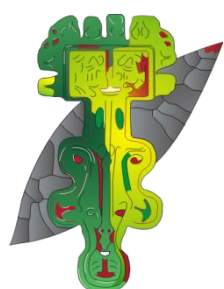


2014

Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation at  
Roussillon Park, Broyle Road, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 6BL



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Absolute Archaeology

On behalf of

Colten Developments Limited

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## **Summary**

This document sets out the results of an archaeological trench evaluation at Roussillon Park, Broyle Road, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 6BL (Project Site). The work was commissioned by Colten Developments Ltd and was carried out on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

No archaeological features were identified during the excavation and results suggest that the Project Site has been reduced in the past, in line with landscaping in this area. The evidence of truncated concrete features confirms activity on the site in the Post Medieval period, which most likely corresponds to the reduction of the natural geology in the area of trenches one to four. The features appear to represent supports for lightweight structures associated with the linears identified on modern cartographic resources.

There was no evidence of the historic main road heading NE to east Lavant, which would have been located on the region of trench five.

The results of the evaluation confirmed that the archaeological potential of the Project Site has been significantly reduced by Post Medieval activity. The results of the investigation were negative and no further investigation is recommended in conjunction with this phase of the project.

## **Acknowledgements**

Absolute Archaeology would like to thank Mr Steve Pinder, Site Manager (Colten Developments Limited), Mr Alan Portsmouth, Head of Technical Design (Colten Developments Limited) and Mr Keith Smith, digger driver (BPH Construction Equipment Ltd) for their help in the production of this report. We would also like to thank Mr James Kenny (Archaeologist, Chichester District Council) for his advice and expertise.

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## **1. Introduction**

This document sets out the results of an archaeological trench evaluation at Roussillon Park, Broyle Road, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 6BL, hereafter referred to as the Project Site. The work was commissioned by Colten Developments Ltd and was carried out on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

The Programme of Investigation was informed by Mr J Kenny (Archaeological Officer, Chichester District Council) in response to Condition 9, as stated in the Planning Permit for Application Number CC/12/01551/FUL, which states that *'an archaeological investigation of the site shall be carried out in accordance with a specification to be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority in writing before the commencement of any building works. The investigation shall be undertaken by an appropriately qualified archaeologist, and shall include the recording of findings and subsequent publication of results.'*

Reason: This site is of archaeological significance and it is important that it is recorded by excavation before it is destroyed by development.' (Chichester District Council Planning Permit, January 2013).

## **2. Project Site**

The Project Site is located 1.5km north of the centre of the City of Chichester, in West Sussex. The area lays adjacent and to the south of Chichester Barracks and just 70m to the SW of the recorded site of Post Medieval gallows. Whilst the Project Site has not previously been developed, it was incorporated into the northern suburbs of Chichester during the expansion of housing in the 1960's.

Geologically the Project Site is defined by Head deposits, overlaying Lambeth Group strata, with London Clay formation to the South. It is located c.29m aOD.

### **2.1. Archaeological/ Historical Background**

The following information represents a summary taken from the document entitled Roussillon Barracks, Chichester Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, completed on behalf of Faber Maunsell, 2008.

### **2.2. Prehistoric (800000 BC – AD 44)**

Sporadic finds represent the early prehistoric period in the vicinity of the Project Site, with the discovery of Palaeolithic axe in a garden on Brandy Hole Lane (c. 600m to the NW) and a Neolithic stone axe, in the vicinity of Spitalfield Lane, over 1km to the SE (Lee 2008: 9).

Bronze Age activity has been recorded c. 500m to the east of the site, in the vicinity of Garylingwell Hospital, where evidence for settlement was identified along with remains of six cremation burials (Lee 2008: 9).

The Iron Age is strongly represented in the vicinity of the Project Site, in the form of earthworks (entrenchments) which may follow the route of The Broadway, which borders the development area, 500m to the north. Excavations at Garylingwell Hospital may have identified a continuation of this defensive system (Lee 2008: 9). In addition, Iron Age settlement has been identified c. 1km to the north, bordering Broyle Road where hut circles and ceramics have been identified (English Heritage Ref SJ80 NE8).

## **2.3. Romano-British (AD 44 – AD 410)**

Archaeological investigations c. 500m to the SE of the Project Site have revealed evidence of early Roman settlement, in the form of a ditch (EH Ref 1333100), earthwork features, a hearth and a probable Roman Kiln (EH Ref 1336313). Evidence of settlement in the Roman period has also been identified in the vicinity of Garylingwell Hospital and adjacent to Broyle Road, 900m to the north of the Project Site. In addition, Archaeology South East identified a cremation cemetery adjacent to Broyle Road, c. 600m to the south (Lee 2008: 10).

Furthermore, a Roman Road has been identified, running from the north gate of Roman Chichester (*Noviomagus Regnensium*), to Silchester (*Callewa Atrebatum*), potentially following the SW-NE route of modern day Norwich Road, 600m SW of the Project Site (Wacher 1976: 254).

## **2.4. Saxon - Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1540)**

There is very little recorded evidence for early medieval activity in the vicinity of the Project Site. Lee highlights the site of Chichester Priory, 1km to the SSE and the discovery of a Saxon spearhead, 600m to the north (Lee 2008: 10).

Changes to the landscape in the mid to late medieval period are more widely represented. The Project Site represents part of deer park, granted to the Bishop of Chichester in the



16<sup>th</sup> century. The land is documented to have remained in the ownership of the church until the barracks were established on the site in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Lee 2008: 10).

## **2.5. Post-medieval (AD 1540 – AD 1900)**

In the post medieval period the site continued to be used by the military. The most significant evidence for this period with regard to the development of the site is provided by cartographic and documentary evidence of the location of the town gallows. 19<sup>th</sup> century maps locate the gallows to the NE of the site. A commemorative stone (now relocated) was placed on the site in 1789 AD in order to recount the story of the Hawkhurst Gang, who were involved in smuggling in the area. It is claimed that one of the gang was buried in a field adjacent to the gallows. The exact location of the burial is currently unknown (Lee 2008: 11).

The location of the main road heading NE to east Lavant crossed the Project Site prior to the enclosure of the area by the military (pers com J Kenny).

## **3. Approach To Archaeological Investigation**

The investigation took the form of an archaeological trench evaluation, undertaken to ascertain information on the presence/absence, extent, state of preservation, character, quality, integrity and date of any archaeological deposits on the Project Site. The Programme of Investigation comprised the excavation of 5 trenches measuring from 12m – 20m in length, to the depth of the archaeological horizon or the natural sub strata, whichever was encountered first. Trench locations and lengths have been altered from the plan approved in our initial Written Scheme of Investigation. This has been carried out to accommodate existing drainage and track ways currently in use on the Project Site. All alterations were approved by Mr James Kenny (Archaeologist, Chichester District Council), during his site visit. The specific dimensions and details of each trench are detailed in appendix 1.

All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the IFA Standard and Guidance for an archaeological excavation (revised 2008) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation (English Heritage 2008).

Broadly the archaeological investigation sought to:

- Assess the potential for archaeological activity associated with the Project Site;
- Establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area;

- Record and identify archaeological features and deposits to a level appropriate to their extent and significance;
- Establish the potential for human burial in the vicinity of the Project Site;
- Undertake sufficient post-excavation assessment to interpret archaeological features and phasing identified during the investigation and to place these within their local and regional context;
- Create a site archive for deposition in a suitable repository;
- Inform the implementation of a suitable strategy in order to mitigate the impact of the groundwork on the archaeological resource, in the event of positive results.

## **4. Results**

### **4.1. Trench One**

Excavation in the area of trench one revealed a topsoil / turf line layer, sealing a deposit of made ground, which was seen to overlay truncated natural gravels.

### **4.2. Trench Two**

Excavation in the area of trench two revealed a topsoil / turf line layer, sealing a deposit of made ground, which was seen to overlay truncated natural gravels.

### **4.3. Trench Three**

Excavation in the area of trench three revealed a topsoil / turf line sealing two truncated rectangular concrete features, with cut off central iron uprights [301] & [302]. The features appear to be supports for a lightweight structure, perhaps fencing. The concrete features were set into cuts within the truncated natural gravel.

### **4.4. Trench Four**

Excavation in the area of trench four revealed a topsoil / turf line sealing a series of truncated concrete features, similar to those identified in trench three. Two linear features [402] & [403] identified bisecting the trench to the east appear to be represented on a 1970's map (Fig 3). The resource shows a formal oval track with pond and linear features to the east. Two concrete and iron structures were also identified to the west of the trench.

### **4.5. Trench Five**

Excavation in the area of trench five revealed a topsoil / turf line sealing a subsoil layer, which was seen to overlay the natural gravel.

## **5. Finds**

Apart from occasional sherds of residual Post Medieval ceramics recovered from the topsoil / turf line and made ground material, no artefacts were identified during the excavation and no finds were recovered from the spoil, which was monitored throughout.

## **6. Discussion**

No archaeological features were identified during the excavation and results suggest that the Project Site has been reduced in the past, in line with landscaping in this area in the 1970's. The evidence of truncated concrete features confirms activity on the site in the Post Medieval period, which most likely corresponds to the reduction of the natural in the area of trenches one to four. The features appear to represent supports for lightweight structures associated with the linears identified on modern cartographic resources.

Evidence of subsoil in the vicinity of trench five suggests that the southern portion of the Project Site may have experienced a lower level of disturbance. However the shallow depth of the subsoil suggests that this material has been truncated and that the topsoil across the site is an imported material.

There was no evidence of the historic main road heading NE to east Lavant, which would have been located on the region of trench five. Furthermore, no evidence of a burial was encountered during the trench evaluation. However, it is possible that shallow truncated features may be preserved across the remainder of the Project Site.

## **7. Conclusion**

The results of the evaluation confirmed that the archaeological potential of the Project Site has been significantly reduced by Post Medieval activity. The results of the investigation were negative and no further investigation is recommended in conjunction with this phase of the project.

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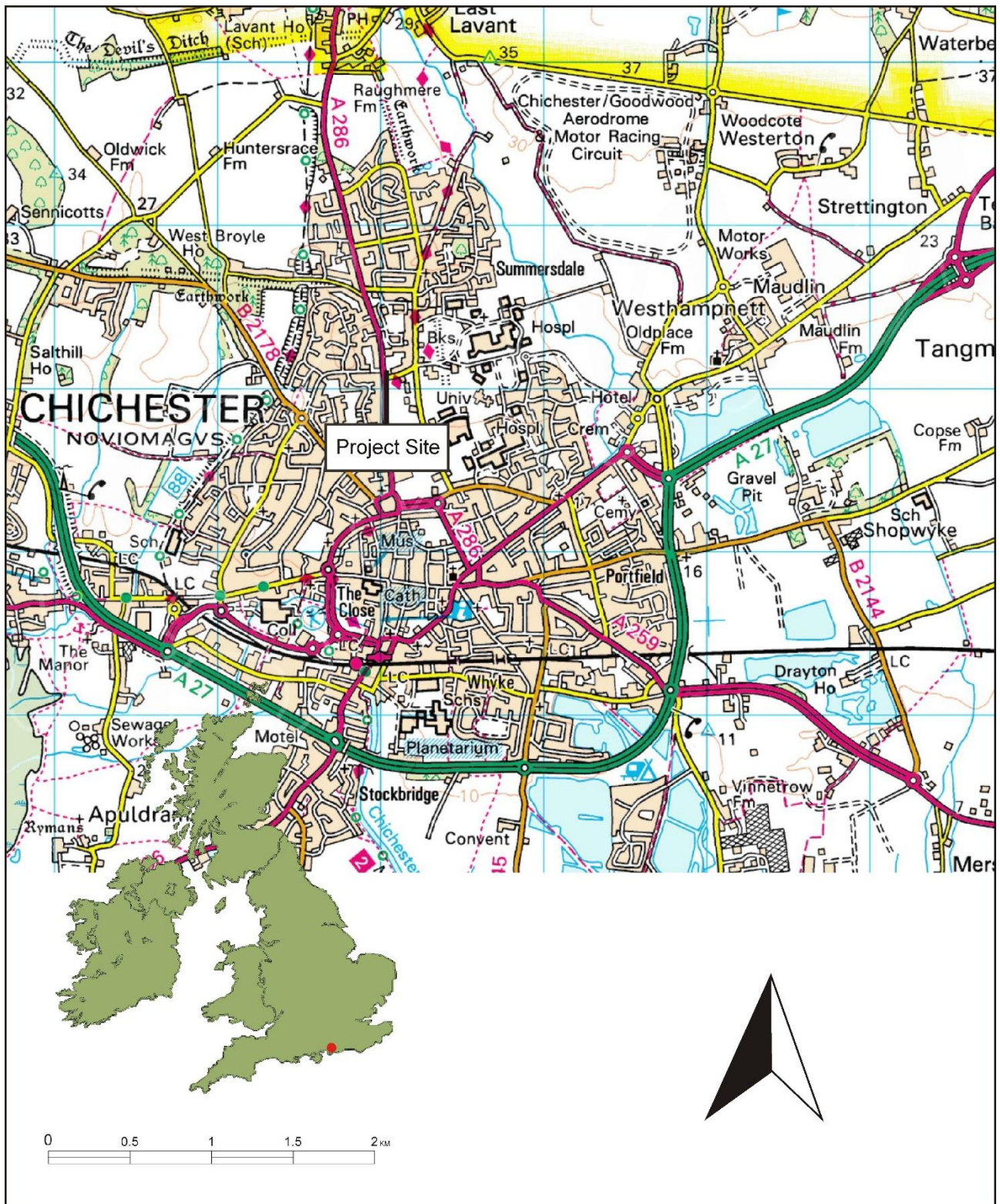
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## 9. Figures

Figure 1: Project Site Location

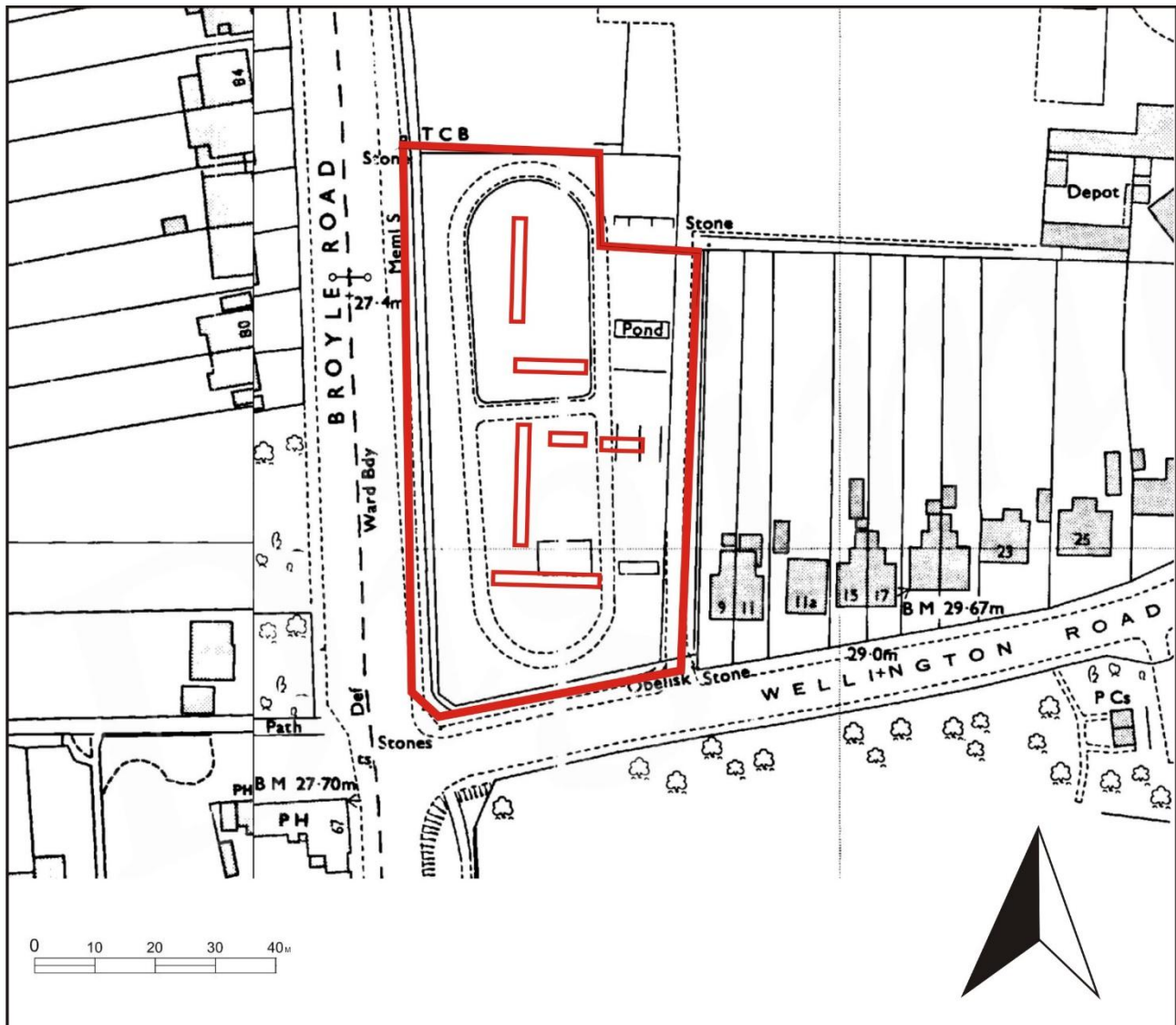




**Figure 2: Trench Locations**



Figure 3 1972 map with track layout and trench outlines overlaid





## 10. Photographs

**Photograph 1 West Facing Section Trench 1 (Scales 1 x 2m & 1 x 600mm)**



**Photograph 2 North Facing View of Trench 1 (Scales 1 x 2m & 1 x 1m)**





**Photograph 3 NNW Facing Section Trench 2 (Scales 1 x 2m & 1 x 500mm)**



**Photograph 4 WNW Facing View of Trench 2 (Scales 1 x 1m & 1 x 2m)**





**Photograph 5 West Facing Section Trench 3 (Scales 1 x 2m & 1 x 500mm)**

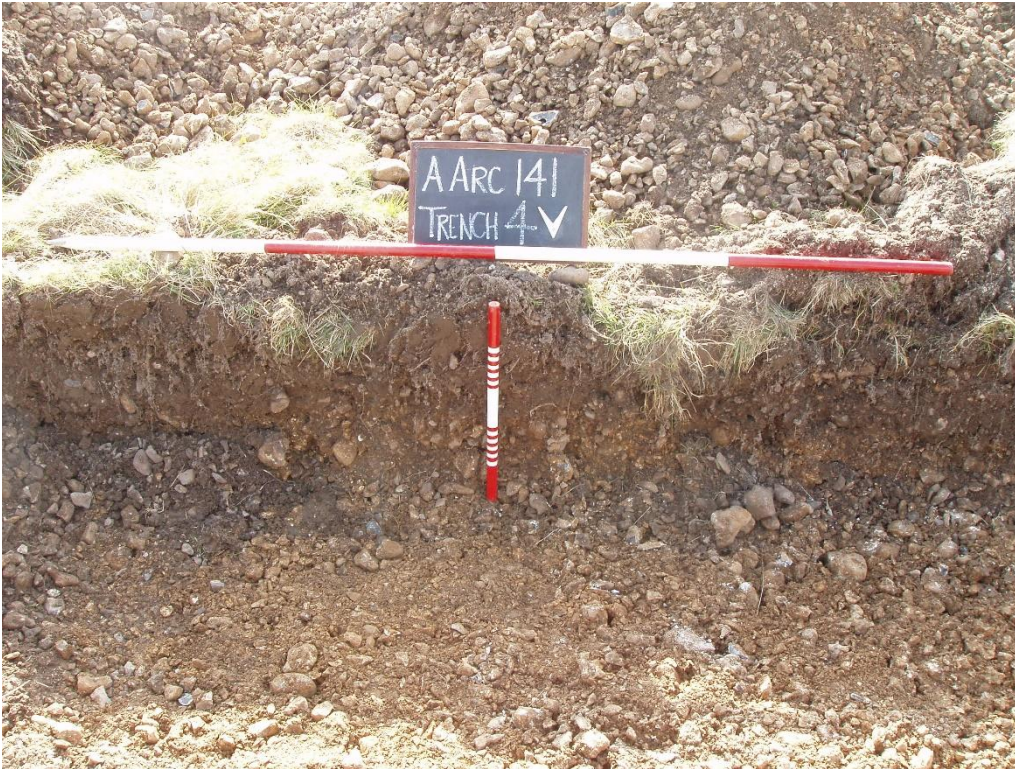


**Photograph 6 North Facing View of Trench 3 (Scales 1 x 2m & 1 x 1m)**





**Photograph 7 North Facing Section Trench 4 (Scales 1 x 2m & 1 x 500mm)**



**Photograph 8 West Facing View of Trench 4 (Scales 1 x 2m & 1 x 1m)**





**Photograph 9 North Facing View Trench 5 (Scales 1 x 2m & 1 x 500mm)**



**Photograph 10 West Facing View of Trench 5 (Scales 1 x 2m & 1 x 1m)**



# 11. Appendices

## Appendix 1: Trenches

Trench Number: 1							
<b>Description:</b>  Machine excavated linear evaluation trench.					<b>Orientation</b>	North-South	
					<b>Depth</b>	South 550mm	
					<b>Width</b>	1.8m	
					<b>Length</b>	17.5m	
<b>Contexts</b> 100-102							
Context Number	Type	Depth/H eight	Width	Length /Diameter	Colour (Munsell Ref)	Finds	Recorded Date
100	Topsoil/ Turf line	200mm	>1.8m	>17.5m	Dark Greyish Brown  10YR 4/2	-	11.03.2014
101	Layer-Made Ground	200mm	>1.8m	>17.5m	-	-	11.03.2014
102	Truncated Natural Gravels	>100mm	>1.8m	>17.5m	Mid Reddish Brown  5YR 5/3	-	11.03.2014

Trench Number: 2							
<b>Description:</b>  Machine excavated linear evaluation trench.					<b>Orientation</b>		WNW- ESE
					<b>Depth</b>		WNW 350mm
					<b>Width</b>		18.m
					<b>Length</b>		12m
<b>Contexts</b> 200-202							
Context Number	Type	Depth/ Height	Width	Length /Diameter	Colour (Munsell Ref)	Finds	Recorded Date
200	Topsoil/ Turf line	150mm	>1.8m	>12m	Dark Greyish Brown  10YR 4/2	-	11.03.2014
201	Layer-Made Ground	150mm	>1.8m	>12m	-	-	11.03.2014
202	Truncated Natural Gravels	>50mm	>1.8m	>12m	Mid Reddish Brown  5YR 5/3	-	11.03.2014

Trench Number: 3							
Description:  Machine excavated linear evaluation trench.					Orientation	North- South	
					Depth	South 400mm	
					Width	1.8m	
					Length	20m	
Contexts 300-303							
Context Number	Type	Depth	Width	Length /Diameter	Colour (Munsell Ref)	Finds	Recorded Date
300	Topsoil/ Turf line	350mm	>1.8m	>20m	Dark Greyish Brown  10YR 4/2	-	11.03.2014
301	Feature – Concrete Post Medieval	-	1m	1.5m	-	-	11.03.2014
302	Feature – Concrete Post Medieval	-	1m	1m	-	-	11.03.2014
303	Truncated Natural Gravels	>50mm	>1.8m	>20m	Mid Reddish Brown  5YR 5/3	-	11.03.2014

Trench Number: 4							
<b>Description:</b>  Machine excavated linear evaluation trench.					<b>Orientation</b>	East West	
					<b>Depth</b>	East 400mm	
					<b>Width</b>	1.8m	
					<b>Length</b>	15m	
<b>Contexts</b> 400-405							
Context Number	Type	Depth	Width	Length /Diameter	Colour (Munsell Ref)	Finds	Recorded Date
400	Topsoil/ Turf line	250mm	>1.8m	>15m	Dark Greyish Brown  10YR 4/2	-	11.03.2014
401	Truncated Natural Gravels	>50.mm	>1.8m	>15m	Mid Reddish Brown  5YR 5/3	-	11.03.2014
402	Structure-Concrete Footing	-	1m	>1.8m	-	-	11.03.2014
403	Structure-Concrete Footing	-	>1m	>1.5m	-	-	11.03.2014
404	Structure-Concrete Pad	-	1m	-	-	-	11.03.2014
405	Structure-Concrete Pad	-	1m	-	-	-	11.03.2014



Trench Number: 5							
<b>Description:</b>  Machine excavated linear evaluation trench.					<b>Orientation</b>	East West	
					<b>Depth</b>	West 450mm	
					<b>Width</b>	1.8m	
					<b>Length</b>	18m	
<b>Contexts</b> 500-502							
Context Number	Type	Depth/H eight	Width	Length /Diameter	Colour (Munsell Ref)	Finds	Recorded Date
500	Topsoil/ Turf line	350mm	>1.8m	>18m	Dark Greyish Brown  10YR 4/2	-	11.03.2014
501	Subsoil	200mm	>1.8m	>18m	Mid Reddish Brown  5YR 5/3	-	11.03.2014
502	Natural Gravels	>100mm	>1.8m	>18m	Mid Reddish Brown  5YR 5/3	-	11.03.2014

**Appendix 2: General chronological table (guide only)**

Period	Date	Information
Prehistoric	800000 – 43 AD	Generalised period from the earliest human activity in Britain (Happisburgh) to the conquest of Britain by Claudius.
Palaeolithic	800000 - 10000 BC	Mobile groups, ephemeral habitation evidence, stone tool technology. Material evidence found predominantly in caves. Earliest evidence for hominins in Britain is at Happisburgh and Pakefield in Norfolk dating to the Pleistocene c.800,000 BP.
Mesolithic	10000 – 4000 BC	Period of major transformation in the European environment and landscape after the end of the last Ice Age. Mobile hunter-gatherer communities, sophisticated tool technology and some semi-permanent settlement, particularly along the east coast of England and in Ireland.
Neolithic	4000 – 2200 BC	Emergence of monumental architecture, such as long barrows and causewayed enclosures. Movement towards more complex society and sedentary lifestyles.
Bronze Age	2200 – 800 BC	Introduction of Bronze, construction of barrows/tumuli for the dead in the early stages replaced by a lack of monuments and the preponderance toward hoard deposition.
Iron Age	800 BC– 43 AD	Introduction of Iron and the return of monumental architecture in the form of hillforts, tribal boundaries and the introduction of coinage.
Romano-British	43-410 AD	Romano-British period including the emergence of villas and Roman infrastructure.
Early Medieval	410 –1066 AD	Post-Roman period including Saxon invasions and the arrival of Christianity.
Medieval	1066 – 1540 AD	Medieval period in Britain including Tudor activity, with arbitrary cut off point of 1650 AD.
Post-Medieval	1540 – 1900 AD	Period of rapid industrial development and changes to the English landscape.
Modern	1900 – Present	Including WWI, WWII and Cold War archaeology.