

Archaeological evaluation of land off Bristol Road, Hardwicke, Gloucestershire



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Archaeological evaluation of land off Bristol Road, Hardwicke, Gloucestershire

Graham Arnold

With contributions by Rob Hedge and Tom Vaughan

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken of land off Bristol Road, Hardwicke, Gloucestershire (NGR SO 8024 1268). It was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd, whose client, Redrow Homes, intends residential development for which a planning application will be submitted to Stroud District Council.

The site is located 1.6 km south-west of the civil parish of Quedgeley, a suburb of Gloucester. The site comprised two flat, recently harvested fields.

Fourteen trenches (55.5m x 1.8m) were excavated over the site area of 7 hectares, following a geophysical survey. This had identified no anomalies of possible or probable archaeological activity.

A number of shallow features were recorded relating to multiple periods, including Middle Iron Age, Roman and medieval pits, medieval gullies and post-medieval land drainage and field boundaries and modern truncation.

Early prehistoric flints were recovered from the plough soil, including a Neolithic polished flint axe. The features recorded had been heavily truncated by ploughing, demonstrating the intensive agricultural use of the site from the medieval period onwards. The presence of residual finds within the ploughsoil, from the early prehistoric period onwards, is not considered to be the result solely of manuring of the fields however. The potential for the presence of in situ evidence of earlier activity on the site cannot therefore be ruled out, although the geophysical survey would indicate that the likelihood is low.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken of land off Bristol Road, Hardwicke, Gloucestershire (NGR SO 8024 1268). It was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, whose client, Redrow Homes intends residential development for which a planning application will be submitted to Stroud District Council.

The proposed development site was considered to include heritage assets and potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application.

The project conforms to the generic briefs which have been previously issued by Gloucestershire County Council, and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (WA 2016).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a).

The unique reference for this project, given by the Worcestershire Archaeology is P4943.

2 Aims

The aims of this evaluation were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits beyond reasonable doubt;
- identify their location, nature date and preservation;
- assess their significance;
- assess the likely impact of the proposed development.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The fieldwork was led by Peter Lovett (BSc (hons.)), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2012 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004, assisted by James Spry (BA (hons.); MA), Graham Arnold (BA (hons.), MSc) and Andrew Walsh (BSc (hons); MSc; ACIfA; FSA Scot). The report was prepared by Graham Arnold (BA (hons.), MSc). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan (BA (hons.); MA; ACIfA). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (MCIfA). Robert Hedge (MA Cantab) contributed the finds report.

3.2 Documentary research

A geophysical survey was carried out prior to the archaeological evaluation (Magnitude Surveys 2016). The archaeological background to the site is given in Section 4.1.

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER) by CgMs (dated 12 September 2016, 102609).

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography (Section 13).

3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2016).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 10 and 17 October 2016. The WA site reference number and unique site code is P4943.

Fourteen trenches, amounting to just over 1,500m² in area, were excavated over the site area of c 7ha, representing a sample of c 2%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

3.4 Structural analysis

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

3.5 Artefact methodology, by Rob Hedge

The finds work reported here conforms with the following guidance: for finds work by ClfA (2014b), for archive creation by AAF (2011) and for museum deposition by SMA (1993).

3.5.1 Recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012; appendix 2).

3.5.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on a *Microsoft Access* database.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate to period, broad fabric type and form.

3.5.3 Discard policy

The following categories/types of material will be discarded after a period of 6 months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):

- where unstratified
- post-medieval material in general, and;
- generally where material has been specifically assessed by an appropriate specialist as having no obvious grounds for retention.

3.6 Environmental archaeology methodology

3.6.1 Sampling policy

Sampling was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). In the event no deposits were identified which were considered to be suitable for environmental analysis.

3.7 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

Prior to the evaluation, a geophysical survey was conducted; the report on which included the basic geological, topographical and archaeological background, as follows (Magnitude Surveys 2016, 5):

The underlying geology comprises of Blue Lias formation and Charmouth Mudstone formation (undifferentiated) – Mudstone. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS, 2016).

The soils consist of lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (Soilscapes, 2016).

The site is located 1.6 km southwest of the civil parish of Quedgeley, a suburb of Gloucester. Survey was undertaken over two flat, recently harvested fields. The fields were bounded to the east by Bristol Road, Green Lane to the north and south and west by Sticky Lane.

A Heritage Gateway (2016) search revealed no designated heritage assets on the site itself nor any scheduled monuments within 1 km radius of the site. The wider 1 km study area did contain a number of undesignated heritage assets which will be outlined below.

There is extensive evidence of prehistoric and Romano-British occupation within the Severn Vale. Approximately 240m east from the site, a Roman inhumation has been identified. Approximately 900m east of the site, a double ditch enclosure, with associated field system, have been recorded. These features are estimated to be of Mid-Iron Age to late Roman in date. on the same location a burial and cremation of possible Iron Age date were also recorded.

Medieval evidence primarily relates to the presence of ridge and furrow cultivation in the area and the presence of Medieval buildings. Medieval foundations were discovered both in-situ and reused 950m southwest of the survey area in St Nicholas Church, Hardwicke. A further 990m northeast of the site ridge and furrow was detected truncating an undated stone culvert.

The geophysical survey report indicated that significant deposits may be defined as those likely to be of prehistoric and Roman date, although the survey itself indicated a low likelihood for the presence of archaeological remains on this particular site.

4.2 Current land-use

The site is currently used as arable fields used to grow cereal crops. The crop had been harvested prior to work on site with straw stubble left in the field.

5 Results

5.1 Structural analysis

The trench locations with the post-medieval features recorded are shown in Figure 2. Trenches containing archaeological features, with plans and sections are shown in more detail in Figures 3-6 and Plates 1-16. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The natural geology of Charmouth Mudstone, with bands of Blue Lias clays, was identified in all trenches across the site at a depth of between 0.30-0.50m (16.64-19.96m AOD) below the existing ground level.

5.1.2 Phase 2: Early prehistoric deposits

Although no features within the evaluation trenches could to be attributed to the early prehistoric period, the presence of a polished flint axe (Plates 15 and 16), and other worked flints found within the plough soil indicates that there was activity in the area at this time. Ploughing on the site may have truncated these features and deposits or they may still be present in the locality, although this was indeterminable in the present evaluation trenches.

5.1.3 Phase 3: Later prehistoric and Roman deposits

One pit was found that could be dated to the Middle Iron Age in Trench 3 [304] (Figs 3-4; Plate 8). It had shallow sides curving to a slightly undulating base and had been truncated by a later dump of post-medieval or modern material. An associated highly abraded Roman sherd is considered to be intrusive, and derive from the ploughsoil.

Pits dating to the Roman period were found in Trench 2 [204], [206], [208] and [210]. These generally had gradually sloping sides and concave or flat bases with a maximum depth of 0.15m (Figs 3-4; Plates 6-7). Across the site the deposits were heavily truncated by later ploughing, and further finds dating to the Roman period were found in the ploughsoil.

5.1.4 Phase 3: Medieval deposits

Features related to the medieval period were recorded in Trench 1 [104] and [106]. They comprised narrow shallow agricultural drainage gullies, orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment (Figs 3-4; Plates 3-4). A small pit in Trench 6 [604], 0.08m deep and 0.97m also contained finds which dated to the medieval period (Figs 2 and 6; Plate 10). Another pit adjacent, of similar size and profile [606], is conjectured to date to this period by association (Figs 2 and 6).

5.1.5 Phase 4: Post-medieval deposits

Post-medieval ditches relating to old field boundaries or hedgerows were recorded (Fig 2) in Trench 6 [608] (east to west; Plate 13), Trench 11 [1104] (north to south) and Trench 13 [1304] (north to south), with (1303) containing post-medieval pot, slag and clinker (Plate 12). Stone lined land drains were also recorded in the western field, in Trenches 2, 4 and 7 orientated east to west.

5.1.6 Phase 5: modern deposits

A hollow filled with metalwork and debris was found in Trench 3 [305], which was a maximum of 0.30m deep (Plate 14) and had truncated a possible shallow Roman pit [304] to the south-east. and contained highly abraded Roman pot from the plough soil. The aforementioned ditch in Trench 13 [1304] may also be a modern intrusion, related to the agricultural use of the site.

5.2 Artefactual analysis, by Rob Hedge

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

The assemblage came from 13 stratified contexts and could be dated from the Mesolithic/Neolithic period onwards (see Table 1), with an even spread of later prehistoric, Roman and medieval material. Using pottery as an index of artefact condition, this was generally poor with the majority of sherds displaying high levels of abrasion, and the average sherd size, at 4.8g, being well below average.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
Mesolithic/Neolithic	stone	flint	notched blade	1	2
Neolithic	stone	flint	polished flint axe	1	254
middle Iron Age	ceramic		pot	15	35
prehistoric	ceramic		fired clay	1	16
prehistoric	stone	flint	flakes	2	10
early Roman	ceramic		pot	3	9
Roman	ceramic		pot	13	44
Roman to post-medieval	metal	iron	nail	1	28
medieval	ceramic		pot	9	40
late med/early post-med	ceramic		pot	2	50
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	1	2
post-medieval	ceramic		tile	1	28
post-medieval/modern	ceramic		pot	3	40
post-medieval/modern	metal	iron	unident	1	47

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
undated	bone	animal bone	mammal tooth	1	1
undated	ceramic		fired clay	3	113
undated	ceramic		unident	1	2
undated	slag	fuel ash slag	fuel ash	1	1
Totals:				60	722

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
103	ceramic		pot	3	22	1200	1400	1200 - 1400
200	stone	flint	polished flint axe	1	254	-4000	-2500	4000BC - 2500BC
205	ceramic		pot	2	7	43	200	43 - 200
209	ceramic		pot	4	11	43	410	43 - 410
303	ceramic		pot	15	35	-400	-100	400BC - 100BC
	ceramic		fired clay	1	1			
	bone	animal bone	mammal tooth	1	1			
	ceramic		pot	1	2	43	200	(Intrusive)
	metal	iron	nail	1	28	43	1900	
401	ceramic		pot	3	40	1850	2000	1850 - 2000
	ceramic		pot	1	2	1680	1740	
	ceramic		pot	1	30	1500	1700	
	ceramic		pot	1		1200	1500	
	ceramic		pot	1	20	1500	1700	
	ceramic		fired clay	2	112			
	metal	iron	unident	1	47	1600	2000	
501	ceramic		pot	2	1	1066	1600	1066 - 1600
507	ceramic		fired clay	1	16	-4000	43	4000BC - 43AD
603	ceramic		pot	1	2	1200	1600	1200 - 1600
	ceramic		pot	2	15	1066	1600	
801	ceramic		pot	2	28	43	410	1600 - 1900
	ceramic		tile	1	28	1600	1900	
	stone	flint	flakes	2	10	-10000	43	
1101	ceramic		pot	7	5	43	410	43 - 410
1300	stone	flint	notched blade	1	2	-10000	-2500	10000BC - 2500BC
1303	ceramic		unident	1	2			undated
	slag	fuel ash slag	fuel ash	1	1			

Table 2: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

5.2.1 Summary artefactual evidence by period

For the finds from individual features, consult Table 2.

5.2.2 Phase 1: Earlier prehistoric

The presence of worked flint within topsoil and subsoil deposits across the site (in Trenches 2, 8 and 13) is indicative of human activity on the site in the Neolithic period, and possibly earlier: a notched blade is likely to be of Mesolithic or Neolithic date.

Of particular note is the Neolithic polished flint axe (Plates 15 and 16) recovered from topsoil (200) during machining: a fine example in extremely good condition and seemingly unused, such objects are generally seen to have been symbolic artefacts (Butler 2005, 151) and intentionally deposited, particularly in pits, watery places or monuments.

The axe measures 105mm in length with a maximum width of 65mm and maximum thickness of 29mm. In form it broadly corresponds to Field & Woolley's 'Class C': lenticular in section with one straight, faceted edge (1984, 89-90). The butt and other edge remain relatively unfinished, possibly for hafting, though both surfaces are carefully ground. The curved blade edge is extremely fine and shows no sign of use-damage. The raw material is a fine-grained, mottled, honey-coloured flint.

5.2.3 Phase 2: Later prehistoric and Roman

Fill (303) of shallow pit [304] contained Oolitic Limestone-tempered pottery typical of Middle Iron Age assemblages in the region. A very heavily abraded sherd from a Roman Severn Valley Ware flagon and an iron nail (not closely dateable) are thought to be intrusive and introduced as a result of disturbance by cut [305].

Within Trench 2, truncated pits [206] and [210] contained a small quantity of Roman Severn Valley Ware, some of which was organic-tempered, indicating a 1st to 2nd century date.

A small quantity of Roman pottery was also recovered from subsoil deposits (801) and (1101).

5.2.4 Phase 3: Medieval

Several features yielded finds suggestive of a medieval date:

- pit [604]: fill (603) contained three abraded sherds indicating a 13th to 16th century date, and
- fill (103) of gully [104] contained three conjoining sherds of local 13th/14th century cooking pot.

The remainder of the medieval pottery comprised abraded sherds from subsoil deposits. These included diagnostically 13th/14th century sherds and several examples of 16th/17th century transitional (late medieval to early post-medieval) wares, including North Devon gravel-tempered ware.

5.2.5 Phase 4: Post-medieval

A single late-17th to mid-18th century sherd of pottery was recovered from subsoil within Trench 4.

5.2.6 Phase 5: modern

A small quantity of pottery of later 19th to 20th century date was present within subsoil (401).

6 Synthesis, by Rob Hedge and Graham Arnold

Although the majority of archaeological features were heavily truncated, the presence of small quantities of pottery within a number of features suggests activity on the site spanning the Middle Iron Age ([304]), Roman ([206] and [210]) and medieval ([104] and [604]) periods, besides a background scatter from later medieval and post-medieval agricultural activity. The main focus of earlier activity is found to the west of the site (Trenches 1-6), with all features recorded in the eastern field (Trenches 9-14) relating to post-medieval and later agricultural use of the land.

Of particular note is the presence of the Neolithic polished flint axe. As it was recovered from topsoil, it is not possible to determine whether it was originally deposited within a pit, burial, monument or significant place, but such finds are considered unlikely to be chance losses and a

deliberate act of deposition is likely. The topographic situation of the site, close to the Shorn Brook, and with clay-rich, poorly-draining soils, may suggest that the site was a watery locale in the Neolithic: axe deposition in such liminal places in western Britain is well-documented (e.g. Cummings 2009). However, the presence of other worked flint may indicate a range of activity in the site area in the earlier prehistoric phase, and the possibility that the axe may derive from deposition within a pit group or monument should be considered.

The features recorded had been heavily truncated by ploughing, demonstrating the intensive agricultural use of the site from the medieval period onwards. The presence of residual finds within the ploughsoil, from the early prehistoric period onwards, is not considered to be the result solely of manuring of the fields however.

6.1 Research frameworks

The finds found within the plough soil from the evaluation have the potential to add to a number of research aims identified in the South West Archaeological Research Framework (see below; Webster 2007), notably Theme D: Social Identity and Change – Transition, Identity, Territories, Religion, Conflict and Death (Grove and Croft 2012, 14).

7 Significance, by Rob Hedge and Tom Vaughan

7.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

The archaeological remains of interest in the site are of Middle Iron Age, Roman and medieval date, comprising a low density of shallow pits, all heavily truncated, across the western field. A low density scatter of prehistoric flints was also recovered from the soils.

A sparse assemblage of artefactual material is indicative of activity on the site across prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods, although the poor condition of the pottery assemblage and truncation of observed features may indicate that the potential for survival of significant assemblages relating to these periods has been compromised by agricultural activity.

7.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

Due to the low density, and truncated nature of the features identified, they are considered to be of low significance.

The recovery of a Neolithic polished flint axe in pristine condition however is highly significant, and examination of the wider context of its deposition has the potential to contribute to a number of research aims identified in the South West Archaeological Research Framework (Webster 2007), including:

- Research Aim 3b: address the gaps in knowledge regarding Neolithic archaeology in Gloucestershire
- Research Aim 28a: Focus on landscape surrounding Neolithic sites
- Research Aim 28b: Potential of 'small-scale' evidence
- Research Aim 38c: Understanding lithic raw material procurement and transportation.

7.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

It would appear that there has been a high degree of truncation of archaeological features across the site: the ploughsoil may therefore contain material of potential value in understanding the history of land-use on the site, particularly for prehistoric periods. The survival of stratified archaeological features cut into the natural is limited.

8 The impact of the development

The impact of the development during construction is dependent on where sub-surface excavations, such as footings and drainage are located, and this is yet to be determined. The low

concentration of archaeological features is in the western field of the two which comprise the site. The features were very shallow, generally at a depth of 0.30-0.50m below the present surface, and had been heavily truncated by ploughing.

9 Recommendations, by Rob Hedge

9.1 Further analysis and reporting

The following recommendations are made for consideration when designing any further archaeological mitigation for this site.

- The potential for further evidence of Neolithic activity within ploughsoil or truncated features should be considered

The following recommendations are made with regard to further work on the artefacts considered as part of this report.

- Further work to establish possible raw material sources for the flint axe could be beneficial, and the possibility of publication in the form of a short note in a local journal could be explored.

9.2 Discard and retention

Although small, the assemblage is indicative of activity over multiple periods, and given the extent of truncation of features within the site, may prove significant in any future interpretation. The prehistoric material should certainly be retained, and it is recommended that Roman and medieval material also be kept as a small though consistent sequence covering several periods, although the final decision rests with the receiving museum.

10 Publication summary

Worcestershire Archaeology has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, Worcestershire Archaeology intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting, acting for Redrow Homes, of land off Bristol Road, Hardwicke, Gloucestershire (NGR SO 8024 1268).

Fourteen trenches were excavated over the site area of 7 hectares, following a geophysical survey. This had identified no anomalies of possible or probable archaeological activity.

A number of shallow features were recorded relating to multiple periods, including Middle Iron Age, Roman and medieval pits, medieval gullies and post-medieval land drainage and field boundaries and modern truncation.

Early prehistoric flints were recovered from the plough soil, including a Neolithic polished flint axe. The features recorded had been heavily truncated by ploughing, demonstrating the intensive agricultural use of the site from the medieval period onwards. The presence of residual finds within the ploughsoil, from the early prehistoric period onwards, is not considered to be the result solely of manuring of the fields however. The potential for the presence of in situ evidence of earlier activity on the site cannot therefore be ruled out, although the geophysical survey would indicate that the likelihood is low.

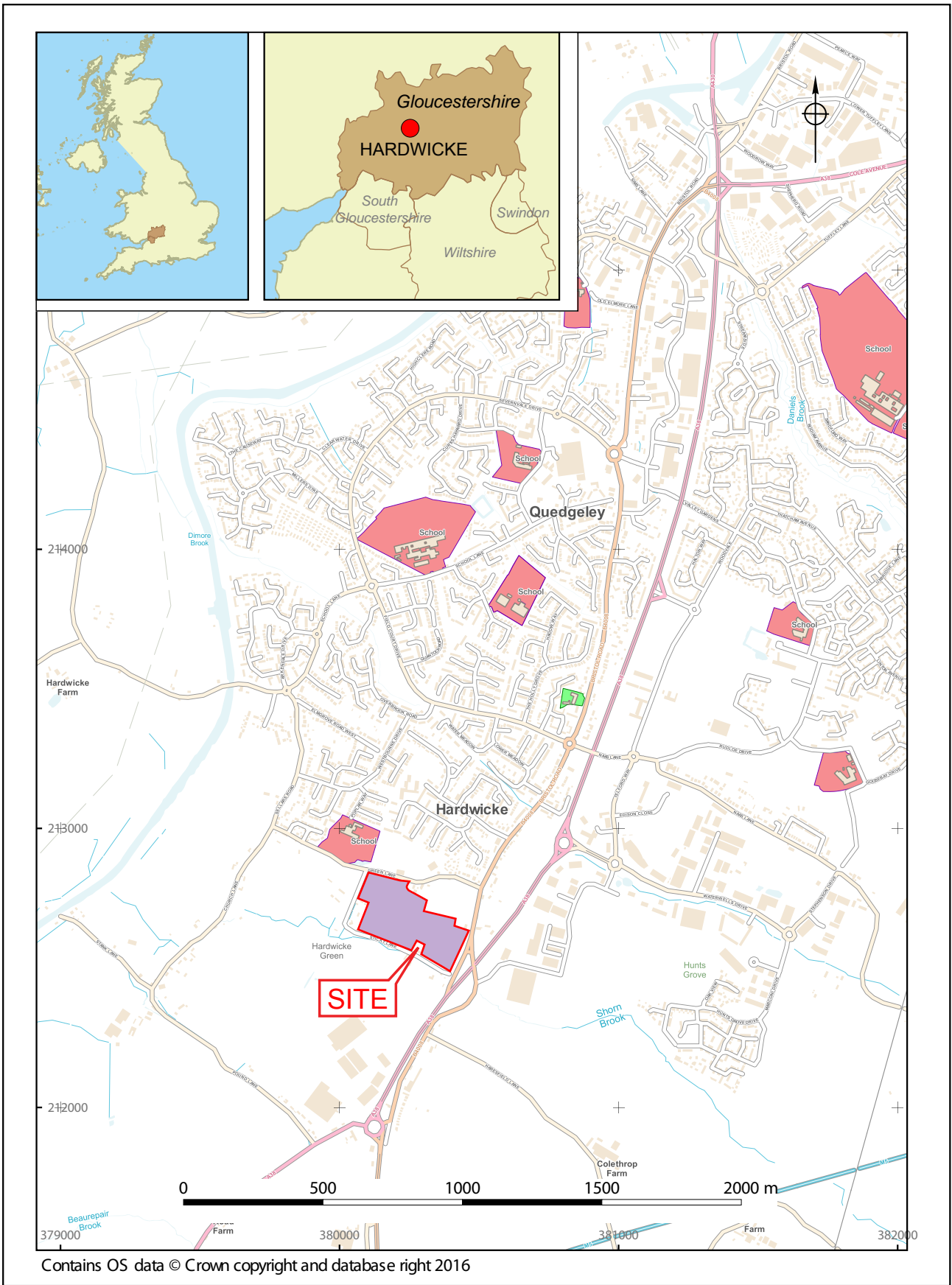
11 Acknowledgements

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12 Bibliography

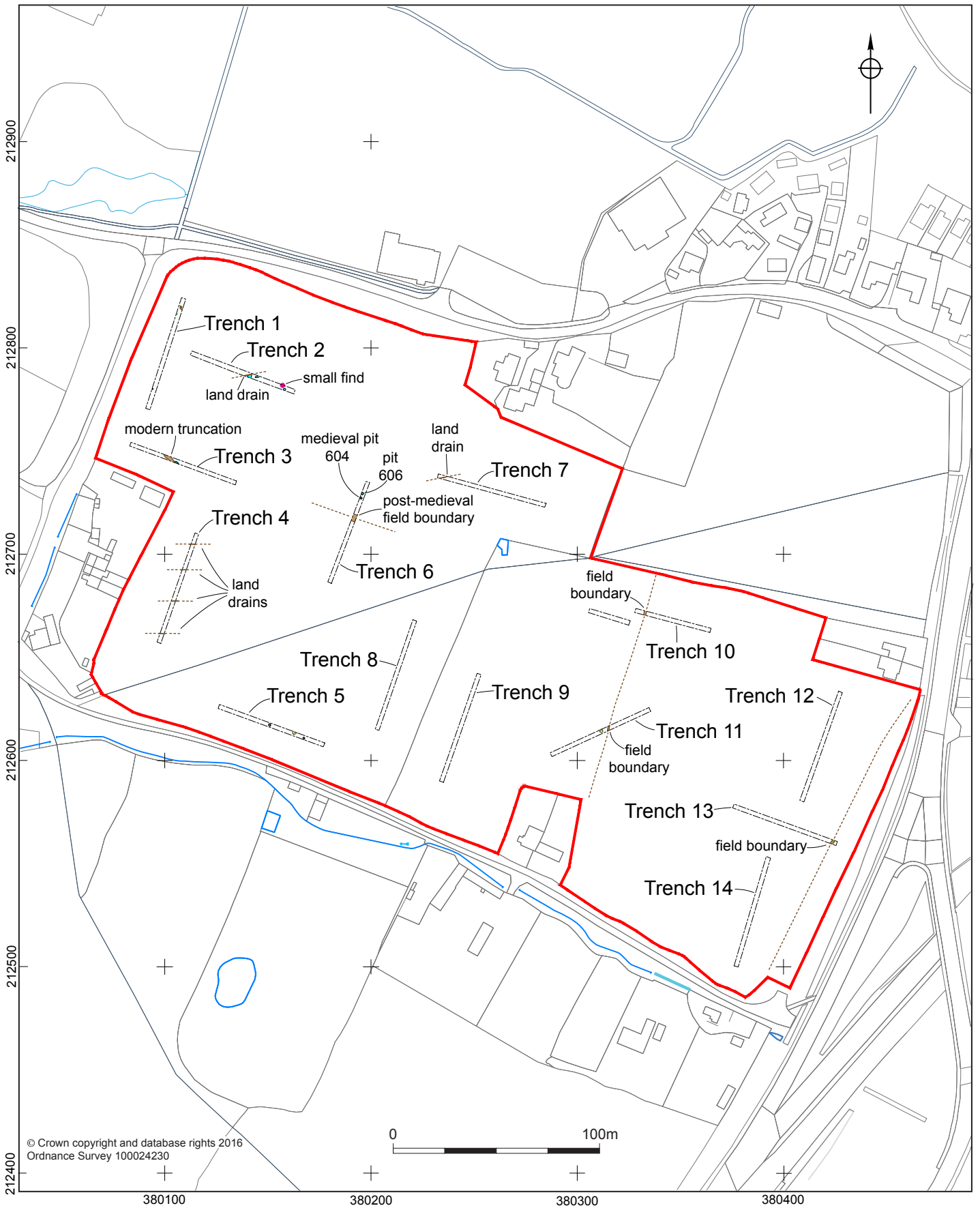
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Figures



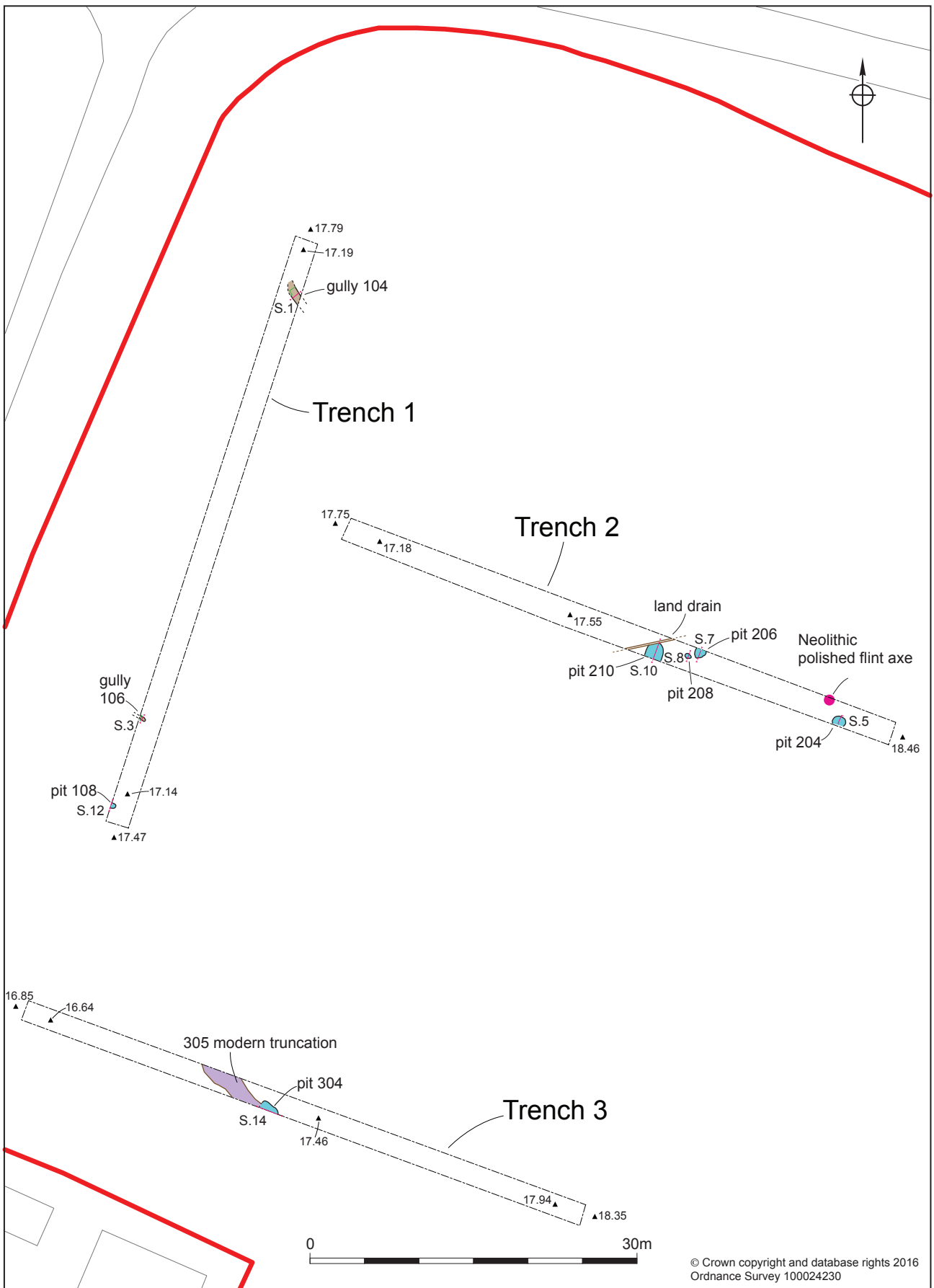
Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench location plan

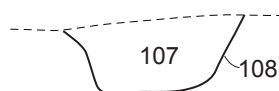
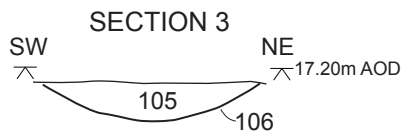
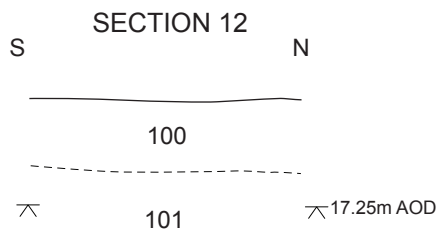
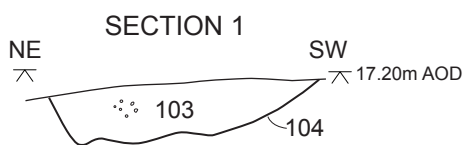
Figure 2



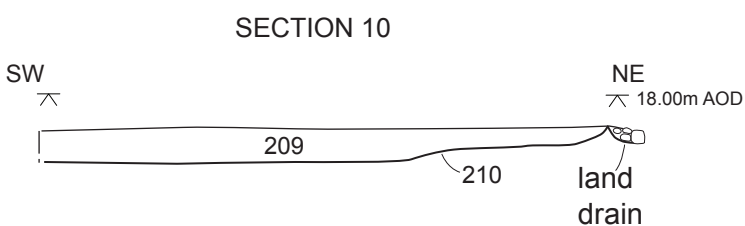
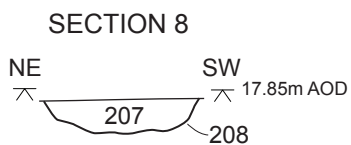
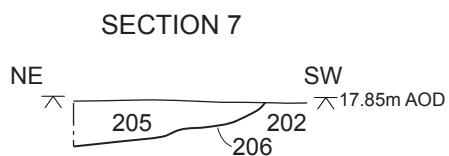
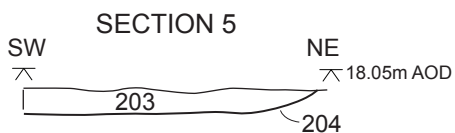
Plan showing features in Trenches 1, 2 and 3

Figure 3

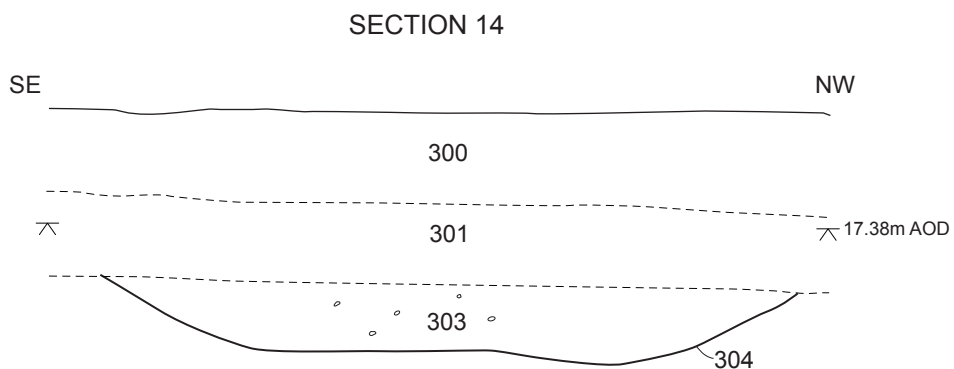
TRENCH 1: SECTIONS



TRENCH 2: SECTIONS

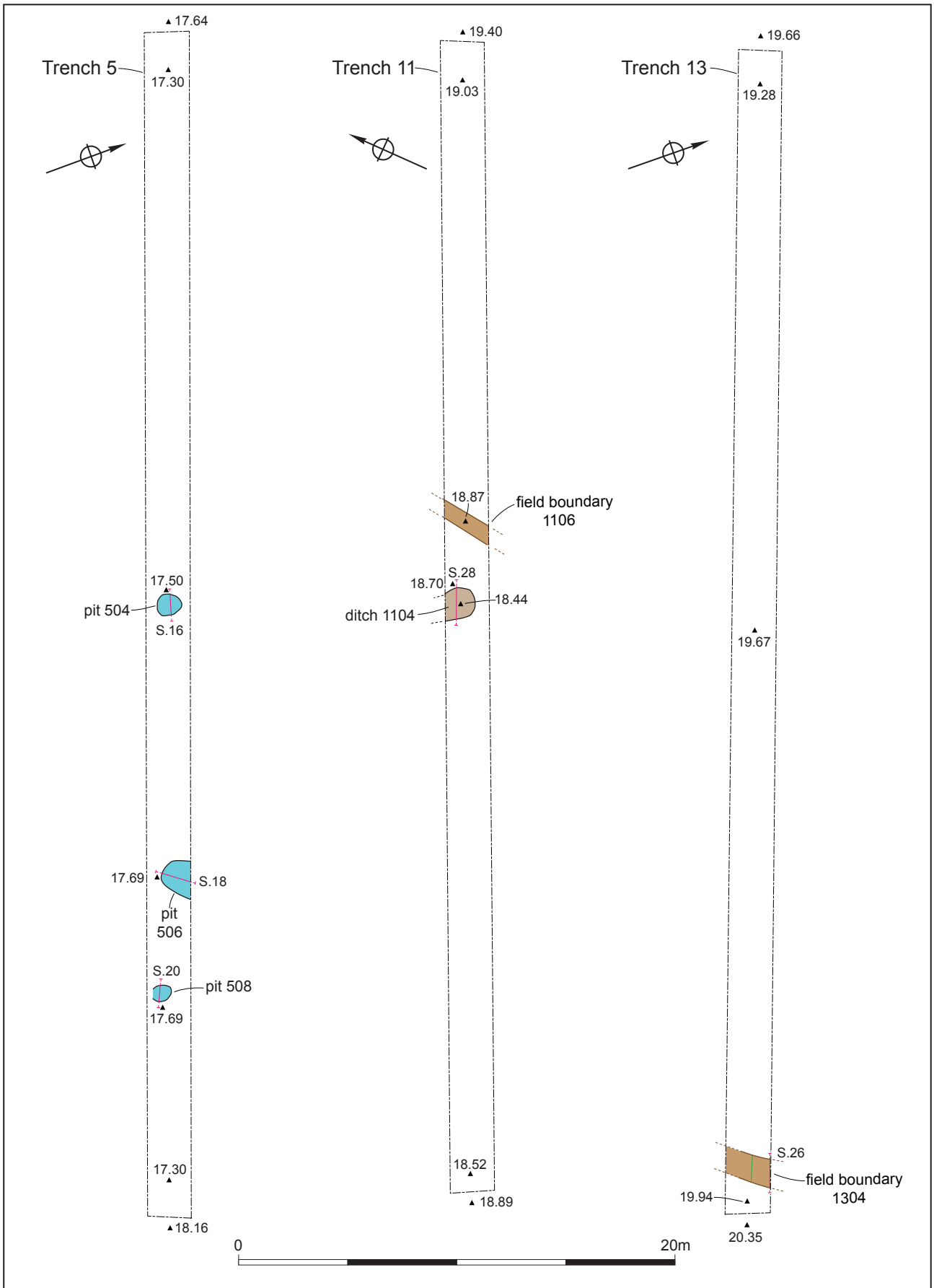


TRENCH 3: SECTION



Trenches 1, 2 and 3: sections

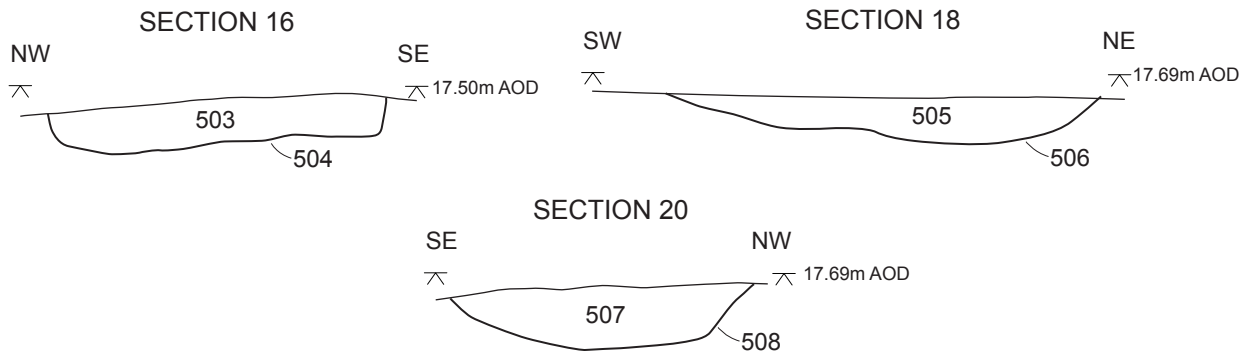
Figure 4



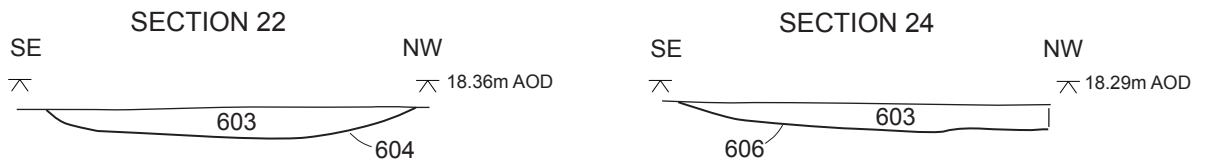
Plans of Trenches 5, 11 and 13

Figure 5

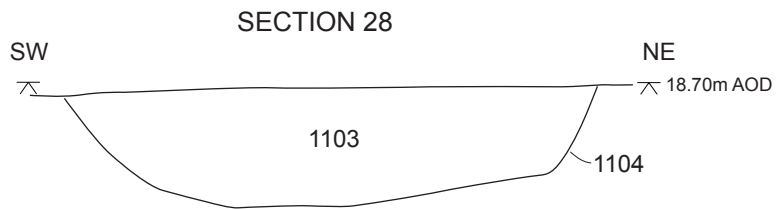
TRENCH 5: SECTIONS



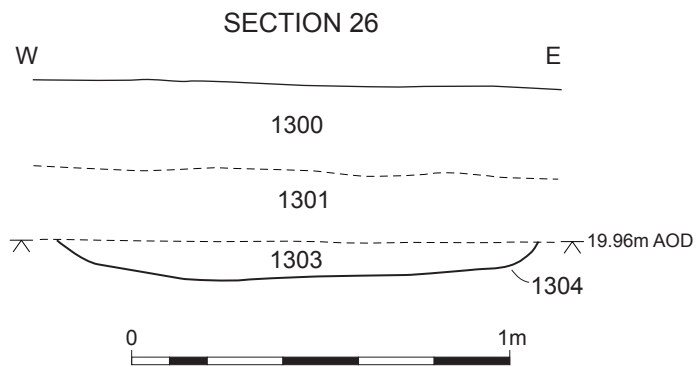
TRENCH 6: SECTIONS



TRENCH 11: SECTION



TRENCH 13: SECTION



Trenches 5, 6, 11 and 13: sections

Figure 6

Plates



Plate 1 View of field prior to excavation of trenches, view north-east



Plate 2 Trench 1 view south showing general Charmouth mudstone and blue lias geology



Plate 3 Gully 104 which contained medieval pottery, view south



Plate 4 Ditch terminus 106, an agricultural drainage gully, view north



Plate 5 Trench 2 view north-west



Plate 6 Pit 204 view north-west, cut by modern drainage moling in centre



Plate 7 Pit 210, cut by stone lined land drain, view west



Plate 8 Pit 304 view south-west, cut on right by modern truncation ditch 305



Plate 9 Pit 504, demonstrating truncation on site, view north-east



Plate 10 Pit 604 view south-west



Plate 11 Trench 7 view east showing general clay geology



Plate 12 Post-medieval field boundary ditch [1304]; view north



Plate 13 Post-medieval field boundary ditch [608]; machine slot to determine depth; view east



Plate 14 Post-medieval field boundary ditch [608]; machine slot to determine depth, view north-west



Plate 15 Neolithic polished flint axe from topsoil (200) on site



Plate 16 Neolithic polished flint axe from topsoil (200) after cleaning

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Length: 55.5m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.48m Orientation: North to south

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
100	Topsoil	Layer	Friable dark brownish grey sandy silt	0.20m	Agricultural topsoil
101	Subsoil	Layer	Compact mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.20m	Subsoil
102	Natural	Layer	Natural geology		Varies between Firm dark blue clay - Blue Lias and Firm mid yellow brown clay - Charmouth Mudstone
103	Gully	Fill	Firm light yellowish grey	0.18m	Fill of gully with rare medieval pot inclusions
104	Gully	Cut		0.18m	Irregular possible gully with diffuse edges running e-w
105	Gully	Fill	Firm dark yellowish grey	0.10m	Fill of gully similar to 103
106	Gully	Cut		0.10m	Cut of gully terminus with sharp sides and a concave base. Shallow running e-w
107	Pit	Fill	Moderately compact mid orangey grey clay	0.21m	Homogenous, sterile fill
108	Pit	Cut		0.21m	semi circular pit with sharp steep sides and a uneven base

Trench 2

Length: 55.5m

Width: 1.8m

Depth 0.60m

Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
200	Topsoil	Layer	Friable dark brownish grey sandy silt	0.25 - 0.30m	Agricultural topsoil
201	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.20 - 0.25m	
202	Natural	Layer	Natural geology		Varies between Firm dark blue clay - Blue Lias and Firm mid yellow brown clay - Charmouth Mudstone
203	Pit	Fill	Moderately compact mid greyish brown sand	0.06m	Shallow fill of pit, truncated by plough with rare pot
204	Pit	Cut		0.06m	Suboval pit 1.25m x 0.80m
205	Pit	Fill	Moderately compact mid greyish brown sandy clay	0.10m	Shallow fill of pit, truncated by plough
206	Pit	Cut		0.10	Sub-oval pit
207	Pit	Fill	Moderately compact mid greyish brown sand	0.06	Shallow fill of pit, truncated by plough
208	Pit	Cut		0.06	Sub-oval, shallow pit 0.40m x 0.60m
209	Pit	Fill	Firm dark greyish brown sandy clay	0.15	Shallow fill of pit, truncated by plough
210	Pit	Cut		0.15	Circular pit 1.50m diameter + flat base

Trench 3

Length: 55.5m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.49m Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
300	Topsoil	Layer	Friable dark brownish grey silty sand	0.27	Agricultural topsoil
301	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.22	
302	Natural	Layer	Natural geology		Varies between Firm dark blue clay - Blue Lias and Firm mid yellow brown clay - Charmouth Mudstone
303	Pit	Fill	Moderately compact dark greyish yellow silty clay	0.23	Fill containing prehistoric pot, later truncated and disturbed by modern activity and nails
304	Pit	Cut		0.23	Shallow and irregular pit truncated by later activity 305
305	Modern Layer	Cut		0.30	Modern disturbance filled with metal and debris

Trench 4

Length: 55.5m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.58m Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
400	Topsoil	Layer	Moderately compact dark reddish brown clay loam	0.25	Agricultural topsoil
401	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.32	
402	Natural	Layer	Natural geology		Firm mid yellow brown clay - Charmouth Mudstone with patches of Firm dark blue clay - Blue Lias

Trench 5

Length: 55.5m Width: 1.8m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
500	Topsoil	Layer	Moderately compact dark reddish brown clay loam	0.24	Agricultural topsoil
501	Subsoil	Layer		0.19	
502	Natural	Layer	Natural geology	0.43	Firm mid yellow brown clay - Charmouth Mudstone with patches of Firm dark blue clay - Blue Lias
503	Pit	Fill	Firm mid brownish grey clay	0.12	Fill of pit
504	Pit	Cut		0.12	Shallow, sub-oval pit truncated by ploughing
505	Ditch	Fill	Firm mid brownish grey clay	0.12	Fill of ditch
506	Ditch	Cut		0.12	Very shallow ditch, truncated by ploughing. 1.4m x 1.6m x 0.12m
507	Pit	Fill	Firm mid greyish brown clay	0.16	Fill of pit
508	Pit	Cut		0.16	Oval pit with sharp straight sides and a flat base. 0.66m x 0.90m

Trench 6

Length: 55.5m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.45m Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
600	Topsoil	Layer	Moderately compact dark brownish grey silty sand	0.25	Agricultural topsoil
601	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.20	
602	Natural	Layer	Natural geology		Firm mid yellow brown clay - Charmouth Mudstone with patches of Firm dark blue clay - Blue Lias
603	Pit	Fill	Firm dark reddish brown clay	0.08	Fill of pit 604 containing medieval pot
604	Pit	Cut		0.08	Circular pit with flat base and 0.97m diameter
605		Fill	Firm dark reddish brown clay	0.08	Fill of circular pit with daub
606	Pit	Cut		0.08	Cut of circular pit 1m diameter
607	Ditch	Fill	Compact dark brown silty clay	0.40	Fill of post-medieval field boundary / hedgerow
608	Ditch	Cut		0.40	Post-medieval field boundary 3.1m wide

Trench 7

Length: 55.5m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.40m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
700	Topsoil	Layer	Moderately compact dark reddish brown clay loam	0.25	Agricultural topsoil
701	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.15	
702	Natural	Layer	Natural geology		Firm mid yellow brown clay - Charmouth Mudstone with patches of Firm dark blue clay - Blue Lias

Trench 8

Length: 55.5m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.50m Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
800	Topsoil	Layer	Moderately compact dark reddish brown clay loam	0.30	Agricultural topsoil
801	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.20	
802	Natural	Layer	Natural geology		Firm mid yellow brown clay - Charmouth Mudstone with patches of Firm dark blue clay - Blue Lias

Trench 9

Length: 55.5m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.52m Orientation: North to south

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
900	Topsoil	Layer	Moderately compact dark reddish brown clay loam	0.34	Agricultural topsoil
901	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.18	
902	Natural	Layer	Natural geology		Firm mid yellow brown clay - Charmouth Mudstone with patches of Firm dark blue clay - Blue Lias

Trench 10

Length: 55.5m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.46m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1000	Topsoil	Layer	Moderately compact dark reddish brown clay loam	0.32	Agricultural topsoil
1001	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.14	
1002	Natural	Layer	Natural geology		Firm mid yellow brown clay - Charmouth Mudstone with patches of Firm dark blue clay - Blue Lias

Trench 11

Length: 55.5m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.48m Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1100	Topsoil	Layer	Moderately compact dark reddish brown clay loam	0.32	Agricultural topsoil
1101	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.16	
1102	Natural	Layer	Natural geology		Firm mid yellow brown clay - Charmouth Mudstone with patches of Firm dark blue clay - Blue Lias
1103	Fill	Ditch	Mid blue grey clay		Ditch terminus or elongated pit

Trench 12

Length: 55.5m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.42m Orientation: North to south

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1200	Topsoil	Layer	Moderately compact dark reddish brown clay loam	0.25	Agricultural topsoil
1201	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.17	
1202	Natural	Layer	Natural geology		Firm mid yellow brown clay - Charmouth Mudstone with patches of Firm dark blue clay - Blue Lias

Trench 13

Length: 55.5m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.42m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1300	Topsoil	Layer	Moderately compact dark reddish brown clay loam	0.23	Agricultural topsoil
1301	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.19	
1302	Natural	Layer	Natural geology		Firm mid yellow brown clay - Charmouth Mudstone with patches of Firm dark blue clay - Blue Lias
1303	Ditch	Fill	Firm mid yellowish brown clay	0.10	Subsoilly fill containing pot and slag/clinker
1304	Ditch	Cut		0.10	North-South orientate1d shallow ditch 1.27m wide and 0.10m deep. Post-medieval field boundary hedgerow

Trench 14

Length: 55.5m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.36m Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1400	Topsoil	Layer	Moderately compact dark reddish brown clay loam	0.24	Agricultural topsoil
1401	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.12	
1402	Natural	Layer	Natural geology		Firm mid yellow brown clay - Charmouth Mudstone with patches of Firm dark blue clay - Blue Lias

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (WA site code: P4943)

The archive consists of:

- 8 Context records AS1
- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 2 Photographic records AS3
- 87 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 29 Scale drawings
- 14 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 CD-Rom/DVDs
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Museum in the Park,
Stratford Park,
Stratford Road,
Stroud,
Gloucestershire,
GL5 4AF
Telephone 01453 763394