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# Land off Salisbury Road Marlborough, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Reference:  
Ref: 87791.01  
January 2015



**Land West of Salisbury Road  
Marlborough, Wiltshire  
(Trenches 16–24)**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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## Quality Assurance

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# Land West of Salisbury, Marlborough, Wiltshire (Trenches 16–24)

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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# Land West of Salisbury, Marlborough, Wiltshire (Trenches 16–24)

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Ltd, on behalf of The Crown Estate, to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation in advance of proposed residential development of land to the west of Salisbury Road, Marlborough, Wiltshire (National Grid Reference 419244 168087). The work forms part of a programme of archaeological investigations required to meet the terms requested by Wiltshire Council in support of an outline planning application.

Earlier investigations on the Site found there to be archaeological features which increased in density towards the south. Dated features included a Late Neolithic pit sealed below deep colluvial deposits (the latter suggested to be associated with arable Iron Age agriculture) and a cluster of Iron Age features.

The investigation comprised nine machine excavated trial trenches, positioned so as to assess a selection of the geophysical anomalies, as well as the potential for the survival of archaeological features and deposits in apparently 'blank' areas, and zones with probable colluvial deposits that may be masking buried remains. The main phase of fieldwork took place between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> November, with a secondary phase completed on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2014.

A small quantity of redeposited Neolithic/Bronze Age flint supports the previous indications of prehistoric activity on the Site, and a potential for such activity to be represented by features buried below the colluvium.

The evaluation confirmed that the cluster of Iron Age features continue to the south as suggested in the geophysical survey and earlier evaluation. Two pits, one a possible shaft, contained Early–Middle and Middle Iron Age pottery.

Four ditches (including one terminal and one identified as Middle Iron Age) were recorded. It was not possible to establish any coherent boundary or field systems from the data collected to date, though there is some evidence to suggest that the Iron Age cluster of features had an associated boundary.

It has been established that features exist both above and below colluvial deposits - a Middle Iron Age ditch was overlain by colluvial material, whilst an otherwise undated ditch clearly post-dated the colluvium in that location.



# **Land West of Salisbury, Marlborough, Wiltshire (Trenches 16–24)**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Acknowledgements**

The project was commissioned by The Crown Estate through AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Ltd. Wessex Archaeology is grateful to them in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Robert Johns of AMEC for his co-operation throughout, and also Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist, for her guidance and interest.

The fieldwork was directed by Luke Jarvis and Ray Kennedy, with the assistance of Tom Blencowe, Steven Cole, Steven Froud, Roy Krakowicz and Rachel Williams. This report was written by Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy with Simon Flaherty. The finds were assessed by Lorrain Higbee (animal bone) and Lorraine Mepham (all other categories), and the Illustrations were drawn by Liz James. The project was managed by Andy Crockett.





# Land West of Salisbury, Marlborough, Wiltshire (Trenches 16–24)

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Ltd, acting on behalf of their client, The Crown Estate, to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation in advance of development on land to the west of Salisbury Road, Marlborough, Wiltshire, (hereafter referred to as, 'the Site', **Figure 1**) centred on National Grid reference (NGR) 419244,168087.
- 1.1.2 The archaeological works form part of a programme of investigations required prior to the determination of the outline planning application, which proposes a residential development and associated infrastructure at the Site.
- 1.1.3 Magnetometer surveys of the Site were undertaken in 2011 and 2012 by Archaeological Surveys Ltd, in order to identify geophysical anomalies that may be of archaeological origin, and in order to inform the planning process. As a result it was determined that an archaeological evaluation was necessary (Wessex Archaeology 2012).
- 1.1.4 The Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council advised that a further archaeological trial trench evaluation was required to provide additional information on the archaeological potential of the Site. The evaluation trench locations were targeted over geophysical anomalies, apparently 'blank' areas, and areas of probable colluvium, which may be masking buried remains.
- 1.1.5 The strategy and methodology for the trial trench evaluation is set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; WA 2014), which follows current best practice and guidance as outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (English Heritage 2006), and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a), excepting where superseded by specific statements below. The WSI was approved in advance by Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service, acting on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.
- 1.1.6 The main phase of fieldwork was undertaken on the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of November, with a second tranche of trenches completed on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2014.
- 1.1.7 The results presented in this report will serve to inform the planning process with regard to the requirement for, and the nature of, further archaeological mitigation.

#### 1.2 Site location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The 3.5ha Site comprises the southern end of an arable field located to the west of Salisbury Road, on the southern outskirts of Marlborough, Wiltshire (**Figure 1**). It is bounded to the east by A346 Salisbury Road and the Grade II\* Registered Park and Garden of Tottenham House and Savernake Forest (List Entry No. 1000472). The disused



line of the Midland and South Western Junction Railway defines the Site to the west, whilst to the north and south the land is agricultural in nature.

- 1.2.2 The Site is located on the south side of a coomb which drains west to east into the valley of the River Kennet. Elevation varies between 175m and 155m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). Of particular relevance to the Site, a secondary south to north tributary coomb feeds into the main coomb, broadly bisecting the Site.
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology is recorded as comprising Chalk overlain by superficial River Terrace Deposits comprising sand and gravels (British Geological Survey online viewer).

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following section summarises the results of recent investigations, and known archaeological and historical records as appropriate.
- 2.1.2 The Site (to the south of the historic core of the modern town of Marlborough) falls within the study area of the *Extensive Urban Survey*, prepared for Marlborough by the Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (WCAS 2004).

### 2.2 Recent investigations

#### *Non-intrusive*

- 2.2.1 A geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2011; **Figure 1**) identified a small number of positive geophysical anomalies of uncertain origin, located in the eastern and the western part of the Site. It was not possible to ascertain whether they were of anthropological or natural origin (e.g. trackways and cut features vs. colluviation and fluvial activity).
- 2.2.2 A second survey, undertaken on the southern part of the Site (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2012) identified a number of potential archaeological features (**Figure 1**). These include two linear features, several large possible quarry pits, and a cluster of at least 35 possible pits.

#### *Intrusive*

- 2.2.3 An evaluation to the east of Salisbury Road, north-east of the Site, revealed an assemblage of redeposited Neolithic and Bronze Age flint tools and sherds of Romano-British pottery (TVAS 1998).
- 2.2.4 An initial archaeological evaluation (Trenches 1 to 15) on the Site in 2012 (WA 2012) found there to be archaeological features corresponding with some of the geophysical anomalies, which increased in density towards the south. Dated features included a Late Neolithic pit sealed below deep colluvial deposits (the latter suggested to be associated with arable Iron Age agriculture) and a cluster of Iron Age pits. A number of undated ditches were also recorded.

#### *Known archaeology and history*

- 2.2.5 The Extensive Urban Survey (WCAS 2004) provides a comprehensive study and discussion of the archaeology and history of Marlborough, and its setting. As such a brief and pertinent overview is presented below. *N.B. not all of the Scheduled Monuments have a new List Entry No., and those that do have very little information online at present, old*



*Ancient Monument numbers (AM) and Old County Numbers (OCN) are therefore included.*

- 2.2.6 The Marlborough Mound (AM321; List Entry No. 1005634) is situated within the grounds of Marlborough College. The mound has been dated by radio-carbon techniques to approximately 2,500 BC, broadly contemporary with Silbury Hill. Other scattered prehistoric finds are recorded in the vicinity of Marlborough, although no firm evidence for early settlement has been found.
- 2.2.7 Other remains include the extensive Iron Age occupation (AM850; List Entry No. 1004697) recorded to the south-east of the town, on Forest Hill, and the site of a small Romano-British walled town (Cunetio) – which marks the point at which the Roman road between *Corinium Dobunorum* (Chichester) and *Calleva Atrebatum* (Silchester) crosses the River Kennet.
- 2.2.8 An aerial photographic survey by English Heritage in 1975 identified multiple cropmarks in the field immediately to the south of the Site, comprising a winged Roman villa (OCN SU 16 NE 99) and a prehistoric or Romano-British double-ditched polygonal enclosure (OCN SU 16 NE 162). A late Iron Age or Romano-British hoard of coins had been discovered in the same area in 1856.
- 2.2.9 Marlborough is mentioned in the Domesday Survey (1086) as *Merleberge*<sup>1</sup>, though little archaeological evidence for this Saxon precursor has been found to date.
- 2.2.10 The Marlborough Mound or Castle Mound (see above) was reused as a Castle Motte in the early medieval period.
- 2.2.11 The route of the now dismantled Midland and South Western Junction Railway (1864) is situated to the north-east of the Site.

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Aims and objectives**

- 3.1.1 In accordance with ClfA guidance (2014a), the general aims of the programme of archaeological works on the Site were to:
- *clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains;*
  - *identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains;*
  - *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 trial trenching.*
- 3.1.2 By targeting the results of the geophysical survey and undertaking a sample of the blank areas the aim was to tie down specific areas of the Site, in order to determine recommendations for further archaeological mitigation and/or for preservation *in situ* of archaeological remains.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Merlin's Barrow', a reference to the Marlborough Mound, considered in folklore to be Merlin's burial site



### 3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 The fieldwork was conducted following an agreed WSI (WA 2014) and relevant guidance given in the ClfA's *Standards and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (2014a).
- 3.2.2 The investigation initially comprised the excavation of seven trenches (Trenches 16 to 22; each being 1.8m wide and ranging in length from 40.5m to 60m; **Figure 1**), targeted on geophysical anomalies, with all set-out using GPS and in consideration of health and safety matters.
- 3.2.3 Following this, it was decided to return to the Site in December and excavate a further two trenches (Trenches 23 and 24, each 50m long; **Figure 1**) targeted on geophysical anomalies not tested by the first tranche of evaluation.
- 3.2.4 All trench locations were scanned by WA staff using a cable avoidance tool prior to excavation.
- 3.2.5 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 generally not exceeding 1.2m in depth. In certain areas of the Site (i.e. Trenches 18 and 21), colluvium deposits were encountered extending deeper than 1.2m below ground surface; in these instances the full sequence down to *in situ* geology was machine-excavated, but then immediately back-filled following recording to a safe trench depth.
- 3.2.6 The topsoil and subsoil were stored separately, at least 1m from the trench edge, to allow appropriate backfilling and consolidation of each trench after the completion of the fieldwork.
- 3.2.7 Stripped material was visually examined for archaeological material and, where appropriate, a metal detector was used to enhance artefact recovery.
- 3.2.8 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.
- 3.2.9 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 Recording

- 3.3.1 All recording was undertaken using WA's *pro forma* recording sheets and recording system. Details are available on request.
- 3.3.2 A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was compiled, including plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales – typically 1:10 for sections and 1:20 for plans. The trenches, their contents, and other features of relevance were digitally surveyed 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 including heights above Ordnance Datum (Newlyn). The electronic survey record will be retained within the site archive.



3.3.3 A full digital photographic record was maintained during the evaluation. Digital photography adhered to the National Monuments Digital Imaging Guidelines equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. The photographic record illustrates both the detail and general context of the principle features, finds excavated, and the Site as a whole. 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.

### **3.4 Monitoring**

3.4.1 The Assistant County Archaeologist accepted an invitation to visit the Site and inspect the progress of the work first hand during the first tranche of the evaluation. Due to the rapid mobilisation of the fieldwork for the second tranche of evaluation, which was completed in one working day, it was not possible to co-ordinate a second monitoring visit.

### **3.5 Reinstatement**

3.5.1 Once the trenches were completed to the satisfaction of the Assistant County Archaeologist they were backfilled using the excavated material and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

### **3.6 Artefacts**

3.6.1 Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (2014a), 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. There was no necessity for conservation or X-radiographing.

3.6.3 All the recovered artefacts are the property of the landowner. Storage, deposition and curation are discussed below. No artefacts will be deposited without the consent of the landowner, which will be sought during the final archiving stage.

### **3.7 Environmental**

3.7.1 Deposits were assessed as to their suitability for environmental sampling (e.g. well-sealed, dated/datable; English Heritage 2002).

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 A summary of the results is presented below. Details are presented in the trench tables (**Appendix 1**), and in the project archive.

### **4.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences**

4.2.1 The underlying solid geology comprised various examples of chalk, some weathered and degraded, with patches of clay with flint drift geology encountered. No coherent pattern was apparent, though it must be assumed the clay-with-flint represents the margins of a cap to the south of the Site. The depths at which the natural geology was encountered varied from 0.25m to 1.4m, the deepest being within the coomb, and the shallowest to either side.



4.2.2 The coomb and colluvial deposits identified in the previous evaluation (WA 2012) continue to the south, through Trenches 18–21 and 24. These vary from distinct and extensive (e.g. Trench 21, up to 0.8m deep), to less perceptible (e.g. Trench 19, described as a shallow hollow filled with subsoil, around 0.10m deep) (**Figure 1; Appendix 1**).

4.2.3 A mid reddish-brown clay loam subsoil was found within six trenches (18–22 and 24) situated between the topsoil and natural, or colluvium where present. The subsoil varied in depth from 0.1m to 0.46m, being deeper within Trenches 20 and 21 where the thickness of the subsoil was 0.46m and 0.35m respectively, a proportion of which may reasonably be described as colluvium.

4.2.4 A layer of recently ploughed dark greyish-brown clay silt topsoil was present across the Site, varying in depth from 0.13m to 0.3m.

### 4.3 Archaeological features and deposits

4.3.1 Archaeological remains were identified in four trenches (16, 20, 22 and 23; **Figures 1–5**). Where present the subsoil overlay most features. Only undated ditches **2204** and **2206** (see below) are recorded as cutting the subsoil. Features were seen both above and below the colluvial deposits, though not in the same location.

### 4.4 Neolithic to Bronze Age

4.4.1 A small assemblage of redeposited worked flint, broadly of Neolithic to Bronze Age date was recovered from the ploughsoil (Trench 17).

### 4.5 Iron Age

4.5.1 Coinciding with a short discrete geophysical anomaly, **2004** (Trench 20; **Figure 3**) proved to be more ditch-like in character – being a fairly wide linear feature with somewhat irregular moderate–gradual sloping sides. Finds from the grey silty-clay loam fill consist of animal bone and several sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery.

4.5.2 Trench 23 was positioned to further investigate the cluster of discrete features identified in the geophysical survey, some of which had been demonstrated to be Iron Age pits. Two adjacent pits were investigated in Trench 23 (**2303** and **2305; Figure 5; Plates 4–6**). Both were approximately circular in plan (1.25m and 1.6m in diameter respectively), though one extended beyond the trench edge.

4.5.3 Pit **2303**, which had straight vertical sides, contained a minimum of three fills. The base of this pit could not be reached through hand-excavation due to H&S constraints, though auguring revealed the pit to be at least 1.35m deep. The earliest observable fill, **2304**, was a very dark brown silty clay deposit containing Middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone i.e. probably domestic refuse. Above this was a 0.3m thick capping layer consisting of compacted flint nodules and clay (**2308**). The uppermost deposit (**2309**) is most likely a tertiary deposit i.e. remnants of the overlying deposits that have sunk into the pit as the pit contents settled and compressed.

4.5.4 Pit **2305** was found to be 0.57m deep with steep sides and a flat base. The two fills comprised an initial reddish clay-silt with frequent flint and a piece of animal bone, followed by a less flinty deposit containing charcoal and Middle Iron Age pottery.

4.5.5 These are fairly typical features for the period, and probably represent the re-use of storage pits. The depth and form of **2303** suggest that the feature may be a shaft rather than a pit.



## 4.6 Medieval to post-medieval

4.6.1 A fragment of roof tile found in the subsoil of Trench 19, and potentially the various bits of redeposited animal bone (Trenches 17 and 19) probably derive from the practice of field-manuring using local midden material.

## 4.7 Features of uncertain date

4.7.1 A probable terminal of a north–south aligned ditch, or alternatively an irregular shaped pit (**1603**), was partially revealed in the south-east end of Trench 16 (**Figure 2; Plate 1**). The steep-sided feature was at least 1.7m wide and up to 0.9m deep. The clay-silt fill contained poorly sorted flint gravels and larger stones up to cobble and boulder sized.

4.7.2 Two parallel ditches (**2204** and **2206; Figure 4; Plates 2–3**) were recorded in the north-western end of Trench 22. Separated by approximately 0.65m, ditch **2204** survived to a depth of 0.55m, whilst **2206** was only 0.22m deep. These coincide with geophysical anomalies that extend approximately 90m north-east to south-west, and probably represent more recent field boundary remains.

## 5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Finds were recovered from eight of the trenches excavated, although in very small quantities and in a restricted range of material types - the assemblage consists largely of worked flint. Finds came mainly from ploughsoil or subsoil contexts, with some finds from pit fills in Trench 8, and from ditch fills in Trenches 20 and 22. Quantities by material type and by context are given in **Table 1**.

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

Context	Animal Bone	Flint	Pottery	Other Finds
1601		2/10		
1701	6/2	7/34		
1801		3/17		
1901		4/14		
1902	6/487			2 ceramic building material
2005	3/240		12/299	
2101		3/26		
2201		10/50		
2207				1 iron
2304	10/13		4/52	
2306	2/6			
2307			8/54	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27/748</b>	<b>29/151</b>	<b>24/405</b>	

### 5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 Pottery was only recovered from Trenches 20 and 23. In Trench 20, 12 sherds were found in the secondary fill of ditch **2004**. All 12 sherds are in a medium-grained, glauconitic sandy fabric. The rim sherds indicate that at least two vessels are represented, both gently convex vessels. A Middle Iron Age date is most likely for these vessels.



5.2.2 Sherds from Trench 23 derived from pits **2303** (four sherds) and **2305** (eight sherds). All but one of these 12 sherds is in similar fine-grained sandy fabrics, some also containing rare flint inclusions. One sherd is in a fabric displaying voids, presumably from leached-out calcareous inclusions, probably fossil shell. None of these sherds are diagnostic, and a broad Early/Middle Iron Age date is suggested, based on fabric type.

### **5.3 Worked Flint**

5.3.1 This small assemblage consists almost exclusively of waste flakes, with one rather crudely made end scraper from the ploughsoil in Trench 17. In the absence of chronologically distinctive tool types, the flint can be only broadly dated as Neolithic/Bronze Age. Flint came exclusively from ploughsoil contexts, and its provenance is reflected in the edge damage seen on most pieces. A few pieces are patinated.

### **5.4 Animal Bone**

5.4.1 The three fragments of animal bone associated with Middle Iron Age pottery in ditch **2004** are from a horse tibia, which displays what appear to be ‘pecking’ marks, although whether these are deliberate, or represent accidental damage, is uncertain. Identifiable bones from Iron Age pits **2303** and **2305** in Trench 23 are of sheep/goat, including teeth from an immature individual.

5.4.2 Cattle bone, including an articulated radius and ulna, as well as a metatarsal and metacarpal, came from Trench 19 subsoil, while a few very small fragments of sheep/goat tooth were found in the ploughsoil in Trench 17.

### **5.5 Other Finds**

5.5.1 Other finds comprise two fragments of medieval roof tile (subsoil in Trench 19), and a large, square-headed iron nail (fill of ditch **2206**).

## **6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

6.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits were identified as being suitable for environmental sampling for this stage of the investigations.

## **7 DISCUSSION**

### **7.1 Introduction**

7.1.1 The results of all phases of investigation at the Site have combined to demonstrate that archaeological features and deposits survive across the Site, particularly towards the south and west; much is in a good state of preservation.

### **7.2 Deposits**

7.2.1 The known extent of the colluvium has been updated, extending to the south into the secondary coomb, and it has been established that features exist both above and below colluvial deposits. A Middle Iron Age ditch was overlain by colluvial material, whilst an otherwise undated ditch clearly post-dated the colluvium in that location. It is a well-understood phenomenon that colluvial deposits can hinder the geophysical detection of any features preserved beneath.

### **7.3 Early prehistoric**

7.3.1 Though additional Neolithic features were not observed, a small collection of worked flint was recovered, broadly contemporaneous with the isolated pit recorded on the far side of



the valley in Trench 2. The small worked flint assemblage therefore adds to the argument for the potential presence of valley-based prehistoric activity on the Site, perhaps of the period for the construction of the Marlborough Mound (WA 2012, 12).

#### **7.4 Later prehistoric**

- 7.4.1 The evaluation further clarified the nature of the group of discrete features identified in the geophysical survey, to the west of the secondary coomb. The findings indicate that a fair proportion (though perhaps not all) of the distinct anomalies in this area correspond to archaeological features.
- 7.4.2 Corroborating the results of the previous phase of evaluation, the clustered features are of Iron Age date, their infilling most likely occurring in the Middle Iron Age. These well-cut pits and the possible shaft are typical of the period, from which artefactual and ecofactual evidence may be recovered (though at this Site the artefact assemblage was quite limited, and no deposits deemed suitable for environmental analysis were identified). In many recorded examples such pits were probable storage pits later subject to a variety of uses e.g. deposition of midden waste or special deposits (including inhumation burials).
- 7.4.3 The limits of the Iron Age activity remain unclear, and it is possible that additional evidence is preserved within and/or below the colluvial sequence to the east. It is of note that the clearly defined linear geophysical anomaly that might be construed as some form of 'boundary' feature to these Middle Iron Age remains was crossed by both Trench 14 (WA 2012) and Trench 23, yet neither trench located subsurface remains to correlate with this anomaly.
- 7.4.4 The concentration of Iron Age features, including possible boundaries, and other evidence listed on the Wiltshire HER, suggests the remains of an Iron Age settlement within, or in the immediate vicinity of, the Site.

#### **7.5 Other remains**

- 7.5.1 Undated features occur throughout the Site, though again are concentrated on the south side of the valley. These include parallel ditches in Trench 22 that are likely post-medieval/ modern in date.

### **8 STORAGE AND CURATION**

#### **8.1 Museum**

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with **Wiltshire Museum, Devizes**, who has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion. Deposition of any finds will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

#### **8.2 Archive**

- 8.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Wiltshire Museum, Devizes and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the **87791**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:



1 cardboard box and an airtight plastic box of artefacts, ordered by material type  
1 file of paper records including A3 and A4 graphics

### 8.3 Discard policy

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

### 8.4 Copyright

8.4.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The Museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights* regulations 2003.

### 8.5 Security Copy

8.5.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), and 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.

### 8.6 OASIS

8.6.1 An OASIS online record has been initiated for the work (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/wessexar1-200172>; **Appendix 2**). All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the Wiltshire 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 tables

Trench 16	dimensions (m): 40.5 x 2 x 0.35		
	land use: arable		
context	category	description	depth (m)
1601	layer	plough soil: dark brownish-grey clayey silt; fine texture; medium–coarse angular to subrounded flint gravels	0–0.25
1602	layer	natural: mix of subangular–rounded flint & soil matrix; orange brown to pinkish brown clayey silt	0.25–0.28+
1603	cut	<b>pit or ditch terminus; NW–SE; min 1m x 1.7m wide, 0.9m deep; concave base; straight–concave steep sides</b>	<b>0.9</b>
1604	fill	deliberate backfill of 1603; mid grey-brown clayey silt with abundant angular to subrounded flint <200mm, most <60mm	0.9

Trench 17	dimensions (m): 60.5 x 2 x 0.4		
	land use: arable		
context	category	description	depth (m)
1701	layer	plough soil: dark brown-grey clayey silt; common flint gravels of medium & coarse size angular to subrounded	0–0.3
1702	layer	natural geology: orange to pinkish brown clayey silt & fine–coarse flint gravel (angular to subrounded) with rare cobble & boulder sized examples	0.3+

Trench 18	dimensions (m): 60 x 2 x 1.1		
	land use: arable		
context	category	description	depth (m)
1801	layer	plough soil: dark brown-grey clayey silt; angular to rounded flint nodules mainly fine–coarse gravels & rare cobbles with ploughed-in crop remains	0–0.2
1802	layer	subsoil: mid greyish-brown clayey silt with common fine to coarse gavels & rare cobbles	0.2–0.3
1803	layer	natural: friable chalk & orange-brown clay with large flint inclusions	0.3–0.75+

Trench 19	dimensions (m): 60 x 2 x 0.32		
	land use: arable		
context	category	description	depth (m)
1901	layer	plough soil: dark greyish-brown silty clay loam; 10% subangular fine gravel	0–0.13
1902	layer	subsoil: mid reddish-brown clay loam with 1% rounded medium gravel	0.13–0.32
1903	layer	natural: chalk with areas of clay which increase to the N	0.32+



<b>Trench 20</b>	<b>dimensions (m): 60 x 2 x 0.73</b>		
	land use: arable		
<b>context</b>	<b>category</b>	<b>description</b>	<b>depth (m)</b>
2001	layer	plough soil: heavily disturbed; dark greyish-brown silty clay loam; 10% subangular fine gravel	0–0.27
2002	layer	subsoil: mid reddish-brown clay loam with 3% angular medium gravel	0.27–0.73
2003	layer	natural: chalk with patches of silty clay	0.73+
<b>2004</b>	<b>cut</b>	<b>ditch; NE–SW; undulating base with irregular moderate sides. Min 1.85m x 2.3m wide, 0.5m deep</b>	<b>0.5</b>
2005	fill	secondary fill of ditch 2004: mid greyish-brown silty clay loam with 3% medium chalk, 1% charcoal & 10% fine subangular chalk	0.5

<b>Trench 21</b>	<b>dimensions (m): 60 x 2 x 1.5</b>		
	land use: arable		
<b>context</b>	<b>category</b>	<b>description</b>	<b>depth (m)</b>
2101	layer	topsoil: dark greyish-brown silty clay loam with abundant flint nodules	0–0.25
2102	layer	subsoil: friable mid reddish-brown clay loam with frequent flint	0.25–0.6
2103	layer	colluvium: compacted dark reddish-brown clay loam with chalk flecks; abundant flint fragments (collected in the layer at the lowest point of the landscape)	0.6–1.4
2104	layer	natural: red clay with abundant <200mm flint nodules at the NW end; chalk natural at the SE end	1.4+

<b>Trench 22</b>	<b>dimensions (m): 60 x 2 x 0.43</b>		
	land use: arable		
<b>context</b>	<b>category</b>	<b>description</b>	<b>depth (m)</b>
2201	layer	topsoil: heavily disturbed mid greyish-brown silty clay loam with 10% subangular fine gravel	0–0.27
2202	layer	subsoil: light yellowish-brown sandy clay loam with 3% subrounded fine gravel	0.27–0.43
2203	layer	natural: chalk with a silty clay matrix	0.43+
<b>2204</b>	<b>cut</b>	<b>ditch; NE–SW; min 2m x 1.5m wide, 0.55m deep; concave base; straight N side &amp; concave S side; moderate slopes</b>	<b>0.55</b>
2205	fill	secondary fill of 2204; light orange-brown slightly clayey silt; abundant chalk fragments & subangular–round flint	0.55
<b>2206</b>	<b>cut</b>	<b>ditch; NE–SW; undulating base &amp; irregular moderately sloped sides; min 2m x 1.86m wide, 0.22m deep; cuts subsoil 2202</b>	<b>0.22</b>
2207	fill	secondary fill of 2206; light greyish-brown silty clay with 10% chalk & 5% fine subrounded gravel	0.22



<b>Trench</b>	<b>dimensions (m): 50 x 2 x 0.4</b>		
<b>23</b>	land use: arable		
<b>context</b>	<b>category</b>	<b>description</b>	<b>depth (m)</b>
2301	layer	plough soil: mid brownish-grey clayey silts with medium sized course flints; ploughed in crops	0–0.24
2302	layer	natural: orange-brown clay with chalk & flint	0.24–0.40
2303	cut	shaft pit or possible well: subcircular with straight, vertical sides; <b>not bottomed</b> ; ?Iron Age	
2304	fill	fill of 2303: dark brown silty clay with moderate chalk flecks & sparse flint	
2305	cut	pit: subcircular with straight steep sides & flat base; ?Iron Age	
2306	fill	fill of pit 2305; mid reddish-brown clayey silt with frequent flint	
2307	fill	fill of pit 2305; mid reddish-brown clayey silt with rare flint inclusions; pot & charcoal	
2308	fill	deliberate fill of pit 2303, possible capping layer; mid-dark brown clay with common flint	
2309	fill	fill of pit 2303; mid brown silty clay with sparse flint; pot	

<b>Trench</b>	<b>dimensions (m): 50 x 2 x 0.48</b>		
<b>24</b>	land use: arable		
<b>context</b>	<b>category</b>	<b>description</b>	<b>depth (m)</b>
2401	layer	topsoil/plough soil: pale greyish-brown fine silty clay with common subangular chalk & common angular flints	0–0.11
2402	layer	subsoil: pale greyish-brown silty clay; similar to 2401 but more compact	0.11–0.34
2403	layer	natural: light greyish-brown with pale orange. Very common weathered chalk & angular flint. Band of solid chalk at centre of trench. Combe feature to NE	0.34+



## 10.2 Appendix 2: OASIS Form

### OASIS ID: wessexar1-200172

#### Project details

Project name	LAND OFF SALISBURY ROAD, MARLBOROUGH, WILTSHIRE Trenches 16-24
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by AMEC Environment and Infrastructure UK Ltd, on behalf of The Crown Estate, to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation in advance of proposed residential development of land to the west of Salisbury Road, Marlborough, Wiltshire (National Grid Reference 419244 168087). The work forms part of a programme of archaeological investigations required to meet the terms requested by Wiltshire Council in support of an outline planning application. The investigation comprised nine machine excavated trial trenches. A small quantity of redeposited Neolithic/Bronze Age flint supports the previous indications of prehistoric activity on the Site, and a potential for such activity to be represented by features buried below the colluvium. The evaluation confirmed that the cluster of Iron Age features continue to the south as suggested in the geophysical survey and earlier evaluation. Two pits, one a possible shaft, contained Early-Middle and Middle Iron Age pottery. Four ditches (including one terminal and one identified as middle Iron Age) were recorded. It was not possible to establish any coherent boundary or field systems from the data collected to date, though there is some evidence to suggest that the Iron Age cluster of features had an associated boundary.
Project dates	Start: 03-11-2014 End: 22-12-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	87791 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	PIT Middle Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Middle Iron Age
Monument type	PIT Early Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	LITHIC IMPLEMENT Bronze Age
Significant Finds	LITHIC IMPLEMENT Neolithic
Significant Finds	POT Middle Iron Age
Significant Finds	POT Early Iron Age
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Medieval



Significant Finds	IRON OBJECT Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches","Visual Inspection","Annotated Sketch"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE KENNET MARLBOROUGH Land off Salisbury Road, Marlborough, Wiltshire (Trenches 16-24)
Study area	3.50 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 1925 6840 51.4137984083 -1.72316845484 51 24 49 N 001 43 23 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 155.00m Max: 175.00m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Limited
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	A Crockett
Project supervisor	Luke Jarvis
Project supervisor	R Kennedy
Type of sponsor/funding body	Archaeological Consultant
Name of sponsor/funding body	AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Limited

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Wiltshire Museum, Devizes
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Wiltshire Museum, Devizes





Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Geophysics","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Wiltshire Museum, Devizes
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Report","Section"

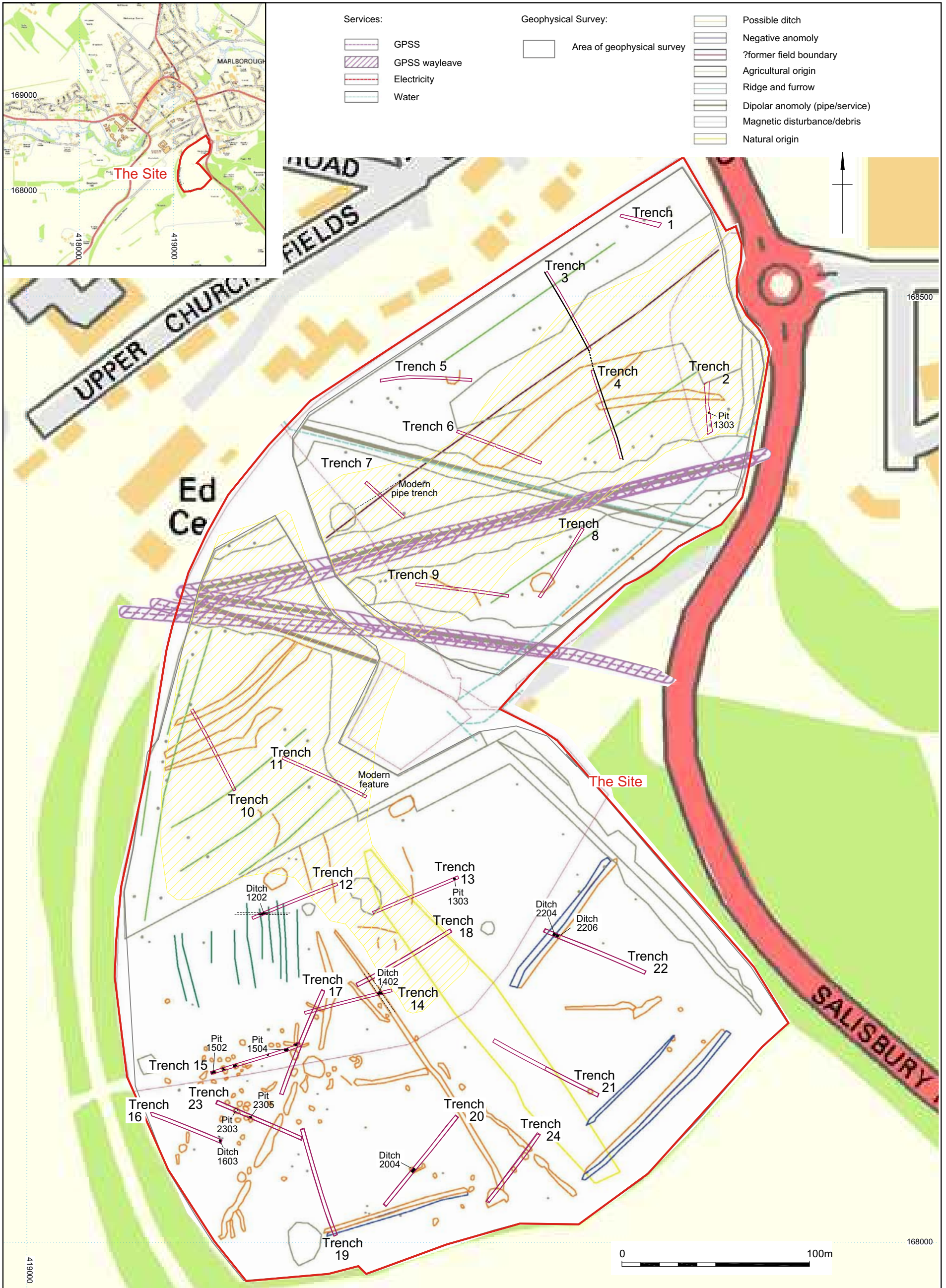
### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land West of Salisbury Road: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Egging Dinwiddy, K.
Other bibliographic details	87791.01
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Salisbury
Description	Standard client report including A3 and A4 illustrations; colour
Entered by	Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy (k.dinwiddy@wessxarch.co.uk)
Entered on	14 January 2015

## OASIS:

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

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham](#), email [Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012](#)

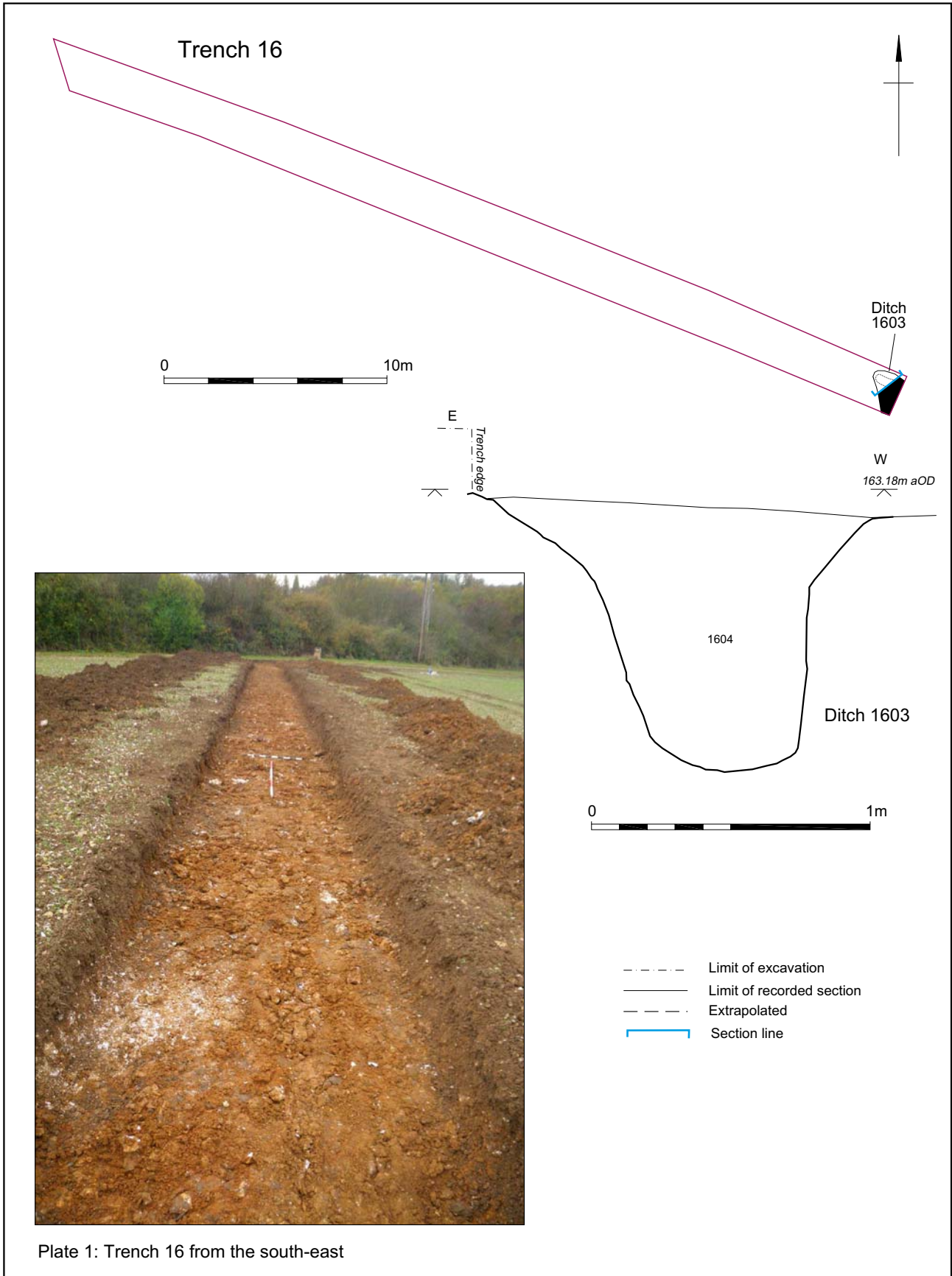



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Path:	X:\PROJECTS\87791\Graphics Office\Rep figs\TT-eval\2015_01_14\87791_eval.dwg		

Site and evaluation trench location showing archaeological features, results from the geophysical report and extent of colluvium

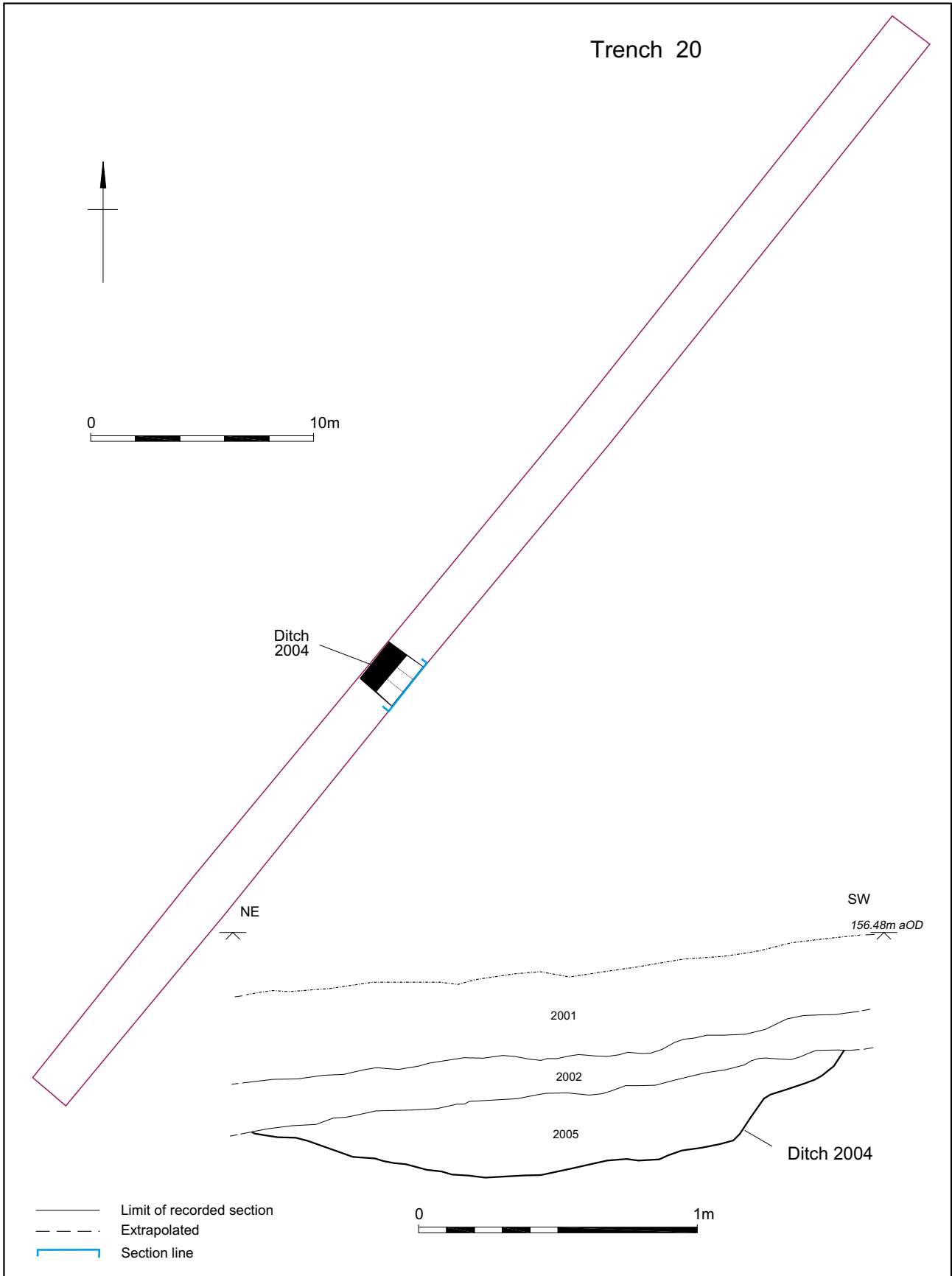
Figure 1




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	Scale:	Plan @ 1:250, Section @ 1:20	Illustrator:	SEJ
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\87791\Graphics Office\Rep figs\TT-eval\2015_01_14\87791_eval.dwg		

Trench 16: Plan and south-east facing section of probable ditch terminal 1603

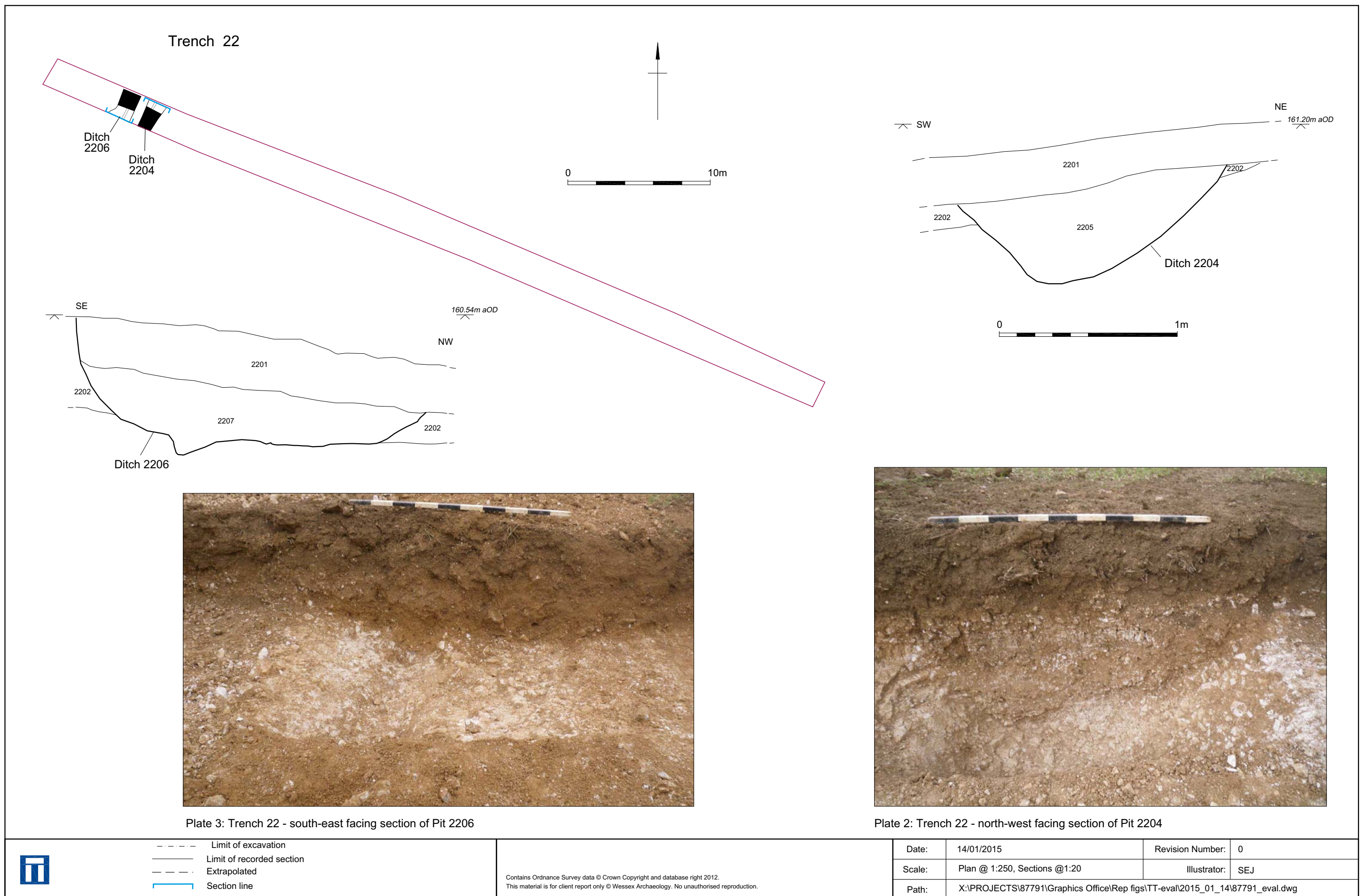
Figure 2



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Trench 20: Plan and north-west facing section of ditch 2004

Figure 3



Trench 22: plan and sections of pits 2204 (south-east facing) and 2206 (north-east facing)

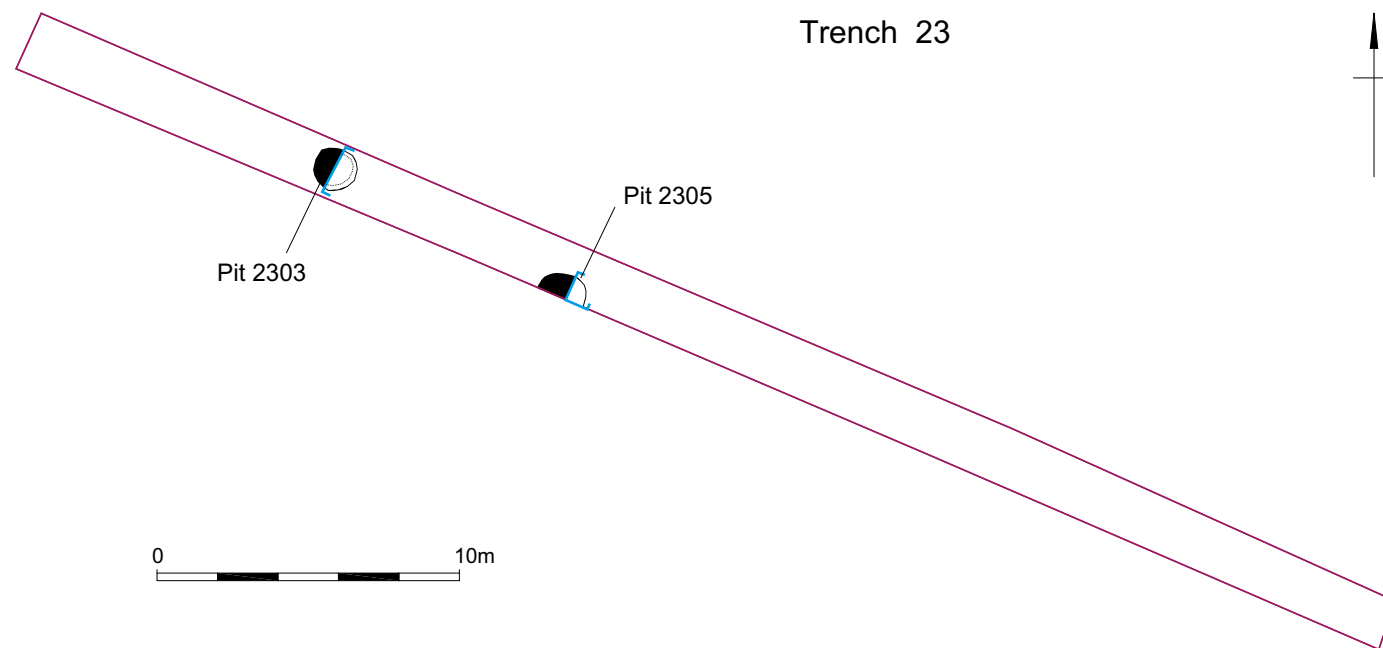


Plate 5: Trench 23- south-east facing section of pit 2303

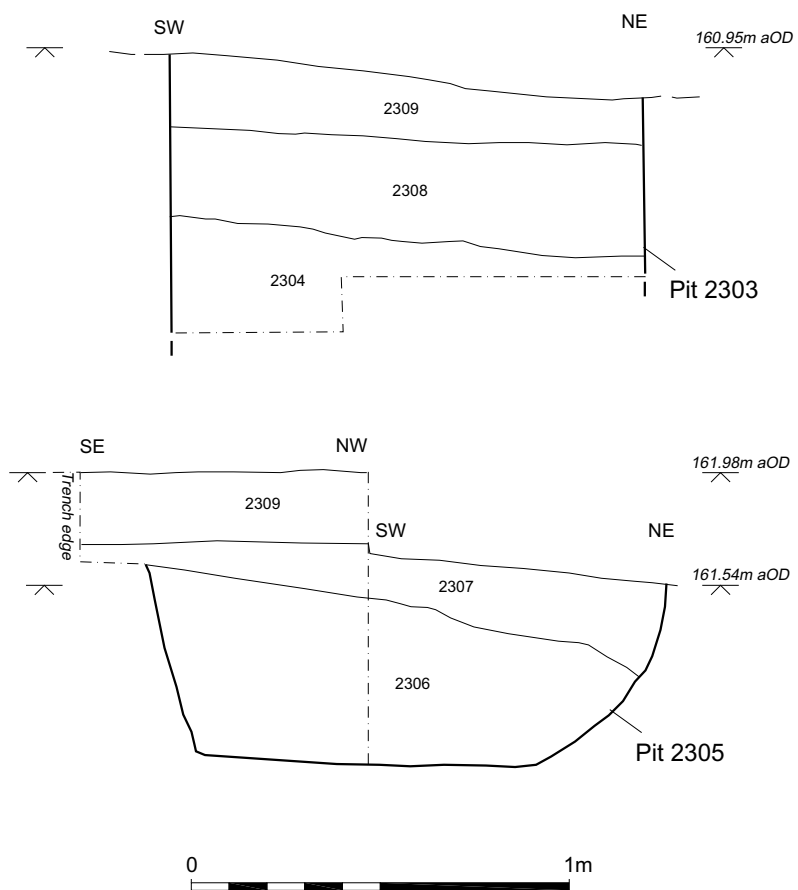


Plate 4: Trench 23 from the south-east



Plate 6: Trench 23- north-east facing section of pit 2305



- Limit of excavation
- - - Extrapolated
- Section line

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Plate 7: Trench 18 from the north-east



Plate 8: Trench 19 from the north



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Plate 9: Trench 21 from the south-east showing variation in underlying deposits



Plate 10: South-west facing representative section of Trench 21 showing colluvium

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