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Land to the North of Bath Road Corsham, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Ref: 113080.03
May 2016

wessexarchaeology

Land to the north of Bath Road, Corsham, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Redrow Homes Ltd (South West) to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land north of Bath Road, Corsham – National Grid Reference (NGR) 385807 170613.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of twenty trenches targeted on anomalies identified by a previous geophysical survey, and to test 'blank' areas. These trenches revealed a number of small linear features of uncertain date, probably associated with land drainage, and one small pit the fill of which contained pottery possibly dating to the earlier Neolithic.

The fieldwork was undertaken between 25th April and 5th May 2016.

Land to the north of Bath Road, Corsham Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Redrow Homes Ltd (South West) and monitored by Steven Weaver (CgMs), and by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger on behalf of Wiltshire County Council.

Fieldwork was carried out by Sam Fairhead with the assistance of Liam Powell, Wojciech Mach, Sebastien Schukelt and Matt Parks. The report was compiled by Sam Fairhead with illustrations by Elizabeth James. Finds were assessed by Lorraine Mepham. Environmental samples were processed by Tony Scothern and Nathaniel Welsby, and assessed by Inés López-Dóriga.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Bruce Eaton.

Land to the north of Bath Road, Corsham Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by CgMs (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land north of Bath Road, Corsham – National Grid Reference (NRG) 385807 170613 (hereafter 'the Site').

1.1.2 An outline Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by the Client on behalf of Redrow Homes Limited (South West) in accordance with Condition 15 attached to the outline planning permission (App Ref. 13/05188/OUT).

1.1.3 The Site had been subject to an archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (CgMs 2013). This document identified a low potential for archaeological assets.

1.1.4 A geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014) was undertaken within the Site. This survey identified former field boundaries and areas of ridge and furrow cultivation. A number of pit-like features of possible archaeological origin were also identified; however, it was noted that these may also be natural features.

1.1.5 Discussions were held between the Client and Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, Wiltshire County Archaeologist (WCA), and a programme of archaeological work, comprising evaluation trenching, was agreed upon in order to test the results of the geophysical survey and further evaluate the archaeological potential of the Site.

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site comprised an arable field adjacent to the northwestern urban extent of Corsham, Wiltshire, centred on NGR 385807 170613. The Site was bounded to the south by Bath Road (A4), to the east by residential properties and to the north by agricultural land. The western boundary consisted of Guyers Lane and a driveway leading to Guyers House. The Site was broadly level at 113m aOD.

1.2.2 The underlying geology consisted of mudstone of the Forest Marble Formation.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following is summarised from the DBA (CgMs 2013).

Prehistoric

2.1.2 A small number of Mesolithic worked flints were recovered as surface finds within Hartham Park, c. 700m north of the Site, and a single posthole feature containing pottery

sherds and part of a saddle quern of Iron Age date was recorded by evaluation on land at Pockeridge Farm, c.745m to the south of the Site.

Roman

2.1.3 A focus of Romano-British settlement was recorded to the east of Hudswell and at Pockeridge Farm approximately 745m south of the Site, represented by ditches, gullies and pits containing substantial quantities of Roman pottery, glass and animal bone, and a stone coffin containing human remains found in close association with sherds of Samian ware and a coin of Julian II (355-363 AD).

Saxon/Medieval

2.1.4 Records for this period are restricted to documentary and place-name evidence only. Corsham is documented in the Domesday Book of 1086 as 'Cosseha' and the area is thought to have formed part of a royal estate during the Saxon period. A former deer park identified c.480m south of the Site is recorded in 1300 as belonging to the Earl of Cornwall, and a charter of 1285 granted a market to Corsham that was situated at the western end of Church Street. Overall, Domesday broadly describes Corsham as a fairly large and populous royal estate, and expansion through the Medieval period is likely to have been influenced by its involvement in the flourishing wool trade.

2.1.5 The Site appears to have formed either part of agricultural land surrounding settlements established at Pickwick, Hartham and Corsham, or part of associated woodlands or waste.

Post-medieval and Modern

2.1.6 The earliest map showing details of the Site is Andrew's and Dury (1773) and shows the Site as open land. Later maps show similar land use, with varying levels of enclosure. The 1886 Ordnance Survey (OS) map shows the addition of stands of trees and a new access road to Guyers House, the Site is shown as part of the Hartham Park estate, possibly forming part of its parklands.

2.1.7 The 1970 OS map indicates the removal of some internal field boundaries and marks the location of an air shaft related to quarry tunnels excavated under the western part of the Site as part of the Copenacre quarry which was owned and developed by Marsh Son and Gibbs in the latter half of the 19th century. This shaft is still present on the Site.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological field evaluation were to:

- *Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be impacted by development;*
- *Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character and condition of any surviving remains within the Site;*
- *Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits;*

- *Produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential and mitigation if appropriate.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out within the WSI (CgMs 2016) and in compliance with the standards outlined in the CIfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

3.2.2 The programme comprised the excavation of 20 trenches, each measuring 50m x 1.8m. The trenches are targeted on geophysical anomalies, and to test 'blank' areas. (**Figure 1**)

3.2.3 All trenches were laid out using GPS/TST in general accordance with the pattern given in **Figure 1**. Minor adjustments to the layout were required to avoid interference with a public right of way, Trench 14 was split into two 25m sections for the same reason. The trench locations were tied in to the Ordnance Survey.

3.2.4 The trial trenches were excavated using a 360º tracked excavator equipped with a toothless bucket and under constant supervision by WA. Machine excavation was undertaken under the instruction of the monitoring archaeologist and proceeded in spits, halting at the uppermost archaeological horizon or the natural geological deposits, whichever was reached first. Where required, hand cleaning was undertaken to establish the nature of the deposits.

3.2.5 Once trenches were completed to the satisfaction of the Client and the WCA they were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate order in which they were excavated by WA and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

3.2.6 Once the level of archaeological deposits had been exposed by machine, archaeological features were sampled sufficiently to address the aims of the evaluation, and recorded to professionally accepted standards.

3.3 Monitoring

3.3.1 A monitoring visit was undertaken by Steven Weaver on behalf of CgMs. The Client and WCA were kept updated throughout the project via phone calls and email.

3.4 Recording

3.4.1 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using WA's *pro forma* recording system.

3.4.2 A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This included both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels will be calculated and plans/sections will be annotated with OD heights.

3.4.3 A photographic record was maintained during the evaluation using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images were 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.

3.5 Specialist strategies

Artefact

3.5.1 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date. Excavated spoil was visually scanned for artefacts. Trench areas and spoil heaps from excavation were examined.

3.5.2 All retained artefacts were, as a minimum, collected, processed, sorted, quantified, recorded, labelled, packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of the agreed repository. The treatment of artefacts and environmental samples was in accordance with the CIfA's *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

3.5.3 All artefacts recovered during the excavations on the Site are the property of the landowner. They are to be suitably bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, *Conservation Guidelines no. 2* (1983).

Environmental

3.5.4 Environmental sampling was undertaken in accordance with. WA's *Guidelines for Environmental Sampling* along with policies outlined in the CIfA's Standard and Guidance documents and *Environmental Archaeology; A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition)* (English Heritage 2011).

3.5.5 The residues and sieved fractions of the bulk environmental soil samples will be recorded and retained with the project archive.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following sections provide a summary of the information held in the Site archive. Details of individually excavated contexts are retained in the Site archive and a tabulated version of these can be found in **Appendix 1**.

4.1.2 The following result section should be read in conjunction with the context descriptions in **Appendix 1**.

4.1.3 Archaeological features were revealed in six of the twenty trenches, the majority of these features consisting of gullies and small drainage ditches. A single small pit produced dateable material (**Figure 1**).

4.2 Summary

4.2.1 The natural geological deposits typically consisted of a mid yellowish-brown clayey sand with occasional mudstone outcrops and darker reddish brown patches, except in the eastern extreme of the Site where a light grey silty clay was present. Variations in the geological deposits are likely to account for the pit-like anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. Natural geology was typically encountered between 0.5m and 0.6m below ground level (bgl).

4.2.2 Overlying the natural geology was a mid brown sandy silt subsoil with moderate course gravel and rare small to medium cobble inclusions. The subsoil was typically 0.3m-0.4m thick, except in the eastern extreme of the Site where no subsoil was present. The

existing topsoil was a mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate course gravel and small cobble inclusions, typically 0.2m thick.

4.3 Neolithic

4.3.1 A single pit, **504**, was revealed at the southeastern end of Trench 5, protruding from the southwestern trench section. A slight extension to the trench revealed the full extent of **504**. The pit was 0.76m in diameter and 0.23m deep, filled by a single mid grey silty deposit containing rare charcoal flecking and several sherds of abraded pottery of possible Neolithic date (**Figure 2, Plate 1**). No associated or similar features were revealed.

4.4 Features of uncertain date

4.4.1 The remaining features consisted of a series of gullies and ditches spread between Trenches 3, 4, 6, 7 and 10.

4.4.2 The largest of these, **706**, ran northwest/southeast across the western end of Trench 7, and measured 1.3m in width and 0.3m in depth with a shallow U-shaped profile. This feature continued on the same alignment in Trench 6 as **604** with a similar depth and profile, but having narrowed slightly to 1.05m.

4.4.3 A similar ditch, **404**, was revealed running approximately north/south across Trench 4 was 1.18m wide and 0.33m deep (**Figure 3, Plate 2**).

4.4.4 The remaining features consisted of shallow gullies no deeper than 0.2m and averaging 0.5m in width (**Plate 3**).

4.4.5 None of the linear features produced any finds, and all were filled with almost identical mid brown sandy silt deposits, largely derived from erosion of the feature edges.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Finds were recovered from a single context, and comprise 13 sherds of pottery (weighing 22 grammes) and a small worked flint flake.

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 The pottery sherds, which are very heavily abraded, are all in a relatively soft fabric with a soapy texture, containing voids, which probably represent leached out fossil shell. Three sherds conjoining to form part of a rim, and it is possible that some or all of the other sherds also belong to the same vessel. The rim is slightly expanded externally, and although the overall form is unknown, the orientation of the rim suggests a vessel with an open or neutral profile. A tentative identification as earlier Neolithic is proposed, and on the basis of the rim form seems most likely, but a date later in the prehistoric period cannot be entirely ruled out.

5.3 Worked flint

5.3.1 The flint flake is not chronologically distinctive within the prehistoric period.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A bulk sample was taken from an undated feature and was processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal.

6.2 Background and summary quantification

6.2.1 The bulk sample was processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residue fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flot was scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in Table XXX. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

Table 1: Assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal

Area	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Roots %	Uncharred	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Charcoal
Tr. 7	Ditch terminus	704	705	1	16	100	1%	Yes	C	*Euphorbia helioscopia*	40 ml	Mature

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5

6.3 Charred plant remains

6.3.1 The flot was large and there were low numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement. Charred material was well preserved and limited to a single seed of *Euphorbia helioscopia*, a plant typically growing in disturbed grounds and arable fields in well-drained soils.

6.4 Charcoal

6.4.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flot of the bulk sample and is recorded in Table XX.

7 FURTHER POTENTIAL

Charred plant remains

7.1.1 The analysis of the charred plant assemblages from the current sample has little potential, no further work is proposed.

Wood charcoal

7.1.2 The analysis of the wood charcoal fragments from the current sample has little potential, no further work is proposed.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

8.1.1 The evaluation revealed one small pit containing pottery possibly dating to the earlier Neolithic, and a series of small ditches and gullies of uncertain date.

8.2 Conclusions

8.2.1 A relatively large quantity of pottery was recovered from pit **504** (especially for an earlier Neolithic feature), given its size and level of truncation, though not enough to suggest use as a rubbish pit, nor was there any evidence indicating remains of a cremation or other ritual activity. Whilst the purpose of this feature remains unclear, and no similar features were revealed by the evaluation, its presence and the finds produced do suggest at least sporadic Neolithic activity within the Site.

8.2.2 The linear features observed elsewhere on the site are likely to be much later, and probably relate to drainage associated with the Sites use as parkland during the post-medieval period.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive will be deposited with the appropriate museum, as specified by the WCA to the Client.

9.1.2 Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

9.2 Archive

9.2.1 The complete site archive, which includes paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the local museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

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

9.2.3 The archive of all records and finds will be consistent with the principles of *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2015).

9.3 Storage

9.3.1 The Site archive is currently stored at Wessex Archaeology's Bristol office, and will be deposited with the appropriate museum in due course.

9.4 Discard policy

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

9.4.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2011).

9.5 Copyright

9.5.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by WA Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved. The 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.

9.6 Security Copy

9.6.1 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

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11 APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1: Context descriptions

Trench 1	Dimensions: 50mx1.8mx0.58m			
Context	**Description**		**Dimensions (m)**	**Depth below surface (m)**
101	layer	Topsoil, mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate course gravel and small cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0-0.23
102	layer	Subsoil, mid brown sandy silt with moderate course gravel and rare small to medium cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0.23-0.58
103	layer	Natural, mid yellowish-brown clayey sand with occasional mudstone outcrops and darker reddish brown patches	Whole trench	0.58+

Trench 2	Dimensions: 50mx1.8mx0.58m			
Context	**Description**		**Dimensions (m)**	**Depth below surface (m)**
201	layer	Topsoil, mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate course gravel and small cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0-0.23
202	layer	Subsoil, mid brown sandy silt with moderate course gravel and rare small to medium cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0.23-0.53
203	layer	Natural, mid yellowish-brown clayey sand with occasional mudstone outcrops and darker reddish brown patches	Whole trench	0.53+

Trench 3	Dimensions: 50mx1.8mx0.56m			
Context	**Description**		**Dimensions (m)**	**Depth below surface (m)**
301	layer	Topsoil, mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate course gravel and small cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0-0.25
302	layer	Subsoil, mid brown sandy silt with moderate course gravel and rare small to medium cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0.25-0.45
303	layer	Natural, mid yellowish-brown clayey sand with occasional mudstone outcrops and darker reddish brown patches	Whole trench	0.45+
304	cut	Northwest/southeast gully	L 2m + W 0.9 D 0.12	
305	fill	Secondary fill, mid yellowish-brown sandy silt, no inclusions	L 2m + W 0.9 D 0.12	

Trench 4	Dimensions: 50mx1.8mx0.57m			
Context	**Description**		**Dimensions (m)**	**Depth below surface (m)**
401	layer	Topsoil, mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate course gravel and small cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0-0.22
402	layer	Subsoil, mid brown sandy silt with moderate course gravel and rare small to medium cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0.22-0.57
403	layer	Natural, mid yellowish-brown clayey sand with occasional mudstone outcrops and darker reddish brown patches	Whole trench	0.57+
404	cut	Northwest/southeast ditch, shallow U-shaped profile	L 2 + W 1.17 D 0.33	
405	fill	Secondary fill, mid brownish-red sandy silt, very rare fine gravel	L 1 + W 1.17 D 0.25	
406	fill	Primary fill, mid brownish-red sandy silt, yellowish mottling, very rare fine gravel	L 1 + W 0.83 D 0.14	

Trench 5	**Dimensions: 50mx1.8mx0.7**			
Context	**Description**		**Dimensions (m)**	**Depth below surface (m)**
501	layer	Topsoil, mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate course gravel and small cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0-0.3
502	layer	Subsoil, mid brown sandy silt with moderate course gravel and rare small to medium cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0.3-0.7
503	layer	Natural, mid yellowish-brown clayey sand with occasional mudstone outcrops and darker reddish brown patches	Whole trench	0.7+
504	cut	Small, circular pit containing abraded pottery	Di 0.76 D 0.23	
505	fill	Secondary fill, mid greyish-brown silty sand, rare charcoal flecking	Di 0.76 D 0.23	

Trench 6	**Dimensions: 50mx1.8mx0.54**			
Context	**Description**		**Dimensions (m)**	**Depth below surface (m)**
601	layer	Topsoil, mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate course gravel and small cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0-0.2
602	layer	Subsoil, mid brown sandy silt with moderate course gravel and rare small to medium cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0.2-0.54
603	layer	Natural, mid yellowish-brown clayey sand with occasional mudstone outcrops and darker reddish brown patches	Whole trench	0.54+
604	cut	Northwest/southeast ditch, shallow U-shaped profile	L 2+ W 1.05 D 0.3	
605	fill	Secondary fill, mid brownish-red sandy silt, very rare charcoal flecking	L 2+ W 1.05 D 0.3	
606	cut	Northeast/southwest gully	L 2+ W 0.56 D 0.11	
607	fill	Secondary fill, mid brown sandy silt, very rare charcoal flecking	L 2+ W 0.56 D 0.11	
608	cut	Northwest/southeast gully	L 2+ W 0.33 D 0.13	
609	fill	Secondary fill, mid brown sandy silt, very rare charcoal flecking	L 2+ W 0.33 D 0.13	

Trench 7	**Dimensions: 50mx1.8mx0.5m**			
Context	**Description**		**Dimensions (m)**	**Depth below surface (m)**
701	layer	Topsoil, mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate course gravel and small cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0-0.18
702	layer	Subsoil, mid brown sandy silt with moderate course gravel and rare small to medium cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0.18-0.5
703	layer	Natural, mid yellowish-brown clayey sand with occasional mudstone outcrops and darker reddish brown patches	Whole trench	0.5+
704	cut	Terminus of east/west gully	L 1.2+ W 0.64 D 0.21	
705	fill	Secondary fill, mid greyish-brown silty sand, common charcoal	L 1.2+ W 0.64 D 0.21	
706	cut	Northwest/southeast ditch, continuation of 604, shallow U-shaped profile	L 2+ W 1.3 D 0.3	
707	fill	Secondary fill, mid greyish-brown silty sand, rare fine gravel inclusions	L 2+ W 1.3 D 0.3	

Trench 8	**Dimensions: 50mx1.8mx0.53m**			
Context	**Description**		**Dimensions (m)**	**Depth below surface (m)**
801	layer	Topsoil, mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate course gravel and small cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0-0.22
802	layer	Subsoil, mid brown sandy silt with moderate course gravel and rare small to medium cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0.22-0.53
803	layer	Natural, mid yellowish-brown clayey sand with occasional mudstone outcrops and darker reddish brown patches	Whole trench	0.53+

Trench 9	**Dimensions: 50mx1.8mx0.64**			
Context	**Description**		**Dimensions (m)**	**Depth below surface (m)**
901	layer	Topsoil, mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate course gravel and small cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0-0.2
902	layer	Subsoil, mid brown sandy silt with moderate course gravel and rare small to medium cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0.2-0.64
903	layer	Natural, mid yellowish-brown clayey sand with occasional mudstone outcrops and darker reddish brown patches	Whole trench	0.64+

Trench 10	**Dimensions: 50mx1.8mx0.52**			
Context	**Description**		**Dimensions (m)**	**Depth below surface (m)**
1001	layer	Topsoil, mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate course gravel and small cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0-0.24
1002	layer	Subsoil, mid brown sandy silt with moderate course gravel and rare small to medium cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0.24-0.52
1003	layer	Natural, mid yellowish-brown clayey sand with occasional mudstone outcrops and darker reddish brown patches	Whole trench	0.52+
1004	cut	East/west gully	L 2+ W 0.5 D 0.11	
1005	fill	Secondary fill, mid reddish-brown sandy silt	L 2+ W 0.5 D 0.11	

Trench 11	**Dimensions: 50mx1.8mx0.65**			
Context	**Description**		**Dimensions (m)**	**Depth below surface (m)**
1101	layer	Topsoil, mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate course gravel and small cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0-0.25
1102	layer	Subsoil, mid brown sandy silt with moderate course gravel and rare small to medium cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0.25-0.65
1103	layer	Natural, mid yellowish-brown clayey sand with occasional mudstone outcrops and darker reddish brown patches	Whole trench	0.65+

Trench 12	**Dimensions: 50mx1.8mx0.49m**			
Context	**Description**		**Dimensions (m)**	**Depth below surface (m)**
1201	layer	Topsoil, mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate course gravel and small cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0-0.19
1202	layer	Subsoil, mid brown sandy silt with moderate course gravel and rare small to medium cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0.19-0.49
1203	layer	Natural, mid yellowish-brown clayey sand with occasional mudstone outcrops and darker reddish brown patches	Whole trench	0.49+

Trench 13	**Dimensions: 50mx1.8mx0.5m**			
Context	**Description**		**Dimensions (m)**	**Depth below surface (m)**
1301	layer	Topsoil, mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate course gravel and small cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0-0.18
1302	layer	Subsoil, mid brown sandy silt with moderate course gravel and rare small to medium cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0.18-0.5
1303	layer	Natural, mid yellowish-brown clayey sand with occasional mudstone outcrops and darker reddish brown patches	Whole trench	0.5+

Trench 14	**Dimensions: 50mx1.8mx0.6m (split into two 25m sections)**			
Context	**Description**		**Dimensions (m)**	**Depth below surface (m)**
1401	layer	Topsoil, mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate course gravel and small cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0-0.24
1402	layer	Subsoil, mid brown sandy silt with moderate course gravel and rare small to medium cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0.24-0.6
1403	layer	Natural, mid yellowish-brown clayey sand with occasional mudstone outcrops and darker reddish brown patches	Whole trench	0.6+

Trench 15	**Dimensions: 50mx1.8mx0.44m**			
Context	**Description**		**Dimensions (m)**	**Depth below surface (m)**
1501	layer	Topsoil, mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate course gravel and small cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0-0.25
1502	layer	Subsoil, mid brown sandy silt with moderate course gravel and rare small to medium cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0.25-0.44
1503	layer	Natural, mid yellowish-brown clayey sand with occasional mudstone outcrops and darker reddish brown patches	Whole trench	0.44+

Trench 16	**Dimensions: 50mx1.8mx0.4m**			
Context	**Description**		**Dimensions (m)**	**Depth below surface (m)**
1601	layer	Topsoil, mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate course gravel and small cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0-0.22
1602	layer	Subsoil, mid brown sandy silt with moderate course gravel and rare small to medium cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0.22-0.4
1603	layer	Natural, mid yellowish-brown clayey sand with occasional mudstone outcrops and darker reddish brown patches	Whole trench	0.4+

Trench 17	**Dimensions: 50mx1.8mx0.35m**			
Context	**Description**		**Dimensions (m)**	**Depth below surface (m)**
1701	layer	Topsoil, mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate course gravel and small cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0-0.15
1702	layer	Subsoil, mid brownish-grey silty clay	Whole trench	0.15-0.25
1703	layer	Natural, light grey silty clay	Whole trench	0.25+

Trench 18	**Dimensions: 50mx1.8mx0.23m**			
Context	**Description**		**Dimensions (m)**	**Depth below surface (m)**
1801	layer	Topsoil, mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate course gravel and small cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0-0.18
1802	layer	Interface between topsoil and natural	Whole trench	0.18-0.23
1803	layer	Natural, light grey silty clay	Whole trench	0.23+

Trench 19	**Dimensions: 50mx1.8mx0.27m**			
Context	**Description**		**Dimensions (m)**	**Depth below surface (m)**
1901	layer	Topsoil, mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate course gravel and small cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0-0.2
1902	layer	Interface between topsoil and natural	Whole trench	0.2-0.27
1903	layer	Natural, light grey silty clay	Whole trench	0.27+

Trench 20	**Dimensions: 50mx1.8mx0.4m**			
Context	**Description**		**Dimensions (m)**	**Depth below surface (m)**
2001	layer	Topsoil, mid greyish-brown silty loam with moderate course gravel and small cobble inclusions	Whole trench	0-0.24
2002	layer	Interface between topsoil and natural	Whole trench	0.24-0.4
2003	layer	Natural, light grey silty clay	Whole trench	0.4+

11.2 Oasis form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-252293

Project details

Project name	Bath Road, Corsham
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Redrow Homes Ltd (South West) to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land north of Bath Road, Corsham - National Grid Reference (NGR) 385807 170613. The evaluation comprised the excavation of twenty trenches targeted on anomalies identified by a previous geophysical survey, and to test 'blank' areas. These trenches revealed a number of small linear features of uncertain date, probably associated with land drainage, and one small pit the fill of which contained pottery possibly dating to the earlier Neolithic. The fieldwork was undertaken between 25th April and 5th May 2016.
Project dates	Start: 25-04-2016 End: 05-05-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	113080 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	PIT Early Neolithic
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Neolithic
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE NORTH WILTSHIRE CORSHAM Bath Road, Corsham
Study area	9 Hectares
Site coordinates	ST 85807 70613 51.433848154248 -2.204196792584 51 26 01 N 002 12 15 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Wiltshire Council
Project design	CgMS Consulting Ltd

originator	
Project director/manager	Bruce Eaton
Project supervisor	Sam Fairhead
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultant
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land to the north of Bath Road, Corsham: Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Fairhead, S./Eaton, B.
Date	2016

Entered by	Bruce Eaton (b.eaton@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	20 May 2016

385600 385700 385800 385900 386000 387000

170800 170700 170600 170500 170400

Guyer's House

Tr 1 Modern features Made ground Water pipe

Tr 2 Tr 3 304 Tr 4 404 Tr 5 504 Tr 6 Geotechnical pit 604 606 608 Tr 7 706 704 Tr 8 Tr 9 1104 Tr 10 Tr 11 Tr 12 Tr 13 Tr 14 Tr 15 Tr 16 Tr 17 Tr 18 Tr 19 Tr 20

GUYERS LANE

BATH ROAD

A4

B3109

CHESTNUT G

PURLEIG

PW

0 100 m

386000

171000

Site

Corsham

Site boundary

Evaluation trench

Archaeological feature

Modern feature/utilities

Supplied by CGMS.

Date:	09/05/2016
Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:25,000 and 1:2000 at A3
Illustrator:	KMN\SEJ
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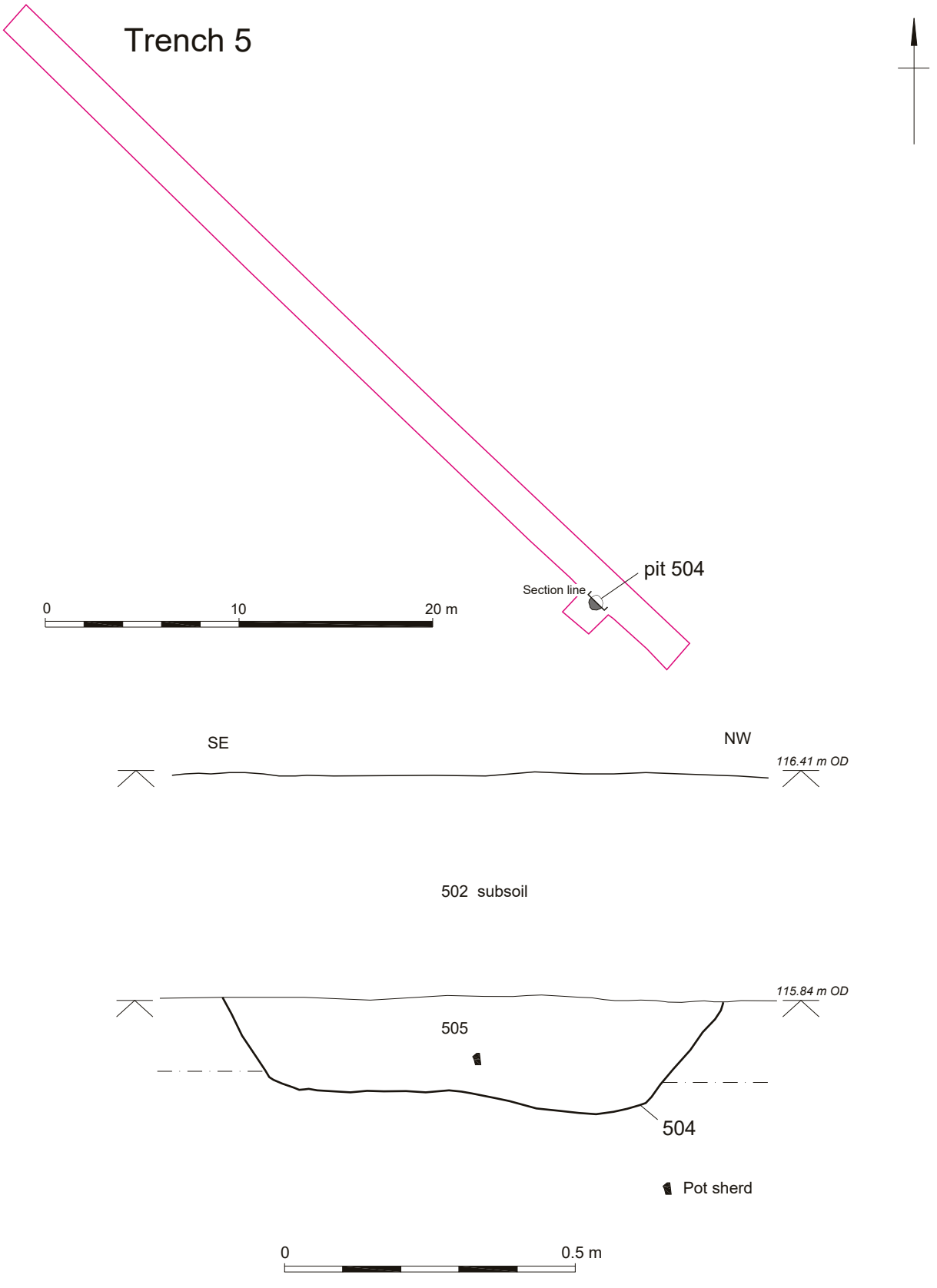
	\Rep figs\Eval\2016_05_09

Site and trench location

Figure 1



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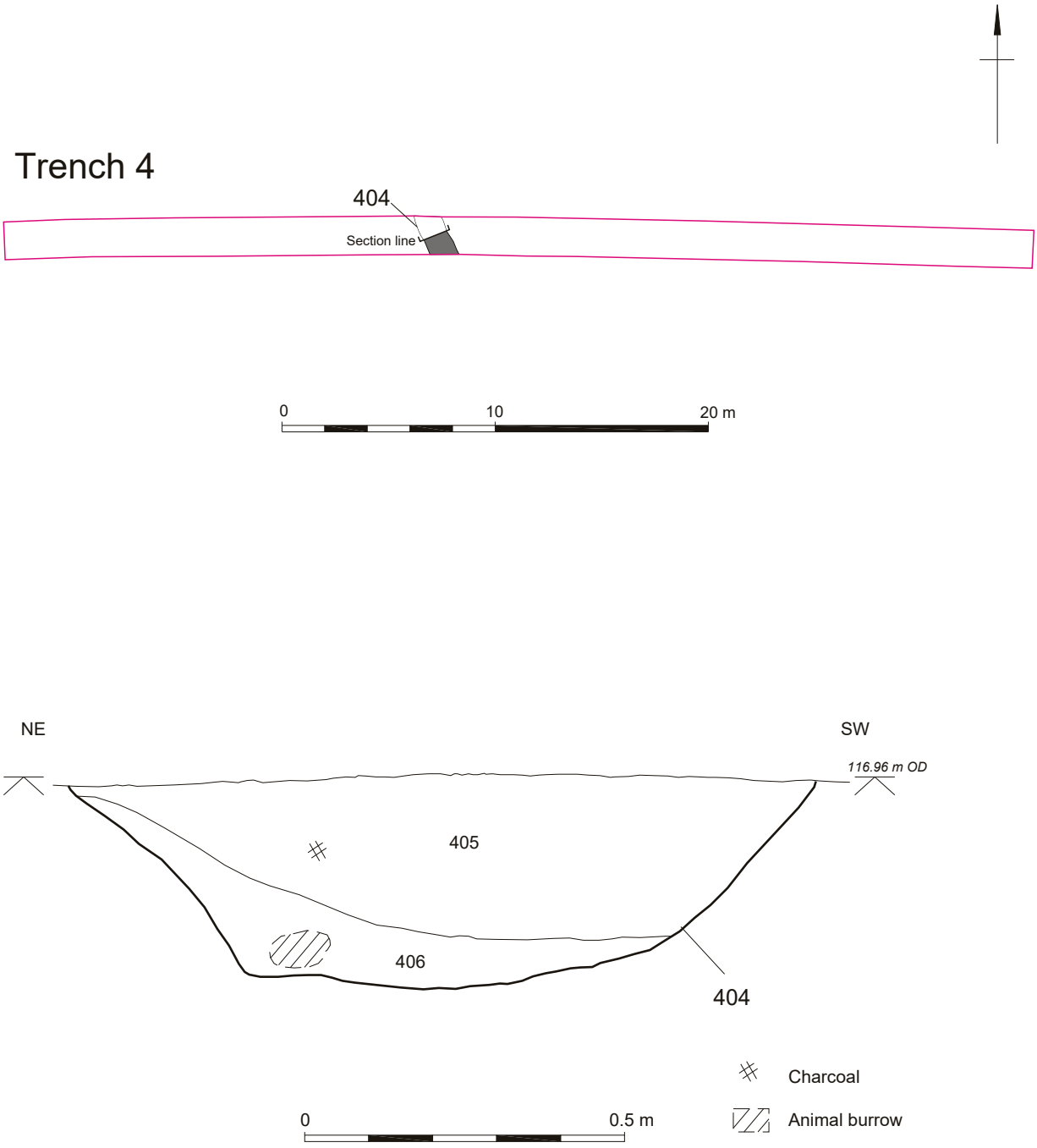
North east facing section of ditch 504

Figure 2



Date:	09\05\2016	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Plan 1:300, section 1:10	Illustrator:	SEJ
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\113080\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2016_05_09		

North west facing section of ditch 404

Figure 3

Plate 1: Pit 504, fully exposed, from north east

Plate 2: North west facing section of ditch 404

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Plate 3: North east facing section of gully 606, typical of gullies revealed by evaluation

Date:	09/05/2016	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	SEJ
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\113080\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\EvalB\2016_05_09		

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