Wessex Archaeology

RNAS Yeovilton
Somerset

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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RNAS YEOVILTON, SOMERSET

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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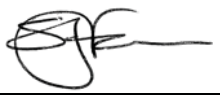
01	I	JP	SF		18/12/12	86161_EVAL_REPORT_V0.1.DOC
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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by URS Environment and Natural Resources on behalf of Project WINFRA to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation ahead of development at RNAS Yeovilton, Somerset centred on National Grid Reference 355173, 124280.

Previous investigations undertaken within the RNAS Yeovilton site, during the spring of 2000, had identified a number of archaeological features relating to settlement activity, including roundhouses, stone-built rectangular buildings, pits, postholes and wells. Excavation provided evidence of four broad phases of activity comprising Middle Bronze Age, Middle/Late Iron Age, Late Iron Age/Romano-British (three sub-phases) and post-medieval/modern.

The proposed construction scheme associated with Project WINFRA is located within two separate areas (Areas 1 and 2) of the RNAS Yeovilton site, and may impact further upon the previously recorded archaeological remains. As such an archaeological evaluation was undertaken in order to identify and clarify the nature of the archaeological potential within the Site.

This evaluation consisted of the excavation of nine trenches of various lengths. Archaeological features were recorded in eight of the nine trenches, the majority of which, were ditches although several postholes, pits and tree throws were also recorded. Within Area 1 the majority of the features were undated , however, a large ditch was recorded within Trench 2 and 3 which contained post-medieval glass. Area 2 was in closer proximity to the area of previous investigation and a continuation of the Romano-British settlement can be inferred from the results of the evaluation. Dating was present in the form of Romano-British pottery recovered from several ditches and a pit in Area 2.

The fieldwork was undertaken between the 12th and the 20th of November 2012.

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This project was commissioned by URS Environment and Natural Recourses and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to the assistance of Andy Mayes in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank RK Bell who supplied the plant used during the evaluation and their driver Dave Burrell for his continued patience during the backfilling.

The evaluation was undertaken by John Powell and Andy Sole. The report was written and complied by John Powell with finds reports by Lorraine Mepham. The environmental report was written by Sarah Wyles and the samples were processed by Nicki Mulhall. The illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by URS Environment and Natural Resources (the Client) on behalf of Project WINFRA to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on an area of land proposed for development at RNAS Yeovilton, Somerset, centred on NGR 355173 124280, hereafter referred to as 'the Site' (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The proposed construction operations consist of a mixed use development that includes a multi games area and sports hall, extension of medical facilities, new squadron offices, warehousing, a new sports pavilion and associated car parking. The proposed construction scheme is split across two areas of the Site and may impact upon archaeological remains previously recorded to the north-west. The fieldwork was required to identify and clarify the nature of the archaeological potential within the Site and to inform future mitigation strategies.

1.1.3 This document details the results of the recent evaluation and places the results within the context of the earlier investigations.

1.1.4 The fieldwork was undertaken between the 12th and the 20th of November 2012.

1.2 The Site, Location and Geology

1.2.1 RNAS Yeovilton lies in the Yeo Valley, approximately 2.5km to the north-east of Ilchester (**Figure 1**). The Site was located on the north side of Heatcote Road (B3151), in an area of landscaped grass and sports fields. The Site was split across two areas (Area 1 and Area 2) each located outside of the main security fence and to the north of the B3151 road (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 The Site occupied a level area and was in use as a combination of sports fields (Area 1), landscaped grassland and memorial gardens (Area 2). The two areas were approximately 145m apart.

1.2.3 The Site lies at approximately 19m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.2.4 The underlying geology is mapped as undifferentiated River Terrace Deposits overlying Lias Clay and Lower Lias Limestone of the Jurassic Period (OS Geological Survey Sheet 296). The overlying soils were calcareous and non-calcareous fine loamy soils over limestone gravel, with the water table lying very close to ground level.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 RNAS Yeovilton lies within the Yeo Valley on the edge of the upland area fringing the Somerset Levels to the north and to the immediate east of Illchester. Although there is limited evidence for Neolithic or Bronze Age activity within the river valley, extensive cropmarks were observed in 1949 and 1970 at Podimore, approximately 1km to the north. Further cropmarks indicative of field systems, enclosures and droveways were identified in 1990 and 1997 to the north-east of the Site.

2.1.2 In the early Roman period a military presence was established at Ilchester, which stimulated civil settlement and urbanisation. The Roman settlement at Ilchester expanded to cover an area of approximately 20 hectares at the junction of the Fosse Way, the Roman road to Dorchester and the crossing of the River Yeo. There are six identified 1st to 2nd century villas within a 5km radius of Illchester (Leech 1982), and the nearest known site is at Ilchester-Mead, located to the south of the town and west of the Site.

2.2 Previous Archaeological Works

2.2.1 Extensive archaeological excavations and watching briefs were undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in advance of construction of a new wardroom complex within the RNAS Yeovilton site (Wessex Archaeology 2005). The excavations recorded a mass of archaeological features and evidence for activity from the Middle/Late Bronze Age up to the post-medieval period.

2.2.2 The major phases of activity were dated to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods and included field systems, trackways, roundhouses, stone-built rectangular houses, cobbled surfaces and a well. A number of inhumation burials were also excavated. This settlement activity is thought to be related to the line of a proposed trackway that ran from Podimore towards the B3151, which may also be of Roman date. These features lie immediately to the west of Area 2.

2.3 Geophysical Survey

2.3.1 A geophysical survey was undertaken with the Site by Environmental Science Group during July 2012. The results of the survey suggest a level of modern disturbance, but there remained the potential for undisturbed archaeological material. The results of the survey indicate the presence of archaeological remains within the cricket pitch area immediately to the south-east of Area 1.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1.1 The aims of this field evaluation were to determine, as far as it was reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains likely to be impacted by the proposed development.

3.1.2 Specifically this evaluation was designed to:

- 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 will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential and future mitigation.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

4.1.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (URS 2012), and is summarised below.

4.1.2 The trenches were excavated using an 8 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation continued in spits through topsoil and subsoil down to either the uppermost archaeological features or natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. Topsoil was separated from subsoil and any other arisings and stored at a minimum of 1m from the trench edge. The spoil from the trenches was scanned for artefacts. The trenches were backfilled with the excavated spoil, with topsoil last in order to preserve the soil stratigraphy.

4.1.3 A total of ten machine excavated trial trenches of varying lengths (seven measuring 20m by 2m and three 40m by 2m) were proposed, though the final locations were dictated by pre-existing ground conditions. The presence of a footpath (Tr.1), soak-aways and buried services (Tr.4 and Tr.5) meant trenches were shortened and/or rotated to avoid obstructions. The position of a service road and memorial garden (Tr.6) precluded the excavation of one trench.

4.1.4 Where archaeological features were encountered they were investigated by hand, with a sufficient sample of each layer/feature type excavated in order to establish, as may be possible, their date, nature, character, extent and condition.

4.1.5 Archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Archaeological features and deposits were hand-drawn at either 1:10 or 1:20, including both plans and sections; these were referred to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels were calculated and this information is included on both plans and sections. A representative section of each trench was recorded showing the depth of the overburden deposits.

4.1.6 A photographic record was kept utilising 35mm film SLR cameras and a digital camera equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. The record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the principal features, finds excavated, and the Site as a whole. Digital images have been subjected to a managed quality control and curation process which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and ensures the long term accessibility of the image set.

4.1.7 The survey was carried out with a Leica 1200 series GPS unit using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of

30mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.

4.1.8 A unique site code **86161** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.

4.2 Best practice

4.2.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features are retained in the project archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.

5.1.2 Archaeological features were recorded within 8 of the 9 excavated trenches. The majority of the features identified were ditches, but a number of pits, postholes and tree-throws were also recorded. A total of 20 archaeological features were recorded during the evaluation. Dateable material was recovered from seven of the excavated features and indicates Romano-British activity extended into the development area.

5.2 Results

Area 1 (Figure 1 and 2)

5.2.1 Area 1 was located towards the north-eastern side of the Site, within the area of sports fields and immediately to the south of an area of car parking. The geophysical survey indicated a degree of modern disturbance within Area 1. Trenches 1 to 5 were excavated within this area and the stratigraphy of deposits was broadly consistent across the area.

5.2.2 The topsoil comprised between 0.09m and 0.14m of mid grey brown, silty clay loam with a well developed turf line, which overlay between 0.13m – 0.19m of a light grey brown, silty clay loam. Possible made ground was recorded in Trenches 3 to 5 and was up to 0.17m thick. The natural gravels and clay were recorded at approximately 0.43m below ground level (bgl) into which archaeological features were recorded.

Trench 1 (Figure 1 and 2)

5.2.3 Trench 1 measured 16.5m by 1.5m and was up to 0.43m deep (**Plate 1**). No archaeological features were observed within the trench. A small modern pit (**1004**) feature was excavated, from which concrete was recovered.

Trench 2 (Figure 1 and 2)

5.2.4 Trench 2 measured 20m by 1.5m and was up to 0.46m deep. A fairly substantial ditch and a small pit were identified within the base of the trench. Ditch **2008** was aligned broadly east to west and continued into Trench 3 to the east. The ditch had a moderate concave profile and was approximately 6.40m wide and up to 0.62m deep. Post-medieval glass and ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered from the fills of the ditch.

5.2.5 Oval pit **2012** was located towards the northern end of the trench and was only partially visible within the trench. It measured 0.76m by 0.25 and was relatively shallow, at 0.07m deep. The fill contained animal bone, charcoal flecks and quantities of pottery dating from the 2nd century AD or later. Pit **2012** may represent the base of a truncated rubbish pit or may be the terminus of a shallow ditch or gully.

Trench 3 (Figure 1 and 2)

5.2.6 Trench 3 measured 39m by 1.5m and was up to 0.41m deep (**Plate 2**). Archaeological features were identified within the trench and included three ditches and a tree-throw.

5.2.7 The post-medieval ditch excavated in Trench 2 (**2008**) was mapped within Trench 3 but not excavated. Two broadly parallel, east to west aligned, undated linear ditches **3005** and **3007** were excavated within the trench. The ditches were 0.74m wide and up to 0.41m deep and may represent the remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation identified by the geophysical survey. The southern ditch **3007** was cut through a tree throw **3009** from which two worked flints were recovered.

Trench 4 (Figure 1 and 2)

5.2.8 Trench 4 measured 29m by 1.5m and was up to 0.40m deep. An area of made ground was identified at the eastern end of the trench and corresponds to an old running track that was recorded by the geophysical survey.

5.2.9 Two parallel undated, north to south aligned linear ditches **4005** and **4007** measuring between 0.85m and 1.57m wide and up to 0.48m deep, were located towards the western end of the trench and are likely to represent drainage or boundary ditches (**Plate 3**). Both ditches contained a single mid brown orange, silty clay loam fill and had filled in naturally. An irregular tree throw **4009** was excavated towards the eastern end of the trench and contained a single light grey brown silty clay loam.

Trench 5 (Figure 1 and 2)

5.2.10 Trench 5 measured 27m by 1.5m and was up to 0.42m deep. Modern made ground deposits were recorded at the northern end of the trench and corresponded with the running track recorded during the geophysical survey. A small, shallow, undated linear ditch **5005** was located at the southern end of the trench. The ditch had moderate concave sides and measured 0.5m wide and up to 0.07m deep. Given the level of disturbance noted within the trench, it is likely this feature had been heavily truncated.

Area 2 (Figure 1 and 3)

5.2.11 Area 2 was located towards the south-western edge of the Site within an area of landscaped grass and in close proximity to the Faulklands War memorial gardens. It was bounded to the south by the B3151, by a service road to the east and north and a fenced car park to the west. Trenches 6 to 10 were located within this area, although it was not possible to excavate Trench 6 due to its proximity to the service road and the memorial gardens.

5.2.12 The stratigraphy across Area 2 was generally consistent and comprised between 0.10m and 0.16m of mid grey-brown, silty clay loam topsoil with a

well developed turf line, which overlay between 0.29m – 0.4m of subsoil. The subsoil formed two distinct layers that suggest a natural soil profile within Area 2. The upper layer was a light grey brown silty clay loam which overlay a mid orange brown, silty clay loam, and is likely to represent the weathered natural. The natural gravels and clay were recorded from 0.41m bgl in which archaeological features were observed.

Trench 7 (Figure 1 and 3)

5.2.13 Trench 7 measured 21.8m by 1.5m and was up to 0.42m deep. Six archaeological features were recorded within the trench and included a posthole, pit and four ditches.

5.2.14 Posthole **7007** was located at the northern end of the trench and was circular in plan, measuring approximately 0.35m in diameter and 0.07m deep. No finds were recovered. Pit **7011** was oval in plan with steep slightly concave sides and had been truncated by a land drain on its southern edge. The pit measured 0.46m by 0.38m and was 0.31m deep. A single small sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the fill.

5.2.15 Two probable field boundaries/drainage ditches were located towards the centre of the trench (ditches **7005** and **7009**) and measured between 0.53m and 1.2m wide and were up to 0.38m deep. Both ditches contained a single naturally derived mid brown orange, silty clay loam deposit. No finds were recovered from either ditch fill. Towards the southern end of the trench two further ditches were recorded, however they were not excavated as they both continued into Trench 8.

Trench 8 (Figure 1 and 3)

5.2.16 Trench 8 measured 14m by 1.5m and was up to 0.48m deep (**Plate 4**). Four linear ditches were mapped across the base of the trench. At the eastern end of the trench, two undated north to south aligned, linear ditches (**8005** and **8007**) were excavated. Both ditches were fairly shallow and had moderate concave profiles and measured between 0.4 and 0.46m wide and were up to 0.08m deep. No finds were recovered from either ditch.

5.2.17 A large north-west to south-east aligned, undated linear ditch **8009** was located in the centre of the trench (**Plate 5**) and measured 1.9m wide and up to 0.67m deep. It was not possible to fully excavate the ditch due to the high water table at the time of excavation. Ditch **8009** continued into Trench 7 to the north-west. A single piece of animal bone was recovered from the basal fill of the feature. A shallow (0.09m), undated, linear ditch **8013** was located immediately to the west of ditch **8009** and had been cut by the larger ditch.

Trench 9 (Figure 1 and 3)

5.2.18 Trench 9 measured 19.6m by 1.5m and was up to 0.46m deep. Four archaeological features were identified in the base of the trench. At the northern end of the trench an undated posthole **9007** was recorded alongside linear ditch **9005**. The posthole was circular in plan and had steep concave sides and measured approximately 0.34m in diameter and 0.20m deep. No relationship could be established between ditch **9005** and the posthole. Ditch **9005** had a shallow, concave profile and measured 1.17m wide and up to 0.19m deep, Romano-British pottery was recovered from the fill of the ditch. Towards the centre of the trench a probable ditch terminus

9009 was located (**Plate 6**). The ditch formed a rounded terminus and had moderate to steep, straight sides and a flat base; it measured 0.95m wide and up to 0.35m deep. Several large sherds of a late Romano-British storage jar were recovered from the fill and high numbers of cereal remains and weed seeds and a few cultivated pulses were recovered from the environmental sample taken. At the southern end of the trench a linear ditch **9011** was recorded. The ditch measured 1.4m wide and up to 0.2m deep, and also contained late Romano-British pottery. A shallow '*berm'* was located on the southern side of the ditch with the deeper portion (0.20m deep) of the feature on the northern side.

Trench 10 (Figure 1 and 3)

5.2.19 Trench 10 measured 17.34m by 1.5m and was up to 0.62m deep. Two features were investigated in the base of the trench, however both proved to be geological in nature. One of these features continued into Trench 9 to the north and has been interpreted as an area of slightly deeper subsoil. The feature was broadly aligned north-west to south-east; upon excavation the feature was found to be very shallow (0.04m deep) with diffuse edges in plan and section.

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The evaluation produced a small quantity of finds, all deriving from stratified feature fills, located within five of the nine trenches excavated. Finds consisted largely of pottery sherds, with other material types only sparsely represented. Datable finds are mainly of Romano-British date, with a few prehistoric and post-medieval items.

6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Appendix 2:Table 1**.

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 Pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the Site. All sherds are Romano-British, and occur in a limited range of ware types, all coarsewares: greywares, south-east Dorset Black Burnished ware (BB1), and coarsely-tempered Norton Fitzwarren ware (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 175, fabric 107; Timby 1989, 54). Diagnostic sherds include a straight-sided 'dog dish' and an everted rim jar, both in BB1, from pit **2012**, and dating from the 2nd century AD or later; and a dropped flange bowl, also in BB1, dating from the later 3rd or 4th century AD (ditch **9011**). Twenty greyware sherds, also from ditch terminal **9011**, probably all belong to the same vessel, an everted rim jar. A thick-walled storage jar in Norton Fitzwarren ware (ditch terminal **9009**) is also of late Romano-British date, based on the occurrence of this ware in Exeter.

6.2.2 The Romano-British pottery sherds provide the only dating evidence for ditch/gully **8007**, ditch **9005**, pit **2012**, ditch terminal **9009** and ditch **9011**. The small quantities from ditch/gully **8007** and ditch **9005** should be treated with caution, but the larger quantities (including same vessel sherds) observed in pit **2012**, ditch terminal **9009** and ditch **9011** could be regarded as *in situ* deposits.

6.3 Other Finds

6.3.1 Other finds comprise small quantities of animal bone (the only identifiable species is sheep/goat); fired clay (one undiagnostic and undatable fragment); vessel glass (post-medieval green wine bottle, and thinner walled vessel, possibly a phial); worked flint (two waste flakes, not closely datable); and iron (two iron nails, undatable but probably Romano-British on the basis of associated pottery).

7 PALEO-ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

7.1 Introduction

Environmental samples taken

7.1.1 A single bulk sample was taken from the Romano-British ditch **9009** in Trench 9 to evaluate the presence and preservation of palaeo-environmental remains. This information can provide an indication of the significance of the archaeological site. The sample was processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal.

7.2 Charred plant remains

7.2.1 The bulk sample was processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh, the residue fractionated into 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fraction (>5.6mm) was sorted, weighed and discarded. The flot was 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 2**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals.

7.2.2 The flot was generally small with moderately high numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. However, a large amount of well preserved charred plant material was recovered.

7.2.3 The large plant assemblage recovered from the Romano-British ditch **9009** comprised high numbers of cereal remains and weed seeds and a few cultivated pulses. The cereal remains included grain fragments of hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), and glume bases and spikelet forks of both spelt (*Triticum spelta*) and emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*). Several of the hulled wheat grains were seen to have germinated and there were a few coleoptiles present.

7.2.4 The cultivated pulses comprised celtic bean (*Vicia faba*) and possibly pea (*Pisum sativum*). The weed seeds included seeds of vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), oats/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.), knotgrass (*Polygonum* sp.), buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.), rye-grass/fescue (*Lolium/Festuca* sp.) and cleavers (*Galium* sp.). These weed seeds typically grow within arable fields and field margin environments.

7.2.5 Although spelt was generally the main variety of hulled wheat in southern Britain by the Roman period, both emmer and spelt have been recorded

from a number of sites in the area including the earlier work on the site at RNAS Yeovilton (Pelling 2006), Ilchester (Murphy 1982) and Fosse Lane, Shepton Mallet (Straker 2001).

7.2.6 The charred assemblage from this sample is indicative of settlement activity in the vicinity with crop processing and cultivation taking place. The presence of the germinated grain and coleoptiles may be indicative of the use of malting grain for brewing at the site.

7.3 Wood charcoal

7.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flot of the bulk sample and is recorded in **Table 3**. Only a small amount of charcoal (fragments greater than 4mm) was recovered. These included round wood and mature wood pieces.

7.4 Land and aquatic molluscs

1.1.1 The flot was rapidly assessed by scanning under a x 10 – x 40 stereo-binocular microscope to provide some information about shell preservation and species representation. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below. Nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat information according to Kerney (1999).

1.1.2 The molluscs observed within the sample included the open country species *Helicella itala, Vertigo pygmaea, Vallonia costata* and *Vallonia excentrica*, the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* and the shade-loving species *Oxychilus cellarius*. There was also a single specimen of the amphibious species *Galba truncatula*. This assemblage may be indicative of an open landscape with possibly some longer grass with occasional flooding in the vicinity of the ditch.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1.1 The archaeological field evaluation at RNAS Yeovilton was successful in its stated aims and has provided evidence of Romano-British features that are preserved within the Site. The majority of the features recorded were ditches although a number of postholes, pits and tree throws were also excavated.

8.1.2 Within Area 1 the excavated features were predominantly undated linear ditches. The only datable feature was ditch **2008** (Trenches 2 and 3), which proved to be of post-medieval date. It is possible that the remaining ditches recorded within Area 1 are related to later occupation and may have formed part of the ridge and furrow cultivation system, similar to that recorded in the earlier excavations (Lovell 2005)

8.1.3 Romano-British features were recorded within Area 2, which suggests that the late Iron Age and Romano-British occupation recorded during earlier excavations (Lovell 2005) continues within the Site. The nature of the finds from ditch terminus **9009** (large sherd size and weight) suggest that this material had been deliberately dumped within the feature and therefore this area of the Site may be in close proximity to settlement.

8.1.4 The evaluation has established that proposed future development within the Site will impact on the buried archaeological features. The need for, scale, scope and nature of any further archaeological works should be agreed

through consultation with the Senior Historic Environment Officer at Somerset County Council.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1 Preparation and Deposition

9.1.1 The project archive was prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (Walker 1990). The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the project code **86161** In due course the complete archive will be deposited with Taunton County Museum Services under the accession code **TTNCM 89/2012**.

9.1.2 Information on the Site has been placed on the online information resource OASIS (**Appendix 3**).

9.2 Copyright

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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

All archaeological deposits/features shown in **bold**.
All (+) indicate deposits/features not fully excavated.
'Depth' equals depth from present ground surface.

Trench 1	**Co-ordinates: E355164.75, N124382.45 Ground Level (m AOD): 18.62**	**Dimensions: 16.5m x 1.5m Max. depth: 0.43m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1001	**Turf/Topsoil**: Mid grey-brown, silty-clay-loam with a well developed turf.	0 – 0.12m
1002	**Subsoil**: Light grey-brown, silty-clay-loam, moderately compact with rare small sub-rounded flint gravels.	0.12 – 0.25m
1003	**Natural**: Mid orange-brown, mixture of clay and gravels. Gravels occur in a yellow-brown sandy clay matrix.	0.25m+
1004	**Modern Pit**: Small sub-rectangular pit cut into natural, contained a single mixed backfill which contaioned concrete. Possibly related to construction of the all weather pitches to the west.	0.20 – 0.35m
1005	**Deliberate Backfill**: Fill of **1004**. Mid to dark grey brown, silty clay backfill of modern pit. Concrete was recovered form this deposit.	0.20 – 0.35m

Trench 2	**Co-ordinates: E 355182.84, N 124359.62 Ground Level (m AOD): 18.69**	**Dimensions: 20m x 1.5m Max. depth: 0.46m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2001	**Turf/Topsoil**: Mid grey-brown, silty-clay-loam with a well developed turf.	0 – 0.14m
2002	**Subsoil**: Light Grey-brown, silty-clay-loam, moderately compact with rare small sub-rounded flint gravels.	0.14 – 0.31m
2003	**Natural**: Mid orange-brown, mixture of clay and gravels. Gravels occur in a yellow-brown sandy clay matrix.	0.31 – 0.46m
2004	**Natural**: Natural gravels, mixed and dirty within a mid orange-brown sandy-clay.	0.46 – 0.79m
2005	**Natural**: Light grey-brown, silty-clay. Thought to be a layer of alluvium within layers of gravels and clay.	0.79 – 0.84m
2006	**Natural**: Mid orange-brown, sandy-clay with abundant small sub-rounded gravels.	0.84m – 0.87m
2007	**Natural**: Mid blue-grey, clay. Layer of alluvium within the various layers of alluvium.	0.87m+
2008	**Ditch**: Post-medieval ditch. Aligned broadly east to west with a moderate concave profile (45º). Only partially excavated due to recovery of post-medieval material.	0.29 – 0.92m+
2009	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **2008**. Mid brown-grey silty-clay. Basal fill of ditch derived from standing water into the base of the feature. Very occasional sub-angular stones.	0.66 – 0.92m
2010	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **2008**. Mid grey-brown, silty-clay. Derived through erosion of local top and subsoil.	0.25 – 0.66m
2011	**Tertiary Fill**: Fill of **2008**. Possible final fill of ditch derived from the features sides and surrounding area. Occasional sub-angular stones.	0.25 – 0.52m
2012	**Pit**: Shallow, truncated, sub-circular pit. Concave sides (35º - 45º). Possible rubbish pit?	0.42 – 0.50m
2013	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of pit **2012**: Mid grey, silty-clay-loam with occasional bone and charcoal flecks.	0.42 – 0.50m

Trench 3	Co-ordinates: E 355195.63, N 124344.78 Ground Level (m AOD): 18.83	Dimensions: 39.28m x 1.5m Max. depth: 0.43m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
3001	**Turf/Topsoil**: Mid grey-brown, silty-clay-loam with a well developed turf.	0 – 0.14m
3002	**Subsoil**: Light Grey-brown, silty-clay-loam, moderately compact with rare small sub-rounded flint gravels.	0.14 – 0.26m
3003	**Made Ground**: Mid-grey-brown, silty-clay-loam. Previously thought to be possible natural but appears to be a layer built up onto natural **3004**.	0.26 – 0.43m
3004	**Natural**: Gravels in a mid orange-brown, sandy-clay matrix.	0.43m+
3005	**Ditch**: Roughly east to west aligned undated linear ditch with moderate straight sides (45º) and a flat base.	0.35 – 0.50m
3006	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of 3005. Mid brown, sandy-clay. Derived from erosion from the features edges.	0.35 – 0.50m
3007	**Ditch**: Roughly east to west aligned undated linear ditch. May be associated to ditch **3005**, possibly relates to ridge and furrow cultivation?	0.48 – 0.71m
3008	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **3007**. Mid brown, silty-clay-loam, with very occasional sub-angular stone inclusions.	0.48 – 0.71m
3009	**Tree throw**: Roughly oval shaped tree throw with moderate to steep convex sides (65º). Had been cut by ditch **3007**.	0.46 – 0.87m
3010	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **3009**. Predominantly a mid orange-brown, silty-clay-loam but lenses of light grey sandy-clay evident within fill.	0.46 – 0.87m
3011	**Ditch**: Unexcavated linear ditch. Thought to be same feature as post-medieval ditch **2008**.	0.43m+
3012	**Secondary Fill**: Unexcavated fill of large post medieval ditch **3011**.	0.43m+

Trench 4	Co-ordinates: E 355230.94, N 124354.44 Ground Level (m AOD): 18.79	Dimensions: 29.6m x 1.5m Max. depth: 0.40m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
4001	**Turf/Topsoil**: Mid grey-brown, silty-clay-loam with a well developed turf.	0 – 0.14m
4002	**Subsoil**: Light Grey-brown, silty-clay-loam, moderately compact with rare small sub-rounded flint gravels.	0.14 – 0.29m
4003	**Made Ground**: Mid-grey-brown, silty-clay-loam. Previously thought to be possible natural but appears to be a layer built up onto natural **3004**.	0.29 – 0.40m
4004	**Natural**: Gravels in a mid orange-brown, sandy-clay matrix.	0.40m+
4005	**Ditch**: North to south aligned undated, linear ditch. Moderate straight sides (45º – 55º) with a concave base.	0.38 – 0.74m
4006	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **4005**. Mid brown-orange, silty-clay-loam with moderate gravel inclusions. Single fill of ditch derived from the features sides and surrounding area.	0.38 – 0.74m
4007	**Ditch**: North south aligned, undated, linear ditch. Moderate concave profile (45º - 55º) with a flat base.	0.39 – 0.86m
4008	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **4007**. Mid grey-brown, silty-clay-loam with moderate gravel inclusions. Derived from the features sides and the surrounding area.	0.39 – 0.86m

4009	**Tree Throw**: Smallish tree throw located on the northern edge of the trench. Irregular in plan and approximately 0.22m deep.	0.40 – 0.62m
4010	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **4009**. Light grey-brown, silty-clay-loam with occasional small gravels.	0.40 – 0.62m

Trench 5	**Co-ordinates: E 355287.30, N 124299.11** **Ground Level (m AOD): 18.86**	**Dimensions: 27m x 1.5m** **Max. depth: 0.42m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
5001	**Turf/Topsoil**: Mid grey-brown, silty-clay-loam with a well developed turf.	0 – 0.09m
5002	**Subsoil**: Light Grey-brown, silty-clay-loam, moderately compact with rare small sub-rounded flint gravels.	0.09 – 0.28m
5003	**Made Ground**: Mid-grey-brown, silty-clay-loam. Previously thought to be possible natural but appears to be a layer built up onto natural **3004**.	0.28m – 0.40m
5004	**Natural**: Gravels in a mid orange-brown, sandy-clay matrix.	0.40m+
5005	**Ditch**: Very shallow, narrow, undated, linear ditch with moderate concave sides (30º - 40º) possibly a truncated field boundary or drainage ditch but very truncated.	0.40 – 0.47m
5006	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **5005**. Mid light grey-brown, silty clay loam with very occasional gravels.	0.40 – 0.47m

Trench 6	**Co-ordinates:** **Ground Level (m AOD):**	**Dimensions:** **Max. depth:**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
	Trench 6 was not excavated due to proximity to service road, memorial gardens and the rugby fields.	

Trench 7	**Co-ordinates: E 355089.31, N 124233.44** **Ground Level (m AOD): 18.52**	**Dimensions: 21.8m x 1.5m** **Max. depth: 0.42m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
7001	**Turf/Topsoil**: Mid grey-brown, silty-clay-loam with a well developed turf.	0 – 0.13m
7002	**Subsoil**: Light Grey-brown, silty-clay-loam, moderately compact with rare small sub-rounded flint gravels.	0.13 – 0.25m
7003	**Subsoil**: Mid orange-brown, silty-clay-loam. With moderate gravels. Weathered natural.	0.25 – 0.42
7004	**Natural**: Natural gravels, mid orange with occasional clayey patches throughout.	0.42m+
7005	**Ditch**: Broadly SW to NE aligned linear ditch. Moderate concave sides (55º) with a concave base. Small *crumb* of pottery recovered from fill.	0.27 – 0.65m
7006	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **7005**. Mid brown-orange, silty-clay-loam. Naturally derived deposit resulting from erosion from the local to and subsoil.	0.27 – 0.65m
7007	**Posthole**: Small shall post hole locate at the northern end of the trench. Sub-circular in plan with moderate concave sides (35º)	0.42 – 0.49m
7008	**Secondary Fill**: Mid brown, silty-clay-loam with moderate sub-angular blue lias inclusions.	0.42 – 0.49m
7009	**Ditch**: Broadly SW to NE aligned, undated, linear ditch, roughly parallel to ditch **7005**. Shallow v-shaped profile, with moderate to steep, straight sides (50º – 60º).	0.43 – 0.59m

7010	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **7009**. Light yellow-brown, sandy-clay with occasional gravel inclusions.	0.43 – 0.59m
7011	**Pit/Post Hole**: Fairly deep, oval pit/post hole with steep slight concave sides (70º – 80º). Had been truncated on the southern edge by a modern land drain.	0.42 – 0.73m
7012	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **7011**. Mid to light greyish-brown, silty-clay-loam with very occasional gravel. Small sherd of pottery recovered from the fill.	0.42 – 0.73m
7013	**Ditch**: NW to SE aligned linear ditch unexcavated in trench as was excavated in Trench 8.	0.42m+
7014	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **7013**, unexcavated.	0.42m+
7015	**Ditch**: East to west aligned linear ditch unexcavated in trench as was excavated in Trench 8.	0.42m+
7016	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **7015**, unexcavated	0.42m+

Trench 8	**Co-ordinates: E 355090.69, N 124227.79** **Ground Level (m AOD): 18.54**	**Dimensions: 14.1m x 1.5m** **Max. depth: 0.48m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
8001	**Turf/Topsoil**: Mid grey-brown, silty-clay-loam with a well developed turf.	0 – 0.16m
8002	**Subsoil**: Light Grey-brown, silty-clay-loam, moderately compact with rare small sub-rounded flint gravels.	0.16 – 0.33m
8003	**Subsoil**: Mid orange-brown, silty-clay-loam. With moderate gravels. Weathered natural.	0.33 – 0.48m
8004	**Natural**: Natural gravels, mid orange with occasional clayey patches throughout.	0.48m+
8005	**Ditch/Gully**: North to south aligned, shallow, undated linear ditch with a moderate (45º) concave profile and a flat base. Very similar to ditch **8007**.	0.45 – 0.53m
8006	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **8005**. Mid light brown, sandy-silty-clay with frequent gravel inclusions. Animal bone recovered.	0.45 – 0.53m
8007	**Ditch /Gully**: NW to SE aligned, shallow, undated, linear ditch wit a moderate concave profile and a flat base. Very similar to ditch **8005**.	0.45 – 0.52m
8008	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **8007**. Mid light brown, sandy-silty-clay with frequent gravel inclusions.	0.45 – 0.52m
8009	**Ditch**: NW to SE aligned, large, linear ditch with moderate straight sides (55º), base not reached due to high water table. Same as ditch **7013**.	0.45 – 1.12m
8010	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **8009**. Mid orange-brown, sandy-silty-clay, with frequent gravels, moderately compact. Basal fill of ditch, animal bone recovered.	0.65 – 1.12m
8011	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **8009**. Mid light grey-brown, clay, with blue mottles. Thought to have been deposited by alluvial processes.	0.54 – 0.67m
8012	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **8009**. Mid orange-brown, sandy-silty-clay, with occasional gravels, moderately compact.	0.45 – 0.54m
8013	**Ditch**: NW to SE aligned, shallow, linear ditch. Cut was fairly shallow and possibly truncated; it had moderate concave sides (40º) and a concave base.	0.46 – 0.55m
8014	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **8013**. Mid brown, silty-clay-loam with occasional gravels.	0.46 – 0.55m

Trench 9	**Co-ordinates: E 355099.96, N 124203.97** **Ground Level (m AOD): 18.68**	**Dimensions: 19.68m x 1.5m** **Max. depth: 0.46m**

Context	Description	Depth (m)
9001	**Turf/Topsoil**: Mid grey-brown, silty-clay-loam with a well developed turf.	0 – 0.10m
9002	**Subsoil**: Light Grey-brown, silty-clay-loam, moderately compact with rare small sub-rounded flint gravels.	0.10 – 0.21m
9003	**Subsoil**: Mid orange-brown, silty-clay-loam. With moderate gravels. Weathered natural.	0.21m – 0.41m
9004	**Natural**: Natural gravels, mid orange with occasional clayey patches throughout.	0.41m+
9005	**Ditch**: NW to SE aligned linear ditch with a shallow, concave profile (45º) and a concave base. Posthole 9007 cut alongside ditch on its northern edge, no relationship observed.	0.41 – 0.60m
9006	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **9005**. Mid brown, silty-clay-loam with common gravel inclusions. Pottery was recovered form the fill.	0.41 – 0.60m
9007	**Post hole**: Small circular posthole, with steep concave sides (60º) and a concave base. No relationship to ditch **9005** established.	0.41 – 0.61m
9008	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **9007**. Mid brown sandy-caly-loam, with common gravels.	0.41 – 0.61m
9009	**Ditch Terminus**: East to west aligned linear ditch terminus. Rounded terminus with moderate straight sides (45º) and a flat base. Contained a single dumped deposit.	0.41 – 0.76m
9010	**Deliberate Backfill**: Fill of **9009**. Dark grey-brown (black), sandy-clay-loam. Contained a high proportion of pottery and had a rich dark colour with frequent charcoal flecks. Possibly dumped hearth materials?	0.41 – 0.76m
9011	**Ditch**: NE to SW aligned linear ditch. Ditch had a wide profile, with a shallow '*berm'* on the southern edge and a steep narrow u-shaped cut on the northern side of the ditch.	0.54 – 0.74m
9012	**Secondary** or **Primary Fill**: Fill of **9011**. Mid yellow-brown, sandy-clay with common gravels. Probably derived from erosion of local subsoil and natural. Pottery recovered form the fill.	0.54 – 0.74m

Trench 10	**Co-ordinates: E 355101.3, N 124197.95** **Ground Level (m AOD): 18.73**	**Dimensions: 16.7m x 1.5m** **Max. depth: 0.62m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
10001	**Turf/Topsoil**: Very dark grey-brown, clay-loam. With a well developed turf.	0 – 0.10m
10002	**Subsoil/Topsoil**: Dark grey-brown, silty-clay-loam with rare gravels.	0.10 – 0.31m
10003	**Subsoil**: Mid yellowish-grey-brown, silty-clay-loam with more common sub-rounded gravels towards the base of the deposit.	0.31 – 0.50m
10004	**Natural**: Mid yellow-brown to orange, clay-silt and gravels.	0.50m+
10005	**Geological Feature**: Irregular in plan with straight sides (45º) and a concave base. |Thought to be either geological or result of bioturbation.	0.50 – 0.85m
10006	**Secondary Fill**: Fill of **10005**. Mixture of grey-brown and orange-brown silty-clay. Naturally derived.	0.50 – 0.85m

APPENDIX 2: FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL TABLES

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

Context	Animal Bone	Pottery	Other Finds
2010			2 glass; 1 fired clay
2012		40/386	1 iron
2013	15/42		
3010			2 worked flint
7008		1/4	
7010	1/8		
8006	3/8		
8008		1/6	
9006		4/57	
9010		55/1302	1 iron
9012		21/171	
TOTALS	**19/58**	**122/1926**	

Table 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Samples				*Flot*								
Feature	Context	Sample	Vol. Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% roots	Charred Plant Remains				Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Analysis
						Grain	Chaff	Other	Comments			
Trench 9 – Romano-British Ditch												
9009	9010	1	25	60	40	A*	A*	A*	Hulled wheat and barley grain frags, some germinated hulled wheat grains, spikelet forks and glume frags of spelt and emmer, coleoptiles frags, *Vicia faba*, ?*Pisum sativum*, *Vicia/Lathyrus, Rumex, Avena/Bromus, Polygonum, Ranunculus, Lolium/Festuca, Galium*	3/3 ml	Sab (C), Moll-t (A), Moll-f (C)	P

APPENDIX 3: OASIS RECORD FORM

10.1 RNAS Yeovilton, Somerset - Wessex Archaeology

OASIS ID - wessexar1-139734

Versions

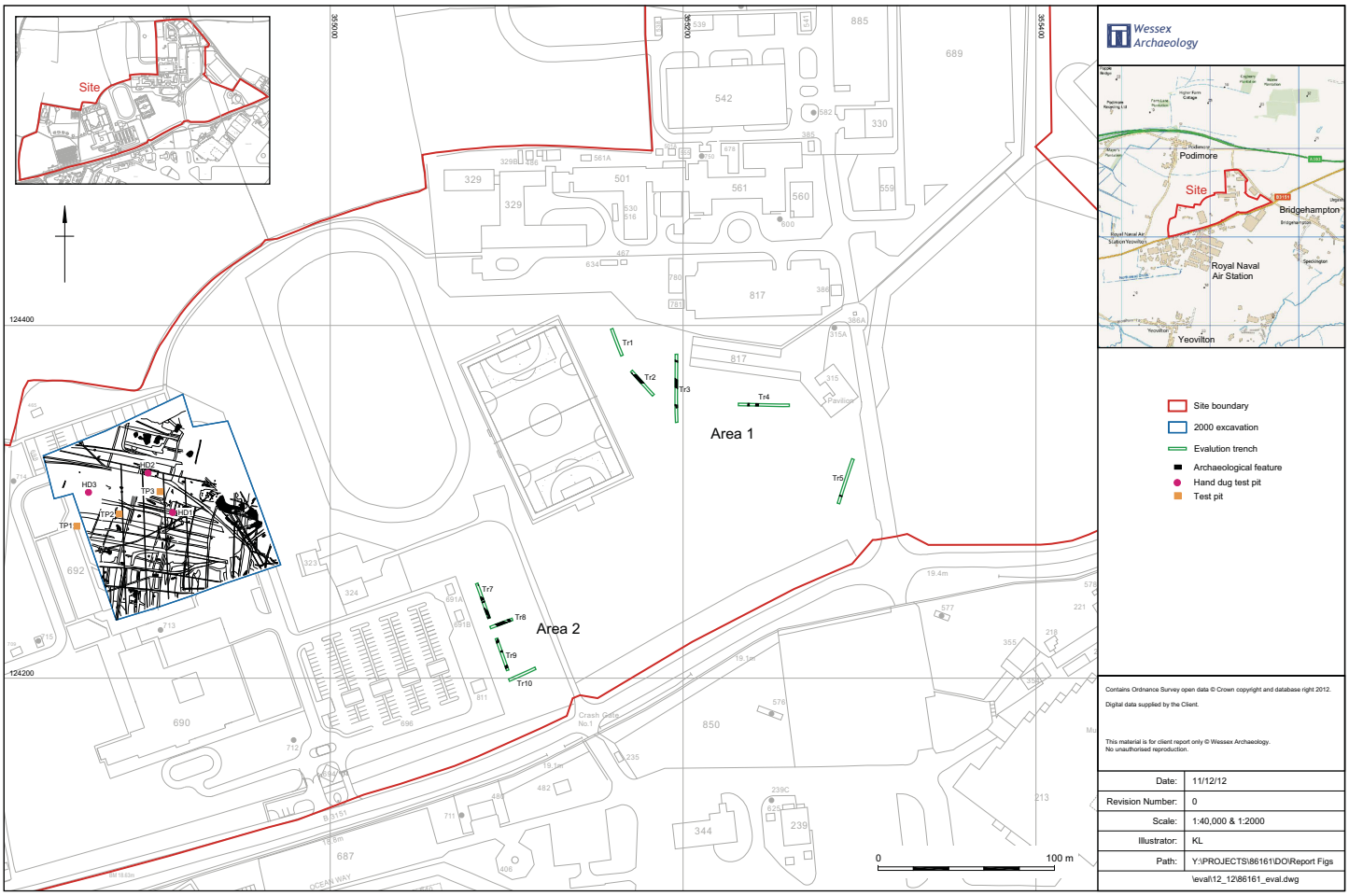
View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	S Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	19 December 2012

Completed sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

Validated sections in current version				
Details	**Location**	**Creators**	**Archive**	**Publications**
No	No	No	No	0/1

File submission and form progress			
Grey literature report submitted?	No	**Grey literature report filename/s**	
Images submitted?	No	**Image filename/s**	
Boundary file submitted?	No	**Boundary filename**	
HER signed off?		**NMR signed off?**	



Date:	11/12/12
Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:40,000 & 1:2000
Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\86161\DO\Report Figs
	\eval\12_12\86161_eval.dwg

Site location plan

Figure 1

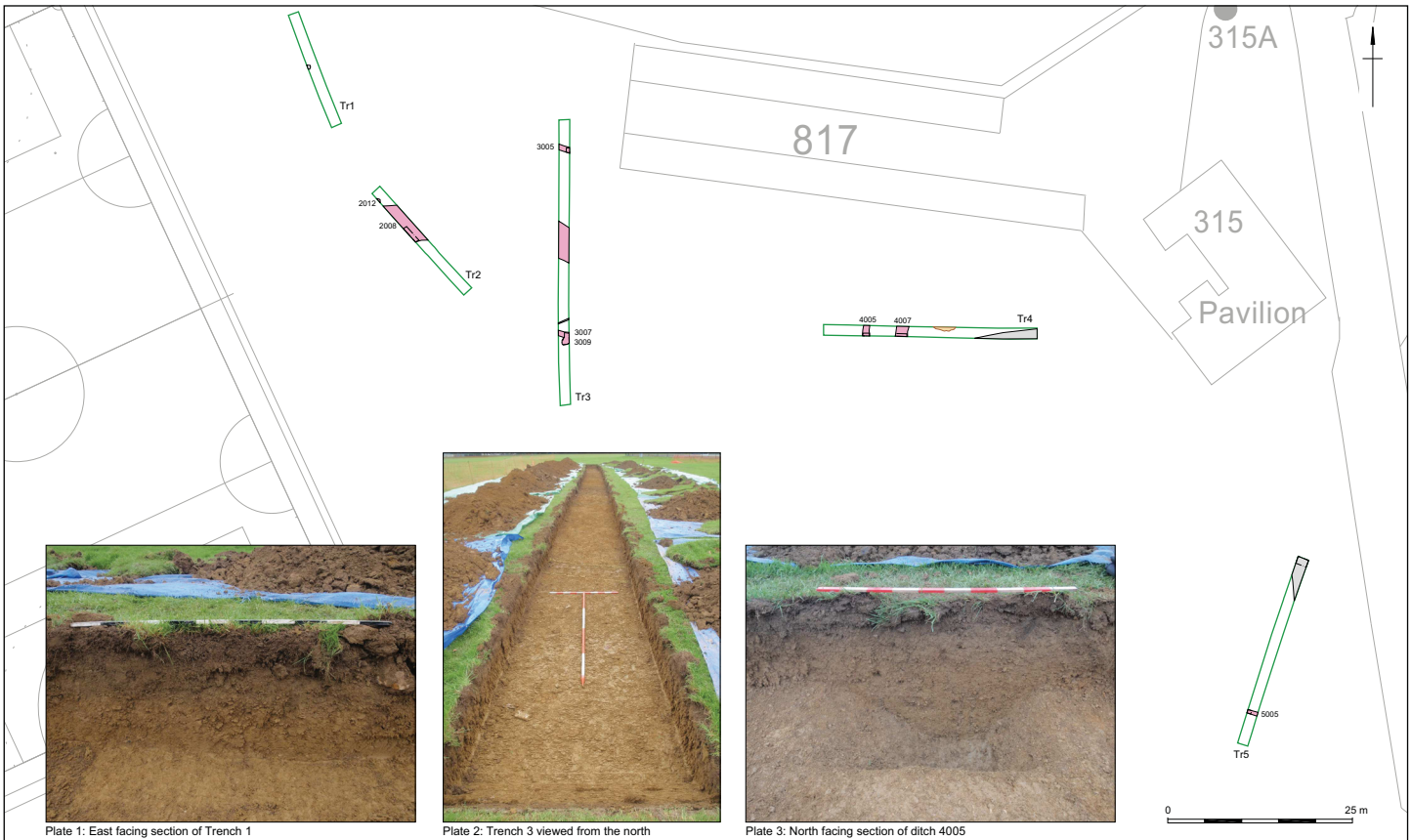


Plate 1: East facing section of Trench 1

Plate 2: Trench 3 viewed from the north

Plate 3: North facing section of ditch 4005

Wessex Archaeology

Evaluation trench
Archaeological feature
Modern disturbance
Tree throw

Date:	12/12/12	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Plan 1:500 at A3	Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\86161\Drawing Office\Report Figs\eval\12_12\86161_eval.dwg		

Detailed plans of Trenches 1 to 5, and associated plates

Figure 2

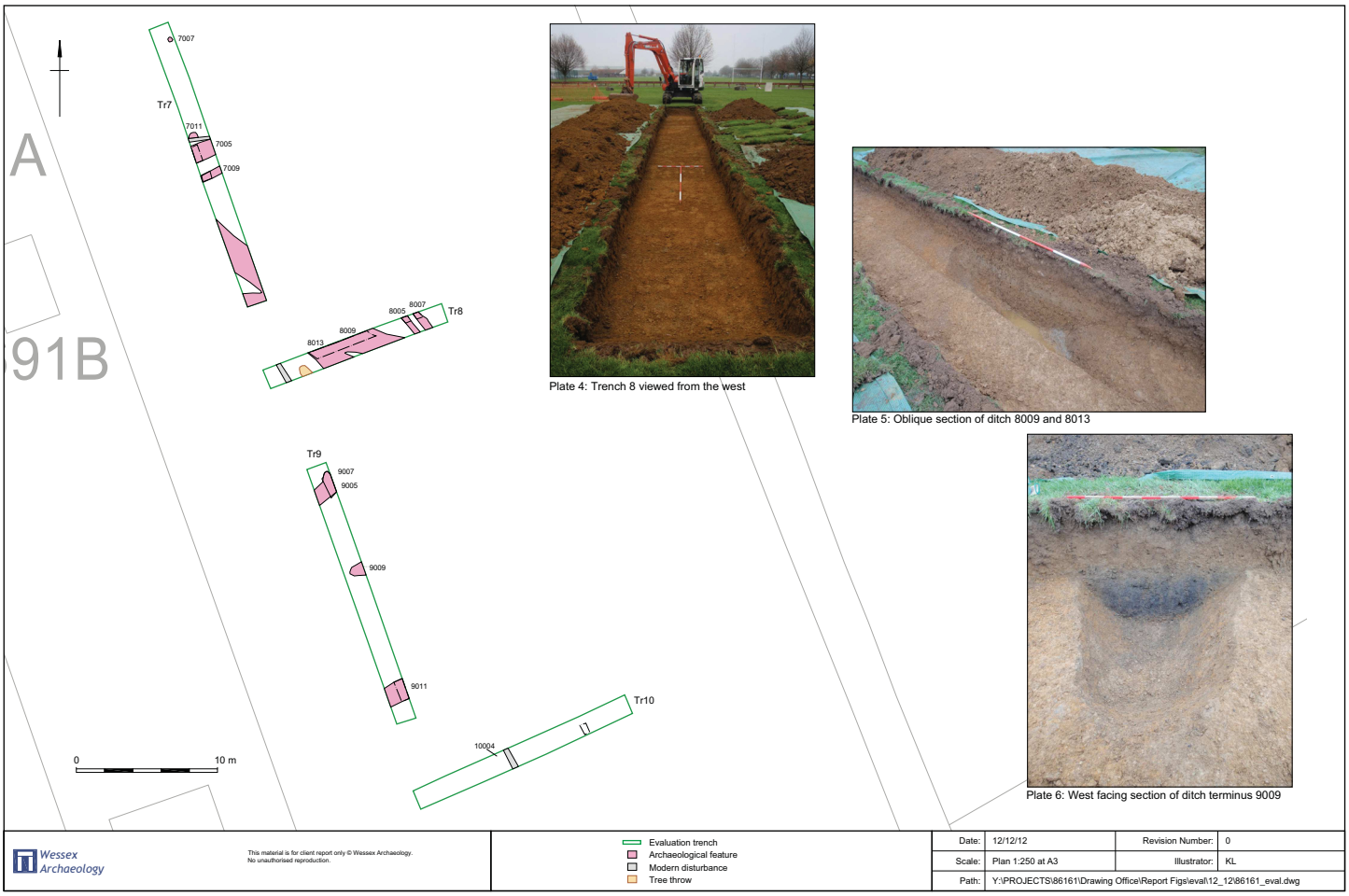


Plate 4: Trench 8 viewed from the west

Plate 5: Oblique section of ditch 8009 and 8013

Plate 6: West facing section of ditch terminus 9009

Wessex Archaeology

Evaluation trench
Archaeological feature
Modern disturbance
Tree throw

Date:	12/12/12	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Plan 1:250 at A3	Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\86161\Drawing Office\Report Figs\eval\12_12\86161_eval.dwg		

Detailed plans of Trenches 7 to 10, and associated plates

Figure 3

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