

1EW03 – Enabling Works Central

AWHi Interim Report for Archaeological Recording at North Portal

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1 Executive Summary

- 1.1.1 Archaeological Recording was undertaken at Chiltern Tunnel North Portal, on land near Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire (henceforth 'the Site'). The site code for these works was 1C2oCTNAR which was carried out from January to February 2021.
- 1.1.2 The land at Chiltern Tunnel North Portal was targeted to investigate and record the archaeological remains identified at the Site through Archaeological Recording ahead of the construction of HS2 Phase 1 Central, (Project Plan for Archaeological Recording at Chiltern Tunnel North Portal ref: 1EW03-FUS-COP_EV-PLN-CS02_CL16-000001).
- 1.1.3 The Site lies to the east of the A413, approximately 1.4km northeast of Great Missenden and 700m northwest of South Heath. The area of Archaeological Recording comprised parts of a single arable field divided into two land parcels (C21036 & C21037) with a total area of approximately 0.59ha.
- 1.1.4 A small number of archaeological features were found in both land parcels, with the majority in C21036. The features identified comprised possible post holes and pits dispersed across the Archaeological Recording areas. Only six features produced artefactual remains (pottery and flint), suggestive of a Bronze/Iron Age date for the activity.

2 Introduction

- 2.1.1 This report details the results of Archaeological Recording, which comprised an open-area archaeological excavation, conducted from January to February 2021 near Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire (centred on NGR 490295 201969; figure 1).
- 2.1.2 The Site is located within Buckinghamshire, in the Central Chilterns Community Forum Area (CFA09), and lies to the east of the A413, approximately 1.4km northeast of Great Missenden and 700m northwest of South Heath. The areas of Archaeological Recording comprised parts of a single arable field divided into two land parcels totalling 0.59ha (figure 2):
- C21036 was situated at the northern end of the Site (NGR centre 490300 202170) and covered an area of c. 0.42ha.
 - C21037 was situated to the southern end of the Site (NGR centre 490285 202090) and covered an area of c. 0.17ha.
- 2.1.3 The Archaeological Recording was undertaken in accordance with HS2 Technical Standard Specification for historic environment investigations (Document no: HS2-HS2-EV-STD-000-000035) and GWSI: HERDS (Document no: HS2-HS2-EV STR-000-000015), and with the Project Plan for Archaeological Recording at Chiltern Tunnel North Portal (Document no: 1EW03-FUS-_COP_EV-PLN-CS02_CL16-000001) and followed the methodology laid out in the Location Specific Written Scheme of Investigation (Document Ref: 1EW03-FUS_IFA-EV-REP-CS02_CL16-000001).
- 2.1.4 The fieldwork also followed the Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Excavation (ClfA 2014), the Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (English Heritage 1991), the

Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Managers' Guide (Historic England 2015).

2.2 General Aims

2.2.1 The aims and site-specific objectives for each of the two Archaeological Recording areas as defined in the Project Plan (Document no: 1EW03-FUS-COP_EV-PLN-CS02_CL16-000001) are provided below in table 1.

Table 1: Site-specific Objectives

Land Parcel	Description	Activity	Objectives
C21036	Chiltern Tunnel North Portal - north	The landscape within the Chiltern Tunnel North Portal area contained dispersed evidence of activity seen as pits of possible late Bronze Age– Iron Age or Anglo-Saxon date. The exact nature of the activity is unclear, although it is likely to be storage related or rubbish discard.	These areas of Archaeological Recording will contribute to all five Specific HERDS Objectives, KC15, KC30, KC31, KC34 and KC40
C21037	Chiltern Tunnel North Portal - south	The aim was the examination of the immediate area surrounding the features seen in evaluation Trenches 21,22 and 34 in order to establish the presence/absence of potentially related features and characterise the nature of this activity.	

2.2.2 The general aims of the Archaeological Recording were to:

- Provide a record of the Site prior to any impact from the HS2 scheme.
- Confirm the presence/absence, extent and depth of any surviving archaeological remains within the Site.
- Determine the nature, date, condition, state of preservation including any preservation bias, complexity and significance of any archaeological remains.
- Determine the likely range, quality and quantity of artefactual and environmental evidence present.

2.3 Contribution to HERDS Objectives

2.3.1 The contribution to specific HERDS objectives were identified in the Project Plan and provided below in table 2.

Table 2 Contribution to specific HERDS objectives

Specific Objective	Proposed Contribution
KC15: (KEY OBJECTIVE) Can we identify regional patterns in the form and location of Late Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements across the route, and are there associated differences in landscape organisation and enclosure?	During excavations at Bury Farm to the east of the Site, a posthole of late Bronze Age – early Iron Age date was recorded. Pits of potentially similar date were encountered during the preceding evaluation of the Site. The further remains suggestive of associated activity revealed during the Archaeological Recording may potentially be used to contribute to the understanding of let Bronze Age - Iron

Specific Objective	Proposed Contribution
	Age settlement patterns across the region and along the route.
KC30: Identify the location and form of early and middle Saxon settlement and investigate evidence for land use in the period.	To the south-west of the Site, the remains of an Anglo-Saxon settlement were revealed in 2019. Within the site several pits of possible early – middle Anglo-Saxon date were recorded during the evaluation. Investigations might clarify the dating of these pits and more broadly the activity in this area of the landscape, which may have been associated with the nearby settlement and / or metal working. Archaeological Recording works will provide an increased opportunity recovery of artefactual dating material (pottery), along with metal detecting and the provision for radiocarbon dating. This will be used to provide further dating evidence, such evidence uncovered has the potential to inform on more generally the nature of land-use during the Anglo-Saxon period.
KC31: Identify the location of Middle to Late Saxon settlement, explore processes of settlement nucleation and understand the development of associated field types and agricultural regimes.	As above, Archaeological Recording works will provide information towards the general nature of land-use during the Anglo-Saxon period.
KC34: Undertake research and investigation into medieval manorial complexes. What was their origin, development and impact on the landscape.	A number of medieval moated sites are known in the vicinity of the Site, the closest being Bury Farm. Investigations might uncover information about the relationship between these possible manorial sites and their effect on the surrounding landscape.
KC40 Identify patterns of change within Medieval rural settlement from the 11th to mid-14th century.	As above, the site is immediately adjacent to at least one moated site at Bury Farm. Archaeological Recording has the potential to enhance understanding of change in this landscape.

2.4 Project Plan and LS-WSI

2.4.1 The Archaeological Recording implemented requirements of the original Project Plan (Document no: 1EW03-FUS-COP_EV-PLN-CS02_CL16-000001) and the updated LS-WSI (Document no: 1EW03-FUS_IFA-EV-REP-CS02_CL16-000001).

2.5 Change Controls

2.5.1 A single change control was implemented during the fieldwork:

- The northern extents of land parcel C21036 infringed on an extant newt fence, bordering woodland. The limit of excavation was moved 1.5 m to the south to avoid disturbing the fence. (Document no: 1EW03-FUS_IFA-EV-FRM-CS02_CL16-000001)

3 Archaeological Background

- 3.1.1 No designated heritage assets were recorded within the Site. An Archaeological Notification Area (ANA) Potter Row Historic Core, as defined by Buckinghamshire County Council, extends into Area C21036. Within this area, there is potential for remains of medieval settlement, farming and industry, notably pottery production based on the recovery of scattered finds of mixed medieval pottery. Recognised heritage assets within the wider Potter Row ANA include the medieval moat at Bury Farm, medieval enclosures in Jenkin's Wood and north-west of Hillcroft, and medieval pottery recovered at Springfield Farm. Other heritage assets in the vicinity include the scheduled medieval homestead moat and enclosures at Redding Wick 1.2km to the east of the Site (CCo65; List No. 1014605; not illustrated) and the scheduled moated site in Chalkdell Wood (CCo54), c. 770m to the south (CCo54; List No. 1014600; not illustrated).
- 3.1.2 The Site is located in the south-east of Archaeological Character Sub-Zone ASZ16 (Potter Row), which is situated on the valley shoulder on undulating ground that gently slopes down towards the valley. The ASZ has been identified as an area of potential medieval settlement, agriculture and pottery production, evidenced by the remains of ridge and furrow, and scattered finds of medieval pottery, including mis-fired sherds. It has also been recognised that there is the potential for later prehistoric, particularly Iron Age, remains in ASZ16, as the Iron Age Grim's Ditch Scheduled Monument (List No. 1021198) lies at the northern edge of the area (within AZCo2).
- 3.1.3 The Site was subjected to a previous Trial Trench Evaluation in 2018 (Doc Reference: 1EW03-FUS-EV-REPCSo2_CL16-002524), which identified archaeological features. The relevant portion of the evaluation in the north-east of the evaluation site (Trenches 21, 22 and 34) recorded a small number of pits containing either late Bronze Age–Iron Age or Anglo-Saxon pottery and several undated pits that may have been related, including a large possible storage pit with evidence suggestive of nearby iron smithing.
- 3.1.4 A subsequent phase of Archaeological Recording was undertaken in 2019 (Doc Reference: 1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS02_CL16-002532), focusing on the evaluation results c. 600m to the south-west of the present Site. This was focused on possible prehistoric activity, unexpectedly the remains of an Anglo-Saxon settlement, including several post-built structures was discovered.

4 Preliminary Results

4.1 Site Geology

- 4.1.1 The underlying bedrock comprises chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk/Seaford Chalk Formations, formed approximately 84 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period in a local environment previously dominated by shallow seas; overlain by deposits of clay, silt, sands and gravels of the Clay-with-Flints formation, laid down up to 23 million years ago, (BGS Geology of Britain viewer – accessed 2020).
- 4.1.2 Within land parcel C21036, the topsoil was 0.28-0.30m thick and directly overlaid the orange-brown silty clay natural.

- 4.1.3 Within land parcel C21037, the topsoil was 0.30m thick and directly overlaid the orange-brown silty clay natural.

4.2 Archaeological Recording Results Summary

- 4.2.1 The Chronology presented below is based on a preliminary assessment of the finds assemblage undertaken by experienced post-excavation staff prior to a formal assessment by relevant specialists. As such all dating presented here is provisional in nature and subject to change in future stages of reporting.
- 4.2.2 The excavation was spread over two distinct land parcels (c21036 and c21037) with the results being presented separately for each area. The archaeological features were dispersed in loose clusters across the Recording Areas and had single fills unless stated otherwise. All measurements should be considered the maximum unless stated otherwise. A summary of the findings from both land parcels is in table 3, below.

Table 3 – Summary of excavation results by area

Site/Area	Feature Type	Number	Spot date/s
C21036	Pits	1	Undated
	Postholes	8	Bronze/Iron Age
	Natural features	23	Undated
C21037	Pits	1	Bronze/Iron Age
	Deposit	1	Undated
	Natural features	6	Undated

- 4.2.3 There were no upstanding remains preserved on the site, and all the features have been truncated by modern agricultural practices.

4.3 Archaeological Results Land Parcel c21036 (Figure 3)

Bronze/Iron Age

- 4.3.1 In total eight possible postholes were recorded, four of which contained Bronze/Iron Age pottery. As no other dating evidence was found, all the post holes are included within this phase and will be described in order from west to east.
- 4.3.2 In the western part of the Area was possible post hole [30046]. This was sub-circular measuring 0.4 m in average diameter and was 0.12 m deep. Bronze/Iron Age pottery was present within the fill. This feature was isolated, the closest other features were located 7.5 m to the northeast and were non-archaeological.
- 4.3.3 Within the central part of the Archaeological Recording area was possible post hole [30030]. This was circular, measuring 0.2 m in diameter, 0.2 m deep and contained no finds. This feature formed part of a cluster with three other features that prior to excavation were provisionally thought to be post holes. Upon excavation however, they appeared to be of non-anthropogenic origin and had sterile fills.
- 4.3.4 Close to the eastern edge of the Archaeological Recording area were six possible post holes. These were part of a cluster of otherwise natural features. Two of the post holes [30048] and [30051] were distinct from the others as they had two fills (Plates 1 and 2). Post hole [30048] was circular, measured 0.5 m in diameter and was 0.37 m deep. Post

hole [30051] was sub-oval, measuring 0.79 m in length, 0.3 m in width and was 0.3 m deep. Bronze/Iron Age pottery was recovered from the upper fills of both features.

- 4.3.5 The remaining four postholes, [30060], [30062], [30066] and [30074], each contained a single fill with occasional flecks of charcoal but no artefacts. They ranged in size between 0.2 m to 0.49 m diameter and 0.09 m to 0.25 m in depth.

Undated

- 4.3.6 Possible pit [30054] (Plate 3) was located within the northeast part of the Archaeological Recording Area and measured 1.1 m by 0.8 m and was 0.16 m deep. It contained a single fill with occasional charcoal inclusions but no finds.

Natural Features

- 4.3.7 The remaining 23 features were all deemed to have been of non-archaeological origin. These comprised eight irregular tree throws or root hollows: [30040=30056], [30058], [30064], [30068], [30070], [30072], [30080], a natural geological depression [30044] and 14 small discrete features resulting from variation in the natural geology or as irregularly shaped deposits within stone sockets [30018], [30020], [30022], [30024], [30028], [30032], [30034], [30036], [30038], [30042], [30076], [30078], [30082], [30084]. The fill of feature [30022] was charcoal rich and contained residual Bronze/Iron Age pottery. The other features all had sterile fills.

4.4 Archaeological Results Land Parcel c21037 (Figure 4)

Bronze/Iron Age

- 4.4.1 A single sub-oval pit [30016] was located towards the western edge of the Archaeological Recording area. The pit measured 2.46 m by 1.9 m and was 0.52 m deep. It contained three fills: a basal fill (30027), overlain by (30026), in turn overlain by the uppermost fill (30017). A small amount of pottery sherds of coarse black fabric, of probable Bronze/Iron Age date and a few worked flints were recovered from the upper fill (30017).

Undated

- 4.4.2 On the southwest side of the excavation was charcoal rich deposit, (30003) that measured 1.23 m by 0.9 m and 0.01 m thick. No *in situ* burning was evident within the underlying natural geology (Plate 4).

Natural Features

- 4.4.3 A total of six other deposits considered as potential archaeological features were investigated. Two proved to be irregular tree throws or root hollows [30004] and [30014]. The remaining four were small discrete, circular features and in plan prior to excavation were provisionally thought to be post holes [30006], [30008], [30010], [30012]. The sterile character of their fills and lack of obvious association suggests these are more likely to be localised variations in the geology or originated as stone sockets.

5 Summary

- 5.1.1 Of the 40 features investigated, 29 (approximately 75%) were deemed to be non-archaeological in origin, with most features characterised as variations within the geology or as deposits infilling stone sockets due to disturbance from ploughing. The archaeological features uncovered were predominantly small discrete probable postholes (eight) with only two possible pits and a charcoal rich deposit of unknown date.
- 5.1.2 The Archaeological Recording targeted possible later prehistoric or Anglo-Saxon features revealed in the northeast of the 2018 Evaluation site (Trenches 21, 22 and 34). Overall, the activity recorded in this investigation was sparse with only a low density of scattered possible post holes, two pits and a charcoal rich deposit recorded. The dating evidence is sparse and indicates a Bronze Age/Iron Age date of activity, but the evidence also (potentially) includes some features that were undated and cannot be neatly associated with the dated features. A loosely clustered spread of post holes was present towards the eastern edge of land parcel c21036, but they did not articulate as any definable structure(s). The other post holes recorded were more isolated and can also not be defined as parts of structures, although a possible four-post structure could be evident in the central part of C21036. The overall lack of articulation to the evidence recorded suggests activity could have resulted from temporary or expedient activity, and could be seen as associated with nearby settlement that was focussed somewhere in the vicinity, but outside of the Recording Areas. This impression is reinforced by the finds evidence, with the quantity and distribution of the finds suggesting a focus of settlement elsewhere.
- 5.1.3 Overall the findings give a similar impression to the preceding Evaluation which also recorded limited activity loosely associated with Bronze Age or Iron Age dating evidence. However the key driver behind this investigation was the identification of Anglo-Saxon settlement remains in the south part of the 2018 Evaluation Site and whilst the dating of the features in the current investigation is provisionally to the Bronze or Iron Age, more detailed specialist assessment of the finds evidence will follow in advance of the full Fieldwork Report. Due to similarities in fabric type it is possible that the pottery evidence could prove to be of later date, potentially of early Medieval/Saxon date.

6 References

6.1 Bibliography

Title	Reference
AWHd-Trial Trench Evaluation at North Portal, South Heath Cutting 1C18NPOTT – Fieldwork Report (AC100/15)	1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS02_CL16-002524
AWHd Interim Report for Archaeological Monitoring at North Portal, South Heath Cutting, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire Site Code: 1C19NPTAM DRAFT	1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS02_CL16-002535
AWHe - Interim Report for Excavation at North Portal, South Heath Cutting, near Great Missenden - Buckinghamshire	1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS02_CL16-002532
HS2 Phase One Environmental Statement, Supplementary Environmental Statements and Geophysical Survey Reports	ES CH-004-10 C252-ETM-EV-REP-020-000263_P02
Project Plan for Archaeological Recording at Chiltern Tunnel North Portal	1EW03-FUS- COP_EV-PLN-CS02_CL16-000001
Technical Standard Specification for historic environment investigations	HS2-HS2-EV-STD-000-000035
GWSI: HERDS	HS2-HS2-EV-STR-000-000015
Geology of Britain Viewer	http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?
Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Excavation	CIfA 2014
Management of Archaeological Projects 2	English Heritage 1991
Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Managers' Guide	Historic England 2015
Location Specific Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Recording at Chiltern Tunnel North Portal, Buckinghamshire	1EW03-FUS-IFA_EV-REP-CS02_CL16-000001
AWHi - Fieldwork Change Control Form for Archaeological Recording change of methodology at North Portal, FCCF285	1EW03-FUS-IFA-EV-FRM-CS02_CL16-000001

6.2 Glossary

6.2.1 The following terms have been used in this report:

- **Archaeological Monitoring:** A form of archaeological investigation involving the monitoring by an archaeologist of excavations or other works by construction contractors to record, determine the character of and date of any discovered archaeology.
- **Archaeological Recording:** A form of archaeological investigation involving the excavation of an identified area to determine the character and date of any discovered archaeology.
- **Contractor** – Fusion; the organisation undertaking the Enabling Works for Area Central on behalf of the Employer.
- **Employer** – HS2 Ltd, the organisation responsible for delivery of HS2 Phase

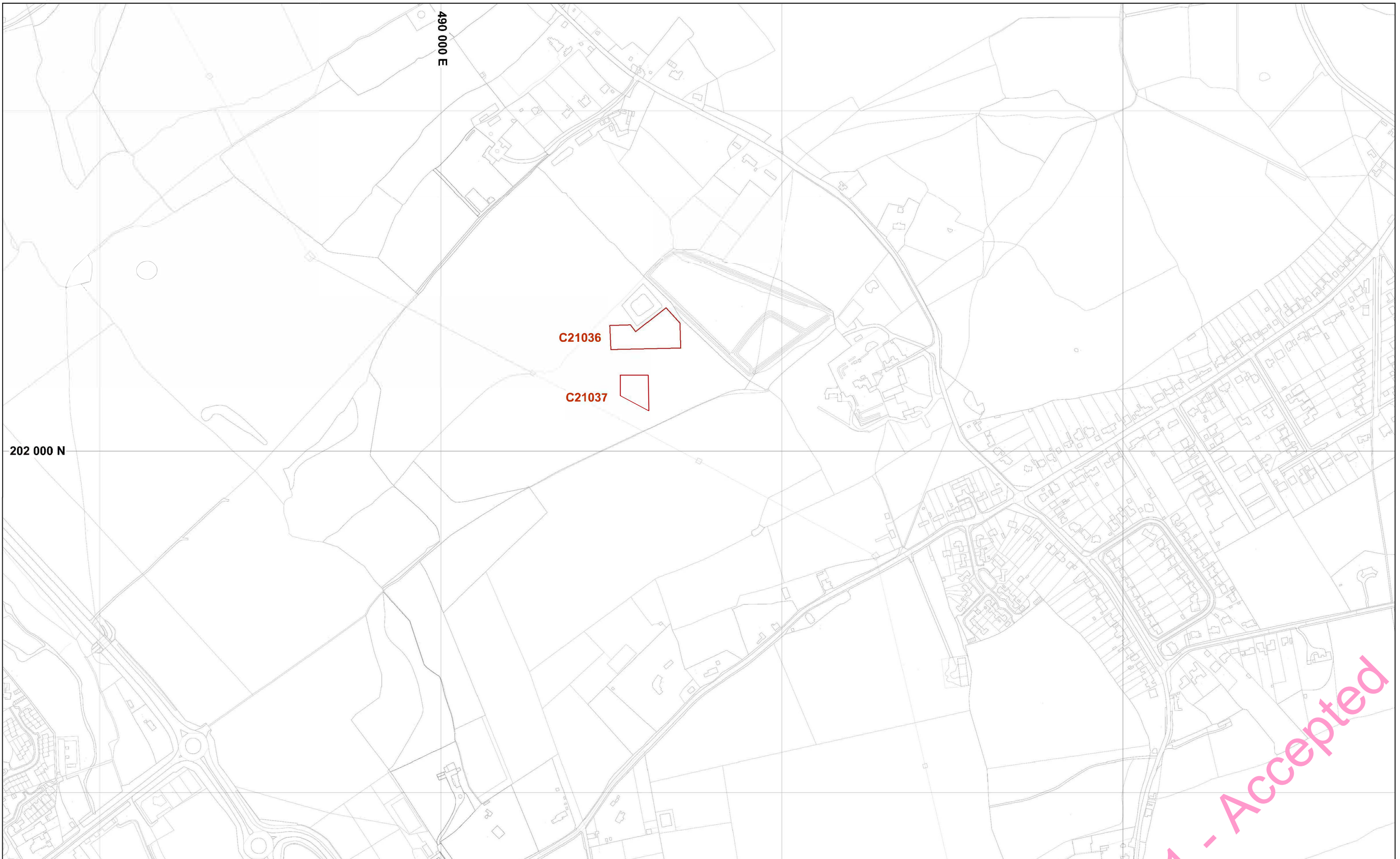
One Scheme and all terms and conditions, policies, procedures, and payments

- **Generic Written Scheme of Investigation: Historic Environment Research and Delivery Strategy (GWSI: HERDS)** – the framework for delivering all historic environment investigations undertaken as part of the HS2 Phase 1 programme.
- **Project Plan** – specification document for each specific package of activity (e.g. a survey, desk-based assessment, excavation, recording project). The plans would respond to the Specific Objectives set out in the GWSI: HERDS and be delivered within an agreed budget.
- **Trial Trench Evaluation:** A form of archaeological investigation involving the excavation of trenches to help determine the character and date of any discovered archaeology.

Acronyms/abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini
ASZ	Archaeological Character Sub-Zone
ave.	Average
CFA	Community Forum Area
CIfA	Chartered Institute of Archaeologists
ES	Environmental Statement
ha	Hectare
HER	Historic Environment Record
HERDS	Historic Environment Research and Delivery Strategy
km	Kilometre
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
m	Metre
NGR	National Grid Reference
No.	Number
OD	Ordnance Datum

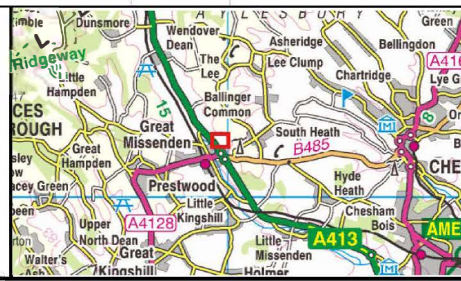
Appendix 1 – Figures



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Legend

 Site extent

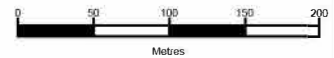


High Speed Two
Chiltern Tunnel North
Portal
Figure 1. Site location

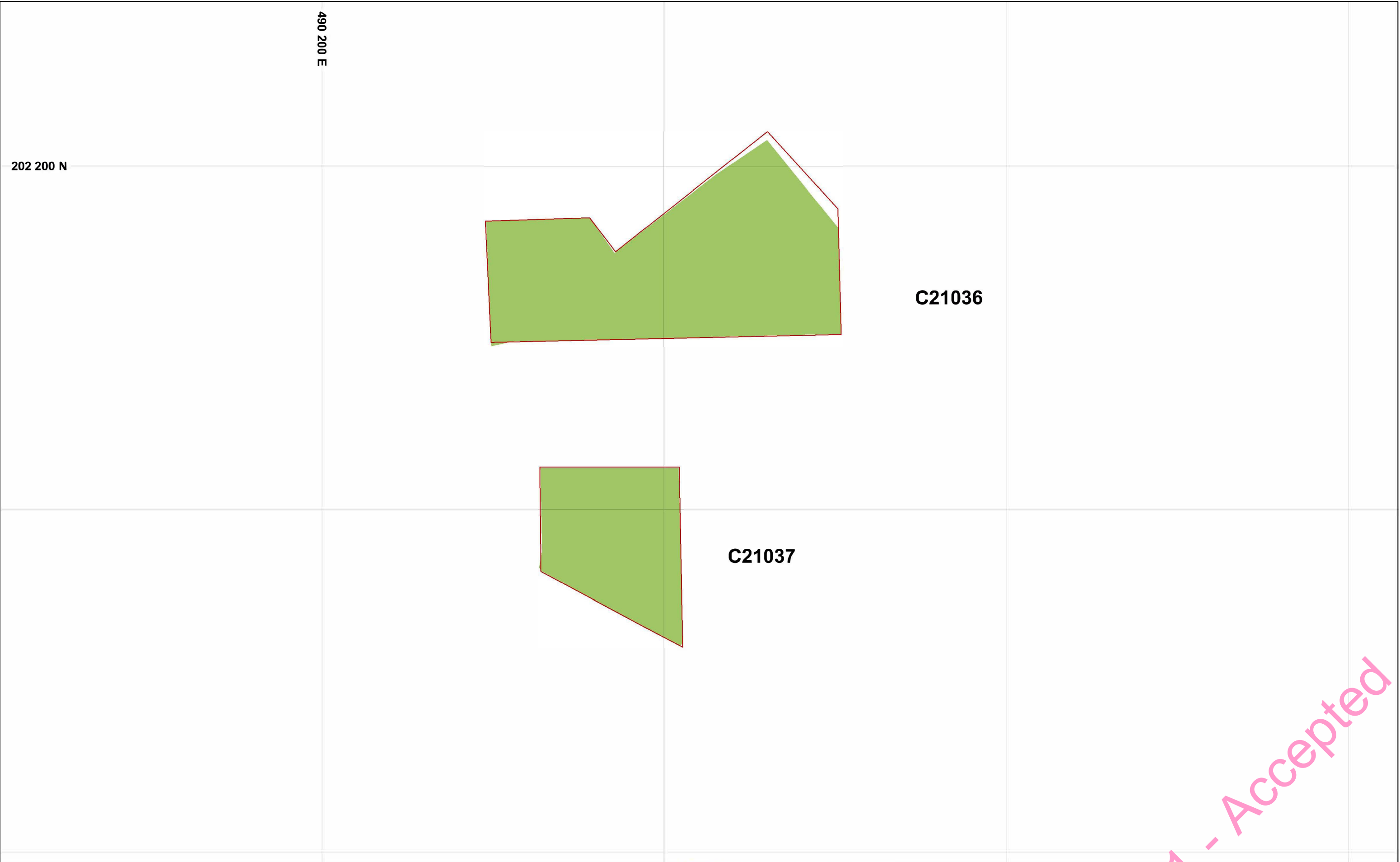
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Site extent

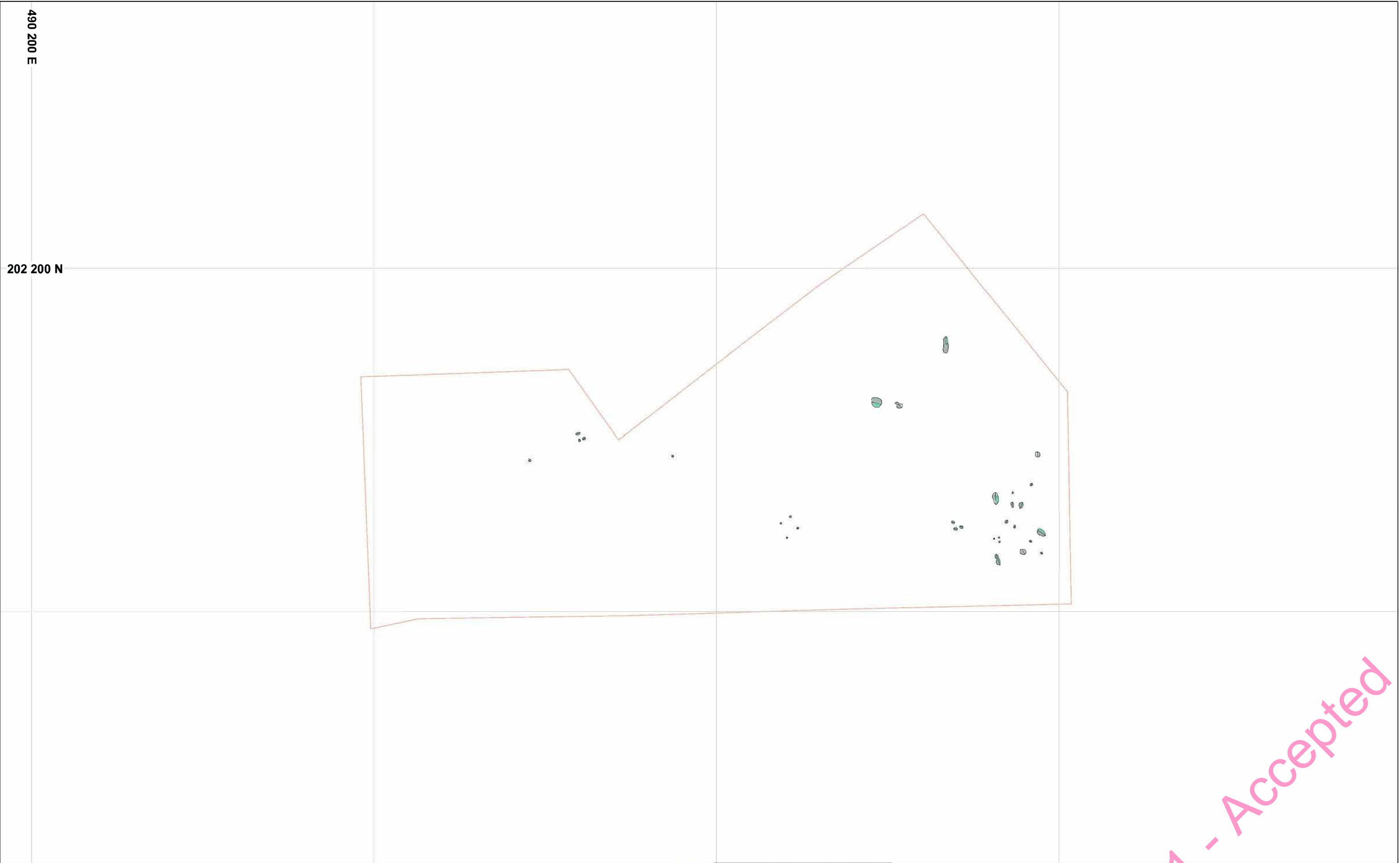
Site extent excavated

High Speed Two
Chiltern Tunnel North Portal
Figure 2. Overview of excavated areas

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Scale at A3: 1: 1,000

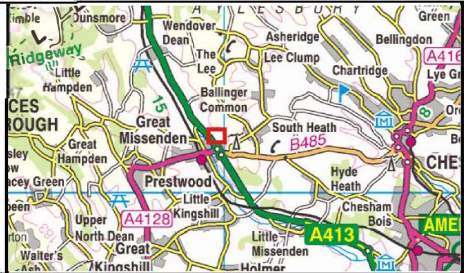
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Legend

- Site extent
- Archaeological feature
- Excavated area



High Speed Two
Chiltern Tunnel North Portal
Figure 3. C21036 overview of
excavated areas

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Scale at A3: 1: 500

0 5 10 15 20
Metres

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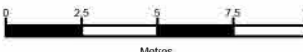
202 100 N

 Excavated area



H62

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0 2.5 5 7.5 10
Metres

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Appendix 2 - Plates



Plate 1 - C21036 posthole [30048], facing southeast



Plate 2 - C21036 posthole [30051], facing east

Code 1 - Accepted



Plate 3 - C21036 pit [30054], facing north



Plate 4 - C21037 deposit (30003), facing south

Code 1 - Accepted