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Sherford New Community – Phase 1.1 Plymouth, Devon

(RMA 1.1 Advanced Planting Works)

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Ref:107560.04

March 2015

Museum Accession Code: PLYGM:2015.6

Planning Refs: Plymouth City Council – 06/02036/OUT

South Hams District Council – 7_49/2426/06/O



**Sherford New Community – Phase 1.1
Plymouth, Devon**

(RMA 1.1 Advanced Planting Works)

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by AECOM, on behalf of the Sherford Consortium, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land within the Phase 1 area of the proposed new community at Sherford, Plymouth, Devon, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 253961, 53689.

The watching brief was specifically associated with the RMA 1.1 Advance Planting and immediately followed a phase of trial trenching in the same locations. The planting involved the construction of a hedge bank which comprised the excavation of a single trench intended to function as a ditched boundary adjacent to the hedge bank (created from the uprisings). The hedgebank construction was to be undertaken in a sequence of five separate phases, referred to as Areas 1 to 5, both within and beyond the Phase 1 development area. The programme of work was carried out between the 20th January to the 11th February 2015.

A small number of archaeological features were recorded within three areas. The highest concentration of features was found within Area 1, many of which contained Romano-British pottery. Four linears/ditches, one of which was a large and deep 'V'-shaped feature, and a small hearth/fire pit were excavated. A metalled surface, possibly representing a trackway was also located within Area 1 and appears to be associated with a similar surface recorded within a nearby trench in the initial trial trench evaluation.

Four archaeological features were recorded within Area 4 including an undated ditch, a gully which yielded a small amount of Iron Age pottery and a small pit containing fired clay. A large spread of material measuring approximately 8m in length contained Roman pottery sherds, roof tile, animal bone, oyster shell and a single human rib bone. A small undated gully was noted in Area 5 as well as two small former channels. No archaeological features were recorded in Areas 2 and 3.

The archaeological features were generally well preserved with little truncation and features recorded correlated reasonably well with the results of the previous geophysical survey.



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Acknowledgements

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The archaeological works were undertaken by Matt Kendall, Mark Bagwell, Darryl Freer, Steve Winterton, and Ben Cullen. This report was written and compiled by Matt Kendall and Steve Thompson and edited by Gareth Chaffey, with specialist reports by Grace Jones (finds), Lorrain Higbee (animal bone), Kirsten Dinwiddy (human bone) and Phil Harding (worked flint). The environmental samples were processed by Tony Scothern and were assessed by Sarah F. Wyles. The report illustrations were prepared by Rob Goller. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Gareth Chaffey.



Sherford New Community – Phase 1.1, Plymouth, Devon

(RMA 1.1 Advanced Planting Works)

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by AECOM, of behalf of the Sherford Consortium, to carry out a targeted archaeological watching brief on land within the Phase 1 area of the proposed new community at Sherford, Plymouth, Devon, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 253961 53689 (hereafter 'the Site') (**Figure 1**). The watching brief was part of the wider archaeological mitigation strategy for Phase 1 of the Sherford New Community development required as conditions 52, 54, 56, and 93 in the outline planning application conditions (Plymouth City Council - 06/02036/OUT and the South Hams District Council - 7_49/2426/06/O).

1.1.2 The watching brief was specifically associated with the RMA 1.1 Advance Planting and immediately followed a phase of trial trenching in the same locations. The planting involved the construction of a hedge bank which comprised the excavation of a single trench intended to function as a ditched boundary adjacent to the hedge bank (created from the uprisings).

1.1.3 The fieldwork strategy and methodology was documented in a Method Statement (URS 2014a) and was submitted to and approved by the County Archaeologist at Devon County Council (DCC) prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The Site comprises of land located in the western edge of the overall site and is composed of 15 pasture and arable fields, as well as disused greenhouses belonging to Elburton Vineries. The Site is positioned immediately north-east of the town of Elburton, approximately 6.3km east of the centre of Plymouth and 2.3km south of Plympton. The Site is bounded to the north-west by Vinery Lane, fields and Sherford Kilns to the north-east, Sherford Road to the south-east, and Elburton to the south-west (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 The overall Site is approximately 660.30 hectares in size and comprises of mostly pasture and arable fields. The Site is located on the hilly land ranging from around 32m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the middle of the Site around Bridge Stream, and rising up to 100m aOD in the north-eastern corner of the Site. The solid geology of the Site is comprised of Mid Devonian Slates and Mid Devonian Limestone (British Geological Survey Website).



1.3 Scope of document

- 1.3.1 This report documents the results of the targeted watching brief associated with the RMA 1.1 Advance Planting which was carried out between the 20th January and 11th February 2015.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background of the Site has been detailed in an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) (URS 2014b) the results of which are briefly summarised below. A 0.5km Study Area around the Site was established in order to provide the context for the discussion and interpretation.

2.2 Known sites

- 2.2.1 Within the Phase 1 area there are a number of Grade II listed buildings located at West Sherford dating from the 16th to 18th Century and which are located on the south-eastern edge of the Site. Of local significance are the Sherford Kilns, located at the eastern of the Site, which seem to date back to the early 18th century.
- 2.2.2 The only scheduled monument identified is the Iron Age hillfort known as Wasteberrey Camp (NHL no.33794) which is located to the east of the wider development area. In addition, the Plympton St Maurice conservation area is located c. 370m to the north of the wider development area.

2.3 The Site

- 2.3.1 There is little evidence for early prehistoric activity area with only a single Mesolithic microlith being recovered from an area immediately south of the King George Playing Field, to the south west of the Site. Neolithic evidence is similarly scarce with a flint scatter and possible settlement activity being uncovered in the north-east of Elburton. Bronze Age activity seems to have increased in line with the wider area. Two circular earthwork features which appear to be barrows have been identified to the north of the Site and have been confirmed by later geophysical surveys (Bartlett-Clarke Consultancy 2014). In addition, an enclosure tentatively dated to the Bronze Age has been identified nearby to the barrow features.
- 2.3.2 Romano-British activity within the Site is mainly seen through coin find spots which from the 2nd to 4th centuries and are predominately located in the centre of the Site. A trial trench evaluation in 2006 (Exeter Archaeology 2006) identified settlement activity close to the find spots and denoted by an enclosure ditch, a hearth and a scatter of pits which were dated from the mid Iron Age to the 4th century, suggesting a continued occupation presence on the Site.
- 2.3.3 Medieval activity within the Site seems to be concentrated on the remains of enclosures based on strip fields and which can still be seen in the south-west corner of the Site, while documentary sources record a medieval quarry north-east of West Sherford Farm.
- 2.3.4 The quarry continued into the post-medieval and was associated with three lime kilns, known locally as the Sherford Kilns. Further post-medieval activity is associated with the now demolished Gore Farm which is located to the east of the Site and immediately north-west of Sherford Kilns. Shown on an 18th century plan and comprising of at least two substantial buildings, it was demolished by 1869.



2.4 Geophysical survey

2.4.1 A recent geophysical survey of the Site was undertaken in 2014 (Bartlett-Clarke Consultancy 2014) and which has provided information prior to the undertaking of the watching brief. The survey recorded anomalies suggestive of numerous significant archaeological features, which appear to suggest the presence of a prehistoric/Romano-British landscape (including barrows, possible settlement/stock enclosures and field systems) beneath the existing medieval and post-medieval field systems. The majority of these features are located on the lower ground near Bridge Stream.

2.5 Other investigations in the locality

2.5.1 A field-walking and trial trench evaluation was undertaken in 2006 (Exeter Archaeology 2006). The field-walking survey, which was located in a number of the fields within the Site, recovered a large number of flint artefacts, clustered in the area of the barrows, and a small number of pottery sherds which dated from the Iron Age through to the post-medieval period. Three of the trial trenches were located within the Site and identified settlement-type features which were dated to the Iron Age – Romano-British period. These features were mostly identified by an earlier geophysical survey (Stratascan 2006) although some were not visible in the survey results.

2.5.2 A trial trench evaluation was undertaken by WA (WA 2015) immediately before the watching brief began and targeted features identified in the geophysical which were going to be affected by the proposed Advanced Planting works. The evaluation identified a number of features of which most were attributed to former field and drainage systems.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 The overall aim of the archaeological watching brief was to mitigate the impact of the Advance Planting development upon any archaeological features during the construction of the hedgerows. If remains were present, the watching brief would seek to establish sufficient details such that informed decisions could be made regarding the need and scope of any further mitigation that may be required before or during the development of the Site.

3.1.2 Consequently, the following specific objectives have been identified (URS 2014a):

- *to contribute towards the discharge the planning conditions;*
- *to provide a clearer understanding of the level of archaeological activity within the proposed development site;*
- *to mitigate the impact of the development upon any archaeological features encountered during construction, by archaeological excavation and recording;*
- *to determine the nature and extent of further archaeological features and/or deposits encountered; and*
- *to disseminate the results of the watching brief by means of an archaeological report.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out within the Method Statement (URS 2014a). In format and content it conforms with current best practice and



to the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2006). All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the guidance and standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance For Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2014).

- 3.2.2 A total of five areas of hedgebank construction associated with the Advanced Planting trenching were monitored during the watching brief. This constituted approximately 2.2km of trenching (**Figure 1**), both within and beyond the Phase 1 development area. The hedgebank construction works included topsoil strip with material stockpiled adjacent to the proposed hedgebank, the excavation of a trench to function as a ditched boundary and the utilisation of the arisings to form a new hedgebank.
- 3.2.3 The work was carried out using either a six tonne or 13 tonne 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, measuring 0.90m and 1.20m wide respectively, and was supervised by a suitably qualified archaeologist at all times. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine in a series of level spits to the top of the archaeology or natural geological deposits, whichever was encountered first. The machine excavated arisings were stored at the side of the trench and were scanned for artefacts at regular intervals from both the topsoil and subsoil.

3.3 Recording

- 3.3.1 All features of an archaeological nature were investigated. Where applicable, small discrete features were fully excavated, larger discrete features were half-sectioned and linear feature were sample excavated along their length.
- 3.3.2 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using WA's *pro forma* recording system.
- 3.3.3 A complete drawn record of archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This included both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels was calculated and plans/sections annotated with OD heights.
- 3.3.4 A photographic record was maintained during the evaluation using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images were subject to managed quality control and curation processes which embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following sections provide a summary of the information held in the Site archive. Details of individually excavated contexts, features and stratigraphic sequence are retained in the Site archive and a tabulated version of these can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.1.2 The following result section is presented by field (Areas 1–5) and should be read in conjunction with context descriptions in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences

- 4.2.1 The five areas were located within agricultural fields, and the overlying deposits were relatively consistent. Between 0.10m and 0.32m of overlying plough soil was removed to



reveal between 0.12m and 0.20m of subsoil. This sealed between 0.10m and 0.50m of colluvium which in turn sealed the natural geology which was revealed at between 0.20m and 0.48m below the current ground surface due to the undulating nature of the geology.

Area 1

- 4.2.2 A number of archaeological features were noted within the trenching including four ditches (**Figures 2 and 5**). Ditch **10007** represented a steep sided, 'V'-shaped feature measuring 1.3m in width and 0.95m in depth and contained Roman Black Burnished ware pottery and abraded sherds of samian and amphora. A possible residual Mesolithic core was also recovered from **10007**. The feature was cut by later undated ditch **10011**, with both features roughly south-west north-east aligned (**Plate 1**).
- 4.2.3 Other features included a small hearth/fire pit **10013** which contained a small amount of Romano-British ceramic building material and a large quantity of charcoal (**Plate 2**). Both the lower and upper deposits were environmentally sampled for further analysis.
- 4.2.4 Two further ditches were recorded in the area. Ditch **10017** measured 1.8m in width and 0.5m in depth and was north-west/south-east aligned. A single small sherd of abraded pottery may suggest a Romano-British date for the feature while ditch **10019** was roughly east-west aligned and measured 1.5m in width and 0.2m in depth. Its only fill contained a single struck flint.
- 4.2.5 Located some 6m to the north-west of ditch **10019** was north-south aligned metalled surface/stone track way **10021** measuring 2.2m in width (**Plate 3**). The feature is possibly associated with a similar track way recorded in the south-western corner of **Trench 1** from the initial evaluation phase (WA 2015). The centre of the track way was smooth with the edges showing signs of wheel ruts between 0.3m and 0.50m wide and approximately 1.2m apart. Though no finds were associated with the track way it is probable that it is associated with Gore Farm which was demolished in the second half of the 19th century.
- 4.2.6 A number of pottery sherds were also recovered from the subsoil across the area including Black Burnished Ware fragments and a single medieval rim sherd.

Area 2

- 4.2.7 No archaeological remains were identified within Area 2 .

Area 3

- 4.2.8 No archaeological features were found in this area, but a large amount of made-ground was observed. Four separate sondages were excavated through the made-ground, three of which were stopped at 1.8m below ground level with no indication of the base, whilst the remaining sondage was stopped at a depth of 1.3m whereupon the natural limestone bedrock was reached.
- 4.2.9 Area 3 is located between the Sherford quarry and Sherford kilns so the made ground appears to be the result of landscaped waste material.

Area 4

- 4.2.10 Four archaeological features were recorded within Area 4 (**Figures 3 and 5**). Ditch **40005**, a probable small drainage channel was recorded as 0.94m in width and 0.42m in depth and contained no datable material. A small amount of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from two individual features which may hint at further contemporary activity in this part of the site. A small pit **40007** (0.58m wide and 0.20m deep), contained a pottery



and fired clay, whilst a shallow gully **40009** of unknown function (0.20m in depth) contained a small number of sherds.

- 4.2.11 A spread of material **40013** measuring approximately 8m was located towards the northern extent of the trench and may represent a rubbish dump or midden (**Plate 4**). Characterised by a friable dark fill, a number of Roman pottery sherds, roof tile, animal bone and oyster shell was found within the deposit. A single human rib bone was also recovered from deposit **40011** within **40013**. Due to the nature of the watching brief, this deposit was cleaned by hand, photographed and recorded but not excavated. The feature is located within the proposed 3.5ha excavation area, and as such can be fully exposed and excavated at a later date.

Area 5

- 4.2.12 A single small gully **50010** was recorded for over 10m within Area 5 (**Figures 4 and 5**), measuring 0.56m in width and 0.24m in depth (**Plate 5**). The feature contained no dateable finds.
- 4.2.13 Two small former water channels (**50008** and **50013**) of unknown date were recorded to the west of the area. No datable evidence was recovered from the features which both contained waterborne silts and clay.

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered, ranging in date from the Mesolithic to the modern day. All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type are presented in **Table 1** and **Table 2**.

Table 1: Finds total by material type

Material	Number	Weight (g)
Pottery	36	617
Ceramic building material	1	231
Fired clay	4	115
Flint	2	16
Animal bone	34	114
Shell	28	742
Total	105	1835

5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 The pottery derived from seven contexts across four features. The earliest material was of Middle Iron Age date, and included a barrel-shaped jar, residual in Roman ditch **10007**, and a grog-tempered bead-rimmed jar of Middle to Late Iron Age date from pit **40007**. All other contexts produced Roman pottery that could not be closely dated. The most commonly occurring fabric was the local South Devon ware, 'a highly distinctive fabric with frequent black mica plates', of 1st to late 4th century AD date (Bidwell and Silvester 1988, 43-4). A single, necked jar was identified in this fabric, from pit/dump **40013**. Other rock-gritted and sandy fabrics occurred in small quantities, including two sherds of Black Burnished ware from the Wareham/Poole Harbour area of Dorset (from ditch **10007** and the subsoil of **Trench 1**). Two abraded scraps of samian and the handle from an amphora were also recorded. Burnt residues were noted from the base of a vessel and two body



sherds in pit/dump **40013**. A single rim sherd from a cooking pot in a granite-derived ware of medieval date was recovered from the topsoil in **Trench 1**.

Table 2: Quantification of pottery, by ware

Ware	Number	Weight (g)
Iron Age		
Grog-tempered	2	45
Calcareous	1	55
Roman		
Samian	2	2
Amphora	1	104
Black Burnished ware	2	10
Greyware	1	60
Oxidised ware	1	29
Rock-gritted	4	22
Sandy	6	66
South Devon ware	15	208
Medieval		
Granite-derived ware	1	16
Total	36	617

5.3 Fired Clay and Ceramic Building Material

5.3.1 A single fragment from a Roman tegula roofing tile came from pit/dump **40013**. Four pieces of amorphous fired clay were recorded from pit **40007**.

5.4 Worked Flint

5.4.1 Two pieces of worked flint were recovered. A bladelet core likely to derive from a Mesolithic assemblage came from Roman ditch **10007** and a flake from ditch **10019**, the latter may also be Mesolithic in date. Pitted cortex on a flake from the evaluation suggested the flint was collected from beach gravels.

5.5 Copper Alloy

5.5.1 A small ferrule, probably from a modern gun cartridge, was unstratified.

5.6 Human Bone

5.6.1 Most of an adult lower rib was found amongst the animal bone assemblage from Romano-British dump layer **40011** (cut **40013**). The condition of the bone suggests that once discarded, it was not subject to much, if any reworking. Breakage occurred in dry bone, whilst a slight, localised sheen may be the result of taphonomic factors. It is not unusual to find the odd bit of human bone in such contexts, and though the curation of 'token' bones is a known phenomenon, most comparable cases more likely represent the accidental disturbance of buried remains in the vicinity.

5.7 Shell

5.7.1 A total of 25 oyster shells, one cockle and a small limpet shell came from pit/dump **40013**.



5.8 Animal bone

Introduction

- 5.8.1 A total of 34 fragments (or 114g) of animal bone were recovered from two dump deposits **40011** and **40012** in slot **40013**. Once conjoins are taken into account the total falls to just 24 fragments (**Table 3**).

Table 3: Animal bone: number of identified specimens present (or NISP)

Species	Ditch 10007	Slot 40013		Total
	10010	40011	40012	
cattle	1	1		1
sheep/goat		5	5	10
pig			3	3
horse		2		2
domestic fowl			1	1
mammal		5	4	9
Total	1	13	13	26

Methods

- 5.8.2 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

- 5.8.3 Bone preservation varies from good to fair, and although the bones are from dump deposits there is no indication that fragments have been exposed to physical or chemical weathering prior to becoming incorporated into the deposits. There was also no evidence that any of the bones had been scavenged by carnivores prior to deposition.
- 5.8.4 A fragmented cattle ulna was recovered from Romano-British ditch **10007**, but the largest group of bone fragments came from slot **40013** through a sequence of dump deposits. The identified bones from deposit **40011** include five sheep/goat skeletal elements comprising fragments of rib, tibia, radius and femur. Other identified bones include fragments of skull and metapodial, and a cattle incisor. Most of the bones from deposit **40012** also belong to the sheep/goat, they include fragments of rib, humerus, radius and tibia. At least two of the bones are from young lambs. Other identified bones include a chicken tibio-tarsus and pig mandible. The latter is from a young sow.

Conclusions

- 5.8.5 The results of the evaluation indicate that conditions are favourable for bone preservation hence any further mitigation work on the Site has the potential to produce a larger and more informative assemblage of animal bone. The material recovered during the evaluation should be reviewed when further data is available.



6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Two bulk samples were taken from hearth **10013** in Trench 100 in Area 1 during the watching brief. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal.

6.2 Charred plant remains

6.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm, 1 mm and 0.5 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 in **Table 4**. 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.

Table 4: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Samples			Flot									
Feature	Context	Sam ple	Vol. Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% roots	Charred Plant Remains				Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Anal ysis
						Grain	Chaff	Other	Comments			
Area 1 Trench 100												
Hearth												
10013	10014	1	10	1000	35	A**	-	A*	Barley + Free-threshing + hulled wheat grains. <i>Avena/Bromus</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Fallopia</i> , <i>Rumex</i> . Mature + round wood frags	75/75 ml	-	?P C
	10016	2	28	2000	30	A***	C	A**	Barley + Free-threshing + hulled wheat grains. <i>Avena/Bromus</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Fallopia</i> , <i>Rumex</i> , <i>Plantago</i> , <i>Raphanus</i> . <i>Avena</i> awn frags. Mature + round wood frags	100/75 ml	-	?P C

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Analysis: P = plant, C = charcoal

6.2.2 The flots were large with c. 30-35% rooty material. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.

6.2.3 Large charred assemblages were recovered from these samples. The cereal remains included barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) and hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), grain fragments, and oat (*Avena* sp.) awn fragments.

6.2.4 The weed seeds included seeds of oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.), vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), docks (*Rumex* sp.), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and runch (*Raphanus raphanistrum*).



6.2.5 The assemblages are indicative of general settlement waste and activity in the vicinity. The weed seeds are typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments.

6.3 Wood charcoal

6.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 4**. Moderately large quantities of wood charcoal fragments greater than 2 mm were retrieved from the samples from hearth **10013**. The charcoal included mature and round wood fragments.

6.4 Further potential

Charred plant remains

6.4.1 The analysis of the charred plant assemblages has the potential to provide limited information on the nature of the settlement, the surrounding environment and local agricultural practices.

Wood charcoal

6.4.2 The analysis of the wood charcoal would provide limited information on the species composition and the management and exploitation of the local woodland resource on the site.

6.5 Aims and Methods

Charred plant remains

6.5.1 The samples from hearth **10013** should be considered for further analysis once any further work on the site has taken place.

6.5.2 All identifiable charred plant macrofossils would be extracted from the 2, 1 and 0.5 mm residues together with the flot. Identification will be undertaken using stereo incident light microscopy at magnifications of up to x40 using a Leica MS5 microscope, 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 and with reference to modern reference collections where appropriate. They would be quantified and the results tabulated.

Wood charcoal

6.5.3 The samples from hearth 10013 should be considered for further analysis once any further work on the site has taken place.

6.5.4 Identifiable charcoal would be extracted from the 2mm residue together and the flot (>2mm). Larger richer samples would be sub-sampled. Fragments would be prepared for identification according to the standard methodology of Leney and Casteel (1975, see also Gale and Cutler 2000). Charcoal pieces would be fractured with a razor blade so that three planes can be seen: transverse section (TS), radial longitudinal section (RL) and tangential longitudinal section (TL). They would then be examined under bi-focal epi-illuminated microscopy at magnifications of x50, x100 and x400 using a Kyowa ME-LUX2 microscope. Identification would be undertaken according to the anatomical characteristics described by Schweingruber (1990) and Butterfield and Meylan (1980). Identification would be to the lowest taxonomic level possible, usually that of genus and nomenclature according to Stace (1997), individual taxon (mature and twig) would be separated, quantified, and the results tabulated.



7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 The watching brief during the Advanced Planting works revealed a relatively small number of archaeological features however they do suggest a greater potential for remains within the wider vicinity.
- 7.1.2 The recovery of residual probable Mesolithic flint work within later features along with Middle Iron Age pottery provides evidence of activity from this period within the locale, despite a lack of archaeological features from these periods.
- 7.1.3 The majority of features are likely to represent the remains of Romano-British field systems, drainage ditches and boundaries. Such features are always related to settlement activity and it would appear likely that the settlement is located somewhere around Area 4 from the identification of the midden deposit. The recovery of pottery, building material, abundant charcoal, animal bone and even human bone suggests settlement activity nearby.
- 7.1.4 Though undated it is possible that the trackway revealed within Area 1 – a continuation of that found in Trench 1 from the initial evaluation (WA 2015), is associated with Gore (including a barn, yard and cottage) which was demolished in 1856. (HER ref. 17693, URS 2014b, 40).

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the finds and archive be deposited with Plymouth City Museum on completion of the project under accession code **PLYMG:2015.6**, however the museum is currently not accepting archaeological archives. The archive is currently held at WA's Salisbury office under the site code **107560**.

8.2 Archive

- 8.2.1 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 by Plymouth City Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.2.2 An OASIS online record (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/>) will be initiated. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission with Devon HER.
- 8.2.3 All archive elements will be marked with the site code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following.
- *1 cardboard box of artefacts, ordered by material type.*
 - *1 file of paper records and A3/A4 graphics.*

8.3 Discard policy

- 8.3.1 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 further analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

- 8.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995).

8.4 Security copy

- 8.4.1 In line with current best practice, (e.g. Brown 2011); on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

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10 APPENDIX 1: TRENCH TABLES

NB, Total lengths of trenches are given in trench dimensions and co-ordinates are given for trench extremities

AREA 1		Type: Watching Brief	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 504 m x 0.95 m		Max. depth: 0.45 m	Ground level: 37.7–44.5 ma OD
Co-ordinates: Northern extent: E 254218.19 N 54250.11 Southern extent: E 254415.02 N 54002.92			
Context	Description		Depth (m)
10001	Layer	Topsoil. Slightly reddish mid brown silt sandy clay loam with sparse small angular and sub angular stones c. 0.20 m thick	0-0.20 m
10002	Layer	Subsoil. Slightly reddish brown, sandy clay loam with common small angular and sub angular stones c .0.24 m thick	0.20-0.44 m
10003	Layer	Natural. Degraded small to medium angular slate/schillet bedrock, within a reddish brown sandy clay deposit.	0.44-0.48 m
10004	Layer	Natural. Mid reddish brown sandy clay loam with common angular degraded limestone fragments , c. 0.05 m	0.48 m+
10005	Layer	Natural dark brownish yellow sandy clay containing sparse manganese flecks and sparse angular stones	0.42 m+
10006	Layer	Natural. Silt clay of varying colours (reds, orange, yellow grey) containing flecks of slate and patches of concentrated manganese. Becomes ephemeral with the subsoil towards the north.	0.48 m+
10007	Cut	Cut of V-shaped north-east–south-west aligned ditch, recorded as 1.4 m wide and 0.95 m deep with steep straight sides and a concave base. Filled with 10008, 10009 and 10010).	0.95 m deep
10008	Fill	Lower fill of ditch 10007, secondary fill, yellow brownish mid grey fine sandy silt, with sparse manganese fragments and rare charcoal flecks. Initial filling of the ditch, as a result of water borne deposition.	0.35 m thick
10009	Fill	Middle fill of 10007, seals 10008 and sealed by 10010. Greyish orange brown silty slightly sandy clay with common small angular stones. Secondary fill of ditch 10007, probably as a result of edge collapse following a period of stabilisation.	0.15 m thick
10010	Fill	Upper fill of 10007. Seals 10009. Mid orange brown sandy clay loam with common small angular and sub angular stones and rare manganese fragments.	0.55 m thick
10011	Cut	Cut of shallow ditch with moderately sloping concave sides, aligned north-east to south-west and measured 1.05 m wide and 0.35 m deep. Filled with 10012.	0.35 m deep
10012	Fill	Fill of 10011. Mid orange brown sandy clay loam with common angular and sub-angular stone. Secondary fill of ditch	0.35 m thick
10013	Cut	Cut of small circular pit with steep straight sides. It was 0.92 m long 0.7 m wide and 0.4 m deep. Filled by 10014, 10015, and 10016. Contained fire debris so may be pit or oven.	0.4 m deep.
10014	Fill	Lower fill of 10013. Mid orange brown sandy clay with sparse small angular stones and common charcoal lenses. Sample No.1 taken from deposit. Heat affected clay base of a Roman-British hearth.	0.1 m thick



10015	Fill	Middle fill of 10013. Mid yellowish brown sandy clay with sparse small annular stone, common charcoal lenses and rare burnt clay frags. A fire derived deposit within hearth.	0.15 m thick
10016	Fill	Upper fill of 10013. Dark brownish grey sandy clay with abundant charcoal Roman brick fragment and rare fired clay. Deliberate backfill of hearth or final firing debris within the hearth. Sample No. 2 taken from deposit.	0.15 m thick
10017	Cut	Cut of north–south aligned ditch, with moderate straight to concave sides and a flat base. It was 1.8 m wide and 0.5 m deep. Filled by 10018. Romano-British or medieval field boundary.	0.5 m deep
10018	Fill	Fill of 10017. Mid orange brown sandy clay loam, with sparse sub-angular stones, 1 x pottery and rare charcoal. Secondary fill comprising edge eroded subsoil.	0.5 m thick
10019	Cut	Cut of east to west aligned ditch with shallow concave sloping sides. It was 1.5 m wide and 0.2m deep and contained a single fill. Possible Late Prehistoric or Romano-British field ditch.	0.2 m deep
10020	Fill	Fill of ditch 10019. Mid orange brown sandy clay loam with sparse angular stone and rare struck flint. Secondary fill of eroded subsoil.	0.2 m thick
10021	Layer	Trackway surface. North to south aligned trackway that was 2.2 m wide, constructed of angular to sub-angular and sub-rounded stone roughly laid within a mid orange brown sandy clay loam. Centre of track was smooth, but both edges were rutted through heavy use. No dating was recovered.	–

AREA 2		Type: Watching Brief	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 528 m x 1.2 m		Max. depth: 0.6 m	Ground level: 31.2–43.6 ma OD
Co-ordinates: Northern extent: E 254042.84 N 54252.56 Southern extent: E 253769.7 N 53815.67			
Context	Description		Depth (m)
20001	Layer	Topsoil. Mid grey silty clay containing sparse moderate rooting and occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular stones, less than 0.04m	0–0.32m
20002	Layer	Subsoil. Pale greyish brown silty clay containing occasional to frequent sub-angular and rounded stone inclusions, less than 0.07m	0.32–0.6m
20003	Layer	Natural. Sandy clay of varying colours (mostly reds and greys) contained occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular stones less than 0.06m	0.6m+
20004	Layer	Large patches of dark black silty clay loam with outcrops of limestone.	0.5m+
20005	Layer	Natural. Tabular limestone bedrock.	0.2m+
20006	Layer	Natural. Mid to pale grey sandy clay containing abundant rounded and sub-angular stone gravels less than 0.06m.	0.2m+

AREA 3	Type: Watching Brief	Machine excavated
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Dimensions: 359 m x 1.4 m		Max. depth: 0.44 m	Ground level: 51.5–56.5 ma OD
Co-ordinates: Western extent: E 254664.35 N 53879.16			
South-eastern extent: E 254869.46 N 53751.32			
Context	Description		Depth (m)
30001	Layer	Topsoil. Mid reddish brown sandy clay loam with sparse small stone.	0–0.1 m
30002	Layer	Subsoil. Mid reddish brown sandy clay loam with common large slate fragments.	0.1–0.22 m
30003	Layer	Natural. Mid reddish brown sandy clay loam with outcrops of slate bedrock.	0.22–0.44 m
30004	Layer	Colluvium. Light brown sandy silt loam.	–
30005	Layer	Modern made ground. Mixed deposit of black and dark brown sandy clay. Contained frequent stone inclusions varying in size.	0.44–1.8 m+
30006	Layer	Colluvium. Mid pinkish brown clay. Contained no visible inclusions and was fairly compact. Could be another natural deposit.	–

AREA 4		Type: Watching Brief	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 409m x 1.9m		Max. depth: 1.1 m	Ground level: 37.5–45.9 ma OD
Co-ordinates: North-western extent: E 253965.15 N 53637.4			
South-eastern extent: E 254234.47 N53424.04			
Context	Description		Depth (m)
40001	Layer	Topsoil. Mid reddish brown silty clay with sparse sub-rounded and angular stone less than 0.005m and common rooting.	0–0.26 m
40002	Layer	Subsoil. Mid to pale brown silty clay with sub-rounded and angular stones less than 0.01 m. Sparse r ooting throughout.	0.20–0.54 m
40003	Layer	Colluvium. Pale brown silty clay with no visible coarse components.	0.35–0.95 m
40004	Layer	Natural. Changeable along length of the trench. Pale brown to mid red silty clay with rare sub-angular and sub-rounded stones less than 0.08 m and common manganese inclusions.	0.42–1.1 m+
40005	Cut	Cut of east to west aligned ditch, with U-shaped profile. It was 1.9 m wide and 0.87 m deep and contained fill 40006. Probably a field boundary or drainage ditch.	0.42 m deep
40006	Fill	Fill of Ditch 40005. Mid brownish red silty clay with moderate sub-angular limestone and rare charcoal flecks. Possible deliberate backfill of ditch.	0.42 m thick
40007	Cut	Cut of oval pit with straight moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It was 1.8 m long 0.8 m wide and 0.2 m deep. Shallow pit of uncertain purpose, Iron Age in date.	0.2 m deep
40008	Fill	Fill of pit 40007. Dark brownish grey silty clay with rare limestone less than 0.06m. Moderate charcoal, Iron Age pottery and fired clay. Secondary fill.	0.2 m thick
40009	Cut	Cut of north-east to south-west aligned gully. It had a moderate concave profile with a flat base and was 0.84 m wide and 0.2 m deep and contained one fill. Undated.	0.2 m deep
40010	Fill	Fill of gully 40009. Mid brownish red silty clay it contained rare sub-angular limestone (less than 0.06 m) and moderate charcoal. Probable deliberate backfill.	0.2 m thick.

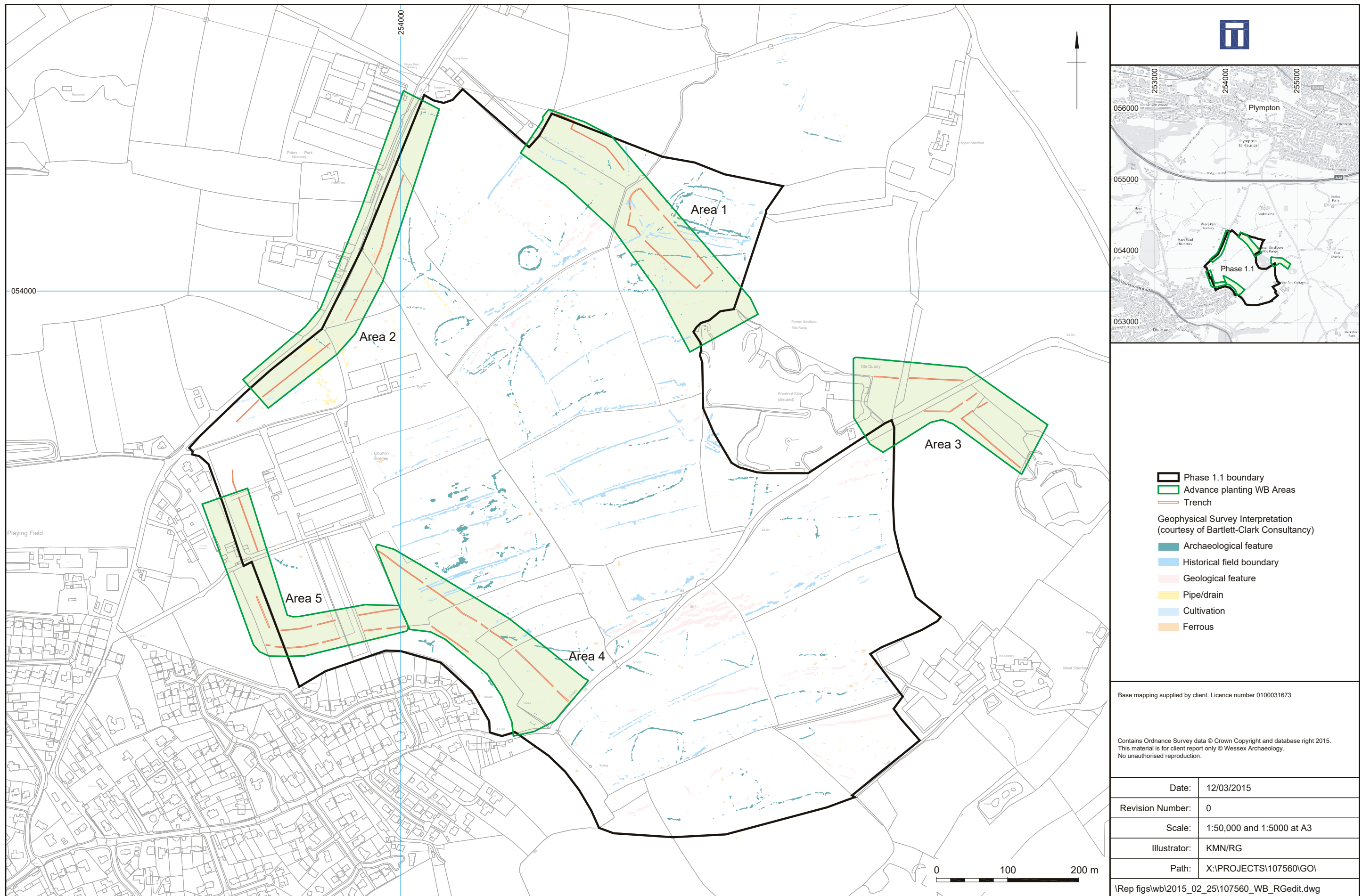


40011	Fill	Fill of pit 40013. Very dark grey silty clay with common sub-angular limestone inclusions. Contained Roman pottery, shell, animal bone and rare charcoal flecks. Probable deliberate dump of Romano-British refuse.	0.34 m thick
40012	Fill	Fill of pit 40013. Mid brown silty clay with moderate sub-angular limestone less than 0.58 m and Roman pottery, animal bone, shell and rare charcoal flecks. Probable deliberate dump of Romano-British refuse.	0.48 m thick
40013	Cut	Cut of large pit with moderate concave sides, excavated by machine and measured 10.9 m by 1.2 m and 0.78 m deep. Contained two fills 40011 and 40012, probably a Romano-British rubbish dump/pit.	0.78 m deep
40014	Fill	Fill of drain 40016. Dark grey brown silty clay with abundant sub-angular limestone less than 0.1 m. Deliberate backfill of limestone within drain.	0.53 m thick
40015	Fill	Fill of drain 40016. Light brown grey silty clay with rare sub-angular limestone less than 0.06 m. Primary fill.	0.11 m thick
40016	Cut	Cut of drain which had a U-shaped profile and measures 0.87 m wide and 0.64 m deep. Modern drain.	0.64 m
40017	Layer	Natural/Made ground. Dark blue grey silty clay with rare sub-rounded limestone less than 0.1 m. Compact deposit.	0.6 m+

AREA 5		Type: Watching Brief	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 388.74 m x 1.2 m		Max. depth: 0.9 m	
Co-ordinates: Northern extent E 253763.28 N 53751.12		Ground level: 31.3–37 ma OD	
Southern extent E 253822.57 N 53500.35			
Eastern extent E 254007.75 N 53528.89			
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
50001	Layer Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay with rare sub-rounded stone less than 0.01m. Loose with common rooting.	0–0.1 m	
50002	Layer Made Ground. Mid reddish brown silty clay with sub-rounded stone less than 0.03 m. Probably disturbed subsoil contains glass and other modern materials. Rare rooting and very compact.	0.1–0.3 m	
50003	Layer Colluvium. Mid reddish brown silty clay with sparse sub-rounded stones less than 0.04m.	0.3–0.8 m	
50004	Natural Natural. Mid purple clay with sparse sub-angular and sub-rounded stones less than 0.1m, solid and scratchy to trowel.	0.8 m+	
50005	Natural Natural. Dark blue brown silty clay with moderate patches of dark brown silty clay. Rare sub-angular and sub-rounded limestone fragments less than 0.06 m. Fairly compact.	0.72–1.12 m+	
50006	Layer Colluvium: Mid reddish brown silty clay with sparse sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments less than 0.05 m. Soft deposit with sparse rooting.	0.23–0.5 m	
50007	Layer Colluvium. Mid grey brown to red brown silty clay with sparse to common in places sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments less than 0.02 m.	0.5–0.87 m	
50008	Cut Cut of Palaeochannel. Section excavated by machine, showed palaeochannel to have a moderate concave profile that measured over 2.2 m wide and 0.75 m deep. Filled by 50009 and 50012.	0.75 m +deep	

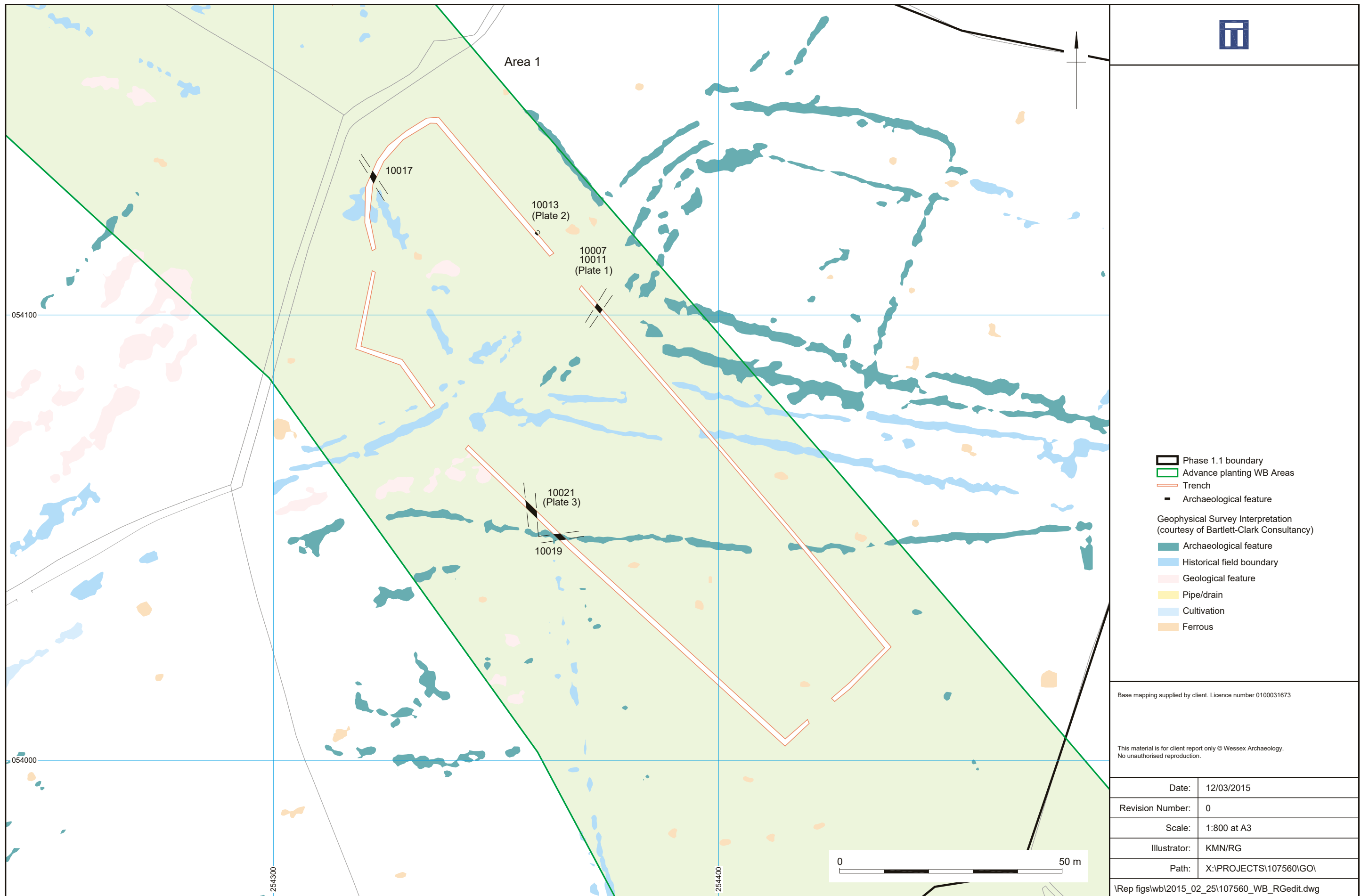


50009	Fill	Fill of Palaeochannel 50008. Mid red brown silty clay with sparse sub-angular and sub-rounded limestone less than 0.05 m and rare larger limestone less than 0.2 m. Depth of deposit varies between 0.16–0.72 m.	0.72 m thick
50010	Cut	Cut of gully. ENE–WSW aligned with moderate to steeply sloping sides and a U-shaped base. Gully measures 0.56 m wide and 0.24 m deep. Filled by 50011, presumably a field ditch or drainage feature.	0.24 m deep
50011	Fill	Fill of 50010. Dark reddish brown silty clay with abundant sub-angular and sub-rounded limestone ranged between 0.02 m and 0.1 m. Fairly compact deposit with crunchy texture. Secondary fill formed through gradual erosion of surrounding soil.	0.24 m thick
50012	Fill	Fill of Palaeochannel 50008. Red brown clay, with very strong colour. It contained rare sub-angular and sub-rounded limestone fragments less than 0.01 m. Lower fill of palaeochannel firm and compact.	0.22 m thick
50013	Cut	Cut of palaeochannel. North to south aligned feature with moderately sloping irregular sides and contained a single fill 50014. Machine excavated to depth of 0.84 m, but not bottomed as base of trench stopped at 1.2 m BGL. Probable old watercourse or pond/pool given its location at the base of a hill.	0.84 m+ deep.
50014	Fill	Fill of palaeochannel 50013. Light yellow brown silty clay with very rare sub-rounded limestone fragments less than 0.05 m. Fairly compact deposit of waterborne silts filling palaeochannel.	0.84 m thick
50015	Layer	Colluvium. Mid red brown silty clay with rare limestone flecks less than 0.01 m. Fluffy texture.	0.25–0.5 m
50016	Layer	Colluvium. Pale grey brown to red brown silty clay with common sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone less than 0.01 m, fairly soft.	0.5–0.69 m
50017	Layer	Natural. Head deposits, mid purple silty clay with patches of limestone. Varying frequency of stone less than 0.05 m. Rare to common mottling of grey brown clay.	0.69–0.83 m
50018	Layer	Colluvium. Patches of brown to reddish brown silty clay with rare limestone fragments less than 0.05 m.	0.2–0.77 m
50019	Layer	Natural. Mid reddish brown silty clay with purple lenses. Occasional limestone fragments less than 0.1 m. Solid compaction	0.77–0.88 m+
50020	Layer	Colluvium. Mid red brown silty clay with lenses of grey brown clay. Rare sub-angular limestone fragments less than 0.1 m. Fairly soft.	0.1–0.74 m
50021	Layer	Natural. Mid red brown silty clay with frequent patches of dark brown clay. Rare sub-angular limestone fragments less than 0.1 m. Fairly soft deposit.	0.74–0.82 m+



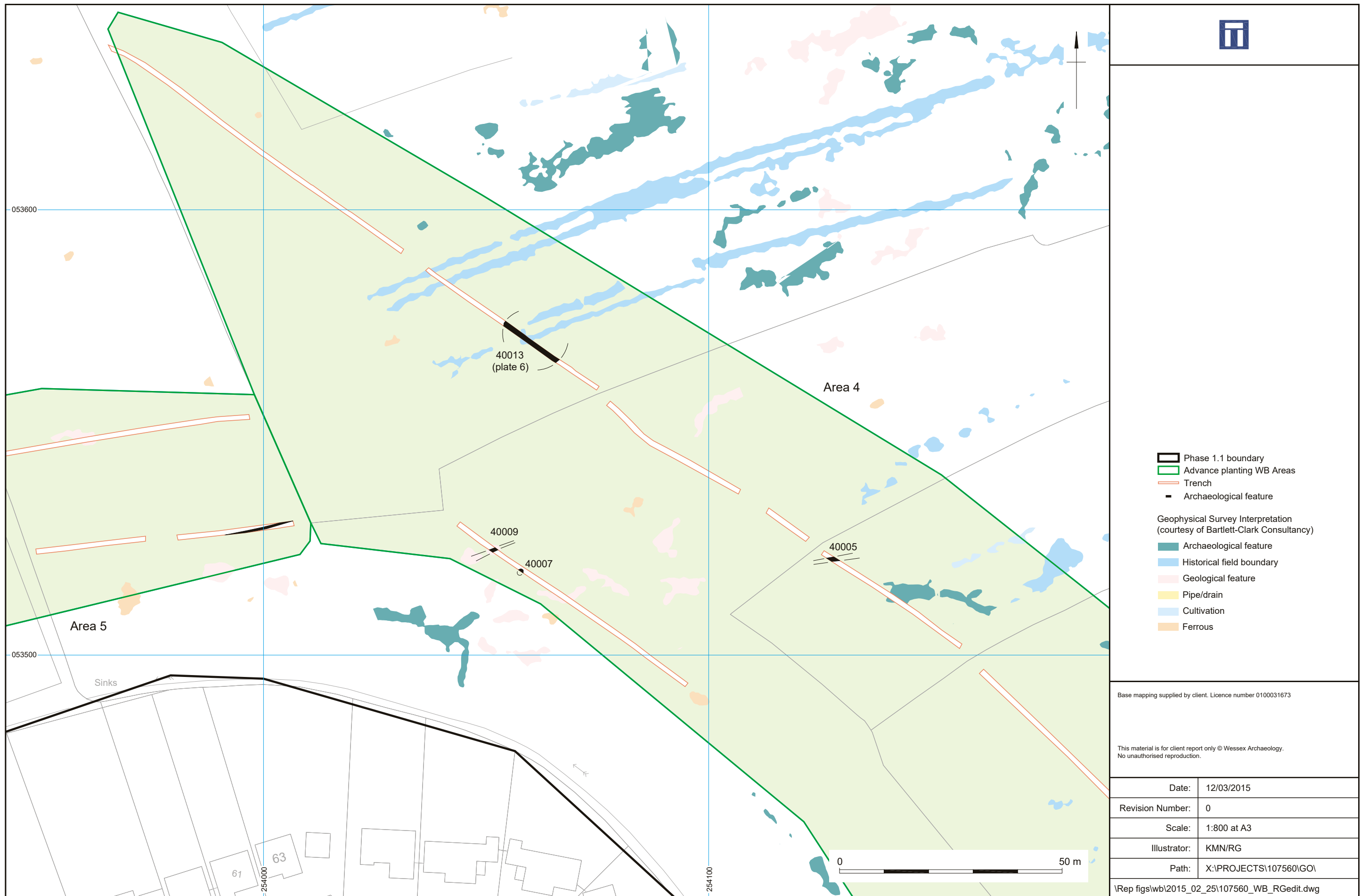
Location of Phase 1.1 and Watching Brief on Advance Planting Areas

Figure 1



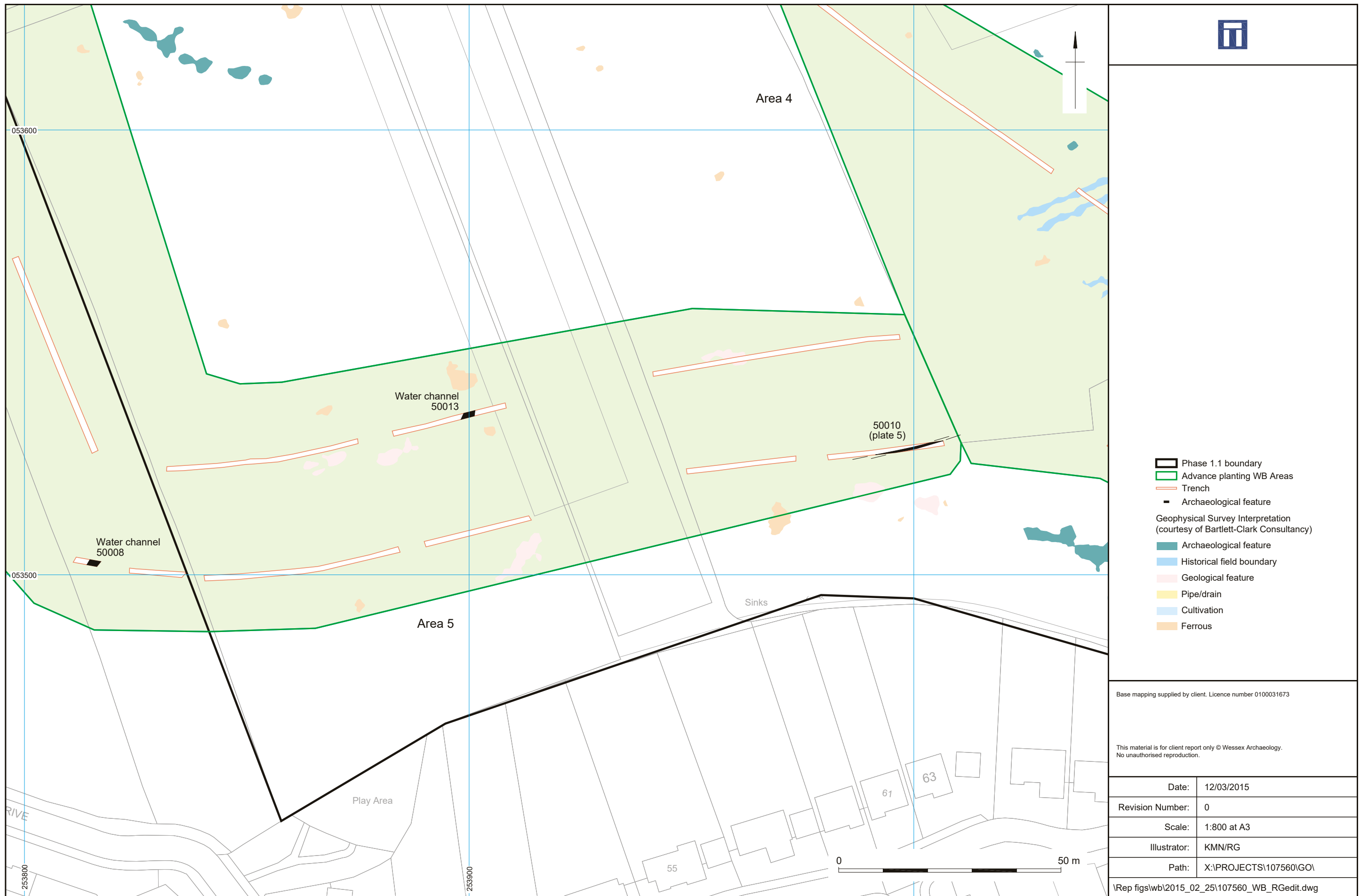
Location of Archaeological features within Area 1

Figure 2



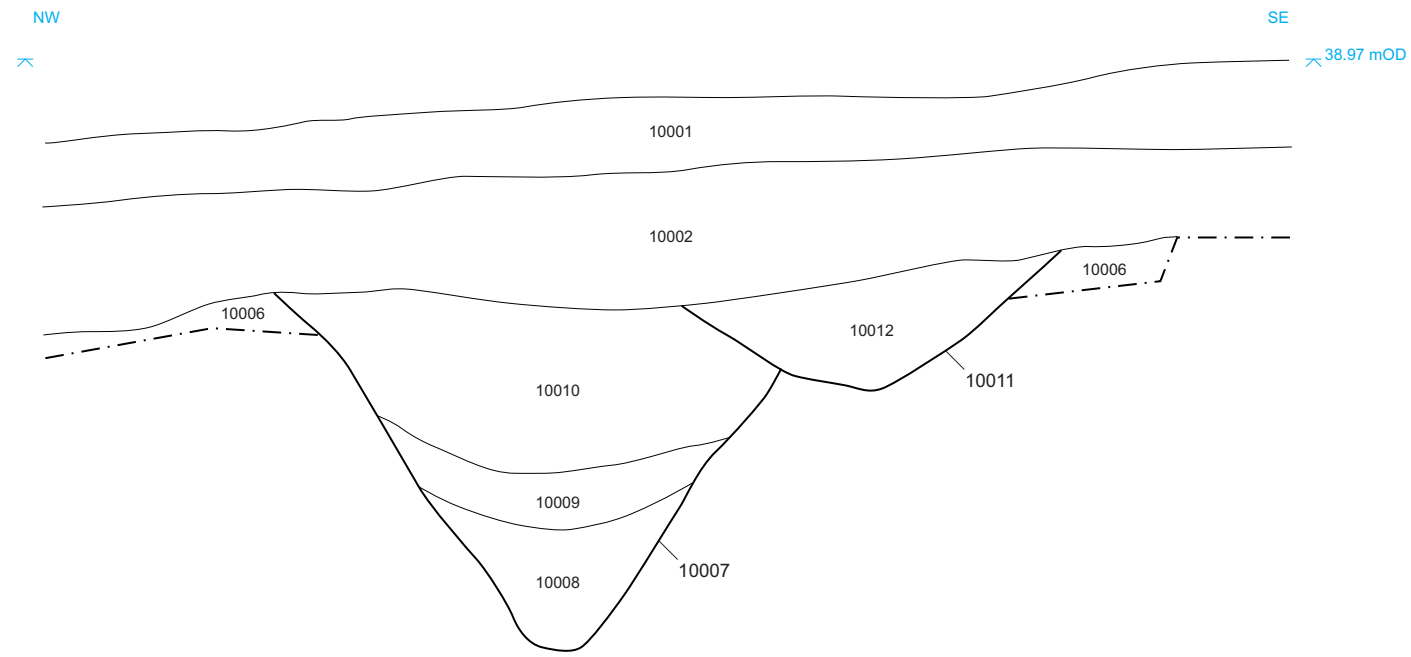
Location of Archaeological features within Area 4

Figure 3

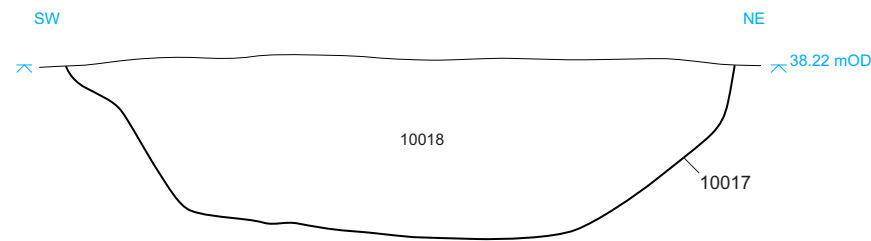


Location of Archaeological features within Area 5

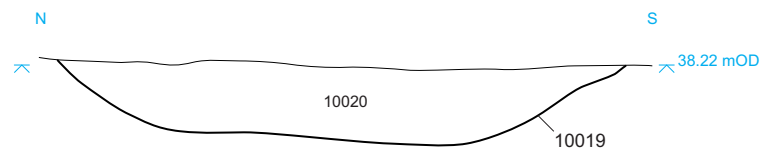
Figure 4



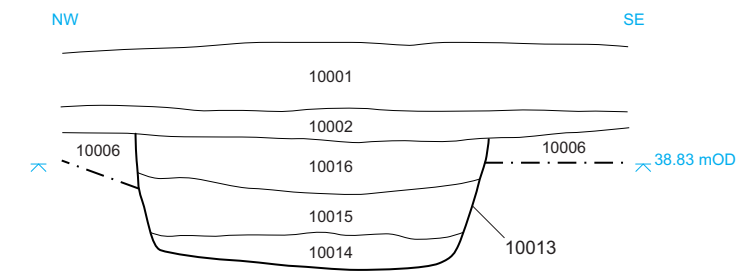
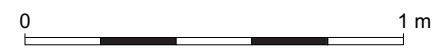
South-west facing sections of 10007 and 10011



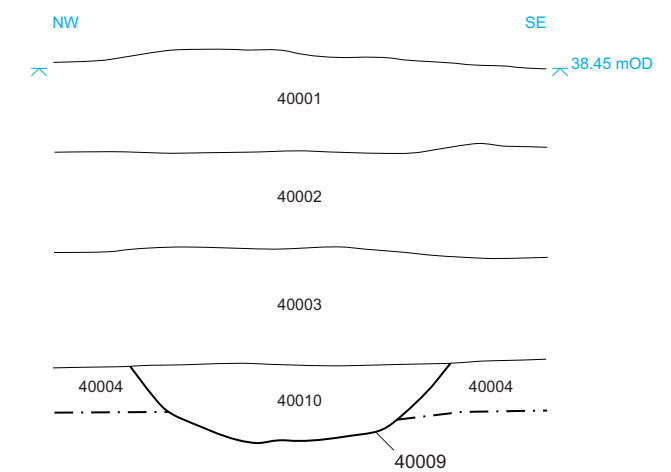
South-east facing section of 10017



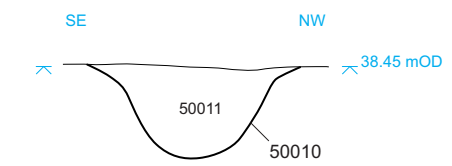
West facing section of 10019



South-west facing sections of 10013



South-west facing section of 40009



South-east facing section of 50010



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Plate 1: South-west facing section of ditches 10007 and 10011 (Area 1)



Plate 2: 10013 pre-ex view from the south-west (Area 1)


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Plate 3: Trackway 10021 view from the south (Area 1)



Plate 4: General view of Area 2



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Plate 5: Oblique view of spread 40013 (Area 4)



Plate 6: East facing section of gully 50010 (Area 5)

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