



making sense of heritage

Land off Woodside Road Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Ref: 103841.01
October 2014



**Land off Woodside Road
Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out an Archaeological Evaluation on land adjacent to Woodside Road, Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 510675 201700. Proposals are submitted for a residential development including a primary school.

The fieldwork took place between the 11th and 15th August 2014.

The evaluation found few features of archaeological interest, consisting of three pit-like features of uncertain date, nature and function, and a Victorian refuse pit. Plough scars, a tree-throw hole and modern disturbance were also recorded.

The prehistoric finds assemblage, retrieved from the topsoil and subsoil, is consistent with a background level of activity in the wider vicinity of the Site. The post-medieval and modern debris found scattered across the Site probably represents the manuring of the fields with midden material, as well as debris from surrounding development.

The evaluation results indicate a low potential for significant archaeological remains, as suggested by the geophysical survey results. Those that were identified were found to be of limited significance.



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Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting for commissioning them to undertake the work. Thanks are also due to Andy Instone and Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council (HCC), for their advice.

The project was managed by Andy King. The fieldwork was carried out by Roy Krakowicz, Michael Fleming and Frances Ward.

This report was compiled by Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy; the finds were assessed by Lorraine Mepham and the illustrations were prepared by Will Foster.



Land off Woodside Road Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out an Archaeological Evaluation on land adjacent to Woodside Road, Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire (hereafter referred to as 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 510675 201700 (**Figure 1**). The proposed development is for residential housing.
- 1.1.2 The trial trench evaluation was requested in order to assess the archaeological potential of the Site. It comprised a c. 3.5% sample of the approximately 4.1ha Site, involving the machine excavation of 15 machine-excavated trenches each measuring approximately 50m x 2m.
- 1.1.3 The fieldwork took place between the 11th and 15th August 2014.
- 1.1.4 This document sets out the results of the archaeological evaluation and will be submitted to the County Archaeologist at Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) to inform planning decisions.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site is located on the eastern edge of Abbots Langley approximately 5.3km north of the centre of Watford. The Site comprises a pasture field on the east side of Woodside Road (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The Site lies on gently sloping ground at an elevation of between 90m and 100m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). In a broader context, the Site occupies a wider area of high ground that slopes down southeast towards the River Colne. The Site is defined by field boundaries, with Woodside Road forming the western edge.
- 1.2.3 The geology under most of the Site is recorded as Lewes nodular chalk formation (Cretaceous) with Lambeth group clay, silt and sand (Palaeogene) along the western edge of the Site (BGS). The superficial deposits are recorded as the Kesgrave catchment subgroup of sand and gravel (Quaternary) (BGS).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following section summarises the results of the previous archaeological investigations undertaken for the Site – see CgMs (2011) and WA 2014a for full details.



2.2 Recent investigations in the area

Heritage Assessment

- 2.2.1 The Heritage assessment (CgMs 2011) found no overriding heritage constraints likely to prohibit development.
- 2.2.2 The proposed development was considered unlikely to have an adverse impact on the settings of, or adversely affect the significance of, any heritage assets.
- 2.2.3 The Heritage Assessment established a low potential for the survival of buried archaeological remains on the Site, though archaeological activity is known in the wider vicinity.

Geophysical survey

- 2.2.4 A geophysical (gradiometer) survey on the Site was undertaken by WA on the 2nd and 3rd of April 2014 (WA 2014a).
- 2.2.5 Very few clear archaeological features were detected with most anomalies identified thought to be either indicative of modern remains, or of agricultural or geological origin.

2.3 Known archaeology

- 2.3.1 A detailed archaeological and historical background has been reported elsewhere (CgMs 2011), and as such will not be repeated here. A summary is supplied below.

Prehistoric

- 2.3.2 A few Palaeolithic stray artefacts are recorded from the wider vicinity, and whilst there is no evidence for activity for the early prehistoric period, the potential for lithic material in the ploughsoil has been recognised.

Iron Age and Romano-British

- 2.3.3 No Iron Age or Romano-British find-spots or sites are recorded in the immediate vicinity of the Site. Much of the known activity in the region is focused to the north, near St Albans - the site of the major Roman town of *Verulamium*.
- 2.3.4 A recent study of the regional pattern of settlement found patterns of dense settlement in Romano-British Hertfordshire, much of which have been identified through development or via aerial photography.

Anglo Saxon to Post-medieval

- 2.3.5 Place name evidence indicates a middle Saxon origin to the village – Langley, meaning a woodland clearing. The parish was given to the monastery of St Albans in the 11th century and had gained the 'Abbot's' prefix by the 14th century.
- 2.3.6 There is no evidence for medieval activity on the Site and in the immediate vicinity, though it is recorded that the Site was within the Hundred of St Albans by the 16th century. The Site was supposedly cleared of trees by the 12th to 13th century, and remained under cultivation to the present day.
- 2.3.7 The rectangular fields reflect ancient enclosure rather than parliamentary enclosure in the 18th century.



Modern

- 2.3.8 A c.19th-century building occupied a plot in the south-west corner of the Site. The plot was further developed up until 1924, when a series of buildings are mapped. By 1939 the complex had begun to decline, and by 1957 the whole complex had been completely demolished and replaced by a house.
- 2.3.9 Between the late 19th century and the 1970s an orchard was present on part of the Site. Development along Woodside Road around the turn of the century and in the 1930s began to progress closer to the Site, the most recent in the vicinity being a small residential close on the western angle of the Site.
- 2.3.10 Two pill boxes within, or just beyond the confines of the Site have been recorded. They form part of the London Stop Line: Outer – Line A (outer suburbs). These were designed to help defend London should the country have been invaded during the Second World War. One is designated (**HER 6627**) due to its completeness and (now defunct) visual relationship to others in the area.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 General aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological field evaluation were to:
- *clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be impacted by development;*
 - *identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character and condition of any surviving remains within the Site;*
 - *assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits; and*
 - *produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 All works was undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; WA 2014b) and in compliance with the standards outlined *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2006) and the IfA's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (IfA 2008), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.
- 3.2.2 The 15 trenches (each measuring 50m in length and 2m wide) were set-out according to the WSI using GPS, and in consideration of health and safety. All trench locations were scanned by WA using a cable avoidance tool prior to excavation.
- 3.2.3 Under the constant supervision of a qualified archaeologist, all overburden (topsoil and subsoil) was carefully removed in spits by mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Stripping ceased at the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or natural deposits, whichever was encountered first and not exceeding 1.2 m in depth.
- 3.2.4 Stripped material was visually examined for archaeological material and, where appropriate, a metal detector was used to enhance artefact recovery.



3.2.5 Each trench was cleaned by hand where appropriate and planned prior to hand-excavation. All pre-modern stratified deposits were excavated by hand. A representative section, not less than 1m in length, of deposits through each trench from ground surface to the top of the natural deposits was recorded.

3.2.6 A sample of each feature type was excavated and recorded, selected on the basis of their form, fill, and stratigraphic relationship, and in order to ensure a broad characterisation.

3.3 Monitoring

3.3.1 The archaeological works were monitored by the County Archaeologist for HCC.

3.4 Reinstatement

3.4.1 Once recorded to the satisfaction of the Client and the HCC County Archaeologist trenches were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate order in which they were excavated, left level and re-seeded. No other reinstatement or surface treatment will be undertaken.

3.5 Recording

3.5.1 All recording was undertaken using WA's *pro forma* recording sheets and recording system. Details are available on request.

3.5.2 A complete drawn record of excavated and archaeological features and deposits was compiled, including plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales. The trenches, their contents, and other features of relevance were digitally surveyed using GPS within the OS NGR system, and including heights above Ordnance Datum. The electronic survey record will be retained within the site archive.

3.5.3 A full digital photographic record was maintained during the evaluation. Digital images will be 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.

3.6 Finds

3.6.1 Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 1999), the UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines Conservation Guideline No 2 and the Museums and Galleries Commissions *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (1991) excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

3.6.2 All artefacts were retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date..These were washed, weighed, counted and identified. Suitable material, i.e. the pottery, was scanned to assess the date range of the relevant assemblages

3.6.3 All artefacts recovered during the excavations on the Site are the property of the landowner. They have been suitably bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, *Conservation Guidelines no. 2* and will be deposited with the relevant museum, with the landowner's permission.



4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Below is a summary of the results of the trial trenching. More detailed descriptions of the trenches, natural deposits, features, contents and other observations are supplied in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**).

4.2 Natural deposits and soil sequence

4.2.1 Topsoil, grass topped and present in all trenches, was generally recorded as a mid-dark grey-brown clay-silt loam, or a variation thereof. Occasional mixed pebbles & flint gravel were frequently present, mostly of fine to medium grade. Depths ranged between 0.1m and 0.3m, and where thickest there is only a slight, diffuse suggestion of subsoil formation, indicated by a gradual change in colour.

4.2.2 A layer below the topsoil, referred to here as 'subsoil', was recorded in the majority of trenches. The mid grey-brown clay-silt, generally compact with frequent mixed pebbles & flint, ranged between 0.1m and 0.25m thick. Stone type and quantity depended upon underlying natural. Most of the trenches which lacked a definable subsoil layer had thicker topsoil deposits (see above). Only a few trenches (e.g. **6** and **13**) produced artefacts from this subsoil deposit.

4.2.3 The underlying deposits comprised variations of mid-light yellow-brown clay silt and gravel or yellowish-orange loamy sand and gravel, and included lenses and pockets of increased and/or decreased inclusion frequencies. Pockets of orange and blue clay were also occasionally noted. Natural was encountered at 0.3m and 0.46m below ground surface.

4.3 Prehistoric

4.3.1 Activity during the prehistoric period is represented by a small quantity of worked flint and flint tools, all of which comprised residual finds within the topsoil, and occasionally the subsoil. The material was found across the whole Site, with examples from all trenches except number **14**.

4.4 Post-medieval

4.4.1 Nearly all of the post-medieval material derives from the topsoil and subsoil, and was recorded in all but one trench (**Table 1**). The pattern and type of artefacts indicate field manuring, possibly ground consolidation, and extensive ploughing

4.5 Modern

4.5.1 A Victorian refuse pit was identified in **Trench 14**. The 1.4m diameter pit was 0.46m deep and had concave sides. A large rabbit burrow had caused heavy disturbance of the base of the pit. The basal fill was devoid of artefacts, though the more substantial second fill – a mid grey-brown clay-silt deposit with common subrounded gravel and charcoal – was probably a deliberate dump of domestic refuse, which included pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), iron and copper alloy objects, and slag. The feature probably cut the subsoil, though it did not become clear until the subsoil was removed. **Trench 14** is close to the location of a Victorian/ early 20th-century building complex (see archaeological background), and this feature may well therefore be associated.

4.6 Features of uncertain date and nature

4.6.1 Four possible pits were recorded in **Trenches 13** and **15**. The features were all fairly ephemeral and contained nothing to indicate their date. All were cut into the natural and



were not observable until the subsoil was removed. The nature of these features was not clear, though the fills had accumulated gradually. An alternative interpretation is that these are natural features.

- 4.6.2 Intercutting possible pits **1304** and **1307** were present in **Trench 13 (Figure 3; Plate 3)**. The largest (**1304**) comprised a subcircular cut measuring 0.48 by 0.45m, and 0.24m deep. The sides and base were concave. Shallower possible pit **1307** (0.22+ x 0.22+ x 0.07m) lay on the northeast edge of **1304**, and extended beyond the limit of excavation. The fills of each were very similar (mid grey-brown silty sandy clay) though the gravel inclusions in the smaller feature were less frequent, and generally not as big.
- 4.6.3 Pit-like feature **1308** was circular with a concave base and sides. It was approximately 0.32m in diameter and 0.12m deep. The dense dark brown-grey silty-clay fill contained frequent mixed pebbles and flint, iron panning (upper 20mm) and manganese.
- 4.6.4 The feature in **Trench 15**, also fairly pit-like, measured 0.46m in diameter and 0.1m in depth, and had a concave base and sides (**1504; Figure 3; Plate 5**). The mid grey-brown silty fill was particularly firm and contained only a few small stones, charcoal flecks and small pieces of CBM.

5 FINDS

- 5.1.1 The evaluation produced a small quantity of finds, deriving from contexts in 15 trenches. Finds came mainly from topsoil contexts, with some from subsoil in Trenches 6 and 13, and some from a cut feature (pit **1404**) in Trench 14. The assemblage includes material of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval date.
- 5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**.

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

Context	CBM	Flint (no.)	Glass	Metal	Pottery	Other Finds
101	5/107	2	2/20			
201		20			4/25	1 clay pipe
301	2/90	13	1/7		2/9	
401		13			2/19	
501	1/72	2			1/7	
601		1				
602	2/71				2/8	
701		16			5/124	
801	1/19	3			2/37	
901		19	1/13		8/83	1 clay pipe
1001	1/52	4				
1101		5			6/124	1 clay pipe
1201		7	2/24		5/33	
1302	4/97	5		1 Fe	2/28	2 clay pipe
1401	1/20	9	4/110		3/38	
1406	15/1827		1/113	2 Cu; 3 Fe	12/136	1 animal bone; 1 clay pipe; 452g slag
1501		7			1/10	2 burnt flint
Totals	32/2355	126	11/287	4 Fe; 2 Cu	55/681	



5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 All of the pottery is of post-medieval date. Roughly half the assemblage consists of coarse redwares, mostly glazed. Apart from some sherds of late white-slipped kitchen wares, and unglazed flowerpot, which belong to the modern period (19th/20th century), the coarsewares cannot be dated more closely, although the likelihood is that there is nothing here pre-dating the 18th century. This date range is supported by the presence of more closely datable finewares: white salt glaze and other English stonewares, and factory produced refined wares from the mid-18th century and later (creamware, pearlware, whiteware and yellow ware). There is also a fragment from a decorative porcelain object.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

5.3.1 This category includes fragments of roof (peg) tile, of medieval date, with one group of ten fragments of post-medieval unfrosted brick (18th century or later) from pit **1404**.

5.4 Worked and Burnt Flint

5.4.1 The worked flint consists largely of waste flakes (121 pieces), with three cores/core fragments. Tools are confined to one scraper (Trench 12 topsoil) and a miscellaneous retouched piece (Trench 4 topsoil). Most pieces exhibit edge damage, consistent with their provenance (all from topsoil or subsoil contexts). In the absence of chronologically distinctive tool types, this small group can only be broadly dated as Neolithic/Bronze Age.

5.4.2 Two pieces of burnt, unworked flint (both from Trench 15 topsoil) are of uncertain date and function, although this material type is often taken as an indicator of prehistoric activity.

5.5 Glass

5.5.1 All of the pottery is of post-medieval date, and all is vessel glass. The earliest piece came from Trench 12 topsoil, and belongs to a free-blown green wine bottle of 'mallet' or squat cylindrical' form, dating to the later 18th or early 19th century. All other vessels are machine-made, and represent bottles and jars of 19th/20th-century date, with one fragment of a drinking vessel of similar date.

5.6 Metalwork

5.6.1 Metalwork includes objects of copper alloy and iron. The copper alloy objects from 1406 comprise two slightly tapering strips, each with one rounded end, and both with rivet holes. They formed part of a single object, of unknown function but probable post-medieval date.

5.6.2 The iron objects are heavily corroded. They include a nail, a rectangular double-loop buckle, and a larger structural item, all from pit **1404**. A badly corroded bar fragment from **Trench 13** subsoil could be another nail shank. None of these objects is closely datable.

5.7 Other Finds

5.7.1 Other finds comprise one piece of animal bone (sheep), six pieces of clay tobacco pipe (all plain stems) and a small amount of ironworking slag (presumed post-medieval).

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1.1 No material suitable for environmental sampling was demonstrated to be present during the evaluation.



7 CONCLUSIONS AND POTENTIAL

- 7.1.1 The evaluation found few features of archaeological interest, comprising a handful of pit-like features of uncertain date, nature and function in Trenches 13-15, and a Victorian refuse pit (Trench 14).
- 7.1.2 The prehistoric finds assemblage is consistent with a background level of activity in the vicinity of the site. The Post-medieval and modern debris, found scattered across the Site, probably represents the manuring of the fields with midden material, as well as debris from surrounding development.
- 7.1.3 The evaluation results indicate low potential for significant archaeological remains, as suggested by the geophysical survey results (WA 2014a). Those that were identified were found to be of limited value.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Three Rivers Museum, Rickmansworth on completion of the project. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

8.2 Preparation of archive

- 8.2.1 The complete site archive, which includes 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 the Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.2.2 All archive elements have been marked with the Site code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

2 cardboard box/airtight plastic boxes of artefacts ordered by material type
1file/document case of paper records & A3/A4 graphics

8.3 Discard policy

- 8.3.1 WA follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

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.

8.5 Copyright

- 8.5.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by WA Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The Heritage Centre, however, will be granted exclusive licence for the use of the archive for



educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights* regulations 2003.

8.6 OASIS

- 8.6.1 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> has been initiated for the work. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).

9 REFERENCES

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10 APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1: Trench summaries

bgl = below ground level

Trench 1		dimensions: 49.65 x 1.85 x 0.44m	
context	feature	description	depth (m bgl)
101	topsoil	mid grey-brown clay-silt with common subrounded gravel (<50mm); rare charcoal flecks; clear horizon, some bioturbation & water action	0-0.2
102	subsoil	mid grey-brown clay-silt with abundant subrounded gravel (<80mm); rare charcoal flecks; clear horizon with some bioturbation & water action	0.2-0.35
103	natural	mid-light yellow-brown clay and gravel; some bioturbation & water action	0.35+
comments: worked flint, modern CBM & pottery (102); plough scars in natural			

Trench 2		dimensions: 51 x 1.85 x 0.4m	
context	feature	description	depth (m bgl)
201	topsoil	grass topped; grey-brown sandy loam with common rounded-subrounded medium flint gravel; top 0.1m gravel rare	0-0.3
202	natural	mixed yellow-orange loamy sand with pockets & lenses of abundant medium & rare coarse rounded-subrounded gravel	0.3+
comments: pottery, worked flint, CBM, clay tobacco pipe (201); plough scars in natural			

Trench 3		dimensions: 50 x 1.85 x 0.35m	
context	feature	description	depth (m bgl)
301	topsoil	grass topped; mid-dark grey-brown clay-silt; friable; occasional mixed stones (5-30mm)	0-0.1
302	subsoil	mid-pale brown-grey sandy silty clay; firm; moderate mixed pebbles & flints (5-50mm), rare (50-200mm)	0.1-0.3
303	natural	mid-pale brown-yellow sandy silty clay with patches orange clay; firm; moderate mixed flint & pebbles (5-150mm); patches abundant stones 5-30mm in the sandy silty clay, occasional in clay	0.3+
comments: pottery, worked flint, CBM, glass (301); E-W plough scars through subsoil into natural; gentle slope to E			

Trench 4		dimensions: 49.10 x 1.85 x 0.35m	
context	feature	description	depth (m bgl)
401	topsoil	grass topped; mid-dark grey-brown clay-silt; friable; occasional mixed pebbles & flint (5-20mm)	0-0.13
402	subsoil	mid-pale yellow-brown, mottled silty sandy clay; compact; moderate mixed pebbles & flint (10-100mm)	0.13-0.35
403	natural	mid-pale brown-yellow silty sandy clay with patches clay; firm; patchy moderate-frequent mixed stoned throughout	0.35+
comments: pottery, worked flint (401); plough scars through subsoil into natural; level pasture			

Trench 5		dimensions: 50.2 x 1.85 x 0.35m	
context	feature	description	depth (m bgl)
501	topsoil	grass topped; mid grey-brown clay-silt; friable; moderate mixed pebbles & flint (5-100mm)	0-0.11
502	subsoil	mid-pale brown silty clay; firm; frequent mixed pebbles & flint (10-150mm)	0.11-0.32
503	natural	mid-pale brown-yellow sandy silty clay; firm; frequent-abundant mixed	0.32+



		pebble & flint (5-150mm), some patches fewer inclusions	
comments: pottery, worked flint, CBM (501); plough scars through subsoil into natural; level pasture			

Trench 6		dimensions: 49.6 x 1.85 x 0.39m	
context	feature	description	depth (m bgl)
601	topsoil	grass topped; mid grey-brown clay-silt; friable; moderate mixed pebbles & flint (10-10mm)	0-0.13
602	subsoil	mid brown-grey silty clay; firm; moderate-frequent mixed pebbles & flint (10-100mm (rare 200mm))	0.13-0.3
603	natural	mid-pale brown-yellow sandy silty clay with patches orange clay; patches abundant mixed pebbles & flint (10-150mm) & patches less frequent inclusions	0.3+
comments: worked flint (601); pottery, CBM (602); plough scars through subsoil into natural; level pasture			

Trench 7		dimensions: 50 x 1.85 x 0.45m	
context	feature	description	depth (m bgl)
701	topsoil	grass topped; mid brown-grey humic sandy silt-loam; fine & medium gravel in varying quantities, rounded-subrounded	0-0.3
702	subsoil	mixture of 701 & 703	0.3-0.4
703	natural	mixed pockets of yellow-orange loamy sand & abundant medium & sparse coarse gravel; occasional lens of reddish-brown sandy clay-loam	0.4+
comments: pottery, worked flint, CBM including 19th century or later blue/grey paving bricks with impressed motif within the frog & divided into 4 segments via cross incision on opposite surface(701); plough scars in natural			

Trench 8		dimensions: 49.4 x 1.85 x 0.28m	
context	feature	description	depth (m bgl)
801	topsoil	grass topped; mid grey-brown clay-silt; friable; moderate mixed pebbles & flint (5-30mm)	0-0.1
802	subsoil	mid brown-grey silty clay; firm; frequent mixed pebbles & flint (10-100mm)	0.1-0.28
803	natural	mid-pale brown-yellow silty sandy clay; abundant mixed pebbles & flint (10-200mm); patches fewer inclusions	0.28+
comments: pottery, worked flint, CBM (801); many plough scars through subsoil into natural; level pasture			

Trench 9		dimensions: 50 x 1.85 x 0.45m	
context	feature	description	depth (m bgl)
901	topsoil	grass topped; mid brownish-grey loamy sand with abundant medium rounded-subrounded flint gravel; becomes mid yellowish-grey with depth (?subsoil)	0-0.3
902	natural	yellow-orange loamy sand with common medium flint gravel in lenses & pockets; occasional pockets orange sandy clay loam	0.3+
comments: worked flint, modern pottery, CBM (901); plough scars in the natural			

Trench 10		dimensions: 49.7 x 1.85 x 0.32	
context	feature	description	depth (m bgl)
1001	topsoil	grass topped; mid-dark grey-brown clay-silt; friable	0-0.08
1002	subsoil	mid brown-grey silty clay; dense; frequent-abundant mixed pebbles & flint (10-60mm)	0.08-0.27
1003	natural	mid-pale brown-yellow silty clay sand; loose; abundant mixed pebbles & flint 910-120mm)	0.27+



comments: worked flint, CBM, glass (1001); plough scars in subsoil only

Trench 11		dimensions: 50.5 x 1.85 x 0.5	
context	feature	description	depth (m bgl)
1101	topsoil	mid grey-brown clay silt; common subrounded gravel (<60mm); sparse charcoal flecks; clear horizon with some bioturbation & water action	0-0.2
1102	subsoil	mid grey-brown clay silt with abundant subrounded gravel (<80mm); diffuse horizon, some bioturbation & water action	0.2-0.39
1103	natural	mid-light yellow-brown clay-silt/gravel; diffuse horizon with bioturbation & water action; occasional outcrops/lenses natural clay; much manganese & iron rich silt throughout	0.39+

comments: worked flint, pottery, CBM (1101)

Trench 12		dimensions: 50 x 1.85 x 0.4m	
context	feature	description	depth (m bgl)
1201	topsoil	grass topped; gravelly loamy sand; abundant medium, rare coarse & sparse fine gravel, rounded-sub-rounded flint pebbles; becomes yellow-grey with depth (?subsoil)	0-0.3
1202	natural	yellowish-orange loamy sand/gravel, lenses & pockets of varying abundance & sizes	0.3+

comments: modern pottery, worked flint, CBM (1201); plough scars in natural; modern hollow

Trench 13		dimensions: 49 x 1.85 x 0.51m	
context	feature	description	depth (m bgl)
1301	topsoil	grass topped; mid grey-brown clay-silt; frequent mixed pebbles & flint (5-100mm); loose	0-0.14
1302	subsoil	mid grey-brown clay-silt; frequent mixed pebbles & flint (5-100mm); compact; less distinct lower interface	0.14-0.28
1303	natural	pale yellow sandy silty clay; frequent mixed pebbles & flints (5-100mm); loose; slightly diffuse interface	0.28+
1304	?pit	0.48 x 0.45 x 0.24m; subcircular steep-sided cut with a concave base; cuts natural; filled with 1305; relationship with 1307 undeterminable	0.28-0.51
1305	fill of 1304	mid grey-brown silty sandy clay with abundant mixed pebbles & flint (10-100mm); loose, larger pebbles at base; more stones on NW side; appears gradually accumulated; below subsoil	0.28-0.51
1306	fill of 1307	mid grey-brown silty sandy clay with moderate mixed pebbles & flint (10-50mm); loose; incomplete; very similar to 1305; below subsoil	0.28-0.35
1307	?pit	0.22+ x 0.22+ x 0.07+m; subcircular cut with unclear edges, incomplete; relationship with 1304 undeterminable; cuts natural	0.28-0.35
1308	pit	0.32 x 0.32 x 0.12m; circular with concave sides & base; cuts natural	0.28-0.4
1309	fill of 1308	dark brown-grey silty clay with frequent mixed pebbles & flint (10-40mm); iron panning (upper 20mm) & manganese; dense; below subsoil	0.28-0.4

comments: pottery, worked flint, CBM, metal, glass (1302); tree-throw hole; plough scars in subsoil

Trench 14		dimensions: 49.8 x 1.85 x 0.83m	
context	feature	description	depth (m bgl)
1401	topsoil	mid grey-brown clay-silt; common sub-rounded gravel (<80mm); sparse charcoal flecks; clear horizon, some bioturbation & water action	0-0.18
1402	subsoil	mid grey-brown clay-silt with common subrounded gravel (<80mm); diffuse horizon, some bioturbation & much water action	0.18-0.37
1403	natural	mid-light yellow-brown clay & gravel; diffuse horizon, some bioturbation & much water action; occasional patch of clay; iron rich	0.37+



1404	pit	Victorian rubbish pit; 1.4 x 1.4 x 0.46m; oval with concave sides & base; two fills; cuts natural; distinct edges; rabbit burrow in base	0.37-0.83
1405	fill of 1404	mid red-brown clay & gravel; abundant subrounded gravel (<100mm); rare charcoal flecks; basal fill; much bioturbation (rabbits)	0.72-0.83
1406	fill of 1404	mid grey-brown clay-silt with common subrounded gravel (<80mm); common charcoal flecks; abundant finds; some bioturbation & water action; truncated by machine, recorded as below subsoil; deliberate deposit of domestic refuse	0.37-0.72
comments: pottery, worked flint, CBM, glass (1401); pottery, CBM, iron objects, glass, bronze, slag (1406); modern posthole			

Trench 15		dimensions: 49.9 x 1.85 x 0.6m	
context	feature	description	depth (m bgl)
1501	topsoil	mid grey-brown clay silt; common subrounded gravel (<50mm); rare charcoal flecks; clear horizon with some bioturbation & little water action	0-0.29
1502	subsoil	mid grey-brown clay-silt with abundant subrounded gravel (<80mm); diffuse horizon with some bioturbation & water action	0.29-0.46
1503	natural	mid-light yellow-brown clay silt & gravel; diffuse horizon with some bioturbation & water action	0.46+
1504	?pit	0.46 x 0.46 x 0.1m; circular with concave sides & base; cuts natural; could be a natural feature	0.46-0.56
1505	fill of 1504	mid grey-brown silt with rare subrounded gravel (<40mm); rare charcoal flecks; clear edges; some bioturbation & water action; truncated; hard & compact; gradual waterborne silting	0.46-0.56
comments: worked flint (1501); CBM (1505)			



10.2 Appendix 2: OASIS

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: wessexar1-191669

Project details

Project name	Woodside Road, Abbot's Langley, Herts
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a 15 trench Archaeological Evaluation on land adjacent to Woodside Road, Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 510675 201700. Proposals are for a residential development including a primary school. Features were recorded in three trenches, comprising a Victorian rubbish pit and a few undated pit-like cuts and deposits. All but one trench contained artefacts, all but a few were residual in the topsoil and subsoil; finds include prehistoric flint and a variety of post-medieval-modern debris.
Project dates	Start: 11-08-2014 End: 15-08-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	103840 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	NATURAL FEATURE Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PLOUGH MARKS Uncertain
Significant Finds	LITHIC IMPLEMENT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Modern
Significant Finds	BRICK Modern



Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE THREE RIVERS ABBOTS LANGLEY Land off Woodside Road, Abbot's Langley, Hertfordshire
Postcode	WD25 7JG
Study area	6.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 106 017 51.7026607244 -0.399321700922 51 42 09 N 000 23 57 W Polygon
Height OD / Depth	Min: 90.00m Max: 100.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting Ltd.
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Andy King
Project supervisor	Roy Krackowicz
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting Ltd.

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Three Rivers Museum, Rickmansworth
Physical Archive ID	103841
Physical Contents	"Metal","Worked stone/lithics","other","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Three Rivers Museum, Rickmansworth



Digital Archive ID	103841
Digital Contents	"Ceramics", "Metal", "Survey", "Worked stone/lithics", "other"
Digital Media available	"Geophysics", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Three Rivers Museum, Rickmansworth
Paper Archive ID	103841
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"

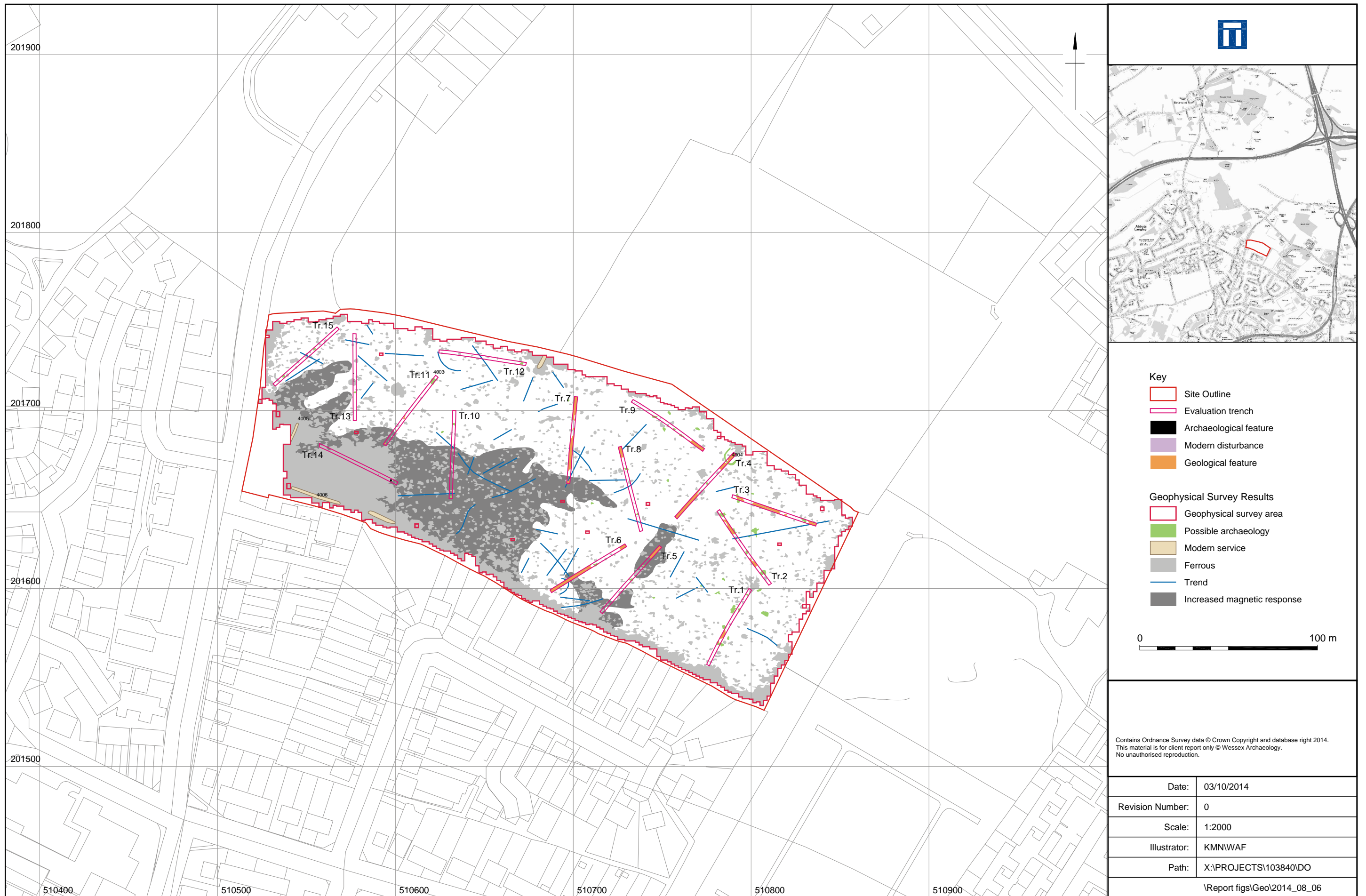
Entered by	Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy (k.dinwiddy@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	2 October 2014

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

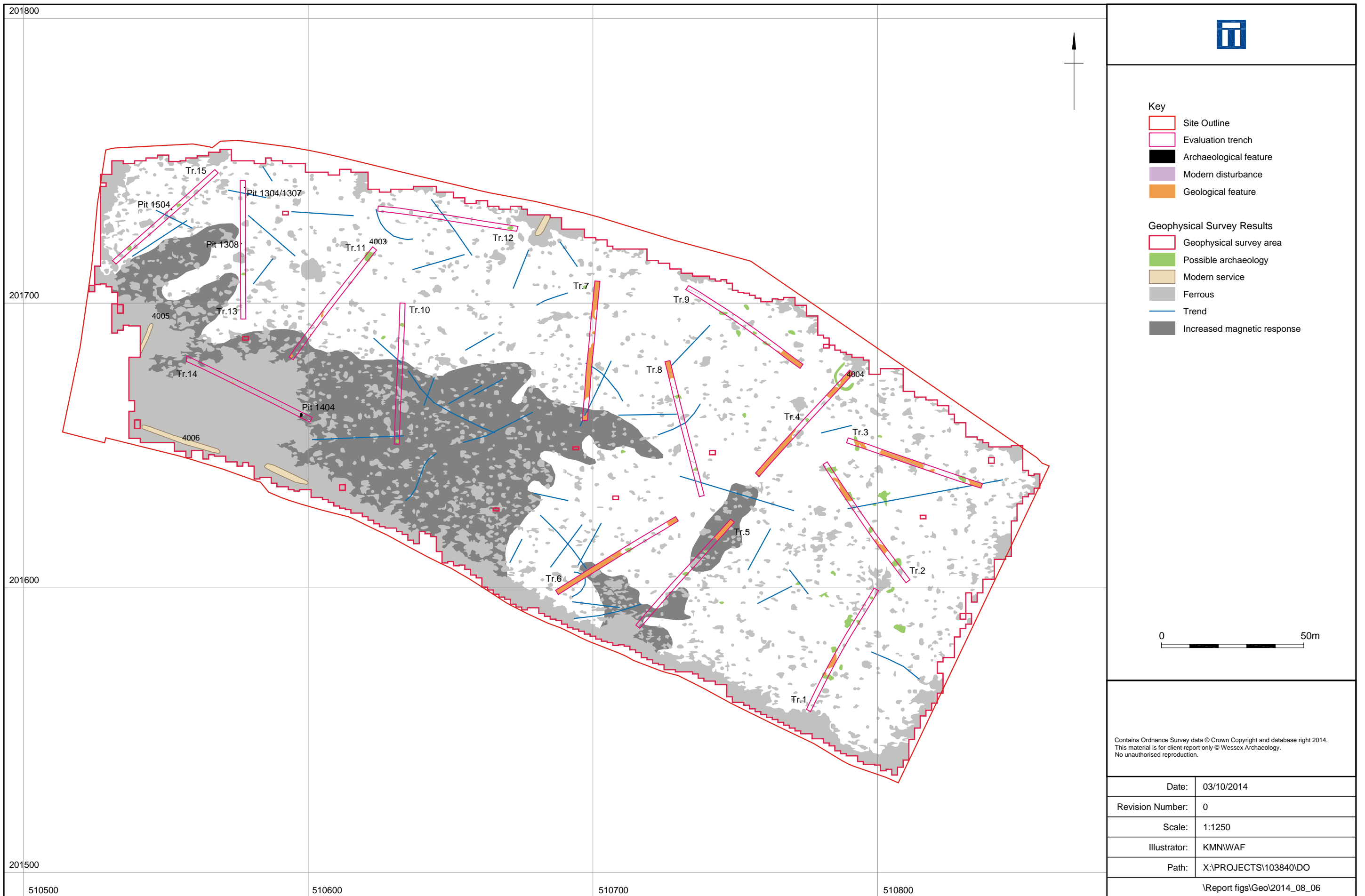
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Site location and trench plan

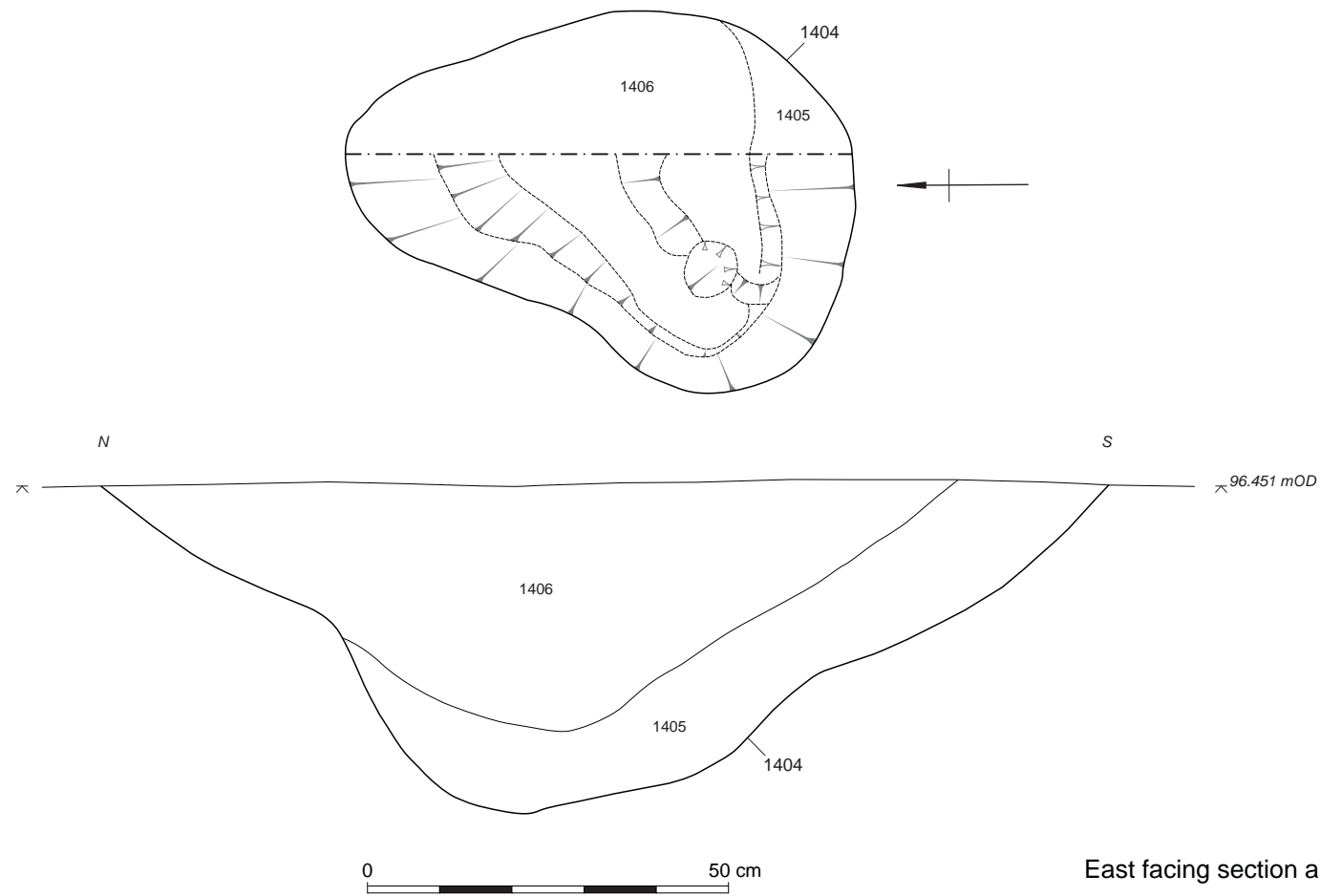
Figure 1



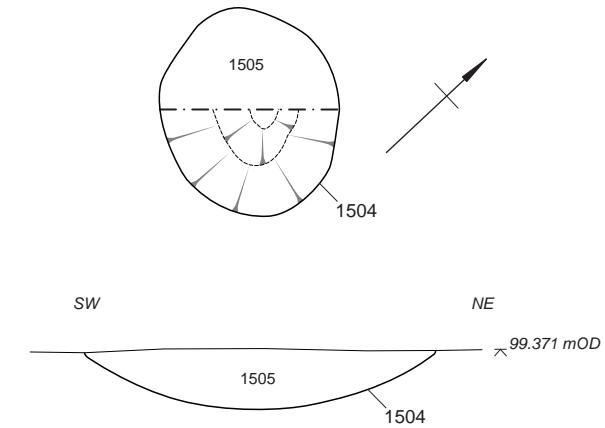
Site location and trench plan

Figure 2

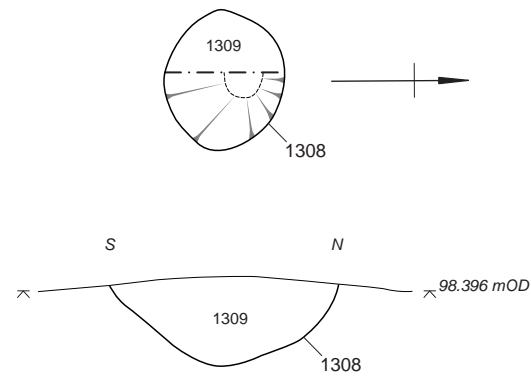
West facing section and plan of Pit 1404 in Trench 14



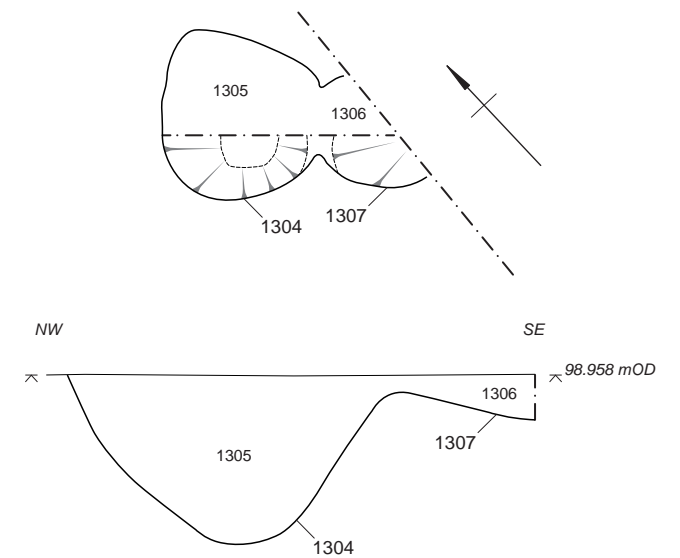
West facing section and plan of Pit 1504 in Trench 15



East facing section and plan of Pit 1308 in Trench 13



South-west facing section and plan of Pit 1304 and possible Pit 1307 in Trench 13



0 50 cm Sections

0 1 m Plans



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Plate 1: Trench 4 and machining in the background, from the north-east



Plate 2: West facing representative section Trench 13


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Plate 3: South-west facing section through 1304 and 1307



Plate 4: West facing section through 1404



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Plate 5: South-east facing section through 1504



Plate 6: Re-seeding following reinstatement

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