



A29 Realignment, Nursery Site West Sussex

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by WSP, on behalf of West Sussex County Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the south of Barnham Road, the site of a former nursery, Eastergate, West Sussex (centred National Grid Reference NGR 49520 105650).

The archaeological evaluation comprised a total of seven trenches, measuring 30 m in length and 2 m in width. The trenches were located within the proposed compound area and at pond 4 in the north west and south east of the former nursery site.

Archaeological remains were found in two of the seven trenches excavated during the course of the evaluation. These remains comprised a tree hole or rooting that produced pottery dating to the later prehistoric period of possible Late Bronze Age and struck flint of late Mesolithic – Early Neolithic origin present in Trench 57, and a shallow undated pit present in Trench 56. Drainage runs associated with the former nursery buildings were located across the site. A geophysical anomaly recorded in a previous survey, and interpreted as a modern trackway was detected as a modern service in the footprint of Trench 57, and avoided.

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A29 Realignment, Nursery Site West Sussex

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by WSP on behalf of West Sussex County Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation (Phase 2) of a parcel of land located to the south of Barnham Road, Eastergate, centred on NGR 495250 105650 (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the construction of a new 1.3 km long single carriageway road between Fontwell Avenue at the north-western end and Barnham Road in the south-east. The development also proposes the construction of three attenuation ponds in the northern part, north-western part, and southern part of the development area, as detailed in the WSI (WSP 2022). A planning application (WSCC/052/20) submitted to West Sussex County Council, was granted, subject to conditions, one of which necessitates the requirement for archaeological investigation (Condition 8).
- 1.1.3 The Phase 2 evaluation, comprising seven trial trenches (4 % sample), was undertaken between the 4th and 6th of November 2024.
- 1.1.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (WSP 2022). The Archaeological Advisor to West Sussex County Council approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to the fieldwork.

1.2 Scope of the report

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

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The evaluation area is located within the grounds of a former nursery situated south of Barnham Road, Eastergate. It is bounded by Barnham Road to the north, housing developments to the west and east and by fields to the south.
- 1.3.2 Existing ground levels vary little across the site with a slight downward slope from the north-west to south-east. The ground level across the evaluation area was recorded as c. 11.1 m aOD (above Ordnance Datum).
- 1.3.3 The bedrock geology is mapped as Head deposits comprising of gravel and sand overlain by deposits of brickearth (British Geological Survey 2024; WSP 2022).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A detailed archaeological and historical background was presented in a Desk Based Assessment (DBA) produced by WSP in 2020 (WSP 2020). Below is a summary of the information within the DBA (WSP 2020), reproduced from the WSI (WSP 2022). Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development

2.2.1 Geoarchaeological monitoring of geotechnical investigations on the proposed road scheme in 2018 (ASE 2019) recorded a prehistoric flint flake and possible Roman tile

2.2.2 A geophysical survey was commissioned by WSP and carried out on the proposed road scheme in June 2020 by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2020). The survey identified anomalies considered likely to be archaeological in origin this included a distinct parallel alignment of positive anomalies that could indicate a former trackway. The nursery site was subject to partial coverage during the geophysical survey (WA 2020) (Figs. 1 & 2) , but was further restricted by the presence of the extant nursery buildings. An anomaly was identified on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment, corresponding with a modern trackway.

2.2.3 The geophysical survey was followed by a programme of intrusive works (Phase 1) within a section of the proposed realignment route to the north of the nursery site and Barnham Road comprising an archaeological evaluation to target the results of the survey (Cotswold Archaeology (CA) 2023), the results of which informed a programme of archaeological strip, map and record excavation (Wessex Archaeology (WA) 2024), which identified features and activity dating to the Neolithic to Bronze Age and Late Prehistoric to Roman periods.

2.2.4 The evaluation (CA 2023) confirmed the presence of archaeological features recorded by the geophysical survey. Late Prehistoric ditches, potentially associated with field systems or enclosures were recorded in the southern part of the site. A number of Late Prehistoric pits/postholes and a large ditch, alongside boundary ditches containing material dating to the Roman period were recorded in the north part of the site. Two parallel ditches identified by the geophysical survey were interpreted as potential trackway ditches, however, these could not be securely dated. These could be a part of the wider Romano-British landscape surrounding the Roman road noted north of the site but none of the tested features provided cultural material that could be dated to the Roman period. A single trench contained features from which medieval and post-medieval material was recovered.

2.2.5 The archaeological strip, map and record excavation (WA 2024a) comprised the excavation of four areas, targeting areas of archaeological potential highlighted by the evaluation. Areas 1 and 2 contained only those features previously recorded during the evaluation. Area 3 targeted Romano-British activity including four ditches and a potential trackway; medieval activity comprising a ditch and metalwork finds was also recorded. Area 4 was positioned to target ditches and pits containing prehistoric pottery, identified during the evaluation. Similar archaeological features and artefacts were recovered from SMS Area 4, with a wider range of dates represented in the artefactual evidence, including Neolithic, Bronze Age and late Iron Age-Romano British pottery as well as burnt and worked flint, fired clay and a small quantity of slag. The northern half of the area was dominated by intercutting ditches as well as groups of small pits and some possible postholes whereas the southern half of the area was largely blank except for a single gully and some largely isolated pit/posthole features.

2.2.6 Archaeological monitoring and recording within the Phase 2 area was undertaken during the demolition and clearance of the nursery buildings and site (WA 2024b). No archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the watching brief, with all identified remains associate with the 20th century nursery. Some areas of disturbance or truncation were identified, particularly beneath some of the greenhouse foundations and building foundations, with floors, footpaths and concrete slabs laid directly onto subsoil deposits in other areas.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (800, 000 BC – AD 43)

2.3.1 The proposed A29 Realignment (the scheme) lies on the West Sussex lower coastal plain, or more widely the Sussex and Hampshire Coastal Plain landform. In general, the West Sussex Coastal Plain (WSCP) is of considerable Pleistocene geological and Palaeolithic archaeological interest.

2.3.2 The findspot of a Palaeolithic axe is recorded on Walberton Lane, 1.2 km to the north-east of the site. A small number of flints of Mesolithic date were found during an evaluation at Land at Fontwell Avenue, 800 m north of the site. Finds of Mesolithic flint flakes at Norton Spinney, 1 km south-west of the site, and at Croft Cottages, 1.1 km south-west of the site, might represent flint working sites.

2.3.3 A single flint flake fragment of late prehistoric date was found in the western part of the site, during archaeological monitoring of a geotechnical investigation.

2.3.4 Two pits possibly dating the Neolithic were recorded during an evaluation at Land at Westergate, 350 m to the west of the site. Neolithic flints were found during an evaluation at Land at Fontwell Avenue, 800 m north of the site. Three Neolithic scrapers and 26 waste flakes were found on surface of a ploughed field, 1.2 km to the south-west of the site. Flint implements including a Thames pick and leaf-shaped blade, of late Neolithic or Bronze Age date, were found in Barnham Nurseries, 800 m south-east of the site.

2.3.5 A late Bronze Age posthole containing flintwork, and fire cracked flint, together with a large quantity of late Bronze Age pottery was recorded during evaluations at Westergate Community College, 650 m to the south-west of the site. Residual Bronze Age flintwork and pottery was recorded at Land to the Rear of 23-27 Ivy Lane, 850 m to the south-west of the site. Late Bronze Age ditches were revealed during an evaluation at Land at Westergate, 350 m to the west of the site. At Arundel Road, 1.3 km north-east of the site, a possible late Bronze Age (or early Iron Age) ditch was recorded. The findspot of a small Late Bronze Age bucket shaped urn is recorded on Eastergate Lane, 100 m north of the site.

2.3.6 Middle Iron Age pottery was found in a gully during an evaluation at Barnham Manor, 200 m to the south-east of the site. At Land to the Rear of 98 Barnham Road, 650 m to the south-east of the site, linear features dated to the Iron Age were recorded during an excavation. Early Iron Age pottery was recorded during evaluation at Westergate Community College, 650 m to the south-west of the site. At Arundel Road, 1.2 km north of the site, part of a linear ditch was exposed in which contained some early Iron Age pottery.

2.3.7 Based on archaeological finds and features within the vicinity of the site, during this period it is likely there was a background level of prehistoric activity; most likely taking the form of dispersed agricultural activity. In all likelihood prehistoric features on the site would comprise isolated ditches or pits or possibly enclosures.

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

- 2.3.8 The site lies to the south of the Roman road from Chichester to Arundel. Recent work using LiDAR images and aerial photographs has identified sections of the road 950 m to the north of the site.
- 2.3.9 A fragment of ceramic building material (CBM) was found in the western part of the site, during monitoring of the geotechnical investigation. Based on the thickness and surface treatment this was thought to be a fragment of Roman tegula tile.
- 2.3.10 At Barnham Manor, 200 m to the south-east of the site, a gully of Roman date was recorded. Cut features from the Roman period were revealed at Land to the Rear of 98 Barnham Road, 650 m to the south-east of the site. Roman cut features were also recorded at Westergate Community College, 650 m to the south-west of the site. The findspot of Roman pottery is also recorded here. A Roman roof tile was recorded at Church Lane, 500 m south-west of the site. The site of a possible Roman villa has been suggested field to the south of St. George's Church, Eastergate, 750 m to the south-west of the site. Fragments of Roman pottery, some animal bone and oyster shells were found, and a 1925 aerial photograph shows a crop mark indicating the site of a Roman building. Roman pottery and ceramic building material was found at Fontwell, 1.1 km north of the site.
- 2.3.11 The nursery site was probably in a general area of scattered farmsteads and fields during the Roman period.

Early Medieval (Saxon) (AD 410 – 1066)

- 2.3.12 Early settlement at Eastergate is thought to have been in the area of St. George's Church, 700m to the south-west of the site.
- 2.3.13 Early medieval features of the neighbouring settlement of Westergate have been recorded in the study area. Saxo-Norman features were recorded at Westergate Community College, 750m to the south-west of the site. Saxo-Norman pits, ditches and pottery were revealed at Land to the Rear of 23–27 Ivy Lane, 800m to the south-west of the site.
- 2.3.14 The nursery site was probably open fields or woodland to the north of the settlement at Eastergate.

Later Medieval (AD 1066 – 1540)

- 2.3.15 The focus of settlement was around St George's Church, 700 m to the south-west of the site. A manor house was recorded at Eastergate in 1379, in the location of the later Manor Farmhouse, 675 m to the south-west of the site. The Northfield, between Barnham Road and Fontwell Avenue, which would likely have included the area of the site, was open fields during the later medieval period.
- 2.3.16 Later medieval features were recorded at Westergate Community College, 650 m to the south-west of the site. At Land to the Rear of 23-27 Ivy Lane, 850 m to the south-west of the site, features dating for the 11th/12th centuries to the 14th century were recorded. Ditches containing pottery dated to the 11th to 13th centuries were revealed at Church Lane, 500 m south-west of the site. At Arundel Road, 1.2 km north of the site, later medieval pottery was recorded. Medieval green-glazed pottery was found on the surface of a ploughed field south of Eastergate Church (MWS2365), 1.2 km to the south of the site.
- 2.3.17 The nursery site was probably in open fields away from the centre of settlement throughout the later medieval period.



Post-medieval

- 2.3.18 Based on cartographic evidence across the majority of the site, remains prior to the 20th century would be limited to agricultural management features, such as boundary ditches or quarrying pits. Any buried remains of the early 19th century Eastergate Workhouse, in the western part of the site will have been removed by later quarrying.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (WSP 2022), 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 (WSP 2022), were to:

- Identify activity of either Prehistoric or Roman date within the site boundary, as indicated by the possible trackway identified from the geophysical survey
- Identify any evidence of early medieval, Medieval or Post Medieval periods and if present the nature, extent and significance.
- To determine the level (OD) and nature of the natural deposits

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (WSP 2022) 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 Trenches 55 and 58 had to be slightly moved because of obstacles such as trees and located services (Fig. 1). Due to the presence of disconnected services within Trench 54 a small area of baulk was left in the trench to act as a buffer zone for health and safety purposes (Fig. 3).
- 4.2.2 Seven trial trenches, each measuring 30 m in length and 2 m wide, 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.
- 4.2.3 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the project aims.
- 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 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the Archaeological Advisor for WSCC 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 (WSP 2022).
- 4.3.2 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 The Archaeological Advisor for WSCC monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA, and by Ray Kennedy, WSP Culture Heritage and Archaeology team, on behalf of the client. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Archaeological Advisor.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Of the seven excavated trial trenches, two contained archaeological features, these were situated in the north-western corner of the site (Fig. 1).
- 5.1.2 The uncovered features comprised a shallow pit in Trench 56 and a tree hole in Trench 57 (Fig. 2).

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The soil sequence observed across the site varied. In the north-west of the site, the soil sequence observed in Trenches 54 – 58 comprised of the same brick earth natural, although this time encountered at a much higher level (between 10.65 m and 10.79 m aOD), this was then overlain by a layer of topsoil which again had numerous 20th-century inclusions related to the buildings of the former nursery embedded within it (Figs 3, 6 – 8).
- 5.2.2 In the south-east of the site, Trenches 59 and 60 showed a sequence that comprised the natural underlying brickearth that was a mid-orange brown in colour (Figs 4 – 5). Overlying this was a layer of made ground, comprising of a dark grey silty clay which contained numerous modern inclusions such as plastic piping and concrete fragments. This was then overlain by a layer of crushed building rubble resulting from the demolition works that had already taken place. The natural geology was encountered at approximately 9.63 and 9.75 m aOD in this area.

5.3 Trench 56

- 5.3.1 Trench 56 was situated within the north-west extent of the site, just south of Trench 55 (Figs 1 – 2). The brickearth natural was encountered at a depth of 10.69 m aOD and was overlain by the modern topsoil that had a thickness of 0.25 m.
- 5.3.2 Situated towards the western end of the trench was possible pit (5603). This pit was roughly circular in shape, had a flat base and measured 0.38 m in diameter. It had a depth of 0.40 m and was filled with two fills (Figs 9 – Section 1 and 10). The lower fill (5605) comprising of a dark brown-black silty clay was rich in charcoal and had a thickness of 0.26 m. This was overlain, or perhaps even sealed, by 5604. This upper deposit comprised a mid to dark brown silty clay with a thickness of 0.14 m. No finds were recovered.

5.4 Trench 57

- 5.4.1 Trench 57 was also situated in the northern area of the site, to the south of Trench 56 (Figs 1 – 2). The brick earth natural was encountered at a depth of 10.65 m aOD and was overlain by the modern topsoil that had an average thickness of 0.30 m. The trench was bisected by a modern cable that was detected prior to excavation and avoided, and corresponded with the anomaly detected during the geophysical survey (Fig. 2).
- 5.4.2 Present within the western half of Trench 57 was a tree hole (5703). This rooting hollow had an irregular shape in plan, measured 1.20 m in length, 0.92 m in width and 0.20 m in depth.

It was filled with a single deposit (5704) that comprised a mid-yellowish brown silty clay from which a number of pieces of prehistoric pottery and a piece of worked flint were found (Figs 9 – Section 2 and 11).

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The only finds came from tree hole 5703 in Trench 57. They comprise one piece of struck flint (34 g), five sherds of prehistoric pottery (27 g) and two pieces of fired clay (18 g). All have been washed, air dried, marked, bagged and boxed, with the data recorded about them stored in a digital database which forms part of the permanent project archive.
- 6.1.2 The piece of flint is a small (35 mm long) core utilising raw material sourced from the local superficial Head or River Terrace deposits. It has a single platform showing evidence of careful preparation prior to the detachment of several neat bladelets and is typical of technology attributable to the Late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods, both of which are represented by other material found locally. Previous work by Wessex Archaeology at Eastergate (2024) recovered diagnostic Early Neolithic flint work, and Mesolithic flints have been found at Norton Spinney and Crofts Cottage, both approximately 1 km from the site (WSP 2022).
- 6.1.3 Both pieces of fired clay are abraded featureless fragments in soft, poorly wedged, fully oxidised fabrics with argillaceous pellets and iron oxide inclusions (up to 3 mm across), but the pottery sherds derive from a single, thin-walled (7-9 mm thick), vessel in a relatively hard fired, unoxidized flint-tempered fabric (inclusions 0.5 – 3 mm across). One small piece (2 g) is internally angled, so might be from a flat-based vessel, although this remains conjectural because the exterior surface does not survive. The rest are all plain body sherds, re-joining in two groups (of two and three sherds respectively).
- 6.1.4 In the absence of other, more diagnostic pieces, these sherds can only be assigned a broad 'later prehistoric' date, the use of flint as a tempering agent extending from the Neolithic into at least the Romano-British period in this area. However, their hard fired, fairly consistently sorted fabric would not be out of place among those of Late Bronze Age date from the Phase 1 - Land off Barnham Road, Eastergate site (WA 2024a), where those belonging within the Earlier Neolithic period were much softer and very poorly sorted with laminar fractures (WA 2024a, section 3.6).

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the evaluation.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 The evaluation highlighted a general paucity of archaeological remains across the former nursery site, albeit within a limited number of trenches. A single sub-circular feature considered to be a small pit was identified within the northern extent of the evaluation area, with noticeable charcoal inclusions within its lower most fill, though no finds were present. In relative proximity to this pit a hollow, originating through the rooting of a small tree or similar, was observed and found to contain prehistoric pottery and struck flint.

- 8.1.2 The finds would appear to correspond in date, to material of Late Bronze Age date recovered from the excavation in Phase 1 to the north, whereas the flint is more diagnostic of Late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods. The mixed date of the finds would correspond to the nature of the feature within which they were recovered, and indicate they are more likely to have been displaced rather than be in situ finds dating to a specific period of activity.

8.2 Discussion

- 8.2.1 Whilst the general lack of archaeological signature may indicate a general lack of earlier activity within the site bounds, it is noted that disturbance associated with the earlier development of the site was present in the form of made ground and/or presence of services in the majority of trenches.
- 8.2.2 As such it is possible that the construction of the previous nursery greenhouses and associated infrastructure has led to the truncation and removal of any previously surviving archaeological footprint, and which given the nature of the archaeological features recorded from which prehistoric finds were recovered, may have been particularly ephemeral.
- 8.2.3 Although limited in scope the results show that the nursery site demonstrates a background level of prehistoric activity and lies on the periphery and hinterland of wider known activity as recorded to the north of the site in Phase 1 and wider vicinity.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

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

9.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

- 9.2.1 The physical archive will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Littlehampton 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 files/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

- 9.3.4 All the finds have been recorded to a sufficient level for archive purposes, and no further work is required, but if publication is envisaged the results of this assessment could be incorporated into the publication text.
- 9.3.5 All the finds have some research potential beyond the remit of the current project and should be retained.

Documentary records

- 9.3.6 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

- 9.3.7 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 2). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Archaeological Advisor 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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-



WSP 2022. A29 Realignment: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation, unpublished client report ref. 70079718.



APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

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

Trench No 54		Length 29.60 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.35 m
Easting 495106.80		Northing 105149.36		m OD 11.04
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
5401		Topsoil	Mid to dark grey-brown silty clay, frequent modern rubbish and occasional small stones and sub-rounded flints as inclusions.	0–0.25m
5402		Natural	Mid to dark orange-brown silty clay.	0.25m+

Trench No 55		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.35 m
Easting 495138.11		Northing 105126.03		m OD 11.04
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
5501		Topsoil	Mid to dark grey-brown silty clay, with frequent modern rubbish and occasional small stones and sub-rounded flints as inclusions.	0–0.25m
5502		Natural	Mid to dark orange-brown silty clay, with occasional patches of contamination in the form of blue clay	0.25m+

Trench No 56		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.40 m
Easting 495124.75		Northing		m OD 10.94
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
5601		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay, occasional stones and sub-rounded flints as inclusions, frequent modern century rubbish also present.	0–0.25m
5602		Natural	Mid orange-brown silty clay with occasional patches of contamination in the form of blue clay.	0.25m+
5603	5604, 5605	Cut of shallow pit or posthole	Sub-circular cut of shallow pit or posthole with steep, concave sides and a flat base. Length: 0.42 m. Depth: 0.40 m.	
5604	5603	possible slumping event	Mottled dark orange-brown silty clay with very occasional small stones.	



5605	5603	Deliberate dump	Dark brown-black silty clay with high % of very fine charcoal.	
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Trench No 57		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.55 m
Easting 495113.24		Northing 105093.46		m OD 10.95
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
5701		Made ground	Dark greyish brown loose gravel silty clay with sparse inclusions of angular gravel 10-30 mm, rare glass and plastic, and rooting throughout its depth. Slightly diffused boundary with natural.	0.00–0.30m
5702		Natural	Mid reddish brown, brick earth, silty sandy clay, compact, sparse sub-angular and angular broken flint 5-80 mm, manganese.	0.30m+
5703	5704	Tree hole	Irregular tree hole aligned S-N with irregular, straight sides and an irregular / undulating base. Length: >1.20 m. Width: 0.92 m. Depth: 0.20 m.	0.55–0.75m
5704	5703	Deliberate backfill	Mid yellowish brown silty sandy clay with sparse sub-angular flints 5-50mm, common manganese, abundant rooting and bioturbation.	0.55–0.75m

Trench No 58		Length 29.70 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.40 m
Easting 495160.23		Northing 105103.52		m OD 10.96
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
5801		Topsoil	Mid to dark grey-brown silty clay. Frequent modern rubbish and occasional small stones and sub-rounded flints as inclusions.	0–0.30m
5802		Natural	Mid to dark orange-brown silty clay, occasional patches of contamination in the form of blue clay.	0.30m+



Trench No 59		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.40 m
Easting 495137.46		Northing 104943.53		m OD 9.95
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
5901		Made ground	Dark greyish brown loose gravel silty clay with abundant inclusions of angular gravel 10-30mm, rare glass and plastic, and rooting throughout its depth. Separated from natural by terram.	0.00–0.20m
5902		Natural	Mid reddish brown, brick earth, silty sandy clay, compact. Patches of dark bluish grey from possible contamination.	0.20m+

Trench No 60		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.94 m
Easting 495165.14		Northing 104930.32		m OD 9.90
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
6001		Made ground	Dark greyish brown loose gravel silty clay with abundant inclusions of angular gravel 10-30mm, rare glass and plastic, and rooting throughout its depth. Separated from contaminated natural by terram.	0.00–0.27m
6002		Possibly contaminated natural	Bluish black silty sandy clay, common gravel inclusions 5-20 mm.	0.27–0.62m
6003		Natural	Mid yellowish brown, brick earth, silty sandy clay, compact.	0.62m+



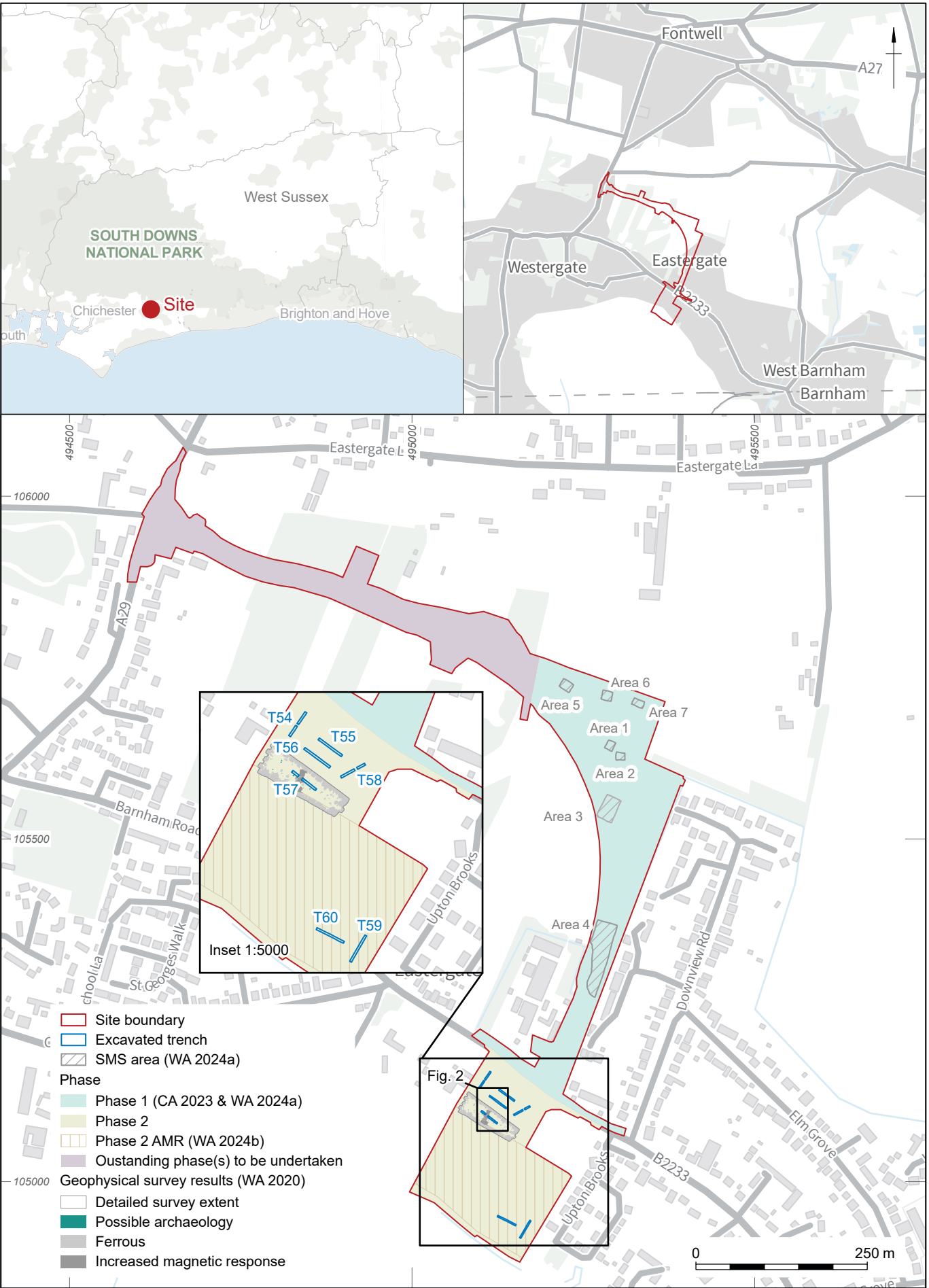
Appendix 2 OASIS summary

OASIS Summary for wessexar1-529872

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-529872
Project Name	Evaluation at Land South of Barnham Road, Eastergate
Sitename	Land South of Barnham Road, Eastergate
Sitecode	263623
Project Identifier(s)	263623
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	WSCC/052/20
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	04-Nov-2024 - 06-Nov-2024
Location	Land South of Barnham Road, Eastergate NGR : SU 95250 05650 LL : 50.842545656497634, -0.648531146505756 12 Fig : 495250,105650
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : West Sussex Local Authority District : Arun Parish : Eastergate
Project Methodology	<p>The trench locations were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI, although Trenches 55 and 58 had to be slightly moved because of obstacles such as trees and located services (Fig. 1). Due to the presence of disconnected services within Trench 54 a small area of baulk was left in the trench to act as a buffer zone for health and safety purposes (Fig. 2).</p> <p>Seven trial trenches, each measuring 30 m in length and 2 m wide, 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. Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the project aims.</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 from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.</p> <p>Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the Archaeological Advisor for WSCC 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.</p>
Project Results	Archaeological remains were found in two of the seven trenches excavated during the course of the evaluation. These remains comprised a tree hole that produced pottery dating to the later prehistoric period and struck flint of late Mesolithic – Early Neolithic origin present in Trench 57, and a shallow pit present in Trench 56. Drainage runs associated with the former nursery buildings were located across the site.

Keywords	Tree Hole - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Sherd - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Lithic Implement - EARLY NEOLITHIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Pit - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation WSP UK Ltd
HER	West Sussex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	D De Rosa
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Littlehampton Museum;

Report generated on: 25 Nov 2024, 12:20

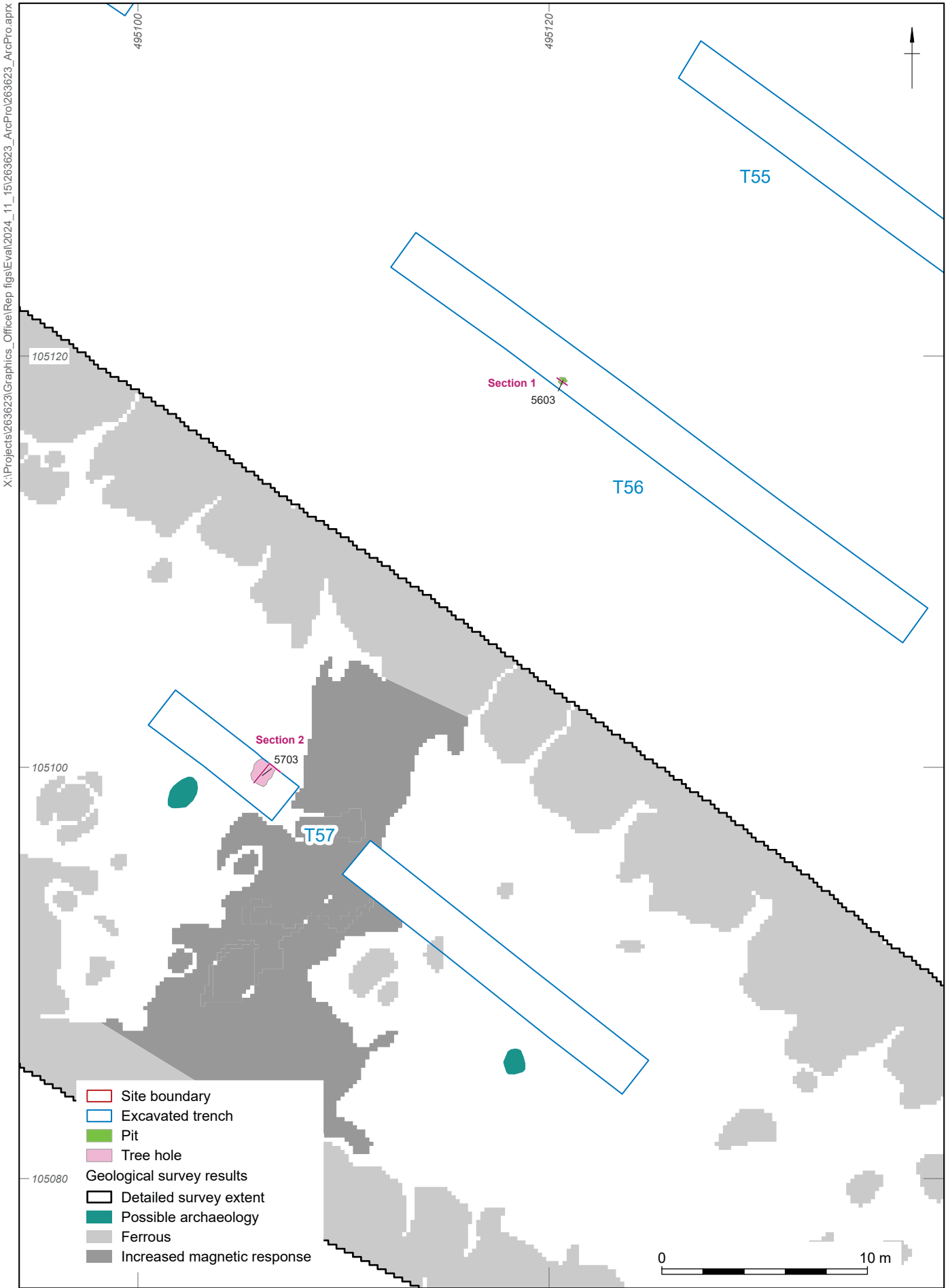


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Figure 1: Site location area and trench plan with previous archaeological works and geophysical survey results



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Figure 2: Detailed plan of trenches 56 and 57



Figure 3: View of Trench 54 from the north, 1 m and 2 m scales



Figure 4: View of Trench 59 from the west, 1 m and 2 m scales



Figure 5: West facing representative section of Trench 60, 1 m scale



Figure 6: East facing representative section of Trench 54, 1 m scale

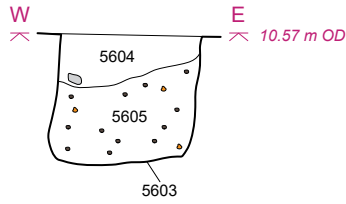


Figure 7: North facing representative section of Trench 55, 1 m scale

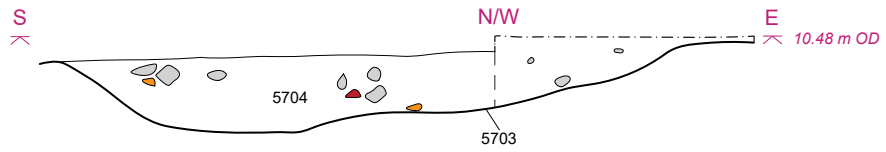


Figure 8: View of Trench 56 from the east, 1 m and 2 m scales

Section 1: North facing section of small pit 5603



Section 2: East and south facing sections of tree hole 5703



-  Burnt stone
-  Pottery
-  Fired clay
-  Charcoal



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Figure 9: Sections





Figure 10: North facing section of pit 5603, 0.2 m scale



Figure 11: East facing section of tree hole 5703, 1 m scale



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