



Land South of Trowbridge

Archaeological Management Plan

Wain Homes (Severn Valley) Limited

Prepared by:

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Basis of Report

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Acronyms & Abbreviations

AMP	Archaeological Management Plan
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
FAME	Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
MCIfA	Full Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



1.0 Introduction

In December 2025, SLR Consulting Limited (SLR) was commissioned by Wain Homes (Severn Valley) Limited (the Client) to prepare an Archaeological Management Plan (AMP) following a request from Neil Adam, Assistant County Archaeologist to Wiltshire Council, during consultation in relation to archaeological mitigation ahead of a proposed development on land south of Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 0AG.

1.1 Planning History

The proposed development comprises a residential development of up to 180 dwellings, site servicing, lay out of open space and associated planting, creation of new roads, accesses and paths, installation of services, and drainage infrastructure.

An outline planning application for the above was submitted (planning reference no.: 20/00379/OUT) in January 2020; however, the application was refused in March 2023. This decision was subsequently taken to appeal (appeal reference no.: APP/Y3940/W/23/3321957) and outline planning permission was allowed in March 2024. An archaeological planning condition (Condition 16) was attached to the successful appeal, which states:

“No development shall commence on site until a Written Scheme of Investigation for the further archaeological investigations recommended in the Archaeological Evaluation Report (July 2023) has been submitted to and approved in writing by Wiltshire Council. The Written Scheme of Investigation will include a plan showing the relevant area to be investigated. The plan should cover the land which is bordered by Trench 36 to the north west and a line formed by Trenches 6, 7 and 11 to the south-east, and by Trenches 11, 13 and 16 to the south-west and Trenches 7, 20, 23 and 29 to the north-east (as shown on the plan attached to the Archaeological Evaluation Report (July 2023)), where there is proposed to be ground disturbance through building and/or strategic landscaping. The works specified in the Written Scheme of Investigation must be undertaken prior to any development (including strategic landscaping) taking place on the relevant area to which the Written Scheme of Investigation applies.

The WSI shall include the methodology for the analysis of the results, publication to an appropriate level, and deposition of the site archive and finds.”

1.2 Purpose of this Document

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared (SLR 2026) which sets out the methodology for archaeological mitigation in the form of an archaeological excavation within the site. The WSI formalises the scope and methodology to be adhered to in undertaking the archaeological excavation required to satisfy planning Condition 16, as appended to the appeal decision.

During consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist regarding the extent of the archaeological excavation, the proposed excavation plan, and areas of green space which were excluded from the excavation area, they stated that:

“I know that plans can change and sometimes these green spaces will suddenly find themselves included in areas of development. I will need to be informed immediately of any such changes, so that appropriate archaeological mitigation can be put in place. In any case, I would wish to see an Archaeological Management Plan (AMP) prepared that sets out a methodology for how these green spaces will be protected during the construction phase.”



This AMP formalises the strategy by which those archaeological remains that are known to be in the areas of proposed green space will be protected during the construction phase of the proposed development.

This AMP should be read in conjunction with the WSI. The AMP is to be maintained, and the measures it contains adhered to, by the site administrator (the Client), or their successor(s) in title, through to point of operation.

1.3 Roles & Responsibilities

The terminology laid out in **Table 1** is used throughout this document:

Table 1: Roles & Descriptions

Role	Description
Client	Wain Homes (Severn Valley) Limited
Principal Contractor	The appointed construction contractor
Archaeology Consultant	SLR Consulting Limited
Archaeology Officer	Assistant County Archaeologist to Wiltshire Council
Archaeology Contractor	The contractor appointed by the Archaeology Consultant to carry out archaeological fieldwork

1.4 Standards

This AMP has been prepared by James Evans, BA (hons), MA, MCIfA, Associate Heritage Consultant, SLR. This AMP was approved by Simon McCudden, MCIfA, Technical Director – Heritage, SLR.

SLR is a member of the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME). SLR is ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 19650, and ISO 45001 certified and operates a quality management system to help ensure all projects are managed in a professional and transparent manner.

The Archaeology Consultant will be responsible for agreeing this AMP with the Archaeology Officer. The Archaeology Officer will monitor the implementation of the AMP, on behalf of Wiltshire Council, to ensure that the agreed measures are adhered to and the stated aim of preservation in situ is achieved.

The Archaeology Officer will have the option to attend the site, as required, during construction phase, to ensure that all relevant protective measures are in place and the archaeological remains are physically unaffected by construction activity.

The Archaeology Officer may also attend the site during the operation phase, should any post-construction phase work be required within the identified area of green space with the potential to affect the preserved remains be required.



2.0 Archaeological & Historic Background

The site has previously been subject to several archaeological investigations:

- Heritage Assessment (Cotswold Archaeology 2019, 2021 & 2022);
- Geophysical Survey (SUMO 2017); and
- Archaeological Evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2023).

2.1 Desk-Based Assessments

The desk-based assessments ascertained that no prehistoric or Roman had previously been recorded within the site. Furthermore, limited finds and features were recorded within 1km of the site (Cotswold Archaeology 2019, 19 – 20). However, local research suggested the potential presence of a Roman fortified farmstead both within and to the immediate south-east of the site, and a Roman building at the western edge of the site, based on interpretation of crop/ parch marks on an aerial photograph (Cotswold Archaeology 2023, 6).

Historically the site lay within the parish of North Bradley, which included both the manors of North Bradley and Southwick and are recorded by the 12th century. The manor house of Southwick lay at Southwick Court, c. 100m to the south of the site. The former medieval manor house has since been replaced by the late-16th century farmhouse (Cotswold Archaeology 2019, 20 – 21). There is no evidence of a deserted medieval settlement around the manor of Southwick Court, with the medieval village of Southwick being located c. 800m to the south-west of the site, and it would therefore appear to represent an ‘isolated’ manor, perhaps established as a farm centre from which to both exploit and clear woodland of the Selwood Forest in which it was situated.

Following clearance of this woodland, it appears that a manorial agricultural system became established at Southwick with the manor seemingly lying between arable open fields to the south and meadowland, likely occupying much of the current site, to the north. This meadowland is likely to have been unenclosed until later medieval/ post-medieval development of more extensive water meadow in this area. By the 16th century the manorial agricultural system had begun to collapse and the enclosure of land and the expansion of water meadows across Wiltshire increased dramatically. The remnant earthworks of former water meadow features are present across the far western parts of the current site and may date to this period or to a later period of rapid expansion of water meadows in the 17th and 18th centuries (Cotswold Archaeology 2023, 7).

2.2 Geophysical Survey

A geophysical survey was undertaken within the site in 2017. The survey revealed evidence of the former post-medieval water meadows that occupied the site along with a possible former drove way. The water meadow channels were evident in the western area of the site, while natural gullies and channels can be seen in the east. Evidence of more recent agricultural activity was visible in the form of plough lines, while the remaining features were deemed to be modern. The modern features included an infilled pond, underground services and areas of magnetic disturbance (SUMO 2017, 4). The survey did not identify any anomalies that were interpreted as archaeological features pre-dating the water meadow features.

2.3 Archaeological Evaluation

The archaeological evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 51 trenches, each measuring 50m in length and 1.8m in width. The evaluation identified a concentration of features of a Roman date in the central and south-eastern parts of the site. Many of these features were identified in Trenches 10–16 and 20–36. A lower density of features, mainly



pertaining to post-medieval and modern water management, drainage or division, were identified in trenches excavated in the western and eastern parts of the site (Cotswold Archaeology 2023, 36).

The Roman remains appeared to be indicative of a small farmstead, comprising several ditched enclosures that were likely subject to frequent re-cutting and modification over a considerable period, most probably due to the waterlogged and boggy nature of the area. Overall, the recovered finds assemblage recovered, and the nature of the features revealed suggests the presence of a relatively low-status rural settlement that experienced a focus of activity during the mid to late Roman period (2nd to 4th centuries CE) (Cotswold Archaeology 2023, 36).



3.0 Strategy

3.1 Mitigation Areas

There are seven areas of mitigation within the site. These areas were identified following the results of the archaeological evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2023), where Roman remains, indicative of a low-status settlement/ farmstead, were identified towards the south-eastern area of the site.

Three areas have been identified for further archaeological mitigation (**Areas A – C**). These areas will be the subject of an archaeological excavation. Four areas have been identified as belonging to proposed green space as part of the proposed development, and following consultation with the Archaeology Officer, it was deemed that these areas would need to be protected during the construction phase (**Areas D – G**).

These mitigation areas are summarised in **Table 2** below, with their locations and extents depicted on **Figure 3**. The mitigation areas have also been illustrated overlying the proposed site layout (**Figure 4**), and the full layout plan can be seen in **Appendix A** of this AMP.

Table 2: Mitigation Areas

Area No.	Mitigation	NGR (centre)	Area (m ²)
Area A	Archaeological excavation	ST 84915 55830	18,202
Area B	Archaeological excavation	ST 84832 55749	1,264
Area C	Archaeological excavation	ST 85031 55807	1,131
Area D	Protection area	ST 84870 55718	7,615
Area E	Protection area	ST 84909 55753	1,265
Area F	Protection area	ST 85032 55831	1,404
Area G	Protection area	ST 84994 55856	285

3.2 Mitigation Methods

3.2.1 Archaeological Excavation

As outlined above, the mitigation method for **Areas A – C** would comprise an archaeological excavation. Archaeological excavation is defined by ClfA as:

“[...] a programme of intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, in an inter-tidal zone or under water.”

The archaeological excavation would be undertaken to satisfy Condition 16 of the planning permission. The scope and methodology to be adhered to while undertaking the archaeological excavation is outlined within the WSI that has been prepared (SLR 2026). The WSI will need to be approved by the Archaeology officer prior to the commencement of any archaeological work.

3.2.2 Protection Areas

To ensure that the buried archaeological remains identified within **Areas D – G** are protected during the construction phase of the proposed development, a scheme of protection will need to be implemented. This scheme of protection is outlined below in Section 4 of this AMP.



4.0 Protection Areas

It will be the responsibility of the Principal Contractor to ensure that the below provisions are adhered to with regards to **Areas D – G**.

4.1 Prior to Construction

The preparative measures to be enacted prior to the commencement of any construction work on site will be as follows:

4.1.1 Marking Out

A qualified surveyor would mark out all the mitigation areas identified within this AMP.

4.1.2 Demarcation

Following the marking out phase, boundaries of the mitigation areas will be re-enforced and physically demarcated by the erection of a suitable boundary, i.e., HERAS fencing. These boundaries will remain in place while construction activity is taking place within the site to protect those areas from inadvertent damage, e.g., during the operation of plant, from machine tracking, etc.

4.1.3 Signage

Following the erection of a suitable boundary around the mitigation areas, signage will be placed at regular intervals along the length of the boundary erected to communicate to the construction team/ contractors that the area within is of archaeological sensitivity/ interest, that access is restricted, and that special operating measures apply.

4.1.4 Briefing

All site personnel will be informed of the archaeological constraints on site and the mandatory protection measures that are to be adhered to. This information will be delivered verbally, i.e., during a Site induction and regular Toolbox Talks, and in writing, via any induction documentation.

4.1.5 Acknowledgement

All Site personnel will sign under the relevant part of the induction documentation and/ or construction plan, to acknowledge that:

- they have been informed of the archaeological constraints on site;
- they have understood the nature of those constraints and their associated responsibilities; and
- they will adhere to the protection measures defined in this AMP.

4.2 During Construction

The additional measures to be enacted during construction within the mitigation areas will be as follows:

4.2.1 Conditions

- Any limited groundworks within the mitigation areas will only take place when the ground conditions are suitable.



- Ahead of any limited groundworks taking place in the mitigation areas each day, the condition of the ground within those areas will be inspected (on foot).
- Ideal ground conditions will be when the soil is dry, even, and compact. Should the ground be wet then consideration must be given to whether construction activities can take place within the mitigation areas without risk to the underlying archaeological remains.
- If there is the realistic potential for the underlying remains within the mitigation areas to be affected, e.g., by machine movements churning into the topsoil, then no construction activity must take place until the conditions have sufficiently improved.
- No limited groundworks are to take place within the mitigation areas if the ground is saturated, or if there are areas of standing water.
- If the conditions are not ideal but, on inspection, there is no reasonable potential for the underlying remains to be affected then limited groundworks can take place within the mitigation areas in accordance with the other measures provided in this AMP. Should the conditions subsequently deteriorate, the ground of the mitigation areas must be re-inspected and the potential for the underlying remains to be affected by limited groundworks re-assessed.

4.2.2 Plant

- All heavy plant machinery will be excluded from the mitigation areas.
- Lightweight vehicles will be used if any limited groundworks are required within the mitigation areas.
- Where lightweight tracked machinery is needed, then rubber tracks will be used.

4.2.3 Ground Protection

- Construction-grade matting/ road plates will be used within the mitigation areas. These will be laid out in advance of any machinery entering the areas, and to a pre-defined configuration, i.e., one row of matting/ plates behind each row of arrays.
- All vehicular movements will be restricted to those matted/ plated areas.



5.0 Bibliography

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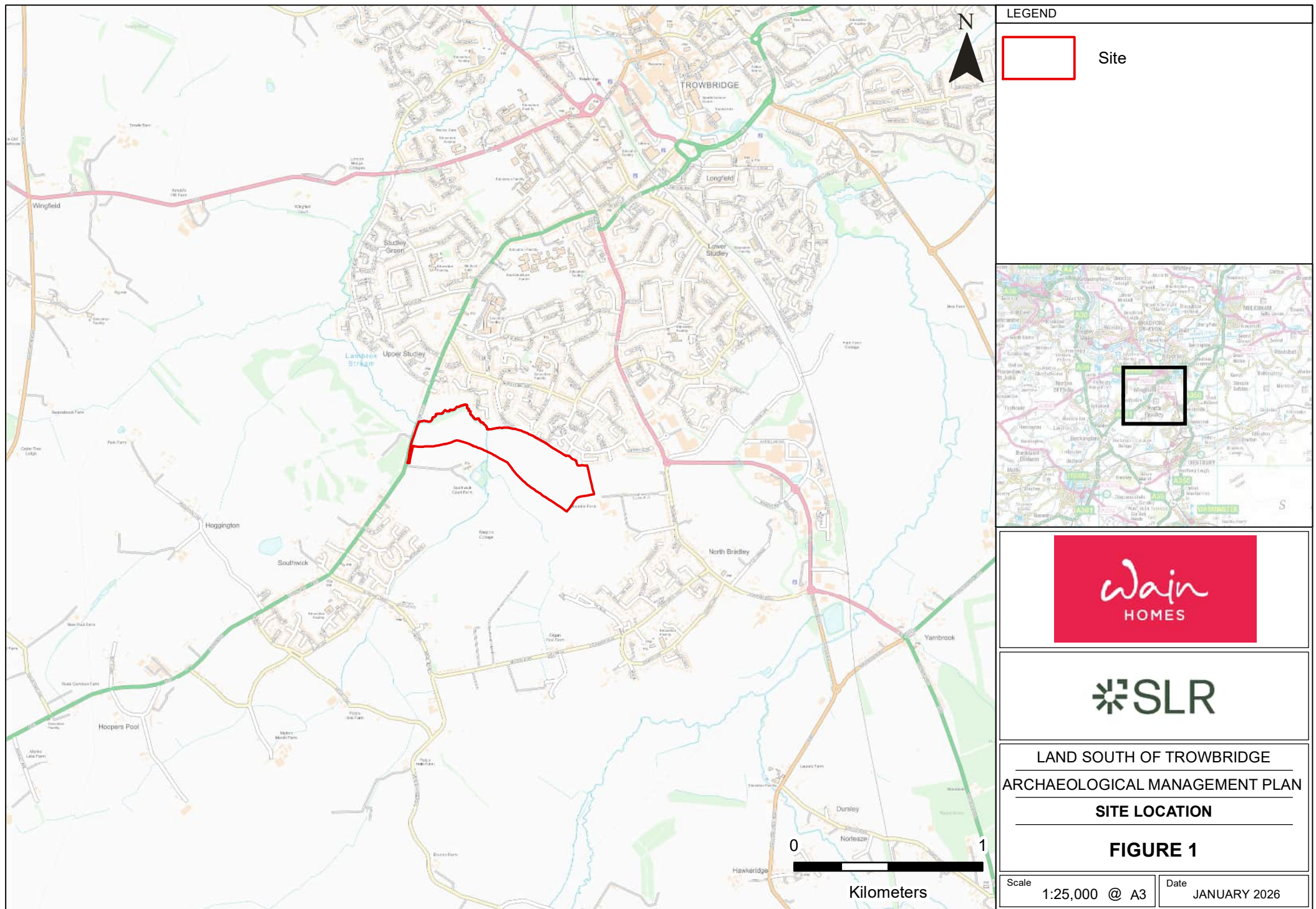
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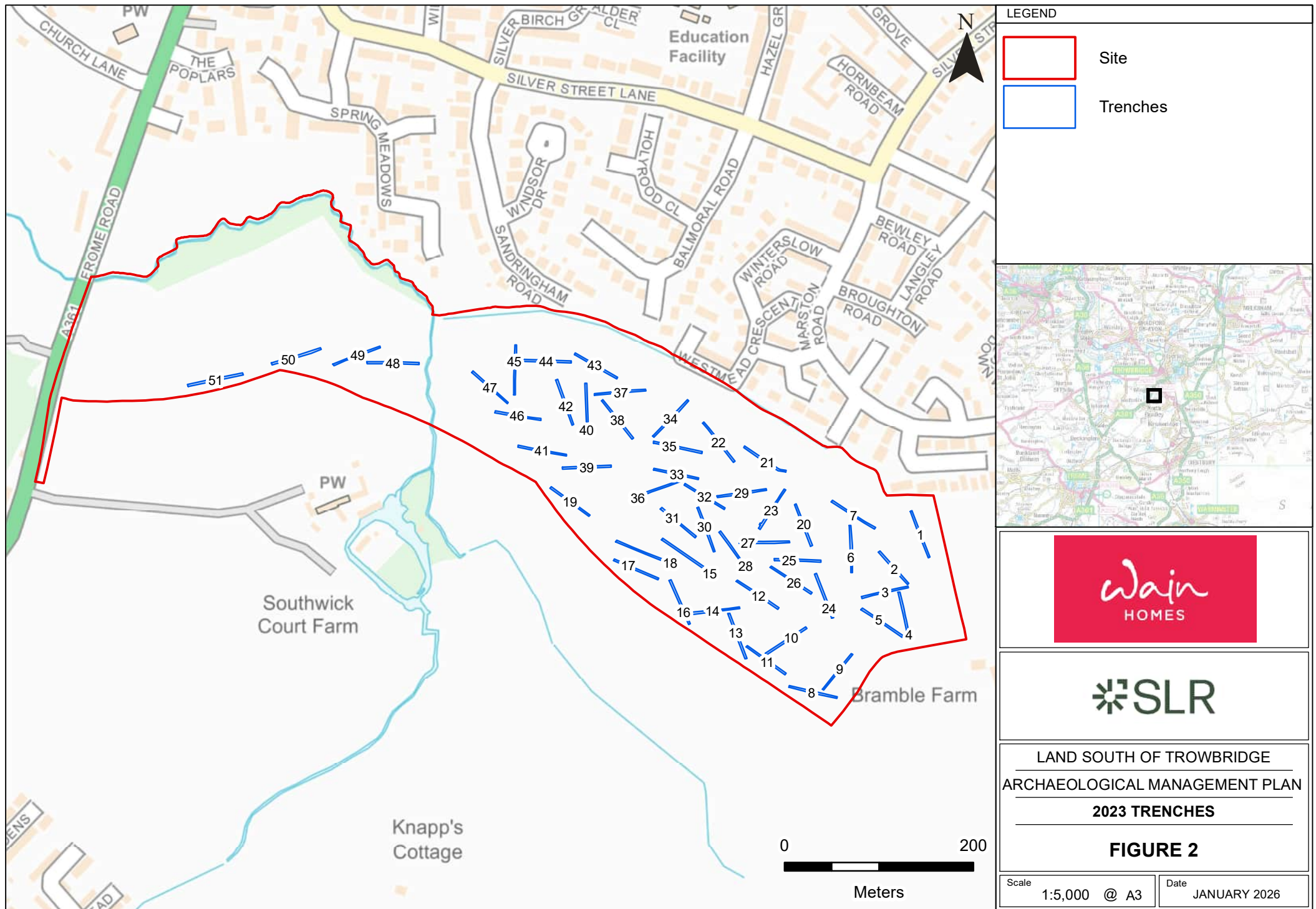
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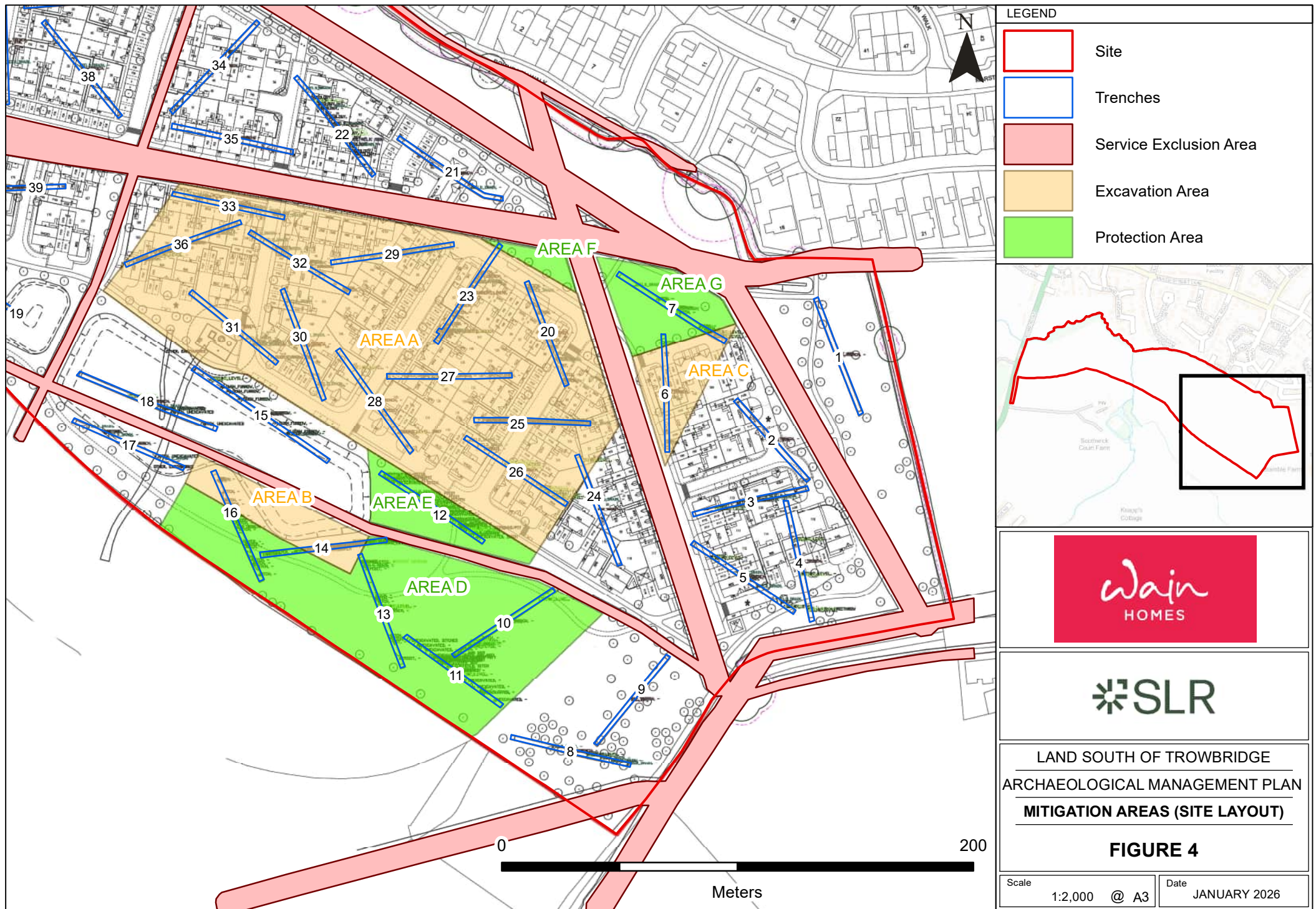
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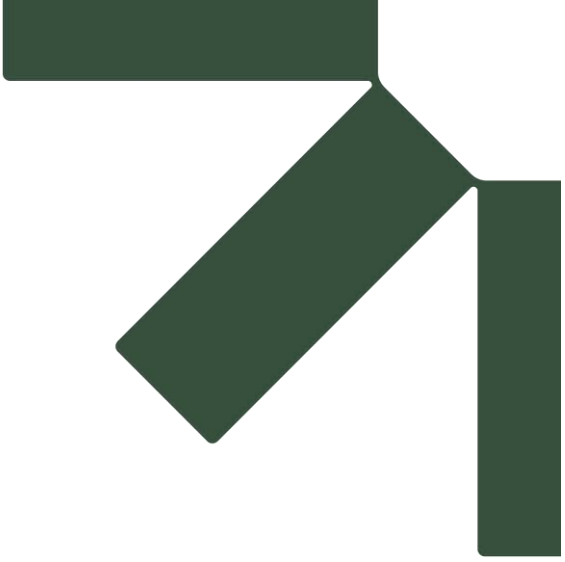












Appendix A Site Layout

Land South of Trowbridge

Archaeological Management Plan

Wain Homes (Severn Valley) Limited

SLR Project No.: 407.065040.00001

8 January 2026



SOUTHWICK COURT FARM, TROWBRIDGE
ARCHAEOLOGY OVERLAY PLAN

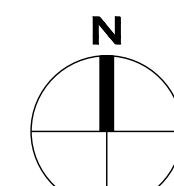
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