



**Newbury Racecourse Car Parking Area,
Newbury, West Berkshire**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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Reference: 70091.03

October 2008

Newbury Racecourse Car Parking Area, Newbury, West Berkshire

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Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	3
1.1	Project Background	3
1.2	Location, Topography and Geology	3
1.3	Archaeological and Historical Background	3
1.4	Recent Works.....	4
2	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	4
2.1	General	4
2.2	Specific.....	5
3	METHODOLOGY	5
3.1	Machine-Dug Trial Trenches	5
3.2	Health and Safety	6
4	RESULTS	6
4.1	Introduction.....	6
4.2	Soils and Geology	6
4.3	Trial Trenches	6
5	FINDS	8
5.2	Pottery	8
5.3	Ceramic Building Material	9
5.4	Other finds	9
6	ENVIROMENTAL	9
7	CONCLUSIONS	9
8	ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION	10
8.1	Museum	10
8.2	Archive Storage	10
8.3	Copyright.....	10
8.4	Security Copy	11
9	BIBLIOGRAPHY	11
10	APPENDIX 1	12
10.1	Table 1: Catalogue of Trial Trench Descriptions	12
10.2	Table 2: All Finds by Context (Number/Weight in Grammes)	21

Figure List

Front Cover	Historical aerial photograph and comparative current view of the Racecourse
Figure 1	Site Location and Trench layout plan
Figure 2	Trench plans of Trenches 14, 15.1 and 15.2
Back Cover	Photograph of Round Oak cellar remains within Trench 15.1

Plate List

Plate 1	West facing section of Ditch 1406
Plate 2	Trench 14 looking north-west
Plate 3	Trench 15.1 looking east-north-east
Plate 4	Shot of open cellar looking north
Plate 5	South facing section of modern intrusion 604 in Trench 6
Plate 6	South-east facing section of disturbed ground in Trench 8

Newbury Racecourse Car Parking Area, Newbury, West Berkshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Terence O'Rourke Ltd on behalf of David Wilson Homes to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land west of Newbury racetrack at Newbury Racecourse, Newbury, West Berkshire, in advance of construction associated with a proposed development centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 448017 166602. The work was undertaken between 22nd September and 26th September 2008.

Only fifteen of the proposed eighteen machine dug trial trenches were excavated and evaluated due to on-site constraints.

The evaluation was partially successful in determining the character of the structures identified by aerial photography of the Site. No specific evidence of the terraced worker cottages was found within Trench Eight however, the heavily disturbed ground and high frequency of post-medieval/modern linear features and service trenches does indicate later land use within this area and suggests that the survival of archaeological features within this area is likely to be low.

The remnants of the structure known as Round Oak, which had previously stood on the Site, were identified but only survived as backfilled cellars and demolition rubble suggesting that only the basic floorplan is likely to have survived the demolition process. The nature of the brick and construction of the cellars did not contribute to the dating of the origins of the structure. This would probably be more effectively resolved with reference to the estate maps which are held at Newbury Racecourse and were not available for consultation during the writing of this report.

Three ditches revealed within Trenches 11 and 12 were all post-medieval in date and are likely to represent changing land divisions or garden features associated with Round Oak.

The evaluation also revealed minimal archaeology which pre-dated the post-medieval period. An Early to Middle Bronze Age boundary ditch, located in Trench 14, indicates that the area was utilised during the prehistoric period however, the paucity of settlement evidence in terms of further features and material culture suggests that the landscape was probably utilised for agricultural purposes.

On the land immediately to the west of the Racecourse, all of the trial trenches showed evidence of landscaping to varying extents which is likely to be related either to the activity during World War II or to the construction of the racecourse and its associated structures/access routes.

Newbury Racecourse Car Parking Area, Newbury, West Berkshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Terence O'Rourke Ltd for commissioning the work on behalf of David Wilson Homes. Particular thanks are due to John Trehy and Lauren Tinker of Terence O'Rourke Ltd for their assistance and to Racecourse Manager Richard Osgood and Head Groundsman at Newbury Racecourse, Steve Robinson, for their help throughout fieldwork stage of the project. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Duncan Coe, who was responsible for monitoring the works, on behalf of West Berkshire Council.

The fieldwork was directed by Simon Reames who was assisted by Laura Cassie, James Box and Nicola Mulhall. The finds were assessed by Sue Nelson. The figures were prepared by Will Foster and Simon Reames compiled this report. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Caroline Budd.

Newbury Racecourse Car Parking Area, Newbury, West Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Terence O'Rourke Ltd on behalf of David Wilson Homes (hereafter 'The Client') to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land west of Newbury racetrack at Newbury Racecourse, Newbury, West Berkshire, in advance of construction associated with Newbury Racecourse (hereafter 'the Site'). The Site, is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 448017 166602 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The programme of works comprised evaluation by machine excavated trial trenches to assess the level of survival of archaeological remains on the Site. This was required in order to comply with PPG 16 and to satisfy the West Berkshire Council archaeological policies as the result of a proposed planning application for proposed redevelopment throughout the Site.

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The Site, (**Figure 1**), situated to the west of Newbury Racecourse, comprised an area of open fields which is currently utilised as car parking. It is bounded to the east by Newbury race track, to the south by Racecourse Road, to the west by residential properties which front onto Boundary Road and the north by the stable blocks.

1.2.2 The Site occupies three irregular parcels of land which in total measure 4.73ha and lies at approximately 78m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.2.3 The underlying natural geology of the Site lies on the boundary between River and Valley Gravel and Reading Beds (Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 267).

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1 A brief search for archaeological and historic sites within a 1km radius (hereafter 'the Study Area') of the Site via the Archaeology Data Service (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk>) indicated the presence of several sites, predominantly of prehistoric or Romano-British date, while the remainder relates to the historic usage of the area as indicated by agricultural field boundaries and trackways. No Scheduled Monuments are recorded within the boundaries of the Site.

- 1.3.2 Finds spots recorded within a search radius of 1km centred on the Site include a partly polished Neolithic hand axe found at 122 King's Road, to the north-west and a horn handled iron implement and collection of Roman urns, coins and pottery sherds from Fielder's Farm which lay to the north and now makes up the north-western corner of the Racecourse.
- 1.3.3 A Romano-British cemetery was previously excavated during works on Newbury Racecourse Station, to the north of the Site, in 1856 which uncovered 100 inhumations with associated urns and glass vessels.
- 1.3.4 Wessex Archaeology previously carried out an archaeological watching brief at Newbury Racecourse (WA 1991) and an archaeological excavation on the land to the south-east of the racecourse, at Lower Farm, Greenham, West Berkshire (WA, 1990).
- 1.3.5 The Lower Farm excavations identified the remains of a Bronze Age round barrow (WA 1990).
- 1.3.6 Previous studies undertaken on aerial photography of the area have identified ditches, enclosures, trackways and medieval or later field systems.
- 1.3.7 Several Post-medieval structures are recorded within the search area including the Church of St Mary (1875) and Greenham Lodge (1879-1883). More specifically, within the bounds of the Site, a structure known as Round Oak (**Figure 1**) has been identified on historic mapping dating to the mid twentieth century. The building is no longer evident but structural remains are still present beneath the current ground surface.

1.4 Recent Works

- 1.4.1 A series of drafts of the Environmental Statement (ES) chapter concerned with Cultural Heritage were submitted to West Berkshire Council, at various stages of the design process, this will accompany the planning application for the proposed scheme, and is currently in preparation by Terence O'Rourke (Terence O'Rourke, 2007). The ES identifies the Site as lying within an area of known archaeological potential due to its situation on the floodplain of the River Kennet and its close proximity to the historic core of Newbury, whose origins date to around the time of the Norman Conquest. The ES identifies the potential of the Site as being predominantly for prehistoric and Romano-British remains. However, it does also indicate that the Site may have been previously disturbed, as during World War II it was utilised extensively by USAAF and was also subject to the large scale construction of the racecourse, which may have left little or no below ground archaeological remains intact.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 To determine or confirm the presence/absence and the specific nature and depth below current ground surface of any archaeological remains present on the Site.
- 2.1.2 To determine or confirm the character, condition, approximate date or date range, distribution and potential of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence where development is proposed.
- 2.1.3 To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.

- 2.1.4 To provide information on which to base future decisions concerning the treatment of any archaeological remains on the Site.

2.2 Specific

- 2.2.1 To determine the origins and character of the features previously identified from aerial photographs which fall within the bounds of the development site.
- 2.2.2 To identify the potential for survival and date of the remains of the house known as Round Oak and any associated structures.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Machine-Dug Trial Trenches

- 3.1.1 A total of 15 of the proposed 18 machine-dug trial trenches (8No 30m X 1.5m, 3No 25m X 1.5m, 2No 15m X 1.5m, 1No 20m X 1.5m and 1No 10m X 1.5m) (**Figure 1**) were excavated with nine of the proposed trenches moved and/or shortened to comply with the agreed stand off area of one meter from tree canopies and to avoid live underground services as stated in the Wessex Archaeology WSI (WA, 2008). One trench in the north-western area of Site was not excavated due to the land being used for storage purposes; two trenches to the south were unexcavated due to the presence of a road surface and a fourth trench was abandoned due to the close proximity of an established tree line.
- 3.1.2 The trenches were opened, under constant archaeological supervision, by a 6.5 tonne tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. They were excavated down to the level of the archaeological deposits, or to the top of the undisturbed natural geology, whichever was encountered first. All excavated spoil was visually inspected for finds. The spoil from Trench 15.1, centred over the previous Round Oak structure, was also metal detected.
- 3.1.3 Where modern services were encountered, trenches bases were raised in these locations to ensure that they were not revealed.
- 3.1.4 All features or potential features were investigated by hand.
- 3.1.5 Wessex Archaeology allocated a unique site code (70091) for all aspects of the project archive. The recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets. A series of digital and manual SLR photographs which illustrated the general nature of the Site and the character of the features uncovered were taken.
- 3.1.6 The outlines of the trenches, archaeological features and position of each drawn section, were surveyed using a SmartNet GPS unit and tied in with the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

3.2 Health and Safety

- 3.2.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992. A Health and Safety Risk assessment was produced by Wessex Archaeology prior to the commencement of the evaluation.
- 3.2.2 Health and Safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices overrode archaeological considerations at all times.
- 3.2.3 All trial trench locations were scanned before and during excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) to verify the absence of any live underground services.
- 3.2.4 All trial trenches were securely fenced off in agreement with the Head Groundsman Steve Robinson.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This section presents the summarised results from the archive produced on Site during the evaluation. Detailed descriptions of each trial trench are included in **Table 1 (Appendix 1)**.

4.2 Soils and Geology

- 4.2.1 The natural geology encountered across the Site comprised variations of river gravels and clays. Most commonly, a red-yellow silty clay or red-yellow/grey river gravel was identified within the base of the trial trenches. Where still surviving, the silty clay overlaid the gravels.

4.3 Trial Trenches

- 4.3.1 The Site can be broken up into two areas. Trenches Two to Seven on land west of the Racecourse and Trenches Eight to 18 lying on land to the immediate west of the Racecourse (**Figure 1**).
- 4.3.2 Trench Two contained two circular features situated in the west end of the trench which appeared, after investigation, to be the result of modern disturbance. Remnants of three modern drainage trenches were also cut into the natural geology.
- 4.3.3 Trench Four contained an east-west aligned linear, **[402]**, that map regression revealed to be on the same alignment as a post-medieval/modern boundary seen on the 5th epoch OS map. Although the boundary is now lost, the remnants of a modern hedge row were identified in the same location.
- 4.3.4 Trench Six contained two irregularly shaped features, **[602]** and **[604]**, which were only apparent in the south facing section of the trench and are believed to be modern in date as they were observed to cut through the current ground surface (**Figure 3; Plate 5**). Two other possible features were identified, following investigation, as natural hollows within the gravel.
- 4.3.5 Trenches Three, Five and Seven contained no archaeological features.

- 4.3.6 The remaining nine trenches immediately west of the Racecourse showed signs of the present day ground surface having been raised and landscaped.
- 4.3.7 Trench Eight was located in an area of heavily disturbed land and showed made ground to a depth of 0.74m (77.65 aOD) (**Figure 3; Plate 6**). Aerial photography (**Front Cover**) shows the presence of a series of small worker cottages in this area but no evidence of the structures was revealed during the evaluation, however, three modern linear features (all containing post-medieval/modern Ceramic Building Material (CBM)), including a service trench, are possibly associated with the structures. Patches of discoloured natural, probably as a result of leaching of contaminated material from the made ground above, were observed in the base of the trench.
- 4.3.8 Trench 11 revealed a section of modern wall **[1104]** on the south-western edge which was visible as an earthwork on the surface. A post-medieval ditch **[1109]**, which contained unfrogged bricks and CBM, on a roughly north-south alignment, may have been associated with the garden area of Round Oak. Also present were two grey areas of discoloured natural similar to those in Trench Eight.
- 4.3.9 The north-western end of Trench 12 revealed three linear features all on a rough north-south alignment (**Figure 1**). Undated ditch **[1204]** was truncated by ditch **[1207]** which contained modern CBM and clay pipe dating fragments. Approximately 1.60m to the west was another undated ditch **[1208]**.
- 4.3.10 The north-western end of Trench 14 revealed two similar circular features. These modern postholes were observed to cut through the current topsoil and are possibly associated with works related to the racecourse. At the south-eastern end of the trench was a pale grey east-west aligned linear feature **[1406]** (**Figure 2, Plate 1**). The oblique angle of the trial trench to the ditch meant that a complete 90° slot could not be achieved. Excavation of the feature identified it as a field boundary containing pottery of an Early to Middle Bronze Age date (**Figure 2, Plate 2**). At the south-east end of the trench was a patch of post-medieval/modern disturbance. Insufficient area was exposed within the trench to determine the character of the disturbance.
- 4.3.11 Trenches 15.1 and 15.2 were targeted over the known location of Round Oak house. Trench 15.1 revealed fragments of the surviving floor plan of the house including several intact cellars (**Figure 2, Plate 3**). The trench revealed eleven walls on a north-south alignment connecting to two east-west aligned walls. Health and Safety constraints, due to open voids within the cellar backfill, resulted in the cellars not being excavated and all recording of the trench being conducted from the trench side (**Figure 2, Plate 4**). The foundation construction cut **[1506]** was observed to be cut from the top of the original subsoil and through into underlying natural geology. Following construction, the land surrounding the house was subsequently landscaped by adding material to increase the ground surface of the gardens to approximately 78.78m aOD. This garden deposit was sealed by a layer of rubble associated with the demolition of Round Oak which was overlain by the present day ground surface/turf line.
- 4.3.12 Immediately to the south-east of Trench 15.1 is Trench 15.2. This seven meter trench is located outside the Round Oak structure and revealed the post-medieval / modern sewerage/drainage system (**1510**) associated with the house (**Figure 2**).

- 4.3.13 The south facing section of Trench 16 revealed a stratigraphic sequence of natural clays and gravels overlain by remnant subsoil and topsoil to approximately 79.14m aOD, where a thin (0.03m deep) deposit of asphalt was encountered indicating a previous ground surface and roadway in this area. This was followed by a layer of made ground (**1601**) consisting of rubble similar to the demolition deposits within Trench 15 which may suggest that the remains of Round Oak were spread around the land to the north of the house. Trench 16 also included a natural depression in-filled with remnant subsoil.
- 4.3.14 Similar to Trench 16, Trench 17 contained natural clays and gravels overlain by subsoil and topsoil sealed by a layer of asphalt (**1702**). This was covered by a layer of gravel to consolidate the land surface and assist with drainage before the present day turf was laid.
- 4.3.15 Trench 18 was the deepest trench excavated and only revealed the natural geological gravels in a small area before the safe working depth of 1.20m (approximately 76.92m aOD) was reached. No archaeological features were discovered however the south facing trench section revealed a sequence of made ground culminating in a layer of asphalt (**1804**) (approximately 77.37m aOD) suggesting a road or pathway and previous ground surface. This was followed by another period of backfilling before a further asphalt surface (**1802**) was laid down at approximately 77.68m aOD which was overlain by more made ground and finally the present day ground surface.

5 FINDS

- 5.1.1 The assemblage from this site comprised 15.05 kg of mostly ceramic building material, but with a variety of other material types present. The range of dates represented was very wide. **Table 2 (Appendix 1)** shows the quantification of all finds.

5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 Prehistoric pottery was recovered from contexts (**1407**) and (**1408**) in linear feature (**1406**). Ten body sherds of abraded Middle to Late Bronze Age pottery came from context (**1408**), possibly from a single vessel. None had diagnostic form, but the flint temper was fairly fine and the vessel walls quite thin, suggesting a later date from within this range. The single sherd from context (**1407**) was thicker walled and the flint temper was coarser and less well-sorted and so was possibly earlier in date. A further two very small fragments of possible prehistoric pottery were found in context (**600**) and two more in context (**807**). Both contexts are in areas of disturbed ground so no dating inference can be made from these sherds.
- 5.2.2 All the other pottery recovered was of post-medieval or modern date. The only diagnostic sherds were two rims of glazed Redware from context (**1111**) within a post-medieval ditch. The fabrics and forms of these types of vessel remained similar over many years so are not closely datable.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material

- 5.3.1 This category of finds comprised by far the majority of the assemblage. Two fragments of green-glazed tile of possible medieval date were recovered from context **(807)**, a disturbed layer of made-up ground. The rest of the material is of post-medieval or modern date and is composed of fragmented and non-diagnostic pieces, with the exception of four complete bricks from context **(1506)**, in the area of Round Oak House.
- 5.3.2 The four complete bricks were each slightly different from one another, but could all be of similar date and may have been manufactured as recently as the latter half of the 20th Century, but made to resemble an older style of brickwork. All four bricks are unfrosted and were laid on a bed of lime mortar and, unusually, were exposed on both sides, so may have been from a four inch wall. Two are whitewashed on one side. Three of the bricks are sand-faced and probably machine made, but the fourth is mould made and wire cut and of a slightly darker clay. This fourth brick is probably a London stock brick, but it is not possible to provenance the other three. These three are slightly larger than the standard brick at 2 ¾ " by 8 ¾ " by 4 ¼ ". Two of these exhibit minor warping but are otherwise well-made and all are in very good condition.

5.4 Other finds

- 5.4.1 There were 11 pieces of animal bone from context **(1111)**. All the identifiable pieces were from the jaw of young cattle. A single fragment of undecorated non-diagnostic clay pipe stem was recovered from context **(1206)** along with seven fragments of nondescript iron objects and two fragments of glass – one from a vessel or bottle and one from a window, but again non-diagnostic. A single oyster shell also came from this context. A fragment of an iron nail was recovered from context **(600)**. There were 13 pieces of burnt flint from contexts **(1206)**, **(600)** and **(605)**. None were worked and they were not retained. A single piece of worked flint was found in context **(1408)**, the same context from which sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered, but it was a non-diagnostic and therefore undatable flake. There was also a single piece of iron slag from context **(1404)**.

6 ENVIROMENTAL

- 6.1.1 No material suitable for environmental analysis was demonstrated to be present within the excavated areas.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 The evaluation of the car parking areas at Newbury Racecourse was partially successful in determining the character of the structures identified by aerial photography of the Site. No specific evidence of the terraced worker cottages was found within Trench Eight however, the heavily disturbed ground and high frequency of post-medieval/modern linear features and service trenches does indicate later land use within this area and suggests that the survival of archaeological features within this area is likely to be low.

- 7.1.2 The remnants of the structure known as Round Oak, which had previously stood on the Site, were identified but only survived as backfilled cellars and demolition rubble suggesting that only the basic floorplan is likely to have survived the demolition process. The nature of the brick and construction of the cellars did not contribute to the dating of the origins of the structure. This would probably be more effectively resolved with reference to the estate maps which are held at Newbury Racecourse and were not available for consultation during the writing of this report.
- 7.1.3 Ditches [1109], [1207], [1204] and [1208] within Trenches 11 and 12 were all post-medieval in date and are likely to represent changing land divisions or garden features associated with Round Oak.
- 7.1.4 The evaluation also revealed minimal archaeology which pre-dated the post-medieval period. An Early to Middle Bronze Age boundary ditch, located in Trench 14, indicates that the area was utilised during the prehistoric period however, the paucity of settlement evidence in terms of further features and material culture suggests that the landscape was probably utilised for agricultural purposes.
- 7.1.5 On the land immediately to the west of the Racecourse, all of the trial trenches showed evidence of landscaping to varying extents which is likely to be related either to the activity during World War II or to the construction of the racecourse and its associated structures/access routes.

8 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 On completion of all phases of fieldwork it is proposed that the project archive will be deposited with West Berkshire Museum under accession number NEBYM:2008.92.

8.2 Archive Storage

- 8.2.1 The project archive, consisting of:
- One A4 file containing the paper records and drawings
 - One box of finds
 - Digital data (site photographs, survey data, word-processed files)
- 8.2.2 is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology at Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire under the project code 70091.
- 8.2.3 The project archive will be prepared following the 'Procedures for deposit of archaeological archives' and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990; SMA 1995; Richards and Robinson 1998; Brown 2007).

8.3 Copyright

- 8.3.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. 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 shall be non-profit making, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

8.4 Security Copy

- 8.4.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Monuments Record Centre (Swindon), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records at the Museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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10 APPENDIX 1

10.1 Table 1: Catalogue of Trial Trench Descriptions

Trench 01	Trench not excavated due to proximity to tree canopies.

Trench 02	Dimensions 29.23m X 1.50m X 0.55m		NW 79.10m – SE 79.10 aOD
	Land use: Grassland – Car Parking		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
200	Made Ground	Made ground probably for landscaping. (Includes modern turf line-SR).	0m - 0.19m
201	Remnant Topsoil	Dark red brown silty clay. Occasional sub-rounded gravels < 0.02m.	0.19m – 0.50m
202	Natural	A mixture of bands of dark yellow brown clays with rare pea grit gravels, interspersed with mid brown silty clays with gravels.	0.50m +
203	Fill	Dark orange brown, sandy silty clay with moderate sub-rounded gravels <0.03m. Very stony and contains no archaeological components fill of [205].	0.50m – 0.60m
204	Fill	Dark brown, silt, rare gravels <0.02m. Fill is modern topsoil but very shallow.	0.50m - 0.56m
205	Feature	Sub circular with undulating sides and base. Edges are unclear. Most likely a natural hollow. Contains (203).	0.50m – 0.60m
206	Feature	Sub-rectangular with shallow sloping edges and an undulating base. Located in an area of high modern disturbance so suspect this is a modern intrusion. Contain (204).	0.50m – 0.56m
		Trench contained three modern drainage trenches cut into the natural. No archaeology present within trench. Trench was moved form original position due to area being used as a storage area.	

Trench 03	Dimensions 29.91 X 1.50m X 0.65m		NNW 79.05m – SSE 79.92m aOD
	Land use: Grassland – Car parking		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
300	Topsoil	Mid brown silty loam containing moderate sub-angular / sub-rounded gravels <0.05m. (Layer also includes subsoil-SR)	0m – 0.45m
301	Natural	Mid orange brown silty loam which contains moderate to frequent sub-angular / sub rounded gravels <0.08m.	0.45m +
		Trench contained no archaeological features.	

Trench 04	Dimensions 29.75m X 1.50m X 0.60m		NNW 78.80m – SSE 78.86m aOD
	Land use: Grassland – Car parking.		

Context	Category	Description	Depth
400	Topsoil	Mid brown silty loam containing occasional sub-rounded stones <0.05m. (Layer also includes subsoil-SR)	0m-0.43m
401	Natural	Mid orange brown silty loam containing moderate sub-rounded and sub-angular gravels <0.06m. In the southern half of the trench, the natural gravels is the more prevalent natural geology.	0.43m +
402	Feature	The cut of a probable hedgerow with moderate, concave sides and a flat base 1.06m wide and extending ESE to WNW across the width of the trench. Contains (403)	0.43m – 0.69m
403	Fill	Fill of hedgerow [402] containing abundant roots.	0.43m – 0.69m
		Trench contained no archaeological features. Trench was moved from original position due to placement over an access way.	

Trench 05	Dimensions 26.83m X 1.50m X 0.60m		NE 78.13m – SW78.52 aOD
	Land use: Grassland – Car parking.		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
500	Topsoil	Mid brown silty loam containing occasional sub-angular / sub-rounded gravels <0.05m. (Layer also contains subsoil-SR)	0m – 0.33m
501	Natural	Mid orange brown sandy silty loam. The natural within the trench is a mixture of silty loam and natural gravels.	0.33m +
502	Pathway	Cut of a modern gravelled pathway to assist with car parking on site. Cuts through the modern topsoil.	0m – 0.14m
503	Fill	Deliberate gravel backfill of a modern pathway.	0m – 0.14m
		Trench contained no archaeological features. Trench was moved from original position due to placement under a tree canopy.	

Trench 06	Dimensions 29.39m X 1.50m X 0.58m		ENE 78.58m – 78.55m aOD
	Land use: Grassland – Car parking.		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
600	Topsoil	Mid brown silty loam containing moderate round to sub-rounded gravels <0.04m and frequent roots throughout. (Layer also contained subsoil-SR)	0m – 0.48m
601	Natural	Mid orange brown silty loam containing moderate round to sub-rounded gravels <0.02m.	0.48m – 0.58m+
602	Feature	Cut of an unknown feature, 0.44m wide with steep irregular sides, a flat base and containing a single fill (603). Most probably a modern feature as the cut extends down through the modern topsoil.	0m – 0.46m
603	Fill	Pale grey brown sandy silty loam with occasional round to sub-rounded gravels <0.04m. Secondary fill of an unknown feature paler than the topsoil, similar to (605). No archaeological components present.	0m – 0.46m
604	Feature	Cut of an unknown feature, 0.47m wide with steep irregular sides and a flat base. Contains a single	0m – 0.47m

		secondary fill (605). Similar to [602]. Most probably modern as it cuts through the modern topsoil.	
605	Fill	Pale Grey brown sandy silty loam with occasional round to sub-rounded flint gravel <0.04m. Similar to (603)	0m – 0.47m
		Trench contained two natural depressions and no archaeological features however some residual archaeological components were present within the topsoil.	

Trench 07	Dimensions 30.60m X 1.50m X 0.56m		NNW 78.62m – SSE 78.65m aOD
	Land use: Grassland – Car parking		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
700	Topsoil	Mid to dark grey brown clay silts with occasional sub-rounded gravels <0.02m. (Layer also includes subsoils-SR)	0m – 0.47m
701	Natural	Bands of mid yellow orange clayey silt with pea grit interspersed with patches of mid grey silt with gravels.	0.47m +
		One modern drain located to the south of the trench. No archaeological features present.	

Trench 08	Dimensions 26.09m X 1.50m X 1.02m		NE 78.49m – SW 78.40 aOD
	Land use: Tarmac and scrub land storage area		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
800	Made Ground	Modern made ground. Deposit is made up of multiple levels of deliberate backfill to raise the level of the ground.	0m – 0.74m
801	Natural	Mid to dark orange clays with moderate pea grit gravels within.	0.74m +
802	Feature	Thought to be an archaeological feature in plan, [802] was a slight colour change in the natural geology.	0.74m
803	Fill	Orange clay fill of [802] which is a slight colour change within the natural geology.	0.74m
804	Feature	Thought to be an archaeological feature in plan, [804] was a slight colour change in the natural geology.	0.74m – 1.02m
805	Fill	Orangey blue grey clay fill of [804] which is a colour change in the natural geology.	0.74m – 1.02m
806	Feature	Appeared in plan to be a linear on an east – west alignment however, excavation showed this to be a slight variation in the natural geology in this area.	0.74m – 0.99m
807	Fill	Mid orange grey brown silty clay containing rare angular to rounded gravels 0.02m – 0.12m. Deposit is the single fill of [806] showing a slight colour variation within the natural geology.	0.74m – 0.99m
		Trench also included three modern linear features including one service trench. Trench was moved from original position due to placement of trench under an established spoil heap.	

Trench 09	Trench not excavated due to placement over an existing roadway.

Trench 10	Trench not excavated due to placement over an existing roadway.

Trench 11	Dimensions 28.92m X 1.50m X 0.96m		NE 78.21m – 78.57m aOD
	Land use: Grassland – Car parking.		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1100	Topsoil	Layer containing the modern ground surface turf line closely followed by a layer of gravels to act as consolidation and drainage for the site.	0m – 0.17m
1101	Remnant Topsoil	Mid brown silty loam containing moderate sub-angular to rounded gravels <0.04m. CBM and roots throughout. Layer comprises of a remnant topsoil combined with deliberate backfilling to raise the ground level.	0.17m – 0.59m
1102	Remnant subsoil	Mid pale brown, silty loam containing moderate sub-angular to rounded gravels <0.07m.	0.59m – 0.75m
1103	Natural	Mid orangey brown silty sandy clay natural geology.	0.75m +
1104	Cut	Construction cut for a modern wall.	0m – 0.65m
1105	Fill	Brickwork for wall.	0m – 0.55m
1106	Fill	Concrete foundation for modern wall.	0.55m – 0.65m
1107	Feature	Sub-rectangular feature with steep, concave sides and a flat base. Thought in plan to be a feature however excavation showed this to be a slight colour change in the natural.	0.75m – 1.01m
1108	Fill	Orangey brown with blue-grey mottling, silty clay with moderate round to sub-rounded gravels <0.03m. Fill of [1107] showing a colouration change in the natural geology.	0.75m – 1.01m
1109	Feature	Cut of a ditch on a northwest to southeast alignment. CBM indicates a post-Medieval date. Diffuse edges within the section.	0.38m – 1.18m
1110	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded gravel < 0.04m, CBM and pot. Secondary fill, probably a mixture of feature edge erosion and gradual silting.	0.79m – 1.18m
1111	Fill	Mottled mid yellow brown clay silts with moderate sub-rounded gravels 0.04m and CBM. Deliberate backfill of ditch with multiple dumps if CBM, topsoil and natural, however only one deposit seen in the section.	0.38m – 0.91m
		Trench also included a modern tree throw and modern drain running through it.	

Trench	Dimensions 29.25m X 1.50m X 0.95m	NW 78.40m – SE 78.31m aOD
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12			
Land use: Grassland – Car parking			
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1200	Topsoil	Mid brown silty loam with frequent roots throughout.	0m – 0.15m
1201	Deliberate Backfill	Brown silty loam mixed with moderate angular to sub-rounded gravels <0.03m and CBM. Root disturbance throughout. Layer present to increase the ground surface.	0.15m – 0.68m
1202	Deliberate Backfill	Orangey brown silty sandy loam with angular – sub-rounded gravels <0.02m. CBM and bricks throughout the deposit. Layer present to increase the ground surface.	0.47m – 0.81m
1203	Natural	Mid orangey brown silty sandy loamy clay with common gravels <0.02m.	0.81m +
1204	Feature	A north-south running ditch with steep sides and a concave base. Contains two fills and is probably a garden feature for the house.	0.41m
1205	Fill	Mid grey brown silty clay loam with occasional sub-rounded gravels<0.04m. Low grade secondary fill of ditch originating from material washed in from the surrounding area.	0.32m
1206	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty loam with occasional sub-rounded gravels <0.07m. Contains burnt flint, clay pipe, glass, CBM and iron. Secondary fill of ditch showing a gradual build up of silts and deliberate dumping of waste.	0.10m
1207	Feature	A north-south aligned ditch running parallel to [1204]. Probable remains of a garden feature relating to the nearby house.	0.25m
1208	Feature	North-south aligned ditch with shallow concave edges and a flat base to the northeast of [1204]. Unknown purpose, possible garden feature relating to the nearby house.	0.23m
1209	Fill	Mid greyish brown with orangey flecks, silty loam with angular to sub-rounded gravels <0.03. Secondary fill of ditch [1208].	0.23m
1210	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty loam containing sub-rounded gravels <0.07. Similar to (1206). Secondary fill of ditch [1204].	0.14m
		Trench also contained a disused manhole/storm drain associated the demolished house.	

Trench 13	Trench not excavated due to placement under an establish tree line.

Trench 14			
Dimensions 24.27m X 1.50m X 0.71m NW 78.57m – SE 78.90m aOD			
Land use: Grassland – Car parking.			
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1400	Topsoil	Dark brown clay silts with moderate rounded gravels <0.01m. Deposit comprises the modern turf line and topsoil.	0m – 0.43m
1401	Remnant subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silt clays with moderate sub-rounded gravels <0.03m. Most probably a remnant subsoil.	0.43m – 0.60m

1402	Natural	Mid orangey yellow with occasional rounded pea grit gravels. The natural geology of the area.	0.60m +
1403	Feature	A circular straight sided posthole. Posthole is cut into the topsoil indicating the feature as modern. No evidence of post in-situ so it has been removed.	0.52m
1404	Fill	Dark greyish brown clayey silt with moderate sub-round gravels <0.02m. Primary fill of posthole resulting from topsoil falling in when the post was removed.	0.26m
1405	Fill	Mid brown with orange mottling, silty clay with rounded gravels <0.01m. Deliberate backfill of posthole with redeposited natural and topsoil sealing up the cut.	0.25m
1406	Feature	An east-west running prehistoric ditch with steep concave sides and a concave base. Unknown primary purpose of ditch but most probably used as a boundary ditch.	0.37m
1407	Fill	Light brown with red mottling, clayey silt with sub-rounded gravels 10mm – 140mm = 15%. Prehistoric pottery was also present. Primary fill of ditch [1406] showing feature edge erosion/slumping from the north side.	0.20m
1408	Fill	Mid grey with light grey mottling, clay silt with sub-rounded gravels 10mm – 40mm = 10%. Pottery found within deposit. Prehistoric secondary fill of ditch originating from the surrounding environment. Most probably multiple fills but only one seen in section.	0.37m
		Trench also has a small band of Post-Medieval / modern disturbance to the southeast. Trench was shorted to account for tree canopy exclusions.	

Trench 15.1	Dimensions 18.14m X 1.50m X 0.83m		WSW 78.89m – ENE 79.02m aOD
	Land use: Grassland – Car parking		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1500	Topsoil	Sandy silt loam. Layer comprises of the turn line.	0m – 0.06m
1501	Made Ground	Layer of brick and mortar rubble containing slate and remnant topsoils. Probably the demolition rubble from demolished house.	0.06m – 0.20m
1502	Remnant Topsoil	Mid brown silty loam with occasional brick / mortar rubble and rounded gravels <0.07m. Layer of made ground raising the ground surface surrounding the house.	0.20m – 0.49m
1503	Made Ground	Mid brown silty loam containing occasional brick and mortar rubble, sub-rounded gravels <0.04m. First layer of deliberate backfill to increase the ground surface surround the house.	0.49m – 0.71m
1504	Remnant Subsoil.	Mid yellowish brown silty loam containing rare sub-angular / sub-rounded gravel <0.07m. Remnant subsoil of the original ground surface.	0.47m – 0.75m
1505	Natural	Mid yellow brown silty loam with occasional sub-rounded / angular gravels <0.05m.	0.69m +
1506	Wall	Foundations of Round Oak House comprising of unfrogged bricks (dimensions 220x110x60mm) from 0.12m-0.45m bound with sandy mortar fill of quartz grains. Four courses extent set onto a brick and	0.12m – 0.78m

		rubble bonded concrete (0.45m-0.78m deep) foundations with the same mortar matrix.	
		Trench contained the surviving cellars of Round Oak, some of which were opened during machining revealing voids. Unstable area. Trench was shortened to account for tree canopy exclusions.	

Trench 15.2	Dimensions 7.16m X 1.50m X 1.15m		WNW 79m – ESE 78.77m aOD
	Land use: Grassland – Car parking		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1507	Topsoil	Dark grey black clayey silt with sharp edges. Modern topsoil and ground surface.	0m – 0.10m
1508	Made Ground	Sub-rounded gravels 10mm-40mm = 20%. Also contained CBM. Demolition rubble from the destruction of Round Oak adding to the raised level of the current ground surface.	0.10m – 0.17m
1509	Made Ground	Grey brown clayey silt with clear edges, sub-rounded gravels 10mm-80mm = 20% and also containing CBM. Layer of Post Medieval deliberate backfill dating to the construction of Round Oak adding to the raised ground surface.	0.17m – 0.40m
1510	Pipe	Old drainage pipe.	0.40m – 0.54m
1511	Made Ground	Grey brown clayey silt. Same as (1509) and appears the (1511), (1510) and (1509) were all contemporary during the construction of the house.	0.54m – 0.80m.
1512	Remnant Subsoil	Dark grey, clay silt, loose, moderately sorted with clear edges and sub-rounded gravels 10mm-30mm = 10%. Remnant subsoil of the original ground surface.	0.80m – 1.04m
1513	Natural	Natural grey brown gravels.	1.04m +
		Trench was not planned but shows the drainage system of the house as well as old water pipes. Trench was excavated due to grid pegs in the wrong alignment.	

Trench 16	Dimensions 30.14m X 1.50m X 0.98m		SW 79.41m – SE 79.05m aOD
	Land use: Grassland – Car parking		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1600	Topsoil	Mid brown silty loam with common roots throughout and rare gravel inclusions <0.01m	0m – 0.07m
1601	Made Ground	Pale brown beige deposit made up mostly of CBM, rubble, mortar and gravels <0.03m. A rubble layer most probably associated with deposits (1501) and (1508). Beneath this layer is a thin layer of asphalt approximately 0.03m in depth.	0.07m – 0.22m
1602	Remnant Topsoil	Mid brown silty loam containing flecks of CBM, mortar and sparse gravel >0.03m. Deposit probably also contains some made ground to increase the ground surface.	0.22m – 0.58m
1603	Remnant Subsoil	Pale to mid brown silty clay with moderate gravel <0.02 inclusions.	0.58m – 0.81m
1604	Natural	Mid orangey brown silty sandy loam with abundant >0.03 gravel inclusions.	0.81m +

		Trench also included a natural depression in filled with remnant top and subsoil and a modern gas pipe running through it. Trench was moved form original position due to live services found over original placement.	
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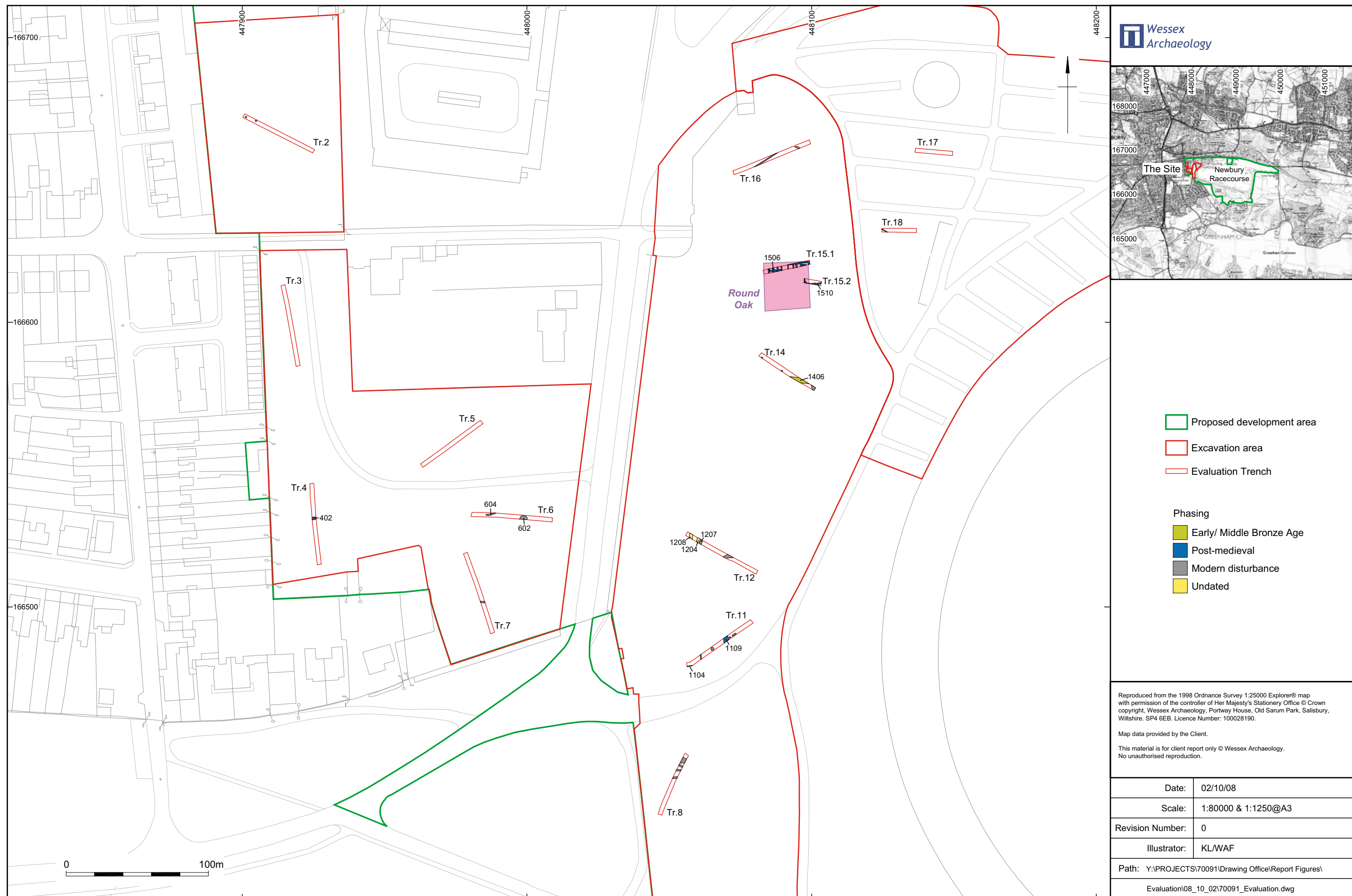
Trench 17	Dimensions 14.29m X 1.50m X 0.52m		WNW 77.5m – ESE 77.3m aOD
	Land use: Grassland – Car parking		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1700	Topsoil	Grey black clay silt with sub-rounded gravels 10mm-30mm = 3%, loose with sharp edges. Modern topsoil and ground surface.	0m – 0.20m
1701	Made Ground	Light grey, loose, sharp edges and poorly sorted sub-rounded gravel 10mm-20mm = 30%. Layer of gravel to raise the ground surface and assist with drainage.	0.20m – 0.22m
1702	Made Ground	Layer of asphalt indicating a previous ground surface and roadway.	0.22m – 0.35m
1703	Remnant Topsoil	Loose, dark grey clayey silt with moderately sorted sub-rounded gravels 10mm-40mm = 10%. Previous ground surface/turf line.	0.35m – 0.46m
1704	Remnant Subsoil	Dark grey black clayey silt with clear edge. A remnant subsoil.	0.46m – 0.52m
1705	Natural	Reddy yellow sandy gravel with white patches.	0.52m +
		Trench contained no archaeological features. Trench was moved form original position due to live services found over original placement.	

Trench 18	Dimensions 13.08m X 1.50m X 1.26m		W 78.46m – E 77.97m aOD
	Land use: Grassland – Car parking		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1800	Topsoil	Loose, sharp edges, moderately sorted with sub-rounded gravels 10mm-60mm = 25%. Modern topsoil and ground surface.	0m – 0.15m
1801	Made Ground	Light brown grey, clayey silt, loose and poorly sorted with sub-rounded gravels 10mm-90mm = 25%. A dump of Post Medieval rubble used to build up the modern day ground surface.	0.15m – 0.34m
1802	Made Ground	Layer of asphalt indicating a previous ground surface and road way within this area.	0.34m – 0.37m
1803	Made Ground	Mid brown with yellow mottling containing sub-rounded gravels 10mm-90mm = 30%. Modern CBM throughout. Consolidation layer used to build up the ground surface for the above roadway.	0.37m – 0.64m
1804	Made Ground	Layer of asphalt indicating a previous ground surface and roadway.	0.64m – 0.72m
1805	Made Ground	Dark grey silty clay with sub-rounded gravels 10mm-80mm = 20%. CBM throughout. Dump of material to increase the land surface and stabilize the ground.	0.72m – 0.93m
1806	Made Ground	Dark grey yellow silty clay with sub-rounded flint	0.93m

		10mm-80mm = 20%. Same as (1805) but is slightly mixed in with the natural.	- 1.26m
1807	Natural	Reddy yellow natural gravels.	1.26m +
		Trench was moved form original position due to placement within the tree canopy. The trench was also contained a modern fibre-optic cable.	

10.2 Table 2: All Finds by Context (Number/Weight in Grammes)

Context	Pottery	CBM	Other finds
600	3/5		6 burnt flint/20, 1 iron nail/2
605			6 burnt flint/55
807	5/5	4/104	
1111	2/147	2/696	11 animal bone/128, 1 shell/21
1206	1/1	32/746	1 clay pipe frag/2, 1 burnt flint/6, 6 iron frags/104, 2 glass/10
1209		1/100	
1404			1 slag/77
1407	1/7		
1408	10/46		1 flint flake/10
1506		4/13200	
Totals	22/211	43/14846	



Site location and Trench layout plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: West facing section of Ditch 1406

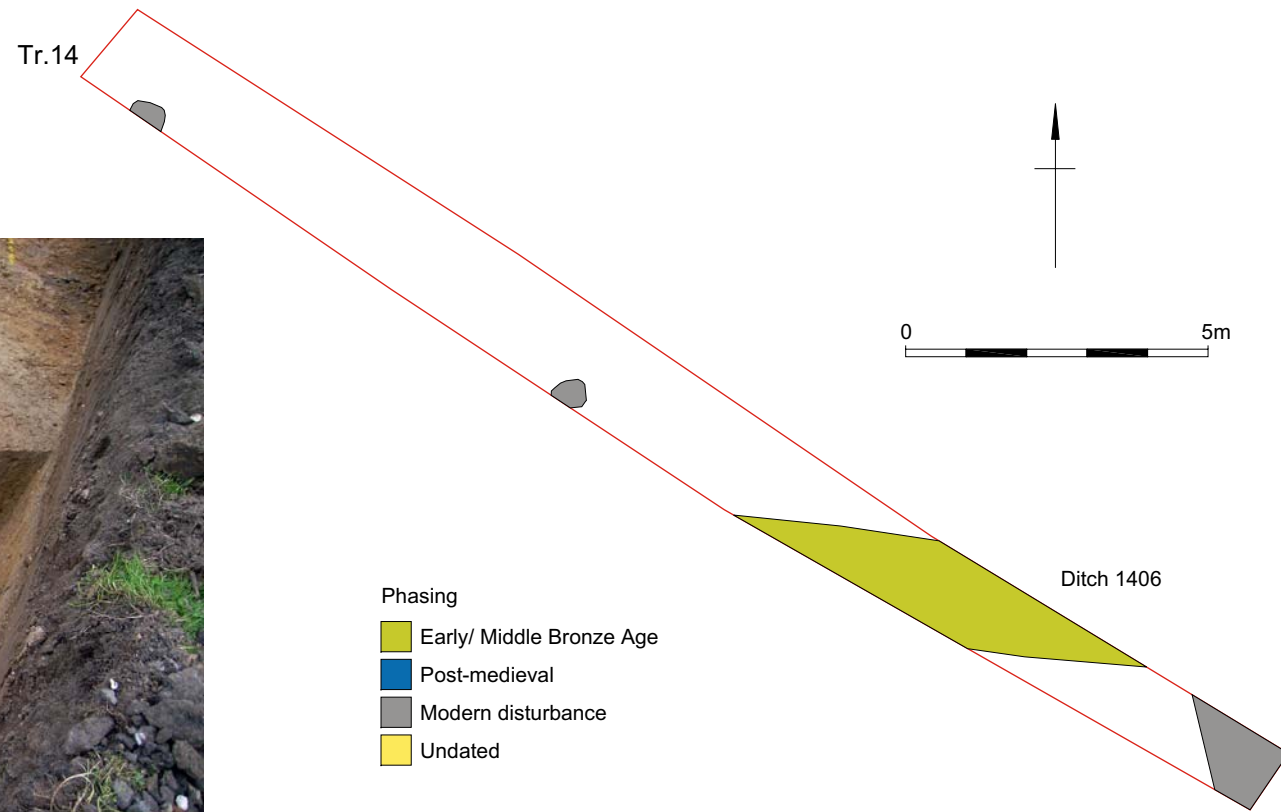


Plate 2: Trench 14 looking north-west



Plate 3: Trench 15.1 looking east-north-east

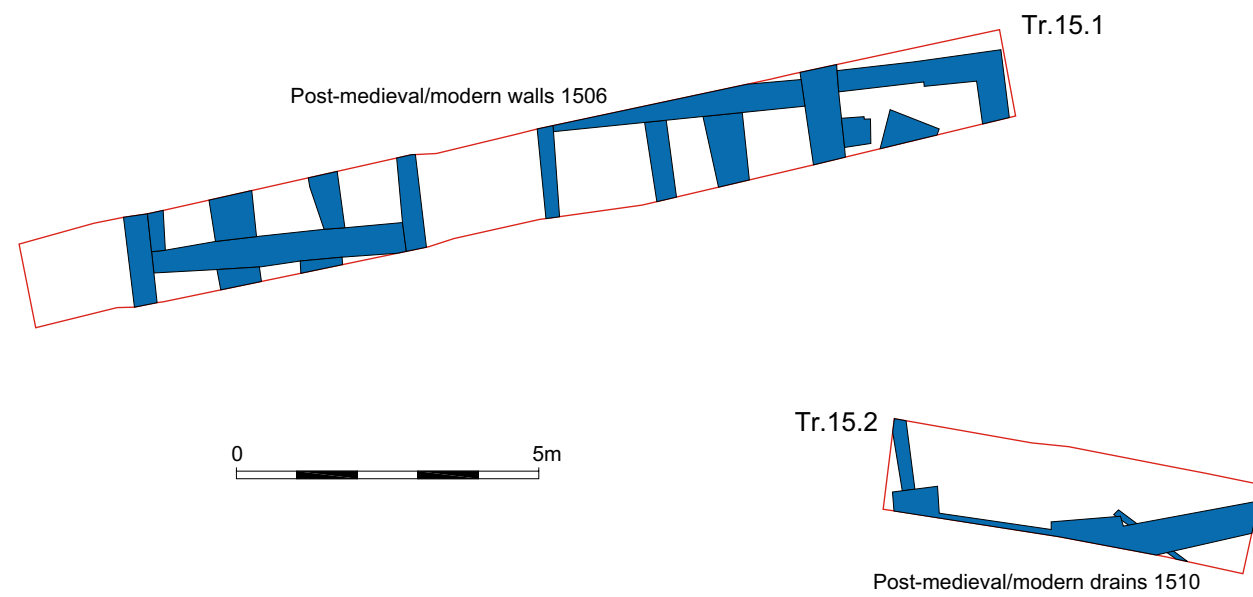



Plate 4: Shot of open cellar looking north



Plate 5: South facing section of modern intrusion 604 in Trench 6



Plate 6: South-east facing section of disturbed ground in Trench 8

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