



making sense of heritage

Avon Business Park, Evesham, Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation



Ref: 108093.01
May 2016



**Avon Business Park,
Evesham, Worcestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

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Avon Business Park, Evesham, Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by St Modwen Properties PLC to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching on land to the west of Vale Business Park, Evesham, Worcestershire. The work was undertaken to inform an outline planning application to develop the Site for business use, and followed on from previous desk-based assessment and geophysical survey.

A total of ten trenches were excavated, and exposed a co-axial network of ditches associated with a scheduled Romano-British roadside settlement known immediately to the south of the Site. The features revealed within the trenches were slightly more numerous and extensive than the geophysical survey had indicated.

A few sherds of Bronze Age-early Middle Iron Age pottery were the earliest finds, but lay redeposited alongside Romano-British material, which dominated the assemblages. Pottery dates places the heyday of the settlement between the 2nd and later 4th century. An east-west aligned inhumation grave was discovered in the eastern part of the evaluated area, but was left unexcavated.

Convergent evidence indicates that the evaluated area lay on the northern periphery of the settlement and beyond the formerly inhabited area. No *in situ* structural features were identified, although building rubble including a fine carved stone column was recovered from the ditches. Such finds, and aspects of the pottery assemblage, suggest a relatively high degree of Romanisation on the part of the settlement's inhabitants.

The plant and animal bone evidence indicate a mixed farming economy, and tally with regional norms. The waterlogging evident in the deepest features and the generally good level of preservation of animal bone augment the archaeological potential of the Site, which has the potential to contribute to established research questions.

Remains of post-Roman date were virtually absent; this would be consistent with the Site being given over to farming since the Roman period.

The project archive resulting from the evaluation will be deposited with Museums Worcestershire. A copy of this report will be supplied to the Worcestershire HER and uploaded to OASIS. Deposition of any finds will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.



Avon Business Park, Evesham, Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

Acknowledgements

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by St Modwen Properties. The assistance of Peter Rudd is gratefully acknowledged in this regard.

Thanks are extended to Adrian Scruby, Historic Environment Advisor for Worcestershire County Council, who provided curatorial support and guidance.

The trenching was carried out by Hannah Dabill, Patrick Daniel, James Hicks, Michael Howarth and Owen Watts. The report was written by Patrick Daniel, with illustrations by Kitty Foster. The pottery was analysed by C Jane Evans of Worcestershire Archaeology. Lorrain Higbee assessed the animal bone; other finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram, with environmental samples processed and assessed by Victoria Knowles. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Alexandra Grassam.



Land West of Vale Business Park, Evesham, Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by St Modwen Properties PLC (hereafter 'the Client') to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching on land to the west of Vale Business Park, Evesham, Worcestershire, NGR 403350 241660 (hereafter 'the Site'). The work was undertaken to inform an outline planning application to develop the Site for business use, to be submitted to Wychavon District Council.
- 1.1.2 The evaluation followed a desk-based assessment (hereafter 'DBA'; Wessex Archaeology 2015a) and geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2015b) which considered the potential impact of development on a 21 hectare area. Following on from these non-intrusive works and consultation between the Client, Historic England and Adrian Scruby, Historic Environment Advisor for Worcestershire County Council, it was agreed that an area in the western part of the proposed application area, which lies adjacent to a scheduled monument of Iron Age and Romano-British date, should be evaluated at the pre-application stage. The remainder of the proposed development area has not been scoped in for evaluation at this stage and may require examination in advance of the submission of a detailed planning application.
- 1.1.3 Following this period of consultation, a scope of works was agreed and Wessex Archaeology produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining how the requirements of the work would be met (Wessex Archaeology 2016). The WSI was approved by the Client and Worcestershire County Council prior to work commencing.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The Site is situated south of the A46, at its junction with the A4184 Cheltenham Road (**Figure 1**). The Site currently comprises a number of agricultural fields, bounded to the west and north by the A46 trunk road, to the east by the Vale Business Park, and to the south by further agricultural land. The Site boundaries comprise established hedgerows, scattered trees, and grassland verges.
- 1.2.2 The Site lies in the Vale of Evesham, a landscape comprising the floodplain of the River Avon. The Site is situated at an elevation of approximately 36 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology is mapped as mudstone of the Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone Formations, with superficial Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel (British Geological Survey).
- 1.2.4 The Site was under arable cultivation when fieldwork occurred, containing a young cereal crop.



1.3 Previous investigations

- 1.3.1 The DBA of the proposed development area recorded an archaeological interest within the site, namely the potential presence of archaeological remains dating to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods (Wessex Archaeology 2015a). A cropmark complex of linear enclosure features was identified by English Heritage's National Mapping Programme in the field to the immediate south of the Site, leading to it receiving statutory protection as a scheduled monument (NHLE 1020257).
- 1.3.2 A geophysical survey was also commissioned in association with the proposed development (Wessex Archaeology 2015b). Numerous anomalies of potential archaeological origin were identified, probably representing ditches, pits, and postholes. Linear features were recorded extending from the scheduled Romano-British roadside settlement into the Site. The geophysical survey also detected areas of increased magnetic response and evidence for historic cultivation.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 The following text is drawn from the DBA (Wessex Archaeology 2015a), with relevant records from the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) and National Heritage List for England (NHLE) referenced where appropriate.
- 2.1.2 There are no World Heritage Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, Conservation Areas, Historic Battlefields or Listed Buildings identified within the Site, however a scheduled monument (NHLE 1020257) abuts the Site to the south. This comprises a cropmark complex interpreted as a Romano-British roadside settlement.
- 2.1.3 A number of previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the vicinity of the Site. These include fieldwalking surveys which recorded Roman and medieval pottery scatters (HER Reference: WSM06109, WSM06843). An evaluation and geophysical survey targeting known archaeological remains was undertaken to the west, at the ground of Evesham United Football Club. Linear features and fills indicating multiple stages of use and disuse were uncovered (HER Reference: WSM30784).

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 Little evidence for prehistoric settlement has been recorded in the Site or its immediate vicinity, although a single Palaeolithic hand axe was discovered west of Brooklands Farm, to the north-west of the Site. Similarly little evidence for Bronze Age inhabitation within the DBA Study Area was noted. Two possible ring ditches observed in aerial photography to the east of the Site were thought to potentially be Bronze Age in date.

2.3 Romano-British

- 2.3.1 The majority of the HER data recorded within the DBA Study Area related to the Romano-British period. The scheduled monument lies directly to the south of the Site, with the scheduled area straddling the current course of the A46. The scheduled monument comprises a series of cropmarks representing small enclosures and building remains arranged either side of a Roman road.
- 2.3.2 Fieldwalking has been conducted over the scheduled monument and the Site itself, with large quantities of Romano-British material recovered, chiefly pottery and building



materials. Metal detecting surveys have also been conducted, which have recovered 46 Romano-British brooches, 200 coins and a piece of bronze piping.

2.4 Medieval to Modern

2.4.1 Medieval activity in the wider landscape is largely rural, relating to the agricultural hinterland of surrounding settlements. Ridge and furrow earthworks have been identified through LiDAR to the south and east of the Site and are also visible throughout the Study Area and within the Site on satellite imagery.

2.4.2 The Site has continued to be associated with farming and agriculture since the post-medieval period. The 1889 First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the Site divided into small landholdings with the central and western areas recorded as orchards. This orchard had expanded by 1905 and is shown covering the majority of the Site.

2.4.3 The 1938 Ordnance Survey map shows that multiple internal field boundaries have been removed, the orchard has been reduced and allotments have been established in the north-eastern part of the Site.

2.4.4 The road network adjacent to the Site was reconfigured in 1987 with the construction of the A46/A435 Evesham bypass.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation were as follows:

- *to clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the western end of the Site;*
- *to record, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains observed;*
- *to provide information that will enable the archaeological remains to be placed within their local, regional and national contexts;*
- *to integrate the results into the wider cultural and environmental context and with specific research aims;*
- *to recover artefacts disturbed by the works;*
- *to provide sufficient information to enable an informed decision to be made about the potential impact of the proposed development and the need for additional archaeological mitigation; and*
- *to make available the results of all archaeological work undertaken.*

3.2 Specific

3.2.1 The specific aims of the project were:

- *to clarify whether the remains from the scheduled monument located immediately to the south continue into the Site;*



- to clarify the significance and value of any remains identified within the western end of the Site;
- to test reliability of the detailed gradiometer survey results to predict the density of archaeological remains; and
- establish a mitigation strategy for any further development within the Site.

3.2.2 The evaluation trenching focussed on the westernmost portion of the proposed development site, in line with the specific aims of the project as outlined above.

3.3 Fieldwork methodology

3.3.1 The work was carried out in accordance with the approved WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2016), Wessex Archaeology's procedures, and industry standards and guidelines (CIfA 2014a and b).

3.3.2 The position and extent of the evaluation trenches matched that proposed within the WSI. A small extension was excavated in trench 8 in order to expose the entirety of a human burial (see below).

3.3.3 The Site is currently tenanted and access could only be secured for one working week. Given this limitation, it was agreed that a sample of features exposed would be hand excavated in order to meet the aims and objectives.

3.3.4 The trial trenching took place between 14th and 18th March 2016; weather conditions were dry, cool and bright.

3.3.5 On the night of 17th/18th March considerable damage was done to archaeological deposits in trench 2, probably by 'nighthawking' i.e. the illicit use of metal detectors.

3.4 Monitoring

3.4.1 Adrian Scruby, Historic Environment Advisor for Worcestershire County Council, visited the Site on 16th March 2016, when fieldwork was under way, and provided curatorial guidance to inform the excavation strategy.

3.5 Machine excavation

3.5.1 Topsoil was removed using a Hitachi Zaxis 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of the senior attending archaeologist. Topsoil and overburden were removed in a series of level spits down to the level of the upper archaeological horizon, or the level at which deposits were presumed to be archaeologically sterile, whichever was reached first.

3.6 Hand excavation

3.6.1 Any archaeological features and deposits were cleaned as necessary to allow inspection and to define their extent. Archaeological features were hand excavated, with care taken not to compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits, which may have been deemed suitable for preservation by record or preservation *in situ*.

3.7 Recording

3.7.1 All deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. A Harris matrix was compiled to record the relationships between stratigraphic units.



- 3.7.2 As per standard practice, excavated stratigraphic units were individually numbered and recorded, with the trench number forming the prefix for the context number. Hence, contexts 100–199 were reserved for use within Trench 1, contexts 200–299 were allocated to Trench 2, contexts 1000–1099 were within Trench 10, etc.
- 3.7.3 Excavated areas and deposits were located by means of an RTK GPS system and tied in to the OS grid with a tolerance of better than + or - 100mm. All deposits had spot heights recorded in relation to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places.
- 3.7.4 A photographic record was maintained using digital images and 35mm monochrome film equipment.

4 RESULTS OF EVALUTION TRENCHING

4.1 Summary

- 4.1.1 The evaluation trenches exposed a co-axial network of ditches; these appear associated with the scheduled Romano-British roadside settlement to the south of the Site. Many of the ditches were quite substantial, typically 3–5 m wide by around 1 m deep, and were capped by finds-rich dark grey tertiary fills containing angular stone rubble. The deposits are readily apparent within the geophysical survey data.
- 4.1.2 Also recorded in the evaluation trenches were a number of slighter ditches, around 1–2 m wide by 0.5–0.7 m deep, with deep, bowl-shaped profiles. These shared the alignment of the larger boundaries, but lacked their finds-rich dark grey tertiary fills. These slighter features lay in trenches 1, 2, 4 and 9; they proved more geophysically elusive although appear to be of the same date as deeper ditches.
- 4.1.3 Overall the gradiometer survey was reasonably accurate in predicting the locations of archaeological remains, although the features encountered in the trenching were slightly more numerous and extensive than forecast by the survey. It seems likely that discrete anomalies detected in trenches 3, 5 and 6 may actually represent portions of more extensive linear ditches, akin to ditch 208 in the western portion of the Site.
- 4.1.4 Few other features were observed in the evaluation trenches; an inhumation grave was discovered in trench 8, but was left unexcavated, in accordance with the WSI methodology.
- 4.1.5 Overall, the dating evidence suggests the main period of activity on the Site in the 2nd to 4th centuries. Artefactual assemblages reveal a reasonable level of engagement with Roman material culture, which was probably facilitated by the Site's location on a transport route. Waterlogged conditions were encountered towards the base of one of the features. The environmental remains generally point to damp, disturbed ground with cereal cultivation nearby and the processing of crops on the Site. The combined evidence from the animal bone and preserved plant assemblages indicates a regionally typical mixed farming economy.

4.2 Deposit sequence

- 4.2.1 All trenches contained a similar deposit sequence (PI. 1). The upper surface of the geological substrate was typically encountered at around 0.40–0.55 m below the current ground surface, and presented as a loose gritty sand of various pale orange, yellow and

beige hues. This material is thought to tally with the superficial Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel recorded in the area by the British Geological Survey.

- 4.2.2 Subsoil was recorded in all ten trenches. It generally comprised a 0.2 m-thick layer of mid-orange/brown sandy silty clay, and was somewhat intermittent in plan. This material is thought to represent a relict ploughsoil related to ridge and furrow cultivation. North–south aligned furrows, approximately 3–6 m wide were recorded in a number of trenches. These were often found to have ceramic land drains set along their bases.
- 4.2.3 Ploughsoil was homogeneous across the Site, presenting as a friable mid- to dark brownish grey silty clay, around 0.25–0.3 m thick. This supported a young green cereal crop at the time of the fieldwork.
- 4.2.4 Archaeological features were cut from the level of the natural substrate, and where they had a relationship with the subsoil, were found to be earlier than it.

4.3 Blank trenches

- 4.3.1 The only trench to contain no features of archaeological significance was trench 10. This was positioned to investigate an apparently ‘blank’ area within the geophysical survey. Two north–south aligned furrows were recorded within trench 10; these were found to correlate with similarly aligned geophysical anomalies interpreted as being associated with cultivation.

4.4 Archaeological features

Trench 1

- 4.4.1 Ditch 104 crossed trench 1 on an east–west alignment (Fig. 3; Pl. 2). Excavation revealed it to have a maximum width and depth of 1.05 m and 0.45 m respectively, and a deep, bowl-shaped profile. The ditch contained two fills, a lower deposit of mid-greyish brown sandy clay overlain by a more orange deposit. The feature contained a pottery assemblage suggesting deposition between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD. Ditch 104 had not generated a corresponding geophysical signature.
- 4.4.2 A potential parallel ditch containing a dark greyish brown upper fill lay 0.65 m to the south, although this was not excavated. The unexcavated feature coincided with a prominent linear geophysical anomaly and was at least 2 m wide.

Trench 2

- 4.4.3 Three linear features could be seen crossing the base of trench 2 on a north–south alignment (Fig. 3; Pl. 3). The westernmost proved to be rather shallow and formless when dug. It corresponded with a geophysical “trend” and would appear to represent either a furrow or a natural fissure. Around 2 m to the east lay ditch 208. The feature was 3.7 m wide by at least 0.9 m deep – the base of the feature was not reached when investigated. Three fills were recorded, the lowest being a stiff grey sandy clay overlain by a light greyish yellow sandy clay: fill 210. This was sealed in turn by a final, tertiary fill of dark grey/black sandy clay with angular stone rubble inclusions. Pottery of general Romano-British date was recovered from fill 210, along with a fine carved stone column and attached base: SF1 (Pl. 10). Profuse quantities of animal bone and 2nd- to 4th-century pottery were recovered from the overlying tertiary fill along with finds of glass and iron. Ditch 208 corresponds with a prominent geophysical anomaly which extends towards the southern site limit, before turning to run to the west, where it may match the unexcavated feature in trench 1.

- 4.4.4 The third linear feature in trench 2 lay 2 m to the east of ditch 208. Numbered ditch 204, this feature was 0.9 m wide by 0.35 m deep, with a deep bowl-shaped profile (Pl. 4). It contained a single fill of dark grey sandy clay found to contain a later Romano-British pottery assemblage, along with iron and animal bone. This feature also had a corresponding geophysical anomaly.
- 4.4.5 A pit or ditch terminal extended for 0.9 m from the northern trench wall. Numbered 206, it was 1.4 m wide by 0.15 m deep, with a shallow dish-shaped profile. It contained a single fill of mid-greyish brown sandy clay from which a small assemblage of animal bone was recovered.

Trench 3

- 4.4.6 Following machining, three dark anomalies could be seen crossing the base of the trench, along with a possible furrow or natural feature. Each of the three dark anomalies had a corresponding geophysical anomaly, although these were discrete and pit-like in plan, rather than linear (Fig. 4).
- 4.4.7 The northernmost anomaly was found to consist of two intercutting features (Pl. 5). The earliest, numbered 307, measured 2.9 m wide by 0.75 m deep and had a flat-based, bowl-shaped profile. Three fills were recorded: a basal fill of blueish grey silty clay, overlain by a yellowish brown silty sandy clay secondary fill, capped by a dark grey/black silty sand tertiary fill with copious amounts of angular stone rubble. The feature supplied an assemblage of 3rd- to 4th-century pottery, along with iron, animal bone and shell, with the majority coming from the uppermost fill. Feature 307 had a semi-circular form in plan (extending beyond the north-eastern trench wall), which tallies with the pit-like appearance of the accompanying geophysical anomaly.
- 4.4.8 Pit 307 had been cut on its north-eastern side by ditch 304. This measured 1.55 m wide by 0.51 m deep, and had an irregular bowl-shaped profile. Two fills were recorded, a basal fill of reddish brown silty sand, overlain by similar tertiary fill to that recorded in the neighbouring feature. Feature 304 had a linear form in plan, with no curvature to its edges, and so seems to represent a ditch rather than a pit. The finds assemblage from this feature consisted of pottery of similar date to that recovered from pit 307, along with animal bone and iron.
- 4.4.9 No other features were excavated in trench 3, although finds were surface-collected from the two dark anomalies. The feature in the centre of the trench, 311, had an uppermost fill of stony dark greyish brown friable clayish silt from which an assemblage of early 3rd- to 4th-century pottery was recovered. Feature 313, located at the south-eastern end of the trench, also had a similar fill; a single sherd of chronologically undiagnostic Romano-British pottery was collected from its surface.

Trench 4

- 4.4.10 Two furrows, each containing a ceramic land drain, crossed trench 4 on a north-south alignment (Fig. 5). A linear feature was seen crossing the eastern end of the trench on the same alignment as the furrows. This feature corresponded with a geophysical "trend", however, upon excavation it proved to be archaeological in origin, with a large fragment of mid- to late 3rd-century mortarium recovered from near its base. Numbered 404, the feature was 2m wide by 0.7 m deep and had a deep bowl-shaped profile. It contained four sandy fills of varying orange and grey hues.

Trench 5

- 4.4.11 Three probable furrows and a ditch or archaeological origin crossed trench 5 on a north–south alignment. The ditch, numbered 507, was approximately 5m wide by at least 0.5 m deep – the full profile of the feature was not revealed when investigated (Pl. 6). Three fills were recorded, the deepest being a mid-greyish brown plastic clay, overlain by a slumped deposit of redeposited sand natural, sealed beneath an uppermost fill of mid-brownish/orangey grey silty clay. A small amount of animal bone was recovered from deep within this deposit, the only artefactual material from ditch 507. The feature tallied with a geophysical anomaly interpreted as being of “probable” archaeological origin.
- 4.4.12 Ditch 507 was sealed beneath deposit 511, a 0.1 m thick layer of mid-grey sandy clayish silt, which extended for at least 1.5 m beyond the feature’s western edge. Deposit 511 was, in turn sealed beneath mid-brown clay subsoil/ridge and furrow material.

Trench 6

- 4.4.13 Three ditches were recorded crossing trench 6 on a north–south alignment (Fig. 7). The central (numbered 604) and the eastern (numbered 606) each matched a geophysical anomaly; the westernmost did not directly correspond with a geophysical feature, but probably marked the southward continuation of a feature investigated in trench 7 to the north. Two pits or ditch terminals were also recorded, extending into trench 6 from the northern trench wall.
- 4.4.14 Ditch 606 measured 3.2 m wide by at least 0.8 m deep – the feature was not bottomed when investigated (Fig. 7A; Pl. 7). Two fills were visible in the excavated profile, a secondary fill of mid-yellowish, greyish brown silty sand, overlain by a 0.5 m thick tertiary fill of dark greyish brown sandy silt. The feature supplied a substantial assemblage of pot, with most of the chronologically distinctive material belonging to the late 3rd to 4th century AD. A residual sherd of Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery was also recovered. The feature also contained animal bone, plus ceramic building material. The secondary fill supplied the majority of the material.
- 4.4.15 A small assemblage of generic Romano-British pottery was recovered from the surface of ditch 604, although the feature was not excavated.
- 4.4.16 Ditch 606 had been cut on its western side by pit or ditch terminal 609. This feature measured 1.2m wide, at least 0.35 m deep and contained a single fill of dark greyish brown silty sand. The fill of pit or ditch terminal 609 resembled the uppermost fill of ditch 606.

Trench 7

- 4.4.17 Two linear features crossed the northern half of trench 7 on an east–west alignment; each had a corresponding geophysical signature (Fig. 7). The southernmost feature, numbered 704, was the most substantial, measuring 4.2 m wide. Excavation established ditch 704 was 1.15 m deep, with a bowl-shaped profile (Fig. 7B; Pl. 8). Five fills were recorded, including a mid- to dark brownish grey plastic clay basal fill, a main secondary fill of brownish grey silty sandy clay, and a tertiary fill of dark grey sandy clayish silt containing frequent angular stone rubble. Finds from the ditch included Romano-British pottery of late 2nd- to early 3rd-century date and late 3rd- to 4th-century date, along with animal bone, iron and shell. The geophysical evidence indicates that just to the east of the trench, this feature turned to run to the south, where it may correspond with one of the unexcavated linear features exposed in trench 6.

- 4.4.18 A minor recut was recorded in the upper surface of ditch 704. This was numbered 712; it measured 1.05 m wide by 0.6 m deep and had a deep bowl-shaped profile. The fills of the feature resembled the tertiary fill of ditch 704. Finds included Romano-British pottery of 2nd- to 3rd-century AD date, along with redeposited Iron Age sherds and animal bone. The feature may have been a deliberate recut, or possibly merely a localised and relatively deep undulation in the surface of the secondary fill of ditch 704.
- 4.4.19 Approximately 1.5 m to the north lay the second linear feature present within trench 7. This appeared to be 1.5 m wide, with a dark grey clay fill similar to that recorded forming the uppermost fills of ditch 704 and recut 712. The feature was not excavated.

Trench 8

- 4.4.20 An extension was machine-excavated into the southern edge of trench 8 in order to fully expose a bone-rich feature seen protruding from the original limit of the trench (Fig. 8). The feature was thus revealed to be an east–west aligned inhumation grave measuring 1.64 m long by 0.72 m wide, with a backfill of mid-orangey brown sandy loam. The grave, numbered 806, was situated immediately below the ploughsoil, with no intervening subsoil. This positioning and the evident disorder of the skeletal elements on the grave surface reveal it to be severely truncated by ploughing.
- 4.4.21 In accordance with the requirements of the WSI, the feature was not excavated, although bone visible on the surface was photographed, with the images inspected subsequently by an osteoarchaeologist. The skeletal remains include teeth, skull and long bone fragments, and would appear to be those of an individual aged approximately 15–18 years old at death (Jacqueline McKinley, pers. comm.). The bone was reburied in a pit freshly dug at the eastern end of the grave, with both features covered by a sheet of orange Netlon fencing to assist in their identification and recovery should further archaeological work be carried out on the Site.
- 4.4.22 Other features exposed in trench 8 comprise a probable furrow and a pit or ditch terminal (numbered 804) protruding from the southern trench wall. Neither was excavated, although pottery of 19th-century AD date was recovered from the surface of feature 804.

Trench 9

- 4.4.23 Two linear features were seen crossing trench 9 on an east–west alignment (Fig. 8). The northernmost was somewhat intermittent and mottled in plan, and interpreted as a probable hedgeline. It corresponds with a “trend” or cultivation effect recorded by the gradiometer survey, and was not investigated further.
- 4.4.24 The southernmost feature matched a geophysical anomaly of “probable” archaeological origin. Upon excavation, the feature, numbered 904, was found to be 1 m wide by 0.62 m deep, with a bowl-shaped profile (Pl. 9). A single fill of mid-brownish grey friable silty sandy clay was recorded, which was found to contain a small amount of animal bone.

5 ARTEFACTS

5.1 The pottery

Pottery methodology

- 5.1.1 All hand-retrieved sherds were examined and a primary record was made on an Access 2007 database. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post*

quem date was produced for each stratified context. No pottery from environmental samples was studied.

- 5.1.2 The pottery was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type, with reference to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992; www.worcestershireceramics.org). Forms were recorded with reference to published types.

Pottery results

Introduction

- 5.1.3 The evaluation produced 308 sherds of pottery (Table 1) the majority of which dated to the Roman period, although a handful of prehistoric and post-medieval sherds were also present. The pottery came from eight of the ten trenches excavated. Seven of these provided evidence for Roman activity, two (trenches 6 and 7) produced small quantities of prehistoric pottery, and one (trench 8) produced a post-medieval flower pot. Particular concentrations of Roman pottery were noted in trenches 2 and 3 to the west of the site, particularly cut 208, and trenches 6 and 7 to the north, particularly cuts 606 and 704 (Tables 2 and 3). All the pottery came from stratified ditch fills, apart from five sherds of Roman pottery found in the topsoil (trenches 1, 5 and 7). Most of the Roman pottery was very abraded, thought to be the result of the soil conditions. Average sherd weights varied between trenches, individual deposits, and periods (Tables 2 and 3). The residual sherds of prehistoric pottery, for example, were very fragmentary, but the presence of joining sherds from a single vessel raised the average sherd weight for the Post-medieval pottery in Trench 8. The average sherd weights for Roman pottery also varied but were generally high, suggesting that this material was dumped in the ditches directly from nearby activity, rather than having lain on the surface for long periods or been subjected to trampling. Individual sherds raised the average weight in some deposits, for example the large storage jar rim in Trench 6 (1 sherd, 560g) and an Oxfordshire mortarium in Trench 4 (1 sherd, 254g).

Table 1: Quantification of the pottery by period

Period	Count	Weight (g)	Rim EVE
Prehistoric	9	43	0
Roman	292	5943.5	4.20
post-medieval	7	542	0.76
total	308	6528.5	4.96



Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by trench and period

Trench	Period	Count	% Count	Weight (g)	% Weight	Average weight	Rim EVE	% Rim EVE
1	Roman	14	5%	154.5	2%	11	0.15	3%
2	Roman	76	25%	1798	28%	24	0.83	17%
3	Roman	48	16%	534	8%	11	0.53	11%
4	Roman	4	1%	266	4%	67	0.22	4%
5	Roman	2	1%	23	0%	12	0.04	1%
6	prehistoric	6	2%	25	0%	4	0	0%
	Roman	59	19%	1800	28%	31	1.4	30%
	post-medieval	1	0%	3	0%	3	0	0%
7	prehistoric	3	1%	18	0%	6	0	0%
	Roman	89	29%	1368	21%	15	1.03	21%
8	post-medieval	6	2%	539	8%	90	0.76	15%
Total		297		6321.5		21	4.6	

Table 3: Quantification of the pottery by trench, cut and period

Trench	Cut type	Cut	Period	Count	% count	Weight (g)	% Weight	Average weight	Rim EVE	% Rim EVE
1	topsoil		Roman	1	0%	25	0%	25	0.04	1%
	ditch	104	Roman	13	4%	129.5	2%	10	0.11	2%
2	ditch	204	Roman	19	6%	235	4%	12	0.17	3%
		208	Roman	57	19%	15638	24%	27	0.66	13%
3	ditch	304	Roman	14	5%	99	2%	7	0.37	7%
		307	Roman	28	9%	391	6%	14	0.08	2%
		311	Roman	5	2%	33	1%	7	0.08	2%
		313	Roman	1	0%	11	0%	11	0	0%
4	ditch	404	Roman	4	1%	266	4%	67	0.22	4%
5	topsoil		Roman	2	1%	23	0%	12	0.04	1%
6	ditch	604	Roman	2	1%	17	0%	9	0	0%
		606	prehistoric	6	2%	25	0%	4	0	0%
			Roman	57	19%	1783	27%	31	1.4	28%
			post-medieval	1	0%	3	0%	3	0	0%
7	topsoil		Roman	2	1%	26	0%	13	0	0%
	ditch	704	Roman	55	18%	829	13%	15	0.39	8%
		712	prehistoric	3	1%	18	0%	6	0	0%
			Roman	32	10%	513	8%	16	0.64	13%
8	ditch	804	post-medieval	6	2%	539	9%	90	0.76	15%
total				308		6528.5	100%	21	4.96	100%

Prehistoric pottery

5.1.4 Only eight, very small sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered. Seven were in a local, fossil shell-tempered fabric (Worcestershire fabric 4.3) associated with Bronze Age and Iron Age assemblages elsewhere in the county. There were no diagnostic features to allow these sherds to be dated more closely, but the evidence from Beckford (unpublished) suggests that the fabric went out of use some time in the early Middle Iron Age. Six sherds came from the tertiary fill of ditch 606 (fill 608) and two from the tertiary fill

of ditch 712 (fill 709). The latter also produced a small abraded sherd in a handmade sandy fabric, not closely dated.

Roman pottery

- 5.1.5 The majority of the assemblage comprised Roman pottery, with diagnostic fabrics and forms indicating activity from the 2nd to the 4th century. There was no real evidence for 1st century activity. A few sherds in handmade Malvernian ware (Fabric 3) and Micaceous ware (Fabric 21) date broadly to the 1st to 2nd centuries, and a body sherd from a late 1st to early 2nd century rusticated jar was recovered from the secondary fill of ditch cut 104 (fill 106), in Trench 1. There was, however, very little organic tempered Severn Valley ware (Fabrics 12.2 and 12.3), fabrics that characterise early sites in Worcestershire, and no diagnostically 1st century forms. A number of forms in Black-burnished ware (BB1, fabric 22) and Severn Valley ware (Fabrics 12 and 12.6) dated to the 2nd to 3rd centuries. There was also clear evidence for activity continuing into the 4th century, indicated by late BB1 forms, and typically late fabrics such as Pink grog-tempered ware, Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware, late Roman shell-gritted ware and Worcestershire imitation Black-burnished ware (Fabrics 17, 29, 23, 149 respectively). The dating evidence is analysed in more detail in the discussion by trench, below.
- 5.1.6 A wide range of fabrics was represented (Table 4). The most common fabrics were Severn Valley ware (Fabric 12 and variant 12.6) and Black-burnished ware (Fabric 22), but the assemblage also included colour-coated table wares (Fabrics 28, 29, 43.2) and mortaria (Fabric 33.1). Forms included storage vessels (narrow-mouthed and wide-mouthed jars and a large storage jar), serving vessels such as flagons, beakers and bowls, and BB1 bowls probably used for cooking. No amphora was noted.
- 5.1.7 The most unusual 'vessel' was in a coarse sand-tempered ware, classified for the purposes of this report as Fabric 15.1. This thick walled vessel was found in the uppermost fill of ditch cut 208 (fill 211), associated with late 3rd to 4th century Roman pottery. It is not certain that this should be classified as 'pottery'. The sherds had very coarse finger wiping externally, and one was perforated before firing. The base was roughly formed, with a layer of applied clay. Similarly wiped surfaces are found on the Malvernian, pre-formed oven material found on sites elsewhere in the county (Crawford 2014, Evans forthcoming) though the sherds here are not in a Malvernian fabric. Some of these pre-formed ovens have perforated walls, but the perforations are usually near an internal ledge, and there is no evidence of an internal ledge on this piece. The flat base is also unlike anything found on the pre-formed ovens identified to date. This find deserves more investigation should further work be undertaken on the site. Presently it is thought to be a variation on a portable oven, but there is an outside possibility that it is a local attempt at a glirarium or dormouse pot, another vessel that features perforations. These also, however, have internal ledges which this vessel does not.



Table 4: Quantification of the pottery by period and fabric type

Period	Fabric code	Fabric common name	Count	Weight (g)	Average weight	Rim EVE
Prehistoric	4.3	Fossil Shell	8	28	3.5	0
	5	Sand	1	15	15	0
Roman	3	Handmade Malvernian ware	3	12	4	0
	12	Severn Valley ware	107	1772	17	1.61
	12.1	Reduced Severn Valley ware	6	105	18	0.2
	12.24	Organic-tempered Severn Valley ware (fine)	1	50	50	0
	12.3	Reduced organic-tempered Severn Valley ware	1	6	6	0
	12.4	Severn Valley ware variant, shell	2	37	19	0.05
	12.6	Severn Valley ware variant, soft white inclusions	31	457	15	0
	13	Sandy oxidized ware	7	73	10	0.06
	14	Fine sandy grey ware	5	53	11	0.13
	15	Coarse sandy grey ware	8	44	6	0
	15.1	Coarse sandy grey ware (wiped vessel)	9	654	73	0
	17	Pink grog tempered ware	1	560	560	0.05
	19	Wheelthrown Malvernian ware	7	183	26	0.04
	21	Micaceous ware	1	8	8	0
	22	Black-burnished ware, type 1 (BB1)	44	842	19	1.03
	23	Shell gritted ware	19	216	11	0.1
	28	Nene Valley ware	8	66	8	0.11
	29	Oxfordshire red/brown colour coated ware	7	46	7	0.17
	33.1	Oxfordshire white mortaria	2	279	140	0.18
	33.3	Oxfordshire red mortaria with red-brown slip	8	145	18	0.13
38	Oxfordshire white ware	4	24	6	0.08	
43.2	Central Gaulish samian ware	3	24	8	0	
98	Miscellaneous Roman wares	4	0.5	0	0	
149	Worcestershire imitation black-burnished ware	2	132	66	0	

Period	Fabric code	Fabric common name	Count	Weight (g)	Average weight	Rim EVE
	151	South-west oxidised ware	2	155	78	0.26
Post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red ware	6	539	90	0.76
	84	Creamware	1	3	3	0
Total			308	6528.5	21	4.96

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Post-medieval pottery

- 5.1.8 The only pottery from Trench 8 was a significant portion of a flower pot, probably dating to the 19th century, found on the surface of possible ditch or pit cut 804 (fill 805). The only other post-medieval pottery comprised a small sherd of creamware, dating to the 18th to 19th century, found in the tertiary fill of ditch cut 606 (fill 608).

Discussion by trench

Trench 1

- 5.1.9 Trench 1 produced a relatively small assemblage, mainly comprising Severn Valley ware. Most sherds came from the secondary fill (106): a Central Gaulish Drag 38 bowl, dating from the mid-to late 2nd century, and a Severn Valley ware bowl broadly dating from the 2nd to 4th centuries (Webster 1976, fig 7, D35). The fill above (105) produced one sherd from a similar bowl, possibly the same vessel. The only other sherd came from the topsoil, a rim from a jar dating to the 2nd or 3rd centuries (Webster 1976, fig 4, C22).

Trench 2

- 5.1.10 Trench 2 produced one of the larger assemblages of Roman pottery, from cuts 204 and 208. The smaller of the two assemblages, from cut 204, all came from the tertiary fill (205). This included two sherds of Late Roman shell-gritted ware (Fabric 23), usually associated with contexts post-dating c 360. The presence of Worcestershire imitation BB1 (fabric 149) supports a later date, as does the presence of Nene Valley ware and a late Severn Valley ware form (Evans et al 2000, fig 24, type 5). The tertiary fill of cut 208 (211) produced a larger assemblage. This included eleven sherds of shell-gritted ware, including a fragment from a hooked-rim jar (from sample <13>). These indicated a 4th century tpq. Other diagnostically later 3rd to 4th century vessels comprised; an Oxfordshire red colour coat mortarium (Young 2000, fig 67, C97) and Severn Valley ware jars (Webster 1976, fig 3, A8, fig 5, C28). The assemblage also included sherds of BB1, a Nene Valley indented beaker and a residual sherd of Central Gaulish samian. The unusual wiped vessel described above came from this context.

Trench 3

- 5.1.11 Pottery was recovered from cuts 304, 307, 311 and 313. The largest assemblage came from cut 307, mainly from the tertiary fill (310) with only a couple of poorly dated sherds from the fills below (308, 309). The pottery from fill 310 included Severn Valley ware, BB1, wheelmade Malvernian ware (Fabric 19) and Oxfordshire white ware (Fabric 38). Most of the pottery was not closely datable, but a BB1 dish rim indicated a tpq in the late 2nd century.

- 5.1.12 The secondary fill of cut 304 (305) included a Severn Valley ware jar dating to the late 3rd to 4th century (Webster 1976, fig 5, C27-9) and a BB1 groove-rimmed bowl dating to the early-mid 3rd century (Gillam 1976, fig 3, 43). The tertiary fill produced a sherd from an

Oxfordshire colour-coated ware flagon dating to the later 3rd century (Young 2000, fig 54, C8).

- 5.1.13 Cut 311 (fill 312) included two forms dating broadly from the late 2nd to 4th century; and a BB1 groove-rimmed bowl dating to the early-mid 3rd century (Gillam 1976, fig 3, 43). Cut 313 (fill 314) produced only one poorly dated sherd.

Trench 4

- 5.1.14 Trench 4 produced only four sherds but provided some good dating evidence. The secondary fill (406) included a rim from an Oxfordshire white mortarium dating to c AD 240–300 (Young 2000, fig 20, M17). The other sherds dated broadly to the 2nd to 3rd centuries.

Trench 5

- 5.1.15 The dating evidence for Trench 5 was poor, with only two sherds of Severn Valley ware. A flanged bowl from fill 501 probably dates from the 2nd to 4th centuries.

Trench 6

- 5.1.16 Most of the Roman pottery from Trench 6 came from cut 606, only a single sherd of poorly dated pottery coming from cut 604 (fill 605). The pottery came fairly evenly from the secondary and tertiary fills (607 and 608 respectively). The secondary fill provided good evidence for 4th century activity in the vicinity. Diagnostic fabrics and forms included sherds of shell-gritted ware (Fabric 23), a rim from a large storage jar in pink grog-tempered ware (Fabric 17; Booth and Green 1989, fig 2.5, 6), a BB1 fish dish, plain-rimmed dish and a drop-flange bowl (Gillam 1976, fig 6.85, fig 5.80-83, fig 4.46), an Oxfordshire red colour-coated mortarium (Young 2000, fig 67, C97), a South-west oxidised ware bowl, and Severn Valley ware forms (Webster 1976 fig 3, A9 and fig 5, C27-9). The tertiary fill included further sherds dating to the late 3rd to 4th centuries, in BB1 (Gillam 1976 fig 4.46, fig 6,80) and in Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware. This deposit also produced two fragmentary sherds of prehistoric shell-tempered ware (Fabric 4.3) and a sherd of post-medieval cream ware.

Trench 7

- 5.1.17 Roman pottery was associated with cuts 704 and the ditch re-cut, 712. The pottery from cut 704 all came from the tertiary fill (710). The assemblage included an Oxfordshire white mortarium dated to c AD 240-300 (Fabric 38; Young 2000, fig 33, W62.1), two sherds of Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware (Fabric 29) of a similar date or later, as well as a BB1 bowl dating to the late 2nd to early 3rd century (Gillam 1976, fig 3.42).

- 5.1.18 The pottery from cut 712 came mainly from the tertiary fill of the re-cut (709), with only nine sherds coming from the secondary fill (708). The assemblage included a BB1 dish dating to the late 2nd to early third century (Gillam 1976, fig 5.77), a late 2nd to 3rd century tankard and a 2nd to 3rd century Severn Valley ware bowl (Webster 1976, fig 7, E43; fig 9, G55). This fill also produced two fragmentary sherds of prehistoric shell tempered ware (Fabric 4.3).

Significance

- 5.1.19 Analysis of the pottery from the Site provided evidence of significant Romano-British activity in the vicinity, dating from 2nd to the later 4th century. The Site is of particular interest having a scheduled monument immediately to the south, comprising a series of cropmarks representing small enclosures and building remains either side of a Roman road. The pottery assemblage reflects the presence of the known Romano-British settlement nearby. The Roman pottery represents material dumped in ditches, presumably as they went out of use, rather than deriving from occupation deposits. The

range of fabrics and forms, however, is very much what would be expected from a Romano-British settlement in this area. There was clearly access to a range of sources, with pottery from Dorset, Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire (Fabric 17) and Central Gaul as well as more local sources. The forms reflect a range of domestic activities, from storage, through food preparation to consumption, the latter including the colour-coated flagons, beakers and bowls typical of a more Romanised lifestyle. The assemblage is too small for detailed analysis of the proportions of fabrics and forms, but should any further fieldwork be undertaken then these data should be included in the final analysis. There is potential to assess the status and perhaps function of the Site from the proportions of various fabrics and forms present.

- 5.1.20 The very small quantity of prehistoric pottery could not be closely dated, though the fabrics suggest a Bronze Age to early Middle Iron Age date. Their condition and the fact that they were found in upper fills of the ditches indicate that they were residual and redeposited, perhaps from features disturbed by the digging of the Romano-British ditches.

5.2 Ceramic building material (CBM)

- 5.2.1 All of the CBM is Romano-British. The seven fragments recovered (two conjoining) include two *imbrex* roof tiles, and two box flue tiles. Two fragments are undiagnostic. All fragments came from a single feature (ditch 606).

5.3 Stone building material

- 5.3.1 The base of a small free-standing column was recovered from a secondary fill of ditch 208 (Obj No 1; Pl. 10). This is a relatively plain but well-finished piece in a fossiliferous sedimentary rock, approximately 0.18m in diameter, with a cyma moulding at the junction with the base. The base is rectangular measuring 22 cm by 17 cm and slightly damaged. A square mortise hole (7 cm by 7 cm and 5 cm deep) has been carved centrally into the base. The mortise has three vertical sides and one sloping side. The whole object is approximately 45 cm in length.

- 5.3.2 Part of a roof tile in a micaceous sandstone, with a surviving nail hole, was found in a tertiary fill of the same ditch.

5.4 Metalwork

- 5.4.1 The metalwork consists entirely of iron objects, which have survived in very poor, corroded condition. The only identifiable objects are nails (16 possible examples); other objects are too corroded for identification. All objects are assumed, on the basis of associated pottery, to be Romano-British.

5.5 Animal bone

- 5.5.1 The assemblage comprises 420 fragments (or 7.048 kg) of animal bone. Once conjoins have been taken into account the figure falls to 290 fragments (Table 7). This material was recovered by hand from 15 separate features of Romano-British date located in Trenches 1 to 7 and 9.

Methods

- 5.5.2 The following information was recorded where applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion and tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was directly recorded into a relational database (in MS Access) and cross-referenced with relevant contextual information.

Results

- 5.5.3 The assemblage is dominated by bones from domestic livestock, in particular cattle which account for 55% NISP (Table 7), followed by sheep/goat at 29% and then pig at 9%. Other identified species include horse, dog and duck, all of which are represented by just one or two bones each.
- 5.5.4 The range of cattle and sheep/goat body parts indicates the presence of whole carcasses and this suggests that livestock were slaughtered and butchered on site for local consumption. Most of the cattle and sheep/goat bones are from fully mature animals, and most of the pig bones are from immature animals. The mortality pattern is generally consistent with a husbandry strategy geared towards secondary products (e.g. milk, wool and manure) and the use of cattle as traction animals rather than one based on the production of prime meat. The strategy is probably connected to the intensification and expansion of arable cultivation during the late Romano-British period.
- 5.5.5 Butchery marks were noted on a few cattle bones and these include trimming around the glenoid cavity and along the spine of a scapula from pit 206. These marks are characteristic of specialist Romano-British processing techniques used to cure shoulder joints of beef.
- 5.5.6 Most (98%) of the animal bones came from ditches, in particular ditches 208 and 606 in Trenches 2 and 6 which produced between 85–90 fragments of bone each. Modest amounts (10–22 fragments) were recovered from ditches 204, 307 and 704, and the remaining features, mostly ditches but also two pits, produced between 1–9 fragments each.
- 5.5.7 The bones recovered from ditches 208 and 606 include cranial and post-cranial bones from cattle and sheep/goat, and cranial fragments from two pigs, one male and one female. The ditch assemblages include several complete mandibles including three from adult and senile cattle (mandible wear stages (or MWS) G to I after Halstead 1985), three from adult sheep/goat (MWS F to G after Payne 1973), and one from an immature male pig (MWS D after Hambleton 1999). The femur from a horse and a dog tibia were also recovered from ditch 606.

Conclusions and recommendations

- 5.5.8 Bone was recovered from Romano-British features located in eight of the ten evaluation trenches. Much of the bones came from ditches forming part of a field system associated with a roadside settlement to the south of the Site. Based on the assessment results it would appear that the animal husbandry strategy was generally consistent with regional trends such as the dominance of cattle and use of these animals for traction to aid arable cultivation.
- 5.5.9 The results also indicate that bone preservation is on the whole very favourable and any further mitigation work has the potential to produce a larger and more informative assemblage of animal bones which should help clarify the nature of the livestock economy and aid comparisons with contemporary sites in the region.

5.6 Other finds

- 5.6.1 Other finds comprise four oyster shell fragments, and a fragment of Romano-British blue vessel glass, from a footing base.



Table 5: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Animal Bone	Iron (No.)	Other Finds
101	1/65		
105			1 shell
205	25/145	6	
206	2/75		
207	21/195		
209	11/115		
210	8/85		1 stone
211	81/1365	1	1 glass; 1 stone
305	10/200	1	
306	1/10		
310	19/290	2	1 shell
312	8/60	1	
314	2/10	1	
406	1/260		
408	22/10		
510	5/5		
607	122/3328		3 CBM
608	34/320	1	4 CBM
610	3/65		
706	5/65	1	
709	3/60	2	
710	21/220	5	2 shell
905	2/10		
<i>Total</i>	<i>407/6958</i>	<i>21</i>	

CBM = ceramic building material

Table 6: Number of identified animal bones present (or NISP)

Species	N
cattle	36
sheep/goat	19
pig	6
horse	2
dog	1
duck	1
<i>Total identified</i>	<i>65</i>
<i>Total unidentified</i>	<i>225</i>
<i>Overall total</i>	<i>290</i>

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Fifteen bulk samples, between ten and thirty litres in volume, were taken from a number of Romano-British pits and ditches. The samples were taken in order to evaluate the presence and preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and wood charcoal. Part (6 litres) of sample 11 from context 211 was also processed by wet sieving for the recovery of waterlogged plant remains with fractions collected in sieves of 250 µm, 500 µm, 1 mm, 4 mm and 8 mm and stored in distilled water so as to be available for further analysis. The results of the assessment are described below and tabulated in Appendix 2.

6.2 Charred plant remains and wood charcoal

6.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods using a water separation machine. Floating material was collected in a 300 µm mesh and the remaining heavy residue was retained in a 1 mm mesh. The >2 mm fraction of the heavy residue was fully sorted for organic remains and artefacts. For those samples where a particularly high number of land snails (mollusca) were present in the flots, the <2 mm fraction of the heavy residue has the potential to yield further molluscan remains and the residues have been retained in order that they are available for detailed sorting by a molluscan specialist. No potential for the recovery of <2 mm artefacts such as fish bone or beads was noted in any of the samples.

6.2.2 The samples were assessed in accordance with English Heritage guidelines for environmental archaeology assessments (Jones 2011). The main aim of this assessment was to determine the conservation, diversity, state of preservation and suitability for use in radiocarbon dating of any archaeobotanical material present within the samples. A further aim was to evaluate the potential of this material to provide evidence for the function of the contexts, the economy of the Site or for the nature of the local environment.

6.2.3 A preliminary assessment of the samples was made by scanning the flots using a stereobinocular microscope (x8–x65) and recording the abundance of the main classes of material present. This data is recorded in Appendix 2. Preliminary identification of plant material was carried out by comparison with material in the reference collections at the Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield and reference works held there (e.g. Cappers *et al.*). Cereal identification and nomenclature follow Jacomet (2006). Other plant nomenclature follows Stace (2010).

6.2.4 Intrusive plant roots were present in varying proportions in all of the samples. Charred cereal grains were present in every sample except sample 11 from the basal fill of Romano-British ditch 209. Sample 15 (context 608 Romano-British ditch) had a particularly high number of cereal grains. In all the samples the cereal grains were generally lacking their epidermis and many were morphologically distorted. Cereal chaff, in the form of glume bases was present in small quantities in samples 4 (context 708), 7 (context 406), 10 (context 310), 11 (context 209), 13 (context 211) and 14 (context 207), and in large quantity in sample 15 (context 608). Wood charcoal was present in varying quantities in all of the samples, with a particularly high density in samples 2 (context 205) and 13 (context 211). Many of the samples contained large numbers of land snail shells.

6.2.5 Sample 1 from Romano-British ditch fill context 106 contained a moderate proportion of intrusive roots and just over 50 charcoal fragments greater than 2 mm in size. Only three charred cereal grains were present, one of which was identified as barley (*Hordeum* sp) but was not well preserved enough to identify as hulled or naked. Two grains of wheat



were found and identified as emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*) and possible emmer. Weed/wild species present were grasses and orache (*Atriplex* sp).

- 6.2.6 Sample 2 from Romano-British ditch context 205 contained a moderate proportion of intrusive roots and just over 250 charcoal fragments greater than 2 mm in size. Just over 10 charred cereal grains were present, preservation of these grains was not good but the majority were identified as wheat. One wheat grain was identified as possible spelt (*T. cf spelta*), three as possible emmer (*T. cf dicoccum*) and two were either free threshing wheat or spelt (*T. spelta*). Just under 10 wild or weed plant seeds were found, including sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*), buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp), knotgrass (*Polygonum* sp). and possible knapweed (cf *Centaurea* sp).
- 6.2.7 Sample 3 from Romano-British pit context 207 contained a low proportion of intrusive roots and just over 50 charcoal fragments greater than 2 mm in size. Five cereal grains were present, one of which was identifiable as emmer and another as either emmer or spelt wheat. Few of the wild/weed seeds present were charred, but there was a charred grass seed (small seeded) and a charred knotgrass/sedge (*Polygonum/Cyperaceae*) type seed.
- 6.2.8 Sample 4 from Romano-British boundary/enclosure ditch fill context 708 contained a very low proportion of intrusive roots and just over 50 charcoal fragments greater than 2 mm in size. Around 50 cereal grains were present, 16 of which were identified as wheat and included possible emmer, possible spelt and possible free threshing wheat. 2 barley and 2 possible barley (*Hordeum* sp) grains were present, which could possibly be of the hulled variety. One grain was identified as wheat/rye. One oat grain was identified, although oat grains cannot be confirmed to be wild or cultivated. Fragments of chaff (glume bases) were found, two of which were identified as spelt, one as emmer, three as possible emmer and the other two were either emmer or spelt. Approximately 20 charred wild/weed seeds were present which included grasses, black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), knapweed (*Centaurea* sp.), cinquefoil (*Potentilla* sp.), docks (*Rumex* spp.), nightshade (*Solanaceae* sp.), knotweed (*Polygonaceae* sp.), sedge (*Cyperaceae* sp.), fat-hen and small seeded legumes.
- 6.2.9 Sample 5 from Romano-British boundary/enclosure ditch fill context 707 contained a moderate proportion of intrusive roots and around 100 charcoal fragments greater than 2 mm in size. Just over 30 cereal grains were present, just under half of these were recognisable wheat grains. Grains were identified as emmer or possible emmer and as free threshing wheat, probably bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) but no diagnostic rachis internodes were found. One grain of possible spelt was present and one of wheat/rye. 1 oat grain was identified, plus barley and 1 possible barley grain. Just over 30 charred wild/weed seeds were present, 12 of which were oraches. Other wild species included Fat-hen, black bindweed, knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare* type), sorrels, grasses, small seeded legumes including vetch/pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus*) and legume/cabbage (*Leguminaceae/Brassicaceae*).
- 6.2.10 Sample 6 from Romano British boundary/enclosure ditch fill context 705 contained a low proportion of intrusive roots but a very high proportion of degraded plant material. Just over 20 charred cereal grains were present, consisting largely of wheat, including emmer and possible spelt. One grain of rye was identified and another as wheat/rye. Some of the barley in the sample could be identified as hulled and several of the barley grains were germinating when they became charred. One charred (large seeded) grass seed was present. There were very large numbers of modern pale persicaria (*Polygonum lapathifolia*) seeds. Other non-charred seeds included common hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis tetrahit*) also Buttercup seeds, possibly of water crowfoot (*Ranunculus cf batrachium* sp)



which suggests that this context may have been periodically inundated with standing water, but also may have been subject to a degree of bioturbation (possibly by burrowing mollusca) that has introduced significant quantities of modern plant material into this assemblage.

- 6.2.11 Sample 7 from Romano-British ditch fill context 406 contained a high proportion of intrusive roots and less than 10 charcoal fragments greater than 2 mm in size. Only one cereal grain, identified as possible rye, and one spelt wheat glume base were present. No weed/wild seeds were present in this sample.
- 6.2.12 Sample 8 from Romano-British ditch fill context 905 contained a moderate proportion of intrusive roots and less than 10 charcoal fragments greater than 2 mm in size. No cereal grains or weed/wild seeds were present in this sample.
- 6.2.13 Sample 9 from Romano-British ditch fill context 308 contained a high proportion of intrusive roots and just less than 20 charcoal fragments over 2 mm in size. Only one cereal grain was present in this sample and could not be more precisely identified. No weed/wild seeds were present.
- 6.2.14 Sample 10 from Romano-British ditch fill context 310 contained a moderate proportion of intrusive roots and just over 25 charcoal fragments over 2 mm in size. Around 50 cereal grains were present although poorly preserved and most were identifiable only as cereal or wheat (indet.). One grain was identified as emmer and another as possible emmer, two grains were identified as possible free threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp (free threshing)), others as possibly bread/emmer and bread/spelt. Four grains of possible barley were identified and one oat. One charred wild/weed seed was present, identified as fat-hen.
- 6.2.15 Sample 11 from Romano-British ditch fill context 211 contained under 10 charcoal fragments over 2 mm in size. It contained a low proportion of roots but a very high proportion of degraded plant material. No charred seeds whether from cereal or weed/wild species were present, one glume base probably of spelt wheat was present. A number of uncharred wild/weed species were however present including cherry (*Prunus avium*), Polygonaceae including Knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare* type) and pale persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia*), bramble (*Rubus* sp), Buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp), chickweed (*Stellaria media*), dock (*Rumex* sp.), orache (*Atriplex* sp.), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* spp), elder (*Sambucus* cf *ebulus*) and henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*). Whether these seeds are archaeological, preserved by waterlogging, or modern contaminants is unclear, many of these species, typical of disturbed ground, occurred as modern seeds in several of the other samples taken from non-waterlogged deposits.
- 6.2.16 Sample 12 from undated ditch fill context 210 contained a high proportion of intrusive roots and just less than 10 charcoal fragments over 2 mm in size. This sample contained only two cereal grains, one of wheat and one of oat. Two wild/weed seeds were present which were not identified at this preliminary stage.
- 6.2.17 Sample 13 from undated ditch fill context 211 contained a high proportion of intrusive roots and over 350 charcoal fragments over 2 mm in size. Just under 20 cereal grains were present, and were relatively well preserved. Cereals included emmer, free threshing wheat (probably bread wheat but again no diagnostic rachis was found), barley and possible spelt. The identification of spelt is made more secure by the presence of a spelt glume base in the sample. Wild/weed seeds comprised one dock, two different species of sedge and two species of small seeded legume.

- 6.2.18 Sample 14 from Romano-British ditch context 607 contained a moderate proportion of intrusive roots and just less than 20 charcoal fragments over 2 mm in size. One wheat grain was present as were two emmer glume bases and one spelt glume base. Wild/weed seeds included three as yet unidentified species (although whether these are charred or modern is uncertain) and one chickweed (probably common chickweed *Stellaria media*), without destroying these seeds it is not certain whether or not the wild species are in fact charred, or are modern .
- 6.2.19 Sample 15 from Romano-British ditch context 608 contained a low proportion of intrusive roots and just over 50 charcoal fragments over 2 mm in size. It contained just over 100 cereal grains including free-threshing wheat, possible free-threshing wheat grains, emmer wheat, spelt, grains which could be either emmer or spelt, barley (some of which appeared to be hulled) and other possible barley grains, and possible oats. There were also around 100 items of chaff in the form of glume bases. Most of the glume bases were those of spelt wheat, but a significant quantity of emmer glume bases were also present. The charred weed/wild seed assemblage was relatively small with under 10 seeds present in the flots: large seeded grasses were most common including one seed identified as brome grass (*bromus* sp.), and knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) type, two other wild seeds were not identified further at this preliminary stage,

6.3 Further potential

Charred plant remains

- 6.3.1 Emmer wheat, spelt wheat and free threshing wheat were present in the charred crop assemblage. Emmer and spelt chaff (glume bases) were present, although free-threshing wheat chaff was not, so the variety of free-threshing wheat cannot be confirmed. Rye and oats are both present in small numbers, these are species typically under-represented in the archaeological record (van der Veen, 1992). No oat chaff was present so it is not possible to determine whether the oat grains present in this assemblage represent wild or cultivated oats. Barley was present, and where this was relatively well-preserved some grains could be identified as being of the hulled variety. Such a cereal assemblage is typical of the Romano-British period in England (van der Veen, 1989). The cereal grains present are likely to have been charred accidentally during food preparation or parching prior to dehusking, milling or storage. Germinating barley grains (as found in sample 6) are sometimes associated with brewing (*ibid*), although it is equally possible that they germinated after becoming damp in storage.
- 6.3.2 The assemblage of wild/weed taxa includes some typical crop weeds and taxa of fertile disturbed soils including goosefoots, (*Chenopodium* spp), black bind-weed (*Fallopia convolvulus*) oraches (*Atriplex* sp) and docks (*Rumex* spp). Found alongside charred cereal grains it is likely that these seeds were harvested along with cereal crops and charred as crop processing waste. Other possible sources of charred wild or weed plant seeds may however include kindling, animal fodder and roofing or flooring material.
- 6.3.3 Full sorting and analysis of the charred plant assemblage present in samples 4, 5 and 6 (fill contexts 708, 707 and 705 respectively from Romano-British boundary/enclosure ditch), sample 10 (context 310, upper fill of Romano-British ditch) and sample 15 (context 608 Romano-British ditch) would be recommended in order to establish a fully quantified record of the crop types and other plant remains present at the Site. Full sorting and identification would be expected to result in the recovery of wild or weed plant taxa missed during preliminary scanning and to allow for the identification to species level of taxa which could not be identified fully during preliminary assessment. Analysis of this assemblage would enable further investigation of crop husbandry practices and crop processing techniques.

Waterlogged plant remains

- 6.3.4 Sample 11 (context 209 lower fill of Romano-British ditch) was identified as potentially containing waterlogged plant remains. It contains very little charred material, but a range of uncharred wild/weed seeds. Whether these seeds are archaeological or modern material is unclear, as many of the taxa identified were also present in other (not waterlogged) samples as intrusive modern material. A subsample, 6 litres in volume, was taken from sample 11 before flotation, and this subsample has been wet-sieved and retained to allow further analysis. Some roundwood possibly suitable for use in radiocarbon dating was present in this sample.

Wood charcoal

- 6.3.5 Less than 30 wood charcoal fragments greater than 2 mm in size were present in samples 7 (context 406), 8 (context 905), 9 (context 308), 10 (context 310), 11 (context 209), 12 (context 210) and 14 (context 207). Around 50 wood charcoal fragments greater than 2 mm in size were present in samples 1 (context 106), 3 (context 207), 4 (context 708) and 15 (context 608). Around 100 wood charcoal fragments greater than 2 mm in size were present in sample 5 (context 707). Well over 100 wood charcoal fragments greater than 2 mm in size were found in samples 2 (context 205) and 13 (context 211).
- 6.3.6 Further analysis of samples 2 (context 205 Romano-British ditch), 5 (context 704 Romano-British ditch fill) and samples 13 (context 211 undated ditch fill) could be undertaken. Palynological evidence from Roman Britain suggests that phases of woodland clearance occurred during this period, with consequent pressure on woodland resources for fuel (Dark 2000). Identification of 100 >2 mm charcoal fragments using high power microscopy from each of these samples would enable further investigation of the charcoal assemblage composition, providing information on the types of wood utilised for fuel and woodland management strategies.

Mollusca

- 6.3.7 Rich assemblages of over 100 land snail shells (Mollusca) were present in the flots of samples 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15. Assessment of this assemblage by a specialist would determine the potential of this material to provide palaeoenvironmental information for the Site.

6.4 Conclusions

- 6.4.1 Many of the wild/weed taxa present in the assemblages are strongly associated with human presence as indicators of disturbed ground. Species indicative of a damp local environment are present, but one where human cultural activity took place. Both the assemblages of charred seeds and the uncharred seeds from the wetter basal ditch fill deposits are consistent in this regard. Many of the arable weeds present in several of the samples do not usually thrive in damp conditions, suggesting that there were areas of better drained ground with fertile soils suitable for arable cultivation in the vicinity.
- 6.4.2 Anthropogenic clearance of this landscape is supported by the presence of significant quantities of charcoal in many of the samples and by many of the wild taxa indicative of anthropogenic disturbance present. Such woodland clearance is likely to have been undertaken to create agricultural land, and/or for fuel and was common during the Romano-British period.
- 6.4.3 The activity best evidenced by this archaeobotanical assemblage is late stage crop processing. The assemblage of cereal grains and chaff is likely to derive from dehusking prior to cooking, and of items accidentally charred during cooking. It is an assemblage

consisting of discarded waste products from these activities. The assemblage is typical of the cereal types in use during the Romano-British period.

- 6.4.4 The assemblage is typical in composition and condition of discard deposits of this period. The grains are in relatively poor condition, nearly all lacking their epidermis and many are morphologically distorted or incomplete and lacking parts critical to their identification to species or variety. The quantities of wild/weed seeds in the samples are relatively small, samples 4 and 5 being the most informative in terms of weed species and the environment in which crops were grown.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 General

- 7.1.1 There was a close correspondence between the excavated features and the location of anomalies detected during the geophysical survey: geophysical anomalies were always found to have a matching archaeological feature. The cropmark and excavated evidence reveal that the features responsible for the geophysical anomalies are more continuous and slightly more extensive than their appearance in the geophysical survey data suggests and the evaluated area probably contains an enclosure complex.
- 7.1.2 Finds of Bronze Age to early Middle Iron Age pottery represent the earliest activity on the Site, but no *in situ* prehistoric features were positively identified, with the material instead found redeposited in Romano-British ditches. A settlement of possible Iron Age date was identified during the geophysical survey 600m to the east of the evaluated area (Wessex Archaeology 2015b), and it is possible that the Bronze Age–Iron Age finds from the evaluation trenches relate to activity within the hinterland of the settlement.
- 7.1.3 The archaeological sequence is dominated by Romano-British material. The geophysical survey and trenching programme have revealed that the evaluated area contains a number of ditched enclosures. These seemingly had a role in the agricultural exploitation of the land close to the confluence of the Rivers Isbourne and Avon during the Romano-British period, with the heyday of the Site perhaps occurring between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD. Remains of post-Roman date were virtually absent; this would be consistent with the Site being given over to farming since the Roman period.
- 7.1.4 Cropmark evidence (Fig. 1) indicates that the evaluated area coincides with the northern periphery of a Romano-British roadside settlement, and probably lies outside the formerly inhabited area. Ditch 606 in trench 6 in particular corresponds well to projected line and orientation of the linear cropmark thought to represent the eastern boundary of the main area of occupation (Fig. 2). No *in situ* structural features were identified during fieldwork. Within the evaluation trenches, evidence for occupation (in the form of artefacts and charred plant assemblages) diminished to the east, indicating lower impact land-use in this part of the Site. The presence of grave 804 in the eastern part of the Site might also indicate that this area lay away from the main areas of occupation, although concentrations of burials very much within Romano-British roadside settlements are known elsewhere in Roman Britain (e.g. Millett 2006, Daniel *et. al.* forthcoming). The botanical assemblages suggest damp ground in this part of the Site, and this may have acted as a constraint on settlement in the past.
- 7.1.5 It is assumed that the finds and environmental assemblages from the evaluation trenches originated from, or were intimately associated with, the roadside settlement in the



scheduled area to the south. Some preliminary observations about the settlement can therefore be made.

- 7.1.6 Although no buildings were recorded in the evaluation trenches, building debris was present, with this indicating robust structures in a Roman, rather than indigenous, tradition. Angular stone rubble was present in reasonably dense concentrations in the tertiary fills of a number of ditches. This does not derive from the underlying geology, and so must have been imported, presumably for use in wall construction. Roof tiles in stone and ceramic were collected during the evaluation, indicating the roofing materials used within the settlement. The stone column in particular is a well-made object and reveals something of the status of the settlement and the cultural aspirations of at least some its inhabitants. This tallies with the Site's location on the southern edge of the West Midlands, within 'a zone which exhibits most clearly the impact of Roman style cultural markers' (Esmonde Cleary 2011, 133).
- 7.1.7 Some aspects of the pottery assemblage, such as the colour-coated flagons, beakers and bowls corroborate the architectural evidence in indicating a more Romanised lifestyle. The settlement appears fairly well connected to regional trade networks, with access to pottery from Dorset, Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire and Central Gaul. This aspect of the archaeology is congruent with the settlement's roadside location.
- 7.1.8 Animal bone representing food waste reveals a diet dominated by beef, with some sheep/goat, and small amounts of pork. The range of cattle and sheep/goat body parts indicates livestock were slaughtered and butchered on Site for local consumption. Most of the cattle and sheep/goat bones are from fully mature animals, and the majority of pig bones are from immature animals. The mortality pattern is generally consistent with an emphasis on milk, wool and manure and the use of cattle as traction animals to aid arable cultivation, rather than one based on the production of prime meat. Overall, this animal husbandry strategy is generally consistent with regional norms (Esmonde Cleary 2011, 131). The botanical assemblages indicate fertile soils suitable for arable cultivation in the vicinity, with the cereal types again typical of those in use during the Romano-British period (*ibid.*).
- 7.1.9 The plant and animal bone evidence together indicate a mixed farming economy. The settlement may have founded on the roadside in order to use it to trade and transport the surplus from such agriculture. Future work might be able to confirm whether or not the settlement of potential prehistoric date to the east of the evaluated area relocated following the Roman invasion, to take full advantage of the opportunities for economic and social interaction that the Roman road offered.
- 7.1.10 There is no evidence that the occupation of the Site extended beyond the late 4th century AD. This might further highlight the degree to which exploitation of the Site was reliant on the wider social and economic frameworks of the Roman occupation. The majority of the artefactual material was found redeposited in the dark tertiary ditch fills, which also contained the building debris. The evidence therefore indicates that these deposits formed after the heyday of the settlement. In this they might equate with the 'dark earth' commonly found sealing late Romano-British settlement in urban contexts. Such 'dark earth'-type deposits may once have been more widespread on the Site, but have only survived subsequent reworking by the plough where they have slumped into the upper portions of the deepest ditches.



7.2 Impact of the proposed development upon the setting of the scheduled Romano-British settlement

- 7.2.1 As part of the general aims of the archaeological evaluation consideration has been given to the impact of the Proposed Development upon the setting of the scheduled Romano-British settlement to the south of the Site (NHLE 1020257). The DBA (Wessex Archaeology 2015a) noted that as the settlement survives only as buried archaeological remains its setting does not meaningfully contribute to its significance as a nationally important heritage asset. The setting of the settlement has been considerably altered during the recent past with little of its historic setting now remaining. The significance of the monument is instead drawn from its evidential and historical values.
- 7.2.2 The evaluation has not identified any evidence to alter this view and it is not judged that the proposed development will have an impact on the setting of the Scheduled Monument.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 General

- 8.1.1 From the foregoing discussion it will be appreciated that the evaluation successfully met its aims and objectives. The presence of buried archaeological remains in the western end of the Site has been confirmed, and their extent has been revealed so far as trenching array allowed. The detailed gradiometer survey proved reasonably reliable in predicting the presence of buried archaeology, although features were a little denser and more extensive than the geophysical data indicated. It is clear that boundaries continue into the Site from the scheduled area located immediately to its south. Within the evaluated area, however, no *in situ* structural remains were recorded, with ditches predominating within the record instead. The density of these, and signals of associated activity, diminished in the eastern part of the evaluated area. Although the ditch fills proved relatively rich in artefacts and palaeoenvironmental remains, the final deposition of these post-dated the heyday of the settlement to the south, as they were found in the upper parts of the ditch profiles and were associated with rubble from demolished buildings.
- 8.1.2 The Site lies within the area covered by the West Midlands Archaeological Research Framework (Watt 2011). The framework highlights the need to better understand the economic basis of the Romano-British countryside, particularly with regard to woodland management and establishing the degree to which lower order settlements were self-sufficient or dependant on trade (Esmonde Cleary 2011). The generally good survival of animal bone and other environmental remains, along with some evidence for waterlogging, is likely to augment the research value of the Site in this regard. The reasonably substantial and varied ceramic component may prove informative regarding the penetration of Roman-style approaches to food storage, preparation and consumption. Such practices are bound up with notions of cultural identity, a topic that the research framework identifies as requiring clarification.
- 8.1.3 Should future development occur on the Site, further archaeological mitigation works are likely to be required. The details of these will be agreed in advance by the Historic Environment Advisor for Worcestershire County Council and the Client. The occurrence of the 'nighthawking' incident that damaged archaeological deposits whilst the evaluation was underway indicates that future archaeological work should contain a contingency for overnight security.



9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Museums Worcestershire, who has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, with the accession code to be issued upon deposition. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

9.2 Preparation of archive

9.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Museums Worcestershire, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site code (108093), and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- *one file/document case of paper records and A3/A4 graphics;*
- *3–4 standard archive box of artefacts.*

9.2.3 A copy of this report will be supplied to the Worcestershire HER and uploaded to the OASIS online database under the reference number wessexar1-246461.

9.3 Selection and retention

9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis.

9.3.2 In this instance, the majority of the assemblage warrants retention for long-term curation, but the very small quantities of oyster shell have no further potential and could be discarded.

9.3.3 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2011).

9.4 Security copy

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.

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11 APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1: Context descriptions by trench

Trench 1						
Trench Dimensions: 20m x 1.8m x 0.6m						
Deposit	Deposit Category	Deposit Descript.	In Cut	Cut Category	Cut Description	Depth Deposit
101	topsoil	dark brown silty clay	N/A	N/A	N/A	0–0.3
102	Natural	loose, golden brown gritty gravelly sand	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.55–0.6+
103	Subsoil	dark yellowish brown silty clay	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3–0.55
105	tertiary deposit	mid orange brown sandy clay with comm on sub-angular coarse gravel	104	Ditch	E-W aligned with a V-shaped profile	0.55–0.77
106	Secondary fill	mid greyish brown sandy clay with very comm on sub-angular coarse gravel	104	Ditch	E-W aligned with a V-shaped profile	0.77–1.05

Trench 2						
Trench Dimensions: 20m x 1.8m x 0.7m						
Deposit	Deposit Category	Deposit Descript.	In Cut	Cut Category	Cut Description	Depth Deposit
201	topsoil	dark greyish brown sandy silty clay	N/A	N/A	N/A	0–0.25
202	Natural	mixed light yellow and orange and beige gritty gravelly sand	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.5–0.7+
203	Subsoil	dark orange brown sandy silty clay	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.25–0.5
205	tertiary deposit	dark grey sandy clay with comm on sub-angular coarse gravel	204	Ditch	N-S aligned with concave base and steep convex sides	0.4–0.75
207	tertiary deposit	mid greyish brown sandy clay with moderate sub-angular coarse gravel	206	Pit	sub-circular pit with shallow concave sides and flat base	0.4–0.6
209	Secondary fill	mid grey sandy clay with sub-rounded coarse gravel	208	Ditch	N-S aligned with flat base and moderate concave sides	
210	Secondary fill	light greyish yellow sandy clay with sparse sub-rounded medium gravel	208	Ditch	N-S aligned with flat base and moderate concave sides	
211	Tertiary fill	Dark grey/black sandy clay with regular small stones	208	Ditch	N-S aligned with flat base and moderate concave sides	

Trench 3						
Trench Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m x 0.6m						
Deposit	Deposit Category	Deposit Descript.	In Cut	Cut Category	Cut Description	Depth Deposit
301	topsoil	dark brown silty clay	N/A	N/A	N/A	0–0.3
302	Natural	loose mixed yellow, orange and beige gravelly sand	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.6+



303	Subsoil	mid brown with a reddish hue gritty silty sand	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3–0.6
305	Secondary fill	reddish brown silty sand with sub-angular medium gravel	304	Ditch	NE-SW aligned with irregular base and shallow concave sides	0.3–0.48
306	tertiary deposit	very dark grey sandy silty clay with sub-angular medium gravel	304	Ditch	NE-SW aligned with irregular base and shallow concave sides	0.48–0.87
308	Secondary fill	Bluish grey silty clay	307	Ditch	NW-SE aligned with flat base and steep irregular sides.	
309	Secondary fill	yellowish brown silty sandy clay with occasional sub-rounded medium gravel	307	Ditch	NW-SE aligned with flat base and steep irregular sides.	
310	tertiary deposit	very dark grey silty sand with sub-angular medium gravel	307	Ditch	NW-SE aligned with flat base and steep irregular sides.	
312	Fill	dark greyish brown clay silt with comm on angular cobbles, not excavated	311	Ditch	N-S aligned, not excavated	
314	Fill	dark brownish grey clay sandy silt with sparse cobbles, not excavated	313	Ditch	N-S aligned, not excavated	

Trench 4						
Trench Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m x 0.6m						
Deposit	Deposit Category	Deposit Descript.	In Cut	Cut Category	Cut Description	Depth Deposit
401	topsoil	very dark brown sandy silty clay	N/A	N/A	N/A	0–0.25
402	Natural	mixed orange and beige sand	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.45–0.6+
403	Subsoil	dark orange brown silty sandy clay	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.25–0.45
405	Secondary fill	dark grey silty clay with abundant sub-angular medium gravel	404	Ditch	NE-SW aligned with concave base and steep straight sides	
406	Secondary fill	mid orange grey sandy silty clay with moderate sub-angular medium gravel	404	Ditch	NE-SW aligned with concave base and steep straight sides	
407	Secondary fill	mid orange sandy silty loam with sparse sub-angular medium gravel	404	Ditch	NE-SW aligned with concave base and steep straight sides	
408	tertiary deposit	mid orange grey sandy loam with comm on sub-angular coarse gravel	404	Ditch	NE-SW aligned with concave base and steep straight sides	

Trench 5						
Trench Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m x 0.45m						
Deposit	Deposit Category	Deposit Descript.	In Cut	Cut Category	Cut Description	Depth Deposit
501	topsoil	dark brownish grey silty sandy clay	N/A	N/A	N/A	0–0.3



502	Natural	mixed yellow, beige and orange sand	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.65–0.8+
503	Subsoil	mid brown sandy silty clay	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3–0.65
504	Layer	greyish brown sandy silty clay with panning, fill of natural fissure	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.65–0.8+
506	Fill	mid grey silty sand with frequent coarse gravel, not excavated	505	Ditch	N-S aligned, possibly curvilinear, not excavated	
508	Secondary fill	mid greyish brown clay	507	Ditch	N-S aligned, not fully excavated	
509	Primary fill	mid orange yellow sand with rare rounded medium gravel	507	Ditch	N-S aligned, not fully excavated	
510	Secondary fill	mid brownish grey silty clay with rare rounded fine and medium gravel	507	Ditch	N-S aligned, not fully excavated	
511	Fill	mid grey sandy clay silt with occasional sub-rounded white medium gravel	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Trench 6						
Trench Dimensions: 20m x 1.8m x 0.45m						
Deposit	Deposit Category	Deposit Descript.	In Cut	Cut Category	Cut Description	Depth Deposit
601	topsoil	dark brownish grey silty clay	N/A	N/A	N/A	0–0.3
602	Natural	mixed beige, yellow and orange gritty sand	N/A	N/A	N/A	
603	Subsoil	mid brown sandy clay silt	N/A	N/A	N/A	
605	Fill	mid brownish grey sandy silty clay with sparse coarse gravel, not excavated	604	Ditch	N-S aligned, not excavated	
607	Secondary fill	mid greyish brown with a yellow hue silty sand with rare cobbles	606	Ditch	N-S aligned with concave base and steep concave east side and stepped concave west side	
608	tertiary deposit	dark greyish brown sandy silt with rare medium gravel	606	Ditch	N-S aligned with concave base and steep concave east side and stepped concave west side	
610	Secondary fill	dark greyish brown sandy silt with rare medium gravel	609	Pit	with concave sides, possibly ditch terminus	

Trench 7						
Trench Dimensions: 15m x 1.8m x 0.45m						
Deposit	Deposit Category	Deposit Descript.	In Cut	Cut Category	Cut Description	Depth Deposit
701	topsoil	dark greyish brown silty clay	N/A	N/A	N/A	0–0.25



702	Natural	mixed beige, yellow and orange sand and gravel	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.35–0.55+
703	Subsoil	mid brown sandy clay	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.25–0.35
705	Secondary fill	mid to dark brownish grey clay with rare coarse gravel	704	Ditch	E-W aligned	
706	Secondary fill	mid brownish grey silty sandy clay with rare rounded medium and coarse gravel	704	Ditch	E-W aligned	
707	deliberate backfill	dark grey sandy clay silt with rare rounded medium gravel	704	Ditch	E-W aligned	
708	Secondary fill	mid to dark grey sandy clay silt with rare coarse gravel	712	Ditch	E-W aligned with concave base and straight steep sides	
709	tertiary deposit	dark grey sandy clay silt with rare coarse gravel and cobbles	712	Ditch	E-W aligned with concave base and straight steep sides	
710	tertiary deposit	dark brownish grey sandy clay silt with moderate angular boulders	704	Ditch	E-W aligned	
711	Primary fill	mid yellowish brown sandy silt with moderate fine gravel	704	Ditch	E-W aligned	

Trench 8						
Trench Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m x 0.55m						
Deposit	Deposit Category	Deposit Descript.	In Cut	Cut Category	Cut Description	Depth Deposit
801	topsoil	dark greyish brown silty clay	N/A	N/A	N/A	0–0.25
802	Natural	mixed orange and beige gritty sand	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4+
803	Subsoil	mid orange brown clay sand	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.25–0.4
805	Fill	dark brownish grey with a greenish hue with moderate rounded coarse gravel, not excavated	804	Ditch	Ditch terminus or possible pit, not excavated	
807	deliberate backfill	mid orange brown sandy loam with moderate sub-rounded medium gravel, not excavated	806	Grave	sub-ova; E-W aligned, not excavated	

Trench 9						
Trench Dimensions: 15m x 1.8m x 0.63m						
Deposit	Deposit Category	Deposit Descript.	In Cut	Cut Category	Cut Description	Depth Deposit
901	topsoil	dark brownish grey silty clay	N/A	N/A	N/A	0–0.3
902	Natural	mixed beige, yellow and orange sand	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.58–0.63+



903	Subsoil	orange brown clay sand	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3–0.58
905	Secondary fill	mid brownish grey silty sandy clay with rare rounded medium gravel	904	Ditch	E-W aligned with concave base and straight steep sides	0.5–1.1

Trench 10	Trench Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m x 0.55m					
Deposit	Deposit Category	Deposit Descript.	In Cut	Cut Category	Cut Description	Depth Deposit
1001	topsoil	dark brown sandy silty clay	N/A	N/A	N/A	0–0.3
1002	Natural	mixed loose beige and light yellow and orange gritty sand	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4–0.55+
1003	Subsoil	mid brown sandy silty clay	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3–0.4



11.2 Appendix 2: Environmental Data

Samples				Flot									
Feature	Context	Sample	Vol. Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% Roots	Charred Plant Remains			Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Analysis		
						Grain	Chaff	Other				Comments	
104	106	1	30	60	30	C		C	<i>Hordeum</i> sp. grain, <i>Triticum dicoccum</i> grain & cf <i>T. dicoccum</i> grain. Large seeded poaceae, <i>Atriplex</i> sp.	4/54	Mollusca (A**) Bone Fragments (C) Slag (C)	Mollusca	
204	205	2	30	70	50	A		B	<i>Triticum</i> cf <i>dicoccum</i> grain, <i>Triticum</i> cf <i>spelta</i> . <i>Triticum</i> indet. grain. cf <i>Secale cereale</i> , Cereal indet. <i>Rumex acetosella</i> , <i>Chenopodium album</i> , <i>Ranunculus arvensis</i> , <i>Polygonum</i> sp., cf <i>Centaurea</i> sp. unidentified wild seed	44/218	Mollusca (A**)	Wood charcoal Mollusca	
206	207	3	30	40	25	B		C	<i>Triticum dicoccum</i> grain, <i>Triticum diococcum/spelta</i> grain, Cereal indet. Small seeded <i>Poaceae</i> . <i>Polygonaceae/ Cyperaceae</i>	5/53	Mollusca (A**)	Mollusca	
712	708	4	20	40	5	A*	B	A	<i>Triticum dicoccum</i> glume base. <i>Triticum</i> cf <i>dicoccum</i> grain and glume base., <i>Triticum spelta</i> chaff and <i>T. cf spelta</i> grain. <i>Triticum</i> sp grain (cf free threshing type). <i>Hordeum</i> sp. grain and cf <i>Hordeum</i> sp. grain. <i>Triticum</i> indet. grain. Cereal indet grain. <i>Avena</i> sp grain. Large & Small seeded <i>Poaceae</i> , <i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> , <i>Centaurea</i> sp., <i>Potentilla</i> sp., <i>Rumex</i> spp., <i>Solanaceae</i> sp., <i>Chenopodium album</i> , <i>Polygonaceae</i> sp. <i>Cyperaceae</i> sp. <i>Leguminaceae</i> spp (small seeded)	8/54	Mollusca (A**) Bone fragments (C) Pottery fragments (B)	Charred plant remains	
704	707	5	20	20	40	A*		A*	<i>Triticum</i> sp grain (free threshing) <i>Triticum dicoccum</i> grain <i>Triticum</i> cf <i>dicoccum</i> grain <i>Triticum</i> indet. grain <i>Avena</i> sp grain <i>Hordeum</i> sp grain & cf <i>Hordeum</i> grain. Cereal indet grain. <i>Atriplex</i> sp. <i>Chenopodium album</i> . <i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> <i>Rumex</i> spp. <i>Polygonum aviculare</i> type.	14/87	Mollusca (A**)	Wood charcoal Mollusca Charred plant remains	



Samples				Flot								
Feature	Context	Sample	Vol. Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% Roots	Charred Plant Remains			Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Analysis	
						Grain	Chaff	Other				Comments
									Small & large seeded <i>poaceae</i> <i>Leguminaceae</i> spp (small seeded) including <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> & <i>Leguminaceae/Brassicaceae</i>			
704	705	6	20	150	10	A*		C	<i>Triticum dicoccum</i> grain. <i>Triticum cf dicoccum</i> grain. <i>Triticum cf spelta</i> grain. <i>Triticum</i> indet grain. <i>Secale cereale</i> grain. Cereal indet grain. Large seeded <i>poaceae</i>	2/0	Mollusca (A*) Bone fragments (B)	Charred plant remains
404	406	7	20	10	70	C	C		<i>cf Secale cereale</i> grain. <i>Triticum spelta</i> glume base.	2/0	Mollusca (A*) Slag (B)	
904	905	8	20	20	50	C				0/5	Mollusca (A**) Slag (C)	Mollusca
307	308	9	10	10	60	C			Cereal indet grain.	4/15	Mollusca (C) Bone fragments (C)	
307	310	10	20	20	50	A*	C	C	<i>Triticum spelta</i> glume base, <i>Triticum cf spelta</i> glume base. <i>Triticum dicoccum</i> grain. <i>Triticum cf dicoccum</i> grain. <i>Hordeum</i> sp. grain. <i>Avena</i> sp. grain <i>Chenopodium album</i>	5/21	Mollusca (A**) Bone fragments (B) Pottery fragments (B)	Mollusca Charred plant remains
211	209	11	14	50	5		C		<i>Triticum cf spelta</i> glume base	5/8	Bone fragment (C) Mollusca (A*)	Waterlogged plant remains
208	210	12	20	40	75	C		C	<i>cf Avena</i> sp. grain. <i>Triticum</i> indet. grain. Unidentified wild seeds	0/9	Mollusca (A**)	Mollusca
208	211	13	20	50	60	A	C	B	<i>Triticum dicoccum</i> grain. <i>Triticum cf dicoccum</i> grain. <i>Triticum</i> sp. (free threshing) grain. <i>Triticum</i> sp (cf free threshing grain) <i>Triticum spelta</i> glume base & <i>Triticum cf spelta</i> grain. <i>Hordeum</i> sp grain. <i>cf Avena</i> sp. <i>Triticum</i> indet. grain Cereal indet. grain. <i>Cyperaceae</i> spp. <i>Leguminaceae</i> spp. (small seeded) <i>Rumex</i> sp.	51/328	Mollusca (A*) Pottery fragments (C) Bone fragments (B)	Wood charcoal



Samples				Flot								
Feature	Context	Sample	Vol. Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% Roots	Charred Plant Remains			Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Analysis	
						Grain	Chaff	Other				Comments
606	207	14	20	10	50	C	C	C	<i>Triticum</i> indet. grain. <i>Triticum dicoccum</i> glume base <i>Triticum spelta</i> glume base <i>Stellaria cf media</i> Unidentified wild seeds	3/16	Mollusca (A**)	Mollusca
606	608	15	20	30	25	A**	A**	B	<i>Triticum</i> sp. (free threshing) & <i>Triticum</i> sp. (cf free threshing) grain. <i>Triticum dicoccum</i> grain and chaff. <i>Triticum spelta</i> grain and chaff. <i>Hordeum</i> sp and cf <i>Hordeum</i> sp grain. <i>Triticum</i> indet. grain. Cereal indet. grain. cf <i>Avena</i> sp. grain. <i>Poaceae</i> (large seeded). <i>Bromus</i> sp. <i>Polygonum aviculare</i> type. Unidentified wild seeds.	7/57	Mollusca (A**) Bone Fragments (B) Pottery fragments (C)	Mollusca Charred plant remains

Key: A***= exceptional, A**=100+, A*=30-99, A=10-29, B=5-9, C=1-4



11.3 Appendix 3: OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-246461

Project details

Project name	Land West of Vale Business Park, Evesham, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching on land to the west of Vale Business Park, Evesham, Worcestershire. Ten trenches were excavated across approximately 1 hectare of land; the majority positioned to target linear geophysical anomalies thought to represent settlement-related features. The evaluation trenches exposed a co-axial network of ditches; these appear associated with the scheduled Romano-British roadside settlement immediately to the south. Pottery dates place the heyday of the settlement between the 2nd and later 4th century. Convergent evidence indicates that the evaluated area lay on the northern periphery of the settlement and beyond the formerly inhabited area. No in situ structural features were identified, although building rubble including a fine carved stone column was recovered from the ditches. Such finds, and aspects of the pottery assemblage, suggest a relatively high degree of Romanisation on the part of the settlement's inhabitants. An inhumation grave was discovered in trench 8, but was left unexcavated, in accordance with the WSI methodology. The plant and animal bone evidence indicate a mixed farming economy, and tally with regional norms. The waterlogging evident in the deepest features and the generally good level of preservation of animal bone boost the archaeological potential of the Site, which has the potential to contribute to established research questions. The gradiometer survey was reasonably accurate in predicting the presence of archaeological remains, although the features encountered in the trenching were slightly more numerous and extensive than forecast by the survey.</p>
Project dates	Start: 14-03-2016 End: 18-03-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	108093 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	WSM 67796 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	GRAVE Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	COLUMN Roman
Significant Finds	POT Late Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Extensive green field commercial development (e.g. shopping centre, business



	park, science park, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WORCESTERSHIRE WYCHAVON EVESHAM Land West of Vale Business Park
Postcode	WR11 2LZ
Study area	1 Hectares
Site coordinates	SP 03350 41660 52.072878875846 -1.951118023856 52 04 22 N 001 57 04 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 34m Max: 36m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	with advice from County Archaeologist
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Alexandra Grassam
Project supervisor	Patrick Daniel
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	St Modwen Properties PLC

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Worcestershire Museums
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Worcestershire Museums
Digital Contents	"Survey","other"
Digital Media available	"GIS","Geophysics","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets"
Paper Archive recipient	Worcestershire Museums
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media	"Context sheet","Diary","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

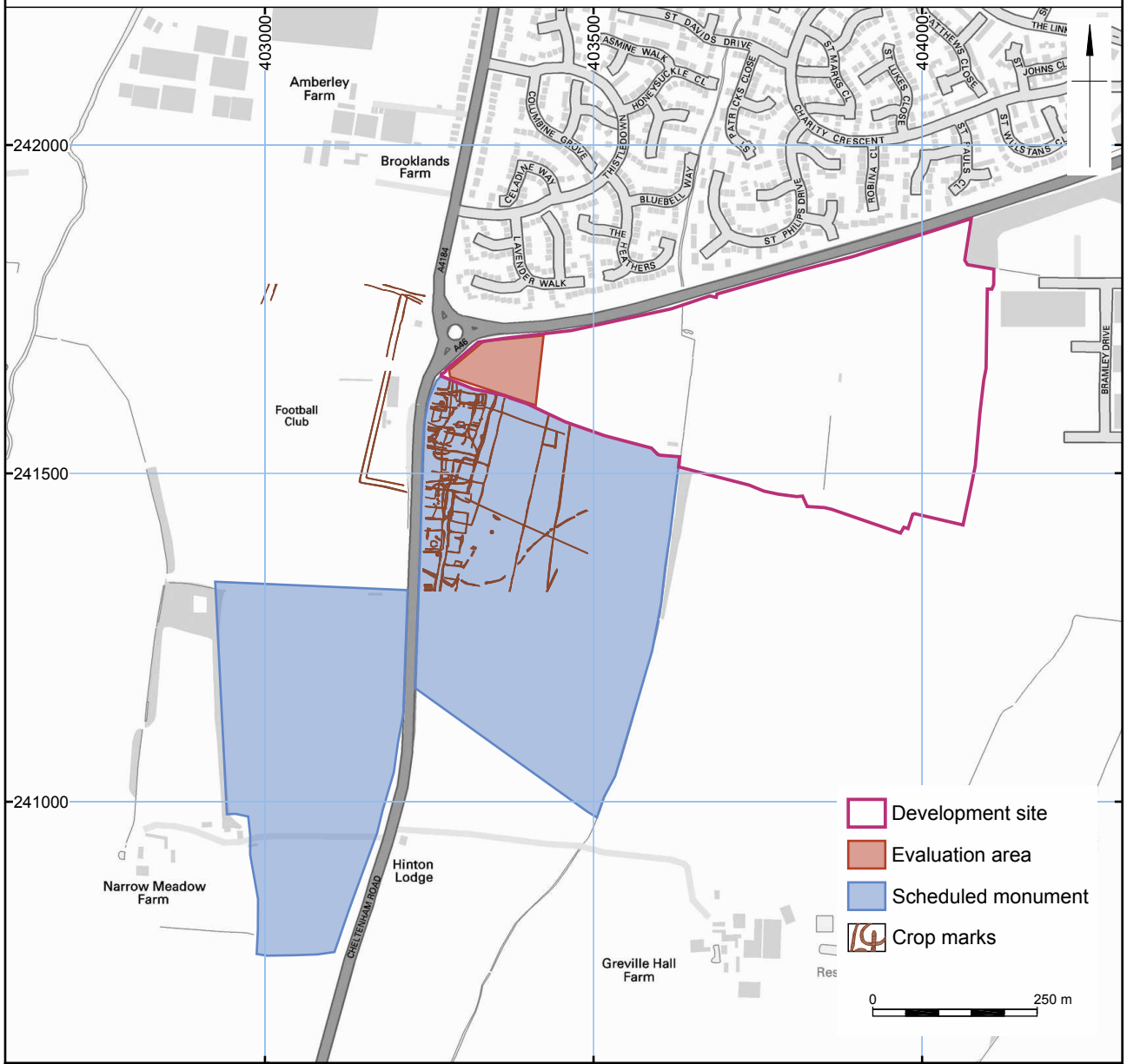
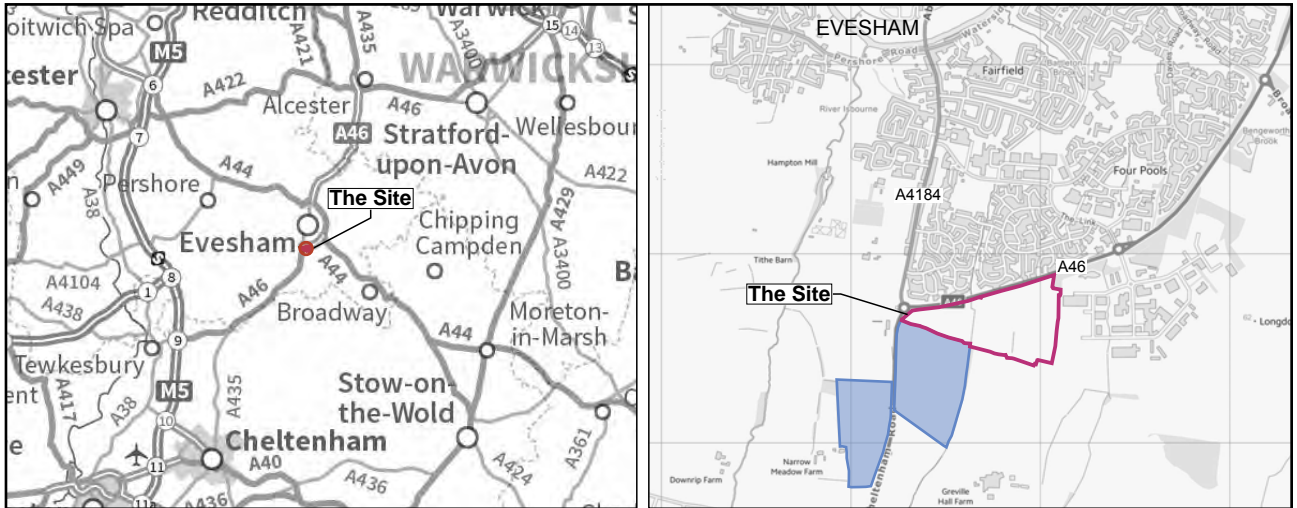



available

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land West of Vale Business Park, Evesham, Worcestershire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Daniel, P.
Other bibliographic details	108093
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Sheffield
Description	c. 100 page comb bound A4 report with colour plates and figures

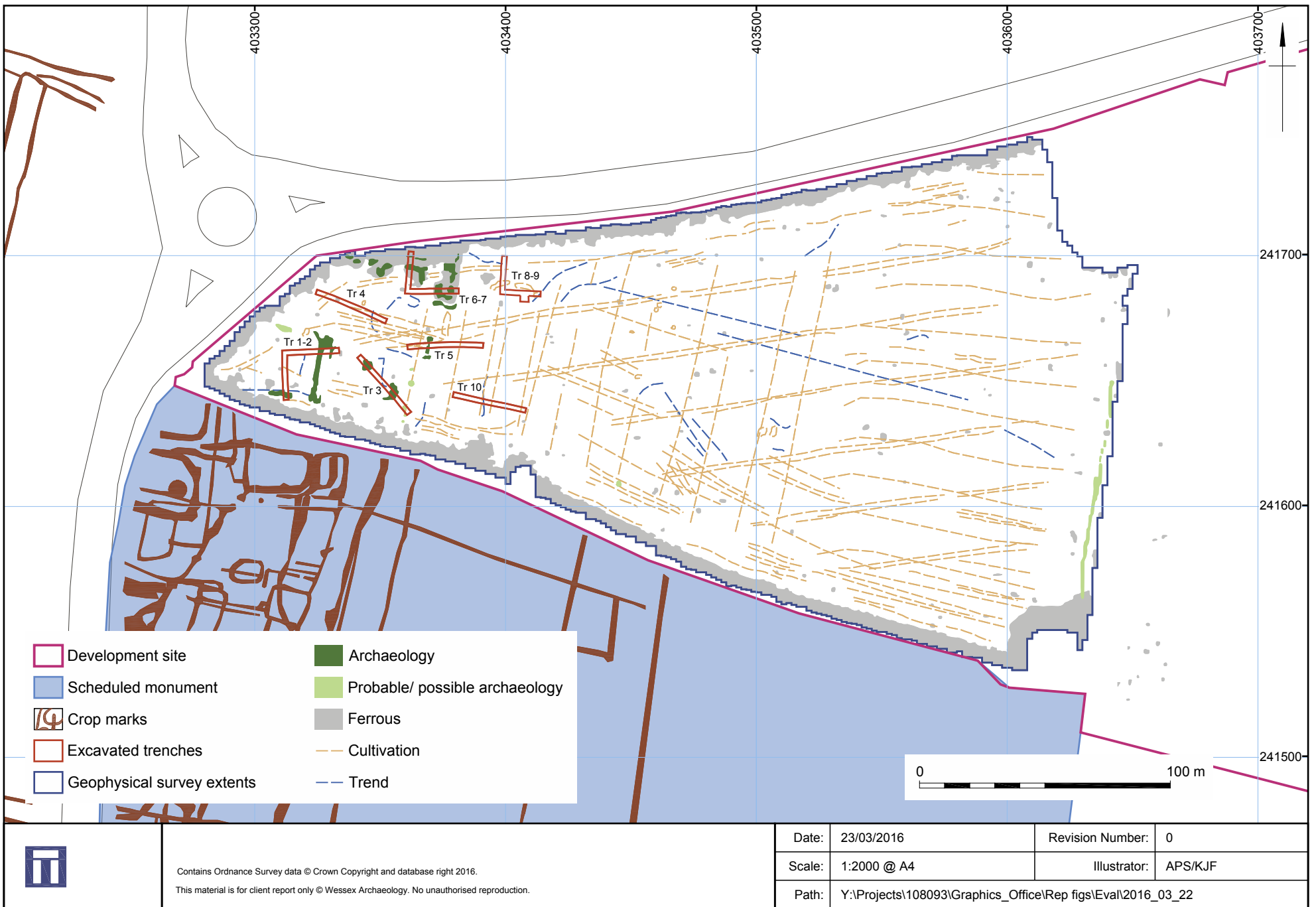
Entered by	Patrick Daniel (p.daniel@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	10 May 2016



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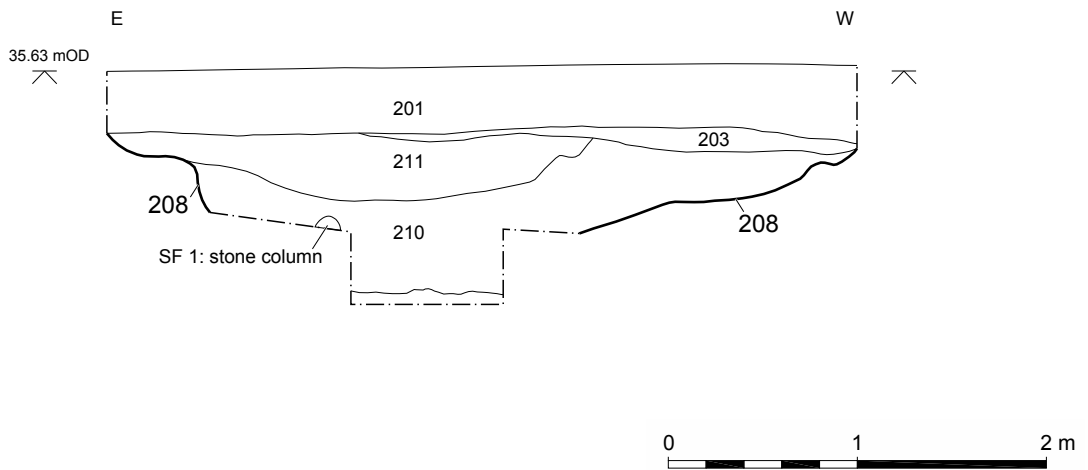
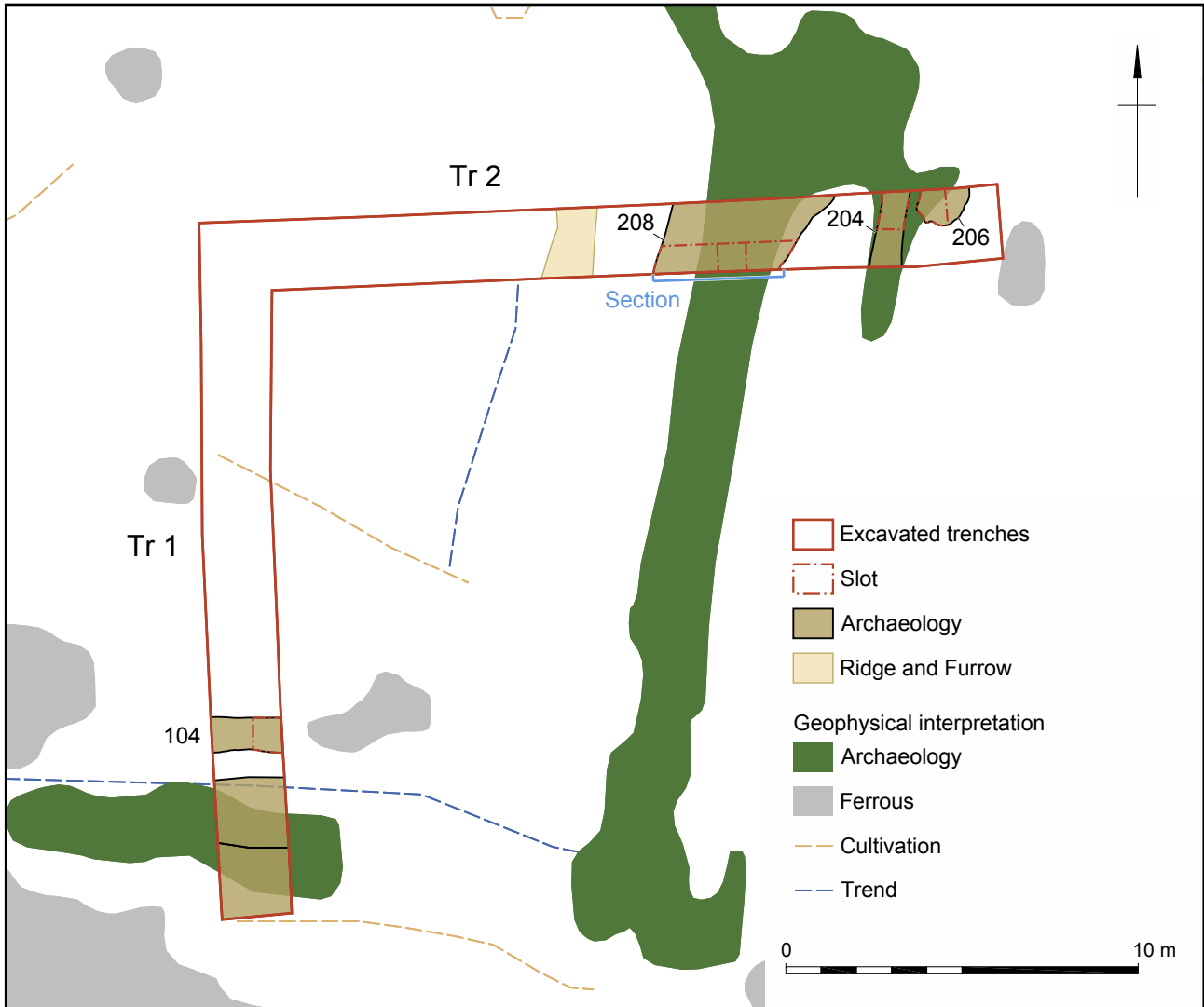
Site location

Figure 1



Survey data and geophysics plan

Figure 2

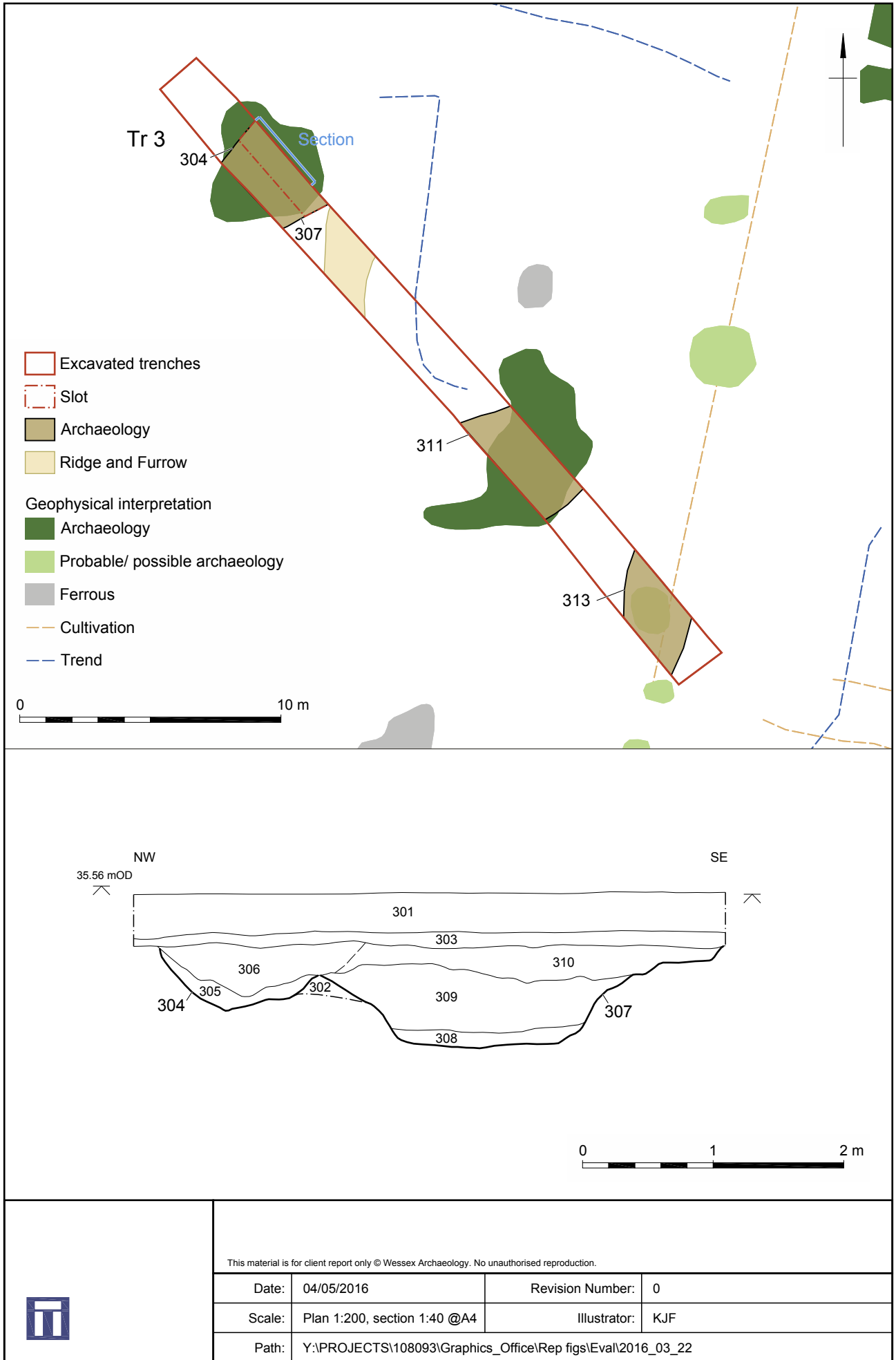


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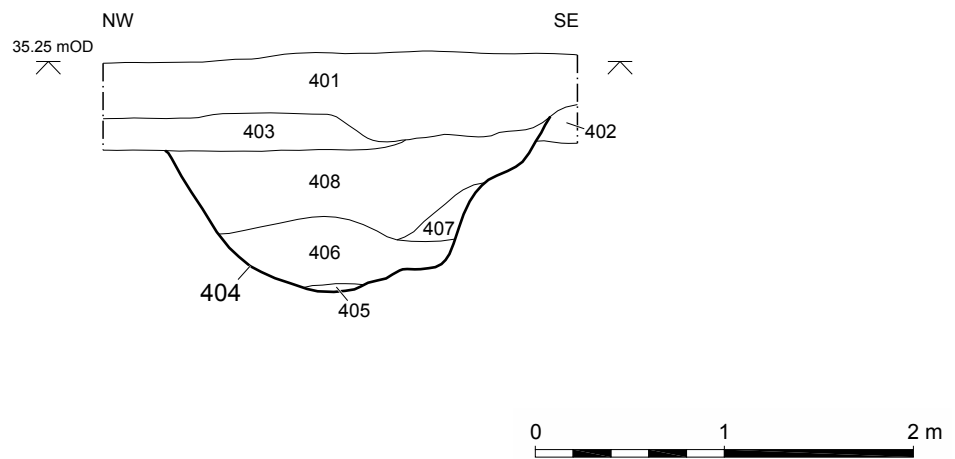
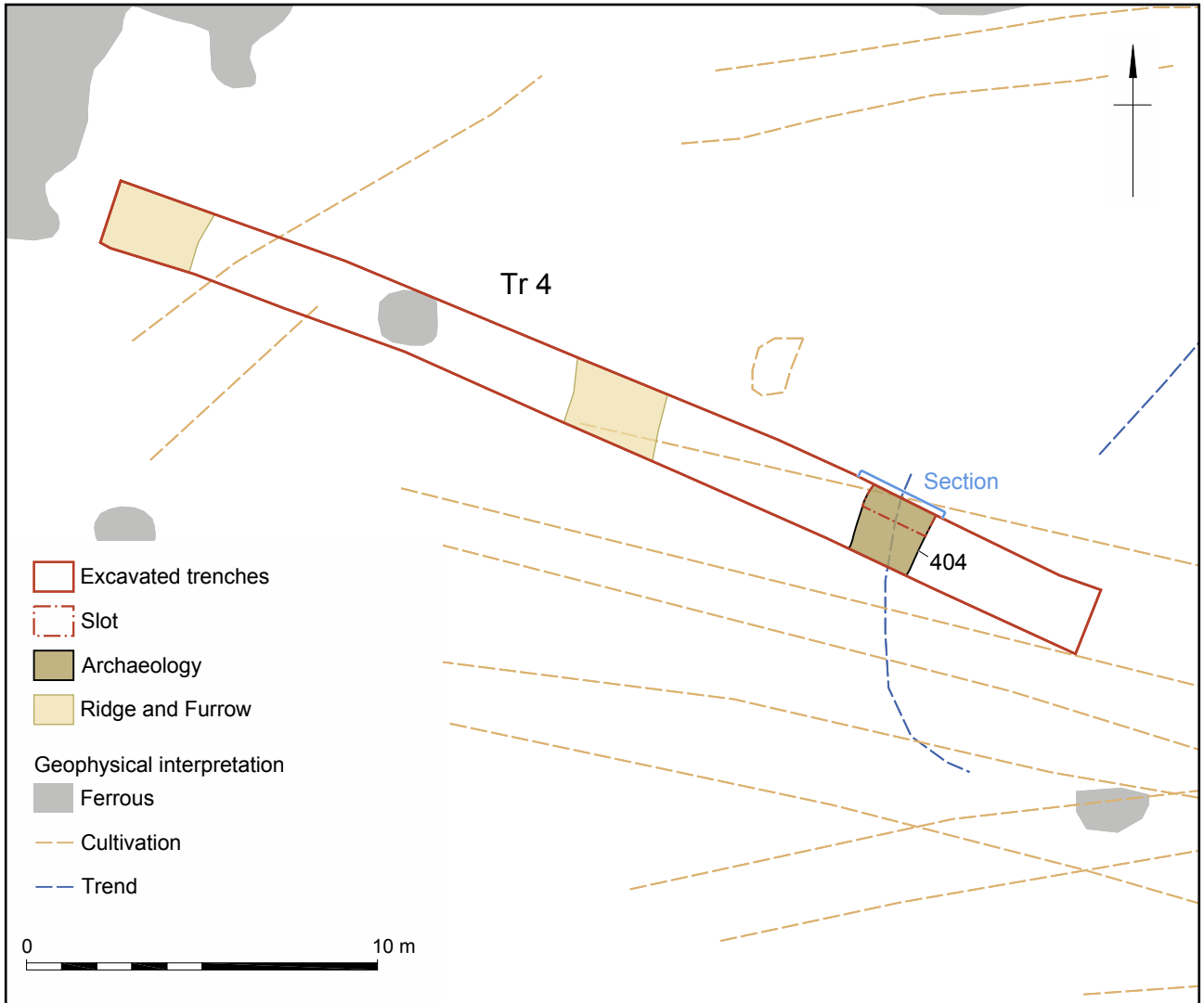
Plan of Trench 1 and 2, and north-facing section through ditch 208

Figure 3



Plan of Trench 3 and south-west-facing section through ditch 304 and pit 307

Figure 4



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Scale: Plan 1:200, section 1:40 @A4

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Plan of Trench 4 and south-facing section through ditch 404

Figure 5



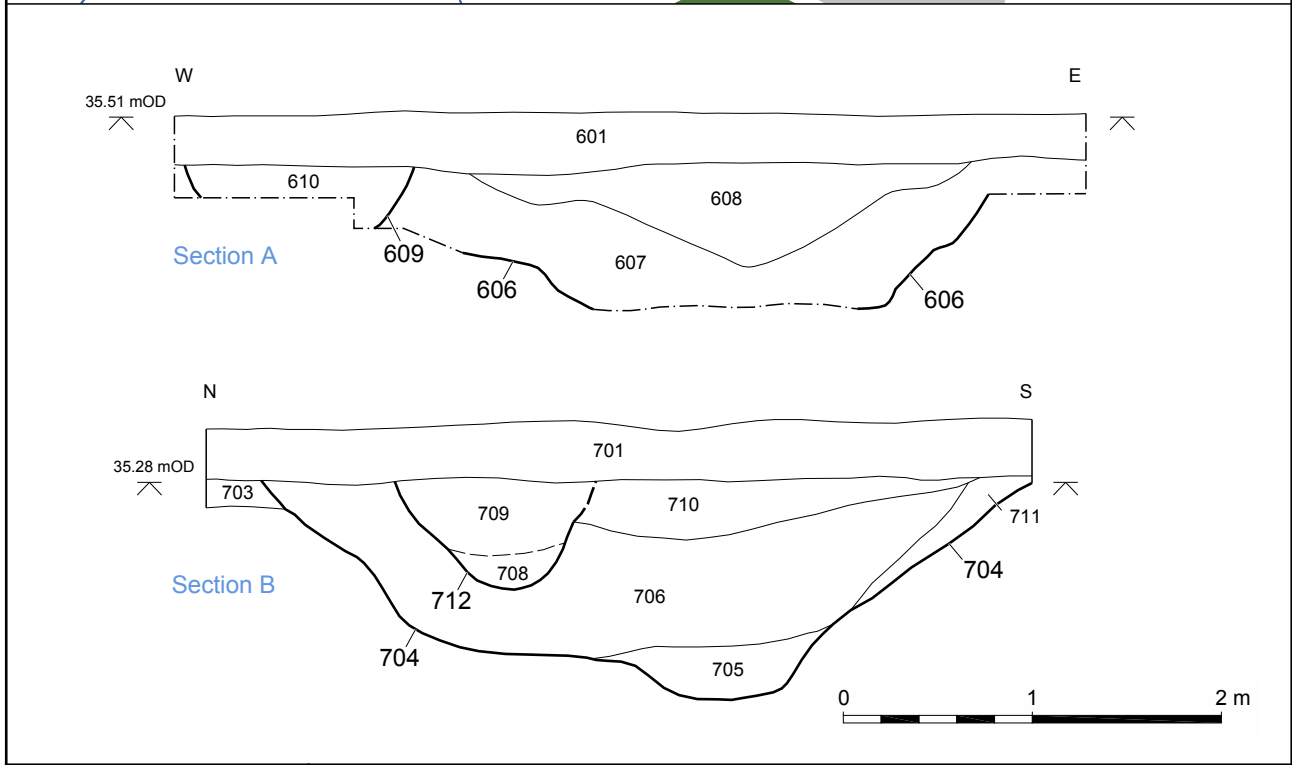
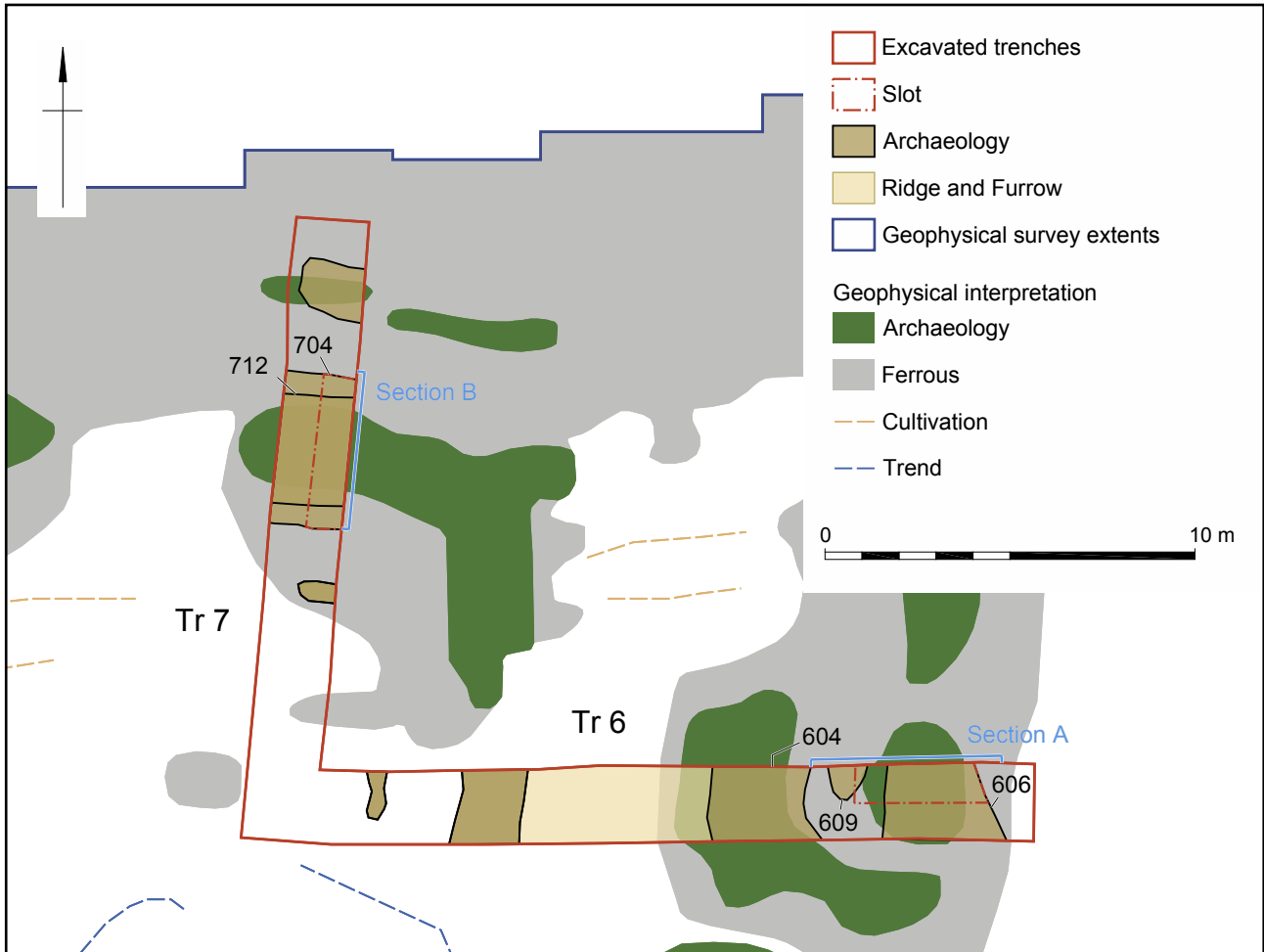
- Excavated trenches
- Slot
- Archaeology
- Ridge and Furrow
- Geophysical interpretation
- Archaeology
- Probable/ possible archaeology
- Ferrous
- Cultivation
- Trend




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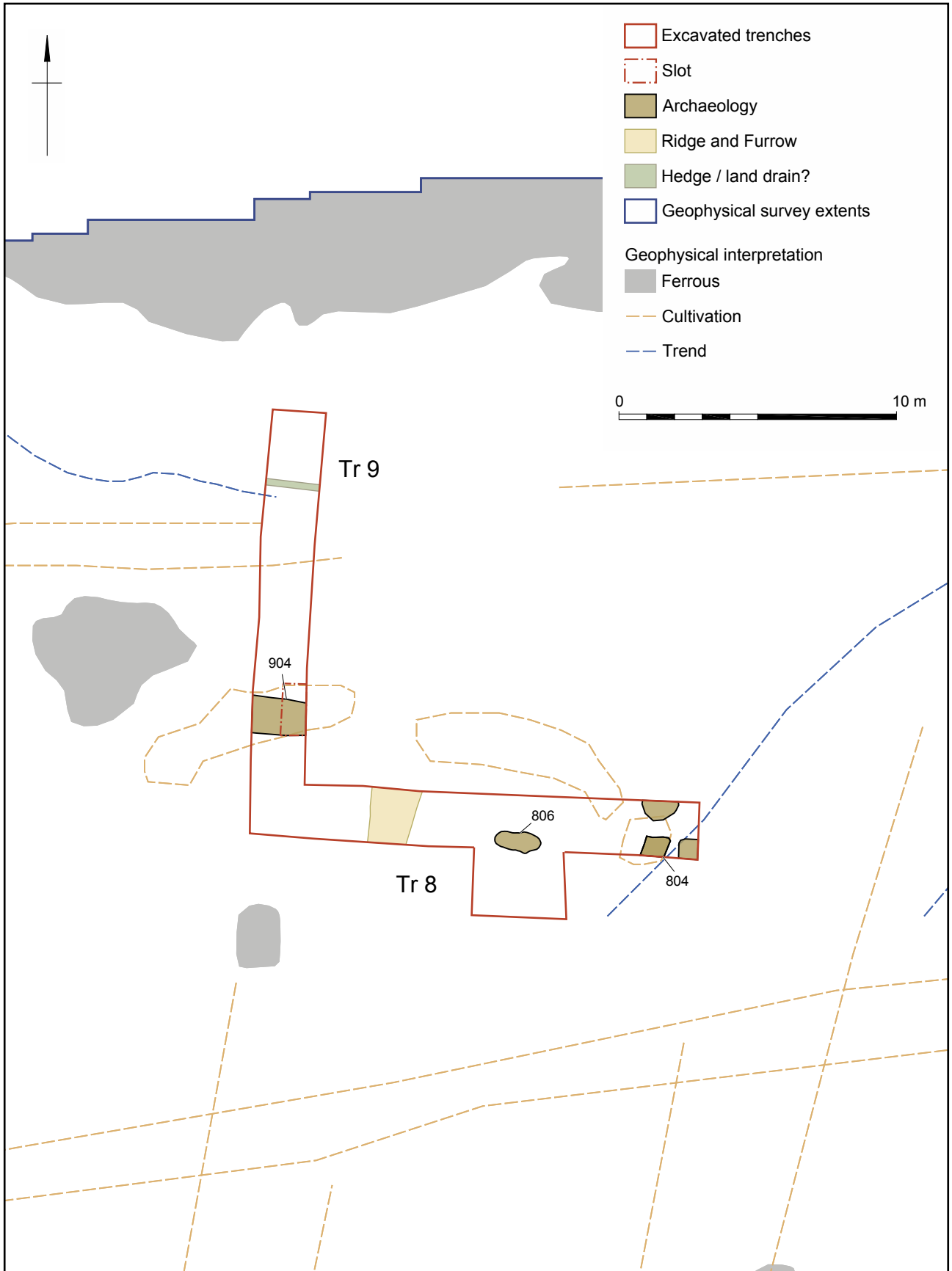
Plan of Trench 5


Figure 6



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Plan of Trench 6 and 7, south-facing section through ditch 606 and feature 609, and west-facing section through ditch 704 and recut 712 Figure 7



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Plan of Trench 8 and 9

Figure 8



Plate 1: Typical deposit sequence, as recorded in Trench 9



Plate 2: Ditch 104, west-facing section


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Plate 3: Trench 2 following machining, camera facing west



Plate 4: Ditch 204, south-facing section


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Plate 5: Ditch 304 and pit 307, south-west facing section



Plate 6: Ditch 507 sealed by layer 511, south-facing section


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Plate 7: Ditch 606, south-facing section



Plate 8: Ditch 704 and recut 712, west-facing section



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Plate 9: Ditch 904, west-facing section



Plate 10: Stone column (SF1) from ditch 208 (0.5 m scale)

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