Main Street, Great Casterton
Rutland

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Class Q Ltd to undertake the archaeological evaluation of a 0.22 ha parcel of land located off Main Street, Great Casterton, Rutland, centred on NGR 499951 309211.

The works were undertaken at the request of the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council as part of the determination process for a planning application submitted to Rutland County Council. The proposed development comprises the construction of four residential dwellings, a new children's play area and associated access and footpaths.

Archaeological remains were encountered in two of the four trenches. Romano-British field boundary ditches were exposed in the two western trenches. The eastern two trenches were sited within an area previously remodelled for a bowling green and were archaeologically sterile.

Pottery recovered from the ditches, subsoil and topsoil dated to between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD. A small quantity of animal bone was also found.

Remains of cereal crops, namely spelt, barley and oats, were present in the environmental samples taken from the features on the Site.

The archaeological remains probably relate to the former cultivation of the Site, which appears to have lain within the agricultural hinterland of the Romano-British precursor to Great Casterton.

The evaluation was successful in meeting its general aims and objectives. It has established the presence or absence of archaeological features across different parts of the evaluated area. Where remains were encountered, their extent, character, condition and quality have been established. There is little evidence, however, that the Site contains information capable of contributing substantially to the site-specific objectives, which were drawn from the research priorities set out in the regional research agenda and strategy (Knight et al. 2012).

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Class Q Ltd for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, in particular Tom Helliwell. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, who monitored the project for Rutland County Council.

Main Street, Great Casterton, Rutland

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Class Q Ltd, to undertake the archaeological evaluation of a 0.22 ha parcel of land (hereafter 'the Site') located off Main Street, Great Casterton, Rutland, PE9 4AU, centred on NGR 499951 309211 (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the construction of four residential two-storey dwellings, an access road on the western side of the existing Stamford Osteopathic Clinic car park, the introduction of a new public footpath on the eastern boundary of the Site and a new children's play area.

1.1.3 A planning application (2020/0706/FUL) was submitted to Rutland County Council, the Senior Planning Archaeologist (SPA) at Leicestershire County Council recommended that prior to determination the applicant should carry out:

A field evaluation, by appropriate techniques including trial trenching, as identified necessary in the desk-based assessment [Witham Archaeology Report no.370], to identify and locate any archaeological remains of significance and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development. Further design, civil engineering or archaeological work may then be necessary to achieve this.

1.1.4 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 2021). The SPA at Leicestershire County Council approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.5 The evaluation, comprising the excavation of four trial trenches (5.5% sample), was undertaken on the 26th and 27th April 2021.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.

1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The evaluation area is located in the northern part of the village of Great Casterton, which lies approximately 3.5 km north-west of Stamford. The Site is bounded to the north by domestic dwellings on Ermine Rise and Pickworth Road, to the east by Pickworth Road, to

the south by the Great Casterton Osteopathy Clinic and Main Street and to the west by Stamford Veterinary Centre. The Site was formerly a beer garden and bowling green.

1.3.2 Existing ground levels Existing ground levels lie at approximately 44 m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Lower Lincolnshire Limestone Member with no superficial deposits recorded (British Geological Survey 2021).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior desk-based assessment by Witham Archaeology (Witham Archaeology 2020), 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 Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (LHER) 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

Walkover survey (2020)

2.2.1 Witham Archaeology undertook a walkover survey of the Site in May 2020. The survey identified evidence of significant landscaping at the east of the Site, as well as evidence of a demolished building.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (AD 43 and earlier)

2.3.1 Three heritage assets of prehistoric date were identified by the LHER. North-east of the proposed area of development, three undated crouched burials were identified during an excavation. The burials are thought to date from the Iron Age or early Roman-British period.

2.3.2 Prehistoric or possibly Iron Age cropmarks (MLE5471) identified from aerial photographs lie to the east of the Site. The cropmarks include an enclosure, a ditch, pits and a possible ring ditch

2.3.3 A possible Bronze Age ring ditch (MLE5798) was identified in aerial photographs to the south-west of the Site, south of Inthorpe.

Romano-British (AD 43–410)

2.3.4 The village of Great Casterton lies on the site of a Romano-British town that was located on the major Roman road (now known as Ermine Street) that connected London to York via Lincoln. The town, which occupied some 7.3 ha, lay within a loop of the River Gwash, north of the road crossing. The proposed area of development is located in the northern part of the village, near the intersection of Main Street and Pickworth Road, just outside the Romano-British town enclosure ditch and close to a Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon cemetery to the north-east.

2.3.5 Twenty-three Romano-British heritage assets recorded by the LHER fall within a 1 km radius of the Site, all located in and around Great Casterton. There are several close to the Site, which lies to the north of the intersection of Ermine Street and the north to south

aligned Tixover Road (MLE5425), which connected Great Casterton to at least Tixover to the south during the Romano-British period.

2.3.6 A Roman fort is visible as cropmarks in the field west of the Ryhall Road. The fort was established in the 40s AD, contracted in the 70s AD and was disused by the 80s AD. The Romano-British town developed to the south-west of the fort; it was surrounded by defensive earthworks in the late 2nd to early 3rd century and reorganised with the construction of stone bastions in the 4th century. North of the ramparts, a Romano-British cemetery and pottery kilns have been identified.

2.3.7 Excavations within the Romano-British town have identified evidence of a 1st-century bathhouse and other timber-framed structures. A primitive iron smelting hearth has also been identified.

Early medieval (AD 410–1066)

2.3.8 There are three heritage assets of Saxon date within 1 km of the Site. The nearest is an Anglo-Saxon cemetery (MLE5305) located to the north of the Romano-British town. During an emergency excavation undertaken during road widening works at Ryhall Road in 1966 (ELE1676), 35 cremations and 15 inhumations were recorded, and several Anglo-Saxon finds recovered.

2.3.9 Great Casterton is mentioned in the *Domesday* Book of 1086, which suggests that there was a settlement present at least in the late Saxon period. In addition, the Anglo-Saxon cemetery located near the proposed area of development suggests the potential for Saxon remains nearby is moderate to high.

Medieval (AD 1066–1540)

2.3.10 Ten heritage assets of medieval date are recorded by the HER within the search area. The Site is located within the medieval core of Great Casterton.

2.3.11 Great Casterton was held by Earl Morarc before the 1066 conquest and in 1086 was held by Hugh son of Baldric from the king (Open Domesday website). The holding included 24 villagers, a 16-acre meadow and a mill. Although the church of St Peter and St Paul was mostly built in the 13th century, there are elements of the fabric that indicate the structure was extant in the Norman period.

Post-medieval (AD 1540–1900)

2.3.12 Four heritage assets of post-medieval date were identified by the LHER search within 1 km of the Site. A post-medieval malting kiln is recorded (MLE5291) to the north of St Peter and St Paul church. To the south of the Site a turnpike road was identified (MLE20651), it was established in 1738–9. Structural remains of 17th to 18th-century cottages (MLE19782) were identified at 3 Main Street during trial trenching. North-west of the assessment area at Tickencote, a possible post-medieval mill pond (MLE20689) was identified.

Modern (AD 1900–present)

2.3.13 The 1887 First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the Site occupied by houses fronting Pickworth road and structures to the rear on the eastern part of the development area. Three small allotments occupy the rest of the Site.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021) and in compliance with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a), were to:

- provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- 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;
- establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- 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 (Knight et al. 2012), site-specific objectives defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021) were to:

- To examine evidence for remains of a Romano-British features that may exist within the Site;
- How may roads and waterways have impacted upon established communities and how may roads have influenced urban morphology?
- How can we enhance our knowledge of developing pottery industries, particularly during the Conquest period and 3rd to 4th centuries?
- How does the distribution of towns correlate with Iron Age foci, and how far may their social, political and economic roles have overlapped?

3.3.2 The site-specific objectives of the evaluation relating to any potential early medieval features identified were to identify:

- To what extent were Roman roads used and maintained from the 5th century, and may some have acted as social or political boundaries?

- Can 'sub-Roman' or 'British' cemeteries and cemeteries dating from the late 7th to 9th centuries be identified?

- Can we characterise more precisely Anglo-Saxon and Viking cemeteries and identify temporal or spatial variability in funerary traditions?

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 2021) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI, although trenches 1–3 had to be slightly moved because of obstacles including trees and beehives (**Fig. 1**).

4.2.2 Four trial trenches, each measuring 20.0 m in length and 1.5 m wide, were excavated in level spits using a JCB 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 was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.

4.2.4 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. 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 SPA at Leicestershire County Council were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.

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

4.2.8 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control

and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021). 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), *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (Campbell et al. 2011), and CIfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 The SPA at Leicestershire County Council monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the SPA.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Two of the four excavated trial trenches contained archaeological features and deposits, indicating archaeological remains are present across the western half of the Site (**Fig. 1**).

5.1.2 The uncovered features comprise ditches of Romano-British date and an undated gully that truncated one of the ditches. The only evidence of activity post-dating the Romano-British period is represented by modern pottery and clay tobacco pipe etc. from the topsoil and bulk deposits used to terrace the land for the bowling green.

5.1.3 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed by period.

5.1.4 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**). **Figure 1** shows all archaeological features.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The natural substrate was exposed in all four trenches in the form of the Lincolnshire Limestone bedrock. The depth at which it was typically encountered varied between 0.27 and 0.92 m due to the landscaping of the Site (**Pl. 5** and **9**).

5.2.2 Subsoil was encountered in trenches 1, 2 and 4; where it presented as a mid-yellowish brown sandy clay containing sparse subangular stones and was typically 0.17 m thick. Its absence in trench 3 (**Pl. 3**) is likely due to the levelling necessary to create the bowling green. A mix of Romano-British and modern pottery and animal bone was recovered from the subsoil in trench 2.

5.2.3 Trench 4 contained a bulk deposit (402; 0.47 m deep) of redeposited topsoil with lenses/pockets of burnt modern material (**Pl. 4** and **9**). This deposit was used to level the area for the creation of the bowling green.

5.2.4 The overlying topsoil was a dark greyish brown silty sand with a typical thickness of 0.36 m. It was unusually deep (0.47 m) in trench 2, and somewhat disturbed, likely due to the

landscaping necessary to create the car park immediately to the south. Romano-British and modern pottery, animal bone, clay pipe, glass and modern metal objects were recovered from the topsoil of trench 2.

5.3 Romano British (800 BC–AD 43)

5.3.1 Trench 1 (**Pl. 1**) contained two north-west to south-east aligned ditches. The more westerly of the two, 104, had irregular sides, a flat base, a width of 1.15 m and a depth of 0.45 m (**Pl. 6**). It had a dark yellowish brown sandy silt fill that contained a horse tooth and Romano-British pottery, predominantly Nene valley wares, including material of late 3rd to 4th-century date. The environmental sample taken from the fill of this feature contained cereal (spelt and oats) remains.

5.3.2 The easterly ditch, 107, had shallow, concave sides and a concave base with a width of 1.60 m and a depth 0.40 m (**Pl. 8**). It had a mid-yellowish brown sandy silt fill and contained a shell-tempered Romano-British pottery body sherd.

5.3.3 Two ditches crossed trench 2 (**Pl. 2**). The westernmost (unexcavated) may have been a continuation of either of the ditches in trench 1. The other ditch in trench 2 appeared slightly askew to the other ditches hereabouts. Numbered 204 (1.20 m wide x 0.07 m deep; **Pl. 7**) its straight-sided, flat based profile contained a deposit of dark yellowish brown silty sand found to contain a shell-tempered Romano-British pottery body sherd and sheep teeth, along with a piece of possibly intrusive modern flowerpot.

5.4 Uncertain date

5.4.1 Ditch 107 was truncated by a gully, 108, in trench 1 (**Pl. 8**). The gully had steep, stepped sides, a flat base, a width of 0.70 m, a depth of 0.47 m and an artefactually sterile dark yellowish brown sandy silt. The environmental sample taken from the fill of this feature also contained spelt remains, along with barley.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during the evaluation, deriving from contexts in two of the trenches excavated (trenches 1 and 2). The assemblage ranges in date from Romano-British to modern.

Table 1 All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Animal bone	Pottery	Other finds
105	2/20	21/475	1 fired clay; 1 shell
106		1/66	
201	3/36	5/45	4 CTP; 2 glass; 3 metal
202	1/13	8/220	
205	3/4	2/35	
Total	**9/73**	**37/841**	

CTP = clay tobacco pipe

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 The pottery assemblage amounts to 37 sherds (weighing 841 g) and includes material of Romano-British and modern date. Condition is fair to good; Romano-British sherds have

suffered some surface and edge abrasion, but sherd size is relatively large (mean sherd weight overall is 22.7 g) and there are at least two conjoining sherds (on old breaks).

6.2.2 The assemblage has been quantified (sherd count and weight) by ware type within each context. Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs) have not been used here due to the very small size of the assemblage. Instead, the Maximum Number of Vessels (MNV) has been used, counting conjoining sherds, or those almost certainly from the same vessel, as 1. Identifiable vessel forms have been noted, and any other diagnostic features. The level of recording accords with the 'basic record' advocated by national standards (Barclay *et al* 2016), aimed at producing a rapid characterisation of the assemblage. Table 2 lists the assemblage by context.

Table 2 Pottery by context (MNV = Maximum Number of Vessels)

Context	Broad period	Ware	Sherd count	Wt. (g)	MNV	Comment
105	Roman	Nene Valley colour-coated ware	1	198	1	170 mm rim, imitation samian form 38, late C3-C4
105	Roman	Nene Valley colour-coated ware	1	69	1	beaker base - has finger marks from dipping
105	Roman	Nene Valley colour-coated ware	3	7	2	abraded
105	Roman	Shell-tempered	1	13	1	rilled surface
105	Roman	Shell-tempered	3	110	3	body sherds
105	Roman	Nene Valley greyware	11	75	3	body and base sherds
105	Roman	Greyware	1	3	1	body sherd
106	Roman	Shell-tempered	1	66	1	body sherd
201	Roman	Nene valley whiteware mortaria	1	15	1	Grooved mortaria flange cf Hartley and Perrin 1999, fig. 78, M43
201	Roman	Nene Valley greyware	1	6	1	flat rim fragment, no wall survives, mid to late 2nd to early 3rd, bowl or dish
201	Roman	Whiteware	1	2	1	body sherd
201	Modern	Refined whiteware	2	22	2	1 body (red banded, hollow ware); 1 base (plain)
202	Roman	Unassigned colour-coated ware	1	45	1	flange fragment
202	Roman	Nene valley whiteware mortaria	1	15	1	flange fragment, C2-4
202	Roman	Nene Valley greyware	5	187	1	26 mm rim, cf Perrin 1999, 20, burnished decoration is barely visible, C2 to C3
202	Modern	Refined whiteware	1	17	1	sponged dec

205	Modern	Flower-pot	1	20	1	rim from flowerpot, stamped on body - the letters EY survives
205	Roman	Shell-tempered	1	15	1	body sherd

Romano-British

6.2.3 Thirty-three sherds are of Romano-British date. They came from three ditches (104, 107 and 204) and layers of topsoil and subsoil (201, 202). Most are products of the Nene Valley industry, centred on Water Newton, located 15 km to the south-east of the Site. The Nene Valley greywares (17 sherds, 268 g) include a jar with burnished decoration on the neck (cf Perrin 1999, fig. 56, 20) from subsoil 202, and the flat rim from a bowl or dish from topsoil 201; both are of mid to late 2nd/early 3rd century date. Nene Valley colour-coated wares (five sherds, 274 g) were recorded from ditch 104 and include a copy of samian bowl form 38, of late 3rd to 4th century date, and a beaker base. Other Nene Valley products comprise two sherds (16 g) of whiteware mortaria from topsoil layers 201 and 202, including a grooved rim fragment (cf Hartley and Perrin fig. 78, M43).

6.2.4 Six body sherds (190 g) in shell-gritted wares, including one with a rilled external surface, were found in ditches 104, 107 and 204. Shell-gritted wares were widely used in the region during the Iron Age and Romano-British periods (Perrin 1999, 118). One sherd in a sandy greyware came from ditch 104. Single sherds in an unsourced colour-coated ware (45 g) – a flanged bowl of late Romano-British date, and a whiteware (1 g), were found in topsoil 201 and subsoil 202.

Modern

6.2.5 The remaining four sherds are modern; all came from trench 2. A single sherd of unglazed redware – a flowerpot with the stamp of Sankey of Nottingham – came from ditch 204, and three whitewares were recovered from subsoil and topsoil. All are of 19th-/20th-century date.

6.3 Animal bone

6.3.1 The nine fragments of bone include cattle (rib from 201), sheep (two humeri from 201, one from an immature individual, three teeth from 205), horse (tooth from 105) and dog (radius from 202).

6.4 Other finds

6.4.1 Other finds comprise one fragment of undiagnostic fired clay (uncertain date and function), four fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem (18th-century or later), two fragments of modern glass (window and wine glass stem), three modern metal objects (cigar tin, screw-threaded machinery part, lead waste) and an oyster shell. The post-medieval/modern objects all came from topsoil in trench 2.

6.5 Statement of potential

6.5.1 This is a small assemblage and its potential is correspondingly extremely limited. Pottery has provided basic dating evidence for the Site and represents the only datable artefact type associated with Romano-British activity, although it is assumed that at least some of the animal bone also belongs to this period. The animal bone assemblage is far too small for any meaningful comment on animal husbandry. The assemblage has been recorded to

an appropriate archive level, and there is no potential for further analysis. Selective retention is recommended (see below, Storage and Curation).

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Two bulk sediment samples were taken from a ditch and gully and were processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence.

7.2 Aims and methods

7.2.1 The purpose of this assessment is to determine the potential of the Site for the preservation of environmental evidence. The nature of this assessment follows recommendations set up by Historic England (Campbell et al. 2011).

7.2.2 The samples) were processed by standard bucket flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted by eye and discarded. The environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots. The grid method was used to split large fine residues into smaller fine residue subsamples when appropriate. The fine residue fractions and the flot) were scanned using a stereo incident light microscopy (Leica MS5 microscope) at magnifications of up to x40 for the identification of environmental remains.

7.2.3 Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds, 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, animal bone and insects (in cases of anoxic conditions for their preservation), was recorded. Taxonomical identifications of important taxa were carried out in comparison with relevant literature and a modern seed reference collection, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary et al. (2012), 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.

7.3 Results

7.3.1 The flots from the bulk sediment samples were moderate in size (Appendix 2). There were variable numbers of roots, modern seeds and burrowing snails that are indicative of some stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Environmental evidence comprised plant remains preserved by carbonisation, molluscs, small animal bone and fish bone.

7.3.2 Charred material exhibited varying degrees of preservation. Wood charcoal was noted in generally moderate quantities and consisted of both mature and roundwood fragments in both samples. Remains of molluscs included a large proportion of *Cecilioides acicula*, which is a burrowing snail.

7.3.3 The charred plant remains consisted of cereal grains but also included chaff and wild taxa. The taxa included *Triticum spelta* (spelt) grain and a glume base, *Hordeum vulgare* (barley) and *Triticum* sp. (wheat) grains, Triticeae grain fragment, culm base and node and an *Avena* sp. (oat) grain.

7.4 Conclusions

7.4.1 There is potential at the Site for the presence of environmental evidence, of small animal bones, fish bones, carbonised plant remains and particularly molluscs, which could inform on the exploitation of plant and animal resources as well as agricultural activities and the landscape in the area. Therefore, if further investigation takes place, sampling is recommended.

7.4.2 The samples taken so far could have potential for analysis but any analysis recommendations should be revised once further sampling has been undertaken.

7.5 Recommendations for future sampling

7.5.1 Sampling should follow the recommendations set in a site-specific sampling strategy.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

8.1.1 The evaluation was successful in meeting its general aims and objectives. It has established the presence or absence of archaeological features across different parts of the evaluated area. Where remains were encountered, their extent, character, condition and quality have been established. There is little evidence, however, that the Site contains information capable of contributing substantially to the site-specific objectives, which were drawn from the research priorities set out in the regional research agenda and strategy (Knight et al. 2012).

8.2 Discussion

8.2.1 As described above, the Site lay outside the ditch surrounding the Romano-British town. The archaeological remains exposed during the evaluation, which appear to focus on the western part of the Site, seem rural in character and are assumed to represent a boundary or boundaries separating cultivation plots in the immediate hinterland of the Romano-British town. Pottery dates indicate activity on the Site between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD. A degree of renewal and rearrangement of these boundaries is suggested by the apparent recutting and the differing courses of the recorded ditches. A fuller understanding was not possible within the narrow window afforded by the evaluation trenches, although it is evident that the ditches do not run at right angles to the course of Ermine Street, as might be expected. The Romano-British ceramics recorded are products of local kilns and this small assemblage is unlikely to improve understanding of the products of the industry and range of associated trading networks. No remains capable of contributing to the site-specific objective relating to possible Iron Age precursors to the Romano-British town were found; some shell-gritted sherds were recovered, which may be Iron Age products, although they were found alongside Romanised wares. Similarly, no evidence of post-Roman funerary practices was exposed, despite the burials recorded nearby. The environmental evidence from the evaluated features indicates they contain remains that could provide information on agricultural activities such as the exploitation of plant and animal resources as well as the nature of the local landscape.

8.2.2 The eastern trenches, 3 and 4, contained no archaeological remains but were set in an area that had been landscaped to accommodate the modern bowling green. With no archaeological features present in the trenches dug in this area, it is possible that the construction of the bowling green truncated the archaeological horizon. A substantial thickness of overburden was recorded in trench 4, however.

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 Sheffield. Rutland Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code OAKRM:2021.7. 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

Physical archive

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

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:

- 2 boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 1 file of paper records

Digital archive

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

9.3 Selection strategy

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

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

9.3.3 In this instance, given the relatively low level of finds recovery, the selection process has been deferred until after the fieldwork stage was completed. Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. These proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further

comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.

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

Finds

- *Pottery (36 sherds):* small assemblage, but of some archaeological significance in mostly relating to activity in the Romano-British small town located at Great Casterton; limited further research potential. retain Romano-British sherds only.

- *Animal Bone (9 bones):* negligible quantities; nothing of intrinsic value; little or no archaeological potential; no further research potential; retain none.

- *Other Finds (4 clay pipe, 1 fired clay, 2 glass, 3 metal, 1 shell):* negligible quantities, all datable objects modern; no archaeological significance and no further research potential; retain none.

Palaeoenvironmental material

9.3.5 The samples are recommended for retention after any analysis recommendations on them have been completed.

Documentary records

9.3.6 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

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

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 access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (http://oasis.ac.uk) has been initiated, with key fields completed (wessexar1-422855; Appendix 3). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the SPA at Leicestershire County Council on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

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*.

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 20 m	Width 1.50 m	Depth 0.65 m

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
101		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty sand with 1% sub-angular stones <50mm and rooting. Loose compaction.	0 - 0.37
102		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay with 5% sub-angular stones <10mm. Moderate compaction.	0.37 - 0.57
103		Natural	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay with 50% sub-angular stone bedrock. High compaction.	0.57 - 0.65
104	105	Ditch	Linear ditch with irregular, irregular sides and a flat base. Length: >10.00 m. Width: 1.15 m. Depth: 0.45 m.	0.57 - 1.02
105	104	Secondary fill	Dark yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular stones no larger than 0.04m inclusions	0.57 - 1.02
106	107	Secondary fill	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular stones no larger than 0.04m inclusions	0.57 - 0.97
107	106	Ditch	Linear ditch, Roman with shallow, concave sides and a concave base. Length: >10.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth: 0.40 m.	0.57 - 0.97
108	109	Gully	Linear gully with steep, stepped sides and a flat base. Length: >10.00 m. Width: 0.70 m. Depth: 0.47 m.	0.57 - 0.99
109	108	Secondary fill	Dark yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular stones no larger than 0.04m inclusions	0.57 - 0.99

Trench No 2	Length 20 m	Width 1.50 m	Depth 0.80 m

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
201		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty sand with 1% sub-angular stones <50mm and rooting. Loose compaction.	0 - 0.47
202		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay with 5% sub-angular stones <10mm. Moderate compaction.	0.47 - 0.66

203		Natural	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay with 50% sub-angular stone bedrock. High compaction.	0.66 - 0.80 +
204	205	Ditch	Linear ditch with moderate, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >2.00 m. Width: 1.20 m. Depth: 0.07 m.	0.66 - 0.76
205	204	Secondary fill	Dark yellowish brown silty sand with 25% common sub-angular stones <120mm inclusions and charcoal flecking. High compaction.	0.66 - 0.76

Trench No 3	**Length 20 m**	**Width 1.50 m**	**Depth 0.30 m**
Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
301		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty sand with 1% sub-angular stones <50mm and rooting. Loose compaction.	0 - 0.27 m
302		Natural	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay with >50% sub-angular stone bedrock. High compaction.	0.27 - 0.30 m

Trench No 4	**Length 20 m**	**Width 1.50 m**	**Depth 1.40 m**
Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
401		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty sand with 1% sub-angular stones <50mm and rooting. Loose compaction.	0 - 0.33
402		Made ground	Redeposited topsoil with lenses/ pockets of burnt modern material. Loose compaction.	0.33 - 0.80
403		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown with 30% sub-angular stones. High compaction.	0.80 - 0.92
404		Natural	Light yellowish brown clay. 40% bedrock. High compaction.	0.92 - 1.08

Appendix 2: Environmental data

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (l)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other
104	105	101	40	112	80%, C, E	A	C	*Triticum spelta* grain and glume base, Triticeae grain fragment and culm node	C	*Avena* sp. grain	16	Mature and roundwood	Burnt bone (C), moll-t (A**)
108	109	102	36	74	40%, B, I	B	C	*Triticum* sp. and *Hordeum vulgare* grains, Triticeae culm base	-	-	17.5	Mature and roundwood	moll-t (A**), bone (C)

Appendix 3: OASIS record

OASIS ID: wessexar1-422855

Project details

Project name	Main Street, Great Casterton, Rutland: Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology undertook the archaeological evaluation of a 0.22 ha parcel of land located off Main Street, Great Casterton, Rutland. Archaeological remains, comprising Romano-British field boundary ditches, were encountered in two of the four trenches. Pottery recovered from the ditches, subsoil and topsoil dated to between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD. Remains of cereal crops, namely spelt, barley and oats, were present in environmental samples. The archaeological remains probably relate to the former cultivation of the Site, which appears to have lain within the agricultural hinterland of the Romano-British precursor to Great Casterton. The eastern part of the Site was landscaped when a bowling green was created. With no archaeological features present in trenches dug in this area, it is possible that the construction of the bowling green truncated the archaeological horizon.
Project dates	Start: 26-04-2021 End: 27-04-2021
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2020/0706/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	OAKRM:2021.7 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	247880 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 4 - Regularly improved
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL REMAINS Roman
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE RUTLAND GREAT CASTERTON Land off Main Street
Postcode	PE9 4AU

Study area	0.22 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 99951 09211 52.67102608339 -0.521672071261 52 40 15 N 000 31 18 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 44m Max: 45m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	with advice from County Archaeologist
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	John Winfer
Project supervisor	Hannah Dabill
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Class Q Ltd

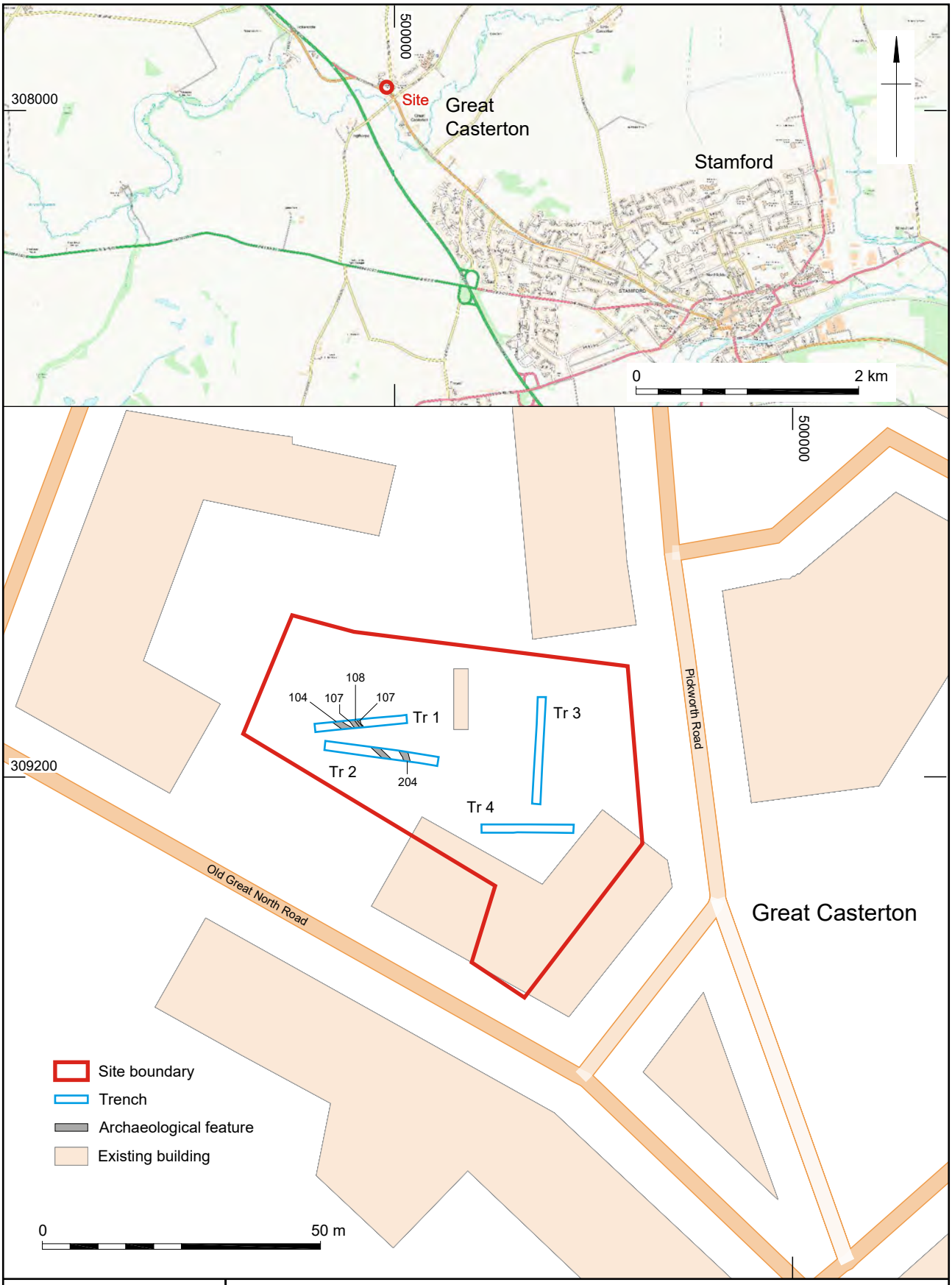
Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Rutland County Museum
Physical Archive ID	OAKRM:2021.7
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	ADS
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Rutland County Museum
Paper Archive ID	OAKRM:2021.7
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Plan","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Main Street, Great Casterton, Rutland: Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Dabill, H.

Other bibliographic details	247880.03
Date	2021
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Sheffield
Description	c. 35-page A4 comb-bound report with colour plates and figures.
Entered by	Patrick Daniel (j.irwin@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	2 June 2021



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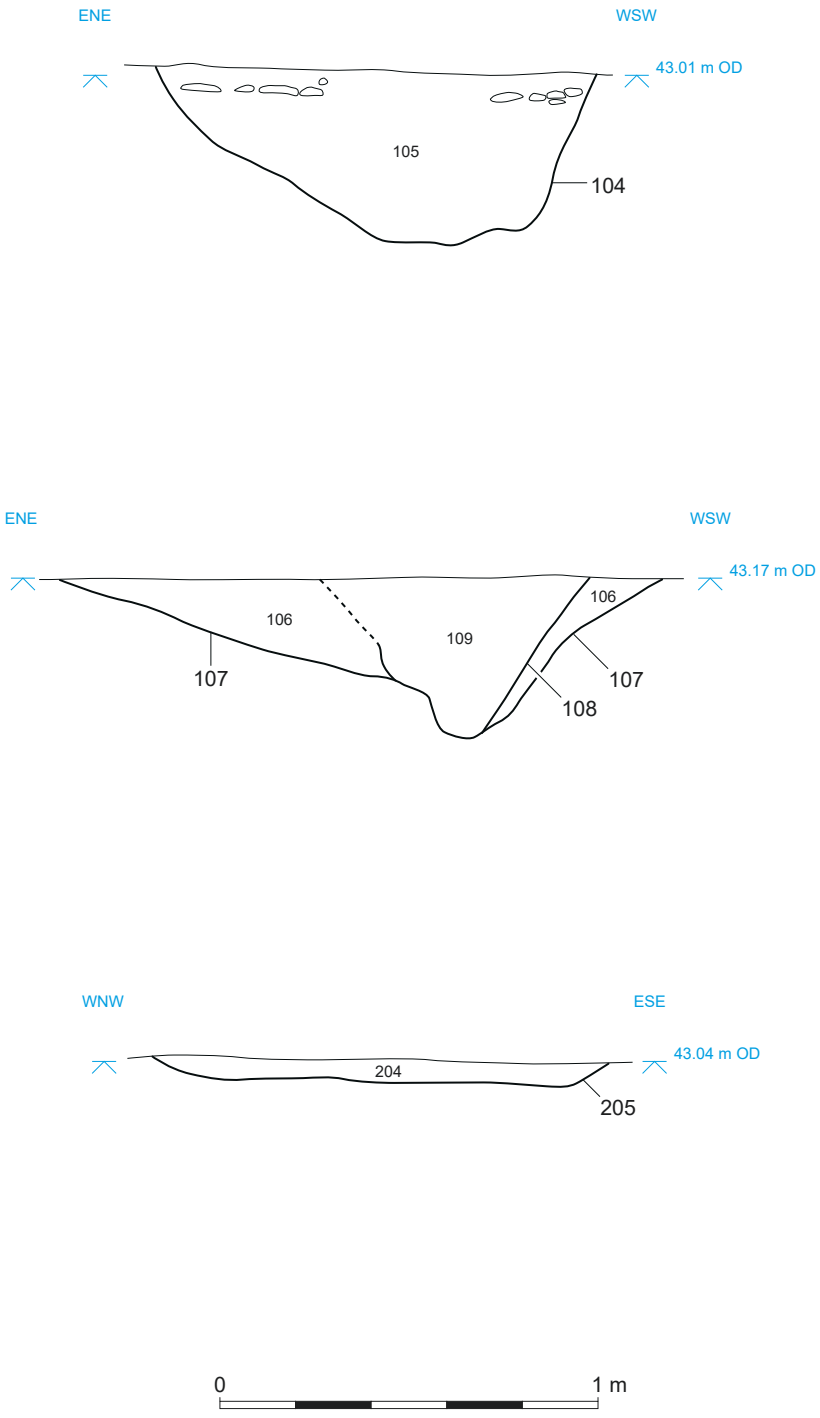
Site location, evaluation trenches and results

Figure 1



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Sections

Figure 2

Plate 1: Trench 1, viewed from east

Plate 2: Trench 2, viewed from west

Date:	13/05/2021	Revision Number:	0
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Path:	S:\PROJECTS\247880\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2021_05_13\247880_Plates.ai		

Plate 3: Trench 3, viewed from north

Plate 4: Trench 4, viewed from east

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Path:	S:\PROJECTS\247880\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2021_05_13\247880_Plates.ai		

Plate 5: Trench 2, representative section, viewed from north

Plate 6: Ditch 104, viewed from north-west

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Plate 7: Ditch 204, viewed from north-west

Plate 8: Ditch 107 and gully 108, viewed from north-west

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Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	RG
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Plate 9: Overburden in trench 4, viewed from south

Date:	13/05/2021	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	RG
Path:	S:\PROJECTS\247880\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2021_05_13\247880_Plates.ai		

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