



Wokingham Major Highways Programme, South Wokingham Distributor Road, Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Balfour Beatty, on behalf of Wokingham Borough Council ('the client'), to undertake an archaeological mitigation of a 6.53 ha parcel of land to the south of Wokingham, located between Waterloo Road in the east (NGR 482954 167870) and Finchampstead Road in the west (NGR 480933 167875).

The proposed archaeological mitigation comprised investigation and recording of a total of 38 trial trenches (35 measuring 30 m by 1.80 m and 3 measuring 20 m by 1.80 m), equating to a 3.25% sample of the proposed mitigation areas.

Due to ecological and logistical constraints only 36 out of the proposed 38 trial trenches were investigated and recorded.

Ten of the thirty-six excavated trial trenches contained archaeological features and deposits, indicating a limited presence of archaeological remains across the site, with a concentration of archaeology in Area 3.

Majority of uncovered features comprising ditches and gullies remain of uncertain date. Features that contained datable evidence represent post-medieval period of activity.

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Wokingham Major Highways Programme South Wokingham Distributor Road Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Balfour Beatty, on behalf of Wokingham Borough Council ('the client'), to undertake archaeological mitigation of a 6.53 ha parcel of land to the south of Wokingham, located between Waterloo Road in the east (NGR 482954 167870) and Finchampstead Road in the west (NGR 480933 167875; Fig. 1).
- 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 It is noted that the drainage/flood compensation works are part of a separate planning application for mixed use development and Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG; planning ref.: 191068) which has yet to be determined.
- 1.1.4 Previous archaeological investigations in the area have revealed dispersed evidence for low level agricultural activity of prehistoric, Romano-British and post-medieval date. An evaluation undertaken in 2019 also revealed features consistent with the presence of a low density settlement within the surrounding area of the scheme.
- 1.1.5 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.

- 1.1.6 Following partial archaeological evaluation previously conducted within the bounds of the scheme (Oxford Archaeology 2018), an initial scope of archaeological mitigation works was

agreed with Berkshire Archaeology, archaeological advisor to the local planning authority (LPA). This scope of works was set out in a preceding WSI (WSP 2021) and detailed areas for strip, map, and sample excavations (SMS) as well as watching brief (ibid). However, due to the partial nature of the investigation it has since been determined, in consultation with the Principal Archaeologist at Berkshire Archaeology, that further trial trenching be undertaken to determine whether all previously agreed SMS areas are both required and appropriate.

- 1.1.7 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2024). Berkshire Archaeology, archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to the fieldwork.
- 1.1.8 The archaeological mitigation comprised the evaluation of a total of 8 out of the 14 proposed mitigation areas, consisting of the investigation and recording of a total of 38 trial trenches (35 measuring 30 m by 1.80 m and 3 measuring 20 m by 1.80 m), equating to a 3.25% sample of the mitigation areas (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.9 Due to ecological and logistical constraints, 36 out of the proposed 38 trial trenches were investigated and recorded (34 measuring 30 m by 1.60 m, and 2 measuring 20 m by 1.60 m).
- 1.1.10 In areas where access for evaluation was not possible due to ground conditions, overhead cables and other obstructions (as denoted in Table 1), later evaluation and/or a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording (AMR) of groundworks was proposed (Table 1; Figs 2 – 3).

Table 1 Inaccessible areas and reasons for lack of current investigation

Area No.	Reason for lack of evaluation during July/August 2024 works
1	Already subject to evaluation with the exception of a small area below overhead cables.
4	Located below overhead cables.
5	Partially below overhead cables and contains a large quantity of mature trees. Also positioned over a public bridle way.
7	Located below overhead cables.
8	No permission to remove dense vegetation and ground conditions are significantly wet and boggy.
9	Area densely overgrown with Himalayan Balsam.
12	Located below overhead cables.
14	Trench 12 is located in the adjoining field currently occupied by livestock.

1.1.11 This phase of archaeological works was part of a staged approach to determine the archaeological potential of the site, and followed a previous archaeological evaluation carried out in association with the scheme (Cotswold Archaeology 2018). Another evaluation was undertaken in conjunction with a separate planning application for mixed use development and SANG (planning ref.: 191068; Oxford Archaeology 2019).

1.1.12 The mitigation was undertaken between 27th of August and 25th of September 2024.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.

1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The 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. Various tributaries to Emm Brook are located within the scheme bounds.

1.3.3 The scheme is located in a relatively flat area positioned slightly lower than land to the north of the railway line. Following the Emm Brook valley, ground levels across the site are recorded as gradually sloping from approximately 65 m Ordnance Datum (OD) in the east to 50 m OD in the west (WSP 2021).

1.3.4 The bedrock geology is mapped as clay, silt and sand of the London Clay Formation with outcrops of sand of the Bagshot Formation 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 concentrated along the Emm Brook valley, with concentrations of sand and gravel River Terrace Deposits mapped within the south-west and central north areas of the scheme (British Geological Survey 2024).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background 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 by Oxford Archaeology in association with the evaluation undertaken in association with the SANG (Oxford

Archaeology 2019). The most recent assessment is presented in the earlier WSI (WSP 2021) and is summarised below to save repetition. Additional resources are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development

Trial Trench Evaluation (2018)

- 2.2.1 A programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation was conducted by Cotswold Archaeology (Cotswold Archaeology 2018), under WSP management, within the site. A total of 128 trenches was 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.
- 2.2.2 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 in one trench in the eastern part of the site.
- 2.2.3 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.
- 2.2.4 An environmental bulk sample was taken from the Middle Iron Age pit to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains in the area and recover environmental evidence of domestic or industrial activity on the site. 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)

- 2.2.5 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.
- 2.2.6 In total 96 trial trenches were excavated, 25 of which were wholly or partly within the central and eastern parts of the site. An absence of archaeological remains was identified across the majority, with only field boundaries of little, if any, significance revealed. One small area of enhanced potential was identified within 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, there remains the possibility, given their location, that 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.

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, however, 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 of the site. 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 sites 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 fact that 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.

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 within the site, and a number of pottery sherds dating to 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 during this period. 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 (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 also shown on historic maps of the area. Aerial photographs and historic mapping of the site and surrounding area also suggest the presence of former strip cultivation (ridge & furrow) but no evidence of this was found during the 2018 and 2019 archaeological evaluations. Further evidence relating to the agricultural history of the site (e.g. field boundaries, ditches, pits) is therefore likely to be encountered. Foundation remains of earlier 19th / 20th century buildings at the western edge of the site may also be encountered as development within this area began during this period. Continued development of the western extent of the site has since been undertaken.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2024), were to:

- provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2024) and in general compliance with ClfA standards and guidance (ClfA 2023a–b). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 Trench locations were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI, although trenches 10, 11, 13, 15, 20, 21 and 22 were slightly moved because of obstacles such as pheasant and chicken pens and suspected services (Figs. 2 – 3).
- 4.2.2 34 trial trenches, each measuring 30 m in length and 1.6 m wide, and 2 trial trenches, each measuring 20 m in length and 1.6 m wide, were excavated 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 until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed or until further excavation was deemed unsafe because of the depth and instability of the trench edges.
- 4.2.3 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the project aims.

- 4.2.4 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. 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 not retained. All features that did not contain datable evidence were tested for the purposes of finds retrieval.
- 4.2.5 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and Berkshire Archaeology were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

- 4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features 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.
- 4.2.7 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is 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.
- 4.2.8 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.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

- 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 2024). 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 Berkshire Archaeology monitored the evaluation 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 Berkshire Archaeology.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Ten of the thirty-six excavated trial trenches contained archaeological features and deposits, indicating a limited presence of archaeological remains across the site, with a concentration of archaeology in Area 3 (Figs 2 – 4).
- 5.1.2 The majority of uncovered features comprised ditches and gullies remain of uncertain date. Features that contained datable evidence typically represent post-medieval activity, though a ditch recorded in trench 6 may be of medieval origin.

- 5.1.3 The following section presents the results of the evaluation. Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (Appendix 1). Figures 2 and 3 show all archaeological features recorded within the trenches. Figure 4 provides detail of the concentration of features in Area 3.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 All trenches were excavated in arable land with a varying sequence largely consisting of topsoil overlying subsoil and/or alluvial deposits. The depths of these deposits vary across the scheme, largely depending on the position of the trenches in relation to the slope and the Emm Brook Valley. Depths of topsoil range from 0.08 m in Trench 26 to 0.4 m in Trench 9. Subsoil ranges from 0.07 m thick in Trench 35 to 0.33 m thick in Trenches 17 and 28. In addition, a layer of alluvial deposits consisting mostly of fine sand and gravels, varying in thickness between 0.27 m and 0.39 m was recorded in Trenches 27, 30 and 31 overlying natural geology.
- 5.2.2 A thick layer of modern made ground exceeding a depth of 1 m below ground surface, containing various modern artefacts including CBM, plastic, and metal objects, was recorded in Trenches 14 and 16.
- 5.2.3 The underlying geology varies slightly across the site. It typically consists of light to mid yellowish-brown sand and gravel but occasionally appeared as a light to mid orangish brown clay and sandy clay (Figs 1 – 10).
- 5.2.4 Detailed descriptions of these deposits, including the recorded depths, can be found in the trench tables below (Appendix 1).

5.3 Datable ditches

- 5.3.1 Only three features provided datable material, with the majority dated to the post-medieval period.
- 5.3.2 Trench 24 contained one linear feature 2404 on an east – west alignment measuring 2.02 m wide and 0.81 m deep. It had moderate, concave sides and a U-shaped base. A single pottery sherd was recovered from its fill 2405 (Figs 4 – 5, and 12). Though the fabric of the sherd is consistent with the Anglo-Saxon period, its lack of diagnostic form means there is also potential the sherd originated within the Iron Age. It is noted that this sherd is likely residual in later material as no other finds of this period have been observed during the works.
- 5.3.3 Ditch 604 contained a single pottery sherd of post-medieval to modern date and two fragments of CBM which cannot be precisely dated. The north-east to south-west aligned ditch had moderately steep sides, a flat base and measured 1.91 m wide and 0.76 m deep (Figs 3, 5 and 11).
- 5.3.4 Three pottery sherds of post-medieval to modern date, and four fragments of CBM were recovered from fill 2706 of ditch 2705. The east – west aligned ditch had moderate, concave sides, a U-shaped base and measured 2.44 m wide and 0.27 m deep. It was cut into alluvial layer 2704 and was truncated by a modern land drain (Figs 4 – 5, and 13).

5.4 Uncertain date

- 5.4.1 There was a number of undated features excavated in Area 3 details of which can be found in the trench tables below (Appendix 1).

- 5.4.2 Trenches 36, 37 and 38 in the southernmost part of Area 3 contained a total of five shallow linear features. The two ditches in Trench 36 (3604 and 3606) were on a north – south alignment parallel to each other. Trench 37 contained a single linear feature (3704) on a north-west to south-east alignment. Trench 38 contained two parallel ditches (3804 and 3806) on a north – south alignment. It is likely that the majority, if not all, of these linear features were contemporary and were likely remains of former strip cultivation (ridge & furrow). They are all very similar in width and depth measuring on average 0.6 m wide and 0.2 m deep (Figs 4, 14 – 15).
- 5.4.3 Trenches 25 and 26 in the north-eastern corner of Area 3 contained a total of 3 linear features. Two parallel ditches 2504 and 2506 in Trench 25 were roughly on a north – south alignment and measured on average 1.15 m wide and 0.3 m deep. Ditch 2604 in Trench 26 on a south-west to north-east alignment was similar in shape and measured 0.94 m wide and 0.42 m deep (Figs 4, 16 – 17).
- 5.4.4 Trench 29 located in the centre of Area 3 contained 2 large linear features 2904 and 2906 measuring 4.77 m and 2.47 m wide. The features could not be excavated because of ground water ingress caused by a very high water table in this part of the site. Due to their size, alignment and similarities in the fills, they are believed to be related and contemporary with ditches excavated in Trench 27 (2704) and Trench 30 (3010) (Figs 4 and 18).
- 5.4.5 Trench 30 contained 3 linear features. All of them were aligned east – west. Ditch 3006 in the northern part of the trench had steep sides and a flat base and measured 1.23 m wide and 0.47 m deep. The other two linear features were located close to the southern extent of the trench. Ditch 3008 measured 0.64 m wide and 0.13 m deep and together with ditch 3006 were likely a result of former strip cultivation (ridge & furrow). Ditch 3010 measured 1.75 m wide and 0.40 m deep. Although it did not contain any datable evidence it is believed to be contemporary with linear features recorded in Trenches 27 and 29 (Figs 4, 19 – 20).

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A small number of finds, weighing just 524 g, were recovered from four trenches. The assemblage ranges in date from Anglo-Saxon to modern and contains a range of different material types. All finds have been cleaned and quantified by material type within each context; this information is summarised within Table 1. The assemblage derives from four ditches, with the finds being in a good to slightly abraded condition.

Table 2 Finds by material type, feature and trench (number of pieces and weight in grammes)

Trench	Feature	Pottery		Burnt Flint		Ceramic Building Material	
		No.	Wgt.	No.	Wgt.	No.	Wgt.
6	Ditch 604	1	24	-	-	2	135
24	Ditch 2404	1	25	-	-	-	-
25	Ditch 2504	-	-	32	120	-	-
27	Ditch 2705	4	14	-	-	3	206
Total by Material		6	63	32	120	5	341

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The pottery is mostly post-medieval to modern, with a single sherd of probable Anglo-Saxon date. This piece, from ditch 2404, occurs in a hard, micaceous and sandy fabric with linear voids consistent with the loss of burnt-out organic material. This fabric type is broadly consistent with a 'grass-tempered' Anglo-Saxon tradition. However, this body sherd displays no diagnostic evidence regarding form, therefore there is limited potential for this somewhat worn sherd to be Iron Age in date. All other pottery comprises lead glazed post-medieval to modern redwares. These sherds occur in soft, sandy oxidised fabrics with limited levels of abrasion and are probably from kilns in the Farnborough/Farnham area.

6.2.2 Burnt Flint

- 6.2.3 Thirty-two fragments of burnt flint were collected from ditch 2504. None of the material is worked, and it cannot be conclusively dated. Although burnt flint is used as a general indicator of past human activity and burning from the prehistoric period onwards.

6.3 Ceramic Building Material

- 6.3.1 Ceramic tiles were found in ditches 604 and 2705. The tiles all occur in a mid-red, hard and sandy fabric with all but one being flat roof tiles. One of the larger flat roof tile pieces from ditch 2705 has an 18 mm diameter peg hole, with the remainder being small and undiagnostic fragments. Another fragment, from ditch 604 (117 g) is a probable plain worn floor tile with a thickness of 25 mm. The fabric is similar to that of the flat roof tiles, but is coarser with rare vesicular voids. The upper surface displays uneven wear and the item has clearly been well-used. The ceramic building material is not closely datable, and can only be said to be medieval or later.

6.4 Recommendations for Analysis

- 6.4.1 No further analysis is required for the pottery and ceramic building material. The burnt flint has already been discarded following initial analysis.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the watching brief.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 The trial trench evaluation was successful in providing information about the archaeological potential of the site and identifying areas of archaeological interest.
- 8.1.2 Ten of the thirty-six excavated trial trenches contained archaeological features and deposits, demonstrating that some archaeological remains have survived across the site. Except for one ditch in Area 6, all archaeological features were recorded in Area 3.
- 8.1.3 The majority of uncovered features comprising ditches and gullies remain of uncertain date. However several appear of post-medieval to modern date, though that located within Trench 6 may pertain to an earlier phase of activity during the medieval period.
- 8.1.4 An area of modern disturbance was identified around trenches 14 and 16.

8.2 Discussion

- 8.2.1 The results of the evaluation were largely in line with the findings of the earlier investigations by Cotswold Archaeology (2018) and Oxford Archaeology (2019). The majority of the trenches were archaeologically sterile with no archaeological finds, features or deposits recovered.
- 8.2.2 A single linear feature was found in Trench 6 in the north-western part of Area 6. Pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) fragments recovered from it suggests a post-medieval origin. Indeed, the linear feature, most likely a former field boundary appears to correspond with a ditch visible on the 1870 OS map.
- 8.2.3 The remaining nine of the ten recorded features comprise ditches and gullies and were concentrated in Area 3. Limited datable evidence recovered from these suggest that at least two originated in the post-medieval period. Despite the lack of datable material from the rest it is likely that the majority, if not all, are contemporary and form a series of former field boundaries and drainage ditches. Some of the shallower ditches and gullies are likely remains of the former strip cultivation (ridge & furrow), the potential presence of which was suggested by aerial photography and historic mapping of the site and surrounding area.
- 8.2.4 Beyond the above-mentioned areas, the remainder of the scheme was largely void of archaeological remains. Thus, the potential for significant archaeological remains being impacted by the scheme is considered limited.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 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.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

- 9.2.1 The physical archive will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; ClfA 2014b; SMA 1995).
- 9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the site code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- 01 cardboard box or airtight plastic box of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
 - 01 file/document case of paper records and A3/A4 graphics

Digital archive

- 9.2.3 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.

9.3 Selection strategy

- 9.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected for retention 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).
- 9.3.2 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) and follows ClfA's (n.d. b) *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (e.g., Wessex Archaeology's specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.
- 9.3.3 Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. The proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (e.g., museum, local authority), prior to deposition of the archive. Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Finds

- 9.3.4 It is recommended that the pottery and ceramic building material be retained for review in case a second phase of archaeological work is considered appropriate.

Documentary records

- 9.3.5 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (written scheme of investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

- 9.3.6 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others that are not directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

9.4 Security copy

- 9.4.1 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.

9.5 OASIS

- 9.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 2). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by 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.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

- 10.1.1 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*.
- 10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER), where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

10.2 Third party data copyright

- 10.2.1 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 Trench summaries

Trench No 1		Length 30 m		Width 1.60 m		Depth 0.46 m	
Easting			Northing		m OD		
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
101		Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown silty sand (30 / 70). Friable. Sparse sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Biotubation.			0 – 0.31	
102		Subsoil	Interface between topsoil and natural. Mid greyish-brown sandy clay (40 / 60) with reddish brown mottling and gravel pockets. Frequent stone, sub-rounded and rounded, 2-40mm			0.31 – 0.42	
103		Natural	Mid reddish brown sandy clay (50 / 50) with pockets of gravel and sand. Some mid brownish-grey mottling. Frequent sub-rounded stones, 5-40mm.			0.42+	

Trench No 2		Length 30 m		Width 1.60 m		Depth 0.50 m	
Easting			Northing			m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
201		Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown silty sand (30 / 70). Friable. Sparse sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Biotubation.			0 – 0.31	
202		Subsoil	Interface between topsoil and natural. Mid greyish-brown sandy clay (40 / 60) with reddish brown mottling and gravel pockets. Frequent stone, sub-rounded and rounded, 2-40mm			0.31 – 0.41	
203		Natural	Mid reddish brown sandy clay (50 / 50) with pockets of gravel and sand. Some mid brownish-grey mottling. Frequent sub-rounded stones, 5-40mm.			0.41+	

Trench No 3		Length 20 m		Width 1.60 m		Depth 0.41 m	
Easting			Northing			m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	



301		Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown silty sand (30 / 70). Friable. Sparse sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Biotubation.	0 – 0.31
302		Natural	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay (30 / 70) with mid brownish-grey mottling and sand pockets. Friable. Frequent angular and sub-angular stones, 5-10mm.	0.31+

Trench No 4		Length 20 m		Width 1.60 m		Depth 0.42 m	
Easting			Northing			m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
401		Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown silty sand (30 / 70). Friable. Sparse sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Biotubation.			0 – 0.27	
402		Subsoil	Mid greyish-brown silty sand (30 / 70). Friable. Angular stones, 2-5mm, 20%.			0.27 – 0.38	
403		Natural	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay (30 / 70) with mid brownish-grey mottling and sand pockets. Friable. Frequent angular and sub-angular stones, 5-10mm.			0.38+	

Trench No 6		Length 30 m		Width 1.60 m		Depth 1 m	
Easting			Northing			m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
601		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty sand (20 / 80). Friable. Rare sub-rounded stones. Biotubation.			0 – 0.33	
602		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty sand (20 / 80). Friable. Sparse sub-rounded stones. Biotubation.			0.33– .55	
603		Natural	Light yellowish brown sandy grey mottling. Friable.			0.55 +	
604	605	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned NE- SW with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >1.50 m. Width: 1.91 m. Depth: 0.76 m.				
605	604	Secondary fill	Mid brownish-grey silty-sand (30 / 70) with sparse medium s-a flint stones, around 2-5mm in size				

Trench No 7		Length 30 m		Width 1.60 m		Depth 0.92 m	
Easting			Northing			m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	



701		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty sand (20 / 80). Friable. Rare sub-rounded stones. Biotubation.	0 – 0.28
702		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty sand (20 / 80). Friable. Sparse sub-rounded stones. Biotubation.	0.28 – 0.45
703		Natural	Light orangish yellow, sand grey mottling. Friable. Biotubation. Modern disturbance in NE end. Change in natural on SW end (whitish, grey sand with iron staining. More biotubation than the other natural). Water table high.	0.45+

Trench No 8		Length 30 m		Width 1.60 m		Depth 0.65 m	
Easting			Northing			m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
801		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty sand (20 / 80). Sparse sub-rounded stones. Biotubation.			0 – 0.34	
802		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown sand. Sparse sub-rounded stones. Biotubation.			0.34 – 0.57	
803		Natural	Light yellowish-brown sand with grey mottling. Biotubation.			0.57+	

Trench No 9		Length 30 m		Width 1.60 m		Depth 0.61 m	
Easting			Northing			m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
901		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty sand (20 / 80). Sparse sub-rounded stones. Biotubation.			0 – 0.40	
902		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown sand. Sparse sub-rounded stones. Biotubation.			0.40 – 0.53	
903		Natural	Light yellowish-brown sand with grey mottling on NE end. Changes to a mid-greyish brown sand with yellowish brown mottling as it moves to the SW end of the trench. Biotubation.			0.53+	

Trench No 10		Length 30 m		Width 1.60 m		Depth 0.76 m	
Easting			Northing			m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
1001		Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown silty sand (20 / 80). Friable. Stone, 5%, 5-20mm, Sub-rounded and sub-angular. Biotubation.			0 – 0.39	



1002		Subsoil	Mid greyish-brown sand. Friable. Stone, 5%, 5-20mm, sub-rounded. Biotubation.	0.39 – 0.53
1003		Natural	Light yellowish-brown sand with grey mottling. Friable. Change in. natural on the southern end, Light brownish-grey sand with yellow mottling. Stone, 5%, 2-20mm, sub-rounded.	0.53+

Trench No 11		Length 30 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 0.57 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1101		Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown silty sand (20 / 80). Friable. Stone, 5%, 5-20mm, Sub-rounded and sub-angular. Biotubation.	0 – 0.30
1102		Subsoil	Mid greyish-brown sand. Friable. Stone, 5%, 5-20mm, sub-rounded. Biotubation.	0.30 – 0.40
1103		Natural	Light yellowish-brown sand. Friable. Stone, 5%, 2-20mm, sub-rounded. Biotubation.	0.40+

Trench No 13		Length 30 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 1 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1301		Topsoil	Vegetative. Mid to dark brown. Common fine rooting.	0 – 0.33
1302		Made ground	Moderate patches of gravel concentrated towards base. Common sub-rounded stone, poorly sorted, 5 to 20mm size. Mid orangish brown.	0.34 – 0.63
1303		Made ground	Sandy clay. Light orangish brown. Moderate sub-rounded stone poorly sorted. Rare to sparse CBM.	0.64 – 1m+

Trench No 14		Length 30 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 1.20 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1401		Topsoil	Light greyish-brown silty sand. Well vegetated topsoil, with heavy fine rooting, common poorly sorted rounded stones.	0 – 0.33
1402		Made ground	Light yellowish-brown sandy clay. Patches of gravel of various sizes.	0.33 – 0.60



1403		Made ground	Predominantly clay, with common frags of CBM, modern brick, dense charcoal, and sub-rounded stones c. >500mm in size.	0.60+
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Trench No 15		Length 30 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 0.43 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1501		Topsoil	Mid brown, silty sand. Stone, rounded, 10-30mm. Vegetated soil.	0 – 0.17
1502		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown, sandy clay. Stone, rounded, 5-50mm. Flint, sub-angular, 10-50mm.	0.17 – 0.32
1503		Natural	Mottled, yellow-orange, sand, and gravel patches. Stone, rounded, 5-50mm. Flint, sub-angular, 10-30mm.	0.32+

Trench No 16		Length 30 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 0.60 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1601		Topsoil	Vegetative. Fine rooting present, as well as sparse to moderate small sub-rounded stones. Mid to dark brown.	0 – 0.28
1602		Subsoil	Sand. Gravel present in fill concentrated at base of context. Common sub-rounded stones poorly sorted present throughout. Mid greyish brown.	0.28 – 0.48
1603		Made ground	Present at N most extent of trench exclusively, 1.1m. Rare CBM likely modern land drain.	1.1
1604		Natural	Light orangish brown sand.	0.48+

Trench No 17		Length 30 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 0.49 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1701		Topsoil	Mid brown, silty sand. Stone, rounded, 10-30mm. Vegetated soil.	0 – 0.16
1702		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown, sandy clay. Stone, rounded, 5-50mm. Flint, sub-angular, 10-50mm.	0.16 – 0.49
1703		Natural	Mottled, yellow-orange, sand, and gravel patches. Stone, rounded, 5-50mm. Flint, sub-angular, 10-30mm.	0.49+

Trench No 18		Length 30 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 0.45 m
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Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1801		Topsoil	Mid brown. Fine rooting. Vegetative. Sandy. Rare to moderate sub-rounded stone.	0 – 0.30
1802		Subsoil	Mid orangish brown. Sand patches. Very rare sub-rounded stone.	0.30 – 0.43
1803		Natural	Light orange sandy clay.	0.43+

Trench No 19		Length 30 m		Width 1.60 m	Depth 0.40 m
Easting		Northing		m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
1901		Topsoil	Mid to dark brown. Fine rooting present throughout. Vegetative. Rare to sparse sub-rounded stone. Loose silty loam.	0 – 0.28	
1902		Subsoil	Light to mid greyish brown. Sandy clay. Gravel patches. Sparse to moderate small sub-rounded stones poorly sorted. Rare CBM suspected land drain.	0.28 – 0.38	
1903		Natural	Light orangish brown sand with patches of gravel.	0.38+	

Trench No 20		Length 30 m		Width 1.60 m	Depth 0.40 m
Easting		Northing		m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
2001		Topsoil	Vegetative. Moderate to common fine rooting throughout. Silty sand. Rare sub-rounded stones. Rare CBM. Mid blackish brown.	0 – 0.22	
2002		Subsoil	Sandy clay. Patches of gravel moderate. Mid orangish brown.	0.22 – 0.34	
2003		Natural	Light orangish brown sand with patches of gravel.	0.40+	

Trench No 21		Length 30 m		Width 1.50 m	Depth 0.42 m
Easting		Northing		m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
2101		Topsoil	Vegetative. Mid to dark brown sandy loam. Heavy bioturbation from rooting. Rare small sub-rounded stones.	0 – 0.20	
2102		Subsoil	Mid greyish orange. Sandy loam. Sparse sand patches. Sparse gravel patches. Moderate small sub-rounded stones.	0.20 – 0.30	



2103		Natural	Light orangish brown. Sand with gravel patches.	0.30+
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Trench No 22		Length 30 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 0.50 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
2201		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey sandy loam. Rare small sub-rounded stones.	0 – 0.30
2202		Subsoil	Mid-greyish brown. Clayey sand with patches of gravel throughout.	0.30 – 0.40
2203		Natural	Light orange and mid-greyish brown sand and patches of gravel.	0.40+

Trench No 23		Length 30 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 0.48 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
2301		Topsoil	Mid to dark brown sandy loam. Fine rooting present. Rare sub-rounded stones.	0 – 0.30
2302		Subsoil	Light greyish brown silty clay. Sparse to moderate poorly sorted sub-rounded stones. Rare to sparse sand inclusions.	0.30 – 0.40
2303		Natural	Mid to light orangish brown sand and patches of gravel.	0.40+
2304	2305	Bioturbation	Sub-oval bioturbation with steep, concave sides and a flat base. Length: 0.89 m. Width: 0.22 m. Depth: 0.16 m.	
2305	2304	Bioturbation	Dark brown sandy loam with fine rooting. silting	

Trench No 24		Length 30 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 0.80 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
2401		Topsoil	Light greyish brown silty loam.	0 – 0.30
2402		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Moderate to common sub-rounded stone. Gravel and sand patches.	0.30 – 0.48
2403		Natural	Light orangish brown sandy clay with common manganese and ironstone.	0.48+
2404	2405	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned E-W with moderate, concave sides and a u-shaped base. Length: >1.60 m. Width: 2.02 m. Depth: 0.81 m.	
2405	2404	Secondary fill	Dark bluish brown sandy clay with fine rooting. coarse gravel. sand patches	



Trench No 25		Length 30 m		Width 1.60 m		Depth 0.80 m	
Easting			Northing			m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
2501		Topsoil	Dark Brownish-Grey silty sand. Heavy root and worm disturbance, from vegetation. Sparse Sub-Angular flint pebbles.			0 – 0.38	
2502		Subsoil	Mid Brownish-Grey silty sand. Sparse Manganese flecks and frags of iron stone. Occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles, >3mm			0.38 – 0.50	
2503		Natural	Patches of yellowish-brown sand & bright Yellowish-Orange clay. Common gravel pockets throughout. Manganese and iron stone common throughout.			0.50+	
2504	2505	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned NE-SW with shallow, concave sides and a flat base. Length: 1.50 m. Width: 1.21 m. Depth: 0.30 m.				
2505	2504	Secondary fill	Light greyish-brown silty clay with small sub-rounded pebbles, poorly sorted				
2506	2507	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned N-S with moderate, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >1.60 m. Width: 1.10 m. Depth: 0.28 m.				
2507	2506	Secondary fill	Dark grey friable silty clay with common small to medium size sub-rounded stones, poorly sorted				

Trench No 26		Length 30 m		Width 1.60 m		Depth 0.48 m	
Easting			Northing			m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
2601		Topsoil	Friable, mid-grey silty loam with common rooting.			0 – 0.08	
2602		Subsoil	Hard / compact mid-grey silty loam with common small to medium size stones, poorly sorted.			0.08 – 0.36	
2603		Natural	Firm, mottled mid-orangish brown clayey sand and mid-brownish grey flint gravel.			0.36+	
2604	2605, 2606	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned SW-NE with moderate, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >1.60 m. Width: 0.94 m. Depth: 0.42 m.				
2605	2604	Secondary fill	Mid-grey friable, silty clay with common small to medium size sub-rounded stones, <30mm, well sorted				



2606	2604	Secondary fill	Light brownish grey firm, silty clay with common small to medium size sub-rounded stones and irregular flint fragments	
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Trench No 27		Length 30 m		Width 1.60 m		Depth 0.45 m	
Easting			Northing			m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
2701		Topsoil	Friable, mid-brownish grey silty loam. Common rooting.			0 – 0.08	
2702		Subsoil	Hard / compact, mid-grey silty clay. Common small flint inclusions. Well sorted.			0.08 – 0.34	
2703		Natural	Friable, mid-orangish brown clay mottled with light grey sand and gravel.			0.34+	
2704		Alluvium	Compact light brownish-grey coarse sand with sub-rounded gravel. Layer almost wholly consisting of well sorted gravels.			0.45 – 0.80	
2705	2706	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned E-W with moderate, concave sides and a u-shaped base. Length: >1.50 m. Width: 2.44 m. Depth: 0.27 m.				
2706	2705	Secondary fill	Dark blackish grey sandy clay with sub-rounded stones				

Trench No 28		Length 30 m		Width 1.60 m		Depth 0.50 m	
Easting			Northing			m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
2801		Topsoil	Friable, mid-grey silty loam with common rooting.			0 – 0.12	
2802		Subsoil	Hard / compact, mid-grey silty loam with common small pebbles and flint gravel.			0.12 – 0.45	
2803		Natural	Mottled mid-orangish brown and mid grey sand and gravel.			0.45+	

Trench No 29		Length 30 m		Width 1.60 m		Depth 0.60 m	
Easting			Northing			m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
2901		Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand.			0 – 0.23	
2902		Subsoil	Mid-brownish grey silty sand.			0.23 – 0.31	
2903		Natural	Mid-orangish brown silty clay with patches of sand and gravel.			0.31+	



2904	2905	Linear feature	Linear. Filled w / 2905. E-W alignment. Feature not excavated, width: see GPS data. Likely, at least 2 linears as can see from plan, but hard to determine without having excavated. Located to South of the trench.	
2905	2904	Secondary fill	Fill given to unexcavated linear [2904]. Very dark brownish -grey silty clay. Common charcoal flecks. A sherd of post medieval glazed tile / ceramic found at top of feature.	
2906	2907	Linear feature	Linear. E-W alignment, again from looking at this in plan, it's probable that it could be 2 linears, or a terminus. But as above, unexcavated so not enough evidence to determine this. Located to north of [2904]. For width see GPS data.	
2907	2906	Secondary fill	Fill of [2906]. Dark greyish-black silty-clay, charred rooting, common charcoal flecks and fragments. Common sub-rounded gravels throughout.	

Trench No 30		Length 30 m		Width 1.50 m		Depth 0.84 m	
Easting			Northing			m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
3001		Topsoil	Light greyish-brown silty sand. Heavily vegetated topsoil. Lots of rooting and worm activity. Sparse, poorly sorted small, rounded flints.			0 – 0.30	
3002		Subsoil	Light brownish grey, with orange hue silty sand.			0.30 – 0.45	
3003		Alluvium	Rounded flint stones, very common, layer basically consists wholly of that and some orangish-brown sand. Site beneath 3003, above natural orange clay.			0.45 – 0.84	
3004		Natural	Light Brownish-orange clay, with some blue mottling. Sand pockets, and gravel patches common.			0.53 – 0.84+	
3005	3006, 3007	Ditch	Curvilinear ditch aligned E-W with steep, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >1.50 m. Width: 1.23 m. Depth: 0.47 m.				
3006	3005	Primary fill	Light greyish-blue silty clay with common manganese flecks				
3007	3005	Secondary fill	Dark brownish-grey silty clay with rare sub-rounded small stones, poorly sorted				



3008	3009	Gully	Linear gully aligned E-W with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >1.50 m. Width: 0.64 m. Depth: 0.13 m.	
3009	3008	Secondary fill	Dark brownish-orange sandy gravel with fill consists of sub-rounded stones, pea gravels and a relatively coarse brownish-orange sand	
3010	3011	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned E-W with moderate, concave sides and a u-shaped base. Length: >1.10 m. Width: 1.75 m. Depth: 0.40 m.	
3011	3010	Secondary fill	Dark bluish brown sandy loam with sub-rounded flints. fine rooting	

Trench No 31		Length 30 m		Width 1.60 m		Depth 0.60 m	
Easting			Northing			m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
3101		Topsoil	Light greyish brown silty clay.			0 – 0.13	
3102		Subsoil	Light brownish grey silty clay with occasional small gravels.			0.13 – 0.20	
3103		Alluvium	Mid-brownish grey sand and gravel.			0.20 – 0.27	
3104		Natural	Light brownish orange clay with patches of sand and gravel.			0.27+	

Trench No 32		Length 30 m		Width 1.60 m		Depth 0.47 m	
Easting			Northing			m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
3201		Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown, silty sand (40 / 60). Stone, sub-rounded 5-10mm. Flint angular 2-5mm. Vegetated soil.			0 – 0.23	
3202		Subsoil	Light brownish-grey, silty sand with occasional sub-rounded stones, 2-5mm.			0.23 – 0.35	
3203		Natural	Mottled, grey-orange, sand, and gravel.			0.35 – 0.47	

Trench No 33		Length 30 m		Width 1.60 m		Depth 0.45 m	
Easting			Northing			m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
3301		Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown, silty sand (40 / 60) Stone, sub-rounded 5-10mm. Flint, angular, 2-5mm. Vegetated soil			0 – 0.34	
3302		Subsoil	Light brownish-grey, silty-sand with occasional sub-rounded stones, 2-5mm			0.34 – 0.49	



3303		Natural	Mottled, grey and orange, sand, and gravel	0.49+
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Trench No 34		Length 30 m	Width 1.50 m	Depth 0.65 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
3401		Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown, silty sand (40 / 60) Stone, sub-rounded 5-10mm. Flint, angular, 2-5mm. Vegetated soil	0 – 0.34
3402		Subsoil	Light brownish-grey, silty-sand with sub-rounded stones, 2-5mm	0.34 – 0.47
3403		Natural	Mottled, grey and orange, sand, and gravel. Patches of mid orange brown, sandy clay.	0.47+

Trench No 35		Length 30 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 0.56 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
3501		Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown, silty sand (40 / 60) Stone, sub-rounded 5-10mm. Flint, angular, 2-5mm. Vegetated soil	0 – 0.33
3502		Subsoil	Light brownish-grey, silty-sand. Stones, sub-rounded, 2-5mm	0.33 – 0.40
3503		Natural	Mottled, grey and orange, sand and gravel	0.40+

Trench No 36		Length 0.30 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 0.62 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
3601		Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown, silty sand (40 / 60) Stone, sub-rounded 5-10mm. Flint, angular, 2-5mm. Vegetated soil	0 – 0.35
3602		Subsoil	Light brownish-grey, silty-sand. Stones, sub-rounded, 2-5mm	0.35 – 0.51
3603		Natural	Mottled, grey and orange, sand, and gravel	0.51+
3604	3605	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned N-S with moderate, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >0.60 m. Width: 0.45 m. Depth: 0.16 m.	
3605	3604	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown loamy sand with abundant moderately well sorted rounded stones (fine to coarse gravel). abundant well sorted sub-rounded flint (medium to coarse gravel)	



3606	3607	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned N-S with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Length: >2.00 m. Width: 0.78 m. Depth: 0.28 m.	
3607	3606	Secondary fill	Mid brownish-grey silty sand (30 / 70) with stone, rounded, 2-5mm	

Trench No 37		Length 30 m		Width 1.60 m		Depth 0.53 m	
Easting			Northing		m OD		
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
3701		Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown, silty sand (40 / 60) Stone, sub-rounded 5-10mm. Flint, angular, 2-5mm. Vegetated soil			0 – 0.30	
3702		Subsoil	Light brownish-grey, silty-sand. Stones, sub-rounded, 2-5mm			0 – 0.46	
3703		Natural	Mottled, grey and orange, sand, and gravel			0.46+	
3704	3705	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned NW-SE with moderate, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >1.50 m. Width: 0.73 m. Depth: 0.22 m.				
3705	3704	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown loamy sand with abundant moderately well sorted rounded stones (fine to coarse gravel). abundant well sorted sub-rounded flint (medium to coarse gravel)				

Trench No 38		Length 30 m		Width 1.60 m		Depth 0.50 m	
Easting			Northing			m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
3801		Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown, silty sand (40 / 60) Stone, sub-rounded 5-10mm. Flint, angular, 2-5mm. Vegetated soil.			0 – 0.28	
3802		Subsoil	Light brownish-grey, silty-sand. Stones, sub-rounded, 2-5mm			0.28 – 0.40	
3803		Natural	Mottled, grey and orange, sand and gravel.			0.40 +	
3804	3804	Furrow	Linear furrow aligned N-S with shallow, irregular sides and a u-shaped base. Length: >1.50 m. Width: 0.44 m. Depth: 0.14 m.				
3805	3804	Secondary fill	Light brownish grey silty sand (30 / 70) with stone, rounded, 5-10mm. flint, angular, 5-10mm				

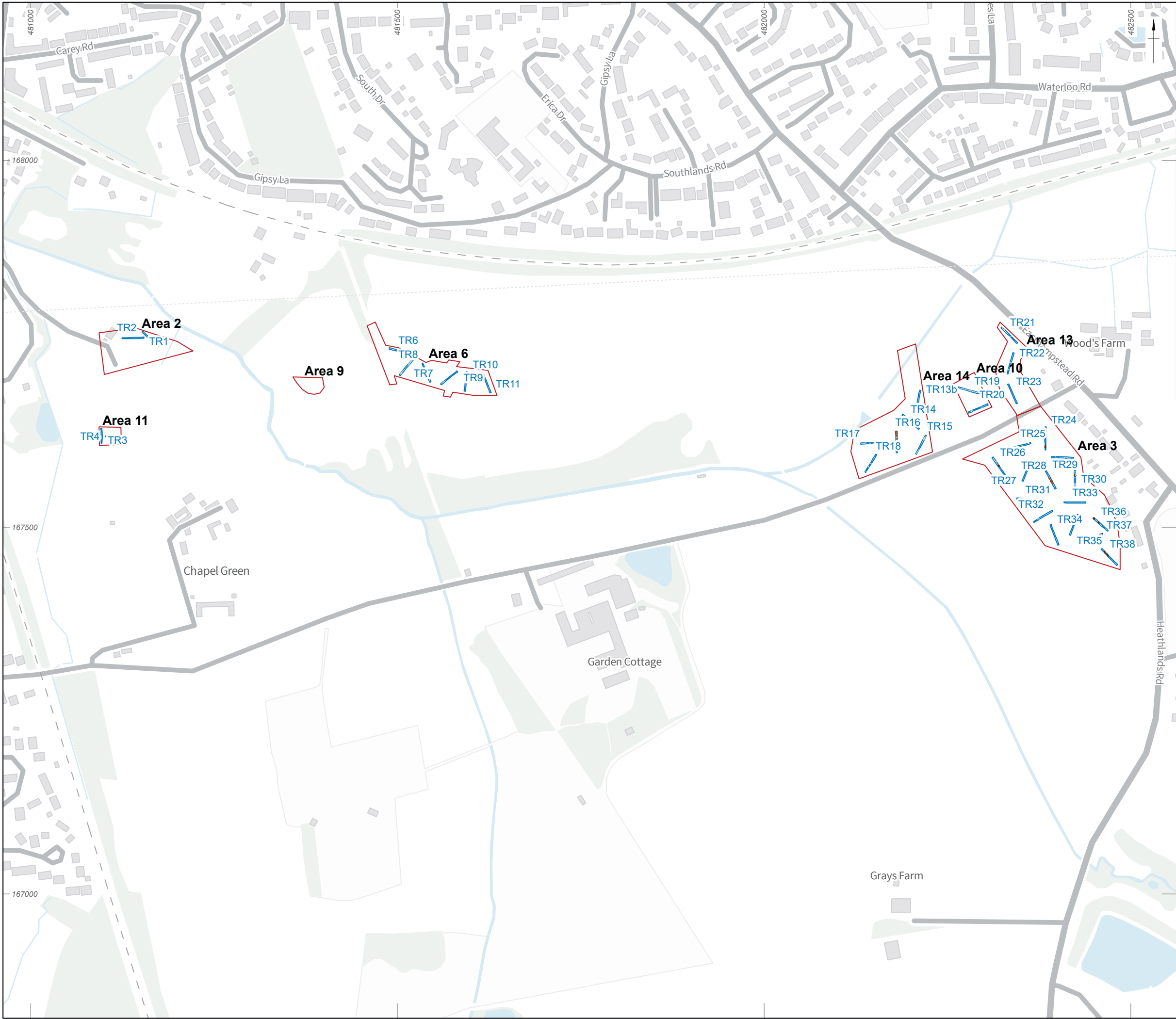


3806	3807	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned N-S with moderate, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >1.50 m. Width: 0.52 m. Depth: 0.12 m.	
3807	3806	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown loamy sand with abundant moderately well sorted rounded stones (fine to coarse gravel). abundant well sorted sub-rounded flint (medium to coarse gravel)	

OASIS Summary for wessexar1-528960

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-528960
Project Name	Wokingham Major Highways Programme, South Wokingham Distributor Road, Berkshire. Archaeological Evaluation
Sitename	Wokingham Major Highways Programme, South Wokingham Distributor Road, Berkshire
Sitecode	295081
Project Identifier(s)	295081
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	192928
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	27-Aug-2024 - 25-Sep-2024
Location	Wokingham Major Highways Programme, South Wokingham Distributor Road, Berkshire NGR : SU 82954 67870 LL : 51.403802346264314, -0.808830374396904 12 Fig : 482954,167870
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Wokingham Local Authority District : Wokingham Parish : Wokingham Without
Project Methodology	The archaeological mitigation comprised the evaluation of a total of 8 out of the 14 proposed mitigation areas, consisting of the investigation and recording of a total of 38 trial trenches (35 measuring 30 m by 1.80 m and 3 measuring 20 m by 1.80 m). Due to ecological and logistical constraints, 36 out of the proposed 38 trial trenches were investigated and recorded (34 measuring 30 m by 1.60 m, and 2 measuring 20 m by 1.60 m). Where trenches could not be excavated, other forms of archaeological mitigation, such as a programme of AMR, have been proposed.
Project Results	Ten of the thirty-six excavated trial trenches contained archaeological features and deposits, indicating a limited presence of archaeological remains across the site, with a concentration of archaeology in Area 3. Majority of uncovered features comprising ditches and gullies remain of uncertain date. Features that contained datable evidence represent post-medieval period of activity.
Keywords	
Funder	District, borough or city council Wiltshire Borough Council
HER	Berkshire Archaeology HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	K Brook
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archives: no repository;

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- Site Area
- Evaluation Trench
- Disturbance
- Archaeology
- Layer
- Bioturbation
- Not examined
- Unclassified
- Geology



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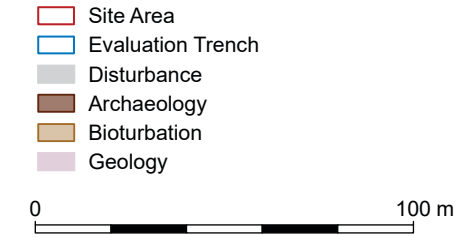
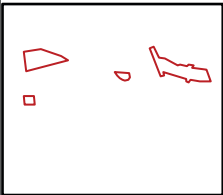
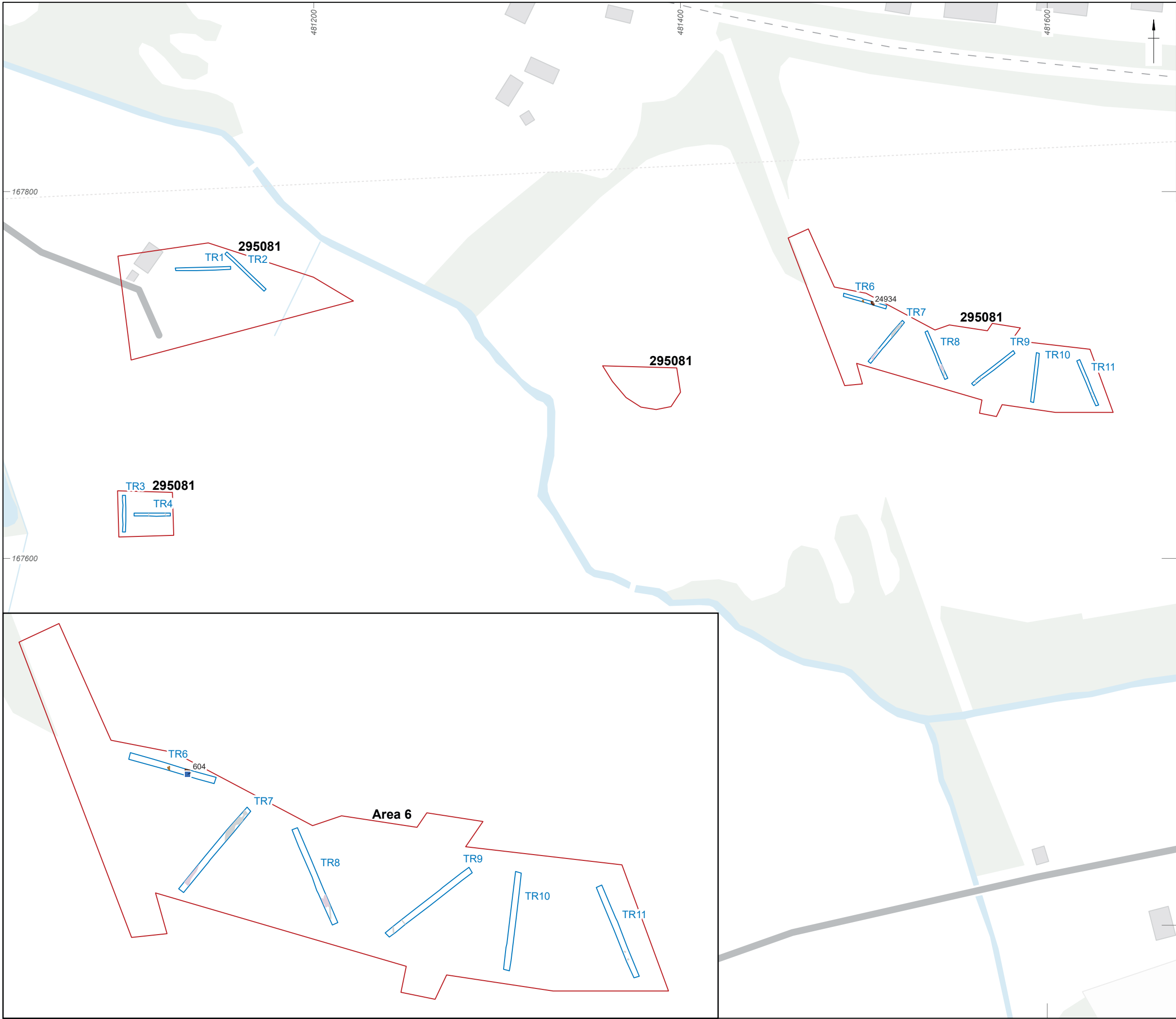
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Scale: 1:5,000 at A3 Revision: 0



Figure 1: Site location and trench layout

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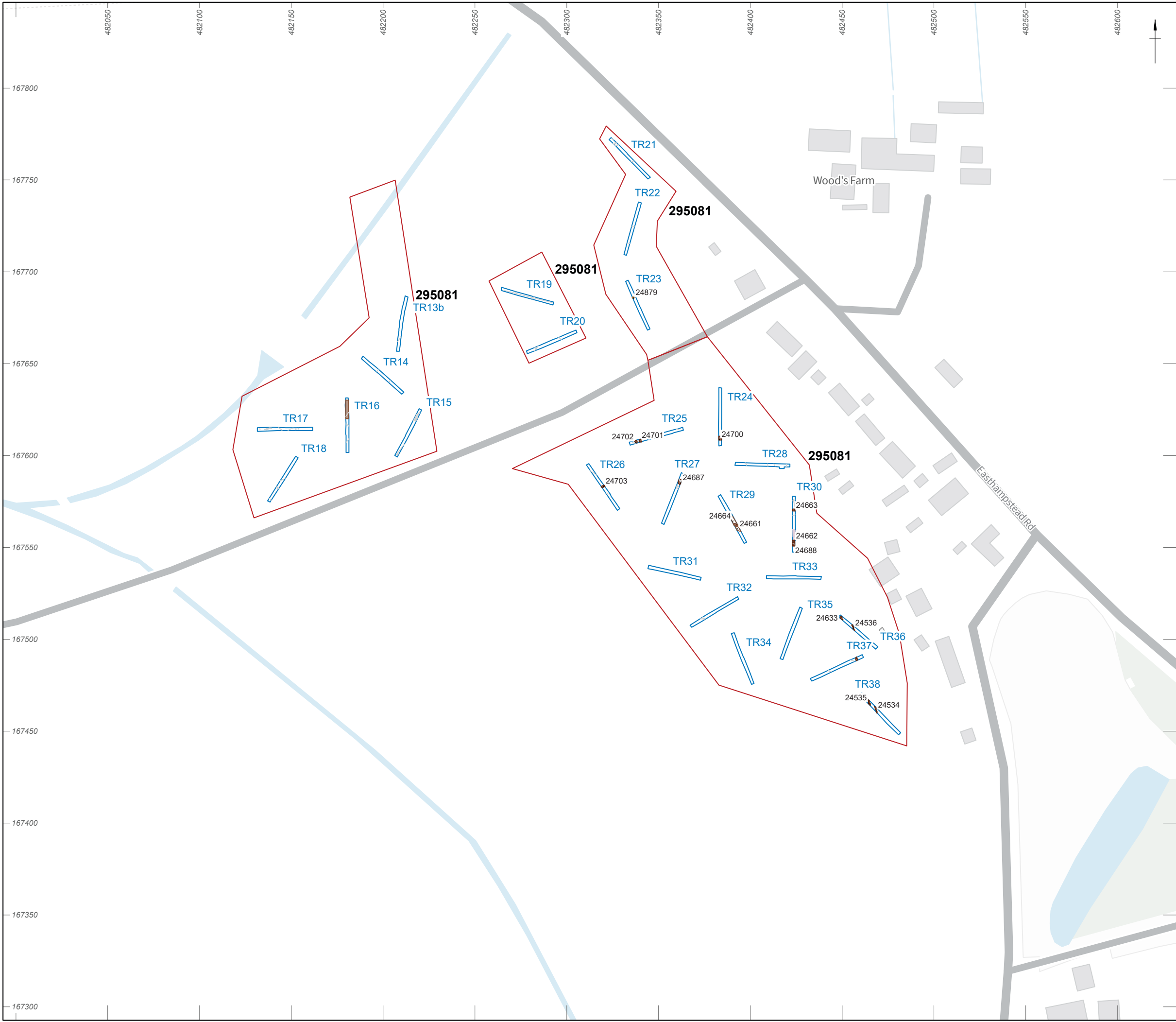
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Figure 2: Trench layout

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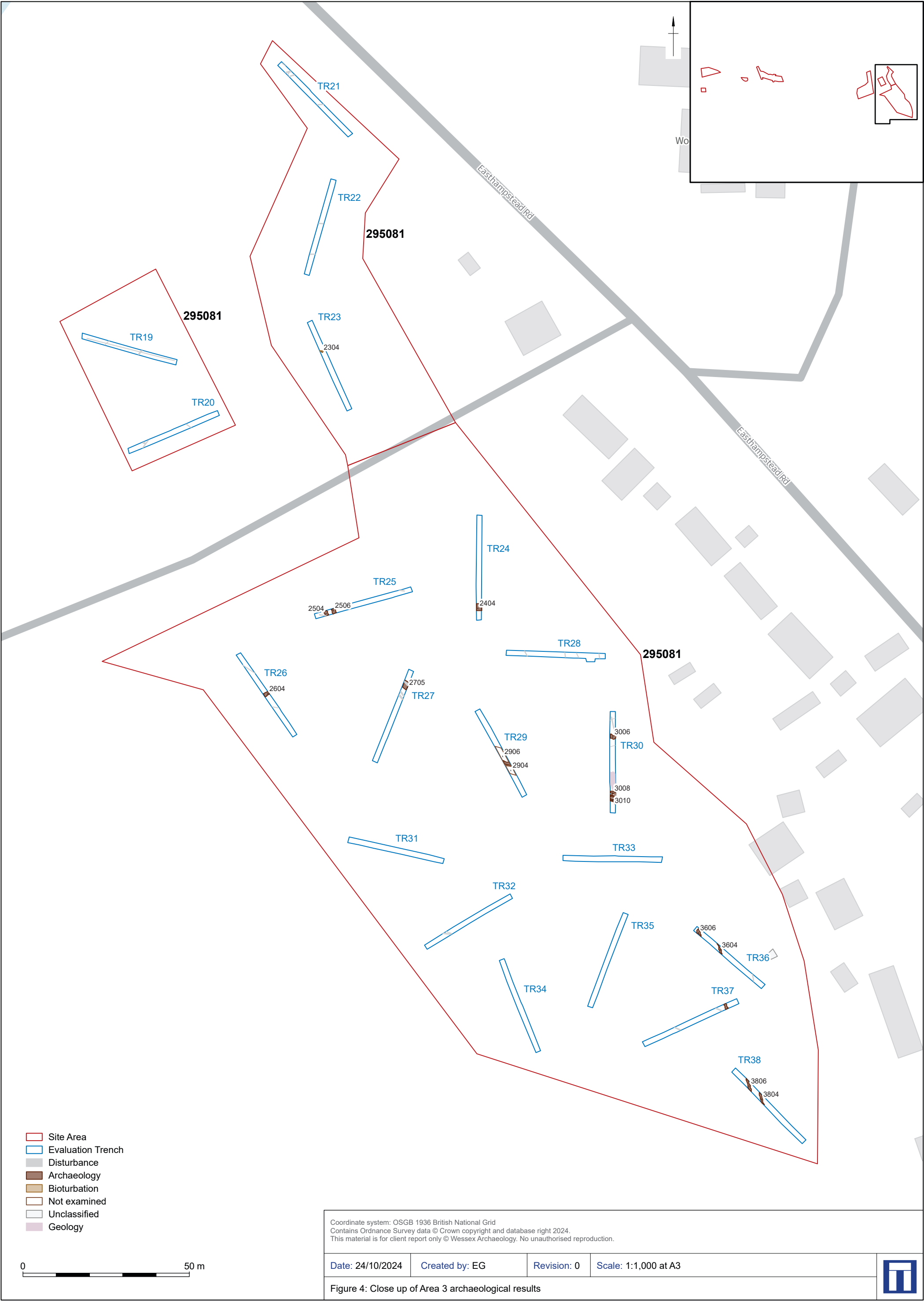
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- Evaluation Trench
- Disturbance
- Archaeology
- Layer
- Bioturbation
- Not examined
- Unclassified
- Geology

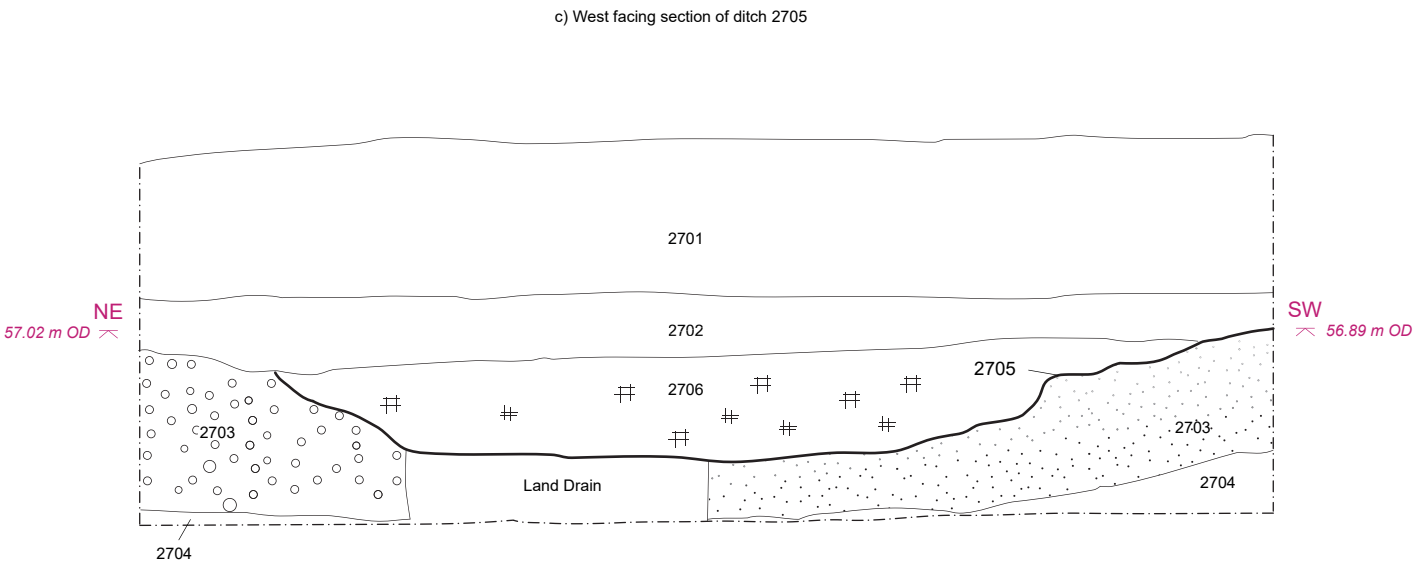
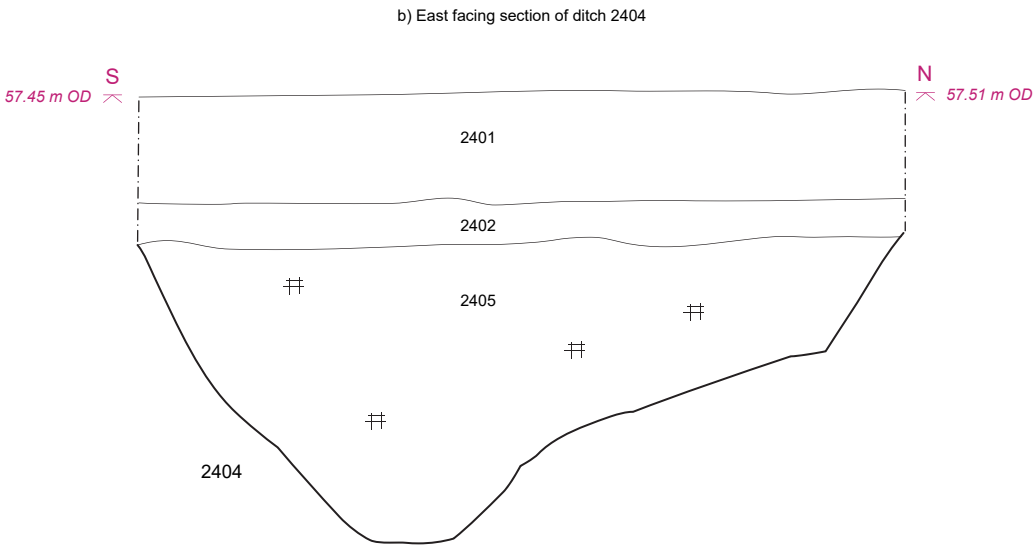
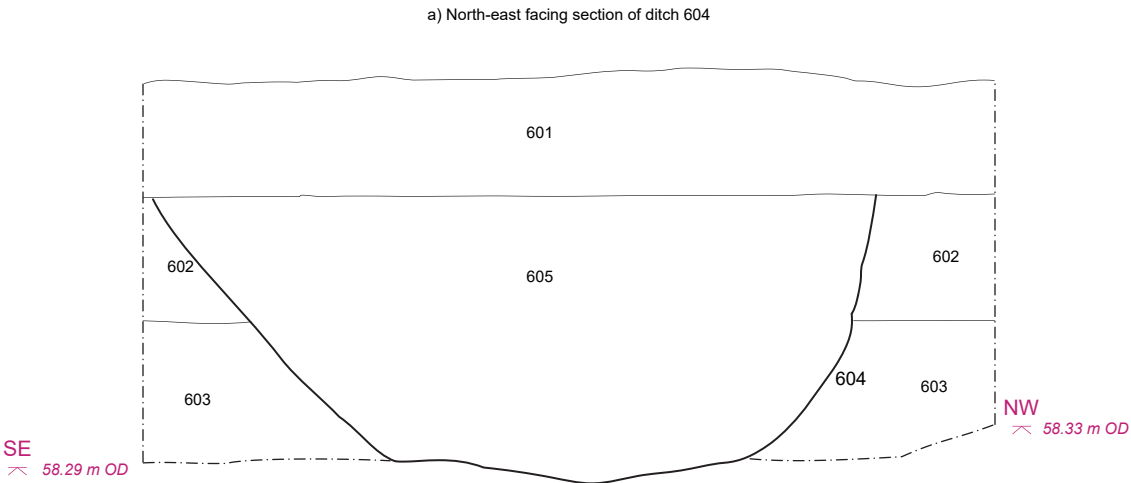
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Figure 3: Trench layout





-  Small Rounded Stones
-  Charcoal flecks
-  Sand

0 1 m

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Figure 5: Section drawings





Figure 6: South-west facing representative section of Trench 2 (1 x 1 m scale)



Figure 7: View of Trench 3 from north (1 x 1 m, 1 x 2 m scales)



Figure 8: South facing representative section of Trench 4 (1 x 1 m scale)



Figure 9: South-west facing representative section of Trench 11 (1 x 1 m scale)



Figure 10: East facing representative section of Trench 16 (1 x 1 m scale)



Figure 11: View of Trench 20 from east (1 x 1 m, 1 x 2 m scales)



Figure 12: North-west facing representative section of Trench 27 (1 x 1 m scale)



Figure 13: View of Trench 28 from west (1 x 1 m, 1 x 2 m scales)



Figure 14: East facing representative section of Trench 35 (1 x 1 m scale)



Figure 15: View of Trench 37 from east (1 x 1 m, 1 x 2 m scales)



Figure 16: Oblique shot of ditch 604, view from north (1 x 2 m scale)



Figure 17: East facing section of ditch 2404 (1 x 2 m scale)



Figure 18: North-west facing section of ditch 2705 (1 x 2 m scale)



Figure 19: View of ditch 3606 from south-east (1 x 0.5 m scale)



Figure 20: View of ditch 3704 from south-east (1 x 0.5 m scale)



Figure 21: View of ditch 2506 from south-west (1 x 1 m scale)



Figure 22: South-west facing section of ditch 2604 (1 x 1 m scale)



Figure 23: View of Trench 29 from north-west showing water ingress



Figure 24: East facing section of ditch 3010 (1 x 2 m scale)



Figure 25: East facing section of ditch 3008 (1 x 0.5 m scale)



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