Land West of Siskin Chase
Cullompton, Devon

Archaeological Evaluation

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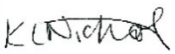
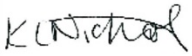
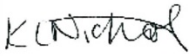
1	27/11/2020	Draft submitted to client	CBM	
2	08/12/2020	Updated following comments by client	CBM	
3	07/01/2021	Updated following comments by client	CBM	

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 4.92-hectare parcel of land to the west of Siskin Chase, Cullompton, Devon, centred on NGR 301210 106270. The evaluation, which was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition for the residential development of the land (19/01839/MOUT), comprised ten 1.8 m by 25 m trial trenches, equating to a 1 % sample of the site. The archaeological work was undertaken between the 19 and 21 October 2020.

Archaeological features were uncovered in two trenches in the north-west corner of the site. The features comprised an undated gully and a pit, both sealed by colluvium. The pit contained an undiagnostic struck chert flake in fresh condition and a faience bead with a potential date range spanning the Early Bronze Age to early medieval period. The pit has been tentatively dated to the Bronze Age.

Following a site monitoring visit on 20 October 2020, and confirmed via email dated 21 October 2020, the Senior Historic Environment Officer stated that 'on the basis of the fieldwork, no further mitigation is required'.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Richard Harrison from Taylor Wimpey for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, and Rosey Meara (CSA Environmental Planning) for facilitating the work. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Senior Historic Environment Officer, who monitored the project for Mid Devon County Council, and to Channel Plant for their cooperation and help on site.

Land West of Siskin Chase, Cullompton

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 4.92 ha parcel of land located west of Siskin Chase, Cullompton, Devon, EX15 1UF, centred on NGR 301210 106270 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The proposed development comprises a residential development of up to 105 dwellings, associated landscaping, public open space and allotments together with vehicle and pedestrian access from Siskin Chase and pedestrian access from Colebrooke Lane.

1.1.3 A planning application (19/01839/MOUT) submitted to Mid Devon District Council, was allowed following a committee resolution to grant planning permission. The committee heard the application on the 9 September 2020, and a Decision Notice was issued on 18 September 2020 subject to conditions. The following condition relates to archaeology:

Condition 7: *Development shall not begin until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved scheme, or such details as may be subsequently agreed in writing by the LPA.*

1.1.4 The archaeological evaluation is the first intrusive stage of a programme of archaeological works that is being implemented through the condition on a planning consent that has been already granted by the Planning Authority. The evaluation may not on its own discharge the condition.

1.1.5 The evaluation follows other non-intrusive archaeological work, including geophysical survey (CSA 2018, Appendix C) and Heritage Statement (CSA 2018). The scope of any further work will be determined by the results of this initial evaluation of the site and further mitigation may be required.

1.1.6 Further mitigation may take the form of additional evaluation trenches, area excavation of areas of archaeological sensitivity, strip, map and recording of all or part of the development site or a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during construction works.

1.1.7 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 2020). The Senior Historic Environment Officer approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.8 The evaluation comprising 10 trial trenches (1 % sample) was undertaken between the 19 and 21 October 2020.

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 regarding the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The evaluation area comprises a single large arable field on the western margins of Cullompton, Devon. The site is bounded by the rear gardens of residential properties fronting onto Siskin Chase, Starlings Roost and Nightingale Lawns to the east, Stafford Park (rugby pitch) to the north, Kia Ora Ponds (fishing lakes) to the west, and a tributary of the Cole Brook and Colebrook Lane to the south.

1.3.2 The site is located on a south-west facing slope to the east of a tributary of the Cole Brook. Existing ground levels slope down from 69 m aOD in the north-east corner to 59 m aOD along the southern margin of the site. In places, the ground within the northern part of the site forms a relatively level plateau.

1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Permian Sandstone of the Cadbury Breccia Formation. The solid geology is overlain by superficial deposits of head gravel on the highest part of the site, colluvial diamicton on the hillslopes, and alluvial silt, clay and sand on the valley floor (British Geological Survey online viewer). Intrusive geotechnical works recorded coarse river gravel beneath the fine-grained alluvium (Geoconsulting Engineering 2018).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior Heritage Assessment (CSA 2018), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1 km study area of the site. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Devon Historic Environment Record (HER) 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

2.2.1 No previous intrusive archaeological investigations are recorded within the site boundary. Previous archaeological investigations recorded within the study area comprise a geophysical survey (CSA 2018, Appendix C). The survey revealed anomalies corresponding with former field boundaries recorded on the historic mapping, as well as an additional anomaly also likely a field boundary. It also identified anomalies which might be associated with localised mineral extraction, or which might be of recent or non-archaeological origin. In addition, it recorded a discrete anomaly which might be associated with the 700-yard marker of the 19th century rifle range, although this is by no means certain. This anomaly might equally be associated with mineral extraction or be of non-archaeological origin.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

2.3.1 All information below has been sourced from the Heritage Assessment produced by CSA Environmental (CSA 2018).

Prehistoric and Romano-British (2,600 BC – AD 410)

2.3.2 Recorded evidence of prehistoric activity in the study area comprise a Bronze Age socketed axe that was found approximately 500 m to the north of the site, and two pieces of struck flint that were recovered during trial trench evaluation to the north of Knowle Lane, approximately 200 m to the north of the site. The struck flint is also likely to be Bronze Age.

2.3.3 The archaeological works to the north of Knowle Lane also recorded Romano-British settlement, initially identified by geophysical survey. Subsequent trial trench evaluation recorded pits, ditches and postholes as well as pottery and slag indicating settlement and/or industry. Finds were concentrated on an area of locally higher ground, approximately 270 m to the north of the site. The southernmost trenches had a lower density of remains, which suggested that activity tailed off towards to the south.

2.3.4 Cropmarks, visible on aerial photographs, are recorded immediately north of the site. These include three circular anomalies. These are interpreted as probable fungal rings, though it is also possible that they may be ring ditches of Bronze Age, Iron Age or Romano-British date. A putative enclosure, also potentially a natural feature, is also recorded in the same field.

2.3.5 In the wider area, two Roman forts and associated features dating to the 1st century AD, are located on St Andrew's Hill, north-west of Cullompton, approximately 800 m to the north-east of the site. A Roman cemetery has been identified at Shortlands Lane, approximately 750 m to the east of the site, most likely associated with the military activity at St Andrew's Hill. A prosperous Romano-British civilian settlement of 2nd to 4th century date is also recorded at Shortlands Lane.

Early Medieval and Medieval (AD 410 - 1540)

2.3.6 Early medieval activity was most likely focused within the historic core of Cullompton, 400 m to the north-east of the site. There is no evidence of early medieval activity in the immediate vicinity of the site.

2.3.7 The settlement of Cullompton continued to develop through the medieval period, and the site is likely to have been in agricultural at this time. Historic Landscape Characterisation data identifies the fields within the site as medieval enclosures based on strip fields and the reverse-S plan form of the northern and (part of) the eastern boundaries supports this. While medieval fields would have been open, i.e. without subdividing hedgerows, subsequent piecemeal enclosure often followed the curvilinear boundaries of medieval furlongs. Other field boundaries in the wider area have been suggested as of early medieval or medieval origin based on their planform.

2.3.8 Historic hedges in Devon are generally hedgebanks, also known as 'Devon Hedge', which comprise earth banks topped with vegetation. They are often of medieval origin, and some may be early medieval. The southern site boundary is hedgebank, which is visible from the south side. The northern and eastern boundaries are marked by fence with hedge vegetation beyond with no obvious hedgebank, although a bank may exist in places, obscured by vegetation. The western boundary is formed by the brook, with evidence of a bank on its western bank.

Post-medieval and Modern (1540 - present)

2.3.9 The site is depicted on the Cullompton Parish Tithe Map of 1841 as five fields. The accompanying apportionment indicates that they comprised a mixture of arable and pasture. Those boundaries with a reverse-S shape in profile most likely fossilize medieval agricultural furlongs. The straight internal boundaries in the southern area of the site were most likely established in the post-medieval period. The Tithe Map records a track at the south-eastern edge of the site the boundaries of which appear to still be present, although heavily overgrown. The southern field is named 'pit meadow' in the apportionment register, suggesting mineral extraction may have taken place, although it should be noted that no obvious extraction pits were observed either during site visits or on lidar data sets. The HER records several aggregate extraction pits and quarries to the south-east of the site.

2.3.10 The 1880 Ordnance Survey map shows a rifle range crossing the southern part of the site. This was associated with the Rifle Volunteer Movement, a feature of later 19th-century Victorian life. The Volunteer Movement developed in response to the perceived threat of French invasion, particularly in the context of the Franco-Austrian war of 1859. The range to the south-west of Cullompton extended 1000 yards, with the target located to the north-east of the Site. The 700-yard marker post was located within the Site boundary.

2.3.11 The rifle range is not marked on the 1904 Ordnance Survey map, and it had presumably fallen out of use by this time. By 1972, all the field boundaries within the site had been removed, resulting in the present large open field.

2.3.12 Since the 1970s, most of the surrounding agricultural land has been converted for residential or recreational use. This began with the creation of Stafford Park rugby pitch to the north of the site in 1980 and was followed by residential development of the land to the east and south of the site in the mid to late 1990s. In 2001, two lakes were excavated on the land to the west of the site to create the Kia Ora fishery.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and in compliance with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a), were to:

- provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- 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;
- establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;

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

3.3 Site-specific objectives

3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site, the site-specific objectives defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) were to:

- test the results of the geophysical survey (SCA 2018, Appendix C);
- locate, identify and to investigate and record the presence/absence of archaeological features or deposits;
- confirm the extent, date, character, relationship, condition and significance of archaeological features, artefacts and deposits within the proposed development area;
- inform the scope and nature of any requirements for any potential further fieldwork, whether additional watching brief, excavation or post-excavation work;
- enable the preservation by record of any archaeological features or deposits uncovered; and
- place any identified archaeological remains within their historical context.

4 METHODS

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI (**Figure 1**).

4.2.2 Ten trial trenches, each measuring approximately 25 m in length and 1.8 m wide, were targeted on the results of the preceding geophysical survey. This equates to a 1% sample of the proposed development area, targeted on geophysical survey anomalies. The trenches were excavated in level spits using a 360º excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or 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 was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.

4.2.4 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. 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 One long face of each evaluation trench was cleaned by hand to allow the site stratigraphy to be understood, and for the identification of archaeological features.

4.2.6 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the Senior Historic Environment Officer 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

4.2.7 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including 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.

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 OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.9 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 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.

4.2.10 Each of the long faces of evaluation trenches that were cleaned by hand, were drawn at a scale of 1:50.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 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 monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA and attended a monitoring meeting on site on 20 October 2020. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Senior Historic Environment Officer.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A total of ten trenches were excavated, two of which contained archaeological features. These were both located in the north-west corner of the site (**Figure 1**).

5.1.2 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**). **Figure 1** shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches, together with the preceding geophysical survey results (CSA 2018, Appendix C). **Figure 2** provides detail of the features in the north-west part of the site.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The natural geology of the site comprised a sandy or silty clay that varied from yellowish brown, to grey and reddish brown in colour.

5.2.2 In Trenches 1 and 2, the natural geology was overlain by approximately 0.20 m of colluvium. This sealed the two archaeological features (see below), which suggest that the colluvium is a relatively recent accumulation resulting from agricultural activity from the late prehistoric or later periods (**Plates 1 and 2**)

5.2.3 The natural geology, and in the case of trenches 1 and 2 the colluvium, was overlain by 0.10–0.25 m of silty clay subsoil, which was in turn sealed by 0.18–0.35 m of grey-brown silty clay topsoil.

5.3 Results

5.3.1 Two features were recorded in the north-west corner of the site. A small gully (108) in Trench 1, and a shallow pit (205) in Trench 2, both of which were cut into the natural geology and sealed by colluvium.

5.3.2 Gully 108 (**Plate 3**), which was 0.33 m wide and 0.08 m deep, probably represents the base of a heavily truncated ditch, possibly a field boundary.

5.3.3 Pit 205 (**Plate 4**) was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.88 m by 0.72 m wide and 0.10 m deep. The pit was 100% excavated and sampled for environmental purposes. It contained two artefacts; a piece of locally sourced struck chert of uncertain date, and a faience bead. Environmental remains from the pit indicate burnt hazel nuts and emmer wheat. Although the precise date of the finds is uncertain, together they suggest that pit 205 is most likely to be of prehistoric, probably Bronze Age, date.

5.3.4 In common with the gully, the pit appears to have been heavily truncated by ploughing. The function of the pit is unknown.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1.1 Very small quantities of finds were recovered from Trenches 2 and 3. A broken flake of cherty flint (44 grams) and part of a turquoise faience segmented bead (**Plate 5**, less than 1 gram; 4 mm in diameter) came from the fill (206) of pit 205, the bead fragment being found during the processing of the environmental sample taken from this context (see section 7 below).

6.1.2 Faience is a glass-like material, made by heating silica and copper-mineral colourants to high temperatures. This technology was introduced into Britain from the Continent during the Early Bronze Age and the faience was generally used to make beads or pendants (Sheridan et. al. 2004). Segmented beads were the most common form made during the Bronze Age, but beads of this shape were also made during the Romano-British period, especially during the late 3rd and 4th centuries AD (although by this time most were made of true glass), and large examples (10-15 mm in diameter) continued to be made into the early medieval period (Guido 1978, 93). It is therefore difficult to date the bead fragment by itself with any certainly.

6.1.3 Although broken, the cherty flint flake survives in fresh condition. The raw material used for this piece is available locally, present in both the thin layer of clay-with-flint which overlies the Greensand scarp forming the edge of the Blackdown Hills to the east of the town and

the Whitecliffe Chert Member (a bed of fine- to coarse- grained sandstone and calcarenite with horizons of nodular and tabular chert, up to 32 m thick), which forms part of the Upper Greensand itself. Unfortunately, the flake is not particularly chronologically diagnostic, although its association with the bead fragment makes a prehistoric, probably Bronze Age, date most likely for this feature.

6.1.4 The five sherds of pottery (20 grams) from the topsoil (301) of Trench 3 all date from the 17th or 18th century. They comprise two internally glazed earthenware sherds, one plain red, the other fired to a pale pinkish buff colour, and three scraps of tin glazed ware.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 A bulk sediment sample was taken from pit 205 and was processed for the recovery and assessment of environmental evidence.

7.1 Aims and Methods

7.1.1 The purpose of this assessment was to determine the potential of the site for the preservation of environmental evidence and the potential of the environmental remains preserved at the site to address project aims and to provide data valuable for wider research frameworks. The nature of this assessment follows recommendations set up by Historic England (Campbell et al. 2011).

7.1.2 The 16-litre sample was processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse fraction (>4 mm) were sorted by eye and discarded. The environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots. The fine residue fraction and the flot 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 burrowing snails, or earthworm eggs and insects, which would not be preserved unless anoxic conditions prevailed on site.

7.1.3 The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence of other environmental remains such as terrestrial and aquatic molluscs and animal bone was recorded. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000), for cereals. Abundance of remains is qualitatively quantified (A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5) as an estimation of the minimum number of individuals and not the number of remains per taxa.

7.2 Results

7.2.1 The flot from the bulk sediment sample was of moderate size (**Appendix 2**). There were low numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of some stratigraphic movement indicating the low possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Environmental evidence comprised plant remains preserved by carbonisation and a large amount of mature wood charcoal.

7.2.2 Charred material was fairly well preserved, the flot being dominated by fragments of *Corylus avellana* (hazel) nutshell. Also present were small numbers of grains of *Triticum* cf.

dicoccum (emmer wheat, tentatively identified) and Triticeae (unidentified cereal grain fragments).

7.2.3 The pit from which these remains were recovered is of uncertain, but most probably, Bronze Age date.

7.3 Recommendations

7.3.1 The sample is recommended for retention after the analysis has been completed.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

8.1.1 The evaluation uncovered a small gully and a small pit in the north-east corner of the site (Trenches 1 and 2). Both features appear to have been heavily truncated by agricultural activity and were sealed by colluvium. Gully 108 is undated, but the finds from Pit 205 suggest that it is most likely to be of prehistoric, probably Bronze Age, date.

8.1.2 No archaeological remains were found in any of the other trenches. The discrete anomalies identified by the previous geophysical survey towards the south-eastern end of the site were confirmed as being of natural origin.

8.1.3 A very small quantity of 17th/18th-century pottery was recovered from the topsoil in trench 3; this is likely to be derived from post-medieval manuring activity.

8.2 Discussion

8.2.1 Both features in the north-east corner of the site were sealed by colluvium, which suggests that they are of some antiquity. Gully 108 remains undated, while Pit 205 is most likely to be of Bronze Age date.

8.2.2 Other Bronze Age finds have been made to the north of Knowle Lane, approximately 200 m to the north of the site, while a possible enclosure and three circular anomalies, visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs, are recorded immediately north of the site. The origin of these is uncertain, although it is possible that they represent ring ditches potentially also of Bronze Age date. However, the paucity of finds from gully 108 and Pit 205 suggests that the excavated features are likely to be peripheral to any such activity.

8.3 Requirements for further mitigation

8.3.1 Following a site monitoring visit on 20 October 2020, and confirmed via email dated 21 October 2020, the Senior Historic Environment Officer stated that ‘on the basis of the fieldwork, no further mitigation is required’.

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. An application has been made to deposit the archive with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum 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 Royal Albert Memorial Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

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

- 1 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics;
- 1 small finds box

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 or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum and will be fully documented in the project archive.

9.3.2 In this instance, the following is proposed:

- Flint flake - retain
- Faience bead - retain
- Pottery - retain none
- Environmental flot - retain

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 access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main) has been initiated, with key fields completed (**Appendix 3**). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Senior Historic Environment Officer on behalf of the LPA. 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 (ADS) 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

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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 No 1	**Length 27.00 m**	**Width 1.80 m**	**Depth 0.90 m**
Easting 301044	**Northing 106844**	**69.99 m OD**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
101		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty loam with moderate sub-rounded medium gravel inclusions.	0.00–0.35
102		Subsoil	Mid reddish-brown silty loam with moderate sub-rounded medium gravel inclusions.	0.35–0.60
103		Colluvium	Mid grey silt with common sub-rounded coarse gravel inclusions Only present in the southern half of the trench.	0.60–0.80
104		Colluvium	Dark greyish-brown silty loam with moderate sub-rounded medium gravel inclusions.	0.55–0.70
105		Colluvium	Mid brownish yellow silty clay with sparse sub-rounded coarse gravel inclusions. Only present in the northern half of the trench.	0.50–0.75
106		Natural	Mid yellow with patches of pale grey silty clay with rare sub-rounded medium gravel inclusions. Only present in the southern half of the trench.	0.80+
107		Natural	Mid red silt with common sub-rounded medium to coarse gravel inclusions. Only present in the northern half of the trench.	0.75+
108	109	Gully	Linear gully with moderate concave sides and a concave base. 0.33 m wide and 0.08 m deep.	0.61–0.69
109	108	Secondary fill	Mid grey silty clay with rare sub-rounded medium gravel inclusions.	0.61–0.69

Trench No 2	**Length 24.50 m**	**Width 1.80 m**	**Depth 0.90 m**
Easting 301070	**Northing 106819**	**69.43 m OD**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
201		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty loam with sparse sub-rounded medium gravel inclusions.	0.00–0.30
202		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty loam with moderate sub-rounded medium gravel inclusions.	0.30–0.65
203		Colluvium	Mid reddish-brown silty loam with sparse sub-rounded medium gravel inclusions. Only visible at the south-west half of the trench.	0.65–0.85
204		Natural	Mid brownish yellow silty clay with patches of orangey brown silty. Sparse stone sub-rounded medium gravel inclusions	0.85+
205	206	Pit	Circular pit with shallow, concave sides and a flat base. 0.88 m by 0.72 m wide and 0.10 m deep.	0.60–0.70
206	205	Deliberate backfill	Mid grey silty clay with rare sub-rounded fine to medium gravel inclusions.	0.60–0.70

Trench No 3	**Length 24.00 m**	**Width 1.80 m**	**Depth 0.75 m**
Easting 301147	**Northing 106820**	**71.26 m OD**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
301		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam, with common sub-angular and sub-rounded fine to coarse gravel and rare clinker and charcoal inclusions.	0.00–0.35
302		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown with patches of lighter yellowish-brown sandy clay loam, with abundant sub-angular and sub-rounded fine to coarse gravel inclusions.	0.35–0.65
303		Natural	Dark brownish red clayey sand with rare sub-angular fine to medium gravel inclusions	0.65–0.75

Trench No 4	**Length 24.10 m**	**Width 1.80 m**	**Depth 0.55 m**
Easting 301283	**Northing 106657**	**61.87 m OD**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
400		Topsoil	Mid brownish grey silty loam.	0.00–0.20
401		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown clay silt.	0.20–0.35
402		Natural	Orange and grey silty clay.	0.35+

Trench No 5	**Length 24.90 m**	**Width 1.80 m**	**Depth 0.55 m**
Easting 301318	**Northing 106620**	**60.38 m OD**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
501		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay loam with sparse sub-rounded medium gravel inclusions.	0.00–0.20
502		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay loam with sparse sub-rounded medium gravel inclusions.	0.20–0.35
503		Natural	Pale grey and mid brownish yellow silty clay with common sub-rounded medium gravel inclusions.	0.35+

Trench No 6	**Length 25 m**	**Width 1.80 m**	**Depth 0.56 m**
Easting 301348	**Northing 106611**	**60.01 m OD**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
600		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty soil, with rare sub-rounded medium to coarse gravel inclusions.	0.00–0.25
601		Subsoil	Pale brownish grey clayey silt with rare sub-rounded medium to coarse gravel inclusions.	0.25–0.35
602		Natural	Orange and grey silty clay	0.35+
603	604	Land drain	North-west to south-east aligned linear cut. 0.35 m wide and 0.30 m deep	0.56–0.86
604	603	Fill	Fill of modern drain	0.56+

Trench No 7	**Length 25.30 m**	**Width 1.80 m**	**Depth 0.50 m**
Easting 301327	**Northing 106579**	**59.43 m OD**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
701		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded fine to medium gravel inclusions.	0.00–0.20
702		Subsoil	Mid yellowish-brown sandy clay loam with sparse sub-angular to sub-rounded fine to medium gravel inclusions and charcoal flecks.	0.20–0.36
703		Natural	Mid brownish red or mid yellowish-brown sandy clay with common sub-angular fine to coarse gravel inclusions.	0.36+

Trench No 8	**Length 24.55 m**	**Width 1.80 m**	**Depth 0.42 m**
Easting 301346	**Northing 106587**	**59.37 m OD**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
801		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay loam with sparse fine to medium gravel inclusions.	0.00–0.18
802		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty loam with sparse fine to medium gravel inclusions.	0.18–0.38
803		Natural	Mid greyish yellow sandy silt with moderate medium gravel inclusions.	0.38+

Trench No 9	**Length 24.30 m**	**Width 1.80 m**	**Depth 0.69 m**
Easting 301360	**Northing 106578**	**59.27 m OD**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
901		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay loam with sparse fine to medium gravel inclusions.	0.00–0.20
902		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty loam with sparse fine to medium gravel inclusions.	0.20–0.30
903		Natural	Mid greyish yellow sandy silt with moderate medium gravel inclusions.	0.30+

Trench No 10	**Length 24.3 m**	**Width 1.80 m**	**Depth 1.20 m**
Easting 301386	**Northing 106591**	**59.43 m OD**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
1000		Topsoil	Mid brown silty loam rare fine to medium gravel.	0.00–0.25
1001		Subsoil	Pale brownish grey clayey silt.	0.25–0.50
1002		Natural	Orange with some grey silty clay.	0.50+

Appendix 2 Assessment of the environmental evidence

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (l)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other (type and abundance)	Preservation
205	206	1	16	250	10%, C, E, I	C	-	*Triticum* cf. *dicoccum*, Triticeae	B	*Corylus avellana*	152	Mature	-	Fair

Key: Scale of abundance: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = 30-10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), E = earthworm eggs, I = insects.

Appendix 3 OASIS record

OASIS ID: wessexar1-404743

Project details

Project name	Land West of Siskin Chase, Cullompton, Devon - Programme of Archaeological Works
Short description of the project	Ten trench evaluation. Uncovered an undated gully and a pit; possibly Bronze Age.
Project dates	Start: 19-10-2020 End: 21-10-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	239690 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	PIT Bronze Age
Monument type	GULLY Uncertain
Significant Finds	BEAD Bronze Age
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After outline determination (eg. As a reserved matter)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DEVON MID DEVON CULLOMPTON Land West of Siskin Chase
Postcode	EX15 1UD
Study area	4.92 Hectares
Site coordinates	ST 01210 06720 50.850988459268 -3.403547514711 50 51 03 N 003 24 12 W Point

Project creators

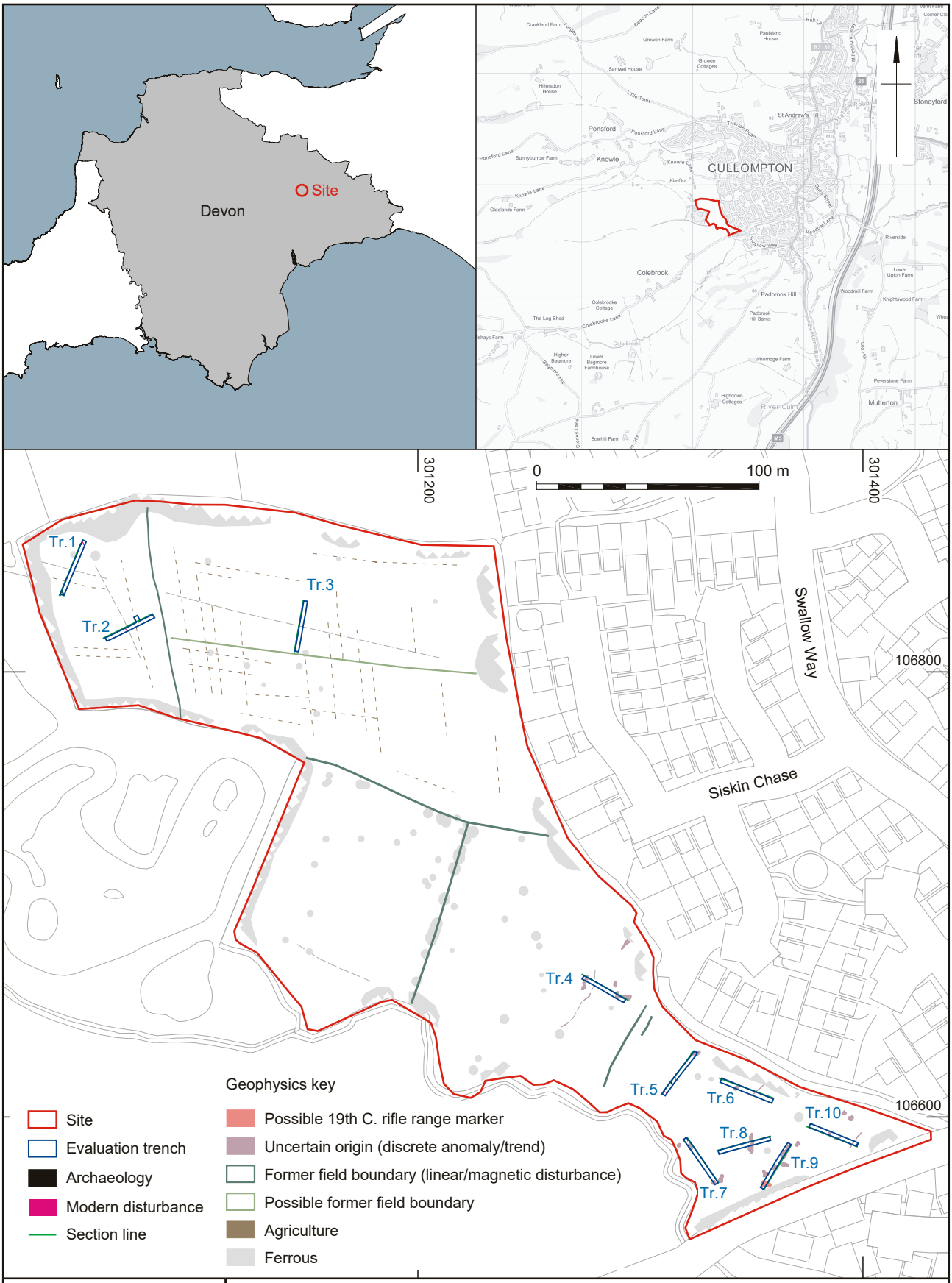
Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Kirsty Nichol
Project supervisor	Simon Flaherty
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultancy
Name of sponsor/funding body	CSA Environmental Planning

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter
Physical Contents	"Worked stone/lithics","other"
Digital Archive recipient	Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land West of Siskin Chase, Cullompton, Devon, Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Mason, C and Pannell, A
Other bibliographic details	report ref. 239690.03
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Bristol
Description	Illustrated A4 report
Entered by	Cai Mason (c.mason@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	25 November 2020



Coordinate system: OSGB36.
Geophysical data provided by client.

Date:	17/11/2020	Revision Number:	0
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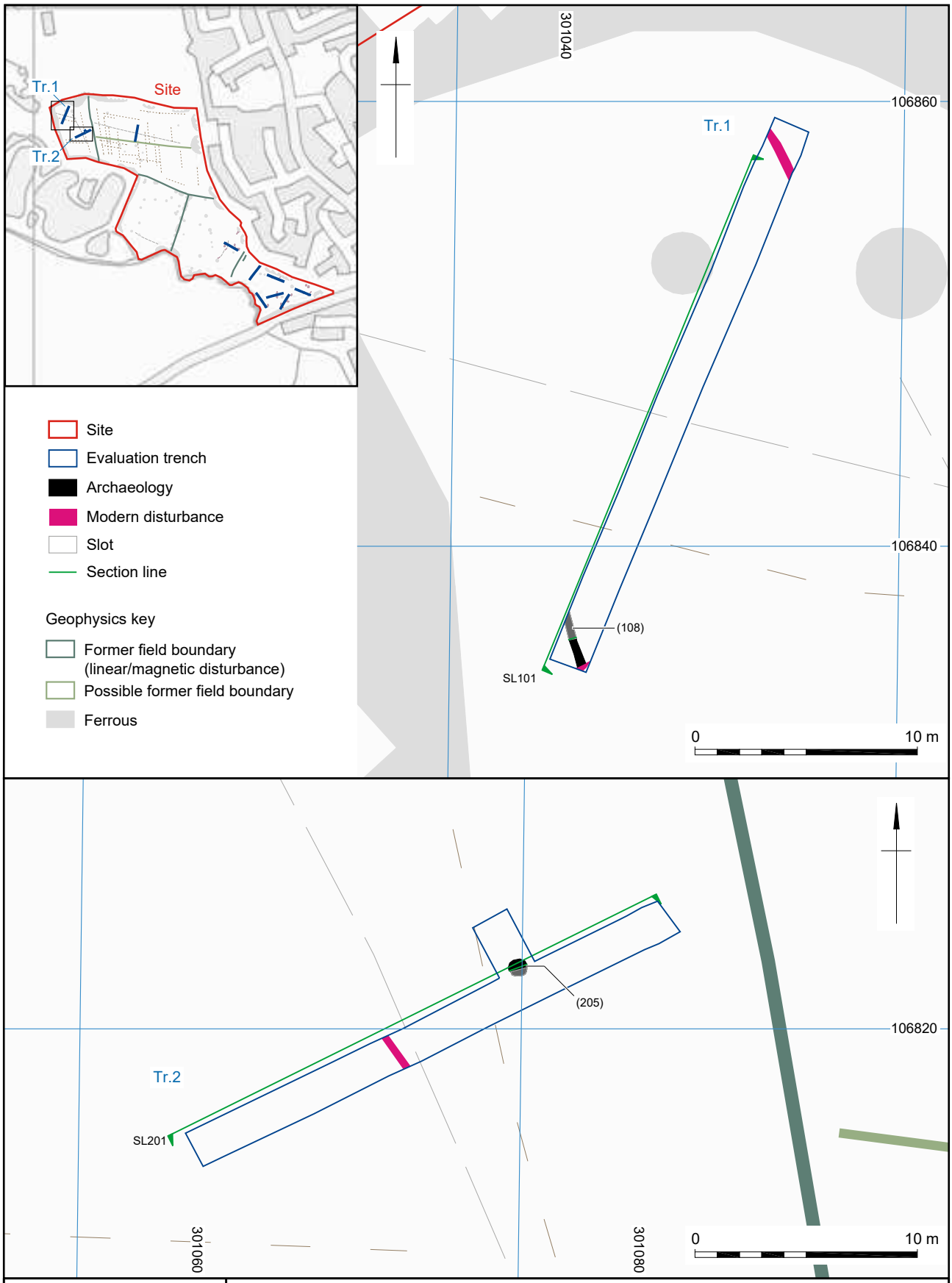
Site plan

Figure 1



Coordinate system: OSGB36.
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Date:	17/11/2020	Revision Number:	0
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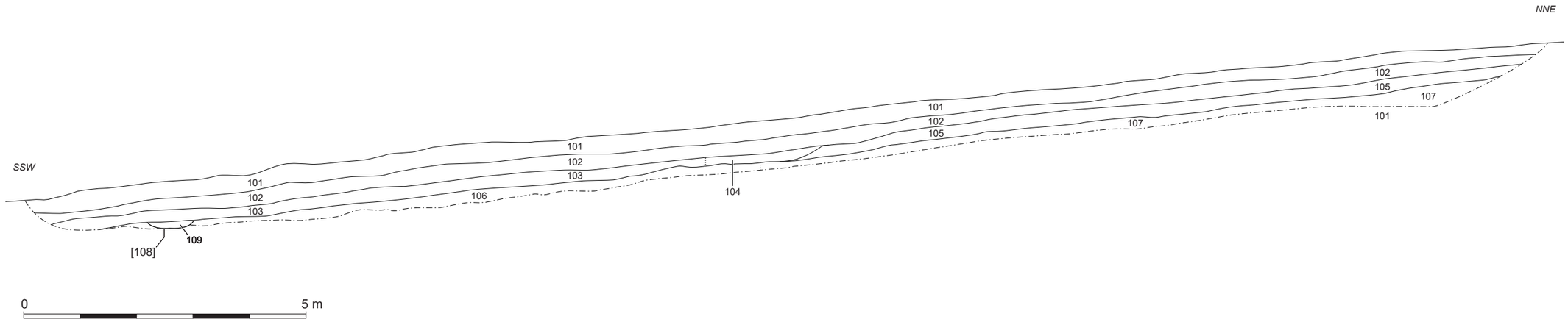
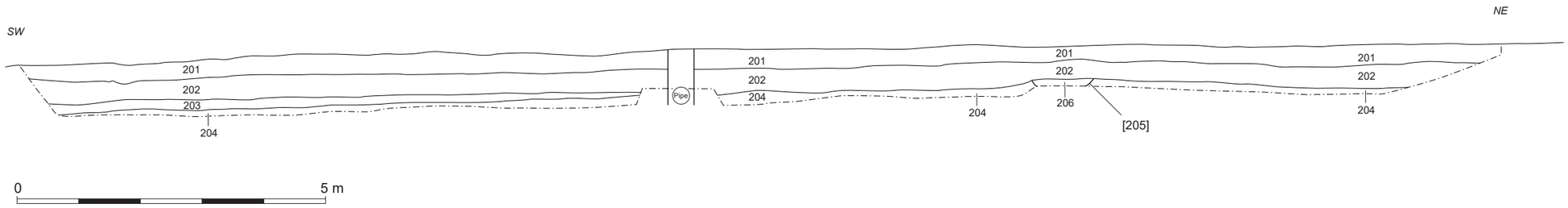
Detailed plan, showing archaeological features in trenches 1 and 2 Figure 2



South-east facing section of trench 1, showing gully 108.



South-east facing section of trench 2, showing pit 205.

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Sections of gully 108 and pit 205

Figure 3

Plate 1: Typical deposit sequence in Trench 1, looking west, 2 m scale.

Plate 2: Typical deposit sequence in Trench 6, looking north, 2 m scale.

Date:	16/11/2020	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	JLA
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Plate 3: Gully 108, looking south-east, 0.2 m scale.

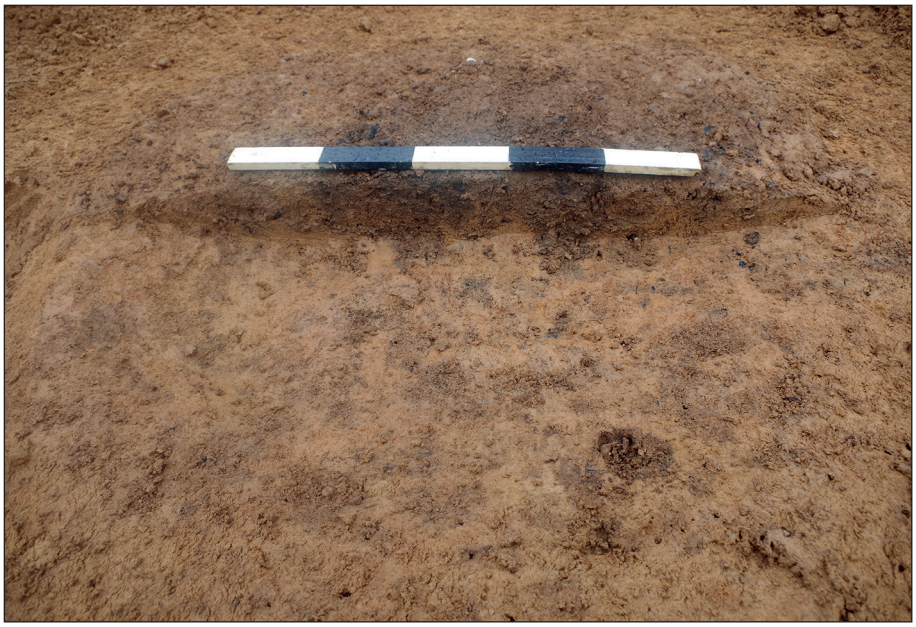

Plate 4: Pit 205, looking north-west, 0.5 m scale.

Date:	16/11/2020	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	JLA
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\239690\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2020_11_16		

Plate 5: Faience bead from pit 205. 15 mm scale.

Date:	16/11/2020	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	JLA
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\239690\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2020_11_16		

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