



making sense of heritage

Land at School Lane, Overbury Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



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July 2015



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**Land at School Lane, Overbury
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land west of School Lane, Overbury (NGR 395780, 237140) to inform a forthcoming application for residential development.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological works was prepared by Wessex Archaeology (2015) and submitted to Worcestershire County Council (WCC) for approval. A Historic Environment Record (HER) search had identified prehistoric and Romano British settlement close to and within a 0.5km radius of the site which is situated to the south of the historic core of medieval Overbury.

A total of six evaluation trenches were excavated across the site. The three southern trenches (3, 4 and 6) were void of archaeological features.

A narrow gully aligned north-northeast to south-southwest was identified within Trench 1 and was found to contain a single sherd of Early-middle Bronze Age pottery. The feature was 0.2m deep and petered out at its southern limit where it had been truncated by later agricultural activity. The feature continued beyond the northern limit of the trench.

A wide hollow way/trackway was identified within Trench 5. The southern part of the trench was completely filled with the feature's upper fill suggesting it was over 2m wide. Excavation confirmed that the feature had a flat base with the lower primary fill containing a single sherd of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery.

A single north-south aligned grave cut was identified within Trench 2, containing a partially revealed human skull at the northern end of the grave. The characteristics of the grave are indicative of a Romano-British pagan burial. The burial lies to the western side of the trackway identified within Trench 5. Two previously identified Romano-British burials, 30m north of the site, may have been located on the eastern side of the same trackway. It was common practice to locate burials outside settlement areas, often along roadways during the Romano-British period. It seems likely that although prehistoric pottery was recovered from the base of the trackway within Trench 5, it continued to be used into the Romano-British period.

The archive of the archaeological evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code **109720**. It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Worcestershire County Council Museum under accession number **WSM67006**. An OASIS form, ID number **wessexar1-215089** has been completed and will be finally submitted at the time of deposition.



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Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Cathy Patrick (CgMs) in this regard. The assistance of the Overbury Estate team is also gratefully acknowledged. The site was monitored for Worcester County Council by Aisling Nash.

Fieldwork was undertaken by Neil Dransfield, Alex Cassels and Matthew Tooke between the 24th and 26th June 2015. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Chris Swales. The report was written by Neil Dransfield with finds assessed by Laura Griffin. The illustrations were prepared by Alix Spurr.



Land at School Lane, Overbury Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land west of School Lane, Overbury, Worcestershire, hereafter 'the Site' (NGR 395780, 237140) to inform a forthcoming application for residential development.
- 1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological works was prepared by Wessex Archaeology (2015) and submitted to CgMs Consulting and Worcestershire County Council for approval. A HER search identified potential prehistoric and Romano British settlement close to and within a 0.5km radius of the Site which lies just to the south of the medieval core of Overbury.
- 1.1.3 All works undertaken conformed to current best practice and to the guidance outlined in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment ('MoRPHE') (English Heritage 2006), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a and 2014b) and in accordance with CIfA Codes of Conduct (2014c).

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site comprises a single parcel of land to the west of School Lane, Overbury. The Site is bounded to the north by residential development and Overbury First School. A single residential property is situated to the south of the Site with the surrounding land employed for mixed agricultural farming (**Figure 1**).

1.3 Geology

- 1.3.1 The solid geology of the Site comprises mudstone of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation. The superficial geology comprises Head Deposits of clay, silt and gravel (British Geological Survey).

1.4 Topography

- 1.4.1 The Site is situated on a gentle northwest to southeast slope with a high point of 66.78m Above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the northwest corner of Site. The Site sits at 63.50m aOD at its southeast corner.



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 A HER search was conducted as part of the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2015) and a brief overview of the results are discussed below. The HER considered evidence from a 1km study Area of the Site (**Figure 1**).

2.2 Historical background

Palaeolithic to Bronze Age

- 2.2.1 There are numerous features within the Study Area recorded as being from the earlier prehistoric periods and a focus for settlement since the Neolithic period. This is likely due to the presence of superficial Head deposits which are often preferred locations for prehistoric settlement.
- 2.2.2 The earliest artefactual evidence within the Study Area are two Palaeolithic handaxes (WSM04665 & WSM29224) approximately 210m southeast and 670m east of the Site of the Site respectively. The finds were recovered 'from the banks of the Avon', with their exact locations unknown.
- 2.2.3 A series of amorphous ditches (WSM09797), located approximately 750m southwest of the Site and a possible pit alignment (WSM29233) located approximately 15m southwest of the Site are visible through cropmarks and on aerial photographs and have been noted as possibly Neolithic in date. The pit alignment is visible in conjunction with other later cropmarks dated to the Iron Age (see below) and may have extended into the Site.
- 2.2.4 Three heritage assets (WSM05138 - Scheduled Monument 1005321, WSM29229, WSM05096 dated to the Bronze Age are located within the Study Area. Scheduled Monument 1005321 is a double-ditched, four-sided enclosure (Scheduled Monument 1005321) with internal features (WSM05138). Fieldwalking over the cropmarks recovered a large quantity of pottery and lithic materials including four Bronze Age scrapers. All of which have been initially identified through aerial photography with two having been evaluated as part of a COSMIC+ (Conservation of Scheduled Monuments in Cultivation) assessment of the area around Overbury concluding the features are likely to be of Iron Age or earlier date. The remaining cropmark features dated by the WHER to the Bronze Age comprise a single-ditched rectilinear enclosure (WSM29229) and a double-ditched enclosure (WSM05096).
- 2.2.5 A triple-ditched square enclosure (WSM29230), located 135m south-southwest of the Site, was initially identified through cropmarks, with an evaluation undertaken confirming the presence of archaeological features along with several finds dating to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

Iron Age and Romano-British

- 2.2.6 There are numerous finds from the Iron Age and Romano-British period within the Study Area. In some cases, features from these periods have been encountered in conjunction with those thought to date to earlier periods. This indicates the potential for long-term settlement over a considerable period of time or the re-occupation of a favourable landscape by different groups at different times.
- 2.2.7 Approximately 15m southwest of the Site lie two single-ditched enclosures along the route of a trackway with a possible third enclosure situated to the south of the trackway. It was possible that the trackway extends into the Site.

- 2.2.8 Other possible Iron Age features within the Study Area comprise a triple-ditched irregular enclosure with round corners (WSM04666) and a possible Iron Age pit alignment (WSM22868).
- 2.2.9 A Romano-British aggregate village, a clearly defined double-ditched enclosure, (Scheduled Monument 1005311) is located approximately 300m southwest of the Site.
- 2.2.10 A second double-ditched enclosure (1005321) has also been identified as a Romano-British homestead within an aggregate village. The settlement evidence survives as a hollow way, rectangular enclosure, two sub-rectangular enclosures, a square enclosure, two ring ditches and pits. Pits and a ring ditch located within the enclosure represent the site of a round house.
- 2.2.11 Two burials (WSM67094) were uncovered during a watching brief approximately 30m north of the Site. The burials were dated to the late 1st and early 2nd centuries AD and were of two adults, a woman and a possible male aged over 50 years and 25-30 years respectively at death. A further coffin burial (WSM40636) was uncovered during excavations approximately 690m southeast of the Site.
- 2.2.12 Other Romano-British artefacts recovered within the Study Area include surface finds of coins, pottery and building stone (WSM26755) and a number of Roman coins (WSM26754). A watching brief (WSM29606), partly within the Site, recovered a box flue tile fragment during excavations.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 2.2.13 During the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods the Site and the Study Area were part of an agricultural landscape with small settlement centres.
- 2.2.14 The settlement at 'Overbury with Pendock (including Conderton)' (WSM24935), located immediately adjacent to the Site to the north, is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 suggesting its establishment prior to the Norman Conquest in 1066. The Grade I Listed Church of St Faith (1167601) in Overbury, was first constructed in the 12th century on the site of an older church. The Church was partly rebuilt in the following centuries.
- 2.2.15 Other features dated to the medieval period include an earthwork (WSM06584) initially thought to be a moat and earthworks relating to a possible hollow way (WSM29606) associated with the settlement at Overbury and a possible rabbit warren (WSM48471) located approximately 980m west of the Site.
- 2.2.16 The Study Area contains thirty one areas of ridge and furrow identified through earthworks on aerial photographs dating to the medieval period. Many areas of ridge and furrow continued to be farmed in this way into the post-medieval period.

Post-medieval to modern

- 2.2.17 The post-medieval to modern periods see the expansion of the settlements in the Study Area which is evidenced by the increase in the number of now listed buildings which trace their origins to these periods.
- 2.2.18 During the post-medieval period twenty three now Listed Buildings were constructed within the Study Area. A series of ponds, weirs and mills and the possible site of Overbury Furnace (WSM07653) is located approximately 450m southwest of the Site.



2.2.19 A further eighteen now Listed Buildings were constructed within the Study Area during the 19th century. In addition, 21 historic farmsteads dating the 19th century have been identified within the Study Area. Other features within the Study Area dating to the 19th century include the site of an Old Kitchen Garden (WSM35813) and the site of a mill pond (WSM39921), located approximately 760m north of the Site.

2.2.20 Fourteen now Listed Buildings were constructed within the Study Area during the modern period. Two further features are recorded by the WHER from this period, a coverer defence position (WSM33111), located approximately 610m east of the Site and the crash site of a Hawker Hurricane (WSM47184) approximately 460m northeast of the Site.

2.3 Previous archaeological investigations

2.3.1 There have been several previous archaeological investigations carried out within the Study Area with specific references made in the text above. These include:

- A watching brief along the route of a power line which recovered a Roman box flue tile (WSM29606);
- A watching brief within a proposed car park which uncovered no significant archaeological features;
- A COSMIC+ Risk Assessment throughout the Study Area which confirmed the presence of numerous prehistoric archaeological features (WSM44952);
- An excavation which uncovered a Romano-British burial (WSM04823);
- Two field surveys for the Countryside Alliance in advance of a Higher Level Stewardship Application (WSM41147 & WSM38829); and

2.3.2 A watching brief at Overbury Church of England First School which uncovered two disturbed Romano-British burials (WSM49657).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General

3.1.1 The programme of archaeological works was conducted within the general research parameters defined by the West Midlands Regional Research Framework for Archaeology and subsequent publication *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research* (Watt 2011). The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were;

- *to record, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains observed;*
- *to record a sufficient sample of the features to adequately characterise the nature of the surviving archaeology and date significant features;*
- *to provide sufficient information to enable an informed decision to be made about the need for additional archaeological mitigation; and*
- *to make available the results of the work.*

3.2 Specific

3.2.1 The specific aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- *to assess the preservation and character of cropmarks identified as probable enclosures and trackways located immediately to the south and west of the Site; and*
- *to identify and features associated with the Romano-British cemetery identified during groundworks at Overbury First School, located within 100m of the Site.*

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 Detailed methodology for the work can be found in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2015). All works undertaken conformed to current best practice and to the guidance (ClfAa-c, English Heritage 2006).

4.1.2 The archaeological evaluation comprised involved the excavation of six trenches; five of which measured 20m by 2m with the fifth measuring 25m by 2m (**Figure 2**). The trench locations differed slightly to those outlined in the WSI due to access issues and constraints imposed by live services.

4.2 Machine excavation

4.2.1 Topsoil was removed using a mechanical excavator (9 Tonne excavator) fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a experienced archaeologist. Topsoil was removed in a series of level spits down to the natural geology.

4.2.2 All spoil was scanned with a metal detector for artefacts, although no artefacts of archaeological significance were identified.

4.3 Hand excavation

4.3.1 Archaeological features were hand excavated but the complete excavation of features was not regarded as necessary for the evaluation. Care was taken not to compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which may be deemed suitable for preservation by record or preservation *in situ*. However, excavation was sufficient to characterise the location, extent, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains observed as well as dating key archaeological features.

4.3.2 The inhumation burial within Trench 2 was not excavated, after discussions with Cathy Patrick of CgMs and Aisling Nash of WCC it was agreed that the excavation of any human remains would be better understood in any following mitigation works. The remains were carefully covered with an easily identifiable marker so as to avoid damage by any future machine stripping.

4.3.3 Following recording of the features within Trenches 1 and 5, the gully and ditch fills were further excavated in an attempt to secure further dating material.

4.4 Recording

- 4.4.1 All deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. A stratigraphic matrix was compiled to record the relationships between features and deposits.
- 4.4.2 Excavated areas and deposits were located by means of an RTK GPS system and tied into the OS grid with a tolerance of better than + or - 100mm. All deposits had spot heights recorded in relation to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places.
- 4.4.3 A photographic record was maintained using digital images and 35mm monochrome film.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Trench 2 was relocated 5.8m to the northwest to avoid excavating an active drain. Trenches 3 and 6 were also moved 2.7m to the east to avoid the same obstruction. Trench 5 was realigned to avoid a 11kv cable detected by pre excavation service checks.
- 5.1.2 The following section provides a summary of the information held in the Site archive, with a full list of context numbers and context descriptions contained in **Appendix 1**.

5.2 Geological Substrata

- 5.2.1 The natural undisturbed geological substrate on Site was a crushed and degraded sandstone layer made up of predominantly medium sized, closely compacted sandstone cobbles in a mid-greyish yellow clayey sand matrix. Varying sized, irregularly shaped patches of clean reddish orange sandy clay were evident within Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4. Excavated slots through this material in Trenches 3 (**Plate 3**) and 4 confirmed that the material overlay the degraded sandstone and clayey sand and the irregular nature of the sides and bases confirmed their natural geological character. Gully **104** within Trench 1 was seen to cut through a large patch of this material at the northern end of the trench (**Plate 1**).

5.3 Trenches containing no archaeological features

- 5.3.1 No archaeological features were identified within Trenches 3, 4 or 6 in the southern half of the Site (**Figure 2**).

5.4 Trenches containing archaeological features

Trench 1

- 5.4.1 A shallow north to south aligned gully (**104**) was excavated within Trench 1 (**Figure 3**, **Plate 1**). The gully measured 1.65m in length and 0.45m in width, with a shallow u-shaped profile. The gully was sealed by subsoil **102**. The gully was deepest (0.24m) at its northern extent and gradually petered out to the south. A single sherd of quartz-tempered fabric pottery from fill (**105**) was dated to the Early-middle Bronze Age (see Section 6).

Trench 2

- 5.4.2 A rectangular grave cut (**204**) was identified, extending from the northwest edge of the trench (**Figure 4**). The grave was aligned north to south, measuring over 1.7m in length by 0.65m in width. A human skull (**205**) was partially revealed at the northern end of the grave cut (**Plate 2**) indicating that the burial was supine. A preliminary field examination of

the slight pronounced supra orbital foramen suggests that the burial is possibly female or a sub-adult. The grave was backfilled with a mid-brownish grey sandy silt (206) containing a common frequency (50%) of small to medium sized sub-angular stones.

Trench 5

- 5.4.3 A large linear earthwork (504) was revealed running north-northeast to south-southwest along the entire length of the trench (Figure 5). The trench was almost entirely filled by the homogenous mid greyish brown silty clay upper fill (505) with the feature's western edge (504). Excavation identified that the feature was 0.85m deep with a moderate concave edge leading to a flat base (Figure 5, Plate 4). A stonier primary fill (506) contained a single sherd of Malvernian ware (fabric 3) pottery produced between the Late Bronze Age through to the early Roman period, though more likely the Iron Age (see Section 6). The alignment of the feature matches that of the linear cropmark (WSM 29233 Figure 2) leading to its interpretation as a hollowed trackway.

6 FINDS

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 All hand-retrieved sherds were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* was produced for each stratified context. All information was recorded on pro forma Microsoft Access 2007 database.
- 6.1.2 The pottery was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type according to the fabric reference series maintained by the service (Hurst and Rees 1992 and www.worcestershireceramics.org).

6.2 Results

- 6.2.1 The assemblage recovered from the site totalled 8 sherds weighing 100g (see Tables 1 and 2). These are discussed by period below.

Table 1: Quantification of the pottery by fabric type

period	fabric no.	fabric name	total	weight (g)
prehistoric	3	Malvernian ware	1	7
Early - Middle Bronze Age	5.13	Quartz	1	5
modern	83	Porcelain	3	24
modern	85	Modern china	2	37
modern	101	Miscellaneous modern wares	1	27

Prehistoric

- 6.2.2 The two stratified sherds from the Site were small, undiagnostic fragments and could therefore only be broadly dated to the prehistoric period.



- 6.2.3 The first was of a quartz-tempered fabric (fabric 5.1; context 105). The firing of this sherd and lack of surface treatment is reminiscent of the Early-Middle Bronze Age assemblage from Kemerton, Worcestershire and therefore, is likely to be of similar date (Jackson, forthcoming).
- 6.2.4 The remaining sherd was identified as Malvernian ware (fabric 3; context 506). Vessels of this fabric type were produced from the Late Bronze Age through to the early Roman period. Although not a typical example in terms of firing and surface treatment, the fineness of the sherd may indicate an Iron Age date. However, further dating evidence would be required to firmly establish this date.

Modern

- 6.2.5 All remaining sherds came from the topsoil and were of modern date.

Table 2: Summary of context dating based on the pottery

context	object specific type	fabric code	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	ceramic TPQ
401	pot	85	1	32	L18C	20C	20C
401	pot	83	1	14	L18C	20C	
101	pot	85	1	5	L18C	20C	20C
501	pot	83	2	10	L18C	20C	20C
501	pot	101	1	27	19C	20C	
105	pot	5.13	1	5			?Early-middle Bronze Age
506	pot	3	1	7			prehistoric

6.3 Discussion

- 6.3.1 It was hoped that the stratified pottery, in particular that from the fill of the trackway (context **506**), would provide dating for excavated features. However, in the absence of diagnostic sherds it is not possible to allocate anything other than a broad 'prehistoric' date.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL

7.1 General

- 7.1.1 Samples from Gully **104** (20 litres) and Trackway **504** (40 litres) were recovered from Site. However, the samples were damaged following their removal from Site. Following discussions between CgMs, WCC and Wessex Archaeology it was decided that it would not be necessary to return to Site gather new samples. However, it is recommended that additional samples are recovered from these features during any subsequent mitigation works.



8 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1.1 A single gully was identified within Trench 1. A large prehistoric hollow way/trackway was identified within Trench 5 and the remains of a human burial were identified in Trench 2.
- 8.1.2 The single gully identified in Trench 1 contained pottery dating to the Early-middle Bronze Age. Due to the ephemeral nature of the feature at its southern extent its precise function remains unclear. The feature survives beyond the trench edge to the north and unless further dating evidence is uncovered to suggest a later date then it would seem to be unrelated to the burial or trackway identified within Trenches 2 and 5.
- 8.1.3 The large trackway feature identified within Trench 5 matches the alignment of a linear cropmark extending to the south of the Site (**Figure 1** and **2**). Pottery from the primary fill of the feature suggests a prehistoric, probable Iron Age date for its construction.
- 8.1.4 A single north-south aligned burial was uncovered to the western side of the trackway identified within Trench 5. The skull was partially revealed at the northern end of the grave cut. The alignment of the grave is suggestive of a Romano-British pagan burial (Barber and Bowsher, 2000). It is possible that the positioning of the burial in relation to the trackway is no accident with burials along roadways and trackways common in the Romano-British period (Collingwood and Richmond, 1969). The remains of two other Romano-British burials (WSM04665) were identified during groundworks to the immediate northeast of the Site. The extrapolated alignment of the trackway from Trench 5 indicated that these two burials may have been located on the eastern side of the same feature.
- 8.1.5 The archaeological evaluation has confirmed the presence of prehistoric and Romano-British features within the northern half of the proposed development area (Trenches 1, 2 and 5). These features tie in well with the results of the HER search and previous excavations in the area. The evaluation has confirmed that the prehistoric trackway identified to the southwest of the Site extends into the development area along with a second previously unidentified prehistoric gully. The identification of a single inhumation burial could also suggest that further human remains may survive in association with this trackway.
- 8.1.6 The archaeological evaluation has however confirmed that the southern section of the development area (Trenches 3, 4 and 6) has a significantly lower archaeological potential with no features of interest identified within this area.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with the Worcester County Museum under accession number **WSM67006**.

9.2 Preparation of archive

- 9.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the WCC Museum Service, and in



general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014d; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the accession code, and a full index will be prepared.

9.3 Security copy

9.3.1 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.

10 REFERENCES

10.1 Bibliography IN

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10.2 Online sources

British Geological Survey: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>



11 APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1: Context descriptions

Trench 1		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
101	Topsoil: dark brownish grey silty clay with rare sub-angular medium gravel and frequent rooting	0-0.3
102	Subsoil: mid brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular medium gravel	0.3-0.5
103	Natural: mid yellowish brown clayey sand with abundant sub-angular medium and coarse sandstone gravel with a large patch of orange sandy clay at the northern third of the trench	0.5+
104	Cut: N-S aligned linear gully cut into natural clayey sand (103) and filled with (105)	0.5-0.7
105	Secondary fill: mid brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular medium gravel filling gully (104)	0.5-0.7

Trench 2		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
201	Topsoil: dark brown sandy silt with rare sub-angular medium gravel and frequent rooting	0-0.3
202	Subsoil: dark greenish brown clay sand with occasional sub-angular medium gravel	0.3-0.5
203	Natural: light brownish orange clayey sand with abundant sub-angular medium and coarse sandstone gravel	0.5+
204	Cut: north-south aligned rectangular grave cut into natural (203) and filled with backfill (206) and human skeleton (205) - Not fully excavated	0.5+
205	Skeleton: probable supine inhumation burial, cranium and mandible exposed. Within cut (204) - Not fully excavated	0.5+
206	Deliberate backfill: mid brownish grey sandy silt with common sub-angular medium gravel - Fill of cut (204)	0.5+

Trench 3		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
301	Topsoil: dark greenish grey clay silt with occasional rounded medium gravel	0-0.25
302	Subsoil: light yellowish brown silty clay with fairly common sandstone medium gravel	0.25-0.45
303	Subsoil: light brownish yellow sandy clay with common small to medium degraded sandstone fragments throughout	0.45-0.65
304	Natural: crushed and degraded sandstone in form of compacted stones of mostly medium size in a matrix of yellow sandy clay with a patch of orange sandy clay overlying an irregular hollow at the southern trench end	0.65+



Trench 4		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
401	Topsoil: dark greenish grey clay silt with occasional small to medium gravel	0-0.25
402	Subsoil: light greyish yellow clay silt with fairly common small sandstone gravel	0.25-0.5
403	Subsoil: light yellow silty clay with rare small sandstone gravel	0.5-0.7
404	Natural: crushed and degraded sandstone in form of compacted stones of mostly medium size in a matrix of yellow clayey sand with patches of orange sandy clay overlying in irregular hollows	0.42-0.63

Trench 5		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
501	Topsoil: dark brown sandy silt with rare small gravel	0-0.2
502	Subsoil: mid brown clay sand with occasional sub-angular medium gravel	0.2-0.6
503	Natural: light brownish yellow clayey sand with abundant sub-angular medium and coarse sandstone gravel	0.6+
504	Cut: large ditch, full extent not visible within trench. Possible Iron Age trackway cut into natural (503). Filled with (505) and (506).	0.6-1.45
505	Secondary fill: mid brown silty clay with occasional medium and coarse gravel containing animal bone. Overlying (506) and filling (504)	0.6-1.35
506	Primary fill: mid brown silty clay with abundant medium sandstone gravel containing Iron Age pottery. Underlying (505) and filling (504)	1.35-1.45

Trench 6		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
601	Topsoil: dark brown sandy silt with occasional small to medium gravel	0-0.3
602	Subsoil: light greenish brown clay sand with fairly common sub-angular small sandstone gravel	0.3-0.65
603	Natural: light brownish yellow clayey sand with abundant sub-angular medium and coarse sandstone gravel	0.65+



11.2 Appendix 2: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-215089

Project details

Project name	School Lane, Overbury
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Overbury Estate to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land west of School Lane, Overbury (NGR 395780, 237140) to inform a forthcoming application for residential development. A Historic Environment Record (HER) search had identified potential prehistoric and Romano British settlement close to and within a 0.5km radius of the site which lies in the core of medieval Overbury. A total of six evaluation trenches were excavated across the site. The three southern trenches (3, 4 and 6) were void of archaeological features. A narrow gully aligned north north-east to south south-west was identified in Trench 1. It is likely that the feature continues further to the north of its location and may be part of a wider system of contemporary gullies. The feature contained a single sherd of Early-middle Bronze Age pottery. A wide hollow way/trackway was identified in Trench 5. Excavation confirmed that the feature had a flat base and the lower primary fill contained a single sherd of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery confirming its creation period. It is possible that the trackway remained in use during the Romano-British period (see below). A single north-south aligned grave containing a partially revealed human skull at the northern end was identified in Trench 2. The characteristics of the grave are indicative of a Romano-British, possibly pagan burial. The burial lies to the western side of the trackway. Two previously identified Romano-British burials, 30m north of the site, may have been located on the eastern side of the same trackway. It was common practice to locate burials outside settlement areas, often along roadways during the Romano-British period.</p>
Project dates	Start: 24-06-2015 End: 26-06-2015
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	109720 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POT Bronze Age
Significant Finds	BURIAL Roman

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WORCESTERSHIRE WYCHAVON OVERBURY School Lane, Overbury, Worcestershire
Postcode	GL20 7NU
Site coordinates	SO 95780 37140 52.0322306479 -2.06152084612 52 01 56 N 002 03 41 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 63.50m Max: 66.78m

Project creators



Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting Ltd.
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Chris Swales
Project supervisor	Neil Dransfield
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting Ltd.

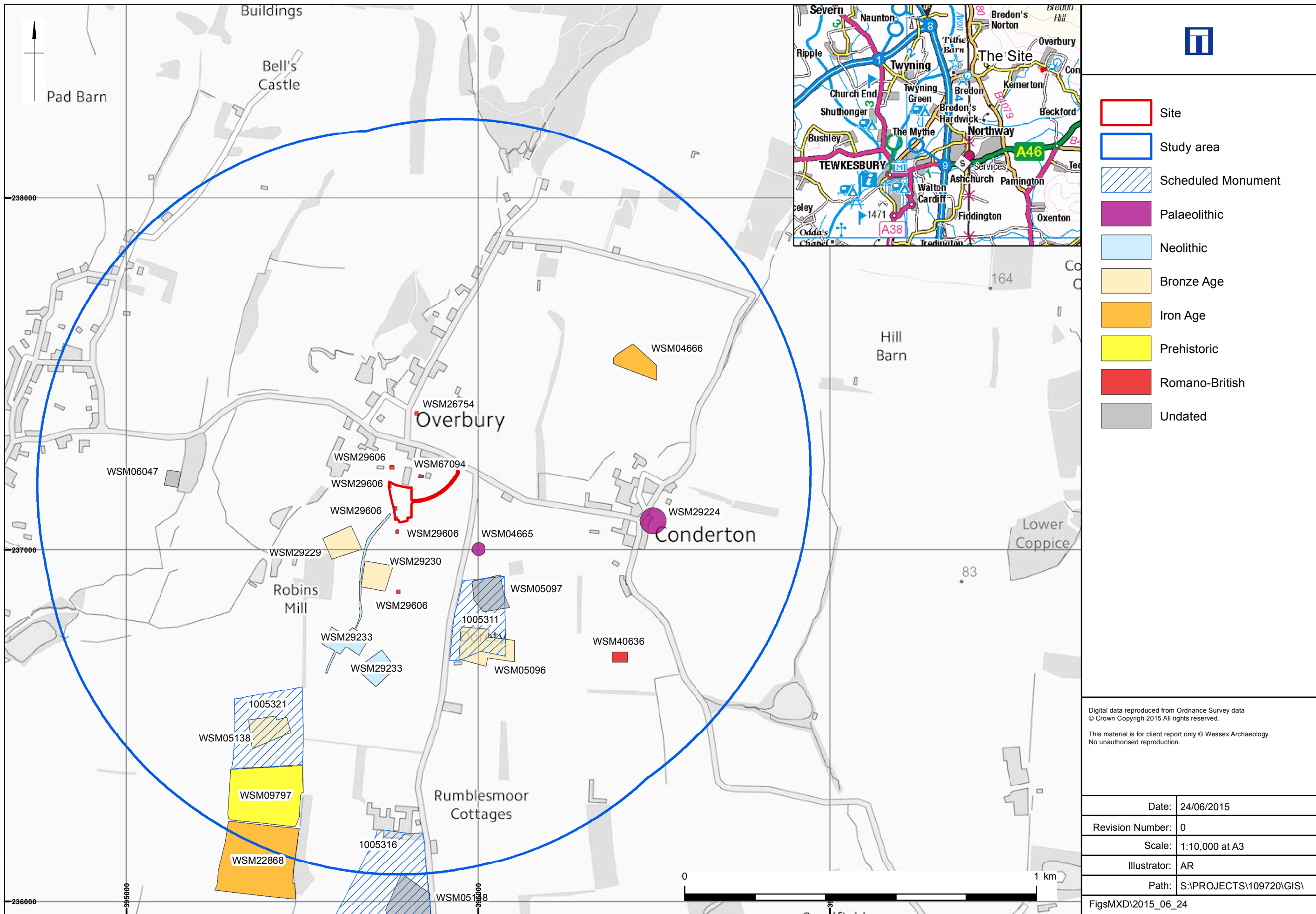
Project archives

Paper Media available	"Report"
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Entered by	Dran (n.dransfield@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	14 July 2015

OASIS:

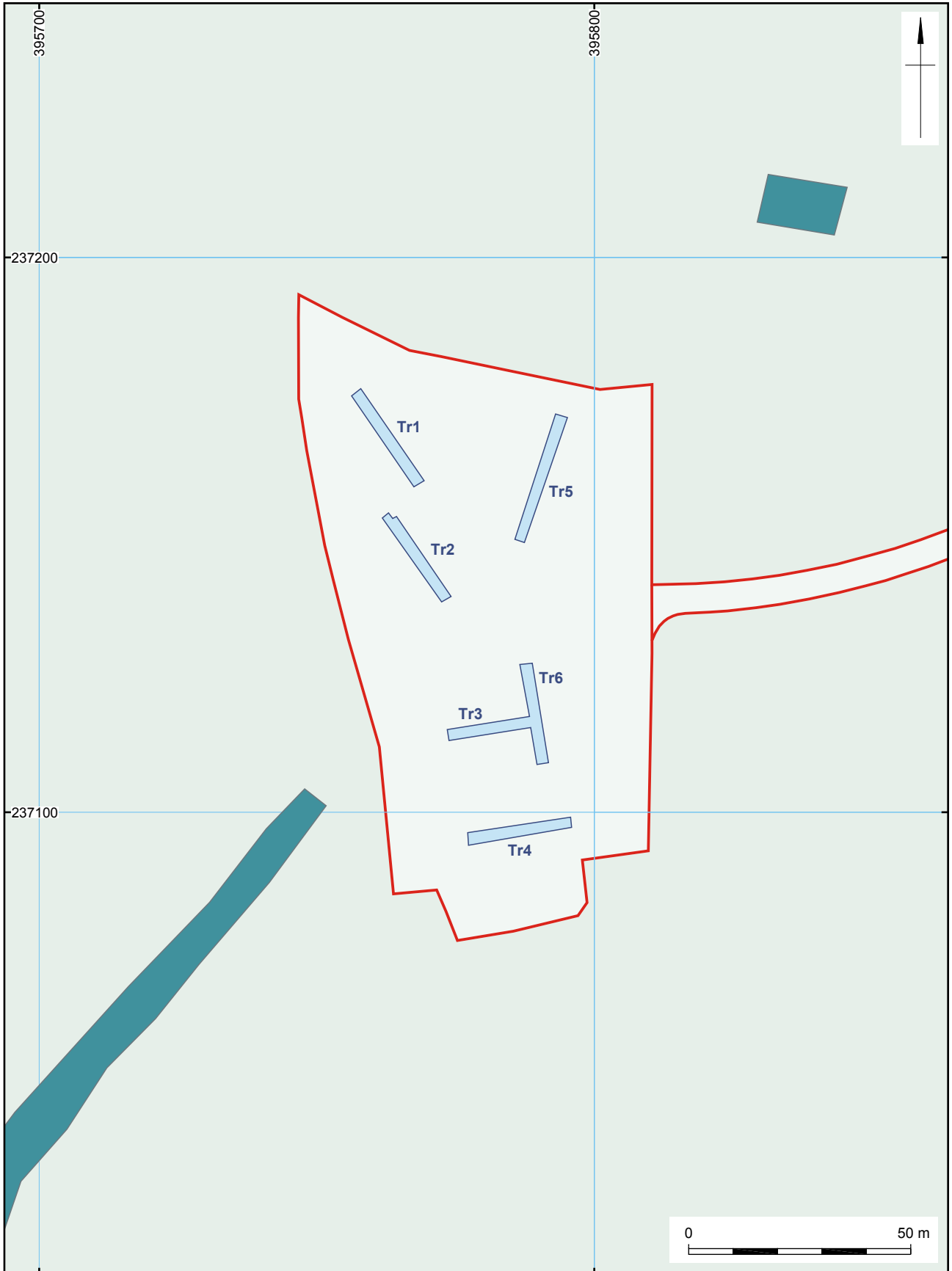
Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice
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Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page






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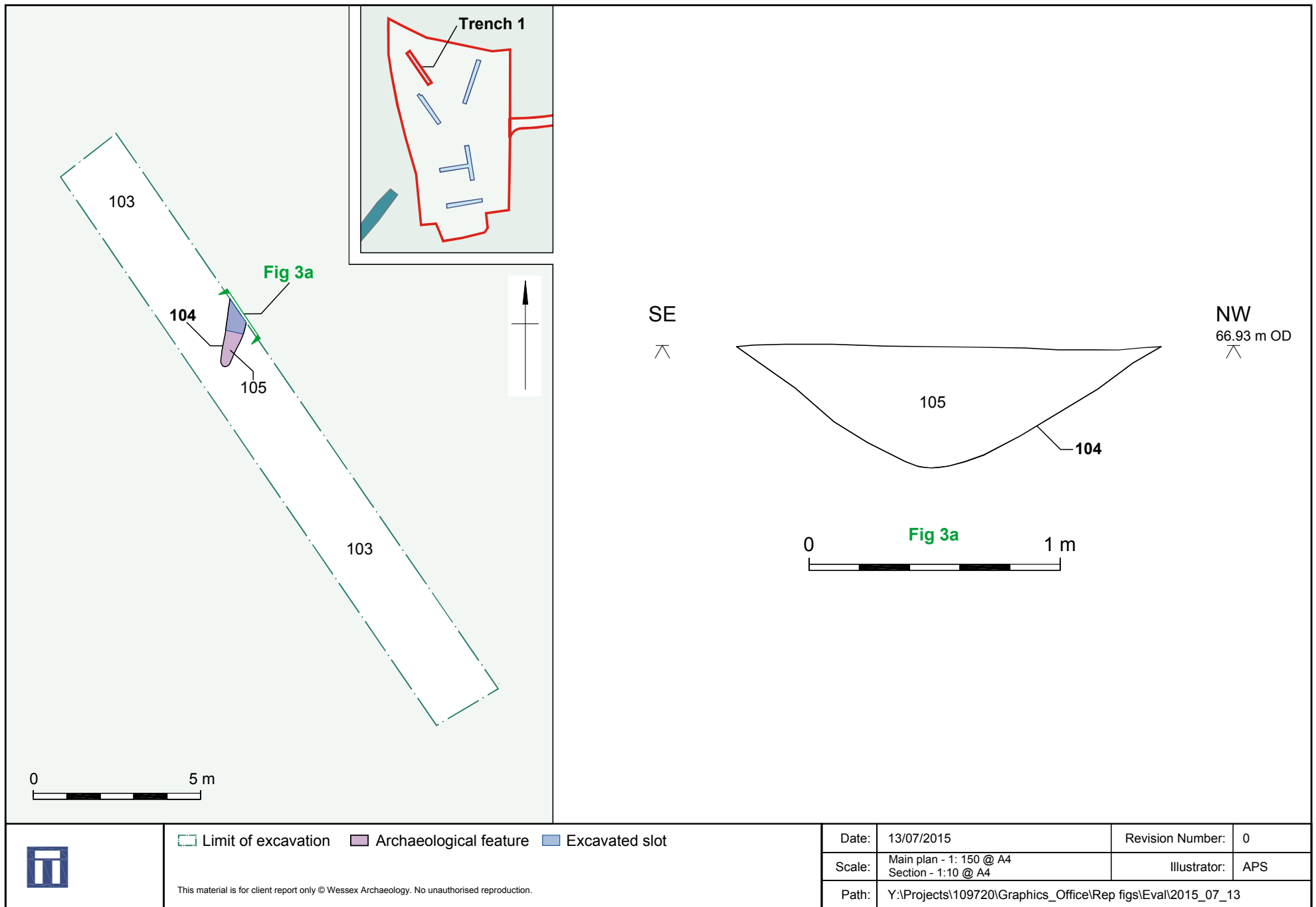
Site location, Study Area and known heritage assets from the Palaeolithic period to the Romano-British period and undated assets (based on WHER, Historic England (formerly English Heritage) and other sources)



	 Evaluation Area  Evaluation trenches  HER Monuments 			
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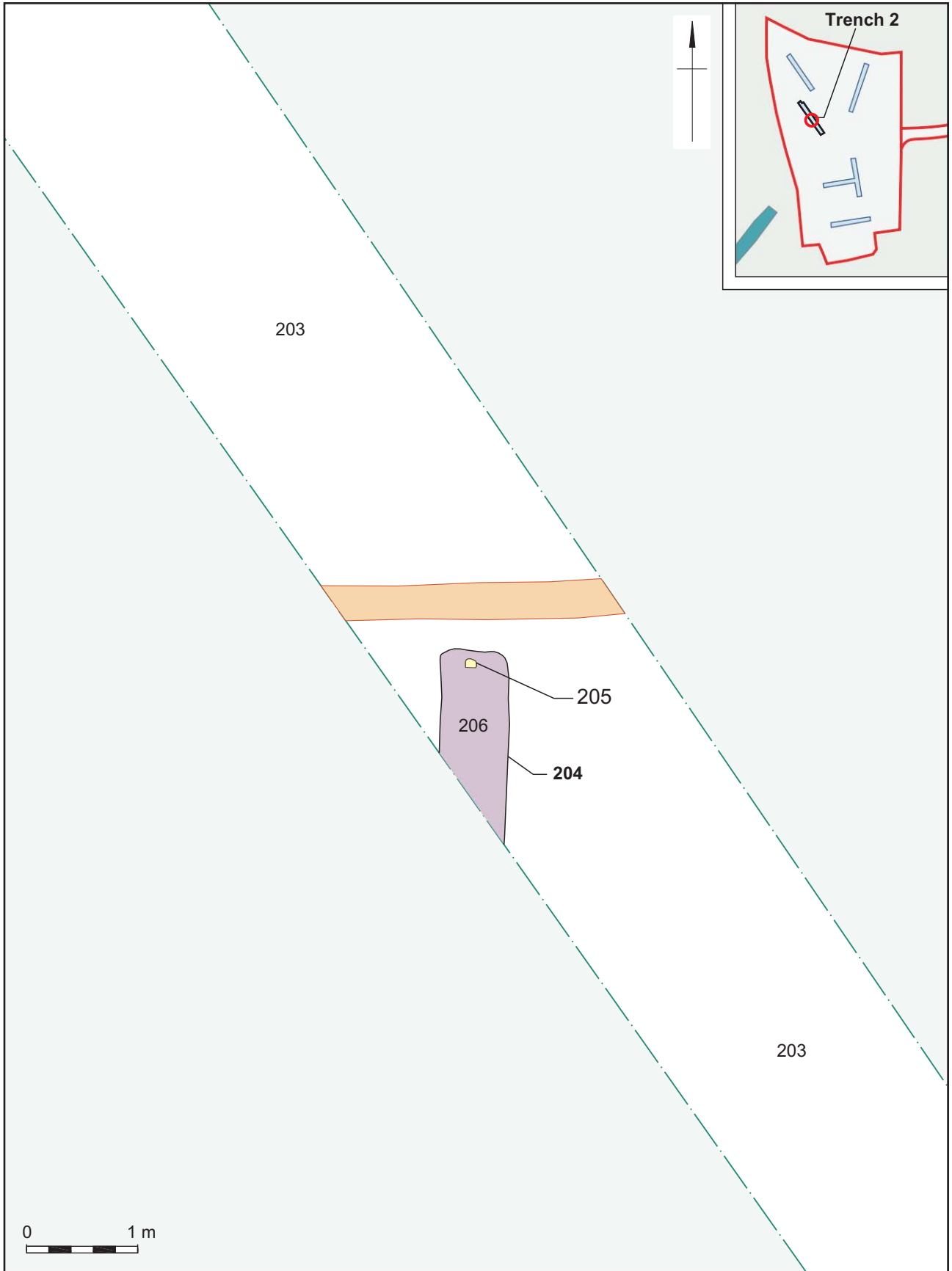
Trench location plan

Figure 2



Plan of **Trench 1**, and south-west facing section of gully **104**

Figure 3



 Limit of excavation
 Archaeological feature
 Excavated slot
 Human remains
 Land drain

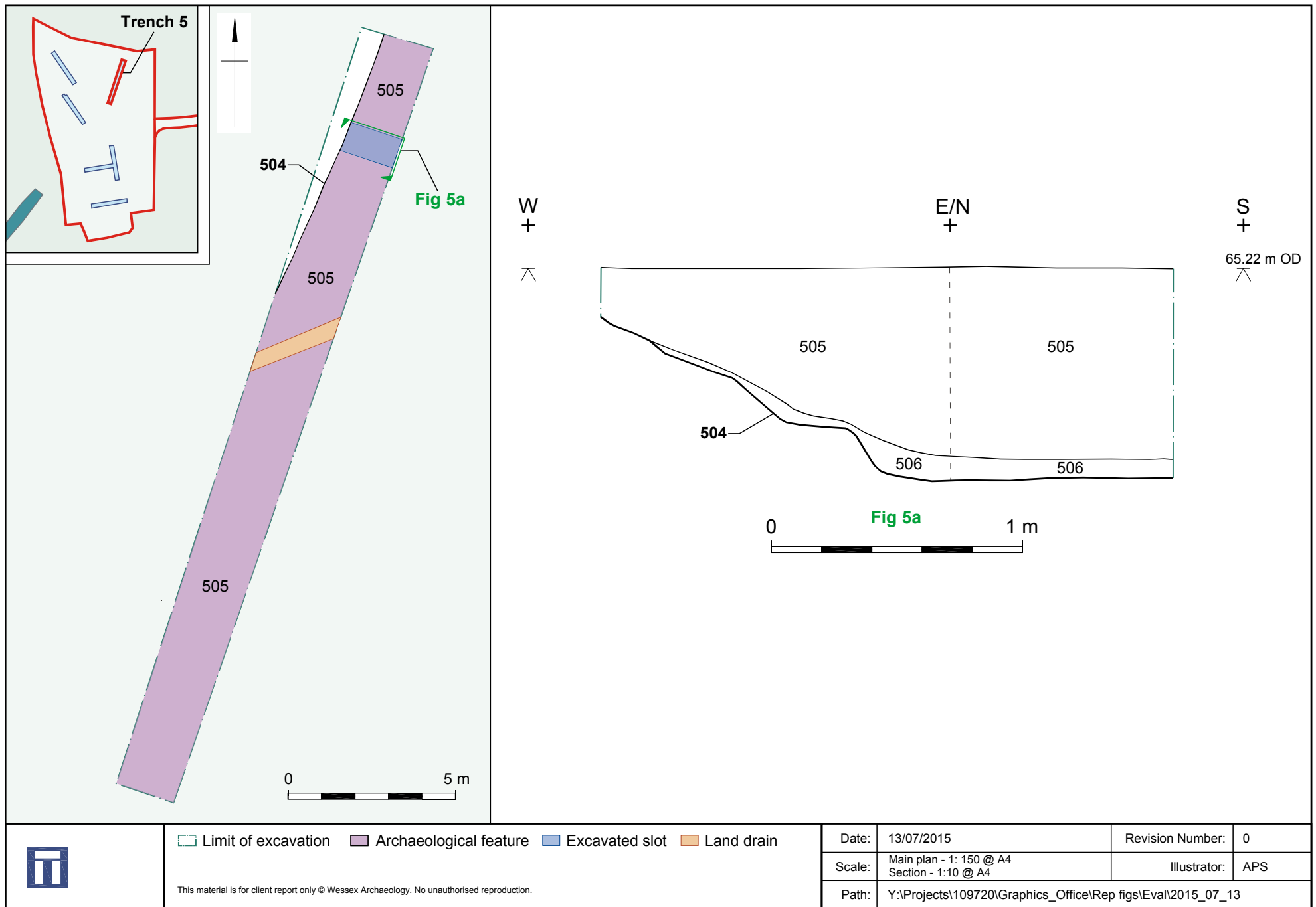
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Plan of **Trench 2**

Figure 4



Plan of **Trench 5**, and wrap around section of trackway **504**

Figure 5



Plate 1: Showing gully **104** in **Trench 1**



Plate 2: Showing grave **204** with partially exposed human skull **205** in **Trench 2**



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Plate 3: Showing one of the geological anomalies in **Trench 3**



Plate 4: Showing feature **504**'s western edge

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