

2004.133

EVENT 6657



# Westbury Proposed Eastern By-pass Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

*Wessex Archaeology*

Ref:54100.02b

January 2004



**WESTBURY PROPOSED EASTERN BY-PASS,  
WILTSHIRE**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

Prepared for

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Reference no. 54100.02b

**January 2004**

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# WESTBURY PROPOSED EASTERN BY-PASS, WILTSHIRE

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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# WESTBURY PROPOSED EASTERN BY-PASS, WILTSHIRE

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS, Planning Transport and Environment on behalf of Parkman and Wiltshire County Council to undertake the archaeological evaluation of the Preferred Eastern Route of the Westbury By-Pass in Wiltshire. The southern end of the route lies close to Madbrook Farm on the A350 Warminster Road to the south of the town (ST 869 494), with the northern end of the route joining Hawkeridge Road, to the north of the town (ST 864 529). This document presents the results of the fieldwork.

The results of recent geophysical survey, test pitting and fieldwalking along the route, together with other sources of information suggested a medium to high archaeological potential along large sections of the proposed route.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of 108 trial trenches, targeted using the results of the previous surveys to evaluate the character, date and state of preservation of archaeological remains along the proposed route. A significant number of archaeological features were recorded in 70 of the trenches, many of which could be reliably dated. The preservation of the archaeological remains was generally moderate to good and was fairly consistent across the evaluation areas, with the greatest truncation apparent in hilltop locations and where deep ploughing had truncated elements of probable Post-medieval lynchets and field systems. The majority of features encountered were ditches and field boundaries related to field systems, enclosures and strip lynchets dating from the Bronze Age through to the Post-medieval period.

A number of sites and deposits were identified, including a well preserved sequence of buried soil horizons, likely to date from the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (Area 2); Late Bronze Age features potentially relating to settlement activity (Area 6); a number of Early Iron Age features and an extensive midden deposit associated with adjacent settlement (Area 3); and a large area of Romano-British settlement activity associated with a field system (Area 6).

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**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**Acknowledgements**

The fieldwork was commissioned by RPS, Planning Transport and Environment on behalf of Parkman and Wiltshire County Council. Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Martin Connell of RPS and Rebecca Yates and Gordon Newman of Parkman for their assistance. The help and valuable co-operation of the landowners/tenant farmers and land agents in facilitating access for the evaluation is gratefully acknowledged. The fieldwork was monitored by Sue Farr of Wiltshire County Council, her advice and comments provided during the course of the fieldwork are also gratefully acknowledged.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Manning. The evaluation was directed in the field by Catriona Gibson and Gail Mabbott assisted by Steve George, Nick Best, Kirsten Egging, Laura Cassie, Becky Fitzpatrick, Pete Fairclough, Emma Graham, Stephanie Knight, Cat McHarg, Dave Murdie, Ruth Panes and Matt Rous. This report was prepared by Catriona Gibson, with initial preparation by Gail Mabbott. The finds, environmental sample, sediment descriptions and interpretations were assessed by Lorraine Mepham and Dr Michael J. Allen, with charred plant remains assessed by Dr Chris Stevens. The illustrations were prepared by Rob Goller.

# WESTBURY PROPOSED EASTERN BY-PASS WILTSHIRE

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS, Planning, Transport and Environment on behalf of Parkman and Wiltshire County Council to undertake the archaeological evaluation of the Preferred Eastern Route of the proposed Westbury By-Pass, Wiltshire (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 This document sets out the project background, results and conclusions of the archaeological evaluation. The results will be incorporated within an Environmental Statement to be prepared by RPS.
- 1.1.3 The proposed By-pass route runs for approximately 6km around the southern, eastern and northern outskirts of Westbury, Wiltshire. The southern end lies close to Madbrook Farm on the A350 Warminster Road to the south of the town (ST 869 494), with the northern end of the route joining Hawkeridge Road, to the north of the town (ST 864 529).
- 1.1.4 A series of archaeological works including a desk-based assessment (RPS 2000), fieldwalking (ASI 2002), geophysical (Stratascan 2003) and geotechnical surveys (Gifford and Partners 2003) has been undertaken previously.
- 1.1.5 Based on the results of this fieldwork, Gifford and Partners, on behalf of RPS, prepared the layout of a 2.5% trenched evaluation sample of the proposed route. These trenches were targeted to examine the nature of areas of known or suspected archaeology, but also to investigate parts of the landscape where fieldwalking was not carried out or geophysical survey proved unsuccessful.
- 1.1.6 The majority (68%) of trenches were targeted on known or suspected archaeology and most of these were targeted on the results of the geophysical survey (Table 1).



**Table 1: Targeted Trenches**

Targeted on results of :	Number of trenches
Fieldwalking	12
Aerial Photographs	8
Aerial Photographs and Fieldwalking	1
Geophysics	44
Geophysics and Aerial Photographs	10

1.1.7 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a site specific Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology 2003), which was approved by Wiltshire County Council in advance of the fieldwork.

1.1.8 The fieldwork was undertaken between 1<sup>st</sup> September and the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2003.

## 1.2 Site Description

1.2.1 The proposed By-pass route runs for approximately 6km around the southern, eastern and northern outskirts of Westbury, Wiltshire, varying between 20-40m in width. The proposed scheme extends from Madbrook Farm on the A350 Warminster Road at the south of the town (NGR ST 869 494) across the present B3098 Bratton Road and the main railway line before turning westwards and crossing the A350, north of the Heywood Road Junction and railway line, before joining with the B3097 Hawkeridge Road, to the north of the town (NGR ST 864 529) (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 Westbury lies on the Upper Greensand terrace situated at the foot of the steep chalk upland escarpment, which forms the northern edge of the Salisbury Plain. The solid geology of the area comprises a sequence of Upper and Middle Jurassic clays (Oxford and Kimmeridge Clays), sandstones and limestones overlain to the south-east of Westbury by Upper Greensand and Chalk. These, in turn are overlain in places by drift deposits of alluvium and head. Natural and plough-derived hill-wash (colluvium) is also present at the foot of the chalk escarpment (RPS 2002)(**Figure 2**).

1.2.3 The vast majority of the land within the route is green field, with arable land along the route to the south of the Bratton Road at a height of between 95-130m aOD (above Ordnance Datum). In contrast, the land along the northern half of the route consists mainly of pasture, which drops gradually from 85m aOD to 60m aOD.

1.2.4 No major watercourses are crossed by the proposed route although the Bitham Brook is crossed at a point just to the north of the Heywood Road Junction. Two springs lie close to the route at the junction of the Upper Greensand and Gault Clay. The Wellhead Springs are situated close to the proposed route, near Bere's Mere Farm, 600m to the south-east of Westbury,

while the Bridewell Springs are located adjacent to the B3098, close to Hillcroft Farm.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 The general archaeological background to the evaluation is described in detail in the Proposed Westbury By-Pass a Stage II DMRB Archaeological Assessment (RPS 2000) and is not repeated in full here.

2.1.2 Evidence for prehistoric activity is focused on the Wessex Ridgeway, which lies along the edge of the steep chalk upland escarpment, to the south-east of Westbury. Mesolithic material, Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement and cemetery sites and the Iron Age hillfort of Bratton Camp are all found on the top of the escarpment or close to the spring line at the foot of the scarp, all within 1.5km of the proposed route. Immediately to the north-west of Westbury, a wide range of prehistoric remains has been located in the Ham area, suggesting activity was also present in the valley (Gifford 2003).

2.1.3 Romano-British, Late Anglo-Saxon, medieval and Post-medieval settlement and farming appears to have been focused on the foot of the chalk scarp and around ironstone deposits located at Ham. Settlement within this area gradually extended into the wooded clay land, further to the north. Established archaeological patterns of arable farming on the lighter soils of the Greensand and Chalk, pasture on the heavier clay soils and open cast mining with the associated industrial works on the ironstone belt are still evident to the present day.

2.1.4 All areas have also been the subject of recent geophysical survey, together with a review of aerial photographic evidence and geotechnical investigations. Parts of the arable land in Areas 1, 2 and 3 have also been subject to fieldwalking surveys.

### **2.2 Previous Surveys and Archaeological Appraisal of the Proposed Route**

2.2.1 Prior to the trenched evaluation of the proposed route, a number of fieldwork and desk-based surveys were carried out in order to assess the archaeological potential along the route. These assessments included a Stage II DRMB Archaeological Assessment (RPS 2000), fieldwalking survey (ASI 2002), rapid and detailed geophysical survey (Stratascan 2003) and an archaeological watching brief on geotechnical surveys (Gifford and Partners 2003).

2.2.2 The desk-based assessment identified a number of sites along the proposed route from data sources that included the County Sites and Monuments Record (*NB.* areas referred to below refer to Evaluation Appraisal Areas, see Table 2).

### 2.2.3 These sites included:

- Site 46 an extensive series of field systems east of Dilton identified from aerial photographs, probably associated with medieval ridge and furrow. This extends across the proposed route central part of Area 1
- Sites 43-44, two Scheduled Monuments to the south of the proposed route in Area 1. These comprise two undated earthworks on Upton Cow Down, both of which may be the remains of ploughed out barrows
- Site 84 an undated curvilinear feature to the east of the proposed route in Area 2; again possibly a ploughed out barrow
- Site 91, north of Beggars Knoll and again just to the east of the proposed route in Area 3, part of a series of undated linear features, identified from aerial photographs
- Site 75, east of the proposed route in Area 2 a series of four undated linear features have been picked up on aerial photographs. These were thought likely to be the remnants of medieval strip lynchets
- Site 82, comprises two undated irregular enclosures, located immediately to the east of the proposed route in Area 4
- Site 76, an undated cropmark originally thought to be an enclosure, located on the proposed route in Area 4
- Sites 86 and 89, an undated field system and a cropmark enclosure; the latter possibly an undated moated site. This is situated to the north of the proposed route in Area 4
- Site 79, an undated square enclosure situated to the north of Glenmore and just to the west of the proposed route in Area 6.
- Site 152, a possible cropmark site with linear field boundaries to the east of Heywood House north of Area 4
- Site 154, remains of possible medieval ridge and furrow to the north-west of Home Farm to the north of Area 5
- Site 155, a cropmark of a possible trapezoidal shaped enclosure to the east of Coach Road in Area 4
- Site 153, cropmarks of a possible field system to the south of Blenches Mill Farm in Area 5.

2.2.4 Fieldwalking was undertaken in 2002 (ASI 2002) on the arable land within the southern half of the proposed route. The area covered five plots. Plots 1 to 4 between Madbrook Farm and Bere's Mere Farm, while Plot 5 was in the field to the south of Bratton Road and the north of Beggar's Knoll. Significant quantities of late prehistoric pottery (several hundred sherds) were collected in Plot 5, located within Area 3 (**Figure 12**) and the potential presence of an Iron Age midden or occupation site was identified.

2.2.5 Burnt flint was sporadically picked up in all of the plots, but again concentrated in Plot 5. Struck flint was also concentrated in this area, but was furthermore identified in smaller quantities in Plot 4 and Plot 3 in Area 2 (**Figure 6**) and Plot 1 in Area 1 (**Figure 3**). A number of sherds of Romano-British pottery were also retrieved in Area 1. Thus the fieldwalking identified the presence of the following sites:

- A possible Romano-British site in Area 1
  - Prehistoric activity associated with flint scatters in Area 2
  - A probable Iron Age midden and occupation site in Area 3.
- 2.2.6 Rapid geophysical survey was undertaken along the entire route. This was followed by detailed geophysical survey within areas targeted by the results of the rapid survey (Stratascan 2003). The surveys identified features of definite archaeological potential plus weaker linear trends and pit type anomalies, some of which reflect features plotted from aerial photographs (Figures 3-24).
- 2.2.7 These included:
- A number of linear features potentially representing a field system in the south-western part of Area 1.
  - A possible double ditched curvilinear feature located within Area 2, directly to the south of Newtown Road
  - A possible field system and palaeochannel in Area 3 to the south of Bratton Road
  - A number of linear and pit type anomalies in the southern part of Area 4
  - A definite strip lynchet system associated with a possible enclosure in the central part of Area 4
  - A complex series of linear features potentially representing droeways, field systems and associated enclosures in Area 6.
- 2.2.8 The results of these assessments were used by RPS to divide the route into a series of eight Areas of Archaeological Potential (APP, Table 2), which contained 22 sites within Areas 1-6.
- 2.2.9 This enabled the preparation of a detailed summary of the archaeological potential throughout the route, which was used as the basis for an evaluation trenching strategy, developed by Gifford and Partners in consultation with RPS and Wiltshire County Council. In the place of a larger random sampling strategy, this strategy proposed a smaller targeted trenched evaluation, focused primarily on areas of known archaeological potential, together with additional trenches placed as to allow a representative sample of uninvestigated sections of the route. This would enable a rapid and detailed assessment of those areas of known archaeological potential.
- 2.2.10 In addition to these trenches, there was also a contingency for extending existing trenches or cutting additional trenches throughout the route, if required to define the extent, nature or otherwise enable a more informed determination of the archaeological potential.
- 2.2.11 For the purposes of this evaluation report, the proposed Eastern By-Pass route was divided into six separate areas (Table 2). These were defined as follows:

**Table 2: Appraisal Areas**

Evaluation Appraisal Area	RPS Appraisal Areas	Location and nature of Archaeological Potential	No of Trenches	No of Fields
Area 1	AAP1	East of the A350 at Madbrook Farm, south of Bere's Mere Farm at the Pumping Station. Close to known archaeological activity, focused around Wellhead Lane. Also may contain prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval field systems. Moderate archaeological potential.	Trenches 1-20 and 106	4
Area 2	AAP2 AAP3	North of the Pumping Station at Bere's Mere Farm, south of Newtown Road at Newtown Farm. Close to known archaeological activity, focused around Wellhead Lane. Also may contain prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and Post-medieval field systems and other activity. Low (APP3-Bere Mere Farm to Newtown) to High (APP2-Adjacent to Wellhead Pumping Station) archaeology potential.	Trenches 21-33 and 105	2
Area 3	APP4	North of Newtown Farm at Beggar's Knoll, south of Bratton Road (B3098). Contains possible Late prehistoric Midden and settlement, possible prehistoric to Post-medieval agricultural activity. High archaeological potential.	Trenches 34-57 and 107	2
Area 4	APP5 APP6	North of Bratton Road at Fairview Farm, south of Park Farm, east of Trowbridge Road (A350). On the fringes of prehistoric, Romano-British, Medieval and Post-medieval settlement. Possible Roman, medieval and Post-medieval agricultural activity. Low archaeological potential.	Trenches 58-79 and 103-104	7
Area 5	APP7	West of Trowbridge Road across Bitham Brook, east of the Church path, north of the Sewage Farm. On the fringes of prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and Post-medieval settlement and industrial activity. Possible Roman, medieval and Post-medieval agricultural activity and Post-medieval water meadows. Moderate archaeological potential.	Trenches 80-84 and 101, 102 and 108-110	4
Area 6	APP8	West of the Church path across the railway, east of Hawkeridge road (B3097) at Hawkeridge Farm. Adjacent to and possibly containing Late prehistoric, Romano-British settlement and industrial activity, and medieval and Post-medieval industrial activity. Possible Roman, medieval and Post-medieval agricultural activity. High archaeological potential.	Trenches 85-100	4

- 2.2.12 **Area 1** comprises Trenches 1-20 and Trench 106 (**Figures 3-7**). These are situated east of the A350 at Madbrook Farm and south of Bere's Mere Farm at the Pumping Station. The area lies to the west of the Wessex Ridgeway and on the lower slopes of Upton Cow Down between 95m and 105m aOD (above Ordnance Datum). The underlying geology comprises Upper Greensand (Trenches 1-3) and Lower Chalk Coombe deposits (Trenches 4-20 and 106).
- 2.2.13 **Area 2** comprises Trenches 21-33 and Trench 105 (**Figures 7-12**). This area lies north of the Pumping Station at Bere's Mere Farm and south of Newtown Road at Newtown Farm. Area 2 lies on the upper slopes of Beggars Knoll at a height of 105m and 130m aOD. The underlying geology comprises Lower Chalk Coombe deposits. Deeply stratified sequences of colluvium were identified in Trenches 25 and 26 (up to 3m in depth), indicating the presence of a dry valley in this area running from Wellhead Springs to the south of Bere's Mere Farm.
- 2.2.14 **Area 3** comprises Trenches 34-57 and Trench 107 (**Figures 12-16**). These trenches were located north of Newtown Farm at Beggar's Knoll and south of Bratton Road. This area is situated on the lower northern slopes and valley of Westbury Hill at a height of 140m and 90m aOD. The underlying geology of this zone comprises Lower Chalk Coombe deposits (Trenches 34-47) with a transition to Upper Greensand to the south of Bratton Road (Trenches 42-56) and another change to Weathered Upper Greensand with Coombe deposits in Trench 57. Deep colluvial deposits were identified in Trenches 47-52.
- 2.2.15 **Area 4** comprises Trenches 58-79 and Trenches 103-104 (**Figures 15-21**). This area is situated north of Bratton Road at Fairview Farm, south of Park Farm and east of Trowbridge Road. The topography relates to a lower-lying valley, situated between 75m and 60m aOD. The underlying geology comprises Silty Clay with bands of limestone, with Kimmeridge Jurassic Clays present in Trenches 77-79 and 103-104.
- 2.2.16 **Area 5** comprises Trenches 80-84, 101-102 and 108-110 (**Figures 21-23**). This area is located west of Trowbridge Road across the Bitham Brook, east of the Church path and north of the Sewage Farm. The area crosses a low-lying valley bottom with a river running through it at a height of 60m –55m aOD. The underlying geology comprises Kimmeridge Jurassic Clays sealed by deep alluvial deposits.
- 2.2.17 **Area 6** comprises Trenches 85-100 (**Figures 23-26**). This area is situated West of the Church path across the railway, east of Hawkeridge road (B3097) at Hawkeridge Farm. The topography of Area 6 is the lower hill slopes of Glenmore at a height of 55m –65m aOD. The underlying geology comprises Blocky Weathered Soliflucted Chalk (Trenches 86-91) and Westbury Ironstone banded with Sandy Clay, Corallian Limestone, and Oxford Clay (Trenches 92-100).

- 2.2.18 At the time of the evaluation, the arable fields in Areas 1, 2 and 3 were under stubble, while the paddock in Area 3 was laid to grass. The southern quarter of Area 4 and western half of Area 6 were under stubble, while the rest of Areas 4 and 6, and all of Area 5 were laid to grass.

### 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

#### 3.1 Trenching Strategy

- 3.1.1 The proposed trenching strategy was developed by Gifford and Partners in consultation with RPS and Wiltshire County Council. A total of 110 evaluation trenches were proposed, although trenches 70 and 71 were not excavated due to access issues. The trenches ranged in size from between 20-60m in length and 1.8m in width, depending on their location within the route. This represented a sample of approximately 2.7% of the proposed route.
- 3.1.2 The majority of the trenches were located on or within features and areas identified by previous detailed geophysical survey, fieldwalking or the geotechnical watching brief as being of archaeological significance. The remaining trenches have been placed as to allow a representative sample of uninvestigated sections of the route where archaeological remains have not been previously identified in non-intrusive surveys.
- 3.1.3 A total of 110 trial trenches was proposed in the Written Scheme of Investigation as follows:

**Table 3: Trench summary**

Trench size	Proposed Number of Trenches	Proposed Trench Area (sq. m)
20 x 1.6 m	14	448
25 x 1.6 m	12	480
30 x 1.6 m	58	2784
35 x 1.6 m	5	280
40 x 1.6 m	3	192
50 x 1.6 m	1	80
60 x 1.6 m	1	96

3.1.4 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation, with the exception of the following variations:

- Trench 25 was re-orientated west-east in order to establish a full profile of the colluvium and buried soil horizon encountered in Trench 26 directly to the north
- Trenches 47, 48 and 49 were all moved 5m south, otherwise they would have been placed directly in the hedge boundary
- Trench 70 was not excavated because it had to be moved 30m away from a known badger set and as this would have meant placing it directly in the middle of the new cement road
- Trench 71 was not excavated because it would have cut through a grass lawn, raising issues of re-instatement
- Trench 72 was re-orientated to intersect an earthwork identified during the evaluation
- Several trenches had to be moved because they originally lay directly under overhead power lines. These comprised Trench 76 (moved 15m to the south), Trench 78 (split in half and moved both north and south) and Trench 79 (moved 5m to the north-east).

## 3.2 Aims and Objectives

3.2.1 The general aims and objectives of the field evaluation survey were set out in the *Stage II Archaeological Assessment* (RPS 2000). Site-specific objectives were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2003a). These were (within the limits of the specified techniques and trench disposition):

- To investigate the nature of the various targeted geophysical anomalies
- To investigate the character, nature and date of the various targeted sites identified through previous fieldwork
- To ascertain the presence or absence of archaeological remains in areas that appear blank on the geophysical survey
- To assess the degree of preservation of remains along the whole road corridor.

3.2.2 In addition to these general aims and objectives a number of trench specific objectives were identified, relating to the investigation of particular cropmarks or geophysical anomalies identified in previous work. These objectives are reviewed in section 5 below.

## 4 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 Excavation Methodology

4.1.1 All trenches were marked out on the ground using a Real-Time Kinematic Differential GPS tied to OS active network. The trenches were scanned using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) prior to the commencement of work.



- 4.1.2 Topsoil and overburden were removed using a JCB excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, working under the constant direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist.
- 4.1.3 The topsoil and overburden were removed in a series of spits down to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon. Topsoil and subsoil was kept separate on either side of the trench and all spoil was stockpiled at a safe distance from the edge of the trenches. In the southern part of the route, predominantly on the arable land, all spoil was laid on top of strips of Terram 2000 in order to avoid any soil contamination.
- 4.1.4 The spoil from all trenches was scanned for artefacts and in some cases a metal detector was used. Following completion of archaeological recording and inspection by external monitors all trenches were carefully backfilled in a series of machine-consolidated spits. The turf that had been carefully removed from trenches located on pastoral land was relaid and, where required, these trenches were re-seeded.
- 4.2 Hand Excavation**
- 4.2.1 All features of whatever origin requiring clarification were cleaned by hand and recorded in plan at an appropriate scale. A sufficient number of the features located were investigated by hand in order to fulfil the aims of the project. In general all features thought likely to be of archaeological origin were excavated. Where features were thought to be of natural origin, this was confirmed by the excavation and recording of one or two examples in each trench as appropriate.
- 4.2.2 Care was taken not to compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits that might be better excavated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation. This was particularly pertinent in Area 3 where an Early Iron Age midden was revealed and in Area 6, where a series of complex features of Romano-British date were identified.
- 4.3 Recording**
- 4.3.1 All archaeological features and deposits encountered during the evaluation were recorded by Wessex Archaeology using *pro forma* recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system.
- 4.3.2 A plan at an appropriate scale was prepared, showing the areas investigated and their relation to more permanent topographical features. A representative section of each trial trench was recorded at an appropriate scale. Other plans, sections and elevations of archaeological features and deposits were drawn as necessary at 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50 as appropriate. Drawings were made in pencil on permanent drafting film.
- 4.3.3 The spot heights of all principal features and levels were calculated in metres relative to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places.

4.3.4 A full photographic record was created using both monochrome prints and colour transparencies.

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section presents a summary of the principal archaeological features and deposits investigated. The objectives leading to the initial positioning of each trench or group of trenches are also reviewed. The areas of the fieldwalking and geophysical surveys are marked on Figures 3-26. Only features that were considered to be certainly or probably of archaeological significance are plotted on these figures.

5.1.2 A catalogue of the features and deposits found in each trench is presented in **Appendix 1** and detailed descriptions are available in the project archive.

### 5.2 Geology

5.2.1 Considerable variation in the natural drift geology was apparent across the evaluation areas. These ranged from Coombe deposits (Trenches 4-42), Weathered Greensand (Trenches 1-3, 43-58), Weathered Chalk (Trenches 59-62), Clay (Trenches 63-79) alluvial Clay (Trenches 80-84), Blocky Chalk (Trenches 87-91) and Silty Clay (Trenches 92-100).

5.2.2 Very deep colluvial deposits (over 2 m) were encountered in Trenches 25 and 26 and deep colluvial deposits (over 0.60m) were noted in Trenches 45 and 47-55 inclusive. Buried soils were sealed by some of the colluvial deposits in Trench 25, 26, 36 and 107. Alluvial deposits were noted between Bitham Brook and its tributary in Trenches 80-84.

### 5.3 Area 1 (Figures 3-7)

#### *Trenches 1-3*

5.3.1 Trenches 1-3 were positioned to investigate an area proposed for a junction (roundabout) construction to the south of Madbrook Farm (**Figure 3**). Geophysical survey had identified a number of potential features in this area (predominantly linear features).

5.3.2 All three evaluation trenches lay on the Greensand. Trench 1 contained two roughly parallel ditches (108) and (112), aligned north-west – south-east. Both these ditches were similar in size, 1m wide and 0.36m in depth and contained similar fills. However, Ditch (108) contained Post-medieval and/or modern material and is likely to be relatively recent, while ditch (112) contained two sherds of Early Iron Age pottery.

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5.3.3 In the southern part of the trench, a ditch (106), 0.60m in width and 0.20m in depth and oriented east-west contained a small quantity of abraded Romano-

British pottery. One further feature, undoubtedly an animal burrow (109) also contained a small quantity of residual Romano-British pottery.

5.3.4 Trench 2 contained three ditches (204), (206) and (209), all aligned north-west – south-east, all of similar dimensions (between 1.50m and 2.00m in width and 0.15m in depth). Only one ditch (206) produced any datable material, i.e. Romano-British pottery. It is likely that all of these ditches may have been contemporary and may have formed a component of a Romano-British field system. No features or finds were identified in Trench 3, implying that the field boundaries did not extend into this area.

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5.3.5 The fieldwalking in this area picked up a number of potsherds of Romano-British date just to the south of Trench 1. This may imply that the Romano-British ditches identified in Trenches 1 and 2 may indicate the northern edge of a Romano-British field system, potentially related to settlement in the vicinity.

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#### *Trench 4*

5.3.6 Trench 4 (Figure 3) was not targeted on any potential archaeological features. However, one undated north-south aligned gully (405), 0.85m wide and 0.27m in depth, was identified. This feature contained a sequence of three fills, including one that was burnt and comprised charcoal mixed with a small residual fragment of human bone.

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#### *Trenches 5, 6, 7 and 106*

5.3.7 Trenches 5, 6, 7 and 106 (Figure 4) were positioned to investigate cropmarks identified from aerial photographs. These cropmarks comprised a series of linear features, probably representing a field system or a series of medieval lynchets (Site 46). A number of gullies were identified in Trenches 5, 7, 8 and 106. However, with the exception of a large feature identified in Trench 6 (604), none of the linear features were of a substantial enough size to imply that they were related to these cropmarks.

5.3.8 Two parallel east-west running undated gullies (508) and (510) were investigated in Trench 5. Both were of similar dimensions, 0.50m wide by 0.18m in depth and are likely to be contemporary. An undated lozenge shaped pit (503), roughly 1.40m x 1.10m and 0.40m in depth, lay to the north of (508). A small shallow posthole (512), 0.11m in diameter, at the northern end of the trench was also investigated, although no datable material was recovered.

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5.3.9 In Trench 6 a large feature, (604) initially thought to be a wide ditch oriented north-west – south-east, was revealed (Figure 5). The northern edge of this feature corresponded with one of the linear features identified on aerial photographs. However, since this feature did not continue westwards into Trench 106, this implied that the ditch terminated. The trench was extended to reveal more of this feature in plan, which was over 10m wide and 2.35m

in depth. Augering to the east suggested that it terminated to the east of the trench and comprises of a large discrete feature rather than the terminal of a linear feature.

5.3.10 It is likely that this feature is a large and deep pit, well or water-hole, rather than a ditch. The lowest deposits within it resulted from natural silting events including erosion of the feature sides, but some of the upper fills contained hillwash. Finds included a sherd of Romano-British greyware from the primary fill and several sherds of Romano-British pottery from the secondary fills. The upper fill contained a flint borer or awl (SF1) and a fragment of a Romano-British turquoise glass bead (SF2).

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5.3.11 Trench 7 revealed an undated gully (707), 0.80m wide and only 0.12m in depth and orientated roughly north-east-south-west. Two undated treethrows (704) and (709) were also recorded in this trench.

5.3.12 Three features were investigated in Trench 106. These comprised a modern treethrow (10609) and an circular pit (10606), 0.90m in diameter and 0.40m in depth, containing several large sherds of Post-medieval pottery, cutting a north-east – south-west aligned undated ditch (10604), 0.84m wide and 0.20m in depth. The fills of both features were very similar, implying that they are unlikely to be significantly different in date.

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#### *Trenches 8, 9 and 10*

5.3.13 Trenches 8, 9 and 10 (Figure 4) were located further to the north. Trench 8 contained a single undated gully, (805), 0.75m in width and 0.24m in depth, running north-south. Trench 9 revealed a second undated east-west aligned gully (902), 0.57m wide and 0.21m in depth. Trench 10 contained a modern treethrow (1005).

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#### *Trenches 11 to 16*

5.3.14 Trenches 11-16 (Figure 6) were all positioned to investigate an area of linear cropmarks, running parallel with the proposed By-pass route and which may be related to medieval ridge and furrow. Four of these trenches (Trenches 12, 14, 15 and 16) were completely blank. It is possible that any ephemeral ridge and furrow may have been completely truncated by recent ploughing activities.

5.3.15 The two remaining trenches (Trenches 11 and 13) did reveal ditches. A north-south aligned undated ditch (1106), 1m in width and 0.39m in depth, was identified in Trench 11. This feature is on a different orientation to the observed cropmarks in this area.

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5.3.16 In Trench 13, three undated ditches were identified, one of which (1304), 0.9m wide and 0.18m in depth, and which may relate to a linear cropmark, since it follows a very similar north-eastern – south-western alignment. One further ditch identified from geophysics was also noted in Trench 13 (1305),

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0.8m by 0.12m depth and aligned roughly north-west – south-east. A third ditch (1307), also 0.8m by 0.12m in depth, was found approximately 10m further to the north-east.

*Trenches 17 to 20*

- 5.3.17 Trenches 17 to 19 were placed to investigate a blank area in the archaeological survey, while Trench 20 was targeted on an area where fieldwalking had identified a significant concentration of struck flint. No archaeological features were revealed in any of these trenches (Figure 7).

**5.4 Area 2 (Figures 7-12)**

*Trenches 21 to 24*

- 5.4.1 Trenches 21-24 (Figure 7) were targeted to investigate a number of geophysical anomalies, possibly relating to ditches and a known concentration of struck flints found during the fieldwalking.

- 5.4.2 Trenches 21 and 22 were blank, but both Trenches 23 and 24 contained features. A substantial ditch in Trench 23 (2304), 2.2m wide and 0.60m in depth, was roughly in the same location as that of a feature suggested by the geophysical survey, but was on a different alignment (north-west – south-east). The feature contained a series of fills, including redeposited bank material, implying a bank on the northern side of the ditch. However, although it was almost completely excavated, no finds were retrieved.

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- 5.4.3 An adjacent modern posthole (2309) was also identified in this trench, at the northern end of the trench. The single linear feature identified in Trench 24 (2405) was identified as a modern land drain after excavation.

*Trench 105 and 25*

- 5.4.4 Trench 25 (Figure 8) was reoriented and stepped in order to determine the extent of a buried soil horizon identified in Trench 26, further to the north, and to further investigate the nature of the base of an apparent dry valley, filled by a sequence of deep colluvial deposits.

- 5.4.5 This was confirmed on excavation which revealed a very deep stratified sequence, with four separate buried soil horizons, the lowest of which sealed natural Coombe deposits at a depth of 4.10 m below the present ground surface (Figure 9). The first palaeo-soil (2505) was encountered at a depth of 2.73m below the present ground surface, sealed by a thick deposit of colluvium and three further palaeo-soils (2507, 2509 and 2510) were identified beneath this upper one.

- 5.4.6 Trench 105 had not been targeted on any known or suspected archaeological features (although a quantity of struck flint had been retrieved from fieldwalking in the immediate environs). However, after deep colluvial deposits were encountered up to a depth of 1.2 m, it was decided after

consolation, that excavation should not proceed any deeper since it was likely that a similar buried soil sequence to Trench 25 would be encountered.

#### *Trench 26*

- 5.4.7 Trench 26 was targeted in an area identified by fieldwalking to be of high potential as a number of struck flints had been recovered (Figure 8). Again, a buried soil horizon was revealed, sealed by a thick sequence of colluvial deposits. Above this palaeo-soil was a stabilisation horizon that contained a significant number of Mesolithic and Neolithic struck flints, with the majority of the material being Neolithic in date.
- 5.4.8 An auger survey was conducted around this trench to determine the extent of the colluvium filled dry valley and the extent of potentially associated buried soil horizons. Eighteen cores with a hand auger were taken in this area, following natural contours rather than transects and the results of this survey were plotted (Figures 7 and 8).

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#### *Trenches 27 and 28*

- 5.4.9 Trenches 27 and 28 (Figure 8) had been positioned to investigate an apparently blank area on the geophysical survey. Two undated treethrows were investigated in Trench 27 (2704 and 2706), while no features were identified in Trench 28.

#### *Trenches 29 and 30*

- 5.4.10 Neither Trench 29 nor Trench 30 were targeted on known or suspected archaeological features (Figure 10). However, both lay only a few hundred metres to the west of an extensive area cropmarks that include a series of strip lynchets (probably relating to medieval cultivation terraces – Site 75). Furthermore a curvilinear features, potentially a ploughed out barrow (Site 84) was situated only c. 100m to the east of Trench 29.
- 5.4.11 Trench 29 contained three features. These comprised a north-west – south-east aligned ditch (2903), 1.55m wide and 0.44m in depth and two treethrows (2909) and (2911). No dating evidence was retrieved from any of these features but treethrow (2911) was cut by the ditch (2903). Two features were noted in Trench 30 – a tree throw (3006) and a north-east – south-west aligned ditch (3004). Again both remain undated, but the ditch is probably a modern drainage ditch.

#### *Trenches 31 to 33*

- 5.4.12 Trench 31 (Figure 11) was not positioned to target any known or suspected archaeology. Trench 31 contained one east-west aligned undated gully terminal (3103), 0.45m wide and 0.2m in depth.

5.4.13 Both Trenches 32 and 33 were located to investigate the nature of geophysical anomalies (**Figure 12**). These were thought to relate to elements of a field system and a double curvilinear enclosure (potentially indicating the presence of a ploughed out barrow).

5.4.14 Trench 32 revealed the terminal end of another undated gully (3203) also oriented east-west, 0.45m wide and 0.2m in depth. Two further features were identified in Trench 33. The first was a narrow gully (3306), 0.4m and 0.14m in depth and oriented east-west while the other was a wide but shallow ditch oriented north-west – south-east (3303), 1.25m wide and 0.14m in depth. Both features were located fairly close to one another and are unlikely to represent the double ditched enclosure suggested from the geophysical survey. Neither ditch appeared to curve and, while both were fully excavated for finds retrieval, they remained undated.

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## 5.5 Area 3 (Figures 12-16)

### *Trenches 34 and 35*

5.5.1 Trenches 34 and 35 (**Figures 12-13**) were located in the field to the north of Newtown Road. Both were targeted in an area close to where fieldwalking had identified a concentration of burnt flint and a few struck flints in the south-western part of Plot 5. Both trenches are located only c. 110m to the west of a series of undated linear features identified from aerial photographs near Beggar's Knoll (Site 91). No features were identified in Trench 34. Trench 35, however, contained a modern circular feature (3503) and a periglacial feature (3504).

### *Trench 36*

5.5.2 Trench 36 revealed two buried soil horizons (**Figure 13**). The first was identified in the western end of the trench (3604) and the other in the eastern end of the trench (3608), which contained two sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery. In the middle of the trench a small undated posthole (3605) was not sealed by either of the palaeo-soils.

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### *Trenches 37 and 38*

5.5.3 Trenches 37 and 38 were located in a field where fieldwalking had noted a quantity of burnt and struck flint (**Figure 13**). Trench 37, contained a modern treethrow (3704), while Trench 38 contained no features.

### *Trenches 39 to 42*

5.5.4 Trenches 39, 40, 41 and 42 (**Figure 14**) had been positioned to investigate weak linear anomalies identified during the geophysical survey. No features were revealed, however in either Trenches 39 or 41. It is possible that the natural drift geology in this area may account for some of the geophysical anomalies identified here. Since it is composed of a distinctive periglacial

solifluction or 'Coombe' deposits, it can produce a typically 'striped' or banded effect in geophysical survey.

- 5.5.5 A ditch oriented north-east – south-west was revealed in Trench 40 (4004), 1.2m wide and 0.17m in depth. This was roughly in the same location and on the same alignment as the linear identified from geophysics and contained a sherd of Romano-British pottery.
- 5.5.6 Trench 42 was positioned slightly up-slope from a dense concentration of pottery that was identified during the fieldwalking of Plot 5. It was positioned in order to investigate a north-east – south-west oriented linear noted from aerial photographs. It is possible that this feature was identified in the north-western end of the trench although this ditch (4210) was aligned north-south and terminated in the centre of the trench. Furthermore, this feature was less substantial than that suggested by the aerial photographs, measuring only 0.65m in width and 0.19m in depth.
- 5.5.7 A further pit or ditch terminal (4206), 1.6m wide and 0.95m in depth, was noted towards the centre of the trench. Finally a large treethrow (4208) was excavated just to the north-west of (4206). None of the features contained any datable finds.

#### *Trenches 43 and 44*

- 5.5.8 Both Trenches 43 and 44 were targeted on the results of fieldwalking in this area, which had identified a dense concentration of prehistoric pottery and struck flint in this area. In total, nearly a thousand sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery were picked up from this field, with the majority coming from the zone targeted by the two trenches. A large quantity of animal bone and struck flint was also retrieved in fieldwalking and the potential for a midden like the nearby north Wiltshire sites of All Cannings Cross or East Chisenbury was highlighted (ASI 2002, 6-7).
- 5.5.9 An extensive and dense spread of material sitting within a black clayey organically rich horizon (4338) was identified in Trench 43 at a depth of between 0.10m and 0.30m below the topsoil (Figure 14). This ran almost the entire length of the trench (29.5m) and within this general spread a number of different bands of material, probably relating to different dumping events, was noted. Each surface find was allocated a small find number and three-dimensionally recorded, in order to retain spatial control and to provide the possibility of investigating patterning in the material culture across the exposed area of the midden.
- 5.5.10 A 1x1m test pit was excavated through the midden in order to determine the nature and depth of the deposits in this area and to provide a representative section (Figure 9). The test pit was excavated in 5cm spits in order to retain spatial control and context numbers 4317 to 4321 were assigned to the separate spits. It was possible to determine that the spreads encountered in Trench 43 relate to *in situ* midden material. The upper layers of the midden



were very dark and organically rich and also contained the densest quantities of material (contexts 4317-4318). Beneath this at about 0.60m from the top of the ploughsoil, a colluvial layer was noted and this sealed a buried soil horizon (4320).

5.5.11 In the western end of the trench a compact chalky layer (4329/4316) sealing midden deposits was encountered. This chalky layer was investigated to determine its character. The derivation of this material is uncertain, but it is unlikely to be a natural formation (since it is too chalky and not soily enough to be colluvium. It is more likely a deliberate dump of chalk potentially functioning as a sealing layer or platform. Such constructions have been identified on other midden sites, such as East Chisenbury (McOmish 1996). This layer sealed a greasy green-black cess layer (4338), 0.45m in depth, that was very charcoal rich.

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5.5.12 The midden was also identified in Trench 44 (4405), although it did not cover the entire length of the trench. It was present only in the eastern part of the trench for an extent of 7.10 m, although it was possibly sealed by a layer of redeposited chalk (like that identified in Trench 43), in the central part of the trench. Two features were also identified in this trench. The first was a pit (4408), 1.70m wide and 0.30m in depth and sealed by a colluvial deposit. It had two fills and the upper secondary fill contained a quantity of Early Iron Age pottery. A second pit (4411), 0.70m in diameter and 0.44m in depth, was cut into a redeposited chalk layer and was backfilled with chalky deposits. Because of this, it was only identified when a machine slot was placed in this part of the trench to determine the nature and possible derivation of this redeposited chalky material. The pit contained a sequence of four fills, the uppermost of which produced three sherds of Early Iron Age pottery (and a large quantity of animal bone).

#### *Trench 45*

5.5.13 Trench 45 (Figure 14) was downslope from the midden and contained a deep sequence of colluvial deposits up to a depth of 1.50m, which contained midden-derived material, including quantities of Iron Age pottery (Figure 5). This implies that the hillwash deposits had formed after the midden went out of use. No *in situ* midden material was identified in this trench, since no buried soils were encountered under the colluvium.

5.5.14 Two features were revealed in this trench. The first was a possible natural undated bowl-like depression (4511) which was initially thought to be a ditch. The second feature was a posthole (4515), 0.64m in diameter and 0.09m in depth. Stone post packing was identified within the feature, together with four sherds of Early Iron Age pottery.

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5.5.15 Although the full extent of the midden has not yet been confirmed, augering between Trenches 43 and 44 indicated a complex sequence. The midden does not extend as far south as Trench 42 or as far north as Trench 45. However, it is likely to extend further to the east and west and further work would be

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needed to determine its full extent. At present, the midden is known to extend for at least 45m by 30 m, but undoubtedly is considerably larger than this.

#### *Trench 46*

- 5.5.16 Trench 46 revealed two intercutting ditches that were both aligned east-west (**Figure 15**). Ditch (4602), 1.2m wide, 0.90m in depth contained a significant quantity of material, in particular Early Iron Age pottery. This was later cut by a second ditch (4608), which was of similar dimensions. Although the fill of ditch (4608) contained no datable material, it is unlikely to be of a significantly different date and may have been a re-establishment of this boundary after it had originally silted up. The fact that fairly dense quantities of material came from the earlier ditch may imply that it formed part of a settlement enclosure.

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#### *Trenches 47 to 49*

- 5.5.17 Trenches 47 to 49 were not targeted on any known or suspected archaeology (**Figure 15**). These trenches all contained a deep sequence of colluvium. A series of possible Post-medieval features were noted cutting into the top of colluvium, in a number of places. In Trench 47 this included four undated ditches (4706; 4708; 4710 and 4714), all were c. 1m wide and c. 0.14 – 0.18m in depth and roughly oriented north-west – south-east. Two modern pits (4712 and 4716) were also observed.

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- 5.5.18 In Trench 48 an undated ditch (4806), 0.70m in depth and aligned north-west – south-east terminated to the south. Since it also cut the colluvium, it is likely of Post-medieval date. It cut a small undated posthole (4808), 0.18m in diameter.

- 5.5.19 In Trench 49, an undated ditch (4904) was of very similar dimensions and orientation to those features seen in Trench 47 and also cut the colluvium. It is probable that all of these ditches form elements of Post-medieval ridge and furrow or parts of field system. Ditch (4904) was stratigraphically later than an ephemeral irregular east-west running ditch (4910) that contained struck flint, which may be of prehistoric date.

#### *Trenches 50 to 52 and 107*

- 5.5.20 These trenches had all been targeted on a series of linear geophysical anomalies (**Figure 15**), including a possible palaeochannel and Trenches 52 and 107 were positioned over this feature. On machining, it was noted that any features in these trenches were sealed by a deeply stratified sequence of colluvial deposits. No features were identified in Trench 50, but one east-west oriented undated gully (5104) was noted in Trench 51. The feature was rather ephemeral and only 0.42m wide and 0.07m in depth. No palaeochannel was identified in either Trench 52 or Trench 107, but rather a palaeo-soil was revealed in both trenches. It is probable that these buried

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soils were detected by the geophysical survey but were interpreted as a palaeochannel.

- 5.5.21 In Trench 52, the palaeo-soil (5205) was at least 0.10m in depth, although its full extent was not determined. In Trench 107, the buried soil (10717) was 0.18m in depth. Although it contained no datable finds, it sealed another colluvial layer (10718), 0.40m in depth, from which a number of Iron Age and Romano-British sherds were retrieved.

*Trenches 53 and 54*

- 5.5.22 Trenches 53 and 54 were both situated in the paddock to the south of Bratton Road (Figure 15). Neither had been targeted on any known archaeology and fieldwalking and geophysical survey were not undertaken in this area. A series of three linear features were identified in Trench 53; two aligned east-west (5305) and (5307) and one probable ditch terminal (5309) aligned north-west – south-east. All of these features yielded Iron Age pottery. Gully (5307) was narrow (0.38m wide) and shallow (0.05m in depth), but both ditch (5305 and 5309) were 2m wide and 0.40m in depth.

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- 5.5.23 In Trench 54, a ditch similar to (4602/ recut 4608) and (5305) was identified. This ditch (5404) also had a recut (5406) and both ditches were c. 1.4m wide and 0.40m in depth. They also contained sherds of Early Iron Age pottery. An alignment of nine postholes (all undated but presumably related to Early Iron Age activity in the vicinity) were also identified in Trench 54. It is possible that these may have formed part of a fence-line although attempting to discern posthole patterns in a narrow Evaluation Trench may prove misleading. Those identified (5409, 5411, 5413, 5415, 5417, 5419, 5421, 5423 and 5425) form a line oriented roughly north-east – south-west. None had evidence of post packing or post-pipes. These postholes were all of a similar size and roughly 0.20-0.25m in diameter and 0.18-0.33m in depth.

- 5.5.24 It is possible that the ditches in Trenches 53, 54 and 46 are all associated, particularly all appear to have similar recuts and may form part of an enclosure, at least 64m by 52m in extent. It is more likely that this enclosure was related to settlement rather than part of a field system/boundary, since significant quantities of pottery were retrieved from all of the interventions in these ditches.

*Trenches 55 to 57*

- 5.5.25 These trenches were situated to the east of Trench 54 (Figure 16). Both Trenches 55 and 57 were blank, while Trench 56 contained a number of east-west aligned features (5603, 5611 and 5613) that probably represent the footings of a Post-medieval barn. All were roughly 0.62m in width and 0.20m in depth. None contained finds but they were filled with material that appeared to be of fairly recent origin. Another ditch (5607), was noted in the southern half of the trench and this was oriented roughly north-east – south-west and of very similar dimensions to those in Trench 56. The fill of this

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ditch contained fragments of Ceramic Building Material and may also relate to the footings of a Post-medieval barn.

## 5.6 Area 4 (Figures 15-21)

### *Trenches 58 to 60*

5.6.1 These trenches all lay on the transition between Greensand Natural and thick Clay deposits. They were all positioned to investigate geophysical anomalies that may represent elements of a field system. However, the geophysical plot may also have picked up land-drains in this area as the tell-tale criss-cross pattern of lines suggested (Figures 15-17). Trench 58 contained a possible gully (5810), oriented north-west – south-east. This was only 0.62m in width and 0.23m in depth. A small pit (5801), 0.80m by 0.70m and 0.23m in depth was cut by a later posthole (5804), 0.23m in diameter. None of the features encountered in Trench 58 contained datable finds.

5.6.2 Trench 59 contained an undated pit or possible animal burrow (5903). This feature contained human remains, which are likely to have been redeposited from elsewhere. No associated finds or grave goods were identified and the pit or burrow was ephemeral in nature, surviving only up to 0.03m in depth.

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5.6.3 The features revealed in Trench 60 may concur with those identified by geophysics although they are on a slightly different alignment. One ditch (6006) 0.87m in width and 0.10m in depth, was oriented roughly north-east – south-west and contained struck flint of uncertain date. Ditch (6008) was aligned north-west – south-east and terminated a few metres away from (6006). It was of very similar dimensions and may be part of a segmented ditch system. No datable finds were retrieved from either ditch.

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### *Trenches 61 and 62*

5.6.4 Trenches 61 and 62 were also targeted on geophysical anomalies – again linear features that may be related to a field system (Figure 17). No ditches were identified in Trench 62, but two wide ditches (6104) and (6108) and two narrow gullies (6106) and (6110) all aligned north-north-west – south-south-east were excavated in Trench 61. It is likely that all are contemporary and form truncated elements of a strip lynchet field system, since three of the ditches are fairly evenly spaced. Both (6104) and (6108) were roughly 2.5m wide but only 0.12m in depth; the latter contained sherds of Post-medieval pottery.

ST85SE661

ST85SE530

5.6.5 Trench 62 contained a small ovoid pit (6204) 0.80 by 0.50m in size and 0.23m in depth. Its lower fill produced a quantity of animal bone and some undated worked flint.

ST85SE662

### *Trench 63 to 65*

- 5.6.6 Trenches 63 to 65 were all positioned to investigate linear features identified from geophysical survey (Figure 18). The drift geology in this area comprised bands of silty clay and this may account for some of the geophysical anomalies.
- 5.6.7 No features were identified in Trench 63. However, in Trench 64 a north-south aligned ditch was identified (6405) 1m in width and this roughly links up with a linear identified during geophysics. Although no finds were retrieved from the ditch intervention, while machining this trench an Anglo-Saxon sceatta (SF13) of earlier 8<sup>th</sup> century date was found immediately to the west of this ditch. The type originates in Middle Saxon Southampton (*Hamwic*) and rarely is found beyond it. ST85SE403
- 5.6.8 Trench 65 revealed only one possible feature – that of a treethrow (6504). This remained unexcavated.

### *Trenches 66 and 67*

- 5.6.9 Trenches 66 and 67 were positioned in order to investigate a blank area in the geophysical survey (Figure 18-19). Trench 66 revealed two ditches – one aligned north-west – south-east (6604) and the other aligned north-east – south-west (6606). The former was 2.5m wide and contained three sherds of Post-medieval pottery. Ditch (6608) was aligned at right angles to this ditch but was only 0.60m in width. It is likely that both relate to a part of a Post-medieval field system in this area. ST85SE663
- 5.6.10 Two undated treethrows (6608) and (6610) were also identified, with the tree in 6608 having been burnt *in situ*. Trench 67 contained one undated gully (6707) aligned north-west – south-east and 0.50m wide. Two treethrows (6705 and 6709) lay to either side of this gully, neither of which contained any datable finds.

### *Trenches 68 and 69*

- 5.6.11 Trench 68 was positioned to examine a field of probable ridge and furrow, which had been identified from the geophysical survey (Figure 19). Furthermore a cropmark of a trapezoidal enclosure has been identified from aerial photographs only c. 60m to the south-west of Trench 68 (Site 155). A number of features were identified in this trench but only two undated ditches (6811 and 6813) were on a similar east – west alignment as the geophysical features. Two other parallel ditches oriented north-west – south-east were also identified (6804 and 6809). Both were 1.80m in width and contained medieval pottery and may be elements of a field system of this date. Two other features were noted in this trench – a treethrow (6815) and a pit (6807); 2.40m wide and 0.25m in depth, neither of which produced any finds. A natural feature (6817) was also investigated. ST85SE482  
" 664

5.6.12 Trench 69 was located to pick up a possible enclosure or boundary ditch identified from the geophysics. Two ditches were identified (6904) and (6908), both aligned roughly north-west – south-east and hence on the same orientation as those identified from the geophysics. Both ditches were roughly 1.60m in width and it is likely that (6908) is a continuation of the medieval ditch (6804) noted in Trench 68. An undated treethrow (6906) was also identified in this trench.

ST85SE482

*Trenches 70 and 71*

5.6.13 Trenches 70 and 71 were not excavated. Trench 70 was originally located on the site of a protected species and no suitable location could be found outside the required statutory 30m exclusion zone around the site. No access was available to Trench 71.

ST85SE

*Trenches 72 to 74*

5.6.14 Trench 72 was targeted on potential geophysical anomalies, which probably relate to old field boundaries identified as new earthworks during the evaluation. These were surveyed and would appear to line up with field boundaries identified from previous historic mapping (RPS 2000). Trench 72 was re-oriented from east-west to north-south in order to determine the nature and extent of one of the earthwork ditches and associated banks (Figure 20). This ditch (7205) and associated bank (7204) produced quantities of Post-medieval pottery. The ditch was at least 1.40m wide and 0.40m in depth, with the bank still surviving to a height of 0.40m.

ST85SE665

ST85SE538

5.6.15 Trench 73 was not targeted on any known or suspected archaeology. No features or finds were retrieved from this trench. Trench 74 was targeted on potential geophysical anomalies; also it lies along the line of the old field boundary surveyed during the evaluation. However, in this part of the field, the earthwork had been largely flattened recently by the farmer, Mr Avery, during removal of trees suffering from Dutch Elm Disease. It is possible that the feature was almost entirely removed.

5.6.16 Two narrow gullies, only 0.80m in width and 0.20m in depth were excavated. The first (7406) was oriented north-west – south-east, while the second (7408) was aligned north – south; neither produced any datable finds. One pit (7404), 0.80m in diameter and a large treethrow were also identified. Again, both lacked datable material but the treethrow is likely modern since it still contained roots and undoubtedly was felled recently as a result of Dutch Elm Disease.

T74

ST85SE666

*Trenches 75 to 79 and 103 and 104*

5.6.17 Four trenches (Trenches 75, 78, 103 and 104) were all specifically targeted on an undated cropmark (Figures 20-21) that was thought to represent a sub-rectangular enclosure with associated linear features (Site 76). Three other trenches (Trenches 76, 77 and 79) were positioned in the immediate vicinity

ST85SE612

of this 'enclosure' in order to investigate geophysical anomalies, predominantly linear features. Three of these trenches (Trenches 75, 76 and 78) were relocated, since they were originally situated too close to the overhead power lines. Trench 78 was sub-divided into two trenches, 78a and 78b, and they were moved both north and south in order to maximise the chances of locating the ditch.

5.6.18 Few features were encountered in the trenches targeted on the undated cropmark. Trench 75 contained no features, while Trench 78 revealed a narrow north-south oriented undated gully (7804), in association with a treethrow (7806). A possible north-east – south-west oriented ditch was identified in Trench 103 (10305), while Trench 104 contained one north-east – south-west oriented medieval ditch (10406). Neither gully (7804), which was only 0.27m wide and 0.20m in depth and terminated to the north, nor ditch (10406), which was 2.50m wide and 0.50m in depth, were on a similar alignment to the enclosure ditches. However, it is possible that (10305) represents an enclosure ditch, although this was only c. 1m wide and 0.25m in depth. This 'enclosure' has therefore not been firmly identified in the evaluation trenches. This may be a result of the aerial photographic rectification process but it is more likely that these features related to medieval or later field boundaries that have subsequently been ploughed out.

— ST85SE612  
— ST85SE667  
— ST85SE483

5.6.19 The gully and treethrow from Trench 78 contained no dating evidence. However, ditch (10406) was 100% excavated for finds retrieval and produced a single unabraded sherd of medieval pottery.

TRENCH 104 ST85SE483

5.6.20 Trenches 77 and 79 both contained no features, while Trench 76 contained only one north-south aligned undated ditch (7604), 1m wide and 0.26m in depth. Two modern field drains were also observed within the trench.

ST85SE668

## 5.7 Area 5 (Figures 21-23)

### *Trenches 102, 80 and 109*

5.7.1 These trenches were located to the west of Trowbridge Road and to the east of the Bitham brook. The three trenches 102, 80 and 109 were all targeted on geophysical anomalies, predominantly 'spikes' implying the presence of iron objects in the vicinity. All of these trenches were associated with alluvial deposits and absolute natural was not reached (since machining out the lower deep alluvium proved impossible with a JCB). Both Trenches 102 and 80 were blank, except for a single modern field drain, while Trench 109 contained one undated north-south aligned ditch (10906), 1.40m wide and 0.90m in depth (Figure 21).

### *Trenches 81 and 110*

5.7.2 Trenches 81 and 110 were 'sandwiched' between Bitham Brook and a small tributary of this river to the west. Both were positioned on geophysical anomalies (again 'spikes') (Figure 22). A series of alluvial deposits were

150' ASL  
ST85SE670

recorded in Trench 81. These were encountered at a depth of between 1.43m and 1.55m. No features or finds were identified in this trench.

- 5.7.3 Two alluvial deposits also sealed archaeological features in Trench 110 to a depth of 1.00 m. The full sequence of alluvial deposits was machined out in this trench and the underlying geology was Kimmeridge Clay. The features in Trench 110 included a small round undated pit (11005), 0.40m in diameter and 0.11m and contained a charcoal-rich fill (Sample 58) and a north - south running undated ditch (11007), 1.17m wide and 0.39m in depth. Again one of the fills (11008) was charcoal-rich (Sample 60).

ST85SE 669

#### *Trenches 82 and 83*

- 5.7.4 Trenches 82 and 83 (**Figure 22**), situated to the west of the Bitham Brook had been positioned to investigate weak geophysical anomalies. While surveying the latter a series of earthworks were noted in this field, probably remnants of a water meadow system, or else earthworks associated with the water mill in this area at Blenches Farm. These were plotted during the evaluation since they had not been previously surveyed. However, the possible field system (Site 153) identified by RPS from aerial photographs may relate to this feature. Both trenches were located on alluvium and no features or finds were encountered at this alluvial level. The water meadow in the immediate vicinity is of probable Late medieval or Post-medieval date.

ST85SE 537

#### *Trenches 84, 108 and 101*

- 5.7.5 Trenches 84, 108 and 101 had been placed to determine the nature of a series of weak magnetic and linear geophysical anomalies, the latter potentially relating to ridge and furrow (**Figures 22-23**). All of these trenches were on alluvial clay and very little in the way of features were identified. No features were noted in either Trench 84 or Trench 101, other than a modern field drain. Trench 108 contained only two undated treethrows (10804 and 10806).

ST85SE 484

- 5.7.6 It must be noted that since it was not possible to reveal the full alluvial sequence in most of these trenches, because of the problems with machine excavation, the full archaeological potential of this zone has not been realised. Their location near to the modern river raises the possibility of activity of early prehistoric date relating to the exploitation of floodplain resources masked by subsequent alluvial deposits.

### 5.8 Area 6 (**Figures 23-26**)

#### *Trenches 85 and 86*

- 5.8.1 Trenches 85 and 86 were positioned to investigate a dense concentration of weak linear geophysical anomalies, some probably relating to field drains and others perhaps elements of a field system (**Figure 23**). The possibility of impacting a modern landfill was also noted. As Trench 85 was opened it revealed landfill deposits and after photographing was backfilled



B.A

1A/Ronan

immediately for Health and Safety reasons. Trench 86 was situated on calcareous clay deposits and contained no features, with the exception of a modern pipe, which was avoided.

#### *Trenches 87 and 88*

5.8.2 Both Trenches 87 and 88 had been placed in order to investigate a dense concentration of linear geophysical anomalies (**Figure 23**). A treethrow and undated posthole were identified in Trench 87. The undated posthole (8704) was 0.32m in diameter and 0.29m in depth. The treethrow (8708) was located 2m to the west of the posthole and contained a sherd of Late Bronze Age pottery.

ST85SE671

ST85SE161

5.8.3 Trench 88 contained a number of features and finds. This included two elongated pits (8804 and 8811) a north-east – south-west curvilinear ditch (8813) a pit (8809) and a posthole (8817). It is possible that (8804) and (8811) are parts of a segmented ditch system, surrounding a central pit. Both of these pits were of roughly similar dimensions (1.20m x 0.35m and 0.12m in depth), pit (8804) contained a large quantity of Middle-Late Bronze Age pottery, while pit (8811) produced one sherd of Romano-British pottery. It is possible that the single Romano-British sherd is intrusive.

ST85SE161

ST85SE326

5.8.4 The primary fill of the central pit (8809), 0.54m in diameter and 0.30m in depth, contained four large sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery, including two with incised decoration. A small posthole (8817), 0.22m in diameter and 0.06m in depth, immediately to its north contained two large sherds of Middle-Late Bronze Age pottery.

5.8.5 In the southern part of this trench an undated curvilinear ditch (8813), 1.30m in width and 0.30m in depth, was encountered. It is likely that all of the features from both Trenches 88 and 87 are of Middle-Late Bronze Age date and may be indicative of domestic or ritual activity within this area.

ST85SE161

#### *Trenches 89 to 91*

5.8.6 Trenches 89 to 91 were all located on a hillside, on blocky limestone natural. These were all positioned fairly close to each other in order to investigate the nature of linear geophysical anomalies in this area (**Figure 24**). Trench 89 was completely blank, but both Trenches 90 and 91 contained a series of linear features, focused within the western halves of both trenches. Two fairly wide ditches (9004) and (9006) were noted in Trench 90. Ditch (9004) was aligned roughly north-west – south-east and had a maximum width of 2.40m and was 0.20m in depth. Ditch (9006) followed a similar alignment but was only 1.20m wide and 0.15m in depth. The relationship between these two ditches was impossible to determine in the field but it is possible that ditch (9004) may post-date ditch (9006) in the southern part of the trench. This may be supported by indirect evidence. Ditch (9004) continues into Trench 91 as (9108) and ditch (9006) as (9110). Ditch (9108) contained Romano-British pottery, while ditch (9110) produced Iron Age pottery.

ST85SE322

5.8.7 Trench 91 also contained three other features, including ditch (9112) that followed the same north-west – south-east orientation as ditches (9108) and (9110). This ditch was 0.90m wide and 0.18m in depth and one sherd of Post-medieval pottery was retrieved from its fill. A small undated gully, (9106), 0.38m wide and 0.16m in depth, also followed this alignment, although it terminated half way through the trench. Another undated feature, ditch (9104), 0.90m wide and 0.20m in depth, was oriented roughly north-south near the western edge of Trench 91. It is interesting that the three ditches (9110), (9108) and (9112) all follow a similar alignment but appear to relate to three different periods – the Iron Age, Romano-British and Post-medieval periods respectively. This evidence may imply that field boundaries or land divisions were formed in the Iron Age and may have been maintained and re-created during succeeding generations.

*Trench 92*

5.8.8 Trench 92 was not targeted on any known or suspected archaeology. It was located on silty clay natural and produced no features.

*Trenches 93 and 94*

5.8.9 Trenches 93 and 94 were targeted on area of linear geophysical anomalies (Figure 24). Both trenches produced a large number of features that were cut into silty clay (Trench 93) and weathered limestone (Trench 94).

5.8.10 Trench 93 contained a north-east – south-west aligned ditch (9305) which ran the length of the trench. Its full extent was revealed by extending part of Trench 93 to the south. This ditch was roughly 3.50m in width and 0.72m in depth, suggesting that it was quite a substantial landscape feature. A series of four north-west – south-east aligned ditches were associated with ditch (9305). These included ditches (9307), (9308), (9310) and (9311). These ditches ranged in width from 1.37m (9311) through to 5m (9310).

5.8.11 An intervention was placed to determine the relationship between one of these linear features and ditch (9305) and it appeared that ditch (9310) cut ditch (9305), implying that the north-east – south-west element of this field system was established first and then the north-west – south-east elements were added later, although none of these ditches are likely to be substantially different in date. A small pit (9312) cut the upper fills of ditch (9308).

5.8.12 The fills of all of these ditches were significantly rich in finds of Romano-British date, particularly pottery including Black Burnished wares. Other finds from Ditch (9305) included a stone rubber, a bone pin-beater usually of Anglo-Saxon date, a cylindrical glass bead, and a shale armlet fragment. The density of finds in the ditch fills implies that they formed elements of a Romano-British settlement enclosure, rather than being field boundaries.

ST855E 404

5.8.13 Trench 94 contained a large number of features although, intriguingly, none of the linear features identified in Trench 93 appeared to continue into this

Trench. This may imply that these ditches terminate just to the north of Trench 93. One undated ditch was identified (9406) but this was oriented on a different alignment to those ditches in Trench 93. Two small gullies were also recorded (9419) and (9420) and it is possible that gully (9420) may indicate the location of a possible roundhouse. A number of small intercutting pits and postholes were also noted, all roughly 0.30m in diameter and 0.30 – 0.55m in depth. No finds were retrieved from any of these features, however all of these intercutting features were sealed by a 0.05-0.08m soil lens (9424) that may relate to a Romano-British occupation deposit.

#### *Trench 95*

- 5.8.14 Trenches 95 and 96 were also positioned to investigate a dense concentration of linear geophysical anomalies. Within Trench 95, four ditches were identified. Ditch (9504) was aligned north-west – south-east, while ditches (9506), (9508) and (9510) were all aligned north-east – south-west. Ditch (9508) is undoubtedly a continuation of ditch (9506), but their stratigraphic relationship had been destroyed by a modern field drain.
- 5.8.15 Ditch 9504 was 1.00m wide and at least 0.20m in depth. However articulated human remains comprising a lower leg was encountered at this depth and the decision was taken not to excavate any, but to record the archaeology at this level. These human remains may represent part or a complete burial that was dumped in this ditch, mixed in with large quantities of animal bone and Romano-British pottery, some of it of 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century date. The relationship between this ditch and ditches (9506/9508) was lost through modern disturbance.
- 5.8.16 Ditch (9506/9508) was an extensive feature, roughly 9.50m wide and 0.90m in depth. A large number of fills were identified within this ditch, including several rapidly accumulated deposits (probably relating to refuse dumps). Again a large quantity of pottery (over 300 sherds) of Romano-British date came from these dump deposits, including colour coated wares and Samian, dating between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. Other finds included a stone rubber a fragment of a glass vessel and a P-shaped copper alloy brooch of 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD date. Ditch (9510), following a similar alignment to (9506/9508) was cut by a modern field drain. However, it was over 2m wide and 0.25m in depth and contained a small quantity of Romano-British pottery.

#### *Trench 96*

- 5.8.17 Eight ditches all following the same north-west – south-east orientation, were revealed in Trench 96 (Figure 22). None of them appear to be a continuation of ditches identified in other trenches such as Trench 95 or Trench 99, since they follow a different alignment. One of the ditches (9620) terminated in the trench and one of the ditches, (9615) was far narrower (0.64 m) and shallower (0.12 m) than the others. Not all of these were excavated, since on the basis of form and fills it is likely that they are all contemporary, forming

part of a field system. Furthermore, most contained surface finds of Romano-British pottery. Most of these ditches were c. 2-2.50m in diameter and 0.55m in depth and probably relate to elements of a field system established in this area.

#### *Trench 97*

- 5.8.18 Trench 97 revealed five features, comprising two ditches, two pits and a grave (**Figure 25**). Ditch (**9704**) was oriented roughly north-south and was 1.90m wide and 0.11m in depth. It contained four sherds of Romano-British pottery and one small sherd of Post-medieval pottery (the latter presumably intrusive). To the north, an east-west aligned gully (**9712**) with a terminal to the west was identified. This was 0.60m wide and 0.11m in depth and was also Romano-British in date. Two small undated oval pits (**9708**) and (**9710**) were also identified, both c. 0.60m in diameter and 0.20m in depth. A small circular grave (**9706**) containing the remains of an infant inhumation was also exposed, but not excavated; it is likely that this is also associated with the Romano-British activity on the site.

ST855E 327

#### *Trench 98*

- 5.8.19 Only one feature was identified in Trench 98, that of a grave containing a probable Romano-British crouched inhumation (**9808**). The skeleton was cleaned and recorded but the grave was then backfilled. Although no dating evidence was retrieved from this feature, it is likely to be a Romano-British burial associated with the Romano-British field system and possible settlement in the immediate vicinity.

ST855E 328

#### *Trench 99*

- 5.8.20 Trench 99 revealed three ditches all of them relatively wide and deep and all of them following a similar north-east – south-west alignment. Ditches (**9909**) and (**9910**) were of similar dimensions (c. 1.40m wide and 0.60m in depth) and both contained concentrations of Romano-British pottery. Ditch (**9904**) was much wider (3 m) and deeper (1.17 m) and contained a probable recut. A series of four fills were identified, the upper two containing large quantities of Romano-British pottery.

#### *Trench 100*

- 5.8.21 Trench 100 was situated in the furthest north-western part of the route and was not targeted on any known or suspected archaeological features (**Figure 26**). The underlying drift geology in this part of the route was dark silty clay and no archaeological features were identified.

## 6 FINDS

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A large finds assemblage was recovered during the evaluation of the By-pass route. The assemblage ranges in date from prehistoric to Post-medieval and includes a significant group of Early Iron Age material recovered from a midden in Area 3 (Trenches 43 and 44). This group finds parallels within more extensive assemblages from a group of similar, contemporaneous middens elsewhere in Wiltshire; at Potterne, All Cannings Cross and East Chisenbury.

6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context. There is also a register of individual Small Find Objects; this includes a large number of objects (pottery, worked and burnt flint animal bone, fired clay) individually recorded within the midden in Area 3. Quantified data form the primary finds archive for the site and these data are summarised by material type and by area in **Table 4**.

6.1.3 Subsequent to quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned in order to gain an overall idea of the range of types present, their condition and their potential date range. Pottery has been subjected to more formal scanning, including quantification by ware group/type (details below). Spot dates have been recorded for selected material types as appropriate. All finds data are held in the project database (Access).

### 6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 Pottery was the commonest material type encountered and provides the primary dating evidence from the site. The assemblage ranges in date from later prehistoric to Post-medieval, with an emphasis on the later prehistoric period.

6.2.2 Romano-British, medieval and Post-medieval material is present in smaller quantities. The bulk of the pottery was recovered from Areas 3 and 6, with a smaller quantity from Area 4 and little from Areas 1, 2 and 5.

6.2.3 For the purposes of assessment all of the pottery has been quantified by broad ware group (e.g. flint-tempered, greyware) or by known ware type (e.g. Oxfordshire colour coat) within each context. Spot dates have been recorded on a context by context basis and the presence of diagnostic vessel forms. A summary quantification is presented in **Table 5**.

#### *Later Prehistoric*

6.2.4 The majority of the later prehistoric assemblage derived from the midden in Area 3. This group comprised sherds in a range of fabric types: flint-tempered, sandy (some with sparse flint inclusions) and calcareous (limestone-tempered, oolitic and shelly). Diagnostic vessel forms (coarse ware jars and fine ware bowls) and decorative motifs (a range of tooled and

incised motifs on fine ware bowls; finger impressions on coarse ware jars) indicate a date range in the Early Iron Age, although the coarser, flint-tempered fabrics could be slightly earlier, perhaps Late Bronze Age.

- 6.2.5 Fabrics, forms and decoration are all well paralleled elsewhere in Wiltshire, for example within the large Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age assemblage from the midden at Potterne and from the similar deposit at the near by midden site at All Cannings Cross (Gingell and Morris 1997; Cunnington 1923).
- 6.2.6 Further Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age material came from Area 6 and two likely Early Iron Age sherds from Area 1.

#### *Romano-British*

- 6.2.7 Most of the Romano-British material came from Area 6 (Trenches 93 to 99). Fabrics and forms suggest a date range at least from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, with a few pieces, including a few sherds of Samian, which could be of later 1<sup>st</sup> century date. Coarse wares include the products of several sources, including the Black Burnished ware industry of south Dorset. Greyware production is attested in the Westbury area (Rogers and Roddham 1991) and elsewhere in north Wiltshire (Anderson 1979). Fine wares from both New Forest and Oxfordshire production centres are present.

#### *Medieval*

- 6.2.8 A small quantity of pottery was identified as medieval; this includes both coarse wares and finer, sandy wares. Potential sources are likely to be at least relatively local; no regional wares were recognised. The potential date range is likely to be late 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *Post-medieval*

- 6.2.9 The rest of the assemblage is of Post-medieval date. Coarse redwares predominate, with a potential date range spanning the Post-medieval period; Verwood-type earthenwares from east Dorset are present in small quantities and have a similar lengthy date range. Other wares range from earlier Post-medieval types (tinglazed earthenwares, Staffordshire-type slipwares and mottled wares) to later factory-produced wares and modern refined whitewares.

### **6.3 Ceramic Building Material**

- 6.3.1 This category includes fragments of brick, roof tile and field drain. The scan suggests that all of this material is of Post-medieval date although it is very fragmentary and it is therefore possible that small, undiagnostic fragments of Romano-British tile could also be present, particularly from Area 6 where the majority of the Romano-British pottery was recovered.

## 6.4 Fired Clay

- 6.4.1 This category consists mainly of small abraded and featureless fragments in sandy or sandy/chalk-tempered fabrics, probably of structural origin. There are, however a few fragments, all from Trench 85 (Area 6), of flat, slab-like objects, either circular or oval. Similar objects have been found on several Late Iron Age and Romano-British sites across Wiltshire and Oxfordshire (e.g. Seager Smith 1996; Sanders 1979, fig. 28, 124-7) and various functions have been suggested for them, including oven plates and storage jar lids. In addition a spindlewhorl was recovered from the midden in Area 3.

## 6.5 Worked and Burnt Flint

- 6.5.1 Worked flint was recovered in some quantity, from trenches along the route, but particularly from Area 2, where flint was recovered from a sequence of buried soils (Trenches 25 and 26) and from Area 3, where flint from the Early Iron Age midden in Trenches 43 and 44 was individually recorded.
- 6.5.2 Mesolithic (or Mesolithic/Neolithic) material is difficult to identify positively. However, it appears that patinated pieces, which occurred largely within Areas 1 and 2, dominating the flint from Trenches 1 to 6, is likely to indicate the presence of Mesolithic material. There is a high blade component from these areas (including at least two bladelet cores, from Trenches 2 and 6 respectively and there is a trend for the patinated material to show a higher level of technology (thinner and more delicate).
- 6.5.3 Other possible Mesolithic or Neolithic pieces came from Trench 44, where a blade, a platform rejuvenation flake and a naturally backed flake with marginal edge retouch or edge use were found in the same context. A large end scraper made on a flake from a well ground flint axe (Trench 28) is a tool likely to date to the early Neolithic. A core from Trench 53 is likely to have been made for the production of bladelets and could be of Mesolithic date. A second core, from Trench 54, that appears to have been prepared in a similar way may be of a similar date although there is nothing to show that the core ever produced blanks.
- 6.5.4 The group from Trench 26 is the largest group from the site. This material is largely unpatinated and the condition is very good. There is a large patinated piece, which could be Late Neolithic and a flake with heavily damaged flake ridges, which must be intrusive. Otherwise the rest of the material looks very similar and could well be from a single industry. Striking platforms are abraded and there is one, possibly two, core rejuvenation tablets. Four flake cores are fairly undiagnostic although a single blade core has opposed platforms, which is characteristic of blade core technology. The retouched tools from this group include three scrapers (two end scrapers and a side scraper). One of the end scrapers has relatively low angle retouch that may have been pressure flaked and is fairly typical of Early Bronze Age flintwork. There are three long flakes/blades with edge retouch, including a double edged microdenticulate, a long flake with invasive retouch and a



naturally backed piece with probable edge use. One other retouched flake and a flake with marginal retouch/use complete the retouched tool component.

6.5.5 In conclusion, the flakes include a fair number that are long, without being blades although the technology, which includes core rejuvenation and opposed platform cores is rooted in a blade core technology. It is probably a mixed assemblage, but predominantly Early Neolithic.

6.5.6 The remainder of the assemblage contains very little that is diagnostic and is dominated by fairly robust, undiagnostic flakes. The density of the flint suggests that there are no undisturbed flaking sites represented. There is a very marked absence of small material, which suggests that the flakes are probably derived from higher up the slopes and any small material has been winnowed out.

6.5.7 Burnt, unworked flint was recovered in small quantities. This material type is intrinsically undatable but is frequently associated with prehistoric activity.

## 6.6 Stone

6.6.1 The Stone finds comprises one piece of Post-medieval roofing slate (Trench 64), fragments of unworked oolitic limestone (Trench 47) a fragment of non-local (igneous) stone again apparently unworked (Trench 40), part of an object of uncertain form in fine-grained sandstone (Trench 45) and two fragments of objects in an unusual black, basalt-like stone. The latter two objects have smooth apparently polished surfaces and may be rubbers of some kind (Trenches 93 and 95 respectively).

## 6.7 Glass

6.7.1 The glass includes vessel and window fragments as well as two objects. The latter are both beads, one represented by a tiny fragment of opaque turquoise glass, probably from an annular or globular bead although of uncertain date (Trench 6, Area 1). The second is a complete cylindrical bead in opaque blue glass with marvered white spiral trails, probably of Romano-British date (Trench 93, Area 6).

6.7.2 Four small vessel fragments may be of Romano-British date (Trenches 1, 27 and 95); other fragments are Post-medieval, as is the window glass.

## 6.8 Shale

6.8.1 Two fragments of shale armllets were recovered, both of Romano-British date, one from Trench 43, Area 3 and one from Trench 93, Area 6.

## 6.9 Clay Pipe

6.9.1 All of the clay pipe fragments are plain stems.

## **6.10 Slag**

- 6.10.1 Of the ten fragments identified as slag, six came from the Early Iron Age midden in Area 3. These fragments have the appearance of having been subjected to high temperatures, but are not certainly the products of metalworking; some may be vitrified clay.
- 6.10.2 One fragment from a medieval context in Area 3 is very vesicular and results from an unknown industrial process. The three other fragments came from Romano-British and medieval contexts in Areas 3 and 6 and can be more definitely identified as ironworking slag.

## **6.11 Metalwork**

- 6.11.1 Metalwork includes objects of silver, copper alloy, iron and lead. There are two coins. One is a silver Anglo-Saxon sceatta dating between AD 725-50 from Trench 64 (series H Type 49, Variety 2a ((roundel/bird)), a type that originated in Middle Saxon Southampton (*Hamwic*) and which is rarely found beyond it (Trench 64). The other is a silver penny of Edward I or Edward III (Trench 97).
- 6.11.2 The copper alloy objects include a Romano-British P-shaped bow brooch, dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD (Trench 95, Area 6), a ring (Trench 3, Area 1), a disc (Trench 6, Area 1), a pin, and a fitting (Trench 44, Area 3) and a stud (Trench 62, Area 4). Two objects remain unidentified at this stage. Apart from the brooch, none of the objects are chronologically distinctive.
- 6.11.3 Of the ironwork, 68 objects are nails and 14 hobnails. The hobnails were associated with Romano-British pottery in Trench 93, Area 6. Other identifiable objects comprise a boot-heel, three horseshoes and three keys; all these are Post-medieval and came mainly from topsoil contexts in various trenches.
- 6.11.4 The lead object is a modern strip with stamped lettering.

## **6.12 Human Bone**

- 6.12.1 Human remains were recovered from three contexts. The remains of a disturbed inhumation burial were excavated in Trench 59, Area 4. The surviving bone represents a single adult individual and consists of parts of lower and upper limbs and vertebrae, in very fragmentary condition. Fragments of an adult left femur came from Trench 4, Area 1; these are very worn. Three fragments, probably from the same (sub) adult tibia, came from Trench 95, Area 6.

## **6.13 Marine Shell**

- 6.13.1 All the marine shell recovered is oyster. Both left and right valves are present although right valves (preparation waste) are more common than left valves (consumption waste).

## 6.14 Animal and Worked Bone

- 6.14.1 The faunal assemblage is dominated by cattle and sheep, with smaller quantities of pig (all three species include young animals, including at least one probable neonatal sheep). A few examples of horse and possible bird are also represented (all from probable Romano-British contexts).
- 6.14.2 Condition varies considerably, with some bone being very well preserved and other examples being badly eroded. The bone from the Early Iron Age midden in Trenches 43 and 44 in Are 3 is particularly fragmentary, as might be expected, and shows evidence of gnawing and butchery, though not extensively in either case. Chopping marks and evidence of gnawing were also noted sporadically through the rest of the assemblage and one or two bones from topsoil contexts (almost certainly Post-medieval) had been sawn.
- 6.14.3 Five worked bone objects were recovered, three of Early Iron Age date from the midden in Area 3 (two bladed tools and a gouge all incomplete), one of Romano-British date, from Trench 95, Area 6 (pin shank fragments) and one of Anglo-Saxon date (pin-beater from Trench 93, Area 6). The bladed tools are thin, flat, rectangular objects, perforated at one end and are of uncertain function. Both these and the gouge are paralleled, for example, within the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age midden at Potterne (Seager Smith 2000, figs 90, 92).

**Table 4: Finds totals by material type and by area (number / weight in grammes)**

MATERIAL	AREA 1	AREA 2	AREA 3	AREA 4	AREA 5	AREA 6	TOTAL
Pottery	127/784	18/70	1318/8683	136/1324	2/15	538/4216	2820/19167
Ceramic Building Material	21/436	16/505	20/313	72/1621	2/40	1/14	132/2929
Fired Clay	7/71	4/10	24/184	12/242	-	33/875	80/1382
Worked Flint	83/465	220/1594	191/2076	1/6	5/26	13/80	513/4247
Burnt Flint	5/64	19/214	22/298	8/62	-	-	54/638
Stone	-	-	5/94	1/4	-	2/58	8/156
Glass	3/10	2/2	3/22	8/271	-	2/3	18/308
Shale	-	-	1/5	-	-	1/23	2/28
Clay Pipe	8/14	1/3	-	9/28	-	-	18/45
Slag	-	-	8/107	-	-	2/337	10/444
Metalwork	10	33	11	56	1	34	110
<i>Silver</i>	-	-	1	1	-	1	2
<i>Cu alloy</i>	2	-	3	2	-	1	8
<i>Iron</i>	40	1	8	17	1	32	99
<i>Lead</i>	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Worked Bone	-	-	3	-	-	2	5
Human Bone	15/75	-	-	89/486	-	-	104/561
Animal Bone	27/171	16/28	819/4643	74/718	20/3	282/1563	1238/7126
Marine Shell	2/5	-	-	7/65	-	8/31	17/201

Table 5: Pottery breakdown by period and area (number / weight in grammes)

DATE	WARE TYPE	AREA 1	AREA 2	AREA 3	AREA 4	AREA 5	AREA 6	TOTAL
PREHISTORIC	Flint-tempered	-	-	7/21	-	-	15/202	22/223
	Limestone-tempered	-	-	65/333	-	-	1/14	66/347
	Oolitic	-	-	251/1944	-	-	3/16	254/1960
	Sandy	-	-	619/3248	-	-	2/1	621/3249
	Sandy/flint-gritted	-	-	16/91	-	-	-	16/91
	Shelly	2/1	-	300/2541	-	-	3/37	305/2579
	<i>sub-total prehistoric</i>	<i>2/1</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1258/8178</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>24/270</i>	<i>1286/8451</i>
ROMANO-BRITISH	Samian	1/1	-	-	-	1/1	11/187	13/189
	New Forest colour coat	1/2	-	-	-	-	-	1/2
	Oxon colour coat	2/1	-	-	-	-	-	2/1
	Oxon whiteware	-	-	1/39	-	-	-	1/39
	Misc. colour coat	-	-	-	-	-	2/1	2/1
	Black Burnished ware	4/13	-	1/3	-	-	38/375	43/391
	Greyware	39/157	-	18/61	1/2	-	426/3052	484/3272
	Grog-tempered ware	2/14	4/20	1/7	-	-	8/92	15/133
	Oxidised ware	21/57	-	-	-	-	23/164	44/221
	Whiteware	2/1	-	-	-	-	-	2/1
	<i>sub-total Romano-British</i>	<i>68/246</i>	<i>4/20</i>	<i>21/110</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>1/1</i>	<i>511/3878</i>	<i>607/4250</i>
MEDIEVAL	Fine sandy	2/10	1/2	2/11	1/5	1/14	-	7/42
	Medieval coarse ware	3/23	-	-	12/71	-	2/60	17/154
	<i>sub-total medieval</i>	<i>5/33</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>2/11</i>	<i>13/76</i>	<i>1/14</i>	<i>2/60</i>	<i>24/196</i>

**Table 5 continued**

DATE	WARE TYPE	AREA 1	AREA 2	AREA 3	AREA 4	AREA 5	AREA 6	TOTAL
POST-MEDIEVAL	Redwares	18/156	2/20	13/135	92/949	-	3/13	128/1273
	Verwood	15/261	-	10/125	10/169	-	1/2	36/557
	Tinglazed earthenware	-	-	-	4/14	-	-	4/14
	Staffs-type slipware	2/21	-	-	3/30	-	-	5/51
	Staffs-type mottled ware	-	-	1/1	-	-	-	1/1
	White saltglaze	-	1/2	1/7	-	-	-	2/9
	Stonewares	1/15	-	3/89	3/29	-	-	7/133
	Creamware	-	-	-	1/4	-	-	1/4
	Jackfield ware	-	1/4	1/5	-	-	-	2/9
	Porcelain	-	1/3	-	-	-	-	1/3
	Bone china	-	-	-	1/3	-	-	1/3
	Refined whitewares	16/51	8/19	8/22	8/48			40/140
	<i>sub-total Post-medieval</i>	<i>52/504</i>	<i>13/48</i>	<i>37/384</i>	<i>122/1246</i>	-	<i>4/15</i>	<i>228/2197</i>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>127/784</b>	<b>18/70</b>	<b>1318/8683</b>	<b>136/1324</b>	<b>2/15</b>	<b>538/4216</b>	<b>2148/15101</b>

## 7 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 7.1 Aims

7.1.1 The palaeo-environmental remains were sampled and evaluated to aid in defining the significance and nature of the archaeological deposits. The presence and preservation of palaeo-environmental remains will also aid in defining appropriate sampling strategies should further fieldwork be necessary.

### 7.2 Samples taken and palaeo-environmental evidence

7.2.1 A total of 26 bulk samples of generally 10 to 20 litres but varying between 1 and 20 litres were taken from a range of feature types within each phase as defined on site and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals.

7.2.2 A series of 28 samples were taken in broad columns through sequences in five trenches, to help evaluate the nature of the exposed deposits and palaeo-environmental significance. These samples were augmented by three monoliths through specific sequences or deposits: these are discussed in the geoarchaeology report (see Appendix 2).

7.2.3 The break down of bulk samples into phase groups is shown in **Table 6**.

7.2.4 Categories of palaeo-environmental evidence comprised:

- charred plant remains
- charcoal
- land snails

### 7.3 Assessment Results; Methods and Data

#### *Charred Plant Remains and Charcoals*

7.3.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the float retained on a 0.5 mm mesh and the residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded.

7.3.2 The flots were scanned under a x10 - x30 stereo-binocular microscope and presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 6**), in order to present data to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and charcoal remains and assess their potential to address the project and subsidiary aims.

7.3.3 The flots were relatively small and while some contained some root material, most were dominated to a larger extent by mollusc shells.

## 7.4 Charred Plant Remains

- 7.4.1 Charred plant remains were present in several of the samples, although those from Trenches 4 and 6 were very sparse. The four samples probably dating to the earlier prehistoric period (Trenches 25 and 26) contained several fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*). Hazelnut is found within British archaeological sites from the Mesolithic to the medieval period. It is though more common in the Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age and certainly often a more ubiquitous component of samples of these dates than grain.
- 7.4.2 The samples of Early Iron Age date associated with the midden (Trenches 43, 45 and 46) contained glumes and spikelet forks of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) as well as the occasional weed seed. Spelt wheat is common on British sites from the later Bronze Age into the Romano-British period. The weed seeds are generally associated with many different types of soil. The seed of sedge (*Carex cf. nigra*) from context 8808 in Trench 88 is of some interest as this species is often associated with wetter soils. Trench 88 is located off the chalk scarp and near to the Bitham Brook.
- 7.4.3 The Romano-British samples (Trenches 95 and 96) contained several cereal remains, barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), chaff of spelt and occasionally emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*). That from ditch 9506, context 9515, contained high numbers of spelt glumes and seeds of probable perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*). This species is commonly present on sites from the later Bronze Age but has been noted in large quantities within Roman samples from Ilchester, Somerset (Stevens 1999).
- 7.4.4 The sample from the burnt deposit with animal bone 11006 (Trench 110) contained little other than wood charcoal. That from Ditch 11007 contained large numbers of free-threshing wheat grains (*Triticum aestivum sl*) as well as fragments of rachis. A few grains of oat (*Avena* sp.) of which one was identified as wild and a single seed of stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) were also recovered. Free-threshing wheat is present from the Neolithic onwards. It is generally only common on British sites from the middle Saxon period onwards. Likewise, stinking mayweed is associated with the cultivation of clay soils and generally commoner from the medieval period onwards. It is unlikely that this deposit is prehistoric, but could be Romano-British or later.

## 7.5 Charcoal

- 7.5.1 Charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in Table 6. That from ditch 11007 was resinous and vitrified. Other than the samples from Trench 110 charcoal was relatively scarce in the samples.

## 7.6 Land snails

- 7.6.1 A total of 28 samples of between 750 and 2000g were processed by standard methods (Evans 1972) for land snails. The flots were rapidly assessed by scanning under a x10 - x 30 stereo-binocular microscope to provide some information about shell preservation and species representation. The numbers of shells and the presence of taxonomic groups were quasi quantified (Table 7). Further shells were noted in the flots of bulk samples (Table 6).

### *Scarpfoot zone 1*

- 7.6.2 Samples were taken from shallow colluvium over periglacial Coombe deposits in Trenches 8 and Trench 10. The Coombe deposits were almost devoid of shells and both species recovered (*Helicella itala* and *Pupilla muscorum*) are xerophilic and typical of Late Glacial cold stage deposits. In both trenches the Holocene colluvium contained sparse numbers of shells. The assemblages were predominantly open country (*P. muscorum*, *H. itala*, *Vallonia* spp.) with *Trichia hispida* common in hillwash contexts. The residues contained relatively few shell fragments.

### *Scarpfoot zone 2b – dry valley deposits*

- 7.6.3 The colluvial soil and buried soil sealed beneath hillwash in Trench 26 produced a mixed assemblage with moderate shell numbers. The high shade-loving element including rupestral species might indicate an early post-clearance phase, perhaps comparable with the Mesolithic to Neolithic artefacts. The overlying blanket of calcareous colluvium produced relatively low shell numbers, but the residues contain further shell fragments including apices. These assemblages were more typically open and comparable with open dry arable and grazed grassland (*P. muscorum*, *H. itala*, *Vallonia* spp. with *Trichia hispida*).
- 7.6.4 Only spot samples were recoverable from the deeply stratified sequences exposed in Trench 25. The second buried soil (3507) which was the lowest context sampled contained moderate shell numbers and an assemblage superficially similar to that to the basal buried soil in Trench 26. The overlying colluvium contained moderate shells and mixed assemblages while the upper buried soil (2505) contained high numbers. Surprisingly, the assemblages from this layer were very mixed indicating possible shrub environments rather than clearly open grassland or arable.
- 7.6.5 The colluvium overlying the buried soil produced an assemblage dominated by more open country species, but still retained a shade-loving element.

### *Shells from bulk samples: trenches 95, 96 and 110*

- 7.6.6 Bulk samples (Table 6), from trenches 95, 96 and 110 situated on the Kimmeridge Clay all contained aquatic shells typical of bodies of water (ditch 9605 and context 9604). The sample from ditch 11007, produced a



diverse assemblage more typical of permanent water or even a regularly fed watercourse.

## **7.7 Sediments**

7.7.1 The sediments were described in the field, and monoliths taken through specific sequences. These are described in **Appendix 2**.

## **7.8 Palaeo-environmental Summary and Discussion**

7.8.1 The palaeo-environmental evidence indicates the potential for recovering important charred assemblages from Early Iron Age and Romano-British samples in the scarpfoot and clay zones. Little environmental work has been done on sites of this date in these zones in Wiltshire. The potential data from the Westbury 'midden' can be allied to research at All Cannings Cross recently initiated by Barrett and McOmish.

7.8.2 The potential for deeply stratified sequences of hillwash containing prehistoric sites is high (Trench 25), and such sequences are potentially of Regional to National importance, especially where they are interleaved with archaeological deposits. The potential of these deposits is detailed in **Appendix 2**.

7.8.3 The land snail and soil sequence from Trench 26 provides important environmental sequence to accompany the archaeological artefacts. If no further intervention is undertaken in this location, then the sequence as sampled should be fully analysed and the information related directly to the evidence for human activity.

Feature type/ No	Context	Sample	size litres	Flot							Comments	Other	Residue Charcoal >5.6mm
				flot ml	size	Grain	Chaff	Weed seeds uncharred	Charcoal >5.6mm	Charred			
<b>Trench 4</b>													
405	408	7	1.5	6 <sup>3</sup>	C	-	-	-	-	-	single possible cereal grain	-	-
<b>Trench 6 ROMANO-BRITISH</b>													
Ditch 604	608	8	10	6 <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	611	9	10	6 <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Trench 25 EARLY PREHISTORIC; buried soils in colluvial sequence</b>													
Buried Soil	2505	24	30	30 <sup>0</sup>	(C)	-	-	-	C	-	Poss. frags. of grain/parenchyma. Grain noticed in field not retained	-	-
Buried Soil	2507	25	30	20 <sup>0</sup>	-	-	-	B(h)	-	-	Poss. frags of grain/parenchyma. Hazelnut frags. x5	smb	-
<b>Trench 26 EARLY PREHISTORIC; buried soils in colluvial sequence</b>													
	2604	43	20	10 <sup>2</sup>	-	-	-	C(h)	-	-	Poaceae/Cyperaceae root stem x1. Hazelnut frag. x1.	-	-
	2603	44	20	25 <sup>0</sup>	-	-	-	C(h)	-	-	Hazelnut frag. x4.	smb	-
	2606	45	20	8 <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	C(h)	-	-	Hazelnut frag. x1.	-	-
<b>Trench 43 EARLY IRON AGE ('midden')</b>													
4338	4333	59	10	100 <sup>3</sup>	B	-	-	B	A	-	Hordeum sp. X3. Triticum s/d x2. Avena sp. x2. Persicaria sp. x1. Avena sp. (awn) x1. Fallopia convolvulus x1. Chenopodium album x1.	-	-
<b>Trench 45 EARLY IRON AGE</b>													
Derived midden	4504	57	10	25 <sup>3</sup>	A	C	c		C	-	Hordeum x4. Triticum cf. spelta glume base x2.	smb	-
Colluvium	4503	56	10	25 <sup>3</sup>	-	C	c	C	-	-	Small Vicia. Triticum d/s glume base x4.	smb	-
<b>Trench 46 EARLY IRON AGE (ditch)</b>													
4608	4610	42	10	25 <sup>15</sup>		C				-	Triticum s/d glume basex1.	smb	-
<b>Trench 88 LATE BRONZE AGE?</b>													
8806	8808	20	1	10 <sup>6</sup>	C	-	-	C	-	-	Carex sp. x1. Frags. possible cereal grain.	-	-

Table 6: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Table 6 continued. Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature type/ No	Context	Sample	size litres	Flot							Comments	Other	Residue Charcoal >5.6mm	
				flot ml	size	Grain	Chaff	Weed seeds uncharred charred	Charcoal >5.6mm					
<b>Trench 95</b>				<b>ROMANO-BRITISH</b>										
Ditch 9506	9515	21	5	30 <sup>5</sup>	A*	A**	-	A**	C	Triticum d/s (grain). Mainly T spelta (glume base). some T. dicoccum. Avena sp, Vicia sp. Hordeum vulgare (occasional). Lolium sp.(A**) Aphanes	-	-		
	9517	22	1	30 <sup>5</sup>	-	C	-	C	-	Avena sp. T. spelta (glume bases) x6.	Moll Bithynia	-		
<b>Trench 96</b>				<b>ROMANO-BRITISH</b>										
9604	9606	23	10	35 <sup>30</sup>	C	-	-	C	C	Hordeum vulgare x2. Galium aparine x1. Cereal indet x1. Cereal frgs. x1	Moll Bithynia	-		
<b>Trench 110</b>				<b>PREHISTORIC? BURNT BONE</b>										
pit/posthole	11006	58	6	60 <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	C	A	Vicia sp.	cremated bone	-		
Ditch 11007	11008	60	10	65 <sup>10</sup>	A**	A	-	A (h)	A	cf. free-threshing wheat grain (A**). Vicia sp. (B) Resinous charcoal. Hordeum vulgare. Galium sp. Hazelnut frgs. Avena sp. one Avena spikelet wild type. Avena awns. f-t rahis frags. Rumex sp. <i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Moll orb/pea shell. ramshorn Bithynia Lynneae	-		

KEY: A\*\* = exceptional, A\* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs Moll-f = freshwater molluscs; Analysis, C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs

NOTE: <sup>1</sup>flot is total, but flot in superscript = ml of rooty material. <sup>2</sup>Unburnt seed in lower case to distinguish from charred remains

**Table 7: Land snail assessment**

TRENCH	Scarpfoot zone 1						Scarpbench zone 2b – dry valley														Scarpbench zone 2 a, footslope/lynchet								
SAMPLE SERIES	8	8	10	10	10	10	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	25	25	25	25	25	107	107	107	107	107	107	107
CONTEXT	802	801	1004	1003	1003	1002	2604	2603	2603	2606	2606	2606	2606	2607	2602	2506/7	2506	2505	2505	2504	10718	10718	10718	10717	10705	10705	10705		
CONTEXT TYPE	colluvium		coombe deposit		Coll.	soil	colluvial soil						Calcareous colluvium				soil 2	coll	soil 1		coll	colluvium		soil	eroded soil		coll		
SAMPLE	2	1	3	4	5	6	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	30	29	28	27	26	47	48	49	52	53	54	55	
DEPTH (m)	spot	spot	spot	spot	spot	Spot	spot	spot	spot	spot	spot	Spot	spot	spot	Spot	spot	3.4	3.3	3.0	2.7-	2.6-	2.15-	1.9-	1.8-	1.7-	1.6-	1.5-	1.2-	
WEIGHT (g)	1500	1300	2000	2000	2000	2000	1600	1800	1800	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	2000	750	1250	2000	1500	1500	1500	1500	2000	1500	1500	1500	
<b>Open country species</b>																													
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	C	-	C	C	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Vertigo</i> spp.	-	C	-	-	-	C	-	-	C	-	C	-	C	C	C	-	-	-	C	B	B	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Helicella itala</i>	C	C	-	C	-	B	C	C	C	C	-	C	C	C	C	B	C	B	C	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Vallonia</i> spp.	B	A	-	-	-	B	C	B	A	A	A	B	A	A	C	C	A	A	A	A	A	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<b>Catholic species</b>																													
<i>Trichia hispida</i>	C	C	-	-	-	-	-	C	A	C	C	C	C	C	C	-	B	C	C	A	B	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Pomatias elegans</i>	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	C	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	C	+	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Cochlicopa</i> spp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	C	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	C	C	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Cepaea</i> spp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	C	+	-	C	C	+	+	-	-	-	C	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	C	C	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	C	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Vitrina pellucida</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Limax</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<b>Shade-loving species</b>																													
<i>Carychium</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	A	C	C	C	C	-	-	-	C	C	-	A	C	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	C	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	C	+	A	C	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Acanthinula</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Aegopinella</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	C	-	C	C	C	-	-	-	C	C	-	B	C	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Clausiliidae	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	B	-	-	C	+	-	-	-	C	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Ena</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Helicigona lapicida</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Vitrea</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<b>Burrowing species</b>																													
<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>	C	A	-	-	C	A	C	C	-	-	-	-	-	C	C	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<b>Approx totals</b>	9	17	1	1	0	15	4	21	80	20	40	15	45	35	9	7	80	40	70	100	60	0	0	0	0	0	0		

KEY: A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (+) = present

## 8 DISCUSSION

### 8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 The evaluation of the proposed Westbury Eastern By-pass route has revealed a number of archaeological sites and features, along the majority of the route. In some areas, significant concentrations of features were identified, in association with substantial quantities of artefact and environmental material. In general, sufficient dating evidence was recovered from over 50% of the features investigated to allow a good understanding of their general phasing as well as clues concerning the type and nature of archaeology identified.

8.1.2 The evaluation results have generally supported the results of previous fieldwork surveys, which had suggested a number of areas of high archaeological potential. In particular, the existence of an Early Iron Age midden and associated site has been confirmed in Area 3, together with the Romano-British activity in Area 6.

8.1.3 Furthermore, the evaluation has confirmed the presence of a number of previously unknown or unsuspected archaeological sites, including a significant deeply stratified sequence of buried soil horizons within Area 2.

8.1.4 A number of archaeological features recorded were predicted by the geophysical survey. However, many anomalies proved to be of natural origin and a number of features were encountered that had not been predicted by the geophysicists. Also, many cropmark features could not be identified in the trenches, suggesting that the cropmarks seen in these areas may reflect material within the ploughsoil rather than subsurface features, or else that these cropmarks had been completely removed by more recent ploughing activities. The fieldwalking although not undertaken in the pastoral half of the route, was very effective in predicting the presence of areas of archaeological activity. In contrast, the reported results from the ground investigation fieldwork appear to have been less accurate within a number of key areas in relation to deposits of Holocene date.

### 8.2 Overview

8.2.1 An overview of the archaeology along the 6 km route indicates some patterning concerning where concentrations of features could be identified as well as zones where there was a general dearth of archaeology.

8.2.2 These are summarised in **Table 8**.

**Table 8: Overview of Results**

Area No	Trenches	Total no. of features	No. ditches	No. pits/postholes	No. treethrows	Other features
1	1-20 (and 106)	26	16	3	5	1 natural feature
2	21-33 (and 105)	20	8	1	6	5 palaeo-soils
3	34-57 (and 107)	60	22	16	2	2 ditch termini or pits, midden in 2 trenches, 4 palaeosols
4	58-79 (and 103-104)	38	24	4	9	1 natural feature and 1 truncated grave
5	80-84 (and 101, 102, 108-110)	4	2	1	1	-
6	85-100	34	9	6	2	2 graves

8.2.3 Table 8 demonstrates that Area 3 (where the Early Iron Age midden and possible associated settlement lies) is particularly rich in features and both Areas 4 and 6 have a good concentration of features. On the other hand, Area 5 is almost lacking in features and this may partly result from its geographical location between the Bitham River and tributaries and the underlying drift geology of alluvial clay. This location would not have been particularly conducive for settlement or associated activities and the existing water meadows in this zone clearly demonstrate its propensity for flooding during the historic period. It may, however, have been a preferred zone for hunter gatherer communities and evidence for such activities may be sealed beneath the alluvial sequences.

8.2.4 Archaeological features were recorded in 70 of the 108 trenches excavated. The majority of these features were ditches (81 ditches or gullies were investigated) and comprise a mixture of settlement boundaries, field systems, ridge and furrow and strip lynchets. In areas of potential settlement these were associated with pits, postholes and a midden. Nine palaeo-soils were also encountered and three graves (two of which were certainly of Romano-British date) were also identified.

8.2.5 The earliest features recorded are probably the buried soils identified in Trenches 25 and 26 in Area 2. It is likely that the lower palaeo-soils identified in Trench 25 may relate to activity dating between the Neolithic and Early Bronze Ages. Surface collection through the fieldwalking and during the evaluation itself identified the presence of concentrations of prehistoric (Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age) struck flint in this area, highlighting its potential.

8.2.6 However, Trenches 25 and 26 indicate the presence of deeply stratified archaeological sequences sealed by colluvium. In Trench 25, the presence of four buried soil horizons (to a depth of 4.10m below the present topsoil), all

of which are undoubtedly of prehistoric date and may range from the Neolithic/Early Bronze Age onwards, is rare. This discovery is certainly the deepest and one of the most significant Holocene colluvial sequences from the chalk in the country. A detailed discussion and comparison with other British sites is contained in **Appendix 2**.

- 8.2.7 Several features relating to the Late Bronze Age were identified in Area 6 in Trenches 87 and 88. The ditches, pits and postholes encountered may relate to settlement activity in this area, since the environmental samples taken from burnt deposits in one of the postholes indicated the presence of charred cereal grains. The postholes and pits identified may form parts of structures whose pattern cannot be clearly comprehended from the narrow evaluation trenches. However, the potential for Late Bronze Age settlement in this zone is high.
- 8.2.8 Early Iron Age activity was identified in Areas 3 and Areas 6, but in the latter area, this evidence was confined to a single ditch in Trenches 90 and 91, probably related to agricultural activity. The potentially large Early Iron Age midden revealed in Trenches 43 and 44 of Area 3 is of significance. Even from the small-scale interventions undertaken, it is possible to state that this midden is deeply stratified and seals a buried soil. Furthermore, the presence of chalk 'platforms' and pits cutting into the midden, imply that this feature was not simply a large rubbish deposit, but may have been associated with feasting and ritual activities. There is also the potential that buildings may exist within it.
- 8.2.9 Iron Age middens are relatively rare in number and tend to be characteristic of north Wiltshire. Only a few others are known and these include East Chisenbury and the nearby sites of All Cannings Cross and Potterne (Cunnington 1923; McOmish 1996). This discovery is of significance. The evaluation has established that the midden is at least 45m by 30m in extent, but undoubtedly continues much further than the small area exposed. Further mapping of this deposit is required to establish whether it may be possible to design the proposed route to avoid or minimise disturbance.
- 8.2.10 Potential Iron Age settlement activity, contemporary with the midden, was identified in the northern part of Area 3, to the south of Bratton Road. Here a number of trenches revealed a large enclosure ditch, which contained significant quantities of Early Iron Age pottery; a good indicator of settlement. Postholes in the vicinity may be remnants of Iron Age structures or fence-lines. The significance of an extensive midden, which is very rich in material (including spindle-whorls, concentrations of decorated pottery, a fragment of shale armlet and large quantities of animal bone), is enhanced through the discovery of this potentially associated settlement.
- 8.2.11 The evaluation also identified the presence of Romano-British activity in several areas. In the southern part of Area 1, elements of a possible Romano-British field system was recognised in Trenches 1 and 2. Slightly further to the north, in Trench 6, a large and deep feature (possibly an enormous pit or

well) was partly investigated. This feature is most unusual and contained not only Romano-British pottery, but also a fragment of a glass bead. If it is indeed a well, it may contain ritual deposits and structured deposition and is likely to be significant.

- 8.2.12 Both the possible well/pit and the field system are potentially related to a substantial Romano-British settlement, dating to the late 1<sup>st</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD, which was focused on Wellhead Lane, and which at its closest point lies approximately 450m to the north-west of the route. A series of excavations within the area in 1959-66 found a large quantity of scattered Romano-British finds and features, including wall footings, floor slabs, wall plaster, thought to cover an area of at least 1ha (Rogers and Roddham 1991).
- 8.2.13 A possible Romano-British presence was also identified in Trench 40 of Area 3 and the evidence here may be related to a field boundary and Romano-British agricultural activities. However, the greatest concentration of Romano-British features and finds was noted in the western half of Area 6 (Trenches 93-99). No activity relating to the Romano-British period had previously been identified in this area, although the geophysical survey had suggested the presence of a large and complex series of ditches and associated features.
- 8.2.14 The evaluation trenches in Area 6 showed a complex and dense series of features, whose patterning cannot be fully understood without open area excavation. However, some preliminary interpretation may be made concerning the nature of the Romano-British activity in this zone.
- 8.2.15 The features and finds that were revealed in Trenches 93, 94 and 95 would be in keeping with a possible settlement enclosure and associated pits and postholes. A possible roundhouse gully was also noted. Finds from the ditches in these trenches included fine ware Romano-British pottery, including Samian and ornaments that including a shale armlet, a glass bead, and a copper alloy brooch. Such material is indicative of a high status settlement site in the immediate vicinity.
- 8.2.16 The extent of this settlement has not been fully determined from the evaluation, but it would appear that the features and finds from Trench 96 westwards are more linked with agricultural activities. The majority of features in these Trenches are ditches and the drop-off in concentration of material culture is marked, implying a transition from a settlement zone in the east to a more agricultural landscape associated with field boundaries to the west. Three burials were also encountered in Trenches 95, 97 and 99 respectively and these inhumations may have been placed at the periphery of the settlement and on the field boundaries.
- 8.2.17 The potential of the Romano-British activity in Area 6 is high. The evaluation has demonstrated the presence of a possible high status settlement site with associated field systems. Romano-British settlement activity has been attested to in the wider Westbury landscape. Of particular pertinence to



the potential settlement and associated field systems investigated in Area 6 is a site c. 1 km to the south at Westbury Ironworks (Site 62). Here a Romano-British settlement was discovered during iron ore digging in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century although the excavations were poorly recorded.

- 8.2.18 Romano-British activity has also been recorded at Newtown (Site 65) where Romano-British coarse ware pottery was picked up. To the south, of this at Wellhead an extensive Romano-British settlement was excavated by Shaw between 1959 and 1965 (Site 64). Here, a large lime kiln and evidence for pottery manufacture was identified. Thus the discovery of a new Romano-British settlement in Hawkeridge and further Romano-British agricultural activity by Madbrook Farm to the east of Warminster Road expands our understanding of the Romano-British landscape in this area.
- 8.2.19 Little in the way of Anglo-Saxon features and finds were identified during the evaluation. A bone pin-beater comes from Trench 93, however, the discovery of a Middle Saxon coin from Trench 64 in Area 4 is intriguing. The Series H type of coins have their origins in Southampton (*Hamwic*) and tend to be associated with towns and trading centres. This discovery, in a field in Westbury, is somewhat unusual. Although little evidence of Saxon occupation has been found in Westbury, excavations by Shaw at the Site 64 (Section 15.1.18) unearthed a large quantity of grass-tempered Anglo-Saxon pottery (Fowler 1988, 32-36). Although this is more likely to be of Early, rather than Middle Saxon date, it does indicate an Anglo-Saxon presence in the area that may have continued through into the 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> centuries. Furthermore intrusive Saxon burials (Early-Middle Saxon) were found cut into the Bowl Barrow at Beggar's Knoll (Site 74). Intriguingly another Anglo-Saxon coin, this time a silver penny attributed to King Offa (787-796) was picked up in Area 2, just to the south of Site 84.
- 8.2.20 Components of a medieval landscape were identified in Area 4, where parts of a field system were investigated. It is possible that several of the undated ditches that were revealed in all of these areas are also of this date.
- 8.2.21 The evaluation determined the presence of a well-preserved Post-medieval landscape throughout the road corridor, but particularly in Areas 4 and 5. These include a strip lynchet system in Area 4 (Trenches 61 and 62) and a relict field boundary also in Area 4 (Trench 72). The latter had not been identified from aerial photographs, but still survives as a fairly impressive earthwork.
- 8.2.22 In Area 5, previously unsurveyed earthworks between Trenches 82 and 84 are potentially the remnants of well-preserved water meadows although they might also relate activities associated with the 18<sup>th</sup> century corn mill at Blenches Farm (Site 100). It must be noted that these earthworks still survive in excellent condition and are an important component of Westbury's post-industrial landscape.

8.2.23 Although a large number of undated features were identified and investigated along the entire stretch of the road corridor, it is difficult to ascertain their archaeological importance without a better comprehension of their nature and date. However, the redeposited human remains, revealed in Area 4 (Trench 59) is of some archaeological importance. Again, although undated, its presence implies that more burials may be encountered in the vicinity and these may be of prehistoric or Romano-British date. A possible association with the nearby Early Iron Age settlement site, only a few hundred metres to the south, can not be ruled out.

### 8.3 Preservation and location of Archaeological Remains

8.3.1 The preservation of the archaeological remains was generally moderate and was fairly consistent across the evaluation areas, with the greatest truncation apparent in hilltop locations in Area 2. Some plough truncation was also identified with respect to features in Area 1-3 and this is particularly pertinent for the midden area, which is clearly being ploughed away to some extent. North of the Bratton Road, in Areas 4-6, preservation tended to be good, with Romano-British ditches surviving up to a depth of 2m and medieval and Post-medieval landscape features still surviving as well-preserved cropmarks.

8.3.2 The proposed route crosses, or is immediately adjacent to, a number of identified geo-archaeological zones (**Figure 2**). This information when coupled with the recorded geology and locations of key sites of archaeological interest does suggest a number of broad patterns.

8.3.3 The majority of the identified settlements lay on relative low lying land within the clay vales (Zone 3), in the northern half of the proposed route. The southernmost of these settlements, the Early Iron Age settlement and midden deposit in Area 3 was located on a broad western-facing slope, adjacent to the northern edge of the upper scarp foot and situated on a narrow band of Upper Greensand.

8.3.4 At the northern end of the proposed route, both the Late Bronze Age and Romano-British were situated at the junction of the Calcareous grit and Oxford clay, on a broad south-facing slope. Certainly, the Romano-British site was situated at the edge of the ironstone rich Calcareous grit, which is known to have been exploited at this date.

8.3.5 The one possible exception to the location of settlements within the clay vales is that relating to the four buried soil horizons found in Trench 25, Area 2. The uppermost horizon produced Neolithic or Bronze Age material and large quantities of charred plant remains, suggesting a possible occupation site within the dry valley. Although this could not be confirmed, due to the depth of deposits, this may form one early element of the recorded settlement and other activities, known to have been focused on the Wellhead Springs.

## **8.4 Confidence Rating**

- 8.4.1 The evaluation has located a considerable range of archaeological features across Areas 1-6. The general aims and objectives of the evaluation as set out in the WSI, have therefore been met.
- 8.4.2 The results suggest that a reasonable reliance may be placed on the fieldwalking, geophysical survey and cropmark evidence as a means of predicting substantial archaeological remains. There was frequently some dislocation between the features identified and the positions of anomalies or cropmarks and any evidence for earlier prehistoric activity in Area 5 is likely to be masked by alluvial deposits.
- 8.4.3 In view of the relatively high sampled percentage (2.7%, predominantly targeted) of the evaluation area it is considered unlikely that substantial archaeological remains have been missed. However, further small features are likely to occur sporadically throughout the evaluation areas and there is some potential for features to be buried within the deep colluvial sequences encountered in Areas 2 and 3 and also under the alluvial deposits in Area 5.

## **8.5 Recommendations**

- 8.5.1 RPS will be undertaking an impact assessment of the proposed route. It is likely that a large number of areas may require archaeological mitigation in the future. However a number of archaeological features or areas would benefit from further investigation or analysis to inform the baseline conditions. These would include further investigation into the nature, extent and preservation of the Early Iron Age midden.

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## APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

### TRENCH 1 Dimensions: 30.2 x 1.6m

Context	Description	Depth m
101	PLOUGHSOIL Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0-0.25
102	A2 HORIZON Mid greyish brown silty clay.	0.25-0.45
103	NATURAL Greensand	0.45+
104	FILL of 106.	0.14
105	PRIMARY FILL of 106.	0.20
106	CUT of E-W ditch.	0.20
107	FILL of 108.	0.36
108	CUT of NE-SW ditch.	0.36
109	Animal Disturbance.	-
110	FILL of 109	-
111	FILL of 112.	0.26
112	CUT of NE-SW Ditch.	0.26

### TRENCH 2 Dimensions: 29.0 x 1.6m

Context	Description	Depth
201	PLOUGHSOIL Dark greyish brown clayey silt.	0-0.30
202	A2 HORIZON Mid grey silty clay.	0.3-0.45
203	NATURAL Greensand.	0.45+
204	CUT of NE-SW ditch.	0.14
205	FILL of 204.	0.14
206	CUT of NE-SW ditch.	0.40
207	FILL of 206.	0.30
208	FILL of 206.	0.10
209	CUT of NE-SW ditch.	0.25
210	FILL of 209.	0.25
211	Number voided.	-
212	Number voided.	-
213	CUT of TREETHROW – unexcavated.	-
214	FILL of 213 – unexcavated.	-

### TRENCH 3 Dimensions: 30.0 x 1.6m

Context	Description	Depth
301	PLOUGHSOIL Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0-0.20
302	A2 HORIZON Light brown silty clay.	0.2-0.45
303	NATURAL Greensand	0.45+

### TRENCH 4 Dimensions: 30.0 x 1.6m

Context	Description	Depth
401	PLOUGHSOIL Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0-0.20
402	A2 HORIZON Mid-light brown silty clay.	0.2-0.44
403	B HORIZON CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Mid grey brown silty clay	0.44-0.61
404	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.61+
405	CUT of N-S Ditch.	0.27
406	PRIMARY FILL of 406.	0.10
407	SECONDARY FILL of 406.	0.23
408	SECONDARY FILL of 406.	0.14



**TRENCH 5 Dimensions: 29.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
500	PLOUGHSOIL Dark greyish brown silty clay loam.	0-0.24
501	A2 HORIZON Mid brown silty clay.	0.24-0.55
502	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.55+
503	<b>CUT of lozenge-shaped pit.</b>	<b>0.40</b>
504	Overcut.	-
505	Animal disturbance.	-
506	PRIMARY FILL of 503.	0.30
507	SECONDARY FILL of 503.	0.25
508	<b>CUT of E-W gully.</b>	<b>0.17</b>
509	FILL of 508.	0.17
510	<b>CUT of E-W gully.</b>	<b>0.18</b>
511	Number voided.	-
512	<b>CUT of circular posthole.</b>	<b>0.11</b>
513	FILL of 512.	0.11
514	FILL of 510.	0.18

**TRENCH 6 Dimensions: 30.7 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
601	PLOUGHSOIL Dark greyish brown silty clay loam.	0-0.26
602	A2 HORIZON Mid brown silty clay.	0.26-0.5
603	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	c.0.50+
604	<b>CUT of large feature.</b>	<b>2.35</b>
605	SECONDARY FILL of 604	0.70
606	SECONDARY FILL of 604	0.47
607	SECONDARY FILL of 604	0.75
608	SECONDARY FILL of 604	0.84
609	STABILISATION LAYER sealing ditch 604	0.40
610	SECONDARY FILL of 604	0.30
611	PRIMARY FILL of 604	1.03
612	SECONDARY FILL of 604	0.25
613	SECONDARY FILL of 604	0.52
614	SECONDARY FILL of 604	0.47

**TRENCH 7 Dimensions: 32.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
701	PLOUGHSOIL Dark greyish brown silty clay loam.	0-0.25
702	A2 HORIZON Mid brown silty clay.	0.25-0.52
703	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.52+
704	<b>CUT of treethrow.</b>	<b>0.34</b>
705	FILL of 704.	0.12
706	FILL of 704.	0.13
707	<b>CUT of N-S gully.</b>	<b>0.12</b>
708	FILL of 707.	0.12
709	<b>CUT of treethrow -unexcavated.</b>	-
710	FILL of 709 -unexcavated.	-

**TRENCH 8 Dimensions: 30.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
800	PLOUGHSOIL Dark grey silty loam.	0-0.18
801	B1 HORIZON CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Greeny brown silty clay.	0.18-0.47
802	B2 HORIZON CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Mid greybrown silty clay	0.47-0.55
803	SECONDARY FILL of 805.	0.22
804	PRIMARY FILL of 805.	0.07
805	<b>CUT of N-S ditch.</b>	<b>0.24</b>
806	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.55+

**TRENCH 9 Dimensions: 30.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
900	PLOUGHSOIL Dark grey silty loam.	0-0.34
901	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.34+
902	<b>CUT of E-W ditch.</b>	<b>0.21</b>
903	FILL of 902.	0.21

**TRENCH 10 Dimensions: 30.2 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
1001	PLOUGHSOIL Mid brown silty loam.	0-0.26
1002	A2 HORIZON Light yellowish brown silt.	0.26-0.51
1003	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.51-1.01
1004	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	1.01-1.51+
1005	<b>CUT of treethrow- unexcavated.</b>	-

**TRENCH 11 Dimensions: 30.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
1101	PLOUGHSOIL Mid grey brown silty loam.	0-0.17
1102	A2 HORIZON Mid brown silty clay.	0.17-0.25
1103	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.25-0.77
1104	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.77-1.35
1105	Natural Blocky Lower Chalk.	1.35+
1106	<b>CUT of N-S ditch.</b>	<b>0.39</b>
1107	PRIMARY FILL of 1106.	0.20
1108	SECONDARY FILL of 1106.	0.27
1109	FILL of 1106.	0.13

**TRENCH 12 Dimensions: 28.2 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
1201	PLOUGHSOIL Dark grey brown silty clay.	0-0.24
1202	A2 HORIZON Mid greyish brown silty clay.	0.24-0.31
1203	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.13+

**TRENCH 13 Dimensions: 29.8 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
1300	PLOUGHSOIL Dark grey brown silty clay.	0-0.15
1301	A2 HORIZON Mid greenish grey silty clay.	0.15-0.29
1302	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.29+
1303	FILL of 1304.	0.18
1304	<b>CUT of possible NE-SW ditch.</b>	<b>0.18</b>
1305	<b>CUT of possible NW-SE ditch.</b>	<b>0.08</b>
1306	FILL of 1305.	0.08
1307	<b>CUT of natural periglacial feature.</b>	<b>0.15</b>
1308	FILL of 1308.	0.15

**TRENCH 14 Dimensions: 23.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
1401	PLOUGHSOIL Dark grey brown silty clay.	0-0.12
1402	A2 HORIZON Mid orangey brown silty clay.	0.12-0.39
1403	LAYER Weathered interface with natural.	0.39-0.45
1404	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.45+

**TRENCH 15 Dimensions: 30.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
1501	PLOUGHSOIL Mid grey brown silty clay loam.	0-0.26
1502	A2 HORIZON Light brown silty clay.	0.26-0.42
1503	LAYER Mid brown silty clay. Possible colluvium.	0.42-0.82
1504	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.82+

**TRENCH 16 Dimensions: 33.4 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
1601	PLOUGHSOIL Dark grey brown silty clay.	0-0.12
1602	A2 HORIZON Light grey silty clay.	0.12-0.22
1603	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.22+

**TRENCH 17 Dimensions: 18.2 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
1700	PLOUGHSOIL Dark grey brown silty loam.	0-0.24
1701	A2 HORIZON Mid greeny grey silty loam.	0.24-0.34
1702	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.34+

**TRENCH 18 Dimensions: 20.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
1801	PLOUGHSOIL Dark grey brown silty loam.	0-0.29
1802	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.29+

**TRENCH 19 Dimensions: 14.9 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
1901	PLOUGHSOIL Dark greyish brown clayey silt.	0-0.18
1902	A2 HORIZON Light greyish brown silty clay.	0.18-0.42
1903	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.42+

**TRENCH 20 Dimensions: 29.5 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
2001	PLOUGHSOIL Mid brown silty loam.	0-0.21
2002	A2 HORIZON Light brown clayey silt.	0.21-0.50
2003	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.50+

**TRENCH 21 Dimensions: 22.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
2101	PLOUGHSOIL Light greyish brown clayey silt.	0-0.24
2102	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.24+

**TRENCH 22 Dimensions: 18.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
2201	PLOUGHSOIL Mid-dark greyish brown clayey silt.	0-0.27
2202	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.27+

**TRENCH 23 Dimensions: 18.5 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
2301	PLOUGHSOIL Mid grey brown silty clay.	0-0.25
2302	CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Very light brown clay.	0.25-0.60
2303	NATURAL coombe deposit.	0.60+
2304	CUT of NW-SE ditch.	0.61
2305	PRIMARY FILL of 2304.	0.11
2306	SECONDARY FILL of 2304.	0.26
2307	DELIBERATE BACKFILL of 2304.	0.23
2308	TERTIARY FILL of 2304.	0.07

2309	CUT of modern posthole.	-
2310	FILL of 2309.	-

**TRENCH 24 Dimensions: 28.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
2401	PLOUGHSOIL Mid greyish brown silty loam.	0-0.24
2402	CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Light whitish brown clayey silt.	0.24-0.52
2403	NATURAL coombe deposit.	0.52+
2404	FILL of 2305.	0.22
2405	CUT of E-W probable Land Drain.	0.22

**TRENCH 25 Dimensions: 19.6 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
2501	PLOUGHSOIL Mid-dark greyish brown silty clay loam.	0-0.27
2502	CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Very light grey brown silty clay.	0.27-0.93
2503	CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Light brownish grey silty clay.	0.93-1.63
2504	CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Lighter grey brown silty clay.	1.63-2.73
2505	PALAEOSOL Light-mid brown slightly silty clay and charcoal.	2.73-3.03
2506	CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Light-mid grey brown silty clay.	3.03-3.48
2507	PALAEOSOL Dark brown silty clay.	3.48-3.75
2508	CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Light brown silty clay	3.75-3.80
2509	PALAEOSOL Dark brown silty clay.	3.80-3.95
2510	PALAEOSOL Very dark brown silty clay.	3.95-4.05
2511	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	4.05+

**TRENCH 26 Dimensions: 19.5 x 4.0m**

Context	Description	Depth
2601	PLOUGHSOIL Light-mid greyish brown silty clay loam.	0-0.25
2602	CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Light grey brown silty clay. B1	0.25-0.82
2603	STABILISATION HORIZON Mid greyish brown silty clay.	1.6-2.10
2604	PALAEOSOL Dark reddish brown fine silty clay. Bt	2.10-2.45
2605	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	2.45+
2606	CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Light grey brown silty clay. B1	0.82-1.6
2607	CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Mid greyish brown silty clay.	0.55-0.82
2608	LAYER Very dark reddish brown, possible turf line.	2.09-2.11
2609-2630	Numbers allocated to spits in test pit.	-

**TRENCH 27 Dimensions: 19.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
2701	PLOUGHSOIL Dark greyish brown silty clay loam.	0-0.3
2702	A2 HORIZON Light greyish brown clayey silt.	0.3-0.6
2703	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.6+
2704	CUT of treethrow.	0.23
2705	FILL of 2704.	0.23
2706	CUT of treethrow.	0.18
2707	FILL of 2706.	0.18
2708	CUT of treethrow- unexcavated.	-
2709	FILL of 2708- unexcavated.	-

**TRENCH 28 Dimensions: 17 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
2801	PLOUGHSOIL Dark grey brown silty loam.	0-0.23
2802	A2 HORIZON Very light greyish brown clayey silt.	0.23-0.50
2803	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.50+

**TRENCH 29 Dimensions: 29.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
2901	PLOUGHSOIL Dark grey brown silty loam.	0-0.25
2902	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.25+
<b>2903</b>	<b>CUT of SE-NW ditch.</b>	<b>0.44</b>
2904	PRIMARY FILL of 2903.	0.10
2905	SECONDARY FILL of 2903.	0.12
2906	SECONDARY FILL of 2903.	0.12
2907	TERTIARY FILL of 2903.	0.32
2908	FILL of 2909.	0.08
<b>2909</b>	<b>CUT of treethrow.</b>	<b>0.13</b>
2910	FILL of 2909.	0.13
<b>2911</b>	<b>CUT of treethrow.</b>	<b>0.21</b>
2912	FILL of 2911.	0.21

**TRENCH 30 Dimensions: 30.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
3001	PLOUGHSOIL Dark grey brown silty loam.	0-0.25
3002	A2 HORIZON Mid brown clayey silt.	0.25-0.35
3003	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.35+
<b>3004</b>	<b>CUT of NE-SW ditch.</b>	<b>0.11</b>
3005	FILL of 3004.	0.11
<b>3006</b>	<b>CUT of treethrow.</b>	<b>0.17</b>
3007	FILL of 3006.	0.08
3008	FILL of 3006.	0.17

**TRENCH 31 Dimensions: 49.2 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
3101	PLOUGHSOIL Very dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.22
3102	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.22+
<b>3103</b>	<b>CUT of E-W gully terminal.</b>	<b>0.20</b>
3104	FILL of 3103.	0.20

**TRENCH 32 Dimensions: 31.7 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
3201	PLOUGHSOIL Very dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.25
3202	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.25+
<b>3203</b>	<b>CUT of E-W gully terminal.</b>	<b>0.20</b>
3204	FILL of 3203.	0.20

**TRENCH 33 Dimensions: 28.3 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
3301	PLOUGHSOIL Very dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.27
3302	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.27+
<b>3303</b>	<b>CUT of SE-NW gully.</b>	<b>0.14</b>
3304	PRIMARY FILL of 3303.	0.08
3305	SECONDARY FILL of 3303.	0.14
<b>3306</b>	<b>CUT of E-W gully.</b>	<b>0.12</b>
3307	FILL of 3306.	0.12

**TRENCH 34 Dimensions: 29.4 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
3401	PLOUGHSOIL Very dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.25
3402	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.25+

**TRENCH 35 Dimensions: 18.9 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
3501	PLOUGHSOIL Very dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.26
3502	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.26+
3503	CUT of modern feature.	-
3504	CUT of natural periglacial feature.	0.10
3505	FILL of 3503.	0.04
3506	FILL of 3503.	0.07

**TRENCH 36 Dimensions: 25 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
3601	PLOUGHSOIL Mid brown silty loam.	0-0.25
3602	A2 HORIZON Light brown silty loam.	0.25-0.34
3603	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.50+
3604	PALAEOSOL Dark brown silty clay. Extends for 9m from W end of trench.	0.16
3605	CUT of circular posthole.	0.15
3606	FILL of 3605.	0.04
3607	FILL of 3605.	0.11
3608	PALAEOSOL Dark brown silty clay. Extends for 14m from E end of trench. Same as 3612 and 3616.	0.15
3609	CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Light brownish white silty clay.	0.34-0.50
3610	Number voided.	-
3611	Number voided.	-
3612	Same as 3608.	0.16
3613	Number voided.	-
3614	Number voided.	-
3615	Number voided.	-
3616	Same as 3608.	0.18

**TRENCH 37 Dimensions: 20.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
3701	PLOUGHSOIL Dark greyish brown clayey silt.	0-0.22
3702	A2 HORIZON Mid grey brown clayey silt.	0.22-0.37
3703	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.37+
3704	CUT of treethrow.	0.22
3705	FILL of 3704.	0.22
3706	FILL of 3704.	0.22

**TRENCH 38 Dimensions: 31.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
3801	PLOUGHSOIL MID greyish brown clayey silt.	0-0.27
3802	CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Light grey brown silt.	0.27-0.50
3803	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.50+

**TRENCH 39 Dimensions: 19.6 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
3901	PLOUGHSOIL Dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.35
3902	A2 HORIZON Mid brown clayey silt.	0.35-0.55
3903	CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Light brown clayey silt.	0.55-0.65
3904	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.65+

**TRENCH 40 Dimensions: 29.5 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
4001	PLOUGHSOIL Dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.24
4002	CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Light grey brown clayey silt.	0.24-0.50
4003	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.50+

4004	CUT of NE-SW ditch.	0.17
4005	FILL of 4004.	0.17
4006	Same as 4002.	-

**TRENCH 41 Dimensions: 19.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
4101	PLOUGHSOIL Dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.29
4102	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.29+

**TRENCH 42 Dimensions: 27.8 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
4201	PLOUGHSOIL Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0-0.25
4202	A2 HORIZON Mid greyish brown silty clay.	0.25-0.6
4203	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.6+
4204	NATURAL Greensand	0.6+
4205	FILL of 4206.	0.25
4206	CUT of pit/ditch terminal.	0.25
4207	FILL of 4208.	0.25
4208	CUT of treethrow.	0.25
4209	FILL of 4210.	0.19
4210	CUT of NE-SW ditch terminal	0.19

**TRENCH 43 Dimensions: 31.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
4301	PLOUGHSOIL Mid grey brown clayey silt.	0-0.30
4302-4306	Numbers allocated to spoil heap to spatially retrieve finds.	-
4307-4316	Numbers given to contexts in plan. Not excavated. All components of midden group 4338.	
4307	LAYER Off-white calcareous silty loam.	-
4308	LAYER Dark brown black clayey silt.	-
4309	LAYER Mid-dark brown clayey silt.	-
4310	LAYER Black clayey silt.	-
4311	LAYER Black charcoal rich clayey silt. Same as 4318.	-
4312	LAYER Mid grey brown clayey silt.	-
4313	LAYER Light grey brown clayey silt.	-
4314	LAYER Off-white calcareous silt.	-
4315	LAYER Pale grey brown clayey silt.	-
4316	LAYER Off-white calcareous clayey silt. Same as 4329.	0.26-0.65
4317	LAYER A2 Horizon. Mid brown clayey silt.	0.05
4318	LAYER Very dark brown black clayey silt artefact rich.	0.25
4319	LAYER Mid greeny brown clayey silt.	0.16
4320	PALAEOSOL Dark greeny brown sandy loam.	0.15
4321	NATURAL Weathered Greensand.	0.85m+
4322-4328	Numbers allocated to spits within test pit, grouped into contexts 4317-4321.	-
4329	LAYER Pale brownish white calcareous silt. Same as 4316	0.35
4330	LAYER Lens of white silty chalk.	0.03
4331	LAYER Mid-dark greeny brown clayey silt.	-
4332	LAYER Mid-light brown clayey silt (not excavated).	-
4333	LAYER Mid greeny grey clayey silt. Cessy.	0.10
4334	LAYER Rusty clayey silt mineralised lens.	0.01
4335	LAYER Brownish grey clayey silt.	0.07
4336	LAYER Mid grey clayey silt	0.25
4337	LAYER Greeny grey sandy silt.	0.03
4338	Group number allocated for layers within midden.	-

**TRENCH 44 Dimensions: 29.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
4401	PLOUGHSOIL Dark grey brown clayey silt loam.	0-0.27
4402	CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Light grey brown clayey silt.	0.27-0.48
4403	CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Light grey brown clayey silt.	0.48-0.60
4404	NATURAL Weathered Greensand	0.60+
4405	LAYER Dark grey brown silty clay.	-
4406	CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Light grey brown clayey silt.	0.10
4407	SECONDARY FILL of 4408.	0.30
4408	<b>CUT of possible pit.</b>	<b>0.30</b>
4409	PRIMARY FILL of 4408.	0.20
4410	PRIMARY FILL of 4408.	0.08
4411	<b>CUT of pit.</b>	<b>0.44</b>
4412	FILL of 4411.	0.28
4413	FILL of 4411.	0.19
4414	FILL of 4411.	0.18
4415	PRIMARY FILL of 4411.	0.04
4416	NATURAL Weathered Greensand. Same as 4404.	-
4417	NATURAL Weathered Greensand. Same as 4404.	-

**TRENCH 45 Dimensions: 36 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
4501	NATURAL Weathered Greensand	0.65+
4502	GREENSAND COLLUVIUM Pale greenish brown silty clay.	0.90-1.65
4503	GREENSAND COLLUVIUM Dark olive green silty sand.	1.10-1.40
4504	LAYER Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.45-0.95
4505	PLOUGHSOIL Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0-0.30
4506	LAYER Light greyish brown silty clay. A2 Horizon?	0.20-0.35
4507	GREENSAND COLLUVIAL LAYER Mid greyish brown silty clay	0.26-0.80
4508	LAYER Light greyish brown silty clay.	0.78-0.97
4509	NATURAL Coombe Deposit.	0.97+
4510	FILL of 4511.	0.10
4511	<b>CUT of possible natural bowl feature</b>	<b>0.10</b>
4512	LAYER Dark greyish brown silty clay.	1.4-1.5
4513	GREENSAND COLLUVIUM Pale greenish brown slightly sandy silty clay.	0.95-1.15+
4514	FILL of 4515	0.09
4515	<b>CUT of posthole</b>	<b>0.09</b>

**TRENCH 46 Dimensions: 28.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
4601	NATURAL Weathered Greensand	0.30+
4602	<b>CUT of E-W ditch.</b>	<b>0.90</b>
4603	PRIMARY FILL of 4602.	0.05
4604	SECONDARY FILL of 4602.	0.15
4605	SECONDARY FILL of 4602.	0.50
4606	FILL of 4602.	0.20
4607	FILL of 4602.	0.18
4608	<b>CUT of E-W ditch.</b>	<b>0.72</b>
4609	PRIMARY FILL of 4608.	0.15
4610	SECONDARY FILL of 4608.	0.45
4611	FILL of 4608.	0.45
4612	FILL of 4608.	0.25
4613	LAYER Modern yellow gravels and sand.	0.35
4614	TOPSOIL Dark brown silty clay.	0-0.30



**TRENCH 47 Dimensions: 14.3 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
4701	PLOUGHSOIL Mid brown silty clay.	0-0.49
4702	A2 HORIZON Light brownish grey silty clay.	0.49-0.82
4703	GREENSAND COLLUVIUM Pale yellowish grey silty sand.	0.82-1.35
4704	NATURAL Weathered Greensand.	1.35+
4705	FILL of 4706.	-
4706	CUT of NNW-SSE ditch.	-
4707	FILL of 4708.	0.14
4708	CUT of NNW-SSE ditch.	0.14
4709	FILL of 4710.	0.16
4710	CUT of NNW-SSE ditch.	0.16
4711	FILL of 4712	0.14
4712	CUT of modern rectangular pit.	0.14
4713	FILL of 4714.	0.18
4714	CUT of NNW-SSE ditch.	0.18
4715	FILL of 4716.	-
4716	CUT of ditch terminal/pit	-

**TRENCH 48 Dimensions: 18.1 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
4801	PLOUGHSOIL Mid brown silty clay.	0-0.30
4802	A2 HORIZON Light brownish grey silty clay.	0.30-0.60
4803	GREENSAND COLLUVIUM Pale yellowish grey silty sand.	0.60-1.10
4804	NATURAL Weathered Greensand.	1.10+
4805	FILL of 4806.	0.59
4806	CUT of NW-SE ditch terminal.	0.59
4807	FILL of 4808.	0.10
4808	CUT of circular posthole.	0.10

**TRENCH 49 Dimensions: 30.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
4901	PLOUGHSOIL Mid brown grey silty clay.	0-0.24
4902	A2 HORIZON Mid brown silty clay.	0.24-0.36
4903	GREENSAND COLLUVIUM Light greeny brown clayey sand.	0.36-0.90
4904	CUT of NNW-SSE ditch.	0.45
4905	FILL of 4904.	0.18
4906	FILL of 4904.	0.27
4907	NATURAL Weathered Greensand.	1.40+
4908	GREENSAND COLLUVIUM Light greyish brown fine sandy silt	0.90-1.18
4909	FILL of 4910.	0.12
4910	CUT of truncated E-W gully.	0.12

**TRENCH 50 Dimensions: 28.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
5001	PLOUGHSOIL Dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.2
5002	A2 HORIZON Light-mid greyish brown sandy silt.	0.2-0.33
5003	GREENSAND COLLUVIUM Light greyish brown fine sandy silt	0.33-1.15
5004	NATURAL Weathered Greensand with Coombe patches.	1.15+

**TRENCH 51 Dimensions: 30.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
5101	PLOUGHSOIL Dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.21
5102	A2 HORIZON Light-mid greyish brown sandy silt.	0.21-0.34
5103	GREENSAND COLLUVIUM Light greyish brown fine sandy silt	0.54-0.75
5104	CUT of E-W gully	0.07
5105	FILL of 5104.	0.07

5106	GREENSAND COLLUVIUM Light greyish brown fine sandy silt	0.34-0.54
5107	NATURAL Weathered Greensand with Coombe patches.	0.75+

**TRENCH 52 Dimensions: 33.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
5201	PLOUGHSOIL Dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.28
5202	GREENSAND COLLUVIUM Light greyish brown fine sandy silt	0.28-1.25
5203	FILL of 5204	0.18
5204	<b>CUT of natural drainage channel</b>	<b>0.18</b>
5205	PALAEOSOL Dark brown clayey silt.	1.25+

**TRENCH 53 Dimensions: 30.2 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
5301	TOPSOIL Dark brown grey silty clay loam.	0-0.30
5302	GREENSAND COLLUVIUM Mid greenish brown clayey silt.	0.30-1.05
5303	GREENSAND COLLUVIUM Mid-light grey silty clay.	1.05-1.30
5304	NATURAL Weathered Greensand with Coombe patches.	1.30+
5305	<b>CUT of E-W ditch.</b>	<b>0.39</b>
5306	FILL of 5305.	0.39
5307	<b>CUT of E-W gully.</b>	<b>0.05</b>
5308	FILL of 5307.	0.05
5309	<b>CUT of ditch terminal.</b>	<b>0.62</b>
5310	PRIMARY FILL of 5309.	0.07
5311	FILL of 5309.	0.39
5312	FILL of 5309.	0.14
5313	FILL of 5309.	0.23

**TRENCH 54 Dimensions: 19.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
5401	TOPSOIL Dark black brown silty clay loam.	0-0.25
5402	GREENSAND COLLUVIUM Mid grey green clayey sandy silt.	0.25-0.80
5403	NATURAL Weathered Greensand with Coombe patches.	1.00+
5404	<b>CUT of NW-SE ditch.</b>	<b>0.37</b>
5405	FILL of 5404.	0.37
5406	<b>CUT of NW-SE ditch.</b>	<b>0.28</b>
5407	FILL of 5406.	0.28
5408	GREENSAND COLLUVIUM Mid brown clayey sandy silt.	0.80-1.00
5409	<b>CUT of posthole.</b>	<b>0.17</b>
5410	FILL of 5409.	0.17
5411	<b>CUT of posthole.</b>	<b>0.21</b>
5412	FILL of 5411.	0.21
5413	<b>CUT of posthole.</b>	<b>0.27</b>
5414	FILL of 5423.	0.27
5415	<b>CUT of posthole.</b>	<b>0.33</b>
5416	FILL of 5415.	0.33
5417	<b>CUT of posthole.</b>	<b>0.09</b>
5418	FILL of 5417.	0.09
5419	<b>CUT of posthole.</b>	<b>0.27</b>
5420	FILL of 5419.	0.27
5421	<b>CUT of posthole – unexcavated.</b>	-
5422	FILL of 5421 – unexcavated.	-
5423	<b>CUT of posthole – unexcavated.</b>	-
5424	FILL of 5423 – unexcavated.	-
5425	<b>CUT of posthole – unexcavated.</b>	-
5426	FILL of 5425 – unexcavated.	-

**TRENCH 55 Dimensions: 26.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
5501	TOPSOIL Dark black brown silty clay loam.	0-0.28
5502	NATURAL Weathered Greensand with Coombe patches.	0.28+

**TRENCH 56 Dimensions: 18.5 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
5601	TOPSOIL Mid greyish brown clayey silt.	0-0.44
5602	NATURAL Weathered Greensand.	0.74+
5603	CUT of E-W footings.	0.16
5604	FILL of 5604.	0.10
5605	FILL of 5604.	0.15
5606	FILL of 5604.	0.09
5607	CUT of NE-SW ditch.	0.18
5608	SECONDARY FILL of 5607.	0.16
5609	TERTIARY FILL of 5607.	0.02
5610	GREENSAND COLLUVIUM Mid grey green clayey sandy silt.	0.44-0.74
5611	CUT of E-W footings – unexcavated.	-
5612	FILL of 5611 – unexcavated.	-
5613	CUT of E-W footings – unexcavated.	-
5614	FILL of 5611 – unexcavated.	-

**TRENCH 57 Dimensions: 22.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
5701	TOPSOIL Dark blackish brown clayey silt.	0-0.20
5702	A2 HORIZON Mid greyish brown sandy silt.	0.20-0.46
5703	GREENSAND COLLUVIUM Light greeny grey clayey sand.	0.46-0.80
5704	NATURAL Greensand with some tabulated sandstone.	0.80+

**TRENCH 58 Dimensions: 27.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
5801	CUT of pit.	0.23
5802	PRIMARY FILL of 5801.	0.10
5803	SECONDARY FILL of 5801.	0.14
5804	CUT of possible posthole.	0.15
5805	PRIMARY FILL of 5804.	0.03
5806	FILL of 5804.	0.12
5807	NATURAL Weathered greensand with coombe patches.	0.45+
5808	A2 HORIZON Mid brown silty clay.	0.35-0.45
5809	PLOUGHSOIL Dark grey brown silty clay loam.	0-0.35
5810	CUT of possible NW-SE ditch.	0.23
5811	FILL of 5810.	0.23

**TRENCH 59 Dimensions: 30.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
5901	PLOUGHSOIL Dark grey brown silty clay loam.	0-0.32
5902	NATURAL Pale brown silty clay with sparse chalk	0.32+
5903	Possible CUT of truncated human burial.	-
5904	FILL of 5903.	-
5905	SKELETON in 5903.	-

**TRENCH 60 Dimensions: 27.8 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
6001	PLOUGHSOIL Very dark brown black silty clay loam.	0-0.23
6002	A2 HORIZON Mid greenish brown sandy clay.	0.23-0.53
6003	COLLUVIUM Light brown chalky clay.	0.53-0.63
6004	LAYER Weathered interface with below. Mid greenish brown sandy clay.	0.63-0.75

6005	FILL of 6006.	0.10
6006	CUT of NE-SW ditch.	0.10
6007	FILL of 6008.	0.17
6008	CUT of possible NW-SE ditch.	0.17

**TRENCH 61 Dimensions: 18.3 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
6101	PLOUGHSOIL Mid greyish brown silty clay.	0-0.25
6102	NATURAL Light brown silty clay with chalky patches.	0.25+
6103	SECONDARY FILL of 6104.	0.12
6104	CUT of NNW-SSE ditch.	0.12
6105	SECONDARY FILL of 6106.	0.08
6106	CUT of NNW-SSE gully.	0.08
6107	SECONDARY FILL of 6108.	0.18
6108	CUT of NNW-SSE ditch	0.18
6109	SECONDARY FILL of 6110.	0.20
6110	CUT of NNW-SSE gully.	0.20

**TRENCH 62 Dimensions: 29.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
6201	PLOUGHSOIL Mid grey brown sandy clay.	0-0.31
6202	A2 HORIZON Light greeny brown clay.	0.31-0.45
6203	NATURAL Light greenish brown clay with chalky patches.	0.45+
6204	CUT of ovoid pit.	0.21
6205	FILL of 6204.	0.11
6206	FILL of 6204.	0.10

**TRENCH 63 Dimensions: 18.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
6301	TOPSOIL Mid greyish brown silty loam.	0-0.29
6302	SUBSOIL Light greyish brown compact silty loam.	0.29-0.63
6303	NATURAL Mid greyish brown silty clay.	0.63+

**TRENCH 64 Dimensions: 32.2 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
6401	TOPSOIL Mid-dark greyish brown sandy loam.	0-0.21
6402	SUBSOIL Mid greyish yellow sandy clay.	0.21-0.30
6403	SUBSOIL Mid-dark yellowish brown sandy clay.	0.30-0.65
6404	NATURAL Mid reddish brown clay banded with mid yellowish brown sandy clay.	0.65+
6405	CUT of possible N-S ditch.	0.10
6406	FILL of 6405.	0.10

**TRENCH 65 Dimensions: 28.8 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
6501	TOPSOIL Mid greyish brown sandy silt.	0-0.19
6502	SUBSOIL Mid yellowish brown sandy clay.	0.19-0.60
6503	NATURAL Mid grey brown clay.	0.60+
6504	CUT of possible treethrow – unexcavated.	-
6505	FILL of 6504 – unexcavated.	-

**TRENCH 66 Dimensions: 19.8 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
6601	TOPSOIL Mid greyish brown sandy silt.	0-0.23
6602	SUBSOIL Mid yellowish brown sandy clay.	0.23-0.60
6603	NATURAL Mid yellow brown clay.	0.60+
6604	CUT of NW-SE ditch.	0.08
6605	FILL of 6604.	0.08

6606	CUT of NE-SW ditch.	0.12
6607	FILL of 6606.	0.12
6608	CUT of treethrow.	0.13
6609	FILL of 6608.	0.13
6610	CUT of possible treethrow – unexcavated.	-
6611	FILL of 6610 – unexcavated.	-

**TRENCH 67 Dimensions: 30.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
6701	TOPSOIL Mid greyish brown silty loam.	0-0.17
6702	SUBSOIL Mid greyish brown silty clay.	0.17-0.37
6703	NATURAL Mid yellow brown clay.	0.37+
6704	FILL of 6705.	0.25
6705	CUT of treethrow.	0.25
6706	FILL of 6707.	0.06
6707	CUT of NW-SE gully.	0.06
6708	FILL of 6709 – unexcavated.	-
6709	CUT of possible treethrow – unexcavated.	-

**TRENCH 68 Dimensions: 30.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
6801	TOPSOIL Mid greyish brown sandy silt.	0-0.33
6802	SUBSOIL Mid yellowish brown sandy clay.	0.33-0.62
6803	NATURAL various clays- mainly mid brownish yellow clay.	0.62+
6804	CUT of NW-SE ditch.	0.21
6805	PRIMARY FILL of 6804.	0.21
6806	FILL of 6804.	0.12
6807	CUT of ditch terminal/pit	0.25
6808	FILL of 6807.	0.25
6809	CUT of NW-SE ditch – unexcavated.	-
6810	FILL of 6809 – unexcavated.	-
6811	CUT of E-W ditch	0.14
6812	FILL of 6811.	0.14
6813	CUT of E-W ditch terminal.	0.16
6814	FILL of 6813.	0.16
6815	CUT of treethrow.	-
6816	FILL of 6815.	-
6817	CUT of natural feature.	0.09
6818	FILL of 6817.	-

**TRENCH 69 Dimensions: 20.1 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
6901	TOPSOIL Dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.28
6902	SUBSOIL Mid yellowish brown sandy clay.	0.28-0.65
6903	SUBSOIL Mid-dark yellow-grey brown sandy clay.	0.65-1.05
6904	CUT of NW-SE ditch.	0.15
6905	FILL of 6904.	0.15
6906	CUT of treethrow – unexcavated.	-
6907	FILL of 6906 – unexcavated.	-
6908	CUT of NW-SE ditch.	0.08
6909	FILL of 6908.	0.08
6910	NATURAL mid-dark yellowish brown clay.	1.05+

**Trenches 70-71 Not excavated**

**TRENCH 72 Dimensions: 27.5 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
7201	TOPSOIL Dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.10
7202	SUBSOIL Mid greyish brown silty clay.	0.10-0.25
7203	NATURAL Mid reddish brown clay mottled with dark grey.	0.50+
7204	LAYER Dark brown silty clay. Upstanding NE-SW bank earthwork.	0.27
7205	CUT of NE-SW extant ditch.	0.40
7206	FILL of 7205.	0.40
7207	SUBSOIL Mid brown silty clay.	0.25-0.50

**TRENCH 73 Dimensions: 29.5 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
7301	TOPSOIL Dark orangey brown clayey silt.	0-0.23
7302	SUBSOIL Dark orangey brown silty clay.	0.23-0.61
7303	NATURAL Mixture of orangey brown and dark grey clay.	0.61+

**TRENCH 74 Dimensions: 38.5 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
7401	TOPSOIL Mid-dark grey silty clay.	0-0.50
7402	SUBSOIL Light brownish grey clay.	0.50-0.75
7403	NATURAL Mid grey clay.	0.75+
7404	Cut of rectangular pit.	0.17
7405	FILL of 7404.	0.17
7406	CUT of NW-SE gully.	0.12
7407	FILL of 7406.	0.12
7408	CUT of N-S gully.	0.10
7409	FILL of 7408.	0.10
7410	CUT of large modern treethrow – unexcavated.	-
7411	FILL of 7411.	-

**TRENCH 75 Dimensions: 29.3 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
7501	TOPSOIL Dark greyish brown clay loam.	0-0.3
7502	SUBSOIL Dark yellowish brown clay.	0.3-0.85
7503	NATURAL Mix of reddish brown clay and a dark brownish grey silty clay.	0.85+

**TRENCH 76 Dimensions: 28.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
7601	TOPSOIL Dark greyish brown sandy clay loam.	0-0.21
7602	SUBSOIL Dark yellowish brown sandy clay.	0.21-0.55
7603	NATURAL Mix of reddish brown sandy clay and a dark brownish grey silty clay.	0.55+
7604	CUT of possible E-W ditch.	0.26
7605	FILL of 7604.	0.26

**TRENCH 77 Dimensions: 32.7 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
7701	TOPSOIL Dark greyish brown sandy clay loam.	0-0.25
7702	SUBSOIL Dark yellowish brown sandy clay.	0.25-0.85
7703	NATURAL Mid yellowish brown clay.	0.85+

**TRENCH 78 Dimensions: 31.3 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
7801	TOPSOIL Dark greyish brown sandy clay loam.	0-0.22
7802	SUBSOIL Mid-dark yellowish brown sandy clay.	0.22-0.68
7803	NATURAL Mid yellowish brown clay.	0.68+
7804	CUT of N-S gully.	0.19
7805	FILL of 7804.	0.19

7806	CUT of treethrow – unexcavated.	-
7807	FILL of 7806 – unexcavated.	-

**TRENCH 79 Dimensions: 31.1 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
7901	TOPSOIL Mid grey brown sandy silt.	0-0.20
7902	SUBSOIL Mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.20-0.68
7903	NATURAL Mix of yellowish brown clay and dark grey clay.	0.95+
7904	SUBSOIL Mid yellowish grey clay.	0.68-0.95

**TRENCH 80 Dimensions: 39.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
8001	TOPSOIL Dark greyish brown clay loam.	0-0.20
8002	SUBSOIL Mid greyish brown silty clay.	0.20-0.60
8003	Number voided.	-
8004	NATURAL ALLUVIUM Mid brownish grey clay mottled with mid reddish brown sandy clay.	0.60+

**TRENCH 81 Dimensions: 16.4 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
8101	TOPSOIL Dark greyish brown clay loam.	0-0.15
8102	SUBSOIL Mid brownish grey silty clay.	0.15-0.60
8103	LENS within 8102. Pea gritty gravel.	0.50-0.53
8104	Number voided.	-
8105	SUBSOIL Mid greyish brown silty clay.	0.60-1.43
8106	NATURAL ALLUVIUM Mix of mid brownish yellow slightly sandy clay and mid brownish grey clay.	1.43-1.55
8107	NATURAL ALLUVIUM Mid brownish grey clay.	1.55+

**TRENCH 82 Dimensions: 15.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
8201	TOPSOIL Dark greyish brown silty clay loam.	0-0.20
8202	SUBSOIL Mid brownish grey silty clay.	0.20-0.34
8203	SUBSOIL Mid brownish grey clay.	0.34-0.88
8204	Number voided.	-
8205	Number voided.	-
8206	NATURAL ALLUVIUM Mid-dark blueish grey clay mottled with mid reddish brown.	0.88-1.05
8207	NATURAL ALLUVIUM Mottled brownish yellow clay.	1.05+

**TRENCH 83 Dimensions: 16.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
8301	TOPSOIL Mid brown silty loam.	0-0.10
8302	SUBSOIL Mid brown silty clay.	0.10-0.41
8303	NATURAL ALLUVIUM Dark greyish brown clay.	0.41+

**TRENCH 84 Dimensions: 19.3 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
8401	TOPSOIL Dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.33
8402	SUBSOIL Mid greyish brown silty clay.	0.33-0.61
8403	NATURAL ALLUVIUM Mid brownish grey clay.	0.61+

**TRENCH 85 Dimensions: 25.1x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
8401	TOPSOIL Dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.20
8402	MODERN LANDFILL	0.20+

**TRENCH 86 Dimensions: 27.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
8601	TOPSOIL Dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.16
8602	SUBSOIL Mid brown silty clay.	0.16-0.40
8603	NATURAL Variable calcareous pale brown clayey silt.	0.40+

**TRENCH 87 Dimensions: 29.9 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
8701	TOPSOIL Dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.19
8702	SUBSOIL Mid yellowish brown clayey silt.	0.19-0.33
8703	NATURAL Blocky chalk within a dark brown clayey silt.	0.33+
8704	<b>CUT of posthole.</b>	<b>0.20</b>
8705	SECONDARY FILL of 8704.	0.20
8706	<b>CUT of treethrow.</b>	<b>0.15</b>
8707	FILL of 8706.	0.15
8708	SECONDARY FILL of 8704.	0.15

**TRENCH 88 Dimensions: 28.2 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
8801	TOPSOIL Dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.16
8802	SUBSOIL mid-dark reddish brown silty clay.	0.16-0.32
8803	NATURAL Blocky chalk with patches of yellowish white peagrit.	0.32+
8804	<b>CUT of lozenge-shaped pit.</b>	<b>0.12</b>
8805	SECONDARY FILL of 8804.	0.12
8806	<b>CUT of circular posthole.</b>	<b>0.10</b>
8807	SECONDARY FILL of 8806.	0.04
8808	SECONDARY FILL of 8806.	0.05
8809	<b>CUT of sub-circular pit.</b>	<b>0.29</b>
8810	PRIMARY FILL of 8809.	0.06
8811	<b>CUT of lozenge-shaped pit.</b>	<b>0.07</b>
8812	SECONDARY FILL of 8811.	0.07
8813	<b>CUT of NW-SE ditch.</b>	<b>0.28</b>
8814	SECONDARY FILL of 8813.	0.28
8815	SECONDARY FILL of 8813.	0.05
8816	SECONDARY FILL of 8809.	0.24
8817	<b>CUT of posthole.</b>	<b>0.06</b>
8818	SECONDARY FILL of 8817.	0.06

**TRENCH 89 Dimensions: 28.4 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
8901	TOPSOIL Dark greyish brown sandy silt.	0-0.19
8902	SUBSOIL Mid brown sandy silt.	0.19-0.24
8903	NATURAL Variable bands of blocky chalk and peagrit, dark orangey brown silty clay with sandstone, light orangey brown sandy clay and mid greyish brown silty clay.	0.24+

**TRENCH 90 Dimensions: 20.6 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
9001	TOPSOIL Dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.20
9002	SUBSOIL Mid yellowish brown clayey silt.	0.20-0.36
9003	NATURAL Blocky chalk in silt matrix with abrupt change to west to brown grey clay.	0.36+
9004	<b>CUT of NW-SE ditch.</b>	<b>0.20</b>
9005	SECONDARY FILL of 9004.	0.20
9006	<b>CUT of NW-SE ditch</b>	<b>0.15</b>
9007	SECONDARY FILL of 9006.	0.15



**TRENCH 91 Dimensions: 34.1 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
9101	TOPSOIL Dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.25
9102	SUBSOIL Mid yellowish brown silty clay.	0.25-0.40
9103	NATURAL Blocky chalk in brown silt matrix with band to south of grey brown clay.	0.40+
9104	CUT of N-S ditch.	0.20
9105	SECONDARY FILL of 9104.	0.10
9106	CUT of NW-SE gully terminal.	0.16
9107	SECONDARY FILL of 9106.	0.16
9108	CUT of NW-SE ditch.	0.23
9109	SECONDARY FILL of 9108.	0.23
9110	CUT of NW-SE ditch.	0.20
9111	SECONDARY FILL of 9110.	0.20
9112	CUT of NW-SE ditch.	0.18
9113	SECONDARY FILL of 9112.	0.18

**TRENCH 92 Dimensions: 21.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
9201	TOPSOIL Dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.31
9202	SUBSOIL Mid-dark orangey brown clayey silts.	0.31-0.52
9203	NATURAL Mid yellowish brown clay.	0.52+

**TRENCH 93 Dimensions: 31.5 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
9301	PLOUGHSOIL Dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.24
9302	A2 HORIZON Light brown silty loam.	0.24-0.43
9303	NATURAL Dark yellow brown silty clay.	0.43+
9304	SECONDARY FILL of 9305.	0.4
9305	CUT of NE-SW ditch.	0.72
9306	SECONDARY FILL of 9305.	0.18
9307	CUT of NW-SE ditch.	-
9308	CUT of NW-SE ditch.	-
9309	SECONDARY FILL of 9305.	0.16
9310	CUT of NW-SE ditch.	-
9311	CUT of NW-SE ditch.	-
9312	CUT of pit.	-
9313	SECONDARY FILL of 9305.	0.44
9314	PRIMARY FILL of 9305.	0.15
9315	SECONDARY FILL of 9305.	0.16
9316	SECONDARY FILL of 9310.	-
9317	SECONDARY FILL of 9307.	-
9318	SECONDARY FILL of 9308.	-
9319	SECONDARY FILL of 9311.	-
9320	SECONDARY FILL of 9312.	-

**TRENCH 94 Dimensions: 23.0 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
9401	PLOUGHSOIL Dark brownish orange silty clay.	0-0.31
9402	A2 HORIZON Mid dark orangish brown compact clay.	0.31-0.6
9403	NATURAL Weathered Chalk.	0.6+
9404	CUT of tree throw.	0.26
9405	FILL of 9404.	0.26
9406	CUT of N-S ditch.	0.41
9407	SECONDARY FILL of 9406.	0.76
9408	SECONDARY FILL of 9406.	0.94
9409	SECONDARY FILL of 9406.	0.84

9410	SECONDARY FILL of 9406.	0.3
9411	CUT of pit/ditch terminal.	0.77
9412	SECONDARY FILL of 9411.	0.77
9413	CUT of posthole.	0.23
9414	CUT of posthole.	0.18
9415	CUT of pit.	0.55
9416	CUT of posthole.	0.32
9417	CUT of pit.	0.37
9418	CUT of pit.	0.3
9419	CUT of N-S gully.	0.67
9420	CUT of N-S gully.	0.67
9421	SECONDARY FILL of 9415.	0.53
9422	SECONDARY FILL of 9418.	0.63
9423	SECONDARY FILL of 9418.	0.82
9424	OCCUPATION LAYER sealing pits and gullies.	0.45
9425	SECONDARY FILL of 9413.	0.32
9426	SECONDARY FILL of 9414.	0.17
9427	SECONDARY FILL of 9416 and 9417.	0.37

**TRENCH 95** Dimensions: 43.0 x 1.6m

Context	Description	Depth
9501	PLOUGHSOIL Dark orange brown silty clay.	0-0.25
9502	A2 HORIZON Mid dark orange brown .	0.25-0.41
9503	NATURAL Weathered Chalk (?Coombe deposit).	0.41+
9504	CUT of NW-SE ditch/grave.	-
9505	SECONDARY FILL of 9504.	-
9506	CUT of NE-SW ditch.	0.91
9507	SECONDARY FILL OF 9506.	0.32
9508	CUT of NE-SW ditch .	-
9509	SECONDARY FILL of 9508.	-
9510	CUT of NE-SW ditch.	0.25
9511	SECONDARY FILL of 9510.	0.25
9512	SECONDARY FILL of 9506.	0.49
9513	SECONDARY FILL of 9506.	0.57
9514	SECONDARY FILL of 9506.	0.38
9515	SECONDARY FILL of 9506.	0.29
9516	SECONDARY FILL of 9506.	0.71
9517	PRIMARY FILL of 9506.	0.91

**TRENCH 96** Dimensions: 61.5 x 1.6m

Context	Description	Depth
9601	PLOUGHSOIL Dark brown silty clay.	0-0.22
9602	A2 HORIZON Mid brown silty clay.	0.22-0.47
9603	NATURAL dark yellowish brown silty clay.	0.47+
9604	CUT of NW-SE ditch.	0.39
9605	PRIMARY Fill of 9604.	0.07
9606	SECONDARY FILL of 9604.	0.2
9607	SECONDARY FILL of 9604.	0.18
9608	SECONDARY FILL of 9604.	0.14
9609	CUT of NW-SE ditch.	-
9610	SECONDARY FILL of 9609.	-
9611	CUT of NW-SE ditch.	0.55
9612	Number voided	-
9613	CUT of NW-SE ditch.	-
9614	SECONDARY FILL of 9613.	-
9615	CUT of NW-SE gully.	0.12
9616	SECONDARY FILL of 9615.	0.12

9617	CUT of NW-SE gully.	-
9618	SECONDARY FILL of 9617.	-
9619	CUT of NW-SE ditch.	0.19
9620	CUT of NW-SE ditch terminal.	0.12
9621	SECONDARY FILL of 9620.	0.19
9622	PRIMARY FILL of 9611.	0.04
9623	SECONDARY FILL of 9611.	0.23
9624	SECONDARY FILL of 9611.	0.31
9625	Number voided.	-
9626	Number voided.	-
9627	SECONDARY FILL of 9620.	0.12

**TRENCH 97 Dimensions: 22.5 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
9701	PLOUGHSOIL.	0-0.26
9702	SUBSOIL Dark .	0.26-0.35
9703	NATURAL Yellow brown silty clay.	0.35+
9704	CUT of N-S ditch.	0.11
9705	SECONDARY FILL of 9704.	0.11
9706	CUT of grave.	-
9707	SECONDARY FILL of 9706.	-
9708	CUT of pit	0.09
9709	SECONDARY FILL of 9708.	0.09
9710	CUT of pit.	0.2
9711	SECONDARY FILL of 9710.	0.2
9712	CUT of E-W ditch.	0.11
9713	SECONDARY FILL of 9712.	0.11
9714	Skeleton within 9706.	-

**TRENCH 98 Dimensions: 28.8 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
9801	PLOUGHSOIL Dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.28
9802	SUBSOIL Thin band of dark red brown silty clay.	0.28-0.36
9803	SUBSOIL Dark orange brown clay.	0.36-0.55
9804	SUBSOIL Yellow brown clay with pea grit chalk.	0.55-0.68
9805	NATURAL clay with abundant weathered chalk.	0.68+
9806	Number voided.	-
9807	Number voided.	-
9808	CUT of grave.	-
9809	SECONDARY FILL of 9808.	-
9810	SKELETON in 9808.	-

**TRENCH 99 Dimensions: 30 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
9901	PLOUGHSOIL Dark brown clayey silt.	0-0.44
9902	SUBSOIL Dark yellow brown silty clay.	0.44-0.88
9903	NATURAL Dark brown orangish clay.	0.88+
9904	CUT of NE-SW ditch .	1.17
9905	SECONDARY FILL of 9904.	0.59
9906	Number voided.	-
9907	Number voided.	-
9908	Number voided.	-
9909	CUT of NE-SW ditch.	0.33
9910	CUT of NE-SW ditch.	0.68
9911	SECONDARY FILL of 9904.	0.36
9912	SECONDARY FILL of 9904.	0.38
9913	SECONDARY FILL of 9904.	0.31

9914	SECONDARY FILL of 9909.	0.33
9915	SECONDARY FILL of 9910.	0.43
9916	SECONDARY FILL of 9910.	0.24
9917	SECONDARY FILL of 9910.	0.08
9918	SECONDARY FILL of 9910.	0.25

**TRENCH 100 Dimensions: 25 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
10001	TOPSOIL Dark grey brown silty clay.	0-0.18
10002	NATURAL Dark orange brown silty clay.	0.18-0.23

**TRENCH 101 Dimensions: 28.6 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
10101	TOPSOIL Mid brown silty loam.	0-0.09
10102	SUBSOIL Light grey brown silt.	0.09-0.24
10103	COLLUVIUM Dark yellow brown silty clay.	0.24-0.76
10104	ALLUVIUM Dark yellow clay.	0.76-1.42+

**TRENCH 102 Dimensions: 18.5 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
10201	TOPSOIL Dark greyish brown silty loam.	0-0.17
10202	SUBSOIL Mid greyish brown mottled silty clay.	0.17-0.56
10203	ALLUVIUM Mid brownish grey clay.	0.56+

**TRENCH 103 Dimensions: 29.6 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
10301	TOPSOIL Dark brown sandy silt.	0-0.24
10302	SUBSOIL Mottled mid greyish brown silty clay.	0.24-0.52
10303	NATURAL Chalky layer bound with clay.	0.52-0.54
10304	NATURAL Dark grey clay underlies 10303 in NW of trench only.	0.54+
10305	CUT of NE-SW ditch	0.52
10306	FILL of 10305	0.52

**TRENCH 104 Dimensions: 28 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
10401	TOPSOIL Dark brown silty loam.	0-0.35
10402	SUBSOIL Mid grey brown silty clay.	0.35-0.69
10403	NATURAL Weathered chalk with dark blue clay lenses.	0.69+
10404	SECONDARY FILL of 10406.	0.51
10405	SECONDARY FILL of 10406.	0.4
10406	CUT of NE-SW ditch.	0.5
10407	SECONDARY FILL of 10406.	0.1

**TRENCH 105 Dimensions: 29.7 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
10501	PLOUGHSOIL Mid brownish grey silty loam.	0-0.28
10502	CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Grey clay silt.	0.28-0.76
10503	CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Mid brownish grey silty clay	0.76+
	(NB Not machined to periglacial Coombe).	

**TRENCH 106 Dimensions: 30 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
10601	PLOUGHSOIL Mid brownish grey silty loam.	0-0.36
10602	A2 HORIZON Light yellowish brown silty clay.	0.36-0.58
10603	NATURAL Coombe deposit, periglacial soliflucted chalk.	0.58+
10604	CUT of NE-SW ditch.	0.19

10605	SECONDARY FILL of 10604.	0.13
10606	CUT of circular pit.	0.42
10607	FILL of 10606.	0.42
10608	SECONDARY FILL of 10604.	0.06
10609	CUT of treethrow.	-
10610	FILL of 10610.	-

**TRENCH 107 Dimensions: 24.6 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
10701	PLOUGHSOIL Mid brownish grey silty clay.	0-0.25
10702	A2 HORIZON Light brownish grey silty clay.	0.25-0.65
10703	COLLUVIUM Upper Greensand colluvium.	0.65-1.00
10704	COLLUVIUM Lower Greensand colluvium.	1.00-1.06
10705	COLLUVIUM Greensand derived colluvium.	1.06-1.62
10706	Spit layer, part of group layer 10717.	1.62-1.75
10707	Spit layer, part of group layer 10717.	1.75-1.80
10708	Spit layer, part of group layer 10718.	1.8-1.85
10709	Spit layer, part of group layer 10718.	1.85-1.90
10710	Spit layer, part of group layer 10718.	1.9-1.95
10711	Spit layer, part of group layer 10718.	1.95-2.00
10712	Spit layer, part of group layer 10718.	2.00-2.05
10713	Spit layer, part of group layer 10718.	2.05-2.10
10714	Spit layer, part of group layer 10718.	2.10-2.15
10715	Spit layer, part of group layer 10718.	2.15-2.20
10716	Spit layer, part of group layer 10718.	2.20-2.25
10717	BURIED SOIL Dark brown clay silt (2 spits).	1.62-1.80
10718	COLLUVIUM Mid brown clay silt (9 spits).	1.85-2.25

**TRENCH 108 Dimensions: 30 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
10801	TOPSOIL Dark reddish brown silty loam.	0-0.34
10802	SUBSOIL Mid brownish grey silty clay.	0.34-0.75
10803	NATURAL Light brown clayish silt.	0.75+
10804	CUT of treethrow.	-
10805	FILL of 10804.	-
10806	CUT of treethrow.	-
10807	FILL of 10806.	-

**TRENCH 109 Dimensions: 20 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
10901	TOPSOIL Mid brownish grey silty loam.	0-0.10
10902	SUBSOIL Pale brown silty clay.	0.10-0.30
10903	CALCAREOUS COLLUVIUM Mid brownish grey silty clay.	0.30-0.85
10904	SECONDARY FILL of 10906.	0.85-0.90
10905	SECONDARY FILL of 10906.	0.90-1.10
10906	CUT of N-S DITCH.	0.3-1.10
10907	ALLUVIUM Compact clay deposits with occasional chalk.	0.3+

**TRENCH 110 Dimensions: 18 x 1.6m**

Context	Description	Depth
11001	TOPSOIL Dark brown sandy silt.	0-0.18
11002	SUBSOIL Dark grey brown silty clay.	0.18-0.95
11003	NATURAL ALLUVIUM Mid yellow brown clay in W part of trench only.	0.75-0.96
11004	NATURAL ALLUVIUM Grey mottled clay in W part of trench only.	0.96-1.00
11005	CUT of pit.	0.11
11006	FILL of 11005.	0.11
11007	CUT of N-S ditch.	0.39

11008	SECONDARY FILL of 11007.	0.18
11009	SECONDARY FILL of 11007.	0.2
11010	PRIMARY FILL of 11007.	0.06

## APPENDIX 2: GEOARCHAEOLOGY

The proposed route of the bypass runs from the Upper Greensand bench, to the south of Westbury, along the Lower Chalk scarpfoot bench embracing the edge of a chalk outlier and dry valley, before descending to raised scarpfoot bench to the Upper Greensand and ultimately to the low-lying Kimmeridge Clay-dominated vale (Figures 1-2).

On the basis of the topography, geology, geoarchaeological deposits and several site visits by a geoarchaeologist, we can divide this route into a series of zones as follows:

Zone 0: Chalk escarpment

Zone 1: Scarp foot: the low scarpfoot bench

Zone 2: Scarp bench: the high scarp bench and scarpfoot dry valley

Zone 3: the Kimmeridge clay-dominated vale

These are mapped on Figure 2 and their character outlined below.

Zone	Character
0: Chalk Escarpment	Middle Chalk scarp slope and chalk ridge and Upper Chalk escarpment. Dominated by steep slope supporting thin humic and grey rendzinas with no archaeology excepting the Westbury White Horse. It is wholly under grass; rough grazing and light hawthorn scrub. Salisbury Plain comprises undulating chalk with rendzinas. It is almost wholly under grass and pasture and contains a plethora of archaeological sites. The route does not impact this zone
1: Scarpfoot : the low scarpfoot bench	Upper Greensand (with chert beds) and Lower Chalk scarpfoot bench to the south of Westbury comprises a wide low bench with gentle convex slopes supporting thin rendzina soils and highly localised footslope colluvial deposits over periglacial coombe deposits (periglaciated solifluction material). Most of this open land is under arable. The western fringes of Westbury encroach on the edge of this zone.
2: Scarp bench: the high scarp bench and scarpfoot dry valley	Predominately Lower Chalk and Middle chalk outlier, creating a high-level footslope bench with undulating form; a knoll and footslope dry valley parallel to the scarp slope. This zone supports this rendzina soils and is almost wholly under arable cultivation.
3: the Kimmeridge clay-dominated vale	The clay vale is dominated by Kimmeridge Clay; it is low-lying with little relief and supports a number of local streams and watercourses. The land is largely agricultural; arable, pasture , market gardening and paddocks. It supports brown earths and argillic soils.

The evaluation trenches visited geoarchaeological deposits, varying from shallow extensive deposits to deeply stratified deposits, which were examined to their age, origin and archaeological significance. The nature of those deposits in each zone is discussed below.

A number of trenches were specially visited and described. These included trenches in the southern portion of the Eastern Bypass route (Scarp foot zone 1; trenches 1-3, 5-6, 106 and 8-11) were in the mid and lower convex slope of the bench. The most southerly trenches (1-3) were over Upper Greensand, while trenches 5-11 (including 106) were over superficial deposits and localised colluvium. Trenches 25 and 26 were in the dry valley in the higher scarp bench (scarp bench zone 2a) and trench 107 to the north of Westbury samples edge deposits/lynchet over Greensand (scarp bench 2b).

### **Colluvium and soliflucted deposits**

Before describing the soil and sediment sequence, the terminology must be defined. Firstly, standard soil terminology is used throughout these notes to clearly define the origin and nature of the deposits. Secondly the use of 'colluvium' in common archaeological usage, since at least the 1970s, refers to deposits that 'have moved downslope under the force of gravity as a result of processes of subaerial weathering which do not involve the major components of wind and water transport' (Bell 1981a, 75).

### **Terminology**

Colluvium strictly applies to any sediment that has been deposited as a result of gravity and is derived from a slope of hill (*col* = hill; *ium* = derived from). In common archaeological terminology it is used for transported and eroded 'soil material' and is restricted to deposits of post glacial age. Colluviation is a natural process of soil erosion by agencies such as rainsplash, seasonal soil creep (Bell 1981a; 1981b) and rilling and gullyng in arable land (Allen 1988; 1991).

Human activity (e.g. clearance, tillage, intensive grazing) is responsible for largely increased rates of erosion (Dimbleby 1976) and thus colluvium (or hillwash/ploughwash) is strongly allied to human activity in the postglacial period (Evans 1972; Dimbleby 1976; Bell 1981a; 1981b; 1983; 1986; Allen 1988; 1991; 1992, etc.).

Although the term in its strictest sense applies to any terrestrial deposit resulting from subaerial weathering and movement downslope under gravity albeit usually lubricated by water – usually rain –, it is never, in archaeological usage applied to Pleistocene deposits commonly derived from chalk heavily weathered and transported under periglacial conditions. They are generally deposited by mass wasting and solifluction common in dry valleys and Coombes (hence periglacial solifluction material or Coombe Deposits) and are generally 80,000 to 10,000 years old. The latest date at which periglacial conditions existed in southern Britain is 10,000 BP (c. 8300bc).



## Definitions

'Colluvium' deposits derived from soil material and deposited largely under the agencies of gravity (i.e. downslope). As such they are Holocene and post-date the last glaciation (after 10,000 BP).

'Coombe Deposits' a cold stage sediment deposited under permafrost conditions as a soliflucted deposit (periglacial solifluction material)

As the sequences are essentially geoarchaeological, standard soil notation has been applied as a descriptor.

- Ap: ploughsoil
- A2: rendzina A horizon (occurs where it survives below the ploughsoils)
- Rw; weathered regolith (i.e. weather drift geology/Coombe Deposit)
- R: Regolith (drift geology/Coombe Deposit)
- Cw: weathered parent material (solid geology)
- C: parent material (solid geology)

### **Zone 0: The Chalk Escarpment**

This steep scarp slope provides the western boundary to the scarpfoot bench zones. this zone is not impacted by the proposed route.

### **Zone 1: Scarpfoot Zone 1; Low Scarpfoot Bench**

The southern end of the route exposed a range of deep and shallow colluvial deposits. In particular the presence of very deep 'colluvium' (Trench 10; **Appendix 1**) for which an age or geoarchaeological comment was required following previous records of deep colluvial deposits with artefacts. The colluvial stratigraphy on the scarp to the west of Westbury was examined specifically to characterise this sequence.

### **Local Geology and Topography**

Trenches 1-11 were located on the Lower Chalk and Upper Greensand bench at the foot of the Middle Chalk scarp of Salisbury Plain. This bench supports thin grey rendzinas (Upton 1 Association) on the steeper, but gentle, slopes over Middle and Lower Chalk and brown rendzinas (Andover 1 Association) over Lower Chalk on the gentler slopes, with humic rendzinas (Icknield Association) over the Upper Greensand.

The Lower Chalk and Upper Greensand bench is a gently convex slope below the scarp foot, with the potential of hillwash or colluvial deposits at the base of the scarp (outside the proposed route) and at foot of the convex slope within the bench.

### **Geoarchaeological deposits in selected evaluation trenches**

The trenches in the southern portion of the eastern bypass route were inspected (Trenches 1-3, 5-6, 106 and 8-11) were in the mid and lower convex slope of the

bench. The most southerly trenches (1-3) were over Upper Greensand, while trenches 5-11 (including 106) were over superficial deposits and localised colluvium.

### The sedimentary sequence (scarpfoot zone 1)

The main sequence can be seen to be shallow rendzinas, which are entirely ploughed (Ap) to the parent material (late glacial drift geology or Upper Greensand) in the upper and lower slopes. Where the rendzina soil this slightly thicker (base of the convex slope), some of the unploughed soil horizon survives (A2).

This overlies Coombe Deposits (Rw and R) throughout the slope, except in the lower slope where the ploughsoil overlies Greensand. Only in the base of the convex slope (i.e. mid slope) are shallow highly localised unsorted calcareous colluvium (B1 and B2) found (trench 8). This is at the break of slope and probably forms a shallow (0.4m thick), very narrow ribbon.

The sequence is defined by the location

Location	Sequence	Trenches
Steep Slope	Ap Rw/R (Coombe Deposit)	9 and 10
Mid Slope	Ap A2 Rw/R (Coombe Deposit)	5, 6, 106 and 11
Break in slope	Ap B1 colluvium B2 colluvium R (Coombe Deposit)	8
Lower slope (over greensand)	Ap Cw/C	1, 2 and 3

Colluvium – This is only recorded in trench 8 (**Appendix 3**). This is shallow calcareous unsorted colluvium typical of ploughwash deposits in footslope locations. The lower horizon is slightly darker (less calcareous) more clay rich and less stony than the upper, indicating soil thinning through time. Neither deposit looks to be of earlier prehistoric date. This sequence is reminiscent Romano-British and later colluvium.

Coombe Deposits – Textbook periglacial solifluction material is recorded ubiquitously across the upper and mid slope. Where this exposed in deeper sections (trenches 10 and 11; see **Appendix 3**), these comprise typical chalk muds and calcareous marl with small and medium chalk pieces in calcareous silty matrix. These can be allied to classic sequences examined Kerney in Kent (Kerney 1963; Kerney *et al.* 1964; 1980), Evans in Buckinghamshire (1966), Bell in Sussex (1983) and Allen across southern England (1994).

These deposits are clearly distinguishable from both colluvium and topsoils. They are ubiquitous across the chalklands of southern England in dry valleys and scarp edge locations (Kerney 1963).

The deposits are not solid and although rooting and other biotic action can be present in the upper horizons, these are easily detectable as areas of obviously darker material, which have a totally different sedimentary structure.

## **Zone 2: Scarp bench zone 2a**

The scarpfoot bench to the north of Westbury is very wide (about 1 – 1.5km) and is divided into two zones. The main scarpfoot zone comprising the Lower Chalk and Upper Greensand bench (zone 2a) and the edge of the scarpfoot zone (zone 2b; see below).

The scarp bench zone 2a is a broad bench with locally highly complex topography including former dry valleys a series of geological edges and possible geological faulting. A series of trenches were related highly varying sediments and the midden. The sequence associated with these are discussed separately.

### **The sedimentary sequences (scarp bench zone 2a)**

The dry valley in the scarp bench below the upper scarp is a typical asymmetrical downland dry valley albeit in an unusual location. This location however, offers it unique opportunities for prehistoric settlement, occupation and activity. It is sheltered and high level, with views across the clay vale to the south and access to the chalk downland to the north, i.e. classically ecotonal in its location.

Unfortunately the trench orientation (sediment sequence 1; trench 26), which takes no account of the topography, does not make it easy to evaluate the full depositional sequence appropriately. It is clear topographically on the ground that this is a typical downland dry valley landform and thus, is evident that the likelihood of stratified colluvial deposits occurring here is very high. A second trench (Trench 25) however sampled the valley floor (sediment sequence 2).

### **Sediment sequence Trench 26**

Trench 26 was located in a fold or bench high up and within the main scarp profile. This fold forms a typical downland dry valley albeit in a very unusually location (breach in scarp zone) and orientation (initially running parallel with the scarp). Below the upper scarp a bench exists within the Middle Chalk and a broad dry valley running parallel with the scarp is formed by a Middle Chalk riser to the south. The southern valley side has long gentle slope, before it falls as secondary scarp (Newtown) to the Lower Chalk scarpfoot bench upon which Westbury itself lies.

The trench slices very obliquely across the long shallow northern valley side and thus the valley profile could not be fully discerned. Nevertheless it clearly contains deeply stratified colluvial sequences in which buried soils(s)/stabilisation horizons are present.

The deposits are typical post glacial colluvium of Holocene date and can be paralleled by numerous sites in southern England e.g.: - (Kiln Coombe, East Sussex; Itford Bottom, East Sussex; Chalton, West Sussex (Bell 1981b; 1983) Asham, East Sussex (Ellis 1985; 1986); Bourne Valley, East Sussex (Allen 1983); Ashcombe Bottom, East

Sussex (Allen 1984; 1988; 1994); Malling Hill, East Sussex, Southern Grey Pit, East Sussex (Allen 1995), Newbarn Coombe, Isle of Wight (Allen 1994); Strawberry Hill, Wiltshire (Allen 1992; 1995), the majority of which have had land snail analysis and artefact distributions to provide an environmental and chronological history.

A deep (nearly 1m) calcareous colluvial sequence is present over fine-grained greyish stonefree layer; a possible buried soil. Beneath this soil further colluvium occurs and a possible second buried soil (with many fine charcoal pieces noticed in the auger) occurs at 2.3m depth and overlies Coombe Deposits. This highly calcareous colluvium is typical of post-Bronze Age and certainly post Iron Age sequences across southern England (Allen 1992). Its highly calcareous nature as evidenced by the typical light yellowish brown colluvial hues must have derived from thinned soils. Earlier soils tend to be brown earths and generate darker colluvium with a higher clay content. The dating of the sequence, however, can be obtained by artefact distributions.

Some variation in sediments was present in the trench floor, but these could not be adequately exposed in section due to the oblique orientation of the trench. These darker grey silty deposits were nearer the centre of the valley and may represent further valley-base colluvial deposits possibly sorted locally by rainwater runoff and localised puddling. Only trenching valley profile will determine this adequately.

### **Suggested Sediment History**

The upper colluvial sediment (35-90cm) is slightly stony and calcareous indicating erosion from a ploughed northern slope. The presence of stonefree colluvium (90-175cm) beneath this indicates erosion of thick less calcareous brown earths upslope. This is evidence of typically soil thinning as a result of cultivation on the valley sides.

The upper buried soil (*c.* 195-205cm) indicates a stabilisation and soil formation on the then valley bottom. The silty component may indicate that although no stream or even winterbourne flowed through this valley (as evidenced from the exposed oblique section), rainwater may have occasionally seasonally temporarily flooded the floor of this high level valley. Shallow slightly stony colluvial deposits beneath the upper soil may indicate erosion from upvalley, or even from thin soils on the scarp slope side.

The putative lower buried soil was only examined in the auger but will be better examined in an exposed section. It is a stonefree stabilisation horizon with many very fine charcoal fragments – perhaps akin to deposits at Strawberry Hill, Wilts (Allen 1992; 1994), which were dated to about 8950-8050 cal. BC and 5940-5450 cal. BC (Allen 1994; 1992). Importantly the lower horizon of this as recorded in the narrow gouge auger (2.5cm diameter), was reminiscent of an argillic Bt horizon of an argillic brown earth or brown forest soil. As such, these take millennia to form and would fit with a Mesolithic to Neolithic date for the stabilisation horizon.

### **Relationship of Mesolithic/Neolithic artefacts to the colluvial sequence**

Mesolithic/Neolithic flint artefacts were recorded from the ploughsoil on the northern slopes of the dry valley. Mesolithic flintwork is relatively rare from fieldwalking and test pitting data on the chalklands. Further, elsewhere in southern England, Mesolithic

flint scatters are commonly occur on and close to existing Tertiary cappings of with clay-with-flints or plateau gravel (e.g. Cranborne Chase; Gardiner 1988; 1994; 1991). Mesolithic and Neolithic finds (SMR ST95SE 052) are present in other locations, notably also they are present on the scarp slope at Strawberry Hill, Wilts, immediately above the dry valley sealing Mesolithic features (Allen 1992; Allen and Gardiner 2002).

The flints are therefore likely to reside in the ploughsoil on the valley sides and are unlikely to be *in situ* and are unlikely to be closely defined 'scatters' and probably relate to intermittent activity across this landscape. There is however, the potential of Mesolithic activity to be preserved, sealed and buried under the colluvial deposits here.

### Archaeological and palaeo-environmental potential

There is clearly the potential for archaeological evidence to be buried by, contained within and sealed beneath the deep and stratified deposits here. Further the presence of stabilisation horizon indicates greater likelihood of sites occurring here (cf. Allen 1988; 1991; 1992). The likelihood of sites of Mesolithic to pre-Romano-British age in this dry valley seems highly likely in view of the unusual and well-suited location of this valley (cf. Strawberry Hill Wiltshire, where a buried soil produced evidence of *in situ* Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity) and a Mesolithic ditch sealed beneath; Allen 1992; 1994). As such the potential for long stratified palaeo-environmental sequences is high. The unusual potential of pollen from the chalkland also exists in the lower stonefree and siltier/clayier stabilisation deposits below 2m.

### Sediment Sequence ; Trench 25

A machine dug trench was opened on the valley floor. It revealed an exceptionally deep well stratified calcareous colluvial sequence containing four buried soils. The upper buried soil was rich in charcoal (up to 25mm) and included a charred grain.

The sequence is summarised below (approximate depths only)

0-30cm	ploughsoil
30-120cm	calcareous colluvium with common small chalky pieces, moderate medium blocky structure
120-240cm	Calcareous silty clay colluvium with few chalk inclusions
240-275cm	brown silty clay – darker hillwash/eroded soil
275-305cm	dark brown silty clay buried soils with many charcoal pieces inc charred grain. <u>Buried soil possible occupation activity</u>
205-345cm	calcareous colluvium with common small chalky pieces, moderate medium columnar structure
345-385cm	dark grey brown silty clay loam – lower buried soil, some chalk pieces, contained pottery <u>old land surface</u>
385-388cm	colluvium
388-410cm	<u>double banded buried soils</u>
410cm	Coombe Deposits

The basal buried soils have not been examined except by field staff, but as reported seems of great value and rarity. The potential of rare snail and pollen preservation is possible.

## Significance of the Sequence

Significance is attributed to colluvium on the basis of;

- depth and stratified sequence
- stasis horizons
- buried archaeological features
- value of palaeo-environmental record to the local region
- the potential of relating the eroding and land-use history to know archaeology in the area

Colluvium of significant depth can be considered to be >1m, however, Beaker site with sherds of a minimum of 17 Beaker vessels lying on a buried soil with ard marks at Ashcombe Bottom, East Sussex, was buried under less than 0.60m of hillwash (Allen 1992; 1994; Macphail 1992). Depth of colluvium tends to increase significance as the stratification and resolution of the palaeo-environmental and archaeological data will be greater with increased sediment thickness.

Typical sequences are about 1.5m

### 0.5-1m

Folly Bottom, Wilts	0.7m	no buried soil
Coombe Bottom, Dorset	0.7m	no buried soils
(Hambleton Hill, Dorset)	0.8m	
Bishopstone lynchet, E. Sx	c. 0.8m	no buried soil
Heytesbury, Wilts	0.9m	no buried soil

### 1-1.5m

Fordington Bottom F, Dorset	1.0m	no buried soil
Grey Pit, E. Sx	1.1m	1 buried soil
Ashcombe Bottom, E. Sx	1.2m	Beaker site and ard marks
Midde Farm Dorset	1.2m	no buried soil but Beaker site under
Newbarn Combe 2, IoW	1.4m	1 stasis horizon
Hambleton Lynchet, Dorset	1.4m	no buried soils
Bourne Valley, E. Sx	1.5m	no buried soils
Whitesheet Hill, Wilts	1.5m	basal buried soil

### 1.5-2m

Itford Bottom, E. Sx	1.8m	no buried soils
Duxmore Combe	c 1.8m	no buried soil
Redcliff, IoW	1.9m	1 buried soil
Chalton, W. Sussex/Hants	1.9m	no buried soils

### 2-2.5m

Fordington Bottom M, Dorset	2.2m	1 buried soil
Westbury, 25, Wilts	2.4m	2 buried soils

### 2.5-3m

Newbarn Combe 1, IoW	2.6m	no buried soil
Kiln Combe, E. Sx	2.8m	Beaker site and ard marks

### 3-3.5m

Strawberry Hill, Wilts	3.1m	two buried soils
------------------------	------	------------------

### 3.5-4m

The presence of stasis or buried soil horizons significantly increases importance. Many colluvial sequences (e.g. Itford Bottom, E. Sussex, Chalton, West Sussex, Bell 1983; Hambledon Hill, Dorset, Bell and Allen 1985; etc.) contain no buried soils.

Buried soil at the base of colluvial sequences are rare (Allen 1992) and the presence of more than one Holocene buried soil is rare, the record of three buried Holocene soils is unprecedented. This is the deepest and one of the most significant Holocene colluvial sequences from the chalk in the country.

### **Mapping the colluvium**

The depth and sequence of colluvium will be indicated in the trenching. The edge of the colluvium was crudely mapped by probabilistic hand augering (**Figures 7 and 8**).

### **Zone 2: Scarp bench zone 2b**

The scarp bench zone 2b comprises the edge of the broad scarpfoot zone is defined by a clear edge deposits/lynchet on the Upper Greensand. This forms an ancient boundary below which the Bratton road runs. Trenches sampled this zone and within Trench 107 a clear buried soil was recognised within the Greensand-derived hillwash.

### **The sedimentary sequence (scarp bench zone 2b)**

A strip of colluvium about 40m wide occurs where the Upper Greensand geology dips towards the Gault Clays. This break is an ancient boundary, which as acted to accumulate edge colluvium and acted as a lynchet. A deeply stratified weakly calcareous sequence 2.25m deep of weathered soft Greensand was exposed containing a distinct buried old land surface at about 1.5-1.7m depth, in Trench 107.

Site	Depth of Sequence	Truncation of E. Holocene soil (latest date)	Buried soils	Dates of soils	Sequence date range	No. excavated artefacts	Density artefacts per m <sup>3</sup>	artefacts from exposed section only
<b>DORSET</b>								
Middle Farm (SY 672 902) (Allen 1997)	1.2m	L Neo/Beaker	0 but beaker site under	EBA	LNeo – post Rom	c 75	21	
Fordington Bottom M (SY 665 908) (Allen 1997)	2.2m	L Neo/EBA	1	prob. BA	LNeo – post Rom	?	?	
Fordington Bottom F (SY 665 908) (Allen 1997)	1.0m	BA	0		BA – post Rom	?	?	
Hambledon environs 1 Combe Bottom (ST 8565 1190) Bell & Allen 1985	0.7m	Pre Iron Age	0	-	BA – med	167	104	
2 Stepleton Lynchet (ST 8579 1165) Bell & Allen 1985	1.4m	Pre Iron Age	0	-	BA – med	1163	-	
<b>WILTSHIRE</b>								
Strawberry Hill (ST 996 528) Allen 1992; 1994	3.1m	L Neo/EBA	1	Early Iron Age	Meso-med	152	28	
Durrington Walls (SU 152 436) Wainwright 1971		Neolithic		???Iron Age	?	-	-	
Figheidean (SU 148 468) Allen & Wyles 1993		Neolithic/EBA		Relict L Neo/EBA	Neo-med	?	?	
Heytesbury (ST 939 418) Allen 1992	0.9m	Neolithic/EBA		-	BA-med	?	?	



Whitesheet Hill (ST 802 352) Allen 1992, in press	1.5m	LBA/EIA	1	Mid Iron Age	IA – post Rom	?	?	
Folly Bottom (SU 173 424) Allen 1992, in press	0.7m	Pre Romano-British		-	EBA on	-	-	
ISLE OF WIGHT								
Redcliff (SZ 625 8555) Allen 1994	1.9m	Neolithic/EBA	1	L Neo/EBA		-	-	0
Newbarn Combe 1 and	2.6m	Neolithic/EBA				124	43	
Newbarn Combe 2 and Allen 1992; 1994	1.4m	Neolithic/EBA		?1. EBA		204	196	
Newbarn Lynchet (SZ 4355 8618) Allen 1992; 1994	1m	LBA		2. 1A/Romano- British		-	-	
Duxmore (SZ 563 874) Allen unpubl. Iow	c. 1.8m	EBA		-		?	?	
Gore Cliff (SZ 493 763) Preece 1980		Romano-British		-				3
HAMPSHIRE								
Compton (SU 475 264) Allen 2000		BA		BA				
Bascombe (SU 721 166) Bell 1981b; 1983		pre Iron Age		-	Neo-post med	366	114	
Chalton (SU 729 160) Bell 1981b; 1983	1.9m	pre BA	0	-	BA- post med	3105	204	

SUSSEX								
Ashcombe Bottom TQ 380 106 Allen 1984; 91; 92; 94	1.2	Neolithic/EBA	1 + Beaker ard marks	Beaker	LNeo-post med	1911	138	
Bishopstone lynchet TQ 468 006 Bell 1977; Allen 1984	1.2	Neolithic/BA	0	-	BA-med	1985	64	
Bourne Valley lynchet TV600 994 Allen 1980	1.5	BA	0	-	BA-med	10,000	256	
Kiln Combe (TV 573 964) Bell 1983	2.8m	L Neo	1 + Beaker ard marks	Beaker	L Neo-med	3109	68	
Itford Bottom (TQ 441 049) Bell 1983	1.8m	Neo/BA	0	-	EBA- med	2103	69	
Malling Cliff, lynchet Allen 1994; 1995	1.4					-	-	26
Grey Pit Allen 1995	1.1	Neo	1	LNEBA	Neo-med	-	-	88

## Soil Descriptions from Key Sequences

### Scarpfoot zone

#### Trench 8

Depth (cm)	Description	Soil/deposit
0-20 (800)	Dark grey (10YR 4/1) humic silty loam with firm medium to large blocky crumb structure, rare CBM and straw, sharp boundary	Ap, ploughsoil
20-45 (801)	Olive brown (2.5YR 4/4) silty clay with medium-large prismatic/blocky peds, very rare medium flints, rare very small chalk pieces, gradual boundary	B1, colluvium
35-70 (802)	Greyish brown (10YR -2.5YR 5/2) firm almost stonefree silty clay with medium columnar structure, clear boundary	B2, colluvium
70+	Common small and medium rounded chalk pieces in a calcareous silt matrix	R, Coombe Deposit

#### Trench 10

Depth (cm)	Description	Soil/deposit
0-25 (1001)	(1000) Pale brown (10YR 6/3) silty clay with very rare medium flints, sharp boundary	Ap, ploughsoil
25-42 (1002)	Pale yellow (2.5Y 7/4) firm silt with medium to large blocky structure, rare medium subrounded and rounded chalk pieces, clear boundary	A2/Rw unploughed soil/ weathered parent material
-	small involutions of silty clay - these are base of involution/cryoturbation structures that have been removed by biotic activity (Rw) and truncation	Periglacial features
42-83 (1003)	Pale yellow (2.5y &/4) firm compact calcareous silty marl/mud with common small rounded chalk pieces	R, Coombe Deposit
83-155+ (1004)	Light yellowish brown (2.5Y 6/4) firm calcareous marl, stonefree	R, Coombe Deposit

#### Trench 11

Depth (cm)	Description	Soil/deposit
0-18	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) almost stonefree silty clay, rare very small chalk flecks and rare medium flints, with moderate large blocky structure, sharp boundary	Ap, ploughsoil
18-32	Pale brown (10YR 6/4) silty loam, some very small chalk flecking, medium prismatic structure, gradual- clear boundary	A2 unploughed soil
32-50	Light grey (2.5YR 7/2) compacted and firm calcareous silt mud with rare small and medium rounded chalk pieces	R, Coombe Deposit
50-80	Light grey (2.5YR 7/2) compacted and firm calcareous silt mud with common to abundant small and medium rounded chalk pieces in lenses	R, Coombe Deposit
80-130+	Light grey (5Y 7/2) massive calcareous silty clay marl, stonefree	R, Coombe Deposit

#### Trench 107

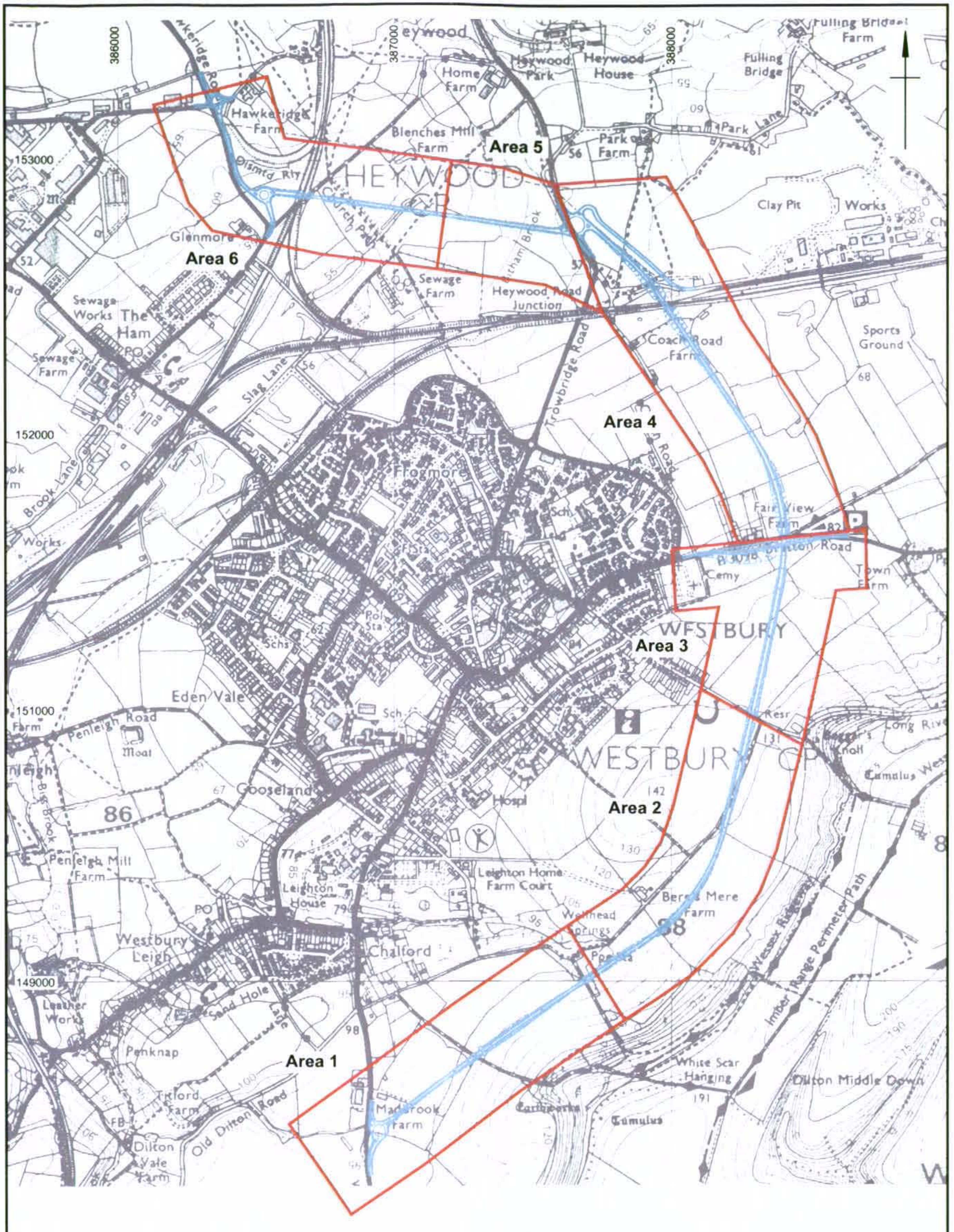
Depth (cm)	Description	Soil/deposit
0-29 10701	Very dark brown, firm fine sandy loam, rare small chalk pieces abrupt/sharp wavy boundary, with vertical indurations (root/worm penetration)	AP ploughsoil
29-68 (10702)	Olive firm sandy loam with some very small and small chalk pieces, occasional charcoal (4-5mm) pieces, rare very small cbm, structureless deposit with medium vertical macropores containing material above, sharp boundary	Hillwash
68-110	Light olive - pale yellow fine dry sandy silt, no inclusions,	Hillwash

(10703/4)	small fragments of bone, charcoal and cbm, clear smooth boundary	
110-151 (10705)	Dark yellowish brown fine sandy silt loam, no inclusions, very large weak blocky structure, gradual boundary (sample 54)	Eroded soil
151-166 (10705)	darker yellowish brown – sandy silt loam as above but slightly darker and clear medium-large blocky structure (sample 53),	Buried soil BA/B
166-170 (10706)	darker yellowish brown – sandy silt loam – as above but no or very weak structure	Buried soils BB
170-225 (10707-16)	Dark yellowish brown stonefree hillwash, rare small chalk inclusions, clear boundary	Hillwash
225+	Olive sandy silt	Weathered Greensand

### Scarp bench zone

#### Trench 26

Depth (cm)	Description	Soil/deposit
0-35 (2601)	Grey silty loam with weak medium blocky structure, few to many small and very small (flecks) chalk pieces/flecking, sharp boundary	Ap, ploughsoil
35-90 (2602/7)	Light yellowish brown calcareous silty clay loam with many to common small and rare medium subrounded chalk pieces with large block/prismatic structure, gradual boundary	Colluvial B, colluvium 1
90-175 (2606)	Light yellowish brown silty stonefree calcareous clay loam with medium to large columnar structure, clear boundary	Colluvial B, colluvium 1
175-c. 195 (2603)	Greyish brown stonefree silty clay with medium weak to moderate block structure, shells noticed inc. <i>Cepaea</i> sp.	BB; buried soil
augered c. 195-230	Greenish grey silty clay with fine small/very small chalk flecks, possibly water sorted colluvium	B2, colluvium 2
c 230-245	Dark greyish brown silty clay with many very fine comminuted chalk pieces – possibly stabilisation horizon	? buried land surface
c 245-250	very dark reddish brown clay, possibly translocated clay or an argillic brown earth (forest soil) in pockets	Bt ?argillic horizon of second buried soil
250-295+ (2605)	Calcareous silty marl	R, Coombe Deposit



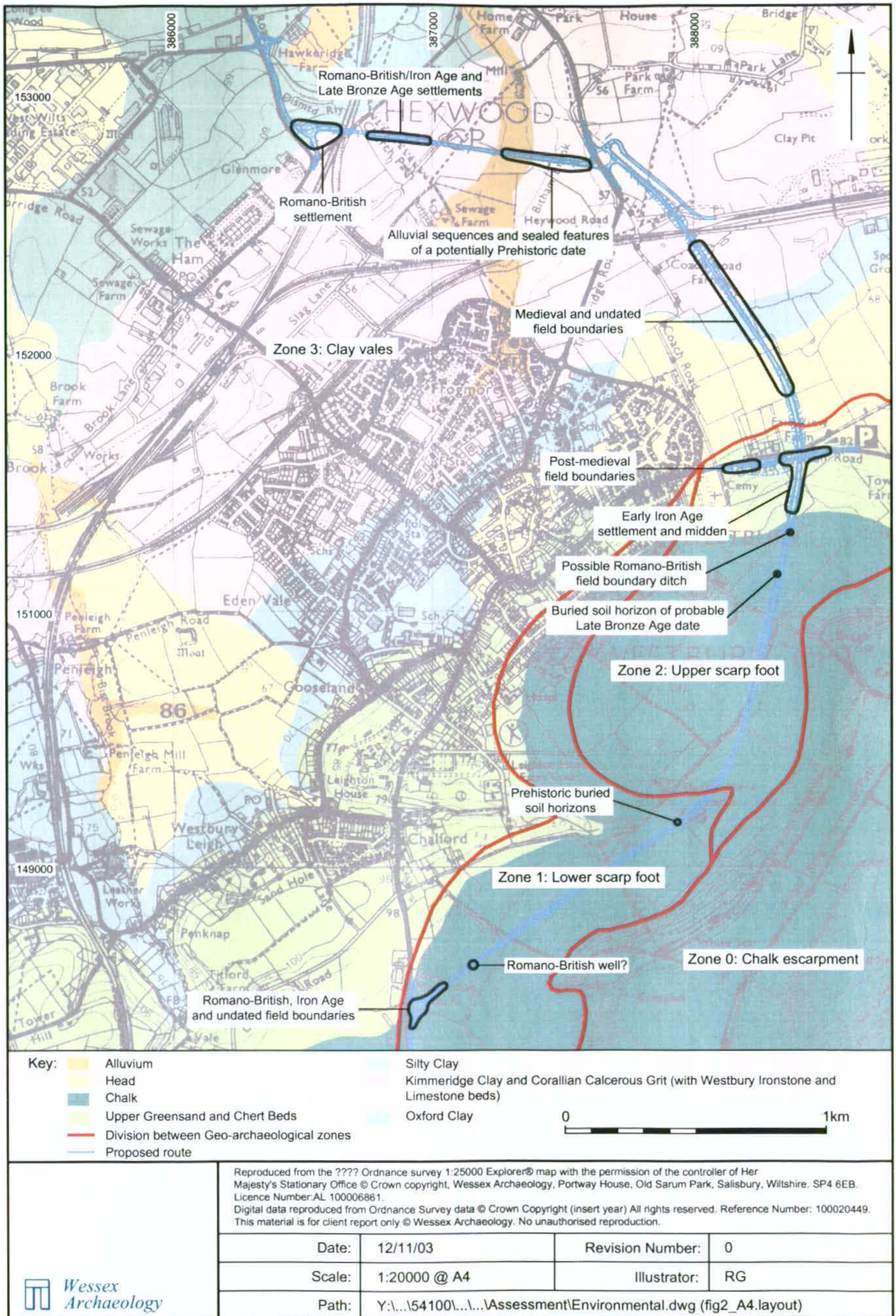
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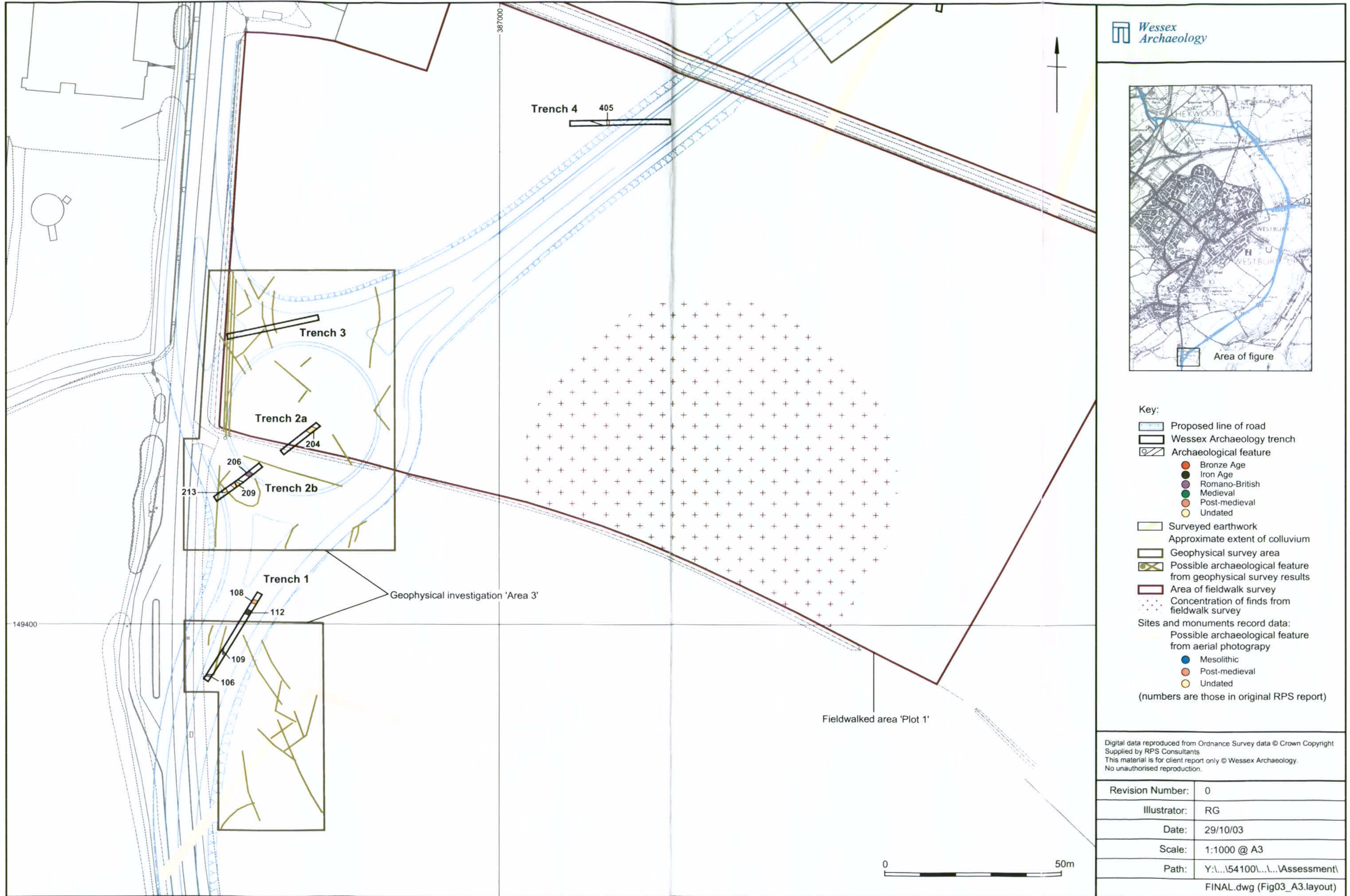
Location of proposed route, and evaluation areas 1-6

Figure 1



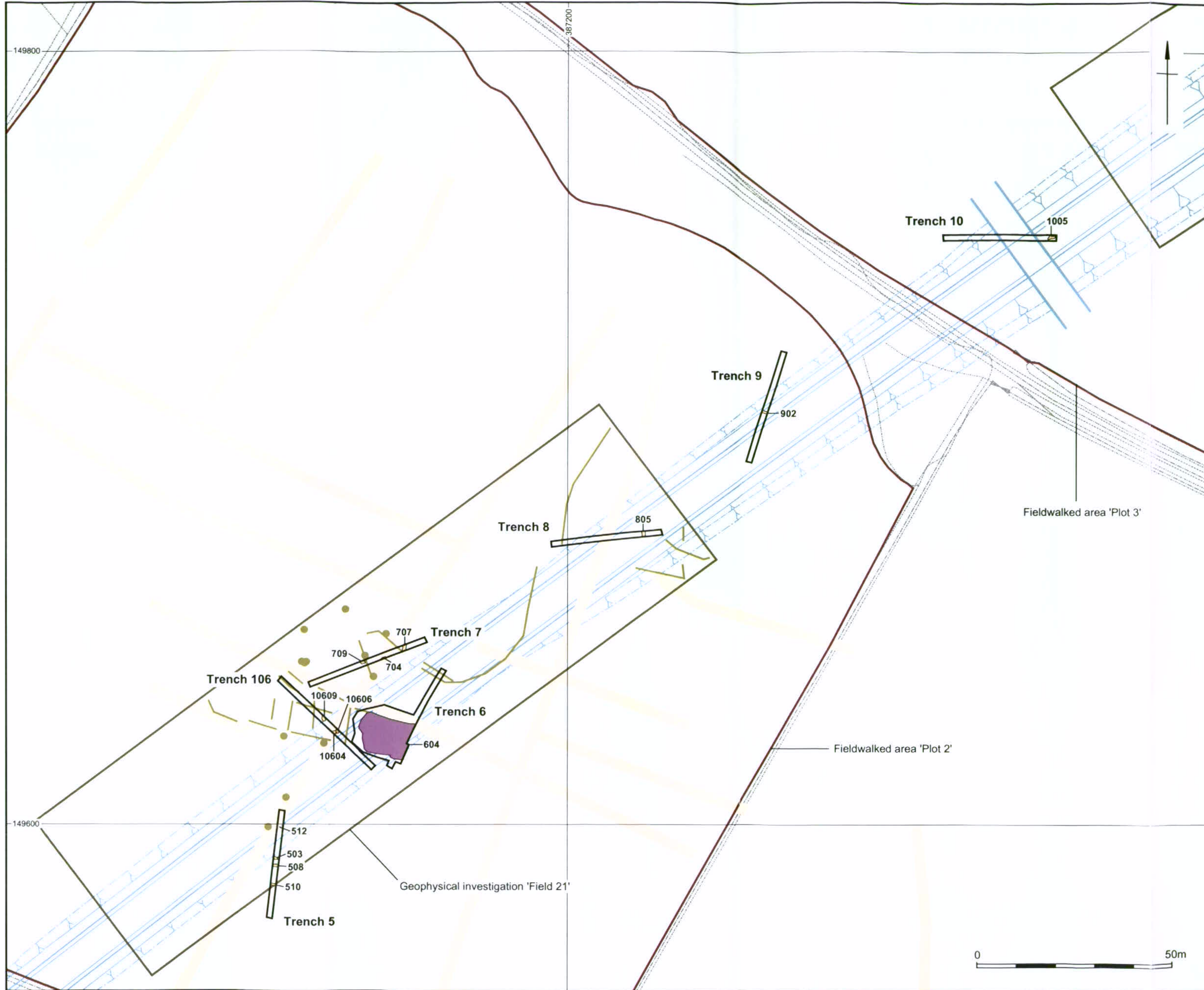
Proposed route with underlying geology, Geo-archaeological zones and key areas of archaeological interest

Figure 2



Trench location plan, trenches 1-4

Figure 3



- Key:
- Proposed line of road
  - Wessex Archaeology trench
  - Archaeological feature
    - Bronze Age
    - Iron Age
    - Romano-British
    - Medieval
    - Post-medieval
    - Undated
  - Surveyed earthwork
  - Approximate extent of colluvium
  - Geophysical survey area
  - Possible archaeological feature from geophysical survey results
  - Area of fieldwalk survey
  - Concentration of finds from fieldwalk survey
- Sites and monuments record data:
- Possible archaeological feature from aerial photography
  - Mesolithic
  - Post-medieval
  - Undated
- (numbers are those in original RPS report)

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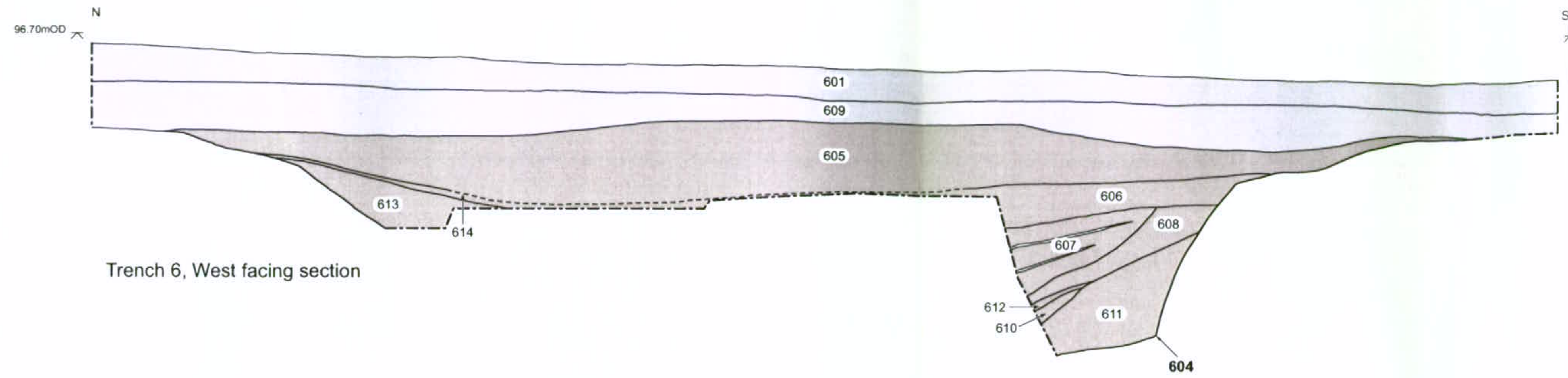
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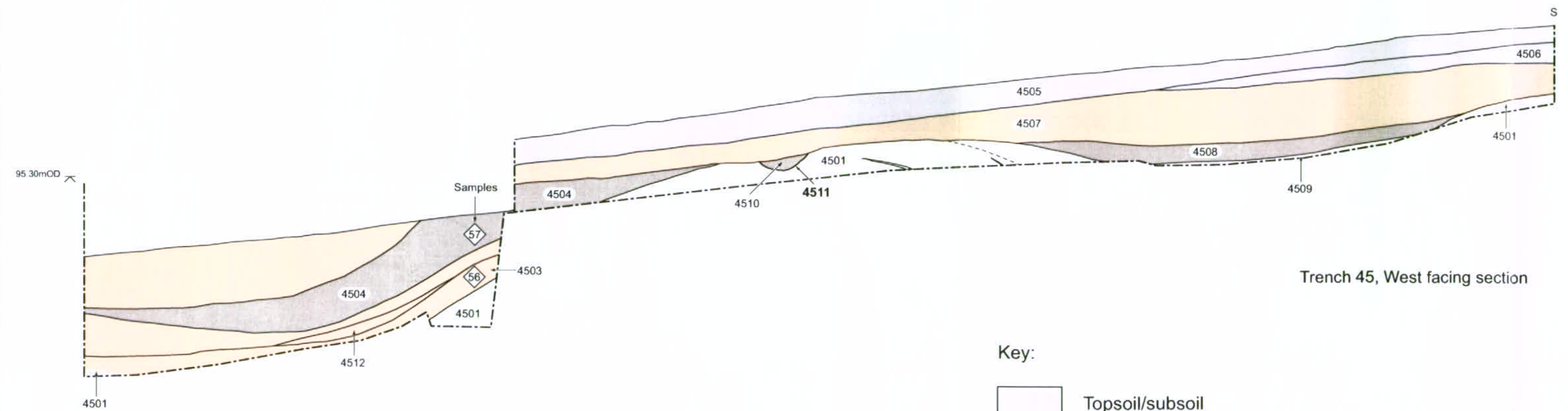
Trench location plan, trenches 5-10 and 106

Figure 4





Trench 6, West facing section



Trench 45, West facing section

Key:

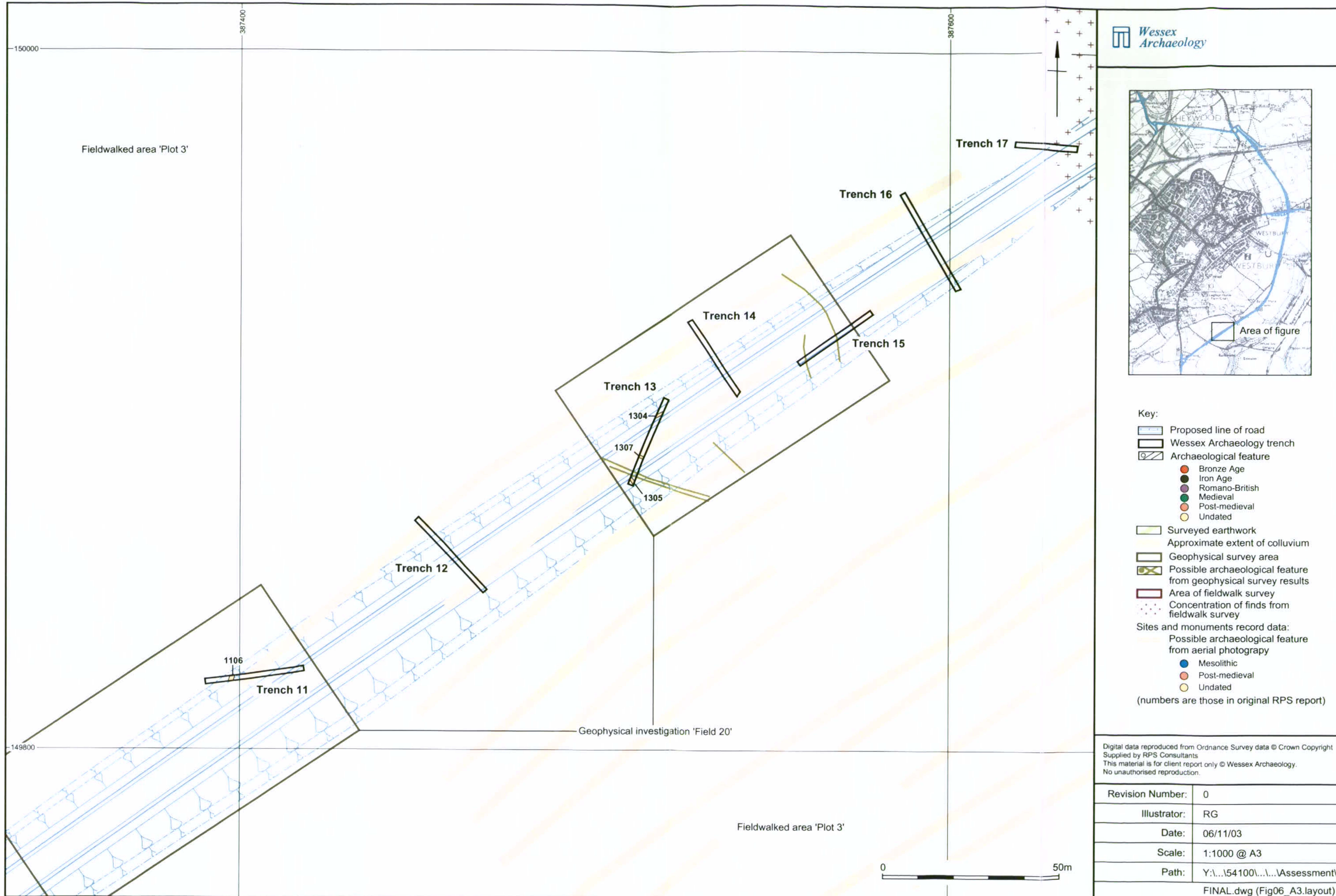
- Topsoil/subsoil
- Layer of Archaeological significance
- Colluvial layer



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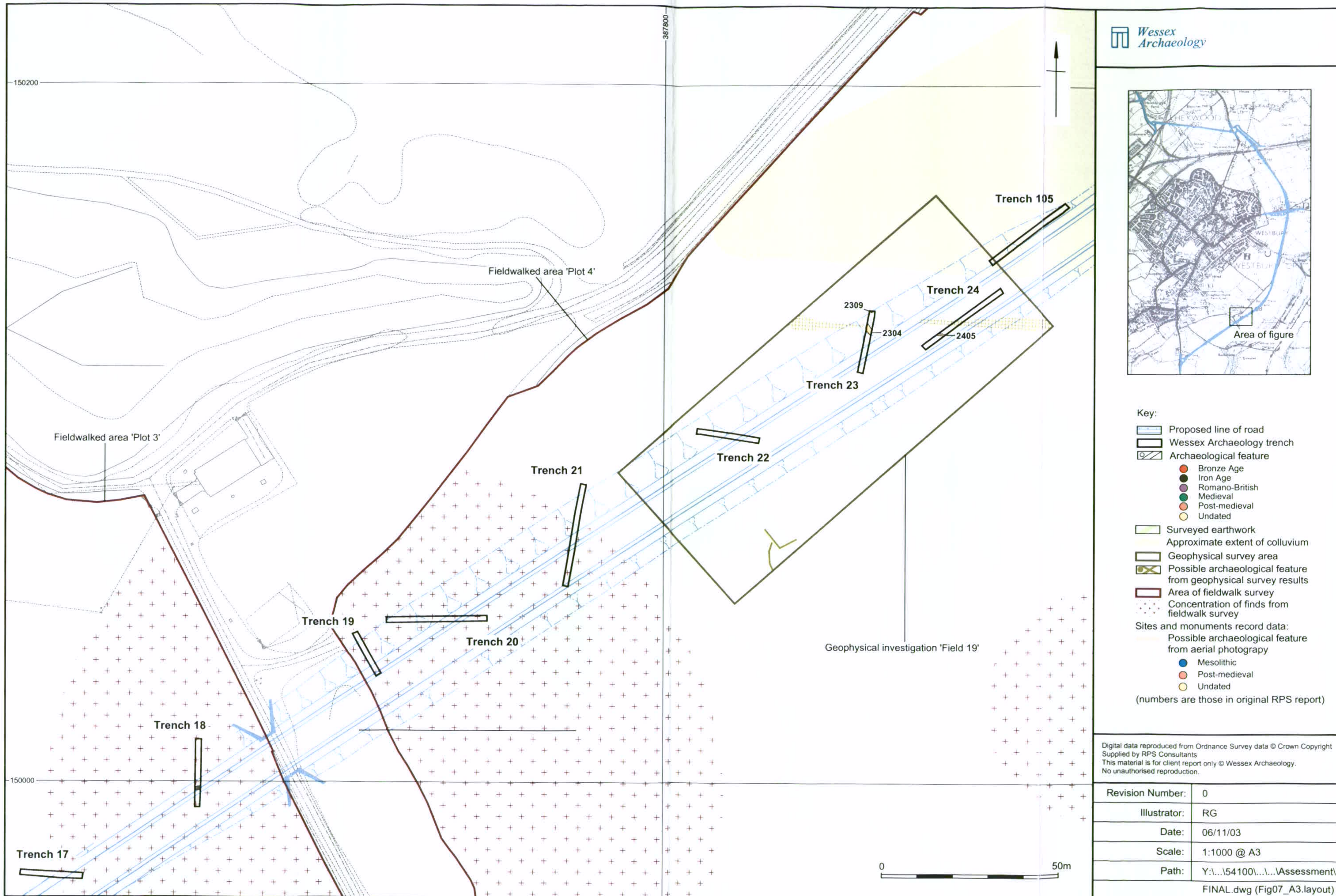
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Trench 6 west facing section; trench 45 west facing section of the midden derived material



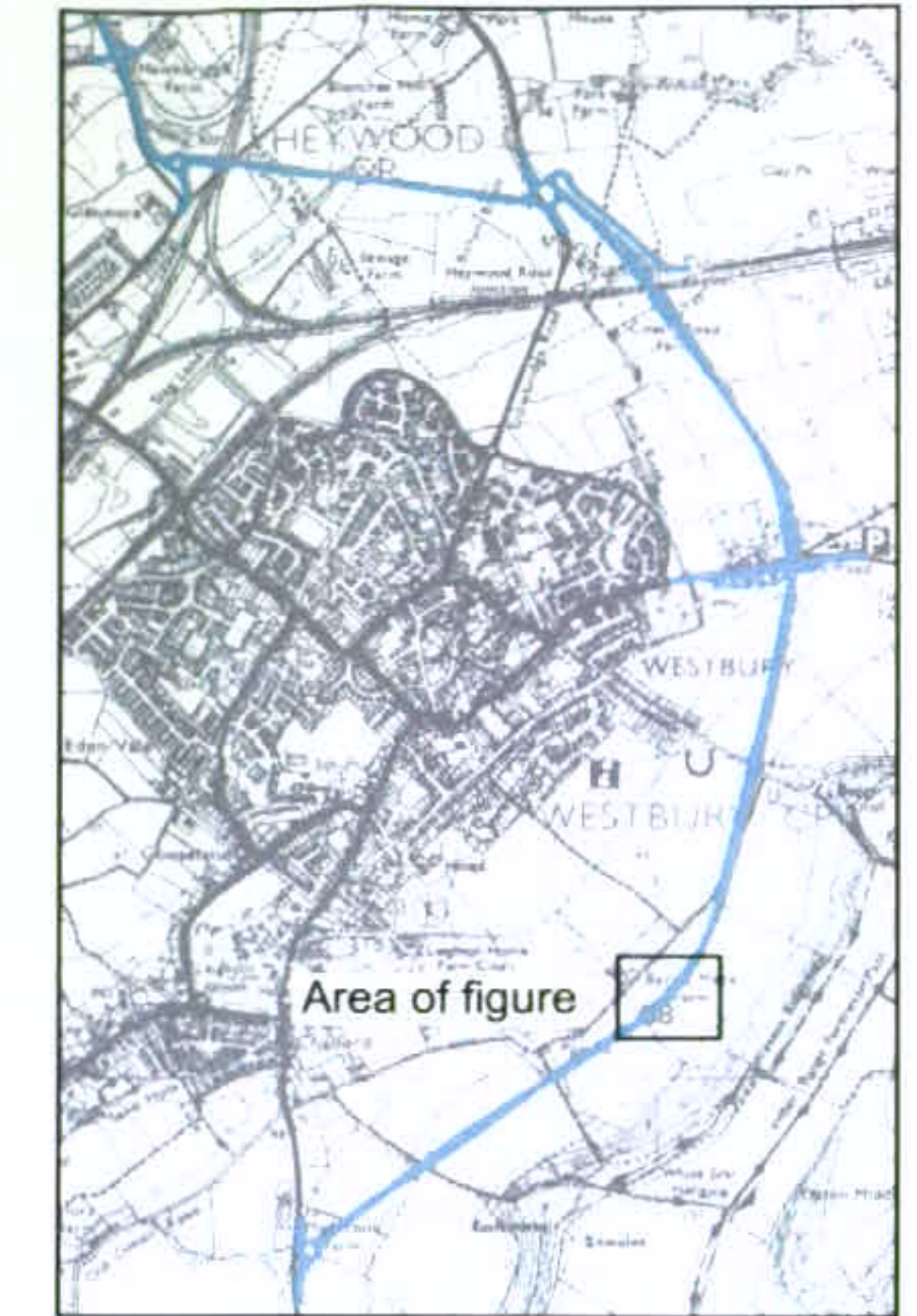
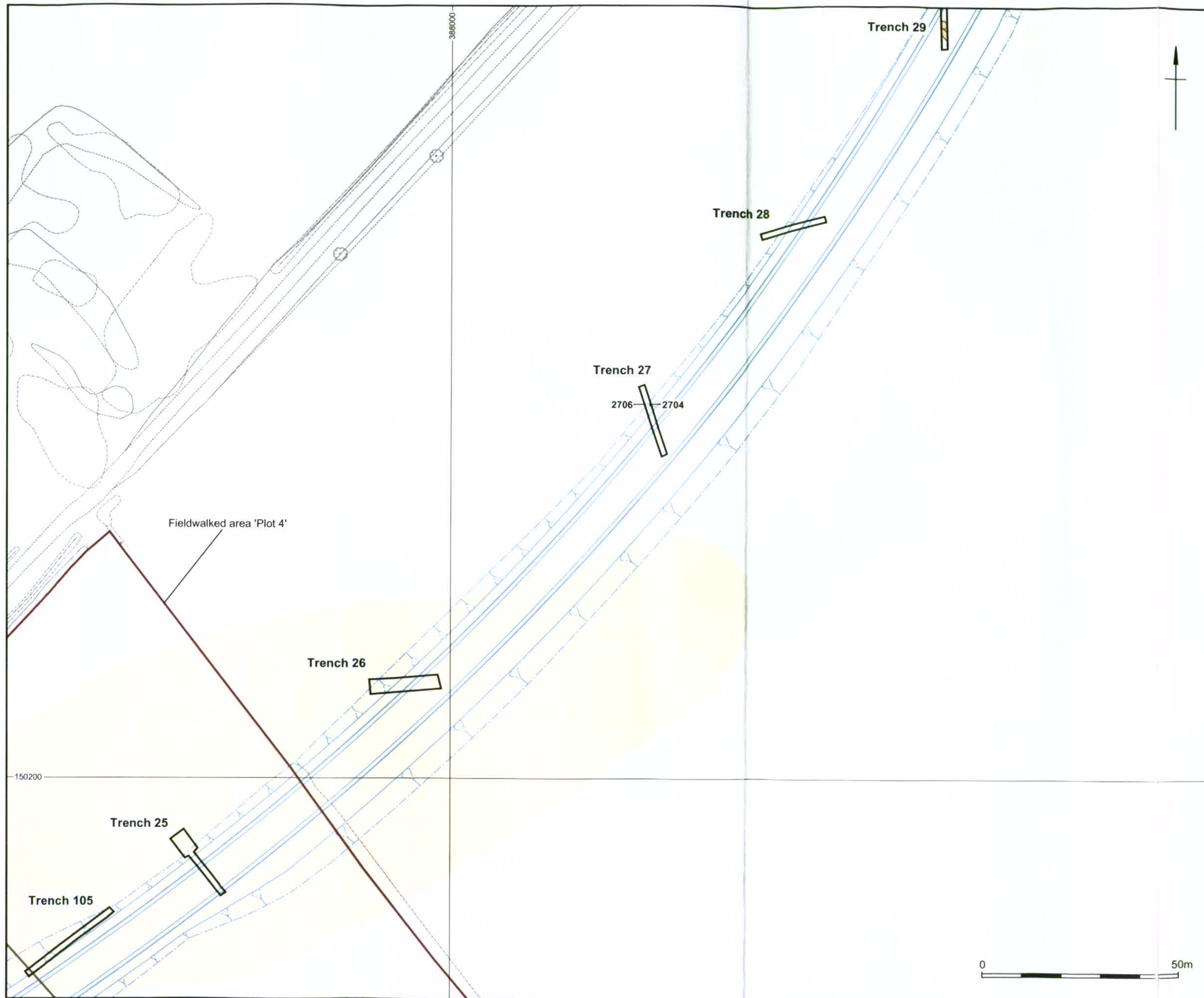
Trench location plan: trenches 11-17

Figure 6



Trench location plan, trenches 17-24 and 105

Figure 7



- Key:
- Proposed line of road
  - Wessex Archaeology trench
  - Archaeological feature
    - Bronze Age
    - Iron Age
    - Romano-British
    - Medieval
    - Post-medieval
    - Undated
  - Surveyed earthwork
  - Approximate extent of colluvium
  - Geophysical survey area
  - Possible archaeological feature from geophysical survey results
  - Area of fieldwalk survey
  - Concentration of finds from fieldwalk survey
  - Sites and monuments record data:
    - Possible archaeological feature from aerial photography
    - Mesolithic
    - Post-medieval
    - Undated
- (numbers are those in original RPS report)

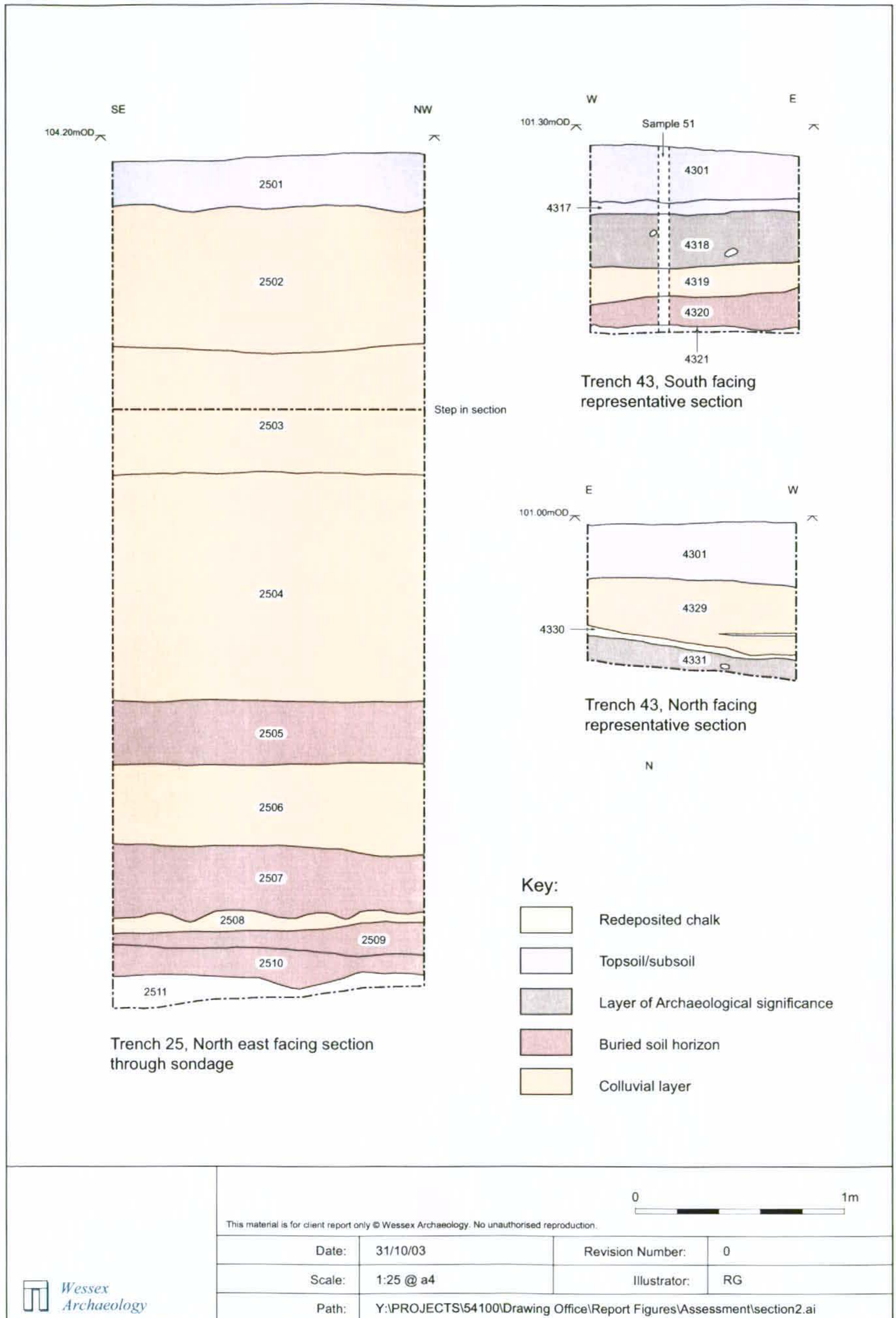
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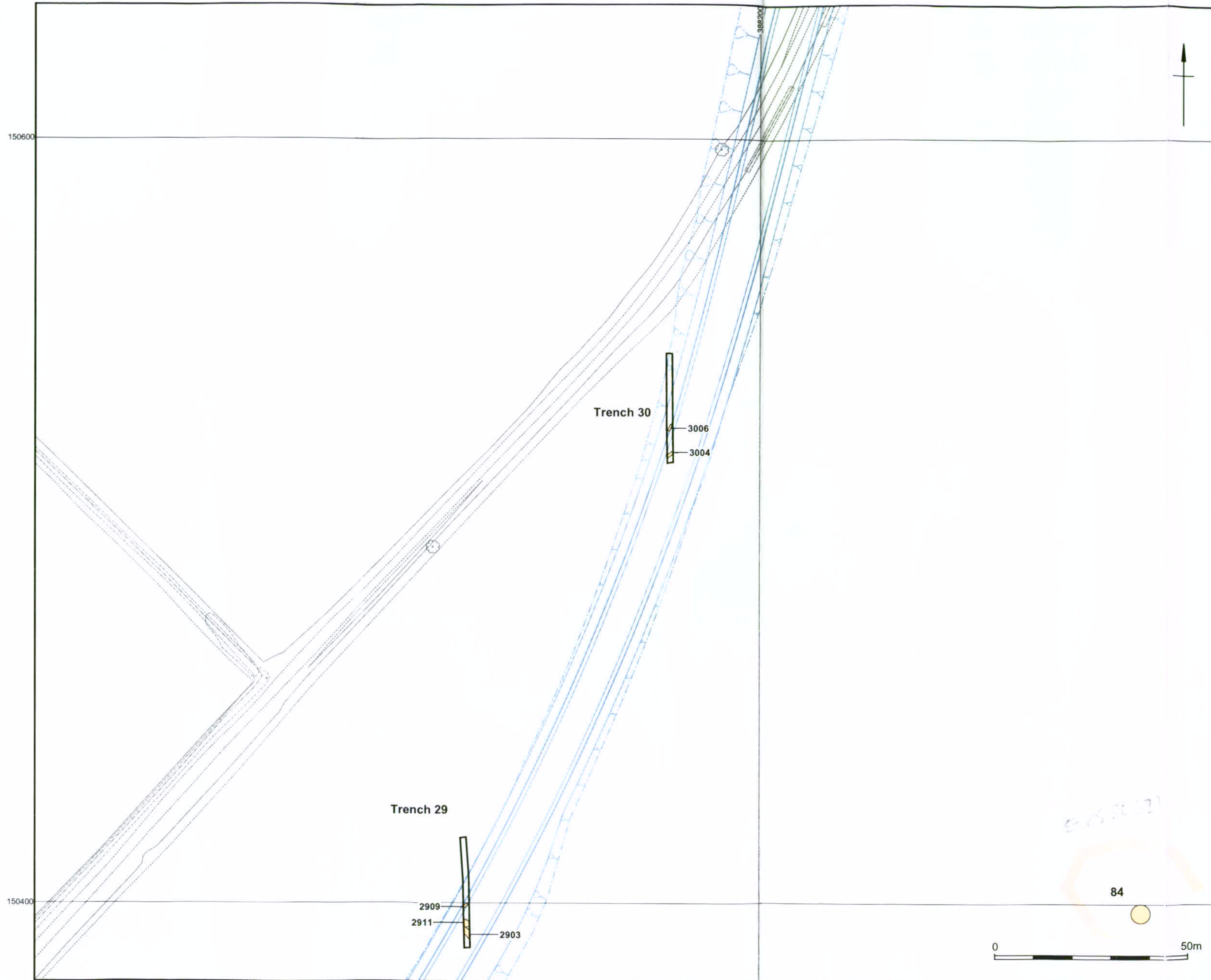
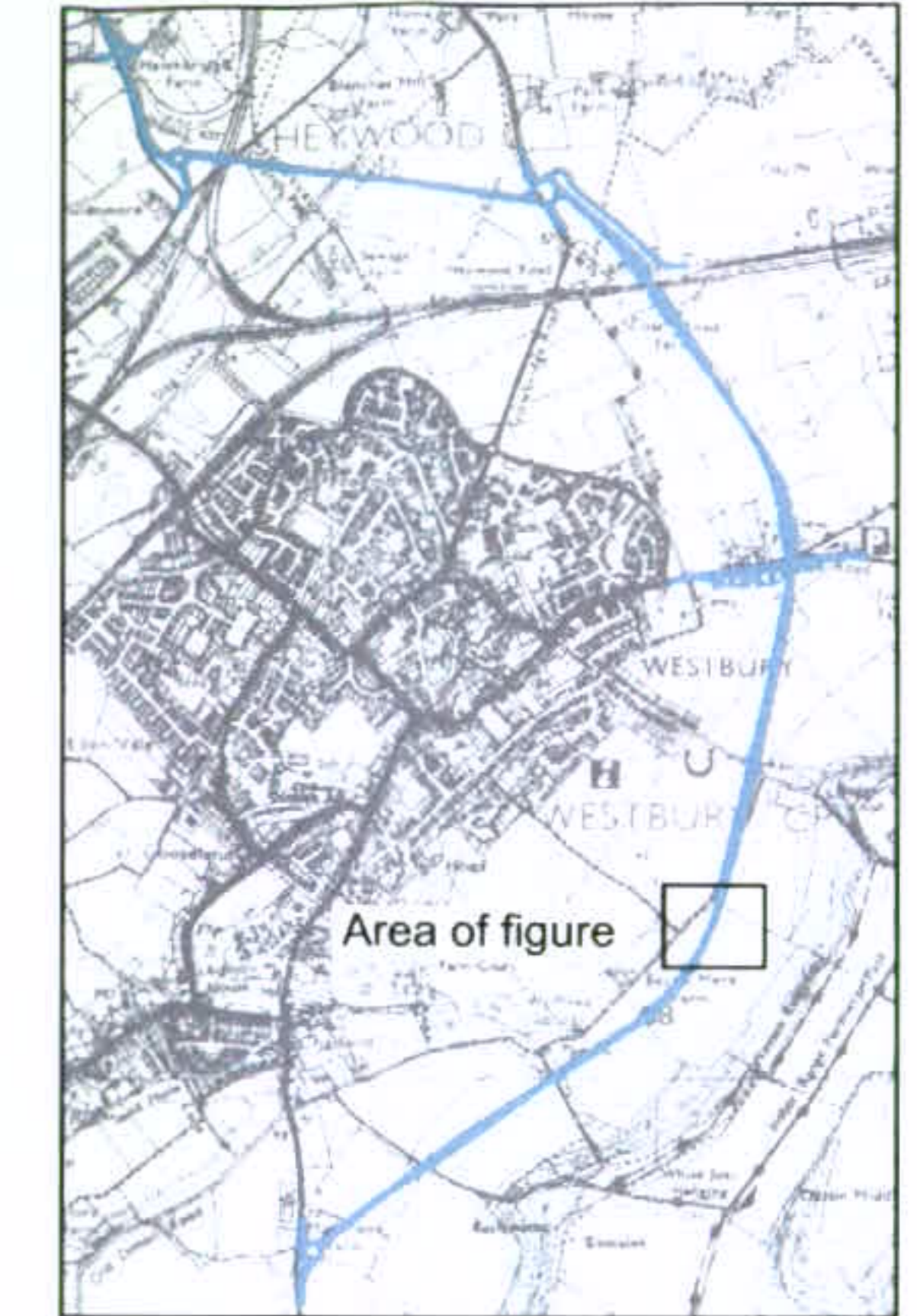
Trench location plan, trenches 25-29 and 105

Figure 8



Sections in sondage in trench 25, and in test pit through midden in trench 43

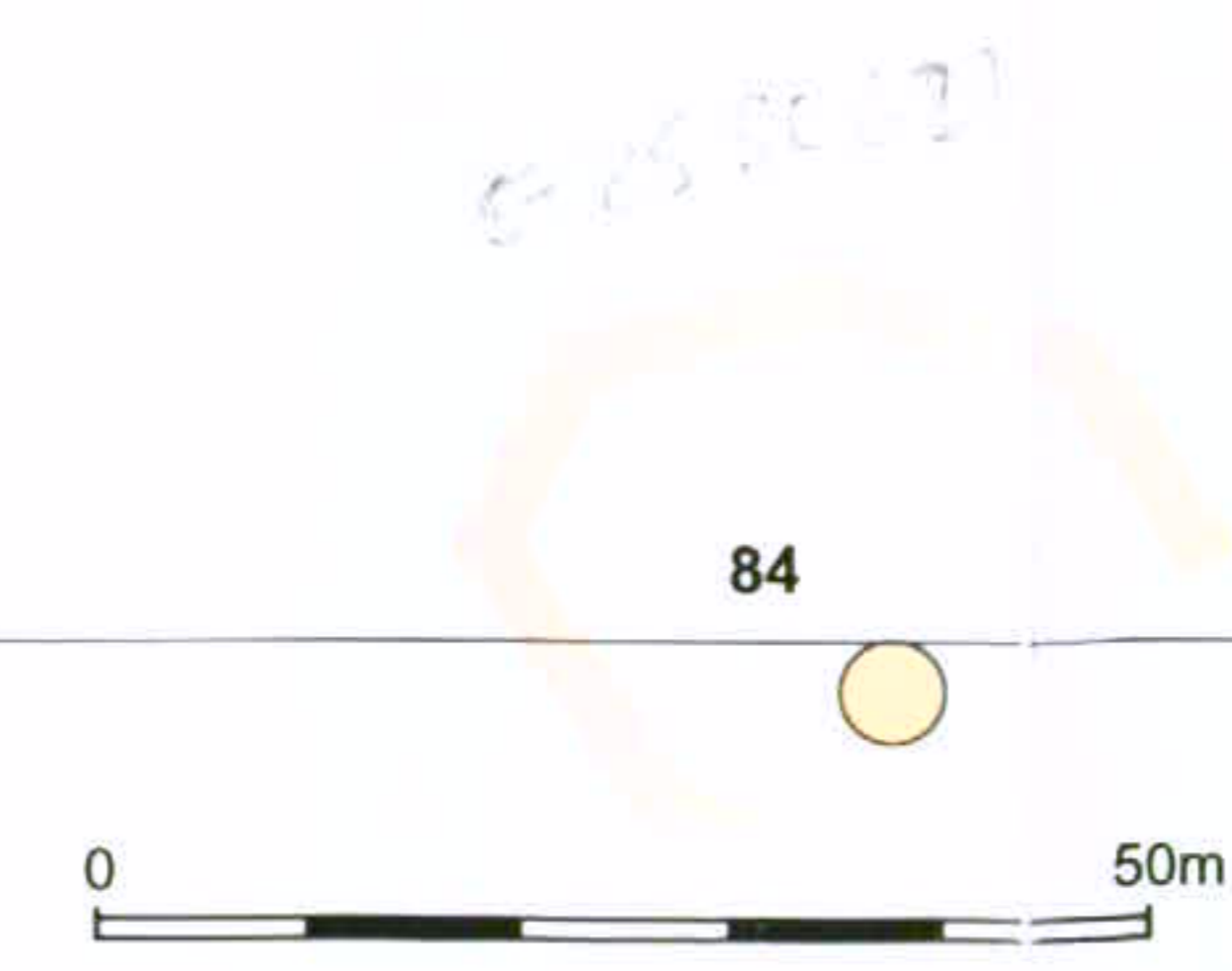
Figure 9



- Key:
- Proposed line of road
  - Wessex Archaeology trench
  - Archaeological feature
    - Bronze Age
    - Iron Age
    - Romano-British
    - Medieval
    - Post-medieval
    - Undated
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  - Concentration of finds from fieldwalk survey
  - Sites and monuments record data:
    - Possible archaeological feature from aerial photography
    - Mesolithic
    - Post-medieval
    - Undated
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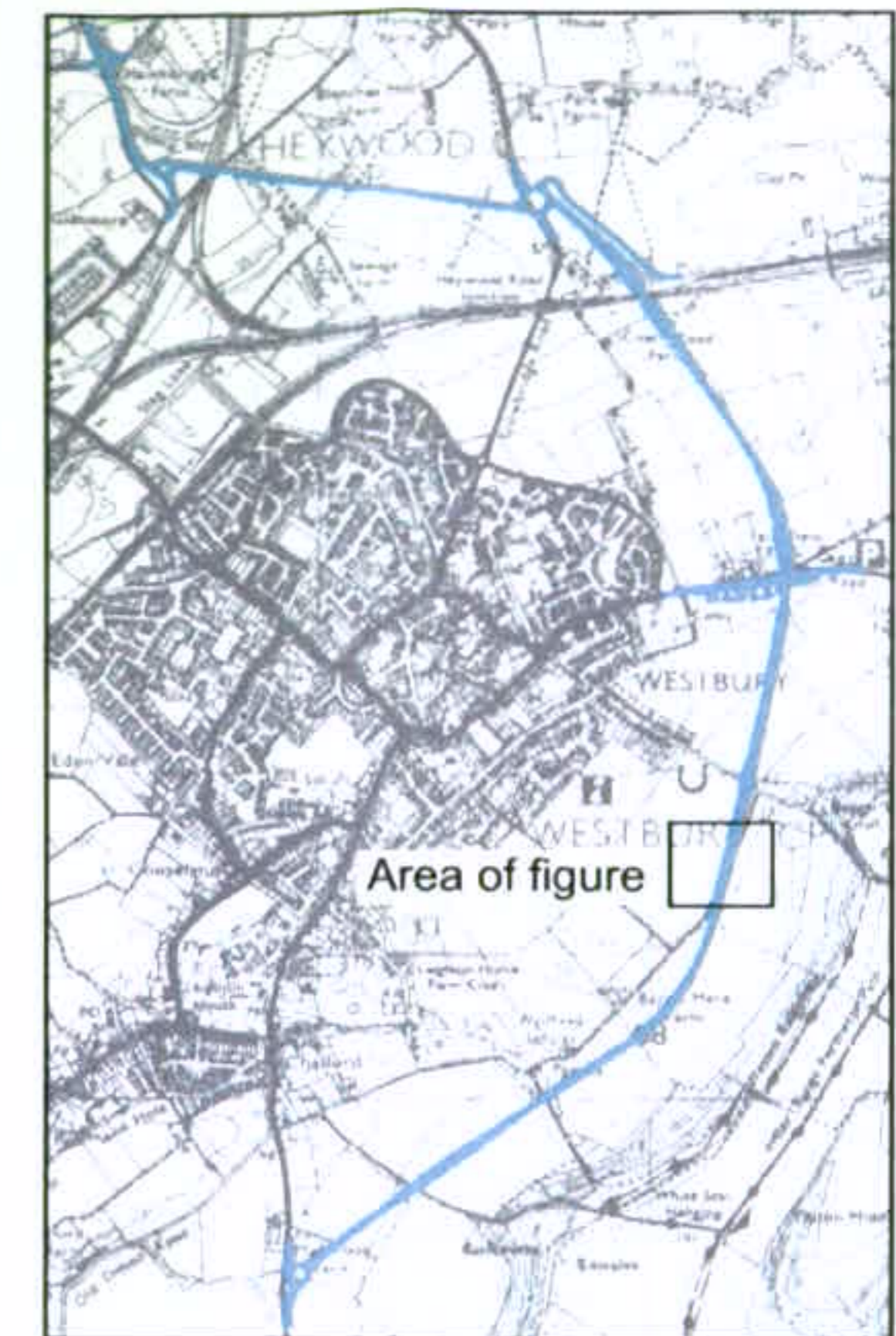
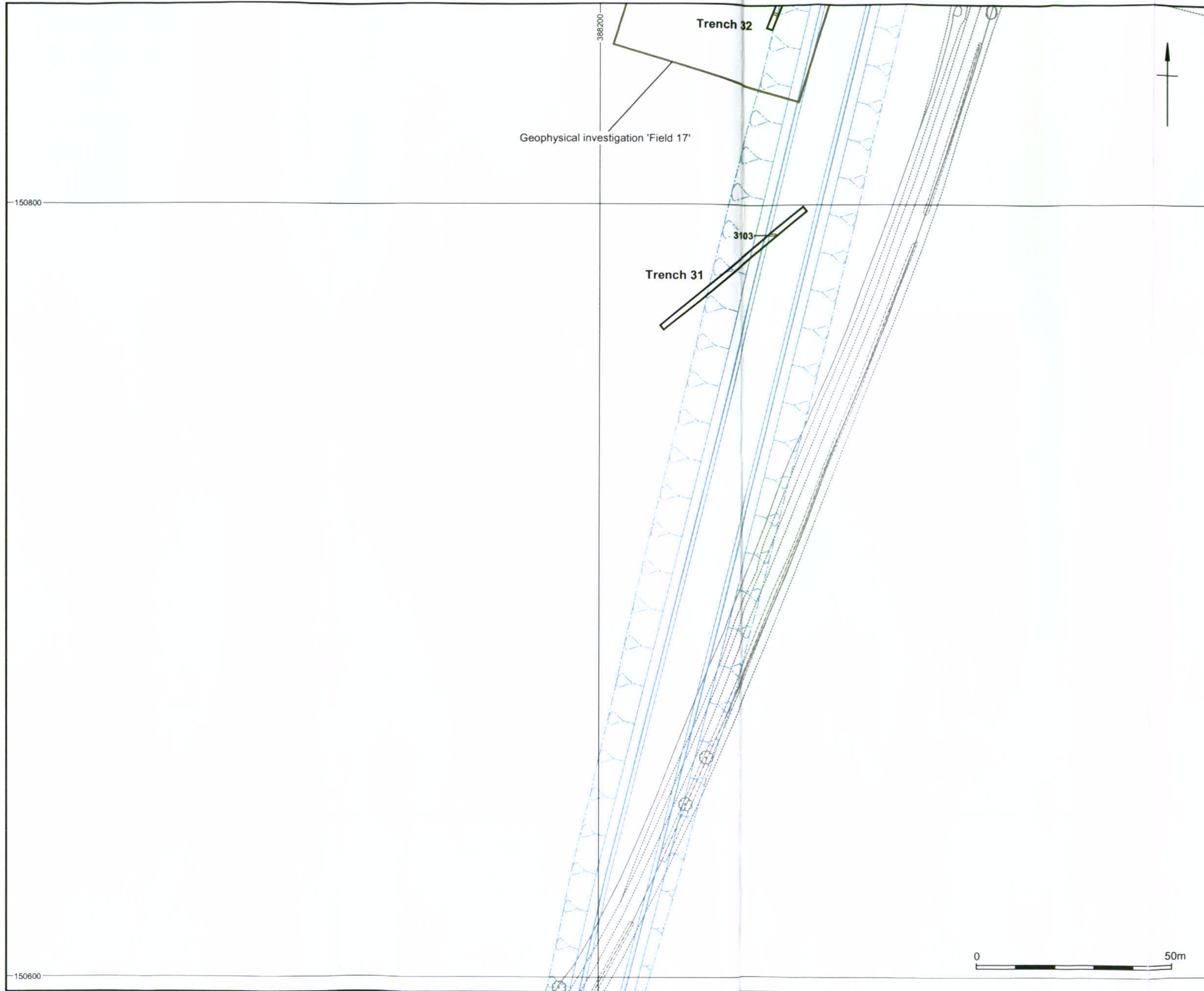
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Trench location plan, trenches 29-30

Figure 10



- Key:
- Proposed line of road
  - Wessex Archaeology trench
  - Archaeological feature
    - Bronze Age
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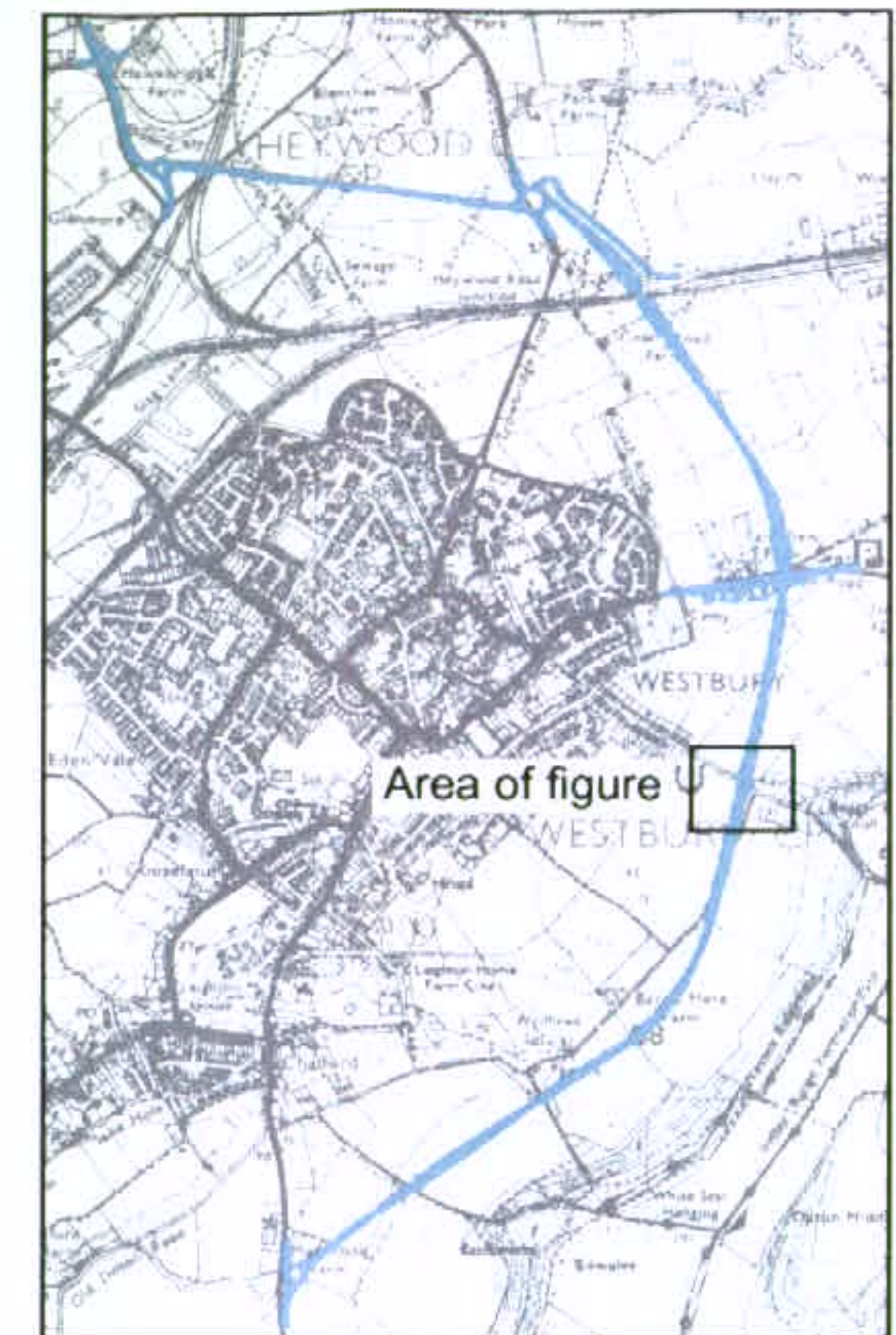
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Trench location plan, trench 32

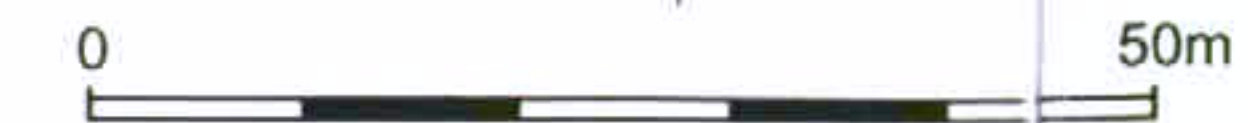
Figure 11



- Key:
- Proposed line of road
  - Wessex Archaeology trench
  - Archaeological feature
    - Bronze Age
    - Iron Age
    - Romano-British
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    - Post-medieval
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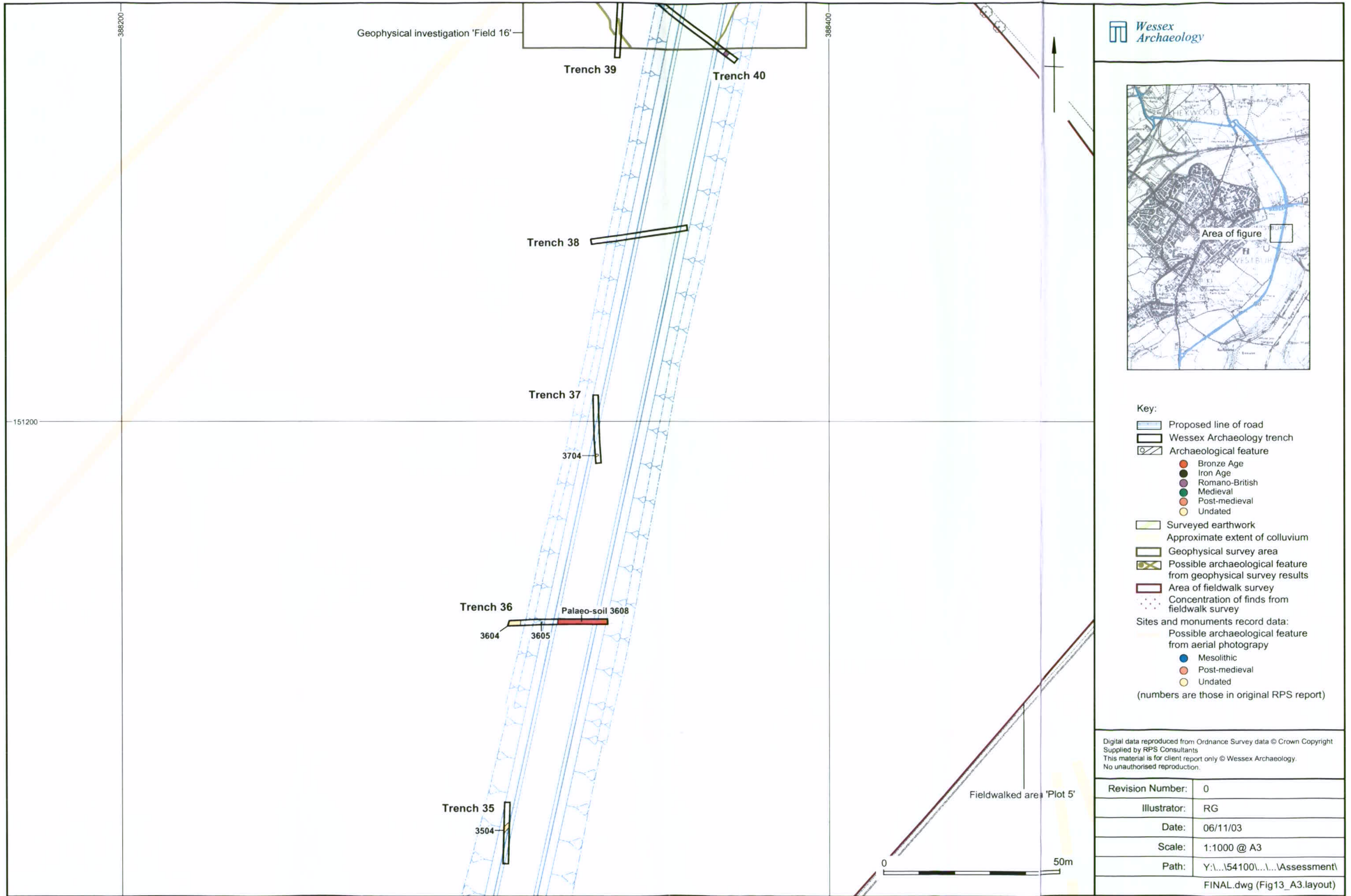
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Trench location plan, trenches 32-35

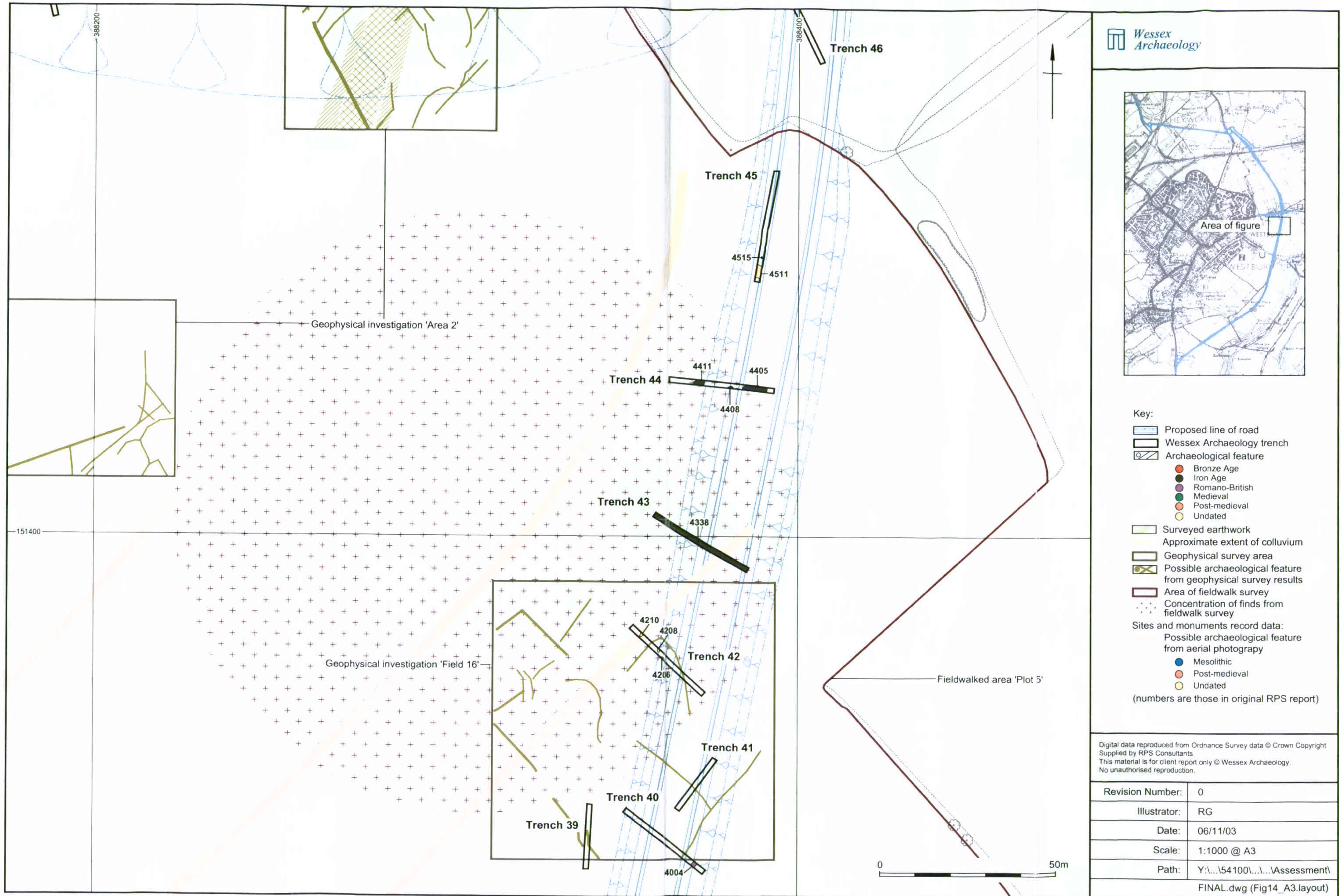
Figure 12





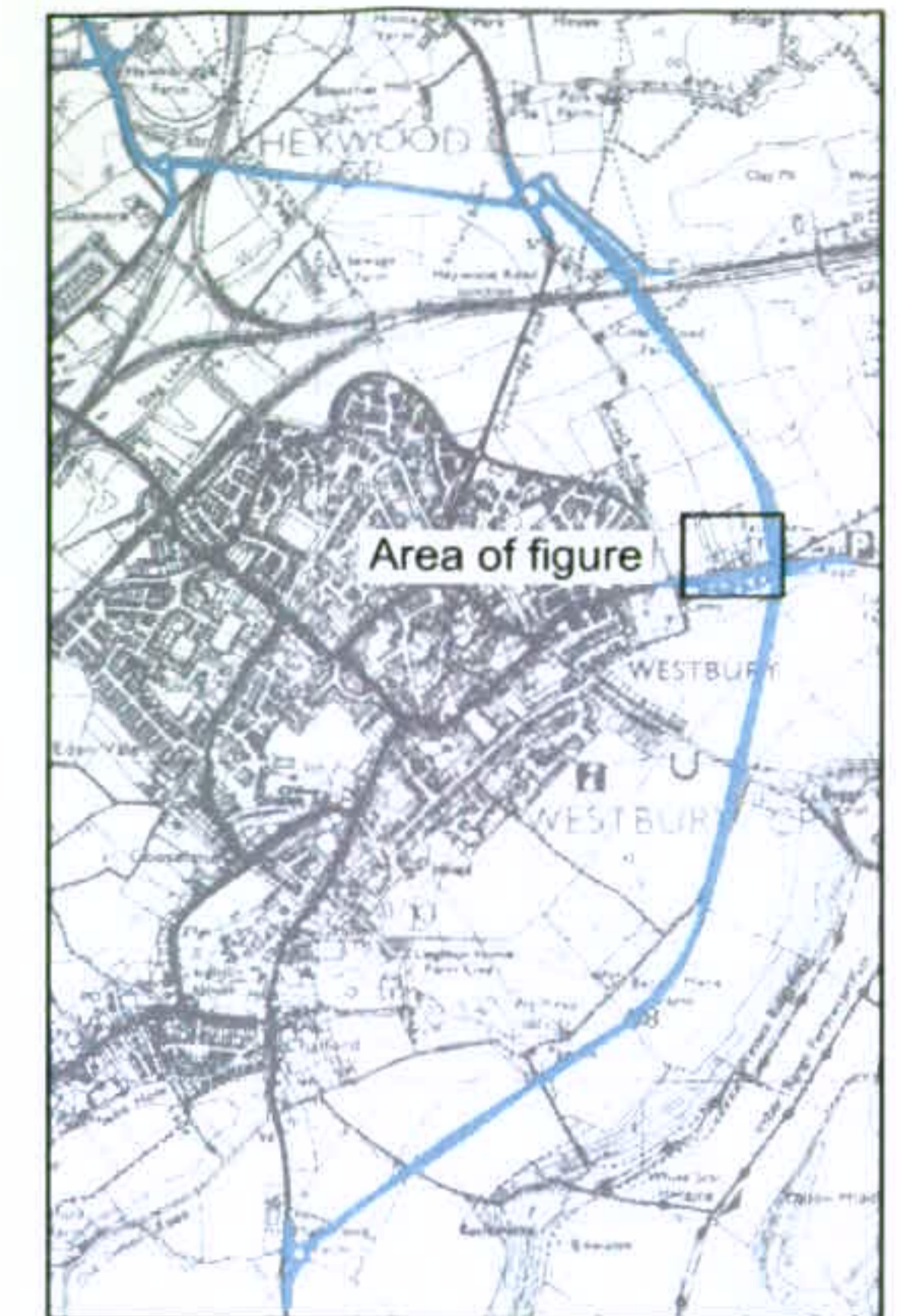
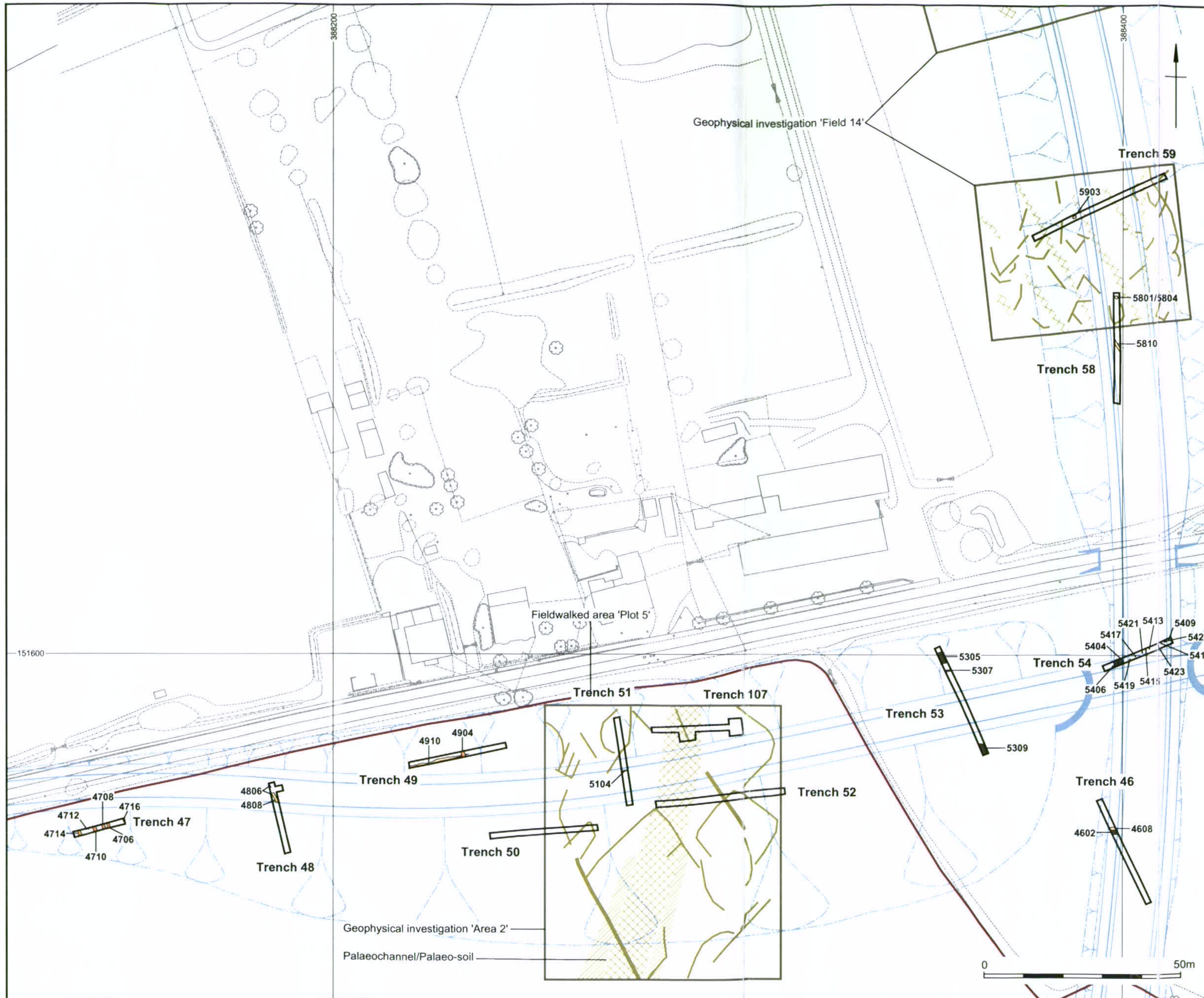
Trench location plan, trenches 35-40

Figure 13



Trench location plan, trenches 39-46

Figure 14



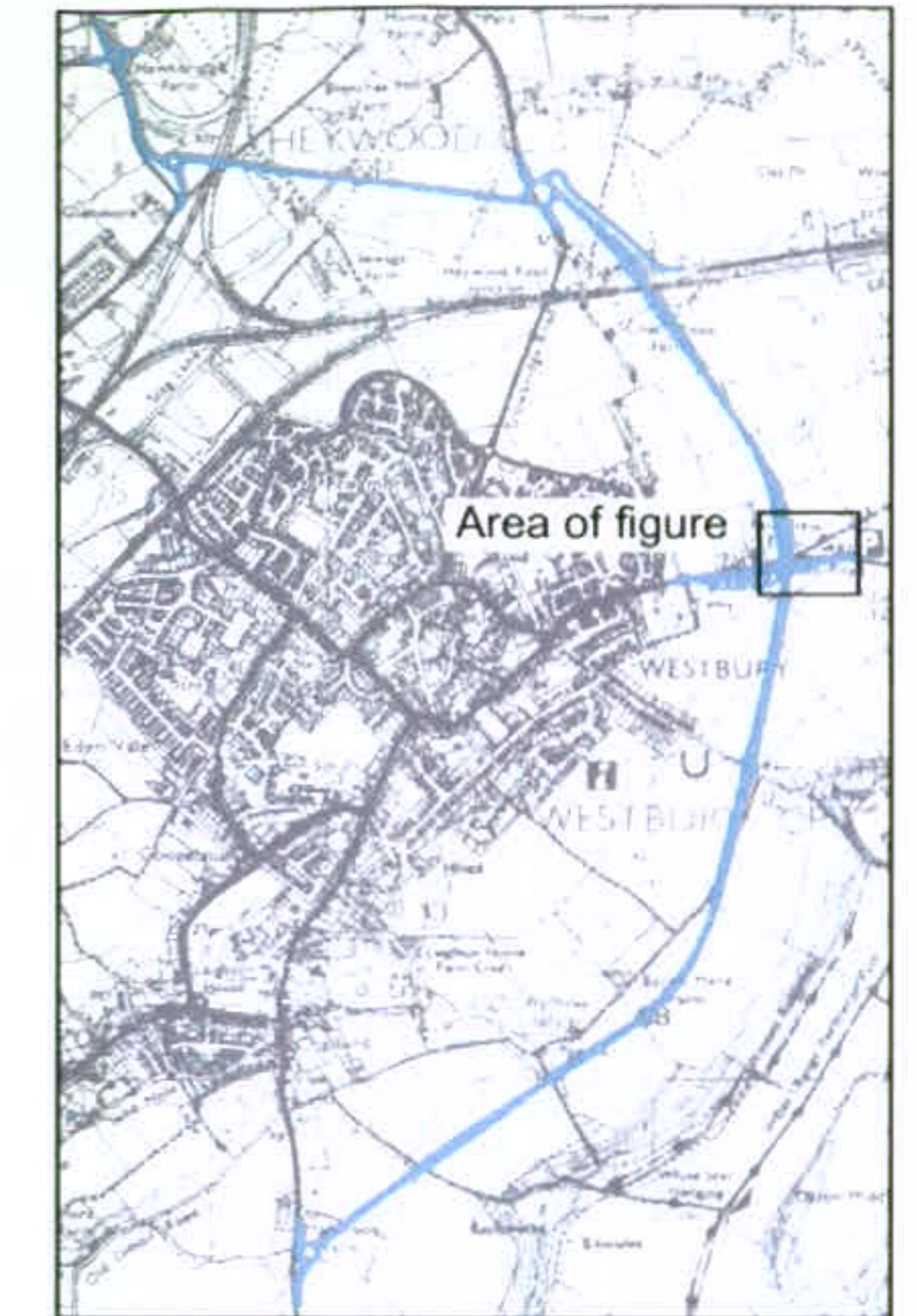
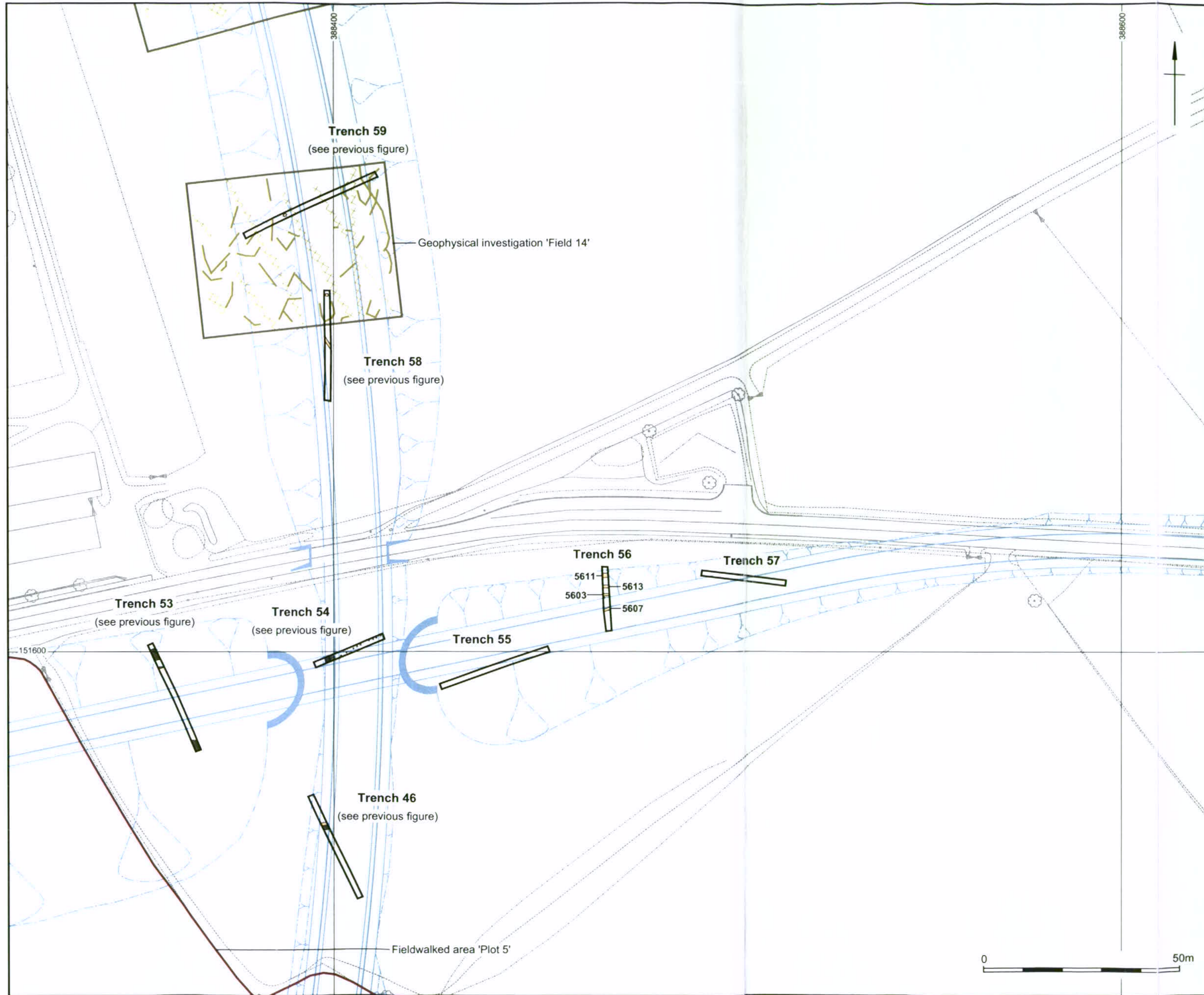
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Trench location plan, trenches 46-54, 58-59 and 107

Figure 15



- Key:
- Proposed line of road
  - Wessex Archaeology trench
  - Archaeological feature
    - Bronze Age
    - Iron Age
    - Romano-British
    - Medieval
    - Post-medieval
    - Undated
  - Surveyed earthwork
  - Approximate extent of colluvium
  - Geophysical survey area
  - Possible archaeological feature from geophysical survey results
  - Area of fieldwalk survey
  - Concentration of finds from fieldwalk survey
  - Sites and monuments record data:
    - Possible archaeological feature from aerial photography
    - Mesolithic
    - Post-medieval
    - Undated
- (numbers are those in original RPS report)

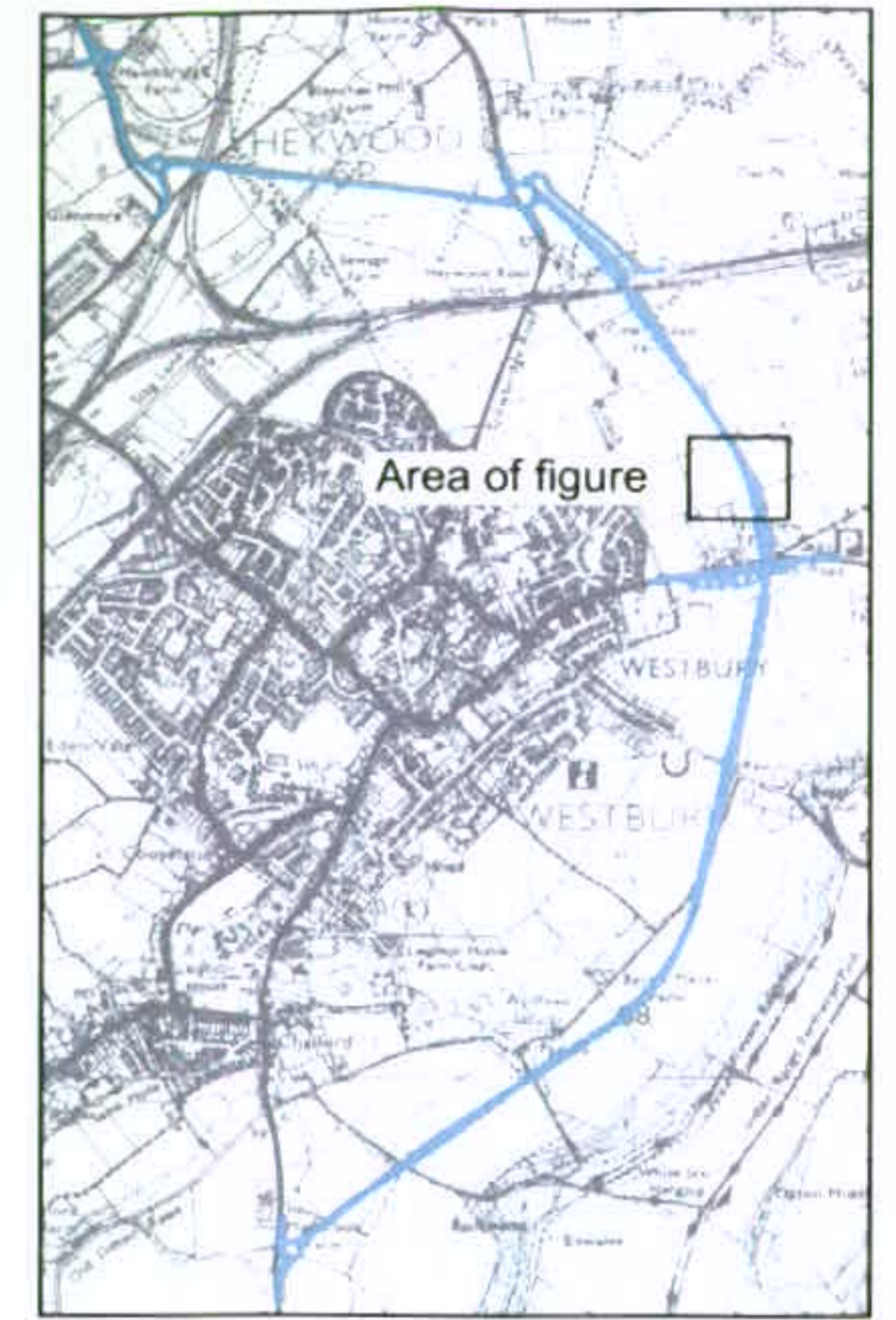
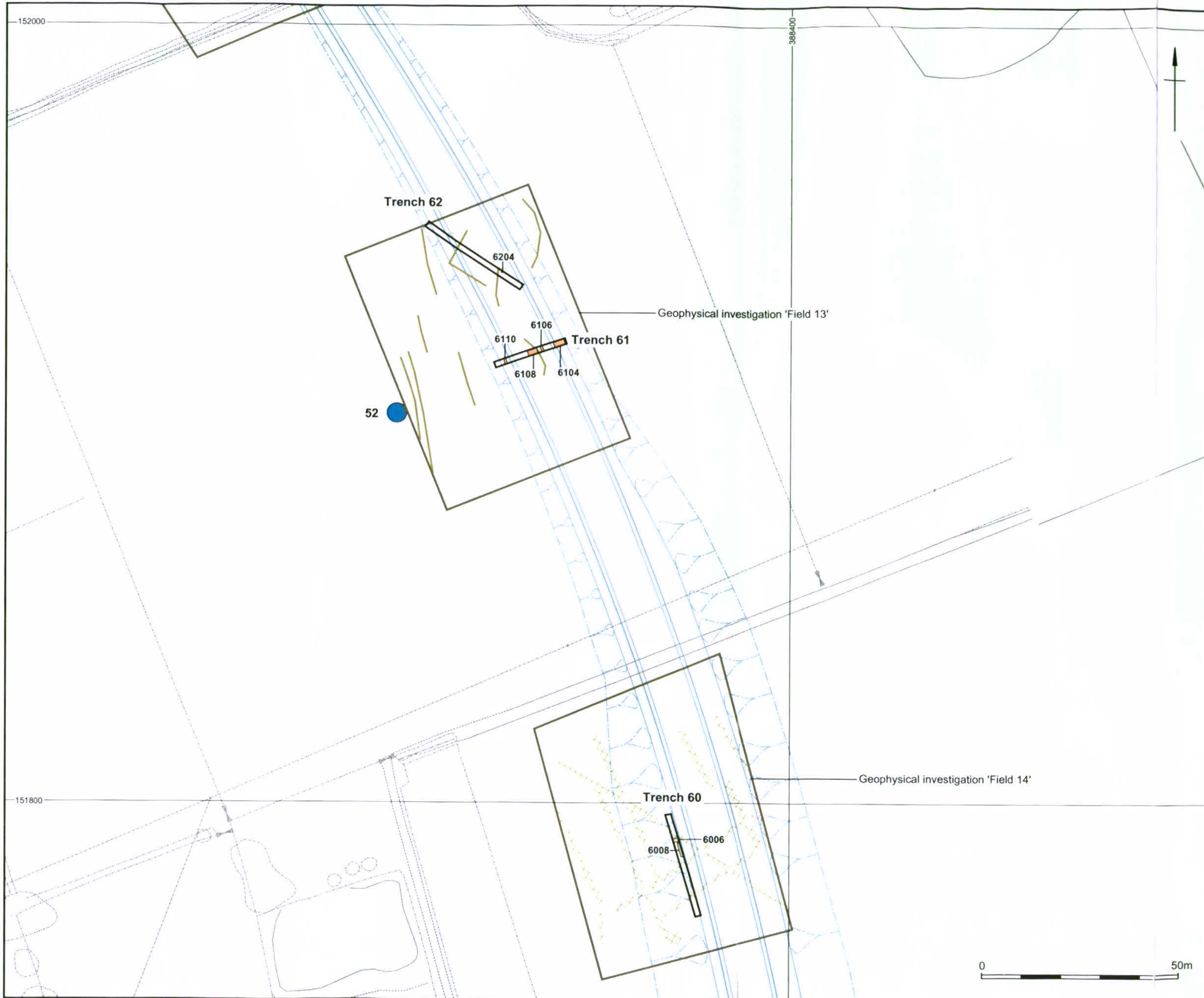
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Trench location plan, trench 46 and trenches 53-59

Figure 16



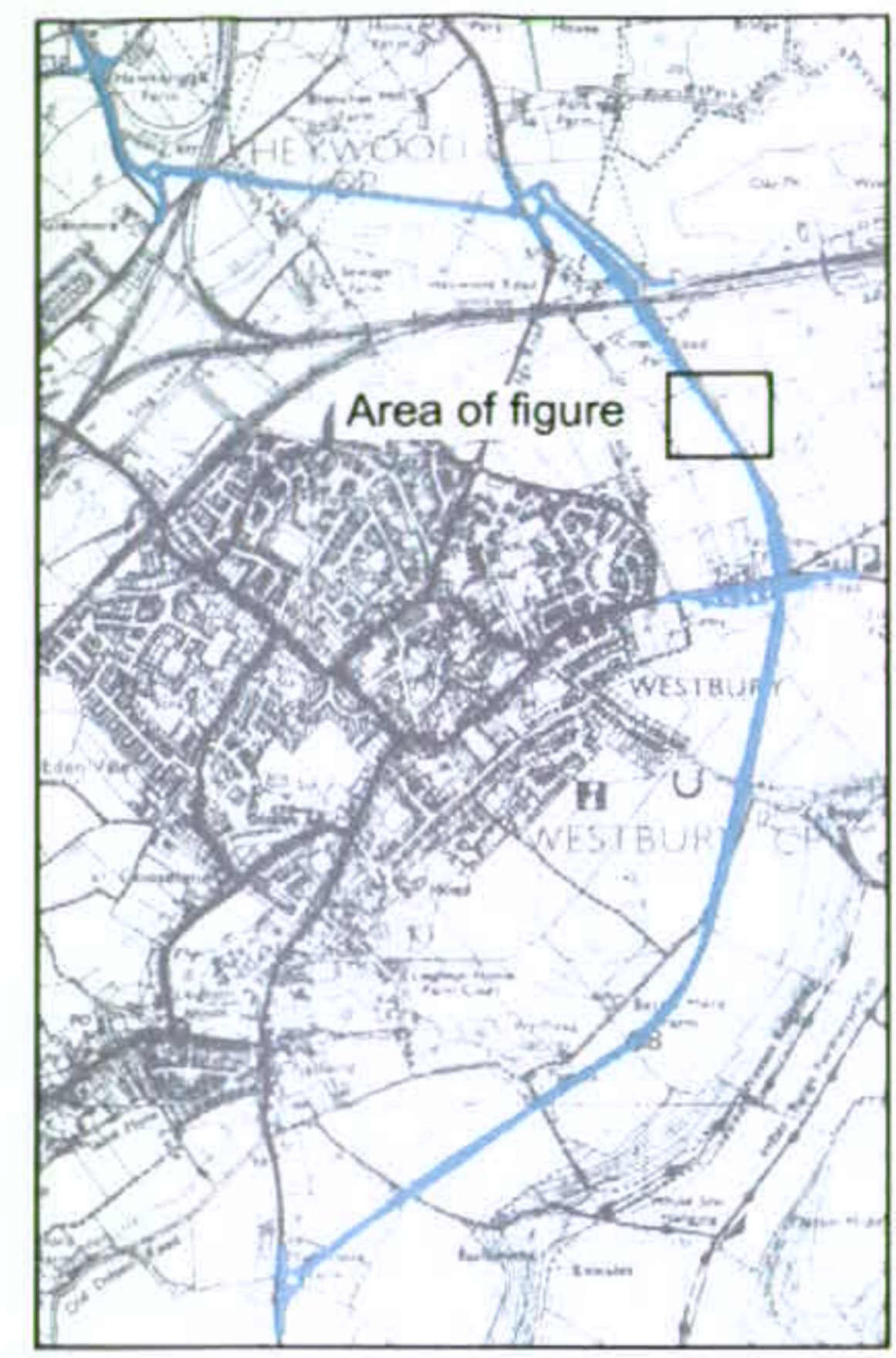
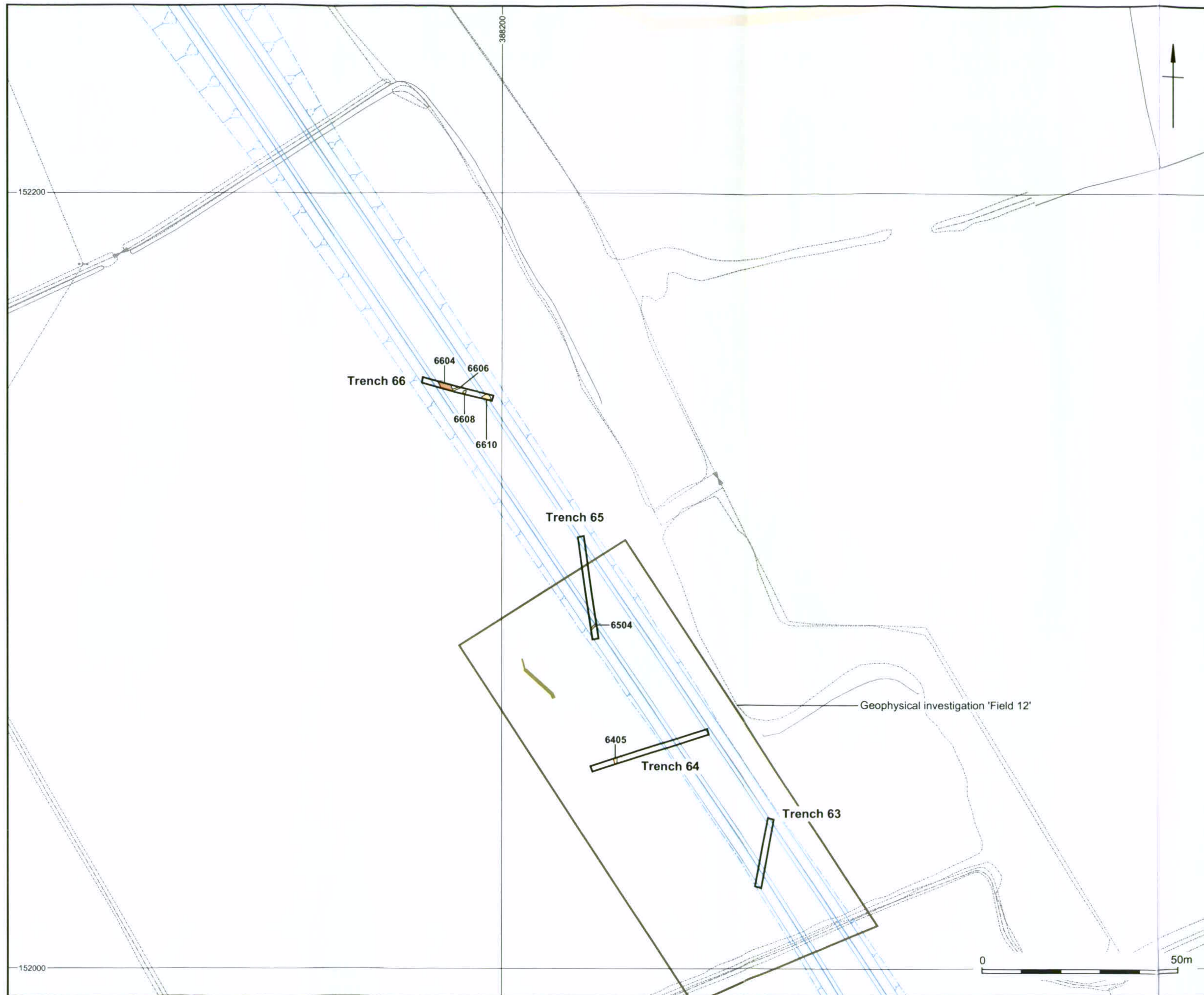
- Key:
- Proposed line of road
  - Wessex Archaeology trench
  - Archaeological feature
    - Bronze Age
    - Iron Age
    - Romano-British
    - Medieval
    - Post-medieval
    - Undated
  - Surveyed earthwork
  - Approximate extent of colluvium
  - Geophysical survey area
  - Possible archaeological feature from geophysical survey results
  - Area of fieldwalk survey
  - Concentration of finds from fieldwalk survey
  - Sites and monuments record data:
    - Possible archaeological feature from aerial photography
    - Mesolithic
    - Post-medieval
    - Undated
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Trench location plan, trenches 60-62

Figure 17



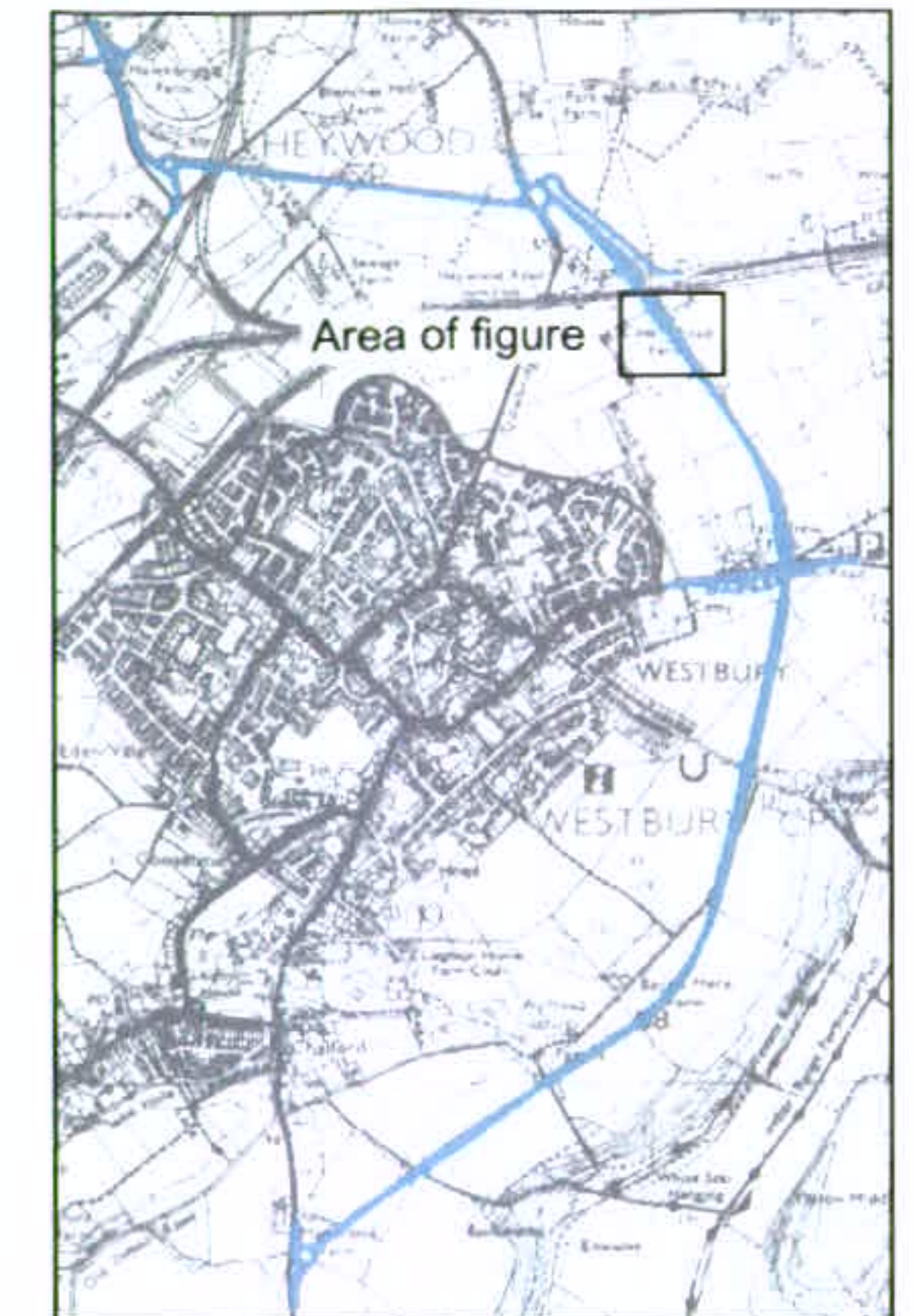
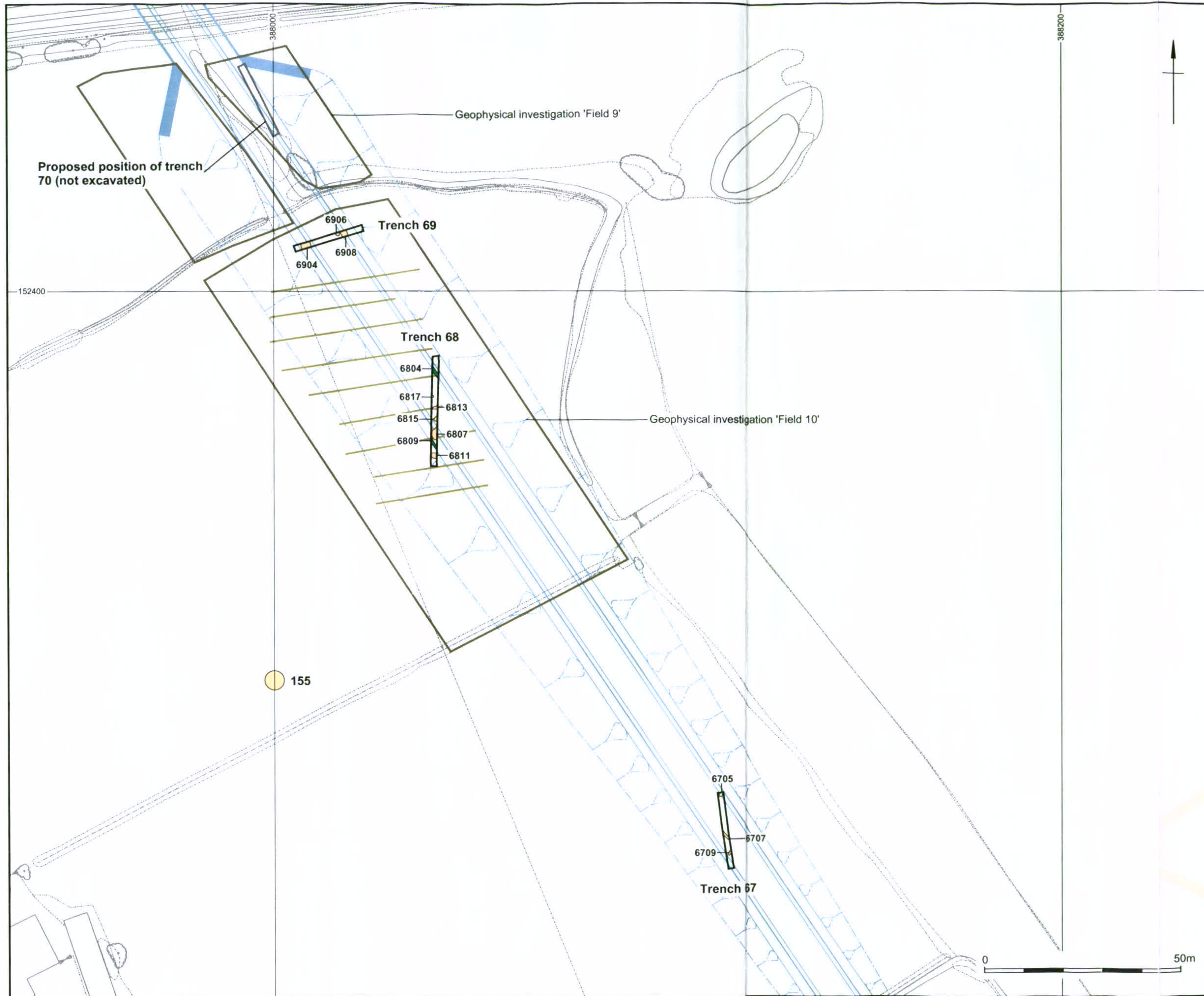
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- Proposed line of road
  - Wessex Archaeology trench
  - Archaeological feature
    - Bronze Age
    - Iron Age
    - Romano-British
    - Medieval
    - Post-medieval
    - Undated
  - Surveyed earthwork
  - Approximate extent of colluvium
  - Geophysical survey area
  - Possible archaeological feature from geophysical survey results
  - Area of fieldwalk survey
  - Concentration of finds from fieldwalk survey
  - Sites and monuments record data:
    - Possible archaeological feature from aerial photography
    - Mesolithic
    - Post-medieval
    - Undated
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Trench location plan, trenches 63-66

Figure 18



Key:

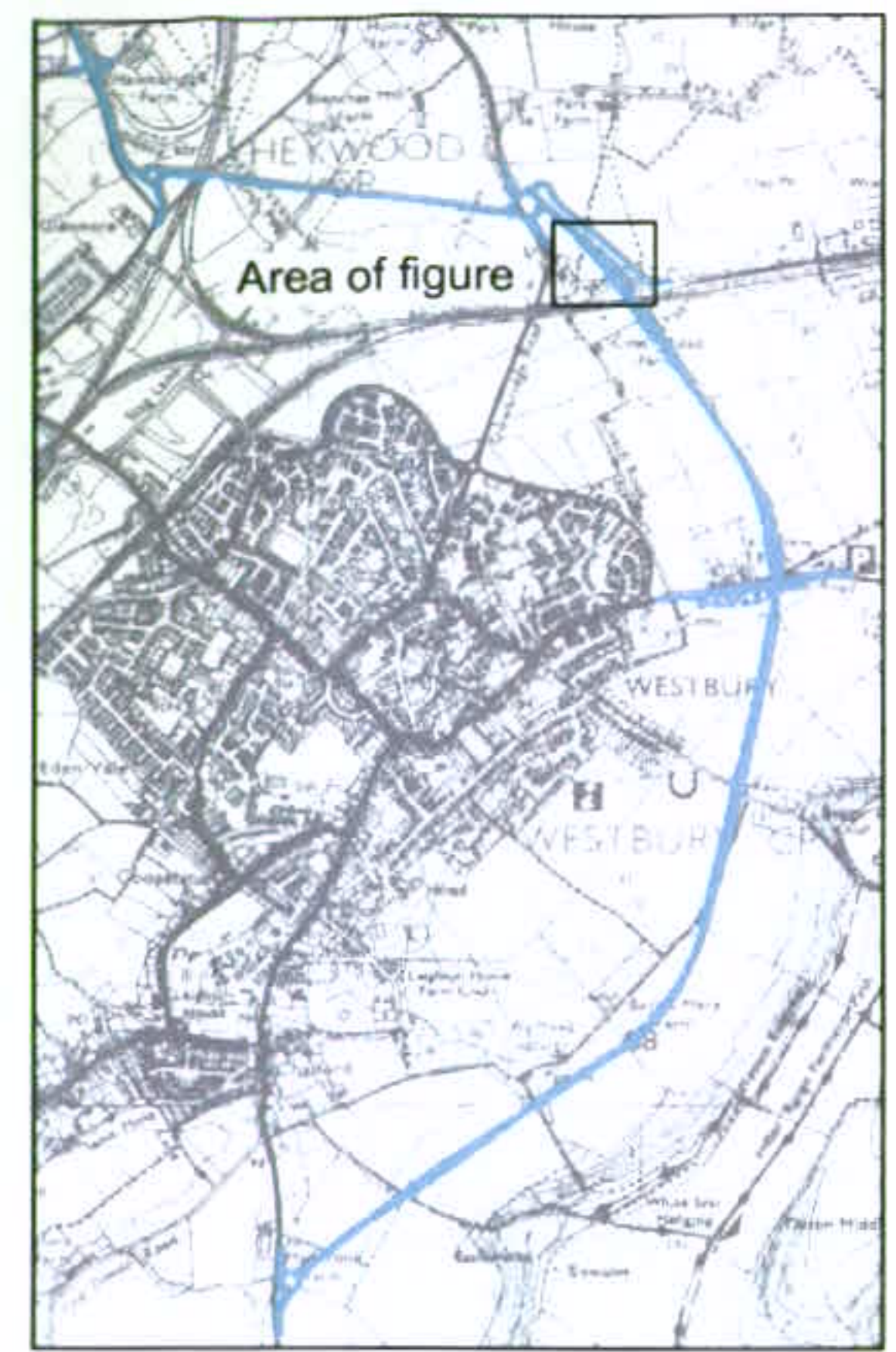
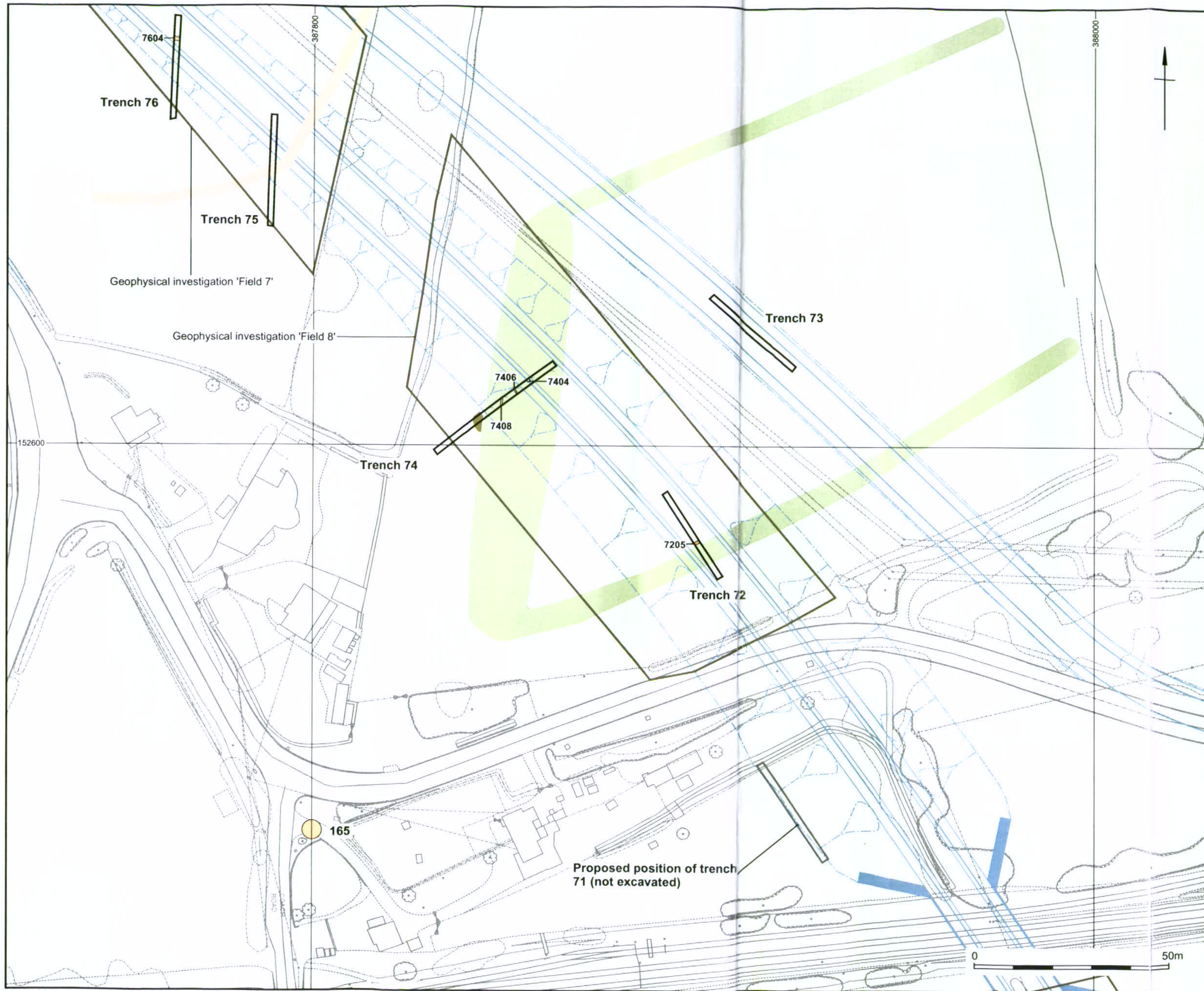
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  - Wessex Archaeology trench
  - Archaeological feature
    - Bronze Age
    - Iron Age
    - Romano-British
    - Medieval
    - Post-medieval
    - Undated
  - Surveyed earthwork
  - Approximate extent of colluvium
  - Geophysical survey area
  - Possible archaeological feature from geophysical survey results
  - Area of fieldwalk survey
  - Concentration of finds from fieldwalk survey
  - Sites and monuments record data:
    - Possible archaeological feature from aerial photography
    - Mesolithic
    - Post-medieval
    - Undated
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Trench location plan, trenches 67-69

Figure 19



- Key:
- Proposed line of road
  - Wessex Archaeology trench
  - Archaeological feature
    - Bronze Age
    - Iron Age
    - Romano-British
    - Medieval
    - Post-medieval
    - Undated
  - Surveyed earthwork
  - Approximate extent of colluvium
  - Geophysical survey area
  - Possible archaeological feature from geophysical survey results
  - Area of fieldwalk survey
  - Concentration of finds from fieldwalk survey
  - Sites and monuments record data:
    - Possible archaeological feature from aerial photography
    - Mesolithic
    - Post-medieval
    - Undated
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Trench location plan, trenches 72-76

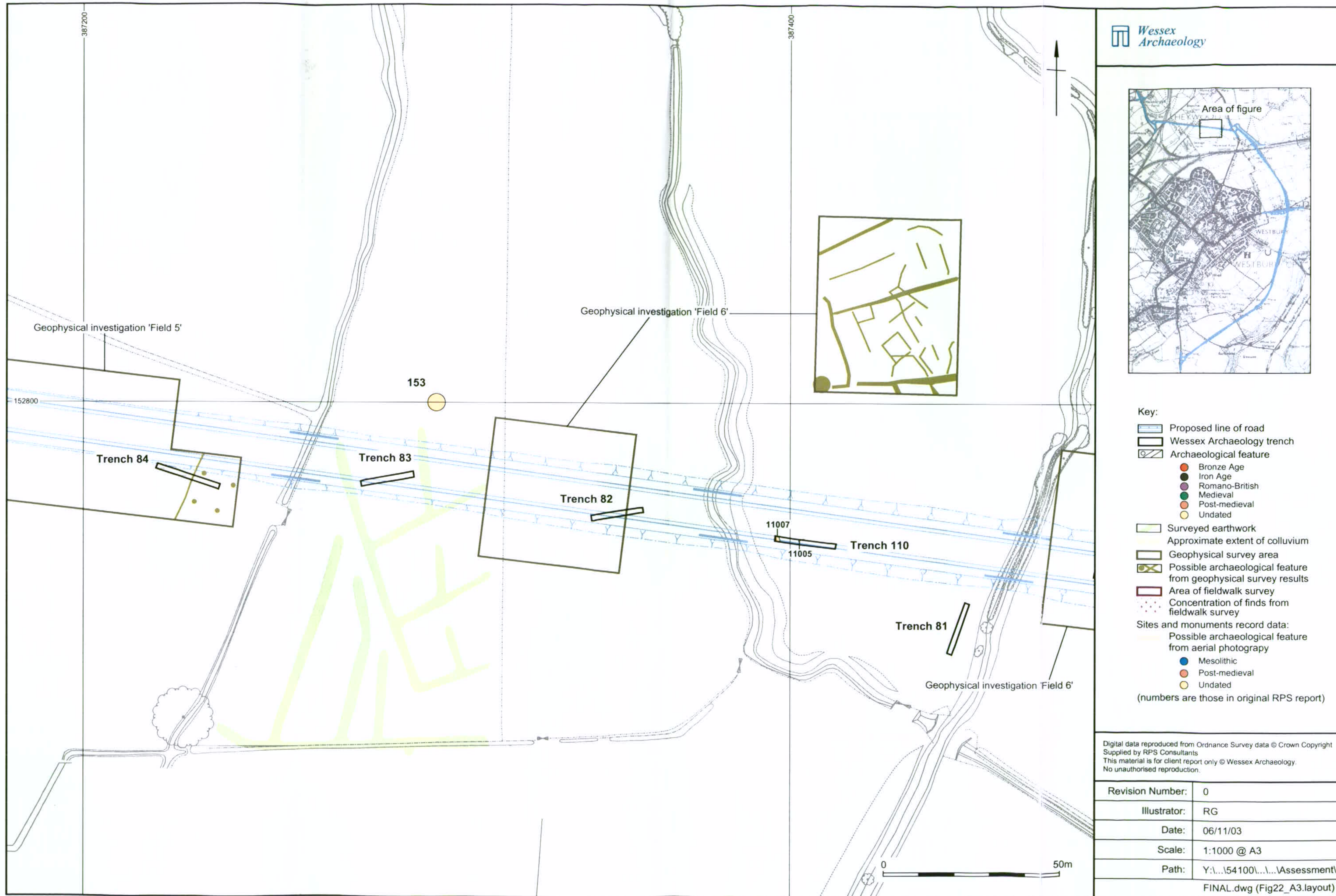
Figure 20





Trench location plan, trenches 76-80, 102-104 and 109

Figure 21



Trench location plan, trenches 81-84 and 110

Figure 22



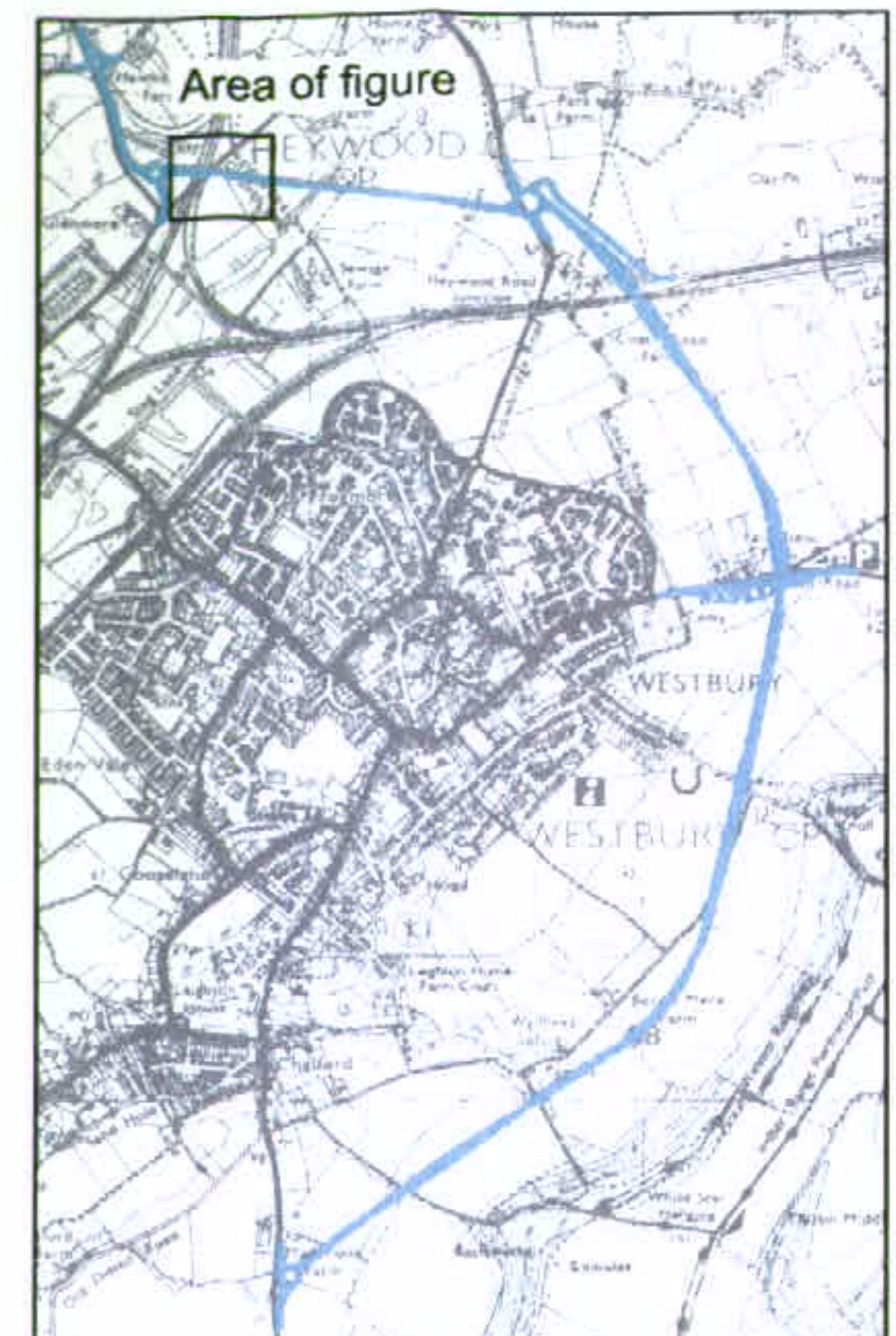
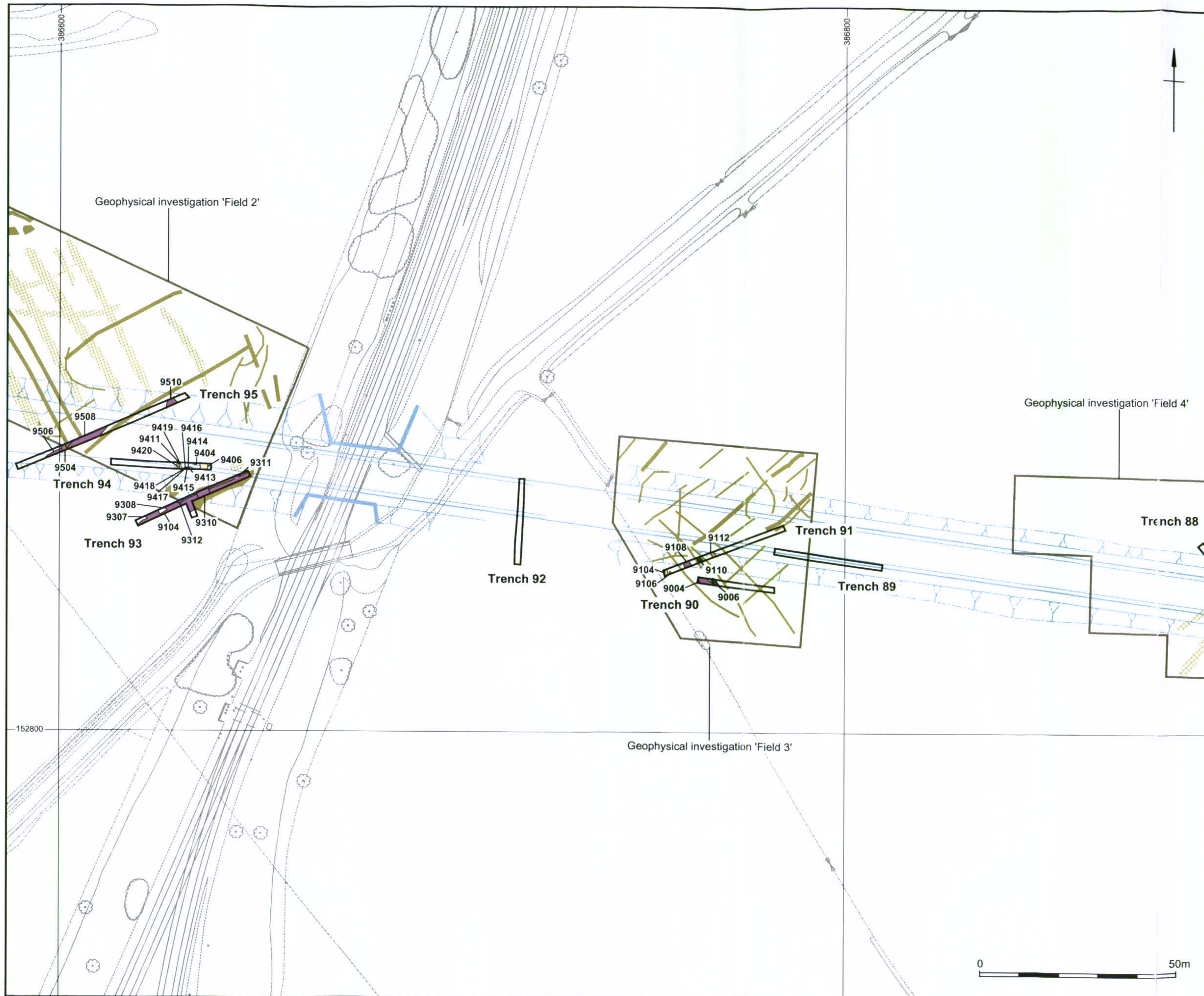
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  - Archaeological feature
    - Bronze Age
    - Iron Age
    - Romano-British
    - Medieval
    - Post-medieval
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  - Sites and monuments record data:
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    - Mesolithic
    - Post-medieval
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Trench location plan, trenches 85-88, 101 and 108



- Key:
- Proposed line of road
  - Wessex Archaeology trench
  - Archaeological feature
    - Bronze Age
    - Iron Age
    - Romano-British
    - Medieval
    - Post-medieval
    - Undated
  - Surveyed earthwork
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  - Possible archaeological feature from geophysical survey results
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  - Concentration of finds from fieldwalk survey
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    - Possible archaeological feature from aerial photography
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    - Post-medieval
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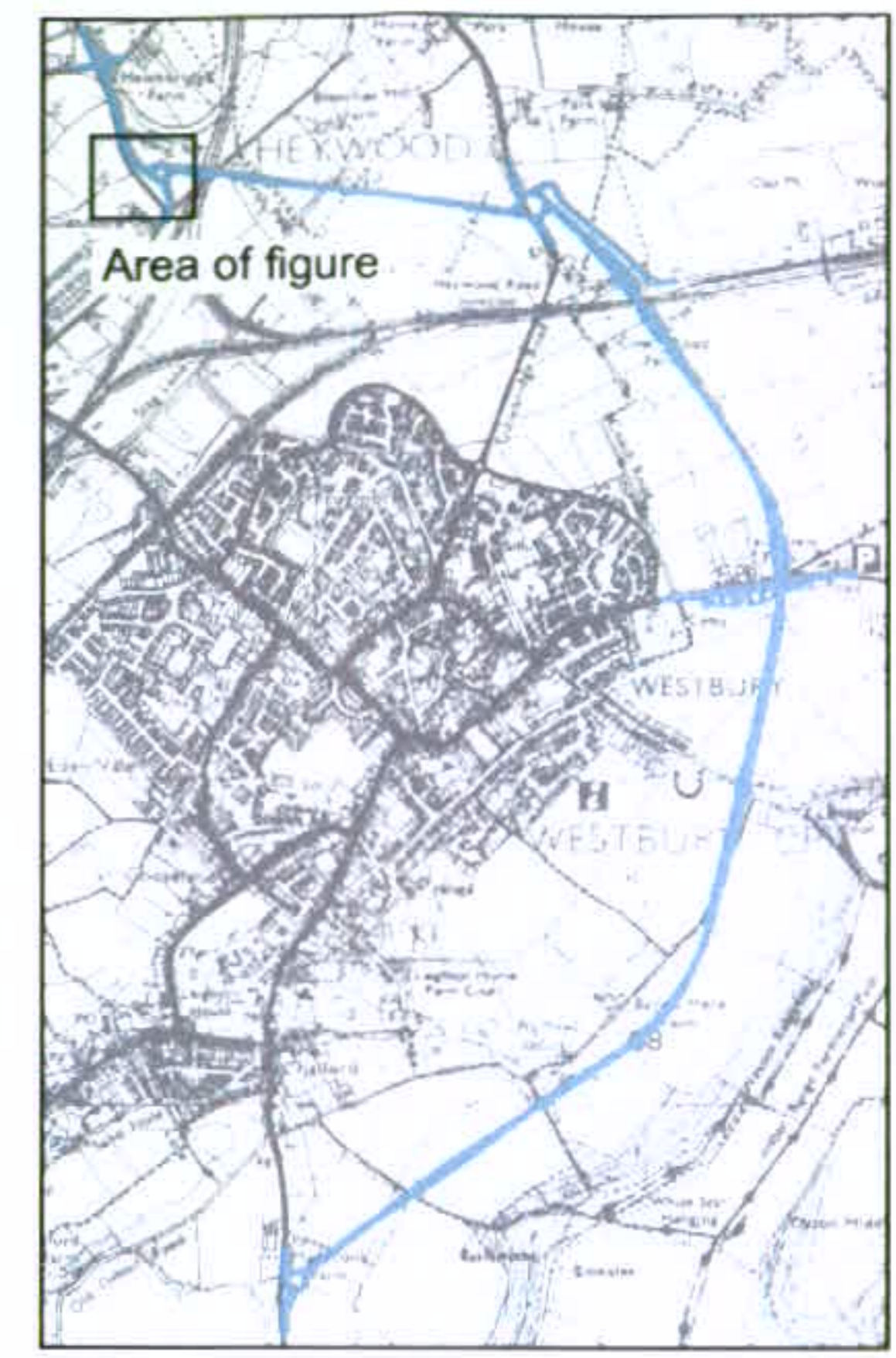
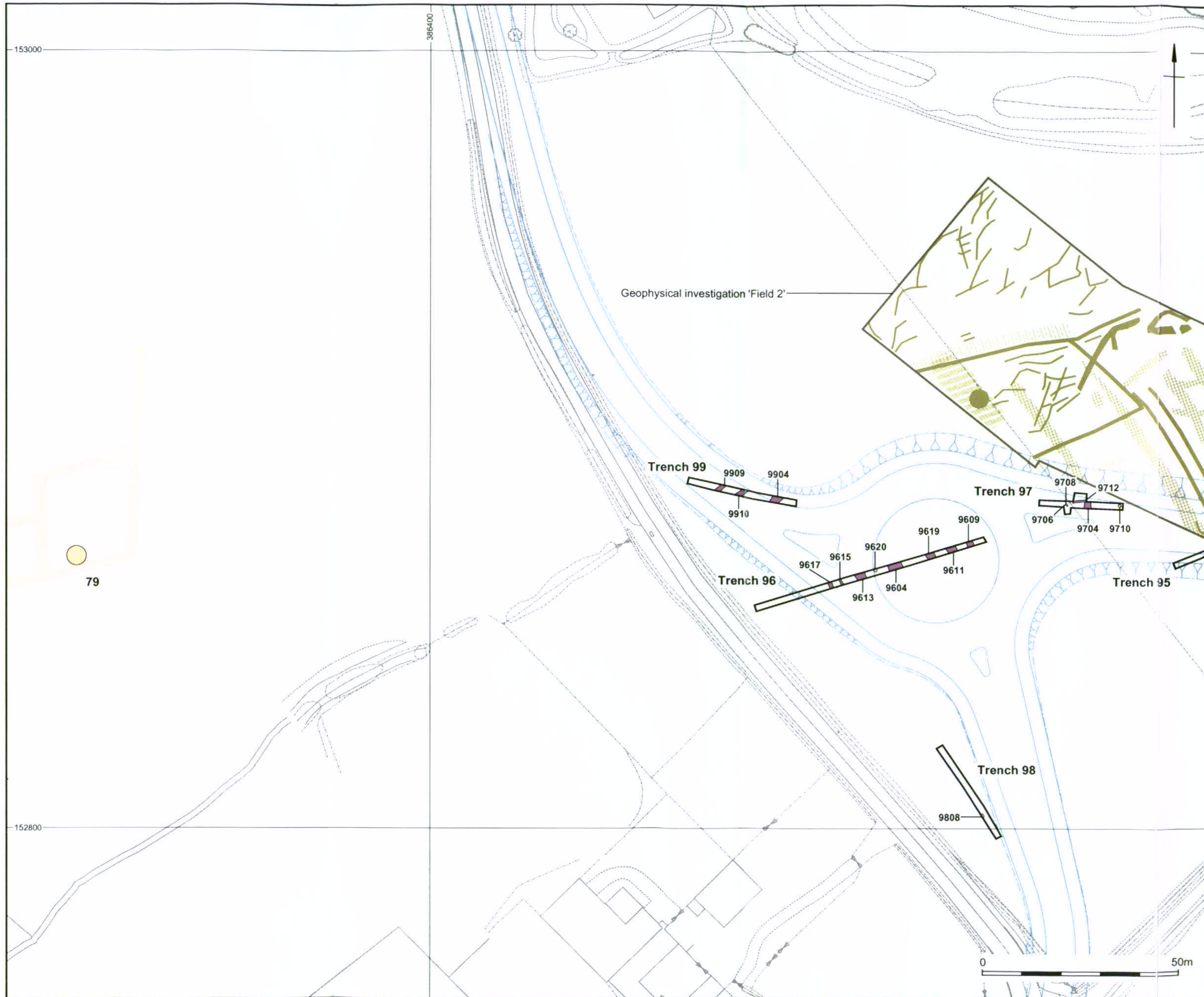
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Trench location plan, trenches 89-95

Figure 24



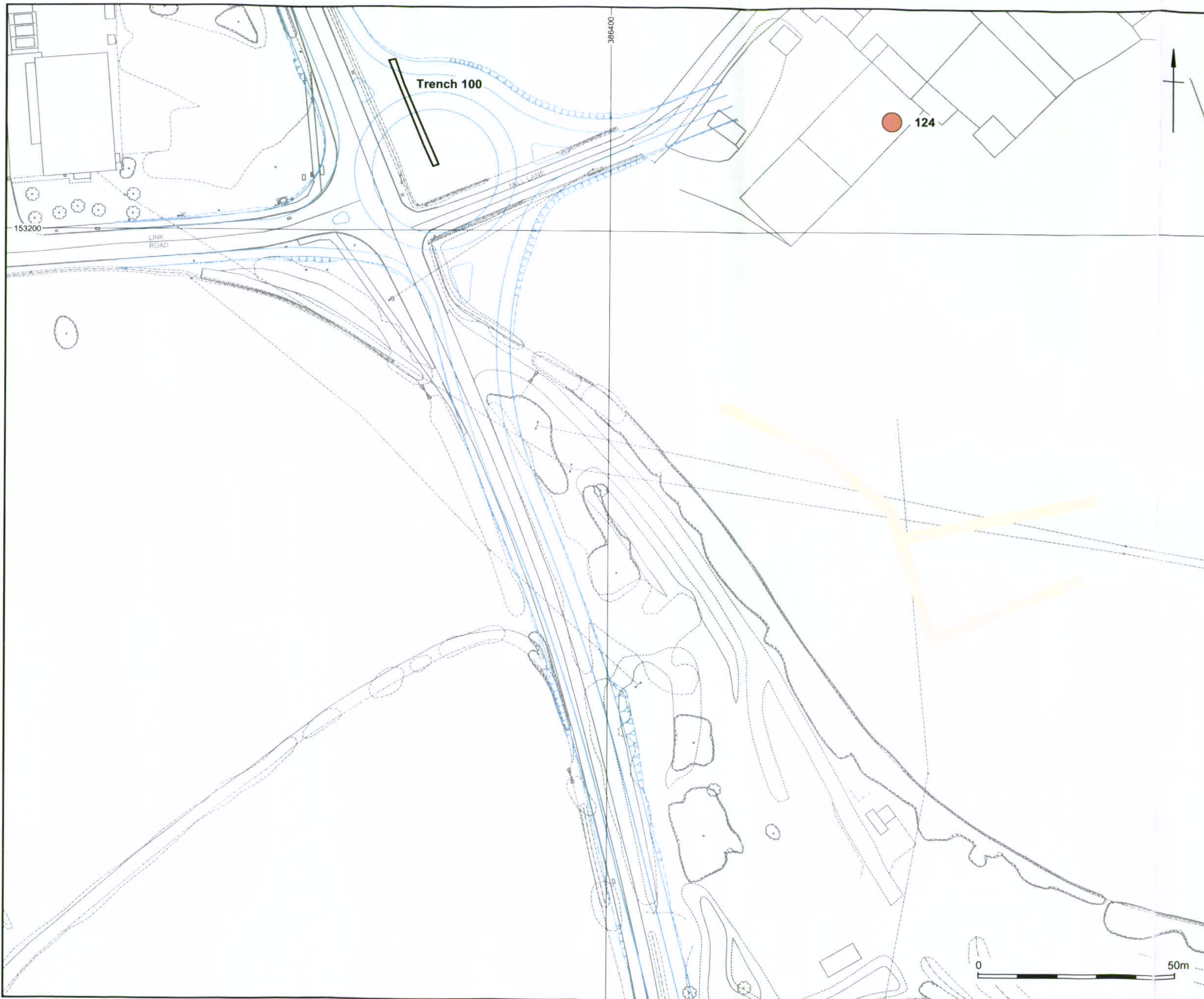
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    - Iron Age
    - Romano-British
    - Medieval
    - Post-medieval
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  - Concentration of finds from fieldwalk survey
  - Sites and monuments record data:
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    - Mesolithic
    - Post-medieval
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Trench location plan, trenches 95-99

Figure 25



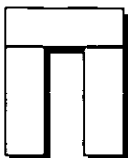
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    - Iron Age
    - Romano-British
    - Medieval
    - Post-medieval
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  - Sites and monuments record data:**
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Trench location plan, trench 100



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