



Land North-East of Blandford Forum Dorset

Archaeological Evaluation



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Lewis Wyatt (Construction) Ltd - Wyatt Homes, The West Pimperne Pool Trust, Mr C Coats and Mr T Coats ('the clients'), to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a c. 35 ha parcel of land located to the north-east of Blandford Forum, Dorset, centred on NGR 390036 107652.

The evaluation formed part of an ongoing programme of archaeological works undertaken to support a proposed planning application submitted to North Dorset District Council for a residential led development.

The evaluation comprised of the excavation of 21 no 50m x 2m trenches targeted on the results of a geophysical survey as well as providing a random sample of the site.

The evaluation revealed a small number of archaeological features, mainly in the eastern part of the Site, and confirmed the results of the geophysical survey in indicating a low potential for the presence of archaeological remains.

Although only a very limited amount of archaeology identified during the course of the evaluation a pair of pits recorded in Trench 8 are of particular interest due to the recovery from both features of a good quantity of Middle Neolithic decorated Peterborough Ware pottery. Whilst no further evidence was immediately identified within the trench footprint of activity dating to this period, it is not to preclude that further features, which may provide an indication of the type of activity being undertaken, lie within the immediate vicinity of the trench.

The only other notable evidence recorded was within Trenches 2 and 3 where a ditch dating to the Iron Age period was recorded and is maybe an indication of a field system boundary system dating to this period.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken from the 5th to 9th November 2018.

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The fieldwork was directed by Matt Kendall, with the assistance of Tom Blencowe (Supervisor) and Elena Calabria, Anna Smaldone and Lara Tonizzo Feligioni. This report was written by Matt Kendall and edited by Damian De Rosa. Finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram. The environmental samples were processed by Sam Rogerson. The flots were sorted by Nicki Mulhall and assessed by Inés López-Dóriga. The project was managed by Damian De Rosa on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



LAND NORTH-EAST OF BLANDFORD FORUM, DORSET

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Lewis Wyatt (Construction) Ltd - Wyatt Homes, The West Pimperne Pool Trust, Mr C Coats and Mr T Coats ('the clients'), to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a c. 35 ha parcel of land located to the north-east of Blandford Forum, Dorset, centred on NGR 390036 107652 ('the Site') (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The evaluation formed part of an ongoing programme of archaeological works undertaken to support a proposed planning application submitted to North Dorset District Council, the local planning authority (LPA) for a residential led development, with a school, public open space, and a local centre, with opportunities for community retail and employment uses within the Site.

1.1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2018). The Senior Archaeologist for Dorset County Council (SA DCC) approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.4 The evaluation was part of a staged approach on determining the archaeological potential of the Site, and follows other non-intrusive archaeological work, including an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) (CgMs 2018) and a geophysical survey (Bartlett 2018).

1.1.5 The evaluation comprising 21 trial trenches was undertaken between 5th and 9th November 2018.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.

1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The evaluation area was composed of two parcels ('eastern parcel' and 'western parcel') of land on either side of the A354 Salisbury Road to the north-east of Blandford Forum (**Figure 1**), some 1.50 km to the south-west of Pimperne and 2 km south-west of Blandford Camp.

1.3.2 The entire size of the Site was 35 ha with the majority of both parcels of land divided into fields used for arable cultivation, although part of the eastern section of the western parcel is used as allotments. Mature hedgerows and trees run within, and border both parcels.



- 1.3.3 The Site slopes downhill to the south-east with an above Ordnance Datum (aOD) ranging from 87 m to 49m.
- 1.3.4 The underlying geology is mapped as the Seaford and Newhaven Chalk Formations (British Geological Survey online viewer). Superficial deposits of Clay-with-Flints are recorded in the north-western limits of the western parcel.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior DBA (CgMs 2108), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1 km study area of the proposed development. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Dorset Historic Environment Record (DHER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development

Geophysical Survey (2018)

- 2.2.1 A geophysical survey was conducted in 2018 (Bartlett 2018). The survey identified possible evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation and ditch-like linear features which may be former field systems in both areas of the Site. Potential archaeological features were also found scattered across the two areas, however it was stated that these may just be variations in the geology.

Geotechnical survey (2018)

- 2.2.2 A geotechnical survey was conducted on the Site in February 2018 comprised of 12 soakaway test pits and a further 21 trial pits (Ruddlesden Geotechnical 2018). The investigation found that beneath the topsoil Clay-With-Flint formations were encountered to a depth between 0.4 and 0.95 m within the Site. Natural chalk geology continued below the Clay-With-Flint formations to the maximum depth of the exploratory holes.
- 2.2.3 In the eastern section of the eastern parcel, close to water source, Head deposits were encountered to a depth of 2.4 m.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric and Romano-British (970,00BC – AD410)

- 2.3.1 Aerial photographs suggest the presence of a possible enclosure feature approximately 65m to the northeast of the Site (MDO23170).
- 2.3.2 A watching brief conducted during the construction of the Blandford Forum bypass (EDO1314) recorded a layer of burnt soil and flint 100m to the south of the Site (MDO3550, HEA888636). Similar deposits found in Dorset have been interpreted as being Bronze Age in date (Green 1986).
- 2.3.3 A Bronze Age settlement was discovered 350m to the northwest of the Site (HEA 888628). Several Bronze Age ditches were found in this area along with two 15 m hut circles. Finds recovered from the site included worked flints, charcoal, pottery and a carved chalk cup.
- 2.3.4 A Palaeolith had been recorded 280m to the west of the Site (HEA 1091027).



2.3.5 No Romano-British remains have been found in the Site or Study Area.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval (AD410-1500)

2.3.6 The Domesday Survey of 1086 AD lists nine separate entries for estates called Bleneford or Blaneford which are thought to lie within the later parishes of Langton Long Blandford, Blandford St Mary and Bryanston; however, it is not certain if any of these relate to the present site of the town. It is possible that the settlement may have been included in the survey as part of Pimperne. Any settlement predating the current town is likely to have been only a small village or hamlet at the time of the Domesday Survey (Dorset County Council 2011).

2.3.7 Earliest evidence for habitation at Blandford Forum comes from a shrunken medieval settlement at Stour park retail site 1.5km southwest of the Site, where Late Saxon pottery was discovered (Dorset County Council 2011).

2.3.8 A medieval turf maze has been recorded 500m to the west of the Site (HER 33551). The exact date of the maze is not known however according to the antiquarian John Hutchins the maze was ploughed out in the 18th century.

Post-medieval, 19th century and Modern (AD1500- present)

2.3.9 Assets of post-medieval to modern date within the Study Area relate to the wider development of Blandford Forum and include a cemetery, hospital, railway and pumping station (MDO23562, MDO03554, HEA 209412 and MDO27149).

2.3.10 The 1812 map of the parish of Pimperne shows the Site comprised of a number of plots of agricultural land. The same layout of the field system is also evident on the 1887 Ordnance survey map. Between 1929 and 1978, the field boundaries of both parcels were continually changed, typically to create larger more regular sized fields. Some of the anomalies identified during the geophysical survey likely relate to these former field boundaries.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

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

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

3.2 General objectives

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

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- To establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;

- To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- To make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

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

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using GPS, in the approximate positions as those proposed in the WSI (**Figure 1**).
- 4.2.2 21 trial trenches, each measuring 50 m in length and 2 m wide, were excavated in level spits using either a 360° excavator or a wheeled backhoe, equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.
- 4.2.3 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits identified was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.
- 4.2.4 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Where found, artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.
- 4.2.5 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the SA at DCC were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

- 4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections), and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.
- 4.2.7 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.8 A full photographic record was made using 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 has 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 2018). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 The SA of DCC, on behalf of the LPA, monitored the watching brief. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with both the client and the SA of DCC.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Five of the 21 excavated trial trenches contained archaeological features and deposits, indicating archaeological remains are present in the eastern parcel of the Site (**Figure 1**). **Trenches 1, 4 – 7, 9, 10 – 14, and 16 – 21** contained no archaeological features or deposits.

5.1.2 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed by period.

5.1.3 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**). **Figure 1** shows the overall layout the trenches, together with the preceding geophysical survey results (Bartlett 2018). **Figures 2 and 3** provides detail of the concentration of features in the eastern parcel of the Site.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The whole of the Site was covered by topsoil and subsoil deposits which measured between 0.30 m and 0.40 m deep in total (**Plate 1**). The only exceptions were **Trenches 9 and 14** which were located in the lower parts of the Site and accordingly had thick depths of subsoil present (**Plate 2**).

5.2.2 The natural geology seen within all the trenches was a combination of degraded Seaford and Newhaven Chalk, and Clay-with-Flints. Some of the trenches were solely one type of geology while others were seen to have a mix of both (**Plates 3 and 4**).

5.2.3 Three pit-like features were identified in Trench 17 (**Figure 3**) but investigation of one of these (**1704**) showed that these were root bowls which had decayed *in-situ* (**Plate 5**). These may relate to an old field boundary which can be seen to exist in historic mapping from 1812 to 1978.

5.3 Summary of archaeological features

Trenches 2 and 3

5.3.1 A linear, east to west, aligned ditch was identified in **Trenches 2 and 3** (**Figure 2**) and corresponded to a geophysical anomaly which was classed as *archaeological* in origin.

Measuring approximately 40 m in total length, excavation of the ditch in **Trench 3 (304)** showed that it was 2.58 m wide by 0.69 m deep, with moderate straight sides and a concave base. Excavation also established that the initial ditch had fallen out of use and had partially infilled before it was re-cut (**307**) as a smaller ditch (**Plate 6**). Pottery and flint recovered from the upper fill (**306**) of ditch **304** suggests a Late Bronze Age or Iron Age date. A soil sample taken from Fill 306 has been shown to have little significance due to the sparsity of the environmental evidence within it.

Trench 8

- 5.3.2 Two small pits **804** and **806 (Figure 2)** were identified in the middle of **Trench 8**,. Located approximately 0.50 m apart, the pits measured on average 0.69 m by 0.60 m and 0.25 m deep and had moderate straight to concave sides with concave bases (**Plates 7 and 8**). Each contained a single fill, out of which pottery was recovered and identified as Middle Neolithic Peterborough ware on the basis of characteristic rim form (from pit **804**) and whipped/twisted cord impressed decoration (both pits). Due to their seeming isolation, it is difficult to interpret their function, but it is possible that there are other features in the vicinity.

Trench 10

- 5.3.3 **Trench 10** was positioned on a geophysical anomaly which was interpreted as a *historical field boundary* and corresponded to a boundary ditch seen on historic maps. The ditch was identified at the eastern end of the trench and was recorded as **1004**. Due to it being identified on historic mapping and being post-medieval or later in date, it was not investigated further. To the west of **1004**, a modern posthole was also encountered, and which contained the remains of a metal post. This posthole may relate to the field boundary and could have been part of a fence line.

Trench 15

- 5.3.4 Trench 15 (**Figure 3**) contained a single north-east to south-west aligned linear gully. Measuring 0.55 m wide and 0.35 m deep, **1504** was recorded as having steep straight sides and a concave base (**Plate 9**). Containing a single fill, no artefacts were recovered to provide a date for this gully but given its shape in profile, it is probable that it had a drainage function.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered, consisting of pottery and worked and burnt (unworked) flint. All of the burnt flint, and one pottery sherd, were retrieved from sieved soil samples; all other finds were recovered during hand excavation on site. Pottery and worked flint is of prehistoric date, and the burnt flint is assumed to be of similar date.
- 6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are given in **Table 1**.

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

Context	Burnt Flint	Worked Flint (no.)	Pottery
102		1	
202		1	
306	624/7841	1	7/20
308	4/226	1	
805		2	28/156
807		4	9/36
Total	628/8067	10	44/212

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 This provides the primary dating evidence for the Site. The assemblage amounts to 44 sherds, weighing 212 g. The whole assemblage is of prehistoric date but includes sherds from chronologically diverse ceramic traditions. Condition is fair to poor; sherds are small, and most have suffered at least some surface and/or edge abrasion. There are a few conjoining sherds (from both ancient and new breaks). Mean sherd weight is 4.8 g.
- 6.2.2 Sherds came from three contexts. Those from pits **804** and **806** (secondary fills **805** and **807** respectively), a total of 37 sherds, can be identified as Middle Neolithic Peterborough ware on the basis of characteristic rim form (from pit **804**) and whipped/twisted cord impressed decoration (both pits). Ten sherds from pit **804** (including the diagnostic rim) and one from pit 806, are in soft-fired fabrics containing grog/clay pellets and rare flint inclusions, while other sherds are more frequently (although still sparsely) tempered with poorly sorted flint (<4mm). The rim from pit **804**, featuring horizontal rows of cord impressions on the exterior, and discrete bands of twisted cord impressions over the top and inside of the rim, is paralleled by a Fengate ware vessel from Barrow Pleck, Rushmore (Cleal 1991, fig. 7.4, P8). The body sherds also carry twisted cord impressions but are of uncertain sub-style – they could represent further Fengate ware vessel(s), or equally could be Mortlake or Ebbsfleet ware.
- 6.2.3 Six of the seven sherds from ditch **304** (secondary fill **306**) are in a medium-grained sandy fabric. Two sherds conjoin, and the group is sufficiently similar in character as to suggest that all sherds belong to a single vessel. There is one rim sherd, with a simple rounded profile, but there is not enough of the vessel present to indicate overall vessel form. The sandy fabric is not particularly chronologically distinctive, but a date range somewhere in the Iron Age seems the most likely. One other tiny body sherd from the same context, recovered from a soil sample, contains sparse, fine flint inclusions (<0.5mm), and has part of an incised line on the exterior. The date of this sherd is uncertain, and it is almost certainly residual in this context, but Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age is a possibility.

6.3 Worked flint

- 6.3.1 Ten pieces of worked flint were recovered. All are flakes, two of them broken. Raw material is chalk-derived, and colouring ranges from pale grey through bluish-grey to darker grey. Pieces from Neolithic pits **804** and **806** are in relatively fresh condition and unpatinated, while other pieces are less well preserved and have suffered edge damage, in particular the pieces from subsoil contexts **102** and **202**, suggesting that these have been redeposited.

6.3.2 The flake from **202** has been struck from a blade core and is therefore probably of Mesolithic or early Neolithic date. Other pieces cannot be closely dated. In the absence of tools or other chronologically distinctive pieces, all that can be said here is that the flakes from pits **804** and **806** would not be inconsistent with a Middle Neolithic date, while other pieces can only be broadly dated as Neolithic/Bronze Age.

6.4 Burnt flint

6.4.1 This material type, which was restricted to the fills of ditches **304** and **307**, but which occurred in ditch **304** in some quantity (just under 8 kg), is of unknown origin and is intrinsically undatable, although often taken as an indicator of prehistoric activity. This may well be the case here, as ditch **304** produced prehistoric pottery sherds (see above), but the only other dating evidence for ditch **307** was a single worked flint, which could well have been redeposited.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 A bulk sediment sample was taken from ditch **306** of prehistoric Iron Age chronology and was processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence.

7.2 Aims and Methods

7.2.1 The purpose of this assessment is to determine the potential of the environmental remains preserved at the site to address project aims and to provide archaeobotanical data valuable for wider research frameworks.

7.2.2 The 9-litre sample was processed by bucket flotation; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residue fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse fraction (>4 mm) was sorted by eye and discarded. The fine residue fractions (>4 mm) and the flots were scanned using a stereo incident light microscopy (Leica MS5 microscope) at magnifications of up to x40 for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g. *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as earthworm eggs and insects, which would not be preserved unless anoxic conditions prevailed on site. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence/absence of other environmental remains such as terrestrial and aquatic molluscs, animal bone and insects (in cases of anoxic conditions for their preservation), was recorded

7.3 Results

7.3.1 The flot was small (**Appendix 2 - Table 2**), with some roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of some stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material was poorly preserved and comprised exclusively a small amount of monocotyledon stems and root fragments. A small amount of mature wood charcoal was noted. Remains of terrestrial molluscs were also present. No other environmental evidence was preserved in the bulk sediment samples.

7.4 Discussion

7.4.1 The assemblages recovered have little significance due to the sparsity of the environmental evidence.



7.5 Further potential

- 7.5.1 The assemblages recovered so far have little potential and require no further analysis. They are not recommended for retention.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Discussion

- 8.1.1 The evaluation revealed a small number of archaeological features, mainly in the eastern part of the Site, and confirmed the results of the geophysical survey in indicating a low potential for the presence of archaeological remains. The incidence of targeted trenches matching the geophysical survey results was also shown to be inconsistent with a linear feature in Trenches 2 and 3 being present, but a further linear as indicated by the geophysical survey not being present within trench 4. A couple of small pits identified in Trench 8 were also not indicated the geophysical survey, and a linear trend indicated within the survey was shown not to be present during the investigation.
- 8.1.2 Although there was only a very limited amount of archaeology identified during the course of the evaluation a pair of pits recorded in Trench 8 are of particular interest due to the recovery from both features of a good quantity of Middle Neolithic decorated Peterborough Ware pottery. Whilst no further evidence was immediately identified within the trench footprint of activity dating to this period, it is not to preclude that further features, which may provide an indication of the type of activity being undertaken, lie within the immediate vicinity of the trench. Such activity could relate to settlement evidence or other processes or it could be as is sometimes the case with pits of this period that they are isolated short term transient events clustered within a small area, with little or no further activity in the wider vicinity.
- 8.1.3 The only other notable evidence recorded and within the same part of the site was within Trenches 2 and 3 where a ditch dating to the Iron Age period was recorded and is maybe an indication of a field system boundary system dating to this period. There was not enough evidence recovered or present to suggest that the ditch relates to more extensive activity, such as settlement or industrial activity.
- 8.1.4 The overall results of the evaluation have confirmed the results of the geophysical survey in indicating a low potential for the presence of extensive archaeological features within the site, but it has revealed notable evidence of activity dating to the Middle Neolithic period in the form of the two pits identified within Trench 8.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under the site code **210400**. Dorset County Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project. 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 Dorset County Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).



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

- 1 cardboard box of artefacts;
- 1 file/document case of paper records and A3/A4 graphics

9.3 Selection policy

9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4), with the aim of retaining only those finds which are considered to have further research potential, or which fulfil other criteria within the Museum's collecting policy.

9.3.2 In this instance, the recovery of Neolithic pottery is of some interest, although quantities are small; these sherds, and the associated worked flint, should certainly be retained. The other prehistoric pottery should also be retained, in order to enable a review of its potential dating. The burnt (unworked) flint, as undatable material of unknown function, has already been discarded. The remaining finds (worked flint which is not chronologically distinctive, and which may have been redeposited) is considered to have limited further potential and could be targeted for discard, but should be reviewed in the light of any further finds made if further mitigation is carried out on the Site.

9.3.3 The selection policy will be agreed with the museum, and will be fully documented in the project archive.

9.4 Security copy

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

9.5 OASIS

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

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.



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

10.2 Third party data copyright

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



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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

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

Trench 1	50 m x 2 m		NGR 389813.25 170214.89	48.48 – 50.20 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
101	Topsoil		Dark brown silty clay with common sub-angular flints (0.03 m).	0 – 0.28 m
102	Subsoil		Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with moderate sub-angular flints (<0.03 m) and rare fine to medium chalk inclusions.	0.28 – 0.37 m
103	Natural		Degraded chalk bedrock with Clay-with-Flint stripes	0.37 m+

Trench 2	50 m x 2 m		NGR 389999.55 107318.19	48.14 – 49.39 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
201	Topsoil		Dark brown silty clay with common sub-angular flints (<0.03 m).	0 – 0.26 m
202	Subsoil		Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with moderate sub-angular flints (<0.03 m) and rare fine to medium chalk inclusions.	0.26 – 0.36 m
203	Natural		Degraded chalk bedrock.	0.36 m+
204	Ditch	FW 205	Linear ditch (1.52 m wide) running roughly east to west and the same feature as 0304. Unexcavated	-
205	Secondary fill	FO 204	Uppermost fill of ditch 0204. Mid reddish brown silty clay with moderate sub-angular flints (<0.05 m). Derived from natural depositional processes.	-

Trench 3	50 m x 2 m		NGR 389963.63 107318.53	48.60 – 51.88 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
301	Topsoil		Dark brown silty clay with sparse sub-angular flints (<0.03 m).	0 – 0.32 m
302	Subsoil		Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with moderate sub-angular flints (<0.03 m) and rare fine chalk inclusions.	0.32 – 0.46 m
303	Natural		Degraded chalk bedrock	0.46 m+
304	Ditch	FW 305 – 306	East to west aligned ditch with moderate straight sides and a concave base. Measures 2.58 m wide and 0.69 m deep. Possible enclosure/boundary ditch.	0.69 m deep
305	Primary fill	FO 304	Light orange brown silty clay with abundant sub-rounded to sub-angular chalk inclusions. Derived from side erosion/stabilisation soon after construction.	0.18 m thick
306	Secondary fill	FO 304	Mid brown sandy clay with common sub-angular to sub-rounded chalk fragments (<0.04 m). Derived from natural depositional processes.	0.40 m thick
307	Ditch	FW 308	Later re-cut of 0304 measuring 2.04 m wide by 0.45 m deep, with moderate straight to convex sides and a concave base. Later boundary ditch	0.45 m deep
308	Secondary fill	FO 308	Dark brown silty clay with common sub-rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles and nodules (<0.15 m). Derived from natural depositional processes.	0.45 m thick

Trench 4	50 m x 2 m		NGR 389892.35 107383.34	53.93 – 56.64 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
401	Topsoil		Dark brown silty clay with sparse sub-angular flints (<0.03 m).	0 – 0.25 m



402	Subsoil		Mid brown silty clay loam with moderate chalk (<0.01 m) and very rare sub-angular flints (<0.02 m).	0.25 – 0.31 m
403	Natural		Degraded chalk bedrock with periglacial stripes.	0.31 m+

Trench 5	50 m x 2 m		NGR 389840.21 107426.57	56.68 – 59.49 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
501	Topsoil		Mid reddish brown silty clay with moderate sub-angular chalk fragments (<0.04 m)	0 – 0.23 m
502	Natural		Degraded chalk natural	0.23 m+

Trench 6	50 m x 2 m		NGR 389926.84 107544.61	60.42 – 60.75 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
601	Topsoil		Dark brown silty clay with moderate chalk fragments and rare sub-rounded to sub-angular flints (<0.04 m).	0 – 0.29 m
602	Subsoil		Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with moderate to common chalk fragments.	0.29 – 0.38 m
603	Natural		Degraded chalk natural	0.38 m+

Trench 7	50 m x 2 m		NGR 390011.70 107475.85	53.58 – 56.02 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
701	Topsoil		Dark brown silty clay with moderate sub-angular flints (<0.03 m) and common fine chalk inclusions.	0 – 0.25 M
702	Subsoil		Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with sparse sub-angular flints (<0.03 m) and sparse chalk inclusions.	0.25 – 0.31 m
703	Natural		Degraded chalk natural	0.31 m+

Trench 8	50 m x 2 m		NGR 390059.10 107388.65	47.30 – 50.97 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
801	Topsoil		Dark brown silty clay with moderate sub-angular flints (<0.03 m)	0 – 0.23 m
802	Subsoil		Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with common sub-angular flints and sparse fine chalk inclusions.	0.23 – 0.35 m
803	Natural		Degraded chalk natural with patches of Clay-with-Flints.	0.35 m+
804	Pit	FW 805	Small oval pit measuring 0.77 m by 0.62 m and 0.22 m deep. Has moderate straight to concave sides and a concave base.	0.22 m deep
805	Secondary fill	FO 804	Mid reddish brown silty loam with a grey hue and containing sparse sub-angular to sub-rounded flints (<0.04 m). Derived from natural depositional processes.	0.22 m thick
806	Pit	FW 807	Sub-circular pit measuring 0.60 m by 0.58 m and 0.27 m deep. Has moderate straight to concave sides and a concave base.	0.27 m deep
807	Secondary fill	FO 806	Mid reddish brown silty loam with a grey hue and containing moderate sub-angular flints (<0.10 m). Derived from natural depositional processes.	0.27 m thick

Trench 9	50 m x 2 m		NGR 390221.40 107522.47	45.18 – 45.31 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
901	Topsoil		Dark brown silty clay with sparse sub-angular flints (<0.03 m) and moderate chalk flecks (<0.02 m)	0 – 0.42 m
902	Subsoil		Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with moderate chalk flecks and rare sub-angular flints (<0.05 m).	0.42 – 0.52 m



903	Natural		Degraded chalk natural	0.52 m+
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Trench 10	50 m x 2 m		NGR 390212.40 107595.02	46.05 – 49.33 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
101	Topsoil		Dark brown silty clay with very rare sub-angular flints (<0.03 m) and moderate chalk flecks.	0 – 0.30 m
1002	Subsoil		Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with common sub-angular flints (<0.02 m) and moderate chalk flecks.	0.30 – 0.43 m
1003	Natural		Degraded chalk bedrock.	0.43 m+
1004	Ditch	FW 1005	Post-medieval field boundary ditch measuring 2.60 m wide. Not excavated.	-
1005	Secondary fill	FO 1004	Uppermost fill of ditch 1004. Mid reddish brown silty clay with grey hue and common sub-angular flints (<0.05 m). Derived from natural depositional processes.	-
1006	Posthole	FW 1007	Modern posthole with remains of metal post.	-
1007	deliberate backfill	FO 1006	Deliberate backfill of posthole 1006 including metal post.	-

Trench 11	50 m x 2 m		NGR 390112.87 107609.66	53.31 – 53.48 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1101	Topsoil		Dark reddish brown silty clay with sparse sub-angular flints (<0.03 m) and sparse chalk flecks.	0 – 0.22 m
1102	Subsoil		Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with rare sub-angular flints (<0.03 m) and moderate chalk fragments.	0.22 – 0.45 m
1103	Natural		Degraded chalk bedrock	0.45 m+

Trench 12	50 m x 2 m		NGR 390058.99 107718.93	54.72 – 56.19 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1201	Topsoil		Dark brown silty clay with sparse sub-angular flints (<0.04 m) and moderate chalk flecks.	0 – 0.30 m
1202	Subsoil		Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with common sub-angular flints (<0.05 m) and rare chalk flecks.	0.30 – 42 m
1203	Natural		Degraded chalk bedrock	0.42 m+

Trench 13	50 m x 2 m		NGR 390003.39 107639.97	58.63 – 59.54 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1301	Topsoil		Dark brown silty clay with sparse flints (<0.01 m) and common chalk flecks (<0.02 m).	0 – 0.28 m
1302	Subsoil		Mid reddish brown silty clay loam containing moderate chalk flecks.	0.28 – 0.33 m
1303	Natural		Degraded chalk bedrock	0.33 m+

Trench 14	50 m x 2 m		NGR 389935.71 107795.54	59.36 – 61.72 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1401	Topsoil		Dark brown silty clay with sparse sub-angular flints (<0.04 m) and sparse chalk flecks.	0 – 0.26 m
1402	Subsoil/ Colluvium		Mid reddish brown silty clay with moderate to common sub-angular flints (<0.03 m) and rare chalk flecks.	0.26 – 0.49 m
1403	Natural		Degraded chalk bedrock.	0.49 m+



Trench 15	50 m x 2 m		NGR 389891.25 107722.84	64.15 – 65.03 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1501	Topsoil		Dark brown silty clay with sparse sub-angular flints (<0.04 m) and sparse chalk flecks.	0 – 0.25 m
1502	Subsoil		Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with moderate to sparse sub-angular flints (<0.03 m) and occasional chalk flecks.	0.25 – 0.42 m
1503	Natural		Degraded chalk bedrock.	0.42 m+
1504	Gully	FW 1505	North-east to south-west aligned drainage gully measuring 0.55 m wide and 0.35 m deep. Has steep straight sides and a concave base. Undated	0.35 m deep
1505	Secondary fill	FO 1504	Mid reddish brown silty clay containing sparse sub-angular flints (<0.05 m) and rare charcoal flecks.	0.35 m thick

Trench 16	50 m x 2 m		NGR 389847.30 107630.10	65.86 – 66.19 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1601	Topsoil		Dark brown silty clay containing sparse sub-angular flints (<0.05 m).	0 – 0.24 m
1602	Subsoil		Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with common sub-angular to sub-rounded flints (<0.03 m).	0.24 – 0.30 m
1603	Natural		Degraded chalk bedrock	0.30 m+

Trench 17	50 m x 2 m		NGR 390221.40 107522.47	45.18 – 45.31 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1701	Topsoil		Dark brown silty clay with sparse sub-angular flints (<0.05 m) and sparse chalk flecks.	0 – 0.21 m
1702	Subsoil		Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with rare sub-angular flints (<0.03 m) and sparse chalk flecks.	0.21 – 0.30 m
1703	Natural		Degraded chalk natural and Clay-with-Flints.	0.30 m+
1704	Tree throw	FW 1705	Root bowl of a post-medieval tree which formed part of a field boundary. Measures 1.32 m by 1.33 m and 0.34m deep, with moderate concave to straight sides and a flat base.	0.34 m deep
1705	Organic fill	FO 1704	In-situ decay of a tree root system with natural depositional processes.	0.34 m thick
1706	Tree throw	FW 1707	Root bowl of a post-medieval tree which formed part of a field boundary. Measures 1.80 m by 0.94 m. Unexcavated	-
1707	Organic fill	FO 1706	In-situ decay of a tree root system with natural depositional processes.	-
1708	Tree throw	FW 1709	Root bowl of a post-medieval tree which formed part of a field boundary. Measures 2.06 m by 1.40m. Unexcavated	-
1709	Organic fill	FO 1708	In-situ decay of a tree root system with natural depositional processes.	-

Trench 18	50 m x 2 m		NGR 389594.03 107991.94	82.38 – 83.27 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1801	Topsoil		Dark brown silty clay with moderate sub-angular flints (<0.03 m) and common chalk flecks.	0 – 0.25 m
1802	Natural		Degraded chalk bedrock.	0.25 m+



Trench 19	50 m x 2 m		NGR 389520.56 108041.63	84.96 – 86.07 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1901	Topsoil		Dark brown silty clay with moderate sub-angular flints (<0.03 m) and common chalk flecks.	0 – 0.28 m
1902	Natural		Degraded chalk bedrock	0.28 m+

Trench 20	50 m x 2 m		NGR 389391.35 108107.46	87.64 – 87.99 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
2001	Topsoil		Dark brown silty clay with sparse sub-angular flints (<0.03 m) and sparse chalk flecks.	0 – 0.33 m
2002	Subsoil		Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with rare sub-angular flints (<0.03 m) and rare chalk flecks.	0.33 – 0.50 m
2003	Natural		Degraded chalk bedrock.	0.50 m+

Trench 21	50 m x 2 m		NGR 389287.16 108160.00	89.10 – 89.14 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
2101	Topsoil		Dark brown silty clay containing very rare sub-angular flints (<0.03 m) and rare chalk flecks.	0 – 0.27 m
2102	Subsoil		Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with very rare sub-angular flints (<0.03 m) and rare chalk flecks.	0.27 – 0.32 m
2103	Natural		Degraded chalk bedrock.	0.32 m+



Appendix 2: Environmental Data

Table 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (l)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Comments (Preservation)
304	306	1	9	20	40%, B, E	-	-	-	C	Monocot stems and roots	1ml	Mature	Moll-t	Poor

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), F = mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia, E = earthworm eggs, I = insects; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs.



Appendix 3 OASIS summary

OASIS ID: wessexar1-334412

Project details

Project name	Land North-East of Blandford Forum, Dorset
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Lewis Wyatt (Construction) Ltd - Wyatt Homes, The West Pimperne Pool Trust, Mr C Coats and Mr T Coats ('the clients'), to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a c. 35 ha parcel of land located to the north-east of Blandford Forum, Dorset, centred on NGR 390036 107652. The evaluation formed part of an ongoing programme of archaeological works undertaken to support a proposed planning application submitted to North Dorset District Council for a residential led development. The evaluation comprised of the excavation of 21 no 50m x 2m trenches targeted on the results of a geophysical survey as well as providing a random sample of the site. The evaluation revealed a small number of archaeological features, mainly in the eastern part of the Site, and confirmed the results of the geophysical survey in indicating a low potential for the presence of archaeological remains. Although only a very limited amount of archaeology identified during the course of the evaluation a pair of pits recorded in Trench 8 are of particular interest due to the recovery from both features of a good quantity of Middle Neolithic decorated Peterborough Ware pottery. Whilst no further evidence was immediately identified within the trench footprint of activity dating to this period, it is not to preclude that further features, which may provide an indication of the type of activity being undertaken, lie within the immediate vicinity of the trench. The only other notable evidence recorded was within Trenches 2 and 3 where a ditch dating to the Iron Age period was recorded and is maybe an indication of a field system boundary system dating to this period. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken from the 5th to 9th November 2018</p>
Project dates	Start: 05-11-2018 End: 09-11-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	210400 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	PIT Middle Neolithic
Monument type	DITCH Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Middle Neolithic
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
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Site location	DORSET NORTH DORSET BLANDFORD FORUM Land North-East of Blandford Forum, Dorset
Study area	35 Hectares
Site coordinates	390036 107652 390036 00 00 N 107652 00 00 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Dorset County Council's Senior Archaeologist
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Damian De Rosa
Project supervisor	Matt Kendall
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer and Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Lewis Wyatt (Construction) Ltd - Wyatt Homes, The West Pimperne Pool Trust, Mr C Coats and Mr T Coats

Project archives

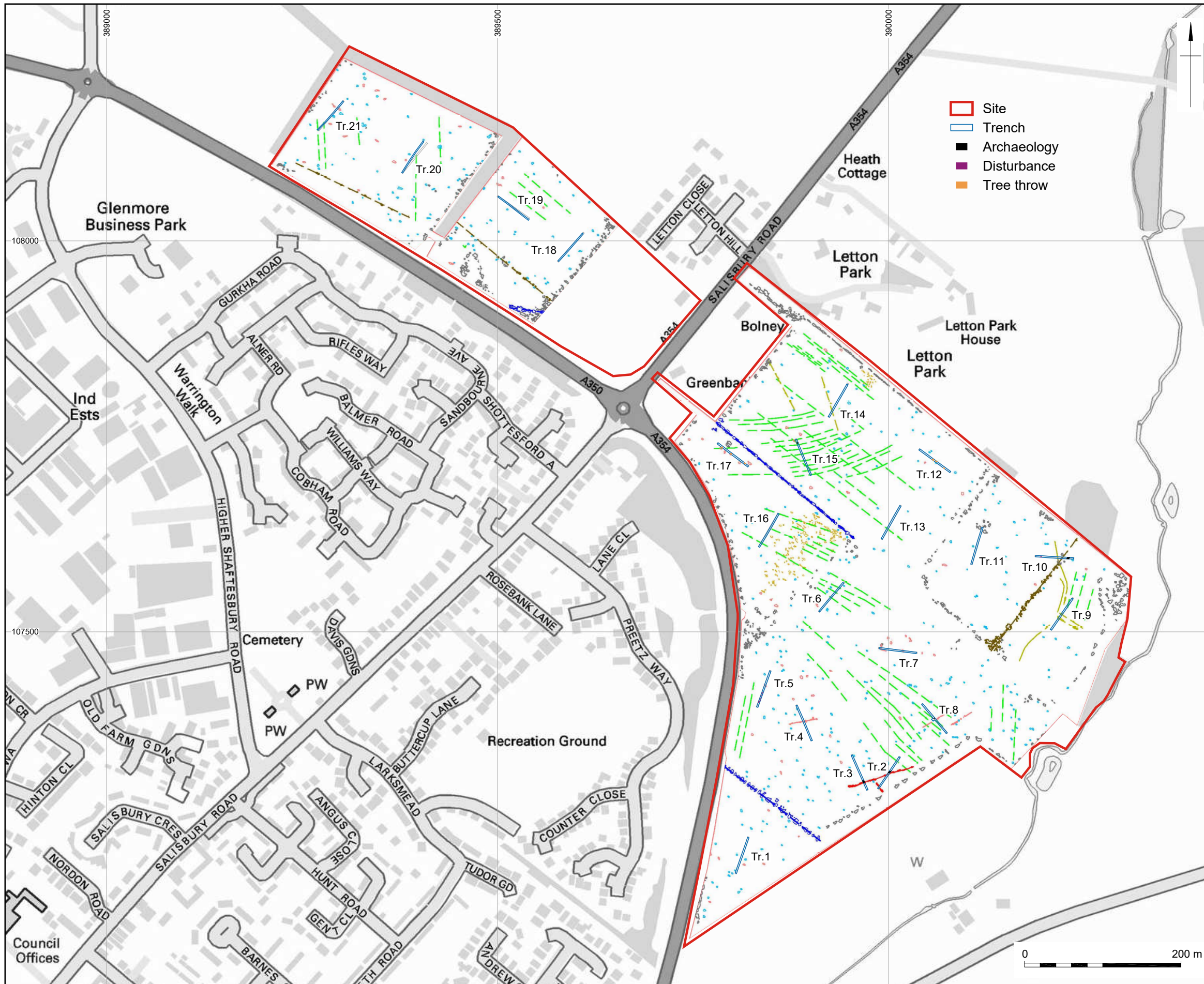
Physical Archive recipient	Dorset County Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	ADS
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Dorset County Museum
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

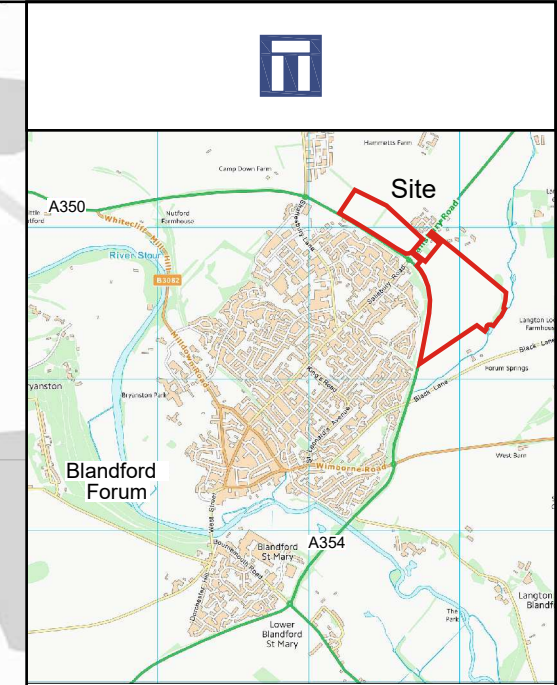
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land North-East of Blandford Forum, Dorset Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Kendall, M.
Other bibliographic details	210400.03
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology



Place of issue or publication	Salisbury
Description	WA standard A4 format text report with figures and plates



- Site
- Trench
- Archaeology
- Disturbance
- Tree throw



Geophysical survey interpretation

- ⚡ magnetic anomalies (archaeological ?)
- ⚡ pit-like (and other) features (mainly natural ?)
- ⚡ weak linear features (natural / non-archaeological ?)
- ⚡ disturbances corresponding to former field boundaries
- ⚡ clusters of small background anomalies (natural ?)
- ⚡ strong (recent ?) magnetic disturbances
- ⚡ cultivation ?
- ⚡ strong (ferrous) magnetic anomalies
- ⚡ pipe

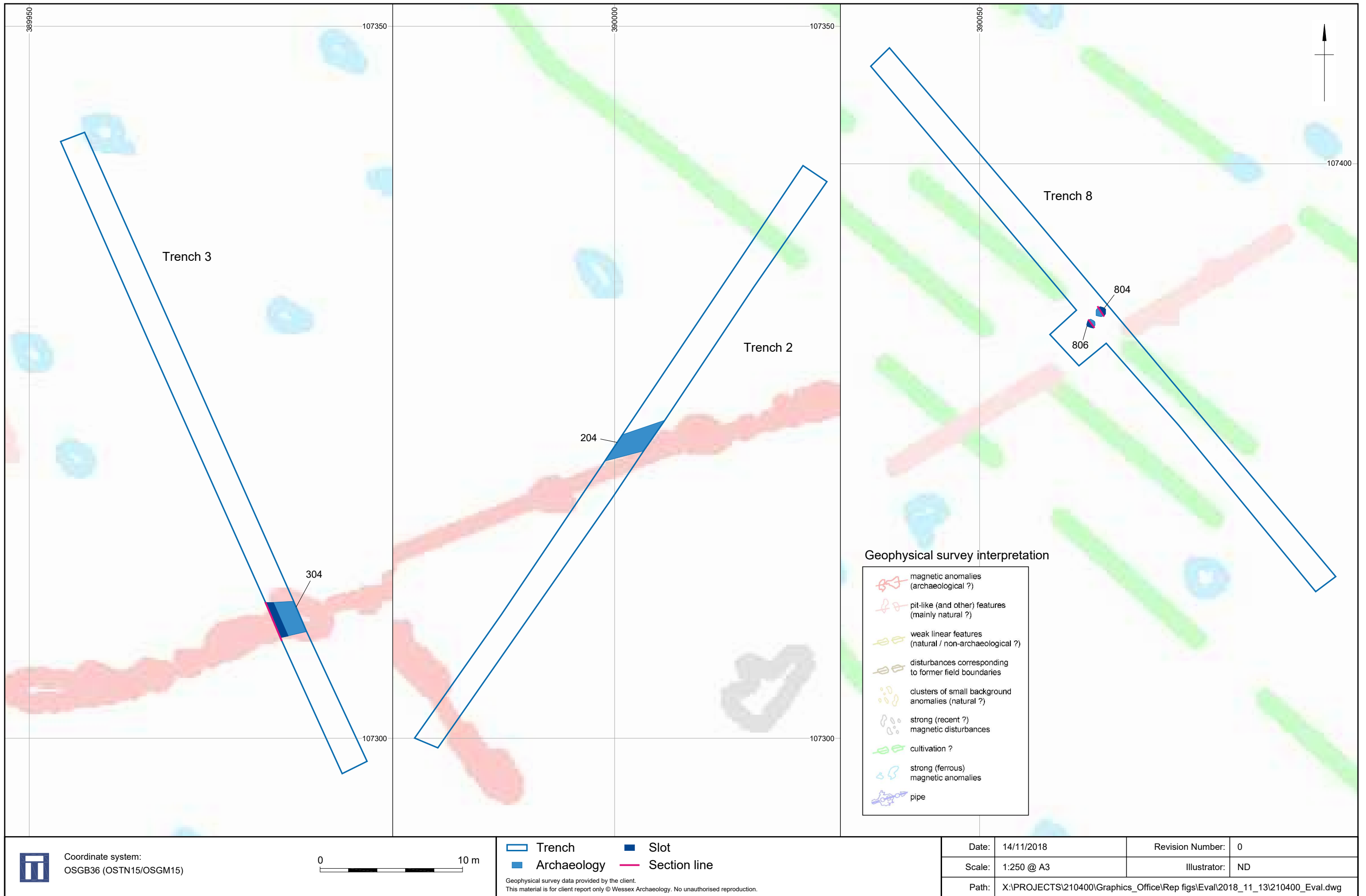
Coordinate system:
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

Geophysical survey data provided by the client.
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Date:	14/11/2018
Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:50,000; 1:5000 @ A3
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Site and trench location plan

Figure 1



Detailed plan of trenches 2, 3 and 8

Figure 2



Detailed plan of trenches 15 and 17

Figure 3



Plate 1: North-east facing representative section of Trench 4 (1 x 1 m)



Plate 2: West facing representative section of Trench 14 (1 x 1 m)


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Plate 3: Trench 19 viewed from the south-east (1 x 2 m, 1 x 1 m)



Plate 4: Trench 7 viewed from the east (1 x 2 m, 1 x 1 m)

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Plate 5: North-north-east facing section of root bowl 1704 (1 x 1 m)

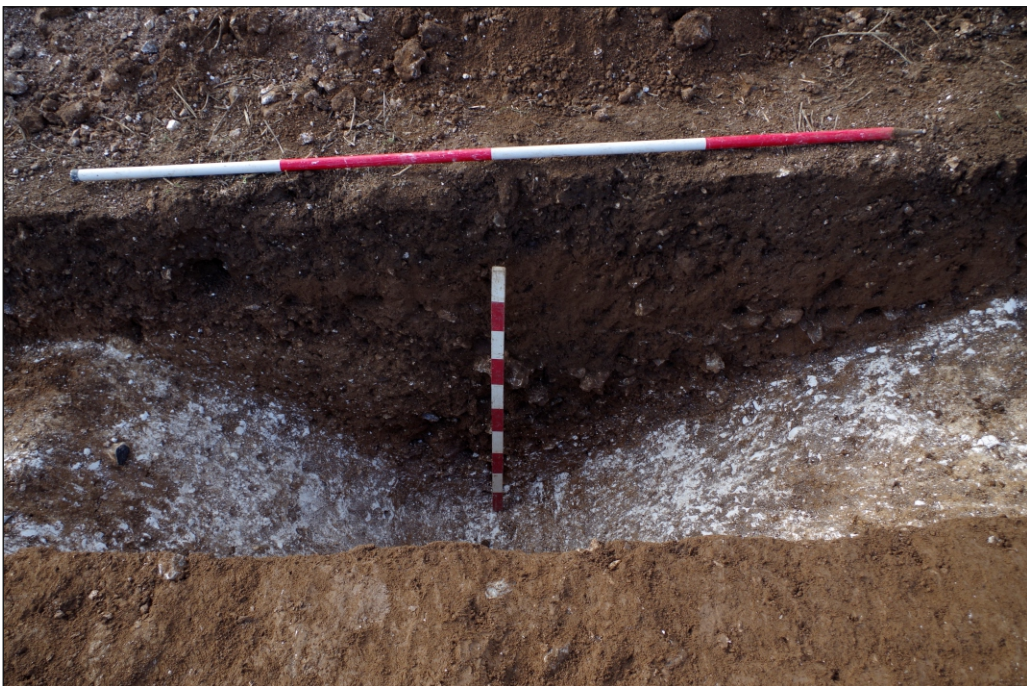


Plate 6: North-east facing section of ditches 304 and 307 (1 x 2 m, 1 x 1 m)


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Plate 7: North-east facing section of pit 804 (1 x 0.50 m)



Plate 8: South-west facing section of pit 806 (1 x 0.50 m)



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Plate 9: North-east facing section of gully 1504
(1 x 1 m)

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