



## *Land South West of Bicester, Oxfordshire*

Report on Stage 2 Archaeological Evaluation  
(Trial trenches and topographic survey)



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# **Land South West of Bicester, Oxfordshire**

## **Report on Stage 2 Archaeological Evaluation (Trial trenches and topographic survey)**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Terence O'Rourke Ltd, on behalf of Countryside Properties (Bicester) Ltd to undertake a second stage of archaeological evaluation on land south-west of Bicester, Oxfordshire (NGR 457100 222000). The evaluation formed part of a staged programme of archaeological work in response to proposals for development of the Site for housing.

A first stage of trial trench evaluation of the Site (Areas A - F) was conducted by Wessex Archaeology in 2006 and located ten zones of archaeological activity dating from the Early Bronze Age to the post-medieval periods.

This second stage of evaluation took place between 17<sup>th</sup> September and 11th October 2007, and comprised trenches, divided into four areas G - J, targeting cropmarks, geophysical anomalies; and areas of unknown potential. An initial programme of 78 trenches was reduced to 76 trenches to avoid recently ploughed and drilled land forming part of Area G. An additional trench was opened to the south-east of the Site, east of the A41, in order to evaluate the archaeological potential of an area of proposed road works associated with the proposed development. A topographic survey was also undertaken of earthworks in the northern part of the Site (Area A).

Of the 76 trenches opened in Areas G - J, only five contained archaeological features and deposits, which, where datable, appear to be Romano-British or later date. It is concluded that the results of this second stage of evaluation do not significantly alter the results of the first stage of evaluation and that the distribution, nature, date and quality of survival of the identified archaeological potential of the Site is now confirmed. The additional trench opened east of the A41 revealed a ditch of probably Romano-British date.

The topographic survey in Area A has resulted in the generation of a surface model of the visibly extant earthworks also visible on aerial photographs, identified by geophysical survey, and investigated by trial trenching during the first stage of the evaluation. The surface model appears to confirm the general sub-circular shape and uneven interior of the earthwork.

## **Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Terence O'Rourke Ltd, on behalf of Countryside Properties (Bicester) Ltd, for commissioning the evaluation. The advice and assistance provided by John Trehy of Terence O'Rourke Ltd and Paul Smith (Oxford County Council), who monitored the evaluation, is duly acknowledged.

The evaluation fieldwork was directed by Susan Clelland, assisted by Cheralynne Hyde.

This report was compiled by Susan Clelland. Angi Britten processed the finds, which were tabulated and assessed by Lorraine Mephram. Jessica Grimm assessed the animal bone. The environmental remains were processed by Cheralynne Hyde. The bulk and waterlogged samples were assessed by Dr Chris J. Stevens. The Site's geoarchaeological potential and micro-fossil samples were assessed by David Norcott. The molluscs were assessed by Sarah F. Wyles. The report illustrations were prepared by Elizabeth James.

The project was managed by Paul McCulloch.

# **Land South West of Bicester, Oxfordshire**

## **Report on Stage 2 Archaeological Evaluation (Trial trenches and topographic survey)**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Terence O'Rourke Ltd, on behalf of Countryside Properties (Bicester) Ltd to carry out a second stage of archaeological trial trench evaluation on land south-west of Bicester, Oxfordshire (NGR 457100 222000), hereafter referred to as 'the Site' (**Figure 1**). The evaluation forms part of a staged programme of archaeological work in connection with proposals for development of the Site, which covers an area of 116.45 hectares.

1.1.2 This second stage of evaluation was carried out in accordance with an updated Project Design compiled by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2007) and approved by the Oxfordshire County Archaeology Officer (CAO). The updated Project Design was prepared taking account of a first stage of trial trenching (WA 2006) and following additional consultation with the CAO, advisor to the local planning authority, Cherwell District Council.

1.1.3 The requirement for the staged programme of work was set out in a Design Brief prepared by the CAO that identified the location, planning, and archaeological background to the Site, and specific requirements intended to address the known or perceived archaeological potential of the Site. It also contained Annexes prescribing requirements for methodology, data collection, monitoring arrangements, post-excavation and reporting, archive deposition, and publication and dissemination.

1.1.4 This report is intended to provide the results of the second stage of evaluation in order to inform decisions concerning the future treatment of the archaeological potential of the Site in respect of the proposed development.

#### **1.2 The Site**

1.2.1 The Site (**Figure 1**) lies south-west of the historic town of Bicester, south of Middleton Stoney Road, west of the A41 Oxford Road, and north of Chesterton.

- 1.2.2 The existing land use was agricultural, predominately arable though one pasture field with extant ridge and furrow was investigated. The Site gently undulates, falling away more noticeably to the south east. It lies between about 73m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north and about 68m aOD to the south.
- 1.2.3 An area of land between A41 and the old Oxford Road to the south east of the Site, at NGR 457323 221139, which is the subject of proposed road works associated with the proposed development, was also the subject of the evaluation. This area of land is currently open with mixed vegetation and is relatively low-lying when compared with the Site, occurring at 64.5m aOD.
- 1.2.4 The geology map for the area (Geological Survey of Great Britain (England & Wales) solid and drift 1:50 000 sheet 219) is no longer available (but see sheets 218 to the west, 236 to south west and 237 to south).
- 1.2.5 The region is dominated by Oxford/Kellaway Clay, while the landscape across the ridge is underlain by Corallian beds of sands and sandy limestones. Mid-late Jurassic cornbrash outcrops in places, comprising a limestone which characteristically breaks into loose rubble or brash. It is a thin (0-5m) bed but laterally extensive, is very shelly, fossiliferous and is oolitic. Upper Corallian Coral Rag also occurs in the area, with sinkholes and springs common. The site lies c. 1/2km north east of the Gagle Brook, only one small stream (the Pingle Brook) traverses the site, to the north of Area A (C. Chisham pers. comm.)

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the Site has been described in the Environmental Statement (O'Rourke 2006), and Design Brief (OCC 2006) as follows:

*“The existence of archaeological remains both within the application area, and in the immediate surrounding environs, has been known for some time. Various archaeological evaluation techniques that have been used within the current application area and on land immediately adjacent have confirmed the presence of archaeological remains and also produced new evidence of further survival.*

*Two previous field evaluations comprising geophysical survey and trial trenching have been carried out in the northeast corner of Whitelands Farm land within the current application area. These were carried out for planning application 01/02446/OUT Land adjoining Middleton Stoney Road and Oxford Road, Bicester (OA 2002a), and 01/01125/OUT Proposed Community Hospital, Bicester (OA 2002b). Both of these evaluations were carried out in 2002 by Oxford Archaeology. The former site produced evidence of ditches, gullies, postholes, a walled structure, and cobbled surfaces/yard areas all of 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century Roman date. There was also evidence of a sequence of peat*



*overlying alluvial deposits related to the history and changing character of the Pingle Brook. Slight traces of Middle and Late Iron Age activity was also recorded. The latter evaluation produced evidence of enclosure and boundary ditches, a track way, several probable substantial timber structures and pits. The site, which is undoubtedly the same as the site to the north, is interpreted as a Romano-British farmstead dating to the late 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century. Once again, slight evidence of Middle Iron Age, and in addition, Anglo-Saxon activity, was also recorded.*

*The rest of the current application area has, in part, been the subject of two primary stage evaluation methodologies. An Interpretation of Aerial Photographs carried out by Air Photo Services Ltd. in 2005 (Cox 2005), and a Detailed Magnetic (Gradiometry) Survey carried out by Stratascan Ltd. in 2006 (Stratascan 2006). The combined evidence from these two surveys confirmed the presence of a number of archaeological sites located within the application area. These included further extensions of the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century farmstead, a number of linear ditches and embanked features, quarries, several pit groups, a set of ditched enclosures west of Whitelands Farm, and a probable Bronze Age barrow cemetery east of Foxey Leys Copse. In addition areas of medieval ridge and furrow furlongs were identified, and, on the east side of the A42, what might be an alignment associated with the Alchester to Towcester Roman road.”*

- 1.3.2 The second stage of evaluation reported here was further informed by the results of the first stage of evaluation carried out in September 2006. The results of the first stage of evaluation were set out in a report (Wessex Archaeology 2006), which provided the following summary (in full):

*Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Terence O'Rourke Ltd, on behalf of Countryside Properties (Bicester) Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land south-west of Bicester, Oxfordshire (NGR 457100 222000). The evaluation formed part of a programme of archaeological work in connection with proposals for development. The land evaluated was agricultural; mainly arable with two small areas of pasture.*

*The evaluation took place between 21st July and 1st September 2006, and 18th – 20th September 2006. It comprised 134 trenches, divided into six areas: A, B, C, D, E/road alignment and F. These trenches were targeted on cropmarks, geophysical anomalies; blank areas and areas of unknown potential. The location of the trenches was also determined by the proposed development. The initial programme of 137 trenches was reduced to 128.5 trenches due to obstacles, reassessment of the proposals and the results of trenches already investigated. A further six trenches (Area F) were required due to the repositioning of development proposals.*

*Previous evaluation on land immediately to the east by Oxford Archaeology (2002) uncovered evidence for Romano-British settlement. The Iron*

*Age/Romano-British settlement site of Alchester and a Saxon cemetery have been excavated a short distance to the south east of the Site.*

*The soil sequence on the Site usually comprised topsoil overlying a subsoil (generally of colluvial nature), which in turn overlay the natural geology. The natural geology varied from solid limestone (slab formation) to fine limestone cornbrash. Overlying the limestone/cornbrash across the centre of the site (north east to south west) was an irregular band of Oxford/Kellaway clay. Either side of the clay band, the geology comprised a patchy mixture of brown clay, blue clay and various grades of cornbrash. In some trenches there was a substantial depth of colluvium of predominantly more than one phase, which coincided with boundaries and slopes. Alluvial deposits were also noted in trenches in Area A north & east and Area C.*

*Ridge and furrow was extant in one pasture field subjected to the evaluation. Most of the remaining areas no longer had earthworks, but crop growth and some trenches provided clear evidence that ridge and furrow had formerly existed (areas A, B, E & F).*

*Of the 134 trenches opened, 41 contained archaeological features and deposits. Of note and in summary:*

- Two ring-ditches, probably representing round barrows. The largest was dated to the Early Bronze Age and had an internal ring-gully. The smallest was not dated (Area B)*
- A Middle Bronze Age bronze palstave in good condition was found in Area B, but was within a medieval or later deposit*
- Late Iron Age settlement represented by a ring-gully, posthole/pits, ditch and possible hearth (Area B & F)*
- Romano-British settlement associated with known cropmarks (Area E/road alignment)*
- Romano-British pits, postholes and linear features (Area C)*
- Romano-British quarries (Area B)*
- Possible Saxon ditch and bank earthworks (Area A north)*
- Saxon pits, postholes and ditches (Area A east)*
- Medieval or later quarries and track (Area A west and north)*
- Post-medieval field boundary (Area A east).*

*The evaluation located ten 'zones' of archaeological activity. It is recommended the ring-ditches in Area B may warrant preservation in situ, whilst the other areas of archaeological remains could, in respect of the current development proposals, be preserved by record. Preservation by record may be achieved through further fieldwork, the method, scale and purpose of which should be the subject of further consultation with the Oxfordshire County Archaeological Officer.*

## **2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **2.1 Aims**

2.1.1 The aims of the second stage of trial trench evaluation were to:

- Provide physical evidence for the presence or absence of archaeological remains, that are indicated by non-invasive aerial and geophysical survey, and previous targeted trial trenching,
- Provide physical evidence for the presence or absence of archaeological remains in areas of the site, where non-invasive survey appears to show blank areas or has not been undertaken
- Establish the probable extent, character, date, condition, and quality of archaeological remains within the Site, where present
- By topographic survey, elucidate earthwork features extant within the northern pasture field, south of Middleton Stoney Road

2.1.2 The archaeological evaluation aimed to provide information on which an informed decision, regarding subsequent requirements for mitigation of the impact of the proposed development on archaeological remains, can be made.

### **2.2 Archive Deposition**

2.2.1 A unique-number Wessex Archaeology Site code **63561** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds. Arrangements will be made with Oxfordshire County Museum and Archive Store for the deposition of the archive, subject to agreement with the landowner.

## **3 METHODS**

### **3.1 Trench Location**

3.1.1 In accordance with the approved updated Project Design the evaluation was to comprise 78 trial trenches, each 30m by 2m trenches positioned so as to target

aerial photographic evidence and possible archaeological anomalies identified by geophysical survey as well as to determine the extents of known archaeological activity identified during previous evaluation trenching programmes. Trenches were grouped within four areas (G - J) within the Site (**Figure 1**).

3.1.2 Of the 78 proposed trenches in areas G - J, 76 were excavated. An additional trench was opened to investigate the location of proposed road works, associated with the proposed development, on the A41 Oxford Road, centred on NGR 457323 221139. (**Figure 1**).

3.1.3 Due to ongoing agricultural land-use, the excavation of Trenches 157 and 158 was not possible. A proximity to extant hedged field boundaries and field gates meant that a number of trenches were repositioned (160, 161, 162, 179, 182, and 209). Trench 168 was also adjusted to avoid a potential underground service.

### **3.2 Trench Excavation and Recording**

3.2.1 Each trench was set out using a Leica GPS RX 1250 SmartRover, which was used subsequently to record the trenches and archaeological features and deposits therein.

3.2.2 Before excavation began each trench area was 'swept' with a Cable Avoidance Tool to identify any underground services.

3.2.3 The trenches were topsoil stripped using two 13 ton mechanical excavators fitted with toothless buckets, under the direct supervision of Wessex Archaeology staff. Topsoil and subsoil were stored separately, either side of each trench.

3.2.4 Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural deposits or archaeological deposits, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological features and deposits were exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand.

3.2.5 A sufficient sample of each layer/feature type was excavated in order to ascertain the date, nature, extent and condition of the archaeological remains. Archaeological features and deposits were investigated and stratigraphically excavated. The percentage of any feature or group of features excavated depended on a number of factors. These included the achievement of the objectives, the significance or potential of the archaeological deposit, the percentage of the feature exposed, its stratigraphic relationships, health and safety considerations, and the requirements of the Client and the CAO.

3.2.6 Archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. Deposits and features were surveyed (capturing X, Y, Z co-ordinates) and planned at an appropriate scale

of 1:20 on drawing film. Sections were drawn at 1:10 on drawing film and included existing ground surface and overburden where appropriate in order to provide a full record and deposit column information. An overall surveyed Site plan has been prepared.

- 3.2.7 A photographic record was kept. Both black & white and colour images, including digital images, were prepared. The record includes detailed images of archaeological deposits and features and other images to illustrate their location and context, and the location and context of the separate working areas. The record includes images of the Site overall.
- 3.2.8 The numbering of trenches was continued from the first stage of evaluation.

## **4 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 This section presents a summary of the results of the evaluation, based on the Site archive. Trench descriptions including all allocated contexts are provided in **Appendix I**.

### **4.2 Geology and Soil Sequences**

- 4.2.1 The underlying solid geology observed across the site was typically Corallian sandy limestone. Mid-late Jurassic cornbrash and Upper Corallian Coral Rag featured in most of the trenches. Where other deposits underlay the colluvium and/or subsoil, deeper investigations showed that the cornbrash was present underneath; generally below a thin deposit of reddish (iron rich) silty sand. The depths at which the cornbrash was encountered varied between trenches and areas, sometimes substantially (between 0.20m to >0.91m).
- 4.2.2 A band of sterile; fossiliferous and stiff bluish grey clay runs across north and east of Area J overlying the cornbrash as described above. The deposit is likely to belong to the Oxford/Kellaway clays.
- 4.2.3 The topsoil across the site was generally a dark greyish brown silty clay or silty clay loam and was generally between 0.2m and 0.40m thick though it was occasionally found to be as deep as 0.54m. Present agricultural practices use a cultivator rather than a plough. The cultivator only cuts to a depth of 0.20 – 0.25m, to avoid bringing the cornbrash and clay to the surface. The northern part of Area I comprised a pasture field with markedly richer topsoil. In the majority of trenches, the topsoil had a very clear lower horizon.
- 4.2.4 Between the topsoil and natural, an intermediate deposit was frequently encountered. In a few cases the deposit appeared to be inactive ploughsoil i.e. ploughed previously and now not disturbed by current agricultural practices



(e.g. in Trench 92). Frequently a 'subsoil' of generally colluvial nature was observed.

- 4.2.5 In many trenches, the deposit below the 'subsoil' was very mixed i.e. varying degrees of mid yellowish brown fine cornbrash with random patterns of brown and blue/ grey clays. It is suggested that these gleyed clays are likely to be Holocene in date. The clays seem to fill geological or natural features cut into the top of the cornbrash, particularly the finer grades. Several examples were seen in the south of Area H, throughout Area I, and the central part of Area J.

#### 4.3 Area G

##### (Trenches 144 to 155; & 159 to 168)

*Ground level 73.99m (Tr.146) -74.96m aOD (Tr. 166)*

- 4.3.1 Area G covered an area incorporating two fields and was located between previous Areas A and D (WA 2006) (**Figure 1**).
- 4.3.2 The geology in this area consisted entirely of cornbrash in varying grades from solid limestone to fairly fine soliflucted cornbrash.
- 4.3.3 A subsoil, recorded as an iron rich, homogenous reddish brown silty clay with occasional manganese flecking, was present within 18 of the 23 trenches excavated within Area G.
- 4.3.4 No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in Area G.

#### 4.4 Area H

##### (Trenches 169 to 197)

*Ground level 73.58m (Tr.170) -71.95m aOD (Tr. 194)*

- 4.4.1 In the north-western side of this area, the geology was very similar to that in Area G to the west, i.e. fine degraded cornbrash from solid limestone to fine degraded cornbrash. Towards the east the geology became mottled and patchy with red silty clay and patches of brown and blue clay.
- 4.4.2 Of the 29 trenches excavated within Area H, three, Trenches 176, 185, and 189, contained archaeological features. Geological anomalies were investigated within Trenches 177, 189 and 192 (**Figure 1**).
- 4.4.3 Trench 176 contained a shallow tree throw **17603** filled with a sterile silt. No dating evidence was recovered from it
- 4.4.4 Trench 185 (**Figures 1**) contained a small, shallow pit 18502 filled with a topsoil-derived deposit **18503**. This contained an abraded sherd of Late Iron Age-Early Roman pottery and small abraded animal bones. It should be noted that in comparison to the remainder of the Site a notable quantity of mixed

pottery, dating from the Late Iron Age to post-medieval periods, were recovered from the overlying topsoil.

- 4.4.5 An isolated and undated, though well-defined, posthole **18907**, 0.6m in diameter and 0.18m deep was recorded towards the north-western end of Trench 189. A modern land drain and geological anomaly were also investigated within this trench (**Figures 1**).
- 4.4.6 Artefacts retrieved from topsoil layers within trenches 189 and 197 included animal bone and post-medieval pottery sherds.
- 4.4.7 The remainder of trenches within Area H were found to be devoid of archaeology.

#### **4.5 Area I**

##### **(Trenches 198 to 212)**

*Ground level 72.91m (Tr.207) – 70.54m aOD (Tr. 210)*

- 4.5.1 In the north western part of Area I within a pasture field of lush grass and nettles (**Figures 1 & 2**), trenches were targeted on extant ridge and furrow specifically to determine whether earlier archaeological features survived beneath the substantial furrows.
- 4.5.2 Topographically the area had a dominant south-west to north-east slope though a more gradual north-west to south-east slope was also present. In the higher south-west area trenches revealed a fine degraded cornbrash with irregular bands of gleyed clays. Downslope towards the north-eastern side of the area a greater depth of colluvium was noted (<0.4m) and the natural geology became a gleyed orange silty clay overlying tabular cornbrash.
- 4.5.3 A substantial north-east to south-west aligned concave ditch **20402** was recorded at the south-eastern end of Trench 204, truncating a natural gleyed orange silty clay, which overlay the tabular cornbrash (**Figure 2**). A shallow, sinuous gully extended from the western side of the ditch. Both features were filled with homogenous water-logged clay silts.
- 4.5.4 A relatively large assemblage of pottery fragments were recovered from primary deposits within ditch **20402**. Predominately Late Iron Age – Romano-British however a sherd of later pottery and ceramic building material was also recovered. This would imply a medieval or later date to the feature. It is possible the source for the earlier pottery derives from known Romano-British activity associated with the higher ground to the west of Area I.
- 4.5.5 Two parallel north-west to south-east aligned shallow concave ditches **20702** and **20704** were excavated within trench 207 (**Figure 2**), along with a gully segment **20706**.

- 4.5.6 A sherd of Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from overburden deposits within trench 209. Medieval to post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material fragments were recovered from topsoil layers recorded in trenches 199, 205 & 206.

#### **4.6 Area J**

##### **(Trenches 213 to 222)**

*Ground level 2.62m (Tr.213) – 68.65m aOD (Tr. 216)*

- 4.6.1 Through the centre of Area J in a broadly north to south direction a geological band of Oxford/Kellaway clay was noted within trenches 213, 214, 215, 218 and 219. The remainder of trenches within Area J exhibited moderately fine degraded cornbrash within a yellow silty sand matrix and irregular patches of ferruginous sandy clay. Two dominant slopes were present falling from north to south and north-west to south-east.
- 4.6.2 Within trench 213 (**Figure 1**) a poorly defined north to south aligned linear feature **21305** was identified. Filled with homogenous iron mottled silty clay deposit **21306**, this possible field boundary ditch is thought to be fairly modern. A glass fragment and abraded post-Roman pottery fragments were recovered from it.
- 4.6.3 Trench 215 was extended to meet trench 214, to investigate a north-east to south-west aligned linear noted during an earlier geophysical survey of this part of the Site. No archaeological features or geological features were identified.
- 4.6.4 A modern field drain was recorded within Trench 216 and a tree throw was recorded in trench 222.
- 4.6.5 Field drains were identified in all but two of the trenches in Area J.

#### **4.7 Additional Trench**

##### **(Trench 223)**

- 4.7.1 In the course of the evaluation fieldwork it was agreed with Terence O'Rourke to open an additional trench on the site of proposed road works associated with the proposed development, to the east of the Site and east of the existing A41, centred on NGR 457323 221139 (**Figure 1 & 4**)
- 4.7.2 Trench 223 was 33.6m long and revealed the surface of the underlying natural, a mid to light brown yellow loam containing concentrations of manganese.
- 4.7.3 A north to south aligned and 1m wide ditch **22303** was recorded at the north-western end of the trench. A notable quantity of Late Iron Age to Early

Romano-British pottery was recovered from associated fill deposits along with animal bone and oyster shell.

- 4.7.4 From the south-eastern side of the ditch an alluvial layer **22311**, uniformly 0.2m thick, was recorded and extended the length of the trench south-east of ditch **22303**. Abundant snails were noted and a number of Late Iron Age to Romano-British pottery fragments and an iron object were recovered. Both this layer and the ditch fills appear to derive from flooding episodes. The layer was not present on the north-western side of the ditch.
- 4.7.5 Natural hollows investigated at the south-eastern end of the trench were found to be filled within heavily waterlogged clay silts. No datable finds was recovered from these features.

#### **4.8 Area A Topographic Survey**

- 4.8.1 A topographic survey was undertaken in Area A (**Figure 1**) in an attempt to elucidate detailed characteristics of an area of earthworks of apparently sub-circular form and approximately 100m in diameter, which occur in an area of the Site characterised by natural watercourses. The earthworks, previously investigated by geophysics and by trial trenches in the first stage of evaluation (WA 2006), remain undated.
- 4.8.2 The topographic survey has resulted in the generation of a surface model (**Figure 4**) of the visibly extant earthworks. The surface model appears to confirm the general sub-circular shape and uneven interior of the earthwork. The apparently irregular form of the earthworks that is suggested by the surface model could be considered consistent with localised quarrying activities sourcing cornbrash. Given that the immediate area, low-lying and containing natural watercourses, would offer poor farmland, its alternative use as a source of cornbrash may offer a reasonable explanation for the earthworks.

## **5 FINDS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 The following section constitutes an interim statement on the finds recovered during the evaluation. Only a minimal number of finds were recovered from 12 trenches.
- 5.1.2 The small quantity of finds recovered from the evaluation, augments, but does not extend, the small assemblage already recovered from the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2006). The assemblage is limited both in the range of material types represented, and in the date range – the larger proportion of the assemblage is Romano-British, with a smaller proportion of medieval to post-medieval date, although about half of the Romano-British material appears to be residual in later contexts.

5.1.3 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are summarised by Trench in **Table 1, Appendix II**.

5.1.4 The assemblage ranges in date from early prehistoric to post-medieval, but is relatively restricted in terms of material types; pottery was the most commonly occurring material type, and apart from this only animal bone was recovered in any significant quantity. Condition is fair to poor, and much of the pottery assemblage, for example, has suffered a high level of abrasion.

## **5.2 Pottery**

5.2.1 Pottery provides practically the only dating evidence from the site. The small assemblage includes material of Late Iron Age/Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date. The assemblage has been quantified by ware type within each context; totals are presented in **Table 2, Appendix II**. The condition of the pottery is fair to poor; the assemblage is fragmentary, and sherds have suffered relatively high levels of surface and edge abrasion. Mean sherd weight overall is 14.5g, but this is skewed by the presence of three large, heavy amphora sherds; if these are removed, mean weight drops to 11.2g.

### *Late Iron Age/Romano-British*

5.2.2 Wares of Late Iron Age tradition but which continued into the early Roman period include calcareous and grog-tempered wares; in this instance these occur exclusively with 'Romanised' wheelthrown sandy wares and are therefore likely to be post-conquest (AD 43). Amongst the 'Romanised' wares, whiteware mortaria (all from trench 204) certainly derive from the Oxfordshire production centre, and probably also the greywares and oxidised wares. Imported wares are represented by sherds from one samian vessel (South Gaulish form 31 platter), and Dressel 20 amphorae. There is little which is diagnostic, but the samian and the coarseware vessel forms suggest an early Roman date (1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD).

### *Post-Roman*

5.2.3 Three sherds were identified as medieval Brill-type wares, probably dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century (Trenches 206, 213). The remaining sherds are post-medieval, including coarse redwares, stoneware and refined whiteware.

## **5.3 Other Finds**

5.3.1 Other finds comprise small quantities of animal bone (cattle, mole, unidentified species), ceramic building material (medieval and post-medieval; roof tile), glass (post-medieval vessel), and iron (nail, horseshoe).



## 6 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Nine bulk samples were taken from seven features excavated within five of the trenches. The samples came from features largely thought to be Late Iron Age/Romano-British in date, although that from ditch **21306** did contain a few sherds of post-Roman pottery. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal. Two of these samples, from ditch **22303** and occupation layer **22311**, were also sub-sampled and processed for the retrieval of molluscs.

6.1.2 In addition, two monolith samples (35 and 34) were taken from ditch sequence **22303** and soil profile to shed light on the origin of the ditch fills.

### 6.2 Assessment Results: methods and data

#### *Charred Plant Remains and Wood Charcoals*

6.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 3, Appendix III**). Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

6.2.2 The flots were all generally rooty and in the case of ditch **21305** had quite high numbers of modern seeds. This can be seen as indicative of stratigraphic movement, reworking and possible contamination by later intrusive material. Charred material where it was present was generally poorly preserved. In the case of ditch **22303** the high number of roots may be a reflection of rooting into a raised water-table occurring during or after the infilling of the ditch.

6.2.3 Only two samples produced any charred cereal remains, all of which were poorly preserved. These were pit **18502** in Trench 185, which produced a single grain of wheat or barley as well as a seed of buttercup (*Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus*), and ditch **21305**, which produced a seed of possible pea (*Pisum sativum*) or broad-bean (*Vicia faba*), some wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and barley grains (*Hordeum vulgare* sl.) and a single oat grain (*Avena* sp.). The latter sample had a high number of modern seeds within it and given the presence of glass and post-medieval pottery is likely to be of a more recent date.

6.2.4 The single grain from pit **18502** may relate to Romano-British settlement activity, but given the amount of roots within the sample this grain again may be intrusive. Compared to previous Late Iron Age/Romano-British features

assessed at Whitelands Farm (Wessex Archaeology 2006), which produced reasonable numbers of cereal remains, those from this stage of work yielded little environmental evidence for domestic activity and settlement.

- 6.2.5 The samples also produced very little wood charcoal (**Table 3, Appendix III**), which may be reflective of the high amounts of rooting in the sample, but equally may relate to low levels of settlement activity.

*Waterlogged plant remains*

- 6.2.6 It was thought that some of the features may contain waterlogged material in the field. All the samples were therefore examined for waterlogged material, but none was seen. As noted above, ditch **21305** did contain several seeds, but these were believed to be modern, or possibly even the feature itself may be of a relatively recent date. Ditch **22303** contained quite high numbers of roots, the preservation of which may have resulted from roots penetrating a raised water table, as discussed above.

*Land and fresh/brackish water molluscs*

- 6.2.7 Samples of one litre were processed by standard methods (Evans 1972) for land snails. The flots (0.5mm) were rapidly assessed by scanning under a x10–x40 stereo-binocular microscope to provide some information about shell preservation and species representation and the results recorded in **Table 3, Appendix III**,. Nomenclature is according to Kerney (1999).

- 6.2.8 The two mollusc samples produced assemblages with good shell numbers and relatively wide species diversity, particularly from layer **22311**. There are a mixture of fresh and brackish water species and terrestrial species present. A number of the terrestrial species identified also favour marshy environments.

*Small animal bones*

- 6.2.9 A number of small mammal bones were seen in the sample from Trench 213, ditch 21305, although these may be intrusive and hence relatively modern, or indeed the feature itself may be of a relatively recent date.

*Sediments*

- 6.2.10 The monoliths were cleaned prior to recording and standard descriptions used, (following Hodgson 1976) including Munsell colour, texture, structure and nature of boundaries, as given for monolith 35 in **Table 4, Appendix III**..
- 6.2.11 Two monolith samples (35 and 34) were taken through ditch sequence 22303 and the local modern soil and alluvial profile nearby. The aim of this sampling was to elucidate whether or not the ditch fills may be derived from layer 22311, which underlay the topsoil locally and was very similar in appearance.
- 6.2.12 Detailed examination of monolith 35 showed that layer **22311** was a fine grained overbank alluvium, whose nature was made apparent by the abundant presence of freshwater mollusca. Rapid examination of monolith 34 showed that ditch fills **22304** and **22305** were of very similar colour and texture, and

also contained abundant freshwater snails - the conclusion was reached that rather than the ditch being filled by material derived from layer 22311, both deposits were laid down by (probably the same) overbank flooding events.

## **7 DISCUSSION**

### **7.1 General Discussion of the Evaluation Trenches**

7.1.1 Of the seventy-seven trenches excavated, only six contained archaeological features, five within the Site (Trenches 185, 189, 204, 207, and 213), and one east of the Site (Trench 223) (**Figure 1**). A very small assemblage of datable finds was also recovered. Where encountered, features were generally distinct and of a reasonable depth.

7.1.2 No archaeological features were recorded within Area G

7.1.3 In Area H, a shallow posthole hole of Late Iron Age/Romano-British date was recorded within trench 185 and another posthole, undated, was recorded 193m north-east within trench 189. An undated tree throw and several geological variations were investigated within trenches 176, 177, 189 and 192. Romano-British pottery was found in overburden deposits.

7.1.4 In Area I, trench 204 revealed a large ditch the fills of which contained Late Iron Age – Romano-British pottery including samian and amphora fragments. However, post-Roman pottery was also recovered from the substantial primary deposit. A gully was also found on the north-west side of the ditch. Possible field boundary ditches were recorded within trench 207.

7.1.5 In Area J, the only datable feature was an ephemeral ditch of post-medieval or modern date in trench 213. A residual sherd of Late Iron Age – Romano-British pottery was also recovered from the natural-subsoil interface within this trench.

7.1.6 In trench 223 revealed a Late Iron Age drainage/flood boundary ditch and an associated overbank alluvial deposit.

### **7.2 Conclusion**

7.2.1 The results of this second stage of evaluation do not significantly alter the results of the first stage of evaluation and the distribution, nature, date and quality of survival of the identified archaeological potential of the Site is now confirmed; the evaluation strategy has demonstrated that the archaeological zones previously identified appear unlikely to extend beyond their currently understood limits.

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## APPENDIX I

### Trench Tables

Trench 144	Dimensions: 29m x 1.9m x 0.4m		
	Land use: : arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
14400	Topsoil	Active ploughsoil - mid grey brown silty loam. Occasional small abraded sub angular stones (<25%; <50mm diameter) and corn brash fragments (<3%; <100mm diameter). Sharp lower horizon.	0.0m – 0.2m
14401	Subsoil	Homogenous reddish brown silty clay with occasional manganese flecking. Rare fine gravel pockets. Iron rich deposit. Sharp undulating lower horizon.	0.2m – 0.4m
14402	Natural geology	Bedded cornbrash	0.3m+

Trench 145	Dimensions:		
	Land use: : arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
14500	Topsoil	Active ploughsoil – Mid grey brown silt loam. Occasional fine small rounded gravel (<25%; <100mm diameter) and rare small angular cornbrash fragments (<3%; <100mm diameter)	0.0m – 0.4m
14501	Natural geology	Bedded cornbrash	0.4m+

Trench 146	Dimensions: 29m x 1.9m x 0.23m		
	Land use: : arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
14600	Topsoil	Active ploughsoil – Mid grey brown silty clay loam. Occasional small – fine pockets of gravel (<15%; <25mm diameter) and occasional small corn brash fragments (<3%; <100mm diameter)	0.0m – 0.23m
14601	Natural geology	Bedded cornbrash	0.23m+

Trench 147	Dimensions: 28m x 1.9m x 0.35m		
	Land use: : arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
14700	Topsoil	Active ploughsoil. Mid-brown silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions (<15%; <100mm diameter). Bioturbated from surface.	0.0m – 0.3m
14701	Subsoil	Red-brown silty clay with sparse small ragstone inclusions (<25%; <50mm diameter). Clear interface with (14700) and (14702).	0.3m – 0.35m
14702	Natural geology	Bedded cornbrash	0.35m+

Trench 148	Dimensions: 28m x 1.9m x 0.35m		
	Land use: : arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
14800	Topsoil	Active ploughsoil. Mid-brown silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions (<15%; <30mm diameter) and ragstone inclusions (<10%; <50mm diameter). Bioturbated from surface.	0.0m – 0.3m
14801	Subsoil	Red-brown silty clay with frequent small - medium ragstone inclusions (<25%; <100mm diameter). Clear interface with (14800) and (14802).	0.3m – 0.35m
14802	Natural geology	Bedded cornbrash	0.35m+

Trench 149	Dimensions: 26.1m x 1.8m x 0.38m		
	Land use: : arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
14900	Topsoil	Dark grey brown friable silty clay. Few sandstone inclusions, sub angular, poorly sorted. <0.06m in size.	0.0m – 0.28m
14901	Subsoil	Dark red brown friable silty clay. Common sandstone inclusions, sub angular, poorly sorted. <0.08m in size. Clear horizon with natural.	0.28m – 0.33m
14902	Natural geology	Cornbrash in sandy silty clay. Patches of red brown and brown yellow swirls.	0.33m+

Trench 150	Dimensions: 28.0m x 1.8m x 0.52m		
	Land use: : arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
15000	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty clay. Sparse sandstone inclusions. Sub rounded, poorly sorted <0.03m in size. Clear horizon with subsoil.	0.0m – 0.3m
15001	Subsoil	Dark red brown silty clay. Very sparse sandstone inclusions <0.02m in size. Diffuse horizon with natural.	0.3m – 0.49m
15002	Natural geology	Abundant cornbrash. Patches of brown sandy silty clay. Patches of 'paved looking' cornbrash.	0.49m+

Trench 151	Dimensions: 28m x 1.9m x 0.29m		
	Land use: : arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
15100	Topsoil	Active ploughsoil – Mid grey brown silt occasional pockets of small gravel (<5%; <10mm diameter) and ragstone inclusions (<5%; <50mm diameter)	0.0m – 0.2m
15101	Subsoil	Homogenous red brown silt with manganese flecking.	0.2m – 0.29m
15102	Natural geology	Bedded cornbrash	0.29m+

Trench 152	Dimensions: 28m x 1.9m x		
	Land use: : arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
15200	Topsoil	Active ploughsoil – Mid grey brown silt occasional pockets of small gravel (<5%; <10mm diameter) and ragstone inclusions (<5%; <50mm diameter)	0.0m – 0.24m
15201	Subsoil	Homogenous red brown silt with manganese flecking.	0.24m – 0.52m
15202	Natural geology	Light yellowish brown clayey silt with abundant cornbrash inclusions (<75%).	0.52m+

Trench 153	Dimensions: 27.90m x 2.08m x 0.23m		
	Land use: : arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
15300	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silt with occasional corn brash fragments.	0.0m – 0.23m
15301	Natural geology	Mid reddish brown silt with mid reddish brown silty clay pockets. Moderate corn brash fragments	0.23m+

Trench 154	Dimensions: 27.9m x 2.08m x 0.27m		
	Land use: : arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
15400	Topsoil	Brown silt with occasional corn brash fragments	0.0m – 0.17m
15401	Subsoil	Mid reddish silty clay with occasional corn brash fragments	0.17m – 0.27m
15402	Natural geology	Mid reddish silty clay soil with silty clay light brown pockets. Moderate cornbrash fragments.	0.27m+

Trench 155	Dimensions: 28m x 1.9m x 0.3m		
	Land use: : arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
15500	Topsoil	Active ploughsoil. Mid-brown silty clay with occasional small gravel and ragstone inclusions (<25%; <50mm diameter). Bioturbated from surface.	0.0m – 0.28m
15501	Subsoil	Red-brown silty clay with sparse small ragstone inclusions (<25%; <50mm diameter). Undulating lower interface.	0.25m – 0.3m
15502	Natural geology	Red and pale brown patchy cornbrash. Silty clay with ragstones (<95%; <200mm diameter).	0.3m+

Trench 156	Dimensions: 28m x 1.9m x 0.42m		
	Land use: : arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
15600	Topsoil	Active ploughsoil. Mid-grey brown silty with abundant small gravel and ragstone inclusions (<35%; <100mm diameter). Bioturbated from surface.	0.0m – 0.26m
15601	Subsoil	Red-brown silty sand with frequent medium ragstone inclusions (<25%; <150mm diameter) and pockets of fine peagrit. Undulating lower interface.	0.26m – 0.4m
15602	Natural geology	Bedded peagrit	0.4m+

Trench 157	VOID
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Trench 158	VOID
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Trench 159	Dimensions: 28.3m x 2.08m x 0.5m		
	Land use: : arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
15900	Topsoil	Mid reddish brown silt. Occasional angular cornbrash fragments	0.0m – 0.28m
15901	Subsoil	Reddish silt with occasional angular cornbrash fragments	0.28m – 0.5m
15902	Natural geology	Reddish silt with silty clay pockets. Cornbrash fragments.	0.5m+

Trench 160	Dimensions: 27.3m x 2.1m x 0.34m		
	Land use: : arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
16000	Topsoil	Mid reddish brown silt. Occasional angular corn brash fragments	0.0m – 0.27m
16001	Subsoil	Reddish silt with occasional angular cornbrash fragments	0.27m – 0.34m
16002	Natural geology	Reddish silt with light brown silty clay pockets. Cornbrash fragments	0.34m+

Trench 161	Dimensions: 28.9m x 2m x 0.36m		
	Land use: : arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
16100	Topsoil	Mid reddish brown silt. Occasional angular corn brash fragments	0.0m – 0.3m
16101	Subsoil	Reddish silt with occasional angular cornbrash fragments	0.3m – 0.36m
16102	Natural geology	Reddish silt with yellow silty clay pockets. Moderate cornbrash fragments	0.36m+

Trench 162	Dimensions: 27.6m x 2.13m x 0.26m		
	Land use: : arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
16200	Topsoil	Brown silt soil with sparse angular cornbrash fragments	0.0m – 0.26m
16201	Natural geology	Brown silt with light brown silty clay pockets. Moderate cornbrash fragments	0.26m+

Trench 163	Dimensions: 29.3m x 2.1m x 0.4m		
	Land use: : arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
16300	Topsoil	Mid reddish brown silt. Angular cornbrash fragments.	0.0m – 0.34m
16301	Subsoil	Reddish silt soil with occasional angular corn brash fragments.	0.34m – 0.40m
16302	Natural geology	Reddish silt with yellow silty clay pockets. Cornbrash fragments	0.40m+

Trench 164	Dimensions: 29.8m x 2.26m x 0.44m		
	Land use: : arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
16400	Topsoil	Mid reddish brown silt, occasional angular cornbrash fragments.	0.0m – 0.19m
16401	Subsoil	Reddish silt. Occasional cornbrash fragments	0.19m – 0.44m
16402	Natural geology	Reddish silt with pockets of yellow silty clay. cornbrash	0.44m+

Trench 165	Dimensions: 29.7m x 2.13m x 0.38m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
16500	Topsoil	Reddish brown silt with occasional angular cornbrash fragments.	0.0m – 0.33m
16501	Subsoil	Reddish silt with occasional angular cornbrash fragments	0.33m – 0.38m
16502	Natural geology	Reddish silt with yellow silty clay pockets	0.38m+

Trench 166	Dimensions: 28.6m x 2.1m x 0.28m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
16600	Topsoil	Mid reddish brown silt, occasional angular cornbrash fragments	0.0m – 0.37m
16601	Natural geology	Cornbrash. Occasional pockets reddish brown silty clay	0.37m+

Trench 167	Dimensions: 28.7m x 2.1m x 0.37m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
16700	Topsoil	Mid reddish brown silt. Occasional angular cornbrash fragments	0.0m – 0.32m
16701	Subsoil	Reddish silt. Occasional angular cornbrash fragments	0.32m – 0.5m
16702	Natural geology	Cornbrash. Pockets of yellow silty clay	0.5m+

Trench 168	Dimensions: 28.4m x 2.14m x 0.39m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
16800	Topsoil	Mid reddish silt, angular cornbrash fragments, occasional	0.0m – 0.39m
16801	Natural geology	Cornbrash, occasional yellow silty clay pockets	0.39m+

Trench 169	Dimensions: 28m x 1.9m x 0.51m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
16900	Topsoil	Dark chocolate brown friable silty clay. Occasional sandstone inclusions (rounded, poorly sorted, <0.03m) almost clear horizon with topsoil	0.0m – 0.29m
16901	Subsoil	Mid red brown silty clay with few inclusions (sandstone, subangular, poorly sorted, <0.04m) clear horizon with natural	0.29m – 0.46m
16902	Natural geology	Cornbrash in light yellow brown silty sandy clay	0.46m+

Trench 170	Dimensions: 28m x 1.9m x 0.3m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
17000	Topsoil	Dark chocolate brown silty clay. Occasional sandstone inclusions (sub angular, poorly sorted, <0.07m) clear horizon with topsoil	0.0m – 0.25m
17001	Natural geology	Cornbrash with patches of red brown silty clay (common sandstone inclusions, poorly sorted, sub angular <0.15m) cornbrash in yellow brown sandy silty clay.	0.25m+

Trench 171	Dimensions: 29m x 2.2m x 0.45m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
17100	Topsoil	Dark brown silt with occasional cornbrash	0.0m – 0.25m
17101	Natural geology	Yellow light brown silt with many sandstones	0.25m+

Trench 172	Dimensions: 29m x 1.9m x 0.78m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
17200	Topsoil	Dark chocolate brown friable silty clay. Occasional sandstone inclusions (sub rounded, poorly sorted, <0.04m)	0.0m – 0.28m
17201	Natural geology	Mixed. Mainly red brown silty clay with no inclusions. Patches of blue grey clay and cornbrash.	0.28m+

Trench 173	Dimensions: 29.8m x 2.1m x 0.42m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
17300	Topsoil	Dark brown clay with sparse inclusions of cornbrash <0.02m. Clear horizon with natural.	0.0m – 0.32m
17301	Natural geology	Orange yellow brown with common inclusions of cornbrash <0.06m. Clear horizon with topsoil.	0.32m+

Trench 174	Dimensions: 30m x 2m x 0.35m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
17400	Topsoil	Mid brown silt with occasional cornbrash inclusions <0.03m	0.0m – 0.26m
17401	Natural geology	Orange brown silt with common inclusions of subangular cornbrash <0.05m	0.26m+

Trench 175	Dimensions: 29.1m x 2.1m x 0.65m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
17500	Topsoil	Dark brown silt with occasional cornbrash (sub angular)	0.0m – 0.26m
17501	Natural geology	Dark yellow/brown silt with occasional subangular cornbrash.	0.26m+

Trench 176	Dimensions: 29.5m x 2m x 0.32m x		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
17600	Topsoil	Dark brown clay. Common cornbrash and sandstone inclusions. Sub angular <0.05m. Clear horizon with natural	0.0m – 0.27m
17601	Natural geology	Mixed yellow and brownish orange clay with common angular cornbrash <0.07m. Clear horizon with topsoil.	0.27m+
17602	Fill of tree throw	Single secondary fill of tree throw {17603}. Reddish orange silt. Sparse charcoal. No finds. Well defined interfaces	0.36m
17603	Cut of tree throw	Cut of tree throw located in trench 176 in H subdivision. Filled with (17602). Well defined horizon.	0.36m

Trench 177	Dimensions: 30.1m x 2.1m x 0.6m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
17700	Topsoil	Dark grey silt, occasional sub rounded cornbrash	0.0m – 0.2m
17701	Subsoil	Orange medium brown silt	0.2m – 0.4m
17702	Natural geology	Light grey clay	0.4m+
17703	Sondage	To investigate 17704	0.4-0.55m
17704	Natural variation	Diffuse linear band of increased iron within upper natural interface.	0.4-0.44m
17705	Sondage	To investigate 17706	0.4-0.55m
17706	Natural variation	Diffuse linear band of increased iron within upper natural interface.	0.4-0.43m
17707	Sondage	To investigate 17708	0.4-0.55m
17708	Natural variation	Diffuse linear band of increased iron within upper natural interface.	0.4-0.44m

Trench 178	Dimensions: 29.9m x 2.2m x 0.6m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
17800	Topsoil	Dark chocolate brown sandy silt with occasional cornbrash inclusions (sub angular, poorly sorted, <0.03m)	0.0m – 0.3m
17801	Subsoil	Orange brown sandy silt with many cornbrash inclusions (sub angular)	0.3m – 0.4m
17802	Natural geology	Quite light grey silty clay, no inclusions	0.4m+

Trench 179	Dimensions: 12+18.3m x 2.2m x 0.57m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
17900	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay with occasional cornbrash inclusions (sub angular, poorly sorted, <0.03m)	0.0m – 0.37m
17901	Subsoil	Orange brown sandy silt with many cornbrash inclusions (sub angular)	0.37m – 0.51m
17902	Natural geology	Light greenish grey clay, no inclusion	0.51m+

Trench 180	Dimensions: 29.4m x 2.2m x 0.44m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
18000	Topsoil	Medium chocolate brown sandy silt with many cornbrash inclusions (sub rounded) clear horizon with natural.	0.0m – 0.34m
18001	Natural geology	Light yellow sandy silt with common sub angular cornbrash inclusions.	0.34m+

Trench 181	Dimensions: 29.6m x 2.2m x 0.45m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
18100	Topsoil	Chocolate dark brown sandy silt with occasional cornbrash inclusions (sub angular, poorly sorted, <0.03m)	0.0m – 0.38m
18101	Subsoil	Orange brown sandy silt, occasional cornbrash inclusions	0.38m – 0.45m
18102	Natural geology	Medium grey clay, many cornbrash inclusions (sub angular)	0.45m+

Trench 182	Dimensions: 29.5m x 2.2m x 0.52m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
18200	Topsoil	Bark brown silty clay. Rare sub angular cornbrash inclusions.	0.0m – 0.32m
18201	Natural geology	Mid reddish brown silty clay. Rare sub angular cornbrash inclusions	0.32m+

Trench 183	Dimensions: 30.1m x 2.2m x 0.48m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
18300	Topsoil	Dark grey clay with occasional cornbrash inclusions (sub angular, poorly sorted, <0.03m) quite clear horizon with subsoil.	0.0m – 0.26m
18301	Subsoil	Medium red/orange silty clay with occasional cornbrash inclusions, poorly sorted.	0.26m – 0.36m
18302	Natural geology	Light medium grey clay with sandstone inclusions (sub angular)	0.36m+

Trench 184	Dimensions: 26.2m x 1.8m x 0.36m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
18400	Topsoil	Dark brown friable silty clay with occasional sub angular sandstone inclusions <0.05m. Diffuse horizon with natural.	0.0m – 0.31m
18401	Natural geology	Dark red brown friable silty clay with no inclusions. Swirls of dark blue grey clay (no inclusions) with occasional patches of 'sandstone gravel' in dark red brown silty clay.	0.31m+



Trench 185	Dimensions: 25.2m x 1.8m x 0.36m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
18500	Topsoil	Dark grey brown friable silty clay. Occasional sandstone inclusions (sub rounded, poorly sorted, <0.02m) diffuse horizon with natural.	0.0m – 0.28m
18501	Natural geology	Patches of grey blue clay (no inclusions). Red brown silty clay (no inclusions) am gravely sandstone abundant sandy silty clay with occasional flints and fossilised shell (soil red brown in colour)	0.28m+
18502	Cut of shallow pit	Possibly associated with archaeology from phase 1 excavation to south.	0.13m
18503	Fill of shallow pit	Dark grey brown silty clay. Secondary fill of shallow pit. Similar fill to topsoil. Could be related to south found during stage 1 evaluation.	0.13m

Trench 186	Dimensions: 27.6m x 1.8m x 0.65m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
18600	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay. Friable. Occasional sandstone inclusions (sub rounded, <0.03m, poorly sorted) diffuse horizon with natural.	0.0m – 0.26m
18601	Natural geology	Patches of grey blue clay (no inclusions). Red brown silty clay (no inclusions) and gravely sandstone abundant sandy silty clay with occasional flints and fossilised shell (soil red brown in colour)	0.26m+

Trench 187	Dimensions: 27.5m x 1.8m x 0.58m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
18700	Topsoil	Dark grey brown friable silty clay. Few sandstone inclusions (sub angular, 0.02m) sparse pebble inclusions (rounded <0.02m) very diffuse horizon with subsoil.	0.0m – 0.31m
18701	Subsoil	Present in west end of trench (rep sec shows change point) mid red brown friable silty clay. No visible inclusions.	0.31m – 0.52m
18702	Subsoil	Present in east end of trench – goes under (18701). Mid red brown sandy silty clay with abundant sandstone inclusions (sub rounded <0.02m poorly sorted) and occasional fossilised shells.	0.31m – 0.52m
18703	Natural geology	Very mixed and lose. Patches of gravely sandstone same as (18702) but greater number of inclusions. Patches of red brown iron stained silty clay (no inclusions) patches of blue grey clay (no inclusions)	0.52m+

Trench 188	Dimensions: 29m x 1.9m x 0.36m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
18800	Topsoil	Dark grey brown friable silty clay. Few sandstone inclusions (sub angular, 0.02m) sparse pebble inclusions (rounded <0.02m).	0.0m – 0.27m
18801	Natural geology	Finely degraded cornbrash. A Mixed loose cornbrash within a dark yellow brown loam formed a disturbed 0.1m upper interface	0.27m+

Trench 189	Dimensions: 28.8m x 2m x 0.55m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
18900	Topsoil	Dark brown silt, occasional sub angular cornbrash inclusions	0.0m – 0.35m
18901	Subsoil	Yellow light brown silt	0.35m – 0.45m
18902	Natural geology	Yellow clay gravel	0.45m+
18903	Cut of land drain	Post-medieval/Modern ceramic land drainage trench	0.40m
18904	Fill of land drain	Light orange brown. Field drain (ceramic pipe) mixed deliberate backfill topsoil/natural	0.40m
18905	Cut	Variation within natural geology. FB 18906	0.18m
18906	Fill	Light brown clay silt. FO 18906	0.18m
18907	Cut of pit	Shallow pit/posthole base. FB 18908	0.18m
18908	Fill of pit	Light grey clay silt	0.18m
18909	Cut	Variation within natural appearing linear in plan	0.15m
18910	fill	Light brown yellow clay gravel with occasional cornbrash	0.15m

Trench 190	Dimensions: 30m x 2.1m x 0.45m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
19000	Topsoil	Dark grey silty clay. Occasional sandstone inclusions (sub angular, poorly sorted, <0.03m) clear horizon with natural.	0.0m – 0.35m
19001	Natural geology	Brown/orange sandy silty clay. Occasional sandstone inclusions (sub angular)	0.35m+

Trench 191	Dimensions: 29m x 1.9m x 0.27m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
19100	Topsoil	Dark grey brown friable silty clay. Few sandstone inclusions (sub rounded, poorly sorted, <0.05m) clear horizon with natural.	0.0m – 0.27m
19101	Natural geology	Cornbrash in mid yellow brown silty sandy clay.	0.27m+

Trench 192	Dimensions: 30m x 1.9m x 0.38m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
19200	Topsoil	Dark brown silt with rare sub angular cornbrash inclusions.	0.0m – 0.26m
19201	Subsoil	Reddish brown silt with rare sub angular cornbrash inclusions.	0.26m – 0.31m
19202	Natural geology	Greyish orange clay with exposed cornbrash pockets	0.31m+
19203	Cut	Variation within natural geology derived from run-off encountering clay bands	0.31m – 0.34m
19204	Fill	Heavily iron rich lens of stiff silty clay	0.31m – 0.34m

Trench 193	Dimensions: 29m x 1.9m x 0.5m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
19300	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty loam, Rooting evident. Very sparse fine pea grit inclusions. Undulating lower interface.	0.0m – 0.3m
19301	Subsoil	Mid grey silty clay notable iron mottling. Very sparse pea grit. Diffuse and undulating upper and lower interfaces.	0.3m – 0.5m
19302	Natural geology	Fine cornbrash and gleyed clays	0.5m+

Trench 194	Dimensions: 29m x 1.9m x 0.3m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
194	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay. Very sparse pea grit. Sharp lower interface	0.0m – 0.25m
19401	Natural geology	Stiff grey blue gleyed clay with occasional lenses of exposed fine cornbrash.	0.25m+

Trench 195	Dimensions: 29.2m x 2.1m x 0.45m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
19500	Topsoil	Dark grey silty clay occasional sandstone inclusions (sub angular)	0.0m – 0.35m
19501	Natural geology	Cornbrash with patches of orange/brown silty clay (common sandstone inclusions, sub angular)	0.35m+

Trench 196	Dimensions: 29.7m x 2.2m x 0.45m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
19600	Topsoil	Chocolate dark brown silty clay. Occasional sandstone inclusions (sub angular and sub rounded)	0.0m – 0.35m
19601	Natural geology	Yellow brown sandy silty clay. Common sandstone inclusions. Poorly sorted, sub angular, <0.15m	0.35m+

Trench 197	Dimensions: 29m x 2.1m x 0.4m		
	Land use:		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
19701	Topsoil	Dark brown silt with occasional cornbrash (sub angular)	0.0m – 0.25m
19702	Subsoil	Medium dark brown silt	0.25m – 0.40m
19703	Natural geology	Yellow clay gravel	0.40m+

Trench 198	Dimensions: 28.3m x 1.8m x 0.95m		
	Land use: Pasture; acutely undulating; rich turf		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
19800	Topsoil	Dark grey brown friable silty clay. Sparse sandstone inclusions (rounded, poorly sorted, <0.02m) diffuse horizon with subsoil.	0.0m – 0.38m
19801	Subsoil	Dark chocolate brown silty clay with occasional sandstone inclusions (sub angular, poorly sorted <0.09m) diffuse horizon with natural.	0.38m – 0.82m
19802	Natural geology	Mixed. Patches of grey blue clay (no inclusions). Patches red brown silty clay (no inclusions). Mainly light yellow brown sandy silty clay with abundant sub angular, poorly sorted sandstone inclusions <0.15m.	0.82m+

Trench 199	Dimensions: 27.9m x 1.8m x 0.48m		
	Land use: Pasture; acutely undulating; rich turf		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
19900	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay (no inclusions) 1x pot and 1x tile found. Friable. Diffuse horizon with subsoil.	0.0m – 0.3m
19901	Subsoil	Mid chocolate brown friable silty clay. Occasional sandstone inclusions (sub angular, poorly sorted, <0.09m) diffuse horizon with natural.	0.3m – 0.48m
19902	Natural geology	Cornbrash <0.26m in size in mid red brown sandy silty clay. Poorly sorted and sub angular.	0.48m+

Trench 200	Dimensions: 28m x 1.9m x 0.91m		
	Land use: Pasture; acutely undulating; rich turf		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
20000	Topsoil	Mid –dark grey brown clay silt with rare sub angular small inclusions. Rooting throughout.	0.0m – 0.34m
20001	Subsoil	B- horizon – Mid-light yellow brown silty clay with occasional manganese.	0.27m – 0.62m
20002	Colluvium	Grey blue silty clay. Some rooting. Frequent manganese and orange mottling. Frequently waterlogged layer.	0.62 – 0.91m
20003	Natural geology	Yellow silty clay mottled with light grey blue clay and haematite flecking. Occasional irregular lenses of brown grey silty clay	0.91m+

Trench 201	Dimensions: 29m x 1.9m x 0.52m		
	Land use: Pasture; acutely undulating; rich turf		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
20100	Topsoil	Dark black brown clay silt. A blocky homogenous rich deposit with very few inclusions.	0.0m – 0.2m
20101	Subsoil	B horizon – Mid yellow brown silty clay. Some rooting evident. Very rare inclusions. Undulating lower horizon.	0.2 – 0.52m
20102	Natural geology	Yellow orange mottled clay with linear bands of grey blue clay bounded by mid brown silty clay. Occasional irregular lenses of fine corn brash exposed.	0.4m+

Trench 202	Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m x 0.7m		
	Land use: Pasture; acutely undulating; rich turf		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
20200	Topsoil	Dark grey brown friable silty clay. Sparse sandstone inclusions (rounded, poorly sorted, <0.02m) diffuse horizon with subsoil.	0.0m – 0.31m
20201	Subsoil	Dark chocolate brown silty clay with occasional sandstone inclusions (sub angular, poorly sorted <0.09m) diffuse horizon with natural.	0.31m – 0.61m
	Natural geology	Mixed. Grey blue gleyed clay with exposed irregular areas of fine gravely cornbrash and sterile reddish brown silty clay	0.61m+

Trench 203	Dimensions: 27m x 1.8m x 0.76m		
	Land use: Pasture; acutely undulating; rich turf		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
20300	Topsoil	Dark grey brown friable silty clay with no visible inclusions	0.0m – 0.46m
20301	Subsoil	Mid grey brown friable silty clay. Sparse manganese. Diffuse upper and lower interfaces.	0.46m – 0.70m
20302	Natural geology	Mid yellow orange silty clay with some evidence of gleying.	0.70m+

Trench 204	Dimensions: 32.5m x 1.9m x 1.52m		
	Land use: Pasture; acutely undulating; rich turf		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
20400	Topsoil	Dark brown silt. Sparse sandstone inclusions (rounded, poorly sorted, <0.05m)	0.0m – 0.3m
20401	Natural geology	Gleyed orange silty clay overlying tabular cornbrash	0.3m+
20402	Cut of ditch	A substantial feature aligned NE-SW with moderate concave sides. Base not reached due to truncation of water-table and rapid infill. FW 20403, 20404 and 20405	0.3m-1.6m
20403	Fill of ditch	Orange brown silty clay diffuse horizons. Tertiary infill	0.3m-0.6m
20404	Fill of ditch	Light orange brown tertiary deposit. Increased iron content. Interface between primary and tertiary deposit.	0.6m-0.9m
20405	Fill of ditch	Primary infill orange grey silty clay. Waterlogged. Gradual accumulation of eroded clay silts.	0.9m-1.6m
20406	Cut of gully	Sinuuous run-off channel extends north-west from ditch.	0.3-0.4m
20407	Fill of gully	Grey orange blue silty clay. Waterlogged primary infill of eroded clay silts.	

Trench 205	Dimensions: 27m x 1.8m x 0.61m		
	Land use: Pasture; acutely undulating; rich turf		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
20500	Topsoil	Dark grey brown friable silty clay. Sparse sandstone inclusions (rounded, poorly sorted, <0.02m) diffuse horizon with subsoil. 1x pottery fragment recovered.	0.0m – 0.32m
20501	Subsoil	Dark chocolate brown silty clay with occasional sandstone inclusions (sub angular, poorly sorted <0.09m) diffuse horizon with natural.	0.32m – 0.47m
20502	Natural geology	Mixed. Grey blue gleyed clay with exposed irregular areas of fine gravely cornbrash and sterile reddish brown silty clay	0.47m+

Trench 206	Dimensions: 27m x 1.8m x 0.8m		
	Land use: Pasture; acutely undulating; rich turf		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
20600	Topsoil	Dark grey brown friable silty clay. Sparse sandstone inclusions (rounded, poorly sorted, <0.02m) diffuse horizon with subsoil.	0.0m – 0.38m
20601	Subsoil	Dark chocolate brown silty clay with occasional sandstone inclusions (sub angular, poorly sorted <0.09m) diffuse horizon with natural.	0.38m – 0.72m
20602	Natural geology	Mixed. Grey blue gleyed clay with exposed irregular areas of fine gravely cornbrash and sterile reddish brown silty clay	0.72m+

Trench 207	Dimensions:		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
20700	Topsoil	Dark grey brown friable silty clay. Sparse sandstone inclusions (rounded, poorly sorted, <0.02m) diffuse horizon with subsoil	0.0m – 0.38m
20701	Natural geology	Mixed. Grey blue gleyed clay with exposed irregular areas of fine gravely cornbrash and sterile reddish brown silty clay	0.38m+
20702	Cut of ditch	Moderately defined concave field ditch aligned north-south. 1.4m in width	0.38m- 0.55m
20703	Fill of ditch	Fill of ditch Secondary topsoil derived silts	0.38m – 0.55m
20704	Cut of ditch	Cut of ditch Possible field boundary ditch	0.38m – 0.45m
20705	Fill of ditch	Fill of ditch Secondary topsoil derived silts	0.38m – 0.45m
20706	Cut of ditch	Field system	0.38m – 0.45m
20707	Fill of ditch	Topsoil derived silts	0.38m – 0.45m

Trench 208	Dimensions: 28m x 1.8m x 0.27m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
20800	Topsoil	Mid brown grey silty clay occasional poorly sorted pea grit. Rooting throughout.	0.0m – 0.27m
20801	Natural geology	Gleyed grey blue clay with red brown silty clay bands	0.22m+

Trench 209	Dimensions: 28m x 1.8m x 0.7m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
20900	Topsoil	Mid to dark brown grey silty loam. Very sparse pea grit sized inclusions and rare medium sub-angular stones <0.05m	0.0m – 0.3m
20901	Colluvium	Mid to dark yellow brown clay silt. Frequent manganese. Sparse <0.01m pea grit. Pottery recovered.	0.3m – 0.7m
29002	Natural geology	Coarse degraded yellow cornbrash and gleyed clay	0.65m+

Trench 210	Dimensions: 27.5m xx1.85m x 0.8m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
21000	Topsoil	Mid to dark brown grey silty loam. Very sparse pea grit sized inclusions.	0.0m – 0.35m
21001	Colluvium	Mid orange grey ‘dirty’ clay silt. Soft deposit with concentrations of manganese and some iron concretions. Diffuse upper and lower interfaces. No visible inclusions. Pottery recovered.	0.35m – 0.8m
21002	Natural geology	Orange grey silty clay with manganese and iron	0.8m+

Trench 211	Dimensions: 28m x 1.8m x 0.25m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
21100	Topsoil	Mid to dark brown grey silty clay, Sparse <0.02m sub-rounded gravel and pea grit. Fine rooting throughout.	0.0m – 0.25m
21101	Natural geology	Fine degraded cornbrash with irregular bands of gleyed clays	0.2m+

Trench 212	Dimensions: 28m x 1.8m x 0.38m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
21200	Topsoil	Mid to dark brown grey silty clay, Sparse <0.02m sub-rounded gravel and pea grit. Fine rooting throughout.	0.0m – 0.27m
21201	Interface	Interface of root disturbed natural	0.27m – 0.38m
21202	Natural geology	Fine degraded cornbrash with irregular bands of gleyed clays	0.38m+

Trench 213	Dimensions: 30m x 2m x 1m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
21300	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay. Sparse sandstone (cornbrash sub-rounded <0.04m) inclusions. Friable deposit with diffuse lower horizon.	0.0m – 0.2m
21301	Subsoil	Red brown clay with few sandstone (cornbrash sub-rounded <0.02m). Very diffuse upper and lower horizons	0.2m – 0.4m
21302	Natural geology	Dark blue grey clay. Oxford/Kellaway clays.	0.4m+
21303	Sondage	To investigate 21404	0.4m – 0.5m
21404	Natural variation	Diffuse linear band of increased iron within upper natural interface. Pottery recovered from surface of deposit.	0.4m – 0.43m
21305	cut	North to south aligned linear. Diffuse cut interface on western feature side with moderate definition along eastern side and base. Possible ditch.	0.4-1m
21306	Fill of ditch	Single fill of linear 21305. Smoothly mottled orange grey brown slightly silty clay. Homogenous appearance. Primary deposition. Sparse chalk flecks throughout. Several abraded pottery fragments and 1 glass sherd.	0.4-1m

Trench 214	Dimensions: 27m x 1.8m x 0.45m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
21400	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay. Sparse sandstone (cornbrash sub-rounded <0.04m) inclusions. Friable deposit with diffuse lower horizon.	0.0m – 0.3m
21401	Subsoil	Red brown clay with few sandstone (cornbrash sub-rounded <0.02m). Very diffuse upper and lower horizons	0.3m – 0.39m
21402	Natural geology	Dark blue grey clay. Oxford/Kellaway clays.	0.39m+

Trench 215	Dimensions: 27m x 1.8m x 0.42m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
21500	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay. Common sandstone (cornbrash sub-rounded <0.12m) inclusions. Friable deposit with diffuse lower horizon.	0.0m – 0.21m
21501	Subsoil	Dark brown grey clay. No visible inclusions. Very diffuse upper and lower horizons	0.21m – 0.35m
21502	Natural geology	Dark blue grey clay. Oxford/Kellaway clays.	0.35m+



Trench 216	Dimensions: 28m x 1.8m x 0.62m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
21600	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay. Common sandstone (cornbrash sub-rounded <0.03m) inclusions. Friable deposit with diffuse lower horizon.	0.0m – 0.28m
21601	Subsoil	Dark red brown clay with few sandstone (cornbrash sub-rounded <0.02m). Very diffuse upper and lower horizons	0.28m – 0.42m
21602	Natural geology	North end = light red brown silty clay with patches of cornbrash. South end = Fine degraded cornbrash in a yellow red brown sandy silty clay.	0.42m+
21603	Field drain cut	Modern land drain	0.4m – 0.62m
21604	Fill of field drain	Deliberate backfill of land drain	0.4m – 0.62m

Trench 217	Dimensions: 26m x 1.8m x 0.55		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
21700	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay. Few sandstone (cornbrash sub-angular <0.03m) inclusions. Friable deposit with diffuse lower horizon.	0.0m – 0.36m
21701	Natural geology	Dark red brown loam and angular cornbrash	0.36m+

Trench 218	Dimensions: 28m x 2.1m x 0.65m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
21800	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay. Few sandstone (cornbrash sub-angular <0.03m) inclusions. Friable deposit with diffuse lower horizon.	0.0m – 0.54m
21801	Natural geology	Dark blue grey clay. Oxford/Kellaway clays.	0.54m+
21802	Sondage	To investigate 21404	0.5m – 0.6m
21803	Natural variation	Diffuse linear band of increased iron within upper natural interface. Pottery recovered from surface of deposit.	0.5m – 0.6m

Trench 219	Dimensions: 26m x 1.8m x 0.52m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
21900	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay. Sparse cornbrash sub-rounded inclusions. Friable deposit with diffuse lower horizon.	0.0m – 0.2m
21901	Subsoil	Light yellow brown silty clay. No visible inclusions. Very diffuse upper and lower horizons	0.2m – 0.4m
21902	Natural geology	Dark grey brown blue clay. Oxford/Kellaway clays.	0.4m+

Trench 220	Dimensions: 26m x 1.8m x 0.49m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
22000	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay. Sparse sandstone inclusions (poorly sorted) Friable with diffuse lower interface.	0.0m – 0.34m
22001	Subsoil	Red brown silty clay. Friable. No visible inclusions	0.34m – 0.43m
22002	Natural geology	Moderately fine degraded cornbrash within a yellow silty sand matrix. Irregular patches of ferruginous sandy clay	0.43m+

Trench 221	Dimensions: 27m x 1.8m x 0.33m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
22100	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay. Occasional sandstone inclusions (poorly sorted sub-rounded, 0.02m) Friable with diffuse lower interface.	0.0m – 0.28m
22101	Natural geology	Moderately fine degraded cornbrash within a yellow silty sand matrix. Irregular patches of ferruginous sandy clay	0.28m+

Trench 222	Dimensions: 28m x 1.9m x 0.43m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
22200	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay. Occasional sandstone inclusions (poorly sorted sub-rounded, 0.02m) Friable with diffuse lower interface.	0.0m – 0.34m
22201	Subsoil	Red brown silty clay. Friable. No visible inclusions	0.34m – 0.43m
22202	Natural geology	Moderately fine degraded cornbrash within a yellow silty sand matrix. Irregular patches of ferruginous sandy clay	0.43m+
22203	Natural feature	Irregular sub-ovular hollow with pitted sides and base.	0.4m - 0.52m
22204	Fill of Natural feature	Mid grey reddish-brown silty clay. Occasional poorly sorted sub-angular <0.03m cornbrash fragments	0.4m - 0.52m

### Additional Trench

Trench 223	Dimensions: 28m x 1.9m x 0.43m		
	Land use: arable; recently harvested; stubble		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
22300	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay. No visible inclusions. Friable with diffuse lower interface.	0.0m – 0.34m
22301	Subsoil	Mid brown grey friable silty clay. Clear horizon with natural	0.34m – 0.43m
22302	Natural geology	Light brown yellow loam.	0.33m+
22303	Cut of ditch	North to south aligned narrow concave ditch. Moderate straight sides and concave base. 1m in width. Well defined. Drainage ditch.	0.34m - 0.52m
22304	Fill of ditch	Secondary deposit. Mid grey brown clay silt with occasional iron veins throughout. Occasional small sub-rounded gravel <0.02m	0.3m - 0.7m
22305	Fill of ditch	Mid-light blue grey silty clay. Iron staining throughout. Post-depositional waterlogging. Snails noted	0.42m-0.52m
22306	Fill of ditch	Basal re-deposited natural found at base and lower cut interface of feature sides.	0.52m- 0.7m
22307	Cut of hollow	Vegetation hollow	0.3m-0.45m
22308	Fill of hollow	Primary fill	0.3m-0.45m
22309	Cut of hollow	Vegetation hollow	0.3m-0.45m
22310	Fill of hollow	Primary hollow	0.3m-0.45m
22311	Alluvial layer	Mid-light grey clay with abundant snail shell. Overbank flood deposits	0.22m- 0.45m
22312	Cut of Tree throw	Primary fill	0.35m-0.45m
22313	Primary fill	Disturbed natural	0.35m-0.45m

## APPENDIX II

### Finds Tables 1 & 2

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

Tr.	Context	Animal Bone	LIA/RB pottery	Post-RB pottery	Other Finds
185	18500		4/22	1/13	
185	18503		2/8		
189	unstrat.	1/5			
197	19701			1/12	
199	19900			1/2	1 CBM
204	20403	8/43	14/214	1/3	
204	20404		3/37		
204	20405		4/70	2/4	
205	20500			1/14	1 CBM
206	20600			2/41	
207	20708	1/1			
209	unstrat.		1/22		
213	21304		1/13		
213	21305	4/1			
213	21306			3/8	1 glass
216	unstrat.			3/19	
223	22300		1/13		
223	22301				1 iron
223	22305	21/18	16/375		1 shell
223	22311		10/141		1 iron
		<b>35/68</b>	<b>56/915</b>	<b>15/116</b>	

CBM = ceramic building material

**Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type**

Date Range	Ware type	No. sherds	Weight (g)
LIA/ROMANO-BRITISH	Calcareous ware	2	8
	Grog-tempered ware	2	47
	Oxfordshire whiteware	4	148
	Sandy greyware	32	363
	Sandy oxidised ware	5	34
	Amphora	3	267
	Samian	8	48
	<i>sub-total LIA/Romano-British</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>915</i>
POST-ROMAN	Brill type ware	3	8
	Redware	10	93
	Stoneware	1	14
	Refined whiteware	1	1
	<i>sub-total post-Roman</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>116</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>71</b>	<b>1031</b>

## APPENDIX III

### Palaeo-environmental Tables 3 & 4

**Table 3: Assessment of the charred plant remains, charcoal, and molluscs**

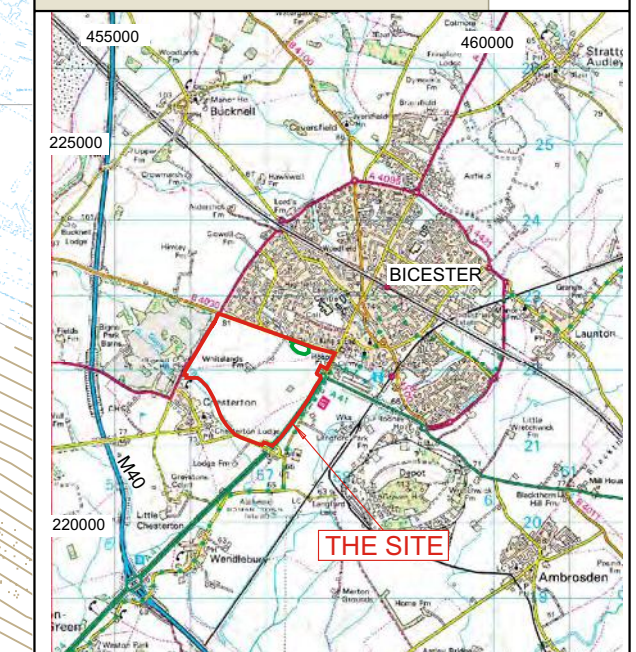
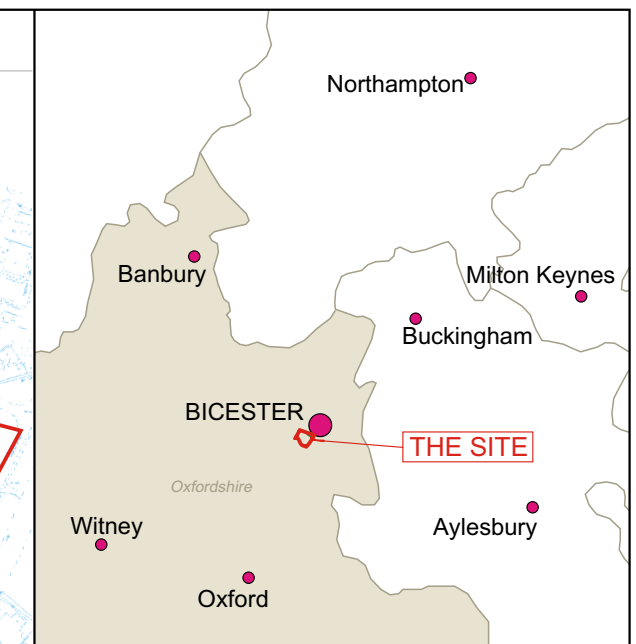
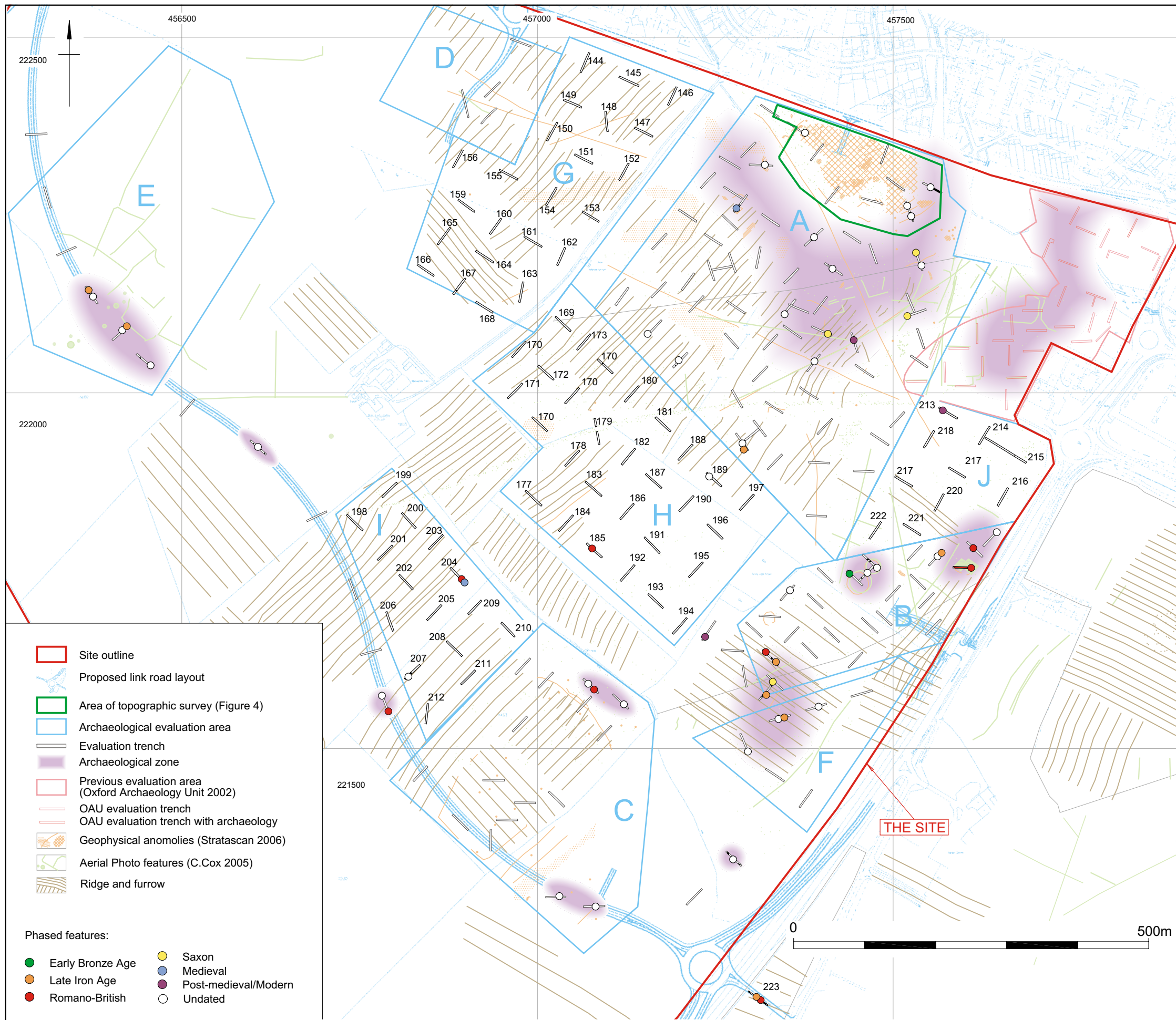
Feature type/no	Context	Sample	size litre	flot ml	size	Grain	Chaff	seeds charred	Charcoal 1 4/2 mm	Other	Residue Charcoal >5.6mm
<b>Trench 185</b>											
pit 18502	18503	30	20	30	<sup>50</sup>	C	-	C	0/0.3ml	-	-
<b>Trench 204</b>											
gully 20406	20407	28	5	60	<sup>95</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-
ditch 20402	20405	29	10	25	<sup>90</sup>	-	-	-	0.2/0.1ml	-	-
<b>Trench 213</b>											
ditch 21305	21306	26	20	30	<sup>80</sup>	B	-	C	1/0.1ml	moll-t (B) smb-t (B)	-
<b>Trench 207</b>											
gully 20708	20709	31	0.5	0.5	<sup>5</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Trench 223</b>											
ditch 22303	22304	32	20	240	<sup>70</sup>	-	-	-	-	moll-t (B) moll-f (A)	1
	22305	33	10	120	<sup>80</sup>	-	-	-	-	moll-t (B) moll-f (A)	-
layer	22311	36	11	35	<sup>90</sup>	-	-	-	-	moll-t (A) moll-f (C)	-

KEY: A\*\* = exceptional, A\* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs Moll-f = freshwater molluscs; Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs, C14 = radiocarbon suggestions

NOTE: <sup>1</sup>flot is total, but flot in superscript = % of rooty material.

**Table 4: Sediment descriptions monolith 35**

Feature – Dwg 298, 303 , monolith 35 [ <sup>1</sup> is used to denote when top of monolith taken as 0cm]					
Depth <sup>1</sup> (m)	Pollen samples taken	Other samples taken	Context	Full sediment description	Interpretation
0-0.18	-	-	22300 topsoil	10yr 3/2 very dark brown silty clay loam, topsoil + vegetation, very humic, roots, stone free. Clear boundary.	Topsoil + turf
0.18-0.32	-	-	22311 Roman subsoil? / occupation spread?	2.5Y 5/4 light olive brown silty clay loam. Rootlets. Abundant mollusca – Lymnaea sp etc, all aquatic / marsh species.	Fine overbank alluvium
0.32-0.43	-	-	22302 natural	10yr 6/6 brownish yellow sandy silt loam, common small stones & rootlets.	Geology (?Corralian bed)



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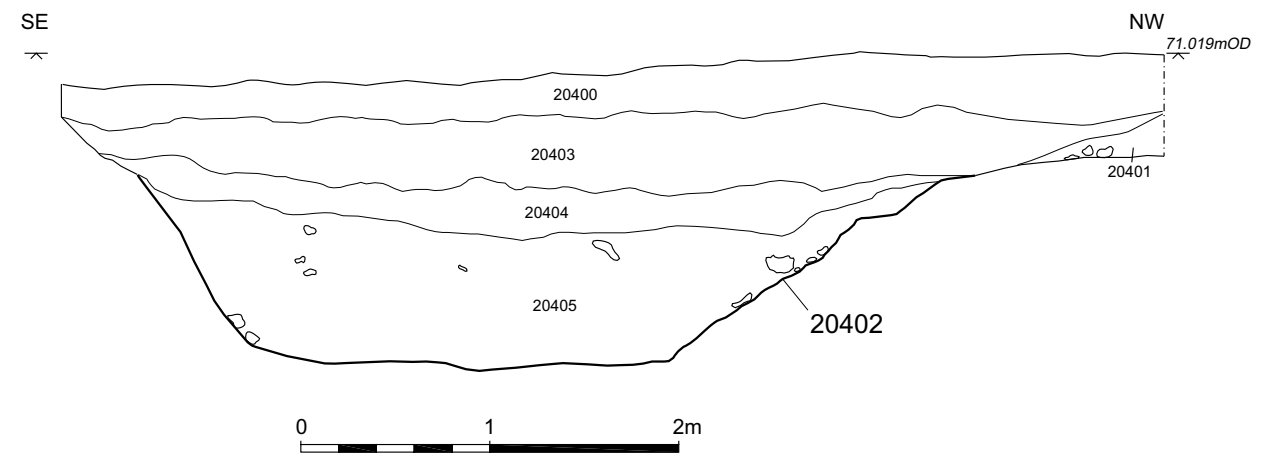
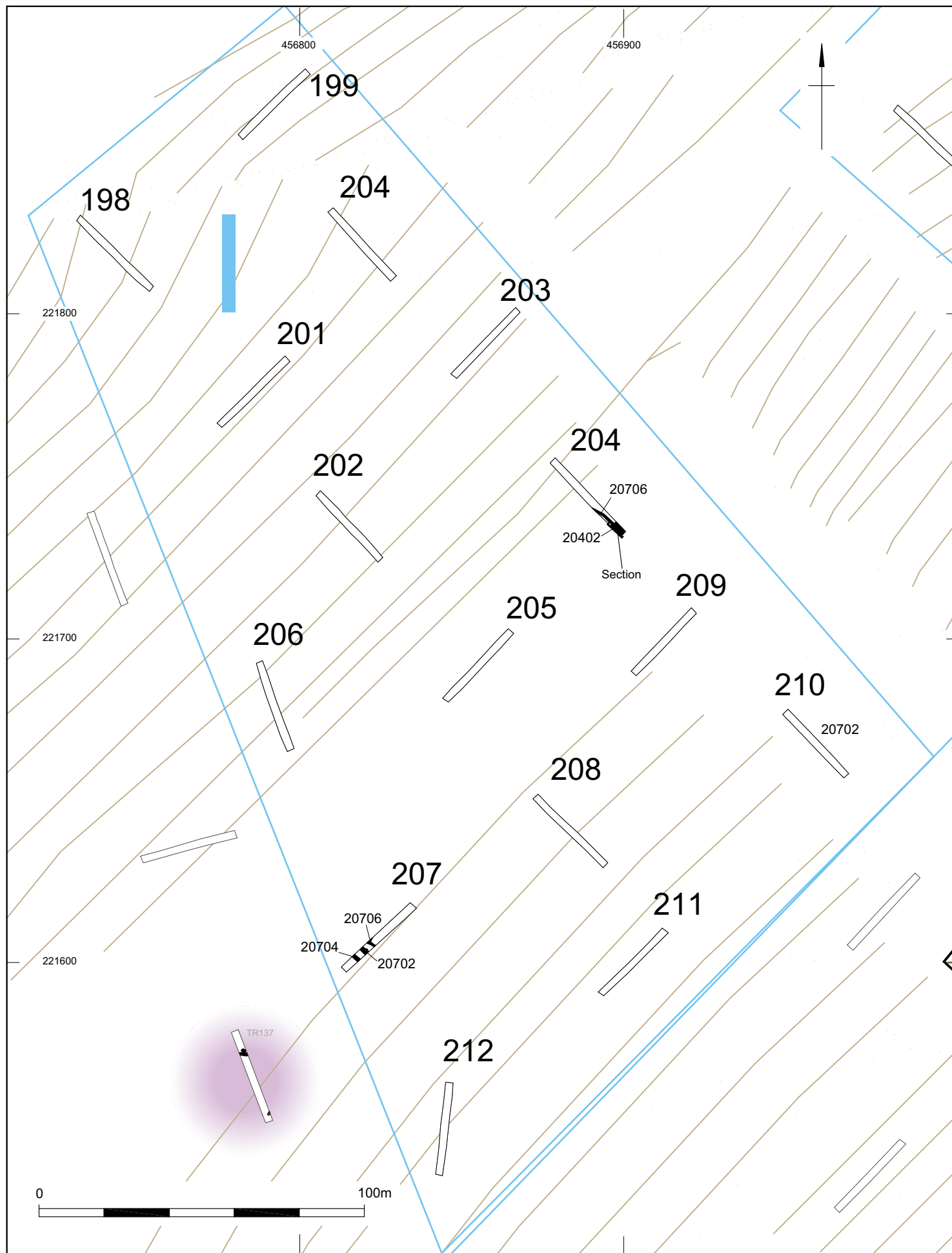
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Illustrator:	SEJ
Date:	15/11/07
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Site location and plan showing evaluation Stage 1 (Areas A-F) and Stage 2 Areas G-J, Trenches 144-222 and additional Trench 223

Figure 1





**Wessex Archaeology**

- Site outline
- Archaeological evaluation area
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological zone
- Aerial Photo features (C.Cox 2005)
- Ridge and furrow

**Phased features:**

- Late Iron Age
- Saxon
- Medieval
- Post-medieval/Modern
- Undated

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Area I trench plan (Trenches 198 - 212) with Plate 1 and section through Ditch 20402

Figure 2

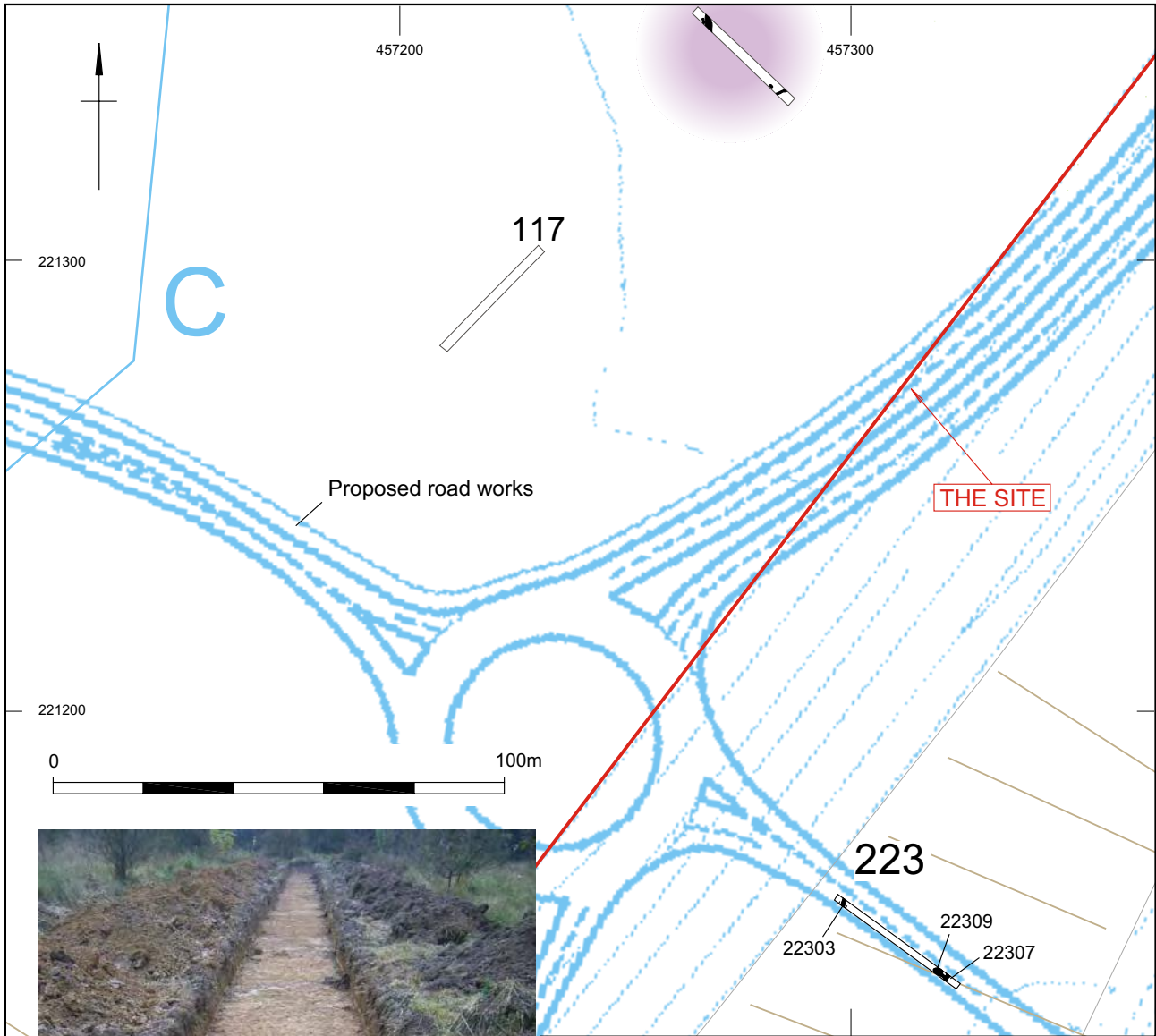
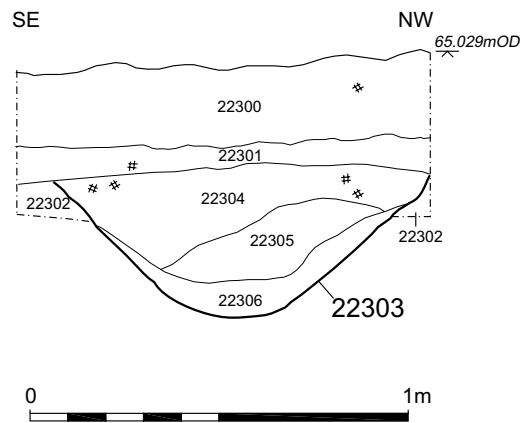


Plate 2. Trench 223 from the north west



NE facing section across Ditch 22303

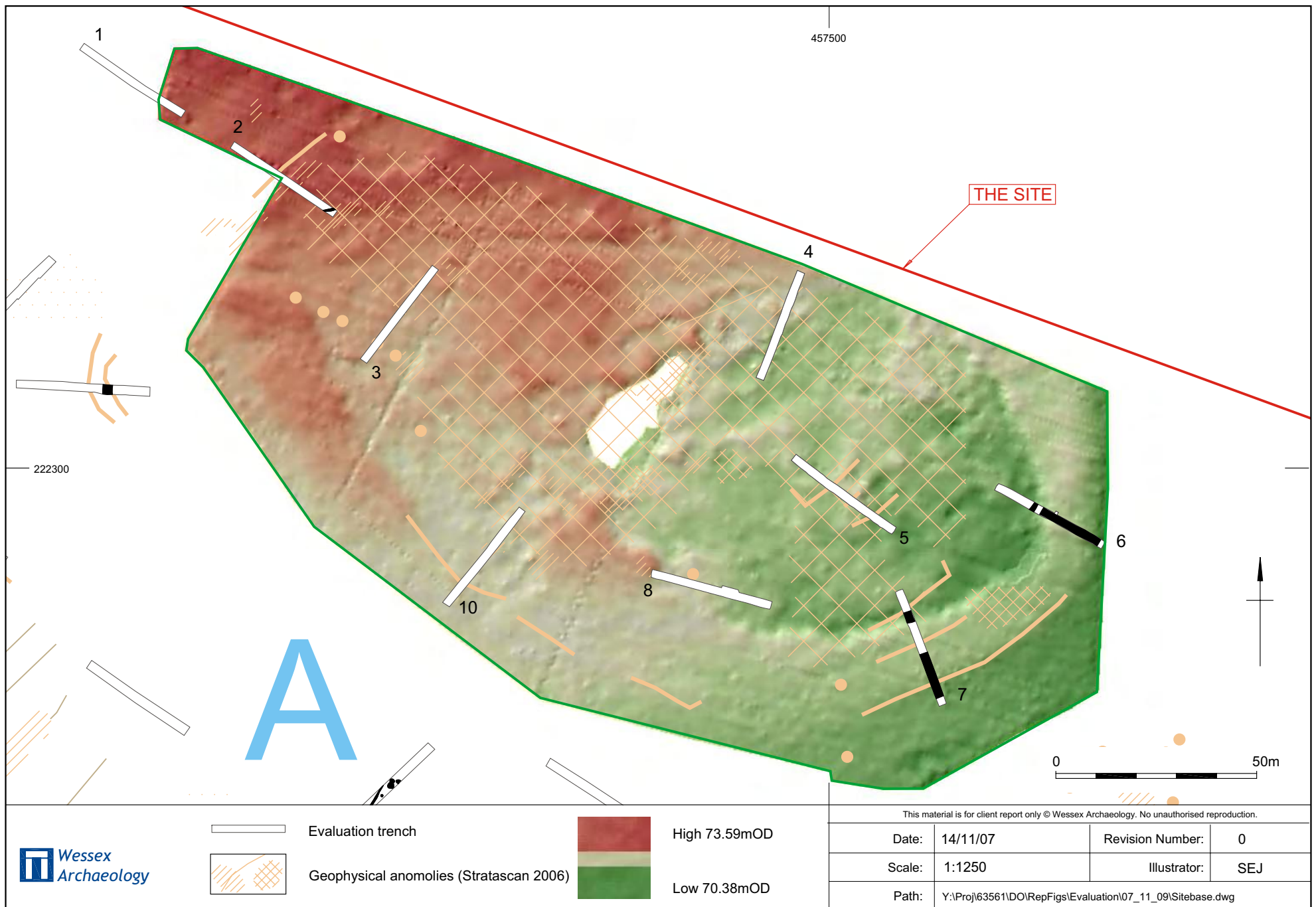
- Site outline
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological zone
- Ridge and furrow

- Proposed link road layout
- Archaeological evaluation area (WA 2006)



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Topographic surface model of earthworks in Area A

Figure 4





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