

ABBEYMEADS (GROUNDWELL WEST)
SWINDON
WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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SUMMARY

Introduction

Between September and October 2000 Cotswold Archaeological Trust (CAT) carried out an evaluation on land at Abbeymeads, Groundwell West, Swindon, Wiltshire. A total of 31 trenches, distributed to give as comprehensive a sample coverage of the site as possible, were excavated. Archaeological remains were found in several of these and for ease of interpretation these have been categorised into five archaeological zones (A-E). It must be stressed that the boundaries of these zones marked on Fig. 3 are very approximate and represent a 'boxing in' of those trenches which contain remains.

Prehistoric and Romano-British

Certain evidence of prehistoric activity was confined to a single potsherd, possibly of Bronze Age date, from a pit in Trench 21 (zone D) and a worked flint from Trench 26. However, several trenches contained undated features which produced no artefactual material but which could be of prehistoric origin. These are summarised below. A trackway of possible Romano-British date was also found running through Trenches 27 and 28 (zone E). Although a small sherd of medieval pottery was found on the surface of this track, its alignment suggests that it may connect the site of a Romano-British temple approximately 400m to the south of the study area with a former Roman road (Ermin Street), approximately 200m to the northeast.

Anglo-Saxon and medieval

At some point in the Anglo-Saxon period the northwestern part of the study area was used for burial (zone A). At least four graves were found in Trench 3 and a further two were possibly identified in Trench 2. These were on four different alignments. Three of the graves in Trench 2 contained human skeletal material and one of these also contained grave goods in the form of a pin of probable mid-late Anglo-Saxon

date, a mount inset with a gemstone, and a lace tag. Evidence for medieval activity was found in Trench 21 (zone D) where several features may relate to the site of a farmstead. Evidence of quarrying in the form of large pits was also found in Trenches 2 and 3 (zone A).

Undated

Trenches 6, 8, 9 and 10 all contained archaeological features but none produced any dateable artefactual material. In Trench 6 (zone B) a linear gully, a gully terminal and a post pit were found and several gullies and postholes were also found in Trench 10 (zone C). A deep pit was also found in Trench 8 (zone A) and a gully terminal and posthole were found in Trench 9. It is possible that these features relate to prehistoric settlement within the study area.

Conclusions

The evaluation has successfully characterised the archaeological potential of the study area. There is evidence for undated, although possibly prehistoric, settlement, an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, and a medieval settlement and quarrying. While undoubtedly of archaeological significance the plough-damaged state of most of the archaeology, which lies at a shallow depth, indicates that it cannot be considered to be of national importance and thus worthy of preservation *in situ*. The evaluation has provided sufficient information for a programme of archaeological recording to be devised and implemented prior to development within the study area. This will ensure that a full record is made of all significant deposits, and the publication of these results will form a valuable contribution to the academic and public knowledge of the archaeology of this part of the county of Wiltshire.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Introduction*

1.1.1 In September 2000 Cotswold Archaeological Trust (CAT) was commissioned by Bookham Technology to carry out an archaeological evaluation of approximately 14ha of land at Abbeymeads, Groundwell West, Swindon, Wiltshire, centred on NGR SU 14478960. This land is bounded to the south and west by Abbeymeads housing estate, to the north by Lady Lane and the Abbey Stadium, and to the east by the Motorola Factory (Figs. 1 and 2).

1.1.2 The evaluation was carried out between September and October 2000 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by CAT, and approved by Mr. Roy Canham, County Archaeological Officer for Wiltshire, who also monitored the fieldwork. The evaluation was also carried out under the guidelines in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists, the *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire*, issued by Wiltshire County Council, and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP2) issued by English Heritage.

1.1.3 The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the date, character, quality, survival and extent of archaeological deposits within the study area. This information could then be used to clarify whether any remains are of sufficient importance to warrant preservation *in-situ*, or to form the basis of mitigation measures that may seek to limit damage to significant remains.

1.2 *Landuse, topography and geology*

1.2.1 The study area currently consists of two large fields, formerly arable but now uncultivated, although the boundaries of the study area have recently been deep ploughed in order to prevent unauthorised access.

- 1.2.2 The study area lies on land which to the west is relatively flat at approximately 146.5m OD. However, the eastern field lies on the crest of a slope which rises to approximately 147.4m OD and which falls away to the north (145.8m OD) and south (142.59m OD).
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology comprises Upper Corallian Rag with a capping of Red Down Clay in the eastern part of the site (BGS 1974). In the evaluation trenches this geology consisted of ragstone brash, with clay patches, in the western field and clay with ragstone outcrops in the eastern field. Smaller features, such as postholes, were often very difficult to identify within the ragstone brash. In addition the natural clay often contained darker clay inclusions which on excavation proved to be natural in origin.

1.3 *Archaeological background*

- 1.3.1 The immediate environs around the study area is becoming increasingly noted for the presence of Iron Age and Romano-British remains. The study area lies approximately 150m to the north-west of an Iron Age enclosed settlement of 6th to 5th century BC date, excavated prior to the construction of the Motorola Factory. Large boundary ditches, enclosures, roundhouses, post-built structures, and pits were found (Walker *et al* 2000). It also lies approximately 1.1km to the north-west of a further Iron Age settlement of 5th to 3rd century BC date at Groundwell Farm, where a ditched enclosure with roundhouses and other structures was apparent (Gingell 1982).
- 1.3.2 Approximately 400m to the south of the study area lies a Romano-British site at Blunsdon Ridge which has been interpreted as a shrine complex, possibly associated with a water deity (Walters 1999, 258). A major Romano-British road (Ermin Street) also lies approximately 200m to the north-east of the study area along the route of the current A419.
- 1.3.3 Within the study area a single entry is recorded on the Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record. This records the recovery of four Romano-British coins, which are local copies of official late 4th century AD coinage, a tanged chisel

with a broken tang, and two iron boot cleats (SMR ref. SU18NW330). The recorded approximate position of this discovery is shown on Fig. 2.

2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 A total of 31 trenches was excavated across the study area and these were distributed in order to provide as comprehensive a sample coverage of the site as possible. The trenches were 50m long and between 1.8m and 2m wide and were excavated by a 360⁰ tracked machine using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision (Fig. 2).
- 2.2 All the trenches were excavated to the top of natural geological deposits at which point archaeological features, where present, could be identified. Excavation and recording then continued by hand in accordance with the *CAT Field Recording Manual*. All artefacts were recovered and retained for processing in accordance with the *CAT Finds Manual*.
- 2.3 In the following report features cut into the natural geology are designated by square brackets thus; [0000]. All other deposits/layers are in round brackets; (0000). Detailed context descriptions per trench are provided in Appendix 1.
- 2.4 Subject to the landowner's consent the artefacts from the excavation will be deposited along with the site archive at Swindon Museum under the accession code B2000/5.

3. EVALUATION RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Five trenches (2, 3, 21, 27 and 28) contained archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric, Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon or medieval periods. A further four (6, 8, 9 and 10) contained archaeological features which could not be dated but which may be of prehistoric origin. For ease of interpretation these trenches have been grouped together into five zones of archaeological activity (zones A-E). The boundaries of these zones have been agreed with Mr. Roy Canham but it must be stressed that these boundaries, marked on Fig. 3, are very approximate and represent a 'boxing in' of those trenches which contain significant remains.

3.1.2 No archaeological features were found in any of the trenches outside of zones A-E with the exception of Trench 9, which is described in section 3.4.2 below.

3.2 Zone A (Trenches 2, 3 and 8)

Anglo-Saxon cemetery

3.2.1 A cemetery was found in the northwestern part of the study area. In Trench 3 at four graves, on three different alignments, were found (Fig. 4) and a further two on yet another alignment may exist in Trench 2. In Trenches 3 and 8 graves [303] and [308] were aligned northeast-southwest. The southwestern terminal of grave [303] was excavated to a depth of 0.15m to expose a skull which faced southeast. Three grave goods were found within the grave fill (304). A mid-late Anglo-Saxon copper alloy pin, and a copper alloy mount inset with a gemstone were found over the chest and shoulder area and a copper alloy lace tag was found by the side of the skull.

- 3.2.2 Graves [303] and [308] were separated by another [306] which was aligned approximately east-west. The eastern end of this grave was excavated to a depth of 0.28m at which point a leg bone was encountered. Another grave [322] was aligned north-south and was 0.55m deep. Two human teeth were found in the basal part of the fill (323) of its southern terminal.
- 3.2.3 In Trench 2 the south-eastern ends of a further two possible graves, [206] and [208], were found (Fig. 2). These were aligned northwest-southeast but both were very shallow, being only 0.1m and 0.08m deep respectively, indicating that the ground level here has been severely truncated. No skeletal or other material was found within the fills.

Medieval quarries

- 3.2.4 A large pit [204], approximately 6.4m across, was identified towards the western end of Trench 2 (Fig. 2). It was partially excavated to a depth of 0.7m without being bottomed. The size of the pit may suggest that it was dug as a stone quarry and the excavated backfill (205), which was packed with stone fragments, contained seven potsherds of late 12th-13th century AD date, five animal bone fragments and an iron disc.
- 3.2.5 In Trench 3 a large flat-bottomed scoop [314] measuring approximately 6.6m across and 0.66m deep was found (Fig. 3). One of the fills (315) of this feature produced ten potsherds of late 12th-13th century AD date, along with two Romano-British sherds, and eight animal bone fragments, and it too is likely to be a stone quarry.

Undated

- 3.2.6 A 0.42m deep undated pit [328] was also found in Trench 3 (Fig. 4). Its function is also uncertain.
- 3.2.7 Two features were found in Trench 8, a 0.83m deep pit [804], which was the deepest excavated feature found in the evaluation, and a 0.13m deep small pit

or posthole [807] (Fig. 2). Pit [804] contained a basal fill of a grey silty clay (806) implying that it had been left open for a time prior to being deliberately backfilled with a homogenous natural clay (805). Neither feature produced any datable artefactual material and their function is uncertain.

3.3 Zone B (Trench 6)

3.3.1 Three features were found in Trench 6, a 0.4m deep post pit [608], a northwest-southeast 0.4m deep gully terminal [606], and a north-south aligned 0.1m deep gully [604] (Fig. 2). These features contained no datable artefactual material but their presence and nature implies the existence of an archaeological settlement, possibly of prehistoric date, in this area.

3.4 Zone C (Trench 10)

3.4.1 Nine undated archaeological features were identified in Trench 10 and a further thirteen features, which were not investigated, may also be of archaeological origin (Fig. 5). Of the excavated features three may be gully terminals [1003], [1008] and [1012], which shared an approximate northwest-southeast alignment. Gully [1003] was excavated to a depth of 0.42m without being bottomed, while gully [1012] was 0.34m deep and gully [1008] just 0.08m deep. The remaining excavated features were all pits or postholes. Of these pit [1005] was excavated to a depth of 0.75m without being bottomed while pit/posthole [1014] was just 0.08m deep.

3.4.2 Two small features were also found in trench 9, just to the north of zone C, namely a 0.09m deep gully terminal [903] at the western end of the trench and a 0.14m deep posthole [905] at the eastern end (Fig. 2). However, these features have not been included within zone C because the density of features in Trench 10 is much greater, implying that Trench 9 is on the fringes of the archaeological activity represented in this zone.

3.5 Zone D (Trench 21)

- 3.5.1 A total of sixteen archaeological features were identified in Trench 21 of which all but four were excavated (fig. 6). Only four produced dating evidence in the form of potsherds and one of these, a single potsherd from the fill (2108) of pit [2107], was of possible Bronze Age date. However, medieval pottery was found in three other features and it is uncertain whether the remaining features are of prehistoric or medieval origin.
- 3.5.2 Four linear features [2103], [2105], [2113] and [2121] were identified, all of which were on a similar northeast-southwest alignment. One of these was a 0.4m deep gully [2105] which had been cut by a 0.3m deep ditch [2103]. The fill (2104) of the latter contained a late 12th-15th century potsherd and an animal bone fragment, and the fill (2106) of the former contained two late 12th-15th century potsherds. The other two features [2113], the fill (2114) of which contained an iron nail, and [2121] were both just 0.13m deep and may represent the bases of severely truncated ditches. A single curvilinear ditch [2115], which was 0.3m deep, was also identified.
- 3.5.3 All of the remaining features in this trench consisted of pits which, where excavated, ranged from 0.1m to 0.32m in depth. One of these pits [2120] contained an 11th-13th century potsherd in its fill (2119).

3.6 Zone E (Trenches 27 and 28)

- 3.6.1 A northeast-southwest aligned trackway was found in both trenches 27 [2703] and 28 [2804] (Fig. 2). It was up to 2.5m wide and constructed of well compacted small sub-rounded stones and in Trench 28 was covered by a layer of silting (2806). A single very small late 12th-13th century potsherd was found on the surface (2704) of track [2703]. However, the alignment of this track is of interest as it appears to run between the site of a Romano-British temple complex approximately 400m to the south of the study area and the route of a major Roman road (Ermin Street), approximately 200m to the northeast.

4. THE FINDS

4.1 *The Pottery (by Jane Timby)*

- 4.1.1 A small assemblage of thirty five potsherds (246g) was recovered from twelve contexts spread across eight trenches. It comprises mainly of medieval wares with odd sherds of possible prehistoric and Romano-British origin. The condition of the pottery is relatively poor with the sherds quite fragmented with abraded edges with an average weight of just 7g.
- 4.1.2 The assemblage was sorted into wares based on macroscopic observation and quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context (see Appendix 2).
- 4.1.3 The potentially earliest sherd in the group is from the fill (2108) of pit [2107] in Trench 21, which was accompanied by four indeterminate crumbs. Although the sherd has been altered, perhaps burnt, it appears to have a grog and sand temper. It is also handmade and quite thick walled and may belong to the Bronze Age on the basis of all these traits.
- 4.1.4 A group from fill (315) of pit [314] in Trench 3 contained medieval sherds accompanied by two small grey ware sherds which are more typical of the Roman period although evidently redeposited in a later feature. A Roman box tile fragment was also recovered from topsoil (1801) in Trench 18.
- 4.1.5 Most of the assemblage, twenty eight sherds, dates to the medieval period. The material is dominated by three main fabrics, namely a sand- and flint-tempered ware which can be equated with Newbury fabric A; a sand-, flint- and limestone-tempered ware equivalent to Newbury fabric B; and an oolitic limestone-tempered ware which includes Minety and Cotswold types. Odd other wares are also present. The Newbury wares are probably from sources in the Kennet Valley and are generally current from the 11th to the 13th or 14th centuries AD.

4.1.6 All the wares are from domestic unglazed wares, mainly jars. A basesherd from the fill (205) of pit [204] in Trench 2 is from a classic Cotswold-type beehive-shaped cooking vessel.

4.1.7 A single undated fragment of fired clay from topsoil (801) in Trench 8, which comprises a white organic-tempered outer casing with a finely micaceous sandy inner lining of black and brown coloured clay, may be connected with metalworking or some other form of industrial activity.

4.2 *The Metalwork (by Emma Harrison)*

4.2.1 The skeleton in grave [303] was accompanied by three grave goods. One was a 75mm long copper alloy pin with a flat multifoil head with two cordons below. This has provisionally been dated to the mid-late Anglo-Saxon period. Another was a circular copper alloy mount of 6mm diameter with scalloped and silvered edges which contained a raised central boss set with a red gemstone. The final grave good was a 18mm long copper alloy lace tag fragment of rolled tubing with an edge to edge seam.

4.2.2 In addition a small iron disc of 21mm diameter was found in the fill (205) of pit [204] and an iron nail was found in the fill (2114) of ditch [2113] in Trench 21.

4.3 *Other Finds (by Emma Harrison)*

4.3.1 A total of six pieces of unworked flint were recovered, all from topsoil or subsoil levels. A single worked secondary flake was also recovered from the fill (2604) of a shallow natural hollow, possibly the result of tree root action, in Trench 26.

4.3.2 A total of fifteen fragmented animal bone fragments were also recovered.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 *Introduction*

5.1.1 The evaluation has proved the existence of archaeological remains within the study area. This section will discuss the importance of the remains in general in relation to the objectives of the brief set out in section 1.1.3.

5.1.2 It is clear from the evaluation that significant concentrations of archaeological activity and large, apparently blank, areas exist within the study area. In on-site and subsequent discussions with Mr. Roy Canham, it was felt that broad zones of significant archaeological activity could be defined (as described above). It is possible that there may be archaeological remains outside of these areas but it was felt that the zones shown on Fig. 3 would possibly encompass the extent of significant remains.

5.2 *Date and Character*

The prehistoric period

5.2.1 Only a single prehistoric potsherd, from pit [2107] in Trench 21 was recovered from the entire evaluation. However this should not be taken as suggesting that there is only a low level of prehistoric archaeological remains within the study area. Indeed, it is possible that the undated archaeological features in zones B and C and the southern part of zone A (Trench 8) are of prehistoric origin and these are discussed below.

The Romano-British period

5.2.2 Evidence for Romano-British activity on the site was mainly confined to a linear trackway in zone E which appears to link the site of a Romano-British temple complex approximately 400m to the south of the study area with the major thoroughfare known as Ermin Street, approximately 200m to the

northeast. There was no sign of this trackway in Trench 25 although it may run just to the south. Nevertheless, the prospect of further Romano-British remains lying within the study area should not be discounted, particularly with the discovery of coins and tools of this date noted on the county SMR and the recovery of Roman ceramics in Trenches 3 and 18.

The Anglo-Saxon period

- 5.2.3 A cemetery of Anglo-Saxon date clearly lies within zone A. Four graves were identified in Trench 3 and a further two may have been identified in Trench 2. These graves are on four different alignments and grave goods were present in grave [303]. Despite the differing alignments the burials appeared to be discrete and as such they may have had grave markers. The existence of this cemetery also implies the presence of a nearby settlement, although there was no evidence from the evaluation to suggest that this settlement lies within the study area.

The medieval and post-medieval periods

- 5.2.4 The presence of medieval pottery in some of the archaeological features in Trench 21 implies medieval activity within zone D. This zone lies on the crest of a south-facing slope which is one of the highest points in the locality. The nature of this activity is unclear, although it may be associated with a small settlement. The lack of features in the surrounding trenches suggests that this medieval activity is localised in character.
- 5.2.5 The only other indication of medieval activity on the site was in zone A in the form of probable quarry pits in Trenches 2 and 3.
- 5.2.6 No evidence of any post-medieval settlement or activity was found in any of the trenches and the study area was probably used as agricultural land throughout. The earliest studied map of the area is the tithe apportionment map of 1839 which records several fields within the study area as being under arable cultivation. However, the Ordnance Survey map of 1900 records the

existence of a quarry along the western edge of the study area, which is in close proximity to the two medieval quarries found in zone A.

Undated sites

5.2.7 Undated archaeological remains were found in the southern part of zone A (Trenches 3 and 8), zone B and zone C. Although they produced no datable artefacts the character of the remains in zones B and C, and the evidence for structural remains in the form of postholes, clearly implies the presence of settlement remains, quite possibly of prehistoric date. The pit in Trench 8 in zone A is also of interest in that it bears similarities in profile and fillings to flat-bottomed steep-sided pits found in the Groundwell West excavation. Such pits here were interpreted as containing posts and being part of Iron Age boundaries (Walker *et al* 2000, 55).

5.3 *Survival, Quality and Extent*

5.3.1 Over the entire study area the archaeology survives as negative features cut into the top of the natural substrate. Here the effects of arable agriculture have clearly truncated the tops of such features. For example, the two possible graves in Trench 2 survived only as shallow features with no skeletal evidence. Site stratification is likely to be restricted to relationships between negative features cut into the natural substrate and therefore deeply stratified deposits are not likely to survive.

5.3.2 The fact that no graves were found in the trenches surrounding Trenches 1 and 2 implies that the cemetery is confined to the northeastern corner of zone A. The survival of this cemetery may also have been adversely affected by medieval and post-medieval quarrying, apparent in Trenches 1 and 2 and the 1900 Ordnance Survey map. Indeed, it is quite possible that large areas of the cemetery have been destroyed by such quarrying operations. The shallow depth of some of the graves also implies that ploughing has also adversely affected the survival of many of the graves.

- 5.3.3 However, enough of the archaeology survives in order that structural patterns, ditch alignments, areas of domestic and agricultural activities etc, should be discernible. Indeed, there is reasonable potential to recover a stratigraphic sequence in most sites, and to date this by a combination of artefactual evidence and absolute means.
- 5.3.4 The pottery found in the evaluation was generally in poor condition although it was in most cases able to be securely dated. Animal bone was relatively scarce although human bone was shown to survive. The metalwork found in grave [303] was in very good condition.
- 5.3.5 The suggested extent of areas within which significant archaeological remains survive, as agreed with Mr. Roy Canham, has been discussed in section 5.1.2 and is shown on Fig. 3. However, it must be borne in mind that archaeological deposits may also survive outside of defined zones A-E.

5.4 Conclusions

- 5.4.1 There is undoubtedly archaeology of significance within the application area. Given its plough-damaged state, and a consideration of the factors listed above, it is reasonable to categorise the archaeological resource generally as being of Regional Archaeological Importance. Thus, whilst its importance is not such that it demands preservation *in situ*, it will certainly require further investigation and recording prior to development. Indeed the information which will derive from this process will make a tangible contribution to academic and public knowledge of the archaeology of this part of the county of Wiltshire.

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APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(101)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.22m in depth.
(102)	Natural ragstone brash.

Trench 2	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(201)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.28m in depth.
(202)	Subsoil, mid brown silty clay, a maximum of 0.2m in depth. This deposit was not apparent over the entire length of the trench, occurring mainly towards the eastern end.
(203)	Natural ragstone brash.
[204]	Pit cut, measuring 6.4m across and excavated to a depth of 0.7m without being bottomed. Filled with (205).
(205)	Fill of pit [204], mid brown clay packed with sub-angular stone fragments.
[206]	?Pit cut, measuring 0.58m wide and 0.1m deep, possibly the terminal of a grave cut aligned northwest-southeast. Filled with (207).
(207)	Fill of ?grave [206], mid-brown silty clay, identical to overlying subsoil (202).
[208]	?Pit cut, measuring 0.67m wide and 0.08m deep, possibly the terminal of a grave cut aligned northwest-southeast. Filled with (209).
(209)	Fill of ?grave [208], light-mid brown silty clay.

Trench 3	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(301)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.
(302)	Natural ragstone brash.
[303]	Grave cut, measuring 0.85m wide and 0.15m deep and aligned northeast-southwest. Filled with (304) and (305).
(304)	Fill of grave cut [303], mid brown silty clay overlying skeleton (305).
(305)	Skeleton in grave cut [303]. Only the skull and fragmentary parts of long bones were exposed and left <i>in-situ</i> . Covered by fill (304).
[306]	Grave cut terminal, measuring 0.92m wide. Excavated to a depth of 0.28m deep at which point skeleton (333) encountered. Aligned east-west. Filled with (332) (307) and (333).
(307)	Fill of grave cut [303], mid brown silty clay packed with small stone fragments overlying skeleton (333).
[308]	Grave cut, measuring 2.05m long and aligned northeast-southwest. Filled with (309). Unexcavated.
(309)	Fill of grave cut [308], mid brown silty clay.
[314]	Cut for scoop measuring 6.6m wide and 0.66m deep, with a flattish base. Filled with (331) and (315).
(315)	Secondary fill of scoop [314], mid brown silty clay packed with stone fragments. Covers fill (331).
[322]	Grave cut, measuring 0.8m wide (minimum) and 0.55m deep and aligned north-south. Filled with (323).
(323)	Fill of grave cut [322], mid brown silty clay with frequent stone fragments.
[328]	Pit cut measuring 1.15m wide and 0.42m deep with flattish base. Filled with (329) and (330).
(329)	Primary fill of pit [328], mid brown silty clay with frequent stone fragments.
(330)	Secondary fill of pit [328], orange-brown silty clay, 0.3m deep.
(331)	Primary fill of scoop [314], reddish-brown gravelly silt with frequent stone fragments.
(332)	Fill of grave cut [306], orange-brown clayey silt, 0.32m wide and 0.15m deep and forming a pocket in upper part of fill (307). Seen in section only.
(333)	Skeleton in grave [303]. Only part of one leg bone exposed and left <i>in-situ</i> .

Trench 4	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(401)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.23m in depth.
(402)	Natural ragstone brash.

Trench 5	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(501)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.22m in depth.
(502)	Subsoil, light brown silty clay measuring a maximum of 0.22m deep. This deposit was apparent only in the southernmost 17m of the trench.
(503)	Natural ragstone brash with the exception of the southernmost 10m of the trench which consisted of a yellowish-brown clay..

Trench 6	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(601)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.
(602)	Subsoil, mid brown silty clay measuring a maximum of 0.08m deep and seen in patches only.
(603)	Natural ragstone brash with the exception of the north-easternmost 4m of the trench which consisted of a reddish-brown clay..
[604]	Linear gully cut, measuring 0.68m wide and 0.1m deep. Filled with (605).
(605)	Fill of gully [604], mid brown silty clay with very frequent stone fragments.
[606]	Cut for gully terminal, measuring 0.63m wide and 0.3m deep and aligned approximately north-south. Filled with (607).
(607)	Fill of gully terminal [606], mid brown silty clay.
[608]	Cut for post-pit, measuring 1.4m x 1.2m across and 0.4m deep. The actual posthole cut was 0.24m in diameter. Filled with (609).
(609)	Fill of post pit [608], yellowish-brown silty clay.

Trench 7	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(701)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.
(702)	Subsoil, mid brown silty clay, between 0.05m and 0.2m in depth.
(703)	Natural ragstone brash and yellowish brown clay.

Trench 8	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(801)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.
(802)	Subsoil, light brown silty clay, up to 0.27m in depth and apparent only for a width of 18m in the trench.
(803)	Natural ragstone brash with an 18m wide yellowish brown clay, which was covered by subsoil (802). .
[804]	Pit cut measuring 1.8m x 1.56m across and 0.83m deep. Steep-sided. Filled with (805) and (806).
(805)	Secondary fill of pit [804], mid brown clay 0.66m thick. Covers fill (806).
(806)	Primary fill of pit [804}, dark grey silty clay, 0.17m thick.
[807]	Pit cut, measuring 0.71m x 0.6m and 0.13m deep. Filled with (808).
(808)	Fill of pit [807], pale brown silty clay.

Trench 9	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(901)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.
(902)	Natural ragstone brash with orange-brown clay.
[903]	Cut for gully terminal, 0.83m wide and 0.09m deep with uneven base. Filled with

	(904).
(904)	Fill of gully terminal [903], mid brown silty clay.
[905]	Posthole cut, measuring 0.39m in diameter and 0.14m deep. Filled with (906).
(906)	Fill of posthole [905], dark brown clay.

Trench 10	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(1001)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.
(1002)	Natural ragstone brash.
[1003]	Cut for gully terminal, aligned northwest-southeast, 0.51m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.42m without being bottomed. Filled with (1004).
(1004)	Fill of gully terminal [1003], orange-brown silty clay with some charcoal flecks.
[1005]	Pit cut, measuring 1.4m wide and excavated for a depth of 0.75m without being bottomed. Filled with (1006) and (1007).
(1006)	Secondary fill of pit [1005], reddish-brown silty clay, 0.24m thick.
(1007)	Primary fill of ?gully terminal [1005], dark brown silty clay, at least 0.61m thick.
[1008]	Cut for gully terminal, aligned northwest-southeast, 0.7m wide and 0.08m deep. Filled with (1009).
(1009)	Fill of gully terminal [1008], reddish-brown silty clay.
[1010]	Pit cut, measuring 0.8m x 0.5m across and 0.2m deep. Filled with (1011).
(1011)	Fill of pit [1010], reddish-brown silty clay.
[1012]	Cut for gully terminal, aligned northwest-southeast, measuring 0.7m wide and 0.34m deep. Filled with (1013).
(1013)	Fill of gully terminal [1012], reddish brown silty clay with ragstone fragments.
[1014]	Pit/posthole cut measuring 0.4m x 0.25m across and 0.08m deep. Filled with (1015).
(1015)	Fill of posthole [1014], reddish-brown silty clay, with stone fragments..
[1016]	Pit cut, measuring 0.8m in width and excavated to a depth of 0.38m without being bottomed. Filled with (1017).
(1017)	Fill of pit (1017), reddish brown silty clay.
[1018]	Posthole cut measuring 0.8m x 0.53m across and 0.12m deep. Filled with (1019).
(1019)	Fill of posthole [1018], reddish-brown silty clay.
[1020]	Posthole cut measuring 0.6m across and 0.23m deep. Filled with (1021).
(1021)	Fill of posthole [1020], reddish-brown silty clay.

Trench 11	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(1101)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.25m in depth.
(1102)	Natural reddish-brown clay with outcrops of ragstone brash.

Trench 12	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(1201)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.
(1202)	Subsoil, light brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.
(1203)	Natural yellowish-brown clay with outcrops of ragstone brash.

Trench 13	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(1301)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.
(1302)	Natural yellowish and brown clay.

Trench 14	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(1401)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.
(1402)	Subsoil, light brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.

(1403)	Natural yellowish-brown clay.
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Trench 15	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(1501)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.22m in depth.
(1502)	Natural yellowish-brown clay with patches of brown clay and stone outcrops.

Trench 16	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(1601)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.3m in depth.
(1602)	Natural yellowish-brown clay with patches of brown clay and stone outcrops.

Trench 17	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(1701)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.
(1702)	Natural reddish-brown clay with stone outcrops.

Trench 18	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(1801)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.26m in depth.
(1802)	Natural reddish-brown clay mixed with ragstone brash.

Trench 19	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(1901)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.
(1902)	Subsoil, light brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.
(1903)	Natural yellowish-brown clay with patches of brown clay.

Trench 20	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(2001)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.
(2002)	Natural yellowish-brown clay with stone outcrops.

Trench 21	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(2101)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.23m in depth.
(2102)	Natural yellowish-brown clay.
[2103]	Ditch cut, aligned approximately northeast-southwest, measuring 1.04m wide and 0.3m deep. Cuts gully [2105] and filled with (2104).
(2104)	Fill of ditch [2103], reddish-brown silty clay.
[2105]	Gully cut, aligned approximately northeast-southwest, measuring 0.54m wide and 0.4m deep. Cut by ditch [2103] and filled with (2106).
(2106)	Fill of gully [2105], reddish-brown silty clay.
[2107]	Pit cut, measuring 1.68m x 1.22m across and 0.32m deep. Filled with (2108).
(2108)	Fill of pit [2107], reddish-brown silty clay.
[2109]	Pit cut, measuring 1.8m across and 0.21m deep. Filled with (2110).
(2110)	Fill of pit [2109], reddish-brown silty clay.
[2111]	Pit cut, measuring 1.6m across and 0.07m deep. Filled with (2112).
(2112)	Fill of pit [2111], mid brown silty clay.
[2113]	Ditch cut, aligned approximately northeast-southwest, measuring 1.6m across and 0.13m deep. Filled with (2114).
(2114)	Fill of ditch [2113], reddish-brown silty clay.

[2115]	Ditch cut, measuring 1.68m across and 0.3m deep. Filled with (2116).
(2116)	Fill of ditch [2115], reddish-brown silty clay.
[2117]	Pit cut, measuring 2m across and 0.15m deep. Uncertain relationship with an unexcavated adjacent feature. Filled with (2118).
(2118)	Fill of pit [2117], mid brown silty clay.
(2119)	Fill of pit [2120], reddish-brown silty clay.
[2120]	Pit cut, measuring 1.7m across and 0.1m deep. Filled with (2119).
[2121]	Ditch cut, aligned approximately northeast-southwest, measuring 3.4m across and 0.13m deep. Filled with (2122).
(2122)	Fill of ditch [2121], reddish-brown silty clay.
[2123]	Pit cut, measuring 1.3m across and 0.14m deep. Filled with (2124).
(2124)	Fill of pit [2123], mid brown silty clay.

Trench 22

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(2201)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.
(2202)	Natural yellowish-brown clay with stone outcrops.

Trench 23

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(2301)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.35m in depth.
(2302)	Subsoil, light brown silty clay apparent for the north-easternmost 30m of the trench only and a maximum of 0.2m in depth,
(2303)	Natural yellowish-brown clay with stone outcrops.

Trench 24

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(2401)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.
(2402)	Natural reddish-brown clay with patches of brown clay and stone outcrops.

Trench 25

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(2501)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.
(2502)	Natural yellowish-brown clay.

Trench 26

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(2601)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.
(2602)	Natural yellowish-brown clay.
[2603]	Cut for scoop, measuring 3m across and 0.35m deep. Filled with (2604). Possibly a natural hollow within the clay.
(2604)	Fill of scoop [2603], reddish-brown silty clay.

Trench 27

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(2701)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.22m in depth.
(2602)	Natural reddish-brown clay with stone outcrops.
[2703]	Cut for trackway, aligned northeast-southwest, measuring 2.2m across. Filled with (2704).
(2704)	Fill of trackway [2703], sub-angular and sub-rounded stones ranging in size from 0.04m – 0.24m across. Some of these stones showed a reddish colouring, possibly from being burnt. This track which was a maximum of 0.1m thick was laid directly on top of a natural stone outcrop.

Trench 28	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(2801)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.25m in depth.
(2802)	Subsoil, greyish-brown silty clay a maximum of 0.1m thick. Occurs as a very patchy deposit.
(2803)	Natural reddish-brown clay, with patches of brown clay.
[2804]	Cut for trackway, aligned northeast-southwest, measuring 2.5m across. Filled with (2805) and (2806).
(2805)	Fill of trackway [2805], sub-angular and sub-rounded stones ranging in size from 0.01m – 0.20m across. Some of these stones showed a reddish colouring, possibly from being burnt. One wheel rut was apparent within the track, which was not excavated and covered by (2806).
(2806)	Layer of mid brown silty clay, a maximum of 0.2m thick, directly overlying trackway (2805).

Trench 29	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(2901)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.
(2902)	Natural yellowish-brown clay with patches of brown clay.

Trench 30	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(3001)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.25m in depth.
(3002)	Natural yellowish and reddish-brown clay with stone outcrops.

Trench 31	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(3101)	Topsoil, dark brown silty clay, 0.25m in depth.
(3102)	Subsoil, pale brown silty clay apparent for the south-easternmost 15m of the trench only.
(3103)	Natural ragstone brash with patches of reddish-brown clay.

APPENDIX 2 FINDS TABLE

Context	Spot Date	Pottery		Animal bone		Flint		Other Finds
		No	Wgt (g)	No	Wgt (g)	No	Wgt (g)	
205	late 12-13th	7	85	5	24			1 Fe disc
304								1: Cu alloy lace tag 2: Cu alloy mount 3: Cu alloy pin
315	late 12-13th	12	63	8	6			
323								2 human teeth
401	11-12th	1	9					
801								1 fired clay (20g)
1501	late 12-13th	2	8			2	15	
1701						1		
1801								1 box tile (59g)
1902						1		
2100	late 12-15th	1	22					
2104	late 12-15th	1	2	1				
2106	late 12-15th	2	9					
2108	Bronze Age?	5	14	1	1			
2114								1 Fe nail
2119	11-13th	1	4					
2501	11-13th	1	12					
2601						1	1	
2604						1	2	
2606	medieval	1	14					
2704	late 12-13th	1	4					
2802						1	6	
3102						1	12	

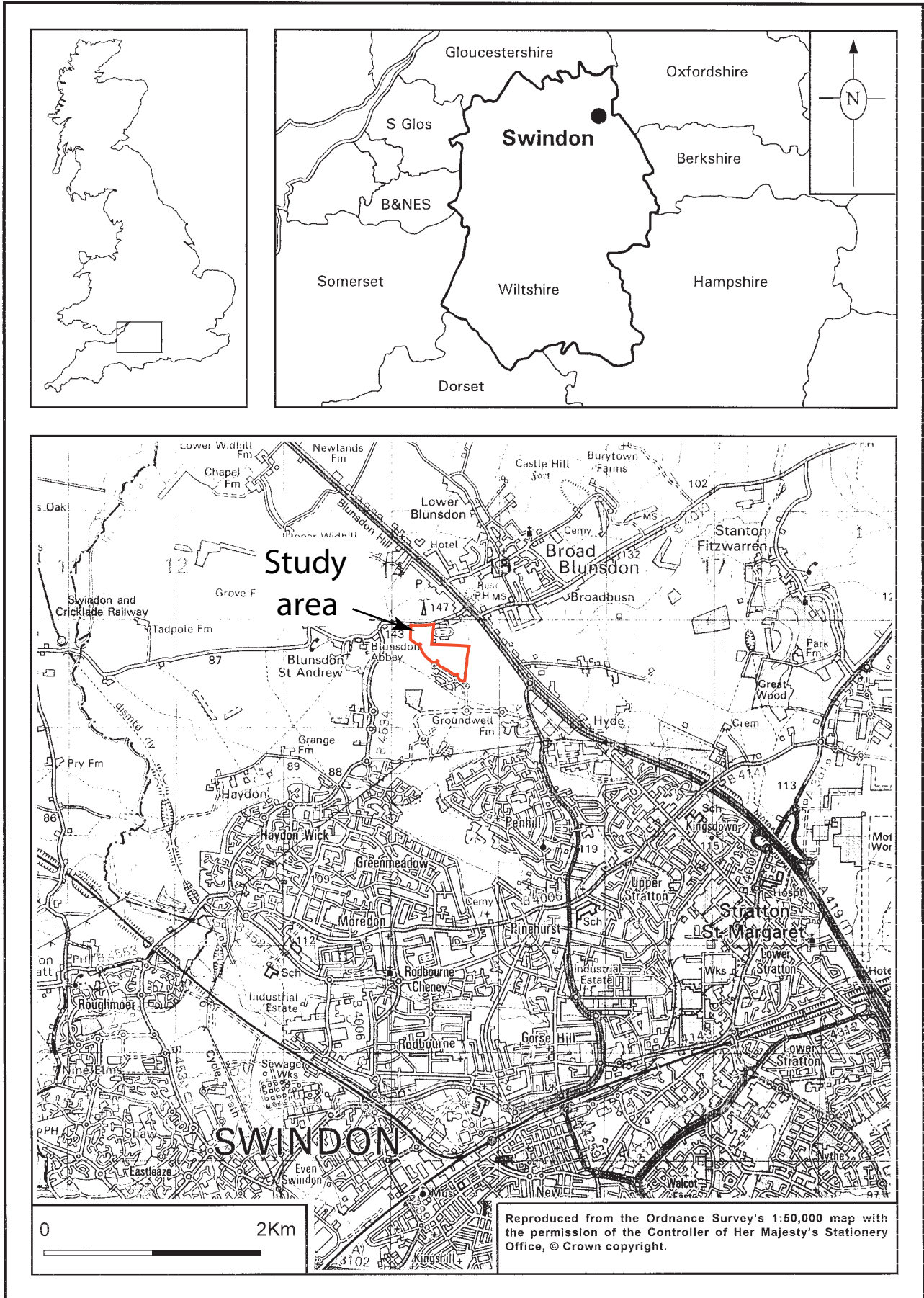


Fig. 1 Location plan

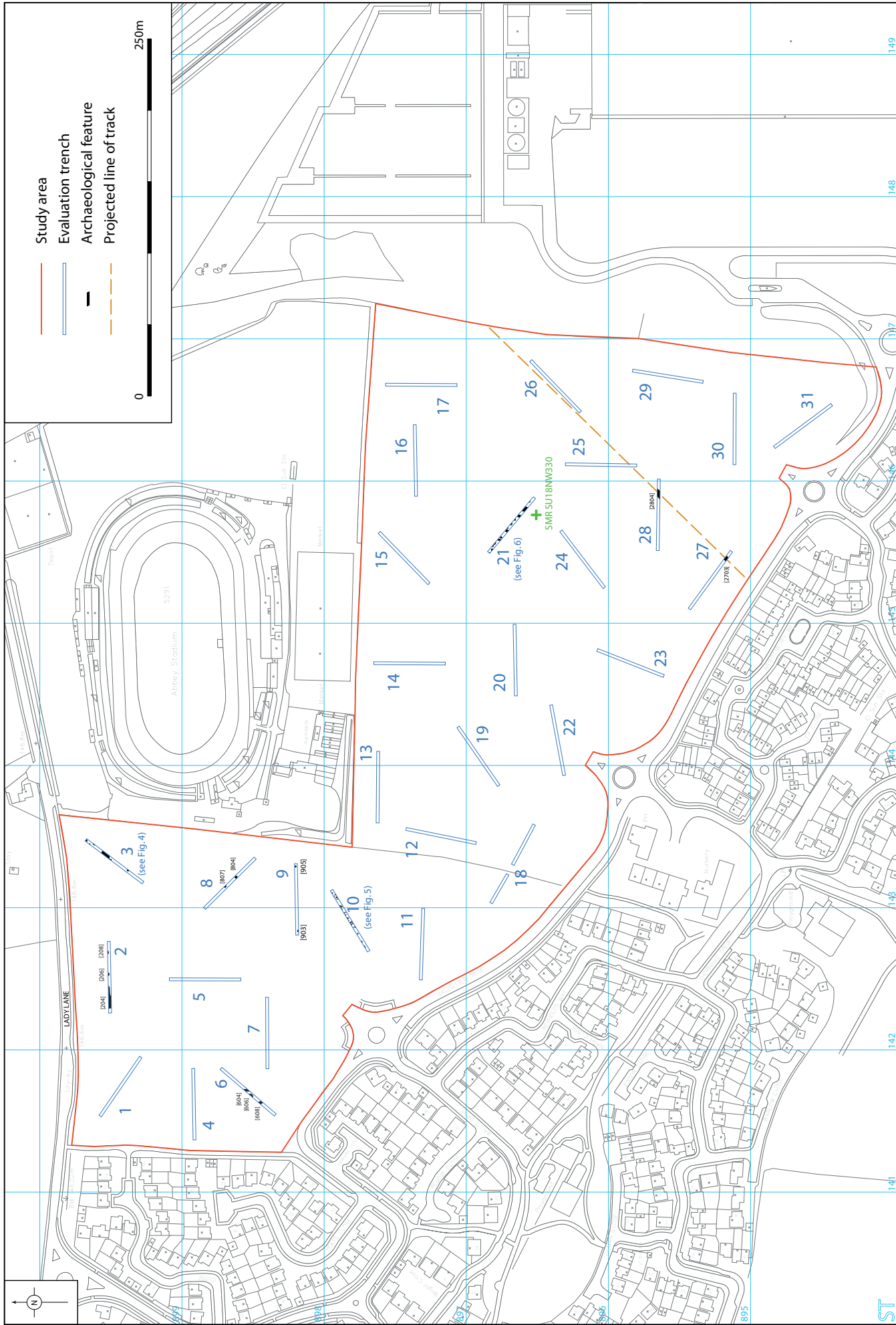


Fig. 2 Study area showing Trenches 1 - 31 and location of archaeological features

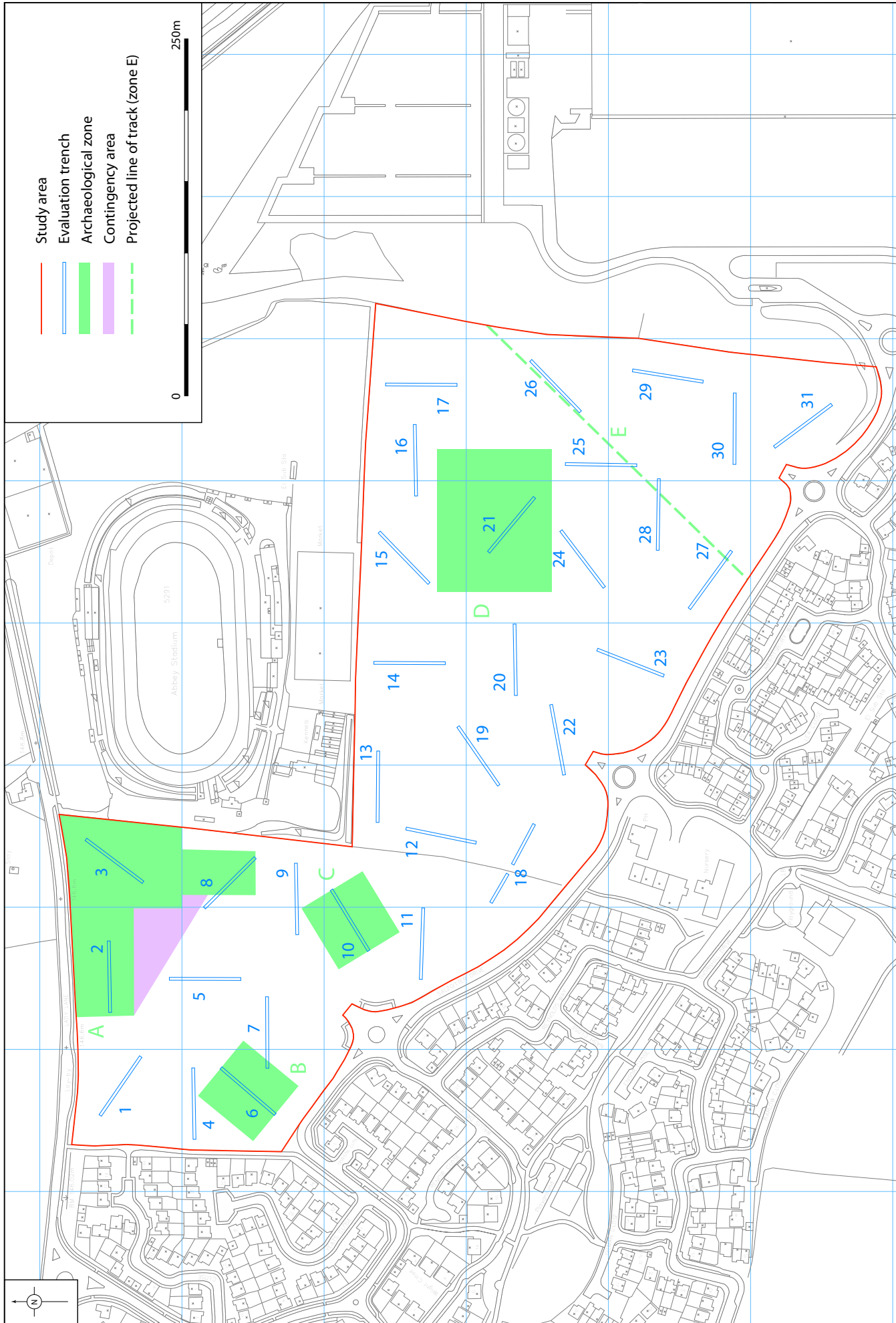
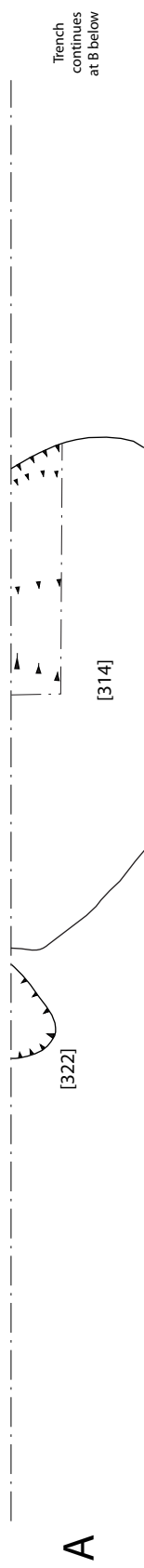
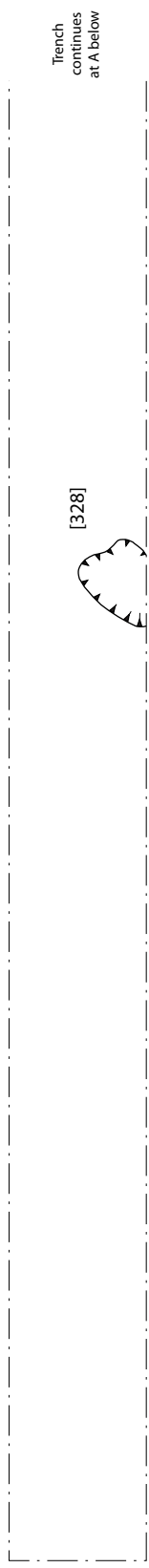
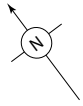
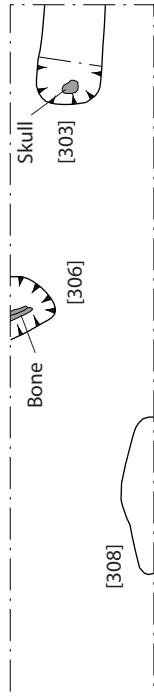


Fig. 3 Study area showing evaluation trenches and suggested extent of archaeological zones A-E



A



B



Fig. 4 Trench 3; plan

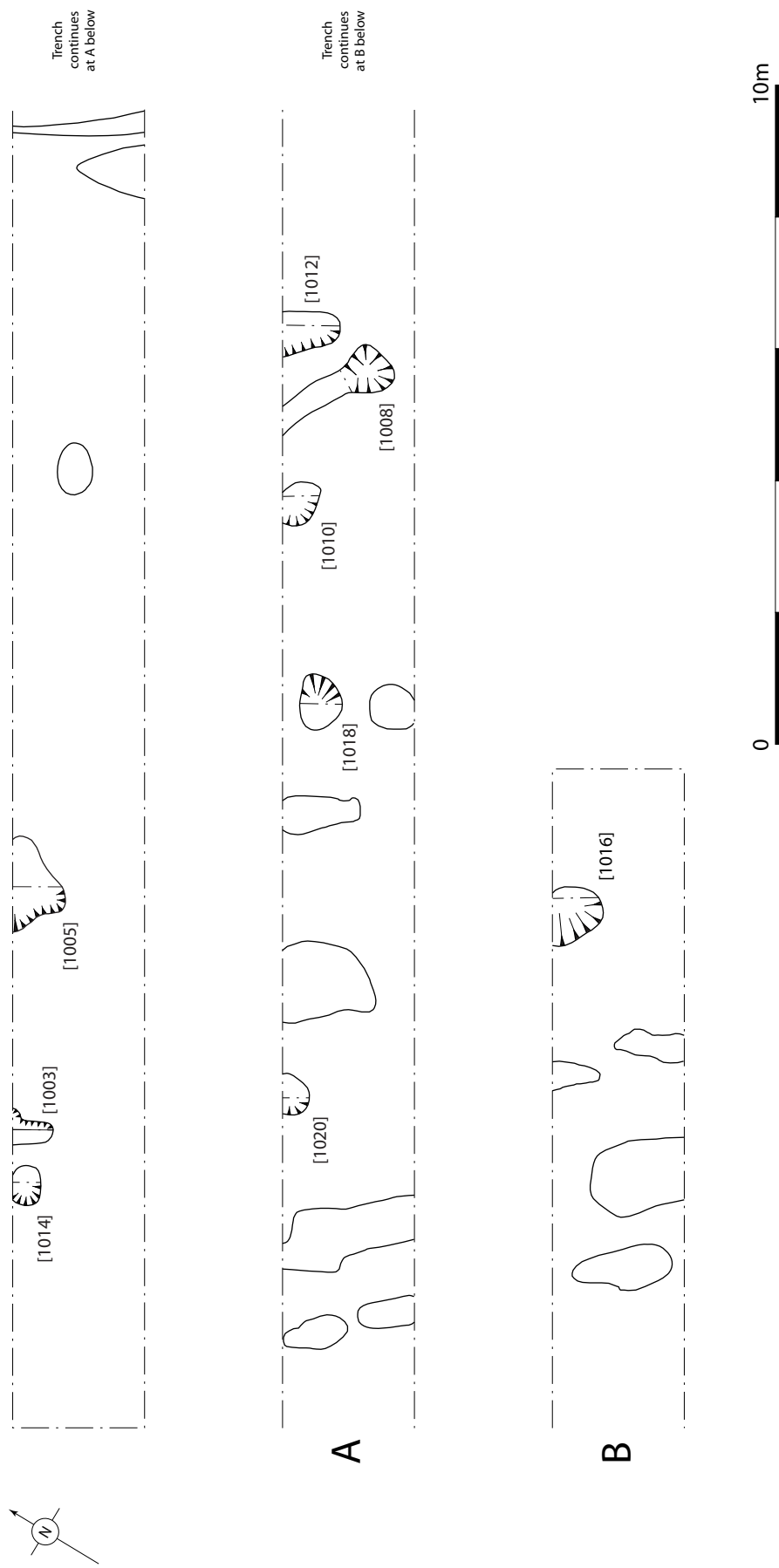


Fig. 5 Trench 10; plan

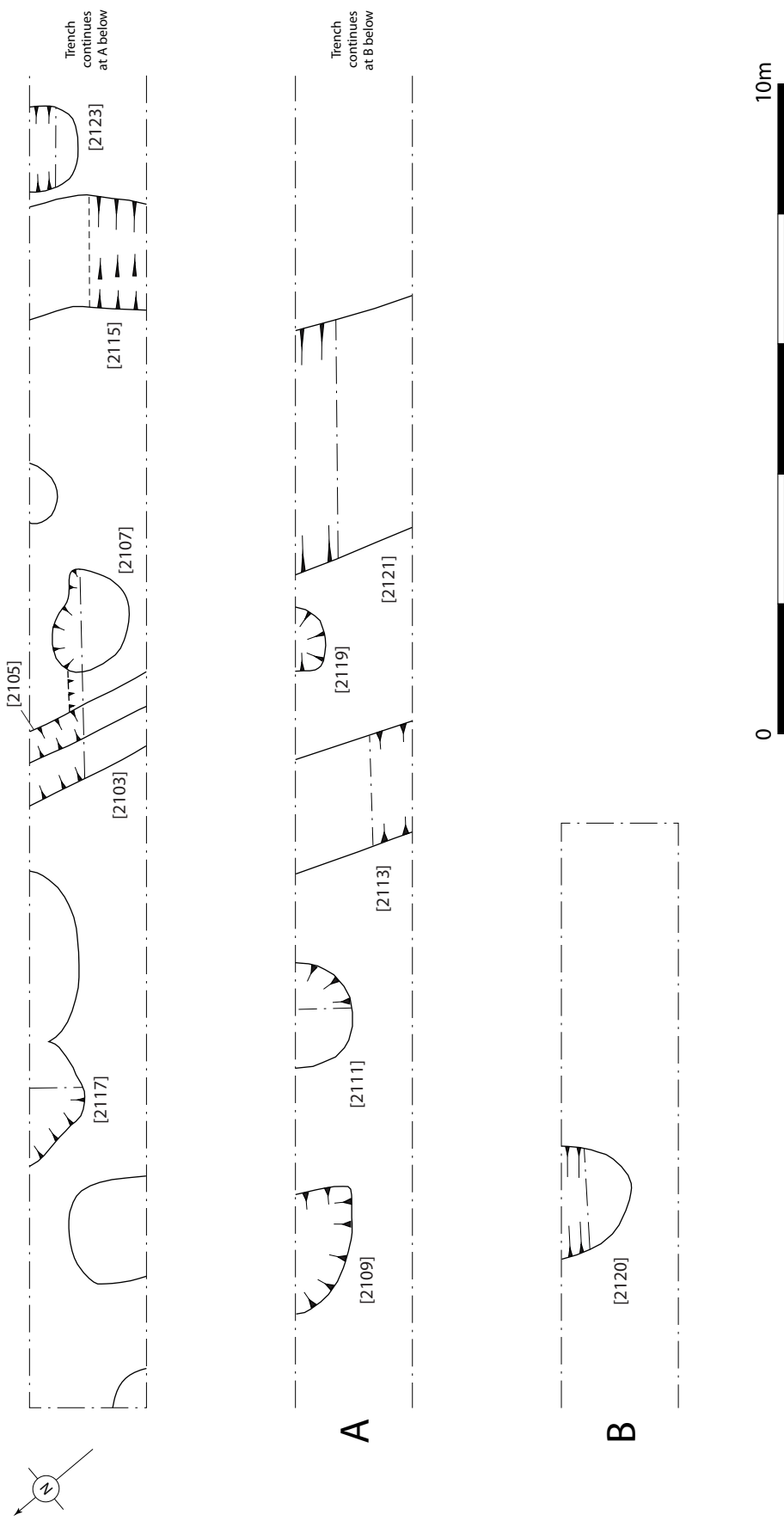


Fig. 6 Trench 21; plan

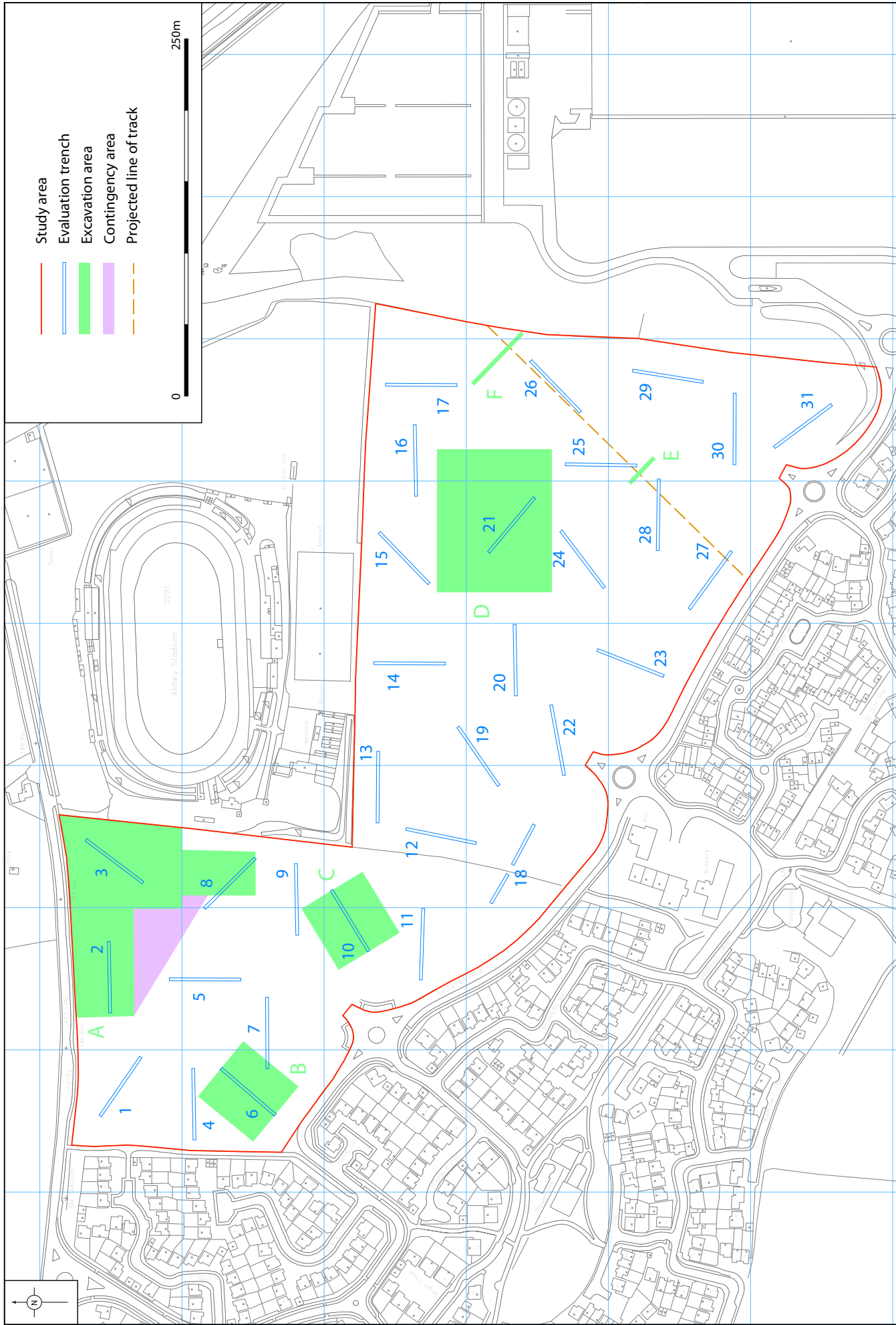


Fig. 3 Study area showing evaluation trenches and suggested extent of archaeological zones A-E

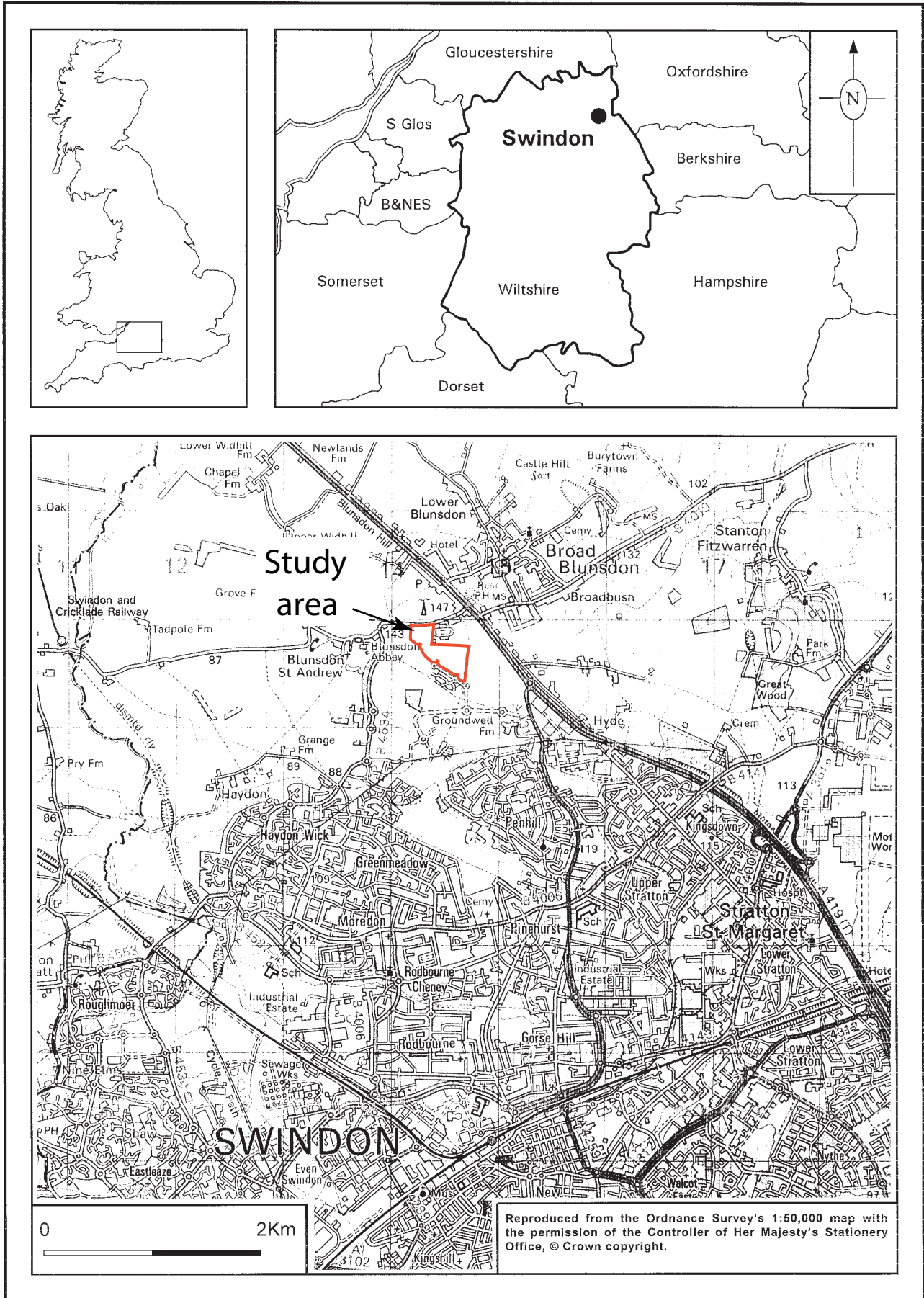


Fig. 1 Location plan

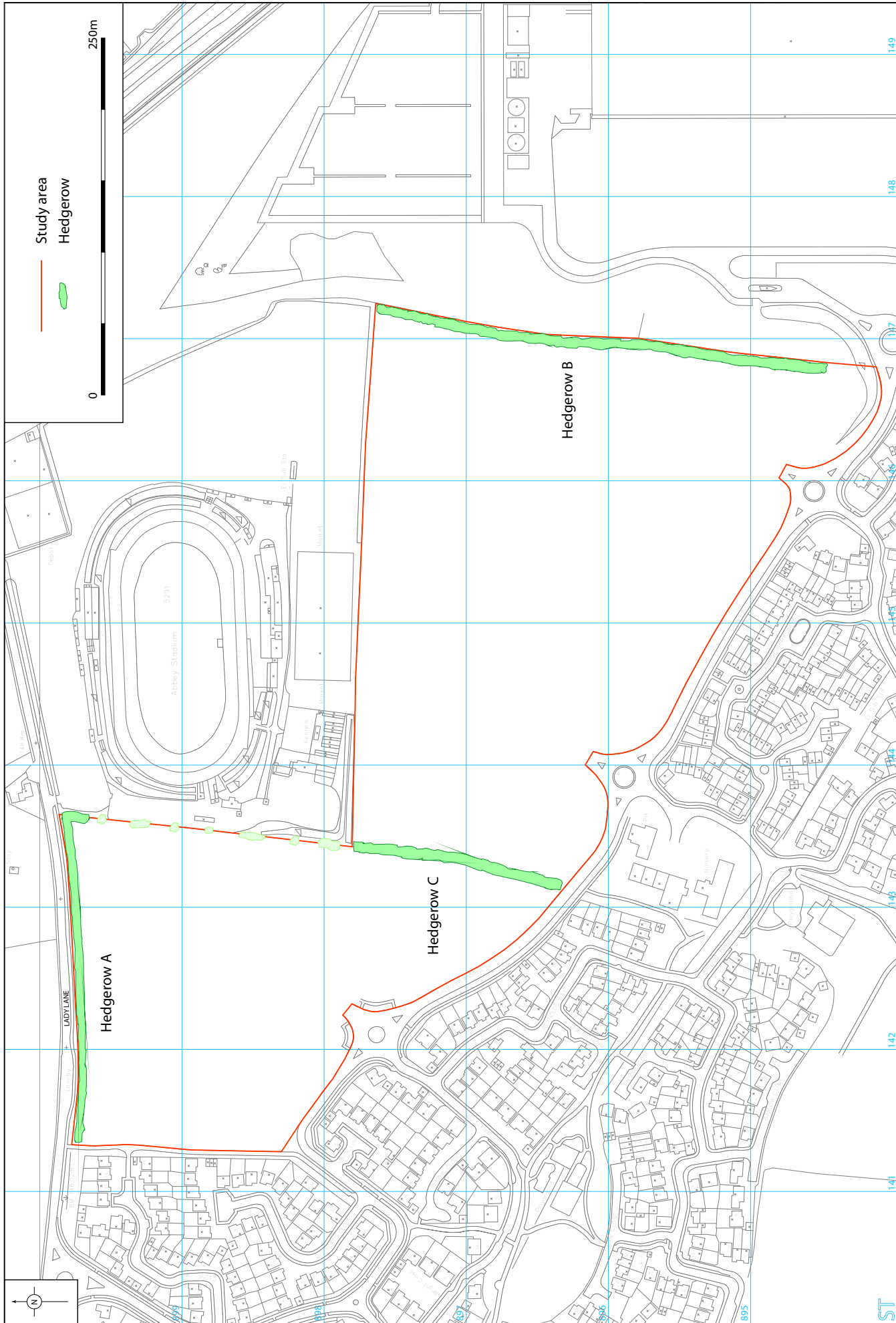


Fig. 2 Study area showing location of hedgerows A - C



Fig. 3 The study area marked on an amalgamation of the Ordnance Survey maps of 1876, 1884 and 1886. Hedgerow C is shown on the 1876 portion of the map. Scale approx. 1:5000