



# The Kings of Wessex Academy, Station Road, Cheddar, Somerset

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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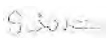
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## Summary

Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by South West One Ltd on behalf of the Kings of Wessex Academy to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks within a scheduled monument, associated with the pre-construction works for a new sports pitch at the Kings of Wessex Academy, Station Street, Cheddar, Somerset, centred on NGR 345590 152970.

The groundworks comprised the excavation of two test pits during March 2018, and the excavation of a further soil stripping of a large area, fourteen trenches and test pits of varying sizes during May 2018.

A number of archaeological features and deposits were identified during the watching brief, including a buried topsoil horizon, and a number of features probably pertaining to the Romano-British period which comprise, a probable demolition rubble layer, a metalled or cobbled surface, a possible structure, two pits and a series of linear features. These significant deposits prompted a change in design for the sports pitch, to minimise impact.

These works add to the corpus of knowledge pertaining to the scheduled monument and highlight the fact that, although there is the potential for disturbance within the boundaries of the site, potentially extensive and important remains pertaining to the Romano-British period are present and survive close to the ground surface.

## Acknowledgements

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The fieldwork was directed by Ray Holt and Alistair Zochowski. This report was written by Steve Beach and Alistair Zochowski and reviewed by Simon Woodiwiss. The project was managed by Simon Woodiwiss on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



# KINGS OF WESSEX ACADEMY, CHEDDAR, SOMERSET

## Archaeological Watching Brief

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by South West One Ltd on behalf of The Kings of Wessex Academy to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground investigation works and groundworks during the construction of a full sized artificial turf hockey pitch and associated floodlighting and storage. The monitored works were centred on NGR 345729 153000, at The Kings of Wessex Academy, Station Road, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3AQ (**Figure 1**), hereafter 'the Site'.

1.1.2 The Site is situated within a scheduled monument (list entry 1017290), which contains nationally important remains pertaining to Roman-British settlement, Anglo-Saxon and Norman royal palaces, and a chapel (St Columbanus'). Consequently, Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) was applied for, and granted by Historic England (reference S00138043, 25/07/2016) prior to the submission of the planning application, and the granting of the planning permission during December 2017.

1.1.3 The watching brief was carried out as a condition of the planning permission, granted by Sedgemoor District Council (reference 17/17/00086, 21/12/2017, Condition 5), which stated;

*The developer is required to archaeologically monitor development on the heritage asset and provide a report on any discoveries made as indicated in the National Planning Policy Framework (Paragraph 141). This should be monitored using a Programme of Works in Accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (POW). In order to comply with the permission hear by granted the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, must secure the implementation of the programme of archaeological work that accords with the submitted Written Scheme of Investigation "The Kings of Wessex Academy Station Road, Cheddar, Somerset Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief Prepared by: Wessex Archaeology".*

*Reason: In the interests of protecting English Heritage.*

1.1.4 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2016). Historic England and the Senior Historic Environment Officer at South West Heritage Trust (SWHT) approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.5 The development proposals (**Figure 2**) were focussed on the improvement of an existing sports pitch (reduction of slope to an average of 800mm from north to south) by reduction of higher ground to the north and raising ground to the south, and installation of an all-weather surface. The following associated works were also part of the development.



- The excavation of thirteen trenches for the installation of sub-pitch drainage, comprising 0.08 m Ø perforated plastic pipes, extending the width of the pitch (north-south). The pipes were installed at a depth of 0.75 m below pitch level, feeding a 0.16 m Ø carrier pipe which extends along the southern edge of the pitch.
- Limited ground reduction for storage and access surface construction.
- A trench for the installation floodlights and cabling.
- Test pits for the location of existing services.
- Limited ground reduction for a temporary haul road and storage area.

1.1.6 The watching brief on the groundworks was conducted in two phases (see **Figure 2**):

- 1<sup>st</sup> Phase (07/03/2018). Ground investigation - Test pits TR1 and TR2.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase (08/05/2018 – 17/05/2018). TR3 and TR4 (high voltage cable location pits), TR5 and TR6 (temporary haulage road), TR7 (the hockey pitch and storage area), TR8 to TR16 (drainage and floodlighting).

## 1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

## 1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The watching brief was located within the grounds of the school that lies on the south-western edge of Cheddar in Somerset to the south of Station Road (**Figure 1**) The Site is bounded to the north by the school buildings and to the south, west and east by playing fields.

1.3.2 Existing ground levels at the Site are approximately 6.00 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The topography of the Site is flat playing fields.

1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as the Mercia Mudstone Group overlain by superficial head deposits (British Geological Survey online viewer).

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Relevant Somerset Historic Environment Record (SHER), National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) and National Heritage List for England (NHLE) are included where appropriate.

### 2.2 Archaeological and historical context

2.2.1 The archaeological background of the Site and its immediate environs is comprehensively set out in a Monument Management Plan (Somerset County Council, N.D.). Consequently, other than a broad overview of the archaeological and historical context,





this section will provide an overview of the findings of relevant previous archaeological investigation in the vicinity of the Site.

#### *Prehistoric*

- 2.2.2 Early evidence of human activity includes a Palaeolithic hand axe located near New Road, Cheddar (SHER 12492) and a Palaeolithic scraper and Neolithic pit were also located in Froglands Lane to the east of the Site (SHER 12802). Another Palaeolithic scraper was found during investigation to the north of the Site (NRHE 618612).
- 2.2.3 In the wider area a number of nationally important Palaeolithic and Mesolithic deposits have been located within the caves and rock shelters of Cheddar Gorge (NHLE 1010906, 1011914, 1011915, 1011916, 1011925 and 1012064).
- 2.2.4 Though no definite Bronze Age features have been identified in the area of the Site, flint tools (SHER 15192) near Cheddar Wood and some residual Bronze Age material located during the investigations for the new reservoir at Cheddar (SHER 32091), all suggest some activity dating to this time. A number of round barrows to the north of Cheddar (NHLE 1010753, 1010800, 1010921, 1012592, 1006222) indicate funerary activity in the Late Neolithic and Bronze Age within the wider area.
- 2.2.5 Possible prehistoric activity was also identified during an evaluation to the south of the Site, along with an earlier tributary of the River Yeo (Wessex Archaeology 1998).

#### *Iron Age and Romano-British*

- 2.2.6 Evidence for Iron Age activity within the immediate environs of the Site is limited to possible settlement evidence suggested in a number of un-excavated features immediately north of the Site (SHER 44966).
- 2.2.7 Archaeological investigations in connection with for the new reservoir at Cheddar (SHER 32702/32091) have revealed considerable evidence for Later Prehistoric or Iron Age activity comprising a number of enclosures, which may have been used for livestock as well as evidence for occupation (Wessex Archaeology 2013). This occupation was shown to continue into the Romano-British period with dense areas of settlement, a Roman road and a possible industrial complex or port (*ibid*).
- 2.2.8 A substantial corpus of Romano-British activity has been identified within the scheduled monument (NHLE 1017290) and the surround area. This primarily relates to activity from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> centuries, and includes a probable villa adjacent to St Andrews Church (Grove 2006), a rectangular structure, and other probable structures, including a probable well and a substantial ditch (adjacent to the Site), a number of burials, cobbled surfaces and large quantities of Roman finds, in addition to evidence for extensive field enclosures pertaining to a managed agricultural landscape, outside of the settlement foci (Somerset County Council, N.D.).
- 2.2.9 Further Romano-British activity in the Cheddar area has been found at the Old Showground (SHER 18254), Cheddar Business Park (SHER 15264), Froglands Lane (SHER 12802) and Steart Farm (SHER 11418).

#### *Saxon and medieval*

- 2.2.10 There is very limited evidence for continued activity in the locality of the Site until the later Saxon period. The Saxon palace complex (NHLE 1017290) dates from at least the early 9<sup>th</sup> century. Excavations in the 1960s identified a series of halls and other buildings representing several phases of construction with it continuing in use as a royal complex



after the Norman Conquest and into the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Some undated features found during later investigations at the school may be contemporary with the Site (SHER ref. 12739, 26098; **Figure 1**).

- 2.2.11 In the northern part of the school grounds lie the remains of an early 14<sup>th</sup> century chapel, which developed from Saxon origins (NHLE 1173737). To the north of the school is Harmham Manor constructed in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century with 17<sup>th</sup> century alterations (NHLE 1059118). Also, to the north of the school is location of a medieval cruck-framed house (NRHE 618612). The parish church to the east of the Site dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> century (NHLE 1173613; **Figure 1**).
- 2.2.12 Medieval or post-medieval field boundaries have been identified to the north-west of Cheddar at the Rugby Football Ground (SHER 19286), and a late Saxon hollow way and medieval features were located during investigations at the Old Showground (SHER 18254). The archaeological investigations undertaken in connection with the proposed new reservoir at Cheddar identified a complex of enclosures thought to represent the medieval village of Hythe (SHER 32702/32091).

#### *Post-medieval, 19<sup>th</sup> century and modern*

- 2.2.13 The Cheddar Valley railway, which formerly passed through the Site (**Figure 1**), was constructed in the 1860s and offered the possibility not just for passengers to travel but also economic opportunities for perishable goods to be transported quickly to market (SHER 12963). The route became known as the Strawberry Line due to the volume of locally grown strawberries it carried. The railway station at Cheddar (SHER 12880) was opened in 1869, though the passenger station was not ready on time so a goods shed had to be utilised instead.
- 2.2.14 In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the school formerly comprised land either side of the railway associated with Harmham Manor (then named Manor Farm). The area continued as farmland until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century when the school was constructed on the Site.
- 2.2.15 Part of the A371 and the B3151 forms the former turnpike road from Rowberrow to Andover (SHER 26231). The turnpike trusts were established in the 18<sup>th</sup> century in order to help build and maintain critical routes; money was raised to pay for building and repairs by levying tolls for road users.
- 2.2.16 Some archaeological investigations associated with development works at the school have recorded no archaeological finds or features (SHER 28838). In some places considerable modern disturbance or made ground has been observed (SHER 32809).

### **2.3 Previous investigations related to the development**

- 2.3.1 The area occupied by the Kings of Wessex Academy has been subject to a great deal of archaeological work, and details of archaeological works conducted between 1960 and 2007 are listed and summarised in the Monument Management Plan, prepared by the SWHT (then Historic Environment Services) on behalf of Historic England (then English Heritage) and the Kings of Wessex Academy (then Kings of Wessex School; Somerset County Council, N.D.).
- 2.3.2 Of these archaeological works, there are a number that are adjacent and converging investigations which are particularly relevant to the Site (**Figure 1**). These include;
- A group of six 2.00 × 2.00 m evaluation trenches excavated in 1988 (Broomhead 1998) prior to the construction of a new classroom block, the closest of which was

approximately 2.00 m north-east of TR7. These investigations revealed a substantial ditch aligned east to west, (which contained structural rubble, Roman ceramic building material (CBM), iron nails, Roman pottery; TR1), a rubble horizon sealed by a possible posthole in TR2 (c. 3.00 m north of the Site; which contained substantial quantities of building material and some charcoal), a possible well and large posthole in TR4 (c. 2.00 m north-east of the Site), and a possible gully aligned north to south in TR5 (c. 3.50 m north-west of the Site).

Following the initial evaluation (Bromhead 1998), a watching brief was conducted on the construction works (Broomhead 1999). During this phase of works a rectangular limestone rubble structure with a flagstone entrance, and a clear line of large internal post-pads was identified. There was also some evidence for further external structures in the locality, but these were not investigated. After investigation the structure was sealed with sand and geotextile membrane.

- An evaluation was conducted to the north-west of the Site by AC Archaeology in 1991 (Hawkes 1991). As part of this work TR5 (c. 25.00 m west of the Site) and TR7 (c. 5.00 m north-west of the Site) identified deposits pertaining to Romano-British activity, including two ditches (TR7) and a cobbled layer (TR5), at least 6.00 m wide, comprising predominantly limestone but with some red sandstone elements, overlain by a deposit containing 142 sherds Roman pottery.
- During 1999, a watching brief on works to create the playing fields was conducted over an extensive area, between the sports centre, the school and the River Yeo. These works comprised the construction of the playing field and the demolition of the railway embankment and bridge within the Site (Hollinrake and Hollinrake 1999). During these works a 40.00 m section of the railway embankment (and the bridge) were removed to reveal the “original” topsoil layer and a substantial quantity and concentration of Roman artefacts, included some potential circumstantial evidence of lead smelting. A possible in-filled pond was also identified, and a dark layer under the topsoil containing Roman finds noted.
- Following the watching brief, an archaeological evaluation for an extension to the school building to the north of the Site, comprising three joined trenches, was conducted (Hollinrake and Hollinrake 2000). This identified remains of the recently demolished railway embankment, some Romano-British and possible post-Roman pits and post-holes, gully features and a large ditch.
- A further watching brief was conducted in 2007 (Context One 2007), during groundworks associated with the construction of a new classroom block c. 6.00 m north of the north-western corner of the Site. This identified remains from two phases Romano-British activity (1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> century and 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> century). The majority of the features identified, primarily ditches, belonged to the first phase, however five features were found to belong to the second phase, including two inhumations.

2.3.3 In addition to the archaeological works listed in the Management Plan, an excavation was conducted in 2016 by Context One Archaeological Services Ltd. in advance of a sewer pipe to the east of the Site (Context One 2016). These works identified a re-cut Romano-British ditch to the east of the Site.



### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Aims**

3.1.1 The ClfA *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), provide a generic definition of aims for a watching brief:

- To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
- To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
- To guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

#### **3.2 Objectives**

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the watching brief were defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2016) as:

- Examine the archaeological resource within the Site, including clarifying the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains;
- Identify, within the constraints of the works, the date, character and condition of any surviving remains within the Site;
- Produce statements of potential and recommendations for further work;
- Produce a report which will present the results of the works and set the results within a historical context

### **4 METHODS**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2016) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

#### **4.2 Fieldwork methods**

##### *General*

4.2.1 The works monitored during the watching brief comprised the observation of ground works and recording of deposits of archaeological interest within 16 discrete areas (trenches).

4.2.2 During the initial phases of the groundworks (see inset in **Figure 2** and **Plates 1 to 4**) showing a small area excavated to the depth originally intended as part of the development design) it became clear that significant archaeological deposits, related to the reasons for the scheduling of the area, would be adversely impacted by the

development. The design was adapted to limit this impact and preserve in-situ significant archaeological deposits. The significant deposits preserved in this way consisted of layers, walls, cut features and fills, together with an overlying possible demolition layer (see below for further description and discussion of interpretation). This was achieved in consultation with Historic England. The changes in design comprised the raising of impact levels, and the laying of geotextile membrane material, together with a layer of sand/gravel, before installation of the foundation (crushed stone of two types) of the sports pitch (**Plate 5**). This was applied across the whole of the sports pitch.

- 4.2.3 **Figure 2** includes a selection of levels across the base of the excavated surface. More levels are available in the archive.
- 4.2.4 The watching archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations. Where necessary, the surfaces of identified archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand.
- 4.2.5 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated/cleaned archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Where found, artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19<sup>th</sup> century or later) were recorded on Site and not retained.
- 4.2.6 It is important to note that no significant deposits or features were excavated, apart from the cleaning of the exposed area at the eastern end of TR7, where the possible demolition deposits were removed to reveal more obviously significant deposits, prompting the change in design. Where clear or potential stratigraphic relationships were evident on the surface, these are noted, however potential relationships must not be considered definitive, as they have not been tested. The minimal excavation also impacted on the recovery of artefacts and meant that no environmental samples were taken.

#### *Recording*

- 4.2.7 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated/exposed features and deposits was made, including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections), and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.
- 4.2.8 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.9 A photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which have embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

### **4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies**

- 4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2016). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of*

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

#### **4.4 Monitoring**

- 4.4.1 The Senior Historic Environment Officer for SWHT, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), monitored and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England were offered the opportunity to visit the Site.

### **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 The groundworks monitored during the course of the watching brief comprised of the excavation of two ground investigation pits (TR1 and TR2) situated within the boundaries of the proposed new sports pitch, during an initial phase of groundworks, on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The second phase was conducted between 8<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018, and monitored the main groundworks associated with the hockey pitch and storage area, drainage and floodlighting, temporary haulage road and high voltage cable location pits (TR3 to TR16; **Figure 3**).

#### **5.2 Phase 1 – soil sequence**

- 5.2.1 The locations of the two initial test pits (TR1 and TR2) were excavated using a JCB excavator fitted with a toothed bucket. This excavation was conducted under constant archaeological monitoring.

##### *Test pit 1 (TR1)*

- 5.2.2 TR1 was situated towards the eastern internal edge of the hockey pitch. The test pit measured 0.60 m in width, 2.00 m in length and was excavated to a depth of 1.50 m below ground level (BGL).

- 5.2.3 The soil sequence observed within the section of TR1 comprised: modern day turf and topsoil (100) which was a dark brown black silty loam and had an average thickness of 0.25 m. This overlaid a layer of mixed hardcore and gravels (101) that was 0.15 m thick.

- 5.2.4 Layer 101 was interpreted as a levelling deposit, laid prior to the installation of the present-day topsoil. This layer sealed a possible buried soil or subsoil (102) which was mid to dark brown in colour. It had an average thickness of 0.20 m and overlay the pale orange natural silty clay (103).

- 5.2.5 No archaeologically significant features or deposits were observed in the base of the trench and this was subsequently excavated to a total depth of 1.50 m BGL for the purposes of the ground investigation works. The natural (103) changed from silty clay to gravels at roughly 1.00 m BGL. Excavation of the test pit ceased at 1.50 m due to the ingress of ground water.

##### *Test pit 2 (TR2)*

- 5.2.6 TR2 was located c.10.00 m west of the western edge of the hockey pitch. The test pit had the following dimensions: 0.60 m in width, 2.00 m in length and was excavated to a depth of 1.60 m BGL.

- 5.2.7 The soil sequence observed within the section of this trench was similar in nature to that observed in TR1. The modern-day turf and dark brown black silty loam topsoil (200) had

an average thickness of 0.30 m and overlay the same levelling deposit viewed in TR1. Here the levelling layer (201) had a thickness of 0.20 m and directly overlay the silty orange clay natural (202). This was observed at 0.50 m BGL.

- 5.2.8 No significant archaeological features or deposits were present in the base of TR2. The test pit was excavated to total depth of 1.60 m BGL, where again the clay natural changed to gravels at a depth of roughly 1.20 m BGL. Due to the ingress of ground water the excavation of the test pit ceased at 1.60 m BGL.

### 5.3 Phase 2 – soil sequence

- 5.3.1 Representative sections depicted the soil sequence around the Site (TR8) are provided on **Figure 4**.

#### *Trench 3 (TR3)*

- 5.3.2 TR3 was excavated to ascertain the location of a high voltage electrical cable, and was located within and along, the central southern edge of TR7 (the main hockey pitch strip). TR3 measured 2.40 m × 2.10 m and was excavated to a depth of 0.60 m BGL.

- 5.3.3 The soil sequence observed within this trench was similar to that observed in TR2, although the natural substrate was not reached in this instance. The present-day turf and dark brown black silty loam topsoil (300) was 0.15 m thick and overlay an apparently dumped deposit of mixed dark brown, grey and orange-grey clay with gravels, which comprise the remains of the railway embankment demolished in 1999 (Hollinrake and Hollinrake 1999).

- 5.3.4 No pre-modern archaeological features or deposits were identified.

#### *Trench 4 (TR4)*

- 5.3.5 TR4 was also excavated to ascertain the location of the high voltage electrical cable. This trench was located within the north-western corner of TR7 (the hockey pitch). TR4 measured 3.20 m × 1.80 m and was excavated to a depth of 0.45 m BGL.

- 5.3.6 The soil sequence was similar to that observed in TR3, although overall deposit thickness was less, and natural substrate (402) was reached at a depth of 0.30 m BGL.

- 5.3.7 No pre-modern archaeological features or deposits were identified.

#### *Trench 5 (TR5)*

- 5.3.8 TR5 was a temporary haul road for the construction of the hockey pitch, which extended from the car parking area to the west of the main school building, to the north-east corner of the hockey pitch. TR5 was approximately 42.00 m long and 4.30 m wide and was excavated to a depth of c. 0.45 m BGL.

- 5.3.9 Only modern topsoil deposits (500) were encountered in the northern end of TR5, this topsoil horizon changed in colour from yellow-brown in the northern end of the trench, to mid-brown in the southern end, presumably a result of a change in the underlying parent material. Below the topsoil in the southern end of the trench was a mid-brown silty layer with a significant proportion of angular and sub-angular pebbles (501). Layer 501 appears to be related a Romano-British or possibly post-Roman demolition layer encountered within TR6 to TR12, which is discussed in more detail later. Aside from this no significant archaeological features or deposits were identified.

*Trench 6 (TR6)*

- 5.3.10 TR6 was located between the haul road (TR5) and the hockey pitch (TR7) and was excavated to facilitate construction.
- 5.3.11 TR6 was excavated to a depth of 0.20 m BLG, where the top of the possible demolition layer (601) was encountered below the modern topsoil (600).
- 5.3.12 Other than the possible demolition layer (601), no significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified or recovered.

*Trench 7 (TR7)*

- 5.3.13 This trench represents the main area of soil removal for the construction of the hockey pitch. TR7 measured 98.60 m (east-west) by 66.20 m (north-south), with an additional, roughly square area measuring approximately 23.00 m × 20.73 m, located in the north-western corner for the sports and maintenance equipment compound (**Figure 2**)
- 5.3.14 The maximum depth of TR7 varied due to the depth of topsoil which was being removed for reuse. Along the northern edge of the Site, the maximum depth ranged from 0.06 m to 0.19 m BGL, and along the southern edge the maximum depth was between 0.17 m and 0.27 m BGL.
- 5.3.15 The initial soil sequence identified within TR7 was similar to TR1 – TR4, TR8, TR12 and TR13, where the dark brown topsoil (700) directly overlay a of clay, silty clay and large gravel/cobbles (703) which comprised the remains of the demolished railway embankment and extended across the Site, in a north-west to south-east direction.
- 5.3.16 Underlying the remnant railway embankment (703) was a buried topsoil (719) which consisted of dark-grey brown silty clay, and contained small quantities of modern, post-medieval and Roman pottery. This layer appeared to represent the remnant of the original topsoil prior to the construction of the railway embankment and the playing fields. The layer was primarily exposed with the western half of TR7 (**Figure 3**), but was also identified within TR1, TR8, TR9(?) and TR13 to TR16, and is potentially the same buried topsoil layer identified during the watching brief in 1999 and during the evaluation in 2000 (Hollinrake and Hollinrake 1999 and 2000).
- 5.3.17 Below the buried topsoil (719) a possible demolition layer (701) containing frequent sub-rounded stone rubble (possibly building material) and Roman pottery. It is likely that this layer equates to the Romano-British or post-Romano-British demolition layer identified during the 1999 and 2000 investigations (Hollinrake and Hollinrake 1999 and 2000).
- 5.3.18 Underlying the possible demolition layer (701) was the orange brown clay and gravel natural substrate, which was cut or overlain by a number of archaeological features of likely Romano-British date including a metallised/cobbled surface (704; **Figure 2; Plate 1**), a small pit or posthole (707; **Figure 2; Plate 2**) and five linear features identified at the eastern edge of TR7 (705, 709, 711, 714 and 717; **Figure 2; Plates 3 and 4**).

*Trench 8 (TR8)*

- 5.3.19 TR3 was excavated for drainage and floodlighting around the north, west and south edges of the hockey pitch (TR7). TR8 was 0.50 m wide, between 0.30 m and 0.75 m BGL in depth, and extended for approximately 100.00 m along the northern and southern edges of TR7, and approximately 78.00 m along the western edge.



- 5.3.20 The general soil sequence present throughout TR8 comprised present-day topsoil (800), a buried topsoil (804) overlying natural substrate (802 and 803). The remains of the demolished railway embankment (818) were identified in the central southern part of the trench, overlying the buried topsoil (804), and the possible demolition layer (801) was identified in the section of TR8 adjacent to the north-eastern corner of TR7, perhaps demonstrating this layer thinning upslope, towards the north-west.
- 5.3.21 A number significant archaeological features comprising five probable Romano-British linear features (808, 810, 812, 814 and 816), a pit (805; **Plate 6**), and remnants of an undated limestone block structure (807; **Plate 7**) were identified.

*Trench 9 (TR9) to Trench 16 (TR16)*

- 5.3.22 Trenches TR9 to TR16 represent smaller interventions associated with the drainage and floodlighting works (TR8). No cut archaeological features were identified in any of these trenches. However, there was evidence of some spatial variation in the deposits underlying the present-day topsoil. The remnant railway embankment was only identified within TR12 and TR13. The buried topsoil was detected within TR9 and TR13 to TR16, but was absent from TR10, TR11 and TR12. The possible demolition layer was present in TR9 to TR12 only. Natural substrate was reached in all trenches.

## 5.4 Archaeological features and deposits

*Romano-British (AD 43 – AD 410)*

- 5.4.1 The overall majority of the significant archaeological features identified during the watching brief were found to be cutting the natural substrate and stratigraphically overlain by the possible demolition layer (701, 801 etc.), which is potentially Romano-British or post-Romano-British in date.
- 5.4.2 An irregular edged, and probably partially removed or truncated, section of metalled or cobbled surface (704) was identified at the eastern extent of TR7 (**Plate 1**). The surface was bedded in to a matrix of silty clay (716) containing frequent small sub-rounded stone fragments, Roman pottery and animal bone, which lay directly on the natural substrate (702). The surface comprised roughly worked, but flat limestone blocks and as exposed, the surface measured approximately 2.30 m (maximum) east-west by 2.70 m north-south. The surface was situated close to a concentration of features including linear features 705, 709, 711, 714 and 717, and small pit or posthole 707 (**Plate 2**).
- 5.4.3 A small pit or posthole (707; **Plate 2**) was located to the east of surface 704, and to the south of linear features 709 and 711, and between two north-east to south-west linear features (705 and 717). Although it is not clear what, if any, relationship exists between any or all of these features. Small pit or posthole 707 contained a single visible fill (708) with inclusions of burnt clay and charcoal.
- 5.4.4 Linear features 705 and 717 (**Plate 3**) both extended in a north-east to south-west direction to the south-east of the metalled or cobbled surface (704). Both contained a single fill which contained Roman pottery, and the fill of 717 (718) also contained animal bone.
- 5.4.5 Linear features 709, 711 and 714 (**Plate 4**) were situated to the north of features 705 and 717. These features appear to form three sides of a potential small rectangular structure or enclosure, c. 5.46 m × 3.55 m (minimum); however, there is some doubt as to the exact structural relationship of these features, as it was recorded in the field that linear feature 711 appeared to cut both linear features 709 and 714, and linear feature 705 cut the

southern edge of 711. Consequently, there is doubt as to whether these features are contemporaneous or separated chronologically and stratigraphically (this is considered further in the discussion).

- 5.4.6 Linear feature 709, extended east-west, towards surface 704 (to the west), but was lost under an unexcavated spit of demolition layer 701, and was not observed on the west side of the spit, suggesting linear feature 709 either terminated under the spit, or turned towards the north in the direction of linear feature 714.
- 5.4.7 Roman pottery and animal bone was recovered from surface of all three of these linear features (709, 711 and 714).

#### *Undated and modern (1800 – present)*

- 5.4.8 Linear features 808, 810, 812, 814 and 816 (**Figure 3**) were situated with eastern or southern extents of TR8. It is hard to assess the significance of these features within the narrow confines of the 0.50 m wide trench. It should be noted that these features all cut the natural substrate and were apparently overlain by buried topsoil 804 (certainly, in the case of linear feature 816). Unfortunately, the relationship between these linear features and the possible demolition layer (801) was not confirmed during the watching brief, and no finds were recovered from the surface of any of the linear features.
- 5.4.9 An undated possible structure (807) was also identified in the north-western part of TR8 (**Figure 2; Plate 7**). The structure comprised a line of roughly worked limestone blocks approximately 0.20 m wide, which extended in a broadly north-south direction for 2.56 m and appeared to cut the buried topsoil (804). This feature is possibly post-medieval or modern in origin, however, given the relatively shallow levels at which other Romano-British stone structures have been identified to the immediate north of the Site (Broomhead 1999), it might be unwise to completely rule out a Romano-British origin, on the basis of the evidence obtained with the limits of this watching brief.
- 5.4.10 A single undated possible pit (805) was identified in the north-western corner of TR8. The pit measured approximately 1.00 m in diameter, and no datable finds were recovered.
- 5.4.11 Within the modern remnant railway embankment (703), two parallel linear concrete rubble(?) features were noted during the works (**Figure 2**). These features correspond with the documented location of the railway bridge recorded and demolished during 1999 (Hollinrake 1999).
- 5.4.12 Finally, a number of broadly north-south modern land drains were observed in the southern extent of TR8; but were not otherwise recorded.

## **6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE**

### **6.1 Introduction**

- 6.1.1 A relatively small quantity of finds was recovered during the evaluation, from two of the 16 trenches. The assemblage ranges in date from the Romano-British period to the modern day. All finds have been cleaned (with the exception of the metal objects) and quantified by material type within each context; this information is summarised in **Table 1**.

**Table 1** Quantification of finds by layer

Layer	Pottery		Human bone		Animal bone		Copper alloy		Iron		Other finds
	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)	
701	116	1346	3	3	34	284	1	1	4	35	
703	1	13					1	4			1 x clay pipe (3g)
706	38	380			15	159					
710	13	71			8	45			1	4	1 x slag (11g)
712	9	33			41	177					
715	3	19			11	46			1	13	
716	29	232			2	11					
718	14	170									
719	5	30									
804	4	13									1 x concrete tile (55g); 2 x CBM (55g); 1 x glass (7g)
811	1	39									
<b>Total</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>2346</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>52</b>	

## 6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 A total of 233 sherds of pottery, weighing 2346 g, were recovered from 11 deposits in TR7 and 8, although almost half derives from a possible demolition layer (701). With the exception of four sherds of post-medieval/modern pottery, all are of Roman date. The material is in average to poor condition, with the oxidised wares particularly abraded; the mean sherd weight is 10.1 g. The assemblage has been recorded to a basic level, in accordance with the *Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Barclay *et al.* 2016).
- 6.2.2 Imported finewares account for 6.1% of the Roman assemblage by count (**Table 2**). Samian from the industries of Central Gaul includes a burnt form 33 cup, of 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD date (layer 716), and a decorated body sherd, a form 18/31 or 31 dish/bowl, and a perforated body sherd from layer 701. Two sherds of Eastern Gaulish samian were also recovered from layer 701 - one is a mortarium body sherd. British finewares include red-slipped products from the New Forest industry (two globular flagons from buried soil 719 and layer 701 – Fulford 1975, type 1) and an unsourced red colour-coated ware (layer 701 and linear 705). The oxidised wares include two bowl rims and three sherds in a white-slipped redware, the latter are similar to a fabric identified from Beanacre, Wiltshire (Brook *et al.*, forthcoming, Q103). Six sherds from a single mortarium were recovered from layer 701, in a probable South Wales fabric (cf Tomber and Dore 1998, CAR RS).
- 6.2.3 The reduced coarsewares are dominated by unsourced sandy greywares, including a flat-rimmed bowl, four necked jars, a jar with rolled rim, and six everted rim jars, broken at the neck/shoulder join. Black burnished ware from the Wareham/Poole Harbour area of south-east Dorset accounts for 22.3% of the assemblage (by count). Forms include four plain-rimmed dishes (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, type 20), a flat-rimmed bowl (type 22), a

countersunk lug handle and three jars rims. The group ranges in date, with 1<sup>st</sup> century forms represented by the handle from layer 701, the flat-rimmed bowl from linear 717 is of 2<sup>nd</sup> century date, whilst one of the plain-rimmed dishes, from layer 716, has external wiping suggesting a late Roman date. Other fabrics include a fine micaceous greyware, recognised on a number of other sites in the region (cf Bidwell 1979; Leach 1982; Seager Smith 2005) and possibly produced at Shepton Mallet, Congresbury, the Brue Valley, Yeo Valley or Ilchester (Seager Smith 2005, 35) in the late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century, perhaps extending into the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Recognisable forms in this fabric include a copy of a London Ware bowl with beaded rim and rouletted decoration of 2<sup>nd</sup> century date, recovered from linear 810 (Marsh 1978, type 42). Other regional wares include four sherds in a Savernake-type ware; 16 sherds in sandy wares are unsourced.

- 6.2.4 The post-medieval/modern material comprises a single sherd in a post-medieval glazed red earthenware and three sherds in refined white ware. All were recovered from buried soil 719/804.

**Table 2** Quantification of pottery, by ware type

Ware	Number	Weight (g)
<i>Imported finewares</i>		
Central Gaulish samian	12	74
Eastern Gaulish samian	2	15
<i>British finewares</i>		
New Forest red-slipped	3	11
British colour-coated, unsourced	5	26
<i>Mortaria</i>		
South Wales type	6	81
<i>Oxidised wares</i>		
Fine oxidised ware	3	30
Oxidised ware	15	97
White-slipped redware	3	10
<i>Coarsewares</i>		
SE Dorset Black burnished ware	51	547
Fine micaceous greyware	8	105
Greyware	101	1100
Sandy ware	16	128
Savernake-type ware	4	94
<i>Post-Roman</i>		
Post-medieval glazed red earthenware	1	4
Refined white ware	3	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>2345</b>

### 6.3 Animal bone

- 6.3.1 The assemblage comprises 111 fragments (or 722 g) of hand-recovered animal bone, and once conjoins are considered the figure falls to 70 fragments (**Table 3**). This material came from six contexts of Romano-British date, linear features 705, 709, 711, 714, demolition layer 701 and surface 716. The assemblage was rapidly scanned using established methods and guidelines for assessments (Baker and Worley 2014). The following information was quantified where applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion and tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was

directly recorded into a relational database (in MS Access) and cross-referenced with relevant contextual information.

### Results

- 6.3.2 Bone preservation is good and consistent within individual contexts. There is little or no indication that deposits have been significantly reworked by later disturbance. Gnaw marks are apparent on only eight post-cranial bones, and these are from possible demolition deposit 701 and linear feature 705. The evidence indicates that the assemblage has not been significantly biased by the bone chewing habit of scavenging carnivores.
- 6.3.3 The identified bones from possible demolition deposit 701 are all from livestock, they include four cattle bones, a femur, two metapodia and a molar, and five sheep/goat bones, a radius, tibia and three metacarpals. A single piece of sheep/goat humerus came from surface 716.
- 6.3.4 Most of the animal bones recovered from linear features belong to sheep/goat, and the majority came from linear feature 705. The range of skeletal elements is limited to metapodia, radii and teeth. Part of a goat horn core came from linear feature 714, while 711 contained a pig tibia, and 705, the humerus from a small duck, most probably teal.

### Conclusions

- 6.3.5 The small Romano-British animal bone assemblage from the watching brief adds to the corpus of data from the scheduled site (Higbee 2007) and has been fully recorded to an appropriate level for archiving purposes.

**Table 3** Quantity and provenance of animal bones by number of identified specimens present (or NISP)

Species	Layer 701	Linear 705	Linear 709	Linear 711	Linear 714	Surface 716	Total
cattle	4	1	1	1	-	-	7
sheep/goat	5	5	2	-	-	1	13
goat	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
pig	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
duck cf. teal	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Total identified	9	6	3	1	1	1	23
Total unidentified	23	8	5	-	10	1	47
Overall total	32	14	8	1	11	2	70

## 6.4 Human bone

- 6.4.1 Disarticulated human bone was recovered from Romano-British layer 701. The condition of the bone was assessed with reference to McKinley (2004) and age was estimated using the long bone length data provided by Scheuer and Black (2000, 297).
- 6.4.2 The remains comprise three bones, a near-complete right rib and left radius, and a complete left ulna from a neonate around 40 weeks gestation. The bone is in good condition (grade 0 – 1), featuring occasional old breaks made once the bones had become dry. No pathological changes or morphological anomalies were observed.



- 6.4.3 The burial of neonates and very young infants in contexts associated with domestic and/or agricultural Romano-British activity, rather than more formal mortuary settings, is a well-recognised phenomenon – the potential reasons for which (eg, their not being recognised as in an individual person prior to walking/talking, or a desire to keep them in the realm of the living) have been discussed elsewhere (Struck 1993; Scott 1999, 115; Philpott 1991, 101).

## **6.5 Other finds**

- 6.5.1 The metal objects comprise a copper alloy Roman coin, of late 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century date, from layer 701, a 1973 penny from layer 703, and iron nails from layer 701, linear 709 and linear feature 714. A piece of iron working slag was also recovered from linear feature 709.
- 6.5.2 A plain stem fragment from a clay tobacco pipe came from layer 703.
- 6.5.3 Modern finds from buried soil 804 include a concrete curved roof tile fragment, two pieces from a ceramic tile, and a piece of bottle glass.

## **6.6 Selection and retention**

- 6.6.1 The Roman finds should be retained, however, the modern finds do not warrant long-term curation.

## **7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

### **7.1 Introduction**

- 7.1.1 No environmental samples were taken during the course of the groundworks monitored as part of the archaeological watching brief conducted at The Kings of Wessex Academy, Cheddar, Somerset.

## **8 CONCLUSIONS**

### **8.1 Summary**

- 8.1.1 The watching brief was successful in locating a number of features. All the features and structures recorded during the watching brief are likely to relate to Romano-British, post-Romano-British and modern activity. Evidence for Romano-British activity appears to be indicative of both settlement and potentially of small-scale industrial activity, possibly related to lead smelting or recycling. There is also evidence of agricultural activity to the south, and between multiple foci of activity to the north, as evidenced by the results of this, and previous phases of work in the vicinity.
- 8.1.2 Evidence of modern activity is primarily related to the demolished remains of the railway embankment and bridge. The construction and subsequent demolition of the railway has invariably caused some archaeological disturbance, but may have also effectively sealed archaeological deposits, which are very likely to be present below the embankment; indeed the high quantity of artefactual remains recovered from the embankment area during the 1999 watching brief (Hollinrake and Hollinrake 1999) may be indicative of another foci of activity, or a continuation of the activity identified in the eastern portion of TR7, and possibly the western limit of TR8 during this watching brief.

## 8.2 Discussion

- 8.2.1 This watching brief has been successful in determining the presence of archaeological features, deposits and structures within the specified works area. These archaeological works have identified evidence that archaeological deposits, cut features and structural remains possibly relating to settlement and light industrial, as well as agricultural activity are likely to be present and survive, below a buried topsoil, and a possible demolition layer in the northern and western portion of the Site.
- 8.2.2 Parallels for most of the features identified can be found within reports pertaining to earlier archaeological works. A cobbled or metalled Romano-British surface, similar to surface 704 (**Figure 2; Plate 1**), was identified to the west of the Site during works conducted in 1991 (Hawkes 1991).
- 8.2.3 The remains of a rectangular limestone rubble structure was identified immediately to the north-west of the Site during a watching brief (Broomhead 1999). This structure was identified relatively high in the deposit sequence, at 0.10 m BGL, and a potential, although unconfirmed and less substantial parallel, might be found in an undated limestone rubble structure (807; **Figure 2; Plate 7**), identified within TR8.
- 8.2.4 Linear features 709, 711 and 714 close to cobbled surface 704, appear to form a small rectilinear enclosure; however, the watching archaeologist indicates linear feature 711, cut both features 709 and 711, consequently these features may not be closely related or contemporary, although, as linear feature 709 does not cut and appears to respect cobbled surface 704, it might be guessed that, if not contemporary, one of these two feature is likely to have been at least evident or extant at the time the other was constructed, although happenstance cannot be entirely ruled out.
- 8.2.5 The remainder of the linear features identified within TR8, contained no dateable finds within the upper fill. It has been assumed that these features are likely to also be Romano-British in origin, but this cannot be conclusively proved by the evidence gathered during this phase of work. The lack of artefactual remains, even residual finds within the upper fill of these features may indicate they were situated further way from any foci of activity and may add credence to the speculation that they are agricultural in purpose and origin. No obvious spatial relationship between these linear features could be ascertained within the confines of the watching brief. It is possible that this may indicate multiple phases of activity or it may be indicative of a similar system of ditches and irregular enclosures identified to the west of the Site during an earlier geophysical survey (Hawkes 1991).
- 8.2.6 The pottery assemblage recovered during the watching brief was broadly similar to the assemblages recovered during the 1991, 1999 and 2000 watching briefs and evaluation (Hawkes 1991, Hollinrake and Hollinrake 1999 and Hollinrake and Hollinrake 2000), all of which included imported finewares (samian), British finewares and coarsewares such as Dorset black burnished ware and greywares. Given the nature of the fieldwork during the watching brief (collection of surface finds from the top of archaeological features and deposits, potentially sealed archaeological contexts were limited to the bedding layer (716) for metalled/cobbled surface 704, which contained late Roman pottery (AD 250 – 410) and sheep/goat animal bone; although the nature of this structure would probably make contamination of material from later phases likely. Other sealed, but less secure deposits, included the upper fills of linear features 705, 717 and 810 which contained 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD pottery. Half of all the pottery recovered during this phase of fieldwork was recovered from the possible demolition layer (701) within TR7, which is the presumed to be the same '*dark layer under the topsoil containing Roman finds*' identified during the 1999 watching brief (Hollinrake and Hollinrake 1999). The previously disturbed buried

topsoil encountered within TR1, TR7, TR8, TR9(?) and TR13–TR16 was found to contain Roman New Forest ware pottery, post-medieval pottery modern CBM and glass, and it should be noted that substantial quantities of Roman artefacts were recovered from this layer during the 1999 watching brief (*ibid*).

- 8.2.7 No fragments of lead working slag similar to those identified within the buried topsoil (overlying the possible demolition layer) during the 1999 watching brief were recovered during this phase of work, and consequently it might be assumed that the structures investigated during this watching brief, were probably not associated with lead production. Iron slag and iron nails, however, along with animal bone, but no pottery, was recovered from the possible rectilinear structure formed by linear features 709, 711 and 714. Linear feature 705, which appeared to cut linear feature 711 (at the limit of excavation), and might therefore post-date the possible rectilinear structure, was found to contain the majority of the animal bone recovered during the watching brief and 38 sherds of Roman pottery. Whether this apparent difference in assemblage is indicative of a shift in activity at this location over a period of time, or if we simply have a mix of residual structural artefacts, and a possible dump of domestic waste within the upper fill of linear feature 705, remains unclear.
- 8.2.8 Perhaps the main feature of interest that this watching brief has encountered is the possible demolition layer that covers more obviously significant archaeological deposits over much of the watching brief area and may have been noted during earlier archaeological works (such as Hollinrake and Hollinrake 1999, where the area of investigation coincides with that of this watching brief). The circumstances of this project (an approach being taken to preserve *in situ* as much as may be possible and thereby limiting the quantity and detail of recovered evidence) have limited what can be discussed at present, but two aspects are worth mentioning. The date of the formation of this layer may be anywhere from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century onwards (this being the date of readily datable pottery from the un-excavated surfaces of linear features 717 and 811). Also, again based on very small assemblages, the animal bone is here seen as having little or no indication that deposits have been significantly reworked by later disturbance, though this conflicts with the comment on the pottery being generally in poor condition and abraded. As this characteristically darker (charcoal was recorded as being present), more stone filled (apparently the same stone as was used in underlying structural features), layer is a readily identifiable feature of the Site, its reasons for being there deserve consideration. Most obviously, it is tempting to suggest that it is associated with some form of Roman or post-Roman activity, such as has been investigated for the well-known phenomenon of “dark earth” associated with Roman settlement. It may also be of interest to note a fairly close instance of “black soil” covering Roman deposits at Bancombe Hill (20 miles to the south (Gater *et al* 1993). Further consideration is beyond the scope of this “watching brief”, and the intention here is to raise this as a potential subject for future research to be incorporated, where appropriate within future project designs.
- 8.2.9 The identification of disarticulated neonatal human bone within the possible demolition layer (701), and the lack of any other identified human skeletal remains within this layer, or within the Site (bearing in mind much remains un-investigated) may add credence to the domestic and/or agricultural hypothesis.
- 8.2.10 Although to the north, and within the postulated Saxon boundary line (cite reference), the distinct lack of artefactual evidence from post-Roman periods may indicate that the area covered by this watching brief was probably utilised as agricultural land, away from the main focus of Anglo-Saxon and Norman period activity to the north.





- 8.2.11 The project included the hastily arranged design change aiming to preserve as much as possible of the significant archaeological deposits, including the possible demolition layer.
- 8.2.12 These works add to the corpus of knowledge pertaining to the scheduled monument and highlight the fact that although there is the potential for disturbance within the boundaries of the Site, potentially extensive and important remains pertaining to the Romano-British period are likely to be present and survive within, and in the locality of the Site.

## **9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **9.1 Museum**

- 9.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Somerset County Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code TTNCM 91/2015. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

### **9.2 Preparation of the archive**

- 9.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Somerset County Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **110970 / TTNCM 91/2015**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 2 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts, ordered by material type;
- 1 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics.

### **9.3 Selection policy**

- 9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum and is fully documented in the project archive.
- 9.3.2 In this instance, the following categories are selected to not be retained: modern finds.

### **9.4 Security copy**

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

### **9.5 OASIS**

- 9.5.1 An OASIS online record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated (**OASIS ID - wessexar1-326556**), with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will



be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

## **10 COPYRIGHT**

### **10.1 Archive and report copyright**

- 10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
- 10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

### **10.2 Third party data copyright**

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

## **11 PUBLICATION AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN**

- 11.1.1 WA consider that the aims of this project have been achieved and, aside from deposition of the archive, and subject to review of this report, the project has been completed. The report can therefore be submitted in relation to the planning condition.



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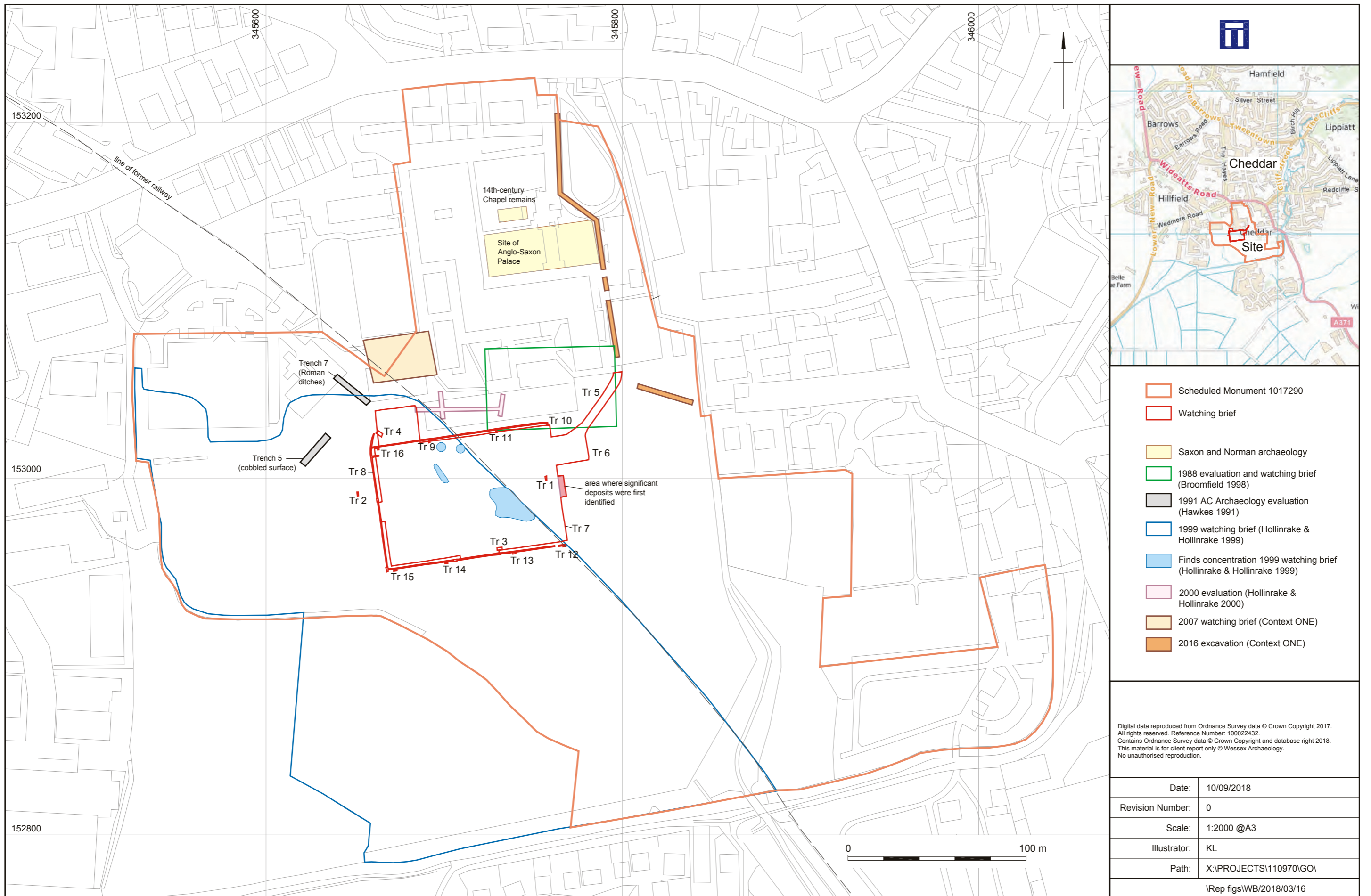
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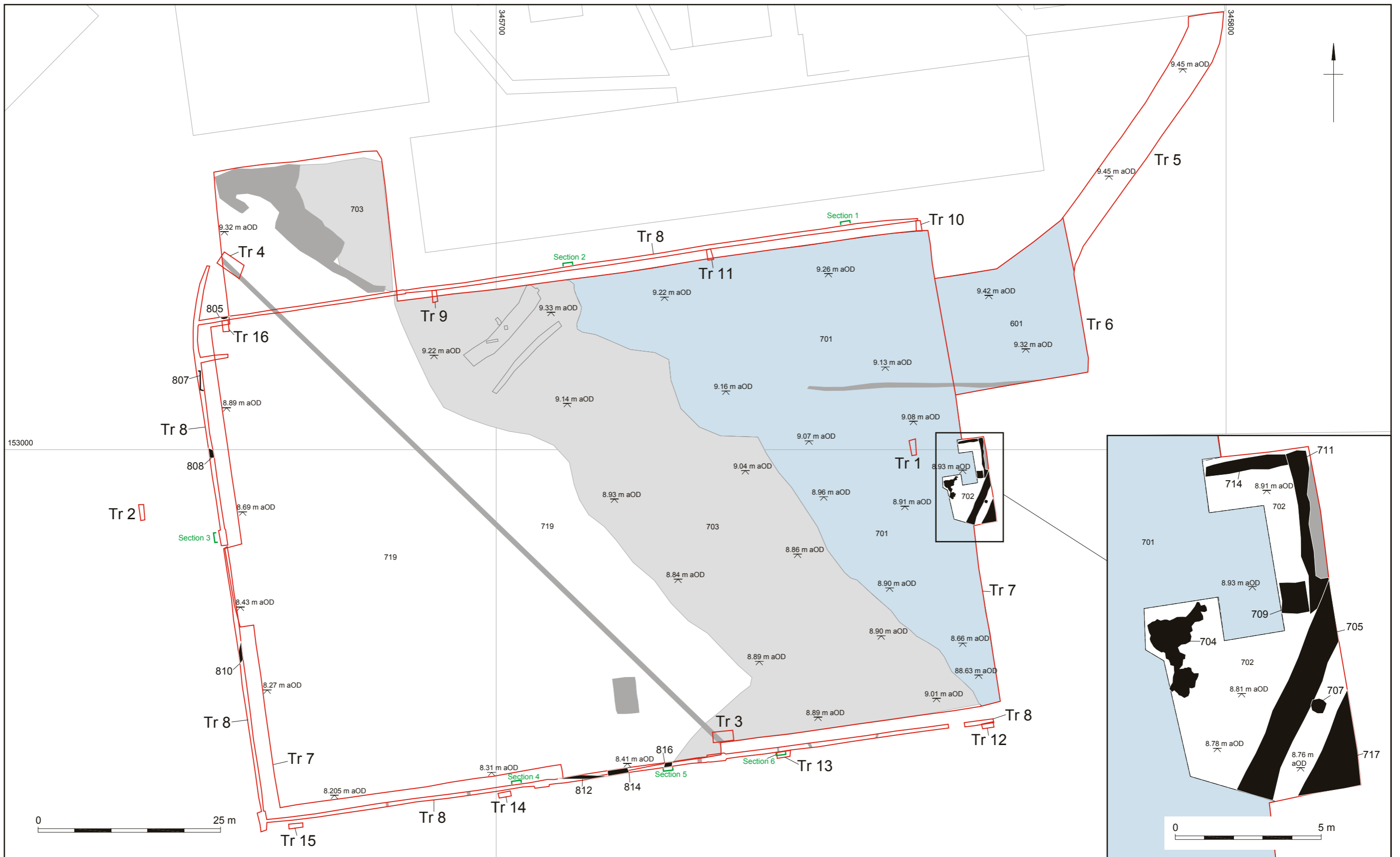


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Site location, the Site, scheduled monument area and selected previous works

Figure 1



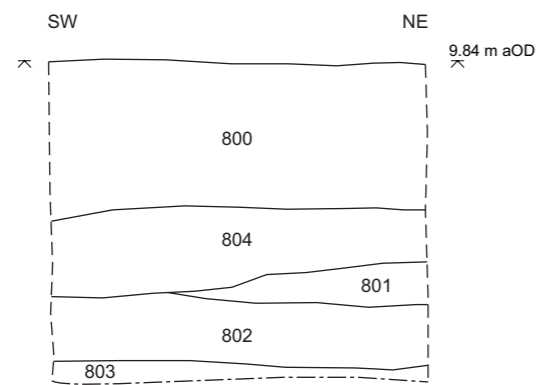
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- Trench
  - Modern disturbance
  - Modern deposit from railway embankment
  - Demolition layer
- Note: levels are at the base of excavation for the new pitch

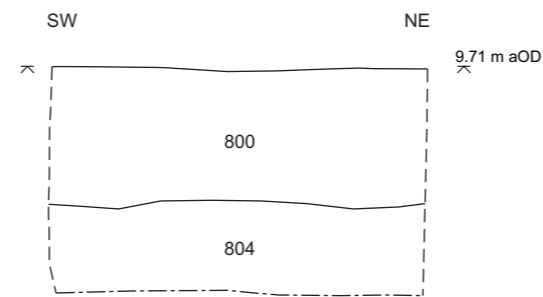
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The Site and location of archaeological features and deposits

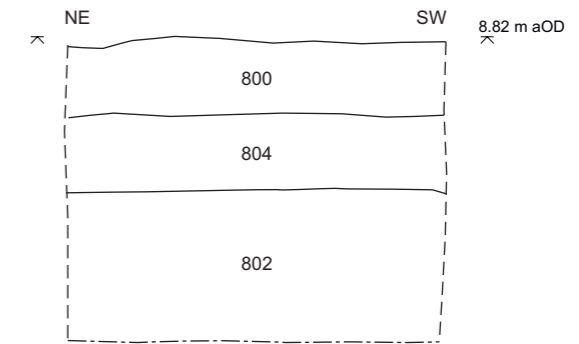
Figure 2



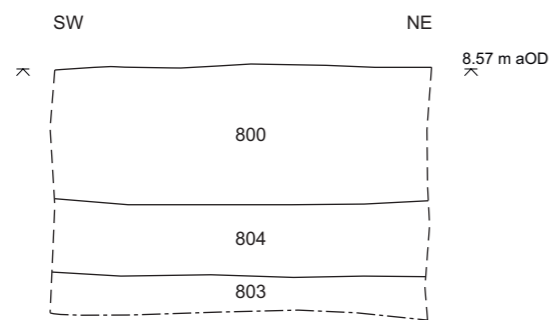
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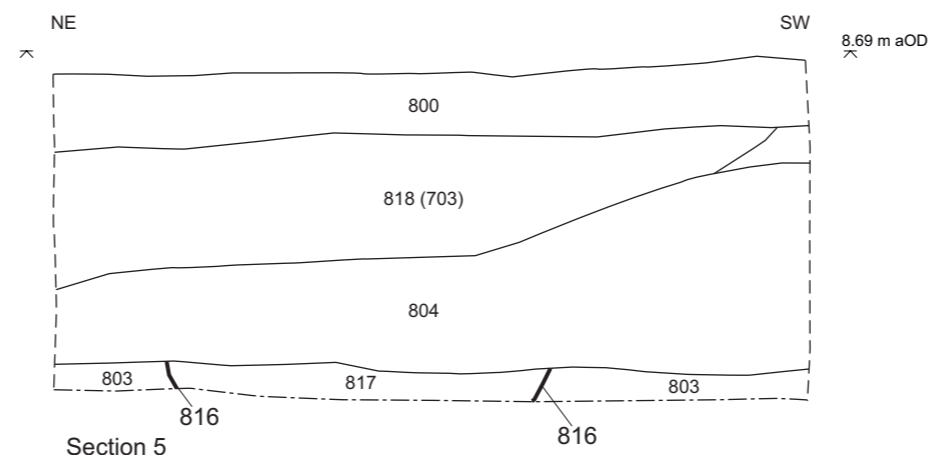
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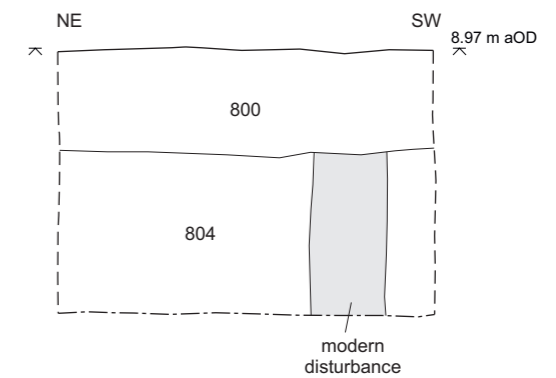
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Section 4



Section 5



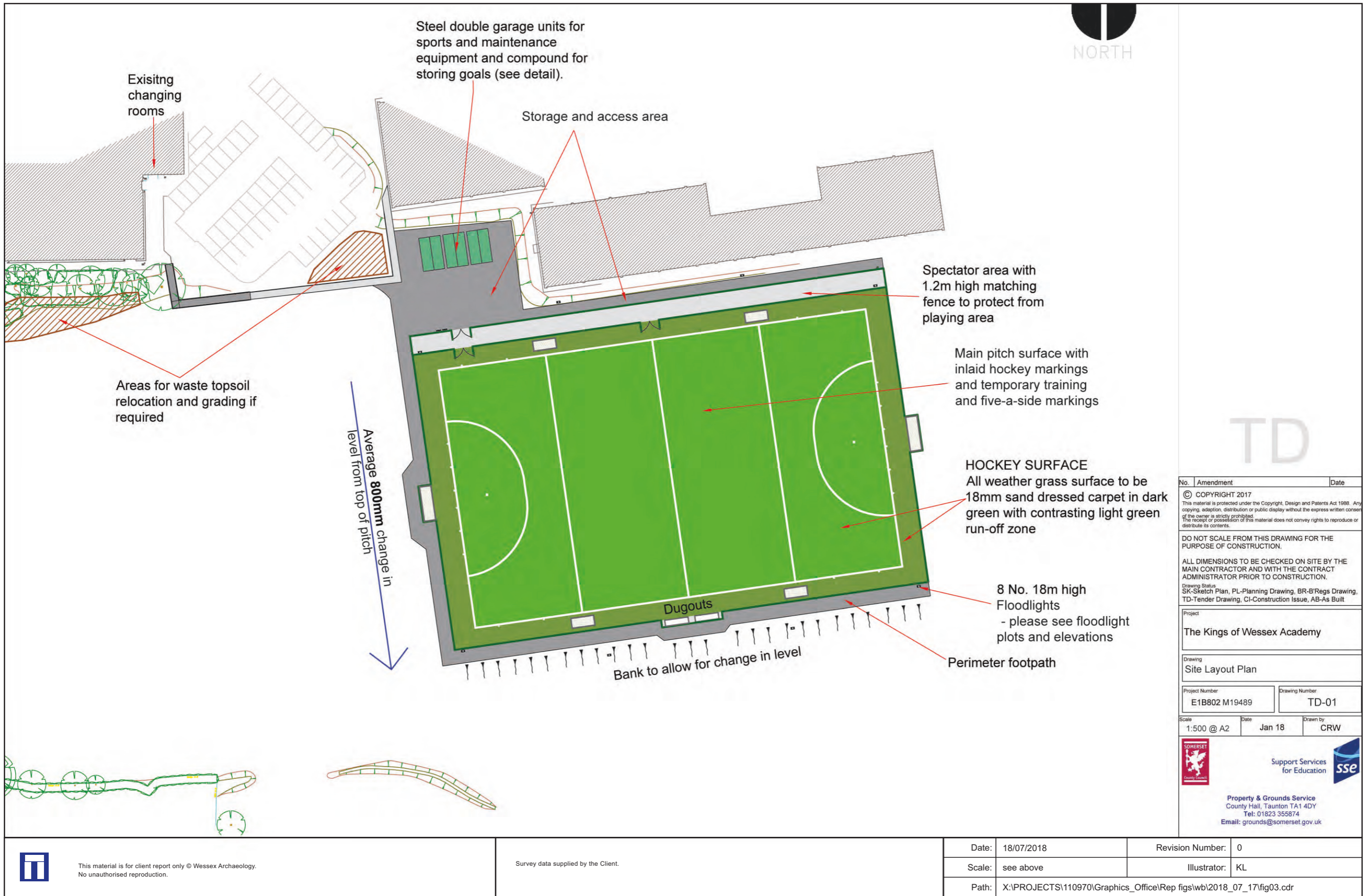
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Project	
The Kings of Wessex Academy	

Drawing	
Site Layout Plan	

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E1B802 M19489	TD-01

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Kings of Wessex Academy, Site Layout Plan

Figure 4



Plate 1: Metalled or cobbled surface 704



Plate 2: Small pit or post-hole 707 from the north-west



Plate 3: Linear features 705 and 717 from the north-east



Plate 4: Linear features or structure 709, 711 and 714 from the north



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Plate 5: Two types of stone foundation for the pitch, overlying sand/gravel and geotextile



Plate 6: Pit 805 from the south-east



Plate 7: Structure 807 from the west



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## Appendices

### Appendix 1 Trench summaries

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

<b>Trench 1</b>		<b>2.00 m x 0.75 m</b>		<b>Max Depth 1.50 m bgl</b>		<b>NGR (centre) 345757 153000</b>		<b>9.24 m OD</b>	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Description</b>			<b>Depth bgl (m)</b>			
100	Topsoil		Modern Turf and Topsoil – Dark brown silty loam.			0.00 - 0.25			
101	Levelling or dumped deposit		Mixed hardcore and gravel.			0.25 - 0.40			
102	Buried soil		Mid to dark brown silty clay.			0.40 – 0.60			
103	Natural geology		Silty clay changing to gravel at approximately 1.00 m bgl.			0.60 +			

<b>Trench 2</b>		<b>2.20 m x 0.63 m</b>		<b>Max Depth 1.60 m bgl</b>		<b>NGR (centre) 345651 152991</b>		<b>8.88 m OD</b>	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Description</b>			<b>Depth bgl (m)</b>			
200	Topsoil		Modern Turf and Topsoil – Dark brown silty loam.			0.00 - 0.30			
201	Levelling or dumped deposit		Mixed hardcore and gravel.			0.30 - 0.60			
202	Natural geology		Silty clay changing to gravel at approximately 1.20 m bgl.			0.60 +			

<b>Trench 3</b>		<b>2.40 m x 2.20 m</b>		<b>Max Depth 0.60 m bgl</b>		<b>NGR (centre) 345731 152960</b>		<b>8.72 m OD</b>	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Description</b>			<b>Depth bgl (m)</b>			
300	Topsoil		Topsoil. Dark grey brown clay silt. Moderate sub-rounded stone throughout. Rootlets.			0-0.15			
301	Dump deposit		Mixed dark brown, grey, orange grey clay and silty clay. Occasional large gravel.			0.15-0.60+			

<b>Trench 4</b>		<b>3.27 m x 1.94 m</b>		<b>Max Depth 0.45 m bgl</b>		<b>NGR (centre) 345664 153025</b>		<b>9.38 m OD</b>	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Description</b>			<b>Depth bgl (m)</b>			
400	Topsoil		Topsoil. Dark grey brown clay silt. Moderate sub-rounded stone throughout. Rootlets.			0-0.15			
401	Dump deposit		Mixed gravel, clay and building rubble.			0.15-0.30			
402	Natural geology		Natural substrate. Yellow mixed gravels.			0.30+			

<b>Trench 5</b>		<b>40.12 m x 4.35 m</b>		<b>Max Depth 0.45 m bgl</b>		<b>NGR (centre) 345788 153042</b>		<b>9.73 m OD</b>	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Description</b>			<b>Depth bgl (m)</b>			
500	Topsoil		Topsoil. Imperceptible change from Northern to Southern end of trench. Firm yellowish brown silt (N end), to mid brown silt (S end).			0.00 – 0.45+			
501	Demolition layer		Firm to loose mid brown silt. Containing 25-35% mixed gravels (sub-angular to rounded 10-65mm).			0.25+			



<b>Trench 6</b>	<b>18.50 m x 16.30 m</b> Max Depth 0.20 m bgl	<b>NGR (centre) 345770 153018</b>		<b>9.52 m OD</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth bgl (m)</b>
600	Topsoil		Topsoil. Dark grey brown clay silt. Moderate sub-rounded stone throughout. Rootlets.	0-0.20
601	Demolition layer		Firm to loose mid brown silt. Containing 25-35% mixed gravels (sub-angular to rounded 10-65mm).	0.20+

<b>Trench 7</b>	<b>104.75 m x 87.14 m</b> Max Depth 0.37 m bgl	<b>NGR (centre) 345712 152989</b>		<b>9.06 m OD</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth bgl (m)</b>
700	Topsoil		Turfed. Dark grey brown clay silt. Moderate sub-rounded stone throughout. Rootlets. Loose compaction.	0-0.10
701	Demolition layer		Variable mid orange brown to dark grey silty clay. Varying soil types and inclusions, patchy and with broken/fragmented rock. Contained stone and CBM building material. Layer present across most of exposed excavation area.	0.10-0.20
702	Natural geology		Mid orange brown clay. Occasional sub-rounded stone. Variable across the site, in some areas consists of yellow mixed gravels.	0.20+
703	Dump deposit		Forming base of railway embankment crossing site on E-W alignment. Mixed dark brown, grey and orangey grey clay and silty clay. Occasional large gravel.	
704	Surface		Probable yard/outdoor surface. Roughly shaped, flat worked blocks of limestone.	
705	Ditch		Boundary/enclosure ditch. North-South alignment. Not excavated.	
706	Fill	[705]	Secondary fill. Mid greyish brown clay silt. Occasional sub-rounded, fragmented stone up to 25mm. Not excavated.	
707	Pit		Pit containing possible fire debris. Not excavated.	
708	Deliberate backfill	[707]	Single visible fill of pit, not excavated. Dark greyish brown clay silt. Occasional rounded, fractured stones. Probable fire debris dump.	
709	Ditch		Boundary/enclosure ditch. SW-NE alignment. Not excavated.	
710	Fill	[709]	Secondary fill. Single visible fill of ditch, not excavated. Dark greyish brown clay silt. Occasional, subangular fragmentary stone up to 100mm.	
711	Ditch		Boundary/enclosure ditch. NW-SE alignment. Not excavated.	
712	Fill	[711]	Single visible fill of ditch, not excavated. Mid greyish brown clay silt. Frequent, fragmented sub-angular stones.	
713	Fill/land drain		Field drain filled with loose limestone blocks, cut not ascertained. NE-SW alignment. Loose rubble fill. Dark brown silty clay, 90% large sub-angular limestone blocks.	
714	Ditch		Boundary/enclosure ditch. SW-NE alignment. Not excavated.	



<b>Trench 7</b>	<b>104.75 m x 87.14 m</b> <i>Max Depth 0.37 m bgl</i>	<b>NGR (centre) 345712 152989</b>	<b>9.06 m OD</b>
715	Fill	[714]	Secondary fill, not excavated. Dark yellowish brown clay silt. Occasional, fragmented sub-angular stones up to 50mm.
716	Layer		Bedding layer for Surface 704. Dark grey brown clay silt. Frequent, fragmented sub-rounded stone <0.05m. Present below and between stones of Surface 704, dense below stones, loose in between.
717	Ditch		Boundary/enclosure ditch. N-S alignment. Not excavated. Full extent not revealed within excavation area.
718	Fill		Secondary fill. Dingle visible fill of ditch, not excavated. Mid greyish brown clay silt. Frequent subangular stones up to 60mm.
719	Buried soil		SW part of site, to SW of and underlying Dump Deposit (703). Dark greyish brown silty clay. Occasional to common course gravel. Seals Demolition layer (701) in NE end of trench.

<b>Trench 8</b>	<b>100.22 m x 0.58 m (north)</b> <b>77.61 m x 0.58 m (west)</b> <b>100.78 m x 0.58 m (south)</b> <i>Max Depth 0.85 m bgl</i>	<b>NGR (centre) 345712 152989</b>	<b>9.12 m OD</b>	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth bgl (m)</b>
800	Topsoil		Turfed. Dark grey brown clay silt. Moderate sub-rounded stone throughout. Rootlets. Loose compaction.	0-0.45
801	Demolition layer		Firm to loose mid brown silt. Containing 25-35% mixed gravels (sub-angular to rounded 10-65mm).	0.45-0.65
802	Natural geology		Reddish brown firm clay silt. Occasional sub-rounded stone. Variable across the site, in some areas consists of yellow mixed gravels. Same as (702).	0.65-0.85
803	Natural geology		Firm yellowish brown mixed gravels-natural substrate.	0.85+
804	Buried soil		Same as (719). Dark greyish brown silty clay. Occasional to common course gravel.	
805	Pit		Possible pit, 1m diameter. Revealed in cable trench, not hand excavated.	
806	Deliberate backfill	[805]	Dark greyish brown clay silt. Occasional gravel.	
807	Structure		Wall. Roughly worked limestone blocks 300mm. Cuts (804).	
808	Ditch		Probable boundary/enclosure ditch. SW-NE alignment.	
809	Secondary fill	[808]	Dark greyish brown clay silt. Occasional gravel.	
810	Ditch		Probable boundary/enclosure ditch. N-S alignment. Possibly cuts (804).	
811	Secondary fill	[810]	Dark brown clay silt. Occasional course gravel.	
812	Ditch		Probable boundary/enclosure ditch. E-W alignment. Sealed by (804).	
813	Secondary fill	[813]	Dark brown clay silt. Occasional gravel.	



<b>Trench 8</b>	<b>100.22 m x 0.58 m (north)</b> <b>77.61 m x 0.58 m (west)</b> <b>100.78 m x 0.58 m (south)</b> Max Depth 0.85 m bgl	<b>NGR (centre) 345712 152989</b>	<b>9.12 m OD</b>
814	Ditch		Probable boundary/enclosure ditch. NW-SE alignment.
815	Secondary fill	[814]	Dark brown clay silt. Occasional gravel.
816	Ditch		Probable boundary/enclosure ditch. NW-SE alignment.
817	Secondary fill	[816]	Dark brown silty clay.
818	Dump deposit		Made ground, same as (703). Forming base of railway embankment crossing site on E-W alignment. Mixed dark brown, grey and orangey grey clay and silty clay. Occasional large gravel.
			0.35

<b>Trench 9</b>	<b>1.63 m x 0.70 m</b> Max Depth 2.20 m bgl	<b>NGR (centre) 345691 153021</b>	<b>9.12 m OD</b>	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth bgl (m)</b>
900	Topsoil		Turfed. Dark grey brown clay silt. Moderate sub-rounded stone throughout. Rootlets. Loose compaction.	0-0.30
901	Demolition layer		Firm to loose mid brown silt. Containing 25-35% mixed gravels (sub-angular to rounded 10-65mm).	0.30-0.50
902	Buried soil		Same as (804). Dark greyish brown silty clay. Occasional to common coarse gravel.	0.50-0.80
903	Natural geology		Reddish brown firm clay silt. Occasional sub-rounded stone. Variable across the site, in some areas consists of yellow mixed gravels. Same as (702), (802).	0.80-1.65
904	Deposit		Firm yellowish brown mixed gravels-natural substrate.	1.65+

<b>Trench 10</b>	<b>1.44 m x 0.80 m</b> Max Depth 2.00 m bgl	<b>NGR (centre) 345757 153030</b>	<b>9.56 m OD</b>	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth bgl (m)</b>
1000	Topsoil		Turfed. Dark grey brown clay silt. Moderate sub-rounded stone throughout. Rootlets. Loose compaction.	0.00 - 0.40
1001	Demolition layer		Firm to loose mid brown silt. Containing 25-35% mixed gravels (sub-angular to rounded 10-65mm).	0.40-0.60
1002	Natural geology		Reddish brown firm clay silt. Occasional sub-rounded stone. Variable across the site, in some areas consists of yellow mixed gravels. Same as (702), (802).	0.60-0.90
1003	Deposit		Firm yellowish brown mixed gravels-natural substrate.	0.90+



<b>Trench 11</b>		<b>1.41 m x 0.79 m</b>		<b>Max Depth 2.30 m</b>		<b>NGR (centre) 345729 153027</b>		<b>9.54 m OD</b>	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Description</b>			<b>Depth bgl (m)</b>			
1100	Topsoil		Turfed. Dark grey brown clay silt. Moderate sub-rounded stone throughout. Rootlets. Loose compaction.			0.00 - 0.30			
1101	Demolition layer		Firm to loose mid brown silt. Containing 25-35% mixed gravels (sub-angular to rounded 10-65mm).			0.30 - 0.70			
1102	Natural geology		Reddish brown firm clay silt. Occasional sub-rounded stone. Variable across the site, in some areas consists of yellow mixed gravels. Same as (702), (802).			0.70-1.10			
1103	Deposit		Firm yellowish brown mixed gravels-natural substrate.			1.10+			

<b>Trench 12</b>		<b>1.57 m x 0.75 m</b>		<b>Max Depth 2.00 m</b>		<b>NGR (centre) 345767 152962</b>		<b>9.09 m OD</b>	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Description</b>			<b>Depth bgl (m)</b>			
1200	Topsoil		Turfed. Dark grey brown clay silt. Moderate sub-rounded stone throughout. Rootlets. Loose compaction.			0-0.20			
1201	Dump deposit		Forming base of railway embankment crossing site on E-W alignment. Mixed dark brown, grey and orangey grey clay and silty clay. Occasional large gravel.			0.20-0.40			
1202	Demolition layer		Firm to loose mid brown silt. Containing 25-35% mixed gravels (sub-angular to rounded 10-65mm).			0.40-0.90			
1203	Natural geology		Reddish brown firm clay silt. Occasional sub-rounded stone. Variable across the site, in some areas consists of yellow mixed gravels. Same as (702).			0.90-1.50			
1204	Deposit		Firm yellowish brown mixed gravels-natural substrate.			1.50+			

<b>Trench 13</b>		<b>1.77 m x 0.79 m</b>		<b>Max Depth 2.20 m</b>		<b>NGR (centre) 345739 152958</b>		<b>8.99 m OD</b>	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Description</b>			<b>Depth bgl (m)</b>			
1300	Topsoil		Turfed. Dark grey brown clay silt. Moderate sub-rounded stone throughout. Rootlets. Loose compaction.			0.00 - 0.10			
1301	Dump deposit		Made ground, same as (703). Forming base of railway embankment crossing site on E-W alignment. Mixed dark brown, grey and orangey grey clay and silty clay. Occasional large gravel.			0.10-0.40			
1302	Buried soil		Same as (719). Dark greyish brown silty clay. Occasional to common course gravel.			0.40-0.75			
1303	Deposit		Firm yellowish brown mixed gravels-natural substrate.			0.75+			





<b>Trench 14</b>	<b>1.73 m x 0.66 m</b> Max Depth 2.30 m bgl		<b>NGR (centre) 345701 152953</b>	<b>8.51 m OD</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth bgl (m)</b>
1400	Topsoil		Turfed. Dark grey brown clay silt. Moderate sub-rounded stone throughout. Rootlets. Loose compaction.	0.00 - 0.30
1401	Buried soil		Same as (719). Dark greyish brown silty clay. Occasional to common course gravel.	0.30 - 0.50
1402	Deposit		Firm yellowish brown mixed gravels-natural substrate.	0.50+

<b>Trench 15</b>	<b>1.93 m x 0.65 m</b> Max Depth 2.30 m bgl		<b>NGR (centre) 345672 152948</b>	<b>8.37 m OD</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth bgl (m)</b>
1500	Topsoil		Turfed. Dark grey brown clay silt. Moderate sub-rounded stone throughout. Rootlets. Loose compaction.	0.00 - 0.35
1501	Buried soil		Same as (719). Dark greyish brown silty clay. Occasional to common course gravel.	0.35-0.60
1502	Natural geology		Reddish brown firm clay silt. Occasional sub-rounded stone. Variable across the site, in some areas consists of yellow mixed gravels. Same as (702).	0.60-1.00
1503	Deposit		Firm yellowish brown mixed gravels-natural substrate.	1.00+

<b>Trench 16</b>	<b>1.56 m x 0.84 m</b> Max Depth 0.20 m bgl		<b>NGR (centre) 345663 153017</b>	<b>9.03 m OD</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth bgl (m)</b>
1600	Topsoil		Same as (719). Dark greyish brown silty clay. Occasional to common course gravel.	0.00 - 0.20
1601	Deposit		Firm yellowish brown mixed gravels-natural substrate.	0.20+
			N.B. Overlying deposit (700) already removed during main strip.	



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