



Shrivenham Road, Highworth Swindon, Wiltshire

Report for an Archaeological Evaluation



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wessexarchaeology



**Shrivenham Road
Highworth
Swindon
Wiltshire**

Report for an Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Persimmon Homes Wessex, to carry out an archaeological evaluation at, Shrivenham Road, Highworth, Swindon, Wiltshire centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 420313, 191676 (hereafter the 'Site'). The work comprised of 7 no 30m x 1.8m machine dug trial trenches and was undertaken on 23 and 24 January 2017.

No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered. The evaluation did reveal two shallow field ditches aligned north west to south east and appeared in both **trench 1** and **trench 5**. Although no artefactual evidence was recovered the ditches are likely to date to the early 20th century, based upon OS mapping.

A ditch of unknown date and on a differing alignment, running north south was recorded in **trench 1**. It most probably pre dates the modern ditches as it does not appear on any of the OS mapping.



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Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Claire Hambleton of Permission Homes Wessex for commissioning the work. The help and assistance of Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (Archaeologist Wiltshire County Council) is duly acknowledged.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Damian De Rosa, who edited this report. The report was written by Peter Capps.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Capps assisted by Michael Cepak and Rachael Sawyer.



Shrivenham Road, Highworth Swindon Wiltshire

Report for an Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Persimmon Homes Wessex, to carry out an archaeological evaluation at, Shrivenham Road, Highworth, Swindon, Wiltshire centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 420313, 191676 (hereafter the 'Site') (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The Site is proposed for residential development with associated access and landscaping through a planning application which is due to be submitted to Swindon Borough Council the local planning authority.
- 1.1.3 A desk-based assessment (AH 2016) was prepared for the Site which concluded that The potential for the Site to contain archaeological remains of any period is considered to be low to moderate, and the potential for archaeological remains of, in particular, Romano-British date, to have survived, is recognised. Any surviving medieval or post-medieval archaeology is likely to relate to agricultural practice, given the Site's location away from the medieval settlement centres of Highworth and Eastrop.
- 1.1.4 Subsequent to this, a geophysical survey was undertaken, which did not detect any anomalies likely to be of archaeological interest. A former field boundary was located, and a past ridge and furrow scheme was detected (GSB 2016).
- 1.1.5 Due to the largely unknown archaeological potential of the Site, consultation with Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, the County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council (CAWC), recommended that an archaeological trial trench evaluation should be conducted on the Site prior to determination of and to inform the proposed planning application.
- 1.1.6 The archaeological evaluation comprised of 7 trenches each 30 m x 1.8 m, and were laid out and excavated in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WA 2016), submitted to and approved by the CAWC prior to the commencement of any fieldwork.
- 1.1.7 The evaluation was undertaken from 22 to 23 January 2017.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site comprises a parcel of land of 1.99ha adjacent to Shrivenham Road, to the south of the settlement of Highworth within the Borough of Swindon. It is bounded on all sides by mature hedges containing occasional mature and semi mature trees, with the exception of the western extent of the northern boundary where the open field continues north. The Site currently comprises one large open field with two mature trees denoting the line of a former north-south boundary.



- 1.2.2 The Site rises gently from south to north, at elevations of 124m-129m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology of the Site is described by the British Geological Survey (BGS) as Stanford Formation: Limestone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 156 to 161 million years BP. No superficial geological deposits are recorded.
- 1.2.4 The BGS records data from a single borehole in close proximity to the Site. The investigation, catalogued as 'SU29SW5 - Fexinells Farm Highworth Wilts', records the digging of a well some 10m south of the Site's southern boundary in 1927. The logs are recorded in feet and inches, and have been converted to metric measurements for consistency. The recorded stratigraphy is: topsoil of 0.46m depth overlying ragstone rubble of 0.91m depth. Below this material was approximately 2.6m of sand 'becoming clayey toward base'.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in detail within the Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (AH 2016) which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 2 km Study Area around the Site in order to place the Site within its historical and archaeological context. The results of this assessment and relevant Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environmental Records (WSHER) and entries from the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) are summarised below.

3.2 Prehistoric (900,000–AD 43)

- 3.2.1 The earliest prehistoric data recorded in the WSHER refers to finds of flint artefacts of Mesolithic date identified at two sites in Highworth some 850m northeast of the Site. The findspots are of worked flints and waste material from an ancient streambed, and a group of residual flint flakes and blades recorded from the make-up of a later Roman road.
- 3.2.2 Further findspots of Neolithic material are recorded within Highworth and its environs. Additional flint finds dating to the Neolithic period were recovered from the same streambed location as the Mesolithic material described above. These finds included flint flakes, blades, chips, a hammerstone, and a burin recovered in and around the former streambed.
- 3.2.3 Further Neolithic flint artefacts were found close to the Mesolithic material within the Roman road layers, described above, and in association with other Romano-British material at the site.
- 3.2.4 A group of Iron Age findspots is recorded just to the north of Cricklade Road, some 900m northwest of the Site. Material included pottery and animal bone, likely representative of a small settlement or farmstead. No associated features are recorded. Further Iron Age material is recorded from excavations in the 1960s at Pickett's Copse, some 945m southwest of the Site (Young 1969).

3.3 Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

- 3.3.1 The Highworth area is relatively rich in remains of Romano-British date. Beginning some 460m northeast of the Site, a large area of some 28.75ha is identified by the WSHER as the site of Romano-British occupation. The area includes four stone buildings linked by

trackways and of likely 1st to 4th century, based on finds of ceramics and 2nd century coins excavated by the Highworth Historical Society in 1980 (Collins 1986). Further Romano-British building remains have been recorded to the west of the larger site, dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD.

- 3.3.2 Within a broad area to the west of Lechlade Road (A361), and to the north and south of the B4019 Cricklade Road, a large number of finds of Romano-British material are recorded, generally comprising pottery, bone and coins with some evidence for human burials. These widespread finds are likely indicative of occupation of this area during the Romano-British period and possibly represent an extension to the more formally recorded remains to the east.
- 3.3.3 Further evidence for Romano-British activity in this area of Highworth has been recorded in a number of archaeological interventions. A watching brief at 39 Cricklade Road identified a pyre burial and a section of wall in association with Romano-British ceramics and other finds (Winterburn 2008), whilst to the south of this Site, at the Highworth Junior Football Club, a watching brief and excavation revealed the truncated remains of a 4th century building (Rowe & Bateman 2004).

3.4 Early medieval (AD410-1066) to late medieval (1066-1529)

- 3.4.1 The settlement at Highworth is first mentioned in the Domesday book (1086) where it is recorded as being held by Ralph the Priest, whose holdings included the church and three hides of land (Williams & Martin 1992).
- 3.4.2 Domesday records the name of the settlement as Wrde, deriving from the Old English word, referring to an enclosure (Ekwall 1960). The name High Worth was in use some time before 1300, but even then it was more often referred to as the hundred of Worth, which comprised the area containing Highworth, Sevenhampton, Eastrop, Westrop, Hampton and South Marston. A Saxon minster church was established in the 11th century. Whilst the Church of St. Michael has Saxon origins.
- 3.4.3 During the period between the 11th and later 12th centuries, and 1194 the hundred of Scipe was merged with Worth (Roffe 2007), and subsequent to this the hundreds of Staple and Cricklade were also added. The hundred was recognised as an area in the northeast of Wiltshire, bounded by the rivers Thames, Cole and Ray. The hundred was attached to the large manor of Sevenhampton in the 13th century at some point prior to 1255.
- 3.4.4 The medieval settlement of Worth is recorded by the WSHER as occupying an area c. 540m north of the Site. Features of medieval date were identified in this area during evaluation work undertaken in 2004 (Young 2004) which identified a series of features of likely medieval date in association with medieval ceramics of a number of recognisable local styles and fabrics.
- 3.4.5 To the east of the modern settlement, substantial remains of medieval date have been identified along the B4019 Eastrop Road. These remains relate to the deserted medieval settlement of Eastrop and comprise a large area of 13th to 15th century artefactual evidence and the line of a hollow way. To the north and south of the settlement lies areas of ridge and furrow cultivation, the majority now levelled by recent cultivation (Bannister 1991).
- 3.4.6 To the north of Eastrop Farm lies a group of medieval earthworks known as the Highworth Circles with further outliers to the south of the Site. The monuments are Scheduled



individually and in groups, and comprise a total of nine monuments. In general, the Highworth circles represent a type of earthwork enclosure found in northeast Wiltshire, with a small number of additional similar monuments identified to the north of the River Thames in Oxfordshire. Despite limited fieldwork and excavation their date remains uncertain. Whilst they clearly share characteristics with Neolithic henge monuments, the Highworth Circles are thought to be of medieval date, possibly related to stock management.

3.4.7 Evidence for further medieval settlement is evident at Sevenhampton, where Scheduled remains comprise two areas, located in fields surrounding the parish church. The monument is situated to the south of the modern settlement on the southwest facing slope and valley bottom.

3.4.8 Four early medieval findspots are recorded in the WSHER, three of which lie in the Eastrop area of Highworth. The most important of these comprises the remains of a Saxon grubenhaus, a sunken domestic building which was identified within the walls of an earlier Romano-British structure (Collins 1986).

3.5 Post-medieval (1540-1800) and modern (1801-present)

3.5.1 During the Civil War the Church of St. Michael is recorded to have been fortified from late 1644, when the town was given a permanent garrison of some 200 men. On the 27th June 1645 the royalist garrison fell to the Parliamentarians as they pushed westward toward Taunton (Pafford 1966).

3.5.2 During the late 18th century, the agricultural hinterland of Highworth was irrevocably altered through the enclosure of the commons and open fields which took place between 1778 and 1783, removing the populace's common land rights. Also of importance to the post-medieval development of the town was the turnpiking of the Highworth to Lechlade and the Faringdon to Cricklade roads which took place in the 1790s.

3.5.3 Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, and into the first half of the 20th, Highworth grew slowly which is partly responsible for the preservation of the town's historic core which now comprises the Highworth Conservation Area. A small number of the town's medieval buildings still survive, although many of the houses within the Conservation Area were re-fronted during the 18th and early 19th centuries.

3.5.4 The essentially rural agricultural nature of the Site's environs is illustrated through the number of farmsteads, farmhouses, agricultural buildings and outfarms visible in the modern landscape or preserved by record in the WSHER.

3.5.5 Modern urban expansion only really began in the 1950s and 60s, generally in the north and west of the town. Modern development to the south of the historic core has been undertaken in the latter part of the 20th century and into the 21st, with some of the most modern residential properties situated to the north of the Site, for example the Stranks Close development.

3.5.6 The Site itself appears to have remained undeveloped, certainly throughout the recorded historic period.

3.6 Historic map regression: the developmental history of the Site

3.6.1 John Speed's map of Wiltshire, dated to 1611 identifies Highworth, recorded as Hiworth, within Highworth Hundred, illustrated as a hilltop settlement although the map records no detail of its layout.



- 3.6.2 The Andrews and Dury map of Wiltshire dated to 1773 shows more detail of the settlement including the main east-west roads to Easthorp (Eastrop) and Broad Blunsdon, along with the northern road to Westhorp (Westrop). Whilst the map also illustrates the area of the Site, any useful detail is lacking. The 1779 Highworth Inclosure shows the Site and its environs recorded as Plot 202, under the name Selman.
- 3.6.3 The Ordnance Survey map of 1877 illustrates the Site as occupying one larger open field, with no development yet to the north. The Public Right of Way (PROW) which extends along the Site's western boundary is illustrated and a clay pit is recorded just to the northwest of the Site's northern boundary. The 1900 OS illustrates a similar layout, with no additional development within the Site's immediate environs evident. The clay pit to the northwest, whilst still illustrated, is no longer annotated suggesting it may have fallen out of use. A more substantial Brick & Tile Works now occupies land to the north.
- 3.6.4 An additional linear boundary aligned northwest-southeast is shown in the 1923 OS map, and is apparent as an anomaly in the geophysical survey (GSB 2016). The area of the brickworks to the north has now reverted back to fields. Buildings to the south of the Site are now recorded as Fennells Farm.
- 3.6.5 The 1942 OS illustrates a number of changes around the Site, although the Site itself remains unaffected. The residential plot to the modern Site's immediate north is illustrated for the first time, and the northwest-southeast boundary has been removed. Fennells Farm has grown with the addition of new buildings. By the issue of the 1970 OS, the area north of the buildings to the north of the Site is shown as allotments. This area has recently been developed as Stranks Close, as has much of the area to the north of it, effectively creating continuous development from the Site's northern boundary to Highworth's centre along the west side of Shrivenham Road.

3.7 Geophysical Survey

- 3.7.1 A geophysical survey was undertaken to further inform the archaeological potential of the Site (GSB 2016). The survey did not detect any anomalies likely to be of archaeological interest. A former field boundary was located, as shown on the 1923 OS, and a past ridge and furrow scheme was detected (**Figure 1**)

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1.1 The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the WSI. Trenches were machine excavated under supervision and appropriate measures were taken to identify any underground services with the use of a cable avoidance tool (CAT). Archaeological features were excavated and recorded in accordance with the methodology outlined in the WSI.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A total of 7 trenches were excavated across the site and are discussed below. Numbers in bold are deposit and feature context numbers and contain a trench number prefix (e.g. **202** denotes a deposit in Trench 2). An overall interpretation is provided in the Conclusion and Recommendations (see Section below). A full and detailed description of all the features and deposits identified during the evaluation can be found in the **Appendix** section.

5.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences

5.2.1 In **trenches 1, 2, 3, 4** and **6** the natural geology comprised of Hazelbury Bryan Formation and Kingston Formation (undifferentiated) Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone (**Plates 1 & 2**). In **trenches 5** and **7** in the south west of the site the natural geology comprised of Stanford Formation: Limestone, a sedimentary bedrock (**Plates 3 & 4**).

5.3 Results

5.3.1 **Trenches 2, 3, 4, 6** and **7** revealed no archaeological features or deposits. However, finds were recovered from within the subsoil **trench 4**, deposit **402**. These were one piece of post medieval pottery (not retained) and a small flint blade. This small blade is probably of late Mesolithic to early Neolithic date and fits with the background Mesolithic and Neolithic finds outlined in the archaeological background section of this report and the WSI (WA, 2016).

5.3.2 **Trench 5** revealed furrow **506 (Plate 3)**, the result of medieval/post-medieval agricultural practices. This feature (**506**) was up to 2.4m wide and 0.08m deep and contained a single fill (**507**) from which no dateable material was recovered.

5.3.3 Ditch **504 (Plate 6)**, was south-east to north-west aligned and is possibly evidence of an early 20th century field boundary first depicted on the 1923 OS map (**Figure 2**). The ditch was 1.05m wide and 0.04m deep and contained a single fill (**505**) from which no dateable material was recovered.

5.3.4 **Trench 1** also revealed two linear features, both field boundaries. Ditch **106**, is a continuation of the south east to north west field boundary recorded in **trench 5** as **504**.

5.3.5 Ditch **104 (Plate 5)** was north to south aligned and is of a greater depth than the other ditch measuring 1.05 wide by 0.23m deep. Its fill **105** was darker and less sterile, but contained no dateable material. Its absence from the OS mapping and its differing alignment and form suggests that it probably pre dates ditch **106/504**.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1.1 Despite the archaeological potential within the vicinity of the site the evaluation revealed no significant archaeological features or deposits. Other than a furrow relating to post-medieval/medieval agricultural practices three ditches were recorded, which are likely to be evidence of removed field boundaries. Two of these ditches were continuations of the same feature and are likely to be early 20th century in date based on OS historic mapping of 1923 when this boundary appears to be first documented. The other ditch is of unknown date but may predate the other field boundary given the latter's more recent date.

6.1.2 Although no significant archaeological features were identified the small flint blade probably of late Mesolithic to early Neolithic date recovered from the subsoil concurs with the known background to the site which indicates a general background of prehistoric evidence within the vicinity. Despite the area of Highworth being rich in the remains of Romano-British date no evidence for this period could be identified at the site. The results also further confirm that the site has remained within the agricultural landscape since at least the medieval and into the post medieval periods and up until the modern day lying away from the medieval settlement centres of Highworth and Eastrop.



7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

- 7.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the evaluation be deposited with the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery. Until final deposition the archive will be held at the offices of WA in Salisbury. Deposition of any finds and the archive will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

7.2 Archive

- 7.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, has been prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Hampshire Cultural Trust, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; Brown 2011; ADS 2013; ClfA 2014b).
- 7.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be

7.3 Discard policy

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

7.4 Copyright

- 7.4.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology 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*.

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9 APPENDICES

9.1 Appendix 1: Trench Tables

Trench 1	Dimensions: 30.6 m x 1.8 m x 0.8 m deep		
	Land use: Pasture		
	Coordinates: NW: X- 4200290.7393, Y-191720.5213, level- 125.51 m aOD SW: X- 420262.9853, Y- 191707.6858, level- 125.161 m aOD		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
101	Layer	Topsoil- Dark yellowish brown silty clay with well-established turf and fine rooting throughout. Clear boundary with subsoil. No inclusions very soft and loose compaction.	0m-0.3m
102	Layer	Subsoil- Mid yellowish brown with a red hue sandy clay. Very soft loose compaction and sparse sub rounded limestone inclusions <2cm diameter. Clear boundary with natural. Some fine rooting.	0.3m - 0.7m
103	Layer	Natural- Mid brownish yellow sand. Some darker mottling. No coarse inclusions. Very soft, loose compaction. Clear boundary with subsoil.	0.7m+
104	Ditch Cut	Cut of ditch. Filled with (104) . 1.02m wide x 2.4m+ long x 0.23m deep. N-S aligned. Concave base and sides with a moderate slope. Most probably a field boundary, undated.	0.7m- 0.93m
105	Secondary Fill	Secondary fill. Fill of [103] . 1.02m wide x 2.4m+ long x 0.23m thick. Mid reddish grey silty sand with rare small limestone and flecking of manganese. Loose to moderate compaction. Clear horizon with natural.	0.7m- 0.93m
106	Ditch Cut	Cut of ditch. Filled with (107) . 0.7m wide, unexcavated in this trench. Excavated as ditch [504] in trench 5 .	0.7m+
107	Secondary Fill	Secondary fill of ditch. Mid brownish grey silty clay sand. No inclusions visible.	0.7m+

Trench 2	Dimensions: 29.7 m x 1.8 m x 0.79 m deep		
	Land use: Pasture		
	Coordinates: NE: X- 420333.3493, Y- 191726.0179, level- 125.95 m aOD SW: X- 220309.1430, Y- 191708.7584, level- 125.379 m aOD		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
201	Layer	Topsoil- Dark orangey brown silty clay, loose compaction. Few inclusions, well established turf. Diffuse undulating boundary with subsoil, fine rooting throughout.	0-0.5m
202	Layer	Subsoil- Brownish orange with a yellow hue sandy clay. Loose compaction, rare sub angular limestone c <2cm diameter. Some fine rooting.	0.5-0.73m
203	Layer	Natural- Mid yellowish brown sand. Very soft loose compaction, mottled with darker sand. Very rare limestone nodules <2cm diameter.	0.73m+



Trench 3	Dimensions: 28.5 m x 1.8 m x 0.82 m deep		
	Land use: Pasture		
	Coordinates: W: X-420251.2282, Y-191677.0317, level-124.507 m aOD E: X-420279.8606, Y-191677.3954, level- 124.424 m aOD		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
301	Layer	Topsoil- Dark reddish brown silty clay with well-established turf rooting throughout. No inclusions, very loose compaction and clear boundary with subsoil.	0-0.25m
302	Layer	Subsoil- Mid reddish brown with a yellow hue, sandy clay. Rare sub angular limestone inclusions < 2cm diameter. Clear boundaries with the subsoil and natural. Some fine rooting in top 0.2m	0.25-0.7m
303	Layer	Natural- Mid yellowish brown with red hue sand mottled with darker sand. Some fine rooting. Clear boundary with sub soil. Very few limestone nodules.	0.7m+

Trench 4	Dimensions: 28.6 m x 1.8 m x 0.68 m		
	Land use: Pasture		
	Coordinates: W: X- 420332.4023, Y-191692.6485, level-125.288 m aOD E: X- 420360.8978, Y-191682.7942, level- 125.034 m aOD		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
401	Layer	Topsoil- Dark orangey brown silty clay. No inclusions, some fine rooting. Well established turf above and rooting throughout. Loose compaction, very soft. Clear boundary with subsoil.	0-0.35m
402	Layer	Subsoil- Mid brownish orange silty clay. Rare limestone inclusions above limestone patches in natural. Loose compaction, very soft. Some light rooting.	0.35m-0.65m
403	Layer	Natural- Mid brownish orange sandy clay. Limestone patches. Some light rooting.	0.65m+

Trench 5	Dimensions: 29.3 m x 1.8 m x 0.41 m deep		
	Land use: Pasture		
	Coordinates: SW: X- 420306.12, Y- 191643.0874, level- 123.949 m aOD NE: X - 420330.3597, Y-191659.3939, level- 124.765 m aOD		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
501	Layer	Topsoil- Dark greyish brown clay loam. Well established turf above. Loose compaction, very soft. Rare sub rounded limestone <1cm diameter. Moderate rooting throughout.	0-0.31m
502	Layer	Subsoil- Mid yellowish brown silty clay. Rare sub angular limestone <2cm diameter.	0.31-0.41m
503	Layer	Natural- Mid yellowish brown with grey hue sandy clay. Common angular limestone. Distinct boundary with subsoil.	0.41m+
504	Ditch Cut	Cut of ditch. Filled with (505) . 1.05m wide x 1.9m+ long x 0.04m deep. SE-NW orientated. Straight, gently sloped sides with a flat base. A field boundary, most	0.41-0.45m



		probably early 20 th century as depicted on 1923 OS mapping. Heavily truncated by agricultural activity.	
505	Secondary Fill	Secondary fill. Fill of [504]. Mid yellowish brown silty clay. With rare limestone <5cm diameter 0.04m thick. Moderate compaction, clear boundary between natural, moderate rooting.	0.41-0.45
506	Furrows	Furrows. Filled with (507). 2.4m wide x 1.9m+ wide x 0.08m deep. SE-NW aligned. Straight, gently sloped sides, with a concave base. Furrows- the result of agricultural processes on same alignment as modern field boundary [504] so possibly of the same date.	0.41-0.49m
507	Tertiary	Tertiary fill of [506]. Mid yellowish brown silty clay with rare sub angular limestone nodules <2cm diameter. Fragments of CBM. Difficult to distinguish between subsoil. Firm compaction.	0.41-0.49m

Trench 6	Dimensions: 31 m x 1.9 m x 0.75 m deep		
	Land use: Pasture		
	Coordinates: W: X- 420365.8982, Y- 191650.28855, level- 124.763 m aOD E: X- 420396.8646, Y- 191650.5879, level-124.14 m aOD		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
601	Layer	Topsoil- Dark yellowish brown silty clay. Clear boundary with subsoil, Loose compaction, very soft. No inclusions.	0-0.64m
602	Layer	Subsoil- Mid orangey brown sandy clay. Firm compaction. Clear boundary with topsoil and natural. Rare limestone in patches where it is present in natural.	0.64-0.75m
603	Layer	Natural- Light yellowish brown sand rare patches of angular limestone 2cm-6cm diameter. Clear boundary with subsoil.	0.75m+

Trench 7	Dimensions: 30 m x 1.8 m x 0.53 m deep		
	Land use: Pasture		
	Coordinates: W: X- 420293.6294, Y-191620.2694, level- 123.05 m aOD E: X- 420323.555, Y- 191620.0333, level- 123.609 m aOD		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
701	Layer	Topsoil- Dark greyish brown clay loam, Well established turf above and rooting throughout. Loose compaction, very soft. No coarse inclusions.	0-0.2m
702	Layer	Subsoil- Mid yellowish brown silty clay. Rare sub angular limestone <2cm diameter. Firm compaction, some fine rooting, clear boundaries with topsoil and natural.	0.2-0.48m
703	Layer	Natural- Light yellowish brown with grey hue. Sandy clay with common angular limestone. Distinct boundary with subsoil	0.48m+



9.1 Oasis Form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-274685

Project details

Project name	Shrivenham Road Highworth Swindon Wiltshire
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Persimmon Homes Wessex, to carry out an archaeological evaluation at, Shrivenham Road, Highworth, Swindon, Wiltshire The work comprised of 7 no 30m x 1.8m machine dug trial trenches. No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered. The evaluation did reveal two shallow field ditches aligned north west to south east and appeared in both trench 1 and trench 5. Although no artefactual evidence was recovered the ditches are likely to date to the early 20th century, based upon OS mapping. A ditch of unknown date and on a differing alignment, running north south was recorded in trench 1. It most probably pre dates the modern ditches as it does not appear on any of the OS mapping
Project dates	Start: 23-01-2017 End: 24-01-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	115300 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Modern
Significant Finds	FLINT BLADE Neolithic
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Development type	Housing estate
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE SWINDON HIGHWORTH Shrivenham Road, Highworth, Swindon, Wiltshire
Postcode	SN6 7SW
Study area	2 Hectares
Site coordinates	420313 191676 420313 00 00 N 191676 00 00 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 123.1m Max: 125.8m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Wiltshire Council



Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Damian De Rosa
Project supervisor	P Capps
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Persimmon Homes Wessex

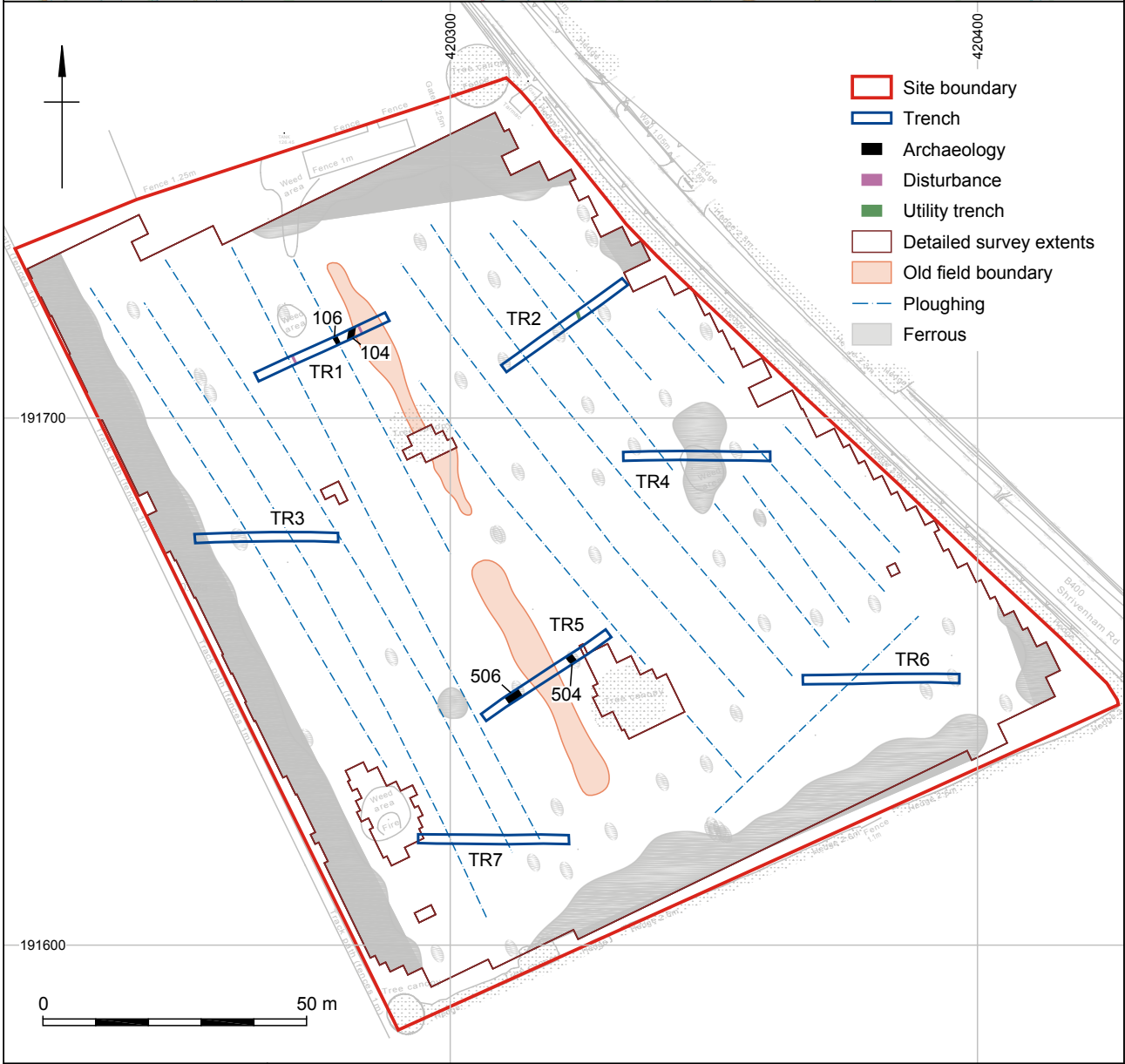
Project archives


Physical Archive recipient	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
Physical Contents	"Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Report"

Project bibliography

1

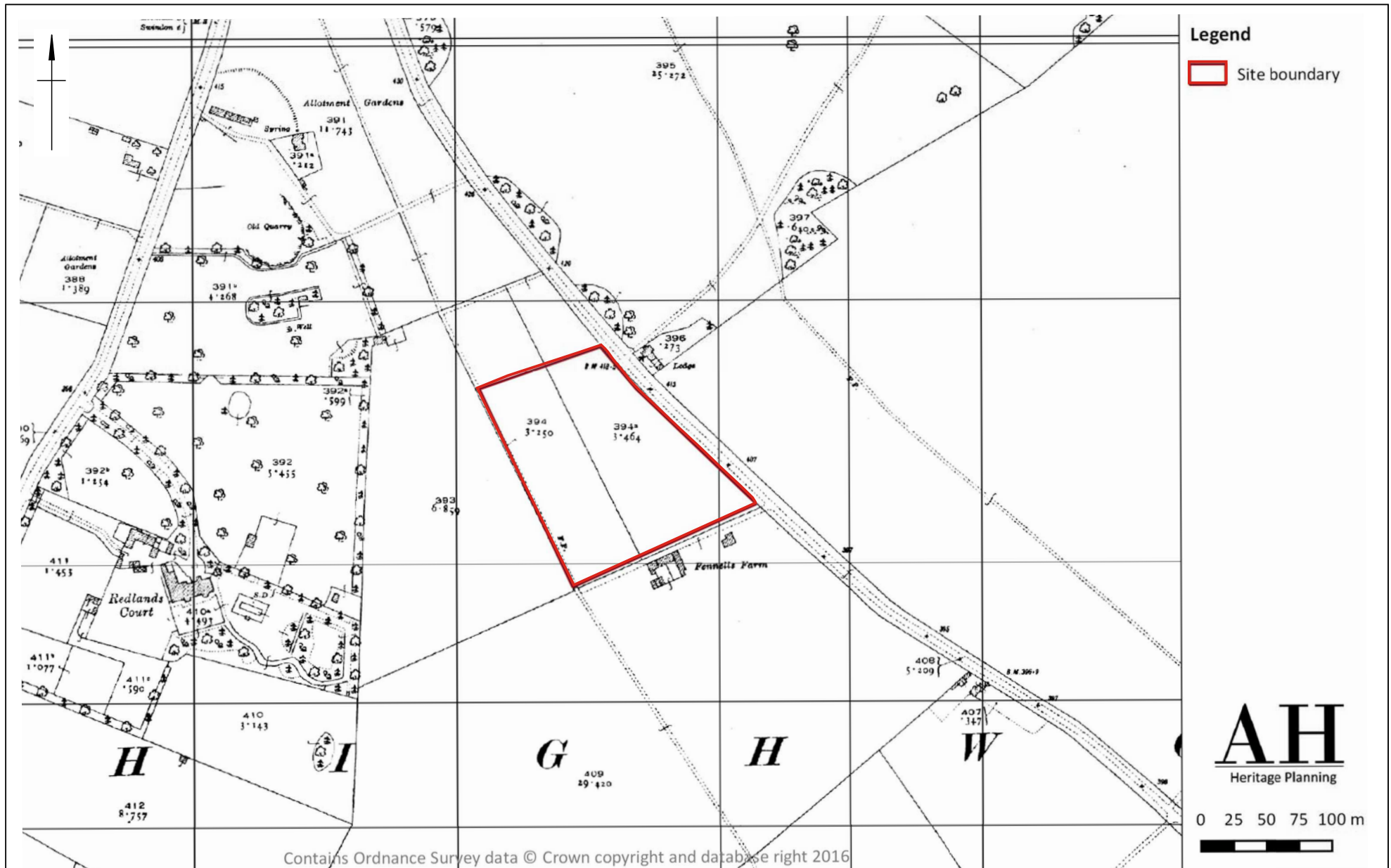
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Shrivenham Road, Highworth, Swindon, Wiltshire. Report for an Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Capps, P.
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Place of issue or publication	Salisbury
Description	A4 format with illustrations




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Site Location and trench plan

Figure 1



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Historical mapping provided by the client: Reproduced from the 1923 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map.
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Plate 1: North west facing section of Trench 1



Plate 2: Trench 2 from the south west



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Plate 3: North west facing section of furrow 506



Plate 4: Trench 5 from the north east

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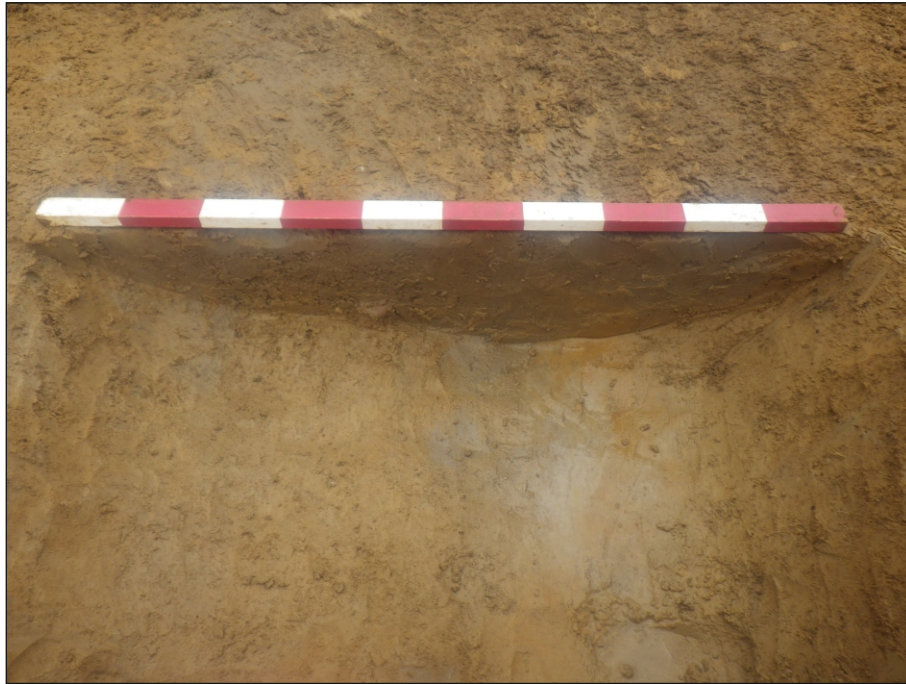



Plate 5: South facing section of ditch 104



Plate 6: South east facing section of ditch 504

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