

Anson Field Marcham, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report Phase II





**ANSON FIELD, MARCHAM,
OXFORDSHIRE**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Phase II**

Planning Ref: P12/V0854

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Anson Field, Marcham, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report Phase II

Contents

Summary	v
Acknowledgements.....	vi
1 INTRODUCTION	7
1.1 Project Background	7
1.2 Site location, topography and geology	7
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	8
2.1 Summary of archaeological and historical background	8
2.2 Geophysical Survey results	8
2.3 Phase I Archaeological Evaluation	9
3 AIMS AND METHODS	9
3.1 Introduction and General Objectives	9
4 METHODOLOGY	10
4.1 Health and Safety	10
4.2 Service Location	10
4.3 Fieldwork	10
4.4 Evaluation Methodology	11
4.5 Recording	11
4.6 Monitoring.....	11
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS.....	11
5.1 Introduction.....	11
5.2 Site-wide Stratigraphy and Geology.....	11
5.3 Trench 7	12
5.4 Trench 8	12
5.5 Trench 9	12
5.6 Trench 10	13
6 FINDS	13
6.1 Introduction.....	13
6.2 Pottery	14
6.3 Other Finds.....	14
7 CONCLUSIONS	14
8 ARCHIVE.....	15
8.1 Preparation and Deposition	15
8.2 Copyright	16
8.3 Security Copy	16
9 REFERENCES	16
9.1 Online Resources	16
9.2 Bibliography.....	16
Appendix 1: Trench Summaries	
Appendix 2: Oasis Record Form	

Anson Field, Marcham, Oxfordshire**Archaeological Evaluation Report Phase II****List of Figures**

- 1 Site and trench location with geophysical survey interpretation
- 2 Trenches 1 to 4: plan and photographs
- 3 Trenches 7: section and photographs
- 4 Photographs

List of Plates

- 1 Trench 7, view from west (scale 1m, 2m)
 - 2 Trench 8, view from south (scale 1m, 2m)
 - 3 Trench 9, view from south-east (scale 1m, 2m)
 - 4 Trench 10, view from west (scale 1m, 2m)
 - 5 North facing section of Trench 7 and post hole 704 (scale 0.2m)
 - 6 South facing section of post hole 708 (scale 0.2m)
 - 7 South facing section of post hole 710 (scale 0.2m)
 - 8 Post-built structure (including post holes 708 and 710) in Trench 7 (scale 1m, 2m)
 - 9 Gully 706 in Trench 7, view from north-east (scale 1m, 0.5m)
 - 10 Detail of roundhouse drip gully 1010 in Trench 10 (scale 1m, 2m)
 - 11 Pits 1004 and 1008 in Trench 10 (scale 1m, 2m)
 - 12 South facing section of Trench 10, with pit 1004 containing *in situ* deposit of cow skull (scale 1m, 0.50m)
 - 13 West facing section of pit 1004 with *in situ* deposit of cow skull, below stone capping (scale 0.50m)
 - 14 East facing section of roundhouse drip gully 1010 (scale 0.20m)
- Front Cover** Trench 10 from the west
- Back Cover** Graphic supplied courtesy of the Abingdon Little Angels Nursery, Marcham.

Anson Field, Marcham, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report Phase II

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey Oxon to undertake a second phase of archaeological trial trench evaluation at Anson Field, Marcham, Oxfordshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 445790 196747.

The site comprises an area of approximately 1.5ha and is currently utilised as a football pitch with an area of land and children's nursery separating the pitch from a cricket pitch. The Phase II evaluation (comprising 4 trenches) targeted the existing football pitch which became available following the end of the football season.

A planning application (P12/V0854) has been submitted to White Horse District Council for a residential development of up to 51 dwellings at the site and the Principal Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council had advised that a programme of archaeological work should be completed prior to the determination of the planning application, to ascertain the archaeological potential.

The site was previously investigated by geophysical survey which revealed the remains of a possible prehistoric barrow cemetery, as well as numerous other anomalies of potentially archaeological origin. These features were investigated through the excavation of 6 trenches (Phase I evaluation) which revealed numerous remains of prehistoric date including a Bronze Age barrow and an Early/Middle Iron Age settlement, which was potentially occupied through into the Late Romano-British period.

The Phase II evaluation identified further Early/Middle Iron Age features including two roundhouses, identified through postholes and a drip gully, and two further re-used storage pits, one of which contained a potentially deliberately placed ritual or symbolic 'structured deposition' of a cattle skull sealed beneath a layer of stones.

It is clear that any development on the site will have a detrimental effect on the underlying archaeological remains which are located across the site and further mitigation in the form of archaeological excavation will be required ahead of development to ensure their preservation by record.

Anson Field, Marcham, Oxfordshire**Archaeological Evaluation Report. Phase II****Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Andy Cattermole of Taylor Wimpey Oxon who commissioned the Phase II archaeological evaluation. Thanks are also due to Hugh Coddington, Principal Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council, who monitored the work on behalf of the local authority. We are also grateful to Louise Butt, Teaching Assistant at Marcham C of E Primary School who organised and co-ordinated the children visiting the excavations and for their enthusiasm and interest on the day.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Thompson and Mark Bagwell. This report was compiled by Steve Thompson with finds analysis by Lorraine Mephram. The report illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

Anson Field, Marcham, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report. Phase II.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey Oxon to undertake an archaeological field evaluation on land at Anson Field, Morland Road, Marcham, Oxfordshire (**Figure 1**), centred on NGR 445790 196747, hereafter referred to as ‘the Site’.

1.1.2 A planning application (P12/V0854) has been submitted to White Horse District Council for the demolition of the existing Marcham Sports, Scouts and Social Club and Little Angels Nursery, and the redevelopment of half of the Anson Field for a residential development of up to 51 dwellings with associated infrastructure (roads and landscape). The application also proposes the creation of a new community hub comprising a replacement cricket and football pitch, multi-use games area, nursery, community hall and associated accommodation on land north of Hyde Copse to the north of Anson Field.

1.1.3 The Principal Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council had advised that a programme of archaeological work should be completed within the Anson Field Site to ascertain the archaeological potential prior to the determination of the planning application.

1.1.4 A geophysical survey (WA 2012a) was undertaken across the Site which identified archaeological anomalies in the central and south-western portions of the Site indicative of a number of annular and curvilinear ditches. A Phase I evaluation (WA 2012b) comprising six trenches (Trenches 1-6) targeted the anomalies identified, but avoided excavation within the football pitch itself. The evaluation identified numerous remains of prehistoric date including a Bronze Age barrow and an Early/Middle Iron Age settlement, which was potentially occupied through into the Late Romano-British period.

1.1.5 A Project Design (WA 2012c) setting out the methodology for the Phase II field evaluation was prepared in accordance with standards and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists and ‘*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*’ (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2006). It was submitted to and approved by the Principal Archaeologist at OCC.

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The Site lies within the village of Marcham, approximately 4km west of Abingdon, and covers approximately 1.5ha. It is located directly to the south of Marcham C of E Primary School, and bounded to the east and south by residential development.

1.2.2 The majority of the Site is currently in use as a football pitch, with the area to the west used as a cricket pitch. As such, the survey area is generally level and under short mowed grass. It lies at approximately 60m above

Ordnance Datum (aOD). Nursery and changing room buildings are located in the centre of the Site, with a small car park to the north.

- 1.2.3 The underlying geology of the Site is limestone (Stanford formation) (BGS 1974), overlain by brown rendzina soils (Elmton 1 type, Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Summary of archaeological and historical background

- 2.1.1 To the north-east of Marcham cropmark evidence indicates a possible Iron Age settlement, with a considerable amount of Iron Age pottery, Romano-British pottery and tiles recorded in the area.

- 2.1.2 A complex of enclosures and linear features including possible sunken feature buildings are recorded north of Cow Lane and form part of a Scheduled Monument (SM1004850).

- 2.1.3 To the south of the village, extensive, albeit fragmented cropmark remains are recorded and although undated, are indicative of numerous enclosures and ditches.

- 2.1.4 To the south-west of the village, an Iron Age settlement overlain by a Romano-British temple complex is subject to ongoing excavations which form part of the Vale and Ridgeway Project: see website below for details: http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/research/research_projects/marcham.

- 2.1.5 To the west of the village, All Saints Church has 13th century origins.

2.2 Geophysical Survey results

- 2.2.1 A detailed gradiometer survey (WA 2012a) was undertaken on the Site which detected a number of previously unknown anomalies of archaeological interest.

- 2.2.2 One annular anomaly and a further four curvilinear anomalies (which may represent truncated annular anomalies), were identified as features of likely archaeological origin. These anomalies were clustered in the south-western corner of the Site and may suggest a small prehistoric settlement or grouping of funerary monuments (ring ditches or barrows) from this period.

- 2.2.3 A number of additional anomalies were also identified across the Site which possibly represent pits and other anthropogenic features, including plough-damaged linear features. Some of these anomalies were, however, amorphous and less well defined than those which were interpreted as being of definite archaeological interest.

- 2.2.4 Linear trends were frequent throughout the survey area, many of which share similar alignments and are likely to be the result of former ploughing strategies. A number of these linear trends were interpreted as former drainage works.

- 2.2.5 A high probability that the archaeological features identified originally extended further across the south-west and central parts of the Site was

assessed. The magnetic responses generated by any surviving features in this area were, however, masked by the ferrous responses which dominated a significant proportion of the Site.

2.3 Phase I Archaeological Evaluation

2.3.1 The Phase I archaeological evaluation (WA 2012b) comprised the mechanical excavation of 6 trenches of varying lengths positioned to investigate the results of the geophysical survey. The trenches were concentrated on the land in between the cricket and football pitches and the touch line of the football pitch.

2.3.2 The evaluation identified numerous remains of prehistoric date including a Bronze Age barrow and Early/Middle Iron Age settlement remains, which were potentially occupied through into the Late Romano-British period.

2.3.3 The identification of the Bronze Age barrow, with a likely central primary burial whose ditches had gradually infilled during the Iron Age, suggested that other anomalies identified from the geophysical survey were also likely to be Bronze Age barrows, due to their shared characteristics and morphology, and formed part of a nucleated barrow cemetery.

2.3.4 The Iron Age settlement appears to be extensive with numerous storage pits reused for rubbish dumping, boundary ditches potentially separating fields or properties and possible post-built structures. The features contained pottery dating to the Early/Middle Iron Age, though fragments of later material including 3rd/4th century AD Black Burnished ware pottery from south-east Dorset was also recovered

3 AIMS AND METHODS

3.1 Introduction and General Objectives

3.1.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (WA 2012c) (agreed by the Client and the Local Authority) was prepared outlining the aims of the Phase II evaluation (comprising 4 trenches (Trenches 7-10) and the methods by which these aims would be achieved.

3.1.2 The general aims of the trial trench evaluation were to:

- Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be impacted by development.
- 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 (specifically the football pitch) to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.
- Target trenches on anomalies identified as a result of the geophysical survey in order to clarify the nature and presence/absence of underlying archaeological remains.

- Produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Health and Safety

4.1.1 Health and Safety considerations were of paramount importance during all fieldwork and safe working practices overrode archaeological considerations at all times.

4.1.2 All work were 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.

4.1.3 Wessex Archaeology supplied a copy of the site specific Risk Assessment to the Client prior to the commencement of the fieldwork. The Risk Assessment was read and understood by all staff attending the Site before any groundwork was undertaken.

4.2 Service Location

4.2.1 The geophysical survey identified the location of a number of buried services and drains. The trenches were positioned to avoid these services, and before excavation began these services were identified and marked on the ground using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT). Each trench location was also scanned in order to verify the absence of any live underground services. Periodical scanning during the machine excavation also took place.

4.3 Fieldwork

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

4.3.2 A total of 4no. machine excavated trial trenches (1no. 30m x 1.8m, 3no. 20m x 1.8m) were proposed and their locations agreed with the Client and the Principal Archaeologist of OCC.

4.3.3 The trial trenches were excavated using a back-hoe excavator equipped with 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 the higher.

4.3.4 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the Client and the Principal Archaeologist at OCC 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.

4.4 Evaluation Methodology

- 4.4.1 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 the evaluation trench was carried out by hand.
- 4.4.2 Due to the identification of an exceptional number of archaeological deposits, sample excavation of a number of features was considered appropriate to elucidate the date and character of the identified remains. Where dateable artefacts were revealed in the upper levels of the deposits this material was collected and the features recorded in plan. This methodology was sufficient to resolve the principal aims of the evaluation.

4.5 Recording

- 4.5.1 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system.
- 4.5.2 A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was compiled with 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 was calculated and plans/sections annotated with OD heights accordingly.
- 4.5.3 A 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 will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.6 Monitoring

- 4.6.1 During the course of the evaluation the work was monitored by Hugh Coddington of OCC on behalf of the Local Authority.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The following sections provide a summary of the information held in the Site archive. Details of individually excavated contexts and features are retained in the Site archive and a detailed tabulated version of these can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 5.1.2 The following **Results** section should be read in conjunction with **Appendix 1**. The results will be presented by trench (**Trenches 7-10**) with reference to the geophysical anomalies).

5.2 Site-wide Stratigraphy and Geology

- 5.2.1 The stratigraphy of deposits was uniform across the Site with approximately 0.25m of turf and topsoil (recorded as **701, 801, 901, and 1001**) recorded sealing between 0.28 and 0.63m of subsoil (recorded as **702, 802, 902 and 1002**). In Trench 7 a possible buried ground surface **703** was revealed

below **702**, though in other trenches this was observed as the base of the subsoil. The natural underlying geology comprised weathered limestone 'brash' bedrock (recorded as **712**, **805**, **903**, and **1003**). Archaeological features were observed cutting the natural geology.

5.3 Trench 7

5.3.1 **Trench 7** was positioned to investigate a number of anomalies with increased magnetic response and possible ploughing trends, however the geophysics results indicated the area was devoid of features of archaeological interest.

5.3.2 The natural geology was encountered at 0.76m below the current ground surface at a height of 58.11m aOD.

5.3.3 At the eastern end of the trench an arc of six postholes (**Figure 2**) were observed, identified at intervals of approximately 1.20m. Two of the six post holes were investigated and recorded as **708** and **710** (**Figure 3, Plate 8**), with **710** containing pottery dating to the Early to Middle Iron Age. The arc was indicative of the northern part of a post-built structure, probably an Iron Age roundhouse, with a projected diameter of approximately 7.2m; this is a fairly typical dimension for a roundhouse of this period.

5.3.4 To the west of the roundhouse was an undated north-east south-west aligned gully **706**, (**Figure 2, Plate 9**) infilled with a natural silting deposit **707**, potentially forming part of a network of drainage channels to divert water away from the roundhouse and wider settlement. Towards the western end of the trench two further postholes were identified, with one excavated and recorded as **704** (**Figure 3**).

5.3.5 These features were not identified during the geophysical survey which is not unsurprising given their small nature and the fact they contain material with little or no magnetic enhancement.

5.4 Trench 8

5.4.1 **Trench 8** was positioned to the east of **Trench 7** and sited to investigate a number of possible archaeological anomalies. The natural geology was revealed at 0.48m below the current ground surface at a height of 57.58m aOD and was cut by a post hole (unexcavated) and a feature (**803**) which is very similar to the features observed in **Trench 5** from the Phase I evaluation.

5.4.2 Feature **803** was irregular in plan and very shallow and interpreted as either a potential quarry pit of some kind but, most likely, a tree throw hole.

5.5 Trench 9

5.5.1 **Trench 9** was positioned to investigate a number of anomalies with increased magnetic responses. The natural geology was encountered at 57.52m aOD, which was 0.46m below the current ground surface at the eastern end and at 0.86m below the current ground surface at the western end. No archaeological features were recorded within the trench and the anomalies were the result of changes in the natural geology.

5.6 Trench 10

5.6.1 **Trench 10** was the southernmost trench of the Phase II evaluation and was positioned to investigate a number of geophysical anomalies identified as possible archaeology. One of these anomalies corresponded with two small pits **1004** and **1008** (**Plate 11**). Pit **1004** (which was not fully revealed in the trench) was investigated and contained an intact cow skull (within deposit **1007**, **Plates 12 & 13**) associated with a rim sherd dating to Early to Middle Iron Age. The skull was sealed beneath a deposit of non-local stones **1005**, and it was clear that this was a deliberately placed deposit. Sealing **1005** was **1006**, a dark grey brown black silty loam, which represented the final infilling of pit **1004**. Given the feature was not fully exposed within the trench and following consultation with the Principal Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council it was agreed further excavation of the features would not be appropriate at the evaluation stage. It was agreed the cattle skull and all identified placed material should be left *in situ* to enable further investigation to be undertaken at such time when the feature can be fully exposed in plan and fully excavated.

5.6.2 Further Early to Middle Iron Age pottery was identified in the upper fill **1009** of pit **1008**.

5.6.3 Towards the eastern limit of **Trench 10** a curving gully **1010** was identified, and interpreted as the southern part of a possible drip gully surrounding an Iron Age roundhouse located to the north (**Figure 2**, **Plates 10 & 14**) with a projected diameter of just over 7m. The gully was very shallow at just 0.07m deep and contained a single naturally derived water borne deposit **1011**. Gully **1010** was not identified in the geophysics as the fill was devoid of material which would have given an increased magnetic response and ring gullies are typically ephemeral in nature.

5.6.4 Between pit **1008** and gully **1010** was a roughly north south aligned gully **1012**, which is potentially associated with drainage. This feature remained unexcavated.

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The second phase of evaluation on the Site yielded a very small quantity of material which augments that recovered during the first evaluation phase (WA 2012b). Quantities by context are given in **Table 1**; as was the case with the first phase, the assemblage is dominated by pottery and animal bone, although quantities are much smaller. A cattle skull, found beneath a layer of non-local stones, and possibly forming part of a 'ritual deposit' in pit **1004**, was exposed but not lifted during the evaluation; neither skull nor stones are therefore included in this report. Other finds came from subsoil contexts and from stratified feature fills; no finds were recovered from **Trench 8**.

6.1.2 The date range of the assemblage is largely Iron Age to Romano-British, with a few post-medieval items. Condition is fair to poor; fragments are small, and the ceramics in particular show high levels of surface and edge abrasion. This, together with the small quantities recovered, limits the

confidence that can be placed on the use of this material as dating evidence.

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 The pottery includes sherds of Iron Age, Romano-British and modern date. The Iron Age material (10 sherds) includes both sandy and shelly fabrics, both of which were also recorded during the earlier evaluation. Only one diagnostic sherd was recovered – a rim from pit **1004** (fill **1007**), but this is too small to be assigned to any specific vessel form. Other sherds came from subsoil **702**, post hole **710**, pit **1008** (fill **1009**) and gully **1010**. As before, a date range of Early to Middle Iron Age can be suggested.

6.2.2 One Romano-British sherd was identified: a coarse greyware from subsoil layer **1002**.

6.2.3 One sherd of post-medieval coarse redware came from subsoil layer **902**, and a sherd of modern (19th/20th century) stoneware from subsoil layer **702**.

6.3 Other Finds

6.3.1 Other finds comprise a few fragments of animal bone (including a cattle scapula), and an undiagnostic fragment of ceramic building material (CBM), probably post-medieval (the latter from subsoil layer **902**).

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

Context	Animal Bone	CBM	Pottery
1002			1/12
1007			2/9
1009			3/10
1011	1/5		2/5
702	1/21		3/48
705	2/7		
711			1/4
902		1/13	1/18
TOTALS	4/33	1/13	13/106

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1.1 The Phase II evaluation within Anson Field, Marcham was successful in its stated aims of providing further evidence of the Iron Age settlement which was established around the pre-existing barrow cemetery identified through the geophysical survey and Phase I evaluation. This phenomena observed elsewhere in Oxfordshire (Thompson *et al* in prep, Parkinson, Barclay, McKeague, 1996, Boston *et al*, 2003 and Poore and Wilkinson, 2001) indicates that earlier features and monuments within the landscape provide a focus for later settlement, and in the case of Anson Field, an associated agricultural landscape resulting in the infilling of the barrow ditches in this period (Wessex Archaeology, 2012b).

7.1.2 The work was also successful in identifying archaeological features within areas initially believed to be largely devoid of archaeology from the

geophysical survey results, however where anomalies were identified, they corresponded for the most part with archaeological features in the ground, as shown by the pits (**1004** and **1008**) in **Trench 10** and the probably tree throw **803** in **Trench 8**.

- 7.1.3 The identification of a deliberately placed cattle skull, sealed beneath a layer of non-local stone within **1004**, is important and conforms with the long established understanding that certain features within Iron Age settlements, in particular re-used storage pits, contain deliberate and formalised assemblages of human and animal bones as well as combinations of other materials (Bersu, 1940, Whittle, 1984, Cunliffe and Poole, 1991, 153-62, Cunliffe 1992 & 1995, 80-5).
- 7.1.4 Following Hill's statistical study (Hill, 1995) of such depositions of material within Iron Age sites, predominately within Hampshire, these occurrences, often referred to as examples of 'structured deposition', may suggest there was a symbolic or ritual dimension to what had often been viewed as predominately mundane Iron Age domestic contexts (Ellis and Powell, 2008 11-13). Nevertheless, whilst the cattle skull at Marcham is of interest, further analysis of the pit itself and other similar features within the site is needed to determine if the cattle skull denotes anything more than disposal of agricultural and domestic refuse.
- 7.1.5 The identification of two structures; a post-built roundhouse in **Trench 7** and the drip gully around a roundhouse in **Trench 10**, which were not revealed in the geophysics due to the lack of magnetically enhanced material within these features, indicates that the archaeology within Anson Field is not concentrated to the south-western corner of the proposed development as the results of the Phase I suggested, but does in fact largely cover the whole Site.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 Preparation and Deposition

- 8.1.1 The project archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines outline in Appendix 3 of Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the UKIC Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (Walker 1990).
- 8.1.2 The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under the WA project code **84180** (Geophysics), **84181** (Phase I Evaluation) and **84182** (Phase II Evaluation). The completed archive, which will include all paperwork, will on the completion of the all field work and post excavation reporting ultimately, be deposited for permanent storage with the Oxfordshire Museum Service.
- 8.1.3 Digital images will be curated under arrangements agreed for the Wessex Archaeology Digital Image Archive Trial and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (University of York) as part of the submission of an OASIS record for the project.

8.2 Copyright

- 8.2.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. 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 shall be non-profit making, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

8.3 Security Copy

- 8.3.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Monuments Record Centre (Swindon); a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records at the Museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

9 REFERENCES

9.1 Online Resources

http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/research/research_projects/marcham

9.2 Bibliography

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Appendix 1: Trench Summaries

Bgl: below ground level
 aOD: above Ordnance Datum

Trench 7	Dimensions :	30m x 1.6m x 0.88m	Ground surface level:	58.86m aOD
	Coordinates (NGR):	445768.544, 196774.7275 445797.7065, 196779.231		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
701	Topsoil	Current topsoil and turf of football pitch, dark grey brown sandy loam with rare small sub-rounded stones and moderate root disturbance, diffuse horizon with underlying 702.	0-0.25m	
702	Subsoil	Dark orange brown sandy clay loam with sparse sub-rounded stones.	0.25-0.62m	
703	Layer	Possible buried soil horizon below 702, dark grey brown sandy clay loam, with common small stones, potentially the base of the subsoil, increasing stony at the horizon with the underlying natural basal geology 712.	0.62-0.76	
704	Cut	Cut of post hole which is partially lost into the southern trench edge. Recorded as 0.38m long by 0.27m+ wide and 0.28m deep. Contains single recorded fill 705. cuts 712. Potentially associated with an excavated post hole located 2.5m to the north east. Potentially Iron Age in date.	0.28m deep	
705	Fill	Mid yellow brown sandy clay loam, with moderate small to medium degraded limestone fragments. Single recorded fill of post hole 704 , secondary infilling, no evidence of post packing.	0.28m thick	
706	Cut	Cut of northeast southwest aligned gully recorded as 0.80m long by 0.48m wide and 0.15m deep, contains single fill 707. Cut of probable drainage gully associated with possible post built roundhouse structure to the east.	0.15m deep	
707	Fill	Single recorded fill of 706 . Reddish brown sandy clay loam with common small limestone fragments. Secondary fill of gully, appears to be natural silting.	0.15m thick	
708	Cut	Cut of post hole, one of six identified post holes forming a clear arc and interpreted as the northern part of a post built structure, potentially an Iron Age roundhouse. Recorded as roughly circular in plan with steep to vertical sides and flat base and a	0.26m deep	

		diameter of 0.38m and 0.26m deep. The distance to the neighbouring post holes to the west and east is approximately 1.20m, and this distance is consistent between the remaining six post holes. A second post hole was excavated and recorded as 710.	
709	Fill	Single recorded fill of post hole 708 , mid yellow brown sandy silty loam with spares small degraded limestone fragments. No evidence of post packing and so likely post decayed <i>in situ</i> .	0.26m thick
710	Cut	Cut of post hole, one of six identified post holes forming a clear arc and interpreted as the northern part of a post built structure, potentially an Iron Age roundhouse. Recorded as roughly circular in plan with steep to vertical sides and flat base and a diameter of 0.40m long and 0.32m wide and 0.20m deep. The distance to the neighbouring post holes to the west and east is approximately 1.20m, and this distance is consistent between the remaining six post holes. A second post hole was excavated and recorded as 708.	0.20m deep
711	Fill	Single recorded secondary fill of post hole 710 . mid yellow brown sandy clay loam, no evidence of packing material and contained pottery identified as and dating to Early to Middle Iron Age	0.20m thick
712	Natural	Natural basal geology. Degraded limestone bedrock, forming corn-brash type deposit, interspersed with patches of orange sand. Cut by archaeological features.	0.76m+

Trench 8	Dimensions :	20m x 1.6m x 0.70m	Ground surface level:	58.30m aOD
	Coordinates (NGR):	445830.106, 196777.4325 445824.0165, 196759.0035		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
801	Topsoil	Current topsoil and turf of football pitch, dark grey brown sandy loam with rare small sub-rounded stones and moderate root disturbance, diffuse horizon with underlying 802.	0-0.20m	
802	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty clay loam with small sub-rounded stones	0.20-0.48m	
803	Cut	Cut of tree throw, irregular in shape and recorded as 2.20m long by 1.60m wide and 0.28m deep and filled with	0.28m deep	

		single fill 804.	
804	Fill	Single identified fill of tree throw 803 , mid reddish yellow silty clay loam sterile fill.	0.28m thick
805	Natural	Natural basal geology. Degraded limestone bedrock, forming corn-brash type deposit, interspersed with patches of orange sand. Cut by tree throws.	0.48m+

Trench 9	Dimensions :	18m x 1.60m x 0.86m max	Ground surface level:	57.99m aOD
	Coordinates (NGR):	445793.1185, 196757.304 445810.8885, 196753.188		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
901	Topsoil	Current topsoil and turf of football field, dark brown friable silty loam, with very rare small stone inclusions.	0-0.21m	
902	Subsoil	Mid to dark yellow brown friable silty loam with rare to occasional small stone inclusions, becoming increasingly stony to the horizon with the underlying natural geology 903.	0.21-0.84m	
903	Natural	Natural basal geology, degraded limestone bedrock, corn-brash type material with pockets of sand. No archaeology observed in Trench 9	0.84m +	

Trench 10	Dimensions :	20m x 1.60m x	Ground surface level:	58.04m aOD
	Coordinates (NGR):	445770.336, 196732.5215 445789.000, 196728.889		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
1001	Topsoil	Current topsoil and turf of football field, dark brown friable silty loam, with very rare small stone inclusions.	0-0.29m	
1002	Subsoil	Mid to dark yellow brown friable silty loam with rare to occasional small stone inclusions, becoming increasingly stony to the horizon with the underlying natural geology 1003	0.29-0.70m	
1003	Natural	Natural basal geology, degraded limestone bedrock, corn-brash type material with pockets of sand.	0.70m+	
1004	Cut	Cut of Iron Age pit, sub-circular in shape and recorded as 0.73m long by 0.79m wide and 0.05m+ deep. This feature was only partially excavated as it was found to contain a deliberate placed deposit of a cow skull sealed beneath a layer of capping stones. The cow skull was partially exposed and then left <i>in situ</i> so as not to compromise the integrity of the	-	

		possible 'ritual' deposition. Possible storage pit reused. Contains fills 1005, 1006 and 1007.	
1005	Fill	Deliberate deposition of what appear to be none local stones which form a capping deposit over placed cow skull (within 10007), sealed by 1006.	-
1006	Fill	Very dark grey brown black silty loam upper fill of 1004 which overly 1005, final infilling of pit 1004 .	-
1007	Fill	Earliest recorded fill of 1004 . dark grey brown silty loam which contains deliberately placed cow skull, sealed by 1005.	-
1008	Cut	Cut of unexcavated probable Iron Age storage pit, reused for the dumping of domestic refuse from the nearby settlement.	-
1009	Fill	Upper recorded fill of 1008 . Unexcavated, number assigned for finds retrieval.	-
1010	Cut	Cut of roughly east west aligned gully which is curving at both ends to the north, potentially forming the southern part of an Iron Age roundhouse drip gully. Recorded as 4.8m long and 0.38m wide and 0.07m deep, contains single fill 1011.	0.07m deep
1011	Fill	Single fill of 1010 , mid brown silty clay natural infilling.	0.07m thick
1012	Cut	Cut of roughly north south aligned gully. Unexcavated.	-
1013	Fill	Upper fill of 1012 . Unexcavated.	-

Appendix 2: OASIS RECORD FORM
Anson Field, Marcham, Phase II - Wessex Archaeology
OASIS ID - wessexar1-128319
Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	S Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	13 June 2012

Completed sections in current version

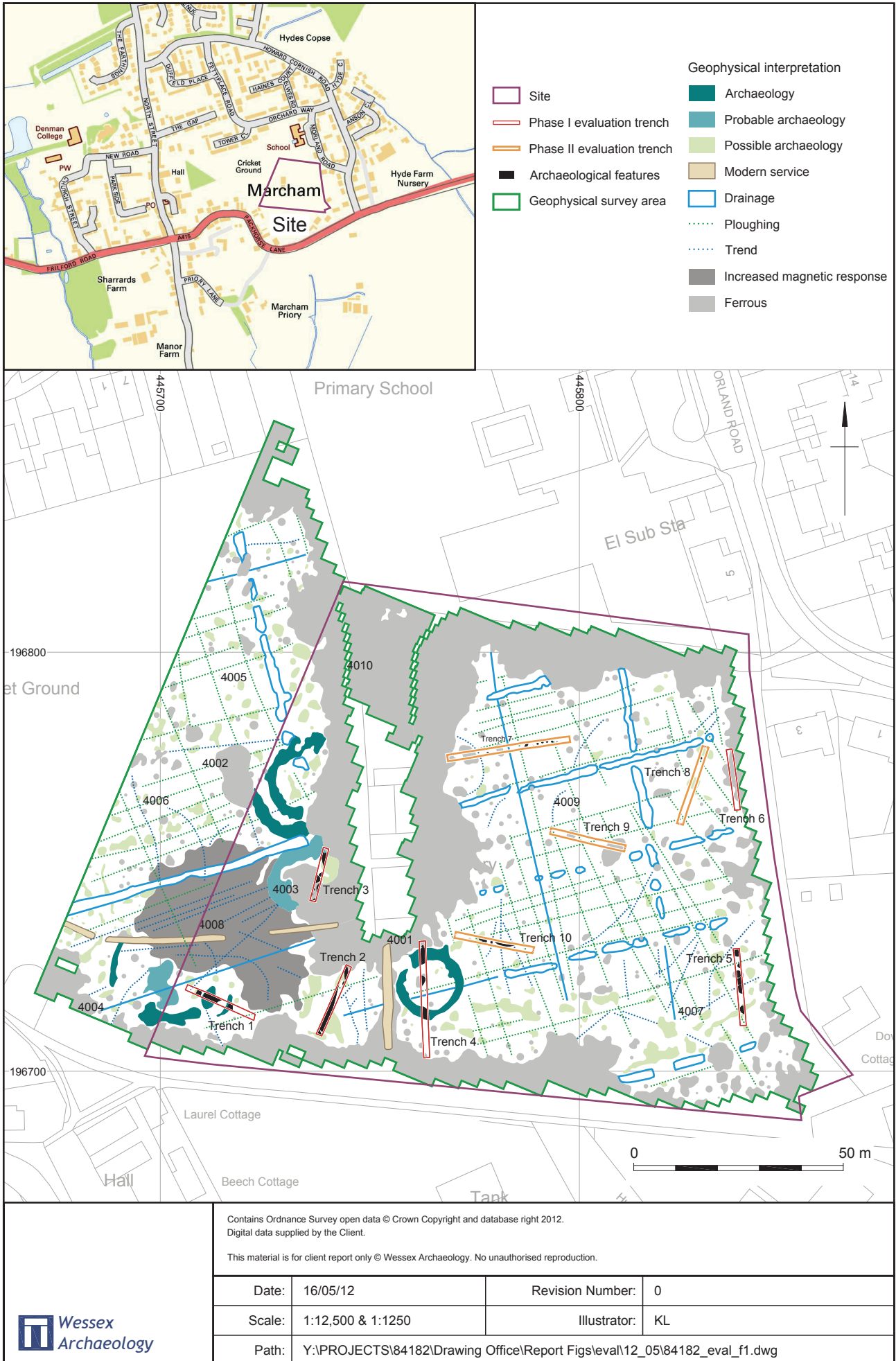
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Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
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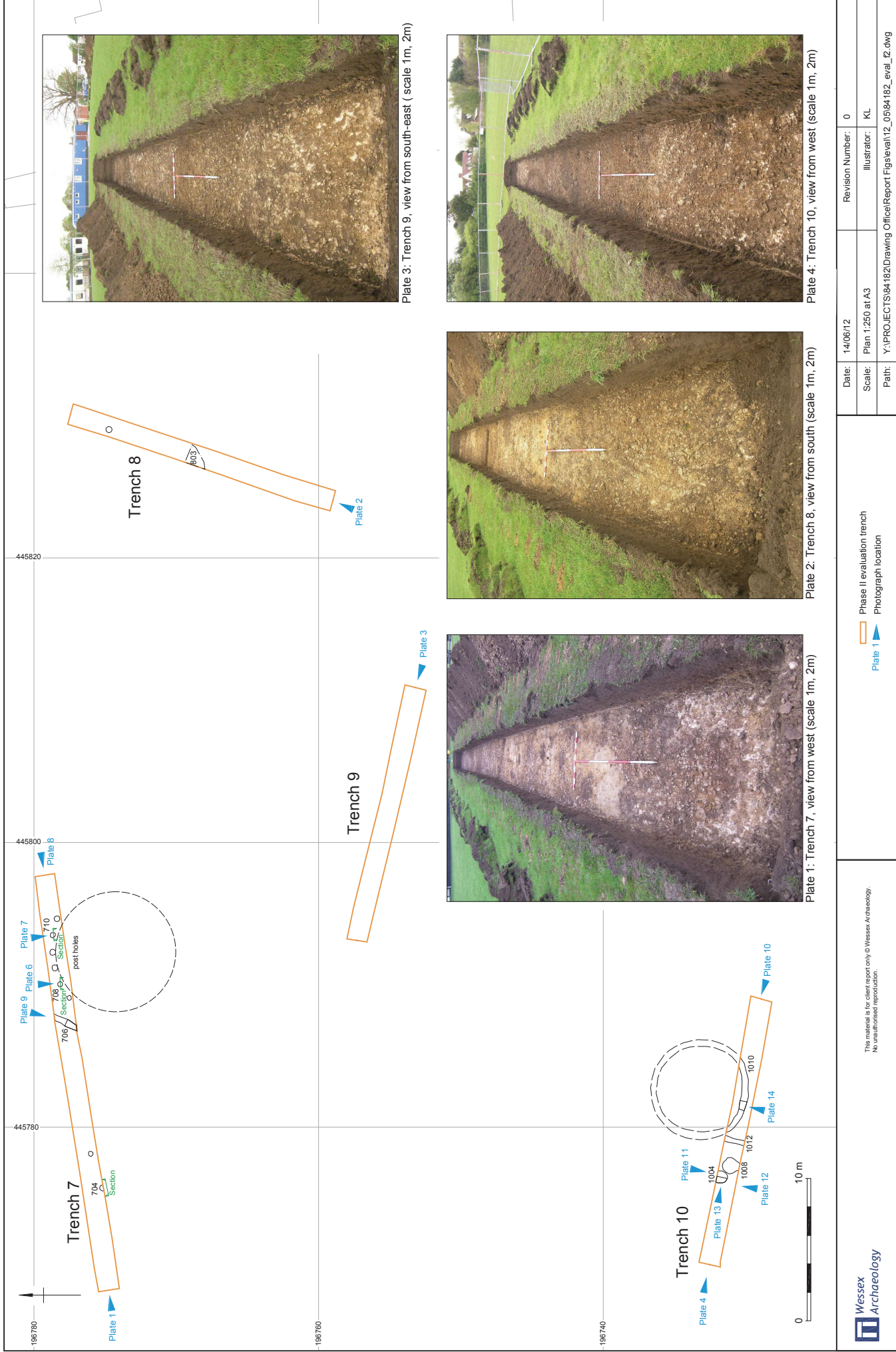
File submission and form progress

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Images submitted?	No	Image filename/s
Boundary file submitted?	No	Boundary filename
HER signed off?		NMR signed off?

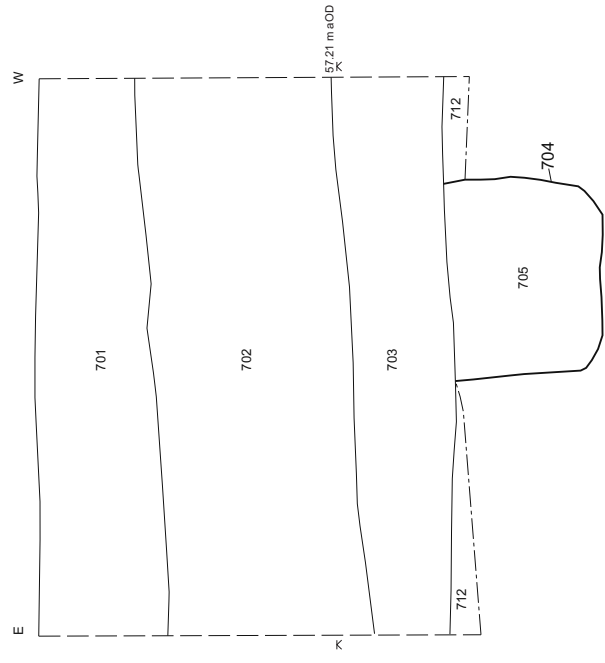


Site and trench location with geophysical survey interpretation

Figure 1



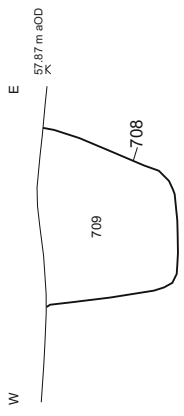
Trenches 7 to 10: plan and photographs



North facing section of Trench 7 and post hole 704



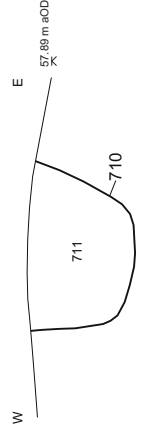
Plate 5: North facing section of Trench 7 and post hole 704 (scale 0.2m)



South facing section of post hole 708



Plate 6: South facing section of post hole 708 (scale 0.2m)



South facing section of post-hole 710



Plate 7: South facing section of post hole 710 (scale 0.2m)



Plate 8: Post built structure (including post holes 708 and 710) in Trench 7 (scale 1m, 2m)



Plate 9: Gully 706 in Trench 7, view from north-east (scale 1m, 0.5m)



Plate 10: Detail of roundhouse drip gully 1010 in Trench 10 (scale 1m, 2m)



Plate 11: Pits 1004 and 1008 in Trench 10 (scale 1m, 2m)



Plate 12: South facing section of Trench 10, with pit 1004 containing *in situ* deposit of cow skull (scale 1m, 0.50m)



Plate 13: West facing section of pit 1004 with *in situ* deposit of cow skull, below stone capping (scale 0.50m)



Plate 14: East facing section of roundhouse drip gully 1010 (scale 0, 20m)

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