



Land at Pentlow's Farm Braughing, Hertfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report





Wessex Archaeology

**Land at Pentlow's Farm
Braughing, Hertfordshire**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Prepared for:

CgMs Consulting
140 London Wall
London
EC2Y 5DN

by

Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
SP4 6EB

Ref: 87000.01

November 2012

Land at Pentlow's Farm Braughing, Hertfordshire




Archaeological Evaluation Report

DISCLAIMER

THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT WAS DESIGNED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A REPORT TO AN INDIVIDUAL CLIENT AND WAS PREPARED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THAT CLIENT. THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT DOES NOT NECESSARILY STAND ON ITS OWN AND IS NOT INTENDED TO NOR SHOULD IT BE RELIED UPON BY ANY THIRD PARTY. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY WILL NOT BE LIABLE BY REASON OF BREACH OF CONTRACT NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE (WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OCCASIONED TO ANY PERSON ACTING OR OMITTING TO ACT OR REFRAINING FROM ACTING IN RELIANCE UPON THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT ARISING FROM OR CONNECTED WITH ANY ERROR OR OMISSION IN THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE REPORT. LOSS OR DAMAGE AS REFERRED TO ABOVE SHALL BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, ANY LOSS OF PROFITS OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS DAMAGE TO REPUTATION OR GOODWILL LOSS OF BUSINESS OR ANTICIPATED BUSINESS DAMAGES COSTS EXPENSES INCURRED OR PAYABLE TO ANY THIRD PARTY (IN ALL CASES WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OR ANY OTHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE

QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	87000	ACCESSION CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	3/11/2209/FP	NGR	539650 225300

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
01	I	PGC	REG		12.10.12	X:PROJECTS/87000/REPORT/ 87000 PENTLOWS FARM TRENCH REPORT TEXT AP
02	F	AP	REG		27.11.12	X:PROJECTS/87000/REPORT/ 87000 PENTLOWS FARM TRENCH REPORT TEXT APREG
03	F	DDR	REG		18/12/12	X:PROJECTS/87000/REPORT/ 87000 PENTLOWS FARM TRENCH REPORT TEXT APREG DDR

I= Internal Draft E= External Draft F= Final

Land at Pentlow's Farm Braughing, Hertfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Contents

	<i>Contents</i>	<i>iii</i>
	<i>Summary</i>	<i>v</i>
	<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>vi</i>
1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Project background	1
1.2	Site Location, Topography and Geology	1
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
2.1	Overview	2
2.2	Designated Heritage Assets	2
2.3	Previous Archaeological Work	2
2.4	Prehistoric (before 600 BC)	2
2.5	Iron Age (600 BC–AD 43)	2
2.6	Romano-British (AD43–c. 450)	3
2.7	Saxon (c. AD 450–1066)	4
2.8	Medieval (c. 1066–1500)	4
2.9	Post-medieval (c. 1500–1900)	5
2.10	Modern (c. 1900–present)	5
3	AIMS	5
3.1	General	5
3.2	Site Specific Aims	5
4	METHODOLOGY	6
4.1	Introduction	6
4.2	Service location	6
4.3	Fieldwork	6
4.4	Recording	7
4.5	Health and Safety	7
5	RESULTS	7
5.1	Introduction	7
5.2	Stratigraphic Sequence	8
5.3	Results and Interpretation	8
6	FINDS	11
6.2	Confidence Rating	11
6.3	Conclusion	11
7	ARCHIVE	12
7.1	Preparation and Deposition	12
7.2	Copyright	12
7.3	Security Copy	13
8	REFERENCES	13

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLES	15
APPENDIX 2: OASIS	19
APPENDIX 3: HERTFORDSHIRE HER SUMMARY SHEET	23

List of Figures

- 1 Site and trench location showing presence of features.
- 2 Trenches 1, 2 3 and 4: plan and photographs
- 3 Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10: plan and photographs
- 4 Trench 9: plan, section and photographs
- 5 Trench 11: plan, sections and photographs
- 6 Trenches 12 and 13: plan and photographs

List of Plates

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Front | Trench 8 |
| Back | Excavation of pit [1120] |
| 1 | Trench 1 from the south |
| 2 | Trench 2 from the south-west |
| 3 | Trench 3 from the north-west. |
| 4 | Trench 4 from the south |
| 5 | Trench 5 from the south |
| 6 | Trench 6 from the west. |
| 7 | Trench 7 from the south |
| 8 | Trench 8 from the south |
| 9 | Trench 10 from the north. |
| 10 | Trench 9 from the north |
| 11 | West-facing section through ditch 904 . |
| 12 | Trench 11 from the south-west. |
| 13 | North-west-facing section through pits [1104], [1110] and [1119]. |
| 14 | South-east-facing section through pit [1120]. |
| 15 | Trench 12 from the south-west |
| 16 | Trench 13 from the west |

List of Tables

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

LAND AT PENTLOW'S FARM BRAUGHING, HERTFORDSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was appointed by CgMs, acting on behalf of Galliford Try, to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land at Pentlow's Farm, Braughing, Hertfordshire. The archaeological evaluation formed part of a detailed mitigation strategy requested by the Archaeological Officer for Hertfordshire County Council, in advance of planning determination for a new housing development and associated infrastructure.

Thirteen evaluation trenches were excavated in order to determine the presence/absence of archaeological remains, characterise and confirm (or otherwise) the results of the desk-based survey and provide information on the likely impact of proposed construction works. Of the thirteen trenches excavated, five (**Trenches 3, 6, 9, 10 and 11**) contained potential archaeological remains. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the majority of the Site comprising topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology, except where modern disturbance was present. **Trenches 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10** indicate that there is considerable disturbance in parts of the Site, associated with the operation of the farm.

A total of only 11 potential archaeological features were encountered from five of the thirteen excavated trenches, comprising ditches, gullies and pits with provisional dating to the Romano- British period in at least two of the trenches (**Trenches 6 and 11**).

LAND AT PENTLOW'S FARM BRAUGHING, HERTFORDSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

The archaeological trial trench evaluation was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, and the assistance of Duncan Hawkins is gratefully appreciated in this respect.

Thanks are extended to Alison Tinniswood, Senior Archaeologist at the Historic Environment Unit of Hertfordshire County Council for her advice and guidance.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Richard Greatorex (Fieldwork Team Leader) and directed by Paul Clarke (Project Supervisor) assisted by Lisa McCaig and Mornington John Woodall. The report was compiled by Paul Clarke and Damian De Rosa, the illustrations were prepared by Ken Lymer, and the final edit was undertaken by Damian De Rosa and Richard Greatorex.

LAND AT PENTLOW'S FARM BRAUGHING, HERTFORDSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land at Pentlow's Farm in Braughing, Hertfordshire, hereafter termed 'the Site' (**Figure 1**). The Site is approximately centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 539650 225300.

1.1.2 This report was prepared following the submission of the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (ASC 2011) and subsequent correspondence with Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) Historic Environment Unit who requested that a programme of archaeological work be undertaken in order to provide information on the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching with trenches located in order to establish whether any archaeological deposits at the Site may be impacted upon by the proposed development.

1.1.3 The aim of the project was to assess the presence/absence, extent and character of detectable archaeological remains within the survey areas.

1.1.4 The results from this evaluation will be used to inform Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

1.1.5 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology 2012), which was agreed in advance of the fieldwork by the Archaeological Officer at Hertfordshire County Council. All works were carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008).

1.1.6 The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of 13 archaeological trial trenches set out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation and conducted between the 17th September 2012 and the 20th September 2012.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The site is located in the civil parish of Braughing, in the administrative district of East Hertfordshire on the northern edge of Braughing to the west of the road to Furneux Pelham, and east of the river Quin, c.100m north of the parish church. The Site comprises a single pasture field and the now disused farm buildings and yards of Pentlows Farm. The farmhouse, between the farm buildings and Pelham Lane, is occupied and not part of the program of works.

- 1.2.2 The Pentlow's Farm stands on the upper slopes of the valley of the river Quin, at an altitude of about 85m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The terrain slopes north-westwards from the farm to c. 75m aOD at the stream edge. Soils in the area belong to the Melford Association, described as 'deep well drained fine loamy over clayey, coarse loamy over clayey and fine loamy soils, some with calcareous clayey subsoils', (Soil Survey 1983, 571). The underlying geology comprises chalk till in the eastern part of the Site: the western part is alluvium (BGS, Sheet 221).
- 1.2.3 The proposed redevelopment involves the demolition of present structures, refurbishment, building of a small housing development and construction of replacement associated infrastructure.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 A Desk-Based Assessment (ASC 2011) was completed in 2011 which described the archaeological and historical background to the Site, the results of which are summarised below.

2.2 Designated Heritage Assets

- 2.2.1 A Grade II Listed Building is located adjacent to the Site entrance. No other Designated Heritage Assets are located within the Site boundary.

2.3 Previous Archaeological Work

- 2.3.1 No previous archaeological investigations have been conducted within the Site footprint.

2.4 Prehistoric (before 600 BC)

- 2.4.1 There is little recorded evidence for human activity within the immediate environs of the Site prior to the late Iron Age. Early prehistoric activity, evidenced by finds of flints and pottery, has been recorded north-west of Green End, c. 400m north-west of the Site. Evidence for Bronze Age activity is marginally better. Five ring ditches are recorded within the immediate environs of the Site. Three are located on high ground to the west of Braughing, overlooking the valley of the river Rib, one is on the outskirts of Braughing, immediately north-west of the Site, and the other lies about 1km east of Pentlows Farm. Adjacent to the latter is an enclosure visible as a cropmark, which has tentatively been assigned a Bronze Age date. Bronze Age flints have also been recorded in the grounds of The Old Vicarage, immediately north of the Site.

2.5 Iron Age (600 BC–AD 43)

- 2.5.1 While there is relatively slight evidence for Iron Age activity in the immediate environs of the Site, one of the principal sites of this period within Hertfordshire lies just to the south of Braughing. This is the enclosure at Gatesbury Farm 1.5km south of the Site, where middle Iron Age pottery was discovered (Partridge 1979, 116; 1981, 27, 349). It has been suggested that Gatesbury, along with sites at Wood End and Raffin Green, represent the early colonization of the clay land plateaux (Bryant 1995, 24). The location of

early settlement at Gatesbury was doubtless influenced by the natural defensive qualities of the area.

- 2.5.2 The nearby confluence of the rivers Quin and Rib would provide a naturally favourable location for settlement. In addition, there is evidence to suggest that the Rib was larger in the prehistoric and Roman periods (Thompson 2002, 3). According to Thompson (*ibid.*) the settlement pattern around Braughing was characterised by scattered farmsteads at the beginning of the 1st century BC. Around 30 BC settlement seems to have been concentrated in the valley and around Wickham Hill, extending over an area of c.120ha. Evidence from excavations at Skeleton Green on the west side of Wickham Hill suggests that settlement had become urban in character (Partridge 1981), attracting the import of Italian and Gaulish pottery on a scale not matched elsewhere in the region (Niblett 1995, 16; Bryant & Niblett 1997). In addition, fragments of coin moulds have been recovered on the west bank of the river on the track to Gatesbury Mill (Partridge 1979, 128-30, Thompson 2002, 4). Furthermore, some 400m upstream from this site there has been a recent discovery of early coin moulds (Landon, pers. comm.), which also indicates the existence of a high-status valley floor settlement.
- 2.5.3 It has been suggested that the extent of the settlement may be defined to the south by ditches at Station Road, where contemporary inhumations have been excavated (Partridge 1979, 28-97). From excavations on Ermine Street, about 1.5km south of Puckeridge, pre-Roman evidence consisted mainly of pits and two parallel ditches containing general domestic rubbish, including coins and Arretine and Gallo-Belgic wares (Potter & Trow 1988, 7).
- 2.5.4 Further afield, other dispersed settlements are represented by the probable late Iron Age farmstead at Ralph Sadler School, Puckeridge (HER 2152; Partridge 1977, 87). One aspect of the late Iron Age occupation in the Braughing area was that riverside locations were often the focus of settlement activity. Flood deposits of mid to 1st century AD date were identified on both the Ermine Street and Skeleton Green sites (Partridge 1981, 35; Potter & Trow 1988, 13). Whatever the cause of the flooding, it was not sufficient to deter occupation in what today would be classified as a 'flood zone'. These areas retained their attraction, for whatever reason, well into the Roman period.

2.6 Romano-British (AD43–c. 450)

- 2.6.1 The settlement at Wickham Hill remained in use and continued to develop in the Roman period, a network of streets being established by AD 80 (Niblett 1995) here were buildings on either side of Ermine Street in the 1st and 2nd centuries (Stead 1970). Elsewhere on Wickham Hill the occupation evidence has been entirely of 3rd-century date, and to the south 4th century evidence was recovered (Potter & Trow 1988; Thompson 2002, 5). Settlement was not confined to Wickham Hill, but also extended into the river valley and to Wickham Kennels. The most recent interpretative plan of Roman Braughing shows structures including a corridor building, a market hall, and a possible temple. To the north is a bath house beside the river Rib, while to the south is a possible mill and west of Ermine Street there are burials (*ibid.*). To the north of the town, beyond the confluence of the rivers Rib and Quin, there was a cemetery at Larks Hill, south-west of Braughing (Thompson 2002, 7).

Cemeteries have also been identified to the south of the town at Skeleton Green (Partridge 1981) and to the west. There is reputedly a tessellated pavement from Larks Hill and building material from a site north-east of Braughing, suggesting substantial buildings in those locations.

- 2.6.2 To the west of the town the Roman villa at Mentley Farm survived into the 4th century. Recent trial trenching on land adjacent to Gravelly Lane, 300m west of the assessment site, revealed three large ditches, possibly boundaries of Roman date. With regard to the road system, Ermine Street has already been mentioned. The HER also records the possible existence of a road north-eastwards to Great Chesterford, following Station Road to the centre of Braughing and continuing north-eastwards, past the church and to the west of Pentlows Farm, traversing the pasture field forming the west part of the assessment site and continuing up the Quin valley.

2.7 Saxon (c. AD 450–1066)

- 2.7.1 Braughing was of some importance in the post-Roman period, giving its name to the administrative unit known as the Hundred of Braughing. It also became an ecclesiastical deanery, possibly because it had once formed part of an ancient demesne of the Crown (Raven 1912, 291, 306). An Anglo-Saxon charter of c.830 and the will of Aethelgifu of c. 990 indicate that Braughing had a minster church (Short 1987, 13; Thompson 2002, 8). This designation implies that Braughing was, in administrative terms, of relatively high status.

- 2.7.2 'It seems probable that most middle Saxon territories had minster churches, created by the joint action of kings and bishops, although not necessarily at the same location as the *villae regales*' (Bailey 1989, 121). In the 10th century Braughing was referred to as 'monasterium', which again highlights its importance (Raven 1912, 306). A minster precinct has been postulated by Thompson (2002, fig. 4). This is defined by 'The Street' to the east and 'Malting Lane' to the south, bordering on the B1368 road to the west and curving round to include the site of Pentlows Farm on its north side.

- 2.7.3 The name 'Braughing' is believed to derive from 'The people of Br(e)ahha' (Gover et al 1938, 189). This type of place name is considered to represent secondary colonization (Dodgson 1966; Gelling 1977, 109). However, recent scholarship has argued that only the plural form of *-ingas* refers to 'people of', and that the singular form *-ing* refers to a 'son of', as found in Anglo-Saxon royal genealogies (*ibid.*). It is quite possible that Braughing may represent a mid-Saxon grant to the son of a minor king. There is sufficient evidence to argue that Braughing may be based on a Roman administrative unit, which survived into the Anglo-Saxon period and beyond (Short 1987; Bailey 1989, 121). In terms of physical evidence there is very little compared to previous periods. The only recorded Anglo-Saxon find is a brooch fragment, discovered to the south of Braughing.

2.8 Medieval (c. 1066–1500)

- 2.8.1 The Manor of Braughing is mentioned in the Domesday Survey (1086), along with the subsidiary holdings of Bozen and Cockhamsted. A single watermill was recorded. Thompson suggests (2002, 10) much of the inhabitants were dispersed in scattered farmsteads rather than in nucleated

settlements. By the 14th century, however, Braughing was an upper middle-ranking township, on a par with such places as Hertford and Welwyn, but below Ashwell and St Albans (*ibid.*). The data for the 15th century remains sketchy and, with the exception of work on the church at Braughing (Thompson 2002, 12) the settlement looks as though it might have started to stagnate.

2.9 Post-medieval (c. 1500–1900)

2.9.1 Despite the development of coaching routes through Braughing in the 17th century (Thompson 2002, 17) the village and parish continued to be eclipsed by neighbouring settlements, such as Standon and Puckeridge. It is in this period that many of the existing buildings in Braughing were constructed. These have been itemised in Thompson (2002, 17-33) and are not replicated here. It is probable that much of the present-day layout of the village came into being during this period. Church End, the road west of the church, almost certainly continued up the valley parallel with the Braughing Bourne. It fell out of use in favour of the present course, which swings round the church to the east. The layout of Braughing is indicative of a slow evolutionary process, which has resulted in a somewhat haphazard and irregular plan. The building of the railway from Ware to Buntingford in 1860 cut Hull Lane and caused the diversion of the river Quin (Thompson 2002, 31). While the railway helped to reduce the cost of transporting goods and improved communications, it had comparatively little impact on the development of the village.

2.10 Modern (c. 1900-present)

2.10.1 For much of the 20th century Braughing remained in a state of picturesque decrepitude. Efforts were made to improve the availability of dwellings for the local inhabitants through the provision of council houses in 1910-12 (Thompson 2002, 33). Piped water was not introduced until 1930 and electricity in 1931: mains sewerage only arrived in the 1960s (*ibid.*). The railway line closed in 1965 (Cockman 1978, 4), and not long after the road system to the south was improved.

3 AIMS

3.1 General

3.1.1 The objective of the evaluation is to identify, expose, plan and investigate the archaeological resource within a framework of defined aims (see below) and to seek a better understanding of the said archaeological resource. The findings will be disseminated appropriately and may result in a further stage of work. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence where development is proposed.

3.2 Site Specific Aims

- To establish the extent, character and date range of the potential archaeological remains;
- To establish the past human activity associated with the Site;

- To determine whether the Site can contribute to our understanding of the pre-historical and historical development of the area;
- To identify the condition of preservation of deposits within any negative features; and
- To understand Site formation processes.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following methodology was proposed in order to meet the aims of the evaluation. All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2012) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (2008).

4.2 Service location

4.2.1 Prior to and during excavation, the Site was walked over and inspected to visually identify, where possible, the location of above and below ground services. Trench locations were scanned to verify the absence of any underground services using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT).

4.3 Fieldwork

4.3.1 A total of 13 evaluation trenches were opened within the extents of the Site. Trenches were opened on 17th and 18th September 2012 and were backfilled between 18th and 20th September 2012.

4.3.2 Each trench was initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Where asphalt or concrete layers existed, a breaker was used in conjunction with a toothed bucket to remove these layers, before recommencing with a toothless bucket.

4.3.3 Trenches were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully chosen cross-sections through a selection (see below) of features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary.

4.3.4 All trenches were marked out on the ground using a Global Positioning System (GPS) prior to the commencement of work.

4.3.5 All trenches, on agreement with the Archaeological Officer for Hertfordshire County Council, were backfilled following completion of the archaeological recording and necessary monitoring.

4.4 Recording

- 4.4.1 All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system.
- 4.4.2 All archaeological features and deposits exposed in the evaluation trenches were hand cleaned and excavated to determine their nature, character and date.
- 4.4.3 A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches comprises both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and aOD heights.
- 4.4.4 Photographs were taken as appropriate, providing a record of excavated features and deposits along with images of the overall trench to illustrate their location and context. The record also includes images of the overall Site. The photographic record comprises black and white, colour images and digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the project archive.
- 4.4.5 All interventions were surveyed using a GPS tied into the Ordnance Survey.
- 4.4.6 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in **Appendix 1**. Layers and fills are recorded (**100**). The cut of the feature is shown [**100**]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes; these are used in the report (in **bold**). Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (i.e. Trench 1, **101+**, Trench 2, **201+**, Trench 3, **301+** etc.).

4.5 Health and Safety

- 4.5.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Management of Health and Safety regulations 1992 and Health and Safety in Field Archaeology 1997, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 4.5.2 A Health and Safety Risk Assessment was produced by Wessex Archaeology (2012), which was read and understood by all staff attending the Site before groundwork commenced.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section presents the results of the archaeological evaluation. Detailed descriptions of the trenches are included in **Appendix 1**. **Figures 1 to 6** shows the location of each targeted trench and the locations of archaeological remains.
- 5.1.2 A total of 13 trenches were excavated, five of which (**Trenches 3, 6, 9, 10 and 11**) contained potential archaeological remains (**Figures 1 to 5**). Despite the archaeological potential within the areas surrounding the development

site, five trenches appeared to be archaeologically sterile. These included **Trenches 1, 2, 7, 12 and 13**, (**Figures 1 to 3 and 6**) and are recorded within **Appendix 1**. **Trench 8** (**Figures 1 and 3**) could not be dug due to its position over one or two live power cables. **Trenches 4** (**Figures 1 and 2**) and **10** (**Figures 1 and 3**) were only partially excavated due to the presence of buried asbestos within their footprints. **Trenches 4 and 5**, and part of **Trench 10**, were dug to a maximum safe depth but could not be dug to the depth of the natural geology.

5.2 Stratigraphic Sequence

- 5.2.1 No common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the majority of site and, therefore, the stratigraphic sequence of each trench is described below (**Section 5.3**.)
- 5.2.2 A moderately clear line of horizon gave way to natural clay geology where mechanical excavation ceased and careful examination and investigation for truncating features was carried out. **Appendix 1** provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches, including those without archaeological deposits.

5.3 Results and Interpretation

Trenches 1, 2 and 3

- 5.3.1 **Trenches 1, 2 and 3** (**Figures 1 and 2 and Plates 1 to 3**) were targeted to evaluate the northern part of the Site covering grassed land to the north of the farm buildings. They generally had similar stratigraphic profiles of topsoil, subsoil and natural, with some demolition debris associated with the farm buildings.
- 5.3.2 **Trench 1** (**Figures 1 and 2 and Plate 1**) was aligned on a NNE to SSW orientation and sloped from east to west. Topsoil (**101**) extended to a depth of 0.32m and overlay subsoil (**102**) which was recorded to a depth of 0.48m below the ground surface. Natural clay (**103**) was recorded at this depth. No features were recorded in this trench.
- 5.3.3 **Trench 2** (**Figures 1 and 2 and Plate 2**) was aligned north-east to south-west orientation and sloped from north-east to south-west. Topsoil (**201**) extended to a depth of 0.30m below ground level (bgl) and overlay subsoil (**202**) which extended to 0.58m bgl. Natural clay (**203**) was recorded at this depth. No features were recorded in this trench.
- 5.3.4 **Trench 3** (**Figures 1 and 2 and Plate 3**) was aligned NNW to SSE and sloped from south to north. Topsoil (**301**) extended to a depth of 0.46m bgl and was heavily mixed with demolition debris associated with the farm complex. Natural clay (**302**) was recorded at this depth. Two features were recorded in this trench. Pit [**303**] located in the northern part of the trench, measured 0.42m in diameter and cut through the lower part of topsoil deposit (**301**), clearly indicating a modern date. Its fill (**304**) contained abundant articulated animal bone. Gully [**305**] was located in the southern part of the trench and measured 0.48m width by 0.04m depth with an east to west orientation. Its fill (**306**) contained common blue/white post-medieval pottery.

Trenches 4, 5 and 10.

- 5.3.5 **Trenches 4, 5 and 10 (Figures 1 to 3 and Plates 4, 5 and 9)** were targeted to evaluate the terrace of made ground to the west of the farm buildings. They generally had similar stratigraphic profiles of modern made ground, comprising demolition debris, concrete and compacted soils and chalk.
- 5.3.6 **Trench 4 (Figures 1 and 2 and Plate 4)** was excavated as a bucket width 2m square sondage on a north-east to south-west orientation and was excavated to a depth of 1.60m bgl., but did not reveal any deposits other than modern made ground (**401**).
- 5.3.7 **Trench 5 (Figures 1 and 3 and Plate 5)** was orientated NNE to SSW. Modern made ground (**501**) was measured to a depth of 1.50m, below ground level, which sealed a buried soil (**502**). The surface of the buried soil was recorded but not excavated.
- 5.3.8 **Trench 10 (Figures 1 and 3 Plate 9)** was aligned NNE to SSW. A sondage was dug in the northern part of the trench to a depth of 1.50m. Mixed topsoil with frequent demolition debris (**1001**) was recorded to a depth of 0.29m, overlying further made ground (**1002**) to a depth of 1.38m bgl. Natural clay (**1003**) was recorded only within the sondage at a depth of 1.38m. Within the sondage, a sub-circular pit [**1004**] with a diameter of 0.65m was noted cutting the natural but was not excavated.

Trenches 6 and 7

- 5.3.9 **Trenches 6 and 7 (Figure 1 and Plates 2 and 11)** were targeted at the asphalt and concrete areas across the main access between the farm buildings. They had similar stratigraphic profiles of a modern surface and made ground above the natural or buried subsoil.
- 5.3.10 **Trench 6 (Figures 1 and 3 and Plate 6)** was aligned east to west. A modern reinforced concrete surface (**601**) was recorded to a depth of 0.12m, overlying made ground (**602**) which extended to a depth of 0.60m bgl., and which overlay in turn subsoil (**603**) which was recorded to a depth of 0.98m bgl. Natural clay loam (**604**) was recorded at this depth. Ditch (**605**) (**Figure 3**) was located in the mid part of the trench on a north-west to south-east orientation, measuring 1.5m wide. Due to encountering hydrocarbon contaminants, further investigation had to be abandoned. However prior to abandonment, pottery, brick and animal bone were recognised in the fill (**606**) and, *prima facie*, indicative of a Romano-British date (fragments of high status *sigilata* being present); although these were not retained due to health and safety concerns.
- 5.3.11 **Trench 7 (Figures 1 and 3 and Plate 7)** was aligned north to south. Asphalt (**701**) 0.05m deep was recorded overlying a made ground deposit (**702**) which extended to a depth of 0.60m below the current ground surface. Natural clay (**703**) was recorded at this depth. No features were recorded in this trench.

Trenches 9, 12 and 13

- 5.3.12 **Trenches 9, 12 and 13 (Figure 1, 4 and 6 and Plates 10, 11, 15 and 16)** were targeted to evaluate the grassed area to the south and south-east of

the farm buildings. They had similar stratigraphic profiles with topsoil, subsoil and natural clay recorded across this area.

- 5.3.13 **Trench 9 (Figure 1 and 4 and Plates 10 and 11)** was orientated north to south (**PI. 3**). Topsoil (**901**) extended to a depth of 0.38m bgl and overlay subsoil (**902**), which in turn extended to a depth of 0.58m below the ground surface. Natural clay (**303**) was recorded at this depth. Ditch [**904**] was located in the mid-northern part of the trench on an east to west orientation, measuring 1.12m wide and 0.88m deep, and had a very steep profile (**Figure 4: plan, section and Plate 11**). It contained four fills, which appeared to indicate that there might have been a bank on the northern edge of the ditch. The tertiary fill (**908**) contained small quantities of animal bone.
- 5.3.14 **Trench 12 (Figures 1 and 6 and Plate 15)** was aligned ENE to WSW and sloped from east to west. Topsoil (**1201**) extended to a depth of 0.38m bgl, overlying subsoil (**1202**) which in turn extended to a depth of 0.76m below the ground surface was recorded. Natural clay (**1203**) was recorded at this depth. No features were recorded in this trench.
- 5.3.15 **Trench 13 (Figures 1 and 6 and Plate 16)** was aligned on a north-west to south-east orientation and sloped from south-east to north-west. Topsoil (**1301**) extended to a depth of a depth of 0.32m and overlay subsoil (**1302**) which extended to a depth of 0.48m below the current ground surface. Natural clay (**1303**) was recorded at this depth. No features were recorded in this trench.

Trench 11

- 5.3.16 **Trench 11 (Figures 1 and 5 and Plates 12 to 14)** was located in the western part of the Site, distinct from other trenches, to target a feature identified through aerial photographs. The trench was aligned on a north-east to south-west orientation (**Plate 12**) with a gentle slope from the north-east to the south-west. Topsoil (**1101**) extended to a depth of 0.40m bgl and was recorded overlying subsoil (**1102**) which extended in turn to a depth of 0.60m below the ground surface. Natural sandy clay (**1103**) was recorded at this depth.
- 5.3.17 A group of six pits were recorded as cutting into the natural or each other along a slightly curved linear alignment (**Figure 5**). Four pits were excavated in detail. Pit [**1120**] had steep vertical sides and a sub-circular shape in plan (diameter 1.31m), although the pit was unexcavated below 0.74m (1.34m below the ground surface) (**Figure 5: section and Plate 14**). Formation processes suggest a series of deliberate backfills within the pit, with heavier material from fills (**1122**) and (**1123**) pushing through earlier softer material (**1121**) towards the base. The presence of deliberately deposited finds and a significant quantity of charcoal within the pit fills are suggestive, perhaps, of a cess pit.
- 5.3.18 Similarly, pit [**1104**] has a comparable profile, plan and diameter (1.24m, **Figure 5: section and Plate 13**). The finds and inclusions from this pit are of a similar nature to those from [**1120**]. Pit [**1104**] was shown to be a re-cut of pit [**1119**] and had been re-cut itself [**1104**] by small pit [**1110**]. Finds from these features would suggest a Roman-British date. Pit **1106**, which was

only partially excavated, could be seen in section to truncate pit **1104** (**Figure 5: plan, section and Plate 13**).

6 FINDS

6.1.1 A very small quantity of finds was recovered during the evaluation, almost all deriving from **Trench 11**. Finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**.

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

Context	Animal bone	CBM	Pottery	Other Finds
1105	56/1185	5/507		1 burnt flint
1121		1/286		
1122	1/4			
1123	5/70	4/177	2/13	2 stone
908	2/5			
TOTAL	64/1264	10/970	2/13	

6.1.2 Datable finds (pottery, ceramic building material) are all of Romano-British date. The two pottery sherds, both from fill **1123** of pit **1120**, comprise a coarse grey ware and coarse shelly ware respectively; neither is more closely datable within the Romano-British period. The ceramic building material includes one combed box flue tile (fill **1105** of pit **1104**); other fragments are undiagnostic and cannot be assigned to specific brick/tile type.

6.1.3 Two joining fragments from an imported lava rotary quernstone were recovered from pit **1120** (fill **1123**). This would also fit within a Romano-British date range, although lava querns have a lengthier currency, extending through the middle/late Saxon and early medieval periods.

6.1.4 The animal bone, most of which came from pit **1104** (fill **1105**) consists largely of cattle (including most of a skull from pit **1104**), with smaller quantities of sheep and pig, and one bone from a domestic fowl.

6.1.5 One burnt, unworked flint was found in pit **1104**; this is of unknown date and uncertain origin.

6.2 Confidence Rating

6.2.1 This report supports a **high degree of confidence** that archaeological features or significant deposits within the trenches were recognised and recorded where present and possible.

6.3 Conclusion

6.3.1 Of the thirteen trenches excavated, five (**Trenches 3, 6, 9, 10 and 11**) contained potential archaeological remains. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the majority of the Site comprising topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology, except where modern disturbance

was present. **Trenches 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10** indicate that there is considerable disturbance in parts of the Site, associated with the operation of the farm.

6.3.2 In all likelihood and as indicated in the relevant trial trenches, the footprint of farmyard and buildings has witnessed considerable truncation and disturbance as a result of intensive farming activity. It is likely therefore that archaeological remains, survive at best in isolated pockets, such as in **Trenches 6, 9 and 11**. These remains are (for the most part) likely to date to the Romano-British period and be associated with domestic farming activity.

7 ARCHIVE

7.1 Preparation and Deposition

7.1.1 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* (UKIC 1990).

7.1.2 The archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's Rochester office under the site code **87000**, but will ultimately be deposited for permanent storage with Hertford Museum. The Museum was contacted by Wessex Archaeology prior to the commencement of the fieldwork. An accession number for the project will be issued by Hertford Museum following deposition.

7.1.3 The paper archive comprises three A4 ring-bound files containing:

- 13 Trench Record Sheets
- 2 A4 Drawings and 1 A3 Drawing, Graphics Register
- 259 Context Sheets
- 4 Photographic Record Sheets, 1 Colour Slide Film, 1 Monochrome Film and 1 CD containing 74 images (12.1 MegaPixel)
- Day Book
- A copy of the WSI
- A copy of the Archaeological Assessment
- Fieldwork Risk Assessment

7.2 Copyright

7.2.1 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.

7.3 Security Copy

- 7.3.1 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.

8 REFERENCES

- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **14**
- Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd, 2011. Heritage Asset Impact Assessment: Pentlows Farm, Braughing, Hertfordshire. Ref.: ASC: 1478/BPF/1
- Bailey, K. 1989 The Middle Saxons, in S. Bassett (ed.) *The Origins of Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms*. Leicester University Press, 108-122 (Leicester).
- Bryant, S, 1995 The late Bronze Age to the Middle Iron Age of the north Chilterns, in R. Holgate (ed.) *Chiltern Archaeology: Recent Work*, 17-27, Dunstable
- Bryant, S.R. & Niblett, R. 1997 The late Iron Age in Hertfordshire and the North Chilterns in A. Gwilt & C. Haselgrove 'Reconstructing Iron Age Societies', 270-81 Oxbow Monograph **71** (Oxford)
- Cockman, F.G. 1983 *The Railways of Hertfordshire*. Hertfordshire Publications (Hitchin).
- Gelling, M. 1977 Introduction in K. Cameron (ed.) *Scandinavian settlement in the territory of the five boroughs: The place-name evidence*. EPNS ,II-V
- Gelling, M. 1978 *Signposts to the Past*. Dent (London)
- Gover, J.E.B., Mawer, A. and Stenton, F. M. 1970 *The Place-Names of Hertfordshire*. English Place- Name Society **XV**. Cambridge University Press. (Cambridge)
- Institute for Field Archaeologists, 2008. *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.
- Niblett, R. 1995 *Roman Hertfordshire*. Dovecote Press (Wimbourne)
- Partridge, C. 1977 Excavations and Fieldwork in Braughing 1968-73. *Hertfordshire Archaeology* **5**, 22-108

-
- Partridge, C. 1979 Excavations at Puckeridge and Braughing 1975-79. *Hertfordshire Archaeology* **7**, 28-132
- Partridge, C. 1981 *Skeleton Green*. Britannia Monograph **2** (London)
- Potter, T.W. & Trow, S.D. 1988 Puckeridge-Braughing, Herts: The Ermine Street Excavations, 1971- 1972. *Hertfordshire Archaeology* **10**
- Raven, A. 1914 Braughing, in W. Page (ed.) *The Victoria History of the County of Hertfordshire*, **III**, 289-91, 306-19
- Short, D. 1987 Braughing: a possible Saxon estate? *Hertfordshire's Past* **23**, 8-14.
- Stead, I.M. 1970 Trial excavation at Braughing, 1969. *Hertfordshire Archaeology* **2**, 37-47.
- Thompson, I. 2002 *Braughing: Extensive Urban Survey Project Assessment Report*. Hertfordshire County Council (unpublished)
- Wessex Archaeology, 2012. *Written Scheme of investigation. Project Design for a Programme of Trial Trench Evaluation and Historic Building Recording at Pentlows Farm, Braughing, Hertfordshire*. WA Ref.: 87000.01

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLES

Trench 1	Dimensions: 20 x 2 x 0.54m		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Description	Interpretation/ Process of deposition	Depth (m)
101	Dark grey brown silty clay with frequent rooting, occasional sub-rounded flint gravel and rare modern debris.	Topsoil	0.00-0.32
102	Mid-dark reddish brown silty sand with rare chalk flecks and rare sub-rounded flints.	Subsoil	0.32-0.48
103	Light reddish brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks and common sub-rounded flint pebbles/cobbles.	Natural	0.48+

Trench 2	Dimensions: 20 x 2 x 0.58m		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Description	Interpretation/ Process of deposition	Depth (m)
201	Dark brown silty clay with frequent rooting and occasional modern demolition debris.	Topsoil	0.00-0.30
202	Mid-light reddish brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecking and sub-rounded flint pebbles/cobbles. Rare rooting.	Subsoil	0.30-0.58
203	Light reddish brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks and occasional sub-rounded flint.	Natural	0.58+

Trench 3	Dimensions: 20 x 2 x 0.48m		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Description	Interpretation/ Process of deposition	Depth (m)
301	Dark greyish brown silty clay with abundant rooting and abundant modern demolition debris.	Topsoil	0.00-0.46
302	Light reddish brown silty clay with common chalk and sub-rounded flint pebbles/cobbles. Occasional rooting.	Natural	0.46+
303	Subcircular cut.	Pit	0.46+
304	Same as (301) with abundant articulated animal bones (not retained).	Modern animal burial within pit [303]	0.46+
305	Linear feature with concave/shallow sides and concave base.	Modern shallow gully	0.46-0.50
306	Same as (301) with common post-medieval blue/white pottery (not retained).	Deliberate fill of shallow gully [305]	0.46-0.50

Trench 4	Dimensions: 20 x 2 x 1.60m		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Description	Interpretation/ Process of deposition	Depth (m)
401	Clearly stratified layers of demolition debris, compacted chalk and redeposited soil.	Made ground/demolition layer	0.00-1.60+

Trench 5	Dimensions: 50x1.8x0.36m		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Description	Interpretation/ Process of deposition	Depth (m)
501	Clearly stratified layers of demolition debris, compacted chalk and redeposited soil.	Made ground/demolition layer	0.00-1.50
502	Mid greyish brown silty clay loam with rare chalk flecking and occasional flint pebbles/cobbles.	Buried soil	1.50+

Trench 6	Dimensions: 10 x 2 x 0.36m		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Description	Interpretation/ Process of deposition	Depth (m)
601	Reinforced concrete	Modern farmyard surface	0.00-0.12
602	Demolition debris and modern material.	Made ground	0.12-0.60
603	Dark grey silty clay with common flint.	Subsoil	0.60-0.98
604	Greenish grey sandy clay loam with common flint gravel.	Natural	0.98+
605	SW-NE linear, unexcavated due to the presence of contamination.	Ditch	0.98+
606	Dark grey silty clay with occasional flint gravel/pebbles.	Fill of ditch [605]	0.98+

Trench 7	Dimensions: 10 x 2 x 0.70m		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Description	Interpretation/ Process of deposition	Depth (m)
701	Asphalt.	Modern farmyard surface	0.00-0.05
702	Stratified layers of demolition debris and compacted chalk.	Made ground	0.05-0.60
703	Light reddish brown clay with moderate sub-rounded flint pebbles/cobbles and occasional chalk flecks.	Natural	0.60-0.70+

Trench 8	Dimensions: 4 x 2 x 0.10m		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Description	Interpretation/ Process of deposition	Depth (m)
801	Topsoil. Trench not excavated due to presence of live powercable services within footprint of trench.	Topsoil	0.00-0.10

Trench 9	Dimensions: 20 x 2 x 0.74m		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Description	Interpretation/ Process of deposition	Depth (m)
901	Dark brown grey clay silt with frequent chalk lumps and flecks plus moderate flint nodules small – medium.	Topsoil	0.00-0.38
902	Medium orangey brown silt clay with rounded chalk lumps, small to medium angular chalk lumps.	Subsoil	0.38-0.58
903	White chalk with lenses of yellow grey degraded chalk and flint nodules small – large.	Natural	0.58-0.74+
904	E-W linear with steep convex sides and a flat base.	Ditch	0.58-1.46
905	Light brown clay with common chalk flecks and rare charcoal.	Primary fill of ditch [904]	1.33-1.46
906	Light yellowish brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and occasional chalk pebbles.	Secondary fill of ditch [904]	1.07-1.43
907	Mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and moderate flint pebbles/cobbles.	Secondary fill of ditch [904]	0.80-1.22
908	Dark greyish brown silty clay with common flint pebbles/cobbles.	Tertiary fill of ditch [904]	0.58-0.86

Trench 10	Dimensions: 20 x 2 x 1.50m		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Description	Interpretation/ Process of deposition	Depth (m)
1001	Mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent rooting and demolition debris.	Topsoil	0.00-0.30
1002	Mixed sandy clay loam with abundant reinforced concrete and demolition debris.	Made ground	0.30-1.20
1003	Light yellowish brown clay.	Natural	1.20-1.50+
1004	Sub-circular feature. Unexcavated due to depth of the trench.	Pit	1.20+
1005	Light brownish grey silty clay.	Fill of pit [1004]	1.20+

Trench 11	Dimensions: 20 x 2 x 0.74m		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Description	Interpretation/ Process of deposition	Depth (m)
1101	Mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional flint gravel and chalk flecks, and common rooting.	Topsoil	0.00-0.40
1102	Mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional flint gravel and chalk flecks, and rare rooting.	Subsoil	0.40-0.60
1103	Mid yellowish red sandy clay with occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles and occasional bands of frequent flints.	Natural	0.60-0.74+
1104	Sub-circular feature with straight vertical edges and a flat base. Truncates pit [1119].	Cess pit	0.60-1.43
1105	Greyish brown silt with common charcoal and two deliberately placed stone boulders and occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles.	Deliberate backfill of pit [1105]	0.60-1.43
1106	Ovoid feature with steep straight edges. Not bottomed due to the depth of the trench. Truncates pits [1104] and [1119].	Cess pit	0.60-1.39+
1107	Dark reddish brown silty clay with abundant sub-rounded gravel and occasional chalk flecks.	Deliberate backfill of pit [1106]	1.13-1.39+
1108	Light greyish yellow silt with abundant chalk and rare rounded flint pebbles.	Deliberate backfill of pit [1106]	0.91-1.21
1109	Dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded gravel and occasional charcoal.	Deliberate backfill of pit [1106]	0.60-1.20
1110	Sub-circular feature with moderate concave edges and a concave base. Truncates pit [1104].	Pit	0.60-0.88
1111	Greyish brown (with orange mottling) silty clay with common charcoal and occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles.	Deliberate backfill of pit [1110]	0.69-0.88
1112	Light brownish grey silty clay with frequent charcoal and common chalk.	Deliberate backfill of pit [1110]	0.60-0.87
1113	Yellowish grey silt with abundant chalk, rare sub-rounded flint pebbles and rare charcoal.	Deliberate backfill of pit [1110]	0.60-0.69
1114	Mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent charcoal and common sub-angular to sub-rounded flint gravels/pebbles.	Deliberate backfill of pit [1119]	1.28-1.41+
1115	Mid greyish brown silty clay with abundant flint gravel.	Deliberate backfill of pit [1119]	1.03-1.30
1116	Yellowish grey silt with abundant chalk and occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles/cobbles.	Deliberate backfill of pit [1119]	1.03-1.20
1117	Mid reddish brown silty clay with rare chalk and sub-rounded flint.	Deliberate backfill of pit [1119]	0.99-1.15
1118	Grey silt with abundant charcoal and small flints.	Deliberate backfill of pit [1119]	1.42-1.45+
1119	Extent and shape unknown. Not fully excavated due to the depth of the trench.	Cess pit	0.99-1.45+

Trench 11	Dimensions: 20 x 2 x 0.74m		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Description	Interpretation/ Process of deposition	Depth (m)
1120	Sub-circular feature with straight vertical edges. Not bottomed due to depth of the trench.	Cess pit	0.60-1.34+
1121	Light brownish grey silty clay moderate chalk and rare angular flint gravel.	Deliberate backfill of pit [1120]	0.60-1.34+
1122	Mid brownish grey clayey silt with rare rounded flint and rare charcoal.	Deliberate backfill of pit [1120]	0.78-1.34+
1123	Dark brownish grey clayey silt with rare chalk flecks and rare charcoal.	Deliberate backfill of pit [1120]	0.60-1.17
1124	Sub-circular feature. Unexcavated.	Pit	0.60-0.74+
1125	Dark brownish grey clayey silt. Unexcavated.	Fill of pit [1124]	0.60-0.74+

Trench 12	Dimensions: 20 x 2 x 0.80m		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Description	Interpretation/ Process of deposition	Depth (m)
1201	Mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded flint gravel and occasional rooting.	Topsoil	0.00-0.38
1202	Dark reddish brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks, rare animal bone and brick, and occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles.	Subsoil	0.38-0.76
1203	Mid reddish yellow sandy clay with common sub-angular to sub-rounded flint gravel/pebbles.	Natural	0.76-0.80+

Trench 13	Dimensions: 20 x 2 x 0.60m		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Description	Interpretation/ Process of deposition	Depth (m)
1301	Mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional angular to sub-rounded flint pebbles and occasional rooting.	Topsoil	0.00-0.32
1302	Dark reddish brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded flint gravel and rare rooting.	Subsoil	0.32-0.48
1303	Mid-dark reddish yellow sandy clay loam with common sub-rounded flint gravel.	Natural	0.48+

APPENDIX 2: OASIS

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM:

England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: wessexar1-139751

Project details

Project name	Land at Pentlow's Farm Braughing, Hertfordshire
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was appointed by CgMs, acting on behalf of Galliford Try, to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land at Pentlow's Farm, Braughing, Hertfordshire. The archaeological evaluation formed part of a detailed mitigation strategy requested by the Archaeological Officer for Hertfordshire County Council, in advance of planning determination for a new housing development and associated infrastructure. Thirteen evaluation trenches were excavated in order to determine the presence/absence of archaeological remains, characterise and confirm (or otherwise) the results of the desk-based survey and provide information on the likely impact of proposed construction works. Of the thirteen trenches excavated, five (Trenches 3, 6, 9, 10 and 11) contained potential archaeological remains. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the majority of the Site comprising topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology, except where modern disturbance was present. Trenches 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10 indicate that there is considerable disturbance in parts of the Site, associated with the operation of the farm. A total of only 11 potential archaeological features were encountered from five of the thirteen excavated trenches, comprising ditches, gullies and pits with provisional dating to the Romano- British period in at least two of the trenches (Trenches 6 and 11)
Project dates	Start: 17-09-2012 End: 20-09-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	87000 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	PITS Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	TILE Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE BRAUGHING Land at Pentlow's Farm Braughing, Hertfordshire
Postcode	SG11 2QR
Study area	0.55 Hectares
Lat/Long Datum (other)	539650/225300
Height OD / Depth	Min: 75.00m Max: 75.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	R Greatorex
Project supervisor	Paul Clarke
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultant
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Hertford Museum
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Hertford Museum
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Heretford Museum
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
------------------	---

Title	Land at Pentlow's Farm Braughing, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Clarke, P
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Greatorex, R
Author(s)/Editor(s)	DE Rosa, D
Other bibliographic details	87000.01
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Salisbury - Unpublished Client Report
Description	Wessex Archaeology standard A4 report with 6 figures on A3 showing plans, sections and plates
Entered by	Damian De Rosa (d.derosa@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	19 December 2012

OASIS:

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

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham](#) and [Jen Mitcham](#), email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

APPENDIX 3: HERTFORDSHIRE HER SUMMARY SHEET

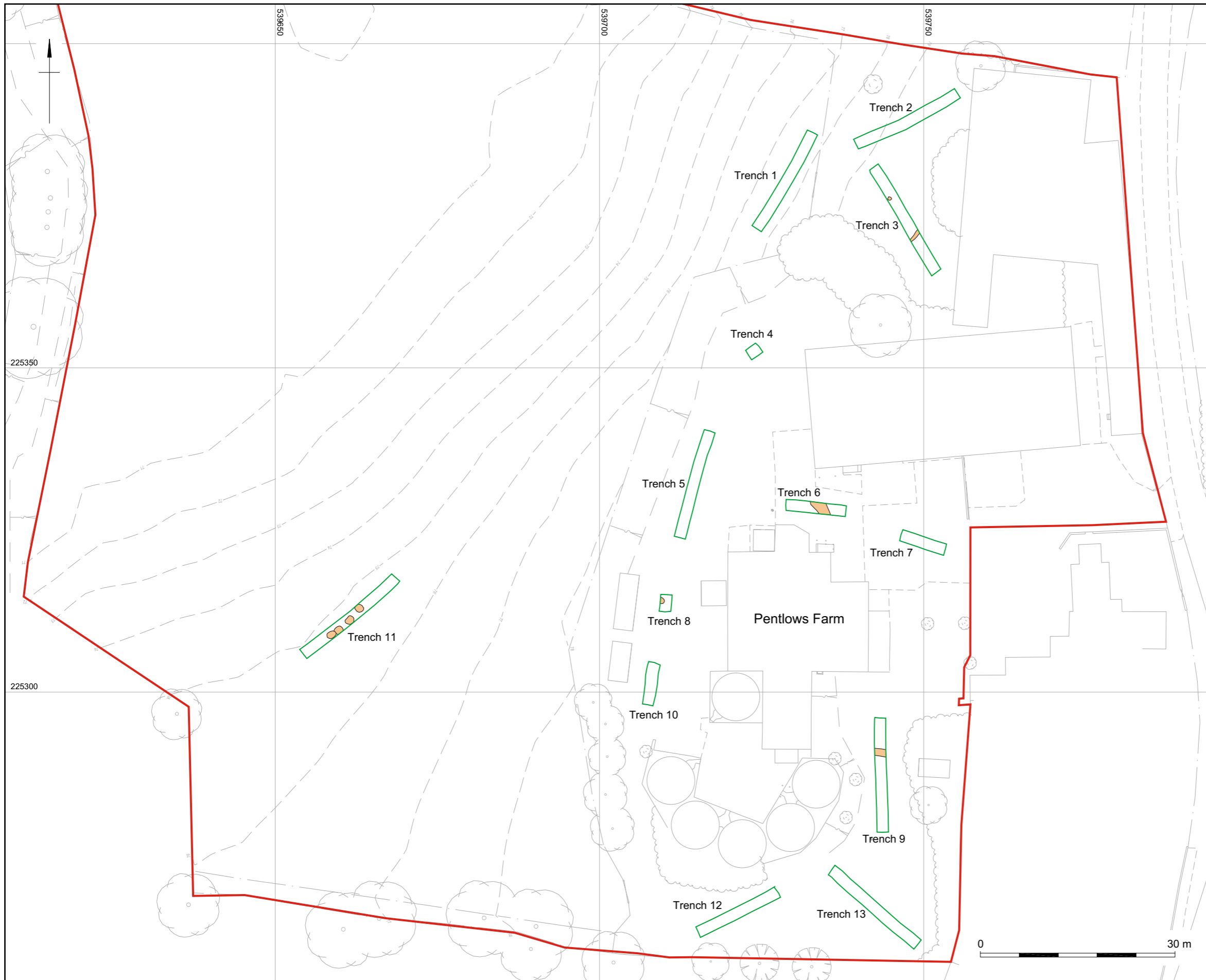
Site name and address: Pentlows Farm Pelham Road Braughing, Herts		
County: Hertfordshire		District: East Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Braughing		Parish: Braughing
Planning application reference: 3/11/2209/FP		
HER Enquiry reference:		
Funding source: Developer		
Nature of application: Residential Development and associated infrastructure		
Present land use: Building/Farmyard		
Size of application area: 1.8ha		Size of area investigated: 0.9ha
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): 539650, 225300		
Site code (if applicable): 87000.01		
Site director/Organization: P Clarke - Wessex Archaeology		
Type of work: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation		
Date of work:	Start: 17/09/12	Finish: 20/09/12
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies – Hertford Museum		
Related HER Nos:		Periods represented: Roman and Undated
Relevant previous summaries/reports Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd, 2011. Heritage Asset Impact Assessment: Pentlows Farm, Braughing, Hertfordshire. Ref.: ASC: 1478/BPF/1 Wessex Archaeology 2012. Outbuildings at Pentlows Farm, Pelham Road, Braughing, Hertfordshire. Historic Building Record. WA Ref.: 87000.02		
Summary of fieldwork results: Wessex Archaeology was appointed by CgMs, acting on behalf of Galliford Try, to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land at Pentlow's Farm, Braughing, Hertfordshire. The archaeological evaluation formed part of a detailed mitigation strategy requested by the Archaeological Officer for Hertfordshire County Council, in advance of planning determination for a new housing development and associated infrastructure. Thirteen evaluation trenches were excavated in order to determine the presence/absence of archaeological remains, characterise and confirm (or otherwise) the results of the desk-based survey and provide information on the likely impact of proposed construction works. Of the thirteen trenches excavated, five (Trenches 3, 6, 9, 10 and 11) contained potential archaeological remains. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the majority of the Site comprising topsoil overlying subsoil and natural geology, except where modern disturbance was present. Trenches 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10 indicate that there is		

considerable disturbance in parts of the Site, associated with the operation of the farm.

A total of only 11 potential archaeological features were encountered from five of the thirteen excavated trenches, comprising ditches, gullies and pits with provisional dating to the Romano- British period in at least two of the trenches (Trenches 6 and 11).

Author of summary: D De Rosa

Date of summary: 18-12-12



- Site
- Trench
- Archaeological feature

Contains Ordnance Survey open data © Crown Copyright and database right 2012.
 Digital survey data supplied by CGMS Consulting

This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology.
 No unauthorised reproduction.

Date:	18/12/12
Revision Number:	1
Scale:	1:25,000 & 1:600 at A3
Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\87000\Drawing Office
\Report figs\eval\12_10\87000_eval_f1.dwg	

Site and trench location showing presence of features

Figure 1

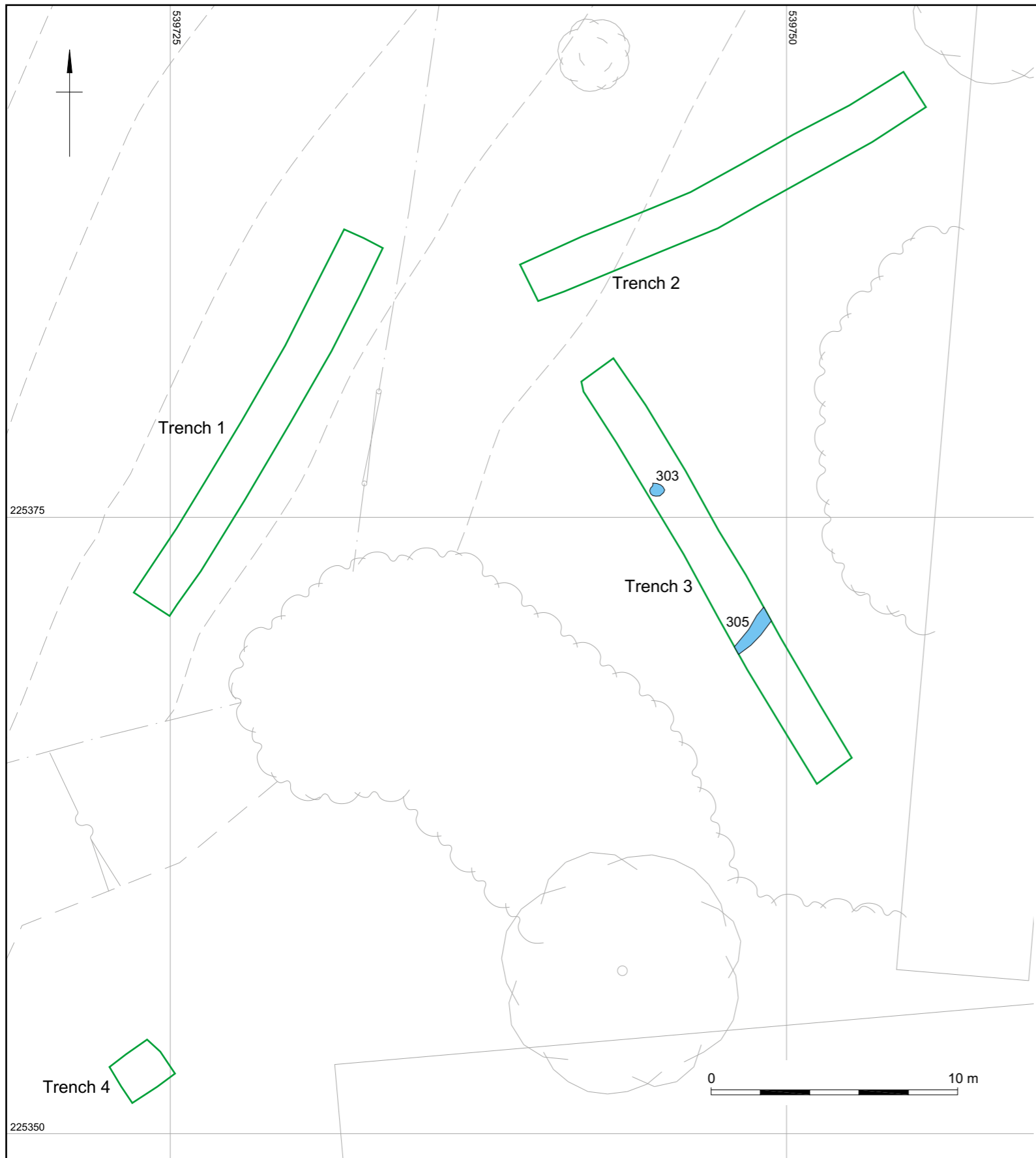


Plate 1: Trench 1 from the south



Plate 2: Trench 2 from the south-west



Plate 3: Trench 3 from the north-west



Plate 4: Trench 4 from the south

<p>Digital survey data supplied by CgMS Consulting. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</p>	<p>— Evaluation trench</p> <p>■ Modern archaeological feature</p>	Date: 18/12/12	Revision Number: 1
		Scale: Plan 1:200 at A3	Illustrator: KL
		Path: Y:\PROJECTS\87000\Drawing Office\Report figs\eval\12_12\87000_eval_f2.dwg	



- Evaluation trench
- Undated archaeological feature
- Modern disturbance

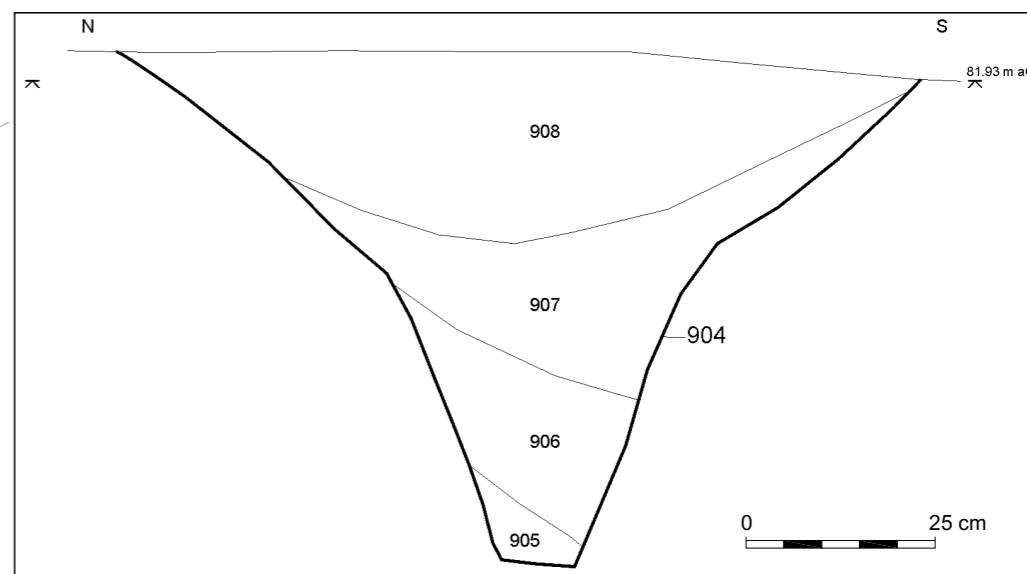
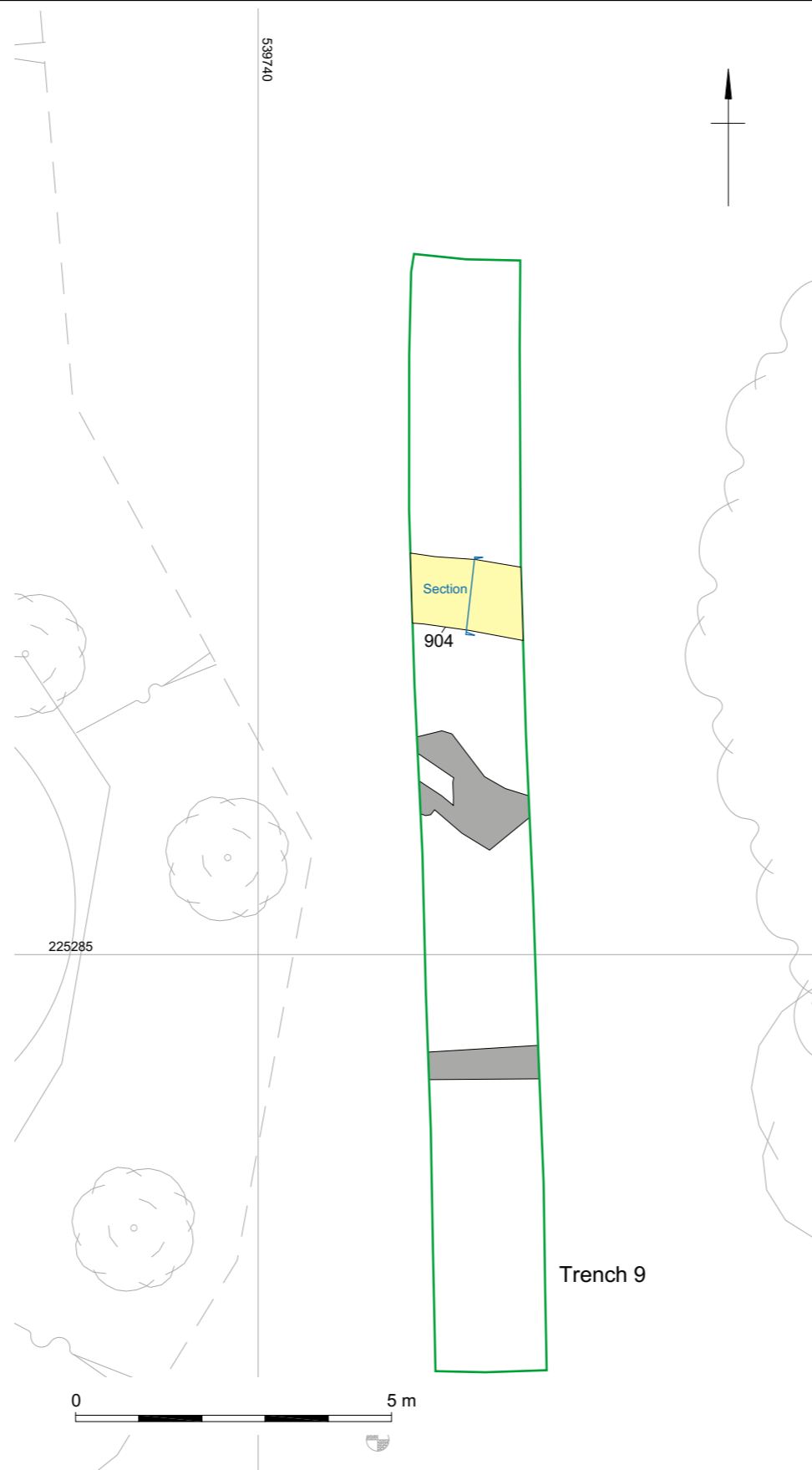
Date:	18/12/12	Revision Number:	1
Scale:	Plan 1:250 at A3	Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\87000\Drawing Office\Report figs\eval\12_12\87000_eval_f2.dwg		

Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10: plan and photographs

Figure 3



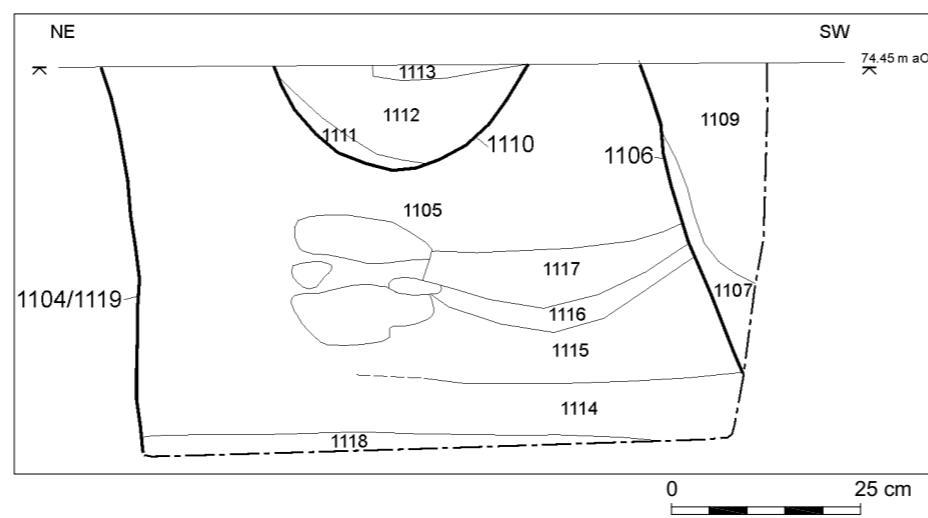
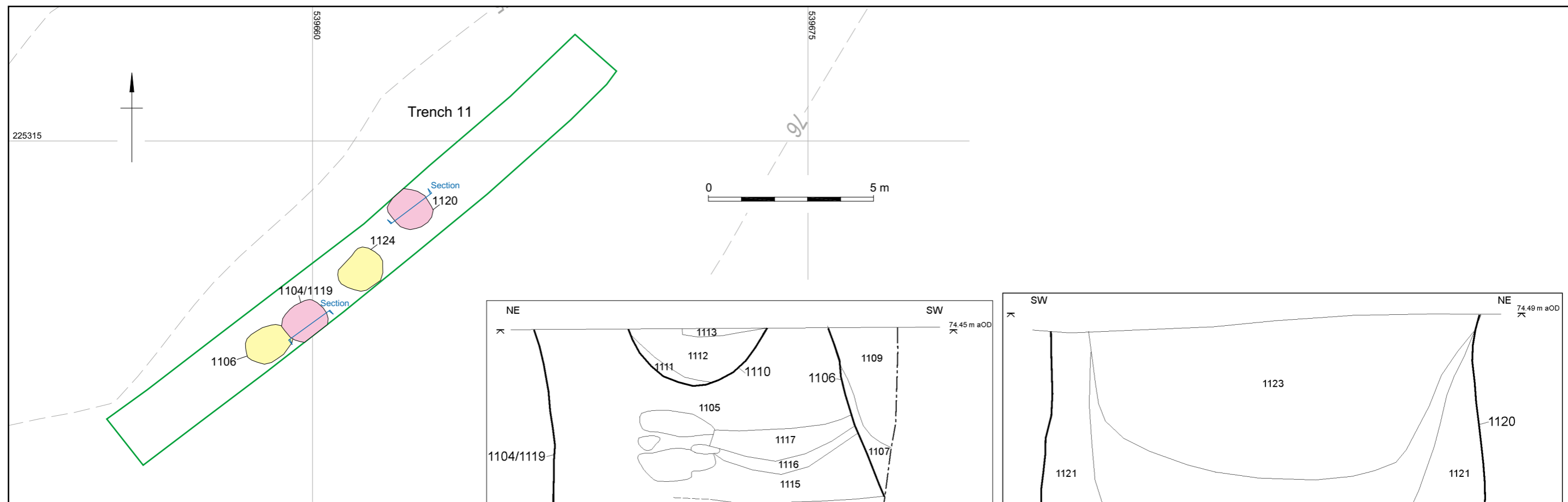
Plate 10: Trench 9 from the north



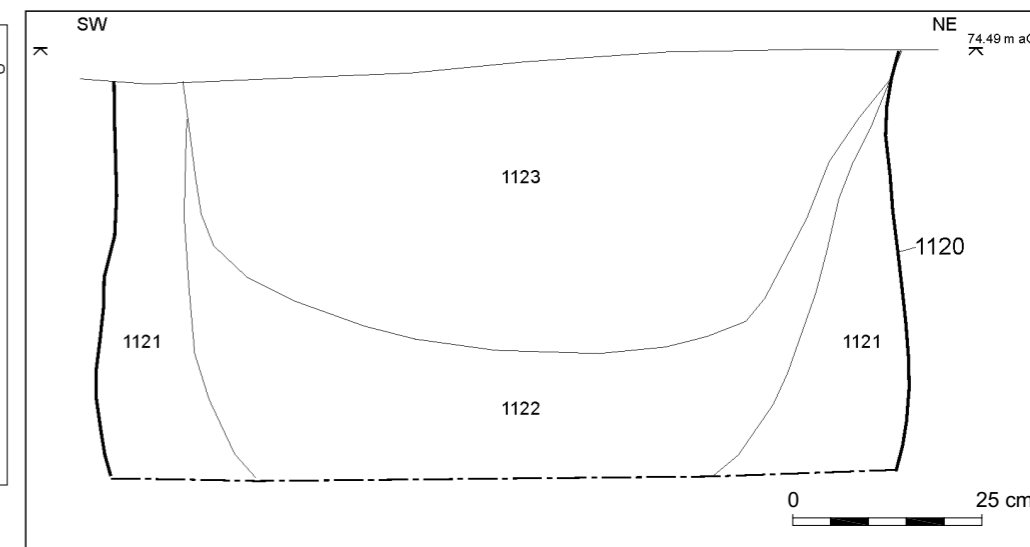
Ditch 904, west facing section (scale 1:10)



Plate 11: West facing section through ditch 904



Pit 1104, north-west facing section (scale 1:10)



Pit 1120, south-east facing section (scale 1:10)



Plate 12: Trench 11 from the south-west



Plate 13: North-west facing section through pits 1104, 1110 and 1119



Plate 14: South-east facing section through pit 1120

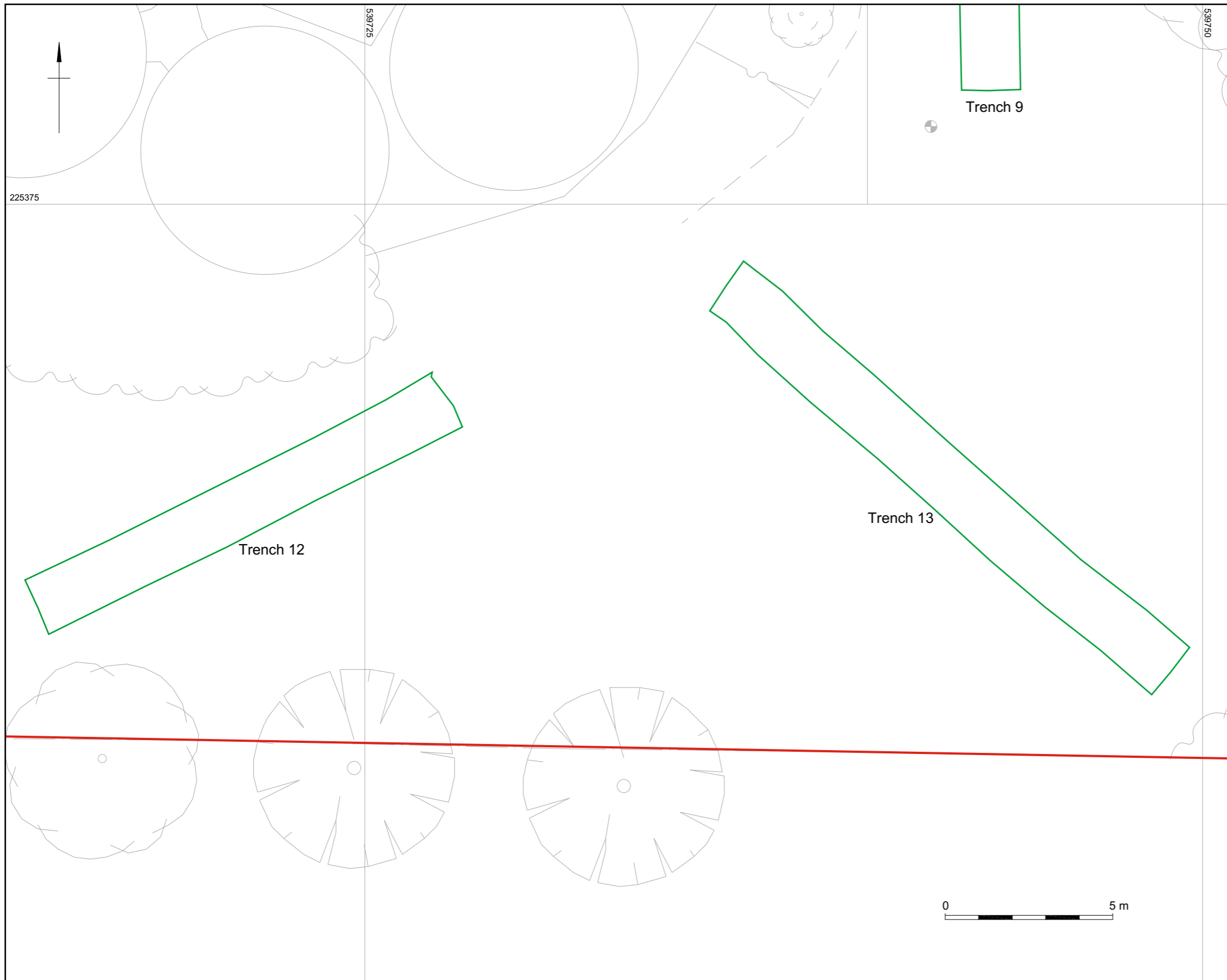


Plate 15: Trench 12 from the south-west



Plate 16: Trench 13 from the west

<p>Digital survey data supplied by CgMS Consulting. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</p>	<p>— Evaluation trench</p> <p>— Site boundary</p>	Date: 18/12/12	Revision Number: 1
		Scale: Plan 1:125 at A3	Illustrator: KL
		Path: Y:\PROJECTS\87000\Drawing Office\Report figs\eval\12_12\87000_eval_f2.dwg	



WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.

Registered Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk

Regional offices in **Edinburgh, Rochester and Sheffield**

For more information visit www.wessexarch.co.uk



Wessex Archaeology Ltd is a company limited by guarantee registered in England, company number 1712772. It is also a Charity registered in England and Wales, number 287786; and in Scotland, Scottish Charity number SC042630. Our registered office is at Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 6EB.