



Blackthorn to Piddington Embankment Works Oxfordshire

Interim Archaeological Report



Planning Ref: 18/00211/F
Accession Number: OXCMS:2019.130
Ref: 206714.03
November 2019



© Wessex Archaeology Ltd 2019, all rights reserved.

Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

www.wessexarch.co.uk

Wessex Archaeology Ltd is a Registered Charity no. 287786 (England & Wales) and SC042630 (Scotland)

Disclaimer



The material contained in this report was designed as an integral part of a report to an individual client and was prepared solely for the benefit of that client. The material contained in this report does not necessarily stand on its own and is not intended to nor should it be relied upon by any third party. To the fullest extent permitted by law Wessex Archaeology will not be liable by reason of breach of contract negligence or otherwise for any loss or damage (whether direct indirect or consequential) occasioned to any person acting or omitting to act or refraining from acting in reliance upon the material contained in this report arising from or connected with any error or omission in the material contained in the report. Loss or damage as referred to above shall be deemed to include, but is not limited to, any loss of profits or anticipated profits damage to reputation or goodwill loss of business or anticipated business damages costs expenses incurred or payable to any third party (in all cases whether direct indirect or consequential) or any other direct indirect or consequential loss or damage.



Document Information

Document title	Blackthorn to Piddington Embankment Works, Oxfordshire
Document subtitle	Interim Archaeological Report
Document reference	206714.03
Client name	J. Murphy and sons Ltd.
Address	Wigan Road, Golborne, Warrington, WA3 3UB
Site location	Line of the railway between Blackthorn and Piddington
County	Oxfordshire
National grid reference (NGR)	464829, 217733 (SP 64829 17733) to 462538, 220179 (SP 62538, 20179)
Planning authority	Cherwell District Council
Planning reference	18/00211/F
Museum name	Oxfordshire Museum Service
Museum accession code	OXCMS:2019.130
WA project name	Blackthorn to Piddington Embankment Works Oxfordshire.
WA project code	206714
Dates of fieldwork	21/10/2019 to 25/10/2019 and 05/11/2019 to 06/11/2019
Fieldwork directed by	Jamie McCarthy
Project management by	Ruth Panes
Document compiled by	Jamie McCarthy
Graphics by	Kitty Foster

Quality Assurance

Issue number & date	Status	Author	Approved by
1 12/11/19	Draft submitted to client	JM	
2 13/11/19	Draft submitted to curator	JM	



Contents

Summary	iv
Acknowledgements.....	iv
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Project and planning background.....	1
1.2 Scope of the report	1
1.3 Location, topography and geology	2
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
2.1 Introduction.....	2
2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development.....	2
2.3 Archaeological and historical context.....	3
3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	3
3.1 General aims	3
3.2 General objectives	4
3.3 Site-specific objectives.....	4
4 METHODS.....	4
4.1 Introduction.....	4
4.2 Fieldwork methods.....	4
4.3 Monitoring.....	6
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS	6
5.1 Introduction.....	6
5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits	7
5.3 Evaluation.....	7
5.4 Spoil Storage Area.....	9
6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE	9
7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE.....	9
8 CONCLUSIONS	9
8.1 Summary	9
8.2 Discussion	9
9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION.....	10
9.1 Museum.....	10
9.2 Preparation of the archive	10
9.3 Selection policy.....	10
9.4 Security copy	10
9.5 OASIS	10
10 COPYRIGHT	11
10.1 Archive and report copyright	11
10.2 Third party data copyright	11
REFERENCES	12
APPENDICES	13
Appendix 1 Trench summaries	13



List of Figures

- Figure 1** Trench locations overlain on geophysical results (Northern part of proposed road).
Figure 2 Trench and watching brief locations overlain on geophysical results (Central part of proposed road).
Figure 3 Trench locations overlain on geophysical results (Southern part of proposed road).
Figure 4 Detail of excavated trenches
Figure 5 Detail of excavated trenches

List of Plates

- Cover Trench 41, view from the south-east, 2.0m and 1.0 m scales
Plate 1 Representative section of trench 19. View from south-south-west, 1.0 m scale.
Plate 2 North facing section of ditch **1704**, 1.0 m scale.
Plate 3 North facing section of ditch **1904**, 0.5 m scale.
Plate 4 Oblique shot of ditches **4304** and **4306**. View from north-west, 0.5 m scale.
Plate 5 Shot of trench 59. View from south-east, 2.0m and 1.0 m scales.



Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by J Murphy & sons Ltd, to undertake archaeological evaluation of a 19.4 ha parcel of land located along the railway line between Blackthorn and Piddington in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The evaluation area is between NGR 462538, 220179 and NGR 464829, 217733. In addition to the evaluation, archaeological monitoring of a topsoil strip centred on NGR 463631, 218899 was undertaken for a proposed spoil storage area as part of the archaeological works. The archaeological works were undertaken between the 21 and 25 October, and on the 5 and 6 November 2019.

The evaluation consisted of the excavation of 23 archaeological trial trenches along the proposed route of a new access road either side of the railway. A total of 60 trenches were proposed for the scheme, 13 of which were identified as having existing site constraints which made excavation not feasible and a further 24 were inaccessible during fieldwork due to ecological constraints and/or flooding. The monitoring of the topsoil strip was within a 4000 m² parcel of land to the north–west of the bridge rail crossing, within the field occupied by trenches 21 and 22.

A total of 15 trenches out of the excavated 23 uncovered archaeological remains, almost exclusively in the form of either drainage ditches or ridge and furrow. The central part of the scheme identified numerous parallel drainage ditches either side of the railway. No dating was recovered from any of the ditches however they all appear to follow the alignment of the surviving ridge and furrow, with some of the ditches clearly having been excavated into the existing furrows. The south–eastern area identified minor evidence of former ridge and furrow as well as providing an opportunity to record the surviving ridge and furrow present in the fields at the south-eastern most end of the scheme, north of the railway.

During the course of the archaeological monitoring for the spoil storage area, it was determined that there would be no impact to the archaeological horizon, as the excavations comprised the removal of topsoil only, leaving a 0.25 m buffer of subsoil to protect any potential archaeology.

No archaeological features or deposits of Romano-British date, and so relating to the Roman road that follows the route of the existing A41, were identified during the course of the works.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank J. Murphy and sons Ltd. for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, in particular to Jonathon Hook. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Service, and Hugh Coddington, County Archaeologist for Oxfordshire, who monitored the project on behalf of Cherwell District Council. Additional thanks are due to Mark Jasper and the other site staff from J. Murphy and sons Ltd., and to the monitoring ecologists from NLG Ecology, for their cooperation and help on site.

The fieldwork was directed by Jamie McCarthy, with the assistance of Jamie Porter, Hilde van der Heul, Rachel Capps, Phil Breach, Anna Smaldone, Bart Grden, Michael Trubee and Elena Calabria. This report was written by Jamie McCarthy and edited by Ruth Panes. The project was managed by Ruth Panes on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



Blackthorn to Piddington Embankment Works Evaluation

Interim Archaeological Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by J Murphy & sons Ltd, to undertake the archaeological mitigation of a 19.4 ha parcel of land located along the railway line between Blackthorn and Piddington in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The area is between NGR 462538, 220179 and NGR 464829, 217733 (**Figures 1, 2 and 3**).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprises a railway embankment stabilisation scheme, including earthwork regrading, construction of an access route and ecological mitigation measures. A planning application (18/00211/F) submitted to Cherwell District Council on 02/02/2018 and granted on 16/07/2019.
- 1.1.3 Following consultation with the Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council Archaeology Services (OCCAS) an overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was issued following the OCCAS design brief (Wessex Archaeology 2019a). The evaluation was part of staged approach in determining the archaeological potential of the site, following other non-intrusive archaeological work, including a detailed gradiometer survey (Wessex Archaeology 2019c).
- 1.1.4 The evaluation works were undertaken in accordance with an archaeological evaluation specific WSI which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2019b). Both WSI's were approved by Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist OCCAS and archaeological advisor the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.5 The evaluation comprising 23 trial trenches undertaken between the 21 and 25 October. The archaeological monitoring of the area strip of a 4000 m² parcel of land was undertaken on the 5 and 6 November 2019 in accordance with the overarching WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019a) and comprised the initial monitoring of excavations until consultation with Richard Oram confirmed no further archaeological monitoring was necessary due to the depth of the proposed excavations. .

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a 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 works.



1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The evaluation area was located over land surrounding the railway line between land north-east of Blackthorn (northern extreme at NGR 462485, 220186) to land north-east of Piddington (southern extreme at NGR 465012, 217576) (**Figures 1, 2 and 3**). The spoil storage area was located approximately 300 m north-west of the bridge rail crossing at the centre of the scheme, centred on NGR 463631, 218899 (**Figure 2**).
- 1.3.2 Existing ground levels rise gradually from approximately 60 – 62 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the north-western end to 66 – 67 m aOD at the south-eastern end of the scheme.
- 1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Mudstone of the Peterborough Member for the north-western portion (approximately two thirds) of the survey and Stewartby Member at the south-eastern portion (British Geological Survey online viewer). Superficial deposits are largely not recorded; however, the central portion of the scheme is likely to contain alluvium comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior Cultural Heritage Chapter within an Environmental Statement that supported the original planning application (ES 2013), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 0.5 km study area of the proposed development. This concluded, amongst other statements, that *'No known archaeological remains lie within the construction footprint and impacts on potential archaeological deposits within the construction footprint are considered to be limited and will be addressed through standard archaeological mitigation measures in consultation with the relevant local planning authorities.'* However, the report does state that *'The line of the Roman road Akeman Street (MOX 5014) is located at the northern end of the Scheme, broadly equating with the current A41. The road originally extended between Roman settlements at Alchester 5 km to the west of the Scheme and Virulanium in Hertfordshire.'*
- 2.1.2 As the brief from Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist at OCCAS, states, this means that *'The site is located in an area of archaeological potential and the route of the Roman Road from Alchester to Verulanium crossed the site at the northern end (PRN 8920). Roman pottery has also been recovered along the line of this road (PRN 13592). Probable Bronze Age ring ditches have been recorded 1km west of the site (PRN 13909) and Iron Age and Roman pottery has also been recovered from this area (PRN 2787). Little formal archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the site area itself and therefore there is the potential for further archaeological deposits related to these periods to be disturbed by this proposal.'*
- 2.1.3 Although part of the works relate to existing embankments, which may have damaged or disturbed below ground archaeological remains, it is also possible that they may have preserved remains *in situ* as they would not have been subject to disturbance associated with agriculture.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development

Detailed gradiometer survey (2019)

- 2.2.1 Wessex Archaeology conducted a detailed gradiometer survey in July 2019 with the aim of establishing the presence, or otherwise, and nature of detectable archaeological features for the embankment works being undertaken along the railway line.



- 2.2.2 The survey did not identify any anomalies that could be confidently attributed an archaeological origin. Several pit-like features were identified throughout the site which could reflect refuse pits. However, they could equally represent natural pitting in the bedrock or local variation in the underlying soils and superficial deposits.
- 2.2.3 Evidence of the site's agricultural past was evident as ridge and furrow cultivation has been identified. There was also evidence of more modern activity in the form of modern ploughing activity and land drains.
- 2.2.4 The only other anomalies relate to ferrous anomalies reflecting the proximity of the railway line and associated infrastructure.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

- 2.3.1 There are no designated heritage assets located within the proposed development area. Numerous Grade I, II and II* listed buildings are noted in the settlements of Blackthorn towards the northern end of the site and Piddington to the south, as well as Ludgershall to the south-east. These are predominantly 16th – 20th century farmsteads and dwellings.
- 2.3.2 A single scheduled monument is noted 1.2 km south-east of the site in Ludgershall (NHLE 1018762). This is described as a 'moated site' and is thought to be medieval in date.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019b) 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.
- 3.1.2 The aims of the archaeological monitoring of the spoil storage area, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019a) and as defined in the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014d), were:
- To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
 - To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
 - To guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.



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 (Hey and Hind 2014), the site-specific objectives of the evaluation are:

- To test the results of the geophysical survey;
- To examine evidence for remains of a Roman road that may exist within the site (one is known from the HER and runs close to the north of the evaluation area) and any associated remains;
- To consider the agricultural use of the area in the Roman period;
- To determine the depth of the alluvial sequence and examine the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential of alluvial deposits;
- To examine the artefactual and ecofactual potential of archaeological deposits, some of which may be waterlogged; and
- The evaluation report produced will present a digest of information on the character and significance of the deposits under review and this report will form the basis of any proposals for appropriate further action.
- The evaluation will aim to define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI's (Wessex Archaeology 2019a+b) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a+d). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

Evaluation

4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using GPS, in the approximate positions as those proposed in the WSI, though almost all trenches had to be slightly moved from their original positions because of on-site obstacles such as trees and located services (**Figures 1, 2, and 3**).



- 4.2.2 23 trial trenches, each measuring 30.0 m in length and between 1.6 m and 1.8 m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.
- 4.2.3 The WSI set out a total of 60 trenches to be excavated, however due to on site obstacles such as buried and overhead services, access points, vegetation and space limitations, many of the trenches were unable to be excavated. A detailed list of the unexcavated trenches is provided below. Additionally, due to the presence of great crested newts across the scheme, access to trenches 1 to 8 and 26 to 40 was unavailable at the time of fieldwork. Localised flooding caused by heavy rainfall additionally meant trenches 9 to 14 was inaccessible during fieldwork.
- Trenches 1 to 9: Unexcavated due to the presence of great crested newts preventing access.
 - Trenches 9 to 14: Unexcavated due to the area flooding following heavy rain causing the river to burst its banks.
 - Trench 20: Unexcavated due to nearby overhead power lines.
 - Trench 23: Unexcavated due to being located across an access point for the site.
 - Trenches 24 and 25: trench numbers not included in the approved WSI.
 - Trenches 36 to 40: Unexcavated due to the narrow access point. The area was not wide enough to open a trench and would have blocked off all access to the remaining area.
 - Trench 46: Unexcavated due to being located within vegetation lining the embankment. No alternative suitable space identified, having already relocated trench 45 nearby.
 - Trench 48: Unexcavated due to nearby overhead power lines.
 - Trench 51: Unexcavated due to being within a narrow access point. The area was not wide enough to open a trench and would have blocked off all access to the remaining area.
 - Trenches 52 and 53: trench numbers not included in the approved WSI, in location of existing compound area.
 - Trenches 62 to 64: Unexcavated due to being within a no access exclusion zone.
- 4.2.4 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.
- 4.2.5 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the Planning Archaeologist for OCCAS 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.



Archaeological Monitoring of Spoil Storage Area

- 4.2.6 Archaeologists monitored mechanical excavations for a topsoil strip within the 4000 m² parcel of land to the north-west of the central bridge rail crossing (**Figure 2**) until it was determined that the works would not be impacting the archaeological horizon. Following consultation with Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist OCCAS, the area was archaeologically signed off, with topsoil removal allowed to continue without archaeological supervision.

General

- 4.2.7 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.

Recording

- 4.2.8 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.
- 4.2.9 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.
- 4.2.10 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 Monitoring

- 4.3.1 Richard Oram Planning Archaeologist for OCCAS, 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 Planning Archaeologist for OCCAS. Hugh Coddington, County Archaeologist for Oxfordshire, monitored the project in absence of Richard Oram during fieldwork and undertook one site visit.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 15 of the 23 excavated trial trenches contained archaeological features, largely in the form of either drainage ditches or ridge and furrow.
- 5.1.2 The central part of the scheme identified numerous parallel drainage ditches either side of the railway. No dating was recovered from any of the ditches however they all appear to follow the alignment of the surviving ridge and furrow, with some of the ditches clearly having been excavated into the existing furrows. The south-eastern area identified minor evidence of former ridge and furrow as well as providing an opportunity to record the surviving ridge and furrow present in the fields at the south-eastern most end of the scheme, north of the railway.



5.1.3 During the course of the archaeological monitoring on excavations for the spoil storage area, it was determined that the topsoil strip was not going to impact the archaeological horizon. As topsoil only was being removed, this left an approximate 0.25 m deep buffer of subsoil between the reduced dig level and the archaeological horizon. The soil sequence within the proposed strip was observed during the excavation of two trenches (trenches 21 and 22) prior to the topsoil strip (**Figure 2**). Following the topsoil strip, the area would be covered with teram and built up with stone, there would be no further intrusive works in this area.

5.1.4 The following section presents the results of the archaeological investigations. Detailed descriptions of individual contexts from the evaluation are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**).

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence was largely uniform across the site, with some minor variation due to modern disturbance or due to the survival of ridge and furrow within the fields.

5.2.2 The average sequence consisted of 0.2 m of dark greyish brown clay loam topsoil overlying 0.25 m of mid yellowish grey silty clay subsoil. This sealed the natural geology at an average depth of 0.54 m (**Plate 1**).

5.2.3 Trenches 45 and 47 showed evidence for modern ground levelling, seemingly related to the rail embankment. Both contained approximately 0.3 m of made ground beneath the topsoil, containing deposited stone and gravel, along with plastic sheeting. This disturbance reached down to the level of the natural geology.

5.3 Evaluation

5.3.1 Trench 15 contained a single ditch, **1504**, at the north–western end of the trench. It was aligned NNW to SSE before cornering to the east into a WSW to ENE alignment. It measured 0.8 m wide and 0.17 m deep with steep, concave sides and a flat base. It contained a single secondary fill with no coarse components. The ditch may have been identified on the other side of the rail tracks within trench 43 where ditch **4306** follows the same alignment and is of a broadly similar size and shape. **4306** is cut by a furrow within that trench.

5.3.2 Trench 16 contained two furrows and a single NNW to SSE aligned ditch, **1605**. This ditch has been cut into the existing furrow, possibly representing additional drainage that was excavated within the furrowed fields. This is seen in numerous other trenches too. The ditch measures 1.11 m wide and 0.56 m deep with steep, straight sides and a flat base. The profile of the ditch is too steep to simply be another furrow. It contained one secondary and one tertiary fill with no coarse components. The ditch and furrow that it is within align with another furrow on the other side of the rail tracks in trench 43.

5.3.3 Trench 17 contained two ditches, **1704** and **1707**, and a single post hole **1710**. Both ditches are aligned NNW to SSE and appear to have been cut within pre-existing furrows, although both demonstrate profiles far too steep to just be furrows. Ditch **1704** measured 1.14 m wide and 0.54 m deep with steep, straight sides and a flat base. It contained a single secondary and tertiary fill with no coarse components (**Plate 2**). Ditch **1707** measured 1.14 m wide and 0.53 m deep with steep, straight sides and a concave base. It contained the same fill composition as **1704**. Post hole **1710** was sub-circular shaped in plan and measured 0.32 m in diameter and 0.15 m deep with moderate, straight sides and a concave base. It

contained a single fill with no evidence for a post pipe. This post hole is isolated within the trench with no other associated post holes exposed.

- 5.3.4 Trench 18 contained a single NNW to SSE aligned ditch **1803**. It measured 1.29 m wide and 0.39 m deep with moderate, straight sides and a v-shaped base. It contained a single secondary fill with no coarse components. Although surviving ridge and furrow was not prevalent around this trench, the ditch is on the exact same alignment as the ridge and furrow in the neighbouring areas.
- 5.3.5 Trench 19 contained three parallel, NNW to SSE aligned ditches. These again follow the alignment of the ridge and furrow and appear to represent additional excavation of the furrows for drainage purposes. Ditch **1904** measured 0.86 m wide and 0.36 m deep with moderate, concave sides and a concave base (**Plate 3**). Ditch **1906** measured 0.8 m wide and 0.39 m deep with steep, straight sides and a concave base. Ditch **1908** measured 0.76 m wide and 0.32 m deep with steep, straight sides and a concave base. All ditches contained a single secondary fill with no coarse components.
- 5.3.6 Trench 21 contained two parallel, north to south aligned gullies, approximately 0.6 m apart, at the south-eastern end of the trench. They both measured 0.54 m wide however remained unexcavated due to the trench flooding. These appear to represent a pair of agricultural gullies, possibly either side of a hedgerow.
- 5.3.7 Trench 22 contained a single NNW to SSE ditch, **2204**, halfway along the trench. This again follows the alignment of the ridge and furrow. The ditch measured 0.86 m wide and 0.30 m deep with steep, straight sides and a concave base. It contained a single secondary fill that contained no coarse components.
- 5.3.8 Trench 42 contained two furrows at a NNW to SSE alignment.
- 5.3.9 Trench 43 contained three NNW to SSE aligned furrows, one of which cut the WSW to ENE aligned ditch **4306**. Furrow **4304**, which cut **4306**, again demonstrated evidence for having been further excavated to double as drainage for the field (**Plate 4**). It measured 1.00 m wide and 0.36 m deep with steep, straight sides and a flat base. Ditch **4306** measured 0.50 m wide and 0.22 m deep with moderate, straight sides and a flat base. This ditch appears to have been identified on the other side of the tracks in trench 15, ditch **1504**.
- 5.3.10 Trench 44 contained a single surviving furrow at the south-eastern end of the trench, it measured 0.85 m wide.
- 5.3.11 Trench 49 contained a ditch, **4906**, and a lone posthole, **4908**. The ditch was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 0.95 m wide and 0.54 m deep with steep, straight sides and a flat base. It contained a single secondary fill with no coarse components. There is no evidence for the continuation of this ditch on the other side of the rail line. The posthole was circular shaped in plan and measured 0.40 m by 0.50 m and was 0.18 m deep with steep concave sides and a concave base. No other associated postholes were exposed within the trench.
- 5.3.12 Trench 50 contained two NNW to SSE aligned ditches, **5004** and **5006**. Both are on the same alignment as the ridge and furrow recorded elsewhere on site. Ditch **5004** measured 0.92 m wide and 0.37 m deep with moderate, straight sides and a flat base. The ditch terminates within the trench. Ditch **5006** measured 0.72 m wide and 0.30 m deep with steep, concave sides and an undulating base. Both features contain single secondary fills.



- 5.3.13 Trench 54 contained two parallel furrows at a north–east to south–west alignment. This alignment is consistent with the recorded ridge and furrow within these fields, in contrast to the alignment of the other fields to the north–west. Furrow **5403** measured 1.70 m wide and 0.38 m deep with moderate, straight sides and a concave base. The other furrow had a very similar profile. Both contained a single secondary fill.
- 5.3.14 Trench 59 contained three parallel furrows at a north–east to south–west alignment, all approximately 1.36 m wide and 0.19 m deep. The ridge and furrow in this field, which includes trenches 60 and 61, was still prevalent on the surface (**Plate 5**).
- 5.3.15 Trench 60 contained three parallel furrows, much the same as trench 59. Again, these were part of the surviving ridge and furrow visible on the surface of the field.

5.4 Spoil Storage Area

- 5.4.1 The archaeological horizon was not exposed during excavations for the proposed spoil storage area. As such, it was determined that no potential archaeological features or deposits would be impacted by the ground works.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 No archaeologically significant artefactual material was recovered during the works.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1.1 No archaeological deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the works.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 The identified archaeological remains, or lack of, largely correlate with the negative results of the geophysical survey. Due to site constraints such as great crested newts, overhead power lines and extensive vegetation; only 23 of the proposed 60 trenches were excavated, leaving parts of the scheme not yet investigated.
- 8.1.2 Almost all the identified archaeological remains were in the form of drainage ditches seemingly relating to the ridge and furrow present across much of the evaluated areas. Trenches 15, 43 and 49 contained ditches that were on a different alignment to the ridge and furrow and other drainage ditches and likely represent an earlier phase of field drainage; this was demonstrated in trench 43 where ditch **4306** was cut by one of the furrows. All features contained sterile, homogenous fills that displayed evidence of deposition resulting from alluvial activity. The lack of any archaeological artefacts observed during fieldwork across the scheme, indicates limited past human activity in the areas investigated.

8.2 Discussion

- 8.2.1 The results of the archaeological fieldwork identified predominantly medieval and post medieval agricultural activity. The ditches revealed in many of the trenches all lay within existing furrows, suggesting that furrows were further excavated in order to aid with the mass drainage of the land. The investigated land is currently considered a flood plain, and heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding during the works demonstrated this. The results of

the evaluation suggest that this was likely still the case historically, and that efforts were made to mitigate this with additional drainage ditches.

- 8.2.2 No evidence for Romano-British activity relating to the former Roman road (now the A41) was identified during the works. However, the area closest to the A41 was not evaluated due to ecological constraints comprising the presence of great crested newts which prevented access to this part of the scheme. The geophysical survey of this area revealed no positive results for potential archaeological remains, and as the survey has been proven to be accurate through all evaluated areas, the potential for archaeological remains near the A41 is considered low.

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 Salisbury. Oxfordshire Museum Service has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **OXCMS:2019.130**. 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 and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Oxfordshire Museum Service, 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 site code **206714**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 01 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. 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.



REFERENCES

- ADS 2013 *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice*. Archaeology Data Service and Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice
- British Geological Survey online viewer <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed 31/10/2019)
- Brown, D H 2011 *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (revised edition). Archaeological Archives Forum
- ClfA 2014a *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- ClfA 2014b *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- ClfA 2014c *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- ClfA 2014d *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- English Heritage 2011 *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*. Swindon, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines
- Hey, G and Hind, J 2014 *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment Resource Assessments and Research Agendas* Oxford Wessex.
- SMA 1993 *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections*. Society of Museum Archaeologists
- SMA 1995 *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*. Society of Museum Archaeologists
- Wessex Archaeology 2019a *Blackthorn to Piddington embankment works, Overarching WSI, Oxfordshire. Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation and Mitigation*. Unpublished client report ref. 206713.01
- Wessex Archaeology 2019b *Blackthorn to Piddington Embankment Works Evaluation, Oxfordshire. Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation* Unpublished client report ref 206714.01
- Wessex Archaeology 2019c *Blackthorn to Piddington Embankment Work, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Detailed Gradiometer Survey Report*. Unpublished client report ref. 206711.03



APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

Trench No 15		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.54 m
Easting 463290.28		Northing 219300.73		m aOD 61.01
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
1501		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty loam. Turf on surface, rooting throughout. Clear horizon with sub soil. Moderate compaction. No inclusions	0.00-0.23
1502		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Moderate bioturbation. Moderate compaction. Clear horizons with top soil and natural. No inclusions	0.23-0.44
1503		Natural	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay, clay and sand ratios vary across trench. Moderate bioturbation. Clear horizon with sub soil. No inclusions.	0.44+
1504	1505	Ditch	Curvilinear ditch with steep, concave sides and a flat base. Width: 0.80 m. Depth: 0.17 m.	
1505	1504	Secondary fill	Mid greyish yellow, multiple patches of dark grey and yellow clay	

Trench No 16		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.49 m
Easting 463340.40		Northing 219250.07		m aOD 60.86
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
1601		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown loose sandy clay, no inclusions	0.00-0.18
1602		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey silty clay, no inclusions	0.18-0.31
1603		Subsoil	Dark brownish grey firm silty clay, no inclusions. Soft upper and lower horizons	0.31-0.40
1604		Natural	Light orangey brown firm silty clay, no inclusions, slightly mottled. Areas of light silvery grey silty clay	0.40+
1605	1606, 1607	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep, straight sides and a flat base. Length: 0.70 m. Width: 1.11 m. Depth: 0.56 m.	
1606	1605	Secondary fill	Mid yellowish grey silty clay	
1607	1605	Tertiary fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay	



Trench No 17		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.58 m
Easting 463369.48		Northing 219216.97		m aOD 61.00
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
1701		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty loam. Topped with turf, fine rooting throughout. Moderate compaction, probably previously ploughed but seems to be being used as pasture land. Clear horizon with subsoil.	0.00-0.20
1702		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Moderate compaction, moderate rooting. Clear horizons with top and natural. Appears as 2 bands, possibly denoting interfaces top soil and natural. Top band is more of a mid greyish brown silty clay loam, lower band is a mid brownish grey silty clay.	0.20-0.50
1703		Natural	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay. Moderate compaction. Moderate bioturbation. Clear horizon with sub	0.50+
1704	1705, 1706	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >0.50 m. Width: 1.14 m. Depth: 0.54 m.	
1705	1704	Secondary fill	Mid yellowish grey silty clay	
1706	1704	Tertiary fill	Mid brownish grey silty clay	
1707	1708, 1709	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep, straight sides and a concave base. Length: >3.00 m. Width: 0.53 m. Depth: 0.53 m.	
1708	1707	Secondary fill	A mix of yellowish brown redeposited natural and dark grey silty clay natural clay and silty clay with no visible inclusions	
1709	1707	Tertiary fill	Mid brown clay silt with no visible inclusions	
1710	1711	Posthole	Sub-circular posthole with moderate, straight sides and an u-shaped base. Length: 0.32 m. Width: 0.32 m. Depth: 0.15 m.	
1711	1710	Secondary fill	Light grey brown silty clay with no visible inclusions	



Trench No 18		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.54 m
Easting 463397.83		Northing 219175.30		m aOD 61.03
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
1801		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown loose silty clay	0.00-0.26
1802		Natural	Light brownish grey compact silty clay	0.26+
1803	1804	Ditch	Linear ditch with moderate, straight sides and a v-shaped base. Length: >3.00 m. Width: 1.29 m. Depth: 0.39 m.	
1804	1803	Secondary fill	Mid grey compact silty clay	

Trench No 19		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.48 m
Easting 463436.38		Northing 219132.31		m aOD 61.06
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
1901		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown loose sandy clay with no inclusions	0.00-0.22
1902		Subsoil	Mid grey firm sandy clay with no inclusions	0.22-0.44
1903		Natural	Light yellowish brown compact sandy clay with no inclusions	0.44+
1904	1905	Ditch	Linear ditch with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Length: >2.04 m. Width: 0.86 m. Depth: 0.36 m.	
1905	1904	Secondary fill	Dark grey silty clay	
1906	1907	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep, straight sides and a concave base. Length: >3.00 m. Width: 0.80 m. Depth: 0.39 m.	
1907	1906	Secondary fill	Mid-dark greyish brown silty clay with no visible inclusions inclusions	
1908	1909	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep, straight sides and a concave base. Length: >3.00 m. Width: 0.76 m. Depth: 0.32 m.	
1909	1908	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay with no visible inclusions	



Trench No 21		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.60 m
Easting 463571.90		Northing 218997.43		m aOD 61.32
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
2101		Topsoil	Appears to have two components, each of 0.15cm depth; the upper component is mid brown silty clay with the mix erring on the clay side with no visible inclusions and the top 5cm lightly root-turbated by the turf. The lower component is darker clay-silt and was perhaps a soil buried by groundworks associated with the construction of the railway line that lies raised approximately 8m to the East of the trench. There are no visible inclusions in this component either, although a few fugitive fragments of red brick or pipe can be seen.	0.00-0.30
2102		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay, compacted, with no visible inclusions.	0.30-0.55
2103		Natural	Mid yellowish brown clay. No inclusions.	0.55+
2104	2105	Ditch	Agricultural ditch possibly representing a former hedge line. Parallel with 2106. Unexcavated due to trench flooding.	
2105	2104	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of ditch.	
2106	2107	Ditch	Agricultural ditch possibly representing a former hedge line. Parallel with 2104. Unexcavated due to trench flooding.	
2107	2106	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of ditch.	

Trench No 22		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.58 m
Easting 463602.70		Northing 218961.17		m aOD 61.38
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
2201		Topsoil	Top soil. Mid greyish brown silty loam. Topped with turf, fine rooting throughout. Moderate compaction, probably previously ploughed but seems to be being used as pasture land. Clear horizon with sub soil.	0.00-0.22
2202		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Moderate compaction, moderate rooting. Clear horizons with top and natural	0.18-0.47
2203		Natural	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay. Moderate compaction. Moderate bioturbation. Clear horizon with sub	0.47+



2204	2205	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep, straight sides and a concave base. Length: >3.00 m. Width: 0.86 m. Depth: 0.30 m.	
2205	2204	Secondary fill	Dark grey firm silty clay	

Trench No 41		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.45 m
Easting 463253.74		Northing 219412.92		m aOD 61.03
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
4101		Topsoil	Top soil. Mid greyish brown silty loam. Turf on surface. Moderate compaction. Moderate rooting. Clear horizon with natural. No inclusions.	0.00-0.23
4102		Natural	Mid yellowish brown clay. Firm compaction. Moderate bioturbation. Clear horizon with top soil. No inclusions.	0.23+

Trench No 42		Length 30.30 m	Width 1.86 m	Depth 0.54 m
Easting 463287.08		Northing 219375.12		M aOD 60.90
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
4201		Topsoil	Reddish brown clay loam.	0.00-0.23
4202		Subsoil	Grey with yellow hue, clay.	0.23-0.43
4203		Natural	Greyish yellow clay.	0.43+
4204	4205	Plough furrow	Furrow. Part of the surviving ridge and furrow present across the field.	
4205	4204	Secondary fill	Fill of furrow.	
4206	4207	Plough furrow	Furrow. Part of the surviving ridge and furrow present across the field.	
4207	4206	Secondary fill	Fill of furrow.	

Trench No 43		Length 31 m	Width 1.86 m	Depth 0.60 m
Easting 463326.64		Northing 219333.80		m aOD 61.11
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
4301		Topsoil	Dark reddish brown clay loam. Strongly bioturbated	0.00-0.17
4302		Subsoil	Compact and plastic grey with yellowish hue clay.	0.17-0.23
4303		Natural	Yellow (occasional mottling grey) compact and plastic clay	0.23+
4304	4305	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep, straight sides and a flat base. Width: 1.00 m. Depth: 0.36 m.	
4305	4304	Secondary fill	Dark grey clay. Archaeological components: CBM / fired clay	
4306	4307	Gully	Linear gully with moderate, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >3.00 m. Width: 0.50 m. Depth: 0.22 m.	



4307	4306	Secondary fill	Mid-dark greyish brown silty clay with no inclusions	
4308	4309	Plough furrow	Furrow. Part of the surviving ridge and furrow present across the field.	
4309	4308	Secondary fill	Fill of furrow.	
4310	4311	Plough furrow	Furrow. Part of the surviving ridge and furrow present across the field.	
4311	4310	Secondary fill	Fill of furrow.	

Trench No 44		Length 31.60 m	Width 1.86 m	Depth 0.50 m
Easting 463368.41		Northing 219280.69		m aOD 61.00
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
4401		Topsoil	Dark reddish brown, not compacted. Strongly bioturbated.	0.00-0.05
4402		Subsoil	Compact and plastic grey clay with yellow hue.	0.05-0.41
4403		Natural	Plastic and compacted yellow clay with occasional grey mottling.	0.41+
4404	4405	Plough furrow	Furrow. Part of the surviving ridge and furrow present across the field.	
4405	4404	Secondary fill	Fill of furrow.	

Trench No 45		Length 31 m	Width 1.63 m	Depth 0.72 m
Easting 463449.45		Northing 219199.17		m aOD 61.18
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
4501		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay, with firm compaction. Rooting throughout layer. No visible inclusions. Clear horizon with 4502	0.00-0.14
4502		Made ground	Mid reddish brown clay, very compact, no visible inclusions. Sheets of modern plastic appear around centre of trench.	0.14-0.45
4503		Natural	Light-mid greyish yellow clay with a small percentage of sand, that makes deposit gritty, with occasional patches of blue clay, very compact.	0.45+

Trench No 47		Length 32.60 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 0.60 m
Easting 463476.92		Northing 219168.11		m aOD 61.11
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
4701		Topsoil	Dark greyish clay loam, not very compacted, nearly loose, worm and root affected.	0.00-0.08
4702		Made ground	Greyish yellow plastic clay, rare sub.angular tiny stones	0.08-0.40
4703		Natural	Mid greyish plastic clay, diffuse Fe+Mn stains, some rooting	0.48+



4704		Layer	Thin layer made of stone, possibly redeposited and dumped from railway bank to level the ground. In plan is quite visible in NE area of trench, cut by a land drain.	0.40-0.48
------	--	-------	--	-----------

Trench No 49		Length 29 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 0.60 m
Easting 463595.54		Northing 219023.99		m aOD 61.11
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
4901		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown not compacted clay loam, strongly root affected, fairly worm activity.	0.00-0.18
4902		Subsoil	Mid yellow plastic silty clay, fairly root affected	0.18-0.41
4903		Natural	Mid greyish yellow plastic clay, with very diffuse Fe+Mn stains, common rusting stains. Strongly bioturbated. A large concentration of limestone inclusions ($\leq 2\text{mm.}$) is clearly visible in northern area of trench.	0.41+
4904	4905	Tree Throw	Tree-throw. Sub-oval shape, approximately 0.22m deep	
4905	4904	Secondary fill	Grey clay, multiple patches of redeposited natural.	
4906	4907	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep, straight sides and a flat base. Width: 0.95 m. Depth: 0.44 m.	
4907	4906	Secondary fill	Dark greyish brown (with yellow hue) silty clay	
4908	4909	Posthole	Circular posthole with steep, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 0.40 m. Width: 0.50 m. Depth: 0.18 m.	
4909	4908	Secondary fill	Dark grey silty clay with no inclusions	

Trench No 50		Length 30 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 0.68 m
Easting 463629.07		Northing 218985.54		m aOD 61.23
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
5001		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown not compacted clay loam, strongly root affected, fairly worm activity.	0.00-0.26
5002		Subsoil	Mid yellow plastic silty clay. Fairly root affected	0.26-0.56
5003		Natural	Mid greyish yellow plastic clay, with very diffuse Fe+Mn stains, common rusting stains. Strongly bioturbated.	0.56+
5004	5005	Ditch terminal	Linear ditch terminal with moderate, straight sides and a flat base. Width: 0.92 m. Depth: 0.37 m.	
5005	5004	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay	



5006	5007	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep, concave sides and an irregular / undulating base. Width: 0.72 m. Depth: 0.30 m.
5007	5006	Secondary fill	Dark grey / black silty clay

Trench No 54		Length 29.90 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 0.38 m
Easting 464067.36		Northing 218493.85		m aOD 61.23
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
5401		Topsoil	Mid reddish brown, Clay loam common rusty stains, worm affected; rare sherd of modern pottery.	0.00-0.16
5402		Natural	Greyish yellow plastic clay with light yellow tiny patches, some sparse charcoal flecks flecks, above all throughout the top (first 15 / 20cm) of deposit.	0.16+ / 0.40+
5403	5404	Ditch	Linear ditch with moderate, straight sides and a concave base. Length: >1.56 m. Width: 1.70 m. Depth: 0.38 m.	
5404	5403	Secondary fill	Black clay. Archaeological components: Metal	
5405		Subsoil	Mid grey plastic clay. It not consistent all over the length of trench. Not visible on rep. sec., Visible instead on sec line n. 5401a showing it seals the possible ditch [5403].	0.21-0.40
5406	5407	Plough furrow	Furrow. Part of the surviving ridge and furrow present across the field.	
5407	5406	Secondary fill	Fill of furrow.	

Trench No 55		Length 29.15 m	Width 1.58 m	Depth 0.50 m
Easting 464146.39		Northing 218406.98		m aOD 63.79
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
5501		Topsoil	TOPSOIL / PLOUGH SOIL. Mid reddish brown, compact clay loam, common rusty stains, worm affected.	0.00-0.20
5502		Subsoil	Mid grey plastic clay. It not consistent all over the length of trench. Not visible on rep. sec.	0.20-0.48
5503		Natural	Mid yellowish grey plastic clay with lighter yellow tiny patches (gleying), some sparse charcoal flecks, above all throughout the top (first 15 / 20cm) of deposit.	0.48+



Trench No 56		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.38 m
Easting 464184.46		Northing 218366.72		m aOD 63.90
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
5601		Topsoil	Friable, mid-greyish brown silty clay with some root turbation. No visible inclusions. Very clear boundary between topsoil and natural.	0.00-0.28
5602		Natural	Light yellowish grey clay, extremely sparse sand stone inclusions.	0.28+

Trench No 57		Length 30.60 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 0.55 m
Easting 464293.59		Northing 218255.55		m aOD 64.35
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
5701		Topsoil	Mid reddish brown, Clay loam common rusty stains, worm affected	0.00-0.15
5702		Subsoil	Greyish brown plastic clay, some Roots	0.15-0.40
5703		Natural	Light greyish Yellow plastic clay with some gleying	0.40+

Trench No 58		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.32 m
Easting 464319.39		Northing 218228.23		m aOD 64.43
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
5801		Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay with fine rooting throughout. No visible inclusions. Very compact.	0.00-0.12
5802		Made ground	Modern made ground.	0.12-0.32
5803		Natural	Mid yellowish orange clay, occasional patches of mid greyish blue, very compact. No visible inclusions.	0.32+

Trench No 59		Length 30.80 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 0.64 m
Easting 464389.90		Northing 218159.60		m aOD 64.95
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
5901		Topsoil	TOPSOIL / PLOUGHSOIL. Reddish brown clay loam, worn affected, strongly bioturbated.	0.00-0.20
5902		Subsoil	Mid yellowish grey plastic clay, rooting, same very rare tiny charcoal flecks, not consistent. Diffuse horizon with natural, Sharp horizon whit natural	0.20-0.56
5903		Natural	Light greyish yellow plastic clay, tiny organic flecks (due to rooting, day roots in clay, rooting, diffuse horizon with subsoil.	0.56+



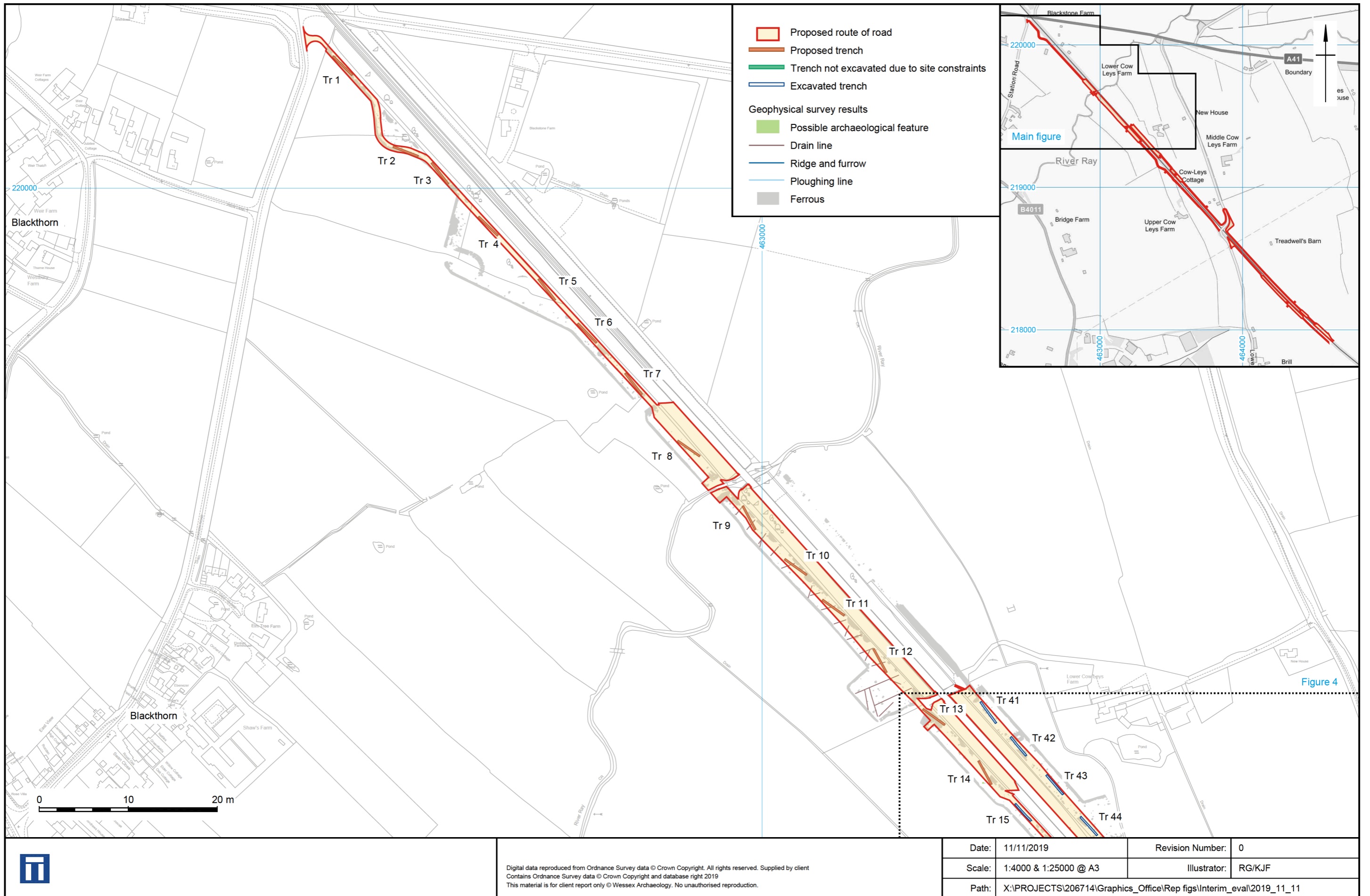
5904	5905	Plough furrow	Linear plough furrow Length: >1.60 m. Width: 1.36 m. Depth: 0.19 m.
5905	5904	Secondary fill	Light greyish yellow clay
5906	5907	Plough furrow	Furrow. Part of the surviving ridge and furrow present across the field.
5907	5906	Secondary fill	Light greyish yellow clay
5908	5909	Plough furrow	Furrow. Part of the surviving ridge and furrow present across the field.
5909	5908	Secondary fill	Light greyish yellow clay

Trench No 60		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.62 m
Easting 464436.44		Northing 218114.90		m aOD 65.18
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
6001		Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay, fine rooting throughout. Very compact. No visible inclusions.	0.00-0.24
6002		Subsoil	Pale brownish grey clay. Moderate compaction. Much of this layer along the trench is formed from the up-cast of the ridge and furrow.	0.24-0.56
6003		Natural	Mid greyish yellow clay. Very compact. Inclusions, 1% sub-rounded limestone inclusions, 2-6 mm.	0.56+
6004	6005	Plough furrow	Furrow. Part of the surviving ridge and furrow present across the field.	
6005	6004	Secondary fill	Fill of furrow.	
6006	6007	Plough furrow	Furrow. Part of the surviving ridge and furrow present across the field.	
6007	6006	Secondary fill	Fill of furrow.	
6008	6009	Plough furrow	Furrow. Part of the surviving ridge and furrow present across the field.	
6009	6008	Secondary fill	Fill of furrow.	

Trench No 61		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.52 m
Easting 464482.97		Northing 218068.60		m aOD 65.29
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
6101		Topsoil	Soft, mid brownish grey silty clay. Heavily rooted with no visible inclusions.	0.00-0.13
6102		Natural	Soft, mid yellowish brown clay. Occasional small <10mm flint and limestone inclusions.	0.38+
6103		Subsoil	Mid yellowish grey plastic compacted clay, quite not consistent .	0.13-0.38
6104	6105	Tree Throw	Hollow created from the uprooting of a tree/shrub.	
6105	6104	Secondary fill	Fill of tree throw.	
6106	6107	Tree Throw	Hollow created from the uprooting of a tree/shrub.	

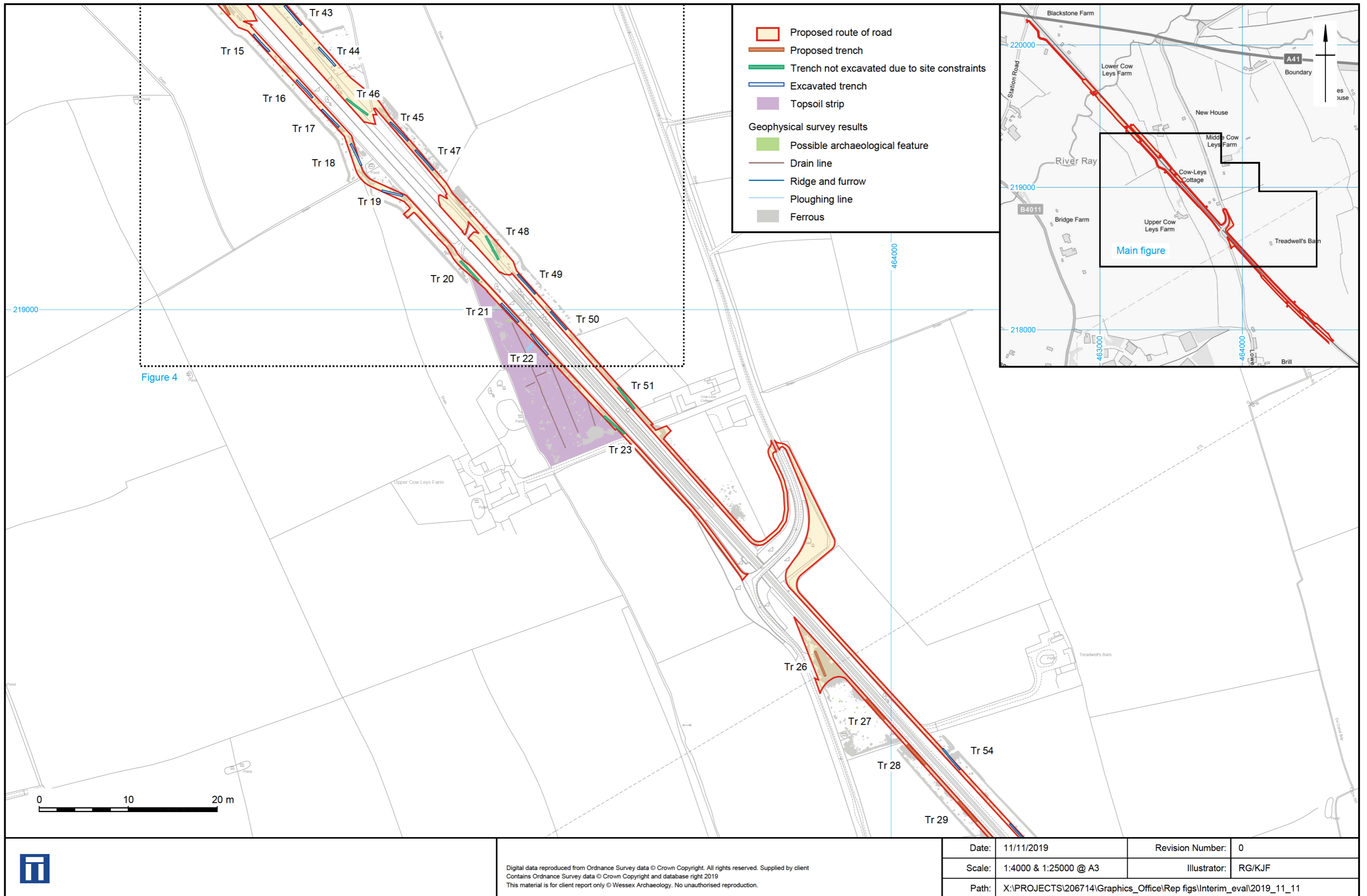


6107	6106	Secondary fill	Fill of tree throw.	
------	------	----------------	---------------------	--



Trench locations overlain on geophysical survey results (Northern part of proposed road)

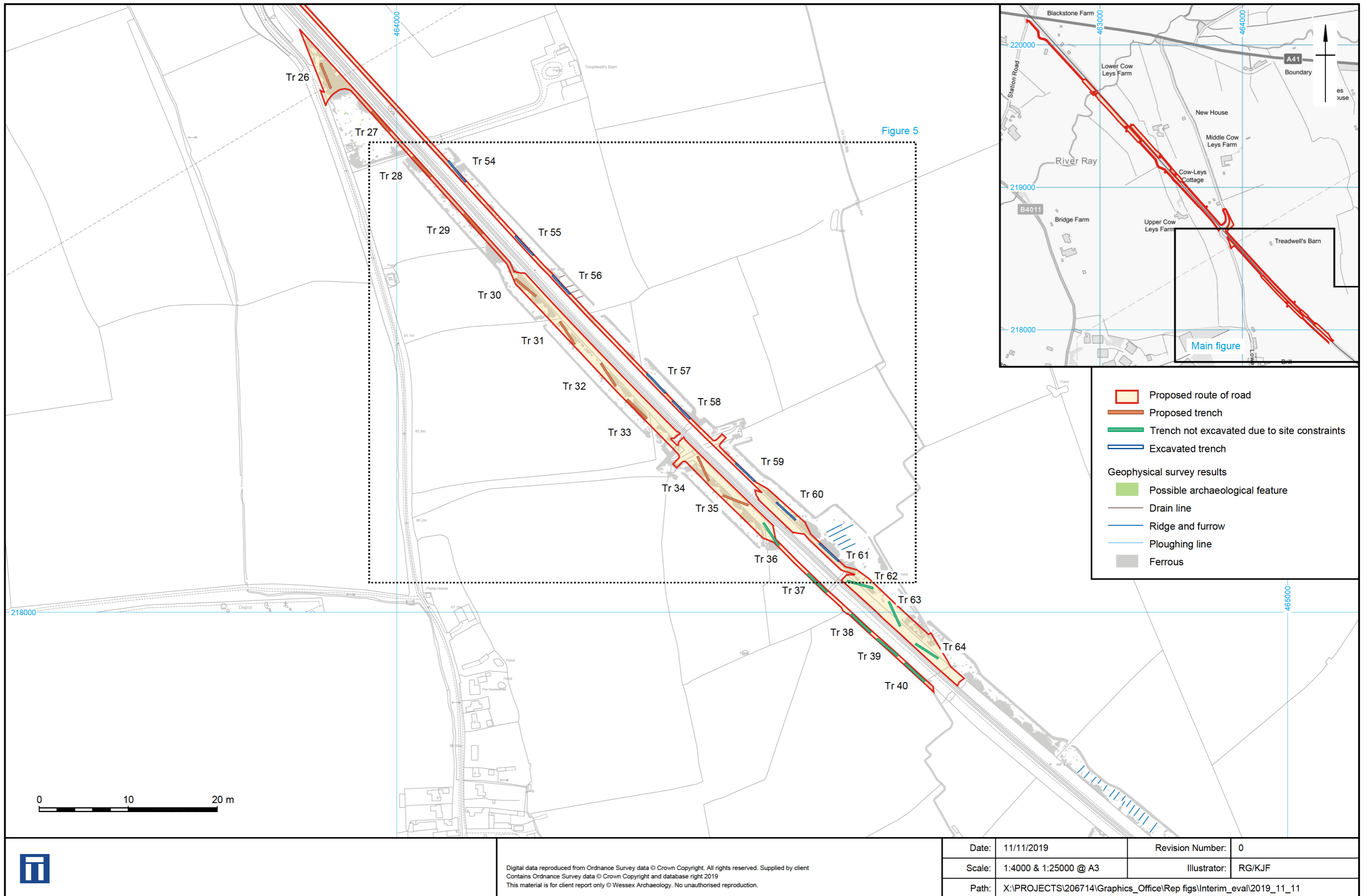
Figure 1



Trench locations overlain on geophysical survey results (Central part of proposed road)

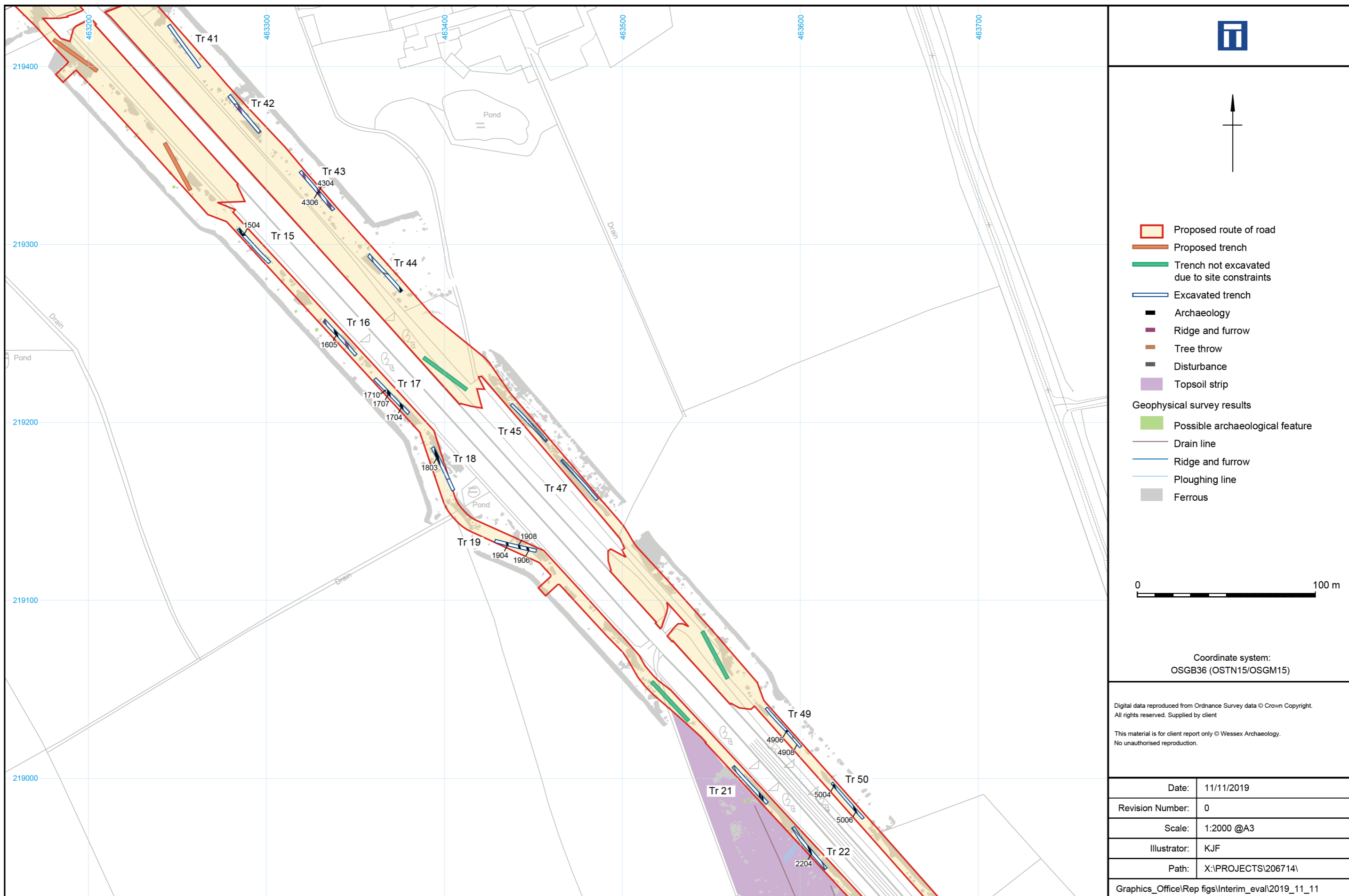
Figure 2

Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Supplied by client
 Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2019
 This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.



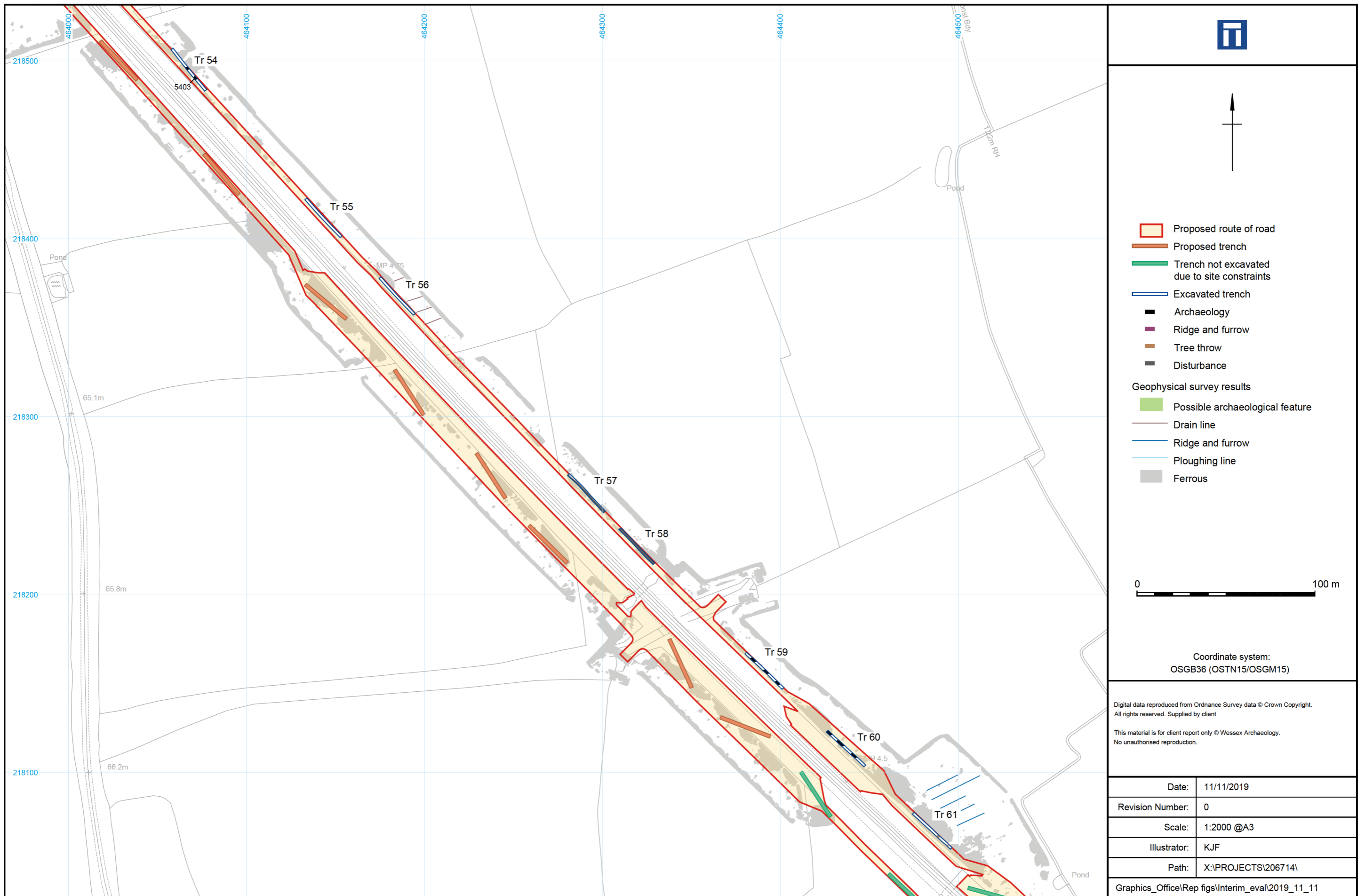
Trench locations overlain on geophysical survey results (Southern part of proposed road)

Figure 3



Detail of excavated trenches

Figure 4



Detail of excavated trenches

Figure 5



Plate 1: Representative section of trench 19. View from SSW, 1.0 m scale,



Plate 2: North facing section of ditch 1704, 1.0 m scale.


	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.		
	Date:	12/11/2019	Revision Number: 0
	Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator: KJF
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\206714\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Interim_eval\2019_11_11	



Plate 3: North facing section of ditch 1904, 0.5 m scale.



Plate 4: Oblique shot of ditches 4304 and 4306. View from north-west, 0.5 m scale.



	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	12/11/2019	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	KJF
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\206714\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Interim_eval\2019_11_11		



Plate 5: Shot of trench 59. View from south-east, 2.0m and 1.0 m scales.

	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	12/11/2019	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	KJF
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\206714\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Interim_eval\2019_11_11		



Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

