



Wokingham Major Highways Programme South Wokingham Distributor Road Wokingham, Berkshire

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Balfour Beatty ('the client'), to undertake the archaeological excavation of three areas, totalling 1.13 hectares of a parcel of land to the south of Wokingham, located around Easthampstead Road (Area A centred on NGR 482779 167769, Area B centred on 482357 167555 and Area C centred NGR 482441 167485). The archaeological excavation was carried out as a condition of outline planning permission for the construction of the 2.7 km long South Wokingham Distributor Road, granted by Wokingham Borough Council (Planning reference 192928). The South Wokingham Distributor Road project is part of a wider project to upgrade the road network in the Wokingham area known as Wokingham Major Highways Project.

The excavation followed a programme of archaeological investigation including three trial trench evaluations, one conducted by Cotswold Archaeology along the majority of the South Wokingham Distributor route, and two by Wessex Archaeology, one in areas which had not previously been accessible and a Phase 2 evaluation which clarified the archaeological potential in one area.

Archaeological remains were encountered within all the excavation areas, although significant features were only found within Area A.

Penannular ditches representing the remains of two Early/Middle Iron Age roundhouses were identified within Area A, along with a 'U'-shaped enclosure ditch, two small semi-circular ditches and a small quantity of pits and postholes which appear to be broadly Iron Age, contemporary with the penannular ditches. Four undated linear ditches also crossed through Area A, these ditches post-dated the Iron Age, however, no secure dating was recovered from them.

A series of inter-cutting linear ditches crossed through Area B and Area C dating from the post-medieval to modern periods (1500-present).

The site presented a small finds assemblage, mainly comprising Early/Middle Iron Age and post-medieval pottery, as well as ceramic building materials. A small assemblage of iron working residues was collected from some of the Iron Age features in Area A. Faunal remains were incredibly scarce, indicating poor site preservation conditions for bone. Environmental samples were recovered from the Early/Middle Iron Age features and undated charcoal rich pits, the charred plant remains were poorly preserved, however, charcoal was recovered from several features, with six radiocarbon dates recommended from three features.

The results of the excavation are of local and regional interest; therefore, it is proposed that the results are published as a short paper in the Berkshire Archaeology Journal.

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Wokingham Major Highways Programme South Wokingham Distributor Road, Wokingham, Berkshire

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by Balfour Beatty ('the client') to undertake an archaeological Strip, Map and Sample excavation (SMS) of three areas totalling 1.25 ha located south of Wokingham, between Waterloo Road in the east (NGR 482954 167870) and Finchampstead Road in the west (NGR 480933 167875; Figure 1). The precise locations of the SMS areas are detailed within Table 1 below.

Table 1 Details of SMS areas

SMS Area	Development Area	NGR	Size (m2)
A	1	482779 167769	3228
B	3	482357 167555	5640
C	3	482441 167485	2617

- 1.1.2 The development comprises the construction of the South Western Distributor Road (SWDR) with associated drainage/flood compensation works, and demolition works. The road will connect to Waterloo Road in the east via a new roundabout, and Finchampstead Road in the west via the existing roundabout at Tesco. A link road is also proposed towards the eastern extent of the scheme, connecting the road to the present junction of Easthampstead Road and Heathlands Road. The SWDR will comprise a single carriageway measuring approximately 2.7 km in length and will include a shared 3 m wide cycle lane/footpath.

- 1.1.3 A planning application (192928) submitted to Wokingham Borough Council, was granted in May 2021, subject to conditions. The following conditions relate to archaeology:

Condition 17 No development shall commence until a programme of archaeological work (which may comprise more than one phase of work) has been implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason: it is known that the site is likely to contain archaeological remains and further investigation is required to allow preservation and recording of any archaeological features or artefacts before disturbance by the development in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework Section 16 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment), Core Strategy policy CP3 and Managing Development Delivery Local Plan policy TB25. Details are required prior to commencement to ensure appropriate mitigation of any impacts on archaeology arising from construction works.

- 1.1.4 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI), which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed for the fieldwork and

post-excavation work (Wessex Archaeology 2025a). The Principal Archaeologist at Berkshire Archaeology approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to the fieldwork.

- 1.1.5 The SMS excavation was preceded by archaeological evaluations undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology (2018) and Oxford Archaeology (2019). Further evaluation has been conducted by Wessex Archaeology (2024a and 2025b). The preceding evaluations indicated possible Iron Age activity within Area 1 and a concentration of largely undated agricultural activity within Area 3

- 1.1.6 The excavation was undertaken between 7 April – 16 May 2025.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 This report provides the provisional results of the excavation, and assesses the potential to address the aims and objectives outlined in the WSI. Where appropriate, it includes recommendations for further analysis, outlining the resources needed to achieve the project aims and objectives (including revisions arising from this assessment), leading to dissemination of the archaeological results via publication and the curation of the archive.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The road scheme is located within a rural area to the south of Wokingham, with Waterloo Road to the east and Finchampstead Road to the west, Easthampstead Road bisects the eastern extent of the development area. The site is currently comprised of agricultural land, with an area within the centre utilised for pheasant farming. Agricultural fields extend to the north, east, and south of the site with boundaries comprising hedgerows, areas of scrub, small, wooded areas, treelines and ditches. Some individual light industrial and agricultural development is located sporadically along the southern border of the scheme with the line of the Reading to London Waterloo railway positioned along the bordering fields to the north beyond which the built-up area of Wokingham is located.
- 1.3.2 Emm Brook is located along the north-western boundary of the scheme, turning and transecting the western extent of the scheme on a north-west to south-east trajectory. The Emm Brook flanks the western edge of the fields subject to excavation Area B and Area C.
- 1.3.3 The scheme is located in a relatively flat area. Excavation Area A occupied the summit of locally higher ground at 62 m Ordnance Datum (OD). Area B occupied ground from 57 m OD at the north-east sloping downwards to 55.5 m OD towards the Emm Brook. Area C lay at 57 m OD..
- 1.3.4 The bedrock geology of Area A is mapped as the London Clay Formation - Clay, silt and sand. Sedimentary bedrock formed between 56 and 47.8 million years ago during the Palaeogene period. It comprises bioturbated or poorly laminated, blue-grey or grey-brown, slightly calcareous, silty to very silty clay, clayey silt and sometimes silt, with some layers of sandy clay (British Geological Survey 2025).
- 1.3.5 Excavation Areas B and C mark a slight change in the bedrock geology with London Clay Formation - Clay, Silt and Sand with outcrops of Bagshot Formation - Sand located within the central and south-western extents of the site. These sedimentary bedrocks were formed between 56 and 47.8 million years ago during the Palaeogene period. Overlying alluvial and Head clay, silt, sand and gravel deposits are focused along the Emm Brook valley, with concentrations of sand and gravel River Terrace deposits (British Geological Survey 2025).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background of the area has been previously assessed in a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (HEDBA; WSP 2019), and during investigations by Cotswold Archaeology (2018) and AOC Archaeology (2017), as well as Oxford Archaeology in association with the evaluation undertaken for the Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG) (Oxford Archaeology 2019). The most recent assessment is presented in the earlier WSI (WSP 2021) and is summarised below. Additional resources are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Previous works related to the development

- 2.2.1 The sites detailed below are pertinent to the SWDR.

Trial Trench Evaluation (2018)

- 2.2.2 A programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation was conducted by Cotswold Archaeology (Cotswold Archaeology 2018) within the site. A total of 128 trenches were excavated, all within the footprint of the proposed road alignment, with a buffer of 20 m either side (approximately 60% of the consented application site). One trench, in the eastern part of the site, was widened to fully expose a potential feature (a post-medieval quarry pit), and a further trench which contained two pits, also in the eastern part of the site, was widened to ascertain if there were more features in the vicinity of the trench.
- 2.2.3 The majority of the trenches were archaeologically sterile with only nine trenches found to contain archaeology. Post-medieval ditches were recorded in six trenches in the west and central parts of the site, and a former quarry was identified within a trench in the eastern part of the site.
- 2.2.4 Just one feature of note was recorded during the evaluation: a pit containing 15 sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery, seven fragments of fired clay and three items of metal working debris, thought to be possible evidence of ironworking. This was found within a trench on the eastern side of the site, together with another undated pit.
- 2.2.5 An environmental bulk sample was taken from a Middle Iron Age pit. A small, charred assemblage was recovered, including hulled wheat, emmer or spelt, thought to be possible evidence of dispersed domestic waste material rather than evidence of settlement activities in the immediate vicinity.

Trial Trench Evaluation (2019)

- 2.2.6 A programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation was conducted by Oxford Archaeology (Oxford Archaeology 2019) as part of a separate development scheme for a mixed-use development and SANG, partially extending into the current site.
- 2.2.7 In total, 96 trial trenches were excavated, 25 of which were wholly or partly within the central and eastern side of the site. Most of the trenches were devoid of archaeological remains, with only field boundaries of little, if any, significance revealed. One small area of enhanced potential was identified to the west of Britton's Farm, in the vicinity of the Iron Age pit found during the 2018 trial trench evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2018). Here, a number of undated ditches were identified. Though likely post-medieval in date, given their location, it is possible these ditches relate to the Iron Age evidence found previously within this area. Historic field boundaries were also located and recorded within the central area of the SWDR site.

Trial Trench Evaluation (2024)

- 2.2.8 Phase 1 of the archaeological trial trench evaluations was conducted at the site in 2024 by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2024b).
- 2.2.9 A total of 36 trial trenches were excavated, 10 of which contained archaeological features and deposits, indicating a limited presence of archaeological remains across the site, with a larger concentration in Area 3. The majority of uncovered features comprising ditches and gullies remain of uncertain date. Features that contained datable evidence represented post-medieval activity.

Trial Trench Evaluation (2025)

- 2.2.10 Additional trial trenching has also been undertaken as part of the Phase 2 investigations (Wessex Archaeology 2025b). In April 2025 Wessex Archaeology undertook an eight trench evaluation in Area 5, only one trench recorded archaeological remains, these comprised two undated charcoal rich pits.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (970,000 BC – AD 43)

- 2.3.1 Aside from investigations undertaken in 2018, no archaeological remains pertaining to this period have been identified within the site bounds. The evaluation carried out in 2018 recorded a pit containing sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery, fragments of fired clay and items of metal working debris, suggestive of possible ironworking, concentrated within the eastern extent of the site.
- 2.3.2 The well-drained sands and gravels (located in small areas on the east and south-western sides of the site), close to the wetland resources of the Emm Brook and its tributaries, would have been attractive for early settlement/land exploitation. Indeed, seasonal activity may have been present within the area as, though limited in number, there have been finds from the Lower Palaeolithic to Neolithic periods located in the vicinity. These consist of prehistoric flint scatters, primarily found during fieldwalking adjacent to the eastern end of the site.
- 2.3.3 It is notable that within the site's environs, several settlement and activity dating to the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods have been recorded, with some continuation into the Romano-British period also evidenced.

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

- 2.3.4 Despite the evidence for the potential agricultural use of this area (possible enclosures and field systems) during the Roman period was found towards the eastern end of the site, including Roman pottery sherds during East Berkshire Archaeological Survey in 1984–86, the 2018 and 2019 archaeological evaluations found no finds or features from this period.

Anglo-Saxon and medieval (AD 410 – 1500)

- 2.3.5 No finds or features have been recorded from the Anglo-Saxon period in the site or inner study area. It is likely that the site, at this time, lay within a largely wooded landscape.
- 2.3.6 Although there is evidence of some kind of medieval settlement activity in the vicinity of the Buckhurst Farm 750 m north-east of the site, there are no known features or finds dating to the later medieval period, and a number of pottery sherds of this period found during fieldwalking in the area are likely to be the result of manuring rather than discrete areas of archaeology. As for the early medieval period, it is likely the site lay within a landscape of open fields or woodland. Though aerial photographs and historic mapping of the site and

surrounding area suggest the presence of former strip cultivation (ridge & furrow), no evidence of this was found during the 2018 and 2019 archaeological evaluations.

Post-medieval and modern (AD 1500 – present day)

- 2.3.7 The site has largely continued in agricultural use until the present day. A number of post-medieval ditches, most likely marking former field boundaries, were found during the 2018 and 2019 archaeological evaluations, while the 2018 evaluation also identified a former quarry, the latter shown on historic maps of the area. Aerial photographs and historic mapping of the site and surrounding area suggest the presence of former strip cultivation (ridge & furrow) but no evidence of this was found during the 2018 and 2019 archaeological evaluations.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 With reference to the relevant ClfA standard (ClfA 2023a), the general aims (or purpose) of the excavation are to examine, record and interpret the archaeological resource within the specified area or site, and to disseminate the results, in accordance with methods and research objectives defined in the approved project design.

3.2 Research objectives

- 3.2.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (Hey and Hind 2014), the research objectives defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2024a) were to:
- determine the date, nature and extent of activity during the Iron Age period;
 - determine any factors/reasons for the location of Iron Age activity within this area, which appears at odds with other Iron Age sites which appear to favour lighter, more gravelly soils (Cotswold 2018);
 - refine chronology for the agricultural features identified within Area 3 (Wessex Archaeology 2024a);
 - determine the character of landscape organisation through the medieval and post-medieval periods, examining the effects of changing agricultural practices.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2024a) and in general compliance with ClfA standards and guidance (ClfA 2023a–b). The post-excavation assessment and reporting also followed advice issued by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO 2015). The methods employed are summarised below.
- 4.1.2 Area A was located within development Area 1 and was sited here due to the possible presence of Iron Age activity as defined within earlier evaluation results.
- 4.1.3 The southern edge of Area A was subject to an 8.1 m x 9.4 m contingency extension due to archaeological features continuing beyond the existing limit of the excavation area. The

eastern edge of Area A was also modified on ecological grounds due to the close proximity of a substantial willow tree.

- 4.1.4 Areas B and C are located within development Area 3 and have also been sited based on evaluation results which identified a concentration of linear features believed to represent field boundaries/drainage ditches and ridge and furrow features of medieval/post-medieval and uncertain date.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The excavation area was set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the same position as that proposed in the WSI (Fig. 1). The topsoil/overburden was removed in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded in level spits until the archaeological horizon, or the natural geology was exposed.
- 4.2.2 Where necessary, the surfaces of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation. A sample of natural features, such as tree-throw holes, was also investigated.
- 4.2.3 Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th-century or later) were recorded on site and discarded. Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features were visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval.

Recording

- 4.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.
- 4.2.5 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data was recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.
- 4.2.7 Aerial photographs and an orthomosaic of the excavation area, were provided by the client. The data was captured using a DJI Mavic 3 Enterprise unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) equipped with a 20MP camera sensor.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

General

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2024a). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological*

materials (ClfA 2014a), *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and ClfA's (n.d. a) *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The Principal Archaeologist at Berkshire Archaeology monitored the works on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Principal Archaeologist at Berkshire Archaeology.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

Summary of archaeological features and deposits

- 5.1.1 Area A lay approximately 375 m to the north-east of excavation Areas B and C, which were separated by a gap of 22 m (Figs 1 and 2). Archaeological features and deposits were recorded in all three areas and ranged in date from the late prehistoric through to the modern period (Figs 3–5).
- 5.1.2 The earliest features were recorded in Area A and date to the early-middle Iron Age. These comprise two penannular ditches representing the remains of Iron Age roundhouses, along with a 'U'-shaped ditch, two small semi-circular ditches and a small quantity of pits and postholes which appear to be broadly contemporary. (Figs 3 and 6). Later features in Area A were represented by a co-axial field boundary system which post-dated the Middle Iron Age, but the origins remain uncertain. The archaeological features within Area A were clearly defined in plan and the stratigraphic sequence was simple (Fig. 3).
- 5.1.3 A series of inter-cutting ditches crossed through Area B and Area C dating to the post-medieval to modern periods (1500–present: Figs 4 and 5). These ditches represent former field systems, including the recutting of silted up features as well as changes of alignment.
- 5.1.4 Results for the excavation in Area B indicated that the stratigraphic evidence may have been compromised by agricultural activities, with modern features underlying the subsoil. However, the geological substrate was not overly compromised, with a Holocene alluvial deposit preserved within the south-eastern portion of Area B and Area C, this deposit sealed a number of archaeological features.

Methods of stratigraphic assessment

- 5.1.5 All written and drawn records, and surveyed data from the excavation have been collated and checked. Context information has been entered into a database, which can be updated during any further analysis, and linked with surveyed and other forms of specialist assessment data within a GIS. Stratigraphic groups were defined, and preliminary phasing has been undertaken using stratigraphic relationships, finds spot-dates and any other relevant information.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The overburden comprising topsoil and subsoil was generally consistent throughout the three areas of excavation (Fig. 8). The topsoil was grass topped through and comprised friable, dark brown sandy clay loam with occasional sub-rounded stone and gravel inclusions (up to 0.05 m in diameter). The topsoil was 0.16 m thick in Area A, and 0.17–0.27 m thick in Area B and Area C. The topsoil in Area B and Area C contained occasional lumps of post-medieval and modern ceramic building materials throughout.

- 5.2.2 The subsoil was up to 0.19–0.24 m thick and consisted of a crumbly, light greyish-brown sandy silt, containing common small sub-rounded local stones and gravels (up to 0.08 m in diameter) throughout. A small quantity of finds were collected from the subsoil in each area. Although artefactual material was generally scarce across the site, the subsoil in Area A yielded a small assemblage of including an iron object and Iron Age pottery sherds. The subsoil in Area B and Area C contained post-medieval and small, modern ceramic building material fragments, pottery and glass sherds. The subsoil had a clear lower boundary over the geological substrate, and a stony boundary where it overlay the alluvium within Area B and Area C.
- 5.2.3 An alluvial deposit was present at the base of the stratified archaeological layers across Area C, which extended northwards for approximately 25 m north–south by 40 m east–west within the south-eastern part of Area B. The depth of the alluvium reached a maximum of 0.18 m and comprised frequent small sub-rounded gravels in a blocky, greyish-brown matrix. The excavation results signified that the alluvium was deposited during the post-medieval period. Overbank flooding from the nearby Emm Brook is likely to have been the source of the alluvium.
- 5.2.4 The natural geology was encountered between 0.3–0.5 m below ground level (bgl) in Area A, between 0.5–0.7 m bgl in Area B and between 0.4–0.6 m bgl in Area C. The geological substrate predominantly consisted of mixed, orangey-brown sandy clay, including yellow sand with grey-brown silty clay patches and mottles which occurred in streaks and patches across the site. Pockets and spreads of small sub-rounded chert and stone gravels were common throughout, resulting in a loosely compacted, crumbly geological surface at the base of the excavations.

5.3 Area A

Early–Middle Iron Age (700 BC–100 BC)

- 5.3.1 A small group of archaeological features recorded in Area A have been dated to the Early–Middle Iron Age (Fig. 3). The Early to Middle Iron Age features were dominated by two fully exposed penannular ring ditches representing the remains of roundhouses; the truncated remains of further possible roundhouses were also recorded. Stratigraphically later than one of the roundhouses, but still broadly contemporary, was a curvilinear ‘U’-shaped ditch. Discrete features that also date from this period include several small pits and postholes. The Iron Age features were sealed by the subsoil in Area A.

Roundhouses

- 5.3.2 Penannular ditch 10205 was located near the centre of Area A (Fig. 9), and penannular ditch 10200 lay 6.6 m to the NNE (Fig. 10). The ring ditches had comparative dimensions with external diameters between 12.6–13.85 m, and 12–12.5 m wide internal diameters. The ring ditch cuts measured between 0.45 – 0.6 m wide by 0.15–0.2 m deep with ‘U’-shaped profiles. The roundhouse entrances faced towards the east and south-east respectively.
- 5.3.3 Penannular ditch 10200 contained a singular light-grey-brown sandy silt fill, whereas two fills were identified throughout ring ditch 10205 comprising a mottled, light yellow-brown silty sandy primary fill below a blockier, light grey silty clay upper fill. Fragments of ferrous metal working waste were encountered within all the fills of both ring ditches, along with a small assemblage of Early–Middle Iron Age pottery sherds.
- 5.3.4 Southern ring ditch 10205 was cut through by linear ditch 10202 and by curvilinear ditch 10204 from the north-east. The southern side of ring ditch 10205 was also cut into by

posthole 10064 and by pits 10066 and 10068 (Fig. 7 Section 1). Small, non-structural postholes 10055 and 10057 were recorded within the ring ditch, along with fire pit 10059.

5.3.5 Semi-circular ditches 10206 and 10207 occupied the south of Area A approximately 21 m to the SSE of ring ditch 10205, spaced 14.3 m apart on the same axis. The size and character of ditches 10206 and 10207 were comparable. The semi-circular ditch cuts measured between 7.1–7.4 m long by 0.25–0.35 m wide and 0.05–0.1 m deep and had gentle 'U'-shaped profiles. Semi-circular ditch 10207, at the south-east corner of Area A, was deeper, and had survived in a better state of preservation. Both semi-circular ditches were filled by crumbly, light greyish-brown sandy clay fills with occasional inclusions of small charcoal flecks, with 7 sherds (61 grammes) of Early/Middle Iron Age pottery recovered from ditch 10207.

5.3.6 Semi-circular feature 10207 was open to the south-east and had well defined termini (Figs 11–13). Semi-circular feature 10206 was open to the west. Linear ditch 10202 cut through both semi-circular features, removing the northern terminus of ditch 10206. Small posthole 10024 had been inserted into the southern terminus of semi-circular ditch 10207. The posthole measured 0.15 m diameter x 0.19 m deep.

Linear features

5.3.7 A short 2.7 m long section of curvilinear ditch 10111 was exposed on the eastern side of Oxford Archaeology evaluation Trench 33, where it was recorded as ditch 3306 (Oxford Archaeology 2017). The feature was investigated to look for dating evidence which was not previously forthcoming. Curvilinear feature 10111 measured 0.3 m wide by 0.1 m deep and was filled with charcoal flecked brown-grey clayey sand.

5.3.8 Curvilinear ditch 10204 indicated a slightly later phase of the Iron Age activity on the site. Ditch 10204 formed a broad 'U'-shape in plan, located to the east of ring ditch 10205, with the open-end facing to the south-west. Curvilinear ditch 10204 was approximately 29 m long and would have enclosed an area approximately 12 by 12 m (north-east to south-west). The cut measured an average of 0.55 m wide, 0.3 m deep and was steep sided with a concave base. Slot 10113, towards the south-east end of the feature had broader, more irregular sides, where it appears to have been repurposed to dump Iron Age pottery within a charcoal-rich matrix. Ditch 10204 contained a grey-brown silty sandy fill, capped in some slots by redeposited natural sand and clay up to 0.1 m thick, which rendered the feature difficult to perceive in plan. The north-west terminus of ditch 10204 was cut through the north-east of ring ditch 10205. The south-eastern terminus of ditch 10204 had been removed by ENE–WSW ditch 10203.

Discrete features

5.3.9 A small, tightly grouped collection of features were cut into the southern part of penannular enclosure ditch 10205, these consisted of posthole 10064, pit 10066 and pit 10068 (Fig. 14). Posthole 10064 was truncated by pit 10066. Truncated posthole 10064 had a 0.1 m diameter and had survived up to 0.1 m deep below the base of the pit. The posthole was backfilled with mid-grey-brown silty sand with charcoal and stones. Pit 10066 occupied the eastern side of this small group. Sub-circular pit 10066 measured 0.7 m long, 0.55 m wide and reached up to 0.1 m deep. Pit 10068 was also sub-circular, measuring 0.35–0.6 m diameter, 0.2 m deep. Both pits contained crumbly, dark grey-black silty sandy fills mottled with fine red and charcoal flecks. 11 Early/Middle Iron Age pottery sherds, weighing 26 grammes, were recovered from pit 10068.

- 5.3.10 Sub-oval pit 10012 lay 0.45 m south-west of semi-circular ditch 10207. The feature was 1.55 m long, 0.80 m wide, 0.33 m deep. Pit 10012 contained two deliberate backfills (Fig. 15).

Uncertain date

- 5.3.11 The features discussed below are uncertain in date, they all post-date the Early–Middle Iron Age features discussed above but lack the artefactual evidence to date them more closely.

Linear features

- 5.3.12 Ditches 10202 and 10203 appear to represent the earliest phases of activity which postdate the Iron Age. Ditch 10202 was aligned NNW-SSE with ditch 10203 at a right angle it, contrary to the alignment of later ditch 10201. Ditches 10203 and 10202 were sealed beneath the subsoil.
- 5.3.13 ENE-WSW ditch 10203 measured 1.15 wide by 0.25 m deep, silted-up by a singular mid-grey clay fill. The eastern extent of ditch 10203 was not visible in plan to the west of Oxford Archaeology evaluation Trench 33, where the feature was recorded as ditch 3304 and contained one pottery sherd of uncertain date (Oxford Archaeology 2017). Ditch 10203 was cut through curvilinear ditch 10204 toward its eastern exposed extent. The western terminus of ditch 10203 was clipped by NNW-SSE ditch 10202.
- 5.3.14 Ditch 10202 was aligned NNW-SSE, before taking an approximately 45-degree turn towards the south-east within the south-eastern corner of Area A. The ditch was 0.8 m wide, 0.4 m deep, filled with mixed, light brown silty sandy clay with yellow sandy streaks. A small quantity of pottery sherds (eight sherds/ 66 grammes) were recovered from this ditch which dated to the Iron Age, but the abraded nature of the sherds indicates that these were residual. Ditch 10202 cut the western terminal end of WSW-ENE ditch 10203, ring ditch 10205 and semi-circular ditches 10206 and 10207. It was sealed by subsoil 10002 and cut by east-west boundary ditch 10201.
- 5.3.15 East–west aligned ditch 10107 was exposed for a short 8 m length crossing through the south-east corner of Area A (Fig.16). Ditch 10107 was 1.2 m wide, 0.45 m deep. The ditch contained a sandy primary fill beneath two consecutive fills composed of compact, dark grey-blue sandy clay differentiated by varying volumes of ditch silts. The lack of finds rendered ditch 10107 undated.
- 5.3.16 Ditch 10201 was a field boundary ditch that crossed through Area A from east to west, immediately south of ring ditch 10200. The ditch was 1 m wide, 0.3 m deep, cut through subsoil 10002 and undated ditch 10202. Although the silted-up fill of the feature was artefactually sterile, it was stratigraphically the latest feature in Area A. The orientation of ditch 10201 conforms with the surrounding present day field boundary layout.

Discrete features

- 5.3.17 Postholes 10055 and 10057, and pit 10059 were recorded within the south and eastern interior of ring ditch 10205. Other potential archaeological features were investigated within the ring ditch interior, but none proved to be convincing. The postholes were 0.18–0.25 m diameter and 0.08–0.1 m deep, with steep sides and flat bases, backfilled with friable, dark orange sandy clay with frequent charcoal inclusions. The similarity of the shape and backfills of the postholes imply that they were associated.
- 5.3.18 Pit 10059 had shallow sides, a concave base and measured 0.25–0.49 m wide x 0.08 m deep. A layer of heat affected orange-grey clay lined the base of the pit up to 0.04 m thick,

underlying a deposit of dark blackish-orange sandy clay with frequent charcoal lumps and flecks alongside natural chert and flint gravels derived from the local geology.

- 5.3.19 Although postholes 10055 and 10057, and pit 10059 lacked stratigraphic or artefactual evidence to clarify their origins, however, their position as a discrete group of small features within the interior of ring ditch 10205 indicates a high probability that they were associated with domesticity within the roundhouse. Similar feature types were not encountered elsewhere in Area A.

5.4 Area B and Area C

- 5.4.1 Archaeological excavation Areas B and C were adjacent within the same field, separated from one another by approximately 25 m. Area B and Area C were crossed by a series of inter-cutting field boundary ditches, with no other categories of archaeological feature present except for a small number of modern farmer's pits. Datable archaeological finds were scant, dating from the post-medieval period onwards. The subsoil in both areas contained 19th to 20th century ceramics, and overlay the Area B ditches, indicating that the deposit had been disturbed by modern agricultural activity, limiting the stratigraphic potential of the site. Nonetheless, the hand dug interventions during the excavations were sufficient to split results of post medieval ditches into two main phases of activity, and three modern phases of activity. These distinctions have been based on the different stages in the development and reorganising of field or enclosure boundary ditches.

Post-medieval (1500–1800 AD)

- 5.4.2 The earliest and main phase of activity in Area B was represented by ditches 30104 and 30105 which were parallel, separated by an average of 2.5 m (Figs.17–19). These two ditches crossed the lower ground at the south and east of Area B, where they were sealed by alluvium. Ditches 30104 and 30105 were exposed for approximately 95 m. The ditches were aligned from WNW-ESE at the south-east of Area B, before gently turning to the north-west for approximately 40 m where most of the ditches either terminated or converged, representing a focal point of Area B. Divisions separating the features at this junction likely represent agricultural field entrance ways.
- 5.4.3 The profile of ditch 30104 was broad with gradually sloping sides and a concave base measuring 3 m wide x 0.5 m deep (Fig. 7 Section 2). The feature had been silted up with mid-brown silty sandy clay containing 19th century ceramic building materials and pottery sherds. Ditch 30104 was cut by ditch 30103 and modern ditches 30028 and 30100 (Fig.17).
- 5.4.4 Ditch 30105 was 1.2 m wide, 0.72 m deep with straight, moderate sides and a curved base. The ditch contained two silted-up secondary fills. The lower fill was greyish-brown silty clay with frequent fine, red-brown oxidised mottles accumulated up to 0.38 m thick. The lower fill was firmer, darker in colour and more clayey than the upper fill which was composed of mid to dark brown sandy silty clay, indicating that the lower fill might have been subject to periods of alluviation, presumably associated with the stratigraphic alluvial layer. Ditch 30105 was cut by modern ditches 30100 and 30101 (Fig. 7 Section 2 and Fig. 18).
- 5.4.5 The south-east extent of ditch 30105 clipped the northern edge of parallel ditch 30046 at the lowest part of the site which lay at 56.4 m aOD (Fig.19). Ditch 30046 has been tentatively assigned to the post-medieval phase as it appears to be broadly associated with ditch 30105, underlying the stratified alluvial layer, but remained undatable due to a lack of archaeological finds. The form of the feature was generally comparable to ditch 30105 (Fig. 7 Section 3). It was exposed for 12.6 m, measuring 1.54 m wide x 0.52 m deep with straight sides at 45 degrees and a gently curved base. Ditch 30046 contained two silted-up

secondary fills. The lower fill was 0.14 m thick, composed of dark greyish sandy silty clay with blue-grey mottles, and the upper fill was dark grey silty clay with blue mottling.

- 5.4.6 Ditch 30010 was exposed for 20 m at the western edge of Area B opposite the terminus of ditch 20105, aligned north-east to south-west, separated from ditch 30105 by 3.75 m (Fig. 20). Ditch 30010 measured 1.47 m wide, 0.34 m deep with a gradually sided concaved profile. Two fills were identified within ditch 30010 comprised of dark greyish-brown silty sandy clay with a 0.11 m thick sandier primary fill. No archaeological finds were recovered, however sporadic tiny brick flecks and fragments were present throughout. It is probable that ditch 30010 recorded the return of ditch 30105 to the south-west, with the intervening space representing the entrance to a former agricultural field.
- 5.4.7 Ditches 30102 and 30103 appear to have formed a 'T'-shaped layout of field system ditches, where some components of their relationship had been removed by modern ditches 30100 and 30101. Ditch 30041 cut the north edge of ditch 30105 below the stratigraphic alluvium and was also assigned to the later post-medieval phase on stratigraphic evidence. The Area C ditches have also been conjecturally assigned to post medieval phase 2 on stratigraphic grounds.
- 5.4.8 Ditch 30103 crossed through Area B on an ENE-WSW alignment, connecting with ditch 30102 which extended to the NNW for 19.2 m before terminating. Ditch 30103 had gently curved sides and base, measuring 0.80 m wide x 0.35 m deep. Ditch 30102 was a shallow 0.1 m deep, 0.85 m wide cut, presumably representing a localised drainage feature. The three components of this proposed 'T'-shaped field layout were filled with a single, identical fill, composed of blocky, light greyish-brown silty sandy clay containing 19th century pottery, brick, and tile fragments, along with concentrations of small to medium sized stones.
- 5.4.9 Ditch 30041 was 1.3 m wide, 0.45 m deep with very gradual upper sides, leading down to steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 19). The lower, steeper part of the cut formed a 0.3 m wide channel. The ditch silted up with mid greyish brown silty clay loam with occasional small stones, but no archaeological finds. It seems likely that ditch 30041 represented a drainage channel for the wetter, lower part of the site, complementing or extending main ditch 30105.
- 5.4.10 Parallel ditches 20100 and 20101 crossed through Area C from NNW to SSE, which were separated by an average distance of 3.5 m (Fig. 5). Both ditches were silted up by a singular homogenous, dark brownish-grey silty sandy clay fill, with occasional small gravels throughout.
- 5.4.11 Ditch 20101 lay to the east of ditch 20100, the latter measuring 1m wide, 0.45 m deep with steep, straight sides and a flat base. Ditch 20101 was 1m wide, 0.55 m deep with slightly irregular steep sides and a flat base with a 0.3 m wide, 0.1 m deep depression in its centre.
- 5.4.12 Ditch 20100 cut through the west side of ditch 20009, which extended for 1.4 m from the north edge of Area C (Fig. 7 Section 4). Only a small central portion of ditch 20009 had survived in Area C due to further truncation from the east by cut 20005 which was a highly irregularly shaped, measuring 1.3 m long, 0.1 m wide and 0.45 m deep, filled with gravels in a light grey sandy clay matrix, which was determined have been the product of bioturbation. Ditch 20009 had survived up to 1.35 m wide, 0.45 m deep, filled by mid yellow-brown silty clay loam, similar, but lighter in colour to the surrounding ditch fills (Fig. 21).
- 5.4.13 No diagnostic finds were recovered from any Area C features, however, their stratigraphic position, cut through the stratified alluvium and sealed by the subsoil indicated they were later than ditches 30104 and 30105 at the south-east of Area B, which were sealed by the

alluvium. The physical characteristics and stratigraphic positions of the Area C ditches were analogous; hence they appear to be contemporaneous field boundaries straddling a tree or hedge line which separated them. Site mapping indicated that they were most likely associated with 30102 and 30103, which were similarly sized cuts with comparable ditch fill compositions, broadly set out at right angles, and occupied the same stratigraphic placement.

Modern (1800 – present)

- 5.4.14 A series of modern field system ditches were imposed within the northern 30 m of Area B. The first in the series is represented by ditch 30101 which extended for approximately 31 m from the northern edge of Area B on a north-west to south-east alignment. The ditch was 1 m wide, 0.35 m deep with a slightly concaved sides and a flat base. The ditch contained a light yellowish brown sandy clay lower fill on the south side of the cut, and a dark greyish-brown sandy clay upper fill containing ceramic building material fragments. An *in situ* ceramic drainpipe had been inserted into the surface of silted up ditch 30101. The south end of ditch 30101 was disturbed and obscured by cut 30100 to the east. The ceramic pipe contained within ditch 30101 continued to the south-east however traversing the natural to its south, which likely represented a field entrance. The same ceramic drainpipe was contained lower down within ditch 30106 to the south-east, which appears to have been cut purposefully to accommodate it.
- 5.4.15 Broad, shallow ditch 30100 extended for 68.75 m from the northern edge of Area B. Although the south end of the feature was machined out, it was not present within the southern Area B sections, and probably did not extent significantly beyond its record southern end. The cut had short, gradually sloped sides leading to a very broad flat base (Fig. 18). Ditch 30100 was an average of 2.1 m wide, 0.4 m deep, however, the ditch was broadened from 1.18 up to 2.7 m wide along the southern 36 m of its length, where it was cut through post-medieval ditches 30104 and 30105. Ditch 30100 was filled by a mixture of very silty dark grey or brown sandy clay containing modern plastics and ceramics.
- 5.4.16 Drainage ditch 30106 was 0.8 m wide and 0.48 m deep, filled with dark grey-brown silty sandy clay and contained the same *in situ* ceramic drainpipe that was inserted into the fill of modern ditch 30101 (Fig. 17). The north end of ditch 30106 corresponded with the north end of post-medieval ditch 30105 and overlay its north-west to south-east alignment. The feature continued to the south-east for approximately 38 m, cutting ditch 30100, before being machined out where the geological surface and corresponding level of excavation decreased to the south.
- 5.4.17 Drainage trench 30028 contained a further *in situ* ceramic land drain (Fig. 17). The ditch was 0.9 m wide, 0.55 m deep and backfilled with dark brown sandy clay. The feature crossed Area B on a north-south orientation and cut through post-medieval ditch 30104.

5.5 Evaluation

- 5.5.1 The two phases of evaluation conducted by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2024b and 2025b) recorded a total of 19 features, with 16 linears and three pits. Only four of these features contained any artefactual evidence, and an environmental sample was taken from one undated charcoal rich pit. Of the features that contained datable evidence three were post-medieval in date and represent post-medieval field boundary systems, the only ditch from which artefacts pre-dating the post-medieval period were retrieved was ditch 2404, from which one sherd of Early/Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered. Ditch 2404 measured 2 m wide, 0.8 m deep, with moderate, concave sides and a U-shaped base. This

ditch is likely to be an extension of post-medieval ditch 30103, with the single sherd residual within the fill.

- 5.5.2 Undated pit 4004 measured 0.85 m long, 0.25 m wide, 0.15 m deep and had steep, concave sides and an irregular/ undulating base. The single charcoal rich fill of the pit suggested that the pit was either from charcoal production or cooking, so an environmental sample was retrieved.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A small assemblage (357 finds weighing 14.6 kg) was recovered from five evaluation trenches (trenches 6, 17, 24, 25 and 27) and excavation areas A, B and C; no finds were recovered during the Phase 2 evaluation. The artefacts were found within a range of layers, features and deposits dating from the Early Iron Age to later post-medieval/early modern periods. All the finds have been cleaned and quantified by material type within each context, and scanned to assess their nature, condition, and potential date range. The results are summarised in Table 2.
- 6.1.2 The finds from the evaluation trenches 6, 17, 24, 25 and 27 have already been reported on (Wessex Archaeology 2024) but they are included in the quantifications presented here and mentioned where relevant in the descriptive sections below. The whole assemblage is also considered in the Update Project Design sections below.

Table 2 Summary of finds by mitigation and material type (number and weight (g) shown)

Material type	Evaluation		Excavation		Total	
	No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)
Animal bone	-	-	22	22	22	22
Burnt Flint	32	120	-	-	32	120
Ceramic Building Material	6	337	82	4,102	88	4,439
Clay Tobacco Pipe	-	-	3	7	3	7
Fired Clay	-	-	25	165	25	165
Glass	-	-	4	25	4	25
Iron	-	-	1	15	1	15
Metal Working Residues	-	-	24	2,957	24	2,957
Pottery	5	76	150	1,879	155	1955
Stone	-	-	3	4,983	3	4,983
Total	43	533	314	14,155	357	14,688

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The pottery assemblage (150 sherds, 1879 g) dates from the Early to Middle Iron Age, post-medieval and modern periods. The assemblage has been subdivided into broad ware groups (e.g. sandy wares) or known fabric types (e.g. Pearlware) and quantified by sherd count and weight. Variables such as surface treatment, decoration, and evidence of use were also recorded. This level of recoding accords with the 'basic record' (Barclay *et al* 2016, section 2.4.5), aimed at producing a rapid characterisation of the assemblage and a comparative dataset. A breakdown of the assemblage by period and ware type is shown in Table 3.

- 6.2.2 The condition of the assemblage is moderate, with an overall mean sherd weight (MSW) of 12.53 g. The mean weight of the Iron Age sherds (11.2 g) is close to the average whereas the mean weight of the post-medieval sherds is significantly higher (32.18 g) with the modern sherds lower at 7.4 g. Rim sherds represent 8.67 % of the material by count (13 rims in total), comprising nine of Early/Middle and Middle Iron Age and four of post-medieval and modern date.

Table 3 Breakdown of the pottery assemblage by period and ware type

Period	Ware	No	Wt (g)	MSW	Max Vessels
Iron Age	Sand and organic-tempered	132	1501	11.28	9
	Sandy ware	2	12	6	
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>135</i>	<i>1513</i>	<i>11.2</i>	<i>9</i>
Post-medieval	Frechen stoneware	1	44		
	Pearlware	1	1		1
	Redware	12	351	29.25	3
	Salt-glazed stoneware	1	9		
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>15</i>	<i>405</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>4</i>
Modern	Refined whiteware	3	10	3.33	
	Yellow ware	2	27	13.5	1
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>5</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>7.4</i>	<i>1</i>
Total		155	1955	12.8	14

Iron Age

- 6.2.3 The Iron Age fabrics are dominated by sand and organic tempered wares (Table 3). The raw materials may have been obtained from the local geology, with deposits of clay, silt and sand of the London Clay Formation and outcrops of sand of the Bagshot Formation occurring within the central and south-western areas of the site. The use of sand with organic tempering is typical of this region during the Early and Middle Iron Age (Griffin 2019, 35).
- 6.2.4 The Iron Age pottery was recovered from the subsoil, pits 10066 and 10068, ditches 2404, 10202, 10203, 10204 and 10207, and from ring ditches 10200 and 10205. All but four sherds exhibits signs of abrasion. Body and base sherds form 83% (112 sherds, 1233 g) of the , with the remaining 23 sherds (280 g), representing just nine vessels, being from upright necked (short and long) jars with rounded and flat-topped rims. Five of the rims are also thickened either internally or externally.
- 6.2.5 Of these more diagnostic sherds, seventeen are considered to be of Early/Middle Iron Age date. These derived from eight vessels and were recovered from pit 10068 and ditches 10202, 10204 and 10207. The most commonly occurring form is paralleled by a jar with an upright expanded rim from Amen Corner, Bracknell (Griffin 2019, 34, fig. 6, no. 1). A rim of a jar from pit 10068 is decorated with incised obtuse lines.
- 6.2.6 The only recognisable sherds of Middle Iron Age date were found in ditch 10204 and belong to a bead rim jar or bowl (6 sherds, 105 g) in sand and organic-tempered fabric. The sherds are in a good condition, but the beaded part of the rim is badly laminated. The form resembles Middle Iron Age vessels from Thames Valley Park (Mephram 1997, 49–50, 66, fig. 38, 36) and Green Park 3 (Morris 2013, 47–50, fig. 3.4, 1) in Reading.

6.2.7 Surface treatments include wiping and smoothing but they were observed on only eight sherds. The rest of the material is significantly abraded, meaning that surface treatments are unlikely to have survived. Decorative motifs are very rare, confined to incised lines and fingertip impression on a rim fragment from ditch 10204. Evidence of vessel use such as sooting was not observed, but again, this could have been destroyed by the high levels of surface abrasion. Post-depositional concretion was present, but it was uncommon.

6.2.8 Overall, the Early/Middle Iron Age pottery shares close affinities with the material from nearby Amen Corner (Griffin 2019) and Jennett's Park, Bracknell (Brown 2009), while the Middle Iron Age pottery is comparable with material from Thames Valley Park (Mephram 1997) and Green Park 3 (Morris 2013) in Reading.

Post-medieval and modern

6.2.9 The post-medieval and modern pottery represents roughly 13 % of the overall assemblage by count and weight (Table 2). The sherds are from the topsoil, subsoil and ditches 604, 2705, 30010, 30041, 30100 and 30104 . The most common is Inkpen-type redware, possibly produced in Inkpen, Berkshire (Hawkes 1997, 125). The rest are widely traded Staffordshire-type wares (Hawkes 1997, 126) and unsourced refined whitewares, while the internationally traded, post-medieval Frechen salt-glazed stoneware sherd was recovered from ditch 30104.

6.3 Fired clay

6.3.1 A small assemblage of un-diagnostic fired clay with no original surfaces surviving was recovered from Iron Age ditches 10111 and 10204 and ring ditch 10200 as well as undated ditch 10202. The fabrics consist of a fine sandy matrix with occasional flint, quartz and ironstone inclusions. It is possible that the fragments derive from hearth or oven linings or furniture.

6.4 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

6.4.1 The CBM assemblage consisted of 67 fragments of peg tile (3,074 g) and 21 pieces of brick (1,365 g), all of post-medieval/modern date. All the pieces show no signs of abrasion and were probably derive from the same source, as the fabric consisted of coarse sandy clay with occasional clay pellets. They were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil in Areas B and C, and ditches 604, 2705, 20100, 30041, 30100, 30101, 30103, 30104 and 30106

6.5 Clay Tobacco Pipe

6.5.1 The clay tobacco pipe fragments consisted of three small pieces (7g) from two plain polished stems that were contained within the fills of ditches 30021 and 30106. The size of the stem fragments suggests a 19th century date.

6.6 Glass

6.6.1 A tiny assemblage of vessel glass fragments were recovered from within ditches 30026, 30106 and 30037. The fragments mainly derive from dark green bottle glass of either later 18th or 19th century date, but the base from a medicine phial was also recovered with bottle glass from ditch 30026.

6.7 Iron

6.7.1 The tapering tip from a potential square-sectioned nail shank of later post-medieval or modern date was found within the subsoil (10002).

6.8 Metalworking debris

- 6.8.1 A small quantity of metalworking debris (2957g) was retrieved from eight contexts within three features. The material is moderately to quite heavily abraded and broken up, all of it likely to be residual in the contexts in which it was found.
- 6.8.2 The slag appears to be entirely iron smelting debris based on visual examination, but diagnostic pieces are scarce. There is an absence of clear pieces of tap slag, although one fragment (from a terminus of penannular ditch 10200) is potentially part of a furnace bottom, this being the largest piece recovered (546 g).
- 6.8.3 The main concentration of slag was in penannular ditch 10200 (10 pieces/2226 g, from fills 10027, 10033 and 10037), with more than one-third (3/862 g) of this from a terminus (fill 10027). Penannular ditch 10205 produced a further 313 g (5 pieces, from fills 10042, 10104 and 10114).
- 6.8.4 An additional 263 g (4 pieces) of slag of similar appearance to the remainder came from undated ditch 10203 (contexts 10100 and 10102), with the slag likely to be residual Iron Age material.
- 6.8.5 The debris is consistent with current knowledge of extensive Iron Age ironworking activity around Wokingham, and the small quantity of probable iron smelting slag recovered from Iron Age (and later) contexts here is not unexpected where several sites in the vicinity have produced large volumes of debris. These have exploited local sources of bog ore and iron pan within the sands and gravels of the Bracklesham Beds. In or around Wokingham one can note, for example, the Iron Age sites of Folly Court, Wokingham with two furnaces and around 800 kg of smelting slag of Middle Iron Age date (Young 2018), and Sadler's End, Sindlesham with 1300 kg of slag of Late Iron Age date (Lewis et al. 2013). A little further away, at Fleet Hill Farm, Finchampstead, 108 kg of Early–Middle Iron Age slag and related smelting evidence was recorded (Hardy 2019).

6.9 Stone

- 6.9.1 The three pieces of stone all consist of unworked lumps of natural iron-pan which were found in ring-ditches 10200 and 10205. None show any obvious signs of working or utilisation and although it is conceivable that they were in some way connected with the iron smelting activities , this is not demonstrable.

6.10 Burnt flint

- 6.10.1 All the burnt flint came from ditch 2504 in evaluation trench 25 in Area 3, but no other finds were recovered from this feature. Burnt flint is intrinsically undatable but is often considered to be indicative of prehistoric activity.

6.11 Animal bone

- 6.11.1 The animal bone has been quantified (22 fragments) and once refits are considered, the total is reduced to six fragments. Bone was recovered from the subsoil in Area B and an Iron Age feature in Area A. The assemblage was rapidly scanned and assessed following current guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019); the results are summarised in the following sections.
- 6.11.2 The unburnt large mammal elements (single axial element) from the subsoil (30002) is poorly preserved, the outer cortical surface peeling and eroded. These factors have removed all surface details such as butchery and gnawing.

- 6.11.3 The five eroded calcined bone fragments from Iron Age pit 10068 comprise undiagnostic pieces of long bone shaft, including a few from medium sized mammals.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 A total of 26 bulk environmental (flotation) samples were taken from the mitigation from a range of pits and ditches which were dated to the Iron Age or were undated.

Table 4 Sample summary

Site code	Area	Phase	No. of samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
295082	A	Iron Age (700 BC to AD 43)	21	310	Pits, ring ditches, ditches
		Undated	5	35	Ditches
295083	5*	Undated	2	49	Pits
Totals	-	-	28	394	-

* Evaluation data (Wessex Archaeology 2025)

7.2 Aims and methods

- 7.2.1 The aim of this assessment is to determine the nature and significance of the environmental remains preserved at the site, and their potential to address the project aims. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with Historic England's guidelines outlined in *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

Sample processing

- 7.2.2 The flotation samples from the mitigation varied between 5 and 39 litres, with an average volume of approximately 13 litres. The samples from the evaluation and mitigation were processed by standard methods on a Siraf-type tank (0.25 mm flot mesh, 1mm residue mesh). Once processed, the residues were dried in a low temperature oven and the flots were air dried. The coarse residue fractions (>4 mm) were sorted by eye for artefactual and environmental remains. Any environmental material extracted from the coarse residue fractions was added to the flots (e.g., charcoal). The fine residue fractions (1–4 mm) were retained for examination alongside the flots.

Assessment methods

- 7.2.3 A stereomicroscope (with up to x40 magnification) was used to examine the flots for charred and uncharred plant macrofossils, charcoal, molluscs and other environmental remains. The fine residue fractions were examined alongside the flots. The presence of other material in the samples was noted where appropriate (e.g., modern rootlets, modern seeds, earthworm eggs, *Cenococcum geophilum* sclerotia).
- 7.2.4 Plant remains were identified through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006). Selected charcoal fragments were identified through examination of the transverse, tangential longitudinal, and radial longitudinal sections at up to 400x magnification. Identifications were undertaken through comparison with Wessex Archaeology's reference collection and identification keys (Gale and Cutler 2000; Hather 2000; Schweingruber 1990). Nomenclature follows Stace (2019) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereal remains. Habitat information has been taken from Stroh *et al.* (2023).

- 7.2.5 All remains were recorded semi-quantitatively on an abundance scale: C = <5 ('Trace'), B = 5–10 ('Rare'), A = 10–30 ('Occasional'), A* = 30–100 ('Frequent'), A** = 100–500 ('Common'), A*** = >500 ('Abundant'). The abundance scale is based on an estimation of the of minimum numbers of individuals (MNI) for each plant part, except where counts of fragments are explicitly stated.

7.3 Results

- 7.3.1 The environmental data from the mitigation assessment and evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2025) are presented in Appendix 1, Table 7. Environmental evidence preserved at the site comprises charred plant remains and charcoal.
- 7.3.2 The flots vary in size and they contain varying concentrations of modern rootlets/modern seeds and other indicators of recent contamination (e.g. earthworm eggs). This suggests that the environmental material in many of the samples is likely to have been re-worked through the soil profiles.
- 7.3.3 Preservation of charred plant remains is generally poor, with fragmentation and distortion common. The charred plant remains include free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*), indeterminate cereals (*Cerealia*), pea/vetch/wild pea (*Vicieae*), grasses (*Poaceae*) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell amongst others.
- 7.3.4 Charcoal presence varies from small quantities to large. Mineral coating appears to have been common, suggesting fluctuating water levels. Where charcoal is present in moderate to large quantities, it has been assessed.

Area A

Iron Age (700 BC to AD 43)

- 7.3.5 Nineteen samples were taken from termini and slots of five ring ditches (10200, 10204, 10205, 10206 and 10207). In the samples from these ditches, only trace quantities of plant remains are present including a free-threshing wheat grain, an indeterminate cereal grain, a cereal culm node, pea/vetch/wild pea seeds, hazel nutshell and charred amorphous remains.
- 7.3.6 Pits 10066 and 10068 both contain indeterminate cereal grain and pit 10066 contains wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains. Pit 10068 contains rare seeds of vetch/wild pea and grasses including rye-grass/brome (*Lolium/Bromus* sp.).
- 7.3.7 Charcoal is mostly present in small quantities; however, it is present in moderate quantities in four samples. It is abundant in one of the samples from ring ditch 10204 (slot 10113) and in the two samples from the pits (10066, 10068). All three samples are similar composition and most of the fragments derive from oak (*Quercus* sp.) stemwood. A small number of charcoal fragments from other taxa are also present, including pieces of alder or hazel (*Alnus/Corylus* sp.). The charcoal is very poor condition.

Undated

- 7.3.8 Two fills from ditch 10107, one from ditch 10203 and two from ditch 10202 were sampled. They contain trace quantities of indeterminate cereal grain, cereal grain fragments, charred amorphous remains, a monocot stem and hazel nutshell. Charcoal is present in small quantities.

Area 5

Undated

- 7.3.9 Moderately well-preserved charcoal is present in high concentrations in the samples from pits 4004 and 4009. No charred plant remains are present in the samples (Wessex Archaeology 2025).

7.4 Discussion

- 7.4.1 The assemblage of charred plant remains is poorly preserved and of local significance only. Charred plant remains, where present, indicate the consumption of cereal crops and hazelnuts in the Iron Age which fits with known evidence for the period (Carruthers and Hunter Dowse 2019). One free-threshing wheat grain was found in Iron Age ring ditch 10403 which would be unusual for the Iron Age. Spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) is known to distort when charred meaning that this could be spelt wheat, which would be more usual for the Iron Age. Alternatively, the free-threshing wheat could be intrusive, since this feature also contained a moderate amount of modern rooting, uncharred seeds and earthworm eggs. The very scarce non-cereal plants found were typical arable weeds, such as vetch/wild pea and grasses.
- 7.4.2 A large quantity of charcoal was recovered from ring ditch 10204 and two nearby pits (10066, 10068), mainly consisting of fragments of oak stemwood. It appears that these features contain concentrated dumps of fuel debris, and the material is likely to have been raked out from nearby ovens or kilns. Oak has traditionally been used as a fuel source for a range of industrial and craft-based processes, notably metalworking (Gale 2003). Charcoal was found in large quantities in undated pits 4004 and 4009 which were investigated during the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2025). These features were interpreted as potentially early medieval/medieval charcoal production pits, although their precise dating would need to be confirmed through radiocarbon dating.

8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

8.1 Stratigraphic potential

- 8.1.1 Overall, the stratigraphic remains are well understood. More nuanced phasing within the areas, particularly Area A may be feasible during analysis.
- 8.1.2 Excavation of Area A was successful in identifying and investigating archaeological remains from the Iron Age, post-medieval and modern periods. The simple, shallow sequence of stratigraphic deposits in Area A were found to be consistent, and to have survived in a good state of preservation. A phasing sequence of the archaeological remains in Area A has been established by the SMS, but the paucity of diagnostic artefacts renders the dating of the sequence to be broad.
- 8.1.3 The most significant features of the excavation were the Area A penannular ring ditches and associated shallow, semi-circular ditches which appear to represent the remains of an Iron Age farmstead or small settlement. The settlement occupied a modest but significantly drier spur of higher ground, elevated above the more saturated soils to the north, south and west. Further potential may lay in the analysis of the localised topography, and previous archaeological evaluation results, with the initial results indicating that the spur of higher ground continues to the east of Area A, with Britton's Farm sited upon its apex. Evaluation trench 108 (Oxford Archaeology 2017), recorded a pit with Middle Iron Age pottery and metal working debris approximately 40 m north-west of Area A. The evaluation results indicate that this pit likely lay at the north-western edge of the associated with Iron Age

settlement. Further ferrous metalworking residues were collected from the Area A penannular ditches confirming that smelting was ongoing on the site during this period.

- 8.1.4 Stratigraphic evidence from Area B and Area C indicates that the subsoil and topsoil deposits contained post-medieval and modern material, and overlay the modern field boundary ditches, indicating that they had been significantly disturbed, presumably due to agricultural activity. The stratified alluvial layer was recorded at the base of soil profile, having been deposited across the lower ground at the south end of Area B and throughout Area C, within a topographic depression.
- 8.1.5 Excavation of Area B and Area C investigated a series of field system ditches which were for the majority demonstrated to date from the post-medieval period onwards.

8.2 Finds potential

- 8.2.1 The assessment results indicate that most material types survive moderately well, although the animal bone is very poorly preserved. A fairly broad range of material culture was recovered, but no items of particular intrinsic interest are included. The more chronologically diagnostic finds have already provided a chronological framework for the archaeological features and deposits through the spot-dating of contexts.
- 8.2.2 This chronological evidence indicates Iron Age settlement activity probably associated iron-smelting, represented by the material collected from pits 10066 and 10068, ditches 10111, 10204 and 10207, and ring ditches 10200 and 10205. Such metalworking is not unexpected in this area; several sites in the vicinity have produced large volumes of waste (e.g. Young 2018; Lewis et al. 2013), utilising the local bog ore and iron pan found within the sands and gravels of the Bracklesham Beds.
- 8.2.3 The fabrics and forms present in the Iron Age pottery assemblage are also comparable with those from other similarly dated sites within the surrounding landscape, at Bracknell (Brown 2009; Griffin 2019) and on the outskirts of Reading (Mephram 1997; Morris 2013), for example. Most of the burnt flint derives from Iron Age ditch fills and may be associated with the metalworking waste and fired clay fragments, possibly from broken furnaces or ovens.
- 8.2.4 The post-medieval /modern finds came from the topsoil and subsoil of trench 17 and Areas B and C and ditches 604, 2705, 20100, 30010, 30041, 30100, 30101, 30103, 30104 and 30106. All these finds are common types and probably relate to the agricultural use of the landscape.

8.3 Environmental potential

- 8.3.1 The poor preservation and paucity of charred plant remains means that these samples have limited potential for further research.
- 8.3.2 There is limited potential to examine the charcoal assemblage further due to the poor condition of the material. Most of the fragments were heavily mineral-coated, and it will be difficult to identify some of the taxa present and to record other features in detail. However, the charcoal-rich dumps in ring ditch 10204, pit 10066 and pit 10068 contain material which is suitable for radiocarbon dating and material from pit 10066 and ditch 10204 should be used to refine the site phasing.

8.4 Radiocarbon dating

- 8.4.1 Radiocarbon dates could be obtained on short-life charcoal from two of the pits (4004, 4009) investigated during the evaluation to determine if these features are associated with the

production of charcoal in the earlier medieval/medieval period, or if they reflect earlier activity at the site.

8.5 Summary of potential

- 8.5.1 The site has the potential to add to the corpus of knowledge about the Early/ Middle Iron Age within Berkshire. The potential of the site to increase our understanding of the Early/ Middle Iron Age settlement, both as an isolated settlement and in comparison to similar sites within the locality.

9 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

9.1 Updated project aims

- 9.1.1 The aims of the works proposed below will be to recommend an appropriate level of analysis of the results which will allow for the results to be set within their regional context, with the results disseminated as a short paper in the regional archaeological journal.

9.2 Stratigraphic evidence – recommendations for analysis

- 9.2.1 The most significant features of the excavation were the Area A penannular ring ditches and associated shallow, semi-circular ditches which appear to represent the remains of an Iron Age farmstead or small settlement. The settlement occupied a modest but significantly drier spur of higher ground, elevated above the more saturated soils to the north, south and west. Further potential may lay in the analysis of the localised topography, and previous archaeological evaluation results, with the initial results indicating that the spur of higher ground continues to the east of Area A, with Britton's Farm sited upon its apex. Evaluation trench 108 (Oxford Archaeology 2017), recorded a pit with Middle Iron Age pottery and metal working debris approximately 40 m north-west of Area A. The evaluation results indicate that this pit likely lay at the north-western edge of the associated with Iron Age settlement. Further ferrous metalworking residues were collected from the Area A penannular ditches confirming that smelting was ongoing on the site during this period.
- 9.2.2 Comparison with similar settlements, such as Elms Field (Wessex Archaeology 2019b) may yield further knowledge about these Early/Middle Iron Age site, which are scarce in the Wokingham area.
- 9.2.3 There is limited potential for analysing the field boundaries recorded in the three areas with those from post-medieval maps. The cartographic evidence may provide a closer date range for these features.

9.3 Finds evidence – recommendations for analysis

- 9.3.1 The finds have all been recorded to the recommended minimum standards for the archiving of archaeological finds, but some additional analysis is required to enable a more informed discussion of the chronology of the site, as well as to set the assemblages more firmly within their local and regional context. These elements are considered by material type below.
- 9.3.2 The pottery has been recorded in accordance with the 'Basic Record' level of analysis recommended in the national guidelines (Barclay et al 2016, 16-17). It is however, recommended that the records for the Iron Age sherds are augmented and enhanced where appropriate by the results of a further literature search, so that the assemblage can be firmly placed within its local and regional context. A summary report should then be prepared for publication, with provision made for the illustration of up to 5 vessels.



- 9.3.3 No further work is recommended for the remaining artefacts (post-medieval/modern pottery, fired clay, CBM, clay tobacco pipe, glass, metal-working residues, stone, burnt flint and animal bone) but the information gathered as part of this assessment will be adapted for use in the future publication.

9.4 Environmental evidence – recommendations for analysis

- 9.4.1 No further work is required for the samples from this assessment since this would not significantly add to the information outlined in this assessment report. However, the results should be updated once final phasing has been established for the site and incorporated with any other data from the site. A summary of the results should be included in any subsequent publication. This should be accompanied by radiocarbon dating.

9.5 Radiocarbon dating recommendations

- 9.5.1 Four radiocarbon dates should be obtained from short life charcoal from pit 10066 and ditch section 10113 from area A in order to improve site phasing.
- 9.5.2 Two radiocarbon dates should be obtained from short life charcoal from one of the pits in area 5 (4004, 4009) investigated during the evaluation in order to date the potential charcoal production pit.

Table 5 Recommended radiocarbon dating submissions.

Area	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Material	Rationale
A	Ditch	10113	10114	10204	WHMP_27	Shortlife charcoal x 2	Improve site phasing
A	Pit	10066	10067	10066	WHMP_16	Shortlife charcoal x 2	Improve site phasing
5	Pit	40009	40010	40009	WHMP_4002	Shortlife charcoal x 2	Date potential charcoal pit Improve site phasing.

9.6 Proposals for publication

- 9.6.1 The results from the archaeological investigations are of local and regional interest. Based on this it is proposed that the results are presented in a short paper in the specialist regional journal Berkshire Archaeology Journal.

Working title:

A small Iron Age Settlement at Britton's Farm, Wokingham

by Rachel Williams and Arthur Hollinrake, with specialist contributions

Introduction	500 words
Results	2000 words
Finds reports	1000 words
Environmental reports	1500 words
Discussion	1000 words

Total: approximately 6000 words, 3 figures, 3 tables (10-12 pages)



9.7 Programme for analysis and publication

- 9.7.1 Analysis and publication will commence when this document and the proposals therein have been approved by the Principal Archaeologist at Berkshire Archaeology, on behalf of the LPA, and the work has been commissioned in full by Balfour Beatty.
- 9.7.2 Typically, the analysis and publication programme for a project of this scale and complexity will take around twelve months but will vary depending on the availability of specialists and external laboratories. A project-specific programme will be developed and agreed at the time of commission.

9.8 Personnel and resources

- 9.8.1 The following Wessex Archaeology core staff are scheduled to undertake the work as outlined in the task list for post-excavation analysis and publication (Table 6).

Table 6 Task list

Task no.	Task description
Management and support	
1	Project management
2	Project monitor and QA
3	Finds management
4	Environmental management
Pre-analysis	
5	Check phasing and grouping, update site database
6	Digitisation of selected drawings
7	Geomatics/GIS support
8	Project meetings
9	Background research
10	Sampling for radiocarbon dating
Analysis and specialist reporting	
Stratigraphic	
11	Stratigraphic analysis and reporting
Finds	
12	Pottery analysis and reporting
13	All remaining finds reporting
14	Illustrations: finds
Environmental	
15	Update and final reporting
Scientific dating	
16	Radiocarbon dates
17	Radiocarbon reporting
Report compilation	
18	Introduction and background
19	Compile and integrate report
20	Discussion
21	Bibliography
22	Captions (figures and tables)
23	Prepare brief for illustrations
24	Prepare illustrations
25	Edit report

Task no.	Task description
26	Revise report following journal review
27	Check proofs
28	Journal publication cost
Archiving	
29	Third-party liaison
30	Archive preparation
31	Archive scan
32	Finds archive check
33	Environmental archive check
34	Digital archive preparation
35	Physical archive storage
36	Digital archive deposition
37	ADS fee

9.9 Management structure

- 9.9.1 The team will be headed by a Project Manager, who will assume ultimate responsibility for the execution of the project as outlined in the Updated Project Design. The Project Manager will ensure performance targets are met within the agreed timetable.
- 9.9.2 The Project Manager may delegate specific aspects of the project to other key staff, who will supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. They may also liaise with external consultants and specialists who are contributing to the publication, and the recipient museum of the project archive.
- 9.9.3 The Project Manager will be assisted by the Senior Research Manager, who will ensure that the report meets internal quality standards as defined in Wessex Archaeology's guidelines.

10 STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 Museum

- 10.1.1 The archive is currently held in the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. The site falls within an area where there is currently no collecting museum. Every effort will be made to identify a suitable repository for the archive resulting from the fieldwork, and if this is not possible, Wessex Archaeology will initiate discussions with the local planning authority in an attempt to resolve the issue. If no suitable repository is identified, Wessex Archaeology will continue to store the archive but may institute a charge to the client for ongoing storage beyond a set period.

10.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

- 10.2.1 The physical archive will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; ClfA 2014b; SMA 1995).
- 10.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 7 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 5 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics
- 1 x-ray plate

Digital archive

- 10.2.3 The digital archive, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata. Full details of the collection, processing and documentation of digital data are given in the project data management plan (DMP; Appendix 2).

10.3 Selection strategy

- 10.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.
- 10.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy: available on request) and follows ClfA's (n.d. b) *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.
- 10.3.3 Detailed selection proposals for the complete project archive, comprising finds, environmental material and site records (analogue and digital), are made in the site-specific selection strategy (Appendix 3).

10.4 Security copy

- 10.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., Brown 2011), on completion of the project, a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file.

10.5 OASIS

- 10.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 4). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Principal Archaeologist at Berkshire Archaeology on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.



11 COPYRIGHT

11.1 Archive and report copyright

- 11.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

11.2 Third party data copyright

- 11.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Environmental Data

Table 7 Assessment of the environmental evidence

Abundance scale: C = <5 ('Trace'), B = 5–10 ('Rare'), A = 10–30 ('Occasional'), A* = 30–100 ('Frequent'), A** = 100–500 ('Common'), A*** = >500 ('Abundant').
CAM = charred amorphous remains. C = recommended for charcoal analysis.

Area	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Charred plant remains				Charcoal		Other
									Grain	Chaff	Other	Notes	Charcoal vol. >2mm (ml)	Notes	
A	Pit	10068	10069	10068	WMHP_15	9	400	modern rooting (1%), modern seeds (C)	C	-	C	Grain: <i>Triticum</i> sp., Triticeae; Other: CAM;	385	Mainly <i>Quercus</i> sp., mineral-coated	-
A	Pit	10066	10067	10066	WMHP_16	9	300	modern rooting (1%), earth worm eggs (C)	C	-	B	Grain: Triticeae, Triticeae fragments; Other: Viciae, Poaceae, <i>Lolium/Bromus</i> sp.;	270	Mainly <i>Quercus</i> sp., but a few fragments of <i>Alnus/Corylus</i> /roundwood – mineral-coated	-
A	Ditch	10107	10110	10107	WMHP_25	7	5	modern rooting (5%), modern seeds(A)	-	-	-	-	<1	mineral-coated	-
A	Ditch	10107	10109	10107	WMHP_26	5	2	modern rooting (5%)	-	-	C	Other: CAM;	<1	mineral-coated	slag
A	Ring ditch terminus	10028	10030	10200	WMHP_5	8	20	modern rooting (50%), modern seeds (B), earth worm eggs (B), fungal sclerotia (A*)	C	-	C	Grain: Triticeae; Other: <i>Corylus avellana</i> shell fragment;	<1	mineral-coated	-
A	Ring ditch terminus	10026	10027	10200	WMHP_7	9	125	modern rooting (10%), modern seeds (C), fungal sclerotia (A***)	C	-	-	Grain: Triticeae fragments;	65	mineral-coated	-
A	Ring ditch section	10034	10035	10200	WMHP_8	10	75	modern rooting (20%), modern seeds (C), earthworm eggs (A)	C	-	-	Grain: Triticeae fragments;	20	mineral-coated	-
A	Ring ditch section	10036	10037	10200	WMHP_9	10	150	modern rooting (10%),	C	-	-	Grain: Triticeae fragments;	85	mineral-coated	-
A	Ditch	10072	10073	10202	WMHP_17	5	30	modern rooting (30%), earthworm eggs (B), fungal)	C	-	C	Grain: Triticeae; Other: cf. <i>Corylus avellana</i> ;	15	mineral-coated	-
A	Ditch	10076	10077	10202	WMHP_18	9	30	modern rooting (70%), modern seeds (C), fungal sclerotia (A)	-	-	C	Other: cf. Poaceae stem;	<1	mineral-coated	-



Area	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Charred plant remains				Charcoal		Other
									Grain	Chaff	Other	Notes	Charcoal vol. >2mm (ml)	Notes	
A	Ditch	10101	10102	10203	WMHP_21	9	25	modern rooting (50%)	C	-	C	Grain: Triticeae fragments; Other: CAM;	7	mineral-coated	slag
A	Ring ditch section	10090	10091	10204	WMHP_19	10	60	modern rooting (30%), modern seeds (A)	C	-	-	Grain: Triticeae fragments;	19	mineral-coated	-
A	Ring ditch section	10103	10104	10204	WMHP_22	36	60	modern rooting (60%), modern seeds (B), fungal sclerotia (A**)	C	-	B	Grain: Triticeae; Other: <i>Corylus avellana</i> nutshell, Poaceae, CAM;	16	mineral-coated	slag
A	Ring ditch section	10113	10114	10204	WMHP_27	39	500	modern rooting (1%), earth worm eggs (B), modern seeds (A*)	C	-	A	Grain: Triticeae fragments; Other: <i>Corylus avellana</i> shell fragments, CAM;	475	mainly <i>Quercus</i> sp., heavily mineral-coated	-
A	Ring ditch section	10040	10041 / 10042	10205	WMHP_10	10	20	modern rooting (20%), earth worm eggs (C), modern seeds (A)	C	C	-	Grain: Triticeae fragments; Chaff: cf. culm node;	1	mineral-coated	-
A	Ring ditch section	10043	10044/ 10045	10205	WMHP_11	10	30	modern rooting (30%), modern seeds (A), earth worm eggs (A)	C	-	-	Grain: <i>Triticum aestivum/compactum</i> ;	4	mineral-coated	-
A	Ring ditch section	10046	10047 / 10048	10205	WMHP_12	9	15	modern rooting (30%), worm eggs (C),	C	-	-	Grain: Triticeae fragments;	3	mineral-coated	-
A	Ring ditch terminus	10049	10050 / 10051	10205	WMHP_13	8	60	modern rooting (20%), earthworm eggs (A)	-	-	-	-	30	mineral-coated	-
A	Ring ditch terminus	10052	10054	10205	WMHP_14	8	20	modern rooting (20%), modern seeds (B), modern insects (C), fungal sclerotia (A*)	C	-	C	Grain: Triticeae fragments; Other: CAM;	4	mineral-coated	-
A	Ring ditch section	10040	10042	10205	WMHP_23	35	100	modern rooting (70%), modern seeds (A*), fungal sclerotia (A***)	C	-	B	Grain: Triticeae fragments; Other: <i>Corylus avellana</i> nutshell, Viciae, CAM;	18	mineral-coated	-
A	Ring ditch section	10040	10041	10205	WMHP_24	38	50	modern rooting (70%)	C	-	-	Grain: Triticeae fragments;	2	mineral-coated	-
A	Ring ditch section	10015	10016	10206	WMHP_6	18	40	modern rooting (70%)	C	-	C	Grain: Triticeae; Other: <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.;	1	mineral-coated	-
A	Ring ditch terminus	10004	10005	10207	WMHP_1	9	10	modern rooting (10%), modern seeds (C), fungal sclerotia (A)	C	-	-	Grain: Triticeae frags;	1	mineral-coated	-



Area	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Charred plant remains				Charcoal		Other
									Grain	Chaff	Other	Notes	Charcoal vol. >2mm (ml)	Notes	
A	Ring ditch section	10006	10007	10207	WMHP_2	10	50	modern rooting (20%), modern insects (B), earth worm eggs (B), modern seeds (C)	C	-	-	Grain: Triticeae;	45	mineral-coated	-
A	Ring ditch section	10008	10009	10207	WMHP_3	10	40	modern rooting (20%), worm eggs (C)	C	-	C	Grain: Triticeae; Other: CAM;	20	mineral-coated	-
A	Ring ditch terminus	10010	10011	10207	WMHP_4	5	25	modern rooting (10%), earthworm eggs (B)	C	-	C	Grain: Triticeae; Other: CAM, <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.;	15	mineral-coated	-
5	Pit	4004	4005	4004	WHMP_40 01	16	150	modern rooting (5%), uncharred (modern) seeds (C)	-	-	-	-	125	Moderate condition, some heavily mineral-coated pieces, some large >10mm	
5	Pit	4009	4010	4009	WHMP_40 02	33	5000	modern rooting (5%)	-	-	-	-	1500	Moderate condition, some heavily mineral-coated pieces, some large >10mm	Burnt stone frags (A)



Appendix 2 Data management plan

DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Section 1: Project administration/details

Project name		
Wokingham Major Highways Programme, South Wokingham Distributor Road, Berkshire		
Wessex Archaeology project number(s)		
• 295081 • 295082 • 295083 • 295084		
External references		
Local Planning Authority and planning reference(s): Wokingham Borough Council Planning Ref. 192928		
Project description		
Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned to produce a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for a proposed archaeological Strip, Map and Sample excavation (SMS) of three areas totalling 1.25 ha located south of Wokingham, between Waterloo Road in the east (NGR 482954 167870) and Finchampstead Road in the west (NGR 480933 167875). Following the results of the previously undertaken evaluation works, which highlighted possible Iron Age activity within Area 1 and a concentration of largely undated agricultural activity within Area 3 further archaeological mitigation of these areas has been deemed necessary. Area A will be located within Area 1, and Areas B and C will be located within Area 3.		
Client		
Balfour Beatty 3rd Floor Denmark Court 18 Market Place Wokingham Berkshire RG40 1AL		
Project manager		
• Fieldwork: John Davey, Project Manager, Wessex Archaeology • Post-excavation: Steve Beach, Wessex Archaeology		
Principal investigator/researcher		
• Site director: Arthur Hollinrake, Wessex Archaeology • Principal report writer: Rachel Williams, Wessex Archaeology		
Data contact person		
• Jess Irwin, Senior Archives Officer, Wessex Archaeology		
Version control		
Issue	Date	Description/summary of revisions

1	17/03/2025	DMP created
2	26/02/2026	DMP updated for PXA and UPD
Related documents, data management policies and guidance		
Project design/project-specific documentation - Wessex Archaeology 2025. <i>Wokingham Major Highways Programme, South Wokingham Distributor Road, Berkshire. Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. Unpublished report ref. 295082.01. - Project-specific Selection Strategy. Unpublished report ref. 295082.02. - Wessex Archaeology 2024. <i>Wokingham Major Highways Programme, South Wokingham Distributor Road, Berkshire. Archaeological Evaluation Report</i>. Unpublished client report ref. 295081.3 - Wessex Archaeology 2026/ <i>Wokingham Major Highways Programme- South Wokingham Distributor Road. Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design</i>		
Wessex Archaeology guidance, standards, policy and procedures - Fieldwork/recording manuals - Survey guide - Photography guide - Context/finds/environmental database and software user guides - Style guide for reporting - Archive preparation manual - Project Management System end user manual - Project Management System project management and accounting manual - Quality Management System (QMS) policy, manual and process procedures - Data protection and security policy and procedures (https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/our-privacy-policy) - Data policies and procedures - Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) policy/procedures		
External/national standards and guidance This DMP has been compiled with reference to: - Archaeology Data Service [ADS] 2013. <i>Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice</i>. Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice. Oxford: Oxbow Books. - Archaeology Data Service [ADS] 2023. <i>Selection and appraisal of data</i>, https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/help-guidance/how-to-prepare-data/selection-guidance/ (accessed 10/12/2023). - Brown, D. H. 2011. <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer, and curation</i> (2nd edition). Reading: Institute of Field Archaeologists/Archaeological Archives Forum. - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [CIfA] 2014 (revised October 2020). <i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [CIfA] 2014 (revised October 2020). <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation, and research of archaeological materials</i>. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [CIfA] 2023. <i>Universal Guidance for Archaeological Excavation</i>. Reading: CIfA.		

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [CIfA] n.d. *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*, <https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit> (accessed 10/12/2023).
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [CIfA] n.d. *Toolkit for Managing Digital Data*, <https://www.archaeologists.net/digdigital> (accessed 10/12/2023).
- Digital Curation Centre [DCC] 2023. *Data Management Plans*, <https://www.dcc.ac.uk/resources/data-management-plans> (accessed 10/12/2023)
- English Heritage 2012. *MIDAS: the UK Historic Environment Data Standard Version 1.1. Best practice guidelines*. Forum on Information Standards in Heritage (FISH).
- Forster, M. 2019. *Work Digital/Think Archive. A Guide to Managing Digital Data Generated from Archaeological Investigations*. Historic England, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and DigVentures.
- Historic England 2015. *Digital Image Capture and File Storage*. Swindon: Historic England.
- Whyte, A. and Wilson, A. 2010. *How to Appraise & Select Research Data for Curation* (revised 15/08/16, v.1.1). Edinburgh: Digital Curation Centre. <https://www.dcc.ac.uk/guidance/how-guides/appraise-select-data> (accessed 10/12/2023).

Section 2: Data collection/creation

Data to be collected/created

Data types that may be collected/created as part of this project are tabulated below.

Detail on data types/formats/quantities intended for deposition will be added to this DMP as the project progresses; archive quantities will be specified prior to deposition.

Type	Format	Archive quantity
Digital pro forma site records (context sheets, environmental sample records, trench sheets etc)	PDF (deposited in .pdf and converted to .pdf/a by ADS)	tbc
Spreadsheets (stratigraphic/contextual data, specialist data tables, metadata tables etc)	MS Excel (.xlsx, deposited in .xlsx and converted to .csv by ADS) and/or .csv	tbc
Spatial/survey data	ESRI shapefile (.shp, .shx and .dbf, plus associated files)	tbc
Site photographs (record, working and condition monitoring)	Raster image file (.jpeg)	tbc
Digital security copy scans of site permatrace drawings (plan and section drawings)	Raster image file (.tiff or .jpeg)	tbc
Digital security copy scans of paper site registers/records (context index, finds and samples registers, photo register, drawing register etc)	PDF (deposited in .pdf and converted to .pdf/a by ADS)	tbc
Grey literature/client reports (e.g., Project Design/Written Scheme of Investigation, Post-excavation assessment and Updated Project Design) and individual specialist reports	MS Word (.docx, compiled and converted to .pdf at each issue, final versions deposited in .pdf and converted to .pdf/a by ADS)	tbc

How data will be collected/created

Data standards, collection/creation methods, storage and file naming

Data will be collected/created in accordance with the Project Design and Wessex Archaeology's internal guidance, standards, policies and procedures, as informed by relevant best practice guidance and standards (see Section 1).

Wessex Archaeology uses standardised procedures for:

- data capture through site recording, survey and photography
- data processing and management
- post-excavation (e.g., specialist finds and environmental) data recording
- digital archive preparation (including metadata creation)

Data collected/created during the project will preferentially employ standardised file formats and be version controlled in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's standard procedures.

Standardised project folder structures are used to organise and compartmentalise project-specific data held on Wessex Archaeology's servers.

Standardised file naming conventions, which include unique identifiers, are used for site records and photographs, geospatial/survey data and project/client reports. For example:

- Context record: *WA_ProjectNumber_ContextNumber_Context_Record.pdf*
- Site photographs: *ProjectNumber_CameraNumber_Timestamp_ImageNumber.jpeg*
- Post-excavation assessment report: *ProjectNumber_SiteName_PXA.docx/.pdf*

To facilitate data sharing and promote long-term future re-use, deposition file formats will be of archival standard, open-source and accessible in nature (e.g., standardised, openly documented and, where possible, non-proprietary), following national guidance (see Section 1) and the requirements of the Trusted Digital Repository (see Section 6).

Quality Assurance

Wessex Archaeology is registered as an archaeological organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and fully endorses its *Code of Conduct* and *Regulations for Professional Conduct*.

Wessex Archaeology is an ISO 9001 accredited organisation (certificate number FS 606559), independently audited by the British Standard Institution (BSI), confirming the operation of a Quality Management System that complies with the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 – covering professional archaeological and heritage advice and services.

Project data is subject to quality control/checking at multiple stages, from collection/creation through to preparation of the archive for deposition, in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Quality Management System (see Section 1).

Devices used in data collection are regularly maintained, calibrated and checked to ensure they are in full working order.

Section 3: Documentation and metadata

Documentation and metadata

Data collected/created as part of the project will preferentially employ standard formats that maximise opportunities for use and re-use (see Section 2).

Archived data will be accompanied by metadata in line with Archaeology Data Service (ADS) guidance. The metadata will be created automatically and/or manually during data collection/creation and preparation of the archive for deposition.

Where archives are suitable for ADS 'easy' deposition, Collection Level Metadata will be automatically applied on deposition from the associated OASIS record. A Collection Level Metadata Summary will be completed prior to deposition for projects requiring 'bespoke' ADS deposition; this will combine the overarching project details and a register of data types and number of objects included in the archive, along with all other archive components.

Metadata tables will be populated using the standard format for each data type as recommended by the ADS.

A catalogue documenting the contents of the physical and digital archive will be deposited with the Museum and Trusted Digital Repository (see Section 6).

Data documentation will meet the requirements of the Museum and Trusted Digital Repository.

Section 4: Ethics and legal compliance

Management of ethical, copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues

Wessex Archaeology has policies and procedures for dealing with personal information that meet the requirements of the *Data Protection Act 2018* (see Section 1). These detail what information Wessex Archaeology collects, the purpose of collecting this data, how it will be processed, stored, transferred and disposed of. Any sensitive data will be handled according to Wessex Archaeology data policy to ensure it is stored and transferred securely. The identity of individuals will be protected in line with the *General Data Protection Regulation* (GDPR). If required, data will be anonymised and redacted. Selection and retention of sensitive data for archival purposes will occur in consultation with the client and other relevant stakeholders. Confidential data will not be selected for archiving and will be handled as per contractual obligations.

The full copyright of the project archive will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. Formal agreement to include data from external specialists and contractors is secured on the engagement of the specialist or contractor. The project archive (including project reports) may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

Deposit licences will be agreed with the Museum and Trusted Digital Repository (see Section 6) before data is deposited.

Permissions and/or licence agreements linked with data sharing (see Section 7) will form part of the project archive.

Section 5: Storage and backup

Data access, storage and backup

Risks to data security are managed in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's data policies and procedures (see Section 1).

Wessex Archaeology office networks are secured behind managed firewalls that are upgraded, updated, and reviewed on a regular basis. Access to data is strictly controlled through security rights, authentication complexity protocols and controlled access requests.

Collaboration with external parties, where required, will be enabled via data access and sharing protocols that do not jeopardise data security. External specialists and contractors will be provided only with necessary files/data, using permissions-based access.

Data storage and backup procedures used by Wessex Archaeology to manage and secure working project archives are integral to standard project data collection/creation methods; see details in Section 2.

Wessex Archaeology also implement various levels of backup and disaster recovery. Daily, weekly, monthly and annual backups and data replication are carried out. Wessex Archaeology is Cyber Essentials certificated.

Section 6: Selection and preservation

Data to be retained, shared and/or preserved

Not all digital data will be archived. In order to create a high quality, sustainable, concise and easily intelligible archive, all data will undergo a process of selection prior to deposition, as detailed in the project-specific Selection Strategy (see Section 1).

The Selection Strategy and DMP will be updated at project review points (e.g., at each stage of reporting and before deposition). Each iteration of the Selection Strategy and DMP will be finalised in agreement with the client and other project stakeholders. Where relevant, copies of the Selection Strategy and DMP will be included in project reports as appendices. The final versions of the Selection Strategy and DMP will be included in the deposited archive.

Selection will be informed by the Project Design (see Section 1), defined against the project research aims, regional and national research frameworks, specialist advice and the significance of the project results. The selected contents of the archive will be commensurate with their potential for re-use, future research and public benefit, and subject to any restrictions on data sharing (see Section 7) and considerations of financial and environmental sustainability.

Data selected for archiving will be converted to deposition file formats as required (see Section 2).

The data archive will be ordered, with files named and structured in a logical manner, and accompanied by relevant documentation and metadata, as outlined in Sections 2 and 3.

The project is expected to provide information suitable for inclusion in the Historic Environment Record (HER) (e.g., for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process).

With the agreement of project stakeholders, the data archive for projects with negative archaeological results will consist of the approved report(s) and a limited selection of images, deposited with ADS via OASIS.

Long-term preservation plan for the dataset

The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), which is a Trusted Digital Repository with Core Trust Seal.

The site falls within an area where there is currently no collecting museum. Upon identification of a suitable final repository for the physical archive, copies of files forming part of the digital archive will also be transferred to them on request.

Approved client/grey literature reports will be made available via OASIS and supplied directly, on request, to the Historic Environment Record (HER).

Contact with intended data repository

The ADS will be contacted prior to deposition of the digital archive where necessary (e.g., for projects requiring 'bespoke' deposition).

The final repository for the physical archive, once determined, will be contacted to ascertain their requirements for its content and delivery.

Archiving costs

Archiving costs will be reviewed at appropriate stages during the creation and implementation of the (iterative) Project Design (see Section 1), and quotes obtained from the intended data repository where relevant.

The resources required to implement the archiving strategy agreed with project stakeholders will be subject to contractual arrangements.

Section 7: Data sharing and accessibility

Data sharing plan

The project results will be disseminated through grey literature/client reports and, where appropriate, publication – the format and scope of which will be agreed with the client and other project stakeholders as detailed in the relevant iteration of the Project Design (see Section 1). The location of the project archive will be included in grey literature/client reports and publications.

Subject to stakeholder agreement, the project results may also be shared via a range of accessible media and portals.

The ADS will disseminate the deposited digital archive under its Terms of Use and Access, data sharing guidelines and deposition licence, and the dataset will receive a unique identifier Digital Object Identifier (DOI).

An OASIS form will be completed for each phase of work associated with the project. Alternatively, details relating to individual phases of work will be collated under a single OASIS entry. The location(s) of the archive will be added to OASIS on deposition. Approved versions of client/grey literature reports will be uploaded to the associated OASIS record(s).

Digital copies of approved client/grey literature reports will be made available to the Historic Environment Record (HER) through OASIS. Geospatial/survey data forming part of the digital archive will be supplied, on request, to the HER.

Copies of files forming part of the digital archive will also be transferred to the Museum on request.

Data sharing restrictions

Data sharing will be subject to any restrictions identified in consultation with the client and other project stakeholders, e.g., those linked with client confidentiality, contractual obligations, commercial sensitivities, copyright/Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), legal compliance, ethical issues, security concerns and any other restrictions or sensitivities (see Section 4).

Exclusive use of the data may be required for limited periods where client approval is required, or longer term, dependent on the nature of sensitivities or restrictions identified with project stakeholders. A data sharing agreement (or equivalent) will be adhered to via a deposition licence. Agreed restrictions on data sharing will be documented through updates to the DMP and within the project archive.

Section 8: Responsibilities

Responsibilities

Project team

- Project manager(s): responsible for overseeing all aspects of the project from initiation to completion, including the implementation of the DMP and ensuring it is revised at relevant stages
- Project team members: responsible for data collection/creation, uploading/transfer and quality control (assured by the Project Manager)
- Core members of the project team are detailed in the Project Design (see Section 1)

Organisational-level responsibilities

- Archives team: responsible for preparation (including metadata production) and deposition of the project archive (including implementation of the approved Selection Strategy and DMP)
- Geomatics team: responsible for processing and quality control of geospatial (e.g., survey) and photogrammetric data, and maintenance of data collection equipment (e.g., cameras and survey instruments)
- IT team: responsible for development, maintenance/operation and support of the company's IT infrastructure (including data storage and backup facilities)



Appendix 3 Selection strategy

SELECTION STRATEGY

Project Information

Project name		
Wokingham Major Highways – South Wokingham Distributor Road, Wokingham, Berkshire		
Project code(s)		
295080, 295081, 295082, 295083, 295084		
Version control		
Issue	Date	Description/summary of revisions
1	17/03/2025	Selection strategy created
2	26/02/2026	Revised at project review/assessment/reporting stage
3	tbc	Revised at archiving stage
Project management		
Organisation	Wessex Archaeology (WA)	
Project Manager	Fieldwork: John Davey Post-excavation: Steve Beach	
Archaeological Manager(s)	Archive	Jessica Irwin
Stakeholders		Date Contacted
Collecting Institution(s)	No collecting museum Archaeology Data Service	
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Lead: Arthur Hollinrake / Rachel Williams Assurance: John Davey / Steve Beach	N/A
Landowner / Developer	Wokingham Borough Council	
Local planning authority (LPA) curatorial service / archaeological advisor	Principal Archaeologist at Berkshire Archaeology	
Other (external)	N/A	
Other (internal)	WA Finds Manager (Rachael Seager Smith) WA Environmental Manager (Sander Aerts) WA Geomatics Manager (Chris Breeden) WA finds and environmental specialists (see project design/WSI)	N/A; briefed as part of standard project process
Resources		
Resources required	WA finds and environmental specialists; external finds and environmental specialists (where applicable); WA archives team	

Context

This overarching selection strategy document is based on the ClfA (n.d.) *Archives Selection Toolkit* and relates to archaeological project work being undertaken by Wessex Archaeology as defined in the project design/WSI(s).

Relevant standards, policies and guidelines consulted include:

General

- Archaeological Archives Forum [AAF] 2011. *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (revised edition).
- Society of Museum Archaeologists [SMA] 1993. *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections*. London: Society of Museum Archaeologists.

Relevant research agendas

- Hey, G. and Hind, J. 2014. *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment Resource Assessments and Research Agendas*. Project Report. Oxford Wessex.

Finds

- Barclay, A., Knight, D., Booth, P., Evans, J., Brown, D. H., and Wood, I. 2016. *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology*. PCRG, SGRP and MPRG.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [ClfA] 2014 (revised October 2020). *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation, and research of archaeological materials*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Environmental

- English Heritage 2008. *Guidelines for the Curation of Waterlogged Macroscopic Plant and Invertebrate Remains*. Swindon: English Heritage.
- Historic England 2015. *Geoarchaeology: using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record*. Swindon: Historic England.
- Historic England 2018. *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: guidelines on their recovery, analysis and conservation*. Swindon: Historic England.
- Historic England 2025a. *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (3rd edition). Swindon: Historic England.
- Historic England 2025b. *Waterlogged Wood: guidance on the excavation, recording, sampling, conservation of waterlogged wood*. Swindon: Historic England.

Research objectives of the project

The research objectives of the project, as stated in the relevant WSI, are to:

- determine the date, nature and extent of activity during the Iron Age period;
- if possible, determine any factors/reasons for the location of Iron Age activity within this area, which appears at odds with other Iron Age sites which appear to favour lighter, more gravelly soils (Cotswold 2018);
- more closely determine a chronology for the agricultural features identified within Area 3 (Wessex Archaeology 2024a);
- determine the character of landscape organisation through the medieval and post-medieval periods, examining the effects of changing agricultural practices if possible.

Review Points

Consultation with all Stakeholders regarding project-specific selection decisions will be undertaken at a maximum of three project review points:

1. Data gathering: on site, if any unforeseen discovery necessitates an amendment to the proposed collection strategy, or if adjustments are made to any sampling strategy
2. End of data gathering (assessment stage)
3. Archive compilation

Section 1: Digital Data

Stakeholders		
WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; WA Geomatics Manager; LPA curatorial service / archaeological advisor; ADS		
Selection		
This document is designed to link to the project data management plan (DMP). To promote long-term future re-use, deposition file formats will be of archival standard, open source and accessible in nature following national guidance and the requirements of the digital repository. Any sensitive data will be handled according to Wessex Archaeology data policy to ensure it is stored and transferred securely. The identity of individuals will be protected in line with GDPR. If required, data will be anonymised and redacted. Selection and retention of sensitive data for archival purposes will occur in consultation with the client and relevant stakeholders. Confidential data will not be selected for archiving and will be handled as per contractual obligation.		
Type	Selection strategy	Review points
Site records	Records completed digitally on site (with the exception of registers). All will be selected for deposition.	3
Reports	To include project designs/WSIs, interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports and (where possible, subject to copyright restrictions) publication reports. Final versions only will be selected for deposition.	2, 3
Specialist reports	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with only minimal editing (reformatting, etc), and will be selected only if the original differs significantly from the incorporated version.	2, 3
Photographic media (site recording)	Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; pre-excavation images may not be selected where duplicated by post-excavation shots; working shots will be selected to include only good quality images with potential for re-use and those integral to understanding features, their inter-relationships and location on site; site condition and reinstatement photos will not be selected.	2, 3
Photographic media (objects)	Images of individual or groups of objects, to include those of significance selected for publication and reporting. Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; all others will be selected.	3
Photographic media (community engagement and other activities)	General shots, promotional videos, etc. None will be selected, unless images are generated that are not duplicated in the main site record, but which have specific archaeological value.	3
Survey data	Site survey data will be used to generate CAD/GIS files for use in post-excavation activities. Shapefiles of both the original tidied survey data, and the final phased drawings will be selected.	2, 3
Databases and spreadsheets	Context, finds and environmental data in linked databases. Final versions will be selected. Any specialist data submitted separately will also be selected.	2, 3
Administrative records	Includes invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, email correspondence. None will be selected,	3

	with the exception of any correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	
De-selected digital data		
De-selected data will be stored on WA secured servers during the lifetime of the project. This data may also be used for teaching or reference collections by the museum, or by WA unless otherwise required by contractual or copyright obligations.		
Amendments		
Date	Amendment	Rationale

Section 2: Documents

Stakeholders		
WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; LPA curatorial service / archaeological advisor		
Selection		
A security copy of all paper/drawn records will be prepared on completion of the project, in the form of a digital PDF/A file.		
Note that information may be redacted to comply with GDPR legislation.		
Type	Selection strategy	Review points
Site records	Selected records only will be completed in hard copy on site (registers, some graphics). All will be selected for deposition.	3
Reports	Hard copies of all reports (project designs/WSIs, interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports). All will be selected for deposition, with the exception of earlier versions of reports which have been clearly superseded.	2, 3
Specialist reports and data	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with no significant editing. Supporting data is more likely to be included in the digital archive, but if supplied in hard copy and not incorporated elsewhere, this will be selected.	2, 3
Photographic media	X-radiographic plates: all will be selected.	3
Working notes	Rough working notes, annotated plans, preliminary versions of matrices etc, will not be selected.	3
Administrative records	Invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, hard copy correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any hard copy correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	3
De-selected documents		
De-selected sensitive analogue data will be destroyed (shredded) subject to final checking by the WA Archives team with the remainder recycled. Possible exceptions include records retained for business purposes, including promotional material, teaching and internal WA library copies of reports.		

Amendments			
Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

Section 3.1 Materials – Artefacts (bulk and registered finds)

Stakeholders		
WA Archives Manager; WA Finds Manager; WA specialists; external specialists (where applicable); receiving Museum; LPA curatorial service / archaeological advisor; landowner		
Selection		
The following selection proposals have been formulated by WA specialists at Review Point 2 (assessment stage). They may be modified further at Review Point 3.		
Type	Selection strategy	Review points
Pottery (155 sherds)	Small assemblage of Iron Age to later post-medieval/modern date, and mostly from stratified feature groups. Of local significance and of some research potential beyond that already recorded. Retain.	2, 3
Burnt flint (32 pieces)	Intrinsically undatable and from a single feature without any associated finds. No further research potential. Already discarded.	2
Fired clay (25 fragments)	Tiny assemblage of undiagnostic fragments from mainly Iron Age features. Of local significance and of some research potential beyond that already recorded. Retain.	2, 3
CBM (88 fragments)	A small assemblage of mostly later post-medieval peg tile and brick fragments. Of local significance and of some research potential beyond that already recorded. Discard.	2, 3
Clay Tobacco pipe (3 pieces)	Plain polished stems from 19th century pipes. No future research potential. Discard.	2, 3
Glass (4 fragments)	Vessel glass of later 18th or 19th century date. No future research potential. Discard.	2, 3
Iron (1 fragment)	An undated tapering square-sectioned nail shank. No future research potential. Discard.	2, 3
Metal-working residues (24 pieces)	No further work is proposed on this material. Discard is recommended in view of other larger assemblages within the wider area that have been previously reported upon.	2, 3
Stone (3 pieces)	All are unworked lumps of natural iron pan. Of no further research potential. Discard.	2,3
Animal bone (22 fragments)	Tiny assemblage that includes fragments from a single Iron Age pit. Limited research potential beyond scope of current project. Retain	2, 3
De-selected material		
Consideration will be given to the suitability for use for handling or teaching collections by the museum or Wessex Archaeology, or whether they are of particular interest to the local community. De-selected material		

will either be returned to the landowner or disposed of. All will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

Section 3.2 Materials – Palaeoenvironmental material

Stakeholders			
WA Archives Manager; WA Environmental Manager; WA specialists; external specialists (where applicable); receiving Museum; LPA curatorial service / archaeological advisor			
Selection			
All environmental sampling has been undertaken following Wessex Archaeology's in-house guidance, which adheres to the principles outlined in Historic England's guidance (English Heritage 2011 and Historic England 2015a), and as stated in the relevant WSIs. All environmental samples collected and suitable to address project aims and research objectives, as deemed by WA's Environmental team, have been processed and assessed.			
Type	Selection strategy	Review points	
Unprocessed samples	All of the samples collected have been processed	2, 3	
Unsorted residues	All residues have been sorted and discarded.	2, 3	
Assessed flots with further research potential.	Area A: <15>, <16> and <27> Area 5: <4001> and <4002>	2, 3	
Assessed flots with no further research potential.	Discard the following samples: Area A: <1>, <2>, <3>, <4>, <5>, <6>, <7>, <8>, <9>, <10>, <11>, <12>, <13>, <14>, <17>, <18>, <19>, <21>, <22>, <23>, <24>, <25>, and <26>.	2, 3	
De-selected material			
De-selected material from samples will be disposed of after processing and post-excavation recording. All processed material will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.			
Amendments			
Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders



Appendix 4 OASIS summary

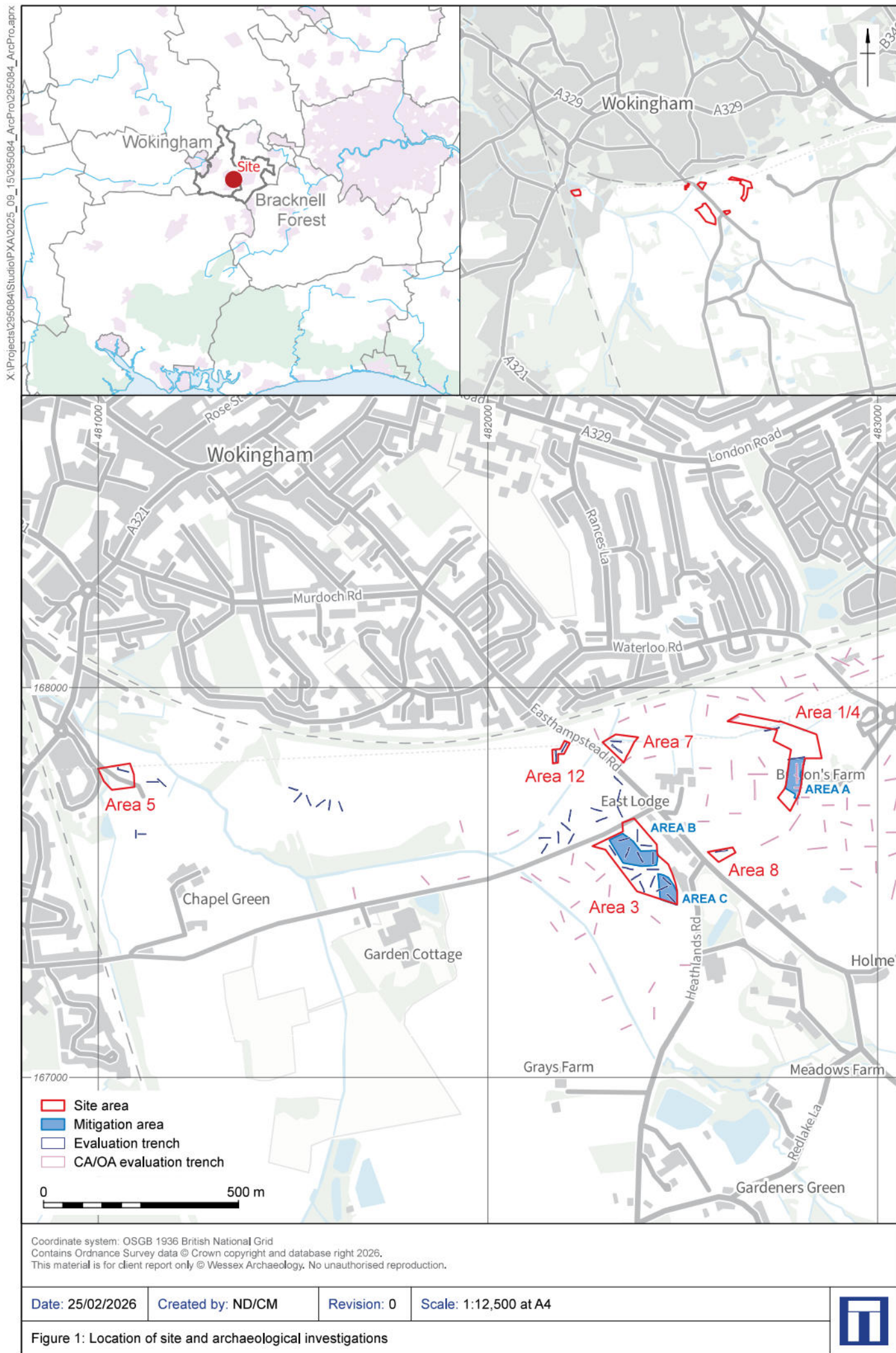
OASIS Summary

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-535779
Project Name	Archaeological Intervention at Wokingham Major Highways Programme South Wokingham Distributor Road, Wokingham, Berkshire
Sitename	Wokingham Major Highways Programme South Wokingham Distributor Road, Wokingham, Berkshire
Sitecode	295082
Project Identifier(s)	295082, 295084
Activity type	Archaeological Intervention, Post Excavation Assessment
Planning Id	192928
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	07-Apr-2025 - 16-May-2025
Location	Wokingham Major Highways Programme South Wokingham Distributor Road, Wokingham, Berkshire NGR: SU 82779 67769 LL: 51.40291992179541, -0.811369151305449 12 Fig: 482779,167769
Administrative Areas	Country: England County/Local Authority: Wokingham Local Authority District: Wokingham Parish: Wokingham Without
Project Methodology	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Balfour Beatty ('the client'), to undertake the archaeological excavation of three areas, totalling 1.13 hectares of a parcel of land to the south of Wokingham, located around Easthampstead Road (Area A centred on NGR 482779 167769, Area B centred on 482357 167555 and Area C centred NGR 482441 167485). The archaeological excavation was carried out as a condition of outline planning permission for the construction of the 2.7 km long South Wokingham Distributor Road, granted by Wokingham Borough Council (Planning reference 192928). The South Wokingham Distributor Road project is part of a wider project to upgrade the road network in the Wokingham area known as Wokingham Major Highways Project. The excavation followed a programme of archaeological investigation including three trial trench evaluations, one conducted by Cotswold Archaeology along the majority of the South Wokingham Distributor route, and two by Wessex Archaeology, one in areas which had not previously been accessible and a Phase 2 evaluation which clarified the archaeological potential in one area.
Project Results	Archaeological remains were encountered with all the excavation areas, although significant features were only found within Area A. Penannular ditches representing the remains of two Early/Middle Iron Age roundhouses were identified within Area A, along with a 'U'-shaped enclosure ditch, two small semi-circular ditches and a small quantity of pits and postholes which appear to be broadly Iron Age features, contemporary with the penannular

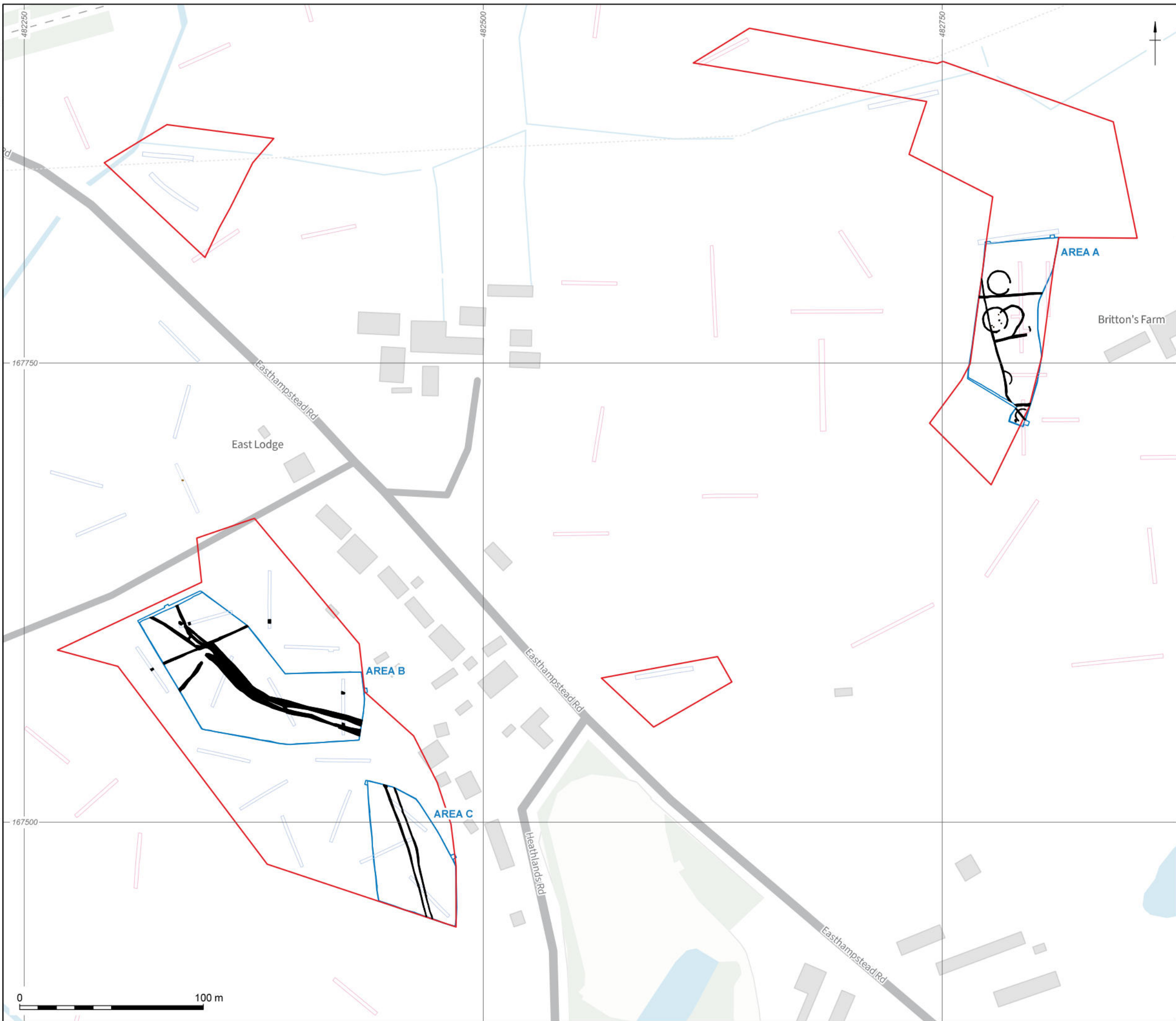


	ditches. Four undated linear ditches also crossed through Area A, these ditches post-dated the Iron Age features, however, no secure dating was recovered from them. A series of inter-cutting linear ditches crossed through Area B and Area C dating from the post-medieval to modern periods (1500-present). The site presented a small finds assemblage, mainly comprising Early/Middle Iron Age and post-medieval pottery, as well as ceramic building materials. A small assemblage of iron working residues was collected from some of the Iron Age features in Area A. Faunal remains were incredibly scarce, indicating poor site preservation conditions for bone. Environmental samples were recovered from the Early/Middle Iron Age features and undated charcoal rich pits, the charred plant remains were poorly preserved, however, charcoal was recovered from several features, with six radiocarbon dates recommended from three features. The results of the excavation are of local and regional interest; therefore, it is proposed that the results are published as a short paper in the Berkshire Archaeology Journal.
Keywords	Curvilinear Enclosure - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Post Hole - IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Boundary Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ring Ditch - IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Rubbish Pit - IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Boundary Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Other utilities or infrastructure company Balfour Beatty
HER	
Person Responsible for work	John Davey, Stephen Beach
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

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- Site area
- Mitigation area
- Evaluation trench
- CA/OA evaluation trench
- Archaeology

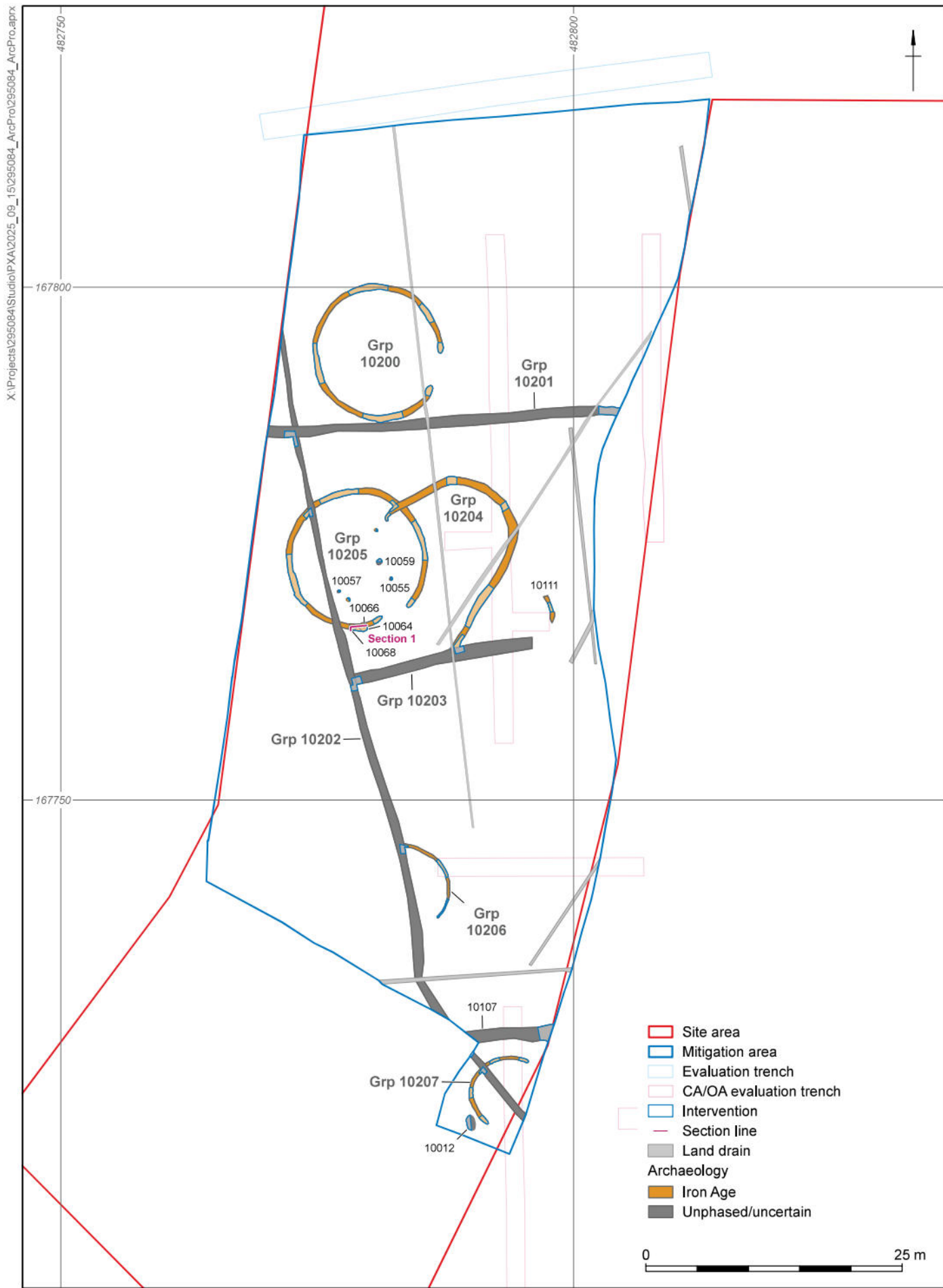
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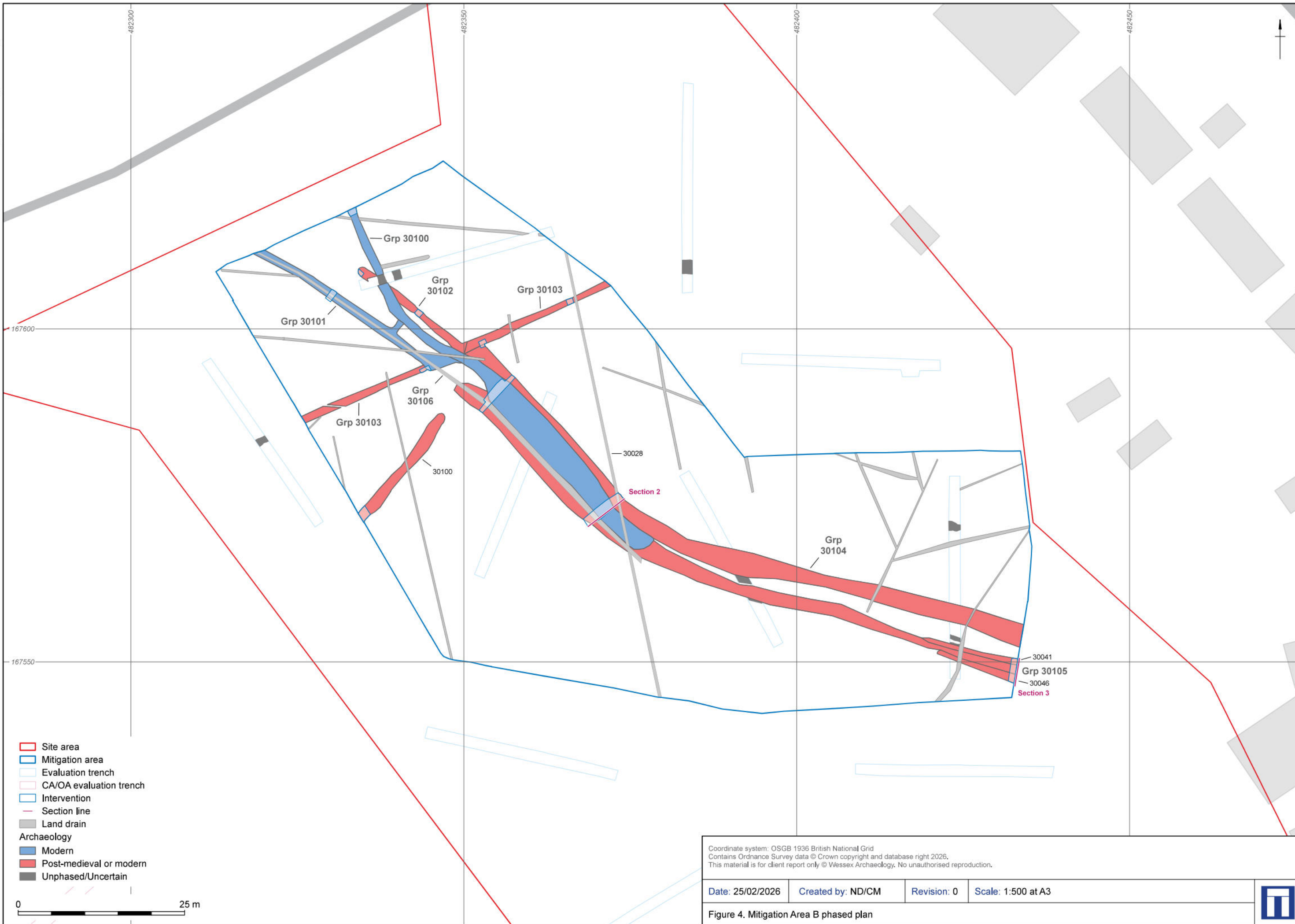
Figure 2. Mitigation areas

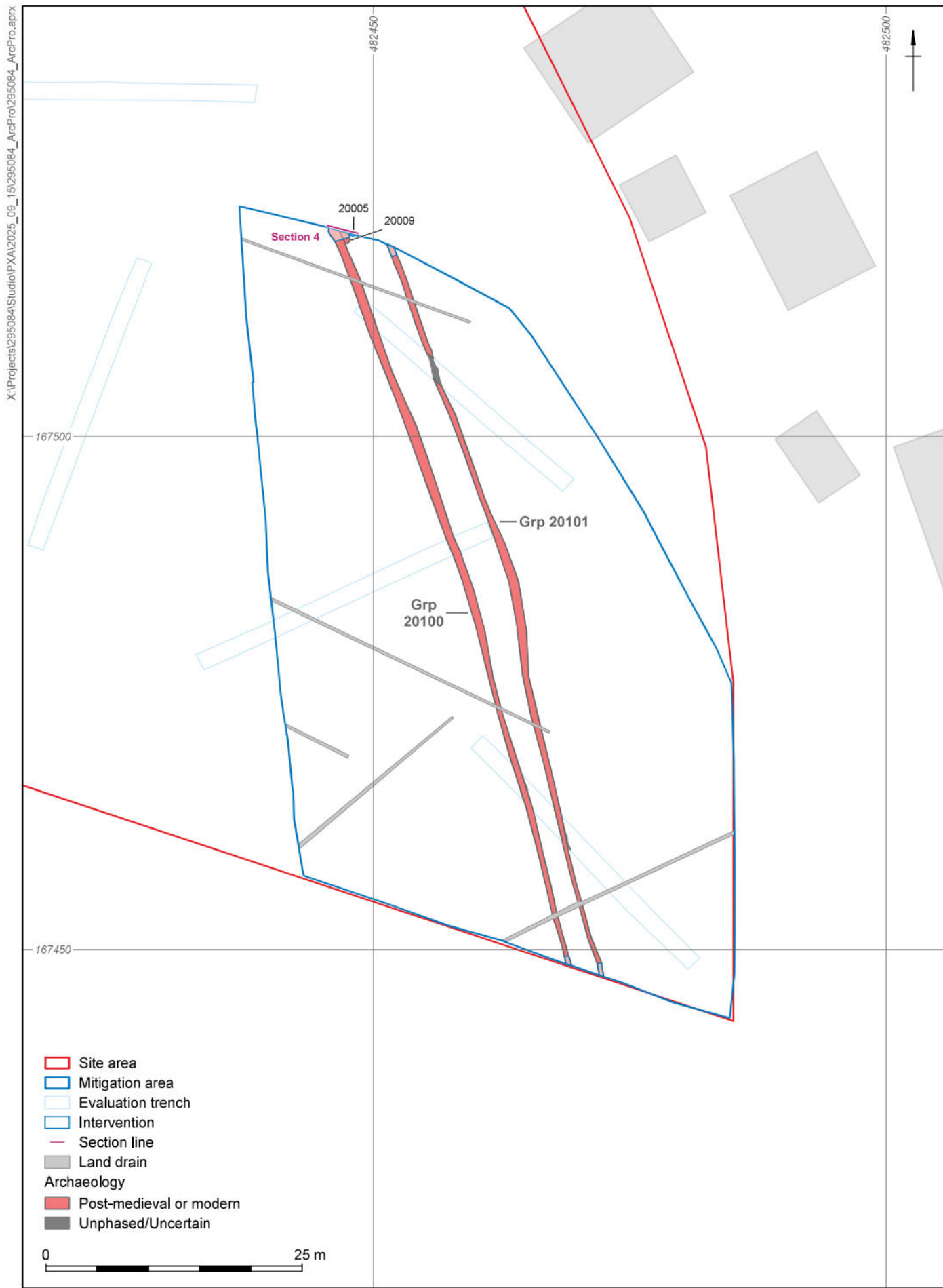


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Figure 3: Mitigation Area A phased plan







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Figure 5. Mitigation Area C phased plan





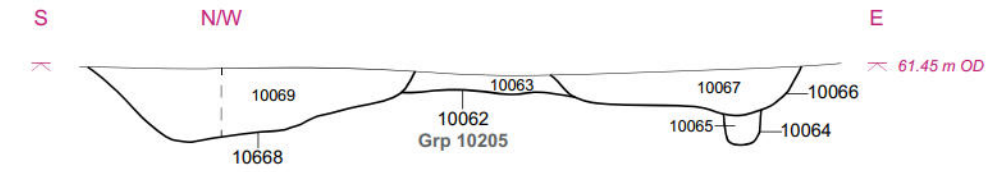
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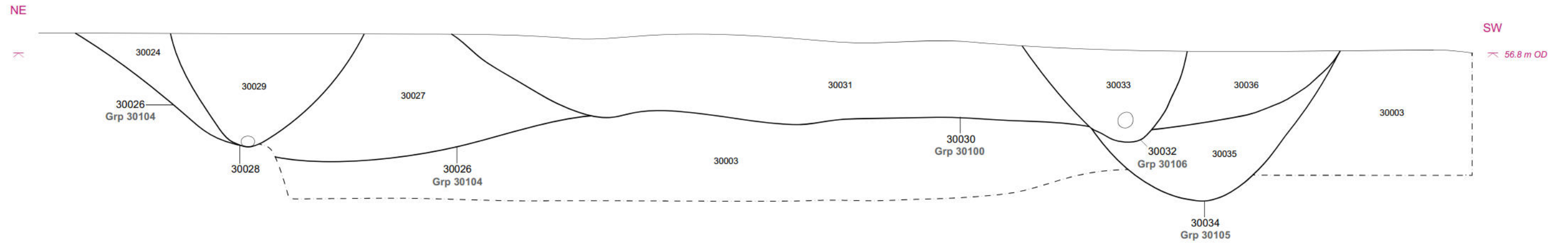
Figure 6. Orthomosaic drone image of Area A during excavation



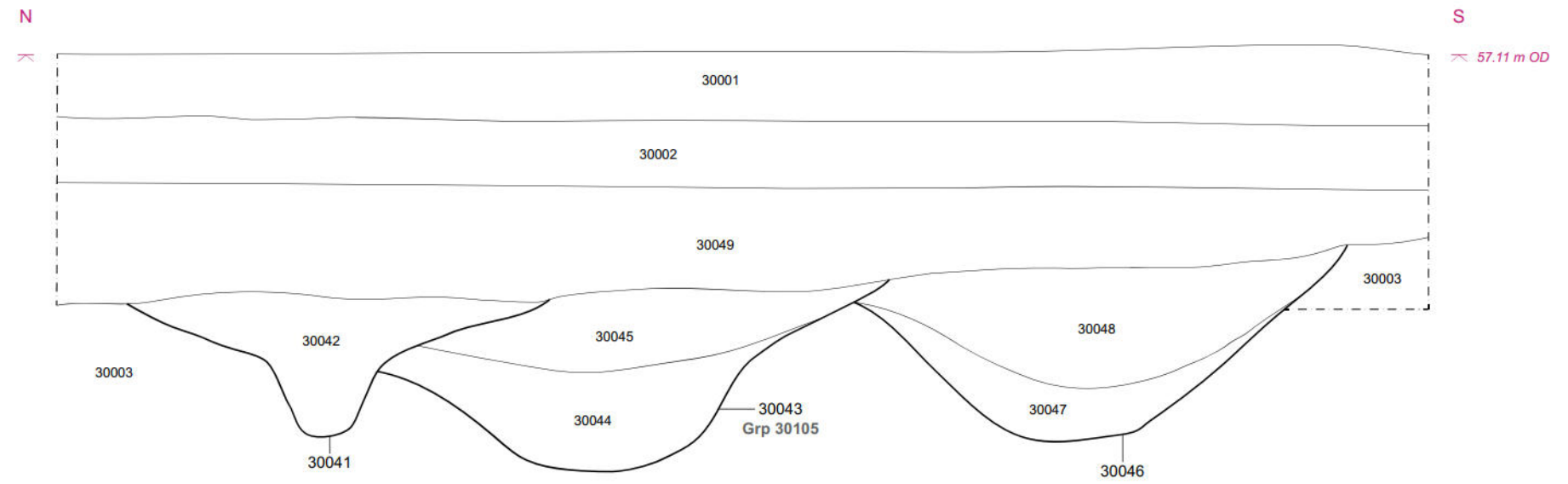
Section 1: South and east facing section of ring ditch 10062, post-hole 10064, and pits 10066 and 10068



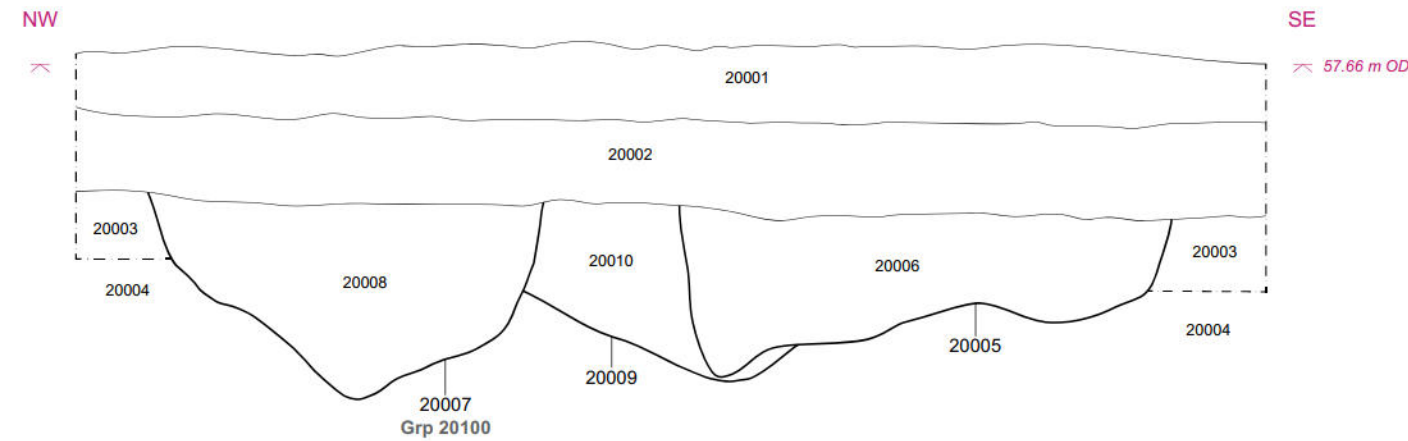
Section 2: North-west facing section of ditches 30026, 30028, 30030, 30032 and 30034



Section 3: West facing section of ditches 30041, 30043, and 30046



Section 4: South-west facing section of ditches 20007 and 20009, and bioturbation 20005



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Figure 7. Sections





Figure 8. East facing section of Area A showing typical deposit sequence: scale 1 m



Figure 9. Overview of penannular ditch 10205, viewed from the north-west: scales 1 and 2 m



Figure 10. Overview of penannular ditch 10200, viewed from the west: scales 1 and 2 m



Figure 11. Ditch 10207 cut by ditch 10202, viewed from the south-east



Figure 12. Overview of semi-circular ditch 10207, viewed from the north-west: scales 1 and 2 m



Figure 13. Overview of semi-circular ditch 10207, view from the south: scales 1 and 2 m



Figure 14. South facing section of penannular ditch 10205, posthole 10064 and pit 10066, 10068, viewed from the east: scale 1 m



Figure 15. West facing section of pit 10012: scale 1 m



Figure 16. West facing section of ditch 10107: scale 1 m



Figure 17. North-west facing section of ditches 30104, 30028, 30100, 30105, 30106, viewed from the west: scale 2 m



Figure 18. North-west facing section of ditches 30100, 30104, 30105, 30106: scale 2 m



Figure 19. West facing section of ditches 30041, 30105, 30046: scales 1 and 2 m



Figure 20. East facing section of ditch 30010: scale 1 m



Figure 21. South-west facing section of ditches 20100, 20009 and bioturbation 20005: scale 2 m



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