



**Land to the East of
Longwater Road,
Finchampstead**

**Archaeological and
Heritage Assessment**

Prepared by:
**The Environmental Dimension
Partnership Ltd**

On behalf of:
**Catesby Strategic Land Ltd and
Stonebond Properties (Guildford)
Ltd**

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Section 1

Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of Catesby Strategic Land Ltd and Stonebond Properties (Guildford) Ltd, and presents the results of an archaeological and heritage assessment of Land to the East of Longwater Road, Finchampstead (hereafter referred to as 'the site'). This document has been produced in support of the submission of a planning application for residential development within the site.
- 1.2 The first aim of this assessment is to consider the available historical and archaeological resources for the application site and to establish its likely potential in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC), 2023) and local planning policy.
- 1.3 In accordance with best practice and guidance, desktop sources have been augmented through the completion of site walkover surveys, which in this case, were undertaken in June 2017 and April 2024.
- 1.4 The second aim of this assessment is to identify and assess possible changes within the setting(s) of surrounding designated heritage assets as a result of the proposed development, and to determine whether, and to what extent, those changes will affect their heritage significance.

LOCATION, BOUNDARIES, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.5 The application site is located in the south of Finchampstead, immediately east of Longwater Road. It measures a total of c.2.29 hectares (ha) in area, is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 479600, 162690, and its location and layout is shown on **Plan EDP 1**.
- 1.6 The site includes one field, which comprises grassland. The site is bound to the north, by the residential development of Finchampstead, Longwater Road to the west, further agricultural land to the east, and former quarrying (now flooded as part of the emerging nature reserve) to the south. Mature hedgerow boundaries interspersed with mature trees are present on the western, northern, and southern boundaries, with the eastern boundary open to further agricultural land to the east.
- 1.7 The site has a gradual slope from north to south, with the highest point on the northern boundary at approximately 58m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), with the lowest point on the southern boundary, at c.55m aOD.
- 1.8 The British Geological Survey (BGS, 2017) records the underlying solid geology at the application site as Bagshot Formation sand with overlying superficial river terrace deposits across the southern part of the site.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.9 The application is for the erection of 40no. dwellings (Use Class C3), together with associated outdoor space and landscaping, drainage infrastructure, hard and soft landscaping, parking, access, and associated works. .

Section 2

Legislation and Planning Guidance

- 2.1 This section sets out existing legislation and planning policy, governing the conservation and management of the historic environment, of relevance to this application.

CURRENT LEGISLATION

- 2.2 The *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990* is the legislative instrument regarding listed buildings and conservation areas. Sections 66(1) and 72(1) set out the duties of Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in respect of the treatment of listed buildings and conservation areas through the planning process.
- 2.3 Section 66(1) of the 1990 Act sets out the duty of the LPA in respect of listed buildings within the planning process. It states that:
- “...in considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.”*
- 2.4 Section 72 (1) adds that *“...with respect to any buildings or other land in a conservation area, of any powers under any of the provisions mentioned in subsection (2), special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area”*.
- 2.5 As far as Section 72 is concerned, it has previously been established by the Courts that development that does not detract from the character or appearance of a conservation area is deemed to be in accordance with the legislation. In other words, there is no statutory requirement to actively ‘enhance’.

National Planning Policy

- 2.6 The NPPF was revised in December 2023. Section 16 sets out the government’s approach to the conservation and management of the historic environment, including both listed buildings and conservation areas, through the planning process. The opening paragraph, 195, recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and should be conserved in a manner proportionate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.
- 2.7 Paragraph 200 concerns planning applications, stating that:
- “...local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets’ importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets*

assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation”.

- 2.8 Paragraph 205 considers the weighting given within the planning decision, with regard to impacts on designated heritage assets, stating that:

“When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.”

- 2.9 Paragraph 206 considers the level of harmful effects on designated heritage assets and states that:

“Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:

- a. Grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional; and*
- b. Assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, Grade I and II* listed buildings, Grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.”*

- 2.10 With regard to the decision-making process, paragraphs 207 and 208 are of relevance. Paragraph 207 states that:

“Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to or total loss of significance of a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

- the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and*
- no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and*
- conservation by grant-funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and*
- the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.”*

2.11 Paragraph 208 states that:

“Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use.”

2.12 The threshold between substantial and less than substantial harm has been clarified in the Courts. Whilst the judgement relates specifically to the impact of development proposals on a listed building, paragraphs 24 and 25 of *Bedford BC v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government* [2013] EWHC 2847 remain of relevance here in the way they outline the assessment of ‘harm’ for heritage assets:

“What the inspector was saying was that for harm to be substantial, the impact on significance was required to be serious such that very much, if not all, of the significance was drained away.

Plainly in the context of physical harm, this would apply in the case of demolition or destruction, being a case of total loss. It would also apply to a case of serious damage to the structure of the building. In the context of non-physical or indirect harm, the yardstick was effectively the same. One was looking for an impact which would have such a serious impact on the significance of the asset that its significance was either vitiated altogether [i.e. destroyed] or very much reduced”.

2.13 In other words, for the ‘harm’ to be ‘substantial’ – and therefore require consideration against the more stringent requirements of paragraph 207 of the NPPF compared with paragraph 208; the proposal would need to result in the asset’s significance either being “*vitiated altogether or very much reduced*”. Quite evidently, this represents a very high threshold to be reached.

2.14 With regard to non-designated heritage assets, paragraph 209 states that:

“The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.”

2.15 Furthermore, footnote 72 to paragraph 209 states that:

“Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest, which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.”

2.16 In this regard, footnote 72 is clear that for a heritage asset of archaeological interest to be subject to the same policies for designated heritage assets, it must first be ‘demonstrated’ that it is of sufficient interest to warrant such protection.

2.17 Paragraph 212 of the NPPF sets out that:

“Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to

enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.”

2.18 In relation to conservation areas, paragraph 213 of the NPPF sets out that:

“Not all elements of a Conservation Area or World Heritage Site will necessarily contribute to its significance. Loss of a building (or other element) which makes a positive contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site should be treated either as substantial harm under paragraph 195 or less than substantial harm under paragraph 196, as appropriate, taking into account the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site as a whole.”

2.19 This clearly identifies that any adverse impacts should be assessed in the context of the conservation area as a whole, not just the part that would be subjected to developmental change in isolation.

Local Planning Policy

2.20 Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) adopted a Core Strategy Development Plan Document in January 2010. This document sets out the vision for how the borough will develop in the period to 2026. To support this, the council has developed a Managing Development Delivery Local Plan in 2014 which contains more detailed policies guiding development. This contains policies TB24 and TB25 in relation to heritage and archaeology.

2.21 Policy TB24 concerns designated heritage assets and states that:

“The Borough Council will conserve and seek the enhancement of designated heritage assets in the Borough and their settings by:

- a. Requiring works to or affecting heritage assets or their setting to demonstrate that the proposals would at least conserve and, where possible enhance the important character and special architectural or historic interest of the building, Conservation Area, monument or park and garden including its setting and views; and*
- b. Supporting development proposals or other initiatives that will conserve and, where possible, enhance the local character, setting, management and historic significance of designated heritage assets, with particular support for initiatives that would improve any assets that are recognised as being in poor condition or at risk”.*

2.22 Policy TB25 concerns archaeology and states that:

“In areas of high archaeological potential, applicants will need to provide a detailed assessment of the impact on archaeological remains.

Where development is likely to affect an area of high archaeological potential or an area which is likely to contain archaeological remains, the presumption is that appropriate measures shall be taken to protect remains by preservation in situ. Where this is not practical, applicants shall provide for excavation, recording and archiving of the remains.”

Local Plan Update

- 2.23 The currently adopted Local Plan for WBC is in the process of being updated. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) 2023-2026 document details the updates, progress and timetable for the Local Plan Update (WBC 2023). According to the LDS 2023-2026 document, a Local Plan Update is not anticipated to be formally adopted until December 2025.
- 2.24 A consultation draft (WBC 2020) contains the following policy, DH5, on the Historic Environment:
- “1. Development proposals should conserve and seek to enhance, wherever possible, the archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic interest of all heritage assets, including the contribution to this interest made by their setting. This will be achieved through:*
 - a) ensuring that development proposals identify and understand the heritage interest(s) that may be affected by the proposed works, at an early stage in the design process;*
 - b) supporting works that secure the sensitive use, enjoyment, conservation and/or enhancement of heritage assets and their settings, particularly in relation to designated assets identified as being at risk; and*
 - c) securing the sensitive design of development which impacts on heritage assets and their settings, retaining or incorporating existing features or details of historic or architectural interest and/or design quality into the scheme.*
 - 2. Heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource. Where development proposals have the potential to affect heritage assets, a heritage assessment should be prepared and submitted alongside the development proposal describing the significance of any heritage assets affected, including the contribution to their setting. Where there is harm, information must be provided on whether the harm is assessed as being less than substantial or substantial.*
 - 3. Development proposals which would cause harm to the heritage interest of a heritage asset, or to its setting (whether statutorily designated or locally important), will not be permitted without a clear and convincing justification in the form of the public benefits of the proposal that cannot otherwise be achieved and which demonstrably outweigh any harm to the interest of the heritage asset in question, irrespective of the level of harm.*
 - 4. Development proposals that would cause substantial harm to, or total loss of significance of a designated heritage asset, will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or all the particular circumstances to:*
 - a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and*

- b) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and*
- c) conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and*
- d) the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.”*

2.25 In relation to archaeology, the emerging plan has the following policy, DH6:

- “1. Development proposals that would affect the significance of a scheduled monument, are within areas defined as Areas of High Archaeological Potential, or locations where archaeological remains are known or suspected, will need to be accompanied with a detailed assessment of the impact of the development upon archaeological remains and their significance. This should be in the form of an appropriate desk-based assessment using suitable references such as the Historic Environment Record and, where necessary, a field evaluation.*
- 2. Development proposal should take appropriate measures to protect any archaeological remains by preservation in situ. Where assessment of archaeological potential demonstrates this is not justified or proportionate, applicants shall provide for the excavation, recording and archiving of remains.”*

2.26 It should be noted that the plan is not adopted, so the policies carry little weight.

2.27 The plans, policies and guidance listed above have all been considered in the preparation of this assessment.

Section 3 Methodology

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 This report has been produced in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2014). These guidelines provide a national standard for the completion of desk-based assessments.
- 3.2 The assessment principally involved consultation of readily available archaeological and historical information from documentary and cartographic sources. The major repositories of information comprised:
- Information held by the Berkshire and Hampshire County Council Historic Environment Records (HER) on known archaeological sites, monuments and findspots, within the vicinity of the application site (data originally gathered in June 2017 with a refreshed search in April 2024);
 - Maps and documents held by the Berkshire Records Office;
 - The National Heritage List for England curated by Historic England;
 - Aerial photographs held by the Historic England Archive (HEA);
 - Records made during site visits in June 2017 and April 2024; and
 - The results of a geophysical survey (SUMO, 2017) and subsequent trial trenching undertaken in 2017 (Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA), 2017).
- 3.3 This report provides a synthesis of relevant information for the site derived from a search area extending up to 1km from its boundary, hereafter known as the 'study area', to allow for additional contextual information regarding its archaeological interest and/or potential to be gathered.
- 3.4 The information gathered from the repositories and sources identified above was checked and augmented through the completion of a site visit and walkover. This walkover considered the nature and significance of known and/or potential archaeological assets within the site, identified visible historic features and assessed possible factors which may affect the survival or condition of known or potential assets.
- 3.5 In addition, this report also considers the nature and significance of any effects arising beyond the boundary of the application site, i.e. through potential changes to the settings of designated heritage assets, as defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF (see below).
- 3.6 In that regard, the site walkover also considered, where appropriate, the contribution made (if any) by the land within the site to the settings of designated heritage assets situated within its wider zone of influence.

- 3.7 Following consultation with the archaeological advisor in June 2017, a geophysical survey was undertaken on the site. This was undertaken in June 2017 and the results included in **Appendix EDP 1** and discussed where relevant in the text. This was subsequently followed by a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching, the results of which are included as **Appendix EDP 2**.
- 3.8 The report concludes with (1) an assessment of the site's likely archaeological potential, made with regard to current best practice guidelines, and (2) an assessment of the likely effects of the proposed development upon designated assets, whether direct or indirect.
- 3.9 The assessment process has given due consideration to Historic England (HE) guidance on setting, as set out in *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning, Note 3, The Setting of Heritage Assets* (HE, 2015).

SETTING ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

- 3.10 When assessing the impact of proposals on designated heritage assets beyond a site boundary, it is not a question of whether there would be a direct physical impact on that asset, but instead whether change within its 'setting' would lead to a loss of 'significance'.
- 3.11 In simple terms, setting is defined as "*the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced*". It must be recognised from the outset that 'setting' is not a heritage asset and cannot itself be harmed. Its importance relates to the contribution it makes to the significance of the designated heritage asset.
- 3.12 Historic England guidance identifies that "*change to heritage assets is inevitable, but it is only harmful when significance is damaged*" (HE, 2015).
- 3.13 In that regard, 'significance' is defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as "*the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic*".
- 3.14 As such, when assessing the impact of proposals on designated heritage assets beyond the boundary of a development site, it is not a question of whether setting would be affected, but rather a question of whether change within an asset's 'setting' would lead to a loss of 'significance' based on the above 'heritage interest' as defined in the NPPF.
- 3.15 Set within this context, where the objective is to determine the impact of proposals on designated heritage assets beyond the boundary of a development site, it is necessary to first define the significance of the asset in question - and the contribution made to that significance by its 'setting', in order to establish whether there would be a loss, and therefore harm. The guidance identifies that change within a heritage asset's setting need not necessarily cause harm to that asset - it can be positive, negative or neutral.

3.16 In light of the above, the assessment of potential setting effects, arising from the proposed scheme, has followed the guidance set out in *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets* published by Historic England in 2015. Section 4 of this guidance observes that:

“The NPPF makes it clear that the setting of a heritage asset is the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate the significance or may be neutral.”

3.17 The guidance states that the importance of setting *“lies in what it contributes to the significance of the heritage asset. This depends on a wide range of physical elements within, as well as perceptual and associational attributes pertaining to, the heritage asset’s surroundings.”*

3.18 It goes on to note:

“All heritage assets have significance, some of which have particular significance and are designated and the contribution made by their setting to their significance also varies. And, though many settings may be enhanced by development, not all settings have the same capacity to accommodate change without harm to the significance of the heritage asset.”

3.19 Whilst identifying that elements of an asset’s setting can make an important contribution to its significance, the guidance states that: *“Setting is not a heritage asset, nor a heritage designation, though land within a setting may itself be designated”*. It continues by adding that: *“Protection of the setting of heritage assets need not prevent change; indeed change may be positive...”*

3.20 On a practical level, the HE guidance (2015) identifies an approach to assessing setting in relation to development management which is based on a five-step procedure, i.e.:

- Step 1: Identify which heritage assets are capable of being affected;
- Step 2: Assess whether, how and to what degree setting makes a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s);
- Step 3: Assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance;
- Step 4: Explore ways of maximising enhancement and avoiding or minimising harm; and
- Step 5: Make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.

3.21 As far as Step 2 is concerned, the guidance makes the following observations:

“The second stage of any analysis is to assess whether the setting of a heritage asset makes a contribution to its significance and the extent and/or nature of that

contribution...this assessment should first address the key attributes of the heritage asset itself and then consider:

- *The physical surroundings of the asset, including its relationship with other heritage assets;*
- *The way the asset is appreciated; and*
- *The asset's associations and patterns of use."*

Thereafter, the guidance notes that "...this assessment of the contribution to significance made by setting will provide the baseline for establishing the effects of a proposed development on significance, as set out in 'Step 3' below".

- 3.22 Having established the baseline, the following guidance is provided in respect of an assessment of the effect upon 'setting'; i.e.:

"In general...the assessment should address the key attributes of the proposed development in terms of its:

- *location and siting;*
- *form and appearance;*
- *additional effects; and*
- *permanence".*

- 3.23 Appeal decisions, i.e. Javelin Park, Gloucestershire (reference: 12/0008/STMAJW), have clarified the interpretation of existing guidance, establishing that the ability to see a proposed development, either from the heritage asset itself or from within its setting, should not be equated with harm to the significance of the asset. The key issue is whether and, to what extent, the proposed development would affect the contribution that setting makes to the significance of the heritage asset.

- 3.24 In light of the above, the assessment of potential setting effects, employed in the preparation of this report, focused on the completion of site surveys, which were undertaken in April 2017 and concentrated on the following three main areas:

1. Identifying those heritage assets that could potentially be affected by the proposed scheme and the manner (if any) in which they would be affected;
2. Defining the contribution made to their *significance* by their setting; and
3. Assessing the likely impact upon their *significance* as a result of the form of development proposed being implemented.

- 3.25 As far as identifying the heritage assets potentially affected by the proposed scheme is concerned, this was determined in the first instance through desk-assessment; then verified during the subsequent field visits.

Section 4

Existing Information

INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 The site does not contain any designated heritage assets, such as scheduled monuments, listed buildings, historic parks and gardens or registered battlefields, where there would be a presumption in favour of physical retention and/or preservation.
- 4.2 Within the wider 1km study area the designated heritage assets comprise 16 listed buildings, all of which are listed at Grade II, and the Eversley Cross Conservation Area located to the south of the site.
- 4.3 All designated heritage assets located within the 1km study area were assessed to gauge the potential for indirect ('setting') effects from the proposed development of the site, which may impact upon the assets' significance, the locations of which are shown on **Plan EDP 1**.
- 4.4 Wokingham Borough Council does not maintain a list of locally important buildings of heritage interest.
- 4.5 There are no HER entries within the boundaries of the site. Within the wider 1km study area there are 42 records from the Berkshire and Hampshire HERs indicating activity dating from the prehistoric to the modern periods. Their locations are identified on **Plan EDP 1**.

DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

- 4.6 There are no designated heritage assets within the boundary of the application site, where there would be a presumption in favour of the preservation of their significance.
- 4.7 The identification of designated heritage assets within the study area that may potentially be affected by the proposed development (Step 1 of the HE guidance 2015) was determined, in the first instance, through an initial map analysis, then subsequently augmented and confirmed through a field visit.

Conservation Area

- 4.8 The Eversley Cross Conservation Area is located 0.35km to the south of the site. The conservation area was first designated in 1983 and a Conservation Area Proposal Statement (CAPS) was adopted in 2002 which identifies the characteristics of the area.
- 4.9 The northern entrance and egress from the conservation area is heavily wooded, as is the intervening area along Longwater Road between the site and the conservation area. No key views are identified within the CAPS which incorporate any part of the site. Given this lack of visibility, the wooded nature of the intervening landscape, and the distance from the site, the site does not form part of the conservation area's experience and does therefore not contribute to its setting or significance as defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF.

- 4.10 In this regard, the conservation area cannot be harmed by the proposed development of the site and is not discussed further in this report.

Listed Buildings

- 4.11 There are no listed buildings located within the site, although there are 16 within 1km, all listed at Grade II listed. The buildings are generally concentrated in groups focused on the existing settlements of Eversley Cross and Finchampstead to the north.
- 4.12 The listed buildings located within the wider area comprise a broad range of structures, including numerous domestic cottages and houses, farmhouses, and public houses. The character and location of these buildings means that their setting(s) are defined by their immediate surroundings and streetscenes.
- 4.13 The positions of these listed buildings, not only in relation to the site, but also in relation to their surroundings (i.e. streetscenes), are such that it is considered that they would experience no loss of significance as a result of the proposed development scheme being implemented.
- 4.14 In each case, their functions, forms and locations are such that they clearly do not possess any inter-relationships of potential significance or inter-visibility with the site, instead, their settings are either focussed on the settlements at Eversley Cross or Finchampstead.
- 4.15 None of the listed buildings are visible from the site due to intervening built form and/or vegetation (i.e. mature trees and hedgerows), and as such it is considered that none of them could potentially experience an indirect effect from the development, as a result of change within their 'setting'. This position was verified in the field during the course of the field visit and assessment of the site's wider environs.
- 4.16 Accordingly, as the site does not form any part of the experience of the 16 listed buildings, they do not form part of the setting as defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF. As such, they are not considered further within this assessment report.

NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 4.17 Previous archaeological investigations within the study area which have yielded archaeological remains are discussed in the relevant period specific sections below.
- 4.18 These comprise the fieldwalking undertaken by the East Berkshire Archaeological Society during the 1990s to the east of the site, and the archaeological investigation and mitigation undertaken in advance of development to the north-east in 2013 and at the quarry at Ferry Farm to the south-west of the site. The implications of the findings are discussed in the period specific sections below.
- 4.19 The HER records previous investigations within the site undertaken as part of the previous application. These comprise an assessment (ERM 2033), geophysical survey (ERM 2082),

and trial trenching (ERM 2116). The results of these are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Geophysical Survey

- 4.20 A geophysical survey was undertaken on the site in June 2017 and the report is included as **Appendix EDP 1** (SUMO, 2017) and recorded in the HER as **ERM2033** and **ERM2082**. The survey comprises a 100% coverage of the site using a detailed magnetometer survey. The survey was undertaken following HE and ClfA guidelines at that time, which still reflect the industry standard in 2024.
- 4.21 Although the nature of the background geology produced 'noisy' results, the survey identified two potential enclosures with possibly associated internal and external activity. The survey also identified evidence for medieval and post-medieval agricultural practices in the form of former boundaries.
- 4.22 Given the proximity of prehistoric activity in the wider area, these features have been provisionally interpreted as continuing evidence for prehistoric metalworking activity in the area to the north of the Blackwater river.

Trial Trenching

- 4.23 Based on the results of the geophysical survey (SUMO, 2017), a programme of targeted trial trenching was subsequently undertaken in 2017 (PCA, 2017a). The results of these are now recorded in the HER as **MRM18268** and **ERM2116**. The scope of the evaluation was agreed with the archaeological advisor to the LPA via a Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA, 2017b). The full results of this evaluation are included as **Appendix EDP 2**.
- 4.24 The works comprised a total of five evaluation trenches measuring c.30m by 1.8m, each targeting potential archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey.
- 4.25 The evaluation revealed three pieces of struck flint, interpreted as blades of possible mesolithic or early neolithic date. Two of these blades were recovered from the subsoil layer in Trench 4 and one from a possible post hole, but more likely a root hole, in Trench 5. As such, it was determined that each of these finds were redeposited and no *in situ* features of prehistoric date were identified within the site.
- 4.26 Two ditches were identified within the site containing pottery of 1st century BC to 1st century AD date; these comprised an east to west aligned ditch located in Trench 1, which was truncated by a post-medieval drain, and a large, roughly north to south orientated ditch also located in Trench 1. This larger ditch appeared to form part of the substantial 'U' shaped enclosure identified by the geophysical survey and is suggested to date to the late Iron Age or Roman period.
- 4.27 Several pits and ditches were identified in Trenches 4 and 2, one of which appeared to be on the alignment of the enclosure referred to above. Whilst these features contained no dateable finds but, they did contain large quantities of slag and, in some cases, iron stone, which was also seen in the large enclosure ditch in Trench 2. For this reason, they have been assumed to be of a similar date.

- 4.28 No features dating to the medieval period were recovered, although a number of ditches and land drains dating to the post-medieval to modern period were identified, indicating the later agricultural management of the site.

Paleolithic - Iron Age (c.500,000 BC-AD 43)

- 4.29 The Berkshire HER records the Iron Age activity identified within the surveys undertaken within the site (**MRM18268**) discussed above. Otherwise, there are no Palaeolithic–Iron Age heritage assets recorded on the Berkshire HER within the application site, although there are numerous records within the wider 1km study area. The Hampshire HER does not contain any records of this period.
- 4.30 Potential Mesolithic activity (**MRM16222**) has been recovered from ditches and pits during an evaluation undertaken in 2008, 0.68km to the south-west of the site. The evaluation was undertaken in advance of quarrying operations at Fleet Farm, where a small number of archaeological features were spread widely across an area of c.48 ha.
- 4.31 Subsequent mitigation involved the stripping of a 6.58ha area (**ERM2726** Cotswold Archaeology (CA), 2014, 2017). This identified a number of charcoal rich pits and other evidence suggestive of Iron Age iron working activity (**MRM16220**, **MRM16221**) in a broad area 0.6km to the west of the site, although dating evidence was sparse. A number of palaeochannels (**MRM16223**) were also identified, although these have not been dated.
- 4.32 The activity was identified in advance of sand and gravel extraction to the north of the Blackwater river. Similar extraction has taken place to the south and south-east of the site, although there is no record of archaeological work recorded by the HER in relation to this.
- 4.33 A further Iron Age iron working site (**MRM17498**) was excavated in 0.6km to the east of the site ahead of an agricultural development in 2013. In common with the Fleet Farm site, iron working was identified from a number of pits, post holes and gullies, although a furnace/hearth was also identified. There was little evidence for settlement activity present.
- 4.34 More generally, prehistoric flint flakes (**MWK14081**, **MWK14082**, **MWK14083**, **MWK14085**, **MWK14086**, **MWK14089**) were recovered from fieldwalking in an area 0.5-0.7km to the north-east and east of the site. This indicates a general level of prehistoric activity in the broad area to the east of the site. Cropmarks forming slightly curving parallel ditches (**MWK1891**) 0.68km to the north-east of the site, in the vicinity of the flint finds, may be suggestive of an area of activity, possible associated with the iron working (**MRM17498**) identified to its south. Undated iron slag (**MWK1892**, **MWK15624**) was also recovered from fieldwalking in this vicinity.
- 4.35 The HER data shows there is evidence for prehistoric iron production activity within the wider area surrounding the site.
- 4.36 As noted above, a geophysical survey was undertaken and identified enclosures and potential features that may be of a similar date range to the sites to the east and west. The subsequent evaluation trenching revealed that these anomalies related to ditches and enclosures of likely Iron Age to Roman date, as indicated by a limited pottery assemblage and the presence of slag suggesting that iron production of this date was practiced within or close to the site, as is known from the wider area. However, no *in-situ* features directly

associated with this industry have been encountered during the archaeological evaluation and the finds recovered consisted only of waste materials of such activity. These ditches were truncated by post-medieval land management features and are considered to be of no greater than low, local value which are not of such significance to prevent development of the site.

Romano-British (AD43 – 410)

- 4.37 The Berkshire HER records the possible continuation of Iron Age activity into this period as identified within the surveys undertaken within the site (**MRM18268**) discussed above. Otherwise, there are no Romano-British heritage assets recorded on the Berkshire HER within the application site, although there are three recorded within the wider 1km study area. The Hampshire HER does not record any information from this period.
- 4.38 The HER records that the potential iron working in the area could have continued into the Roman period, indicated by a number of undated slag-mounds (**MWK1892**, **MWK15624**) found during fieldwalking 0.7km to the north-east of the site. Possible Roman land division has also been postulated through some of the undated ditch features (**MRM16220**) identified at the Fleet Farm site, 0.6-0.7km to the south-west of the site.
- 4.39 Nonetheless, this is largely speculative as no definitive dating evidence for a Roman date has been found within the 1km study area.
- 4.40 More definitive evidence for Roman activity has been identified beyond the study area to the north. The course of a Roman road known as the Devil's Highway (not illustrated) has been identified through archaeological investigation 1.2km to the north of the site on higher ground.
- 4.41 No definitive evidence for Roman activity has been found within the study area. As such, there was considered to be only low potential, with the possibility for the continuation of iron production in the area of the site during this period.
- 4.42 The evaluation trenching across the site indicated that the features attributed to the Iron Age within the site, as detailed by the geophysical survey, may also have continued into this period. These features comprised ditches and enclosures of likely Iron Age to Roman date, as indicated by a limited pottery assemblage. These ditches were truncated by post-medieval land management features and are considered to be of no greater than low, local value.
- 4.43 Based on these results, it is established that the site contains features related to small scale agricultural management continuing from the Iron Age into the Roman period, which are of low, local value. It is considered highly likely that any further remains, if present, would also represent land management features of low, local value, and given the more recent agricultural nature of the site, will be truncated and not of such significance to prevent development of the site.

Early Medieval and Medieval (AD 410-1538)

- 4.44 There are no early medieval or medieval heritage assets identified on the Berkshire HER within the application site, however, there are three recorded within the wider 1km study area. The Hampshire HER does not record any information from this period.
- 4.45 The HER records that the iron production could potentially have continued into the medieval period, indicated by a number of undated slag-mounds (**MWK1892**, **MWK15624**) found during fieldwalking 0.7km to the north-east of the site.
- 4.46 More definitive evidence for medieval activity has been identified beyond the study area near the Church of St James, 1.2km to the north. Findspots (not illustrated) in the vicinity of the church would suggest that it was the focus for settlement activity, as suggested by the Domesday survey, during the medieval period.
- 4.47 No definitive evidence for medieval activity has been found within the study area. As such, there is low potential, with the possibility for continuing iron production in the area during this period. As such, some of the features attributed to the Iron Age identified in the geophysical survey may date from this period. A number of undated pits and ditches were identified by the subsequent evaluation trenching which may date to this period, however, based on their similar composition to those Iron Age to Roman features identified, it is considered more likely that they form part of the wider land management during the Iron Age/Roman period. No features of definitive medieval date were identified by the evaluation trenching.
- 4.48 Based on this information, the site has no more than a low potential to contain 'low value' archaeological remains and deposits related to farming, such as the buried remains of cultivation and former field systems, as indicated by evidence for former boundaries identified within the geophysical survey.

Post-Medieval to Modern (AD 1485 – Present)

- 4.49 There are no previously identified heritage assets from these periods recorded on the Berkshire HER within the application site, but there are a number recorded within both the Berkshire and Hampshire HERs in the wider 1km study area.
- 4.50 Other than listed buildings (discussed above), evidence for the post-medieval period in the area is related to agricultural activity. Post-medieval pottery (**MWK15624**) has been found during fieldwalking undertaken 0.7km to the north-east. This type of find is not unusual and represents post-medieval agricultural practice of manuring. Further evidence for agricultural activity within the vicinity is recorded through boundaries (**MRM16220**, **MRM16223**) identified across the Ferry Farm site 0.2-0.7km to the south-west of the site.
- 4.51 The former course of Longwater Road (**MRM16219**) is recorded in the HER as running 0.5km to the west of the site. According to the HER, the present course of Longwater Road, which runs along the western boundary of the site, was constructed in 1854. Prior to this, it ran in a wide curve to cross the Blackwater via a ford. This is supported by the historic mapping (see below).

- 4.52 A mound and trackway (**59743**) are recorded in the Hampshire HER located in Eversley Cross 0.8km to the south of the site. This feature is likely to relate to a post-medieval settlement feature and does not contribute to the archaeological potential of the site.
- 4.53 Likewise, the Hampshire HER records the location of a second world war spigot mortar (**42809**) in Eversley Cross 0.9km to the south of the site and has no bearing on the archaeological potential of the site.
- 4.54 The evidence would suggest that the site was in agricultural use during this period, and the geophysical survey identified former boundaries and agricultural features likely to date from this period. A number of features associated with post-medieval to modern land management, such as drainage ditches, were identified during the evaluation trenching. As such, the site is established to contain 'low value' archaeological features related to agricultural land management, with potential for further similar features such as the buried remains of cultivation and former field systems.

Undated

- 4.55 The HER records a single undated feature in the 1km study area. This is an undated cropmark (**MWK1905**) located 0.25km to the north-west of the site. The cropmarks are linear, and the HER records that they may represent drainage or field boundaries.

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- 4.56 The earliest map consulted at the Berkshire Records Office as part of this assessment, comprised the Finchampstead Enclosure Map of 1817 (**Plan EDP 2**). In this, the site is shown as including parts of seven fields. The field pattern is different to the current arrangement; the sinuous boundaries are suggestive of enclosure of ridge and furrow cultivation. It is notable that Longwater Road runs in a curving route to the west, which is identified within the Berkshire HER (**MRM16219**), and the current alignment has yet to be formed. There is no development in the immediate surroundings of the site.
- 4.57 The 1841 Tithe Map (**Plan EDP 2**) depicts a similar arrangement of former fields within the site. The Tithe apportion notes the fields as a mix of arable and grass. There is still little development within the wider area and no features of interest are identified within the site itself.
- 4.58 An estate map of 1858 (**Plan EDP 2**) shows extensive change within the site. The main change is the construction of Longwater Road, forming the western boundary of the site. Also, the former field pattern has been consolidated into one field and the current boundaries established. This work is most likely to have been associated with the construction of Burn Moor Farm newly constructed to the west of the site. This re-organised the fields into a much more regular pattern, obliterating the previous arrangement. However, the former boundaries may survive as buried features, as suggested by the geophysical survey.
- 4.59 The First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1872 (**Plan EDP 2**) depicts no change to the site and a similar arrangement of fields in the wider area.

- 4.60 Subsequent ordnance survey mapping from 1899, 1911 and 1932 (**Plan EDP 3**) shows no change to the site or immediate surroundings.
- 4.61 The 1961 Edition OS map (not reproduced) showed no changes within the site, however, it does show the expansion of the built development of Finchampstead which now forms the northern context of the site.
- 4.62 The historic maps have demonstrated that the site was in agricultural use from at least the early 19th century. Furthermore, the maps show that the field pattern within the site was drastically altered in the mid-19th century, forming the current arrangement of boundaries of the site and may survive as buried features.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

- 4.63 A total of 73 vertical and nine oblique aerial photographs, covering the application site and its immediate environs, were identified within the collection maintained by the HE Archive in Swindon. None of the photographs are reproduced here due to copyright restrictions.
- 4.64 The available images span the period from July 1946 to August 2003 and add detail to the land use and development sequence shown on those historic maps available at the Berkshire Records Office.
- 4.65 The photographs demonstrate that, in the mid-1940s, the site layout remained as it was in the later 19th century, i.e. part of a larger agricultural field. Subsequent photographs demonstrate that this layout continued unchanged throughout the 20th century.
- 4.66 No cropmark or earthwork features, suggesting the presence of any form of archaeological activity, were identified on aerial photographs within the application site.
- 4.67 The aerial photographs confirmed the presence of cropmarks (**MWK1905**) as identified in the HER 0.2km to the north-east of the site. The cropmarks comprise a regular rectilinear form. The narrowness and regularity of the cropmarks would suggest a relatively modern (i.e. post-medieval) origin such as boundary or drainage features.

SITE WALKOVER

- 4.68 The site was visited in June 2017 and April 2024 to assess the current ground conditions and topography within it, as well as to confirm the continuing survival of any known archaeological remains and to identify any hitherto unknown remains of significance.
- 4.69 No evidence for archaeological remains was noted within the site and as detailed above, no potential adverse effects were identified in respect of designated heritage assets in the surrounding landscape.

Section 5 Conclusions

- 5.1 This Archaeological and Heritage Assessment concludes that the application site does not contain any world heritage sites, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields or listed buildings, where there would be a presumption in favour of the preservation of their significance. Accordingly, there are no above ground heritage constraints to development on the site.
- 5.2 Potential impacts upon significance through changes within the settings of the designated heritage assets in the wider study area have been considered, and it is concluded that the site does not form part of the setting of any designated heritage assets and, as such, the implementation of the proposed development will not result in an adverse impact on, harm to, or loss of significance from any of the identified designated heritage assets, either in terms of an effect on their physical fabric or through changes to their wider setting.
- 5.3 The Berkshire HER now records the on-site geophysical survey and evaluation trenching undertaken to support the previous application, which has identified archaeological deposits relating to enclosures and possible pits. Two of these features were dated by pottery assemblages to the Iron Age or Roman period, although the remaining features were undated and no *in situ* evidence for iron working was identified, suggesting the site was peripheral to the main activity as identified elsewhere in the locality.
- 5.4 Given the subsequent agricultural activity on the site from the medieval period onwards, it is likely that the features present will have been truncated, as was indicated by the evaluation trenching. As such, and having regard to development proceeding on-site where similar remains have been present, there is no reason to believe that the remains will be of such significance or level of preservation as to require preservation *in-situ*.
- 5.5 The level of detail provided by the geophysical survey and evaluation trenching, when combined with the characterisation provided by the work undertaken on the surrounding sites, it is considered that the information provided within this report is sufficient to enable the positive determination of the planning application. It is acknowledged that should the application be consented, then further work will be required to mitigate any impacts on the archaeological deposits. Such work could be secured by a suitably worded condition as consistent with the consultation on the 2017 application.

Section 6

References

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2020. *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment*, Reading.

Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) 2023. *The National Planning Policy Framework*. London.

Historic England (HE), 2015, *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets*, London.

Wokingham Borough Council, 2010. *Core Strategy Development Plan Document*.

LIST OF CONSULTED WEBSITES

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

LIST OF CONSULTED MAPS

1817 Enclosure Map

1841 Tithe Map

1858 Parish Map

1872 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map

1899 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map

1911 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

1932 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

1961 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

Appendix EDP 1
Geophysical Survey
(SUM0, 2017)

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT

sumo

Survey

**GEOPHYSICS FOR
ARCHAEOLOGY &
ENGINEERING**

**Longwater Road, Finchampstead,
Berkshire**

Client
**The Environmental Dimension
Partnership**

For
Catesby Property Group

Survey Report
11351

Date
June 2017

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and

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GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT

Project name:
**Longwater Road, Finchampstead,
Berkshire**

SUMO Job reference:
11351

Client:
**The Environmental Dimension
Partnership**

For:
Catesby Property Group

Survey date:
8 June 2017

Report date:
15 June 2017

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DIGITAL CONTENT (Archive Data)

- Minimally Processed Greyscale Images and XY Trace Plots in DWG format
- DWG Viewer
- Digital Copies of Report Text and Figures (both PDF and native formats)

1 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

A detailed magnetometer survey was conducted over approximately 2.2 ha of grassland at Finchampstead. Evidence of industrial activity has been recorded, visible in the form of enclosures, possible backfilled pits and areas of increased magnetic response. Further areas of increased response are of natural or uncertain origin.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background synopsis

SUMO Services Ltd were commissioned to undertake a geophysical survey of an area outlined for residential development. This survey forms part of an archaeological investigation being undertaken by **The Environmental Dimension Partnership** on behalf of **Catesby Property Group**.

2.2 Site details

NGR / Postcode	SU 796 626 / RG40 3TT
Location	The site is located immediately to the east of Longwater Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire. Residential houses bound the site to the north, with agricultural land to the south and east.
HER/SMR	Berkshire
Unitary Authority	Wokingham
Parish	Finchampstead CP
Topography	Mostly flat
Current Land Use	Grassland
Weather	Cloudy, dry
Geology	Solid: Bagshot Formation - Sand. Superficial: No superficial deposits are recorded across the north of the site. River Terrace Deposits of sand and gravel are recorded across the south (BGS 2017).
Soils	Swanwick Association (841c), deep permeable coarse loamy and sandy soils, some with peaty surface horizons (SSEW 1983).
Archaeology	An archaeological evaluation on land at Fleet Hill Farm (CA 2009), approximately 500m to the south-west of the site, revealed evidence of Iron Age and medieval iron smelting and charcoal production, along with evidence of Mesolithic and Bronze Age activity.
Survey Methods	Magnetometer survey (fluxgate gradiometer)
Study Area	2.2 ha

2.3 Aims and Objectives

To locate and characterise any anomalies of possible archaeological interest within the study area.

3 METHODS, PROCESSING & PRESENTATION

3.1 Standards & Guidance

This report and all fieldwork have been conducted in accordance with the latest guidance documents issued by Historic England (EH 2008) (then English Heritage), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and the European Archaeological Council (EAC 2016).

3.2 Survey methods

Detailed magnetic survey was chosen as an efficient and effective method of locating archaeological anomalies.

Technique	Instrument	Traverse Interval	Sample Interval
Magnetometer	Bartington Grad 601-2	1.0m	0.25m

More information regarding this technique is included in Appendix A.

3.3 Data Processing

The following basic processing steps have been carried out on the data used in this report:

De-stripe; de-stagger; interpolate

3.4 Presentation of results and interpretation

The presentation of the results for each site involves a grey-scale plot of processed data. Magnetic anomalies are identified, interpreted and plotted onto the 'Interpretation' drawings. The minimally processed data are provided as a greyscale image in the Archive Data Folder with an XY trace plot in CAD format. A CAD viewer is also provided.

When interpreting the results, several factors are taken into consideration, including the nature of archaeological features being investigated and the local conditions at the site (geology, pedology, topography etc.). Anomalies are categorised by their potential origin. Where responses can be related to other existing evidence, the anomalies will be given specific categories, such as: *Abbey Wall* or *Roman Road*. Where the interpretation is based largely on the geophysical data, levels of confidence are implied, for example: *Probable*, or *Possible Archaeology*. The former is used for a confident interpretation, based on anomaly definition and/or other corroborative data such as cropmarks. Poor anomaly definition, a lack of clear patterns to the responses and an absence of other supporting data reduces confidence, hence the classification *Possible*.

4 RESULTS

Specific anomalies have been given numerical labels [1] [2] which appear in the text below, as well as on the Interpretation Figure.

4.1 **Probable/Possible Archaeology**

4.1.1 The survey has resulted in a complex, noisy dataset where many individual magnetic responses are difficult to interpret. Underlying geologies and superficial deposits of sand and gravel often provide noisy data, as can evidence of industrial activity which is known in the area. Consequently, the division between *Probable* and *Possible Archaeology* is more subjective than normal; the interpretation in this section aims to highlight the major elements of archaeological interest.

4.1.2 There appear to be two irregular shaped ditched enclosures in the data; the larger example [1] measures approximately 40m across, while the second [2] is closer to 20m in size. There is a high density of anomalies within [1] other cut features; there are hints of curved gullies in the smaller enclosure [2]. Immediately outside of [2], on the north side, is a dense concentration of strong magnetic responses [3]; these could be associated with small-scale industrial activity, metalworking or possible pottery / tile production, though the responses have some modern, ferrous characteristics. There are hints of two smaller enclosures [4] but the sheer number of magnetic responses results in a confusing picture. Given the nearby evidence for Iron Age activity in the wider area, it is possible that the identified anomalies may be associated with similar archaeological remains.

4.2.1 A linear alignment of discrete positive responses [5] is visible to the south of the large, sub-circular enclosure [2]. These may be the result of shallow backfilled pits, possibly associated with the enclosures to the north, however they could also be a result of natural magnetic variations in the below deposits of sand and gravel.

4.2.2 Further to the southwest are strong magnetic responses which include a positive anomaly with a penannular shape [6]; there is a strong ferrous-like component to the responses which could indicate further industrial activity. Given the wider context of the results an archaeological origin seems likely, though once again a modern origin cannot be ruled out.

4.2.3 A positive, sub-rectangular anomaly [7] is visible at the southern edge of the site. This may relate to a shallow backfilled pit, though it could also be a result of spreads of material such as pottery wasters or ferrous slags. However, this interpretation is tentative, and it is possible that the response is of more recent origin.

4.3 **Uncertain**

4.3.1 Weak linear trends are visible across the site. These may be related to former boundaries or ditches associated with the later prehistoric activity of the site, though they could equally be a result of more recent field boundaries or agricultural activity.

4.3.2 Several areas of increased magnetic response have been categorised as being of uncertain origin. It is possible that these are a result of some form of industrial activity, however they may also be modern or natural in origin.

4.4 **Former Field Boundary**

4.4.1 A positive linear anomaly [8] is visible running east-west across the site. This aligns with a current field boundary to the east, leading to its classification as a conjectural field boundary.

4.5 ***Agricultural – Ploughing, Land Drains***

- 4.5.1 Evidence of modern agricultural activity is visible in the form of a magnetically weak, negative linear anomaly, which runs across the northern boundary of the site. This probably relates to a ploughing headland or tractor rut.

4.6 ***Natural / Geological / Pedological / Topographic***

- 4.6.1 Several small discrete areas of enhanced response have been detected across the site. These are typical of responses detected across sandstone geologies. Given the general noise of data over site it may be possible that some of these relate to pits or industrial activity, however it is difficult to distinguish between natural and other responses.

4.7 ***Ferrous / Magnetic Disturbance***

Ferrous responses close to boundaries are due to adjacent fences and gates. Smaller scale ferrous anomalies ("iron spikes") are present throughout the data and their form is best illustrated in the XY trace plots. These responses are characteristic of small pieces of ferrous debris (or brick / tile) in the topsoil and are commonly assigned a modern origin. Only the most prominent of these are highlighted on the interpretation diagram.

5 **DATA APPRAISAL & CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 Historic England guidelines (EH 2008) Table 4 states that the average magnetic response on sandstone is variable. Due to the presence of former enclosures, possible pits and evidence of industrial activity, it can be determined that the survey has been effective.

6 **CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The survey at Finchampstead has revealed two irregular-shaped enclosures, along with possible smaller enclosures and evidence of industrial activity. Given that Iron Age and medieval iron working and charcoal production is recorded (CA 2009) within the area surrounding the site, it is possible that the responses detected are associated with similar activity. Several areas of increased response are of uncertain or natural origin.

7 REFERENCES

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Appendix A - Technical Information: Magnetometer Survey Method

Grid Positioning

For hand held gradiometers the location of the survey grids has been plotted together with the referencing information. Grids were set out using a Trimble R8 Real Time Kinematic (RTK) VRS Now GNSS GPS system.

An RTK GPS (Real-time Kinematic Global Positioning System) can locate a point on the ground to a far greater accuracy than a standard GPS unit. A standard GPS suffers from errors created by satellite orbit errors, clock errors and atmospheric interference, resulting in an accuracy of 5m-10m. An RTK system uses a single base station receiver and a number of mobile units. The base station re-broadcasts the phase of the carrier it measured, and the mobile units compare their own phase measurements with those they received from the base station. This results in an accuracy of around 0.01m.

Technique	Instrument	Traverse Interval	Sample Interval
Magnetometer	Bartington Grad 601-2	1m	0.25m

Instrumentation: **Bartington Grad 601-2**

Bartington instruments operate in a gradiometer configuration which comprises fluxgate sensors mounted vertically, set 1.0m apart. The fluxgate gradiometer suppresses any diurnal or regional effects. The instruments are carried, or cart mounted, with the bottom sensor approximately 0.1-0.3m from the ground surface. At each survey station, the difference in the magnetic field between the two fluxgates is measured in nanoTesla (nT). The sensitivity of the instrument can be adjusted; for most archaeological surveys the most sensitive range (0.1nT) is used. Generally, features up to 1m deep may be detected by this method, though strongly magnetic objects may be visible at greater depths. The Bartington instrument can collect two lines of data per traverse with gradiometer units mounted laterally with a separation of 1.0m. The readings are logged consecutively into the data logger which in turn is daily down-loaded into a portable computer whilst on site. At the end of each site survey, data is transferred to the office for processing and presentation.

Data Processing

Zero Mean	This process sets the background mean of each traverse within each grid to zero.
Traverse	The operation removes striping effects and edge discontinuities over the whole of the data set.
Step Correction (De-stagger)	When gradiometer data are collected in 'zig-zag' fashion, stepping errors can sometimes arise. These occur because of a slight difference in the speed of walking on the forward and reverse traverses. The result is a staggered effect in the data, which is particularly noticeable on linear anomalies. This process corrects these errors.

Display

Greyscale/ Colourscale Plot	This format divides a given range of readings into a set number of classes. Each class is represented by a specific shade of grey, the intensity increasing with value. All values above the given range are allocated the same shade (maximum intensity); similarly, all values below the given range are represented by the minimum intensity shade. Similar plots can be produced in colour, either using a wide range of colours or by selecting two or three colours to represent positive and negative values. The assigned range (plotting levels) can be adjusted to emphasise different anomalies in the data-set.
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Interpretation Categories

In certain circumstances (usually when there is corroborative evidence from desk-based or excavation data) very specific interpretations can be assigned to magnetic anomalies (for example, *Roman Road, Wall, etc.*) and where appropriate, such interpretations will be applied. The list below outlines the generic categories commonly used in the interpretation of the results.

<i>Archaeology / Probable Archaeology</i>	This term is used when the form, nature and pattern of the responses are clearly or very probably archaeological and /or if corroborative evidence is available. These anomalies, whilst considered anthropogenic, could be of any age.
<i>Possible Archaeology</i>	These anomalies exhibit either weak signal strength and / or poor definition, or form incomplete archaeological patterns, thereby reducing the level of confidence in the interpretation. Although the archaeological interpretation is favoured, they may be the result of variable soil depth, plough damage or even aliasing as a result of data collection orientation.
<i>Industrial / Burnt-Fired</i>	Strong magnetic anomalies that, due to their shape and form or the context in which they are found, suggest the presence of kilns, ovens, corn dryers, metal-working areas or hearths. It should be noted that in many instances modern ferrous material can produce similar magnetic anomalies.
<i>Former Field Boundary (probable & possible)</i>	Anomalies that correspond to former boundaries indicated on historic mapping, or which are clearly a continuation of existing land divisions. Possible denotes less confidence where the anomaly may not be shown on historic mapping but nevertheless the anomaly displays all the characteristics of a field boundary.
<i>Ridge & Furrow</i>	Parallel linear anomalies whose broad spacing suggests ridge and furrow cultivation. In some cases, the response may be the result of more recent agricultural activity.
<i>Agriculture (ploughing)</i>	Parallel linear anomalies or trends with a narrower spacing, sometimes aligned with existing boundaries, indicating more recent cultivation regimes.
<i>Land Drain</i>	Weakly magnetic linear anomalies, quite often appearing in series forming parallel and herringbone patterns. Smaller drains may lead and empty into larger diameter pipes, which in turn usually lead to local streams and ponds. These are indicative of clay fired land drains.
<i>Natural</i>	These responses form clear patterns in geographical zones where natural variations are known to produce significant magnetic distortions.
<i>Magnetic Disturbance</i>	Broad zones of strong dipolar anomalies, commonly found in places where modern ferrous or fired materials (e.g. brick rubble) are present. They are presumed to be modern.
<i>Service</i>	Magnetically strong anomalies, usually forming linear features are indicative of ferrous pipes/cables. Sometimes other materials (e.g. pvc) or the fill of the trench can cause weaker magnetic responses which can be identified from their uniform linearity.
<i>Ferrous</i>	This type of response is associated with ferrous material and may result from small items in the topsoil, larger buried objects such as pipes, or above ground features such as fence lines or pylons. Ferrous responses are usually regarded as modern. Individual burnt stones, fired bricks or igneous rocks can produce responses similar to ferrous material.
<i>Uncertain Origin</i>	Anomalies which stand out from the background magnetic variation, yet whose form and lack of patterning gives little clue as to their origin. Often the characteristics and distribution of the responses straddle the categories of <i>Possible Archaeology / Natural</i> or (in the case of linear responses) <i>Possible Archaeology / Agriculture</i> ; occasionally they are simply of an unusual form.

Where appropriate some anomalies will be further classified according to their form (positive or negative) and relative strength and coherence (trend: weak and poorly defined).

Appendix B - Technical Information: Magnetic Theory

Detailed magnetic survey can be used to effectively define areas of past human activity by mapping spatial variation and contrast in the magnetic properties of soil, subsoil and bedrock. Although the changes in the magnetic field resulting from differing features in the soil are usually weak, changes as small as 0.1 nanoTeslas (nT) in an overall field strength of 48,000 (nT), can be accurately detected.

Weakly magnetic iron minerals are always present within the soil and areas of enhancement relate to increases in *magnetic susceptibility* and permanently magnetised *thermoremanent* material.

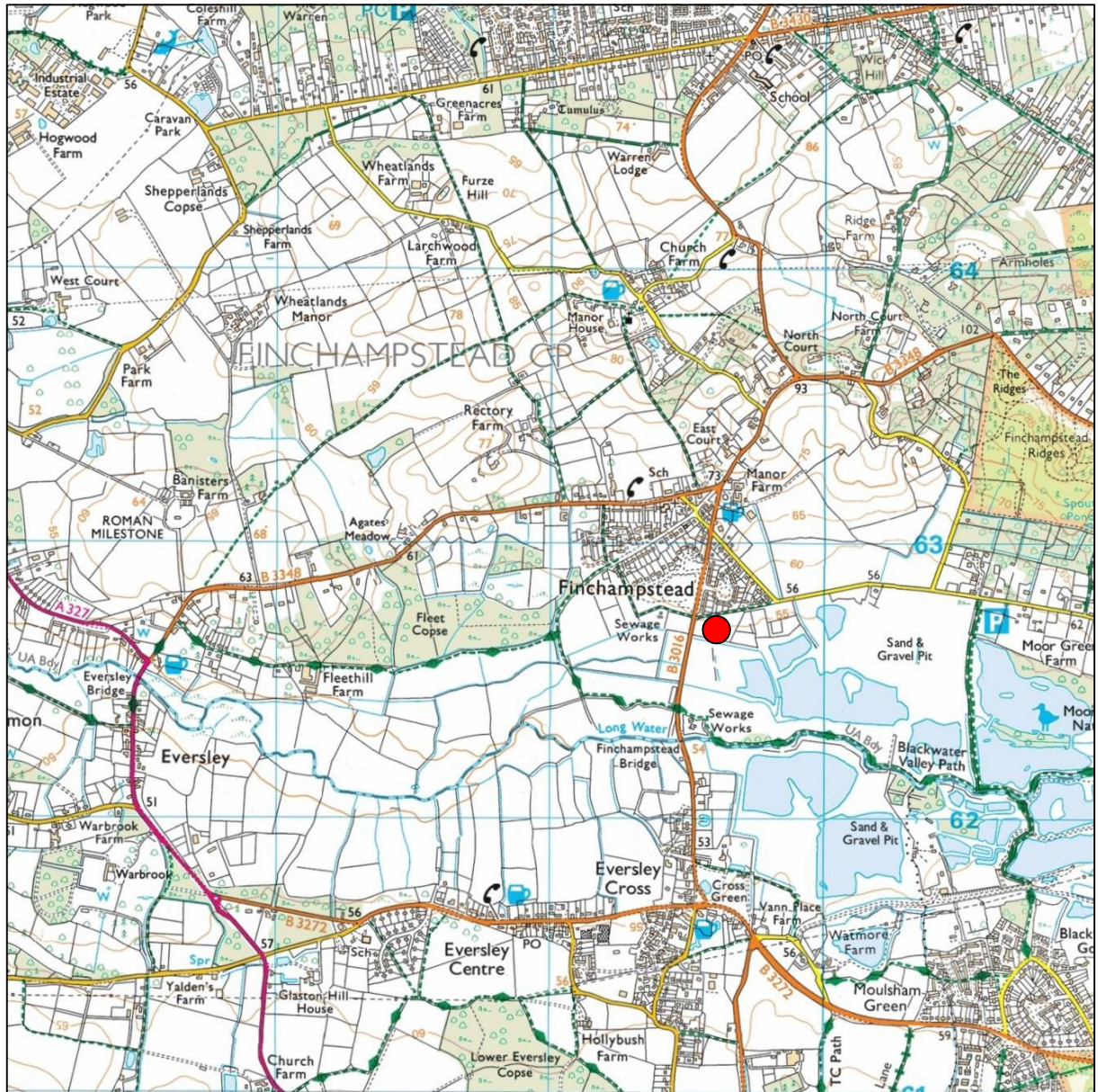
Magnetic susceptibility relates to the induced magnetism of a material when in the presence of a magnetic field. This magnetism can be considered as effectively permanent as it exists within the Earth's magnetic field. Magnetic susceptibility can become enhanced due to burning and complex biological or fermentation processes.

Thermoremanence is a permanent magnetism acquired by iron minerals that, after heating to a specific temperature known as the Curie Point, are effectively demagnetised followed by re-magnetisation by the Earth's magnetic field on cooling. Thermoremanent archaeological features can include hearths and kilns; material such as brick and tile may be magnetised through the same process.

Silting and deliberate infilling of ditches and pits with magnetically enhanced soil creates a relative contrast against the much lower levels of magnetism within the subsoil into which the feature is cut. Systematic mapping of magnetic anomalies will produce linear and discrete areas of enhancement allowing assessment and characterisation of subsurface features. Material such as subsoil and non-magnetic bedrock used to create former earthworks and walls may be mapped as areas of lower enhancement compared to surrounding soils.

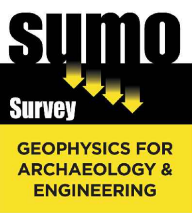
Magnetic survey is carried out using a fluxgate gradiometer which is a passive instrument consisting of two sensors mounted vertically 1m apart. The instrument is carried about 30cm above the ground surface and the top sensor measures the Earth's magnetic field whilst the lower sensor measures the same field but is also more affected by any localised buried feature. The difference between the two sensors will relate to the strength of a magnetic field created by this feature, if no field is present the difference will be close to zero as the magnetic field measured by both sensors will be the same.

Factors affecting the magnetic survey may include soil type, local geology, previous human activity and disturbance from modern services.



  Location

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Title

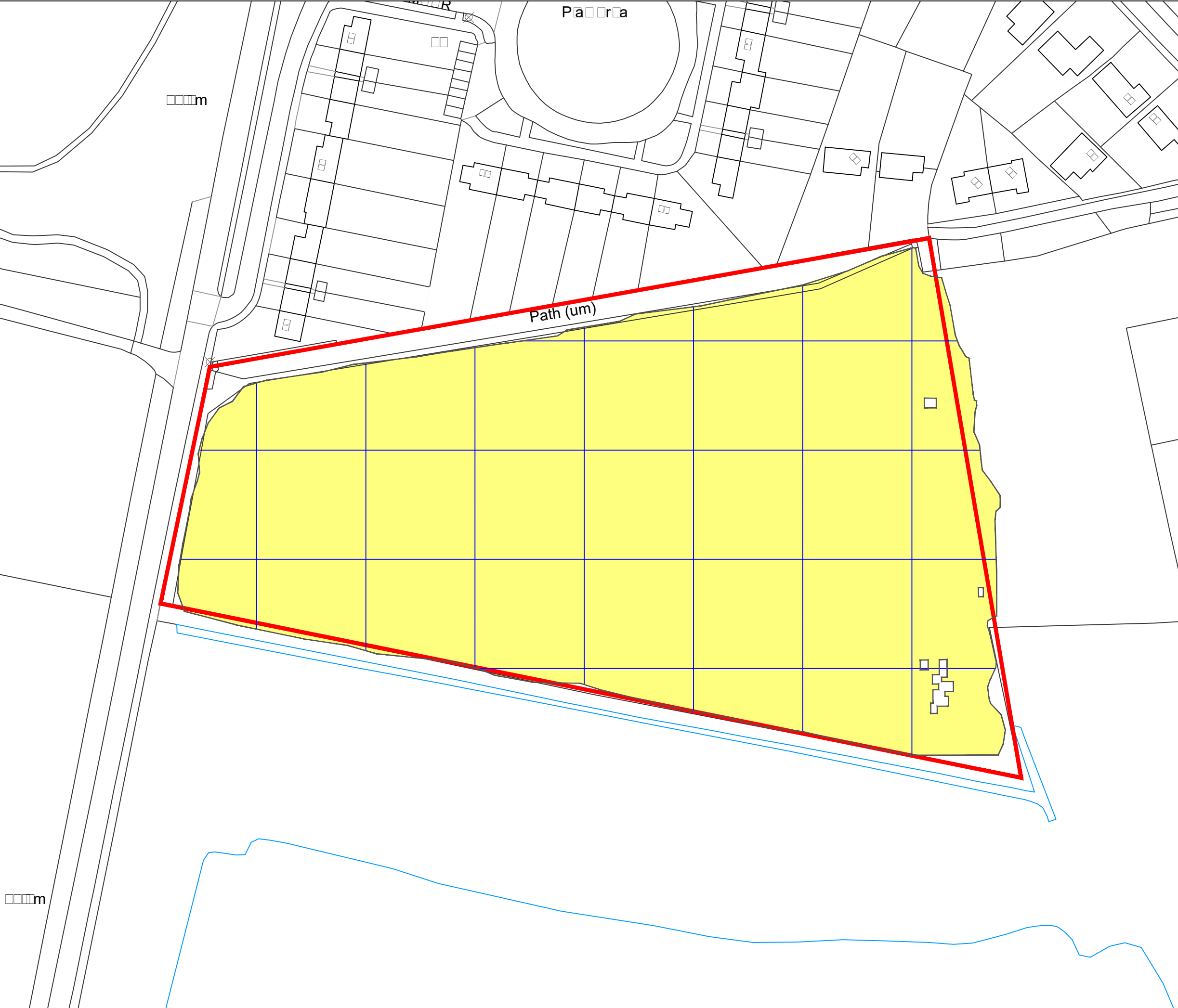
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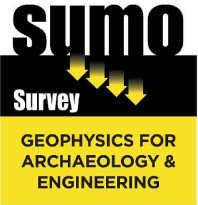
Project

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Our area is divided into a grid



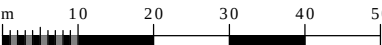
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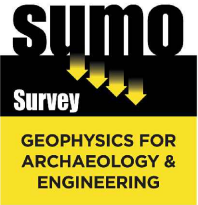
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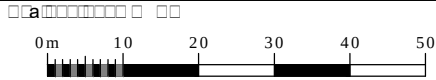
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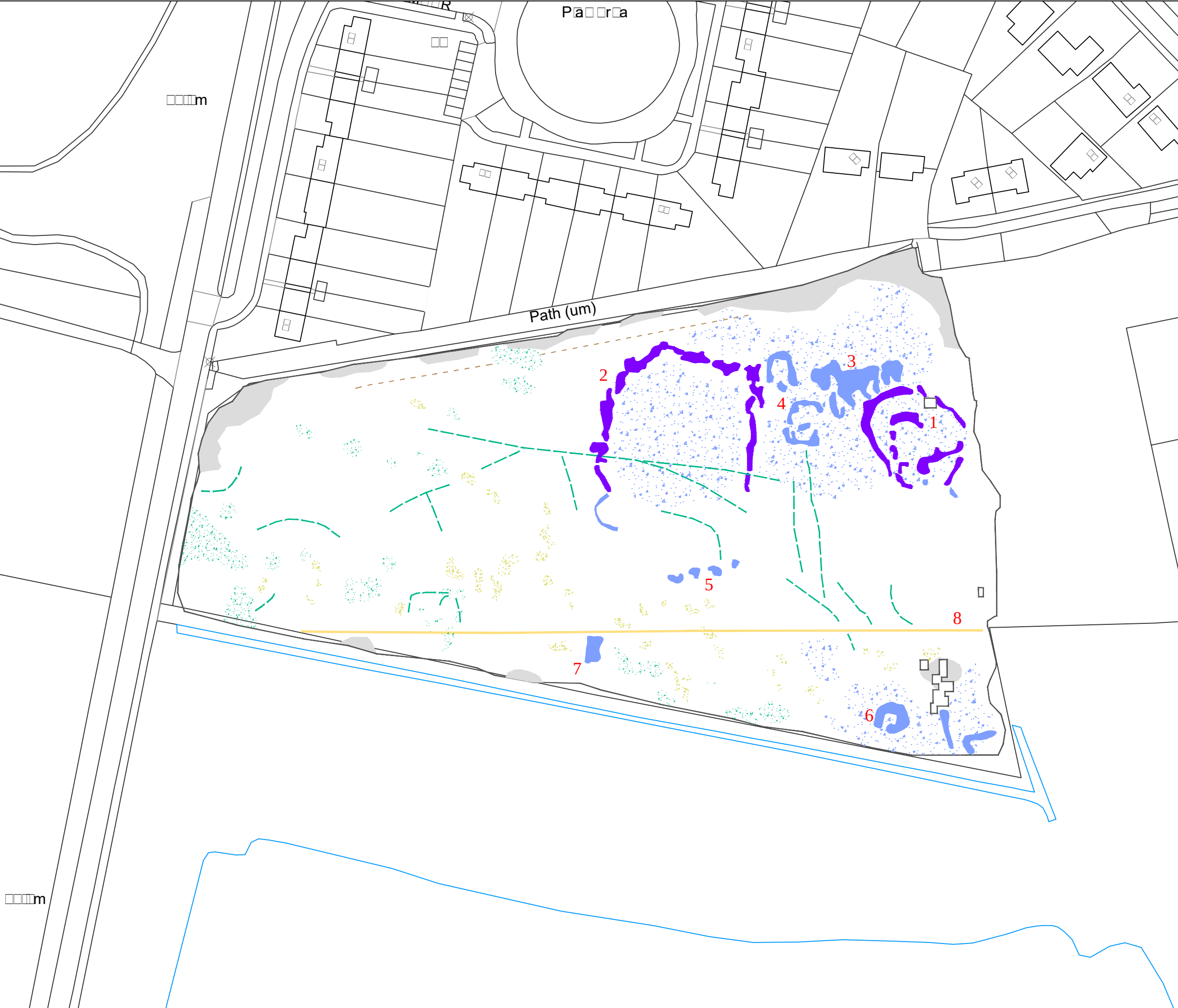


Magnetometer Data - Greyscale Plot

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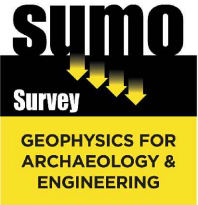
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Magnetometer Data - Interpretation

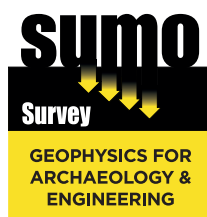
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- Archaeological
- Geophysical
- Laser Scanning
- Measured Building
- Topographic
- Utility Mapping

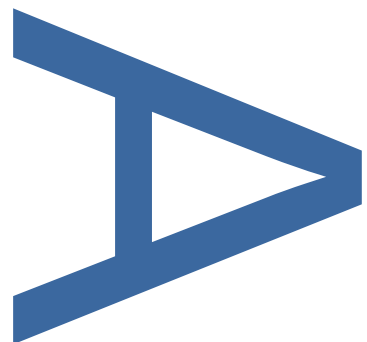
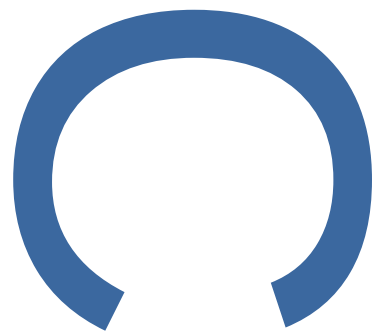
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Company Registration No.4275993.
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Appendix EDP 2
Trial Trenching Report
(PCA 2017)

**LAND OFF LONGWATER ROAD,
FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE,
RG40 3TT**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

SEPTEMBER 2017



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**LAND OFF LONGWATER ROAD, FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE,
RG40 3TT**

Type of project

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Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K5133
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**LAND OFF LONGWATER ROAD, FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE, RG40 3TT;
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Site Code:	BLRF17
Local Planning Authority:	Wokingham Borough Council
Planning Reference:	171993
Central National Grid Reference:	SU 79633 62705
Written by:	Kari Bower
Project Manager:	Tim Bradley
Commissioning Client:	EDP on behalf of Catesby Property Group
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September 2017**

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned by EDP on behalf of Catesby Property Group to carry out an archaeological evaluation prior to the redevelopment of Land off Longwater Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 3TT (henceforth termed 'the site').
- 1.2 The evaluation was commissioned to support an outline planning application, which has been submitted to Wokingham Borough Council, for a residential development on the site of up to 40 dwellings. This report details the working methods and findings of the archaeological evaluation.
- 1.3 The evaluation entailed the excavation of 5 trenches within the site, which each measured 30m by 1.80m and were excavated stratigraphically to the top of the underlying geology.
- 1.4 The evaluation uncovered limited evidence indicative of sporadic and transient Mesolithic to early Neolithic activity in the form of unstratified flint artefacts and clear evidence of Iron Age/Early Roman activity in the form of archaeological features, deposits and artefacts, specifically pottery and waste indicative of iron smithing activity. Post-medieval remains in the form of land drains and subsoil was also identified.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on Land off Longwater Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 3TT (central National Grid Reference SU 79633 62705). The site is located in the south of Finchampstead, immediately east of Longwater Road, and occupies an area that amounts to c.2.26 hectares (ha).
- 2.2 The site is situated within the jurisdiction of Wokingham Borough Council. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the site limits.
- 2.3 The area surrounding the site has previously recorded evidence of various periods of prehistoric activity suggesting that it has the potential to contain similar remains. As such the results of this predetermination exercise will be used to inform future planning decisions relating to the redevelopment of the site.
- 2.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared for the site in August 2017 by PCA (Bradley 2017), and approved by Berkshire Archaeology and Wokingham Borough Council, with the evaluation taking place between 21st and 25th September 2017.
- 2.5 The evaluation trenches were excavated by a machine operating under continuous archaeological supervision. This entailed the removal of no more than c.1.5m of topsoil and subsequent modern horizons to levels of between 55.54m OD in the north and 53.40m OD in the south.
- 2.6 The site was assigned the code BLRF17. Upon conclusion of all stages of the work the completed archive will be kept at PCA's London Office until a local recipient archive or museum has been agreed.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 An outline planning application has been submitted to Wokingham Borough Council (planning reference 171993) for the residential development of up to 40 homes.
- 3.2 Following discussions between EDP and Kathleen Leary, Archaeological Officer at Berkshire Archaeology, it was agreed that the scope of archaeological fieldwork required would involve the excavation of five evaluation trenches. Each trench would target potential archaeological features identified in a previous geophysical survey conducted on the site.
- 3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared for the development in accordance with the above approaches (Bradley 2017), which was submitted to and approved by Wokingham Borough Council and Berkshire Archaeology.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 According to the British Geological Survey, the majority of the site lies on the Bagshot Sand Formation, which comprises sedimentary bedrock that formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period.
- 4.2 The site is situated on grassland located to the immediate east of Longwater Road. It is bound to the north by the residential development of Finchampstead, the Longwater Road to the west, further agricultural land to the east and former quarrying (now flooded) to the south. Mature hedgerow boundaries interspersed with mature trees are present on the western, northern and southern boundaries of the site, with the eastern boundary open to further agricultural land.
- 4.3 The site slopes gradually downwards from north to south from approximately 58m OD to 55m OD.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The archaeological and historic background to the site is detailed in the Archaeological and Heritage Assessment (EDP 2017). The following represents a brief summary of the archaeological potential of the site, as presented in that report:

'Palaeolithic – Iron Age

The HER data suggests there is strong evidence for prehistoric iron production activity within the wider area surrounding the site. Due to the similar geology of the application site, and on the basis of the HER data, the potential for similar activity was considered to be high. As such, a geophysical survey was undertaken and identified enclosures and potential features that may be of a similar date range to the sites to the east and west.

Romano-British (AD43 – 410)

No definitive evidence for Roman activity has been found within the study area. As such, there is only low potential, with the possibility for the continuation of Iron production in the area of the site during this period. As such, the features attributed to the Iron Age within the site, as detailed by the geophysical survey, may also have continued into this period.

Early medieval and medieval (AD 410–1538)

No definitive evidence for medieval activity has been found within the study area. As such, there is low potential, with the possibility for continuing iron production in the area during this period. As such, some of the features attributed to the Iron Age identified in the geophysical survey may date from this period. Other than this, the site has a moderate to high potential to contain 'low value' archaeological remains and deposits related to farming, such as the buried remains of cultivation and former field systems, as indicated by evidence for former boundaries identified within the geophysical survey.

Post-medieval to modern (AD 1485 – Present)

The evidence would suggest that the site was in agricultural use during this period, and the geophysical survey identified former boundaries and agricultural features likely to date from this period. As such, the site has a moderate to high potential to contain 'low value' archaeological remains and deposits related to farming, such as the buried remains of cultivation and former field systems.'

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

6.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To determine the natural topography of this area of the site;
- To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site;
- To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource;
- To synthesise the results of trenches and findings in the wider area.

6.2 The five evaluation trenches were positioned to target specific geophysical survey anomalies of potential archaeological origin (see EDP 2017). As such the trenches were survey-located on the ground by PCA (Figure 8).

6.3 The southern end of Trench 4 was moved further westwards in order to avoid potential rooting activity associated with a substantial oak tree located nearby. All layers encountered were inspected and recorded in section at 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 using standard single context recording methods. The recording systems adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those widely used elsewhere in Berkshire, that is those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual and presented in PCA's Operations Manual 1 (Taylor 2009).

6.4 A full photographic record was made during the archaeological investigation, comprising digital photographs.

6.5 A single Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) was established towards the south-eastern end of the site using a hand held GPS. The value of the TBM was 53.04m OD. This value was used in conjunction with a dumpy level in order to ascertain the height of all section lines, principal strata and features relative to Ordnance Datum. The complete archive produced during the watching brief, comprising of written, drawn, photographic records and artefacts will be deposited at PCA's office in London and identified by the site code BLRF17.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1: Natural and Geological Deposits

- 7.1.1 All five trenches were excavated down to the underlying natural geology. This generally took the form of silty sand with occasional patches of natural gravel, [12] / [33] / [80], which was friable to firm in compaction and mid yellow-orange in colour. The deposit had occasional amounts sub angular to sub rounded stones throughout but was otherwise sterile and was observed in Trenches 1, 3 and 4. Forming part of that natural horizon in Trenches 3 and 4 were patches of compact sterile sand, [34] / [43], which was a light greenish grey colour, with frequent small pockets of light grey silt resulting from frequent rooting activity (Plate 12), whilst in Trench 5 the natural took the form of [60], a deposit of mid brownish orange, sandy clay, which was firm in compaction, with moderate amounts sub angular stones throughout (Plate 19). The top of these natural horizons were identified at a maximum level of 55.54m OD in Trench 4 and a minimum level of 52.08m OD in Trench 3 thus suggesting that the ancient topography of the site exhibited a gentle slope from north to south that mirrors that evident in the present.
- 7.1.2 One periglacial feature, [30], was noted at the east end of Trench 2, which contained one fill, [29], which comprised of mid reddish brown silt sand with occasional manganese flecking, with moderate amounts of sub angular stones throughout but was otherwise sterile. The feature itself was irregular in shape and was 2.60m in width, 1.90m in length with a depth of 0.12m, the south-eastern extent having been truncated by a modern planting feature, [28] (Plate 8).
- 7.1.3 Extensive rooting and in places animal activity had created numerous pockets of mid brownish grey clayey silt which varied in both shape and size in all of the trenches. A few of these larger natural features were assigned numbers; [7], [9], [40], [42], [55], which were sampled but none showed signs of human activity (Plates 12 to 15).

7.2 Phase 2: Mesolithic/Early Neolithic Age

- 7.2.1 In total three pieces of struck flint were recovered from the site; two were recovered from the subsoil layer [23] in Trench 4 and one from a possible post hole, but more likely a root hole, [55], in Trench 5. The lithic assessment (Appendix 3) on these states '*The technological and typological character of the two blades and the blade-like flake most likely indicate a Mesolithic/Early Neolithic age*'. Burnt flint was also recovered from the same context, which

the assessment concluded as being '*moderate to heavily burnt, 'fire-crazed' and decoloured*'. All evidence from this phase therefore consisted of a small collection of artefacts that were redeposited in secondary contexts. No *in situ* features of this phase were identified within the site.

7.3 Phase 3: Late Iron Age/Early Roman Period

- 7.3.1 A small assemblage of 1st century BC to 1st century AD pottery was recovered from the site, with the majority of which was retrieved from features located in Trench 1. An east to west aligned ditch, [18], was noted at the east end of the trench, which contained one fill, [17]. The deposit comprised friable, mid grey brown sandy silt, with occasional amounts of sub angular to sub rounded stones throughout and very occasional chalk and charcoal flecks. Pottery recovered from [17] has been dated to the late Iron Age period (Appendix 4). The western terminus of [18] was truncated by a northwest-southeast aligned ditch, [73], which was infilled with material that was very similar in composition to [17] but was darker brown in colour. Although no finds were retrieved from [73], the stratigraphic relationships that were recorded demonstrate that it is of a later date than [18] – possibly a post-medieval drain cut.
- 7.3.2 The only other feature to produce datable finds was the large ditch, [71], located at a mid-point along Trench 1. The tertiary fill, [67]/[19], comprised of friable, mid grey sandy silt, with frequent amounts of slag, fired clay and pottery sherds and occasional amounts of small to medium sized sub angular to sub rounded stones and occasional charcoal flecks throughout. The pottery recovered from [67]/[19] has been given a provisional date range of 1st century BC to early 1st century AD (Appendix 4). Large amounts of slag were also retrieved together with fired clay from context [67]/[19], the latter of which has been interpreted as possible kiln material (Appendix 5). The lower two fills [69] and [70] did not contain finds, but did contain charcoal and CBM flecking. This ditch likely forms part of the substantial 'U' shaped enclosure that is shown on the geophysical survey, which would appear to date to the late Iron Age period (Figure 8).
- 7.3.3 The east side of ditch [71] had been heavily affected by burrowing activity as represented by [53], an irregular feature which contained deposit [52] that produced Late Iron Age pottery and slag. This material was no doubt redeposited from the fills of the ditch [71].
- 7.3.4 Several features located in Trenches 4 and 2 contained no dateable finds but, as with ditch [71], they did contain large quantities of slag and, in some cases, iron stone and for this reason they have been assumed to be of a similar date. These included three north-south

aligned linear features, [26], [32] and [47], in Trench 2, pit [20] in Trench 4 and ditch [38], also in Trench 4, which may form part of a larger, circular enclosure noted from geophysical survey (Figure 8).

7.4 Phase 4: 19th – 20th century

- 7.4.1 Cutting into these earlier deposits and features were several Victorian land drains. With the exception of Trench 5, these features were in turn sealed by a subsoil layer, recorded as [66], [63], [2] and [23] in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively. The top of this deposit was observed at a maximum level of 55.65m OD in Trench 4 and a minimum level of 52.44m OD in Trench 3. This material consisted of loose mid brown clayey sand with frequent small to medium sized sub-angular to sub-rounded stones. The subsoil contained post-medieval CBM fragments. Later features, mainly 20th century post holes and garden features [28], [49] [57] as well as animal burrows were also present throughout the site truncating the subsoil and other features. The entire area was sealed by modern topsoil.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Archaeological conclusions

- 8.1.1 The archaeological evaluation demonstrated that the Late Iron Age/early Roman features survived within the investigation area below subsoil horizons and immediately above the natural sand. The findings place the site within iron production industry landscape of that period. The subsoil produced CBM predominantly from the post-medieval period which may have been brought to the site from a surrounding area. A number of early modern features representative of landscape use of the site were also found as well as Mesolithic and early Neolithic flints thought to be residual.

8.2 Response to the Original Research Design

The investigation aimed to address the following primary objectives:

8.2.1 To determine the natural topography of this area of the site

Untruncated natural was encountered in all five trenches, which in accord with the British Geological Survey likely consisted of the Bagshot Sand Formation. The evaluation demonstrated that the ancient land surface sloped gently from a maximum height of c.55.54m OD in the north to a minimum level of 52.08m OD in the south, thus mirroring the extant topography that was observed.

8.2.2 To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site

The evaluation uncovered flint artefacts dating to the Mesolithic or early Neolithic periods, which are likely indicative of sporadic episodes of brief human visitation, perhaps by transient bands, rather than longer-term occupation. Iron Age activity was represented by boundary ditches: at least two of which likely represent enclosures; deposits and artefacts, specifically pottery and waste indicative of iron smithing. Post-medieval remains in the form of 19th century land drains were also identified, as was a layer of post-medieval subsoil.

8.2.3 To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.

The situation of the site, below a grassed field, has resulted in minimal past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource, the main source of disturbance taking the form of isolated areas of small to medium scale bioturbation, predominantly from tree roots and animal burrows. However, numerous Victorian drains were also located within the site suggesting the site was subject to agricultural/horticultural activity in that period and as the drains were sealed by the subsoil, a partial truncation of earlier deposits and features had taken place.

8.2.4 To synthesise the results of trenches and findings in the wider area.

The results of the evaluation broadly accord with the archaeological background data, although the presence of Mesolithic to early Neolithic flint artefacts was not predicted. However, as previously stated, those artefacts likely represent chance finds that were deposited by infrequent, rapid visitations by man to the site and its environs. Therefore, they are not taken to represent the presence of *in situ* remains.

Strong evidence for late prehistoric iron production is evident in the vicinity of the site and this also appears to have been the case within its boundaries, hence the presence of assemblages of iron slag and iron stone within features that have been dated to the Iron Age period. The results of the evaluation in combination with the results of the geophysical survey suggest that at least two potential Iron Age enclosures have been identified in Trenches 2 and 3. The site may have been a location of iron production although no *in situ* features directly associated with this industry have been encountered and the finds recovered consisted only of waste materials of such activity.

The background data predicted that the site was subsequently used for agricultural or pastoral purposes during the post-medieval and early modern period. This was represented by the presence of a layer of post-medieval subsoil and 19th century land drains.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank EDP for commissioning the work and special thanks is given to Phillip Burgess who was so helpful on site. We would also like to thank Kathleen Leary for monitoring the project on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.
- 9.2 The project was managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology by Tim Bradley, the archaeological evaluation was carried out and written by Kari Bower, and the illustrations were prepared by Ray Murphy.

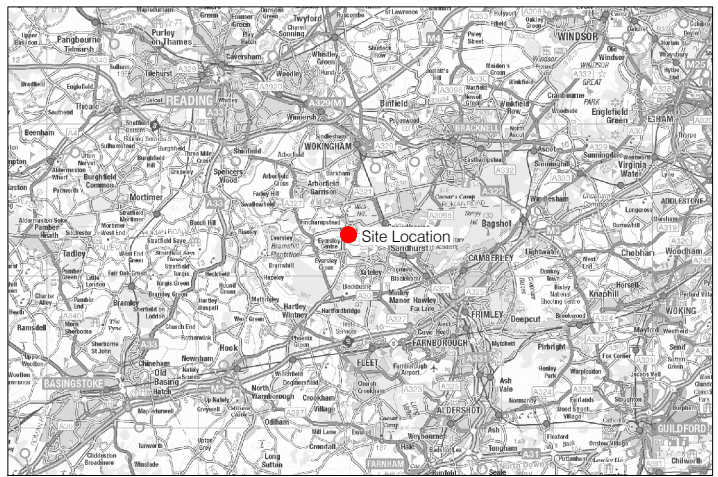
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06/09/17 RM

Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000, 1:500,000 & 1:20,000 at A4



0 50m

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Figure 2
Trench Location Plan
1:1,250 at A4

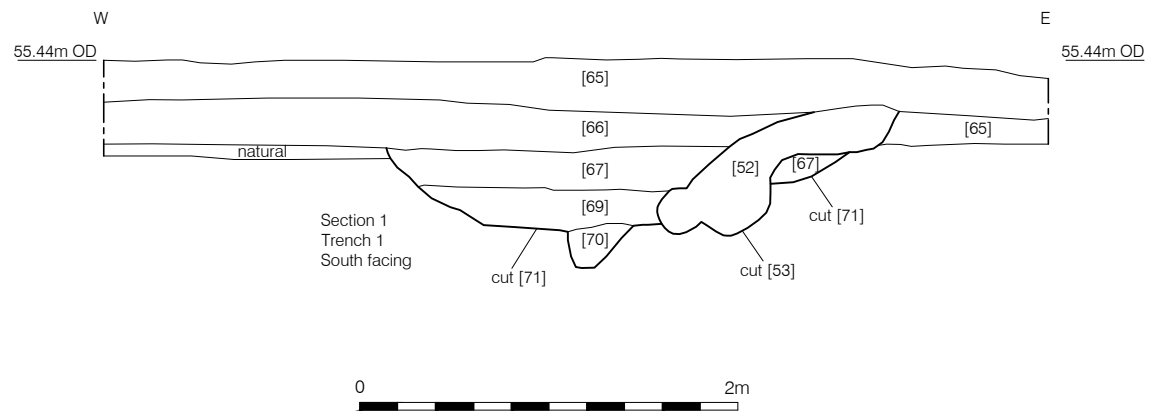
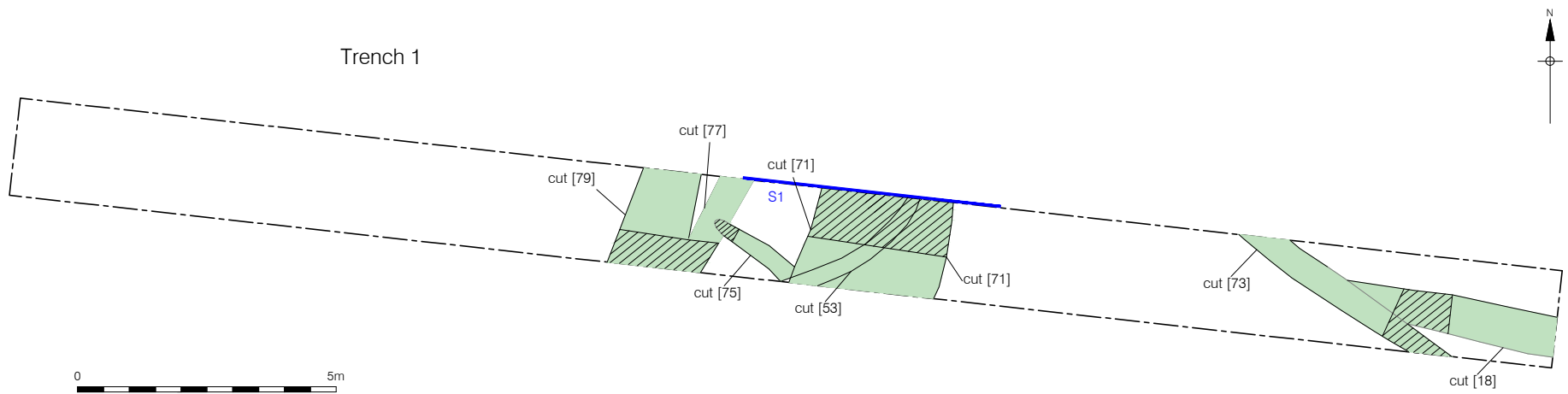
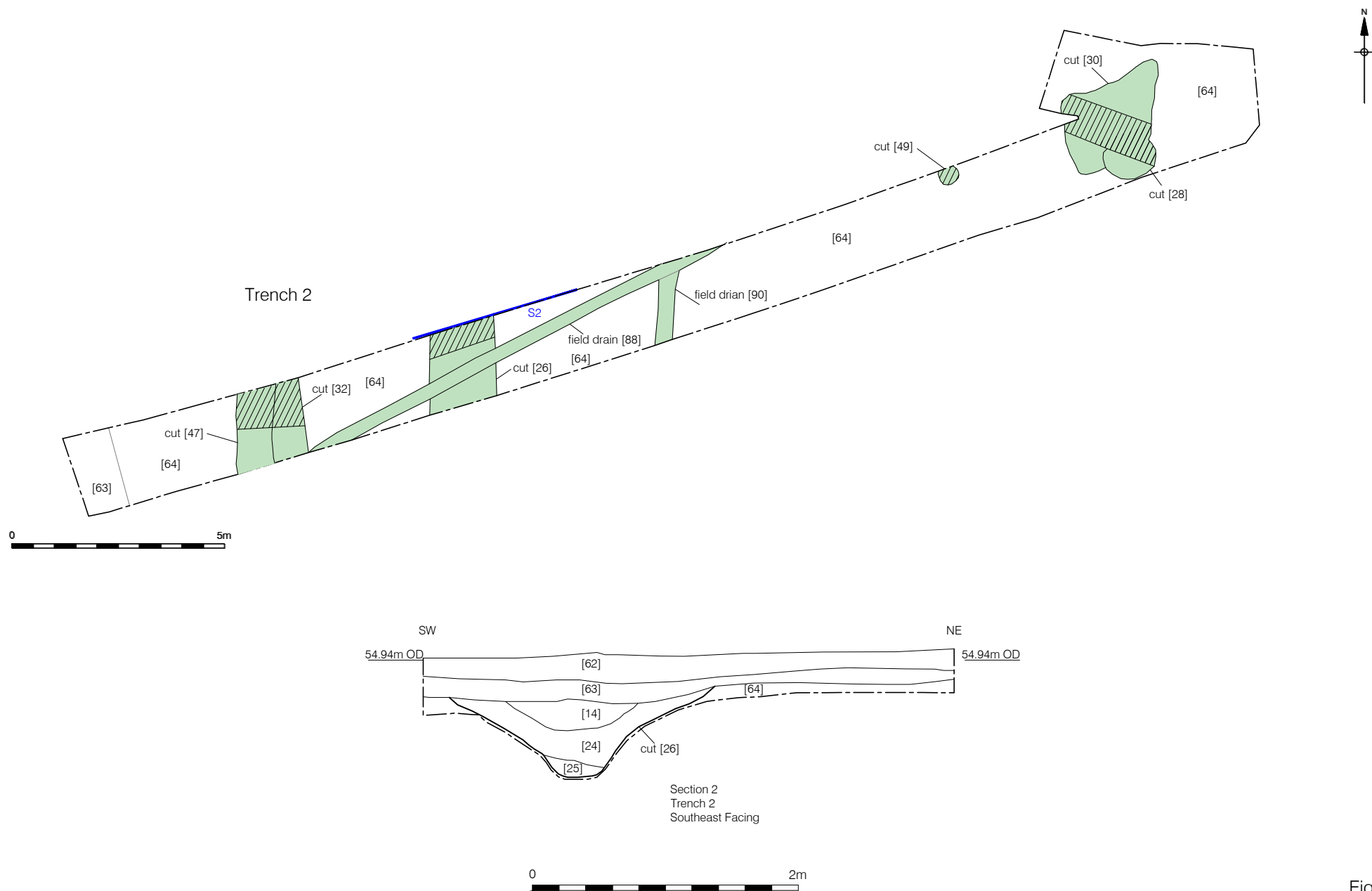


Figure
Plan and Section of Trench
Plan 1:125 and Section 1:40 at A



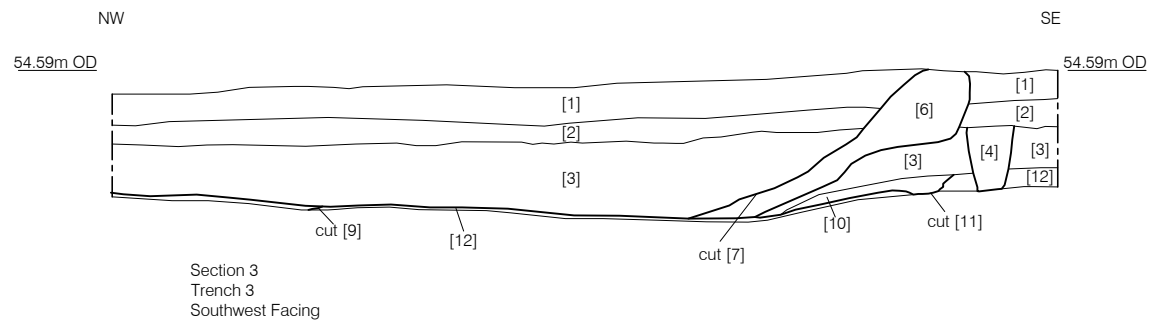
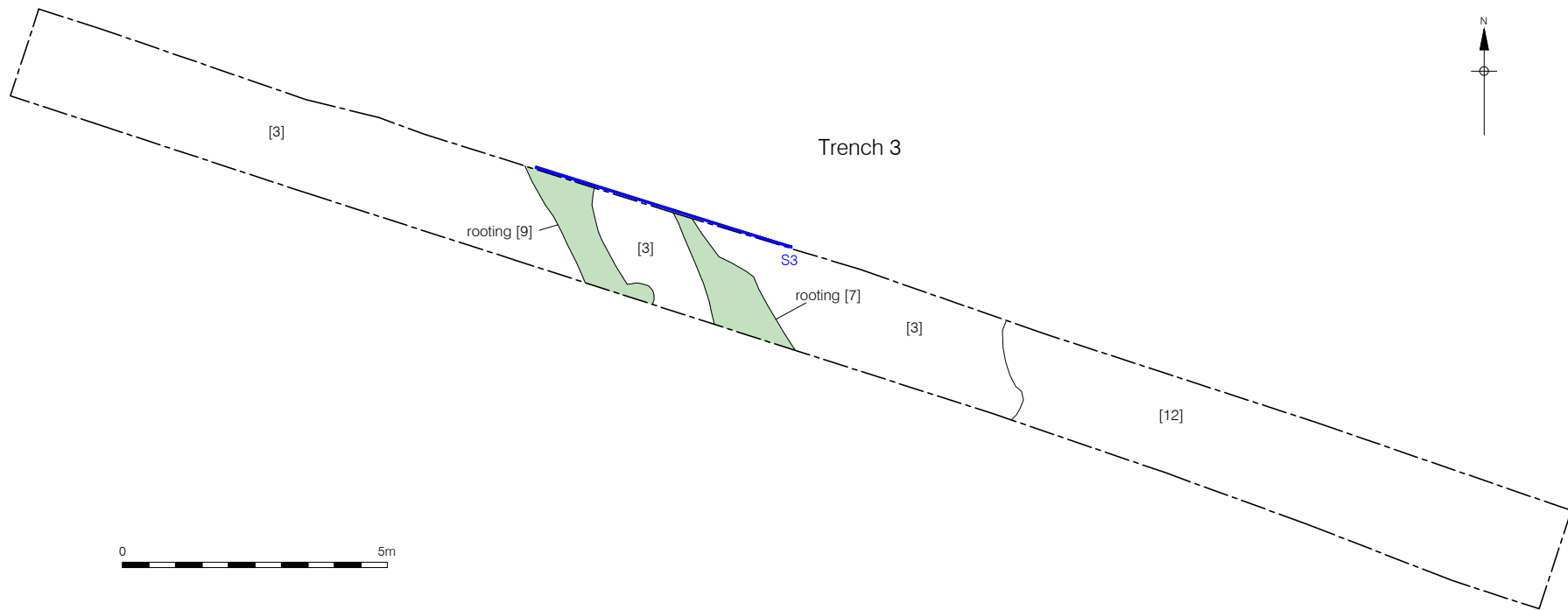


Figure 5
Plan and Section of Trench 3
Plan 1:125 and Section 1:40 at A4

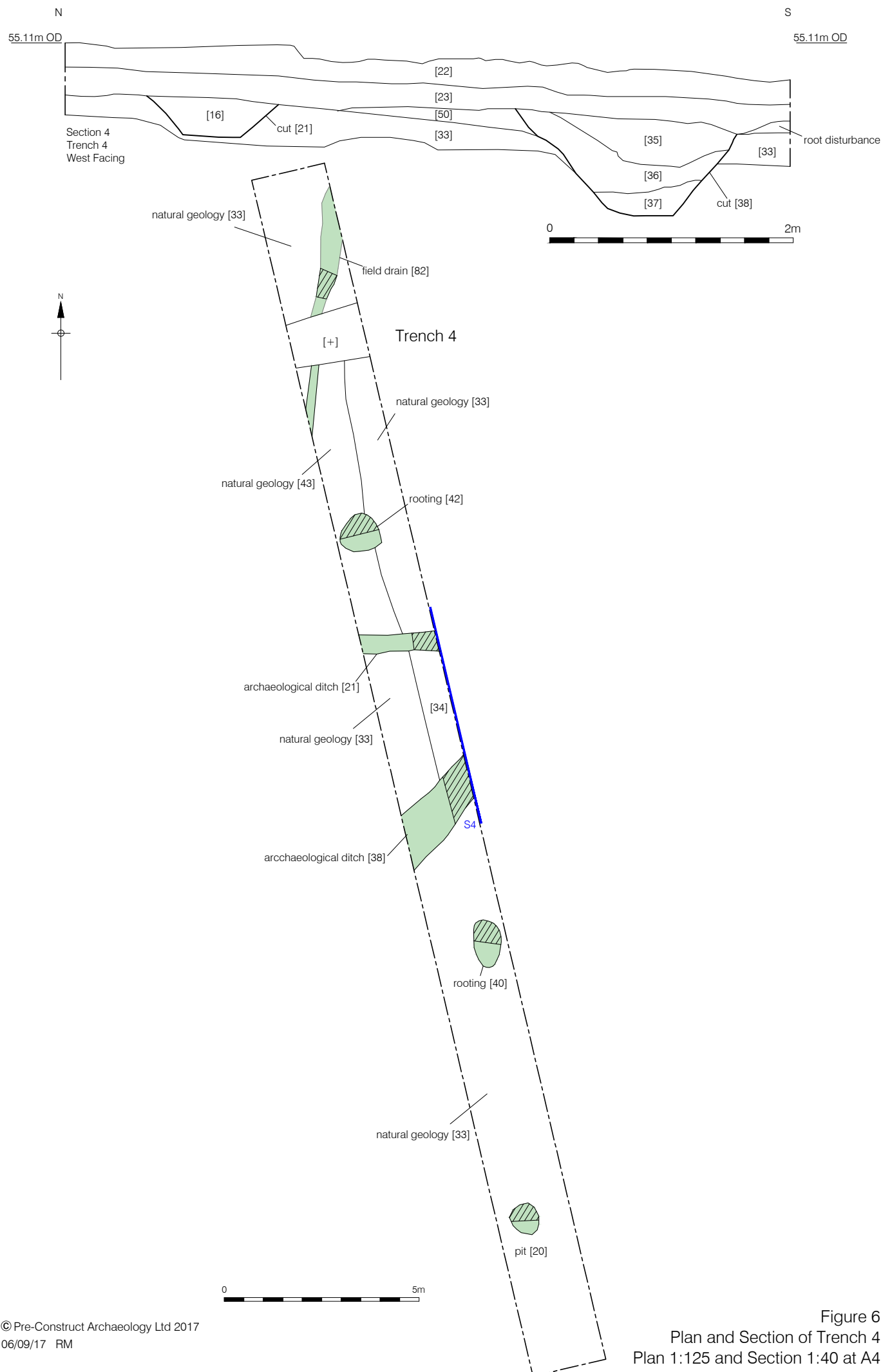


Figure 6
Plan and Section of Trench 4
Plan 1:125 and Section 1:40 at A4

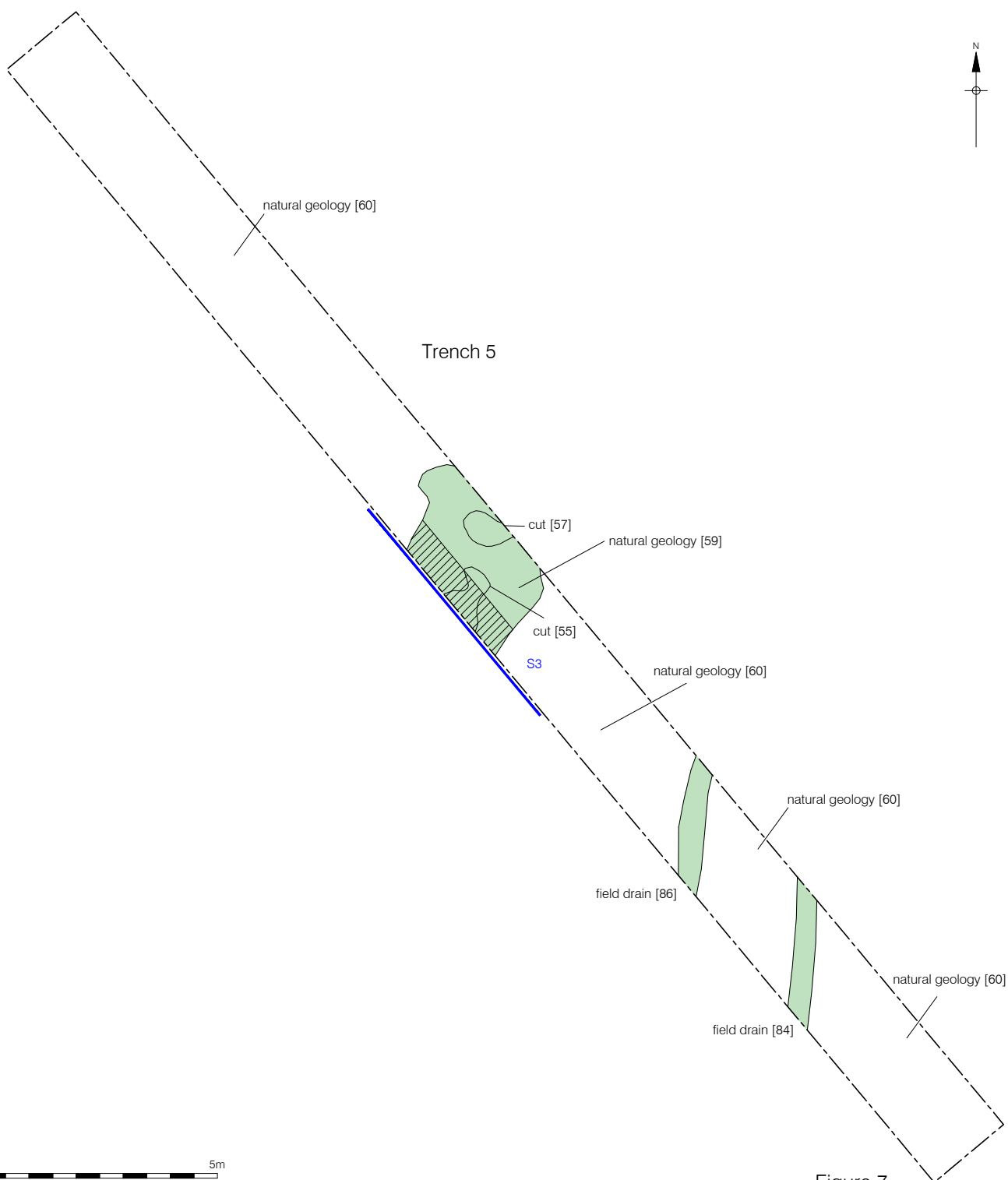
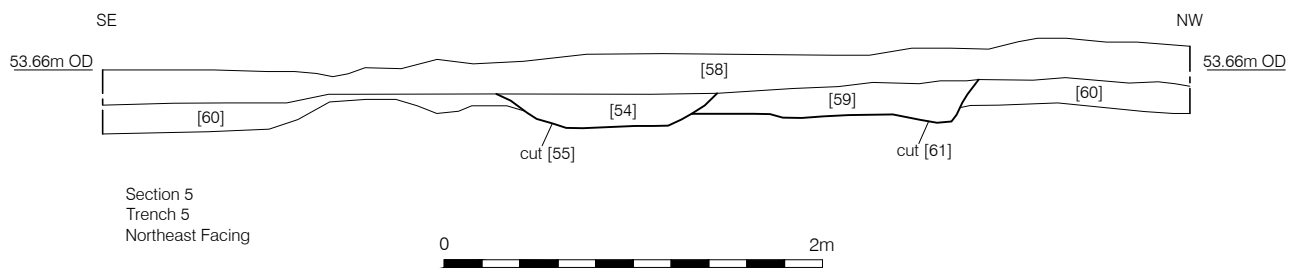
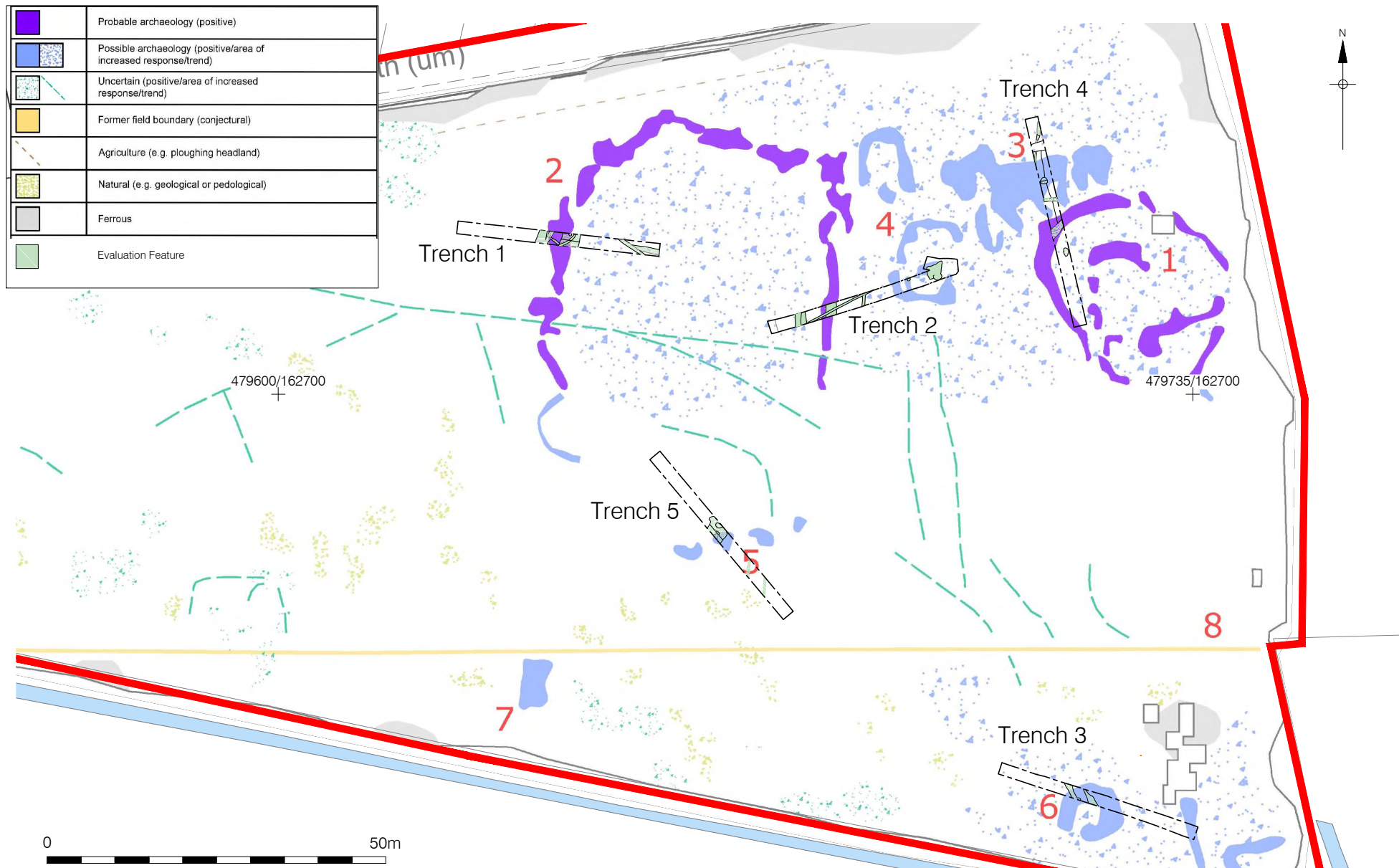


Figure 7
Plan and Section of Trench 5
Plan 1:125 and Section 1:40 at A4



PLATES



Plate 1: Northwest end of site prior to excavation of trenches, looking north



Plate 2: Trench 3 mid excavation, looking northwest



Plate 3: Overview of Trench 1, looking northwest



Plate 4: Feature [18] (left) cut by [73] (right)], looking northwest



Plate 5: Section and feature [73], looking north



Plate 6: Features [75] (left), [77] and [79] (left) looking south



Plate 7: Features [79] (left), [77] and [75] (right), looking north



Plate 8: Overview of Trench 2, looking southwest (BLRF17 D1 (18))



Plate 9: Overview of Trench 2, looking northeast



Plate 10: Section 2 depicting soil layers and feature [26] in Trench 2, looking north



Plate 11: Feature [32] in Trench 2, looking north



Plate 12: Overview of Trench 3, looking northwest



Plate 13: Overview of Trench 3, looking southwest



Plate 14: Section 3 and natural feature, looking northwest



Plate 15: Natural rooting, looking northwest



Plate 16: Overview of Trench 4, looking south



Plate 17: Feature [20] in Trench 4, looking west



Plate 18: Feature [38] in Trench 4, looking west



Plate 19: Section 4 and Feature [38] in Trench 4, looking northeast



Plate 20: Feature [21] in Trench 4, looking west



Plate 21: Overview of Trench 5, looking southeast



Plate 22: Overview of Trench 5, looking northeast



Plate 23: Section 5, looking north



Plate 24: Feature [57], looking west

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context	CTX Type	Fill of	CTX equal to	Trench	CTX Interpretation	CTX Length	CTX Width	CTX Depth	CTX Levels high	CTX Levels low	Phase
BLRF17	1	Layer	-	-	3	Modern topsoil covering the entire field	30	1.8	0.35	52.59	52.51	4
BLRF17	2	Layer	-	-	3	Subsoil layer	30	1.8	0.15	52.44	52.3	4
BLRF17	3	Layer	-	-	3	Natural interface layer between the overlying agricultural topsoil and subsoil and the underlying natural sand layer below	30	1.8	0.4	52.3	52.19	1
BLRF17	4	Fill	5	-	3	Fill and ceramic pipe associated with Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	1.8	0.25	0.33	52.3	52.29	4
BLRF17	5	Cut	-	-	3	Cut for Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	1.8	0.25	0.33	52.3	51.97	4
BLRF17	6	Fill	7	-	3	Fill of natural root cut 7	2.3	1.6	0.3	51.95	51.79	1
BLRF17	7	Cut	-	-	3	Cut caused by rooting activity	2.3	1.6	0.3	51.95	51.65	1
BLRF17	8	Fill	9	-	3	Fill of natural root cut 9	2	1.3	0.24	51.94	51.92	1
BLRF17	9	Cut	-	-	3	Cut caused by rooting activity	2	1.3	0.24	51.94	51.7	1
BLRF17	10	Fill	11	-	3	Fill of natural root cut 11	0.94		0.09	52.04	51.83	1
BLRF17	11	Cut	-	-	3	Cut caused by rooting activity	0.94			52.04	51.83	1
BLRF17	12	Natural	-	-	3	natural geological sand layer	30	1.8		52.08	51.82	1
BLRF17	13	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void
BLRF17	14	Fill	26	-	2	Loose mid/dark grey sandy silt, Tertiary backfill of cut 26	1.8	1	0.25	54.54	54.51	3
BLRF17	15	Fill	20	-	4	Single backfill of pit cut 20	0.8	0.65	0.12	54.37	54.37	3

Site Code	Context	CTX Type	Fill of	CTX equal to	Trench	CTX Interpretation	CTX Length	CTX Width	CTX Depth	CTX Levels high	CTX Levels low	Phase
BLRF17	16	Fill	21	-	4	Loose, dark brown, sandy silt backfill of cut 21	1.8	1.08	0.33	55.42	55.35	3
BLRF17	17	Fill	18	-	1,2	Friable, mid grey brown, sandy silt backfill of cut 18	4.1	0.8	0.2	55.12	55.1	3
BLRF17	18	Cut	-	-	1, 2	E-W aligned shallow ditch cut at east end of trench 2	4.1	0.8	0.2	55.12	54.92	3
BLRF17	19	Fill	71	-	1	Friable Mid grey sandy slit, Tertiary fill of cut 73	1.8	1.8	0.24	55.38	55.33	3
BLRF17	20	Cut	-	-	4	Small pit cut	0.8	0.65	0.12	54.37	54.25	3
BLRF17	21	Cut	-	-	4	E-W aligned ditch cut	1.8	1.08	0.3	55.42	55.12	3
BLRF17	22	Layer	-	-	4	Topsoil	30	1.8	0.23	55.84	55.54	4
BLRF17	23	Layer	-	-	4	Subsoil layer	30	1.8	0.3	55.65	55.34	4
BLRF17	24	Fill	26	-	2	Compact, mid grey with dark reddish patches, sandy silt, secondary fill of cut 26	1.8	1.6	0.24	54.64	54.31	3
BLRF17	25	Fill	26	-	2	Basal fill of cut of 26 resulting from natural silting	1.8	0.55	0.14	54.12	54.03	3
BLRF17	26	Cut	-	-	2	Possible Iron Age ditch cut aligned N-S	1.8	1.6	0.56	54.64	53.95	3
BLRF17	27	Fill	28	-	2	Fill of circular cut feature 28	1.21	1.15	1.1	54.62		4
BLRF17	28	Cut	-	-	2	Circular shaped feature located at east end of trench 2, most likely modern planting feature	1.21	1.15	0.1	54.62	54.53	4
BLRF17	29	Fill	30	-	2	Natural infilling possibly due to glacial activity	2.6	1.9	0.12	54.68	54.61	1
BLRF17	30	Cut	-	-	2	Natural cut resulting from possible glacial activity	2.6	1.9	0.12	54.68	54.37	1
BLRF17	31	Fill	32	-	3	Friable, dark brownish grey, sandy silt, fill of cut 33	1.8	0.65	0.16	54.49	54.49	3

Site Code	Context	CTX Type	Fill of	CTX equal to	Trench	CTX Interpretation	CTX Length	CTX Width	CTX Depth	CTX Levels high	CTX Levels low	Phase
BLRF17	32	Cut	-	-	3	N-S aligned ditch feature located towards the west end of trench 3	1.8	0.65	0.16	52.49	52.32	3
BLRF17	33	Natural	-	-	4	Natural geological sand layer- compact sand mid orange brown with light yellowish brown mottling	30	1.8	-	55.43	55.2	1
BLRF17	34	Natural	-	-	3	Natural variation in natural sand layer	11	1		55.54	55.04	1
BLRF17	35	Fill	38	-	5	Compact, mid grey brown sandy silt which is the tertiary fill of cut 38.	1.8	1.56	0.37	55.28	55.1	3
BLRF17	36	Fill	38	-	5	Very compact light brownish grey sandy clay, which is the secondary fill of cut 38.	1.8	1.75	0.43	55.3	54.97	3
BLRF17	37	Fill	38	-	5	Very compact mid yellow, sandy clay, mottled by light greyish brown silt patches. Possible basal fill of cut 38, but not fully excavated for health and safety reasons.	1.8	0.88	0.25	54.71	57.62	3
BLRF17	38	Cut	-	-	5	E-W aligned Linear cut located mid way through trench 5	1.8	1.56	0.85	55.28	54.44	3
BLRF17	39	Fill	40	-	5	loose mid orangey brown silty sand, natural infilling of cut 40	1.2	0.7	0.2	54.72	-	1
BLRF17	40	Cut		-	5	tree bole cut located at mid point of trench 5	1.2	0.7	0.2	54.72	54.52	1
BLRF17	41	Fill	42	-	4	Loose light red sand, natural infilling of tree	1	0.9	0.13	55.45	-	1

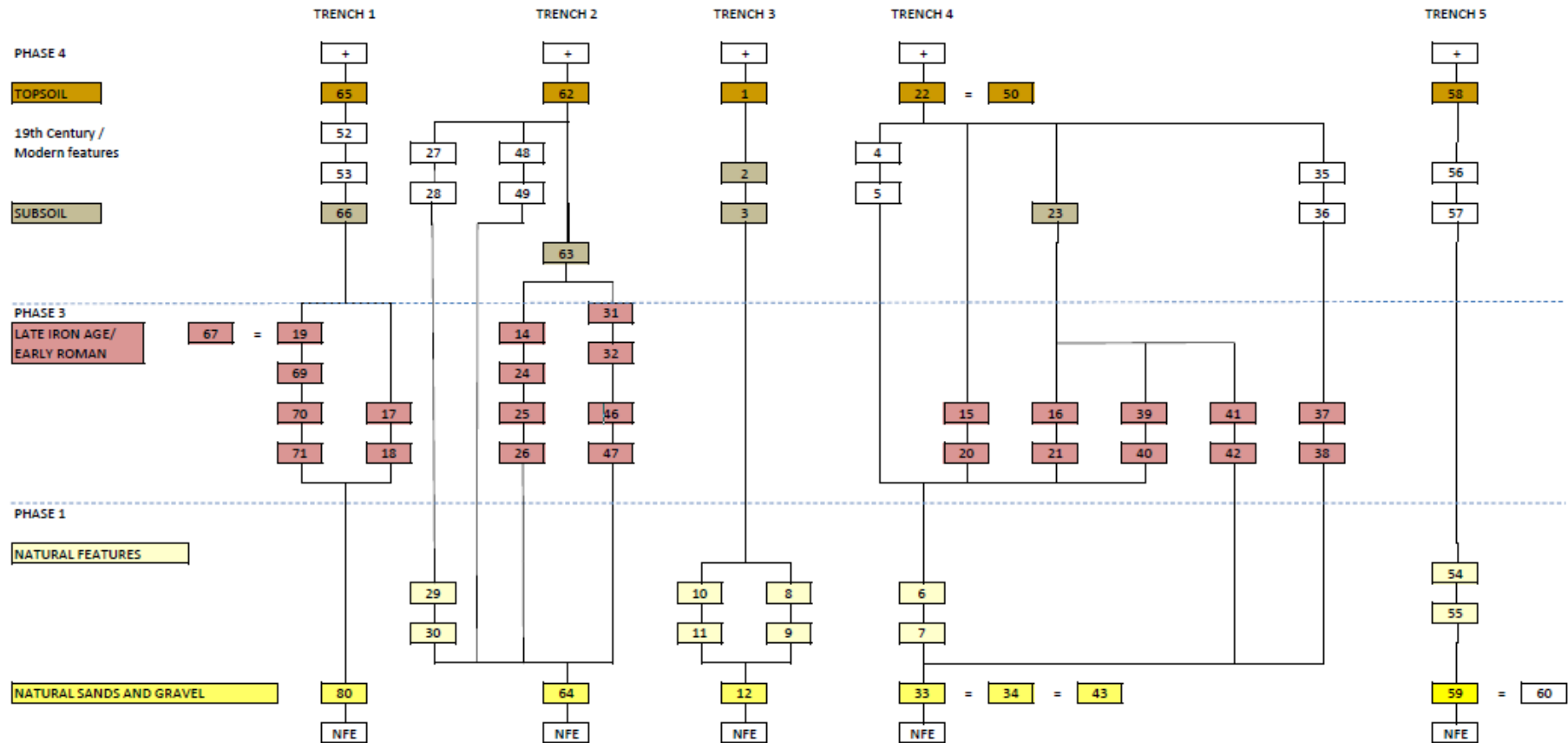
Site Code	Context	CTX Type	Fill of	CTX equal to	Trench	CTX Interpretation	CTX Length	CTX Width	CTX Depth	CTX Levels high	CTX Levels low	Phase
						bole cut 43						
BLRF17	42	Cut		-	4	Tree bole cut	1	0.9	0.13	55.45	55.32	1
BLRF17	43	Natural		34	4	Variation in natural sand	7	1	-	55.54		1
BLRF17	44	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void
BLRF17	45	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void
BLRF17	46	Fill	47		3	Soft mid greyish yellow sandy silt	1.8	0.95	0.15	54.51	-	3
BLRF17	47	Cut			3	N-S aligned ditch cut located at west end of trench 3	1.8	0.95	0.15	54.51	54.39	3
BLRF17	48	Fill	49		2	Back fill of modern post hole cut 49	0.4	0.35	0.17	54.47	-	4
BLRF17	49	Cut			2	Modern post hole cut located towards east end of trench 2	0.4	0.35	0.17	54.47	54.3	4
BLRF17	50	Layer			4	Lense noted in section 4 resulting from rooting activity	1.57	1.8	0.21	55.33	55.3	1
BLRF17	51	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void
BLRF17	52	Fill	53	-	1	Fill of mole tunnel given number for finds retrieval reasons	1.8	0.83	0.5	55.6	55.15	5
BLRF17	53	Cut	-	-	1	Cut of mole tunnel given number for strat/finds retrieval reasons	1.8	0.83	0.5	55.6	54.91	4
BLRF17	54	Fill	55	-	5	Mid grey brown, silty clay, only fill of cut 56	1.05	0.85	0.2	53.4	-	2
BLRF17	55	Cut	-	-	5	Irregular shaped cut located at mid point along trench 5	1.05	0.85	0.2	53.4	53.2	2
BLRF17	56	Fill	57	-	5	Fill of cut 57 containing remnants of modern post, located at mid-point of trench 5	1	0.7	34	53.4	-	4

Site Code	Context	CTX Type	Fill of	CTX equal to	Trench	CTX Interpretation	CTX Length	CTX Width	CTX Depth	CTX Levels high	CTX Levels low	Phase
BLRF17	57	Cut	-	-	5	sub-circular cut of modern post hole, located at mid-point of trench 5	1	0.7	0.36	53.4	53.06	4
BLRF17	58	Layer	-		5	Topsoil	30	1.8	0.22	54.14	53.71	4
BLRF17	59	Layer	-	60	5	Variation in natural geology				53.5		1
BLRF17	60	Natural	-	59	5	Natural Geological layer in Trench 5, differs from elsewhere has increase clay matrix and is mid orange red in colour	30	1.8	-	53.71	53.39	1
BLRF17	61	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	
BLRF17	62	Layer	-	-	3	Topsoil layer in trench 3	30	1.8	0.16	54.92	54.84	4
BLRF17	63	Layer	-	-	3	Subsoil layer in trench 3	30	1.8	0.15	54.78	54.66	4
BLRF17	64	Layer	-	-	2	Variation in the natural layer present in trench 6	30	1.8	-	54.64	54.6	1
BLRF17	65	Layer	-	-	1	Topsoil layer	30	1.8	0.4	55.84	55.31	4
BLRF17	66	Layer	-	-	1	Subsoil layer	30	1.8	0.22	55.64	55.53	4
BLRF17	67	Fill	71	19	1	Fill of cut 69	1.8	0.45	0.11	55.35	55.18	3
BLRF17	68	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	
BLRF17	69	Fill	71	-	1	Secondary fill of cut 71	1.8	1.33	0.22	55.17	55.03	3
BLRF17	70	Fill	71	-	1	Basal fill of cut 71	0.35	0.35	0.22	54.98	54.93	3
BLRF17	71	Cut	-	-	1	N-S aligned ditch cut containing slag rich fills, corresponds to the geological survey	1.8	1.8	0.6	55.38	54.74	3
BLRF17	72	Fill	73	-	1	Fill of 73	3.5	0.65	0.19	55.19	55.12	4
BLRF17	73	Cut	-	-	1	Ditch cut or possible Victorian drain cut	3.5	0.65	0.19	55.19	55	4

Site Code	Context	CTX Type	Fill of	CTX equal to	Trench	CTX Interpretation	CTX Length	CTX Width	CTX Depth	CTX Levels high	CTX Levels low	Phase
BLRF17	74	Fill	75	-	1	Fill and ceramic pipe associated with Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	1.8	0.3	0.12	55.31	-	4
BLRF17	75	Cut	-	-	1	Cut for Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	1.8	30	0.12	55.31	55.19	4
BLRF17	76	Fill	77	-	1	Fill of linear cut 78	1.8	0.6	0.18	55.33	55.28	3
BLRF17	77	Cut	-	-	1	ditch cut located towards west end of trench 2	1.8	0.6	0.23	55.33	55.1	3
BLRF17	78	Fill	79	-	1	Fill of linear cut 79	1.8	1.3	0.18	55.3	55.28	3
BLRF17	79	Cut	-	-	1	Cut of possible field boundary ditch	1.8	1.3	0.18	55.3	55.12	3
BLRF17	80	Natural	-	-	1	Natural geology	30	1.8	-	55.39	55.04	1
BLRF17	81	Fill	82	-	4	Fill and ceramic pipe associated with Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	6	0.55	0.39	55.68	55.65	4
BLRF17	82	Cut	-	-	4	Cut for Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	6	0.55	0.39	55.68	55.29	4
BLRF17	83	Fill	84	-	5	Fill and ceramic pipe associated with Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	2.5	0.4	-	52.94	-	4
BLRF17	84	Cut	-	-	5	Cut for Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	2.5	0.4	-	52.94	-	4
BLRF17	85	Fill	86	-	5	Fill and ceramic pipe associated with Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat	2.5	0.5	-	53.19	-	4

Site Code	Context	CTX Type	Fill of	CTX equal to	Trench	CTX Interpretation	CTX Length	CTX Width	CTX Depth	CTX Levels high	CTX Levels low	Phase
						purposes.						
BLRF17	86	Cut	-	-	5	Cut for Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	2.5	0.5	-	53.19	-	4
BLRF17	87	Fill	88	-	2	Fill and ceramic pipe associated with Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	10	0.3	-	54.59	54.48	4
BLRF17	88	Cut	-	-	2	Cut for Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	10	0.3	-	54.59	-	4
BLRF17	89	Fill	90	-	2	Fill and ceramic pipe associated with Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	1.5	0.35	-	54.59	54.58	4
BLRF17	90	Cut	-	-	2	Cut for Victorian land drain given number for dating and strat purposes.	1.5	0.35	-	54.59	-	4

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: LITHIC ASSESSMENT

By Ella Egberts

10.1 Unworked burnt flint

10.1.1 Nineteen pieces of burnt flint were obtained from context 54 (Trench 5), weighing a total of 140g. One unstratified small fragment (0.9g) of burnt flint was recovered from Trench 3. All flint is moderate to heavily burnt, 'fire-crazed' and decoloured.

10.2 Struck flint

10.2.1 Three pieces of struck flint were recovered from the Site, two of which were obtained from Trench 3 and one found in context 54 (small find number 1). The details of the struck and burnt flint are presented in table L01. All three struck pieces are in fresh condition and made of three different types of flint. Some nodular cortex is retained on one piece. The technological and typological character of the two blades and the blade-like flake most likely indicate a Mesolithic/Early Neolithic age.

Context	Location	Shape	Length (mm)	Breadth (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Colour	Cortex	Description
-	Tr 3	Blade	64	27	10	13.1	Black/dark grey with lighter grey opaque mottling	Nodular cortex	Flint blade, dorsal side characterised by three parallel negative flake scars, suggesting blade-based production. Proximal end shows signs of platform preparatino into a punctiform platform. A piece of nodular cortex remains along the left edge of the distal end.
-	Tr 3	Blade	47	25	5	6.9	Translucent brown	-	Blade-like flint flake, dorsal side characterised by multiple negative flake scars. Small flake removals at the proximal end indicate some platform preparation.
	Tr 3	1 burnt flint	-	-	-	0.9	Grey and red	-	Small piece of burnt grey and red and 'fire crazed' flint.
54	Small find no 1	Blade fragment	26	11	5	1.5	Opaque red	-	Blade fragment truncated at both ends.
54	-	19 burnt flint	-	-	-	Total 140	Grey and red	-	Moderate to heavily burnt and decoloured flint

Table L01: Details of the struck flintand burnt Longwater Road, Finchampstead

APPENDIX 4: PREHISTORIC POTTERY ASSESSMENT

Chris Jarrett

Introduction

A small sized assemblage of pottery was recovered from the site (one box). The pottery dates solely to the very late Iron Age and possibly the early Roman period. The material is generally in a good condition, very little of which was abraded and that was found only in context [52] and therefore the assemblage appears to have been deposited under secondary conditions and discarded soon after breakage. The pottery is largely fragmentary, although rim and base sherds are present that allow for some forms to be identified. Pottery was only found in three contexts as three small sized groups (fewer than 30 sherds) and one medium sized group (30–100 sherds).

All the pottery (59 sherds, representing some 28 estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weighing 774.5kg, none of which is unstratified) was examined macroscopically and microscopically using a binocular microscope (x20) and entered into a database format, by fabric, form, decoration, sherd count, estimated number of vessels and weights. The pottery fabrics were coded according to Orton et al (1993). The pottery is discussed by its types and forms and its distribution (in the form of an index).

Fabric types

- Flint- and grog-tempered (Flgr); handmade, hardness; soft, feel; harsh and soapy, texture; fine. Moderate to frequent pale grey flint, up to 3mm, sparse white grog, up to 1.5mm, sparse rounded ?red iron-ores in a fine sandy matrix;
- Flint-tempered with organics (Flo); handmade, hardness; soft, feel; harsh/soapy, texture; fine. Moderate white and grey flint, up to 2mm, moderate organics, very occasional fine angular quartz, fine sandy matrix;
- Grog-tempered 1 (G1); wheel-thrown, fabric; hardness; soft, feel; soapy, texture; fine. Moderate very coarse grog, sparse organics in a fine silty matrix;
- Grog-tempered 2 (G2); handmade, hardness; soft, feel; soapy, texture; fine. Frequent pale orange medium grog, occasional well-sorted, rounded, fine quartzes, iron-stained and rose quartzes;
- Grog-tempered 3 (G3), handmade, hardness; soft, feel; soapy, texture; fine. Sparse, pale orange very coarse grog, sparse ill-sorted, sub-angular very fine grey quartzes, sparser iron-stained and rose quartzes, sparse organics;
- Grog- and organic-tempered (GO): handmade, hardness; soft feel; soapy, texture; fine. Moderate, pale brown, medium angular grog, sparse fine quartzes in a fine silty matrix;

- Quartz-tempered, 1 (Q1) wheel-thrown, hardness; hard, texture; fine, feel; slightly rough. Sparse, ill-sorted, sub-rounded, grey and white medium quartz, very sparse fine black iron ores in a very fine sandy matrix;
- Quartz-tempered, 2 (Q2): wheel-thrown, hardness; soft, feel; slightly rough, texture; fine. Very frequent, well-sorted, sub- angular and sub-rounded fine clear, and less frequent rose coarse quartzes and very occasional angular amber quartzes, in a fine sandy micaceous matrix;
- Quartz-tempered, 3 (Q3): wheel thrown, hardness; slightly hard, feel; slightly rough, texture; fine. Very sparse organics, in a very fine sandy slightly micaceous matrix;
- Quartz-tempered, 4 (Q4): wheel-thrown, hardness; hard, texture; fine, feel; slightly rough. Sparse, ill-sorted, sub-rounded, coarse grey and white quartz, very sparse very fine black iron ores in a very fine sandy matrix;
- Quartz with grog-temper (Qg), handmade, hardness; soft, feel; rough, texture; fine. Abundant grog, very sparse fine flint, in a fine sandy matrix;
- Fine quartz (Q fine), ?handmade, hardness: soft-hard, texture, fine, feel: slightly rough. Very fine quartz in a very fine sandy matrix;
- Fine quartz and sparse grog (qg): hardness; soft, texture; fine, feel; very slightly rough. Fine sandy matrix with very sparse coarse clear quartz inclusions and very sparse grog.

The quantification of the different fabric types are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 BLRS17: Quantification of the prehistoric and early Roman pottery fabrics

Fabric type	Fabric	No. of sherds	ENV	Weight in grams
Flint- and grog-tempered	Flgr	8	3	154
Flint- and grog-tempered	Flgr1	1	1	2
Flint-tempered with organics	Flo	2	2	9
Grog-tempered 1	G1	6	1	88
Grog-tempered 2	G2	4	4	77
Grog-tempered 3	G3	2	1	20
Grog- and organic-tempered	GO	1	1	27
Quartz-tempered, 1	Q1	13	3	176
quartz-tempered, 2	Q2	11	7	140.5
quartz-tempered, 3	Q3	1	1	14

Fabric type	Fabric	No. of sherds	ENV	Weight in grams
quartz-tempered, 4	Q4	1	1	5
Fine quartz	Q fine	2	2	13
Quartz with grog-temper	Qg	7	1	39
fine quartz and sparse grog	qg	1	1	10

Distribution and forms index

Context [2], spot date: late Iron Age

- Flint-tempered with organics (Flo), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 2g. Form: unidentified. Small body sherd, brown external surface, very dark grey core and internal surface.

Context [17], spot date: very late Iron Age

- Flint- and grog-tempered (Flgr), 5 sherds, 1 ENV, 69g, form: unidentified base sherd, reduced very dark grey exterior and core, reddish brown interior.

Context [67] [19], spot date: late Iron Age- early Roman

- Flint- and grog-tempered (Flgr), 2 sherds, 1 ENV, 85g, form: jar, slack profiled. Body sherds, slight shoulder and vertical neck. Possible external self slip (flint is less visible on one sherd), external surfaces are partially reduced and grey or oxidised reddish brown, internal 'bumpy' surface, reduced dark grey or grey brown;
- Flint-tempered with organics (Flo), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 7g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, one surface has laminated the other has a reddish brown/dark grey surface, pale grey core;
- Grog-tempered 1 (G1), 6 sherds, 1 ENV, 88g, form: jar, shouldered. Rim sherd (220mm in diameter), everted, rounded exterior thickening and internal bevel, a very short angled neck, and rounded shoulder, wheel-thrown. End of 1st century BC- early 1st century AD;
- Grog-tempered 2 (G2), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 29g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, laminated/fresh breaks. External large rounded horizontal cordon, reduced dark grey burnished surfaces, reddish brown core;
- Grog-tempered 3 (G3), 2 sherds, 1 ENV, 20g, form: unidentified. Body sherds, thick walled, oxidised red, wiped surfaces;

- Fine quartz (Q fine), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 5g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, very thin walled, exterior reduced very dark grey and highly burnished, pale orange core, pale grey-brown internal surface;
- Quartz-tempered, 1 (Q1), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 7g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, oxidised surfaces and a partial dark grey core;
- Quartz-tempered, 1 (Q1), 11 sherds, 1 ENV, 163g, form: jar, rounded rounded rim (220mm in diameter), rounded wide shoulder, flared wall. Wheel-thrown;
- Quartz-tempered, 2 (Q2), 4 sherds, 1 ENV, 124g, form: bowl (closed)/ jar, rounded 240 rounded rim (240mm in diameter), rounded wide shoulder with an incised line and wiped exterior surface, wheel-thrown. Dark grey surfaces, pale red margins, pale grey core, although the lower shoulder is fully reduced. End of 1st century BC- early 1st century AD;
- Quartz-tempered, 2 (Q2), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 4g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, reduced dark grey, burnished/wiped exterior, pale yellow brown core, grey brown interior surface;
- Quartz-tempered, 2 (Q2), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 1g, form: unidentified. Small body sherd, brown surfaces, very dark grey core;
- Quartz-tempered, 2 (Q2), 2 sherds, 1 ENV, 3g, form: unidentified. Body sherds, thin walled, external surface is oxidised dull orange, very dark grey core and internal surface, food deposit on the internal surface;
- Quartz-tempered, 2 (Q2), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 0.5g, form: unidentified. Rim sherd, simple, short everted rim with a rounded finish, reduced surfaces and core;
- Quartz-tempered, 2 (Q2), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 9g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, reduced very dark grey, burnished exterior, pale brown margins, pale grey core and grey-brown interior surface;
- Quartz-tempered, 3 (Q3), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 14g, form: bowl, rounded 210 narrow flat rim (210mm in diameter), single incised lines on the inside and outside edge, rounded wall. Wheel thrown. Late Iron Age, early Roman;
- Quartz-tempered, 4 (Q4), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 7g, form: bowl/jar. Body sherd/shoulder, pale grey surfaces, oxidised core. Wheel-thrown;
- Quartz with grog-temper (Qg), 7 sherds, 1 ENV, 44g, form: bowl, rounded (closed). Rim sherd, rounded and beaded, ext. Dark brown, oxidised surfaces, very dark grey core and inner surface, wiped surfaces. End of 1st century BC- early 1st century AD;

- Fine quartz and sparse grog (qg), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 5g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, oxidised reddish brown exterior, very dark grey core and internal surface. Internal blackened food deposit.
- **Total: 45 sherds, 18 ENV, 606.5g.**

Context [52], spot date: late Iron Age

- Flint- and grog-tempered (Flgr1), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 2g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, oxidised ?external surface, abraded;
- Grog-tempered 2 (G2), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 6g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, pale brown surfaces, dull orange core;
- Grog-tempered 2 (G2), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 5g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, oxidised orange;
- Grog-tempered 2 (G2), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 37g, form: unidentified. Body sherds, thick walled, reduced very dark grey;
- Grog- and organic-tempered (GO) 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 27g, form: unidentified. Body sherds, thick walled, reduced very dark grey, dark grey brown exterior;
- Fine quartz (Q fine), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 11g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, pale brown, abraded;
- Quartz-tempered, 1 (Q1), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 6g, form: Jar. Body sherd/shoulder, dark grey surfaces, reduced core, and reddish brown inner margin. Wheel-thrown;
- Quartz-tempered, 2 (Q2), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 3g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, oxidised , abraded.
- **Total: 8 sherds, 8 ENV, 97g**

Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

The pottery has significance at a local level and demonstrates late Iron Age and possibly early Roman activity on the site. Comparable material also exists in the vicinity of the Site: a fine sandy ware sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered nearby at Eversley Quarry, Finchampstead (McSloy 2012), while a search of the ARCHI UK website shows five entries where Iron Age pottery is recorded, although the specific locations are not noted (http://www.archiuk.com/cgi-bin/web-archi.pl?PlacenameFromPlacenameFinder=Finchampstead&CountyFromPlacenameFinder=Berkshire&distance=10000&ARCHIFormNGRLetter=SU&ARCHIFormNGR_x=79&ARCHIFormNGR_y=63&info2search4=placename_search). The pottery has the potential to date the deposits it was recovered from. The assemblage also has the potential to demonstrate activities on the site for the late Iron Age/early Roman period. No further work is required on the pottery at this stage, although if further archaeological work is undertaken on the study area, then the pottery described in this report and any new prehistoric ceramic finds, should be reviewed by a prehistoric pottery specialist.

References

- McSloy, E. R., 2012, Pottery, in A. Hardy, Eversley Quarry Finchampstead, Wokingham Berkshire Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design, Cotswold Archaeology unpublished report no. 12300.
- Orton, C. Tyers, P. and Vince, G. 1993. *Pottery in Archaeology*. Cambridge University Press.

APPENDIX 5: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT

BUILDING MATERIALS SPOT DATES

By Kevin Hayward

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date with mortar
19	3102	Fired clay	10	150 0bx	1600	1500bc	1600	100BC- 1600+	No mortar
48	3046	Post medieval brick	1	145 0	1800	1450	1800	1600- 1800+	No mortar
65	2276	Peg tile fine moulding sand	2	148 0	1900	1480	1900	1700- 1900	No mortar
74	2276	Late post medieval curved nun shaped roofing tile local tradition Thames Valley	4	160 0	1900	1600	1900	1700- 1900	No mortar

Review

This small building material assemblage (27 fragments 1465g) contains post medieval roofing tile and brick and some burnt clay lining associated with some slag from [19]. The roofing tile, consisting of both rectangular peg tile and a type of curved tile, characteristic of the Thames Valley has fine moulding sand indicating late post medieval 1700-1900 date. The brick from [48] may be of a similar date although it is quite shallow (53mm) which just may just indicate an earlier 17th or 18th century date. All of the ceramic building material is made out of a very sandy fabric maybe from the underlying Bagshot sand.

Recommendations

The value of the building material recovered during the evaluation at Longwater Lane, Finchampstead other than that of the later post-medieval (1700-1900) origins, is the quantity of fired clay (kiln lining) that is associated with the slag from [19]. It may be indicative of the late prehistoric-Roman metal production, given the presence of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery at the site.

APPENDIX 5: THE IRON SLAG AND RELATED HIGH-TEMPERATURE DEBRIS

Lynne Keys

Introduction and methodology

A medium assemblage of material (almost 25kgs), initially identified as slag, was recovered by hand on site and from soil samples processed after excavation.

For this report it was examined by eye and categorised on the basis of morphology; a magnet was used to test for iron-rich material. Each slag or other material type in each context was weighed except for the possible furnace blocks and such-like slag, which were individually weighed and measured for statistical purposes. Quantification data and details are given in the table below in which weight (wt.) is shown in grams, and length (len.), breadth (br.) and depth (dp.) in millimetres.

Quantification table for the slag and related material

cxt	sam	slag ident	wt	len	br	dp	comments	pcs
14	1	sample residue	2559				Furnace slag, vitrified furnace lining (thickness 50mm), etc. All heavily encrusted with charcoal dust etc.	
14	1	undiagnostic	151					1
14	1	undiagnostic	185				Encrusted with charcoal dust	1
14	1	undiagnostic	1171					1
15	2	iron-rich undiagnostic	145					1
15	2	undiagnostic	89					1
15	2	undiagnostic	1091	120	100	70		1
15	2	vitrified furnace lining	385				30mm thick. Coated with charcoal dust and ferruginous concretion	
15	2	vitrified hearth lining	42					
16	3	iron-rich undiagnostic	673					lots
16	3	undiagnostic	185	65	5520			

16	3	undiagnostic	1340				With ferruginous concretion adhering	lots
17	4	undiagnostic	226			50		1
19	5	undiagnostic	147				Smelting; run slag	1
19		furnace slag	145					
19		furnace slag	378				Long slender voids	4
19		furnace slag	875				Voids from burnt out charcoal.	1
19		furnace slag	1109				From near wall of furnace?; flint inclusions.	1
19		furnace slag	3473	210	145	100	Resembles large SHB; depression from bellows blast. Voids from burnt-out charcoal.	1
19		iron-rich undiagnostic	557	100	70	40	Bloom?	1
19		iron-rich undiagnostic	802					4
19		run slag	663				Slightly flowed surface, almost like tap slag but not so pronounced.	
19		vitrified furnace lining	1341				Wall is 52mm thick; floor? 30mm thick.	lots
24	6	ferruginous concretion	124				Small pieces with charcoal dust	lots
31	8	undiagnostic	1286				Ferruginous concretion adhering	lots
31		undiagnostic	439	75	70	90	Like mini slag block. Flowed?	
31		undiagnostic	2208				Furnace slag; some with voids	5
52	10	undiagnostic	882				Probably furnace slag	6
52		burnt charcoal	23					1
52		cinder	13				With flint and charcoal inclusions	
52		furnace slag	239					3
52		furnace slag	343					1

							One block; large voids from burnt out charcoal; there is a large, concave (semi-circular) void on one side of the block	
52		furnace slag	957	140	110	75		1
52		iron-rich undiagnostic	272					
52		undiagnostic	62					
52		vitrified hearth lining	77				Wall thickness 25mm	
56		undiagnostic	197				Could be stone (ore?). Heavily encrusted with charcoal dust.	1
		Total wt = 24.86kgs						

Explanation of terms

The diagnostic slags in the assemblage represent iron smelting: the manufacture of iron from ore and fuel in a furnace. The products of this process are a spongy mass called an unconsolidated bloom consisting of iron with a considerable amount of slag still trapped inside, and slag (waste). The slag produced varies depending on the technology used in different periods: furnace slags (including slag blocks and furnace bottom cakes), run slag, tap slag, dense slag or blast furnace slag.

Furnace bottoms resemble smithing hearth bottoms (a large slag produced during smithing) but are very much larger and usually weigh many kilos; the Finchampstead example weigh almost 3.5kgs.

Furnace slag is a general term used for slag which can be recognised as having been produced by smelting but which is incomplete or has no particular morphology which can identify the furnace type or technological method used.

Slag described as undiagnostic cannot be assigned to smelting or smithing either because of morphology or because it has been broken up during deposition, re-deposition or excavation. Other types of debris in an assemblage may derive from variety of high temperature activities - including domestic fires - and cannot be taken on their own to indicate iron-working was taking place. These include fired clay, vitrified hearth lining and cinder. If found in association with iron smelting and/or smithing slag, however, they are almost certainly products of the process(es), as is probably the case with this assemblage.

Discussion of the assemblage

The assemblage appears to represent iron smelting, probably Iron Age or very early Roman in date. No large slag block fragments are present as one would expect from any large-scale Iron Age smelting activity; no slag indicative of the Roman slag tapping technology are present. In many ways the assemblage looks to be almost transitional as several pieces in fill [19] of ditch or drain [73] have a very slightly run surface which indicates the furnace pit or base may have been tilted. The latter is often a feature of late Iron Age/immediately pre-Roman technology. Because the slag was tapped from the furnace, the Romans did not use large slag pits in their smelting operations.

The fuel used appears to be charcoal. Not only were very tiny pieces of charcoal present, but numerous larger fragments of smelting slag have voids in them which occur when charcoal used in the smelting process is burned away during the smelt. Such voids are a feature of earlier Iron Age and early Anglo-Saxon smelting slags, and particularly large and prevalent in slag blocks.

The Finchampstead furnace evidence reveals the example in the assemblage was probably not large. Fragments of lining are only 50mm to 52mm thick; other pieces (which may be part of superstructure or the floor) are 30mm thick.

Trench 1

Ditch or Victorian drain [73], fill [19] contained smelting slag which is probably Iron Age in date, to judge by its type. A large slag cake (which resembles a very large smithing hearth bottom) has a depression in the middle where the blast from a bellows as driven the slag aside. If the material is Iron Age, it indicates the smelting took place in a smallish furnace no more than 201mm in diameter: if much later (or Victorian) it is a smithing hearth bottom and nothing to do with smelting.

A flat, iron-rich chunk may be undiagnostic slag or could be an iron bloom produced during a smelting operation. If a bloom, it very important for indicating the size and weight of the raw iron produced in the furnace. It should be retained for future examination.

Some slag had run or slightly flowed surfaces, while fragments of furnace or hearth lining in this fill give dimensions of 52mm and 30mm for wall thicknesses.

Mole tunnel [53], fill [52] also contained smelting slag and one large piece has a large semi-circular void through it as if there was something around which the slag formed – or as the result of a very strong bellows blast from above. This slag appears to be Iron Age, but further dating may be needed.

Trench 2

Contained more furnace slag from smelting.

Trench 4

Small pit [20], fill [15] produced more vitrified furnace or hearth lining, as well as iron-rich undiagnostic and ordinary undiagnostic slag.

Trench 5

Modern post hole [57], fill [56] contained a piece of stone or ore which had been burnt black. The stone has not been identified.

Significance of assemblage

The assemblage is significant for revealing Iron Age smelting took place, probably during the transition to Roman smelting practices, on this site. It is known that sources of bog iron ore exist in Berkshire and that Iron Age smelting was often small scale and carried out as needed. Further excavation would enhance the evidence and provide more information on the process and its scale.

Importance

The assemblage is of local and, possibly, of regional importance although the remains are relatively common in the area. The evidence of Iron Age smelting is well known from across Berkshire and the results of current evaluation add information to the overall picture but do not provide findings which would suggest the site may have been of a larger significance.

APPENDIX 7: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

APPENDIX 7: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-295262

Project details

Project name	Land off Longwater Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 3TT
Short description of the project	The evaluation was commissioned to support an outline planning application which has been submitted to Wokingham Borough Council, for a residential development of up to 40 dwellings. The evaluation entailed the excavation of 5 trenches within the proposed plot, which measured 30m by 1.80m. The evaluation uncovered limited evidence indicative of sporadic and transient Mesolithic to early Neolithic activity in the form of unstratified flint artefacts and evidence of Late Iron Age/early Roman activity in the form of archaeological features, deposits and artefacts, specifically pottery and waste indicative of iron smithing activity. Post-medieval remains in the form of land drains and subsoil were also identified.
Project dates	Start: 21-08-2017 End: 25-08-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BLRF17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE WOKINGHAM FINCHAMPSTEAD Land off Longwater Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 3TT
Postcode	RG40 3TT
Study area	2.26 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 79633 62705 51.357326700819 -0.856201826635 51 21 26 N 000 51 22 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	EDP
Project design originator	n/a
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	Kari Bower
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Catesby Property Group

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Reading Museum
Physical Archive ID	BLRF17
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive ID	BLRF17
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive ID	BLRF17
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Drawing","Map","Miscellaneous Material","Plan","Report","Survey "
Entered by	Zbigniew Pozorski (zpozorski@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	8 September 2017

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Plans

Plan EDP 1: Known Heritage Assets

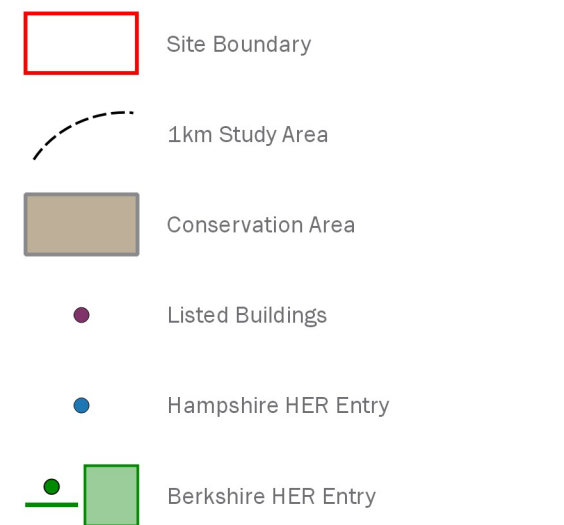
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Plan EDP 2: Extracts from Historic Mapping

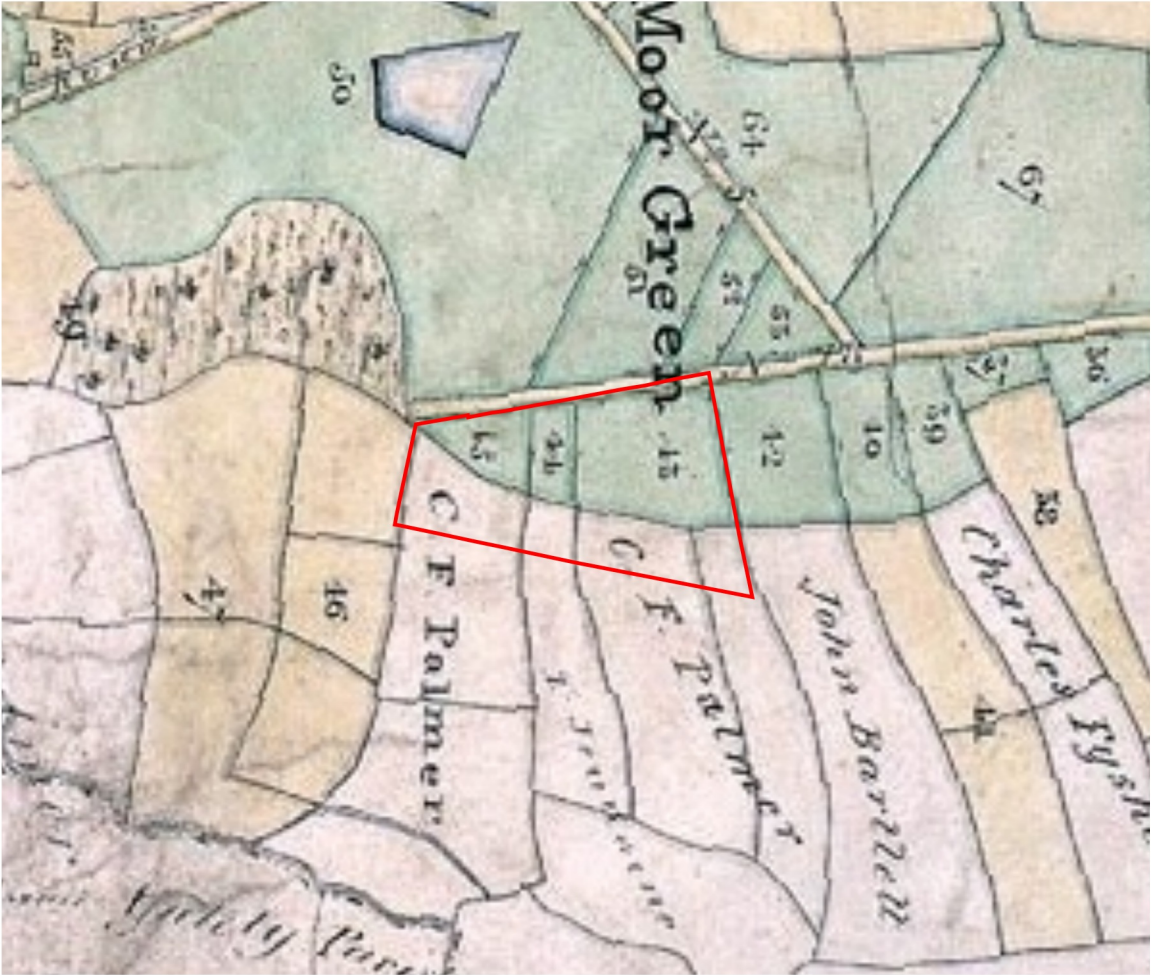
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Plan EDP 3: Extracts from Historic Mapping

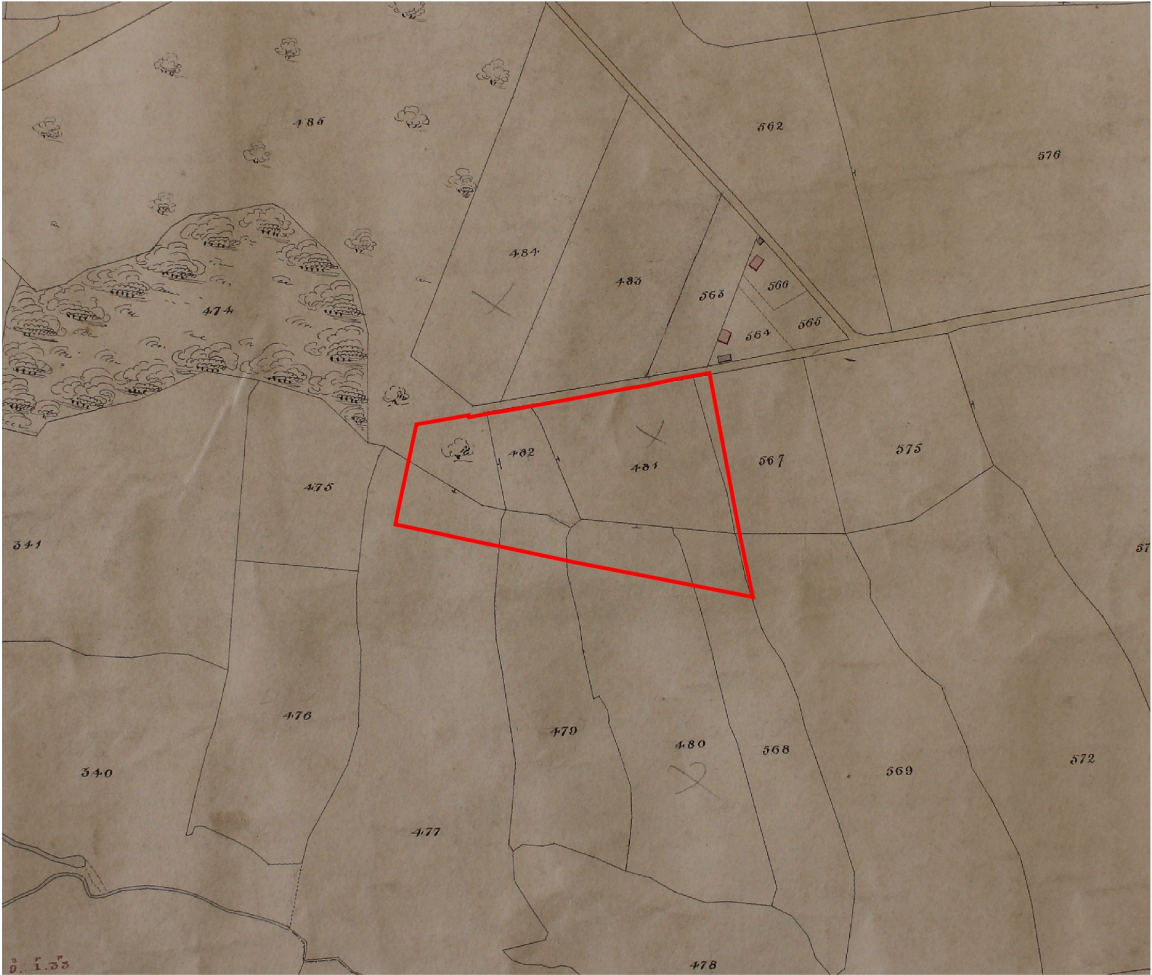
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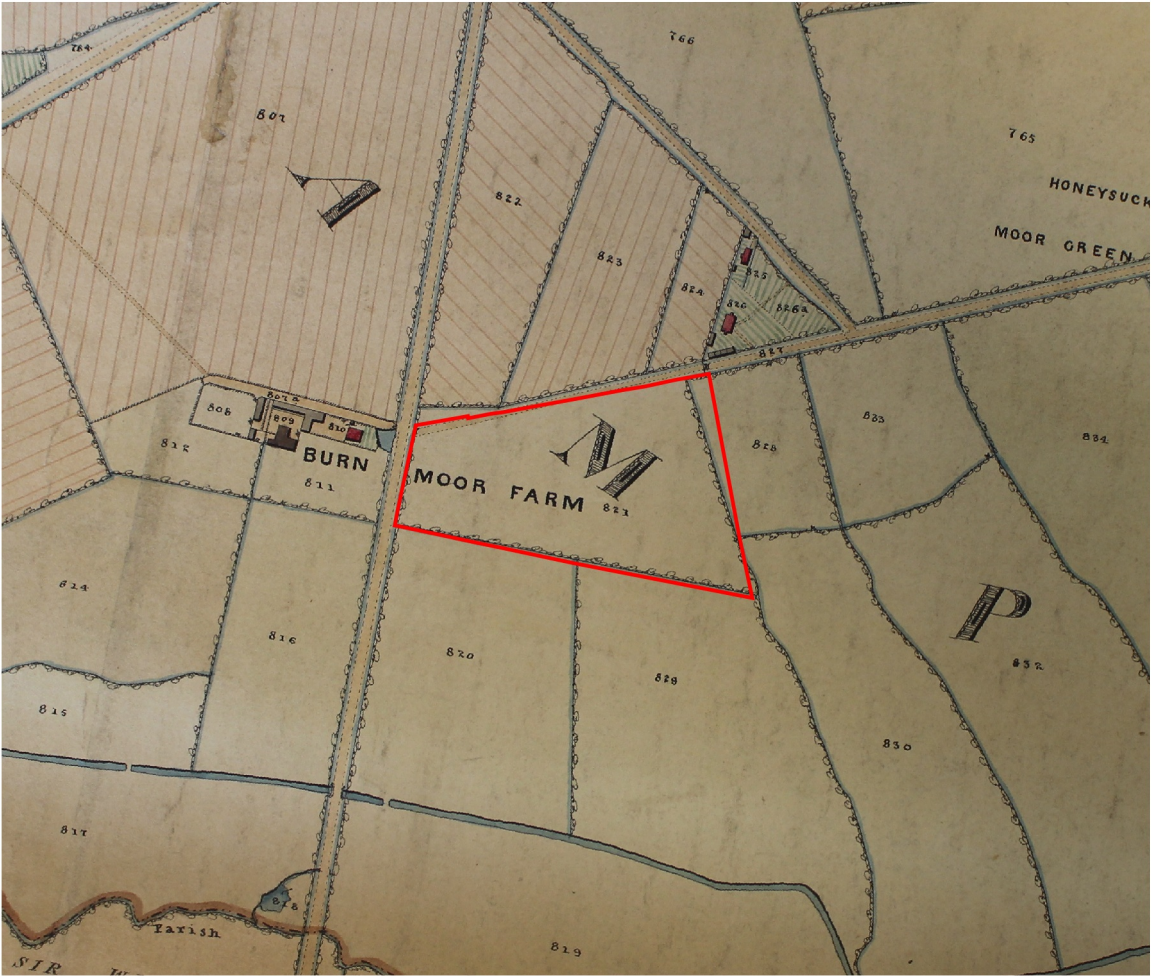
the environmental
dimension partnership



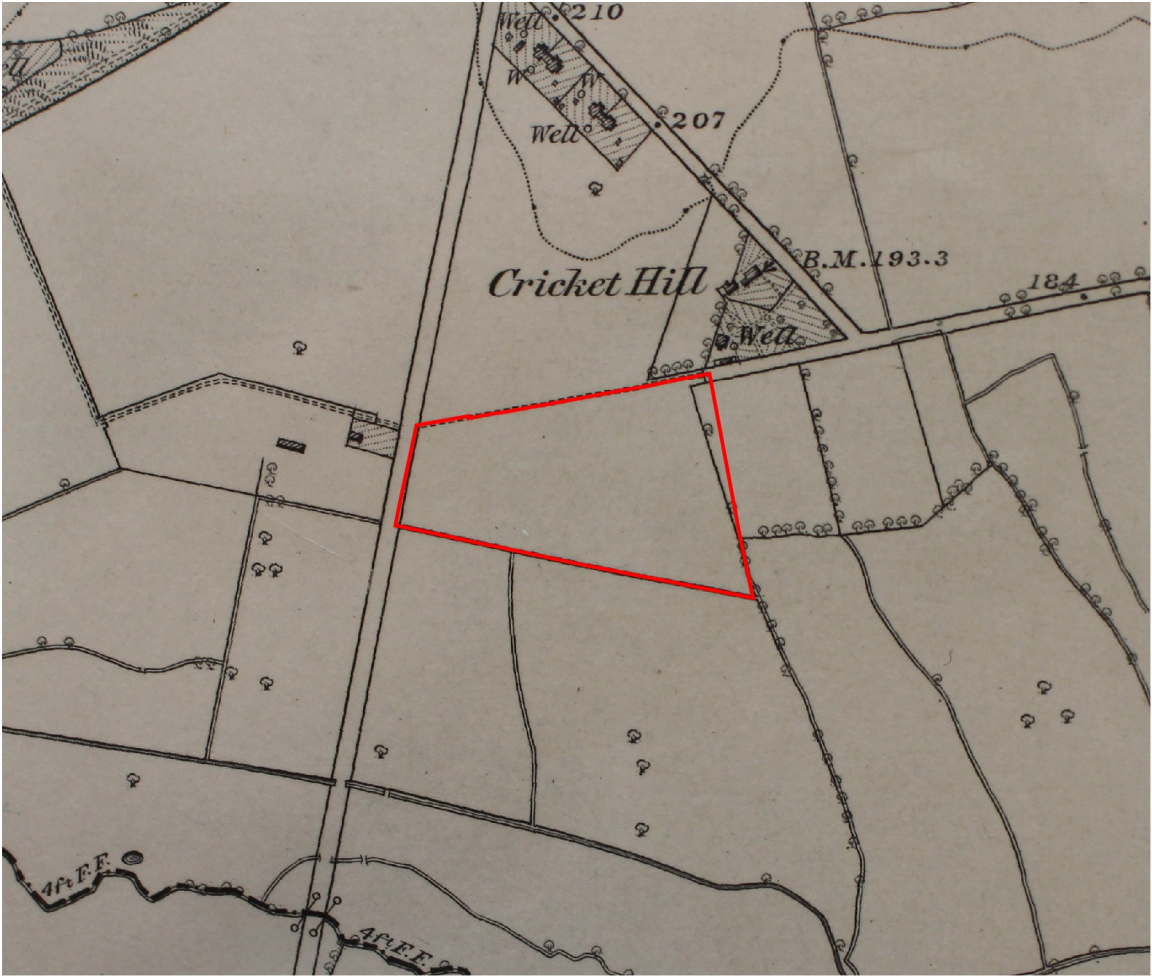
1817



1841



1858



1872

 Approximate Site Boundary



client
Catesby Strategic Land Ltd and Stonebond Properties (Guildford) Ltd

project title
Land to the East of Longwater Road, Finchampstead

drawing title
Extracts from Historic Mapping

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drawing number	edp4070_d007b	checked	EOa
scale	1:5,000 @ A3	QA	JFr

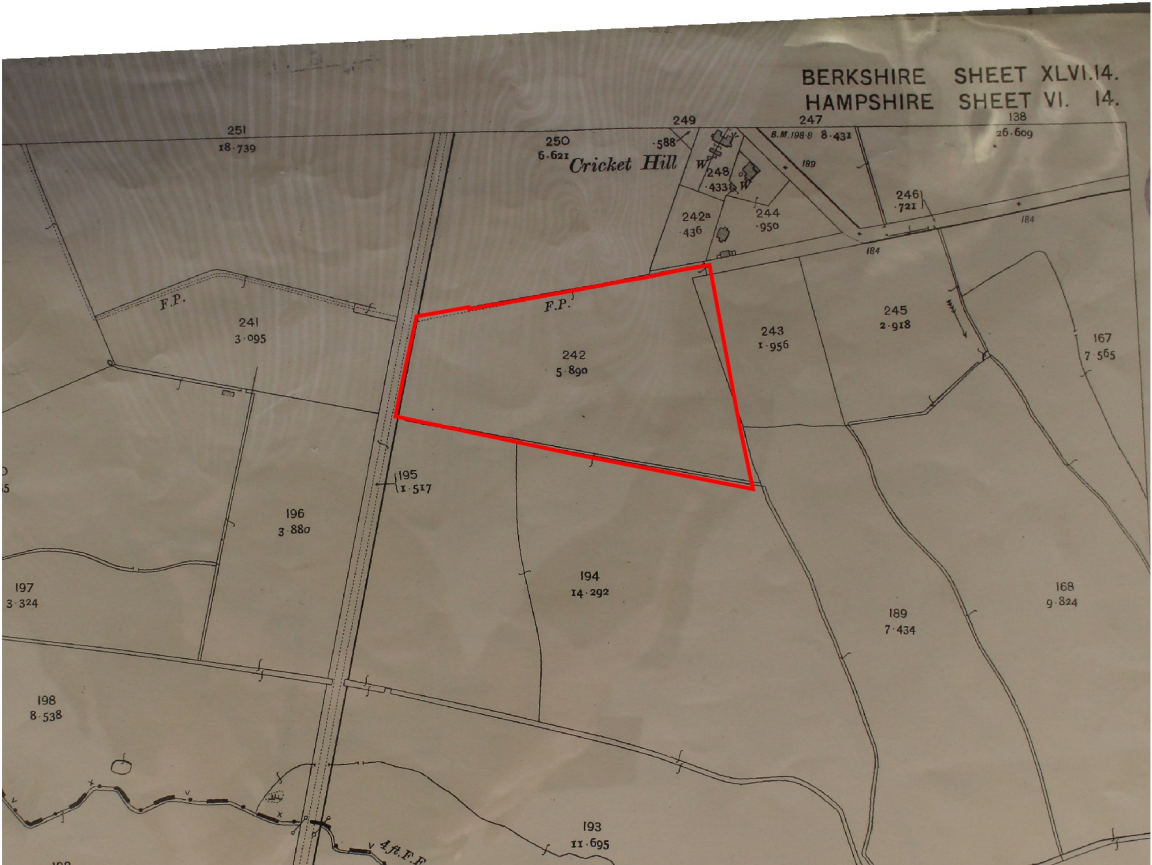


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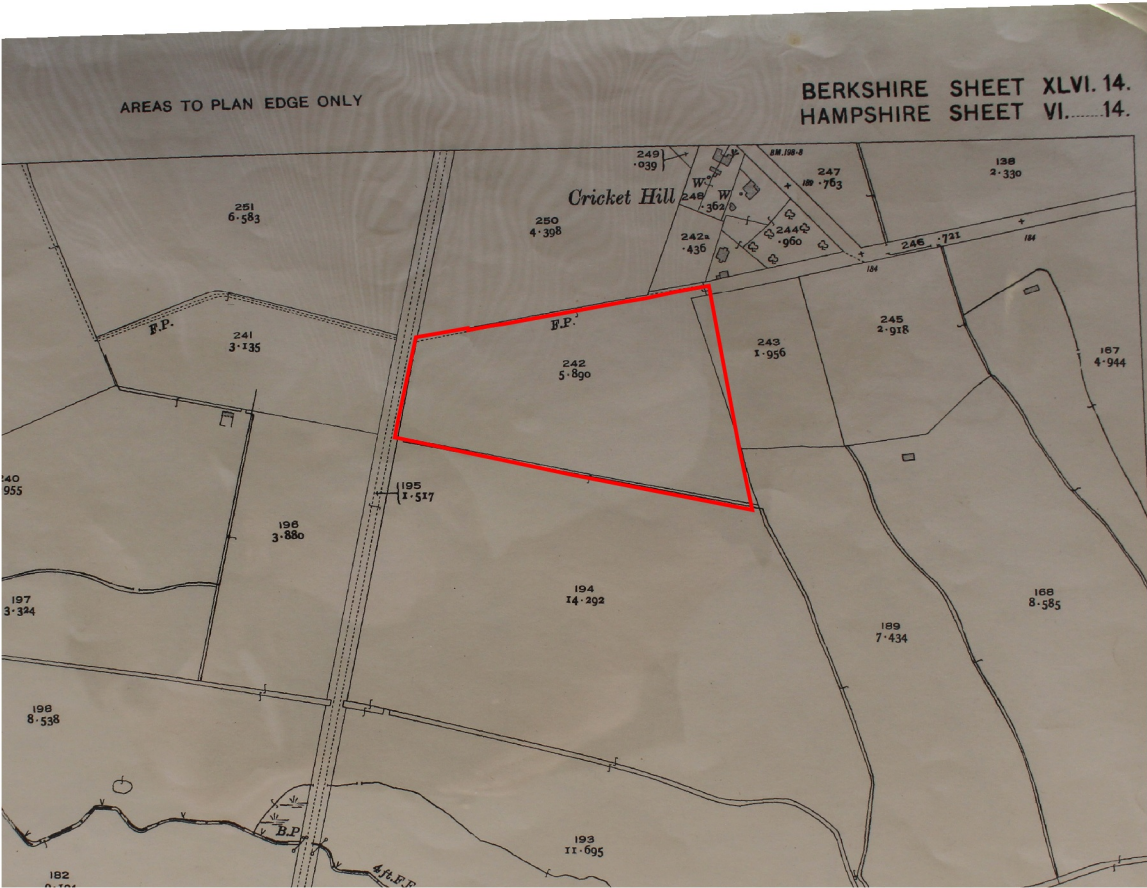




1899



1911



1932

 Approximate Site Boundary



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Land to the East of Longwater Road, Finchampstead

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date	24 MAY 2024	drawn by	DJo
drawing number	edp4070_d008b	checked	EOa
scale	1:5,000 @ A3	QA	JFr



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