



making sense of heritage

# Green Pits Lane Nunney, Somerset

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Ref: 2014/0198/OTS  
Ref: 102501.03  
April 2014



**Green Pits Lane, Nunney,  
Somerset**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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# Green Pits Lane, Nunney, Somerset

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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**Front cover** Working shot, Trench 8



# **Green Pits Lane, Nunney, Somerset**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a targeted trial trench evaluation on land at Green Pits Lane, Nunney, Somerset, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 373650 144830.

Planning permission is being sought for the construction for a new residential development, comprising up to 100 dwellings with associated highway improvements, public open space, drainage and associated works (Planning Application No. 2014/0198/OTS). In accordance with national legislation and local planning policies and following previous non-intrusive heritage assessments of the Site, the Senior Historic Environment Officer of Somerset County Council had requested further assessment by means of evaluation trenching at selected locations so that informed decisions can be made regarding the scope of any further mitigation that may be needed before or during the development.

The works consisted of 12 trenches, each 30m by 1.80m, and were located in areas of proposed development within the Site, targeted on geophysical anomalies identified by previous works.

The archaeological evaluation encountered a Romano-British pit and two modern postholes. The majority of the features identified by a previous geophysical survey were identified as being the result of land clearance in the past or were geological in origin. The nature of the features and the artefacts suggests that there has been little human activity in the immediate area in the past.

The programme of work was carried out between the 31<sup>st</sup> March to the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014.



# **Green Pits Lane, Nunney, Somerset**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Acknowledgements**

This project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Chris Clarke and Matthew Smith in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Steve Membury of Somerset County Council (SCC) who monitored this project on behalf of the local authority.

The archaeological evaluation was directed in the field by Matt Kendall and assisted by Phil Breech and Talia Hunt. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram. The report was compiled by Matt Kendall and the graphics were prepared by Liz James. The overall project was managed by Sue Farr, who also edited this report.



# Green Pits Lane, Nunney, Somerset

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting ('the Client'), to carry out a targeted archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Green Pits Lane, Nunney, Somerset, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 373650 144830 (hereafter 'the Site') (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 Planning permission (Planning Application No. 2013/0198/OTS) for a new residential development, comprising up to 100 dwellings with associated highway improvements, public open space, drainage and associated works had been submitted to Mendip District Council. The Senior Historic Environment Officer at Somerset Council (SCC; advisers to the Local Planning Authority) had advised that an archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to assess the results of an earlier geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology (WA) 2014a) completed within the Site.
- 1.1.3 The geophysical survey (WA 2014a) had indicated the presence of anomalies of probable and possible archaeological interest. The densest clusters of anomalies stretched across the northern portion of the Site, including pit-like and linear anomalies interspersed with regions of increased magnetic response. Two sub-annular anomalies were also identified, and although one is poorly defined from the magnetic background, the other is consistent with a small barrow or roundhouse.
- 1.1.4 The fieldwork strategy and methodology was documented in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2014) and was submitted to and approved by the Senior Historical Environment Officer at SCC prior to fieldwork commencing. The evaluation was carried out between the 31<sup>st</sup> March to the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014.

#### 1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site lies within the administrative boundary of the Mendip District Council, and is positioned north of the A361, approximately 4km to the west of Frome and 12km to the east of Shepton Mallet. The Site is located on the southern edge of the existing village, just north of the A361, where Green Pits Lane connects with the northern arm of the Nunney Catch roundabout. The lane runs parallel to the A361 forming part of the southern and western boundary (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The Site is approximately 3.53 hectares and is sub-rectangular in shape. It comprises a single arable field, with a smaller area of reseeded grassland in the south-eastern corner. The field is mostly bounded by hedges of varying quality, and is positioned on a north facing slope, lying at an elevation of approximately 134m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the north, rising gently to 140m aOD towards the southern boundary.



- 1.2.3 The solid geology of the Site is limestone overlain by head deposits of clay (Fuller's Earth), silt, sand, and gravel (British Geological Survey, 1965). Previous geo-technical works (Ruddlesden 2013) indicated topsoil measuring between 0.2m to 0.5m below ground (bgl), overlying a gravely silty clay to depths of between 0.6m bgl and 2.20m bgl.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background of the Site had been detailed in an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) (CgMs 2014), submitted with the planning application, the results of which are briefly summarised below. A 1km Study Area around the Site was established in order to provide the context for the discussion and interpretation.
- 2.1.2 A geophysical survey had also been completed for the Site (WA 2014a), the results of which formed the basis of the targeted trench plan.

### **2.2 Designated sites**

- 2.2.1 No designated heritage assets were recorded within the Site itself.
- 2.2.2 The designated heritage assets within the Study Area comprise a number of Listed Buildings and the Nunney Conservation Area.
- 2.2.3 Nunney Castle (Scheduled Monument 1014716) is located approximately 850m to the north of the Site. The castle was constructed in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century by John de la Mere.
- 2.2.4 Over Court, to the south of the Site, was demolished c. 1980 but was known to have been a country house of mid-17th century date. However, this building is likely to have been erected on the site of a medieval manor house for which some documentary material survives.

### **2.3 Non-designated heritage assets**

- 2.3.1 There is no prehistoric, Romano-British or Saxon evidence (findspots or sites) recorded within the Study Area, and the DBA considered the Site had a low archaeological potential for material of these dates to be present within the Site.
- 2.3.2 Evidence for medieval activity in the Study Area is largely related to the 14<sup>th</sup> century castle at Nunney, and the organisation of the surrounding rural landscape. As a result, the DBA attributed a low potential for medieval material within the Site, with the evidence likely to be associated with agricultural activity comprising both land division and drainage.
- 2.3.3 Historic map regression from 1610 to the present day confirms the Site has remained undeveloped and in agricultural use throughout its documented history. Minor alterations in land use from open ground to arable cultivation, and variations to the field boundaries, including an additional field boundary on the 1930 Ordnance Survey map, are noted.
- 2.3.4 The Somerset Historical Environment Record refers to a number of undated burials discovered during the construction of the Fromefield and Gleblands housing estates immediately to the north of the Site in the 1950s and 1960s. The reference states the remains were immediately reburied.

## **2.4 Geophysical survey**

- 2.4.1 A geophysical survey had been undertaken within the Site (WA 2014a) which demonstrated the presence of anomalies of probable and possible archaeological interest within the survey area, along with regions of magnetic disturbance and ferrous response.
- 2.4.2 The densest clusters of anomalies stretch across the northern portion of the Site where pit-like and linear anomalies appear interspersed amidst regions of increased magnetic response. Two sub-annular anomalies have also been identified, although one is poorly defined from the magnetic background, the other has been interpreted as being of probable archaeological origin, and its form in plan is perhaps consistent with a small barrow or roundhouse.
- 2.4.3 A band of amorphous anomalies extends north-west to south-east across the western portion of the Site. The diffuse appearance of these responses suggests that these are geological in origin, although it is possible that they represent in-filled hollows. Their linear distribution may also be an indication that they follow a seam of geological material.
- 2.4.4 Elsewhere, parallel linear trends are evidence of modern and ploughing orientated north-east to south-west, with other weak trends of uncertain origin seen throughout the dataset. Regions of magnetic disturbance can be seen associated with the lorry park to the south and with telegraph poles across the northern portion of the field.

## **3 METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Aims and objectives**

- 3.1.1 The overall aim of this programme of archaeological evaluation was to provide further information regarding the potential location and nature of archaeological remains within the Site. If remains are present, the assessment will seek to establish sufficient details such that informed decisions can be made regarding the need and scope of any further mitigation that may be required before or during the development of the Site.
- 3.1.2 The following specific objectives have been identified:
- To identify the nature, character, date and extent of archaeology within the proposal area;
  - To assess the survival, quality, condition and significance of any archaeological remains;
  - To ensure the preservation by record of all archaeological remains revealed during the course of the assessment; and
  - To prepare an appropriate archaeological archive including the treatment and preservation of any finds.

### **3.2 Fieldwork methodology**

- 3.2.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out within the WSI (WA 2014b). In format and content it conforms with current best practice and to the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2006). All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the guidance and standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008). The fieldwork will also be

undertaken in accordance with the Somerset County Council *Heritage Service Archaeological Handbook* (SCC 2011).

- 3.2.2 All the trenches were laid out using a Leica Viva series GNSS unit using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30mm or below and in general accordance with the pattern given (**Figure 1**). The investigation areas were scanned using a cable avoidance tool (CAT) by operatives experienced in the use of such equipment prior to machining, and minor adjustments to the layout of trenches was required to take account of buried services.
- 3.2.3 Trench excavation was carried out using a 13 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket and was supervised by a suitably qualified archaeologist at all times. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine in a series of level spits to the top of the archaeology or natural geological deposits, whichever was encountered first. The machine excavated arisings were stored at the side of the trench and were scanned for artefacts at regular intervals from both the topsoil and subsoil.
- 3.2.4 Areas of investigation completed to the satisfaction of the Client, the Senior Historic Environment Officer at SCC were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate order in which they were excavated by Wessex Archaeology and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

### 3.3 Recording

- 3.3.1 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system.
- 3.3.2 A complete drawn record of archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This included both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels was calculated and plans/sections annotated with OD heights.
- 3.3.3 A photographic record was maintained during the evaluation using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images were subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following section details the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation on the Site, which was carried out between the 31<sup>st</sup> March to the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.
- 4.1.2 Works comprised the machine excavation of 12 trenches (12 x 30m), and their subsequent archaeological recording, prior to backfilling.

### 4.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences

- 4.2.1 **Trenches 1 – 12** were all situated within an agricultural field which had a new growth of crop. The underlying geology across the Site was made up fragmented limestone geology to the west within **Trenches 1 – 6, 8, and 9**, and clay (possibly Fuller's Earth) within **Trenches 10 – 12** to the east (**Plates 1 and 2**). **Trench 7** contained both types of geology and after a machine excavated sondage was excavated into the eastern end of the trench, it was established that the clay overlaid the limestone. The underlying geology was

overlain by sequence of mid brown to mid greyish brown topsoils and subsoils across all 12 trenches, ranging in depth between 0.22m to 0.38m (**Plate 3**).

4.2.2 Full details of the stratigraphic sequence can be found in **Appendix 1**.

### 4.3 Summary of evaluation results

4.3.1 **Trenches 1 – 12** were targeted on a number of geophysical anomalies, by means of a detailed gradiometer survey, which were interpreted as of probable and possible archaeological interest, two of which have been interpreted as possible barrows or roundhouses (**Figure 1**).

4.3.2 **Trenches 1 and 2** were positioned in a blank area largely across ploughing trends and a couple of circular anomalies which have been interpreted as probable archaeology. Excavation revealed a north-east to south-west feature which has been interpreted as a pit and recorded as **104 (Plate 4)**. Pottery recovered from the fill indicates a probable Romano-British date. **Trench 2** revealed no archaeological features. The limestone within **Trench 2** was in a more clayey matrix than in the other trenches which could explain the geophysical anomalies around this trench.

4.3.3 **Trench 3** was targeted over two parallel linear anomalies which run broadly east to west and which were interpreted as possible archaeological features. The excavation of the trench did reveal the anomalies; the northernmost feature was very ephemeral, only appearing in patches, and the southernmost feature was very shallow. This seems to indicate that these features are hollows within the natural which have been naturally in-filled.

4.3.4 **Trench 4** was targeted across a fragmentary sub-annular anomaly which is consistent with a small barrow or roundhouse. The excavation of the trench revealed a number of irregular shaped features which matched up to the geophysics results. All contained sterile mid brown clay silt and an investigative slot excavated into one of the features showed that they has irregular shaped sides. Most probably these are bioturbation features and could be the result of land clearance, possibly in the Neolithic or Bronze Age, though no artefactual material was recovered.

4.3.5 **Trench 5** was positioned in the north-west corner of the Site and targeted a region of increased magnetic response which was interpreted as a possible backfilled hollow which may relate to a grubbed out former hedgerow. The excavation of the trench confirms this as a sub-circular feature was identified in the right position and seems to be a hollow in the natural which has been filled up with a colluvial deposit. This feature and the associated anomalies are all located at the break of slope which runs on a north to south line across the Site and could relate to a former hedgerow. Another feature was identified at the eastern end of the trench which seems to be of similar type and nature to those seen in **Trench 4**.

4.3.6 **Trench 6** was targeted on a cluster of pit-like anomalies and areas of increased magnetic response. A number of features were identified during the excavation of the trench. Two of these features were investigated and recorded at **604** and **606 (Plates 5 and 6)** and while these could be archaeological in origin, the lack of any artefacts present within them and the general sterile nature of the deposits implies that they are geological or bioturbation in origin.

4.3.7 **Trench 7** was targeted on the same anomalies and responses as **Trench 6**. Excavation revealed that a layer of clay (possibly Fuller's Earth) overlaid the limestone which was

only visible at the south-western corner of the trench. It seems that the limestone bedrock undulates in this area and that the resulting clay filled depressions have caused the geophysical responses and anomalies. One posthole was identified and recorded as **704 (Plate 7)**. It was very truncated and the fill is very similar to that of the topsoil, suggesting that this feature is of modern date.

- 4.3.8 **Trench 8** was targeted on a north-west to south-east aligned linear anomaly and another anomaly located to the north-east, both of which were interpreted as possible archaeological features. Excavation of the trench did identify a number of possible features and one curvilinear feature was investigated with two slots being excavated and recorded as **804** and **806 (Plates 8 and 9)**. Like the features observed in **Trenches 4 and 6**, the profiles of **804** and **806** suggest a feature that is archaeological in origin, but the fills contained no artefacts or other signs that would suggest that there was ongoing human activity in the vicinity. It is again believed that these were formed by geological processes.
- 4.3.9 **Trench 9** was targeted on a less well-defined sub-annular anomaly defined as a possibly archaeological feature. The excavation of the trench identified no archaeological features but did identify a large area of colluvial material, **903**, similar to that seen in **Trench 5**. Measuring approximately 20m in length (**Plate 10**) and seeming to be circular in plan, it is probable that this was formed by material being deposited into a large hollow through hill wash action. Pottery recovered from the surface of this deposit has been identified as being of Romano-British date which does indicate that there was activity in the area around the Site at this time.
- 4.3.10 **Trench 10** was not targeted on any anomalies but there was a trend identified which runs on an east to west aligned. Excavation of the trench identified no archaeological features or deposits.
- 4.3.11 **Trench 11** was positioned across a weak north-east to south-west orientated linear anomaly which was interpreted as being agricultural in origin. Excavation revealed no archaeological features but a undulation in the interface between the subsoil and natural seems to be the cause of the geophysical anomaly.
- 4.3.12 **Trench 12** was positioned in a 'blank' area where no geophysical responses were recorded. The only archaeological feature observed during excavation was that of a posthole recorded as **1204 (Plate 11)**. While deeper than that of **704**, it is very similar in profile and the nature of its deposit would seem to indicate that it is also of modern date.

## 5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Very few finds were recovered, and these derived only from **Trenches 1, 9 and 10**; **Table 1** gives a list of the finds by context.

**Table 1:** Finds by context

Context	Material type	No.	Wt. (g)	Comments
105	pottery	1	73	RB: Oxon colour coated ware: flanged bowl
105	pottery	1	5	grog-tempered: LIA/RB??
901	pottery	2	26	post-medieval: coarse redware (1 black-glazed)
903	pottery	2	4	RB: Black Burnished ware (BB1)
unstrat Tr 10	flint	1	5	waste flake



## **5.2 Pottery**

- 5.2.1 Possibly the earliest piece is a small body sherd from pit **104** (fill **105**); this is in a coarse grog-tempered fabric, also including some small shell inclusions (now leached out). The sherd is completely undiagnostic, but on fabric grounds is likely to be of Late Iron Age date, or possibly early Romano-British. A second sherd from the same feature belongs to a flanged bowl in Oxfordshire colour coated ware, dated AD 240–400 (Young 1977, type C151).
- 5.2.2 Two small sherds of pottery from colluvium **903** are also Romano-British, and can be identified as Black Burnished ware (BB1).
- 5.2.3 Two sherds from topsoil **901** are post-medieval coarse glazed redwares, and are not more closely datable within the period.

## **5.3 Worked Flint**

- 5.3.1 A prehistoric flint flake was found unstratified in **Trench 10**.

## **6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

- 6.1.1 No material suitable for environmental analysis was found to be present within the monitored areas and accordingly no samples were taken.

## **7 DISCUSSION**

### **7.1 Summary**

- 7.1.1 The archaeological evaluation revealed that there is a low concentration of archaeological features and deposits present across the whole area of the Site, in total one Romano-British pit and two modern postholes were identified and recorded. Due to the shallow nature of the natural geology, particularly in the western half of the Site, any archaeological features will have been substantially truncated through ploughing. The majority of the anomalies and responses identified through the geophysical survey seem to be either geological in origin possibly through glacial scarring, or are bioturbation features and perhaps reflect woodland clearance for cultivation perhaps in the Neolithic or Bronze Age.
- 7.1.2 Good correlation was seen between the geophysical survey and the results of the fieldwork, however natural features and variation in the underlying geology was shown to account for many of the geophysical responses. Similar responses at an evaluation at Little Sharpshaw Farm just to the north-east, were also found to have a geological or natural origin (WA 2013).

### **7.2 Conclusions**

- 7.2.1 The evaluation has demonstrated that there is a low risk of significant archaeological features being encountered during the proposed works, as few features were encountered during the evaluation works. The majority of the features identified by the geophysical survey were identified as probably being either geological in origin or the result of bioturbation and land clearance.



## **8 STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **8.1 Museum**

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the evaluation be deposited with Somerset County Museums Service (SCMS) under the accession number **TTNCM 40/2014**. The museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project. The archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's Salisbury office under the site code **102501**.

### **8.2 Archive**

- 8.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by SCMS, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following.
- 1 small cardboard box of artefacts, ordered by material type.
  - 1 file of paper records and A3/A4 graphics.

### **8.3 Discard policy**

- 8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant further analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 8.3.2 The discard of environments remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

### **8.4 Security copy**

- 8.4.1 In line with current best practice, (e.g. Brown 2011); on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

## **9 REFERENCES**

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## 10 APPENDICES

### 10.1 Appendix 1: Stratigraphic summaries

TRENCH 1			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 29.20m x 1.80m		Max. depth: 0.36m	Ground level: 137.64 - 138.56m	
Co-ordinates: E 373541.54 N 144782.10 and E 373551.30 N 144753.90				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
101	Layer	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with common limestone fragments ≤0.10m		0 – 0.10m bgl
102	Layer	Subsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with moderate limestone fragments ≤0.10m		0.10 – 0.25m bgl
103	Layer	Natural – Abundant limestone – cobbles and smashed fragments ≤0.30m with common pea grit in mid-light brown silty clay matrix, with the smashed stone lending a gritty texture		0.25m+ bgl
104	Cut	Cut of possible pit, roughly aligned north-east to south-west with irregular shallow sides running onto a sub-flat base Recorded as 2.16m in width, 0.22m in depth, and full length unknown.		0.22m deep
105	Fill	Secondary fill of <b>104</b> – A mid brown silty clay with abundant angular and sub-angular limestone fragments ≤0.20m. Much of the limestone may have entered the feature due to ploughing. Derived from the deposition of surrounding materials through natural transport processes.		0.22m thick

TRENCH 2			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 29.40m x 1.80m		Max. depth: 0.42m	Ground level: 139.37 - 140.05m	
Co-ordinates: E 373582.94 N 144785.74 and E 373581.71 N 144757.09				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
201	Layer	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with common limestone fragments ≤0.10m.		0 – 0.10m bgl
202	Layer	Subsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with moderate limestone fragments ≤0.10m		0.10 – 0.25m bgl
203	Layer	Natural – Abundant limestone – cobbles and smashed fragments ≤0.30m in a mid-light brown silty clay matrix, with the stone dust lending a gritty texture		0.25m+ bgl

TRENCH 3			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 28.30m x 1.90m		Max. depth: 0.34m	Ground level: 138.19 - 138.70m	
Co-ordinates: E 373575.65 N 144818.53 and E 373566.99 N 144791.26				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
301	Layer	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with common medium to large angular limestone fragments ≤0.20m. Grass coverage and rooting throughout		0 – 0.15m bgl
302	Layer	Subsoil – Mid to dark greyish brown silty clay loam, as above but slightly more compact. Not very distinguishable from topsoil and containing occasional medium to large angular limestone fragments ≤0.20m.		0.15 – 0.23m bgl
303	Layer	Natural – Abundant limestone – cobbles and smashed fragments ≤0.20m in a mid-light yellowish brown silty clay matrix.		0.23m+ bgl



TRENCH 4			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 29.95m x 1.90m		Max. depth: 0.29m	Ground level: 137.94 - 139.01m	
Co-ordinates: E 373589.80 N 144828.15 and E 373610.36 N 144805.48				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
401	Layer	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with common medium-large angular limestone fragments ≤0.10m. Fairly loose, grass coverage and rooting throughout		0 – 0.13m bgl
402	Layer	Subsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay loam slightly more compact than the topsoil and with fewer roots. Not very distinguishable from topsoil. Contains occasional medium to large angular limestone fragments ≤0.10m.		0.13 – 0.25m bgl
403	Layer	Natural – Abundant limestone – cobbles and smashed fragments ≤0.20m in a mid orangey brown silty clay matrix		0.25m+ bgl

TRENCH 5			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 29.20m x 1.90m		Max. depth: 0.30m	Ground level: 136.50 - 137.36m	
Co-ordinates: E 373536.36 N 144833.80 and E 373564.46 N 144841.84				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
501	Layer	Topsoil – Mid to dark greyish brown silty clay loam with sparse angular and sub-angular limestone fragments ≤0.10m. Disturbed by root and plough action.		0 – 0.10m bgl
502	Layer	Subsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay loam slightly more compact than the topsoil and with fewer roots. Not very distinguishable from topsoil. Contains sparse angular to sub-angular limestone inclusions (<0.05m).		0.10 – 0.27m bgl
503	Layer	Natural – Plough-smashed limestone fragments (≤0.30m) in a mid orangey brown silty clay. Occasional natural depressions filled with natural matrix deposits along the length of the trench		0.27m+ bgl

TRENCH 6			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 31.00m x 1.80m		Max. depth: 0.30m	Ground level: 136.95 - 136.63m	
Co-ordinates: E 373582.02 N 144860.77 and E 373613.18 N 144862.57				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
601	Layer	Topsoil – Mid to dark greyish brown silty clay loam with occasional angular to sub-angular limestone fragments ≤0.10m. Some bioturbation.		0 – 0.10m bgl
602	Layer	Subsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay loam slightly more compact than the topsoil and with fewer roots. Not very distinguishable from topsoil. Contains occasional angular to sub-angular limestone fragments ≤0.10m.		0.10 – 0.22m bgl
603	Layer	Natural – Abundant plough-smashed limestone fragments ≤0.20m in mid orangey brown silty clay matrix. Along the length of the trench are a number of natural depressions filled with the silty clay matrix.		0.22m+ bgl
604	Cut	<b>Cut of possible sub-oval pit, aligned north-west to south-east with irregular moderate sides and a flat base. Recorded as 0.93m in length, 1.3m in width and 0.46m in depth. The shape of the feature suggests an archaeological origin, but the sterile nature of the infill; and make-up suggests that this may be a geological feature.</b>		0.46m deep
605	Fill	Possible secondary fill of <b>604</b> – A mid brown clay silt with very rare sub-rounded-sub-angular limestone (<0.04m). Due to its		0.46m thick



		very high clay content and virtually sterile in nature, this deposit seems to be geological. No dating evidence	
606	Cut	<b>Cut of a possible terminus on an approximate north-west to south-east alignment with irregular sides running into an irregular base. Recorded as 0.70m in length by 0.72m wide and 0.26m deep. The shape of the feature suggests an archaeological origin, but the sterile nature of the infill; and make-up suggests that this may be a geological feature.</b>	0.26m deep
607	Fill	Possible secondary fill of <b>606</b> – A mid brown clay silt with very rare sub-rounded-sub-angular limestone (<0.04m). Due to its very high clay content and virtually sterile in nature, this deposit seems to be geological. No dating evidence	0.26m thick

TRENCH 7			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 30.60m x 1.80m		Max. depth: 0.40m		Ground level: 135.89 – 136.47m
Co-ordinates: E 373614.82 N 144871.78 and E 373641.54 N 144886.40				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
701	Layer	Topsoil – Mid to dark greyish brown silty clay loam containing sparse angular to sub-angular limestone fragments (<0.10m).		0 – 0.10m bgl
702	Layer	Subsoil – Mid to dark greyish brown silty clay loam containing sparse angular to sub-angular limestone fragments (<0.10m). Slightly more compact than the topsoil.		0.10 – 0.25m bgl
703	Layer	Natural – Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional outcrops of fragmented limestone. Complete limestone was encountered at a depth of 0.60m.		0.25m+ bgl
704	Cut	<b>Cut of a modern sub-circular posthole which has been largely truncated. Has shallow concave sides which run into a flat base and was recorded as 0.20m in length by 0.21m in diameter and 0.03m deep.</b>		0.03m deep
705	Fill	Secondary fill of <b>704</b> – Mid greyish brown silty clay containing no coarse components and no dating. Possibly derived from the topsoil as the post was hammered in.		0.03m thick

TRENCH 8			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 29.80m x 1.80m		Max. depth: 0.34m	Ground level: 136.69 – 137.74m	
Co-ordinates: E 373604.41 N 144833.64 and E 373627.79 N 144582.09				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
801	Layer	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay loam containing common angular to sub-angular limestone inclusions (<0.10m) and moderate rooting.		0 – 0.17m bgl
802	Layer	Subsoil - Dark greyish brown silty clay loam containing occasional angular to sub-angular limestone inclusions (<0.08m). Slightly more compact than the topsoil.		0.17 – 0.27m bgl
803	Layer	Natural – Abundant plough-smashed limestone fragments ≤0.20m in mid orangey brown silty clay matrix. Along the length of the trench are a number of natural depressions filled with the silty clay matrix.		0.27m+ bgl
804	Cut	Cut of a curvilinear feature aligned on a rough north-west to south-east orientation. The feature has steep straight sides which run into a concave base. Recorded as 3.75m in length by 1.15m wide and 0.57m deep. The shape of the feature suggests an archaeological origin, but the sterile nature of the infill; and make-up suggests that this may be a geological feature. The same feature of 806.		0.57m deep



805	Fill	Possible secondary fill of <b>704</b> – A mid brown clay silt with very rare sub-rounded-sub-angular limestone (<0.04m). Due to its very high clay content and virtually sterile in nature, this deposit seems to be geological. No dating evidence	0.57m thick
806	Cut	<b>The terminus of a curvilinear feature aligned on a rough north-west to south-east orientation. The feature has moderate to steep straight sides which run into a flat base. Recorded as 3.75m in length by 0.95m wide and 0.35m deep. The shape of the feature suggests an archaeological origin, but the sterile nature of the infill; and make-up suggests that this may be a geological feature. The same feature of 806.</b>	0.35m deep
807	Fill	Possible secondary fill of <b>706</b> – A mid brown clay silt with very rare sub-rounded-sub-angular limestone (<0.06m). Due to its very high clay content and virtually sterile in nature, this deposit seems to be geological. No dating evidence	0.35m thick

TRENCH 9		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 30.20m x 1.80m		Max. depth: 0.56m	Ground level: 137.48 – 138.40m
Co-ordinates: E 373630.39 N 144838.55 and E 373654.76 N 144819.74			
Context	Description		Depth (m)
901	Layer	Topsoil – Mid grey silty loamy clay containing rare sub-rounded to sub-angular limestone inclusions (<0.06m) and occasional rooting.	0 – 0.21m bgl
902	Layer	Subsoil – Mid brown silty clay containing rare to sparse sub-rounded to sub-angular limestone inclusions (<0.05m). Only visible over the top of 903.	0.21 – 0.54m bgl
903	Layer	Colluvium – Mid brown silty clay containing occasional to common sub-rounded limestone inclusions (<0.05) and is present over the majority of the trench.	0.54m+ bgl
904	Layer	Natural – Abundant plough-smashed limestone fragments ≤0.20m in mid orangey brown silty clay matrix. Only present within the first two metres at either end of the trench.	0.30m+ bgl

TRENCH 10		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 30.30m x 1.80m		Max. depth: 0.43m	Ground level: 137.06 – 138.24m
Co-ordinates: E 373672.70 N 144828.77 and E 373684.95 N 144856.74			
Context	Description		Depth (m)
1001	Layer	Topsoil – Mid brownish grey silty clay containing occasional rooting and rare sub-rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.04m).	0 – 0.17m bgl
1002	Layer	Subsoil – Mid grey silty clay containing sparse sub-rounded top sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.04m).	0.17 – 0.24m bgl
1003	Layer	Natural – Mid yellowish brown clay containing sparse flecks of manganese and sparse outcrops of limestone geology.	0.24m bgl

TRENCH 11		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 29.30m x 1.80m		Max. depth: 0.36m	Ground level: 136.61 – 137.29m
Co-ordinates: E 373718.03 N 144854.23 and E 373742.64 N 144871.30			
Context	Description		Depth (m)
1101	Layer	Topsoil – Mid brownish grey silty clay containing occasional rooting and sparse to occasional sub-rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.05m).	0 – 0.18m bgl
1102	Layer	Subsoil – Mid grey silty clay containing sparse sub-rounded to	0.18 – 0.23m



		sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.04m).	bgl
1103	Layer	Natural – Mid brown clay silt containing rare to very rare sub-rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions and an outcrop of limestone geology.	0.23m+ bgl

TRENCH 12		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 28.80m x 1.80m		Max. depth: 0.44m	Ground level: 137.81 – 138.35m
Co-ordinates: E 373711.55 N 144841.02 and E 373740.96 N 144838.21			
Context	Description		Depth (m)
1201	Layer	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay loam containing moderate to common angular to sub-rounded limestone inclusions (<0.07m) and moderate rooting.	0 – 0.25m bgl
1202	Layer	Subsoil – Mid orange brown silty clay containing sparse angular to sub-rounded limestone inclusions (<0.05m).	0.25 – 0.38m bgl
1203	Layer	Natural – Mid to light brownish orange silty clay with occasional seams of limestone geology.	0.38m+ bgl
1204	Cut	<b>Cut of circular modern posthole which has moderate irregular sides which runs into a flat base. Recorded as 0.46m in length by 0.35m in diameter and 0.13m deep.</b>	<b>0.13m deep</b>
1205	Fill	Secondary fill of 1204 – Mid brownish grey silty clay containing frequent to abundant angular to sub-angular stone inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks. Possibly derived from the topsoil as the post was hammered in.	0.13m thick



## 10.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-177090

### Project details

Project name	Green Pits Lane, Nunney
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a targeted trial trench evaluation on land at Green Pits Lane, Nunney, Somerset, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 373650 144830. Planning permission is being sought for the construction for a new residential development, comprising up to 100 dwellings with associated highway improvements, public open space, drainage and associated works (Planning Application No. 2014/0198/OTS). In accordance with national legislation and local planning policies and following previous non-intrusive heritage assessments of the Site, the Senior Historic Environment Officer of Somerset County Council had requested further assessment by means of evaluation trenching at selected locations so that informed decisions can be made regarding the scope of any further mitigation that may be needed before or during the development. The works consisted of 12 trenches, each 30m by 1.80m, and were located in areas of proposed development within the Site, targeted on geophysical anomalies identified by previous works. The archaeological evaluation encountered a Romano-British pit and two modern postholes. The majority of the features identified by a previous geophysical survey were identified as being the result of land clearance in the past or were geological in origin. The nature of the features and the artefacts suggests that there has been little human activity in the immediate area in the past. The programme of work was carried out between the 31st March to the 3rd April 2014.</p>
Project dates	Start: 31-03-2014 End: 03-04-2014
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	102501 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	TTNCM 40/2014 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	32490 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	PIT Roman
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	LITHIC IMPLEMENT Uncertain

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SOMERSET MENDIP NUNNEY Green Pits Lane, Nunney
Postcode	BA11 4AU



Study area	3.53 Hectares
Site coordinates	ST 73650 44830 51.2015570406 -2.37719193596 51 12 05 N 002 22 37 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 134.00m Max: 140.00m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Sue Farr
Project supervisor	Matt Kendall
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting Ltd.

#### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Somerset County Museum
Physical Archive ID	TTNCM 40/2014
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Somerset County museum
Digital Archive ID	TTNCM 40/2014
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Somerset County Museum
Paper Archive ID	TTNCM 40/2014
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Plan","Report","Section"

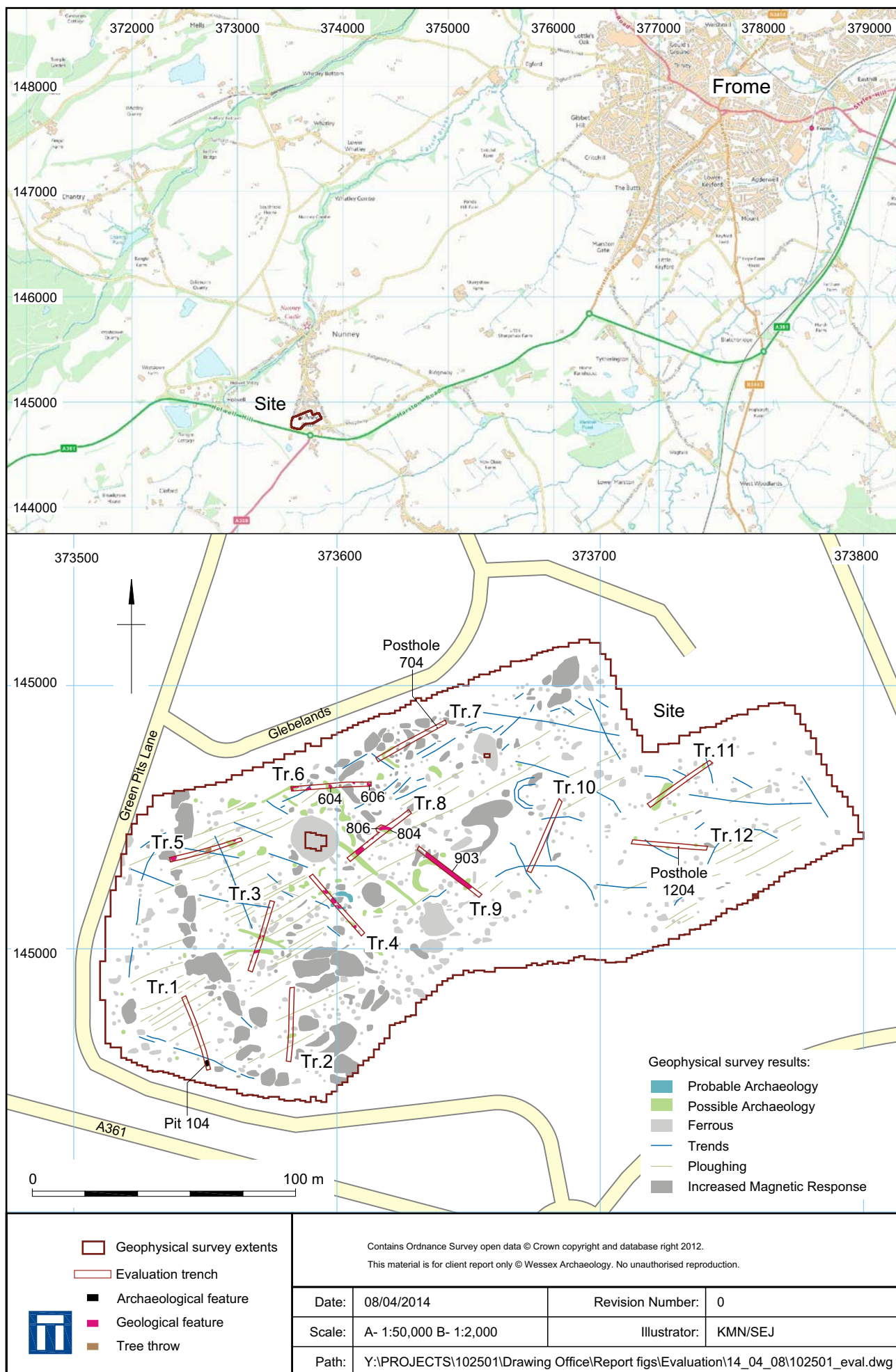
#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Green Pits Lane, Nunney, Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Kendall, M.
Other bibliographic details	report number 102501.03
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology



Place of issue or publication	Wessex Archaeology - Salisbury
Description	A4 bound client report





Site location

Figure 1



Plate 1: Trench 4 viewed from the south-east.



Plate 2: Trench 10 viewed from the south-west.

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Plate 3: South-west facing representative section of Trench 4.



Plate 4: South-east facing section of pit 104.



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Plate 5: Oblique view of feature 604 from the west.



Plate 6: Oblique view of feature 608 from the west.

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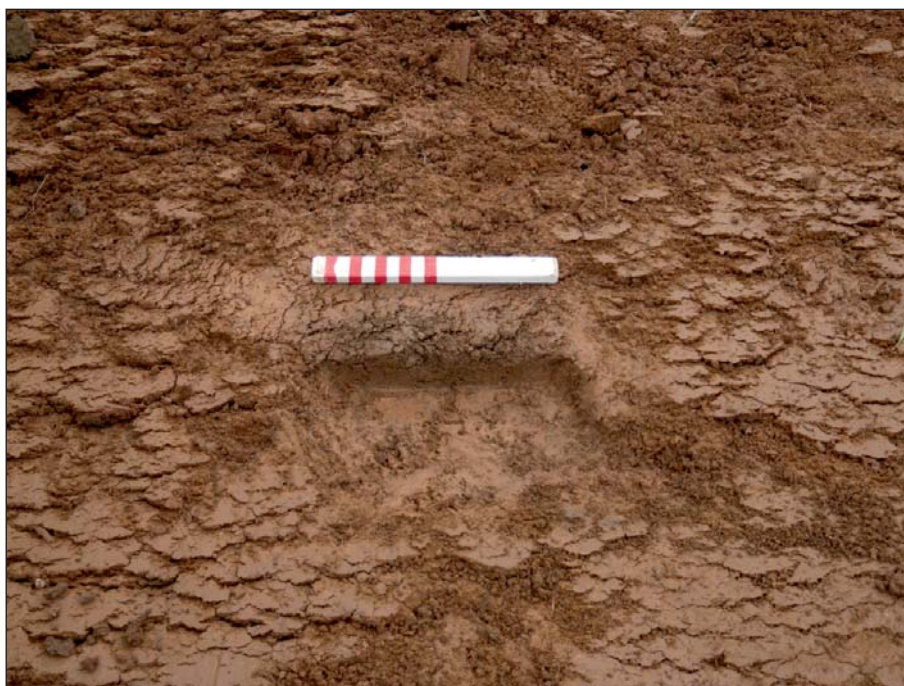


Plate 7: East facing section of posthole 704



Plate 8: North-west facing section of feature 804.


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Plate 9: Oblique view of feature 806 from the west.



Plate 10: Trench 9 viewed from the south-east showing colluvium deposit 903.



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Plate 11: East facing section of posthole 1204.

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