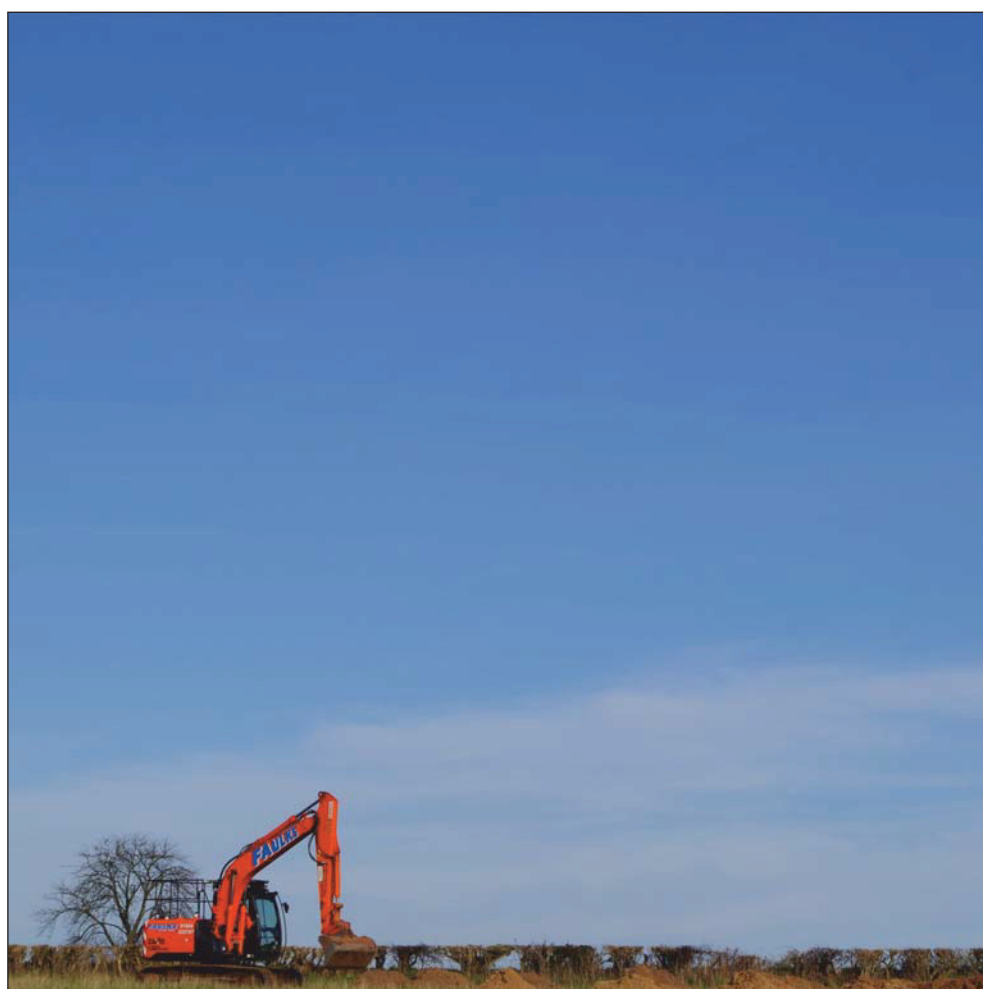




making sense of heritage

# Land off Longlands, Repton, Derbyshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Reference: 9/2013/0643  
Ref: 107861.01  
March 2016



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**Land off Longlands,  
Repton, Derbyshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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**March 2016**

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## Quality Assurance

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\* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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# Land off Longlands, Repton, Derbyshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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# Land off Longlands, Repton, Derbyshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Miller Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land off Longlands, Repton, Derbyshire. The archaeological works were carried out in advance of a proposed residential development.

The site had been subject to a desk-based Assessment and a geophysical survey. The geophysical survey identified a limited number of archaeological anomalies, the bulk of which were assumed to relate to post-medieval agriculture and land use.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of 7 trenches measuring 35 m long by 1.8 m wide and one trench measuring 5 m by 5 m, targeting anomalies identified by a geophysical survey and 'blank' areas.

The evaluation identified the remains of post-medieval ridge and furrow within Trench 7. A twentieth century rubbish pit was identified within Trench 8.

The remaining six trenches within the current phase of archaeological evaluation were all archaeologically blank. Within Trench 2, an area of concrete rubble was identified mixed in with the topsoil and represents the remains of a footing, probably associated with a twentieth century feeding trough for animals housed in the field.

The only identified features within the development area relate to post-medieval agricultural land use and dumping of waste material. No other archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified, confirming that the site lay at some distance from the medieval/post-medieval core of Repton. No phases of earlier settlement were identified. The results of the current evaluation correspond well with the previous phases of evaluation trenching in the fields to the north, which also identified ridge and furrow agriculture and post-medieval land use.

The archive of the archaeological evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code **107861**. The archive will comprise the Site report in both hard and digital format (PDF/A) and will be deposited with Derby Historic Environment Record (HER) by the end of April 2016.



# **Land off Longlands, Repton, Derbyshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Acknowledgements**

The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Miller Homes and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Simon Mortimer (CgMs) in this regard. The assistance of Steve Baker and Dave Barrett of Derbyshire County Council who monitored the work is also acknowledged.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Chris Swales. Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Buttery and Richard Smith between the 15th and 17th of February 2016.

This report was written by Jonathan Buttery and illustrated by Alix Sperr, with the finds assessed by Jessica Irwin.





# Land off Longlands, Repton, Derbyshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting (hereafter 'the Client') on behalf of Miller Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land off Longlands, Repton, Derbyshire, (hereafter 'the Site') centred on National Grid Reference (NGR 431224, 326412 (**Figure 1**)). The evaluation comprised the excavation of 7 trenches measuring 35 m long by 1.8 m wide and one trench measuring 5 m by 5 m, targeting anomalies identified by a geophysical survey and 'blank' areas.
- 1.1.2 Outline planning permission (9/2013/0643) has been granted by South Derbyshire District Council for a residential development. This evaluation was designed to help fulfil condition 10 of the planning permission. The archaeological evaluation was informed by a Heritage Assessment (CgMs 2013) and geophysical survey of the Site (Northampton Archaeology 2015) which identified no significant archaeological remains but did identify several anomalies which were likely to relate to post-medieval agriculture and land use.
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by CgMs (2016) outlining how the requirements of the work would be met. The format and content of the WSI was based on current Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and Historic England guidance (ClfA 2014a-d, Historic England 2015) and was approved by the Development Control Archaeologist for Derbyshire prior to work commencing.

#### 1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site comprises 2.1ha of land located on the eastern edge of Repton, to the south of Milton Road (**Figure 1**). The Site is bounded to the west by Springfield Road and Longlands, to the south by Mount Pleasant Road and to the east by open fields.

#### 1.3 Geology

- 1.3.1 The British Geological Survey records the solid geology of the Site as Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation mudstone, with no superficial deposits recorded (<http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/>). The overlying soils belong to the Bromsgrove Association (541b) which is comprises a reddish coarse loamy soil over soft sandstone.

#### 1.4 Topography

- 1.4.1 The Site, which is currently in use as a horse paddock, is situated on a slight slope, starting in the north and sloping down to the south. The Site slopes gently down from 72 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the Site's southeast limit to 63 m AOD at its northwest limit.



## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 The following section summarises the archaeological background of the Site which was detailed in the WSI (CgMs 2016) and Heritage Assessment (CgMs 2013). No designated or undesignated heritage assets were identified within the Study Site.

### **2.2 Prehistoric/Roman**

2.2.1 To the north of Site a possible round barrow has been identified on the crest of Askew Hill. A single sherd of Roman pottery has also been recovered from Askew Hill along with a coin and votive statuette 500 m east of the Site.

2.2.2 A low or no potential for prehistoric or Romano-British archaeology was identified by the Heritage Assessment with only isolated finds recovered from the surrounding area.

### **2.3 Anglo-Saxon**

2.3.1 Two Anglo-Saxon long brooches have been found within 500 m of the Site by metal detectorists. These finds are not associated with any settlement evidence.

2.3.2 A low or nil potential for Anglo-Saxon archaeology was identified by the Heritage Statement with only isolated finds recovered from the surrounding area.

### **2.4 Medieval**

2.4.1 All medieval heritage assets are located in the historic core of Repton, situated to the northwest of the Site. Remains of a priory, aisled hall, monastic mill and tile kiln have all been identified.

2.4.2 The Site is located outside of the medieval core of Repton and there is no material evidence of earlier settlement within the immediate area of the Site.

### **2.5 Post-medieval**

2.5.1 The Site has remained undeveloped into the present day with gradual encroachment along its western extent by Repton's urban expansion.

### **2.6 Previous archaeological investigations**

2.6.1 The Site has been subject to Heritage Statement (CgMs 2013) as well as a geophysical survey of the Site and surrounding fields. (Northampton Archaeology 2013; 2015; ARS 2014a).

2.6.2 The two fields immediately to the north of the current development are have been subject to archaeological evaluation trenching (Wessex Archaeology 2015; ARS 2014b). The only features identified in these evaluation trenches related to ridge and furrow agriculture and post-medieval agricultural land use. The 2015 Wessex Archaeology evaluation also identified the concrete pad of a Second World War Pill Box.



### 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

#### 3.1 General

4.1.1 The aims and objectives of the programme of archaeological investigation were:

- *to test the geophysical survey results and establish the presence/absence of features, deposits and/or finds of archaeological interest;*
- *to provide sufficient information regarding the character, origin, date, preservation and significance of any archaeological features/deposits and/or finds to determine the need for and scope of any further works;*
- *to ensure the appropriate investigation and recording of any archaeological remains encountered;*
- *to assess the Site formation processes and the effects that these may have had on the survival and integrity of any archaeological features and deposits;*
- *to produce a Site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum if appropriate; and*
- *to provide information for the local HER to ensure the long-term survival of the data.*

### 4 METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1 General

4.1.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of 7 trenches measuring 35 m long by 1.8 m wide (Trenches 1-7) and one trench measuring 5 m by 5 m (Trench 8), targeting anomalies identified by a geophysical survey and 'blank' areas. (**Figure 1**).

4.1.2 The work was carried out in accordance with the approved WSI (CgMs 2016) and industry standards and guidelines (CIfA 2014a-d).

#### 4.2 Machine excavation

4.2.1 Topsoil was removed using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Topsoil and overburden were removed in a series of level spits down to the level of the upper archaeological horizon, or the level of the natural geology, whichever was reached first.

#### 4.3 Hand excavation

4.3.1 Archaeological features were cleaned as necessary to allow inspection and to define the extent of any archaeological features and deposits. Archaeological features were hand excavated, with care taken not to compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits, which may have been deemed suitable for preservation by record or preservation *in situ*. However, excavation was sufficient to understand and record the full stratigraphic sequence, down to naturally occurring deposits.

#### 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 – 100 mm. 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. 35 mm monochrome film equipment was available but was not required.

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 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 Typical soil profiles

- 5.2.1 The natural geological substrate (e.g. **103**) was generally described as pink clay, although there was some variation in colour across the Site, with Trenches 2 and 6 having yellowish white sand. At the northern extent of the Site the natural geological substrate was encountered at a depth of c. 0.8 m below ground level (bgl) within Trench 1. As trenching progressed towards the southern limit of the Site the depth of the natural geological substrate decreased to a maximum of 0.65 m bgl as seen within Trench 7. Due to the variation in colour of the natural geology a series of small sondages were excavated by machine to ensure the natural geological substrate had been reached.

The subsoil across the Site was an orangey brown sand with an average thickness of 0.4 m. The topsoil was a dark brown silty sand with an average thickness of 0.25 m.

### 5.3 Trenches containing archaeology

- 5.3.1 Trench 7 targeted a pair of linear anomalies at the southern end of the trench identified by the geophysical survey of the Site. Within Trench 7 three southeast to northwest aligned furrows were identified within the base of the trench (**Figure 2, Plates 9-11**). The furrows varied in width between 0.89 m and 1.5 m and were spaced c. 9 m apart. Two of the furrows were excavated (**703** and **705**) to depths of between 0.12 m and 0.31 m. One piece of post-medieval pot was recovered from the fill of furrow **703**. Located 3 m north of furrow **703** and 1 m south of furrow **705** was an irregular spread of silty sand. This spread of material was very thin and likely to represent an area of bioturbation, possibly associated with a former hedge line.
- 5.3.2 Trench 2 targeted an area of high magnetic response identified in the geophysical survey. Within **Trench 2** concrete rubble was identified within the topsoil within the western half of the trench.
- 5.3.3 Trench 8 targeted a discrete anomaly of high magnetic response identified in the geophysical survey. Trench 8 identified a modern rubbish pit measuring 1.5 m in width and 0.85 m in depth (**Figure 3, Plate 12**). The pit was located immediately beneath the exiting turf and contained modern beer cans at its upper level and plastic bags at its base. The pit was clearly very modern in origin and as such was removed by machine to the geological horizon.

### 5.4 Blank trenches

- 5.4.1 No archaeological features were identified within Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6. The geophysical anomalies identified prior to excavation are likely to result from modern waste



within the topsoil as seen within Trench 2 and variations within the natural clay/sand geology recorded across the Site.

## **6 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL**

### **6.1 General**

6.1.1 A piece of post-medieval pot was recovered from the Site. No environmental samples were taken.

### **6.1.2 Finds**

6.1.3 The only find recovered was a small body sherd of post-medieval Midlands Purple Ware pottery from furrow fill **704**. This can be dated to within the 15-17th centuries.

6.1.4 Given the paucity of finds, retention for long-term curation is not recommended, and the find will be discarded prior to archive deposition.

## **7 DISCUSSION**

### **7.1 Summary**

7.1.1 The evaluation identified the remains of post-medieval ridge and furrow within Trench 7. A twentieth century rubbish pit was identified within Trench 8. These features correspond well to the post-medieval agricultural landscape suggested by the geophysical survey of the Site.

7.1.2 Within Trench 2, an area of concrete rubble was identified mixed in with the topsoil and represents the remains of a footing, probably associated with a twentieth century feeding trough for animals housed in the field. The remaining five trenches within the current phase of archaeological evaluation were all blank.

### **7.2 Conclusion**

7.2.1 The only identified features within the development area relate to post-medieval agricultural land use and dumping of waste material. No other archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified, confirming that the Site lay at some distance from the medieval/post-medieval core of Repton. No phases of earlier settlement were identified. The results of the current evaluation correspond well with the previous phases of evaluation trenching in the fields to the north, which also identified ridge and furrow agriculture and post-medieval land use.

## **8 STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **8.1 HER**

8.1.1 The archive will comprise the Site report in both hard and digital format (PDF/A) and will be deposited with Derby Historic Environment Record (HER) by the end of April 2016. An



OASIS form including uploading of this project report will be also be submitted by the end of April 2016.

8.1.2 The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code 107861.

## **8.2 Discard policy**

8.2.1 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.

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

## **8.3 Security copy**

8.3.1 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.



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## **9.2 Online sources**

British Geological Survey, 2016. (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>)





## 10 APPENDICES

### 10.1 Appendix 1: Context descriptions

Trench 1 Measuring 35m by 1.8m		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
100	<b>Topsoil:</b> Brown silty sand.	0–0.20
101	<b>Subsoil:</b> Orangey brown sand.	0.20-0.65
102	<b>Natural:</b> Pink clay, rare patches of white.	0.65+

Trench 2 Measuring 35m by 1.8m		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
200	<b>Topsoil:</b> Brown, silty sand.	0-0.25
201	<b>Subsoil:</b> Light brown sand.	0.25-0.80
202	<b>Natural:</b> Yellowishwhite sand.	0.80+

Trench 3 Measuring 35m by 1.8m		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
300	<b>Topsoil:</b> Brown silty sand.	0-0.30
301	<b>Subsoil:</b> Orange brown sand.	0.30-0.70
302	<b>Natural:</b> Pink clay.	0.70-80+

Trench 4 Measuring 35m by 1.8m		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
400	<b>Topsoil:</b> Blackish brown silty sand.	0-0.25
401	<b>Subsoil:</b> Light brown silty sand.	0.25-0.65
402	<b>Natural:</b> Pink clay.	0.65-80+

Trench 5 Measuring 35m by 1.8m		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
500	<b>Topsoil:</b> Blackish brown silty sand.	0-0.35
501	<b>Subsoil:</b> Light brown sand.	0.35-0.60
502	<b>Natural:</b> Pink clay with patches of yellowish white sand.	0.60-0.75+



<b>Trench 6</b>		
<b>Measuring 35m by 1.8m</b>		
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m BGL)</b>
600	<b>Topsoil:</b> Brown sand.	0-0.30
601	<b>Natural:</b> Yellowish white sand.	0.30-0.55+
602	<b>Natural:</b> Pink clay.	0.30-0.55+

<b>Trench 7</b>		
<b>Measuring 35m by 1.8m</b>		
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m BGL)</b>
700	<b>Topsoil:</b> Blackish brown silty sand.	0-0.30
701	<b>Subsoil:</b> Light brown sand.	0.30-0.55
702	<b>Natural:</b> Yellowish brown sand with abundant small – medium well rounded stones.	0.55-0.65+
703	<b>Cut:</b> Furrow.	0.65-0.86
704	<b>Fill:</b> Secondary fill of [703].	0.65-0.86
705	<b>Cut:</b> Furrow.	0.65-0.68
706	<b>Fill:</b> Secondary fill of [705].	0.65-0.68
707	<b>Natural:</b> Pink clay in north of trench.	0.55-0.65+

<b>Trench 8</b>		
<b>Measuring 5m by 5m</b>		
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m BGL)</b>
800	<b>Topsoil:</b> Brownish black clay silt.	0-0.35
801	<b>Subsoil:</b> Orangey brown clay sand.	0.35-0.65
802	<b>Natural:</b> Pink clay.	0.65-1.20
803	<b>Natural:</b> Pink sandy clay with patches of yellowish white sand.	1.20+
804	<b>Cut:</b> Modern pit containing plastic bags and beer cans	0.35-1.20+



## 10.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form

### OASIS ID: wessexar1-243068

#### Project details

Project name	Land off Longlands, Repton, Derbyshire.
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Miller Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land off Longlands, Repton, Derbyshire. The site had been subject to a desk-based Assessment and a geophysical survey. The geophysical survey identified a limited number of archaeological anomalies, the bulk of which were assumed to relate to post-medieval agriculture and land use. The evaluation comprised the excavation of 7 trenches measuring 35 m long by 1.8 m wide and one trench measuring 5 m by 5 m, targeting anomalies identified by a geophysical survey and 'blank' areas. The evaluation identified the remains of post-medieval ridge and furrow within Trench 7. A twentieth century rubbish pit was identified within Trench 8. The remaining six trenches within the current phase of archaeological evaluation were all archaeologically blank. Within Trench 2, an area of concrete rubble was identified mixed in with the topsoil and represents the remains of a footing, probably associated with a twentieth century feeding trough for animals housed in the field. The only identified features within the development area relate to post-medieval agricultural land use and dumping of waste material. No other archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified, confirming that the site lay at some distance from the medieval/post-medieval core of Repton. No phases of earlier settlement were identified. The results of the current evaluation correspond well with the previous phases of evaluation trenching in the fields to the north, which also identified ridge and furrow agriculture and post-medieval land use.</p>
Project dates	Start: 15-02-2016 End: 17-02-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	107861 – Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	9/2013/0643 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	wessexar1-203538 – Oasis ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	RIDGE AND FURROW Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches"", ""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application



### Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE SOUTH DERBYSHIRE REPTON Land off Longlands, Repton, Derbyshire
Postcode	DE65 6GQ
Study area	2.1 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 31224 26412 52.833993332835 -1.53646637568 52 50 02 N 001 32 11 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 63m Max: 72m

### 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	Jonathan Buttery
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Miller Homes

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Derbshire HER
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land off Longlands, Repton, Derbyshire Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Buttery, J



Author(s)/Editor(s)	Swales, C
Other bibliographic details	107861
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Sheffield
Description	A4 Comb bound report
<hr/>	
Entered by	Jessica Tibber (j.tibber@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	15 March 2016



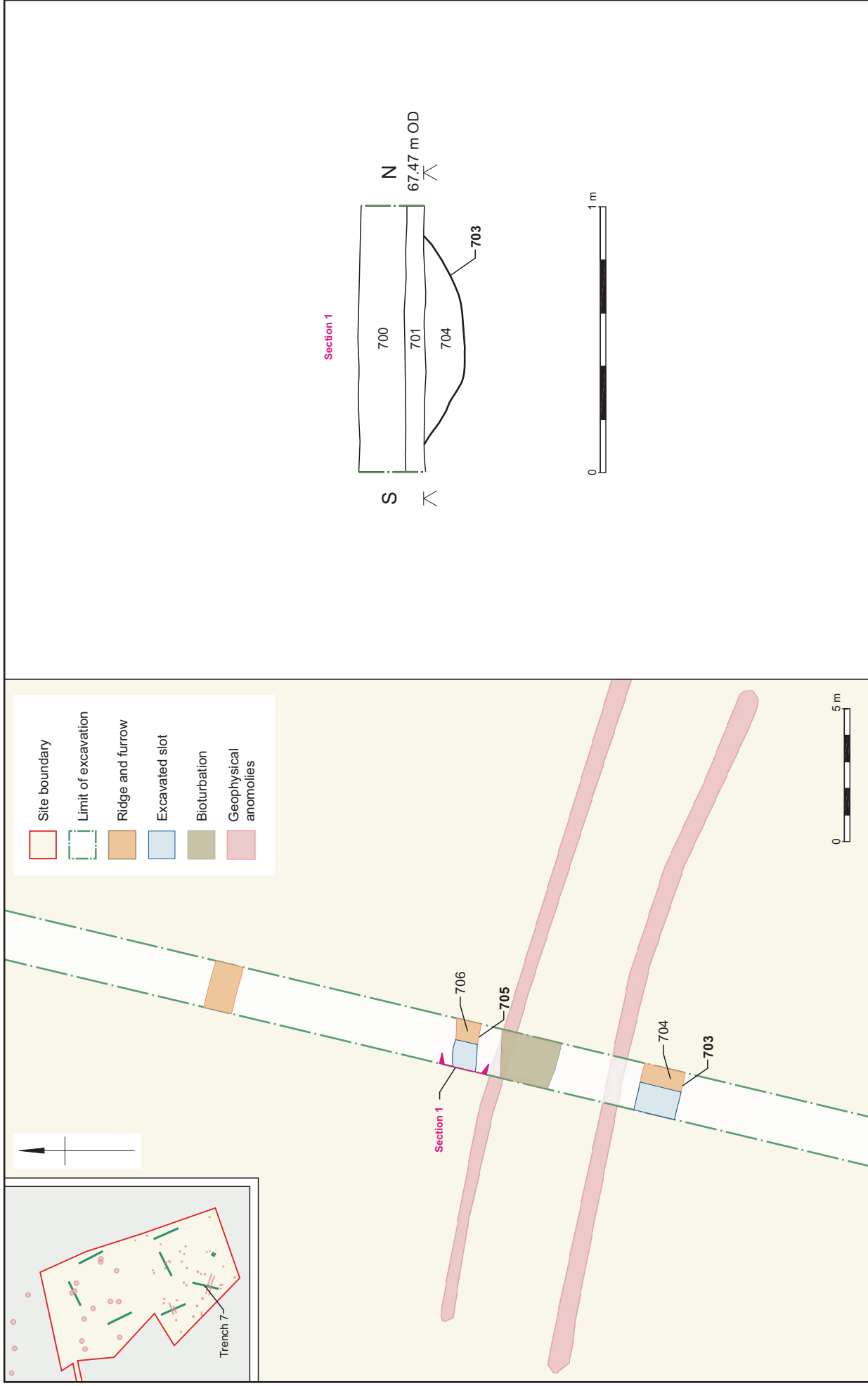
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Site location

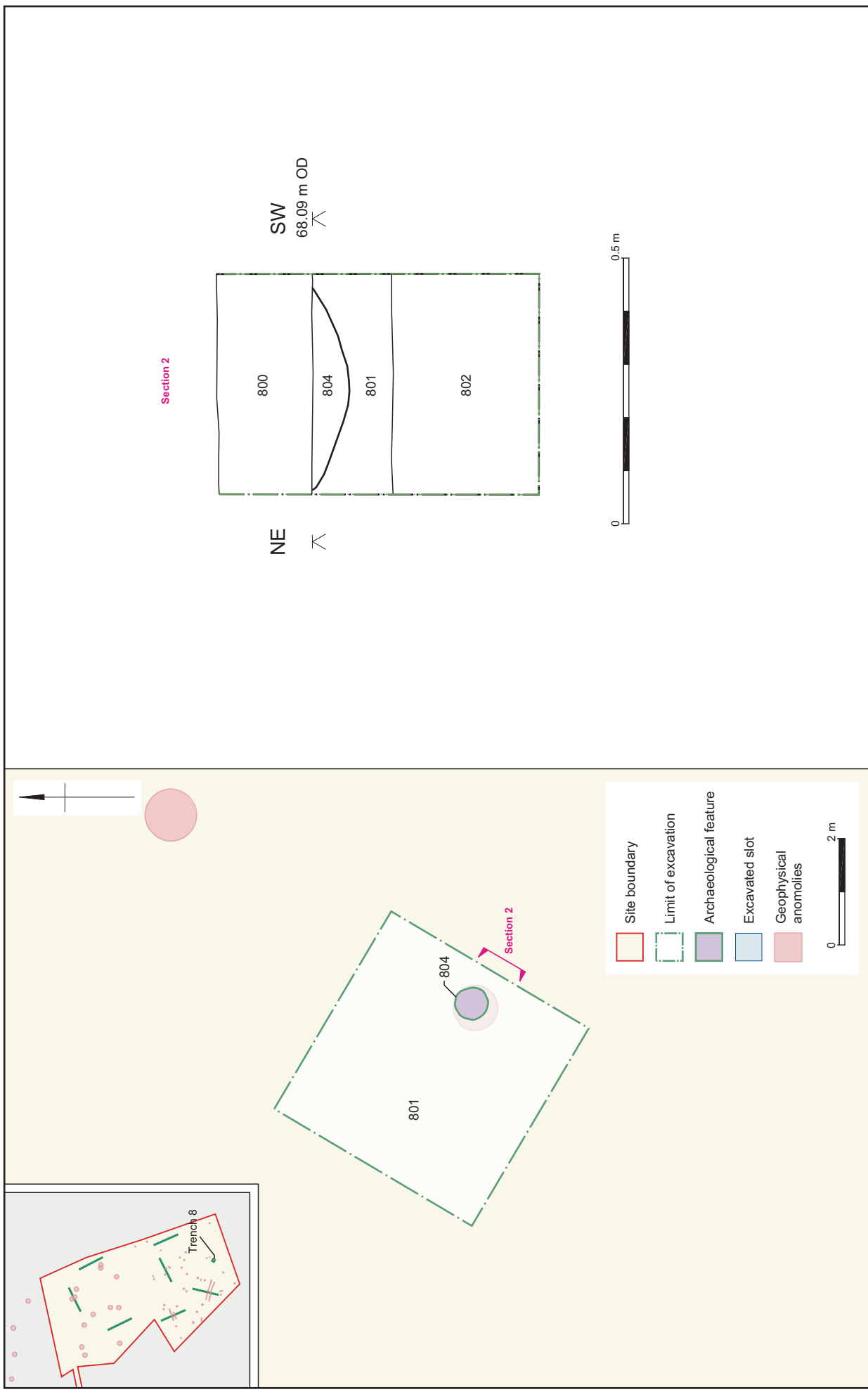
Figure 1




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Plan of trench 7 and section of furrow 703

Figure 2



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Plan of trench 8 and section of pit 804

Figure 3





Plate 1: General shot of Trench 1, facing north-east



Plate 2: General shot of Trench 2, facing south-east


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Plate 3: General shot of Trench 3, facing south-east



Plate 4: General shot of Trench 4, facing south-east


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Plate 5: General shot of Trench 5, facing north-east



Plate 6: General shot of Trench 6, facing north-west


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Plate 7: General shot of Trench 7, facing south



Plate 8: General shot of Trench 8, north-west facing section


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Plate 9: Detailed shot of furrow 703



Plate 10: Detailed shot of furrow 705



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Plate 11: Detailed shot of furrows in Trench 7



Plate 12: Detailed shot showing modern pit 804 in Trench 8

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