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Angelinos Pipeline Compound Oxfordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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Angelinos Pipeline Compound, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Front Cover Working shot, site TC6, access road to the west of Oxford Road



Angelinos Pipeline Compound, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Eight₂O on behalf of Thames Water (hereafter “the Client”), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during works relating to the proposed compound areas for the Angelinos Pipeline, Oxfordshire. The route of which extends from just to the north-east of Woodstock (NGR 446016, 218653) northwards to just to the south-west of Adderbury (NGR 445229, 234911).

The monitored areas comprised of site TC1, a compound and pipe storage area at Sturdy’s Castle (centred on NGR 446218, 219428) and a remote compound area and two associated access roads at site TC6, near North Aston (centred on NGR 446926, 228762; 447151, 228809; 447310, 228779).

The watching brief was undertaken between the 9 December 2015 and 11 February 2016.

No archaeological features or deposits were found. However, a single sherd of 11th or 12th century pottery recovered from the subsoil of site TC6 does suggest some early medieval activity in this area.



Angelinos Pipeline Compound, Oxfordshire

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Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Eight₂O, and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Matthew Manning (Balfour Beatty) in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Andrew Holmes (Atkins) for monitoring the archaeological works and his help and assistance during the course of the project. Thanks are also extended to James Maguire (Balfour Beatty) for his support during the course of the fieldwork.

The watching brief was undertaken by Piotr Orczewski and Peter Capps. The report was written and compiled by Naomi Brennan with advice from Lorraine Mephram (finds) and illustrations by Karen Nichols and Nancy Dixon. Ruth Panes managed the project on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



Angelinos Pipeline Compound, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Eight₂O on behalf of Thames Water (hereafter “the Client”), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during works for proposed compound areas, storage areas and associated access routes relating to the Angelinos Pipeline, Oxfordshire. The route of the proposed pipeline extends from just to the north-east of Woodstock at National Grid Reference (NGR) 446016, 218653 northwards to just to the south-west of Adderbury at NGR 445229, 234911.
- 1.1.2 A programme of geophysical survey has been carried out along the route of the pipeline, which has indicated some anomalies of possible archaeological interest (Stratascan 2015).
- 1.1.3 The watching brief consisted of monitoring works associated with the construction of a compound, access roads and storage areas along the route of the Angelinos Pipeline. The watching brief was undertaken between the 9 December 2015 and 11 February 2016.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The pipeline route begins at near Old Weaveley Farm just to the north-east of Woodstock (NGR 446016, 218653) before continuing due north to the west of Steeple Aston before terminating at Milton just to the south-west of Adderbury (NGR 445229, 234911).
- 1.2.2 The monitored areas comprised of site TC1, a temporary compound and pipe storage area at Sturdy’s Castle (centred on NGR 446218, 219428) and a remote temporary compound area and associated access roads at site TC6, near North Aston (centred on NGR 446926, 228762; 447151, 228809; 447310, 228779).
- 1.2.3 The elevation of the route varies considerably with an elevation of approximately 104 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the southern end of the route near Sturdy’s Castle, rising to around 140 m aOD near North Aston before falling again to around 110 m aOD near Adderbury.
- 1.2.4 The broad scale underlying geology of the southern part of the route is mapped as the sandstone, limestone and argillaceous rocks of the Great Oolite Group while the northern part of the route lies within the mudstone, siltstone, limestone and sandstone of the Lias Group (British Geological Survey). The underlying geology at site TC1 is mapped as the Cornbrash Formation with no superficial deposits recorded. At site TC6 the Horsehay Sand Formation is recorded with a band of the Northampton Sand Formation immediately to the north.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Project Aims

2.1.1 The aims of the archaeological works were to:

- *Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be impacted by the proposed development;*
- *Identify, within the constraints of the works, 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; and*
- *Produce a report which will present the results of the works in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential.*

2.2 Watching brief methodology

2.2.1 The watching brief consisted of monitoring overburden stripping within compound areas and temporary access roads along the pipeline route. Works were confined to two areas site TC1 (Fig. 1) and site TC6 (Fig. 2 and 3). All works were carried out in accordance with the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a).

2.2.2 Investigations were recorded commensurate with the archaeological results using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system and a comprehensive day book. Recording also included written, drawn and photographic elements as conditions determined.

2.2.3 A full photographic record was compiled using digital images. The record illustrated both the detail and the general context of the Site as a whole. Digital images have been subject to a managed quality control and curation process that has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure the long term accessibility of the image set.

2.2.4 A real time kinematic (RTK) survey was carried out using a Leica Viva series GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service. All survey data was recorded in Ordnance Survey National Grid coordinates and heights above Ordnance Datum (Newlyn), to a three-dimensional accuracy limit of 30 mm.

2.2.5 A unique code **111840** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.

2.3 Health and safety

2.3.1 Health and safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices override archaeological considerations at all times.

2.3.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974* and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Site TC1

3.1.1 Site TC1 comprised a compound and storage area immediately to the north of Sturdy's Castle (Fig. 1). This was stripped in two phases in December 2015 and February 2016 respectively.

3.1.2 The general stratigraphic sequence encountered was approximately 0.25-0.30 m of topsoil overlying a thin (0.05 m) layer of subsoil (Pl. 1). The underlying geology was a red brown clay with outcrops of limestone.

3.1.3 Despite a possible archaeological feature identified during the geophysical survey and the its proximity to a known Roman road (Akeman Street) no archaeological features or deposits were found.

3.2 Site TC6

3.2.1 Site TC6 comprised a compound area and two temporary access roads. The compound was situated immediately to the east of Park Farm Barns, off Somerton Road (Fig. 2). To the north-west of this a temporary access road was stripped immediately adjacent to a ruined farm building (Fig. 2; Pl. 2), visible on late 19th century maps. Another access road was stripped to immediately to the west of Oxford Road (A4260) and north of the crossroads (Fig. 3; Pl. 3).

3.2.2 The general stratigraphic sequence encountered was very similar to site TC1 with approximately 0.30 m of topsoil overlying a thin (0.08 m) layer of subsoil (Pl. 4). The underlying geology was a red orange silty clay with outcrops of limestone. Within the north-eastern part of compound area a spread of modern concrete was identified beneath the topsoil.

3.2.3 With the exception of the modern area of concrete no archaeological features or deposits were found.

4 ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

4.1.1 A small quantity of finds were recovered during the watching brief from unstratified contexts (**Table 1**). These comprise two pottery sherds, one modern stoneware and one glazed redware (broadly dated as post-medieval) recovered from the topsoil within site TC1 (context 1). Also recovered from the topsoil within site TC1 was an iron object. This appears to be a structural fitting, possibly part of a hinge, and is also likely to be post-medieval in date.

4.1.2 Within the access road to the west of Oxford Road in site TC6 a single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil (context 5). This is a sandy/flint tempered ware of 11th or 12th century date.

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

	Context	1	5	Total
Pottery	count	2	1	3
	weight	69	6	75
Iron	count	1		1
	weight	205		205

4.1.3 This small assemblage has little or no potential for further research. Given the small quantities of material involved and their recovery from unstratified contexts the finds have been discarded following quantification and a preliminary assessment.

4.1.4 Due to the absence of any features or securely dated deposits no environmental samples were taken.



5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 Within the monitored areas no archaeological features or deposits were found. However, a single sherd of 11th or 12th century pottery recovered from the subsoil of site TC6 does suggest some early medieval activity in this area.

6 STORAGE AND CURATION

6.1 Museum

- 6.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with the Oxford Museums Resource Centre.
- 6.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the accession number OXCMS : 2015.253, and a full index will be prepared.

6.2 Archive

- 6.2.1 The complete site archive, comprising paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, has been prepared following the guidance of the Oxford Museums Resource Centre and nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; Brown 2011; ADS 2013; ClfA 2014b).
- 6.2.2 It is anticipated that results from this watching brief will be included in an OASIS online record for the overall archaeological works along the route.

6.3 Copyright

- 6.3.1 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 recipient 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*.
- 6.3.2 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

6.4 Security Copy

- 6.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), a security copy of relevant written records has been 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.

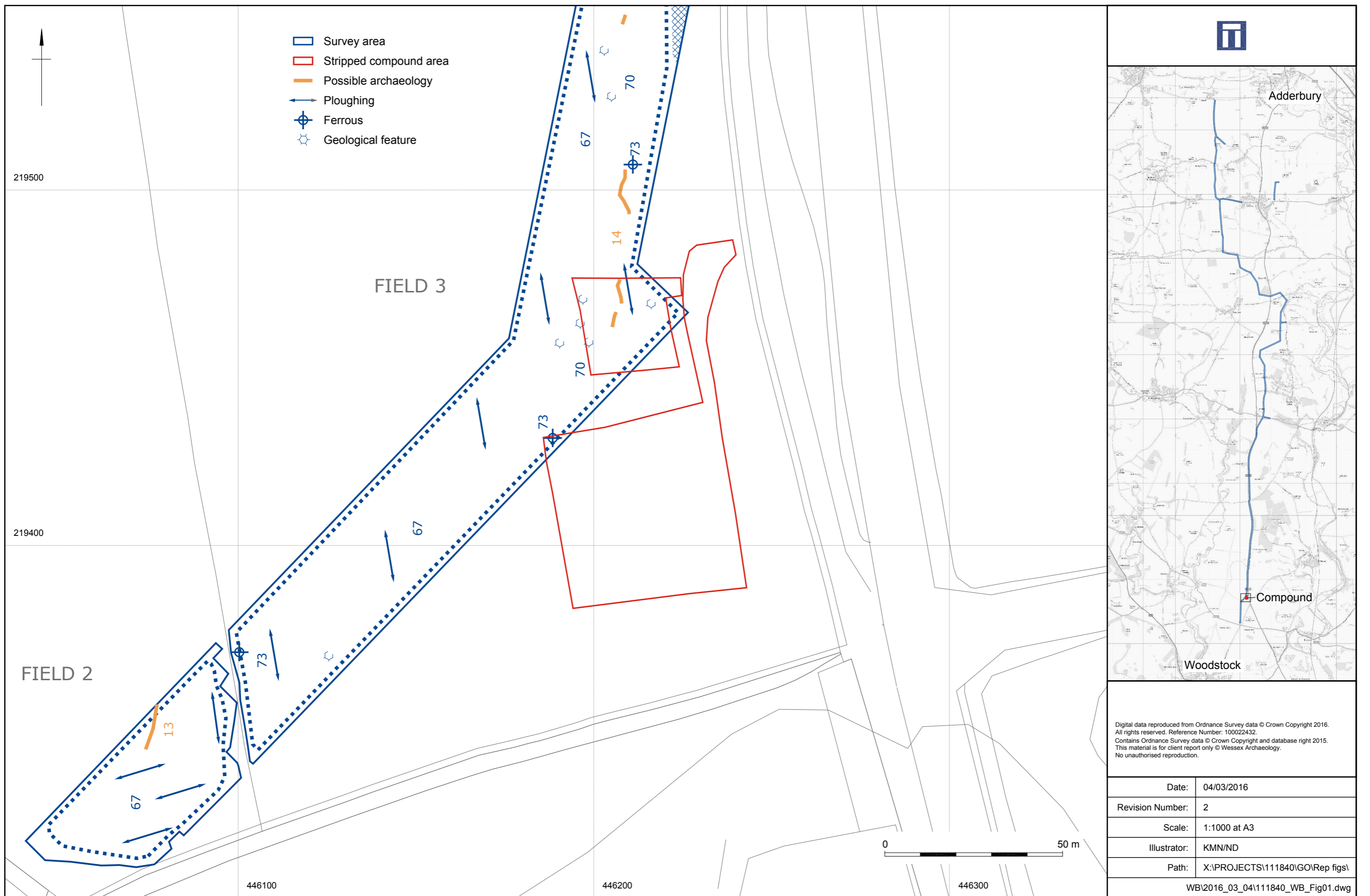
7 REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliography

ADS 2013 *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice*. Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

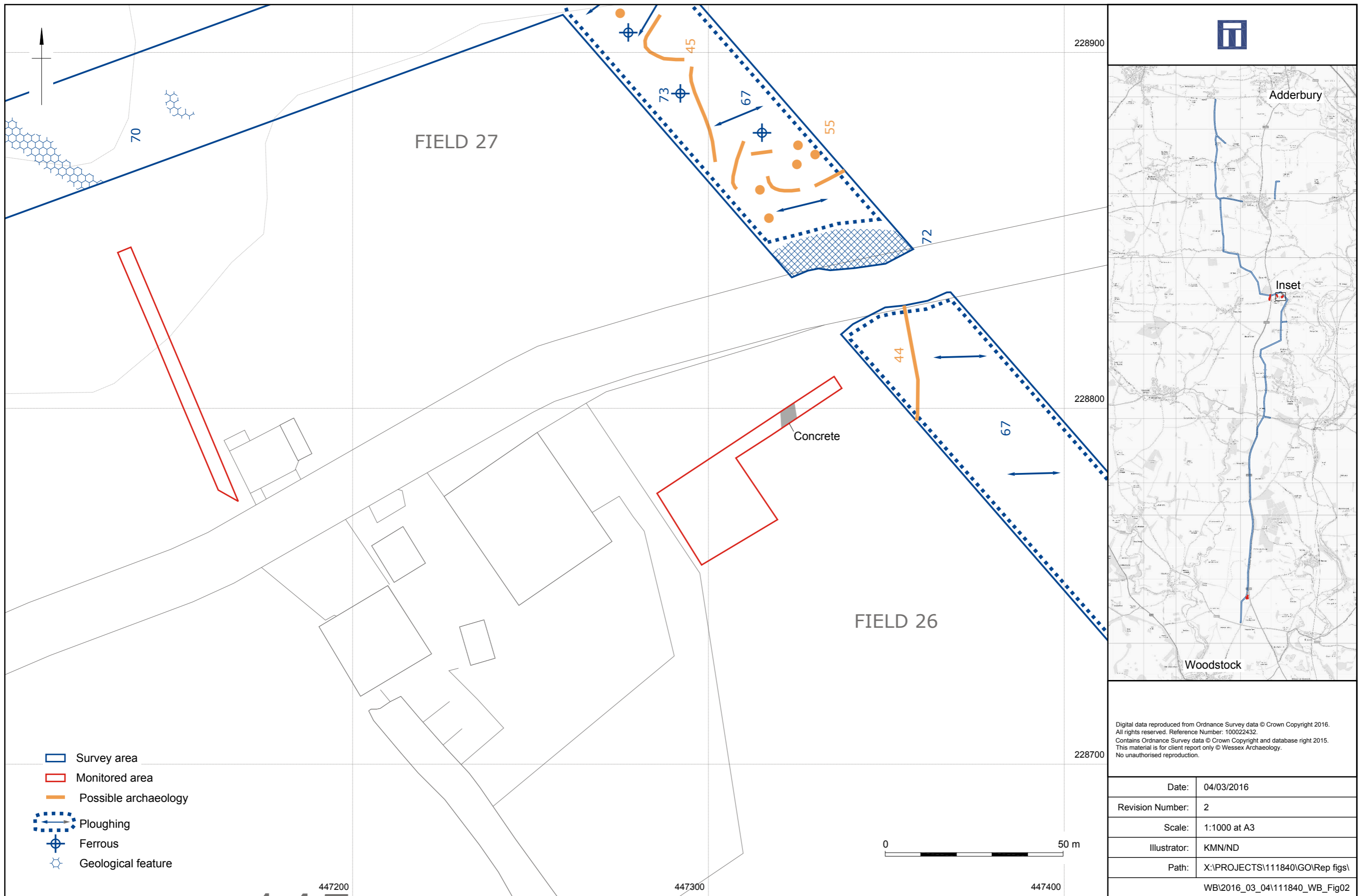


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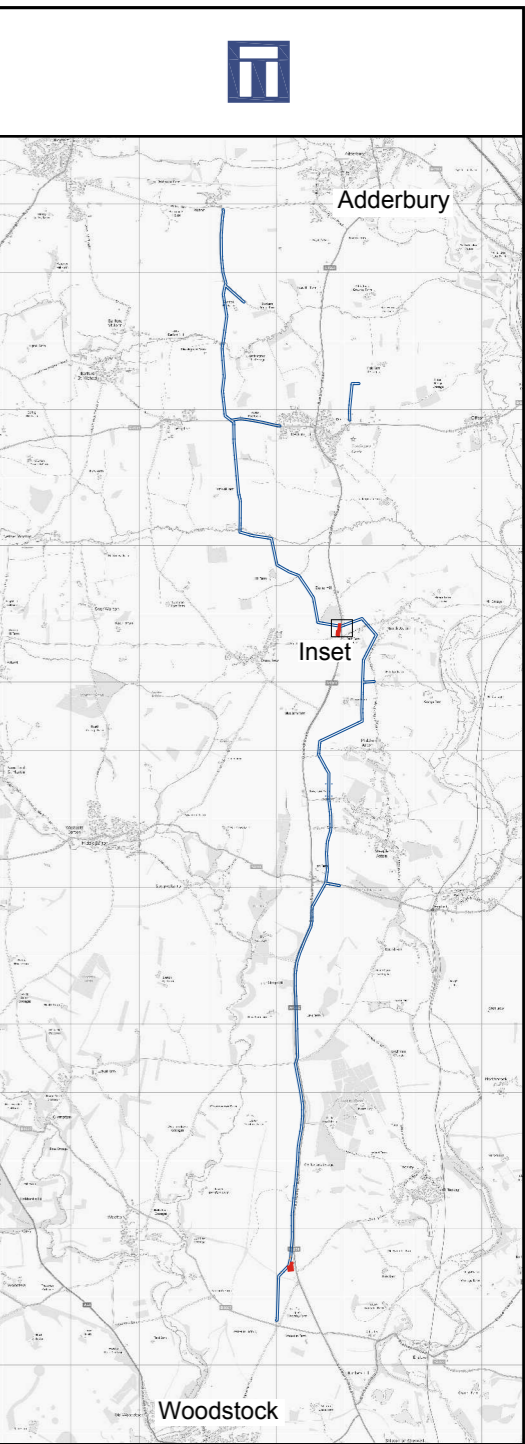
Site TC1 temporary compound and pipe storage area

Figure 1



Site TC6 remote temporary compound area and access road

Figure 2



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Site TC6 access road

Figure 3



Plate 1: South facing representative section, site TC1



Plate 2: Site TC6, access road to the west of Oxford Road, view from the south-east



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Plate 3: Site TC6, access road adjacent to ruined farm building, view from the north



Plate 4: North facing representative section, site TC6

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