



Land South of Tamworth Road Polesworth, Warwickshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd ('the client'), to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 6.3 ha parcel of land located at Tamworth Road, Polesworth, Warwickshire, B78 1HU (centred on National Grid Reference 424840 302220). The scope of the evaluation was based on pre-application advice from John Robinson, Planning Archaeologist within Warwickshire County Council Landscape, Ecology and Historic Environment Team, and was carried out under the auspices of an approved Written Scheme of Investigation. The evaluation comprised 28 trial trenches, each measuring approximately 50 m by 2 m (i.e. a 4% sample), and was undertaken between 16th – 28th January 2018.

The evaluation forms part of a programme of archaeological works and follows on from a Heritage Assessment compiled by CSA Environmental (CSA 2017) and a geophysical survey conducted by Archaeological Surveys Limited (ASL 2017). The Heritage Assessment demonstrated the potential for former field boundary ditches to be present at the site, and anomalies indicative of such were identified during the geophysical survey, which also highlighted a series of pit-like anomalies. The trial trench evaluation trench array combined trenches to target anomalies identified during the geophysical survey, as well additional trenches to test apparent blank areas.

Overall, the results of the evaluation have correlated very well with the geophysical survey. The evaluation successfully located and recorded the series of field boundary ditches, which are also shown on 19th and early 20th century maps of the area. All of the small quantity of finds recovered from these ditches is 17th century or later. Six pits, five of which were undated, were also recorded. All the pits were relatively shallow, contained charcoal-rich fills, and many with evidence for *in situ* burning. The single pit which contained dating evidence is confidently dated to the 19th century, and the similarities between this pit and the remainder strongly suggests all are of a similar date. Overall, the evaluation has demonstrated that whilst some limited archaeological activity of a likely agricultural nature is represented at the site, this is post-medieval or later in date. The site was devoid of any evidence to suggest earlier activity was present.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Taylor Wimpey, for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, and in particular Zoe Curnow. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of John Robinson, Planning Archaeologist, who monitored the project for Warwickshire County Council, and for the collaborative support and advice of Alan Thomas,

The fieldwork was directed by Rachel Williams, with the assistance of Andy Sole, Alin Fuior and Orlagh Walsh. This report was written by Rachel Williams, with illustrations by Will Foster, and the report was edited by Andy Crockett. The project was managed by Andy Crockett on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



Land South of Tamworth Road, Polesworth, Warwickshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd ('the client'), to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 6.3 ha parcel of land located at Tamworth Road, Polesworth, Warwickshire, B78 1HU centred on NGR 424840 302220 (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.1.2 The scope of the evaluation is based on pre-application advice from John Robinson, Planning Archaeologist within Warwickshire County Council Landscape, Ecology and Historic Environment Team.
- 1.1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2018). The Planning Archaeologist for Warwickshire County Council approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.4 The evaluation, comprising 28 no. trial trenches, each measuring approximately 50 m by 2 m (i.e. a 4% sample), was undertaken between 16th – 28th January 2018.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.
- 1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The evaluation area comprised a single field centred on NGR 424840 302220. At the time of the evaluation the field was under arable cultivation and is bounded to the north by a recreation ground and the B5000 Tamworth Road, to the east by the M42, to the south by agricultural land and to the west by a housing development.
- 1.3.1 The Site slopes from 107.32m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north down to 94.83m to the south.
- 1.3.2 The underlying geology is mapped as Halesowen Sandstone Formation around a narrow band of Halesowen Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone Formation. (British Geological Survey online viewer).



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Previous investigations related to the proposed development

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior Heritage Assessment (CSA 2017), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within the vicinity of the proposed development. This concluded that there are no designated heritage assets within the Site or its immediate vicinity. A summary of the results is presented below. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.
- 2.1.2 A geophysical survey was carried out within the Site in September 2017 by Archaeological Surveys Ltd (ASL 2017). This survey identified a number of linear and discrete geophysical anomalies throughout the site. Although some were considered likely to relate to the underlying geology, there was clear evidence for below-ground former field boundaries (as mapped in the 19th and early 20th centuries, trends most likely indicative of modern ploughing, an infilled quarry, discrete responses possibly indicative of pits, and other linear and discrete anomalies of possible archaeological origin (**Fig. 2**).
- 2.1.3 A site walkover was carried out by CSA Environmental in September 2017 but recorded nothing of archaeological significance.

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-1066)

- 2.2.1 An early medieval bead and coin have been found approximately 550m to the north-east.
- #### *Medieval (1066-1500)*
- 2.2.2 The possible site of a medieval chapel and nunnery built above a holy well has been identified approximately 175m to the east. The buried remains of medieval ridge-and-furrow ploughing have also been identified in a geophysical survey approximately 900m to the north-west.
- 2.2.3 A medieval ampulla (pilgrims badge) and coin have been found approximately 750m to the south-east and a medieval coin has been found approximately 800m to the north-east. Medieval or early post-medieval tokens and a copper alloy object have also been found approximately 700m to the north-east.

Post-medieval (AD 1500-1900)

- 2.2.4 Several sites in the general area, mainly relating to various industrial processes, have been identified for the post-medieval period. These are summarised in the Heritage Report.

Modern

- 2.2.5 The earliest mapped field boundaries traversing the Site are shown on the OS Six Inch 1888 – 1913 map series (<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore>), echoing the field boundaries shown on the 1849 tithe map, although one of the north – south aligned boundaries had disappeared (CSA). By the 1:25,000 1937 – 61 edition the east – west aligned field boundary appears to have shifted slightly to the south (<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore>).

Undated

- 2.2.6 A geophysical survey carried out over an extensive area approximately 675m-1km to the north-west of the Site in 2016 identified several curvilinear and linear anomalies. These could relate to activity dating to any time between the prehistoric to medieval periods.



3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) and in compliance with the ClfA' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), were:

- To provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- To inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- To establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- To make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

3.3 Site-specific objectives

3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (Watt 2011), site-specific objectives defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) were to:

- To test the results of the geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys Ltd, J723, 2017);
- To determine the depth of the colluvial sequence and examine the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential of colluvial deposits;
- To examine the artefactual and ecofactual potential of archaeological deposits; and
- To assess the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.



4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using GPS, in the positions as proposed in the WSI (**Fig. 1**).
- 4.2.2 Twenty-eight trial trenches, each measuring approximately 50 m in length and 2 m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or natural geology was exposed.
- 4.2.3 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits identified was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.
- 4.2.4 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Where found, artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.
- 4.2.5 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the Planning Archaeologist for Warwickshire County Council were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

- 4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections), and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.
- 4.2.7 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.8 A full photographic record was made using both digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels, and conventional cameras equipped with 35mm black and white (i.e. silver halide) film. This recorded both the detail and the general context of the principal features and the site as a whole. Digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set. Photographs were also taken of all areas, including access routes, to provide a record of conditions prior to and on completion of the evaluation. The black and white contact sheets and negatives will form part of the project physical archive.

4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

- 4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance



with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The Planning Archaeologist for Warwickshire County Council, on behalf of the LPA, monitored the evaluation. All trenches were signed-off by the Planning Archaeologist prior to back-filling.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Fifteen of the 28 excavated trial trenches contained cut features and/or deposits indicative of archaeological activity at the site, with a slight concentration in the central area where the field boundary ditches were located (**Figure 1**).
- 5.1.2 The evaluation confirmed the presence of the post-medieval/ modern field boundary ditches, as suggested by the geophysical survey results (**Figure 2**). In addition, a shallow undated gully (or gullies) along the southern edge of the site appears to mirror the current southern field boundary. Six pits were also recorded, containing charcoal-rich fills and in most cases evidence of *in situ* burning, also correlating well with pit-like anomalies detected during the geophysical survey.
- 5.1.3 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed by period. Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**). **Figure 2** shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches, together with the preceding geophysical survey results (ASL 2017).

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The overburden comprised a dark grey clayey sand ploughsoil with rare sandstone inclusions, and was generally 0.30 m thick (**Plate 1**). For the most part this overlay the natural geology; however, at the southern end of the Site a colluvial deposit of mid brown clayey sand up to 0.25 m thick was recorded (**Plate 2**). The natural consisted of loose sand which varied in colour between very light greyish yellow to mid brown with inclusions of sandstone, occasional outcropping of sandstone was also noted (**Plate 3**).

5.3 Archaeological features

Introduction

- 5.3.1 The evaluation has revealed archaeological features throughout the site (**Figure 2**).
- 5.3.2 A series of strong linear anomalies were noted during the geophysical survey, and these were confirmed as former ditches during the evaluation. The ditches appear to form two distinctive components: a slightly sinuous east to west ditch crossing the entire site, and what appears to be the north, east and west boundaries of a large enclosure.
- 5.3.3 In addition, a series of discrete pits containing charcoal-rich fills were observed, as well as a shallow gully mirroring the southern edge of the evaluation area. An area of strong magnetic debris along the northern edge of the evaluation area correlated with mapping indicating former post-medieval/ modern quarrying activity, and was not investigated further.

The enclosure

- 5.3.4 The enclosure ditch was encountered in Trenches 6, 16, 5, 9, 12, 25 and 14. Trench 24 crossed the line of this enclosure ditch, but the feature was not observed. This correlates with the geophysical survey results, which did not detect the ditch at this location.
- 5.3.5 The west side of the enclosure included Ditch **603**, which measured 1.04 m wide, 0.50 m deep, with straight moderate sides and a concave base. A single secondary fill was recorded in this ditch (**Plate 6**), producing a fragment of indeterminate medieval or post-medieval roof tile. To the north, Ditch **1607** (1.03 m wide, 0.33 m deep) had moderate concave sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill.
- 5.3.6 The north side of the enclosure was recorded in three trenches. Ditch **503** measured 1.85 m wide by 0.48 m deep with straight, moderate sides and flat base. Three fills were recorded in this ditch, two secondary fills indicating infilling by gradual erosion and silting before a period of stabilisation. A final tertiary fill demonstrates that this ditch may have been present as a hollow in the ground before the final infilling of modern plough-soil. The north side of the enclosure was further observed as Ditch **905** (mapped but not excavated) in Trench 9, and was not present in Trench 24. In Trench 12, Ditch **1207** (1.21 m wide, 0.49 m deep) had moderate – steep convex sides and a flat base and contained two fills (**Plate 5**).
- 5.3.7 The east side of the enclosure was recorded in Trench 25 as Ditch **2503**, and mapped but not excavated as Ditch **1403** in Trench 14. Ditch **2503** had moderate concave sides and a concave base, measured 0.48 m wide and 0.19 m deep, and was filled with a secondary fill containing a single sherd of 17th/ 18th century redware pottery and a buckle frame of likely post-medieval date.

The east to west ditch

- 5.3.8 This ditch was encountered in Trenches 12, 24, 9, 5, 15 and 3. Although the geophysical survey suggested this feature should have been present in Trench 14 on the very eastern edge of the evaluation area, no trace of the ditch was observed at this location.
- 5.3.9 Ditch **1204** measured 1.43 m wide and 0.59 m deep, had straight moderately sloping sides and a concave base, and contained both a primary and a secondary fill. This feature was mapped but not excavated as Ditch **2404** in Trench 24 and Ditch **903** in Trench 9. To the west, Ditch **507** (2.07 m wide, 0.71 m deep) had straight, moderately sloping sides and a fairly broad base. The ditch contained two fills, with apparent slumping suggesting an upcast bank on the north side.
- 5.3.10 The ditch was also mapped but not excavated as Ditch 1503 in Trench 15, and excavated as Ditch **303** in Trench 3. The latter was V-shaped feature with moderately sloping sides measured 1.60 m wide and 0.69 m deep and contained two secondary fills (**Plate 4**).

The pits

- 5.3.11 Six pits were identified during the evaluation, in Trenches 4, 16 (two), 19 (two) and 20, five of which were identified as discrete anomalies during the geophysical survey.
- 5.3.12 Pit **404** measured 0.48 m x 0.55 m x 0.31, was oval in shape and had steep concave sides and a concave base. The fill included a lens of burnt sand, particularly on the south-eastern side, and charcoal comprised approximately 10% of the fill (**Plate 9**).
- 5.3.13 Though not fully exposed, Pit **1603** measured at least 1.6 m x 0.68 m x 0.36 m. This feature had irregular sides and an irregular base and appeared oval in shape. Three fills were recorded in this pit including a lens of burnt natural (**Plate 8**), and a fragment of 19th century



yellow ware pottery. Pit **1609** was not fully exposed. The exposed dimensions measured 1.76 m x 0.65 m x 0.10 m. This feature had irregular sides, an irregular base and appeared oval in shape with a single fill which contained charcoal (**Plate 10**).

- 5.3.14 Pit **1903** was not fully exposed, but it appeared to be circular in shape with moderate concave sides and a flat base containing two fills. The exposed dimensions measured 2.10 m x 1.44 m x 0.40 m. The lower fill had charcoal flecking throughout (**Plate 11**). Pit **1906** measured 0.48 x 0.44 m x 0.11 m. This pit was circular in shape with steep concave sides and a flat base and contained one fill (**Plate 12**).
- 5.3.15 Pit **2003** was not fully exposed. The exposed dimensions measured 1.64 m x 1.30 m x 0.17 m, and appeared to form an irregular sub-oval shape with irregular sides and an undulating base. The fill contained charcoal and evidence of *in situ* burning was present from the lens of burnt sand across the base and edges (**Plate 13**).

The southern gully

- 5.3.16 Four undated shallow gullies were also recorded, two in Trench 17 and two in Trench 22. Given the morphological similarities between the features, their fills, and the clear association with the immediately adjacent current southern field boundary, it is very likely that these gullies all represent the same feature.
- 5.3.17 Gully **1704** was an east-west aligned linear with irregular moderate sides and an irregular base, and measured 0.43 m wide and was 0.09 m deep and contained a single fill (**Plate 14**). Gully **1706** was also aligned east – west with shallow concave sides and a concave base, and measured 0.29 m wide and 0.06 m deep. Both were recorded along the southern edge of the trench, and both demonstrated manganese staining along their edges.
- 5.3.18 Gully **2204** was aligned ESE – WNW, was neatly cut with straight moderate sides and a concave base, measuring 0.54 m wide and 0.11 m deep. This ditch had strong evidence for waterlogging in the past, as bands of manganese had formed along the edges along with flecks of manganese contained within the single fill (**Plate 15**). It is possible that Gully 2204 curved to the east beyond the trench footprint, to re-cross the trench as Gully **2206**. This feature was aligned approximately WNW-ESE, measured 0.57 m wide by 0.12 m deep with shallow concave sides and a concave base, and the single fill contained flecks of manganese throughout.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The evaluation produced a very small quantity of finds, recovered from contexts in three of the trenches excavated (Trenches 6, 16 and 25). In these trenches, finds derived from ploughsoil and various feature fills.

Table 1 Finds by material type (number of pieces/weight in grammes)

Trench	Context	Material Type	No.	Wt. (g)	Description
6	604	CBM	1	142	Medieval/post-medieval roof tile
16	1606	Pottery	1	27	Yellow ware (C19)
25	2501	Iron	1	67	Probable sickle blade; blade broken
25	2504	Pottery	5	287	Black-glazed redware (post-medieval)
25	2504	Iron	1	20	Rectangular buckle frame, post-medieval



- 6.1.2 In Trench 6, the sole find was a fragment of medieval or post-medieval roof tile, which provides the only dating evidence for ditch 603. A sherd of 19th-century yellow ware serves to date pit 1603 in Trench 16, while redware pottery from ditch 2503 in Trench 25 is of probable 17th-/18th-century date. Other finds from this trench (possible sickle blade from the ploughsoil, buckle frame from ditch 2503) are of probable post-medieval date.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 No deposits suitable for sampling were encountered. Accordingly, no samples were taken.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 The evaluation has achieved the aims and objectives as stated above. Archaeological remains recorded generally correlate well with the previous geophysical survey, which in turn is corroborated by the results of the earlier Heritage Assessment.

8.2 Discussion

- 8.2.1 The enclosure is evident on both the 1849 Pooley Township and Polesworth tithe maps, and the 1903 Ordnance Survey map of the area, as a large field immediately to the north-west of the former Hermitage Farm (demolished during construction of the adjacent M42 motorway). The 1849 mapping indicates that this enclosure was internally divided into two by a north to south aligned ditch, but no evidence of this was recorded during the evaluation. Dating evidence suggests this feature is most likely post-medieval in origin.
- 8.2.2 The sinuous east to west aligned ditch is somewhat incongruous compared to the earlier mapping. Clearly this ditch relates to the enclosure in some manner, whether as a broadly contemporaneous (unmapped) feature forming a trackway associated with the northern edge of the enclosure, or perhaps more likely a later reorganisation of the local agricultural landscape. Both earlier maps show the northern edge of the enclosure extending to the east and west, but particularly to the west this ditch does not correlate well with the earlier mapping.
- 8.2.3 The activity that the charcoal-rich pits represent is uncertain, but is considered most likely to be agricultural origin. Given the similarities between all these features, they are considered broadly contemporaneous, and with 19th pottery recovered from one example, therefore likely to be of relatively modern date.
- 8.2.4 The 1849 Pooley Township and Polesworth tithe maps suggest some form of trackway was present along the southern edge of the evaluation area, and indeed more recent mapping (e.g. the Ordnance Survey 6" 1888-1913 series) clearly show a footpath at this location. It is therefore very likely that the shallow gully along the southern edge of the evaluation area defines the northern edge of this footpath.
- 8.2.5 No remains were observed to suggest activity at the site earlier than the late post-medieval/modern period.



9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Warwickshire Museum Services have agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, with an accession code being issued on submission. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

9.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Warwickshire Museum Services, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **site code 200330**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics.

9.3 Selection policy

9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4), with the aim of retaining only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study.

9.3.2 In this instance, given the very small quantity of artefacts, their nature and date range (commonly occurring types of relatively recent date), the assemblage is considered to have little or no further research potential, and does not therefore warrant retention for long-term curation.

9.4 Security copy

9.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, 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.

9.5 OASIS

9.5.1 An OASIS online record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated, with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was



produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. 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 conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations* 2003. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

- 10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

10.2 Third party data copyright

- 10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.



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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

NGR coordinates and OD heights taken at centre of each trench; depth bgl = below ground level

Trench 1	48.9 m x 2 m		NGR 424672 302141	95.2 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
101	Layer		Ploughsoil - mid brown sandy silt with very occasional sub angular sandstone inclusions 0.04m>	0 - 0.38
102	Layer		Natural - variable - mid yellow brown towards SW - darker orange brown towards NE end.	0.38 +

Trench 2	47.4 m x 2 m		NGR 424705 302182	97.6 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
201	Layer		Ploughsoil - dark grey sandy silt with 15% small - medium sub angular sandstone, clear horizon.	0 - 0.33
202	Layer		Natural - mid red brown sand with 30% med - large angular sandstone.	0.33 +

Trench 3	47.3 m x 2 m		NGR 424712 302258	101.5 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
301	Layer		Ploughsoil - dark grey sandy silt with 20% medium sub angular sandstone, clear horizon.	0 - 0.37
302	Layer		Natural - moderate red brown sand with 40% med - large and sandstone.	0.37 +
303	Ditch		Approx. E – W aligned post med field boundary ditch, seen across several trenches.	0.69
304	Secondary fill	303	Fill of post med ditch derived from feature sides and surrounding area. Mid grey sandy silt loam, very occasional sub angular sandstone inclusions 0.02m>	0.33
305	Secondary fill	303	Fill of post med field boundary ditch derived from feature sides and surrounding area. Mid - light grey sandy silt loam with occasional sub ang sandstone inclusions 0.03m>	0.46

Trench 4	48.6 m x 2 m		NGR 424751 302221	100.6 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
401	Layer		Ploughsoil - mid grey sandy silt, 10% small sandstone inclusions, clear horizon.	0 - 0.32
402	Layer		Possible colluvium - mid red brown clay sand, 5% med sandstone inclusions, clear horizons.	0.32 - 0.46
403	Layer		Natural - mid yellow brown sand w 30% med - large sandstone.	0.46 +
404	Pit		Pit with burnt material and heat affected natural suggests <i>in situ</i> burning. Moderate size, undated.	0.31
405	Deliberate backfill	404	Burnt material within undated pit - likely <i>in situ</i> burning from scorched natural at edges of feature. Mid reddish grey sandy silt.	0.31



Trench 5		46.4 m x 2 m		NGR 424788 302263	102.3 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
501	Layer		Ploughsoil - dark grey sandy silt with rare - medium sub rounded stones.	0 - 0.34	
502	Layer		Natural - brown sand with large sandstone inclusions.	0.34 +	
503	Ditch		Post-medieval ditch	0.48	
504	Secondary fill	503	Fill of post-medieval ditch derived from feature sides and surrounding area. Mid grey brown sandy clay loam. Moderate sub angular sandstone inclusions 0.05m>	0.16	
505	Secondary fill	503	Fill of post-medieval ditch derived from feature sides and surrounding area. Mid yellow brown sandy silt.	0.21	
506	Tertiary deposit	503	Probably ploughsoil filling remaining shallow dip, long after ditch became defunct. Mid - dark grey brown sandy silt loam with occasional sub angular sandstone inclusions 0.03m>	0.23	
507	Ditch		Post-medieval field boundary ditch - fairly deep and wide. No finds.	0.71	
508	Secondary fill	507	Fill of post-medieval ditch derived from feature sides, particularly the NW side. Mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate sub angular sandstone inclusions 0.04m>	0.3	
509	Secondary fill	507	Fill of post-medieval ditch derived from feature sides and surrounding area. Mid - light grey brown sandy silt with occasional sub ang sandstone inclusions 0.03m>	0.61	

Trench 6		48.4 m x 2 m		NGR 424781 302160	98.1 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
601	Layer		Ploughsoil - mid - dark brown sandy clay with very rare sandstone cobbles, loose, friable, distinct horizon w (602).	0 - 0.30	
602	Layer		Natural - light yellowish brown sandy clay with abundant sandstone inclusions.	0.30+	
603	Ditch		Neatly cut concave ditch with 1 fill.	0.5	
604	Secondary fill	603	Gradual erosion and silting of post-medieval field boundary ditch. Mid greyish brown sandy clay with rare sandstone inclusions.	0.5	

Trench 7		48.5 m x 2 m		NGR 424830 302208	100.5 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
701	Layer		Ploughsoil - mid grey brown sandy clay loam, occasional sub angular sandstone inclusions 0.03m>	0 - 0.28	
702	Layer		Natural - pale yellow brown sandy brash - variable patches of both sand and brash.	0.28 +	

Trench 8		49.2 m x 2 m		NGR 424879 302168	99.8 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
801	Layer		Ploughsoil - dark grey sandy clay with rare sandstone inclusions. Loose, friable with a distinct horizon with (802).	0 - 0.35	
802	Layer		Natural - mid brown sandy clay with patches of sandstone.	0.35 +	

Trench 9		48.0 m x 2 m		NGR 424866 302280	102.6 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
901	Layer		Ploughsoil - mid grey sandy silt with rare - medium sub angular stones.	0 - 0.35	
902	Layer		Natural - brownish yellow sand with large sandstone inclusions.	0.35 +	
903	Ditch		E - W aligned modern field boundary ditch 1.8 m wide.	0.35 +	
904	Secondary fill	903	Dark greyish brown sandy clay. Not excavated.	0.35 +	
905	Ditch		East - west aligned field boundary ditch 1.47 m wide.	0.35 +	
906	Secondary fill	905	Dark greyish brown sandy clay. Not excavated.	0.35 +	



Trench 10		49.0 m x 2 m		NGR 424893 302343	105.2 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
1001	Layer		Ploughsoil - mid grey sandy silt with 20% med sandstones.	0 - 0.30	
1002	Layer		Natural - Brown weathered sand with large sandstone incl.	0.30 +	

Trench 11		49.0 m x 2 m		NGR 424939 302327	104.3 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
1101	Layer		Ploughsoil - Dark grey sandy silt with 20% medium - large sub rounded stone inclusions.	0 - 0.28	
1102	Layer		Natural - Very weathered brown sand towards the interface with ploughsoil, becoming cleaner and yellower as it goes down.	0.28 +	

Trench 12		47.8 m x 2 m		NGR 424942 302279	102.6 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
1201	Layer		Ploughsoil - Mid brown grey sandy silt with 20% medium sandstone	0 - 0.23	
1202	Layer		Natural - very weathered brown sand with 40% large sandstone inclusions, becoming cleaner towards base.	0.23 +	
1204	Ditch		Post-medieval field boundary ditch.	0.59	
1205	Primary fill	1204	Basal fill of post-medieval ditch, probably washing out of natural brash in feature sides. Light brown sandy silt with very occasional sandstone inclusions 0.03m>	0.27	
1206	Secondary fill		Fill of post-medieval field boundary ditch, derived from feature sides and surrounding area. Mid brown sandy silt with moderate sub angular sandstone inclusions 0.10m>	0.38	
1207	Ditch		Very scrappy NE - SW aligned post-medieval ditch - dug through brash so sides loose and irregular.	0.49	
1208	Primary fill	1207	Primary fill consisting of loose sandy silt and some larger sandstone blocks eroded out from feature sides. Mid yellow brown sandy silt with moderate sub ang sandstone inclusions 0.12m>	0.26	
1209	Secondary fill		Fill of post-medieval ditch derived from feature sides and surrounding area. Mid orange brown sandy silt loam with very occasional sub angular sandstone inclusions 0.03m>	0.27	

Trench 13		48.3 m x 2 m		NGR 424920 302241	100.2 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
1301	Layer		Ploughsoil - dark grey sandy clay with rare sandstone inclusions. Loose, friable, sharp horizon with (1302).	0 - 0.33	
1302	Layer		Natural - mid brown sand with patches of sandstone.	0.33 +	

Trench 14		49.0 m x 2 m		NGR 424974 302260	101.9 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
1401	Layer		Ploughsoil - dark grey sandy silt with rare medium stones.	0 - 0.33	
1402	Layer		Natural - brown sand with large sandstones.	0.33 +	
1403	Ditch		NW - SE aligned field boundary ditch 1.65 m wide. Part of modern field boundary system. Excavate in other trenches.	0.33 +	
1404	Secondary fill	1403	Dark greyish brown sandy clay. Not excavated.	0.33 +	

Trench 15		49.5 m x 2 m		NGR 424740 302249	101.4 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
1501	Layer		Ploughsoil - dark grey sandy silt with rare medium sub angular stones.	0 - 0.33	
1502	Layer		Natural - Brown sand with frequent medium sandstones.	0.33 +	
1503	Ditch		E - W aligned modern field boundary ditch. 0.88 m wide.	0.33 +	
1504	Secondary fill	1503	Mid grey brown sandy clay. Not excavated.	0.33 +	



Trench 16	47.0 m x 2 m		NGR 424768 302205	99.5 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1601	Layer		Ploughsoil - dark grey sandy silt with rare sub angular stones.	0 - 0.32
1602	Layer		Natural - Brown sand with frequent sandstone inclusions.	0.32 +
1603	Pit		Undated pit filled with burnt material – probably post-medieval.	0.36
1604	Primary fill	1603	In situ heat affected sand on the base of pit. Reddish brown sandy silt with rare stones.	0.05
1605	Backfill	1603	Burnt material within undated pit. Dark grey sandy silt with rare small stones and charcoal.	0.12
1606	Secondary fill	1603	Natural silting up of pit. Mid grey sandy silt with rare medium stone inclusions, charcoal, pot.	0.36
1607	Ditch		Undated field boundary ditch.	0.32
1608	Secondary fill	1607	Natural silting of ditch. Mid brown sandy silt with rare small and medium stones.	0.32
1609	Pit		Oval shaped pit, undated, irregular base.	0.10
1610	Secondary fill	1609	Natural silting of pit, contains occasional charcoal flecks. Mid grey sandy silt with sparse small stones.	0.10

Trench 17	45.6 m x 2 m		NGR 424727 302132	95.4 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1701	Layer		Ploughsoil - mid grey sandy silt with 10% small sandstone, clear horizon.	0 - 0.35
1702	Layer		Probably colluvium - mid red brown clay sand with rare inclusions, clear horizon.	0.35 - 0.60
1703	Layer		Natural - Pale greyish yellow sand.	0.60 +
1704	Gully		Very sharp cut with compacted base, uncertain if it was cut from higher up, as likely post-medieval, and the fill is very similar to colluvium.	0.09
1705	Secondary fill	1704	Naturally deposited fill from feature sides and surrounding area. Mid brown sandy silt with sparse small stones and occasional manganese flecks.	0.09
1706	Gully		Same as [1704]	0.06
1707	Secondary fill	1706	moderately sorted deposit - well compacted. Same as (1705).	0.06

Trench 18	47.7 m x 2 m		NGR 424702 302218	99.6 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1801	Layer		Ploughsoil - dark grey brown sandy silt with 20% medium sandstone, clear boundary.	0 - 0.40
1802	Layer		Natural - mid red brown sand with 30% large angular sandstone.	0.40 +



Trench 19		48.8 m x 2 m		NGR 424824 302294	103.6 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
1901	Layer		Ploughsoil - mid - dark grey sandy clay loam with occasional sub angular sandstone inclusions 0.15m>. Fairly diffuse boundary with the natural.	0 -0.44	
1902	Layer		Natural - Variable - some patches of sand - mid yellow with mid orange brown mottling. Some patches of brash with frequent sandstone blocks 0.40m>. These areas look dirtier with ploughsoil filtering down between stones. Occasional plough scars.	0.44 +	
1903	Pit		Decent sized pit, undated. Looks to have been a single use rubbish pit with burnt remains dumped in followed by rapid backfilling.	0.40	
1904	Backfill	1903	Probably dump deposit in undated pit, most likely fire remains. No finds. Dark grey sandy clay loam with occasional sub angular sandstone inclusions 0.12m>. Occasional charcoal flecks and inclusions throughout.	0.22	
1905	Backfill	1903	Likely backfill of undated rubbish pit. Probably a one use pit so would have gone back in fairly rapidly. Reasonably sharp horizon with dump deposit below. Mid grey brown - some darker mottling - sandy clay loam with Occasional sandstone inclusions 0.08m>	0.18	
1906	Pit		Very dubious pit - could also be void left by large sandstone block, pulled out of place by ploughing.	0.11	

Trench 20		47.3 m x 2 m		NGR 424858 302241	101.2 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
2001	Layer		Ploughsoil - dark grey brown sandy clay with rare sandstone cobbles.	0 - 0.30	
2002	Layer		Natural - light yellowish brown sandy clay - loose.	0.30 +	
2003	Pit		Undated scoop with <i>in situ</i> burning. Charcoal preservation may suggest a later date from this pit.	0.17	
2004	Deliberate backfill	2003	In situ burning in shallow pit - burnt natural edges. Very dark brown sandy clay with rare sandstone cobbles. Charcoal and burnt stone.	0.17	

Trench 21		47.1 m x 2 m		NGR 424882 302210	100.5 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
2101	Layer		Ploughsoil - dark grey sandy silt with 10% small sandstone inclusions.	0 - 0.30	
2102	Layer		Natural - yellow sand w patches of brown with large sandstone inclusions.	0.30 +	

Trench 22		48.2 m x 2 m		NGR 424935 302183	99.9 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
2201	Layer		Ploughsoil - Dark grey sandy silt with 10% small - medium sandstone inclusions. Clear horizon.	0 - 0.35	
2202	Layer		Colluvium - mid red brown sandy clay with 5% small stone inclusions. Clear boundary.	0.35 - 0.57	
2203	Layer		Natural - yellow sand with 20% medium - large sandstone.	0.57 +	
2204	Gully		Shallow drainage ditch, high levels of manganese suggest a consistently submerged area of land.	0.11	
2205	Secondary fill	2204	Gradually derived low energy deposit derived from standing water within ditch. Dark greyish brown sandy clay with rare sandstone inclusions and abundant manganese.	0.11	
2206	Gully		Probable remnants of ditch - possibly part of former field boundary.	0.12	
2207	Secondary fill	2206	Gradual erosion of material into standing water within feature. Dark grey brown sandy clay.	0.12	



Trench 23		48.2 m x 2 m		NGR 424945 302204	100.2 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
2301	Layer		Ploughsoil - dark grey sandy silt with 20% small - medium sandstone inclusions.	0 - 0.31	
2302	Layer		Natural - mid red brown in places with 30% large sandstone and patches of yellow sand.	0.31 +	

Trench 24		47.7 m x 2 m		NGR 4249005 302292	103.1 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
2401	Layer		Ploughsoil - dark grey silty sand with 30% medium sub angular sandstone.	0 - 0.35	
2402	Layer		Colluvium - mid grey brown sand with 20% med sandstone.	0.35 - 0.54	
2403	Layer		Natural - mid brown sand natural with medium - large sandstone.	0.54 +	
2404	Ditch		E - W aligned modern field boundary ditch 2.14 m wide.	0.54 +	
2405	Secondary fill	2404	Mid grey brown sandy clay. Not excavated.	0.54 +	

Trench 25		47.2 m x 2 m		NGR 424976 302294	103.2 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
2501	Layer		Ploughsoil - dark grey sandy silt with 10% medium sandstone, very loose, clear boundary.	0 - 0.26	
2502	Layer		Natural - mid red brown sand with common medium - large sub angular sandstone.	0.26 +	
2503	Ditch		Probably post-medieval field boundary ditch.	0.19	
2504	Secondary fill	2503	Natural silting within post-medieval ditch - mid grey brown sandy silt with sparse medium sub angular sandstone inclusions. pot and slag(?).	0.19	

Trench 26		49.4 m x 2 m		NGR 424946 302349	105.0 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
2601	Layer		Ploughsoil - Dark grey sandy silt with 20% medium and large sub rounded stones.	0 - 0.22	
2602	Layer		Natural - Brownish yellow sand, large sandstone inclusions.	0.22 +	

Trench 27		49.4 m x 2 m		NGR 424838 302162	99.1 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
2701	Layer		Ploughsoil - dark greyish brown sandy clay with rare sandstone inclusions. Distinct horizon.	0 - 0.30	
2702	Layer		Natural - mid brown sand with patches of sandstone.	0.30 +	

Trench 28		48.0 m x 2 m		NGR 424804 302306	104.0 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
2801	Layer		Ploughsoil - mid grey sandy silt with rare med sub angular stones.	0 - 0.25	
2802	Layer		Natural - brown sand with large sandstone inclusions.	0.25 +	



Appendix 2 OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-308536

Project details

Project name	Land S of Tamworth Rd, Polesworth
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation in advance of proposed development, comprising 28 no. trenches, each measuring approximately 50m by 2m.
Project dates	Start: 16-01-2018 End: 28-01-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CSA/3435/02 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	J723 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	IRON Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WARWICKSHIRE NORTH WARWICKSHIRE POLESWORTH Land S of Tamworth Rd, Polesworth
Postcode	B78 1HU
Study area	6.3 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 24840 02220 52.61682863226 -1.633067377877 52 37 00 N 001 37 59 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 94.33m Max: 107m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Warwickshire County Council



OASIS ID: wessexar1-308536

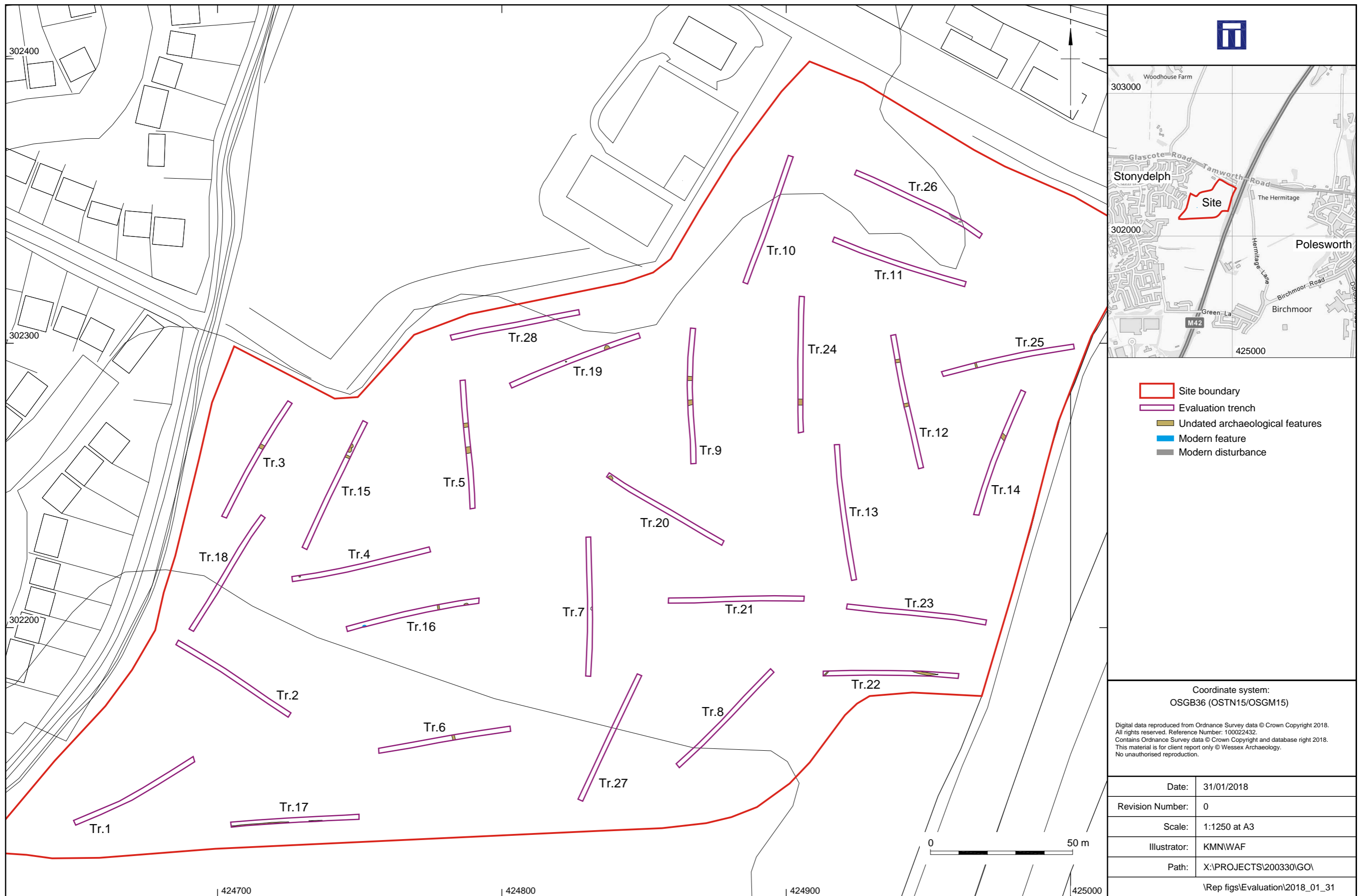
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	A Crockett
Project supervisor	Rachel Williams
Type of sponsor/funding body	construction company
Name of sponsor/funding body	Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd

Project archives

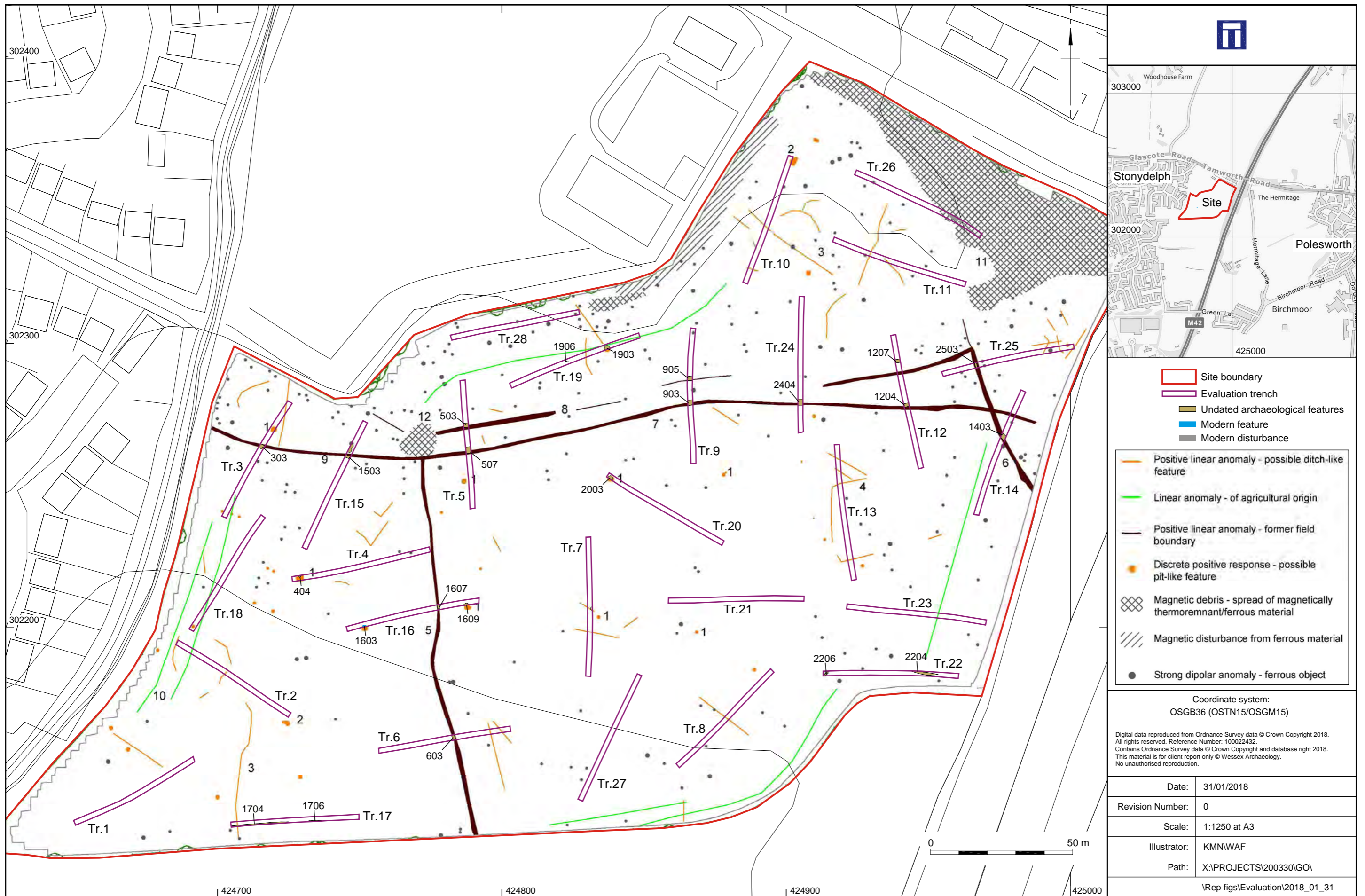
Physical Archive recipient	Warwickshire Museum Services
Physical Archive ID	tbc
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Warwickshire Museum Services
Digital Archive ID	tbc
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Warwickshire Museum Services
Paper Archive ID	tbc
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Metal"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Photograph","Report","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land South of Tamworth Road, Polesworth, Warwickshire - Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Williams, R
Other bibliographic details	Report no. 200330.03
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Salisbury
Description	Unpublished 'grey literature' client report
Entered by	Andy Crockett (a.crockett@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	7 February 2018



Site location and location of excavated trenches and features



Excavated features in relation to the geophysical survey results

Figure 2



Plate 1: West facing representative section, Trench 12 (Scale 1 m)



Plate 2: South facing representative section of Trench 17 (Scale 1 m)


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Plate 3: North-east facing trench shot Trench 26 (Scales 1 & 2 m)



Plate 4: West facing section of Ditch 303 (Scale 1 m)


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Plate 5: North-east facing section of Ditch 1207 (Scale 1 m)



Plate 6: South facing section of Ditch 603 (Scale 1 m)


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Plate 7: South facing section of Gully 2503 (Scale is 1 m)



Plate 8: South facing plan view of Pit 1603 (Scale 0.5 m)


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Plate 9: South-east facing section of Pit 404 (Scale 0.2 m)



Plate 10: South facing plan view of Pit 1609 (Scale 0.5 m)


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Plate 11: North facing section of Pit 1903 (Scale 1 m)



Plate 12: West facing section of Pit 1906 (Scale 0.2 m)


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Plate 13: West facing plan view of Pit 2003 (Scales 0.5 & 1 m)



Plate 14: West facing section of Gully 1704 (Scale 0.2 m)



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Plate 15: Overview of Ditch 2204 Viewed from the east (Scale 0.5 m)

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