making sense of heritage

Land North of Clickers Way, Elmesthorpe, Leicestershire

Topographic Survey and Post-Excavation Assessment Report

Planning Reference: 11/0606/1/OX
Ref: 102291.01
March 2014

archaeology

Land North of Clickers Way, Elmesthorpe, Leicestershire

Topographic Survey and Excavation Report

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March 2014

Report Ref 102291.01

Quality Assurance

Project Code	102291	**Accession Code**	X.A100.2014	**Client Ref.**	
Planning Application Ref.	11/0606/1/OX	**Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)**	445985 296770		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	*I*	*MC*	*CS*		*8/3/14*
File:	S:\PROJECTS\102291_Clickers Way_Excavation\Report\Working\versions\102291_Clickers Way				
V02	*E*	*MC/CS*	*APN*		*10/3/14*
File:	S:\PROJECTS\102291_Clickers Way_Excavation\Report\Working versions\102291_Clickers Wayv2.doc				
V03	*F*	*MC/CS*	*APN*		*17/03/14*
File:					
File:					
File:					

* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Morris Homes, to undertake archaeological investigations in advance of a housing development on land North of Clickers Way (A47), Elmesthorpe, Leicestershire, centred on NGR 445985 296770 (hereafter 'the Site').

The Site includes a medieval wildfowl pond and has previously been the subject of a desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and trial trenching. The trial trenching had identified several undated features.

The proposed works comprised: a topographical survey of the wildfowl pond at the east end of the site; excavation of two trenches across the surviving earthworks forming the north (**Trench 1**) and southwest (**Area 1**) sides of the pond; excavation of a trench to further investigate possible medieval ditches identified within the interior of the 'pond' (**Trench 2**); an area of controlled strip map and record in the northwest part of the development site, to target undated ditches identified in Trial Trench 6 and a medieval ditch in Trial Trench 8 (**Area 2**); and an area of controlled strip and record type excavation in the southwest part of the development site, to target an undated ditch in Trial Trench 1 and, a shallow undated pit in Trial Trench 2 (**Area 3**).

The topographic survey recorded the surviving earthworks within the Site which were subsequently investigated in **Trenches 1** and **2** as well as **Area 1**. The earthworks form a shallow bowl which retains water.

Trenches 1 and **2** as well as **Area 1** have demonstrated that the banks of the earthworks associated with the medieval/post-medieval wildfowl pond are built on a natural slope. It seems likely that the natural slope and shallow depression in the landscape below it make the area a natural water trap. The northern and western embankments were then constructed to take advantage of the natural topography. A single piece of un-diagnostic CBM was recovered from the made ground of the western embankment, offering little help in tightening up the chronology for the earthworks construction.

Trenches 1 and **2** as well as **Area 2** revealed post-medieval gullies, most likely associated with the drainage system for the fields. The features revealed in Trial Trenches 1, 2, 6, 10 and 12 of the evaluation (JMHS 2011) were revealed to be either naturally created or a result of variation with in the natural.

The project archive is currently held by Wessex Archaeology under the project code **102991** and will be transferred to Leicester Museums and Galleries with an appropriate accession number (X.A100.2014) in due course.

Land North of Clickers Way, Elmesthorpe, Leicestershire

Topographic Survey and Excavation Report

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Myk Flitcroft of CgMs for his assistance with the project. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Teresa Hawtin (Senior Planning Archaeologist) Leicester County Council, for her guidance and support throughout the project.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Chris Swales. The field work was carried out by Martyn Cooper with the assistance of Charlotte Burton, Alex Cassels, and Lawrence Savage. The topographic survey was carried out by Chris Breeden with the assistance of Andy Reid.

This report was compiled by Martyn Cooper, with illustrations by Chris Swales and the finds assessed by Lorraine Mepham.

Land North of Clickers Way, Elmesthorpe, Leicestershire

Topographic Survey and Excavation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Morris Homes, to undertake archaeological investigations in advance of a housing development on land North of Clickers Way (A47), Elmesthorpe, Leicestershire, centred on NGR 445985 296770 (hereafter 'the Site') (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The Site has previously been subject to a desk-based assessment (JMHS 2010) and geophysical survey (Stratascan, Job ref J2863) as well as trial trenching (JMHS 2011); this work identified a late medieval or post-medieval Wildfowl pond as well as a series of possible linear features.

1.1.3 The Site includes a medieval wildfowl pond and had previously been the subject of a desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and trial trenching.

1.1.4 The current phase of work comprised:

- *an initial topographic survey of the earthworks associated with the wildfowl pond;*
- *two trenches located over the earthworks to investigate their construction and date; and*
- *three areas of controlled strip, map and record located to investigate the results of theTrial Trenching* (**Figure 1**).

1.1.5 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the current programme of work was prepared by CgMs (2013) which detailed how the archaeological requirements of the work would be met.

1.2 The Scheme

1.2.1 The Site is located on the northern side of Elmesthorpe, immediately north of Clickers Way (A47) and is bounded to the north and west by existing housing estates (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 The Site covers 3.9 ha and the underlying geology of the Site is clay and silt of the Bosworth Clay member (mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/).

1.2.3 The Site lies at *c.*100m above ordnance datum (aOD) apart from **Area 3** which lies across a spur of higher ground at 114m aOD.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following is summarised from the desk-based assessment (JMHS 2010), the results of the geophysical survey (Stratascan, Job ref J2863) and archaeological evaluation of the Site (JMHS 2011).

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 The earliest evidence for human activity within the area was recovered during work preceding the development of the A47 (located immediately to the south of the Site) and consisted of examples of worked flint.

2.2.2 Evidence of Bronze Age burials have been recorded to the west of the Site.

2.3 Romano-British

2.3.1 Investigation in advance of the A47 discovered evidence of probable Roman activity in the form of a linear cut feature.

2.4 Saxon

2.4.1 Investigation in advance of the A47 discovered a ditch with a single sherd of late Saxon/early medieval pottery on a north to south alignment that may have extended into the Site. During the evaluation of the Site by John Moore Heritage Service (2011), a ditch found in trench 1 was tentatively argued as being a continuation of this ditch due to its orientation, although no finds were recovered, and any link was speculative (**Figure 1**).

2.5 Medieval

2.5.1 The remains of a deserted medieval village are recorded to the south of the Site.

2.5.2 At the eastern end of the Site are the remains of earthworks related to a late medieval/post-medieval wildfowl pond. The southern extent of this earthwork was removed during construction of the A47 (**Figure 2**).

2.5.3 The evaluation trenching carried out by John Moore Heritage Services (2011) identified ditches in trial trenches 4, 10 and 12 (**Figure 1**) with pottery sherds of a medieval date.

2.6 Post-medieval

2.6.1 Geophysical survey of the Site produced data showing several anomalies interpreted as modern.

2.6.2 The desk based assessment showed a modern sewer running across the northwest of the Site.

2.6.3 Other features identified by trial trenching were post-medieval or undated.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Investigation areas

3.1.1 As a result of the trial trenching (JMHS 2011) Teresa Hawtin (LCC Senior Planning Archaeologist) requested that three areas containing evidence of possibly significant

activity should be subject to a strip, map and record and two trenches should be excavated (**Figure 1**) to further the understanding of the wildfowl pond. A topographic survey of these earthworks was also commissioned.

3.1.2 The topographic survey of the earthworks covered an area of 0.85ha at the northeast extent of the Site centred on NGR 446124 296792.

3.1.3 The metric survey was followed by the excavation of three areas of controlled strip, map and record as well as two trenches. The excavations targeted:

- *the southwest bank of the wildfowl pond (**Area 1**);*
- *an area within the northwest part of the Site (**Area 2**) which revealed undated ditches in Trial Trench 6 and a medieval ditch in Trial Trench 8, and any associated evidence;*
- *an area at the southwest corner of the Site (**Area 3**) which revealed a ditch in trial trench 1 and a pit in trial trench 2.*
- *the northern bank of the wildfowl pond (**Trench 1**)*
- *possible medieval ditches revealed in trial trench 12 within the interior of the pond (**Trench 2**)*

3.1.4 **Area 1** measured 410 square metres (**Figure 1**), whilst **Area 2** measured 0.4ha and **Area 3** 0.27ha. The two trenches measured 30m x 2m. **Trench 1** was subsequently extended to the south by the request of Teresa Hawtin (LCC) with an extra area of 200 square metres being excavated.

3.2 Aims and objectives

3.2.1 The topographic survey of the earthworks and subsequent strip, map and sample aimed to record and advance the understanding of the archaeological significance of the Site before it was lost to the development. This was done through detailed excavation and recording to secure 'preservation by record' in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

3.2.2 The aims of the archaeological works were:

- *to confirm the extent and interpretation of the surviving earthworks at the east end of the Site and if possible establish the date of construction and use;*
- *to determine whether any associated archaeological features or monuments survive in the immediate vicinity of the features identified in the trial trenching (JMHS 2011);*
- *to determine the date, character, function and significance of any such features*
- *to recover artefacts disturbed by the Site works;*
- *to prepare a comprehensive archive, record and report of any archaeological deposits disturbed by the Site works;*
- *to undertake a programme of post-excavation analysis assessing the potential of the remains to contribute to wider research agendas and the scope for dissemination of the projects results to a wider audience.*

3.3 Topographic survey methodology

3.3.1 The topographic survey was carried out through a mixture of Total Station and GPS survey. Two temporary survey markers were located on Site which were driven into the ground surface away from any structures of historic significance. These survey markers were located with the use of a Leica GNSS GS15 receiver which logged long term static

observations over each survey marker. This provides a horizontal accuracy of 3mm ± 0.5ppm and a vertical control of 3.5mm ± 0.5ppm. The Total Station survey was tied into this survey control and allowed all data to be recorded and presented in an OS coordinate system. The tops and bottoms of any slopes identified as part of the earthworks were recorded as well as several hundred levels taken across the survey area.

3.3.2 The survey data was imported into Leica Geo Office in a .dbx format and exported as a .dxf into AutoCad Map 3D 2011. From here a contour and raster plan of the survey data was produced along with profiles and a hachure plan of the earthworks (**Figures 3-5**).

3.3.3 The initial methodology was to record the earthworks prior to any plant arriving on Site. However, the vegetation cover was so dense above the earthworks that additional survey work had to be carried out once the vegetation had been cleared by machine.

3.3.4 The topographic survey was carried out in two visits; one prior to the removal of vegetation over the earthworks (**Plates 1-2**) with a subsequent survey taking place after the vegetation had been cleared (**Plate 3**). The very eastern extent of the survey area was not surveyed due to a mixture of vegetation cover and standing water.

3.4 Excavation methodology

3.4.1 **Areas 1-3** and **Trenches 1-2** were located by means of a RTK GPS system and tied into the OS grid (within 0.1m). In some places the area was adjusted to reflect 'on the ground' conditions in accordance with the WSI (CgMs 2013).

3.4.2 All stripping was carried out by a 360^0 machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and under the supervision of a suitably qualified archaeologist. Spoil was carried a safe distance from the excavation area and mounded using dumpers.

3.4.3 All excavation and recording was undertaken by qualified archaeologists employed by Wessex Archaeology. Archaeological remains encountered were recorded, and where necessary excavated in accordance with current industry best practice (IfA 2008). Features of whatever origin requiring clarification were cleaned by hand and recorded in plan at an appropriate scale.

3.5 Recording

3.5.1 All archaeological features and deposits encountered were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. A stratigraphic matrix was compiled to record the relationships between features and deposits.

3.5.2 All excavation areas were located in relation to the Ordnance Survey grid, and other plans, sections and elevations of archaeological features and deposits were drawn as necessary at 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50 as appropriate. All drawings were made in pencil on permanent drafting film.

3.5.3 The spot height of all principal features and levels was calculated in metres relative to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places. Plans, sections and elevations were annotated with spot heights as appropriate. Archaeological features were located with the same Leica GNSS system used during the topographic survey.

3.5.4 Photographs were taken of all archaeological features to produce a photographic record consisting of 35mm monochrome prints; digital images (at least 10 megapixel) supplement the photographic record.

3.6 Artefacts

3.6.1 Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance (UKIC 2001, MGC 1991 and English Heritage 2005), except where these are superseded by statements made below.

3.6.2 All artefacts from excavated contexts were recorded by context and retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date.

3.6.3 All retained artefacts were, as a minimum, washed, weighed, counted and identified. Any artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions were dealt with immediately in line with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

3.7 Environmental

3.7.1 Bulk environmental soil samples for plant macro-fossils, small animal and fish bones and other small artefacts were taken from appropriate well-sealed and dated/datable archaeological deposits. The collection and processing of environmental samples was undertaken in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (2011).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The results of the investigations are summarised below by Area/Trench number and are presented with descriptions of significant features and contexts. An overview of the topographic survey is also presented.

4.1.2 The level of the natural was undulating but was general found to be at an approximate depth of 0.3m to 0.5m below ground level. The natural was a mix of pinkish red clay, yellowish–orange sand/ sandy gravel and blue grey clay. The topsoil was a mid–dark greyish-brown.

4.2 Topographic Survey

4.2.1 The northern earthwork of the probable medieval/post-medieval wildfowl pond has survived intact and with the top of the bank standing at an average height of 102.19m aOD, with its base at an average height of 100.90m aOD (**Figures 3-5**). This northern embankment is remarkably consistent with the earthwork as recorded on the 1888 and 1963 Ordnance Survey maps (**Figure 2**). The western earthwork has survived less well and only partially survives to a comparable height to that of the northern embankment. The land contained by this earthwork forms a natural shallow bowl that still retains standing water to this day. The base of this shallow bowl is recorded at a height of 99.6m aOD (**Figure 3**).

4.2.2 A small shallow mound measuring 10.56m in diameter and sitting at a height of 101m aOD was identified by the survey (**Figure 3**), and occupied a gap between the north and southwest earthwork banks. The mound appears as feature on the first edition OS map (**Figure 2**) and maybe functioned as part of the pond (i.e. a small island). However, the mound appears to be at the base of a shallow slope east of the southwest earthwork bank, and may represent an accumulation of material from the erosion of the bank.

4.3 Trench 1

4.3.1 **Trench 1** was excavated in the base of the wildfowl pond (**Plate 4**).

4.3.2 A single feature was observed and determined to be a northwest to southeast aligned modern gully, **1204 (Plate 5)**. The trench was extended to the southeast to meet the edge of a previously excavated trial trench (Trench 12) in an attempt to locate a series of linear features identified during the trenching in 2011 (JMHS 2011). The extension revealed the continuation of this modern gully (**Figure 6**) which seems likely to relate to linear 12/08 in the trial trenching. Nothing was seen of linears 12/04 or 12/06 recorded in Trial Trench 12 (JMHS 2011).

4.3.3 No finds were recovered from **Trench 1** except broken fragments of brick and land drain from the fill of **1204**.

4.4 Trench 2

4.4.1 **Trench 2** was excavated through the northern embankment of the wildfowl pond (**Plate 6**) at the eastern end of the Site. This trench revealed that the embankment of the wildfowl pond had been built up on top of a natural slope (**Figures 6-7**). Bank material **1103** and **1104** overlay a gentle slope seen in natural clay deposits (**Plate 7**). At the base of the embankment a small east to west aligned gully, **1105**, of modern origin was observed (**Figures 6 -7**).

4.4.2 No artefacts were recovered from **Trench 2** except for blue plastic sheeting seen in the backfill of gully **1105.**

4.5 Area 1

4.5.1 There was heavy modern interference and bioturbation at the west end of **Area 1**. The section through the southwest earthwork of the pond recovered a single piece of probable post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM; from **105**) and demonstrated that the build up of layers to create the earthen embankment was much the same as in **Trench 2**. A buried soil (**104**) was also visible, showing the original level on which the bank had been raised (**Plates 8-9**).

4.5.2 The northeast to southwest aligned linear features recorded in trial trench 10 (JMHS 2011) were revealed to be natural water channel (**108-9**). A second east-west aligned water channel (**106-7**) was also identified (**Figure 8**). This may relate to feature **1204** identified in **Trench 1**.

4.6 Area 2

4.6.1 **Area 2** (**Plate 10**) contained a series of northeast to southwest aligned linear features. A northeast to southwest aligned Gully (**207**) was visible for 5m before terminating. It had an average width of 1.1m and survived to a depth of 0.15m (**Figures 9-10**). No dating evidence was recovered from any of these features but they are aligned with the post-medieval field system and it seems likely that they are drainage features associated with this period.

4.6.2 Linears **218** and **209** are either ephemeral gullies or drainage channels (**Figures 9-10**). Linear **218** was visible for 18m before terminating (**Plate 11**). It had an average width of 0.5m and survives to a depth of 0.18m. Linear **209** was more fragmentary in plan, visible for 13m before terminating. It had an average width of 0.4m and survives to a depth of 0.14m. Linear **209** truncates an earlier gully **207** (**Plate 12**).

4.6.3 One further linear feature was observed running alongside a modern sewer. Gully **220** was aligned east to west and was visible for 5m extending inwards from the eastern edge of **Area 2** (**Figure 9-10**). Gully **220** had an average width of 1.1m and survived to a depth

of 0.45m (**Plate 13**). Post medieval/modern brick and tile was present throughout the fill, and it is likely that this feature relates to the construction of the sewer.

4.6.4 A small pit was also recorded at the southern extent of **Area 2.** Pit **203** was 1.05m wide and survived to a depth of 0.15m (**Plate 14**). The pit contained backfilled burnt material. No dating evidence was recovered but again it seems probable that the feature is associated with post-medieval agriculture.

4.6.5 **Area 2** established that features 6/08, 6/10 and 8/04 revealed in the trial trenches 6 and 8 (JMHS 2011) were not archaeological.

4.7 Area 3

4.7.1 **Area 3** was excavated in extremely wet conditions and despite its location at the top of the hill it was poorly drained and filled with water quickly (**Plate 15**). No evidence was found of any archaeological features aside from three land drains.

4.7.2 Linear features 1/05 and 1/11 recorded in trial trench 1 (JMHS 2011) were not identified.

5 ARTEFACTS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 The only artefacts recovered were post-medieval brick and tile relating to the ditch **220** alongside the sewer, and the small fragment of CBM from under the southwest embankment of the wildfowl pond (deposit **105**) which is likely of post-medieval origin but too small and eroded to be of any diagnostic value.

Table 1: Finds by context, number of sherds and weight (g)

LAYER	Combo18	NO	WGT (g)	Period
105	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL	2	3	Post Medieval?
222	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL	5	379	Post Medieval?
222	SLATE	2	338	Post Medieval?

6 ENVIRONMENTAL

6.1 Summary

6.1.1 Two bulk samples, each of ten litres in volume, were taken from modern sub-circular feature fill 204 and modern shrub bole fill 206, in order to evaluate the presence and preservation of palaeo-environmental remains. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and wood charcoal.

6.2 Charred plant remains and wood charcoal

6.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods using a water separation machine. Floating material was collected on a 300µm mesh, and the remaining heavy residue retained in a 1mm mesh. The flot and heavy residue were air dried. The residues were scanned for metallurgical debris such as hammer scale, using a large magnet and the > 2mm fraction of the heavy residues were fully sorted for organic remains and

artefacts and weighed. Where no potential for the recovery of < 2mm artefacts, such as fish bone was noted, the < 2mm fraction of the heavy residues were also then weighed and discarded.

6.2.2 The samples were assessed in accordance with English Heritage guidelines for environmental archaeology assessments (Jones, 2011). The main aim of this assessment was to determine the concentration, diversity, state of preservation and suitability for use in radiocarbon dating, of any archaeobotanical material present within the samples. A further aim was to evaluate the potential of this material to provide evidence for the function of the contexts, the economy of the site or for the nature of the local environment.

6.2.3 A preliminary assessment of the sample was made by scanning under a low power binocular microscope (x7-x45) and recording the abundance of the main classes of material present. This data is recorded in Table 2. Preliminary identification of plant material was carried out by comparison with material in the reference collections at the Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield and various reference works (e.g. Cappers *et al*, 2006). Cereal identifications and nomenclature follow Jacomet (2006). Other plant nomenclature follows Stace (2010).

6.2.4 Sample 201 from sub-circular modern feature fill **204** was composed of a low proportion of intrusive roots with a high density of wood charcoal.

6.2.5 Sample 202 from shrub bole fill **206** was composed of a low proportion of intrusive roots with a high density of wood charcoal. A small quantity of hazelnut shell fragments, were also present.

Table 2: Environmental data

Samples				Flot							
Feature	Context	Sample	Vol. Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% roots	Charred Plant Remains				Charcoal >4/2mm	Analysis
						Grain	Chaff	Other	Comments		
203	204	201	10	200	5					A***/A***	Charcoal
205	206	202	10	250	5			B	hazel nutshell	A***/A***	Charcoal

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C= < 5.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Topographic and Stratigraphic evidence

7.1.1 The topographic survey recorded the surviving earthworks within the Site which were subsequently investigated in **Trenches 1**-**2** and **Area 1**. The earthworks form a shallow bowl which retains water.

7.1.2 **Trenches 1** and **2** as well as **Area 1** have demonstrated that the banks of the earthworks associated with the medieval/post-medieval wildfowl pond are built on a natural slope. It seems likely that the natural slope and shallow depression in the landscape make the area a natural water trap. The northern and western embankments were then constructed to take advantage of the natural topography. A single piece of un-diagnostic CBM was

recovered from the made ground of the western embankment, offering little help in tightening up the chronology for the earthworks construction.

7.1.3 **Trenches 1** and **2** as well as **Area 2** revealed post-medieval gullies, most likely associated with the drainage system for the fields. Possible ditch features recorded in Trial Trenches 1, 2, 6, 10 and 12 of the evaluation (JMHS 2011) were reveled to be naturally created or a result of natural variance.

7.1.4 It is worth noting that the majority of the features identified in trial trenching were very ephemeral, typically less than 15cm deep. Within the confines of an evaluation trench it is possible that mottling in the natural clays or bioturbation may have been misinterpreted as archaeological features.

7.2 Artefactual evidence

7.2.1 The excavations produced a very small finds assemblage with no items of particular significance. Post medieval building materials were recovered from **Area 2**, in association with a modern sewer. One small piece of CBM was recovered from the earthworks associated with the wildfowl pond, which is likely of post-medieval origin, but too small and eroded to be of any diagnostic value.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Summary interpretation

8.1.1 The archaeological investigations have established that the Site had little human interaction until the post-medieval period.

8.1.2 Many features revealed by trial trenching were not visible during the full excavation.

8.1.3 The frequent changes in natural could have appeared as features within the confines of the trial trenching.

8.1.4 The Earthwork bank was created by dumping mixed clays on to an existing slope using local material.

8.2 Charred plant remains

8.2.1 No further analysis of the charred plant assemblage in the samples would be recommended due to the paucity of material present.

8.2.2 Hazelnut shell, suitable for use in radiocarbon dating due to its short life, was present in Sample 202. Should any hazelnut shell fragments be utilised for dating purposes however, it would be recommended that these be fully identified and recorded.

8.3 Wood charcoal

8.3.1 The wood charcoal fragments in sample 201 from sub-circular feature fill **204** were largely of ring porous taxa, with weak ring curvatures suggesting the use of larger branches or trunk material. Further identification was not possible using low power microscopy.

8.3.2 The wood charcoal fragments in sample 202 from shrub bole fill **206** were also largely of ring porous taxa, although diffuse porous taxa including Corylaceae, were also present. The charcoal fragments were also generally representative of the use of larger branches

or trunk wood, although some fragments with strong ring curvatures, indicating the use of smaller branches or twigs, were also present. Further identification was not possible using low power microscopy.

8.3.3 The wood charcoal assemblage from both samples would be suitable for further analysis. Such analysis would be expected to provide information concerning the wood taxa utilised for fuel as well as the state of the wood before burning and also to possibly provide information concerning woodland management and the local environment.

8.3.4 Wood charcoal suitable for use in radiocarbon dating, in the form of round wood around 10mm in diameter, was present in sample 202. Should any wood charcoal fragments be utilised for dating purposes however, it would be recommended that these be fully identified and recorded.

8.4 Publication

8.4.1 The results of the work will be published as a note in the Transactions of the Leicestershire Historical Society.

8.5 Archive storage and curation

8.5.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Leicester Museums and Galleries. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project. Deposition of the finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

8.5.2 The accompanying documentary records from the excavation have been compiled into a stable, fully cross referenced, and indexed archive in accordance with Appendix 6 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

8.5.3 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, digital data, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard procedures for the transfer of archaeological archives to Leicester Museums and Galleries under accession number **X.A100.2014**, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (UKIC 2001; Richards and Robinson 2000; Brown 2007). It is currently stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, Sheffield, under Wessex Archaeology Project code **102291**.

8.5.4 This report has been uploaded to OASIS under the reference: OASIS ID - wessexar1-167262

8.5.5 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Archaeological Record (English Heritage), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

8.6 Discard policy

8.6.1 No recommendations for discard of archive materials or artefacts have been made, but this will be reviewed upon the completion of the analysis stage of work.

8.7 Copyright

8.7.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1998 with all

rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purpose, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms with the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

8.7.2 Wessex Archaeology retains full copyright of any report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the Client for the use of the report by the Client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the specification. Any document produced to meet planning requirements can be copied for planning purposes by the Local Planning Authority.

REFERENCES

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Appendix 1: Context List

Trench No. 1		Dimensions: 30 x 2m Max depth:
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1201	Top soil - Dark greyish brown, silty clay.	0 - 0.3
1202	Sub soil – Mid reddish brown, silty clay.	0.30 - 0.4
1203	Natural - pinkish red clay light & yellowish brown silty clay with large quantities of gravel.	>0.4
1204	Cut of NW-SE Land drain, out of use.	0.08
1205	Backfill of Land drain.	0.08

Trench No. 2		Dimensions: 30 x 2m Max depth:
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1101	Top soil - Dark Greyish brown silty clay	0 – 0.4
1102	Natural – pinkish red clay light & yellowish brown silty clay.	
1103	Top layer of embankment	0.1 – 0.4
1104	Bottom layer of embankment	0.4 – 0.7
1105	Cut of modern gully at bottom of embankment.	0.3 – 0.5
1106	Fill of modern gully containing plastic.	0.3 – 0.5

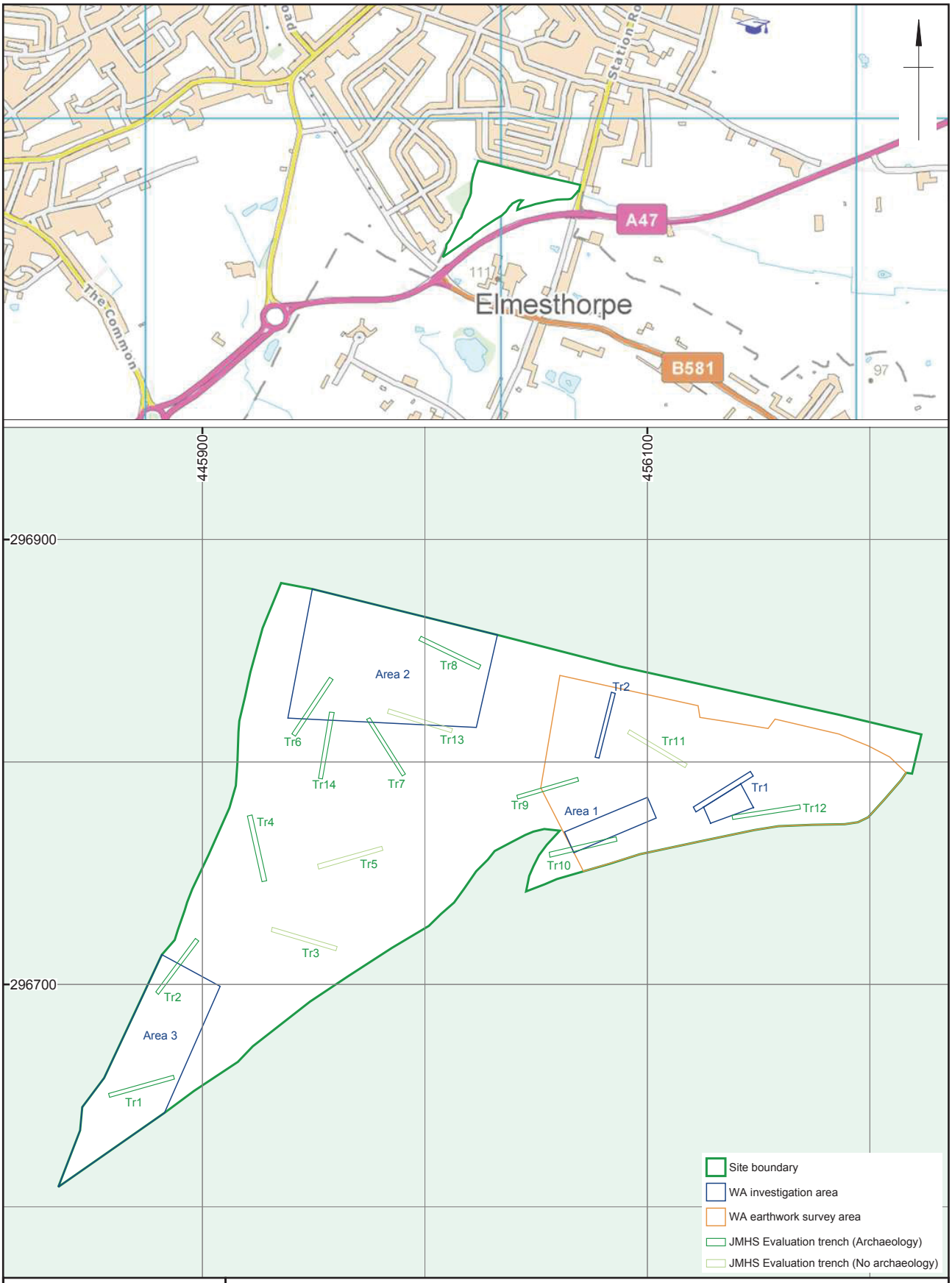
Area 1		Dimensions: Max depth:
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
101	Top soil – Mid greyish brown Silty clay	0.3
102	Natural – Mid yellowish brown sandy clay – gravel & Pinkish red clay.	
103	Upcast forming embankments top layer	0.5
104	Compact layer forming bottom layer of embankment	0.3
105	Layer embankment was raised upon. Former sub soil. CBM fragment.	0.3
106	Cut of natural water channel under embankment	0.15
107	Re deposited gravel natural within water channel	0.15
108	Natural water channel to east of embankment	0.17
109	Re deposited gravel natural within water channel	0.17

Area 2		Dimensions: Max depth:
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
201	Top soil – Mid greyish Brown silty clay	0.3m
202	Natural - Light orange brown silty clay - gravel	
203	Sub circular pit like feature, probably modern disturbance.	0.14
204	Backfill of modern disturbance, no dating.	0.14
205	Cut of shrub bole.	0.14
206	Secondary fill of shrub bole caused by alluvial deposition.	0.14
207	Cut of unphased NE – SW drainage ditch part of [227]	0.3
208	Clay colluvial secondary fill of drainage ditch. Cut by [209]	0.3
209	Cut of unphased NE - SW drainage ditch. Cutting (208) Part of [228]	0.28

Area 2		**Dimensions: Max depth:**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
210	Clay colluvial secondary fill of ditch.	0.28
211	Cut of NE -SW unphased drainage gully.	0.14
212	Clay colluvial secondary fill of gully	0.14
213	Terminus of 228 drainage ditch.	0.18
214	Clay colluvial secondary fill of ditch	0.18
215	Group 211, 216, 218 Natural gully draining hillside. Similar to 227 & 228	5 x 0.46 x 0.18
216	Terminus of NE -SW unphased drainage gully.	0.14
217	Clay colluvial secondary fill of gully	0.14
218	Cut of NE -SW unphased drainage gully.	0.14
219	Clay colluvial secondary fill of gully	0.14
220	Ditch with late post med – modern material curving to follow line of sewer. Possible track/disturbance from laying of pipe	0.43
221	Primary fill in ditch, silting when first opened.	0.16
222	Backfill of ditch	0.27
223	Terminus of drainage ditch	0.15
224	Clay colluvial secondary fill of ditch	0.18
225	Void	
226	Void	
227	Group 223 207. Drainage ditch, natural run off from hillside. Cut by 228. Finishing where gravel more prevalent in natural. Undated.	5 x 0.9 x 0.3 – 0.15
228	Group 213 209. Drainage ditch, natural run off from hillside. Finishing where gravel more prevalent in natural. Undated.	5 x 0.9 x 0.3 – 0.15

Area 3		**Dimensions: Max depth: 0.5m+**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
301	Top soil – Mid greyish brown silty clay	0.3m
302	Natural – Southern end is sand merging with gravely clay further North.	
303	Sub soil – Sand layer at South west corner of area	0.5m

Appendix 1: Oasis form



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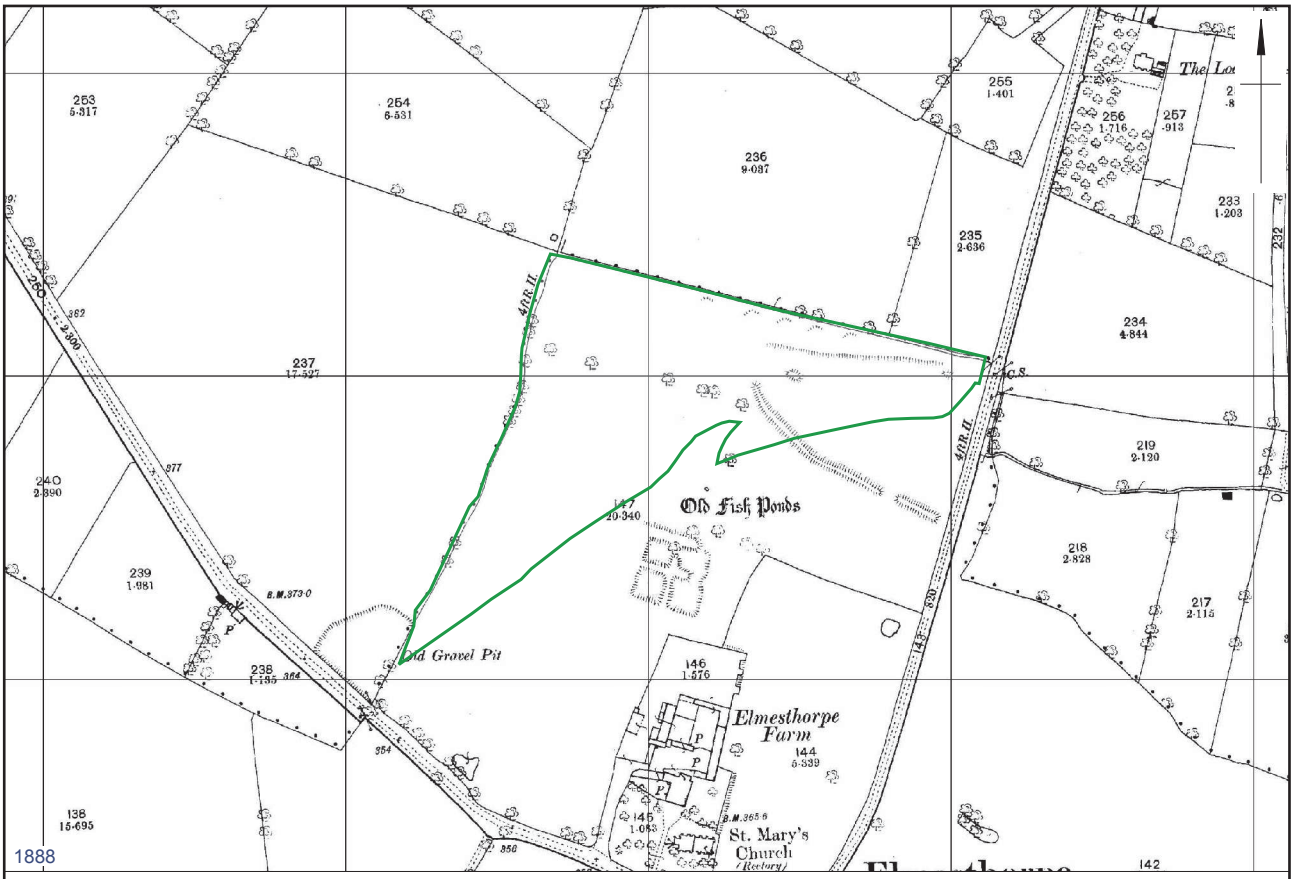
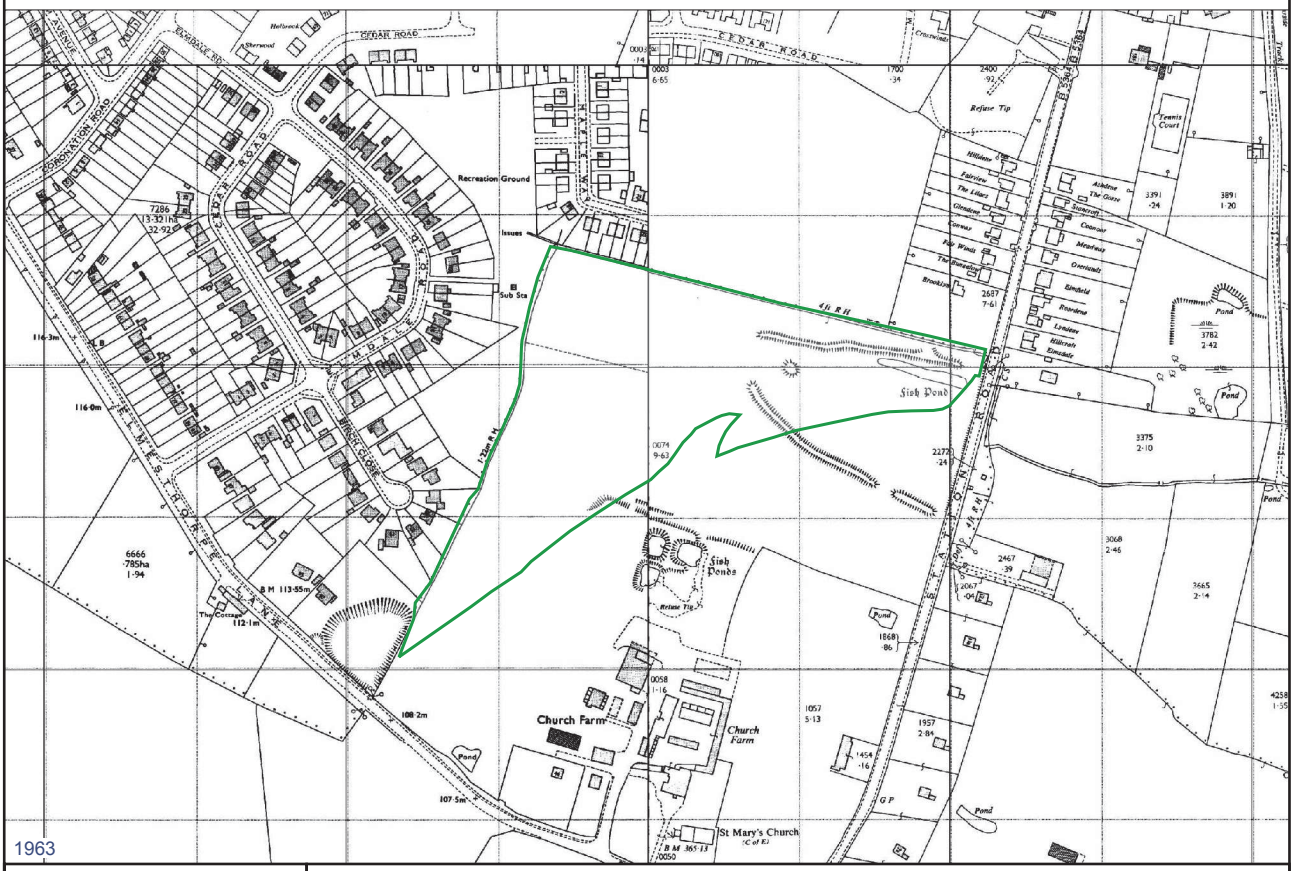
Site and excavation locations

Figure 1





Site boundary

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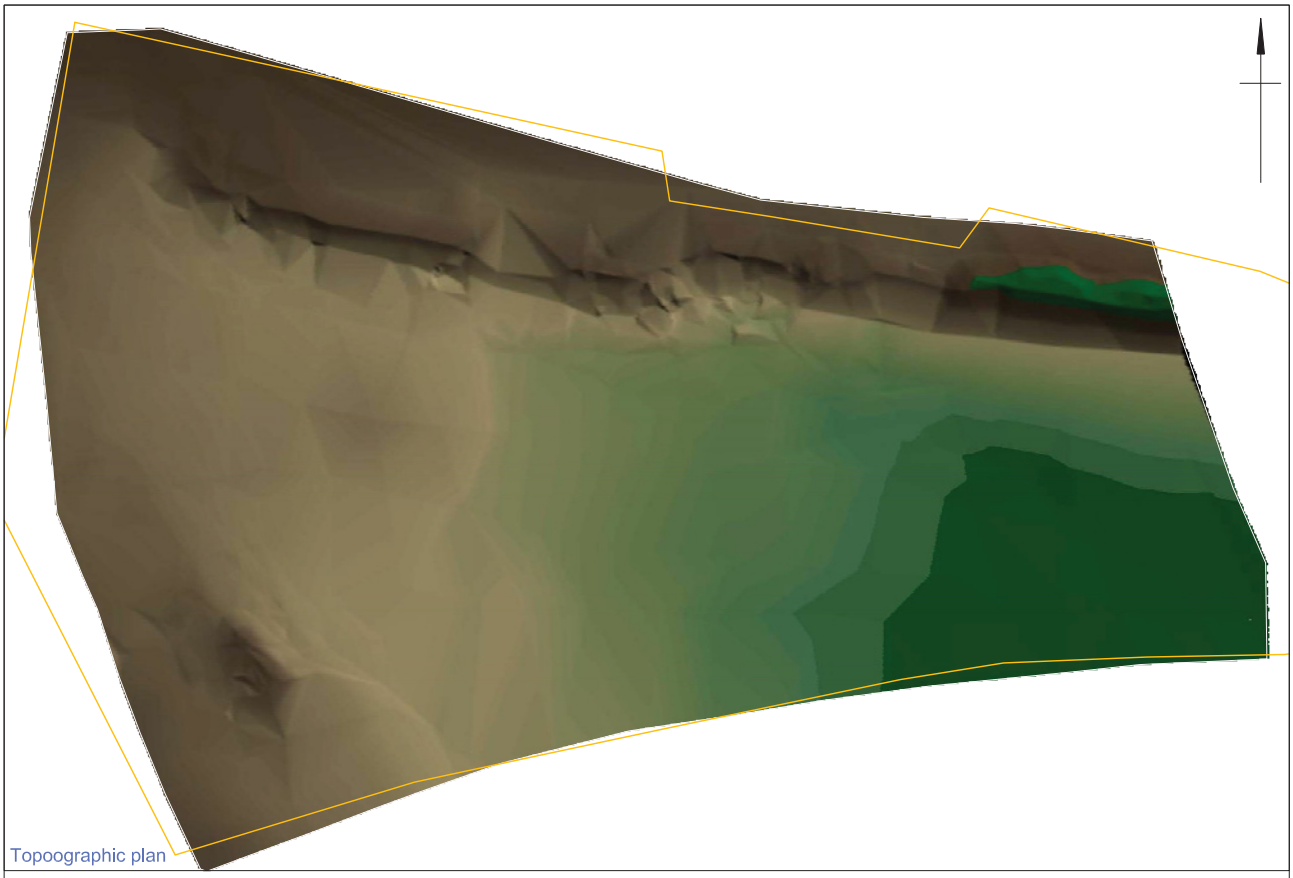
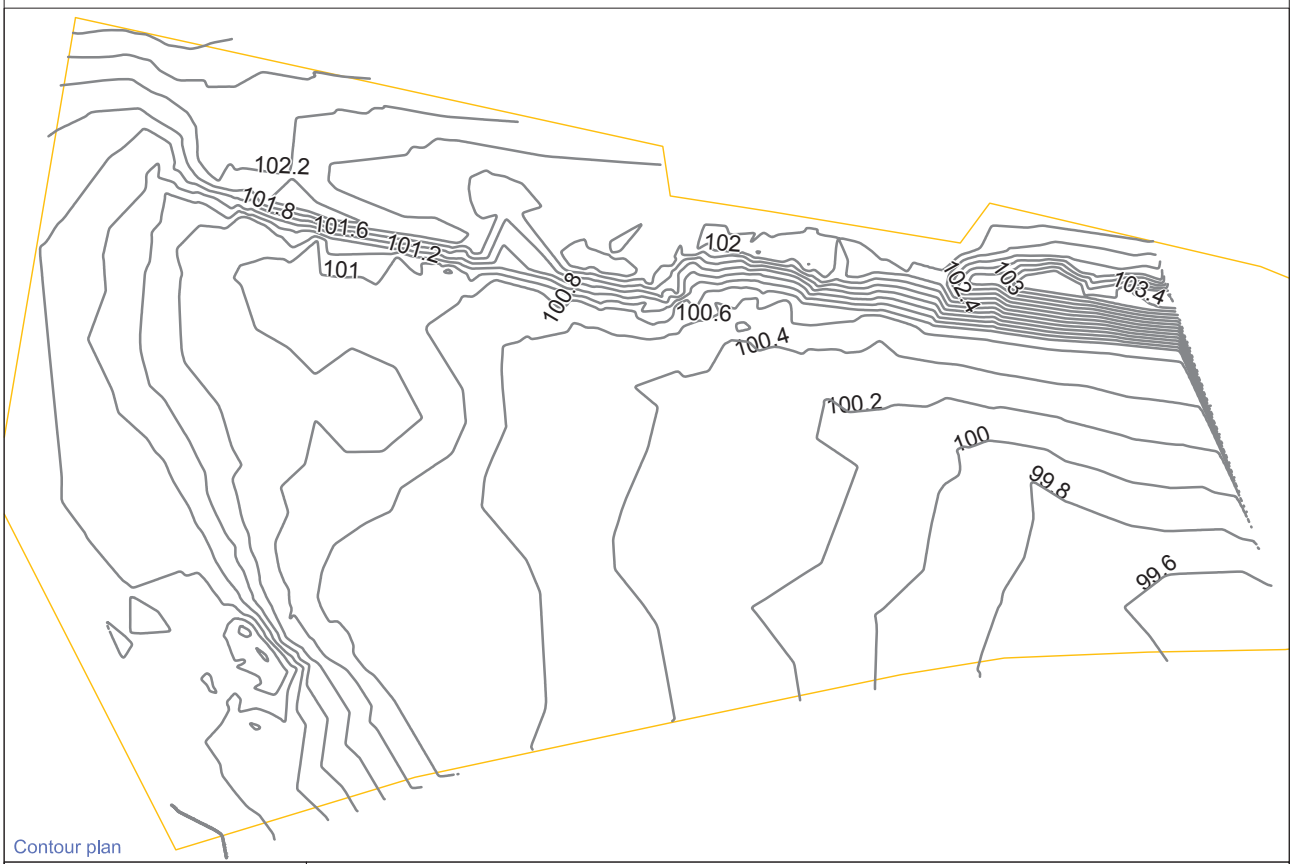
Historic Maps: 1888 and 1963 OS

Figure 2



Topoographic plan



Contour plan

WA earthwork survey area

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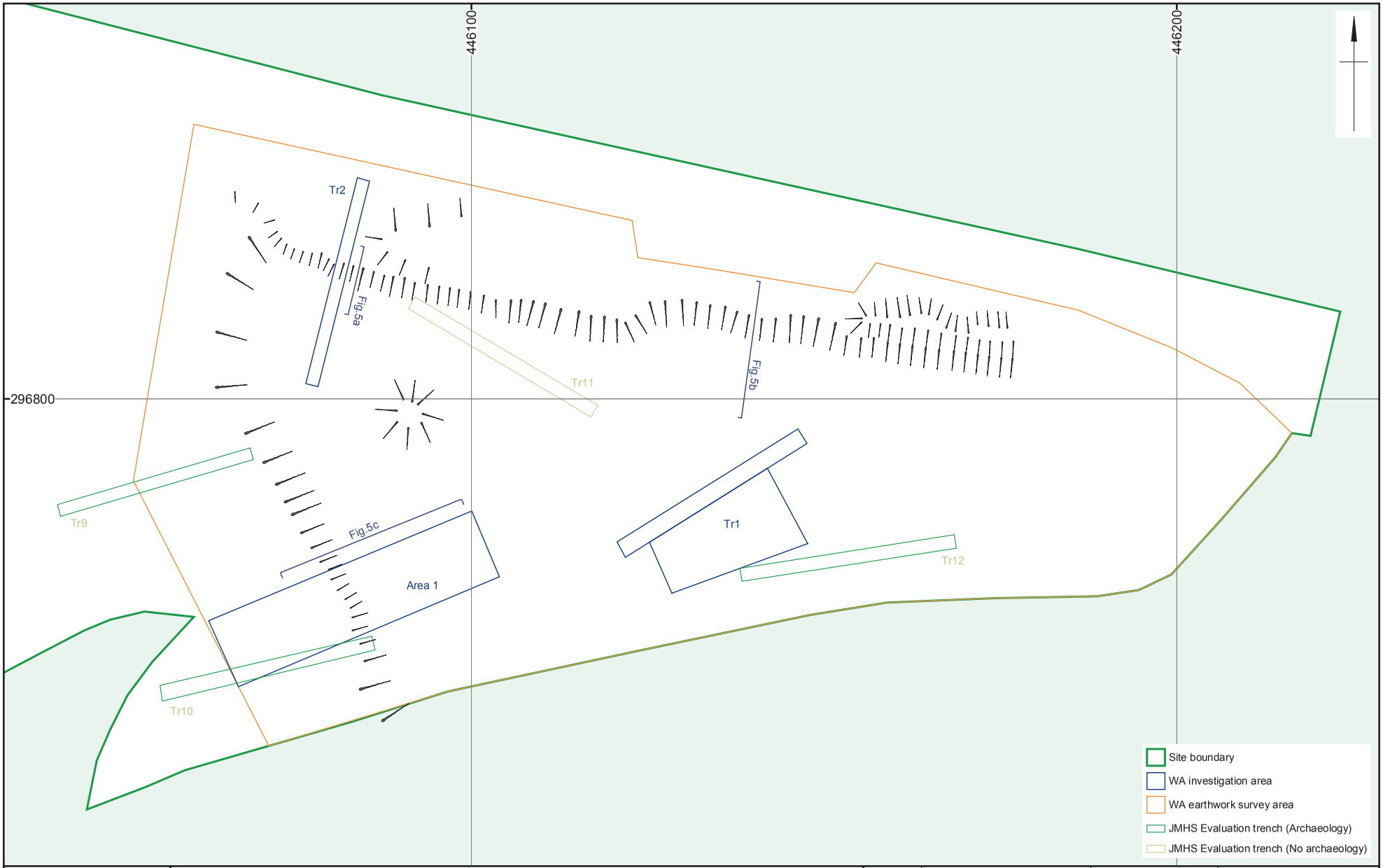
Topographic survey of earthworks located in northeast corner of Site

Figure 3



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Hachure plan of earthworks located in northeast corner of Site

Figure 4

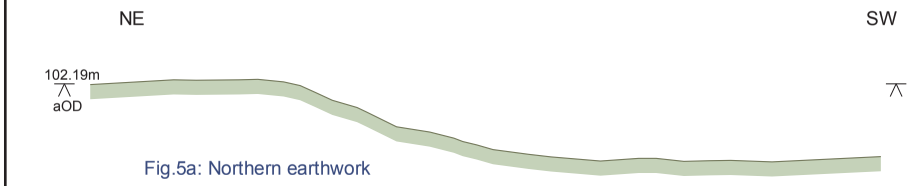

Fig.5a: Northern earthwork

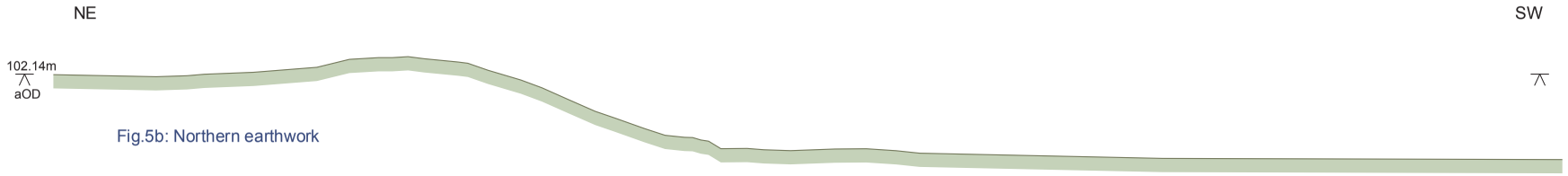

Fig.5b: Northern earthwork

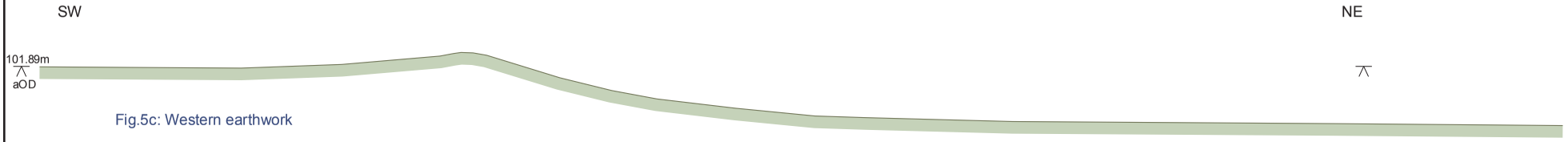

Fig.5c: Western earthwork

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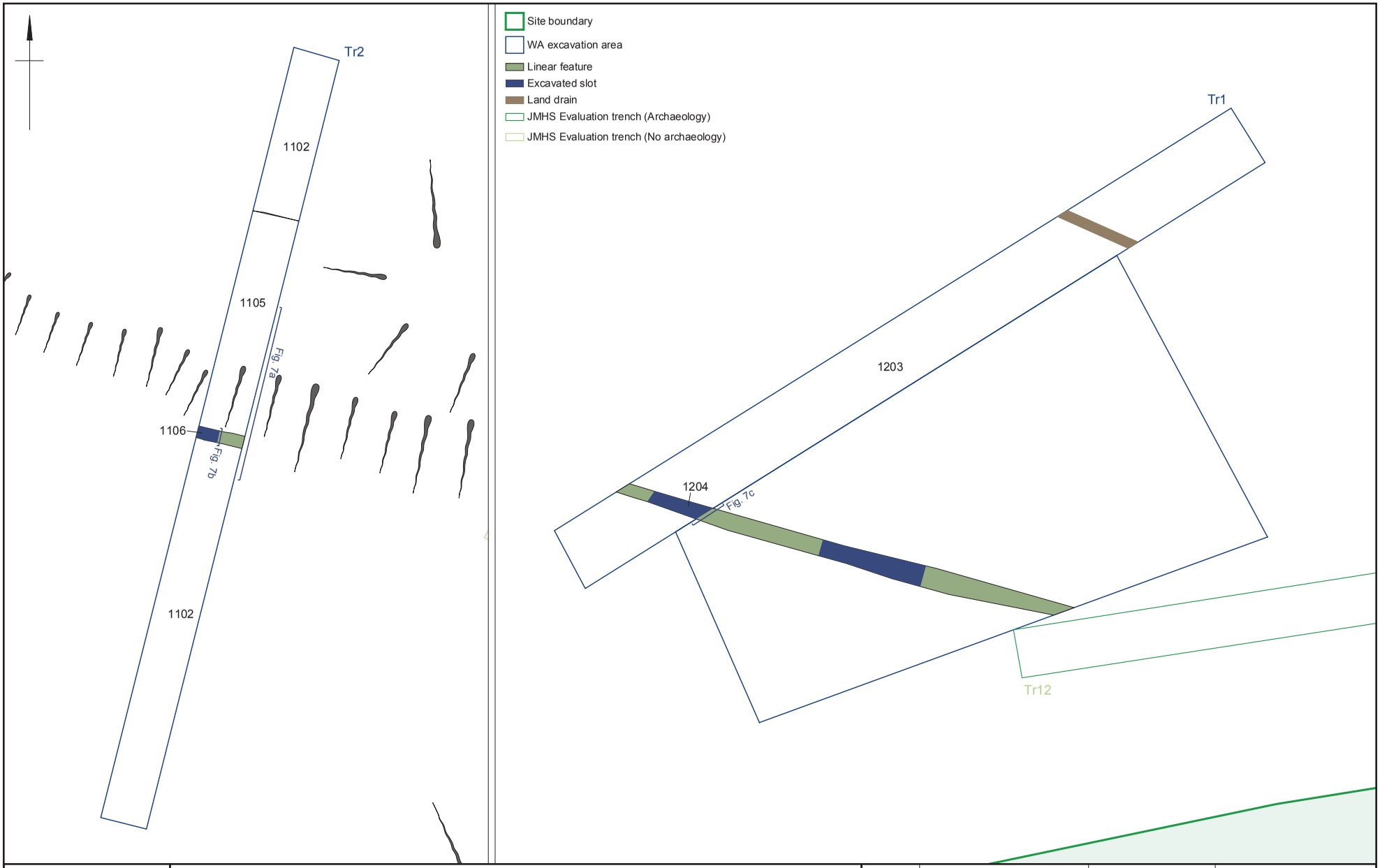
Profiles across earthwork in northeast corner of Site

Figure 5



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Plans of WA Trenches 1 and 2

Figure 6

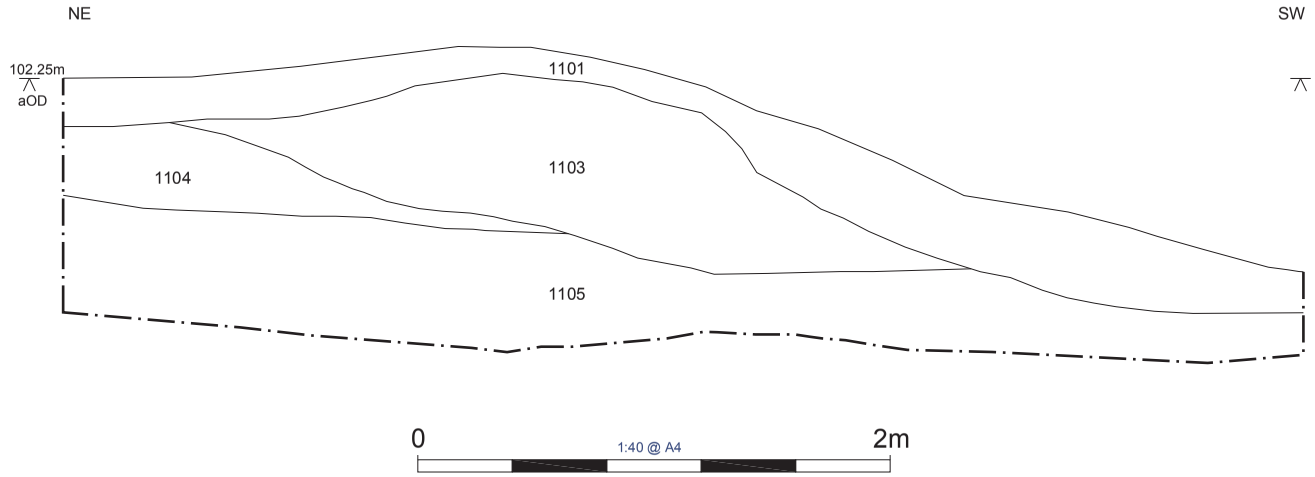

Fig.7a

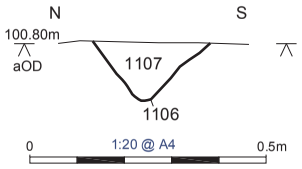

Fig.7b

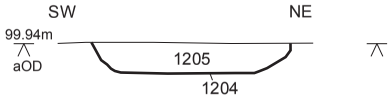

Fig.7c

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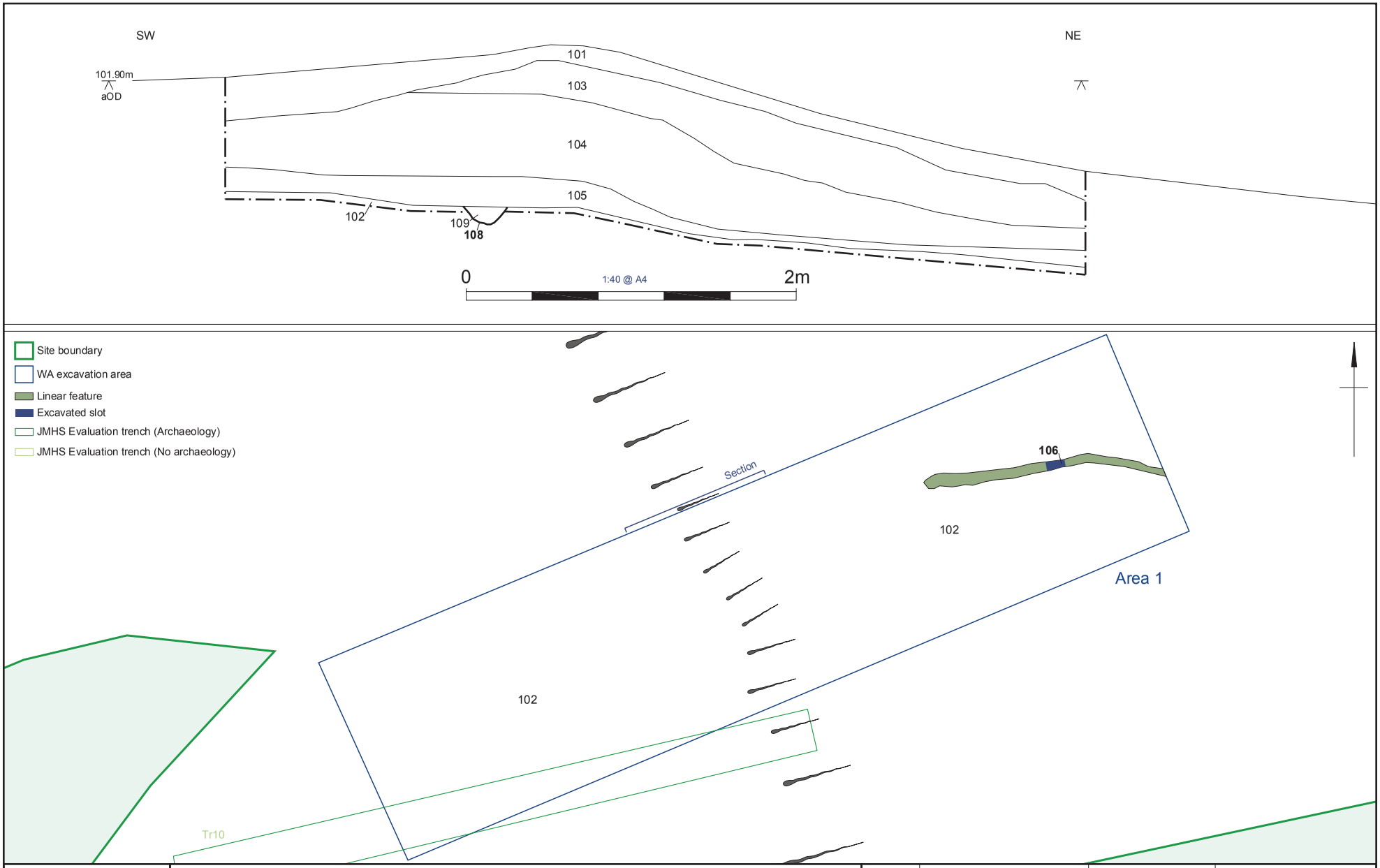
WA Trenches 1 and 2: Sections

Figure 7



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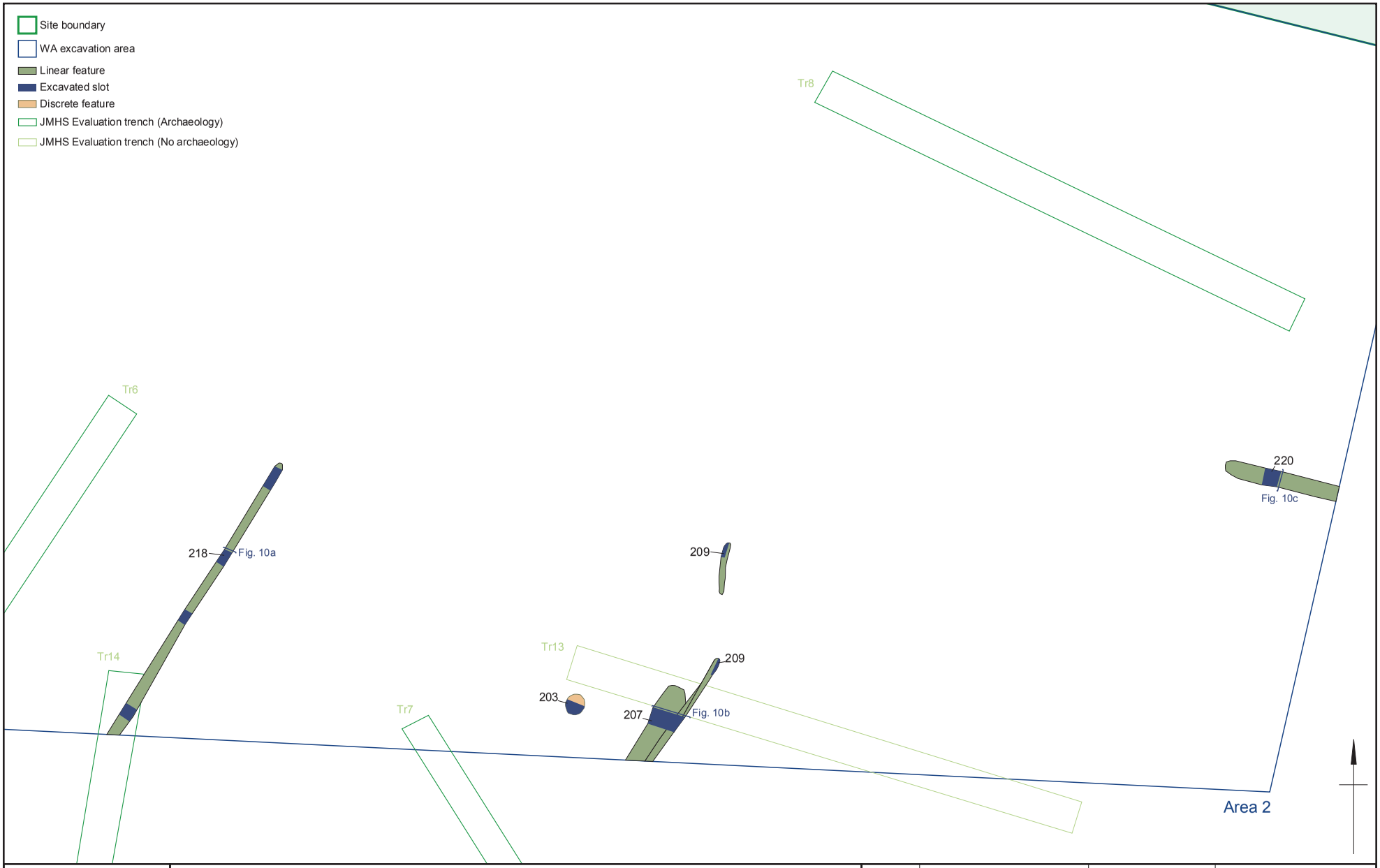
Plan of Area 1

Figure 8



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Plan of Area 2

Figure 9

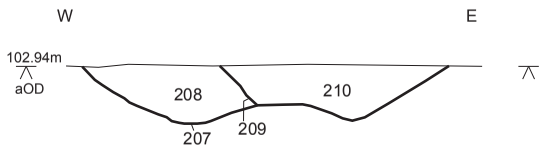

Fig.10b

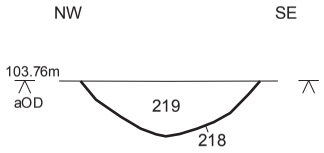

Fig.10a

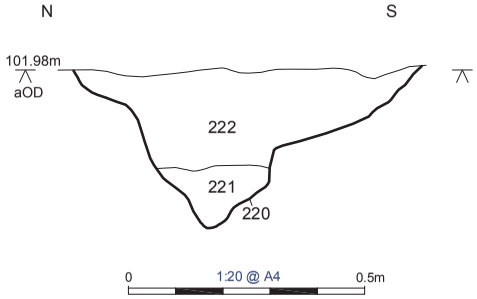

Fig.10c

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Plate 1: Northern earthwork of medieval wildfowl pond prior to clearance

Plate 2: Vegetation above northern earthwork prior to clearance

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Plate 3: Northern earthwork of medieval wildfowl pond following clearance

Plate 4: General shot of **Trench 1**, prior to extension

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Plate 5: Gully **1204** within **Trench 1**

Plate 6: General shot of **Trench 2** excavated across northern earthwork

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Plate 7: Profile and section through northern earthwork within **Trench 2**

Plate 8: General shot of **Area 1**

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Plate 9: Section through western earthwork of medieval wildfowl pond, **Area 1**

Plate 10: General shot of **Area 2** during stripping

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Plate 11: Gully **218** within **Area 2**

Plate 12: Gullies **207** and **209** within **Area 2**

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Plate 13: Gully **220** within **Area 2**

Plate 14: Pit **203** within **Area 2**

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Plate 15: General shot of **Area 3**

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