

# Cotswold Archaeology

# Land East of Stevenage

# Hertfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for Pigeon Land Ltd and Hythe Ltd

CA Project: 661168 CA Report: 18518 Accession Code: STEVM.2018.22

December 2018





Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes

Land East of Stevenage Hertfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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#### Summary

Project Name:	Land East of Stevenage, Hertfordshire
Location:	Stevenage, Hertfordshire
NGR:	527089 225209
Туре:	Evaluation
Date:	20 August-7 September 2018
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Stevenage Museum
Site Code:	LEST 18
Accession Code:	STEVM.2018.22

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August and September 2018 on Land East of Stevenage, Hertfordshire. Eighty three trenches were excavated.

Several ditches were identified in the south-west and east of the site, which represent potential agricultural activity dating to the late prehistoric period; most likely the Middle to Late Iron Age, with undated ditches found in trenches in the east and elsewhere. A small group of shallow ditches in the south-east part of the south-western field could be associated with a focus of specialist agricultural or horticultural activity, perhaps evidence of former cultivation beds.

Other discrete features were evident across the site but have little discernible association within its wider archaeological context. The noted abrasion and generally poor preservation of the ceramic assemblage suggests the site may have comprised an element of the wider agricultural landscape throughout its history. A number of other isolated features comprising tree boles, small pits or possible post holes were also recorded. In addition post-medieval and modern features and deposits of demolition or construction material were found.

There is a paucity of archaeological evidence for either settlement or agricultural activity across the site with the exception of perhaps a localised focus of cultivation in the south-west. This appears not to be related to associated settlement or an evident pattern of agriculture. The surviving evidence on site and that from similar sites with parallels suggests artefacts are limited to redeposition of earlier ceramic artefacts, such as the heavily abraded lron Age sherds recovered both here and elsewhere. On the basis of the evidence therefore it is not considered likely that further investigation would be informative.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August and September 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Pigeon Land Ltd and Hythe Ltd on Land east of Stevenage, Hertfordshire (centred at NGR: 527089 225209; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to inform the decision-making process in relation to the historic environment in the context of a high quality mixed-use scheme comprising new homes, community facilities, strategic landscaping and open space.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out following discussions between Pigeon Land Ltd and Alison Tinniswood, Hertfordshire County Council's Historic Environment Advisor (HCCHEA). The discussions were informed by the results of a geophysical survey undertaken by Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd (May 2016; Appendix D), and defined by a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018; Appendix E) and approved by Alison Tinniswood. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). It was monitored by Alison Tinniswood, who attended a site monitors meeting on 30th August 2018.

#### The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 30ha excluding existing landscaping and woodland belts, and comprises five irregularly-shaped arable fields with the B1037 and Box Wood to its northern boundary and further arable fields elsewhere to the north-east, east and south and Gresley Way to the west. A public right of way (PROW) passes centrally, east/west through the site. Topographically, the broadly agricultural landscape lies on gently undulating ground with a slight east to south-east-facing slope between *c*.118m and *c*.98m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) – sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 84 to 94 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period in a local environment previously dominated by warm chalk seas (BGS Viewer September 2018). No superficial deposits are recorded in the north of the site, whereas Diamicton (Lowestoft Formation) predominates in the central and southern parts of the site. This was formed up to 2 million years ago during the Quaternary Period in cold periods when Ice Age glaciers scoured the landscape and deposited

moraines of till with outwash sand and gravel deposits from seasonal and postglacial meltwaters. A broadly east/west oriented deposit of Head (Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel), extends across the south-east part of the site. This was formed up to two million years ago in the Quaternary Period as material accumulated by down slope movements including landslide, debris flow, soilifluction, soil creep and hill wash.

#### 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been summarised below. It is supported by information provided by a geophysical survey of the wider site (Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd 2016).

#### Prehistoric and Roman periods (pre- AD 43 – AD 410)

- 2.2 Extensive fieldwalking to the west of the A1 (M) showed a low level of prehistoric activity and settlement. Elsewhere, two Bronze Age barrows in Graffridge Wood are recorded. Similar types of monument survive only as cropmarks, though, again only in limited numbers and the majority of these lie along the valley of the River Beane, to the east of the town; and, in addition, a barrow cemetery is recorded to the east of Aston. The recently undertaken geophysical survey identified a circular anomaly in the northern part of the site, which may represent the potential buried remains of a ring ditch (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2016).
- 2.3 Settlement becomes more discernible in the Stevenage area in the later Iron Age when it is characterised by enclosed farmsteads. One such site at Lobs Hole has been comprehensively excavated and a second enclosure site, close to the proposed development site at Boxfield Farm, Chells is considered to date to the Roman period, though is laid out in the native style. At the former site there also appears to have been some pre-enclosure activity, which once the population became more settled, possibly by the 1st century AD, was enclosed. Archaeological investigations at Boxfield Farm revealed a Romano-British enclosed farmstead which appeared sub-divided into as many as ten sub-divisions in which were located sequences of possible rectangular and circular buildings. Associated settlement remains included post holes, a corn dryer, the remains of a cemetery and numerous artefacts including a coin hoard of predominantly 3rd century AD coins. At present the evidence of settlements at Lob's Hole and Boxfield Farm do not appear to be

associated in terms of spatial relationship with established Roman villa sites in the area. The closest of the latter, at Aston lay *c*.2km to the south-east from these and a similar distance from the proposed site.

#### Early Medieval and Medieval periods AD 410 - 1536

- 2.4 Whilst Stevenage is known as the first of Britain's New Towns, formally established in 1946, the name itself has a Saxon origin, deriving from *Stithenaece*, meaning 'stiff or strong oak'. The original Saxon settlement is thought to have been located on or near the site of the old church of St Nicholas and the 'Bury' in Stevenage. Despite this there is very little evidence of surviving settlement activity in the wider area. The rural landscape is likely, however, to have remained much as in the later Roman period, with isolated and dispersed agricultural settlement prevailing, though with the exception of a single example of a sunken-floored building there are few early medieval find spots around Stevenage to inform us. It is not until the 11th century that evidence of the prevailing landscape starts to be understood.
- 2.5 At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 the township which was to become Stevenage contained, along with Chells, just west of the proposed site, and Woolewicks, almost 14 ploughlands of arable land and was held by Westminster Abbey. The area of ploughlands appears to have been markedly less than other adjoining settlements, presumably because more of the land was maintained as woodland. It may be that the present site has changed little in its land-use through the early medieval and medieval periods, focusing on agriculture, with managed woodland close by. By the 14th century the field system in the Manor of Stevenage and Chells would have been arranged in an uneven three season arrangement. The arable comprised 24 distinct fields of which the smaller units would have been enclosed by hedges.

#### Post-medieval and Modern periods 1536 - present

2.6 It is not certain when the medieval settlement at Stevenage finally attained the pattern visible in the latter part of the 18th century, but it is thought it remained relatively fluid after the 11th century. There is evidence through the medieval period in the wider area of examples of deserted settlements and former tofts although in some cases the migration from such sites to what is known as 'Old Stevenage' would have been gradual. In addition, by the mid-16th century a number of larger country houses appear in the wider area along with a broadening of the economic

base as a variety of industries develop to compete with the formerly prevailing agricultural base.

2.7 The proposed development site throughout the post-medieval period and since remained in agricultural use, though the land in which the site lays was enclosed creating a patchwork pattern of fields. These have more recently been superseded by the larger prairie fields visible in the landscape today, and which are represented by the fields that comprise the proposed site.

# 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). This information will enable Hertfordshire Council, as advised by the HCCHEA to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2018).

# 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of eighty-three trenches 50m long by 1.8m wide (a total of 4,150 linear metres), in the locations shown on figure 2. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other*

Samples from Archaeological Sites and, no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Stevenage Museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

#### 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-23)

- 5.1 This section provides a description of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A, and B respectively.
- 5.2 The exposed natural substrate varied across the site, as expected from the geological data (see 1.4 above). The substrate in the northern fields (Fields 1, 2 and 3) consisted of irregular distributions of mid brown red clay and chalk deposits. In the southern fields (Fields 4 and 5) it consisted of more regular deposits of mid yellow brown clays with deposits of natural gravels. No subsoil deposits were evident in any of the trenches, with the substrate overlain by a layer of plough soil averaging 0.3m thick. Of the 83 trenches 69 did not contain any evidence of archaeological remains, with the exception of modern debris and associated deposits, and otherwise non-archaeological features associated with the geological conditions and bioturbation. These comprised trenches 1-6, 8-14, 16-18, 20-25, 27 and 28, 31-35, 37-45, 47-50, 52-61, 63 and 64, 66-75, 79 and 81-83 (figures 21 -23).
- 5.3 Trenches with evidence of modern remains identified through excavation or as surface evidence are depicted on figures 3 6. Trench 15 contained a large spread of material where the geophysical survey results highlighted the presence of a probable quarry. Beyond the extent of the cultivated field a dump of similar material was observed, containing 20th century brick and comparable to that identified in the trench. A modern deposit of chalk crush was excavated by machine in Trench 8 overlying the natural substrate; this was also observed in Trenches, 7 and 11. Modern dumps of material were identified during the excavation of Trenches 35 and

39 which included concrete, metal and plastic refuse. In Trench 67 machine excavation of a large area of disturbance revealed 20th century brick, bitumen and other modern materials.

# Trenches 6 and 7 (Figs 2, 7 & 8)

5.4 Geophysical survey results highlighted the potential for a curvilinear feature extending into trench 6 and 7. Following initial excavation of the trenches further machine excavation in Trench 6 and hand excavation in Trench 7 identified this as a geological feature. In Trench 7 a single undated linear ditch orientated north-east/south-west (702) was recorded. This had a 'V'-shaped profile measuring 0.82m wide by 0.27m deep and was not evident in any other trenches or identified in the geophysical survey results. No finds were recovered from its single light yellow brown silty sand fill (703).

# Trench 19 (Figs 2 & 9)

5.5 This trench contained a single circular post hole (1902) measuring 0.57m in diameter and 0.36m deep. Its single mid brown grey silty clay fill (1903) contained very small fragments of late medieval to post-medieval tile and two small unidentifiable pieces of iron.

#### Trench 26 (Figs 2 & 10)

5.6 Two north/south orientated linear ditches were identified in the central part of the trench. Ditch 2602, the easternmost of the two, did not correspond to any evident geophysical survey results. It measured 0.71m wide by 0.21m deep, with a steeper profile on the western edge, and contained a single dark blue grey silty clay fill with stones and chalk. No finds were recovered. Ditch 2604 located slightly further to the west measured 0.68m wide by 0.31m deep. This also exhibited an asymmetrical profile undercutting on its western edge. This ditch corresponded better with evidence depicted in the geophysical survey results and also appears to align with ditch 7802 in trench 78. Its single fill was very similar in composition to that recorded in ditch 2604, with evidence of plant rooting. Again, no finds were recorded.

# Trench 29 & 30 (Figs 2 & 11)

5.7 A large quarry pit was identified by geophysical survey. It extended for c.40m in trench 29 and c.10m trench 30. A sondage was machine-excavated in trench 29 (due to the compaction of the fill and its extent), in order to confirm the composition and elements of its morphology. This was excavated to a depth of 1.29m, where the

base of the feature was revealed. It contained a single mid yellow brown sandy silt fill with large flints and chalk (2903).

# Trench 36 (Figs 2 & 12)

5.8 A shallow post hole or possibly the remains of a small pit (3602) measured 0.38m in diameter and 0.13m deep. It had a single dark brown grey silty clay fill (3603) with some evidence of charcoal flecking and a little burnt clay fill visible in section; not sufficient of the fill remained for potential bulk sampling.

# Trench 46 (Figs 2, 13a & 13b)

- 5.9 Eight linear ditches were identified in trench 46, all aligned broadly on a northeast/south-west orientation and appearing to correlate with the geophysical survey results. Four were excavated and contained pottery dated to the late prehistoric period.
- 5.10 Ditch 4602 measured 0.39m wide by 0.27m deep, exhibited an asymmetrical profile, slightly undercutting on its north-west edge and containing a single mid grey orange silty clay fill (4603). Ditch 4604 measured 0.69m wide by 0.22m deep with a shallow profile on its north-west edge and vertical profile at the south-west edge. Its single fill (4605) was very similar to that recorded in ditch 4602. Ditch 4606 measured 0.74m wide by 0.31m deep and had a relatively symmetrical, slightly stepped profile. Ditch 4608 measured 0.72m wide by 0.38m deep with vertical sides, stepped on its north-west edge. These last two ditches also contained very similar fills (4607 and 4609 respectively) to ditches 4602 and 4604.

# Trench 51 (Figs 2 & 14)

5.11 A shallow tree bole (5102) measuring 1m in diameter and 0.11m deep contained two distinct fills of which the lower fill 5103, of dark orange burnt clay, was likely formed by the burning of the tree roots. This was overlain by 5104, a charcoal-rich dark silt, of which there was not enough remaining to take a viable sample. The nature of the feature in plan and profile was irregular, typical of tree boles. No finds were recorded within either of its fills.

# Trench 62 (Figs 2 & 15)

5.12 A single post hole or small pit (6202) was excavated measuring 0.39m diameter and 0.17m. It contained a single mid grey brown silty clay fill (6203) and no finds.

# Trench 65 (Figs 2 & 16)

5.13 A single north-west/south-east linear ditch (6502) measuring 0.69m wide by 0.18m deep, with a rounded profile was excavated. It contained a single light yellow brown silty clay fill (6503) and no finds. This ditch was not identified in any other trenches or identified by the geophysical survey.

# Trench 76 (Figs 2 & 17)

5.14 A single broadly north-east/south-west linear ditch (7602) measuring 0.83m wide and 0.14m deep with a shallow-sloped, flat-based profile was excavated. It contained a single dark yellow brown silty clay fill (7603) with a few stones, some chalk and flint. A single sherd of Late Iron Age pottery was also recovered. This ditch was not identified elsewhere on the site. Notably, the geophysical survey results indicated a potential north-east/south-west orientated feature located towards the centre of the trench. This was not evident following machining either here or in trench 77, which was also suggested to contain an associated anomaly.

# Trench 77 (Figs 2 & 18)

5.15 A single broadly north/south orientated linear ditch (7702), located toward the centre of the trench, measured 0.82m wide by 0.26m deep and exhibited a shallow-sloped, flat-based profile. It contained a single light brown grey silty clay fill with some flint (7703) but produced no finds. This ditch is probably associated with a ditch terminus seen in trench 80 (8002). As noted in reference to trench 76, it was not associated with the anomaly identified in the geophysical survey results, given its differing alignment and location within the trench.

# Trench 78 (Figs 2 & 19)

5.16 Ditch 7802 was orientated north/south and measured 0.48m wide by 0.06m deep. The very shallow profile differed notably to that of its potential northern counterpart in trench 26. It contained a mid-orange brown silty clay fill (7803) that produced no finds. In the western half of the trench there was evidence of a possible small pit (7804) measuring 0.27m in diameter and 0.08m deep, extending out from the edge of the trench. It contained a single dark black grey fill with orange mottling (7805) that again produced no finds.

# Trench 80 (Figs 2 & 21)

5.17 A broadly north/south orientated ditch terminus 8002, located in the centre of the trench and measuring 0.54m wide by 0.24m deep, had a similar shallow-sloped, flat-

based profile to ditch 7702 in trench 77 and contained a similar single fill (8003). Similarly to ditch 7702, it was not identified by the geophysical survey. In the south-west half of the trench a north-east/south-west ditch (8004) was excavated, measuring 0.47m wide by 0.09m deep with a shallow curved profile. It contained a mid-grey brown silty clay fill (8005) with a few stones and some chalk but no finds. This ditch did not extend into trench 77 to the south-west and was also not identified by the geophysical survey.

#### 6. THE FINDS

6.1 The artefactual material was recorded from eight deposits (Appendix B). The material was recovered by hand.

#### Pottery by Pete Banks

6.2 The pottery recovered from the evaluation is recorded in Appendix B and discussed below. Recording of the finds assemblage was direct to an Excel spreadsheet; this now forms the basis of Appendix B (Table 1). The pottery was examined by context, using a x40 hand lens and quantified according to sherd count and weight per fabric type. The fabrics are described in Appendix B (Table 2) in accordance with Historic England guidelines (Barclay 2016) and where appropriate, with the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group Guidelines (PCRG 2010). The assemblage comprises 26 sherds (84g) of pottery recorded from five deposits. The assemblage is in poor condition and all sherds are heavily abraded. The mean sherd weight (3.2g) is low, even for a late prehistoric assemblage.

#### Late Prehistoric Pottery

6.3 A total of 26 sherds (84g) of pottery can be attributed to the late prehistoric period; most likely the Middle and Late Iron Age. The majority of sherds (25 sherds, 83g) are made in sandy fabric UNSQ1. This fabric is most likely handmade although all the sherds are heavily abraded. Two sherds from deposit 4607 represent a simple upright rim (Photograph 1).



# Photograph 1 (4607)

6.4 Four sherds exhibit a deep incised dot and line decoration (Photographs 2 - 4).









#### Photograph 4 (4607)

6.5 Both the simple upright rim and the dot and line decoration are consistent with a Middle Iron Age date in Hertfordshire and may be representative of the Chinnor-Wandlebury style group, which has been dated from the 5th to 3rd centuries BC (Cunliffe 2010, 623 Fig A.12). One sherd (1g) is made in fabric UNSQG1. It is a body sherd with no distinguishing features or decoration. Based on the fabric and the prevalence of late prehistoric material from this site it can be dated to the Late Iron Age period.

#### Summary

6.6 Based on the pottery evidence activity took place at the site during the late prehistoric period; however, due to the poor condition of the assemblage it is not possible to draw any further conclusions on the nature of this activity.

#### Fired Clay by Pete Banks

6.7 Six fragments (12g) of fired clay are recorded from two deposits. All fragments are in a medium sandy fabric (ms). One fragment, recorded from deposit 2605, has a flat surface on one side. All other fragments do not exhibit any other distinguishing features or marks.

#### Ceramic Building Material by Pete Banks

6.8 Three fragments (12g) of ceramic building material are recorded from deposit 1903. The fragments are from a tile and based on their firing and thickness it is most likely that they date to the late medieval or post-medieval period.

#### Metalwork by Pete Banks

6.9 Two fragments (9g) of iron are recorded from deposit 1903. One fragment is a flat strip; the other is rectangular in section. Both are heavily encrusted and it is not possible to determine their original forms. It is possible that they date to the late medieval or post-medieval period based on their association with the ceramic building material from the same context.

#### 7. DISCUSSION

#### Late prehistoric / Iron Age

7.1 Four ditches excavated in Trench 46 all contained pottery dating to the late prehistoric period; likely of Middle to Late Iron Age origin. It is possible that these examples and the four that remained unexcavated might be associated with a focus of specialist agricultural or horticultural activity, perhaps evidence of former cultivation beds. However, whilst each yielded pottery it was, notably, in very poor condition, and hence likely not to have originated close by, suggesting that any

associated settlement activity was elsewhere, away from the site. Similar parallel ditches were identified during an excavation at the Cokenach Estate, Barkway, Hertfordshire, c.25km to the north-east of the site (Oxford Archaeology 2009). In that example these ditches were interpreted as the remains of drainage or irrigation ditches – lazy beds or planting trenches; a few sherds of heavily abraded Iron Age pottery recovered in that example too. Based principally on morphology these types of ditch arrangements have also been interpreted as the remains of vineyards.

7.2 A single sherd of Iron Age origin from a ditch excavated in Trench 76 could putatively suggest further agricultural activity in the east of the site too, though this can only be highly speculative on such meagre evidence. Despite this observation, it is possible that the ditches identified in Trenches 26 and 76, 77, 78 and 80 might be associated and broadly contemporary.

#### Late medieval - post-medieval/modern periods

- 7.3 Fragments of tile and two pieces of iron ore were recovered from a post hole in Trench 19 but taken in isolation there is little context that can be provided in terms of function within the site. Other features putatively identified as post-medieval to modern in origin comprise a large extraction pit in Trenches 29 and 30 and another in Trench 15, most likely a source of chalk, the predominant natural geological component on site. Modern rubble was also recorded in Trench 15 and is understood to derive from construction works associated with housing development to the west of Gresley Way. In addition, a thin, crushed chalk layer identified by the geophysical survey as a recent boundary or track and evident in Trenches 7, 8 and 11, was confirmed as the lower elements of a former haul road laid during the construction of the above-noted housing development.
- 7.4 The geophysical survey recorded anomalies in Trenches 35 and 39 that were subsequently identified as dumps of modern construction material, including concrete and plastic, also deriving from the Gresley Way housing development. Elsewhere a field boundary was identified in Trench 40, and a modern dump of material including 20th century brick and bitumen, in Trench 67; both were identified in the results of the geophysical survey.

#### Undated

7.5 Single possible post holes or pits were identified in Trenches 36, 51, 62 and 78 respectively and two ditches, one in each of Trenches 7 and 65.

- 7.6 Two undated ditches in Trench 26 and 80 respectively and single ditches in Trenches 77 and 78 could putatively have some broadly contemporary association. Whilst it is difficult to speculate these ditches may represent the infilled remains of former field boundaries or smaller scale agricultural land divisions.
- 7.7 In summary the evaluation broadly corroborated the results of the preceding geophysical survey. Whilst the majority of the trenches revealed no evidence of archaeological remains there was a localised concentration of shallow ditches in the south-east part of the south-western field, which appear to demonstrate evidence of agricultural activity in the Late Iron Age to Roman period. As noted, these could be associated with a focus of specialist agricultural or horticultural activity, perhaps evidence of former cultivation beds. Other discrete features were evident across the site but have little discernible association within its wider archaeological context. The noted abrasion and generally poor preservation of the ceramic assemblage suggests the site may have comprised an element of the wider agricultural landscape throughout its history. Archaeological remains, where present, appear to have been markedly truncated by more recent agricultural activity and quite possibly erosion, the latter highlighted by the shallow topsoil/ploughsoil encountered across the site and no identifiable subsoil deposits.
- 7.8 There is a paucity of archaeological evidence for either settlement or agricultural activity across the site with the exception of perhaps a localised focus of cultivation in the south-west. This appears not to be related to associated settlement or an evident pattern of agriculture. The surviving evidence on site and that from similar sites with parallels suggests artefacts are limited to redeposition of earlier ceramic artefacts, such as the heavily abraded Iron Age sherds recovered both here and at elsewhere. On the basis of the evidence therefore it is not considered likely that further investigation would be informative.

# 8. CA PROJECT TEAM

8.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Whelan, assisted variously by Callum Ruse, Arizona Mosby, Molly Agnew Henshaw, Mark Davis, Ethan Ellis and Rachael Breen. The report was written by Andrew Whelan. The finds reports were written by Pete Banks. The illustrations were prepared by Tom Brown. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Mark Hewson.

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#### APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot- date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
1	101	Layer		Natural	Mid brown red silty clay and brown white chalk	50	1.8		
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
2	201	Layer		Natural	Mid brown red silty clay and brown white chalk	50	1.8		
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
3	301	Layer		Natural	Mid brown red silty clay and brown white chalk	50	1.8		
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.4	
4	401	Layer		Natural	Mid brown red silty clay and brown white chalk	50	1.8		
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.4	
5	501	Layer		Natural	Mid brown red silty clay and brown white chalk	50	1.8		
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.4	
6	601	Layer		Natural	Mid brown red silty clay and brown white chalk	50	1.8		
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
7	701	Layer		Natural	Mid brown red silty clay and brown white chalk	50	1.8		
7	702	Cut		Cut of Ditch	Linear NE-SW orientated U-shaped ditch	>2	0.82	0.27	
7	703	Fill	702	Fill of Ditch	Light yellow brown silty sand with flint	>2	0.82	0.27	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
8	801	Layer		Natural	Mid brown red silty clay and brown white chalk	50	1.8		
8	802	Layer		Deposit	Light brown white firm chalk	>2	2.27	0.09	Modern
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy	50	1.8	0.3	
9	901	Layer		Natural	silt with stones Mid brown red silty clay	50	1.8		
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	and brown white chalk Mid grey brown sandy	50	1.8	0.3	
10	1001	Layer		Natural	silt with stones Mid brown red silty clay	50	1.8		
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	and brown white chalk Mid grey brown sandy	50	1.8	0.3	
11	1101	Layer		Natural	silt with stones Mid brown red silty clay	50	1.8		
11	1102	Layer		Deposit	and brown white chalk Light brown white firm	>2	2.27	0.08	Modern
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	chalk Mid grey brown sandy	50	1.8	0.35	
12	1201	Layer		Natural	silt with stones Mid brown red silty clay	50	1.8		
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	and brown white chalk Mid grey brown sandy	50	1.8	0.3	
13	1301	Layer		Natural	silt with stones Mid brown red silty clay	50	1.8		
13	1302	Layer		Spread	and brown white chalk Mid brown red silty clay	2.5	1.28	0.29	
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	(natural) Mid grey brown sandy	50	1.8	0.3	
14	1401	Layer		Natural	silt with stones Mid brown red silty clay	50	1.8		
		,			and brown white chalk				

15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
15	1501	Layer		Natural	Mid brown red silty clay and brown white chalk	50	1.8		
16	1600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
16	1601	Layer		Natural	Mid brown red silty clay and brown white chalk	50	1.8		
17	1700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
17	1701	Layer		Natural	Mid brown red silty clay and brown white chalk	50	1.8		
18	1800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
18	1801	Layer		Natural	Mid brown red silty clay and brown white chalk	50	1.8		
19	1900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.25	
19	1901	Layer		Natural	Mid brown red silty clay and brown white chalk	50	1.8		
19	1902	Cut		Cut of Post Hole	Circular shape in plan with steep side to pointed base	0.58	0.56	0.36	
19	1903	Fill	1902	Fill of Post Hole	Mid brown grey silty clay with chalk and flint	0.58	0.56	0.36	Late
									Post- med
20	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	mea
20	2001	Layer		Natural	Mid brown red silty clay and brown white chalk	50	1.8		
21	2100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
21	2101	Layer		Natural	Mid brown red silty clay and brown white chalk	50	1.8		
22	2200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.23	
22	2001	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay	50	1.8		
23	2300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.31	
23	2301	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay	50	1.8		
24	2400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.2	
24	2401	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay	50	1.8		
25	2500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.25	
25	2501	Layer		Natural	Mid brown red silty clay and brown white chalk	50	1.8		
25	2502	Cut		Cut of tree bole	Irregular shape in plan, with irregular sides and base	1.13	0.88	0.12	
25	2503	Fill	2502	Fill of tree bole	Dark grey brown sandy silt with charcoal	1.13	0.88	0.12	
26	2600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.2	
26	2601	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
26	2602	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear N-S orientated ditch with steep irregular sides to irregular base	>2	0.71	0.21	
26	2603	Fill	2602	Fill of ditch	Dark blue grey silty clay with stones and chalk	>2	0.71	0.21	
26	2604	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear N-S orientated ditch with steep irregular sides to irregular base	>2	0.68	0.31	
26	2605	Fill	2604	Fill of ditch	Dark blue grey silty clay with stones and chalk	>2	0.68	0.31	

27	2700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
27	2701	Layer		Natural	Mid brown red silty clay and brown white chalk	50	1.8		
28	2800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.31	
28	2801	Layer		Natural	Mid brown red silty clay and brown white chalk	50	1.8		
29	2900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.24	
29	2901	Layer		Natural	Mid brown red silty clay and brown white chalk	50	1.8		
29	2902	Cut		Cut of quarry pit	Large sub rounded pit larger than trench extent with curved sides to flat base	>10	40	1.29	
29	2903	Fill	2902	Fill of quarry pit	Mid yellow brown sandy silts with large flints and chalk	>10	40	1.29	
30	3000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.39	
30	3001	Layer		Natural	Mid brown red silty clay and brown white chalk	50	1.8		
30	3002	Cut		Cut of quarry pit	Large sub rounded pit larger than trench extent with curved sides to flat base	>10	40		
30	3003	Fill	3002	Fill of quarry pit	Mid yellow brown sandy silts with large flints and chalk	>10	40		
31	3100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.37	
31	3101	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
32	3200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.29	
32	3201	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
33	3300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.32	
33	3301	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
34	3400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
34	3401	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
35	3500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
35	3501	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
35	3502	Layer		Modern deposit	Light grey brown sandy silts with modern rubble	>30	1.8	0.4	
35	3503	Layer		Modern deposit	Mix of mid brown grey, pink brown and brown yellow sandy silts with modern building material	>20	1.8		
36	3600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
36	3601	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
36	3602	Cut		Cut of post hole	Circular in plan with steep stepped sides to flat base	0.39	0.37	0.13	
36	3603	Fill	3602	Fill of post hole	Dark brown grey silty clay with stones, charcoal and burnt clay	0.39	0.37	0.13	
37	3700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
37	3701	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
38	3800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	

38	3801	Layer	1	Natural	Mid yellow brown silty	50	1.8	1	
		Layer			clay with chalk and flint				
39	3900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
39	3901	Layer		Modern deposit	Mix of mid brown grey, pink brown and brown	50	1.8	1.2	
				aspeen	yellow sandy silts with				
39	3902	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty	50	1.8		
		-			clay with chalk and flint				
40	4000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
40	4001	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
41	4100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.25	
41	4101	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
42	4200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
42	4201	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
43	4300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy	50	1.8	0.3	
43	4301	Layer		Natural	silt with stones Mid yellow brown silty	50	1.8		
44	4400	Layer		Topsoil	clay with chalk and flint Mid grey brown sandy	50	1.8	0.25	
44	4401	Layer		Natural	silt with stones Mid yellow brown silty	50	1.8		
45	4500	Layer		Topsoil	clay with chalk and flint Mid grey brown sandy	50	1.8	0.3	
45	4501	Layer		Natural	silt with stones Mid yellow brown silty	50	1.8		
		-			clay with chalk and flint				
46	4600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.25	
46	4601	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
46	4602	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear NE-SW orientated with relatively	>2	0.39	0.27	
					steep sides and sharp				
46	4603	Fill	4602	Fill of ditch	curved base Mid grey orange silty	>2	0.39	0.27	LATE
					clay with stones				PREH
46	4604	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear NE-SW orientated with relatively	>2	0.69	0.22	
					steep sides and sharp irregular base				
46	4605	Fill	4604	Fill of ditch	Mid grey orange silty	>2	0.69	0.22	LATE
					clay with stones and chalk				PREH
46	4606	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear NE-SW orientated with steep	>2	0.74	0.31	
					irregular sides and				
46	4607	Fill	4606	Fill of ditch	narrow irregular base Mid grey orange silty	>2	0.74	0.31	LATE
					clay with stones and chalk				PREH
46	4608	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear NE-SW orientated with irregular	>2	0.72	0.38	
					steep sides and				
46	4609	Fill	4608	Fill of ditch	relatively flat base Mid grey orange silty	>2	0.72	0.38	LATE
46	4610	Cut		Cut of ditch	clay with stones Linear NE-SW				PREH
70	-1010	Jui			orientated ditch, unexcavated				
46	4611	Fill	4610	Fill of ditch	Mid grey orange silty				1
					clay with stones and chalk, unexcavated				
46	4612	Cut	1	Cut of ditch	Linear NE-SW				
					orientated ditch,				

					unexcavated				
46	4613	Fill	4612	Fill of ditch	Mid grey orange silty clay with stones and chalk, unexcavated				
46	4614	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear NE-SW orientated ditch, unexcavated				
46	4615	Fill	4614	Fill of ditch	Mid grey orange silty clay with stones and chalk, unexcavated				
46	4616	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear NE-SW orientated ditch, unexcavated				
46	4617	Fill	4616	Fill of ditch	Mid grey orange silty clay with stones and chalk, unexcavated				
47	4700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
47	4701	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
48	4800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.27	
48	4801	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
49	4900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.27	
49	4901	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
50	5000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.26	
50	5001	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
51	5100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.26	
51	5101	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
51	5102	Cut		Cut of tree bole	Irregular shape in plan with steep irregular sides to flat base	1	0.53	0.11	
51	5103	Fill	5102	Fill of tree bole	Dark brown orange silty clay with large stones	1	0.53	0.09	
51	5104	Fill	5102	Fill of tree bole	Dark grey black silty clay with charcoal and small stones	1	0.53	0.07	
52	5200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.31	
52	5201	Layer		Natural	Mid brown red silty clay and brown white chalk	50	1.8		
53	5300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.25	
53	5301	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
54	5400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.36	
54	5401	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
55	5500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.42	
55	5501	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
56	5600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.33	
56	5601	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown silty clay	50	1.8		
57	5700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.39	
57	5701	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown silty clay	50	1.8		
58	5800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.26	
58	5801	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		

59	5900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.42	
59	5901	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
60	6000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.24	
60	6001	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
61	6100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
61	6101	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
62	6200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.35	
62	6201	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
62	6202	Cut		Cut of post hole	Circular in plan, straight steep sides to concave base	0.39	0.36	0.17	
62	6203	Fill	6202	Fill of post hole	Mid grey brown silty clay with stones	0.39	0.36	0.17	
63	6300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.25	
63	6301	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
64	6400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
64	6401	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
65	6500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.42	
65	6501	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
65	6502	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear NW-SE ditch with moderately rounded sloped sides to concave base	>2	0.69	0.18	
65	6503	Fill	6502	Fill of ditch	Light yellow brown silty clay with flint	>2	0.69	0.18	
66	6600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.33	
66	6601	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
67	6700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.29	
67	6701	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
67	6702	Cut		Cut of modern feature	Circular in plan (larger than trench) with moderate sloped sides to flat base	>2	>2.4	0.46	Modern
67	6703	Fill	6702	Fill of modern feature	Dark brown grey sandy silt	>2	>2.4	0.46	Modern
68	6800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.27	
68	6801	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
69	6900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.31	
69	6901	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
70	7000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
70	7001	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
71	7100	Layer	1	Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
71	7101	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
72	7200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
72	7201	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		

73	7300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.3	
73	7301	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
74	7400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.4	
74	7401	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
75	7500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.25	
75	7501	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
76	7600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.24	
76	7601	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
76	7602	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear NE-SW orientated ditch with gradual curved sides to flat base	>2	0.83	0.14	
76	7603	Fill	7602	Fill of ditch	Dark yellow brown silty clay with stones chalk and flint	>2	0.83	0.14	LIA
77	7700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.28	
77	7701	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
77	7702	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear NE-SW orientated ditch with moderately sloped curved sides with flat base	>2	0.82	0.26	
77	7703	Fill	7702	Fill of ditch	Light brown grey silty clay with flint	>2	0.82	0.26	
78	7800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.25	
78	7801	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
78	7802	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear N-S orientated with moderately straight sloped sides to flat base	>2	0.48	0.06	
78	7803	Fill	7802	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown silty clay with stones	>2	0.48	0.06	
78	7804	Cut		Cut of pit	Circular in plan with straight gently sloping sides to flat base	>0.27	0.54	0.08	
78	7805	Fill	7804	Fill of pit	Dark black grey with orange mottling and stones	>0.27	0.54	0.08	
79	7900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.36	
79	7901	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
80	8000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.22	
80	8001	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
80	8002	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear N-S orientated ditch terminus with curved end steep rounded sides to concave sides	>2	0.54	0.24	
80	8003	Fill	8002	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown silty clay with stones and chalk	>2	0.54	0.24	
80	8004	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear NE-SW orientated with gradual curved sides to rounded base	>2	0.47	0.09	
80	8005	Fill	8004	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown silty clay with stones and chalk	>2	0.47	0.09	
81	8100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.31	

81	8101	Layer	Natural	Mid red brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
82	8200	Layer	Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.26	
82	8201	Layer	Natural	Mid red brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		
83	8300	Layer	Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones	50	1.8	0.25	
83	8301	Layer	Natural	Light yellow brown silty clay with chalk and flint	50	1.8		

#### APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Class	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
1903	CBM		ms	3	12	LMED/POST- MED
1903	Iron	Object		2	9	
2603	Fired/burnt clay		ms	1	3	
2605	Fired/burnt clay		ms	5	9	
4603	Late Prehistoric Pottery	Sandy fabric	UNSQ1	2	3	LATE PREH
4605	Late Prehistoric Pottery	Sandy fabric	UNSQ1	1	6	LATE PREH
4607	Late Prehistoric Pottery	Sandy fabric	UNSQ1	13	43	LATE PREH
4609	Late Prehistoric Pottery	Sandy fabric	UNSQ1	9	31	LATE PREH
7603	Late Prehistoric Pottery	Sandy grog-tempered fabric	UNSQG1	1	1	LIA

# Table 2: Fabric Descriptions

Date	Fabric Code	Description	Count	Weight (g)
Late Prehistoric	UNSQ1	Moderate moderate/well sorted rounded medium grain quartz ≤1mm occasional ≤3mm	25	83
	UNSQG1	Common moderate/well sorted angular small grog ≤1mm Sparse moderate sorted rounded medium grain quartz ≤1mm	1	1
Total			5	26

#### APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM AND HER SUMMARY SHEET

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August and September 2018 on Land East of Stevenage, Hertfordshire. Eighty three trenches were excavated.
Several ditches were identified in the south-west and east of the site, which represent potential agricultural activity dating to the late prehistoric period; most likely the Middle to Late Iron Age, with undated ditches found in trenches in the east and elsewhere. The small group of shallow ditches in the south-east part of the south- western field could be associated with a focus of specialist agricultural or horticultural activity, perhaps evidence of former cultivation beds.
Other discrete features were evident across the site but have little discernible association within its wider archaeological context. The noted abrasion and generally poor preservation of the ceramic assemblage suggests the site may have comprised an element of the wider agricultural landscape throughout its history. A number of other isolated features comprising tree boles, small pits or possible post holes were also recorded. In addition post-medieval and modern features and deposits of demolition or construction material were found.
There is a paucity of archaeological evidence for either settlement or agricultural activity across the site with the exception of perhaps a localised focus of cultivation in the south-west. This appears not to be related to associated settlement or an evident pattern of agriculture. The surviving evidence on site and that from similar sites with parallels suggests artefacts are limited to redeposition of earlier ceramic artefacts, such as the heavily abraded Iron Age sherds recovered both here and at elsewhere. On the basis of the evidence therefore it is not considered likely that further investigation would be informative.
20 <sup>th</sup> August – 7 <sup>th</sup> September
Field evaluation
Geophysical Survey (Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd 2016)
Unknown
Land East of Stevenage, Hertfordshire
30ha excluding existing landscaping and woodland belts
527089 225209
Cotswold Archaeology
Alison Tinniswood (HCCHEA)
Cotswold Archaeology
Mark Hewson
Andrew Whelan
None
None
Intended final location of archive Content (e.g. pottery, (museum/Accession code: animal bone etc) STEVM.2018.22)
To be deposited with Stevenage ceramics, animal bone, Museum metal, CBM
To be deposited with Stevenage Context sheets, Trench Museum Stevenage Context sheets, Trench sheets, Site diary, Sections, Survey day sheets

	Museum	digital report, survey updates,
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>Land</i> typescript report <b>18518</b>	East of Stevenage, Hertfordshire: Archa	aeological Evaluation. CA

# HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Land East of Stevenage, Gresley Way, Stevenage				
County: Hertfordshire	District:			
Village/Town: Stevenage	Parish: Aston			
Planning application reference: None				
HER Enquiry reference: 213/18				
Nature of application: Mixed-use scheme strategic landscaping and open space.	e comprising new homes, community facilities,			
strategic landscaping and open space.				
Dressent land was Apricultural				
Present land use: Agricultural	Oine of an a investigate de OOk a			
Size of application area: 30ha	Size of area investigated: 30ha			
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL2709 25				
Site code (if applicable): Accession Code	e STEVM.2018.22			
Contractor: Cotswold Archaeology				
Type of work: Archaeological Evaluation				
Date of work: Start: 20 <sup>th</sup> Au				
Location of finds & site archive/Curating	museum: Stevenage			
Related HER Nos:	Periods represented: Middle / Late Iron Age; Post-			
MHT 31251	medieval and Modern.			
Relevant previous summaries/reports				
None				
Summary of fieldwork results:				
	south-west and east of the site, which represent			
	ting to the late prehistoric period; most likely the			
	undated ditches found in trenches in the east and			
elsewhere. The small group of shallow ditches in the south-east part of the south-				
western field could be associated with a focus of specialist agricultural or horticultural				
activity, perhaps evidence of form	ner cultivation beds.			
Other discrete features were evident ad	cross the site but have little discernible association			
within its wider archaeological context. The noted abrasion and generally poor				
preservation of the ceramic assemblage suggests the site may have comprised an				
element of the wider agricultural landscape throughout its history. A number of other				
isolated features comprising tree boles, small pits or possible post holes were also				
recorded. In addition post-medieval and modern features and deposits of demolition				
or construction material were found.				
Author of summary: Mark Hewson	Date of summary: 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2018			

#### APPENDIX D: ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY (PRE-CONSTRUCT GEOPHYSICS LTD)

pre-construct geophysics .....

# **ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY**

# LAND TO THE EAST OF GRESLEY WAY STEVENAGE, HERTFORDSHIRE

SITE CENTRED AT NGR 527100 225100

REPORT PREPARED FOR COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY BY DAVID BUNN MAY 2016

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3.0	Geology and topography	2
4.0	Archaeological context	2
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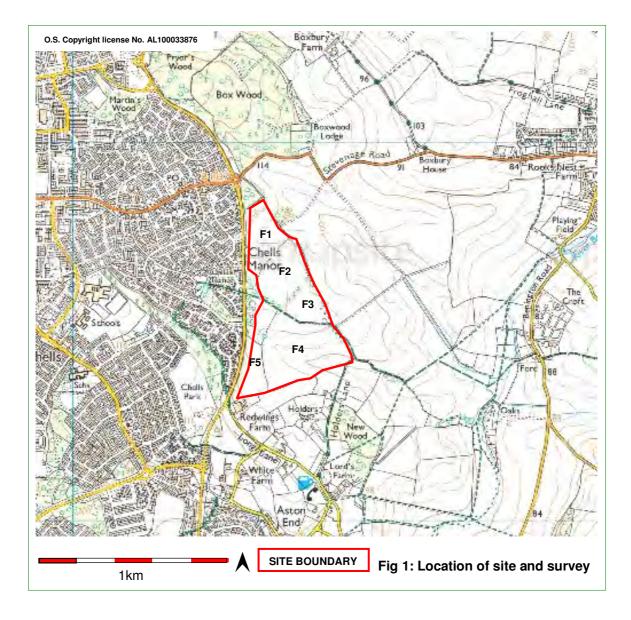
Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd 47, Manor Road, Saxilby, Lincoln, LN1 2HX Tel/Fax: 01522 704900 e-mail: <u>pcgeophysics@tiscali.co.uk</u> www.geofizz.net

#### Non technical summary

A fluxgate gradiometer survey undertaken on land to the east of Gresley Way, Stevenage in Hertfordshire.

The survey detected only limited geophysical traces of clearly-defined archaeological remains, most notably in the form of a partially surviving ring ditch in the northern part of the site. The results suggest that this has been partially destroyed by later quarrying. Traces of one known quarry and probable further backfilled quarries were also detected, all within areas where superficial deposits are not recorded. A small number of potential isolated ditches were detected in the mid and southern regions, with possible sites containing burnt materials in the south-easternmost field.

Modern and recent responses include those induced by a recently removed field boundary, cultivation, buried services, landfill and electricity poles.



#### 1.0 Introduction

Cotswold Archaeology commissioned a fluxgate gradiometer survey on land to the east of Gresley Way, Stevenage, Hertfordshire (site centred at NGR c.527100 225100).

The objective of the survey was to detect and precisely locate any potential buried archaeological features using non-intrusive techniques.

#### **2.0** Location and description (Figs. 1 & 2)

The proposed c.30ha development lies to the immediate east of Stevenage, to the east of Gresley Way. It encompasses five irregularly-shaped arable fields that were cropped with winter wheat at the time of survey (F1 - F5).

#### 3.0 Geology and topography

The solid geology of the site consists of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) - sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 84 to 94 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period in a local environment previously dominated by warm chalk seas<sup>1</sup>.

No superficial deposits are recorded in the north of the site. Diamicton (Lowestoft Formation) predominates in the central and southern regions. This was formed up to 2 million years ago during the Quaternary Period in cold periods when Ice Age glaciers scoured the landscape and deposited moraines of till with outwash sand and gravel deposits from seasonal and post glacial meltwaters. A c.E-W aligned band of Head (Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel) extends across the south-east part of the site (within F4). This was formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period as material accumulated by down slope movements including landslide, debris flow, solifluction, soil creep and hill wash.

The ground level is undulated on a generally east/southeast facing slope (between c.118m AOD and c.98m AOD), with relatively broad valleys in F1 and F4.

#### 4.0 Archaeological Context

Online sources<sup>2</sup> do not list any heritage assets within the proposed development zone, although the site lies in proximity to a number of known or suspected monuments, particularly within Box Wood, the southern edge of which lies just to the north of the site. Heritage assets within the wood include suspected Dene Holes (HHER No. 2906), a *'much disturbed mound in commanding position; possibly a prehistoric barrow, but also possibly a windmill mound* (Scheduled Ancient Monument HT127, HHER No. 458) and possible remains of a deserted medieval settlement.

Cropmark enclosures within the area to the immediate east of F4 might relate to a possible Romano-British settlement (Pastscape Monument 365354),

#### 5.0 Methodology

The survey methodology is based upon English Heritage guidelines: 'Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation' (English Heritage, 2008).

**5.1 Fluxgate Gradiometry** is a non-intrusive scientific prospecting tool that is used to determine the presence/absence of some classes of sub-surface archaeological features (e.g. pits, ditches, kilns, and occasionally stone walls). By scanning the soil surface, geophysicists identify areas of varying magnetic susceptibility and can interpret such variation by presenting data in various graphical formats and identifying images that share morphological affinities with diagnostic archaeological remains.

The use of gradiometry should help to establish the presence/absence of buried magnetic anomalies, which may reflect sub-surface archaeological features, and may therefore form a basis for a subsequent scheme of archaeological trenching.

The detection of anomalies requires the use of highly sensitive instruments; in this instance the Bartington 601 Dual Fluxgate Gradiometer. This is accurately calibrated to the mean magnetic value of each survey area. Two sensors, mounted vertically and separated by 1m, measure slight, localised distortions of the earth's magnetic field, which are recorded by a data logger.

It should be noted that this technique only records magnetic variation (relative to natural background levels). As such, the magnetic response of archaeological remains will vary according to geology/pedology. Additionally, remains may be buried beyond the effective 1 - 2m range of the gradiometer (e.g. sealed beneath alluvium).

**5.2** The survey was undertaken on 28<sup>th</sup> April - 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The zigzag traverse method of survey was used, with readings taken at 0.25m intervals along 1.0m wide traverses.

Each survey area was established by Global Positioning Satellite using a Leica GS015 RTK, within an accuracy of +/- 0.1m. Greyscale images of the survey results are geo-referenced on an Auto drawing of the site.

The data sets were processed using Terrasurveyor V3.

Raw data sets are presented as greyscale images on Figs. 6, 10, 14, 18 & 22 (clipped to +/-10nT to enhance resolution). The 'Despike' function was applied to reduce the effect of extreme readings induced by metal objects, and 'Destripe' to eliminate striping introduced by zigzag traversing. The data sets were clipped to +/- 20nT and presented as stacked trace plots (Figs. 7, 11, 15, 19 & 23) and +/-2nT on greyscale images of the fully processed data (Figs. 2, 4, 8, 12, 16 & 20).

Greyscales of the processed data and interpretative images for the entire survey area are presented on Figs. 2 & 3 (1:5000).

Anomalies considered to represent modern ferrous-rich features and objects are highlighted as pink and/or blue on the interpretive images (Figs. 3, 5, 9, 13, 17 & 21). These are characterised magnetically as dipolar 'iron spikes', often displaying strong positive and/or negative responses, typically inducing a response in excess of +/-10nT. Examples include those deposited along existing or former boundaries (e.g. wire fencing), services and scatters of horseshoes, ploughshares, etc, across open areas. Ferro-enhanced (fired) materials such as brick and tile (sometimes introduced during manuring or land drain construction) usually induce a similar, though generally weaker, response. Concentrations of such anomalies will often indicate rubble spreads, such as would be used to backfill ponds or redundant ditches, or spreads of demolition materials of structures (brick and/or tile rubble).

On a cautionary note, fired clay associated with early activity (e.g. kilns, furnaces, tile spreads) has the same magnetic characteristics as modern brick/tile rubble. Therefore, the interpretation of such variation must consider the context in which it occurs.

The interpretation of geophysical survey results should only be regarded as an aid to establishing the true nature and origin of buried features. These can only be fully established by intrusive investigation.

## 6.0 **Results and discussion** (Figs. 2 - 23)

### **6.1** Field 1 (Figs. 2 – 7)

The survey recorded traces of a c.25m diameter circular ditch in the mid eastern part of the field (Figs. 3 & 6: highlighted red). The results suggest that its north-western edge has been partially truncated by later quarrying/collapsed Dene Hole, with similar remains to its immediate north-east (highlighted yellow). This interpretation is further enhanced by the existence of a known former chalk pit (Fig. 3: inset<sup>3</sup>) to the immediate west of the field/site, with an almost certain (unmapped) easterly, continuation into the site (highlighted yellow). A further known pit was situated on land to the immediate east of the field (*ibid*).

Elsewhere, it is likely that most, if not all, weaker responses signify natural features, such as palaeochannels or soil filled natural depressions in the upper geology (greenscale). Whereas it is conceivable that potential pits might lie within this field (and other parts of the site), it has not been possible to fully differentiate natural and anthropogenic responses with reference to the survey results in isolation. With that in mind, discrete anomalies within the confines of the circular enclosure are more likely to be of natural origin.

The course of former track<sup>3</sup> (dotted yellow line, see also Fig. 3) partially follows that of a probable palaeochannel in the mid part of the field, although the survey did not identify magnetic variation that clearly relates to the track. The latter once extended between the current field access and the mid-eastern boundary.

Stronger variation (pink and blue) is probably exclusively indicative of modern ferrous-rich materials and objects, with stronger discrete anomalies (typically) including miscellaneous debris contained within the ploughsoil (e.g. ploughshares, horseshoes and fragments of brick/tile, the latter possibly imported within manure). Such responses were also recorded in F2 - F5.

### **6.2** Field 2 (2, 3, 8 – 11)

The majority of distinctive, albeit relatively weak, variation reflects natural features, including a sinuous palaeochannel in the south-west corner (Figs. 3 & 9: greenscale). Of particular interest is the distinct natural variance in the northern part of the field and F1 (where superficial deposits are unrecorded/non existent) in comparison to generally more muted variation in the mid and southern parts of the site where glacial deposits prevail and the underlying chalk bedrock is presumably more deeply buried (defined as sand and gravel by the BGS).

An irregularly-shaped zone of weak variation in the southern region probably signifies a soilbackfilled chalk quarry, albeit not depicted on sourced historic maps<sup>3</sup> (yellow).

Stronger variation (pink & blue, as discussed above) also includes extreme readings induced by a buried service that extends across the south-eastern corner of the field (blue line).

### **6.3** Field 3 (Figs. 2, 3, 12 – 15)

The survey recorded two isolated linear trends that have been tentatively flagged as potential sections of ditches (Figs. 3 & 13: dotted red lines). However, given that a substantial number of stronger anomalies (pink and blue) lie along the course of the easternmost example, this (at least) might be of relatively recent origin, such as a field boundary (albeit not shown on historic maps).

It is likely that the majority of variation elsewhere is of natural origin, with the noticeable interface of glacial and unrecorded deposits in the northern part of the field (greenscale).

A buried service extends along the southern edge of the field, presumably an eastern continuation of the service at the south-eastern corner of F2 (pink and blue/blue line).

## **6.4** Field 4 (Figs. 2, 3, 16 – 19)

It is likely that magnetically distinct and predominately curvilinear trends in the north-eastern region are natural responses, including probable palaeochannels (Figs. 3 & 17: greenscale).

A group of anomalies recorded adjacent to the mid eastern boundary are more enigmatic; a potential archaeological origin as pits should not be discounted (broadly within area circled).

More isolated and magnetically stronger anomalies within this general vicinity exhibit some potential as sites containing burnt materials (red dots), including one example that was recorded to the immediate north-east of an electricity pole (EP). However, it is highly likely that strong responses registered in closer proximity to the pole directly relate to it (similarly for those recorded around to two other poles situated to the east and west).

Widespread, distinctive and seemingly random natural variation was also registered in the central area. A c.E-W aligned probable curvilinear palaeochannel extends across the southern part of the field at the base of a shallow valley (broadly also corresponding to the narrow band of Head (see Section 3); the results suggest that two land drains extend along its eastern side (dotted purple line). Other linear anomalies are also considered to be of agricultural origin, possibly cultivation (dotted orange lines).

### 6.5 Field 5 (Figs. 2, 3, 20 – 23)

For the most part, distinct variation recorded in the southern half of the field is of probable natural origin (Figs. 4 & 21: greenscale). However, one ditch-type linear anomaly was detected in this area (dotted red line). Other linear anomalies possibly signify cultivation, possibly residual remains of ridge and furrow (dotted orange lines).

The survey recorded residual remains of a recently removed field boundary<sup>3</sup> (yellow line).

A strip of strong variation, broader in the north-west part of the field, undoubtedly reflects modern landfill (pink and blue).

#### 7.0 Conclusions

The survey detected only limited geophysical traces of clearly-defined archaeological remains, most notably in the form of a partially surviving ring ditch in the northern part of the site. The results suggest that this has been partially destroyed by later quarrying. Traces of one known quarry and probable further backfilled quarries were also detected, all within areas where superficial deposits are not recorded. A small number of potential isolated ditches were detected in the mid and southern regions, with possible sites containing burnt materials in the south-easternmost field.

Modern and recent responses include those induced by a recently removed field boundary, cultivation, buried services, landfill and electricity poles.

These were recorded against a backdrop of natural variation that is generally more pronounced in the northern part of the site where drift deposits are not recorded.

#### 8.0 Acknowledgements

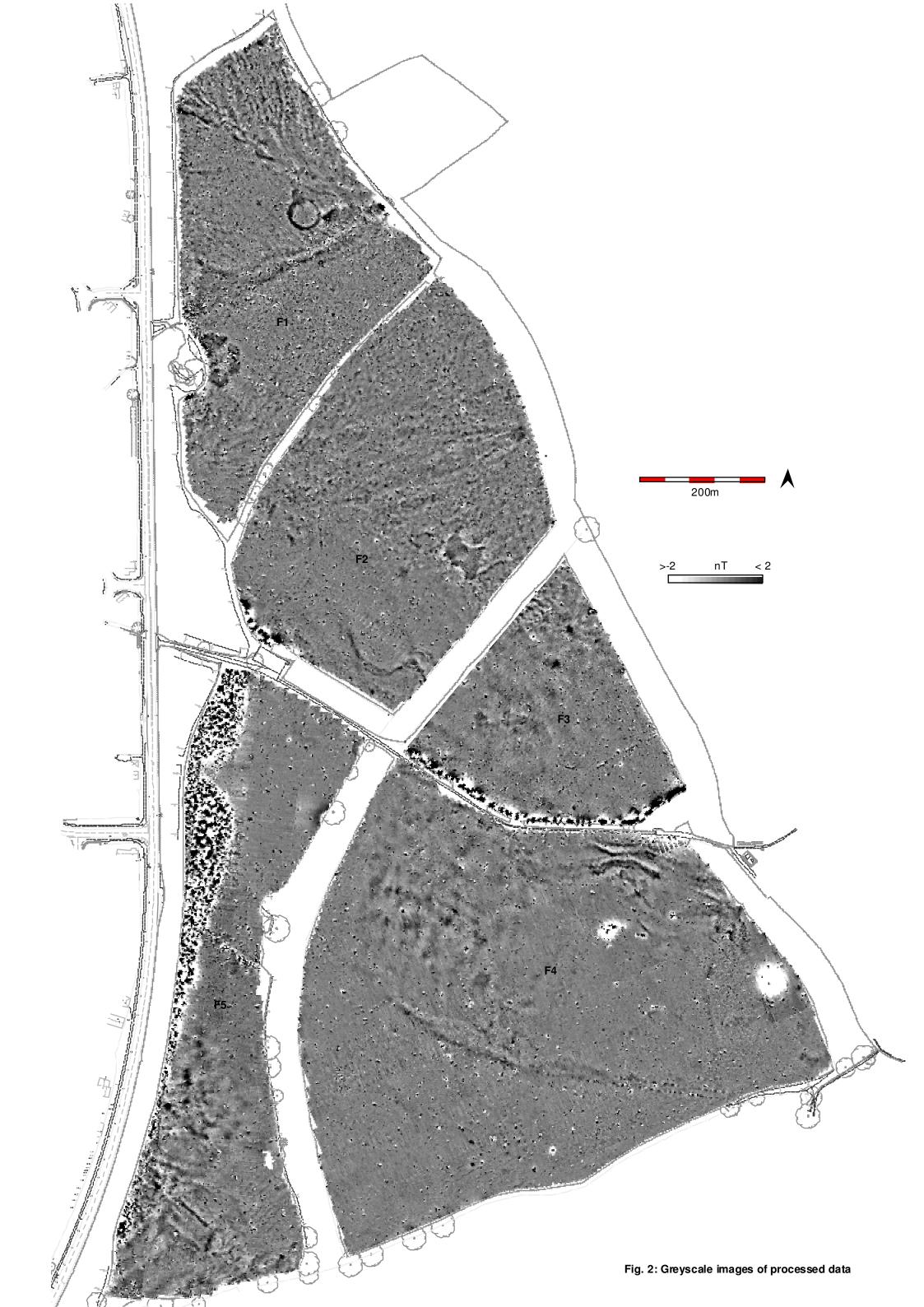
Pre-Construct Geophysics would like to thank Cotswold Archaeology for this commission.

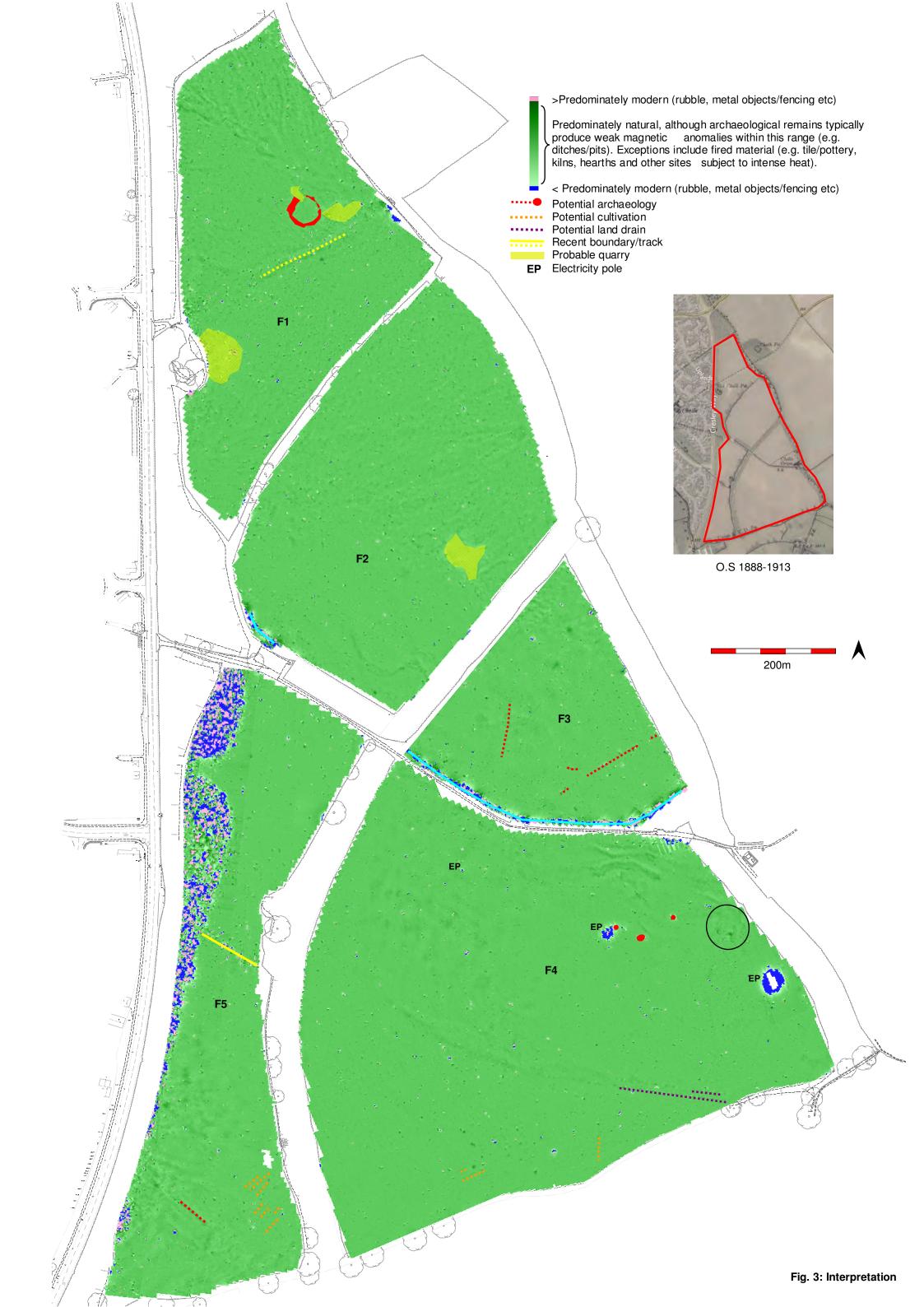
### 9.0 References

English Heritage 2008 Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation. London, English Heritage

<sup>1</sup>http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\_google/googleviewer.html, 1:50,000. British Geological Survey, Keyworth <sup>2</sup>http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/

<sup>3</sup>http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/





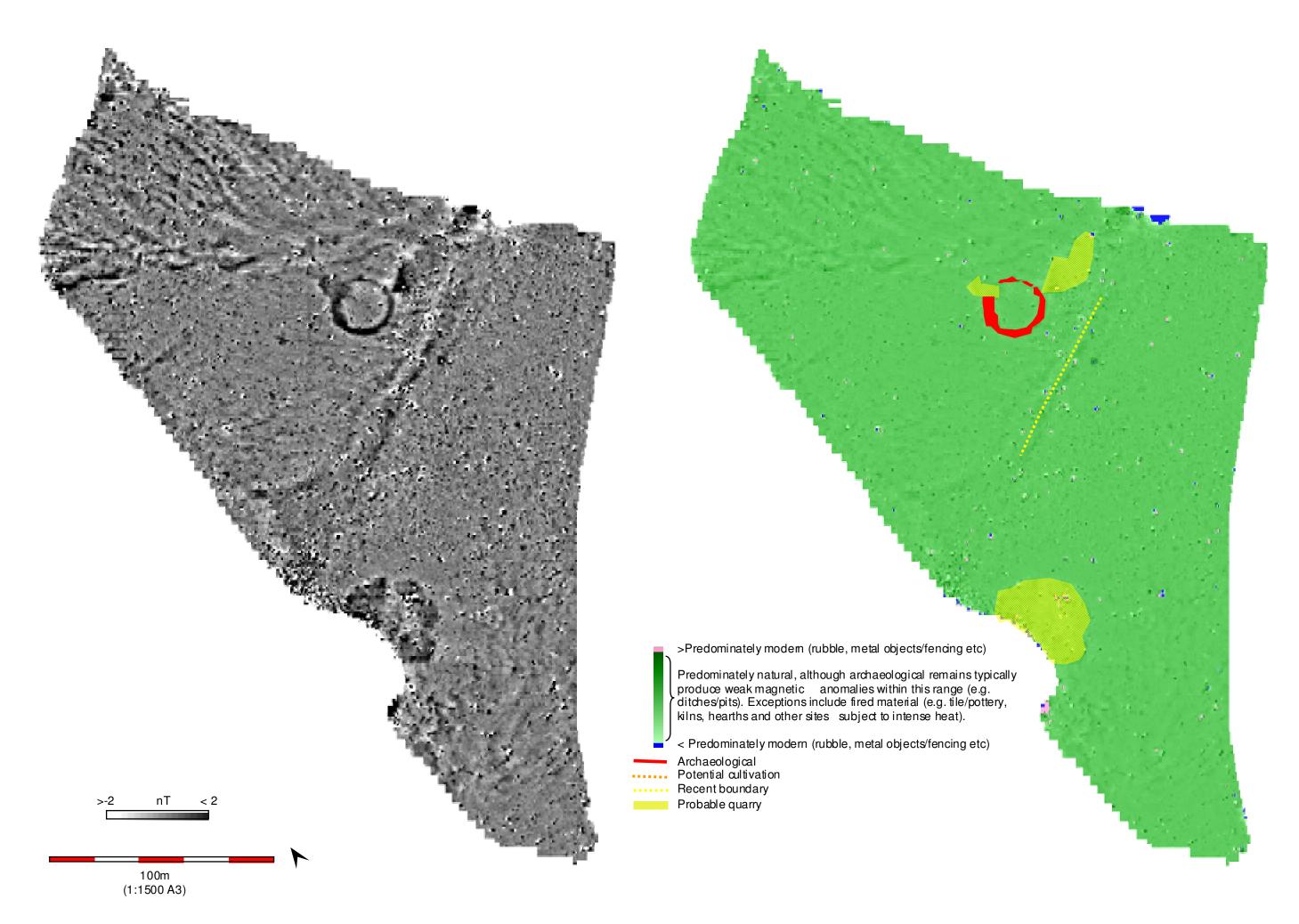
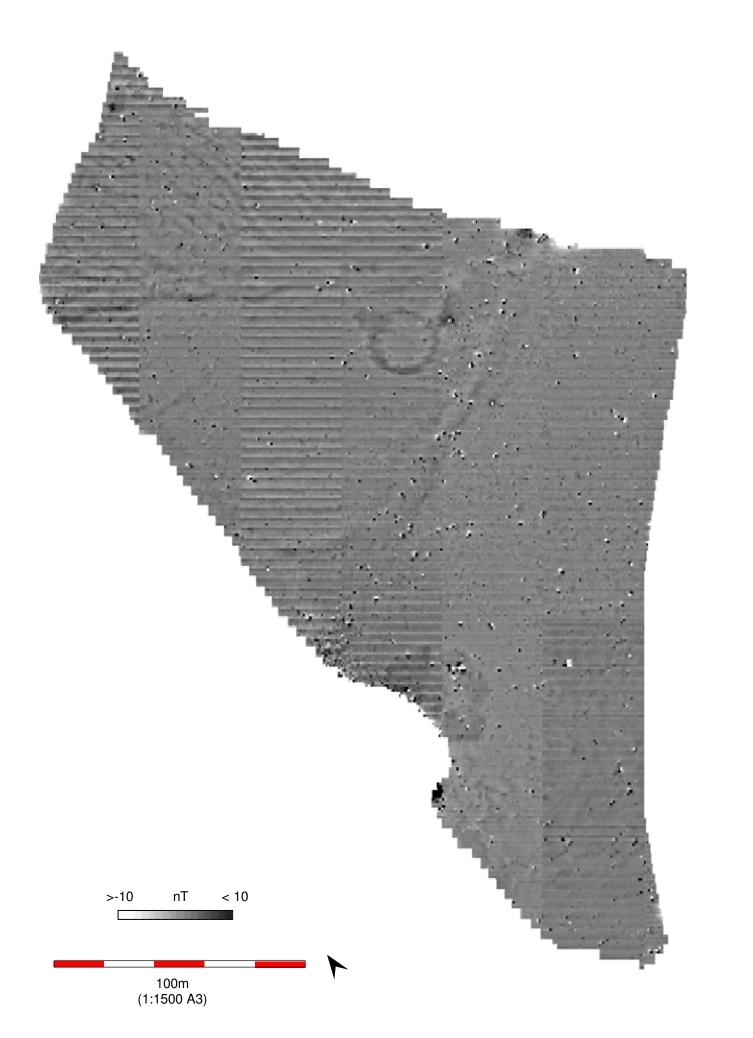


Fig. 4: F1 - Greyscale image of processed data

## Fig. 5: F1 - Interpretation



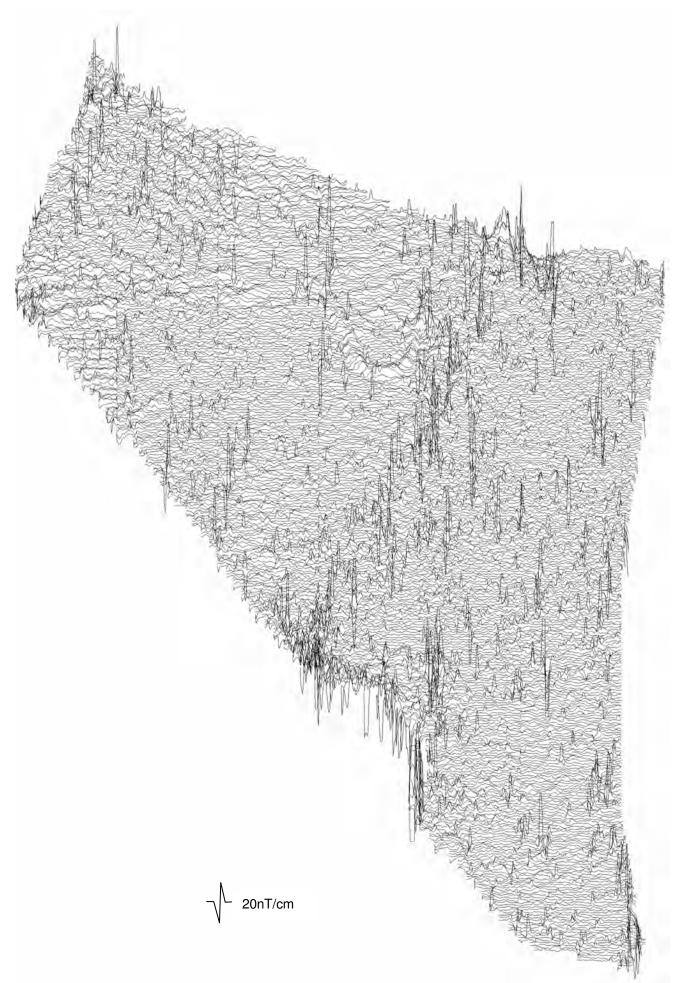
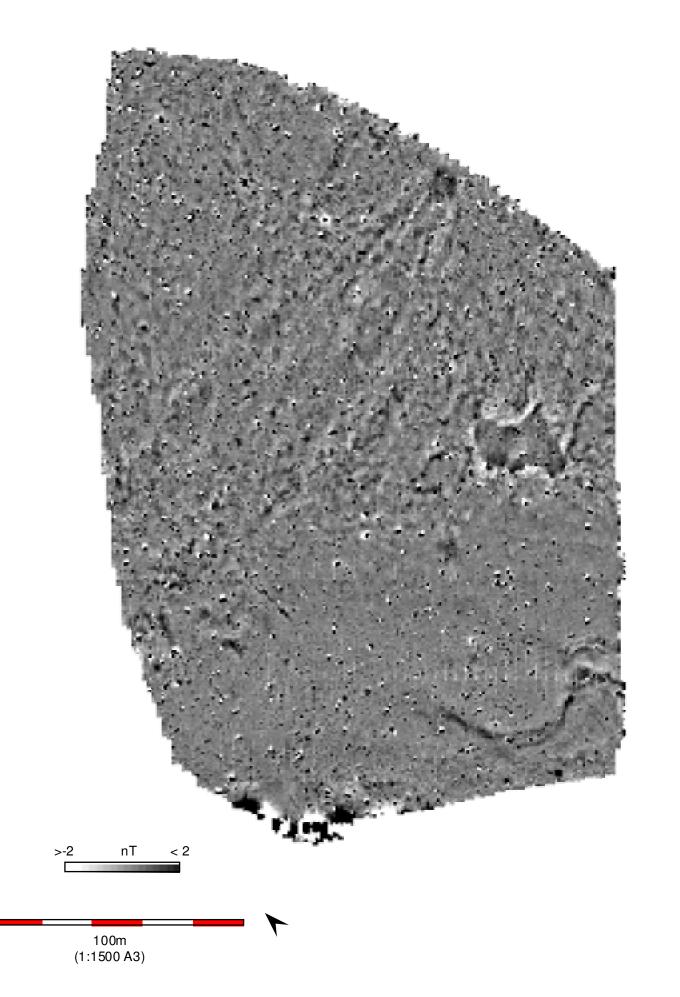
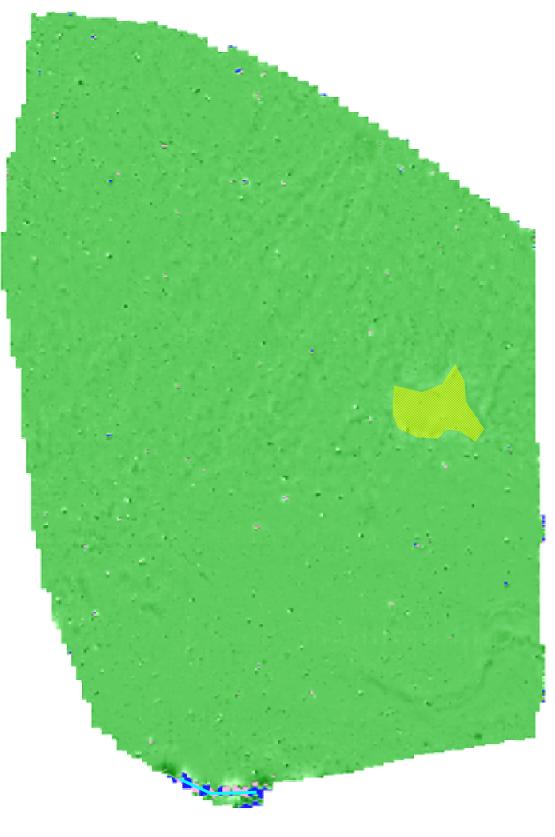


Fig. 6: F1 - Greyscale image of unprocessed data

## Fig. 7: F1 – Trace plot image





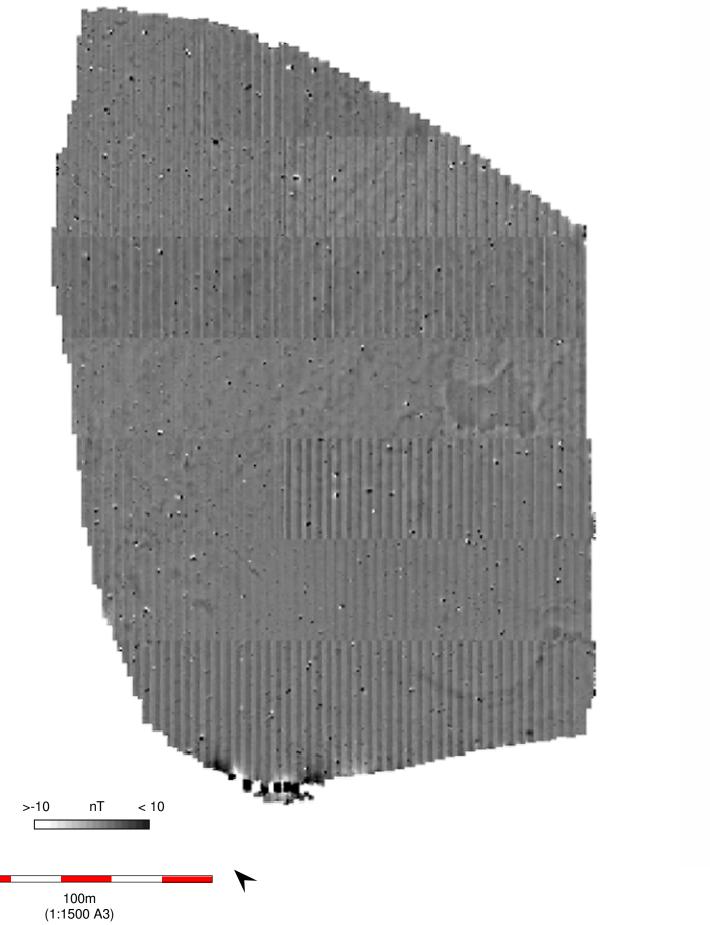
>Predominately modern (rubble, metal objects/fencing etc)

Predominately natural, although archaeological remains typically produce weak magnetic anomalies within this range (e.g. ditches/pits). Exceptions include fired material (e.g. tile/pottery, kilns, hearths and other sites subject to intense heat).

< Predominately modern (rubble, metal objects/fencing etc)

Serviœ Probable quarry

Fig. 9: F2 - Interpretation



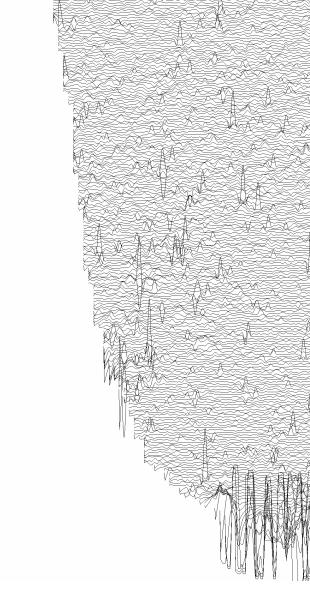


Fig. 10: F2 - Greyscale image of unprocessed data

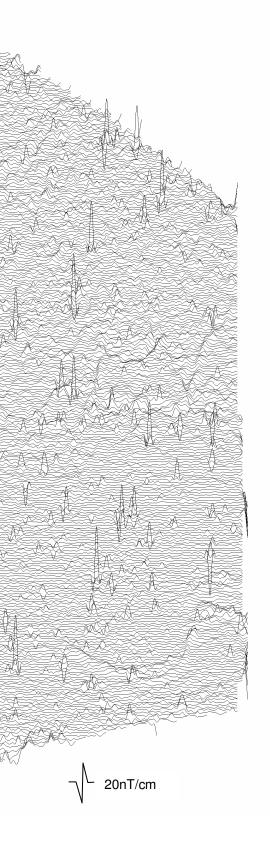


Fig. 11: F2 – Trace plot image

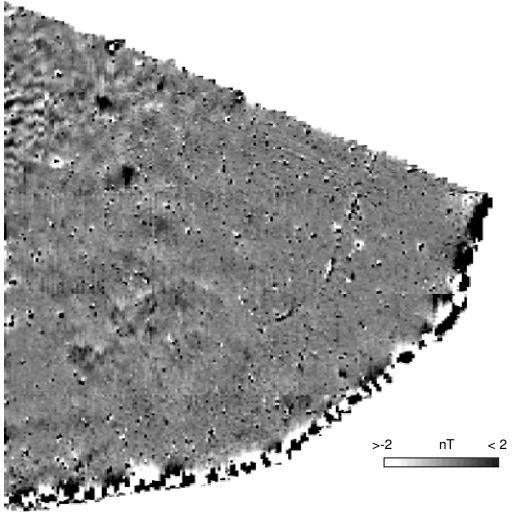


Fig. 12: F3 - Greyscale image of processed data

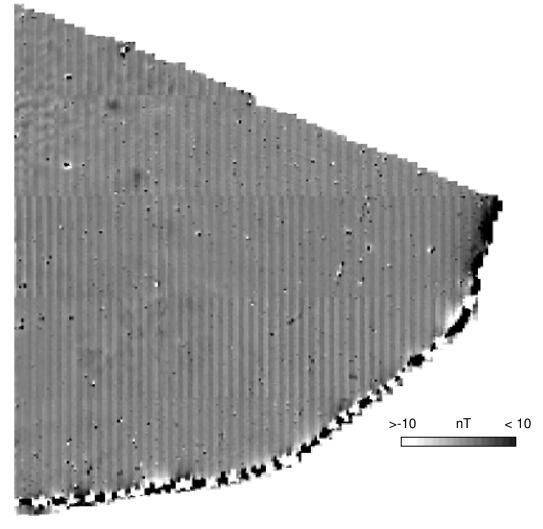


Fig. 14: F3 - Greyscale image of unprocessed data

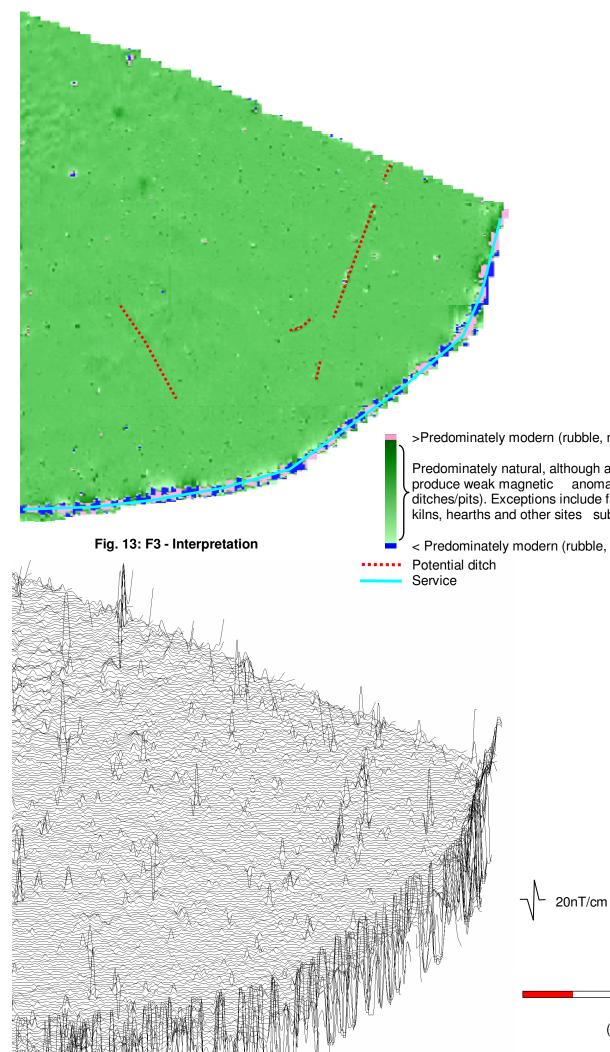


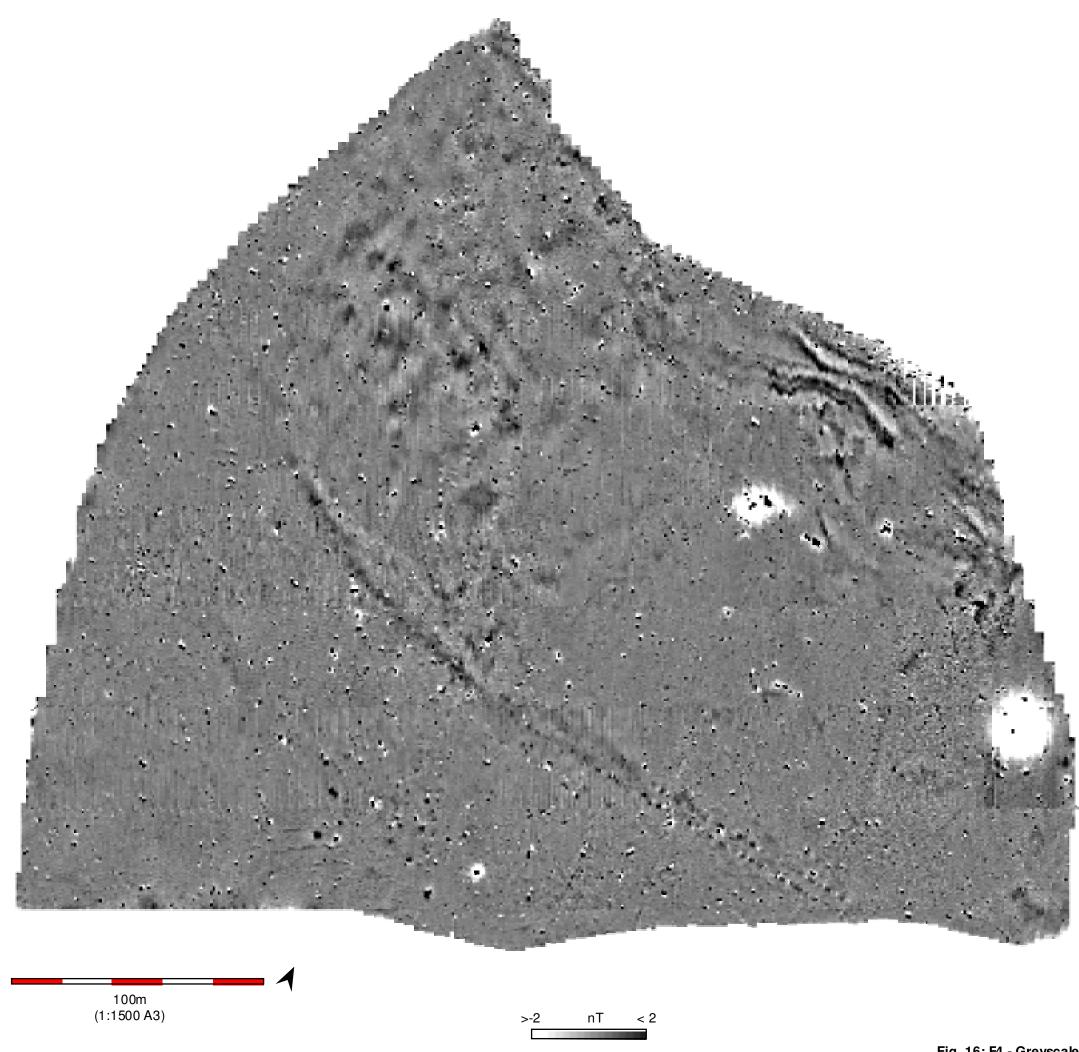
Fig. 15: F3 – Trace plot image

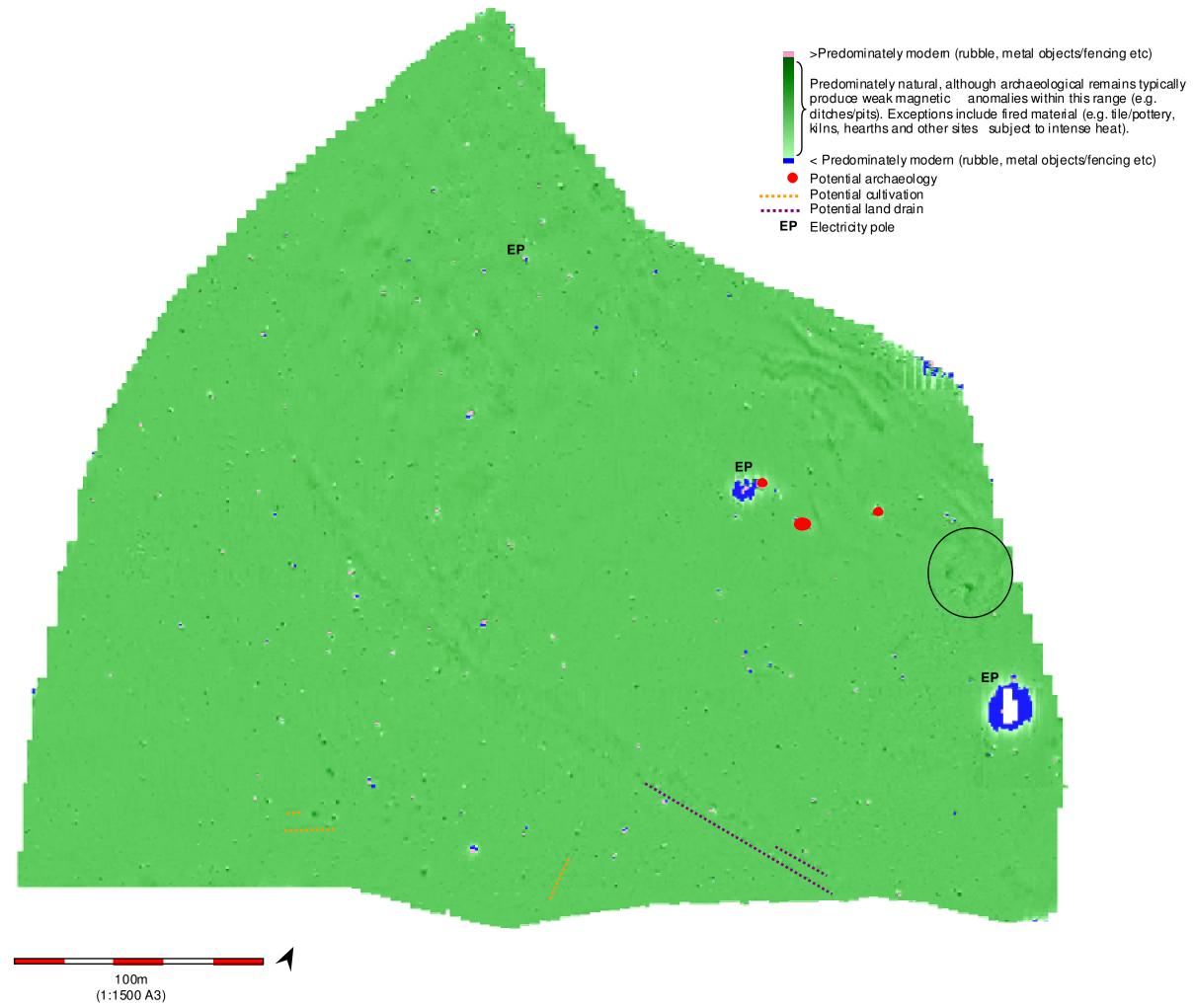
>Predominately modern (rubble, metal objects/fencing etc)

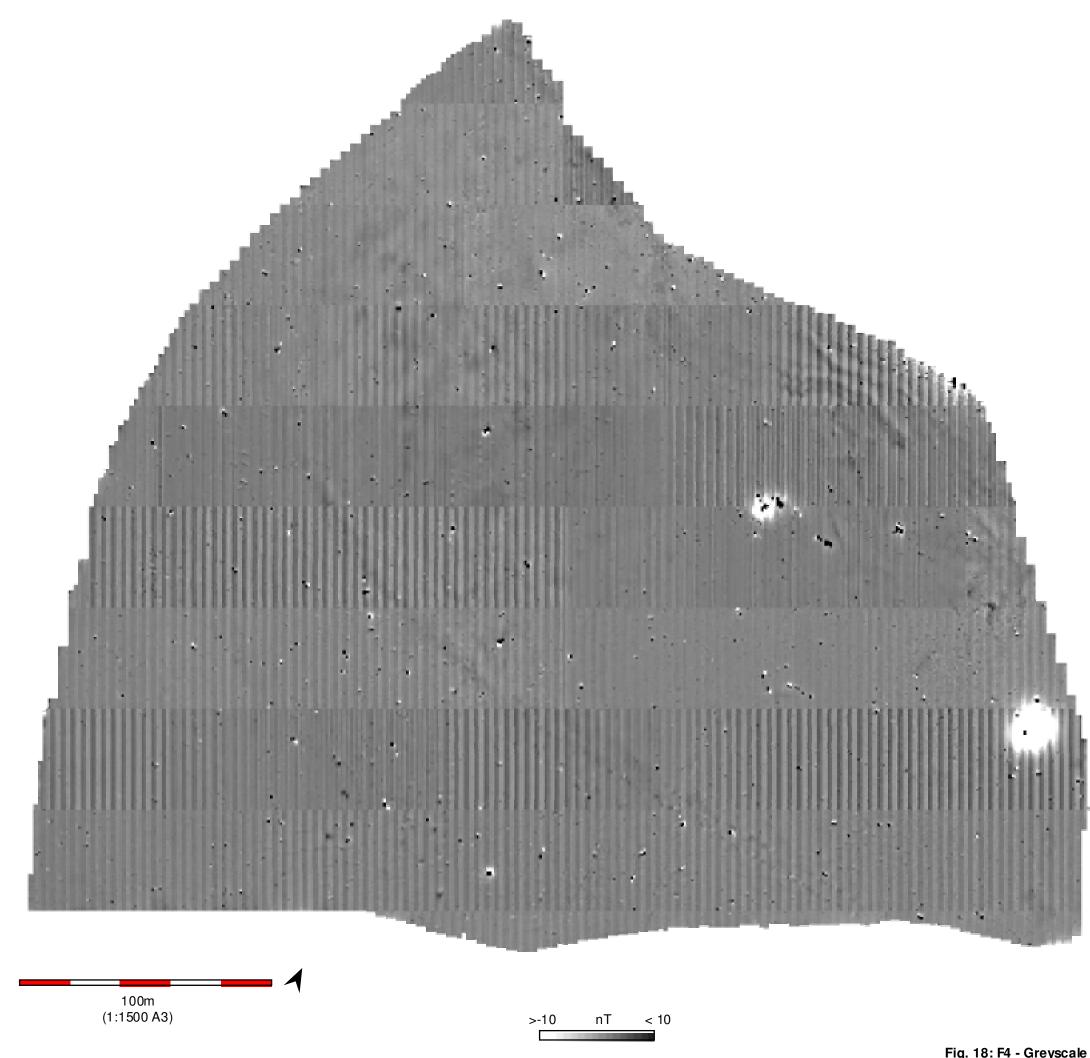
Predominately natural, although archaeological remains typically produce weak magnetic anomalies within this range (e.g. ditches/pits). Exceptions include fired material (e.g. tile/pottery, kilns, hearths and other sites subject to intense heat).

< Predominately modern (rubble, metal objects/fencing etc)

100m (1:1500 A3)







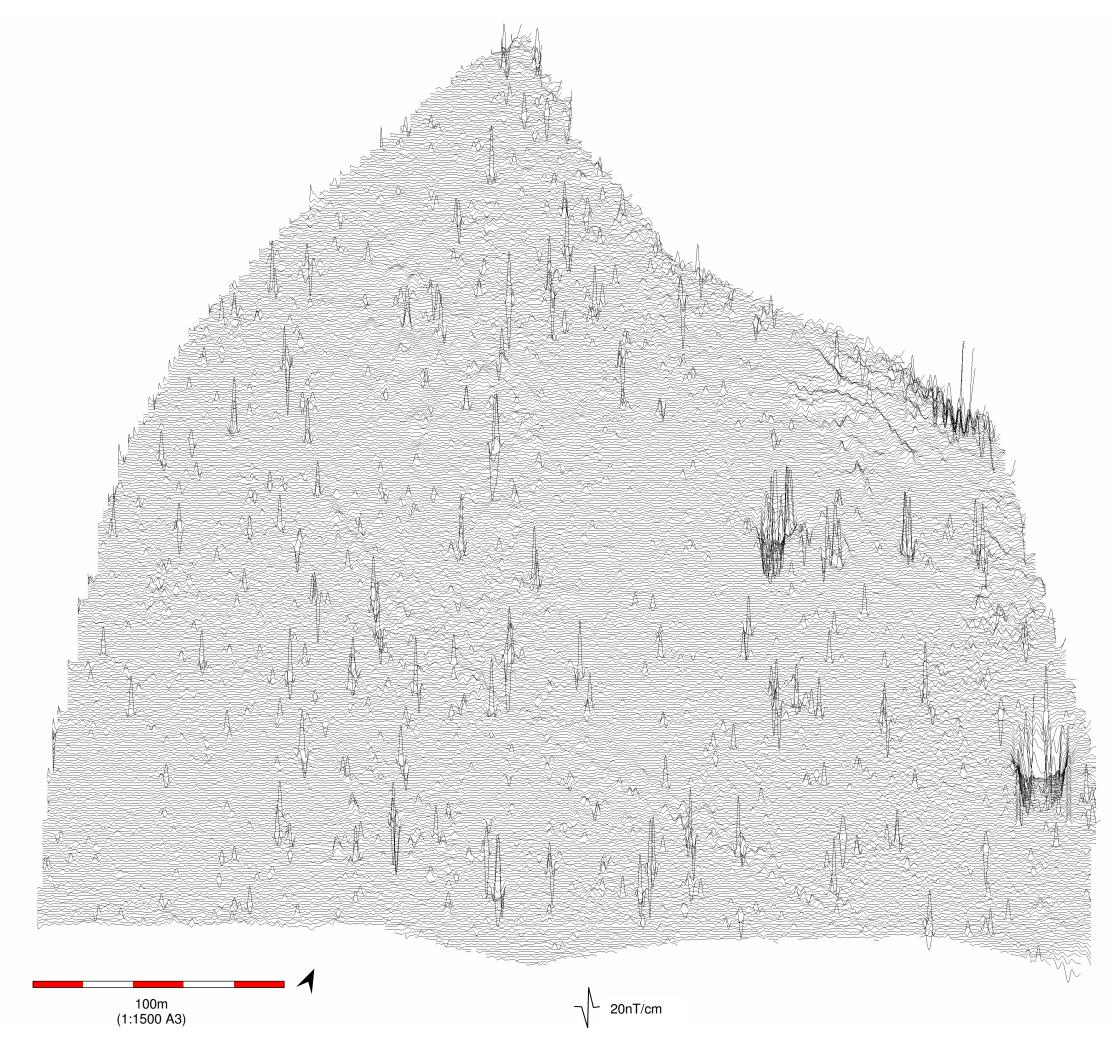
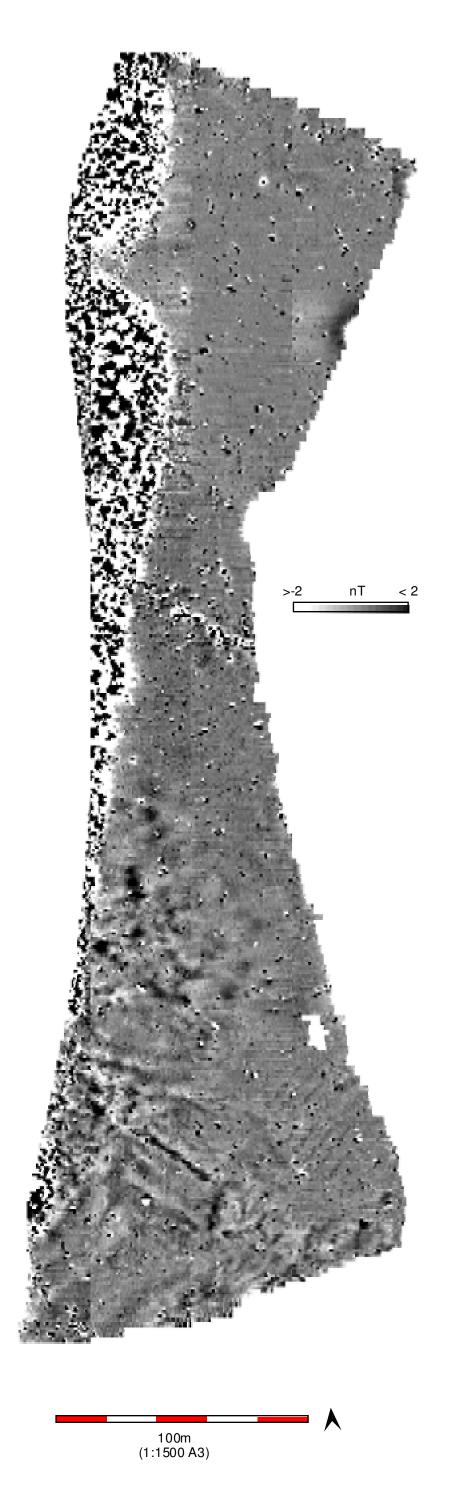


Fig. 19: F4 – Trace plot image



>Predominately modem (rubble, metal objects/fencing etc)



.....

Predominately natural, although archaeological remains typically produce weak magnetic anomalies within this range (e.g. ditches/pits). Exceptions include fired material (e.g. tile/pottery, kins, hearths and other sites subject to intense heat).

< Predominately modern (rubble, metal objects/fencing etc)

Potential ditch Potential cultivation ..... Recent boundary

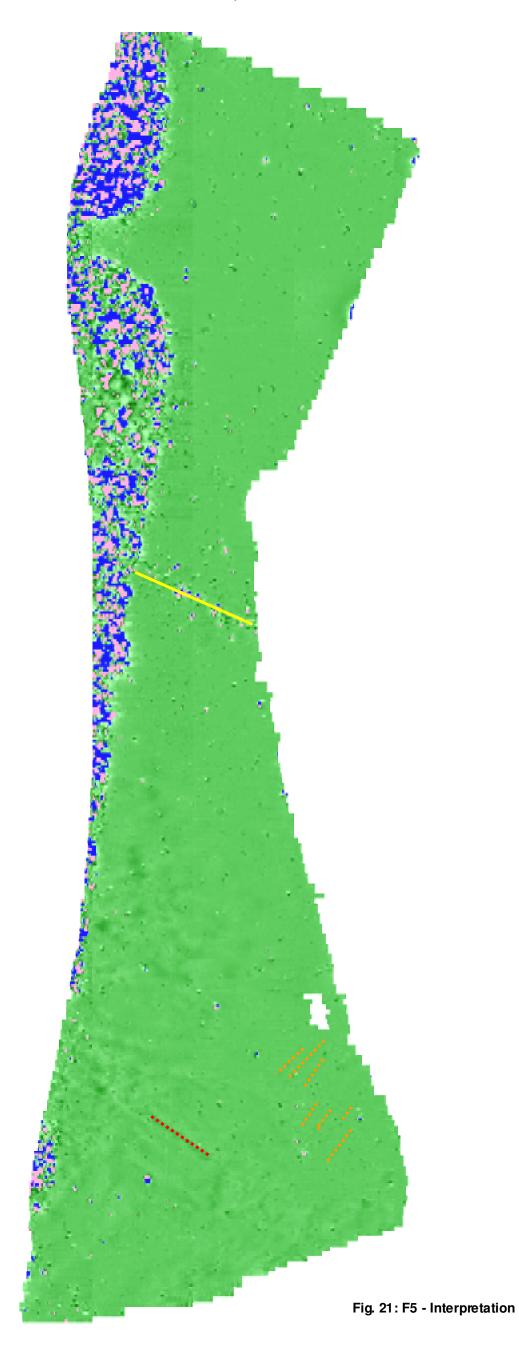
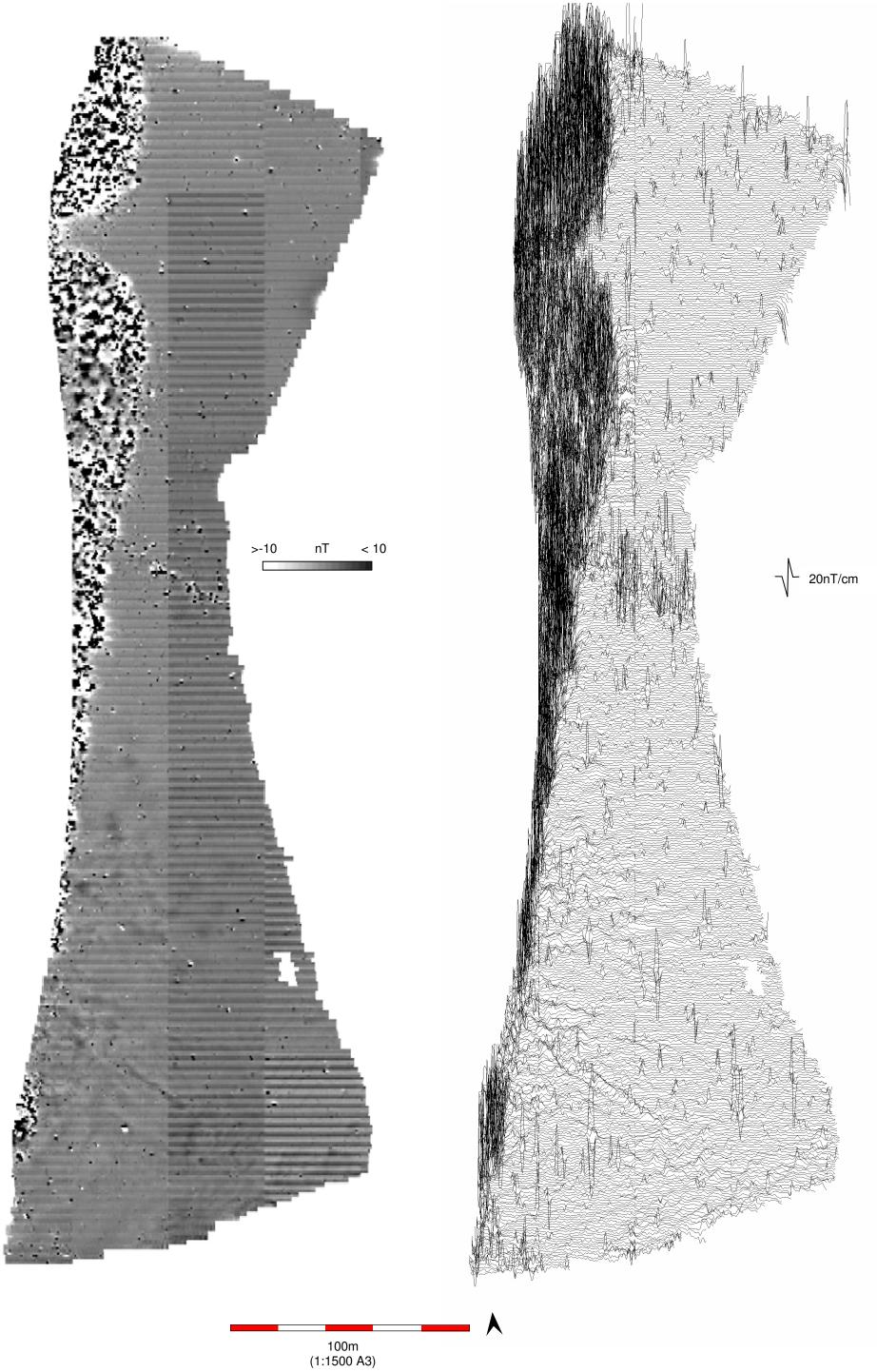
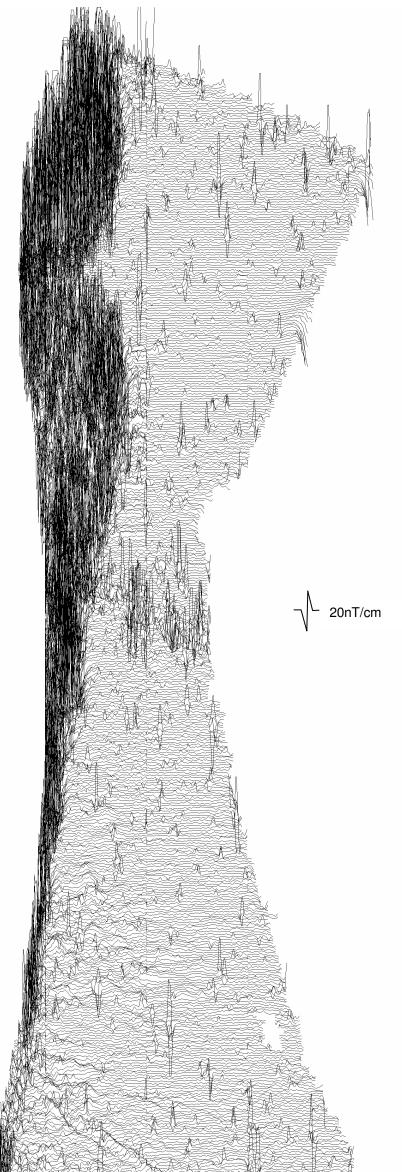


Fig. 20: F5 - Greyscale image of processed data





## Fig. 22: F5 - Greyscale image of unprocessed data

Fig. 23: F5 – Trace plot image

APPENDIX E: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY) 2016)



# Cotswold Archaeology

# Land at Gresley Park

# Hertfordshire

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation



for Pigeon Land Ltd

CA Project: 660781

Site Code: GPST16 Accession no: TBC

September 2016



## Land at Gresley Park Hertfordshire

## Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 660781

Site Code: GPST16 Accession no: TBC



DOCUMENT CONTROL GRID							
VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR	CHECKED BY	STATUS	REASONS FOR	APPROVED	
					REVISION	BY	
DRAFT	13/09/2016	MPH	SRJ	Draft		SRJ	
<b>REVISION 1</b>	23/09/2016	MPH	SRJ	FINAL	CLIENT COMMENT	SRJ	
<b>REVISION 2</b>	31/10/2016	MPH	SRJ	FINAL	FOR APPROVAL	SRJ	
<b>REVISION 3</b>	23/04/2018	MPH		FINAL	DATED FOR	MPH	
					SUBMISSION TO LPA		

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Trench location plan

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document sets out details of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) by Cotswold Archaeology (CA) for an archaeological evaluation of land proposed for residential development at Gresley Park, Hertfordshire (site centred on NGR: TL 270 251). The work, which has been commissioned by Pigeon Land Ltd and Hythe Ltd, is being undertaken to inform the decision-making process in relation to the historic environment in advance of development.
- 1.2 The scope of the evaluation and the trenching strategy have been set out following discussions between Pigeon Land Ltd and Alison Tinniswood, Hertfordshire County Council's Historic Environment Advisor (HCCHEA). The discussions were informed by the results of a geophysical survey undertaken by Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd (May 2016). The evaluation will comprise the excavation, in a single stage, of a total of eighty-three trenches, each measuring 50m long by 1.8m wide (Figure 1). Trenches will target anomalies indicated on the geophysical survey results and potential 'blank' areas to test the veracity of the geophysical survey. This will be to ensure that the results of the survey offer a true indication of the archaeology present within the site and that its effectiveness had not been compromised by geological factors etc.
- 1.3 This WSI has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (CIfA 2014), Historic England's (formerly English Heritage) procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (HE 2015) and associated relevant standards or guidance documents detailed within Appendix A.

## 2. SITE BACKGROUND

## Site location, topography and geology

- 2.1 The proposed development (the site), which has an area of approximately 30Ha, excluding existing landscaping and woodland belts, is located immediately to the east of Stevenage, in turn bounded to the east by Gresley Way. It encompasses five irregularly-shaped arable fields with the B1037 and Box Wood to its northern boundary and further arable fields elsewhere to the north-east, east and south. A public right of way (PROW) passes centrally, east west through the site.
- 2.2 Topographically, the broadly agricultural landscape lies on gently undulating ground with a slight east to south-east-facing slope between *c*.118m and *c*.98m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 2.3 The solid geology of the site comprises Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) – sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 84 to 94 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period in a local environment previously dominated by warm chalk seas (BGS Viewer August 2016).
- 2.4 No superficial deposits are recorded in the north of the site, whereas Diamicton (Lowestoft Formation) predominates in the central and southern parts of the site. This was formed up to 2 million years ago during the Quaternary Period in cold periods when Ice Age glaciers scoured the landscape and deposited moraines of till with outwash sand and gravel deposits from seasonal and post-glacial meltwaters. A broadly east west oriented deposit of Head (Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel), extends across the south-east part of the site. This was formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period as material accumulated by down slope movements including landslide, debris flow, soilifluction, soil creep and hill wash.

## Historical and archaeological background

## Prehistoric and Roman periods (pre- AD 43 – AD 410)

2.5 Extensive fieldwalking to the west of the A1 (M) showed a low level of prehistoric activity and settlement. Elsewhere, two Bronze Age barrows in Graffridge Wood are recorded. Similar types of monument survive only as cropmarks, though, again only in limited numbers and the majority of these lie along the valley of the River Beane, to the east of the town; and, in addition, a barrow cemetery is recorded to the east of Aston. The recently undertaken geophysical survey identified a circular anomaly in

the northern part of the site, which may represent the potential buried remains of a ring ditch (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2016).

Settlement becomes more discernible in the Stevenage area in the later Iron Age 2.6 when it is characterised by enclosed farmsteads. One such site at lobs Hole has been comprehensively excavated and a second enclosure site, close to the proposed development site at Boxfield Farm, Chells is considered to date to the Roman period, though is laid out in the native style. At the former site there also appears to have been some pre-enclosure activity, which once the population became more settled, possibly by the 1st century AD, was enclosed. Archaeological investigations at Boxfield Farm revealed a Romano-British enclosed farmstead which appeared sub-divided into as many as ten sub-divisions in which were located sequences of possible rectangular and circular buildings. Associated settlement remains included post holes, a corn dryer, the remains of a cemetery and numerous artefacts including a coin hoard of predominantly 3rd century AD coins. At present the evidence of settlements at Lob's Hole and Boxfield Farm do not appear to be associated in terms of spatial relationship with established Roman villa sites in the area. The closest of the latter, at Aston lie c.2km to the south-east from these and a similar distance from the proposed site.

### Early Medieval and Medieval periods AD 410 - 1536

- 2.7 Whilst Stevenage is known as the first of Britain's New Towns, formally established in 1946, the name itself has a Saxon origin, deriving from *Stithenaece*, meaning 'stiff or strong oak'. The original Saxon settlement is thought to have been located on or near the site of the old church of St Nicholas and the 'Bury' in Stevenage. Despite this there is very little evidence of surviving settlement activity in the wider area. The rural landscape is likely, however, to have remained much as in the later Roman period, with isolated and dispersed agricultural settlement prevailing, though with the exception of a single example of a sunken-floored building there are few early medieval find spots around Stevenage to inform us. It is not until the 11th century that evidence of the prevailing landscape starts to be understood.
- 2.8 At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 the township which was to become Stevenage contained, along with Chells, just west of the proposed site, and Woolewicks, almost 14 ploughlands of arable land and was held by Westminster Abbey. The area of ploughlands appears to have been markedly less than other adjoining settlements, presumably because more of the land was maintained as

woodland. It may be that the present site has changed little in its land-use through the early medieval and medieval periods, focusing on agriculture, with managed woodland close by. By the 14th century the field system in the Manor of Stevenage and Chells would have been arranged in an uneven three season arrangement. The arable comprised 24 distinct fields of which the smaller units would have been enclosed by hedges.

## Post-medieval and Modern periods 1536 - present

- 2.9 It is not certain when the medieval settlement at Stevenage finally attained the pattern visible in the latter part of the 18th century, but it is thought it remained relatively fluid after the 11th century. There is evidence through the medieval period in the wider area of examples of deserted settlements and former tofts although in some cases the migration from such sites to what is known as 'Old Stevenage' would have been gradual. In addition, by the mid-16th century a number of larger country houses appear in the wider area along with a broadening of the economic base as a variety of industries develop to compete with the formerly prevailing agricultural base.
- 2.10 The proposed development site throughout the post-medieval period and since remained in agricultural use, though the land in which the site lies was enclosed creating a patchwork pattern of fields. These have more recently been superseded by the larger prairie fields visible in the landscape today, and which are represented by the fields that comprise the proposed site.

## 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are to:
  - Establish the location, extent, nature, significance, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental features or deposits that may be present;
  - Determine the palaeoenvironmental potential of the site through the assessment of bulk soil samples taken from any suitable archaeological deposits;
  - Determine the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present.
- 3.2 If significant archaeological remains are identified, reference will be made to *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011), so that the remains can, if possible, be placed within their local and regional context. All works will be conducted in accordance with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).
- 3.3 The information gathered will enable Hertfordshire Council, as advised by Alison Tinniswood, to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset within the proposed development site, consider the impact of the proposed residential development upon that significance, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

## 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation will require the excavation of eighty-three trial trenches each measuring 50m long by 1.8m wide (a total of 4,150 linear metres) in the locations shown on Figure 1. Trenches will be set out on OS National Grid (NGR) coordinates using Leica GPS and then prior to excavation, scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the CA *Safe System of Work for Avoiding Underground Services*. The position of the trenches may be adjusted on site to account for services and other constraints, with the approval of the client and HCCHEA. The final 'as dug' trench plan will be recorded with GPS.
- 4.2 All trenches will be excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machining will be conducted under archaeological supervision and will cease when the first archaeological horizon or geological substrate is revealed (whichever is encountered first). Topsoil and subsoil will be stored separately adjacent to each trench. Any subsequent use of machinery will be agreed in advance with the Client and the HCCHEA. This will include the use of water pumps to de-water flooded trenches and archaeological features. Where water pumps are considered necessary outflow will be directed to a suitable location within the field to disperse across the land surface.
- 4.3 Following machining, the cleaning of exposed surfaces will commence as soon as reasonably practicable and safe to do so. All archaeological features and deposits will be planned and recorded in accordance with CA's Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual (CA 2013). Each context will be recorded on a pro forma context sheet by written and measured description. Principal deposits will be recorded on drawn plans (scale 1:20 or 1:50), or electronically using Leica GPS (as appropriate). Complex archaeological features will be hand drawn at an appropriate scale. Sections will be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, as appropriate. Where detailed feature planning is undertaken using GPS, this will be carried out in accordance with Technical Manual 4.1: Survey Manual (CA 2012). Photographs will be taken as appropriate, using 35mm black and white film (Ilford HP5), supplemented with digital images (minimum 10 megapixels). Any finds and samples will be bagged separately and related to the context record. Any artefacts encountered will be recovered and retained for processing and analysis, in accordance with Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation (CA 1995).

- 4.4 Sample excavation of archaeological deposits will be sufficient to that necessary to characterise them and to achieve the objectives of the project. Discrete features will be half-sectioned and excavated sections through linear features will be at least 1m wide. Where appropriate, excavation will not compromise the integrity of the archaeological record, and will be undertaken in such a way as to allow for their subsequent protection or through the opportunity for better excavation under the conditions pertaining to investigation of a larger area.
- 4.5 Artefacts from topsoil and subsoil and unstratified contexts will normally be noted but not retained unless they are of intrinsic interest (e.g. worked flint or flint debitage, featured pottery sherds, and other potential 'registered artefacts'). All artefacts will be collected from stratified excavated contexts except for large assemblages of post-medieval or modern material. Such material may be noted and not retained, or, if appropriate, a representative sample may be collected and retained. Such a strategy would be discussed and agreed with the client and HCCHEA on site prior to implementation.
- 4.6 In the event that human remains are encountered, these will not normally be excavated, but will be planned and recorded in detail. If human remains are encountered, CA will inform the Client immediately. Following the discovery of human remains a licence will be obtained from the Coroners Unit in the Ministry of Justice, and will include notification to the local Environmental Health Officer. Visible grave goods and other obvious artefacts will be recorded and lifted before the end of the working day because of risk of vandalism and robbing.
- 4.7 All burials will be planned / photographed *in situ* prior to lifting and appropriate samples will be recovered. Any artefacts will be recorded three-dimensionally.
- 4.8 Due care will be taken to identify deposits which may have environmental potential, from a wide range of contexts and where appropriate, a programme of environmental sampling will be initiated. Bulk samples, normally not less than 40 litres in volume (where obtainable), will be taken, processed and assessed for potential. Sample recovery will be undertaken in accordance with *Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (CA 2003) and *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (EH 2011).

- 4.9 Upon completion of the evaluation all trenches will be simply backfilled, with topsoil uppermost, and made level as far as practicable through the tracking of the excavator. Trenches will only be backfilled after inspection and approval by HCCHEA.
- 4.10 CA will comply fully with the provisions of the *Treasure Act* 1996 and the *Code of Practice* referred to therein. The spoil heaps and features will be scanned with a metal detector by competent staff to maximise the recovery of archaeologically significant metal objects.

## 5. STAFF AND TIMETABLE

- 5.1 The project will be under the management of Dr Mark Hewson, MCIfA, Senior Heritage Consultant and Fieldwork Manager and the fieldwork will be directed by James Coyne, Project Officer. The Project Officer will be assisted in the field by experienced Archaeologists drawn from CA's fieldwork team.
- 5.2 There is as yet no firm start date, though a start date to coincide with the replacement local plan is anticipated, with the fieldwork element to be completed in three working weeks, including backfilling.
- 5.3 Specialists who may be invited to advise and report on specific aspects of the project as necessary are:

Ed McSloy (ceramics, metalwork) Jacky Somerville (worked flint and ceramics) Andy Clarke (animal bone) Sarah Cobain (environmental remains) Sharon Clough (human bone)

5.4 Depending upon the nature of the deposits and artefacts encountered it may be necessary to consult other specialists not listed here. A full list of specialists currently used by Cotswold Archaeology is contained within Appendix B.

## 6. POST-EXCAVATION, ARCHIVING AND REPORTING

- 6.1 Following the completion of the fieldwork, all artefacts and environmental samples will be processed, assessed, conserved and packaged in accordance with CA Technical Manuals and Hertfordshire Museum's guidelines. Once the archive has been consolidated, a security copy of the archive will be made in an appropriate medium.
- 6.2 The MPRG's *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (Slowikowski *et al* 2001) will be adhered to.
- 6.3 An illustrated report will be compiled on the results of the fieldwork. The report will include: a non-technical summary; an introduction to the project; an archaeological and historical background; an objective text account of the archaeological results, supported by tabulated data that enables appropriate re-assessment of the results by other parties without recourse to the project archive; a quantification and assessment of the finds and environmental materials; and an interpretative conclusion regarding the archaeological content of the site. The report will include appropriate illustrations of the site, its context and individual trenches, features and contexts where appropriate and a Hertfordshire HER summary sheet. A digital version of the report (either in .pdf or .doc format) will be distributed to the client for approval prior to submission to HCCHEA.
- 6.4 A digital version of the final illustrated report (either in .pdf or .doc format) will be submitted to the Client for approval four weeks following the completion of the fieldwork programme. Once Client comments have been incorporated into the report, a digital copy will be issued to the Client and HCCHEA for approval. Following comment from HCCHEA, the report will be finalised and a digital copy will be distributed to the Client for submission to East Hertfordshire District Council. A digital copy and a single hard copy of the report will be deposited with the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), generally within six months of the completion of the project. A report (of a level appropriate to the project's findings, will be submitted, accompanied by appropriate resources, for publication in Hertfordshire Archaeology and History, or another agreed publication within six months of the completion of the completion of the fieldwork programme.

- 6.5 Should no further work be required, an ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (Archaeological Archives Forum 2007) and the guidelines of Stevenage museum (Accession Number TBC). Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner, the artefacts will be deposited with the recipient museum.
- 6.6 Subject to any further archaeological investigation at the site, at an appropriate juncture it is anticipated that a short publication note or summary report will be produced for inclusion within an appropriate local archaeological journal. A summary of information from the project will also be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 7. HEALTH AND SAFETY

7.1 CA will conduct all works in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act* 1974 and all subsequent Health and Safety legislation, CA Health and Safety and Environmental policies and the CA *Safety, Health and Environmental Management System* (SHEMS). A site-specific Project Health and Safety Plan (form SHEMS 017) will be prepared prior to commencement of fieldwork.

## 8. INSURANCES

8.1 CA holds Public Liability Insurance to a limit of £10,000,000 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to a limit of £10,000,000. No claims have been made or are pending against these policies in the last three years.

## 9. MONITORING

9.1 CA will be responsible for notifying the Client and HCCHEA at least one week prior to the commencement of the start of site works so that there will be opportunities to arrange site visits to check on the quality and progress of the work.

## 10. QUALITY ASSURANCE

- 10.1 CA is a Registered Organisation (RO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (RO Ref. No. 8). As a RO, CA endorses the *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014) and the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (CIfA 2014). All CA Project Managers and Project Officers hold either full Member or Associate status within the CIfA.
- 10.2 CA operates an internal quality assurance system in the following manner. Projects are overseen by a Project Manager who is responsible for the quality of the project. The Project Manager reports to the Chief Executive who bears ultimate responsibility for the conduct of all CA operations. Matters of policy and corporate strategy are determined by the Board of Directors, and in cases of dispute recourse may be made to the Chairman of the Board.

# 11. REFERENCES

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# Internet Sources

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#### APPENDIX A: ARCHAEOLOGICAL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

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- AAI&S 1988 The Illustration of Lithic Artifacts: A guide to drawing stone tools for specialist reports. Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors Paper **9**
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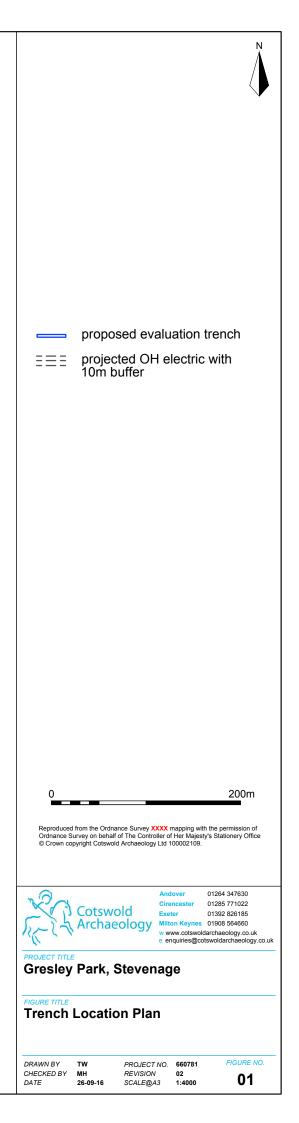
## APPENDIX B: COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY SPECIALISTS

#### Ceramics

Neolithic/Bronze Age	Ed McSloy (CA) Emily Edwards (freelance) Dr Ros Cleal (freelance)
Iron Age/Roman (Samian) (Amphorae stamps)	Ed McSloy (CA) Gwladys Montell (freelance) David Williams (freelance)
Anglo-Saxon	Paul Blinkhorn (freelance) Dr Jane Timby (freelance)
Medieval/post-medieval	Ed McSloy (CA) Duncan Brown (freelance) Paul Blinkhorn (freelance)
(Clay pipe)	Reg Jackson (freelance)
Ceramic Building Material	Ed McSloy (CA) Phil Mills (freelance)
Other Finds	
Small Finds	Ed McSloy (CA)
Metal Artefacts	Dr Jörn Schuster (freelance) Dr Hilary Cool (freelance)
Lithics	Ed McSloy (CA)
(Palaeolithic)	Jackie Sommerville (CA) Francis Wenban-Smith (University of Southampton)
Worked Stone	Ruth Shaffrey (freelance)
Inscriptions	Dr Roger Tomlin (Oxford)
Glass	Ed McSloy (CA) Dr Hilary Cool (freelance)
	Dr David Dungworth (freelance; English Heritage)
Coins	
Coins Leather	Dr David Dungworth (freelance; English Heritage) Ed McSloy (CA) Dr Peter Guest (Cardiff University)
	Dr David Dungworth (freelance; English Heritage) Ed McSloy (CA) Dr Peter Guest (Cardiff University) Dr Richard Reece (freelance)
Leather	Dr David Dungworth (freelance; English Heritage) Ed McSloy (CA) Dr Peter Guest (Cardiff University) Dr Richard Reece (freelance) Quita Mould (freelance)
Leather Textiles	Dr David Dungworth (freelance; English Heritage) Ed McSloy (CA) Dr Peter Guest (Cardiff University) Dr Richard Reece (freelance) Quita Mould (freelance) Penelope Walton Rogers (freelance) Dr Tim Young (Cardiff University)
Leather Textiles Iron slag/metal technology <i>Biological Remains</i>	Dr David Dungworth (freelance; English Heritage) Ed McSloy (CA) Dr Peter Guest (Cardiff University) Dr Richard Reece (freelance) Quita Mould (freelance) Penelope Walton Rogers (freelance) Dr Tim Young (Cardiff University) Dr David Dungworth (English Heritage)
Leather Textiles Iron slag/metal technology <b>Biological Remains</b> Animal bone	Dr David Dungworth (freelance; English Heritage) Ed McSloy (CA) Dr Peter Guest (Cardiff University) Dr Richard Reece (freelance) Quita Mould (freelance) Penelope Walton Rogers (freelance) Dr Tim Young (Cardiff University) Dr David Dungworth (English Heritage) Philip Armitage (freelance) Sharon Clough (CA)
Leather Textiles Iron slag/metal technology <b>Biological Remains</b> Animal bone Human Bone	Dr David Dungworth (freelance; English Heritage) Ed McSloy (CA) Dr Peter Guest (Cardiff University) Dr Richard Reece (freelance) Quita Mould (freelance) Penelope Walton Rogers (freelance) Dr Tim Young (Cardiff University) Dr David Dungworth (English Heritage) Philip Armitage (freelance) Sharon Clough (CA) Annsofie Witkin (freelance) Sarah Cobain (CA)

Charred Plant Remains	Sarah Cobain (CA)
Wood/Charcoal	Sarah Cobain (CA)
Insects	David Smith (Birmingham University) Enid Allison (Canterbury Archaeological Trust)
Mollusca	Dr Keith Wilkinson (ARCA)
Fish bones	Philip Armitage (freelance)
Geoarchaeology	Dr Keith Wilkinson (ARCA)
Scientific Dating Dendrochronology	Robert Howard (NTRDL Nottingham)
	Robert Howard (NTRDL Nottingham) SUERC (East Kilbride) Beta Analytic (USA)
Dendrochronology	SUERC (East Kilbride)
Dendrochronology Radiocarbon dating	SUERC (East Kilbride) Beta Analytic (USA) Neil Suttie (University of Liverpool)







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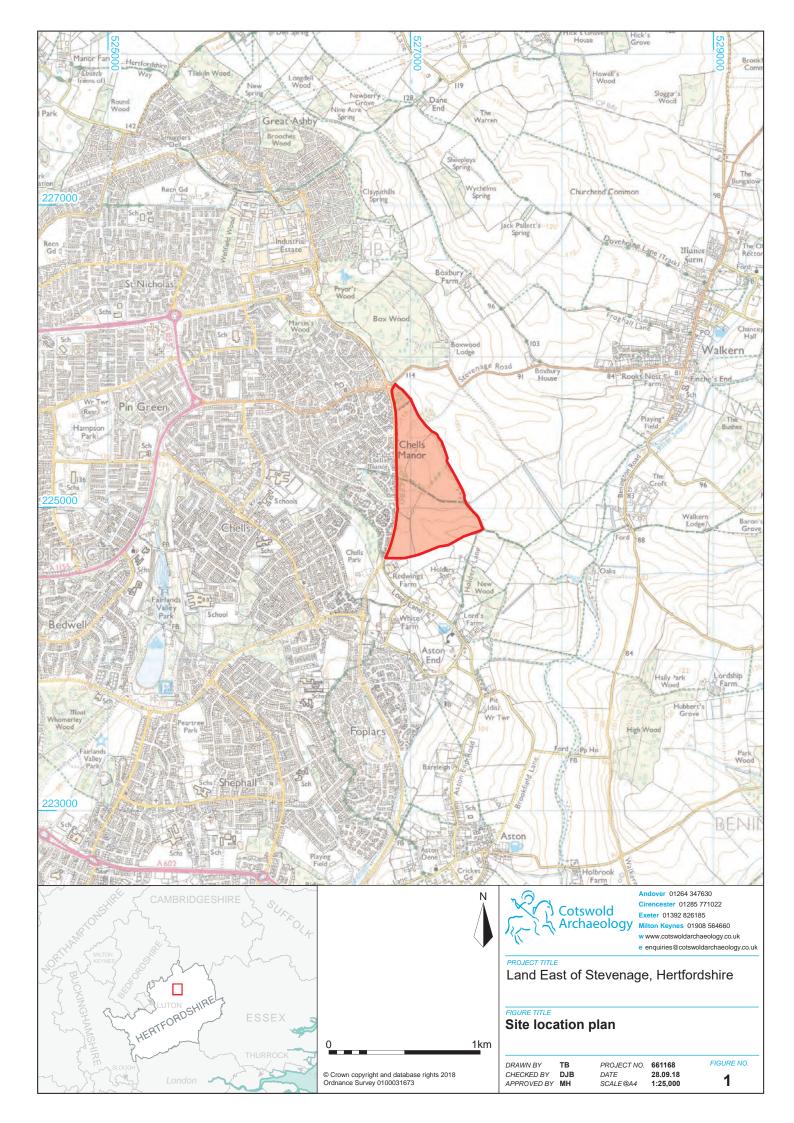
t: 01392 826185

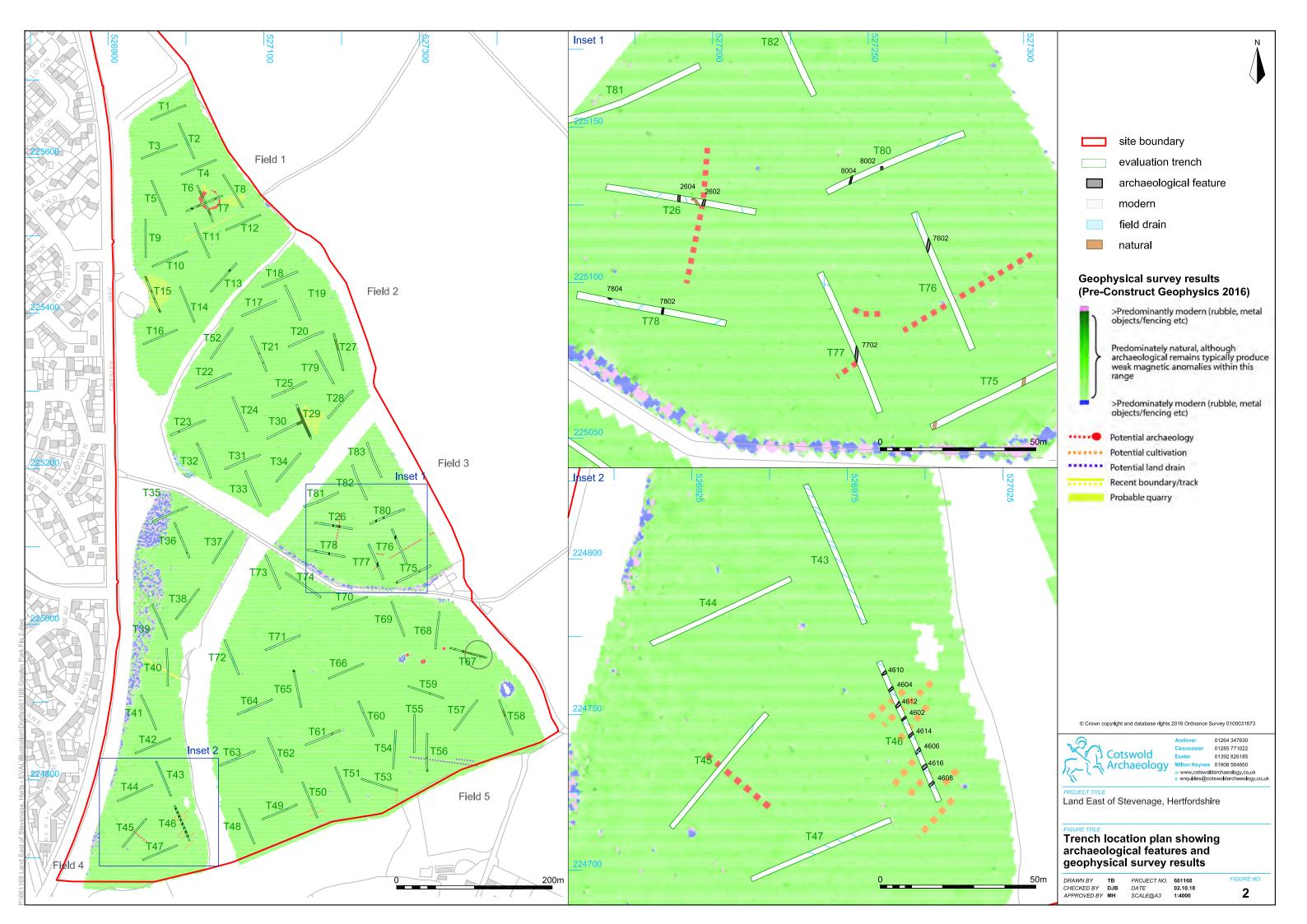
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t: 01908 564660









Trench 15, looking north (1m scales)



Trench 15 surroundings, looking west

Cotswold Archaeology
PROJECT TITLE

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Land East of Stevenage, Hertfordshire

FIGURE TITLE Trench 15: Photographs

DRAWN BY	тв	PROJECT NO.	661168	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	02.10.18	3
APPROVED BY	MH	SCALE@A4	NA	



Trench 8, looking south-east, before removal of haul road chalk (1m scales)



Trench 8, looking south-east, after removal of haul road chalk (1m scales)

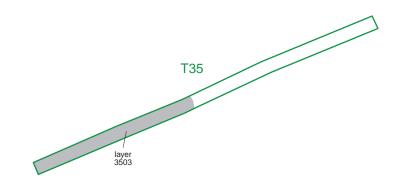
Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01285 771022 Exeter 01392 826185 Milton Keynes 01908 564660 w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
FIGURE TITLE         Trench 8: Photographs         DRAWN BY       TB       PROJECT NO.       661168       FIGURE NO.         CHECKED BY       DJB       DATE       02.10.18       APPROVED BY       MH       SCALE®A4       NA       4



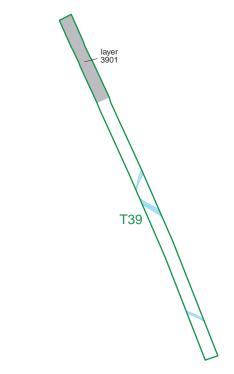
Trench 35, looking west (1m scales)



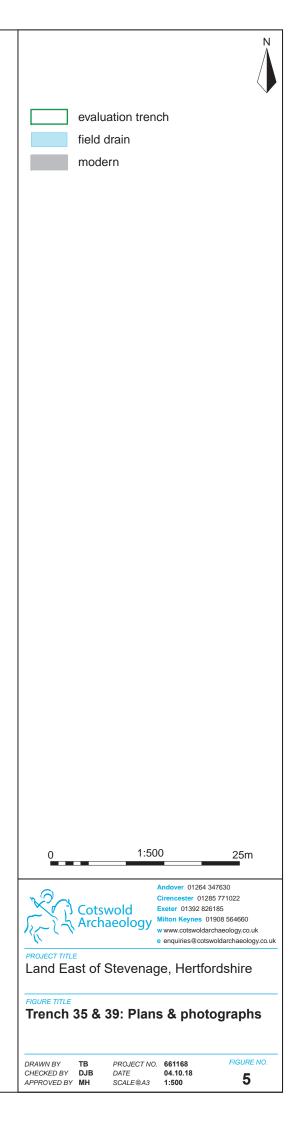
Trench 39, looking north-west (1m scales)



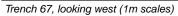
Trench 35



Trench 39

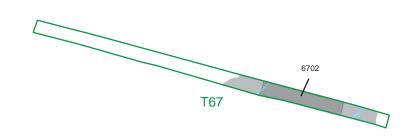




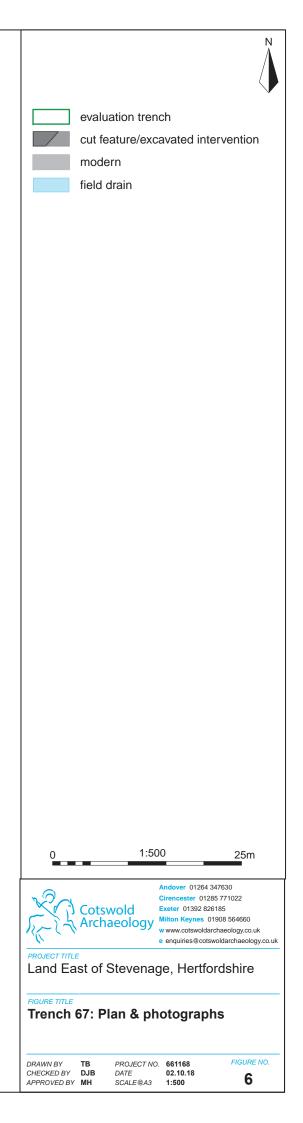




Trench 67 section, looking north-east (1m scale)

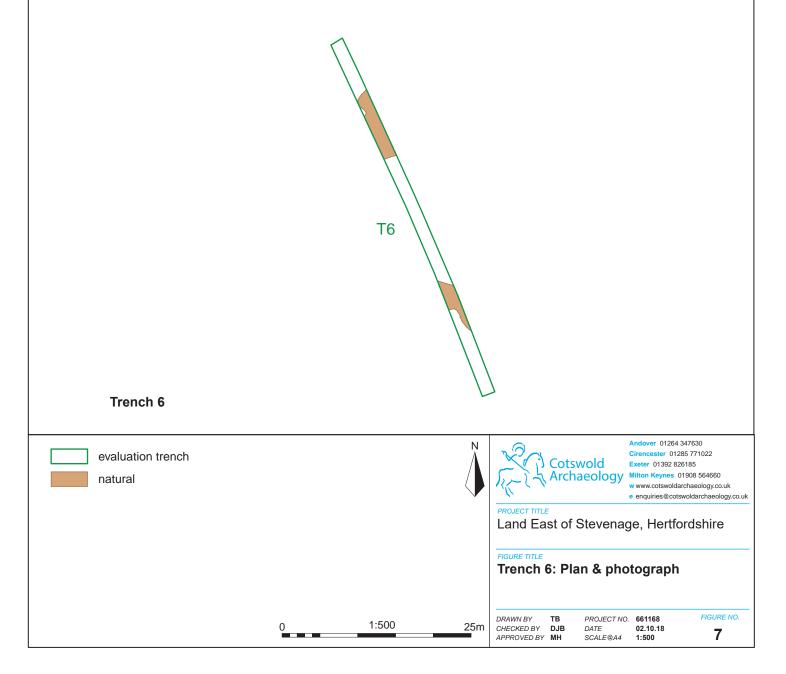


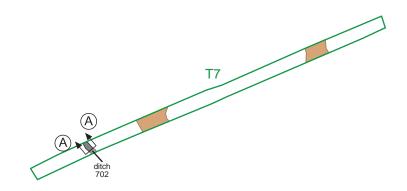
Trench 67

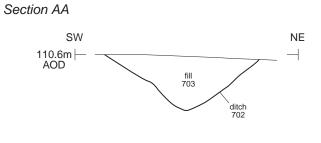




Trench 6, looking north-west (1m scales)











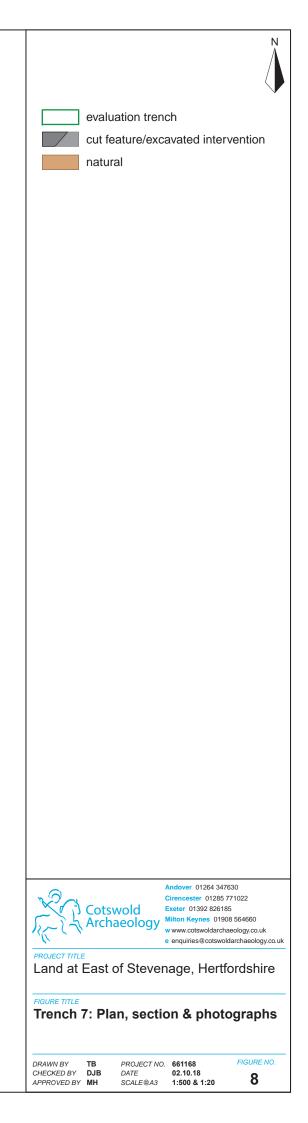
Trench 7, looking south-west (1m scales)

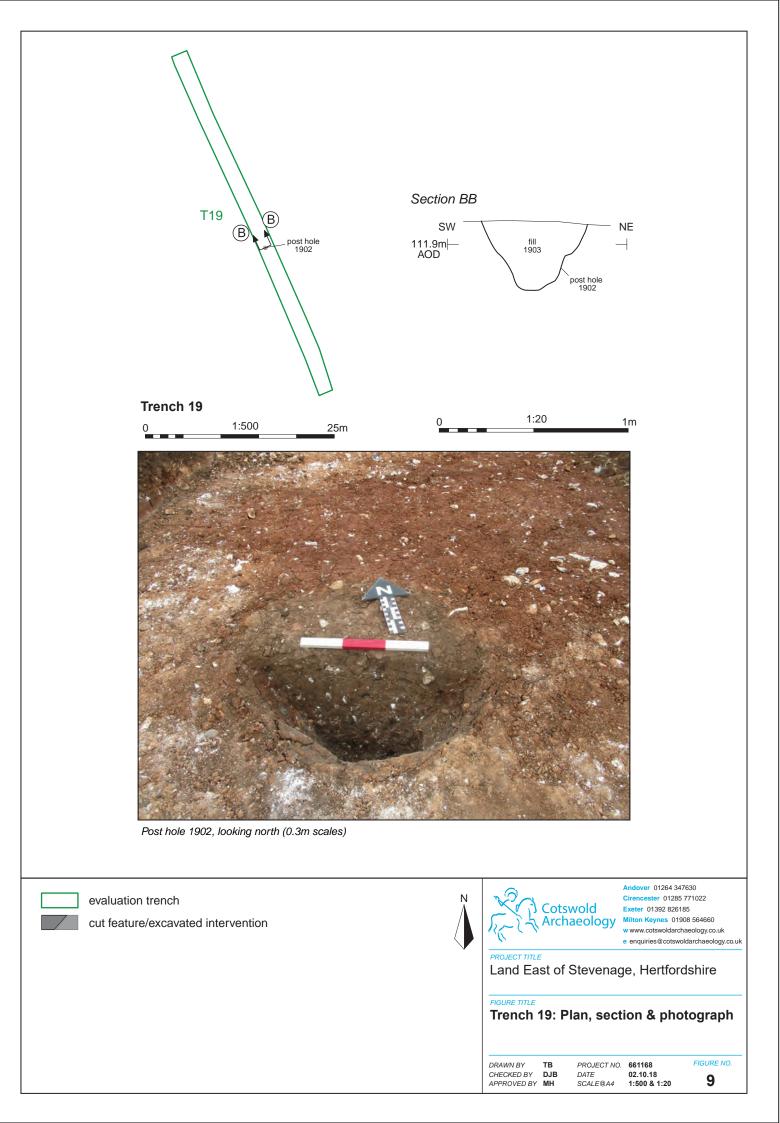


1:20

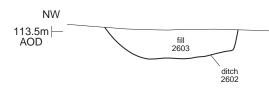
1m

Ditch 702, looking south-east (1m scale)





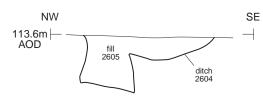
Section CC



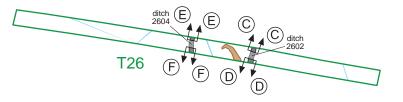




Section EE



Section FF NW SE 113.6m AOD fill 2605 ditch 2604 1:20 1m



Trench 26



Ditch 2602, looking north (0.5m scale)



0

1:500

25m

Ditch 2604, looking north (0.5m scale)



SE

\_\_\_\_

evaluation trench cut feature/excavated intervention field drain natural

N



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PROJECT TITLE Land East of Stevenage, Hertfordshire

# FIGURE TITLE Trench 26: Plan, section & photographs

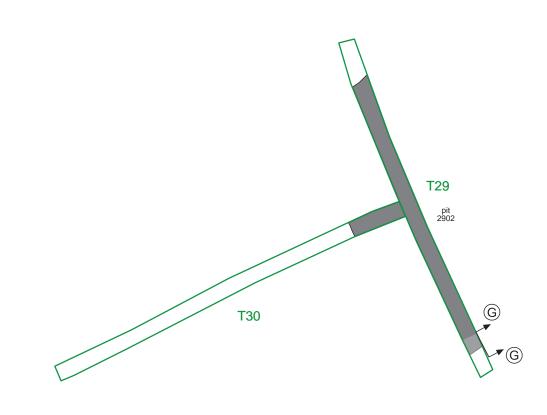
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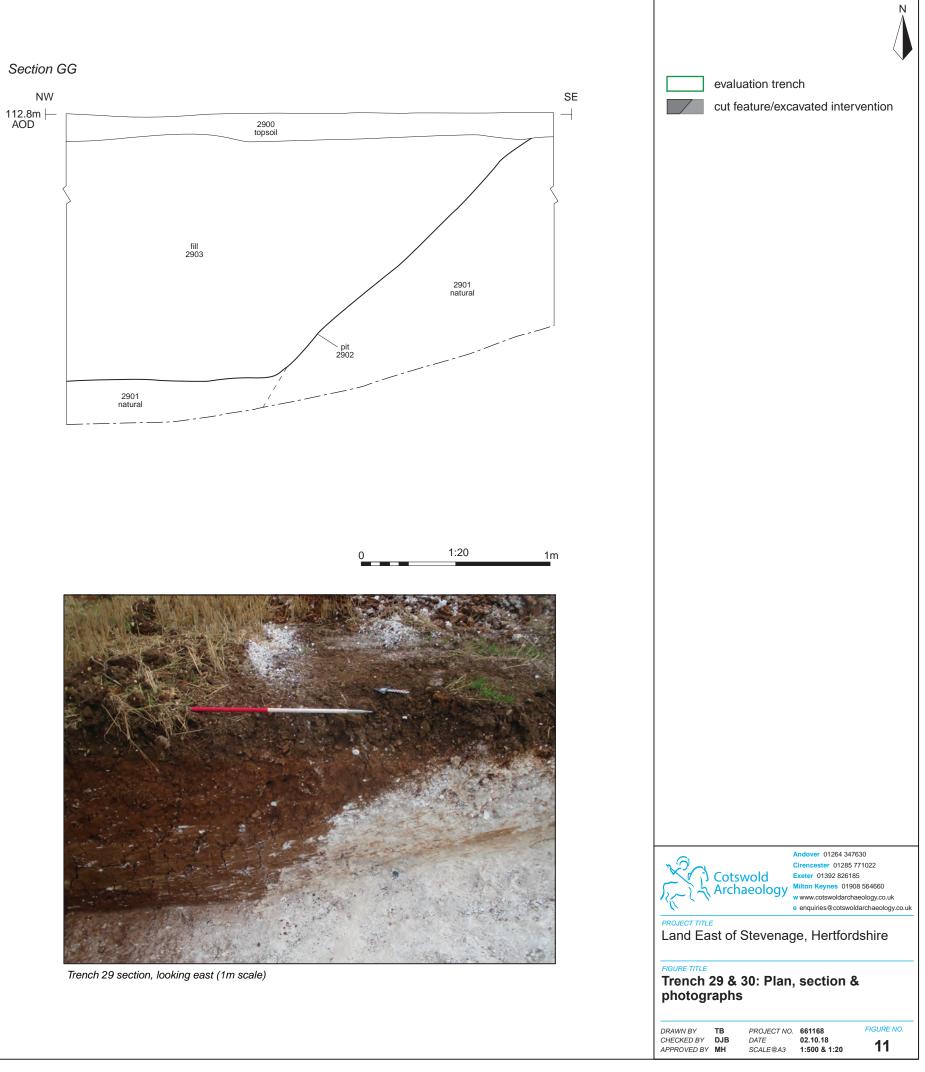
 PROJECT NO.
 661168

 DATE
 02.10.18

 SCALE@A3
 1:500 & 1:20

FIGURE NO. 10



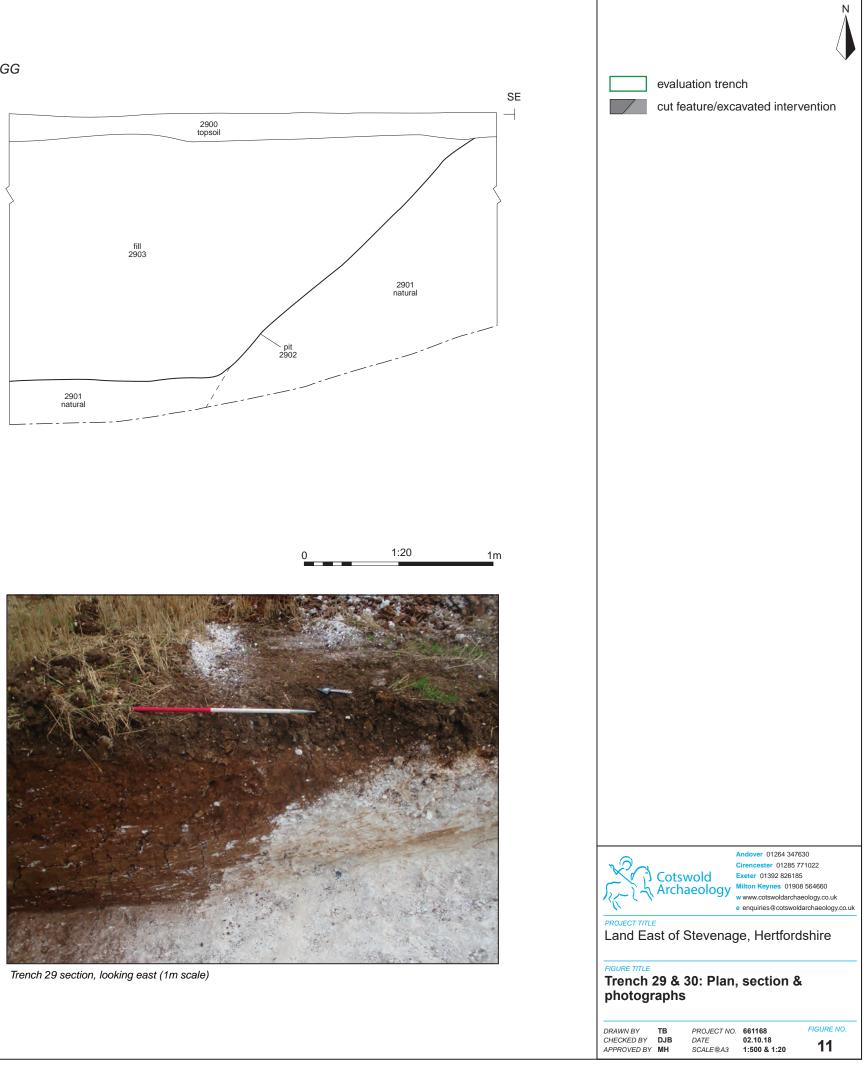


Trench 29 & 30



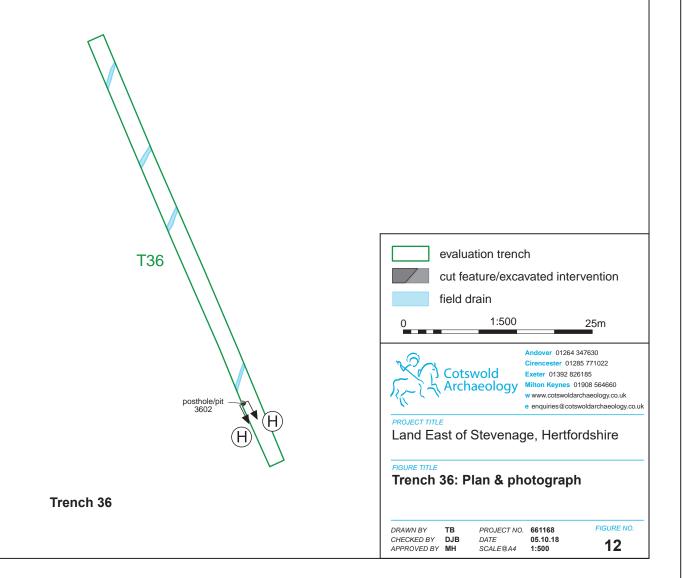


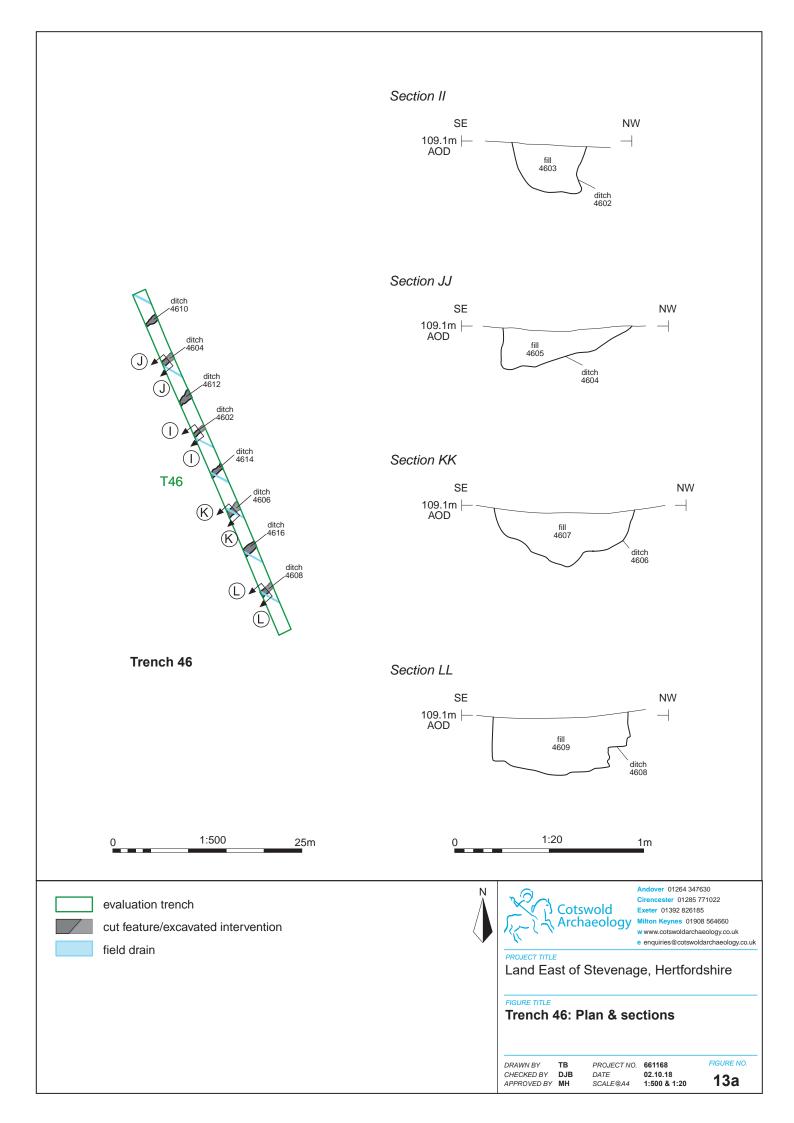
Trench 29, looking north (1m scales)





Trench 36, posthole/pit 3602, looking south (0.3m scale)







Trench 46, ditch 4602, looking south-west (0.3m scale)



Trench 46, ditch 4604, looking south-west (0.3m scale)



Trench 46, ditch 4606, looking south-west (0.3m scale)



Trench 46, ditch 4608, looking south-west 0.3m scale)







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PROJECT TITLE Land East of Stevenage, Hertfordshire

# FIGURE TITLE Trench 46: Photographs

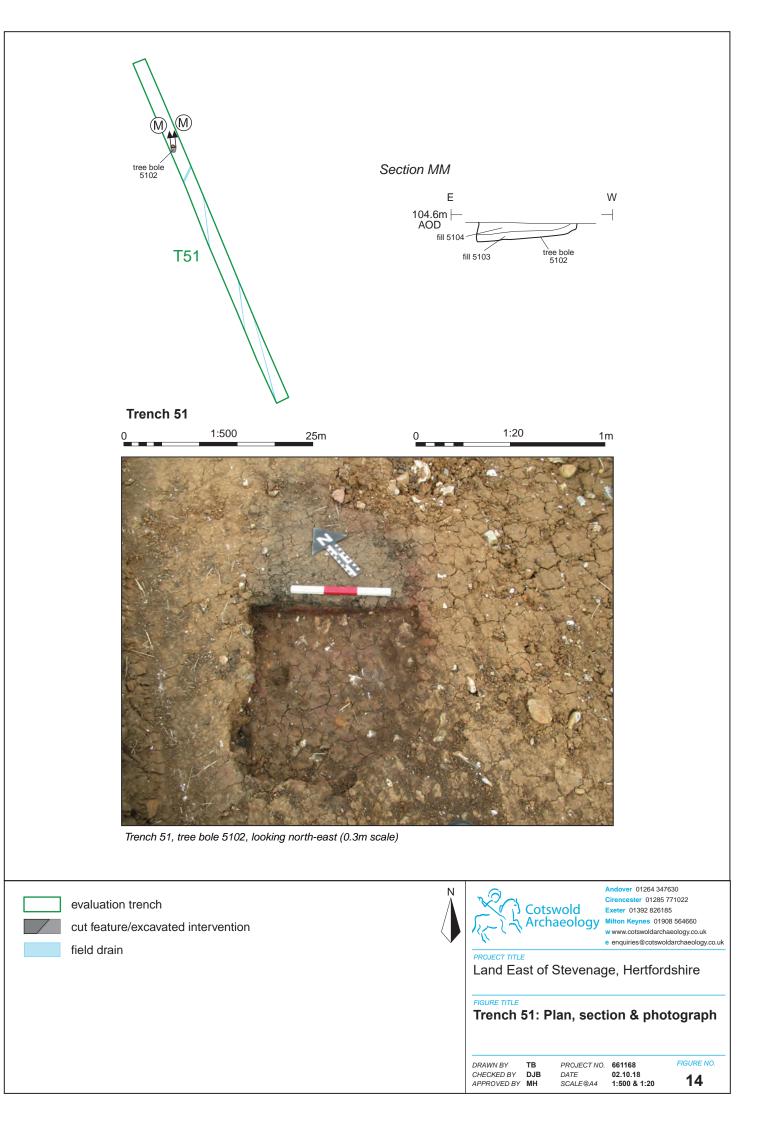
DRAWN BY TB CHECKED BY DJB APPROVED BY MH

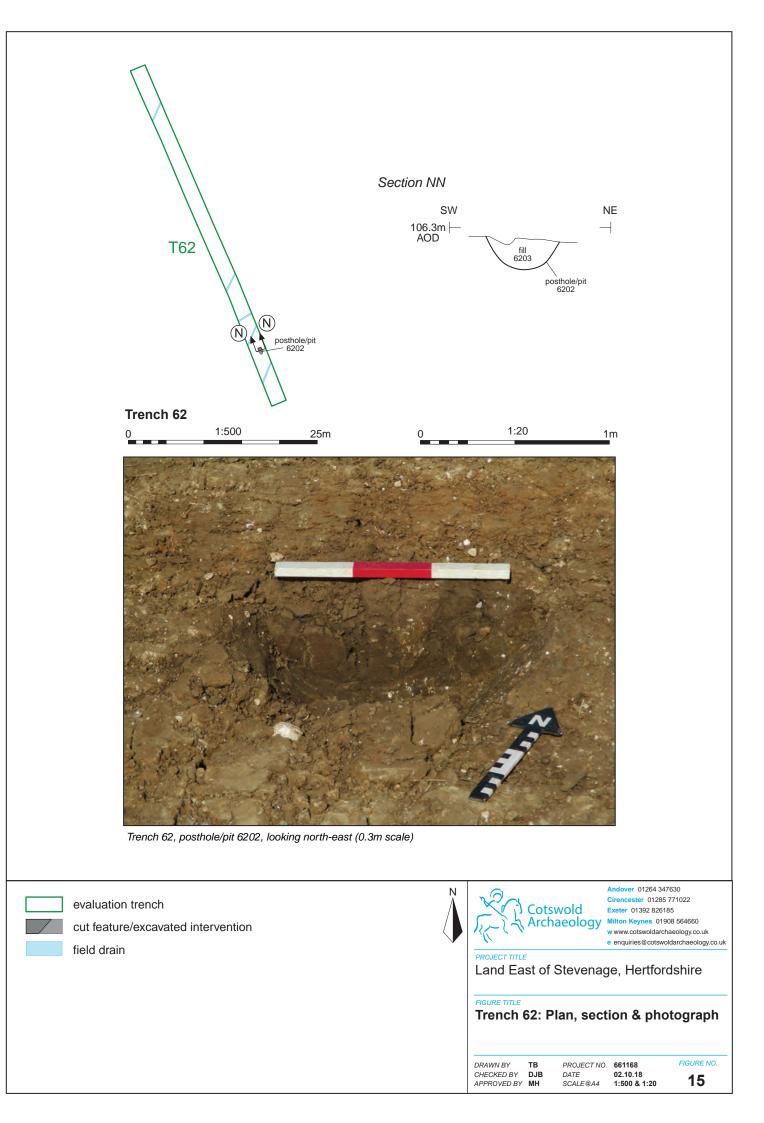
 PROJECT NO.
 661168

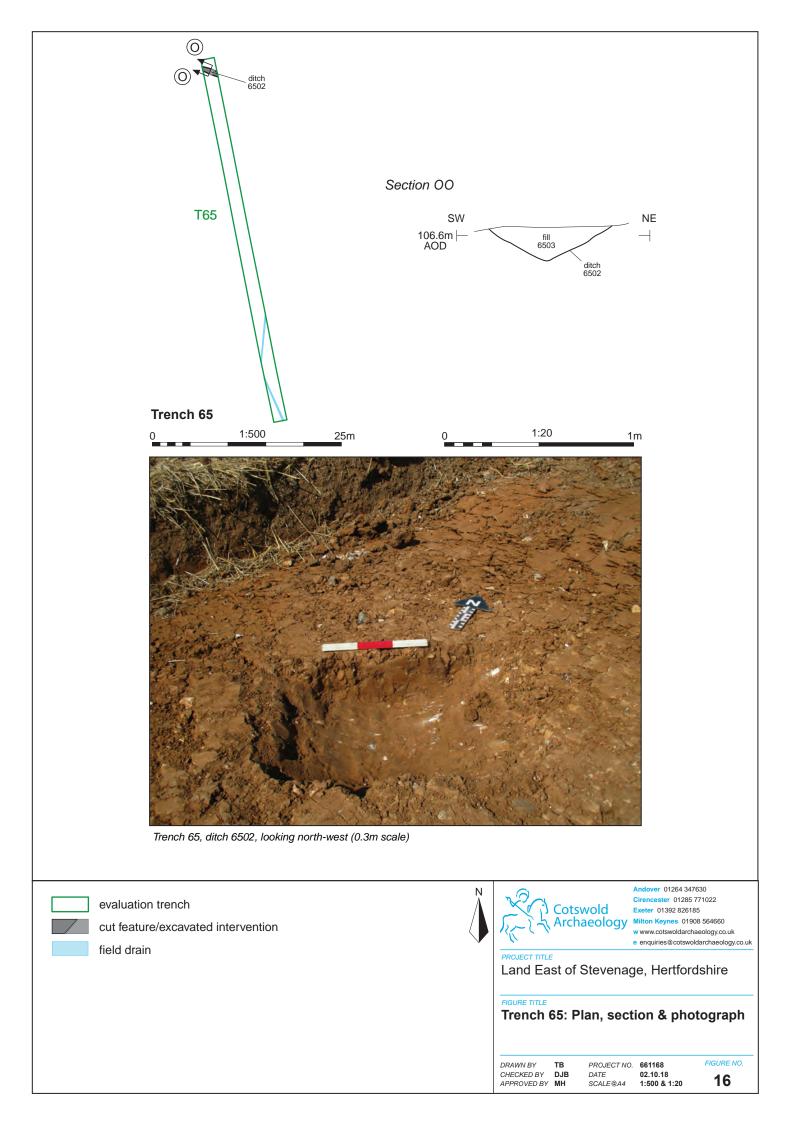
 DATE
 05.10.18

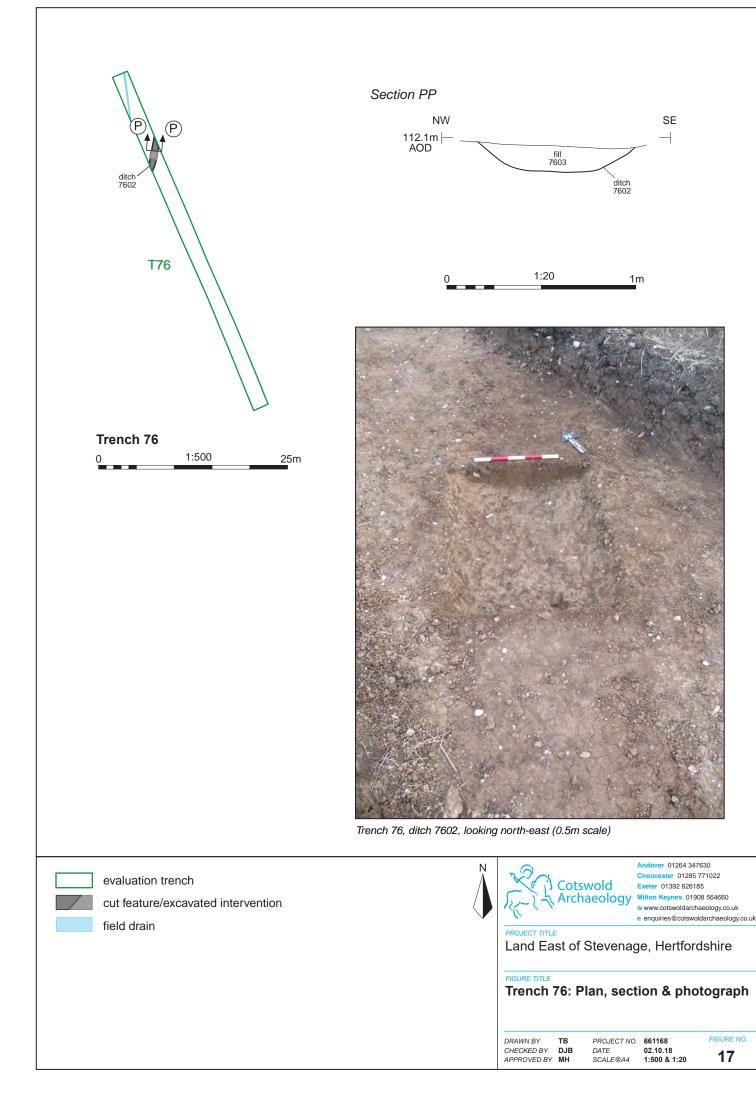
 SCALE@A3
 NA

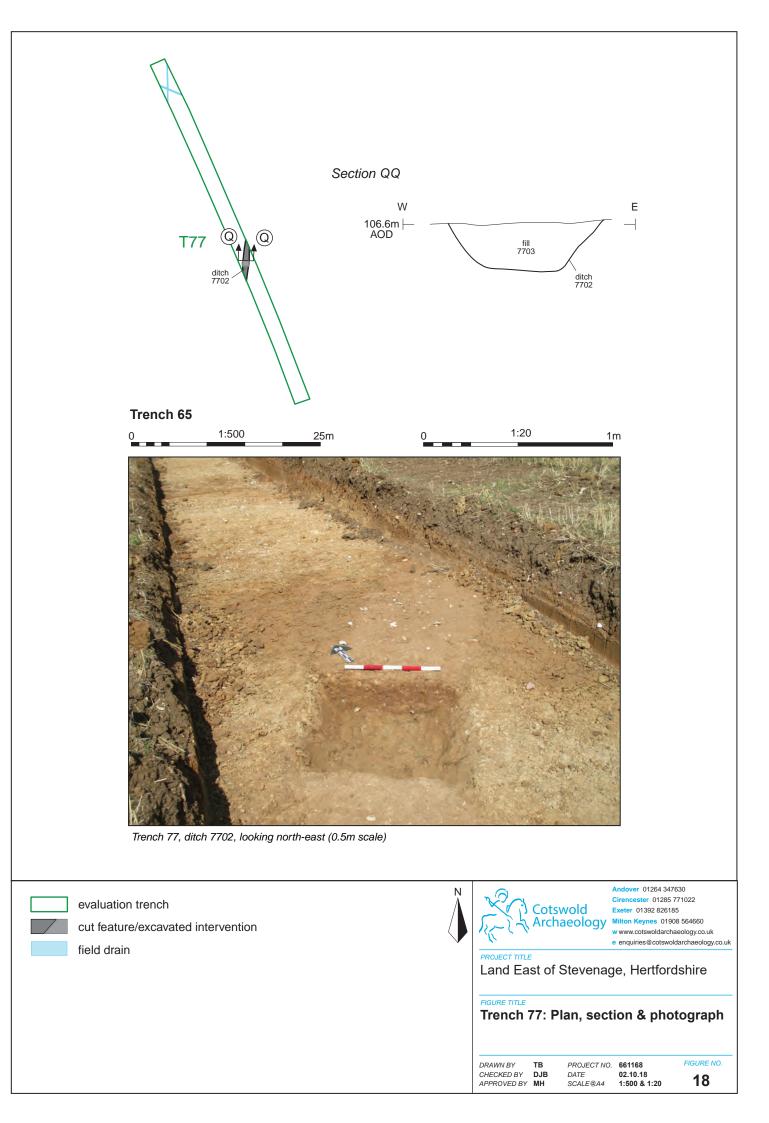
FIGURE NO. 13b

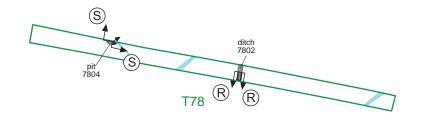


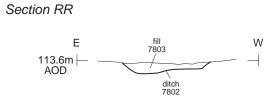


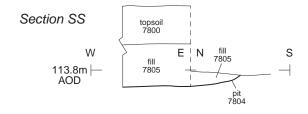












# Trench 78

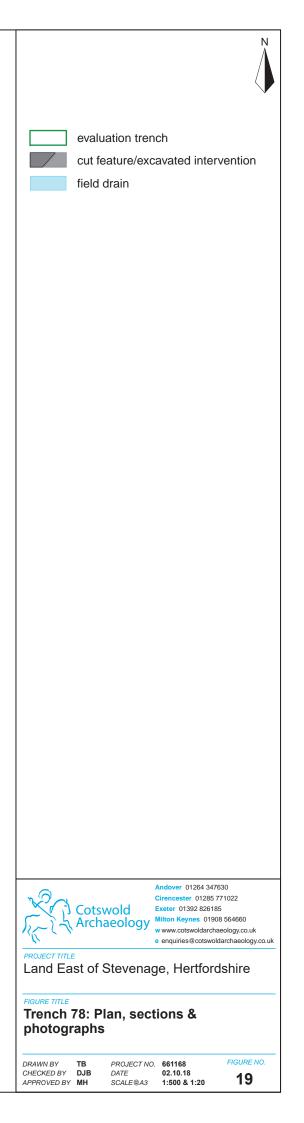


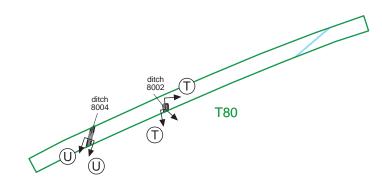
Trench 78, ditch 7802, looking south (0.3m scale)

0 1:20 1m



Trench 78, pit 7804, looking east (0.2m scale)



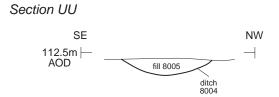


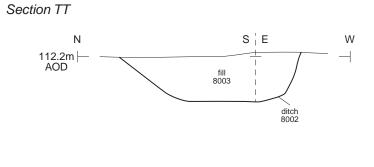


1:500 25m



Trench 80, terminus 8002, looking south (0.2m scale)

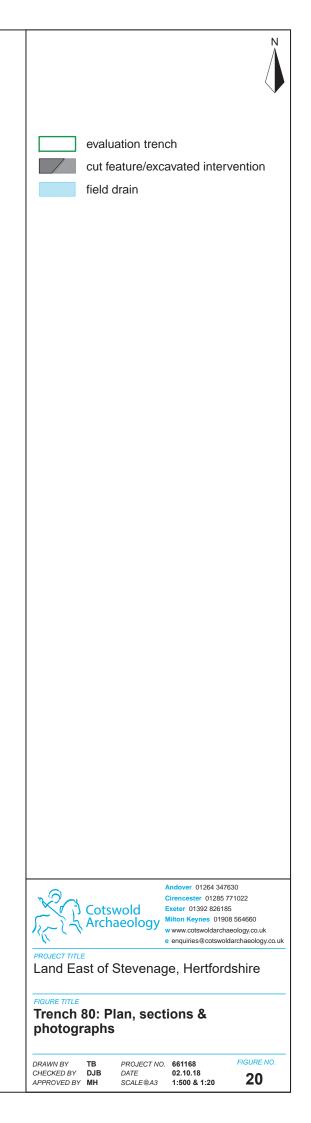








Trench 80, ditch 8004, looking south (0.3m scale)





Trench 17, looking east (1m scales)

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PROJECT TITLE Land East of Stevenage, Hertfordshire
FIGURE TITLE Trench 17: Photograph
DRAWN BY TB PROJECT NO. 661168 FIGURE NO. CHECKED BY DJB DATE 03.10.18 21 APPROVED BY MH SCALE®A4 NA 21



Trench 41, looking north-west (1m scales)

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Land Ea		ge, Hertfordshire	
FIGURE TITLE Trench	1 41: Photogra	ph	
DRAWN BY CHECKED BY APPROVED BY		661168 FIGURE 03.10.18 22	



Trench 60, looking south-east (1m scales)

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d East of Stevenage, Hertfordshire	PROJECT TITLE Land East o
nch 60: Photograph	FIGURE TITLE Trench 60:
ED BY DJB DATE 03.10.18	



General view of Field 1, looking north-west



General view of Field 5, looking south-east

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PROJECT TITLE Land East of Stevena	ge, Hertfordshire
FIGURE TITLE General views	
DRAWN BY EE PROJECT NO CHECKED BY DJB DATE APPROVED BY MH SCALE@A4	0. 661168 FIGURE NO. 06.12.18 24



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