Wessex Archaeology

Land at Hort Bridge
Ilminster, Somerset

Archaeological Field Evaluation Report

Ref: 72011.03 TTNCM 232/2009 October 2009

LAND AT HORT BRIDGE, ILMINSTER, SOMERSET

Archaeological Field Evaluation Report

Prepared for
Alchemy Properties
Building 5100
Cork Airport Business Park
Kinsale Road
Cork

by
Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
SALISBURY
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

TTNCM 232/2009
Report reference: 72011.03

October 2009

LAND AT HORT BRIDGE, ILMINSTER, SOMERSET

Archaeological Field Evaluation Report

Contents

LAND AT HORT BRIDGE, ILMINSTER, SOMERSET

Archaeological Field Evaluation Report

List of Figures

LAND AT HORT BRIDGE, ILMINSTER, SOMERSET

Archaeological Field Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Alder King, acting on behalf of Alchemy Properties (the Client), to undertake an archaeological field evaluation on land at Hort Bridge, Station Road, Ilminster, Somerset (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference 334685 115058. The Site is located approximately 1km north-west of Ilminster and occupies an area of 16.9ha. It comprises two areas: Area A, located to the north of B3168 and Area B to the south.

The field evaluation comprised the machine excavation of thirty trenches (each 30m in length) equating to a 1% sample (by area) of the Site. Where appropriate, trenches were positioned to target anomalies identified during an earlier geophysical survey.

The evaluation has established that archaeological features comprising pits, gullies and ditches are present across the majority of the Site. Late Bronze Age occupation is attested by spreads of burnt flint deposits, indicative of activities associated with 'burnt mounds'. These occupation layers, concentrated on a diagonal north-east to south-west axis through the centre of Area A, and continuing southwards into Area B, comprise compacted deposits of heat-affected flint recorded as spreads of material which both sealed and filled underlying archaeological and natural features, such as pits and possible ditches.

During the Romano-British and post-medieval periods, the main activity on the Site was of an agricultural nature, indicated by boundary ditches forming a succession of field systems and land divisions. A number of undated features were also recorded.

Although the burnt mound deposits have proven difficult to detect through geophysical survey (due to the depth of overburden, and the magnetic susceptibility of the topsoil), the field evaluation has demonstrated features of some archaeological significance are present across the Site. Whilst burnt mounds are distributed relatively widely across the British Isles, they are less common in England with only two other sites recorded in Somerset prior to this discovery. Given the rarity of these deposits, this Site is of some importance to the region and specifically in the Ilminster area.

The fieldwork was undertaken between 28th September and 9th October 2009

LAND AT HORT BRIDGE, ILMINSTER, SOMERSET

Archaeological Field Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Karl Scholz from Alder King, for commissioning the evaluation on behalf of Alchemy Properties (the Client). The advice and assistance provided by Steve Membury (Senior Historic Environment Officer, Somerset County Council), who monitored the project on behalf of the local planning authority, is duly acknowledged.

The evaluation fieldwork was directed by Susan Clelland, assisted by Simon Flaherty, Michael Fleming, Oliver Good, Daniel Joyce and David Murdie.

The environmental samples were processed by Nicki Mulhall and assessed by Sarah F. Wyles.

This report was prepared by Susan Clelland and Julia Sulikowska with contributions from Sarah Wyles (Environmental) and Lorraine Mepham (Finds). Report illustrations were prepared by Ken Lymer. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

LAND AT HORT BRIDGE, ILMINSTER, SOMERSET

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Alder King, on behalf of Alchemy Properties (the Client) to undertake an archaeological field evaluation on land at Hort Bridge, Station Road, Ilminster, Somerset (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference 334685 115058 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 A planning application (09/00051/OUT) was submitted to South Somerset District Council for the demolition of the existing factory complex, mixed-use employment development, a public highway, flood mitigation and related works. The Senior Historic Environment Officer (SHEO), Somerset County Council recommended that a programme of archaeological works should be undertaken prior to the determination of the planning application to assess the archaeological potential of the Site.

1.1.3 The archaeological and historical potential of the development area was initially identified in the Cultural and Archaeological Heritage chapter of the Environmental Statement (Faber Maunsell) and subsequently through a geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2009a), conducted over two areas totalling 11.5ha within the Site.

1.1.4 The detailed gradiometer survey identified a number of anomalies of possible archaeological origin including possible pits clustered near the northern extent of Area A and the north-western extent of Area B, and a complex of amorphous anomalies which was thought to represent a small enclosure in the southern part of the survey area.

1.1.5 Following assessment of the geophysical survey results and in consultation with the SHEO, it was agreed that a trial trench evaluation comprising a 1% sampling strategy of the *c.* 16.9ha Site would be undertaken to further identify and clarify underlying archaeological features and deposits.

1.1.6 The methods by which the archaeological field evaluation would be undertaken were outlined in *Land at Hort Bridge, Ilminster, Somerset – Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* – (Wessex Archaeology 2009b). This also detailed proposals for the excavation of 31 trenches in two areas (Area A and B).

2 THE SITE

2.1 Location, topography and geology

2.1.1 The Site comprises an area of 16.9ha and is located approximately 1km north-west of Ilminster, Somerset, some 500m south-east of the junction of the A303 and the A358 (**Figure 1**). The B3168 to Ilminster bisects the Site. The northern portion of the Site (Area A) consists of undeveloped farm land

and the southern portion (Area B) contains a derelict factory, formerly the Somerset Cattle Breeding Centre and associated buildings, as well as an area of undeveloped farm land. A disused former railway line runs along the eastern boundary of the Site and the River Isle forms the western Site boundary.

2.1.2 The topography of the Site consists of a gently sloping valley bottom at *c*. 33m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), rising south and west to a maximum elevation of 110m aOD at Herne Hill.

2.1.3 The soils underlying the Site are predominantly the pelo-alluvial gley soils of the 813b (Fladbury 1) association. The Alluvial Drift deposits are associated with the River Isle and overlie the Valley Gravels and Rainwash (Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 311).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 A Cultural and Archaeological Heritage chapter was included in the Environmental Assessment (Faber Maunsell) and a geophysical survey has been undertaken on the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2009a).

3.1.2 A summary of the results is presented below.

3.2 Environmental Assessment

Prehistoric

3.2.1 No evidence for prehistoric occupation was known within the Site itself, although the approximate location of the discovery of a number of bronze artefacts lies to the east, at Winterhay Green dated to the Middle Bronze Age (1500-1100BC). The finds comprised an armlet, a bracelet, a small torque and a palstave axe head.

3.2.2 No evidence of Iron Age activity is recorded within the Site, although the Somerset Historic Environment Record (SHER) records fourteen sites relating to the Iron Age within the wider landscape. Iron Age hillforts are recorded at Orchard Wood, Winsmoor Hill near Stocklinch, Wambrook, Howley and Whitestaunton, and possibly at Castle Neroche at Curland. Other probable settlement sites are located at Ashill, Hatch Beuchamp, Wortheal, South Petherton and Cotley.

Romano-British

3.2.3 Evidence for Romano-British settlement has been identified at Chard and at Seavington St. Michael. Rural Roman villas have also been identified at Hinton St. George, Wadeford, Whitestaunton, Seavington St. Mary and Dinnington.

3.2.4 Roman coins have been found on Herne Hill and in Ditton Street.

3.2.5 The *Fosse Way*, the Roman road between Exeter (*Isca Dumnoniorum*) and Lincoln (*Lindum Colonia*) lies approximately 5.5km to the south-east of the Site.

Saxon

3.2.6 The first identified evidence for settlement activity occurs to the north-west of the Site at Horton Cross Farm. During excavations associated with the construction of the Ashill bypass, two rubbish pits were identified and found to contain pottery dating from the 10th to 12th centuries.

3.2.7 By AD725, Ilminster is mentioned in documentary evidence as being the property of Muchelney Abbey. The manor of Ilminster was given to Muchelney Abbey by Ina, King of the West Saxons (AD688-*c.*726). In AD995 King Elthelred II confirmed the earlier grant of land to the Abbey (lands at *Ile Mynster*).

3.2.8 The place name Ilminster has Saxon origins and simply means 'the *church of the River Isle'*. The river has a Celtic name of uncertain origin, which may possibly mean '*the swift one'.* Donyatt is recorded in the 8th century AD as *Duunegete* or Dunna's gate (Room, 2003).

Medieval

3.2.9 Domesday (1086) records that Ilminster or *Ileminstre* was held by Abbot Leofward before the Norman conquest. The town paid tax of 20 hides (2400acres), and held a market which paid 20*s* in taxes. Ilminster remained in the hands of the Church of Muchelney after the Conquest (Morris (ed.), 1980).

3.2.10 A probable medieval village, identified as visible earthworks during work associated with the construction of the Ashill bypass is recorded to the north-west.

3.2.11 A 'park' appears to be mentioned in the Donyatt entry of the Domesday Book, and may represent one of the early pre-Conquest deer parks positioned to the south-west of the Site. The SHER records that in 1330 William de Montacute apparently emparked lands at Donyatt without licence, although this is perhaps in conflict will Collinson's *History of Somerset* in which he records the Monacute family had the manor house fortified and embattled without licence.

Post-medieval and modern

3.2.12 A number of sites lie within the Study Area relating to the post-medieval and modern periods, including the Chard Canal. The canal was opened in 1842, but was bought by the Bristol and Exeter Railway in 1866 and soon all the machinery and land was sold off and the canal and basin were filled in (Wessex Archaeology, 2007).

3.2.13 A milestone situated on the route of an 18th century turnpike (toll) road is positioned to the west of the Site. Collinson (1791) notes that the Hort Bridge is also on a turnpike road, suggesting the B3168 follows an earlier (at least 18th century) routeway.

Second World War

3.2.14 WWII defensive structures consisting of pillboxes, road/rail blocks, anti-tank defences and a military building are recorded in close proximity of the Site.

The defences are mostly positioned along the line of the former railway or along the access roads into Ilminster. A long anti-tank ditch was also located to the south-west of the town. These defences form part of the 'Taunton Stop Line' which ran from the Bristol Channel to Seaton and was designed to halt any rapidly moving armoured force coming from the west.

3.3 Geophysical Survey

3.3.1 A geophysical survey was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology on the Site in July 2009 (Wessex Archaeology 2009a). The survey comprised a detailed gradiometer survey of two areas (Area A to the north of the B3168 and Area B to the south). The survey identified a number of anomalies of archaeological potential.

3.3.2 A number of the anomalies typical of pits were clustered near the northern extent of Area A and the north-western extent of Area B. A complex of amorphous anomalies indicative of a small enclosure in the southern part of the survey area was also identified. Several linear anomalies, characteristic of field boundaries, appeared to define former field systems.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Evaluation Strategy

4.1.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the methodology set out in the document *Land at Hort Bridge, Ilminster, Somerset – Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Wessex Archaeology 2009b).

4.1.2 Of the 31 trial trenches proposed, only 30 were excavated due to on-site constraints, providing a 1% sample of the available Site area (**Figure 1**).

4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 All trenches were set out on the ground prior to the commencement of the fieldwork and located relative to OS grid. Topsoil and overburden were removed using a 360º tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Spoil was stockpiled at a safe distance from the edge of trenches, with topsoil and subsoil stockpiled separately.

4.2.2 Topsoil and modern overburden were removed in a series of level spits down to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon. Excavation normally ceased at a depth of 1.2m in accordance with Health and Safety guidelines.

4.2.3 Following an on-site meeting and on completion of the archaeological recording, all trenches were backfilled using excavated material.

4.2.4 All archaeological and potentially archaeological features identified in the trial trenches were cleaned by hand and recorded in plan at an appropriate scale. Sufficient of the features located in each trench were investigated by hand in order to fulfil the aims of the project. Care was also taken, where possible, not to compromise the integrity of archaeological features or

deposits, which might better be investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation.

4.2.5 All archaeological features and/or deposits in each trench encountered were planned, photographed and recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. In view of the density of features exposed in some of the evaluation trenches, it was agreed with the Client and SHEO that sampling of features by hand should be minimal.

4.2.6 All records included a written description using unique number context records, hand drawn pre-excavation trench plans at a scale of 1:50, with detailed sections of excavated features at a scale of 1:10 and post excavation plans at 1:20. All features were subsequently located using GPS and tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels was recorded along with a sample of surface heights sufficient to reconstruct topographic mapping of the Site.

4.2.7 A full photographic record was maintained using digital format with colour transparencies and black and white negatives (on 35mm film).

4.3 Health and Safety

4.3.1 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 and regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

4.3.2 Prior to the commencement of the fieldwork site-specific Risk Assessments were produced. All site staff involved in the fieldwork read, signed and complied with this document.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The evaluation identified evidence dating from the Late Bronze Age to the post-medieval period across the Site.

5.1.2 The results are discussed by area below and in chronological period order. A number of features and deposits remain undated, but are described, along with their possible association and significance to other dated remains.

5.1.3 Of the 31 trenches proposed, a total of 30 trenches (each measuring 30m x 2m with the exception of Trench 15 which was extended northwards, as illustrated in **Figure 5**) were machine excavated under archaeological conditions (**Figure 1**). Due to ecological constraints, a number of the trenches proposed in the former factory in Area B could not be excavated and instead were used to provide additional coverage across the remainder of the Site. Similarly the locations of several trenches elsewhere on the Site were repositioned due to other constraints:

- Trenches 3 and 7 were moved to avoid overhead wires
- Trenches 26-31 were moved due to ecological constraints

- Trenches 26-28 were sited in Area B to provide additional coverage
- Trench 29 was utilised as an extension to Trench 15 to provide additional information on deposits encountered
- Trench 30 and 31 were sited in Area A in provide additional coverage
- Trench 19 was moved to avoid disturbance from a known post-medieval field boundary and modern sewer pipe

5.1.4 Natural deposits (**Figure 4**, **Plate 2** and **Figure 5, Plate 4**) comprised mid-yellow alluvial silty clays overlying terrace gravel outcrops which formed a slightly undulating environment. Alluvial silts overlay the natural alluvial clays within a sinuous band along the western side of the development area within the River Isle floodplain. Within the evaluation trenches archaeological features were exclusively cut through the alluvial clay layers or through the overlying alluvial silts. No archaeological features were recorded cutting the terrace gravels.

5.1.5 This account provides a summary of the information derived from the evaluation. Trench summaries are provided in **Appendix 1**.

5.1.6 Numbers in bold are deposit and feature context numbers and contain a trench number prefix.

5.2 Area A

Introduction

5.2.1 Evidence for Late Bronze Age activity was found to be concentrated on a diagonal north-east to south-west axis through the centre of the area (Trenches 3, 5 and 8), and principally comprised compacted deposits of heat-fractured flint, recorded as spreads of material which both sealed and filled underlying archaeological and natural features (**Figure 2**).

5.2.2 The River Isle formed the western field/area boundary and lay approximately 20m west of Trenches 5 and 30. Consequently, alluvial silts and fluvial gravel formed part of the natural soil sequence. A relict river course (possibly an ox-bow) was recorded in Trench 30 where a unique sequence of fluvial sandy silts and gravels and alluvial flood deposits filled the river channel. A sherd of late 3rd to 4th century AD mortarium recovered from one of the earliest alluvial deposits **3008**, within the base of the relict river channel may suggest this course of the river began silting up around this time.

5.2.3 No archaeological, modern or natural features were observed in Trenches 1, 6 or 31.

Prehistoric (Late Bronze Age)

5.2.4 Located at the north-eastern extent of Area A, a shallow sub-square pit **305** (1m x 1.15m x 0.2m) was recorded in the centre of Trench 3. A flat based feature, the pit contained a deliberate deposit of compact heat-fractured flint

fragments in a dark clay matrix. Although no finds were recovered, this type of deposit was recorded filling features and as layers throughout the evaluation area and is indicative of material associated with Bronze Age burnt flint mounds.

5.2.5 At the south-west extent of Area A, within Trench 5 (**Figure 4, Plate 1**), a sub-circular pit **505** was recorded extending beyond the northern trench limit. It measured 1.5m in width and 0.54m in depth with a short (0.6m) length exposed within the trench itself. At the base of the pit the deliberate deposition of charcoal and burnt flint **506** was noted (*Environmental Sample 4*). A debris layer of compact burnt flint and charcoal in a dark clay matrix**, 507**, overlay pit fill **506** and extended several metres beyond the edges of the pit (**Figure 4, Plate 2**) . This debris layer/spread was recorded in total for 5.1m (NW-SE) across the entire width of the trench. Lying approximately 20m east of the River Isle, Trench 5 contained an alluvial layer derived from successive alluvial inundations. These alluvial silts clearly sealed layer **507** and formed a tertiary fill in the remaining hollow at the top of pit **505**.

5.2.6 To the west of Area A, Trench 8 exhibited a similar stratigraphic sequence to that seen in Trench 5. A shallow irregular feature **805** with an undulating base, possibly a pit, and a posthole **807** were both found to contain a single deposit of heat-fractured flint and charcoal lying in a dark clay matrix. Both fills extended beyond the edges of the features and were sealed by a layer of alluvial silts.

Romano-British

5.2.7 Evidence of Romano-British occupation of the Site was recorded predominately in Trench 4, within the centre of Area A. Several sherds of grog-tempered pottery were recovered from the secondary fill of field ditch **406**. Located towards the western end of Trench 4, two successive sets of opposing perpendicular field ditches with right-angled intersections formed part of an organised field system. The ditches and their interfaces were poorly defined. Orientated north to south, ditch **406** (1.8m+ x 1.2m+ x 0.25m) aligned perpendicular to ditch **410** (0.4m+ x 0.7m+ x 0.17m). The stratigraphic relationship between these ditches had been truncated by a modern ceramic field drain. The second phase of land division was represented by east to west aligned ditch **408** (2.6m+ x 1.8m x 0.35m) which cut ditch **406** and north-south aligned ditch **412** (3m+ x 1.8m x 0.22m) which in turn cut ditch **410**. Both ditches **408** and **412** were recorded cutting through the base of alluvial layer **403**.

Post-medieval to modern

5.2.8 Field boundary ditches visible prior to machine trenching by the differential growth patterns of surface vegetation were evident in Trenches 4 (ditch **414)**, 7 (ditch **707**) and 8 (ditch **809** and re-cut **811**).

5.2.9 A large modern pit **904** (9m+ x 2m+ x 1m+) was also recorded at the western end of Trench 9 extending across the width of the trench. Metal, barbed wire, wood and brick were noted within the fill of this feature but not retained.

5.2.10 Ceramic field drains were recorded within Trenches 3, 4 and 8.

Undated

5.2.11 Aligned north north-east to south south-west, two narrow concave field gullies **205** (Trench 2) and **705** (Trench 7) were recorded. These features were poorly defined and followed similar alignments to the ceramic field drains recorded in Trenches 4 and 8, though they were not detectable until the natural interface was exposed at the base of the trench during machine excavation. Both gullies measured approximately 0.4m in width, had fairly uniform concave profiles and were filled with waterborne eroded clays and silts.

5.3 Area B

Introduction

5.3.1 Prehistoric/Late Bronze Age occupation of the landscape continued southwards from Area A through into Area B defined by pits, possible ditches and occupation layers (possibly indicative of levelled burnt flint mounds). The features were recorded through the centre of the Area on a broadly north to south axis. Undated gullies and ditches were also recorded. The medieval and post-medieval land division and organisation of the landscape was represented by the presence of field boundary ditches (**Figure 3**).

5.3.2 No archaeological or modern features were recorded in Trenches 18, 19 and 20 in the south-west of the Area.

Prehistoric (Late Bronze Age)

5.3.3 As in Area A, a distribution of heat-fractured flint spreads were recorded across Area B. These were seen as both thin compacted layers of material between 0.1m and 0.3m in depth which were sealed by overlying subsoil layers and were found to form horizontal spreads, to fill natural channels, and to seal underlying features which were themselves filled with similar material. A main focus of activity was observed in the centre of the Area in Trenches 14 and 15 which, due to the nature of the deposits and concentration of activity, were recorded in plan only.

5.3.4 These burnt flint spreads are provisionally dated to the Late Bronze Age period based on pottery fragments recovered from the fill of a wide curvilinear possible ditch **1504** (Trench 15) which was also found to contain abundant small fragments of heat-fractured flint fragments.

5.3.5 A large linear spread of heat-fractured flint fragments in a dark silty clay matrix with abundant manganese and charcoal was recorded as deposits **1407** and **1409** in Trench 14 (**Figure 5**). This layer, which extended across the width of the trench was bisected by post-medieval ditch **1408**. However when combined, **1407** and **1409** measured 8.9m east to west and may form the upper fill of a curvilinear channel/ditch recorded to the south in Trench 15 as **1504**. Approximately 3.5m west of deposit **1407**, a sub-circular probable pit **1403** (*c*. 1.2m diameter) was recorded with a poorly defined linear feature **1405** extending to the south. Both were filled with a compact deposit of heat-fractured flint in a dark grey silty clay matrix and were sealed by subsoil. All the burnt flint features recorded in Trench 14 appeared to lie

within an interface between the base of the subsoil and underlying natural, possibly within an alluvial deposit.

5.3.6 Trench 15 (**Figure 5**) contained a series of layers and deposits with extremely diffuse horizons. The far eastern extent of the trench revealed easily identifiable stiff yellow clay natural into which three circular pits, **1511**, **1513** and **1515** were cut. The pits measured between 0.6m and 0.9m in diameter and were filled with dark grey-black silty clay with abundant burnt flint fragments. Pit **1513** was cut by ditch **1506**.

5.3.7 The augering of two points through deposit **1505** was undertaken by hand, to establish the depth of the feature using a Dutch/Jarret soil auger. Both augered points demonstrated the feature was relatively shallow; Augur 1 recorded the ditch to a depth of 0.33m and Augur 2 recording a depth of 0.54m to natural geology. A similar soil sequence was recorded in both, comprising an upper silty clay layer **1505**, a clay deposit, **1519** and layer **1517**, a gravel and clay matrix containing occasional manganese.

5.3.8 Deposit **1508**, a mid-brown yellow clay with abundant manganese and burnt flint, appeared to overlie ditch fill **1505**. The deposit increased in depth beyond the limit of possible ditch **1504** (**Figure 5**, **Plate 3**). Secondary deposit **1503**, a possible fluvial or ploughed out re-deposited natural bank, was only present in the centre of the trench sealing deposits **1505** and **1508**.

5.3.9 Two shallow north-east to south-west orientated linear ditches/channels **2304** and **2314** located 6.7m apart and between 0.2 and 0.4m deep, were recorded in trench 23 (**Figure 6**, **Plate 5**). Both were filled with probable alluvial basal deposits overlain by mid-grey silty clay containing rare charcoal and relatively abundant burnt flint fragments. The upper part of the features contained compact deposits of burnt flint fragments in a dark grey fine silt. These deposits were part of layer **2322** which extended along the majority of the trench (*c*. 18m) and was found to obscure underlying features including pit **2312** and linear channels **2304** and **2314** (**Figure 6, Plate 6**). Layer **2322** comprised burnt flint fragments in a dark fine silty clay matrix with occasional charcoal. A compact deposit was present west of field boundary ditch **2319** and terminated part way across linear **2304**. A horizontal layer with an average depth of 0.05m, **2322** was recorded as **2305**, **2313**, and **2317** where it formed a fill in underlying features. Pit **2310** and ditch **2308** cut and therefore post-dated layer **2322**.

5.3.10 Located at the western end of Trench 24 a sharply defined sub-circular feature **2403** was observed. Filled with dense, dark grey silt with abundant small burnt flint fragments (similar material to that recorded in Trenches 10, 14, 5 and 23) the feature was not associated with any overlying burnt flint debris layer. On excavation the feature was found to be only 0.04m in depth.

Post-medieval to modern

5.3.11 A number of field boundary ditches were recorded across Area B demonstrating that the field had once comprised a series of smaller plots. This evidence in the context of the existing wider fieldscape is indicative of piecemeal enclosure of earlier, possibly medieval, field systems. The field boundaries were all cut from the base of the topsoil and were found to contain secondary deposits of topsoil derived silts. Post-medieval and/or

modern field boundary ditches were recorded in Trenches 13, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24 and 25. All were evident as crop delineations prior to machine excavation and had been identified during geophysical survey.

5.3.12 Orientated north-west to south-east field boundary ditch **1306** recorded at the southern end of Trench 13 continued to the east as ditch **1708** in Trench 17. The ditch measured approximately 2.5m in width and was filled with a fairly loose topsoil derived deposit.

5.3.13 A perpendicular field boundary ditch was recorded in Trenches 22 and 23 as north-east to south-west aligned ditches **2205** (2m+ x 2.1m x 0.54m+) and **2319**.

5.3.14 At the southern extent of the Area in Trenches 24 and 25, ditches **2407** and **2504** formed a north-west to south-east boundary.

5.3.15 A north-east to south-west orientated field boundary ditch **1606** recorded in the centre of Trench 16 was bisected along its eastern side by a modern sewer.

5.3.16 Measuring 2.2m in width and filled with mid brown silt, boundary ditch **1408** bisected burnt flint spreads **1407** and **1409** along a north-east to south-west axis. A fragment of roofing slate was found embedded in the top of ditch fill **1410**. The fill recorded in ditch **1408** was notably different to that recorded in the other field boundaries identified across the Site and implies an earlier phase of field organisation, possibly medieval.

5.3.17 The western end of Trench 11 had been reduced and re-laid with gravel and is likely to have formed a crude hardcore associated with the field entrance to the north. A modern service trench cut this gravel make-up.

5.3.18 A north-west to south-east aligned modern fence line comprising 5 sub-square postholes *c*. 0.2m² positioned 2.7m apart were recorded in Trench 23. The north-eastern posthole contained concrete capping.

5.3.19 Ceramic field drains were recorded in Trenches 21, 22, 23, 24, 27 and 28 and modern service trenches were recorded in Trenches 11, 14, 16, 21 and 25.

Undated

5.3.20 In Trench 10 a narrow curvilinear gully **1004** (2.7m+ x 0.6m x 0.15m) was recorded at the west end of the trench. In addition, a north north-east to south south-west aligned boundary ditch **1009** (3.8m+ x 3m x *unex*) lay 2.6m to the east. It was filled by a secondary silt deposit with evident charcoal flecking and cut, on its eastern side, deposit **1005**. Cutting the eastern extent of deposit **1005**, ditch **1007** (2.7m+ x 1.4m x 0.55m) lay on a similar alignment to **1009** at a distance of approximately 5m to the east. Containing a primary deposit of light grey brown fine silty clay with rare charcoal flecking the fills of ditches **1007** and **1009** were significantly different in derivation and infer that the features were not contemporary. The northern end of ditch **1007** is thought to have cut pit fill **1010**, however the angle of the intersection between ditch, pit and trench edge make this a tentative relationship.

5.3.21 A poorly defined north-north-east to south-south-west orientated ditch **1104** (2m+ x 1.4m x 0.2m) lay on a similar alignment to ditch **1007** in Trench 10. Ditch **1104** contained a similar deposit of light grey brown fine silty clay with rare charcoal flecking though presented a significantly less pronounced profile.

5.3.22 Aligned north-west to south-east, two parallel field gullies **1204** and **1304** were recorded lying approximately 40m apart in Trenches 12 and 13 respectively. Both measured 0.7m in width, contained primary deposits of eroded subsoil and natural and contained rare charcoal and occasional manganese. The upper part of the cut of both gullies was diffuse and may have originated within the lower part of overlying subsoil layers. The features were typical of minor field drainage gullies. The alignment and dimensions (2.7m+ in length and between 0.7 and 1m in width and 0.15m in depth) of gully **1704** (Trench 17) suggest it is likely to be a continuation of gully **1304**.

5.3.23 A 3.8m wide and approximately 0.7m in depth, north to south aligned ditch **1604** was recorded at the west end of Trench 16. It contained a homogenous deposit of mid grey blue fine silty clay. A concentration of animal bone was recovered from the very base of this deposit. This heavily leached deposit is indicative of a drainage channel which appeared to have been cut from within the subsoil. Animal bone was recovered and a bulk environmental sample (*Environmental Sample 2*) of the material surrounding the bone was taken.

5.3.24 A 1.1m wide shallow sloping ditch **2203** recorded in Trench 22 was orientated north-east to south-west. Only the base of this feature survived to a depth of 0.15m and it contained a fairly sterile deposit of eroded clay silts. The colour of the fill implied post-depositional leaching of minerals and nutrients.

5.3.25 Trench 23 contained several features cutting through a layer of burnt flint fragments which covered the length of the trench. Assuming this layer is related to the Late Bronze Age activity previously recorded elsewhere on the Site, it provides a *terminus post quem* of no earlier than *c*. 1100BC for these features, although no further dating evidence was retrieved. Pit **2310** was sub-ovate and contained a densely packed deposit of medium to large flint gravel. The feature was steep sided and tapered towards a slightly concave base. Little charcoal or anthropogenic material was observed within this deposit. Ditch **2308** aligned north-east to south-west, had a shallow 'v-shaped' profile. It appeared similar in profile and contained a similar primary deposit to ditch **1007** (Trench 10)

5.3.26 An 11m wide (maximum) funnel shaped erosion channel **2405** aligned north-south was recorded in the centre of Trench 24 and was cut on its eastern side by field boundary ditch **2407**. The upper part of the feature was filled by an increased depth of subsoil which overlay a fairly sterile secondary deposit. This feature truncated the water table at a depth of 32.45m aOD, 0.6m below ground level. Excavation ceased at this point.

5.3.27 Ditch **2604** recorded at the southern end of Trench 26 exhibited similar characteristics to ditch **2203**, comprising a shallow sloping base and water leached fill. Aligned broadly east to west, ditch **2604** was 1.5m in width,

0.25m in depth and a 2.2m length and extended beyond the limits of the trench. At the northern end of Trench 26 a 2.6m wide diffuse deposit of alluvial type material was recorded below the subsoil, a sherd of prehistoric pottery and fragment of fired clay were recovered from this deposit.

5.3.28 Aligned north to south though curving westwards at its southern end, a 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep gully **2704** was recorded in Trench 27. The gully was filled with a fairly sterile deposit of eroded silty clay.

5.3.29 An *in-situ* burnt tree throw hole **1706** excavated in Trench 17. The feature exhibited an irregular pitted base and was found to have been cut from within the overlying subsoil layer inferring a fairly recent origin. Similar features were also recorded in Trench 13, **1308** and Trench 26, **2606**.

5.4 Geophysical Survey

5.4.1 During the course of the evaluation, the opportunity was taken to conduct further geophysics to better understand and characterise the anomalies detected during the gradiometer survey. Magnetic susceptibility and gradiometer data were collected over traverses along the centreline of a limited number of evaluation trenches. Full analysis of the additional data had not been completed at the time of the production of this report and only an initial assessment is provided here.

5.4.2 The volume magnetic susceptibility readings were taken at 1m intervals using a Bartington MS2 field coil and logged in SI, with the instrument re-zeroed between readings. Magnetometer data were collected at 0.25m intervals on both sensors of a Bartington Grad601-2 dual gradiometer system along the trench centreline; it was anticipated that the proximity of the trench edges to the sensors would produce spurious magnetic noise and these data were collected for comparative use only. The start- and end-points of the traverses were located using a Leica 1200 RTK GPS system, which is precise to within 0.05m and therefore complies with current English Heritage guidelines.

5.4.3 An interim qualitative analysis of the further survey work indicates that the topsoil (~30SI) exhibited approximately 3 times greater magnetic susceptibility than the exposed natural (~10SI). The relative enhancement of the upper soil horizons is probably due to the recent use of the Site as a dairy farm and livestock breeding centre.

5.4.4 The poor visual contrast between natural pedology and archaeological features was reflected in weak enhancements in magnetic susceptibility; values of 15SI to 20SI were observed over archaeology at the base of the trenches. In contrast, deposits apparently containing greater amounts of burnt material were correspondingly more susceptible magnetically, and values of 100SI to 235SI were noted over such features at the base of the trenches.

5.4.5 These interim results clarify the apparent discrepancy between interpreted anomalies and archaeological features observed during the evaluation. The magnetic susceptibility data demonstrates that, for this Site, many archaeological deposits exhibited limited magnetic contrast with the surrounding natural pedology. The archaeological deposits were generally overlain by at least 0.5m of overburden and the topsoil was observed to

have significantly greater magnetic susceptibility than the majority of the features investigated.

5.4.6 It is thought likely that the weak magnetic responses from archaeological features have been masked by responses originating in the topsoil; the above-ground anomalies may have been at, or below, the detection threshold of the gradiometer and were therefore not distinguishable from natural variations in the magnetic background. Similarly, those features containing burnt material were more strongly magnetic and should produce greater responses above ground.

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The evaluation produced a very small quantity of finds, including objects of prehistoric, Romano-British and post-Roman date. The ceramic finds in particular are in poor condition, having suffered a high level of abrasion.

6.2 Prehistoric

6.2.1 Prehistoric material comprises 14 sherds of pottery, and six pieces of worked flint/chert. A single piece of undiagnostic fired clay, associated with sherds of prehistoric pottery, may also be of this date.

6.2.2 The pottery, from alluvial layers **405** and **2603**, and ditch **1504**, is in two broad fabric types: flint-tempered with some sand, and fine and silty with sparse organic inclusions. Both types are of later prehistoric date; there are no diagnostic pieces, but the sherds can be dated on fabric grounds as later prehistoric, probably Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age.

6.2.3 The worked flint (two pieces) and chert (six pieces) consists entirely of waste flakes, which are not closely datable within the prehistoric period.

6.3 Romano-British

6.3.1 Three sherds of pottery are of Romano-British date. These comprise a coarse grog-tempered ware from ditch **406**, a coarse greyware from ditch **1504**, and an Oxfordshire colour-coated mortarium from alluvial layer **3008**. The latter sherd can be dated to the late Roman period (3rd/4th century AD).

6.4 Other Finds

6.4.1 A single piece of roofing slate from ditch **1408** is of uncertain date, although most probably medieval or post-medieval.

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

Context	Fired Clay	Flint/Chert	Pottery	Stone
405			9/42	
407			1/8	
1410				1/2
1505		4/43	4/14	
1605		2/58		
2603	1/7		2/4	
3008			1/29	
Total	**1/7**	**6/101**	**17/97**	**1/2**

7 ENVIRONMENTAL

7.1 Introduction

Environmental samples taken

7.1.1 Four bulk samples were taken from a range of features within the evaluation trenches in Areas A and B to evaluate the presence and preservation of palaeo-environmental remains. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal as no waterlogged material or mollusca were observed during initial processing. This information on the range and preservation of environmental remains can provide an indication of the significance of the archaeological Site as a whole.

7.2 Charred Plant Remains and Wood Charcoal

7.2.1 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 2**) to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

7.2.2 The flots were generally of average size. There was up to 50% rooty material and modern seeds in the flots that may be indicative of chance contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material was present, albeit with varying degrees of preservation.

7.2.3 No charred plant remains were recovered from the prehistoric pits **505** and **2403**. The undated alluvial layer **3009** in Trench 30 produced a moderate number of cereal remains. These included fragments of grain of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and grains and glumes of hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta sl*). No weed seeds were retrieved. A probable hulled wheat grain fragment and a glume of emmer wheat, together with a seed of poa grass (Poaceae), were recorded in the undated ditch **1604** in Trench 16, Area B.

7.2.4 High numbers of wood charcoal fragments (>4 mm) were retrieved from both prehistoric pits and the undated alluvial layer. The wood charcoal was mainly mature wood pieces.

7.2.5 The prehistoric pits are thought to be associated with Bronze Age burnt mound activity in the area. The undated ditch **1604** may also date from this period as emmer wheat is often found on sites of Neolithic and Bronze Age date. The undated alluvial layer (**3009**) was sealed by a further alluvial layer containing a sherd of 3rd/4th century AD mortaria and so suggests a potential later Bronze Age/Iron Age to Romano-British date for the underlying layer.

7.2.6 The low level of charred cereal remains within these samples is indicative of those assemblages recovered from the edge of settlement activities or short-lived low intensity occupation. However, the results have some significance as there is very little comparative environmental material in the immediate vicinity. Further afield Middle Bronze Age features, together with those of Middle/Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age /Romano-British date, were excavated at RNAS Yeovilton (Pelling, 2006) and Ham Hill (Stevens 2008), while other Romano-British material was studied from places such as Ilchester (Murphy 1982, Stevens 1999) and Catsgore (Hillman1981).

Table 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Samples				Flot							
Feature	**Context**	**Sample**	**Litres**	**Flot (ml)**	**% roots**	**Grain**	**Chaff**	**Charred other**	**Seeds**	**Charcoal >4/2mm**	**Other**
Area A											
Prehistoric Pit											
505	503	4	8	60	7	-	-	-	-	15/15 ml	-
Undated Alluvial Layer											
	3009	1	9	100	50	B	C	-	Hulled wheat and barley grain frags, glume frags	10/10 ml	-
Area B											
Prehistoric Pit											
2403	2404	3	2	35	40	-	-	-	-	5/10 ml	-
Undated Ditch											
1604	1605	2	10	40	35	C	C	C	?Hulled wheat grain frag, Emmer glume, Poaceae	2/1 ml	-

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5

8 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

8.1 Prehistoric

8.1.1 Late Bronze Age features were spread across Areas A and B on a north to south axis, roughly parallel to the River Isle. A number of pits in Area A were backfilled with burnt flint deposits and a spread of such debris was recorded

to overlay pit **505** and extend several metres beyond it. In Area B the burnt flint spreads were better defined (**1407** and **1409**, **1508**, and **2322**) and measured up to 18m wide (**2322**).

8.1.2 Features associated with these layers, such as ditches and pits may have been backfilled with the burnt material or located in the vicinity of the spreads and sealed by them. The burnt spreads are provisionally dated to Late Bronze Age by pottery retrieved from ditch **1504**, a date supported by the presence of emmer wheat (ditch **1604**), often found on sites of Neolithic and Bronze Age date.

8.1.3 These characteristic spreads of burnt material are thought to originate from a monument group collectively known as burnt mounds. These distinctive field monuments are characterised by an accumulation of heat-affected stones and charcoal. The sizes of the mounds vary from 10m to 35m across and from 0.5m to 3m in height (Hedges 1975). The deposits found during this evaluation are most likely associated with the levelling of mounds by ploughing or other activities.

8.1.4 Burnt mounds are spread widely across the British Isles in the Bronze Age, and the dates obtained so far cover a period of 1000 years, between 2020+100 BC and 1000+100 BC (Raymond 1987). The mounds are most notably found in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the Northern Isles (Hedges 1975). In England, concentrations of these monuments were recorded in the Birmingham area (Hodder 1990, 2002) and in the New Forest, Hampshire (Pasmore and Pallister 1967). Until now, only two sites have been recorded in Somerset: at Bos Swallet, Black Down, south of Burrington, where a late Beaker site and a Middle Bronze Age burnt mound were excavated in 1956-1958 (Somerset Historic Environment Record 24128, ApSimon 1997). The only other burnt mound site in Somerset was found at Cambria Farm, Taunton during 2008-2009 excavations by Context One Archaeological Services Ltd, but the results have not yet been published (Somerset Historic Environment Record 28214; pers. comm. Steven Membery).

8.1.5 To date, burnt mounds have been recorded near supplies of water, stone and fuel, and the River Isle is situated conveniently to provide the Site with water. Features associated with these sites typically comprise stone, wood or clay-lines troughs and hearths (Hedges 1975, Pasmore and Pallister 1967). Although none of the features found on Site can be confidently described as a trough or hearth, the gullies and pits revealed could have served as drainage channels and refuse pits for associated activity. The small quantity of finds is characteristic of burnt mound sites (ApSimon 1997, Hedges 1975, Hodder 2002). Burnt mounds are also thought to be good indicators of settlements, which would be expected nearby, on higher and drier ground up to 50m away (Hodder 1990, 2002).

8.1.6 The activity, of which the burnt mounds are remnants, is still under discussion, with two main hypotheses. The first, of mounds being remains of cooking (boiling) sites (Ó Drisceoil 1988), where heated flints are put into water or other liquids to warm the contents for cooking. The lack of animal remains is explained by common acidity of the soil, in which bone does not survive. In the second hypothesis, it was suggested that mounds represent the location where stones were heated for saunas or sweat lodges (Barfield and Hodder 1987, Hodder 2002). The sweat lodge would be situated up to

10m away from the mound and therefore often missed during excavations. Recently, it was implied that the function of burnt mounds could also relate to wool processing (Ripper 2002-2003). Unless evidence of a certain activity is found, it is necessary to leave the interpretation of the burnt spreads found on Site open, as the burnt mound may represent any of the abovementioned activities, or any other, not previously discussed, requiring the use of hot water/stones.

8.1.7 The discoveries on the Site are of some importance given their rarity in the region, and specifically the Ilminster area; the only indication of Bronze Age activity in the vicinity prior to the evaluation was a hoard of bronze artefacts found at Winterhay Green. So far it has not been possible to describe the function of the spreads with confidence. The distribution of spreads on Site suggests the focus of activity could have been moved seasonally to avoid flood waters onto slightly higher ground. The burnt spreads might indicate that a settlement was located nearby, on drier ground. The low level of charred cereal remains is also characteristic of assemblages retrieved from the settlement perimeters.

8.2 Romano-British to modern

8.2.1 During the Romano-British and post-medieval periods the main activity on Site was of an agricultural nature, represented by boundary ditches forming a succession of field systems and land division. A number of undated features were also recorded, some of which may be indicative of the enclosure of earlier, possibly medieval, field systems.

8.3 Conclusion

8.3.1 The evaluation has established that archaeological features comprising pits, gullies and ditches are present across the majority of the Site. Late Bronze Age occupation is attested by spreads of burnt flint deposits, indicative of activity associated with burnt mounds, whilst later features are typically agricultural in nature comprising land divisions.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive is currently stored at Wessex Archaeology's office in Salisbury under the project code 72011. The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with the relevant standards set out in 'M*anagement of Research Projects in the Historic Environment'* (MoRPHE), English Heritage (2006), Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation and in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990)*. The archive will be deposited at the completion of all post-excavation works with the County Museum, Taunton, Somerset.

9.2 Preparation of archive

9.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material, and in general following nationally recommended

guidelines (Walker 1990; SMA 1995; Richards and Robinson 2000; Brown 2007).

9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the Site code (72011), and a full index will be prepared.

9.3 Conservation

9.3.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field.

9.4 Discard policy

9.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis.

9.4.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows the guidelines laid out in Wessex Archaeology's 'Archive and Dispersal Policy for Environmental Remains and Samples'. The archive policy conforms with nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002) and is available upon request.

9.5 Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988

9.5.1 Wessex Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. Excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of the report by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the specification. Any document produced to meet planning requirements may be copied for planning purposes by the Local Planning Authority.

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

9.6 Security copy

9.6.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Archaeological Record (English Heritage), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

10 REFERENCES

ApSimon, A. M. 1997. Bos Swallet, Burrington, Somerset; Boiling Site and Beaker Occupation Site, *Proc. Univ. Bristol Spelaeological Society*, 21(1), 43-82

Barfield, L. and Hodder, M. 1987. Burnt mounds as saunas, and the prehistory of bathing, *Antiquity*, 61, 370-379

English Heritage 2002. *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*

Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales) 1976. Sheet 311 – Drift

Hedges, J. 1975. Excavation of two Orcadian burnt mounds at Liddle and Beaquoy, *Proc. Soc. Antiq Scotland*, 106, 39-98.

Hillman, G. 1981. Evidence for spelting malt at Roman Catsgore, 137-140, in: Leech R., *Excavations at Catsgore 1970-73*, Western Archaeol. Trust Excavation Monograph Series Report 2, Bristol, England, Somerset

Hodder, M. 1990. Burnt mounds in the English West Midlands, in V. Buckley (ed.) *Burnt Offerings. International Contributions to Burnt Mound Archaeology*, 105-111, Wordwell Ltd-Academic Publications, Dublin

Hodder, M. 2002. *Burnt Mounds and Beyond: the Later Prehistory of Birmingham and the Black Country.* West Midlands Regional Research Framework for Archaeology, Seminar 2, available at http://www.arch-ant.bham.ac.uk/research/fieldwork_research_themes/projects/wmrrfa/seminar2/Mike%20Hodder.doc (Accessed 26th October 2009)

Institute for Archaeologists (as amended 2008), *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

Morris, J. 1980 *The Domesday Book (1086) – Somerset*, Phillimore

Murphy, P. 1982. Plant remains from Roman deposits at Ilchester. 286-90. In: Leach P. Ilchester Vol 1. Excavations 1974-5. *Western Archaeol. Trust. Monograph 3.* England, Somerset

Ó Drisceoil, D. A. 1988. Burnt mounds: cooking or bathing?, *Antiquity*, 62:237, 671-680

Pasmore, A. H. and Pallister, J. 1967. Boiling mounds in the New Forest, *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society*, 24, 14-19

Pelling, R. 2006 (2005) 'The Charred Plant Remains' in Lovell J. 'Excavation of a Romano-British farmstead at RNAS Yeovilton'. *Somerset Archaeology and Natural History*, 149, 7-70.

Raymond, F. 1987. Burnt Mounds, *Monument Protection Programme, Monument Class Description* available at http://www.eng-h.gov.uk/mpp/mcd/bm.htm (Accessed 26th October 2009)

Ripper, S. 2002-2003. Bodies, Burnt Mounds and Bridges, *University of Leicester Archaeological Services Review, 2002-2003,* available at http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas/downloads/Burnt_Mounds.pdf (Accessed 26th October 2009)

Room, A 2003, *The Penguin Dictionary of British Place Names,* Penguin Books

Somerset Historic Environment Record, 24128, Beaker occupation and Bronze Age boiling site, Bos Swallet, Black Down, S of Burrington, http://webapp1.somerset.gov.uk/her/details.asp?prn=24128

Somerset Historic Environment Record, 28214, Excavation (2008-9), Cambria Farm, Taunton, http://webapp1.somerset.gov.uk/her/details.asp?prn=28214

Stace, C, 1997, *New flora of the British Isles* (2nd edition), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Stevens, C.J. 1999. 'Plant Remains' in R.A. Broomhead, 'Ilchester, Great Yard Archaeological Excavations 1995' *Somerset Archaeology and Natural History 142, 156-65*

Stevens, C. J. 2006 Charred Plant remains, 55-58, in Leivers, M., Chisham, C., Knight, S. and Stevens, C. J., 2006., Excavations at Ham Hill Quarry, Hamdon Hill, Montacute, 2002, In *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society*, 150, 39-62.

Watkinson, D. and Neal, V. 1998 *First Aid for Finds*

Wessex Archaeology 2007, *Furnham Road, Chard, Somerset,* unpublished client report 61642.01

Wessex Archaeology 2009a. *Land at Hort Bridge, Ilminster, Somerset. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Field Evaluation*, unpublished client report 72011.01

Wessex Archaeology 2009b. *Land at Hort Bridge, Ilminster, Somerset. Detailed Gradiometer Survey Report*, unpublished client report 72010.01

Wessex Archaeology 2009c. *A303 New Highways Agency Depot, Southfields, Ilminster, Somerset*, unpublished client report 71160.01

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH TABLES

Trench 1	Dimensions: 27.3m x 2m x 1.17m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334763.68 115378.47 aOD 30.86m (NE) 334791.08 115374.79 aOD 30.86m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
101	Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay.	0-0.36m
102	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay. Rare manganese.	0.36-0.62m
103	Alluvium	Mid grey brown silty clay. Moderate manganese.	0.62-0.87m
104	Natural Geology	Mid yellow silty clay with blue grey laminations and river terrace gravels (recorded at west end of trench).	0.87m+
No archaeological features recorded			

Trench 2	Dimensions: 28.50m x 2m x 1.10m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334765.92 115341.88 aOD 31.00m (NE) 334787.45 115361.34 aOD 30.85m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
201	Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay.	0-0.26m
202	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay. No archaeology.	0.26-0.50m
203	Alluvium	Mid grey brown silty clay. Moderate manganese.	0.50-0.82m
204	Natural Geology	Mid yellow brown silty clay with blue grey lenses. Moderate manganese.	0.82m+
205	Gully Cut	NE-SW aligned gully cut. Linear with concave moderate sides and a concave base.	0.82-0.95m
206	Gully Fill	Secondary fill of gully cut 205. Mid orange brown silty clay with blue grey lenses. Eroded natural and overburden – Post depositional water logging and intermittent/ episodic deposition.	0.82-0.95m

Trench 3	Dimensions: 23m x 2.10m x 0.93m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334818.15 115339.10 aOD 30.84m (NE) 334837.45 115325.70 aOD 30.83m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
301	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay. Rare sub-rounded stones (0.03m). Rare charcoal. Clear Horizon.	0-0.30m
302	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay. Rare sub-angular stones (<0.03m). Rare charcoal	0.32-0.55m

		and manganese. Clear horizons.	
303	Alluvium	Mid-light yellow brown silty clay with orange mottling. Rare sub-angular stone (<0.04m). Very common manganese. Flood deposit. Diffuse horizons.	0.55-0.86m
304	Natural Geology	Light grey brown clay with orange mottling. Very common manganese. Diffuse horizon.	0.86-0.93m
305	Pit Cut	Cut of pit, filled with 306. Sub-square pit with concave sides and a flat base.	0.83-1.03m
306	Pit Fill	Deliberate deposit of mid-dark grey silty clay. Very common burnt flint (<0.07m). Rare charcoal. Clear horizons.	0.83-1.03m
Trench location moved due to overhead wires. 10/10/09			

Trench 4	Dimensions: 25m x 2.15m x 1.15m+		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334764.46 115314.41 aOD 31.21m (NE) 334789.45 115299.00 aOD 31.14m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
401	Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay. Randomly dispersed sub-angular stones (0.02m-0.06m). Sharp horizon.	0-0.29m
402	Subsoil	Yellow brown silty clay. Occasional, randomly dispersed, sub-angular stones (0.02-0.06m). Moderate manganese. Sharp horizon.	0.29-0.53m
403	Alluvium	Mid brown grey silty silt. Rare sub-rounded/ rounded flint pebbles (0.02m-0.04m). Moderate manganese, increasing in concentration towards the base of deposit. Layer deeper at SE end.	0.53-0.78m
404	Natural Geology	Yellow clay with light grey blue mottling/lensing. River gravels exposed under clay at SE end of trench in a stiff yellow clay matrix.	0.74m+
405	Alluvium	Light yellow brown silty clay with blue grey mottling. Rare, randomly dispersed, sub-angular stone inclusions. Rare Pottery/ Burnt flint. On interface between 403 and 404. Recorded at SE end of trench.	0.78-0.93m
406	Ditch Cut	N-S aligned ditch filled with 407. Concave moderate sides and concave base.	0.85-1.10m
407	Ditch Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 406. Mid yellow brown clay with grey blue lenses. Sparse, randomly dispersed, sub-angular flint inclusions (<0.06m). Common manganese and charcoal. 2x Pottery bags.	0.85-1.10m
408	Ditch Cut	E-W aligned ditch filled with 409. Concave moderately steep sides and a concave base. Cuts alluvial layer 405 and lies perpendicular to 412.	0.80-1.15m

409	Ditch Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 408. Mid grey blue clay. Common, randomly dispersed manganese and charcoal.	0.80-1.15m
410	Ditch Cut	E-W aligned ditch filled with 411. Linear with concave shallow sides and concave base. Perpendicular to 406.	1.03-1.20m
411	Ditch Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 410. Mid grey-blue clay. Sparse, randomly dispersed, sub-angular flint (<0.06m). Sparse manganese.	1.03-1.20m
412	Ditch Cut	N-S aligned ditch filled with 413. Linear with concave moderate sides and a concave base. Perpendicular to 408. Ditch likely to have cut 403 although the horizon is blurred.	1.03-1.25m
413	Ditch Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 412. Mid grey blue clay. Sparse, randomly dispersed, sub-angular flint (<0.03m). Common manganese and charcoal.	1.03-1.25m
414	Field Boundary Cut	NNE-SSW aligned Post-Medieval/ Modern field boundary.	0.29-0.74m+
415	Field Boundary Fill	Secondary fill (topsoil derived) of field boundary 414.	0.29-0.74m+
2x Ceramic field drains NE-SW aligned also recorded.			

Trench 5	Dimensions: 29.30m x 2.10m x 0.96m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334639.61 115261.30 aOD 31.70m (NE) 334663.61 115244.16 aOD 31.73m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
501	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay. Rare sub-rounded stones (<0.03m). rare manganese and charcoal.	0-0.32m
502	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown compact silty clay. Sparse sub-angular stones (<0.05m). Moderate manganese and rare charcoal. Moderate horizons.	0.32-0.51m
503	Alluvium	Light brown grey compact silty clay. Sparse sub-angular stones (<0.06m). Very common manganese. Cumulative deposit derived from flooding events.	0.51-0.74m
504	Natural Geology	Yellow grey clay silt with common orange clay mottling. Common manganese. Diffuse horizon.	0.74-0.96m+
505	Pit Cut	Cut of sub-circular pit, filled with 506, 507, 508 and 509.	0.90-1.44m
506	Pit Fill	Deliberate backfill of charcoal and burnt flint at base of 505. *ES 4*.	0.32-0.44m
507	Pit Fill	Occupation layer of compact burnt flint and charcoal in pit 505 also extending beyond feature ~5.10m wide.	0.82-1.32m
508	Pit Fill	Tertiary fill of pit 505.	1.00-1.14m

509	Pit Fill	Alluvial layer filling undulation left by pit 505	0.72-1.00m

Trench 6	Dimensions: 30m x 2.10m x 1.20m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334705.71 115281.23 aOD 31.69m (NE) 334734.61 115274.91 aOD 31.47m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
601	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay. Sparse sub-angular stones (<0.07m). Rare CBM, manganese and charcoal. Clear horizon.	0-030m
602	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay. Rare sub-angular stones (<0.03m). Sparse manganese and charcoal. Diffuse horizon with 403.	0.30-0.58m
603	Alluvium	Mid grey brown silty clay. Rare sub-angular stones (<0.02m). Moderate manganese and sparse FE staining. Deposit is a product of consistent flooding. 1x worked flint fragment.	0.58-0.79m
604	Natural Geology	Grey brown clay with orange mottling. Areas of underlying gravel visible in places. Common manganese. Diffuse horizons.	0.79-1.20m

Trench 7	Dimensions: 25m x 2m x 0.93m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334745.35 115272.14 aOD 31.37m (NE) 334762.06 115290.80 aOD 31.13m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
701	Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay. No archaeology.	0-0.25m
702	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay. Rare manganese. No archaeology.	0.25-0.51m
703	Alluvium	Mid grey brown silty clay. Rare, randomly dispersed, sub-angular flint. Moderate manganese. No archaeology.	0.51-0.80m
704	Natural Geology	Mid yellow brown silty clay with blue grey lenses. Rare manganese.	0.80m+
705	Gully Cut	N-S aligned drainage gully, filled with 706. Linear with concave moderate sides and concave base. Possibly identical to 205.	0.80-1.00m
706	Gully Fill	Primary fill of gully cut 705. Mid orange brown silty clay with blue grey lenses. Rare, randomly dispersed sub-angular flint. Rare manganese. Diffuse lower horizon.	0.80-1.00m
707	Field Boundary Cut	N-S aligned cut of Post-Medieval/ Modern field boundary, filled with 708.	0.25-0.80m+
708	Field Boundary Fill	Secondary fill of field boundary cut 707.	0.25-0.80m+

Trench 8	Dimensions: 25.35m x 2.15m x 1.13m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334809.14 115255.81 aOD 30.95m (NE) 334813.94 115285.67 aOD 30.84m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
801	Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay. Common, randomly dispersed, sub-angular flint (<0.03m). Diffuse horizon.	0-0.37m
802	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay. Sparse, randomly dispersed, sub-rounded flint (<0.03m).No archaeology. Diffuse horizons.	0.37-0.77m
803	Alluvium	Mid grey blue clay. Common, randomly dispersed, sub-rounded flint (<0.01m). No archaeology. Diffuse horizons.	0.74-0.77m
804	Natural Geology	Light yellow brown clay with blue grey clay sand lenses. Sparse, randomly dispersed, sub-rounded flint (<0.03m). Diffuse horizons.	0.77m+
805	Pit Cut	Cut of pit filled with 806. Oval irregular pit with concave moderate sides and concave irregular base.	0.77-1.09m
806	Pit Fill	Mid-dark black grey clay. Common randomly dispersed, sub angular burnt flint (<0.06m). Abundant manganese and charcoal. Clear horizons.	0.77-1.09m
807	Posthole Cut	Cut of posthole filled with 808. Circular posthole with concave steep sides and concave base.	0.77-1.02m
808	Posthole Fill	Mid-dark black grey clay. Common randomly dispersed, sub angular burnt flint (<0.06m). Abundant manganese and charcoal. Clear horizons. Fill similar to 806.	0.77-1.02m
809	Field Boundary Cut	NW-SE aligned field boundary ditch filled with 810. Cut by field boundary 811.	0.37-0.77m
810	Field Boundary Fill	Secondary fill of field boundary 809.	0.37-0.77m
811	Field Boundary Cut	NW-SE aligned re-cut of field boundary ditch (modern) filled with 812 cutting 810.	0.37-0.77m
812	Field Boundary Fill	Secondary fill of field boundary 811.	0.37-0.77m
813	Deposit	Irregular, broadly E-W aligned deposit of mid brown grey silty clay. Abundant manganese. Result of water action.	0.77m+

Trench 9	Dimensions: 32.22m x 2.15m x 1.03m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334701.89 115199.06 aOD 31.60m (NE) 334728.73 115178.43 aOD 31.67m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
901	Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay. Sparse randomly	0-

		dispersed, sub-angular flint (<0.03m). No archaeology. Clear horizon.	0.27m
902	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay. Sparse manganese. Clear upper horizon and diffuse lower horizon.	0.27-0.67m
903	Natural Geology	Mid yellow brown clay with blue grey lenses. Diffuse horizons.	0.67m+
904	Pit Cut	Cut of pit filled with 905.	0-1.03m+
905	Pit Fill	Mid-light yellow brown and blue grey sand. Common, randomly dispersed , sub-rounded flint (<0.03m). Redeposited topsoil, modern metal, barbed wire, wood and CBM not retained.	0-1.03m+

Trench 10	Dimensions: 29.50m x 2m x 0.60m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334709.01 115075.94 aOD 32.00m (NE) 334737.89 115082.25 aOD 31.94m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1001	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay. Occasional flint gravel (0.02-0.06m). Occasional charcoal.	0-0.30m
1002	Subsoil	Light yellow brown fine silty clay. Occasional flint gravel (0.02-0.04m).	0.30-0.60m
1003	Gully Fill	Primary fill of gully cut 1004. Mid grey brown silty clay. Very occasional flint gravel (0.02-0.03m). Rare charcoal.	0.56-0.71m
1004	Gully Cut	NE-SW aligned cut of gully filled with 1003. Linear with concave moderate sides and concave base.	0.56-0.71m
1005	Deposit	Semi-circle of light grey brown silty clay. Occasional flint gravel and burnt flint. Continues into southern section.	0.60-0.67m
1006	Ditch Fill	Primary fill of ditch cut 1007. Light grey brown fine silty clay. Occasional flint gravel (0.02-0.08m). Rare charcoal, burnt flint and common Fe mottling.	0.60-1.15m
1007	Ditch Cut	NE-SW aligned cut of ditch filled with 1006. Linear with moderate to steep sides with a concave base.	0.60-1.15m
1008	Ditch Fill	Fill of ditch 1009 (unexcavated).	0.60m+
1009	Ditch Cut	Cut of ditch filled with 1008.	0.60m+
1010	Pit Fill	Fill of pit cut 1011 (unexcavated).	0.70m+
1011	Pit Cut	Cut of pit filled with 1010.	0.70m+
1012	Natural Geology	Yellow brown clay. Sparse Fe staining.	0.60m+

Trench 11	Dimensions: 30m x 2m x 0.80m
	Land use:
	Coordinates: (SW) 334775.50 115050.64 aOD 31.81m (NE) 334805.58 115047.20 aOD 31.94m

Context	Category	Description	Depth
1101	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay.	0-0.35m
1102	Subsoil	Mid-light yellow brown silty clay. Occasional sub-rounded pebbles (0.02-0.06m). Rare charcoal. Sharp upper horizon, moderate lower horizon.	0.35m-0.78m
1103	Natural Geology	Yellow silty clay with grey blue lenses and river terrace gravel outcropping.	0.78m +
1104	Gully Cut	N-S aligned field gully, cuts 1103, filled with 1105.	0.60-0.80m
1105	Gully Fill	Secondary fill of gully 1104.	0.60-0.80m
Modern made ground and service trench at west end of trench.			

Trench 12	Dimensions: 29m x 2m x 0.8m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334717.95 114990.21 aOD 32.30m (NE) 334721.79 115019.24 aOD 32.24m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1201	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay. Occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles (0.02-0.06m). Occasional charcoal.	0-0.30m
1202	Subsoil	Yellow brown silty clay. Occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles. Occasional manganese increasing in concentration to the base of layer. Sharp upper horizon, moderate lower horizon.	0.30-0.70m
1203	Natural Geology	Yellow silty clay with grey blue lenses and river gravel outcropping	0.70m+
1204	Gully Cut	NW-SE aligned gully, possibly cuts 1202 (upper part of cut diffuse), filled with 1205 (unexcavated). <0.70m wide.	
1205	Gully Fill	Secondary fill of gully 1204. Mid grey brown silty clay. Occasional manganese.	

Trench 13	Dimensions: 27m x 2m x 0.6m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334676.20 114966.06 aOD 32.41m (NE) 334680.63 114992.06 aOD 32.54m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1301	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay. Occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles (0.02-0.08m). Occasional charcoal. Sharp horizons.	0-0.35m
1302	Subsoil	Mid–dark yellow brown silty clay. Occasional sub-rounded stones (0.02m-0.06m). Occasional charcoal and manganese with manganese increasing in concentration to the base of layer.	0.35-0.58m
1303	Natural Geology	Yellow silty clay with blue grey lenses.	0.58m+
1304	Gully Cut	NW-SE aligned field gully. Cut from base	0.55m+

		of 1302, filled with 1305 (unexcavated). C.0.75m wide.	
1305	Gully Fill	Secondary fill of 1304 (Topsoil derived). Dark yellow brown silty clay. Contains manganese and charcoal.	0.55m+
1306	Field Boundary Cut	E-W aligned Post-Medieval field boundary.	0.35m+
1307	Field Boundary Fill	Secondary fill of 1306. Dark grey brown silty clay.	0.35m+
1308	Tree Throw Cut	Irregular cut of tree throw, cuts 1302, filled with 1309 (unexcavated).	0.50m+
1309	Tree Throw Fill	Deliberate deposit of in situ burnt tree/ shrub bowl.	0.50m+

Trench 14	Dimensions: 27.50m x 2.20m x 0.83m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334694.88 114964.04 aOD 32.37m (NE) 334722.97 114960.61 aOD 32.35m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1401	Topsoil/ Plough soil	Mid grey brown silty clay. Sparse randomly dispersed flint (0.02-0.06m). Sharp horizon.	0-0.35m
1402	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay. Rare flint pebbles (0.01-0.03m). Occasional manganese. Sharp upper horizon, moderate lower horizon.	0.35-0.74m
1403	Pit Cut	Cut of pit filled with 1404 and cutting 1411 (unexcavated).	0.74m+
1404	Pit Fill	Deliberate deposit of dark grey clay and burnt flint (<0.06m) within pit cut 1403. Abundant manganese and charcoal.	0.74m+
1405	Ditch Cut	N-S aligned poorly defined linear extending from 1403 filled with 1406 and cutting 1411 (unexcavated).	0.74m+
1406	Ditch Fill	Deliberate deposit of dark grey clay and burnt flint (<0.06m) within ditch cut 1405. Abundant manganese and charcoal. Sealed by 1402.	0.74m+
1407	Deposit	Spread of dark grey clay and burnt flint (<0.01m). Abundant manganese and charcoal. Possible deliberate ditch or ploughed out burnt flint mound. Cut by 1408, sealed by 1402. Fill Same as 1409.	0.74m+
1408	Ditch Cut	NE-SW aligned Post-Medieval/ Modern ditch cutting 1402, bisecting 1407 plus 1409 and filled by 1410.	0.35-0.74m+
1409	Deposit	Spread of dark grey clay and burnt flint (<0.01m). Abundant manganese and charcoal. Possible deliberate ditch or ploughed out burnt flint mound. Fill same as 1407.	0.74m+
1410	Ditch Fill	Secondary fill of 1408. Mid yellow brown silty clay predominantly subsoil derived.	0.35-0.74m+

		Occasional sub-rounded/ rounded flint pebbles (0.02-0.08m). 1x Slate fragment.	
1411	Natural Geology	Yellow brown silty clay with grey blue lenses interpreted as interface between natural and subsoil. Features containing burnt flint within layer.	0.74m+
1412	Trench Cut	NE-SW aligned modern service trench filled with 1412.	0.20-0.74m+
1413	Trench Fill	Re-deposited clay fill of trench cut 1412.	0.20-0.74m+
Base of trench did not appear to have reached true natural geology.			

Trench 15	Dimensions: 143m² Area x 1m max		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334670.67 114952.98 aOD 32.49m (NE) 334696.37 114938.53 aOD 32.46m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1501	Topsoil/ Plough soil	Dark brown silty clay. Occasional sub-rounded/ rounded flint pebbles (0.02-0.06m). occasional charcoal. Sharp horizon.	0-0.35m
1502	Subsoil	Yellow brown silty clay. Rare flint pebbles (0.01-0.03m). Occasional manganese and charcoal.	0.25-0.60m
1503	Deposit	Secondary deposit of mid yellow slightly silty clay with moderate blue grey mottling. Possible fluvial/ ploughed out re-deposited natural from bank only present in centre of trench. Seals 1505 and 1508.	0.65-0.85m
1504	Ditch Cut	E-W aligned curvilinear ditch/ erosion channel cut filled by 1505 and 1519.	0.60m-0.85m+
1505	Ditch Fill	Fill of ditch 1504. Dark brown grey silty clay. Contains burnt flint, manganese and charcoal. 1x Pottery bag.	0.60-0.85m+
1506	Ditch Cut	Cut of curvilinear ditch mirroring 1504.(possibly the same feature), filled with 1507.	0.40-0.50m+
1507	Ditch Fill	Fill of ditch 1506. Mid yellow brown silty clay . Contains manganese, occasional burnt flint and rare charcoal.	0.40-0.50m+
1508	Alluvium/ Occupation Layer	Mid brown yellow clay. Abundant manganese and burnt flint.	0.40-0.75m
1509	Ditch Cut	Cut of curvilinear ditch filled with 1510. Possible continuation of 1504. Diffuse horizon.	0.85m+
1510	Ditch Fill	Secondary fill of ditch cut 1509. Rare charcoal and burnt flint.	0.85m+
1511	Pit Cut	Cut of circular pit filled by 1512.	0.50m+
1512	Pit Fill	Deliberate backfill of pit cut 1511. Contains charcoal and burnt flint,	0.50m+
1513	Pit Cut	Circular pit filled with 1514.	0.57m+
1514	Pit Fill	Deliberate backfill of pit cut 1513 cut by	0.57m+

		ditch 1506. Contains charcoal and burnt flint.	
1515	Pit Cut	Circular cut of pit filled with 1516.	0.40m+
1516	Pit Fill	Deliberate backfill of pit 1511. Contains charcoal and burnt flint.	0.40m+
1517	Natural Geology	Mid yellow silty clay with fine river gravels (<0.03m) to the North of the trench and yellow clay to the East of the trench.	0.46m+
1518	Deposit	Mid brown yellow silty clay. Contains manganese and Fe staining. Possible natural layer.	0.65m+
1519 Fill of 1504 (See Auger Log).			

Trench 16	Dimensions: 29.10m x 2.17m x 1.40m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334615.01 114930.58 aOD 33.05m (NE) 334640.46 114915.97 aOD 32.80m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1601	Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay. Sparse, randomly dispersed, sub-angular flint (<0.06m). No archaeology. Diffuse horizon.	0-0.44m
1602	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay. Sparse manganese. No archaeology. Diffuse upper horizon and clear horizon with 1604.	0.44-0.92m
1603	Natural Geology	Mid yellow brown clay. Sparse manganese.	0.92m+
1604	Ditch Cut	Cut of ditch filled with 1605.	
1605	Ditch Fill	Fill of ditch cut 1604 contains randomly dispersed animal bone. *ES 2*.	
1606	Field Boundary Cut	Cut of modern field boundary filled with 1607.	
1607	Field Boundary Fill	Fill of field boundary cut 1606.	

Trench 17	Dimensions: 27.15m x 2.17m x 0.75m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334721.82 114938.77 aOD 32.44m (NE) 334735.09 114912.80 aOD 32.42m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1701	Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay. Sparse, randomly dispersed, sub-angular flint (<0.03m). No archaeology. Diffuse horizon.	0-0.37m
1702	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay. Sparse, randomly dispersed, sub-angular flint (<0.03m). No archaeology. Diffuse horizons.	0.37-0.71m
1703	Natural Geology	Mid yellow grey clay. Diffuse horizons.	0.71m+
1704	Gully Cut	E-W aligned cut of gully filled with 1705. Linear with concave shallow sides (irregular on North edge) and concave base.	0.71-0.86m
1705	Gully Fill	Secondary fill of gully cut 1704. Mid grey	0.71-

		brown clay with blue grey lenses.. Very sparse, randomly dispersed, sub-angular flint (<0.01m).	0.86m
1706	Tree Throw Cut	Cut of tree throw filled with 1701. Irregular tree throw cut with concave irregular sides and concave irregular base.	0.71-0.82m
1707	Tree Throw Fill	Secondary fill of tree throw cut 1706. Mid grey black clay with red brown mottling. Common charcoal.	0.71-0.82m
1708	Field Boundary Cut	Cut of modern field boundary filled with 1709.	
1709	Field Boundary Fill	Fill of modern field boundary cut 1708.	

Trench 18	Dimensions: 28.50m x 2m x1.30m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334509.23 114880.97 aOD 33.57m (NE) 334531.39 114898.97 aOD 33.55m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1801	Topsoil/ Plough soil	Dark brown silty clay. Occasional flint gravel (0.02-0.06m). Occasional charcoal.	0-0.30m
1802	Subsoil	Mid brown fine fluvial silty clay. Rare sub-rounded flint pebbles (0.02m-0.06m)	0.30m-0.55m
1803	Alluvium	Light yellow brown fine fluvial silty clay. Rare sub-rounded gravel (0.02-0.06m). Frequent Manganese. Sharp upper horizon, diffuse lower horizon.	0.55m-1.05m
1804	Natural Geology	Yellow silty clay and gravel outcropping.	1.05m+

Trench 19	Dimensions: 25.40m x 2m x 0.70m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334576.91 114869.05 aOD 33.21m (NE) 334582.64 114893.89 aOD 33.26m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1901	Topsoil/ Plough soil	Dark brown silty clay. Occasional sub-rounded/ sub-angular stones (0.02-0.06m) Occasional Manganese and charcoal. Sharp horizons.	0.30m-0.60m
1902	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown fluvial silty clay. Rare sub-rounded/ sub-angular stones (0.02-0.06m). Occasional manganese. Sharp horizons.	0.30-0.60m
1903	Natural Geology	Yellow clay with river terrace gravel outcropping.	0.60m+
Trench re-aligned to avoid modern field boundary and sewer pipe.			

Trench 20	Dimensions: 28m x 2m x0.50m
	Land use:
	Coordinates: (SW) 334619.13 114852.70 aOD 33.08m (NE) 334646.93 114856.46 aOD 33.00m

Context	Category	Description	Depth
2001	Topsoil/ Plough soil	Dark brown silty clay. Occasional sub-rounded/ sub-angular stones (0.02-0.06m). Occasional charcoal. Sharp horizons.	0-0.30m
2002	Subsoil	Mid-light yellow brown fine fluvial silty clay. Occasional sub-rounded/ sub-angular stones (0.02-0.04m). Occasional manganese and charcoal. Sharp upper horizon, diffuse lower horizon.	0.30m-0.50m
2003	Natural Geology	Mid yellow silty clay with blue grey lenses. No gravel reached.	0.50m+

Trench 21	Dimensions: 29.50m x 2m x 0.60m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334684.58 114890.02 aOD 32.86m (NE) 334714.12 114891.10 aOD 32.70m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
2101	Topsoil/ Plough soil	Dark brown silty clay. Occasional sub-rounded/ sub-angular stones (0.02-0.04m). Occasional charcoal. Sharp horizon.	0-0.30m
2102	Subsoil	Mid-light yellow brown silty clay. Rare stones (0.02-0.04m). Occasional manganese. Moderate and sharp horizons.	0.30-0.55m
2103	Natural Geology	Mid yellow clay with blue-grey lenses and river terrace gravel outcropping.	0.55m+
Modern service and land drain. Modern service equated to geophysical anomaly.			

Trench 22	Dimensions: 28m x 2m x 0.50m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334732.85 114870.52 aOD 32.58m (NE) 334759.84 114866.07 aOD 32.65m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
2201	Topsoil/ Plough soil	Dark grey brown silty clay. Occasional sub-rounded stones (0.02-0.08m). Rare charcoal. Sharp horizon.	0-0.25m
2202	Subsoil	Yellow brown fine silty clay. Rare sub-rounded stones (0.02-0.04m) Occasional manganese.	0.25-0.50m
2203	Ditch Cut	NE-SW aligned ditch, filled with 2204. Linear with shallow-concave sides and a sloping base.	0.50-0.65m
2204	Ditch Fill	Secondary fill of 2203. Mid grey blue silty clay. Occasional / Rare sub-rounded stones (0.02-0.05m). Occasional manganese and rare charcoal.	0.50-0.65m
2205	Tree Throw Cut	Cut of tree throw, cutting 2202 and filled with 2206 (unexcavated).	
2206	Tree Throw Fill	Primary fill of 2205.	
2207	Field Boundary Cut	NE-SW aligned cut of Post-Medieval field boundary.	
2208	Field Boundary Fill	Secondary fill of field boundary.	

2209	Natural Geology	Yellow silty clay and gravel outcropping.	

Trench 23	Dimensions: 25m x 2.10m x 0.77m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334672.99 114834.09 aOD 32.95m (NE) 334694.04 114813.96 aOD 32.97m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
2301	Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay. Sparse, randomly dispersed, sub-angular flint/ chert (<0.18m).	
2302	Subsoil	Mid orange brown fluvial silty clay. Very sparse, randomly dispersed angular flint/ chert (<0.04m).	
2303	Natural Geology	Mid orange grey silty clay. Moderate, randomly dispersed, angular/ sub-angular flint/ chert (<0.18m). Possible alluvium.	
2304	Linear	Cut of NE-SW aligned shallow linear filled with 2305, 2306 and 2307.	
2305	Deliberate fill	Deliberate backfill of 2304. Mid grey black silty clay. Frequent, moderately sorted, angular flint/ burnt flint (<0.05m) (more on Eastern edge). Diffuse horizon on Western edge.	
2306	Secondary fill	Alluvial fill of 2304. Mid orange brown silty clay. Diffuse horizon on Western edge.	
2307	Deliberate fill	Deliberate backfill of 2304. Mid grey brown silty clay. Common, randomly dispersed, angular flint(<0.07m)/ burnt flint (<0.04m). Diffuse horizon on Western edge.	
2308	Ditch Cut	NE-SW aligned cut of ditch filled with 2309.	
2309	Ditch Fill	Fill of ditch cut 2308.	
2310	Pit	Cut of sub-ovular anomaly (possible pit/ditch?) filled with 2311.	
2311	Pit Fill	Fill of anomaly cut 2310. Mid grey brown silty clay. Common, sorted, angular flint/ chert (<0.18m).	
2312	Pit Cut	Cut of pit filled with 2313 within 2314.	
2313	Pit Fill	Fill of pit cut 2312. Mid grey fine silt. Abundant burnt flint. Common charcoal.	
2314	Linear	Cut of NE-SW aligned shallow linear Possible erosion channel or ditch? Filled with 2315, 2316 and 2317.	
2315	Secondary Fill	Fill of 2314. Mid grey fine silty clay. Abundant burnt flint (0.02-0.04m). Common charcoal, predominant in base of fill.	
2316	Secondary Fill	Fill of 2314. Pale grey brown fine silty clay. Rare flint gravels (0.01-0.03m). Occasional sorted burnt flint (0.02-0.03m). Common Fe mottling.	
2317	Deliberate/tertiary Fill	Fill of pit cut 2314. Mid grey fine silt. Abundant burnt flint. Common charcoal.	

2318	Subsoil	Subsoil in Western edge of trench beneath 2302. Mid grey brown silty clay. Sparse, randomly dispersed, sub-angular flint/ chert (<0.03m). Contains manganese.	
2319	Field Boundary Cut	NE-SW aligned field boundary ditch. Filled with 2320. Probable continuation of FB in trench 22	
2320	Field Boundary Fill	Secondary topsoil derived deposit. Fill of 2319	
2321	Posthole Group	Group number of a NW-SE modern fence line comprising 5 sub-square postholes *c0.2m²* positioned 2.7m apart. The NE posthole contained concrete capping.	
2322	Layer	Layer of burnt flint fragments in a dark fine silty clay matrix with occasional charcoal. Compact deposit occurring west of FB 2319 terminating within linear 2304. This deposit forms a horizontal layer and fills underlying features. Same as 2305, 2313, 2317	

Trench 24	Dimensions: 30m x 2m x 0.80m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334637.31 114776.73 aOD 33.28m (NE) 334666.91 114774.82 aOD 33.33m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
2401	Topsoil	Mid-dark brown silty clay. Rare sub-rounded/ rounded flint pebbles. Sharp horizon.	0-0.38m
2402	Natural Geology	Mid yellow brown silty clay with blue grey mottling/ lenses and river gravels.	0.38m+
2403	Pit Cut	Cut of sub-circular pit filled with 2404. Sub-circular pit with concave shallow sides and flat base.	0.38-0.42m
2404	Pit Fill	Deliberate backfill of burnt flint. Dark grey silty clay. Common sub-angular burnt flint and charcoal. *ES 3*.	0.38-0.42m
2405	Ditch Cut	N-S aligned erosion channel filled with 2406.	0.38-0.80m+
2406	Ditch Fill	Secondary fill of erosion channel 2405 cut by 2407. Eroded topsoil and natural. Occasional sub-rounded/ rounded flint pebbles (0.02-0.08m).	0.38-0.80m+
2407	Field Boundary Cut	NW-SE aligned field boundary, cutting 2406, filled with 2408 and 2409.	0.34-0.60m+
2408	Field Boundary Fill	Secondary fill (topsoil derived) of field boundary cut 2407.	0.34-0.55m+
2409	Field Boundary Fill	Deliberate backfill of field boundary cut 2407 including ceramic land-drain surrounded by river gravels.	0.55-0.60m+

Trench 25	Dimensions: 30m x 2m x 1.15m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334690.93 114744.30 aOD 34.13m (NE) 334710.23 114767.44 aOD 33.87m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
2501	Topsoil/ Plough soil	Dark brown silty clay. Moderate sub-rounded stones (0.02-0.08m). Occasional charcoal. Sharp horizon.	0-0.25m
2502	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay. Frequent sub-rounded stones (0.02-0.08m). Occasional charcoal. Sharp horizons.	0.25-0.45m
2503	Natural Geology	Predominantly river terrace gravels and a small amount of mid yellow silty clay with light grey lenses.	0.45m+
2504	Field Boundary Cut	E-W aligned field boundary ditch, cutting 2502 and filled with 2505 (unexcavated).	0.25m+
2505	Field Boundary Fill	Secondary fill of 2504 (topsoil derived). CBM and Fe bar not retained.	0.25m+
Modern Service.			

Trench 26	Dimensions: 30m x 2m x 0.80m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334757.46 114964.24 aOD 32.39m (NE) 334760.26 114995.10 aOD 32.18m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
2601	Topsoil/ Plough soil	Dark brown silty clay. Occasional sub-rounded stones (0.03-0.06m). Occasional charcoal. Sharp horizon.	0-0.30m
2602	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown fine silty clay. Occasional sub-rounded stones (0.03-0.06m). Occasional manganese. Sharp upper horizon, diffuse lower horizon.	0.30-0.55m
2603	Alluvium?	Interface deposit not recorded along length of trench but found intermittently with undulating natural – Mid yellow brown silty clay. Frequent concentrated manganese at North end of trench. Diffuse upper horizon and moderate lower horizon. 2x Pottery sherds within layer.	0.55-0.60m
2604	Ditch Cut	E-W aligned ditch cutting 2608, filled with 2605. Linear with moderate-concave sides and flat, slightly pitted base due to erosion of gravels..	0.55-0.80m
2605	Ditch Fill	Secondary fill of 2604. Eroded Natural and subsoil. Mid grey brown silty clay. Occasional rounded/ sub-rounded flint pebbles (0.02-0.06m). Occasional manganese, Fe and charcoal.	0.55-0.80m
2606	Tree Throw Cut	Irregular tree throw cutting 2602, filled with 2607 (unexcavated).	0.40-0.60m
2607	Tree Throw Fill	Deliberate deposit of in situ burnt tree/ shrub bowl.	0.40-0.60m

2608	Natural Geology	Mid yellow silty clay with light grey blue lenses and river terrace gravel outcropping.	0.60m+

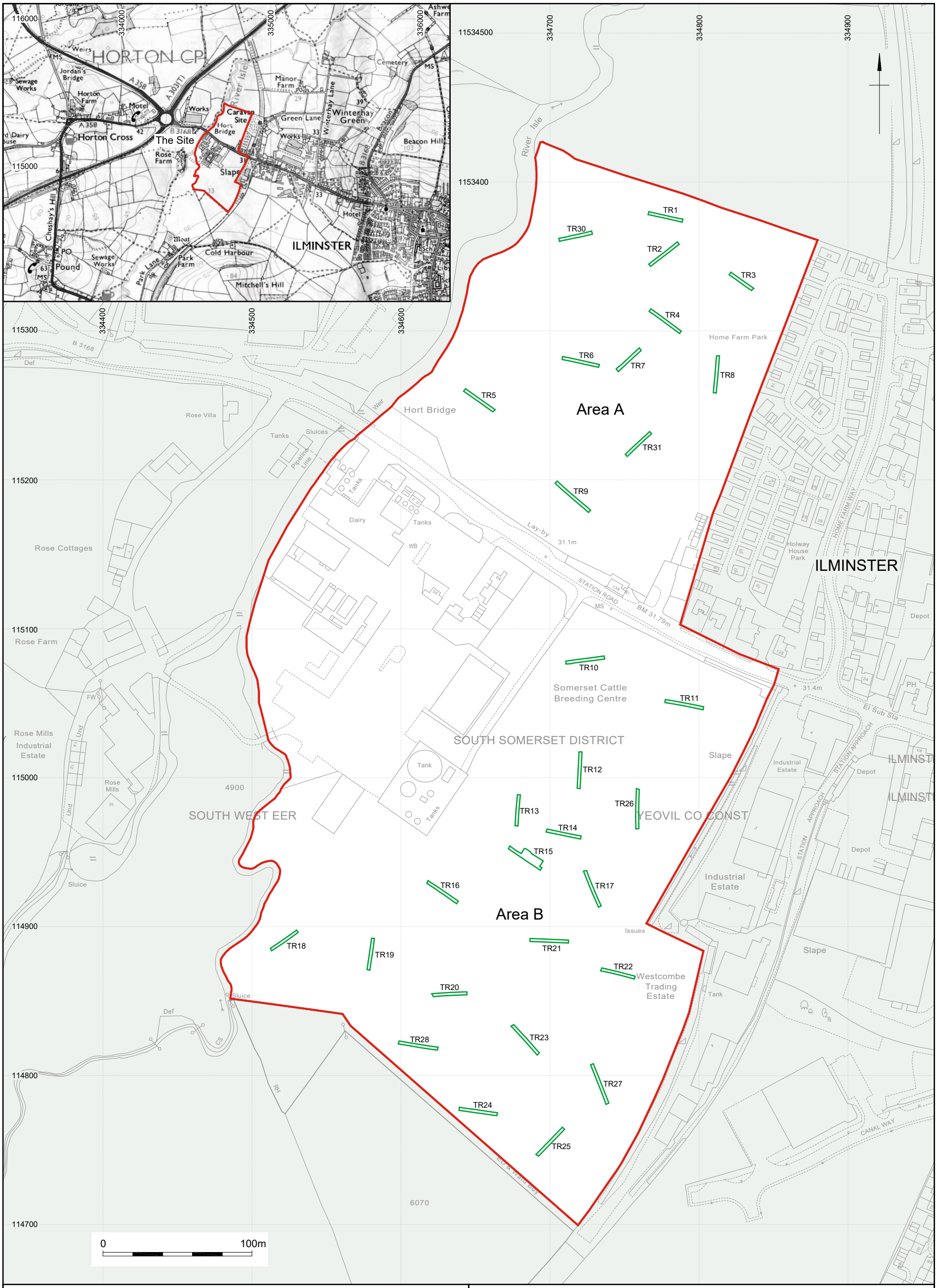
Trench 27	Dimensions: 30m x 2m x 0.74m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334726.60 114808.79 aOD 33.21m (NE) 334739.68 114781.21 aOD 33.61m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
2701	Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay.	0-0.26m
2702	Subsoil	Mid yellow grey brown silty clay. Rare sub-angular flint. Rare manganese.	0.26-0.49m
2703	Natural Geology	Yellow orange silty clay with blue grey mottling and river terrace gravels exposed at Northern end of trench.	0.49m+
2704	Gully Cut	NE-SW aligned gully filled with 2705. Linear with concave moderate sides and concave base, possibly heading West through the edge of trench.	0.49-0.59m
2705	Gully Fill	Secondary fill of gully cut 2704. Mid yellow brown silty clay. Sparse manganese.	0.49-0.59m

Trench 28	Dimensions: 30m x 2m x 0.55m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334595.60 114821.57 aOD 33.26m (NE) 334626.76 114819.01 aOD 33.25m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
2801	Topsoil/ Plough soil	Dark brown silty clay. Occasional sub-rounded stones (0.03-0.06m). Sharp horizon.	0-0.25m
2802	Subsoil	Mid-light yellow brown silty clay. Occasional sub-rounded stones (0.02-0.04m). Occasional manganese. Sharp upper horizon, moderate lower horizon.	0.25-0.45m
2803	Natural Geology	Yellow silty clay with light grey blue lenses and river terrace gravel outcropping.	0.45m+
1x Land drain.			

Trench 29	Dimensions: N/A		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
Trench not excavated 10/10/09. Equivalent evaluation area used as an extension to trench 15.			

Trench 30	Dimensions: 27m x 2m x 1.70m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334703.88 115359.55 aOD 31.15m (NE) 334730.04 115367.64 aOD 31.03m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
3001	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay. Occasional flint gravels (>0.03m)	0-0.25m
3002	Subsoil	Light grey brown fine silty clay. Occasional flint (0.01-0.06m). Rare charcoal.	0.25-0.70m
3003	Alluvium	Light grey brown fine silt. Occasional manganese.	0.70-0.98m
3004	Alluvium	Light grey silt with blue mottling. Common manganese.	0.98-1.25m
3005	Alluvium	Light grey silt with blue mottling. Common manganese. Sparse Fe mottling.	1.25-1.36m
3006	Alluvium	Light blue. Common manganese and Fe.	1.36-1.42m
3007	Alluvium	Orange brown band of Fe staining.	1.42-1.47m
3008	Alluvium	Blue, leached slightly sandy silt with thin sandy lenses.	1.47-1.57m
3009	Alluvium	Mid grey fluvial sandy silt. Common charcoal and wood.	1.57-1.70m
3010	Alluvium	Light grey brown sandy flint gravels (0.04-0.08m). Probable flood wash gravel from relic river course.	0.50-0.90m
3011	Natural Geology	Light grey sandy river gravels (0.02-0.04m). Possible base of relic river course. Context slides towards present river course N-S (1.30m in NE to 1.70m in NW).	1.30-1.70m+

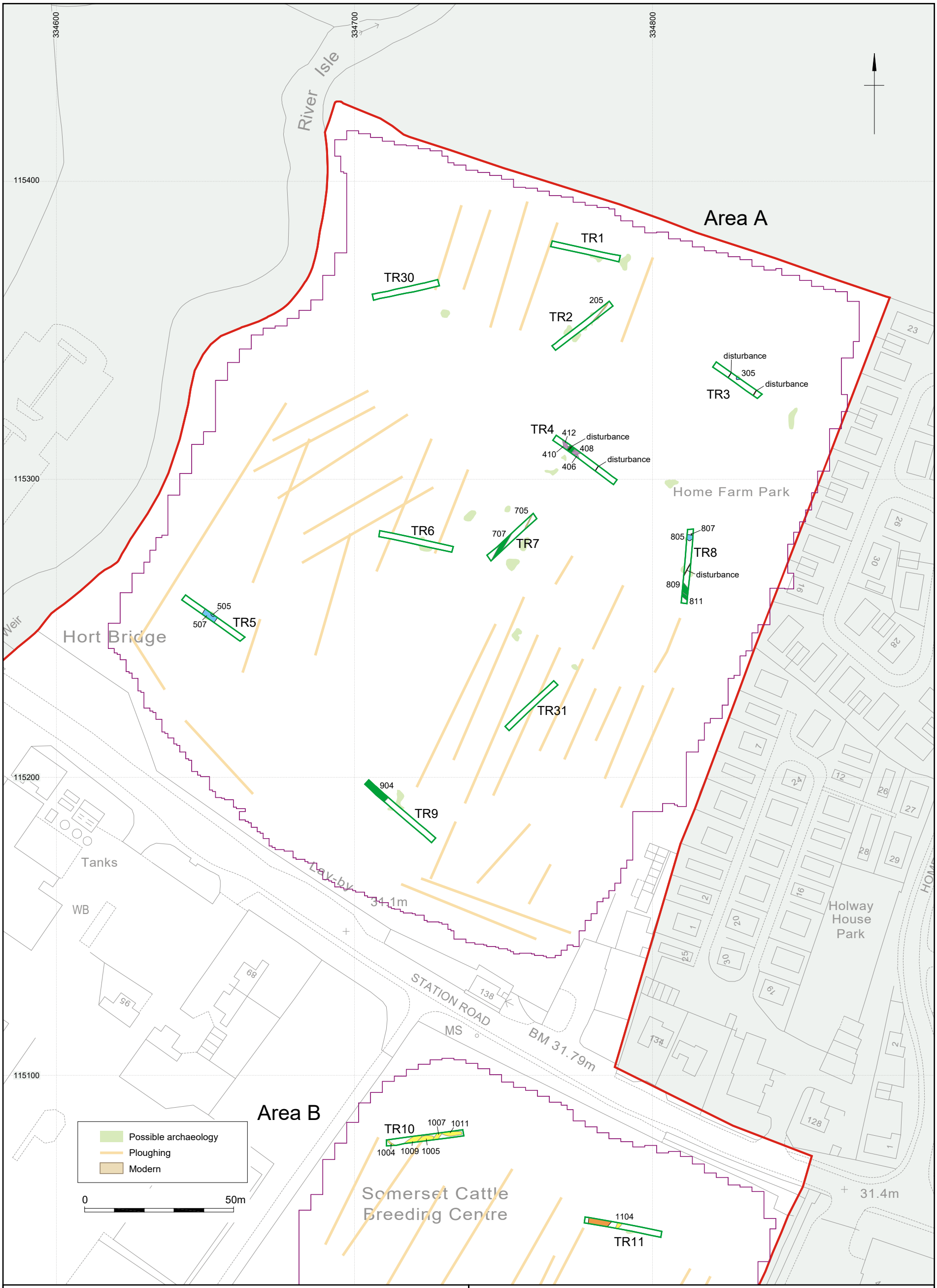
Trench 31	Dimensions: 25m x 2m x 1.05m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates: (SW) 334751.24 115214.58 aOD 31.54m (NE) 334768.72 115234.05 aOD 31.34m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
3101	Topsoil/ Plough soil	Dark grey brown silty clay. Flint gravels (0.02-0.06m). Occasional charcoal. Sharp horizon.	0-0.25m
3102	Subsoil	Mid yellow grey brown silty clay. Occasional flint gravel (0.02-0.06m). Rare charcoal. Sharp horizons.	0.25-0.60m
3103	Alluvium	Mid yellow grey silt. Very rare gravel (0.01-0.03m). Manganese throughout, increasing to base of gravel.	0.60-1.00m
3104	Natural Geology	Mid yellow clay with blue grey mottling/ laminations and gravel outcropping.	1.00m+



Date:	27/10/09	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:25000 & 1:2500	Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\72011\Drawing Office\Report Figs\eval\09_10\72011_eval_f1.dwg		

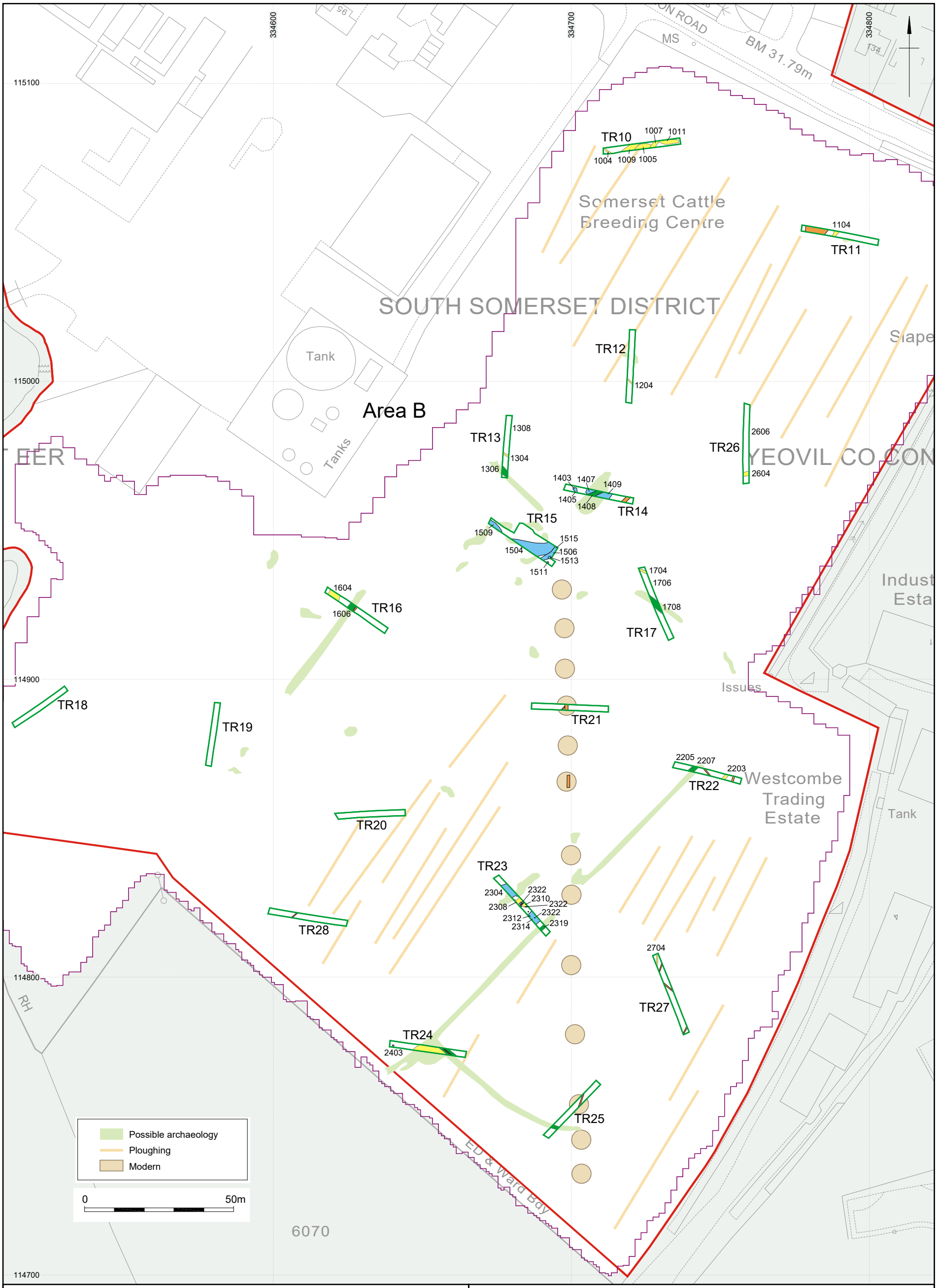
Site location plan

Figure 1



Area A: phased plan and geophysical survey results

Figure 2



Digital data supplied by the Client.

Date:	27/10/09	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:1250	Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\72011\Drawing Office\Report Figs\eval\09_10\72011_eval_f2.dwg		

Area B: phased plan and geophysical survey results

Figure 3

Plate 1: Trench 5, view from south-east

Plate 2: South-west facing section of pit 505

Date:	28/10/09	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	n/a	Layout:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\72011\Drawing Office\Report Figs\eval\09_10\72011_eval_Fig04.cdr		

Wessex Archaeology

Trench 5: photographs

Figure 4

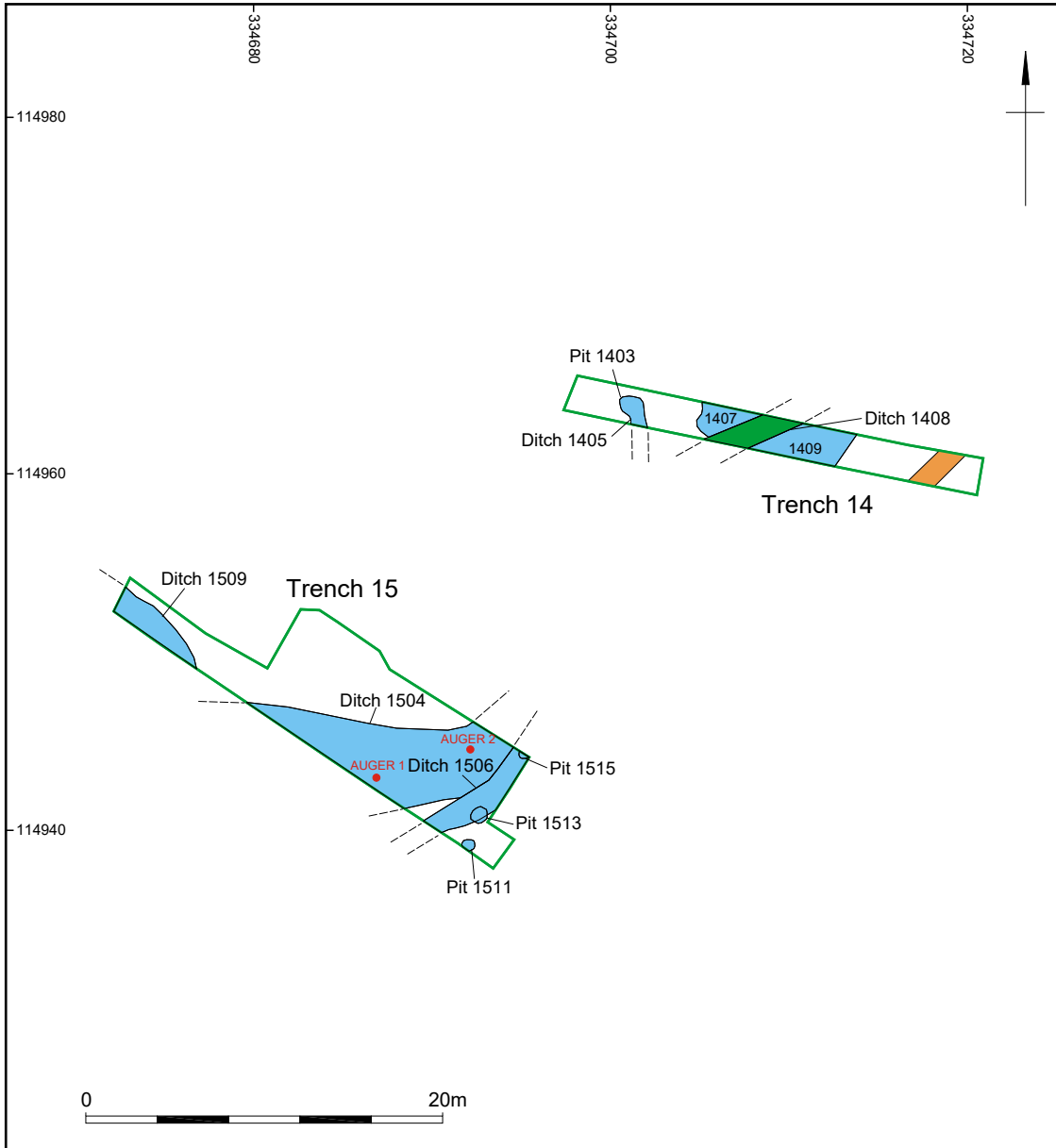


Plate 3: Trench 15, view from north-east

Plate 4: Trench 15, north-east facing section

Wessex Archaeology

Evaluation trench
Modern disturbance
Later Bronze Age
Post-medieval

Date:	28/10/09	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:400	Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\72011\Drawing Office\Report Figs\eval\09_10\72011_eval_f2.dwg		

Trenches 14 and 15: plan and photographs

Figure 5

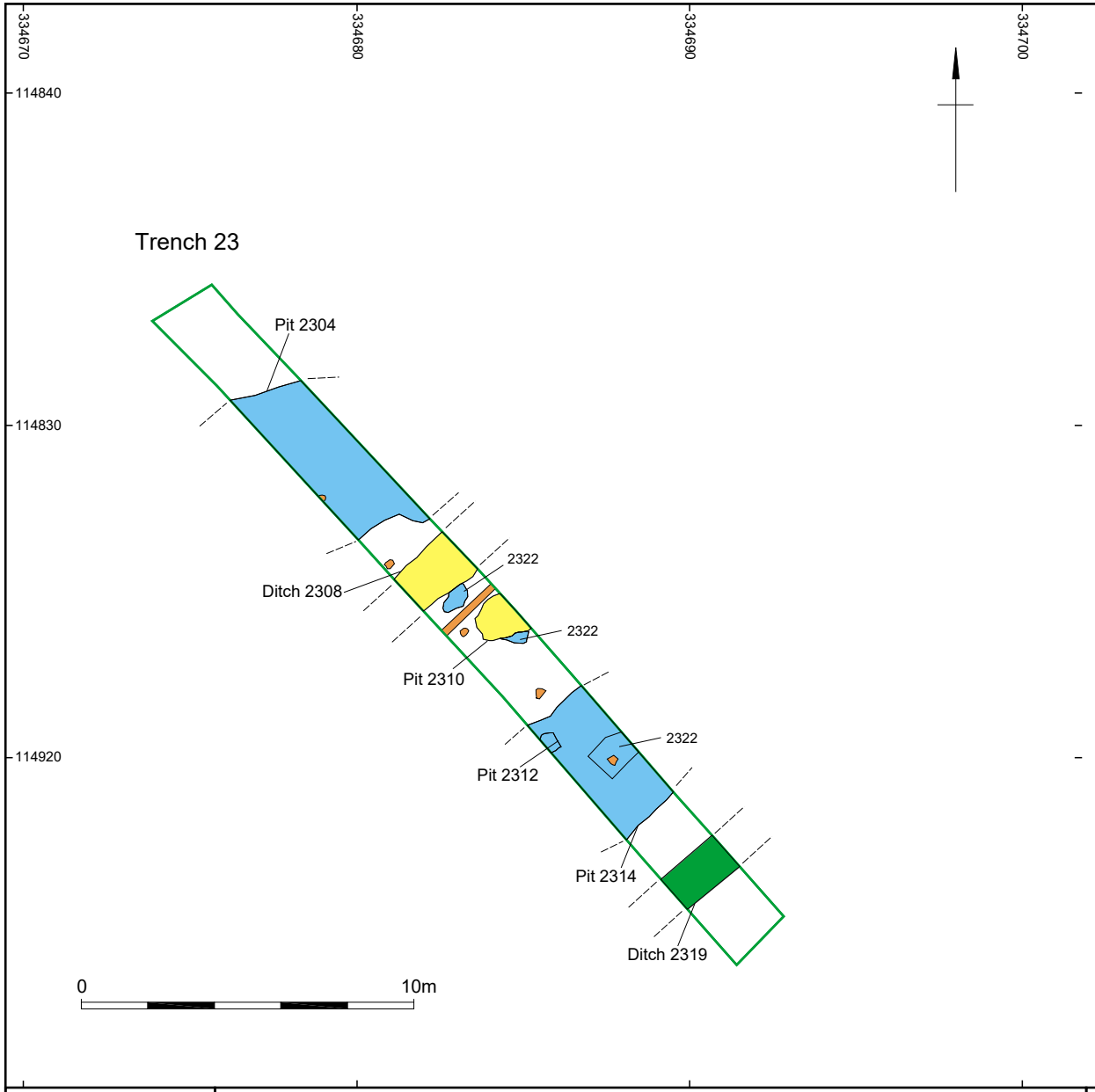


Plate 5: Trench 23, view from west

Plate 6: South-west facing section of pit 2314

Wessex Archaeology

Evaluation trench
Modern disturbance
Later Bronze Age
Post-medieval
Undated

Date:	28/10/09	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:200	Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\72011\Drawing Office\Report Figs\eval\09_10\72011_eval_f2.dwg		

Trench 23: plan and photographs

Figure 6

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.
Registered Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk
Maidstone Office: The Malthouse, The Oast, Weavering Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5JN.
Tel: 01622 739381 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk