



## Land at Picket Twenty, Area H (Phase 1A) Andover, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report





**LAND AT PICKET TWENTY, AREA H (PHASE 1A)  
ANDOVER, HAMPSHIRE**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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**LAND AT PICKET TWENTY, AREA H (PHASE 1A)  
ANDOVER, HAMPSHIRE**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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**LAND AT PICKET TWENTY, AREA H (PHASE 1A)  
ANDOVER, HAMPSHIRE**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Persimmon Homes South Coast (the Client), to undertake the first stage of a programme of archaeological investigation on land at Picket Twenty, Andover, Hampshire, centred on NGR 439000,145500.

The evaluation undertaken in February 2010, comprised the excavation of five trenches (Trenches 11-15), each 25m by 1.8m within Area H, with two smaller trenches (11A and 11B) excavated to investigate the extent of a potential feature.

The evaluation found no evidence for archaeological features, finds or other material. Two potential features were noted (**1104** and **1106**, Trench 11) although subsequent investigation confirmed that both features were geological features, specifically solution hollows resulting from the topography surrounding the Site.

**LAND AT PICKET TWENTY, AREA H (PHASE 1A)  
ANDOVER, HAMPSHIRE**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**Acknowledgements**

This project was commissioned by Persimmon Homes South Coast and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank David Staniland, Paul Bedford and Stuart Benfield and their Planning consultant, Robert Lofthouse (Savills Planning & Regeneration) for their help during the course of the Project. Thanks are also due to the Hampshire County Archaeologist David Hopkins and the tenant farmer, Henry du Val de Beaulieu.

The evaluation was directed in the field by Jonathan Smith assisted by Ilona Kruk. The report was researched and compiled by Jonathan Smith and Andy Manning, the Illustrations prepared by Ken Lymer and ge archaeological advice supplied by David Norcott. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andy Manning.

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**LAND AT PICKET TWENTY, AREA H (PHASE 1A)**  
**ANDOVER, HAMPSHIRE****Archaeological Evaluation Report****1 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Persimmon Homes South Coast (the Client) to undertake the first stage of a phased programme of archaeological evaluation on land proposed for residential development at Picket Twenty, Andover, Hampshire, centered on National Grid Reference (NGR) 439000,145500 and hereafter, referred to as '*the Site*'.
- 1.1.2 An Environmental Statement (Wessex Archaeology 1997) prepared as part of the outline planning application (TVN.09275) concluded '*that the only significant archaeological remains comprise the ploughed out remnants of a small Bronze Age round barrow cemetery and those remains would be preserved in situ with no development on or around this area*'
- 1.1.3 Following the granting of outline planning permission in January 2008 by Test Valley Borough Council, a condition requiring archaeological investigation of the Site was attached to the planning consent. Following discussions with the Hampshire County Archaeologist, it was agreed that a strategy of further targeted evaluation would form the initial part of the required archaeological works.
- 1.1.4 A Project Design for a phased programme of archaeological evaluation was prepared after discussions with the County Archaeologist (WA August 2008). The Project Design was submitted to, and approved by, the Hampshire County Archaeologist before the commencement of fieldwork.
- 1.1.5 This report presents the results of the first phase of archaeological evaluation in Area H, which was undertaken during 1st and 4th of February 2010. The report has been prepared in accordance with relevant standards and guidance issued by the Institute for Archaeologists, with which Wessex Archaeology is a Registered Archaeological Organisation.

**1.2 Site location, Description and Topography**

- 1.2.1 The Site comprises an irregular parcel of land on the eastern edge of Andover. It covers approximately 110 hectares centered on NGR 439000 145500 (**Figure 1**), being bounded to the north by the B3400 London Road, to the west by Picket Twenty Lane, to the east by The Middleway and to the south by Forest Lane and Harewood Forest.
- 1.2.2 The Site lies in an area of upland between the Test and Anton river valleys. A dry river valley runs southwest down the centre of the Site before turning to the southeast. To the northeast, southeast and northwest the land slopes down into this dry valley.

- 1.2.3 Current land-use within the Site comprises small fields under arable cultivation and semi-permanent pasture.
- 1.2.4 Area H, the focal point of this current phase of evaluation, overlay a shallow depression. The highest point lay at 86.84m above Ordnance Datum at the southwestern edge of the evaluation area, gently sloping downwards to a height of 84.84m above Ordnance Datum at the centre of the Site (**Figure 1**).

### **1.3 Geological Background**

- 1.3.1 The underlying solid geology is Upper Chalk, with horizontal veins of tabular and nodular flints. To the southeast (within Harewood Forest), Clay-with-Flints and Tertiary debris overlie the Chalk (Geological Survey of Great Britain, 1:50,000 Solid and Drift Series, Sheet 283). The soils within the Site are Hornbeam 3 (typical palaeo-argillic brown earths) to the east and Andover 1 (brown rendzinas) to the west (Soil Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 6).

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1.1 As part of the Environmental Statement produced in support of the application, a detailed desk-based review of the known and potential archaeological remains within the Site was undertaken (Wessex Archaeology 1997). This identified one area of key archaeological significance within the Site, and a small number of other possible archaeological features.
- 2.1.2 In the eastern part of the Site is a small group of ring ditches that almost certainly represent the ploughed-out remains of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery (**Area E on Figure 1**). This part of the Site is to be excluded from built development and the archaeological remains will be preserved *in-situ*.
- 2.1.3 Picket Twenty Lane forms the western boundary of the Site and for much of its length this follows the route of a Roman Road (Icknield Way). Towards the southwestern corner of the Site, the routes diverge slightly and the projected line of the Roman Road lies within the Site.
- 2.1.4 Following the desk-based research, two phases of geophysical survey were undertaken (GSB 2000; 2001). Together these comprised a magnetometer scan of a large proportion (68 hectares) of the Site followed by detailed magnetometer survey of 14 separate areas covering a total of 8 hectares (**A-M on Figure 1**). The detailed survey was carried out over areas that had been found during scanning to contain geophysical anomalies indicative of the presence of archaeological features.
- 2.1.5 The geophysical surveys found that the main group of ring ditches previously identified was indeed present (**Figure 1**) and clarified the accuracy of the location, size, shape and nature of these features as suggested by aerial photographic analysis. The geophysical signal generated by these features was strong and distinct.
- 2.1.6 The geophysical surveys failed to find any trace of the Roman Road in the southwestern part of the Site, however, the surveys did identify a number of



smaller, weak 'pit-type' and 'linear' responses in several areas within the Site (**Figure 1**).

- 2.1.7 In order to verify the results of the geophysical survey, ten evaluation trenches were excavated between 6th and 15th January 2004 (Wessex Archaeology 2004) **Figure 1**).
- 2.1.8 Definite archaeological features were recorded in five trenches and in each case could be interpreted only as ditches of uncertain date as no artefacts were recovered.
- 2.1.9 The features identified in the trenches almost certainly represent former field boundary ditches. Excavation within one trench in Area I revealed a much more substantial linear feature. This trench had originally been located to evaluate the projected line of the Roman Road (Icknield Way). However, the form and size of this ditch are not in keeping with that of a Roman roadside ditch. This feature is more likely to represent a former boundary ditch associated with the extant hedgerow running parallel to Picket Twenty Lane along the western boundary of the Site.
- 2.1.10 All other geophysical responses identified within the evaluation trenches were revealed to be generated either by geological anomalies, natural agency (bioturbation) or modern disturbance.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Archaeological Evaluation**

- 3.1.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to:
- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains and, where present, determine the extent, nature, date and importance of the archaeological remains
  - To provide information that could be used to inform and determine the scope, extent and nature of any future required archaeological mitigation
  - To clarify the nature of the small number of geophysical anomalies, noted in the previous work.

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 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* (revised 2008).
- 4.1.2 The evaluation comprised the excavation of five trenches (Trenches 11-15), each approximately 25m by 1.8m. Two additional smaller trenches (11A and 11B), 9m and 6m in length, were added to test the extent and nature of a potential feature (**Figure 1**).
- 4.1.3 The trenches were machine-excavated by a wheeled JCB employing a toothless bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. Machining

was undertaken to the top of potential archaeological features or geological deposits, whichever was encountered first.

- 4.1.4 All features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system, in line with the Project Design. A comprehensive photographic record was maintained to show all aspects of the work in digital format with significant deposits recorded using black and white images.
- 4.1.5 All trenches were surveyed using a Leica GX1230 GPS and related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 4.1.6 Following the completion of the work, and with approval from the Hampshire County Archaeologist, the trenches were backfilled and reinstated.

## **5 RESULTS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 The results of the evaluation trial trenches are summarised below. Tabulated trench summaries, giving brief soil descriptions, dimensions and finds information are provided in **Appendix 1**. A plan showing the location of the trenches is provided on **Figures 1** and **2**.

### **5.2 Soil Profile**

- 5.2.1 Area H was within an arable field under an oil seed rape crop at the time of excavation
- 5.2.2 In all the trenches, the topsoil was a dark greyish brown silty clay with common root disturbance and occasional flint and chalk inclusions. The subsoil, where present, was a reddish brown silty clay with frequent sub angular and rounded flint inclusions.

### **5.3 Evaluation Trenches**

#### **Trench 11, 11A and 11B**

- 5.3.1 Trench 11 was on a roughly east-west alignment. Topsoil **1101**, was 0.25m in depth and sealed a subsoil **1102**, up to 0.33m in depth, with the natural soliflucted chalk **1103**, found at a depth of 0.58m, below the present ground surface.
- 5.3.2 Two potential features were observed cut into the top of the soliflucted chalk. Within the centre of the trench, a linear feature **1104** ran across the full width of the trench on a north-south alignment (**Figure 2**). This feature had a rounded profile and was approximately 1.6m in width and 0.55m in depth and contained three well-sorted fills **1105**, **1108** and **1109**, none of which contained any archaeological artefactual material.
- 5.3.3 Two further short trenches (Trenches 11A and 11B) were excavated to the north and south of Trench 11 to test the extent of the linear feature **1104**, although no evidence was found of any continuation. An extension of Trench 11 adjacent to the linear feature **1104**, revealed the feature, terminating a few metres to the north of the trench.

- 5.3.4 At the eastern end of Trench 11, a second feature **1106** was observed. This was a sub-ovoid feature with a single fill and measured 3.29m by 1.49m and up to 0.60m in depth. No archaeological artefactual material was noted.

#### **Trench 12**

- 5.3.5 Trench 12 lay on a roughly north-south alignment. Topsoil **1201** was up to 0.24m in depth, overlaying up to 0.28m of subsoil **1202**, with the natural geology of soliflucted chalk encountered at a depth of 0.52m below the present ground surface. No archaeological features were observed and no residual archaeological artefacts were encountered in the topsoil or subsoil.

#### **Trench 13**

- 5.3.6 Trench 13 was orientated on a north-south alignment. The topsoil **1301** was up to 0.25m in depth, overlaying the subsoil **1302**, which was up to 0.20m in depth. The sub-soil overlay a layer of colluvium **1303**, up to 0.31m in depth, which sealed the natural soliflucted chalk with periglacial striations **1304**, which was encountered at a depth of 0.76m below the present ground surface. No archaeological features were observed and no archaeological artefacts were encountered in the topsoil or subsoil.

#### **Trench 14**

- 5.3.7 Trench 14 was orientated on a roughly northeast-southwest alignment. The topsoil **1401** was 0.33m in depth and overlay 0.07m of subsoil **1402**, which sealed a layer of colluvium **1403**, up to 0.34m in depth. The natural geology of soliflucted chalk was encountered at 0.74m below the present ground surface. No archaeological features were observed and no archaeological artefacts were encountered in the topsoil or subsoil.

#### **Trench 15**

- 5.3.8 Trench 15 was orientated on a north-south alignment. The topsoil **1501** was up to 0.30m in depth and directly overlaid the natural soliflucted chalk. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were encountered in the topsoil or subsoil.

## **6 FINDS**

- 6.1.1 No archaeological artefacts were recovered.

## **7 ENVIRONMENTAL**

- 7.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the evaluation.

## **8 DISCUSSION**

- 8.1.1 The evaluation found no evidence of any archaeological features or finds.
- 8.1.2 The evaluation identified two features (**1104** and **1106**), which appeared to be related to features identified in the previous geophysical survey. However, further investigation and consultation with Wessex Archaeology's

in-house geoarchaeologist, David Norcott, has confirmed that both features were solution hollows and clearly of natural origin.

## **9 ARCHIVE**

### **9.1 Preparation and Deposition**

9.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation and in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*. On completion of the project, the archive will be deposited with the County Museum Service or similar repository to be agreed with the Local Authority's Archaeological Advisor

### **9.2 Archive**

9.2.1 The Evaluation project archive, consists of:

- One A4 file containing the paper records and drawings
- Digital data (site photographs, survey data, word and pdf files)

9.2.2 The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under the site code **69390**.

## **10 REFERENCES**

GSB Prospection, 2000, Picket Twenty, Andover: Geophysical Survey, Unpublished Client Report Ref. 2000/103

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Wessex Archaeology, 1997, Land at Picket Twenty, Andover, Hampshire: Archaeological Appraisal, 3rd draft, Unpublished Client Report Ref. 43744.1, November 1997

Wessex Archaeology, 2004, Land at Picket Twenty, Andover, Hampshire: Initial Archaeological Evaluation, Unpublished Client Report Ref. 437.44.4, November 1997

Wessex Archaeology, 2008, Land at Picket Twenty, Andover, Hampshire: Project Design for a Phased Programme of Archaeological Evaluation, Unpublished Client Report Ref. 69390.01, August 2008

**APPENDIX 1 - Table of Trench Descriptions**

<b>TRENCH 11</b>	Dimensions	Ground level
	25m x 1.8m x 0.58m	85.27m aOD
Context	Description	Depth
1101	Topsoil – Dark grey/ dark brown, very humic silty loam. 5% sub angular and rounded flint inclusions 5 - 50mm poorly sorted. Loose compaction.	0.00-0.25m
1102	Subsoil – reddish brown silty clay with 8% sub angular and rounded flint inclusions 5 - 40mm. 2% chalk inclusions, 5 – 15mm poorly sorted. Loose compaction.	0.25-0.58m
1103	Natural – Soliflucted chalk with periglacial striations. 6% flint inclusions 5 – 200mm	> 0.58m
1104	Cut of solution hollow	0.58-1.03m
1105	Fill of solution hollow 1104	0.62-1.03m
1106	Cut of solution hollow	0.44-1.20m
1107	Fill of solution hollow 1106	0.44-1.20m
1108	Fill of solution hollow 1104	0.55-0.99m
1109	Fill of solution hollow 1104	0.40m-0.68m

<b>TRENCH 11A</b>	Dimensions	Ground level
	9.2m x 2m x 0.45m	85.57m aOD
Context	Description.	Depth
1110	Topsoil – Dark grey/ dark brown, very humic silty loam. 4% sub angular and rounded flint inclusions 5 - 55mm poorly sorted. Loose compaction.	0-0.0.30m
1111	Subsoil – reddish brown silty clay with 6% sub angular and rounded flint inclusions 5 - 50mm. 4% chalk inclusions, 5 – 10mm poorly sorted. Loose compaction.	0.30-0.45m
1112	Natural – Soliflucted chalk with periglacial striations. 6% flint inclusions 5 – 220mm	> 0.45m



<b>TRENCH 11B</b>	Dimensions	Ground level
	30m x 1.8m x 0.75m	84.89m aOD
Context	Description.	Depth
1113	Topsoil – Dark grey/ dark brown, very humic silty loam. 2% sub angular and rounded flint inclusions 5 - 25mm poorly sorted. Loose compaction.	0-0.30m
1114	Subsoil – Mid Reddish brown silty clay with 4% sub angular and rounded flint inclusions 5 - 25mm. 2% chalk inclusions, 5 – 15mm poorly sorted. Loose compaction.	0.30-0.42m
1115	Colluvium – Dark reddish brown silty clay with 30% sub angular and rounded flint gravel 5 – 45mm, poorly sorted.	0.42-0.0.75m
1116	Natural – Soliflucted chalk with periglacial striations. 6% flint inclusions 5 – 200mm	> 0.75m

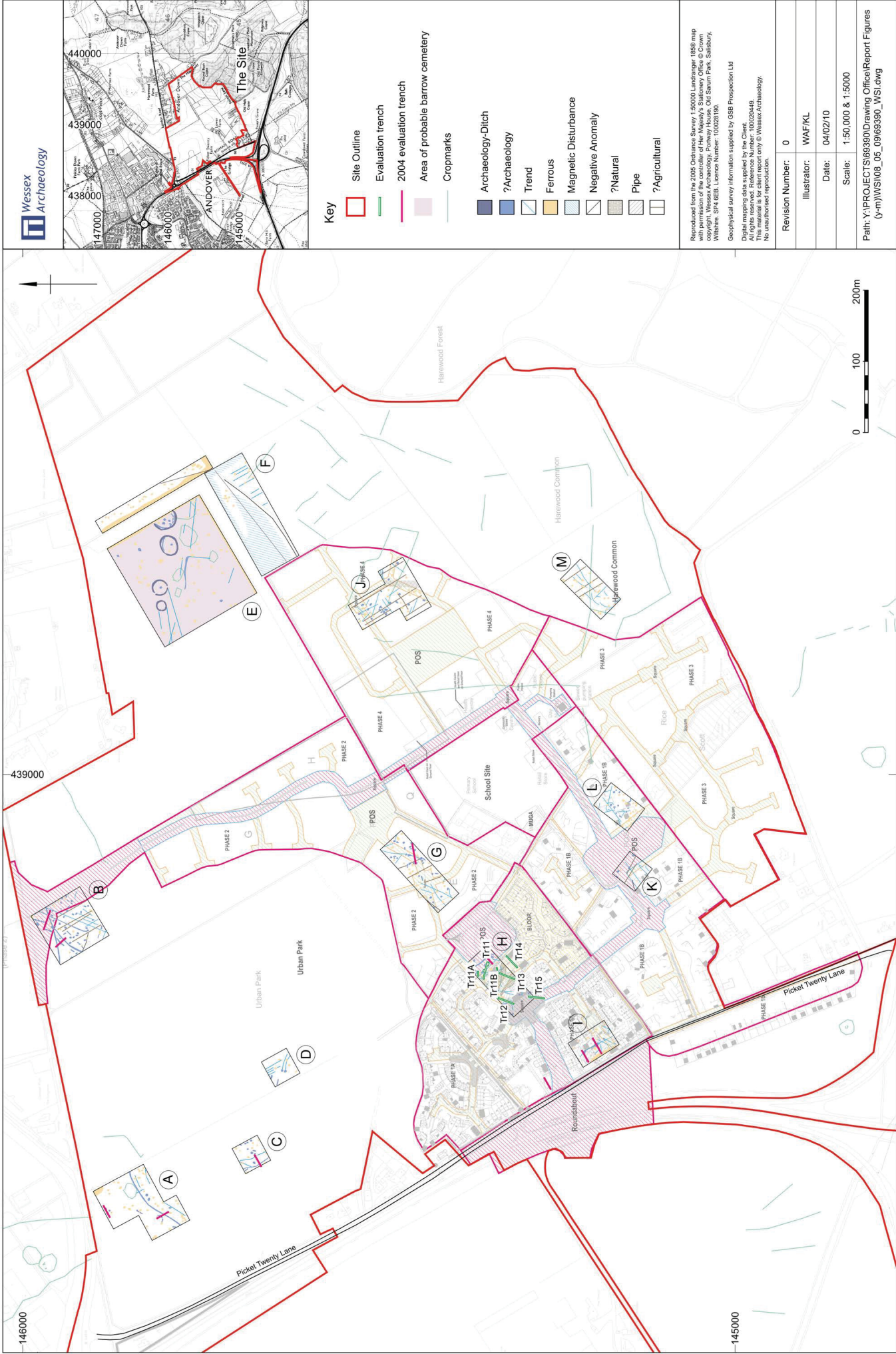
<b>TRENCH 12</b>	Dimensions	Ground level
	25m x 1.8m x 0.52m	86.48m aOD
Context	Description.	Depth
1201	Topsoil – Dark grey/ dark brown, very humic silty loam. 5% sub angular and rounded flint inclusions 5 - 50mm poorly sorted. Loose compaction.	0m-0.24m
1202	Subsoil – reddish brown silty clay with 5% sub angular and rounded flint inclusions 5 - 50mm. 2% chalk inclusions, 5 – 15mm poorly sorted. Loose compaction.	0.24m-0.52m
1203	Natural – Soliflucted chalk with periglacial striations. 6% flint inclusions 5 – 280mm	> 0.52m

<b>TRENCH 13</b>	Dimensions	Ground level
	25m x 1.8m x 0.76m	85.62m aOD
Context	Description.	Depth
1301	Topsoil – Dark grey/ dark brown, very humic silty loam. 4% sub angular and rounded flint inclusions 5 - 15mm poorly sorted. Loose compaction.	0-0.25m
1302	Subsoil – reddish brown silty clay with 10% sub angular and rounded flint inclusions 5 - 35mm. Loose compaction.	0.25-0.45m

1303	Colluvium – Dark reddish brown silty clay with 20% sub angular and rounded flint gravel 5 – 50mm, poorly sorted.	0.45m – 0.76m
1304	Natural – Soliflucted chalk with periglacial striations. 4% flint inclusions 5 – 200mm	> 0.76m

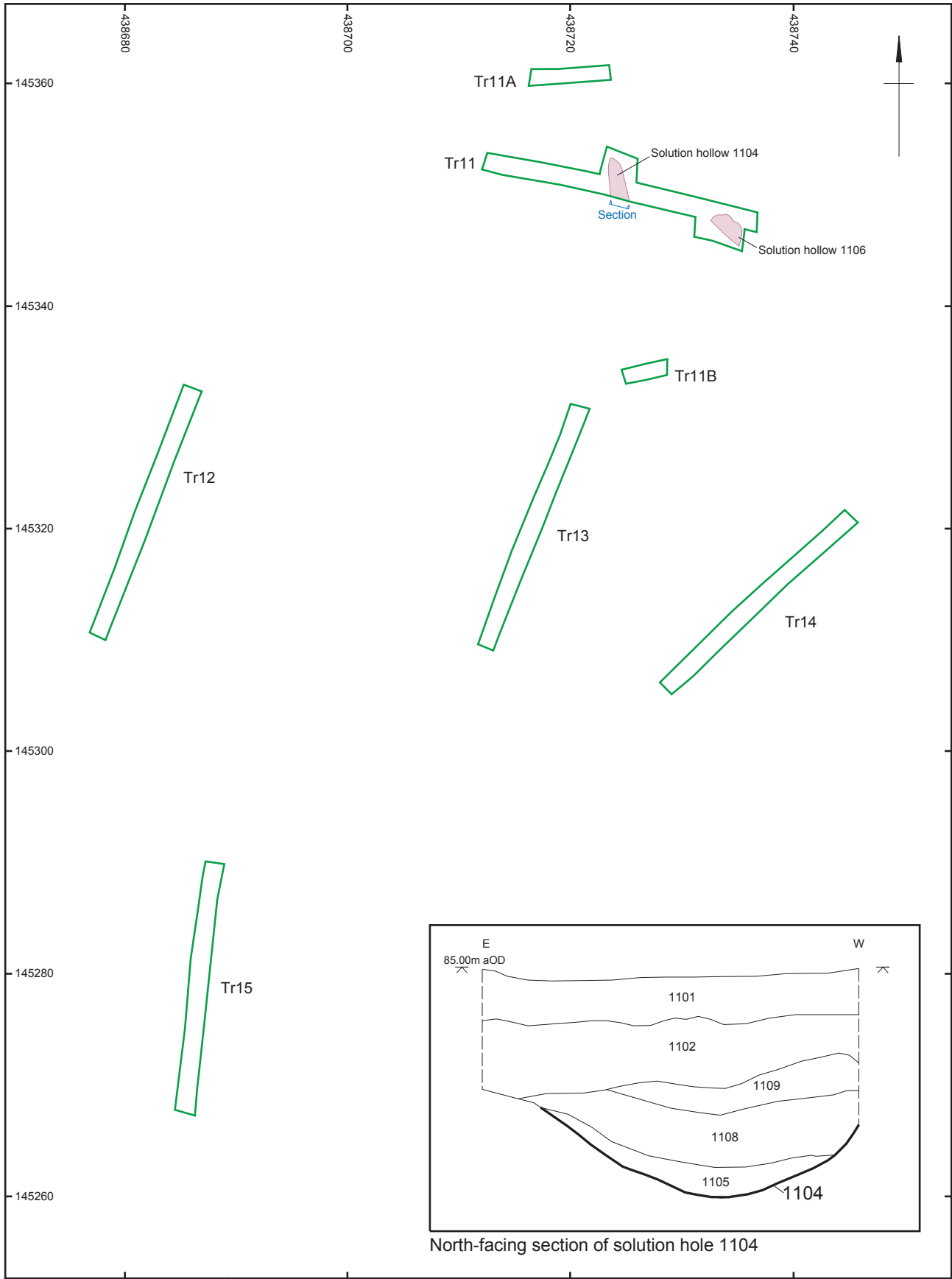
<b>TRENCH 14</b>	Dimensions	Ground level
	25m x 1.8m x 0.74m	85.09m aOD
Context	Description.	Depth
1401	Topsoil – Dark grey/ dark brown, very humic silty loam. 6% sub angular and rounded flint inclusions 5 - 50mm poorly sorted. Loose compaction.	0-0.33m
1402	Subsoil – reddish brown silty clay with 8% sub angular and rounded flint inclusions 5 - 50mm. Loose compaction.	0.33-0.40m
1403	Colluvium – Dark reddish brown silty clay with 20% sub angular and rounded flint gravel 5 – 40mm, poorly sorted.	0.40-0.74m
1404	Natural – Soliflucted chalk with periglacial striations. 6% flint inclusions 5 – 200mm	> 0.74m

<b>TRENCH 15</b>	Dimensions	Ground level
	25m x 1.8m x 0.30m	86.83m aOD
Context	Description.	Depth
1501	Topsoil – Dark grey/ dark brown, very humic silty loam. 5% sub angular and rounded flint inclusions 5 - 50mm poorly sorted. 3% chalk fragments 5 – 10mm, poorly sorted. Loose compaction.	0-0.30m
1502	Natural – Soliflucted chalk with periglacial striations. 2% flint inclusions 5 – 200mm	> 30m



Site and development phase plan with evaluation trench locations

Figure 1



Trench Geological feature  	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
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Trench detail and north facing section of solution hollow 1104

Figure 2





Plate 1: North facing section of Trench 11 solution hollow 1106



Plate 2: Northwest facing section of Trench 14



Plate 3: West facing section of Trench 15

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