Strip, Map and Sample Excavation

Arborfield Garrison, Parcel N, Arborfield, Berkshire

NGR: SU 77083 65371

Planning Ref: 0/2014/2280

Site Code: BAGN26

794-PLN-HER- 02554

V1

07 October 2026

Arborfield Garrison, Parcel N,
Arborfield, Berkshire

Strip, Map and Sample Excavation

Planning reference	**0/2014/2280**		
Local planning authority	**Wokingham Borough Council**		
PCA report no.	**R18710**	***Site Code***	**BAGN26**
PCA project no	**K11552**	***Date***	**October 2026**

Project Information	
Site name	Arborfield Garrison, Parcel N, Arborfield, Berkshire
Project type	Strip, Map and Sample Excavation
Site address	Arborfield Garrison, Parcel N, Arborfield, Berkshire
NGR	SU 77083 65371
Local planning authority	Wokingham Borough Council
Planning reference	0/2014/2280
Project dates	24th August to 8th September 2026
Archive site code	BAGN26

Contents

1 ABSTRACT 5
2 INTRODUCTION 6
3 PLANNING BACKGROUND 9
4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY 10
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND 11
6 METHODOLOGY 12
7 PHASED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE 13
8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION 30
9 RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES 31
10 IMPORTANCE OF THE RESULTS, FURTHER WORK AND PUBLICATION PROPOSALS 33
11 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE 35
12 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 36
13 BIBLIOGRAPHY 37
APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX 38
APPENDIX 2: THE POTTERY ASSESSMENT 42
APPENDIX 3: GLASS ASSESSMENT 44
APPENDIX 4: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT 45
APPENDIX 5: OASIS FORM 47

Figures

Figure 1: Site Location 7
Figure 2: Detailed Site Location 8
Figure 3: All Features Plan 17
Figure 4: Area A Plan 18
Figure 5: Area B Plan 19
Figure 6: Area C Plan 20
Figure 7: Selected Sections 21

Plates

Plate 1: Posthole [2], Section 1, facing northwest (0.5m scale) 22

Plate 2: Gully 1 (Group 2) [4] and pit [6], Section 2, facing south (0.5m scale) 22
Plate 3: Gully 1 (Group 1) [8], Section 3, facing northeast (0.5m scale) 22
Plate 4: Gully 1 (Group 2) [10], Section 4, facing east (0.5m scale) 23
Plate 5: Gully 1 (Group 3) [12] and Pit [14], Section 5, facing north (0.5m scale) 23
Plate 6: Gully 1 (Group 3) [25] and [27], Section 11, facing east (0.5m scale) 23
Plate 7: Gully Terminus [69], Section 32, facing northwest (0.5m scale) 24
Plate 8: Gully terminus [83], Section 32, facing east (0.5m scale) 24
Plate 9: Gully [85], Section 40, facing southeast (0.5m scale) 24
Plate 10: Gully Terminus [91], Section 43, facing north (0.5m scale) 25
Plate 11: Gully terminus [93], facing northwest (0.5m scale) 25
Plate 12: Gully [99] and [101], facing southwest (0.5m scale) 25
Plate 13: Gully [95] and [97], Section 46, facing southwest (0.5m scale) 26
Plate 14:Gully [105] and [107], Section 48, facing west (0.5m scale) 26
Plate 15: Posthole [29], Section 13, facing south (0.5m scale) 26
Plate 16: Posthole [33], Section 15, facing northwest (0.5m scale) 27
Plate 17: Posthole [35], Section 16, facing northwest (0.5m scale) 27
Plate 18: Posthole [37], Section 17, facing northwest (0.5m scale) 27
Plate 19: Posthole [39], Section 18, facing northwest (0.5m scale) 28
Plate 20:Gully [50], Section 22, facing west (0.5m scale) 28
Plate 21: Large pit [58], Section 26, facing north (0.5m scale) 28
Plate 22: Gully [67], Section 67, facing west (0.5m scale) 29
Plate 23: Gully terminus [79], Section 37, facing north (0.5m scale) 29

1 ABSTRACT

1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological excavation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology on Land at Parcel N of the Arborfield Garrison, Arborfield, Berkshire.

1.2 The central grid reference of the site was SU 77083 65371.

1.3 The fieldwork was undertaken between the 24th of August and 8th of September 2026.

1.4 The commissioning client was Tetra Tech Consulting Ltd.

1.5 The earliest deposit encountered was the London Clay Formation found at a height of 52.73m OD in Area A and 52.00m OD in Area C.

1.6 As a result of the evaluation three areas of potential archaeological interest were identified as requiring further investigation. Archaeological features excavated in Areas A-C revealed agricultural and horticultural gullies (Gully 1-6), a pit and postholes dating from the post medieval period and the late 19th to 20th centuries.

1.7 Very little dating evidence was collected but it was possible to identify two periods of activity on the site. These consisted of postmedieval agricultural activity which appears to have been mostly land management and late 19th to 20th century activity which relates to the military and possible horticultural use of the land.

1.8 The earliest activity appears to be a number of gullies which were likely part of the land management although the exact activity carried out on the land could not be confirmed.

1.9 The area also shows activity during the 20th century; this appears to relate to the use of the land after 1939 when the land, having been closed as the Remount Depot, was reopened as the Army Technical School. Area A showed evidence of a possible slit trench which could have been used for training purposes. Area B showed evidence of a system of garden trenches which could have been used during World War II to grow food as part of the 'Dig for Victory' campaign. Area C showed a large area in the east of site which has acted as a rubbish pit into the latter half of the 20th century.

1.10 The Garrison closed in 2015, and the site has been undisturbed since then.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological field excavation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd between the 24th of August and 8th of September 2026 on land at Parcel N of the Arborfield Garrison site, Arborfield, Berkshire (Fig. 1). These works took place in advance of a proposed development of the site to create residential housing and apartment blocks, new roads, car parks and associated services on the site. The archaeological work was commissioned by Tetra Tech Consulting Ltd.

2.2 The site is located to the north of the area of the former Rowcroft Barracks and is situated in the wider military area of Arborfield Garrison, bounded by Stephenson Road to the north, playing fields and The Stables to the west and buildings which form part of the former Rowcroft Barracks to the south and east.

2.3 The site has been subject to prior archaeological assessment (MOLA 2014) and archaeological evaluation (MOLA 2018). The latter established that evidence of most likely post-medieval activity was present on the site.

2.4 Archaeological evaluation on the site (MOLA 2018) revealed a total of fifteen features, one of which was a pit, one curving ditch and the remainder gullies of varying width and depth. Finds were recovered from three features although these mostly comprised small fragments of ceramic building material including several fragments of modern ceramic field drain from the ditch. The ditch is considered to have been agricultural in use and a post-medieval to modern date is suspected. Likewise post-medieval dates were suggested for the gullies and the whole is considered to represent agricultural activity, potentially mechanical ploughing or similar. However, the features remain mostly undated and could potentially belong to an earlier period.

2.5 The investigation was conducted by PCA under the supervision of Tanya Jones and the project was managed by Zbigniew Pozorski. It was monitored by Berkshire Archaeology.

2.6 A site-specific Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2026) detailing the methodology and work programme for the archaeological excavation was prepared prior to the fieldwork and agreed between Berkshire Archaeology, archaeological advisors to Wokingham Borough Council and Tetra Tech.

2.7 The site has been given the unique side code BAGN26. It is intended that the completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will, upon completion of the project, be deposited with a suitable institution under that code.

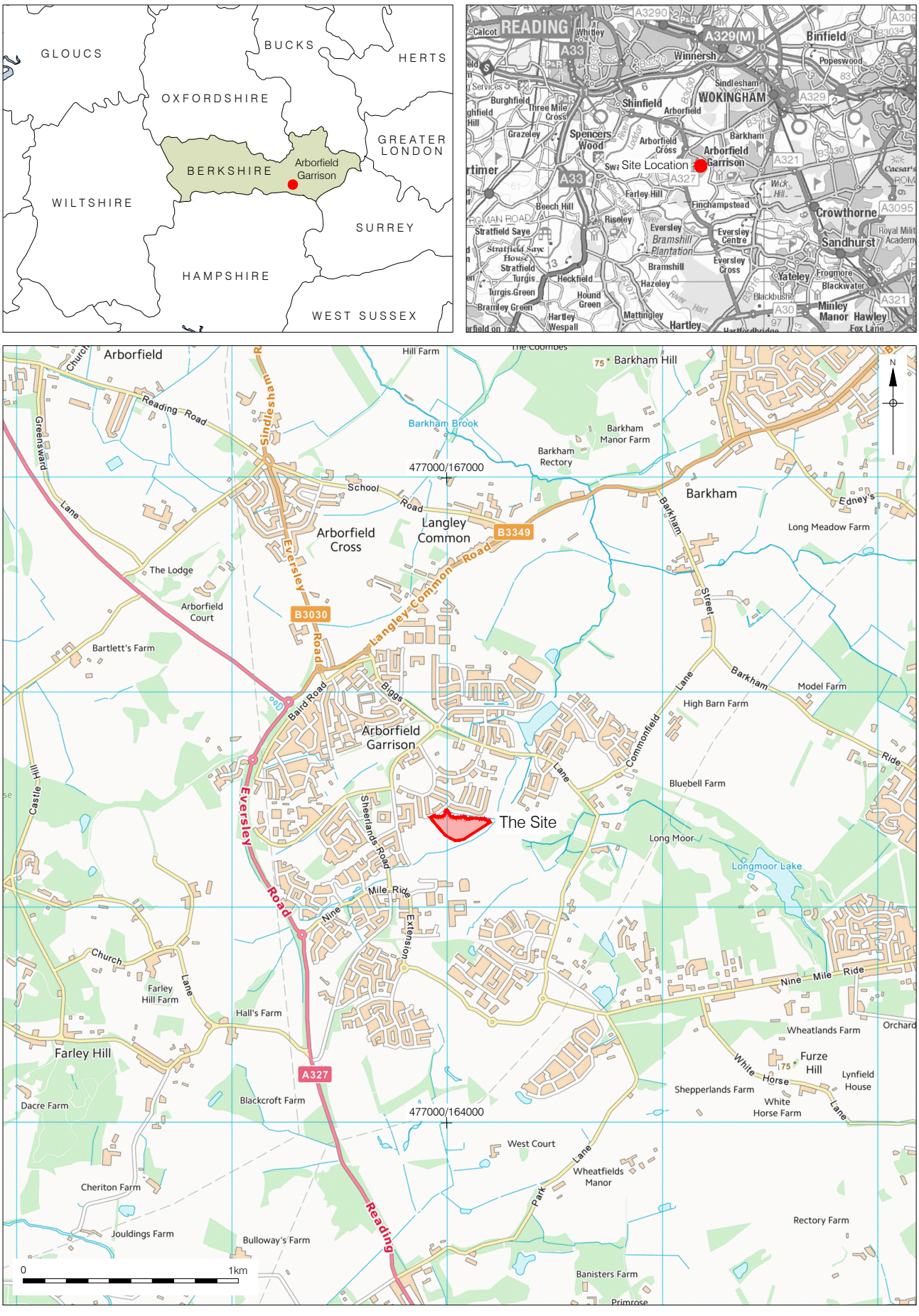


Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000, 1:250,000, 1:25,000 at A4

P:\PROJECT DATA\Out of London\Berkshire\Arborfield Garrison, Wokingham\CAD\EXCAV\Fig 02_Detailed Site Location.dwg



Figure 2
Detailed Site Location
1:1,250 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Site Specific Planning Background

3.1.1 The works were carried out in relation to an outline planning application for residential redevelopment of the site (Wokingham Borough Council Planning Ref. O/2014/2280) and a relevant condition (No 69) attached to the planning consent. It is proposed to create residential housing and apartment blocks, new roads, car parks and associated services on the site.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 The British Geological Survey record the bedrock in the area to be the London Clay Formation- Clay, silt and sand. These sedimentary rocks are marine in origin. They are detrital and comprise coarse-to fine-grained slurries of debris from the continental shelf flowing into a deep-sea environment, forming distinctively graded beds (BGS Geology Viewer 2026). The drift geology is not recorded.

4.2 The site is located to the north of the area of the former Rowcroft Barracks and is situated in the wider military area of Arborfield Garrison, bounded by Stephenson Road to the north, playing fields and The Stables to the west, buildings which form part of the former Rowcroft Barracks to the south and east.

4.3 The site comprises open ground laid to grass, with trees around the perimeter. The ground is sloping falling away from 56.27m OD in the east, down to 51.59m OD in the west.

4.4 The nearest major natural watercourse to the site is the Blackwater River which runs c 2.4km south of the centre of the site. The Blackwater is a tributary of the River Loddon, which follows a roughly southeast to northwest course, and is located some 4.2mk to the northwest of the site. The Loddon is a tributary of the Thames and follows a meandering course northward, the confluence of the two is found to the west of Wargrave.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 The Archaeological Desk Based Assessment prepared for the site (MOLA 2014) provided a detailed background to the site and is not reproduced if full here. In summary:

5.2 Within the wider area excavations revealed that whilst most sites contained little to no archaeological remains there is evidence to suggest that the general area was inhabited from at least the Bronze Age onward, although it was probably rural in most periods.

5.3 The density of archaeological investigation within the wider study area means that the archaeology of the area is fairly well understood. The negative evidence (i.e. lack of archaeological finds) on a number of sites indicates that archaeological remains, while present, are most likely not densely spread but there is considerable evidence for past usage of the area from prehistory onwards.

5.4 Archaeological evaluation on the site (MOLA 2016) revealed a total of fifteen features, one of which was a pit, one a curving ditch and the remainder gullies of varying width and depth. Finds were recovered from three features although these mostly comprised small fragments of ceramic building material including several fragments of modern ceramic field drain form the ditch. The ditch is considered to have been agricultural in use and a post-medieval to modern date is suspected. Likewise post-medieval dates were suggested for the gullies and the whole was considered to represent agricultural activity potentially mechanical ploughing or similar. However, the features remained mostly undated and could potentially belong to an earlier period.

5.5 Archaeological evaluations of the nearest site, Parcel P, revealed a post-medieval ditch onsite, with natural (London Clay) between 58.01m OD and 50.77m OD.

6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 The works were undertaken in accordance with the approved Written Schemes of Investigation (PCA 2026).

6.2 Following the results of the trail trenching and consultation with Berkshire Archaeology (BA), three areas of excavation were agreed in the central part of the site focused on locations of found archaeological features, with a contingency to increase the areas of excavation if required.

6.3 There were three areas excavated, Area A measuring 18.60m by 17.51m, Area B measuring 15.09m by 49.78m and Area C measuring 16.00m by 40.64m.

6.4 Each of the excavation areas were set out using a Geomax GPS.

6.5 The modern overburden was removed by a mechanical 360° excavator fitted with a ditching bucket under archaeological supervision, spits of 100mm were removed until archaeological deposits, features or structures were encountered. The archaeological deposits were excavated by PCA staff using hand tools, i.e. trowels, shovels and mattocks.

6.6 Archaeological features and deposits were documented using the Single Context Recording method, on pro forma context and planning sheets or GPS as appropriate. Plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10 as appropriate. Digital photographs were taken.

6.7 In this report all context numbers (cuts, layers and fills) are written in squared brackets [ ], small finds are denoted by the prefix SF, and environmental sample numbers are presented in curly brackets { }.

7 PHASED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1: Natural

7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered on the site was a horizon of clay, silt and sand. As suggested by the British Geological Survey, the horizon is likely London Clay Formation, deposited during the Palaeogene period (c. 47,800,000 to c. 56,000,000 BP). These sedimentary rocks are marine in origin. They are detrital and comprise coarse to fine-grained slurries of debris from the continental shelf flowing into a deep-sea environment, forming distinctively graded beds.

7.2 Phase 2: Post Medieval

Area A

Gully 1 (Group 1)

7.2.1 An east west aligned linear feature was encountered in the southern part of the trench. It measured 15.23m in length by approximately 0.35m in width. Two 1m slots and one 0.5m slots were excavated through this feature (Plate 3). The eastern end of the feature had been truncated by or merged with Gully 1 (Group 3), it did not extend beyond this feature to the north or east.

Gully 1 (Group 2)

7.2.2 To the north a slightly off east west aligned linear cut measuring 7.81m in length by approximately 0.35m in width was also recorded. Two 1m slots and one 0.50m slots were excavated through this feature (Plate 2, Plate 4). The eastern end of this feature was defined by the later slit trench located in this area.

Gully 1 (Group 3)

7.2.3 Another slightly off east-west aligned linear cut was recorded slightly further to the east of Group 2. it measured 9.10m in length by approximately 0.40m in width. One 1m slot and two 0.50m slots were excavated through this feature (Plate 5, Plate 6). This feature had undoubtedly once formed the eastern extension of Gully 1 (Group 2), but the two parts had been separated by truncation from the later slit trench located in this area. Gully 1 (Group 3 continued beyond the eastern limit of excavation.

Area B

Gully 4

7.2.4 A northwest-southeast aligned linear feature measuring 15.46m in length by approximately 0.35m in width and between 0.04m and 0.11m in depth was evident in the eastern periphery of Area B. It was encountered between 52.49m OD and 52.52m OD. Three slots were used to investigate the gully, each at least 1m in length and although there was no dating evidence recovered, it appeared to be very similar to the other gullies in the area and very likely dates to around the same period and was of very similar usage (Plate 9). Gully 4 extended beyond

the limits of excavation to both north and south.

Gully terminus [83]

7.2.5 Just to the south of Gully 4 was a possible ditch terminus, measuring 1.43m in length, 0.33m in width and 0.13m in depth encountered at a height of 52.45m OD. This appeared to be the terminus of a gully which had been truncated historically due to the shallow nature of the archaeological deposits. This was likely associated with Gully 4 although that relationship had been lost due to the later truncation (Plate 8).

Area C

Gully 5

7.2.6 A shallow gully measuring 20.10m in length by 0.33m in width by between 0.05m and 0.08m in depth extended across the entire width of Area C. It followed a northwest to southeast alignment (very similar to that of Gully Group 1, Groups 2 and 3, in Area A) was and encountered between 52.04m OD and 52.12m OD. Three slots were used to investigate the gully, each measuring at least 1m in length. Gully 4 showed a similarity to the other gullies encountered on site suggesting a similar function and date although this was hard to determine, these gullies may represent agricultural land use (Plate 20).

7.2.7 A fragment of a peg tile with a fine sandy fabric, suggesting a late post medieval date of AD 1700-1900 (Appendix 4), was recovered from one of the slots [52] excavated through the gully.

Gully 6

7.2.8 A shallow gully running on a northeast southwest alignment extended across the western part of Area B. It measured 13.86m in length by 0.30m in width by 0.07m to 0.15m in depth and encountered between 52.24m OD and 52.32m OD. Three slots were used to investigate the gully, each measuring at least 1m in length. The fill and gully profiles were very similar to the other gullies encountered on site suggesting a similar function and date, although it is hard to determine what these were.

Gully terminus [79]

7.2.9 To the east of Gully 6 was a possible ditch terminus measuring 3.22m in length by 0.36m in width by 0.09m in depth. It was recorded between 52.37m OD and 52.26m OD. This appeared to be a heavily truncated remnant of a gully which was once associated with Gully 6, but the relationship has been lost.

Postholes [33], [35], [37], [39]

7.2.10 A group of four posthole/pits was located just to the south of pit [58], these were arranged in a roughly rectangular formation and look likely to be part of some sort of structure, possibly a temporary one as no evidence for the use was encountered.

7.2.11 A single sherd of pottery was recovered from posthole [33] (Plate 16). This comprised part of

the base of a post-medieval redware vessel dating 1580-1900 (Appendix 2). Fragments of ceramic building material were also collected from this context these could not be accurately dated, although it was suggested they were likely post medieval (Appendix 3).

7.3 **Phase 3: Late 19th -20th Century**

Area A

Slit Trench

7.3.1 A curved pit or linear cut was encountered in the centre of the trench; this appeared to be the feature which was encountered during the evaluation. The overall size of the feature measured approximately 4m long by approximately 1m wide, three slots were used to investigate as well as a slot that was excavated during the evaluation. At the southern end it appears to truncate through Gully 1, specifically groups 2 and 3, the slot from the evaluation revealed the feature to be 0.45m deep. The pit appears to have been deliberately backfilled after use with quite modern material. A suggestion was made that it could be a slit trench, used for training, particularly during the Second World War when in 1939 the site opened an Army Technical School and then in 1942 became home to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Posthole [2]

7.3.2 In the south of the trench was a small posthole measuring 0.35m by 0.32m by 0.14m deep which was recorded at a height of 52.55m OD. There was no clear function or dating for the feature which could have been used as part of the agricultural or modern landuse of the site (Plate 1).

Area B

Gullies 2 and 3

7.3.3 Across the western end of Area B there were seventeen gullies or shallow ditches of which eight were encountered during the evaluation. They were investigated with 20 sondages each at least 1m in length. Essentially this group consisted of twelve narrow parallel gullies that followed a northeast-southwest alignment; they were evenly spaced being c. 1m distant from each other. It was found that these gullies were interconnected, northwest-southeast aligned gullies of a similar size and profile defined the southern and northern extent of this group of features (although a few of the gullies extended further to the north).

7.3.4 It is likely that these features were contemporary with each other and part of a possible agricultural feature or gardening trenches (Plate 10, Plate 11, Plate 12, Plate 13, Plate 14).

7.3.5 Context [40] contained one sherd of vitrified refined whiteware with transfer-printed decoration (TPW). The sherd came from the rim of a plate and has a transfer-printed crown royal cypher in blue; however, only the ‘R’ is remaining so the monarch cannot be identified but the vessel dates of the late 19th to 20th centuries (Appendix 2).

7.3.6 Context [40] also contained a single fragment of thick-walled green glass with an embossed 'V'. It is a machine-made, late post medieval/modern fragment of glass. In context [42], there were a further two fragments of the same kind of glass, without the embossed markings, possibly from the same vessel. Context [44] contains a single, colourless sherd of undiagnostic glass, possibly from a windowpane (Appendix 3).

7.3.7 The assemblage represents late 19th and 20th century activity in the vicinity on the site and is typical of glass usage during this period (Appendix 3).

Area C

Pit [58]

7.3.8 In the east of the trench was what appeared to be a large pit, measuring 14.60m by 14.30m by at least 0.34m in depth encountered between 52.05m OD and 51.68m OD. A single slot was used to investigate the feature measuring 1.83m by 0.92m by 0.34m in depth. The full extent of this feature was not apparent as it extended beyond the limits of excavation to the west, east and north. The feature contained a very modern deposit including pottery, glass, metal and ceramic building material, leading to the assessment that it was likely a large rubbish pit or dump of material which dated to in the latter half of the 20th century (Plate 21).

Posthole [29]

7.3.9 A single posthole measuring 0.50m by 0.46m by 0.04m in depth, recorded at a height of 52.02m OD was located to the south of pit [59]. This very shallow feature contained a small amount of burnt material which appeared to be modern (Plate 15).

P:\PROJECT DATA\Out of London\Berkshire\Arborfield Garrison, Wokingham\CAD\EXCAV\Fig 03_All Features Plan.dwg

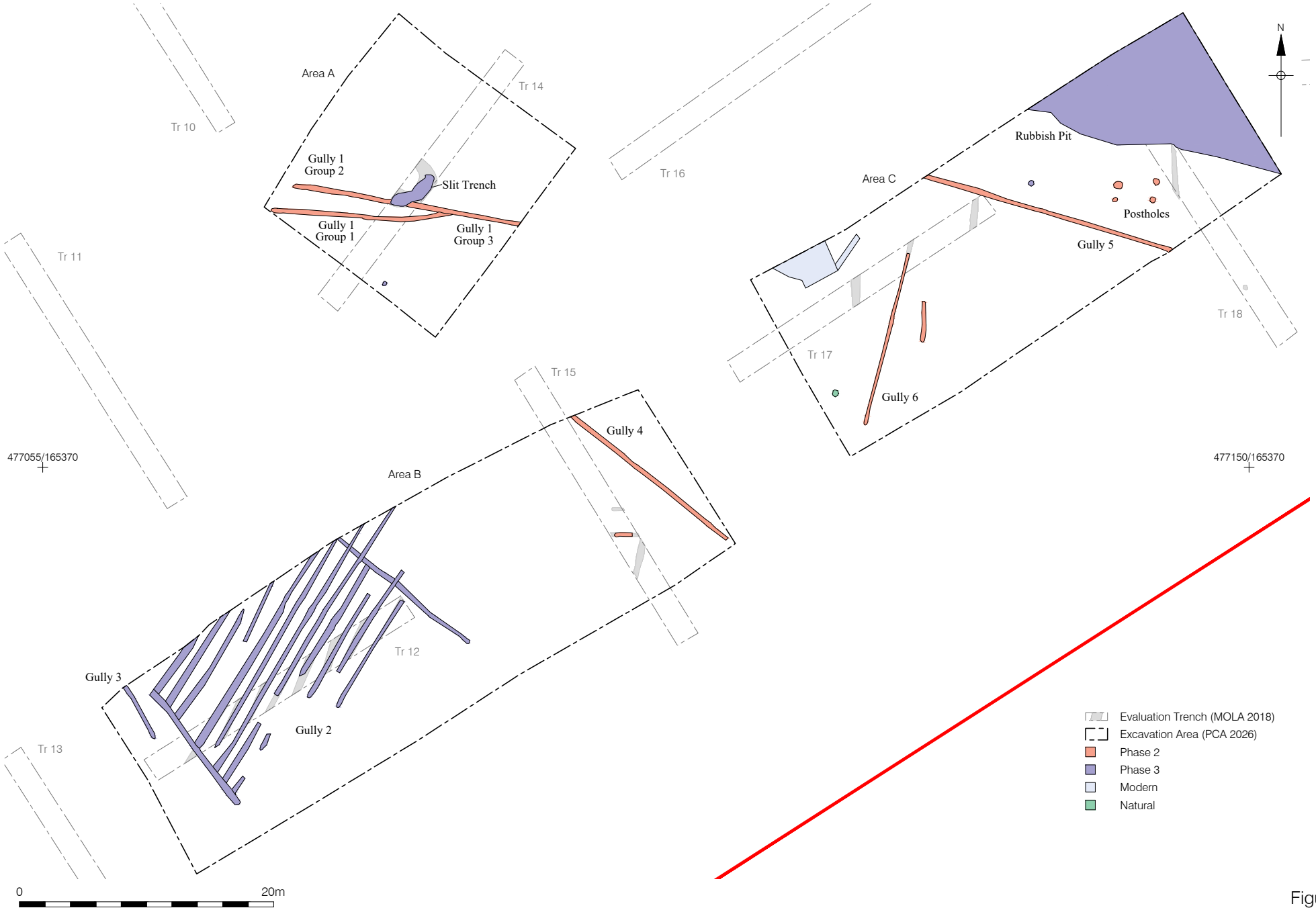


Figure 3
All Features Phased Plan
1:400 at A4

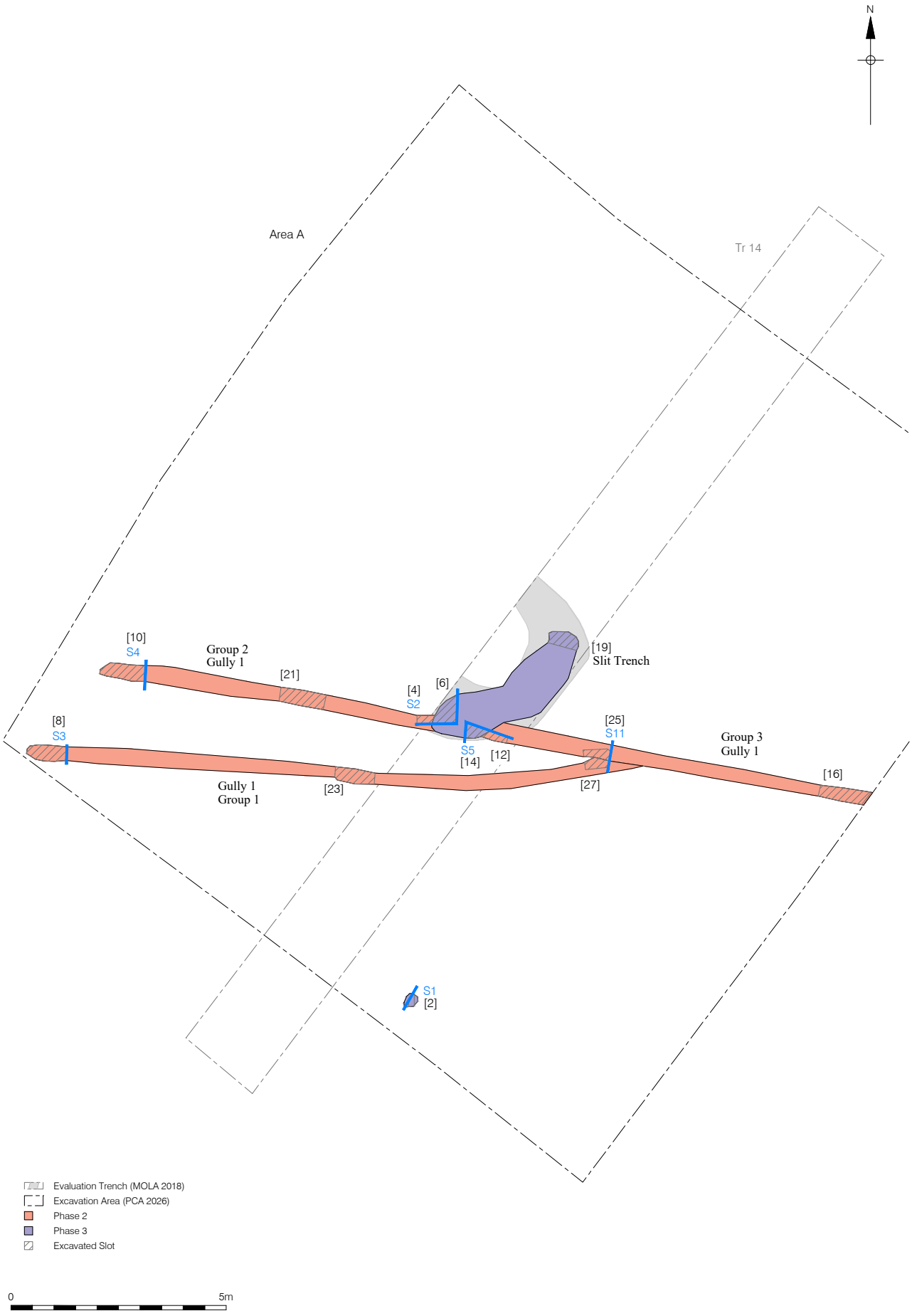


Figure 4
Area A Detailed Phased Plan
1:125 at A4

P:\PROJECT DATA\Out of London\Berkshire\Arborfield Garrison, Wokingham\CAD\EXCAV\Fig 05_Area B Plan.dwg

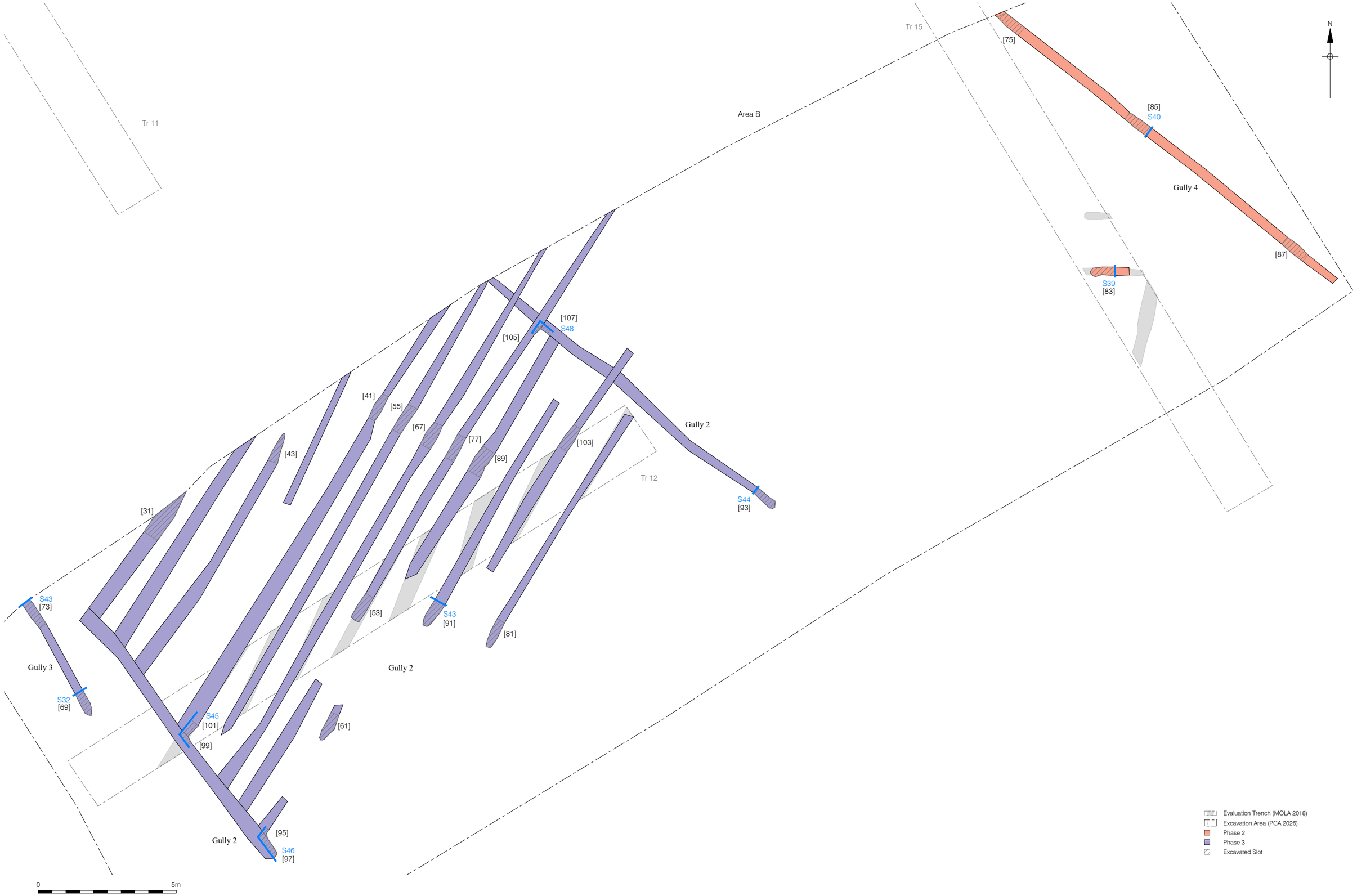


Figure 5
Area B Detailed Phased Plan
1:125 at A3

P:\PROJECT DATA\Out of London\Berkshire\Arborfield Garrison, Wokingham\CAD\EXCAV\Fig 06_Area C Plan.dwg

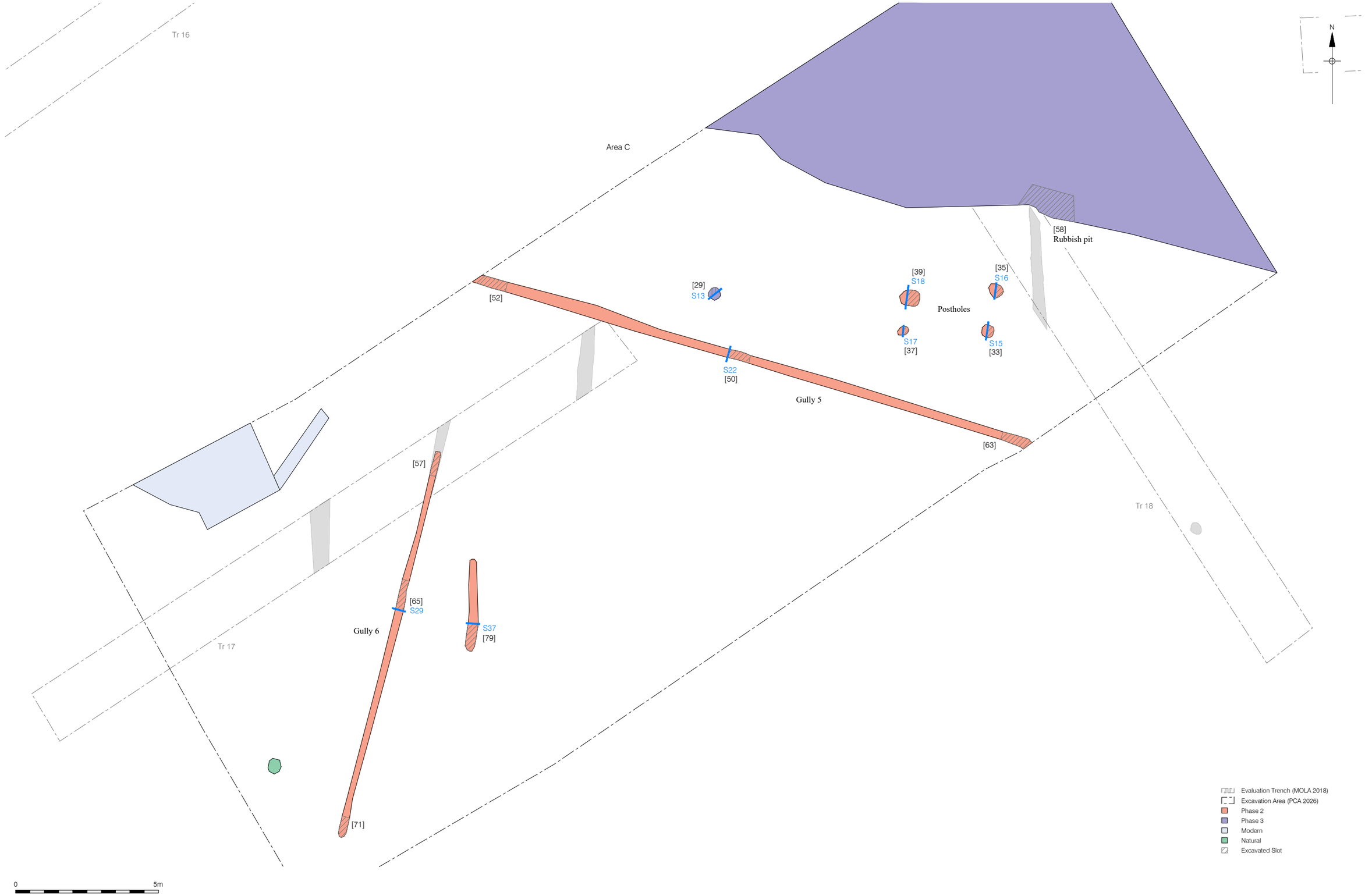
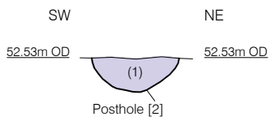
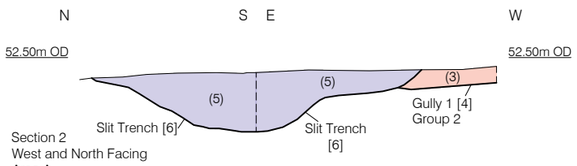


Figure 6
Area C Detailed Phased Plan
1:125 at A3

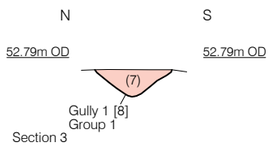
P:\PROJECT DATA\Out of London\Berkshire\Arborfield Garrison, Wokingham\CAD\EXCAV\Fig 07_Selected Sections.dwg



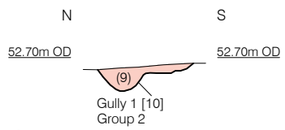
Section 1
Southeast Facing
Area A
(see Fig 4)



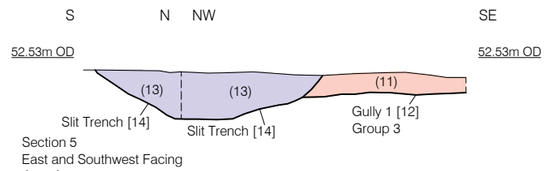
Section 2
West and North Facing
Area A
(see Fig 4)



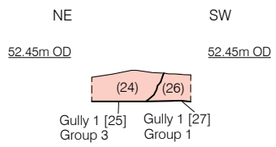
Section 3
West Facing
Area A
(see Fig 4)



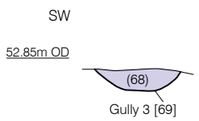
Section 4
West Facing
Area A
(see Fig 4)



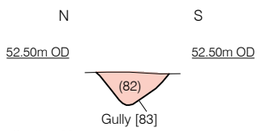
Section 5
East and Southwest Facing
Area A
(see Fig 4)



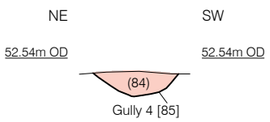
Section 11
Northwest Facing
Area A
(see Fig 4)



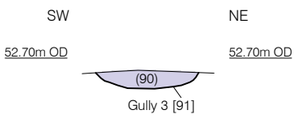
Section 32
Southeast Facing
Area B
(see Fig 5)



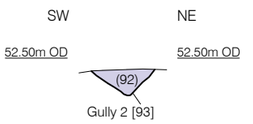
Section 39
West Facing
Area B
(see Fig 5)



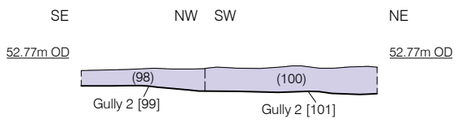
Section 40
Northwest Facing
Area B
(see Fig 5)



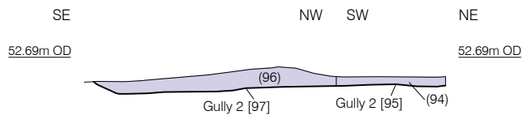
Section 43
Southeast Facing
Area B
(see Fig 5)



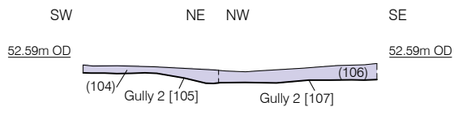
Section 44
Southeast Facing
Area B
(see Fig 5)



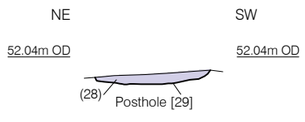
Section 45
Northeast and Southeast Facing
Area B
(see Fig 5)



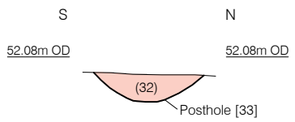
Section 46
Northeast and Southeast Facing
Area B
(see Fig 5)



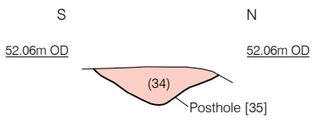
Section 48
Southeast and Southwest Facing
Area B
(see Fig 5)



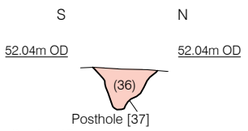
Section 13
Northwest Facing
Area C
(see Fig 6)



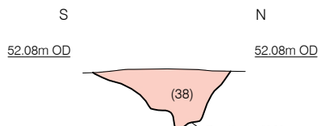
Section 15
East Facing
Area C
(see Fig 6)



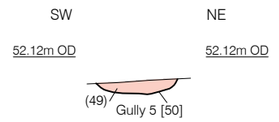
Section 16
East Facing
Area C
(see Fig 6)



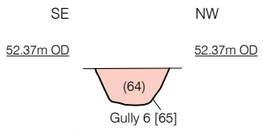
Section 17
East Facing
Area C
(see Fig 6)



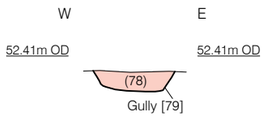
Section 18
East Facing
Area C
(see Fig 6)



Section 22
Southeast Facing
Area C
(see Fig 6)



Section 29
Northeast Facing
Area C
(see Fig 6)



Section 37
South Facing
Area C
(see Fig 6)



Figure 7
Selected Sections
1:25 at A3



Plate 1: Posthole [2], Section 1, facing northwest (0.5m scale)



Plate 2: Gully 1 (Group 2) [4] and pit [6], Section 2, facing south (0.5m scale)



Plate 3: Gully 1 (Group 1) [8], Section 3, facing northeast (0.5m scale)



Plate 4: Gully 1 (Group 2) [10], Section 4, facing east (0.5m scale)



Plate 5: Gully 1 (Group 3) [12] and Pit [14], Section 5, facing north (0.5m scale)



Plate 6: Gully 1 (Group 3) [25] and [27], Section 11, facing east (0.5m scale)



Plate 7: Gully Terminus [69], Section 32, facing northwest (0.5m scale)



Plate 8: Gully terminus [83], Section 32, facing east (0.5m scale)



Plate 9: Gully [85], Section 40, facing southeast (0.5m scale)

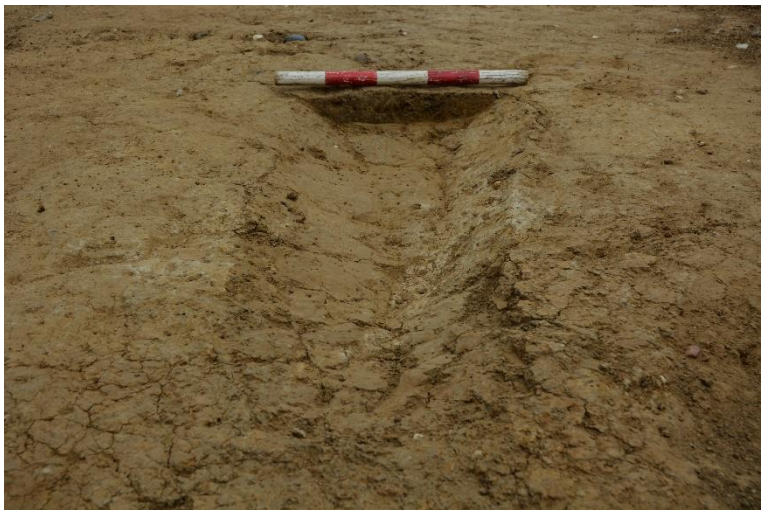


Plate 10: Gully Terminus [91], Section 43, facing north (0.5m scale)



Plate 11: Gully terminus [93], facing northwest (0.5m scale)



Plate 12: Gully [99] and [101], facing southwest (0.5m scale)



Plate 13: Gully [95] and [97], Section 46, facing southwest (0.5m scale)



Plate 14:Gully [105] and [107], Section 48, facing west (0.5m scale)



Plate 15: Posthole [29], Section 13, facing south (0.5m scale)



Plate 16: Posthole [33], Section 15, facing northwest (0.5m scale)



Plate 17: Posthole [35], Section 16, facing northwest (0.5m scale)



Plate 18: Posthole [37], Section 17, facing northwest (0.5m scale)



Plate 19: Posthole [39], Section 18, facing northwest (0.5m scale)



Plate 20:Gully [50], Section 22, facing west (0.5m scale)



Plate 21: Large pit [58], Section 26, facing north (0.5m scale)



Plate 22: Gully [67], Section 67, facing west (0.5m scale)



Plate 23: Gully terminus [79], Section 37, facing north (0.5m scale)

8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

8.1 Phase 1: Natural

8.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered on the site was a horizon of clay, silt and sand. As suggested by the British Geological Survey, the horizon is likely London Clay Formation, deposited during the Palaeogene period (c. 47,800,000 to c. 56,000,000 BP). These sedimentary rocks are marine in origin. They are detrital and comprise coarse to fine-grained slurries of debris from the continental shelf flowing into a deep-sea environment, forming distinctively graded beds.

8.2 Phase 2: Post Medieval

8.2.1 There were five gullies and four postholes on site which appear to relate to the agricultural use of the site. The linear features probably represent some form of land drain or crop management system. The four postholes were arranged in a rectangle that probably represents a structure, but the absence of associated finds or ground surfaces precludes a more detailed interpretation.

8.3 Phase 3: Late 19th–20th Century

8.3.1 The remaining activity on the site appears to relate to the use of the site in the 20th century. During this time in it was at first part of the Army Remount Service supplying horses to the army and later used as a training facility.

8.3.2 The main evidence of this is the curved linear trench in Area A which based on its location on a military base has been suggested as being a slit trench which likely would have been used as part of training.

8.3.3 The two gully systems in the west of site (Area B) appear to be part of some sort of land or garden management, likely part of the early 20th century use of the site.

8.3.4 There were two postholes present which although their functions were unclear, it would seem likely that they would be part of the military facility.

8.3.5 The large pit located in the eastern end of Area C contains a considerable amount of waste material and appears to have been used as a rubbish pit.

9 RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

9.1 Original research aims

9.1.1 The general aims of the archaeological monitoring area were:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains.
- To record the character, date location and preservation of any archaeological remains on site.
- To record the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological deposits or remains on site.
- To enable Berkshire Archaeology to make an informed decision as to the requirement for and scope of any further work required in order to satisfy the archaeological condition.

9.1.2 Archaeological deposits were encountered and it was determined that these appear to be of post medieval or modern (20th century) date. The archaeological deposits were very close to the surface which would have left them vulnerable to damage.

9.1.3 Specific research objectives included the following:

- Are features identified during the evaluation of post-medieval date or earlier?

9.1.4 All the features were identified as being either post-medieval or late 19th to 20th century in date.

- Is archaeological evidence on the site pointing to agricultural use of land or is there evidence of other use of the area?

9.1.5 The features identified as being post medieval appeared to be associated with agricultural landuse and mainly consisted of gullies or land drains. The rest of the features were associated with the late 19th to 20th century activity on the site most likely during its use as a garrison including a slit trench, garden trenches and a rubbish pit.

9.1.6 With reference to the Solent-Thames Research Framework and its post-medieval Research Agenda (Hind 2014) the archaeological excavation may have been able to address the following regional research objectives:

- 18.3.2 Environmental evidence needs to be collected routinely to gather information on the origins of field and changes in agricultural practices, which may have occurred at different times in different areas (18.3 Landscape and land use).
- 18.3.10 The impact of the agricultural revolution on the landscape needs to be explored (18.3 Landscape and land use).
- 18.5.5 Evidence for differences between the rural and urban economies should be collected and analysed (18.5 Settlement).
- 18.11.12 Exploration of the effects of the development of the communications network and related technology upon settlement patterns, land use and local economies (18.11 Transport and communications).

9.1.7 Unfortunately, the results of the excavation were too limited to adequately address these

research questions.

9.2 Revised research objectives

9.2.1 The site did not produce any additional results which would warrant revising the original research questions

.

10 IMPORTANCE OF THE RESULTS, FURTHER WORK AND PUBLICATION PROPOSALS

10.1 Importance of the results

Post Medieval (Phase 2)

10.1.1 The earliest features identified on the site probably represent agricultural or horticultural activity. Historical and cartographic research has demonstrated that the site remained largely open ground before it was acquired by the army in the early 20th century. The features present mostly consisted of shallow gullies which were likely temporary in nature and used to assist with short-term problems. These would likely be of local significance although of limited importance.

Late 19th–20th Century (Phase 3)

10.1.2 There are also features on site that appear to be related to the sites use for military purposes. This occurred as possible evidence of training in the form of a slit trench and the deposit of material for disposal.

10.1.3 The collection of gullies on the west of Area B appeared to be part of a garden system which could be evidence of the use of the land as part of the 'Dig for Britain' campaign. This campaign was carried out during the World War Two to encourage the population to grow their own food due to shortages.

10.1.4 Much of the later life of the site was used in the training and provision of horses which is likely why there is very little archaeological evidence of the activity on the site during this time. These would likely be of local significance although of low importance.

10.2 Further work

10.2.1 The excavation expanded on the findings of the evaluation work and the results indicate that there was very little activity on the site until the 19th and 20th century. Further work would be unlikely to expand on this assessment.

Post Roman Pottery

10.2.2 The pottery has the potential to date the context from which it was recovered, but beyond this, has little significance due to the small size of the assemblage. The material has been fully catalogued and there are no recommendations for further work.

Glass

10.2.3 The assemblage represents late 19th and 20th century activity in the vicinity of the site and is typical of glass usage during this period. There are no recommendations for further work, and the entirety of the glass assemblage is recommended for discard.

Ceramic Building Material

10.2.4 The dispersed material is likely associated with post-medieval agricultural activity, with this

component probably resulting from land disturbance and ploughing. As the assemblage is entirely redeposited, no further work is recommended.

10.3 Publication proposals

10.3.1 The results of the excavation do not in themselves merit publication although they might contribute to a wider study of the large-scale redevelopment taking place in the area.

11 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

11.1 **Paper records:**

Context sheets 107 Sheets

Plans

Sections 48 Sheets

11.2 **The Finds**

Type	**No of boxes**	**Discard**
Pottery	0.25	Yes
Glass	0.25	Yes
Ceramic Building Material	0.25	Yes

11.3 **Digital archive**

Photographs 424 files

Survey data

12 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

12.1 Pre- Construct Archaeology would like to thank Tetra Tech Consulting Ltd for commissioning the work and Berkshire Archaeology, archaeological advisors to Wokingham Borough Council, for monitoring the works.

12.2 The author would like to thank Zbigniew Pozorski for his project management and Dougie Killock for his post excavation management and editing of this report.

12.3 Thanks is given John Joyce for his logistical support and to the following contributors: Joanna Nastaszyc (illustrations), Sam Winstanley (surveying assistance), Amber Johnson (post Roman pottery and glass), and ceramic building material (Amparo Valcarcel Estors).

12.4 The author would like to thank Leila Paguyo, Jonathan Curtis, Alanah Dennis, Bruno Lagarde, Matthew Keady for their hard work on site.

13 BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS online (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html; accessed 25.10.2020)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023, Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation CIfA 2023

Historic England, 2015, Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment MoRPHE

MOLA, 2015, Historic Environment Report for Arborfield Garrison

MOLA, 2016, Parcel N, Arborfield Garrison, Arborfield, County of Berkshire. Report on an archaeological evaluation.

PCA, 2026, Arborfield Garrison, Parcel N, Arborfield, Berkshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	CTX_Type	Fill_of	Trench	CTX_Interpretation	CTX_Category	CTX_Length	CTX_Width	CTX_Depth	CTX_Levels_high	CTX_Levels_low	Phase
1	Fill	2	A	Fill of posthole	Backfill	0.35	0.32	0.14	52.55		BAGN26-PH3
2	Cut		A	Posthole	Post-hole	0.35	0.32	0.14	52.55	52.41	BAGN26-PH3
3	Fill	4	A	Fill of gully	Backfill	0.4	0.29	0.07	52.53		BAGN26-PH2
4	Cut		A	Shallow gully	Gully	0.4	0.29	0.07	52.53	52.44	BAGN26-PH2
5	Fill	6	A	Fill of pit	Backfill	0.67	0.63	0.24	52.52	52.47	BAGN26-PH3
6	Cut		A	Pit	Pit	0.67	0.63	0.24	52.52	52.24	BAGN26-PH3
7	Fill	8	A	Fill of gully	Backfill	0.93	0.31	0.11	52.59		BAGN26-PH2
8	Cut		A	Gully	Gully	0.93	0.31	0.11	52.59	52.48	BAGN26-PH2
9	Fill	10	A	Fill of gully	Backfill	1.06	0.4	0.08	52.67		BAGN26-PH2
10	Cut		A	Gully terminus	Gully	1.06	0.4	0.08	52.67	52.61	BAGN26-PH2
11	Fill	12	A	Fill of gully	Backfill	0.56	0.29	0.08	52.48		BAGN26-PH2
12	Cut		A	Gully	Gully	0.56	0.2	0.08	52.48	52.39	BAGN26-PH2
13	Fill	14	A	Fill of pit	Backfill	0.6	0.35	0.19	52.48		BAGN26-PH3
14	Cut		A	Pit	Pit	0.6	0.35	0.19	52.48	52.3	BAGN26-PH3
15	Fill	16	A	Fill of gully	Backfill	1	0.23	0.16	52.38		BAGN26-PH2
16	Cut		A	Gully	Gully	1	0.23	0.16	52.38	52.21	BAGN26-PH2
17	Fill	19	A	Fill of pit	Backfill	1	0.69	0.03	52.39		BAGN26-PH3
18	Fill	19	A	Fill of pit	Backfill	1	0.69	0.06	52.36		BAGN26-PH3
19	Cut		A	Cut of pit	Pit	1	0.69	0.09	52.39	52.28	BAGN26-PH3
20	Fill	21	A	Fill of gully	Backfill	1.08	0.35	0.08	52.58	52.52	BAGN26-PH2
21	Cut		A	Gully	Gully	1	0.35	0.08	52.58	52.49	BAGN26-PH2
22	Fill	23	A	Fill of gully	Backfill	1	0.26	0.1	52.59	52.58	BAGN26-PH2
23	Cut		A	Gully	Gully	1	0.26	0.1	52.59	52.48	BAGN26-PH2
24	Fill	25	A	Fill of gully	Backfill	0.6	0.35	0.15	52.42	52.37	BAGN26-PH2

25	Cut		A	Gully	Gully	0.6	0.35	0.15	52.42	52.28	BAGN26-PH2
26	Fill	27	A	Fill of gully	Backfill	0.6	0.39	0.12	52.42	52.38	BAGN26-PH2
27	Cut		A	Gully	Gully	0.6	0.39	0.12	52.42	52.37	BAGN26-PH2
28	Fill	29	C	Fill of posthole	Backfill	0.5	0.46	0.04	52.02		BAGN26-PH3
29	Cut		C	Posthole	Post-hole	0.5	0.46	0.04	52.02	51.96	BAGN26-PH3
30	Fill	31	B	Fill of ditch	Backfill	2	0.59	0.07	52.73		BAGN26-PH3
31	Cut		B	Ditch	Ditch	2	0.59	0.07	52.73	52.64	BAGN26-PH3
32	Fill	33	C	Fill of pit	Backfill	0.45	0.45	0.12	52.04		BAGN26-PH2
33	Cut		C	Pit	Pit	0.45	0.45	0.12	52.04	51.93	BAGN26-PH2
34	Fill	35	C	Fill of pit	Backfill	0.55	0.48	0.15	52.04		BAGN26-PH2
35	Cut		C	Pit	Pit	0.55	0.48	0.15	52.04	51.9	BAGN26-PH2
36	Fill	37	C	Fill of posthole	Backfill	0.35	0.27	0.17	52.02		BAGN26-PH2
37	Cut		C	Posthole	Post-hole	0.35	0.27	0.17	52.02	51.85	BAGN26-PH2
38	Fill	39	C	Fill of pit	Backfill	0.75	0.59	0.28	52.02		BAGN26-PH2
39	Cut		C	Pit	Pit	0.75	0.59	0.28	52.02	51.79	BAGN26-PH2
40	Fill	41	B	Fill of gully	Backfill	1	0.28	0.06	52.69	52.68	BAGN26-PH3
41	Cut		B	Gully	Gully	1	0.28	0.06	52.69	52.63	BAGN26-PH3
42	Fill	43	B	Fill of gully terminus	Backfill	1	0.4	0.06	52.74		BAGN26-PH3
43	Cut		B	Gully	Gully	1	0.4	0.06	52.74	52.69	BAGN26-PH3
44	Fill	53	B	Fill of gully terminus	Backfill	1	0.33	0.16	52.63		BAGN26-PH3
45	Natural		A	Natural clay layer	Natural	18.6	17.51		52.73	52.15	BAGN26-PH1
46	Natural		B	Natural clay layer	Natural	49.78	15.09		52.51	52.59	BAGN26-PH1
47	Natural		C	Natural clay layer	Natural	40.67	16		52.29	52	BAGN26-PH1
48	Layer		A, B, C	Subsoil	Horticultural				52.92	52.26	BAGN26-PH3
49	Fill	50	C	Fill of gully	Backfill	1	0.33	0.05	52.04	52.03	BAGN26-PH2
50	Cut		C	Gully	Gully	1	0.33	0.05	52.04	51.97	BAGN26-PH2
51	Fill	52	C	Fill of gully	Backfill	1	0.42	0.08	52.12	52.06	BAGN26-PH2
52	Cut		C	Gully	Gully	1	0.42	0.08	52.12	52	BAGN26-PH2
53	Cut		B	Gully terminus	Gully	1	0.33	0.16	52.63	52.44	BAGN26-PH3

54	Fill	55	B	Fill of gully	Backfill	1	0.34	0.07	52.7	52.7	BAGN26-PH3
55	Cut		B	Gully	Gully	1	0.34	0.07	52.7	52.63	BAGN26-PH3
56	Fill	57	C	Fill of gully	Backfill	1.06	0.21	0.07	52.26		BAGN26-PH2
57	Cut		C	Gully	Gully	1.06	0.21	0.07	52.26	52.2	BAGN26-PH2
58	Cut		C	Rubbish pit	Pit	14.6	14.3	0.34	52.05	52	BAGN26-PH3
59	Fill	58	C	Backfill of pit	Backfill	14.6	14.3	0.34	52.05	51.68	BAGN26-PH3
60	Fill	61	B	Fill of gully	Backfill	1	0.32	0.04	52.58		BAGN26-PH3
61	Cut		B	Gully terminus	Gully	1	0.32	0.04	52.58	52.55	BAGN26-PH3
62	Fill	63	C	Fill of gully	Backfill	1	0.29	0.06	52.04	52.02	BAGN26-PH2
63	Cut		C	Gully	Gully	1	0.29	0.06	52.04	51.93	BAGN26-PH2
64	Fill	65	C	Fill of gully	Backfill	1.05	0.3	0.16	52.32	52.31	BAGN26-PH2
65	Cut		C	Gully	Gully	1.05	0.3	0.15	52.32	52.18	BAGN26-PH2
66	Fill	67	B	Fill of gully	Backfill	1	0.38	0.13	52.75	52.71	BAGN26-PH3
67	Cut		B	Gully	Gully	1	0.38	0.13	52.75	52.61	BAGN26-PH3
68	Fill	69	B	Fill of gully	Backfill	1.05	0.34	0.08	52.84		BAGN26-PH3
69	Cut		B	Gully terminus	Gully	1.05	0.34	0.08	52.84	52.74	BAGN26-PH3
70	Fill	71	C	Fill of gully	Backfill	0.67	0.3	0.09	52.24		BAGN26-PH2
71	Cut		C	Gully terminus	Gully	0.67	0.3	0.09	52.24	52.15	BAGN26-PH2
72	Fill	73	B	Fill of gully terminus	Backfill	1.05	0.31	0.11	52.85		BAGN26-PH3
73	Cut		B	Gully terminus	Gully	1.05	0.31	0.11	52.85	52.81	BAGN26-PH3
74	Fill	75	B	Fill of gully	Backfill	1	0.31	0.04	52.49		BAGN26-PH2
75	Cut		B	Gully	Gully	1	0.31	0.04	52.49	52.47	BAGN26-PH2
76	Fill	77	B	Fill of gully	Backfill	1	0.35	0.1	52.74	52.72	BAGN26-PH3
77	Cut		B	Gully	Gully	1	0.35	0.1	52.74	52.63	BAGN26-PH3
78	Fill	79	C	Fill of gully	Backfill	1	0.36	0.09	52.37		BAGN26-PH2
79	Cut		C	Gully Terminus	Gully	1	0.36	0.09	52.37	52.26	BAGN26-PH2
80	Fill	81	B	Fill of gully terminus	Backfill	1	0.36	0.06	52.63		BAGN26-PH3
81	Cut		B	Gully terminus	Gully	1	0.36	0.06	52.63	52.58	BAGN26-PH3
82	Fill	83	B	Fill of gully terminus	Backfill	1	0.29	0.13	52.45		BAGN26-PH2

83	Cut		B	Gully terminus	Gully	1	0.29	0.13	52.45	52.32	BAGN26-PH2
84	Fill	85	B	Fill of gully	Backfill	1	0.35	0.11	52.52	52.46	BAGN26-PH2
85	Cut		B	Gully	Gully	1	0.35	0.11	52.52	52.37	BAGN26-PH2
86	Fill	87	B	Fill of gully	Backfill	1	0.34	0.08	52.45	52.43	BAGN26-PH2
87	Cut		B	Gully	Gully	1	0.34	0.08	52.45	52.33	BAGN26-PH2
88	Fill	89	B	Fill of gully	Backfill	1	0.52	0.13	52.72	52.7	BAGN26-PH3
89	Cut		B	Gully	Gully	1	0.52	0.13	52.72	52.56	BAGN26-PH3
90	Fill	91	B	Fill of gully	Backfill	1.02	0.42	0.07	52.67		BAGN26-PH3
91	Cut		B	Gully	Gully	1.02	0.42	0.07	52.67	52.57	BAGN26-PH3
92	Fill	93	B	Fill of gully terminus	Backfill	0.9	0.3	0.1	52.49		BAGN26-PH3
93	Cut		B	Gully terminus	Gully	0.9	0.3	0.1	52.49	52.36	BAGN26-PH3
94	Fill	95	B	Fill of gully	Backfill	0.5	0.42	0.04	52.64		BAGN26-PH3
95	Cut		B	Gully	Gully	0.5	0.42	0.04	52.64	52.6	BAGN26-PH3
96	Fill	97	B	Fill of gully terminus	Backfill	1.12	0.54	0.08	52.68	52.63	BAGN26-PH3
97	Cut		B	Gully terminus	Gully	1.12	0.54	0.08	52.68	52.58	BAGN26-PH3
98	Fill	99	B	Fill of gully	Backfill	0.5	0.47	0.08	52.75	52.74	BAGN26-PH3
99	Cut		B	Gully	Gully	0.5	0.47	0.08	52.75	52.66	BAGN26-PH3
100	Fill	101	B	Fill of gully	Backfill	0.7	0.48	0.1	52.72	52.71	BAGN26-PH3
101	Cut		B	Gully	Gully	0.7	0.4	0.1	52.72	52.59	BAGN26-PH3
102	Fill	103	B	Fill of gully	Backfill	1	0.44	0.11	52.64	52.61	BAGN26-PH3
103	Cut		B	Gully	Gully	1	0.44	0.11	52.64	52.52	BAGN26-PH3
104	Fill	105	B	Fill of gully	Backfill	0.5	0.29	0.05	52.6	52.58	BAGN26-PH3
105	Cut		B	Gully	Gully	0.5	0.29	0.05	52.6	52.5	BAGN26-PH3
106	Fill	107	B	Fill of gully	Backfill	0.65	0.35	0.07	52.58	52.57	BAGN26-PH3
107	Cut		B	Gully	Gully	0.65	0.35	0.07	52.58	52.5	BAGN26-PH3

APPENDIX 2: THE POTTERY ASSESSMENT

By Amber Johnson

Introduction

A very small assemblage of post-medieval pottery was recovered from two contexts, amounting to a single sherd from each and weighing 28g. The pottery dates to the later post-medieval period.

Methodology

The assemblage was examined macroscopically and microscopically using a binocular microscope (x20), and recorded in an Access database, by fabric, form and decoration. The classification of the pottery types is according to the Museum of London Archaeology typology (MOLA, 2014). The Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics were followed for recording, and the forms were identified in accordance with the Medieval Pottery Research Group's guide to the classification of forms(Barclay *et al.*, 2016; MPRG, 1998; MPRG, 2001). A summary catalogue of the pottery appears below in Table 1.

The Pottery types and distribution

Context [32] contains one sherd of post-medieval redware (PMR) which weighs 6g and derives from the base of a vessel. The sherd is non-diagnostic and has abroad date range of 1580-1900. Context [40] contains one sherd of a vitrified refined whiteware with transfer-printed decorated (TPW). The sherd comes from the rim of a plate and has a transfer-printed crowned royal cypher in blue; however, only the 'R' is remaining so the monarch cannot be identified but the vessel has a date of late 19th or 20th century.

Cxt	Fabric	Fabric description	SC	MNV	Wg	Fabric Date range		CCD
32	PMR	Post-medieval redware	1	1	6	1580	1900	1580-1900
40	TPW	refined whiteware with transfer-printed decorated	1	1	22	C 19th	C 20th	C 19th-20th

Table 1: Summary catalogue of pottery. Cxt = Context; SC = Sherd count; MNV = Minimum number of vessels; Wg = Weight in grams; CCD = Context considered date.

Significance and Recommendations

Overall, the pottery identified is well-paralleled in the locality and the rest of the country during the 19th and 20th centuries. The pottery has the potential to date the context from which it was recovered, but beyond this, has little significance due to the small assemblage The material has been fully catalogued and there are no recommendations for further work.

Bibliography

Barclay, A., Knight, D., Booth, P., Evans, J., Brown, D. H. and Wood, I. (2016) 'A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology', *Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group and Study Group for Roman Pottery and Medieval Pottery Research Group.*

MOLA (2014) *Medieval and post-medieval pottery codes.* Available at: http://www.mola.org.uk/resources/medieval-and-post-medieval-pottery-codes (Accessed: March 2026).

MPRG (1998) 'A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms', *Medieval Pottery Research Group*.

MPRG (2001) 'Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics', *Medieval Pottery Research Group*.

APPENDIX 3: GLASS ASSESSMENT

By Amber Johnson

An assemblage of four fragments of glass was recovered from the site from three contexts.

The fragments were recorded by form, colour, and manufacturing technique, a catalogue of each fragment appears at the end of the report in Table 1. The assemblage is from the beginning of the late 19th or 20th century.

Context [40] contains a single fragment of thick-walled green glass with an embossed 'V'. It is a machine-made, late postmedieval/modern fragment of glass. In context [42], there are a further two fragments of the same kind of glass, without the embossed markings, possibly from the same vessel. Context [44] contains a single, colourless sherd of undiagnostic glass, possibly from a windowpane.

The assemblage represents late 19th and 20th century activity in the vicinity of the site and is typical of glass usage during this period. There are no recommendations for further work, and the entirety of the glass assemblage is recommended for discard.

Cxt	FC	Colour	Description	Technique	Date
40	1	Green	Thick-walled vessel glass with embossed 'V'.	Machine-made	Late 19th-20th century
42	2	Green	Thick-walled vessel glass.	Machine-made	Late 19th-20th century
44	1	Colourless	Small, flat non-diagnostic fragment.	Machine-made	Post-medieval

Table 1: Summary of glass assemblage. FC = fragment count.

APPENDIX 4: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT

By Amparo Valcarcel Estors

Introduction

A small assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM), comprising eleven fragments weighing 79g, was retrieved from four contexts. The material consists of undiagnostic fragments and late post-medieval roofing tile fragments derived from the backfill of gullies and one pit (Jones 2026).

Methodology

The material was examined under magnification (x20) and recorded by context, fabric, form, fragment count, weight, and dimensions, following standard guidelines (ACBMG 2002). The date range of the material per context, along with a suggested date of deposition, is presented in Table 1 below.

The Assemblage

Post-medieval material is represented by one peg tile in a very fine sandy fabric. The presence of fine moulding sand suggests a late post-medieval date (AD 1700–1900). This material was recovered as redeposited within gully [52].

A small group of undiagnostic fragments was also recorded. While their firing characteristics suggest they may derive from post-medieval bricks, the complete absence of surviving surfaces leaves their classification uncertain.

Discussion

The dispersed material is likely associated with post-medieval agricultural activity, with this component probably resulting from land disturbance and ploughing. As the assemblage is entirely redeposited, no further work is recommended.

Distribution

Context	Cut	Entity	Fabric	Form	Quan.	W(g)	Date range of material Based on fabric		Latest dated material Based on fabric		Spot date
32	33	Pit	UNK	Unknown fabric and form	4	20	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK
44	53	Gully	UNK	Unknown fabric and form	4	23	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK
51	52	Gully	Pmedt	Post-medieval peg tile	1	30	1700	1900	1700	1900	1700-1900
72	73	Gully	UNK	Unknown fabric and form	2	6	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK

Table 1. Distribution of the material by contexts.

References:

ACBMG. 2002: Ceramic building material, minimum standards for recovery, curation, analysis and publication, http://www.archaeologicalceramics.com/uploads/1/1/9/3/11935072/ceramic_building_material_guidelines.pdf. (Accessed 18th, September 2026).

Jones, T. 2026. Arborfield Garrison, Parcel N, Arborfield, Berkshire, Strip, Map and Sample Excavation an unpublished PCA report.

APPENDIX 5: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID (UID)	preconst1-546257
Project Name	Strip Map and Sample at Arborfield Garrison, Parcel N, Arborfield, Berkshire
Sitename	Aborfield Garrison, Parcel N, Arborfield, Berkshire
Sitecode	BAGN26
Project Identifier(s)	K11552
Activity type	Strip Map and Sample
Planning Id	O/2014/2280
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	24-Aug-2026 - 08-Sep-2026
Location	**Aborfield Garrison, Parcel N, Arborfield, Berkshire** NGR: SU 77083 65371 LL: 51.38216358585161, -0.893757004765703 12 Fig: 477083,165371
Administrative Areas	Country: England County/Local Authority: Wokingham Local Authority District: Wokingham Parish: Barkham
Project Methodology	There were three areas excavated, Area A measuring 18.60m by 17.51m, Area B measuring 15.09m by 49.78m and Area C measuring 16m by 40.64m. The modern overburden was removed by a mechanical 360° excavator fitted with a ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision in spits of 100mm until archaeological deposits, features or structures were encountered. The archaeological deposits were excavated by PCA staff using hand tools, i.e. trowels, shovels and mattocks.

Project Results	The earliest deposit encountered was the London Clay Formation encountered at a height of 52.73m OD in Area A and 52.00m OD in Area C. As a result of the evaluation three areas of potential archaeological interest were identified as requiring further investigation. Archaeological features excavated in Areas A-C revealed agricultural and horticultural gullies (Gully 1-6), a pit and postholes dating from post medieval and late 19th to 20th century. There was very little dating evidence collected but it was able to identify two periods of activity on the site. The postmedieval agricultural activity which appears to have been mostly land management and the late 19th to 20th century activity which relates to the military and possible horticultural use of the land. The earliest activity appears to be a number of gullies which were likely part of the land management although the exact activity carried out on the land could not be confirmed. The area also shows activity during the 20th century this appears to relate to the use of the land after 1938 when the land having been closed as a Remount Depot was reopened as a Garrison. Area A showed evidence of a possible slit trench which could have been used for training purposes. Area B showed evidence of a system of garden trenches which could have been used during World War II to grow food as part of the 'Dig for Victory' campaign. Area C shows a large area in the east of site which has acted as a rubbish pit into the latter half of the 20th century. The Garrison closed in 2015, and the site has been undisturbed since then.
Keywords	Gully - Post Medieval - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Gully - 20th Century - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Rubbish Pit - 20th Century - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Slit Trench - 20th Century - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation Tetra Tech Consulting Ltd
Person Responsible for work	Zbigniew Pozorski
HER Identifiers	

