

A556 KNUTSFORD TO BOWDON ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT SCHEME CHESHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report





**A556 KNUTSFORD TO BOWDON
ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT SCHEME
CHESHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Prepared for:
Costain Ltd

by
Wessex Archaeology
Unit R6
Riverside Block
Sheaf Bank Business Park
SHEFFIELD
South Yorkshire
S2 3EN

Report reference: 85630.03


October 2012

DISCLAIMER

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

QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	85630	ACCESSION CODE	TBC	CLIENT CODE	N/A
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	N/A	NGR	NGR 37545 38483 TO 37244 37960		

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
01	E	AS & APN	APN		04/10/12	S:\PROJECTS\85630 (A556 KNUTSFORD TO BOWDON)\REPORTS\EVAL
02	F				11/10/12	

* I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL,

**A556 KNUTSFORD TO BOWDON
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME
CHESHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Contents

Summary.....	v
Acknowledgements.....	vi
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Project Background.....	1
1.2 The Site, Location and Geology.....	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	1
2.1 General.....	1
2.2 Prehistoric.....	1
2.3 Romano-British.....	2
2.4 Medieval.....	2
2.5 Post-Medieval.....	2
2.6 Recent Work.....	2
3 AIMS AND SCOPE OF WORK.....	3
3.1 General.....	3
4 METHODOLOGY.....	3
4.1 Introduction.....	3
5 EVALUATION RESULTS.....	4
5.1 Introduction.....	4
5.2 Area A.....	4
5.3 Area B.....	8
6 FINDS REPORTS.....	9
6.1 General.....	9
7 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS.....	9
7.1 Human Bone.....	9
7.2 Charred Plant Remains and Charcoal.....	10
8 DISCUSSION.....	11
8.1 Area A.....	11
8.2 Area B.....	12
9 ARCHIVE AND COPYRIGHT.....	12
9.1 Archive.....	12
9.2 Copyright.....	12
10 REFERENCES.....	13
APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS.....	15
APPENDIX 2: TABLES.....	22

Figures

Figure 1	Site location – Area A
Figure 2	Area B
Figure 3	Trench 69
Figure 4	Trench 72
Figure 5	Trench 139
Figure 6	Trench 150
Figure 7	Trench 151
Figure 8	Trench 152
Figure 9	Trench 154
Figure 10	Trench 155
Figure 11	Trench 156

Plates

Plate 1	Trench 86, looking south-west
Plate 2	Trench 86, representative section, north-west
Plate 3	Trench 87, looking south-east
Plate 4	Trench 87, representative section, looking north-east
Plate 5	Trench 88, looking north-east
Plate 6	Trench 88, representative section, looking south-east
Plate 7	Trench 157, looking south
Plate 8	Trench 157, representative section, looking east
Plate 9	Trench 158, looking north-east
Plate 10	Trench 158, representative section, looking north-west

**A556 KNUTSFORD TO BOWDON
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME
CHESHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was appointed by Costain Ltd, to carry out an archaeological evaluation to inform an Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed A556 Knutsford to Bowdon Environmental Improvement Scheme. The section of the A556 under consideration connects the M56 Junction 7 near Bowdon with the M6 Junction 19 near Tabley/Knutsford (NGR 37545 38483 TO 37244 37960).

Following a Scoping Study for this scheme, magnetometer and resistivity geophysical surveys were undertaken, the results of which were used to inform a scheme of advanced trial trenching works. This phase of work comprised the excavation of 19 trial trenches that were targeted on the results of the geophysical survey, which included a group of undiagnostic anomalies adjacent to a possible barrow site north of the A50 (Area A) and two possible clamp kiln bases (Area B).

The most significant result of the evaluation was the discovery of a cremation pit and associated gully termini within Area A. The deposits were undated but are assumed to be Bronze Age in date due to their proximity to the assumed barrows at Bucklow Hill. The remains comprised the bones of a young, probably female, adult and pyre debris that included animal remains. Two gully termini either side of the cremation pit may have formed part of a barrow ditch or associated monument. The cremation was located on the brow of a hill within Area A, an area largely devoid of other archaeological remains. Geophysical anomalies in the area of Trench 68 were interpreted as a possible barrow ditch, but were seen to reflect changes in the natural geology.

In the southern part of Area A, on the slope and at the foot of the hill, numerous drainage or boundary ditches were recorded. The only dating evidence for the ditch fills was part of a modern bottle recovered from a ditch in Trench 139, and it is tempting to assume that the ditches represent modern drainage features within a boggy part of the field that have been periodically re-established.

No remains of archaeological significance were found within Area B, although the presence of burnt brick fragments in the topsoil can be assumed to represent the remains of a ploughed out clamp kiln identified by the geophysical survey.

The archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's Sheffield offices and will be deposited with Cheshire Museums in due course, under a relevant accession number.

**A556 KNUTSFORD TO BOWDON
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME
CHESHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Costain Ltd and designed by Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to David Middleton, Paul Sprague and Rob McNaught in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Mark Leah, Development Control Archaeologist for Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (CAPAS), and Susan Stallibrass of English Heritage for their help and advice.

The report was compiled by Alex Sotheran and Andrew Norton, illustrations were prepared by Chris Breeden and Chris Swales. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Norton. Fieldwork was directed by Jessica Tibber with the assistance of Chris Harrison, Charlotte Burton and Thomas Firth. The samples were processed by Nicki Mulhall and were assessed by Sarah F. Wyles. The cremated bone was assessed by Jackie McKinley and the finds reported on by Lorraine Mephram.

**A556 KNUTSFORD TO BOWDON
ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT SCHEME
CHESHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was appointed by Costain Ltd, to carry out an archaeological evaluation to inform an Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed A556 Knutsford to Bowdon Environmental Improvement Scheme (hereafter the 'Site').

1.1.2 The section of the A556 under consideration connects the M56 Junction 7 near Bowdon with the M6 Junction 19 near Tabley/Knutsford (NGR 37545 38483 TO 37244 37960; **Figure 1**).

1.1.3 Following a Scoping Study for this scheme (Jacobs 2009), magnetometer and resistivity geophysical surveys were undertaken (GSB, 2009; ASWYAS, 2010), the results of which were used to inform a scheme of advanced trial trenching works. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced outlining how the archaeological requirements of evaluation trenching would be met (Jacobs 2012). and which was approved by English Heritage (EH). The WSI was approved by Mark Leah of Cheshire East Council on behalf of English Heritage.

1.2 The Site, Location and Geology

1.2.1 The superficial geology of the area is mainly glacial till, with the possibility of glacial sands and gravels adjacent to or immediately north of the A50. The underlying geology is of mudstone and siltstone. The soils range from wet to free draining and silts to clays.

1.2.2 Land use is mostly arable with some pasture. The terrain is gently undulating and the land form is generally level in the north, gradually sloping to the south.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 General

2.1.1 The following is summarised from the WSI (Jacobs 2012).

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 Eight ring ditches have been identified from aerial photographs in the vicinity of Bucklow Hill. These are likely to be the ploughed down remains of barrows (burial mounds) which may have formed part of a barrow cemetery of Bronze Age date.

2.3 Romano-British

2.3.1 The modern A556 follows the line of the northern extension of Watling Street for much of its course, while the present A50 is believed to follow the line of the North Cheshire Ridge Roman Road. Watling Street was the principal Roman road from Chester to Manchester.

2.4 Medieval

2.4.1 The Scheduled Monuments of Watch Hill Motte and Bailey Castle and Hough Hall Moated Site lie close to the scheme. Field name evidence from the tithe apportionment ('Big Meadow and Old Moat') indicates the possible presence of another moated site, though this may refer to an older site which preceded Over Tabley Old Hall, a Grade II Listed Building. The remains of ridge and furrow have also been identified within the study area.

2.5 Post-Medieval

2.5.1 Field name evidence from the tithe maps indicates clay extraction, possibly for brick making, and it likely that the ponds shown on modern Ordnance Survey mapping in these fields are the remains of marl pits.

2.5.2 Over Tabley Old Hall and Mere Old Hall, both of which are Grade II Listed Buildings, lie close to the scheme, and the land through which the A556 runs has been shaped by post medieval/modern agricultural improvements, settlement, communications and industry.

2.6 Recent Work

2.6.1 A geophysical survey of a limited area of the scheme was carried out in October 2009 (GSB 2009). The survey examined four areas and was designed to establish the presence or absence of: prehistoric barrows associated with the nearby Bucklow Hill barrow cemetery; the routes of the North Cheshire Ridge and Watling Street Roman Roads, and a possible medieval moated site suggested by field name evidence. None of the sites or features listed above was identified during the survey, however, a number of anomalies of tentative archaeological origin were detected (ibid). Further geophysical survey over the majority of the remaining scheme area (ASWYAS 2010) identified anomalies of possible archaeological origin including:

- a possible enclosure roughly 80m long, south-east of Junction 7 of the M56;
- a group of undiagnostic anomalies adjacent to a possible barrow site north of the A50 (Area A; **Figure 1**);
- two possible clamp kiln bases (Area B; **Figure 2**)
- undiagnostic anomalies north of the M6 and west of St Paul's Church, Over Tabley.

3 AIMS AND SCOPE OF WORK

3.1 General

3.1.1 The general aim of the trial trenching was to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, depth, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits in order to establish the impact of the development on the archaeological resource. More specific aims and objectives were:

- to identify, investigate and record any such archaeological remains to the extent possible by the methods put forward in the WSI (Jacobs 2012);
- to clarify the date, character and extent of those sites within the footprint of the proposed scheme;
- to examine a representative sample of the potential archaeological sites or remains that were identified by the geophysical surveys and to clarify their results;
- to test the remaining 'blank' areas to assess the potential for unrecorded archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed route;
- to determine (so far as possible) the stratigraphic sequence and dating of the deposits or features identified;
- to establish any ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features, and
- to establish if further archaeological investigation is required.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The proposed work comprised the evaluation of three areas based on the results of the geophysical survey (ASWYAS 2010). Area A comprised the excavation of 14 trenches targeted on geophysical anomalies thought to be associated with a barrow site, Area B comprised the excavation of five trenches targeted on geophysical anomalies thought to be represent Clamp Kilns, and a third area on land near the Bowden roundabout was designed to target a possible enclosure. Land access issues meant that the excavation of four trenches near the Bowden roundabout was postponed (**Figures 1 and 2**).

4.1.2 The trenches were located by means of a Real-Time Kinematic (RTK) GPS system and tied into the OS grid (within 0.1m). All trenches were scanned using a CAT to check for uncharted services prior to machining. Topsoil or overburden was removed using a mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Topsoil was removed in a series of level spits down to the level of the upper archaeological horizon, or the level of the natural geology, whichever was reached first.

4.1.3 All trenches were hand-cleaned (if necessary) to clarify the extent of any revealed archaeological remains. Where archaeological features and

deposits were encountered, excavation was carried out by hand. A sufficient sample of each layer/feature type was excavated in order to establish the date, nature, extent and condition of the archaeological remains.

- 4.1.4 All recording took place in accordance with standard Wessex Archaeology methodologies and the WSI (Jacobs 2012). All works were undertaken in accordance with the relevant Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) Standard and Guidance, the IfA Code of Conduct, and other current and relevant best practice and standards and guidance (IfA 2008a and b).
- 4.1.5 The trenches were backfilled with arisings following the evaluation, once Mark Leah (CAPAS – on behalf of EH) and Robert McNaught (Jacobs) were satisfied that the excavation had been carried out to an appropriate standard.

5 EVALUATION RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The following section is a summary of the information held in the Site archive. Trench locations are shown in **Figures 1 and 2**. Observed deposits for each trench are summarised in **Appendix 1** and referred to in the text in bold.

5.2 Area A

General

- 5.2.1 The following trenches were devoid of archaeological remains; 67, 68, 70, 71 and 153. Natural orange to brown sand was revealed within the trenches and was up to 0.80m below the ground surface. The natural geology was overlain by colluvium in Trench 153 and all deposits were overlain by a buried ploughsoil and the modern topsoil.

Trench 69 (Figure 3)

- 5.2.2 Natural mid-orangey brown sand (**6906**) was cut by a cremation pit that lay between two gully termini (**6903**, **6909/6913** and **6911/6915**). It is possible that these three features were part of a larger enclosure entrance that lay beyond the edge of the machined trench.
- 5.2.3 Pit **6903** was oval shaped with moderately sloped and concave sides and a flat base. The longest axis ran approximately northeast to southwest for 0.55m with the width being 0.50m. The overall depth of **6903** was 0.21m. The primary fill was a dark greyish brown sandy silt (**6904**) with a large amount of charcoal inclusions and burnt human bone. This deposit was 0.13m deep and overlain by backfilling deposit **6905/6907**, a mid brownish grey sandy silt with a maximum depth of 0.08m.
- 5.2.4 To the south of the cremation pit **6903** was linear ditch terminus **6909/6913**. It ran from east to west for 0.68m and had a width from north to south of 0.40m. It was 0.16m deep with moderately sloped and concave sides and had a concave shaped base. The terminus was filled with **6910/6914**, a mid orangish brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks.

- 5.2.5 An east to west orientated gully terminus (**6911/6915**) lay to the north of the cremation pit. This was similar in form to **6909/6913** but had a depth of 0.23m and a width of 0.42m. The single fill (**6912/6916**) was a mid orangish brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks.
- 5.2.6 Layer **6917** lay to the north of the three features and comprised an amorphous deposit, which had a length of approximately 1.60m and a width of 0.30m. It may have been associated with cremation pit **6903**, due to the presence of frequent charcoal patches, but was more likely a result of plough scarring.
- 5.2.7 Overlying all the features in Trench 69 was the subsoil (**6902**), which was a buried ploughsoil comprising a mid-reddish brown silty sand at a depth of between 0.21m and 0.30m below ground level. Above this was the topsoil **6901**, which was dark greyish brown sandy silt with a depth of 0.21m.

Trench 72 (Figure 4)

- 5.2.8 The natural geology in Trench 72 was **7206**, a mid yellowish red sand at a maximum depth of 0.42m. Linear ditch cut **7203** was orientated northeast to southwest, 3.60m wide with a depth of 0.50m. It was shallow sided with a concave base with what appeared to be a drainage channel cut through the base. The primary fill was a silting deposit (**7205**), which was a mixed sandy clay with a maximum depth of 0.08m. Above this deposit was a bulk silting deposit (**7204**), comprising a mid greenish grey silty sand and 0.80m deep.
- 5.2.9 The deposits were overlain by a buried ploughsoil (**7202**), below topsoil **7201**.

Trench 139 (Figure 5)

- 5.2.10 Trench 139 was excavated in two parts due to the presence of modern land drains. Natural geology (**13908**) comprised an orange clayey sand, into which at least five field drains were cut. Only one was recorded and numbered as **13907**; its single fill (**13906**) contained modern glass. Due to the depths of colluvium and the presence of land drains, natural geology was only revealed in the southern part of the trench, and revealed at 1m below ground level.
- 5.2.11 The subsoils in Trench 139 were characterised as different layers of colluvium, the earliest of which was **13905**, a light grey sand with occasional small stone inclusions. This was overlain by **13904**, a dark to mid grey sand with patches of charcoal. A later layer of colluvium (**13903**) comprised an orangey brown silty sand. None of these layers had a depth greater than 0.20m.
- 5.2.12 A buried ploughsoil (**13902**) overlay the colluvium and was overlain by topsoil **13901**, a dark greyish brown humic silt with a depth of 0.30m.

Trench 150 (Figure 6)

- 5.2.13 Natural **15003** comprised an orangey grey sand with frequent iron panning and was overlain along the north-east axis of the trench by colluvium **15008**. The deposit was light grey in colour with a depth of between 0.45m and 0.70m from the ground surface.

- 5.2.14 Field boundary **15004** truncated colluvium **15008** along an east to west orientation. The sides were concave in shape and moderately sloped with an uneven shaped base. The cut had a depth of 0.35m, a width of 1.80m and was filled by a mottled grey and black silty sand (**15005**) with occasional charcoal flecks. Fill **15005** was very similar to the topsoil so was assumed to be modern or to have been backfilled in modern times.
- 5.2.15 Linear ditch **15006** lay on the same orientation as **15004** but was 2.10m wide and 0.40m deep, with a field drain located on the north-eastern edge. The sides were concave in shape and the ditch had a flattish base. The single fill (**15007**) was a mid brown silty sand with occasional charcoal inclusions. No finds were recovered from the deposit.
- 5.2.16 The deposits were overlain by buried ploughsoil **15002**, a mid-orangish brown silty sand with a depth of between 0.15m and 0.40m below the ground surface. Topsoil **15001** had a depth of 0.15m.

Trench 151 (Figure 7)

- 5.2.17 The natural layer in Trench 151 was **15102**, a mid yellowish orange silty sand. Located in the northwest extent of Trench 151 was modern gully **15103**, which had a maximum depth of 0.24m and a width of 1.20m. The feature terminated at 2.75m along its northwest to southeast aligned axis, and had concave sides with a flat base. The single fill **15104** was a dark greyish brown sandy silt from which a small fragment of modern pottery was recovered.
- 5.2.18 A large drainage ditch (**15105**) lay to the east and was aligned north-east to south-west. It had concave sides with a flat base. The ditch had a width of 1.94m and a depth of 0.40m. It contained a single fill (**15106**); a light brownish grey and orange sandy silt.
- 5.2.19 Approximately 5m to the east of **15105** was ditch **15107**, which was similarly aligned, 2.66m wide and 0.30m deep. The single fill (**15108**) was a mid-greyish brown sandy silt, which was overlain by a large redeposited sand layer. No dateable finds were recovered from the deposits.
- 5.2.20 Aligned north to south and lying approximately 6m to the east of **15107** was ditch **15111**. It was a flat based, concave sided field drainage ditch filled by **15112**, a mid brownish grey sandy silt. No dateable evidence was retrieved from **15112**, and the ditch was heavily truncated by ditch **15113** to the east and gully **15109** to the east.
- 5.2.21 Gully **15109** was 0.50m wide and 0.10m deep and ran between ditches **15111** and **15107**. The single fill (**15110**) was a light greyish brown sandy silt.
- 5.2.22 Ditch **15111** was truncated to the east by modern boundary ditch **15113**, which had a width of 2.50m and a depth of 0.54m. The ditch contained one fill **15114**, which was a dark greyish brown sandy silt with lenses of orange sand.
- 5.2.23 All the features in Trench 151 were overlain by a buried ploughsoil (**15115**), which was a mid orangish brown silty sand with a depth of between 0.15m

and 0.40m below the ground surface. The topsoil (**15101**) was a dark greyish brown sandy silt with a depth of 0.40m.

Trench 152 (Figure 8)

- 5.2.24 The features identified within Trench 152 were similar in fills to those in Trench 151, and elsewhere in Area A and assumed to be modern in origin. Following discussions with Mark Leah the ditches were not excavated, but were recorded in plan.
- 5.2.25 The natural layer in Trench 152 was **15203**, a mottled mid greyish orange silty sand. At the northern extent of the evaluation trench was a possible boundary ditch (**15204**), which had a width of 1.75m and was filled by **15205**, a dark brownish grey sandy silt.
- 5.2.26 Approximately 2m to the south of **15204** was a possible hedge boundary **15206**, which was irregular in plan but had a maximum width of 3.15m. This feature was filled with **15207** - a mottled mid greyish brown silty sand with charcoal inclusions.
- 5.2.27 Approximately 12m along the axis of the trench was a modern field drain that truncated gully terminus **15208**, which had a length of 1.50m and a width of 0.40m. The single fill **15208** was dark brown grey sandy silt.
- 5.2.28 At the southern end of the trench was ditch terminus **15212**, which had a width of 1.15m and a length of 0.90m and was filled by **15213** - a dark greyish brown silty sand.
- 5.2.29 Ditch terminus **15212** was truncated to the north by linear ditch **15210**, which had a width of 0.55m and was filled by **15211**, a dark brownish grey silty sand.

Trench 154 (Figure 9)

- 5.2.30 The natural geology of Trench 154 was **15403**, which was a mid orangey brown silty sand. Cut into the natural was a shallow gully **15404**, which was orientated north-east to south-west along a distance of 0.90m. The gully had a width of 0.45m and depth of 0.04m, and may have been truncated by later plough action. The single fill of **15404** was **15405**, which was a light brownish grey sandy silt and was similar to the subsoil **15402**. No dateable evidence was retrieved from this deposit.
- 5.2.31 Buried ploughsoil **15402** was a light brownish grey sandy silt, which had a depth of between 0.33m and 0.43m below ground level. Above this was topsoil **15401**, a dark greyish brown sandy silt that had a depth of 0.33m.

Trench 155 (Figure 10)

- 5.2.32 Mid-orange brown silty sand natural **15503** was located 0.38m below the ground surface. A large linear ditch (**15504**) ran in a north to south alignment at the north-east end of the evaluation trench. It was 3.80m wide and filled with a dark greyish brown sandy silt (**15505**).
- 5.2.33 At the south-west end of Trench 155 was a northwest to southeast aligned ditch **15506**, which had a width of 2.40m and was filled by a dark greyish brown sandy silt (**15507**). The ditches were assumed to be modern and

possibly formed part of a drainage or boundary system with those ditches in Trench 152.

- 5.2.34 Buried ploughsoil **15502** was a mid greyish brown sandy silt that was located between 0.34m and 0.35m from the ground surface. Above this was topsoil **15501**, a dark greyish brown sandy silt that had a depth of 0.34m.

Trench 156 (Figure 11)

- 5.2.35 The natural in Trench 156 was **15603**, a light greyish yellow silty sand that lay 0.40m below the ground level.
- 5.2.36 At the southwestern extent of Trench 156 was boundary ditch **15604**, which had a width of 3.30m and depth of 0.30m. The sides were concave in shape and moderately sloped with a flat base. The single fill (**15605**) was a dark greyish brown sandy silt.
- 5.2.37 To the northeast of **15604** was a shallow gully **15606**, which was 0.50m wide and 0.10m deep and filled with **15607** – a mid greyish brown sandy silt. The gully was aligned north to south.
- 5.2.38 Ditch **15608** was 2.20m wide, 0.18m deep and shallow with a concave base. It ran in a northwest to southeast alignment and was filled by **15609**, a mid brownish grey mixed silty sand that may have been the remnants of a hedgerow that was removed and subsequently backfilled.
- 5.2.39 Feature **15610** had a triangular shape in plan with a width of 1.75m and depth of 0.30m. The full extent of it was unknown as it ran into the section edge, but it may have been a pit or terminus of a boundary ditch/hedgerow. The fill (**15611**) was a dark brownish grey sandy silt mixed with some redeposited natural.
- 5.2.40 Buried ploughsoil **15602** overlay the fills, which was overlain by topsoil **15601**.

5.3 Area B

General (Plates 1-10)

- 5.3.1 No archaeological deposits were revealed within Trenches 86-88, 156 and 157. The natural sandy clay was overlain by 0.30m of buried ploughsoil below 0.10m to 0.20m of topsoil.
- 5.3.2 The topsoil (**15701**) and fills of land drains at the southern end of Trench 157 contained fragments of heat affected brick measuring no more than 0.07m in diameter (but normally smaller). The material was found in the location of geophysical anomalies interpreted as the remains of a clamp kiln, and it is likely that the brick fragments represent the ploughed out remains of such a structure.

6 FINDS REPORTS

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 Six sherds of 19th or 20th century pottery were recovered from topsoil **15301** (Trench 153). All the pottery is refined whiteware and most pieces are transfer-printed. The assemblage is most likely a product of manuring and should be discarded.
- 6.1.2 The base of a 19th or 20th century bottle was recovered from ditch fill **13906** and an undated iron nail was recovered from colluvium **15008**. It is recommended that all finds are discarded.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

7.1 Human Bone

Results

- 7.1.1 Cremated bone from three contexts was subject to a rapid scan to determine its condition and demographic data, any readily observably pathological lesions and pyre goods, and to deduce the type of deposit represented. The material derived from a single feature (**6903**) located between ditch terminals **6909** and **6915** (**Figure 3**). The feature is believed to be Bronze Age in date, however, in the absence of any dating evidence radiocarbon analysis of a sample of bone will be required to substantiate this assumption.
- 7.1.2 The cut survived to a relatively substantial depth (0.21m) and contained two charcoal-rich fills (**6904/6908** and **6905/6907**). The western half of the two fills (**6907** and **6908**) was subject to 100% recovery, the eastern half was discarded on Site and the discernable (larger) bone fragments recovered by hand. Some bone and fuel ash was evident at surface level and it is possible that a small amount of material may have been lost prior to excavation either due to ploughing and/or during machine stripping of the trench. An unknown quantity of bone will have been lost from the eastern half of the fills.
- 7.1.3 The bone is in good visual condition and a representative proportion of trabecular bone (prone to preferential loss in an adverse burial environment) is present. The total of 370.8g of bone recovered represents the remains of one individual, a young adult, probably female. No pathological lesions were observed. A few small fragments of an immature mammal (pyre good) were also observed.
- 7.1.4 The bone is all well oxidised. Elements from all skeletal areas (skull, axial skeleton, upper and lower limb) are represented. There is no evidence to suggest post-cremation manipulation of the remains to increase fragmentation, or for selection of specific skeletal elements for burial.
- 7.1.5 The formation process of the deposits cannot be deduced with confidence due to the incomplete recovery of all the cremated bone from the feature. The increased charcoal rich nature and apparent concentration of the bone in the lower 0.13m depth of the cut (69.5% of the total recovered), suggests this represents the remains of the unurned burial with additional redeposited

pyre debris. The material from the upper fill on the west side (30.5% of total) may be the result of bioturbation or represent the remains of a secondary deposit of pyre debris. On the evidence available it also appears that the bone was concentrated in the west side of the grave cut (92.1%). Although the proportions of bone from the west side are likely to be misleadingly high, the general observation probably stands (**Table 1**; **Appendix 2**).

Potential, proposed methods and recommendations

- 7.1.6 Full analysis of the bone will provide more detailed and confident demographic data regarding the age and sex of the individual. Although no pathological lesions were observed in the scan, some may be observed with more detailed analysis and could contribute towards a broad assessment of the health status of individual. The non-human remains will be extracted for further identification by the archaeozoologist.
- 7.1.7 Analysis of the cremated bone will follow the writer's standard procedure (McKinley 1994, 5-6; 2004). All unsorted <4mm residues will be subject to a rapid scan at this stage to extract any identifiable material, osseous or artefactual. Taphonomic factors potentially affecting differential bone preservation will be assessed. The age of individual will be further assessed using standard methodologies (Beek 1983; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). Sex will be confirmed from the sexually dimorphic traits of the skeleton (Bass 1987; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Gejvall 1981). Pathological lesions will be recorded in text and via digital photography and non-metric traits will be noted (Berry and Berry 1967; Finnegan 1978). The form and nature of the deposit will be further considered in light of the osteological and context data. Aspects of pyre technology and the cremation mortuary rite will be discussed.
- 7.1.8 It is recommended that a bone sample is submitted for radio-carbon dating. This will enable the deposits to be studied within the correct temporal context and viewed within their wider regional context, and allow the potential temporal dynamics of the mortuary environment to be better understood.

7.2 Charred Plant Remains and Charcoal

Introduction

- 7.2.1 A total of five bulk samples were taken from a range of features, four were possibly cremation related and within Trench 69 and a further sample taken from pit **15610** in Trench 156. These were processed to evaluate the presence and preservation of palaeo-environmental remains. This information can provide an indication of the significance of the archaeological Site as a whole.

Results

- 7.2.2 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>4 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Table 2 (Appendix 2)**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature,

as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals.

- 7.2.3 The flots were generally large with varying numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material exhibited varying degrees of preservation.
- 7.2.4 Very few charred plant remains were recorded in the samples from Trench 69. These included a small number of hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) and indeterminate grain fragments. There was also a moderate quantity of stem fragments, possibly of heather (*Erica/Calluna* sp.) type, within sample 6901 within the cremation related deposit **6907** within pit **6903**.
- 7.2.5 No charred plant remains were observed in the sample from pit **15610**.
- 7.2.6 Wood charcoal fragments of greater than 4mm were retrieved in high numbers from the cremation related deposits in pit **6903** and layer/spread **6917** in Trench 69 and from pit **15610** in Trench 156. The charcoal mainly appeared to be mature wood fragments.

Potential

- 7.2.7 There is no potential for the charred plant remains from these samples to provide any detailed information due to the paucity of remains recovered.
- 7.2.8 There is the potential for the analysis of the wood charcoal to provide information on the species representation and the management and exploitation of the local woodland resource as well as augmenting data on the local funerary practices. However the usefulness of this information is limited if these deposits remain undated.

Proposals

- 7.2.9 No further work is proposed on the charred plant remains. Analysis of the wood charcoal from the cremated related deposit within pit **6903** and from layer/spread **6917** should be considered (if these deposits become dated) after any further work on the Site is carried out.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Area A

- 8.1.1 The most significant result of the evaluation was the discovery of a cremation pit and associated gully termini in Trench 69. The deposits were undated but are assumed to be Bronze Age in date due to the Site's proximity to the assumed barrows at Bucklow Hill. The remains comprised the bones of a young, probably female, adult and pyre debris that included animal remains. Two gully termini either side of the cremation pit may have formed part of a barrow ditch or associated monument.
- 8.1.2 The cremation was located on the brow of a hill within Area A, an area largely devoid of other archaeological remains. Geophysical anomalies in

the area of Trench 68 were interpreted as a possible barrow ditch, but were demonstrated to reflect changes in the natural geology.

- 8.1.3 In the southern part of Area A, on the slope and at the foot of the hill, numerous drainage or boundary ditches were recorded. The only dating evidence for the ditch fills was part of a modern bottle recovered from a ditch in Trench 139, and it is tempting to assume that the ditches represent modern drainage features/a field boundary within a boggy part of the field, and which have been re-established over time.
- 8.1.4 Most of the ditches do not appear on the historic tithe maps or OS plans, although the ditch recorded in Trench 154 is in approximately the same location as an historic north-south aligned field boundary that has since been lost. It is worth noting that the fill of ditch **15404** was similar to the buried ploughsoil, whilst the majority of the remaining ditches contained a darker fill.
- 8.1.5 If the ditches represent drainage features then they would not necessarily appear on early maps, but any boundary ditches can be assumed to be 17th century in date or earlier. The fills of the ditches were broadly similar, and from the presence of an undated nail in the colluvium in Trench 150 we can infer that the ditches are Romano-British at the earliest, but are probably of a post-medieval date.

8.2 Area B

- 8.2.1 No deposits of archaeological significance were found within Area B, although the presence of burnt brick fragments in the topsoil can be assumed to be the remains of a ploughed out clamp kiln identified by the geophysical survey.

9 ARCHIVE AND COPYRIGHT

9.1 Archive

- 9.1.1 The archive will be deposited with Chester Museums in due course, under the relevant accession number.
- 9.1.2 The Site archive will be prepared in line with United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (2001), Museums and Galleries Commission (1992), English Heritage (2006) guidelines and the requirements of Chester Museums.

9.2 Copyright

- 9.2.1 This report, and the archive generally, may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

10 REFERENCES

- Archaeological Services WYAS, 2010 A556 Environmental Improvement Bowden to Knutsford: Geophysical Survey, unpublished client report
- Bass, W.M. 1987 *Human Osteology*, Missouri Archaeological Society (Columbia).
- Beek, G.C. van 1983 *Dental Morphology: an illustrated guide*, Bristol: Wright PSG.
- Berry, A.C. and Berry, R.J. 1967 Epigenetic variation in the human cranium *Jnl. Anatomy* 101(2), 261-379.
- Buikstra, J.E. and Ubelaker, D.H. 1994 *Standards for data collection from human skeletal remains* Arkansas Archaeological Survey Research Series **44**.
- English Heritage, 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic environment: a Managers Guide ('MoRPHE')* London; English Heritage
- Finnegan, M. 1978 Non-metric variations of the infracranial skeleton. *J. Anatomy* **125(1)**; 23-37.
- Gejvall, N.G. 1981 'Determination of burnt bones from Prehistoric graves' *OSSA LETTERS* 2, 1-13
- GSB, 2009 A556 Environmental Improvement Knutsford to Bowden: Geophysical Survey Report, GSB Report No. 2009/43
- Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). 2008a *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation*
- Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). 2008b *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*
- Jacobs, 2009 A556 Improvements Scheme: Scoping Study, unpublished client report
- Jacobs, 2012 A556 Knutsford to Bowden Environmental Improvement, Archaeological Works, Written Scheme of Investigation: Advanced Trial Trenching (Volume 1: Specification), unpublished client report
- McKinley, J.I. 1994 *The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Spong Hill, North Elmham Part VIII: The Cremations*. East Anglian Archaeology No. 69
- McKinley, J.I. 2004 'Compiling a skeletal inventory: cremated human bone', in M. Brickley and J.I. McKinley (eds.) *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains* British Association for Biological

Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology and Institute for Field Archaeology, 9-12

Museum and Galleries Commission, 1992 Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections

Scheuer, L. and Black, S. 2000 *Developmental Juvenile Osteology* Academic Press: London

Stace, C. 1997 *New flora of the British Isles* (2nd edition), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

United Kingdom Institute of Conservation (UKIC), 2001 Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage

Zohary, D. and Hopf, M. 2000 *Domestication of plants in the Old World: the origin and spread of cultivated plants in West Asia, Europe, and the Nile Valley*, 3rd edition, Clarendon Press, Oxford

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No. 67		Dimensions: 5m x 5m Max depth: 0.65m
Context	Description	Depth below ground level (m)
6701	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown sandy silt with approx. 5% medium rounded/sub angular stones up to 100mm.	0 - 0.10m
6702	Subsoil: Mid orange brown silty sand with occasional small – medium rounded pebbles.	0.10 – 0.55m
6703	Natural: Mottled mid greyish orange and brownish grey sand with approx. 2% rounded stone inclusions up to 70mm. Mottling due to root and water action in the sand.	0.55m +

Trench No. 68		Dimensions: 26m x 1.8m Max depth: 0.70m
Context	Description	Depth below ground level (m)
6801	Topsoil: Mid brownish grey sandy silt with approx. 5% medium rounded/sub angular stones up to 120mm.	0 – 0.10m
6802	Subsoil: Mid orange brown silty sand with occasional large – medium rounded stones.	0.10 – 0.55m
6803	Natural: Mid brownish orange sand with bands of stone approx. 5% rounded inclusions up to 120mm.	0.55m +

Trench No. 69		Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Max depth: 0.53m
Context	Description	Depth below ground level (m)
6901	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown sandy silt with 1% rounded stone inclusions up to 40mm.	0 – 0.21m
6902	Subsoil: Mid reddish brown silty sand with 5% rounded stone inclusions less than 50mm.	0.21 – 0.30m
6903	Cut of Cremation Pit: Oval pit aligned approx. E-W with moderately sloping concave sides and a flatish base. Length 0.55m x Width 0.50m. Filled by 6904 , 6905 , 6907 and 6908 .	0.30 – 0.51m
6904	Primary Fill of Cremation Pit: Very dark greyish sandy silt with frequent charcoal and burnt bone (40%). Infrequent sub-rounded stones less than 40mm. Fill of 6903 .	0.38 – 0.51m
6905	Secondary Fill of Cremation Pit: Mid brownish grey sandy silt with approx. 2% charcoal inclusions and sub-rounded pebbles under 40mm. Fill of 6903 .	0.30 – 0.38m
6906	Natural: Mid orange brown sand with 10% gravel inclusions up to 100mm.	0.30m +
6907	Same as 6905: The Western half of the deposit – numbered separately for sampling reasons. Fill of 6903 .	0.30 – 0.38m
6908	Same as 6904: The Western half of the deposit – numbered separately for sampling reasons. Fill of 6903 .	0.38 – 0.51m
6909	Cut of Terminus: Located South of Cremation 6903 running E-W. Terminus slot = 0.68m long x 0.40m wide. Concave base and sides. Filled by 6910 .	0.30 – 0.46m
6910	Fill of Terminus: Mid orange brown silty sand with occasional large rounded pebbles and flecks of charcoal. Fill of 6909 .	0.30 – 0.46m

6911	Cut of Terminus: Located North of Cremation 6903 running W-E. Terminus slot = 0.82m long x 0.42m wide. Filled by 6912 .	0.30 – 0.53m
6912	Fill of Terminus: Mid orange brown silty sand with occasional large rounded stones and flecks of charcoal. Fill of 6911 .	0.30 – 0.53m
6913	Cut of Gully: Aligned E-W. Profile slot 0.25m x 0.95m wide. Same as 6909 . Filled by 6914 .	0.30 – 0.46m
6914	Fill of Gully 6913: Same as 6910 .	0.30 – 0.46m
6915	Cut of Gully: Aligned W-E. Profile slot 0.30m x 0.78m wide. Same as 6911 . Filled by 6916 .	0.30 – 0.53m
6916	Fill of Gully 6915: Same as 6912 .	0.30 – 0.53m
6917	Layer: Mid orange brown silty sand with occasional medium rounded pebbles and patches of frequent charcoal. Possibly related to cremation 6903 , not in-situ burning so possibly trample or bioturbation of nearby cremations outside of trench?	0.30 – 0.35m

Trench No. 70		Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Max depth: 0.42m
Context	Description	Depth below ground level (m)
7001	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown sandy silt with 5% rounded stone inclusions under 50mm. Heavily ploughed and cultivated.	0 – 0.35m
7002	Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silt with 5% rounded stone inclusions under 40mm.	0.35 – 0.42m
7003	Natural: Mid orange brown sand with 20% gravel inclusions under 150mm.	0.42m +

Trench No. 71		Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Max depth: 0.30m
Context	Description	Depth below ground level (m)
7101	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown sandy silt with 5% stone inclusions up to 60mm.	0 – 0.10m
7102	Subsoil: Mid orangish brown silty sand with occasional small-medium rounded stones.	0.10 – 0.30m
7103	Natural: Mid brownish orange sand with 10% sub angular stone inclusions up to 80mm.	0.30m +

Trench No. 72		Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Max depth: 0.90m
Context	Description	Depth below ground level (m)
7201	Topsoil: Dark reddish brown sandy clay.	0 – 0.32m
7202	Subsoil: Colluvial spread which is redder than the plough soil but similar in texture.	0.32 – 0.42m
7203	Cut of Ditch: Aligned NE-SW shallow linear with concave sides and a flatish base. Probable field boundary. Approx	0.42 – 0.90m

	3m wide. Filled by 7204 and 7205 .	
7204	Secondary Fill of Ditch: Mid greenish grey silty sand with infrequent gravel. Fill of 7203 .	0.42 – 0.82m
7205	Primary Fill of Ditch: Mixed red and yellow sandy clay with frequent large river worn pebbles (0.07m). Fill of 7203 .	0.82 – 0.90m
7206	Natural: Yellow/reddish sand.	0.42m +

Trench No. 86		Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Max depth: 0.4m
Context	Description	Depth below ground level (m)
8601	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam (ploughsoil).	0 – 0.27m
8602	Natural: Yellowish grey sandy grey.	0.27m +

Trench No. 87		Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Max depth: 0.4m
Context	Description	Depth below ground level (m)
8701	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam (ploughsoil).	0 – 0.27m
8702	Subsoil: Mixture of ploughsoil and natural.	0.27 – 0.35m
8703	Natural: Reddish brown sandy clay.	0.35m +

Trench No. 88		Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Max depth: 0.4m
Context	Description	Depth below ground level (m)
8801	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown sandy clay (ploughsoil).	0 – 0.27m
8802	Subsoil: Mixture of ploughsoil and natural.	0.27 – 0.35m
8803	Natural: Mid reddish brown sandy clay with yellowish white sand patches.	0.35m +

Trench No. 139		Dimensions: 21m x 1.8m Max depth: 1.15m
Context	Description	Depth below ground level (m)
13901	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown friable humic silt.	0 – 0.30m
13902	Subsoil: Dark brown compacted sandy silt with occasional charcoal and small rounded pebbles.	0.30 – 0.60m

13903	Layer: Orange brown silty sand with occasional stones and root disturbance.	0.60 – 0.80m
13904	Layer: Mid grey sand with frequent patches of charcoal.	0.80 – 0.90m
13905	Layer: Light grey sand with occasional small stones.	0.90 – 1m.
13906	Fill of Drain: Numbered as glass present in the upper fill and there were very few finds. Fill of 13907 . Not excavated.	0.65m +
13907	Cut of Drain: Aligned NW-SE, filled by 13906 .	0.65m +
13908	Natural: Orange clay/sand.	1m +

Trench No. 150		Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Max depth: 0.80m
Context	Description	Depth below ground level (m)
15001	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown friable humic silt.	0 – 0.15m
15002	Subsoil: Mid orangish brown silty sand.	0.15 – 0.40m
15003	Natural: Orangey grey sand with frequent iron panning	0.30m +
15004	Cut of Field Boundary: Aligned E-W, filled by 15005	0.50 – 0.80m
15005	Fill of Field Boundary: Mottle dark grey and black silty sand. Fill of 15004	0.50 – 0.80m
15006	Cut of Field Boundary and Drain: Aligned E-W, filled by 15007	0.60 – 1m
15007	Fill of Field Boundary and Drain: Mid brown silty sand. Fill of 15006	0.60 – 1m
15008	Layer: Light grey colluvium in stone thro.	0.40m

Trench No. 151		Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Max depth: 0.40m
Context	Description	Depth below ground level (m)
15101	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown humic sandy silt	0 – 0.40m
15102	Natural: Mid yellowish orange silty sand	0.40m +
15103	Cut of Modern Drainage Gully: Aligned NW – SE. Filled with 15104 .	0.40 - 0.64m
15104	Fill of Modern Drainage Gully: Dark greyish brown sandy silt. Fill of 15103 .	0.40 – 0.64m
15105	Cut of Ditch: Aligned NE – SW, filled by 15105 .	0.40 – 0.80m
15106	Fill of Ditch: Light brownish grey mottled orange sandy silt. Fill of 15105 .	0.40 – 0.80m
15107	Cut of Drainage Ditch: Aligned NE – SW, filled by 15108	0.40 – 0.70m
15108	Fill of Drainage Ditch: Mid greyish brown sandy silt. Fill of 15107	0.40 – 0.70m

15109	Cut of Gully: Aligned NE – SW. Filled by 15110 .	0.40 – 0.50m
15110	Fill of Gully: Light greyish brown sandy silt. Fill of 15109 .	0.40 – 0.50m
15111	Cut of Ditch: Aligned NE – SW. Filled by 15112 .	0.40 – 1m
15112	Fill of Ditch: Mid brownish grey sandy silt. Fill of 15113 .	0.40 – 1m
15113	Cut of Ditch: Aligned NE – SW. Filled by 15114 .	0.40 – 0.94m
15114	Fill of Ditch: Dark greyish brown sandy silt. Fill of 15113 .	0.40 – 0.94m

Trench No. 152		Dimensions: 26m x 1.8m Max depth: 0.40m
Context	Description	Depth below ground level (m)
15201	Topsoil: Dark brownish grey sandy silt.	0 – 0.35m
15202	Subsoil: Mid orangey grey sandy silt.	0.35 – 0.40m
15203	Natural: Mid greyish orange silty sand.	0.40m +
15204	Cut of Boundary Ditch: Aligned W – E. Filled by 15205 .	0.40m +
15205	Fill of Boundary Ditch: Dark brownish grey sandy silt. Fill of 15204 .	0.40m +
15206	Cut of Boundary Ditch: Aligned E – W. Filled by 15207 .	0.40m +
15207	Fill of Boundary Ditch: Mid grey brown silty san. Fill of 15206 .	0.40m +
15208	Cut of Gully Terminus: Aligned NW – SE. Filled by 15209 .	0.40m +
15209	Fill of Gully Terminus: Dark brownish grey sandy silt. Fill of 15208 .	0.40m +
15210	Cut of Ditch: Aligned E – W. Filled by 15210 .	0.40m +
15211	Fill of Ditch: Dark brownish grey silty sand. Fill of 15210 .	0.40m +
15212	Possible Pit: Filled by 15212 .	0.40m +
15213	Fill of Possible Pit: Dark greyish brown silty sand. Fill of 15212 .	0.40m +

Trench No. 153		Dimensions: 28m x 1.8m Max depth: 0.50m
Context	Description	Depth below ground level (m)
15301	Topsoil: Dark brown humic silt.	0 – 0.30m
15302	Subsoil: Mid orange brown sandy silt.	0.30 – 0.50m
15303	Layer: Mid light grey silty sand.	0.50 – 0.80m

15304	Natural: Orange sand with frequent iron panning.	0.80m +
-------	---	---------

Trench No. 154		Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Max depth: 0.43m
Context	Description	Depth below ground level (m)
15401	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown sandy silt.	0 – 0.33m
15402	Subsoil: Light brownish grey sandy silt.	0.33 – 0.43m
15403	Natural: Mid orangey brown silty sand.	0.43m +
15404	Cut of Gully: Aligned NE – SW. Filled by 15405.	0.43 – 0.83m
15405	Fill of Gully: Light brownish grey sandy silt. Fill of 15404.	0.43 – 0.83m

Trench No. 155		Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Max depth: 0.38m
Context	Description	Depth below ground level (m)
15501	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown sandy silt.	0 – 0.34m
15502	Subsoil: Mid greyish brown sandy silt.	0.34 – 0.38m
15503	Natural: Mid orangey brown silty sand.	0.38m +
15504	Cut of Boundary Ditch: Aligned N – S. Filled by 15505.	0.38m +
15505	Fill of Boundary Ditch: Dark greyish brown sandy silt. Fill of 15504.	0.38m +
15506	Cut of Boundary Ditch: Aligned NW – SE. Filled by 15507.	0.38m +
15507	Fill of Boundary Ditch: Dark greyish brown sandy silt. Fill of 15506.	0.38m +

Trench No. 156		Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Max depth: 0.40m
Context	Description	Depth below ground level (m)
15601	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown sandy silt.	0 – 0.30m
15602	Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silt.	0.30 – 0.40m
15603	Natural: Light greyish yellow silty sand.	0.40m +
15604	Cut of Boundary Ditch: Aligned NW – SE. Filled by 15605.	0.40 – 0.70m
15605	Fill of Boundary Ditch: Dark greyish brown sandy silt. Fill of 15604.	0.40 – 0.70m

15606	Cut of Gully: Aligned N – S. Filled by 15607 .	0.40 – 0.50m
15607	Fill of Gully: Mid greyish brown sandy silt. Fill of 15606 .	0.40 – 0.50m
15608	Cut of Hedge line: Aligned NW – SE. Filled by 15609 .	0.40 – 0.58m
15609	Fill of Hedge line: Mid brownish grey silty sand. Fill of 15608 .	0.40 -0.58m
15610	Cut of Possible Pit: Aligned E – W. Filled by 15611 .	0.40 – 1.10m
15611	Fill of Possible Pit: Dark brownish grey sandy silt. Fill of 15610 .	0.40 – 1.10m

Trench No. 157		Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Max depth: 0.40m
Context	Description	Depth below ground level (m)
15701	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown sandy silt.	0 – 0.27m
15702	Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.27 – 0.35m
15703	Natural: Mid Yellowish Red sandy clay	0.35 +
15704	Cut of Land Drains	0.27m +

Trench No. 158		Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Max depth: 0.40m
Context	Description	Depth below ground level (m)
15801	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown sandy clay.	0 – 0.27m
15802	Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.27 – 0.35m
15803	Natural: Orangey red sandy clay mixed with light grey sand	0.35 +

APPENDIX 2: TABLES

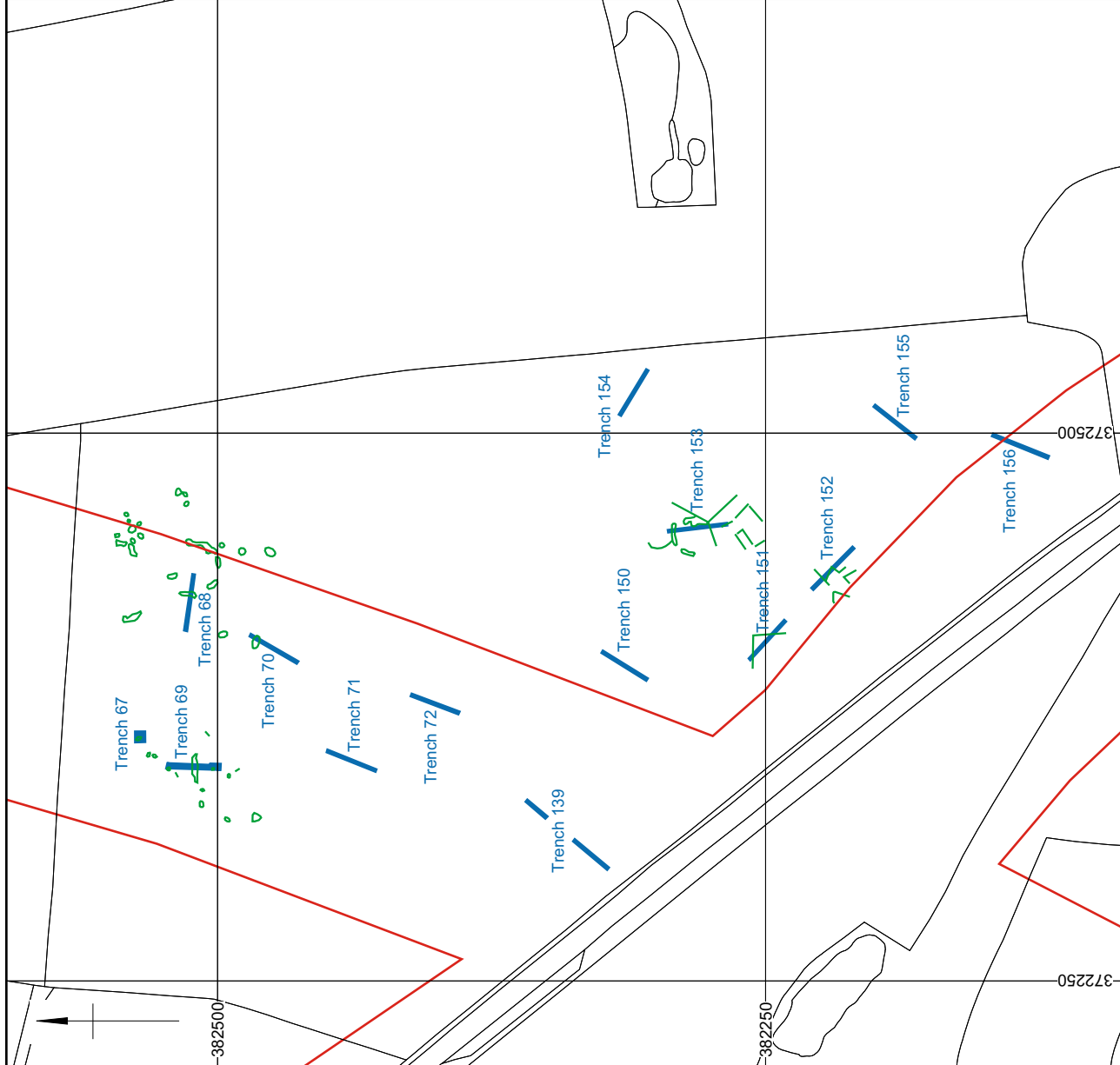
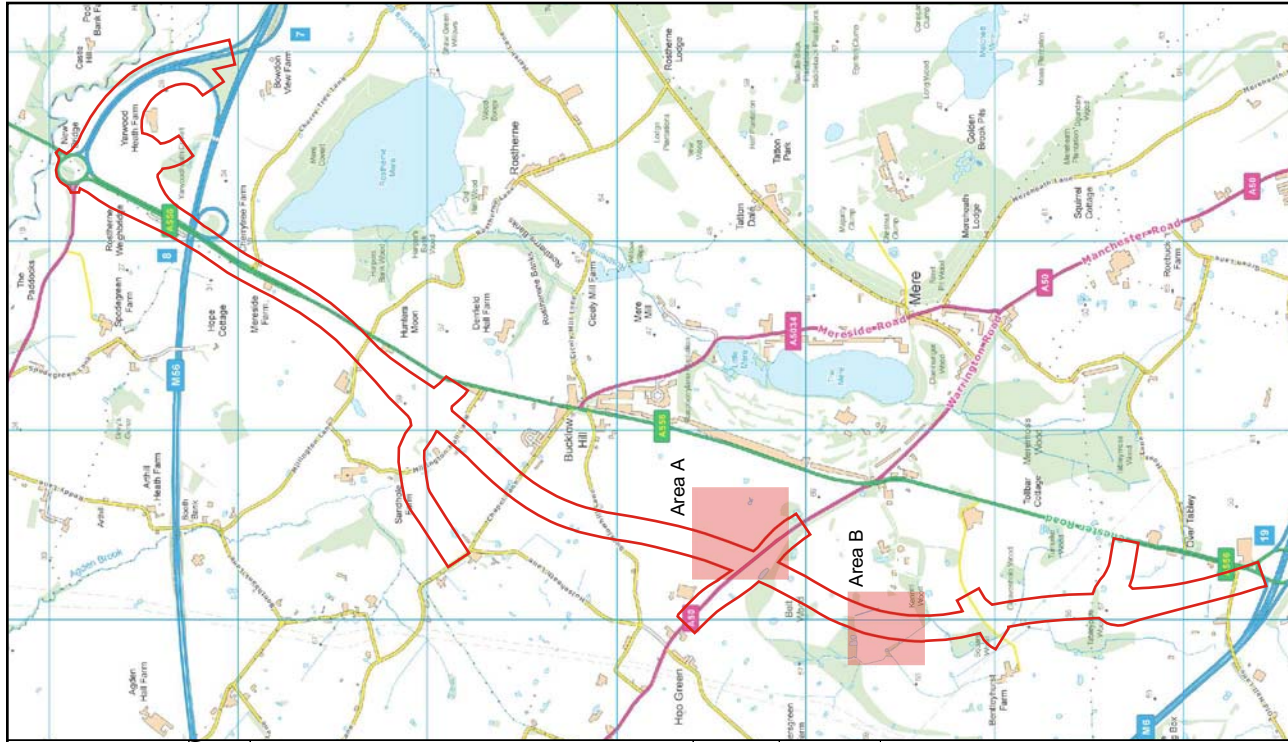
context	cut	location	bone weight	comment
6004	6903	E half lower fill	29g	hand collected
6005	6903	E half upper fill	-	
6907	6903	W half upper fill	113.1g	42.3% hand collected, 57.7g from sample
6908	6903	W half lower fill	228.7g	26.5% hand collected, 73.5% from sample

Table 1: Distribution of cremated bone by context

Samples				Flot							
Feature	Context	Sam ple	Vol. Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% roots	Charred Plant Remains				Charcoal >4/2mm	Other
						Grain	Chaff	Other	Comments		
Trench 69											
Cremation Related Deposits											
6903	6907	6901	10	350	5	C	-	-	Hulled wheat grain frags, Stem frags (A) - ?Heather type	80/90 ml	Burnt bone
6903	6908	6902	11	500	5	-	-	-	-	40/120 ml	Burnt bone
Layer/Spread - ?Cremation Related											
	6917	6903	4	250	5	-	-	-	-	120/50 ml	-
Linear Termini near Cremation Related Deposit											
6909	6910	6904	8	60	50	C	-	-	Indet. grain frag	5/8 ml	-
6911	6912	6905	8	35	50	-	-	-	-	2/5 ml	-
Trench 156											
Pit											
15610	15611	15601	37	150	5	-	-	-	-	60/30 ml	coal

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

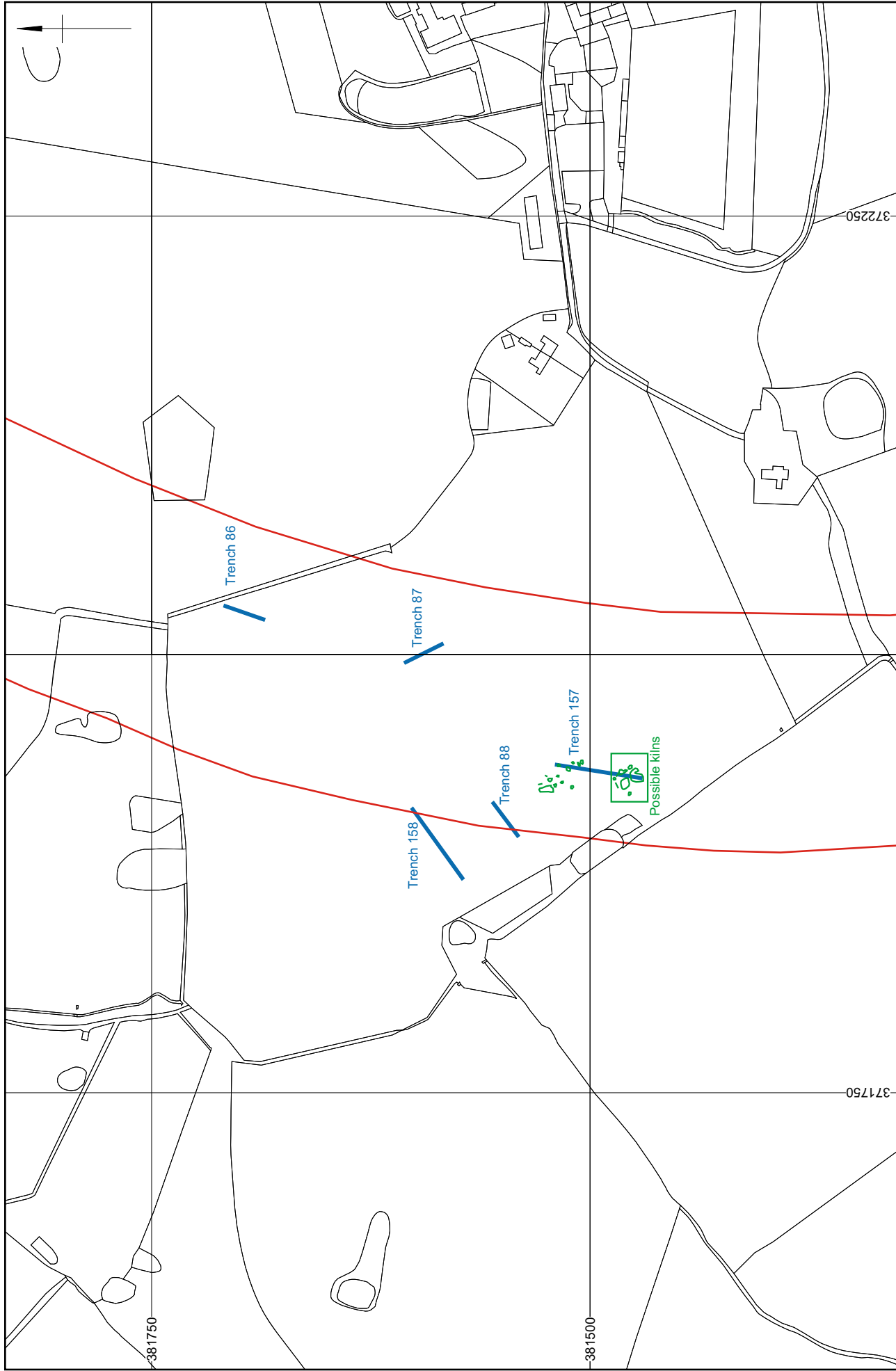
Table 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal



	<p>Site location</p> <p> ■ Scheme Boundary — Evaluation trench — Geophysical anomaly </p>		Date:	October 2012	Revision Number:	1.0
	<p>Reproduced from the 2011 Ordnance Survey District Raster © map with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Wessex Archaeology, Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6EB. Licence Number: 100028190. Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2010. All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020449. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</p>		Scale:	Main graphic 1:3000 @ A4	Illustrator:	CB
			Path:	Y:\Projects\85630_Knutsford\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Eval\2012-09-25		

Site location - Area A

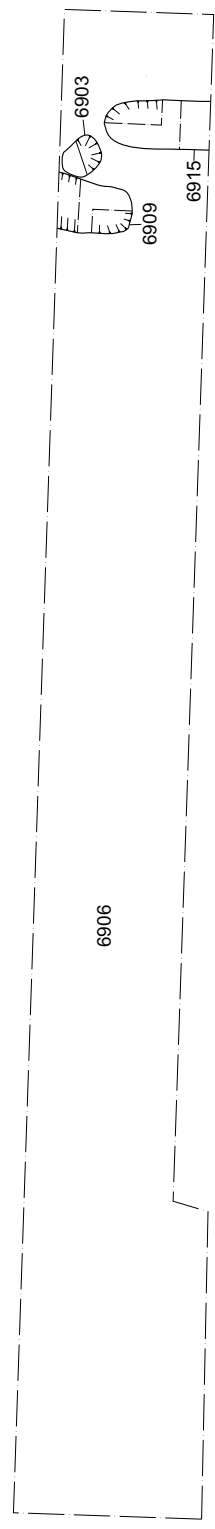
Figure 1



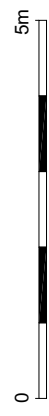
	<p>Scheme Boundary Evaluation trench Geophysical anomaly </p>		Date: October 2012	Revision Number: 1.0
	<p>Reproduced from the 2011 Ordnance Survey District Raster © map with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright, Wessex Archaeology, Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6EB. Licence Number: 100028190. Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2010 All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020448. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</p>		Scale: Main graphic 1:3000 @ A4	Illustrator: CB
			Path: Y:\Projects\85630_Knutsford\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Eval\2012-09-25	

Area B

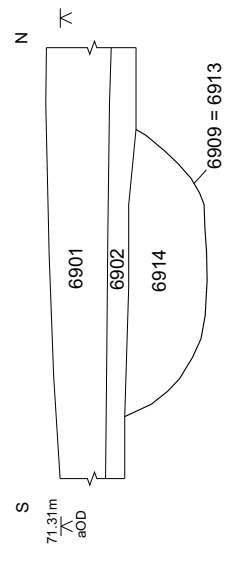
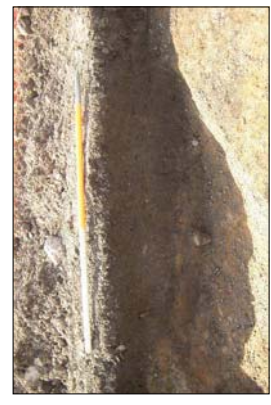
Figure 2



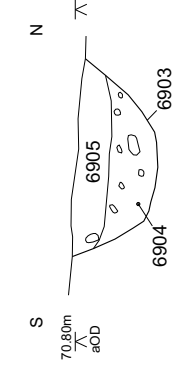
Detail plan



Plan of Trench 69 1:100



Section through gully 6909/6913 1:50



East facing section through pit 6903 1:20

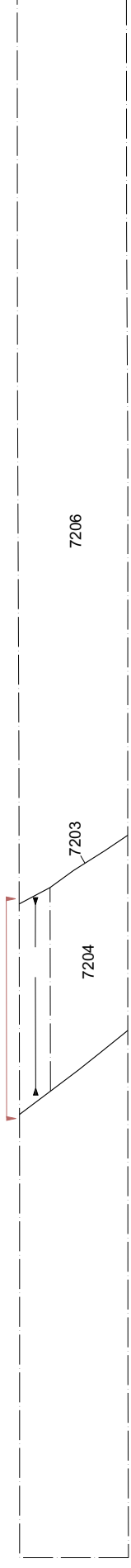
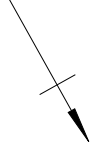


Features within Trench 69, looking west

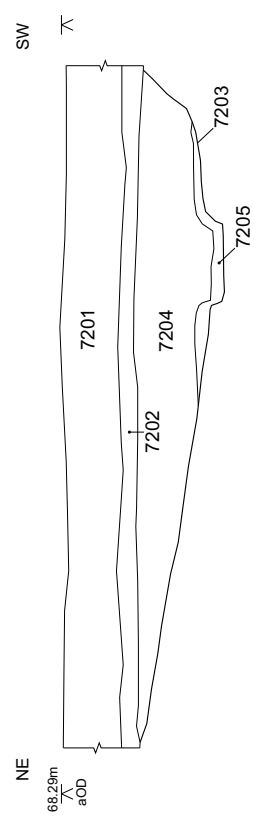


This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Date:	October 2012	Revision Number:	1.0
Scale:	As described	Illustrator:	CB
Path:	Y:\Projects\85630_Knutsford\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Eval\2012-09-25		



Plan of Trench 72 1:100



North-west facing section through feature 7203 1:40

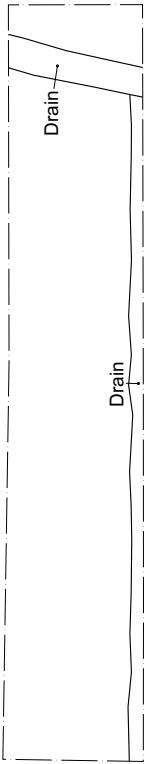
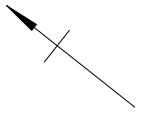


Section through feature 7203, looking south-east

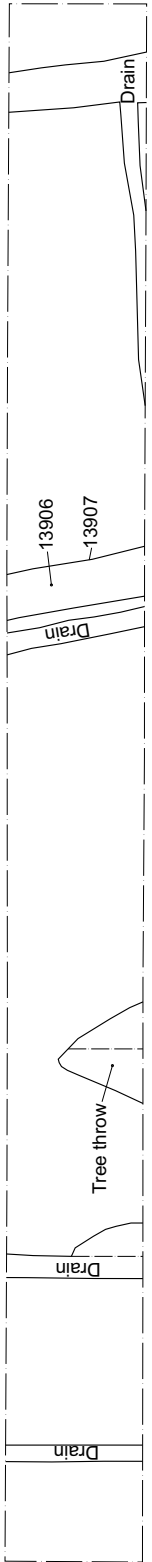


This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Date:	October 2012	Revision Number:	1.0
Scale:	As described	Illustrator:	CB
Path:	Y:\Projects\85630_Knutsford\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Eval\2012-09-25		



Plan of north-east end of Trench 139 1:100



Plan of south-west end of Trench 139 1:100



South-west end of Trench 139, looking south-west

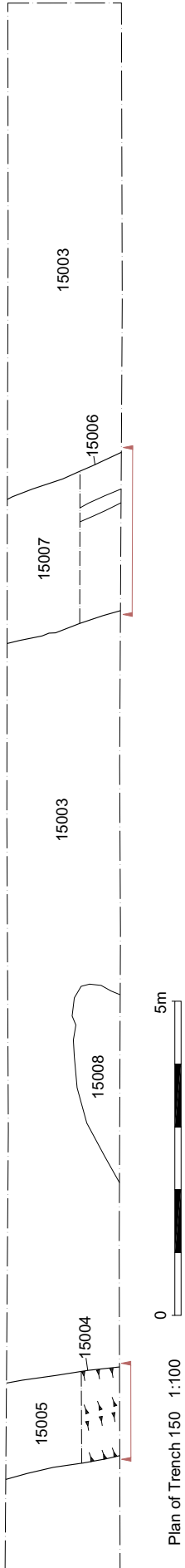
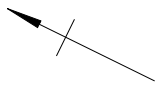


North-east end of Trench 139, looking north-east

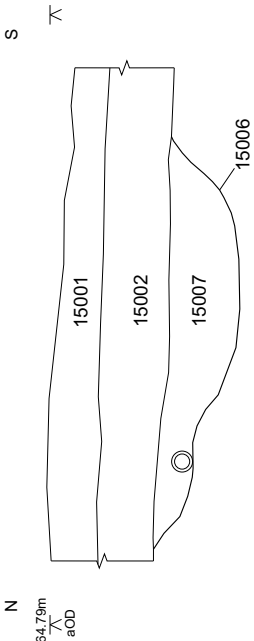


This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

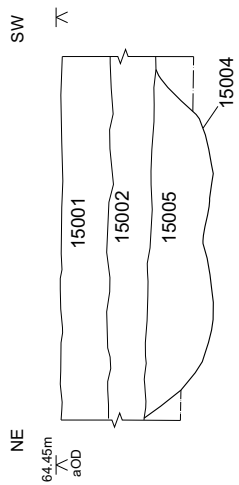
Date:	October 2012	Revision Number:	1.0
Scale:	As described	Illustrator:	CB
Path:	Y:\IP\projects\85630_Knutsford\Drawing\Report Figs\Eval\2012-09-25		



Plan of Trench 150 1:100



South-east facing section through feature 15006 1:40



South-east facing section through feature 15004 1:40

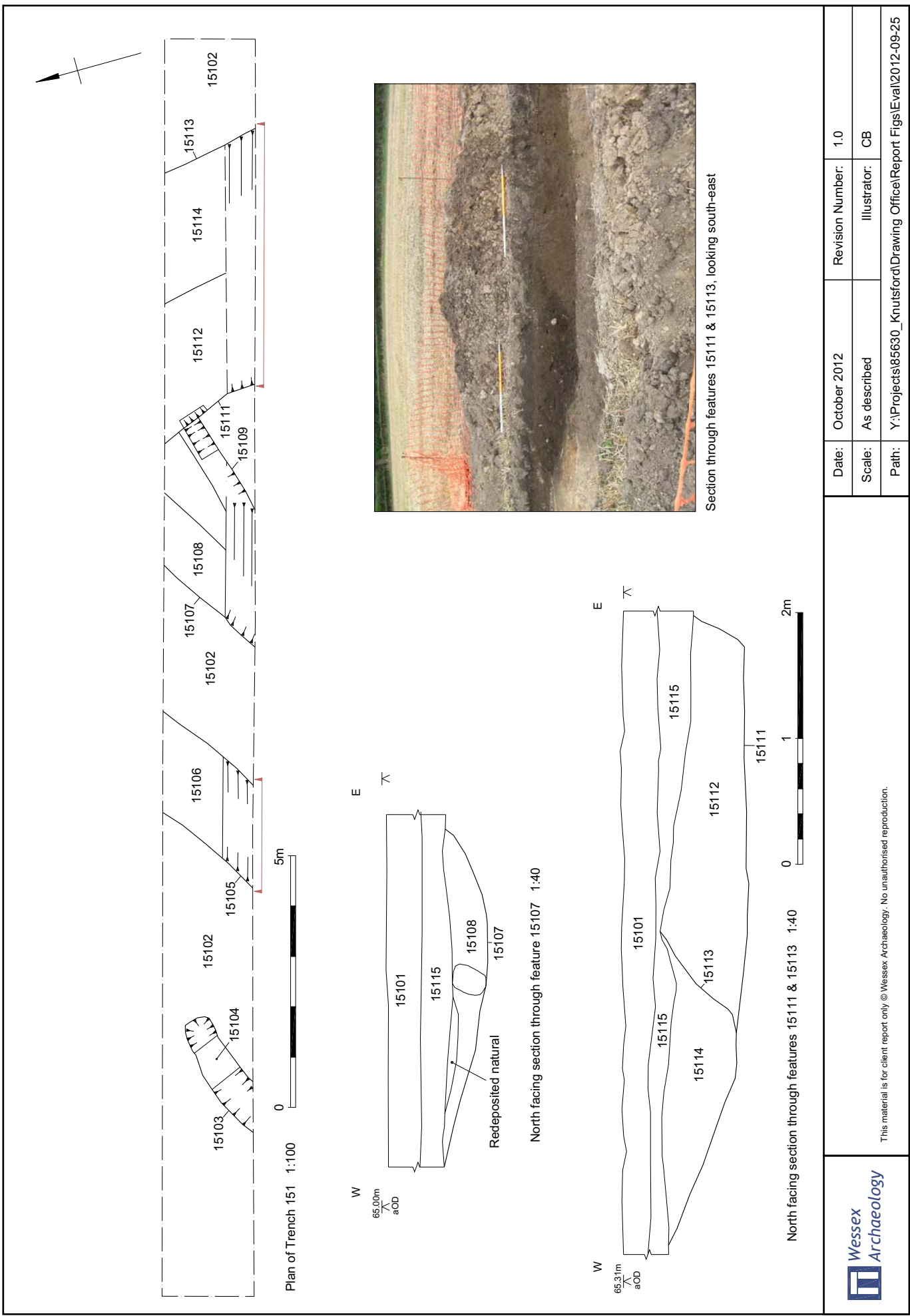


Section through feature 15004, looking south-east



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

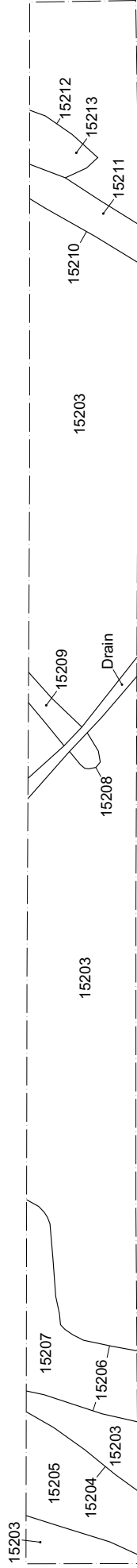
Date:	October 2012	Revision Number:	1.0
Scale:	As described	Illustrator:	CB
Path:	Y:\Projects\85630_Knutsford\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Eval\2012-09-25		



	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.		
	Date: October 2012	Revision Number: 1.0	
	Scale: As described	Illustrator: CB	
Path: Y:\Projects\85630_Knutsford\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Eval\2012-09-25			

Trench 151

Figure 7



Plan of Trench 150 1:100

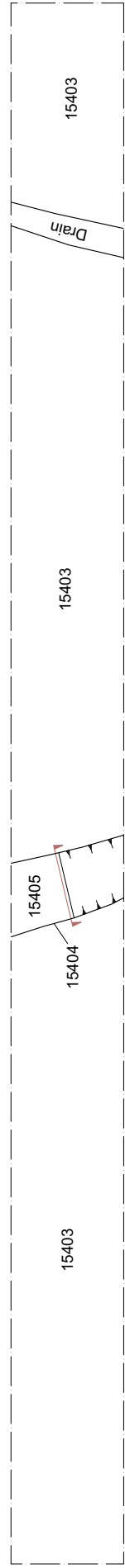


Trench 152, looking north-west

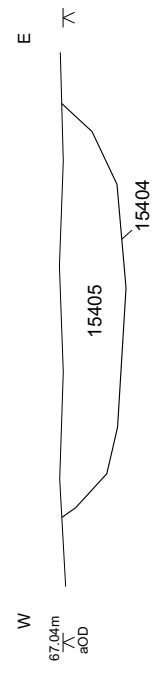


Trench 152 representative section, looking south-east

	<small>This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</small>			
	Date:	October 2012	Revision Number:	1.0
	Scale:	As described	Illustrator:	CB
Path:		Y:\Projects\85630_Knutsford\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Eval\2012-09-25		



Plan of Trench 154 1:100

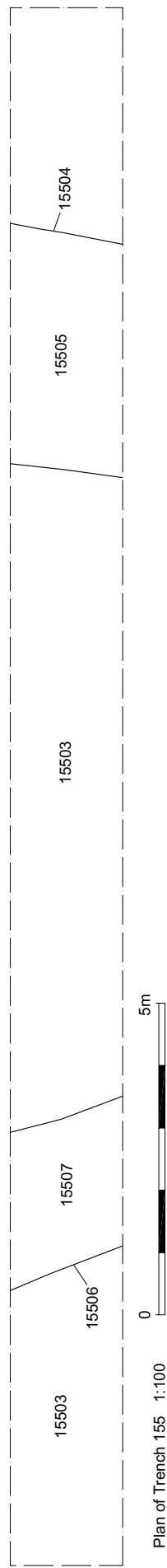
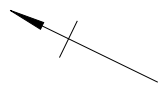


South-west facing section through feature 15404 1:20



Gully 15404, looking south-east

Date:	October 2012	Revision Number:	1.0
Scale:	As described	Illustrator:	CB
Path:	Y:\Projects\85630_Knutford\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Eval\2012-09-25		



Plan of Trench 155 1:100

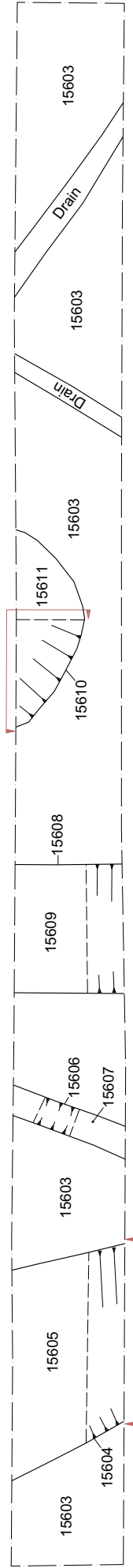
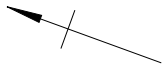


Trench 155 representative section, looking north-west

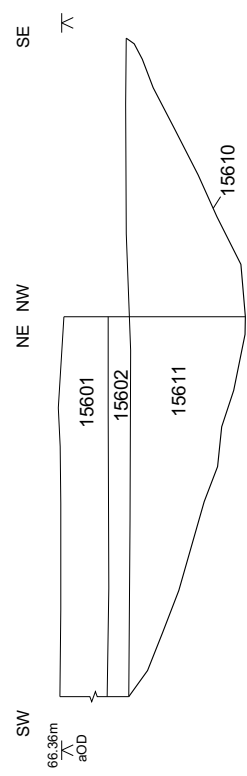


Trench 155, looking south-east

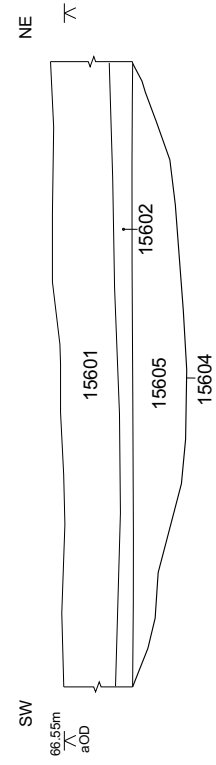
Date:	October 2012	Revision Number:	1.0
Scale:	As described	Illustrator:	CB
Path:	Y:\Projects\85630_Knutford\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Eval\2012-09-25		



Plan of Trench 150 1:100



South-east facing section through feature 15006 1:40



North-west facing section through feature 15604 1:40



Section through feature 15604, looking south-east



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

Date:	October 2012	Revision Number:	1.0
Scale:	As described	Illustrator:	CB
Path:	Y:\Projects\85630_Knutsford\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Eval\2012-09-25		



Plate 1: Trench 86, looking south-west

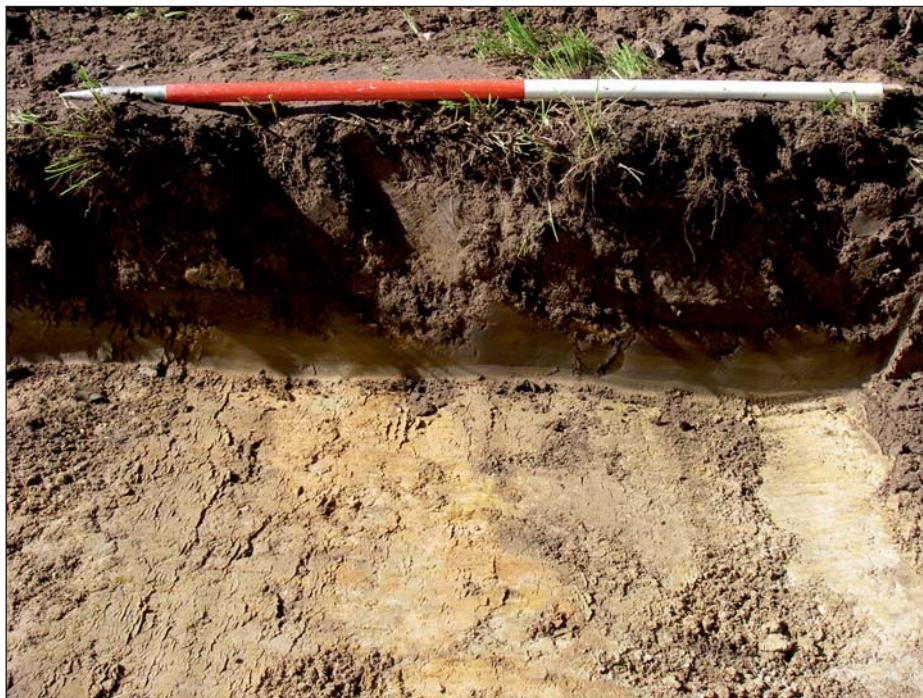


Plate 2: Trench 86, representative section, north-west

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

Date: October 2012

Revision Number: 0

Scale: N/A

Illustrator: CB

Path: Y:\Projects\85630_Knutsford\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Eval\2012-09-25



Plate 3: Trench 87, looking south-east



Plate 4: Trench 87, representative section, looking north-east

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



Plate 5: Trench 88, looking north-east



Plate 6: Trench 88, representative section, looking south-east

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



Plate 7: Trench 157, looking south



Plate 8: Trench 157, representative section, looking east

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

Date: October 2012

Revision Number: 0

Scale: N/A

Illustrator: CB

Path: Y:\Projects\85630_Knutsford\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Eval\2012-09-25



Plate 9: Trench 158, looking north-east



Plate 10: Trench 158, representative section, looking north-west

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



WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.

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

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

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

For more information visit www.wessexarch.co.uk

