



# The Chief Trading Post, Barry Road Oldland Common, South Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation



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## Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Deeley Freed Estates Limited, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 3.163 ha parcel of land located at The Chief Trading Post, Barry Road, Oldland Common, South Gloucestershire, BS30 6QY, centred on NGR 367381 170706.

The evaluation comprising 6 trial trenches, representing a 0.9 % sample of the total area was undertaken between 12 and 14 September 2022. The evaluation identified a limited number of archaeological features within the site, with features revealed in two of the six trenches.

Ditches revealed in trenches 2 and 3 corresponded with a field boundary depicted on the 1841 Bitton Tithe Map and contained post-medieval and modern pottery within their fills.

Modern made ground was also observed in trenches 1, 2 and 6.

A number of the excavated trenches revealed some level of disturbance, primarily the build-up of made ground. The current site topography shows pronounced terracing, probably relating to the establishment of the plant nursery in the 1960s, and this was reflected within the soil/deposit sequence.

Given the paucity of archaeology within the evaluation trenches, a lack of finds from metal detecting, the negative results from the previous watching brief in 1968, as well as the observed extensive ground disturbance associated with the nursery, the site is likely of very low archaeological potential.

## Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Oldland Common LLP for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, in particular Iain Neary. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of both Dr Paul Driscoll, the Archaeology and Historic Environment Record Officer, who monitored the project for South Gloucestershire Council, and Simon Cox of Bristol & Bath Heritage Consultancy Limited, and to Wring Group for their cooperation and help on site.



# The Chief Trading Post, Oldland Common

## Archaeological Evaluation

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Oldland Common LLP Limited, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 3.163 ha parcel of land located at The Chief Trading Post, Barry Road, Oldland Common, South Gloucestershire, BS30 6QY, centred on NGR 367381 170706 (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 South Gloucestershire Council has provided a resolution to grant planning consent (application ref. P21/05366/F), subject to a Section 106 agreement, for the construction of a new café for the Chief Trading Post, along with a new building for community and health services, six supported living units and an associated management building, along with a residential development, associated site infrastructure, access and associated works (BBHC 2022).
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological field evaluation (BBHC 2022) was intended to facilitate an early understanding of the Site's archaeological potential in light of a proposed pre-commencement condition (Condition 6) for a programme of archaeological work. The condition reads:
- Prior to the commencement of any groundworks within the site, including any exempt infrastructure, geotechnical or remediation works, a programme of archaeological work and subsequent mitigation, outreach and publication strategy, including a timetable for the mitigation strategy, must be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. Thereafter the approved programme of mitigated measures and method of outreach and publication shall be implemented in all respects.*
- 1.1.4 Correspondence between Bristol & Bath Heritage Consultancy Limited (BBHC) and Dr Paul Driscoll, the South Gloucestershire Archaeology and Historic Environment Record Officer, in June 2022 has established that an archaeological field evaluation was required as the first stage of the proposed programme of archaeological work. Depending on the results of the field evaluation, further stages of archaeological work may or may not be required in order to discharge the proposed planning condition. Any further archaeological works that are required following on from this first stage of field evaluation will be subject to the agreement of a separate WSI with Dr Paul Driscoll, the South Gloucestershire Archaeology and Historic Environment Record Officer.
- 1.1.5 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (BBHC 2022). Dr Paul Driscoll, the South Gloucestershire Archaeology and Historic Environment Record Officer, approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.6 The evaluation comprising 6 trial trenches (0.9 % sample) was undertaken between 12 and 14 September 2022.



## **1.2 Scope of the report**

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.
- 1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

## **1.3 Location, topography and geology**

- 1.3.1 The evaluation area is located within 700m of Siston Brook to the west, and within 1.1km of the River Boyd to the east, whilst the River Avon passes within 1.5km of the site at its closest point, to the south-west. The urban form of Oldland and Willsbridge occupies the land immediately to the west of Barry Road, which borders the site to the west, whilst to the east and north is largely now open pasture. To the south is a small area of meadowland enclosed with mature trees, beyond which the land falls away relatively steeply down to the floodplain of the River Avon to the south (BBHC 2022).
- 1.3.2 The Site currently comprises a plant nursery, with several greenhouses, shops and outbuildings, with an enclosed paddock at the north-west.
- 1.3.3 The Site is situated on land near the foot of the western slopes of a hill (Barry Hill) leading up towards Upper Cully Hall Farm to the east, the land within it rising from around 50m AOD in the north-west to over 55m AOD in the south-east (BBHC 2022).
- 1.3.4 The underlying geology is mapped as Mercia Mudstone Formation, mudstone and halite-stone sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 201 to 252 million years ago in the Triassic Period, in a local environment previously dominated by hot deserts. There are no superficial deposits mapped (British Geological Survey 2022).

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 A site-specific Heritage Statement (HS) was prepared by Bristol & Bath Heritage Consultancy in July 2021, which provides the archaeological and historical background of the Site (BBHC 2021), to which reference should be made for greater detail. A brief summary is provided below.

### **2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development**

#### *Archaeological works (1968)*

- 2.2.1 Archaeological works were undertaken within the Proposed Development Area in 1968 during construction of the extant nurseries, at which time no archaeological finds were reported. The Historic Environment Record for South Gloucestershire identifies a potential course of the M541a Roman Road from Bitton to Berkeley passing through the western edge of the site, but this was not identified in 1968, and subsequent archaeological work at Park Farm, to the north, suggests the road runs away from the Site, in a south-westerly direction towards the extensive, scheduled, Roman Settlement at Keynsham Hams. A possible Roman field system extending to the east of the Roman Road was identified to the north of the application site during archaeological works at Park Farm, and such remains could continue into the Site (BBHC 2021).



## 2.3 Archaeological and historical context

2.3.1 Prehistoric and medieval archaeological remains are known within the wider area, although there is nothing to suggest the presence of any within the Site. Linear cropmarks visible on aerial photographs taken in 1946 and 1955 near the western edge of the Site appear to represent removed historic field boundaries visible on the 1841 tithe maps, rather than the course of the Roman Road. Groundworks during creation of the nursery in 1968, and subsequently during its operation, are likely to have truncated any buried archaeological remains across much of the Site to an unknown extent (BBHC 2021).

## 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### 3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (BBHC 2022) and in compliance with the ClfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), were to:

- establish the presence/absence, survival condition and heritage significance of archaeological remains within the proposed development area, including the extent of any truncation to archaeological remains caused by previous development.

### 3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were to:

- establish the presence/absence, survival quality and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered;
- assess the overall presence, survival, condition, and potential of any artefactual and ecofactual remains associated with archaeological deposits; and
- produce a publicly accessible report on the results of the works, for deposition with the South Gloucestershire Council Historic Environment Record (HER) and Archaeological Data Service (ADS) via the OASIS online database.

### 3.3 Site-specific objectives

3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework - South West Archaeological Research Framework Resource Assessment and Research Agenda (SWARF; Webster 2007) and South West Archaeological Research Framework Research Strategy (Grove and Croft 2012), the site-specific objectives defined in the WSI (BBHC 2022) were to potentially contribute to the following research aims contained within the SWARF Agenda:

- **Research Aim 3:** Address apparent “gaps” in our knowledge and assess whether they are meaningful or simply biases in current knowledge;
- **Research Aim 16:** Increase the use and improve the targeting of scientific dating;
- **Research Aim 17:** Improve the quality and quantity of environmental data and our understanding of what it represents;

- **Research Aim 18:** Target specific soil and sediment contexts for environmental information;
- **Research Aim 29:** Improve understanding of non-villa Roman rural settlement;
- **Research Aim 40:** Improve our understanding of agricultural intensification and diversification in later prehistory;
- **Research Aim 41:** Assess the impact of the Roman empire on farming; and
- **Research Aim 42:** Improve our understanding of Medieval farming.

## 4 METHODS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (BBHC 2022) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

### 4.2 Fieldwork methods

#### *General*

- 4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI. However, a number of trench positions were altered slightly due to utility and ecological constraints, Trench 6 was shortened because of its proximity to a badger sett and Trench 2 lengthened to compensate, in consultation with Simon Cox (BBHC) and Dr Paul Driscoll, the South Gloucestershire Archaeology and Historic Environment Record Officer (Fig. 1).
- 4.2.2 Six trial trenches, measuring between 12 m and 36 m in length and 1.8 m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed, except for Trench 6 where modern made ground continued below the limit of excavation at 1.2 m below ground level (bgl).
- 4.2.3 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A selected 5m portion of each trench section was cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.
- 4.2.4 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. All trench bases and all spoil were metal detected. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.
- 4.2.5 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of Simon Cox (BBHC) and Dr Paul Driscoll, the South Gloucestershire Archaeology and Historic Environment Record Officer were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

### *Recording*

- 4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.
- 4.2.7 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.8 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

## **4.3 Finds and environmental strategies**

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (BBHC 2022). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011), and ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

## **4.4 Monitoring**

- 4.4.1 Dr Paul Driscoll, the South Gloucestershire Archaeology and Historic Environment Record Officer monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with Simon Cox (BBHC) and Dr Paul Driscoll, the South Gloucestershire Archaeology and Historic Environment Record Officer.

# **5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE**

## **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 Two of the six excavated trial trenches contained archaeological features and deposits, indicating archaeological remains are present across the site, with a slight concentration in the western area (Figure 1).
- 5.1.2 The uncovered features comprising ditches represent one period of activity: Modern. The artefacts recovered from the ditches represent manuring or casual loss during the post-medieval/modern periods.
- 5.1.3 Trench 6 was excavated to a depth of 1.2 m and revealed modern made ground continuing below the limit of excavation (Figure 8). The archaeological horizon or the natural geology was not exposed. The made ground has been interpreted as potential upcast from the excavation of a nearby pond.
- 5.1.4 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed by period.





5.1.5 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (Appendix 1). Figure 1 shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches. Figure 2 shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches together with the Bitton Tithe map. Figures 3 & 4 provide detail of the features in trenches 2 and 3.

## **5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits**

5.2.1 The natural substrate consisting of reddish-brown clay with outcrops of limestone and quartzite bedrock (105, 204, 303, 402 & 503) was encountered in trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 at a depth of 0.21 m to 0.69 m below ground level (bgl).

5.2.2 The natural substrate was overlain in trenches 1, 2, 3 & 5 by light brown silty clay subsoil (104, 203, 300 & 502) measuring up to 0.34 m in thickness. Subsoil was absent from trench 4.

5.2.3 Topsoil consisting of dark brown silty clay (103, 202, 301, 401 & 501) was revealed in trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 overlying the subsoil/natural deposits and measured between 0.15 m and 0.42 m in thickness.

5.2.4 A thin layer of gravel hardstanding (102) and a 0.39 m thick made ground deposit (101) overlay the topsoil in trench 1 (Figure 5). Made ground also overlay the topsoil in trench 2 (201), measuring 0.39 m thick. Both the made ground and hardstanding were modern in date.

5.2.5 Natural substrate, subsoil and topsoil deposits were conspicuous by their absence in trench 6. Excavated to a depth of 1.2 m, dictated by health and safety requirements, trench 6 contained modern made ground (602) measuring in excess of 1.14 m in thickness overlain by 60 mm of woodchip mulch (601) (Figure 8).

5.2.6 The made ground deposits revealed in trenches 1, 2 and 6 represent potential upcast from the excavation of a nearby pond and terracing related to the recent use of the site as a plant nursery.

## **5.3 Modern (AD 1800 - present)**

5.3.1 Two modern ditches 207 and 304, were revealed in trenches 2 and 3 respectively (Figures 1 & 2).

5.3.2 The NNW-SSE aligned ditch 207, was revealed in the western half of trench 2, measuring 1m in width and 0.6m in depth. The ditch had moderate sloping sides to a concave base and contained two deliberate backfill deposits 205 and 206, consisting of redeposited elements of the surrounding topsoil and natural substrate (Figure 3). Two sherds of modern pottery were recovered from lower ditch fill 205.

5.3.3 The ditch correlated well with a field boundary depicted on the Bitton Tithe map of 1841 (Figure 2). The ditch was observed to cut through the topsoil and subsoil, the fills presumably representing deliberate backfilling prior to the site becoming a plant nursery in the 1960s.

5.3.4 On the same NNW-SSE alignment, ditch 304, was revealed in the eastern portion of trench 3 (Figure 4). Corresponding with the same field boundary depicted on the Bitton Tithe map of 1841 (Figure 2), ditch 304 measured 1.44 m in width and 0.58 m in depth with moderate to steep sloping sides and a concave base. The ditch contained a single silty clay fill 305



from which was recovered eight sherds of glazed and unglazed redware and a single sherd of refined whiteware, indicating a modern date for the feature.

- 5.3.5 Modern field drainage pipes were observed across the site and converge on the field boundary and are presumably broadly contemporary with its use.

## **6 FINDS EVIDENCE**

- 6.1.1 Eleven sherds of post-medieval/modern pottery were collected from two contexts (205 and 305) during the evaluation at The Chief Trading Post. The finds have been quantified by material type and context. Two sherds (8 g) were collected from context 205, and nine sherds (181 g) were recovered from context 305.

- 6.1.2 The pottery from context 205 comprised a sherd of fine engine-turned red earthenware (post-1765) and a sherd of refined whiteware with red transfer-printed decoration (post-1825). Eight of the sherds glazed and unglazed redware and a single sherd of refined whiteware with pale blue transfer-printed decoration (post-1780). Undecorated redwares are not conducive to close dating and can only be broadly dated to the late 16th–19th centuries.

- 6.1.3 The finds are all likely to be derived from manuring or casual loss during the post-medieval/modern periods and are not considered to be indicative of anything other than agricultural activity within the site. The finds indicate that contexts 205 and 305 are modern deposits.

## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Summary**

- 7.1.1 The evaluation identified a limited number of archaeological features within the site, with features revealed in two of the six trenches.

- 7.1.2 One period of activity was recorded, modern. Ditches revealed in trenches 2 and 3 correspond with a field boundary depicted on the 1841 Bitton Tithe Map and contained post-medieval and modern pottery within their fills. Modern made ground was also observed in trenches 1, 2 and 6.

### **7.2 Discussion**

- 7.2.1 A number of the trenches excavated revealed some level of disturbance, primarily the build-up of made ground. The current site topography shows pronounced terracing probably relating to the establishment of the plant nursery in the 1960s and this was reflected within the soil/deposit sequence.

- 7.2.2 No features or artefacts dating to earlier than the post-medieval/modern period were revealed or recovered. This implies that the suggested potential course of the M541a Roman Road from Bitton to Berkeley passing through the western edge of the site, as indicated in the Historic Environment Record for South Gloucestershire is incorrect.

- 7.2.3 Given the paucity of archaeology within the evaluation trenches, a lack of finds from metal detecting, the negative results from the previous watching brief in 1968, as well as the observed extensive ground disturbance associated with the nursery, the site is likely of very low archaeological potential.

## 8 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

### 8.1 Museum

8.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Bristol. Bristol Museum and Art Gallery has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code (pending – applied for 15 September 2022). Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

### 8.2 Preparation of the archive

#### *Physical archive*

8.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics and artefacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; ClfA 2014c; SMA 1995).

8.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **accession code**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 files/document cases of paper records

#### *Digital archive*

8.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

### 8.3 Selection strategy

8.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

8.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows ClfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

8.3.3 In this instance, given the relatively low level of finds recovery, the selection process has been deferred until after the fieldwork stage was completed. Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. These proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.



- 8.3.4 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

*Finds*

- 8.3.5 The finds assemblage is very small (11 sherds pottery) and is entirely of post-medieval/modern date. The archaeological significance is extremely limited, and the finds have no further research potential. No retention is recommended.

*Documentary records*

- 8.3.6 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (written scheme of investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

*Digital data*

- 8.3.7 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

## **8.4 Security copy**

- 8.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

## **8.5 OASIS**

- 8.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 2). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Archaeology and Historic Environment Record Officer on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

## **9 COPYRIGHT**

### **9.1 Archive and report copyright**

- 9.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.
- 9.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.



## 9.2 Third party data copyright

- 9.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.



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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Trench summaries

NGR coordinates and OD heights taken at centre of each trench; depth bgl = below ground level

Trench No 1		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.67 m
Easting 367279		Northing 170675		m OD 49.72
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
101		Made ground	Modern made ground. Firm mid brown clay silt. <50% sub-rounded pea gravel.	0 – 0.39m
102		Modern former hardstanding	Angular gravel, 0.03m - 0.06m in size and <25% construction debris. Heavily impacted by modern wheel ruts. Only exists at Southern end of trench. Length:- 11m+ Width:- 1.5m+.	0.37m – 0.42m
103		Buried topsoil	Firm dark brown silt clay. <10% modern garbage and gardening detritus.	0.39m – 0.54m
104		Subsoil	Firm light brown silt clay. <5% manganese flecks.	0.54m – 0.67m
105		Natural	Firm mid red brown clay.	0.67m+

Trench No 2		Length 36 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.79 m
Easting 367311		Northing 170676		m OD 49.83
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
201		Made ground	Modern made ground. Loose mid yellow brown clay silt. <50% sub-rounded limestone pea gravel.	0 – 0.39m
202		Buried topsoil	Firm dark brown silt clay. <5% angular quartzite chunks 0.01 - 0.04m in size. Modern garden debris throughout. Extensive bioturbation.	0.39m – 0.6m
203		Subsoil	Firm light brown silt clay. <5% manganese flecks, <1% charcoal lumps and flecks.	0.6m – 0.69m
204		Natural	Firm mid red brown clay. <25% degraded quartzite / limestone outcroppings.	0.69m – 0.79m+
205	207	Deliberate backfill of 207	Consisting of redeposited elements of former topsoil (202) and natural (204).	0.5m – 1.10m
206	207	Deliberate backfill of 207	Consisting of redeposited elements of former topsoil (202) and natural (204).	0.5m – 0.63m
207	205 & 206	Ditch	Linear ditch cut measuring 1m in width and 0.6m in depth.	0.5m – 1.10m





Trench No 3		Length 17 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.66 m
Easting 367292		Northing 170728		m OD 48.74
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
300		Subsoil	Firm light brown silt clay. <5% angular quartzite / limestone chunks 0.01m - 0.02m in size, <1% charcoal lumps and flecks. Some bioturbation. Diffuse interface between (301) and (303).	0.42m – 0.53m
301		Topsoil	Firm dark brown silt clay. <10% angular quartzite / limestone chunks 0.01 - 0.03m in size. Modern garden debris throughout. Extensive bioturbation.	0 – 0.42m
303		Natural	Firm mid red brown clay. <25% degraded quartzite / limestone outcroppings.	0.53m – 0.66m+
304	305	Ditch	Linear ditch cut measuring 1.44m in width and 0.58m in depth.	0.42m
305	304	Deliberate backfill of 304	Silty clay with 1% limestone inclusions. Containing pottery and CBM.	0.42 – 1m

Trench No 4		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.49 m
Easting 367443		Northing 170716		m OD 52.56
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
401		Topsoil	Firm dark brown silt clay. <5% angular quartzite chunks 0.01 - 0.03m in size. Modern garden debris throughout. Extensive bioturbation.	0 – 0.21m
402		Natural	Firm mid red brown clay. <25% degraded quartzite / limestone outcroppings.	0.21m – 0.49m+

Trench No 5		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.68 m
Easting 367439		Northing 170657		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
501		Topsoil	Firm dark brown silt clay. <5% angular quartzite chunks 0.01 - 0.04m in size. Modern garden debris throughout. Extensive bioturbation.	0 – 0.34m



502		Subsoil	Firm mid brown silt clay. <25% angular quartzite chunks 0.01m - 0.13m in size. No anthropogenic components evident. Interface with natural (503) very diffuse.	0.34m – 0.68m
503		Natural	Firm mid red brown clay. <25% degraded quartzite outcroppings.	0.68m+
504		Natural	Firm mid brown silt clay containing 1% manganese flecks, <25% degraded limestone / quartzite chunks. Geological deposit probably derived from solution processes eroding natural bedrock.	0.59m – 0.96m

<b>Trench No 6</b>		<b>Length 12 m</b>	<b>Width 1.80 m</b>	<b>Depth 1.20 m</b>
<b>Easting 367369</b>		<b>Northing 170773</b>		<b>m OD 50.64</b>
<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Fill Of/Filled With</b>	<b>Interpretative Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth BGL</b>
601		Modern mulch	Wood chip	0 – 0.06m
602		Made ground	Firm mid brown silt clay. <1% erratic limestone blocks, sub-angular 0.13m - 0.31m in size. Not excavated to full depth.	0.06m – 1.2m+

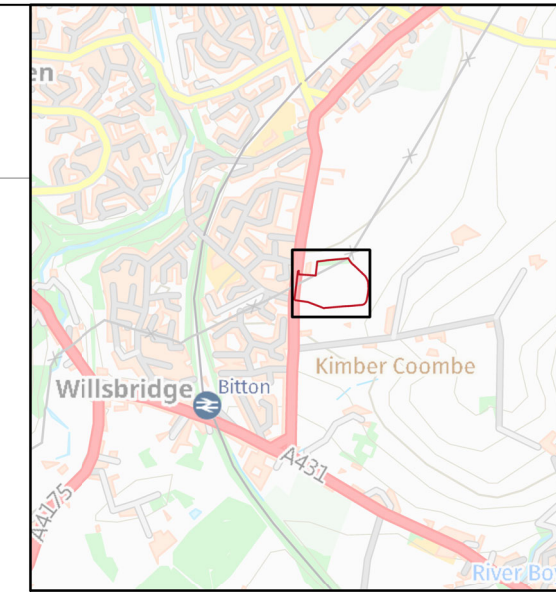


## Appendix 2 OASIS summary

# Summary for wessexar1-509591

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-509591
Project Name	The Chief Trading Post, Barry Road, Oldland Common, South Gloucestershire. Archaeological Evaluation
Sitename	The Chief Trading Post, Barry Road, Oldland Common, South Gloucestershire
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	268100
Planning Id	P21/05366/F
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	12-Sep-2022 - 14-Sep-2022
Location	The Chief Trading Post, Barry Road, Oldland Common, South Gloucestershire NGR : ST 67381 70706 LL : 51.4344071723209, -2.47063194219216 12 Fig : 367381,170706
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Gloucestershire District : South Gloucestershire Parish : Bitton
Project Methodology	Six trial trenches, measuring between 12 m and 36 m in length and 1.8 m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed, except for Trench 6 where modern made ground continued below the limit of excavation at 1.2 m below ground level (bgl). Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A selected 5m portion of each trench section was cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation. Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. All trench bases and all spoil were metal detected. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.
Project Results	The evaluation comprising 6 trial trenches, representing a 0.9 % sample of the total area was undertaken between 12 and 14 September 2022. The evaluation identified a limited number of archaeological features within the site, with features revealed in two of the six trenches. Ditches revealed in trenches 2 and 3 corresponded with a field boundary depicted on the 1841 Bitton Tithe Map and contained post-medieval and modern pottery within their fills. Modern made ground was also observed in trenches 1, 2 and 6. A number of the excavated trenches revealed some level of disturbance, primarily the build-up of made ground. The current site topography shows pronounced terracing probably relating to the establishment of the plant nursery in the 1960s and this was reflected within the soil/deposit sequence.
Keywords	Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types

Funder	
HER	South Gloucestershire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Ray, Holt
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Bristol Museums, Galleries & Archives; Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;



- ▭ Site Area
- ▭ Trench Base
- ▭ Archaeology
- ▭ Geology
- ▭ Disturbance
- ▭ Utility

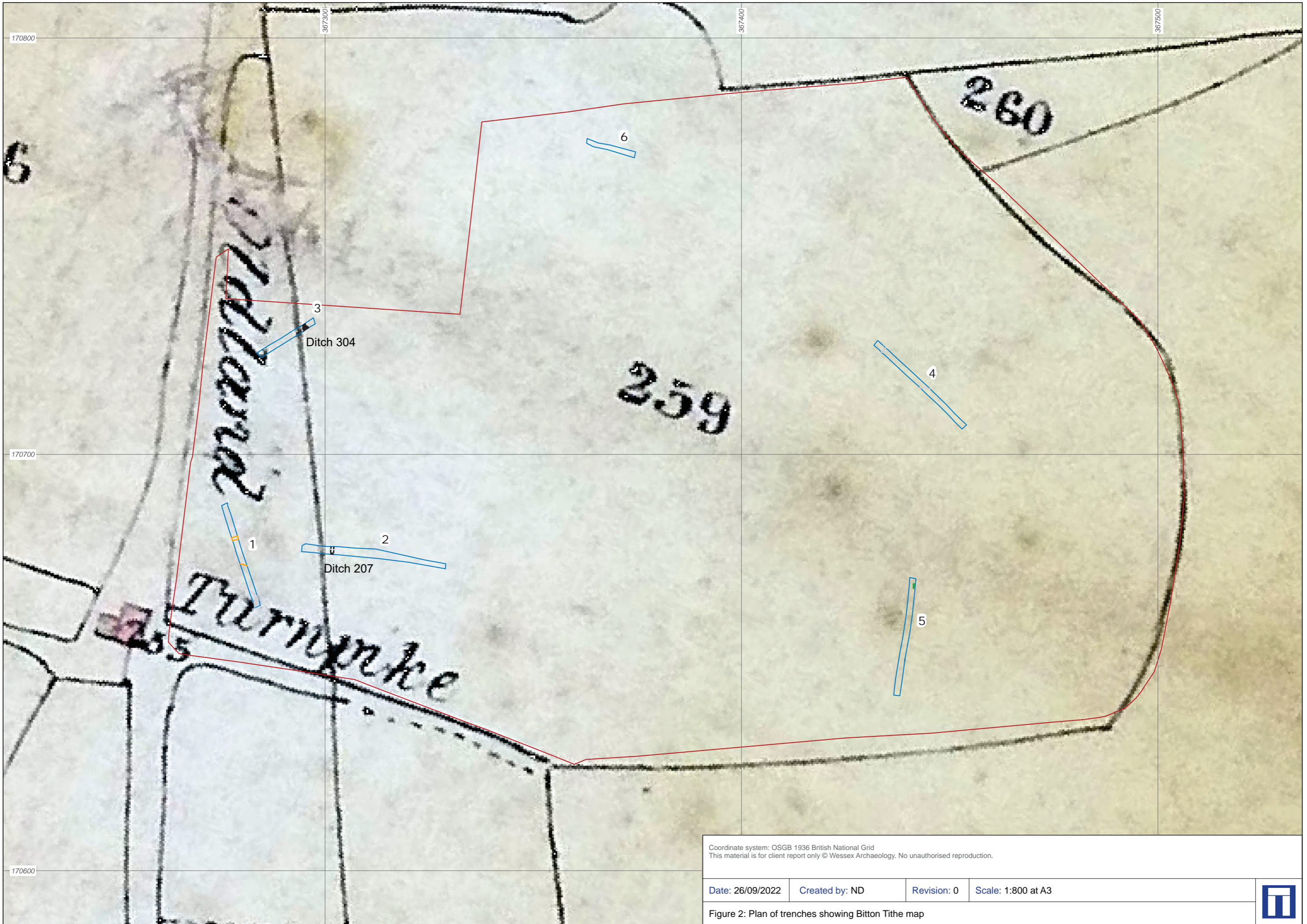


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Figure 1: Site location and plan of trenches





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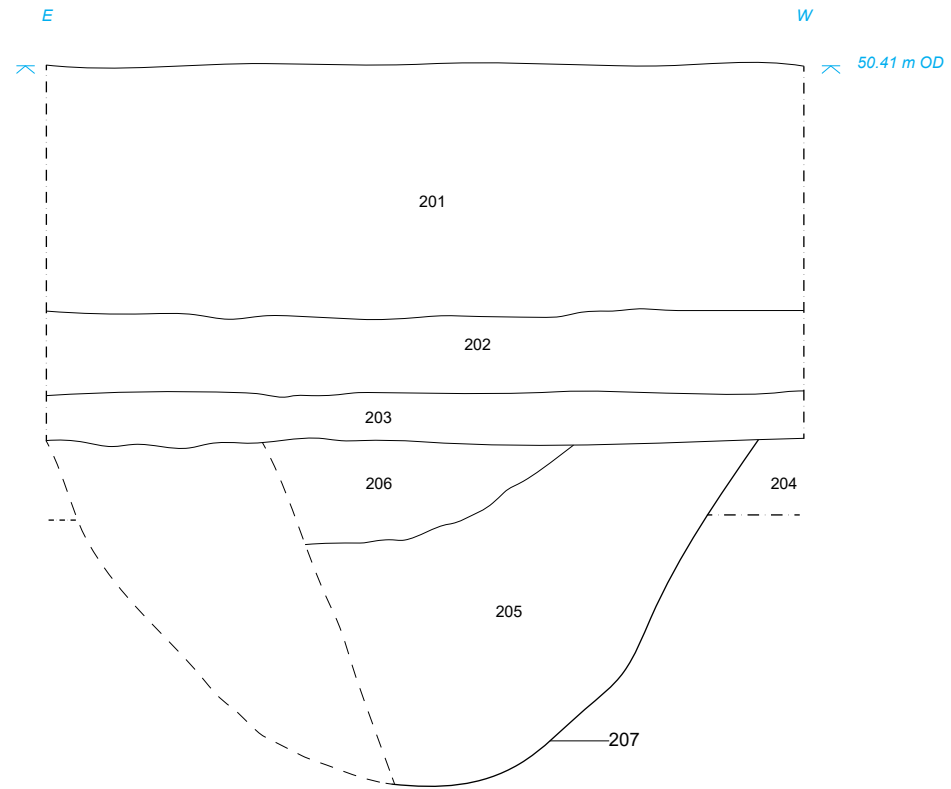
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Figure 2: Plan of trenches showing Bitton Tithe map



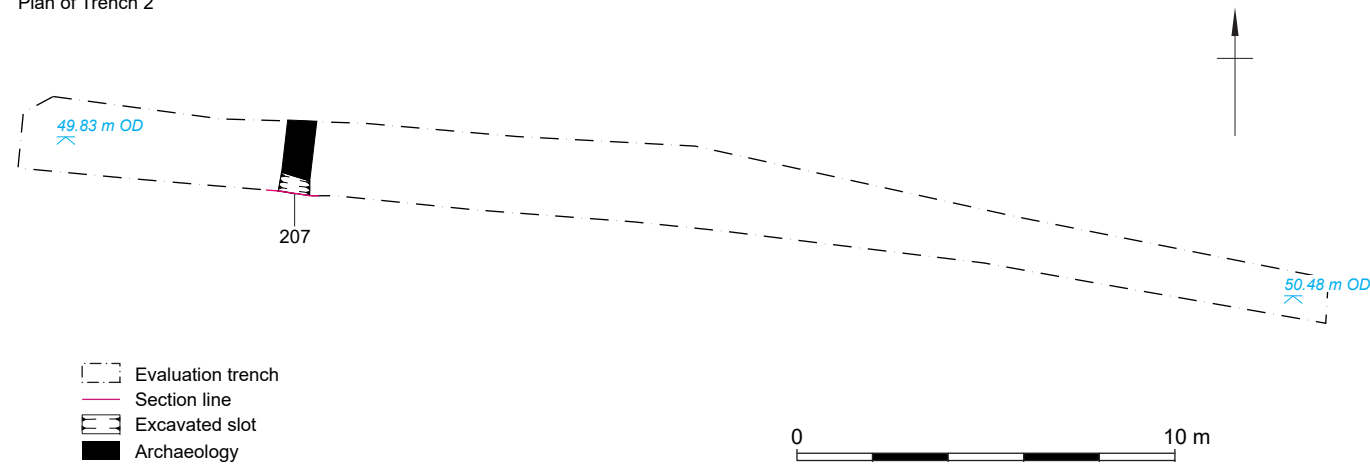


North facing section of Ditch 207



North facing section of Ditch 207, 1 m scale

Plan of Trench 2



- Evaluation trench
- Section line
- Excavated slot
- Archaeology

Coordinate system: OSGB 1936 British National Grid

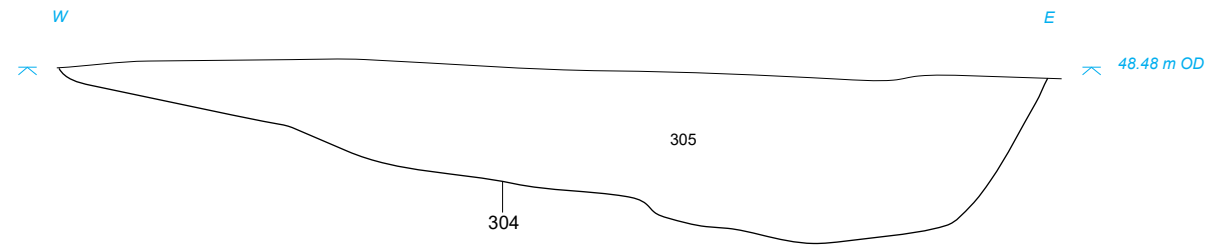
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Figure 3: Trench 2, plan, section and photograph

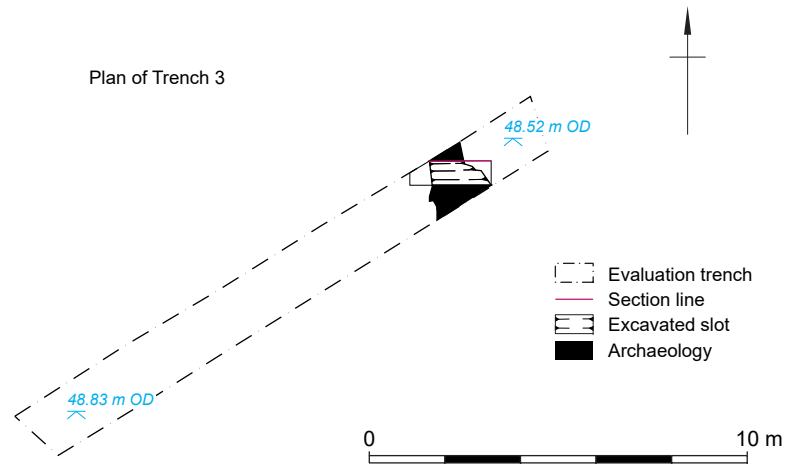


South facing section of Ditch 304



Ditch 304, south facing section, 1 m scale

Plan of Trench 3



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Figure 4: Trench 3, plan, section and photograph







Figure 5: Trench 1, looking north, 2 m & 1 m scale



Figure 6: Trench 4, looking northwest, 2 m & 1 m scale





Figure 7: Trench 5, looking north, 2 m & 1 m scale



Figure 8: Trench 6, looking west, 2 m & 1 m scale



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