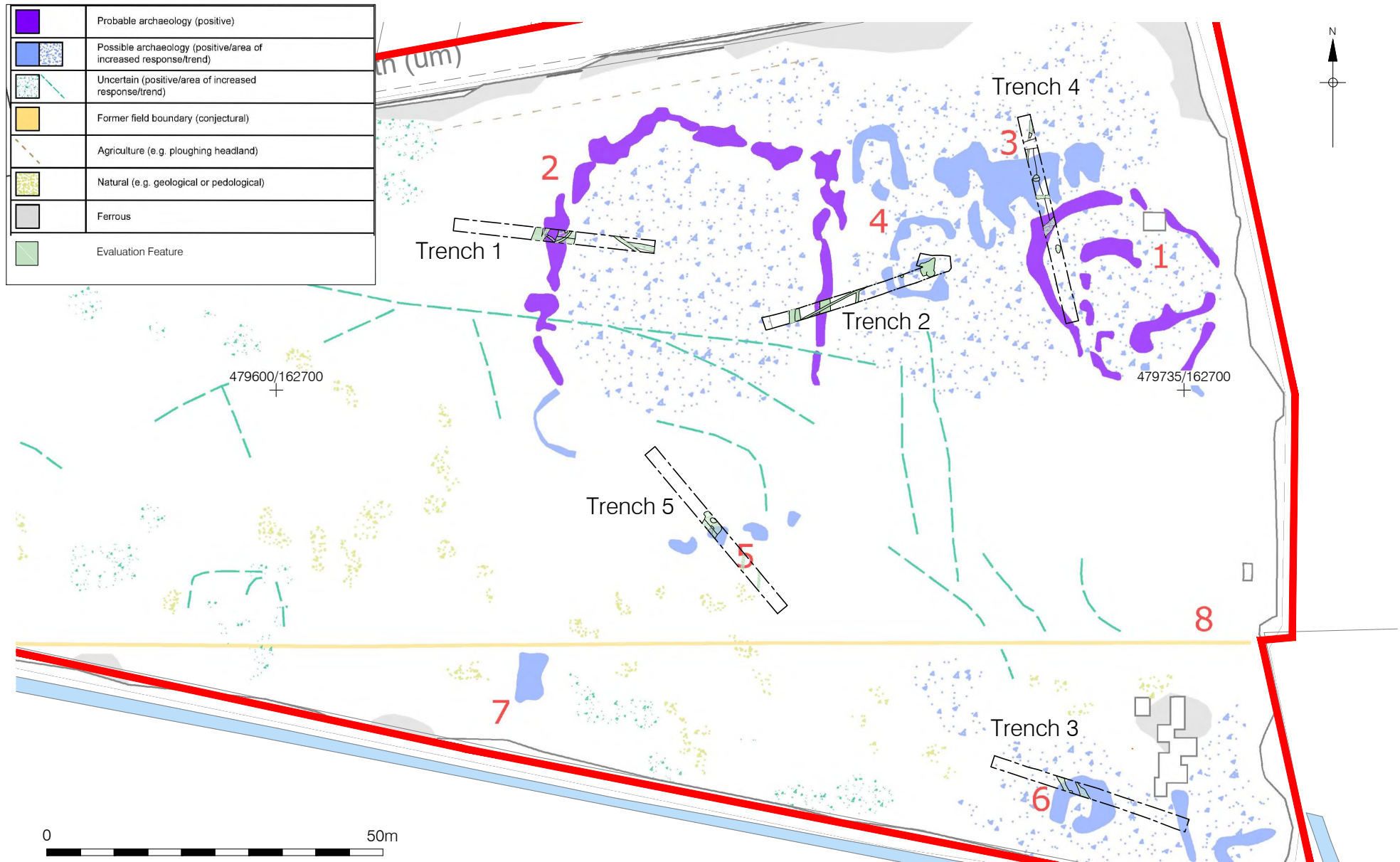


Figure 7  
Plan and Section of Trench 5  
Plan 1:125 and Section 1:40 at A4





## PLATES



Plate 1: Northwest end of site prior to excavation of trenches, looking north



Plate 2: Trench 3 mid excavation, looking northwest



Plate 3: Overview of Trench 1, looking northwest



Plate 4: Feature [18] (left) cut by [73] (right), looking northwest





Plate 5: Section and feature [73], looking north



Plate 6: Features [75] (left), [77] and [79] (left) looking south



Plate 7: Features [79] (left), [77] and [75] (right), looking north



Plate 8: Overview of Trench 2, looking southwest (BLRF17 D1 (18))



Plate 9: Overview of Trench 2, looking northeast



Plate 10: Section 2 depicting soil layers and feature [26] in Trench 2, looking north





Plate 11: Features [32] and [47] in Trench 2, looking north



Plate 12: Overview of Trench 3, looking northwest



Plate 13: Overview of Trench 3, looking southwest



Plate 14: Section 3 and natural feature, looking northwest



Plate 15: Natural rooting, looking northwest



Plate 16: Overview of Trench 4, looking south





Plate 17: Feature [20] in Trench 4, looking west



Plate 18: Feature [38] in Trench 4, looking west



Plate 19: Section 4 and Feature [38] in Trench 4, looking northeast



Plate 20: Feature [21] in Trench 4, looking west



Plate 21: Overview of Trench 5, looking southeast





Plate 22: Overview of Trench 5, looking northeast



Plate 23: Section 5, looking north



Plate 24: Feature [57], looking west

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context	CTX Type	Fill of	CTX equal to	Trench	CTX Interpretation	CTX Length	CTX Width	CTX Depth	CTX Levels high	CTX Levels low	Phase
BLRF17	1	Layer	-	-	3	Modern topsoil covering the entire field	30	1.8	0.35	52.59	52.51	4
BLRF17	2	Layer	-	-	3	Subsoil layer	30	1.8	0.15	52.44	52.3	4
BLRF17	3	Layer	-	-	3	Natural interface layer between the overlying agricultural topsoil and subsoil and the underlying natural sand layer below	30	1.8	0.4	52.3	52.19	1
BLRF17	4	Fill	5	-	3	Fill and ceramic pipe associated with Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	1.8	0.25	0.33	52.3	52.29	4
BLRF17	5	Cut	-	-	3	Cut for Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	1.8	0.25	0.33	52.3	51.97	4
BLRF17	6	Fill	7	-	3	Fill of natural root cut 7	2.3	1.6	0.3	51.95	51.79	1
BLRF17	7	Cut	-	-	3	Cut caused by rooting activity	2.3	1.6	0.3	51.95	51.65	1
BLRF17	8	Fill	9	-	3	Fill of natural root cut 9	2	1.3	0.24	51.94	51.7	1
BLRF17	9	Cut	-	-	3	Cut caused by rooting activity	2	1.3	0.24	51.94	51.7	1
BLRF17	10	Fill	11	-	3	Fill of natural root cut 11	0.94		0.09	52.04	51.83	1
BLRF17	11	Cut	-	-	3	Cut caused by rooting activity	0.94			52.04	51.83	1
BLRF17	12	Natural	-	-	3	natural geological sand layer	30	1.8		52.08	51.82	1
BLRF17	13	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void
BLRF17	14	Fill	26	-	2	Loose mid/dark grey sandy silt, Tertiary backfill of cut 26	1.8	1	0.25	54.54	54.51	3
BLRF17	15	Fill	20	-	4	Single backfill of pit cut 20	0.8	0.65	0.12	54.37	54.37	3
BLRF17	16	Fill	21	-	4	Loose, dark brown, sandy silt backfill of cut 21	1.8	1.08	0.33	55.42	55.35	3
BLRF17	17	Fill	18	-	1,2	Friable, mid grey brown, sandy silt backfill of cut 18	4.1	0.8	0.2	55.12	55.1	3
BLRF17	18	Cut	-	-	1, 2	E-W aligned shallow ditch cut at east end of	4.1	0.8	0.2	55.12	54.92	3

Site Code	Context	CTX Type	Fill of	CTX equal to	Trench	CTX Interpretation	CTX Length	CTX Width	CTX Depth	CTX Levels high	CTX Levels low	Phase
						trench 2						
BLRF17	19	Fill	71	-	1	Friable Mid grey sandy silt, Tertiary fill of cut 71	1.8	1.8	0.24	55.38	55.33	3
BLRF17	20	Cut	-	-	4	Small pit cut	0.8	0.65	0.12	54.37	54.25	3
BLRF17	21	Cut	-	-	4	E-W aligned ditch cut	1.8	1.08	0.3	55.42	55.12	3
BLRF17	22	Layer	-	-	4	Topsoil	30	1.8	0.23	55.84	55.54	4
BLRF17	23	Layer	-	-	4	Subsoil layer	30	1.8	0.3	55.65	55.34	4
BLRF17	24	Fill	26	-	2	Compact, mid grey with dark reddish patches, sandy silt, secondary fill of cut 26	1.8	1.6	0.24	54.64	54.31	3
BLRF17	25	Fill	26	-	2	Basal fill of cut of 26 resulting from natural silting	1.8	0.55	0.14	54.12	54.03	3
BLRF17	26	Cut	-	-	2	Possible Iron Age ditch cut aligned N-S	1.8	1.6	0.56	54.64	53.95	3
BLRF17	27	Fill	28	-	2	Fill of circular cut feature 28	1.21	1.15	1.1	54.62		4
BLRF17	28	Cut	-	-	2	Circular shaped feature located at east end of trench 2, most likely modern planting feature	1.21	1.15	0.1	54.62	54.53	4
BLRF17	29	Fill	30	-	2	Natural infilling possibly due to glacial activity	2.6	1.9	0.12	54.68	54.61	1
BLRF17	30	Cut	-	-	2	Natural cut resulting from possible glacial activity	2.6	1.9	0.12	54.68	54.37	1
BLRF17	31	Fill	32	-	3	Friable, dark brownish grey, sandy silt, fill of cut 33	1.8	0.65	0.16	54.49	54.49	3
BLRF17	32	Cut	-	-	3	N-S aligned ditch feature located towards the west end of trench 3	1.8	0.65	0.16	52.49	52.32	3
BLRF17	33	Natural	-	-	4	Natural geological sand layer- compact sand mid orange brown with light yellowish brown mottling	30	1.8	-	55.43	55.2	1
BLRF17	34	Natural	-	-	3	Natural variation in natural sand layer	11	1		55.54	55.04	1

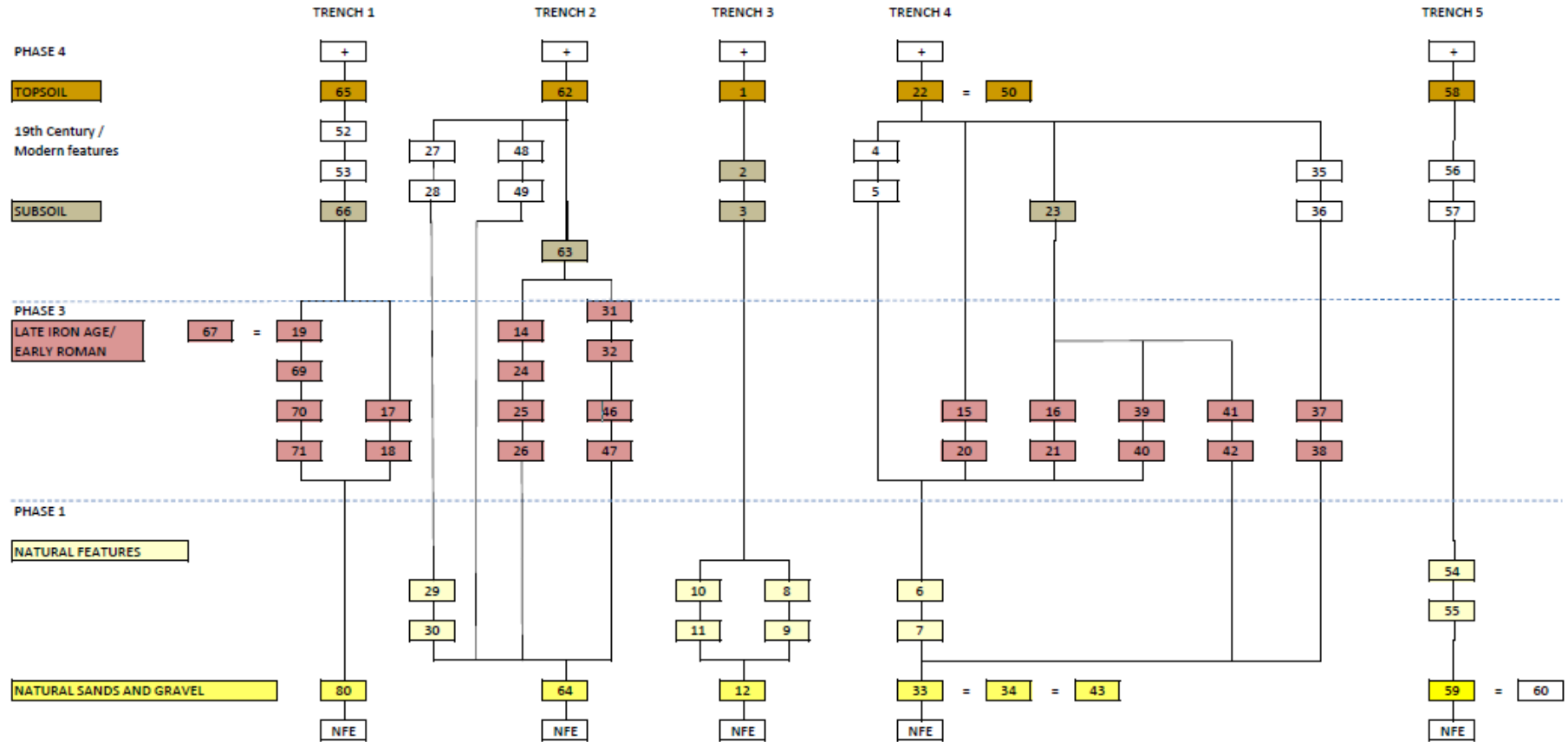
Site Code	Context	CTX Type	Fill of	CTX equal to	Trench	CTX Interpretation	CTX Length	CTX Width	CTX Depth	CTX Levels high	CTX Levels low	Phase
BLRF17	35	Fill	38	-	5	Compact, mid grey brown sandy silt which is the tertiary fill of cut 38.	1.8	1.56	0.37	55.28	55.1	3
BLRF17	36	Fill	38	-	5	Very compact light brownish grey sandy clay, which is the secondary fill of cut 38.	1.8	1.75	0.43	55.3	54.97	3
BLRF17	37	Fill	38	-	5	Very compact mid yellow, sandy clay, mottled by light greyish brown silt patches. Possible basal fill of cut 38, but not fully excavated for health and safety reasons.	1.8	0.88	0.25	54.71	57.62	3
BLRF17	38	Cut	-	-	5	E-W aligned Linear cut located mid way through trench 5	1.8	1.56	0.85	55.28	54.44	3
BLRF17	39	Fill	40	-	5	loose mid orangey brown silty sand, natural infilling of cut 40	1.2	0.7	0.2	54.72	-	1
BLRF17	40	Cut		-	5	tree bole cut located at mid point of trench 5	1.2	0.7	0.2	54.72	54.52	1
BLRF17	41	Fill	42	-	4	Loose light red sand, natural infilling of tree bole cut 43	1	0.9	0.13	55.45	-	1
BLRF17	42	Cut		-	4	Tree bole cut	1	0.9	0.13	55.45	55.32	1
BLRF17	43	Natural		34	4	Variation in natural sand	7	1	-	55.54		1
BLRF17	44	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void
BLRF17	45	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void
BLRF17	46	Fill	47		3	Soft mid greyish yellow sandy silt	1.8	0.95	0.15	54.51	-	3
BLRF17	47	Cut			3	N-S aligned ditch cut located at west end of trench 3	1.8	0.95	0.15	54.51	54.39	3
BLRF17	48	Fill	49		2	Back fill of modern post hole cut 49	0.4	0.35	0.17	54.47	-	4
BLRF17	49	Cut			2	Modern post hole cut located towards east end of trench 2	0.4	0.35	0.17	54.47	54.3	4

Site Code	Context	CTX Type	Fill of	CTX equal to	Trench	CTX Interpretation	CTX Length	CTX Width	CTX Depth	CTX Levels high	CTX Levels low	Phase
BLRF17	50	Layer			4	Lense noted in section 4 resulting from rooting activity	1.57	1.8	0.21	55.33	55.3	1
BLRF17	51	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void
BLRF17	52	Fill	53	-	1	Fill of mole tunnel given number for finds retrieval reasons	1.8	0.83	0.5	55.6	55.15	5
BLRF17	53	Cut	-	-	1	Cut of mole tunnel given number for strat/finds retrieval reasons	1.8	0.83	0.5	55.6	54.91	4
BLRF17	54	Fill	55	-	5	Mid grey brown, silty clay, only fill of cut 56	1.05	0.85	0.2	53.4	-	2
BLRF17	55	Cut	-	-	5	Irregular shaped cut located at mid point along trench 5	1.05	0.85	0.2	53.4	53.2	2
BLRF17	56	Fill	57	-	5	Fill of cut 57 containing remnants of modern post, located at mid-point of trench 5	1	0.7	34	53.4	-	4
BLRF17	57	Cut	-	-	5	sub-circular cut of modern post hole, located at mid-point of trench 5	1	0.7	0.36	53.4	53.06	4
BLRF17	58	Layer	-		5	Topsoil	30	1.8	0.22	54.14	53.71	4
BLRF17	59	Layer	-	60	5	Variation in natural geology				53.5		1
BLRF17	60	Natural	-	59	5	Natural Geological layer in Trench 5, differs from elsewhere has increase clay matrix and is mid orange red in colour	30	1.8	-	53.71	53.39	1
BLRF17	61	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	
BLRF17	62	Layer	-	-	3	Topsoil layer in trench 3	30	1.8	0.16	54.92	54.84	4
BLRF17	63	Layer	-	-	3	Subsoil layer in trench 3	30	1.8	0.15	54.78	54.66	4
BLRF17	64	Layer	-	-	2	Variation in the natural layer present in trench 6	30	1.8	-	54.64	54.6	1
BLRF17	65	Layer	-	-	1	Topsoil layer	30	1.8	0.4	55.84	55.31	4
BLRF17	66	Layer	-	-	1	Subsoil layer	30	1.8	0.22	55.64	55.53	4
BLRF17	67	Fill	71	19	1	Fill of cut 71	1.8	0.45	0.11	55.35	55.18	3
BLRF17	68	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	
BLRF17	69	Fill	71	-	1	Secondary fill of	1.8	1.33	0.22	55.17	55.03	3

Site Code	Context	CTX Type	Fill of	CTX equal to	Trench	CTX Interpretation	CTX Length	CTX Width	CTX Depth	CTX Levels high	CTX Levels low	Phase
						cut 71						
BLRF17	70	Fill	71	-	1	Basal fill of cut 71	0.35	0.35	0.22	54.98	54.93	3
BLRF17	71	Cut	-	-	1	N-S aligned ditch cut containing slag rich fills, corresponds to the geophysical survey	1.8	1.8	0.6	55.38	54.74	3
BLRF17	72	Fill	73	-	1	Fill of 73	3.5	0.65	0.19	55.19	55.12	4
BLRF17	73	Cut	-	-	1	Ditch cut or possible Victorian drain cut	3.5	0.65	0.19	55.19	55	4
BLRF17	74	Fill	75	-	1	Fill and ceramic pipe associated with Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat. purposes.	1.8	0.3	0.12	55.31	-	4
BLRF17	75	Cut	-	-	1	Cut for Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	1.8	30	0.12	55.31	55.19	4
BLRF17	76	Fill	77	-	1	Fill of linear cut 77	1.8	0.6	0.18	55.33	55.28	3
BLRF17	77	Cut	-	-	1	ditch cut located towards west end of trench 2	1.8	0.6	0.23	55.33	55.1	3
BLRF17	78	Fill	79	-	1	Fill of linear cut 79	1.8	1.3	0.18	55.3	55.28	3
BLRF17	79	Cut	-	-	1	Cut of possible field boundary ditch	1.8	1.3	0.18	55.3	55.12	3
BLRF17	80	Natural	-	-	1	Natural geology	30	1.8	-	55.39	55.04	1
BLRF17	81	Fill	82	-	4	Fill and ceramic pipe associated with Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	6	0.55	0.39	55.68	55.65	4
BLRF17	82	Cut	-	-	4	Cut for Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	6	0.55	0.39	55.68	55.29	4
BLRF17	83	Fill	84	-	5	Fill and ceramic pipe associated with Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	2.5	0.4	-	52.94	-	4
BLRF17	84	Cut	-	-	5	Cut for Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	2.5	0.4	-	52.94	-	4

Site Code	Context	CTX Type	Fill of	CTX equal to	Trench	CTX Interpretation	CTX Length	CTX Width	CTX Depth	CTX Levels high	CTX Levels low	Phase
BLRF17	85	Fill	86	-	5	Fill and ceramic pipe associated with Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	2.5	0.5	-	53.19	-	4
BLRF17	86	Cut	-	-	5	Cut for Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	2.5	0.5	-	53.19	-	4
BLRF17	87	Fill	88	-	2	Fill and ceramic pipe associated with Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	10	0.3	-	54.59	54.48	4
BLRF17	88	Cut	-	-	2	Cut for Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	10	0.3	-	54.59	-	4
BLRF17	89	Fill	90	-	2	Fill and ceramic pipe associated with Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	1.5	0.35	-	54.59	54.58	4
BLRF17	90	Cut	-	-	2	Cut for Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	1.5	0.35	-	54.59	-	4

## APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX





## **APPENDIX 3: LITHIC ASSESSMENT**

By Ella Egberts

### 10.1 Unworked burnt flint

10.1.1 Nineteen pieces of burnt flint were obtained from context 54 (Trench 5), weighing a total of 140g. One unstratified small fragment (0.9g) of burnt flint was recovered from Trench 3. All flint is moderate to heavily burnt, 'fire-crazed' and decoloured.

### 10.2 Struck flint

10.2.1 Three pieces of struck flint were recovered from the Site, two of which were obtained from Trench 3 and one found in context 54 (small find number 1). The details of the struck and burnt flint are presented in table L01. All three struck pieces are in fresh condition and made of three different types of flint. Some nodular cortex is retained on one piece. The technological and typological character of the two blades and the blade-like flake most likely indicate a Mesolithic/Early Neolithic age.

Context	Location	Shape	Length (mm)	Breadth (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Colour	Cortex	Description
-	Tr 3	Blade	64	27	10	13.1	Black/dark grey with lighter grey opaque mottling	Nodular cortex	Flint blade, dorsal side characterised by three parallel negative flake scars, suggesting blade-based production. Proximal end shows signs of platform preparatio into a punctiform platform. A piece of nodular cortex remains along the left edge of the distal end.
-	Tr 3	Blade	47	25	5	6.9	Translucent brown	-	Blade-like flint flake, dorsal side characterised by multiple negative flake scars. Small flake removals at the proximal end indicate some platform preparation.
	Tr 3	1 burnt flint	-	-	-	0.9	Grey and red	-	Small piece of burnt grey and red and 'fire crazed' flint.
54	Small find no 1	Blade fragment	26	11	5	1.5	Opaque red	-	Blade fragment truncated at both ends.
54	-	19 burnt flint	-	-	-	Total 140	Grey and red	-	Moderate to heavily burnt and decoloured flint

Table L01: Details of the struck flint and burnt Longwater Road, Finchampstead

## APPENDIX 4: PREHISTORIC POTTERY ASSESSMENT

Chris Jarrett

### Introduction

A small sized assemblage of pottery was recovered from the site (one box). The pottery dates solely to the very late Iron Age and possibly the early Roman period. The material is generally in a good condition, very little of which was abraded and that was found only in context [52] and therefore the assemblage appears to have been deposited under secondary conditions and discarded soon after breakage. The pottery is largely fragmentary, although rim and base sherds are present that allow for some forms to be identified. Pottery was only found in three contexts as three small sized groups (fewer than 30 sherds) and one medium sized group (30–100 sherds).

All the pottery (59 sherds, representing some 28 estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weighing 774.5kg, none of which is unstratified) was examined macroscopically and microscopically using a binocular microscope (x20) and entered into a database format, by fabric, form, decoration, sherd count, estimated number of vessels and weights. The pottery fabrics were coded according to Orton et al (1993). The pottery is discussed by its types and forms and its distribution (in the form of an index).

### Fabric types

- Flint- and grog-tempered (Flgr); handmade, hardness; soft, feel; harsh and soapy, texture; fine. Moderate to frequent pale grey flint, up to 3mm, sparse white grog, up to 1.5mm, sparse rounded ?red iron-ores in a fine sandy matrix;
- Flint-tempered with organics (Flo); handmade, hardness; soft; feel; harsh/soapy, texture; fine. Moderate white and grey flint, up to 2mm, moderate organics, very occasional fine angular quartz, fine sandy matrix;
- Grog-tempered 1 (G1); wheel-thrown, fabric; hardness; soft, feel; soapy, texture; fine. Moderate very coarse grog, sparse organics in a fine silty matrix;
- Grog-tempered 2 (G2); handmade, hardness; soft, feel; soapy, texture; fine. Frequent pale orange medium grog, occasional well-sorted, rounded, fine quartzes, iron-stained and rose quartzes;
- Grog-tempered 3 (G3), handmade, hardness; soft, feel; soapy, texture; fine. Sparse, pale orange very coarse grog, sparse ill-sorted, sub-angular very fine grey quartzes, sparser iron-stained and rose quartzes, sparse organics;
- Grog- and organic-tempered (GO): handmade, hardness; soft feel; soapy, texture; fine. Moderate, pale brown, medium angular grog, sparse fine quartzes in a fine silty matrix;

- Quartz-tempered, 1 (Q1) wheel-thrown, hardness; hard, texture; fine, feel; slightly rough. Sparse, ill-sorted, sub-rounded, grey and white medium quartz, very sparse fine black iron ores in a very fine sandy matrix;
- Quartz-tempered, 2 (Q2): wheel-thrown, hardness; soft, feel; slightly rough, texture; fine. Very frequent, well-sorted, sub- angular and sub-rounded fine clear, and less frequent rose coarse quartzes and very occasional angular amber quartzes, in a fine sandy micaceous matrix;
- Quartz-tempered, 3 (Q3): wheel thrown, hardness; slightly hard, feel; slightly rough, texture; fine. Very sparse organics, in a very fine sandy slightly micaceous matrix;
- Quartz-tempered, 4 (Q4): wheel-thrown, hardness; hard, texture; fine, feel; slightly rough. Sparse, ill-sorted, sub-rounded, coarse grey and white quartz, very sparse very fine black iron ores in a very fine sandy matrix;
- Quartz with grog-temper (Qg), handmade, hardness; soft, feel; rough, texture; fine. Abundant grog, very sparse fine flint, in a fine sandy matrix;
- Fine quartz (Q fine), ?handmade, hardness: soft-hard, texture, fine, feel: slightly rough. Very fine quartz in a very fine sandy matrix;
- Fine quartz and sparse grog (qg): hardness; soft, texture; fine, feel; very slightly rough. Fine sandy matrix with very sparse coarse clear quartz inclusions and very sparse grog.

The quantification of the different fabric types are shown in Table 1.

***Table 1 BLRS17: Quantification of the prehistoric and early Roman pottery fabrics***

<b>Fabric type</b>	<b>Fabric</b>	<b>No. of sherds</b>	<b>ENV</b>	<b>Weight in grams</b>
Flint- and grog-tempered	Flgr	8	3	154
Flint- and grog-tempered	Flgr1	1	1	2
Flint-tempered with organics	Flo	2	2	9
Grog-tempered 1	G1	6	1	88
Grog-tempered 2	G2	4	4	77
Grog-tempered 3	G3	2	1	20
Grog- and organic-tempered	GO	1	1	27
Quartz-tempered, 1	Q1	13	3	176
quartz-tempered, 2	Q2	11	7	140.5
quartz-tempered, 3	Q3	1	1	14
quartz-tempered, 4	Q4	1	1	5
Fine quartz	Q fine	2	2	13
Quartz with grog-temper	Qg	7	1	39
fine quartz and sparse grog	qg	1	1	10

#### **Distribution and forms index**

**Context [2]**, spot date: late Iron Age

- Flint-tempered with organics (Flo), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 2g. Form: unidentified. Small body sherd, brown external surface, very dark grey core and internal surface.

**Context [17]**, spot date: very late Iron Age

- Flint- and grog-tempered (Flgr), 5 sherds, 1 ENV, 69g, form: unidentified base sherd, reduced very dark grey exterior and core, reddish brown interior.

**Context [67] [19]**, spot date: late Iron Age- early Roman

- Flint- and grog-tempered (Flgr), 2 sherds, 1 ENV, 85g, form: jar, slack profiled. Body sherds, slight shoulder and vertical neck. Possible external self slip (flint is less visible on one sherd), external surfaces are partially reduced and grey or oxidised reddish brown, internal 'bumpy' surface, reduced dark grey or grey brown;
- Flint-tempered with organics (Flo), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 7g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, one surface has laminated the other has a reddish brown/dark grey surface, pale grey core;
- Grog-tempered 1 (G1), 6 sherds, 1 ENV, 88g, form: jar, shouldered. Rim sherd (220mm in diameter), everted, rounded exterior thickening and internal bevel, a very short angled neck, and rounded shoulder, wheel-thrown. End of 1st century BC- early 1st century AD;
- Grog-tempered 2 (G2), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 29g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, laminated/fresh breaks. External large rounded horizontal cordon, reduced dark grey burnished surfaces, reddish brown core;
- Grog-tempered 3 (G3), 2 sherds, 1 ENV, 20g, form: unidentified. Body sherds, thick walled, oxidised red, wiped surfaces;
- Fine quartz (Q fine), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 5g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, very thin walled, exterior reduced very dark grey and highly burnished, pale orange core, pale grey-brown internal surface;
- Quartz-tempered, 1 (Q1), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 7g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, oxidised surfaces and a partial dark grey core;
- Quartz-tempered, 1 (Q1), 11 sherds, 1 ENV, 163g, form: jar, rounded rounded rim (220mm in diameter), rounded wide shoulder, flared wall. Wheel-thrown;
- Quartz-tempered, 2 (Q2), 4 sherds, 1 ENV, 124g, form: bowl (closed)/ jar, rounded 240 rounded rim(240mm in diameter), rounded wide shoulder with an incised line and wiped exterior surface, wheel-thrown. Dark grey surfaces, pale red margins, pale grey core, although the lower shoulder is fully reduced. End of 1st century BC- early 1st century AD;

- Quartz-tempered, 2 (Q2), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 4g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, reduced dark grey, burnished/wiped exterior, pale yellow brown core, grey brown interior surface;
- Quartz-tempered, 2 (Q2), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 1g, form: unidentified. Small body sherd, brown surfaces, very dark grey core;
- Quartz-tempered, 2 (Q2), 2 sherds, 1 ENV, 3g, form: unidentified. Body sherds, thin walled, external surface is oxidised dull orange, very dark grey core and internal surface, food deposit on the internal surface;
- Quartz-tempered, 2 (Q2), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 0.5g, form: unidentified. Rim sherd, simple, short everted rim with a rounded finish, reduced surfaces and core;
- Quartz-tempered, 2 (Q2), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 9g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, reduced very dark grey, burnished exterior, pale brown margins, pale grey core and grey-brown interior surface;
- Quartz-tempered, 3 (Q3), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 14g, form: bowl, rounded 210 narrow flat rim (210mm in diameter), single incised lines on the inside and outside edge, rounded wall. Wheel thrown. Late Iron Age, early Roman;
- Quartz-tempered, 4 (Q4), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 7g, form: bowl/jar. Body sherd/shoulder, pale grey surfaces, oxidised core. Wheel-thrown;
- Quartz with grog-temper (Qg), 7 sherds, 1 ENV, 44g, form: bowl, rounded (closed). Rim sherd, rounded and beaded, ext. Dark brown, oxidised surfaces, very dark grey core and inner surface, wiped surfaces. End of 1st century BC- early 1st century AD;
- Fine quartz and sparse grog (qg), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 5g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, oxidised reddish brown exterior, very dark grey core and internal surface. Internal blackened food deposit.
- **Total: 45 sherds, 18 ENV, 606.5g.**

**Context [52],** spot date: late Iron Age

- Flint- and grog-tempered (Flgr1), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 2g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, oxidised ?external surface, abraded;
- Grog-tempered 2 (G2), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 6g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, pale brown surfaces, dull orange core;
- Grog-tempered 2 (G2), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 5g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, oxidised orange;
- Grog-tempered 2 (G2), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 37g, form: unidentified. Body sherds, thick walled, reduced very dark grey;
- Grog- and organic-tempered (GO) 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 27g, form: unidentified. Body sherds, thick walled, reduced very dark grey, dark grey brown exterior;
- Fine quartz (Q fine), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 11g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, pale brown, abraded;

- Quartz-tempered, 1 (Q1), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 6g, form: Jar. Body sherd/shoulder, dark grey surfaces, reduced core, and reddish brown inner margin. Wheel-thrown;
- Quartz-tempered, 2 (Q2), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 3g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, oxidised, abraded.
- **Total: 8 sherds, 8 ENV, 97g**

### **Significance, potential and recommendations for further work**

The pottery has significance at a local level and demonstrates late Iron Age and possibly early Roman activity on the site. Comparable material also exists in the vicinity of the Site: a fine sandy ware sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered nearby at Eversley Quarry, Finchampstead (McSloy 2012), while a search of the ARCHI UK website shows five entries where Iron Age pottery is recorded, although the specific locations are not noted ([http://www.archiuk.com/cgi-bin/web-archi.pl?PlacenameFromPlacenameFinder=Finchampstead&CountyFromPlacenameFinder=Berkshire&distance=10000&ARCHIFormNGRLetter=SU&ARCHIFormNGR\\_x=79&ARCHIFormNGR\\_y=63&info2search4=placename\\_search](http://www.archiuk.com/cgi-bin/web-archi.pl?PlacenameFromPlacenameFinder=Finchampstead&CountyFromPlacenameFinder=Berkshire&distance=10000&ARCHIFormNGRLetter=SU&ARCHIFormNGR_x=79&ARCHIFormNGR_y=63&info2search4=placename_search)). The pottery has the potential to date the deposits it was recovered from. The assemblage also has the potential to demonstrate activities on the site for the late Iron Age/early Roman period. No further work is required on the pottery at this stage, although if further archaeological work is undertaken on the study area, then the pottery described in this report and any new prehistoric ceramic finds, should be reviewed by a prehistoric pottery specialist.

### **References**

- McSloy, E. R., 2012, Pottery, in A. Hardy, Eversley Quarry Finchampstead, Wokingham Berkshire Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design, Cotswold Archaeology unpublished report no. 12300.
- Orton, C. Tyers, P. and Vince, G. 1993. *Pottery in Archaeology*. Cambridge University Press.

## APPENDIX 5: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT

### BUILDING MATERIALS SPOT DATES

By Kevin Hayward

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date with mortar
19	3102	Fired clay	10	150 0bx	1600	1500bc	1600	100BC- 1600+	No mortar
48	3046	Post medieval brick	1	145 0	1800	1450	1800	1600- 1800+	No mortar
65	2276	Peg tile fine moulding sand	2	148 0	1900	1480	1900	1700- 1900	No mortar
74	2276	Late post medieval curved nun shaped roofing tile local tradition Thames Valley	4	160 0	1900	1600	1900	1700- 1900	No mortar

#### Review

This small building material assemblage (27 fragments 1465g) contains post medieval roofing tile and brick and some burnt clay lining associated with some slag from [19]. The roofing tile, consisting of both rectangular peg tile and a type of curved tile, characteristic of the Thames Valley has fine moulding sand indicating late post medieval 1700-1900 date. The brick from [48] may be of a similar date although it is quite shallow (53mm) which just may just indicate an earlier 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century date. All of the ceramic building material is made out of a very sandy fabric maybe from the underlying Bagshot sand.

#### Significance, potential

The value of the building material recovered during the evaluation at Longwater Lane, Finchampstead other than that of the later post-medieval (1700-1900) origins, is the quantity of fired clay (kiln lining) that is associated with the slag from [19]. It may be indicative of the late prehistoric-Roman metal production in the area, given the presence of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery at the site.



## APPENDIX 6: THE IRON SLAG AND RELATED HIGH-TEMPERATURE DEBRIS

### Lynne Keys

#### Introduction and methodology

A medium assemblage of material (almost 25kgs), initially identified as slag, was recovered by hand on site and from soil samples processed after excavation.

For this report it was examined by eye and categorised on the basis of morphology; a magnet was used to test for iron-rich material. Each slag or other material type in each context was weighed except for the possible furnace blocks and such-like slag, which were individually weighed and measured for statistical purposes. Quantification data and details are given in the table below in which weight (wt.) is shown in grams, and length (len.), breadth (br.) and depth (dp.) in millimetres.

Quantification table for the slag and related material

cxt	sam	slag ident	wt	len	br	dp	comments	pcs
14	1	sample residue	2559				Furnace slag, vitrified furnace lining (thickness 50mm), etc. All heavily encrusted with charcoal dust etc.	
14	1	undiagnostic	151					1
14	1	undiagnostic	185				Encrusted with charcoal dust	1
14	1	undiagnostic	1171					1
15	2	iron-rich undiagnostic	145					1
15	2	undiagnostic	89					1
15	2	undiagnostic	1091	120	100	70		1
15	2	vitrified furnace lining	385				30mm thick. Coated with charcoal dust and ferruginous concretion	
15	2	vitrified hearth lining	42					
16	3	iron-rich undiagnostic	673					lots
16	3	undiagnostic	185	65	5520			
16	3	undiagnostic	1340				With ferruginous concretion adhering	lots
17	4	undiagnostic	226			50		1
19	5	undiagnostic	147				Smelting; run slag	1
19		furnace slag	145					
19		furnace slag	378				Long slender voids	4

19		furnace slag	875				Voids from burnt out charcoal.	1
19		furnace slag	1109				From near wall of furnace?; flint inclusions.	1
19		furnace slag	3473	210	145	100	Resembles large SHB; depression from bellows blast. Voids from burnt-out charcoal.	1
19		iron-rich undiagnostic	557	100	70	40	Bloom?	1
19		iron-rich undiagnostic	802					4
19		run slag	663				Slightly flowed surface, almost like tap slag but not so pronounced.	
19		vitrified furnace lining	1341				Wall is 52mm thick; floor? 30mm thick.	lots
24	6	ferruginous concretion	124				Small pieces with charcoal dust	lots
31	8	undiagnostic	1286				Ferruginous concretion adhering	lots
31		undiagnostic	439	75	70	90	Like mini slag block. Flowed?	
31		undiagnostic	2208				Furnace slag; some with voids	5
52	10	undiagnostic	882				Probably furnace slag	6
52		burnt charcoal	23					1
52		cinder	13				With flint and charcoal inclusions	
52		furnace slag	239					3
52		furnace slag	343					1
52		furnace slag	957	140	110	75	One block; large voids from burnt out charcoal; there is a large, concave (semi-circular) void on one side of the block	1
52		iron-rich undiagnostic	272					
52		undiagnostic	62					
52		vitrified hearth lining	77				Wall thickness 25mm	
56		undiagnostic	197				Could be stone (ore?). Heavily encrusted with charcoal dust.	1
		<b>Total wt = 24.86kgs</b>						

## **Explanation of terms**

The diagnostic slags in the assemblage represent iron smelting: the manufacture of iron from ore and fuel in a furnace. The products of this process are a spongy mass called an unconsolidated bloom consisting of iron with a considerable amount of slag still trapped inside, and slag (waste). The slag produced varies depending on the technology used in different periods: furnace slags (including slag blocks and furnace bottom cakes), run slag, tap slag, dense slag or blast furnace slag.

Furnace bottoms resemble smithing hearth bottoms (a large slag produced during smithing) but are very much larger and usually weigh many kilos; the Finchampstead example weigh almost 3.5kgs.

Furnace slag is a general term used for slag which can be recognised as having been produced by smelting but which is incomplete or has no particular morphology which can identify the furnace type or technological method used.

Slag described as undiagnostic cannot be assigned to smelting or smithing either because of morphology or because it has been broken up during deposition, re-deposition or excavation. Other types of debris in an assemblage may derive from variety of high temperature activities - including domestic fires - and cannot be taken on their own to indicate iron-working was taking place. These include fired clay, vitrified hearth lining and cinder. If found in association with iron smelting and/or smithing slag, however, they are almost certainly products of the process(es), as is probably the case with this assemblage.

## **Discussion of the assemblage**

The assemblage appears to represent iron smelting, probably Iron Age or very early Roman in date. No large slag block fragments are present as one would expect from any large-scale Iron Age smelting activity; no slag indicative of the Roman slag tapping technology are present. In many ways the assemblage looks to be almost transitional as several pieces in fill [19] of ditch or drain [73] have a very slightly run surface which indicates the furnace pit or base may have been tilted. The latter is often a feature of late Iron Age/immediately pre-Roman technology. Because the slag was tapped from the furnace, the Romans did not use large slag pits in their smelting operations.

The fuel used appears to be charcoal. Not only were very tiny pieces of charcoal present, but numerous larger fragments of smelting slag have voids in them which occur when charcoal used in the smelting process is burned away during the smelt. Such voids are a feature of earlier Iron Age and early Anglo-Saxon smelting slags, and particularly large and prevalent in slag blocks.

The Finchampstead furnace evidence reveals the example in the assemblage was probably not large. Fragments of lining are only 50mm to 52mm thick; other pieces (which may be part of superstructure or the floor) are 30mm thick.

### **Trench 1**

Ditch [71], fill [19] contained smelting slag which is probably Iron Age in date, to judge by its type. A large slag cake (which resembles a very large smithing hearth bottom) has a depression in the middle where the blast from a bellows as driven the slag aside. If the material is Iron Age, it indicates the smelting took place in a smallish furnace no more than 201mm in diameter: if much later (or Victorian) it is a smithing hearth bottom and nothing to do with smelting.

A flat, iron-rich chunk may be undiagnostic slag or could be an iron bloom produced during a smelting operation. If a bloom, it very important for indicating the size and weight of the raw iron produced in the furnace. It should be retained for future examination.

Some slag had run or slightly flowed surfaces, while fragments of furnace or hearth lining in this fill give dimensions of 52mm and 30mm for wall thicknesses.

Mole tunnel [53], fill [52] also contained smelting slag and one large piece has a large semi-circular void through it as if there was something around which the slag formed – or as the result of a very strong bellows blast from above. This slag appears to be Iron Age.

### **Trench 2**

Contained more furnace slag from smelting.

### **Trench 4**

Small pit [20], fill [15] produced more vitrified furnace or hearth lining, as well as iron-rich undiagnostic and ordinary undiagnostic slag.

### **Trench 5**

Modern post hole [57], fill [56] contained a piece of stone or ore which had been burnt black. The stone has not been identified.

### **Significance of assemblage**

The assemblage identifies that Iron Age smelting took place, probably during the transition to Roman smelting practices, within or near this site. It is known that sources of bog iron ore exist in Berkshire and that Iron Age smelting was often small scale and carried out as needed. If further excavation were carried out, it may enhance the evidence and provide more information on the process and its scale.

The assemblage is of local and, possibly, of regional significance although the remains are relatively common in the area. The evidence of Iron Age smelting is well known from across Berkshire and the results of current evaluation add information to the overall picture but do not provide findings which would suggest the site may have been of a larger significance.

## APPENDIX 7: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

**OASIS ID: preconst1-295262**

### Project details

Project name	Land off Longwater Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 3TT
Short description of the project	The evaluation was commissioned to support an outline planning application which has been submitted to Wokingham Borough Council, for a residential development of up to 40 dwellings. The evaluation entailed the excavation of 5 trenches within the proposed plot, which measured 30m by 1.80m. The evaluation uncovered limited evidence indicative of sporadic and transient Mesolithic to early Neolithic activity in the form of unstratified flint artefacts and evidence of Late Iron Age/early Roman activity in the form of archaeological features, deposits and artefacts, specifically pottery and waste indicative of iron smithing activity. Post-medieval remains in the form of land drains and subsoil were also identified.
Project dates	Start: 21-08-2017 End: 25-08-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BLRF17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE WOKINGHAM FINCHAMPSTEAD Land off Longwater Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 3TT
Postcode	RG40 3TT
Study area	2.26 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 79633 62705 51.357326700819 -0.856201826635 51 21 26 N 000 51 22 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

Min: 53.4m Max: 55.54m

Depth

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	EDP
Project design originator	n/a
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	Kari Bower
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Catesby Property Group

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Reading Museum
Physical Archive ID	BLRF17
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive ID	BLRF17
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive ID	BLRF17
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Drawing","Map","Miscellaneous Material","Plan","Report","Survey "
Entered by	Zbigniew Pozorski (zpozorski@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	8 September 2017

Please e-mail [Historic England](mailto:Historic England) for OASIS help and advice

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