

# Lenchwick Wind Farm, Worcestershire; An Archaeological Evaluation Report

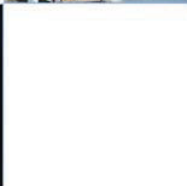
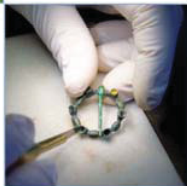
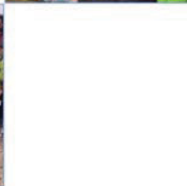
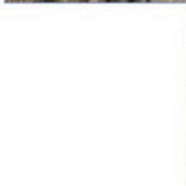
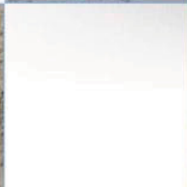
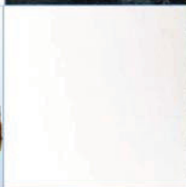
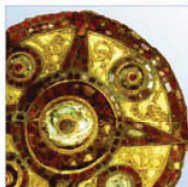
Planning Application Number: 10/01074/PN

National Grid Reference Number: SP 0180 4978

AOC Project No: 30778

Site Code: WSM 42103

September 2010



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

## Lenchwick Wind Farm, Worcestershire An Archaeological Evaluation Report

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<b>On Behalf of:</b>	<b>Scottish Power Renewables</b> 1 Atlantic Quay 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Glasgow G2 8JB
<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	<b>SP 0180 4978</b>
<b>AOC Project No:</b>	<b>30778</b>
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<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>September 2010</b>

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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**Date:** September 2010

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**Date:** September 2010

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## Non-Technical Summary

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at the site of Lenchwick Wind Farm, Worcestershire. The work was undertaken on behalf of Scottish Power Renewables. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of development on any surviving archaeological remains.*

*The evaluation comprised 15 machine excavated trenches primarily measuring 30m by 1.8m. Four trenches were identified as containing archaeological features. The features identified in Trenches 2 and 3 in the form of at least two phases of landscape management, consisting of possible field boundaries or trackways in use between the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. It is possible this activity is associated with a potentially contemporary settlement activity present within close proximity to the trenches. Undated archaeological features were recorded in Trenches 6 and 11 which appeared to represent previous phases of boundary demarcation represented by a ditch terminal and isolated small posthole. No further features of archaeological significance were encountered in the nine remaining trenches.*

*Overall, there is good potential for other features associated with the Romano-British field boundaries or trackways in Trench 2 and 3 to survive in the vicinity of these two trenches. Such remains could be viewed as locally significant due their potential to inform on the Romano-British management of the local landscape. If evidence for contemporary settlement can be confirmed the significance of the remains could be increased. The features in Trenches 6 and 11 are of limited significance due to the lack of dating evidence and isolated character.*

*Due to the high level of survival and degree of significance associated with the remains identified in Trench 2 and 3, it is recommended that further work be undertaken post-planning consent. Trenches 2 and 3 are located along the proposed route of the access track, the construction of which is anticipated to impact a depth of 400mm. The archaeological horizon in this area is known to lie at a depth of 400mm to 700mm. Due to the potential for the construction of the track to impact upon the archaeological horizon it is recommended that further work is undertaken in the form of an open area excavation within the vicinity of Trenches 2 and 3. This would provide a greater understanding of the extent, layout and phases of Romano-British land management.*

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Site Location**

1.1.1 The site is located in arable farmland to the north of Evesham (Figures 1 & 2). It is irregularly shaped and covers an area of approximately 443 hectares. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 0180 4978. The site is largely surrounded by agricultural land and orchards, with woodland to the northwest and the villages of Sheriff's Lench located on the southern boundary and Church Lench located immediately to the north of the proposed development area.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

1.2.1 The site does not contain any currently designated Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings, and does not lie within an Area of Archaeological Potential or Conservation Area.

1.2.2 The works are being conducted following submission of a planning application (Planning Ref 10/01074/PN). The proposed development comprises the installation of five wind turbines associated with the construction of two proposed access routes to the site from the B4088, one to the northeast of Sheriff's Lench and one to the west of Sheriff's Lench. The Archaeological Officer to Worcestershire County Council has stated that archaeological investigations should be undertaken in order to establish the presence of archaeological remains prior to planning determination.

1.2.3 In the first instance an Environmental Impact Assessment (AOC 2009) was carried out. This was followed by a Fieldwalking Survey (AOC 2010a) and a Geophysical Survey (Stratascan 2010) which identified the presence of sub-surface archaeology (Figure 3a to 3c). Following discussion Mike Glyde, evaluation trenching was determined as the most appropriate next stage of archaeological work, in order to identify and locate archaeological deposits and aid the preparation of a suitable mitigation strategy. The evaluation will inform on an appropriate mitigation strategy, in relation to the destruction of the potential archaeological resource, during the pre-planning process

1.2.4 The local planning authority is Wychavon District Council (WDC). Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Mike Glyde of the Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire County Council.

1.2.5 AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned by Scottish Power Renewables to carry out the field evaluation. The methodology was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (AOC 2010b). This document detailed how the evaluation, comprising of 15 trenches, would be undertaken.

### **1.3 Geology and Topography**

1.3.1 The underlying solid geology of the region in which the development area is situated consists of Permo-Triassic mudstones to the north and Jurassic clays to the south. The dominant Soil Association in the proposed development area is the Evesham 2 Association, comprising calcareous clayey soils, commonly utilized for orchards in the Vale of Evesham. In the southwest of the area are soils of the Arrow Association, composed of coarse loamy soils,

while wet clayey soils of the Denchworth Association and loamy and clayey soils of the Salop Association are found in the centre of the proposed development (AOC 2010b).

- 1.3.2 The proposed development is located on moderately rolling land, with the general gradient gradually descending to the west. The overall profile of the localised topography is broken up the presence of small north-south orientated valleys associated with tributaries of the Whitsunn Brook. The gradient slopes down from c. 115 m OD in the vicinity of Sheriff's Lench to c. 50 m OD in the southeast, around Norton and c 65 m OD to the northwest.

## 2. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The following information is drawn from the Environmental Impact Assessment (AOC 2009). For a more complete background refer to that document. All measurements are given from the edge of the proposed development site boundary.

### Prehistoric (c. 500,000 BC – AD 43)

- 2.2 No Palaeolithic or Mesolithic activity was identified within the site. Jackson and Dalwood (2007, 71-72) note that surface assemblages of artefacts dominate the evidence for the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age in Worcestershire but the relative paucity of known earlier material may be due to a lack of awareness or recognition on the part of field workers. Findspots of artefacts within the site include flints recovered during a survey in advance of a pipeline in the south of the area. Nearby, although the exact location is not known, a Bronze Age burial is recorded (Dalwood and Woodiwiss 1992).
- 2.3 There are several other prehistoric find spots and archaeological sites within 1 km of the proposed wind farm. Find spots include an unstratified Bronze Age palstave, recovered near Church Lench, 0.8 km from the wind farm. A metal detecting survey southwest of Sheriff's Lench recovered unspecified finds from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. Nearby, unspecified finds from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries including copper alloy, slag and big lumps of bronze have been recorded. A Bronze Age axe was recovered outside Harvington. Artefacts including pottery and a spearhead recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme at Bishampton Parish, to the west of the wind farm, may be prehistoric.
- 2.4 There are a series of lynchets, possibly originating in the Iron Age, west of Tunnel Hill, Norton, approximately 1 km south of the proposed wind farm. Salvage recording of a supposed Late Iron Age crop mark at Leylandii House Farm, in advance of construction of part of the A435, c. 0.6 km east of the development, actually recorded a Romano-British settlement (Jackson and Pearson 1995).
- 2.5 Enclosures and a Neolithic Long Barrow and Cursus lie 1200m east of Norton Church and just over 1km southeast of the site. Part of this site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Another Scheduled Cursus monument, present as a crop mark with associated trackway and settlement, is located northwest of Oaklands Farm, to the southwest of the wind farm. To the southwest of the wind farm there is an Iron Age/ Roman settlement marked by two rounded enclosures with associated pits, possibly for grain storage. Crop marks of another late prehistoric (or possibly Roman) settlement near Wick indicate a double ditched enclosure with internal divisions and ring ditches. Nearby another Scheduled crop mark area contains rectangular enclosures, ring ditches and a Cursus. Romano-British pottery has been found in the area. Scheduled enclosures northeast of Fernhill Farm may be late prehistoric in date (the



latter is associated with a ring ditch). A crop mark settlement site of unknown date, probably prehistoric or Roman, has been Scheduled north of Spring Hill.

- 2.6 There are various further crop marks within 1km of the wind farm, visible on aerial photographs, which may date to the Iron Age or later. These include T-shaped, circular and linear crop marks near Harvington. Within the proposed wind farm, crop marks include possible boundaries and enclosures; circular or oval features; plough marks and more irregular marks. There is an undated earthwork (possibly prehistoric) at Yeald Wood to the north of the proposed development.

### **Roman (c.AD 43 – 410)**

- 2.7 Roman remains within 1km of the wind farm include unspecified finds recovered during metal detecting survey southwest of Sheriff's Lench, dating from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD; similarly unspecified finds were recovered nearby and within the proposed wind farm, north of Poplars Cottage. Metal detecting has identified possible Romano-British occupation sites within the proposed development area, near Church Lench. A similar site exists to the north of the wind farm. As noted above unspecified finds from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries including copper alloy, slag and big lumps of bronze have been recorded. Similar material extends further north (AOC 2010).
- 2.8 In 1953, sherds of Romano-British Pottery were found near Rough Hill on the edge of the site by a farmer. A visit by Members of Worcester Archaeological Society found numerous sherds in the plough soil (Smith 1953).
- 2.9 The Portable Antiquities Scheme has recorded Roman artefacts, including coins, from the parishes of Church Lench; Norton and Lenchwick; Fladbury and Bishampton. Evaluation in advance of the construction of the A435, approximately 1km to the south of the site, included the possible site of a Romano-British settlement at Twyford Farm (Warwickshire County Council 1993).
- 2.10 Salvage recording at Leylandii House Farm (c. 0.6 km east of the site) recorded a Romano-British settlement comprising three roundhouses, two corndriers, ditches, gullies, post-built structures (Jackson and Pearson 1995). Salvage recording in 1996 along the Honeybourn, Bretforton and Pebworth Pipeline identified a Roman Farmstead at Norton and two ditches of a Romano-British enclosure (Jackson et al 1997 and 1998). Observations during soil stripping for the pipeline recorded a Romano-British occupation site, including a farmstead enclosure with associated pottery, finds and animal bones (Jackson et al 1997 and 1998).

### **Early Medieval (c.AD 410 – 1066)**

- 2.11 The poverty of archaeological and documentary evidence from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the late 7<sup>th</sup> century AD in Worcestershire is contrasted with the more extensive documentary evidence for the late 7<sup>th</sup> to mid 11<sup>th</sup> century period in Jackson and Dalwood (2007, 113). It is noted, however, that archaeological evidence remains are lacking in the later period. The settlements of *Lenchwic* (Lenchwick) and *Nortona* (Norton), to the south of the site, are mentioned in the Saxon Charters of Worcestershire (Grundy 1931). Charter B.125, K.61 records a grant made in AD 709 by Kenred, King of the Mercians and Offa, King of the East Angles to Evesham Monastery and lists the lands of the monastery and around Evesham.
- 2.12 The centre of the village of Norton is a Conservation Area but the extent of the village in the Saxon period is unknown (Dalwood and Woodiwiss 1992; VCH 1906, 2, 415-420). Church

Lench, Atch Lench, Sheriff's Lench and Ab Lench belonged to the Abbey of Evesham. To the north of the wind farm, the Church of All Saints in Church Lench is medieval in date but its priest is mentioned in the Domesday Book, suggesting it is Saxon in origin (VCH 1913, 3, 48). Only the westernmost edge of the historic centre of Harvington lies within 2km of the wind farm, but the manor has pre-Norman origins. Deneberht, Bishop of Worcester (798–822), gave land at Harvington to Eanswyth. Harvington was also included in King Edgar's charter of 964, granting the hundred of Oswaldslow to the church of Worcester (VCH 1913, 3, 387-390).

- 2.13 Carke Ford, to the east of the wind farm, was a crossing point over Harvington Brook in Anglo-Saxon and medieval times, mentioned in Clause 8 of the Evesham Charter (Taylor 2002). Both Hooke and Grundy agree that the ford was where the present A435 crosses the Harvington Brook (Hooke, 1990, 50; Grundy 1927, 91). Jackson and Dalwood (2007) suggest that a pre-Conquest saltway ran southeast to northwest near the southern edge of the site. In this period, Jackson and Dalwood (2007, 117) indicate that the salt-producing site at Droitwich lay at the centre of a network of 'saltways', by which salt was distributed across Worcestershire and Gloucestershire.
- 2.14 A small-scale archaeological excavation undertaken in March 2005 in a small field in the eastern end of the village of Church Lench recorded a large ditch in the southern end of the field, which though undated possibly originated between the post-Roman and medieval period. The ditch was at least 3m in width and 1m deep (Sworn 2005).
- 2.15 Over 4km southeast of the wind farm there is a Scheduled Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Bennett's Hill. The Benedictine abbey of Evesham was founded by Egwin, Bishop of Worcester in the 8<sup>th</sup> century AD (VCH 1906, 2, 112-127).

### **Medieval (c.AD 1066 – 1485)**

- 2.16 The great variety of evidence available for the medieval period in Worcestershire is noted by Dalwood and Jackson (2007, 124), including standing buildings, ruins, earthworks, crop marks and artefacts. The wind farm falls within the parishes of Church Lench (to the north) and Norton and Lenchwick (to the south). Several of the settlements surrounding the wind farm were present in the medieval period. Kelly (1884) notes that Church Lench existed at the time of the Domesday Survey, when the parish and its villages were identified as 'Lenz'.
- 2.17 The manor of Norton, just to the southeast of the site, was held by Evesham Abbey at the time of the Domesday survey. The main manor was at Lenchwick. The extent of medieval settlement is unknown (Dalwood and Woodiwiss 1992; VCH 1906, 2, 415-420). Church Lench was also known as Lench Roculf. It was 'recovered' for the Abbey of Evesham in 1044-54 and 1070-77 and was then granted to Urse d'Abitot, being retained by his heirs, the Beauchamps. Parts were probably held by the Beauchamps, Rous Lench and the Abbey of Halesowen in the 15<sup>th</sup> century (VCH 1913, 3). Atch Lench was probably appropriated to the use of the pittance of the Abbey of Evesham, to whom, according to a survey of the abbey made in 1206, Prior Thomas granted the wood in Atch Lench. In the reign of Henry III, William Meldrope held land gifted by Robert the Abbot. Atch Lench remained in the possession of the Abbey of Evesham until the Dissolution (VCH 1913, 3, 48). At the time of Domesday, Harvington was held by the monks of Worcester. In 1207 they let it to the men of the village for twelve years. This lease was renewed in 1230 for ten years. In 1254 the prior leased the manor to Simon de Wauton, later Bishop of Norwich (VCH 1913, 3, 387-390). The centres of these villages are Conservation Areas, containing medieval Listed Buildings.



- 2.18 Sheriff's Lench appears to be a shrunken medieval village, which grew rapidly between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was a pre-Domesday manor (Brown 1997). Earthworks of the main settlement have been damaged by cultivation and subsequent erosion since the 1970s. There are still many visible features, representing sunken yards, terraces and scarps. A deep hollow way runs through the centre of the village (Dyer 1997). Ab Lench also contains earthworks of a deserted medieval settlement (Dyer n.d.). A medieval arrowhead was recovered in this area. The settlement of Lenchwick was recorded in the Domesday Book. Lenchwick House was built by Sir Thomas Bigge (1550-1613). It was demolished sometime after 1745 (Brown 1997).
- 2.19 To the south of the site a flight of four fishponds on the west side of Lenchwick was constructed by Abbot Randolph (1214-29) (VCH 1906, 2, 416). It was associated with the Grange he set up. Nearby is the possible site of the Chapel of St Michael, which was in ruins at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The two chapels of Norton and Lenchwick are mentioned in 1206 as appropriated to the sacristy of the Abbey of Evesham (VCH 1906, 2, 420). The location of a medieval mill is also recorded nearby.
- 2.20 The Historic Environment Record notes the presence of a chapel in Sheriff's Lench, granted to John and William Mershe on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1574 (VCH 1913, 3, 50). At Ab Lench the site of a medieval Moated Site, the Manor House for the village, is recorded, alongside the site of a medieval chapel. This chapel was in existence as early as 1269. The remains of the chapel were visible in 1812 (VCH 1913, 3, 363).
- 2.21 Evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation has been recorded at several locations within the wind farm and in the surrounding area. In particular surrounding Ab Lench. There is a rectangular crop mark, perhaps a medieval or later structure, within the site near Sheriff's Lench; this was identified from aerial photographic evidence.
- 2.22 Archaeological works in the survey area include salvage recording to the north of the wind farm, at Broomfield Farm, Church Lench, which identified a medieval hollow way associated with a deserted medieval settlement. A watching brief at the Church of St Egwin in Norton revealed a medieval tiled floor. As noted above, an excavation in 2005 in eastern end of the village of Church Lench recorded a large ditch that possibly originated between the post-Roman and medieval period and recovered medieval pottery (Sworn 2005).

### **Post-Medieval (c.AD 1485 - Modern)**

- 2.23 During the post-medieval period the farmland surrounding the numerous villages and hamlets in the area was unenclosed until the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Much of the surrounding land was arable or pasture.
- 2.24 It is likely that much of the evidence for ridge and furrow, noted above, can be associated with arable cultivation in the survey area during this period. To the east of the wind farm, archaeological evaluation by Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service (WHEAS) at Leys Road, Harvington recorded ploughed out furrows of post-medieval ridge and furrow in 2005 (Miller 2005).
- 2.25 The Portable Antiquities Scheme has recorded a post-medieval silver coin from the parish of Norton and Lenchwick. Unstratified finds of post-medieval or later date have been found in the proposed development site and in the area surrounding the wind farm.

- 2.26 Historic map evidence at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century shows the villages of 'Lenchwyck' and 'Horton' to lie within the Blakenhurst Hundred division of Worcestershire in 1788, while Church Lench and 'Sherriffs Lench' lay within the Halfshire division. In 1841 Bentley recorded the population of Church Lench parish as 313. He indicates that the land around Atch Lench and Sheriff's Lench was barren until between 1829 and 1831, when it was brought into productivity. Bentley notes that Norton parish had a population of 397. The Tithe map of Norton and Lenchwick (1846) shows that the majority of land around these villages was arable or pasture.
- 2.27 At the end of this period Kelly (1884) notes that the main crops of Church Lench parish were wheat, barley and beans. The population of Church Lench in 1881 was 387. Atch Lench had a population of 42 at this time. Norton parish in 1881 had a population of 412, with wheat, oats and barley being the principal crops.
- 2.28 The Tithe Map of Sheriff's Lench (1843) shows a number of buildings within the proposed wind farm, around the hamlet. A group of buildings, perhaps a farmstead, stands in the northwest of the proposed wind farm. A small rectangular structure stands 800m to its south, just inside the development boundaries. A group of buildings is shown in the centre of the development; this is 'Leasow Farm' on later maps. A small rectangular structure can be seen on the west side of the crossroads to the north-east of Sheriff's Lench.
- 2.29 Study of late 19<sup>th</sup> century O.S. maps indicates the continued presence of several of these structures (OS 1885 and 1886a). To the east of Leasow Farm another building appears on the 1886 OS map; it is still shown within the wind farm area on present-day maps.
- 2.30 The Historic Environment Record lists a single Historic Park and Garden site within 1km of the proposed development, the 19<sup>th</sup> century Deer Park at Wood Norton. Although this site is not on the national Historic Parks and Gardens Register, it is listed by Wychavon District Council (2004, 16) as a Locally Important Park and Garden site.
- 2.31 Other sites within 2km of the wind farm include evidence of quarrying, including a sand pit south-west of Norton Farm and a gravel pit near Norton, both located on OS mapping of 1905. Another sand pit was located north-west of Leys Barn, Harvington. There was a lime kiln south of Yew Hill Wood in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Previous Works**

- 2.32 In April 2009, an Environmental Impact Assessment was produced for the study area of Lenchwick Wind Farm (AOC 2009a). The aim was to assess the impact of the proposed wind farm on sites of built and buried cultural heritage and their settings and to assess the impact on the wider historic landscape. It was concluded that the majority of cultural heritage remains in the immediate vicinity of the site derive from medieval and post-medieval farming, as well as a number of ecclesiastical remains, commonly medieval in date, in the wider area. An abundance of prehistoric and Roman/Romano-British settlements and forts have been noted in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm. Artefactual evidence suggests that encountering particularly Romano-British archaeology is a possibility (AOC 2009a).
- 2.33 Subsequently, a Fieldwalking Survey was then undertaken in January 2010 to ascertain the archaeological potential of the site and the requirement for further work (AOC 2010). Finds were recovered from throughout the centre, south and west of the site. Post-medieval pottery, CBM and glass found throughout the west of the site is thought to be the result of farming

activity during the last three or four centuries and therefore lacks significance. The dense concentration of slag material found in the southwest of the site may suggest industrial activity within the area.

- 2.34 The most significant finds recovered from the investigation comprised Roman pottery sherds retrieved from across the centre and west of the site. The Roman assemblage mostly comprised utilitarian courseware pottery. The distribution of Roman finds was concentrated to the north and centre of the site, where a high density of pottery was found at the top and around the base of a hill. This is suggestive of a hilltop settlement such as a farmstead or smallholding, which may have extended further to the north, where the woodland and grasslands may have inhibited the recovery of finds (AOC 2010a).
- 2.35 A Geophysical Survey was conducted at the proposed site in March-April 2010 in order to establish the presence of sub-surface archaeology (Stratascan 2010). The survey identified possible archaeological features in varying concentrations across the whole site, including possible cut features in Areas 2, 5 and 7. Area 2 contained a few possible cuts features, some with associated earthworks, while Area 8 contains a large amount of possible cut features. A curvilinear feature, which possibly represents a former enclosure, in the north along with some cut features which may be either archaeological or associated with ridge and furrow. The centre of Area 8 contains several cut features which may be of an archaeological origin (Stratascan 2010).

### **3. Strategy**

#### **3.1 Aims of the Investigation**

3.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were defined as being:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
- To enable Mike Glyde, archaeology advisor to Worcestershire County Council, to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.

3.1.2 The specific objectives of the evaluation were to:

- Determine the presence of prehistoric or Roman activity.
- Determine the presence of any remains of medieval date upon the site.

3.1.3 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions, through ADS OASIS website.

## 3.2 Methodology

- 3.2.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AOC Archaeology (2009a), defining site procedures and detailing how the evaluation, consisting of 15 machine excavated trenches, would be undertaken. All work was carried out in accordance with local and national guidelines (IfA 2008). Provision was made for a report as defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation.
- 3.2.2 The size and location of all trenches, except Trench 2, remained unaltered (Figure 2, 3a, 3b & 3c) as set out in the WSI (AOC 2009b). The position of Trench 2 was relocated a short distance to the west to avoid disturbing fallow ground adjacent to the field boundary.
- 3.2.3 A unique site code, WSM 42103, was obtained from the Worcestershire Heritage Environment Record, prior to the start of works on site; this will be used as the site identifier for all records produced.
- 3.2.4 The excavation of the evaluation trenches was undertaken between 5<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July 2010.
- 3.2.5 The location and levels for each context were established using Global Positioning System equipment.
- 3.2.6 The evaluation was conducted by Catherine Edwards and Ian Hogg under the overall management of Melissa Melikian.

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Trench 1

- 4.1.1 Surface of Trench = 85.97m AOD

Level (AOD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
85.97-85.87m	0.00m	(101)	Ploughsoil. Soft, greyish brown, silty clay.
85.87-85.74m	0.10m	(102)	Subsoil. Firm, brown, silty clay.
85.74-85.64m	0.23-0.33m	(103)	Natural. Hard, yellowish brown, clay.

- 4.1.2 Trench 1 was located in Area 6, orientated north-south and measured 30m by 1.80m (Figures 2 & 3a).
- 4.1.3 The earliest deposit identified in Trench 1 was a hard, yellowish brown, natural clay (103) which was recorded at a height of 85.74m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). Overlying the natural was a firm, brown, silty clay subsoil deposit (102) measuring up to 0.15m thick. Sealing the sequence of deposits within the trench was a soft, greyish brown, silty clay ploughsoil (101), 0.10m thick.
- 4.1.3 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 1.

## 4.2 Trench 2

### 4.2.1 Surface of Trench = 85.91m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
85.91-85.71m	0.00m	(201)	Ploughsoil. Soft, greyish brown, silty clay.
85.71-85.51m	0.20m	(202)	Subsoil. Firm, greyish brown, silty clay.
85.51-85.41m (NFE)	0.40-0.50m	(211)	Natural. Hard, yellowish brown, clay.

4.2.2 Trench 2 was located in Area 11, orientated northwest-southeast and measured 30m by 1.80m (Figures 2 & 3a).

4.2.3 The earliest deposit recorded was a hard, yellowish brown, natural clay (211), observed at its highest at 85.51m AOD (Figure 4). Four features were identified truncating the natural at different locations within the trench. In the northwest end of Trench 2 ditch [204] was identified as cutting into the natural clay (211). Ditch [204] was orientated northeast-southwest measuring 2.60m wide by 1.10m deep, with a concave profile. The ditch contained a sequence of four fills (214), (213), (203) and (212), with all four being recorded as indurated, dark greyish brown, clay deposits, with only minor differences differentiating each deposit. The most substantial of the fills was primary deposit (214) which spanned the width of the ditch and was 0.50m thick. Romano-British pottery and animal bone fragments were recovered from fills (203) and (213). Environmental sample <1> was taken from context (203) which identified a range of charred crop remains which included spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) and a small number of other unidentified cereal grains and chaff. Fly puparia were also identified.

4.2.4 Ditch [210] was located at the southwest end of the trench, orientated on a north-south alignment. Ditch [210] was 1.60m wide by 0.15m deep, with a shallow concave profile. The ditch contained a single fill (209) consisting of a hard, light greyish brown, silty clay deposit from which a partially complete narrow-neck bifid rim jar dating to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD was recovered.

4.2.5 Lying between the two ditches were two additional broad yet shallow linear features, both of which were orientated north-south. Feature [206] was the larger of the two, measuring 3.20m wide by 0.35m deep with a very gradual gradient to each side. The hard, mid greyish brown, silty clay fill (205) of the feature contained several fragments of Romano-British pottery. The second of the two similar features [208] lay to the south east of feature [206]. Feature [208] was 2.70m wide by 0.15m deep with a similar profile. Pottery dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD was also recovered from the hard, mid greyish brown, silty clay fill (207) of the feature. It is likely that all four features in Trench 2 represent ditches associated with boundaries or trackways.

4.2.6 Sealing the fills of all four features was a layer of firm, greyish brown, silty clay subsoil (202) measuring up to 0.20m thick. The subsoil was overlain by a greyish brown, silty clay topsoil

deposit (201) 0.20m thick. Residual Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered from deposits (202) and (201).

### 4.3 Trench 3

#### 4.3.1 Surface of Trench = 93.90m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
93.90-93.60m	0.00m	(301)	Ploughsoil. Soft, greyish brown, sandy silt.
93.60-93.40m	0.30m	(302)	Subsoil. Firm, orangey brown, sandy clay.
93.40-93.30m (NFE)	0.50-0.60m	(311)	Natural. Hard, reddish brown/bluish grey, clay.

4.3.2 Trench 3 was located in Area 8, orientated north-south and measured 30m by 1.80m (Figures 2 & 3a).

4.3.3 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 3 was a hard, reddish brown or bluish grey, clay (311) which was recorded at a height of 93.40m AOD (Figure 5). Three linear features were observed truncating the natural. In the central area of the trench ditch [308] was identified orientated northeast-southwest, measuring 1.50m wide by 0.40m deep with a V-shaped profile. The ditch contained an indurated, dark brown, clay fill (307) from which several sherds of pottery generally dated to the Romano-British period were recovered, and a small number of sheep and cattle bone. Environmental sample <3> was taken from context (307), the assessment of which did not produce any significant results.

4.3.4 At the southern end of the trench a similar ditch was present. Ditch [306] was all V-shaped and orientated northeast-southwest, measuring up to 1.50m wide by 0.40m deep. The primary fill (305) of ditch [306] was a brownish grey, clay deposit 0.10m thick, which did not contain any finds. The secondary fill (304) a dark grey, clay material was the most substantial reaching a maximum thickness of 0.30m. The tertiary fill a brownish grey, clay deposit (303), survived to a depth of 0.15m, which contained several sherds of a ceramic tankard and a bowl dating to the 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. Environmental sample <2> was taken from context (304), the assessment of which did not produce any significant results.

4.3.5 Located between the two ditches was an east-west orientated shallow concave gully [310]. The gully measured 0.35m wide by 0.10m deep. The gully fill (309) was similar to those found in both ditches, described as an indurated, dark grey, clay. Occasional sherds of pottery dated to the Romano-British were collected from fill (309). As in Trench 2, it is thought that all three features represent elements associated with boundaries or trackways.

4.3.6 Sealing all three features was a layer of firm, orangey brown, sandy clay subsoil (302) measuring up to 0.20m thick. Above subsoil (302) a greyish brown, sandy silt topsoil (301) material had been deposited 0.30m thick.



## 4.4 Trench 4

4.4.1 Surface of Trench = 95.45m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
95.45-95.20m	0.00m	(401)	Ploughsoil. Firm, dark brown, sandy clay.
95.20-95.06m	0.25m	(402)	Subsoil. Hard, mid brown, clay.
95.06-94.96m (NFE)	0.39- 0.49m	(403)	Natural. Indurated, reddish brown/bluish grey, clay.

4.4.2 Trench 4 was located in Area 4, orientated roughly north-south and measured 30m by 2m (Figures 2 & 3a).

4.4.3 The earliest deposit observed was an indurated natural clay (403), which was either reddish brown or bluish grey in colour. At its highest the natural clay was recorded at 95.45m AOD. Lying above the natural (403) was a hard, mid brown, clay subsoil deposit (402), up to 0.15m thick. Sealing the subsoil was a layer of firm, dark brown, sandy clay ploughsoil (401) measuring 0.25m thick.

4.4.4 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 4.

## 4.5 Trench 5

4.5.1 Surface of Trench = 109.75m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
109.75-109.43m	0.00m	(501)	Ploughsoil. Firm, light greyish brown, clayey silt.
109.43-109.31m	0.32m	(502)	Subsoil. Hard, orangey brown, sandy silt.
109.31-109.21m (NFE)	0.44- 0.54m	(503)	Natural. Hard, orangey brown, sandy clay.

4.5.2 Trench 5 was located in Area 9, orientated north-south and measured 30m by 1.80m (Figures 2 & 3b).

4.5.3 The earliest deposit was a layer of hard, orangey brown, natural sandy clay (503) which was observed at its highest at 109.31m AOD. Intermittent bands of a light greyish brown, sandy silt were incorporated within the natural. Overlying the natural (503) was a thin layer of hard, orangey brownish, sandy silt subsoil (502) measuring up to 0.12m thick. Completing the sequence of deposits in Trench 5 was a firm, light greyish brown, clayey silt ploughsoil deposit (501) 0.30m thick.

4.5.4 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 5.

## 4.6 Trench 6

4.6.1 Surface of Trench = 104.32m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
104.32-104.13m	0.00m	(601)	Ploughsoil. Firm, light greyish brown, clayey silt.
104.13-104.03m	0.20m	(602)	Subsoil. Hard, yellowish brown, clayey silt.
104.03-103.93m (NFE)	0.30-0.40m	(605)	Natural. Compact, orangey brown, sandy clay gravel.

4.6.2 Trench 6 was located in Area 9, orientated northwest-southeast and measured 30m by 1.80m (Figures 2 & 3a).

4.6.3 The earliest deposit identified in Trench 6 was a hard, orangey brown, natural sandy clay gravel (605) which was recorded at a maximum height of 104.03m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). A small circular posthole [604] was recorded truncating the natural (605), which measured 0.20m in diameter by 0.30m deep, which had a vertically sided, flat based profile. The greyish brown, sandy silt fill (603) of the posthole did not contain any finds. Overlying the fill (603) of posthole [604] was a hard, yellowish brown, clayey silt subsoil deposit (602) measuring up to 0.10m thick. Sealing the sequence of deposits within the trench was a firm, light greyish brown, clayey silt ploughsoil layer (601), 0.20m thick.

## 4.7 Trench 7

4.7.1 Surface of Trench = 94.45m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
94.45-94.15m	0.00m	(701)	Ploughsoil. Firm, greyish brown, silty clay.
94.15-94.06m	0.30m	(702)	Subsoil. Hard, orangey brown, silty clay.
94.06-94.96m (NFE)	0.39-0.49m	(703)	Natural. Hard, orangey brown, silty clay.

4.7.2 Trench 7 was located in Area 8, orientated roughly north-south and measured 30m by 1.80m (Figures 2 & 3a).

4.7.3 The earliest deposit recorded was a hard, orangey brown, natural silty clay (703), which demonstrated irregular blue and grey mottling. At its highest the natural was recorded at 94.06m AOD. Lying above deposit (703) was a layer of hard, orangey brown, silty clay subsoil (702) measuring up to 0.10m thick. The subsoil in turn lay beneath a horizon of firm, greyish brown, silty clay ploughsoil (701) recorded as 0.30m thick.

4.7.4 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 7.

## 4.8 Trench 8

4.8.1 Surface of Trench = 93.23m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
93.23-93.03m	0.00m	(801)	Ploughsoil. Firm, greyish brown, silty clay.

93.03-92.93m	0.20m	(802)	Subsoil. Hard, dark greyish brown, silty clay.
92.93-92.83m (NFE)	0.30- 0.40m	(803)	Natural. Hard, yellowish brown, clay.

4.8.2 Trench 8 was located in Area 4, orientated roughly northeast-southwest and measured 30m by 1.80m (Figures 2 & 3a).

4.8.3 The earliest deposit observed in Trench 8 was a hard, yellowish brown, natural clay (803), which was recorded at 92.93m AOD. Lying above the natural (803) was a hard, dark greyish brown, silty clay subsoil deposit (802), up to 0.10m thick. Sealing the subsoil was a layer of firm, greyish brown, silty clay ploughsoil (801) measuring 0.20m thick.

4.8.4 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 8.

#### 4.9 Trench 9

4.9.1 Surface of Trench = 96.17m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
96.17-95.78m	0.00m	(901)	Ploughsoil. Firm, greyish brown, silty clay.
95.78-95.53m	0.36m	(902)	Subsoil. Hard, mid brown, silty clay.
95.53-95.43m (NFE)	0.61- 0.71m	(803)	Natural. Hard, yellowish brown, clay.

4.9.2 Trench 9 was located in Area 2, orientated roughly east-west and measured 30m by 1.80m (Figures 2 & 3a).

4.9.3 The earliest deposit was a layer of hard, yellowish brown, natural clay (903) which was observed at its highest at 95.53m AOD. Overlying the natural (803) was a layer of hard, mid brown, silty clay subsoil (902) measuring up to 0.25m thick. Completing the sequence of deposits in Trench 9 was a firm, greyish brown, silty clay ploughsoil deposit (501) 0.35m thick.

4.9.4 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 9.

#### 4.10 Trench 10

4.10.1 Surface of Trench = 94.90m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
94.90-94.78m	0.00m	(1001)	Ploughsoil. Firm, greyish brown, silty clay.
94.78-94.68m	0.12m	(1002)	Subsoil. Hard, greyish brown, silty clay.
94.68-94.58m (NFE)	0.22- 0.23m	(1003)	Natural. Hard, mid brown, clay.

4.10.2 Trench 10 was located in Area 2, orientated north-south and measured 30m by 1.80m (Figures 2 & 3a).

4.10.3 The earliest deposit identified was a hard, mid brown, natural clay (1003) which was recorded at a maximum height of 94.68m AOD. Overlying natural (1003) was a hard, greyish brown, silty clay subsoil deposit (1002) measuring up to 0.10m thick. Sealing the sequence of deposits within the trench was a firm, light greyish brown, silty clay ploughsoil layer (1001), 0.12m thick.

4.10.4 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 10.

#### 4.11 Trench 11

4.11.1 Surface of Trench = 95.66m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
95.66-95.56m	0.00m	(1101)	Ploughsoil. Firm, greyish brown, silty clay.
95.56-95.46m	0.10m	(1102)	Subsoil. Hard, dark greyish brown, silty clay.
95.46-95.36m (NFE)	0.20- 0.30m	(1105)	Natural. Hard, mid brown, clay.

4.11.2 Trench 11 was located in Area 2, orientated east-west and measured 30m by 1.80m (Figures 2 & 3a).

4.11.3 The earliest deposit recorded was a hard, mid brown, natural clay (1105). At its highest the natural was recorded at 95.46m AOD (Figure 6). Truncating the natural (1105) in the central area of the trench was a possible ditch terminal [1104], which continued beyond the northern limit of the trench preventing the feature being fully defined. The possible rounded ditch terminal [1104] was in excess of 1.00m in length by 0.50m wide and reaching a maximum depth of 0.20m. The feature was recorded as having a concave profile. Contained within the possible ditch terminal [1104] was a dark grey, silty clay fill (1103), from which fragments of animal bone were recovered and identified as deriving from sheep and cattle. Sealing feature [1104] was a layer of hard, dark greyish brown, silty clay subsoil (1102) measuring up to 0.10m thick. Fragments of animal bone were also recovered from this layer. The subsoil in turn lay beneath a horizon of firm, greyish brown, silty clay ploughsoil (1101) recorded as 0.10m thick.

#### 4.12 Trench 12

4.12.1 Surface of Trench = 106.84m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
106.84-106.54m	0.00m	(1201)	Ploughsoil. Firm, light brown, silty clay.
106.54-106.44m (NFE)	0.30- 0.40m	(1202)	Natural. Hard, orangey brown, clay.

4.12.2 Trench 12 was located in Area 1, orientated roughly north-south and measured 30m by 1.80m (Figures 2 & 3a).

4.12.3 The earliest deposit observed in Trench 12 was a hard, orangey brown, natural clay (1202), which was recorded at 106.54m AOD. Lying above the natural (1202) was a firm, light brown, silty clay ploughsoil deposit (1201), measuring up to 0.30m thick.

4.12.4 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 12.

### 4.13 Trench 13

4.13.1 Surface of Trench = 83.81m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
83.81-83.43m	0.00m	(1301)	Ploughsoil. Firm, dark greyish brown, clayey silty.
83.43-83.08m	0.38m	(1302)	Subsoil. Hard, light greyish brown, silty clay.
83.08-82.98m (NFE)	0.73-0.83m	(1203)	Natural. Hard, orangey brown, silty clay.

4.13.2 Trench 13 was located in Area 11, orientated northwest-southeast and measured 15m by 1.80m (Figures 2 & 3c).

4.13.3 The earliest deposit was a layer of hard, orangey brown, natural silty clay (1203) which was observed at its highest at 83.08m AOD. Overlying the natural (1203) was a layer of hard, light greyish brown, silty clay subsoil (1302) measuring up to 0.35m thick. Completing the sequence of deposits in Trench 11 was a firm, dark greyish brown, clayey silt ploughsoil deposit (1301) 0.40m thick.

4.13.4 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 13.

### 4.14 Trench 14

4.14.1 Surface of Trench = 94.88m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
94.88-94.75m	0.00m	(1401)	Ploughsoil. Firm, greyish brown, clayey silt.
94.75-94.59m	0.13m	(1402)	Subsoil. Hard, light brown, silty clay.
94.59-94.49m (NFE)	0.29-0.39m	(1403)	Natural. Hard, mid brown, clay.

4.14.2 Trench 14 was located in Area 7, orientated roughly east-west and measured 30m by 1.80m (Figures 2 & 3a).

4.14.3 The earliest deposit recorded was a hard, mid brown, natural clay (1403). At its highest the natural was recorded at 94.59m AOD. Sealing the natural was a layer of hard, light brown, silty clay subsoil (1402) measuring up to 0.15m thick. The subsoil in turn lay beneath a horizon of firm, greyish brown, silty clay ploughsoil (1401) recorded as 0.15m thick.

4.14.4 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 14.

## 4.15 Trench 15

### 4.15.1 Surface of Trench = 97.36m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
97.36-97.26m	0.00m	(1501)	Ploughsoil. Firm, dark greyish brown, silty clay.
97.26-97.14m	0.10m	(1502)	Subsoil. Hard, greyish brown, silty clay.
97.14-97.04m (NFE)	0.22- 0.32m	(1503)	Natural. Hard, greyish brown, clay.

4.15.2 Trench 15 was located in Area 3, orientated roughly north-south and measured 30m by 1.80m (Figures 2 & 3a).

4.15.3 The earliest deposit observed in Trench 15 was a hard, greyish brown, natural clay (1503), which was recorded at 97.14m AOD. Lying above the natural (1503) was a hard, greyish brown, silty clay subsoil deposit (1502), measuring up to 0.10m thick. Sealing the deposition sequence was a dark greyish brown, silty clay topsoil horizon (1501) 0.10m thick.

4.15.4 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 15.

## 5. Finds and Environmental Sampling

5.1 A small assemblage of finds was collected during the course of the evaluation consisting of pottery and animal bone. Pottery sherds were collected from contexts (201), (202), (203), (205), (207), (209), (303), (307) and (309), all of which appears to derive from the Romano-British period. Fragments of animal bone were retrieved from contexts (303), (307), (1102) and (1103).

5.2 Three features were identified as holding potential for environmental assessment; as a result bulk samples were taken from contexts (203), (304) and (307). The result of the finds and environmental sample assessment can be found in Appendix B.

## 6. Conclusion

6.1 The evaluation successfully characterised both the stratigraphic sequence and the archaeological potential of the site. Natural clay deposits were observed in all trenches at a height of between 83.08m AOD to 109.31m AOD. These values are consistent with the gradient observed on site and the undulating nature of the localised landscape.

6.2 Four of the 15 trenches produced features of archaeological interest. Trench 2 produced the greatest number of features, represented by two wide concave ditches [204] and [210], and two shallow linear cuts [206] and [208]. Dating evidence, in the form of pottery, was recovered from all four features indicating that these features were in use during the Romano-British period. A ceramic vessel recovered from ditch [210] potentially narrows down this period of activity to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. Features [206], [208], [210] all lie on the same north-south alignment implying they may have been part of the same phase of activity, whereas the



northeast-southwest alignment of ditch [204] suggests a distinct second phase of activity occurred during the Romano-British period. More significantly, the assessment of the environmental sample taken from ditch [204] indicates that human settlement may have been occurring in close proximity due to the presence of fly puparia frequently associated with cess deposits.

- 6.3 The features exposed in Trench 3 were very similar in nature to the features recorded in Trench 2, consisting of two ditches [306] and [308], and a single gully [310]. Ditches [306] and [308] are very similar, as both are of approximately the same size, aligned on the same northeast-southwest axis, and who fills contained Romano-British pottery, with one vessel specifically dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. Taking these similarities into consideration, it is likely that both ditches belong to the same phase of early Romano-British activity. Romano-British pottery was also recovered from east-west aligned gully [310], associating it with the same general period as the two ditches, although its alignment suggests it belongs to a different phase of activity.
- 6.4 The remaining features were identified in Trenches 6 and 11. In Trench 6 a single small undated posthole [604] was excavated. The vertical-sided, flat based profile and isolated character suggests it may be associated with a post-medieval or modern fence line. The potential ditch terminal [1104] found in Trench 11 also remains undated, with no distinct characteristics or associated features in close proximity from which a possible date could be implied. It is likely that the ditch terminal belongs to one end of a north-south aligned boundary ditch.
- 6.5 The features identified in Trenches 2 and 3, all appear to relate to several phases of activity occurring on site during the Romano-British period. This activity is represented by a series of ditches and a gully concentrated in the central area of site, associated with Areas 8 and 11. The features appear to run on two different axis, one set represented by the north-south aligned ditches in Trench 2 and east-west aligned gully in Trench 3, while the remaining ditches in both trenches are aligned northeast-southwest. It is possible that the two sets of orientations correspond to two distinct phases of land management taking place with the features representing possible field boundaries or trackways. The majority of the pottery collected from these features can only be generally dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, although several sherds were specifically dated to either the 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD or 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD which potentially enables the phases of use to be refined. Environmental data collected from one of the ditches in Trench 2 strongly implies that contemporary settlement was taking place in close proximity, which when taken in association with the concentration of Romano-British pottery identified during the on site field walking, located 60m to the southwest of Trench 2 (Figure 3a), identifies a possible focal point of local activity. If this is the case, the features discussed would lie in its immediate hinterland and be directly associated.
- 6.6 The features identified in Trenches 6 and 11 are of less diagnostic value due to their lack of specific dating evidence and isolated nature. They imply a limited degree of activity taking place within the vicinity of these trenches, probably associated with land division, a common practice in such a rural environment from prehistory through to the modern period.

- 6.7 With the exception of Trench 2, 3, 6 and 11, no significant archaeological features were encountered in the remaining trenches. All 15 trenches, with the exception of Trench 12, contained an undisturbed sequence of soil horizons, consisting of natural clays overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil deposits. This suggests that the disturbance or truncation of the soil sequence over time has been limited, primarily restricted to post-medieval and modern agricultural activity. This implies that the potential for further archaeological features to survive, if present, is good.
- 6.8 All 15 trenches were located in order to target anomalies identified as the result of the geophysical survey (Figure 3a to 3c). All trenches, except Trench 2, 3, 6 and 11, did not produce any archaeological features which could be associated with any geophysical anomalies. The linear features identified in Trenches 2 and 15 did not fully conform to the positive area anomalies detected, although Trench 3 and Trench 6 did identify their respective positive linear anomaly and discrete positive anomaly, in the form of ditches and small posthole reported.
- 6.9 In regards to the aims of the project, the evaluation successfully characterised the sequence of archaeological deposits and assessed the impact of any development on any surviving archaeological remains. During the course of the evaluation a concentration of activity was identified in the central area of the site in the vicinity of Trenches 2 and 3 in the form of at least two phases of landscape management, consisting of possible field boundaries or trackways, occurring between the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. It is possible this activity is associated with a potentially contemporary settlement activity present within close proximity to the trenches. The survival of these features indicates the presence of Romano-British activity on site, as referred to in the initial aims of the project, and indicates a good potential for other associated features to survive as well. The features themselves could be designated as locally significant due their potential to inform on Romano-British management of the local landscape. No features associated with medieval activity were identified.
- 6.10 Undated archaeological features were recorded in Trenches 6 and 11 which appeared to represent previous phases of boundary demarcation. These features are of limited significance due to the lack of dating evidence and isolated character.
- 6.11 Due to the high level of survival and degree of significance associated with the remains identified in Trench 2 and 3, it is recommended that further work be undertaken post-planning consent. Trenches 2 and 3 are located along the proposed route of the access track, the construction of which is anticipated to impact a depth of 400mm. The archaeological horizon in this area is known to lie at a depth of 400mm to 700mm. Due to the potential for the construction of the track to impact upon the archaeological horizon it is recommended that further work is undertaken in the form of an open area excavation within the vicinity of Trenches 2 and 3. This would provide a greater understanding of the extent, layout and phases of Romano-British land management.

## 7. Publication

- 7.1 Due to the nature of the project, initial publication is expected to be limited to a summary in the Worcestershire Archaeology Round-up and publication via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix C).

## 8. Archive Deposition

- 8.1 On completion of the project, the archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, digital and black and white photographs, and finds will be deposited with the Worcester Archaeological Service.

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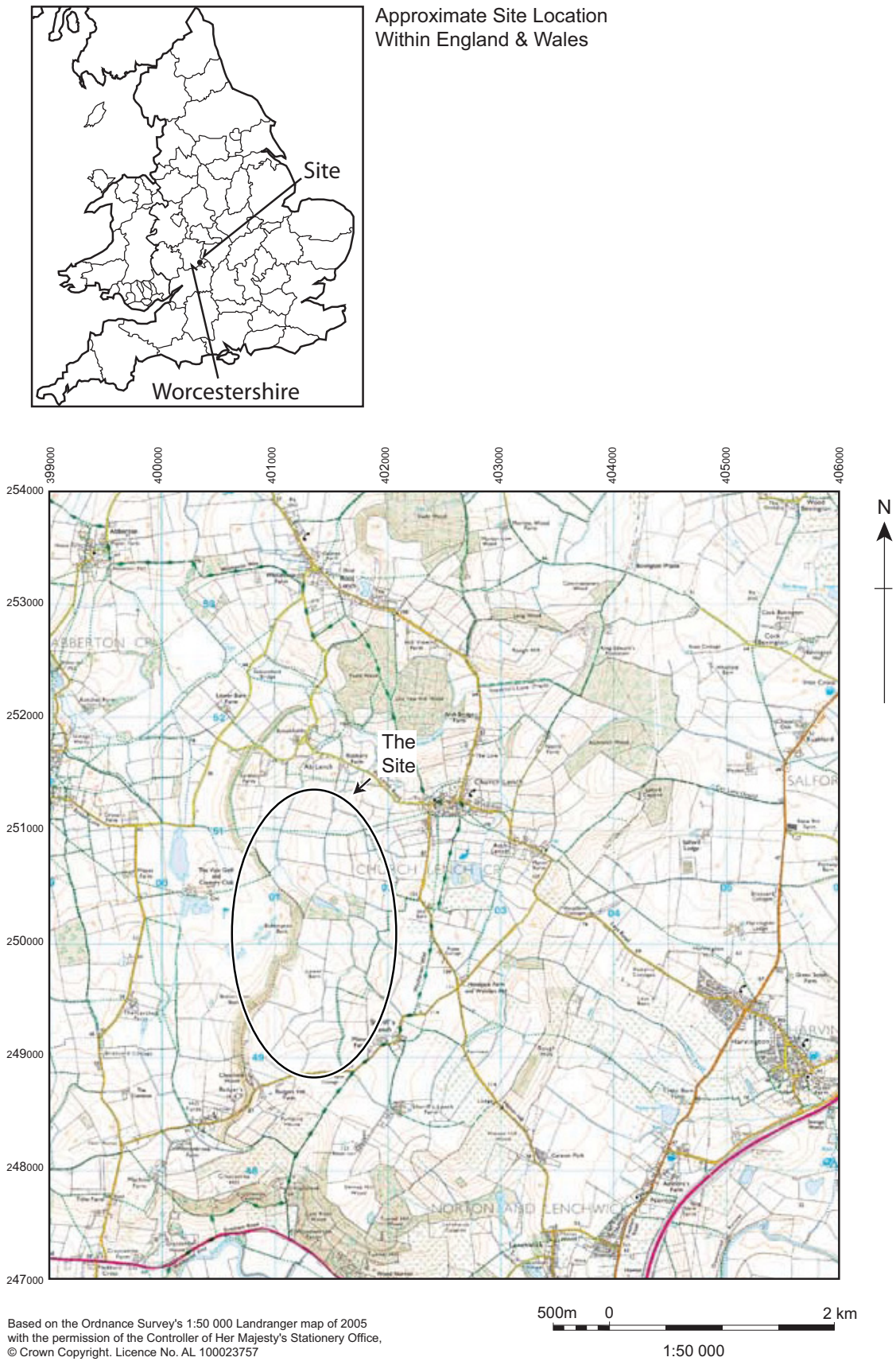
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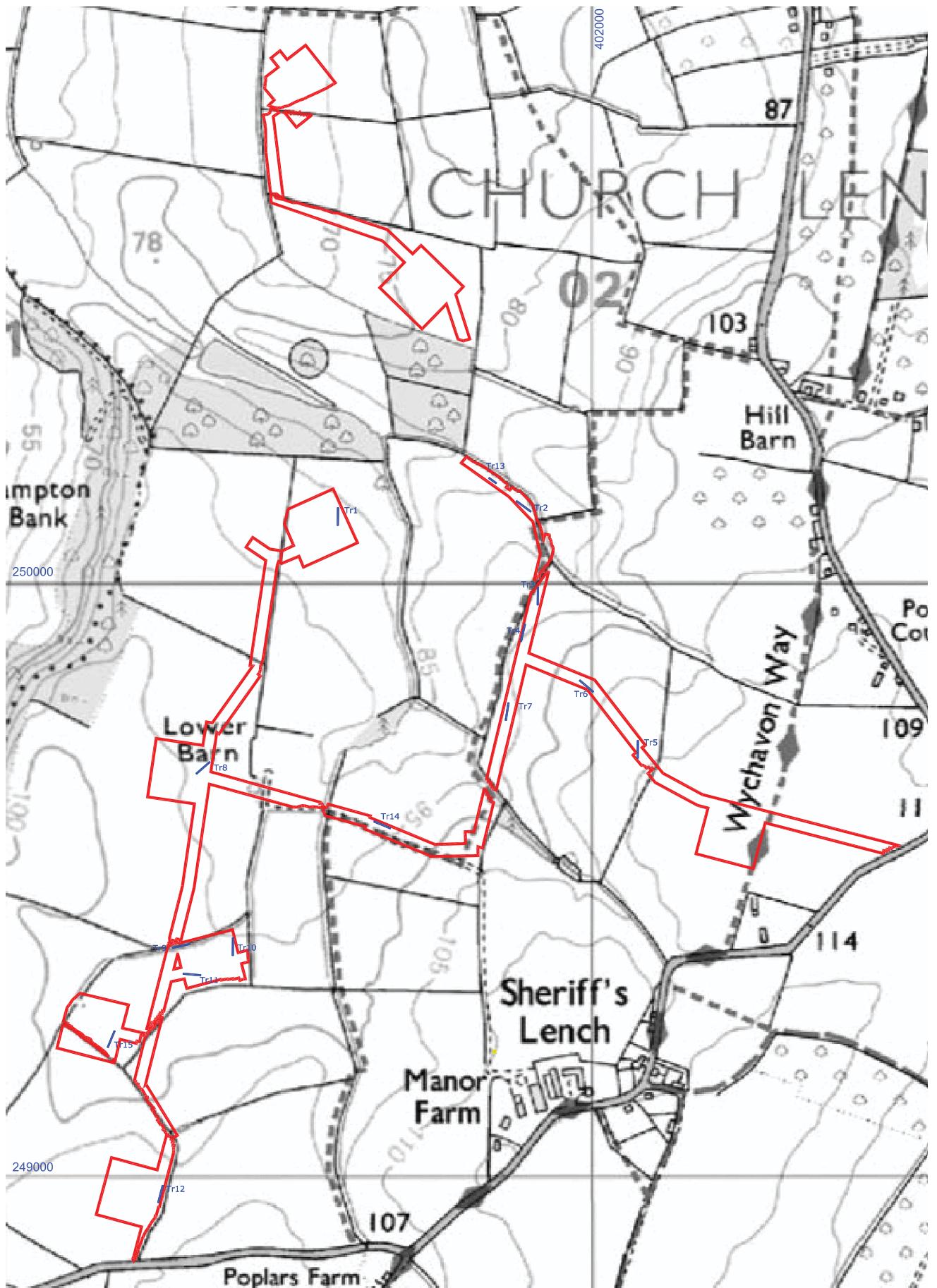
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Figure 1: Site Location





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□ Geophysical Survey Outline □ Evaluation Trenches

150m 0 300m

1:6000

Figure 2: Detailed Site / Trench Location Plan



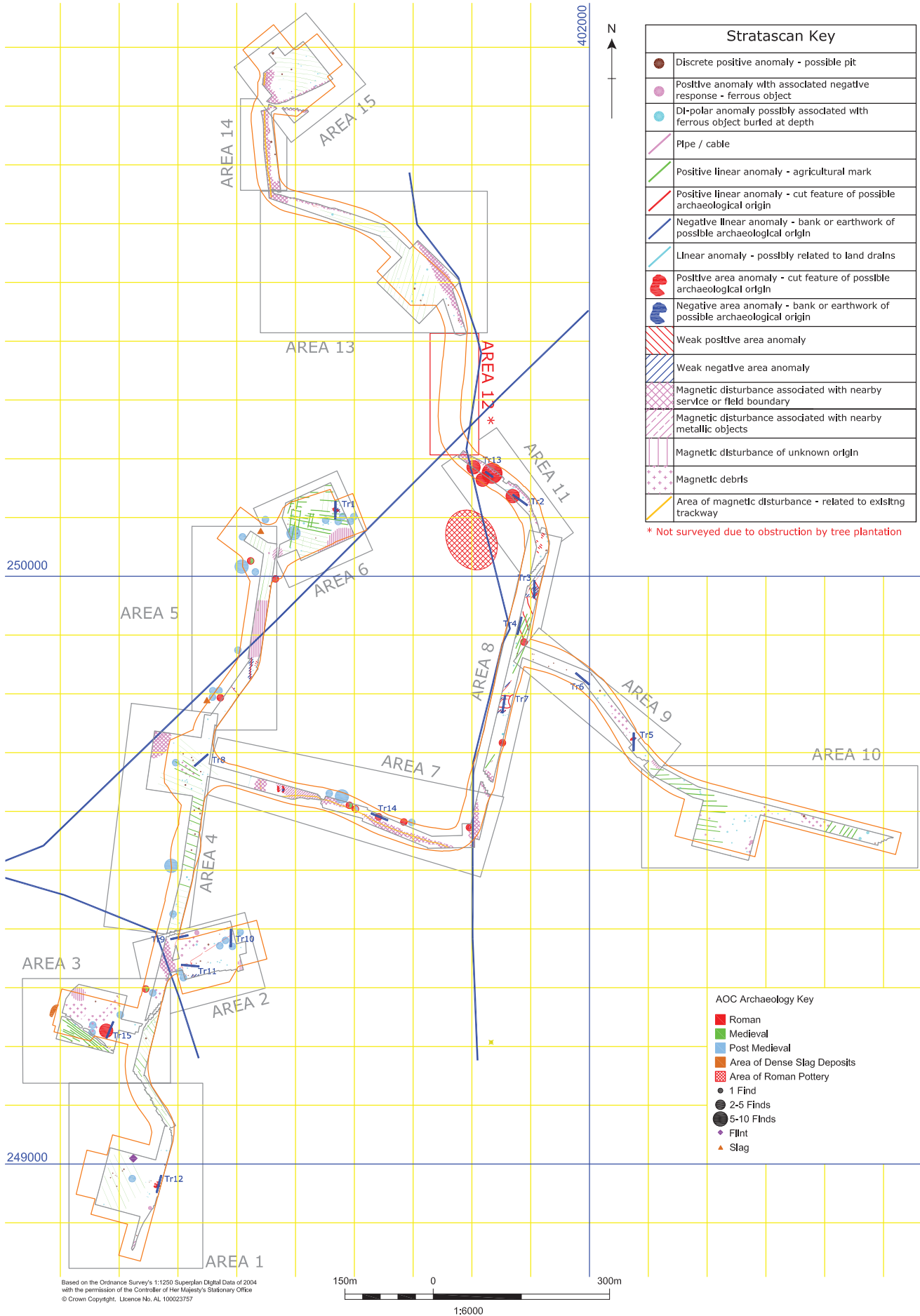


Figure 3: Trench Location Plan Over Geophysical Survey Results

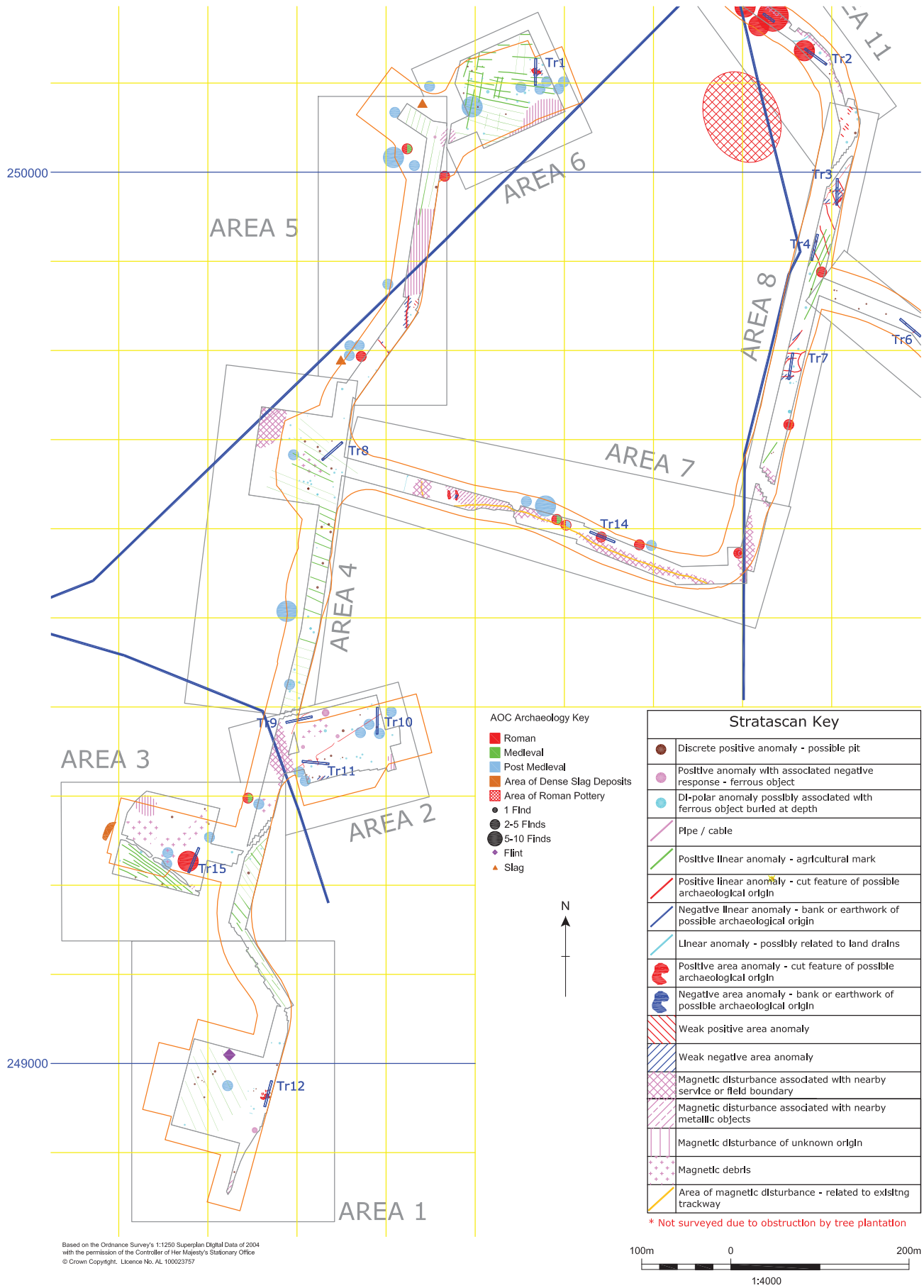
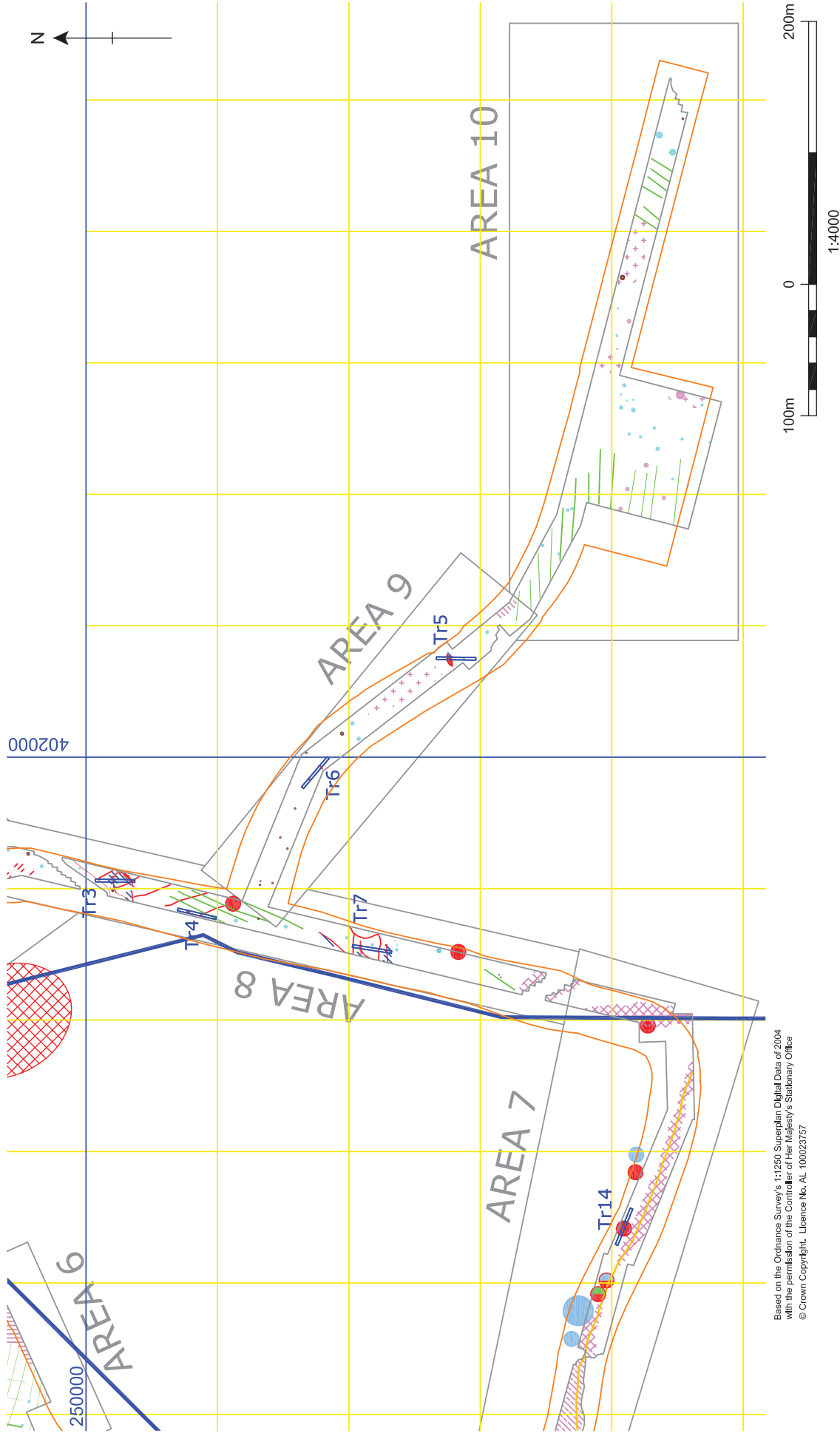


Figure 3a: Trench Location Plan Over Geophysical Survey Results



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**Figure 3b:** Trench Location Plan Over Geophysical Survey Results

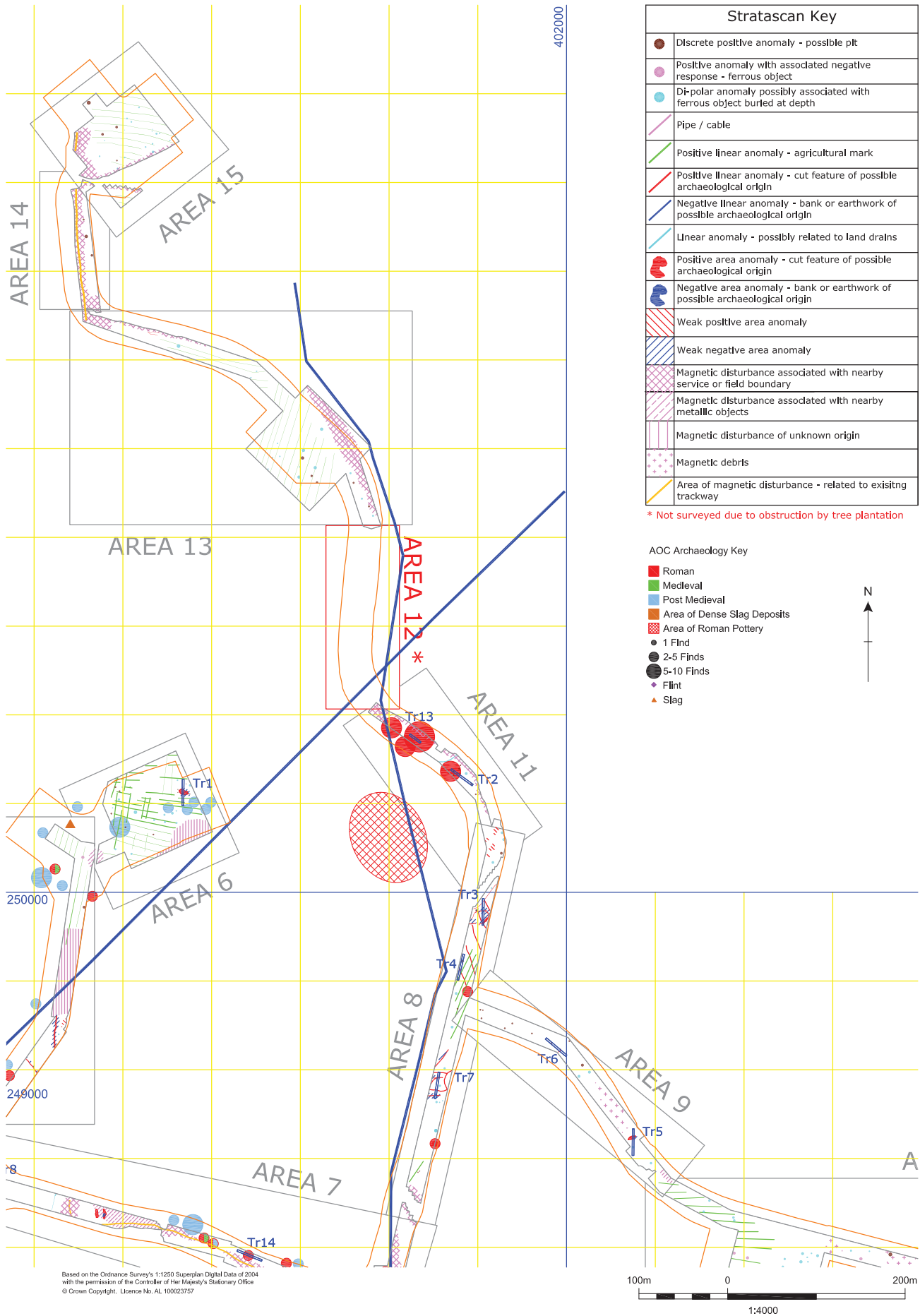
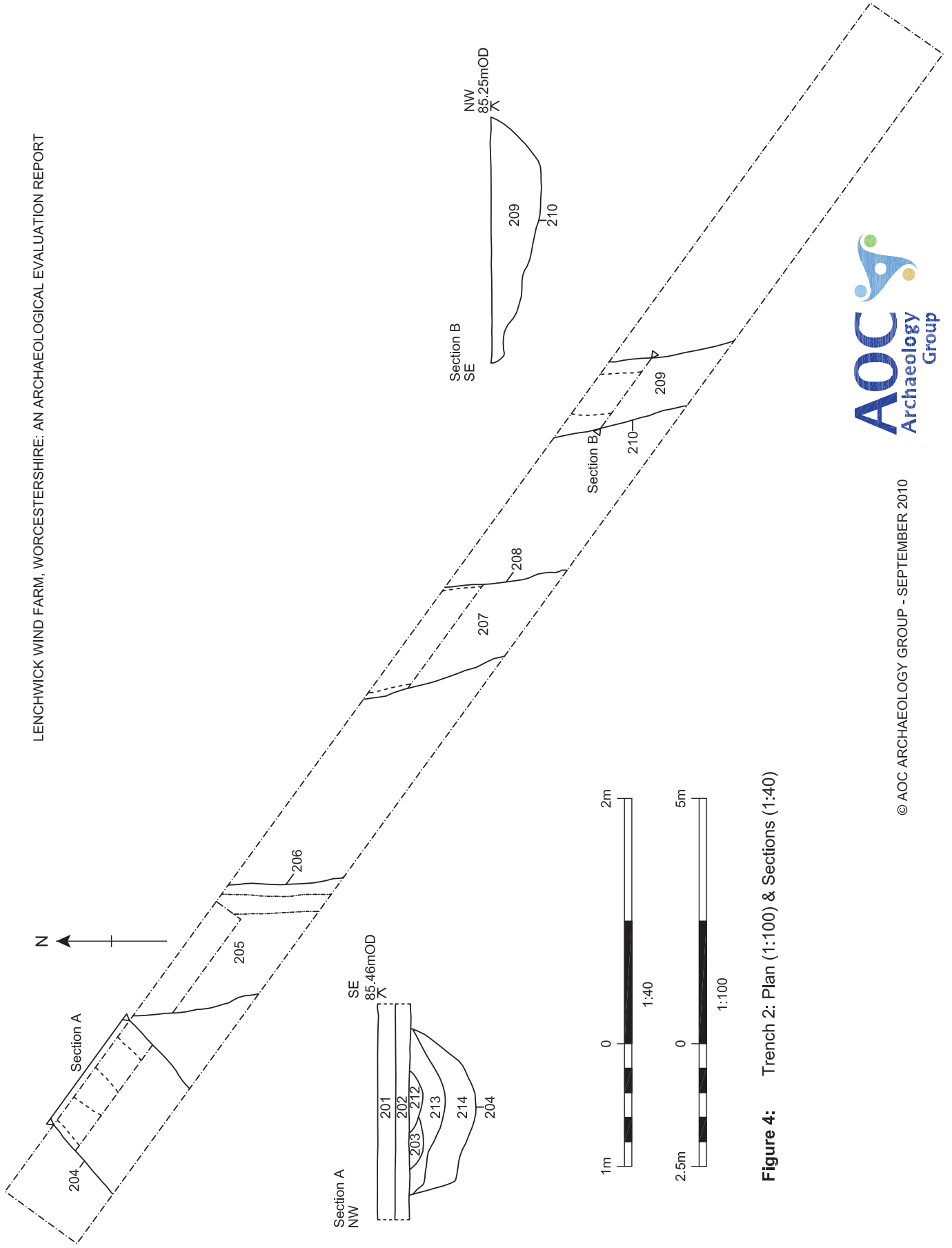
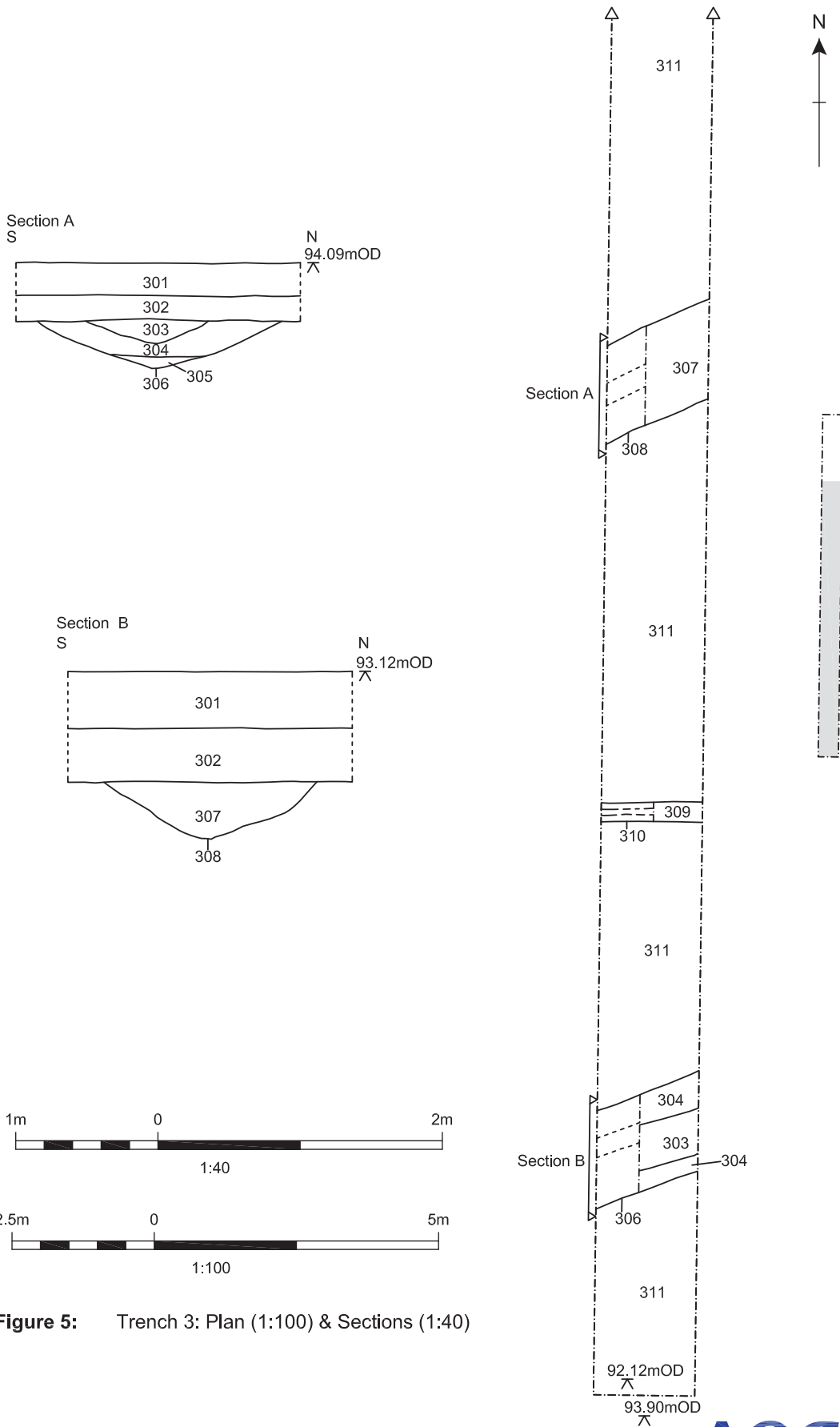


Figure 3c: Trench Location Plan Over Geophysical Survey Results

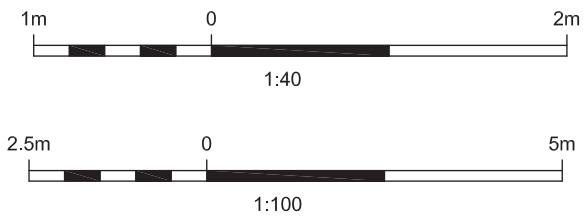
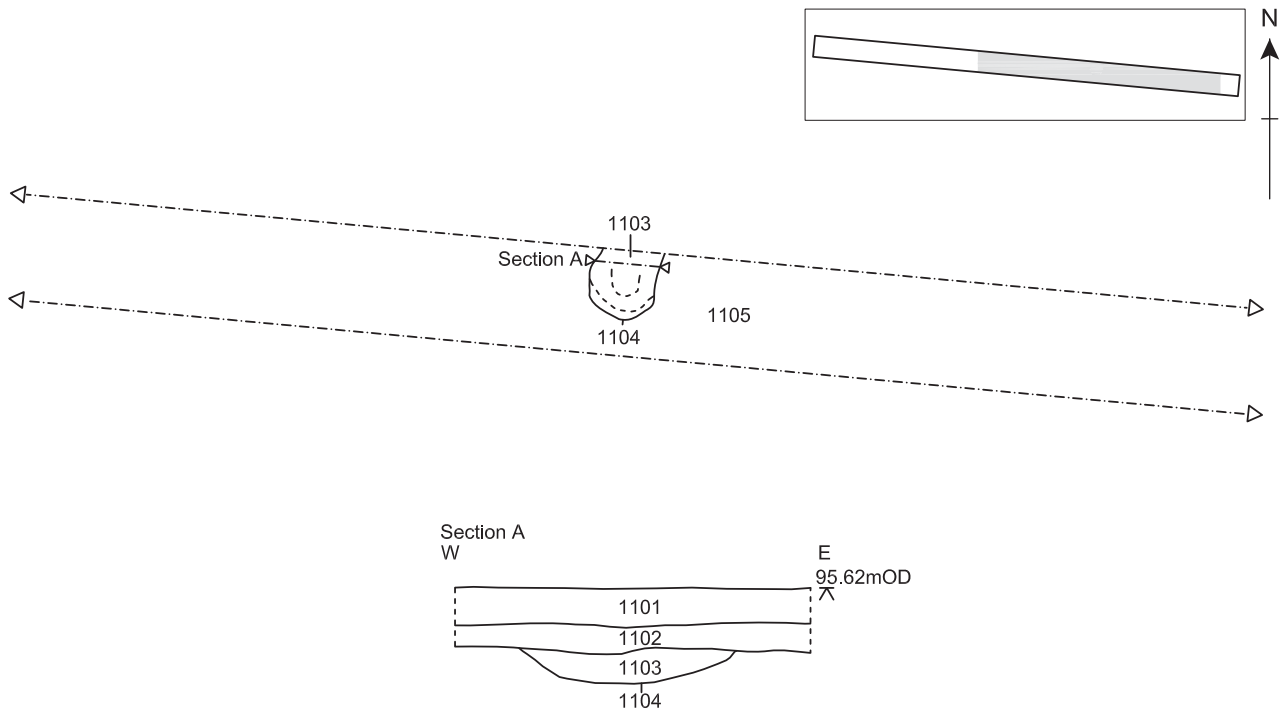


**Figure 4:** Trench 2: Plan (1:100) & Sections (1:40)



**Figure 5:** Trench 3: Plan (1:100) & Sections (1:40)





**Figure 6:** Trench 11: Plan (1:100) & Sections (1:40)

## Appendices

## Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
101	Ploughsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.15m
102	Subsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.13m
103	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.10m+
201	Ploughsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.20m
202	Subsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.20m
203	Fill of Ditch	1.80m+	2.60m	1.10m
204	Cut of Ditch	1.80m+	2.60m	1.10m
205	Fill of Linear Feature	1.80m+	3.20m	0.33m
206	Cut of Linear Feature	1.80m+	3.20m	0.33m
207	Fill of Linear Feature	1.80m+	2.70m	0.15m
208	Cut of Linear Feature	1.80m+	2.70m	0.15m
209	Fill of Ditch	1.80m+	1.60m	0.15m
210	Cut of Ditch	1.80m+	1.60m	0.15m
211	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.10m+
212	Fill of Ditch	1.80m+	1.00m	0.20m
213	Fill of Ditch	1.80m+	2.60m	0.60m
214	Fill of Ditch	1.80m+	2.60m	0.60m
301	Ploughsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.30m
302	Subsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.20m
303	Fill of Ditch	1.80m+	0.85m	0.16m
304	Fill of Ditch	1.80m+	1.50m	0.30m
305	Fill of Ditch	1.80m+	0.60m	0.10m
306	Cut of Ditch	1.80m+	1.50m	0.40m
307	Fill of Ditch	1.80m+	1.50m	0.40m
308	Cut of Ditch	1.80m+	1.50m	0.40m
309	Fill of Gully	1.80m+	0.35m	0.10m
310	Cut of Gully	1.80m+	0.35m	0.10m
311	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.10m+
401	Ploughsoil	30.00m	2.00m	0.25m
402	Subsoil	30.00m	2.00m	0.14m
403	Natural	30.00m	2.00m	0.10m+
501	Ploughsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.32m
502	Subsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.12m
503	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.10m+
601	Ploughsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.20m

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
602	Subsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.10m
603	Fill of Posthole	0.23m	0.20m	0.30m
604	Cut of Posthole	0.23m	0.20m	0.30m
605	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.10m+
701	Ploughsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.30m
702	Subsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.09m
703	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.10m+
801	Ploughsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.20m
802	Subsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.10m
803	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.10m+
901	Ploughsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.36m
902	Subsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.25m
903	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.10m+
1001	Ploughsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.12m
1002	Subsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.10m
1003	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.10m+
1101	Ploughsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.10m
1102	Subsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.10m
1103	Fill of Ditch	1.00m+	0.50m	0.20m
1104	Cut of Ditch	1.00m+	0.50m	0.20m
1105	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.10m+
1201	Ploughsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.30m
1202	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.10m+
1301	Ploughsoil	15.00m	1.80m	0.38m
1302	Subsoil	15.00m	1.80m	0.35m
1303	Natural	15.00m	1.80m	0.10m+
1401	Ploughsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.13m
1402	Subsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.16m
1403	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.10m+
1501	Ploughsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.10m
1502	Subsoil	30.00m	1.80m	0.13m
1503	Natural	30.00m	1.80m	0.10m+

## Appendix B – Specialist Reports

### The Roman Pottery

by

Anna Doherty

A small assemblage of 106 sherds, weighing 942g, was recovered from ten different contexts on the site. The pottery was examined using a x20 binocular microscope and quantified by sherd count, weight, estimated vessel number (ENV) and estimated vessel equivalent (EVE). However, in the absence of many rim sherds the latter method of quantification was less useful. Fabrics were recorded according to the Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service online type-series (Worcestershire Ceramics 2010). Two fabric types, each represented by a single vessel were not matched in the existing type-series and are described below. Data was entered on pro-forma sheets which are retained for the archive and entered into an Excel spreadsheet.

Fabric	Expansion	Sh	Wt (g)	ENV	%Sh	%Wt	%ENV
12	Severn Valley Oxidised Ware	87	786	26	82.1%	83.4%	66.7%
12.1	Severn Valley Reduced Ware	2	24	2	1.9%	2.5%	5.1%
13	Sandy Oxidised Ware	3	14	3	2.8%	1.5%	7.7%
14	Fine grey sandy ware	5	26	5	4.7%	2.8%	12.8%
15	Coarse sandy grey ware	1	4	1	0.9%	0.4%	2.6%
*CALC1	Calcite gritted grey-ware	1	28	1	0.9%	3.0%	2.6%
*LIME1	Limestone/calcite with grog?	7	60	1	6.6%	6.4%	2.6%
Total		106	942	39	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 1. Quantification of fabrics.

#### *Fabrics*

A very large proportion of the fabrics, 84% by sherd count, are made up by Severn valley wares, although this is slightly distorted by one partially complete vessel. Most other fabrics are undiagnostic grey or oxidised wares. Sherds from two vessels are more coarsely tempered but could not be closely paralleled in the existing type-series. One is a low-fired hand-made fabric with a dense, quartz free matrix containing rare to sparse angular voids from leached limestone or calcite and rare grog or other argillaceous inclusions (LIME1); the other is a coarse sandy grey ware with sparse to moderate calcite inclusions (CALC1). The former fabric, which was associated with clearly Romanised wares, is somewhat similar to various later Iron Age Malvernian fabrics which survived into the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD. The latter appears higher fired but is also likely to be of early Roman date.

### *Forms*

The only diagnostic form sherds are associated with Severn Valley wares. The partially complete upper profile of a narrow-neck bifid rim jar, with a round cordoned body, was recovered from context [209]. This is similar to Webster's (1976) type 11, dated to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. A small rim sherd with part of a handle attachment surviving, apparently from a tankard was found in context [303] and a carinated bodysherd, from the same context appears to be from an Iron Age derived bowl form paralleled by Webster's type 59, and dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries. All other rim sherds are partial profiles from necked jars which seem, on balance, more likely to be of earlier than later Roman date.

### *Discussion*

The assemblage presents fairly little evidence for dating since the majority of it is made up by undiagnostic sherds of Severn Valley ware, a long-lived fabric produced between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. However, the presence of a small quantity of tempered wares and the dating of the majority of forms suggests a broad mid 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century date. Only the partially complete vessel from context [209] appears to be as late as the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. It is also worth noting that the Severn Valley industry began to decline in the 4<sup>th</sup> century and it is unlikely that such a large proportion of wares from this source would be found in a 4<sup>th</sup> century assemblage. Further research on changing supply of pottery to local sites may help to refine dating.

Also of note in the assemblage is the presence in context [307] of 4 small shoulder sherds of different vessels, in fine sandy grey wares which are extremely high-fired, almost to the point of vitrification and which appear slightly warped. It is possible that these are waster sherds, although if this is the case, it seems likely that they have been either used as 'seconds' or redeposited over quite a distance from the kiln source as the quantity of pottery in the assemblage is too small to be suggestive of production in the immediate vicinity.

### *Significance and potential*

The assemblage is small and undiagnostic and lacks any substantial associated stratified pottery groups; it is therefore only of limited local importance. However, it is recommended that a brief literature search is completed, prior to the preparation of a short note or integrated text for publication. This will hopefully produce further parallels and might refine the chronology of the assemblage by comparison with changing patterns of supply on better-dated local sites.

## **The Animal Bone**

*by*

Gemma Ayton

The assemblage contains 96 fragments of bone recovered from 7 contexts. The bone has been retrieved by hand and through the processing of environmental samples. The assemblage is in a poor condition and contains many small, eroded and unidentifiable fragments.

### *Method*

Wherever possible bone fragments have been identified to species and the skeletal element represented. The bone was identified using the in-house reference collection and Schmidt (1972).

Elements that could not be confidently identified to species, such as long-bone and vertebrae fragments, have been recorded according to their size. The bone has been recorded according to the part and proportion of the bone present.

The assemblage has also been studied for signs of butchery, burning, gnawing and pathology and the state of fusion has also been noted.

#### *Quantification*

The NISP (Number of Identified Specimens) counts are shown in Table 2. All elements have been included in the counts.

SPECIES	1102	307	211	1103	303	304 <2>	203 <1>
CATTLE	3			1			
CATTLE-SIZED	3	8	2	6			
SHEEP		3		3			
SHEEP-SIZED	1			8			1
BIRD						1	
UNIDENTIFIED	7	12	5	4	5		23

Table 2: NISP counts.

#### *Assessment*

The assemblage was dominated by cattle and sheep bones and loose teeth. Both meat-bearing and non-meat bearing bones were present. The fragments were small and eroded and often unidentifiable. Very little age data was available though the assemblage contains lower sheep molars that are in wear. A small fragment of calcined bone was recovered from sample <1>. No evidence of butchery, gnawing or pathology was noted.

#### *Potential and Significance*

The assemblage holds no potential for further analysis due to its size and condition.



## Land Molluscs

by

Elke Raemen

Context [203] contained six small fragments of land snail (wt <2g), representing a minimum of one snail. Pottery from the same context is of Roman date. As this is an isolated find, it is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis. Fragments have been recorded on pro forma sheets for archive and no further work is required.

## Environmental Samples

by

Karine Le Hégarat

Flots from three bulk samples taken as part of the evaluation work at Lenchwick Wind Farm were submitted for assessment. Sampling aimed to establish evidence for environmental remains within the archaeological deposits, including the fill [203] of a Roman ditch.

### Method

Flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnification and an overview of their contents recorded (Table 3). Preliminary identifications of macrobotanical remains have been made using modern comparative material held in reference texts (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997). Abundance and preservation of the macrobotanicals have been recorded to establish their potential for further analysis.

### Results

Each of the samples produced small flots (9ml, <2ml and <2 ml respectively) containing very few environmental remains. These included a small quantity of wood charcoal flecks, infrequent charred macrobotanical remains and some fly puparia. Flots consisted almost entirely of uncharred vegetation with fine modern roots and seeds such as bramble (*Rubus* sp.), buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and fescue (cf. *Vulpia* sp.) as well as sediment.

Infrequent small charcoal flecks (<2mm) were present throughout the samples. Due to the limited nature of this assemblage no identifications were undertaken.

The presence of charred macrobotanicals varied amongst the three bulk samples. No remains were noted in context [307] and only two indeterminate wild/weed seeds and a grass (Poaceae) seed were present in context [304]. Bulk sample <1>, taken from the fill of a large ditch [204], produced some moderately well preserved charred crop remains including wheat (*Triticum* sp.), unidentified cereal grains and cereal chaff as well as some wild/weed charred seeds (grass (Poaceae) seed and a possible rye-grass (cf. *Lolium* sp.) seed). Various glume bases were recovered, four of which were characteristic of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*). Others were moderately well preserved and it should be possible to establish whether they represent the same species or if they belong to different hulled wheat such as emmer (*T. dicoccum*). Fly puparia were also noted in this sample.

### *Significance and potential*

The assessment has confirmed the presence of limited charred plant remains. These were poorly represented in samples from contexts [304] and [307] but more abundant in sample <1>, [203] from a possible Roman ditch. It contained a small assemblage of charred cereal remains including glume wheat (*Triticum spelta/dicoccum*), unidentified grains and several glume bases as well as some wild/weed grass (Poaceae) seeds. Although the wheat grains were not satisfactorily determined beyond the genus level, several glume bases were identified as spelt wheat (*T. spelta*). It has been suggested that hulled wheat was stored in spikelet form as it increased protection of the grains. These would then be separated from the glumes on a routine basis (Hillman, 1981). Therefore, the presence in the ditch of waste glumes could be highly indicative of domestic activities relating to crop processing within the immediate excavated area. The cereals might have been cultivated locally or they could have been brought to the site part processed. Wild/weed grass taxa could provide evidence for grassland, although they might have been brought to the site amongst the cereals.

The occurrence of fly puparia is interesting as such remains can suggest the presence of cess and possible faecal matter within the ditch. An uncharred, but very hard and perhaps part mineralised, fescue grass seed (cf. *Vulpia* sp.) was noted in sample <1> from the ditch and although evidence for mineralised remains is not absolutely clear, where present such remains are often indicative of cess and other mineral rich deposits.

### *Recommendations for further work*

Although the assemblage is small and only moderately well preserved, sample <1> has potential to provide a small amount of evidence regarding the arable activities and the past vegetation of the area. The archaeobotanical remains noted are capable of yielding some information on the range of wild/weed and crop species represented. It should be noted however that this small assemblage is unlikely to provide significant information regarding the relationship of the assemblage to crop processing stages. The importance of sample <1> from ditch [204] is dependent upon the level of archaeobotanical information already available for the area regarding arable activities and development. In addition, analysis is dependent upon context information as the fill of the ditch might have accumulated over an extended period while it was in use which would lessen the value of the remains for further analysis (especially given some evidence for modern disturbances were also noted).

It is therefore recommended that further work is undertaken on the macrobotanical remains from sample <1>, [203] only and a short note prepared for publication/final report. Analysis will include quantification and identification of macrobotanical remains through comparison with reference material. Further work should also compare the charred botanical remains assemblage from this site with contemporary assemblages from sites located in the area.

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	Sediment %	seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	other botanical	Identifications
1	203	6	9	43	55	Caryophyllaceae indet., <i>Sambucus nigra</i> , cf. <i>Vulpia sp.</i>				*	<i>Triticum dicoccum/ spelta</i> Cerealia	+ / ++	*	Poaceae, cf. <i>Lolium sp.</i>	+ / ++	**	<i>Triticum spelta</i> (glume bases), <i>Triticum sp.</i> (glume bases)
	304	2	<2	70	20	<i>Rubus sp.</i> , <i>Ranunculus sp.</i>			*	*			*	Poaceae, indet. seeds	+		
	307	<2	<2	29	70	Asteraceae			*								

Table 3: Flot and charcoal quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good).

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## Appendix C – OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: aocarcha1-67420**

### Project details

Project name Lenchwick Wind Farm, Worcestershire

Short description of the project A fieldwalking investigation across 235 ha of rural farmland within Worcestershire prior to a geophysical investigation being undertaken. These initial investigations provided information to provide an evaluation to be conducted. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at the site of Lenchwick Wind Farm, Worcestershire. The work was undertaken on behalf of Scottish Power Renewables. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of development on any surviving archaeological remains. The evaluation comprised 15 machine excavated trenches. Four trenches were identified as containing archaeological features. The features identified in Trenches 2 and 3 in the form of at least two phases of landscape management, consisting of possible field boundaries or trackways, in use between the 1st to 4th century AD. It is possible this activity is associated with a potentially contemporary settlement activity present within close proximity to the trenches. Undated archaeological features were recorded in Trenches 6 and 11 which appeared to represent previous phases of boundary demarcation represented by a ditch terminal and isolated small posthole. No further features of archaeological significance were encountered in the nine remaining trenches. Overall, there is good potential for other features associated with the Romano-British field boundaries or trackways in Trench 2 and 3 to survive in the vicinity of these two trenches. Such remains could be viewed as locally significant due their potential to inform on Romano-British management of the local landscape. If evidence for contemporary settlement can be confirmed the significance of the remains could be increased. The features in Trenches 6 and 11 are of limited significance due to the lack of dating evidence and isolated character, but the ditch found in Trench 11 may provide an insight to how local land boundaries have evolved over time.

Project dates Start: 25-01-2010 End: 15-07-2010

Previous/future work Yes / Yes

Any project codes associated reference 30546 - Contracting Unit No.

Any project codes associated reference WSM42103 - HER event no.

Any associated 30778 - Contracting Unit No.  
 project reference  
 codes

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined

Monument type DITCH Roman

Monument type GULLY Roman

Monument type POSTHOLE Uncertain

Monument type DITCH Uncertain

Significant Finds POTTERY Roman

Significant Finds GLASS? Roman

Significant Finds ANIMAL BONE Roman

Methods & 'Fieldwalking'  
 techniques

Development type Wind farm developments

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the Pre-application  
 planning process

**Project location**

Country England

Site location WORCESTERSHIRE WYCHAVON NORTON AND LENCHWICK Lenchwick Wind Farm, Worcestershire

Postcode WR11 4SN

Study area 2.00 Kilometres

Site coordinates SP 0350 4750 52.1253888058 -1.948869273640 52 07 31 N 001 56 55 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 83.08m Max: 109.31m

### Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology  
Organisation

Project originator brief Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)

Project originator design AOC Archaeology

Project director/manager Melissa Melikian

Project supervisor Ian Hogg

Type of Developer  
sponsor/funding  
body

Name of Dulas Ltd  
sponsor/funding  
body

### Project archives

Physical Archive Worcestershire County Museum Service  
recipient



Physical Archive ID WSM 42103

Physical Contents 'Ceramics','Glass','Industrial'

Digital Archive recipient Worcestershire County Museum Service

Digital Archive ID WSM 42103

Digital Contents 'Survey'

Digital Media available 'GIS','Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets'

Paper Archive recipient Worcestershire County Museum Service

Paper Archive ID WSM 42103

Paper Contents 'Survey'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Miscellaneous Material','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '

## Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title LENCHWICK WIND FARM, WORCESTERSHIRE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWALKING REPORT

Author(s)/Editor(s) Paul Harris

Date 2010

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology Group

Place of issue or AOC Archaeology, Twickenham  
publication

Description 20 page bound A4 colour report

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**Project  
bibliography 2**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Lenchwick Wind Farm, Worcestershire: A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Fidler, T.

Date 2010

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or London  
publication

Description A4 text and illustrations

---

**Project  
bibliography 3**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title LENCHWICK WIND FARM, WORCESTERSHIRE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Author(s)/Editor(s) Clarke, C.

Date 2010

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

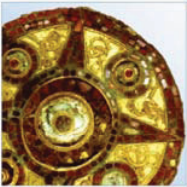
Place of issue or London

publication

Description            A4 text, ? illustrations, 35 pages bound between plastic covers

Entered by            Chris Clarke (chris.clarke@aocarchaeology.com)

Entered on            17 September 2010



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