

Archaeological Evaluation at Land North of Southend Lane, Newent, Gloucestershire

Worcestershire Archaeology
for CgMs Consulting

October 2018



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LAND NORTH OF SOUTHEND LANE, NEWENT GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report



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SITE INFORMATION

Site name: Land North of Southend Lane, Newent
Site code: P5317
Local planning authority: Forest of Dean District Council
Planning reference: P1330/18/OUT
Central NGR: SO 22270 25170
Commissioning client: CgMs
Client project reference: NAW/24210
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Archaeological Evaluation of Land North of Southend Lane, Newent, Gloucestershire

By Beth Williams

With contributions by Elizabeth Pearson and Rob Hedge

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land north of Southend Lane, Newent, Gloucestershire (NGR SO 22270 25170). It was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Robert Hitchins Ltd in advance of a proposed development. The evaluation followed the production of a desk-based assessment and geophysical survey both of which identified a low potential for the presence of archaeological remains within the site.

The site consists of a single arable field on the southern edge of the town on Newent. Fifteen (50m by 1.8m) trenches and one extended trench covered an approximate area of 1504m², representing a c.2% sample of the 7.2ha site.

The majority of the trenches contained no archaeological features. A ditch aligned with a former field boundary depicted on Ordnance Survey maps was recorded in two trenches to the west of the site. A ditch or elongated pit was recorded in a trench toward the centre of the site and prehistoric flint and pottery was recovered from an excavated section of this feature. A small gully recorded within the same trench was also sampled but no dating evidence was retrieved.

Report

1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA) during September to October 2018 at Land North of Southend Lane, Newent, Gloucestershire (NGR SO 22270 25170). This comprised sixteen evaluation trenches across one field. The project was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of Robert Hitchins Ltd to support an application for a proposed development. A planning application has been submitted to Forest of Dean District Council (planning reference P1330/18/OUT).

The archaeological advisor to the local planning authority considered that the proposed development has the potential to impact upon possible/specific heritage assets. Previous geophysical survey on the site has identified a former field boundary an infilled pond and a pipe, but no anomalies of archaeological interest.

The project conforms to a standard brief for evaluation issued by Gloucestershire County Council (2017) and advice set out in a letter written by Charles Parry (Archaeologist Gloucestershire County Council). A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (2018) and approved by Charles Parry.

The evaluation also conforms to the industry guidelines and standards set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists in *Standard and guidance: for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), *Standard and guidance: for collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014), and *Standard and guidance: for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological* (CIfA 2014).

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

The site is located to the north of Southend Lane, on the southern edge of Newent, Gloucestershire and consists of approximately 7.36 hectares of currently arable field containing one agricultural building adjacent to the entrance.

The site is bounded by the houses and/or hedges fronting Culver Street and Southend Lane to the west and south respectively, while the north is bounded by a recently completed housing development and the east by a caravan park and agricultural land. The field is bisected by a public footpath running north to south.

The site is situated on gently sloping ground; it rises gradually from 41.6m AOD in the south-east to c.46.5m AOD in the north-west, with a slight dip near the centre of the site.

The underlying geology comprises a liminal area between bedrock of solid sandstone geology of the Helsby Sandstone Formation (previously known as Bromsgrove Formation) and bedrock of Mudstone of the Sidmouth Mudstone Formation with no recorded overlying superficial deposits for either (BGS 2018).

2 Archaeological and historical background

2.1 Introduction

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site was undertaken by CgMs, on behalf of Robert Hitchins Ltd (CgMs 2018). The findings presented in the DBA are summarised below.

2.2 Prehistoric - Roman

There is no Prehistoric, Iron Age or Roman activity recorded by the HER or HEA within the study site itself. There is nothing of Prehistoric or Iron Age date recorded within a c.300m radius of the site.

Further south of Newent, a major iron and pottery manufacturing site was recorded at Moat Farm (NLHS 2003, 7) and Mesolithic camp sites have been recorded in fields to the west of Newent and in surrounding villages (Sheratt 2003). Investigation into past reports of a hillfort to the north of Newent concluded the remains are actually related to the Hereford to Gloucester Canal and quarrying activities (WAT 1985 and Borthwick 1990).

There is slightly greater evidence for Roman activity in the surrounding area. At least 56 sites of Roman settlement have been identified within 10km of Newent (ARCHI 2008), including one c.250m south east of the study site (HER 14071). A possible roman ditch was excavated c.100m north of the site (HER 42774) potentially indicating an associated settlement, however there was no evidence of prehistoric or roman activity revealed in a trenching evaluation c.100m northeast of the site (HER 27644/4). There are several Roman metalworking sites within 1.3km of the town, including an example c.150m to the southwest of the site (ARCHI 2008). There is a Roman road running between Newent and *Arconium*, but it lies more than 1km away from the site (Bradley 2012).

Within 1km of the site the portable antiquities scheme has recorded finds including:

- examples of late Palaeolithic, Neolithic and Mesolithic stone work (HER 27788, HER 28286, HER 28286)
- a late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age arrowhead (HER 28286)
- Iron Age and Roman coins (HER 5308, HER 27504, HER 27788, HER 20375)
- Roman pottery ((HER 20723)
- a Roman brooch (HER 27824)

2.3 Saxon – Medieval

There is no Saxon or Medieval activity recorded by the HER or HEA within the study site itself (Wright, 2018).

There are no recorded structural remains within c.300m of the site site, however the portable antiquities scheme has recorded finds within this radius including:

- a Medieval silver farthing (HER 21986)
- a Medieval purse bar, bar mount, harness mount and ring thimble (HER 27504)
- a Medieval seal, thimble, buckle and plate (HER 27788)

It is believed likely that settlement in the area of Newent pre-dates the Anglo-Saxon period (Douthwaite and Devine 1998) and is continuous throughout the Medieval period. The present church of St. Mary's is believed to stand in the same place as a 9th century version based on artefactual finds (HER 5879). It is likely that the associated settlement was closely focused around this point and it is unlikely to have extended as far as the study site.

2.4 Post-medieval and modern

There are no post-medieval or Modern assets recorded within the study site itself.

Previous excavation in close proximity to the site boundaries revealed limited evidence for this period:

- stone-lined drains were revealed in trenching immediately to the north (HER 42771),
- a post-medieval pit was revealed c.200m northeast of the site (HER 27644/2),
- ditches and pits were revealed c.225m to the north-east of the site (HER 27644/4),
- a possible post-medieval ditch was revealed c.75m north of the site (HER 42774, HER 42776).

Review of aerial photography and early maps provides some evidence for areas of ridge and furrow, although not within the study boundaries. The earliest accurate maps (1840 Newent Tithe Map) suggest the site was originally divided into three smaller fields used as a mixture of orchard, pasture and meadowland. These boundaries and uses were more or less maintained until 1969-72 when the site is seen to have been opened into one field.

An agricultural building is first depicted on the 1903 edition, and by 1969-72 it had been replaced by a larger building. A public right of way/footpath is first depicted on the 1883 map and is maintained to the present day. A pond identified by geophysical survey (Perry, 2018) can be seen from 1840 until that of 1969-72, when the three fields were converted into one.

3 Project aims

The aims and scope of the project were to undertake sufficient fieldwork 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.

4 Project methodology

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2018). Fieldwork was undertaken between 24th September and 1st October 2018.

Sixteen trenches, amounting to 1504m² in area, were excavated over the 7.36ha site, representing a sample of just over 2%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

The trenches were non-gridded and positioned to interrogate a varied sample of the site. The placement took into account the limited features suggested by geophysical survey, as well as the presence of water-mains, overhead cables and a public right of way.

Evaluation of the initial 50m by 1.8m opened area of Trench 8 revealed potentially significant archaeology extending beyond the eastern limit of excavation. As such it was determined in consultation with Charles Parry (Planning Archaeologist) and Neil Wright (CgMs), that it was necessary to extend the trench by 8m by 8m, centred on the visible archaeology (Figure 3).

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under constant archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked 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) and trench and feature locations were surveyed using a differential GPS with an accuracy limit set at 0.04m. On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Worcestershire Archaeology. Subject to the agreement of the landowner it is anticipated that it will be deposited at the Dean Heritage Centre Museum.

5 Archaeological results

5.1 Introduction

The features recorded in the trenches are shown in Figures 2 and 3. The trench and context inventory is presented in Appendix 1.

5.2 Trench descriptions

5.2.1 Natural deposits across the site

Natural deposits varied across site, ranging from firm, light-brownish-yellow sandy clay, to mid-reddish-brown sandy clay. Frequent veins and pockets of the less dominant component were seen mixed amongst the other deposits. Subsoils varied from loose, light-brownish-grey sandy silt, to friable mid-reddish-brown sandy silt. The topsoil across the site consisted of loose/friable mid-greyish-brown sandy silt/clay.

Limited modern truncation of trenches by water pipes and drains was present across the site.

The majority of trenches revealed no archaeological evidence. Those in which archaeological features were present are described in greater detail below.

5.2.2 Trench 5

A small post or stake hole (503) was present towards the south west of the trench. This had been constructed at a peculiar angle to the landscape and the single fill contained modern pottery.

An un-stratified example of worked flint was found lying on the natural substrate in the trench, This was found after the morning after the trench had been opened and cleaned and the fact that it had not been noticed the day before casts considerable doubt on the source of this flint.

5.2.3 Trenches 6 and 7

Both trenches contained a ditch aligned with a field boundary mapped on historic mapping. The ditch was not excavated, but at the stripped level it contained frequent modern debris including brick, stone and pottery.

5.2.4 Trench 8

Evidence of prehistoric activity was identified in a feature located adjacent to the edge of the trench and an area was opened around this to allow further investigation at the request of Charles Parry. The extended trench revealed a 1.3m wide ditch or elongated pit (803) running north-east to south-west for approximately 4.4m. Excavation of the northern terminus/end revealed that the feature was 0.51m deep, containing two initial fills and a re-cut with two distinct fills. Within the fills was evidence of burning, most prevalent in the primary fill of the re-cut. The fills of the re-cut yielded worked flint as well as burnt stone and fragments of prehistoric pottery. The ditch is truncated by modern pipe 809.

In the south of the trench a possible gully was identified [810]. This ran east to west through the trench and was 0.28m wide and 0.88m deep. It appears to extend beyond the trench boundaries, although the irregularity of its shape and the sterile fill suggest this could be a tree throw or similar non-archaeological feature.

6 Artefactual evidence by Rob Hedge

6.1 Summary

A small but significant assemblage of later prehistoric pottery and worked flint was recovered from an elongated pit within Trench 8.

6.2 Artefact methodology,

The finds work reported here conforms with the following guidance: for findwork by ClfA (2014), for pottery analysis by PCRG/SGRP/MPRG (2016), for archive creation by AAF (2011), and for museum deposition by SMA (1993).

6.2.1 Recovery policy

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

6.2.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds and artefacts from environmental samples 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. Tables were adapted and formatted using Microsoft Excel.

Classification of worked flint follows conventions outlined in Ballin (2000), Inizan *et al* (1999), and Butler (2005); the material was catalogued according to type and dated where possible. Visible retouch, edge-damage, cortex, raw material characteristics and quality, burning, and breakage were noted.

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

6.2.3 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.

See the environmental section for other discard where appropriate.

6.3 Artefactual analysis, by Rob Hedge

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

The assemblage came from three stratified contexts, with one additional unstratified find, and could be dated from the Neolithic period onwards (see Table 1). This largely comprised prehistoric pottery, worked flint, and burnt stone, from Trench 8.

The prehistoric pottery was in poor condition, with high levels of abrasion and a very low mean sherd weight of just 1.2g. However, this is likely to reflect the deleterious nature of the soils and the fragile nature of the pottery, *viz* taphonomic processes rather post-depositional disturbance; this explanation is reflected also in the worked flint being in generally fresh, unabraded condition, and showing no sign of post-depositional damage.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
Neolithic	stone	flint	serrated knife	1	8.3
Neolithic/Bronze Age	stone	flint	scraper	1	4.5
			utilised flake/notch	1	6.1
Bronze Age/Iron Age	ceramic		pot	9	13.4
prehistoric	ceramic		pot	2	0.2

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
			chip	3	0.1
			chunk	1	4.4
	stone	flint	flake fragment	2	1.7
			retouched flake	1	3.5
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	1	1
undated	stone	sandstone	burnt stone	11	178
Totals				33	221.2

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

Broad period	fabric code	Fabric common name	count	weight(g)
Bronze Age	?5.9	Quartz	4	4.5
Prehistoric	97	Miscellaneous prehistoric wares	7	9.1
Post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red ware	1	1
Totals			12	14.6

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric

6.3.1 Summary artefactual evidence by period

Prehistoric

The prehistoric component of the assemblage was almost all recovered from primary (804) and upper (805) fills of elongated pit [803]. The feature yielded nine pieces of worked flint, weighing 20.3g. Few diagnostic pieces were present, but in general the assemblage displays characteristics consistent with a later Neolithic/Bronze Age date. A later date cannot be definitively excluded, but is considered unlikely; the quality of flintworking tends to deteriorate markedly in the Iron Age (Humphrey and Young 1999).

Prehistoric pottery was also present within both fills. The extremely poor condition rendered identification to specific fabric types problematic. Generally, the fabrics were soft, micaceous, and contained small quartz inclusions alongside occasional iron-rich pellets. Sherds from primary fill (804), with a grey core and reddish-buff surfaces, displayed affinities to an early Bronze Age beaker fabric (5.9) recorded from Kemerton (Hurst and Jackson 2015). Sherds from the upper fill with grey inner surface and core and a poorly-preserved oxidised outer surface bore similarities to Iron Age ironstone- and sand-tempered ware (fabric 5.6), known from Beckford.

A small quantity of burnt sandstone was present within environmental samples.

Feature [803] is most likely to be Bronze Age in date, although an Iron Age date cannot be ruled out.

A single unstratified flint knife (with characteristics consistent with a Neolithic date) was recovered from the surface of trench 5 after cleaning. It is somewhat anomalous, and does not appear to be contemporary with the prehistoric material from trench 8. It could be taken to represent an earlier phase of activity in the vicinity, although the circumstances of its discovery and position were unusual, and there is a possibility that it was recently introduced to the site by unknown means.

Post-medieval

A single small sherd of 17th–18th century black-glazed redware (fabric 78) was the sole dating evidence recovered from fill (504) of posthole [503].

context	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
Tr.5 unstrat	flint	serrated knife	1	8.3	-4000	-2400	4000 BC - 2400 BC
504	ceramic	pot	1	1	1600	1800	AD 1600 - 1800
804	ceramic	pot	4	4.5	-2500	43	2500 BC - AD 43
	sandstone	burnt stone	11	178	undated		
	flint	flake fragment	1	0.8	-10000	43	
		retouched flake	1	3.5	-4000	-700	
		chunk	1	4.4	-10000	43	
		flake fragment	1	0.9	-10000	43	
		utilised flake/notch	1	6.1	-4000	-700	
		scraper	1	4.5	-4000	-700	
805	flint	chip	3	0.1	-10000	43	2500 BC - AD 43
	ceramic	pot	2	0.2	-4000	43	
		pot	5	8.9	-2500	43	

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

6.4 Recommendations

6.4.1 Further analysis and reporting

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

- Full analysis of the flint and prehistoric pottery.

6.4.2 Discard and retention

It is recommended, subject to the collections policy of the receiving museum, that the assemblage be retained in its entirety.

7 Environmental evidence by Elizabeth Pearson

7.1 Project parameters

The environmental project conforms to guidance by ClfA (2014) on archaeological evaluation and guidance by English Heritage (2011) and Association for Environmental Archaeology (1995).

7.2 Aims

The aims of the assessment were to determine the state of preservation, type, and quantity of environmental remains recovered, from the samples and information provided. This information will be used to assess the importance of the environmental remains.

7.3 Methods

7.3.1 Sampling policy

Samples were taken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (2012). A total of two samples (each of 40 litres) were taken from ditch [806] (Table 4).

7.3.2 Processing and analysis

The samples were processed by flotation using a Siraf tank. The flots were collected on a 300mm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residues were scanned by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammer scale. The flots were scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology, and a seed identification manual (Cappers et al 2012). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the New Flora of the British Isles, 3rd edition (Stace 2010).

Animal bone was identified with the aid of modern bone reference collections housed at the Historic Environment and Archaeology Service and identification guides (Schmid 1972 and Hillson 1992).

Charcoal was examined under a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope in order to determine the presence of oak and non-oak charcoal. The cell structure of all the non-oak identification samples were then examined in three planes under a MEIJI dark illumination microscope and identifications were carried out using reference texts (Schweingruber 1978 and Hather 2000) and reference slides housed at Worcestershire Archaeology.

7.3.3 Discard policy

Remaining sample material and scanned residues will be discarded after a period of three months following submission of this report unless there is a specific request to retain them.

7.4 Report

Uncharred remains, consisting of mainly root fragments are assumed to be modern and intrusive as they are unlikely to have survived in the soils on site for long without charring or waterlogging.

Charcoal was abundant and well preserved in fills (804) and (805) in ditch [806]. The charcoal in the primary fill (804) was made up of oak (*Quercus robur/petraea*) and lime (*Tilia sp.*), whereas the charcoal in the secondary fill (805) appeared to be dominated by oak. The feature was dated by pottery of Iron Age date, but associated flint suggests an earlier date, possibly originating in the Bronze Age.

Little interpretation can be made about the activity represented by the charcoal remains, other than that they probably derive from a hearth. The presence of lime (*Tilia sp*) is of interest as a decline in lime is thought to have occurred sometime between the Late Neolithic to Late Bronze Age on calcareous and loamy soils, but later declines are known on sandy soils (Grant *et al* 2011), as found at Newent (Cranfield Soil and AgriFood Institute 2018). Considering the later decline in lime on sandy soils, countrywide, the lime charcoal found in the ditch, which may have been sourced from woodland in which lime is still fairly common, could be as late as Late Bronze Age date or slightly later. Single wheat (*Triticum sp*) and unidentified cereal grains were also recovered.

The dominance of oak in the secondary fill (805) may imply a change in woodland composition (and perhaps a decline in lime), but could also result from a difference in wood collection behaviour.

There is some uncertainty about the date of the ditch fill. Should further fieldwork be carried out on the site, radiocarbon dating of the lime charcoal would contribute towards dating of the feature. However, as the lifespan of the tree can be several hundred years, some old wood effect is possible from heartwood fragments.

Context	Sample	Feature type	Fill of	Position of fill	Period	Sample volume (L)	Volume processed (L)	Residue assessed	Flot assessed
804	1	Ditch	806	Primary		40	10	Yes	Yes
805	2	Ditch	806	Secondary	Iron Age	40	10	Yes	Yes

Table 4: List of bulk samples

context	sample	charcoal	charred plant	uncharred plant	artefacts
804	1	abt	occ	occ*	occ burnt clay, pot, flint, burnt stone
805	2	abt	occ	occ*	occ pot, flint

Table 5: Summary of environmental samples; occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant, * = probably modern and intrusive

context	sample	Preservation type	species detail	category remains	quantity/diversity	comment
804	1	ch	<i>Quercus robur/petraea</i> wood, <i>Tilia</i> sp wood	misc	+++/low	mostly oak, some <i>Tilia</i>
804	1	ch	<i>Triticum</i> sp grain, Cereal sp indet grain	grain	+/low	
804	1	?wa*	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	seed	+/low	
805	2	ch	<i>Quercus robur/petraea</i> wood	misc	+++/low	
805	2	?wa*	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	seed	+/low	
805	2	?wa*	unidentified herbaceous root fragments	weed	++/low	

Table 6: Plant remains from bulk samples

Key:

preservation	quantity
ch = charred	+ = 1 - 10
wa? = uncharred	++ = 11- 50
	+++ = 51 - 100
	++++ = 101+
	* = probably modern and intrusive
	** = oyster shell/fragments

Key:

habitat	quantity
A= cultivated ground	+ = 1 - 10

B= disturbed ground	++ = 11- 50
C= woodlands, hedgerows, scrub etc	+++ = 51 - 100
D = grasslands, meadows and heathland	++++ = 101+
E = aquatic/wet habitats	* = fragments
F = cultivar	

7.5 Significance

Well-preserved charcoal of prehistoric, but uncertain date in ditch [806] is of significance as it may provide information on the timing of the lime decline.

8 Discussion

The majority of the site reflected the low archaeological potential predicted by desk based assessment and geophysical survey. Finds from the post hole discovered in Trench 5 is of modern date and it is most likely that the feature represents agricultural activities.

The ditch located in trenches 6 and 7 represents an old field boundary. While the ditch was not excavated during the evaluation, its location corresponded well to historic maps and there is little doubt to this interpretation.

Trench 8 revealed the highest potential for further archaeological discoveries. The ditch (or elongated pit) 803 contained both artefactual and environmental evidence of prehistoric activity. As yet the precise nature of the feature is undetermined. It is possible that the feature is part of a segmented ditch that extends beyond the trench area. It does not line up with a specific geophysical anomaly, although there are anomalies in the close vicinity. The nature of gully 810 is uncertain, as its date. While it is possible that it is related to 803 this cannot be determined without further investigation.

9 Significance

The features identified in trenches 5, 6 and 7 relate to agricultural practice in the post-medieval and modern period. As such these features are likely of low significance, although they may be of local interest.

The features identified in trench 8 are of greater interest. While the limited evidence available currently makes precise dating difficult, analysis of environmental remains and artefacts in ditch 803 suggest a prehistoric date, with the feature potentially spanning multiple eras. It is possible that 803 and 810 are part of a pattern of prehistoric activity in the area. Based in this, the feature is most likely to be of local significance, which may be enhanced by further investigation.

10 Conclusions

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA) from September to October this year at Land North of Southend Lane, Newent, Gloucestershire (NGR SO 22270 25170). This comprised sixteen evaluation trenches. The project was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of Robert Hitchins Ltd, in advance of a proposed development. The project followed on from a desk based assessment and geophysical survey.

Prior to the evaluation a low archaeological potential had been identified. The majority of the site conformed to this expectation and revealed no archaeological features.

There is however some evidence of prehistoric activity within the centre of the site that is of local importance. A ditch containing a range of worked lithic and pottery comparable to both Bronze Age and Iron Age examples potentially suggests prolonged or recurrent activity. A gully was also identified

nearby and it is possible that other features may be located beyond the extent of the excavated trench.

The remaining features identified are of low significance, as they relate to modern agricultural practices. A historic field boundary ditch was identified in two of the trenches, accurately following the line recorded on historic maps, and a single posthole was found to contain pottery dating to the 17th to 18th century.

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved. Conditions were suitable in all of the trenches to identify the presence or absence of archaeological features. It is considered that the nature, density and distribution of archaeological features provides an accurate characterisation of the development site as a whole.

11 Project personnel

The fieldwork was led by Andrew Walsh, assisted by Beth Williams.

The project was managed by Tom Rogers. The report was produced and collated by Beth Williams. Specialist contributions and individual sections of the report are attributed to the relevant authors throughout the text.

12 Acknowledgements

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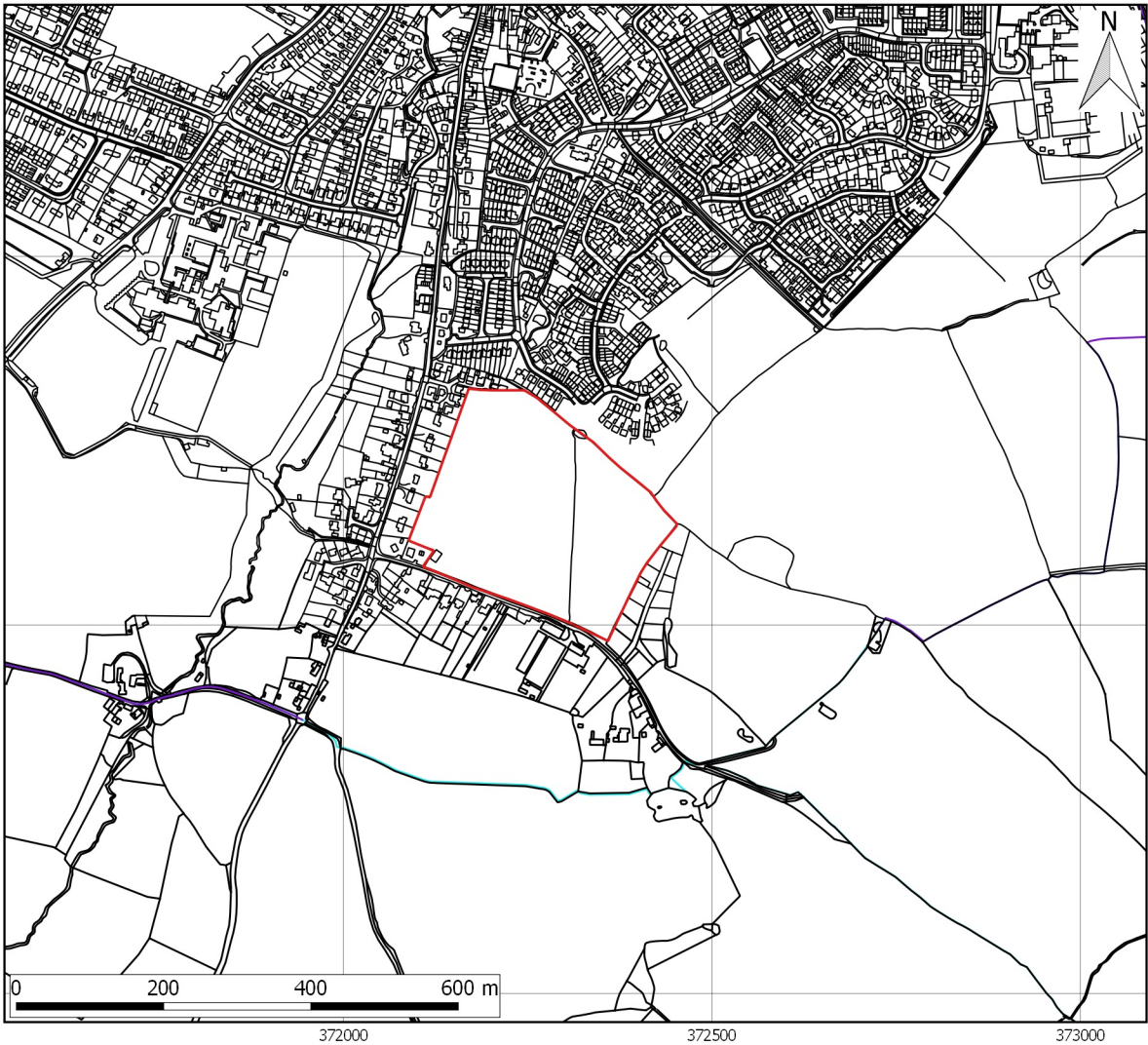
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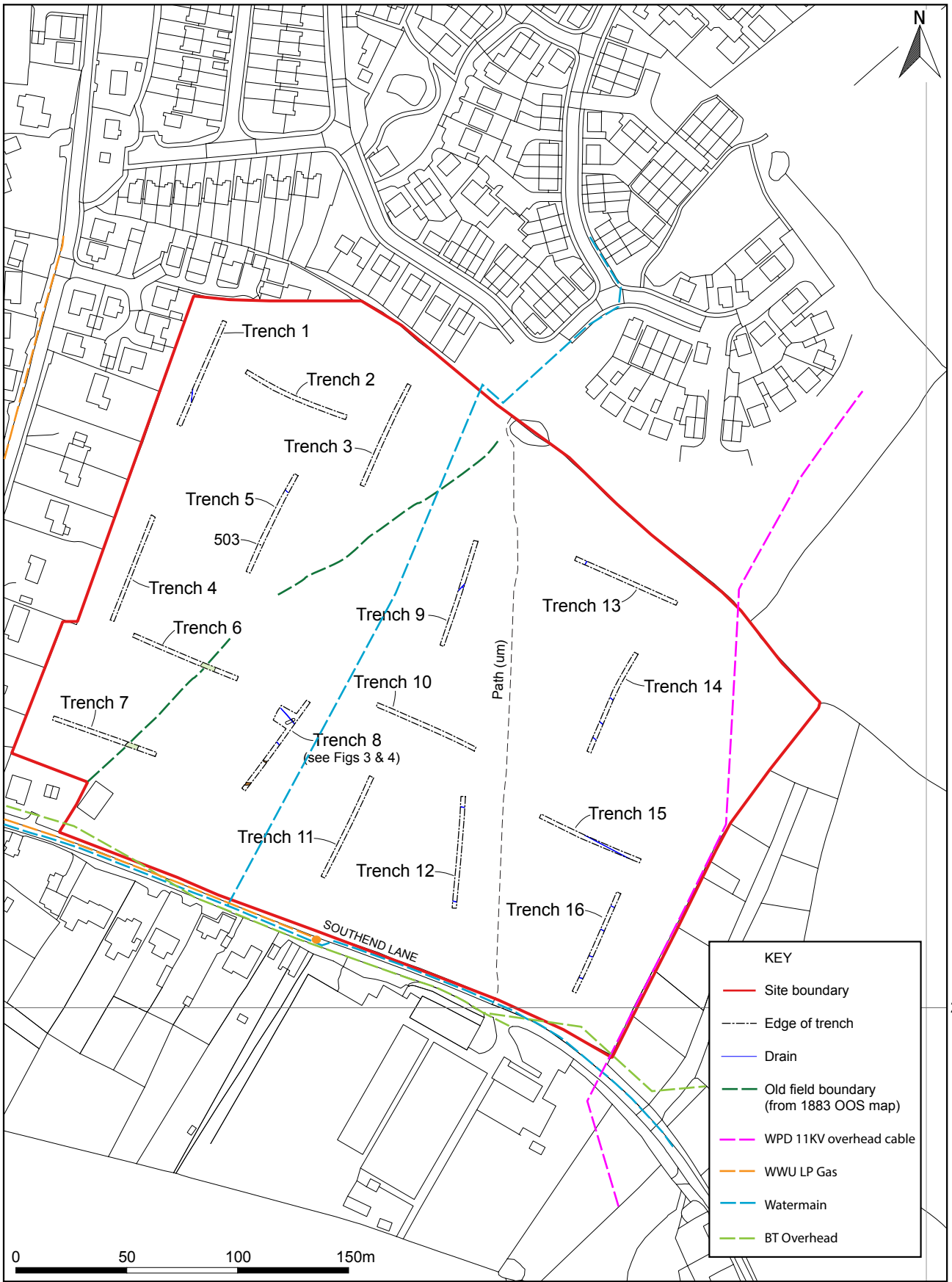
Figures



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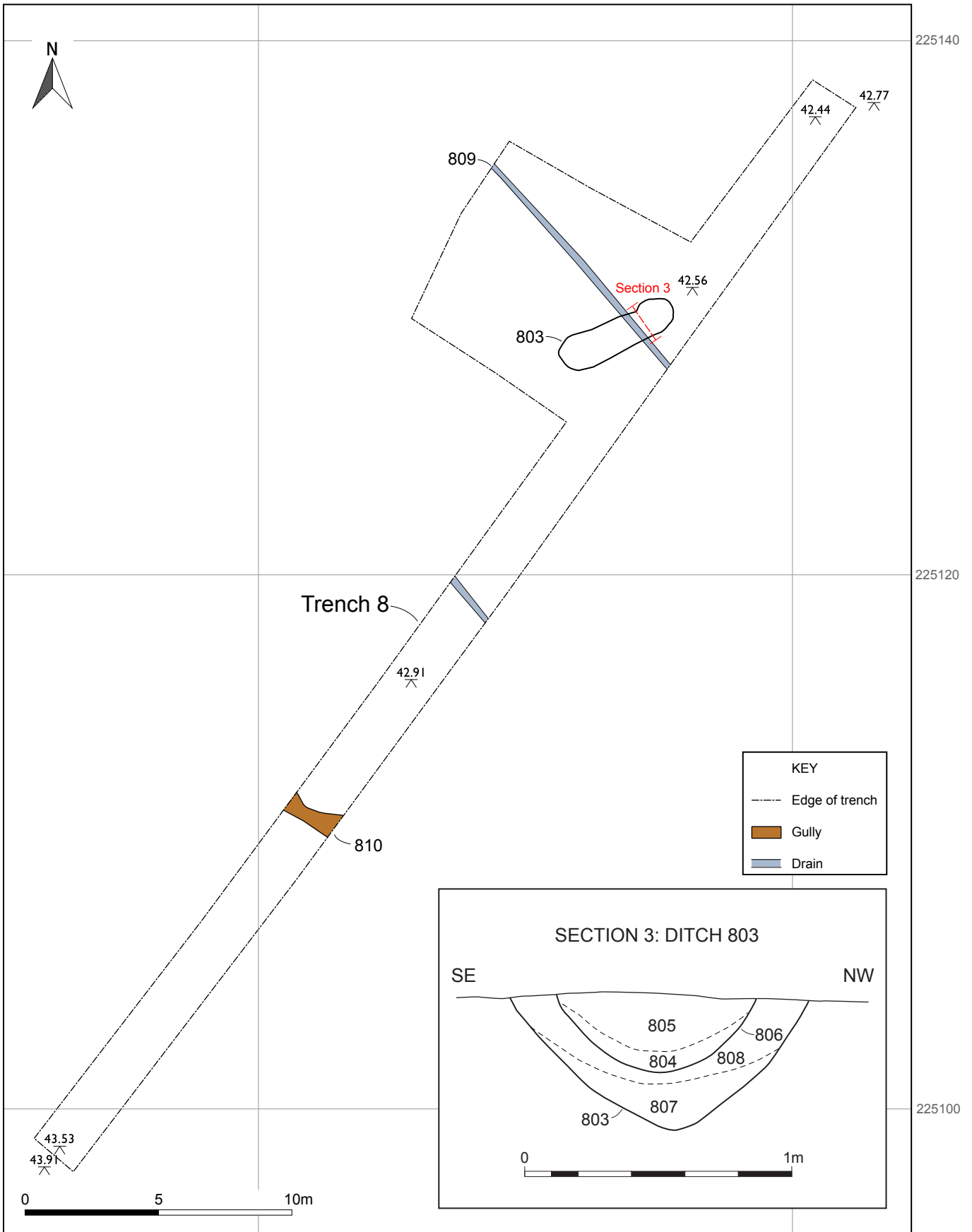
Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench location plan

Figure 2



Plan of Trench 8 and section of ditch 803

Figure 3

Plates



Plate 1: Ditch 703 in Trench 7; part of the old field boundary. Photo looking South



Plate 2: Ditch 803 in Trench 8. Photo looking South-West



Plate 3: Ditch 803 in Trench 8. Photo looking South-West



Plate 4: Gully 810 in Trench 8. Photo looking North East

Appendix 1: Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay	0.00 - 0.35m
101	Subsoil	Light greyish brown sandy clay	0.35m - 0.55m
102	Natural	Light brownish yellow sandy clay	0.55m - Unex

Trench 2

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay	0.00 - 0.43m
201	Subsoil	Light greyish brown sandy clay	0.43 - 0.60m
202	Natural	Light brownish yellow sandy clay	0.60m - Unex

Trench 3

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay	0.00 - 0.23m
301	Subsoil	Light greenish brown sandy clay	0.23 - 0.31m
302	Natural	Light brownish yellow sandy clay	0.31m - Unex

Trench 4

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
400	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay	0.00 - 0.33m
401	Subsoil	light greyish brown sandy clay	0.33 - 0.51m
402	Natural	light brownish yellow sandy clay	0.51m - Unex

Trench 5

Length: 50m

Width: 1.8m

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
500	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay	0.00 - 0.35m
501	Subsoil	Light greyish brown sandy clay	0.35 – 0.65m
502	Natural	Light brownish yellow sandy clay	0.65m - Unexcavated
503	Cut	Posthole	
504	Fill	Light brownish grey sandy clay	

Trench 6

Length: 50m

Width: 1.8m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
600	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay	0.00 - 0.40m
601	Subsoil	Light greyish brown sandy clay	0.40 - 0.58m
602	Natural	Mid brownish yellow sandy clay	0.58m - Unex
603	Cut	Ditch / Field Boundary	

604	Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay	
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Trench 7

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
700	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay	0.00 - 0.30m
701	Subsoil	Light greyish brown sandy clay	0.30 - 0.48m
702	Natural	Mid brownish yellow sandy clay	0.48m - Unex
703	Cut	Ditch / Field Boundary	
704	Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay	

Trench 8

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m (Extension 8 x 8m box) Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
800	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay	0.00 - 0.20m
801	Subsoil	Light greyish brown sandy clay	0.20 - 0.40m
802	Natural	Mid brownish yellow sandy clay	0.40m - Unex

803	Cut	Ditch	
804	Fill	Mid yellowish grey sandy clay	
805	Fill	Light yellowish brown sandy clay	
806	Cut	Ditch Re-cut	
807	Fill	Light greyish white clayey sand	
808	Fill	Light greyish yellow sandy clay	
809	Cut	Pipe	
810	Cut	Gully	
811	Fill	Light greyish brown sandy silt	

Trench 9

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
900	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.00 - 0.33m
901	Subsoil	Light brownish grey sandy silt	0.33 - 0.52m

902	Natural	Light grey sandy silt	0.52m - Unex
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Trench 10

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand	0.00 - 0.35m
1001	Subsoil	Mid brownish red silty sand	0.35 - 0.45m
1002	Natural	Mid brownish red silt	0.45m - Unex

Trench 11

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1100	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.00 – 0.35m
1101	Subsoil	Light yellowish brown silty sand	0.35 - 0.72m
1102	Natural	Mid brownish red silt	0.72m - Unex

Trench 12

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1200	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.00 - 0.30m
1201	Subsoil	Light grey sandy silt	0.30 - 0.40m
1202	Natural	Mid Brownish Red Silt	0.40 - Unex

Trench 13

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1300	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.00 - 0.28m
1301	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.28 - 0.43m
1302	Natural	Mid brownish red sandy clay	0.43m - Unex

Trench 14

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1400	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.00 - 0.32m

1401	Subsoil	Mid reddish brownsandy silt	0.32 - 0.58m
1402	Natural	Mid reddish brown sandy clay	0.58m - Unex

Trench 15

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1500	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay	0.00 - 0.35m
1501	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay	0.35 - 0.53m
1502	Natural	Light brownish yellow	0.53m - Unex

Trench 16

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1600	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay	0.00 - 0.32m
1601	Subsoil	Light greyish brown sandy clay	0.32 - 0.47m
1602	Natural	Light brownish yellow sandy clay	0.47m - Unex

Appendix 2: Summary of project archive

TYPE	DETAILS*
Artefacts and Environmental	Ceramics, Environmental, Worked stone/lithics
Paper	Context sheet, Drawing, Photograph, Plan, Report, Section, Survey
Digital	Database, GIS, Geophysics, Images raster/digital photography, Text

*OASIS terminology