

Land at Bromham, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report





Wessex Archaeology

**LAND AT BROMHAM,
WILTSHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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LAND AT BROMHAM, WILTSHIRE

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Figure 2 Selected photographs and sections of Ditch 306 and Pits 308 and 601

Plate 1 Wall 108 from the west

Plate 2 Well 312 from the east

The remaining Plates can be found on **Figure 2**

Plate 3 Ditch 306 and Pit 308 from the west

Plate 4 Pit 604 from the north-west

**LAND AT BROMHAM,
WILTSHIRE****Archaeological Evaluation Report****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by AMEC Entec to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Bromham, Wiltshire located at National Grid Reference (NGR) 396535 165367. The archaeological evaluation comprised six trenches (6No 25mx1.6m) and follows a recent geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2011) which identified a number of potential archaeological anomalies. The fieldwork was undertaken between Wednesday the 4th May 2011 and Thursday the 5th May 2011.

The evaluation revealed a substantial amount of Romano-British archaeology consisting of pits containing waste material from iron smelting, boundary ditches, a possible well and part of a substantial wall. Archaeological features were revealed in all of the six trenches excavated and confirmed that the geophysical anomalies were in most cases archaeological features. The volume and the complexity of the archaeology found meant that a strategy of minimal intrusion was adopted with only a small percentage of features investigated ahead of likely further mitigation in the event of planning permission being sought.

The presence of the smelting waste at the southern end of the Site and of the wall and potential well in the north suggests that the Site represents two distinct areas of activity, industrial in the south and domestic in the north. The two areas of the Site were separated by boundary ditches.

The results of the evaluation suggest that the Site has the potential to contain evidence for Romano-British industrial activity throughout the southern end of the Site although industrial activity was plausibly evidenced additionally in the northern section. The wall in the northern end of Site may indicate the remains of a building. The industrial nature of the features and the close proximity to the Roman town of *Verlucio* gives it the potential to contribute to our knowledge of the Romano-British period in north Wiltshire.

On completion of the fieldwork consultation with the Client and Wiltshire County Council was undertaken during a site meeting, it was concluded that mitigation would be required prior to development of the Site. This is likely to take the form of a programme of strip, map and record.

**LAND AT BROMHAM,
WILTSHIRE****Archaeological Evaluation Report****Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to the Crown Estates and their consultant AMEC Entec, specifically Robert Johns for commissioning the evaluation. The advice and assistance provided by David Vaughan (Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire County Council), who monitored the project on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, is duly acknowledged.

The evaluation fieldwork was directed by Oliver Good assisted by Darryl Freer and Neil Fitzpatrick.

This report was prepared by Oliver Good with contributions from Sarah Wyles (Environmental) and Rachael Seager Smith (Finds). The report illustrations were prepared by Linda Coleman. The environmental samples were processed by Nikki Mulhall. The environmental samples were assessed by Sarah Wyles.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Caroline Budd.

LAND AT BROMHAM, WILTSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Amec Entec on behalf of their client The Crown Estate (hereafter the Client), to undertake an archaeological field evaluation ahead of development on land at Bromham Wiltshire, located at National Grid Reference (NGR) 396535 165367 hereafter 'the Site' (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological works were required prior to the submission of the outline planning application which proposes approximately 30 dwellings and associated infra-structure at the Site.
- 1.1.3 The Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council (WC) advised that an archaeological evaluation was required ahead of the determination of the application to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the Site given the range of findspots recovered from the area and the proximity to the Roman town of *Verlucio* (see below). The evaluation trench locations were targeted over geophysical anomalies as identified by a previous survey (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2011). As a result of the requirement for an archaeological evaluation a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology 2011) was prepared and approved by the Client and WC.
- 1.1.4 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between Wednesday the 4th May 2011 and Thursday the 5th May 2011.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 Bromham lies four miles to the north-west of Devizes and four miles to the south-west of Calne, between the clay vale of the river Avon and the chalk downs. The parish roughly coincides with the only significant outcrop of Lower Greensand in the county. The Site is located on the eastern side of the predominantly 21st century expansion of Bromham along the High Street to the north of the historic centre of the village. It lies east of a recently constructed development of some 20 dwellings, accessed off Breach Close, with the rear of properties fronting Horsepool to the north and Jockey Lane to the south (**Figure 1**). Land within the Site comprises arable and the garden plot to No. 29 Horsepool, encompassing an area of c. 1.5 ha (Entec UK Ltd 2011).

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 A brief search for archaeological and historical sites within a 500m radius ('the Study Area') of the Site via the Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record website (<http://localview.wiltshire.gov.uk/smr/InTheArea.aspx>) indicates the presence of no sites in the immediate area.

Designated Sites

- 1.3.2 There are no Scheduled Monuments within the Study Area.

Archaeological Background

- 1.3.3 Other than the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey (see below), there are no known archaeological remains within the Site and no entries recorded by the HER. The Site lies outside the medieval core of Bromham. A number of finds of Romano-British artefacts, sherds of pottery and coins, have been made to the west of the Site, including one recorded just outside, in the grounds of the Rectory. In general HER entries in the wider vicinity reflect a variety of artefact findspots, known and suspected archaeological sites and areas of interest identified from documentary sources. Archaeological sites include an undated ironworking site north of Horsepool, possible ring ditches identified on aerial photographs to the north-west of the Site, and the site of a Romano-British villa some distance (nearly 900m) to the north-east of the Site.
- 1.3.4 The Roman road from London to Bath runs to the north of the Site. On the northern boundary of the Bromham parish the road ran through the small Roman town of *Verlucio*. It is thought that the town began as a military outpost and then attracted a civilian enclave or 'vill' (Entec UK Ltd 2011).

Geophysical Survey

- 1.3.5 The geophysical survey located a number of linear and discrete anomalies that may relate to ditch-like and pit-like features (**Figure 1**). A linear ditch-like feature was identified in northern part of the survey area, orientated almost east-west with several pit-like anomalies located close by. In the central part of the survey area pit-like anomalies have also been located although their origin is uncertain (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2011).

2 AIMS

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 The aims of the archaeological field evaluation were to:
- Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be threatened by development.
 - To confirm and enhance the results of the previous geophysical survey by testing a sample of the anomalies revealed.

- Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the Site.
- Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.
- Produce a report which presents the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential.

3 METHOD

3.1 Health and Safety

3.1.1 Health and Safety considerations were of paramount importance while conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices will override archaeological considerations at all times.

3.1.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974* and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

3.1.3 Wessex Archaeology supplied a copy of their Health and Safety Policy and a Risk Assessment to the Client before the commencement of any fieldwork. The Risk Assessment was read and understood by all staff attending the Site before any groundwork commences.

3.2 Service Location

3.2.1 Because of the presence of an overhead power line running across the Site five of the six trenches had to be moved slightly from their original positions.

3.2.2 All of the evaluation trench locations were scanned before and during excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) in order to verify the absence of any live underground services.

3.3 Fieldwork

3.3.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the standards set out within the Specification (WA 2011).

3.3.2 All works were conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (IfA 2008), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

3.3.3 Six machine excavated trial trenches (6No 25m x 1.5m) were proposed as indicated on **Figure 1** and positioned over geophysical anomalies within the Site using a Global Positioning System (GPS).

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- 3.3.4 The trenches were excavated with a JCB using a toothless bucket and under constant supervision by Wessex Archaeology. Machine excavation proceeded to a depth at which the top of archaeological levels, or the top of natural deposits, were exposed, whichever was higher.
- 3.3.5 Topsoil and subsoil was separated and stored on either side of the trench. Trenches were fenced with road pins and barrier tape at each end.
- 3.3.6 On approval from the Client and the Assistant County Archaeologist the trenches were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate order in which they were excavated by Wessex Archaeology and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken but particular attention was paid to backfilling trenches that were near or went across existing footpaths.

3.4 Evaluation Methodology

- 3.4.1 Once the level of archaeological deposits was exposed by machine, cleaning of the trench base was undertaken by hand where necessary. Appropriate sampling of all archaeological features identified in each evaluation trench was carried out by hand. The scope of the sampling was agreed with the Client and Assistant County Archaeologist.
- 3.4.2 In some trenches the complex nature of the archaeology meant that sample excavation was more circumspect and aimed to be minimally intrusive. Excavation was, however, sufficient to resolve the principal aims of the evaluation.

3.5 Depth of Excavation

- 3.5.1 The general depth of the trenches did not exceed 1.2m, to comply with Health and Safety regulations.

3.6 Recording

- 3.6.1 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system.
- 3.6.2 A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This included both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels were calculated and plans/sections annotated with OD heights.
- 3.6.3 A full photographic record was maintained during the evaluation using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images were subject to managed quality control and curation processes which embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set. The project forms part of the photographic trial being carried out across Wiltshire in conjunction with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

4 FINDS

- 4.1.1 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date. In such circumstances, sufficient artefacts were retained in order to elucidate the date and/or function of the feature or deposit. Material of undoubtedly modern date observed on the spoil heap of each trench was not noted or retained.
- 4.1.2 Excavated spoil was visually scanned for artefacts. Where appropriate, a metal detector was used to enhance artefact recovery. Trench areas and spoil heaps from excavation were examined.
- 4.1.3 All retained artefacts were, as a minimum, washed, weighed, counted and identified. Suitable material, primarily the pottery, worked flint and non-ferrous metalwork, was scanned to assess the date range of the relevant assemblages.
- 4.1.4 Assessment of all artefacts was made by the appropriately qualified specialists.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL

- 5.1.1 Wessex Archaeology's *Guidelines for Environmental Sampling* was used for the sampling of archaeological and environmental deposits and structures.
- 5.1.2 Bulk environmental soil samples for plant macro fossils, small animal bones and other small artefacts were taken from appropriate well sealed and dated/datable archaeological contexts.

6 RESULTS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A total of six trenches were excavated during the evaluation (**Figure 1**).
- 6.1.2 The evaluation revealed evidence for Romano-British industrial and settlement activity. The results are discussed below in trench number order and where possible features have been assigned a chronological period. A number of features and deposits remain undated, but are described, along with their possible association and significance to other positively dated archaeological features.
- 6.1.3 Of the proposed six trenches measuring, on average, 25m x 1.6m a total of five trenches had to be moved slightly due to overhead powerlines and field boundaries:
- Six (100%) contained archaeological features
 - Five were relocated to avoid the overhead powerlines and field boundaries. (Trenches **1, 2, 4, 5, 6**)
- 6.1.4 The trial trenches were targeted to clarify the presence or absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site and to confirm and enhance the results of the previous geophysical survey by testing a sample of the anomalies revealed.
- 6.1.5 The majority of the targeted geophysical anomalies proved to represent archaeological features. However a considerable number of the features present were not identified by the geophysical survey.
- 6.1.6 The underlying natural deposit is composed of predominately mid orange sands with sandstone outcrops.
- 6.1.7 This report provides a summary of the information derived from the trial trench evaluation and discusses all the archaeological features recorded. Detailed trench summaries containing a brief description of all of the features uncovered are provided in **Appendix 1; Table 1**.

6.2 Trenches

Trench 1

- 6.2.1 **Trench 1** contained two ditches, two postholes, two pits and one wall, all dated to the Romano-British period (**Figure 1**).
- 6.2.2 Ditch **104** (0.70m wide, 1.60m long) was identified in the southern end of the trench on an east-west alignment but was left unexcavated so the depth is unknown. However the same ditch was identified as ditch **306** in Trench 3, it was 0.30m deep and contained Romano-British pottery. The ditch is shown on the geophysical survey and was traced for at least 40m before turning

north at both ends, suggesting it may form the southern part of a boundary to a sub-rectangular enclosure.

- 6.2.3 To the north of ditch **104** was a sub-circular pit (**107**) which was partly exposed by the trench. It had a diameter of 2m and was not excavated but Romano-British pottery was collected from the surface.
- 6.2.4 The northern end of Trench 1 contained a sub-circular pit **112** (1.20m diameter), two possible postholes (**114**, **116**) (0.25m, 0.30m in diameter respectively) and a ditch (**110**) (1.50m wide, 1.60m long) which was aligned southwest-northeast. None of these features were excavated but dating material was retrieved from the surface of ditch **110** and pit **112** which dated them to the early Romano-British period.
- 6.2.5 A wall (**108**) (**Plate 1**) was also exposed in the eastern trench edge just south of ditch **110**. The wall was only seen in the trench edge and consequently its full extent could not be seen but it appeared to be at least 0.60m thick and 0.30m high. The soil from immediately around it contained large amounts of early Roman pottery and its position suggests the presence of a stone walled building immediately to the east of Trench 1.
- 6.2.6 The northern end of the trench (containing the majority of the features in Trench 1) lay outside the bounds of the geophysical survey area (**Figure 1**). As such these features were not identified by the geophysical survey.

Trench 2

- 6.2.7 **Trench 2** contained two pits and one posthole, none of which were present in the geophysical survey (**Figure 1**).
- 6.2.8 Pit **204** (1.70m long, 0.40m wide) and pit **208** (1.20m long, 0.40m wide) were unexcavated and undated but based on the dating from similar features in the other trenches (pits **112**, **604**) they are likely to be Romano-British in date.
- 6.2.9 One further feature was uncovered in this trench, posthole **206** (0.60m diameter). It was not excavated and is undated.

Trench 3

- 6.2.10 **Trench 3** contained one suspected well, one ditch, one posthole and two pits (**Figure 1**) all of which were dated to the Romano-British period by association.
- 6.2.11 In the northern end of Trench 3 was a large Romano-British suspected well **312** (2.60m diameter). It was identified by the geophysical survey as a possible sub-circular pit, the trench exposed only half of the feature but the semi circular stone lining visible on the surface (**Plate 2**) indicated that it was a well. It was not excavated but pottery collected from the surface dates it to the 3rd to 4th centuries AD.

- 6.2.12 A single posthole (**310**) (0.25m diameter) was identified in this trench, situated a few metres south of the well. It was not identified in the geophysical survey and was not excavated.
- 6.2.13 Pit **304** (1m long and 0.80m wide) was not excavated or dated but contained clearly visible charcoal lenses and was similar to other Romano-British pits in the Site (see pit **604**).
- 6.2.14 In the southern end of the trench there was an east-west aligned ditch (**306**) (1.60m long, 0.25m wide and 0.30m) which cut pit **308** (1.40m long, 0.90m wide and 0.60m) (**Figure 2** and **Plate 3**). Ditch **306** is a continuation of ditch **104** found in Trench 1 (see above). A slot was excavated through ditch **306** and pit **308** which revealed a shallow ditch. Three sherds of Romano-British pottery came from the ditch fill. Pit **308** contained large amounts of charcoal and heat effected natural sand, possibly *insitu* burning.
- 6.2.15 The geophysical survey identified ditch **306**, pit **308** and well **312** but not features (**304**, **310**). There was also a large anomaly on the geophysical survey which was interpreted as a possible pit. However, upon excavation this anomaly could not be identified within the trench (**Figure 1**).

Trench 4

- 6.2.16 **Trench 4** contained two ditches and one pit (**Figure 1**). Ditches **404** (1.50m wide, 1.60m long) and **406** (1m wide, 1.60m long) were parallel on an east-west alignment. Ditch **406** cut pit **408** (1.45m diameter).
- 6.2.17 None of the features (**404**, **406** and **408**) was identified in the geophysical survey. They were unexcavated and undated but the presence of Romano-British features to the south and north (**604**, **312**, **110** and **112**) indicates that these features may be of a similar date.

Trench 5

- 6.2.18 **Trench 5** contained two pits **504** (2.90m long, 1m wide and 0.30m deep) and **506** (1.70m diameter) and one modern feature **508**. Pit **504** was in the southern end of the trench and was highlighted in the geophysical survey. It was filled with dark greyish brown sandy silty clay which contained large amounts of charcoal and some iron slag.
- 6.2.19 Pit **506** was sub-circular in plan and was filled with a very similar material to that of pit **504** and had almost been completely destroyed by a square modern feature **508**. Although there was no dating material found from either pit **504** or pit **506**, pottery from the similar features (**604**) on the Site suggests a Romano-British date is likely for these features.

Trench 6

- 6.2.20 **Trench 6** contained only one feature **604** (1.40m long, 1.20m wide and 0.20m deep) and this was highlighted in the geophysical survey as a possible pit (**Figure 1**). Pit **604** (**Figure 2** and **Plate 4**) was positioned

centrally in the trench and contained large amounts of charcoal, slag, some *in situ* burning and Romano-British pottery.

7 ARTEFACT REPORT

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Small quantities of artefacts were found in three of the evaluation trenches (Trenches 1, 3 and 6). The finds were predominantly of Romano-British (1st to 4th century AD) date, with very small quantities of post-medieval/modern material.

7.1.2 After cleaning, all the finds were quantified by material type within each context; the results are summarised in **Table 2 (Appendix 2)**. The assemblage was then visually scanned to establish the range of types present, their condition and potential date range.

7.2 Pottery

7.2.1 Pottery provides the only dating evidence for the site. With the exception of a single piece of 'blue and white "china" of 19th or early 20th century date from the topsoil of Trench 6, all the sherds were of Romano-British date. Most survived in relatively good condition, reflected by their average weight of 14.6g (an average of between 10g and 20g is considered 'normal' for Romano-British sites across southern England). The sherds from each context were subdivided into broad ware types and quantified by the number and weight of pieces present (**Appendix 2; Table 3**).

7.2.2 No imported finewares, amphora or mortaria are present among the Romano-British sherds, and the only regional import is a single piece of Black Burnished ware from the Wareham Poole Harbour region of Dorset, found in well **312** (context **315**). These wares reached this part of north Wiltshire from c. AD 120 onwards. The assemblage is composed of grog-tempered Savernake-type wares and a range of grey and oxidised coarsewares, all containing variable quantities of sand. Most probably derive from relatively local sources, including the Savernake Forest (Annable 1962; Swan 1975; Hopkins 1999), Purton and other kilns to the west of Swindon (Anderson 1979, 13-14; 1980) and on the Greensand ridge in the Warminster (Chapmanslade – Wilts. SMR nos ST84NW308 and ST84NW213) and Westbury (Rogers and Roddham 1991) areas and perhaps in Bromham itself where investigations by Chippenham College Archaeology Department uncovered iron slag and kiln debris in fields to the north of Hayfields Copse (Wiltshire County Archaeology Service 2004, 6).

7.2.3 Diagnostic vessel forms indicate that the ceramics from Trench 1 are predominantly of early Roman-British date (mid-/late 1st - 2nd century AD). These include pieces from the lower half of a white-slipped red-ware globular-bodied flagon from feature **108** (context **109**) and a necked, shouldered jar/bowl and an imitation Gallo-Belgic platter in sandy greyware from ditch **110** (context **111**). Pieces from a Savernake-type ware bead rim jar from ditch **306** (context **307**) are likely to be of similar date while late 3rd -

4th century AD sherds were also found in the topsoil (context **301**; greyware dropped flange bowl/dish) and in well **312** (a thick-walled Alice Holt-type storage jar sherd with internal finger-smearing (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, classes 4 or 10) - context **314** and a second dropped flange bowl/dish rim and the Black Burnished ware everted rim jar fragment from context 315) in Trench 3. The remaining contexts could only be assigned a generalised Romano-British date.

7.3 Ceramic Building Material

- 7.3.1 All the ceramic building material is of Romano-British date, and derived from feature **108** (context **109**) in Trench 1. The group included two pieces from *tegula* roof tiles; the others were simple flat fragments but their thickness (20-27mm) suggests that they may be from similar tiles. The presence of this material type highlights the possibility of a substantial, Romanised structure of some status and sophistication within the vicinity.

7.4 Animal Bone

- 7.4.1 This material was only found in Trench 3; the pieces comprise part of the proximal end of a cattle tibia from pit **308** (context **309**) and fragments from a horse scapula from the filling of possible well **312** (context **313**).

7.5 Slag, Fired Clay and Stone

- 7.5.1 The slag found in Trench 6 (topsoil and pit **604**) displays the dense texture and flowing structure of primary iron-smelting tap slag. Although undated, the crisp, fresh condition of the slag, coupled with the presence of large charcoal fragments and pieces of very hard, fired clay hearth lining from the same contexts, suggests that the furnace lies in relatively close proximity. Although not obviously worked or utilised in any way, the iron-stone from feature **108** (context **109**) may also be of relevance here; it is possible that this rock type was used as raw material for smelting, while its heat-resistant properties also make it eminently suitable for use in the construction of furnaces, kilns and other pyrotechnical structures.

7.6 Other Finds

- 7.6.1 These consist of a piece of a post-medieval clay tobacco pipe stem and a piece from a modern clear glass bottle or jar, both found in the topsoil of Trench 6.

8 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 A total of two bulk samples were taken from pits of Romano-British date to evaluate the presence and preservation of palaeo-environmental remains. It was thought that any charred material from pit **604** could be associated with industrial activity while that from pit **308** could be reflective of domestic activity. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals.

8.2 Charred Plant Remains and Wood Charcoal

8.2.1 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm, 1mm and 0.5mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Appendix 2; Table 4**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

8.2.2 The flots were generally large and there were low numbers of roots and modern seeds that are indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material was mainly well preserved, in particular the wood charcoal fragments.

8.2.3 High numbers of charred plant remains were recorded in pit **308**. The cereal remains comprised grain fragments of barley and hulled wheat, spelt or emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) and hulled wheat glume fragments and spikelet forks. A number of the glume fragments were identifiable as those of spelt (*Triticum spelta*) and none were clearly those of emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*). The weed seed assemblage included seeds of oats/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.), dock (*Rumex* sp.), goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.), rye-grass/fescue (*Lolium/Festuca* sp.) and meadow grass/Cat's-tails (*Poa/Phleum* sp.). The plant remains are typical of those recovered from Romano-British rural domestic deposits, reflective of local arable and field margin environments.

8.2.4 No charred plant remains were observed in the sample from pit **604**.

8.2.5 The large quantity of wood charcoal fragments >4mm from pit **604** were mainly mature wood fragments whereas the wood charcoal pieces retrieved from pit **308** included more fragments of round and twig wood.

9 CONCLUSION

- 9.1.1 The archaeological evaluation has confirmed the presence of Romano-British remains throughout the Site. The evaluation has also shown that the geophysical survey was successful in identifying most of the archaeological features present in the area. However some of the features revealed by the evaluation were not identified by the survey.
- 9.1.2 The archaeological features were distributed throughout the trenches occurring beneath topsoil and subsoil cover of varying thickness, generally between 0.5m and 0.9m. The features were composed of pits, ditches, a possible well and one wall, which seem to be the components for a Romano-British rural metal-working industry connected to a small area of settlement activity.
- 9.1.3 The Site has the potential to contain archaeological features related to both industrial and domestic Romano-British occupation. The evaluation results also indicate the potential for a building to be present. The industrial nature of the features and the Site's close proximity to *Verlucio* gives it the potential to contribute to our understanding of the Romano-British period of this area.

10 ARCHIVE

- 10.1.1 Details of the Site will be submitted online to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) database, a copy of this will be included as an Appendix to the report. A full archive of site photographs will also be submitted to the ADS as part of the photographic trial currently being undertaken across Wiltshire.
- 10.1.2 The archive is currently being held at Wessex Archaeology's office building under the site code 77650, but will ultimately be deposited for permanent storage at the Wiltshire County Museum.

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12 APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench No. 1		NGR opposite corners N ST 96507 65475 S ST 96509 65449		
Length (m)	Width (m)	Height above OS datum (m) (at ground level)		Max Depth (m) (below ground level)
25	1.6	N 100.96	S 100.94	0.83
Context No.	Class	Soil Description		Depth (m)
101	topsoil	Topsoil. Mid darkish greybrown sandy silty clay		0.00 - 0.14
102	Subsoil	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown sandy silty clay		0.14 - 0.64
103	Natural	Natural. Light yellow to mid brown sandy clay with sandstone cobbles		0.64 - 0.80
104	Ditch	Cut of southeast to north west aligned ditch. Unexcavated		Unexcavated
105	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of ditch [104]. Mid to darkish yellow grey sandy silty clay. Unexcavated		Unexcavated
106	Pit	Cut of possible pit feature, filled with (107). Unexcavated		Unexcavated
107	Fill	Fill of possible pit feature [106]. Mid grey brown sandy silty clay. Unexcavated		Unexcavated
108	Cut	Cut of uncertain feature containing masonry blocks within fill (109). Unexcavated		Unexcavated
109	Fill	Fill of possible feature [108] containing masonry blocks. Unexcavated		Unexcavated
110	Ditch	Cut of possible east to west aligned ditch. Unexcavated		Unexcavated
111	Secondary fill	Fill of possible east to west aligned ditch [110]. Mid to darkish grey sandy silty clay. Unexcavated		Unexcavated
112	Cut	Cut of uncertain irregularly shaped feature at northeast end of trench. Filled with (113). Unexcavated		Unexcavated
113	Fill	Fill of uncertain feature [112]. Mid to darkish grey brown sandy silty clay. Unexcavated		Unexcavated
114	Posthole	Cut of possible posthole, filled with (115). Unexcavated		Unexcavated
115	Secondary fill	Fill of possible posthole [114]. Mid pinkish yellow brown sandy silty clay. Unexcavated		Unexcavated
116	Posthole	Cut of possible posthole. Filled with (117). Unexcavated		Unexcavated
117	Secondary fill	Fill of possible posthole [116]. Mid to darkish grey brown sandy silty clay. Unexcavated		Unexcavated

TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench No.	2	NGR opposite corners		N ST 96518 65449	S ST 96512 65425
Length (m)	Width (m)	Height above OS datum (m) (at ground level)		Max Depth (m) (below ground level)	
25	1.6	N 101	S 101.15	0.7	
Context No.	Class	Soil Description			Depth (m)
201	topsoil	Topsoil. Mid to darkish grey brown sandy silty clay			0.00 - 0.12
202	Subsoil	Subsoil. Mid grey brown sandy silty clay			0.12 - 0.43
203	Natural	Natural. Light yellow to mid brown sandy silty clay with occasional sandstone cobbling			0.43 - 0.50
204	Pit	Cut of possible pit. Filled with (205). Unexcavated			Unexcavated
205	Fill	Fill of possible pit [204]. Mid to darkish grey brown sandy silty clay. Unexcavated			Unexcavated
206	Posthole	Cut of possible posthole or small pit. Sub-circular in plan. Unexcavated			Unexcavated
207	Fill	Fill of possible posthole or small pit [206]. Mid greyish brown sandy silty clay. Unexcavated			Unexcavated
208	Pit	Cut of possible pit. Continues into baulk. Filled with (209). Unexcavated			Unexcavated
209	Fill	Fill of possible pit [208]. Mid to darkish grey brown sandy silty clay. Unexcavated			Unexcavated

TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench No. 3		NGR opposite corners N ST 96542 65465 S ST 96531 65441		
Length (m)	Width (m)	Height above OS datum (m) (at ground level)		Max Depth (m) (below ground level)
25	1.6	N 101.27	S 101.08	0.71
Context No.	Class	Soil Description		Depth (m)
301	topsoil	Topsoil. Mid to darkish grey brown sandy silty clay		0.00 - 0.12
302	Subsoil	Subsoil. Mid grey brown sandy silty clay		0.12 - 0.40
303	Natural	Natural. Light yellow to mid brown sand with occasional sandstone cobbles		0.40 - 0.47
304	Pit	Cut of small sub-oval pit. Filled with (305). Unexcavated		Unexcavated
305	Fill	Fill of small pit [304]. Dark grey brown sandy silty clay. Unexcavated		Unexcavated
306	Ditch	Cut of north to south aligned ditch. Filled with (307), cuts pit [308]. Probably the same as ditch [104]. Unexcavated		0.3
307	Secondary fill	Fill of ditch [306]. Mid grey brown sandy silty clay with rare sub-angular sandstone and sparse rooting. Below subsoil (302)		0.3
308	Pit	Cut of subcircular pit only partly exposed within trench. Contains burnt material possibly from in-situ burning. Probably Roman. Filled with (309), (316) and (317). Cuts natural (303)		0.6
309	Secondary fill	Fill of pit [308]. Dark grey brown sandy silty clay with sparse subangular sandstone. Some charcoal visible - see sample 301. Cut by ditch [306].		0.18
310	Posthole	Cut of posthole. Filled with (311). Unexcavated		Unexcavated
311	Fill	Fill of posthole [310]. Mid grey brown sandy silty clay. Unexcavated		Unexcavated
312	Kiln	Cut of possible kiln/well/drier with possible structural elements. Filled with (313), (314) and (315). Unexcavated		Unexcavated
313	Fill	Outer fill of possible kiln [312]. Mid grey brown sandy silty clay. Unexcavated		Unexcavated
314	Fill	Masonry lining of possible kiln [312]. Unexcavated		Unexcavated
315	Fill	Inner fill of possible kiln [312]. Dark grey brown sandy silty clay. Unexcavated		Unexcavated
316	Secondary fill	Fill of pit [308]. Very dark brown sandy clay with rare sub rounded sandstone and abundant charcoal flecks. Possible in-situ burning. Below (317)		0.17
317	Secondary fill	Fill of pit [308]. Mid greyish brown to yellowish hue sandy clay with sparse subangular sandstone and rare charcoal flecks. Above (316) and below (309)		0.28
318	Pit	Possible pit found in section. Filled with (319).		0.2
319	Fill	Fill of possible pit [318], possibly indicates burning insitu		0.2

TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench No.	4	NGR opposite corners		N ST 96524 65406	S ST 96525 65381
Length (m)	Width (m)	Height above OS datum (m) (at ground level)			Max Depth (m) (below ground level)
25	1.6	N 101.36	S 101.15	0.9	
Context No.	Class	Soil Description			Depth (m)
401	topsoil	Topsoil. Mid to darkish grey brown sandy silty clay			0.00 - 0.26
402	Subsoil	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown sandy silty clay			0.26 - 0.76
403	Natural	Natural. Light yellow to mid brown sandy clay with sparse sandstone cobbles			0.76 - 0.88
404	Ditch	Cut of east to west aligned ditch. Unexcavated			Unexcavated
405	Fill	Fill of east to west aligned linear, mid grey brown sandy silty clay. Unexcavated			Unexcavated
406	Ditch	Cut of possible east to west aligned ditch. Unexcavated			Unexcavated
407	Fill	Fill of east to west aligned ditch. Mid grey brown sandy silty clay. Unexcavated			Unexcavated
408	Pit	Cut of possible pit. Unexcavated			Unexcavated
409	Fill	Fill of possible pit [408]. Light to mid grey brown sandy silty clay. Unexcavated			Unexcavated

TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench No.	5	NGR opposite corners		N ST 96537 65365	S ST 96529 65342
Length (m)	Width (m)	Height above OS datum (m) (at ground level)			Max Depth (m) (below ground level)
25	1.6	N 100.98	S 100.79	0.77	
Context No.	Class	Soil Description			Depth (m)
501	topsoil	Topsoil. Mid to darkish grey brown sandy silty clay			0.00 - 0.10
502	Subsoil	Subsoil. Mid grey brown sandy sily clay			0.10 - 0.38
503	Natural	Natural. Light yellow to mid brown sands with sparse sandstone cobbles			0.38 - 0.60
504	Pit	Cut of possible refuse pit. Sub-circular with concave sides and base. Partly exposed feature within the trench.			0.3
505	deliberate backfill	Possible deliberate backfill of large pit [504]. Darkish grey brown sandy silty clay			0.3
506	Pit	Cut of possible pit. Thrunccated by modern feature [508]. Unexcavated			Unexcavated
507	deliberate backfill	Backfill of possible pit [506]. Truncated by modern feature [508]. Unexcavated			Unexcavated
508	Modern Feature	Cut of modern feature seen to truncate pit [506]. Unexcavated			Unexcavated
509	Fill	Possible deliberate backfill of modern feature [508]. Unexcavated			Unexcavated

TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench No.	6	NGR opposite corners		N ST 96515 65343	S ST 96535 65328
Length (m)	Width (m)	Height above OS datum (m) (at ground level)			Max Depth (m) (below ground level)
25	1.6	N 100.99	S 100.77	0.74	
Context No.	Class	Soil Description			Depth (m)
601	topsoil	Topsoil. Darkish grey brown sandy silty clay			0.00 - 0.16
602	Subsoil	Subsoil. Mid grey brown sandy silty clay			0.16 - 0.47
603	Natural	Natural. Light yellow to mid brown sand with sparse sandstone cobbles			0.47 - 0.83
604	Pit	Cut of sub-oval shaped pit. Filled with deliberate backfill (605). Concave sides, flat base. Feature continues into baulk. Possibly contained metalworking waste			0.21
605	deliberate backfill	Deliberate backfill of pit [604]. Very dark grey brown sandy silty clay with sandstone cobbles. Charcoal and slag retrieved - possible remnants of metalworking waste. 10L environmental sample taken			0.21

13 APPENDIX 2: FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL TABLES
Table 2: All finds by material type (number and weight of pieces in grammes)

Trench/ layer	Animal bone	CBM	Clay pipe	Fired clay	Glass	Pottery	Slag	Stone
Trench 1:								
107						1/4		
109		10/999				18/380		1/106
111						19/166		
113						1/10		
Trench 3:								
301						1/27		
302						5/49		
307						3/28		
309	1/44					2/3		
313	3/19					7/104		
314						1/136		
315						6/31		
Trench 6:								
601			1/2		1/7	2/27	3/90	
605				3/31			17/802	
Total	4/63	10/999	1/2	3/31	1/7	66/965	20/892	1/106

NB. CBM = ceramic building material

Table 3: Pottery totals by ware type (number and weight of pieces in grammes)

Fabric	Trench:			Total
	1	3	6	
Greyware	23/204	12/205	1/21	36/430
Oxidised wares	2/33	6/26		8/59
Savernake-type wares	1/74	6/136		7/210
Black Burnished ware		1/11		1/11
White-slipped redware	13/249			13/249
Blue and white 'china'			1/6	1/6
Total	39/560	25/378	2/27	66/965

Table 4: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Samples				Flot								
Feature	Context	Sam ple	Vol. Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% roots	Charred Plant Remains				Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Anal ysis
						Grain	Chaff	Other	Comments			
Trench 3												
Romano-British Pit												
308	309	301	10	125	10	A	A**	A	Barley + hulled wheat grain frags, hulled wheat (inc. spelt) glume bases + spikelet forks. <i>Rumex, Chenopodium, Avena/Bromus, Poa/Phleum, Lolium/Festuca</i>	20/30 ml	-	P C
Trench 6												
Romano-British Pit												
604	605	601	8	900	3	-	-	-	-	575/225 ml	-	C

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Charcoal volumes are given in ml for material greater than 4mm and 2mm.
Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant

14 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: wessexar1-101027

Project details

Project name	Land at Bromham, Wiltshire
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by AMEC Entec (the Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Bromham, Wiltshire located at National Grid Reference (NGR) 396535 165367. This archaeological evaluation comprised of six trenches (6No 25mx1.6m) and follows a recent geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2011) which identified a number of archaeological anomalies. The fieldwork was undertaken between Wednesday the 4th May 2011 and Thursday the 5th May 2011. The evaluation revealed a substantial amount of Romano-British archaeology consisting of pits containing waste material from iron smelting, boundary ditches, a possible well and part of a substantial wall. Archaeological features were revealed in all of the six trenches excavated and confirmed that the geophysical anomalies were in most cases archaeological features. The volume and the complexity of the archaeology found and its potential significance meant that a strategy of minimal intrusion was adopted with only a small percentage of features investigated ahead of likely further mitigation in the event of planning permission being sought. The results of the evaluation suggest that the Site has the potential to contain evidence for Romano-British industrial activity throughout the southern end of the Site although industrial activity was plausibly evidenced additionally in the northern section. The wall in the northern end of Site may indicate the remains of a building. The industrial nature of the features and the close proximity to the Roman town of Verlucio gives it the potential to contribute to our knowledge of the Romano-British period in north Wiltshire. On completion of the fieldwork consultation with the Client and Wiltshire County Council was undertaken during a site meeting, it was concluded that mitigation would be required prior to development of the Site. This is likely to take the form of a programme of strip, map and record.</p>
Project dates	Start: 04-05-2011 End: 05-05-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	1-101027 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	SETTEMENT Roman
Monument type	INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman

Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE KENNET BROMHAM Land at Bromham
Postcode	SN15 2HA
Study area	1.50 Hectares
Site coordinates	ST 965 653 51.3862372655 -2.050302724580 51 23 10 N 002 03 01 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Consultant
Project design originator	AMEC Entec
Project director/manager	Caroline Budd
Project supervisor	Oliver Good
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	The Crown Estates

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Wiltshire Heritage Museum
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Industrial'
Digital Archive recipient	Archaeological Data Service
Digital Contents	'Survey','other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Wiltshire Heritage Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Plan','Report','Section','Survey ','Unpublished Text'
Entered by	Caroline Budd (c.budd@wessexarch.co.uk)

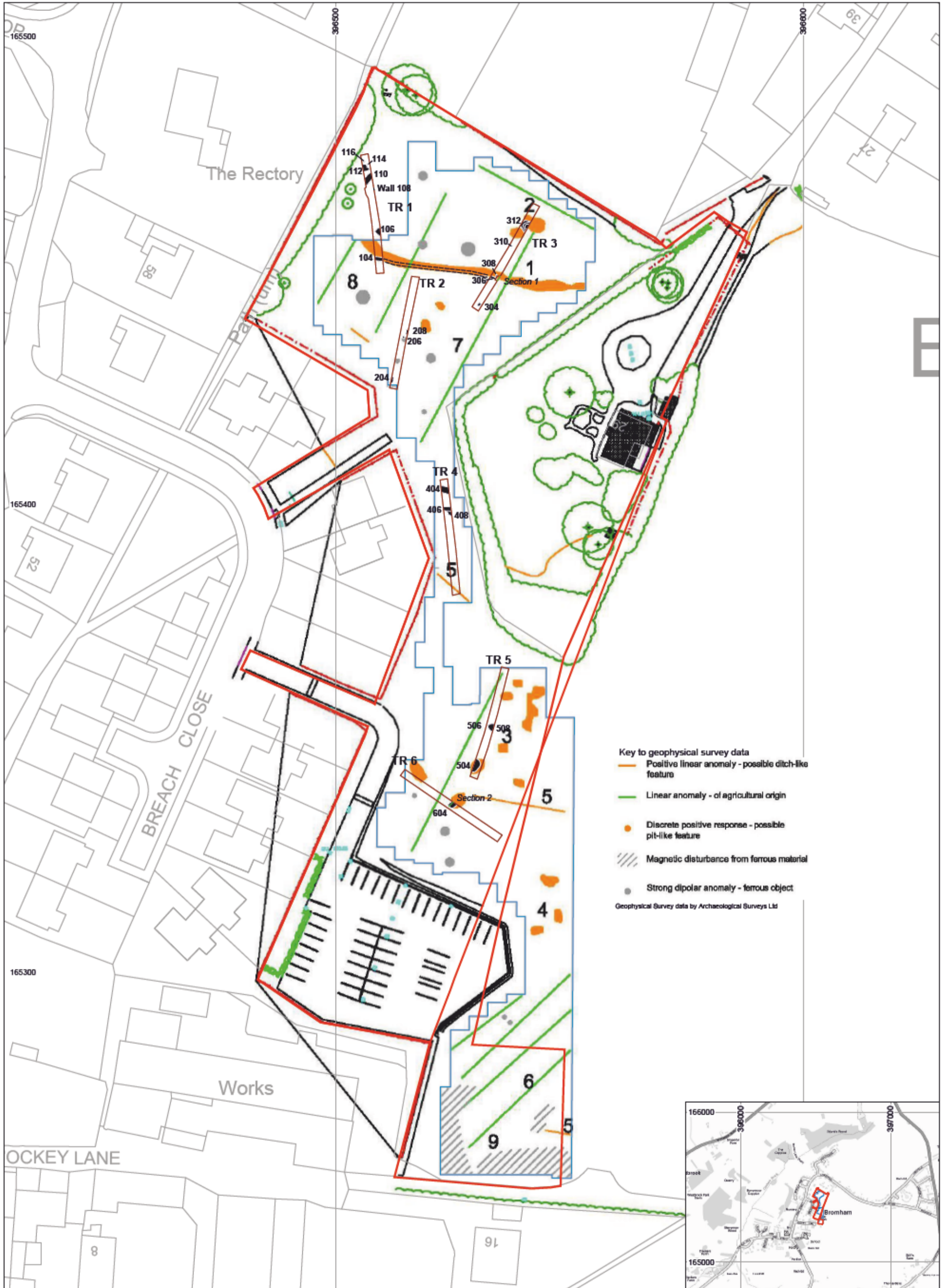
Entered on 1 June 2011

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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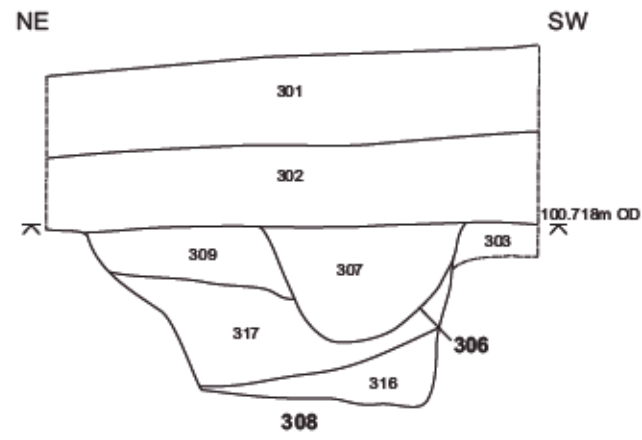


	Option 1 and 2 site boundary WA evaluation trench Archaeological feature (Romano-British) Geophysical survey area		Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2010 Based upon the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright AL100001776 Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright (year) All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020449. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.		
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Site location plan showing evaluation area and trenches

Figure 1

Section 1, Trench 3

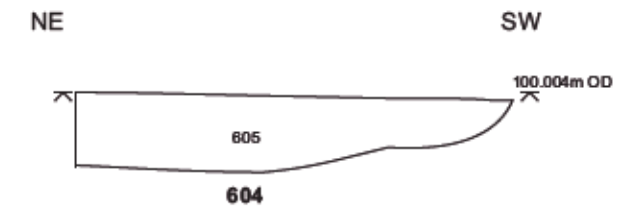


North facing section along southern edge of Trench 3 and through ditch 306 and pit 308



Plate 3: Photograph of Ditch 306 and Pit 308 taken from the west

Section 2, Trench 6



Northwest facing section through pit 604




Plate 4: Photograph of Pit 604 taken from the north-west



Plate 1: Photograph of wall 108 taken from the west



Plate 2: Photograph of well 312 taken from the east

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	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	LJC
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