



Land at Oldport Farm, Oswestry, Shropshire

Archaeological Evaluation



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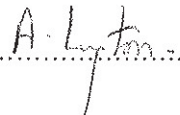
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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) were commissioned by GF Kempster and Son to undertake archaeological evaluation trenching of an area of land proposed for light industrial, with some residential, development. The area consisted of five parcels of mixed-use agricultural land (Areas A-E) at Oldport Farm, Shropshire (centred NGR SJ 299307). The site is considered to have a high archaeological potential as it is overlooked from the north-west by the Scheduled Monument of Old Oswestry Iron Age Hillfort and the linear earthwork known as Wat's Dyke (SM 27556). The Historic Environment Officer (HEO) at Shropshire County Council (SCC) advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation would be required to inform the planning process. Therefore, a desk-based assessment was initially undertaken by Castlering Archaeology (2006), acting as archaeological consultant to the client, wherein no other archaeological sites were identified within the study area besides the Hillfort, and the Vyrnwy Water Pipeline built in 1888 to supply Liverpool.

Furthermore, a geophysical survey was carried out by GSB Prospection Ltd in 2007, of which the results were used to inform the location of 24 trial trenches stipulated by the HEO SCC. However, Areas A and B (Trenches 1-8 and 23), situated to the west of the Gobowen Road running northwards through the proposed development area, were subsequently omitted from this phase of work as the planning proposals had been temporarily suspended for these two areas. The remaining 15 trial trenches in Areas C, D and E (Trenches 9-22 and 24) were excavated between 8th and 17th June 2009.

Trenches 9-19 measured 25m long, Trench 20, which was divided into two due to services (a and b) totalled 30m, Trenches 21 and 22 were 20m in length, and Trench 24 was 50m in length. All trenches were 2m wide, and the maximum average depth was between 0.35m and 0.6m.

No significant archaeological deposits or features were identified during the evaluation trenching; the area had been subjected to relatively deep ploughing, and the occupation of the area by a large army training camp during World War II also contributed to the truncation or disturbance of any features. The finds recovered from the trenching were mainly recovered from the ploughsoil, a mixed topsoil and subsoil, and were mainly mid-late eighteenth-century and later, although some pottery of possible Romano-British or medieval date was retrieved, albeit residual. These finds are likely to have been deposited through manuring. Their relatively fair condition indicates that, despite it being deep, the occurrence of ploughing appears to have been limited.

The only features revealed during the trial trenching were within Trenches 14, 15 and 24, equating to five pits (**09** and **13** in Trench 14; **22** and **24** in Trench 15; **29** in Trench 24) and one ditch (**27**, Trench 24). Pits **09** and **24** were shallow and very irregular in shape, and with the presence of the organic nature of the lower fill (**11**) in pit **09** these two 'pits' were interpreted as tree boles. Pit **13** was a neat sub-oval shape and the finds recovered from within the fill suggest a post-medieval or later date. Pits **22** and **29** were recognised on initial investigation as being mortar craters or similar from the site's use as a training camp in World War II, and so were not fully excavated. Ditch **27** was likely to be of post-medieval date but its function was not ascertained.

The area evaluated with trial trenching, to the east of the Gobowen Road, was shown to contain little of archaeological significance. Development of this area is likely to have little impact on any archaeological remains or features. The residual Romano-British or medieval pottery may be associated with activity to the west of the Gobowen Road, close to the Old Oswestry Hillfort. There is a high probability that archaeological remains are present in this area and, hence, further work would be required to assess the impact of any proposed development.

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Oxford Archaeology North would like to thank GF Kempster and Son of Oldport Farm, Oswestry, for commissioning this project, and for their logistical help on site and provision of the mechanical excavator. Also, thanks are extended to Pat Frost, of Castlering Archaeology, who acted as the archaeological consultant during the evaluation process, and to Mike Watson, the Historic Environment Officer for Shropshire.

The evaluation was undertaken by Caroline Raynor, with the assistance of Elizabeth Murray, Mark Sycamore and Jakob Warrender. The report was compiled by Caroline Raynor. The drawings were produced by Anne Stewardson and the finds assessed by Chris Howard-Davis. The project was managed by Emily Mercer, who also edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 GF Kempster and Son proposed to develop five parcels (Areas A-E, Fig 1) of mixed-use agricultural land at Oldport Farm, Shropshire, for the purposes of light industrial development with some residential development. The site is overlooked from the north-west by the Scheduled Monument of Old Oswestry Iron Age Hillfort and the linear earthwork known as Wat's Dyke (SM 27556), and, therefore, there is a high potential for archaeological remains (Plate 1). Consequently, the client has been advised by the Historic Environment Officer (HEO) at Shropshire County Council (SCC) that a programme of archaeological evaluation is required to inform the planning process. A desk-based assessment was initially undertaken by Castlering Archaeology (2006), acting as archaeological consultant to the client, and no other archaeological sites were identified within the study area, apart from the Vyrnwy Water Pipeline built in 1888 to supply Liverpool.
- 1.1.2 Following the desk-based assessment, a brief was issued by the HEO SCC (*Appendix 1*) outlining the requirements for field evaluation (*ibid*). The first stage was a geophysical survey carried out by GSB Prospection Ltd (2007). The results were intended to assess the potential for below-ground remains and were used to inform the location of trial trenches. The required positions of the trenches were stipulated by the HEO SCC. However, Areas A and B (Fig 1) were omitted from this phase of work.
- 1.1.3 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by Castlering Archaeology, acting on behalf of the client, to undertake the trial trenching, which was carried out between 8th and 17th June 2009. The following sets out the results of the fieldwork in the form of a short report.

1.2 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 The site is located adjacent to the Gobowen Road, north-east of Oswestry, Shropshire (centred NGR SJ 299307, Fig 1). The area of trial trenching (Areas C-E, Fig 1) equates to approximately 1.8ha of agricultural land at approximately 120m OD, and is positioned immediately to the east of the A5609 Gobowen Road. It is characterised by gently rolling low-lying farmland (Plate 1).
- 1.2.2 The site lies on the western edge of the Shropshire Plain, of which the predominant land use is the production of grass for grass for grazing, silage or hay (Countryside Commission 1998, 145). The general appearance is one of a lush, productive and well-managed farmed landscape. The area is formed from Triassic sandstones and marls, but these are overlain by glacial deposits, largely consisting of boulder clay, with local deposits of silt, peat, sand and gravels (*op cit*, 148-9). A soil study undertaken by Harper Adams College,

Newport, reported “somewhat acidic soil, low on phosphates” in the general study area (Castlering Archaeology 2006).

1.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 The following background allows the site to be considered within the wider historical and archaeological context when assessing the potential for archaeological remains, and is a précis of the desk-based assessment compiled by the archaeological consultant for the project, Castlering Archaeology (*ibid*).
- 1.3.2 Despite no evidence for prehistoric settlement within the study area, it is in extremely close proximity to Old Oswestry Hillfort (SM 27556). The hillfort was excavated in 1939-40 and four main phases of Iron Age construction were identified. The site had obviously been a focus of activity for some time, with evidence of Late Bronze Age occupation, and flints and a stone axe of Neolithic date being uncovered on the site (*ibid*). Furthermore, finds of Roman pottery and tile were recovered during the excavations, although the nearest known occupation is *c* 6km to the north of the site where a marching camp has been identified at Rhyn Park along the former line of Watling Street (*ibid*).
- 1.3.3 The hillfort was incorporated from the north and south by Wat’s Dyke (SM 27556) some time during the post-Roman period. It runs for *c* 65km from the River Morda at Maesbury to the Dee Estuary at Holywell, Flintshire (*ibid*). The exact date and function of the earthwork is uncertain but, until recently, it was generally believed to be a boundary dating to the reign of Aethelbald (AD 716-757). Recent archaeological work on the Dyke has suggested an earlier date (*ibid*), and it is no doubt a reaction to the troubles within the Welsh Borderland.
- 1.3.4 However, following the Conquest the Norman advance towards Wales resulted in numerous motte and bailey castles being constructed along the Borderland, of which the castle at Oswestry *c* 0.8km to the south of the site is one example (*ibid*). This provided a base for Royal incursions into Wales, and the town quickly developed around it as a result. However, the borderlands experienced a succession of raids by the Welsh, and the town of Oswestry was burnt by Llewelyn in 1263, then attacked by Owain Glydwr in the 1400s. In 1644 the town was again the focus of troubles, seeing a minor Civil War battle when Parliamentary forces overcame the Royalist Garrison to take the town (*ibid*).
- 1.3.5 The site of the former half-timbered mansion, Park Hall, lies *c* 0.5km to the east of the site, and was built *c* 1571 for a Thomas Powell. The estate passed through Powell’s descendants and included the Sheriff of Shropshire in 1647. During this time the land at Oldport was part of the Park Hall Estate (*ibid*). When it was sold to Sir Francis Charlton in 1717 the estate was 12 acres, including the house, gardens, sheepwalk, and farmland. During the nineteenth century the Hall was surrounded by a small park bisected by a tree-lined drive. It would seem that during a period of money raising in the 1830s/40s

the owner, John Kinchant, sold off Oldport Farm and land to the Ormsby Gore family, who owned Old Oswestry Hillfort (*ibid*).

- 1.3.6 During the mid-nineteenth century railway construction began in the area, as elsewhere, at a pace. The Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Chester Junction Railway Company formed in 1845 for the purpose of constructing a line from Gobowen Station, through Oswestry to Llanymynech (*ibid*). By the end of 1848 the line had been completed as far as Oswestry (HER 5779), by which time the company had amalgamated with the North Wales Mineral Railway, later to become the Great Western Railway in 1854. It continued in operation until 1966. It ran in a culvert parallel to the B5069 (*ibid*) dividing the site with Areas A and B to the west and Areas C, D and E to the east. To the south-east of the site was the Oswestry, Ellesmere and Whitchurch Railway, which linked mid-Wales to the London and North Western Railway at Whitchurch (HER 5892). It opened in 1864 and was eventually closed in 1965, and removed (*ibid*).
- 1.3.7 Later in the nineteenth century, the reservoir at Lake Vyrnwy (built in 1888) was constructed to supply water to Liverpool. It was linked by what was known as the 'Aqueduct', although in the form of buried cast iron pipes, a major feat of engineering at the time, which crossed the very southern edge of Areas D and E. The first water flowed to Liverpool on 14th July 1892 (*ibid*).
- 1.3.8 During the First World War the owner of the Park Hall estate, Major Wynne Corrie, gave Park Hall over to the military as their local headquarters, and in spring 1915 a military camp was constructed to train the troops. This spilled out onto the Oldport Farm site, with the area to the east of Old Oswestry Hillfort being used for excavating trenches and setting off explosives (*ibid*). The Hall was destroyed in a fire in 1918 (*ibid*).
- 1.3.9 Following the death of Major Wynne Corrie the estate was conveyed to the War Office in 1920. The training camp was used once again from the Second World War up until 1968, after which it was used for training Junior Leaders until late 1975. Much of the land was then returned to farming (*ibid*).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 2*) was submitted by OA North in response to a request from Castlering Archaeology on behalf of the client, and prepared in accordance with the project brief issued by the HEO SCC (*Appendix 1*). This was subsequently approved by the HEO SCC. The project design was adhered to in full in terms of the methodology. However, Areas A and B (Fig 1), which included Trenches 1-8 and 23 (Fig 2), were omitted at least for this phase of trial trenching under instruction from the client. Furthermore, Trenches 12, 13 and 24 were moved to avoid suspected live services, whilst Trench 20 was divided into two (Trenches 20a and 20b) to avoid a water main (Fig 2). The work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA, previously known as IFA, 1994, 1999) and English Heritage (1991) and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 EVALUATION

- 2.2.1 The trenches were located using a Leica differential Global Positioning System (dGPS) and marked out accordingly (Fig 2). The dGPS uses real-time corrections (RTK) using mobile SmartNet technology to achieve an accuracy of approximately $\pm 0.01\text{m}$. Excavation was carried out by an eight tonne 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.5m ditching bucket, under the constant observation of an appropriately experienced OA North archaeologist. The topsoil was removed to the level of the first significant archaeological deposit or natural soils; a 1m sample section was excavated within each trench to ensure that natural soils had been reached.
- 2.2.2 All information was recorded stratigraphically with accompanying documentation (plans, sections, and both colour slide and monochrome print photographs, both of individual contexts, and overall site shots from standard view points). Photography was undertaken with 35mm cameras on archiveable black-and-white print film, as well as colour transparency. Digital photography was used extensively throughout the course of the fieldwork for presentation purposes.

2.3 ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and current IfA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in the Shropshire Record Office on completion of the project.
- 2.3.2 The Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS) online database *Online Access to index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) will be completed as part of the archiving phase of the project.

3. RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1 Of the originally proposed 24 trenches only 15 were excavated (Trenches 9-22 and 24), with one trench being split into two parts (Trench 20 a and b). Trenches 1-8 and 23 in Areas A and B, located on the west side of the Gobowen Road, were not excavated as the planning proposals had been temporarily suspended for these two areas. Trenches 9-19 measured 25m long, Trench 20 totalled 30m, Trenches 21 and 22 were 20m in length, and Trench 24 was 50m in length. All trenches were 2m wide (Fig 2). The maximum average depth was between 0.35m and 0.6m.
- 3.1.2 No archaeological features were recorded in Trenches 9-13 and 16-22. Extensive ploughing across the site meant that it was not possible to differentiate between the topsoil and subsoil, which had mixed to become a mid-dark brown homogenous silty-clay ploughsoil, with 5-10% well-sorted small stone and grit inclusions seen in all trenches (**02-08**, **14-21**, **26** and **31**, Plate 2). Underlying natural, **01**, was observed as the same deposit across all trenches, an orange-yellow silty-sand deposit. All trenches remained open following excavation in order that samples could be subsequently taken by the environmental consultant, RSK Environmental. A full list of excavated contexts is provided in *Appendix 3*, and the finds are discussed in *Section 3.3* and listed in *Appendix 4*.

3.2 FIELDWORK

- 3.2.1 **Trench 9:** was at the most northerly point of the site, within Area C and targeted two geophysical anomalies of possible archaeological potential (Fig 2). The trench measured 2m x 25m, and was orientated north/south, almost parallel with the field boundary to the west. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.45m until natural **01** was reached. This was directly overlain by ploughsoil **05**. No archaeological features were observed within this trench.
- 3.2.2 **Trench 10:** was positioned to the south of Trench 9, within Area C, and targeted a geophysical anomaly of possible archaeological potential (Fig 2). The trench measured 2m x 25m, and was orientated roughly east/west. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m until natural **01** was reached. This was directly overlain by ploughsoil **04** (Plate 2). No archaeological features were observed within this trench.
- 3.2.3 **Trench 11:** was situated to the south-east of Trench 9, within Area C, and targeted a linear feature running approximately north-west/south-east of possible archaeological potential (Fig 2). The trench measured 2m x 25m and was orientated north-north-east/south-south-west. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35m until natural **01** was reached, which was below ploughsoil **06**. No archaeological features were observed within this trench.

- 3.2.4 **Trench 12:** was positioned to the south of Trench 11, close to the common boundary of Areas C, D and E. It was located within an area that had not been subjected to geophysical survey, and was relocated approximately 30m to the north-west of its proposed location, but still on the original alignment, due to the presence of buried services. The trench measured 2m x 25m, and was orientated east/west. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m until natural **01** was reached, which was beneath ploughsoil **20**. No archaeological features were identified.
- 3.2.5 **Trench 13:** was located to the south-east of Trench 11, in the eastern corner of Area C, and outwith any areas of geophysical survey. It was moved westwards from its original position by approximately 25m due to the presence of below-ground drains. It was orientated approximately north/south, measured 2m x 25m, and was excavated to a depth of 0.45m onto natural **01**. Directly above the natural was ploughsoil **07**. No archaeological features were identified.
- 3.2.6 **Trench 14:** was the most northerly trench in Area E, and was outwith any geophysical survey. It measured 2m by 25m, was orientated east-north-east/west-south-west, and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m until natural **01**. This was overlain by ploughsoil **14**. Cutting the natural, **01**, were two sub-circular pit features, **09** and **13** (Figs 3-5, Plates 3 and 4), both of which contained single homogeneous fills and a small number of finds (see *Section 3.3* and *Appendix 4*). At the base of the cut for pit feature **09** was a layer of dark black silty organic matter **11**. This was overlaid by **10**, a mid grey-brown silty-clay fill, not dissimilar to the ploughsoil material. Pit **13** was a shallow sub-oval cut, probably truncated by modern ploughing. This feature measured 0.92m in length and was 0.22m deep and was filled by a dark greyish-brown friable clay-silt, **12**. This feature contained modern abraded ceramic building material suggestive of a post-medieval date (see *Section 3.3* and *Appendix 4*).
- 3.2.7 **Trench 15:** was positioned to the south-east of Trench 14, within the south-east corner of Area E, and was outwith any geophysical survey. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m until natural **01** was reached, which lay beneath ploughsoil **15**. Similar to Trench 14, two sub-circular pits were identified, **22** and **24** (Figs 3-5, Plate 5). Pit **22** was only partially investigated as fragments of ballistics and other unknown metal objects associated with military training activities during World War II were observed. Pit **24**, on the other hand, was completely excavated, and was a shallow concave feature that had been truncated by modern ploughing, measuring 0.75m in diameter and containing a single homogeneous fill **25**; a light brownish-grey friable silty-clay containing iron nails and glass fragments of a possible eighteenth century date.
- 3.2.8 **Trench 16:** was to the south-west of Trench 14, in the centre of Area E, and was orientated south-east/north-west. This trench was located within an area of geophysical survey but did not target any specific anomalies. It was excavated to a depth of 0.4m until natural **01** was reached, which was directly overlain by ploughsoil deposit **31**. No archaeological features were observed.
- 3.2.9 **Trench 17:** was parallel with and positioned to the south-west of Trench 16, within the south-west corner of Area E. It was positioned to target anomalies

of possible archaeological potential (Fig 2), and was excavated to a depth of 0.4m, until natural **01** was reached. This was directly overlain by ploughsoil deposit **19**. No archaeological features were observed.

- 3.2.10 **Trench 18:** was the most southerly trench within Area D and was orientated north-west/south-east. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.5m until natural **01**, which was directly overlain by ploughsoil **18**. No archaeological features were observed within this trench.
- 3.2.11 **Trench 19:** was situated to the north-west of Trench 18, along the same alignment, within Area D, to investigate linear and discrete anomalies of possible archaeological potential abstracted from the geophysical survey. The trench was excavated to an average depth of 0.5m until natural **01**, although a sondage was excavated towards the north-western end of the trench to a maximum depth of 0.9m through the natural to verify the deposit. This was directly overlain by ploughsoil **17**. No archaeological features were observed within this trench.
- 3.2.12 **Trench 20:** was divided into two parts, 20a and 20b, to avoid a water pipe that ran through the centre of its initial position, connecting two water tanks either side of the trench. Trench 20a was positioned to the south of the water pipe and Trench 20b to the north, with a distance of 25m between the two. Both trenches were orientated north-east/south-west, and measured 2m by 15m, within Area D. They were positioned within an area of geophysical survey, over what were interpreted as ridge and furrow anomalies (Fig 2). Both trenches were excavated to a depth of 0.5m to natural **01**, directly beneath ploughsoil **15** (Trench 20a) and **16** (Trench 20b). No archaeological features were identified within either trench.
- 3.2.13 **Trench 21:** was positioned to the north-east of Trench 20, in Area D, and outwith any geophysical survey. It measured 2m x 25m, and was orientated north-west/ south-east on a west-facing slope. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.38m on to natural **01**. This was directly overlain by ploughsoil **03** and no archaeological features were identified.
- 3.2.14 **Trench 22:** was within Area D, and outwith any geophysical survey areas. It measured 2m x 25m and was oriented roughly north-east/south-west. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.4m onto natural **01**, which was directly overlain by ploughsoil **02**. No archaeological features were observed.
- 3.2.15 **Trench 24:** was located between Trenches 16 and 17 in Area E, and targeted a complex area of anomalies of possible archaeological potential (Fig 2). It was relocated 10m to the north-east in order to avoid potential services, orientated north-west/south-east, and measured 2m by 50m. It was excavated through topsoil **26** to a maximum depth of 0.6m onto natural **01**, wherein two features were identified (Figs 3 and 4).
- 3.2.16 Across the centre of the trench was a linear feature, **27**, that measured 0.4m wide, extending beyond the limit of excavation either side of the trench (Fig 4). It was orientated north-west/south-east. Initially, two 0.4m wide slots were excavated through the feature to its full depth of 0.28m (Plate 6). Both

sondages were found to contain single heterogeneous fills and a very limited number of pottery sherds dating to the late eighteenth or nineteenth century (see *Section 3.3* and *Appendix 4*). In an attempt to maximise the retrieval of potential dating evidence, linear feature **27** was then fully excavated but with little return. The eastern edge of the feature had a vertical-sided straight linear edge, but the western side appeared to have been subject to animal disturbance, and was uneven and irregular.

- 3.2.17 Approximately 3m to the south-east of linear **27**, pit **29** was identified (Fig 4). Fill **28**, proved to be heterogeneous throughout, and appeared to be a mixture of the mid-dark brown silty clay topsoil **26**, and redeposited orange-yellow granular sandy natural **01**. The southern end of the feature appears to have been truncated, probably as a result of ploughing to a depth of approximately 0.35m in this area.
- 3.2.18 During initial excavation of sub-circular pit **29** a substantial number of metal fragments were observed that appeared to be from a large mortar or shell casing. It was concluded, based on the shape of the pit and the number of metal objects present, that this feature was most likely to represent a crater, created as a result of mortar detonation and associated with the military training activities on the site. This feature was recorded but not fully excavated for Health and Safety reasons.

3.3 FINDS

- 3.3.1 In all, 255 fragments of artefacts and ecofacts were recovered during the excavation from 18 contexts, as shown in Table 1, below. With the exception of ironwork and animal bone (both in poor condition), material from the site was in fair to good condition. Few pottery or glass fragments were greater than c 50 mm in maximum dimension, the breaks were relatively fresh, and there was little surface abrasion. Ceramic building material was, however, noticeably different, being in very small fragments and heavily abraded, perhaps suggesting that it had been deposited via a different process.
- 3.3.2 Pottery from the site formed a generally homogeneous group and, with the exception of two fragments, can all be placed in a date range from the late seventeenth to the late nineteenth century. All the pottery appears to have come from mixed contexts, and it is possible that in all cases, the late seventeenth-century material is residual, with most activity focused on the mid-late eighteenth-century and later.
- 3.3.3 Single fragments of potentially Romano-British or medieval pottery were recovered from ploughsoil **18** and **26** in Trenches 18 and 24 respectively. Both are undiagnostic body sherds in soft oxidised fabrics, one very fine, the other rich in sand, both are unglazed. These cannot be dated with certainty, and if not Romano-British they could possibly fall into a mid-twelfth-mid-fourteenth century date range, and are without doubt residual.
- 3.3.4 Approximately 50% of the post-medieval pottery comprises largely undiagnostic fragments of black-glazed redwares, mainly kitchen and storage

vessels, which have a very broad date range, and change little through time, making them of little use for dating. Some of the fragments are extremely hard-fired, a characteristic of earlier production, and it is possible that some of it derives from the fifteenth to sixteenth-century Midlands Purple/Cistercian ware tradition, with a number of Midlands production sites, for instance Ticknall in South Derbyshire (Boyle and Rowlandson 2008), and Burslem in Staffordshire (McCarthy and Brookes 1988). Without more diagnostic sherds, however, this cannot be confirmed, and it must be noted that some Cistercian ware production sites, for example Wrenthorpe in West Yorkshire, went on to produce later Blackwares with little apparent break (Moorhouse and Roberts 1992). The softer-fired fabrics are more likely to date to the eighteenth, nineteenth, and possibly early twentieth centuries.

- 3.3.5 Late seventeenth and eighteenth-century material includes small fragments of Staffordshire Yellow Wares and Slip-decorated Wares, which were present in a number of contexts (the former from ploughsoil **6** and **17** in Trenches 11 and 19, the latter from ploughsoil **02**, **07**, **18**, and **26** from Trenches 22, 13, 18 and 24). Broadly contemporary Manganese speckled wares came from ploughsoil **3**, **7**, and **19** from Trenches 21, 13, and 19. Interestingly, Tin-glazed wares and white salt-glazed stoneware tablewares are effectively absent from the group, suggesting that little was being deposited in the middle part of the eighteenth century, although Creamware and Pearlware, both typical of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, are present, as are later transfer-printed white earthenwares, which can be dated to the nineteenth century and later, to the present day. A single transfer-printed ointment pot from ploughsoil **02** in Trench 22, probably nineteenth-century in date, advertises a product sold in Bridport.
- 3.3.6 Glass from the site was largely uninformative, but probably reflects late eighteenth-century and later activity. There are a few fragments of dark olive green glass, one from a square or rectangular 'case' bottle, most likely to be of late eighteenth-century date. Similarly, clay tobacco pipes add little to the dating, with only three small fragments of bowl (all from ploughsoil **26** from Trench 24) suggesting a late eighteenth or early nineteenth century date.
- 3.3.7 A single well-worn whetstone was recovered from ploughsoil **02** (Trench 22), and a gunflint from ploughsoil **21** (Trench 15), both are post-medieval in date. A second fragment of flint from ploughsoil **26** (Trench 24) could also be a gunflint. The small amount of metalwork, one fragment of copper alloy and eight of iron, is completely uninformative, as is the very abraded group of ceramic building material. The few fragments of animal bone from the site are in extremely poor condition and badly eroded. They cannot be identified to species.

Ctext No.	Pottery	Clay pipe	Glass	Iron & copper alloy	Stone	CBM	Animal bone	Totals
02	13	2	1	2	2	0	1	21
03	2	0	2	0	0	3	0	7
04	4	0	0	1	0	2	0	7
05	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	5
06	4	2	0	0	0	5	0	11
07	15	3	0	1	0	22	0	41
08	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	4
09	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6
10	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	10
14	4	0	0	0	1	4	0	9
15	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
17	8	0	0	0	0	5	0	13
18	10	1	2	0	0	1	0	14
19	27	4	1	1	0	4	1	38
21	5	2	1	0	1	15	0	24
25	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	4
26	16	4	0	0	1	0	0	21
28	8	0	0	2	0	5	2	17
Totals	123	18	11	9	5	85	4	255

Table 1: Distribution of artefacts and ecofacts

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 The excavation of 15 linear evaluation trenches in the land to the west of Old Oswestry Hillfort did not identify any significant archaeological deposits or features. In addition, the area had been subjected to relatively deep ploughing, and the occupation of the area by a large army training camp during World War II would likely have contributed to the truncation or disturbance of any features. The finds recovered from the trenching were mainly from the ploughsoil, a mixed topsoil and subsoil, and were mainly mid-late eighteenth-century and later, although some pottery of possible Romano-British or medieval date was retrieved, albeit residual. The finds are likely to have been deposited through manuring. Their relatively fair condition indicates that, despite it being deep, the occurrence of ploughing appears to have been limited.
- 4.1.2 The only features revealed during the trial trenching were within Trenches 14, 15 and 24, equating to five pits (**09** and **13** in Trench 14; **22** and **24** in Trench 15; **29** in Trench 24) and one ditch (**27**, Trench 24). Pits **09** and **24** were shallow and very irregular in shape, which together with the organic nature of the lower fill (**11**) in pit **09** suggested that these two pits were tree boles. Pit **13** was a neat sub-oval shape and the finds recovered from within the fill suggest a post-medieval or later date. Pits **22** and **29** were recognised on initial investigation as being mortar craters or similar from the site's use as a training camp in World War II, and so were not fully excavated. Ditch **27** was likely to be of post-medieval date but its function was not ascertained.

4.2 IMPACT

- 4.2.1 The area evaluated with trial trenching, to the east of the Gobowen Road, was shown to contain little of archaeological significance. Development of this area is likely to have little impact on any archaeological remains or features. The residual Romano-British or medieval pottery may be associated with activity to the west of the Gobowen Road, close to the Old Oswestry Hillfort. There is a high probability that archaeological remains are present in this area and, hence, further work would be required to assess the impact of any proposed development.

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6. ILLUSTRATIONS

6.1 LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Trench location plan, showing the original position of proposed trenching and final trench positions

Figure 3: Location of recorded features

Figure 4: Detailed trench plans

Figure 5: Detailed sections

6.2 LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1: View south-eastwards from Old Oswestry Hillfort, overlooking excavated trenches

Plate 2: Sample section (north-west-facing) of Trench 10 showing ploughsoil (**04**) over natural deposit **01**

Plate 3: North-west-facing section through pit **09**, Trench 14

Plate 4: North-west-facing section through pit **13**, Trench 14

Plate 5: View of pit **24**, Trench 15, facing west-south-west

Plate 6: View of linear **27**, Trench 24, facing south-west

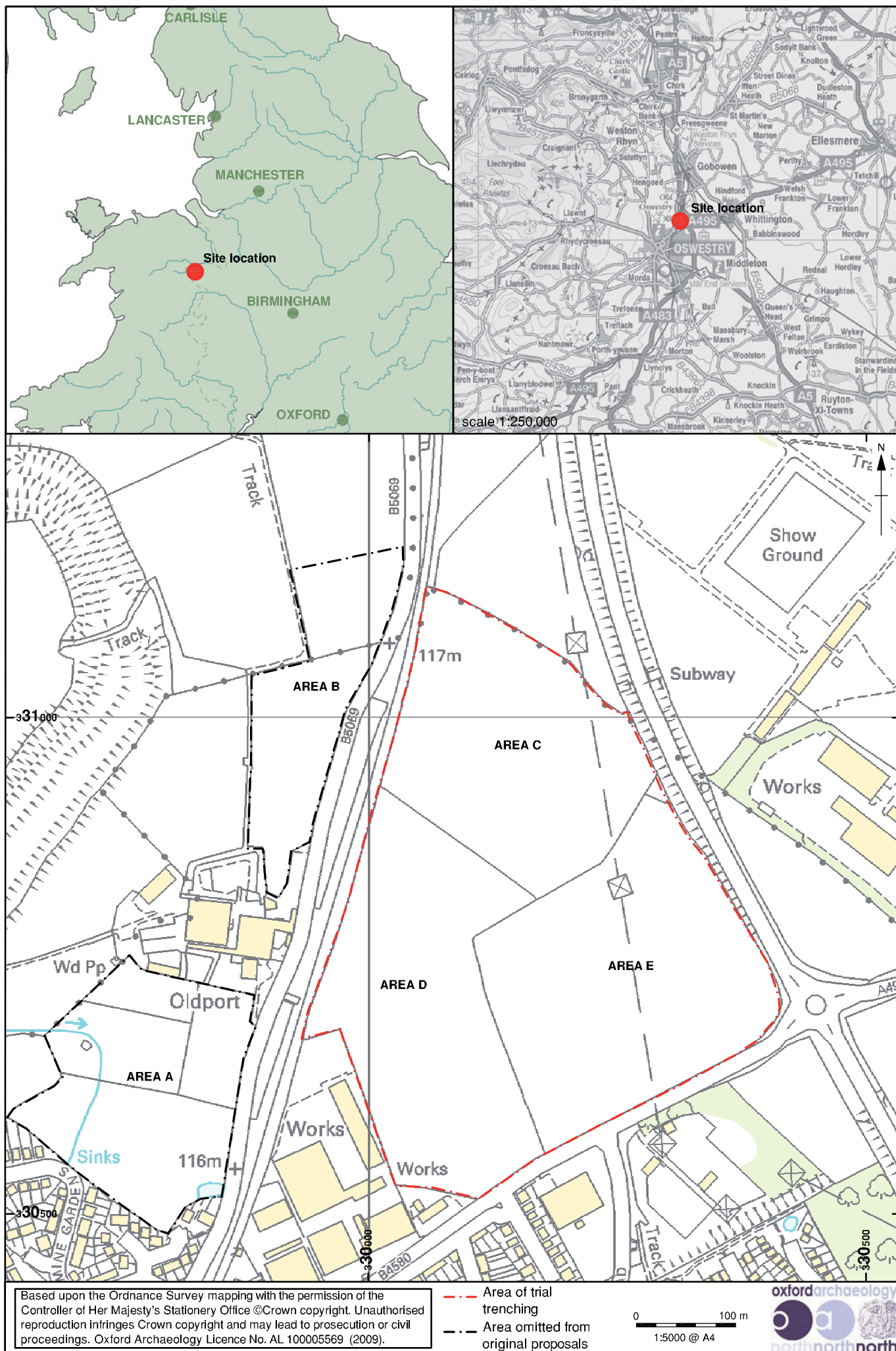


Figure 1: Site location

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Figure 2: Trench location plan, showing the original position of proposed trenching and final trench positions.

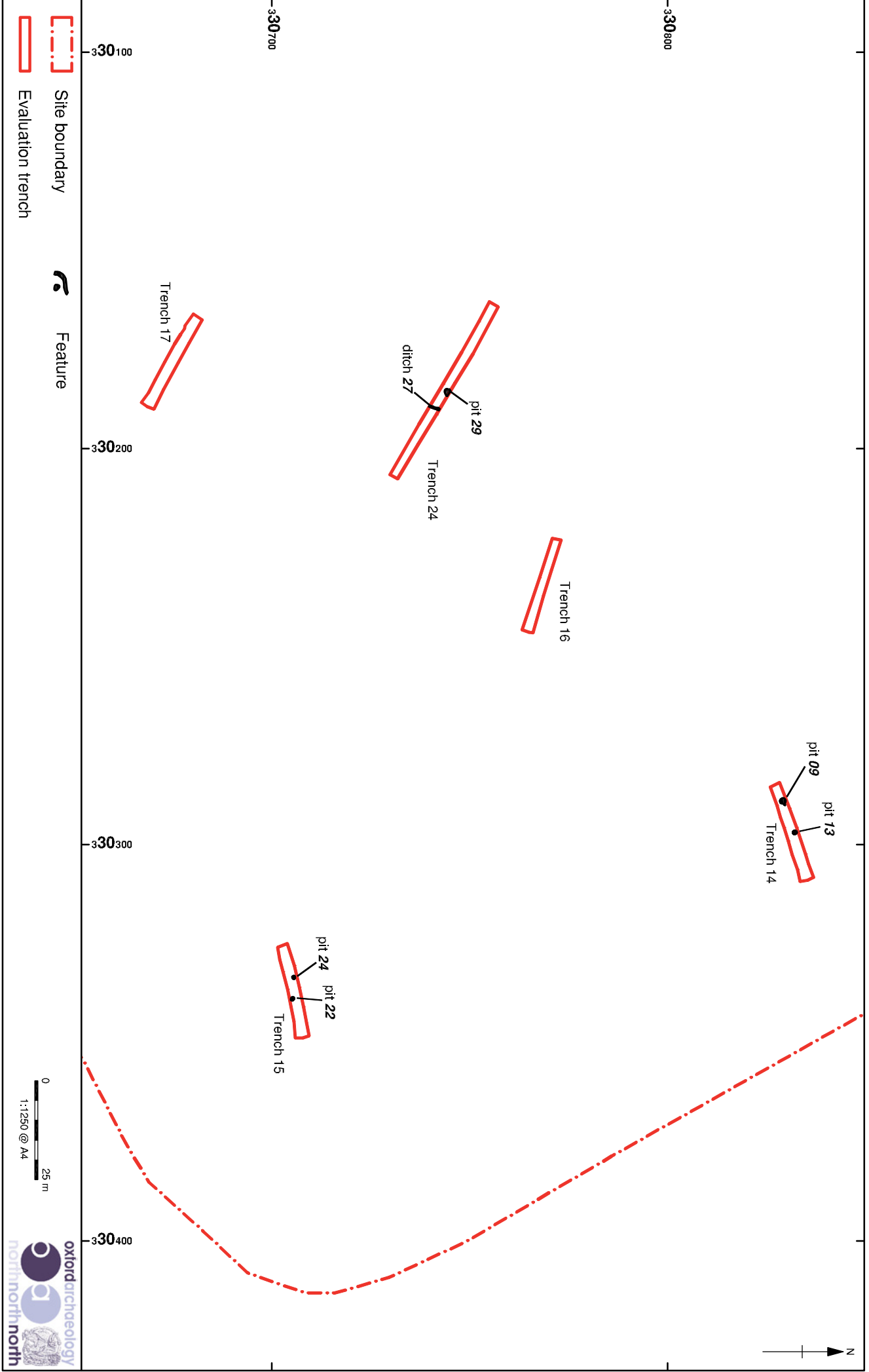


Figure 3: Location of recorded features

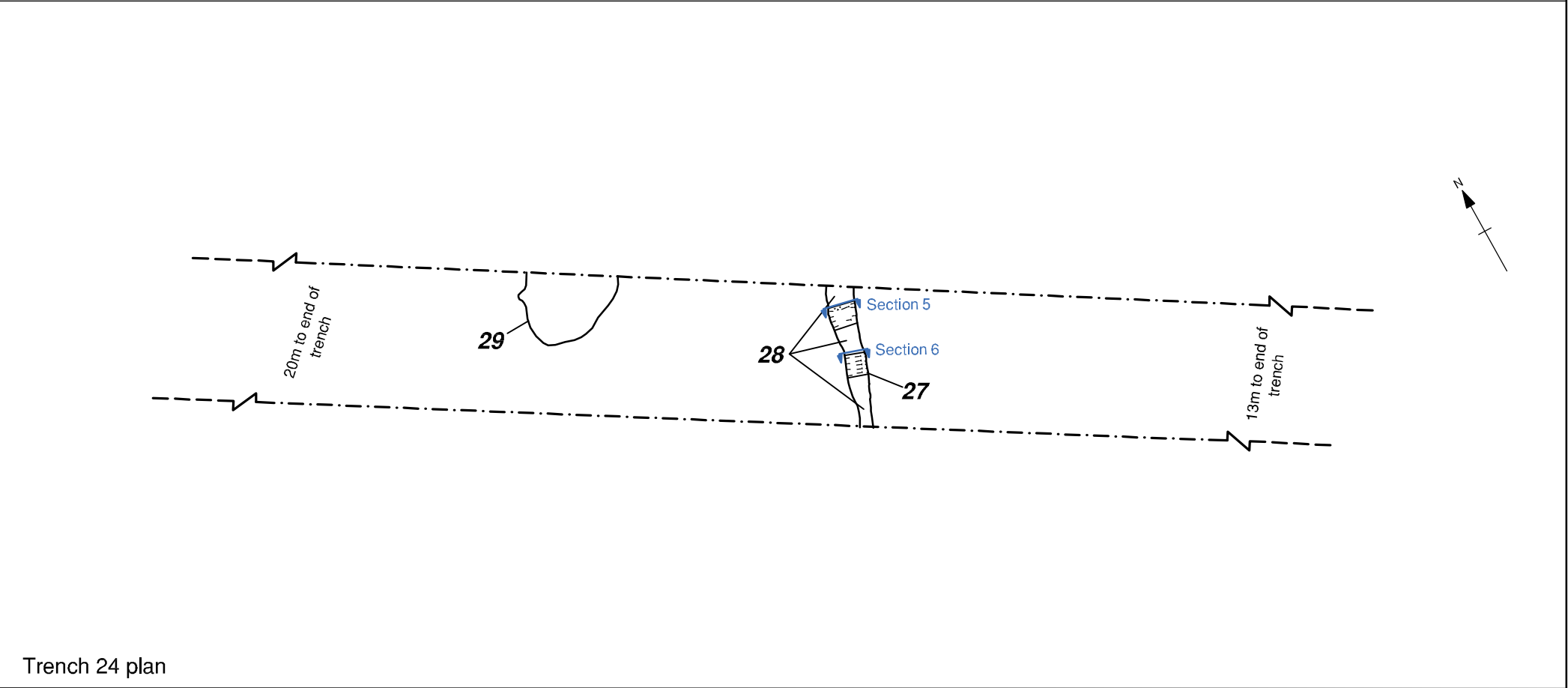
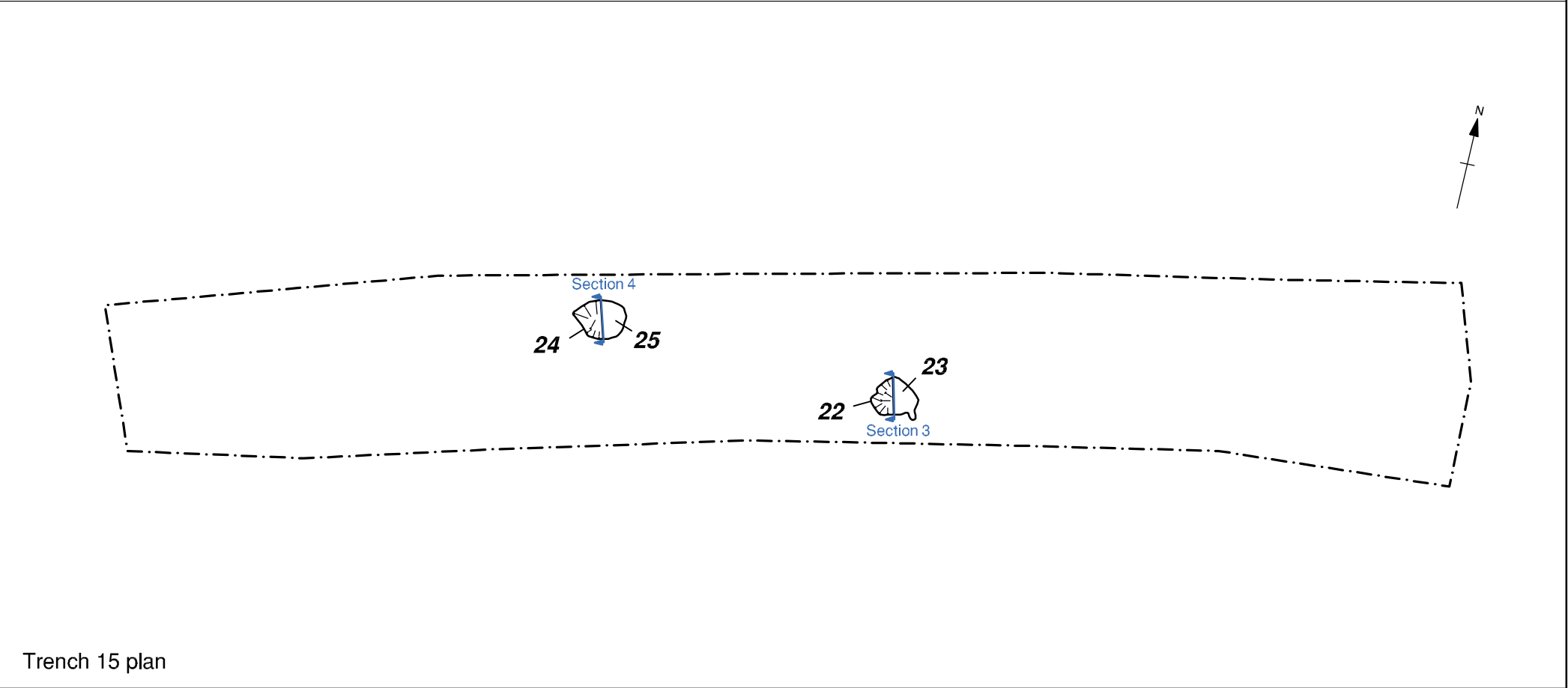
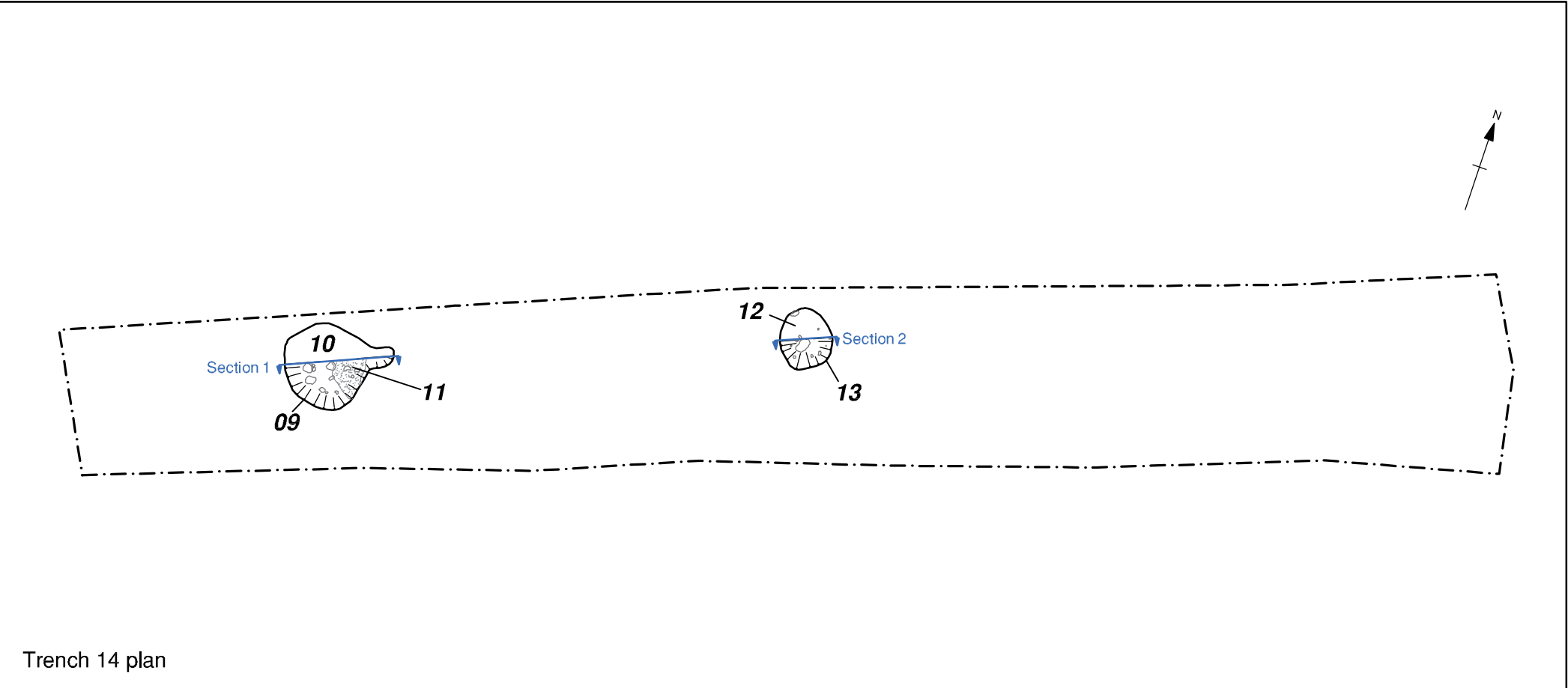
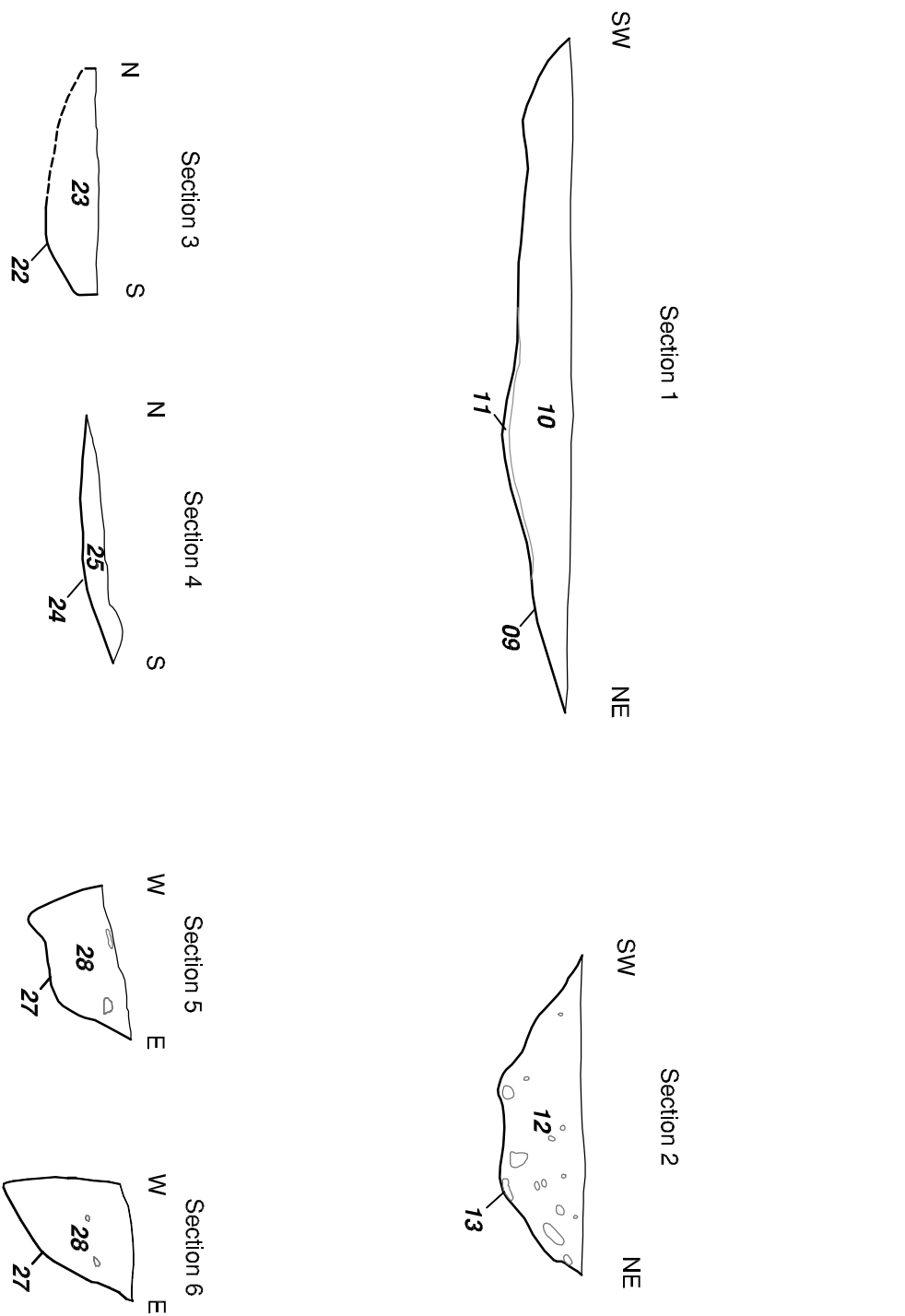


Figure 4: Detailed trench plans



Edge of feature
Context number

23

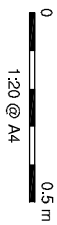


Figure 5: Detailed sections



Plate 1: View south-eastwards from Old Oswestry Hillfort, overlooking excavated trenches



Plate 2: Sample section (north-west-facing) of Trench 10 showing ploughsoil (**04**) over natural deposit **01**



Plate 3: North-west-facing section through pit *09*, Trench 14



Plate 4: North-west-facing section through pit *13*, Trench 14



Plate 5: View of pit **24**, Trench 15, facing west-south-west



Plate 6: View of linear **27**, Trench 24, facing south-west

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION AT OLDPORT FARM, OSWESTRY, SHROPSHIRE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 There are currently a series of development proposals under consideration for the land belonging to Oldport Farm, Oswestry, Shropshire.
- 1.2 The study area comprises 5 parcels of agricultural land on the north east side of the town of Oswestry and totalling c30ha. The farmland is overlooked by the earthwork remains of Old Oswestry Hillfort, which rise to the east. The Farm and Areas 1 and 2 are located on the east side of the B5069 Oswestry to Gobowen Road which, together with the Cambrian Railway Line, separates the farm from Area 3. Area 3 has a southern boundary with Whittington Road (B4380) and an eastern boundary with the Oswestry Bypass, which forms the western boundary of Areas 4 and 5.
- 1.3 In view of the archaeological potential of the site it has been deemed necessary to carry out an archaeological field evaluation of the site prior to the determination of the planning application and in accordance with the guidelines laid down in DoE Planning Policy Guideline No16 (Nov 1990).
- 1.4 This brief relates to the archaeological field evaluation of the site. The study area is indicated on the accompanying site plan.

2. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

- 2.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment and site walk-over of the study area was undertaken in August/September 2006. (Land at Oldport Farm, Oswestry, Shropshire : Archaeological Assessment, P Frost, Castlering Archaeology, Report No 243: 2006).
- 2.2 The desk-based assessment has identified the existence of two railway lines that cross the study area and the sub-surface existence of the Vyrnwy Aqueduct. The site walk-over undertaken identified no new ground areas of archaeological interest. In view of the close proximity of Old Oswestry, one of the major hillforts in Britain, and the linear earthwork known as Wat's Dyke, it was concluded that the area was one of high archaeological sensitivity.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The aim of the evaluation is to provide information that will enable an informed and reasonable planning decision to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the area affected by the proposed development.
- 3.2 The objectives will be:
 - a) To locate any archaeological features and deposit within the study area.

- b) To assess the survival, quality, condition and relative significance of any archaeological features, deposits and structures within the study area.
- c) To identify and recommend options for the management of the archaeological resource, including any further archaeological provision where necessary.

4. REQUIREMENTS

4.1 The field evaluation shall comprise geophysical survey followed by sample excavation.

4.1.1 Geophysical Survey - Magnetometry shall be the preferred method of survey. A series of six sample areas within the study area shall be subject to detailed survey. The provisional locations of these sample areas (A,B,C,D,E,F) are shown on the accompanying site plan.

The detailed survey shall comprise readings logged at 0.5 metre intervals along one axis in 1 metre traverses giving 800 readings per 20m x 20 grid, unless otherwise stated.

4.1.2 Excavation - Sample excavation within the study area shall be carried out. A strategy for the excavation will be agreed in advance with the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council, and shall be devised on the basis of the results of the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey. The excavated sample shall comprise up to a maximum of 1,300 sq metres, and sufficient contingency for this sample shall be made.

4.1.3 All excavation shall be limited to the top of significant archaeological deposits. Further full or partial excavation of selected deposits shall be undertaken only where essential for achieving the objectives of the evaluation exercise.

4.1.4 A full graphic, photographic and written record of the findings will be made. Individual contexts will be recorded on separate contexts sheets within a context register. Plans shall be drawn to a 1:50 or 1:20 scale and section drawings to a scale of 1:20 or 1:10 as appropriate. Drawn records will be related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate. Photographic records will be at a minimum 35mm format and include both black and white and colour.

4.1.5 All archaeological objects, artefacts, industrial waste and faunal remains will be recovered and related to the contexts from which they derive wherever possible. They will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guideline set out in the United Kingdom institute for Conservation's Conservation Guidelines No.2.

4.1.6 Provision shall also be made for the sampling of deposits for environmental and technological evidence where appropriate. Any environmental samples taken shall be bulk samples of a minimum of 10 litres. They shall be taken only from contexts considered to be of a high potential and used as a basis for assessing potential further analysis.

- 4.1.7 In the event of human remains being encountered all relevant statutory and Home Office requirements shall be fully complied with.
- 4.1.8 All archaeological trenches will be backfilled upon completion (for safety reasons and to protect exposed archaeological deposits), unless the client gives written instructions to the contrary.
- 4.1.9 Documentary research shall be undertaken where appropriate to assist with the assessment and interpretation of the on-site investigation.

5. **ARCHIVE AND REPORT**

- 5.1. This site archive will be prepared to at least the minimum acceptable standard defined in English Heritage's Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP 2). This will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigation undertaken. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent before transfer to the recipient body. It will also contain where relevant a site matrix, a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data (where appropriate).
- 5.2 The site archive, including finds and environmental material, will be ordered, catalogued, labelled and conserved and stored according to the UKIC Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage.
- 5.3 The project archive will be presented to an appropriate Museum or recipient body within 12 months of completion of the field work, subject to the agreement of the site owner with regards to any finds.
- 5.4 Prior to the commencement of the project the Contractor shall contact the Curator of Archaeology, Museum Services, Shropshire County Council, who will advise on an appropriate repository for the project archive and the provision for any finds. Responsibility for obtaining the owner(s) permission for deposition of finds shall lie with the contractor.
- 5.4 The result of the project will be submitted in an illustrated and bound report which will include:-
 - a) Written assessments of the specified objectives outlined in paragraphs 2.2.
 - b) A full written description and interpretation of the results of all elements of the project.

- c) A narrative and interpretative account of all historic landscape and structural evidence.
 - d) It will be fully illustrated with drawings and plans to an appropriate scale.
 - e) All documentary research/historical analysis shall be supported by copies of relevant historic maps, documents and aerial photographs. All sources consulted shall be cited.
- 5.5 In addition to copies submitted to the client, a copy of the project report shall be provided to the Historic Environment officer, Shropshire County Council, and one copy to the Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record.
- 5.6 Shropshire County Council Sites and Monuments record is currently participating in the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigation scheme). As part of the scheme the contractor is required to fill in an OASIS data capture form on completion of each report stage of an archaeological project, and on deposition of the final archive. Details of the progress, copies of the form and guidelines for its completion can be found on the internet at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>. Failing this, contact either the Shropshire SMR or Archaeology Data Service directly for further advice.
- 6. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS**
- 6.1 Curatorial responsibility for this project lies with the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council.
- 6.2 In response to this project brief contractors are expected to submit for prior written approval a written scheme of investigation to the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council, detailing their intended scheme of work, proposed working methods, report format and content, time scales and staffing levels (including any specialist sub-contractors). Levels of professional competence in appropriate areas shall be demonstrated.
- 6.3 No archaeological work should commence until the written scheme of investigation has been approved in writing by the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council.
- 6.4 Information provided in this brief cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. If requirements of the brief cannot be fully met they should only be excluded or altered after attainment of the written approval of the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council.
- 6.5 The project will be monitored throughout by the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council. To facilitate this, the archaeological contractor shall advise the Historic Environment Officer in writing at least one week in advance of commencement of the on-site work.
- 6.6 A programme of curatorial monitoring site visits will be undertaken by the Historic Environment Officer which will be agreed in advance with the archaeological contractor.

7. CONDITIONS

- 7.1 All archaeological work is to be carried out under the direct supervision of an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeologist. Preferably they shall be a Member or Associate of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 7.2 The code of conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists will be adhered to.
- 7.3 The Archaeological Contractor is to ensure requirements relating to all relevant health and safety legislations and codes of practice will be adhered to.

**M D WATSON
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT OFFICER**

**SUSTAINABILITY GROUP
SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
JANUARY 2007**

APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 GF Kempster and Son (hereafter the 'client') propose to develop four parcels of mixed use agricultural land to the north-east of the town of Oswestry, at Old Port Farm, Shropshire (centred NGR SJ 299307). The site is proposed for light industrial development with some residential development also, and lies to the south-east of the Scheduled Monument of Old Oswestry Iron Age Hillfort. The linear earthwork known as Wat's Dyke also lies in close proximity. Therefore, there is a high archaeological potential. Consequently, the client has been advised by the Historic Environment Officer at Shropshire County Council (SCC) that a programme of archaeological evaluation is required. A desk-based assessment was initially undertaken by Castlering Archaeology (2006), but no other archaeological sites were known within the study area apart from the Vyrnwy Water Pipeline built in 1888 to supply Liverpool.
- 1.1.2 Following the results of the desk-based assessment, a brief was issued by the Historic Environment Officer (SCC) detailing the requirements of field evaluation. The first stage was a geophysical carried out in 2007. The results were intended to assess the potential for below-ground remains and were used to inform the location of trial trenches, the positions of which have been put forward by the Historic Environment Officer (SCC). Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has been requested to submit proposals by Castlering Archaeology, acting on behalf of the client, to undertake trial trenching as part of the planning process. The following proposals have been prepared in accordance with the SCC brief.

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA), which is an educational charity under the guidance of a board of trustees, has over 30 years of experience in professional archaeology, and can provide a professional and cost-effective service. We are the largest employer of archaeologists in the country, and can thus deploy considerable resources with extensive experience to deal with any archaeological obligations. In the UK, we have offices in Lancaster, Oxford and Cambridge, trading as Oxford Archaeology North (OA North), Oxford Archaeology (OA South), and Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) respectively, enabling us to provide a truly nationwide service. OA is an Institute of Archaeologists Registered Organisation (No 17). All work on the project will be undertaken in accordance with relevant professional standards. Evaluations, assessments, watching briefs and excavations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The trial trenching aims to determine the extent and nature of any archaeological remains that may be threatened by the proposed development, and assess their survival, quality, condition and relative significance. This information will be used by the Historic Environment Officer (SCC) to inform the planning decision. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:
- 2.2 **Archaeological Trenching:** to undertake two 50m x 1.5m and twenty-two 25m x 1.5m trenches on the site as per the site plan provided by the Historic Environment Officer (SCC) (in accordance with IFA standards (1999b)).
- 2.3 **Report and Archive:** a report will be produced for the client within eight weeks, unless a report submission deadline is agreed with the client at the time of commission. An archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2 (1991)).

3. METHOD STATEMENT

- 3.1 The following work programme is submitted in line with the aims and objectives summarised above.
- 3.2 Prior to the fieldwork commencing OA North will contact the client to obtain any information relating to live services on the site.

3.3 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 3.3.1 **Risk Assessment:** OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997). A written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.
- 3.3.2 **Services and other constraints:** full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc.) during the evaluation as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. As a matter of course the field team will use a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) prior to any excavation to test for services. However, this is only an approximate location tool. Any **information regarding services**, i.e. drawings or knowledge of live cables or services, within the study area and held with the client should be made known to the OA North project manager prior to the commencement of the evaluation.
- 3.3.3 **Contamination:** any known contamination issues or any specific health and safety requirements on site should be made known to OA North by the client to ensure all procedures can be met, and that the risk is dealt with appropriately. Should any presently unknown contamination be discovered during excavation, it may be necessary to halt the works and reassess the risk assessment. Should it be necessary to supply additional PPE or other contamination avoidance equipment this will be costed as a variation.
- 3.3.4 **Staff issues:** all project staff will be CSCS qualified, proof of which can be provided in the form of CSCS cards.
- A portable toilet with hand washing facilities is required and can be provided and located on or adjacent to the site, unless the client would prefer to arrange alternative facilities. Therefore, the cost has been provided as a contingency item.
- 3.3.5 **Fencing requirements:** the excavation trench and any areas of archaeological sensitivity will be protected with barrier tape whilst open, and any appropriate signage. The trenches will be opened and backfilled within the same day where possible for purposes of site security, once archaeological recording has been completed. Any other requirements for fencing at the client's request (e.g. Heras-type security fencing) may be charged as a variation.

3.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRENCHING

- 3.4.1 **Trenches:** the evaluation is required to examine two 50m x 1.5m trenches and twenty-two 25m x 1.5m trenches. The exact configuration and location has been determined by the Historic Environment Officer (SCC) following the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey results.
- 3.4.2 **Methodology:** topsoil and modern overburden will be removed by machine (fitted with a toothless ditching bucket) under archaeological supervision to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposit. This deposit will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and inspected for archaeological features. All features of archaeological interest will be investigated and recorded unless otherwise agreed by the Historic Environment Officer (SCC).
- 3.4.3 The trenches will not be excavated deeper than 1.2m to accommodate health and safety constraints, without shoring or stepping out of the trench sides. Should this be required, this may be costed as a variation should an additional time on site be necessary.
- 3.4.4 All trenches will be excavated in a stratigraphical manner, whether by machine or by hand. Trenches will be located by use of a total station, altitude information will be established with respect to Ordnance Survey Datum.
- 3.4.5 Any investigation of intact archaeological deposits will be exclusively manual. Selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal. It is hoped that in terms of the vertical stratigraphy, maximum information retrieval will be achieved through the examination of sections of cut features. All excavation, whether by machine or by hand, will be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features, which appear worthy of preservation *in situ*.

- 3.4.6 All information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, using a system, adapted from that used by Centre for Archaeology Service of English Heritage, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and monochrome contacts) to identify and illustrate individual features. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.
- 3.4.7 Results of all field investigations will be recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. The site archive will include both a photographic record and accurate large scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20 and 1:10). All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded using the same system, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration.
- 3.4.8 **Environmental Sampling:** environmental samples (bulk samples of 40 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (gullies, pits and ditches). An assessment of the environmental potential of the site will be undertaken through the examination of suitable deposits by the in-house palaeoecological specialist, who will examine the potential for further analysis. The assessment would include soil pollen analysis and the retrieval of charred plant macrofossils and land molluscs from former dry-land palaeosols and cut features. In addition, the samples would be assessed for plant macrofossils, insect, molluscs and pollen from waterlogged deposits. The costs for the palaeoecological assessment are defined as a contingency and will only be called into effect if good deposits are identified and will be subject to the agreement of the Historic Environment Officer (SCC) and the client.
- 3.4.9 Advice will also be sought as to whether a soil micromorphological study or any other analytical techniques will enhance the understanding of the site formation processes, including the amount of truncation to buried deposits and the preservation of deposits within negative features. Should this be required the costs for analysis have been provided as a contingency.
- 3.4.10 **Faunal remains:** if there is found to be the potential for discovery of bones of fish and small mammals a sieving programme will be carried out. These will be assessed as appropriate by OA North's specialist in faunal remains, and subject to the results, there may be a requirement for more detailed analysis. A contingency has been included for the assessment of such faunal remains for analysis.
- 3.4.11 **Human Remains:** any human remains uncovered will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. No further investigation will continue beyond that required to establish the date and character of the burial. The Historic Environment Officer (SCC) and the local Coroner will be informed immediately. If removal is essential the exhumation of any funerary remains will require the provision of a Home Office license, under section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857. An application will be made by OA North for the study area on discovery of any such remains and the removal will be carried out with due care and sensitivity under the environmental health regulations. Any delays caused by unforeseen and complex excavation of inhumations may be subject to a variation to the cost of the contract and will be agreed with the client.
- 3.4.12 **Treatment of finds:** all finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines.
- 3.4.13 **Treasure:** any gold and silver artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be employed to protect the finds from theft.
- 3.4.14 All identified finds and artefacts will be retained, although certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained on advice from the recipient museum's archive curator.
- 3.4.15 **Contingency plan:** a contingency costing may also be employed for unseen delays caused by prolonged periods of bad weather, vandalism, discovery of unforeseen complex deposits and/or artefacts which require specialist removal, use of shoring to excavate important features close to the excavation sections etc. This has been included in the Costings document and would be in agreement with the client.

- 3.4.16 The evaluation will provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relative importance against known development proposals. In this way, an impact assessment will also be provided.

3.5 REPORT

- 3.5.1 One bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the client, and a copy each to the Shropshire HER and Historic Environment Officer within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork, unless an alternative deadline is agreed with the client beforehand. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above in order to come to as full an understanding as possible of the archaeology of the development area. The report will include;

- a site location plan related to the national grid
- a front cover to include the planning application number and the NGR
- a concise, non-technical summary of the results
- the circumstances of the project and the dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken
- description of the methodology, including the sources consulted
- a summary of the historical background of the study area
- an interpretation of the results and their significance, using the 'Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments' included as Annex 4 of PPG 16 (DoE 1990)
- appropriate plans showing the location and position of features or sites located
- a statement, where appropriate, of the archaeological implications of the proposed development
- monochrome and colour photographs as appropriate
- a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design
- the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of any further sources identified but not consulted
- plans and sections showing the positions of deposits and finds
- an index to the project archive

- 3.5.2 **Confidentiality:** all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

3.6 ARCHIVE

- 3.6.1 The results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with Appendix 3 of the current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991) and UKIC (1990). This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the HER (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the County Record Office or similar, pending advice from the Curator of Archaeology (SCC).

4. OTHER MATTERS

4.1 ACCESS

- 4.1.1 Liaison for basic site access will be undertaken through the client and it is assumed that there is access for both pedestrian and plant traffic to the site.

4.2 REINSTATEMENT

- 4.2.1 It is understood that there will be no requirement for reinstatement of the ground beyond backfilling. The ground will be backfilled so that the topsoil is laid on the top, and the ground will be roughly graded with the machine.

4.3 PROJECT MONITORING

- 4.3.1 Whilst the work is undertaken for the client, the Historic Environment Officer (SCC) will be kept fully informed of the work and its results and will be notified a week in advance of the commencement of the fieldwork. Any proposed changes to the project design will be agreed with Historic Environment Officer in consultation with the client.

4.4 INSURANCE

- 4.4.1 OA North has a professional indemnity cover to a value of £2,000,000; proof of which can be supplied as required.

4.5 WORK TIMETABLE

- 4.5.1 **Archaeological Trenching:** it is anticipated that this element would require up to 10 days for a team of 4 people.
- 4.5.2 **Report:** the final report will be submitted to the client within eight weeks, unless an earlier deadline is agreed beforehand.
- 4.5.3 **Archive:** the archive will be deposited within six months.

5 STAFFING

- 5.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Emily Mercer BA (Hons) MSc AIFA** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 5.2 The evaluation will be supervised by an OA North project officer or experienced in this type of project. Due to scheduling requirements it is not possible to provide these details at the present time. All OA North project officers are experienced field archaeologists capable of carrying out projects of all sizes.
- 5.3 Assessment of the finds from the evaluation will be undertaken under the auspices of OA North's in-house finds specialist **Christine Howard-Davis** (OA North finds manager). Christine has extensive knowledge of finds from many periods.
- 5.4 Assessment of any palaeoenvironmental samples will be undertaken by or under the auspices of **Elizabeth Huckerby MSc** (OA North project officer). Elizabeth has extensive knowledge of the palaeoecology of the North West through her work on the English Heritage-funded North West Wetlands Survey.

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APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT INDEX

CONTEXT NO.	TRENCH NO	DESCRIPTION
01	All trenches	Orange-yellow coarse, homogeneous, granular silty-sand deposit with 15% small stone and water-rolled pebble inclusions
02	22	Topsoil/subsoil; mid-dark brown silty homogenous clay with 5% well sorted small stone and grit inclusions
03	21	Topsoil/subsoil; mid-dark brown silty homogenous clay with 5% well sorted small stone and grit inclusions
04	10	Topsoil/subsoil; mid-dark brown silty homogenous clay with 10% well sorted small stone and grit inclusions
05	9	Topsoil/subsoil; mid-dark brown silty homogenous clay with 10% well sorted small stone and grit inclusions
06	11	Topsoil/subsoil; mid-dark brown silty homogenous clay with 10% well sorted small stone and grit inclusions
07	13	Topsoil/subsoil; mid-dark brown silty homogenous clay with 10% well sorted small stone and grit inclusions
08	12	Topsoil/subsoil; mid-dark brown silty homogenous clay with 10% well sorted small stone and grit inclusions
09	14	Shallow irregular cut of pit or tree bole
10	14	Fill of cut 09 ; mid greyish-brown silty homogenous clay with no obvious inclusions
11	14	Decayed plant matter at base of cut 09 ; dark black silty organic matter with no obvious inclusions
12	14	Fill of sub-circular pit 13 ; dark greyish-brown silty homogenous clay with 5% small stones and grit inclusions confined to basal edge of cut
13	14	Cut of sub-circular pit
14	14	Topsoil/subsoil; mid-dark brown silty homogenous clay with 10% well sorted small stone and grit inclusions
15	20a	Topsoil/subsoil; mid-dark brown silty homogenous clay with 5% well sorted small stone and grit inclusions
16	20b	Topsoil/subsoil; mid-dark brown silty homogenous clay with 5% well sorted small stone and grit inclusions
17	19	Topsoil/subsoil; mid-dark brown silty homogenous clay with 5% well sorted small stone and grit inclusions
18	18	Topsoil/subsoil; mid-dark brown silty homogenous clay with 5% well sorted small stone and grit inclusions
19	17	Topsoil/subsoil; mid-dark brown silty homogenous clay with 5% well sorted small stone and grit inclusions
20	12	Topsoil/subsoil; mid-dark brown silty homogenous clay with 10% well sorted small stone and grit inclusions
21	15	Topsoil/subsoil; mid-dark brown silty homogenous clay with 10% well sorted small stone and grit inclusions
22	15	Cut of modern oval pit; shallow pit truncated by modern plough

		activity
23	15	Fill of pit 22 ; light brownish-grey friable homogenous silty clay not fully excavated due to ordnance content
24	15	Cut of large shallow pit; shallow and slightly irregular with edges that merged with natural deposit
25	15	Fill of pit 24 ; mid-light brown homogenous silty-clay with evidence of root activity
26	24	Topsoil/subsoil; mid-dark brown silty homogenous clay with 5% well sorted small stone and grit inclusions
27	24	Cut of north-east/south-west orientated linear feature; shallow irregular linear cut with shallow break of slope top and irregular concave base
28	24	Heterogeneous fill of 27 ; mid-dark greyish-brown heterogenous silty-clay with discrete orange plastic clay patches
29	24	Circular pit feature; irregular sub-circular pit not fully excavated
30	24	Fill of cut 29 ; light greyish-yellow medium compact homogenous silty-clay (not fully excavated)
31	16	Topsoil/subsoil; mid-dark brown silty homogenous clay with 10% well sorted small stone and grit inclusions

APPENDIX 4: FINDS LIST

Ctxt = context number; OR = object record number; Mat = material; Cat = category; No. = number of fragments

Ctxt	OR	Mat	Cat	No.	Description	Period
02	5	Ceramic	vessel	13	Seven fragments of black-glazed redware storage vessels; one fragment hard-fired lack-glazed redware storage vessel; one fragment of slip-decorated ware; one of fragment blue and white under-glaze transfer-printed white earthenware; one abraded fragment of tin-glazed ware; one fragment of creamware; one base fragment of blue and white under-glaze transfer-printed white earthenware ointment pot, printed]h & B[][suc]cessors to [] Dr Roberts[Bridport	Eighteenth century onwards
02	24	Stone	whetstone	1	Rectangular whetstone	Undateable
02	29	Stone	worked	1	Struck flake, opaque grey flint	Undateable
02	30	Ceramic	tobacco pipe	2	Stem	Undateable
02	48	Copper alloy	object	1	Unidentifiable fragment	Undateable
02	49	Iron	nail	1	-	Undateable
02	50	Glass	stopper	1	Greenish glass bottle stopper	Late nineteenth century
03	17	Ceramic	vessel	2	One body fragment of manganese speckled ware; one body fragment of industrial slipware, red fabric with blue and white slip	Eighteenth century onwards
03	39	Glass	vessel	2	One body fragment of dark olive green wine bottle; one fragment of bluish mould-blown hexagonal bottle	Late nineteenth century
03	57	Ceramic	building material	3	Small fragments only	Undateable
04	2	Ceramic	vessel	4	Two fragments of black-glazed redware storage vessels; one body fragment of cream-bodied black-glazed ware; one fragment of blue and white under-glaze transfer-printed white earthenware	Nineteenth century?
04	56	Ceramic	building material	2	Small fragments only	Undateable
04	61	Iron	nail	1	-	Undateable
05	1	Ceramic	vessel	3	Two body fragments of fine hard-fired black-glazed redware; one rim fragment, white china plate with gold decoration	Late eighteenth century onwards
05	43	Glass	vessel	1	Base fragment. Leaded colourless	Nineteenth century onwards

05	45	Ceramic	building material	1	Small fragment only	
06	9	Ceramic	vessel	4	One body fragment of brown stoneware; one fragment of yellow ware; two fragments of black-glazed redware storage vessel	Late seventeenth century onwards
06	41	Ceramic	tobacco pipe	2	Stem	Undateable
06	59	Ceramic	building material	5	All late brick?	Nineteenth century onwards
07	6	Ceramic	vessel	14	Five fragments of black-glazed redware storage vessels; one fragment of cream-bodied black-glazed ware; one fragment of manganese-speckled ware; hard-fired black-glazed redware rim fragment; one fragment of Staffordshire slipware; one fragment s of elf-glazed redware; two chips redware; one fragment of unglazed redware; one rim fragment of black-glazed redware jug	Late seventeenth century - eighteenth century
07	6	Ceramic	vessel	1	Sand-cast roof tile	Undateable
07	19	Ceramic	tobacco pipe	3	Stem	Undateable
07	28	Ceramic	building material	22	Small fragments only	Undateable
07	55	Iron	nail	1	Large ?hand-forged nail	Undateable
08	46	Ceramic	vessel	2	One body fragment of white salt-glazed stoneware; one body fragment of unglazed redware	Eighteenth century onwards
08	54	Ceramic	building material	2	Small fragments only	Undateable
09	31	Ceramic	building material	6	Small fragments only	Undateable
10	26	Ceramic	building material	10	Small fragments only	Undateable
14	10	Ceramic	vessel	4	One body fragment of self-glazed redware; one rim fragment of black-glazed redware; one fragment of blue and white under-glaze transfer-printed white earthenware; one fragment of brown and white under-glaze transfer-printed white earthenware	Nineteenth century
14	58	Ceramic	building material	4	All machine-made brick?	Undateable
14	62	Stone	worked	1	Struck flake. Grey flint	Undateable
15	11	Ceramic	vessel	2	Two fragments of black-glazed redware plate	Eighteenth century ?
15	22	Glass	vessel	1	One body fragment of dark olive green wine bottle	Eighteenth century
17	13	Ceramic	vessel	1	Laminated fragment of black-glazed redware	Undateable

17	14	Ceramic	vessel	7	One small fragment of yellowware; two fragments of creamware; one fragment of blue and white under-glaze transfer-printed pearlware; two fragments of black-glazed redware storage vessels; one fragment of unglazed redware	Late seventeenth century onwards
17	40	Ceramic	building material	5	Small fragments only	Undateable
18	15	Ceramic	vessel	1	One body fragment of soft sandy oxidised fabric	Romano-British or medieval
18	16	Ceramic	vessel	9	Three fragments of black-glazed redware; one fragment black-glazed redware handle; one base fragment of cream-bodied black-glazed ware; one small fragment of Staffordshire slipware; one rim fragment of hard-fired black-glazed redware; one small base fragment of grey paste Chinese porcelain; one fragment of creamware	Eighteenth century
18	32	Ceramic	tobacco pipe	1	Stem	Undateable
18	36	Glass	vessel	2	One body fragment of dark olive green wine bottle, one body fragment of greenish bottle	Eighteenth century onwards
18	63	Ceramic	building material	1	Small fragment only	Undateable
19	7	Ceramic	vessel	27	Twelve body fragments of black-glazed redware; one body fragment of cream-bodied black-glazed ware; one body fragment of manganese-speckled ware; five body fragments of unglazed redware; one fragment of self-glazed redware; one small impressed handle, back-glazed redware; one fragment of slipware press-moulded plate; three fragments of white china; two fragments of white earthenware	Late seventeenth century onwards
19	8	Glass	melt	1	Small melted fragment	Undateable
19	23	Ceramic	building material	4	Small fragments only	Undateable
19	33	Ceramic	tobacco pipe	4	Stem	Undateable
19	51	Glass	vessel	1	One body fragment of dark olive green wine bottle	Eighteenth century
19	53	Bone	animal	1	-	Undateable
19	60	Iron	object	1	Unidentifiable	Undateable
21	20	Ceramic	vessel	5	One rim fragment of black-glazed redware storage vessel; one unglazed redware chip; one body fragment of brown stoneware; two fragments of blue and white under-glaze transfer-printed white earthenware	Nineteenth century
21	26	Ceramic	building	10	Small fragments only	Undateable

			material			
21	34	Stone	worked	1	Rectangular grey flint gunflint	Undateable
21	37	Glass	vessel	1	One base fragment of dark olive green case bottle	Eighteenth century?
21	38	Ceramic	tobacco pipe	2	Stem	Undateable
21	52	Ceramic	building material	5	Small fragments only	Undateable
25	35	Glass	worked	1	Greenish mid-plane fragment	Eighteenth century?
25	35	Glass	vessel	1	Dark olive green wine bottle	Eighteenth century?
25	47	Iron	nail	2	-	Undateable
26	3	Ceramic	vessel	15	One body fragment of brown stoneware; six fragments of slip-decorated wares; one fragment of terracotta garden ware; two fragments of white earthenware; one fragment of black-glazed redware; two fragments of self-glazed redware; two fragments of unglazed redware	Late seventeenth century onwards
26	4	Ceramic	vessel	1	Body fragment of very soft, fine oxidised fabric	Romano-British or medieval
26	18	Stone	worked	1	Opaque grey flint flake with edge damage. Gunflint or strike-a-light	Undateable
26	42	Ceramic	tobacco pipe	4	One stem fragment, three bowl	Nineteenth century?
28	21	Iron	chain?	2	Highly corroded object, possibly chain links	Undateable
28	22	Ceramic	building material	1	Small fragment	Undateable
28	22	Ceramic	vessel	8	Two small fragments of black-glazed redware; two fragments of blue and white under-glaze transfer-printed white earthenware, three fragments of creamware; one fragment of white earthenware	Late eighteenth - nineteenth century
28	27	Ceramic	building material	4	Three small fragments; one larger machine made brick fragment	Undateable
28	44	Bone	animal	2	-	Undateable