Land at Main Road, Birdham, Chichester - Archaeological Evaluation Report

Barratt Redrow Southern Counties

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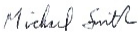
Reviewed By:	
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Executive Summary

Cura Terrae Land and Nature was commissioned by Barratt Redrow Southern Counties (the Client) to undertake a programme of archaeological trench evaluation to inform a development at Land at Main Road, Birdham, Chichester, PO20 7HU. The Site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 482162 , 099498.

A Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (HEDBA) was produced by TEP in 2021 which concluded that the Site had high potential for unknown heritage assets to survive dating to the Romano-British and Post-Medieval periods and low potential for unknown heritage assets dating to the Prehistoric, Early Medieval, Medieval, and Modern periods.

The trench evaluation revealed a small number of features across the site, with a higher concentration to the north. Some of these features were clearly modern in date, however at least five of the features could be dated to the Bronze to early Iron Ages by the small quantity of pottery recovered from them. They may have been associated with the settlement that was found approximately 300m to the north-east of the site dating from the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age.

A large deep pit was identified in trench 17 and subsequently fully revealed for complete excavation. The pottery recovered from the pit showed that it was a large and deep isolated Bronze Age pit, which likely existed within a Bronze Age manage agricultural landscape. The pit showed to have once contained timber, which did not survive but left an imprint of where it had rotted as a dark orange material near the base of the pit. Two samples from the pit produced a moderate quantity of charcoal.

The results of the evaluation conformed with the expected archaeological potential of the Site derived from the HEDBA (TEP 2025). The majority of the Site demonstrated sparse evidence for past human activity, but yet still would have been a part of a managed landscape in the prehistoric period and as a common followed by agricultural land during the post-medieval and modern periods.

The evaluation was also successful in gaining a better understanding of the natural geology for the Site which conformed with the British Geological Survey (BGS 2025).

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Cura Terrae Land and Nature was commissioned by Barratt Redrow Southern Counties (the Client) to undertake a programme of archaeological trench evaluation to inform a development at Land at Main Road, Birdham, Chichester, PO20 7HU (hereafter 'the Site'). The Site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 482162 , 099498 (Figure 1).

1.1.2 Cura Terrae prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) that presented the proposed methodology and standards for the archaeological evaluation due to be undertaken at the Site (Cura Terrae 2025). The WSI was agreed and approved by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Archaeologist (Chichester District Council).

1.1.3 The archaeological trench evaluation comprised a total of 31 trenches; measuring 50 m long and 2 m wide. This equates to a 5% sample of the development areas which measures *c.* 7.3 ha. The work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI (Cura Terrae 2025).

1.1.4 The fieldwork was undertaken between 22nd September and 17th of October 2025.

1.1.5 This report presents a digest of information on the character and significance of the deposits under review and will form the basis of any proposals for appropriate further action, including mitigation if required by the LPA. This report will also aim to define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required. The results of the evaluation will be submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and used to inform the need for and scope of any further archaeological investigation.

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 A planning application (21/01830/OUT) was submitted to Chichester District Council for the development of up to 150 dwellings (including 30% affordable housing) with a community park, public open space, landscaping and sustainable drainage system (SuDS), and vehicular access point.

1.2.2 Condition 15 of the planning permission states:

> *No development shall commence on the site until a written scheme of archaeological investigation of the site, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The scheme shall include proposal for an initial trial investigation and mitigation of damage through development to deposits of importance thus identified, and a schedule for the investigation, the recording of findings and subsequent publication of results. Thereafter the scheme shall be undertaken fully in accordance with the approved details.*

1.2.3 Consultation with the Archaeology Officer at Chichester District Council confirmed the requirements of the condition with a 5% sample of the Site.

1.3 Site Description

Location

1.3.1 The Site is c. 8.1 ha in size and comprises an agricultural field of 7.3 ha in size and part of a separate agricultural field (0.8 ha in size) to the south of the main field. The trenches were only excavated in the 7.3 ha field.

1.3.2 Located immediately to the north of the Site is Main Road (A286). The site is bounded by residential buildings and other structures to the west, north west, and north east, by pastoral fields to the south west, and by a strip of wooded area to the east. The southern part of the Site connects to a larger agricultural field to the south and south east.

Topography

1.3.3 There is a slight slope from north east to south west on the Site from c. 7 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to c. 6 m aOD.

Geology

1.3.4 The bedrock geology of the Site is mapped as clay, silt and sand of the London Clay Formation. A sedimentary bedrock formed during the Palaeogene period between 56 and 47.8 million years ago. A superficial deposit is also recorded as Sand, silt, and clay of the River Terrace Deposits. A sedimentary superficial deposit formed during the Quaternary period between 2.5 million years ago and the present day (BGS Geology Viewer 2025).

1.3.5 Ground Investigations were undertaken in 2021 and 2022 in order to obtain groundwater level data. The boreholes associated with these works recorded the topsoil to an average depth of 0.4 m below ground level which directly overlay a sandy gravelly clay (BSL 2023).

2. Archaeological and Historical Background

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following is summarised from a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment produced by TEP in 2021 and a WSI produced by TEP in 2025. The desk-based assessment utilised a 1 km study area around the development Site.

2.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations

2.2.1 A Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment was conducted for the Site by TEP in 2021. The assessment concluded that the Site has high potential for unknown heritage assets to survive dating to the Romano-British and Post-Medieval periods. There is low potential for unknown heritage assets dating to the Prehistoric, Early Medieval, Medieval, and Modern periods.

2.3 Historic and Archaeological Baseline

Prehistoric

2.3.1 During the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, the proposed development site was likely to have been part of a landscape which was utilised for hunting and exploitation of the flint deposits. Evidence from the prehistoric period within the study area is derived from two waste flakes that were recovered from the topsoil of one of the trenches during an evaluation at Shamrock Nursery, Main Road, Birdham in 1999.

2.3.2 Evidence for a settlement site dating from the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age was found approximately 300m to the north-east of the development site, which included an assemblage of pottery, pits and post holes.

Romano-British

2.3.3 The proposed route of the Roman road from Bracklesham to Birdham runs within 50m of the western site boundary, following the route of the modern Crooked Lane to the north-west of the development site and continuing south-west. As yet there has been no archaeological evidence of the Roman roads within the study area, with the lines of these roads postulated based on place and field name evidence and other circumstantial evidence.

2.3.4 Roman pottery has been recovered within the study area, however evidence for occupation during the Romano-British period has yet to be recorded. In 2007 the site of a Roman tile kiln at Dell Quay, approximately 3.5 km to the north of the Site, was excavated and produced material including imbrices, tegulae, box-flue and brick.

Medieval

2.3.5 Whilst there is no evidence from the Early Medieval period within the study area, with the area likely to have been mainly agricultural in nature with dispersed settlements. Birdham is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, as a settlement of sixteen households (Palmer and Powell-Smith 2016).

2.3.6 The development site is located within the eastern edge of the former medieval Birdham Common, an area of land where the tenants who farmed the surrounding land could graze their animals and gather wood and fuel/

Post-medieval

2.3.7 The majority of the designated and non-designated heritage assets within the study area date to this period. These comprise mainly of houses and farmsteads dating to the 18th and 19th centuries, an indication of the development of the agricultural nature of the area following the enclosure of the open fields and common land.

2.3.8 There is one non-designated heritage asset recorded within/adjacent to the application site, which is Whitestone Farm, seen to be present on the 1724 Map of Sussex by Richard Budgen, but more detailed in its form and layout by the 19th century. An outbuilding associated with the 19th century farm is seen on historic mapping in the development site, as are two ponds to the southwest of the farmstead, likely associated with drainage for the development site and farmstead. The farmstead was located on the edge of Birdham Common until its enclosure in 1791, and the field boundary delineating the common edge is seen in aerial photography within the eastern side of the development site, aligned north to south.

Modern

2.3.9 The Site remained as agricultural fields throughout the 20th century, with the change from separate fields into one large field likely happening in the late 20th century.

2.4 Previous Disturbance

2.4.1 The Site has likely experienced very limited disturbance as historical mapping demonstrates the Site as being used as agricultural fields. Any disturbance likely relates to mostly post-medieval and modern agricultural activities.

3. Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The aim of the evaluation was to gather sufficient information to:

- Identify and record any archaeological deposits, structures or built fabric within the identified areas of interest;
- Determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any encountered or exposed archaeological remains;
- Recover artefacts and dating evidence from any archaeological feature encountered;
- Accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas and establish the sequence of archaeological remains and natural deposits present on the Site;
- To retrieve any environmental archaeological evidence relating to past environments and economy of the Site;
- Prepare a comprehensive record;
- Interpret the archaeological features and finds within the context of the known archaeology of the Site and the surrounding area; and
- Identify mitigation strategies (design and/or fieldwork) to ensure the recording, preservation or management of archaeological remains within the Site.

3.1.2 The objectives of the project are:

- to produce a record of the archaeological works sufficient to help inform the need for, and scope of, any further archaeological works that the LPA Archaeologist might recommend.

3.1.3 Whilst the specific aims and objectives outlined above were utilised, they were also subject to change and addition as the work progressed. Any changes would have been conveyed to the Client and the LPA Archaeologist (Chichester District Council).

3.1.4 This evaluation report will present a digest of information on the character and significance of the deposits under review and this report will form the basis of any proposals for appropriate further action. The evaluation will also aim to define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required.

3.1.5 The results will be considered in relation to the regional research agenda as laid out within the South East Research Framework (SERF) if appropriate.

4. Methodology

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following section sets out the methodology for the archaeological evaluation, as outlined in the WSI (Cura Terrae 2025).

4.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken by Cura Terrae, a CIfA Registered Organisation. All work was undertaken by experienced staff who are corporate members of CIfA, or who demonstrably work to an equivalent standard for fieldwork.

4.2 Standards and Guidelines

4.2.1 The project conforms to the current national and regional guidance as set out by Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and Historic England:

- *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2020a);
- *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA 2020b);
- *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2022);
- *Standard for Archaeological Evaluation* (CIfA 2023a) and *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (CIfA 2023b);
- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England 2015b); and
- Historic England's *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (2011).

4.2.2 Any changes to the methodology would have been agreed with the LPA Archaeologist in advance of the work being undertaken.

4.3 Purpose of Evaluation Standards

4.3.1 The purpose of the archaeological evaluation standards is to provide information on the character and significance of remains present. The results of the archaeological evaluation will be used to determine the need for and scope of any further archaeological works. The requirement for any further work would be decided by the LPA Archaeologist (Chichester District Council).

4.4 Trench Location

4.4.1 A trenching plan had been devised to test the archaeological preservation across the site, maximise the retrieval of archaeological information and to ensure that the significance of the archaeological resource is understood to a level of detail proportionate to its importance. The trenches have been designed to provide a good spread of investigation across the Site. The trench plan has been agreed with the LPA Archaeologist (Chichester District Council).

4.4.2 The evaluation trenches were located to avoid working within a 10 m buffer zone of the extant services above and below ground within and around the site. The trenches were also located to avoid known land drains to mitigate unwanted damage to these drains.

4.4.3 The archaeological evaluation as undertaken comprised 31 trenches measuring 50 m long and 2 m wide; equating to c. 5% sample of the 7.3 ha development area. Trenches were excavated to the top of archaeologically significant remains or the natural geology, whichever was higher. Trenches were not excavated to a depth greater than 1.2m for health and safety reasons.

4.4.4 The centre point of each end of the trench was located on the ground using differential Global Positioning System (dGPS) technology.

4.4.5 Each trench was scanned with a cable avoidance tool (CAT) prior to excavation and if necessary rescanned at subsequent intervals during excavation.

4.4.6 Trenches 15, 16, 24, 29, and 30 required to be excavated in two parts due to an unknown service that was detected when using the CAT scanner prior to excavation. The unknown service ran across the Site in a straight line in a northwest by southeast orientation.

4.4.7 Trenches 17 and 19 were also expanded as requested by the Chichester District Council Archaeologist around archaeological features observed in those trenches (Fig. 2).

4.5 Trench Excavation Methodology

4.5.1 The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All machine work was carried out under the direct supervision of an archaeologist.

4.5.2 All topsoil and recent overburden were removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon or natural geology, whichever is encountered first, in successive level spits.

4.5.3 Excavated topsoil, subsoil, and other deposits were stored separately, set back at least 1 m from the edges of the excavated trenches.

4.5.4 Both ends of the trenches were ramped to allow safe ingress and egress. Plant was not allowed to track within excavated trenches prior to reinstatement.

4.5.5 The stratigraphy of all trenches was recorded. Spoil heaps were monitored to allow analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.

4.5.6 Any revealed archaeological features or deposits were cleaned by hand prior to excavation. The aim of this was to record all significant archaeological features within each trench, and to undertake sufficient intrusive excavation to enable the date, character, form, and stratigraphic relationship to be understood.

4.5.7 The following strategy was employed as a typical sample level for hand excavated features:

- 100% of features of a ritual and ceremonial nature;
- 20-50% sample (minimum 1 m length) of domestic and settlement related linear features, depending on their nature and significance;
- 50% of discrete features (such as pits and postholes) as a minimum, though some will be 100% excavated to confirm function or for ease of excavation (in the case of small features);
- 10-20% sample (minimum 1 m length) of the overall length of non-settlement related linear features, such as medieval or earlier field boundaries, depending on their nature and significance;
- 5% sample (minimum 1 m length) of the overall length of linear features of lesser archaeological significance such as post-medieval or later boundary ditches;
- 100% of ditch terminals; and
- All intersections between features will be investigated unless they are identified as being of a sufficient complexity to warrant further investigation.

4.5.8 All archaeological features were sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them. Full excavation of one large pit was undertaken as requested by the Chichester District Council Archaeologist, despite full excavation of features is not usually undertaken at this stage so as not to compromise the stratigraphic integrity of the archaeological resource. This was carried out so that further mitigation works would not be required.

4.5.9 All work was undertaken with the view to avoid damage to any surviving archaeological remains which appear to be worthy of preservation in situ. If such remains were identified this would have been discussed with both the Client and LPA Archaeologist.

4.5.10 Trench backfilling only took place under appropriate conditions and with archaeological supervision, following approval by the LPA Archaeologist. Arisings were returned to each trench in the correct order.

4.6 Recording Methodology

4.6.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded using a continuous numbered context system on a proforma recording system in accordance with industry standards. The written record is hierarchically

based and centred on the context record. Each context record fully describes the location, extent, composition and relationship of the subject and cross-referenced to all other assigned records. Written recording was undertaken in a digital format using the Diggit application (https://www.diggitarchaeology.com).

4.6.2 The trenches as excavated and all archaeological features were surveyed by means of a differential Global Positioning System (dGPS). Drawings were made in pencil on permanent drafting film.

4.6.3 A photographic record of the Site was taken using digital photography at a minimum resolution of 10 megapixels. Digital images were subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set. Output was in TIFF/JPEG format. All digital photography was undertaken in accordance with national guidance (Historic England 2015a).

4.7 Finds

4.7.1 A finds assessment report is provided in Appendix B.

4.7.2 Finds were treated and cleaned in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2020a) and Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2023a and b).

4.7.3 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained and recorded by context. All finds were exposed, lifted, processed, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged, and boxed in accordance with the requirements of the receiving museum. Any finds requiring conservation or specific storage conditions will be dealt with immediately in line with First Aid for Finds (Watkinson and Neal 2001).

4.8 Environmental Sampling

4.8.1 An environmental sampling assessment report is provided in Appendix C.

4.8.2 One archaeological feature was suitable for environmental sampling and was sampled for its environmental potential.

4.8.3 Bulk environmental soil samples for plant macro-fossils, small animal and fish bones and other small artefacts were taken from appropriate well-sealed and dated/datable archaeological deposits. The collection and processing of environmental samples were in accordance with Historic England guidelines (Campbell et al. 2011).

4.8.4 The residues and sieved fractions of the bulk environmental soil samples were recorded and retained with the project archive. For charred material, bulk samples of 20l in volume were taken for processing by flotation. All samples were floated on a 250–300 mm mesh and the heavy residues washed over a

0.5–1 mm mesh. The heavy residues were scanned with a magnet to recover microslags. A statement on the environmental potential of excavated deposits has been appended to the final report. Any samples identified for further analysis will be fully processed.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following section presents the results of the archaeological evaluation. Further detailed information on each context can be found in Appendix A.

5.1.2 The evaluation consisted of 43 mechanically excavated trenches. The trench results are shown in Figure 2 which is compared to the geophysical survey.

5.2 Results

5.2.1 A summary description of each trench follows in Appendix A and a summary of trench levels in metres above Ordnance Datum (m aOD) in Table 1.

Table 1: Trench level summary

Trench	Base		Top	
Trench 1	Min 5.381 SW	Max 5.849 NE	Min 6.448 SW	Max 6.575 NE
Trench 2	Min 5.618 N	Max 5.706 S	Min 6.477 N	Max 6.638 S
Trench 3	Min 5.399 W	Max 5.562 E	Min 6.549 W	Max 6.579 E
Trench 4	Min 5.641 SE	Max 5.85 NW	Min 6.445 SE	Max 6.5 NW
Trench 5	Min 5.634 NW	Max 5.811 SE	Min 6.534 NW	Max 6.711 SE
Trench 6	Min 4.882 NW	Max 5.285 SE	Min 6.404 NW	Max 6.526 SE
Trench 7	Min 5.692 E	Max 6.245 W	Min 6.25 E	Max 6.741 W
Trench 8	Min 4.961 N	Max 5.265 S	Min 6.265 N	Max 6.572 S
Trench 9	Min 5.696 E	Max 6.197 W	Min 6.097 E	Max 6.711 W
Trench 10	Min 5.168 W	Max 5.434 E	Min 6.338 W	Max 6.517 E
Trench 11	Min 5.462 NE	Max 5.831 SW	Min 6.347 NE	Max 6.696 SW
Trench 12	Min 5.864 SW	Max 5.901 NE	Min 6.247 SW	Max 6.534 NE
Trench 13	Min 5.985 NE	Max 6.171 SW	Min 6.626 NE	Max 6.681 SW
Trench 14	Min 5.368 NW	Max 5.551 SE	Min 6.497 NW	Max 6.582 SE
Trench 15	Min 5.079 SW	Max 5.243 NE	Min 6.224 SW	Max 6.311 NE
Trench 16	Min 5.229 NE	Max 5.335 SW	Min 6.289 NE	Max 6.425 SW
Trench 17	Min 5.301 SW	Max 6.127 NE	Min 6.323 SW	Max 6.541 NE
Trench 18	Min 5.733 W	Max 5.928 E	Min 6.41 W	Max 6.617 E
Trench 19	Min 4.834 W	Max 5.936 E	Min 6.069 W	Max 6.465 E
Trench 20	Min 4.924 SW	Max 6.088 NE	Min 5.864 SW	Max 6.502 NE

Trench	Base		Top	
Trench 21	Min 5.61 W	Max 5.874 E	Min 6.189 W	Max 6.25 E
Trench 22	Min 5.292 NE	Max 5.826 SW	Min 5.873 NE	Max 6.256 SW
Trench 23	Min 5.35 SW	Max 5.654 NE	Min 6.049 SW	Max 6.216 NE
Trench 24	Min 5.752 SW	Max 5.796 NE	Min 6.234 SW	Max 6.346 NE
Trench 25	Min 5.362 N	Max 5.579 S	Min 5.925 N	Max 6.255 S
Trench 26	Min 5.268 NE	Max 5.508 SW	Min 6.002 NE	Max 6.069 SE
Trench 27	Min 5.526 S	Max 5.779 N	Min 6.119 S	Max 6.227 N
Trench 28	Min 5.497 S	Max 5.752 N	Min 6.011 S	Max 6.171 N
Trench 29	Min 5.408 SW	Max 5.505 NE	Min 5.897 SW	Max 6.026 NE
Trench 30	Min 5.4 SW	Max 5.537 NE	Min 5.968 SW	Max 6.058 NE
Trench 31	Min 5.347 SW	Max 5.734 NE	Min 6.049 SW	Max 6.151 NE

5.3 Stratigraphic Sequence

5.3.1 The stratigraphic sequence was consistent among all of the trenches. All trenches contained a topsoil, subsoil, and alluvium, whilst some trenches did not reach the natural geology. These matched with the expected natural geology outlined in the Geology Viewer for the British Geological Survey (BGS 2025).

5.3.2 The natural geology was consistent across the Site and comprised a mid yellowish orange with a bluey grey mottle silty clay. The alluvium comprised a mid brownish orange silty clay with small subangular flints with a depth ranging from 0.10 to 0.80 m. The subsoil comprised a light greyish brown silty clay with a depth ranging from 0.10 to 0.30 m. The topsoil comprised a mid greyish brown silty clay with a depth ranging from 0.20 to 0.40 m.

5.4 Archaeological Results

Introduction

5.4.1 Of the thirty-one trenches excavated, archaeological features were observed in ten trenches across the Site, which were mostly located around the centre of the site.

5.4.2 Some of these features identified were either dated or considered to be from the post-medieval or modern periods, whilst some other features identified within the trenches were prehistoric.

5.4.3 Trenches 1-6, 8, 10-12, 14-16, 18, 22, 24-26, 28-31 did not contain any archaeological features or deposits and will not be discussed further. Summary descriptions of the deposits in these trenches is provided in Appendix A.

Trench Results

Trench 7

5.4.4 Trench 7 was located in the northern part of the Site and was orientated from north west to south east. The trench contained one curvilinear linear that was investigated in two slots.

5.4.5 The natural geology 704 was found at a maximum depth of 0.76 m below the ground surface.

5.4.6 Ditch 704 was located in the centre of the trench. It measured 0.80 m wide and 0.21 m in depth and continued southeast beyond the limits of the trench and northwest where it curves anti-clockwise towards where Ditch 707 is located. Ditch 704 contained two fills, the lower primary fill (705) comprised a light orangey brown silty clay and the upper secondary fill (706) comprised a mid brownish orange silty clay. No finds were recovered from either fill.

5.4.7 Ditch 707 was located in the western part of the trench. It measured 1.05 m wide and 0.32 m in depth and continued southwest beyond the limits of the trench and east where it curves clockwise towards where Ditch 704 is located. Ditch 707 contained two fills, the lower primary fill (708) comprised a light orangey brown silty clay and the upper secondary fill (709) comprised a mid brownish orange silty clay. No finds were recovered from either fill.

Trench 9

5.4.8 Trench 9 was located in the northern part of the Site and was orientated from west to east. The trench contained two linear features.

5.4.9 The natural geology 904 was found at a maximum depth of 0.60 m below the ground surface.

5.4.10 Ditch 904 was located in the centre of the trench. It measured 0.67 m wide and 0.19 m in depth and continued northwest and southeast beyond the limits of the trench. Ditch 904 contained one secondary fill (905) that comprised a light orangey grey silty clay. Fragments of pottery datable to the mid to late Bronze Age or Iron Age were recovered from the fill.

5.4.11 Ditch 906 was located in the eastern part of the trench. It measured 0.48 m wide and 0.19 m in depth and continued northwest beyond the limits of the trench. Ditch 906 contained one secondary fill (907) comprised a mid orangey grey silty clay. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Trench 11

5.4.12 Trench 11 was located in the northern part of the Site and was orientated from northeast to southwest. The trench contained one linear feature.

5.4.13 The natural geology was not encountered in this trench but an alluvial deposit 1103 was found at a maximum depth of 0.90 m below the ground surface.

5.4.14 Ditch 1104 was located in the centre of the trench and cut into alluvium 1103. It measured 0.70 m wide with an unknown depth due to being unexcavated, and continued northwest and southeast beyond the limits of the trench. Ditch 1104 contained one unexcavated fill (1105).

Trench 12

5.4.15 Trench 12 was located in the northern part of the Site and was orientated from northeast to southwest. The trench contained one linear feature.

5.4.16 The natural geology was not encountered in this trench but an alluvial deposit 1203 was found at a maximum depth of 0.70 m below the ground surface.

5.4.17 Ditch 1204 was located in the southwestern end of the trench and cut alluvium 1203. It measured 0.50 m wide with an unknown depth due to being unexcavated, and continued northwest and southeast beyond the limits of the trench. Ditch 1204 contained one unexcavated fill (1205).

Trench 13

5.4.18 Trench 13 was located in the centre of the Site and was orientated from northeast to southwest. The trench contained three linear features.

5.4.19 The natural geology was not encountered in this trench but an alluvial deposit 1303 was found at a maximum depth of 0.50 m below the ground surface. All features were cut into the alluvium.

5.4.20 Ditch 1304 was located in the south western part of the trench. It measured 1.20 m wide and 0.70 m in depth and continued north and south beyond the limits of the trench. Ditch 1304 contained two fills, the lower primary fill (1305) comprised a mid brownish orange silty clay and the upper secondary fill (1306) comprised a mid grey silty clay. No finds were recovered from either fill.

5.4.21 Ditch 1307 was located in the centre of the trench. It measured 0.70 m wide and 0.34 m in depth and continued northwest and southeast beyond the limits of the trench. Ditch 1307 contained one secondary fill (1308) that comprised a greyish reddy brown silty clay. Four sherds of mid-late Bronze Age to Ion Age pottery and an undatable flint flake were recovered from the fill.

5.4.22 Ditch 1309 was located in the centre of the trench. It measured 0.94 m wide and 0.81 m in depth and continued northwest and southeast beyond the limits of the trench. Ditch 1309 contained on secondary fill (1310) that comprised a bluish grey silty clay. No finds were recovered from the fill.

Trench 17

5.4.23 Trench 17 was located in the western part of the Site and was orientated from northeast to southwest. The trench contained one large pit for which the trench was extended to fully reveal the pit.

5.4.24 The natural geology 1704 was found at a maximum depth of 1.00 m below the ground surface.

5.4.25 Pit 1708 was originally partially investigated within the trench and recorded as Pit 1705. Following a request from the LPA Archaeologist, the pit was fully exposed and then 100% excavated which was re-recorded as Pit 1708. Pit 1708 was located in the centre of the trench and measured 1.65 m long, 1.46 m wide, and 1.30 m in depth. The pit contained four fills. The base primary fill (1709) comprised a light orangey grey loamy clay. This was followed by a primary fill (1710) that comprised a mid orangey grey clayey silt and a secondary fill (1711) that comprised a mid orangey brown silty clay. The upper deliberate backfill (1712) comprised a light orangey grey clayey silt. Mid to late Bronze Age to Iron Age pottery was recovered from fills 1706 and 1707 of the first investigative slot, animal bone was recovered from fill 1709, and fill 1710 showed evidence for decomposed wood and daub/fired clay. Fills 1710 and 1711 were both sampled for their environmental potential. Both samples produced very small flots that were dominated by modern rootlets and charcoal flecks too small to identify. Both samples contained fragments of charcoal of identifiable size with most in fill (1710) sample <1701>. Two fragments of hazel (Corylus avellana L.) nutshell were found fill (1711) sample <1702>.

Trench 19

5.4.26 Trench 19 was located in the western part of the Site and was orientated from west to east. The trench contained two linear features. The linears were overcut by the initial trench excavation, so the trench was extended around the ditches at the correct level.

5.4.27 The natural geology 1904 was found at a maximum depth of 1.12 m below the ground surface.

5.4.28 Ditch 1905 was located in the western end of the trench. It measured 0.72 m wide and 0.12 m in depth and continued northeast and southwest beyond the limits of the trench. Ditch 1905 contained one secondary fill (1906) that comprised a light yellowish brown silty clay. Ditch 1905 is cut by ditch 1907. No finds were recovered from the fill.

5.4.29 Ditch 1907 was located in the western part of the trench. It measured 1.52 m wide and 0.71 m in depth and continued northeast and southwest beyond the limits of the trench. Ditch 1907 contained one secondary fill (1908) comprised a mid yellowish grey silty clay. Ditch 1907 cut ditch 1905. One sherd of mid to late Bronze Age to Iron Age pottery was recovered from fill 1908.

Trench 20

5.4.30 Trench 20 was located in the eastern part of the Site and was orientated from northeast to southwest. The trench contained one pit.

5.4.31 The natural geology was not encountered in this trench but an alluvial deposit 2003 was found at a maximum depth of 0.70 m below the ground surface.

5.4.32 Pit 2004 was located in the western end of the trench. It measured 0.95 m in diameter and 0.19 m in depth. Pit 2004 contained one secondary fill (2005) that comprised a mid orangey brown silty clay. Three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the fill.

Trench 21

5.4.33 Trench 21 was located in the centre of the Site and was orientated from west to east. The trench contained one linear feature.

5.4.34 The natural geology was not encountered in this trench but an alluvial deposit 2103 was found at a maximum depth of 0.60 m below the ground surface.

5.4.35 Ditch 2104 was located in the centre of the trench and cut alluvium 2103. It measured 1.45 m wide and 0.75 m in depth and continued northeast and southwest beyond the limits of the trench. Ditch 2104 contained one secondary fill (2105) that comprised a mid greyish brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from the fill.

Trench 23

5.4.36 Trench 23 was located in the centre of the Site and was orientated from northeast to southwest. The trench contained two linear features.

5.4.37 The natural geology was not encountered in this trench but an alluvial deposit 2303 was found at a maximum depth of 0.70 m below the ground surface.

5.4.38 Ditch 2304 was located in the western end of the trench. It measured 0.84 m wide and 0.45 m in depth and continued northwest and southeast beyond the limits of the trench. Ditch 2304 contained one deliberate backfill (2305) that comprised a mid brownish grey silty clay. No finds were recovered from the fill.

5.4.39 Ditch 2306 was located in the eastern end of the trench. It measured 0.85 m wide and 0.35 m in depth and continued northwest and southeast beyond the limits of the trench. Ditch 2306 contained on deliberate backfill (2307) that comprised a mid reddish brown silty clay. Modern material, such as a shotgun shell and 19th – 20th century pottery was recovered from the fill.

Trench 27

5.4.40 Trench 27 was located in the southern part of the Site and was orientated from north to south. The trench contained one linear feature.

5.4.41 The natural geology was not encountered in this trench but an alluvial deposit 2703 was found at a maximum depth of 0.70 m below the ground surface.

5.4.42 Ditch 2704 was located in the centre of the trench. It measured 1 m wide with an unknown depth due to being unexcavated, and continued northwest and southeast beyond the limits of the trench. Ditch 2704 contained one unexcavated fill (2705).

Trench 28

5.4.43 Trench 28 was located in the southern part of the Site and was orientated from west to east. The trench contained one linear feature.

5.4.44 The natural geology was not encountered in this trench but an alluvial deposit 2103 was found at a maximum depth of 0.60 m below the ground surface.

5.4.45 Ditch 2804 was located in the centre of the trench. It measured 0.75 m wide and 0.48 m in depth and continued northwest and southeast beyond the limits of the trench. Ditch 2804 contained one secondary fill (2805) that comprised a mid greyish brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from the fill.

5.5 Finds

5.5.1 See Appendix B for the finds assessment report.

5.5.2 Small quantities of finds were recovered from eight contexts. Those from the northern end of the site dated from the mid to Late Bronze Age to Iron Age. Medieval pottery was recovered from fill (2005) on the eastern edge of the Site. Modern finds were recovered from fill (2307) on the western edge of the Site.

5.6 Environmental Sampling Results

5.6.1 See Appendix C for the environmental sampling report.

5.6.2 Two bulk samples were taken for recovery of environmental data. They were both taken from the lower fills of the pit in trench 17. Although contaminated by modern rootlets, they both contained material of potential archaeological significance consisting of charcoal, especially in fill (1710) and hazelnuts from fill (1711).

6. Conclusions

6.1.1 The archaeological works fulfilled the aims and objectives set out in the WSI produced by Cura Terrae (2025).

6.1.2 The trench evaluation revealed a small number of features across the site, with a higher concentration to the north. Some of these features were clearly modern in date, however at least four of the features produced small quantities of Bronze or Iron Age finds and may relate to the settlement that was found approximately 300m to the north-east of the site dating from the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age. At least one feature may have been associated with medieval field boundaries.

6.1.3 Pit 1705/1708 was identified in trench 17 and further machine excavation was undertaken in order to reveal the pit in its entirety. The pottery recovered from the pit showed that it was a large and deep isolated Bronze Age pit, which likely existed within a Bronze Age manage agricultural landscape. The pit showed to have once contained timber, which did not preserve but left an imprint of where it has rotted as a dark orange material near the base of the pit. A moderate quantity of charcoal was recovered from two samples taken at the base of the pit. It is a possible that they were sourced from the decayed lining, but there was no evidence for *in situ* burning.

6.1.4 The features identified in trenches 7 and 9 could indicate the possibility of a small shallow enclosure, however minimal datable evidence was recovered from only one of the features. To the southwest of this, a ditch identified in trenches 11, 12, and 13 which may be a small former field boundary relating to the features identified in trenches 7 and 9.

6.1.5 The results of the evaluation conformed with the expected archaeological potential of the Site derived from the Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (TEP 2025). The majority of the Site demonstrated sparse evidence for past human activity, but yet still would have been a part of a managed landscape in the prehistoric period and as a common followed by agricultural land during the post-medieval and modern periods.

6.1.6 The evaluation was also successful in gaining a better understanding of the natural geology for the Site which conformed with the British Geological Survey (BGS 2025).

7. Archive

7.1 Physical Archive

7.1.1 Subject to the agreement of the landowner, the archive will be deposited with an appropriate depository (The Novium Museum), within six months of the completion of fieldwork, subject to any additional stages of archaeological mitigation.

7.1.2 The archive will be prepared to an acceptable standard following national guidelines (CIfA 2020b; Historic England 2015b) and those established by the appropriate depository (The Novium Museum 2025).

7.1.3 A digital, paper and artefactual archive will be prepared, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data arising from the archaeological works in accordance with industry standards (CIfA 2020b).

7.2 Digital Archive

7.2.1 The digital archive is currently stored at Cura Terrae' Basingstoke office under project number 25588.

7.2.2 A digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) and made publicly accessible. The digital archive will be compiled in accordance with the standards and requirements of the ADS, which may be accessed through the ADS website (ADS 2011 and 2022).

7.2.3 An OASIS form has been created and copy of the final, approved version of this report will be uploaded to the ADS via the OASIS form.

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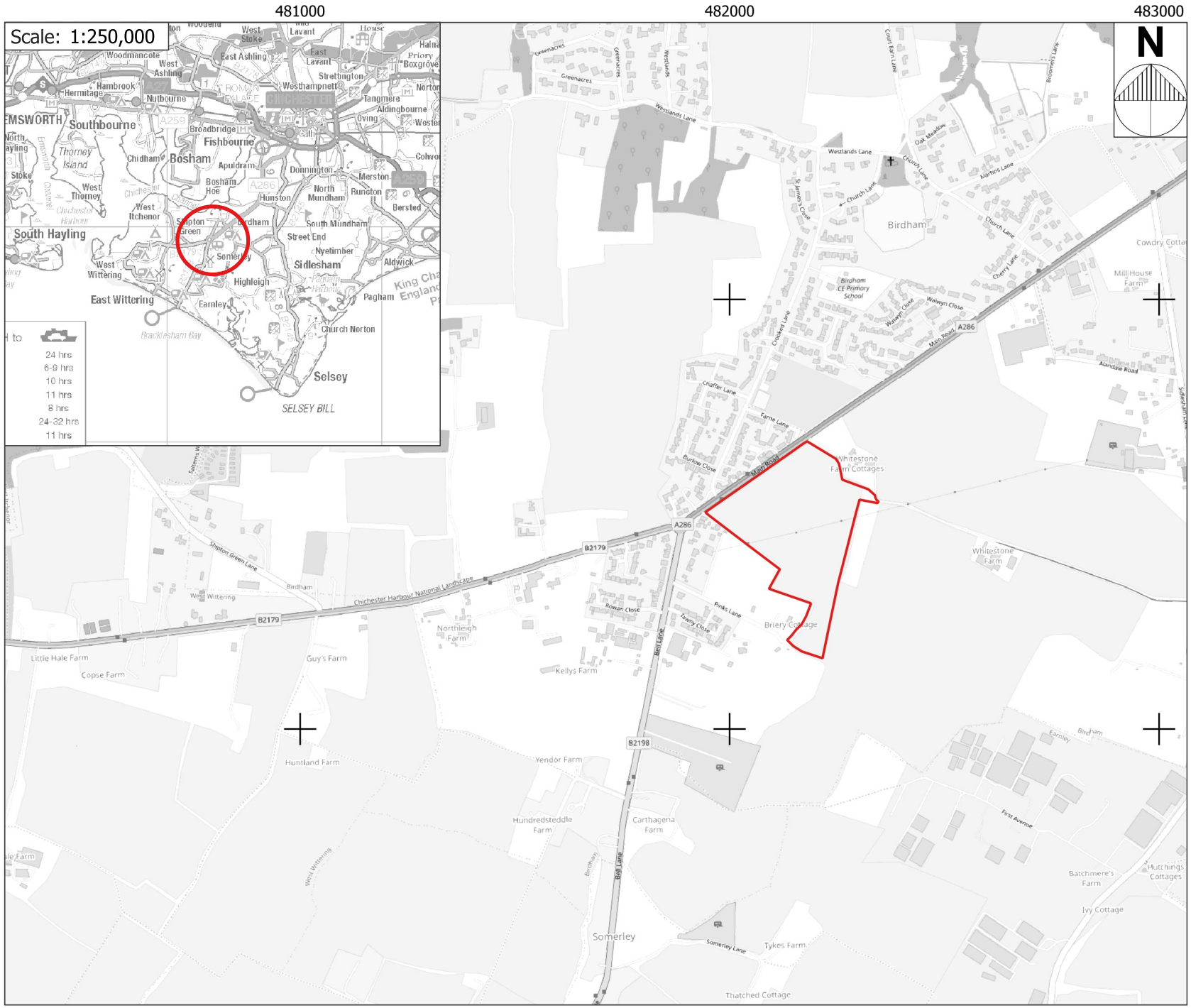
Figures and Plates



Key

Site Boundary

0 100 200 300 400 500 m

Barratt David Wilson Homes, Southern Counties

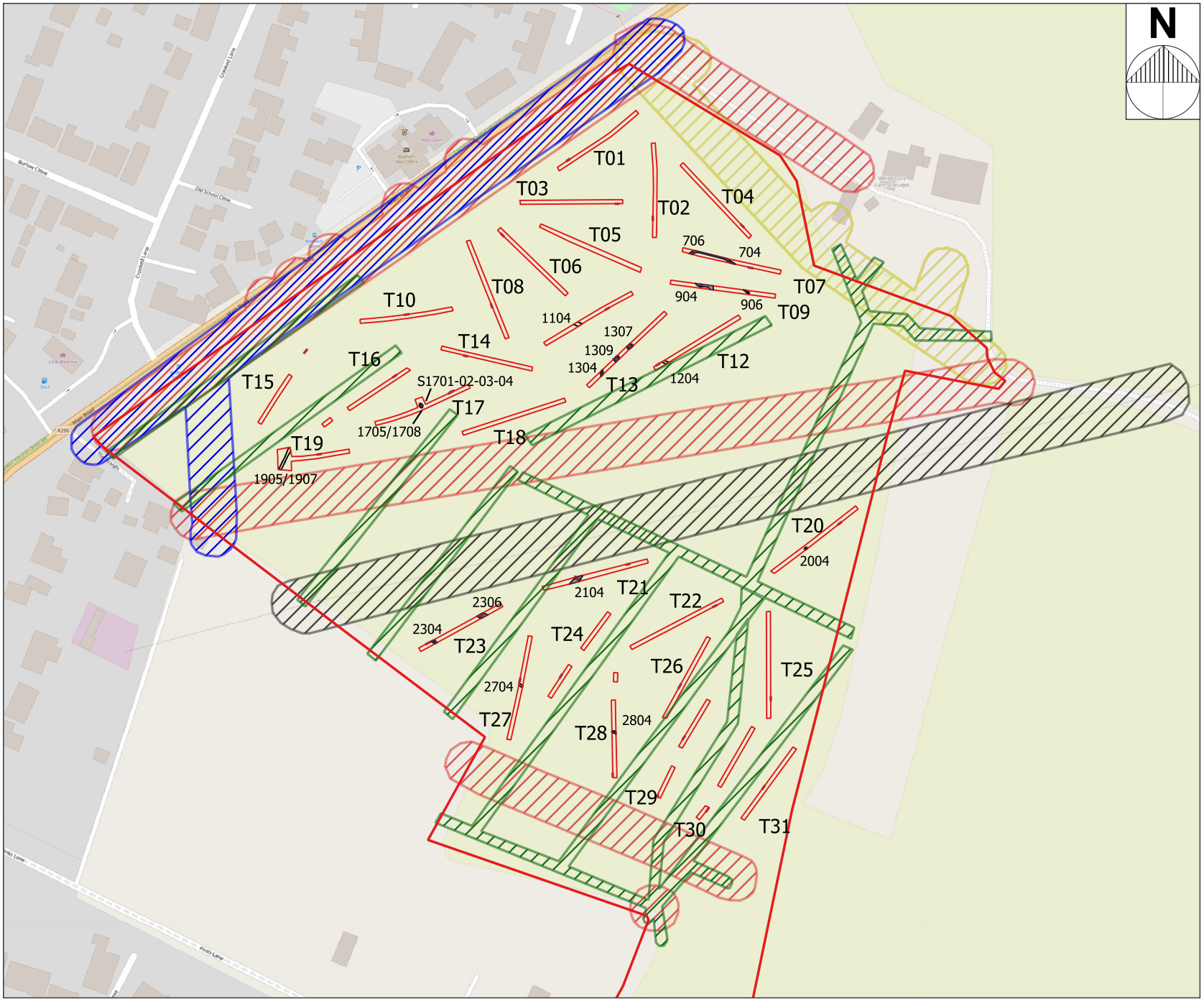
Land at Main Road, Birdham

Figure 1
Site Location

A	19.08.2025	DP	PFP
Rev	Date	Drawn by	Checked by

Site centred on:	SZ 82165 99469

August 2025 | Scale: 1:12,500 @A4 | Drg.Ref: 25588 - ARC - 1 - A



Cura Terrae

Key

- Site Boundary
- Overheads Buffer
- Underground Cables Buffer
- Water Mains Buffer
- Gas Mains Buffer
- Storm Drainage Buffer
- Archaeological Feature
- Trench
- Cut
- Section

0 20 40 60 80 100 m

Barratt David Wilson Homes, Southern Counties
Land at Main Road, Birdham

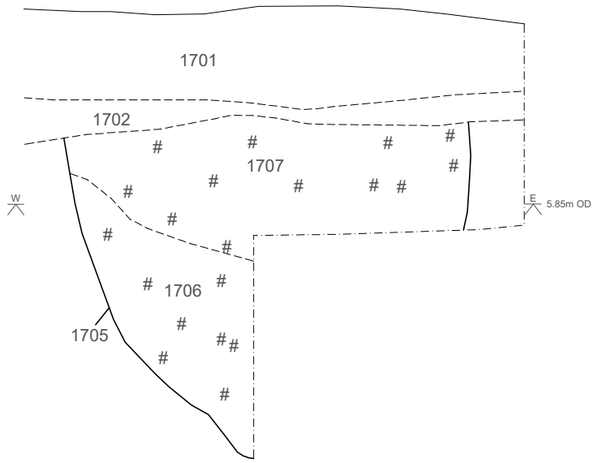
Figure 2
Trench results

A	02.12.2025	DP	PFP
Rev	Date	Drawn by	Checked by

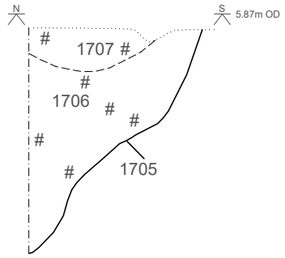
Site centred on:	SZ 82165 99469

December 2025 | Scale: 1:2,400 @A4 | Drg.Ref: 25588 - ARC - 2 - A

S.1701



S.1702



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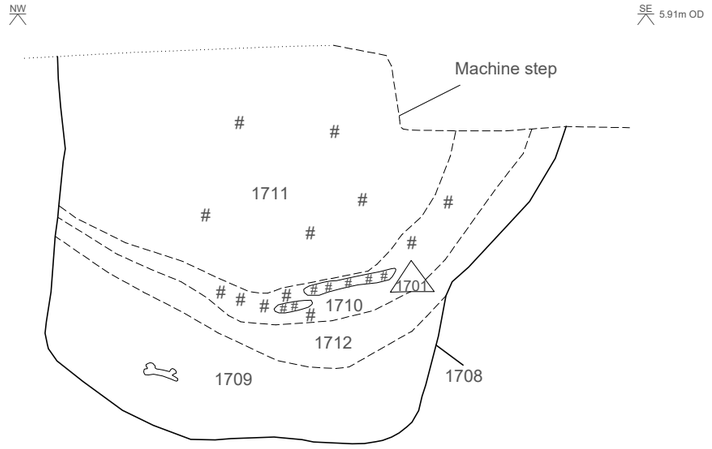

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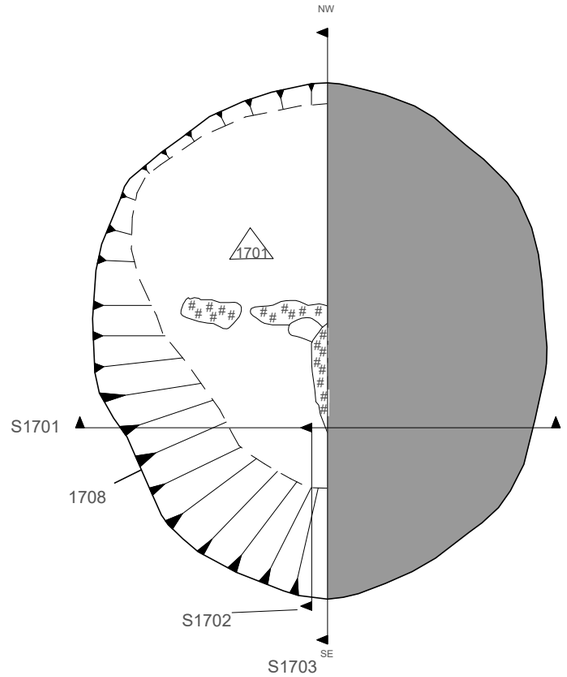

KEY

Stone

\# Charchoal

Bone

0 1m

scale 1:20 @ A3

Land at Main Road, Birdham: pit 1705/1708.

Figure 3

Trench 3, looking west.

Plate 1

Trench 6, looking southeast.

Plate 2

Trench 18, looking east. Plate 3

Trench 28, looking north. Plate 4

Trench 3 representative section, looking south. Plate 5

Trench 26 representative section, looking northwest. Plate 6

Trench 27 representative section, looking west.

Plate 7

Trench 28 representative section, looking west.

Plate 8

Ditch 704, looking southeast.

Plate 9

Ditch 1304, looking southwest.

Plate 10

Ditch 1309, looking south.

Plate 11

Pit 1705/1708 initial investigation, looking north.

Plate 12

Pit 1705/1708 mid excavation, looking east.

Plate 13

Pit 1705/1708, looking northeast

Plate 14

Appendix A: Context Summary

Table 2: Context Descriptions

Context	Trench	Type	Feature	Feature cut no.	Description	Interpretation	Discussion	Vertical span (m)
101	1	Deposit			Colour: light greyish brown. Compaction: moist. Composition: sandy loam.	Topsoil		0.30 (avg.)
102	1	Deposit			Colour: light greyish yellow. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: sandy loam.	Subsoil		0.10 (avg.)
103	1	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish yellow. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: sandy loam.	Alluvium	Possible alluvial deposit	0.50 (avg.)
104	1	Deposit			Colour: light greyish yellow. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: sandy loam. Inclusions: rare small to medium angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed.	Natural geology		
201	2	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.30 (avg.)
202	2	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.18 (avg.)
203	2	Deposit			Colour: brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional small sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed.	Alluvium		0.52 (avg.)
301	3	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.20 (avg.)
302	3	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.30 (avg.)
303	3	Deposit			Colour: brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional small sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed.	Alluvium	A dense sterile layer on top natural	0.66 (avg.)
304	3	Deposit			Colour: orangey with bluey grey mottle. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate medium to large sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a mid orangey with bluey grey slick, very silty clay.	Natural	A mid orangey brickyard with bluey grey slick, very silty clay with abundant sub angular flints/ gravel.	
401	4	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.28 (avg.)
402	4	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.18 (avg.)
403	4	Deposit			Colour: brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional small sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed.	Alluvium		0.32 (avg.)
501	5	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.28 (avg.)
502	5	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.18 (avg.)

Context	Trench	Type	Feature	Feature cut no.	Description	Interpretation	Discussion	Vertical span (m)
503	5	Deposit			Colour: brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional small sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed.	Alluvium		0.34 (avg.)
601	6	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.20 (avg.)
602	6	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.20 (avg.)
603	6	Deposit			Colour: brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional small sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed.	Alluvium		0.60 (avg.)
604	6	Deposit			Colour: orangey with bluey grey mottle. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate medium to large sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a mid orangey with bluey grey slick, very silty clay.	Natural geology		0.16 (avg.)
701	7	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.27 (avg.)
702	7	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.18 (avg.)
703	7	Deposit			Colour: brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional small sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed.	Alluvium		0.32 (avg.)
704	7	Cut	Ditch	704	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: regular, curvi-linear. Shape in profile: regular, shallow u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: gradual. Base: flat. Sides: moderate, concave.	Curvilinear ditch	Shallow curvilinear ditch with two fills. Extends out of trench to SE, likely continuing in Tr9 as cut 906. Curves from NW to SW with another slot to the NW as [707], and may continue again in Tr9 as cut 904.	0.21
705	7	Fill	Ditch	704	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate flecks of sub-rounded spheroidal manganese, evenly distributed.	Primary fill	Base fill of ditch. Naturally silted fill of ditch [704]. No finds except very small, degraded pot - not retained.	0.2
706	7	Fill	Ditch	704	Colour: mid brownish orange. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional flecks of sub-rounded spheroidal manganese, evenly distributed.	Secondary fill	Top fill of ditch, likely naturally silted in depression formed when lower fill (705) settled. Slightly more orange and darker tone than lower fill. Boundary between the two made less clear due to worm casts. No finds.	0.11
707	7	Cut	Ditch	707	Orientation: NE-SW. Shape in plan: regular, curvi-linear. Shape in profile: regular, shallow u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: gradual. Base: flat. Sides: concave.	Curvilinear ditch	Slightly deeper and wider here than in slot further to SE, [704], but same fill sequence present. Forms a curvilinear, continuing into Tr9 for both ends of the linear.	0.32
708	7	Fill	Ditch	707	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate flecks of sub-rounded spheroidal manganese, evenly distributed.	Primary fill	Base fill of the ditch. Sterile, naturally silted fill of curvilinear ditch identical to (705).	0.27
709	7	Fill	Ditch	707	Colour: mid brownish orange. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: 1) occasional flecks of sub-rounded spheroidal manganese, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks of rounded spheroidal charcoal, evenly distributed.	Secondary fill	Top fill of ditch. Sterile, naturally silting upper fill of curvilinear ditch. Identical to (706).	0.15

Context	Trench	Type	Feature	Feature cut no.	Description	Interpretation	Discussion	Vertical span (m)
801	8	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.20 (avg.)
802	8	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.23 (avg.)
803	8	Deposit			Colour: brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional small sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed.	Alluvium		0.78 (avg.)
804	8	Deposit			Colour: orangey with bluey grey mottle. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate medium to large sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a mid orangey with bluey grey slick, very silty clay.	Natural geology		0.80 (avg.)
901	9	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.36 (avg.)
902	9	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.20 (avg.)
903	9	Deposit			Colour: brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: clayey silt. Inclusions: moderate flecks of sub-rounded elongate manganese, evenly distributed.	Alluvium	Varies from alluvium layer found to West - more orange and fewer inclusions	0.15 (avg.)
904	9	Cut	Ditch	904	Orientation: E-W. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: regular, shallow u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate, concave.	Ditch	Ditch is possibly part of the curvilinear identified in trench 7. Continuing north the ditch may be seen in cut 707 before curving back again towards Trench 9 and becomes cut 906.	0.19
905	9	Fill	Ditch	904	Colour: light orangey grey. Compaction: dry, friable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: 1) moderate flecks of manganese, evenly distributed 2) rare flecks of charcoal, evenly distributed 3) rare medium to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.	Secondary fill	Fill shows possible slow sedimentation. A few small fragments of pottery suggests prehistoric activity.	0.19
906	9	Cut	Gully	906	Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate, concave.	Gully	Ditch likely connects to the curvilinear seen in trench 7 to the north west and could be contemporary with that and the other linear seen in trench 9, 904.	0.19
907	9	Fill	Gully	906	Colour: mid orangey grey. Compaction: dry, friable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: 1) rare flecks of charcoal, evenly distributed 2) rare medium angular flint, evenly distributed 3) moderate flecks of manganese, evenly distributed.	Secondary fill	Slow sedimentation overtime process. No finds retrieved.	0.19
1001	10	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.20 (avg.)
1002	10	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.20 (avg.)
1003	10	Deposit			Colour: brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional small sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed.	Alluvium		0.80 (avg.)

Context	Trench	Type	Feature	Feature cut no.	Description	Interpretation	Discussion	Vertical span (m)
1004	10	Deposit			Colour: orangey with bluey grey mottle. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate medium to large sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a mid orangey with bluey grey slick, very silty clay.	Natural geology		0.02 (avg.)
1101	11	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.30 (avg.)
1102	11	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.20 (avg.)
1103	11	Deposit			Colour: brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional small sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed.	Alluvium		0.45 (avg.)
1104	11	Cut	Ditch	1104	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: regular, linear.	Ditch	Unexcavated ditch that cuts the alluvium in the trench. In the same orientation and in line with ditch 1307 to the south east.	-
1105	11	Fill	Ditch	1104		Fill	Unexcavated fill of ditch.	-
1201	12	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.32 (avg.)
1202	12	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.14 (avg.)
1203	12	Deposit			Colour: brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional small sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed.	Alluvium		0.22 (avg.)
1204	12	Cut	Ditch	1204	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: regular, linear.	Ditch	Unexcavated ditch that cuts the alluvium. On the same orientation and alignment as ditch 1307 to the north west.	-
1205	12	Fill	Ditch	1204		Fill	Unexcavated fill of ditch.	-
1301	13	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.35 (avg.)
1302	13	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.10 (avg.)
1303	13	Deposit			Colour: brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: clayey silt. Inclusions: moderate flecks of sub-rounded elongate manganese, evenly distributed.	Alluvium	Varies from alluvium layer found to West - more orange and fewer inclusions	0.10 (avg.)
1304	13	Cut	Ditch	1304	Orientation: N-S. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: regular, deep u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate, concave.	Possible former field boundary	A field boundary ditch that cuts the alluvium in the trench and continues north and south beyond the trench. Contains 2 fills, sterile, very diffuse.	0.7
1305	13	Fill	Ditch	1304	Colour: mid brownish orange. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional flecks of sub-angular elongate manganese, concentrated E.	Primary fill	Base fill of ditch. A fill very similar to natural, with manganese flecks.	0.2
1306	13	Fill	Ditch	1304	Colour: mid grey. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay.	Secondary fill	Natural silting over time to fill up ditch. Possible modern.	0.5

Context	Trench	Type	Feature	Feature cut no.	Description	Interpretation	Discussion	Vertical span (m)
1307	13	Cut	Ditch	1307	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: regular, rectangular. Shape in profile: regular. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate, concave.	Ditch	Possible former boundary ditch due to size and shape. Continues northwest and is seen in Trench 11 as cut 1104 and continues southeast and is seen in Trench 12 as cur 1204. Contains one fill.	0.34
1308	13	Fill	Ditch	1307	Colour: greyish reddy brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay.	Secondary fill	Natural silting gradually over a significant amount of time of possible former boundary ditch. Pottery was recovered from the fill.	0.34
1309	13	Cut	Ditch	1309	Orientation: N-S. Shape in plan: regular, curvi-linear. Shape in profile: u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate, concave.	Ditch	A possible modern field boundary ditch. Contains one fill.	0.81
1310	13	Fill	Ditch	1309	Colour: bluish grey. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Notes: over cut due to digger shovel.	Secondary fill	A slow developing fill formed from water moment within field ditch	0.8
1401	14	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.35 (avg.)
1402	14	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.20 (avg.)
1403	14	Deposit			Colour: brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional small sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed.	Alluvium		0.55 (avg.)
1404	14	Deposit			Colour: orangey with bluey grey mottle. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate medium to large sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a mid orangey with bluey grey slick, very silty clay.	Natural geology	Only excavated right down to natural in NW half of trench.	
1501	15	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.20 (avg.)
1502	15	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.20 (avg.)
1503	15	Deposit			Colour: brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional small sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed.	Alluvium		0.74 (avg.)
1504	15	Deposit			Colour: orangey with bluey grey mottle. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate medium to large sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a mid orangey with bluey grey slick, very silty clay.	Natural geology		0.05 (avg.)
1601	16	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.35 (avg.)
1602	16	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.10 (avg.)
1603	16	Deposit			Colour: brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional small sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed.	Alluvium		0.33 (avg.)
1604	16	Deposit			Colour: orangey with bluey grey mottle. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate medium to large sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a mid orangey with bluey grey slick, very silty clay.	Natural geology		0.02 (avg.)

Context	Trench	Type	Feature	Feature cut no.	Description	Interpretation	Discussion	Vertical span (m)
1605	16	Deposit			Colour: dark orangey brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate small to very large sub-angular spheroidal flint, concentrated in patches.	Alluvium	Earliest alluvial deposit uncovered on site, situated directly above sand and clay natural and below lighter and thicker alluvial deposit (1603)	0.28 (avg.)
1701	17	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.30 (avg.)
1702	17	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.25 (avg.)
1703	17	Deposit			Colour: brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional small sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed.	Alluvium		0.45 (avg.)
1704	17	Deposit			Colour: orangey with bluey grey mottle. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate medium to large sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a mid orangey with bluey grey slick, very silty clay.	Natural geology		
1705	17	Cut	Pit	1705	Orientation: N/A. Shape in plan: regular, sub-oval. Shape in profile: regular, deep V-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: sharp. Base: tapered. Sides: steep, concave.	Large pit	Cut of deep pit containing two fills, both with possible BA pottery in them. Only southern half of pit visible in trench. No other features nearby in trench 17.	1.12
1706	17	Fill	Pit	1705	Colour: mid orangey grey. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: clayey silt. Inclusions: moderate flecks of sub-rounded elongate charcoal, evenly distributed.	Bottom fill of pit [1705]	Lowest fill of possible BA pit containing charcoal and occasional pot sherds. Naturally silted. Contains occasional lenses of orange sand derived from the natural within clayey silt matrix.	0.65
1707	17	Fill	Pit	1705	Colour: mid orangey brown. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate flecks of sub-rounded elongate charcoal, evenly distributed.	Top fill of pit [1705]	Possible BA pot found in upper naturally silted fill of pit [1705]. Very diffuse boundary with lower fill but colour more brown than grey and no sandy lenses.	0.42
1708	17	Cut	Pit	1708	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: regular, oval. Shape in profile: regular, deep u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: sharp. Base: flat. Sides: steep, straight.	Bronze Age pit	Deep Bronze Age pit. Possible waste pit or well pit. Small number of coarse/burned flint tempered pottery fragments found on upper layers together with consistent deposit of burning material (charcoal, daub/fired clay) and a piece of animal shoulder blade at the bottom suggests prehistoric activity	1.3
1709	17	Fill	Pit	1708	Colour: light orangey grey. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: loamy clay. Inclusions: 1) occasional small to very large angular flint, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to medium charcoal, evenly distributed.	Primary fill	Mix re-deposited natural with fill. Described as loamy silty clay but sandy/gravel elements near bottom.	0.39
1710	17	Fill	Pit	1708	Colour: mid orangey grey. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: clayey silt. Inclusions: moderate flecks of sub-rounded elongate charcoal, evenly distributed.	Primary fill	Band of re-deposited natural mixed with above fill, charcoal and burned wood.	0.13
1711	17	Fill	Pit	1708	Colour: mid orangey brown. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: 1) moderate flecks of sub-rounded elongate charcoal, evenly distributed 2) inclusion.	Secondary fill	Top fill of pit. Natural silting.	1.15
1712	17	Fill	Pit	1708	Colour: light orangey grey. Compaction: dry, friable. Composition: clayey silt. Inclusions: moderate flecks of sub-rounded elongate charcoal, evenly distributed.	Deliberate deposit	Light greyish fill below charcoal deposit (1710 - 1706) mix of redeposited natural and fill above?	0.16
1801	18	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.40 (avg.)

Context	Trench	Type	Feature	Feature cut no.	Description	Interpretation	Discussion	Vertical span (m)
1802	18	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.17 (avg.)
1803	18	Deposit			Colour: brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional small sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed.	Alluvium		0.30 (avg.)
1901	19	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.30 (avg.)
1902	19	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.10 (avg.)
1903	19	Deposit			Colour: brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional small sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed.	Alluvium		0.80 (avg.)
1904	19	Deposit			Colour: orangey with bluey grey mottle. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate medium to large sub-angular spheroidal flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a mid orangey with bluey grey slick, very silty clay.	Natural		0.07 (avg.)
1905	19	Cut	Ditch	1905	Orientation: N-S. Shape in plan: linear. Shape in profile: regular, shallow u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: imperceptible. Base: flat. Sides: gentle, concave.	Ditch	Very shallow and disturbed by ploughing. Completely excavated by machine so not visible in plan, but fill looks similar to linear features identified on eastern side of site in trench 7 hence tentative interpretation as a ditch.	0.12
1906	19	Fill	Ditch	1905	Colour: light yellowish brown. Compaction: very dry, friable. Composition: sandy clay.	Fill of ditch [1905]	Fill colour similar to that of ditches identified in trench 7. Very distinct from grey fill of ditch [1907]. No finds. Excavated by machine.	0.12
1907	19	Cut	Ditch	1907	Orientation: N-S. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: regular, deep V-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: sharp. Base: tapered. Sides: steep, concave.	Ditch	Large possible ditch that may continue to other side of trench, but section not clear. Completely excavated by machine so not visible in plan.	0.71
1908	19	Fill	Ditch	1907	Colour: mid yellowish grey. Compaction: dry, friable. Composition: clayey silt.	Secondary fill	Single naturally silted fill of possible ditch [1907] single piece of pottery recovered.	0.71
2001	20	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.35 (avg.)
2002	20	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.15 (avg.)
2003	20	Deposit			Colour: mid brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay.	Alluvium		0.20 (avg.)
2004	20	Cut	Pit	2004	Orientation: N/A. Shape in plan: circular. Shape in profile: regular, shallow u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: imperceptible. Base: rounded. Sides: gentle, concave.	Pit	Shallow pit containing charcoal, Flint, and some pottery, so likely used as a small waste pit. Located fairly centrally in Tr20. No other features in trench.	0.19
2005	20	Fill	Pit	2004	Colour: mid orangey brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: 1) frequent flecks of rounded spheroidal manganese, evenly distributed 2) moderate flecks of sub-rounded spheroidal charcoal, evenly distributed 3) moderate medium to very large sub-rounded spheroidal flint, evenly distributed.	Secondary fill	Natural silting fill. Pottery recovered. Very large Flint nodules, not worked, as well as charcoal and manganese present throughout.	0.19

Context	Trench	Type	Feature	Feature cut no.	Description	Interpretation	Discussion	Vertical span (m)
2101	21	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.26 (avg.)
2102	21	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.12 (avg.)
2103	21	Deposit			Colour: mid brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay.	Alluvium		0.26 (avg.)
2104	21	Cut	Ditch	2104	Orientation: NE-SW. Shape in plan: regular, rectangular. Shape in profile: regular, u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: steep, concave. Notes: a.	Modern ditch	A distinct likely modern field ditch for drainage with land drain on the same axis.	0.75
2105	21	Fill	Ditch		Colour: bluish grey. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Notes: over cut due to digger shovel.	Secondary fill	Natural silting of modern ditch. No finds.	0.75
2201	22	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.33 (avg.)
2202	22	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.13 (avg.)
2203	22	Deposit			Colour: mid brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay.	Alluvium		0.18 (avg.)
2301	23	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.36 (avg.)
2302	23	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.14 (avg.)
2303	23	Deposit			Colour: mid brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional large sub-angular spheroidal flint, concentrated towards ne.	Alluvium		0.20 (avg.)
2304	23	Cut	Ditch	2304	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: regular, u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: steep, concave.	Modern land drain ditch	A ditch used for a modern land drain. Continues SE and also seen in trenches 27 and 28.	0.45
2305	23	Fill	Ditch	2304	Colour: mid brownish grey. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Notes: over cut due to digger shovel.	Deliberate backfill	Deliberate backfill for the use of a land drain	0.45
2306	23	Cut	Ditch	2306	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: concave.	Modern ditch	A very modern ditch with CBM and shotgun cartridge.	0.35
2307	23	Fill	Ditch	2306	Colour: mid reddish brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: silty clay.	Deliberate backfill	Fill of ditch with modern farming rubbish, possibly backfill.	0.35
2401	24	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.30 (avg.)
2402	24	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.14 (avg.)
2403	24	Deposit			Colour: mid brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay.	Alluvium	Slightly different from the deposit that covers most of West side of area - more orange, but not as orange or light as the deposit on east	0.20 (avg.)

Context	Trench	Type	Feature	Feature cut no.	Description	Interpretation	Discussion	Vertical span (m)
2501	25	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.28 (avg.)
2502	25	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.18 (avg.)
2503	25	Deposit			Colour: mid brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay.	Alluvium		0.40 (avg.)
2601	26	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.25 (avg.)
2602	26	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.20 (avg.)
2603	26	Deposit			Colour: mid brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay.	Alluvium	Slightly different from the deposit that covers most of West side of area - more orange, but not as orange or light as the deposit on east	0.36 (avg.)
2701	27	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.30 (avg.)
2702	27	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.16 (avg.)
2703	27	Deposit			Colour: mid brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay.	Alluvium		0.22 (avg.)
2704	27	Cut	Ditch	2704	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: regular, linear.	Ditch	Modern unexcavated ditch. Also observed in Trenches 23 and 28 (2304 & 2804).	-
2705	27	Fill	Ditch	2704		Unexcavated fill	Unexcavated fill of modern ditch.	-
2801	28	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.33 (avg.)
2802	28	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.16 (avg.)
2803	28	Deposit			Colour: mid brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay.	Alluvium	Slightly different from the deposit that covers most of West side of area - more orange, but not as orange or light as the deposit on east	0.18 (avg.)
2804	28	Cut	Ditch	2804	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: regular, deep u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: steep, concave.	Modern ditch	Cut of ditch with no finds, only some charcoal flecks. No other features in trench. Appears to be same linear as 2304 and 2704.	0.48
2805	28	Fill	Ditch	2804	Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: dry, friable. Composition: clayey silt. Inclusions: occasional flecks of sub-rounded spheroidal charcoal, evenly distributed.	Secondary fill	No finds. Some evidence of iron panning. Charcoal flecks. Disturbed by roots still visible within fill. Naturally silted.	0.48
2901	29	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.32 (avg.)
2902	29	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.15 (avg.)

Context	Trench	Type	Feature	Feature cut no.	Description	Interpretation	Discussion	Vertical span (m)
2903	29	Deposit			Colour: mid brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay.	Alluvium		0.24 (avg.)
3001	30	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.28 (avg.)
3002	30	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.12 (avg.)
3003	30	Deposit			Colour: mid brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay.	Alluvium		0.18 (avg.)
3004	30	Deposit			Colour: light brownish yellow. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: rare medium sub-angular spheroidal flint, concentrated in patches.	Natural geology		
3101	31	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay loam. Inclusions: rare small sub-angular elongate flint, evenly distributed. Notes: a distinct topsoil to a very diffuse subsoil.	Topsoil		0.28 (avg.)
3102	31	Deposit			Colour: mid greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: a very dense compact greyish sub soil.	Subsoil		0.20 (avg.)
3103	31	Deposit			Colour: mid brownish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay.	Alluvium		0.15 (avg.)

Appendix B: Finds Assessment

Charlotte Britton

Introduction

This report presents an assessment of some of the finds recovered (excluding the flint and environmental material) from an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Land at Main Road, Birdham, Chichester (NGR: 482162 099498). The evaluation was carried out in advance of a residential development at the Site. Excavations recovered c.62g of animal bone and c.206g of artefactual material including fired clay, ferrous and non-ferrous metalwork, and pottery.

When chronologically diagnostic, the material dated to the prehistoric (Bronze Age to Iron Age), medieval and post-medieval to modern periods. The assessment includes a discussion of the findings in their regional and chronological context and recommendations for further work.

Methodology

The assessment was carried out on 1st December 2025. The material was recorded and assessed in accordance with national guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019; Barclay *et al*. 2016; CIfA 2020) and with reference to the South East Research Framework (2025).

The material was examined visually and was quantified by count and weight, with basic artefact types and dates recorded.

The animal bone was recorded by context with mammalian taxa identified to broad species. Colouration of bone was noted, and any evidence of butchery, carnivore/rodent gnawing, and burning were also documented.

Assessment of the pottery fabrics was carried out using a low power microscope at x30 magnification with basic classification (e.g. coarse flint tempered ware). Reference was made to regional type series' for products manufactured in the Bronze Age to Iron Age (Seager Thomas 2008) and during the medieval period (McCarthy and Brooks 1988).

Iron nail classifications follow those in Manby (2024).

Outline of the assemblage

The assemblage dated to the prehistoric (Bronze Age to Iron Age), medieval and post-medieval to modern periods, with the animal bone, fired clay and iron being chronologically undiagnostic (Table 3). An archive catalogue of the material was produced in a pro forma excel spreadsheet for inclusion in the Site archive.

Table 3: Material recovered by context, with object type, period, count and weight.

Context	Material	Object type	Period	Count	Weight(g)
905	Pottery	Coarse flint tempered ware	M/LBA-IA	3	6.4
		Fine sandy ware	LBA-IA	1	6.9
1308	Pottery	Coarse flint tempered ware	M/LBA-IA	4	18.6
1706	Animal bone	Medium/large mammal	Unknown	1	1.5
	Fired Clay	Unknown	Unknown	1	1.4
	Pottery	Coarse flint tempered ware	M/LBA-IA	4	16.4
1707	Fired Clay	Unknown	Unknown	1	1.6
	Pottery	Coarse flint tempered ware	M/LBA-IA	22	117.6
		Fine sandy ware	LBA-IA	1	7.5
1709	Animal bone	Large Mammal	Unknown	17	60.6
1908	Pottery	Coarse flint tempered ware	M/LBA-IA	1	0.8
2005	Pottery	Fine gritty ware	medieval	1	2.9
		Gritty ware	mid-12th–mid-14th century	2	7.8
2307	Cu Alloy	Shotgun bullet shell	post-medieval-modern	1	2.9
	Iron	Nail	Unknown	1	12.4
	Pottery	Plant pot	19th-20th century+	1	3
			Total	62	268.3

Key:
M/LBA-IA: Mid/Late Bronze Age-Iron Age

Animal bone

A small assemblage of 18 fragments (62.1g) of animal bone was recovered from pit fills 1706 and 1709 solely representing mammal remains. The material was highly fragmentary and in poor condition, with no complete examples being recovered. The colour of bone was always cream to light brown.

The material was indicative of medium to large mammal remains, with a fragment recovered from pit 1708 (1709) displaying probable pathology. The material also appeared as though it had been heavily impacted by roots in the surrounding soil, leaving marks on the external surfaces of the bone.

Pottery

An assemblage of 40 sherds (187.9g) of pottery was recovered from across the Site, which dated between the Mid-Late Bronze Age to Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval to modern periods (Table 4). The assemblage included material that was British in origin, with the wares identified being characteristic of south-east England in all periods. The pottery assemblage was highly fragmentary, with no diagnostic sherds being recovered, and no forms being identifiable. The assemblage was consistently very fragmentary and highly abraded, with the mean sherd weight for the entire assemblage being just 4.7g, suggesting that the assemblage may have been subject to trampling/disturbance prior to, or since, original deposition.

Bronze Age to Iron Age pottery

A total of 36 sherds (174.2g) of hand-built pottery was recovered from ditch and pit fills across the Site, that represented locally produced vessels, being typical of the regional Mid–Late Bronze Age to Iron Age tradition.

Coarse flint tempered wares (CF1) were the most abundant in the prehistoric pottery assemblage constituting 94% by count (92% by weight) and representing a maximum of four individual vessels. The fabrics were sandy and ranged from oxidised to reduced-black in colour, containing abundant coarse to medium flint and rock, as well as occasional iron inclusions. The material was indictive of examples produced across the local region between the Mid-Late Bronze Age and Iron Age period (CF in Seager Thomas 2008, 27–47). As no forms were identifiable, the assemblage could not be more narrowly dated.

The remainder of the prehistoric pottery assemblage (two sherds, 14.4g) was represented by fine sandy hand-built wares (FS1) recovered from ditch 904 and pit 1705, representing a maximum of two individual vessels. The fabrics were sandy, reduced to black with buff surfaces, and contained common quartz and grog inclusions, as well as silver mica, being indicative of material produced across the local region during the Late Bronze Age to Iron Age (Seager Thomas 2008).

Medieval pottery

Three sherds (10.7g) of pottery that dated to the medieval period were recovered from pit 2004 (2005). The pottery was British in origin and represented regionally produced utilitarian wares. Two sherds of gritty ware (GW) were recorded that had a hard buff fabric containing common coarse flint and quartz inclusions and displaying the remnants of a light brown-green glaze on the inside body. The sherds also displayed sooting on the outside, indicative of being held over a fire, suggesting the sherds derived from a cooking-pot. The pottery fit well within the local ceramic tradition of the medieval period, specifically between the mid-12th and mid-14th centuries (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 320–328). The additional sherd recovered differed from the others, having an oxidised fabric (FGW) containing abundant fine quartz inclusions, also likely having been produced in the local region, during the medieval period.

Post-medieval pottery

A single sherd (3g) of post-medieval pottery was recovered from ditch 2306 (2307) that represented horticultural ware (HW) in the form of a plant pot, dating to the 19th–20th century onwards.

Table 4: Pottery types recovered, with fabric code and name, description, date range, count and weight.

Fabric code	Fabric name	Fabric description	Date	Count	Weight (g)
CF1	Coarse flint tempered ware	A sandy oxidised to reduced fabric containing abundant coarse to medium flint and rock, as well as occasional iron inclusions.	M/LBA-IA	34	159.8
FGW	Fine gritty ware	A hard oxidised fabric containing abundant fine quartz inclusions.	medieval	1	2.9
FS1	Fine sandy ware	A reduced to black sandy fabric with common quartz and grog temper, and silver mica.	LBA-IA	2	14.4

Fabric code	Fabric name	Fabric description	Date	Count	Weight (g)
GW	Gritty ware	A hard buff fabric containing common coarse flint and quartz inclusions.	mid-12th–mid-14th century	2	7.8
HW	Horticultural ware	–	19th-20th century+	1	3
		Total		40	187.9

Key:
M/LBA-IA: Mid/Late Bronze Age-Iron Age

Fired clay

Two fragments (3g) of fired clay were recovered from pit 1705 (fills 1706 and 1707) that consisted of oxidised featureless fragments that were undiagnostic. This made it difficult to distinguish between deliberate or accidental firing. It was clear from the fabric colour and lack of vitrification that the clay had not been subject to extremely high temperatures and so was most likely derived from a domestic hearth, oven or other similar process, rather than an industrial structure such as a kiln or furnace. It was also possible that the fragments represented pottery that had been abraded to a state where form was no longer identifiable.

Metalwork

An assemblage of two fragments (15.3g) of metal were recovered from ditch 2306 (2307) that included an iron nail and copper-alloy bullet.

The single nail was heavily concreted, although it was straight with a circular flat head, and possible pointed tip fitting into Manby's 'general nail' classification and being chronologically undiagnostic (Manby 2024).

The copper-alloy fragment derived from the base of a shotgun shell. It had a cardboard wad *in situ* suggesting that it dated to the post-medieval to modern period, with such wads being used until c.1960 when they were replaced by plastic.

Statement of potential

The finds assemblage was associated with the storage and preparation (cooking) of foodstuffs during the Mid-Late Bronze Age to Iron Age and medieval periods, as well as shooting and horticultural activities during the post-medieval to modern periods. Animal bone, fired clay, and a nail were also present.

The material was fragmentary; however, it was likely that a high proportion of the material was recovered from primary deposition contexts, providing information on the character and chronology of the features excavated (Table 5).

The material dating to the Late Bronze Age to Iron Age period was recovered from Trenches 9, 13, 17 and 19 and included pottery and probably animal bone, being suggestive of a small-scale domestic and/or agricultural community. It was likely that the assemblage was associated with those inhabiting the Site during the period

and/or being associated with a nearby settlement located c.300, north-east of the development area. The pottery recovered fit well into the established local ceramic tradition of the time and so the assemblage contributions to local pottery studies beyond this Site is low (Seager Thomas 2008; Champion 2019, 25-26).

The material recovered from pit 2004 in Trench 20 dated to the medieval period (mid-12th to mid-14th century) suggesting that the feature and so the Site experienced some level of occupation during the period, or with the activity perhaps being associated with agricultural practices occurring at the nearby Birdham Common during the time.

The material recovered from ditch backfill deposit 2307 was representative of the post-medieval to modern period, likely being associated with the wider area rather than the immediate feature, with the material having likely been redistributed by ploughing or similar activities taking place during the post-medieval to modern period.

Finally, the fired clay recovered may have been suggestive of high temperature activities taking place on Site during the past, however it was more probable that the fragments derived from pottery that was no longer indicative of form.

Table 5: Material recovered by context, with period and likely date of deposition.

Context	Material	Object type	Period	Likely date of deposition
905	Pottery	Coarse flint tempered ware	M/LBA-IA	M/LBA-IA
		Fine sandy ware	LBA-IA	
1308	Pottery	Coarse flint tempered ware	M/LBA-IA	M/LBA-IA
1706	Animal bone	Medium/large mammal	Unknown	M/LBA-IA
	Fired Clay	Unknown	Unknown	
	Pottery	Coarse flint tempered ware	M/LBA-IA	
1707	Fired Clay	Unknown	Unknown	M/LBA-IA
	Pottery	Coarse flint tempered ware	M/LBA-IA	
		Fine sandy ware	LBA-IA	
1709	Animal bone	Large Mammal	Unknown	Unknown
1908	Pottery	Coarse flint tempered ware	M/LBA-IA	M/LBA-IA
2005	Pottery	Fine gritty ware	medieval	mid-12th-mid-14th century
		Gritty ware	mid-12th-mid-14th century	
2307	Cu Alloy	Shotgun bullet shell	post-medieval-modern	post-medieval-modern
	Iron	Nail	Unknown	
	Pottery	Plant pot	19th-20th century+	

Key:
M/LBA-IA: Mid/Late Bronze Age-Iron Age

Conclusions and recommendations

The finds recovered by the evaluation at Land at Main Road, Birdham, Chichester demonstrated Mid-Late Bronze Age to Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval to modern period activity on and around the Site. The material was probably mostly recovered from primary deposition contexts; however, it was minimal and fragmentary. Further analysis of the material would therefore not helpfully contribute to our understanding of the Site, or research objectives set out in the South East Research Framework (2025). No further work could be meaningfully undertaken on the material, and it may be discarded on completion of the project.

This report and associated data spreadsheet should be retained as part of the Site archive and integrated into any Site-wide grey literature or publication reporting.

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Appendix C: Lithics

By Rebecca Devaney (BA, MA, ACIfA)

Introduction

A single piece of worked flint and one piece of burnt unworked flint were recovered from context (1308), a ditch fill, during archaeological investigations at Birdham (Table 6). Both pieces are chronologically undiagnostic.

Methodology

The worked flint was catalogued according to a standard type (as published by Butler 2005). Information about burning, breaks, condition, raw material and technology (as published by Inizan 1999) was recorded. Burnt unworked flint was quantified by count and weight.

Outline of the assemblage

The single piece of worked flint is a larger secondary removal with retained dorsal cortex on the butt and distal end. The dorsal surface exhibits three parallel scars from previous removals taken from the same platform. There is a pronounced bulbar cone suggesting the use of hard hammer percussion. The raw material is an orangey grey, and the cortex is very thin and abraded, indicating a probable secondary source for the material. The flake remains unaffected by surface alteration such as cortication but has suffered slight post-depositional damage in the form of chips to vulnerable edges. Flakes are the basis of all worked flint industries and cannot be dated.

The burnt unworked flint is a small chunk weighing 6g. Burning could have occurred at any point in the past, sometimes accidentally, but may be associated with cremations, hearths and kilns. Given the burnt unworked flint was recovered from the same context as the unburnt worked flint, burning likely occurred prior to deposition.

Table 6: Summary of flint

Flint type	Total	Total weight (g)
Flake	1	*23*
Burnt unworked flint	1	*6*
Total	**2**	*29*

Statement of Potential

The small size of the worked flint assemblage from Birdham limits the potential for meaningful interpretation. The presence of the flake indicates human activity in the area during the flint using periods of prehistory, but that broad date range cannot be refined.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Further work is not recommended. All worked flint should be kept and deposited with a relevant archive according to local practice. The burnt unworked flint has been fully recorded and can be discarded if necessary.

References

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Appendix D: Archaeobotanical Assessment

Lisa Gray MSc MA ACIfA

Introduction

Two samples were taken during an evaluation by archaeologists from Cura Terrae Ltd at land at Main Road, Birdham, Chichester, PO20 7HU (hereafter "the Site") (Table 7). The National Grid co-ordinates are 482162 , 099498. This evaluation was carried out in advance of a development on land that was used for agricultural activities.

The bedrock geology for the site is clay, silt and sand of the London Clay Formation. The soil covering the site was 'Soilscape 22: Loamy soils with naturally high groundwater' (Hallett *et al*. 2017). In these soils one would normally find charred, and mineral replaced plant macro-remains (Campbell et al. 2011, 5).

This report will assess the significance and potential of the archaeobotanical remains recovered during the evaluation and make recommendations about further work and radiocarbon dating.

Methodology

Sampling and processing were carried out by Cura Terrae Ltd archaeologists. These samples were 5 and 36 litres in volume.

The samples were assessed using the standard methodology outlined in the Historic England Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (Campbell et al. 2011). Each flot was fully scanned under a stereomicroscope with magnification of 10-45x.

At assessment level the abundance of plant macro-remains is estimated unless the number of items is few (less than ten) when they are counted. The diversity of plant taxon types is also estimated. Level of preservation of plant macro-remains is given as identifiable to family, genus or species. Faunal remains seen in the flots are noted in general terms with only abundance noted. This is not a zooarchaeological report but the presence of terrestrial, freshwater or marine mollusca has been commented on if present.

Identifications were made using modern reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers et al. 2006 and 2023; Jacomet 2006). At assessment level full identifications are only made of significant plant macro-remains. Where given the nomenclature for the plant macro-remains follows Stace (Stace 2010). Scientific names are used once and English common names thereafter. English common names are used in the table for clarity.

Quantities were estimated in the following way:

Codes for abundance, diversity and level of preservation as used in the tables.

Abundance

1 = ‘Low’ = <10

2=’Moderate’ = 10-100

3= ‘Abundant’ =>100

Diversity

1=’Low’= <3 taxon types

2=’Moderate’ = 3 to 10 taxon types

3=’High’= >10 taxon types

Preservation

1 = Identifiable to family

2 = Identifiable to genus

3 = Identifiable to species

Outline of the Assemblage

Table 7 Environmental data table

Sample Code	Cut	Fill	Provisional feature description	Provisional date	Processed Volume (Litres)	Flot volume (Litres)	CHARRED - Nutshell			IDENTIFIABLE - Charcoal	INDETERMINATE CHARCOAL FLECKS	MODERN/INTRUSIVE - Rootlets	FAUNA - Terrestrial mollusca	Potential for analysis - Charcoal?	Potential for analysis - General Macros?	Potential for Scientific Dating?	Comments
							abundance	diversity	preservation	abundance	abundance	abundance	abundance	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	
1701	1708	1710	Pit	Bronze Age	5	0.002	-	-	-	2	2	2	-	Yes	No	Yes	-
1702	1708	1711	Pit	Bronze Age	36	0.002	1	1	3	1	2	2	1	No	No	No	CHD: Nutshell> two fragments of hazel nutshell

Both samples produced very small flots that were dominated by modern rootlets and charcoal flecks too small to identify. Both samples contained fragments of charcoal of identifiable size with most in Bronze Age Pit (1710) sample <1701>. Two fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana* L.) nutshell were found in Bronze Age Pit (1711) sample <1702>.

Statement of Potential

Bioturbation is evident in the form of modern rootlets. The sample sizes relative to the number of charred plant-remains present means that one cannot be certain that the plant remains originated in the sampled deposit. They might have moved about the site as the fields were ploughed and manured. This limits the potential of the charred plant remains to produce reliable information.

Conclusions and Recommendations

It is clear that charred plant remains survive at this site so any future sampling plans should consider this. The charcoal is of suitable size for identification and some of these fragments may be the short-lived taxon types suitable for radiocarbon dating. The nutshell may also be suitable for radiocarbon dating but caution should be taken with all of the charred plant remains unless there is certainty about their stratigraphic integrity.

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Appendix E: OASIS data collection form

OASIS ID (UID)	curaterr1-539150
Project Name	Evaluation at Main Road, Birdham
Sitename	Main Road, Birdham
Sitecode	25588
Project Identifier(s)	
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	21/01830/OUT
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Cura Terrae
Project Dates	22-Sep-2025 - 17-Oct-2025
Location	**Main Road, Birdham** NGR: SZ 82162 99498 LL: 50.78923916238959, -0.835751756004131 12 Fig: 482162,99498
Administrative Areas	Country: England County/Local Authority: West Sussex Local Authority District: Chichester Parish: Birdham
Project Methodology	31 trench evaluation. Trenches measured 50m by 1.8m. Two trenches enlarged at the request of the LPA Archaeologist
Project Results	The trench evaluation revealed a small number of features across the site, with a higher concentration to the north. Some of these features were clearly modern in date, however at least five of the features could be dated to the Bronze to early

	Iron Ages by the small quantity of pottery recovered from them. They may have been associated with the settlement that was found approximately 300m to the north-east of the site dating from the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age. A large deep pit was identified in trench 17 and subsequently fully revealed for complete excavation. The pottery recovered from the pit showed that it was a large and deep isolated Bronze Age pit, which likely existed within a Bronze Age manage agricultural landscape. The pit showed to have once contained timber, which did not survive but left an imprint of where it had rotted as a dark orange material near the base of the pit. Two samples from the pit produced a moderate quantity of charcoal.
Keywords	Ditched Enclosure - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditched Enclosure - LATE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditched Enclosure - EARLY IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditched Enclosure - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Storage Pit - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Storage Pit - LATE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Storage Pit - EARLY IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation Barratt Redrow Southern Counties
HER	West Sussex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Oliver Good
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with The Novium Museum; Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

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