



Plot 290B, West Wiltshire Trading Estate, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by David Brain Partnership, on behalf of Stonecutter Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 0.65 ha parcel of land located at Plot 290B, West Wiltshire Trading Estate, Wiltshire, centred on NGR 386297 153094.

The evaluation comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of four trial trenches and represents a 4% sample of the proposed development area.

The evaluation identified a limited number of archaeological features within the site, with features revealed in all the four trenches, with a slight concentration of features in the western part of the development.

The uncovered features comprised ditches representing three main periods of activity: Late prehistoric, post-medieval and modern and relate to field boundaries and drainage features. Residual finds within later features and the subsoil provided evidence of potential Romano-British activity in the vicinity.

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The fieldwork was directed by Simon Flaherty, with the assistance of Chris Hambleton. This report was written by Ray Holt, with contributions from Grace Jones, Lorraine Higbee, Inés López-Dóriga, Samantha Rogerson and Nicki Mulhall, illustrated by Jennie Anderson and Karen Nichols and edited by Bruce Eaton. The project was managed by Bruce Eaton on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



Plot 290B 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, on behalf of Stonecutter Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 0.65 ha parcel of land located at Plot 290B, West Wiltshire Trading Estate, Wiltshire, centred on NGR 386297 153094 (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the construction of 19 light industrial units, across three blocks, one to the north and two to the south, separated by a car parking area.
- 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 (Wessex Archaeology 2019a). The Assistant County Archaeologist approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.4 The evaluation comprising four trial trenches (4 % sample) was undertaken between 14 and 16 October 2019.
- 1.1.5 On completion of the evaluation, further discussions with the Assistant County Archaeologist identified a requirement for further mitigation. The mitigation will comprise the stripping of the site under archaeological supervision to ascertain the full extent of the archaeology. This will be followed by the excavation of a proportionate sample of the archaeological remains. The mitigation works will be undertaken in early 2020.

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, further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The evaluation area is located on an irregular parcel of land, 1.1 km north-west of the town of Westbury. The B3097 bounds the Site to the east, Link Road to the north and Commerce Close to the west. The southern boundary of the Site bisects a large, post-enclosure field which is currently unmanaged pasture.
- 1.3.2 The development plot is situated within a relatively flat area of land at an elevation of approximately 55 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). Local topography falls gently to the east, towards Bitham Brook.



- 1.3.3 The underlying bedrock geology throughout the Site is mapped as Oxford Clay Formation, a sedimentary mudstone bedrock formed between 166.1 and 157.3 million years ago during the Jurassic period (British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer). This is overlain by seasonally wet, base rich loamy and clayey soils (Cranfield soil and Agrifood Institute, Soilscales Viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior desk-based assessment (DBA: WA 2018a), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1 km study area of the proposed development. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development

Watching Briefs

- 2.2.1 A Watching Brief on Land between Hawkeridge Pumping Station and Westbury Sewage Treatment Works, Westbury revealed no pre-modern activity except Romano-British finds. Building debris relating to a World War Two prisoner of war camp was identified towards the western end of the scheme (**EWI5573**).
- 2.2.2 A Watching Brief on Geotechnical Test Pits on the Westbury Eastern Bypass revealed towards the northern end of the route a potential Romano-British or medieval field system was identified. The easternmost part revealed a concentration of Late Bronze age and Early Iron Age finds. Flints of Mesolithic to Neolithic date were noted in minor concentrations below the natural spring line towards the southern and north-eastern ends of the proposed bypass (**EWI6551**).

Archaeological Evaluations

- 2.2.3 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology on Plot 289, 75 m to the west of the Site (Wessex Archaeology, 2018b). Two of the four trenches 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.
- 2.2.4 Evaluation on the proposed Westbury Eastern Bypass revealed several undated ditches, potentially related to pre-medieval field systems (**EWI6547**).
- 2.2.5 An evaluation at Hawkeridge Farm, Westbury demonstrated that previously identified geophysical anomalies were derived from subsurface remains, though many were seen on investigation to be either modern disturbance, or more often relatively modern land drainage. Discoveries of more significance included a small concentration of Early/ Middle Iron Age pottery in one trench, within a spread considered likely to be post-medieval in date. A single sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the subsoil in a different trench. Medieval (primarily 12th to early 14th century) pottery was recovered throughout the evaluation, though few features were identified that could be confidently described as

belonging exclusively to this period (most occurrences of medieval pottery were in association with later post-medieval material) (**EWI7197**).

- 2.2.6 An evaluation at Blenches Mill Farm confirmed several likely prehistoric features previously identified by geophysical survey (**EWI7346**).
- 2.2.7 Multiple phases of archaeological evaluation at Glenmore Farm identified an area of archaeological potential towards the north-eastern end of the site. Trenches 1-10 in this area contained a dense concentration of archaeological features, mainly in the form of ditches and gullies. Most were felt to be Romano-British field boundaries or drainage ditches, however some linear features were identified as a possible trackway. Further Romano-British linear features were identified in Trenches 15-21, however, the concentration of archaeological material became less dense towards the south and west. In the southern part of the site only Trench 24 contained archaeological features in the form of a small boundary ditch. A small amount of prehistoric and medieval pottery was also recorded during the evaluation (**EWI7703, EWI7708, EWI8002**).
- 2.2.8 In December 2018, an evaluation was completed to the immediate south of the site in Plot 290A. The excavation of 4 trial trenches revealed a sequence of topsoil sealing natural geology in Trenches 2, 3 and 4. In Trench 1 the remains of a modern building was discovered with the ground contaminated with asbestos (WA 2019b)

Geophysical surveys

- 2.2.9 Geophysical Survey on the Westbury Eastern Bypass revealed a series of large pits, linear anomalies and two semi-circular features. Several agricultural features were also identified such as ridge and furrow and two previous field boundaries (**EWI6552**).
- 2.2.10 Geophysical Survey on Glenmore Link, Westbury, identified a series of positive linear and curvilinear anomalies which appear to have the form of land boundaries or enclosures (**EWI7005**).

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43)

- 2.3.1 Considerable prehistoric activity is known from the Wessex Ridgeway, which lies just to the south-east of Westbury, with several prehistoric sites and findspots located within the Study Area. Two separate finds of Neolithic axes are recorded within the southern part of the Study Area (**MWI1448** and **MWI1447**).
- 2.3.2 Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age settlement activity is recorded to the south-east of the Site (**MWI1468**), consisting of a number of pits and ditches as well as a square enclosure (Wessex Archaeology 2004 and 2013), while Bronze Age pottery has been found just to the south (**MWI1468**).

Iron Age and Romano-British (700BC – AD 410)

- 2.3.3 The chalk downland to the south-east of Westbury is also known for the survival of material remains and Iron Age and Romano-British activities. The recorded archaeological resource within the Study Area indicates that the landscape was likely settled and farmed during the later Iron Age and Romano-British period. Indeed, the area is overlooked by the large multi-vallate Iron Age hillfort at Bratton.
- 2.3.4 While no Iron Age sites have yet been positively identified within the Study Area the presence of a cluster of finds within the Westbury Ironworks area (**MWI1447**) and the late

date of some of these finds could suggest continuity of occupation into the Romano-British period. Iron Age pottery was also recovered from a later layer uncovered during an evaluation at Hawkeridge Farm (**EWI7197**) (Wessex Archaeology 2011).

- 2.3.5 Further Romano-British activity has been identified close to The Ham, including a settlement site and at least one burial first identified during the 19th century (Wessex Archaeology 2014). Another Roman settlement site has been identified immediately adjacent the Site on the opposite side of Hawkeridge Road (**MWI1510**), where several pits, postholes and ditches were identified during evaluation as well as a possible Iron Age ditch (Wessex Archaeology 2004). Two burials were also identified during this archaeological evaluation and all together the recorded evidence if thought to relate to Romano-British occupation activity (**MWI1508** and **MWI1509**).
- 2.3.6 Settlement features including possible enclosures and trackways have also been identified at Glenmore Farm to the immediate south of the Site (**MWI1585**) with several further residual Roman pottery scatters encountered across the Study Area.

Saxon and Medieval (AD 410 – 1500)

- 2.3.7 Evidence for Saxon activity is scant within the landscape surrounding the Site. However, the name Westbury or *Westberie* is of Saxon origin and it is thought to derive from 'West burgh', suggesting a possible fortified settlement within the local area during this period (Haslam 1976, 65). Westbury is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as a large settlement of 170 households with six mills, held by the King. Although the current structure is 19th century, there is a suggestion that Blenches Mill, to the east of the Site, may have been the location of the one the mills listed (Haslam 1976, 65). The church is also listed in the Domesday Book and since the present structure dates to the 15th century (list entry **1180510**), an earlier structure must have existed, most likely on the same site. Both Hawkeridge (**MWI1526**) and Heywood (**MWI1525**) are also thought to have medieval origins.
- 2.3.8 To the south-west of the Site lies the Scheduled moated site (**SM1013102**), currently within the West Wiltshire Trading Estate. It is likely that this medieval site would have consisted of a house and house platform surrounded by a moat. The site is thought to have been abandoned by the late 13th century as a deer park is known to have encompassed this area by the early 14th century (**MWI1538**). Brook Hall, a Grade II Listed Building lying just to the north-west of the Study Area (**LB1021502**), dates to the 15th century and its thought to potentially be the successor to the moated site.
- 2.3.9 Possible ridge and furrow has been noted to the east of the Site near Blenches Mill Farm (**MWI1548**) (Wessex Archaeology 2004), with medieval pottery found in the area of The Ham (**MWI1530**), although an archaeological evaluation here in 2000 found no features dating to this period suggesting that the pottery recovered may be the result of manuring.

Post-medieval and modern (1500 – present)

- 2.3.10 By the end of the 15th century Westbury had become the centre of the region's cloth industry with several fulling mills in and around the town (Haslam 1976, 65), for example Hawkeridge Mill to the north-east of the Site (**MWI1616**), which dates to at least the early 19th century. Economic decline impacted the area from the 17th century onwards and by 1826 was described by William Cobbett as '*a nasty odious rotten borough, a really rotten place. It has cloth factories in it, and they seem to be ready to tumble down as well as many of the houses*' (Cobbett 1912, 78).



- 2.3.11 Blenches Mill Farm, to the east of the Site (**LB1387285**) was a water-powered corn mill and is shown on a late 18th century map. Earthworks thought to be associated the mill and a water meadow system were identified during an evaluation in 2003 and thought to be later medieval or post-medieval in date (**MWI1562**). Other water meadows are noted adjacent to Bliss Brook in the western part of the Study Area (**WA10**).
- 2.3.12 The presence of several post-medieval farmhouses within the Study Area (**LB1181492**, **LB1021504**) suggests a largely rural and agricultural setting for the Site until the later modern period. The proposed development area is identified on the 1887 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map as the site of Biggs' Brush Farm (**MWI70267**). The farm is still present on the 1961 edition, indicating that demolition occurred during the latter half of the 20th century.
- 2.3.13 The modern land parcel does not directly correspond with the 1842 Tithe map (not reproduced) or early OS editions (**Figures 4A and 4B**). The road which bounds the northern edge of the Site was constructed during the mid-20th century and bisects previous field boundaries.
- 2.3.14 The construction of the railway, to the west of the Site, in 1848 led to the discovery of iron ore and the establishment of the Great Western Iron Ore Smelting Company in 1857 at the Westbury Ironworks (**MWI1552**). It is likely that the quarrying observed to the south of the Site (**MWI1468**) relates to the iron works as the geology is recorded here as the Westbury Ironstone Member (BGS). Quarrying is already recorded in the 1842 tithe apportionment with the name as 'Old Quarries' and the adjacent fieldname 'Iron Mould', which would seem to reflect the underlying geology (Wessex Archaeology, 2014).
- 2.3.15 To the immediate east of the Site is a section of dismantled railway, this originally led westwards off the main line into the area now occupied by the industrial estate. This area of land was acquired by the War Department during the Second World War and utilised as an Ordnance Supply Depot (Crittall 1965, 139-148). During the Second World War the area now occupied by Hawkeridge Park housing estate was the location of the Eden Vale Prisoner of War camp, evidence of which was been uncovered during recent archaeological works (**EWI5573**).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019) and in compliance with the ClfA's *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.

3.3 Site-specific objectives

3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (SWARF), site-specific objectives defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019) were to:

- To examine evidence for remains of Late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement that may exist within the site (the presence of substantial Late Iron Age/Romano-British period settlement features to the south and numerous examples of likely field boundaries and systems within the surrounding landscape is known from the HER);
- To examine evidence for remains of 18th and 19th-century Biggs Bush Farm buildings (depicted on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1887, 1924 and 1941);

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019a) 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 (**Fig. 1**).
- 4.2.2 Four trial trenches, each measuring 30 m in length and 2 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.
- 4.2.5 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the Assistant County Archaeologist were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.



Recording

- 4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete 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.
- 4.2.7 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.8 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 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 (Wessex Archaeology 2019a). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 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 The Assistant County Archaeologist, on behalf of the LPA, monitored the watching brief. 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 All four excavated trial trenches contained archaeological features and deposits, indicating archaeological remains are present across the site, with a slight concentration in the western area (**Fig. 1**).
- 5.1.2 The uncovered features comprised ditches and represent two main periods of activity: Later prehistoric and post-medieval/modern, although some of the features remain undated.
- 5.1.3 There is also some evidence of Romano-British activity in the vicinity as indicated by small quantities of oxidised wares and micaceous greywares found residually in later features and the subsoil.
- 5.1.4 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed by trench.
- 5.1.5 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**). **Figure 1** shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches.



5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 A similar sequence of deposits was revealed throughout the site. Natural substrate 1003, 2003, 3003 and 4003 consisting yellowish-grey clay, containing occasional small stones, grits and crushed snail shell was encountered in all four trenches at between 0.37 m and 0.62 m below present ground level (bpgl).
- 5.2.2 The natural substrate was overlain by yellowish grey clay subsoil (1002, 2002, 3002, and 4002), containing occasional flecks of crushed snail shell, animal bone, Romano-British and post-medieval pottery and measured between 0.13 m and 0.33 m in thickness.
- 5.2.3 The subsoil was sealed by topsoil (1001, 2001, 3001 and 4001) consisting mid brown silty clay containing occasional small stones, measuring between 0.24 m and 0.34 m in thickness.

5.3 Trench 1

- 5.3.1 A northeast-southwest aligned ditch 1004 was revealed at the eastern end of Trench 1. Ditch 1004 measured 2.45 m in width, 0.47 m in depth with moderate sloping sides to a 'U' shaped base and contained a single grey clay fill 1005, from which was recovered Romano-British and post-medieval pottery, a post-medieval brick fragment and animal bone.
- 5.3.2 The artefact assemblage suggests a post-medieval date for the ditch, the Romano-British material probably being residual.

5.4 Trench 2

- 5.4.1 Trench 2 contained two east-west aligned ditches 2004 and 2006 in the northern half of the trench.
- 5.4.2 Ditch 2004 had an asymmetrical profile with a shallow sloping northern side and a steep sloping southern side. The ditch measured 0.87 m in width and 0.36 m in depth and contained a mid-grey brown silty clay fill with manganese flecking. Late prehistoric pottery and animal bone was recovered from the fill, the pottery not being closely datable.
- 5.4.3 Ditch 2006 measured 1.69 m in width, 0.63 m in depth with shallow sloping sides to a concave base. The ditch contained two fills, a lower secondary mid grey silty clay 2007 and an upper mid brown yellow clay 2008 interpreted as a tertiary infilling episode. The secondary fill 2007 contained animal bone fragments, the tertiary fill being artefactually sterile.
- 5.4.4 Both ditches were cut into the natural clay 2003 and sealed by subsoil 2002. Although artefactually undated, ditch 2006 was on the same alignment as late prehistoric ditch 2004 and can therefore be tentatively interpreted as contemporary.

5.5 Trench 3

- 5.5.1 Trench 3 contained a north-south aligned modern drainage ditch 3004. The ditch measured 3.9 m in width and was filled with a loose stony backfill 3005. Modern artefacts were noted in the fill but not recovered.
- 5.5.2 Ditch 3004 continued in Trench 4 to the south as ditch 4007.



5.6 Trench 4

- 5.6.1 Two north-south aligned ditches 4004 and 4007 were revealed in the eastern half of Trench 4. Ditch 4007 continued in Trench 3 to the north as ditch 3004 and contained modern artefacts.
- 5.6.2 Ditch 4004 measured 2.3 m in width, 0.79 m in depth and had steep sloping sides to a 'U' shaped base. The ditch contained a primary fill 4005 and a deliberate backfill 4006.
- 5.6.3 Primary fill 4005 consisted of grey clay containing occasional small stones and occasional flecks of charcoal but was otherwise artefactually sterile. This was overlain by a deliberate dark grey clay backfill 4006 containing occasional small stones, animal bone, slag (not recovered), frequent flecks of charcoal and post-medieval pottery. A small quantity of residual late prehistoric pottery was also recovered from fill 4006.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered from four trenches. The material is of prehistoric, Romano-British and post-medieval date. The finds have been cleaned and quantified by material type in each context; this information is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1 Quantification of finds (number of pieces/weight in grammes)

Context	Pottery		CBM		Animal bone	
	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)
1002	4	14			6	16
1005	14	175	1	551	12	603
2005	8	13			26	28
2007					24	396
4002	5	42			1	8
4006	5	13			28	96
Total	36	257	1	551	97	1147

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 Pottery was recovered from five contexts. Fabrics of later prehistoric date (12 sherds, 25 g) include a glauconitic sandy ware with calcite inclusions (four sherds, 11 g), a calcite-gritted fabric in a non-glauconitic matrix (two sherds, 6 g), and flint-tempered wares (six sherds, 8 g). All are body sherds and not closely datable. The prehistoric material was recovered from ditch 2004, and as residual finds in ditch 4004. The Romano-British wares (16 sherds, 92 g) comprise oxidised wares (including a single beaker rim sherd) and micaceous greywares, from subsoils 1002 and 4002, and the fill of ditch 1004. Post-medieval redwares (eight sherds, 141 g), including probable products from the Crockton and Wanstrow industries, were recovered from ditch 1004, ditch 4004 and subsoil 4002.

6.3 Ceramic building material

- 6.3.1 A single abraded brick fragment in a dark orange sandy fabric was recovered from ditch 1004. It is of probable post-medieval date.

6.4 Animal bone

- 6.4.1 A total of 97 fragments (or 1.147 kg) of animal bone came from deposits and features in trenches 1, 2 and 4. Tibiae came from subsoil layers 1002 and 4002. Several cattle bones came from post-medieval ditch 1004. The bones include a scapula, two tibiae and a large humerus. The bone could be from a large bull however, large cattle have been recorded from several late Romano-British sites in South-East Britain (Albarella *et al* 2008) and are likely to be related to imported stock from Continental Europe. A few identified bones came from late prehistoric ditch 2004 and undated ditch 2006. The bones include a cattle pelvis and metatarsal and the distal half of a red deer humerus. A cattle metatarsal and a few loose sheep/goat and pig teeth came from post-medieval ditch 4004.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 Three bulk sediment samples were taken from linear features of Later Prehistoric and uncertain chronology and were processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence.

7.1 Aims and Methods

- 7.1.1 The purpose of this assessment is to determine the potential of the environmental remains preserved at the site to address project aims and to provide data valuable for wider research frameworks. The nature of this assessment follows recommendations set up by Historic England (Campbell *et al.* 2011).

- 7.1.2 The samples were 10 litres in volume on average and were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank; the flots retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse fractions (>4 mm) were sorted by eye and discarded. The environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots. The fine residue fractions and the flots were scanned using a stereo incident light microscopy (Leica MS5 microscope) at magnifications of up to x40 for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g. *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as burrowing snail, or earthworm eggs and insects, which would not be preserved unless anoxic conditions prevailed on site. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence of other environmental remains such as terrestrial and aquatic molluscs and animal bone was recorded. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000), for cereals. Abundance of remains is qualitatively quantified (A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5) as an estimation of the minimum number of individuals and not the number of remains per taxa.

7.2 Results

- 7.2.1 The flots from the bulk sediment samples were generally small (Table 2). There were high numbers of roots and low numbers of modern seeds that may be indicative of some stratigraphic movement and contribute to the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements.
- 7.2.2 Of the three samples, only ditch cut 4004, deposit 4006, produced charred plant remains: poorly preserved unidentified Triticeae (cereal) grain fragments. Mature wood charcoal was



present in very small quantities in all samples. The remains of terrestrial molluscs and small animal bones were also noted.

7.3 Conclusions

7.3.1 The charred cereal assemblage is too small and poorly preserved to say for certain whether domestic crop processing activities were occurring in the area. The low level of identification due to poor preservation does not allow to give an estimated idea of the chronology. Similarly, the sparse amounts of wood charcoal and molluscs present are not enough to be able to provide any extra information on the landscape.

7.4 Recommendations for future sampling

7.4.1 Sampling should follow the recommendations set in its site-specific sampling strategy, if existing. As a general rule, samples should be taken for the recovery of charred plant remains where permitting from well-sealed and dateable features, especially any arising and related to settlement activities. Features that are specifically related to burning activities, such as cremations, should also be sampled. Generally, samples should be taken covering as wide a range of feature types and phases as possible. Where available deposits permit, sample size should be of 40 litres from individual, secure contexts.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

8.1.1 The evaluation identified a limited number of archaeological features within the site, with features revealed in all the four trenches, with a slight concentration of features in the western part of the development.

8.1.2 The uncovered features comprised ditches representing three main periods of activity: Late prehistoric, post-medieval and modern and relate to field boundaries and drainage features.

8.1.3 Several features remain of uncertain date.

8.1.4 Residual finds within later features and the subsoil provided evidence of Romano-British activity in the vicinity.

8.1.5 The later prehistoric ditches are potentially a continuation of settlement features from Glenmore Farm to the immediate south of the Site where possible enclosures and trackways were identified.

8.2 Discussion

8.2.1 The evaluation has established that there is a reasonably high potential for archaeology to survive, of probable settlement and/or agricultural origin, dating from the late prehistoric through to the modern period.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Bristol. Wiltshire Heritage Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, although the museum wasn't issuing accession numbers on start of this project. 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.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

9.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts 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).

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

- 1 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type;
- 1 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics;

9.3 Selection policy

9.3.1 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.

9.4 Security copy

9.4.1 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.

9.5 OASIS

9.5.1 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 - **OASIS ID: 351954**. 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.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

10.1.1 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.



10.1.2 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.

10.2 Third party data copyright

10.2.1 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 copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.



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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

Trench No 1		Length 30m		Width 1.60m		Depth 0.62m	
Easting			Northing			MaOD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
1001		Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay, grass topped, with rooting. Occasional small stones			0-0.29	
1002		Subsoil	Sub soil. Yellowish grey clay, occasional flecks of crushed snail shell.			0.29-0.62	
1003		Natural	Yellowish grey clay, with occasional small stones, grits and crushed snail shell. Dark grey patches show rooting.			0.62+	
1004	1005	Ditch	Linear ditch with moderate, straight sides and a u-shaped base. Length: >2.00 m. Width: 2.45 m. Depth: 0.47 m.				
1005	1004	Fill	Grey clay with clay inclusions. Archaeological components: Animal bone, pot				

Trench No 2		Length 30m		Width 1.60m		Depth 0.40m	
Easting			Northing			MaOD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
2001		Topsoil	Top soil. Mid grey brown silty clay. bioturbation. Rare stones <50m sub-angular poorly sorted.			0-0.24	
2002		Subsoil	Sub soil. Mid yellow grey silty clay. Occasional bioturbation. occasional manganese. Diffuse with natural.			0.24-0.37	
2003		Natural	Light grey yellow clay. Rare chalk flecks occasional grey mottling.			0.37 +	
2004	2005	Ditch	Linear ditch with shallow, concave sides and a concave base. Length: >1.60 m. Width: 0.87 m. Depth: 0.36 m.				
2005	2004	Secondary fill	Mid grey brown silty clay with manganese flecking frequent inclusions. Archaeological components: Pottery and frags of animal bone				
2006	2007, 2008	Ditch	Linear ditch with shallow, concave sides and a concave base. Length: >1.60 m. Width: 1.69 m. Depth: 0.63 m.				



2007	2006	Secondary fill	Mid grey silty clay. Secondary fill.	
2008	2006	Tertiary fill	Mid brown yellow clay. Redeposited natural	

Trench No 3		Length 30m	Width 1.60m	Depth 0.50m
Easting		Northing		MaOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
3001		Topsoil	Top soil. Mid brown silty clay, grass topped, occasional small stones and rooting	0-0.34
3002		Subsoil	Sub soil. Yellowish grey clay, occasional small stones and fragments of crushed snail shell.	0.34-0.5
3003		Natural	Yellowish grey clay, occasional small stones, grits and crushed snail shell.	0.5+
3004	3005	Land drainage ditch	Cut of modern land drainage ditch, 3.90 m wide. Continues as 4007 in Trench 4.	
3005	3004	Stoney backfill of land drain	Stoney backfill of land drain	

Trench No 4		Length 28m	Width 1.60m	Depth 0.60m
Easting		Northing		MaOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
4001		Topsoil	Top soil. Mid brown silty clay, grass topped, occasional small stones and rooting	0-0.34
4002		Subsoil	Sub soil. Yellowish grey clay, occasional small stones and fragments of snail shell.	0.34-0.6
4003		Natural	Yellowish grey clay, occasional small stones, grits and crushed snail shell	0.6+
4004	4005, 4006	Drainage ditch or field boundary	Linear drainage ditch or field boundary with steep, straight sides and a u-shaped base. Length: >2.00 m. Width: 2.30 m. Depth: 0.79 m.	
4005	4004	Primary fill	Grey clay, occasional small stones, occasional flecks of charcoal inclusions. Archaeological components: Occasional flecks of charcoal	
4006	4004	Deliberate backfill, dump of household waste	Dark grey clay, occasional small stones inclusions. Archaeological components: Animal bone, slag, frequent flecks of charcoal	
4007	4008	Land drainage ditch	Cut of modern land drainage ditch. Continues as 3004 in Trench 3.	



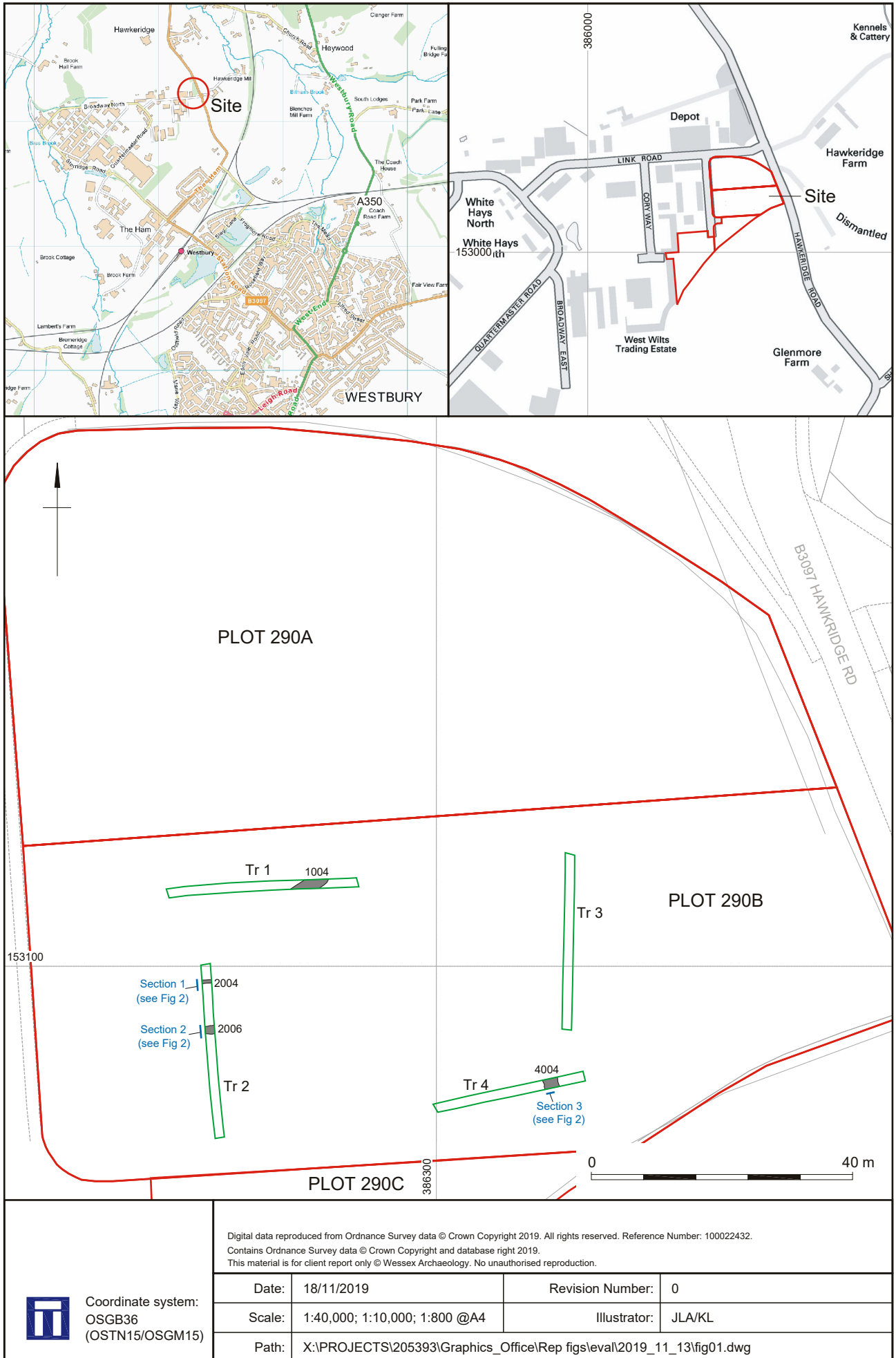
4008	4007	Stoney backfill of land drain	Fill of land drain, modern artefacts recorded but not recovered	
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Appendix 2 Environmental Data

Table 2: Assessment of the environmental evidence

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (l)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other (type and abundance)	Comments (Preservation)
4004	4006	1	8	25	100 <4mm residue	80%, C, E, I, F	C	-	Triticeae	-	-	2	Mature	Moll-t (B), Sab (C)	Poor
2004	2005	2	10.5	30	100 <4mm residue	90%, A, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	1	Mature	Moll-t (A)	-
2006	2007	3	10.5	50	100 <4mm residue	90%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	1	Mature	Moll-t (A), Sab (C)	-



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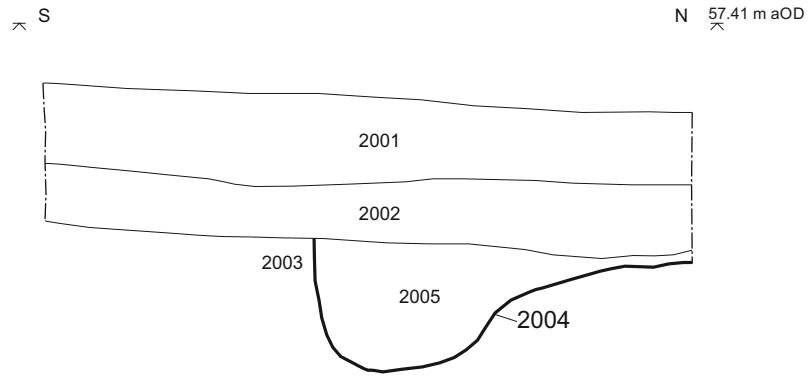


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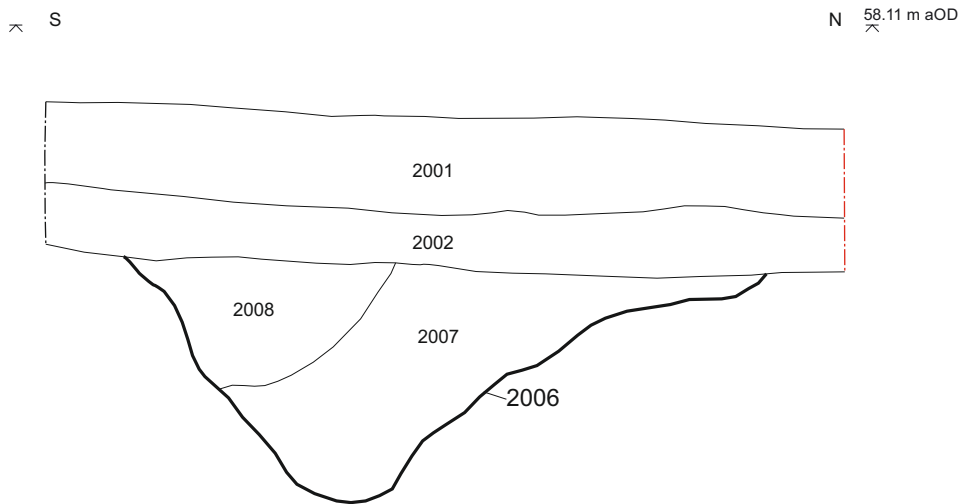
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Site location and plan of trenches

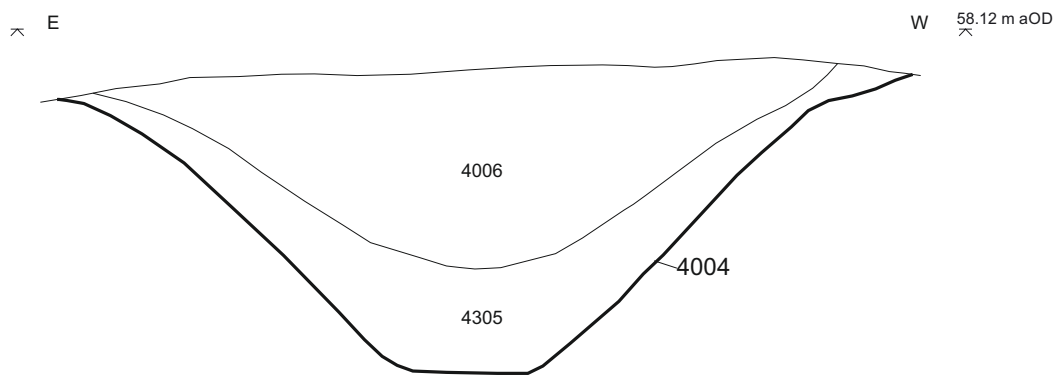
Figure 1



Section 1: East facing section of ditch 2004



Section 2: East facing section of ditch 2006



Section 3: North facing section of ditch 4004



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Plate 1: Trench 1, looking east, 1 m & 2 m scales



Plate 2: Ditch 1004, looking north-east, 1 m scale


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Plate 3: Trench 2, looking north, 1 m & 2 m scales



Plate 4: Ditch 2004, looking west, 1 m scale


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Plate 5: Ditch 2006, looking west, 1 m scale



Plate 6: Trench 3, looking south, 1 m & 2 m scales



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Plate 7: Trench 4, looking east, 1 m & 2 m scales



Plate 8: Ditch 4004, looking south, 1 m scale

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