

# Land North of Warminster Wiltshire Phase 2

## *Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
Persimmon Homes Ltd. &  
Hannick Homes and Developments Ltd.

CA Project: AN0119  
CA Report: AN0119.1

February 2020



# Land North of Warminster Wiltshire Phase 2

## Archaeological Evaluation

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Land North of Warminster  
**Location:** Wiltshire  
**NGR:** 385450 145278  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 10-18 February 2020  
**Planning Reference:** 15/01800/OUT  
**Location of Archive:** Wiltshire Museum  
**Accession Number:** D2SWS:03-2020  
**Site Code:** NOWA20

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology (CA) in February 2020 at the Land North of Warminster, Wiltshire. Sixteen trenches were excavated- Ten contained archaeology; these are an addendum to the 2018 evaluation (CA 2018).

Limited evidence of prehistoric activity was recorded in Phase 2, with intrusive flint recovered from ditch **19304** and three flakes recovered from a pit in **Trench 194**.

A large number of ditches were dated by cartographic sources to the post-medieval and modern period, representing remodelling of the fields. Medieval pottery was recovered from ditch **19304**, indicating an earlier phase of field systems which is currently represented by a singular ditch.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2020 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a second phase of archaeological trial trenching for Persimmon Homes (Wessex) Ltd & Hannick Homes & Developments Ltd at Land North of Warminster, Wiltshire centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 385450 145278 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken as part of an application (ref:15/01800/OUT) made to Wiltshire County Council for the demolition of a series of agricultural sheds and one residential dwelling and the delivery of up to 1,000 dwellings (Class C3); a local centre of 0.56ha (to accommodate commercial development falling under Use Classes A1-A5, C2, C3 and D1); an employment area of 5.6 hectares (to accommodate various businesses falling under Use Classes B1, B2 and B8); a new primary school on a 1.8 hectare site (Use Class D1) and safeguarding a further 1.8 hectares for additional/secondary school provision; formal and informal recreational open space including sports pitches with changing facilities, children's play areas and allotments; car parking; strategic and amenity landscaping including the provision of a noise bund along part of the northern and western site boundary; new land drainage and storm water attenuation ponds; foul and surface water drainage infrastructure; and provision of new highway infrastructure to include two roundabout accesses off Bath Road and Victoria Road and provision of a strategic road through the site.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for archaeological evaluation prepared by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2020), and approved by Rachel Foster the archaeological advisor to the Wiltshire County Council (WCC). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014).

### ***The site***

- 1.4 The proposed development area is approximately 28.4ha, and comprises of several large arable features. The site is bounded by the A36 to the west and north, Bath road to the east, Victoria road to the south-west and a housing estate to the south-east. The site lies at approximately 127m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation. A small area of Shaftesbury Sandstone Member is present in the south-west corner of the site. There are no superficial deposits recorded anywhere within the site (BGS 2020). The evaluation confirmed the presence of chalk, sandy clays and alluvial clays.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A desk-based assessment (DBA) was previously prepared in support of the planning application for development of the site (CgMS 2013), field walking (WA 2012) and geophysical surveys (ArchaeoPhysica 2013 and AOC 2015) were also carried out across the site across the site prior to the previous phase of evaluation (CA 2018) the results of which are given below.

### *Prehistoric*

- 2.2 The earliest object found within the study area is a Palaeolithic hand axe, located 200m from the southwestern point of the study site. This is typical of the pattern of discoveries in the Wylde Valley for this period, with scarce finds of hand axes associated with terrace deposits (EUS 2004). Flint waste material was found in a pit thought to be Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age 200m from the study site's north-eastern boundary.
- 2.3 In the wider landscape the Iron Age hill fort of Clay Hill is located 800m west from the study site boundary. An Iron Age coin was also found 350m to the west.
- 2.4 Field walking within the site by Wessex Archaeology recovered one sherd of prehistoric pottery and forty-nine pieces of worked flint. The presence of knapping debitage provides evidence for activity within the site; however the low level of material recovered suggests that this activity was unlikely to be related to settlement.

### *Iron Age/Roman*

- 2.5 Field walking to the south of Cold Harbour Lane within the centre of the study site recovered 'very large quantities of pottery' some of which was Roman. However, as stated above the recovery was unsystematic and therefore the conclusions that can



be drawn are limited. Unfortunately this field was not suitable for field walking during the winter of 2012, so it has not been possible to independently assess the veracity of the discovery. It is understood from a conversation with the previous Development Control Archaeologist, David Vaughan that a member of the public had arrived at his office with substantial quantities of material that he stated had been found within the site. The fields concerned have now been subject to geophysical survey and it is clear that there are no subsurface features to associate with this material. The area within which this material was recovered has been in use as an exhibition ground and the geophysics team believe that there may be significant amounts of imported material within this area. As such it is likely that the material recovered by the unsystematic field walking is either the result of medieval manuring or has been imported within made ground from off-site. There is no evidence for any archaeological features within the site that may have generated this material.

- 2.6 The field walking that was undertaken within the site in support of this application recovered only seven sherds of Roman pottery.

### ***Saxon/Early Medieval***

- 2.7 There are no records for the Saxon/early medieval period from within the study site. Those sites recorded within the wider study area relate to Saxon churches and chapels in the vicinity of Warminster School to the south-east of the study site, and the origins of the town. The Parish Church of St Denys (The Minster Church) is thought to be early Medieval in origin with 11<sup>th</sup> century fabric in the tower, though extensively remodelled. The Saxon Royal Manor of Warminster is first mentioned in the 9<sup>th</sup> century and archaeological evidence has dated the origins of the town to at least the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

### ***Medieval***

- 2.8 Following the Conquest the nucleus of Warminster remained within the area occupied during the Saxon period. In the later centuries the town expanded with the market place being laid out in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. A number of medieval buildings are located within the Warminster Conservation Area. Medieval pottery is recorded within the study site through amateur field walking; a decorated stirrup mount was found on the western boundary but the majority of HER records from this period are from beyond the site boundary.

- 2.9 Bugley, adjacent to the southwest boundary of the site, is identified as a medieval settlement. Further west from the site a medieval brooch and coin were discovered. To the east of the site archaeological evidence from this period includes floor tiles and one piece of pottery.
- 2.10 It is likely that the site was under cultivation during this period. The field walking results show a concentration of medieval pottery from the fields in the south-western extent. This is likely to be the result of manuring utilising material derived from the Bugley settlement.

### ***Post-medieval and Modern***

- 2.11 Of the post-medieval and modern records for the search area only pottery from field walking is located within the site. There was further post-medieval and modern material recovered from the most recent field walking undertaken within the site. This recovered 657 sherds of pottery and a large amount of ceramic building material, concentrated at the northern extent of the site. This is almost certainly the product of manuring and also material imported to site, possibly in connection with the show-ground.
- 2.12 The earliest available map of the site to show detail is from circa 1760 of Chedlanger and Clayhill showing common fields and downlands. Illustrated on the map are roads and fields, the town is not shown but Norridge wood is labelled to the north-west. Within the site strip fields survive and some of the field boundaries survive as modern hedge boundaries although the entire site is not illustrated.
- 2.13 A manuscript map of the town of Warminster from 1780 shows the entire study area with some additional detail from the earlier map. However the map is faded and field names are not all legible. The main label that covers the centre and north-east of the site is 'Chedlanger Field' Most of the southern boundary is defined along field boundaries however the roads that form the north and west are not yet built. The maps of 1838 and 1843 demonstrate the loss of field boundaries in the west and illustrate the extent of the farmland with woodland to the north of the site. Warminster is shown radiating out from its centre along the road.
- 2.14 The first edition Ordnance survey shows the most detailed mapping to date and is also the most legible. It shows further loss of field boundaries in the centre of the site. No structures are shown within the study site. By 1901 the wood has been



removed from the study site and a pit is shown in the north-west whilst elsewhere field boundaries have been reintroduced. The 1926 Ordnance Survey map has a structure mapped on Cold Harbour Lane but very few other changes.

- 2.15 The Ordnance Survey map of 1941 has an additional structure at Cold Harbour Lane and several new buildings in the expanding Warminster. The 1960-61 Ordnance Survey map shows two new buildings to the north of the site but one less in the vicinity of the earlier development at Cold Harbour Lane. By 1973 there has been extensive infill development to the south of Victoria Road and across Warminster.
- 2.16 The 1993 map is the first to define the western side of the study site with the inclusion of A36 bypass. A couple of field boundaries have been removed within the west of the site and additional buildings are included at Cold Harbour Lane. By 2006 the mapping reflects the appearance of the site today.

### ***Geophysical Survey***

- 2.17 In 2013 and 2015 Archaeo Physica Ltd and AOC Archaeology Group undertook geophysical surveys across the site. The two Surveys detected anomalies representing features previously recorded on historic mapping, including field boundaries, and evidence of quarrying. The results also identified a couple of discrete linear anomalies that are composed of a weak increase in magnetic readings and poor patterning. Subsequently detailed interpretation was very tentative and it was unclear as to whether these features related to archaeological activity or were geological in origin. Modern features were also identified that related to land drains, ploughing and buried utilities.

### ***Phase 1 Archaeological Evaluation***

- 2.18 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology from August through to October 2018 at Land north of Warminster; 186 trenches were excavated. Of the 186 excavated trenches, 97 produced archaeological features. These were in the form of pits, post-holes, gullies and ditches. They ranged in date from Bronze Age to the post-medieval period.
- 2.19 Dispersed prehistoric activity has been identified across the site, although a few, small, concentrations are inferable. Features within the north-east and south-west

areas of the site produced Mesolithic/Early Neolithic worked flint, including part of an arrow head, indicating at least transitory activity on the site at this time.

- 2.20 A concentration of pits, ditches and post-holes within **Trenches 96** and **97** might be indicative of slightly more substantial prehistoric agricultural activity. Features produced prehistoric worked flint and one ditch in **Trench 96**, produced late prehistoric pottery. Limited Roman activity was recorded in six trenches in the south-west corner of the site. Previous archaeological investigations in the area (including field walking) also indicate sparse evidence for Roman activity.
- 2.21 Within the south-west corner of the site medieval ditches were recorded. These are probably agricultural field systems associated with the medieval village of Bugley which is located adjacent to this portion of the site.
- 2.22 A large number of the ditches recorded are either undated or have been dated to the late medieval or post-medieval periods. The lack of artefacts recovered from these ditches suggest they are agricultural in function and probably form part of large field systems shown in the historic mapping identified in the desk based assessment. A significant percentage of the undated ditches can probably be attributed to the later medieval and early post-medieval periods as many of them appear to correlate with field boundary alignments indicated on the historic mapping.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of Phase 2 evaluation work are to provide additional information about the archaeological potential resource within a part of the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). This information will enable Wiltshire County Council (WCC) 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* (DCLG 2012).

- 3.2 The site specific aim is to investigate the date, nature and extent of the anomalies highlighted by the geophysical survey of the site (AOC 2015) and the archaeological features identified in the previous phase of evaluation.
- 3.3 If significant archaeological remains were to be identified, reference was to be made to the South West Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF, Webster 2007), so that the remains could, if possible, be placed within their local and regional context.

#### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The current phase of trial trenching fieldwork comprised the excavation of 16 trenches 50m in length by 1.8m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2). Three trenches deviated from the original WSI trench layout- **Trenches 188 and 190** were split due to the presence of a possible service, whereas **Trench 200** was moved 6m west to avoid a borehole marker. 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 palaeo-environmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and were sampled and processed. 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 Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Wiltshire Museum under accession number D2SWS:03-2020,

along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-8)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (palaeo-environmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.
- 5.2 Out of the sixteen trenches, **Trenches 191, 196, 197, 198, 200 and 201** were archaeologically sterile. **Trench 197** contained a single tree throw. An area of modern disturbance, probably related to the construction of the A36, was recorded in **Trench 189**.
- 5.3 The stratigraphic sequence across Phase 2 varied dependent on the location of the trench, with plough soil measuring between 0.19m and 0.42m in depth overlaying the entirety of the area. The plough soil overlaid subsoil in **Trenches 187, 188, 189, 190, 192, 195, 201 and 202** up to a depth of between 0.44m and 0.55m. The subsoil was noticeably more compact in **Trenches 189 and 195** with the possibility of this being residual material from the construction of the A36. The underlying geology of chalk, in varying forms of degradation, was noted throughout the area, with superficial deposits silty clay mixed with heavy degraded chalk recorded to the north and west of Phase 2.

### ***Trench 187 (Figures 2, 3, 5 and 6)***

- 5.4 Located towards the south-west of Phase 2, **Trench 187** was aligned northeast-southwest and contained three postholes (**18703, 18706 and 18708**) and three ditches (**18710, 18712 and 18715**).
- 5.5 Located towards the centre of the trench, postholes **18703, 18706 and 18708** measured between 0.22-0.43m in length, 0.2-0.38m in width and 0.04-0.06m in depth. All postholes contained a deliberately deposited packing fill, whereas posthole **18703** contained the remnants of a post pipe (**18705**). The trench was not extended around these postholes due to localised flooding. No environmental

samples were taken from these features due to the truncated nature of the remains. No dating evidence was recovered.

- 5.6 Ditch **18710** was located towards the northeast end of the trench directly southwest of ditch **18712**, on a northeast-southwest alignment, measuring greater than 1.85m in length, 0.46m in width and 0.06m in depth. The ditch had a concave profile with a single fill present.
- 5.7 Ditch **18712** was located towards the north-eastern of the trench, on a northeast-southwest alignment, measuring greater than 3.5m in length, 1.12m in width and 0.41m in depth. The feature had steep sides with an uneven base and contained two fills (lower primary fill - **18713** and an upper secondary fill - **18714**) with no datable evidence recovered. Ditch **18712** is most likely a continuation of the same feature recorded in **Trenches 28 (2803), 36 (3606), 37 (3703), 38 (3809) and 192 (19203)**.
- 5.8 Ditch **18715** was located towards the north-eastern end of the trench, on a northeast-southwest alignment, directly north-east of ditch **18712**, measuring greater than 3.5m in length, 0.66m in width and 0.12m in depth. The ditch had moderate to steep sides and a concave base with a single fill present. Ditch **18715** is most likely a continuation of the same features recorded in **Trenches 36 (3608/3610), 37 (3707) and 38 (3809/3811)**.

#### ***Trench 188 (Figures 2, 3 5 and 8)***

- 5.9 **Trench 188** was located towards the southwest of Phase 2, on a northwest-southeast alignment and contained two features, ditch **11805** and gulley **18803**.
- 5.10 Gulley **18803** was located towards the northwest of the trench on an east-west alignment, measuring greater than 1.78m in length, 0.24m in width and 0.08m in depth. The gulley had truncated sides and a concave base, containing a single fill. There is no evidence to suggest the gulley continued into any additional trenches; however the alignment would suggest, if it were to continue, the location would be roughly in the same area to the potential service in **Trench 190** which might be masking its location.
- 5.11 Ditch **18805** was located towards the northwest of the trench, directly southeast of gulley **18803**, on a northeast-southwest alignment, measuring greater than 1.8m in length, 0.75m in width and 0.17m in depth. The ditch had moderately straight sides

and a concave base, with a single fill present and is a continuation of the feature recorded in **Trench 35 (3503)**.

***Trench 189 (Figures 2, 3, 5 and 9)***

5.12 Located towards the west of Phase 2, **Trench 189** was aligned northeast-southwest and contained a single ditch (**18905**), however was not excavated due to the trench flooding.

5.13 Ditch **18905** was located towards the southwest of the trench, on a northwest-southeast alignment, measuring greater than 1.85m in length and 0.3 in width. In plan a single fill was visible.

***Trench 190 (Figures 2, 3, 5 and 10)***

5.14 Located towards the southwest of Phase 2, **Trench 190** was aligned northwest-southeast, and contained a single ditch (**19003**).

5.15 Ditch **19003** was located towards the centre of the trench, on a northeast-southwest alignment, measuring greater than 1.8m in length, 0.33m in width and 0.07m in depth. The ditch had gradual straight sides and a flat base, with a single fill present. The ditch did not continue into other trenches.

***Trench 192 (Figures 2, 3, 5 and 11)***

5.16 **Trench 192** was located towards the southwest of Phase 2, on a northwest-southeast alignment, with ditches **19203** and **19205** excavated.

5.17 Ditch **19203** was located towards the centre of the trench, on an east-west alignment, measuring greater than 1.8m in length, 0.63m in width and 0.26m in depth. The ditch had moderate to steep sides and a concave base, with a single fill present and is a continuation of the feature recorded in **Trenches 28 (2803)**, **36 (3606)**, **37 (3703)**, **38 (3809)** and **187 (18712)**. An environmental sample was taken from fill **19204**, the results of which are indicative of a well-established open landscape with occasional areas of flooding in the vicinity of the ditch.

5.18 Ditch **19205** was located towards the southeast of the trench, on a north-south alignment, measuring greater than 3m in length, 0.88m in width and 0.2m in depth. The ditch had steep sides and a concave base, with a single fill present, modern



glass recovered from it. The ditch appears to be a continuation of the feature recorded in **Trench 65 (6505)**.

***Trench 193 (Figures 2, 3, 5 and 7)***

- 5.19 Towards the centre of Phase 2, **Trench 193** was aligned northeast-southwest and contained two archaeological features, gulley **19302** and ditch **19304**.
- 5.20 Gulley **19302** was located towards the centre of the trench, on a northwest-southeast alignment, measuring greater than 2.2m in length, 0.45m in width and 0.1 in depth. The gulley had truncated sides and a concave base with a single fill present and is a continuation of the gulley recorded in **Trench 31 (3103)**.
- 5.21 Ditch **19304** was located towards the centre of the trench, directly north-east of gulley **19302**, on an northwest-southeast alignment, measuring greater than 1.94m in length, 0.93m in width and 0.41m in depth. The ditch had moderately steep sides and a possible concave base, but was truncated by a land drain cutting through the feature on a north-south alignment, completely truncating the base of the ditch. A single fill was present, with medieval pottery recovered. The ditch is continuation of the feature recorded in **Trenches 31 (3107)** and **32 (3203)**.

***Trench 194 (Figures 2, 3, 5 and 8)***

- 5.22 Located towards the south-west of Phase 2, **Trench 194** was aligned northeast-southwest, with an additional trench extension towards the northwest around pit **19402**.
- 5.23 Pit **19402** was located towards the centre of the trench, measuring 1.1m in length, 1.06m in width and 0.17m in depth. The pit had had moderately steep sides and a flat base, with a single fill present which contained work flint. An environmental sample was taken from the pit the results of which are reflective of dispersed/wind-blown material and provides no indication of the likely date or function of this pit.

***Trench 195 (Figures 2, 3, 5 and 8)***

- 5.24 **Trench 195** was located towards the centre of Phase 2, on a northeast-southwest alignment, with a single ditch, **19503**, located within the trench. The ditch was not excavated due to the trench flooding.

- 5.25 Ditch **19503** was located towards the southwest of the trench, on a northwest-southeast alignment, measuring greater than 2.1m in length and 0.8m in width. In plan a single fill was visible.

***Trench 199 (Figures 2, 4, 5 and 8)***

- 5.26 Towards the east of Phase 2, **Trench 199** was aligned northwest-southeast and contained a single gulley (**19902**). The gulley was not excavated due to trench flooding.

- 5.27 Gulley **19902** was located towards the southeast of the trench, on a northeast-southwest alignment, measuring greater than 4m in length and 0.3m in width. In plan a single fill was visible.

***Trench 202 (Figures 2, 4, 5 and 8)***

- 5.28 Located towards the south-west of Phase 2, **Trench 202** was aligned east-west and contained a single archaeological feature, gulley **20203** which terminates within the trench.

- 5.29 Gulley **20203** was located towards the southwest of the trench, on a north-south alignment, measuring greater than 1.9m in length, 0.35m in width and 0.1 in depth. The gulley had moderately steep sides and a concave base, with a single fill present, and is a continuation of the feature recorded in **Trench 24 (2402)**.

## **6. THE FINDS**

- 6.1 Artefactual material recovered from the evaluation is listed in Appendix B and discussed further below.

### **Pottery**

- 6.2 A single fragment of medieval pottery (3g), a Laverstock ware bodysherd of 13th to 14th century date, was recovered from ditch **19304** (fill **19305**).

### **Other Finds**

- 6.3 Four items of worked flint were recovered from two deposits, which cannot be closely dated.

- 6.4 A single glass item, a base fragment of a wine bottle of 18th to 19th century date was recovered from ditch **19205** (fill **19206**).
- 6.5 One iron item, a nail, was recovered from topsoil deposit **18700**. Nails of this form, with square shanks, were introduced in the Roman period and continued largely unchanged until industrialisation in the post-medieval period.

## 7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1 A series of two environmental samples (40 litres of soil) were processed from an undated ditch and undated pit in trenches 192 and 194 respectively. This was done to ascertain the preservation on environmental remains and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on this part of the site. There was also the intention of seeing how these results compared with those from the Phase 1 area of the site. It was also hoped that the environmental remains recovered might assist in the dating of these features. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No.2).
- 7.2 Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 1, following nomenclature of Stace (1997). The presence of mollusc shells has also been recorded, following nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).
- 7.3 The flots were relatively small in size with moderate to high numbers of rooty material and uncharred seeds. The charred material was poorly preserved.

### **Trench 192**

- 7.4 A few small charcoal fragments but no charred plant remains were recovered from fill **19204** (sample 2) of ditch **19203**. This sparse charred material is likely to be reflective of dispersed/wind-blown material and provides no indication of the likely date of this ditch.
- 7.5 A small number of mollusc shells were noted from this ditch and these included those of the open country species *Helicella itala* and *Vallonia* sp., and aquatic species *Galba truncatula*. *Galba truncatula* is a species which thrives in areas of seasonal flooding and desiccation. This small assemblage appears to be indicative

of a well-established open landscape with occasional areas of flooding in the vicinity of the ditch.

### ***Trench 194***

7.6 Sample 1 from fill **19403** of pit **19402** contained a seed of oat (*Avena* sp.) and a small quantity of charcoal fragments. Again this sparse charred material is likely to be reflective of dispersed/wind-blown material and provides no indication of the likely date or function of this pit.

7.7 A few shells of the open country species *Vallonia* sp. were noted from this deposit.

### ***Summary***

7.8 There is no indication from these assemblages of any specific settlement activities taking place in the immediate vicinity of these features nor of the likely date of these features. The environmental remains suggest that these trenches are away from any settlement centre. The environmental results from the Phase 1 work on the site provided an indication that settlement activity was likely to be taking place in the vicinity of **Trench 147** in the medieval period.

## **8. DISCUSSION**

8.1 Of the additional sixteen trenches excavated, ten contained archaeological varying from a pit, postholes, gullies and ditches, three contained datable evidence.

### ***Prehistoric***

8.1 There was evidence of dispersed prehistoric activity in Phase 1; this was supported by limited prehistoric evidence during Phase 2. Flint flakes were uncovered in features **19304** and **19402**, with the **19304** containing 13-14<sup>th</sup> century pottery, the flint has been interpreted as residual. Pit **19402** contained three flint flakes dating to the prehistoric period; this was the only dating present and has been prehistoric pit of unknown purpose or function.

### ***Medieval***

8.2 The only confirmed evidence of any medieval activity came from ditch **19304**, with 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered and although a later field drain was recorded as transecting the feature, the pottery came from an area of undisturbed

fill. This ditch was recorded in **Trenches 31, 32** and possibly **66**, with a small truncated gully running parallel to it in **Trenches 31** and **93**, which contained no dating evidence, however due to the alignment of the features it's easy to suggest that they were contemporary and may relate to an early hedge row or just the reuse of the same boundary. There is a lack of cartographic evidence before the 18<sup>th</sup> century with earliest available map dating to 1760.

### ***Post-medieval***

- 8.3 The majority of the dated features during Phase 2 came from cartographic sources, located within the appendix of the first evaluation report (CA 2018, Figure 5). These show a series of field boundaries which have been reused and or modified as the field boundaries changed or were moved. The first datable phase of field boundaries came from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and can be seen on the 1760's and 1780's common fields and enclosure maps. The overall quality of the prints, does not allow for detailed internal interpretation of these field systems, but one would expect there to be internal strip farming divides along with other agricultural practices such as ridge and furrow.

### ***Modern***

- 8.4 The modern period showed a continuation in the reuse of boundaries, and general modifications to the field layout and is line with agricultural practices, as seen in **Trench 25, 28** and **174** (Figure 5). The 1960-61 Ordinance survey map suggested a continuation of the earlier post-mediaeval filed system in a straight line (Figure 5), however archaeological features can be seen in **Trenches 36, 37, 38, 187** and **192** would suggest the ditch ran parallel to the A36. Two magnetic anomalies were detected during the geophysical survey; one corresponded well with the modern disturbance in **Trench 189** associated with the construction of the A36. The other correlates to the break in **Trenches 188** and **190**, which during CAT and Genny scanning had a high-power reading. This could be a buried service of once again modern disturbance.

### ***Undated***

- 8.5 As with the first phase of evaluations, several features remained undated, however as mentioned, the earlier maps do not allow for detailed interpretation, it is possible that some of the undated ditches and gullies are associated with internal land divisions. Furthermore, the earliest map evidence available is dated from 1760, with

pottery dating to medieval period, which would indicate an earlier phase of field systems is not fully understood within the confines of the trenches.

- 8.6 The purpose and function of the undated postholes recorded in **Trench 187** are not fully understood, although their approximate grouping (only visible within the confines of the trench) could be indicative of a four-post structure associated with grain storage. This however is speculation and further work would be required to understand their form and function. The ditches and gullies identified in nearby **Trenches 36, 37, 38 and 40** were all undated and it is possible, that some of these may be related to the post holes, but at this stage, there is no direct evidence to support such a premise.
- 8.7 Overall within the Phase 2 trenching footprint, the combination of sterile fills and the general lack of finds, suggests low level activity and indicative only of agricultural management, suggesting the fields probably lay, as now, in the hinterland to any settlement, with only a *possible* four post structure indicating anything of greater significance.

## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Bush, assisted by Katherine Hebbard, Craig Jones, Agata Kowalska and Tim Street. The report was written by Steven Bush. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Sarah Wyles and Katie Marsden respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Amy Wright. The archive has been compiled by Zoe Emry, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Oliver Good.

## 10. REFERENCES

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
187	18700	Laye		Topsoil	Dark brown grey, firm silty clay, very rare natural flint and chalk and rooting	50	1.8	0.3
187	18701	Laye		Subsoil	Mid brown grey, firm silty clay, very rare natural chalk	50	1.8	0.1
187	18702	Laye		Natural	Light white natural chalk, slightly weathered	50	1.8	0.0
187	18703	Cut		Posthole	Oval posthole, truncated sides with flat base.	0.4	0.3	0.0
187	18704	Fill	1870	Posthole	Mid brown grey, firm silty clay, no visible inclusions. Possible packing around post pipe.	0.4	0.3	0.0
187	18705	Fill	1870	Posthole	Dark grey, firm silty clay, no visible inclusions	0.2	0.2	0.0
187	18706	Cut		Posthole	Circular posthole, with truncated sides to flat base.	0.2	0.22	0.0
187	18707	Fill	1870	Posthole	Mid brown grey, firm silty clay, no visible inclusions, bioturbated base.	0.2	0.22	0.0
187	18708	Cut		Posthole	Circular posthole, with truncated sides to concave base.	0.3	0.38	0.0
187	18709	Fill	1870	Posthole	Mid brown grey, firm silty clay, no visible inclusions.	0.3	0.38	0.0
187	18710	Cut		Gully	Linear Gully, with imperceptable straight sides to flat, slightly concave base.	1.8	0.46	0.0
187	18711	Fill	1871	Gully	Mid grey brown, friable clayey silt, occasional natural chalk fragments.	1.8	0.46	0.0
187	18712	Cut		Ditch	Linear poss. Boundary ditch, rounded concave to convex sides with flat slightly concave base	3.5	1.12	0.4
187	18713	Fill	1871	Ditch	Mid brown grey, friable clayey silt, common natural chalk fragments. Primary fill.	3.5	0.43	0.1
187	18714	Fill	1871	Ditch	Mid grey brown, friable clayey silt, rare charcoal and occasional natural chalk fragments.	3.5	1.05	0.2

					Secondary fill			
187	18715	Cut		Ditch	Linear ditch, rounded straight sides to flat base	3.5	0.66	0.1
187	18716	Fill	1871	Ditch	Mid grey brown, friable clayey silt, occasional natural chalk fragments.	3.5	0.66	0.1
188	18800	Laye		Topsoil	Dark Brown Grey, loose silt, rare stone, covered by crop.	50	1.8	0.3
188	18801	Laye		Subsoil	Mid brown grey, friable silty clay, occasional small natural chalk fragments.	50	1.8	0.0
188	18802	Laye		Natural	Light off-white grey clay with high proportion of degraded chalk (NW end) and silty hollows of grey clay (SE end)	50	1.8	0.1
188	18803	Cut		Gully	Linear gully, imperceptable sides to flat uneven base.	1.7	0.56	0.0
188	18804	Fill	1880	Gully	Mid brown grey, friable silty clay with rare small manganese fragments. Possible natural fill	1.7	0.56	0.0
188	18805	Cut		Ditch	Linear ditch, moderate straight sides to concave base.	1.8	0.75	0.1
188	18806	Fill	1880	Ditch	Mid grey, firm clayey silt. Secondary fill	1.8	0.75	0.1
189	18900	Laye		Topsoil	Dark brown grey loose, silt with natural stone, ploughed and covered by crop	53	1.85	0.2
189	18901	Laye		Subsoil	Mid Brown grey friable, silty clay with occasional small chalk pieces.	53	1.85	0.2
189	18902	Laye		Modern	Modern levelling layer of mid orange brown firm silty clay.			0.3
189	18903	Laye		Modern	Modern layer of dark brown black friable clayey silt, with modern CBM, Metal and Plastic			0.3
189	18904	Laye		Natural	Light grey white degraded chalk with patches of mid grey clay	53	1.85	0.0
189	18905	Cut		Ditch	Linear ditch, unexcavated due to flooding.	1.8	0.3	
189	18906	Fill	1890	Ditch	Fill of ditch, unexcavated due to flooding.	1.8	0.3	
190	19000	Laye		Topsoil	Dark brown grey loose, silt with natural stone, ploughed and covered by	50	1.8	0.2

					crop			
190	19001	Laye		Subsoil	Mid Brown grey friable, silty clay with occasional small chalk pieces.	50	1.8	0.1
190	19002	Laye		Natural	Light grey white degraded chalk with patches of mid grey clay	1.8	0.33	0.0
190	19003	Cut		Ditch	Linear ditch, gradual straight sides to flat base.	1.8	0.33	0.0
190	19004	Fill	1900	Ditch	Light brown grey firm clay silt, secondary fill.	1.8	0.33	0.0
191	19100	Laye		Topsoil	Dark brown grey, firm silty clay, very rare natural flint and chalk and rooting	50	1.85	0.2
191	19101	Laye		Natural	Light white natural chalk, slightly weathered	50	1.85	0.1
192	19200	Laye		Topsoil	Dark brown grey loose, silt with natural stone, ploughed and covered by crop	50	1.8	0.1
192	19201	Laye		Subsoil	Mid Brown grey friable, silty clay with occasional small chalk pieces.	50	1.8	0.3
192	19202	Laye		Natural	Light grey white degraded chalk with patches of mid grey clay	50	1.8	
192	19203	Cut		Ditch	Curvilinear ditch with moderate to steep straight sides to concave base.	1.8	0.63	0.2
192	19204	Fill	1920	Ditch	Light grey brown, friable clay silt with rare chalk fragments	1.8	0.63	0.2
192	19205	Cut		Ditch	Linear poss. Post med field boundary, rounded concave sides to rounded concave base	3.0	0.88	0.2
192	19206	Fill	1920	Ditch	Mid grey brown friable silty clay, occasional chalk fragments and one piece or large sandstone	3.0	0.88	0.2
192	19207	Cut		Ditch	Cut of possible ditch			
192	19208	Fill	1920	Ditch	Fill of ditch			
193	19300	Laye		Ploughsoil	Mid brown grey loose silty clay, 10% natural chalk and natural flint fragments.	49.	1.8	0.3
193	19301	Laye		Natural	Light grey white, degraded chalk with pockets of grey silty clay. Overall 80% chalk	49.	1.8	0.0
193	19302	Cut		Gully	Linear Gully, steep to gentle sides to concave	>2.	0.45	0.1

					base.			
193	19303	Fill	1930	Gully	Light brown grey solid grey silty clay, >1% natural chalk fragments. Secondary fill	>2.	0.45	0.1
193	19304	Cut		Ditch	Linear ditch, gradual to steep sides to rounded base.	1.9	0.93	0.4
193	19305	Fill	1930	Ditch	Mid grey friable silty clay, no visible inclusions.	1.9	0.93	0.4
194	19400	Laye		Topsoil	Dark brown grey, clayey silt with occasional chalk pieces.	50	1.8	0.2
194	19401	Laye		Natural	Light grey white degraded chalk with patches of light grey silty clay.	50	1.8	0.1
194	19402	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular pit with moderate straight sides to flat base.	1.1	1.06	0.1
194	19403	Fill		Pit	Mid grey brown friable silty clay with rare charcoal flecks	1.1	1.06	0.1
195	19500	Laye		Topsoil	Trench flooded and unable to record	50	1.85	
195	19501	Laye		Subsoil	Trench flooded and unable to record	50	1.85	
195	19502	Laye		Natural	Trench flooded and unable to record	50	1.85	
195	19503	Cut		Ditch	Trench flooded and unable to record	>2.	0.8	
195	19504	Fill		Ditch	Trench flooded and unable to record	>2.	0.8	
196	19600	Laye		Topsoil	Dark grey clayey silt with common chalk fragments	50	1.8	0.4
196	19601	Laye		Natural	Light grey white compact weathered chalk	50	1.8	0.0
197	19700	Laye		Topsoil	Dark grey clayey silt with common chalk fragments	50	1.8	0.3
197	19701	Laye		Natural	Light grey white compact weathered chalk	50	1.8	0.0
198	19800	Laye		Ploughsoil	Mid brown grey loose silty clay, 10% natural chalk and natural flint fragments.	49.	1.8	0.3
198	19800	Laye		Natural	Light grey white, degraded chalk with pockets of grey silty clay. Overall 80% chalk	49.	1.8	0.0
199	19900	Laye		Ploughsoil	Mid brown grey loose silty clay, 10% natural chalk and natural flint fragments.	49.	1.8	0.3

199	19901	Laye		Natural	Light grey white, degraded chalk with pockets of grey silty clay. Overall 80% chalk	49.	1.8	0.0
199	19902	Cut		Gully	Linear gully, under excavated due to flooding.	>4	0.3	
199	19903	Fill	1990	Gully	Light grey silty clay, rare charcoal flecks with 5% natural chalk fragments	>4	0.3	
200	20000	Laye		Ploughsoil	Mid brown grey loose silty clay, 10% natural chalk and natural flint fragments.	49.	1.8	0.3
200	20001	Laye		Natural	Light grey white, degraded chalk with pockets of grey silty clay. Overall 80% chalk	49.	1.8	0.0
201	20100	Laye		Ploughsoil	Mid brown grey loose silty clay, 10% natural chalk and natural flint fragments.	48.	1.8	0.3
201	20101	Laye		Subsoil	Mid red brown compact silty clay, 5% natural chalk and natural flint fragments.	48.	1.8	0.2
201	20102	Laye		Natural	Light grey white, degraded chalk with pockets of grey silty clay. Overall 80% chalk	48.	1.8	0.0
202	20200	Laye		Topsoil	Dark brown grey, firm silty clay, very rare natural flint and chalk and rooting	50	1.8	0.3
202	20201	Laye		Subsoil	Mid grey firm silty clay	50	1.8	0.2
202	20202	Laye		Natural	Light white grey chalky clay with bioturbated patches of clay	50	1.8	0.0
202	20203	Cut		Gully	Linear gully terminus, truncated sides to a concave base.	1.9	0.35	0.1
202	20204	Fill	2020	Gully	Light grey, firm silty clay with very rare flint fragments.	1.9	0.35	0.1
187	18700	Laye		Topsoil	Dark brown grey, firm silty clay, very rare natural flint and chalk and rooting	50	1.8	0.3
187	18701	Laye		Subsoil	Mid brown grey, firm silty clay, very rare natural chalk	50	1.8	0.1
187	18702	Laye		Natural	Light white natural chalk, slightly weathered	50	1.8	0.0
187	18703	Cut		Posthole	Oval posthole, truncated sides with flat base.	0.4	0.3	0.0
187	18704	Fill	1870	Posthole	Mid brown grey, firm silty clay, no visible inclusions.	0.4	0.3	0.0



					Possible packing around post pipe.			
187	18705	Fill	1870	Posthole	Dark grey, firm silty clay, no visible inclusions	0.2	0.2	0.0

**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Ct.</b>	<b>Wt.(g)</b>	<b>Spot-date</b>
18700	iron	nail	1	5	
19206	glass	wine bottle	1	51	C18-C19
19305	medieval pottery	Laverstock body	1	3	C13-C14
	flint	flake with edge damage	1	4	
19403	flint	flakes	3	92	

## APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

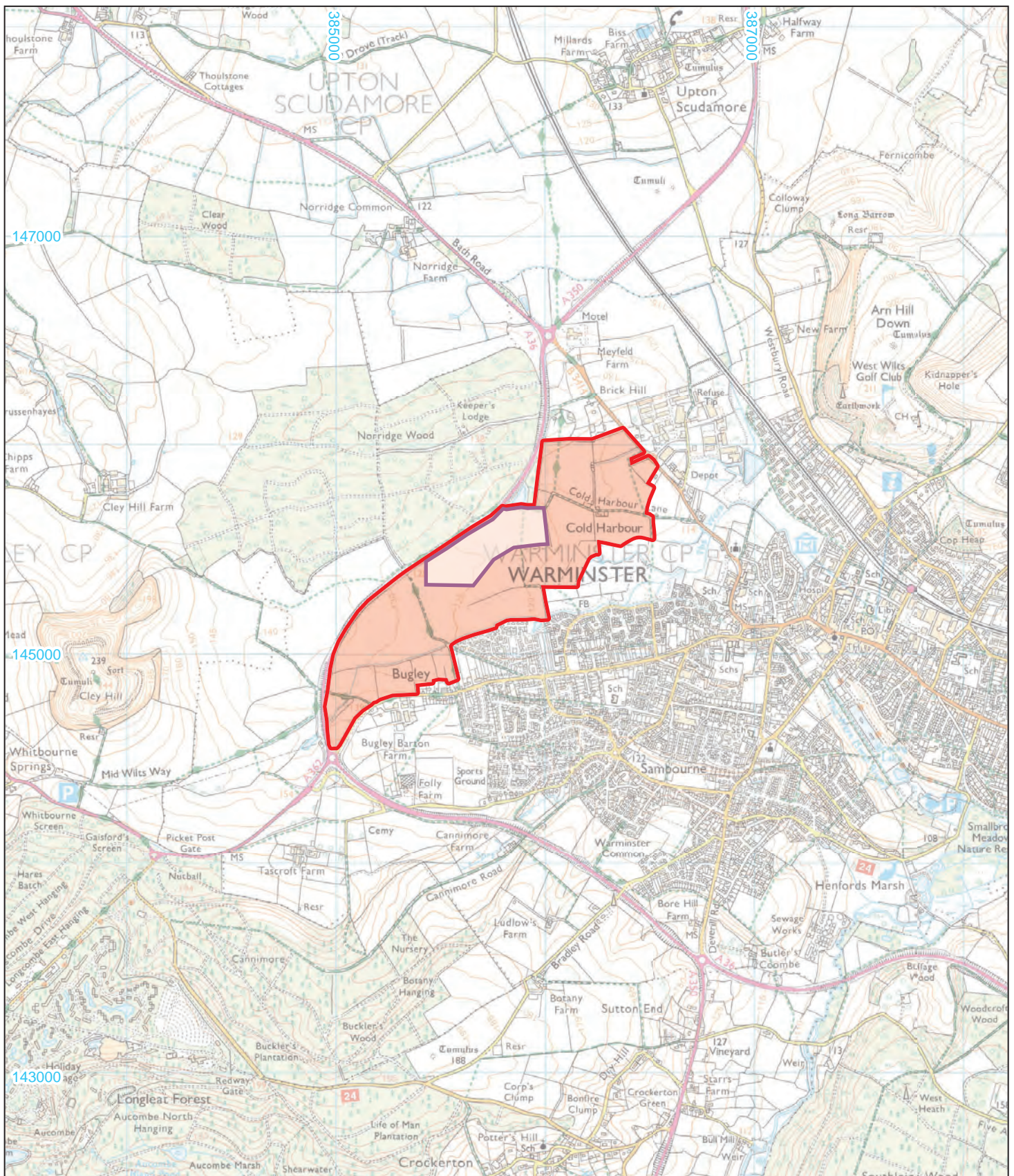
Feature	Context	Sample	Processed vol (L)	Unprocessed vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Root s %	Grain	Chaff	Charred Other	Notes on cpr	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Comments
Trench 192 - Ditch													
19203	19204	2	20	20	15	40	-	-	-	-	-/*	Moll-t (**), Moll-f (*)	molluscs include <i>Helicella itala</i> , <i>Vallonia</i> , <i>Galba truncatula</i>
Trench 194 - Pit													
19402	19403	1	20	20	25	65	-	-	*	<i>Avena</i> sp.	*/**	Moll-t (*)	molluscs include <i>Vallonia</i>

**APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land North of Warminster, Wiltshire- Phase 2: Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology (CA) in February 2020 at the Land North of Warminster, Wiltshire. Sixteen trenches were excavated- Ten contained archaeology; these are an addendum to the 2018 evaluation (CA 2018).</p> <p>Limited evidence of prehistoric activity was recorded in Phase 2, with intrusive flint recovered from ditch 19304 and three flakes recovered from a pit in trench 194.</p> <p>A large number of ditches were dated by cartographic sources to the post-medieval and modern period, representing remodelling of the fields. Medieval pottery was recovered from ditch 19304, indicating an earlier phase of field systems which is currently represented by a singular ditch.</p>	
Project dates	10-18 February 2020	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	Field Walking (WA 2012) Desk Based Assessment (CgMS 2013) Geophysical Survey (AOC 2015) Field Evaluation (CA 2018)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Warminster, Wiltshire.	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	ST 3854 1452	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Oliver Good	
Project Supervisor	Steven Bush	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	Ditch, Post hole, Gully	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	Pottery, Glass, Fe Object	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	Intended final location of archive Wiltshire Museum D2SWS:03-2020	
Physical	Wiltshire Museum	Ceramics, Glass Fe Object
Paper	Wiltshire Museum	Context sheets, Drawing
Digital	Wiltshire Museum	Database, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2020 <i>Land North of Warminster Phase 2: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>AN0119.1</b>		







- Site boundary
- Area 4

0 1km

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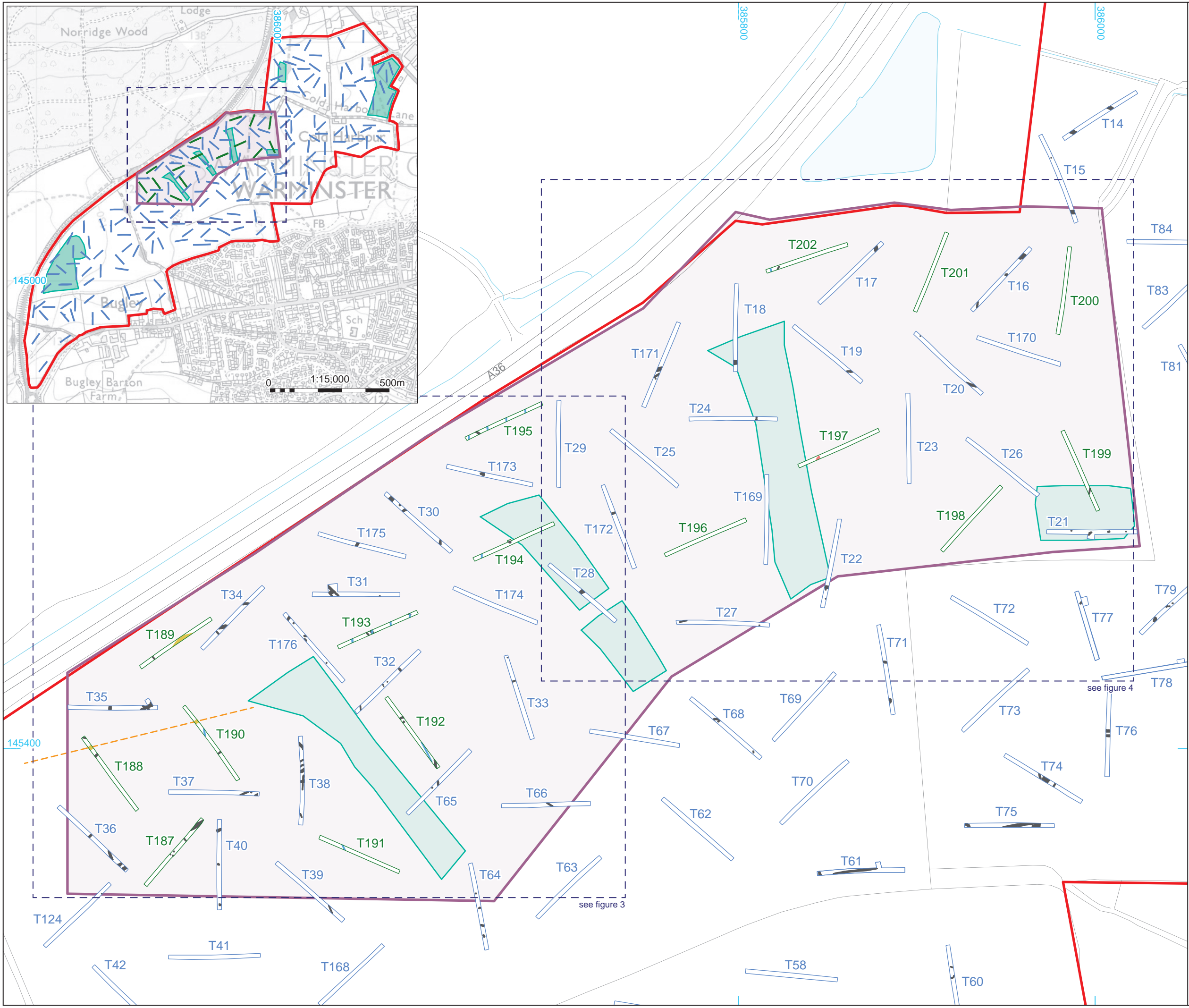
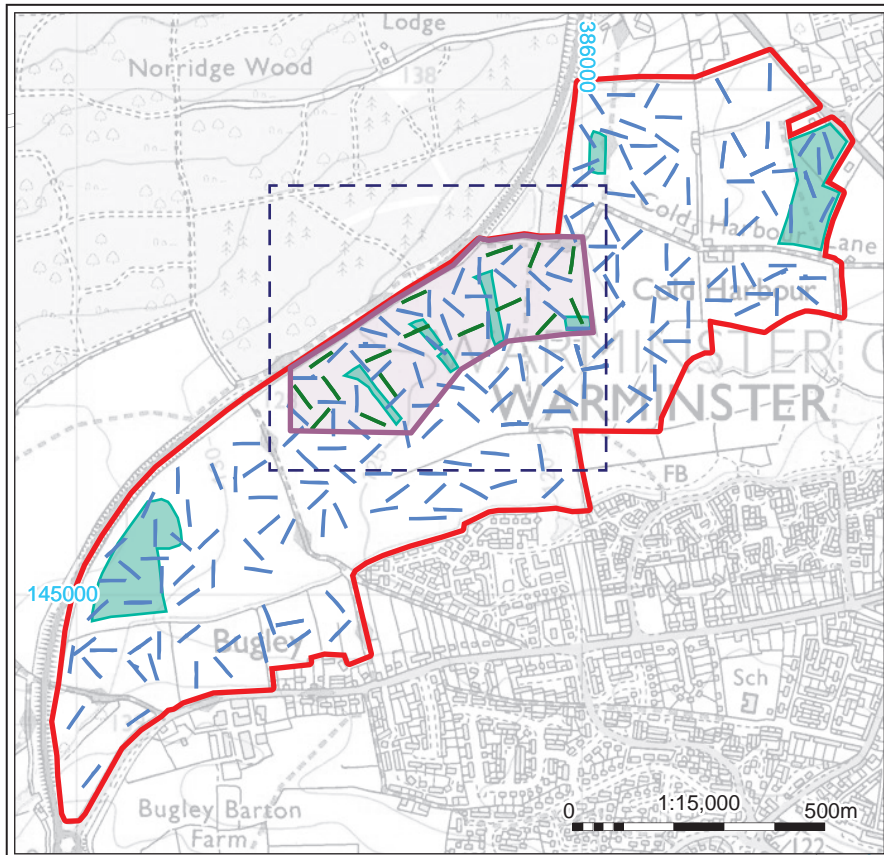
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Land north of Warminster, Wiltshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Site location plan

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**CHECKED BY** DJB  
**APPROVED BY** SB  
**PROJECT NO.** AN0119  
**DATE** 20.02.20  
**SCALE** @A4 1:25,000

**FIGURE NO.**  
**1**





- Site boundary
- Area 4
- Area where ground level is to be raised
- Phase 1 evaluation trench
- Phase 2 evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Modern
- Drain
- Tree-throw
- Possible service

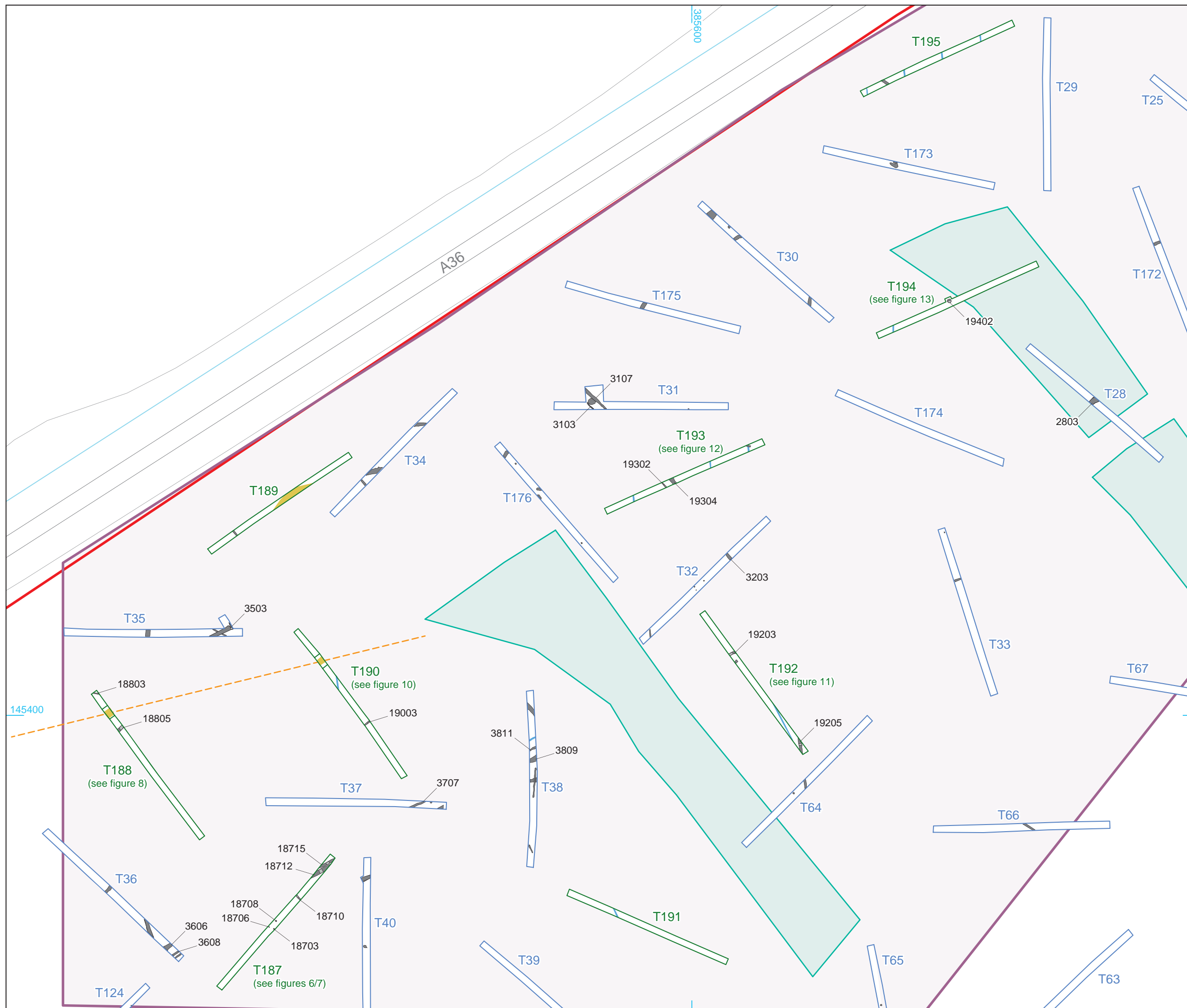
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PROJECT TITLE  
Land north of Warminster, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE  
Trench plan

DRAWN BY CHECKED BY APPROVED BY	AW DJB SB	PROJECT NO. DATE SCALE @A3	AN0119 20.02.20 1:15,000; 1:2000	FIGURE NO. <b>2</b>
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- Site boundary
- Area 4
- Area where ground level is to be raised
- Phase 1 evaluation trench
- Phase 2 evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Modern
- Drain
- Possible service

0 1:1000 50m

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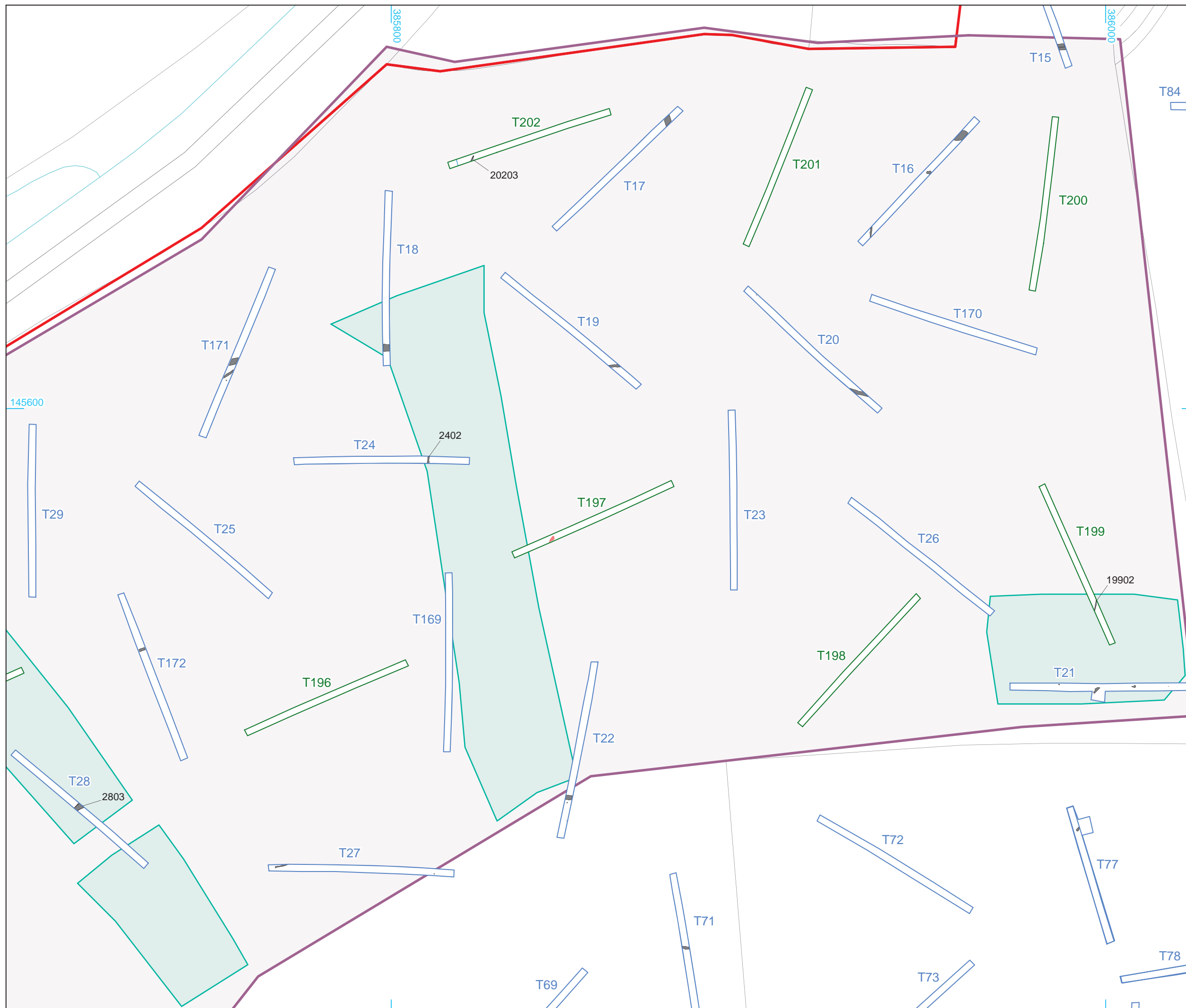


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PROJECT TITLE  
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FIGURE TITLE  
Trenches 187 to 195

DRAWN BY CHECKED BY APPROVED BY	AW DJB SB	PROJECT NO. DATE SCALE @A3	AN0119 20.02.20 1:1000	FIGURE NO. 3
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- Site boundary
- Area 4
- Area where ground level is to be raised
- Phase 1 evaluation trench
- Phase 2 evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Drain
- Tree-throw

0 1:1000 50m

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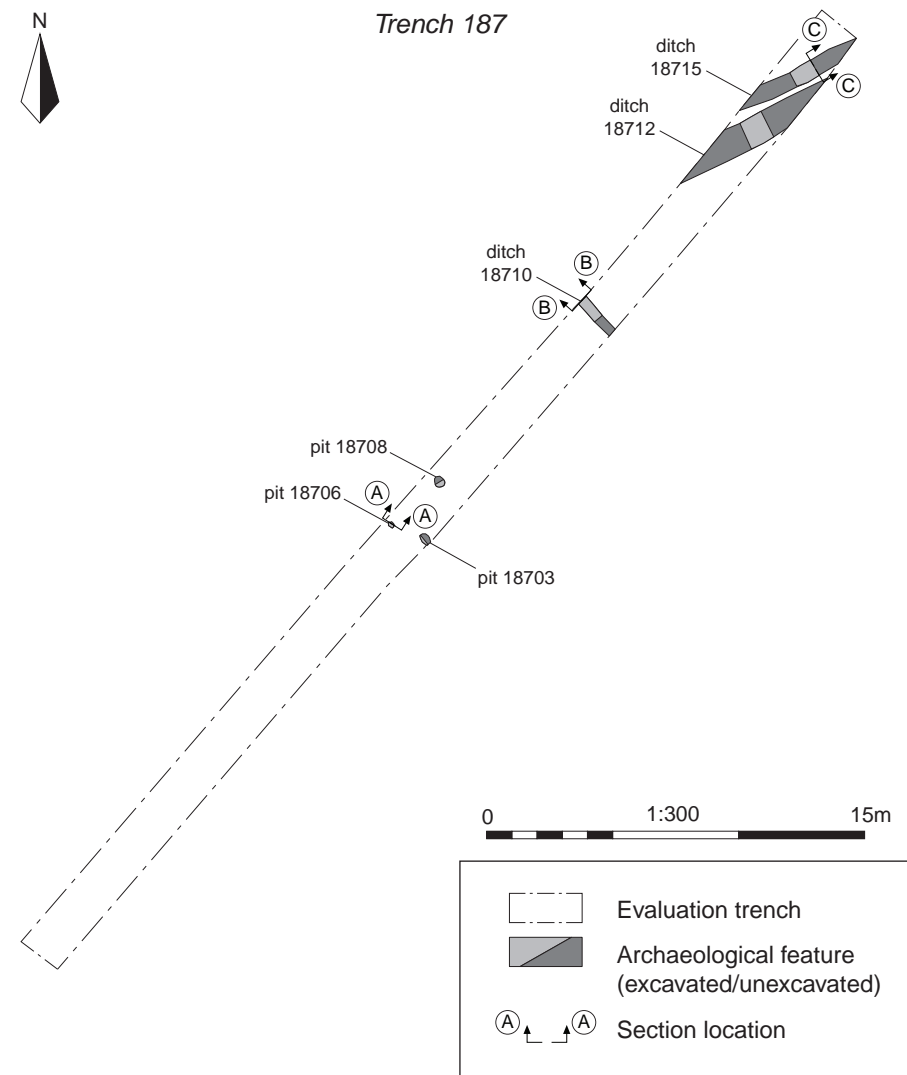
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Land north of Warminster, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE  
Trenches 196 to 202

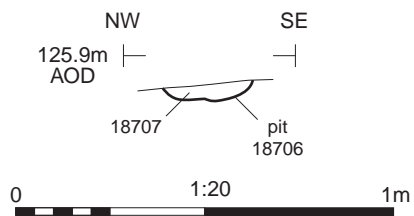
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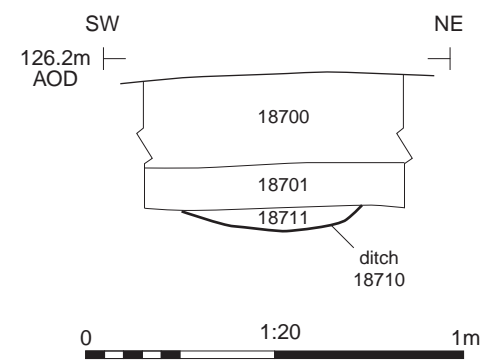




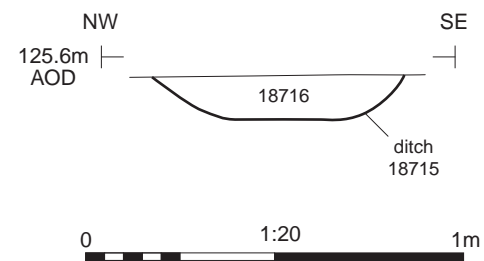
**Section AA**



**Section BB**



**Section CC**







Pit 18703, looking north-east (0.4m scale)

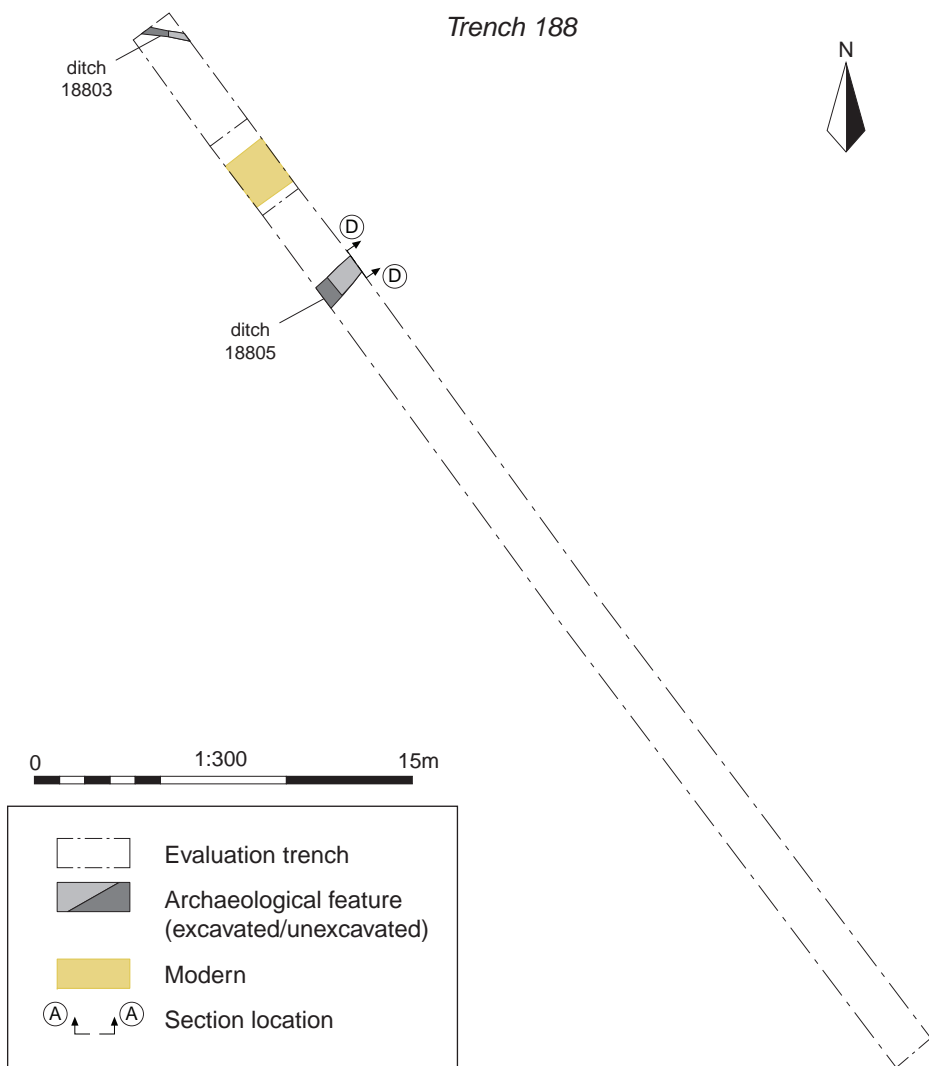


Pit 18708, looking north-west (0.2m scale)

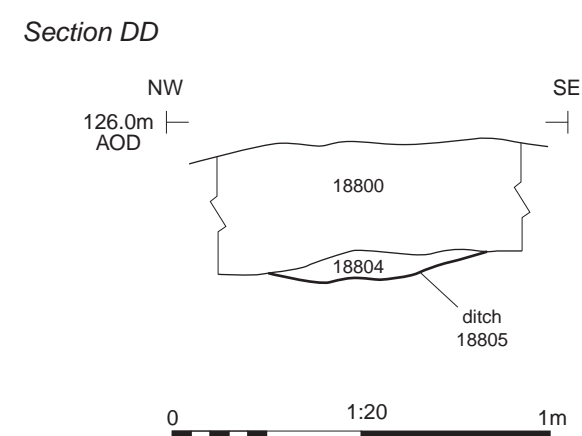


Ditch 18712, looking north-east (0.4m scale)





*Ditch 18803, looking north-east (0.4m scale)*





Ditch 18905



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**PROJECT TITLE**

Land north of Warminster, Wiltshire

**FIGURE TITLE**

**Trench 189: photograph**

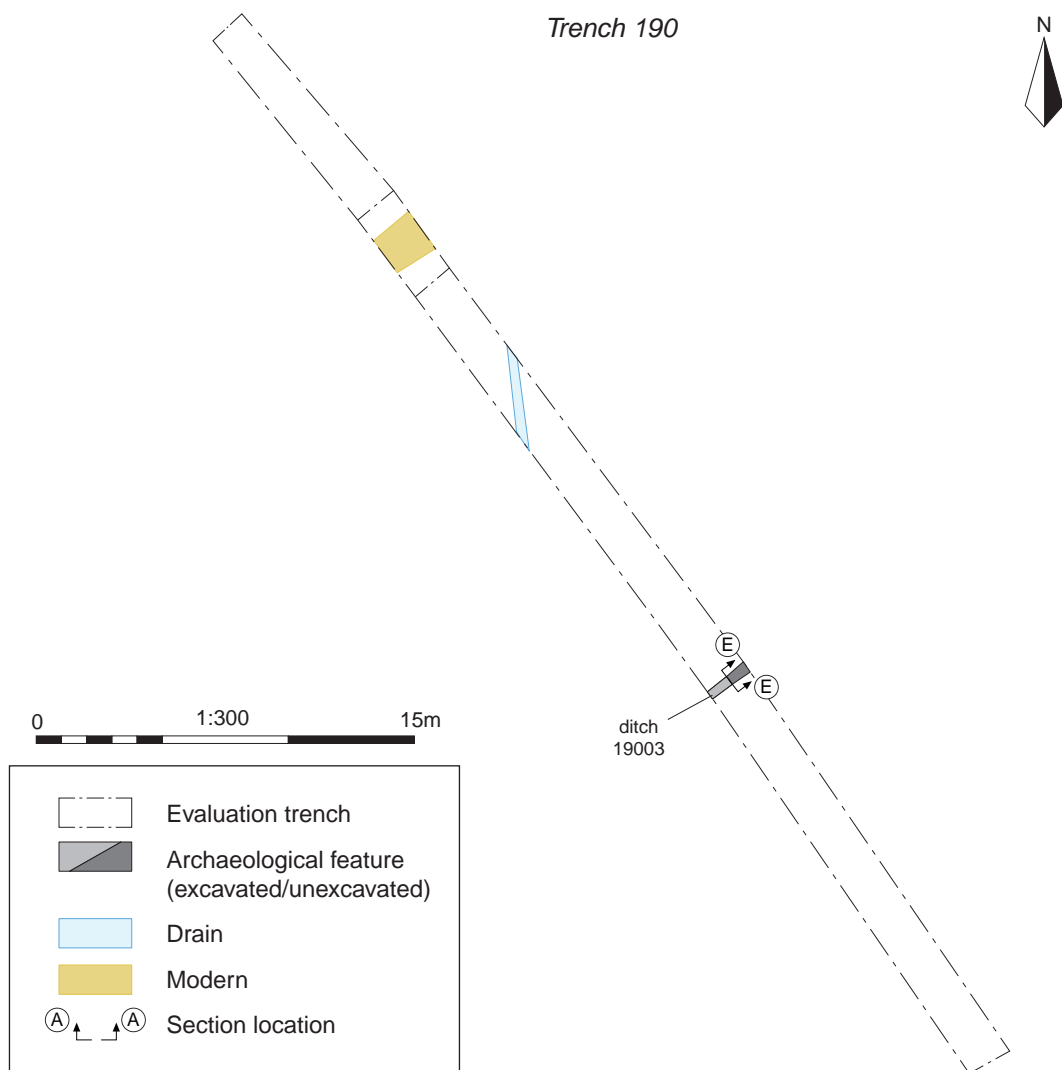
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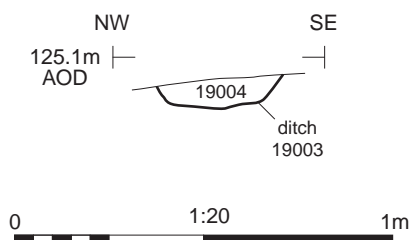
**FIGURE NO.**

**9**





*Section EE*



**Cotswold  
Archaeology**

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*PROJECT TITLE*

Land north of Warminster, Wiltshire

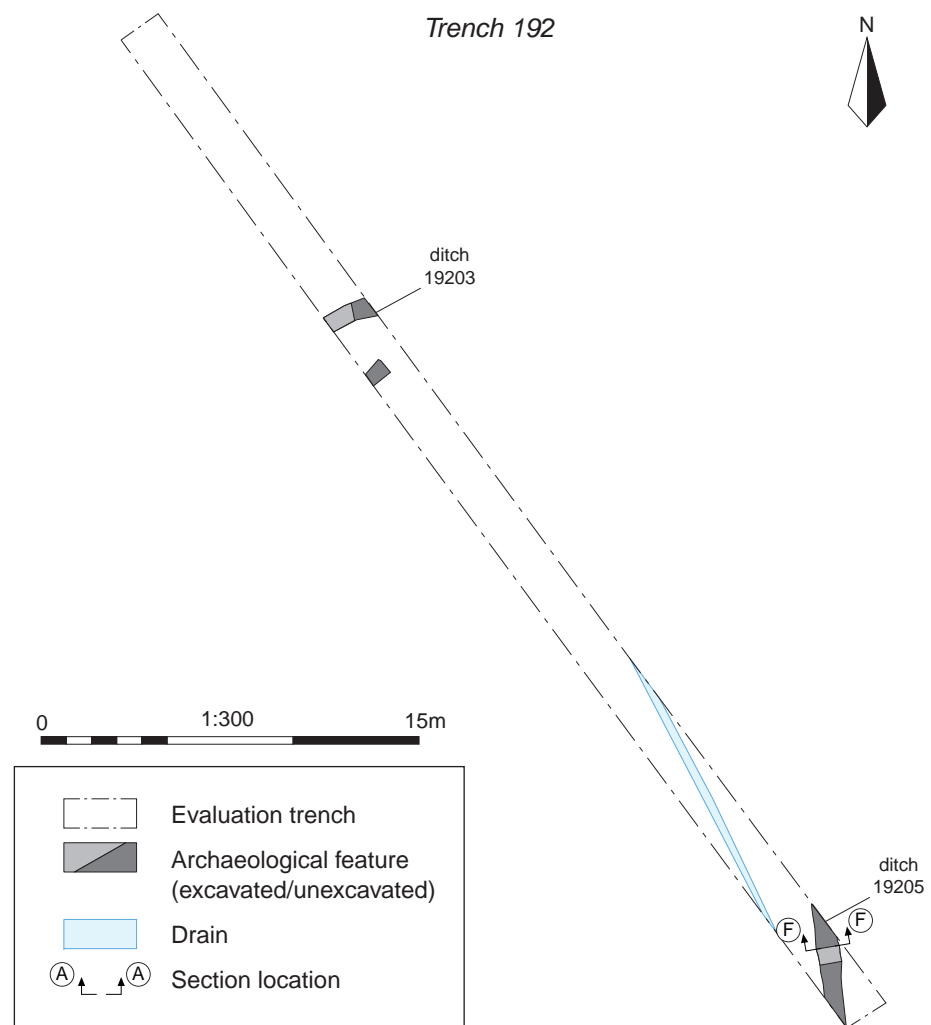
*FIGURE TITLE*

**Trench 190: plan and section**

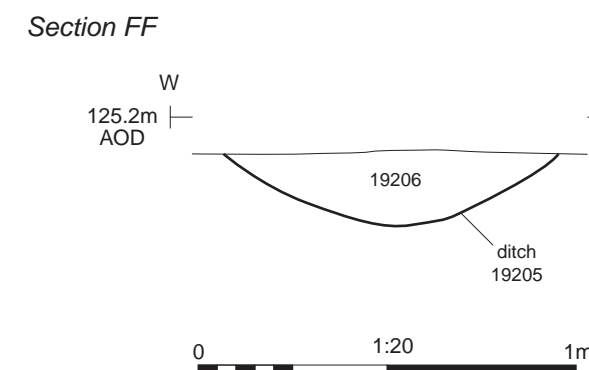
DRAWN BY **AW** PROJECT NO. **AN0119**  
CHECKED BY **DJB** DATE **21.02.20**  
APPROVED BY **SB** SCALE@A4 **1:300; 1:20**

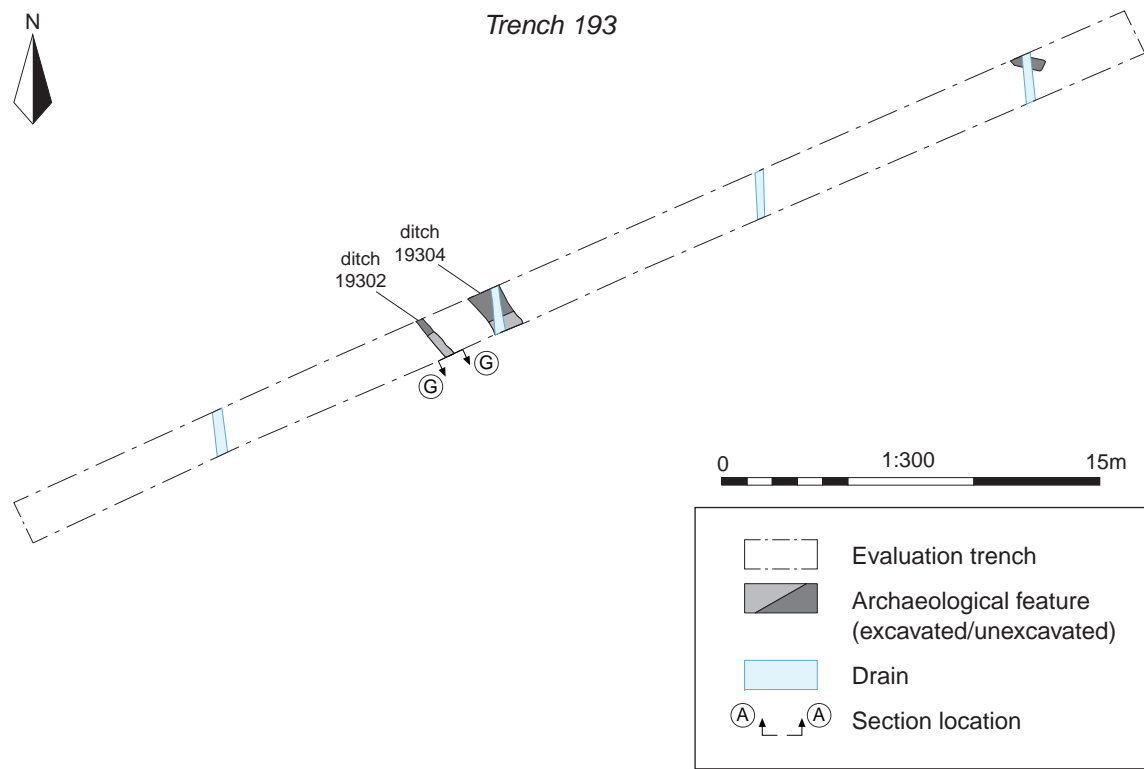
*FIGURE NO.*

**10**



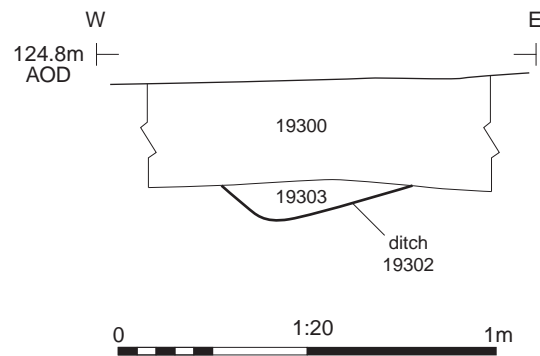
Ditch 19203, looking north-west (0.4m scale)

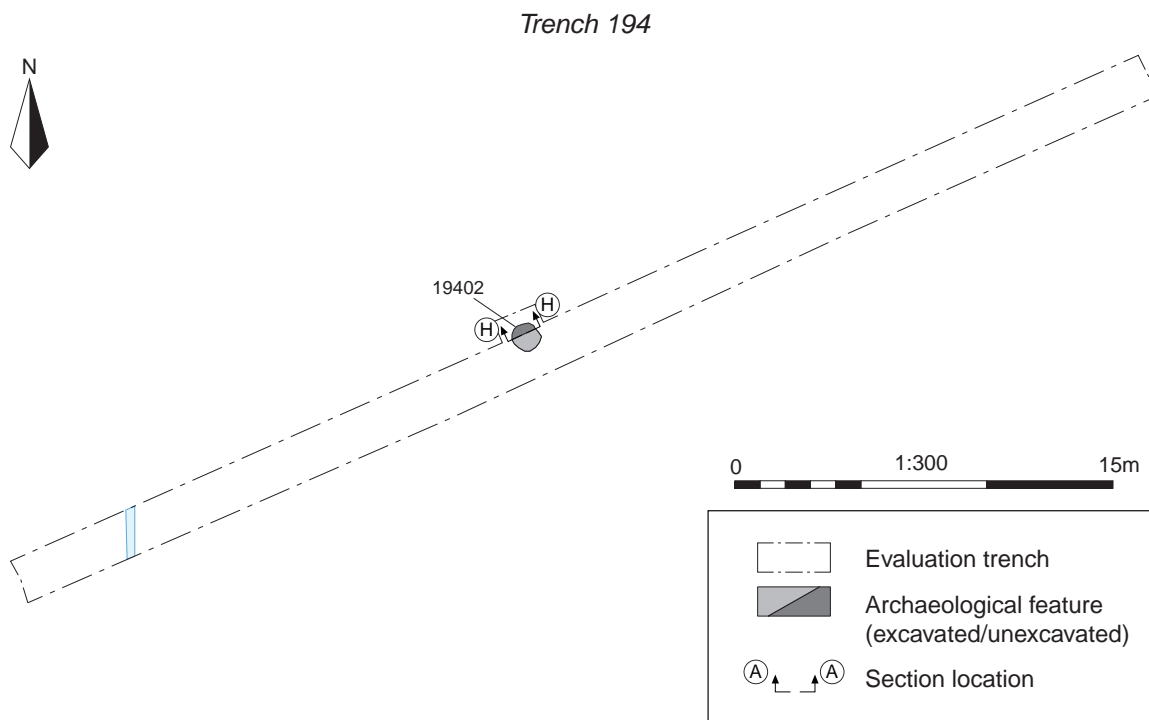




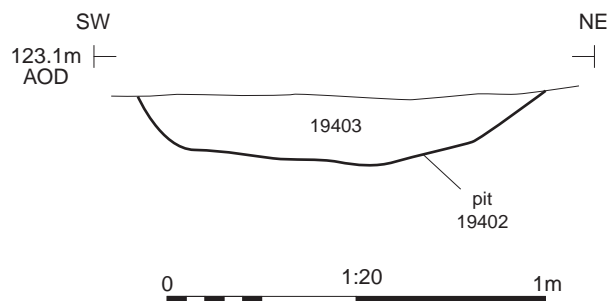
Ditch 19302, looking south (1m scale)

**Section GG**





*Section HH*



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*PROJECT TITLE*

Land north of Warminster, Wiltshire

*FIGURE TITLE*

**Trench 194: plan and section**

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 CHECKED BY **DJB** DATE **21.02.20**  
 APPROVED BY **SB** SCALE@A4 **1:300; 1:20**

*FIGURE NO.*

**13**

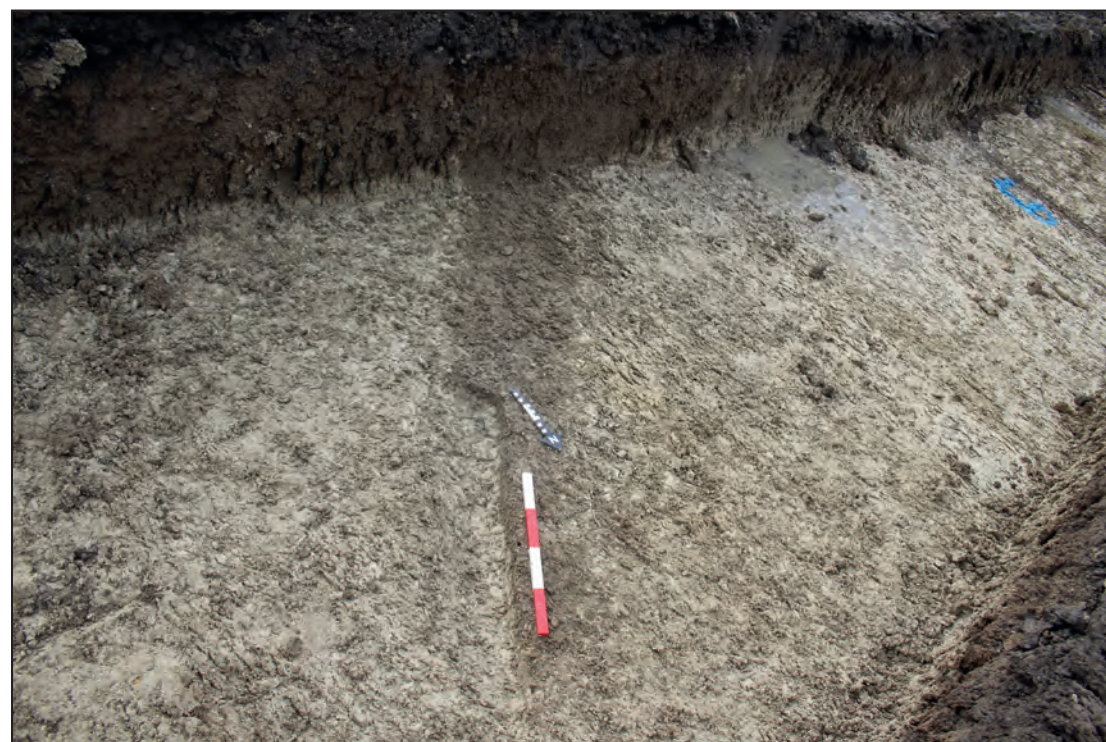




Trench 195, ditch 19503



Trench 199, ditch 19902, looking north-west (1m scale)



Trench 202, ditch 20203, looking south-west (0.4m scale)





Trench 195



Trench 197



Trench 199, looking south (1m scales)

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