

# Archaeological evaluation of Land at Woodborough Farm, Winscombe, North Somerset



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# Contents

## Summary

1

## Report

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt .....	1
<b>1 Background.....</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1 Reasons for the project .....	2
<b>2 Aims.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3 Methods.....</b>	<b>2</b>
3.1 Personnel.....	2
3.2 Documentary research .....	2
3.3 Fieldwork strategy .....	2
3.4 Structural analysis .....	3
3.5 Artefact methodology, by Rob Hedge .....	3
3.5.1 Artefact recovery policy.....	3
3.5.2 Method of analysis .....	3
3.5.3 Discard policy .....	3
3.6 Environmental archaeology methodology.....	3
3.6.1 Sampling policy.....	3
3.7 Statement of confidence in the methods and results .....	3
<b>4 The application site .....</b>	<b>3</b>
4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context.....	3
4.2 Current land-use .....	4
<b>5 Results .....</b>	<b>4</b>
5.1 Structural analysis .....	4
5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits .....	4
5.1.2 Phase 2: Colluvial? deposits .....	4
5.1.3 Phase 3: Undated features .....	4
5.1.4 Phase 4: Modern .....	4
5.2 Artefact analysis, by Rob Hedge .....	5
5.2.1 Summary artefactual evidence by period .....	5
<b>6 Synthesis .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 Recommendations.....</b>	<b>6</b>
7.1 Discard and retention .....	6
<b>8 Publication summary .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>9 Acknowledgements .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>10 Bibliography .....</b>	<b>7</b>



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## **Archaeological evaluation of Land at Woodborough Farm**

Andrew Walsh

With a contribution by Rob Hedge

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

### **Summary**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Land at Woodborough Farm, Winscombe, North Somerset (NGR ST 41766 57403). It was commissioned by Richard Smalley of CgMs, in advance of a proposed residential development which has been granted outline planning permission by North Somerset Council.

A desk-based assessment of the site, supplemented with research by the Winscombe and Sandford Archaeological and Historical Project and a geophysical survey, identified that the area has a long history of dispersed settlement and that Woodborough Farm on the northern edge of the site may have medieval origins.

Thirty two trenches were excavated across the site. No significant archaeological features, deposits or stratified finds were identified during the evaluation. Two undated features which were probably tree throws were identified, as well as an undated colluvial layer that corresponded with the natural topography of the site, and a series of modern drains.

A small assemblage of residual artefacts reflects a background scatter from activity in the area in the prehistoric, medieval, and post-medieval periods; manuring of pasture probably accounts for the incorporation of finds into the site area. The majority of the assemblage pertains to 17th and 18th century land use.

## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Land at Woodborough Farm, Winscombe, North Somerset (NGR ST 41766 57403; Fig. 1). It was commissioned by Richard Smalley of CgMs, in advance of a proposed residential development which has been granted outline planning permission by North Somerset Council (reference 15/P/1979/O).

The project conforms to a brief prepared by Richard Smalley, and approved by Cat Lodge (Archaeologist for North Somerset Council) for which a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2018). The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a).

### 2 Aims

The aim of the Project, as outlined in the WSI, was to:

- Gather information and prepare a report which, beyond reasonable doubt, will inform decision making.

The objectives of the Project, as outlined in the WSI, were to:

- Determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits.
- Identify their location, nature, date and preservation.
- Assess their significance.
- Assess the likely impact of the proposed development.

### 3 Methods

#### 3.1 Personnel

The project was led by Andrew Walsh (BSc; MSc; ACIfA; FSA Scot), assisted by Jem Brewer (BA), Emma Chubb (BA; MA) and Morgan Murphy (BA; MA). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers (BA; MSc; MCIfA). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc (hons.); PG Cert; MCIfA), Laura Templeton (BA; PG Cert; MCIfA). Robert Hedge (MA Cantab, PCIfA) contributed the finds report.

#### 3.2 Documentary research

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site was undertaken in 2015 (Avon Archaeology 2015).

#### 3.3 Fieldwork strategy

Thirty four trenches, measuring 30m by 1.8m and covering 1836m<sup>2</sup>, were proposed for excavation. However, due to the presence of works associated with the Bristol Water Southern Resilience Scheme pipeline, it was not possible to excavate Trenches 21 and 34, and the position and length of Trenches 22 and 23 also required adjustments. Trench 3 was also moved due to the presence of the access route, and Trench 7 was shortened to 20m to avoid a flooded area of the site. See Fig 2 for the location of the excavated trenches.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator, employing a toothless bucket. 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.

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The fieldwork was undertaken between 5<sup>th</sup> March and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The site reference number used is P5284.

### **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 pottery analysis by PCRG/SGRP/MPRG (2016), for archive creation by AAF (2011), and for museum deposition by SMA (1993).

#### **3.5.1 Artefact 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 Microsoft Access database.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by broad fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992 and [www.worcestershireceramics.org](http://www.worcestershireceramics.org)).

#### **3.5.3 Discard policy**

Artefacts from topsoil and subsoil and unstratified contexts will normally be noted but not retained, unless they are of intrinsic interest (eg worked flint or flint debitage, featured pottery sherds, and other potential 'registered artefacts'). All artefacts will be collected from stratified excavated contexts, except for large assemblages of post-medieval or modern material, unless there is some special reason to retain such as local production. Such material may be noted and not retained, or, if appropriate, a representative sample may be collected and retained. Discard of finds from post-medieval and earlier deposits will only be instituted with reference to museum collection policy and/or with agreement of the local museum.

### **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**

The site is located to the south-west of the modern settlement core of Winscombe, centred on NGR ST 41766 57403. The site is bounded to the north by the A371 Woodborough Road, or properties fronting onto this road, to the north-east by a small triangle of land which historically part of Woodborough Green and now a community orchard, to the east by the former route of the Great

Western Railway Cheddar Valley branch, to the south by properties fronting onto The Lynch, and to the west by properties fronting onto Church Road.

The site is broadly level although the land rises upwards to the south and south-east. The underlying geology of the site is mapped as Mercia Mudstone Formation, with superficial Head deposits of Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel mapped across the northern and western part of the site (BGS 2018).

A desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site, supplemented with research by the Winscombe and Sandford Archaeological and Historical Project and a geophysical survey, presents an extensive archaeological and historical background to the site which will not be repeated here. Suffice it to say that the DBA identified that the area has a long history of dispersed settlement and that Woodborough Farm on the northern edge of the site may have medieval origins. The geophysical survey of the site (Avon Archaeology 2015, Appendix 1) indicated there to be a low archaeological potential within the majority of the site, although throughout there was evidence of the areas agricultural past in the form of possible ridge and furrow, and multiple field boundaries which divide the site into smaller holdings.

## **4.2 Current land-use**

The site was rough pasture.

# **5 Results**

## **5.1 Structural analysis**

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Fig. 2. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

### **5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits**

In the northern and western part of the site (Trenches 1-3, 10-14, 19, 20, 22-24, 28 and 29) natural deposits comprised of sands, gravels and clay, consistent with the superficial Head deposits recorded by the BGS (Plate 1). The underlying geology of the remaining trenches in the southern and eastern parts of the site was a pinkish brown clay consistent with the mapped Mercia Mudstone recorded by the BGS (Plate 2).

### **5.1.2 Phase 2: Colluvial? deposits**

A thin layer of colluvial material measuring up to 0.3m in thickness and overlying the natural deposits, was identified in Trenches 3, 4, 7, 9-11, 14, 15, 18-20, 24, 31 (Plate 3). These trenches were all located on or near the base of the slope which rises upwards to the south of the site. No features, deposits or finds were identified in this deposit, which is probably the result of wash or creep of deposits upslope.

### **5.1.3 Phase 3: Undated features**

Two irregular features were identified. Pit or natural feature 1304 was located in Trench 13 and measured 0.76m in diameter and 0.18m in depth. It was filled by an orangey brown clayey sand which yielded no finds.

A feature (3304), possibly a tree throw, was identified in Trench 33. It measured approximately 0.6m in width and 0.16m in depth (Plate 4). It was filled by an orangey brown clayey silt which yielded no finds.

### **5.1.4 Phase 4: Modern**

Gullies were identified in Trenches 5, 27 and 32. These were visible as extant earthwork features, and also identified in the geophysical survey of the site which interpreted them as agricultural



features. It is likely that they were drainage gullies rather than evidence of ridge and furrow. A ceramic drain, surrounded by stone rubble, was identified in Trench 25.

Sealing all the trenches was a subsoil, which measured up to 0.4m in depth but which was extremely thin in the trenches along the southern edge of the site, and a topsoil which typically measured between 0.15m and 0.30m in depth.

## 5.2 Artefact analysis, by Rob Hedge

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

The assemblage came from 14 contexts. All was either residual in topsoil/subsoil deposits, or within modern drainage features. Taking pottery as an indicator of artefact condition, the mean sherd weight — at 22.4g — was high; this, however, is largely a reflection of the robust nature and substantial forms of the post-medieval earthenware present: the majority of the assemblage was heavily abraded, rendering precise identification difficult.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
prehistoric	stone	flint	flake	1	1
medieval	ceramic		pot	1	39
medieval/post-medieval	ceramic		brick/tile	1	20
late med/early post-med	ceramic		pot	1	5
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	18	425
post-medieval/modern	ceramic		pot	1	1
undated	organic	coal	coal	1	1
<b>Totals</b>				<b>24</b>	<b>492</b>

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

Broad period	fabric code	Fabric common name	count	weight (g)
Medieval	N/A	?Bristol A/B Ware	1	39
Late medieval/early Post-med	100	Unidentified transitional (late med/early post-med) earthenware	1	5
Post-medieval	75	North Devon gravel tempered ware	1	5
Post-medieval	75.1 / 78	North Devon gravel-free & post-medieval red wares	11	359
Post-medieval	91	Post-medieval buff wares	3	25
Post-medieval	90	Post-medieval orange ware	3	36
Post-medieval/modern	85	Whiteware: stone china	1	1
<b>Totals</b>			<b>21</b>	<b>470</b>

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric

### 5.2.1 Summary artefactual evidence by period

#### *Prehistoric*

A single small undiagnostic flint flake was recovered from subsoil within Trench 24.

#### *Medieval*

One substantial — though abraded — sherd from an earthenware jar was found within topsoil in Trench 23. It has a simple everted, slightly thickened rim. Faint traces of external sooting indicate use as a cooking vessel. The fabric bears strong similarities to Vince's Bristol Fabrics A/B (Vince 1984) — which is known to have been distributed westwards into North Somerset in the 11th/12th century (e.g. Blinkhorn 2009, 172) — although a more local origin cannot be excluded without further analysis.

A small fragment of abraded undiagnostic building material could not be closely dated, and is assigned a broad medieval to post-medieval date.

#### *Post-medieval/modern*

A small abraded sherd of an unidentified 'transitional' late medieval or early post-medieval fabric was observed. The bulk of the assemblage, however, comprised sherds from 17th and 18th century earthenwares. One sherd of North Devon gravel-tempered ware was noted; several abraded fragments may be of the gravel-free variant of the North Devon industry. Sherds from a variety of sturdy open bowls/pancheons were typical green-glazed red/orange earthenwares of 17th and 18th century date. Three sherds of late 17th to 18th century slipware were noted. One sherd of 19th to early 20th century stone china was recovered.

## **6 Synthesis**

No evidence of any significant archaeological features and deposits were identified at the site. All other features recorded comprised modern services, land drains and irregular undated natural features or tree throws.

The finds assemblage, which came entirely from topsoil and subsoil deposits, is typical of a background scatter reflecting a long history of activity in the vicinity of the site. The majority of the assemblage pertains to 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century land use. Although it is not possible to conclusively determine the origin of the artefacts, their character and condition is consistent with introduction to the site through agricultural practices such as manuring. The large sherd size suggests the site has seen little (if any) tillage, and has likely been pasture for a considerable length of time. Manuring of permanent pasture using nightsoil to improve fertility and hay yields is well-documented in the 17th and 18th centuries (Broad 1980, 85).

## **7 Recommendations**

### **7.1 Discard and retention**

The prehistoric, medieval and transitional material should be retained, subject to the collecting policy of the receiving museum.

The later post-medieval and modern material is not considered worthy of retention.

## **8 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.

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## 9 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Richard Smalley of CgMs for commissioning the project and Cat Lodge (North Somerset Council Archaeologist) for monitoring the work. Thanks are also due to Teresa Hall (Winscombe and Sandford Archaeological and Historical Project) for her help and advice regarding the medieval and post-medieval landscape and setting of the site.

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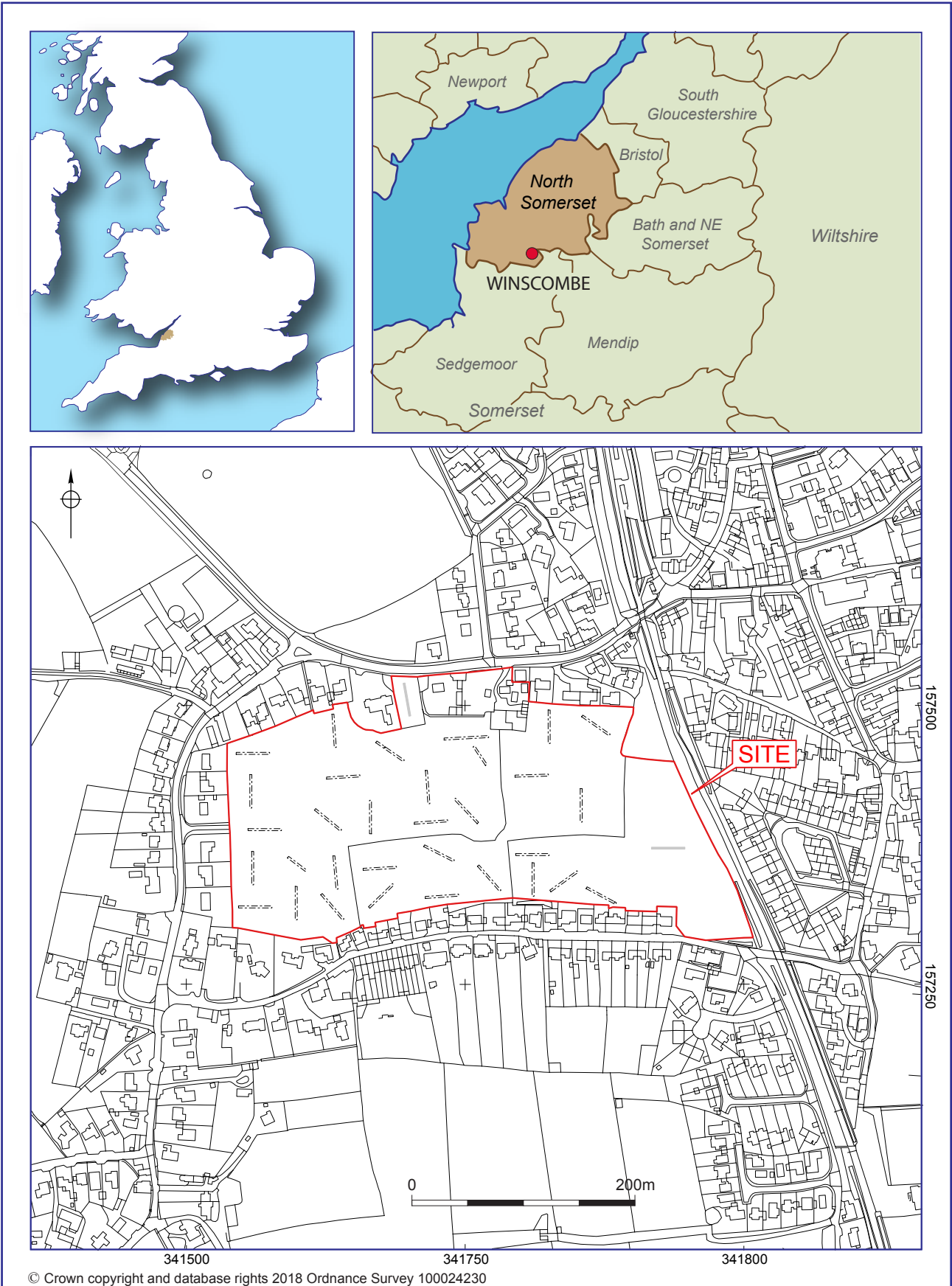
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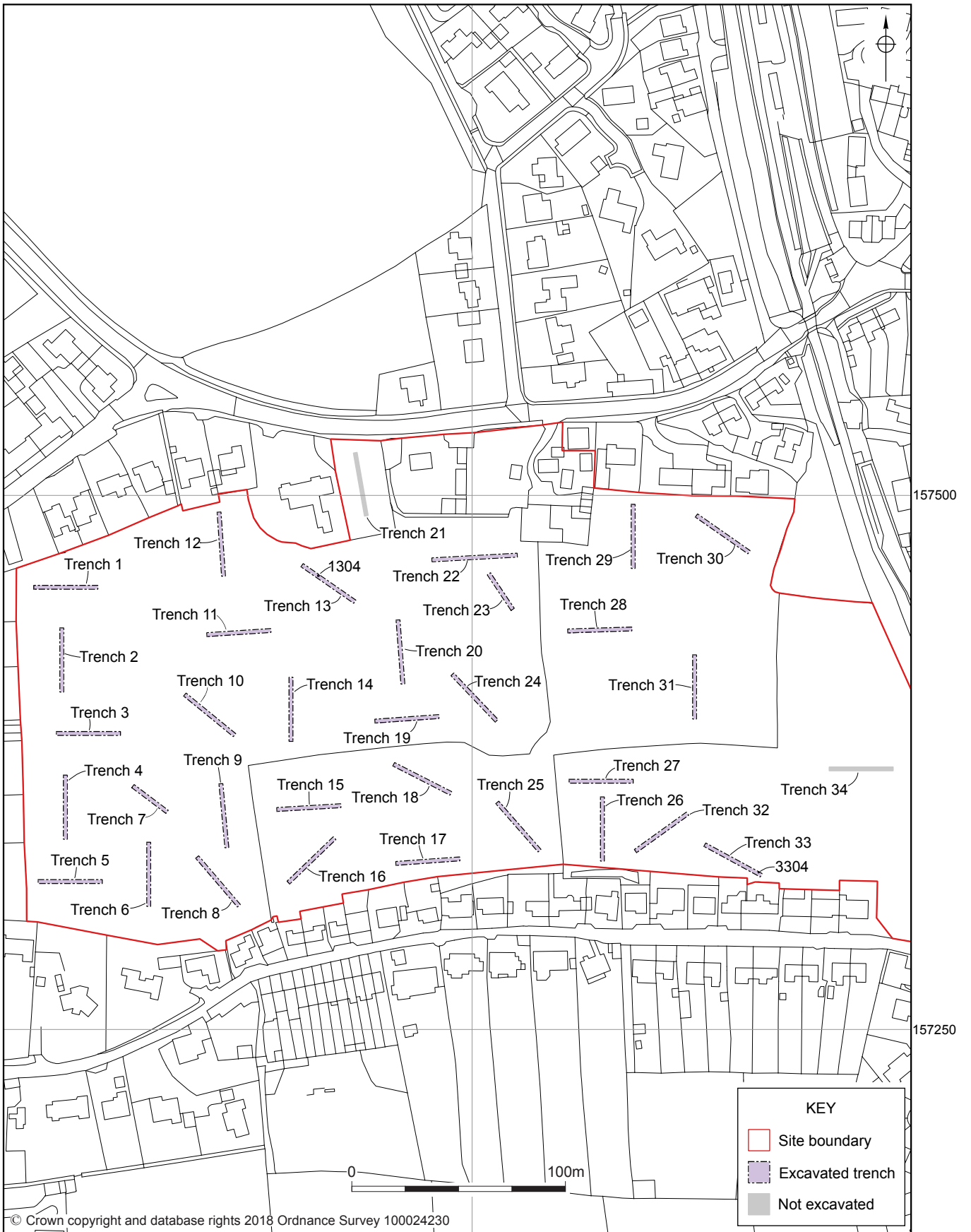
**Figures**

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Location of the site

Figure 1



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Trench locations and features

Figure 2



## Plates



*Plate 1: Trench 40 looking west, showing the natural Head deposits of sand, gravel and clay.*



*Plate 2: Trench 26 looking south showing the natural Mercia Mudstone*

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*Plate 3: Trench 7 looking north, showing natural mudstone, a colluvial layer, subsoil, and topsoil.*



*Plate 4: Feature 3304 in Trench 33. Photo looking north-east*

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## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Main deposit descriptions

#### Trench 1

Length: 30                      Width: 30                      Orientation: East to west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
100	Topsoil	Layer	Rare charcoal and v rare pebbles and cobbles	0.43m	Soft reddish brown sandy silt
101	Subsoil	Layer	Moderate cobbles and pebbles	0.34m	Moderately Compact brownish red sandy clay
102	Natural	Layer	abundant cobbles and		Moderately Compact brownish red sandy clay

#### Trench 2

Length: 30                      Width: 30                      Orientation: North to south

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
200	Topsoil	Layer	rare flecks of charcoal and subrounded/subangular pebbles	0.41m	Soft reddish brown sandy silt
201	Subsoil	Layer	moderate subangular/subrounded pebbles and cobbles	0.38m	Moderately Compact reddish brown sandy clay
202	Natural	Layer	occasional -moderate sub-rounded/subangular pebbles and cobbles		Moderately Compact reddish brown sandy clay

#### Trench 3

Length: 30                      Width: 30                      Orientation: East to west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
300	Topsoil	Layer	rare subangular pebbles	0.23m	Loose greyish brown clay
301	Subsoil	Layer	rare subangular pebbles	0.18m	Moderately Compact reddish brown clay silt
302	Natural	Layer	Colluvium - rare subangular/subrounded pebbles	0.23m	Moderately Compact reddish brown silty clay
303	Natural	Layer	occasional subangular pebbles		Compact reddish pink clay

## Trench 4

Length: 30                  Width: 30                  Orientation: North to south

### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
400	Topsoil	Layer	rare subangular pebbles	0.19m	Friable greyish brown clay silt
401	Subsoil	Layer	rare subangular/subrounded pebbles	0.19m	Moderately Compact reddish brown clay silt
402	Natural	Layer	Colluvium - sub-angular/subrounded pebbles, rare manganese	0.32m	Compact reddish brown silty clay
403	Natural	Layer	Mudstone with rare subangular pebbles and frequent manganese flecks		Compact greyish pink clay

## Trench 5

Length: 30                  Width: 30                  Orientation: East to west

### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
500	Surface	Layer	rare flecks of charcoal and subangular/subrounded pebbles, v rare fragments of pot	0.24m	Friable reddish brown clay silt
501	Subsoil	Layer	rare flecks of charcoal and subangular pebbles	0.11m	Compact brownish red silty clay
502	Natural	Layer	Mudstone with rare sub-angular cobbles and pebbles		Compact brownish red clay

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**Trench 6**

Length: 30

Width: 30

Orientation: North to south

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
600	Topsoil	Layer	rare sub-rounded pebbles and fragments of pot (probs post-med), and flecks of charcoal	0.2m	Friable greyish brown silty clay
601	Subsoil	Layer	rare sub-angular pebbles and fragments of pot (post med-med?) as well as flecks of charcoal	0.26m	Compact reddish brown silty clay
602	Natural	Layer	Mudstone with rare fragments of limestone		Compact reddish brown silty clay

**Trench 7**

Length: 20

Width: 20

Orientation: North-west to south-east

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
700	Topsoil	Layer	rare subangular pebbles	0.15m	Friable greyish brown clay silt
701	Subsoil	Layer	rare flecks of charcoal and occasional subangular/subrounded pebbles	0.35m	Moderately Compact orangey brown clay silt
702	Natural	Layer	rare flecks	0.14m	Moderately Compact reddish brown silty clay
703	Natural	Layer	Mudstone with occasional subrounded/subangular pebbles		Compact reddish pink clay

### Trench 8

Length: 30

Width: 30

Orientation: North-west to south-east

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
800	Topsoil	Layer	rare subrounded/subangular pebbles and fragments of pot (med/post med)	0.28m	Friable reddish brown clay silt
801	Subsoil	Layer	rare sub-angular cobbles and pebbles, and flecks of charcoal	0.37m	Moderately Compact reddish brown silty clay
802	Natural	Layer	mudstone with moderate sub-angular cobbles and pebbles		Compact reddish brown silty clay

### Trench 9

Length: 30

Width: 30

Orientation: North to south

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
900	Topsoil	Layer	v rare subrounded pebbles	0.26m	Friable greyish brown clay silt
901	Subsoil	Layer	v rare flecks of charcoal, rare subrounded cobbles and pebbles	0.27m	Friable greyish brown clay silt
902	Natural	Layer	Colluvium - rare flecks of charcoal and subrounded/subangular pebbles	0.27m	Friable greyish brown silty clay
903	Natural	Layer	mudstone - rare subrounded/subangular cobbles and pebbles		Compact greyish brown sandy clay

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**Trench 10**

Length: 30

Width: 30

Orientation: North-west to south-east

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1000	Topsoil	Layer	rare subrounded pebbles	0.26m	Moderately Compact reddish brown silty sand
1001	Subsoil	Layer	occasional subangular cobbles and pebbles	0.1m	Moderately Compact reddish brown silty sand
1002	Natural	Layer	Colluvium - moderate sub-angular cobbles and pebbles	0.24m	Friable greyish brown clayey sand
1003	Natural	Layer	moderate sub-angular cobbles and pebbles		Moderately Compact reddish brown clayey sand

**Trench 11**

Length: 30

Width: 30

Orientation: East to west

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1100	Topsoil	Layer	v rare subrounded pebbles	0.16m	Moderately Compact greyish brown sandy silt
1101	Subsoil	Layer	rare subrounded/subangular pebbles		Moderately Compact reddish brown sandy silt
1102	Natural	Layer	moderate subrounded/subangular pebbles and cobbles	0.29m	Moderately Compact reddish brown clay silt
1103	Natural	Layer	abundant subangular cobbles and pebbles		Moderately Compact reddish brown clay silt

**Trench 12**

Length: 30

Width: 30

Orientation: North to south

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1200	Topsoil	Layer	rare flecks of charcoal and subangular pebbles	0.36m	Moderately Compact reddish brown clayey sand
1201	Subsoil	Layer	moderate subangular pebbles and cobbles	0.28m	Moderately Compact reddish brown sandy clay
1202	Natural	Layer	darker reddish brown patches, moderate subangular cobbles (particularly in darker		Compact brownish red clay

### Trench 13

Length: 30                  Width: 30                  Orientation: North-west to south-east

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1300	Topsoil	Layer	rare subrounded/subangular pebbles and fragments of pot	0.22m	Moderately Compact reddish brown clay silt
1301	Subsoil	Layer	moderate subangular cobbles and pebbles	0.36m	Moderately Compact reddish brown sandy clay
1302	Natural	Layer	moderate subangular cobbles and pebbles		Moderately Compact reddish brown sandy clay
1303	Pit	Fill	rare subangular pebbles and cobbles, fill of possible pit [1304]	0.18m	Moderately Compact reddish brown clayey sand
1304	Pit	Cut	Cut of possible pit or natural feature, rounded in plan, sharp slightly concave sides, base sloping towards S side.	0.18m	

### Trench 14

Length: 30                  Width: 30                  Orientation: North to south

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1400	Topsoil	Layer	rare subangular and subrounded pebbles	0.18m	Moderately Compact reddish brown sandy silt
1401	Subsoil	Layer	occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles and pebbles	0.4m	Moderately Compact orangey brown clay silt
1402	Natural	Layer	moderate subangular/subrounded cobbles and pebbles		Moderately Compact brownish red clay silt

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**Trench 15**

Length: 30      Width: 30      Orientation: East to west

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1500	Topsoil	Layer	v rare subangular cobbles and pebbles	0.13m	Friable reddish brown clay silt
1501	Subsoil	Layer	rare subangular/subrounded pebbles		Moderately Compact reddish brown clay silt
1502	Natural	Layer	Colluvium - occasional subrounded/subangular pebbles	0.25m	Compact reddish brown clay silt
1503	Natural	Layer	Mudstone with rare subangular pebbles and occasional flecks of manganese		Compact greyish pink silty clay

**Trench 16**

Length: 30      Width: 30      Orientation: North-east to south-west

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1600	Topsoil	Layer	rare subangular/subrounded pebbles, v rare bits of modern rubbish	0.2m	Friable greyish brown clay silt
1601	Subsoil	Layer	rare subangular pebbles	0.31m	Compact reddish brown clay silt
1602	Natural	Layer	mudstone with patches/bands of large subangular cobbles and patches of blue clay, occasional subangular cobbles and pebbles		Compact reddish pink clay silt

### Trench 17

Length: 30                  Width: 30                  Orientation: East to west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1700	Topsoil	Layer	v rare subangular pebbles and a fragment of modern pot		Friable reddish brown clay silt
1701	Subsoil	Layer	v rare subangular pebbles	0.19m	Moderately Compact brownish red clay silt
1702	Natural	Layer	mudstone with rare subangular cobbles and pebbles, patches of blue clay		Compact brownish red clay

### Trench 18

Length: 30                  Width: 30                  Orientation: North-west to south-east

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1800	Topsoil	Layer	v rare subangular pebbles	0.15m	Friable reddish brown clay silt
1801	Subsoil	Layer	rare subangular pebbles and rare-occ flecks of charcoal	0.27m	Loose orangey brown clay silt
1802	Natural	Layer	colluvium - occasional sub-angular cobbles and pebbles		Compact orangey brown sandy clay
1803	Natural	Layer	mudstone with occasional subangular/subrounded pebbles and cobbles, and flecks of manganese		Compact greyish pink clay

### Trench 19

Length: 30                  Width: 30                  Orientation: East to west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1900	Topsoil	Layer	v rare pebbles		Friable greyish brown sandy silt
1901	Subsoil	Layer	v rare pebbles and flecks of charcoal	0.25m	Moderately Compact reddish brown clay silt
1902	Natural	Layer	Colluvium - moderate rounded-angular pebbles and cobbles	0.18m	Moderately Compact reddish brown clay silt
1903	Natural	Layer	abundant rounded-angular pebbles and cobbles		Moderately Compact brownish red silty clay

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**Trench 20**

Length: 30

Width: 30

Orientation: North to south

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
2000	Topsoil	Layer	sterile	0.31m	Soft yellowish brown sandy silt
2001	Subsoil	Layer	rare angular pebbles	0.27m	Soft reddish brown clay silt
2002	Natural	Layer	colluvium - rare cobbles and pebbles	0.22m	Soft reddish brown clay silt
2003	Natural	Layer	abundant angular/subangular cobbles and pebbles		Moderately Compact clay

**Trench 21**

Not excavated

**Trench 22**

Length: 40

Width: 40

Orientation: East to west

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
2200	Topsoil	Layer	v rare subrounded pebbles	0.15m	Moderately Compact greyish brown clay silt
2201	Subsoil	Layer	moderate subangular pebbles and cobbles	0.23m	Moderately Compact reddish brown clay silt
2202	Natural	Layer	colluvium - moderate subangular pebbles and cobbles	0.2m	Moderately Compact reddish brown clay silt
2203	Natural	Layer	abundant sub-angular pebbles and cobbles		Compact pinky grey clayey sand

### Trench 23

Length: 20                  Width: 20                  Orientation: North-west to south-east

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
2300	Topsoil	Layer	rare subangular pebbles and cobbles	0.24m	Moderately Compact greyish brown clay silt
2301	Subsoil	Layer	v rare subangular pebbles	0.31m	Moderately Compact pinky brown silty clay
2302	Natural	Layer	moderate subangular pebbles and cobbles		Compact pinky grey clayey sand

### Trench 24

Length: 30                  Width: 30                  Orientation: North-west to south-east

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
2400	Topsoil	Layer	sterile	0.19m	Friable greyish brown sandy silt
2401	Subsoil	Layer	v rare pebbles, one residual flint flake recovered	0.71m	Soft reddish brown clay silt
2402	Natural	Layer	moderate cobbles and pebbles		Moderately Compact reddish brown silty clay
2403	Natural	Layer	Colluvium - moderate charcoal flecking, no pebbles or cobbles	0.01m	Compact reddish brown silty clay

### Trench 25

Length: 30                  Width: 30                  Orientation: North-west to south-east

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
2500	Topsoil	Layer	v rare subangular pebbles and occasional fragments of modern pot (not retained) and rare flecks of charcoal	0.25m	Friable greyish brown clay silt
2501	Subsoil	Layer	rare subangular pebbles	0.12m	Moderately Compact reddish brown silty clay
2502	Natural	Layer	mudstone with blue clay patches, occasional patches of limestone and rare subangular pebbles		Compact pinky red clay

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**Trench 26**

Length: 30

Width: 30

Orientation: North to south

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
2600	Topsoil	Layer		0.3m	reddish brown clay silt
2601	Subsoil	Layer	more of an interface between topsoil and natural	0.12m	reddish brown silty clay
2602	Natural	Layer	mudstone, v occasional irregular patches of blue grey silt clay		reddish brown clay

**Trench 27**

Length: 30

Width: 30

Orientation: East to west

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
2700	Topsoil	Layer	rare flecks of charcoal	0.21m	Friable greyish brown silty clay
2701	Subsoil	Layer	moderate charcoal flecks, v rare subrounded/subangular pebbles	0.1m	Moderately Compact reddish brown silty clay
2702	Natural	Layer	mudstone with patches of orange natural full of manganese		Compact brownish red clay
2703	Drain	Fill	fill of drainage gully, rare subangular pebbles		Loose yellowish brown silty clay
2704	Drain	Cut	Cut of drainage gully with single fill		

## Trench 28

Length: 30      Width: 30      Orientation: East to west

### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
2800	Topsoil	Layer	rare small subangular gravels	0.15m	Soft brown clay silt
2801	Subsoil	Layer	occasional subangular stones, rare flecks of charcoal and one fragment of pot (med/post med?)	0.15m	Moderately Compact orangey brown clay silt
2802	Natural	Layer	frequent subangular stones, rare flecks of charcoal		Compact orangey brown silty clay
2803	Tree bowl	Fill	fill of tree throw [2804]		Moderately Compact pinky brown silty clay
2804	Tree bowl	Cut	Cut of tree throw		

## Trench 29

Length: 30      Width: 30      Orientation: North to south

### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
2900	Topsoil	Layer	v rare subangular pebbles and flecks of charcoal	0.2m	Firm reddish brown clay silt
2901	Subsoil	Layer	v rare flecks of charcoal and rare subangular pebbles	0.24m	Moderately Compact reddish brown clay silt
2902	Natural	Layer	colluvium - occasional subangular cobbles and pebbles	0.3m	Moderately Compact pinky grey clay silt
2903	Natural	Layer	mudstone with moderate subangular cobbles and pebbles, occasional blue patches of clay		Moderately Compact greyish pink sandy clay
2904	Linear	Fill	moderate subangular cobbles and pebbles	0.1m	Moderately Compact orangey brown sandy clay
2905	Linear	Cut	cut of possible linear orientated SE-NW, with flat base and more gently sloping s side - however could also just be a strand of variation within the natural	0.1m	

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**Trench 30**

Length: 30

Width: 30

Orientation: North-west to south-east

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
3000	Topsoil	Layer	rare subrounded stones	0.33m	Soft brown clay silt
3001	Subsoil	Layer	rare subangular and subrounded stones	0.33m	Moderately Compact reddish brown clay silt
3002	Natural	Layer	mudstone with bands of light greenish grey at southern end of trench		Moderately Compact pinky brown clay

**Trench 31**

Length: 30

Width: 30

Orientation: North to south

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
3100	Topsoil	Layer	rare subangular and subrounded pebbles	0.19m	Soft reddish brown clay silt
3101	Subsoil	Layer	rare subangular/subrounded pebbles and stones	0.23m	Moderately Compact reddish brown clay silt
3102	Natural	Layer	colluvium - v rare subangular pebbles and rare charcoal flecks	0.3m	Compact greyish brown silty clay
3103	Natural	Layer	frequent subangular stones and manganese flecks		Compact pinky brown clay

### Trench 32

Length: 30      Width: 30      Orientation: North-east to south-west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
3200	Topsoil	Layer	v rare flecks of charcoal	0.17m	Friable greyish brown silty clay
3201	Subsoil	Layer	rare flecks of charcoal	0.06m	Moderately Compact reddish brown silty clay
3202	Natural	Layer	mudstone with rare angular/subangular pebbles		Compact brownish red clay
3203	Drain	Fill	moderate flecks of charcoal , mod/post med pot		Loose brown silty clay
3204	Drain	Cut	cut of drain		
3205	Drain	Fill	moderate flecks of charcoal, mod/post med pot		Loose brown silty clay
3206	Drain	Cut	cut of drain		
3207	Drain	Fill	rare flecks of charcoal, no finds		Moderately Compact yellowish brown clay
3208	Drain	Cut	Cut of drain		

### Trench 33

Length: 30      Width: 30      Orientation: North-west to south-east

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
3300	Topsoil	Layer	rare flecks of charcoal, v rare subrounded/subangular pebbles, two frags of pot recovered (post med/modern although one frag possibly earlier)	0.33m	Friable greyish brown silty clay
3301	Subsoil	Layer	v rare flecks of charcoal and subrounded/subangular pebbles	0.08m	Compact reddish brown silty clay
3302	Natural	Layer	mudstone with moderate angular/subangular pebbles		Compact brownish red clay
3303	Unknown	Fill	fill of possible tree throw with occasional flecks of charcoal		Friable orangey brown clay silt
3304	Unknown	Cut	Cut off possible tree throw (or pit though less likely) sharper and concave on NW side, rounded but irregular base		

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**Trench 34**

Not excavated

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## **Appendix 2 Technical information**

### **The archive (site code: P5284)**

The archive consists of:

- 2 Photographic records AS3
- 165 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 2 Scale drawings AS34
- 32 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:

Somerset Heritage Centre  
Brunel Way  
Norton Fitzwarren  
Taunton  
TA2 6SF  
Tel 01823 278805

A copy of the report will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Monuments Record (NMR) as appropriate.

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