



# Land at Elmfield House Petersfinger, Salisbury Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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## Contents

Summary .....	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iii
<b>1 INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Project and planning background.....	1
1.2 Scope of the report .....	2
1.3 Location, topography and geology .....	2
<b>2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1 Introduction.....	2
2.2 Previous investigations within the development area .....	2
2.3 Archaeological and historical context.....	3
<b>3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1 General aims .....	5
3.2 General objectives .....	5
3.3 Site-specific objectives.....	5
<b>4 METHODS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
4.1 Introduction.....	5
4.2 Fieldwork methods.....	6
4.3 Finds and environmental strategies .....	6
4.4 Monitoring.....	7
<b>5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE .....</b>	<b>7</b>
5.1 Introduction.....	7
5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits .....	7
<b>6 FINDS EVIDENCE.....</b>	<b>9</b>
6.1 Introduction.....	9
6.2 Worked flint.....	10
6.3 Pottery .....	10
6.4 Fossil.....	11
6.5 Burnt flint .....	11
6.6 Animal bone.....	11
6.7 Conservation .....	11
<b>7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE.....</b>	<b>12</b>
7.1 Introduction.....	12
7.2 Aims and methods .....	12
7.3 Results .....	12
7.4 Conclusions .....	13
<b>8 CONCLUSIONS .....</b>	<b>13</b>
8.1 Summary .....	13
8.2 Discussion .....	13
<b>9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION.....</b>	<b>14</b>
9.1 Museum.....	14
9.2 Preparation of the archive.....	14
9.3 Selection strategy .....	14
9.4 Security copy .....	15
9.5 OASIS .....	16
<b>10 COPYRIGHT .....</b>	<b>16</b>
10.1 Archive and report copyright .....	16
10.2 Third party data copyright .....	16



<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b> .....	<b>20</b>
Appendix 1 Trench summaries .....	20
Appendix Environmental assessment results .....	23
Appendix 3 OASIS summary .....	25

#### List of Figures

<b>Figure 1</b>	Site and trench location with previous investigation
<b>Figure 2</b>	Archaeological results in trench 2 and 3
<b>Figure 3</b>	Schematic profile through deposits at the edge of the Avon floodplain
<b>Figure 4</b>	View of trench 5 from the east, 2 x 1 m scales
<b>Figure 5</b>	East facing representative section of trench 1, 2 x 1 m scales
<b>Figure 6</b>	South facing representative section of trench 2, 2 x 1 m scales
<b>Figure 7</b>	View of trench 2 from the west, 2 x 1 m scales
<b>Figure 8</b>	View of sondage within trench 4 from the south, 2 x 1 m scales
<b>Figure 9</b>	South facing representative section of trench 3, 2 x 1 m scales
<b>Figure 10</b>	East facing section of posthole 206, 1 x 0.2 m scale
<b>Figure 11</b>	East facing section of posthole 305, 1 x 0.2 m scale
<b>Figure 12</b>	South facing section posthole 307, 1 x 0.2 m scale

#### List of Tables

<b>Table 1</b>	Summary of finds by material type and context, no./weight (g)
<b>Table 2</b>	Summary of flint types by context
<b>Table 3</b>	Pottery totals by ware type
<b>Table 4</b>	Environmental assessment results.



## Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Keith Rodger to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 1.02 ha parcel of land located at Elmfield House, Pertersfinger Road, Petersfinger, Salisbury.

Earlier investigations highlighted Early Neolithic activity within Holocene sediments immediately south-west of the evaluation, proven by the presence of cereal grains which were subject to radiocarbon dating. Some evidence of Mesolithic activity was also recorded in this area.

Of the five trenches investigated, two contained archaeological remains, comprising three postholes. Although dating for the postholes remains unclear, environmental samples taken from those in trench 3 have revealed regionally significant quantities of cereal grains, including chaff, wheat and barley. Though, at present, the dating of these features remains uncertain, when considered alongside the results of earlier studies to the immediate south-west, which also produced quantities of wheat and barley grains from alluvial deposits, it is likely that these features and their contents date either to the Early Neolithic or to the late Neolithic/ early Bronze Age; thus, indicating the possible presence of an extensive Early Neolithic landscape within the Avon valley.

The evaluation has also provided data which, alongside the results of the Park and Ride site and previous fieldwork at Elmfield House, has enabled the reconstruction of a preliminary model of deposits forming the lower slopes of the Avon valley side and extending into the floodplain.

## Acknowledgements

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# Land at Elmfield House, Petersfinger Salisbury, Wiltshire

## Archaeological Evaluation

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Keith Rodger to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 1.02 ha parcel of land located at Elmfield House, Pertersfinger Road, Petersfinger, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 3BZ centred on NGR 416265 129187 (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the conversion of Elmfield House and outbuildings to six dwellings, and the erection of 15 additional dwellings. The development will include associated hard and soft landscaping, installation of services and other necessary works. The development area extends to the south-west gardens, into an area of former paddocks, which have previously been subject to archaeological investigation in association with a former development proposal (19/00967/out and PL 2021/079611; Wessex Archaeology 2019a; Wessex Archaeology 2022; and Harding and Treasure forthcoming).
- 1.1.3 An initial evaluation of the former paddocks suggested a presence of Upper Palaeolithic activity (Wessex Archaeology 2019a). These findings resulted in a subsequent phase of archaeological mitigation which confirmed the presence of human activity within Holocene deposits at the edge of the River Avon floodplain. However, although some Early Mesolithic activity, as indicated by the presence of a scatter of worked flint, was identified, the focus of activity was during the Early Neolithic period. Of particular interest was the recovery of cereal grains, largely wheat and barley, from environmental samples of alluvial deposits (Treasure and Harding forthcoming).
- 1.1.4 Further afield results of archaeological investigations have proven the presence of Early Saxon settlement concentrated within the existing Park and Ride site, and a cemetery of 6th century origins (AC 2005; AC 2009; and Leeds and Shortt 1953). It is noted, however, that the earlier investigations undertaken within 'the paddocks' did not reveal any extension of Anglo-Saxon settlement.
- 1.1.5 A planning application (PL/2023/10495) submitted to Wiltshire Council, remains under consultation. Due to the known archaeology within the vicinity of the site, Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service (WCAS), archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), instructed that the application remain under consultation in order for the results of an archaeological evaluation be used to inform planning decisions. This report details the results of the subsequent evaluation.
- 1.1.6 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2024). WCAS approved the written scheme of investigation (WSI), on behalf of the LPA, prior to the fieldwork.
- 1.1.7 The evaluation, comprising five trial trenches was undertaken between the 2 - 4 September 2024.



## 1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.
- 1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

## 1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The evaluation was located within the gardens of Elmfield House, within the Petersfinger area on the eastern edge of Salisbury, Wiltshire. Comprised of grassland with a dense treeline screening the gardens from the A36 Southampton Road to the south, and the Park and Ride to the west, the site is positioned on the northern fringes of the River Avon floodplain, near the confluence with the River Bourne. A small stream traversing the development area on an approximate east-west and north-west to south-east alignment, provides a southern border with the former paddocks area. Petersfinger Road, bordering the site to the north, provides access to development area. Additional residential development is located to the north and north-east of the site.
- 1.3.2 The evaluation area comprised an irregular shaped parcel of land with ground levels recorded between 46 and 47 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.3.3 The bedrock geology is mapped as chalk of the Newhaven Chalk Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed between 86.3 and 72.1 million years ago during the Cretaceous period. This is overlain by superficial Head deposit(s) of clay, silt, sand and gravel, formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period (British Geological Survey 2024). Various colluvial and alluvial deposits, however, were identified during the evaluation. These deposits are discussed in detail within section 5.2 of this report.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in association with the earlier development proposals (Wessex Archaeology 2022) and included within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2024). The assessment considered the recorded historic environment resource. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Wiltshire 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 within the development area

#### *Archaeological Evaluation (2019)*

- 2.2.1 Wessex Archaeology carried out a five-trench evaluation on the site of the former paddocks, separated from the proposed evaluation area by a small stream. The results of this former investigation led to the further archaeological mitigation works (Wessex Archaeology 2019a; Harding and Treasure forthcoming). A single archaeological layer (204) was uncovered within Trench 2 which consisted of *in situ* burnt clay, with burnt and worked flint. The worked flint was potentially dated to the Upper Palaeolithic and showed little evidence of post-depositional movement, making the archaeological deposit of at least regional importance. The cause of the burning is uncertain but the shallow undulatory nature of the burning suggests that this may be the result of burnt out roots or, possibly, a camp fire.



2.2.2 Following the subsequent mitigation (section 2.2.5) concluded that the deposit was of Early Mesolithic origin.

2.2.3 Other finds were very sparsely represented and (where datable) have a potential date range from medieval to modern.

#### *Archaeological mitigation*

2.2.4 Following the evaluation of the former paddocks, trench 2 was re-excavated with a small extension measuring 4.5 m long and 3 m wide along its south-western edge, the results of which are of particular note. Fluvial and colluvial deposits were identified along with alluvial deposits recorded in the southern extent of the excavated area. A quantity of well-preserved flints were recovered from a charcoal rich band within this alluvial deposit believed to pertain to a buried land surface.

2.2.5 Though the previously identified lithic scatter within trench 2 during the evaluation was confirmed as Mesolithic, evidence for human activity was dominated by Early Neolithic artefacts and ecofacts, the assemblage of which comprised mainly domestic items such as pottery and charred plant remains.

2.2.6 Of particular significance was the recovery of a substantial assemblage of charred cereal grains, mostly barley and wheat, from alluvial deposits. Whilst, due to a notable lack of cereal chaff and arable weeds, it remains unclear whether these grains were locally cultivated or acquired through trade, radiocarbon dating of the grains produced an Early Neolithic date. A hazelnut shell was also selected for radiocarbon dating, though this produced a later date of Early Bronze Age consistent with a sherd of the pottery assemblage which was dated to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. It currently remains unclear whether these 'later' items indicate continued activity or are intrusive, having been reworked into earlier deposits.

2.2.7 Overall, the mitigation undertaken not only proved the presence of previously unknown human activity on the outskirts of the River Avon floodplain, but also highlighted the archaeological potential of floodplain margins.

## **2.3 Archaeological and historical context**

### *Churchfields 1860 collection*

2.3.1 The following information has been summarised from '*The Upper Palaeolithic of Churchfields, Fisherton: 160 Years in the Making*' (Barton and Harding 2021), published in the Antiquaries Journal 2021 as part of project to mark the 800th anniversary of the medieval city and cathedral.

2.3.2 A collection of artefacts originally found in 1860 at Churchfields on the west side of Salisbury were rediscovered in Salisbury Museum's collection during unrelated archaeological research. The collection comprises 38 artefacts including a series of blades, which include refitting components indicating they were found in undisturbed contexts. The blade blanks had been removed from opposed platform cores, using careful core preparation and soft hammer percussion. These characteristics can be most closely paralleled in the Upper Palaeolithic.

2.3.3 The artefacts are in fresh condition with some recent damage likely caused on their discovery or time in the museum collection. Both patinated and unpatinated examples are apparent, with eight pieces seemingly unintentionally broken. The blades showed no

corresponding variations in technological attributes to suggest that they were derived from different scatters or were of different dates.

- 2.3.4 The exact location at which these artefacts were found is not known, Churchfields was located in what is now the area of Salisbury railway station, boarded by the River Nadder, near its confluence with the River Avon to the east, and Spring ditch to the west.
- 2.3.5 Although it is not possible to draw a conclusion as to whether these artefacts come from the Late or Final Upper Palaeolithic, parallels can be drawn with similar collections found nearby at River Avon valley at Hengistbury Head and Nea Farm, and also on the banks of the River Test at La Sagesse Convent, Romsey.

*Prehistoric (970,000 BC – AD 43)*

- 2.3.6 Other than the Final Upper Palaeolithic flints outlined above, chance discoveries of prehistoric cultural material, including Mesolithic and Neolithic worked flints and Bronze Age pottery, have periodically been reported in the Petersfinger area, along with occasional Romano-British finds (eg, Goddard 1914, 226; Stevens 1942; Moore and Algar 1968).
- 2.3.7 Neolithic and Early Bronze Age artefactual material was also recovered from a concentration of 'subsoil features and deposits' uncovered immediately west of the proposed evaluation area during archaeological works conducted prior to the construction of the adjacent park and ride site (AC Archaeology 2005 and 2009).

*Anglo-Saxon (AD 410–1066)*

- 2.3.8 The investigations at the park and ride site also revealed several Saxon pits, gullies, and the remains of a sunken featured building, providing evidence for occupation on the site prior to the development of the village of Petersfinger during the medieval period. Earlier archaeological work at the site of the neighbouring Tesco superstore identified no evidence that any archaeologically significant remains continued to the west of the park and ride site (Wessex Archaeology 1988; Cotswold Archaeology 2005).
- 2.3.9 A large early (6th century) Saxon cemetery was initially discovered, approximately 130 m north of the proposed evaluation area, during the excavation of a cutting for the South-Western Railway in the mid-19th century. The cemetery contained at least 70 inhumation burials, the majority of which were excavated between 1948-1951 (Leeds and Shortt 1953).

*Medieval (1066–1500)*

- 2.3.10 Little, if any direct evidence for the occupation of the medieval village of Petersfinger has been recorded, probably as the core of the settlement lay beneath existing development. However, excavations undertaken by the Salisbury Museum Archaeological Research Group in 1955-1970, over 400 m to the north-west of the proposed development area, revealed extensive remains associated with a large medieval pottery manufacturing site (NHLE 1003253). The site operated on an industrial scale, producing vast quantities of pottery, as well as roof and floor tiles, drainpipes and other products used in construction, during the 12th–14th centuries. Products from the site have been recovered across Salisbury, the royal palace at Clarendon and sites across southern England.

*Post-medieval (1500–1800)*

- 2.3.11 Early editions of Ordnance Survey mapping indicate that the land divisions within and on the boundaries of the proposed development area have undergone several phases of reorganisation since the late 19th century. These maps also reveal that the extant trackway, which leads across this area, linking Southampton Road with Petersfinger Road, has been

in existence since at least 1881. The dry canal surrounding the northern and eastern sides of the proposed development area can be correlated with a channel shown on Andrews' and Dury's 1773 map of Wiltshire. This seems to have formed part of the extensive systems of water meadows, which were probably established in this part of the Avon valley from c.1650–1750 (Cave-Penney 2004, 41).

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 General aims**

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2004), 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.

#### **3.3 Site-specific objectives**

3.3.1 The site-specific objectives, as defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2024), were to:

- examine evidence for further activity of prehistoric origin, possibly associated with that already identified to the south-west in the former paddocks;
- examine evidence for remains of Early Saxon activity as recorded within the wider area; and
- examine the artefactual and ecofactual potential of archaeological deposits.

### **4 METHODS**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2024) and in general compliance with ClfA standards and guidance (ClfA 2023a–b). 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, although trench 5 had to be moved slightly at the request of the landowners due to the presence of trees and shrubs in the garden (Fig. 1).
- 4.2.2 Five trial trenches were excavated in level spits using a 360° 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. The lengths of the trenches varied and consisted of 2 trenches measuring 15 m, 2 trenches of 10 m and 1 trench of 7 m in length.
- 4.2.3 Where access was deemed safe, the base of each trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. All of the archaeological features were 100% hand-excavated and the contents of two of these were retained as environmental samples.
- 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 The trenches were completed to the satisfaction of the client and WCAS and were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

### *Recording*

- 4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete 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.
- 4.2.7 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.8 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 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.

## 4.3 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 2024). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014a), *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011), and ClfA's (n.d. a) *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).



#### **4.4 Monitoring**

- 4.4.1 WCAS monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and WCAS.

### **5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 Two of the five excavated trial trenches contained in situ archaeological features and a layer of flint-gravel rich alluvium in a third trench was found to contain a small quantity of prehistoric material. The features and the layer were all located at depth beneath alluvial deposits. Three postholes were recorded in trenches 2 and 3, with those in the latter containing substantial quantities of charred cereal grains. The flint gravel layer was recorded in trench 4.
- 5.1.2 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed by period.
- 5.1.3 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (Appendix 1). Figure 1 shows all the excavated trenches together with the location of the earlier archaeological investigations undertaken, and Figure 2 provides a detailed view of the archaeological results (Wessex Archaeology 2019a).

#### **5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits**

- 5.2.1 The trial trenches were positioned to evaluate all parts of the site that may be impacted by the proposed development. The sections that were created by the evaluation have made it possible to reconstruct a schematic profile of palaeogeological deposits that ascend from the floodplain up the lower slopes of the valley (Fig. 3). The results revealed that the floodplain margins and lower valley side comprised a sequence of solifluction and colluvial deposits that were partially reworked by fluvial activity.
- 5.2.2 The deposit model does not extend to the higher slopes of the valley; however, sections observed in the side of a driveway approximately 150 m to the north-west of the site suggest that these elevated margins are composed of angular chalk rubble that overlies natural Chalk. The rubble was probably derived from periglacial activity during the last glaciation and may represent the primary phase in the sedimentary sequence.
- 5.2.3 The basal deposits of the evaluation comprised coarse, yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty loam (Figs 4 and 5). The well-sorted, stone-free nature of the deposit suggests that this material was partially alluvial and derived from low energy, overbank flooding and was partially formed from calcareous colluvium that was incorporated from the adjacent valley sides. Fluvial activity was confirmed by a thin bed of sand containing Greensand near the base of trench 1. The unit outcropped immediately beneath the topsoil in trench 1 and could be traced downslope to the base of trench 2 (Figs 5 and 6). Similar material was described in machine-dug sections (Allen 2009) in the Park and Ride site at a similar altitude, approximately 200 m to the north of the site.
- 5.2.4 The basal silty loam was overlain by a white (2.5Y 8/1) compact stone-free calcareous silt marl reminiscent of calcareous periglacial solifluction deposits. This material, which feathered out upslope in the trench 2 section, contained fine flint and chalk flecks and overlay a band of dark reddish brown (5RY 3/4) fine silty clay (Fig. 7). The clay also feathered out upslope below the chalky marl suggesting that it represents a decalcified component of the overlying material. Similar chalky sediment formed the base of a

geotechnical test pit at the north end of trench 4 (Fig. 8). The chalky marl is also likely to be alluvial; pockets of compact mottled sand were incorporated in material of this type seen in trenches on the lower floodplain, where it may have formed the base of a later floodplain meander (Harding forthcoming). The chalky marl was also probably derived from Late Glacial soliflucted Chalk which had been reworked into the fluvial system, a process noted in Pleistocene fluvial gravels capping Milford Hill in the city (Harding and Bridgland 1998). Similar marl was also noted in adjacent evaluation trenches 1 and 3 (Wessex Archaeology 2019a) and also in the Park and Ride site (Allen 2009) immediately north of the Elmfield House site.

- 5.2.5 The chalk marl was overlain by brown (7.5YR 4/3) clay silt, stone free alluvium that was probably deposited in a low energy fluvial environment and also partially derived from colluvium. The feather edge of this deposit was revealed in the downslope edge of trench 2 but thickened and dominated the sequence in trench 3, where it was especially well preserved, and in trench 4 where it was truncated by later flinty colluvium (Figs 8 and 9). The alluvium comprised at least two individual episodes of deposition which were separated in trench 3 by two postholes containing artefacts that included pottery and charcoal. This depositional pattern repeats that seen in an earlier phase of fieldwork where a deposit containing Early Neolithic pottery, worked flint and charred material including cereal grains was found in alluvium that was sealed by an upper layer of alluvium (Harding and Treasure forthcoming).
- 5.2.6 The alluvium at the south end of trench 4 was truncated by a thick layer of flinty colluvium in a matrix of grey-brown clay silt that contained pottery and worked flint (Fig. 8). The entire site was covered by heavily rooted mid grey-brown silty clay loam topsoil and subsoil with rare sub angular flint inclusions.
- 5.2.7 The upper parts of trench 5 were truncated by modern disturbance which had removed the upper parts of the sequence (Fig. 4). The basal unit comprised brownish yellow (10YR 7/6) or light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) poorly sorted fine- medium sub rounded/rounded flint sandy gravel with mixed larger flint clasts, up to 0.12 m, and fine chalk flecks. It is difficult to fit this deposit into the schematic deposit model, although it may represent a terrace remnant or gravel bar within a braided stream that was laid down in a high energy fluvial environment.

#### *Trench 2*

- 5.2.8 Trench 2 contained a single oval shaped posthole (206) which contained several small pieces of worked and burnt flint (Fig. 10). The feature measured 0.36 m in length by 0.28 m in width and 0.17m in depth. The posthole contained a single deposit comprising a grey-brown clay silt with small chalk inclusions; it was cut into a layer of fine chalky clay silt colluvium (203). The posthole was uncovered at a depth of 0.65 m below the current ground level. Due to a lack of artefactual evidence, this posthole remains undated.

#### *Trench 3*

- 5.2.9 Two further postholes were recorded in trench 3 (Figs 11 and 12). These circular features appear to have been truncated in antiquity. The first, located towards the centre of the trench (305) measured 0.23 m in diameter and 0.04 m in depth (Fig. 11). The grey-brown silty clay fill (304) contained fragments of prehistoric pottery and a piece of burnt animal bone. The second posthole, (307), located approximately 1.6 m to the west of posthole 305 measured 0.20 m in diameter and 0.05 m in depth (Fig. 12). The single deposit (306) consisted of a charcoal rich clay silt with fine chalk flecks.



- 5.2.10 A sherd of prehistoric pottery was additionally recovered immediately adjacent to the feature within the colluvium (303). Both postholes were encountered at a depth of approximately 1 m beneath the current ground level, at an interface between alluvial deposits of separate depositional events.
- 5.2.11 The deposits of both postholes were collected for environmental sampling, and produced large amounts of charred plant remains, mostly comprising cereal grains which, unlike those identified during the earlier mitigation works to the south-west, contained notable quantities of chaff, though wheat and barley were also found in abundance.
- 5.2.12 Whilst the presence of prehistoric pottery and flint indicates a prehistoric date for posthole 305, the nature of the fill and lack of quantity of finds recovered has led to the inability to more precisely date either of the postholes. The preservation of chaff within the ecofact assemblage has led to postulations regarding these features as being of later origin than the activity dated to the Early Neolithic by cereal grains recovered during the earlier mitigation. However, the significant number of cereal grains recovered is more in-keeping with the Early Neolithic period as opposed to the Late Neolithic period.

## 6 FINDS EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Approximately 1.7 kg of finds was recovered. Prehistoric worked flint was the most commonly occurring material type, with small quantities of other finds found that are also of probable prehistoric date. The finds have been cleaned and quantified by material type in each context and scanned to assess their nature, condition and potential date range. Totals by material type are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1** Summary of finds by material type and context, no./weight (g)

Context	Feature	Burnt flint		Flint		Pottery		Other	Total	
		No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.		No.	Wt.
201	Topsoil	-	-	2	24	-	-	-	2	24
207	Posthole 206	29	32	13	91	1	1	-	43	124
300	Topsoil	3	41	16	229	-	-	-	19	270
303	Layer	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	1	3
304	Posthole 305	-	-	2	1	3	11	Animal bone 2 (2 g); stone 1 (1 g)	8	15
306	Posthole 307	-	-	-	-	-	-	Animal bone 1 (1 g)	1	1
401	Topsoil	4	235	15	957	-	-	-	19	1192
403	Layer	2	34	2	14	1	8	-	5	56
<b>Total</b>		<b>38</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1316</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>98</b>	<b>1685</b>

## 6.2 Worked flint

**Table 2** Summary of flint types by context

Context	Core	Blade	Flake	Broken flake	Misc retouched	Chip	Total
201		1	1				2
207	1		1			11	13
300			9	6	1		16
304						2	2
401	1		8	4	2		15
403			1	1			2
Total	2	1	20	11	3	13	50

- 6.2.2 The trenches produced a small assemblage of worked flints. The largest collections were made from topsoil or colluvium in trenches 3 and 4 with a small number increased by microdebitage (chips) from sieved residue from pit/posthole 206. All artefacts from surface deposits were covered by a developed white surface patina and were characterised by post depositional edge damage. Material of this type is chronologically undiagnostic and is biased in favour of larger, more robust pieces that are more suited to withstand movement and reworking in soils. This material, which mirrors that described from the Park and Ride site (AC 2009), is most likely to have migrated down slope to the valley floor and is unrelated to stratified Early Neolithic material from floodplain alluvium beneath the upper colluvium of trenches 3 and 4.
- 6.2.3 The small number of pieces from features 206 and 305 do not include sufficient material to be chronologically identifiable. Pit/posthole 206 included a small bladelet core that may be of Neolithic date. The additional microdebitage is also notable but does little to establish a Neolithic date for this feature.
- 6.2.4 Microdebitage from posthole 305 is similarly inconclusive. The date of this feature may be resolved using radio carbon techniques.

## 6.3 Pottery

- 6.3.1 Six sherds, all of prehistoric date, were recovered from four contexts. Sherds from each context have been sub-divided into broad ware groups based largely on dominant inclusion type(s) (e.g. flint-tempered) and quantified by number and weight of pieces (Table 3). Full fabric descriptions are retained in the archive. A spot date for each context has been assigned. However, given the nature of several of the deposits, there is a degree of uncertainty over whether the sherds reliably date the contexts within which they were found. The level of recording is consistent with the 'basic record' advocated for the rapid characterisation of pottery assemblages (Barclay *et al* 2016, Section 2.4.5). Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs) have not been used due to the absence of any rims.
- 6.3.2 The assemblage is extremely fragmentary, all pieces display surface abrasion and edge damage. The poor condition is reflected in a mean sherd weight of 3.8 g.

**Table 3** Pottery totals by ware type

Period	Ware	Fabric code	No.	Wt (g)
Prehistoric	Flint-tempered ware with ferruginous pellets	F11	3	12
	Flint-tempered ware	F1	1	7
	Sandy ware	Q99	1	3
	Grog-tempered ware	G1	1	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>6</b>	<b>23</b>

- 6.3.3 Four sherds are present in fabrics predominantly tempered with crushed, calcined flint inclusions in slightly sandy matrices. Three of these pieces (two from posthole 304; 1 from layer 403) contain soft, ferruginous pellets (fabric F11) which are absent in the fourth sherd (fabric F1; also from posthole 304) suggesting more than one source of clay was utilised in their manufacture. A tiny sandy ware sherd came from posthole 206.
- 6.3.4 Similarly small quantities of flint-tempered sherds were found during archaeological works immediately adjacent to this site (Wessex Archaeology 2019a; Harding and Treasure forthcoming), some were associated with material for which Early Neolithic radiocarbon dates have been obtained (*ibid.*). However, the moderate sorting of the flint inclusions and harder firing of the sherds in the current assemblage are noticeably different to the fabrics identified during that phase of works and possibly suggest a later prehistoric (i.e. Bronze Age or Iron Age) date for this group although an earlier date cannot be definitively ruled out.
- 6.3.5 A single undiagnostic body sherd in grog-tempered fabric G1 was found in layer 303 and is of possible Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date.

## 6.4 Fossil

- 6.4.1 A small split globular perforated fossil, 6 mm diameter, of the *Porosphaera globularis* family was found in sieve residue from posthole 305. These fossils have central holes that may have been enlarged to create beads. They occur naturally but have been found previously in Neolithic pits (Wessex Archaeology 2019b) to hint that they may have been adapted to function as decorative items.

## 6.5 Burnt flint

- 6.5.1 A total of 12 pieces (333 g) of burnt, unworked flint was found in four contexts (Table 1). This material type is intrinsically undatable but is frequently associated with prehistoric activity. The largest quantity (4 pieces, 235 g) came from the topsoil in trench 4.

## 6.6 Animal bone

- 6.6.1 Three small unidentifiable fragments came from postholes 305 and 307. One is burnt (calcined) and the other two are eroded.

## 6.7 Conservation

- 6.7.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field or during the subsequent assessment of this material.

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Three bulk (flotation) samples from postholes were processed for the recovery and assessment of environmental evidence.

### 7.2 Aims and methods

7.2.1 The aim of this assessment is to determine the nature and significance of the environmental remains preserved at the site. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with Historic England's guidelines outlined in *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

#### *Bulk samples*

7.2.2 The samples were processed by standard methods on a Siraf-type tank, with the flots collected on a 0.25 mm mesh and the residues retained on a 1 mm mesh. Once processed, the residues were dried in a low temperature oven, and the flots were air-dried before being transferred to labelled containers. The dried residues were split into coarse ( $\geq 4$  mm) and fine ( $< 4$  mm) fractions.

7.2.3 The coarse residue fractions ( $> 4$  mm) were sorted by eye for artefactual and environmental remains and then discarded. The fine residue fractions (1–4 mm) and the flots were scanned using a stereomicroscope at up to 40x magnification for charred plant remains, wood charcoal and other environmental remains (e.g., molluscs). The presence of other material was noted in the samples where applicable (e.g., modern roots, modern seeds, coal etc.). Environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots.

7.2.4 Plant remains were identified through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006). Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereal remains and other cultivated crops (using traditional names).

### 7.3 Results

7.3.1 The results are presented in Appendix 2, Table 4.

7.3.2 The sample from posthole 206 in Trench 2 produced a very small flot which is primarily composed of modern roots, coal and clinker/cinder. There are some terrestrial molluscs, including the blind burrowing snail (*Ceciloides acicula*). Wood charcoal is present in trace quantities.

7.3.3 Both of the samples from the postholes (305, 307) in Trench 3 produced small flots which contain trace quantities of wood charcoal and abundant charred cereal remains, with evidence for emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare* sl.). The sample from posthole 307 is particularly rich in emmer wheat grains and chaff (spikelet forks, glume bases). Small fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell are also present in the sample from posthole 307. There are small quantities of modern roots and seeds in both samples, as well as terrestrial molluscs (including *C. acicula*).



## 7.4 Conclusions

7.4.1 The sample from the posthole (206) in Trench 2 does not contain any environmental remains of significance. The small quantities of wood charcoal, coal and clinker/cinder could have been re-worked into this feature through bioturbation.

7.4.2 A very significant assemblage of charred plant remains has been recovered from the postholes (305, 307) in Trench 3. The samples contained abundant emmer wheat grains and chaff fragments, as well as some barley grains and hazel nutshell fragments. The cereal remains could derive from a major conflagration event (e.g., a burnt down building), or they may reflect a 'placed deposit'. Overall, the range of evidence recovered in the samples could indicate that the features date to the Neolithic or Bronze Age, although a later date for the charred plant remain assemblage is also possible (Pelling and Campbell 2013). During previous archaeological works adjacent to the site, a very poorly preserved assemblage of wheat and barley grains dating to the Early Neolithic period was recovered from a thin spread of burnt material (Harding and Treasure forthcoming). The current assemblage of cereal remains is notably well-preserved in comparison, perhaps indicating that it dates to a different period. This would, however, need to be verified through radiocarbon dating.

### *Recommendations*

7.4.3 The environmental assessment indicates that there is high potential for further investigation of the area around Trench 3. If further fieldwork is undertaken at the site, a site-specific sampling strategy should be produced to guide the recovery of environmental remains.

7.4.4 Full analysis of the charred plant remains in the samples from postholes 305 and 307 is recommended. This should be accompanied by radiocarbon dating of the cereal remains. If the assemblage dates to the Neolithic period it would be regionally significant. Rich deposits of cereal remains are very rare for the Neolithic period, particularly in Wiltshire (Pelling and Campbell 2013).

## 8 CONCLUSIONS

### 8.1 Summary

8.1.1 Three postholes were investigated during the archaeological evaluation which has also provided a greater insight into the prehistoric environment and landscape changes through geological processes. Whilst the features identified within trench 3 have revealed a wealth of environmental evidence, a general paucity of artefacts has led to indeterminate conclusions being made regarding the origin of the postholes.

8.1.2 When considered alongside the results of archaeological mitigation to the immediate south-west, however, it is probable that these postholes relate to Neolithic and/or Bronze Age activity previously identified. Should further analysis of the environmental remains be undertaken the results of this evaluation alongside those of earlier archaeological studies could prove the presence of an extensive spread of Neolithic activity across the edge of the River Avon floodplain.

### 8.2 Discussion

8.2.1 The evaluation, when combined with results from the Park and Ride site (AC 2009) and previous fieldwork at Elmfield House (Harding and Treasure forthcoming), has provided data to reconstruct a preliminary model of deposits forming the lower slopes of the valley side and extending into the floodplain. The results have also indicated where these deposits relate to archaeological results. No artefacts or features have been found in the basal yellow

brown silty loam or the chalky marl. These deposits are likely to have been deposited towards the end of the last glaciation or early in the post glacial period. Human activity is known from this broad period; however, the density of archaeological discoveries is low.

- 8.2.2 Overlying deposits have demonstrated that they may contain archaeological remains. Anglo-Saxon features were found in the Park and Ride site (AC 2009) where they were cut into the chalky marl. The additional discovery of an undated posthole/ pit in trench 2 of the evaluation confirms that archaeological features are present in this part of the deposit model. Postholes in trench 3 have indicated that undated archaeological features are also present within the alluvium. The lack of material from the surrounding area may indicate that an associated land surface was truncated by fluvial activity before the deposition of the upper alluvium. The presence of archaeological deposits from this context repeats findings from the earlier fieldwork (Harding and Treasure forthcoming) where Early Neolithic activity was found within and overlain by floodplain alluvium. These features remain undated making it uncertain whether any relate to the Neolithic activity, to the Anglo-Saxon occupation or are chronologically separate.

## **9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **9.1 Museum**

- 9.1.1 The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Salisbury Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowners to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

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

#### *Physical archive*

- 9.2.1 The physical archive will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Salisbury Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; ClfA 2014b; SMA 1995).
- 9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the site code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- 1 cardboard box or airtight plastic box of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
  - 1 file/document case of paper records and A3/A4 graphics

#### *Digital archive*

- 9.2.3 The digital archive, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

### **9.3 Selection strategy**

- 9.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected for retention are

appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities (i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving museum).

- 9.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows ClfA's (n.d. b) *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (e.g., Wessex Archaeology's specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.
- 9.3.3 Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. The proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (e.g., museum, local authority), prior to deposition of the archive. Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

#### *Finds*

- Animal bone (3 fragments): no future research potential. Discard all.
- Burnt, unworked flint (38 pieces): undiagnostic, discarded
- Pottery (6 pieces): of prehistoric date, of local significance; retain all.
- Stone (1 piece): possible research potential; retain.
- Worked flint (50 pieces): of prehistoric date with some further research potential. Retain all.

#### *Palaeoenvironmental material*

- 9.3.4 The flots and extracted remains in two of the samples (1, 2) should be retained within the site archive since they contain significant quantities of charred plant remains with further research potential. It is recommended that the flot for sample 3 is discarded since it does not contain any environmental remains of significance.

#### *Documentary records*

- 9.3.5 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (written scheme of investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

#### *Digital data*

- 9.3.6 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others that are not directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

## **9.4 Security copy**

- 9.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., 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.



## **9.5 OASIS**

- 9.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 3). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by WCAS 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*.
- 10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

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

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

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Trench summaries

Trench No 1		Length 15 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 1.10 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
101		Topsoil	Grey brown slightly clay silt	0 – 0.12
102		Modern track surface	Redeposited chalk with common CBM / tile inclusions	0.12 – 0.40
103		Natural	Yellowish brown silty loam. Alluvial deposit with fine chalk inclusions. Lenses of greensand also evident with depth, indicating fluvial processes.	0.4+

Trench No 2		Length 15 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 1.20 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
201		Topsoil	Grey brown clay silt	0 – 0.31
202		Subsoil	Alluvium. Grey brown clay silt	0.31 – 0.68
203		Natural	Chalk alluvium. Degraded weathered chalk - clayey silt with lens of larger (2-3 mm) gritty chalk frags in centre between finer silt above and below. Runs deeper to the east and south. rises towards surface to the west / fades out.	0.68 – 0.95
204		Natural feature	Geology. Fine silty clay alluvium. Clay rich alluvium runs deeper to the east. Reddish brown. rare inclusions.	0.95 – 1.10
205		Natural feature	Geology. Fine pale yellow brown silty clay alluvium with chalk flecks. running deeper to the east and south.	1.10+
206	207	Uncategorised feature	Oval uncategorised feature with steep and a concave base. Depth: 0.17 m.	0.65 – 0.82
207	206	Fill	Grey brown clay silt with small chalk inclusions	0.65 – 0.82

Trench No 3		Length 10 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 1.10 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
300		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, silty clay, garden soil.	0–0.30m



301		Natural feature	Geology. Light greyish brown, fine sity clay, occasional flint fragments. Latest of colluvial sequence.	0.30–0.80m
302		Natural feature	Geology. Very slightly daker than the above 301, with a very diffuse boundary, silty clay colluvium	0.80–1.05m
303		Uncategorised context	Basal layer, Yellowish brown colluvium, silty loam. Much firmer than above deposits. Has many pea grit sized particles throughout. This is the deposit that postholes 305 and 307 are cut into.	1.05–1.20+
304	305	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay with rare chalk pea grit	1.15–1.20
305	304	Posthole	Circular posthole with shallow, concave sides and a concave base. Diameter: 0.23 m. Depth: 0.04 m.	1.15–1.20
306	307	Fill	Very dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional pea grit sized calk particles	1.20–1.25
307	306	Posthole	Circular posthole with shallow, concave sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.05 m.	
308		Stone capped drain culvert	Located at western end of trench - modern	

Trench No 4		Length Unknown	Width Unknown	Depth Unknown
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
401		Topsoil	Grey brown clay silt with occasional flint gravel inclusions	0 – 0.25
402		Subsoil	Alluvium. Grey brown clay silt	0.25 – 0.70
403		Flinty layer	Spread of large flint gravels in grey brown clay silt alluvium. Layer covers 75% of trench from the east. Fades out to west. Prehistoric pot and worked flint collected from layer.	0.70 – 0.95
404		Alluvium	Pale yellow brown clay silt with fine chalk flecking	0.95 – 1.20
405		Natural	Chalk marl with flint gravels. pale yellow / light grey silty clays.	1.20+

Trench No 5		Length 7 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 1.70 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
501		Topsoil	Grey brown clay silt	0 – 0.15
502		Garden soil	Compacted grey brown clay silt.	0.15 – 0.30



503		Redeposited natural	Yellow brown clay silt with occasional chalk flecking.	0.30 – 0.45
504		Made ground / buried garden soil	Compacted grey brown clay silt with CBM inclusions. Chalk inclusions.	0.45 – 0.70
505		Made ground / buried garden soil	Friable grey brown clay silt. CBM noted. Clay pipe stems noted.	0.70 – 1.35
506		Natural	Alluvial silt with occasional charcoal flecking / CBM inclusions to upper surface - some root disturbance present. yellow brown clay silt.	1.35 – 1.45
507		Natural	Flint gravels in yellow brown sand / clay silt.	1.45+
508		Natural feature	Geology. Flint rich pale brown clay silt with a possible periglacial stripe. Very compact grey clay silt with degraded chalk inclusions. Appeared linear in plan within sondage at west end of tr. wasn't visible in 505. Very compact no archaeological inclusions - too deep to access presumably natural in origin.	1.45 – 1.7 +



## Appendix Environmental assessment results

**Table 4** Environmental assessment results.

Scale of abundance: C = <5, B = 5–10, A = 10–30, A\* = 30–100, A\*\* = 100–500, A\*\*\* = >500; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs

Area	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml) [% of roots]	Charred plant remains and wood charcoal					Other	Preservation
							Cereal grain	Cereal chaff	Other	Wood charcoal >2mm (ml)	Notes		
Tr 3	Posthole	305	304	293350_1	2	5 [5%]	A**	A	-	<1	<i>Triticum dicoccum</i> grain, glume bases, spikelet forks, <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grain	Moll-t A* (inc. <i>Ceciloides acicula</i> C), moder seeds (C)), Coal (C)	Variable - some excellent
Tr 3	Posthole	307	306	293350_2	2	40 [10%]	A***	A**	C	1	<i>Triticum dicoccum</i> grain, glume bases, spikelet forks, <i>Corylus avellana</i> nutshell (very small)	Moll-t A* (inc. <i>Ceciloides acicula</i> (C)), modern seeds C	Variable - some excellent
Tr 2	Posthole	206	207	293350_3	8	20 [90%]	-	-	-	<1	-	Fragmented coal and clinker/cinder, Moll-t A** (including	-



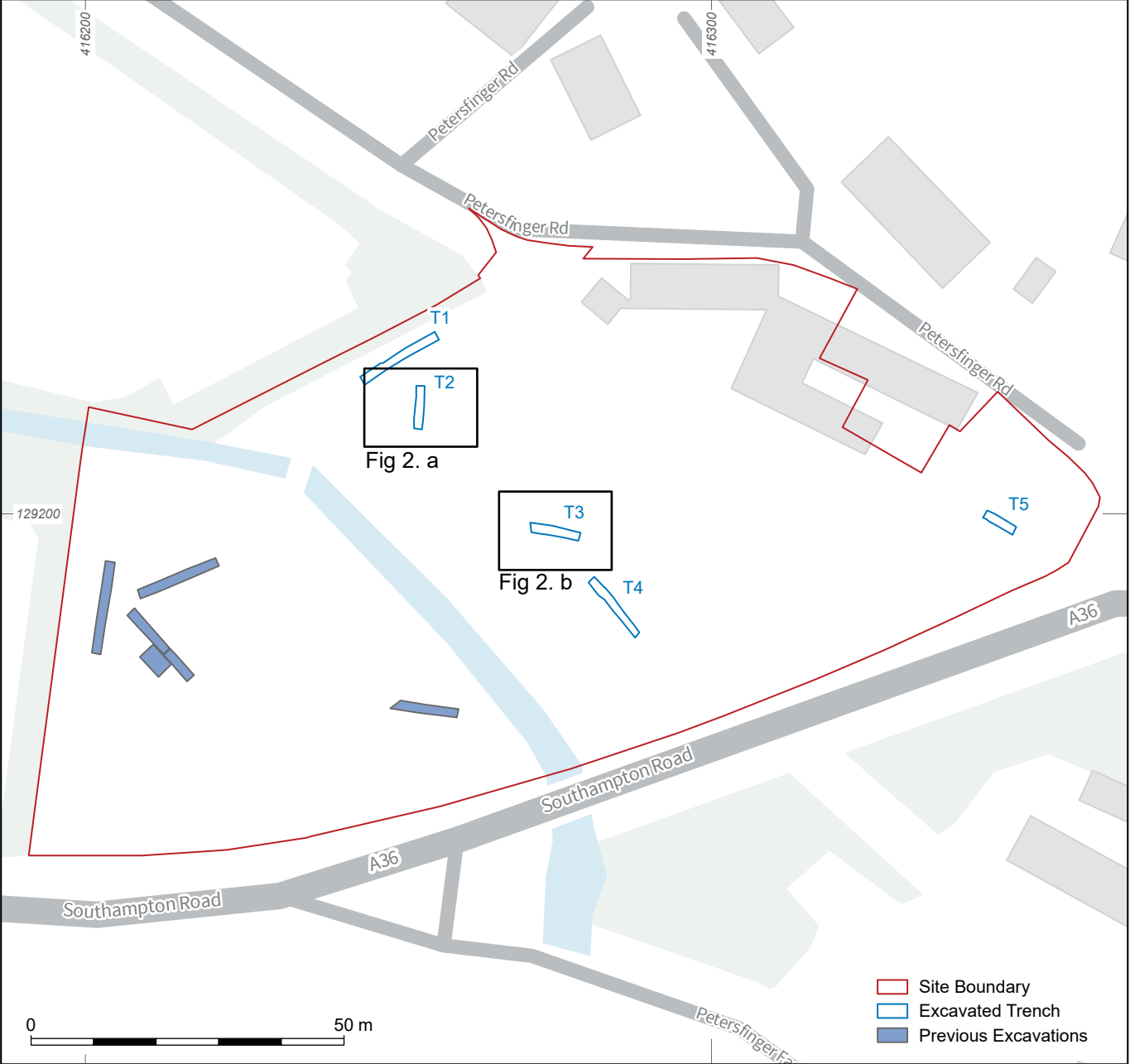


## **Appendix 3 OASIS summary**

# OASIS Summary for wessexar1-528710

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-528710
Project Name	Land at Elmfield House, Petersfinger, Salisbury, Wiltshire. Archaeological Evaluation.
Sitename	Land at Elmfield House, Petersfinger
Sitecode	293350
Project Identifier(s)	293350
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	PL/2023/10495
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	02-Sep-2024 - 04-Sep-2024
Location	Land at Elmfield House, Petersfinger NGR : SU 16265 29187 LL : 51.061793002656444, -1.769279012928626 12 Fig : 416265,129187
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Wiltshire Local Authority District : Wiltshire Parish : Clarendon Park
Project Methodology	<p>A total of five trenches varying between 15 m and 7 m in length, were excavated in order to inform planning decisions regarding the development. The trenches were excavated in level spits using a 360° 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.</p> <p>All exposed archaeological features were 100% excavated and recorded using pro forma recording sheets. Plans and sections were drawn at appropriate scales and a photographic record was kept during the entirety of the evaluation. A Leica GNSS was used to survey the location of the trenches and archaeological features. Two of these features were environmentally sampled.</p> <p>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 of features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.</p> <p>The trenches were completed to the satisfaction of the client and WCAS and were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated.</p>

Project Results	<p>Of the five trenches investigated, two contained archaeological remains, comprising three postholes. Although dating for the postholes remains unclear, environmental samples taken from those in trench 3 have revealed a significant amount of charred plant remains. Providing insights into the use of numerous grains, the results of this sampling are believed to be of regional significance and further analysis is recommended.</p> <p>Furthermore, when combined with results from the Park and Ride site and previous fieldwork at Elmfield House, the evaluation has provided data to reconstruct a preliminary model of deposits forming the lower slopes of the Avon valley side and extending into the floodplain.</p>
Keywords	<p>Post Hole - EARLY PREHISTORIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Burnt Flint - EARLY PREHISTORIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Lithic Implement - EARLY PREHISTORIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Sherd - EARLY PREHISTORIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p>
Funder	Private individual
HER	Wiltshire and Swindon HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	G Chaffey
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum;

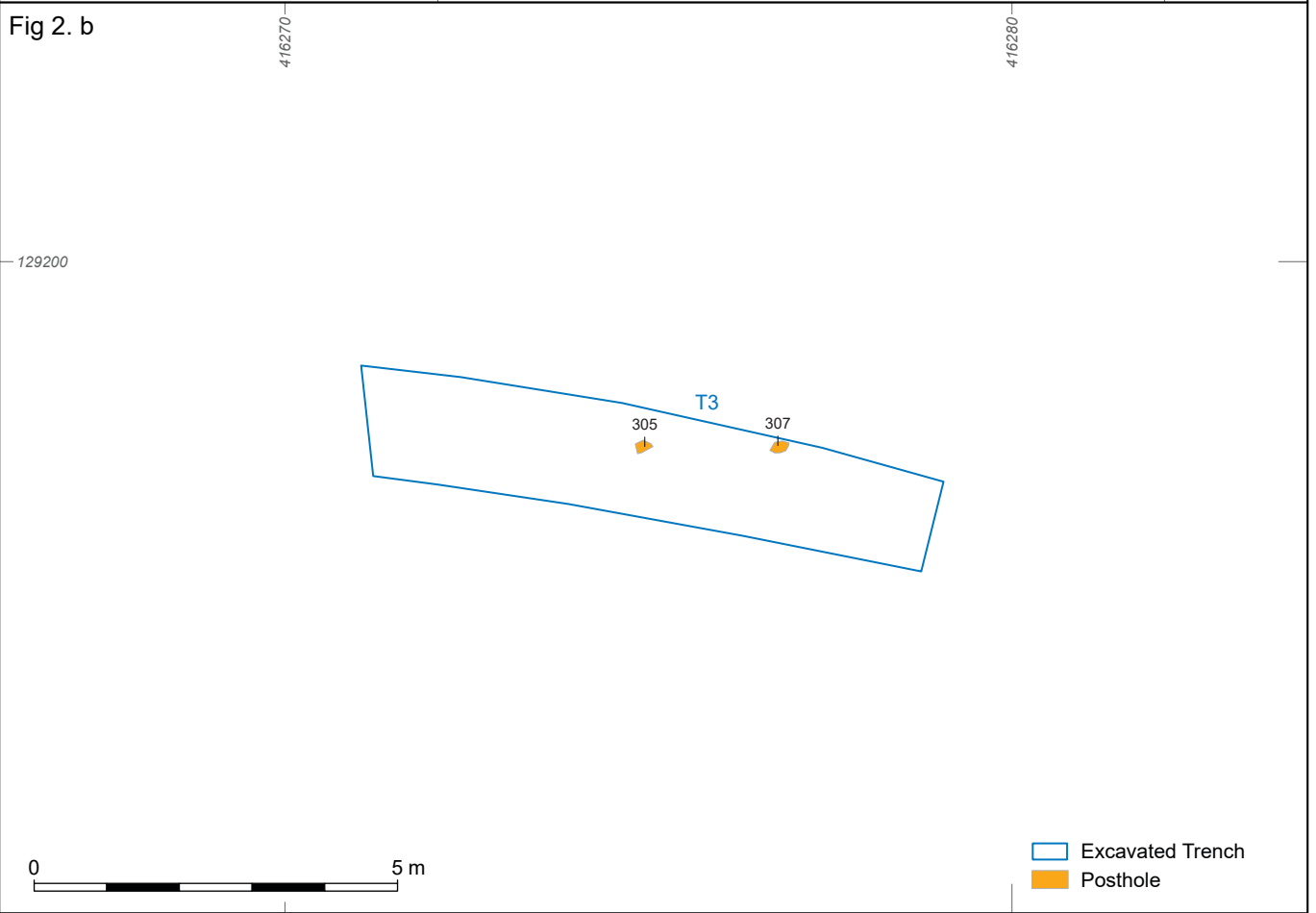
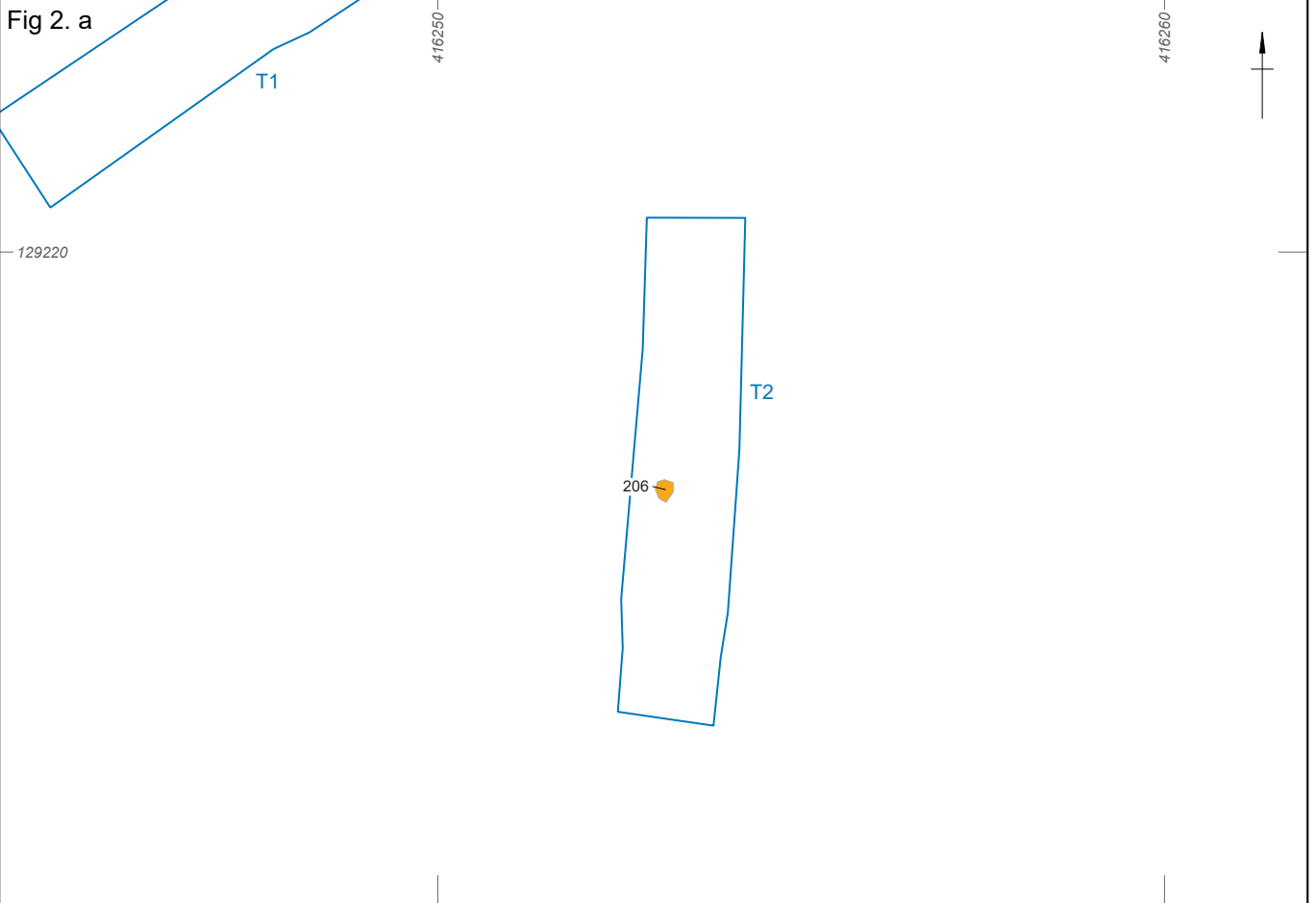


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Figure 1: Site and trench location with previous investigation



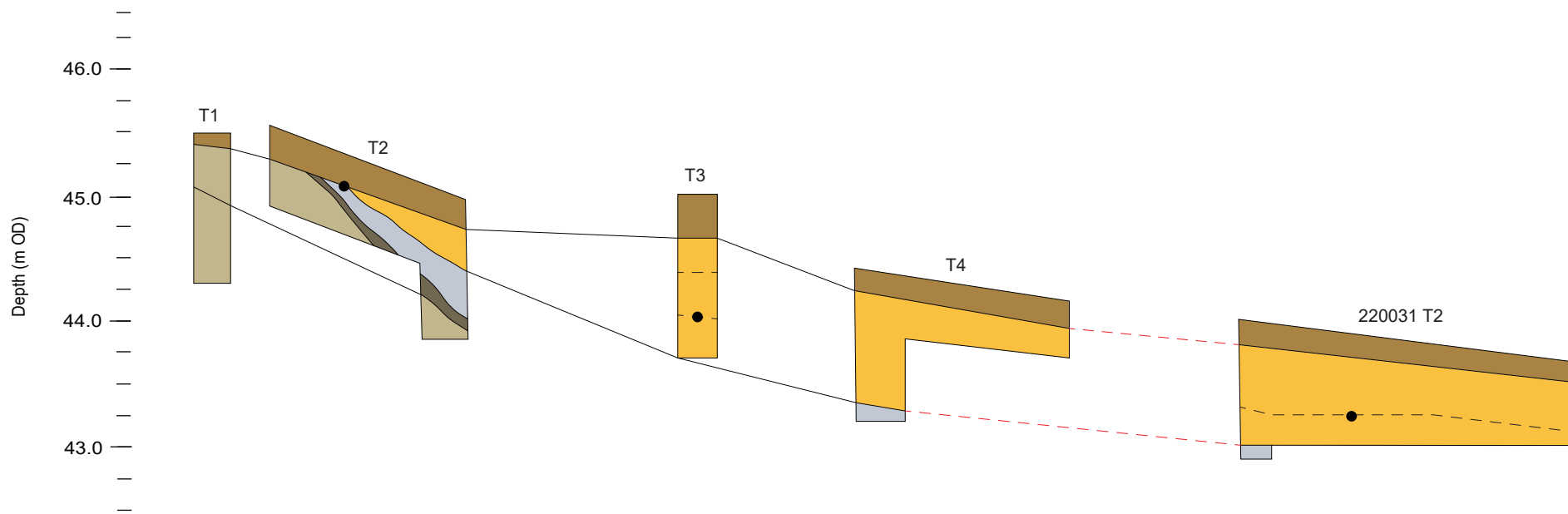


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Figure 2: Archaeological results in trench 2 and 3





- Topsoil
- Alluvium
- Chalky Marl
- Clay
- Silty Loam
- Approximate boundary of depositional episodes
- Joining to nearby previous excavation
- Approximate level of archaeological features

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Figure 3: Schematic profile through deposits at the edge of the Avon floodplain





Figure 4: View of trench 5 from the east, 2 x 1 m scales

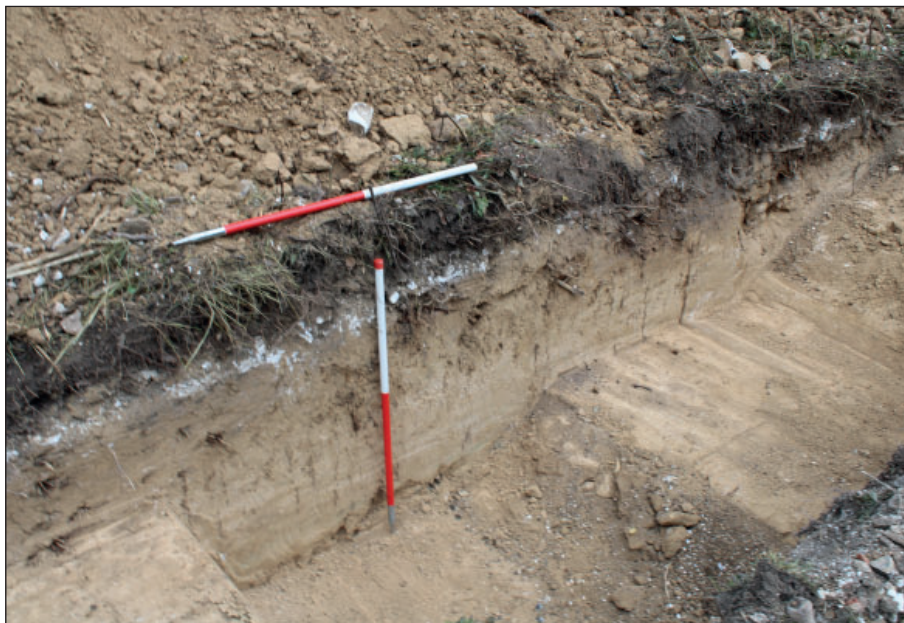


Figure 5: East facing representative section of trench 1, 2 x 1 m scales



Figure 6: South facing representative section of trench 2, 2 x 1 m scales



Figure 7: View of trench 2 from the west, 2 x 1 m scales



Figure 8: View of sondage within trench 4 from the south, 2 x 1 m scales



Figure 9: South facing representative section of trench 3, 2 x 1 m scales



Figure 10: East facing section of posthole 206, 0.2 m scale



Figure 11: East facing section of posthole 305, 0.2 m scale



Figure 12: South facing section posthole 307, 0.2 m scale



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