



Land West of Cory Way, West Wiltshire Trading Estate, Westbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



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Summary

To comply with a planning condition for a programme of archaeological investigation, Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by David Brain Partnership, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 0.836-hectare parcel of land located west of Cory Way, within West Wiltshire Trading Estate, Westbury, Wiltshire, centred on NGR 386044 153069.

The evaluation comprised four 50m trenches (5% sample) randomly spaced within the development area.

Two of the four trenches (Trenches 1 and 3) revealed archaeological features comprising drainage and boundary ditches of probable post-medieval or modern date. Residual finds were recovered from topsoil and subsoil deposits and included pottery, slag, oyster shell, iron, and struck flint ranging in date from the late prehistoric to modern era.

Features, including mole drains and ceramic land drains, relating to recent agricultural activity were also identified.

All the trenches revealed some level of disturbance with widespread dumping of soils and building debris from recent nearby development.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank David Brain Partnership, for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, in particular Tom Brand. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful to Peter Sammons, of Myddelton & Major, for arranging access to the site.

The fieldwork was directed by Roy Krakowicz, with the assistance of Jen Smith. This report was written by Ray Holt and edited by Bruce Eaton. Illustrations were produced by Ken Lymer. The project was managed by Bruce Eaton on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



Land West of Cory Way, West Wiltshire Trading Estate

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by David Brain Partnership, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 0.836 ha parcel of land located west of Cory Way, West Wiltshire Trading Estate, Westbury, Wiltshire, centred on NGR 386044 153069 (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the construction of a new milk distribution centre, consisting a single-story office, car parking, HGV lorry bays, workshop and wash facilities. A planning application (Ref. 17/03764/FUL) submitted to Wiltshire Council, was granted, subject to conditions, one of which relate to archaeological investigation. The archaeological condition asked for a programme of archaeological investigation to be carried out prior to and/or during construction works.
- 1.1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Foundations Archaeology 2017). Rachel Foster approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.4 The evaluation comprising four trial trenches (5 % sample) was undertaken between 27 and 29 March 2018.

1.2 Scope of the report

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

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The evaluation area is located approximately 1km to the northwest of Westbury. The site is bounded to the east by Cory Way, to the west by Quartermaster Road and is situated within an area of industrial units and agricultural fields.
- 1.3.2 Existing ground levels sloped gently from 52 m OD at the eastern edge of the site to 50 m OD at the western edge.
- 1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Oxford Clay Formation – Mudstone, with no superficial deposits recorded (British Geological Survey online viewer).



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background is adapted from the WSI (Foundations Archaeology 2017). No previous archaeological investigations are recorded within the site.

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

2.2.1 The Wiltshire and Swindon HER shows that the line of a Medieval deer park runs across the proposed development site.

2.2.2 Approximately 150 m to the east a Romano-British settlement has been identified, it is unlikely that the settlement continues into the site, but there is some potential for peripheral remains to be present.

2.2.3 Approximately 300 m to the southwest of the site is a Medieval moated site (SM 12048).

2.2.4 A substantial linear bank is also contained within the site, which appears to correspond with a field boundary present on the first edition Ordnance Survey map.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Foundations Archaeology 2017) and in compliance with the ClfA' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), were:

- To provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- To inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 General objectives

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

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- To establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- To make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.



4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Foundations Archaeology 2017) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using GPS, in the approximate positions as those proposed in the WSI, though Trenches 1 and 3 had to be slightly moved from their original positions because of on-site obstacles (**Fig. 1**).

4.2.2 Four trial trenches, each measuring 50 m in length and 1.85 m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.3 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits identified was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.

4.2.4 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Where found, artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

Recording

4.2.5 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections), and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.

4.2.6 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.7 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Foundations Archaeology 2017). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the*

Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (English Heritage 2011).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist, on behalf of the LPA, monitored the evaluation. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with both the client and the Assistant County Archaeologist.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Two of the four excavated trial trenches contained archaeological features and deposits (Trenches 1 and 3), indicating archaeological remains are present across the site (**Fig. 1**).
- 5.1.2 The uncovered features comprised ditches of probable post-medieval or modern date. Unstratified finds were also recovered from the topsoil and subsoil.
- 5.1.3 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed by trench.
- 5.1.4 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**). **Figure 1** shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches.

5.2 Modern overburden, soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The natural substrate consisting of mid greyish yellow silty clay (102, 203, 302 and 405) was revealed in all four trenches at a depth of between 0.35 m and 0.5 m below present ground level (BPGL) (**Plates 1, 3, 5 and 7**). This was overlain in Trenches 2 and 4 by mid greyish brown silty clay subsoil (202 and 404 respectively) measuring 0.15 m in thickness from which was recovered four sherds of residual pottery dating to the medieval period, a fragment of undated ceramic building material and four fragments of possible struck flint. No subsoil was recorded in trenches 1 and 3.
- 5.2.2 Dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil overlay the natural substrate in Trenches 1 and 3 (deposits 101 and 301 respectively), and the subsoil in trenches 2 and 4 (deposits 201 and 403 respectively) (**Plates 2, 4, 6 and 8**). Measuring an average of 0.2 m in thickness, the topsoil contained eight sherds of modern pottery, slag, oyster shell, an iron padlock, two fragments of struck flint and a late prehistoric blade fragment.
- 5.2.3 An extensive modern made ground deposit (100, 200, 307 and 400) sealed the topsoil in all four trenches and measured an average of 0.2 m in thickness across the site (**Plates 2, 4, 6 and 8**). Modern hardcore surfaces (300 and 401) were recorded in Trenches 3 and 4 and a dump of concrete building rubble 111 at the southern end of Trench 1.

5.3 Trench 1

- 5.3.1 Trench 1 revealed two ditches 103 and 109 on a similar north-east to south-west alignment (**Figure 1**), the southernmost ditch 109 having been recut (107). Both ditches were cut through topsoil 101 and were sealed by modern made ground 100 suggesting a post-medieval or modern date.



- 5.3.2 North-east to south-west aligned ditch 103 was revealed in the southern half of Trench 1. Measuring 1.3 m in width and 0.35 m in depth with shallow sloping concave sides, the ditch contained a single clay silt fill 104 from which no datable artefacts were recovered.
- 5.3.3 Land drain 105 was cut through the natural substrate in the base of ditch 103, was sealed by the ditch fill 104 and contained a red ceramic drain. This suggests the ditch and drain were contemporary and functioned as a single drainage feature.
- 5.3.4 North-east to south-west aligned ditch 109 was revealed at the southern end of Trench 1. Measuring 2.15 m in width and 0.95 m in depth with moderate sloping sides to a flat base, ditch 109 contained clay silt fill 110, from which no datable artefacts were recovered. The northern edge of the ditch was truncated by a later recut 107 on the same alignment (**Plate 9**).
- 5.3.5 Recut 107 measured 3.1 m in width and 0.75 m in depth with shallow sloping sides to a concave base and contained artefactually sterile clay silt fill 108.

5.4 Trench 3

- 5.4.1 Trench 3 revealed a north-east to south-west aligned ditch 303 with associated recut 305 and probably represents a continuation of ditch 109 and recut 107 revealed in Trench 1 (**Figure 1**).
- 5.4.2 Ditch 303 measured 2.6 m in width, 0.66 m in depth with moderate to steep sloping sides to a flat base. The ditch contained clayey silt fill 304 from which no datable artefacts were recovered. Fill 304 was truncated by a later recut 305 which measured 2.2 m in width and 0.48 m in depth with moderate sloping sides to a rounded base (**Plate 10**). The clay silt fill 306 of the recut contained fragments of modern ceramic building material (not recovered) suggesting a recent date.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A very small quantity of pottery, ceramic building material, shell, slag, iron and flint was collected during the evaluation, all from unstratified deposits. The finds have a potential dating range spanning the late prehistoric to modern periods. The finds have been quantified by material type and context; the results are presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Finds by material type (number of pieces/weight in grammes)

Context	Pottery	Slag	Iron	Flint	CBM	Shell
101	-	-	-	3/7	-	-
201	1/4	-	-	-	-	-
202	1/15	-	-	3/10	-	-
301	1/1	1/18	1/49	-	-	1/6
403	6/57	-	-	-	--	-
404	3/15	-	-	1/6	1/6	-
Total	12/92	1/18	1/49	7/23	1/6	1/6



6.2 Pottery

Medieval

- 6.2.1 Three very small abraded and undiagnostic sherds of medieval coarseware were recovered from subsoil 404 and a single abraded coarseware rim sherd from subsoil 202

Modern

- 6.2.2 Six sherds of Refined Whiteware were recovered from topsoil 201 and 403, one sherd of English Saltware Stoneware from topsoil 403 and one sherd of transfer printed ware from topsoil 301.

6.3 Other Finds

- 6.3.1 The other finds comprise a fragment of metalworking slag from topsoil 301, an iron padlock from topsoil 301, six fragments of struck flint from topsoil 101 and subsoil 202/404, a late prehistoric blade fragment from topsoil 101, an undated fragment of ceramic building material from subsoil 404, and an oyster shell from topsoil 301.

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Summary

- 7.1.1 The evaluation identified a limited number of archaeological features within the site, with features revealed in two of the four trenches.
- 7.1.2 Where archaeological features were encountered they were observed to cut through the topsoil deposit suggesting late post-medieval or modern origins and relate to field boundaries and drainage features.
- 7.1.3 Artefacts recovered from the topsoil in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4, and subsoil in Trenches 2 and 4 are likely to have originated through manuring of agricultural fields.

7.2 Discussion

- 7.2.1 All the trenches excavated revealed some level of disturbance and dumping of building debris from nearby development. The evaluation has established that there is a reasonably high potential for archaeology to survive, albeit of probable agricultural origin and recent date.

8 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Bristol. Wiltshire Heritage Museum is not currently accepting archives. The archive will be temporarily stored at Wessex Archaeology's office in Salisbury. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

8.2 Preparation of the archive

- 8.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Wiltshire Heritage Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).



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

- 1 file of paper records and A4 graphics;

8.3 Selection policy

8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum, and is fully documented in the project archive.

8.3.2 In this instance, it is proposed no artefacts be retained.

8.4 Security copy

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

8.5 OASIS

8.5.1 An OASIS online record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated, with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

9 COPYRIGHT

9.1 Archive and report copyright

9.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

9.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

9.2 Third party data copyright

9.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which



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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

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

Trench 1		50 x 1.85 m		NGR 385991 153060	50.2 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description		Depth bgl (m)
100	Made ground		Mid yellowish brown silty clay, rare sub angular stones, moderate modern plastic wrappings		0.00–0.20
101	Topsoil		Mid greyish brown silty clay, sparse sub angular stones		0.20–0.40
102	Natural		Mid greyish yellow silty clay, sparse flint pebbles		0.40 +
103	Ditch		North-east to south-west aligned ditch measuring 1.3m in width and 0.35m in depth with shallow sloping concave sides		0.20-0.55
104	Secondary fill	103	Mid grey brown clayey silt, rare sub angular stones		0.20-0.55
105	Land drain		North-east to south-west aligned land drain cut measuring 0.3m in width and 0.1m+ in depth with vertical sides		0.55-0.65 +
106	Deliberate backfill	105	Mid grey brown clay and clayey silt containing red ceramic field drain		0.55-0.65 +
107	Ditch recut		North-east to south-west aligned recut of ditch 109 measuring 3.1m in width and 0.75m in depth with shallow sloping sides to a concave base		0.05-0.80
108	Secondary fill	107	Dark brownish grey clayey silt, sparse sub angular stones		0.05-0.80
109	Ditch		North-east to south-west aligned ditch measuring 2.15m in width and 0.95m in depth with moderate sloping sides to a flat base		0.05-1.0
110	Secondary fill	109	Light yellowish grey clayey silt, sparse sub angular stones		0.05-1.0
111	Dump deposit		Dark brownish grey clayey silt with abundant boulder sized chunks of concrete		0.0-0.24

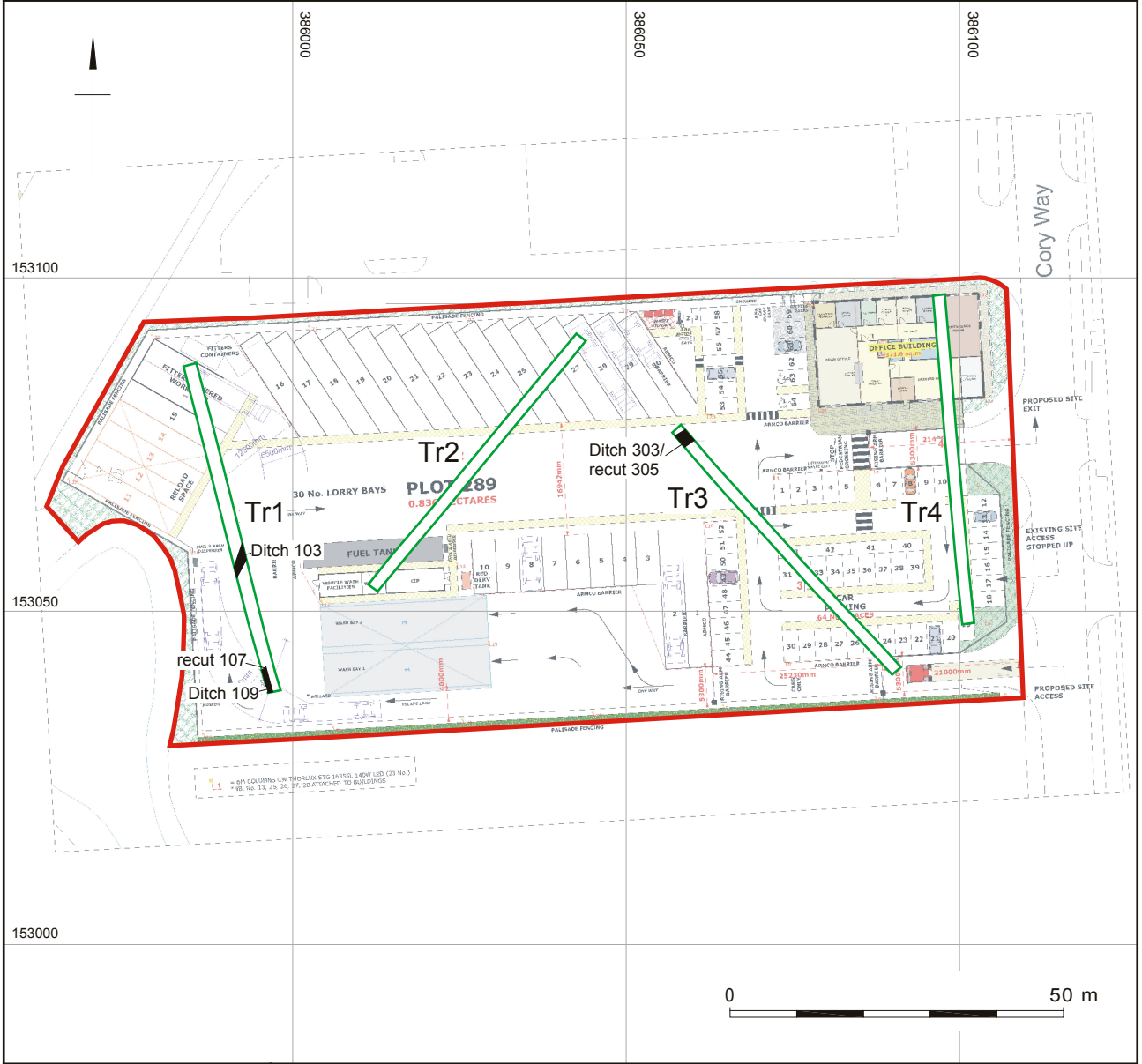
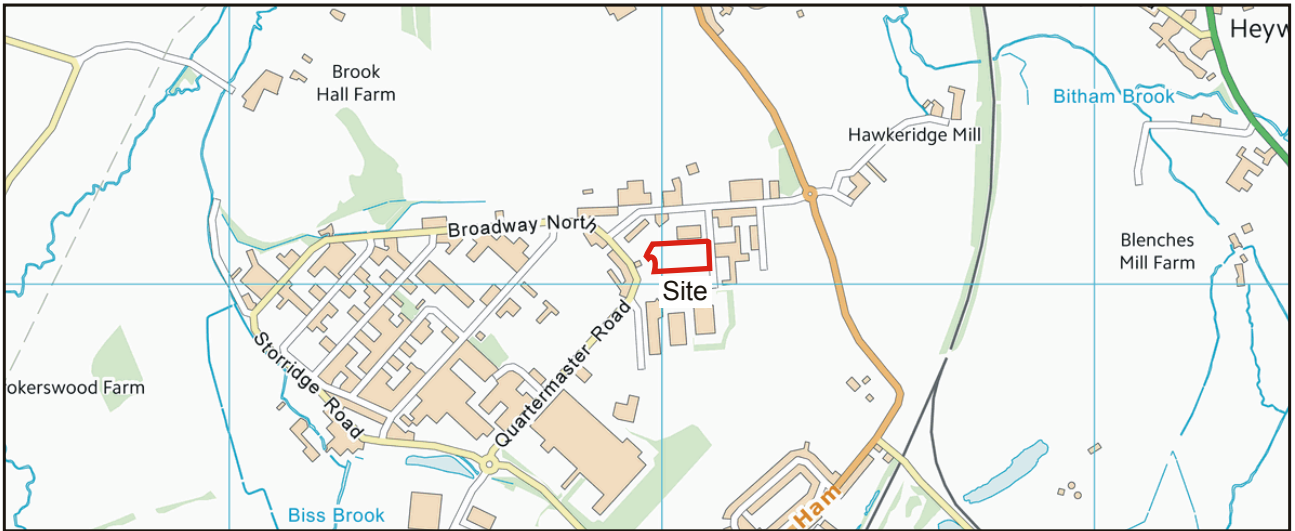
Trench 2		50 x 1.85 m		NGR 386027 153071	50.9 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description		Depth bgl (m)
200	Made ground		Dark grey brown silt with pockets of yellow clay, rare sub angular stones, moderate modern plastic wrappings		0.00–0.20
201	Topsoil		Mid greyish brown silty clay, sparse sub angular stones		0.20–0.35
202	Subsoil		Mixed dark grey brown silt and greyish yellow silty clay		0.35-0.50
203	Natural		Mid greyish yellow silty clay, sparse flint pebbles		0.50 +

Trench 3		50 x 1.85 m		NGR 386073 153059	51.4 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description		Depth bgl (m)
300	Made ground		Hardcore, moderate modern plastic wrappings at the south-east end of trench 3		0-0.14
301	Topsoil		Mid brownish grey clayey silt, sparse sub angular stones		0.14-0.37
302	Natural		Mid greyish yellow silty clay, sparse flint pebbles		0.37 +
303	Ditch		North-east to south-west aligned ditch measuring 2.6m in width, 0.66m in depth with moderate to steep sloping sides to a flat base.		0.2-0.8
304	Secondary fill	303	Mid yellowish grey clayey silt, sparse sub angular stones		0.2-0.8
305	Ditch recut		North-east to south-west aligned recut of ditch 303 which measured 2.2m in width and 0.48m in depth with moderate sloping sides to a rounded base		0.2-0.68
306	Deliberate backfill	305	Mixed deposit of dark brownish grey silt, clayey silt and clay with moderate sub angular stones		0.2-0.68



307	Made ground		Dark greyish brown clayey silt at the north-west end of trench 3	0-0.1
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Trench 4	50 x 1.85 m		NGR 386099 153070	51.6 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
400	Made ground		Yellowish brown silt and silty clay, common sub angular stones, moderate modern plastic wrappings	0-0.03
401	Made ground		Hardcore beneath 400	0.03-0.20 (variable depth)
402	VOID			
403	Topsoil		Dark greyish brown clay silt, sparse sub angular stones	0.08-0.25
404	Subsoil		Mid greyish brown silty clay, sparse sub angular stones	0.25-0.38
405	Natural		Mid yellowish grey silty clay, sparse flint pebbles	0.38 +



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Site location and plan of trenches

Figure 1



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north, 2 x 1m scale



Plate 2: Trench 1, representative section looking west, 1m scale


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Plate 3: Trench 2, looking north-east, 2m and 1m scale



Plate 4: Trench 2, representative section looking north-west, 1m scale


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Plate 5: Trench 3, looking north-west, 2m and 1m scale



Plate 6: Trench 3, representative section looking north-east, 1m scale


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Plate 7: Trench 4, looking north, 2 x 1m scale



Plate 8: Trench 4, representative section looking east, 1m scale



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Plate 9: Trench 1, ditch 109 and recut 107, looking west-south-west, 2m scale



Plate 10: Trench 3, ditch 303 and recut 305, looking south-west, 2m scale

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