



50 Fargo Road, Larkhill Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report





Wessex Archaeology

**50 Fargo Road, Larkhill
Wiltshire**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Figure 1 Site outline and trench location

Figure 2 Plan of trench showing modern disturbance with corresponding plate

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Greycroft Limited, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of potential redevelopment on land at 50 Fargo Road, Larkhill, Wiltshire centred on National Grid Reference 413618 143361. The evaluation was carried out between 25th and 27th June 2007.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of one trench situated within the centre of the site and orientated north-north-west to south-south-east to diagonally bisect the proposed development footprint.

A modern north-south aligned vehicle track and a series of deliberate deposits consisting of modern waste and demolition material were revealed. All recorded deposits including the upper interface of the chalk natural exhibited root disturbance. No pre-Modern residual artefacts were observed within excavated material.

The potential for the proposed development to impact upon pre-modern archaeological deposits is therefore considered to be limited.

**50 Fargo Road, Larkhill
Wiltshire**

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Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Dominic Gwyn-Jones for Greycroft Limited and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank him for his assistance. Wessex Archaeology would also like to acknowledge the help and advice of Helena Cave-Penny, County Archaeologist for Wiltshire County Council.

The field work was carried out by Susan Clelland and Alex Moss. The work was supervised by Susan Clelland who also compiled this report. The illustrations were produced by Will Foster and the project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Caroline Budd.

50 Fargo Road, Larkhill Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Greycroft Limited, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of potential redevelopment on land at 50 Fargo Road, Larkhill, Wiltshire (hereafter the Site, see **Figure 1**).

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The Site consisted of a rectangular parcel of land measuring one hectare situated at the eastern end of Fargo Road on the southern limits of Larkhill, centred on National Grid Reference 413618 143361 (**Figure 1**). The Site was bounded to the north by Fargo Road (by which access was afforded), to the west by residential property and to the east and south by open fields.

1.2.2 The underlying geology of the Site comprised Upper Chalk (GBGS. Sheet 282), typically overlain by humic rendzinas in the area (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1: 25 000).

1.2.3 The Site was relatively flat and situated at 105m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). Its current use was as waste ground covered by vegetation.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.1 The Site is situated in the extensive and highly significant prehistoric funereal and monumental landscape of the Salisbury Plain, featuring many important sites and find spots of a predominantly Neolithic and Bronze Age date, and as such lies within the Stonehenge World Heritage Site.

- 2.1.2 The Site lies 100m to the north of a Neolithic Cursus and a group of Bronze Age barrows and 200m to the south of a further group of barrows. The majority of the barrows have been ploughed, and are therefore not obvious as above ground features. Previous excavations in the vicinity of the barrows have revealed associated archaeological features including graves and pits containing Neolithic material.
- 2.1.3 A brief search for archaeological and historic sites within a 1km radius ('the Study Area') of the Site via the Archaeology Data Service (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk>) indicated the presence of multiple sites, predominantly of an earlier prehistoric date, while the remainder related to the historic usage of the area for military purposes. No Scheduled Monuments are recorded within the boundaries of the Site itself.

3 AIMS

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 To determine or confirm the presence/absence and the general nature of any remains present.
- 3.1.2 To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence where development is proposed.

4 EVALUATION STRATEGY

4.1 Fieldwork

- 4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the standards set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (WA 2007).
- 4.1.2 A single trench orientated north-north-west to south-south-east was excavated within the proposed development footprint using a 360° mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. **Figure 1** The trench was stripped under constant archaeological supervision. Machine excavation proceeded until the top of the archaeological levels, or the top of natural deposits, whichever was the higher.
- 4.1.3 The trench was surveyed using a GPS and tied in to the Ordnance Survey.
- 4.1.4 All works were conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations (as amended 1994), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.
- 4.1.5 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system.

4.2 Health and Safety

- 4.2.1 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.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1.1 Situated within the centre of the Site and orientated north-north-west to south-south-east the trench diagonally bisected the proposed development footprint and measured 27.5m x 1.6m x 0.7m (**Figures 1 & 2**).
- 5.1.2 Truncating the Upper Chalk natural, a north to south aligned pair of linear tracks (**20**) situated approximately 2m apart and each measuring approximately 1m in width were recorded towards the northern end of the trench.
- 5.1.3 The wheel ruts (**20**) represented a vehicle trackway and were subsequently consolidated by re-deposited upcast deposit (**8**), mixed upcast and chalk rubble deposit (**10**), gravel deposit (**12**) and a consolidation layer of chalk rubble (**11**). A formalised tarmac surface (**6**) was then instated.
- 5.1.4 A loosely compacted B horizon of light reddish brown silt (**4**) with occasional charcoal and chalk flecking and frequent chalk rubble and angular flint inclusions overlay tarmac surface (**6**). The deposit was between 0.1 and 0.26m in depth and was overlain by dark brown silt with abundant chalk and flint inclusions representing a modern buried topsoil/turf horizon (**3**) which survived to between 0.04 and 0.1m in depth.
- 5.1.5 Within the centre of the trench a 2.3m length of tarmac (**13**) was recorded extending across the width of the trench. This tarmac block measured 0.14m in depth, overlay B horizon (**4**) and (**14**) was overlain by a deliberate dump of charcoal, rubble and re-worked topsoil (**5**).
- 5.1.6 At the southern end of the trench along its eastern side running adjacent to the present access road consolidation deposits associated with the construction of this access were recorded. A mixed deposit of chalk rubble, CBM and tarmac fragments (**17**) overlay B horizon layer (**14**) and was overlain by reworked B horizon deposit (**16**) which contained abundant modern detritus. Mixed rubble deposit (**17**) also sealed reworked B horizon material (**22**) which filled a sinuous linear root hollow (**21**) at the southern limit of the trench. A dump of up cast A/B material and modern rubble (**15**) overlay layer (**16**).
- 5.1.7 From its centre southwards, the evaluation trench became shallower in depth. The B horizon present along the length of the trench was recorded as deposit (**14**) along this southern half of the trench where it became lighter in colour with frequent chalk flecking and peagrit inclusions. An interface of weathered chalk (**18**) was recorded between layer (**14**) and the natural Upper chalk natural (**19**).
- 5.1.8 A layer of topsoil/turf measuring between 0.04 and 0.2m in depth sealed the trench.

6 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

6.1 Finds

- 6.1.1 No pre-Modern finds were identified during the course of the evaluation. The presence of Modern finds was noted but the artefacts were not retained.

6.2 Environmental

- 6.2.1 No pre-Modern archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the evaluation therefore no environmental samples were taken.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 The archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site at Fargo Road, Larkhill revealed modern north-south aligned vehicle ruts and a series of deposits consisting of waste and demolition material. All recorded deposits including the upper interface of the chalk natural exhibited root disturbance.

- 7.1.2 No pre-modern residual artefacts were observed within excavated material.

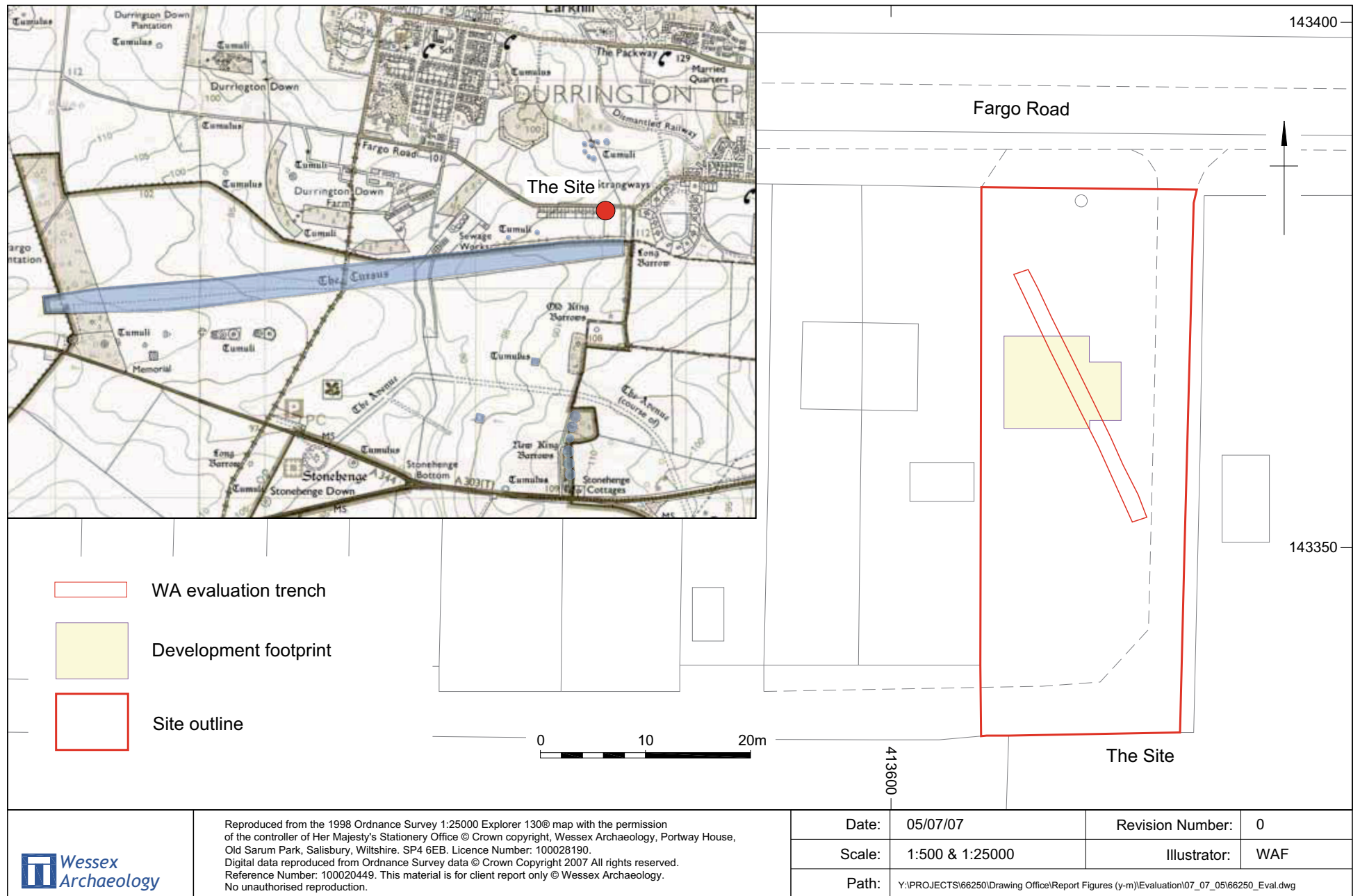
- 7.1.3 Therefore the potential for the proposed development to impact upon pre-modern archaeological deposits is considered to be limited.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Wessex Archaeology, 2007, *50 Fargo Road, Larkhill, Wiltshire, Written Scheme of Investigation : Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation*, unpublished client report ref 66250.01

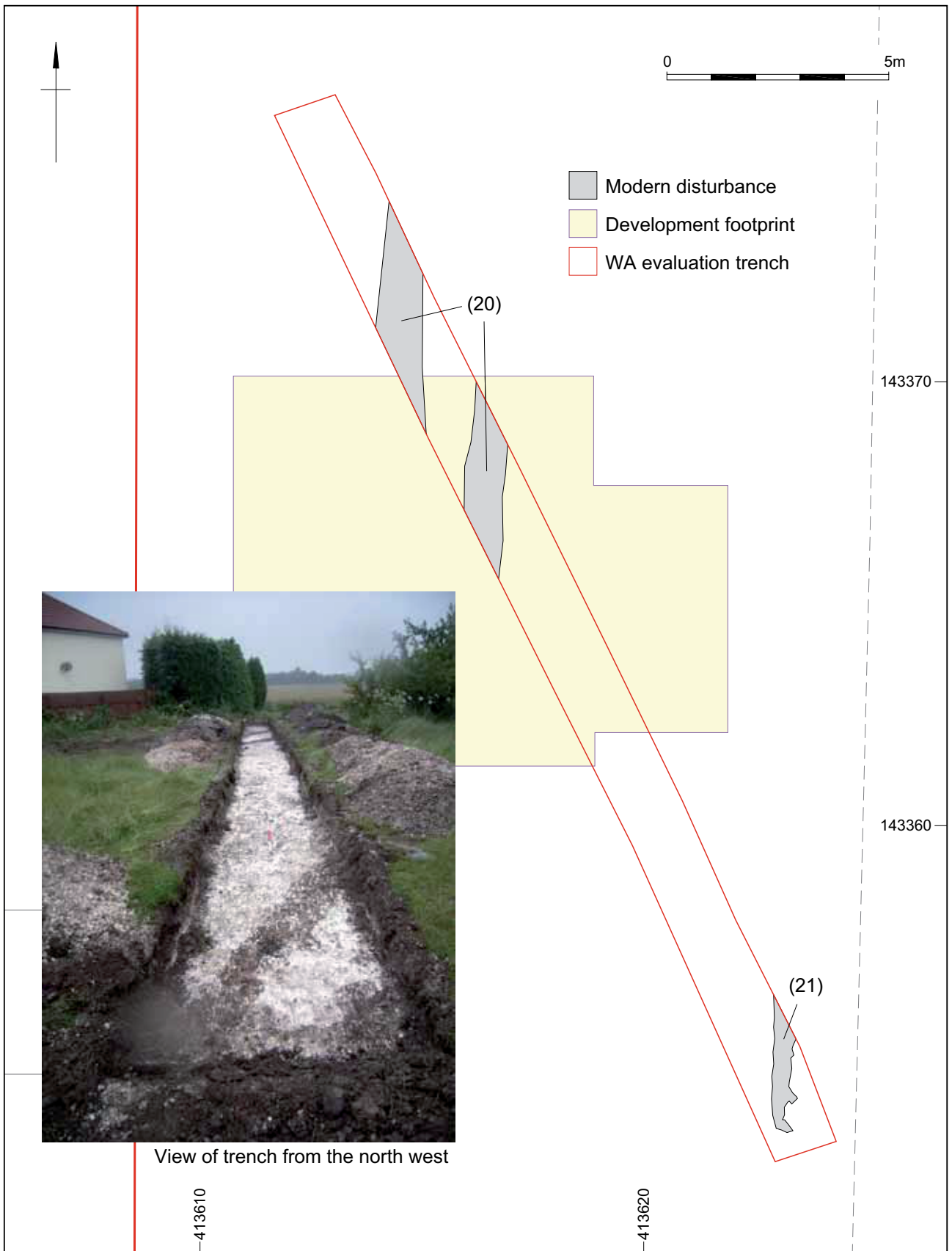
9 APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY

Trench 1	Max Depth:0.7m	Length:27.5m	Width:1.6m	MaOD 107.45
Context No.	Type:	Description:	Depth:	
1	<i>layer</i>	Topsoil/Turf line: Dark brown silty clay	0-0.2m	
2	<i>layer</i>	Consolidation layer of re-deposited chalk rubble	0.06-0.4m	
3	<i>layer</i>	Buried modern topsoil – dark brown clay silt	0.2-0.3m	
4	<i>layer</i>	B Horizon: Mid reddish brown clay silt occasional chalk flecks & charcoal. Freq sm-med angular chalk frags	0.2-0.64m	
5	<i>layer</i>	Deliberate mixed dump of charcoal & chalk fragments within a reworked topsoil matrix	0.04-0.2m	
6	<i>layer</i>	Thin layer of tarmac	0.4-0.5m	
7	<i>layer</i>	Deliberate consolidation layer of re-deposited chalk rubble	0.42-0.56m	
8	<i>layer</i>	Deliberate mixed deposit of upcast A/B material	0.6-0.74m	
9	<i>layer</i>	Black lense of charcoal and modern detritus lining wheel ruts	0.66-0.78m	
10	<i>layer</i>	Deliberate consolidation comprising A/B material and gravel	0.32-0.42m	
11	<i>layer</i>	Deliberate consolidation lens of chalk rubble	0.42-0.5m	
12	<i>layer</i>	Deliberate consolidation lens of gravel within A/B matrix	0.5-0.56m	
13	<i>layer</i>	Tarmac	0.14-0.3m	
14	<i>layer</i>	B horizon of mid-light brown silt with abundant chalk flecking & pea git. Similar to 4	0.04-0.24m	
15	<i>layer</i>	Deliberate consolidation deposit of upcast A/B material and modern rubble	0.04-0.12m	
16	<i>layer</i>	Re-worked/mixed B horizon of mid-light brown silt with abundant rooting & modern detritus	0.04-0.32m	
17	<i>layer</i>	Mixed deposit of chalk rubble, CBM fragments and tarmac fragments	0.2-0.32m	
18	<i>layer</i>	Horizon of weathered chalk	0.2-0.32m	
19	<i>Natural</i>	Upper chalk	0.3m+	
20	<i>cut</i>	N-S aligned wheel ruts	0.4-0.08m	
21	<i>cut</i>	N-S sinuous linear root hollow. FB 22	0.22-0.38m	
22	<i>deposit</i>	Reworked B material mid brown silt with chalk rubble fragments.	0.22-0.38m	



Site outline and trench location

Figure 1



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Plan of trench showing modern disturbance with corresponding plate

Figure 2



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