

# Mount View Street, Bexhill, East Sussex Archaeological Evaluation Report

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# Mount View Street, Bexhill, East Sussex

# **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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With contributions from Alex Davies, Mike Donnelly and Richard Palmer with illustrations by Marjaana Kohtamaki and Matt Bradley

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# **Summary**

V2

In February 2023 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Kier on behalf of the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to undertake a first phase of archaeological evaluation at land off Mount View Street, Bexhill, East Sussex. The aim of the evaluation was to determine the presence and significance of any archaeological remains that may be found in the areas of proposed impacts. This phase of evaluation consisted of 16 trenches targeted on geophysical features and to test blank areas of the site, representing a 5% sample of the proposed development area.

The evaluation revealed a series of shallow undated ditches on differing alignments as well as four pits with evidence of burning. The trenches supported the results of the previous geophysical survey, as well as revealing ditches and pits that were not identified within the survey.

Only one small fragment of potential pottery was found within a ditch within Trench 8, along with two worked flints within Trench 10, which were tentatively dated as prehistoric. Evidence of charcoal filled pits within the area have previously been interpreted a charcoal production dating from the Iron Age to Saxon periods.

The site sits within a wider landscape of multi-phase activity dating from the Late Bronze Age to the early medieval period. The activities on the site appear to represent a small coaxial fieldsystem or enclosure ditches of potential prehistoric date. The four pits are potentially associated with charcoal production and provide further evidence of woodland management from the late Iron Age onwards.



# **Acknowledgements**

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Keir for commissioning this project on behalf of the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. Thanks are also extended to Neil Griffin who monitored the work on behalf of East Sussex County Council.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Carl Champness. The fieldwork was directed by Katie Webster, who was supported by Ben Slader, Elanor Stanley and Tamsin Jones. Survey and digitizing were carried out by Matt Bradley and Marjaana Kohtamaki. Thanks are also extended to the team of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicola Scott.



#### 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Kier on behalf of the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of Mount View Street, Bexhill, East Sussex, for a proposed new hospital. A programme of 16 trenches were undertaken as part of Phase 1 of the development.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (Condition 7, planning ref. RR/2022/1246/P). A brief was set by Neil Griffin, County Archaeologist for East Sussex, and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by WSP detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. This document outlines the results of the evaluation.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014a) and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2014b), and local and national planning policies.

# 1.2 Planning condition

1.2.1 Consent was granted for Phase 1 on 06/02/2023 by East Sussex County Council. Two planning conditions relate to the archaeological investigation of the site prior to any development works being undertaken:

Condition 7: Archaeological works: no development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. Works shall be carried out in accordance with the programme set out in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation. A written record of any archaeological works undertaken shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority within three months of the completion of any archaeological investigation unless an alternative timescale for submission of the report is first agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site below ground is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the NPPF and Policy EN2 (vi) of the Rother Local Plan Core Strategy.

Condition 27 Archaeological investigation/ assessment: no phase of the development hereby permitted shall be brought into use until the archaeological site investigation and post-investigation assessment (including provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition) for that Phase has been completed and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The archaeological site investigation and post-investigation assessment will be undertaken



in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition 'Archaeological Works'.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historic interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded in accordance with Policy EN2(vi) of the Rother Local Plan Core Strategy and the NPPF; and, to deliver the mitigation as identified in Chapter 9 of the Environmental Statement (July 2015) and the Environmental Statement Addendum (October 2015) pursuant to the extant scheme.

## 1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The site was located on the north-eastern fringe of the seaside town of Bexhill, East Sussex (NGR: TQ 748 089; Figure 1). The site falls within the historic parish of Bexhill and lay within the county of Sussex prior to being absorbed into the administration of the non-metropolitan county of East Sussex in 1974.
- 1.3.2 The site was accessed from Mount View Street and extended along the road which forms the eastern boundary of the Site. Views of the site from Mount View Street were prominent due to the elevated, undulating topography. An existing woodland belt frames the site from the north while residential properties enclose it to the west and south.
- 1.3.3 The site comprises a parcel of land to the east of Mount View Street (A2691 road) and is currently open agricultural land. A further field is present to the south which has been earmarked as a potential extension to the hospital development.
- 1.3.4 The site is mainly south-east facing and sits on a ridge that faces along a valley that leads towards the south of Combe Haven.
- 1.3.5 The geology of the area is mapped as sandstone, siltstone and mudstone of the Ashdown formation and mudstone of the Wadhurst Clay formation (British Geological Survey /BGS digital data)

#### 1.4 Archaeological and historical background

1.4.1 The archaeological and historical background has been assessed in an ADBA (WSP 2022), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a study area of the proposed development. The following is a summary of the findings of the ADBA considered relevant to the archaeological geophysical survey based upon their likelihood to indicate archaeological remains within the site boundary.

#### **Previous Investigations**

1.4.2 An archaeological investigation has been carried out in the past within the site, comprising a geophysical survey (CgMs, 2015) covering the majority of the site. These investigations were part of a wider geophysical survey on Land North East of Bexhill, split into 11 'Areas'. The southern part of the site was defined as Area 8, with the northern part defined as Area 9. These non-intrusive investigations identified evidence of possible archaeology. Anomalies identified in Area 9 were interpreted as



boundary ditches and possibly related to an enclosure, while linear anomalies possibly represented earthwork features such as banks.

- 1.4.3 There have been 13 past archaeological investigations within a 500m radius of the site; the vast majority of these were a series of 'trial trenches', 'strip map and sample', 'open area excavations' and 'geophysical surveys' conducted as part of an investigation of the fields immediately east of the site. The investigations have identified prehistoric finds and features, a possible Roman field system and medieval and post-medieval agricultural features.
- 1.4.4 The results of these investigations, along with other known sites and finds within the area, are discussed by period, below.

# Prehistoric period (800,000 BC-AD 43)

- 1.4.5 The Lower (800,000–250,000 BC) and Middle (250,000–40,000 BC) Palaeolithic saw intermittent, perhaps seasonal Hominin occupation of Britain as the climate alternated between long cold (glacial) and short warm (interglacial) stages. The Upper Palaeolithic is the last of the Old Stone Age periods (40,000–10,000 BC), spanning the last glacial cycle of the Pleistocene (the British Devensian). The archaeology of the Upper Palaeolithic is characterised by new stone-working techniques, the use of bone and other materials, art and anatomically modern humans (Homo sapiens sapiens). After the last glacial maximum (c 20,000 BC), the Devensian ended with the improved climatic conditions of the Holocene (c 10,000 BC), and the environment changed from steppe-tundra to birch and pine woodland. It is probably at this time that England saw continuous human occupation. Erosion has removed much of the Palaeolithic land surfaces and finds are typically residual. There are no finds dating to this period within the vicinity of the site.
- 1.4.6 The Mesolithic hunter-gatherer communities of the postglacial period (10,000–4000 BC) inhabited a still largely wooded environment. The river valleys and coast would have been favoured in providing a predictable source of food (from hunting and fishing) and water, as well as a means of transport and communication. Evidence of activity is characterised by flint tools rather than structural remains. Within the vicinity of the site, only one record of activity dating to the Mesolithic period has been documented. To the north-west, 180m from the site boundary, an evaluation and excavation in 2018 (Chris Butler Archaeological Services) recorded a single flint blade, dated to the Late Mesolithic to Early Neolithic periods, which was recovered from a probable burnt tree-bowl.
- 1.4.7 The Neolithic (4000–2000 BC), Bronze Age (2000–600 BC) and Iron Age (600 BC–AD 43) are traditionally seen as the time of technological change, settled communities and the construction of communal monuments. Farming was established and forest cleared for cultivation. An expanding population put pressure on available resources and necessitated the utilisation of previously marginal land. Adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site, an excavation by Oxford Archaeology in 2014 (OA 2014) recorded Mesolithic/early Neolithic flint scatters and a ditch possibly part of a barrow; Bronze Age features including a potential round barrow, linear ditches, a possible burnt mound, pits and postholes. Further to the east, 175m from the site boundary, an



evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology in 2016 (CA 2016) recorded a late Prehistoric pit; a Bronze Age ditch; a late Bronze Age to early Iron Age ditch containing pottery and a potential cremation pit. A findspot of a Neolithic or Bronze Age arrowhead is also recorded 440m to the south-east of the site boundary (WSP, 2022).

1.4.8 Recorded archaeological activity from these periods appears indicative of the site being located on the periphery of a prehistoric settlement, within open fields.

## Roman (AD 43-410)

- 1.4.9 The Romans arrived on the shores of Britain in 43AD. During this period, the Romans main interest in the area of East Sussex was the well-established iron industry which was heavily exploited for its iron resources and a network of roads was built to facilitate the movement of its products. However, the site was situated away from known settlements, with the closest major Roman settlement to the site located at Hastings, 9km to the north-west.
- 1.4.10 Within the vicinity of the site there are only two records dated to this period: Roman ditches possibly indicating the presence of a field system and a cremation (OA, 2014), as well as a ditch containing late Iron Age/Roman pottery and a quarry pit (CA, 2016). It seems likely that this area of East Sussex remained in open field or woodland away from any Roman settlement.
- 1.4.11 Recently evidence of Late Iron Age/early Roman iron working has been identified c. 300m northeast of the site comprising ore roasting pits, a small furnace, quarry pit/s and a fair amount of waste product (Neil Griffin pers comm). Evidence of iron ore mining, roasting and charcoal production has also been identified on a local scale across many of the surrounding valley ridges.

#### Early medieval / Saxon (AD 410–1066)

- 1.4.12 Following the withdrawal of the Roman army from England in the early 5th century AD the whole country fell into an extended period of socio-economic decline. In the 9th and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Saxon Minster system began to be replaced by local parochial organisation, with formal areas of land centred on nucleated settlements served by a parish church.
- 1.4.13 The Hundred of Bexhill was one of sixteen Hundreds in the Rape of Hastings, one of six Rapes, or traditional sub-divisions, of Sussex until the Norman Conquest. The early medieval period is represented within the wider landscape. However, within the vicinity of the site, only a few findspots have been identified. During an excavation by Oxford Archaeology in 2014, an early medieval pit or charcoal-filled hollow was recorded, which fits in with wider ironworking practices across the Weald. A hollow was a sunken track or lane that is lower than the surrounding land and may suggest an old lane leading to the larger settlement of Bexhill to the south.

#### **Later medieval (AD 1066–1540)**

1.4.14 During the Norman Conquest of 1066 it appears that Bexhill was largely destroyed. The Domesday survey of 1086 records that the manor was worth £20 before the conquest, was 'waste' in 1066 and was worth £18 10s in 1086 (Domesday Book 1086).



King William I used the lands he had conquered to reward his knights and gave Bexhill manor to Robert, Count of Eu, along with most of the Hastings area. Robert's grandson, John, Count of Eu, gave back the manor to the bishops of Chichester in 1148 and it is probable that the first manor house was built by the bishops at this time. The later manor house, the ruins of which can still be seen at the Manor Gardens in Bexhill Old Town (900m to the south), was built about 1250. In 1276 a large portion of Bexhill was made into a park for hunting and in 1447 Bishop Adam de Moleyns was given permission to fortify the Manor House (Salzman, 1940).

- 1.4.15 Within the vicinity of the site, few finds dating to the later medieval period have been discovered. An excavation by Oxford Archaeology in 2014 recorded a later medieval hollow, adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site and an evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology in 2016, 165m to the east of the site, recorded later medieval ditches, pits and two enclosures. The medieval hamlet of Sidley Green is located 315m to the north-west of the site, and a medieval farmstead, Woods Farm, is located 435m to the north-west of the site.
- 1.4.16 The site is situated on the edge of the main settlement of Bexhill to the south and it is likely that the area was used as agricultural land associated with the settlement, throughout the medieval period.

#### Post-medieval (AD 1540-present)

- 1.4.17 The 1839 Tithe map of Bexhill shows the site is situated within agricultural fields spanning two field boundaries. Wrestwood Road can be seen to the south of the site and a road that no longer exists can be seen to the west.
- 1.4.18 The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6" map of 1875, and 1909 shows no change to the site. The road to the west can still be seen and more urban development is visible to the south of the site.
- 1.4.19 The Aerial photograph of the site dating to 1940) shows the site in the same setting as the 3rd edition OS map. There is no development within the site and there does not appear to be any anomalies visible on the surface that could be of archaeological interest. Subsequent aerial imagery dating to 1987 (NCAP\_AIRBUS\_GEONEX\_ES\_0009\_87\_0138) shows the site as largely unchanged from 1940, with no potential archaeological surface features visible.



#### 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

#### **2.1** Aims

- 2.1.1 The general aims and objectives were as follows:
  - i. To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive.
  - ii. To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains.
  - iii. To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means;
  - iv. To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
  - v. To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy;
  - vi. To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape;
  - vii. To determine the potential of the site to provide paleoenvironmental and/or Oeconomic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive;
  - viii. To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status utility and social activity.
  - ix. To determine or confirm the range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present, and
  - x. To assess the results and reliability of the geophysical survey
- 2.1.2 In respect of the archaeological research objective specific to the site, based on the archaeological potential as identified in the DBA these are as follows:
  - i. Identification of either Prehistoric or Roman activity in the site boundary as indicated by the geophysical survey. This provides a potential opportunity to contribute to the Southeast Regional Research Framework objective of further understanding Romano-British field systems, and their relationship to preceding and succeeding systems (Allen *et al.*,2018).
  - ii. What evidence is there for activity from the early medieval, later medieval, and post-medieval periods? If present, what is its nature, extent, and significance?
  - iii. What are the nature and levels (OD) of natural deposits?

# 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of 16 trenches, measuring 30m x 1.8m were excavated across the site representing a 5% sample of the proposed development area. The trenches were laid out to target the geophysical anomalies previously identified and to test the 'blank' areas of the site (Figure 2).



- 2.2.2 The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Spoil was stored adjacent to but at a safe distance from the trench edges. Trenches and the upcast spoil were scanned with a metal detector.
- 2.2.3 Only one trench (TR11) was moved from its original proposed position due to the proximity of the tree canopy. All other trenches were excavated at their proposed positions as set out with a GPS.
- 2.2.4 Sampling and excavation of features were as outlined within the WSI (WSP 2023) and trenches were backfilled following sign-off from the County Archaeologist.



#### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.

#### 3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was uniform. The natural geology of light yellowish brown firm clay was overlain by a mid-yellowish brown silty clay subsoil, which in turn was overlain by a mid-greyish brown clayey silt ploughsoil.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

## 3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in Trenches 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13. All other trenches contained no archaeological remains (Figure 3).

#### Trenches with ditches (Figures 3a-d, 4 and 6)

- 3.3.2 Trenches 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13 contained a series of ditches, all differing in size and profile. The majority of which contained no finds, other than in Trench 8 which contained a very small piece of pottery and Trench 11 which contained two possibly worked pieces of flint.
- 3.3.3 Trench 2 contained a shallow ditch running northwest to southeast, which was not identified in the geophysical survey. The ditch was 0.48m in width and 0.16m in depth, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a sterile grey silty clay fill (204) that produced no finds.
- 3.3.4 Trench 6 produced a single ditch (603) running north-south that correlated well with the features identified on the geophysical survey. The ditch was 0.94m in width and 0.25m in depth, filled with a single sterile fill (604).
- 3.3.5 Trenches 7 and 10 confirmed the potential linear archaeological feature identified in the geophysical survey. Ditch 7 contained two ditches (703 and 705) running broadly northwest-southeast that both aligned with the geophysics. Ditch 703 was 1.04m wide and 0.29m in depth, filled with a single sterile fill (704). Ditch 705 was 0.90m in width and 0.26m in depth, with a 'V' shaped profile, filled with two sterile fills (706 and 705). Ditch 1003 was 0.84m in width and 0.28m depth and filled with two similar fills (104/104a).
- 3.3.6 Trench 8 produced a shallow ditch (803) running northwest-southeast (Plates 1 and 2), which partly aligned with the ditch in Trench 7, identified on the geophysics. The ditch was 0.64m in width and 0.11m in depth, filled with a single mid greyish brown



- clayey silt (804) with frequent manganese flecks. A tiny fragment of pottery was recovered from its fill.
- 3.3.7 A small ditch (906) in Trench 9 also aligned with the linear northwest-southeast feature identified on the geophysics survey (Figure 3d; Plates 5 and 7). The ditch was 0.55m wide and 0.33m in depth, filled with two clayey fills (907 and 908), one containing charcoal flecks.
- 3.3.8 Another small ditch was identified within Trench 11 (1103) running northwest-southeast correlating with the geophysics. The ditch was 1.12m in width and 0.34m in depth with moderately sloping sides and four different fills (1104, 1105, 1006 and 1107; Plate 8). The lower fills of the ditch were slightly gleyed suggesting perhaps issues of former waterlogging. Ditch fill 1105 produced two pieces of worked flint of prehistoric date. A possible posthole (1108) was also identified at the edge of the trench, but no dating evidence was recovered.
- 3.3.9 Trench 12 produced a ditch (1203) running north to south across the trench. It was 1.26m in width and 0.28m in depth, with three fills (1204, 1205 and 1206; Fig 6). No finds were recovered from any of the fills.
- 3.3.10 Three shallow ditches running parallel northwest-southeast were identified with Trench 13 (1303, 1305 and 1307; plate 3), only one of the ditches were picked up in the geophysical survey. The ditches contained a similar single fill of firm mid grey silty clays that produced no finds and may be contemporary.
- 3.3.11 Due to the general lack of finds from the ditches these are thought to be of agricultural rather than settlement origin, which is in keeping with the investigations results from the surrounding areas (Fig. 5).

#### Trenches with pits (Figures 3a-d and 6)

- 3.3.12 Trenches 1, 5, 9 and 10 each contained a single shallow sided flat based pit. No finds were recovered from the pits but each contained a dark charcoal rich fill at the base with heat affected clay underneath; suggesting the deposits were either very hot when dumped or burnt *in-situ*. Each pit was half excavated, recorded and then 100% excavated and sampled.
- 3.3.13 Pit 105 was irregular in shape with an undulating base (Fig.6). It was 0.44m in width and 0.14m at its deepest. It was filled with a single charcoal rich fill (106) and sealed by subsoil (101) and modern ploughsoil (102).
- 3.3.14 Pit 503 was a shallow oval feature with a concave base, 0.40m wide and 0.08m depth (Fig. 6; Plate 9). It contained two fills; A charcoal rich lower fill with reddish burnt clay patches (505) and an overlying soft mid greyish yellow clay (504). The surrounding clay natural had also been clearly oxidized with the heat.
- 3.3.15 Pit 903 was circular in plan, with a flat base and moderately sloping sides (Plate 6). It was 0.52m in diameter and 0.11m in depth. Its lower fill was a charcoal layer (904) that filled the base of the feature. Overlying the charcoal layer was a light greyish yellow silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks (905), which was sealed by a colluvial subsoil (901) and the modern ploughsoil (900).



- 3.3.16 Pit 1005 was circular in plan, 0.91m in diameter and 0.12m in depth (Plate 10). The two lower fills (1007 and 1008) contained frequent charcoal flecks with burnt clay. This was overlain by mid brownish grey clayey silt (100) also with frequent charcoal flecks.
- 3.3.17 Small extensions in Trenches 5 and 10 allowed for the recording of the full extent of each pit in these trenches and for the recovery of environmental samples.
- 3.3.18 Previous excavations in the area found similar pits to be of Iron Age and Saxon dates.

  They are believed to have been used for charcoal production.

#### 3.4 Finds and environmental summary

Pottery by Alex Davies

3.4.1 A possible prehistoric pottery sherd, weighing 1g, with quartz sand fabric was recovered from context 804, in Trench 8.

Worked flint by Mike Donnelly

3.4.2 Two struck flints were recovered from ditch fill 1105. Neither were diagnostic but one burnt distal segment had fairly regular dorsal scars and may be early in date while the second was a very crude, hard-hammer struck squat example that is typical of prehistoric flintwork.

Environmental samples by Richard Palmer

- 3.4.3 Eight bulk samples were taken across the evaluation, primarily for the retrieval and assessment of ecofacts and the recovery of artefacts. The bulk of the recovered charred material came from pits, with sampled ditches producing generally poor charred flots.
- 3.4.4 The pits, which are currently undated, appear to have been used to dump charcoal usually in large quantities and this is good condition for the most part, so most of the samples have sufficient material for full identification and analysis although this preliminary scan suggests much of it is probably oak. Black fungal fruiting bodies or sporangia are present in most samples and may indicate the burning of old or dead wood but would not be suitable for dating.
- 3.4.5 Further assessment would be needed to determine if all the charcoal in samples 1, 7 and 8 is oak with samples 3 and 6 also potential candidates for further examination. As a long-lived tree, oak heartwood charcoal is not recommended for detailed radiocarbon dating comparisons, other than to provide a general date range for this activity.



#### 4 DISCUSSION

## 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken in favourable conditions and remained dry throughout, features were generally well defined and easy to see against the natural geology. In Trenches 5 and 10 extensions enabled us to fully record the extent of the pits, which were initially half sectioned and then fully excavated.
- 4.1.2 The 16 trenches excavated represents a good percentage sample of the proposed development area. The trench plan was followed without the need to move any trenches other than Trench 11, which was moved due to its proximity to the tree canopy, however it still able to target the geophysical anomaly over which it was placed. Therefore, the coverage achieved by the field evaluation was generally comprehensive and the results can be considered a good representation of the archaeological potential of the site.

# 4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The results of the evaluation indicated that there is significant amount of archaeology present within the proposed development area with 11 out of 16 trenches containing at least one archaeological feature. At present the archaeological features identified during the evaluation will be impacted by the proposed new development (Fig 4).
- 4.2.2 The evaluation was able to identify the presence of a series of ditches of unknown date as well as four charcoal filled pits. Some of the archaeological features aligned well with the geophysical results, while other ditches and pits were not present in the survey.
- 4.2.3 The lack of dating evidence means it's not currently possible to fully determine whether these features are of Prehistoric in origin or identify the presence of later early medieval-post medieval remains. The dating of the features and activity remains tentative, but the archaeological landscape of the site does provide some wider context of similar types of activity from the surrounding area (Fig 5).

# 4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The ditches appear to show the continuation of surrounding agricultural activity (Fig. 5) rather than settlement indicated by the lack of material culture or rubbish/midden deposits. Fieldsystems in the area have been equally poorly dated, and in some cases, difficult to precisely characterise. The layout of the ditches, clustering around ditches 1, 6,7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 (Fig. 3), but including a number of other ditches on similar alignments, appear to follow a broadly rectilinear arrangement, and it is possible that they formed part of a coaxial fieldsystem or collection of small animal enclosures.
- 4.3.2 Due to the general lack of finds and the fabric of the one piece of pottery recovered for Trench 8, it is believed the ditches are most likely are prehistoric in date. However, the dating is still very tentative, based only on one pottery sherd, which could equally be intrusive.



The four charcoal filled pits are similar in nature to those found along Mount View Street (OA 2014) and surrounding excavations (Cotswold Archaeology 2016). Some of the sides of the shallow pit were burnt, clearly indicating that material had still been hot while deposited within the feature. The absence of settlement features dated to this period argues against the identification of these pit as hearths, and instead points to agricultural or industrial activity, possibly charcoal-burning. Similar charcoal-rich pits with evidence for in-situ burning were previously dated to Iron Age, Anglo-Saxon period to the 15th-17th century, and another to the 17th-century or later, and it is interesting that these pits were essentially identical with others on the site dated to the prehistoric or Roman periods. Whether all served the same function is uncertain, but the features nevertheless demonstrate continuity of land-use, the site seeing people returning over a prolonged period to collect and burn wood of various species for fuel or other industrial or domestic purpose. While the activity may have been the same, the landscape undoubtedly changed, the charcoal evidence indicating a relatively closed woodland environment predominantly of oak and alder in the Bronze Age, to more open and diverse woodland in the Roman period. In the Anglo-Saxon and later periods, oak alone was dominant, though beech was also present, both providing evidence of possible woodland management (OA 2014).

## 4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 Although nearly all the ditches found during the evaluation are undated they still have the potential to add to the wider story of landscape development and change. The ditches appear to form part of fieldsystems or enclosure ditches of potential prehistoric date.
- 4.4.2 The presence of the four charcoal rich pits which were not identified on the geophysical survey demonstrate the potential for more to be found in the proposed development area. These features are potentially associated with charcoal production and provide further evidence of woodland management from the late Iron Age onwards.



# APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1								
General	descripti	on			Orientation		NE-SW	
Trench co	onsists o	f topsoil	and subs	oil which	overlies	Length (m)		30
one pit, 8	& one po	ssible pl	ough scar	and a cla	эу	Width (m)		1.8
geology.					Avg. depth	(m)	0.48	
Context	Туре	Fill Of	Width	Depth	Description	on	Finds	Date
No.			(m)	(m)				
100	Layer			0.38	Topsoil. [	Oark grey		
					firm silty	clay		
101	Layer			0.1	Subsoil. N	∕Iid		
						grey firm		
					silty clay			
102	Layer					ight yellow		
						m silty clay		
					with man	-		
					inclusion			
103	Cut		0.88	0.08	Plough Fu			
104	Fill	103	0.88	0.08		y Fill. Mid		
					yellowish	brown		
	_				silty clay.			
105	Cut		0.48	0.14	Pit			
106	Fill	105	0.48	0.14	Deliberate Backfill.			
						/ black silty		
					charcoal	rich.		
T l. 2								
Trench 2 General of	doccripti	on				Orientation	2	WNW-ESE
			and subs	oil which	overlies	Length (m)		30
		•	and a cla			<u> </u>		
one unci	i, i ui ii ii i	g 1444-2L	allu a cia	iy geolog	у.	Width (m)		1.8
C + +	T	L:II Of	)	D + l-	D + :	Avg. depth	· ·	0.53
Context	Туре	Fill Of	Width	Depth (m)	Description	Off	Finds	Date
No.	Layer		(m)	(m)	Topsoil	Aid grov		
200	Layer			0.33	Topsoil. Mid grey firm silty clay			
201	Lavor			0.2	<u> </u>	стау Лid to light		
201	Layer			0.2	yellow br	_		
					silty clay	OWITHIIII		
202	Layer				<del>                                     </del>	Mid yellow		
202	Layer					orown firm		
					silty clay	A O VVII IIIIII		
203	Cut		0.48	0.16	Ditch			
203	203   Cut     0.48   0.16   Ditch							



Trench 3  General description  Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil overlying a clay geology. Part of "L" shaped trench with trench 6.  Context Type Fill Of Width (m) Depth (m) Description  No. 300 Layer 0.33 Topsoil. Dark grey firm silty clay  301 Layer Natural. Light mixed orange, blue grey and yellow firm silty clay.  Trench 4  General description  Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay geology.  Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay geology.  Context Type Fill Of Width (m) Depth (m) Description  Context Type Fill Of Width (m) Depth (m) Description  Topsoil. Dark to mid grey firm silty clay  Topsoil. Dark to mid grey firm silty clay	NE-SW 30 1.8 0.31 Date
Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil overlying a clay geology. Part of "L" shaped trench with trench 6.  Context Type Fill Of Width (m)  300 Layer 0.33 Topsoil. Dark grey firm silty clay  301 Layer Natural. Light mixed orange, blue grey and yellow firm silty clay.  Trench 4  General description Orientation  Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay geology.  Context Type Fill Of Width Depth No. (m)  Context Type Fill Of Width (m)  Context Type Fill Of Width (m)  Avg. depth (m)  Description Finds  Orientation  Description Finds  Ocontext Type Fill Of Width (m)  Avg. depth (m)  Context Type Fill Of Width (m)  Avg. depth (m)  Context Type Fill Of Width (m)  Avg. depth (m)  Topsoil. Dark to mid	30 1.8 0.31 Date
topsoil overlying a clay geology. Part of "L" shaped trench with trench 6.  Context Type Fill Of (m) (m) Depth (m) Description  300 Layer 0.33 Topsoil. Dark grey firm silty clay  301 Layer Natural. Light mixed orange, blue grey and yellow firm silty clay.  Trench 4  General description Orientation  Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay geology.  Context Type Fill Of Width Depth No.  400 Layer O.32 Topsoil. Dark to mid  Width (m)  Avg. depth (m)  Orientation  Width (m)  Avg. depth (m)  Finds  Orientation  Finds  Orientation  Finds  Orientation  Finds  Orientation  Avg. depth (m)  Finds	1.8 0.31 Date
trench with trench 6.  Context Type Fill Of Width (m)  300 Layer	0.31 Date
Context No. Type Fill Of (m) Depth (m) Description Finds  300 Layer 0.33 Topsoil. Dark grey firm silty clay  301 Layer Natural. Light mixed orange, blue grey and yellow firm silty clay.  Trench 4  General description Orientation  Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay geology.  Context Type Fill Of Width Depth No. (m) Description Finds  No. Context Type Fill Of Width (m) Depth (m)  Context No. Context Type Fill Of Width (m) Depth (m)  Context No. Context Type Fill Of Width (m) Depth (m)  Context No. Context Type Fill Of Width (m) Depth (m)  Context No. Context Type Fill Of No. (m) Topsoil. Dark to mid	Date  NW-SE
No.   (m)	NW-SE
300 Layer 0.33 Topsoil. Dark grey firm silty clay  301 Layer Natural. Light mixed orange, blue grey and yellow firm silty clay.  Trench 4  General description  Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay geology.  Type Fill Of Width Depth No.  400 Layer 0.32 Topsoil. Dark to mid	
firm silty clay  301 Layer Natural. Light mixed orange, blue grey and yellow firm silty clay.  Trench 4  General description  Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay geology.  Context Type Fill Of Width Depth No.  No.  400 Layer O.32 Topsoil. Dark to mid	
Trench 4  General description  Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay geology.  Context Type Fill Of Width (m)  No.   Context No.   Layer   Context No.   Context No.	
Trench 4  General description  Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay geology.  Context Type Fill Of Width Depth No.  How I and Subscill Depth Description  Topsoil. Dark to mid  Orientation  Length (m)  Width (m)  Avg. depth (m)  Finds  One Context Type Fill Of Width Depth (m)  One Context No.  One	
Trench 4  General description  Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay geology.  Context Type Fill Of Width Depth No.  No.  400 Layer  And yellow firm silty clay.  Orientation  Length (m)  Width (m)  Avg. depth (m)  Finds  Onescription  Orientation  Depth Description  Finds  Onescription  On	
Trench 4  General description  Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay geology.  Context Type Fill Of Width Depth No. (m)  400 Layer One Clay.  Orientation  Length (m)  Avg. depth (m)  Finds  Finds  One Clay.	
Trench 4  General description  Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay geology.  Context Type Fill Of Width Depth No.  400 Layer  Orientation  Length (m)  Width (m)  Avg. depth (m)  Finds  Onescription  Orientation  Depth Description  Finds  Onescription  Orientation  Depth (m)  Onescription  Finds  Onescription  Onescription  Finds  Onescription  Onescription	
General description  Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay geology.  Context Type Fill Of Width Depth No. (m)  Avg. depth (m)  Finds  (m)  Orientation  Length (m)  Avg. depth (m)  Finds  One Context No. (m)	
General description  Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay geology.  Context Type Fill Of Width Depth No. (m)  Layer Description Finds  Orientation  Length (m)  Width (m)  Avg. depth (m)  Finds  (m)  0.32 Topsoil. Dark to mid	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay geology.  Context Type Fill Of Width Depth Description Finds No. (m) (m) Double Dark to mid	
topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay geology.    Width (m)   Avg. depth (m)	30
Context Type Fill Of Width Depth Description Finds No. (m) (m) Context No. (a) Context (b) Context (c)	1.8
Context No.Type Fill Of (m)Fill Of (m)Width (m)Depth (m)Description (m)Finds Finds400Layer0.32Topsoil. Dark to mid	0.54
No.(m)(m)400Layer0.32Topsoil. Dark to mid	Date
grey firm silty clay	
gicy initiality clay	
401 Layer 0.22 Subsoil. Mid greyish	
brown firm silty clay	
402 Layer Natural. Light bluish	
grey mixed with	
brownish yellow	
firm silty clay	
Transh F	
Trench 5  Congral description Orientation	
General description Orientation  Transh consists of topsoil and subsoil everlying a clay Length (m)	ENE-WSW
Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay geology. Trench was extended to expose and Width (m)	30
	0.47
	. U 4 /
Context Type Fill Of Width Depth Description Finds  No. (m) (m)	
500 Layer 0.25 Topsoil. Dark grey	Date
firm silty clay	



iviount view st	,							
501	Layer			0.22	Subsoil. N	Лid		
					brownish	grey firm		
					silty clay			
502	Layer				Natural. I	₋ight		
					whiteish	yellow firm		
					silty clay			
					stone inc	lusions.		
503	Cut		0.4	0.08	Pit			
504	Fill	503	0.3	0.04		y Fill. Mid		
						ellow clay		
505	Fill	503	0.4	0.05	Other Fill			
						k burning		
					deposit, s			
					patches.	Clayey		
<b>T</b> 1.5								
Trench 6						0		ECEL MANAGE
General			1 1			Orientation		ESE'-WNW
			and subs			Length (m)		30
			ay geology	y. Part of	<b>L</b>	Width (m)	/ )	1.8
shaped t	1			1	1	Avg. depth	(m) Finds	0.41
Context	Type	Fill Of	Width	Depth	Description	Description		Date
No.			(m)	(m)		a: 1		
600	Layer			0.26		Лid to dark		
601	1				grey firm silty clay Subsoil. Mid brown			
601	Layer							
CO2	Lavan				firm silty			
602	Layer				Natural. I	_		
						brownish oranges, yellow firm silty clay		
					· ·			
					with manganese inclusions			
603	Cut		0.94	0.25	Ditch			
604	Fill	603	0.94	0.25	Secondary Fill. Firm			1
004	' '''	003	0.54	0.23	mid grey	•		
			l	1		, 5,	<u> </u>	1
Trench 7	7							
General		on				Orientation	 ງ	N-S
			and subs	oil which	overlies	Length (m)		30
two ditch		•				Width (m)		1.8
		, 0	3,			Avg. depth	(m)	0.59
Context	Туре	Fill Of	Width	Depth	Description		Finds	Date
No.	,,,,,		(m)	(m)	2 2231 1941		, 35	
700	Layer		, ,	0.28	Topsoil.	Dark to mid		
	-, 5.					grey firm		
					silty clay.			



viount view 3	treet, bearing	, Last Sussex						
701	Layer			0.2	Subsoil. N	Лid grayish		
					brown fir	m silty		
					clay.			
702	Layer					Mid to light		
					yellowish			
					firm clay.			
703	Cut		1.04	0.24	Ditch			
704	Fill	703	1.04	0.24		y Fill. Mid		
						rown firm		
705	6.1		0.0	0.26	clay.			
705	Cut	705	0.9	0.26	Ditch	F:11 1: 1:		
706	Fill	705	0.36	0.1		y Fill. Light		
					brownish	yellow		
707	T:II	705	0.0	0.2	clay.	a, Fill Mid		
707	Fill	705	0.9	0.2		y Fill. Mid rown clay.		
					grayisii bi	TOWIT Clay.		
Trench 8	2							
	descripti	on				Orientation		ENE-WSW
			and subs	oil which	overlies	Length (m)		30
		•			Overnes	Width (m)		1.8
one ditch and a clayey silt natural geology.  Width (m)  Avg. depth (m)						(m)	0.54	
Context	Typo	Fill Of	Width	Depth	Description		Finds	Date
No.	Туре	FIII OI	(m)	(m)	Description	UII	FIIIUS	Date
800	Layer		(111)	0.29	Topsoil. N	Mid grev		
000	Layer			0.23	firm silty			
801	Layer			0.25	1	∕iid yellow		
001	25,75.			0.20	brown firm silty clay			
802	Layer					Mid yellow		
	,					ge, brown		
					firm silty clay			
803	Cut		0.64	0.11	Ditch			
804	Fill	803	0.64	0.12	Secondar	y Fill. Mid	pot	Prehistoric
					greyish b	rown		?
					clayey silt	t with		
					frequent			
					mangane	se flecks.		
					mangane	se flecks.		
Trench 9	9				mangane	se flecks.		
	) descripti	on			mangane	se flecks.  Orientation	1	WNW-ESE
General	descripti		and subs	oil overly				WNW-ESE 30
General Trench o	descripti	f topsoil		oil overly		Orientation		
General Trench o	descripti consists c	f topsoil		oil overly		Orientation Length (m)		30
General Trench o	descripti consists c	f topsoil		oil overly		Orientation Length (m) Width (m) Avg. depth		30 1.8



Mount View St	treet, bexiiii	, East Sussex						V
900	Layer			0.3		Dark grey		
					firm silty clay			
901	Layer			0.3	Subsoil. I			
						n grey firm		
					silty clay			
902	Layer				Natural.	Light		
					whitish y	ellow firm		
					silty clay			
903	Cut		0.52	0.11	Pit			
904	Fill	903	0.52	0.11	Secondai	ry Fill. Dark		
					black cha	arcoal rich		
					secondar	ry fill		
905	Fill	903	0.4	0.07	Secondai	ry Fill. Mid		
					grey firm	silty clay		
					secondar	ry fill		
906	Cut		0.55	0.33	Ditch			
907	Fill	906	0.55	0.17	Secondai	Secondary Fill. Mid		
					greyish b	rown		
					clayey sil			
908	Fill	906	0.36	0.27	+ · · · ·	Secondary Fill. Light		
					grey silty clay with			
					frequent charcoal			
					flecks.			
		ı	I		1			
Trench 1	0							
General		on				Orientation	າ	NE-SW
	·		and subs	oil overly	ing clay	Length (m)		30
				vest align	- ,	Width (m)		1.8
and a sm		Jorreams	arr case v	vest align	ed diteil	Avg. depth	(m)	0.55
	<del>.</del>	Fill Of	Width	Donth	Doscrinti		Finds	Date
Context	Туре	FIII OI		Depth	Descripti	On	Finas	Date
No.	1		(m)	(m)	T: 1	D =l. l= =		
1000	Layer			0.25	Topsoil. Dark brown			
1001				0.15	clayey silt.			
1001	Layer			0.15	Subsoil. Mid			
					yellowish brown			
4000		-			clayey sil		-	
1002	Layer				Natural.	-		
					brownish	•		
					silty clay			
					patches	_		
						ellow silty		
1003	Cut		0.84	0.28	clay. Ditch			
1003	Fill	1003	0.84	0.28	-	ry Fill. Mid		
1004	' '''	1003	0.04	0.20	greyish b	•		
					I RIGNISH D	I OVVII		



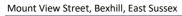
			1		1		T	1
					clayey sil	t with mid		
					reddish-b	rown		
					mottling.			
1005	Cut		0.92	0.12	Pit			
1006	Fill	1005	0.92	0.1	Secondar	y Fill. Mid		
					brownish	grey		
					clayey sil	t with		
					frequent	charcoal		
					flecks.			
1007	Fill	1005	0.88	0.08	Secondar	y Fill. Dark		
					grey clay	ey silt with		
					very freq			
					charcoal			
1008	Fill	1005	0.29	0.1		y Fill. Mid		
						red clayey		
						nfrequent		
					charcoal	flecks.		
Trench 1						1		T
General o	· ·					Orientation		N-S
Trench co				•	ing a	Length (m)		30
ditch, a p	osthole	and a cla	ay geology	у.		Width (m)		1.8
			1	_	1	Avg. depth	(m)	0.61
Context	Type	Fill Of	Width	Depth	Description	on	Finds	Date
No.			(m)	(m)				
1100	Layer			0.26	·	∕Iid brown-		
					grey clay			
1101	Layer			0.15		∕Iid brown		
					silty clay			
1102	Layer				Natural. I			
					brownish	-orange		
				1	silty clay			
1103	Cut		1.12	0.34	Ditch			
1104	Fill	1103	0.92	0.16	Secondar			
						mid grayish		
						nd grayish		
110-	=			1	yellow sil		-	
1105	, i						prehistoric	
					blueish g	rey silty	worked	
1100	E-111	1100	0.5	0.00	clay.	EUL COLO	flint	
1106	Fill	1103	0.5	0.08	Secondary Fill. Light			
1107	E-111	1100	0.42	0.00		ey silty clay.		
1107	Fill	1103	0.12	0.06	Secondary Fill. Mid			
						ellow silty		
					clay.			



1108	Cut		0.48	0.24	Posthole			
1109	Fill	1108	0.48	0.1	Secondar	y Fill. Mid		
					yellowish	grey silty		
					clay.			
1110	Fill	1108	0.14	0.36	Secondar	y Fill. Light		
					brownish	grey silty		
					clay.			
				•				
Trench 12	2							
General c	descripti	on				Orientation	)	NW-SE
			and subse	oil overly	ing a	Length (m)		30
				,	O			
							(m)	
Context	Tyne	Fill ∩f	Width	Denth	Description		· · ·	
	Турс				Description	511	Tillus	Date
	Laver		(''')	<u> </u>	Tonsoil N	Mid grav		
1200	Layer			0.51				
1201	Laver			0.11	· ·	•		
1201	Layer			0.11				
1202	Laver				+			
1202	Layei					O		
						•		
1202	Cut		1 26	0.20	· .			
		1202		+				
1204	FIII	1203	1.26	0.2	Secondary Fill. Light			
					greyish brown silty			
4205	EIII	4202	0.7	0.00	· '	eth it li		
1205	FIII	1203	0.7	0.08		Secondary Fill. Light		
		1000						
1206	Fill	1203	0.6	0.1		•		
					-	grey silty		
					clay.			
						T		
General c						Orientation	1	ENE-WSW
				oil overly	ing three	Length (m)		30
gullies and a clay geology.				Width (m)	1.8			
						Avg. depth	(m)	0.41
Context	Туре	Fill Of	Width	Depth	Description Finds			Date
No.			(m)	(m)	'			
1300			Topsoil. Mid grey					
					firm silty clay			
1301	Layer			0.15	Subsoil. Mid yellow			
	'					m silty clay		
Trench co gullies an Context No. 1300	Type  Layer  Layer  Cut Fill  Fill  Fill  Type  A clayer  Type  Layer	Fill Of  1203  1203  1203  on f topsoil geology.	Width	Depth (m) 0.26	brown fir Natural. I brownish firm silty Ditch Secondar greyish b clay. Secondar grey silty Secondar yellowish clay.  ing three  Description Topsoil. N firm silty Subsoil. N	Aid grey clay Aid yellow m silty clay ight yellow clay  y Fill. Light rown silty  y Fill. Mid grey silty  Orientation Length (m) Width (m) Avg. depth on  Aid grey clay Aid yellow	Finds	30 1.8 0.41



		, East Sussex								
1302	Layer				Natural. I	Natural. Mid mixed				
					yellow an	nd orange,				
					brown fir	m silty clay				
1303	Cut		0.69	0.12	Gully					
1304	Fill	1303	0.69	0.12	Secondar	y Fill. Mid				
					grey firm	silty clay				
1305	Cut		0.62	0.15	Gully					
1306	Fill	1305	0.62	0.15	Secondar	y Fill. Light				
					bluish gre	ey firm silty				
					clay					
1307	Cut		0.5	0.12	Gully					
1308	Fill	1307	0.5	0.12		y Fill. Mid				
					grey firm	silty clay				
Trench 1	4					1				
General	descripti	on				Orientation	1	NE-SW		
				nch consis	sts of	Length (m)		30		
topsoil a	oil and subsoil overlying a clay geology. Width (m		Width (m)		1.8					
					Avg. depth (		(m)	0.38		
Context	Type	Fill Of	Width	Depth	Description Fin		Finds	Date		
No.			(m)	(m)						
1400	Layer			0.28	Topsoil. [	Dark to mid				
					brownish grey firm					
					silty clay					
1401	Layer			0.1		∕Iid grayish				
					brown fir					
1402	Layer				Natural. I	•				
					yellowish brown					
					firm silty					
					mangane					
					inclusion	S				
Trench 1								Texte		
General				1 .		Orientation		ENE-WSW		
				nch consis				30		
topsoil a	na subsc	oil overly	ing a clay	geology.		Width (m)		1.8		
			Avg. depth (m)			0.4				
Context	Type	Fill Of	Width	Depth	Description Finds		Finds	Date		
No.			(m)	(m)						
1500	Layer					Mid to dark				
					grey firm silty clay					
1501	Layer			0.13	Subsoil. N					
					brown firm silty clay					
1502	Layer				Natural. Light					
				yellowish and						





					orange bi mixed firm with man inclusions	m silty clay ganese				
Trench 10	Trench 16									
General c	NNE-SSW									
Trench de	Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of Length (m)									
topsoil ar	nd subso	il overlyi	ng a clay		Width (m)		1.8			
						Avg. depth	0.43			
Context	Type	Fill Of	Width	Depth	Description		Finds	Date		
No.			(m)	(m)						
1600	Layer			0.34	Topsoil. N	∕lid grey				
					firm silty clay					
1601	Layer			0.09	Subsoil. N	∕lid yellow				
					brown fir					
1602	Layer				Natural. Light yellow					
					brown firm silty clay					



# **APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS**

# **B.1** Pottery

By Alex Davies

Introduction

B.1.1 A possible prehistoric pottery sherd, 1g, with quartz sand fabric was recovered from Context 804, Trench 8.



#### APPENDIX CENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

#### **C.1** Environmental Samples

#### By Richard Palmer

#### Introduction

C.1.1 Eight bulk samples were taken during evaluation works at Mount View Street, Bexhill, primarily for the retrieval and assessment of ecofacts and the recovery of artefacts following standard guidelines (Historic England 2011).

#### Method

- C.1.2 The samples were processed in their entirety at Oxford Archaeology using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine. The flots were collected in a 250µm mesh and residues in a 500µm mesh, both were dried in a heated room. The residue fractions (ie the material which did not float) were sorted by eye and with the aid of a magnet while the flot material was sorted using a low power (x10) binocular microscope to extract cereal grains and chaff, smaller seeds and other quantifiable remains.
- C.1.3 Nomenclature for identified species follows (Stace 2010) and cereal and chaff identifications are made with reference to Jacomet (2006).

#### Results

C.1.4 Sample and flot abundance data are summarised in Table X, this includes sample volume and a brief soil description. Soil colour was determined using a Munsell Soil Colour Chart with soil texture described using published guidelines (Historic England, 2015).

#### Trench 1

C.1.5 Sample 6 from fill 106 of pit 105 produced a charcoal rich flot. Ring porous charcoal is present as well as some fungal fruiting bodies. No artefacts were recovered from the residue.

#### Trench 5

C.1.6 Sample 8 from fill 505 of pit 503 produced a large charcoal rich flot. Ring porous charcoal is present along with some knotwood fragments. No artefacts were recovered from the residue.

#### Trench 8

C.1.7 Sample 5 from fill 804 of ditch 803 produced a poor flot. Possible diffuse porous charcoal is present but the fragments in general are not suitable for species identification. Fungal fruiting bodies are abundant along with a single, damaged, charred glume base fragment. No artefacts were recovered from the residue.



#### Trench 9

C.1.8 Sample 1 from fill 904 of pit 903 produced a very large charcoal dominated flot. Ring porous charcoal fragments are present along with some fungal fruiting bodies (sporangia). Due to the size of the flot only 25% was assessed at this stage. No artefacts were recovered from the residue.

#### Trench 10

- C.1.9 Sample 3 from fill 1006 of pit 1005 produced a charcoal rich flot. Ring porous charcoal fragments are present, and these are likely to be oak (Quercus sp.) and there are also some fungal sporangia. No artefacts were recovered from the residue.
- C.1.10 Sample 7 from fill 1007 of pit 1005 produced a very large charcoal rich flot. The material appears predominantly ring type and some fungal sporangia are present. Due to its size only 50% of the flot was assessed at this stage. No artefacts were recovered from the residue.

#### Trench 11

C.1.11 Sample 2 from fill 1105 of ditch 1103 produced a poor flot. A fragment of charcoal roundwood is present and a charred grass seed (Poaceae) was also identified. Abundant fungal sporangia are also present. No artefacts were recovered from the residue.

#### Trench 12

C.1.12 Sample 4 from fill 1204 of ditch 1203 produced a poor flot. A charred dock seed (Rumex sp.) and abundant fungal sporangia are again present. No artefacts were recovered from the residue.

#### Discussion

- C.1.13 The bulk of the recovered charred material came from pits, with sampled ditches producing generally poor flots. The pits, which are currently undated, appear to have been used to dump charcoal usually in large quantities and this is good condition for the most part, so most of the samples have sufficient material for full identification and analysis although this preliminary scan suggests much of it is probably oak. Black fungal fruiting bodies or sporangia are present in most samples and may indicate the burning of old or dead wood.
- C.1.14 Further assessment would be needed to determine if all the charcoal in samples 1, 7 and 8 is oak with samples 3 and 6 also potential candidates for further examination. As a long-lived tree, oak heartwood charcoal is not recommended for radiocarbon dating purposes.

#### Recommendations for retention/disposal

C.1.15 The flots warrant retention until all works on site are complete. Depending on the likely date, samples 1, 6, 8 and one of 3 and 7 may warrant further consideration to clarify the nature of the charcoal.



C.1.16 Final recommendations for the retention or dispersal of the flots should be made once all works at the site are complete.

Sample no.	Context No.	Feature	Trench	Date	Sample vol (L)	Flot vol. (ml)	Charcoal >2mm	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Molluscs	Sediment description
1	904	903	9	undated	34	3000	+++++				+	10YR 5/6 silty clay loam
2	1105	1103	11	undated	40	20	++			+		10YR 5/4 silty clay loam
3	1006	1005	10	undated	1	40	++++					10YR 5/6 silty clay loam.
4	1204	1203	12	undated	40	30	+			+		10YR 5/6 silty clay loam.
5	804	803	8	undated	20	20	++		+			10YR 5/4 silty clay loam.
6	106	105	1	undated	2	70	++++					10YR 3/2 silty clay loam.
7	1007	1005	10	undated	18	600	++++					10YR 3/2 silty clay loam.
8	505	503	5	undated	3	425	++++					10YR 3/2 silty clay loam.

C.1.17 Key: +=present (up to 5 items), ++=frequent (5-25), +++=common (25-100), ++++=abundant (100+), +++++=abundant (500+)

Table 1: Assessment of Bulk Samples.



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## APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name: Mount View Street, Bexhill, East Sussex

Site code: BEXHM:2023.17
Grid Reference TQ 748 089
Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: January 2023 – 2 weeks

Area of Site 3.1ha

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead,

Oxford, and will be deposited with Bexhill Museum in due course,

under the following accession number: BEXHM:2023.17.

Summary of Results: In February 2023 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Kier

on behalf of the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to undertake a first phase of archaeological evaluation at land off Mount View Street, Bexhill, East Sussex. The aim of the evaluation was to determine the presence and significance of any archaeological remains that may be found in the areas of proposed impacts. This phase of evaluation consisted of 16 trenches targeted on geophysical features and to test blank areas of the site, representing a 5% sample of the proposed development area.

The evaluation revealed a series of shallow undated ditches on differing alignments as well as four pits with evidence of burning. The trenches supported the results of the previous geophysical survey, as well as revealing ditches and pits that were not identified within the survey.

Only one small fragment of potential pottery was found within a ditch within Trench 8, along with two worked flints within Trench 10, which were tentatively dated as prehistoric. Evidence of charcoal filled pits within the area have previously been interpreted a charcoal production dating from the Iron Age to Saxon periods.

The site sits within a wider landscape of multi-phase activity dating from the Late Bronze Age to the early medieval period. The activities on the site appear to represent a small coaxial fieldsystem or enclosure ditches of potential prehistoric date. The four pits are potentially associated with charcoal production and provide further evidence of woodland management from the late Iron Age onwards.

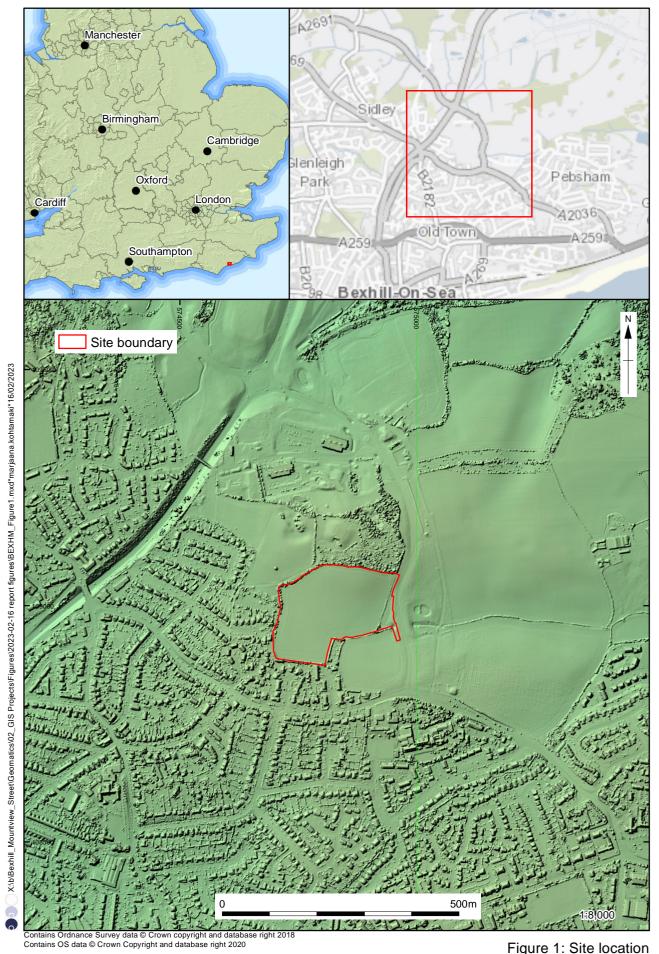
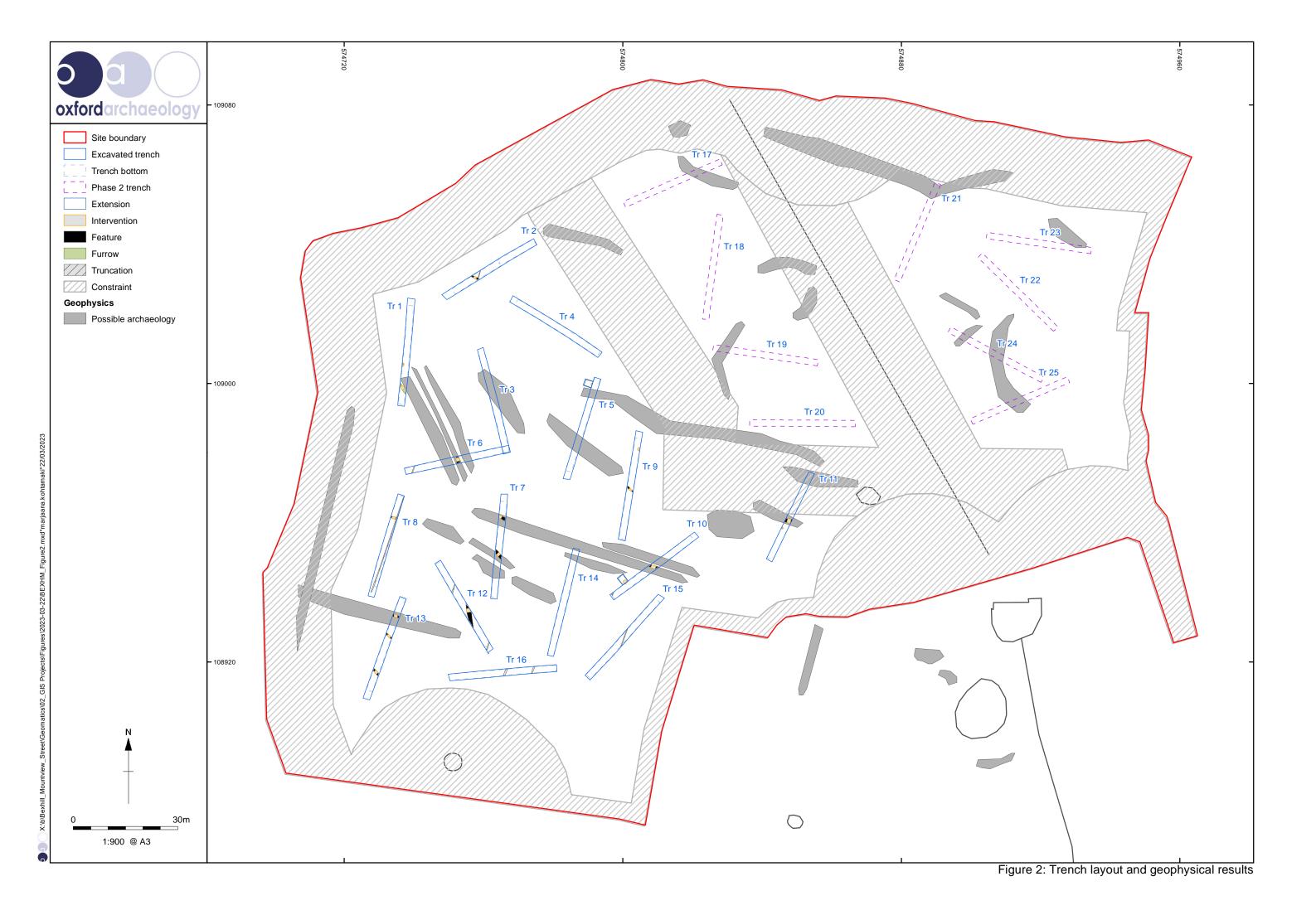
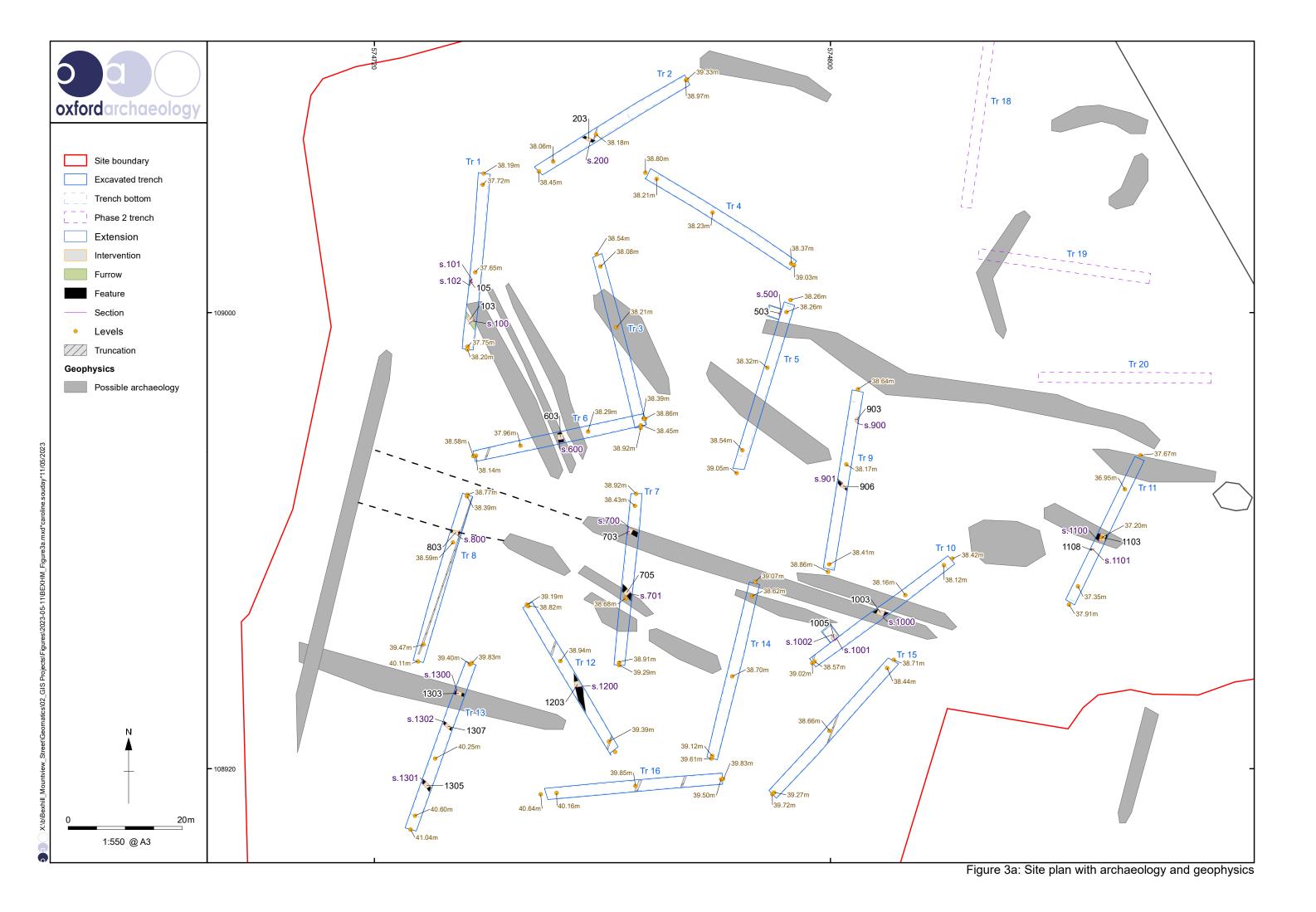


Figure 1: Site location





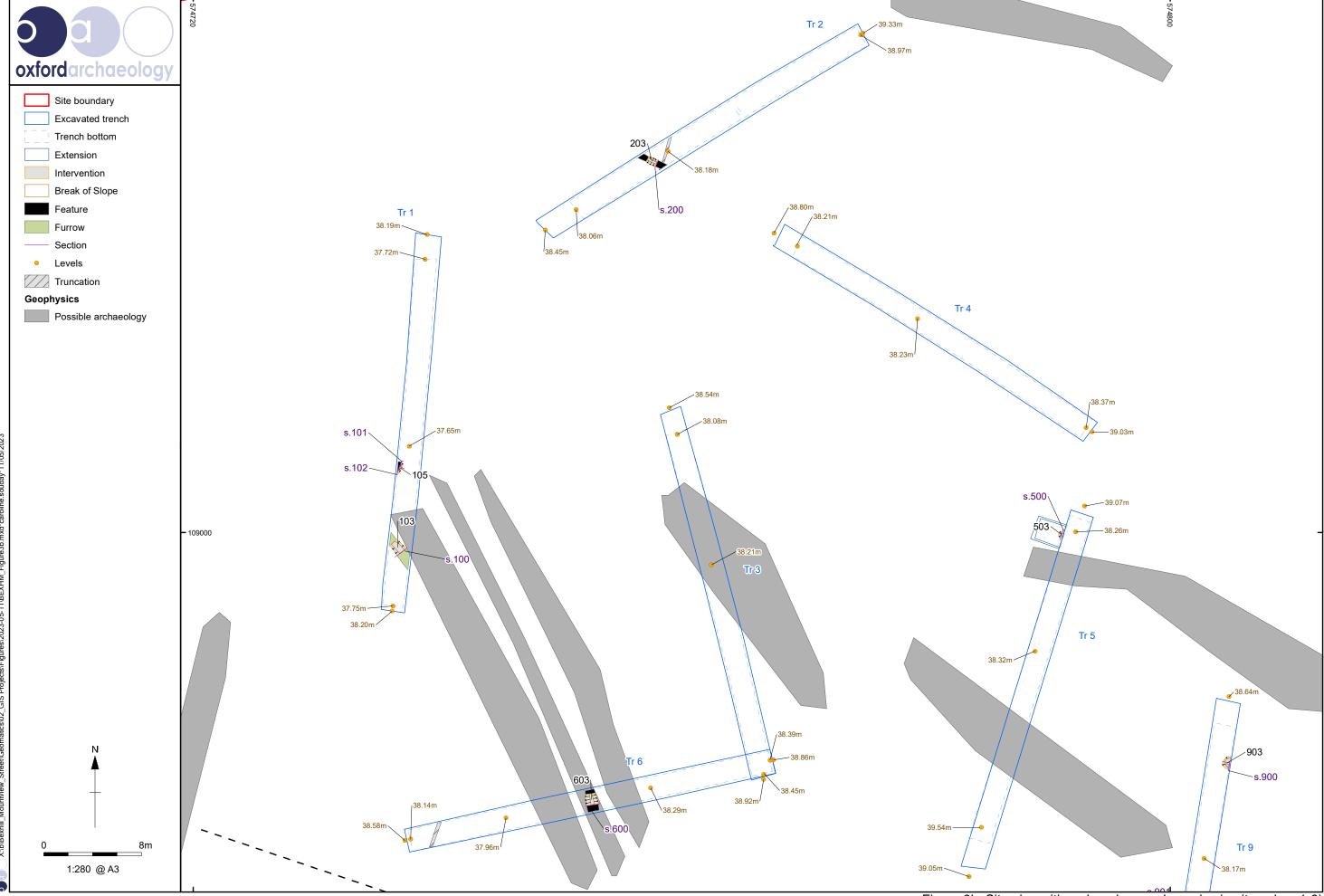
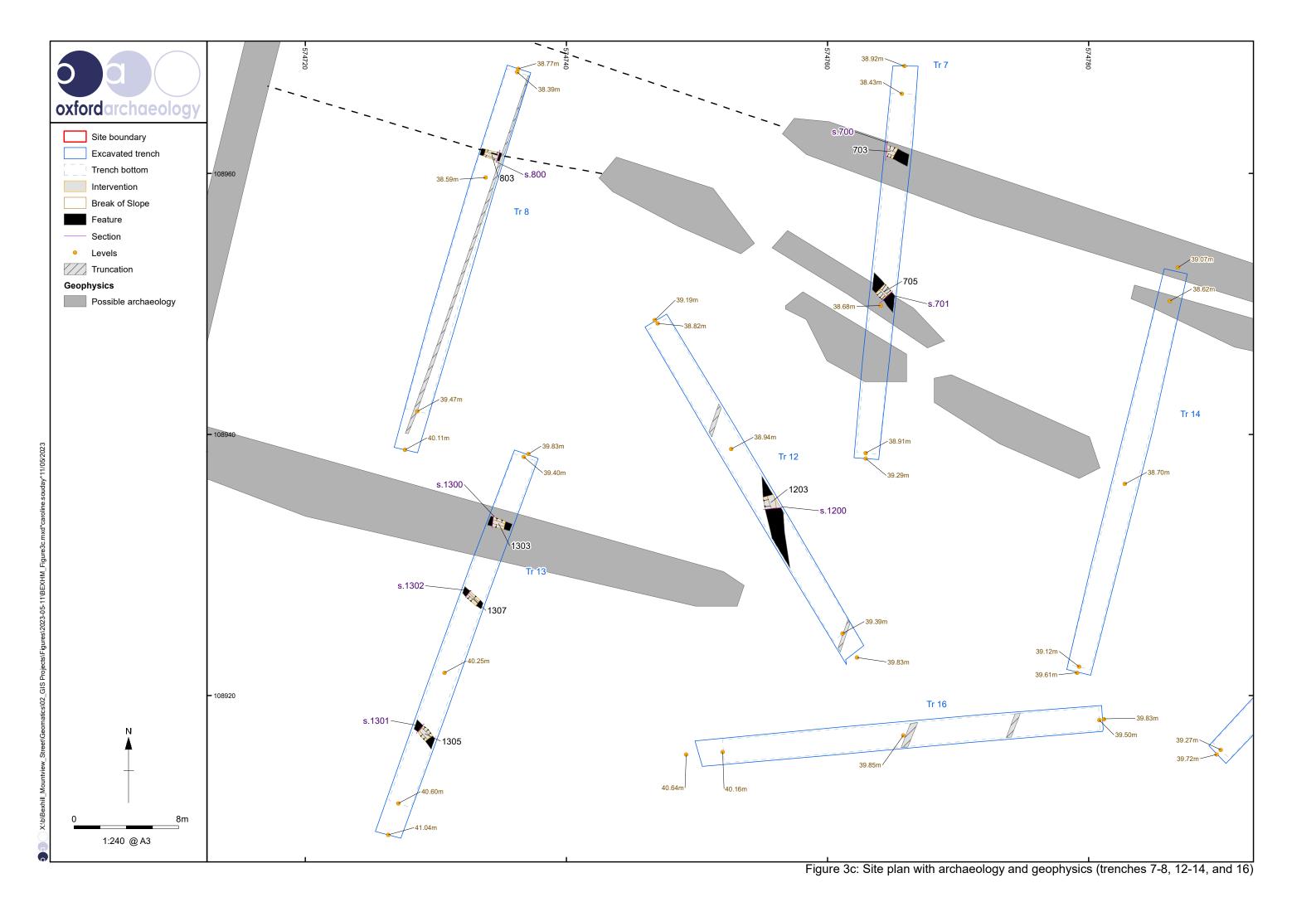
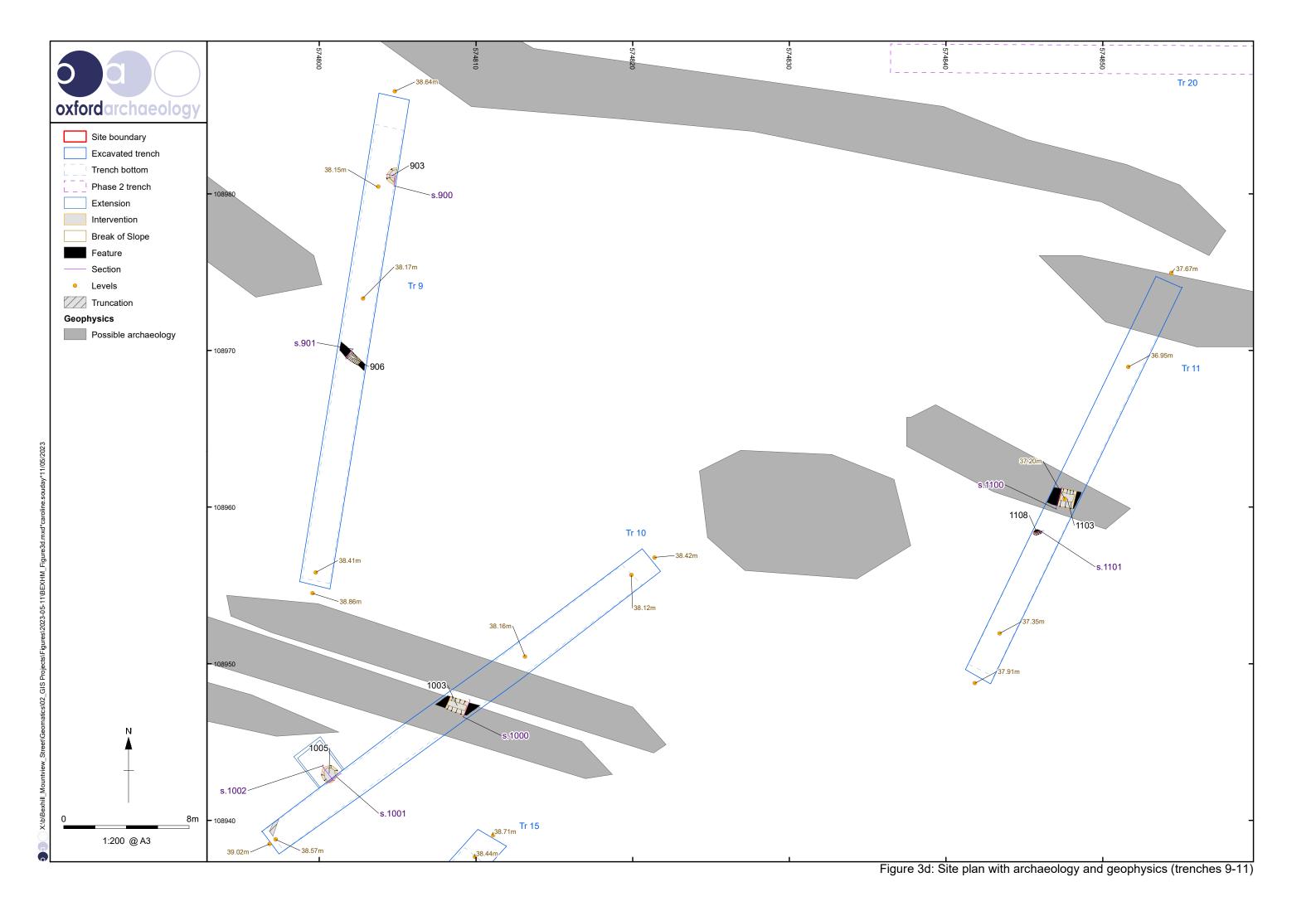
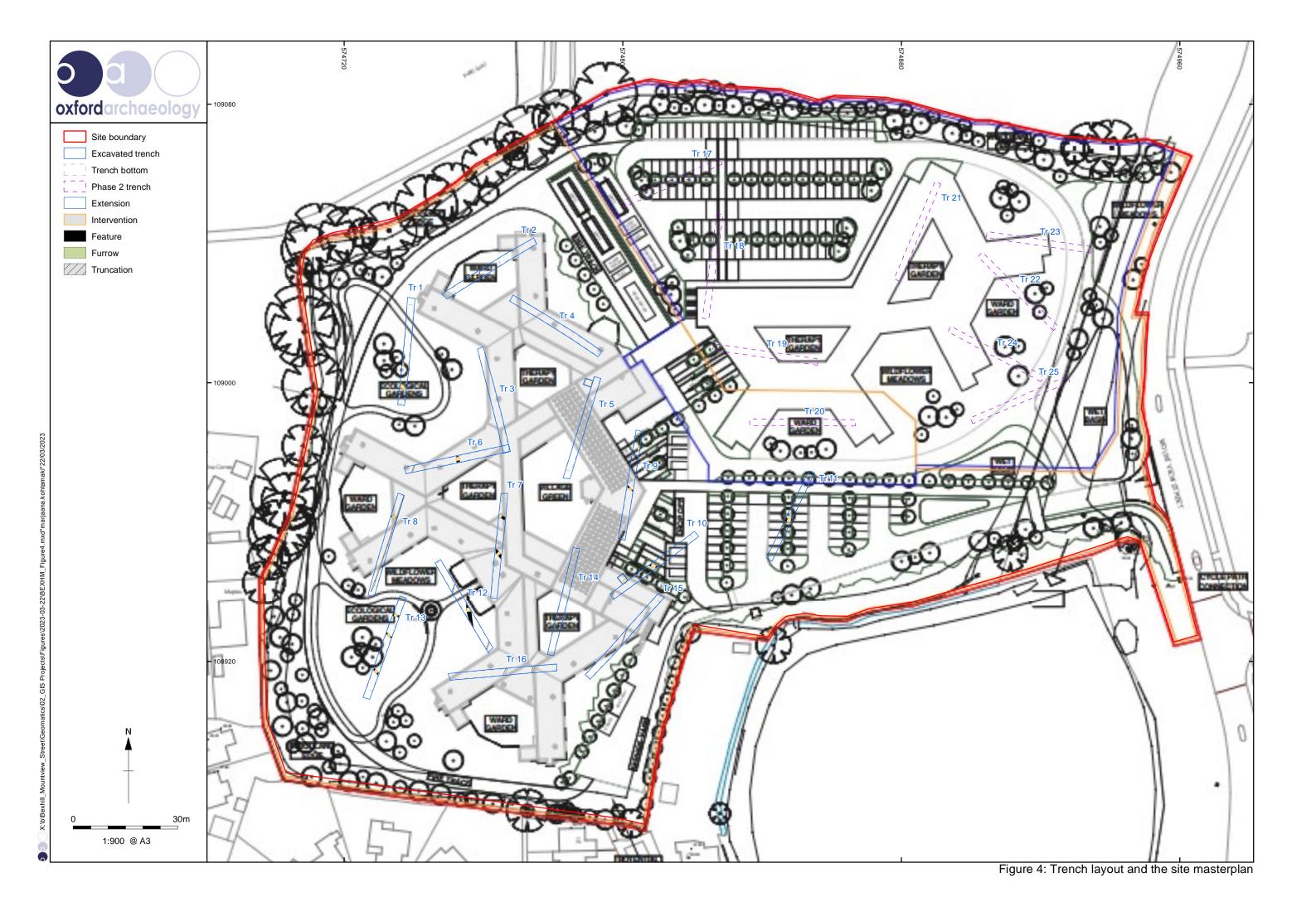
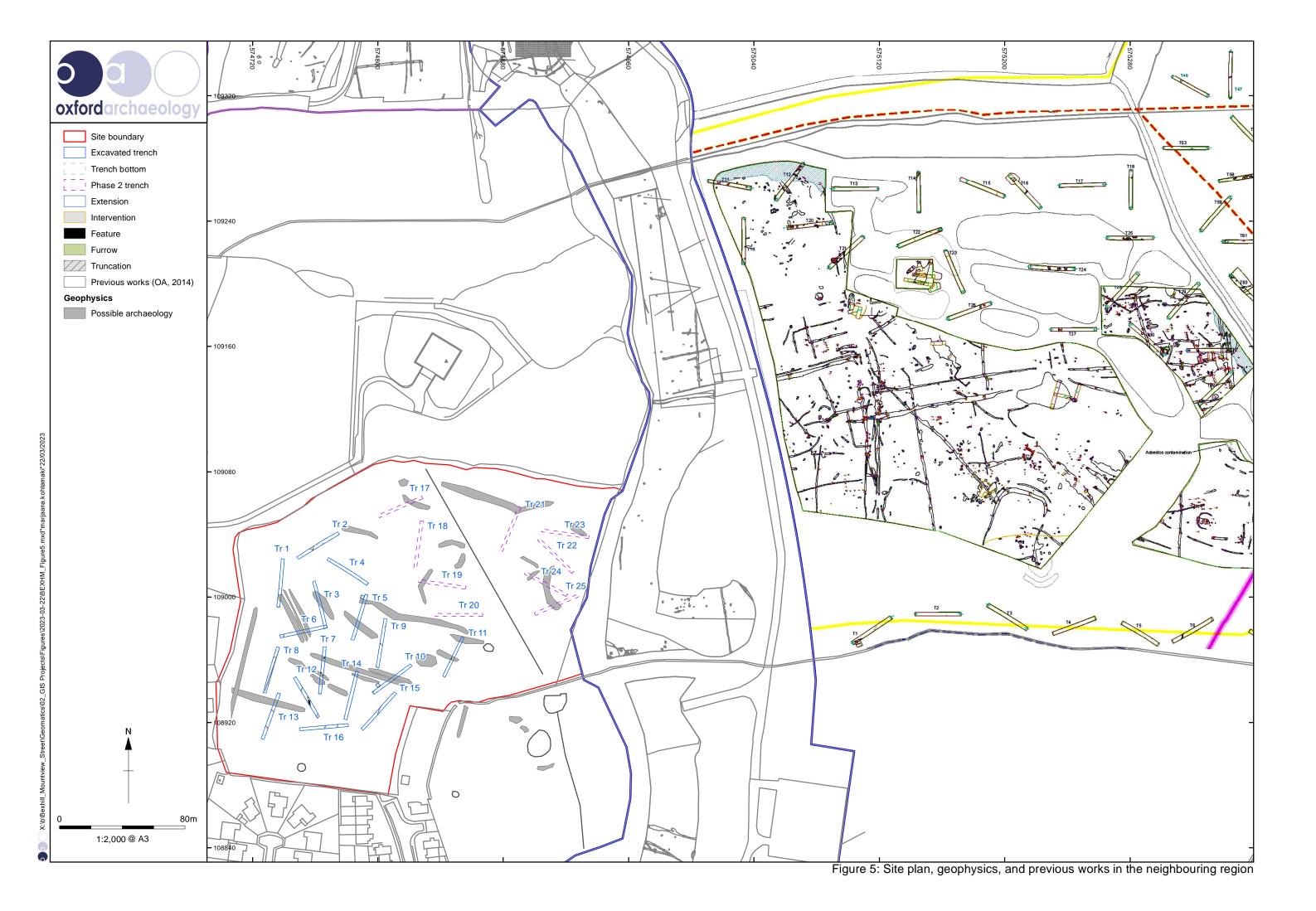


Figure 3b: Site plan with archaeology and geophysics (trenches 1-6)









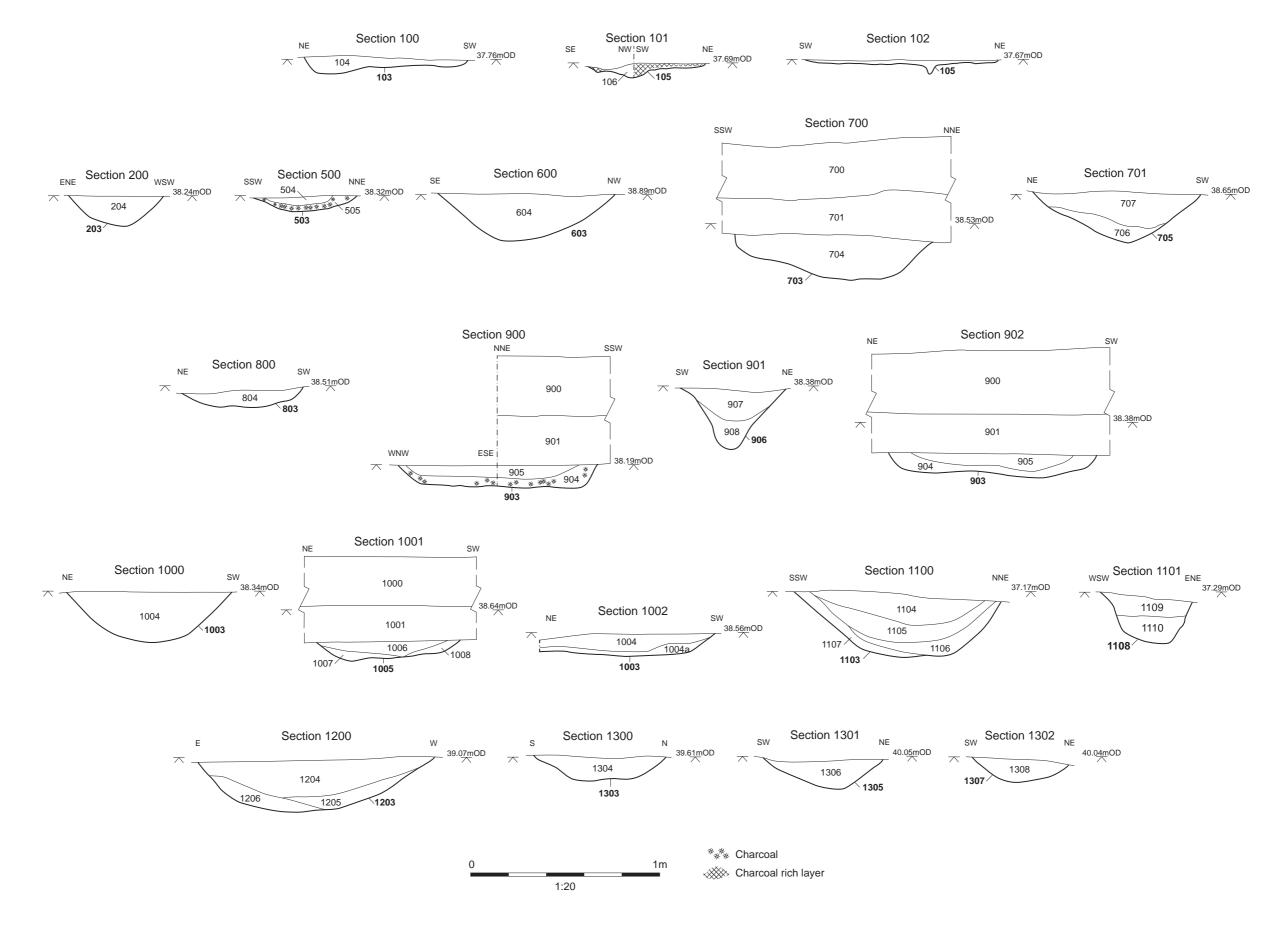


Figure 6: Ditch and pits sections



Plate 1: West facing view of Trench 8



Plate 2: SE facing view of S800 Ditch [803]



Plate 3: NW facing view of Trench 13



Plate 4: SW facing view of Trench 10



Plate 5: NE facing view of Trench 9



Plate 6: NE view S900 Pit [903]



Plate 7: NW view S901 Ditch [905]



Plate 8: W view S1100 Ditch [1103]



Plate 9: Pit [503] pre-exc



Plate 10: SW view S1002 Pit [1005]





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