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PERSIMMON HOMES LTD

**LAND OFF MILESTONE ROAD, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON,
WARWICKSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP &
SAMPLE AND EVALUATION REPORT**

January 2015

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Persimmon Homes Ltd

Land off Milestone Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire

Archaeological Strip, Map & Sample
And Evaluation Report

January 2015

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by Persimmon Homes Ltd, to undertake a strip and record and an archaeological evaluation at land off Milestone Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire (Centred on SP 2173 5411). This work was required as a condition of the planning consent for a proposed residential development at the site.

The archaeological strip, map and sample and evaluation was undertaken over 11 days between the 4th to the 17th November 2014 and the 2nd December 2014. There were two sections of the strip, map and sample that consisted of the pond area and the main roadways and totalled 5526.93m². Two Bronze Age pits and a post-medieval ditch with the remains of a possible earlier ditch were observed in the pond area. The roadways were devoid of any archaeological features. Sewerage and drainage pipes had already been laid along sections of the roadways and the western side of the pond area and cut through the post-medieval ditch.

The evaluation involved the excavation of 15 trenches, totalling 1208.5m². Archaeological remains were identified in Trenches 2 and 10 in the form of a posthole and a pit respectively. No finds were recovered.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) thanks Persimmon Homes Ltd. for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. Thanks also to Anna Stocks, Planning Archaeologist at Warwickshire County Council, for all her assistance throughout the project.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology also thanks M V Kelly Ltd. and their staff for their help during this project.

The archaeological strip, map and sample and evaluation was undertaken by Mike McElligott and Adam Slater, assisted by Sean Johnson, Ed Johnson, Karen Duignan, Charles Rickaby and Mark Lawson. The report was written by Mike McElligott and the drawings were produced by Adrian Bailey. The finds assessment was compiled by Megan Stoakley, WAA Finds Officer. The environmental assessment was undertaken by Don O'Meara, WAA Environmental Officer.

The report was edited by Richard Newman, Post excavation Manager for WAA. The project was managed by Nick Daffern, Senior Project Manager for WAA.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

- 1.1.1 In November 2014, WAA was invited by Persimmon Homes Ltd to undertake a strip, map and sample and archaeological evaluation at land off Milestone Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire (Centred on SP 2173 5411; Figure 1), prior to the development of residential buildings. As a result, Anna Stocks, Planning Archaeologist, Warwickshire County Council requested a programme of archaeological investigation, prior to the development taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.1.2 The strip, map and sample and archaeological evaluation were undertaken following approved standards and guidance (IfA 2008), and were consistent with the specification provided by Frank Giecco (2014).
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the strip, map and sample and the evaluation works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Project Design

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by WAA in response to a request by Persimmon Homes Ltd, for an archaeological strip & record and evaluation of the study area. Following acceptance of the project design by Anna Stocks, Planning Archaeologist, Warwickshire County Council and WAA was commissioned by the client to undertake the work.

2.2 The Strip, map and sample and the Field Evaluation

2.2.1 The strip, map and sample consisted of two sections; the pond area which covered 2166.9m² and the main roadways which covered 3360m². The purpose of the strip, map and sample was to identify whether archaeological remains are present and, if remains were identified, to quantify the extent to which they had been affected by the works thus far undertaken.

2.2.2 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of 15 trenches covering 1208.5m² of the proposed c.3.7ha development area. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity, with the evaluation trenches located to target both geophysical anomalies and apparently 'sterile' areas.

2.2.3 In summary, the main objectives of the field evaluation were:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
- to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

2.2.4 Turf and topsoil was removed by mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and all features were investigated and recording according to the Wardell Armstrong Archaeology standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Giecco 2013).

2.2.5 All finds encountered were retained, including those from excavated topsoil, and were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of Megan Stoakley, WWA Finds Officer.

2.2.6 The 15 evaluation trenches were backfilled following excavation and recording.

2.2.7 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Management of Archaeological Projects (2nd Edition, 1991).

2.3 **The Archive**

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and in line with current UKIC guidelines (1990) and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited within Warwickshire Archives, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Warwick, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA14 MRS-A, CP 11154/14.

2.3.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology and Warwickshire County Council, support the **Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, as a part of this national project.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

3.1.1 The proposed development site is situated on the southeastern outskirts of Stratford-upon-Avon, approximately 1.5km from the town centre, to the north of Banbury Road (Figure 2). The land slopes from c.50m aOD in the southeast to c.45m aOD in the northwest, descending the terrace sequences into the Avon Valley.

3.1.2 The underlying solid geology of the area consists of mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group deposited during the Triassic Period (200 – 215 million years ago) (BGS 2001). The site is underlain by superficial deposits of the Warwickshire Avon Valley Formation, with the 2nd terrace Wasperton Sand and Gravel Member mapped at the northwest end of the site and the 4th terrace Ailstone Member mapped in the southeast end of the site.

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

3.2.1 **Introduction:** this background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and the records consulted during the desk-based assessment. It is intended only as a summary of historical developments around the study area, in order to assess the archaeological potential.

3.2.2 **Prehistoric (up to c.AD 72):** The earliest recorded archaeological information in the Warwickshire HER consists of references to the Mesolithic and Neolithic flint tools located approximately 800m northwest of the site area at Loxley Road. Bronze Age pits were recorded during archaeological excavations at an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Alveston Manor. Iron Age pottery was recovered from various pit and gully features at the Loxley Road site indicating a probable Iron Age/Romano-British settlement in this area.

3.2.3 **Roman (c.AD 72 – c.410):** A possible Roman road, known as the Saltway referred to in an early medieval charter is recorded approximately 300m north of the site area. The southwest corner of the site area lies adjacent to the Roman road that links Stratford-upon-Avon with the Fosse Way near Ettington.

3.2.4 **Medieval, Post-Medieval and Modern (c.1066 – present):** There were no medieval HER records for the study area. Croft Farm is listed in the HER as a farm incorporating 18th and 19th century buildings.

3.3 Previous Archaeological Work

- 3.3.1 A Desk-based Assessment (EDP 2009) and Archaeological and Heritage Assessment (EDP 2013) have been produced to summarise the historical and archaeological background of the site and immediate vicinity.
- 3.3.2 These reports identified that there were no designated or undesignated heritage assets within the site boundary although two previously unidentified linear cropmarks, aligned north east – south west, were present although these have been postulated to be post-medieval in origin.
- 3.3.3 Within the vicinity, an undated gully abuts the south west boundary site to the south identified during a 2006 archaeological evaluation whilst two post-medieval pits were identified 80m to the south of the site in 2011.
- 3.3.4 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land directly to the south west of the site in 1996, this identified no archaeological remains.
- 3.3.5 The sole archaeological fieldwork within the application area a magnetometer survey undertaken in 2007, reported on in 2009 and identified 10 anomalies and considered it likely that most anomalies “are of natural origin, relating to the underlying river terrace gravel deposits (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2009).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The strip, map and sample consisted of two areas; the pond and the main roadways (Figures 2 & 3) which was undertaken in two phases that started on the 20th October to the 24th of October 2014 and the 4th November to the 17th November 2014. The areas had been opened prior to commencement of archaeological works on site with the topsoil and some of the subsoil removed and sewerage pipes and drains laid along the line of most of the roadways and part of the pond area. As a result, the works consisted of cleaning back the pond and roadways to the natural substrate using a 30 ton 360 excavator with a toothless bucket. Potential features observed were cleaned and investigated with actual features recorded fully.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 The pond area was located in the northwest corner of the site and was roughly L-shaped that measured 75m by 48.81m and comprised an area 2166.9m² (Figure 3). A ditch and two pits were observed along with several furrows, plough scars and many tree throws that were scattered across the area (Plate 1).



Plate 1: Pond Area, looking north

4.2.2 Pit [115] was located in the northern end of the area, next to its northeast baulk (Figure 4). It was oval shaped that measured 1.5m by 0.83m by 0.44m and had sharp steep sloping sides with a concave base (Plate 2). The fill (116) was a loose mid brown silty sand that contained occasional small stone and charcoal flecks. Five sherds of Bronze Age pottery were recovered. The pit was cut by ditch [139] along its northwest side and by a furrow.



Plate 2: Pit [115], looking southwest

4.2.3 Pit [124] was located near the centre of the area, next to the southeast baulk (Figures 4 & 5). It was circular shaped that measured 0.6m in diameter by 0.14m deep and had sharp steep sloping sides with a flat base (Plate 3). The fill (125) was a loose dark brown silty sand that occasional small stone and charcoal flecks. Two sherds of Bronze Age pottery were recovered.



Plate 3: Pit [124], looking northeast

4.2.4 Possible ditch [111] was located at the northeast end of the area and was only visible in section (Figure 5) (Plate 4). Its northeast side was cut by ditch [139] and its extent was unknown as it was not visible in any of the slots put through the ditches to the southeast. It measured 1.16m by 0.22m with a steep sloping southwest side and a flattish base. The fill (112) was a loose light to mid brown silty sand that contained moderate small pebbles and stones. No finds were recovered.



Plate 4: Ditches [111] & [139], looking southwest

4.2.5 The ditch [139] was located in the northwest side of the area and ran parallel to and under the modern fence line, aligned northeast-southwest. It measured 75m by 0.6m – 6m by 0.25m – 0.4m though its northwest side was not visible as it was outside the limit of excavation. Its length was unknown as it extended beyond the limits of the excavation in both directions. It had gradual to steep sloping southeast side with a very wide flat base (Figure 5) (Plates 4, 5 & 6). The lowest fill (137) was visible near the southeast end of the ditch and was a loose mid greyish brown clayey sand that contained occasional stone. The second fill (140) was visible in the southeast and central sections of the ditch and was a loose mid yellowish brown silty sand that contained occasional small stone and charcoal flecks. Fragments of shell, clay pipe and pieces of CBM were recovered. The upper fill (138) was visible throughout the ditch and was a loose light to mid brown sandy clay that contained occasional small stone and charcoal flecks. Pieces of clay pipe, CBM, post-medieval pottery were recovered along with some iron fragments and animal bone. The ditch cut an earlier feature [111] that may have been a ditch and a pit [115] which contained Bronze Age pottery. The two features were located at the northeast end of the area.



Plate 5: Ditch [139], looking north



Plate 6: Ditch [139], looking north

- 4.2.6 The roadways were spread across the site and their precise locations are shown on figure 2 (Plates 7 & 8).
- 4.2.7 Roads 2 and parts of 3 and 4 had sewerage and drainage pipes already laid. After the remaining subsoil had been removed, several potential features were observed and investigated. There were no features of archaeological significance found. There were clusters of tree boles in the northwest end of road 2. There were more visible in road 3 and 4 with furrows visible in roads 3 and 5 also. There were patches of reddish clay visible at the southeast end of road 4 and throughout road 5.



Plate 7: Road 2 – showing line of the sewerage pipe, looking southeast



Plate 8: Road 3, looking southwest



Plate 9: Road 4, looking northwest

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken in a single phase that started on the 11th to the 13th of November 2014 and consisted of 15 trenches (Figure 2). The topsoil and subsoil was stripped by a 30 ton and a 14 ton 360 excavator with a toothless bucket to the level of the natural substrate. The areas under investigation were subsequently cleaned by hand and investigated and recorded fully. Trenches 1, 3, 6, 7 and 9 – 11 measured 50m in length except for trenches 2, 4, 5, 8 and 12 - 15 that varied in length from 20m to 42m. Trenches 1 – 11 were 1.8m wide and 12 – 15 were 2.3m wide. The evaluation extended over a single field. Trenches 1, 3 – 9 and 11 – 15 contained no features of archaeological significance; the summaries of these trenches are included in Appendix 2.

5.2 Results

5.2.1 **Trench 1:** Trench 1 was located in the northern side of the field and was aligned northeast-southwest. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.56m revealing loose mid orange brown sandy clay (**1002**) below c.0.17m of soft mid-reddish brown sandy clay subsoil (**1001**) and c.0.26m of loose mid grey brown loamy clay topsoil (**1000**) (Plate 10) (Figure 2). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.



Plate 10: Trench 1, looking northeast

5.2.2 **Trench 2:** Trench 2 was located in the northern side of the field and was aligned northwest-southeast. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.48m revealing soft light orange brown sandy clay (**2002**) below c.0.11m of loose mid orangey brown sandy clay subsoil (**2001**) and c.0.20m of soft dark brown loamy clay topsoil (**2000**) (Plate 11) (Figure 2).



Plate 11: Trench 2, looking southeast



Plate 12: Posthole [2003], looking southeast

5.2.3 There was a small posthole [2003] located at the northwest end of the trench (Figure 5). It was circular shaped that measured 0.23m in diameter by 0.26m deep. It had

vertical sides with a flat base (Plate 12). The fill (**2004**) was a loose light grey brown sandy clay that contained moderate small stone. No finds were recovered.

- 5.2.4 **Trench 3:** Trench 3 was located in northeast corner of the field and was aligned northwest-southeast. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.44m revealing loose mid reddish brown gravel (**3002**) below c.0.18m of loose mid reddish brown sandy clay subsoil (**3001**) and c.0.19m of loose mid grey brown clay loam topsoil (**3000**) (Plate 13) (Figure 2). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.



Plate 13: Trench 3, looking southeast

- 5.2.5 **Trench 4:** Trench 4 was located toward the northeastern side of the field and was aligned northwest-southeast with its northeast end joined on to the southwest side of trench 3 (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35m revealing loose mid reddish brown gravel with patches of sandy clay (**4002**) below c.0.08m of firm mid reddish brown sandy clay subsoil (**4001**) and c.0.21m of loose mid grey brown sandy clay topsoil (**4000**). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

5.2.6 **Trench 5:** Trench 5 was located toward the southeast corner of the field and was aligned northwest-southeast (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.55m revealing loose to firm light yellow brown sandy clay and gravel (**5002**) below c.0.15m of mid loose brown silty sand subsoil (**5001**) and c.0.28m of loose dark brown silty clay topsoil (**5000**) (Plate 14). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.



Plate 14: Trench 5, looking southeast



Plate 15: Trench 6, looking east

5.2.7 **Trench 6:** Trench 6 was located in the southern end of the field, to the southwest of the southeast end of road 4 and was aligned northwest-southeast (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m revealing loose to firm light yellow brown sandy gravel (**6002**) below c.0.15m of loose mid brown silty sand subsoil (**6001**) and c.0.21m of loose dark brown silty clay topsoil (**6000**) (Plate 15). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

5.2.8 **Trench 7:** Trench 7 was located toward the southeast corner of the field and was aligned northeast-southwest (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m revealing loose to firm light brown yellow reddish brown sandy gravel (**7002**) below c.0.15m of mid loose brown silty sand subsoil (**7001**) and c.0.28m of loose dark brown silty clay topsoil (**7000**) (Plate 16). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.



Plate 16: Trench 7, looking southwest

5.2.9 **Trench 8:** Trench 8 was located in the southern end of the field and was aligned northwest-southeast (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.50m revealing loose light yellow sandy gravel (**8002**) below c.0.22m of loose mid brown silty sand subsoil (**8001**) and c.0.22m of loose dark brown silty clay topsoil (**8000**) (Plate 17). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.



Plate 17: Trench 8, looking southeast



Plate 18: Trench 9, looking southeast

5.2.10 **Trench 9:** Trench 9 was located toward the centre of the field and was aligned northwest-southeast (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.49m revealing loose mid orange brown gravel (**9002**) below c.0.14m of loose light brown sandy clay subsoil (**9001**) and c.0.22m of loose mid brown clay loam topsoil (**9000**) (Plate 18). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

5.2.11 **Trench 10:** Trench 10 was located in the western side of the field and was aligned northwest-southeast (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m revealing firm light to mid orangey yellow clay and gravel (**10002**) below c.0.12m of loose mid brown silty sand (**10001**) and c.0.29m of loose dark grey silty clay topsoil (**10000**) (Plate 19).



Plate 19: Trench 10, looking northwest

5.2.12 There was a small pit located near the centre of the trench. Pit [**10003**] was oval shaped that measured 0.6m by 0.5m by 0.35m. It had sharp steep sloping sides with a concave base (Plate 20) (Figure 6). The fill (**10004**) was a loose greyish brown silty

clay that contained occasional small stones and charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered.



Plate 20: Pit [10003], looking southwest

5.2.13 **Trench 11:** Trench 11 was located in the western side of the field and was aligned roughly west northwest – east southeast (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.59m revealing soft light yellow brown clay sand and gravel (**11002**) below c.0.13m of loose mid yellow brown clay sand (**11001**) and c.0.33m of loose dark grey brown sandy clay topsoil (**11000**) (Plate 21). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.



Plate 21: Trench 11, looking west northwest

- 5.2.14 **Trench 12:** Trench 12 was located in the northern part of the field, between trenches 1 and 2 and was aligned north-south (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.56m revealing friable light yellowish brown silty sand (**12002**) below c.0.37m of friable mid yellowish brown sandy silt (**12001**) and c.0.26m of soft dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil (**12000**). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features
- 5.2.15 **Trench 13:** Trench 13 was located in the northern part of the field, to the west of trenches 3 and 4 and was aligned east northeast-west southwest (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m revealing friable light yellowish brown silty sand (**13002**) below c.0.36m of friable mid yellowish brown sandy silt (**13001**) and c.0.23m of soft dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil (**13000**). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.
- 5.2.16 **Trench 14:** Trench 14 was located in the eastern side of the field, to the south of trenches 3 and 4 and was aligned north northeast-south southwest (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.72m revealing friable light yellowish brown silty sand (**14002**) below c.0.48m of friable mid reddish brown sandy silt (**14001**) and c.0.31m of soft dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil (**14000**). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

5.2.17 **Trench 15:** Trench 15 was located in the southern part of the field, to the south of and parallel to trench 6 and was aligned northwest-southeast (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.71m revealing friable light yellowish brown silty sand (**15002**) below c.0.48m of friable mid reddish brown sandy silt (**15001**) and c.0.27m of soft dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil (**15000**). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

6 FINDS

6.1 Finds Assessment

6.1.1 A total of 75 artefacts, weighing 1187g, were recovered from 12 contexts during an archaeological evaluation on land at Milestone Road, Stratford-upon-Avon.

6.1.2 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998) and to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standard & Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2008b). All artefacts have been boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011).

6.1.3 The material archive has been assessed for its local, regional and national potential and further work has been recommended on the potential for the material archive to contribute to the relevant research frameworks.

6.1.4 The finds assessment was compiled by Megan Stoakley with contributions from Don O'Meara and Dave Jackson.

6.1.5 Quantification of finds by context is visible in Table 1.

Cxt	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Date	Notes
132	Animal Bone	2	13	?	Scap blade - large mammal; vertebral centrum (large mammal)
100	CBM	3	118	PM	
101	CBM	7	302	PM	Brick fragments
108	CBM	1	12	PM	Fill of plough scar [108]
127	CBM	4	145	PM	
130	CBM	4	84	PM	
133	CBM	2	92	PM	
100	Clay Pipe	1	3	PM	Undecorated stem fragment
101	Clay Pipe	1	2	PM	Undecorated stem fragment
132	Clay Pipe	1	4	PM	Undiagnostic stem fragment
133	Clay Pipe	1	1	PM	Undecorated stem fragment
134	Clay Pipe	2	2	PM	Undecorated stem fragment
102	Flint	1	3	?	Potential flake
106	Flint	1	7	?	Potential flake
100	Glass	1	19	Mod	Base of bottle
127	Glass	1	5	PM	

Cxt	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Date	Notes
132	Glass	1	59	Mod	
133	Glass	2	21	PM	
134	Glass	1	1	PM	
127	Iron	3	102	PM-Mod	2 undiagnostic fragments; 1 x nail
134	Iron	1	74	Mod	Nail
101	Oyster shell	1	3	PM-Mod	
132	Oyster shell	1	7	?	
100	Pottery	2	5	PM	CRE & RWE
101	Pottery	7	30	PM-Mod	1 x Delftware?
116	Pottery	5	13	BA	Flint-tempered
125	Pottery	2	10	BA	Undiagnostic fragments - very friable
127	Pottery	7	18	PM	Willow pattern
130	Pottery	2	8	PM	TP
133	Pottery	4	19	PM	TP
134	Pottery	3	5	PM	3 x TP
TOTAL		75	1187		

Table 1: Quantification of Finds by Material and Context

6.2 Prehistoric Ceramics

6.2.1 Seven fragments of prehistoric pottery, weighing 23g, were recovered from deposits (116) and (125) (Table 1). The sherds are highly abraded.

6.2.2 The sherds comprise undiagnostic, flint-tempered fragments of possibly Bronze Age date.

6.2.3 Further analysis may be necessary on these sherds.

6.3 Post-medieval Ceramics

6.3.1 Twenty-five fragments of post-medieval pottery, weighing 85g, were recovered from six contexts (Table 1). The sherds are in good condition and display little evidence of post-deposition rolling or damage.

6.3.2 Fabric types comprise coarse red earthenware, Willow Pattern (Transfer Print), Refined White Earthenware and one possible sherd of 18th century Delftware

recovered from deposit (**101**). The sherds are likely of late 19th to early 20th century date.

6.3.3 No further analysis is necessary on these fragments.

6.4 **Clay Tobacco Pipe**

6.4.1 Six fragments of clay tobacco pipe, weighing 12g, were recovered from five contexts (Table 1). The fragments are in good condition.

6.4.2 All of the clay tobacco pipe artefacts comprise undecorated, undiagnostic stem fragments. A general date of post-medieval has been attributed to these artefacts.

6.4.3 No further analysis is necessary.

6.5 **Ceramic Building Material**

6.5.1 Twenty-one fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 753g, were recovered from six contexts (Table 1). The artefacts are in good condition.

6.5.2 The fragments comprise post-medieval to modern brick and tile fragments.

6.5.3 No further analysis is necessary.

6.6 **Flint**

6.6.1 A total of two flint flakes, weighing 10g, were recovered from two deposits (Table 1). The artefacts display some evidence of post-depositional rolling.

6.6.2 It was not possible to date the artefacts, as they comprise undiagnostic flint flakes.

6.6.3 No further analysis is necessary.

6.7 **Glass**

6.7.1 Six fragments of modern bottle glass, weighing 105g, were recovered from five contexts (Table 1). The artefacts are in moderate to good condition and display some evidence of post-depositional rolling.

6.7.2 No further analysis is necessary.

6.8 Iron

- 6.8.1 Four fragments of iron, weighing 176g, were recovered from two deposits (Table 1). The artefacts are in poor condition and have large amounts of rust corrosion present on all exterior surfaces.
- 6.8.2 The artefacts comprise three undiagnostic fragments and one nail.
- 6.8.3 No further analysis is necessary.

6.9 Animal Bone

- 6.9.1 Two fragments of animal bone weighing 13g were recovered from deposit (132) (Table 1). The preservation and condition of the bone is good.
- 6.9.2 The fragments comprise a scapula blade fragment and a vertebral centrum fragment of a large mammal.
- 6.9.3 No further analysis is necessary.

6.10 Oyster Shell

- 6.10.1 Two oyster shell fragments, weighing 10g, were recovered from two deposits (Table 1). The shell fragments are very abraded.
- 6.10.2 Nothing diagnostic can be stated or identified with these fragments.
- 6.10.3 No further analysis is necessary.

6.11 Statement of Potential

- 6.11.1 The post-medieval to modern artefactual assemblage is of low archaeological potential. These finds were not retained with the archive. The small prehistoric pottery and flint assemblage is of moderate to high archaeological potential and further analysis may be warranted on these artefacts.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 During the course of the evaluation five soil samples were collected by the archaeological team in line with English Heritage recommendations. This consisted of c. 110 litres of sediment. Samples were taken in order to extract material of archaeobotanical interest which may be pertinent to our understanding of the environment and depositional history of the area being excavated and in line with generally accepted recommendations (English Heritage 2011).
- 7.1.2 The methodology for the soil processing requires that the whole earth samples be broken down and split into their various different components: the flot/washover, the retent/residue, the clay-silt and the sand-silt. The samples were soaked in water, in preparation for being manually flotted and sieved through a 'Siraf' style flotation tank. The samples were flotted into a 250-micron geological sieve, while the heavy residue was retained within a 1mm plastic mesh. The heavy residue was then air-dried and sorted by eye for any material that may aid our understanding of the deposit; in particular artefactual and ecofactual material; though in this case no such material was forthcoming. The residue samples were then scanned with a hand magnet to retrieve forms of magnetic material. This is done to retrieve residues of metallurgical activity, in particular hammer scale, spheroid hammer scale. Processing procedures and nomenclature follows the conventions set out by the English Heritage Centre for Archaeological Guidelines publication (English Heritage 2001).
- 7.1.3 The washover flot was dried slowly and scanned at x60 magnification for charred and uncharred botanical remains. Identification of these was undertaken by comparison with modern reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at Wardell-Armstrong Archaeology and by reference to relevant literature (Cappers et al. 2010) and (Jacomet 2006). Plant taxonomic nomenclature follows Stace (2010).
- 7.1.4 The table which accompanies this document contains the details of the analysis. For material from the residue the relative abundance is based on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 3 (highest). Cereals are counted in terms of the total number of individuals. The other plant remains have been recorded on a scale from A-E. This is calculated as; A=1, B=2-10, C=11-30. In this particular instance remains were only found in very low numbers.

7.1.5 For the purposes of clarity the references to 'seeds' identified here refer to the seed or fruit structures unless otherwise stated; that is to say the propagule or disseminule structures. Cereal grain was recovered in a charred condition and where mentioned refers to the charred caryopsis.

7.2 Heavy Residues

7.2.1 Evidence of metalworking was not recovered from scanning the dry residue with a hand magnet, nor were any other materials of archaeological interest.

7.3 Botanical Remains

7.3.1 The samples from this site were generally relatively poor. Charred cereal grains were only recovered from samples <2> (119) and <3> (125). Sample <2> (119) only produced a single indeterminate charred grains, while sample <3> (125) produced 12 indeterminate charred grains and a single fragment of spelt wheat chaff. The fact that Bronze Age pottery came from this feature was noted, and spelt chaff would not be expected from Bronze Age contexts. Characteristics of emmer wheat chaff were looked for but could not be identified, which might suggest either the chaff fragment was too abraded for these features to be identified, or there may be some intrusive material in this feature. Enough charred material was recovered from this feature should a radiocarbon date be needed.

7.4 Conclusions

7.4.1 No further work is recommended on these remains at this time.

7.4.2 If a radiocarbon date is required from this site there is sufficient charred herbaceous material from the archaeobotanical flots remains from sample <3> (125) to provide such a date.

Sample	1	2	3	4	5
Context	116	119	125	1004	2004
Volume processed (litres)	30	10	40	20	10
Feature	Pit		Pit	T-th	P-h
Volume of flot (ml)	>10	>10	20	>10	>10
Samples suitable for RC dating		?	Y		
<u>Residue contents (relative abundance)</u>					
Charcoal					
Stones/gravel	3	3	3	3	3
<u>Flot matrix (relative abundance)</u>					
Charcoal			3		
Herbaceous modern roots	3	3	1	3	3
<u>Charred plant remains (total counts)</u>					
Triticum cf. spelta (Spelt wheat; chaff fragment)			1		
Indeterminate cereal; grain		1	12		
<u>Other plant remains (relative abundance)</u>					
Arrhenatherum bulbosum (Onion couch grass)			A*		
Betula pendula (Birch)	B				
Carex sp. (Sedge; lenticular type)			B*		
Chenopodiaceae (Goosefoots)	B	A	B	C	B
Polygonum aviculare (Common Knotgrass)					A
Silene species (Campions)	B				
Veronica hederifolia (Ivy-leaved speedwell)			B		
Unidentified elements					

Table 2: Archaeobotanical remains from MRS-A

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Conclusions

- 8.1.1 During the archaeological strip, map and sample at land off Milestone Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, two sections of the site, the pond area and the main roadways were cleaned and investigated for archaeological features. This work was undertaken to quantify the extent to which such features had been affected by the already completed ground-works. The two areas covered 5526.93m² of the c.3.7ha site. The roadways were devoid of archaeological features. In the pond area, the remains of two Bronze Age pits were observed along with a post-medieval ditch that was partially under and parallel to the modern fence line. The remains of a possible earlier ditch were visible only in section, cut by the post-medieval ditch.
- 8.1.2 During the archaeological field evaluation, 15 trenches were excavated, covering 1208.5m² of the c.3.7ha site. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity, the evaluation trenches being located to target both geophysical anomalies and apparently 'sterile' areas. All trenches were excavated down to the top of the natural substrate.
- 8.1.3 Trenches 1, 3 – 9, 11 and 12 – 15 were devoid of any archaeological features or deposits. Archaeological features were observed in Trenches 2 and 10. In trench 2, was a small posthole. In trench 10, was a small pit. There was no dating evidence recovered from either feature.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Trench
(100)	Deposit	Topsoil	-
(101)	Deposit	Subsoil	-
(102)	Deposit	Natural	-
(103)	Deposit	Gravel deposit in sondage	-
(104)	Deposit	Sandy deposit in sondage	-
105	-	VOID	-
106	-	VOID	-
107	-	Plough scar	-
108	-	Fill of [107]	-
[109]	Cut	Ditch [139]	-
(110)	Deposit	Fill of [109] = (138)	-
[111]	Cut	Possible ditch	-
(112)	Deposit	Fill of [111]	-
113	-	Furrow	-
114	-	Fill of [113]	-
[115]	Cut	Pit	-
(116)	Deposit	Fill of [115]	-
(117)	Deposit	Clayey sand natural	-
118	-	VOID	-
119	-	VOID	-
120	-	VOID	-
121	-	VOID	-
[122]	Cut	Ditch = [139]	-
(123)	Deposit	Fill of [122] = (138)	-
[124]	Cut	Pit	-
(125)	Deposit	Fill of [124]	-
[126]	Cut	Ditch = [139]	-
(127)	Deposit	Fill of [126] = (138)	-
[128]	Cut	Ditch = [139]	-
(129)	Deposit	Lower fill of [128] = (140)	-
(130)	Deposit	Upper fill of [128] = (138)	-
[131]	Cut	Ditch = [139]	-
(132)	Deposit	Fill of [131] = (140)	-
(133)	Deposit	Fill of [131] = (138)	-
(134)	Deposit	Fill of [136] = (138)	-
(135)	Deposit	Fill of [136] = (140)	-
[136]	Cut	Ditch = [139]	-
(137)	Deposit	Fill of [136]	-
(138)	Group #	Main fill of [139]	-
[139]	Group #	Of Ditch	-
(140)	Group #	2 nd fill of [139]	-
(1000)	Deposit	Topsoil	1
(1001)	Deposit	Subsoil	1
(1002)	Deposit	Natural	1
1003	-	Tree throw	1
1004	-	Fill of 1003	1
(2000)	Deposit	Topsoil	2

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Trench
(2001)	Deposit	Subsoil	2
(2002)	Deposit	Natural	2
[2003]	Cut	Posthole	2
(2004)	Deposit	Fill of [2003]	2
(3000)	Deposit	Topsoil	3
(3001)	Deposit	Subsoil	3
(3002)	Deposit	Natural	3
(4000)	Deposit	Topsoil	4
(4001)	Deposit	Subsoil	4
(4002)	Deposit	Natural	4
(5000)	Deposit	Topsoil	5
(5001)	Deposit	Subsoil	5
(5002)	Deposit	Natural	5
(6000)	Deposit	Topsoil	6
(6001)	Deposit	Subsoil	6
(6002)	Deposit	Natural	6
(7000)	Deposit	Topsoil	7
(7001)	Deposit	Subsoil	7
(7002)	Deposit	Natural	7
(8000)	Deposit	Topsoil	8
(8001)	Deposit	Subsoil	8
(8002)	Deposit	Natural	8
(9000)	Deposit	Topsoil	9
(9001)	Deposit	Subsoil	9
(9002)	Deposit	Natural	9
(10000)	Deposit	Topsoil	10
(10001)	Deposit	Subsoil	10
(10002)	Deposit	Natural	10
[10003]	Cut	Oval shaped pit	10
(10004)	Deposit	Fill of [10003]	10
(11000)	Deposit	Topsoil	11
(11001)	Deposit	Subsoil	11
(11002)	Deposit	Natural	11
(12000)	Deposit	Topsoil	12
(12001)	Deposit	Subsoil	12
(12002)	Deposit	Natural	12
(13000)	Deposit	Topsoil	13
(13001)	Deposit	Subsoil	13
(13002)	Deposit	Natural	13

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Trench
(14000)	Deposit	Topsoil	14
(14001)	Deposit	Subsoil	14
(14002)	Deposit	Natural	14
(15000)	Deposit	Topsoil	15
(15001)	Deposit	Subsoil	15
(15002)	Deposit	Natural	15

Table 3: List of Contexts issued during Evaluation

APPENDIX 2: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

Width: 1.8m

Length: 50m

Maximum Depth: 0.56m

Minimum Depth: 0.36m

OS Co-ordinates: 421679 254211

(Easting, Northing)

421700 254256

TOPSOIL: MID GREY BROWN LOOSE LOAMY CLAY **Depth:** 0.26m

SUBSOIL: LIGHT ORANGE BROWN SOFT SILT **Depth:** 0.17m

NATURAL: MID ORANGE BROWN LOOSE SANDY CLAY / GRAVEL **Depth:** N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 2

Width: 1.8m

Length: 42m

Maximum Depth: 0.48m

Minimum Depth: 0.38m

OS Co-ordinates: 421701 254261

(Easting, Northing)

421720 254224

TOPSOIL: DARK GREY BROWN SOFT LOAMY CLAY **Depth:** 0.20m

SUBSOIL: MID ORANGE BROWN LOOSE SANDY CLAY **Depth:** 0.11m

NATURAL: LIGHT ORANGE SOFT SANDY CLAY **Depth:** N/A

Description of any features

A posthole [2003]/(2004) was observed in the northwest end of the trench.

Trench 3

Width: 1.8m

Length: 50m

Maximum Depth: 0.44m

Minimum Depth: 0.35m

OS Co-ordinates: 421751 254197

(Easting, Northing)

421781 254158

TOPSOIL:	MID GREY BROWN	LOOSE	CLAY LOAM	Depth:	0.19m
SUBSOIL:	MID REDDISH BROWN	LOOSE	SANDY CLAY	Depth:	0.18m
NATURAL:	MID REDDISH BROWN	LOOSE	GRAVEL	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 4

Width: 1.8m

Length: 28m

Maximum Depth: 0.35m

Minimum Depth: 0.25m

OS Co-ordinates: 421743 254162

(Easting, Northing)

421762 254181

TOPSOIL:	MID GREY BROWN	LOOSE	SANDY CLAY	Depth:	0.21m
SUBSOIL:	MID REDDISH BROWN	FIRM	SANDY CLAY	Depth:	0.08m
NATURAL:	MID REDDISH BROWN	LOOSE	GRAVEL / SANDY CLAY	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 5

Width: 1.8m

Length: 55m

Maximum Depth: 0.55m

Minimum Depth: 0.40m

OS Co-ordinates: 421792 254113

(Easting, Northing)

421821 254065

TOPSOIL:	DARK BROWN	LOOSE	SILTY CLAY	Depth:	0.28m
SUBSOIL:	MID BROWN	LOOSE	SILTY SAND	Depth:	0.15m
NATURAL:	LIGHT ORANGE	FRIABLE	SANDY CLAY	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 6

Width: 1.8m

Length: 50m

Maximum Depth: 0.50m

Minimum Depth: 0.30m

OS Co-ordinates: 421765 254079

(Easting, Northing)

421792 254037

TOPSOIL:	DARK BROWN	LOOSE	SILTY CLAY	Depth:	0.21m
SUBSOIL:	MID BROWN	LOOSE	SILTY SAND	Depth:	0.15m
NATURAL:	LIGHT YELLOW/BROWN	LOOSE/FIRM	SAND/GRAVEL	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 7

Width: 1.8m

Length: 50m

Maximum Depth: 0.40m

Minimum Depth: 0.36m

OS Co-ordinates: 421785 254011
(Easting, Northing)

421823 254043

TOPSOIL:	DARK BROWN	LOOSE	SILTY CLAY	Depth:	0.28m
SUBSOIL:	MID BROWN	LOOSE	SILTY SAND	Depth:	0.15m
NATURAL:	LIGHT YELLOW/BROWN	LOOSE/FIRM	SAND/GRAVEL	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 8

Width: 1.8m

Length: 25m

Maximum Depth: 0.50m

Minimum Depth: 0.44m

OS Co-ordinates: 421740 254004
(Easting, Northing)

421756 253985

TOPSOIL:	DARK BROWN	LOOSE	SILTY CLAY	Depth:	0.22m
SUBSOIL:	MID BROWN	LOOSE	SILTY SAND	Depth:	0.22m
NATURAL:	LIGHT YELLOW	LOOSE	SAND GRAVEL	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 9

Width: 1.8m

Length: 50m

Maximum Depth: 0.49m

Minimum Depth: 0.32m

OS Co-ordinates: 421701 254126

(Easting, Northing)

421733 254088

TOPSOIL: MID BROWN LOOSE CLAY LOAM **Depth:** 0.22m

SUBSOIL: LIGHT BROWN LOOSE SANDY CLAY **Depth:** 0.14m

NATURAL: MID ORANGE/BROWN LOOSE GRAVEL **Depth:** N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 10

Width: 1.8m

Length: 50m

Maximum Depth: 0.60m

Minimum Depth: 0.40m

OS Co-ordinates: 421657 254113

(Easting, Northing)

421686 254074

TOPSOIL: DARK GREY LOOSE SILTY CLAY **Depth:** 0.29m

SUBSOIL: MID BROWN LOOSE SILTY SAND **Depth:** 0.12m

NATURAL: LIGHT/MID ORANGEY YELLOW FIRM CLAY/GRAVEL **Depth:** N/A

Description of any features

A pit [10003]/(10004) was observed near the centre of the trench.

Trench 11

Width: 1.8m

Length: 50m

Maximum Depth: 0.59m

Minimum Depth: 0.42m

OS Co-ordinates: 421674 254140

(Easting, Northing)

421723 254134

TOPSOIL:	DARK GREY/BROWN	LOOSE	SANDY CLAY	Depth:	0.33m
SUBSOIL:	MID YELLOW/BROWN	LOOSE	CLAY SAND	Depth:	0.13m
NATURAL:	LIGHT YELLOW/BROWN	SOFT	CLAY SAND/GRAVEL	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 12

Width: 2.3m

Length: 20m

Maximum Depth: 0.56m

Minimum Depth: 0.45m

OS Co-ordinates: 421700 254218

(Easting, Northing)

421701 254198

TOPSOIL:	DARK GREYISH BROWN	SOFT	CLAYEY SILT	Depth:	0.26m
SUBSOIL:	MID YELLOWISH BROWN	FRIABLE	SANDY SILT	Depth:	0.37m
NATURAL:	LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN	FRIABLE	SILTY SAND	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 13

Width: 2.3m

Length: 20m

Maximum Depth: 0.45m

Minimum Depth: 0.40m

OS Co-ordinates:

421710 254169

(Easting, Northing)

421730 254172

TOPSOIL:	DARK GREYISH BROWN	SOFT	CLAYEY SILT	Depth:	0.23m
SUBSOIL:	MID YELLOWISH BROWN	FRIABLE	SANDY SILT	Depth:	0.36m
NATURAL:	LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN	FRIABLE	SILTY SAND	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 14

Width: 2.3m

Length: 20m

Maximum Depth: 0.72m

Minimum Depth: 0.66m

OS Co-ordinates:

421757 254113

(Easting, Northing)

421759 254133

TOPSOIL:	DARK GREYISH BROWN	SOFT	CLAYEY SILT	Depth:	0.31m
SUBSOIL:	MID REDDISH BROWN	FRIABLE	SANDY SILT	Depth:	0.48m
NATURAL:	LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN	FRIABLE	SILTY SAND	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

Trench 15

Width: 2.3m

Length: 35m

Maximum Depth: 0.71m

Minimum Depth: 0.56m

OS Co-ordinates:

421758 254054

(Easting, Northing)

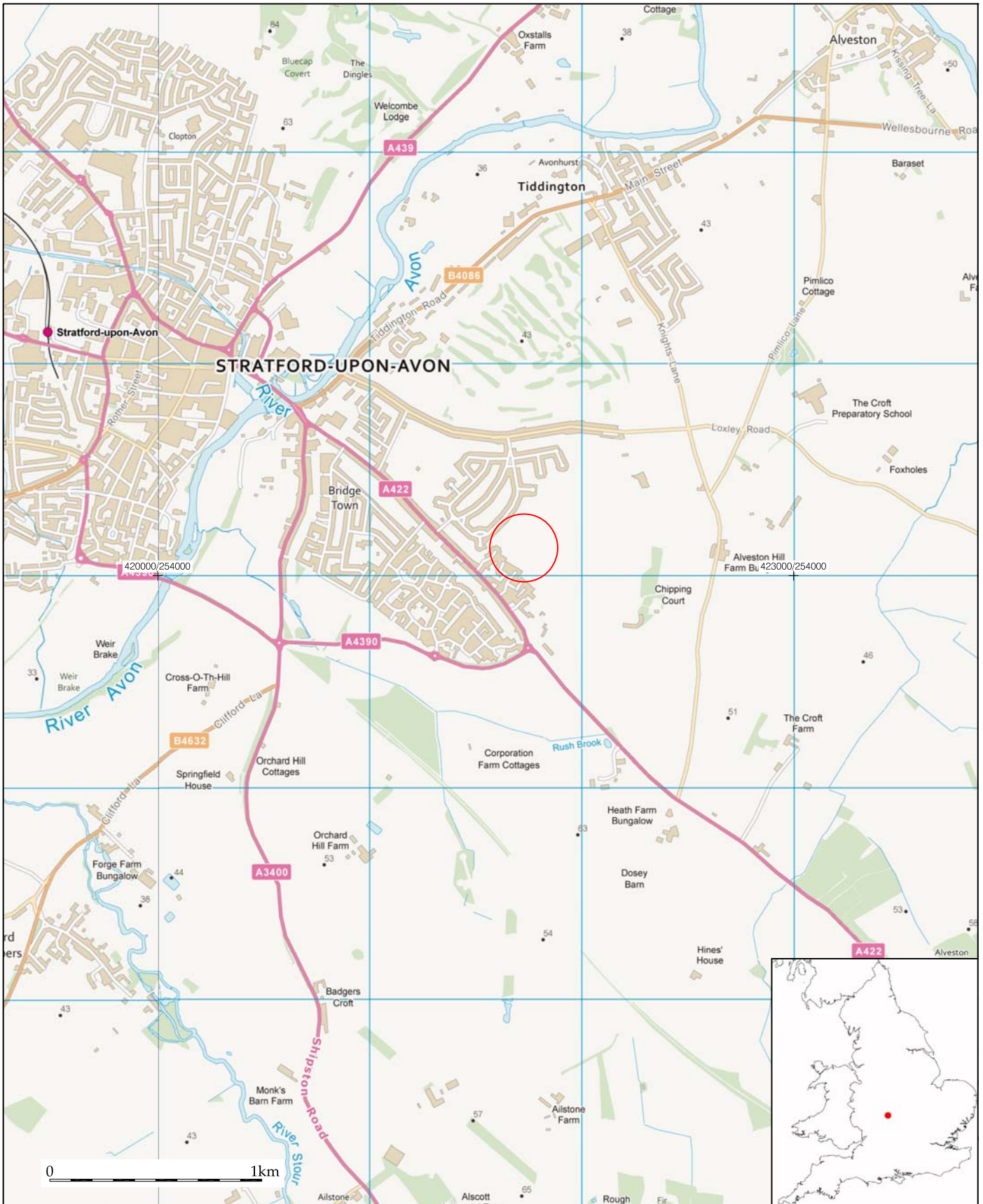
421779 254026

TOPSOIL:	DARK GREYISH BROWN	SOFT	CLAYEY SILT	Depth:	0.27m
SUBSOIL:	MID REDDISH BROWN	FRIABLE	SANDY SILT	Depth:	0.48m
NATURAL:	LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN	FRIABLE	SILTY SAND	Depth:	N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

APPENDIX 3: FIGURES






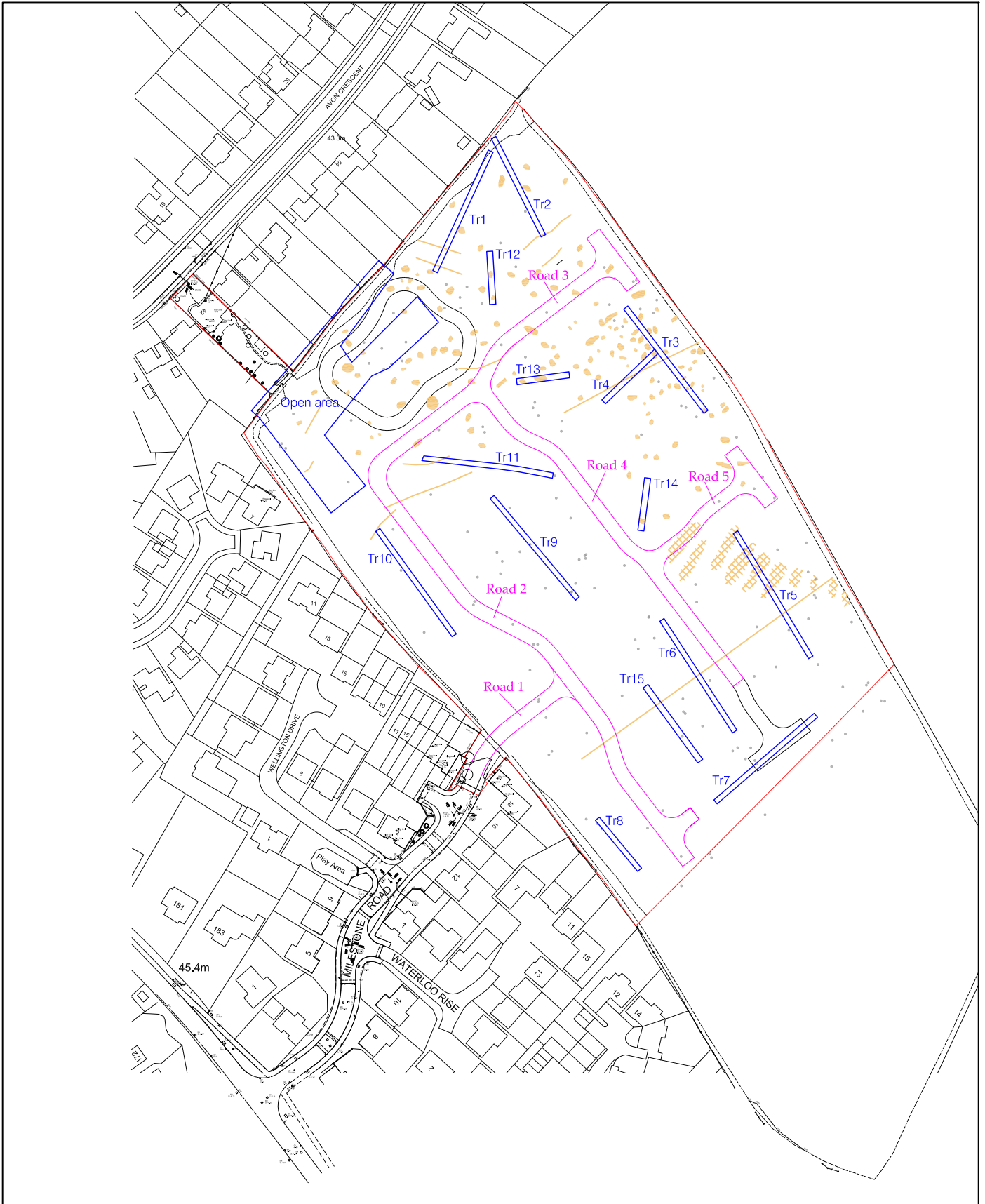
 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2015</p>	<p>PROJECT: Land off Milestone Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire</p> <p>SCALE: 1:25,000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP11154</p> <p>CLIENT: Persimmon Homes</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: January 2015</p> <p>FIGURE: 1</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <p> Site location</p>	 <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 1: Site location.



	<p>PROJECT: Land off Milestone Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire</p> <p>SCALE: 1:2,000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP11154</p> <p>CLIENT: Persimmon Homes</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: January 2015</p> <p>FIGURE: 2</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site boundary Evaluation trenches Targeted geophysical anomalies 	<p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 2: Location of archaeological evaluation.

PROJECT:

Land off Milestone Road,
Stratford-upon-Avon,
Warwickshire

CLIENT:

Persimmon Homes

SCALE: 1:500 at A4

DRAWN BY: AB

DATE: January 2015

KEY:

- (100) Context number
- Section location
- Limit of excavation



REPORT No:

CP11154

FIGURE:

3

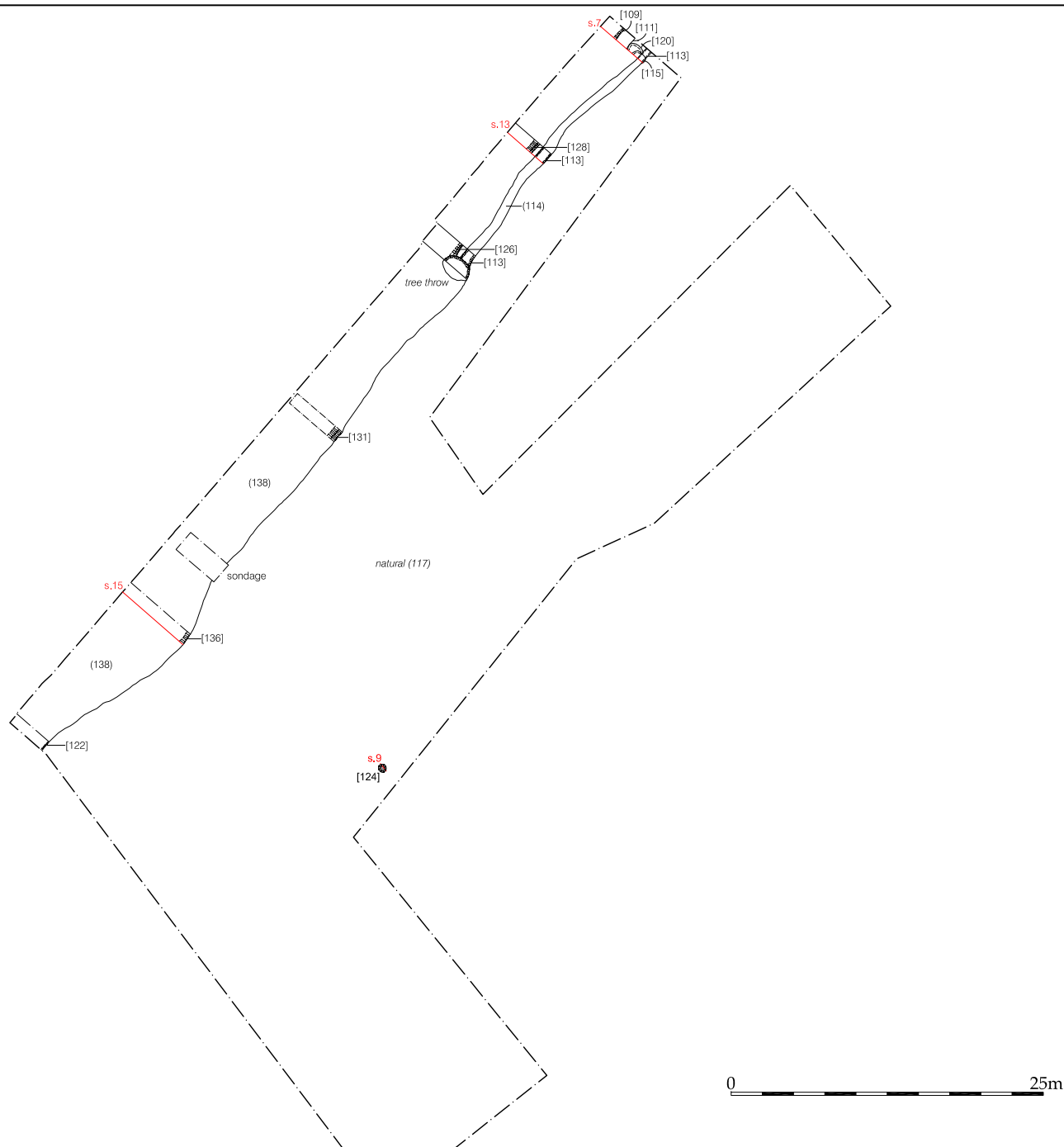


Figure 3: Plan of open area excavation.

PROJECT:

Land off Milestone Road,
Stratford-upon-Avon,
Warwickshire

CLIENT:



Persimmon Homes

SCALE: 1:25 at A3

DRAWN BY: AB

DATE: January 2015

KEY:

- (100) Context numbers
-  Height mAOD
-  Limit of excavation

REPORT No:

CP11154

FIGURE:

4

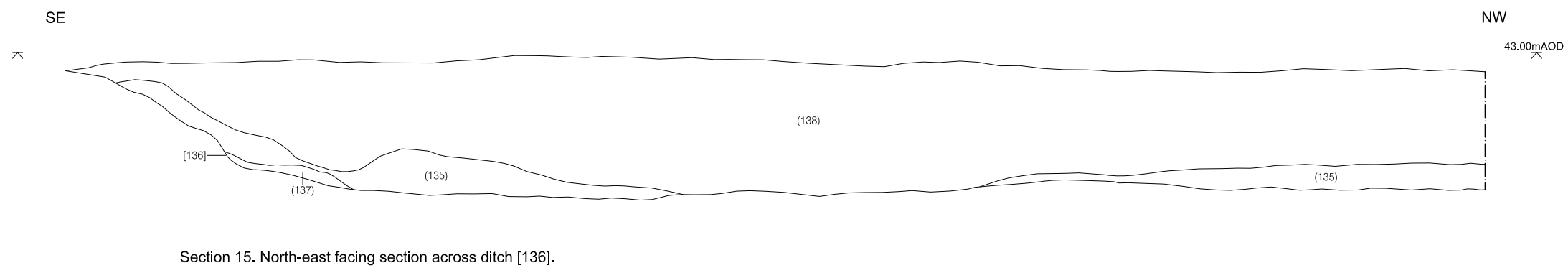
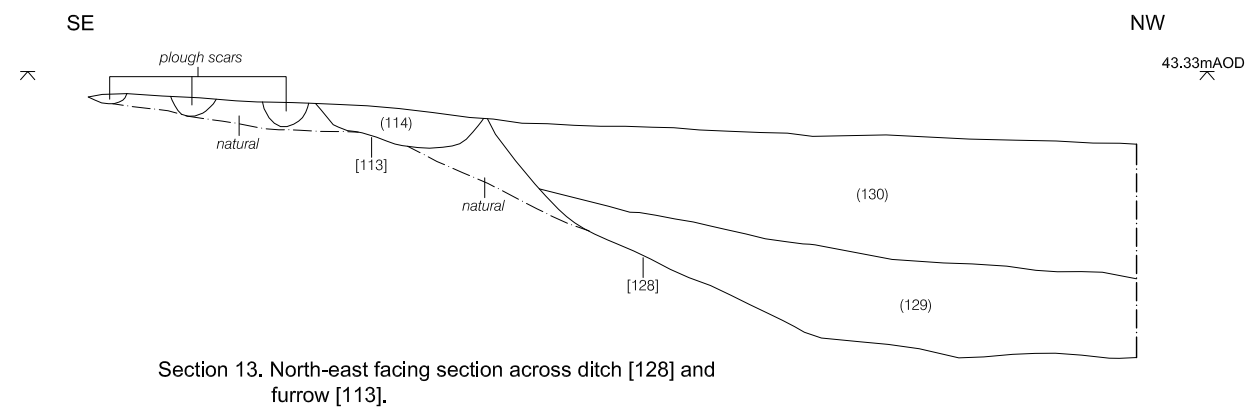
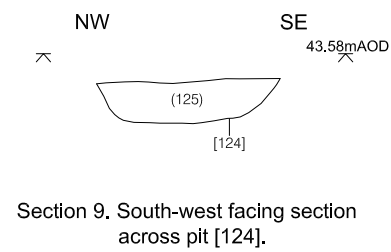
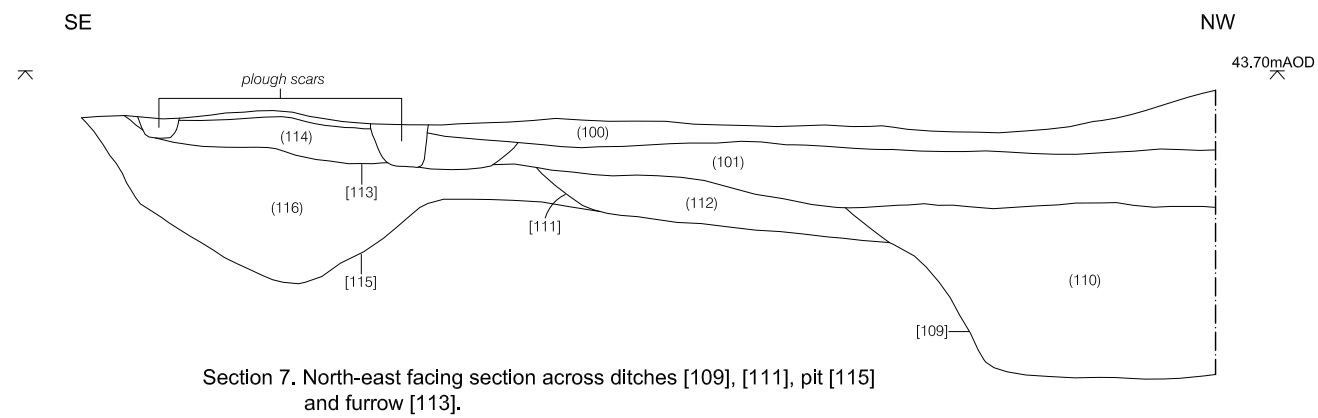


Figure 4: Sections of ditch and pit in open area excavation.

PROJECT:

Land off Milestone Road,
Stratford-upon-Avon,
Warwickshire

CLIENT:



Persimmon Homes

SCALE: 1:100 at A4

DRAWN BY: AB

DATE: January 2015

KEY:

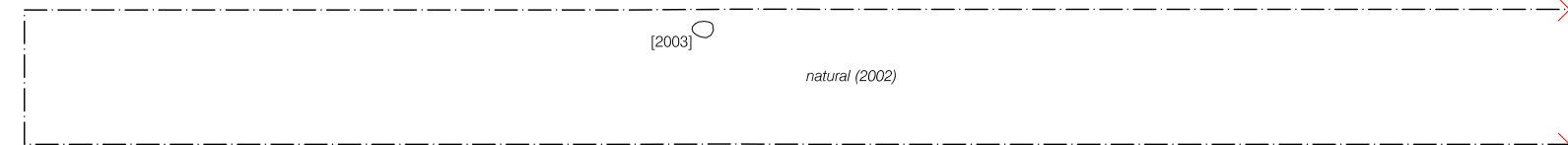
-  Context number
-  Limit of excavation

REPORT No:

CP11154

FIGURE:

5



Trench 2. Plan.

0  5m

Figure 5: Trench 2; plan.

PROJECT:

Land off Milestone Road,
Stratford-upon-Avon,
Warwickshire

CLIENT:

Persimmon Homes

SCALE: Plan 1:100/Section 1:20 at A3

DRAWN BY: AB

DATE: January 2015

KEY:

- (101) Context number
- Limit of excavation
- Section location

REPORT No:

CP11154

FIGURE:

6

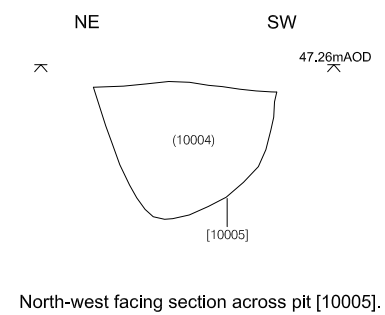


Figure 6: Trench 10; plan and section.

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