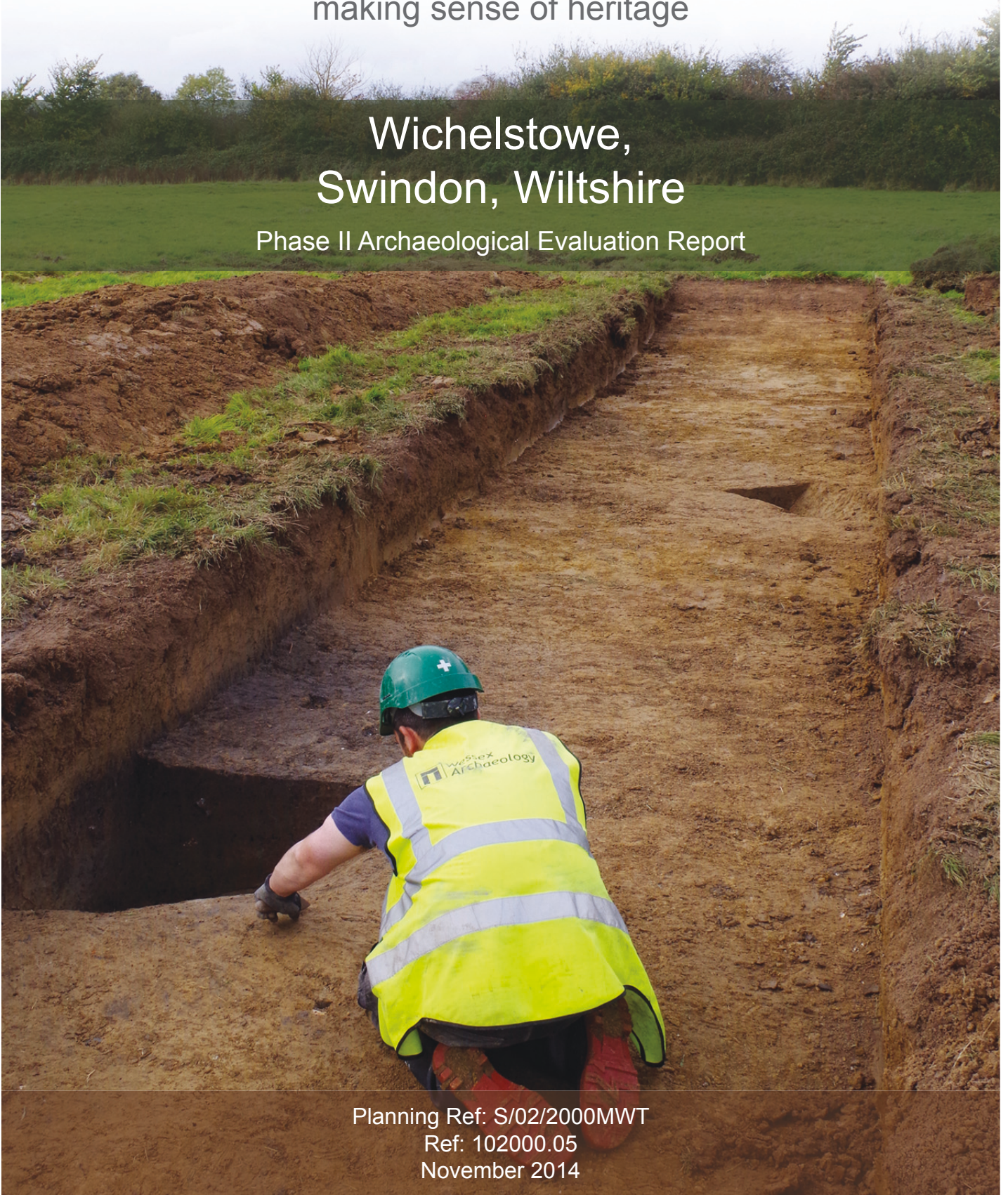




making sense of heritage

Wichelstowe, Swindon, Wiltshire

Phase II Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Ref: S/02/2000MWT
Ref: 102000.05
November 2014



**Wichelstowe,
Swindon, Wiltshire**

Phase II Archaeological Evaluation Report

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November 2014

**Report Ref: 102000.05
Planning Ref: S/02/2000MWT**



Quality Assurance

Project Code	102000	Accession Code		Client Ref.	
Planning Application Ref.	S/02/2000MWT	Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	413075 183020 (centre)		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	I	NB	SF		6/11/14
File:	X:\PROJECTS\102000\Report\102000_Wichelstowe PHASE II Eval_Rep\102000_Wichelstowe_PHASE II_EVAL_Rep_V0.1.doc				
V02	E	SF	ADC		10/11/14
File:	X:\PROJECTS\102000\Report\102000_Wichelstowe PHASE II Eval_Rep\102000_Wichelstowe_PHASE II_EVAL_Rep_V0.2.doc				
	F	SF	RAC		17/11/14
File:	X:\PROJECTS\102000\Report\102000_Wichelstowe PHASE II Eval_Rep\102000_Wichelstowe_PHASE II_EVAL_Rep_V0.3.doc				
File:					
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* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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Wichelstowe, Swindon, Wiltshire

Phase II Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Swindon Borough Council (the Client), to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation associated with a proposed development at Wichelstowe, located to the south of Swindon, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 413075 183020.

Outline Planning Permission (OPP) for a proposed mixed-use development, including 4,500 dwellings, was granted consent in 2005. Various intrusive and non-intrusive archaeological projects were undertaken which identified a low level of archaeological activity within the Site, including Romano-British agricultural features and a number of medieval clay extraction pits. Further development at the Site was granted consent in 2014, informed by the results of a Phase I evaluation. Due to a number of constraints, comprising services and ecological issues, and with the agreement of the County Archaeologist, the Phase II works were completed as a condition of consent, and in accordance with a Natural England ecological licence.

The Phase II evaluation comprised the machine excavation of 29 trenches, in two broad areas within the Site. In keeping with the Phase I works, late prehistoric (Middle Bronze Age to Late Bronze Age) activity was recorded sporadically across the Site, with a small concentration of Middle/Late Bronze Age pottery from the features (a single posthole and ditches) within Trench 301 (to the south of the M4) and Trench 308 (in the West Wichel area).

An Iron Age gully and pit were recorded in Trenches 321 and 324 respectively, and may form part of a wider area of dispersed activity in the West Wichel area; the Phase I work had previously confirmed a substantial Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age ditch lay approximately 300m to the east, albeit separated by a small partially infilled brook running north to south through the Site.

A continuation of the relatively low level of Romano-British activity recorded to the south of the M4 during the Phase I works was confirmed during the Phase II evaluation. The similarly low levels of cultural material collected from the fills of the excavated features, suggest the Site is some distance from an area of intense settlement or increased activity.

Further evidence of the medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow was noted in the West Wichel area, and has been subject to a detailed survey in the 1980s. Remnants of the furrows were visible as negative features cut into the subsoil and natural within the trenches.

The fieldwork was carried out between 6th and 24th October 2014.



Wichelstowe, Swindon, Wiltshire

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Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Swindon Borough Council and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Tim Mann in this regard. The archaeological evaluation was monitored by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council) and Rob Armour Chelu (Archaeological Consultant, Armour Heritage) on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, Swindon Borough Council.

All fieldwork was undertaken with the permission of the tenant farmers. In this regard thanks are due to Mr Hinder, Mr Shepperson, and Mr Wicks.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Susan Clelland assisted by Ray Kennedy and Natalia Hunt. This report was written by Naomi Brennan, with finds analysis by Lorraine Mephram (pottery, ceramic building material), and Matt Leivers (worked flint). The report illustrations were prepared by Rob Goller.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.



Wichelstowe, Swindon, Wiltshire

Phase II Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Swindon Borough Council (the Client), to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation associated with the proposed development of land at Wichelstowe, to the south of Swindon, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 413075 183020 (hereafter 'the Site', **Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The Site has been subject to previous relatively low level archaeological evaluation, undertaken in respect of a previous Environmental Statement (ES) completed in 2003 (Foundations Archaeology 2002). This intrusive fieldwork was required to investigate the results of geophysical survey completed with regard to the same ES.
- 1.1.3 Following completion of the 2003 ES, Outline Planning Permission (OPP) for development was granted in 2005. The OPP provided consent for a development comprising up to 4,500 dwellings and facilities including employment and commercial uses, schools, open space, park and ride facility, roads, sewers and associated works.
- 1.1.4 Since the 2005 OPP was granted, a degree of development work has been undertaken at the Site, including the construction of the majority of the eastern part of the Site (East Wichel) and completion of infrastructure comprising new roads and a bridge across the Wiltshire & Berkshire Canal in the northern central part of the Site. Further development at the Site was granted consent in 2014, informed by the results of a Phase I evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2014). Due to a number of constraints, comprising services and ecological issues, and with the agreement of the County Archaeologist, the Phase II works were completed as a condition of consent, and in accordance with a Natural England ecological licence (2014-1698-EPS-MIT-1).
- 1.1.5 The Phase II fieldwork reported here was undertaken between the 6th and 24th October 2014.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site comprises an area of land measuring approximately 300ha, the majority of which is located to the north of the M4, east of the Toothill area of Swindon (**Figure 1**). It consists of a number of agricultural fields, which are currently under pasture, areas of woodland, small rivers and drainage features. Boundaries within the Site comprise predominantly mature hedgerows, ditches and watercourses. The remains of the Wiltshire & Berkshire Canal are present within the central area of the Site, and recently constructed infrastructure including a new road (Foxham Way/Black Horse Way/East Wichel Way), a bridge over the former canal, a supermarket and new build housing, are located to the eastern side of the Site.

- 1.2.2 With the exception of its extreme south-western extent, the Site's southern boundary comprises the M4, with a railway line forming the western boundary. To the north, the Site is bounded by the Okus and Kingshill areas of urban Swindon. Further recent development and a Park and Ride facility form the eastern boundary.
- 1.2.3 Within the Site's larger boundary, a number of areas are excluded from the development proposals (**Figure 1**). These include the Scheduled medieval settlement and associated ridge and furrow at West Leaze, the Scheduled site of a watermill to the south-east of West Leaze, and West Leaze itself.
- 1.2.4 The Site is located on gently undulating ground, and lies at elevations between 96m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and 106m aOD. The underlying solid geological deposits within the majority of the Site are mapped as West Walton Formation, Ampthill Clay Formation and Kimmeridge Clay Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 151 to 161 million years BP. To the north-east of the Site, around West Leaze, the geology is recorded as Portland Group Limestone and Calcareous Sandstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed c. 146 to 151 million years BP. Superficial deposits of alluvial deposits are recorded along the north-eastern edge of the Site (British Geological Survey).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 A number of archaeological investigations have already been completed across the Site, and this information is readily available through the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (WHER), and is also contained within a recently completed archaeological desk based assessment (Armour Heritage 2013a). The results of the DBA will not be repeated in detail within this report.
- 2.1.2 In summary, the DBA identified evidence for prehistoric, Romano-British, early, late and post-medieval activity within the bounds of the Site itself and its broader environs. Five Scheduled Monuments were identified within the study area and included a bowl barrow near Rushy Platt farm, medieval settlement and associated ridge and furrow, and the site of a watermill at West Leaze.
- 2.1.3 The Scheduled Monument at West Leaze (**Figure 1**) represents important evidence for settlement and land use in the immediate area during the medieval period. The monument includes the remains of a small deserted medieval settlement, with an associated hollow way, house platforms and ridge and furrow (*ibid.*).
- 2.1.4 The remains of the Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal, which survives in part as a sinuous linear feature, crosses the Site on a north-east to south-west alignment. The canal was originally constructed in 1804, and ceased use for commercial traffic in 1906, being subsequently infilled in 1962. Its alignment is preserved by the continuation of Wharf Road and water filled elements within the Site (*ibid.*).

2.2 Recent investigations in the area

- 2.2.1 As noted above a number of archaeological investigations have been completed across the Site and include excavations, evaluations and watching briefs (Foundations Archaeology 2002 and 2009). Excavations and subsequent watching briefs, associated with the construction of new roads within the central area of the Site, south of West Leaze, recorded evidence of Romano-British and medieval activity (Foundations Archaeology

2009). During this fieldwork, a number of ditches, pits and postholes were identified. The majority of the ditches were interpreted as field boundaries, with the limited stratigraphy indicating that the activity included at least two phases, dating between the 2nd – 4th centuries AD. The only direct evidence for any structural remains within the area comprised a small number of postholes, which were associated with a single sherd of pottery datable to the 2nd century AD (Foundations Archaeology 2009).

- 2.2.2 A large number of amorphous, shallow pit features were present within the excavation and watching brief areas. The pits varied in size and contained a mixed group of pottery, including prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval pottery. It is possible that these features represented backfilled clay quarry pits which would be consistent with their amorphous appearance, and may have been associated with pottery production and medieval domestic settlement to the north at West Leaze (Foundations Archaeology 2009).
- 2.2.3 Extensive remains of ridge and furrow agriculture have been recorded across many areas of the Site. The remains were mapped through the South Swindon Survey, undertaken between 1984 and 1986 (Swindon Borough Council 1986). Extant elements of this were also noted during the Phase I evaluation.
- 2.2.4 During the Phase I evaluation five broad zones of potential were identified (Wessex Archaeology 2014). Two were recorded to the south and east of the shrunken medieval village of West Leaze, where ditches and pits containing Neolithic, Bronze Age and Romano-British pottery were recorded. The third area of potential related to Romano-British activity recorded at the western extent of the Site, spanning the M4 motorway. A further area was coincident with a substantial Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age ditch recorded within the West Wichel area of the Site. A final area of potential interest, more difficult to define, was identified in the central area of the Site, where Mesolithic worked flints and Bronze Age pottery were recovered. A section of the infilled Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal, constructed in 1804, crossed the West Wichel area of the Site. The canal was visible as a low earthwork within the field, and was flanked by a low bank, constructed from up cast clays which, where excavated, survived to a depth of 1.6m.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 Prior to the commencement of the works a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was submitted to and approved by Wiltshire Council, and detailed the standards and specifications of the fieldwork (Armour Heritage 2013b). All trial trenching, excavation and recording was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the WSI, and the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008).
- 3.1.2 The general aims of the archaeological 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, condition and depth 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.*

3.1.3 More specifically the archaeological evaluation sought to:

- *Establish the potential for significant palaeoenvironmental deposits to be present across the Site; and*
- *Determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains (should they be present), by means of artefactual or other associated evidence.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 Due to a number of constraints, including services and ecological issues, and with the agreement of the County Archaeologist, the archaeological evaluation was divided into two separate phases, one undertaken between November 2013 and December 2013, and a second phase completed in October 2014 (this report).

3.2.2 Due to issues with access, current construction projects, flooded ground/high water tables and ecological fencing 148 of the 168 trenches proposed for Phase I were completed. A total of 30 trenches were proposed for the Phase II works, of which 29 were excavated. This report is concerned with the results of the Phase II evaluation.

3.2.3 Given the large area investigated by the trial trenching, the fieldwork associated with the Phase I work was divided into three different areas. For consistency, these Site areas have also been referenced for the Phase II works, with the quantity of trial trench investigations summarised in **Table 1** below. The fieldwork was undertaken between the 6th and 24th October 2014.

Table 1: Excavated trenches by Site area

Site Area	Phase I	Phase II
West Wichel	89	26
Middle Wichel	35	0
Area south of M4	24	3
Totals	148	29

3.2.4 The trial trenches were set-out using a Leica Viva series GNSS unit using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.

3.2.5 Prior to machining, the investigation areas were scanned using a cable avoidance tool (CAT) by operatives experienced in the use of such equipment. Trench excavation was carried out by a single 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 2.0m wide toothless ditching bucket, and was supervised by a suitably qualified archaeologist at all times. Topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine in a series of level spits to the top of the archaeology or natural, whichever was encountered first. The excavated spoil was stockpiled at a safe distance from the edge of each trench, and separated into topsoil and subsoil bunds.



3.2.6 On completion of all investigations at each trench, topsoil and subsoil were reinstated to broadly replicate the stratigraphic sequence encountered, and levelled to the existing ground surface.

3.3 Monitoring

3.3.1 The fieldwork stage of the evaluation was monitored by Armour Heritage and the County Archaeologist from Wiltshire Council. This was achieved via site visits in which the progress and results of the evaluation were discussed, and recommendations for additional work to answer or define specific queries relating to the overall aims of the evaluation were put forward.

3.4 Recording

3.4.1 All archaeological features and deposits exposed in the trial trenches were cleaned and recorded in plan using GPS survey equipment. To ensure that a unique project-wide geo-referenced sequence was maintained, all context numbers were related to the investigation areas (*i.e.*, the trench number).

3.4.2 Full written and photographic records were made of each investigation area, even where no archaeological remains were identified. Feature sections and representative sections were recorded at an appropriate scale (1:10). Other plans, sections and elevations of archaeological features and deposits were drawn as necessary at an appropriate scale (normally 1:10 or 1:20). Drawings were made in pencil on permanent drafting film. Written records were made using WA *pro forma* record sheets.

3.4.3 The spot height of all principal features and levels was calculated in metres relative to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places. Plans and sections have been annotated with spot heights as appropriate.

3.4.4 A digital photographic record was maintained during the evaluation. General site photographs were taken to record the progress of the investigations, including shots suitable for use in publicity material, and to record the condition of the land prior to trenching and after reinstatement.

3.5 Specialist strategies

General

3.5.1 All finds and environmental samples were processed according to procedures set out in WA's policies and guidelines on finds analysis, environmental sampling and archive preparation, and in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2001). Copies of the WA policies and guidelines can be supplied on request.

Artefact

3.5.2 All artefacts were recovered, stored and processed in accordance with standard methodologies and national guidelines (Institute for Archaeologists 2001; SMA 1993; 1995). Small finds were recorded three-dimensionally using GPS surveying equipment. Bulk finds were collected and recorded by context from both excavated features and the surfaces of unexcavated features.

- 3.5.3 Any finds requiring immediate on site conservation treatment to prevent deterioration were dealt with according to guidelines laid down in *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

Environmental

- 3.5.4 Bulk environmental soil samples, normally up to 40 litres, for plant macro-fossils, charred plant remains, small animal bones and other small artefacts were taken from appropriate well-sealed and dated/datable archaeological deposits following Wessex Archaeology's standard environmental sampling policy.
- 3.5.5 The environmental sampling strategy followed the recommendations outlined in *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition)* (English Heritage 2011).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 For ease of reference, the evaluation results are described in the following sections by Site area (**Table 1**), period and trench, which follows the approach adopted for the Phase I report (Wessex Archaeology 2014). A phased interpretation is provided in the discussion (see below).
- 4.1.2 Trench numbers started at 300 in order to take into account the previous phases of evaluation. Detailed descriptions relating to each identified archaeological feature and deposit can be found in the trench tables at the back of this report (**Appendix 1**). Trench and context numbers are shown in bold (e.g., posthole **10004** in **Trench 100**).
- 4.1.3 A number of blank trenches were encountered during the Phase II evaluation within the West Wichel Area; these comprised **Trenches 303-306, 309-310, 312-317, 323 and 325-329**. A number of natural features such as tree throws and hollows were also observed during the evaluation. These were largely unrecorded with the exception of feature **31406** in **Trench 314** and **30809** in **Trench 308**.
- 4.1.4 A number of the trench positions were adjusted during the works due to constraints on Site such as field boundaries and ecological fencing. **Trenches 321 and 322** could not be excavated due to the presence of a pond, though trench number **321** was reused in order to investigate further an area of activity associated with **Trench 324**.

4.2 Area South of M4 (Figure 2)

Introduction

- 4.2.1 The area south of the M4 was located within the south-western corner of the Site, and was positioned across relatively flat low-lying pasture fields at a height of 100m aOD (**Figure 2**). Three trenches were excavated within this area, and confirmed the presence of several linear ditches and tree hollows.

Stratigraphic sequence

- 4.2.2 The natural soil sequence recorded across this area of the Site was fairly uniform and comprised a grey-brown silty clay topsoil (between 0.20-0.23m deep) with a well developed turf. Below the topsoil, a mid brown-grey silty clay subsoil with some orange mottling was recorded to a depth of 0.33m to 0.40m below ground level (bgl). The

underlying natural comprised a mid orange clay. All archaeological features were recorded cut into this layer.

Prehistoric

- 4.2.3 Limited prehistoric activity was recorded during the Phase I evaluation, and the evidence was similarly sparse in the Phase II works. A single ditch (**30110**) on an approximate east to west alignment was recorded (**Figure 5; Section 1**), and contained six sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery.

Romano-British

- 4.2.4 In contrast, a number of Romano-British features were located within this area during the Phase I evaluation, including several ditches and a pit. Nevertheless, dating evidence was only recovered from ditch **30212 (Plate 1)** during the Phase II works, and comprised a single sherd deriving from a flagon handle.
- 4.2.5 The ditch itself was recorded on a similar alignment to the Late Bronze Age linear, and it is noteworthy the other six ditches recorded in the three trenches were positioned on slightly different orientations. Indeed, both the profile and single fill in both ditches was similar, and their position and orientation indicates that they may run closely parallel or even form part of the same meandering feature.

Undated

- 4.2.6 As with the Phase I evaluation, the majority of the features were undated, and contained a low level of culturally derived material, suggesting that this area of the Site was situated at some distance from the main activity areas.
- 4.2.7 Five of the six undated linear features (ditches **30004, 30106, 30108, 30204** and **30209**) were relatively shallow, measuring between 0.16-0.39m in depth, and likely to relate to agricultural drainage or ploughing. Of these, ditches **30004 (Plate 2), 30204** and **30209** were aligned north-west – south-east, in line with the existing field boundaries and current ploughing regime. Ditch **30004** may be a continuation of ditch **30204**. The other two shallow linear features (**30106, 30108 (Plate 3)**) were on a near east – west alignment, and suggests that they were either associated with a different phase of activity or originally lay in another field.
- 4.2.8 A more substantial ditch **30208** was located at the eastern end of **Trench 302** on a north-east – south-west alignment. In contrast to the single secondary silty clay deposits found within the other linear features, this ditch had an area of primary deposition on its south-eastern edge (**30207**) as well as the main secondary fill (**30206**) (**Figure 5; Section 2**). This feature is likely to have been a small boundary or drainage feature.
- 4.2.9 The final feature located in this area was a shallow pit **30104 (Plate 4)**. This did not contain any anthropogenic derived material and no other similar features were found within the Phase II trenches in this area, although a similar undated shallow pit was located to the north-west within the Phase I trenches (pit **12005**).

4.3 West Wichel (Figures 3 and 4)

Introduction

- 4.3.1 The West Wichel area of the Site was located to the north of the M4 motorway and bounded by the Great Western Railway in the west, Mill Lane to the east and the Okus area of Swindon to the north. The ground surface of the area was gently undulating and

rose steadily, from the south-west (100m aOD) towards the centre of the area (103m aOD) around South Leaze Farm, and sloped downwards to the north-east of the area (95m aOD). The majority of the trenches were located within fields laid to pasture. In total 26 trenches were excavated within the area, locating two areas of prehistoric potential (**Figure 1**).

Stratigraphic sequence

- 4.3.2 The natural soil sequence was fairly similar across the area and was characterised by dark grey-brown silty clay loam topsoil (between 0.11m and 0.27m deep) with a well developed turf line. Below the topsoil a mid to dark orange-brown silty clay subsoil was recorded to a depth of 0.20m to 0.58m bgl. The underlying natural geology was consistent across the area and comprised a brown or orange clay. Blue-grey mottling within the natural geology indicated a partially anaerobic environment, and waterlogging was noted in a number of trenches.
- 4.3.3 A lower subsoil deposit (**30808**, **31806** (**Figure 5**; **Section 5**) and **31906**) was observed in three of the trenches in this area (**Trench 308**, **318** and **319**). A defined band of alluvial material was also recorded in **Trench 308** (**30809**), and contained two redeposited sherds of Romano-British Savernake ware pottery, and a single piece of ironworking slag. Given the proximity of these trenches to the present watercourse and flood plain, the deposits may have resulted from localised flooding events.

Prehistoric

- 4.3.4 A possible area of prehistoric activity was focused on **Trench 308** (**Figures 1** and **3**) to the east of South Leaze Farm. Within this trench a posthole **30804** (**Plate 5**) was located containing quantities of Middle Bronze Age pottery sherds. Immediately to the south-east, a shallow ditch (**30807**) also contained Middle Bronze Age pottery sherds (**Figure 5**; **Section 3**). A further small pit or posthole to the north-west of these features (**30812**) was undated.
- 4.3.5 An additional area of prehistoric activity was recorded approximately 650m to the north-east, around **Trenches 321** and **324** (**Figure 1** and **4**). A large partially exposed pit (**32407**) was initially uncovered in **Trench 324**. Investigation confirmed the pit contained a single fill **32406**, within which animal bone and flint-tempered Late Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery was found (**Figure 5**; **Section 4** and **Plate 6**). A single dark, charcoal rich fill was recorded and may indicate that the pit had been deliberately backfilled. With the agreement of the County Archaeologist, following the recording of the pit, the trench was extended to enable the full extent of the pit to be recorded in plan prior to backfilling.
- 4.3.6 Though ditch (**32404**) identified to the north-west of the pit in **Trench 324** could not be dated, a possible north – south aligned prehistoric gully (**32104**) was located within **Trench 321** approximately 20m to the north, and contained similar Iron Age shelly ware pottery within the single fill (**32105**). This shallow linear was cut by a potentially modern north-west – south-east aligned gully **32106** (**Plate 7**).

Romano-British

- 4.3.7 A single possible Romano-British feature was located within **Trench 318** where a north-west to south-east aligned ditch **31805** was located (**Figure 3** and **Figure 5**; **Section 5**). The feature contained four sherds of Roman greyware pottery.

Medieval

- 4.3.8 Remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation were noted in this area within Trenches **307 (Plate 8)**, **308** and **311**. A selection of these were further investigated (**30704** and **30811 (Plate 9)**) but could not be conclusively dated. Within **Trench 320** an extant ditch **32005** and bank were observed. The position and alignment of this suggests that it is also related to the ridge and furrow cultivation recorded in the 1980s (Swindon Borough Council 1986), perhaps forming part of a field boundary.

Undated

- 4.3.9 Within **Trench 319** (and on a different alignment to the known ridge and furrow) was undated linear feature **31904 (Figure 3)**. This shallow feature is likely to relate to drainage though it was not possible to determine whether it pre- or post-dated the ridge and furrow.
- 4.3.10 A narrow undated gully **32404** was also located within Trenches **324 (Figure 4)**, which contained a small amount of charcoal and badly degraded animal bone.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A small quantity of finds were recovered during the Phase 2 evaluation, consisting largely of pottery, with a small amount of animal bone and a single piece of ironworking slag. Finds were recovered from seven of the trenches excavated; quantities by material type and by context are given in **Table 2**.

5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 The pottery constitutes the only dating evidence recovered. Of the 41 sherds recovered, 33 are late prehistoric and 8 Romano-British.
- 5.2.2 Twenty-three sherds are in coarse, flint-tempered fabrics, containing varying frequencies of crushed, calcined flint inclusions. None of these sherds are diagnostic, but the fabrics are characteristic of the period from Middle to Late Bronze Age, those sherds which are most profusely tempered (posthole **30804**, ditch **30807**) probably belonging to the Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition, while those more sparsely tempered (ditch **30110**, pit **32407**) more typical of the succeeding post-Deverel-Rimbury plainware tradition, although it is possible that their dating could extend later, into the Iron Age. Similar wares were recorded during the Phase 1 evaluation.
- 5.2.3 Nine sherds in shelly or shelly/sandy fabrics (gully **32104**, pit **32407**), and one sandy sherd (topsoil in **Trench 323**) are also undiagnostic, and are broadly dated as Iron Age.
- 5.2.4 The Romano-British sherds comprise four sandy greywares (ditch **31805**), two grog-tempered coarsewares characteristic of the Savernake ware tradition which covers much of north Wiltshire and parts of the surrounding counties (topsoil in **Trench 323**, layer **30809**), and one oxidised ware (ditch **30212**). The latter is the only diagnostic sherd, deriving from a flagon handle, but none can be closely dated.

5.3 Other Finds

- 5.3.1 The other finds include a small quantity of animal bone, all from **Trench 324**, all in very poor condition and amongst which only sheep/goat tooth fragments can be identified; and a single piece of ironworking slag of uncertain date.

Table 2: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Trench	Context	Animal Bone	Pottery	Slag
301	30111		6/8	
302	30211		1/5	
308	30805		8/107	
308	30806		4/22	
308	30809		2/23	1/19
318	31804		4/6	
321	32105		5/16	
323	32301		2/81	
324	32405	8/7		
324	32406	18/113	9/41	
TOTALS		26/120	41/309	1/19

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1.1 No environmental samples were taken during the Phase II evaluation.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Summary

7.1.1 The Phase II archaeological evaluation at Wichelstowe has been successful in its stated aims, and has contributed further information on the prehistoric and Romano-British activity within the Site. The evaluation indicates a low archaeological potential across much of the Site with some localised areas of higher potential (**Figure 1**).

7.1.2 In addition to reaffirming the area of Romano-British potential identified during the Phase I evaluation in the vicinity of the M4, it has also located two further small areas of possible prehistoric potential to the east of South Leaze Farm. The results of the evaluation correlate well with previous investigations undertaken within the Site during previous phases of evaluation, excavation and geophysical survey (Foundations Archaeology 2002, 2009; Archaeological Surveys 2013 and Wessex Archaeology 2014).

7.2 Archaeological conclusion

7.2.1 In keeping with the Phase I works, late prehistoric (Middle Bronze Age to Late Bronze Age) activity was recorded sporadically across the Site, with a small concentration of Middle/Late Bronze Age pottery from the features (a single posthole and ditches) within **Trench 301** (to the south of the M4) and **Trench 308** (in the West Wichel area).

7.2.2 The Iron Age gully and pit recorded in **Trenches 321** and **324** respectively was noteworthy; the desk based assessment (AH 2013a) had indicated evidence of this date was relatively sparse in the vicinity of the Site, and the confirmation of a fairly substantial pit, with a possible associated gully suggests there is further potential for features of this date in the near vicinity. Indeed, during the Phase I works, a substantial Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age ditch was recorded in **Trench 143**, approximately 300m to the east, albeit separated by a small partially infilled brook running north to south through the Site. Further associated activity on the raised ground either side of the brook is likely.

7.2.3 A continuation of the relatively low level of Romano-British activity recorded to the south of the M4 during the Phase I works was confirmed during the Phase II evaluation. The low levels of cultural material collected from the fills of the excavated features, suggests the



Site is some distance from an area of settlement or increased activity. The features recorded are most likely largely agricultural in origin, relating to drainage or field boundary features. Overall, given the abraded nature of the finds during the Phase I works, and the low quantity of finds during the Phase II evaluation, the potential for the pottery to be residual within later contexts should not be wholly dismissed.

- 7.2.4 Further evidence of the medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow was noted in the West Wichel area, and has been subject to a detailed survey in the 1980s. Remnants of the furrows were visible as negative features cut into the subsoil and natural within the trenches.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 The archive is currently stored at Wessex Archaeology's office in Salisbury under the project code **102000**. The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with the relevant standards set out in *'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment'* (MoRPHE), English Heritage (2006), and in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation. The archive will be deposited at the completion of all post-excavation works with the appropriate local museum.
- 8.1.2 Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

8.2 Preparation of the archive

- 8.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the Site code (**102000**). A fully cross-referenced index of the archive will be prepared on completion of the project.

8.3 Discard policy

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

8.4 Copyright

- 8.4.1 Wessex Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any report under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved. Excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of the report by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the specification. Any document produced to meet planning requirements may be copied for planning purposes by the Local Planning Authority.
- 8.4.2 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-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

8.5 Security Copy

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

9 REFERENCES

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Trench Tables

bgl= below ground level

TRENCH 300			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated	
Dimensions: 42.65m x 1.5m		Max. depth: 0.40m	Ground level: 100.65-100.68m aOD		
Context	Description			Depth (m)	
30000	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Mid to dark grey-brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 30001.			0.00-0.20 bgl
30001	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid to dark orange-grey silty clay. Moderately compact. No inclusions. Some waterlogging. Overlies 30002.			0.20-0.40 bgl
30002	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid orange silty clay with common grey-blue mottling. No inclusions.			0.40+ bgl
30003	<i>Secondary fill</i>	Secondary fill of ditch 30004. Mid to pale grey clay. Occasional orange mottling. No visible inclusions. Overlies 30004.			0.34 deep
30004	<i>Ditch</i>	North-west - south-east aligned ditch filled with 30803. Diffuse in plan and section. 0.80m wide, 0.34m deep. Moderate to steep, concave sides, concave base. Cuts 30802.			0.34 deep

TRENCH 301			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated	
Dimensions: 46.62m x 1.5m		Max. depth: 0.44m	Ground level: 100.65-100.80m aOD		
Context	Description			Depth (m)	
30101	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 30102.			0.00-0.22 bgl
30102	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid brown-grey silty clay. Sparse orange-brown mottling. Moderately compact. Very rare sub-angular flint, <1-4cm. Overlies 30103.			0.22-0.40 bgl
30103	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid grey-orange silty clay with common grey-blue mottling. Rare sub-angular flint, <1-4cm.			0.40+ bgl
30104	<i>Pit</i>	Oval pit filled with 30105. Not fully seen in plan. 1.2m long, 0.60m+ wide, 0.17m deep. Straight, shallow sides, flat base. Cuts 30103.			0.17 deep
30105	<i>Secondary fill</i>	Secondary fill of pit 30104. Dark grey silty clay with orange-grey mottling. Occasional sub-angular - sub-rounded flint, <1-5cm. Compact. Overlies 30104.			0.17 deep
30106	<i>Ditch</i>	East - west aligned ditch filled with 30107. 1.00m wide, 0.16m deep. Moderate, straight sides, flat base. Cuts 30103.			0.16 deep
30107	<i>Secondary fill</i>	Secondary fill of ditch 30106. Dark grey silty clay. Occasional orange-grey mottling. No visible inclusions. Overlies 30106.			0.16 deep
30108	<i>Ditch</i>	North-north-west - south-south-east aligned ditch filled with 30109. 1.50m wide, 0.18m deep. Shallow, straight sides, flat base. Cuts 30103.			0.18 deep
30109	<i>Secondary fill</i>	Secondary fill of ditch 30108. Mid grey silty clay with grey-orange mottling. No visible inclusions. Compact. Overlies 30108.			0.18 deep
30110	<i>Ditch</i>	North-east – south-west aligned ditch filled with 30111. 0.72m wide, 0.29m deep. Steep, concave sides, concave base. Cuts 30103.			0.29 deep
30111	<i>Secondary fill</i>	Secondary fill of ditch 30110. Pale grey silty clay with orange mottling. No visible inclusions. Occasional iron oxide mottling. Overlies 30110.			0.29 deep



TRENCH 302			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 46.50m x 1.5m		Max. depth: 0.43m	Ground level: 100.77-100.90m aOD	
Context	Description			Depth (m)
30201	Topsoil	Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 30202.		0.00-0.23 bgl
30202	Subsoil	Modern subsoil. Mid brown-grey silty clay with sparse orange mottling. Moderately compact. Very rare sub-angular flint, <1-4cm. Overlies 30203.		0.23-0.33 bgl
30203	Natural	Natural geology. Mid grey-orange silty clay with moderate blue-grey mottling. Very rare sub-angular flint, <1-5cm.		0.33+ bgl
30204	Ditch	North-west - south-east aligned ditch filled with 30205. 0.72m wide, 0.27m deep. Steep, concave sides, flat base. Cuts 30203.		0.27 deep
30205	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of ditch 30204. Mid to dark grey silty clay with blue and orange mottling. No visible inclusions. Overlies 30204.		0.27 deep
30206	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of ditch 30208. Mid grey clay with frequent blue-grey mottling. No visible inclusions. Overlies 30207.		0.51 deep
30207	Primary fill	Primary fill of ditch 30208. Pale blue-orange. No visible inclusions. Overlies 30208.		0.43 deep
30208	Ditch	North-east - south-west aligned ditch filled with 30206 and 30207. 1.15m wide, 0.51m deep. Steep, concave sides, concave base. Cuts 30203.		0.51 deep
30209	Ditch	North-north-east - south-south-west aligned ditch filled with 30210. 1.0m wide, 0.29m deep. Steep, straight sides, flat base. Cuts 30203.		0.39 deep
30210	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of ditch 30208. Mid to dark grey-brown silty clay with frequent orange mottling. No visible inclusions. Overlies 30209. Cut by land drain.		0.39 deep
30211	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of ditch 30212. Mid grey clay with blue-grey mottling. No visible inclusions. Overlies 30212.		0.37 deep
30212	Ditch	North-east - south-west aligned ditch filled with 30211. 1.04m wide, 0.37m deep. Moderate, concave sides, concave base. Cuts 30203.		0.37 deep

TRENCH 303			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 44.70m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.61m	Ground level: 99.77-100.45m aOD	
Context	Description			Depth (m)
30301	Topsoil	Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 30302.		0.00-0.22 bgl
30302	Subsoil	Modern subsoil. Mid to dark orange-grey silty clay. Moderately compact. No inclusions. Overlies 30303.		0.22-0.52 bgl
30303	Natural	Natural geology. Mid brown-orange silty clay with common grey mottling. Very rare sub-angular flint, <1-10cm.		0.52+ bgl

TRENCH 304			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 44.10m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.69m	Ground level: 100.62-101.60m aOD	
Context	Description			Depth (m)
30401	Topsoil	Modern topsoil. Dark black-brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 30402.		0.00-0.27 bgl
30402	Subsoil	Modern subsoil. Mid to dark orange-grey silty clay. Moderately compact. No inclusions. Overlies 30403.		0.27-0.58 bgl
30403	Natural	Natural geology. Mid brown-orange silty clay with common grey mottling. Very rare sub-angular flint, <1-5cm.		0.58+ bgl



TRENCH 305			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 45.64m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.46m	Ground level: 100.85-102.40m aOD	
Context	Description			Depth (m)
30501	Topsoil	Modern topsoil. Dark black-brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 30502.		0.00-0.20 bgl
30502	Subsoil	Modern subsoil. Mid to dark orange-grey silty clay. Moderately compact. Rare sub-angular flint, <1-8cm. Overlies 30503.		0.20-0.38 bgl
30503	Natural	Natural geology. Dark grey silty clay with dark orange mottling. Sparse sub-angular flint, <1-15cm. Evidence of waterlogging.		0.38+ bgl

TRENCH 306			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 47.50m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.26m	Ground level: 103.72-104.05m aOD	
Context	Description			Depth (m)
30601	Topsoil	Modern topsoil. Dark brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 30602.		0.00-0.15 bgl
30602	Subsoil	Modern subsoil. Mid orange-grey silty clay. Moderately compact. Very rare sub-angular flint, <1-5cm. Overlies 30603.		0.15-0.20 bgl
30603	Natural	Natural geology. Mid orange and grey silty clay. Rare sub-angular flint, <1-5cm.		0.20+ bgl

TRENCH 307			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 46.30m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.60m	Ground level: 102.25-103.03m aOD	
Context	Description			Depth (m)
30701	Topsoil	Modern topsoil. Dark brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 30702.		0.00-0.21 bgl
30702	Subsoil	Modern subsoil. Mid orange-grey mottled silty clay. Moderately compact. Very rare sub-angular flint, <1-5cm. Overlies 30703.		0.21-0.44 bgl
30703	Natural	Natural geology. Mid orange silty clay with frequent grey mottling. Very rare sub-angular flint, <1-5cm.		0.44+ bgl
North-east – south-west furrows noted with trench.				

TRENCH 308			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 46.40m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.45m	Ground level: 101.84-103.44m aOD	
Context	Description			Depth (m)
30801	Topsoil	Modern topsoil. Dark brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. Very rare sub-angular flint, <1-10cm. Overlies 30802.		0.00-0.14 bgl
30802	Subsoil	Modern subsoil. Mid orange-grey mottled silty clay. Moderately compact. Very rare sub-angular flint, <1-5cm. Overlies 30808.		0.14-0.40 bgl
30803	Natural	Natural geology. Mid orange silty clay with frequent grey mottling. Very rare sub-angular flint, <1-5cm.		0.45+ bgl
30804	Posthole	Sub-circular posthole filled with 30805. 0.35m long, 0.33m wide, 0.08m deep. Moderate, straight sides, concave base. Cuts 30803.		0.08 deep
30805	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of posthole 30804. Dark grey silty clay. Sparse charcoal flecks. Very rare sub-angular flint, <1-5cm. Overlies 30804.		0.08 deep
30806	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of ditch 30807. Pale orange-brown silty clay. Occasional manganese flecks. No visible inclusions. Overlies 30807.		0.09 deep
30807	Ditch	North-east - south-west aligned ditch of natural hollow filled with 30806. 0.91m wide, 0.09m deep. Shallow, concave sides, concave base. Cuts 30803.		0.09 deep
30808	Layer	Lower subsoil. Mid grey-orange silty clay. Moderately compact. No		0.40-0.45



		inclusions. Overlies 30803.	bgl
30809	<i>Layer</i>	Area (approx. 1.2m wide) of mottled grey-brown silty clay, likely due to water movement and silting.	-
30810	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of furrow 30811. Pale grey-brown clay. Occasional manganese flecks. No visible inclusions. Overlies 30811.	0.29 deep
30811	<i>Furrow</i>	North-east - south-west aligned furrow filled with 30810. 1.3m wide, 0.29m deep. Steep, concave sides, concave base. Cuts 30803.	0.29 deep
30812	<i>Posthole</i>	Sub-oval posthole filled with 30813. 0.54m long, 0.35m wide, 0.13m deep. Steep, straight sides, concave base. Cuts 30803.	0.13 deep
30813	<i>Secondary fill</i>	Secondary fill of posthole 30812. Mid brown-grey silty clay. Rare charcoal flecks. Rare sub-angular flint, <1-5cm. Overlies 30812.	0.13 deep
Additional north-east – south-west furrows noted with trench.			

TRENCH 309		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 45.30m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.39m	Ground level: 102.84-103.29m aOD
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
30901	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. Very rare sub-angular flint, <1-5cm. Overlies 30902.	
30902	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid orange and grey mottled silty clay. Moderately compact. Very rare sub-angular flint, <1-5cm. Overlies 30903.	
30903	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid orange silty clay with frequent grey mottling. Very rare sub-angular flint, <1-7cm.	

TRENCH 310		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 43.90m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.59m	Ground level: 100.77-102.62m aOD
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
31001	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 31002.	
31002	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid orange-grey silty clay. Moderately compact. No inclusions. Overlies 31003.	
31003	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid orange silty clay with frequent grey mottling. No Inclusions. Waterlogged.	

TRENCH 311		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 45.44m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.54m	Ground level: 100.99-101.53m aOD
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
31101	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 31102.	
31102	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid orange-grey silty clay. Moderately compact. No inclusions. Overlies 31103.	
31103	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid orange silty clay with frequent grey mottling. No Inclusions.	
North-east – south-west furrow noted with trench.			

TRENCH 312		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 43.64m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.54m	Ground level: 99.75-100.63m aOD
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
31201	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 31202.	
31202	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid orange-grey silty clay. Moderately compact.	



		No inclusions. Overlies 31203.	bgl
31203	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid orange silty clay with rare grey mottling. No inclusions.	0.30+ bgl

TRENCH 313			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 42.54m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.60m	Ground level: 99.56-100.31m aOD	
Context	Description		Depth (m)	
31301	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark brown silty clay loam. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 31302.	0.00-0.22 bgl	
31302	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid orange-grey silty clay. Moderately compact. No inclusions. Overlies 31303.	0.22-0.51 bgl	
31303	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid orange silty clay with rare grey mottling. No inclusions.	0.51+ bgl	

TRENCH 314			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 42.60m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.51m	Ground level: 99.54-100.04m aOD	
Context	Description		Depth (m)	
31401	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark brown silty clay loam. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 31402.	0.00-0.21 bgl	
31402	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid orange-grey silty clay. Moderately compact. Very rare sub-angular flint, <1-3cm. Overlies 31403.	0.21-0.46 bgl	
31403	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid orange silty clay with common grey mottling. Very rare sub-angular flint, <1-5cm.	0.46+ bgl	
31404	-	VOID	-	
31405	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of natural feature 31406. Dark grey silty clay. Moderately compact. Frequent charcoal flecks. Bioturbated. Overlies 31406.	0.13 deep	
31406	<i>Natural Feature</i>	Feature derived from the decay of tree roots. Sub-oval filled with 31405. 0.39m long, 0.33m wide, 0.13m deep. Steep, concave sides, irregular base. Cuts 31403.	0.13 deep	

TRENCH 315			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 45.00m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.35m	Ground level: 99.07-99.24-m aOD	
Context	Description		Depth (m)	
31501	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 31502.	0.00-0.10 bgl	
31502	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid orange-grey mottled silty clay. Moderately compact. No inclusions. Overlies 31503.	0.10-0.20 bgl	
31503	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid orange silty clay with frequent grey mottling. Very rare sub-angular flint, <1-2cm.	0.20 bgl	

TRENCH 316			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 37.14m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.46m	Ground level: 98.81-99.60m aOD	
Context	Description		Depth (m)	
31601	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 31602.	0.00-0.20 bgl	
31602	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid orange-grey mottled silty clay. Moderately compact. No inclusions. Overlies 31603.	0.20-0.39 bgl	
31603	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid orange silty clay with sparse grey mottling. No inclusions.	0.39+ bgl	

TRENCH 317			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
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Dimensions: 43.90m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.60m	Ground level: 97.20-98.06m aOD
Context	Description		Depth (m)
31701	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 31702.	0.00-0.20 bgl
31702	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid brown-grey silty clay. Moderately compact. No inclusions. Overlies 31703.	0.20-0.42 bgl
31703	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid orange-grey silty clay with blue-green mottling. No inclusions. Occasional iron oxide flecks.	0.42+ bgl

TRENCH 318			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 44.12m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.48m	Ground level: 97.34-97.77m aOD	
Context	Description		Depth (m)	
31801	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 31802.	0.00-0.11 bgl	
31802	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid orange and grey mottled silty clay. Moderately compact. No inclusions. Overlies 31806.	0.11-0.29 bgl	
31803	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid orange silty clay with frequent grey mottling. No inclusions.	0.48+ bgl	
31804	<i>Secondary fill</i>	Secondary fill of ditch 31805. Mid grey-brown silty clay. Occasional manganese flecks. No visible inclusions. Overlies 31905.	0.26 deep	
31805	<i>Ditch</i>	North - south aligned ditch filled with 31904. 0.92m wide, 0.26m deep. Straight, steep sides, concave base. Cuts 31803.	0.26 deep	
31806	<i>Layer</i>	Lower subsoil. Mid grey-orange slightly mottled silty clay. Moderately compact. No inclusions. Sparse manganese flecks. Overlies 31903.	0.29-0.48 bgl	

TRENCH 319			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 45.80m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.45m	Ground level: 98.11-98.67m aOD	
Context	Description		Depth (m)	
31901	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 31902.	0.00-0.14 bgl	
31902	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid orange and grey mottled silty clay. Moderately compact. No inclusions. Overlies 31906.	0.14-0.27 bgl	
31903	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid brown-orange silty clay with moderate grey mottling. No inclusions.	0.45+ bgl	
31904	<i>Ditch</i>	North - south aligned ditch filled with 31905. 0.65m wide, 0.19m deep. Straight, moderate sides, concave base. Cuts 31903.	0.19 deep	
31905	<i>Secondary fill</i>	Secondary fill of ditch 31904. Mid brown-grey silty clay. Rare manganese flecks. No visible inclusions. Overlies 31904.	0.19 deep	
31906	<i>Layer</i>	Lower subsoil. Mid orange and grey mottled silty clay. Moderately compact. No inclusions. Sparse manganese flecks. Overlies 31903.	0.27-0.45 bgl	

TRENCH 320			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 44.75m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.40m	Ground level: 98.00-98.20m aOD	
Context	Description		Depth (m)	
32001	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 32002.	0.00-0.15 bgl	
32002	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid orange and grey mottled silty clay. Moderately compact. No inclusions. Overlies 32003.	0.15-0.30 bgl	
32003	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid orange silty clay with frequent grey mottling. No inclusions.	0.30+ bgl	



32004	<i>Secondary fill</i>	Secondary of still extant feature. Mid orange-brown silty clay. No visible inclusions. Overlies 32005.	-
32005	<i>Ditch</i>	Extant feature with associated bank. North-west - south-east aligned filled with 32004.	-

TRENCH 321		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 13.60m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.48m	Ground level: 96.47-96.66m aOD
Context	Description		Depth (m)
32101	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 32102.	0.00-0.19 bgl
32102	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid orange-grey silty clay. Moderately compact. No inclusions. Overlies 32103.	0.19-0.43 bgl
32103	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid brown-orange silty clay with sparse grey mottling. Very rare sub-angular - flint, <1-4cm.	0.43+ bgl
32104	<i>Ditch</i>	Poorly defined linear feature. North - south aligned filled with 32105. 0.49m wide, 0.11m deep. Straight, shallow sides, flat base. Cuts 32103.	0.11 deep
32105	<i>Secondary fill</i>	Secondary fill of feature 32104. Mid brown-grey silty clay. No visible inclusions. Sparse charcoal flecks. Overlies 32104.	0.11 deep
32106	<i>Ditch</i>	Likely modern linear or gully. North-west - south-east aligned, filled with 32107. 0.32m wide, 0.19m deep. Straight, steep sides, flat base. Cuts 32105.	0.19 deep
32107	<i>Secondary fill</i>	Secondary fill of feature 32106. Mid orange-grey silty clay. No visible inclusions. Overlies 32106.	0.19 deep

TRENCH 322		Type:	
Dimensions:		Max. depth:	Ground level:
Context	Description		Depth (m)
NOT EXCAVATED			

TRENCH 323		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 23.15m x 2.0m and 11.95m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.50m	Ground level: 96.77-97.11m aOD
Context	Description		Depth (m)
32301	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 32302.	0.00-0.18 bgl
32302	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid orange-grey silty clay. Moderately compact. Some mottling. No inclusions. Overlies 32303.	0.18-0.35 bgl
32303	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid grey-orange silty clay with moderate blue-grey mottling. No inclusions. Break in trench due to fence line.	0.35+ bgl

TRENCH 324		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 41.90m x 4.9m		Max. depth: 0.50m	Ground level: 96.54-96.81m aOD
Context	Description		Depth (m)
32401	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 32402.	0.00-0.21 bgl
32402	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid grey-orange silty clay. Moderately compact. Frequent mottling. No inclusions. Overlies 32403.	0.21-0.50 bgl
32403	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid brown-orange silty clay with moderate blue-grey mottling. No inclusions.	0.50+ bgl
32404	<i>Ditch</i>	North-east - south-west aligned ditch filled with 32405. 0.80m wide, 0.22m deep. Straight, steep sides, concave base. Cuts 32403.	0.22 deep



32405	<i>Secondary fill</i>	Secondary fill of ditch 32404. Mid to dark brown-grey silty clay. Rare sub-angular flint, <1-3cm. Occasional manganese and charcoal flecks. Overlies 32404.	0.22 deep
32406	<i>Secondary fill</i>	Deliberate backfill of pit 32407. Dark grey clay. Occasional sub-angular flint, <1-5cm. Frequent charcoal flecks. Overlies 32407.	0.53 deep
32407	<i>Pit</i>	Sub-oval pit filled with 32406. 3.50m long, 2.85m wide, 0.53m deep. Steep, concave sides, concave base. Cuts 32403.	0.53 deep

TRENCH 325		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 21.00m x 2.0m and 16.60m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.40m	Ground level: 96.60-97.06m aOD
Context	Description		Depth (m)
32501	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 32502.	0.00-0.15 bgl
32502	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid orange-grey silty clay. Moderately compact. Occasional mottling. No inclusions. Overlies 32503.	0.15-0.35 bgl
32503	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid grey-orange silty clay with moderate blue-grey mottling. No inclusions. Break in trench due to fenceline.	0.35+ bgl

TRENCH 326		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 40.40m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.44m	Ground level: 96.20-96.47m aOD
Context	Description		Depth (m)
32601	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 32602.	0.00-0.18 bgl
32602	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid grey-orange silty clay. Moderately compact. Frequent grey mottling. No inclusions. Overlies 32603.	0.18-0.41 bgl
32603	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid orange silty clay with moderate grey mottling. No inclusions. Deep plough scars noted within trench.	0.41+ bgl

TRENCH 327		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 33.20m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.46m	Ground level: 96.33-96.63m aOD
Context	Description		Depth (m)
32701	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 32702.	0.00-0.20 bgl
32702	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid orange-grey silty clay. Moderately compact. Slightly mottled. No inclusions. Overlies 32703.	0.20-0.41 bgl
32703	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid brown-orange silty clay with common grey mottling. No inclusions. Some waterlogging.	0.41+ bgl

TRENCH 328		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 44.87m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.54m	Ground level: 95.84-95.98m aOD
Context	Description		Depth (m)
32801	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 32802.	0.00-0.20 bgl
32802	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid orange-grey silty clay. Moderately compact. Slightly mottled. No inclusions. Overlies 32803.	0.20-0.44 bgl
32803	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid brown-orange silty clay with common blue-grey mottling. No inclusions.	0.44+ bgl

TRENCH 329		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 43.80m x 2.0m		Max. depth: 0.51m	Ground level: 95.68-95.83m aOD



Context	Description	Depth (m)
32901	<i>Topsoil</i> Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown silty clay. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. No inclusions. Overlies 32902.	0.00-0.17 bgl
32902	<i>Subsoil</i> Modern subsoil. Mid orange-grey silty clay. Moderately compact. Slightly mottled. No inclusions. Overlies 32903.	0.17-0.43 bgl
32903	<i>Natural</i> Natural geology. Mid brown-orange silty clay with common blue-grey mottling. Rare sub-angular flints, <1-4cm.	0.43+ bgl

Appendix 2: Oasis Record

Wichelstowe, Swindon, Wiltshire - Wessex Archaeology

OASIS ID - wessexar1-194625

Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	Sue Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	10 November 2014
View 2	2	Sue Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	10 November 2014

Completed sections in current version

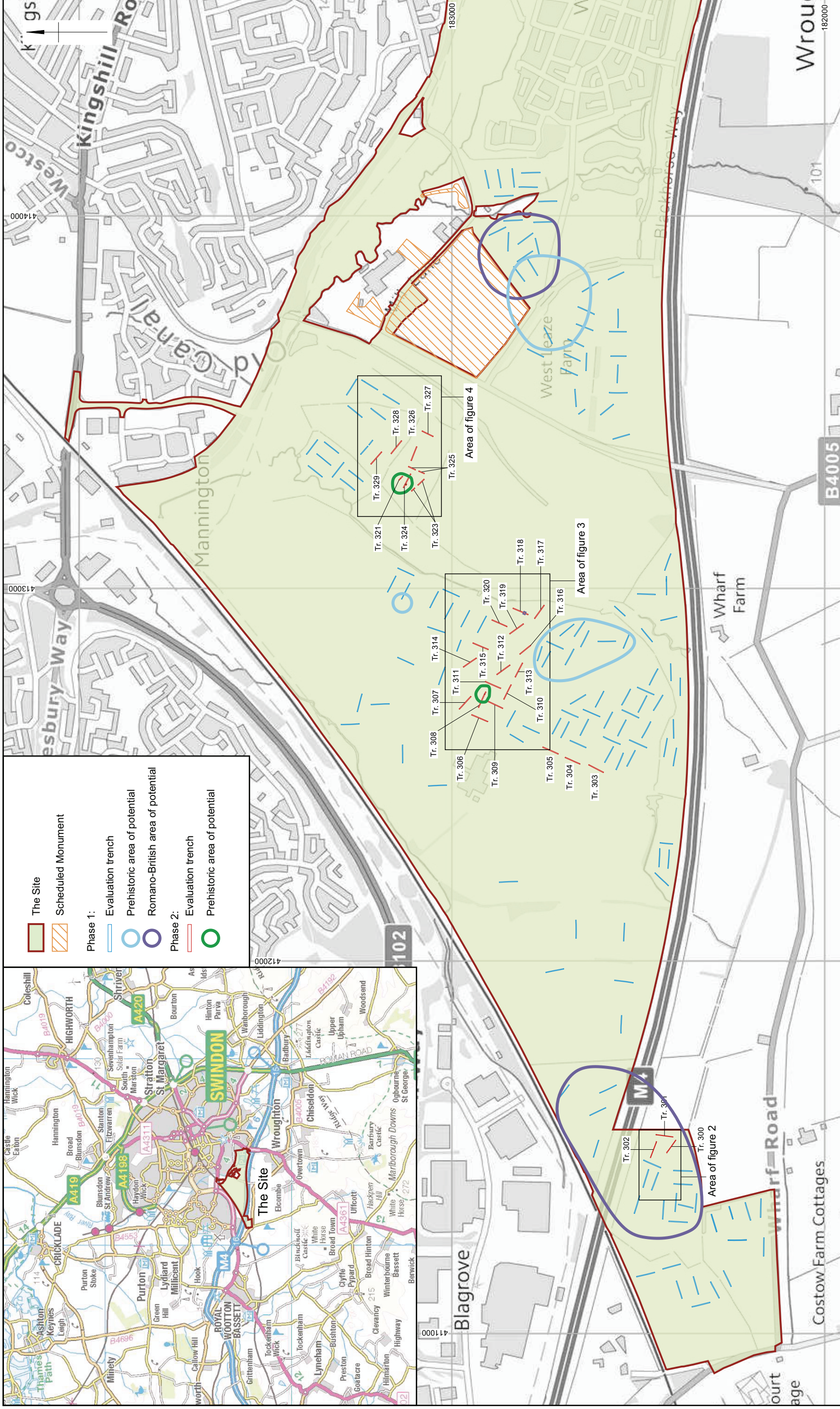
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Validated sections in current version

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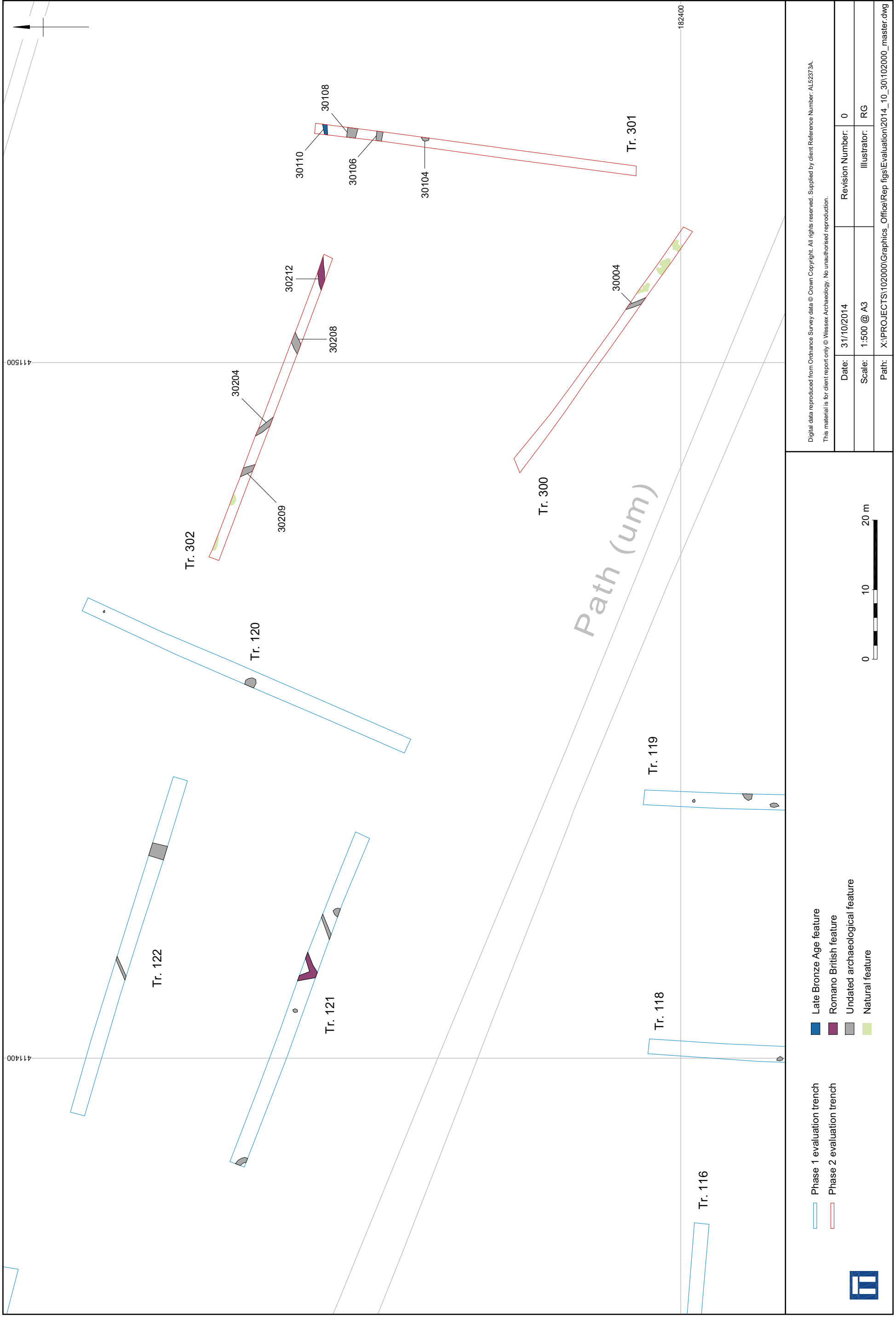
File submission and form progress

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Images submitted?	No	Image filename/s
Boundary file submitted?	No	Boundary filename
HER signed off?		NMR signed off?



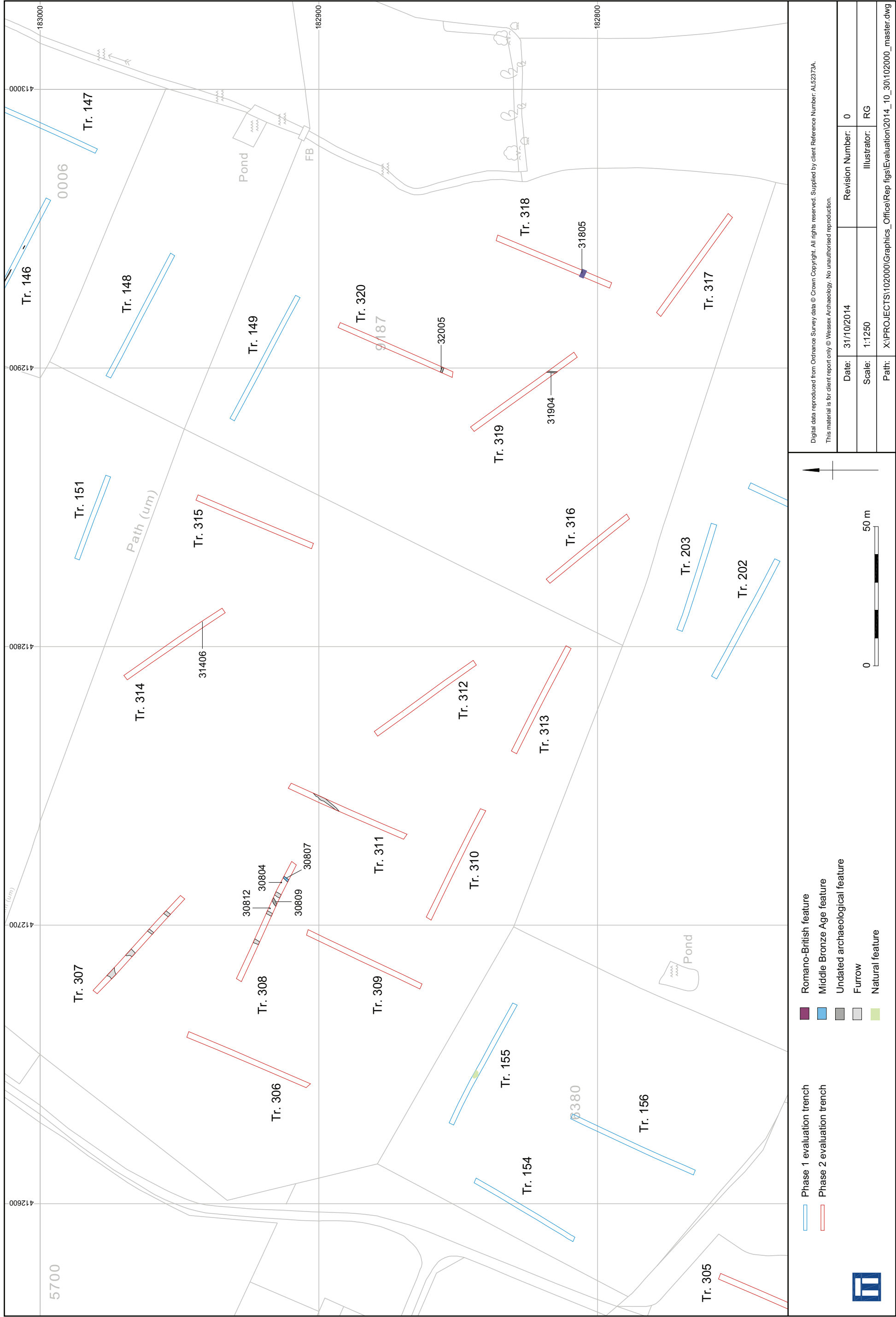
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Site and evaluation trench location plan showing areas of archaeological potential based on results Figure 1



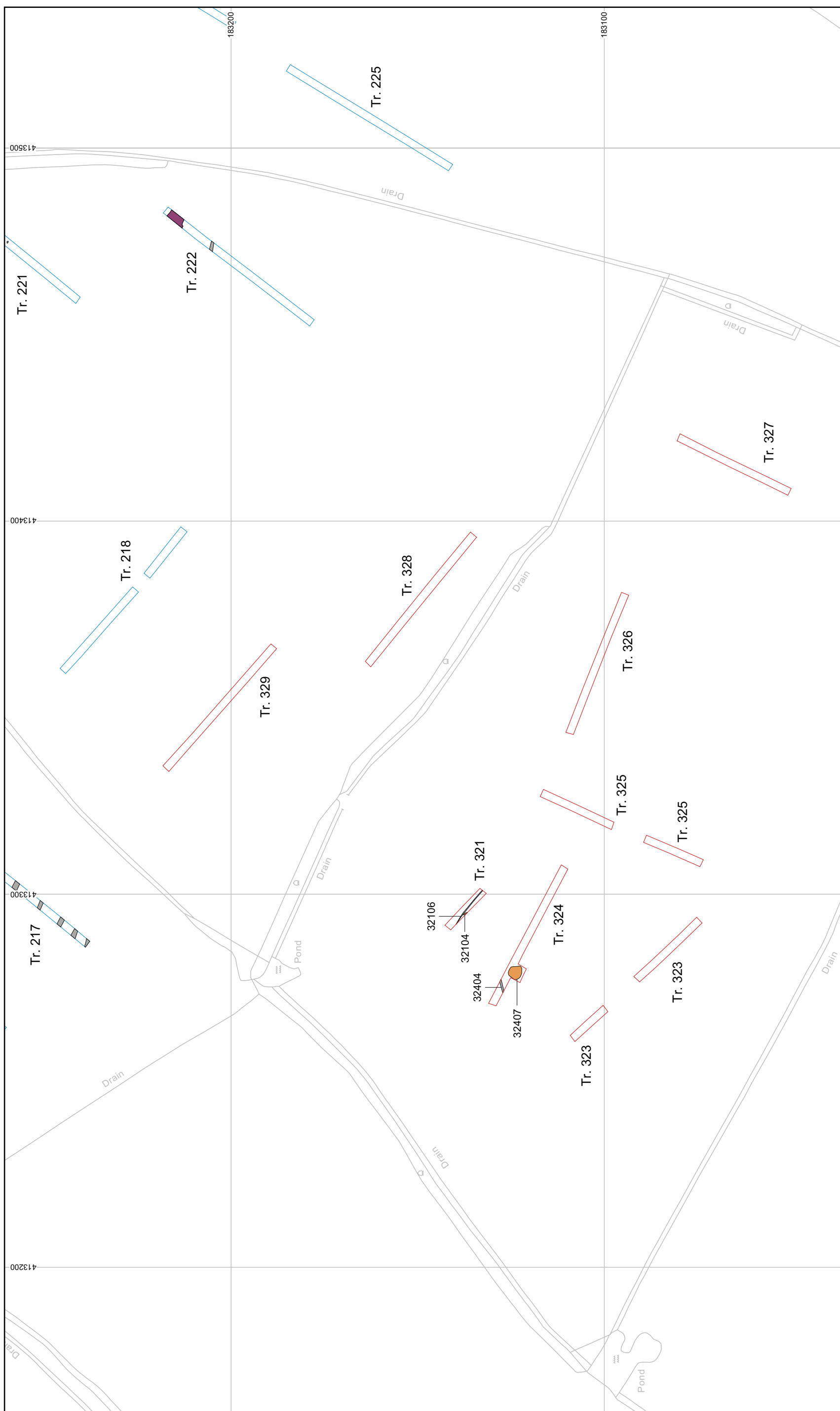
Evaluation trenches, area south of M4

Figure 2



Evaluation trenches, West Wichel, western area

Figure 3



▬ Phase 1 evaluation trench
▬ Phase 2 evaluation trench
■ Iron Age feature
■ Undated archaeological feature
■ Natural feature

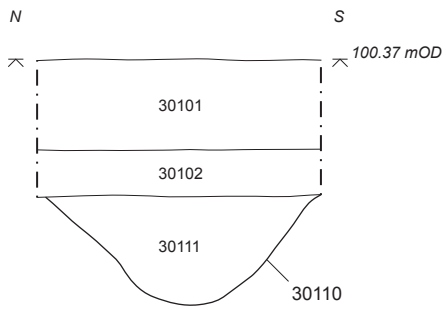
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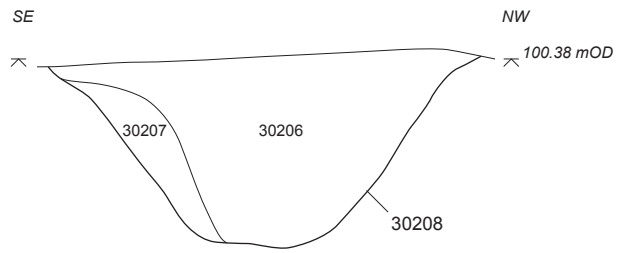
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Evaluation trenches, West Michel, eastern area

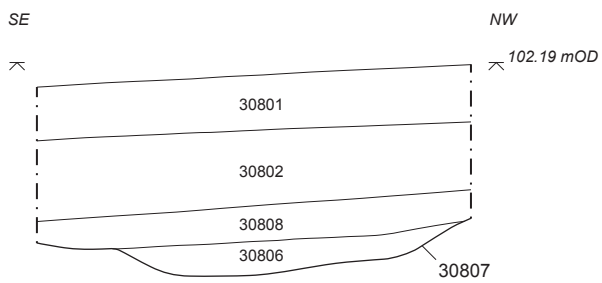
Figure 4



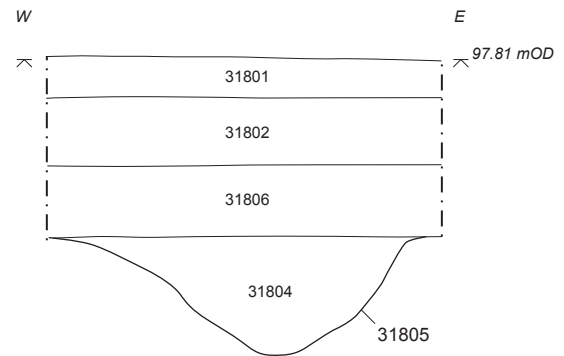
Section 1: West facing section of ditch 30110



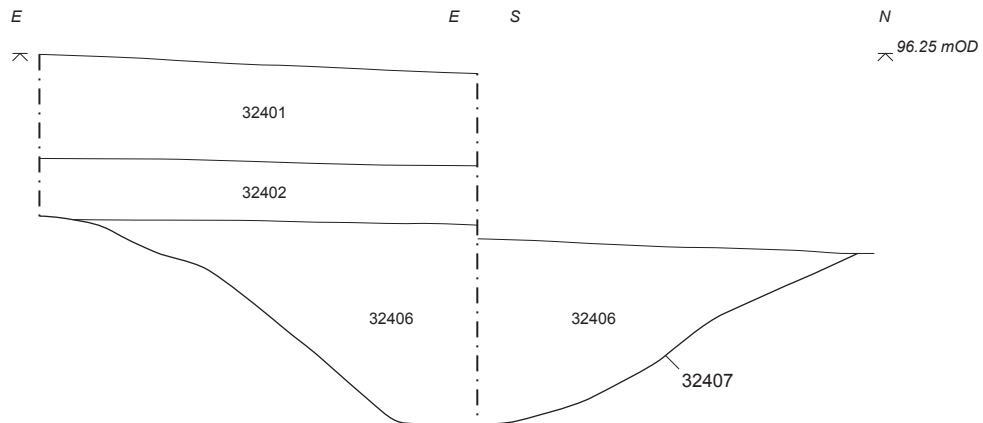
Section 2: North-east facing section of ditch 30208



Section 3: North-east facing section of linear feature 30807



Section 5: South-east facing section of ditch 31805



Section 4: Section through pit 32407



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Plate 1: South-west facing section of ditch 30212

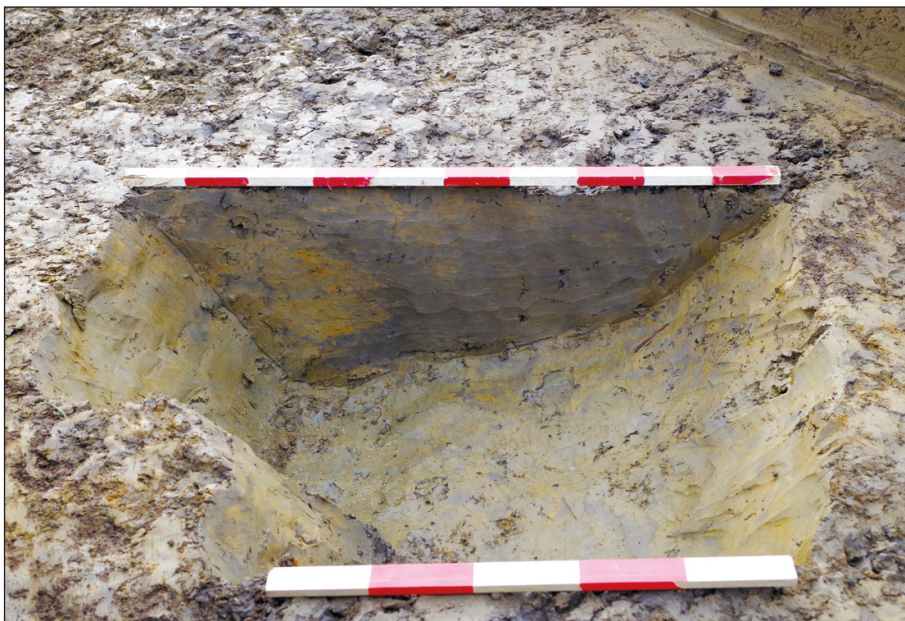


Plate 2: North-west facing section of ditch 30004


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Plate 3: West facing section of ditch 30108



Plate 4: South facing section of pit 30104



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Plate 5: South-east facing section of posthole 30804



Plate 6: Pit 32407, view from the south-west

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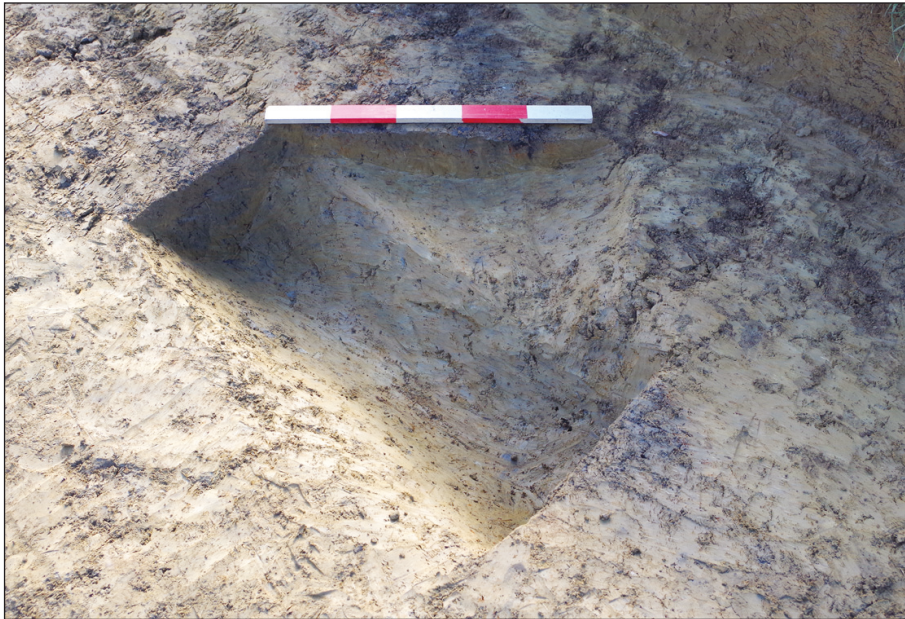



Plate 7: Gullies 32104 and 32106, view from the north



Plate 8: Trench 307, view from the west

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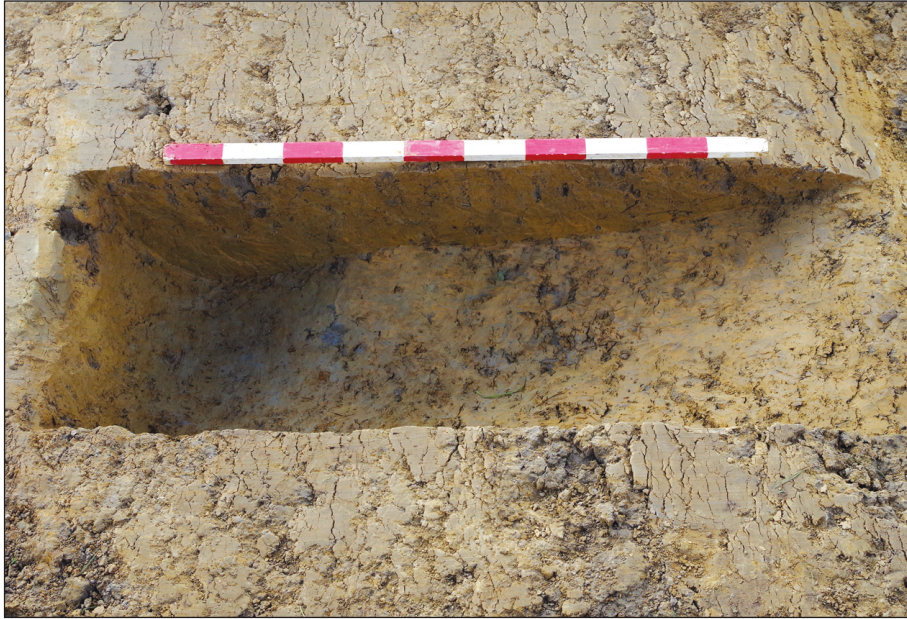



Plate 9: North-east facing section of furrow 30811

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