St George's Barracks
North Luffenham, Rutland

Archaeological Evaluation Report

WA ref: 111210.02
July 2016

wessex archaeology

St George's Barracks
North Luffenham, Rutland

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by WYG Planning and Design to undertake an archaeological evaluation at St George's Barracks, Edith Weston Road, North Luffenham, Rutland, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 493710 304352. The evaluation, consisting of 46 trial trenches targeting geophysical anomalies from a preceding survey, was undertaken between the 25 April and the 6 May 2016.

In total, 14 of the 46 trial trenches revealed archaeological remains – and the location of these generally shows a good correlation with geophysical anomalies; though pits and a curving linear ditch were identified in the evaluation that weren't so clearly defined by the geophysical interpretation. Many of the archaeological features are concentrated within the central part of the site, though some features were also discovered to the north-west and east of this area.

Archaeological features comprising a number of pits and ditches were investigated, and dated by pottery to the Middle/Late Iron Age. Together these remains may represent a farmstead settlement of this period, though no definite structural remains were identified in the evaluation. A single pit dating to the Late Iron Age/Romano-British period and several undated ditches and gullies were also recorded.

No archaeological features or deposits post-dating the Romano-British period were identified, despite the known presence of a Saxon cemetery to the west of the site.

The results of this evaluation will allow informed decisions to be made with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

St George's Barracks
North Luffenham, Rutland

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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The fieldwork was directed by Jamie McCarthy; assisted by Andy Sole, Phil Breach, Emma Robertson and Matt Whelan. This report was written by Jamie McCarthy and edited by Gail Wakeham, with finds reporting by Lorraine Mepham and Lorraine Higbee (animal bone). The environmental samples were processed by Nathaniel Welsby and assessed by Inés López-Dóriga. The report illustrations were produced by Ken Lymer.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andy Crockett.

St George's Barracks
North Luffenham, Rutland

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) has been commissioned by WYG Planning and Design (the Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation at St George's Barracks, Edith Weston Road, North Luffenham, Rutland (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 493710 304352.

1.1.2 Proposed works comprise the redevelopment of the Site, including construction of the following specialist facilities:

- *kennels;*
- *veterinary clinic;*
- *associated offices; and*
- *training areas to accommodate the relocation of 1 Military Working Dog Regiment, British Army from Germany to St George's Barracks, North Luffenham.*

1.1.3 Non-intrusive assessments comprising a Heritage Appraisal (WYG 2015) and a geophysical survey (CAFA 2015) have previously been carried out in relation to the proposed development.

1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the trial trench evaluation was prepared by Wessex Archaeology and was approved by the Principal Planning Archaeologist of Leicestershire County Council (LCC) prior to the start of fieldwork (WA 2015).

1.2 Scope of document

1.2.1 This document presents the results of the archaeological evaluation that took place between the 25 April and the 6 May 2016.

1.2.2 The results will allow informed decisions to be made with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Site location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The Site is situated at the western end of the disused runway within St George's Barracks (formerly RAF North Luffenham), located between the villages of Edith Weston, to the north, and North Luffenham, to the South, in the county of Rutland (**Figure 1**).

1.3.2 The Site is currently largely grassed and free of buildings and other structures apart from part of the airstrip, taxiway and hard standings.

1.3.3 The Site is generally level, lying at an elevation of approximately 100 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), on the western extent of a high broad limestone plateau. To the west, the land gently slopes down to a tributary of the River Chater.

1.3.4 The British Geological Survey records the underlying solid geology as sedimentary Lower Lincolnshire Limestone of the Jurassic period, formed approximately 168-172 million years ago (mya). There are no superficial deposits recorded within the Site; the nearest superficials deposits of Mid Pleistocene Ice Age Till, formed up to 2 mya, underlying Edith Weston village (BGS on-line viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following section summarises the results of preceding archaeological non-intrusive investigations undertaken in relation to the proposed redevelopment of the Site – a Heritage Appraisal (WYG 2015) and the results of a geophysical survey (CAFA 2015), in order to provide an archaeological context.

2.2 Heritage Appraisal

Designated Heritage Assets

2.2.1 There are no designated heritage assets (i.e. World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens, or Historic Battlefields) within the Site. The Heritage Appraisal identified two Conservation Areas and 22 Listed Buildings within the broader Study Area (1 km radius from the Site). Most of the Listed Buildings are within North Luffenham village to the south, though of particular note are three missile emplacements (Grade II * listed) in the south-east corner of the former airfield, part of a Thor missile base located here which was part of Britain's post-war nuclear strike capability, over 1 km east of the proposed development Site.

Non-designated Heritage Assets

2.2.2 There are no records of any non-designated heritage assets within the Site, though the potential for such to survive in particular beneath grassed areas is highlighted in the Heritage Appraisal by records located within the Study Area and by the results of development-led recent archaeological investigations in relation to Empingham to Hannington pipeline in the wider area.

2.2.3 Some worked flint finds of earlier prehistoric date are known within the surroundings of the St George's Barracks. Approximately 250 m to the east of the Site there is cropmark evidence of two large sub-rectangular enclosures, potentially representing an Iron Age or Romano-British farmstead.

2.2.4 Although remains of almost all periods are known within the Heritage Appraisal Study Area, an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery located approximately 150 m west of the Site is considered to represent the greatest potential for archaeological remains at the Site.

2.2.5 Records for the cemetery, discovered during sand quarrying in 1855, are inevitably poor. Following its discovery, a number of antiquarian investigations discovered both inhumation and cremation burials, many accompanied by the usual range of associated artefacts (swords, spears, shields, beads and brooches. Although the precise location and

extent of this cemetery is unknown, the 1905 Ordnance Survey map indicates a sand pit just 100 m to the north-west of the Site. There is no contemporary settlement known within the locality of the cemetery.

2.2.6 Later Saxon and subsequent medieval settlement is focused on North Luffenham and Edith Weston, and the land occupied by the Site appears likely to have been agricultural at this time. Historical mapping evidence suggests this land use is likely to have continued into the post-medieval period and beyond, until the development of the RAF North Luffenham airfield in 1940.

2.2.7 RAF Luffenham opened in 1941 and it was home to both training units and elements of Bomber Command. In 1943 the site was improved by the construction of concrete runways and taxiways. Some elements of its defences including concrete pillboxes survive. In the post-war period elements of the Royal Canadian Air Force were based here, and later in 1960-1963 North Luffenham became a base for Thor nuclear missiles, which were ready for launch at the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Since then the base has been home to the Joint Services Language School and to a number of other army units, most recently 16 Regiment, Royal Artillery.

2.3 Geophysical Survey

2.3.1 A fluxgate gradiometer survey was undertaken across accessible areas of the Site, and beyond the Site boundaries, covering about 17ha (CAFA 2015) – the results of those areas that lie within the Site are reproduced in **Figure 1**. No significant archaeological anomalies were revealed in the north-west of the Site, where responses mostly reflect modern ferrous. However, across other areas, magnetic anomalies indicate the presence of enclosures, ditches and possible pits; as well as more ephemeral traces of north–south aligned remains of ridge and furrow agriculture. Two short linear anomalies within the main geophysical survey area on the Site were thought to be possible slit trenches related to military activity, or could relate to variations in the natural geology, which was also recorded.

3 AIMS

3.1.1 With due regard to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIFA) *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a), as fully defined in the WSI (WA 2015), the aims of the evaluation were:

- *To establish the presence or absence of archaeological features and deposits;*
- *Where possible, to establish the extent, date and character and condition and significance of any identified archaeological features or deposits; and*
- *To produce a report with the results of the evaluation, to enable sufficient information to inform any further mitigation that may be required, for example watching brief, excavation or post-excavation work.*

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The full methodology was detailed in the approved WSI (WA 2015), and is summarised below.

4.1.2 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of 46 trenches (each measuring approximately 50 m x 2.1 m). 48 trenches were originally proposed in the WSI but the presence of live underground services and a modern war memorial prevented the excavation of three trenches (Trenches 6, 27 and 48). An additional trench (Trench 49) was added during the works at the request of the Principal Planning Archaeologist (LCC).

4.2 Trial trench excavation and investigation

4.2.1 All trenches were set-out using GPS, according to the lay-out proposed in the WSI (WA 2015). Minor adjustments were made to a number of trenches to take account of the presence of live underground services. All trenches were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool prior to excavation.

4.2.2 Under the constant supervision of a qualified archaeologist, all overburden (topsoil and subsoil) was carefully removed in spits by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or natural geology, whichever was encountered first.

4.2.3 Each trench was cleaned by hand, where appropriate, and surveyed by GPS in order to produce an overall site plan. A sufficient sample of archaeological features and deposits were investigated and recorded in order to meet the aims of the evaluation.

4.2.4 The trenches were subsequently backfilled and left level using the excavated material. The backfilled material was compacted intermittently using the machine bucket in order to avoid air pockets or soft spots. No other reinstatement was carried out.

4.3 Recording

4.3.1 All recording was undertaken using WA's pro forma recording system.

4.3.2 All excavated trenches, archaeological features and other natural or modern features were digitally recorded using a survey-grade GPS within the Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR) system.

4.3.3 A representative section, not less than 1m in length, of deposits through each trench from ground surface to the top of the natural geology was recorded.

4.3.4 A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was made and related to the overall site plan. This includes both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections). The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels was calculated and plans/sections are annotated with OD heights.

4.3.5 A full photographic record was maintained using a digital camera equipped with an image sensor of no less than 10 megapixels. The photographic record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the excavated features, and the Site as a whole. Digital images are 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.

4.4 Finds and Environmental

Finds

4.4.1 All finds were treated as defined in the WSI and in accordance CIfA's *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014c) and United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Conservation Guidelines no. 2 (UKIC 2001).

4.4.2 All artefacts were retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date. Material of undoubtedly modern date observed on the spoil heap of each trench was noted but not retained. All retained artefacts have been washed, weighed, counted and identified. Suitable material, i.e. the pottery, was scanned to assess the date range of the relevant assemblages. All artefacts have been suitably bagged and boxed.

Environmental

4.4.3 The environmental sampling was carried out in accordance with the WSI, guided by *Environmental Archaeology; A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition)* (English Heritage 2011).

4.4.4 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues 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 flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A total of 14 of the 46 excavated trial trenches contained archaeological features and deposits, indicating archaeological remains are present across the Site, with a concentration in the central part of the Site (**Figure 1**).

5.1.2 The dated features represent two main periods of activity: Iron Age and Late Iron Age/ Romano-British, although several features remain of uncertain date. There is also some evidence of earlier activity in the vicinity as indicated by small quantities of worked flint of probable Neolithic/Bronze Age date, found residually in Iron Age features. The only evidence of activity post-dating the Romano-British period is represented by a single piece of medieval roof tile and clay pipe stem found intrusively in the upper fill of Iron Age pit **2109** and by some modern finds in the topsoil of trench 14.

5.1.3 The following section presents the results of the trial trenching; archaeological features are discussed by period below. Descriptions of the contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**).

5.1.4 **Figure 1** shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches, overlain with the preceding geophysical survey results (CAFA 2015). **Figure 2** provides detail of the concentration of features in the central part of the Site.

5.2 Natural Deposits and Geology

5.2.1 A topsoil deposit was present in all trenches, it was covered with grass, the roots of which were frequent through this deposit. The topsoil consisted of a moderately dark grey brown clay loam, with small amounts of limestone gravel, derived from the natural geology. Its thickness was variable ranging from 0.1 m to 0.4 m (**Plates 1** and **2**).

5.2.2 A subsoil layer was recorded in around a third of the trenches, underlying the topsoil and physically overlying the natural geology. The deposit consisted of a mid-grey brown silty clay, including sparse quantities of limestone gravel (of variable size), derived from the natural geology. The thickness of the subsoil ranged from 0.05 m to 0.45 m (**Plates 1 and 2**). This variation in the thickness may be the result of landscaping or levelling of the Site, perhaps associated with the construction of the former airfield. Though the subsoil may have been truncated by prior landscaping, the evaluation has indicated that the underlying archaeological deposits have not be impacted or disturbed by any such activity.

5.2.3 The underlying natural geology showed a little variation across the Site. It generally consisted of a mid-yellow brown silty clay with an abundance of limestone inclusions, ranging from 6–200 mm in size (**Plate 1**). Within the eight trenches to the north of the dog kennels (trenches 1–8, **Figure 1**), the natural contained far less of these limestone inclusions and largely consisted of the silty clay material (**Plate 2**). All archaeological features were found cut into this natural layer.

5.3 Iron Age

5.3.1 A number of archaeological features, comprising ditches and pits, uncovered in the trenches have been dated to the Iron Age; the pottery recovered from these suggests a date in the Middle/Late Iron Age. Whilst there is a slight concentration of Iron Age features in the centre of the Site (**Figure 2**), other features of this period were also found outside this area, in trench 4 in the north-west of the Site and in trench 28 in the east.

5.3.2 In trench 21, pit **2109** was one of the deepest features on the Site, it was circular in plan and measured 1.47 by 1.54 m, and was established to be 1.4 m deep. It had steep concave sides that undercut towards the relatively flat base suggesting that this pit may be of a form known as bell-shaped. Pit **2109** contained three secondary fills overlying a single primary deposit (**Figure 2** and **Plate 3**). Finds were only recovered from the lowest secondary fill (**2111**) which included a quantity of pottery, possibly all from one vessel, and a quantity of animal bone, as well as a possible rubber stone. This suggests that the pit was used for the disposal of rubbish; however, the depth of the feature possibly suggests its original function may have been different. A later pit of uncertain date (**2113**) was cut into infilled pit **2109**. It was sub-circular in plan with concave sides and a concave base. It measured approximately 1.27 by 1.00 m and contained a single fill (0.67 m deep), from which no artefacts were recovered.

5.3.3 Pit **2403** was circular in plan measuring 1.22 by 1.31 m; it had steep straight sides and a concave base which was reached at a depth of 0.71 m (**Figure 2**; **Plate 4**). A rim from a shouldered jar (found on the base of the feature), a little animal bone and a residual flint core were the only recovered artefacts.

5.3.4 In the north-west of the Site, in trench 4, two Iron Age pits (**404** and **406**) were uncovered. Pit **404** was irregular in plan and profile and measured 0.51 by 0.57 m, by 0.11 m deep (**Figure 1**; **Plate 5**). The feature appears to have been formed by the simple removal of a few natural limestone slabs, for its irregular sides follow the edges of the surrounding

limestone. It was filled with a single secondary deposit containing flecks of charcoal, and therefore a bulk environmental sample was taken, however, this is not considered to represent *in situ* burning. Pit **406** was a little larger, measuring 0.75 by 0.79 m, by 0.40 m deep, and it had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. Deposits representing deliberate backfill were evident, underlying a naturally-accumulated secondary fill, and overlying a primary fill (**Figure 1**; **Plate 6**). The deliberate backfill deposits both contained Iron Age pottery and flecks of charcoal, and so were separately environmentally sampled.

5.3.5 A north–south orientated ditch was recorded in trenches 14 and 15, and likely represents the same feature which corresponds with a linear anomaly identified from the geophysical survey (**Figure 1**). The ditch was investigated in trench 15 and was found to have a V-shaped profile (**1503**) measuring 1.7 m wide and 0.68 m deep (**Figure 2**; **Plate 7**). It contained a single secondary fill from which a quantity of pottery and animal bone was recovered, above a primary fill. The profile of the ditch is very similar to undated ditch **1803** (**Plate 10**), which suggests that they may be associated and part of the same enclosure, as also indicated by the geophysical survey.

5.3.6 Feature **2804** was only partly revealed within trench 28 and is considered to represent a curving ditch terminus. The ditch followed a SSW–NNE orientation before turning to an ESE–WNW orientation where it appeared to terminate. It measured 0.28 m deep and was at least 0.94 m wide, with steep straight sides and a flat base (**Figure 1**; **Plate 8**). A single sherd of pottery was the only find recovered from its single fill. Charcoal flecking was also recorded and a bulk environmental sample was taken.

5.4 Late Iron Age/Romano-British

5.4.1 A single pit in trench 24 (**2406**) is the only feature positively dated to this period, although single sherds of this date were also found intrusively in the upper fills of earlier Iron Age features.

5.4.2 Circular pit **2406** measured 0.73 by 0.60 m and had moderately sloped sides and a concave base, reached at 0.25m deep (**Figure 2**; **Plate 9**). It contained two fills: 14 sherds of pottery dating to the Late Iron Age/Romano-British period, including 11 sherds from a single vessel (a lid), were recovered from the uppermost fill **2407**. Charcoal flecking was also recorded in this deposit and a bulk environmental sample was taken.

5.5 Features of uncertain date

5.5.1 There are numerous undated linear ditches across the Site that generally show a good correlation with geophysical anomalies (**Figure 1**). It is likely that at least some of these are Iron Age in date based upon the proximity to dated features, though they remain of uncertain date

5.5.2 Ditch **1803** followed an east–west orientation and had moderately straight sides with a flat base. It measured 1.54m wide and 0.75m deep and contained two secondary fills (**Figure 2**; **Plate 10**). The profile of the ditch is very similar in both shape and size to dated Iron Age ditch **1503** (**Plate 8**), and this suggests that they may be associated and form part of a large enclosure, as also indicated in the geophysical survey results (**Figure 1**). Whilst no dateable artefacts were recovered from this feature, a large amount of semi-articulated animal bone was retrieved from fill **1805**.

5.5.3 Trench 21 contains three ditches of uncertain date: **2103** (0.6 m wide and 0.15 m deep) and **2105** (0.7 m wide and 0.3 m deep) followed a similar north–south orientation and

2107 (0.8 m wide and 0.27 m deep) had a differing north-east to south-west orientation. All had shallow to moderate concave sides with a concave base and were filled with a single secondary fill. Two undated ditches in trench 22 were of a similar size to those in trench 21 and therefore some may be associated with each other. Another undated ditch (**2303**) was recorded in trench 23, but its alignment is slightly different to ditches in adjacent trenches (**Figure 2**).

5.5.4 Undated pit **2903** contained evidence for *in situ* burning. It was sub-circular in plan, with shallow concave sides and an irregular base, and measured 0.47 by 0.53 by 0.17m (**Plate 11**). It contained a single fill **2904** consisting of heat-affected clay with flecks of charcoal, which was environmentally sampled. No artefacts were recovered from this feature.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during the evaluation, deriving from contexts in seven of the trenches excavated. The assemblage ranges in date from prehistoric to post-medieval, and consists largely of animal bone and pottery, with other material types very sparsely represented. The quantification of finds by material type and by context is presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Quantification of finds (number of pieces/weight in grammes)

Context	Animal Bone	Pottery	Other Finds
405		3/11	
407		16/101	5 worked flint
409	1/1	2/10	1 worked flint
1401		23/196	
1505	10/331	33/507	
1805	346/2516		
2104	1 /4		
2111	111/838	29/546	1 stone
2115	2/20		1 CBM; 1 clay pipe
2404	2/3	2/37	2 worked flint
2407	21/25	17/156	
2805		1/3	
Total	**494/3738**	**126/1567**	

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 Pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the Site. Of the 126 sherds recovered, 87 are Iron Age, 16 are Late Iron Age/Romano-British, and 23 are post-medieval/modern.

Iron Age

6.2.2 Where possible, the fabrics belonging within this period have been equated with the types previously defined for other Iron Age assemblages from Leicestershire (e.g. Marsden 1998). Several fabrics are represented, including sandy, shelly and rock-tempered. Only one rim sherd is present, from pit **2403** (from a shouldered jar), but several of the shelly ware sherds from pit **2109** conjoining to form the base and body of a second shouldered

jar, with light scoring around the lower part of the vessel. A date range in the Middle/Late Iron Age can be suggested; parallels can be found in the assemblage from Empingham, Rutland (Cooper 2000).

6.2.3 These sherds provide the dating evidence for ditch **1503**, ditch terminal **2804** and pits **404**, **406**, **2109**, pit **2403**. Three sherds were residual in Late Iron Age/Romano-British pit **2406**.

Late Iron Age/Romano-British

6.2.4 A small group of 14 sherds, all from pit **2406**, have been dated as Late Iron Age/Romano-British. Eleven of these sherds are from a single vessel (possibly a lid), in a coarse sandy fabric. There are also two sherds of wheelthrown greywares (GW) and one of oxidised ware, all three very small, undiagnostic body sherds.

6.2.5 In addition, two grog-tempered sherds, one from pit **406** and one from pit **2109**, are dated as Late Iron Age. Both are undiagnostic.

Post-medieval/modern

6.2.6 The remaining 23 sherds are post-medieval/modern, and include two redwares and one sherd of porcelain. The other sherds are all refined wares (yellow ware, pearlware, whiteware). All 23 sherds came from a single context (trench 14 topsoil), and this small group can be dated as 19th/20th century.

6.3 Worked flint

6.3.1 Eight pieces of worked flint were recovered. These comprise three unsystematic cores and five flakes, two of them broken. All pieces are lightly patinated. In the absence of any tools or other chronologically distinctive pieces, this small group can only be broadly dated as Neolithic/Bronze Age. All were residual finds in Iron Age features.

6.4 Animal bone

6.4.1 The assemblage comprises 494 fragments (or 3.738 kg) of hand-recovered animal bone. Once conjoins are taken into account the total falls to just 77 fragments, many of which belong to an Animal Bone Group (ABG) from undated ditch **1803**. The assemblage includes material of Middle/Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Romano-British date (**Table 2**).

Table 2: Number of identified animal bones present (or NISP)

Species	Middle/Late Iron Age	Late Iron Age /Romano-British	Undated	Total
cattle	11	2	39	52
sheep/goat	2	2	3	7
dog	1	-	-	1
red deer	1	-	-	1
Unidentifiable	2	-	-	2
Overall total	**17**	**4**	**42**	**63**

Methods

6.4.2 The following information was recorded where applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion and tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data,

gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was directly recorded into a relational database (in MS Access) and cross-referenced with relevant contextual information.

Results

6.4.3 Bone preservation is general good to fair and consistent within individual contexts. This suggests that much of the material was discarded directly into cut features rather than via secondary deposition. The absence of scavenger gnaw marks confirms this.

6.4.4 Bones were recovered from four pits and ditch **1503**, most of which are dated by pottery to the Middle/Late Iron Age, with one undated feature (pit **2113**) cut into one of the aforementioned Iron Age pits. Pits **406**, **2113** and **2403** all contained single fragments of cattle and sheep/goat bone while pit **2109** contained several cattle bones and a dog skull. The cattle bones include a fragmented skull from a short-horned breed, a mandible and post-cranial bones from both the fore- and hindquarters several of which were near complete. The fragmented dog skull is from a small to medium sized adult animal. Ditch **1503** contained the complete frontal part of a red deer skull and two cattle bones, a tibia and lumbar vertebra. Cut marks around the base of the pedicle indicate the means by which the antlers were removed from the deer skull. It also indicates the presence of a deer carcass and therefore involvement in hunting.

6.4.5 A small number of cattle and sheep/goat bones were recovered from Late Iron Age/Romano-British pit **2406**. The identified remains include two cattle teeth, and a sheep/goat pelvis and radius.

6.4.6 Animal bones were also recovered from three undated features. Ditch **2107** and gully **2103** both contained single sheep/goat bones while ditch **1803** contained a sheep/goat tibia and a large group of semi-articulated cattle bones. These include a fragmented skull, mandibles, all of the bones from the upper forequarters and several from the lower hindquarters including part of the ankle and foot. Tooth wear analysis suggests that the animal was between 30–36 months of age (mandible wear stage E, after Halstead 1985). No butchery marks were evident on any of the bones.

6.5 Stone

6.5.1 A rounded pebble from pit **2109**, showing some wear on the edges, may have been used as a rubber. This context (secondary fill **2111**) also produced Iron Age pottery (see above).

6.6 Other Finds

6.6.1 Other finds comprise one small fragment from a medieval ceramic roof tile and a fragment of plain clay tobacco pipe stem.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Six bulk samples were taken from pits and ditches of Iron Age date and also a pit of Late Iron Age/Romano-British date; and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal.

7.1.2 The results are discussed below, and tabulated in **Appendix 2**, the samples proposed for further analysis are indicated with a "P" in the analysis column in the table.

7.2 Charred plant remains

7.2.1 The flots were of variable size. There were variable numbers of roots but scarcely any modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.

7.2.2 The type of plant macro remains recovered are indicative of domestic waste produced during some stages of plant processing. There is little variation in the composition of the assemblages, consistent of cereal grains and chaff, fruit remains and seeds of a range of wild plants. Although much of the cereal remains cannot be identified to species level due to poor preservation, hulled wheat and sometimes spelt, and barley, have been positively identified when preservation allows. Remains of fruits include hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell and sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) stones. Wild plant seeds belong to orache (*Atriplex* sp.), different grasses, including wild oat/brome (*Avena*/*Bromus*) and meadow grass/cat tail (*Poa*/*Phleum*), sedges (*Carex* sp.), vetches and peas (*Viciae*), crane's bill (*Geranium* sp.), violet (*Viola* sp.), the mint family (*Lamiaceae*) and bedstraw (*Galium* sp.).

7.3 Wood Charcoal

7.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Appendix 2**. Wood charcoal is not generally abundant in the flots, with the exception of one sample (sample no. 4), which seem to be taxonomically homogeneous and might have resulted from a single large piece of wood. Most of the charcoal in the flots belonged to mature wood.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Archaeological features and deposits

8.1.1 The archaeological evaluation has achieved the aims stated in the WSI (WA 2015), and confirmed the presence of archaeological features within the Site, as well as providing information as to their date, extent and condition: all of which will inform the nature of any further archaeological mitigation work.

8.1.2 In total 14 of the 46 trial trenches revealed archaeological remains, and the location of these generally showed a good correlation with the geophysical interpretation (**Figure 1**), though pits (trench 4 and 24) and a curving linear ditch (trench 28) were identified in the evaluation trenches that weren't so clearly defined by the geophysical survey.

8.1.3 Early prehistoric activity within or near the Site was attested by the recovery of small quantities of residual worked flint within Iron Age features; however no archaeological features dating to the Neolithic or Bronze Age periods were uncovered during this evaluation.

8.1.4 Conclusive evidence of Iron Age occupation was uncovered during the evaluation, with pottery indicating a likely date in the Middle/Late Iron Age. A number of pits and two ditches were dated to this period and whilst there was no direct evidence of contemporary structural remains within the evaluation trenches; the presence of pits and enclosure ditches filled with domestic rubbish suggest that these features are probably related to

settlement, perhaps a rural farmstead. Although these features were slightly concentrated in the central part of the Site, pits and ditches of this date were also identified in the north-west of the Site (trench 4) and in the east (trench 28).

8.1.5 One pit feature in trench 24 contained a small assemblage of pottery dating to the Late Iron Age/Romano-British period. Though this was the only feature of this date identified within the evaluation trenches, it suggests that this locality was occupied for a considerable period of time, potentially continually from the middle of the first millennium BC into the first centuries of the first millennium AD.

8.1.6 A number of undated ditches and gullies were also uncovered. Considering their proximity to the Iron Age remains many of these may be associated with Iron Age occupation, yet they remain of uncertain date.

8.1.7 No features or deposits were found to date to the Saxon, medieval or post-medieval periods, and therefore there was no evidence within the evaluation trenches for the extension of an Saxon cemetery into the Site – it had been previously recorded by antiquarian investigations to the west of the Site.

8.2 Finds

8.2.1 The finds assemblage is small, and consists largely of a very restricted range of types (pottery and animal bone). The Iron Age and Romano-British pottery, however, survives in relatively good condition, and suggests the proximity of settlement activity. The faunal assessment has demonstrated that bone preservation is good across the proposed development area.

8.2.2 Any future archaeological mitigation work has the potential to produce a larger and more informative assemblage. The finds recovered from the evaluation phase of fieldwork should be reviewed in the light of any future mitigation work.

8.3 Environmental

Charred plant remains

8.3.1 The analysis of the charred plant assemblages has the potential to provide information on the nature of the settlement, the local environment, local agricultural practices and crop husbandry techniques in the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

8.3.2 The results of this analysis could provide a comparison with the data from other sites in the local area and could provide data to address some of the issues raised in the regional research framework (Monckton 2006).

Wood charcoal

8.3.3 The analysis of the wood charcoal would provide little information on the species composition, management and exploitation of the local woodland resource on the Site.

Summary

8.3.4 Any future archaeological mitigation work has the potential to produce further environmental samples. The environmental remains recovered from this evaluation should be reviewed in the light of any future mitigation work.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Rutland County Museum, Oakham. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project under the accession code **OAKRM: 2015.18**. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

9.1.2 Until final deposition with the museum the archive will be stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology Southern Region, in Salisbury under the project code 111210. No charge will be made for the temporary storage of finds or archives during the period when Wessex Archaeology are undertaking analysis or report preparation. However, if, after completion and submission of the report, finds cannot be deposited with the relevant museum due to circumstances beyond Wessex Archaeology's control, a charge will be made for storage.

9.2 Archive

9.2.1 All archive elements will be marked with the accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- *1 file of paper records*
- *3 boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type*

9.2.2 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013), and will comply with the requirements of the local museum.

9.3 Discard policy

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

9.3.2 Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive. In this case, the ceramic roof tile and clay pipe stem are the only artefacts recommended for discard.

9.4 OASIS

9.4.1 An OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/ will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environmental Record (HER). This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).

9.5 Copyright

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

rights reserved. The Museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, 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); 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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11 APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

Trench 1			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.45m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493479.8070 304402.7860 / 493489.2650 304451.4360	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.143 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
101	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.15m
102	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay. Sparse limestone incl. subangular. 6-20/2-6mm.	0.15-0.3m
103	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.3-0.45m+

Trench 2			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.6m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):**493501.8910 304448.8760 / 493547.1400 304469.8120	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.636 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
201	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.25m
202	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay. Sparse limestone incl. subangular. 6-20/2-6mm.	0.25-0.4m
203	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.4-0.6m+

Trench 3			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.7m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493550.5360 304462.5460 / 493598.0640 304480.6410	**Ground Surface Level:** 107.006 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
301	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.15m
302	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay. Sparse limestone incl. subangular. 6-20/2-6mm.	0.15-0.6m
303	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.6m+
304	Ditch	Lop sided in profile, much steeper on the SW edge.	
305	Secondary fill	Fill of 304. Mid brown silty clay. Rare limestone incl. subrounded, 2-6mm. Possible chert flakes.	

Trench 4			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.8m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493508.6180 304429.9080 / 493556.8910 304441.3570	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.858 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
401	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.3m
402	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay. Sparse limestone incl. subangular. 6-20/2-6mm.	0.3-0.7m
403	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Patches of abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.7m+
404	Pit	Very shallow, irregular shaped. Constructed via removal of limestone slabs? Prehistoric.	
405	Secondary fill	Fill of 404. Dark brown, silty clay. Moderate flecks of charcoal. Prehistoric pot found. Sample: 3	
406	Pit	Steep sided, regular shaped. Contained some burnt material and prehistoric pot.	
407	Secondary fill	Fill of 406. Dark grey/black silty clay. Mod flecks of charcoal, prehistoric pot, flint, bone. Sample: 1	
408	Secondary fill	Fill of 406. Dark grey/yellow sandy clay. Rare charcoal flecks. Common limestone incl. 20-60mm.	
409	Secondary fill	Fill of 406. Dark red/brown silty clay. Rare charcoal flecks. Prehistoric pottery, flint, bone. Sample: 2.	
410	Primary fill	Fill of 406. Dark red/orange silty clay. Rare charcoal flecks. Rare limestone incl. subrounded, 20-60mm.	

Trench 5			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.7m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493563.0790 304455.8880 / 493612.5760 304451.9500	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.909 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
501	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.25m
502	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay. Sparse limestone incl. subangular. 6-20/2-6mm.	0.25-0.45m
503	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.45-0.7m+

Trench 6: Not opened due to presence of a live service running along the length of the trench, as well as live services either side, preventing it from being moved.

Trench 7			
	Dimensions: 35m x 2.1m x 0.65m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493649.8770 304516.5240 / 463666.7980 304486.0970	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.823 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
701	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.25m
702	Secondary fill	Mid grey/brown silty clay. Sparse limestone incl. subangular. 6-20/2-6mm.	0.25-0.4m
703	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.4-0.65m+
Comments: Trench shortened due to live service at the NW end.			

Trench 8			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.5m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493668.2490 304475.3960 / 493710.6150 304448.1540	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.846 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
801	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.2m
802	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay. Sparse limestone incl. subangular. 6-20/2-6mm.	0.2-0.4m
803	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.4m+

Trench 9			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.4m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493542.4840 304256.2090 / 493585.4740 304232.5980	**Ground Surface Level:** 105.262 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
901	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.2m
902	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay. Sparse limestone incl. subangular. 6-20/2-6mm.	0.2-0.3m
903	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.3-0.4m+

Trench 10			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.28m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493588.2280 304249.1010 / 493624.7160 304216.0200	**Ground Surface Level:** 105.768 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
1001	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.18m
1002	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.18m+

Trench 11			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.4m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493570.0750 304219.7890 / 493617.9950 304206.4240	**Ground Surface Level:** 105.54 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
1101	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.2m
1102	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay. Sparse limestone incl. subangular. 6-20/2-6mm.	0.2-0.3m
1103	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.3-0.4m+

Trench 12			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.3m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 463618.2060 304192.3770 / 493666.4350 304174.3010	**Ground Surface Level:** 105.775 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
1201	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.2m
1202	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay. Sparse limestone incl. subangular. 6-20/2-6mm.	0.2-0.3m
1203	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.3m+

Trench 13			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.3m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493586.6900 304181.4190 / 493629.6970 304156.0570	**Ground Surface Level:** 105.161 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
1301	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.3m
1302	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.3m+

Trench 14			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.4m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493656.8360 304302.5730 / 493609.2810 304282.4930	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.107 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
1401	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.25m
1402	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.25-0.4m+
1403	Ditch	Not excavated, see [1503].	
1404	Secondary fill	Not excavated, see (1505).	
Comments: Ditch not excavated as continuation of this ditch was investigated in trench 15			

Trench 15			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.42m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493657.2550 304274.1300 / 493606.5010 304264.1630	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.058 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
1501	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.33m
1502	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.33m+
1503	Ditch	Possible field boundary or enclosure ditch. Prehistoric pot found within.	
1504	Primary fill	Fill of 1503. Light yellow/brown silty clay. Focused on the Eastern edge, suggesting a bank.	
1505	Secondary fill	Fill of 1503. Dark red/brown silty clay. Common limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	

Trench 16			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.52m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493664.9980 304270.1610 / 493630.4500 304233.0700	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.257 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
1601	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.29m
1602	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay. Sparse limestone incl. subangular. 6-20/2-6mm.	0.29-0.34m
1603	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.34m+

Trench 17			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.3m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493664.8100 304253.8520 / 493669.1950 304204.0030	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.324 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
1701	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.2m
1702	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.2-0.3m+

Trench 18			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.45m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493679.6830 304328.1110 / 493677.5650 304276.6960	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.481 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
1801	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.3m
1802	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.3-0.45m+
1803	Ditch	Probable prehistoric boundary/enclosure ditch. Possible related to [1503]	
1804	Secondary fill	Fill of 1803. Emphasis of erosion from the N edge of the ditch.	
1805	Secondary fill	Fill of 1803. Large amount of semi-articulated cow bones found along the N edge.	

Trench 19			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.4m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493709.3470 304348.2170 / 493759.4540 304341.4960	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.803 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
1901	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.1m
1902	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay. Sparse limestone incl. subangular. 6-20/2-6mm.	0.1-0.2m
1903	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.2-0.4m+
1904	Gully	Part of a larger field system.	
1905	Secondary fill	Fill of 1904. Mid brown silty clay, common limestone incl. subangular 60-200mm. No dating.	

Trench 20			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.4m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493699.5030 304328.8690 / 493744.6340 304304.2810	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.808 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
2001	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.2m
2002	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.2-0.4m+

Trench 21			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.34m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493740.4290 304294.9280 / 493690.8280 304286.7620	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.914 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
2101	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Moderate limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.28m
2102	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.28m+
2103	Gully	Continues into TR.22, possibly 23. Part of a larger field system.	
2104	Secondary fill	Fill of 2103. Mid grey/brown silty clay. Rare limestone incl, subangular, 20-60mm. No dating.	
2105	Ditch	Continues into TR.22+23. Part of a larger field system.	
2106	Secondary fill	Fill of 2105. Dark brown silty clay, sparse limestone incl, subangular, 20-60mm. No dating.	
2107	Ditch	May continue into TR.22+23. Part of a larger field system.	
2108	Secondary fill	Fill of 2107. Rare charcoal flecks. Animal bone and possible worked flint found.	
2109	Pit	Possible IA bell pit/rubbish pit. Bell shape may be due to collapse. Cut into by pit [2113].	
2110	Secondary fill	Fill of 2109. Mid grey/brown silty clay, common limestone incl. subangular, 60-200mm.	
2111	Secondary fill	Fill of 2109. Pot (IA), bone, burnt stone, flint and a possible hammer stone found.	
2112	Secondary fill	Fill of 2109. Mid grey/brown silty clay, common limestone incl. subangular, 60-200mm.	
2113	Pit	Cut into the eastern edge of pit [2109].	
2114	Secondary fill	Fill of 2113. Mid orange/brown silty clay. Sparse limestone incl. subangular, 60-200mm. No dating.	
2115	Secondary fill	Fill of 2113. Possibly a final deposit covering both pits [2109] + [2113]. No dating.	
2116	Secondary fill	Fill of 2109. Mid grey/brown silty clay, mod limestone incl. subangular 60-200mm. No dating.	

Trench 22			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.4m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493684.8780 304276.9700 / 493727.6790 304250.8260	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.747 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
2201	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.16m
2202	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay. Sparse limestone incl. subangular. 6-20/2-6mm.	0.16-0.38m
2203	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.38m+
2204	Ditch	Not excavated, continuation in TR21. See TR.21.	
2205	Secondary fill	Not excavated, continuation in TR21. See TR.21.	
2206	Ditch	Not excavated, continuation in TR21. See TR.21.	
2207	Secondary fill	Not excavated, continuation in TR21. See TR.21.	

Trench 23			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.35m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493679.2010 304236.4400 / 493728.0350 304239.6640	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.579 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
2301	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.25m
2302	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.25m+
2303	Ditch	Not excavated, continuation in TR.21. See TR.21.	
2304	Secondary fill	Not excavated, continuation in TR.21. See TR.21.	
2305	Gully	Part of a larger field system.	
2306	Secondary fill	Fill of 2305. Light orange/brown, silty clay. Common limestone incl. subangular 20-60mm. No dating.	

Trench 24			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.32m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493679.9870 304220.7170 / 493720.2930 304193.6850	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.32 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
2401	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Mod. limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.32m
2402	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.32m+
2403	Pit	Fairly deep prehistoric pit. Exact use unknown.	
2404	Secondary fill	Fill of 2403. Prehistoric pot, animal bone and imported flint found.	
2405	Secondary fill	Fill of 2403. Mid grey/brown silty clay. Mod limestone incl, subangular, 2-200mm.	
2406	Pit	LIA/ERB pit containing some burnt material.	
2407	Secondary fill	Fill of 2406. Various sherds of decorated pot found. Charcoal, burnt stone and clay. Sample: 5.	
2408	Secondary fill	Fill of 2406. Mid orange/brown silty clay. Sparse flecks of charcoal and burnt clay.	

Trench 25			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.45m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493776.2300 304349.6820 / 493814.3060 304381.4930	**Ground Surface Level:** 107.08 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
2501	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.15m
2502	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay. Sparse limestone incl. subangular. 6-20/2-6mm.	0.15-0.3m
2503	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.3-0.45m+

Trench 26			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.4m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493832.8820 304397.0150 / 493820.0630 304347.8490	**Ground Surface Level:** 107.193 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
2601	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.2m
2602	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.2-0.4m+
Trench 27: not opened due to the trench running through a war memorial.			

Trench 28			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.4m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493799.5880 304347.3830 / 493847.0600 304330.0790	**Ground Surface Level:** 107.21 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
2801	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.2m
2802	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay. Sparse limestone incl. subangular. 6-20/2-6mm.	0.2-0.3m
2803	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.3-0.4m+
2804	Ditch Terminus	Terminus of a possible curvelinear ditch.	
2805	Secondary fill	Fill of 2804. Prehistoric pot, flint, fired clay and charcoal flecks. Sample: 6.	

Trench 29			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.4m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493767.4830 304310.6270 / 493814.9310 304329.4720	**Ground Surface Level:** 107.234 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
2901	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.25m
2902	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.25-0.4m+
2903	Pit	Shallow pit with evidence of burning.	
2904	deliberate backfill	Fill of 2903. Majority fired clay deposit with some charcoal flecks. No dating. Sample: 4.	

Trench 30			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.46m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493776.4790 N304296.6470 / 493828.4660 304289.5950	**Ground Surface Level:** 107.172 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
3001	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.39m
3002	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.39m+

Trench 31			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.33m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493764.4140 304272.2150 / 493815.2300 304269.9590	**Ground Surface Level:** 107.123 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
3101	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.33m
3102	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.33m+

Trench 32			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.3m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493775.3080 304260.8420 / 493750.9450 304217.5280	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.493 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
3201	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Mod limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.3m
3202	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.3m+

Trench 33			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.36m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493799.4030 304254.5890 / 493779.7470 304209.6210	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.853 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
3301	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Common limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.36m
3302	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.36m+

Trench 34			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.4m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493759.5630 304205.6660 / 493758.6850 304156.4500	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.55 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
3401	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Rare limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.15m
3402	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay. Sparse limestone incl. subangular. 6-20/2-6mm.	0.15-0.25m
3403	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.25-0.4m+

Trench 35			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.36m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493918.7060 304418.9490 / 493910.8580 304370.5530	**Ground Surface Level:** 107.15 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
3501	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Mod limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.28m
3502	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.28m+

Trench 36			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.33m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493892.9950 304352.1450 / 493915.8290 304320.6480	**Ground Surface Level:** 107.462 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
3601	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Mod limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.21m
3602	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.21m+

Trench 37			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.29m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493876.9210 304342.7220 / 493861.9950 304295.3900	**Ground Surface Level:** 107.43 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
3701	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Mod limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.29m
3702	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.29m+
3703	Ditch	Part of a larger field system.	
3704	Secondary fill	Fill of 3703. Mid orange/brown silty clay. Fairly sterile with some traces of topsoil deposition. No dating.	

Trench 38			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.4m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493909.0400 304299.7760 / 493867.9280 304271.9320	**Ground Surface Level:** 107.42 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
3801	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Sparse limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.4m
3802	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.4m+
3803	Ditch	Not excavated, as examined in trench 47 (see 4703)	
3804	Secondary fill	Not excavated.	
3805	Gully	Very shallow. Part of a larger field system.	
3806	Secondary fill	Fill of 3805. Mid brown silty clay. Common limestone incl. subangular 2-60mm. No dating.	
Comments: Ditch 3803 was not excavated in this trench as it had already been investigated in trench 37.			

Trench 39			
	Dimensions: 34m x 2.1m x 0.35m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493854.4030 304257.3370 / 493888.1520 304255.1340	**Ground Surface Level:** 107.345 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
3901	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Mod limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.28m
3902	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.28m+
Comments: Trench shortened due to a live service at the west end.			

Trench 40			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.47m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493909.6860 304264.9910 / 493901.7780 304216.4430	**Ground Surface Level:** 107.223 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
4001	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Mod limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.4m
4002	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.4m+

Trench 41			
	Dimensions: 45m x 2.1m x 0.46m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493843.8360 304233.8730 / 493877.6300 304205.8840	**Ground Surface Level:** 107.199 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
4101	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Mod limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm.	0-0.37m
4102	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.37m+
Comments: Trench shortened due to a live service at the north-west end.			

Trench 42			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.7m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493807.8640 304196.3840 /493856.8950 304194.4880	**Ground Surface Level:** 107.266 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
4201	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Mod limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm	0-0.27m
4202	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay. Sparse limestone incl. subangular. 6-20/2-6mm.	0.27-0.6m
4203	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.6m+
Comments: Trench split due to a live service.			

Trench 43			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.45m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493850.0830 304159.5960 / 493898.8360 304167.4350	**Ground Surface Level:** 107.237 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
4301	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Mod limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm	0-0.37m
4302	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.37m+

Trench 44			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.4m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493787.9330 304135.7240 / 93836.7370 304135.9520	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.806 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
4401	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Mod limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm	0-0.24m
4402	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.24m+

Trench 45			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.5m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493862.7450 304144.5000 / 493829.8420 304107.8680	**Ground Surface Level:** 107.04 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
4501	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Mod limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm	0-0.2m
4502	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.2m+
Comments: Trench split due to live services.			

Trench 46			
	Dimensions: 60m x 2.1m x 0.42m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493874.0920 304149.0470 / 493875.1010 304087.9920	**Ground Surface Level:** 107.05 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
4601	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Mod limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm	0-0.32m
4602	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay. Sparse limestone incl. subangular. 6-20/2-6mm.	0.32-0.4m
4603	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.4m+
Comments: Trench split due to live services. Trench extended South at the request of the Senior Planning Archaeologist (LCC).			

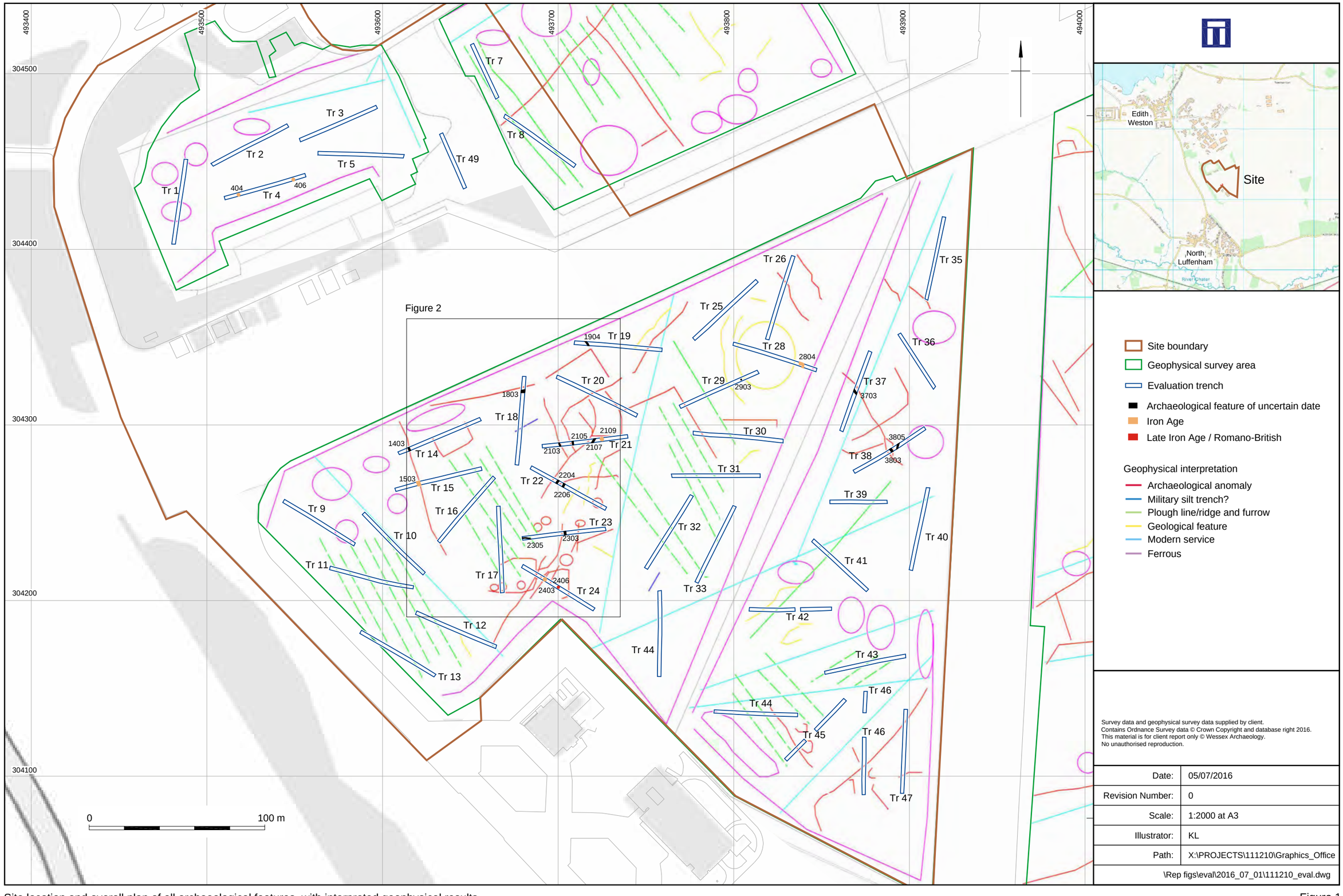
Trench 47			
	Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x 0.5m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493896.9480 304138.8230 / 493896.9890 304089.5750	**Ground Surface Level:** 107.126 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
4701	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Mod limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm	0-0.19m
4702	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay. Sparse limestone incl. subangular. 6-20/2-6mm.	0.19-0.36m
4703	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.36m+

Trench 48: Not opened due to presence of live services running along the length of the trench.			
Trench 49			
	Dimensions: 35m x 2.1m x 0.41m	**Centre Line Coordinates (NGR):** 493631.8430 304466.3380 / 493648.0820 304434.9780	**Ground Surface Level:** 106.804 m aOD
Context No	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
4901	topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay loam. Mod limestone incl. subangular, 6-20/2-6mm	0-0.24m
4902	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay. Sparse limestone incl. subangular. 6-20/2-6mm.	0.24-0.4m
4903	Natural	Mid yellow/brown silty clay. Abundant limestone incl. subangular, 60-200/20-60/6-20mm.	0.4m+
Comments: This is an additional trench added at the request of the Senior Planning Archaeologist (LCC).			

11.2 Appendix 2: Environmental assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature Type	Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Roots %	Uncharred	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Preservation
Pit	406	407	1	8	75	20		B	C	Hulled wheat grain fragment, hulled wheat glume bases	B	*Galium* sp., Viciae, *Corylus avellana shell*	5 ml	Mature	Sab		Heterogeneous
Pit	406	409	2	4	25	50	Yes	C	B	Hulled wheat grain fragment, hulled wheat (spelt) glume bases			5 ml	Mature	Moll-t		Heterogeneous
Pit	404	405	3	3	30	10		B	C	Cereal grain fragments, glume bases	C	*Corylus avellana* shell fragment	5 ml	Mature			Heterogeneous
Pit	2903	2904	4	20	250	50		C		Wheat grain	A	*Atriplex* sp., indet fruit endocarp fragments	75 ml	Mature, mostly oak + roundwood	Moll-t		Poor
Pit	2406	2407	5	20	150	75		A	C	Wheat and barley grains, hulled wheat (spelt) glume bases	A	*Atriplex* sp., *Galium* sp., Poaceae (*Avena/Bromus, Poa/Phleum*), *Carex* sp., *Geranium* sp., Viciae, Lamiaceae, *Viola* sp., indet fruit endocarp fragments	5 ml	Mature + roundwood	Sab, Moll-t	P	Heterogeneous
Ditch terminus	2804	2805	6	8	80	20		A	C	Hulled wheat grains, hulled wheat chaff, barley grains	A	*Atriplex* sp., *Carex* sp., *Prunus spinosa* endocarp with dormouse hole, *Corylus avellana* shell	20 ml	Mature	Moll-t	P	Heterogeneous

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Sab/f = small animal/fish bones, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-f = aquatic molluscs;
Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs, C14 = radiocarbon



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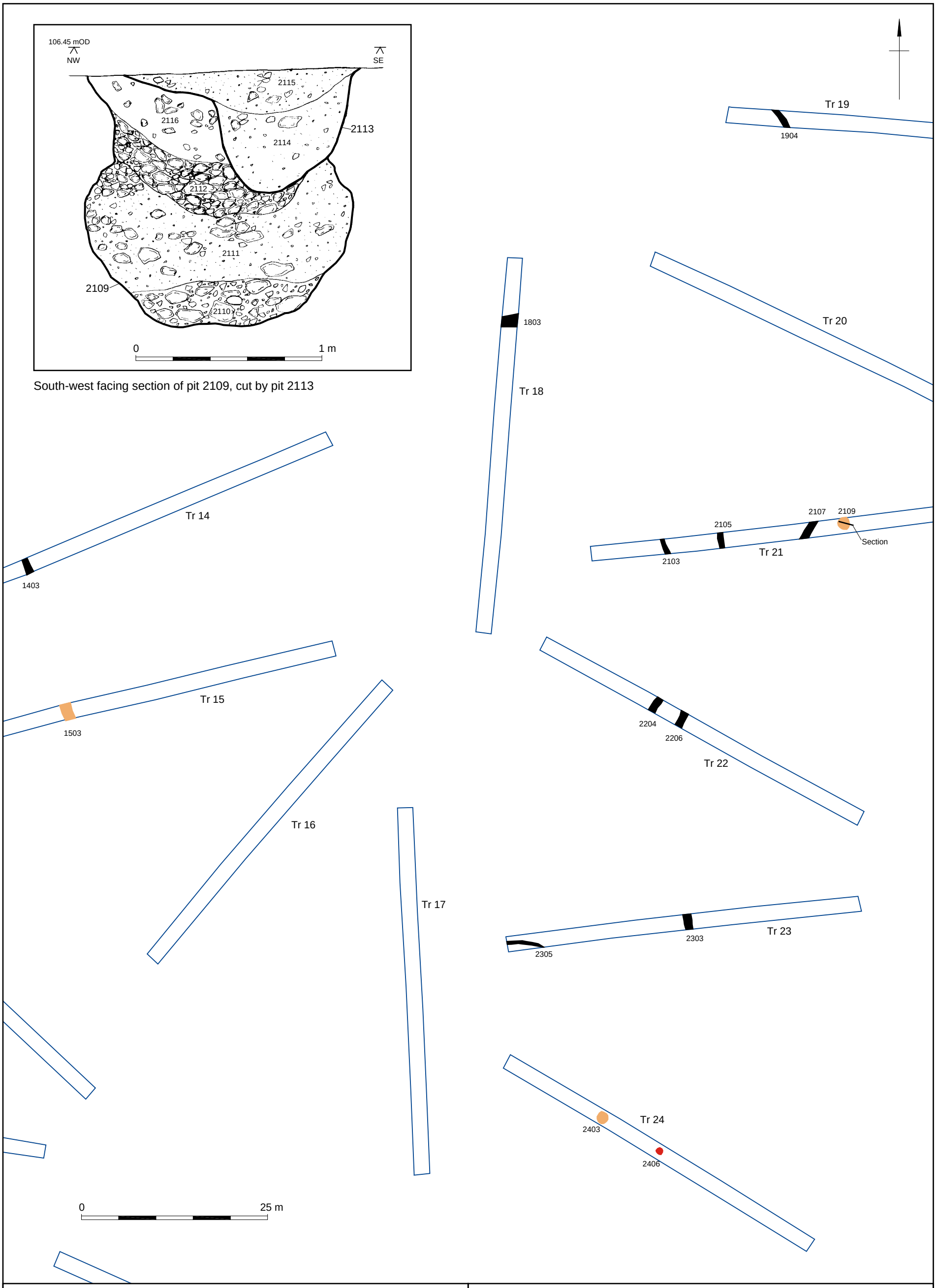
Site location and overall plan of all archaeological features, with interpreted geophysical results

Figure 1

South-west facing section of pit 2109, cut by pit 2113



Site boundary
Evaluation trench
Archaeological feature of uncertain date
Iron Age
Late Iron Age / Romano-British

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= Plan of concentration of archaeological features in the central part of the Site

Figure 2

Plate 1: Trench 41 representative section showing shallower soil sequence over natural with frequent limestone

Plate 2: Trench 3 representative section showing deeper soil sequence over siltier natural

Plate 3: South-west facing section of pit 2109, cut by pit 2113 (1 m scale)

Plate 4: South-east facing section of pit 2403 (1 m scale)

Plate 5: South-west facing section of pit 404 (0.2 m scale)

Plate 6: East facing section of pit 406 (0.5 m scale)

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Plate 7: South facing section of ditch 1503 (1 m scale)

Plate 8: North-west facing section of ditch terminus 2804 (0.5 m scale)

Plate 9: East facing section of pit 2406 (0.5 m scale)

Plate 10: East facing section of ditch 1803 (1 m scale)

Plate 11: North facing section of pit 2903

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