



# Southam Road Banbury, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation



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## Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Sanctuary Group (Chester) to undertake archaeological evaluation of a 17.9ha parcel of land located at Southam Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX16 2SB. The evaluation area was centred on NGR 445264 243046.

The evaluation was undertaken as part of a planning condition place on the development by Oxfordshire County Council. The proposed development comprises up to 90 residential (Use Class 3/extra care housing), Class A uses, Class D1 use with associated access landscaping/open space, parking and related works.

The evaluation comprised 19 trial trenches, measuring 30m by 2m. Archaeological features were observed in three trenches including a pit, posthole, and a gully for water management across the field.

The evaluation was undertaken between the 14<sup>th</sup> March to 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

## Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Sanctuary Group (Chester), for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, in particular Karen Thorley. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Oxfordshire County Archaeologist, who monitored the project for Oxfordshire County Council.



# Southam Road, Banbury

## Archaeological Evaluation

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned Sanctuary Group (Chester), to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 17.9 ha parcel of land located in Southam Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX16 2SB centred on NGR 445264 243046 (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprises up to 90 residential (Use Class 3/extra care housing), Class A uses, Class D1 use with associated access, landscaping/open space, parking and related works.
- 1.1.3 A planning application (18/00273/OUT) submitted to Oxfordshire County Council, was granted, on 18th December 2013 subject to conditions, some of which relate to archaeological investigation:

*Condition 16) No development shall take place until an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation, relating to the application site area, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority*

*Reason: To safeguard the recording and inspection of matters of archaeological importance on the site in accordance with Policy ESD15 of the Cherwell Local Plan (2011-2031) Part 1 and Government guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework*

*Condition 17) No development shall take place until a staged programme of archaeological evaluation and mitigation following the approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation referred to in condition 16, has been carried out by the commissioned archaeological organisation in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation*

*Reason: To safeguard the identification, recording, analysis and archiving of heritage assets before they are lost and to advance understanding of the heritage assets in their wider context through publication and dissemination of the evidence in accordance with Policy ESD15 of the Cherwell Local Plan (2011-2031) and Government guidance contained within the NPPF*

- 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 2022). Oxfordshire County Archaeologist approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.5 The evaluation comprising 20 trial trenches (2% sample) was undertaken between 14<sup>th</sup> March and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

#### 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 at Southam Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire OX16 2SB, centred on NGR 445264 243046 in an area of approximately 17.55 hectares and is bounded by Southam Road to the east, Dukes Meadow Drive to the south, a stream and arable fields to the west and Banbury Crematorium and residential properties to the north. This area consists of two fields to the west of Southam Road, approximately 2km north of Banbury, Oxfordshire, southwest of the M40 motorway.
- 1.3.2 A common stratigraphic deposit model was recognised across the Site comprising of Topsoil/plough soil overlying subsoil above natural. In a few of the trenches alluvial layers were also noted. Underlying natural was encountered between 0.35m and 0.70m below ground level
- 1.3.3 The Site is situated on the west side of the River Cherwell valley, in an area of Lias Group Geology, composed of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation (BGS Online).
- 1.3.4 The underlying geology is mapped as Millstone Grit Group Mudstone. Local environment previously dominated by rivers. (British Geological Survey 2022).

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior heritage desk-based assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2012a), 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 Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.
- 2.1.2 There are no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Historic Battlefields, Conservation Areas or Listed Buildings within the Site boundary. Hardwick House, a Grade II\* Listed Building and associated outillage buildings stand 350m east of the eastern site boundary and the Office building, Gates and War Memorial of the former Northern Aluminium Company Ltd (Grade II Listed structures) lie approximately 280m to the southeast.
- 2.1.3 There are a number of hedgerows that form the Site boundary that can be attributed a pre1840 origin and are therefore considered 'important' on heritage grounds under the terms of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

### **2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development**

#### *Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2012a)*

- 2.2.1 A low to moderate potential for the recovery of prehistoric to Romano-British heritage assets was identified during the desk-based research for the project. Most of the assets dating from these periods were identified during the work associated with the Banbury flood alleviation scheme east of the M40. Recovered evidence included Neolithic Pits and ditches and possible settlement activity. Elevated locations were commonly favoured for permanent and temporary settlement during the prehistoric period. The elevated location of the



northern portion of the Site holds an enhanced potential for the recovery of buried evidence originating from the prehistoric period onwards.

*Geophysical Survey (Wessex Archaeology 2012b)*

- 2.2.2 A geophysical Survey was undertaken across the Site. The survey identified features of probable archaeological significance including field boundaries which may be associated with medieval farming. Also identified were linear and discrete features which are unlikely to be related to the medieval activity and therefore may possibly be earlier in date.

*Trial Trench Evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2012c)*

- 2.2.3 Potential archaeological remains were identified in 15 of the 32 trenches; identified features comprised ditches, gullies, pits, postholes, stakeholes and a cremation burial. No dateable finds were recovered from any of the deposits excavated. A common stratigraphic deposit model was recognised across the Site comprising of Topsoil/ploughsoil overlying subsoil above natural. In a few of the trenches alluvial layers were also noted. Underlying natural was encountered between 0.35m and 0.70m below ground level. Archaeological deposits were recorded at various topographical locations from the top of the south-north rising slope to its base. An absence of archaeological deposits was noted on the north-west to south-east declining slope towards the stream bed that flanks the Site to the west.
- 2.2.4 Modern intrusion was evident across the Site consisting of land drains which were frequently recorded truncating the natural. It is likely that the Site has been intensively farmed during the recent past possibly decreasing the possibility of recovering ephemeral archaeological evidence. The even distribution of recorded archaeology at the Site does not suggest that significant slippage of subsoil deposits has occurred down the north-south down slope.

## 2.3 Archaeological and historical context

*Prehistoric (900,000 BC- 43 AD)*

- 2.3.1 A Neolithic pit was discovered, immediately to the east of the M40 motorway and east of the Oxford-Birmingham railway, with associated ditches. A further Neolithic pit was excavated in June/July 2011 on a site to the north of the former and a possible prehistoric settlement was found on the east bank of the river during another phase of the BFAS. There is no recorded prehistoric activity within the Study Area.

*Iron Age and Roman (43 AD- 410 AD)*

- 2.3.2 A gold stater (coin) of the Dobunni tribe was discovered in 1842, some 750m north of the edge of the Site.
- 2.3.3 Romano-British gullies were found during the 2006 watching brief at Hardwick Farm (EOX904).

*Early Medieval/Anglo Saxon (410 AD- 1066 AD)*

- 2.3.4 A Minster was constructed in Banbury in the 11th century. There is no archaeological evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity on the Site or in the Study Area.

*Middle-Late Medieval (1066 AD- 1540 AD)*

- 2.3.5 A large expanse of ridge-and-furrow plots can be inferred from the aerial photographs, extending from near the River Cherwell in the east, to near the western edge of the Site in the west and from around Hardwick Farm in the south and to Little Bourton in the north. To



the south-east of the Site, near the river, a sizeable expanse of meadow (MOX11199) is also apparent in the aerial photographs.

*Post Medieval (1540 AD- 1901 AD)*

2.3.6 The Oxford Canal (MNN103589; MNN17435; MNN333) was built 400m to the south of the Site along the Cherwell Valley from Coventry to Oxford.

2.3.7 In 1882, OS mapping shows the Site over four plots, of which none of the dividing boundaries remain. These formed two fields known as Hardwick Gorse (meadow) and Hardwick Copse, the eastern boundary of which appears to be currently visible as a lynchet within the meadow

*Modern (1901 AD- Present)*

2.3.8 In 1931 the Northern Aluminium Factory, (including the Listed Office Building, Gates and Former War Memorial, LB02), was constructed immediately to the south-east of the Site, adjoining Southam Road.

2.3.9 In 2001, the Hanwell Fields to the south-west of the Site were developed for residential use. Several investigations undertaken across the Site at this time revealed negative archaeological evidence (EOX859; EOX907, EOX911, MOX12217)

2.3.10 Dukes Meadow Drive was constructed along the southern boundary of the Site, along with a roundabout at the south-eastern corner of the Site.

2.3.11 The interior of the Site largely retained its 19th century field pattern into the 20th century as shown on the OS map dating from 1955.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 General aims**

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022) and in compliance with the ClfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), were to:

- provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- 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 (Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment 2014.), the site-specific objectives defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022) were to:

- To characterise those features identified during the geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2012);
- To identify, expose, plan and investigate the archaeological resource;
- To investigate the amount of truncation present within the Site and what effect this truncation had upon archaeological remains;
- To identify the condition of preservation of deposits within any negative features; and
- To understand Site formation processes.

## 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 2022) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

### 4.2 Fieldwork methods

#### *General*

- 4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI, although trench 5 had to be cancelled due to poor water-logged site conditions (Fig. 1).
- 4.2.2 19 trial trenches, each measuring 30 m in length and 2 m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.
- 4.2.3 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits 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 Oxfordshire County Archaeologist were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

### *Recording*

- 4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete 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 2022). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011), and ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

## **4.4 Monitoring**

- 4.4.1 The Oxfordshire 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 Oxfordshire County Archaeologist.

# **5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE**

## **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 3 of the 19 excavated trial trenches contained archaeological features and deposits, indicating archaeological remains are present on the site in the eastern area of the site (**Fig. 1**).
- 5.1.2 The uncovered features comprise of a ditch, pit, and a posthole. The pit is dated to Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age whilst the other two features remain of uncertain date.
- 5.1.3 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed by trench.
- 5.1.4 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (Appendix 1). **Figure 1** shows site and trench locations. **Figure 2** provides detail of the survey results and the archaeological features in the eastern part of the site. Both Figures include previous evaluation trench locations and geophysical results.



## 5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits (Figs 3-5)

- 5.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence within the site is not very consistent, with variances in all trenches regarding the depth of deposits and the presence of colluvium. The stratigraphic sequence contains topsoil and subsoil in all 19 trenches.
- 5.2.2 The topsoil consisted of a layer of mid to dark brown silty clay with a thickness of 0.20-0.30m. The subsoil consisted of a layer of mid orangey brown silty clay with rare subrounded and rounded flint gravel and rare manganese flecks and iron staining, recorded at a depth between 0.20-0.80m below ground level (BGL).
- 5.2.3 Colluvium was present in trenches 1-4, 7, 9, 16-17, and 20. These colluvium deposits of light yellow brown silty clay with common manganese flecks were recorded in these trenches at a depth of 0.40-0.90 BGL.
- 5.2.4 Natural deposits of dark yellow silty clay with a grey mottle of silt and moderate iron staining were recorded across the site at a depth of 0.33-0.80m BGL. Due to health and safety procedures, natural deposits was not reached in Trench 1.

## 5.3 Archaeological Results

- 5.3.1 Trenches 1-13, 15, 17, 19-20 did not contain any archaeological features or deposits and are not discussed further. Trench 5 was cancelled due to poor site conditions.

### *Trench 14*

- 5.3.2 Trench 14 was located in the eastern part of the site on an east-west alignment and contained one small pit. The small pit was in the northwest corner of the trench. Pit 1404 contained one primary fill and one deliberate deposit. The pit was irregular in shape, measuring more than 6.10m long, more than 0.90m wide, and 0.33m in depth, with shallow concave sides and a concave base. Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery was recovered from the pit.

### *Trench 16*

- 5.3.3 Trench 16 was located in the south-eastern part of the site on an east-west alignment and contained one small posthole. The small posthole was in the centre of the trench. Posthole 1605 contained one primary fill. The posthole was sub-circular in shape, measuring 0.2m in diameter and 0.10m in depth with shallow concave sides and a concave base.

### *Trench 18*

- 5.3.4 Trench 18 was located in the north-eastern part of the site on a north-south alignment and contained one moderate ditch. The ditch was in the northern part of the trench. Ditch 1804 contained one primary fill. The ditch was linear in shape, measuring more than 1.8m long, 1.07m wide, and 0.33m in depth, with steep straight sides and an irregular base.

## 6 FINDS EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Very small quantities of finds were recovered, but all have been cleaned, quantified by material type within each context and examined to assess their nature, range and condition. This information is summarised in Table 1.

**Table 1** Finds totals by material type, trench and feature (number of pieces/weight in grammes)

Trench	Feature	Context	Material	Number	Weight	Broad Period
3	Colluvium?	302	Flint	1	1	
8	Subsoil	802	Pottery	1	1	Medieval
9	Subsoil	902	Flint	2	20	
14	Pit 1404	1406	Flint	2	10	Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age
			Pottery	4	27	
17	Colluvium?	1702	Pottery	1	18	Modern
19	Subsoil	1902	Flint	1	21	
			Total:	<b>12</b>	<b>98</b>	

## 6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The four sherds from the upper fill of pit 1406 are all of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (2400-1750 BC) date. An upright, slightly externally expanded, rounded rim (18 g) in moderately hard, mixed tempered fabric (grog, flint, shell, iron oxides), comes from a vessel with a slight cordon on its neck, probably a coarse or domestic Beaker with an internal diameter of 140 mm (7% survives). It is made in a moderately hard, variably fired (oxidised exterior surface, margin and core, unoxidised inner surface and margin, extending over the upper surface of rim), fabric tempered with grog, flint, shell and iron oxides. The other three (9 g) are all plain, abraded body sherds in grog-tempered fabrics. One is oxidised throughout, the other two are slightly thicker walled and have the oxidised exterior and unoxidized interior characteristic of this period.
- 6.2.2 The two other pottery sherds relate to more recent activity in the area. One small, externally glazed sandy coarseware ware body sherd of medieval date was found in the subsoil of trench 8 while a 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century redware flowerpot sherd came from colluvial layer 1702 in trench 17.

## 6.3 Flint

- 6.3.1 Pit 1404 contained a broken flake and a small pot-lid, which is likely to be natural. Marginal, unsystematic damage to the flake edge suggests that it may have been used. A well-made discoidal scraper (ON 1), made on a tertiary flake, was also recovered from the subsoil of trench 19. This artefact is undated although there seems no reason why it should not be related to the collection from the Beaker pit.
- 6.3.2 The other pieces of flint, a small broken flake from colluvial layer 302 and a broken flake and a piece of probably debitage from the subsoil of trench 9 are less chronologically diagnostic, so can only be assigned generalized earlier prehistoric dates.

## 6.4 Potential

- 6.4.1 Few traces of Beaker activity have been recorded in the Cherwell valley, although single sherds of Beaker pottery are known from two pits in Field RA6 of the Banbury Flood Alleviation Scheme (Brown 2014). Previous work within the Southam Road site has also identified a tiny, abraded Beaker sherd from a pit (Brook forthcoming), as well as a barbed and tanged arrowhead found residually in a later ditch (Harding forthcoming). The finds from



pit 1404 and the scraper from the subsoil of trench 19 are therefore significant in providing further evidence for activity in the area during the later 3<sup>rd</sup> or early 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC.

## **6.5 Recommendations**

- 6.5.1 The finds have been recorded to a sufficient level for archive purposes, and no further work is required at this stage. If publication of the fieldwork results is envisaged, then the results of the assessment could be adapted for use in the text. The significance of this assemblage should also be reconsidered in the light of potentially greater quantities of finds which might result from any further archaeological investigations on this site.

## **7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

- 7.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits requiring environmental sampling were recorded during the evaluation.

## **8 CONCLUSIONS**

### **8.1 Summary**

- 8.1.1 The evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022). A total of three archaeological features were recorded across three of the 19 excavated trenches within the site, with all three features in the eastern area of the site.

### **8.2 Discussion**

- 8.2.1 A single Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pit was recorded in Trench 14 which contained four sherds of pottery from the deliberately deposited upper fill. The pit was large and irregular in shape that continued beyond the boundaries the trench. The purpose of the pit is not clear although the deposits suggest that the pit was open for a short time and was later backfilled with refuse such as pottery, flint, and charcoal flecks.
- 8.2.2 A small posthole was recorded in Trench 16 and contained no datable material. The wider purpose of the posthole remains unclear.
- 8.2.3 A linear ditch with an east-west orientation was recorded in Trench 18 and contained no datable material. The ditch was likely used as boundary ditch, possibly associated with water management to catch water run-off from the natural slope of the hill. The boundary ditch appeared to be below the subsoil/colluvium recorded in the trench, which may suggest that the linear feature is not modern but possibly prehistoric.

## **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. Oxford Museum Services has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **OXCMS: 2022.28**. 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, and artefacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Oxford Museum Services, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; ClfA 2014c; SMA 1995).

9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **225061 / OXCMS: 2022.28**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 01 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts, ordered by material type
- 01 files/document cases of paper records

### *Digital archive*

9.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., 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.

### *Documentary archive*

9.2.4 The physical archive currently includes paper records (site registers only), graphics and artefacts. Born digital data include site records, finds and environmental data, photographs, survey data and reports. Physical and digital records will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; ClfA 2014c; SMA 1995).

## 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, i.e., 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 ClfA'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*

- 9.3.5 Pottery: four Beaker sherds; evidence for this period not common in the area so of further research potential. Retain. Medieval and Post-Medieval/modern sherds; common types from insecure contexts; no further research potential. Do not retain.
- 9.3.6 Flint: a scrapper and at least one other piece likely to be of Beaker date; not common in the area; some further research potential. Retain all.

*Documentary records*

- 9.3.7 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*

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

## **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 (Appendix 3). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Oxfordshire County Archaeologist 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 (e.g., 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

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

Trench No 1		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.87 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description		Depth BGL
101	Topsoil	Mid dark brown silty clay. Consisted mostly of the turf and rooting system. Rare sub-rounded gravel inclusions (1-3%, <10-30mm). Very loose and soft compaction. Somewhat diffuse horizon with subsoil.		0–0.23
102	Colluvium?	Subsoil / colluvium. Quite thick subsoil. Dark orangey brown silty clay (with more silt), with rare sub-rounded and R flint gravel (1-3%, <10-20mm), moderate iron staining and rare manganese flecks (3%, <2-6mm). Mid hard compaction. Diffuse ish boundary with subsoil and clear boundary with colluvium underneath.		0.23–0.58
103	Colluvium	Light yellow brown silty clay (more silt though) with common manganese flecks (30%, <6-20mm) which can be explained by trench s position in a meadow kind of area and trench being waterlogged. Low rooting activity, very soft and loose compaction (full of water).		0.58+

Trench No 2		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.79 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description		Depth BGL
201	Topsoil	Mid dark brown silty clay, very loose compaction, with rare sub-rounded flint gravel (3%, <10-30mm). Consists mainly of the turf. heavily bioturbated by rooting and worm activity. clear boundary with subsoil. Sort of powdery feeling to it? So definitely contains more silt than clay. Homogenous across the trench.		0–0.21
202	Subsoil	Dark orangey brown silty clay, with rare manganese flecks (3%, <2-6mm), sparse iron staining. Clear boundary with colluvium underneath. Mid hard compaction. moderate rooting activity.		0.21–0.56
203	Colluvium	Mid dark yellowey-orange brown silty clay (contains more clay than layers mentioned above), with moderate manganese flecks and common iron staining through the layer. Loose and soft compaction. Low rooting activity. This layer seems to undulate across the trench as natural was found sporadically, in few places under it (trench is on a slope and trench is going the opposite direction of slope, which could explain why it "undulates").		0.56–0.79



204	Natural	Dark yellow silty clay, mainly clay with grey mottle of silt in it. Contained moderate Iron staining and is quite compact. Not found everywhere in the trench (for reasons mentioned in the colluvium layer description box). No obvious bioturbation noticed.	0.79+
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Trench No 3		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.79 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description		Depth BGL
301	Topsoil	Mid dark brown silty clay, with very rare sub-rounded flint gravel (<1%, <10-20mm). Loose and soft compaction. Gets darker towards the South where trees are located (prob more organic fill due to the trees presence). consists mainly of the turf and rooting area.		0–0.20
302	Colluvium?	Subsoil / colluvium. Quite thick layer of orangey brown silty clay, moderately compact with moderate rooting activity. Comprises sparse iron staining , sparse manganese flecks (3-7%, <2-10mm) throughout fill. Alike the topsoil, gets a bit darker towards the south where its fully waterlogged.		0.20–0.55
303	Colluvium	Mid dark yellowey-orange brown silty clay (contains more clay than layers mentioned above), with moderate manganese flecks and common iron staining through the layer. Loose and soft compaction. Low rooting activity. This layer seems to undulate across the trench as natural was found sporadically, in few places under it (trench is on a slope and trench is going the opposite direction of slope, which could explain why it "undulates ").		0.55–0.79
304	Natural	Dark yellow silty clay, mainly clay with grey mottle of silt in it. Contained moderate Iron staining and is quite compact. Not found everywhere in the trench (for reasons mentioned in the colluvium layer description box). No obvious bioturbation noticed.		0.79+

Trench No 4		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description		Depth BGL
401	Topsoil	Mid dark brown silty clay with rare sub-rounded and R flint gravel (3%, <10-20mm). Loose compaction. Clear boundary with layer underneath. Consists mainly of turf and its rooting area.		0–0.26
402	Colluvium?	Subsoil / colluvium?. mid orangey brown, a bit darker than in the other trenches (trees around though) silty clay. Moderately compact. Clear boundary with (403). Sparse Iron staining and manganese flecks (3-7%, <2-10mm). Moderately bioturbated by rooting activity.		0.26–0.60



403	Natural?	Dark grey yellow with patches of possible colluvium left from previous layer? Silty clay, gritty feeling to it. Heterogeneous horizon. presence of sparse manganese flecks and moderate iron staining. Moderately compact with low bioturbation.	0.60+
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Trench No 6		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.81 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description		Depth BGL
601	Topsoil	Mid dark brown silty clay. Consisted mostly of the turf and rooting system. Rare sub-rounded gravel inclusions (1-3%, <10-30mm). Very loose and soft compaction. Somewhat diffuse horizon with subsoil.		0-0.30
602	Colluvium?	Subsoil / colluvium. Quite thick subsoil. Dark orangey brown silty clay (with more silt), with rare sub-rounded and R flint gravel (1-3%, <10-20mm), moderate iron staining and rare manganese flecks (3%, <2-6mm). Mid hard compaction. Diffuse ish boundary with subsoil and clear boundary with colluvium underneath.		0.30-0.56
603	Natural	Light greyish yellow, loamy sandy clay, gritty feeling to it, heterogeneous horizon, presence of rare iron staining, dense compaction with low bioturbation.		0.56+

Trench No 7		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.67 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description		Depth BGL
701	Topsoil	Dark orange brown. Silty Clay. moderate bioturbation by rooting. soft loose compaction. lower boundary clear.		0-0.30
702	Subsoil	Mid orange brown. Silty clay. low bioturbation by rooting. moderate compaction. lower boundary clear.		0.30-0.45
703	Natural	Light Blue grey mottled with orange. Clay. rare manganese (20-40mm) . compact.		0.45+
704	Colluvium	Mid orange brown with sparse iron panning. moderate compaction. lower boundary clear.		0.47-0.90

Trench No 8		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.65 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description		Depth BGL
801	Topsoil	Dark orange brown. Silty Clay. moderate bioturbation by rooting. soft loose compaction. lower boundary clear.		0-0.28
802	Subsoil	Mid orange brown. Silty clay. low bioturbation by rooting. moderate compaction. lower boundary clear. 1 x pottery sherd found in subsoil.		0.28-0.48
803	Natural	Light blue grey with orange mottling. Oxford clay. sparse manganese flecks (10-40mm). compact.		0.48+



Trench No 9		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.52 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description		Depth BGL
901	Topsoil	Dark orange brown. Silty Clay. moderate bioturbation by rooting. soft loose compaction. lower boundary clear.		0–0.24
902	Subsoil	Mid orange brown. Silty clay. low bioturbation by rooting. moderate compaction. lower boundary clear.		0.24–0.34
903	Natural	Light Blue grey mottled with orange. Oxford Clay. rare manganese (20-40mm) . compact.		0.34+
904	Colluvium	Mid orange brown. silty clay, sparse iron panning, moderate manganese flecks. moderate compaction.		0.50+

Trench No 10		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.99 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description		Depth BGL
1001	Topsoil	Greyish mid brown, loamy sandy silt, light compaction, clear diffusion from the subsoil, rooting present throughout entire layer.		0–0.29
1002	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown, silty clay. Moderate compaction, clear diffusion from the natural layer, rare iron staining and manganese flecks (3-7%, <2-10mm), moderately bioturbated by rooting activity.		0.29–0.80
1003	Natural	Dark grey yellow, silty clay, gritty feeling to it, heterogeneous horizon, presence of sparse manganese flecks and moderate iron staining, moderately compact with low bioturbation		0.80+

Trench No 11		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.65 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description		Depth BGL
1101	Topsoil	Greyish mid brown, loamy sandy silt, light compaction, clear diffusion from the subsoil, rooting present throughout entire layer.		0–0.24
1102	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown, silty sandy clay. Moderate compaction, clear diffusion from the natural layer, rare iron staining, moderately bioturbated by rooting activity		0.24–0.42
1103	Natural	Light greyish yellow, loamy sandy clay, gritty feeling to it, heterogeneous horizon, presence of moderate iron staining, dense compaction with low bioturbation.		0.42+





Trench No 12		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.57 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description		Depth BGL
1201	Topsoil	Greyish mid brown, loamy sandy silt, light compaction, clear diffusion from the subsoil, rooting present throughout entire layer.		0–0.30
1202	Subsoil	Reddish orangey brown, silty sandy clay. Moderate compaction, clear diffusion from the natural layer, rare iron staining, moderately bioturbated by rooting activity		0.30–0.40
1203	Natural	Light greyish yellow, loamy sandy clay, gritty feeling to it, heterogeneous horizon, presence of moderate iron staining, dense compaction with low bioturbation.		0.40+

Trench No 13		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.79 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description		Depth BGL
1301	Topsoil	Mid dark brown silty clay with rare sub-rounded and R flint gravel (3%, <10-20mm). Loose compaction. Clear boundary with layer underneath. Consists mainly of turf and its rooting area		0–0.22
1302	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown, silty sandy clay. Moderate compaction, clear diffusion from the natural layer, rare iron staining, moderately bioturbated by rooting activity		0.22–0.59
1303	Natural	Dark grey yellow, silty clay, gritty feeling to it, heterogeneous horizon, presence of sparse iron staining, moderately compact with low bioturbation		0.59+

Trench No 14		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.74 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description		Depth BGL
1401	Topsoil	Greyish mid brown, loamy sandy silt, light compaction, clear diffusion from the subsoil, rooting present throughout entire layer.		0–0.24
1402	Colluvium?	Subsoil / colluvium. mid orangey brown, silty sandy clay. Moderate compaction, clear diffusion from the natural layer, rare iron staining with rare specks of gravel (2-4% 0.005-0.007m), moderately bioturbated by rooting activity persisting from topsoil.		0.24–0.55
1403	Natural	Light greyish yellow, loamy sandy clay, gritty feeling to it, heterogeneous horizon, presence of moderate iron staining, dense compaction with low bioturbation.		0.55+
1404	Pit	Irregular pit aligned E-W with shallow, concave sides and a concave base. Length: >6.10 m. Width: >0.90 m. Depth: 0.33 m.		0.73–1.07



1405	Primary fill	Light yellowish grey silty sandy clay	0.73–0.99
1406	Deliberate dump	Mid greyish brown silty sandy clay	0.99– 1.07

Trench No 15		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.64 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description		Depth BGL
1501	Topsoil	Mid dark brown silty clay. Consisted mostly of the turf and rooting system. Rare sub-rounded gravel inclusions (1-3%, <10-30mm).Very loose and soft compaction. Somewhat diffuse horizon with subsoil.		0–0.27
1502	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown, silty sandy clay. Moderate compaction, clear diffusion from the natural layer, rare iron staining, moderately bioturbated by rooting activity		0.27–0.41
1503	Natural	Dark grey yellow, silty clay, gritty feeling to it, heterogeneous horizon, presence of sparse manganese flecks and moderate iron staining, moderately compact with low bioturbation		0.41+

Trench No 16		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.73 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description		Depth BGL
1601	Topsoil	Mid dark brown silty clay loam with rare sub-rounded flint gravel (3%, <10-20mm). Loose and soft compaction. consists mainly of turf and rooting system. Quite homogenous across the trench. Clear boundary with the subsoil underneath.		0–0.28
1602	Colluvium?	Subsoil / colluvium. Mid light grey brown silty clay with rare manganese flecks (1-3%, <2-6mm). Moderately low bioturbation such as rooting. Very compact.		0.28–0.52
1603	Colluvium	Mid Brown with grey mottle silty clay, with sparse Iron staining, sparse manganese flecks (3-7%, 5-15-mm). Loose compaction, but gritty feeling to it. Heterogeneous horizon across the trench. Low rooting activity.		0.52–0.63
1604	Natural	Dark yellow with light grey mottle silty clay (mostly clay), with grey brown silty clay patches across the trench so quite heterogenous. Mid hard compaction. clear horizon		0.63+
1605	Posthole	Posthole.		
1606	Primary fill			

Trench No 17		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.62 m
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Easting		Northing	m OD
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1701	Topsoil	Ploughsoil. Mid dark brown silty clay loam with rare sub-rounded flint gravel (3%, <10-20mm). Loose and soft compaction. consists mainly of turf and rooting system. Quite homogenous across the trench. Clear boundary with the subsoil underneath.	0 – 0.25 m
1702	Colluvium?	Subsoil / colluvium. Mid light grey brown silty clay with rare manganese flecks (1-3%, <2-6mm). Moderately low bioturbation such as rooting. Very compact. Diffuse horizon with below colluvium.	0.25 – 0.40 m
1703	Colluvium	Mid Brown with grey mottle silty clay, with sparse Iron staining, moderate manganese flecks (10%, 5-15-mm). Loose compaction, but gritty feeling to it. Heterogeneous horizon across the trench. Low rooting activity.	0.40 – 0.50 m
1704	Natural	Dark yellow with light grey mottle silty clay (mostly clay), with grey brown silty clay patches across the trench so quite heterogenous. Sparse Iron staining and manganese flecks. Mid hard compaction. clear horizon.	0.50 m +

Trench No 18		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.54 m
Easting		Northing	m OD	
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
1801	Topsoil	Mid dark brown silty clay. Consisted mostly of the turf and rooting system. Rare sub-rounded gravel inclusions (1-3%, <10-30mm). Very loose and soft compaction. Somewhat diffuse horizon with subsoil.	00.30	
1802	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown, silty sandy clay. Moderate compaction, clear diffusion from the natural layer, rare iron staining, moderately bioturbated by rooting activity	0.30–0.45	
1803	Natural	Light greyish yellow, loamy sandy clay, gritty feeling to it, heterogeneous horizon, presence of rare iron staining, dense compaction with low bioturbation.	0.45+	
1804	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned E-W with steep, straight sides and an irregular / undulating base. Length: >1.80 m. Width: 1.07 m. Depth: 0.33 m.		
1805	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay with x2 rounded pebble like inclusions, <= 50 mm in size, and sparse manganese <= 5 mm in size		

Trench No 19		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.36 m
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Easting		Northing	m OD
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1901	Topsoil	Mid dark brown silty clay. Consisted mostly of the turf and rooting system. Rare sub-rounded gravel inclusions (1-3%, <10-30mm). Very loose and soft compaction. Somewhat diffuse horizon with subsoil.	0–0.28
1902	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown, silty sandy clay. Moderate compaction, clear diffusion from the natural layer, rare iron staining, moderately bioturbated by rooting activity	0.28–0.33
1903	Natural	Dark grey yellow, silty clay, gritty feeling to it, heterogeneous horizon, presence of sparse manganese flecks and moderate iron staining, moderately compact with low bioturbation	0.33+

Trench No 20		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.71 m
Easting		Northing	m OD	
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
2001	Topsoil	Ploughsoil. Mid dark brown silty clay loam with rare sub-rounded flint gravel (3%, <10-20mm). Loose and soft compaction. consists mainly of turf and rooting system. Quite homogenous across the trench. Clear boundary, level ploughsoil horizon with the subsoil underneath.	0–0.26	
2002	Colluvium?	Subsoil / colluvium. Mid light grey brown silty clay with rare manganese flecks (1-3%, <2-6mm). Moderately low bioturbation such as rooting. Very compact. Diffuse horizon with below colluvium.	0.26–0.61	
2003	Colluvium	Mid Brown with grey mottle silty clay, with sparse Iron staining, moderate manganese flecks (10%, 5-15-mm). Loose compaction, but gritty feeling to it. Heterogeneous horizon across the trench. Low rooting activity.	0.61–0.71	
2004	Natural	Dark yellow with light grey mottle silty clay (mostly clay), with grey brown silty clay patches across the trench so quite heterogenous. Sparse Iron staining and manganese flecks. Mid hard compaction. clear horizon.	0.71+	



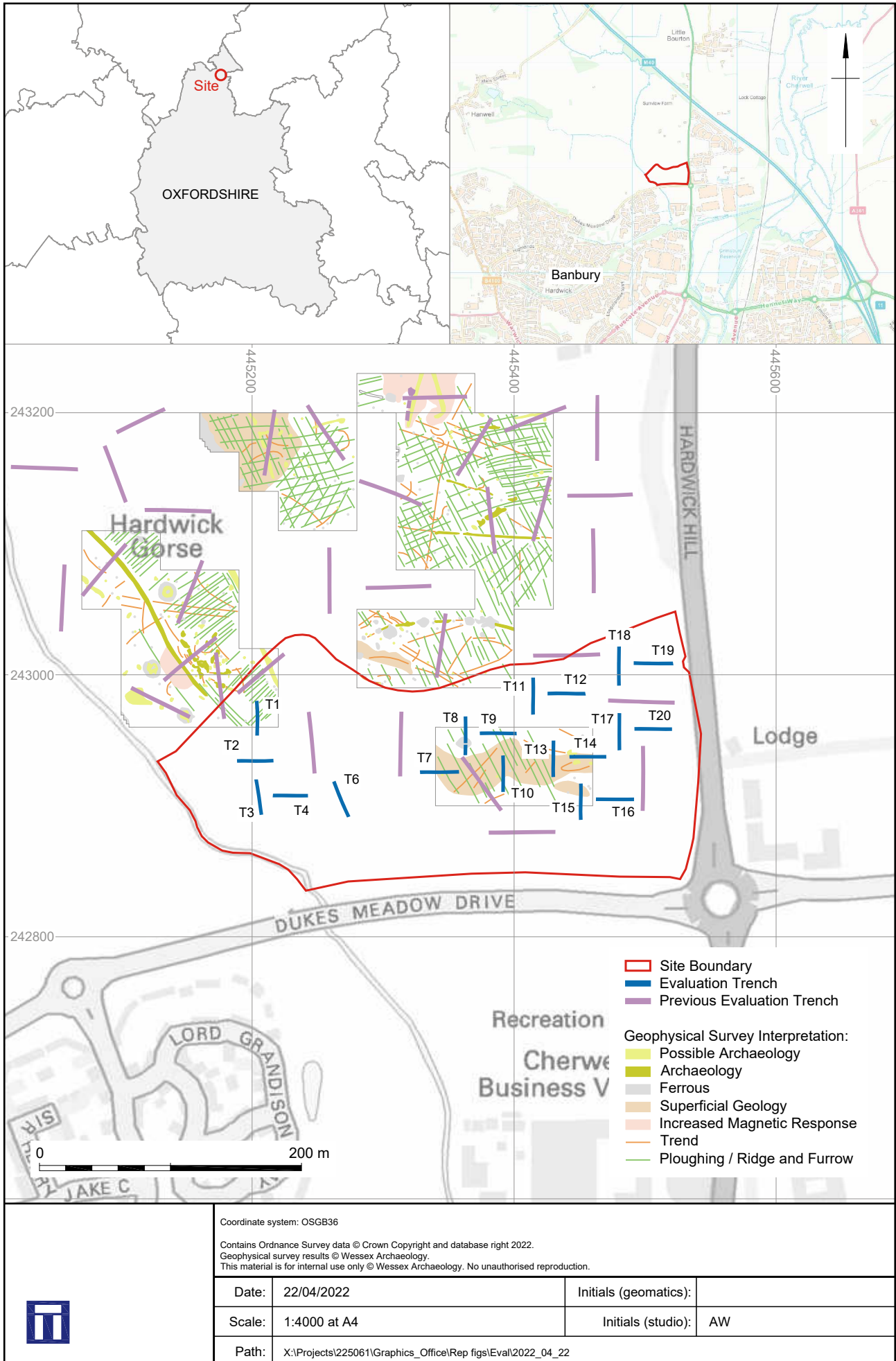
### Appendix 3 OASIS summary

Summary for wessexar1-506955

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-506955
Project Name	Trial Trench at Southam Road, Banbury
Sitename	
Activity type	Trial Trench
Project Identifier(s)	225061
Planning Id	18/00273/OUT
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	14-Mar-2022 - 24-Mar-2022
Location	Southam Road, Banbury NGR : SP 45264 43046 LL : 52.0839250343737, -1.34085422054267 12 Fig : 445264,243046
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Oxfordshire District : Cherwell Parish : Banbury
Project Methodology	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake archaeological evaluation of a 17.9ha parcel of land located at Southam Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX16 2SB. The evaluation comprised 19 trial trenches, measuring 30m by 2m. Archaeological features were observed in three trenches including a pit, posthole, and a gully.
Project Results	A total of three archaeological features were recorded across three of the 19 excavated trenches within the site, with all three features in the eastern area of the site. A single Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pit was recorded in Trench 14 which contained four sherds of pottery from the deliberately deposited upper fill. The pit was large and irregular in shape that continued beyond the boundaries the trench. The purpose of the pit is not clear although the deposits suggest that the pit was open for a short time and was later backfilled with refuse such as pottery, flint, and charcoal flecks. No dating from the other two features recorded on site.
Keywords	Rubbish Pit - EARLY BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types

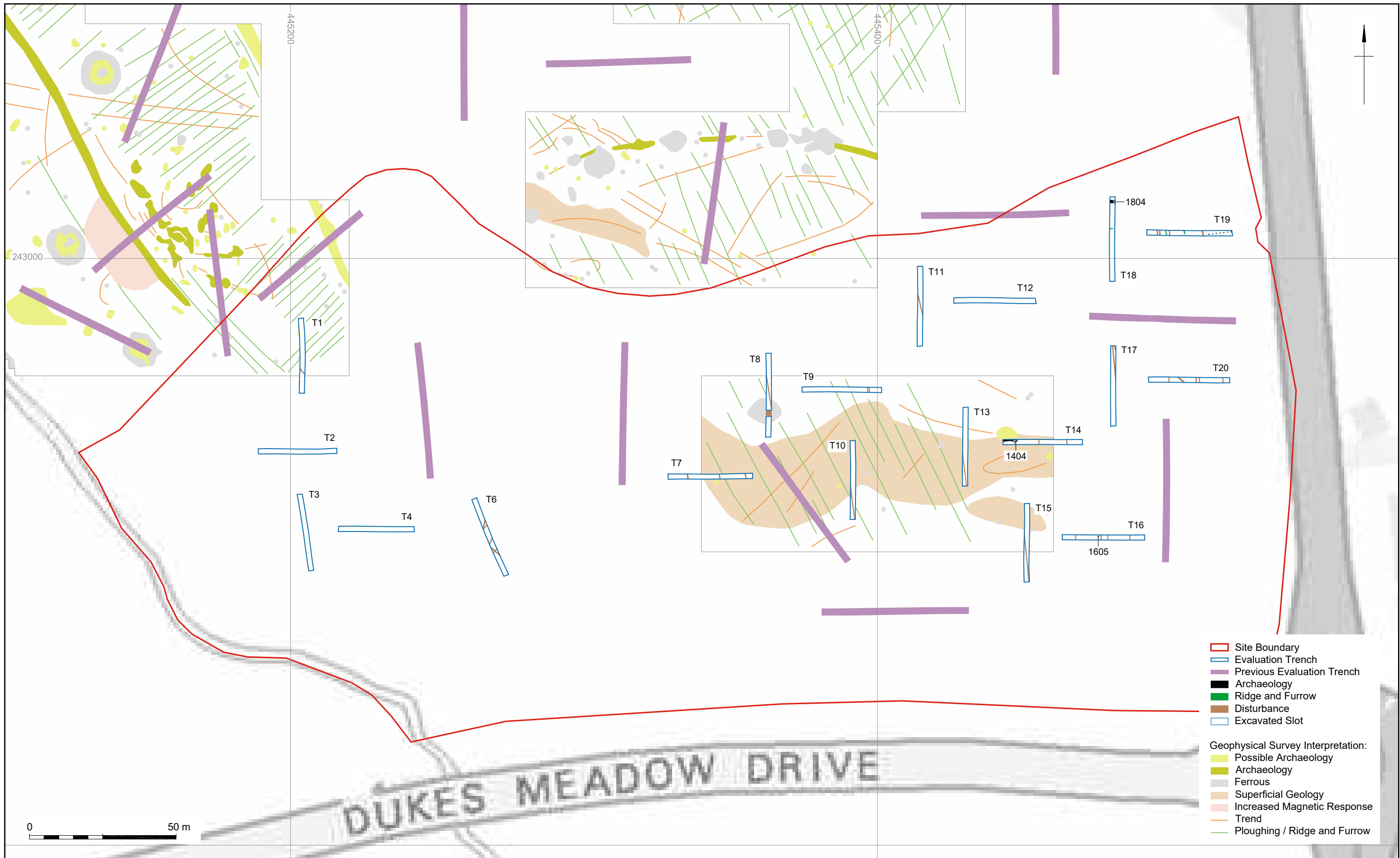


Funder	
HER	Oxfordshire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Finlay, Wood
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums Service;



Site location and trench layout

Figure 1



- ▬ Site Boundary
  - ▬ Evaluation Trench
  - ▬ Previous Evaluation Trench
  - ▬ Archaeology
  - ▬ Ridge and Furrow
  - ▬ Disturbance
  - ▬ Excavated Slot
- Geophysical Survey Interpretation:
- ▬ Possible Archaeology
  - ▬ Archaeology
  - ▬ Ferrous
  - ▬ Superficial Geology
  - ▬ Increased Magnetic Response
  - ▬ Trend
  - ▬ Ploughing / Ridge and Furrow

0 50 m



Coordinate system: OSGB36  
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Figure 3: Repsec 201, viewed from the north (1 m scale)



Figure 4: Repsec 1301, viewed from the east (1 m scale)


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Figure 5: Trench 11, viewed from the north (1 m and 2 m scales)



Figure 6: East facing section of pit [1404] (1 m scale)



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Figure 7: West facing section of ditch [1804] (1 m scale)

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