Land East of Blackmore Farm, Melksham

Archaeological and Heritage Assessment

Prepared by:
The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

On behalf of:
Gleeson Land

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Section 1
Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), on behalf of Gleeson Land (hereafter referred to as 'the client') and presents the results of an Archaeological and Heritage Assessment of land to the south of Blackmore Farm, known as Land East of Blackmore Farm, Melksham (hereafter referred to as 'the site'). This document has been produced to support an outline application for planning permission for a residential development (hereafter referred to as the 'the Proposed Development').

1.2 The first aim of this assessment is to consider the available historical and archaeological resources for the site and to establish its likely potential in accordance with the requirements of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) and local planning policy.

1.3 The second aim of this assessment is to identify and assess the potential for development within the site to cause change to designated heritage assets, either directly or through changes within their setting, and to determine whether, and to what extent, those changes might affect their heritage significance.

1.4 In accordance with best practice guidance, utilised desktop sources have been augmented through the completion of a site and study area walkover survey, undertaken in May 2025. The Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and Archives, as well as the Historic England Archives (HEA), were consulted amongst other sources of information.

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

1.5 The site is located c.475m to the east of the urban edge of the town of Melksham, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 392899, 164036. Its location and layout are shown on **Plan EDP 1**.

1.6 The site comprises c.27.41 hectares (ha) of agricultural fields, mostly under pasture, which are separated by hedgerows populated by occasional trees.

1.7 To the north the site is bounded by a number of residential properties off the A3102, with agricultural land and occasional residential and agricultural development beyond this.

1.8 To the east the site is bounded by Sandridge Common and agricultural fields, as well as a large solar development and associated infrastructure, and small parcels of woodland beyond this.

1.9 To the south the site is bounded by further agricultural land and occasional small parcels of woodland. A small, unnamed brook runs eastwards from the western edge of the site before turning south, crossing the south-east portion of the site.

1.10 To the west, the site is bounded by agricultural fields, which form the consented development to the west of the site which has been granted permission for mixed

development under application PL/2023/11188 (discussed further below). Beyond this lies Eastern Way, and the modern residential development located off this road.

1.11 The buildings of Blackmore Farm are located just beyond the northeastern boundary of the site. The site is accessed directly from the farm, which works the land within the site.

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

1.12 The site is situated on land that slopes gently from the north-east to south-west but is - in general - relatively flat. The highest point of the site is located in the north-east corner at c.52m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and the lowest point is in the far south-west corner at c.41m aOD. The brook running across the south-east edge of the site is situated at c.40m aOD.

1.13 The solid geology within the site mostly comprises mudstone of the Oxford Clay Formation, which is a sedimentary bedrock formed from 157 to 166 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. This type of geology was formed in an environment previously dominated by shallow seas.

1.14 Although, for most of the site, there are no superficial deposits recorded, the area surrounding the brook does have recorded superficial deposits of alluvium comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel. These deposits were formed up to 2 million years ago in the quaternary period in an environment previously dominated by rivers (www.bgs.ac.uk).

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

1.15 The proposals will be the subject of an application for outline planning permission, with all matters reserved except for access. The development description is as follows:

"*Outline application for the erection of up to 275 dwellings (including affordable), associated infrastructure, landscape and biodiversity enhancements, all matters reserved except for access from Sandridge Common*."

PLANNING BACKGROUND

1.16 An application was submitted across the agricultural land to the west of the site, extending towards Eastern Way, and forming the consented development to the east of the site. This was granted outline permission under application PL/2023/11188 on 12 May 2025.

1.17 The application relates to the following description of development:

"*Demolition of agricultural buildings and development of up to 500 dwellings; up to 5,000 square metres of employment (class E(g)(i)) & class E(g)(ii)); land for primary school (class F1); land for mixed-use hub (class E / class F); open space; provision of access infrastructure from Sandridge Common (A3102); and provision of all associated infrastructure necessary to facilitate the development of the site*".

1.18 An archaeological and heritage desk-based assessment was produced for the Phase 1 site in December 2023 (EDP, 2023) to support the application, alongside two phases of geophysical survey (Headland, 2022 and SUMO, 2023) and two phases of trial trench investigation (Cotswold Archaeology, 2022 and Cotswold Archaeology, 2024).

1.19 The north-eastern field of the current application site was covered by the previously undertaken geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation (Headland 2022 and Cotswold 2022).

1.20 The Wiltshire Conservation Officer was consulted throughout the application process. An initial comment was provided on the 14 February 2024, noting an objection with regard to the Grade II listed Blackmore House as a result of harm through changes to the asset's setting:

"*The proposals would introduce a suburban form of development which is out of character with the existing agricultural landscape, over a very large area, and would result in the loss of a substantial part of the wider rural setting within which the listed farmhouse is experienced and a consequent diminution of its significance. Given that there would be no direct impact on historic fabric, the harm can be taken as "less than substantial harm" for the purposes of interpreting the NPFF.*

On this occasion the omission of built form from the area to the east of the farm does constitute an improvement and allows the farm to retain something of its connection with the surrounding agricultural landscape. Similarly, the introduction of additional landscaping to the south of the boundary to the farm provides some further mitigation. It is also acknowledged that there has been some erosion of the immediate setting of the house via the loss of much of the historic farmstead and by the construction of the adjacent bungalow, which is out of character in this historic context. However, the area of land covered remains very large and approaching from the north, the farm would become be viewed against a new backdrop of suburban housing development in place of the current agricultural character of the landscape.

As a result, there will continue to be a level of harm to the setting of the farmhouse which would result from the proposed development, albeit at the medium/lower end of the spectrum of less than substantial harm.

No heritage benefits are argued or will result from the proposals."

1.21 These comments were addressed through alterations to the proposals, with a Technical Note submitted alongside the updated masterplan (EDP, 2024) detailing how the scheme sought to reduce this level of harm through sensitive masterplan, as well heritage benefits through provision of an information board for the listed building.

1.22 Subsequent comments from the Wiltshire Conservation Officer were received on 23 May 2024:

"*The additional comments are noted. However, I would caution that the response received focusses on static views from specific viewpoints which, it is asserted, will remain unchanged, and fails to take into account a viewer's experience as they travel through the landscape. In this respect the experience of the landscape within which the farmhouse is set will undeniably be altered and become more suburbanised via the proximity of the proposed development, including the estate access road and development from the west around the south. It is agreed that the harm caused will be within the lower half of the spectrum but there remains an impact which will be required to be offset by the public benefits of the development overall.*"

1.23 No further comments were received, however, the application PL/2023/11188 was granted permission, illustrating that the overall benefits of the scheme were considered to outweigh the less than substantial harm to the listed building.

Section 2
Legislation and Planning Guidance

2.1 This section sets out relevant legislation and planning policy governing the conservation and management of the historic environment.

LEGISLATION

2.2 In terms of 'effects on the historic environment', the following paragraphs summarise those principal legislative instruments and planning policy frameworks of relevance to this application.

2.3 Sections 66(1) and 72(1) of the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act* 1990 set out the duties of Local Planning Authorities (LPA) in respect of the treatment of listed buildings and conservation areas, through the planning process.

2.4 Section 66(1) of the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act* 1990 sets out the statutory duty of the decision-maker, where a proposed development would affect a listed building or its setting:

"*In considering whether to grant planning permission [or permission in principle] for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.*"

2.5 The 'special regard' duty of the 1990 Act has been tested in the Courts and confirmed to require that "*considerable importance and weight*" is afforded by the decision-maker to the desirability of preserving a listed building along with its setting.

2.6 Paragraph 212 of the NPPF (MHCLG, 2024) transposes s66(1) and s72(1) of the 1990 Act into national planning policy.

2.7 The balancing exercise to be performed – between the harm arising from a proposal and the benefits which would accrue from its implementation – is then subsequently presented in paragraphs 214 and 215 of the NPPF.

National Planning Policy

2.8 The revised NPPF was published in 2024 (as amended in 2025). Section 16 sets out the government's approach to the conservation and management of the historic environment through the planning process.

2.9 The opening paragraph (202) recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.

2.10 Paragraph 207 concerns planning applications, stating that:

"*In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.*"

2.11 NPPF paragraph 210 is relevant when it states that:

"*In determining applications, local planning authorities should take account of:*

a. the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;

b. the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and

c. the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness."

2.12 Paragraph 212 considers the weighting given within the planning decision with regard to impacts on designated heritage assets, stating that:

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

2.13 Paragraph 213 considers the level of harmful effects on designated heritage assets and states that:

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

a. Grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional; and

b. *Assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional*[1]*."*

2.14 In relation to non-designated heritage assets, footnote 75 explains the exemption to the 'balanced judgement' exercise outlined in paragraph 216 in cases where:

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

2.15 With regard to the decision making process, paragraphs 214 and 215 of the NPPF are of relevance.

2.16 Paragraph 214 states that:

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

a. *The nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site;*

b. *No viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation;*

c. *Conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and*

d. *The harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use."*

2.17 Paragraph 215 states that:

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

2.18 Paragraph 216 refers to non-designated heritage assets identifying that:

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

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

2.19 Paragraph 219 sets out that:

"*Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.*"

Planning Policy Guidance (On Harm)

2.20 Planning Policy Guidance at Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: *18a-018-20190723* provides further clarification with regards to the identification of harm. This identifies that harm to the significance of heritage assets can arise through physical changes or change within their settings. With regard to the scale of harm, it identifies Substantial Harm to be a "*high test, so it may not arise in many cases*". It iterates that harm may arise in certain circumstances and that even large changes may be less than substantial or indeed, not harmful at all.

Local Planning Policy

2.21 Local planning policy, of relevance to the site, is contained within the Wiltshire Core Strategy, which was adopted on 20 January 2015. The introduction states: "*…the way that Wiltshire looks is a key strength and the rich environments and heritage will be managed to act as a catalyst for the realisation of this strategy and not a barrier to it*".

2.22 Policy within the adopted Core Strategy which relates to heritage matters is contained within Strategic objective 5 and Section 6 Core Policies, these are illustrated below:

Core Policy 58 – Ensuring the Conservation of the Historic Environment

"*Development should protect, conserve and where possible enhance the historic environment.*

Designated heritage assets and their settings will be conserved, and where appropriate enhanced in a manner appropriate to their significance, including:

i. Nationally significant archaeological remains;

ii. World Heritage Sites within and adjacent to Wiltshire;

iii. Buildings and structures of special architectural or historic interest;

iv. The special character or appearance of conservation areas;

v. Historic parks and gardens; and

vi. Important landscapes, including registered battlefields and townscapes.

Distinctive elements of Wiltshire's historic environment, including non-designated heritage assets, which contribute to a sense of local character and identity will be conserved, and where possible enhanced. The potential contribution of these heritage assets towards wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits will also be utilised where this can

be delivered in a sensitive and appropriate manner in accordance with Core Policy 57 (Ensuring High Quality Design and Place Shaping).

Heritage assets at risk will be monitored and development proposals that improve their condition will be encouraged. The advice of statutory and local consultees will be sought in consideration of such applications."

Strategic Objective 5 – Protecting and Enhancing the Natural, Historic and Built Environment

"*Wiltshire contains some outstanding built heritage which is an important asset to be safeguarded and which should be reflected in new development. Well-designed developments help to provide a sense of place, add to local distinctiveness and promote community cohesiveness and social well-being. New development will need to respect and enhance Wiltshire's distinctive characteristics. Wiltshire also has a rich historic environment, including the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site and numerous sites of archaeological importance. These sites will be protected from inappropriate development and, in the case of the World Heritage Site, controlled in a way which sustains its outstanding universal value.*

Key outcomes:

- *Features and areas of historical and cultural value will have been conserved and where possible enhanced, including the sensitive re-use of historical buildings where appropriate;*
- *Wiltshire's distinctive built heritage will have been used as the inspiration for new developments; and*
- *Archaeological sites and features will have been adequately protected."*

2.23 It should be noted that the Core Strategy will be replaced by the emerging Wiltshire Local Plan. The Draft Wiltshire Local Plan (2020-2038) was submitted for examination in November 2024 with the application site forming part of a larger area of land which is identified as suitable for residential-led development via a draft allocation detailed in Policy 18 'Land East of Melksham'. This document was taken into consideration and, where relevant, is referenced throughout this Archaeological and Heritage Baseline Assessment.

2.24 The plans and policies identified above have been considered in the preparation of this assessment.

Section 3
Methodology

ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

3.1 This report has been produced in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2020). These guidelines provide a national standard for the completion of desk-based assessments.

3.2 This report has also given due regard to the potential for effects on designated heritage assets, in terms of their setting, in line with the five-step process outlined in Historic England's national guidance, which is set out in '*Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets'* (Historic England, 2017) and other relevant documents related to the historic environment (Historic England, 2015).

Archaeological Methodology

3.3 The assessment principally involved consultation of readily available archaeological and historical information from documentary and cartographic sources. The major repositories of relevant information comprised:

- The National Heritage List for England (NHLE) curated by Historic England;
- Information held by the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER) on known archaeological sites, monuments, events and findspots within the vicinity of the site;
- Maps and documents held by the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, and online at The Genealogist[2] , Know Your Place [3]and Envirocheck[4];
- Aerial photographs held by the Historic England Archives (HEA) as well as available online sources, such as the Britain from Above[5], APex[6] and the National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP)[7] websites;
- Analysis of LiDAR information held by the Environment Agency[8]:
- The results of a geophysical survey across the site (Headland, 2022 and SUMO, 2025);
- The results of trial trenching across the site (CA, 2022 and Headland, 2025); and
- Previous assessments of the locality undertaken by EDP, if available.

[2] https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/ (accessed 05.08.25)
[3] https://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/?edition=wilts (accessed 05.08.25)
[4] https://app.envirocheck.co.uk/ (accessed 05.08.25)
[5] https://britainfromabove.org.uk/ (accessed 05.08.25)
[6] https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/ (accessed 05.08.25)
[7] https://www.ncap.org/ (accessed 05.08.25)
[8] https://environment.data.gov.uk/survey (accessed 05.08.25)

3.4 The assessment provides a synthesis of relevant archaeological information for the site and Study Area, to allow for additional contextual information regarding its archaeological interest and/or potential to be gathered. A Study Area of 1km in diameter from the site boundary was considered proportionate and appropriate for the determination of the site's archaeological potential.

3.5 The information gathered from the repositories and sources identified above was checked and augmented through the completion of a walkover of the site and surrounding area, undertaken in May 2025. This walkover considered the nature and significance of known and/or potential archaeological assets within the site, identified visible historic features and assessed possible factors that may affect the survival or condition of known or potential archaeological assets.

3.6 The report thereafter concludes with an assessment of the site's likely archaeological potential, made with regard to current best practice guidelines.

LiDAR Methodology

3.7 Existing Environment Agency LiDAR data was analysed with the specific aim of clarifying the extent of any potential archaeological remains. Airborne LiDAR data (light detection and ranging) was utilised as a source of primary data for the current assessment. LiDAR scanning records height data and has applications in the recording of archaeological earthworks.

3.8 Environment Agency LiDAR Digital Terrain Model (DTM) tiles were obtained from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Data Services Platform, under the Open Government Licence v3.0. The data was available at 1m resolution, surveyed in 2022, for most of the study area.

3.9 The tiles were downloaded in ASCII (.asc) format, with each .asc file covering an area measuring 100x100m-square. The Environment Agency state that their specifications for LiDAR data requires absolute height error to be less than +-15cm, and relative error to be less than +-5cm (EA, 2016). The planar accuracy of the data is guaranteed to +- 40cm (absolute), while relative planar accuracy depends on the altitude of the survey aircraft but can generally be said to be +-20cm (*ibid*).

3.10 The LiDAR .asc files contain British National Grid as the 'native' coordinate reference system.

3.11 Where necessary, the tiles were combined into a mosaic raster dataset using QGIS 3.40 and exported as a TIFF.

3.12 The DTM was processed using the Relief Visualisation Toolbox (RVT; version 1.3 ZRC SAZU, 2016) plugin for QGIS to create a number of visualisations including a multi-direction hillshade and local relief model following Historic England guidelines (HE 2010), Guidance in Airbourne Laser Scanning Raster Visualisation: A guide to good practice (Kokalj and Hesse 2017) and the Guidelines for the use of Airborne Laser Scanning (LiDAR) in Archaeology (EAC GUIDELINES 10). The parameters were set to those appropriate for the topography of the area. The output images from the RVT software were then imported into

the QGIS 3.40 where further settings manipulation was undertaken to enhance the visualisation for archaeological feature detection.

3.13 This software allows for a range of visualisation techniques to be applied to the data. Different techniques have varying degrees of successful application, depending on the nature of the environment where the data was collected. As such, the whole suite of visualisations was produced and then the individual images appraised as to their usefulness in the current context. This appraisal identified that of the visualisation techniques, multiple direction hill-shades produced the best quality and most useful imagery for the archaeology assessment, but for comparison purposes open negative and positive models are also reproduced.

Setting Assessment Methodology

3.14 In addition, this report also considers the nature and significance of any indirect effects on the significance of heritage assets located within the wider surroundings of the site. In this regard, the site walkover included visits to heritage assets beyond the site boundaries and considered, where appropriate, their significance, any contribution derived from their wider setting and any existing contribution made by the land at the site in that respect.

3.15 The setting assessment process employed current Historic England guidance, which is set out in *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets* (HE, 2017). This provides best practice guidance for the identification and assessment of potential setting issues in the historic environment.

3.16 When assessing the 'indirect' impact of proposals on heritage assets, it is not a question of whether there would be a physical impact on that asset, but instead whether change within its 'setting' would lead to a loss of 'significance'.

3.17 In simple terms, setting is defined as "*the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced"* (MHCLG, 2024). It must be recognized from the outset that 'setting' is not a heritage asset and cannot itself be harmed. Its importance relates to the contribution it makes to the significance of the heritage asset.

3.18 Historic England (HE) guidance identifies that: "*change to heritage assets is inevitable, but it is only harmful when significance is damaged*" (HE, 2015).

3.19 In that regard, 'significance' is defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as: "*the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic.*"

3.20 As such, when assessing the indirect impact of proposals on heritage assets such as listed buildings and conservation areas, it is not a question of whether their setting would be impacted, but rather a question of whether changes within an asset's 'setting' would lead to a loss of 'significance' based on the above 'heritage interest' as defined in the NPPF.

3.21 Set within this context, it is necessary to first define the significance of the asset in question, and the contribution made to that significance by its 'setting', in order to establish whether there would be a loss and therefore harm. The guidance identifies that change within a

heritage asset's setting need not necessarily cause harm to that asset and that it can be positive, negative or neutral.

3.22 In light of the above, the assessment of potential setting effects, arising from the proposed scheme, has followed the guidance set out in *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets*, published by Historic England in 2017. This guidance (HE, 2017) observes that: "*The NPPF makes it clear that the extent of the setting of a heritage asset is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve*."

3.23 The guidance also observes that: "*elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate the significance or may be neutral*."

3.24 The guidance states that the importance of setting: "*lies in what it contributes to the significance of the heritage asset or to the ability to appreciate that significance*."

3.25 It goes on to note that:

"…all heritage assets have significance, some of which have particular significance and are designated. The contribution made by their setting to their significance also varies. Although many settings may be enhanced by development, not all settings have the same capacity to accommodate change without harm to the significance of the heritage asset or the ability to appreciate it."

3.26 Whilst identifying that elements of an asset's setting can make an important contribution to its significance, the guidance states that "*setting is not itself a heritage asset, nor a heritage designation, although land comprising a setting may itself be designated*". It continues by adding that "*conserving or enhancing heritage assets by taking their settings into account need not prevent change; indeed change may be positive…*".

3.27 On a practical level, the HE guidance (2017) identifies an approach to assessing setting, which is based on a five-step procedure, i.e.:

- Step 1: Identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected;
- Step 2: Assess the degree to which these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s), or allow significance to be appreciated;
- Step 3: Assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance or the ability to appreciate it;
- Step 4: Explore ways of maximising enhancement and avoid or minimise harm; and
- Step 5: Make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.

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

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

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

- *The physical surroundings of the asset, including its relationship with other heritage assets;*
- *The asset's intangible associations with its surroundings, and patterns of use;*
- *The contribution made by noises, smells, etc. to significance; and*
- *The way views allow the significance of the asset to be appreciated."*

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

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

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

- *Location and siting;*
- *Form and appearance;*
- *Wider effects; and*
- *Permanence."*

3.31 As far as identifying the heritage assets potentially affected by the proposed scheme is concerned, due consideration has been given to the following factors which are considered to influence the potential for the setting of heritage assets to be materially affected:

1. The proximity to the existing built environment of Melksham to the west of the site;
2. The current site and study area conditions;
3. Consideration was given to the approved development which will be implemented immediately to the west of the site under PL/2023/11188;
4. The influence of the local topography, built form and tree cover; and
5. Consideration of the character and distribution of surrounding heritage assets.

3.32 On this basis, it was determined that the development of the site is unlikely to affect any heritage assets beyond 1km distance from its boundaries and hence this determined the spatial limits of the exercise.

3.33 In light of the above, this report has been prepared in a robust manner, employing current best practice professional guidance.

Section 4
Historic Environment Resource

INTRODUCTION

4.1 This section details and contextualises the known designated and non-designated heritage assets within and around the site.

4.2 The site does not contain any designated heritage assets, such as world heritage sites, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens or registered battlefields; nor does it fall within a conservation area. There are three listed buildings located within the study area, each of these are Grade II designated. No other designated heritage assets are located within the study area and are thus not considered within the remit of this report. The locations of these assets are shown on **Plan EDP 1**.

4.3 The Wiltshire HER contains five records within the site. These comprise a Roman ditch and pit identified during private groundworks for service pipes, a former 19th century outfarm building that is no longer extant, and evidence of extensive ridge and furrow evidenced seen on aerial photography, likely of post-medieval date. The HER also records a number of archaeological sites/features within the wider study area. The locations of these records and previous archaeological works are displayed on **Plans EDP 2** and **3**.

4.4 Extracts of historic cartographic sources and LiDAR Data, where relevant to the aims and objectives of this report, are included as **Plans EDP 4** - **9**.

DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

4.5 There are no designated heritage assets within the boundary of the site, where there would be a presumption in favour of physical preservation *in situ*.

4.6 Step One of the settings assessment process considered whether designated heritage assets in the wider locality might be subject to change to their settings from the development of the site. This was completed, in the first instance, through an initial map analysis, then subsequently augmented and confirmed during the field visit. Step One considered assets within a 1km radius of the site boundary.

4.7 Given that an asset's setting is defined as the "*surroundings in which an asset is experienced*" and that the extent and importance of setting is often expressed by reference to visual considerations (Historic England, 2017), when the site's topographic situation is considered, this 1km radius was deemed appropriate.

4.8 As the site is on relatively level ground, with the extent of the town of Melksham to the west, screening views in this direction and with rising ground to the east, which has a similar effect, views to, or from, the east and west are restricted in their extent. The landscape is populated by field boundaries and trees, which further restrict more distant views to the north and south. As such, it was considered unlikely that intervisibility would exist with any of the more distant heritage assets, such that the site would not form a part of their setting

that contributes to their significance. These observations were confirmed during the site visit.

4.9 Although intervisibility is a key consideration, an understanding of the historic relationship between places is also a consideration when understanding the settings of historic assets. Consisting of farmland, it is considered that the site is most likely to be historically associated with local farms or estates that would have worked the land, rather than with any more distant heritage assets. As such, the 1km radius was considered appropriate in this regard.

4.10 There are no scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields or conservation areas within 1km of the site. The only designated heritage assets in this radius comprise three Grade II listed buildings (**Plan EDP 1**).

Listed Buildings

Grade II Listed Blackmore House

Significance of the Listed Building

4.11 The Grade II Listed Blackmore House (NHLE ref. **1364118**: **Image EDP A1.1**) is the closest listed building to the site, located c.30m north-west of the site boundary.

4.12 The Historic England listing citation describes it thus:

"Farmhouse, now house. Late C18. Rendered brick and rubblestone, concrete tiled half hipped roof, brick stacks. 2 storeys, 4 windows. Ground floor windows are 12-pane, two 16-pane, 12-pane paired sashes in plain cases with central mullion; first floor are four 12-pane paired sashes in plain cases with central mullion. Entrance door is to rear and has chamfered door-case and flat stone hood on brackets, windows are same as front. Interior has two staircases of C19. House said to-have been used for weaving."

4.13 Whilst the building has multi-pane sash windows and some detailing around the main entrance, which reflects its late 18th century character, none of the building's elevations are distinctive or overtly decorative, the building being plain and functional, rather than embellished with architectural detailing. The listing citation notes that the structure has previously been used for weaving, presumably as a specific industrial function that superseded its use as a house.

4.14 The building has evidently been subject to recent modifications, with a modern conservatory on the southern elevation, and modern skylight windows added to the roof to the rear (south facing), suggesting a loft conversion.

4.15 With reference to the definition of significance given in the NPPF, Blackmore House's significance is mainly derived from its historic interest and – to a lesser extent, given its relatively simple form - architectural interest.

4.16 Its historic interest in particular, reflects its illustration of the post-medieval agricultural history of the hinterland of Melksham, and its connections with the local and historic weaving industry.

4.17 In terms of its architectural interest, Blackmore House is a relatively plain, functional building of the post-medieval Wiltshire vernacular, with its window configuration (multi-pane sash windows) and style, typical of the Georgian period in which it was built. The house also has some limited archaeological interest inherent in its fabric, as a palimpsest of evolving use. The house has very limited artistic quality; it was clearly designed as a functional building, with few decorative features, nor does it have a key 'polite' elevation designed to be seen on approach, as all its elevations are similar in their simple treatment; with the same window configuration on its north and south long elevations.

Current Setting and its Contribution of the Building's Significance

4.18 The setting of the house is also considered to contribute to its significance, but to a lesser degree than its physical fabric which contains the majority of its significance. The sum of the contribution from its current setting, is discussed below.

4.19 Blackmore house is set within a garden, which is adjacent to the north and east, with garden outbuilding to the immediate south-east. To the west and south-west lies a group of working farm buildings with a modern residence to the north-west at the roadside. These immediate aspects of its setting have a strong historical and functional association with the house, with the gardens in particular reflecting a space from which the house can be experienced intimately. The farm buildings are mostly modern with few historic elements surviving. There is a modern working association between the farm buildings, the surrounding farmland and the modern house, whilst Blackmore House itself is no longer the residence associated with the farm and the surrounding land.

4.20 The agricultural outbuildings and modern house represent a part of the setting of the house which contributes to its significance, insomuch that they continue to reflect the listed building's original setting within a working farm and allow a continued understanding of its former usage as a farmhouse, such that it is set adjacent to the buildings of a working farm.

4.21 This immediate setting, comprising the private gardens of the farmhouse, and the now modern agricultural buildings, can be experienced from the A4102 to the north. The road makes a positive contribution to the asset's significance in so much as it continues to provide the historic access to the farmhouse and provides a publicly accessible location to view the building.

4.22 Evidence suggests that the wider farmland, to the east, south-east and north-east (including parts of the site), was probably historically associated with the house. The *Victoria County History*[9] and a documentary reference from 1710 (Wiltshire History centre: 1958/1/1) both reference the existence of a 'Manor of Blackmore' equating to the 'Forest of Blackmore', which was located to the east of Melksham and is recorded as having been de-forested in 1622. Although Blackmore House is not referenced it can be extrapolated, due to the persistence of the name, that the house was created within this landholding, probably to farm part of the Forest as its was enclosed.

[9] H F Chettle, W R Powell, P A Spalding, P M Tillott, 'Parishes: Melksham', in A History of the County of Wiltshire: Volume 7, ed. R B Pugh, Elizabeth Crittall (London, 1953), British History Online https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/wilts/vol7/pp91-121 [accessed 14 July 2025].

4.23 An Enclosure Award, of 1814 (**Plan EDP 4**), for the Parish of Melksham indicates that part of the Forest of Blackmore was subject to formal parliamentary enclosure at that time, with Blackmore House set on the southern edge of these enclosures. The site is not shown on this map, suggesting that it may have already been enclosed through earlier private enclosure. The Apportionment accompanying the 1837 Tithe Map of the Parish of Melksham (**Plan EDP 5**) illustrates that Blackmore House and much of the surrounding land (including land within the site), was owned by the Peak-Garland family at this time, who were presumably a local landowner, but was farmed by a variety of different tenant farmers. Blackmore House is named as occupied by a James Thomas, and its associated farmland at this time was restricted to the fields to the immediate south, south-east and south-west of the farm.

4.24 As such, the evidence suggests that Blackmore House was historically associated with much of the surrounding farmland (as a part of Blackmore Manor), with a specific functional association with nearby fields, such as those to the east and south-east of the house (located in the northern part of the site), and those to the south of the house (located to the west of the site boundary). This functional association is no longer ongoing, but it is clear that the farmland has a former historical, functional connection with this former farmhouse.

4.25 Blackmore House can be experienced from parts of this historically associated land, such that this former functional connection can be appreciated from these areas, and the former farmhouse is seen from and across historically associated farmland. These areas which retain a visual experience of the house are: 1) The land located to the south-east of the listed building (outside of the site); and 2) The land to the east of the listed building, which forms the northern/central parts of the site (i.e. in **Image EDP A1.2**).

4.26 The house can also be experienced in views from a bridleway/Public Right of Way (PROW) located c. 360m to the east (**Image EDP A1.8**). In such views a distant experience of the farmhouse is achieved with a foreground of fields, bounded by hedgerows and with mature trees. Whilst the house is seen with a foreground of historically associated farmland, the view includes various modern elements including the large modern agricultural buildings to the south-west of the Shouse, further modern development beyond the house and, most pertinently, a line of electricity pylons and lines crossing the foreground with modern houses along Sandridge Common to the right, which have a stark appearance. As such the experience of the farmhouse in the view from the bridleway is not of a historic farmhouse set within a well-preserved post-medieval farming landscape, rather, numerous modern elements encroach into the scene reducing the degree to which its setting reflects its historical setting amongst agricultural fields.

4.27 The modern features described above are also apparent in views to the farmhouse from across the adjacent fields to the south-east, where the line of pylons and housing on Sandridge Common are ever present in most views from the south-east to the farmhouse reducing the degree to which the experience from and across fields reflects the farmhouse's historic setting adjacent to agricultural land.

4.28 It should also be noted that relatively unimpeded views of the house, from the east and south-east (within the site), are a relatively recent phenomena, as the Melksham Tithe Map of 1837 and historic Ordnance Survey maps, from the late 19th - mid-20th centuries (see

Plans EDP 5 – **7**), indicate that the small enclosures either side of Blackmore House were populated by orchards, which are likely to have partially restricted any views to it.

4.29 As such, the farmland in the vicinity of the house does contribute positively to its significance, particularly land to the south, east and south-east, where the house can be seen across and in conjunction with historically associated farmland, and which contributes to its overall significance to a minor degree. This contribution is discussed in greater detail below in relation to the site.

Contribution of the Site to the Building's Significance

4.30 It is evident that there is an historic, functional connection between Blackmore House and the surrounding farmland, including the site. However, these associations are most evident where the farmland provides the surroundings in which the listed building is experienced (i.e., its setting). From within the site, a filtered view of Blackmore House set adjacent to modern farm buildings, across a landscape of agricultural fields is achieved from the field at the north of the site (**Image EDP A1.2**), albeit the view of the house is partially filtered by the vegetation and modern shed to the east of it (**Images EDP A1.3**-**A1.4**). A view is also possible from the two fields located south-east of Blackmore House, at the central part of the site (**Image EDP A1.5**), albeit these views are distant, and partly obscured by the intervening vegetation.

4.31 Blackmore House cannot be experienced in views from the southern portion of the site, as these views are impeded by intervening hedgerows and the drop in ground level around the stream, nor is it visible from the south-west edge of the site due to screening from intervening modern farm buildings (**Images EDP A1.6** and **A1.7**).

4.32 As set out above, many of these views also include an overhead power line and large pylons, whereby two pylons are situated in the site, one in the north and one to the east. Also present are the rear elevations of modern houses on Sandridge Common, which are highly visible in views across the site with a stark, modern appearance to their rear elevations. These elements reduce the degree to which the experience reflects an experience of the farmhouse from and within its historic setting of agricultural land, modernising the scene.

4.33 It is also notable that the bridleway situated parallel to the site's eastern boundary, provides an accessible experience of the house across these northern/central fields which form the site (**Image EDP A1.8** and see view analysis in the Design and Access Statement (DAS) (Origin 3, 2025). These views provide an experience of the house with grassed fields, separated by hedgerows in the foreground, and with a number of mature trees, which contribute to the rural character of the setting of the building. However, it is noteworthy that the views from the bridleway also include the ribbon of development along Sandridge Common, as well as the two pylons and cables, one of which is close to the bridleway, as well as views beyond the farmhouse to built development and a clear view of the adjacent modern farm buildings. As such, the house is experienced in this view the context of modern built form and it is not a view across an entirely rural landscape.

4.34 Considering the above, the three fields which form the northern/central parts of the site and the bridleway in place where views are possible, comprise a part of the setting of

Blackmore House that contributes in a positive way to the buildings' significance, such that it can be experienced as a former farmhouse set within an agricultural landscape.

4.35 However, several factors reduce the degree to which these fields and views across them are of relevance to the significance of the heritage asset: (1) The fact that such views would have been filtered by the presence of orchards from at least 1837 until the mid-20th century; (2) The building does not have any pronounced aesthetic features or qualities to its southern visible elevation, that would suggest that it was not designed to be seen and be noticeable in views across the landscape (i.e., it was more functional than decorative); (3) its southern elevation is partially obscured by a modern shed and has modern Velux windows in its roof which are quite noticeable, even from a distance (i.e. **Image EDP A1.2**); and (4) The building's configuration of relatively small windows on its rear elevation suggests that views out to the south and south-east, across farmland, from Blackmore House were probably never intended as part of its design. Windows, by their transparent nature, allow for a view through them, but their primary function is to let light into a building and to provide ventilation and the windows on the southern elevation at Blackmore House, being not especially large or of elevated height in the building, suggest they were designed to function primarily as apertures to let in light and air rather than locations from where views out across the countryside were intended to be obtained.

4.36 In terms of views looking southwards towards the listed building from the A4102, this is defined by an experience of Blackmore House surrounded by its small front garden plot, with modern agricultural barns to the south-west and a residential cottage to the west. Due to the screening effect of the mature trees within the garden plot, and the built form described above, there is no visual experience of the formerly associated farmland to the south of the listed building (either within or outside of the site). As such, the site does not feature in the experience of the building from the road to the north.

4.37 As such, it is concluded that, due to the factors outlined above and given that the majority of the significance of the listed building is contained within its fabric the three fields which form the northern/central parts of the site and the bridleway in place where views are possible form a part of the setting of the listed building that only contributes to its significance to a minor degree.

4.38 In addition to these points, it is noted that the implementation of PL/2023/11188 will alter the current setting of the Grade II listed building. This resulting change is discussed in below.

Setting Following PL/2023/11188 and its Contribution of the Building's Significance

4.39 As noted above, planning application PL/2023/11188 has been granted permission and so (subject to detailed Reserved Matters proposals being consented) it is highly likely that the current setting of the listed building will change as a result of this development.

4.40 PL/2023/11188 would alter the setting of the asset from historically associated agricultural land to residential development to the south, south-west and west. However, it is noted that PL/2023/11188 considered this setting within its design, as shown on the Illustrative Masterplan submitted with the application (Origin3, November 2024, Drawing Reference: 417RevC). This plan shows how the development preserves the green, open setting of Blackmore House to the immediate south and south-east by retaining a buffer of

open space immediately to the south of the plot that contains the house, along with additional tree planting along the boundary immediately south of the modern agricultural buildings and the field adjacent to the house. To the south of this is a further open green space crossed by a pedestrian/cycle route.

4.41 This retained open space means that the farmhouse would continue to be experienced in views northwards across pasture, with boundary planting separating it from development and filtering views of it from the farmhouse.

4.42 Further to the south, residential development will be of no more than two storeys in height and, sited behind hedgerows and trees and separated from the farmhouse by two areas of open space. It will not compete with Blackmore House for visual prominence or distract from it in views towards it. Whilst development will also be present further to the south, and to the west of Blackmore House, these areas have no visual relationship with the listed building and are thus not part of the experience of the House.

4.43 PL/2023/11188 also includes a small wedge of land to the immediate east of Blackmore House, to provide an emergency access point. This area also forms part of the northern portion of the current application site. The proposals for PL/2023/11188 include a small area of orchard planting within this eastern parcel, along with a pedestrian and cycle route which will also function as an emergency access route, and a buffer of open space around this. These elements are retained within the current Proposed Development, which includes this area within its site boundary, discussed in full in **Section 5**. This planting will act to reinstate a level of historic integrity to the setting of the house, given that orchards are shown in this location on historic mapping,

4.44 This use of landscape planting and open space will facilitate an experience of the listed Blackmore House across green open space with orchards and farm buildings on either side, thus allowing its historic function as an agricultural building to be understood and appreciated within the context of the development.

4.45 Following the PL/2023/11188 development, the house will still be experienced as a farm set within an agricultural landscape in views from the east and south, with these retained areas of open-space, and re-instated orchard planting, making a positive contribution to the significance of the listed building.

4.46 Beyond this, the house's setting would include modern development further to the south and west. However, as established above, these areas are not part of the current experience of the house given the lack of visual relationship. The impact from this development within the remainder of the Phase 1 development would result in only an extremely low degree of harm at the very lowest end of the scale of less than substantial harm, simply from the development of historically associated farmland but which is no longer part of the experience of the asset.

Conclusions

4.47 It is established above that Blackmore House has a historic and former functional association with the farmland which forms the site. This former relationship can be appreciated from the three fields which form the northern/central parts of the site, and from

the bridleway to the east where the house can be experienced as a former farmhouse set within an agricultural landscape. As such, these three fields form part of the setting of Blackmore House which make a minor positive contribution to the setting of the listed building.

4.48 However, it is noted that this setting will change as a result of PL/2023/11188, such that this experience of the house from the site, as detailed above, will also include modern development on the eastern edge of the phase 1 site, when viewing the house from the south and east.

4.49 PL/2023/11188 also, however, preserves open space to the immediate south/south-east of the listed building, and includes orchard planting to the immediate east, such that the experience of the building from the northern and central part of the site would continue to be of a house across green fields, with views filtered by orchard planting, as they would have historically been. However, the periphery of these views will include modern built form to the south. This will result in additional development in the periphery of views of the listed building in this direction, adding to the proliferation of modern elements in the view which includes housing along Sandridge Common, as well as pylons and overhead power lines, such that the experience of the house will increasing be within the context of modern built form in the foreground and periphery of views towards it.

4.50 Regardless of the increasing intrusion of modern development into the house's setting, given the continued experience of the house across fields with an agricultural character that are bounded by mature hedgerows and include mature trees, the spaces which are present in these views and from where they are had, comprising the three fields which form the northern/central parts of the site and the bridleway make a minor positive contribution to the significance of the house.

4.51 Any impacts upon this asset, as a result of changes to its setting from the Proposed Development, are considered in **Section 5** of this report.

Remaining Listed Buildings

4.52 The other two listed buildings are both located over 600m from the site boundary. These include Tanhouse Farmhouse (**1194746**) c.650m to the south of the site and the Old Coach House (**1194747**) c.660m to the north-east of the site. Although outside of the 1km study area, Sandridge Tower (**1021771**) is also given consideration within this assessment, given its relative proximity to the site, located c.1.05km to the north-east, as well as its relative height and subsequent potential for intervisibility in the landscape.

4.53 As with Blackmore House, the elements of these buildings' settings, that contribute to their significance, are their immediate, historically and functionally related agricultural setting and their historic and visual links with any outbuildings or contemporary structures.

Tanhouse Farmhouse

4.54 The Grade II listed Tanhouse Farmhouse (**1194746**), is a 17th century farmhouse, described within the listing citation as comprising "*square panel timber-framing with brick infill, rear wings are rubblestone, double Roman tiled roof with coped verges and saddlestone, brick stacks*". The significance of the farmhouse is mainly derived from its historic interest,

illustrating the post-medieval agricultural history of the hinterland of Melksham, and – to a lesser extent – its architectural interest as a relatively plain, functional farmhouse of the post-medieval Wiltshire vernacular. Given its functional nature, the farmhouse has very limited artistic quality, with few decorative features.

4.55 During the site visit it was confirmed that from the south-easternmost field within the site, the farmhouse can be perceived (**Image EDP A1.9**). However, the experience is of a distant silhouette of a building, which is obscured by intervening vegetation, and a clear appreciation of the house, as an historic building, is not possible. Considering that the site is a marked distance from the farmhouse and the land has no known historic or functional links with it, it is considered that the land at the site, and views from it, are a highly peripheral part of its experience. For this reason, the site is not considered to comprise an element of the farmhouses' setting that contributes to its significance.

The Old Coach House and Associated Non-designated Assets

4.56 The Grade II listed Old Coach House (**1194747**) forms a grouping of buildings within Sandridge Park. The former coach house and stables, albeit now converted for use as a domestic dwelling, is the only structure to be designated as a listed building. However, a number of associated historic buildings and the park itself are recorded by the HER. As such, these 'non-designated' assets, are discussed within this group context below.

4.57 The parkland extent of Sandridge Park is recorded by the HER as (**MWI4969**) and described as follows:

"*An historic parkland shown on the 1885 Ordnance Survey County Series map. The park still has wooded area, specimen trees and a walled kitchen garden. Other houses have been built in the grounds*."

4.58 Within the park, a number of extant buildings are recorded, including the former stables and coach house, discussed above (**MWI44477**) and described in the listing citation as early to mid-19th century in date, comprising "*Rubblestone with ashlar detail, double Roman tiled hipped roof*". The building derives its significance primarily from its historic interest, as a 19th century coach house associated with a country house and park, as well as architectural and artistic interest from its modest detailing.

4.59 Sandridge Park (**MWI49202**), which forms the country house of the estate, is recorded to the immediate south of the coach house. The HER notes a date of c.1850–1866 for the house, with Wiltshire Council community history stating that "*the present Sandridge Park had been built by Henry Lopes by 1862, replacing a house of Lord Audley*" [10] A house is evident on the 1938 Tithe Map, suggesting this may be the earlier structure mentioned above. The house has since been converted for use as a hotel. A former granary is also situated adjacent to the Coach House (**MWI72762**).

4.60 No further detail is provided by the HER, however, the site visit established that Sandridge Park derived significance from its architectural and artistic features, albeit to a low level given its later alterations and conversion to a hotel (commensurate with the fact that it is not nationally or locally listed). Sandridge Park also derives significance from its

[10] https://apps.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityhistory/Community/Index/159#

historic value, illustrating a relatively good example, albeit with later alterations, of a 19th century country house set within associated parkland, as well as from its role in World War II, having accommodated British soldiers and was visited by President Eisenhower in preparation for D Day[11].

4.61 There is no intervisibility between the park along with its associated buildings and the land at the site. This is due to: 1) the dense woodland, which demarcates the extent of the park; 2) the small parcel of woodland plantation immediately south of the park, straddling the route of the A3102; and 3) the intervening hedgerows, which demarcate the eastern boundary of the site itself, as well as the boundaries of the fields which separate the site from Sandridge Park (**Images EDP A1.10**–**A1.12**).

4.62 Whilst the Tithe Map records the extent of the parkland as being under the ownership of Peak Garland, who also owns the site, the two are under separate occupations, indicating that the site simply forms part of a wider landholding, rather than having any association with the park itself. Indeed, the site is clearly located outside of the extents of the park shown in the 1886 OS map (**Plan EDP 6**). Moreover, as discussed above, there is no experience of the site from the park, and vice versa, such that any historic connection of former land ownership is entirely intangible and defunct, given that the park has since been sold and utilised as a hotel.

4.63 As such, the site is not considered to form a part of the setting of these listed and non-designated assets and makes no contribution to their significance. It is therefore the case that the that development of the site would not result in any effect on the significance of any of these heritage assets.

Sandridge Tower

4.64 The Grade II listed Sandridge Tower (**1021771**), is a Folly now converted for use as a bed and breakfast. The building is described within the listing citation as comprising Ashlar stone, with an octagonal tower, four storeys in height, with battlemented parapet. The significance of the farmhouse is mainly derived from its historic interest, as a late 19th century former hunting lodge or 'Folly' associated with Sandridge Park, as well as its architectural and artistic interest.

4.65 Despite its relative height and location on the rising ground of Sandridge Hill, the tower is entirely screened from the site due to the dense parcel of woodland which surrounds it, as well as by the hedgerows, which mark the site's eastern boundaries. The tower is further divided from the site by additional areas of woodland, additional field boundaries and a solar farm (**Image EDP A1.10**). Moreover, no historic or functional association has been identified between the former hunting lodge and the site, which simply forms a distant parcel of agricultural land.

4.66 As such, the site is not considered to form a part of the setting of Sandridge Tower and makes no contribution to its significance. It is thus the case that the development of the site would not result in any effect on the significance of this listed building.

[11] Knight Frank, Sales Particular, n.d

4.67 Analysis of the designated assets within the 1km radius study area has therefore identified one designated asset that has the potential to be affected by the site's development, the Grade II Listed Blackmore House, which is discussed further below in **Section 5**.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

4.68 This section summarises the results of archaeological works undertaken to date within the site and the immediate vicinity, as well as review of desk-based resources and a site walkover to assesses the archaeological potential and significance of the site.

4.69 Data from the HER identifies archaeological sites and artefact findspots within a 1km radius of the site. These sites and artefact findspots are described below in chronological order and illustrated on **Plan EDP 2**. The locations of previous archaeological works are displayed on **Plan EDP 3**.

4.70 Wiltshire Council does not hold a list of locally listed buildings, and as such none are recorded within the site or study area.

Previous Archaeological Investigations Within Site Boundary

4.71 The site (excluding the most northern field, which was surveyed as part of the Phase 1 development, discussed below) was subject to a geophysical survey in September 2025 (SUMO, 2025). The results of this survey are included as **Appendix EDP 2**.

4.72 The survey identified an area of "*probable later prehistoric or Romano-British occupation in the form of adjoining enclosures, a trackway and pits*", clustered within the southwest corner of the site (Areas 4–7 within **Appendix EDP 2**). Given their proximity to Romano--British records held by the HER and remains identified during a previous programme of archaeological trenching to the south-west (CA, 2022), they were interpreted as reflecting small-scale Roman settlement or land management. These features are considered to be of no greater than moderate, regional significance.

4.73 Also, within Area 7, a linear arrangement of at least eight, small, circular/sub-circular anomalies was identified. Any interpretation of these features was speculative; they were considered too small to reflect ring ditches and possibly reflected a linear barrow cemetery, although more likely could be a result of extraction, or relate to a more recent activity.

4.74 At the northern end of the site (Areas 1, 2 and 3), a number of linear trends were visible, including slightly curving, parallel, linear trends on a northeast-southwest alignment in Area 2, which corresponded to an undated cropmark identified on aerial photographs. These linears were interpreted as a possible track or drove way, of unclear date, although interpretation was difficult as the linears were masked by an underground service.

4.75 Other anomaly trends were identified relating to agricultural activity, comprising linear trends indicative of former ridge and furrow within the northern portion of the site (Areas 1 and 2), along with two former field boundaries (Areas 1 and 7) which corresponded to boundaries visible on historic mapping. Two infilled ponds were identified (Area 1 and 5), as well as debris associated with a former building (Area 5), recorded on the HER as a 19th century agricultural outbuilding (MWI68876).

4.76 A series of land drains, as well as an underground service are also evident in the results.

4.77 The site was then subject to archaeological trial trenching in October 2025 (Headland, 2025), with the exception of Areas 4, 5 and 8, which will not be subject to any groundworks as part of the Proposed Development, and the most northern field which was investigated as part of the Phase 1 development (discussed below). The results of this evaluation are included as **Appendix EDP 3**.

4.78 The trial trenching identified a number of linear and discrete features within Area 6, corresponding with the results of the geophysical survey. These features comprised several large ditches, interpreted as enclosure ditches, enclosing additional features.

4.79 Within the area demarcated by the enclosure ditches, was a possible sunken temporary structure and a possible wall as well as a single post-hole (Trench 58), a square shaped pit (Trench 57), a layer or spread, possibly related to a former structure (Trench 62) as well as further shallow drainage ditches, additional enclosure ditches, and waste pits (Trenches 62, 63, 65, 71 and 72).

4.80 These features were established by pottery finds to be Romano-British in date. One ditch in Trench 65 contained stone inclusions and pieces of tile/tegula, which was interpreted as possible dumping of rubble/remnants from a nearby structure. Possible heat-affected masonry fragments were also recovered from a ditch in Trench 63, with animal bone also recovered from a pit in Trench 65.

4.81 These features are interpreted as representing agricultural land management, possibly with settlement located nearby (but outside of the site). The different alignments of enclosure ditches indicated varying areas demarcated by these ditches over the duration of the site's use, and possible structures within them, along with the finds of 'occupation material' including pottery, animal bone and common building material, suggest that these features may indicate a focal point of agricultural activity, such as a '*Pars Rustica'* or 'working area' of a farm.

4.82 No archaeological remains were identified related to the linear trend of circular features within Area 7. As such, these features most likely relate to modern agricultural activity, possibly cattle feeders.

4.83 A single linear feature was identified in Area 2, corresponding with the geophysics results. Modern material was retrieved from its fill, and so this ditch was interpreted as most likely relating to modern agricultural practices.

4.84 No evidence of the ridge and furrow identified by the geophysical survey in the north of the site was identified, suggesting that these linear trends were most likely to relate to modern ploughing.

Previous Archaeological Investigations for Phase 1 PL/2023/11188

4.85 The following paragraphs provide a summary of the archaeological investigations undertaken in support of the previous application PL/2023/11188, which includes the most northern field of the site.

4.86 A geophysical (detailed magnetometry) survey of the previous application site (PL/2023/11188), excluding the most south-eastern field, was undertaken in May 2022 by Headland Archaeology (Headland Archaeology, 2022) (**EWI10040**). This survey included the most northern field of the current application site.

4.87 The survey identified a range of magnetic anomalies which were interpreted as being of non-archaeological origin.

4.88 Within the northern field (within the site boundary), these included 'agricultural anomalies', comprising linear trends running north—south and east-west, interpreted as modern cultivation, as well as a linear anomaly aligned broadly north-south, and interpreted as a field drain. Anomalies interpreted as 'ferrous and modern anomalies' were also identified within the site, with large areas of magnetic disturbance recorded at the northern boundary, due to its proximity to the main road.

4.89 Beyond the site boundary, similar 'agricultural anomalies' were recorded, with evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation spanning across the survey areas, as well as a single linear on the field immediately south-west of the site, which corresponds to a field boundary identified on historic mapping. 'Ferrous and modern anomalies' were also identified in the wider survey area, notably adjacent to the Blackmore farm buildings, as well as linear trends indicating water pipes for the farm. Adjacent to the brook which runs across the south-east corner of the site, 'geological anomalies' are recorded, aligning with the superficial deposits identified by the BGS.

4.90 Four anomalies of 'uncertain origin' are recorded within the wider survey area, including two linear anomalies at the south of the survey area, and interpreted to most likely comprise modern drains, as well as two discrete anomalies to the south of Blackmore House. Due to the lack of context to suggest an archaeological origin, these were interpreted to be the result of modern, geological or pedological activity. No similar features were identified during the archaeological investigations within the site.

4.91 Following this, a programme of archaeological trial trenching was undertaken across the same survey area in 2022 by Cotswold Archaeology (CA) (**EWI10199**).

4.92 No features of archaeological origin were identified within the field that is part of the site, with only a modern service drain identified.

4.93 Beyond the site boundary, the evaluation identified one distinct area of archaeology, focused at the south-east corner of the survey area, immediately north of the current site's western edge. The remaining areas were largely devoid of archaeological remains, although a small pit containing post-medieval pottery was encountered at the centre of the site, with further post-medieval pottery retrieved from a naturally occurring depression.

4.94 The features found in the south-east part of the survey area were all Roman in date, comprising a single large pit, as well as two pairs of ditches. The pit contained a large assemblage of Roman pottery along with a copper alloy brooch, potentially an Aucissa-type brooch of the 1st century AD; whilst there was no evidence for habitation on the site, the presence of the broach suggested Roman settlement in close proximity to the survey area with the pit perhaps representing waste disposal on the periphery of a settlement. The two

pairs of ditches further suggest this, with the ditches likely forming part of an enclosure or field system in the agricultural hinterland of a small settlement. The ditches also contained pottery dating from the mid-1st to 2nd century AD. These features at the southeast of the Phase 1 site were located c.300m northwest from those within the current site, with a small watercourse dividing the two. This suggests Roman activity focused on the upper banks either side of the stream.

4.95 No evidence of a former field boundary identified by the geophysical survey was seen during the trenching, nor was any evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation. It is therefore most likely that the field boundary was modern and shallow so as to not be distinguishable within the topsoil overburden, and any ridge and furrow cultivation was so shallow as to have been ploughed away.

4.96 In association with application PL/2023/11188, as discussed above, a second geophysical survey was conducted in November 2023 by SUMO services, following the addition of a parcel of land into the application boundary, this being the field immediately west and north-east of the current site boundary (**EWI10439**).

4.97 The survey recorded a few magnetic responses that have tentatively been interpreted as being of possible archaeological interest. These responses comprised two parallel, segmented ditch-like anomalies interpreted as being possibly associated with the Roman remains recorded during the evaluation trenching in the field immediately west of the survey area (Cotswold, 2022).

4.98 Numerous uncertain anomalies were also detected by the survey, including a curving linear anomaly. This feature appeared to correspond with a depression which is visible on the LiDAR data plot and as a cropmark on aerial photographs and was thought to mark the location of a former watercourse and be natural in origin.

4.99 Agricultural anomalies were visible through the route of a former field boundary running east to west, which correlates with 19th century mapping and ridge and furrow and modern cultivation is visible throughout the data. A number of other linear trends and pit-like anomalies were also detected but were considered to be due to a combination of underlying geological responses and modern debris.

4.100 Trial trenching was then undertaken within this field by Cotswold Archaeology in 2024 (**EWI10611**). A single undated ditch was identified, correlating to the historic field boundary identified by the geophysical survey and historic mapping. An area of modern disturbance was also noted in the south-east corner of the site. No other archaeological features were identified.

4.101 The results of these archaeological investigations have been considered where relevant in the period specific sections below.

Previous Archaeological Investigations Within the Study Area

4.102 The following paragraphs provide a summary of the previous archaeological investigations undertaken immediately adjacent to the site.

4.103 With regard to investigations within the wider study area, where relevant to the archaeological potential of the site, these are discussed in the period-specific sections below.

4.104 A large broad area polygon (**EWI7896**) records the extent of the National Archaeological Identification Survey (NAIS): Aerial Investigation and Mapping Across West Wiltshire, an aerial survey project carried out by Historic England in 2014, which covers the site and a larger area. No features of interest were identified by this project within the site. Any features identified within the study area are discussed in the period specific sections below.

4.105 Within the wider study area, a watching brief (**EWI3540**) along the route of the Beanacre to St Edith's Marsh pipeline (running parallel to the site's eastern boundary at its closest point) identified two periods of archaeology, comprising Roman findspots and a former Medieval settlement, within the area of Woodrow c.1,070m to the north-west of the site. Being that this is outside of the study area, these archaeological remains are well removed from the site and cannot be said to have an association with it.

4.106 Also, immediately east and south-east of the site, a geophysical survey was undertaken in 2013 in conjunction with solar development (**EWI7954**). The surveys detected areas of modern disturbance resulting from modern services, as well as former field boundaries, correlating with historic mapping and extensive ridge and furrow. Anomalies identified as possible drainage ditches were also identified.

4.107 To the immediate south-west of the site, a geophysical survey was undertaken in 2023 (**EWI10351**). Anomalies of a possible archaeological origin were detected, including enclosures, field systems and a potential ring ditch. Magnetic disturbance within a section of the site corresponds to the location of the medieval or later settlement of Snarlton. Medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation has also been detected along with former field boundaries and modern ploughing and services. These features have not been tested through intrusive investigation, and so their form and date remains speculative.

4.108 Other archaeological investigations within the wider study area, resulting in archaeological records, are discussed where relevant within the period specific sections below.

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

4.109 There are no previously known prehistoric remains recorded by the Wiltshire HER within the site. There are three records within the study area dating from the prehistoric periods. These are described below.

4.110 A pit (**MWI74524**) was identified during excavations (**EWI7050**) c.925m to the west of the site in 2010. This pit contained red deer bones and a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age arrowhead.

4.111 The find spot of a Bronze Age socketed axehead and a fragment of a bronze sword recovered in 1973 and now held by Devizes museum (**MWI4751**). The find spot was recorded c.470m north-east of the site.

4.112 A large enclosure of possible later prehistoric and/or Roman date is also recorded by the HER, c.2km south-west of the site (**MWI73963**). This feature is visible as a shallow earthwork on LiDAR imagery, however, it remains untested by archaeological investigation, as such its date is speculative.

4.113 Aside from these records, there is no further evidence within the study area for prehistoric activity. The previous archaeological investigations within the site did not identify any remains of this date, with the focus of archaeology in the southern end of the site being dated to the Roman period. Similarly, no remains of this date were identified during the archaeological investigations in the site's immediate surroundings.

4.114 Given the very low level of recorded remains, despite relatively widespread archaeological investigations within the study area, the potential for the site to contain archaeology from this era is considered to be **very low**.

Roman (AD43-410)

4.115 There are two records for previously identified Roman period archaeology within the site, according to the Wiltshire HER, there are three further records located in the study area and one just beyond the extent of the 1km radius study area.

4.116 The two records within the site are located at the south-west corner of the site and were recorded during an excavation in 1986 undertaken by Chippenham College Archaeological Group for research purposes during the laying of a pipe (**EWI7670**). The location of this pipe was identified within the geophysical survey immediately to the north of these records during Phase 1 (SUMO, 2023). These records are stated as originating from personal communication with AC Powell (the excavator) and there are no known reports detailing the feature and finds that were identified.

4.117 The first record comprises a pottery scatter of Romano-British ware, including bead rim associated ware as well as two burnt areas and a pit containing refuse including coarse ware sherds, animal bone, charcoal and iron fragments (**MWI4933**). The second record comprises a ditch identified running broadly north-west to south-east, containing coarse ware pottery and animal bone (**MWI4935**).

4.118 To the south-west of these records, immediately outside of the site boundary, an additional scatter of Roman pottery, including 1st-2nd century sherds were identified during the 1986 pipe trench excavation (**MWI4934**). A scatter of finds including Romano-British pottery fragments, iron fragments and nails were also identified during this excavation to the north of this location, just outside of the site boundary (**MWI4932**).

4.119 Within the 1km radius study area, geophysical survey followed by archaeological evaluation and excavation at Melksham Town Football Club recorded the buried remains of a Roman period farmstead, located c.800m south-west of the site (**MWI64722**. The remains comprised ditches, curved gullies, pits, postholes and ovens, indicating a small agricultural, domestic settlement. A group of six Romano-British ovens, possibly for drying corn was also found in this location (**MWI76809**).

4.120 Approximately 1km to the north of the Site A scatter of Roman pottery was recovered during a watching brief in (**MWI4766/EWI3540**).

4.121 Just outside of the 1km study area, c.1,300m to the south-west of the site, an evaluation (**EWI7633**) in 2014 revealed a Roman settlement comprising two phases of ditched enclosures, an entrance track and possible building plots along with numerous pottery sherds, glass, bone and a coin (MWI74427). The settlement was dated to c.260-296 AD and does not appear to have been occupied beyond c.300 AD. The settlement was located on a low rise, c.400m south of Clackers Brook. In this respect it has some topographic similarity to the land at the site and is on the same type of geology. Evidently, the locality was settled in the Roman period, and similar remains were identified during the trial trenching within the site (Headland, 2025).

4.122 As discussed above, the archaeological trial trench evaluation in 2022 (**EWI10199**) across Phase 1 of the development, immediately west of the site, identified a cluster of Romano-British features. These included a pit (**MWI78364**), and a pair of double-ditch enclosure ditches (**MWI78365**). These features were determined to not extend further west during the subsequent evaluation in 2024 (**EWI10611**), nor did this evaluation identify any features at the location of the find scatter (**MWI4932**).

4.123 The records identified by the HER are of low density, comprising four in situ features and a small collection of unstratified artefacts that appear to represent general agricultural activity and manuring. However, it is apparent that these HER records are clustered in the south-west portion of the site, adjacent to the stream that runs across this area, and further to the southwest outside of the site boundary, on the other side of the stream. As such, it may be that the watercourse represented a focus for past activity.

4.124 The features identified during the trial trenching within the site suggest small scale settlement and associated land management, with the features identified outside of the site boundary during the Phase 1 works suggesting further agricultural land management on the periphery of this settlement, on western side of this watercourse

4.125 As such, based on the results of the trial trenching within the site (Headland, 2025), which corroborate with the results of the trial trenching immediately west of the site and HER records, the site contains archaeological remains, dated to the Roman period within the southern field, with a **high** potential for additional similar remains in this portion of the site. The remains identified by the trial trenching are interpreted as features of no greater than moderate, regional significance relating to agricultural land management, potentially as a focal 'working area' of a farm, with any additional remains likely comprising similar features.

4.126 The evaluation trenching did not identify any remains of this date within the central and northern portion of the site, nor were any features identified by the HER or through a review of aerial photography and LiDAR data (discussed in full below) which indicate further Roman activity elsewhere within the site.

4.127 Based on the evidence above, the potential for such features elsewhere within the site, beyond the areas of known or suspected Roman archaeology is considered to be **very low**.

Early Medieval (AD 410-1066)

4.128 There are no previously known records relating to the early medieval period within the site or, within the study area.

4.129 Considering this, and the absence of any such features identified during the archaeological investigations within or immediately adjacent to the site, nor any features identified through a review of aerial photography or LiDAR data, there is considered to be a **very low** potential for any early medieval archaeology to exist within the site.

Medieval (AD 1066-1485)

4.130 There is one record relating to possible medieval activity within the site, recorded by the HER. Several records are noted within the 1km study area.

4.131 The record within the site, located at the far south-west corner, refers to possible ridge and furrow (**MWI73994**), recorded as earthworks seen on aerial photographs to the north-east of Snarlton Farm, which has been ascribed a possible medieval date. Other possible ridge and furrow has been recorded from aerial photographs within the site (**MWI73970**), however, this is described as 'narrow' and is therefore ascribed a post-medieval date; narrow furrows being characteristic of 19th century cultivation techniques, such as steam ploughing (Wilson, 2000).

4.132 The HER record within the site (**MWI73994**) is derived from an aerial photograph of 1998 (OS/98437 5230 17 SEP 1998). This photograph was viewed as part of the research carried out for the current assessment. Whilst linear, negative cropmarks are apparent in the location of the record, it is not clear that these represent earthworks, and the marks are narrow and fairly straight, a form more typical of post-medieval cultivation marks rather than medieval, which tend to be broad with a distinctive S-shape, reflecting the action of the medieval plough. Furthermore, during the site visit, no earthworks were identified in this location. Similarly, the LiDAR data does not indicate any such features in this location, and instead only low relief earthworks indicative of modern ploughing are visible, suggesting that any such ridge and furrow has been truncated by later agricultural activity.

4.133 These cultivation marks were interpreted as buried infilled furrows, which relate to past cultivation, but are 1) Considered more likely to be a remnant of post-medieval, rather than medieval practice, due to their lack of typically medieval characteristics, when seen in plan; and 2) Likely heavily truncated or even destroyed by later ploughing. No evidence of buried infilled furrows was identified during the trial trenching across the site (Headland, 2025), suggesting that these features either related to more modern agricultural ploughing, or were entirely truncated by modern ploughing.

4.134 No indications of medieval ridge and furrow have been identified within this assessment through the review of aerial photographs, LiDAR data, and the geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation undertaken across the site. However, remains related to post-medieval and modern ploughing are indicated by aerial photographs and LiDAR evidence across the site (discussed further below). Further examples of possible medieval ridge and furrow are recorded by the HER within the study area (**MWI73981**, **MWI73982**, **MWI73962**, **MWI73978** and **MWI64723**). The majority of this ridge and furrow has since been levelled by modern development to the west of the site, and it is not clear from the HER whether the records refer to genuine extant medieval ridge and furrow earthworks, to cropmarks, reflecting only buried remains or even to much later cultivation features.

4.135 The closest medieval HER record to the site comprises the Blackmore Farm complex (**MWI3630**) to the immediate north-west of the site boundary. The record describes the farm simply as a 'farmstead with Medieval origins'. Whilst it is evident that the present Blackmore House dates from the late 18th century, it may be that it replaced an older building in this location. The greatest likelihood is that any older dwelling would have been located close to the location of the present farmhouse, and thus what remains of it is located outside of the site boundary and probably has been heavily disturbed by later development.

4.136 Three HER records are located in the vicinity of Snarlton Farm, to the immediate south-west of the site. Here, the earthwork remains of a medieval settlement at Snarlton (**MWI3621**) were recorded from historic aerial photography. Although many of the earthworks appear to no longer be extant on the more recent photography. A geophysical survey (**EWI7048**) and evaluation (**EWI7050**) here in 2004 and further excavation (**EWI7047**) in 2010 revealed the remains of a medieval farmstead (**MWI74525**) located c.450m west of site, including: boundary ditches, a stone wall and a cobbled surface, and medieval industrial activity, including the remains of a medieval iron working site (**MWI74526**) irregular pits, a gully containing slag, tap slag, vitrified clay, charcoal and pottery, a limestone platform and working floors and smithing hearth bottoms.

4.137 A group of records dated to the medieval period are located west of Redstocks c.450m south of the site (**MWI3625**). The records comprise a series of earthworks identified from aerial photography and LiDAR, and a field visit by Historic England in 2016, that represent the archaeological remains of a dispersed settlement.

4.138 One further medieval record in the study area comprises the remains of a boundary bank (**MWI73984**) to the north of the A3102 and c.450m to the west of the site. This feature is interpreted by the HER as a boundary bank which originated within the medieval period and continued in use through the post-medieval period.

4.139 As described previously, the *Victoria County History* describes how the Manor of Blackmore was formed following the disforestation of Blackmore Forest in 1622 (also known as Melksham Forest), a royal hunting forest with medieval origins. As such, it is possible that during the medieval period the site was part of the forest.

4.140 Evidently there was nearby medieval settlement at Snarlton, west of Redstocks and possibly at the location of the later Blackmore Farm, and it may be that the site (or part thereof) was within the agricultural hinterland of these settlements and may have been farmed as an open field. Nevertheless, it is not considered that there is any evidence within the site for medieval cultivation, given that the ridge and furrow recorded by the HER (**MWI73994**) is considered to be most likely of post-medieval date, and it may be that, given its association with Blackmore Forest, the site was actually part of unenclosed moorland or woodland used for hunting, prior to its enclosure and cultivation in the post-medieval period.

4.141 No earthwork remains of ridge and furrow cultivation which are indicative of medieval ploughing, are located within the site through a review of aerial photography, LiDAR data and a site visit. However, the aerial photographs and LiDAR did illustrate the presence of linear cultivation features which were more characteristic of post-medieval to modern ridge and furrow (discussed further below).

4.142 Nor were any features of medieval date identified during the archaeological investigation within the site, or the area immediately surrounding it during the Phase one works. Whilst a potential trackway was identified during a review of LiDAR data and aerial photography (discussed in full below), as well as the geophysical survey of the site (SUMO, 2025), and were thought to relate to a field system which pre-dates the existing post-medieval fieldscape. No features relating to any such trackway or field system were identified during the evaluation trenching (Headland, 2025). As such, it seems most likely that these features relate to the modern agricultural use of the site.

4.143 The evidence suggests therefore that there is only a **very low** potential for medieval archaeological remains within the site. The greatest likelihood is considered to be for remains related to former farming practices, such as buried, infilled furrows or drainage ditches.

4.144 Should any limited, localised remains of this date survive within the site, they would likely relate to medieval agriculture, such as infilled furrows or ditches, and would be considered of low significance. Such features would not warrant preservation *in situ*.

Post Medieval to Modern (AD 1485-Present)

4.145 There are two previously known records related to the post-medieval period recorded within the site by the HER, and several related to the post-medieval to modern periods recorded within the 1km study area.

4.146 The two HER records within the site comprise the example of ridge and furrow previously mentioned (**MWI73970**) recorded from aerial photography spanning the majority of the site, and an outfarm located at the site's southern boundary (**MWI68876**).

4.147 As described previously, the ridge and furrow (**MWI73970**) is recorded as 'narrow' reflecting post-medieval farming practices. These marks were also seen on aerial photographs and LiDAR data viewed as part of the research for the assessment, and it was confirmed that the marks are very narrow and straight, and interpreted as reflecting buried, infilled furrows derived from 19th century steam ploughing. However, no evidence of ridge and furrow was seen during the evaluation trenching across the site (Headland 2025) nor the survey area for Phase 1 (Cotswold Archaeology, 2022) suggesting a more modern date for these agricultural features.

4.148 During the site visit it was confirmed that none of the records relate to extant earthworks. Buried remains of these features would possess little archaeological interest, being of a relatively recent date, and common form, found elsewhere in the landscape.

4.149 The outfarm (**MWI68876**) comprised a small farmhouse probably intended to farm the immediate land set around them, as satellites of a larger farm. It is described by the HER as a "*demolished 19th century outfarm of loose courtyard plan. One side of the loose courtyard is formed by working agricultural buildings*". During the site visit it was confirmed that this outbuilding was no longer extant within the site. However, infield ditches, or buried foundations, may still be present. Such remains are likely to be highly fragmentary and as post-medieval agricultural remains, would be of a common, widespread type, and thus would only be considered of minimal archaeological interest.

4.150 A geophysical survey (**EWI7954**) immediately to the east of the site at Sandridge Solar Farm identified former field boundaries (**MWI74485**) and evidence of ridge and furrow believed to have originated in the medieval or post-medieval periods. Further ridge and furrow is also recorded immediately south of the site (**MWI73994**), and c.250m north of the site (**MWI73983**).

4.151 There are nine further extant post-medieval outbuildings or farmsteads within the 1km study area, not including those listed buildings discussed above. Included within these records are the extant post-medieval buildings at Blackmore Farm (**MWI68796**), to the north-west of the site, buildings at Manor Farm (**MWI62966**, **MWI68795**) c.65m to the north of the site and buildings at Snarlton Farm (**MWI68800**, **MWI68799**) c.320m south-west of the site boundary, and Home Farm, c.725m east of the site (**MWI68895**). Extant farmsteads are recorded c.475m north-west of the site (**MWI68854**), as well as 300m east (**MWI68897**) and 400m east (**MWI68896**), with Tanhouse Farm (**MWI68898**) and its listed farmhouse (**MWI44475**) also recorded c.650m south of the site.

4.152 Sites of former outbuildings are recorded across the study area (**MWI68797**, **MWI68798**, **MWI68801**, **MWI68762**, **MWI68875** and **MWI68877**).

4.153 Other post-medieval buildings in the area include the former Mission Chapel of St Andrews (**MWI51158**) c.60m to the north of the site, Boxwood Cottage (**MWI60878**) c.800m to the west of the site and 320 Snarlton Lane (**MWI55197**) c.900m to the west of the site. The historic post-medieval Sandridge House (**MWI58327**) and Sandridge Park (**MWI49202**) and its grounds (**MWI4969**), including its associated Stables and Coach house (**MWI44477**), Granary (**MWI72762**) and Cottage (**MWI72757**), are also located c.700m to the east of the site.

4.154 Modern features recorded on the HER include Sahara sandpit, (**MWI77222**) a quarry located c.900m to the east of the site and a grand 20th century house at Greystone, c.950m north of the site (**MWI48631**).

4.155 As noted previously, it is likely that the land at the site was enclosed to form agricultural fields in the post-medieval period, most likely after the establishment of Blackmore Manor in 1622. This is reinforced by HER records, as well as evidence from aerial photographs and LiDAR data, for buried remains of narrow, post-medieval or later ridge and furrow and a post-medieval out-farm within the site, indicating its general, post-medieval agricultural use. No remains related post-medieval infilled furrows were identified during the trenching across the site (Headland, 2025), suggesting that the features identified by the aerial photographs and LiDAR may relate to modern ploughing, or have been entirely truncated by modern ploughing. The area of the site containing the post-medieval outfarm was not subject to archaeological trial trenching, although the geophysical survey identified anomalies possibly relating to the former outfarm, suggesting that features relating to buried remains of the structure i.e foundations, may be present within the site. Any such remains would be of no greater than very low, local value.

4.156 The origins of the current field-scape is discussed in more detail in the cartographic and landscape characterisation sections below.

4.157 Whilst the geophysical surveys across the site (Headland, 2022 and SUMO, 2025) identified ridge and furrow cultivation within the northern portion of the site, no evidence of this was identified during the subsequent trial trenching (Cotswold, 2022 and Headland, 2025). As such, it is assumed these linear features are likely to have related to modern ploughing.

4.158 Regardless, based on of the HER data and previous investigations within the north of the site, as well as a review of aerial photography, LiDAR data, and historic mapping which illustrates the site's agricultural nature from the 19th century onwards, it is considered likely that the site contains buried remains related to post-medieval and modern agricultural practice. This was corroborated by the archaeological investigations across the site, which identified two field boundaries in the north and south of the site, which corresponded to those seen on historic mapping, as well as a drainage ditch in the centre of the site, interpreted as being post-medieval or modern in date.

4.159 The geophysical survey across the main portion of the site (SUMO, 2025) also identified an area of disturbance related to the outfarm identified in the south-west corner of the site. This area was not subject to trenching, due to the location of the PRoW. As such, there is potential for limited remains related to this building, such as foundation footings.

4.160 These remains, associated with post-medieval to modern agricultural practices are common within the wider landscape and are considered of little archaeological interest, representing heritage assets of very low significance.

Undated

4.161 The Wiltshire HER contains nine records for undated assets within the study area.

4.162 The first record relates to ditches (**MWI78674**) identified immediately west of the site, during the geophysical survey (SUMO, 2023) for Phase 1 (**EWI10439**). These features were tentatively dated as Roman by the geophysical survey, however, as discussed above, no such features were identified during the subsequent trial trenching and so they remain undated and uncharacterised (Cotswold, 2024) (**EWI10611**).

4.163 The next record comprises pits and ditches identified by geophysical survey (**EWI7954**) prior to the construction of the Sandridge Solar farm, c.50m east from the site boundary at closest (**MWI74485**, **MWI74486** and **MWI74487**). These features have not been tested by intrusive archaeological investigation, and so their nature and date remain unknown.

4.164 One record comprises undated cropmarks recorded from aerial photographs located c.600m south of the site (**MWI4974**). The cropmarks are noted in the HER as possibly representing a group of buried enclosures.

4.165 Further within the study area are banks of an unknown date (**MWI74757**) that were identified during a geophysical survey (**EWI8020**) c.950m west of the site and subsequently excavated during an evaluation (**EWI8022**) at the land north of Sandridge Common in 2016.

4.166 The remaining records (**MWI74439**, **MWI74440** and **MWI64721**) comprise possible pits, ditches and former field boundaries of an unknown date recorded by a geophysical survey and subsequent evaluation for Melksham Town Football Club, c.900m to the south-west of the site (**EWI7533**, **EWI7633**).

4.167 Whilst these records add to the general conclusion that buried archaeological remains are present across the study area, given that their nature and date remain untested, they do not contribute to an understanding of the archaeological potential of the site.

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

4.168 The Wiltshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) (2016) records the majority of the site as planned enclosure.

4.169 In terms of time depth attributed to this character type, the HLC study notes that: "*These regular fields were set out according to plan and show on the 1 ed 6" OS map. They have changed little since and were likely created in the later post medieval period. The character prior to enclosure is not clear from the available sources*."

4.170 The HLC records the two small fields to the south-west of the site as piecemeal enclosure: "*These vaguely irregular fields seem not to have changed since the 1 ed 6" OS map. They probably represent an episode of piecemeal enclosure during the post medieval period, and no prior character is obvious on the available sources*."

4.171 The far south-east corner of the site is recorded as plantation, named 'eight acre plantation', and remains as such today. The HLC describes this plantation as follows:

"This later post medieval woodland has been deliberately created - as alluded to by its form and name. As the 1 ed 1" OS map does not show the woodland it has been inferred that planned fields once existed here, but this prior character is not legible."

4.172 The HLC accords with the interpretation of the site's history as discussed previously, that it comprises planned regular and irregular fields, created though private enclosure probably in the post-medieval period, with a small parcel of later post-medieval woodland, which remains extant today. Although historic maps illustrate loss of a few of these boundaries, the field layout is evidently very similar to how it was in at least the early 19th century.

4.173 This type of enclosure is commonly preserved in the landscape, and many of the site's post-medieval features, such as outfarms and post-medieval ridge and furrow, have been removed, and reduced to no more than potential buried remains. As such, the historic landscape at the site is considered of very low value, the land simply reflecting a 19th century field layout. Any impacts on the significance of the historic landscape as a result of the Proposed Development are considered in **Section 5** of this report.

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

4.174 The site is located within the parish of Melksham, Wiltshire. The earliest cartographic source consulted for the assessment was the Map accompanying the 1814 Enclosure Award for Melksham Parish (**Plan EDP 4**). The 1837 Tithe Map for the Parish of Melksham (**Plan EDP 5**) was also consulted, as were Ordnance Survey maps from 1886, 1924, 1972 and 1980-1988 (**Plans EDP 6** – **8**).

4.175 The Enclosure Award Map illustrates remaining parts of Blackmore Forest, enclosed for farmland by Act of Parliament in 1814 (**Plan EDP 4**). This comprises tracts of land to the north of Blackmore Farm. Blackmore House is shown on this map, along with the very northern edge of the site, shown as a small narrow plot adjacent to the house. The remainder of the site is not shown within this map, suggesting that it was probably already enclosed as farmland by this date.

4.176 The Tithe Map (**Plan EDP 5**) shows the site divided into regular, mostly rectangular agricultural fields, with the outfarm (referenced in the HER as **MWI68876**) shown as extant. The layout of fields is similar to the present-day layout, although a greater number of smaller fields is shown in the northern portion of the site, indicating that a process of amalgamation, with boundaries removed so that small fields are combined into larger fields, has taken place since the mid-19th century, probably in response to the industrialisation of farming and the need for fields to accommodate large modern machinery. These former boundaries remain indicated by the presence of mature trees which appear to have been retained from the earlier hedgerow boundary, with low relief depressions indicated by the LiDAR imagery in these locations, as well as faint crop marks on aerial photographs. Any remains relating to buried infilled remains of field boundary ditches, corresponding with the Tithe Map and dating from the post-medieval period would possess limited archaeological interest and would represent heritage assets of only very low significance. Regardless, no features relating to former post-medieval boundary ditches, were identified during the trial trenching across the site (Headland 2025).

4.177 Field names given on the Tithe Map Apportionments sometimes give information as to the provenance of fields, their historic use or whether they might contain archaeological remains. The field names, where recorded for the fields within the site, generally refer to the size and location of the plots, such as 'Two Acres' (1597) and 'Long Eight Acres (1585), as well as personal names such as 'Great Hatters' (1598). Plot 1595 is named 'Ploughed Champions', indicating a continued agricultural use, likely from the post-medieval period onwards, as indicated by the ridge and furrow cultivation identified by the LiDAR imagery. The fields are generally mixed in use, being recorded as either arable or pasture.

4.178 It is notable that the plot numbers to the immediate east and west of Blackmore House, but outside of the site boundary (1603 and 1601) are recorded as having been orchards at this time, with 1601 also extending into the site as a small parcel in the north-west corner. Adjacent to this, Plot 1600 is recorded as 'The Patch' a garden and pasture, indicating it was formally associated with Blackmore House.

4.179 The First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) Map of 1886 (**Plan EDP 6**) depicts the site with almost the same boundaries as on the Tithe Map, aside from one having been removed to form larger fields at the north-east of the site. This former boundary is still extant today. A field in the south-west corner of the site is shown as having changed use from arable to a plantation, and one field along the centre of the southern field boundary also now comprises a wooded area. Blackmore Farm to the north of the site is shown as having expanded with further outbuildings evident (all outside of the site boundary), and the land surrounding the farm is shown occupied by an orchard. No further changes are evident within the site.

4.180 From the 1886 OS map, the depiction of the site remains entirely the same until the present day and there are no apparent changes to field boundaries or land use. In terms of the land surrounding the site, the 1924 map is the first to show change from 1886. This depicts additional outbuildings at Blackmore Farm, clearly shows the orchards set around the farm (**Plan EDP 7**) and the expansion of the town of Melksham to the west of the site.

4.181 The expansion of Melksham continues through the mid to late-20th century although the greatest change is shown on the OS map of 1972 (**Plan EDP 8**) where extensive residential expansion to the east of Melksham is shown. This map also shows Blackmore Farm expanded further with large, modern agricultural barns depicted, which are still extant to the west of the historic farmhouse. The OS map of 1980-1988 also depicts additional buildings at Blackmore Farm, although, aside from that, no further change is evident within or surrounding the site. The outfarm at the south of the site continues to be depicted on the later maps of the 20th century, suggesting that its eventual removal was a relatively recent event.

4.182 The historic maps demonstrate that from the early 19th century at least, the site comprised agricultural land, with a process of field boundary loss apparent during the late 19th century. They also depict the continued expansion of Blackmore Farm and the outskirts of Melksham throughout the late 19th and 20th centuries. Several large outbuildings were constructed at Blackmore Farm by 1972, all of which are still extant. The maps illustrate that orchards were once adjacent to the farm from the mid-19th century until at least the mid-20th century.

LIDAR

4.183 The LiDAR data reflects the extant field boundaries visible on-site today, it also shows low relief depressions in the northern end of the site which correlate with the former field boundaries depicted on the Tithe Map.

4.184 A number of low relief earthworks are seen as linear patterns, running parallel to with the field boundaries. These linear features are generally straight, regular and narrowly spaced, indicative of modern ploughing methods, although a grouping of wider spaced, but still straight and regular, earthworks are evident in the central and south-east fields of the site. These earthworks suggest an earlier phase of ridge and furrow cultivation, most likely in the post-medieval period.

4.185 Despite this indicated evidence of earlier ridge and furrow, no such evidence was identified during the site visit, nor during the evaluation trenching of the site (Headland, 2025) and so it is likely that this later modern ploughing has truncated any surface earthworks so that they are no longer visible to the naked eye. In the centre of the site, two parallel earthworks are visible running north-east to south-west. The form of these earthworks is suggestive of a trackway and are discussed in further detail with relation to the aerial photographs below. However, as above, no evidence of this 'trackway' was identified during the evaluation trenching and is considered most likely the result of modern agricultural practices,

4.186 The route of the small brook is evident at the south-west of the site, along with a number of curvilinear features illustrating small outflows from the brook.

4.187 No evidence of the former outfarm identified by the HER at the south-west corner of the site (**MWI68876**) is visible.

4.188 No other previously unknown archaeological features were identified through a review of the LiDAR data.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

4.189 A total of 48 vertical aerial photographs, covering the site and its immediate environs, were identified within the collection maintained by the Historic England Archive in Swindon. None of the photographs are reproduced here due to copyright restrictions.

4.190 The available images span the period from June 1945 to August 2003 and confirm the land use and development sequence shown on those historic maps available online. It is apparent that the agricultural land at the site has been in a mixed regime during the mid-late 20th century, as fields are shown both as arable and pasture. The photographs show no other extant features, which are not also depicted on the historic Ordnance Survey maps discussed above.

4.191 Aside from the marks related to the buried remains of narrow ridge and furrow, which have been discussed previously, and marks reflecting the positions of former post-medieval field boundaries, depicted on historic maps, only a single additional cropmark was noted within the centre of the site. This cropmark might indicate the possible presence of previously unrecorded, buried archaeological remains, and was identified during the review of LiDAR data (above) as a potential trackway.

4.192 This comprises a double linear mark (its location is shown on **Plan EDP 2**) which is shown on several aerial photographs (e.g., CPE/UK 1821 4 NOV 1946) and is on 2006 imagery on Google Earth. The mark does not correspond to any feature known from historic maps and runs diagonally across the present field and so appears to be on a different alignment to the field system. This suggest that it may represent an archaeological feature pre-dating the post-medieval landscape. The double ditched form reflects the appearance of a road or trackway, with the ditches possibly comprising roadside drainage ditches, however it is not shown clearly anywhere else within the site. There is no suggestion that the cropmarks reflect the presence of significant archaeological remains. For example, there is no indication of an internal agger (metalled road surface) as might be expected for the remains of a well-preserved Roman road. The evaluation trenching of the site (Headland, 2025) did not identify any features relating to this 'trackway', as such, it is thought most likely to relate to modern agricultural practices.

4.193 No other features of archaeological interest were identified by the review of aerial photographs from the Historic England Archive, or the Britain from Above, Apex or NCAP online collections.

SITE WALKOVER

4.194 The site was visited in May 2025 to assess the current ground conditions and topography, as well as to confirm the continuing survival of any known archaeological remains and to identify any hitherto unknown remains.

4.195 A possible archaeological earthwork was noted during a previous visit in 2019; this was a slight bank seemingly defining a level area noted in a small field to the east of the small copse at the southern end of the site (see **Plan EDP 2**). This levelled, roughly rectangular terrace, was defined by a slight earthwork to the west and south. This feature was barely discernible as a low-relief earthwork during the visit in 2025 (**Image EDP A1.13**). It is possible that this represents the location of a former structure, since removed, although no evidence for a structure in this location is known from historic maps, aerial photographs and LiDAR and, no other evidence such as scattered building material, was noted in the vicinity. As much, as the space may represent the location of a former building, it is equally possible that it could be a result of some recent farming practice, resulting in the levelling of an area of ground. No evidence to suggest a built structure was identified by the geophysical survey across the site (SUMO, 2022), and so it seems most likely that this slight earthwork is the result of recent disturbance. This area was not subject to trial trenching as it is to remain undisturbed by the Proposed Development. As such, any feature within this location would remain *in-situ* regardless.

4.196 As previously noted, no earthworks or building material was visible at the location of the former outfarm. No other features of archaeological interest, such as earthworks, were noted within the site, including any earthworks related to ridge and furrow cultivation.

Section 5
Impact Assessment

5.1 This section assesses the potential impact of the Proposed Development on the historic environment. In this regard, it assesses impacts upon designated and non-designated heritage assets in the landscape. It also assesses potential impacts upon the site's buried archaeology, based on the evidence presented in **Section 4**.

DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

5.2 This section assesses the potential for the Proposed Development to result in impacts on designated heritage assets, either through direct changes to their fabric or indirect changes to their setting. In this sense, it addresses Step 3 of HE 2017.

5.3 In terms of minimising or avoiding harm and maximising enhancements, i.e., Step 4, where possible this has been addressed in the design of the proposals during the masterplanning process.

5.4 In terms of which designated heritage assets could be affected by the implementation of the Proposed Development - such that could result in harm to their significance - it was identified in **Section 4** that these are limited to the Grade II listed building Blackmore House (**1364118**).

Grade II Listed Blackmore House

5.5 **Section 4** of this assessment has established that the three fields which form the northern/central parts of the site form a part of the setting of the house that contributes in a positive way to the buildings' significance. This is due to the visual relationship between the asset and these parts of the site, whereby they provide an experience of the former farmhouse set within an agricultural landscape (and form the foreground in an experience from the PROW to the east), as well as reflecting the historical, functional relationship between Blackmore House and its formerly associated agricultural land. However, these views also include the row of pylons and electrical lines and houses on Sandridge Common, which reduce the degree to which the experience is of the farmhouse from and within its historic setting of farmland.

5.6 Any views to Blackmore House would likely have been at least partially screened by orchards from the mid-19th century. Furthermore, the limited presence of artistic or decorative features on Blackmore House's southern elevation suggests it was not designed to be seen as a feature in views across this landscape, retaining rather a functional association with the agricultural landscape. Neither does the building's fenestration suggest that it was intended for views out to the south, across farmland to be part of its design. As such, the northern/central parts of the site are considered to only contribute to the significance of the asset in a minor way, in as much as they allow for an experience of the relationship between the historic farmhouse and its historically associated farmland setting.

5.7 The wider remaining areas of the site also have an historical and functional relationship with Blackmore House, although there are no views to the house from these fields, and the contribution made to the asset's significance by this land is considered to be very low at most.

The Phase 1 Development in Relation to Blackmore House

5.8 In order to understand the likely effects of the proposed development on the setting of the listed building it is important to consider the change to the landscape that will occur as a result of the delivery of the consented Phase 1 site to the west.

5.9 The current setting of the listed building will change as a result of this development, with formerly historically associated agricultural land being changed to residential development to the south, southwest and west of Blackmore House.

5.10 The setting of Blackmore House has been considered within the design of PL/2023/11188 in the following ways:

1. Preserving the green, open setting of Blackmore House to the immediate south and south-east by retaining a buffer of open space immediately to the south of the plot that contains the house;

2. Adding additional tree planting along the boundary immediately south of the modern agricultural buildings and the field adjacent to the house; and

3. Instating an area of orchard planting the small eastern parcel (also within the Phase 2 site boundary), along with a pedestrian/cycle/emergency access route, and a buffer of open space around this.

5.11 To the south, this retained open space means that the farmhouse will continue to be experienced in views northwards across pasture, with boundary planting separating it from development and filtering views of it from the farmhouse. Similarly, to the east, the orchard planting will act to reinstate a level of historic integrity to the setting of the house, given that orchards are shown in this location on historic mapping, and will continue to facilitate an experience of the listed Blackmore House from the site across green open space with orchards and farm buildings on either side, thus allowing its historic function as an agricultural building to be understood and appreciated within the context of the development.

5.12 However, the house's setting will include modern development further to the south and west. Development will be situated behind boundary hedgerows but will be visible from the site with the character of the landscape to the west of the site changed to that of a housing development.

The Proposed Development in Relation to Blackmore House

5.13 The Proposed Development would further alter the setting of the asset through a change in land use, from agricultural land to a residential development, leading to an erosion of the tangible experience of the historic connection between Blackmore House and a part of its associated farmland.

5.14 The Illustrative Masterplan accompanying the outline application, as shown in **Appendix EDP 4**, shows how the setting of Blackmore House has been sympathetically considered within the design. This process is also explained and illustrated in the DAS that accompanies the application (see section 4.1 of the DAS: Views to Blackmore Farm).

5.15 The area of the site immediately east of the listed building is proposed for orchard planting, as per Phase 1 application PL/2023/11188. This provision would reflect the listed building's former setting in the late 19th century as indicated by historic mapping.

5.16 Beyond the orchard planting the wider field will remain predominantly as public open space, encompassing the corridor associated with the overhead powerline, with two small parcels of residential development at the north-east and south-west corners of this field. The DAS submitted alongside this application (Origin3, 2025) describes that this area will be "*characterised with new SUDs and hedgerow planting, plus tree / shrub planting where the overhead powerlines permit*". The north-west corner of the site will also include an access road leading south towards the residential areas, with a pedestrian and cycle route connecting to Phase 1 to the west, as per application PL/2023/11188. A small spur of this access road is also shown connecting the two residential parcels within this northern field, running parallel to the existing (and retained) hedgerow boundary marking the southern edge of this field. The DAS notes that this proposed access link, could be "*laid alongside a new hedgerow to filter its visibility*".

5.17 Similarly, the field immediately south of this has limited residential development proposed, which is confined to the western edge of the field, whilst the eastern edge remains as public open space with associated landscaping. The western edge of the third/central field of the site is also retained as public open space with associated landscaping, and residential development in the remaining area.

Implications of the Proposed Development for the Setting of the Listed Building

5.18 The public open space in these three fields would act as an area of open space, retained in order to allow for continuing views towards the farmhouse from within the site itself, as well as from locations along the PRoW at the eastern edge of the site, from where it was established that Blackmore House could be best appreciated.

5.19 The public open space therefore allow a continued experience of the listed farmhouse from the east, across farmland, with the view filtered by the presence of fruit trees but whereby the house would be visible above the trees. This experience is designed to reflect and reference the historic setting of the farmhouse, in which it would have been experienced as a farmhouse viewed from within open, green land bounded by hedgerows and trees and surrounded by its adjacent orchards. The development of the design of the Proposed Development, to allow for retained views across the public open space towards the farmhouse is illustrated by a modelling exercise included within the DAS (Origin3, 2025).

5.20 This experience of the farmhouse from the east would include the proposed parcels of residential development, located on the edges of the views to the house, to the northwest and southeast. However, it is apparent that the view across these fields towards the listed farmhouse currently includes built form on its periphery, with the ribbon of development along Sandridge Common forming the backdrop of these views to the north. Additionally,

the implementation of Phase 1 (PL/2023/11188) will result in residential development also forming the backdrop of these views to the west. The proposed residential development is located so that it will form extensions to this existing and consented built form in both locations, with the new housing creating a positive edge to development adjacent to Sandridge Common that is defined by vegetation rather than representing the stark rear elevations of houses as it does at present.

5.21 As such, the experience of the listed building from the east would predominantly comprise a view of the farmhouse across a green open space and orchards, populated by retained hedgerows and trees and newly planted trees but with built form at the periphery of the views, along with the existing overhead power line, and including the site's access roads.

5.22 In terms of views from the A4102 to the north, as the agricultural land surrounding the listed building is currently screened from view in this direction by: 1) the farmhouse itself; 2) the vegetation in the front garden plot of the farmhouse; and 3) the modern agricultural barns and residential dwelling immediately west of the farmhouse, it is not anticipated that the proposed development would be visible. As such, the experience of the listed farmhouse from the road would remain unchanged and would continue to provide an experience of Blackmore House surrounded by its small front garden plot.

5.23 It is thus assessed that the Proposed Development will result in an impact upon the significance of the Grade II listed building as a result of the loss of character of the landscape, with it changing from historically associated farmland to a housing development and associated public open space. This impact would result in less than substantial harm such that an aspect of its setting that makes a minor positive contribution to its significance would be lost.

5.24 Nevertheless, the Proposed Development seeks to mitigate this impact by

1. Retaining open space which allows views to the house from the east, with the former farmhouse continuing to be prominent and appreciable within these views;

2. Creating a new, softer edge to development to the north-east;

3. Retaining the hedgerows and trees within the open area which represent elements of the house's historic setting; and

4. Proposing orchard planting to the immediate east of the house (as per the Phase 1 development).

5.25 As such, the harm resulting from the development would be mitigated to a degree and the change to the asset setting would result in less than substantial harm, at the lower end of the spectrum.

5.26 The Proposed Development thus provides reassurance that the scheme will seek to mitigate harm as best as possible in respect of the Grade II listed Blackmore House. There is also the opportunity for the specific location, layout and form of landscape planting across the site to be adjusted in agreement with relevant consultees at the Reserved Matters stage of

future detailed applications, in order to accommodate any outstanding detailed design concerns.

5.27 It is also noted that the proposed development provides an opportunity to deliver a minor heritage benefit with regard to the listed farmhouse. This could be achieved through the implementation of a 'themed' play area inspired by 18th century agricultural practices.

5.28 With regard to the themed play area, this would be located at the north-east edge of the site, from where filtered views of the listed farmhouse can be achieved, as indicated by the Illustrative Masterplan.

5.29 The play equipment could be inspired by characteristic features of agriculture from the transition of the medieval and post-medieval periods to modern, such as the change in machinery from plough to tractor. This themed play area would allow members of the public to appreciate the former historic context of the listed building as a working farmhouse, thus providing a minor heritage benefit.

5.30 The themed play also provides an opportunity to make a connection with themed play at the southern end of the site, focusing on agricultural practices from the prehistoric to Roman era (inspired by the archaeological remains within the site), such that the two areas combined could illustrate the evolution of agriculture across the site from the prehistoric to modern era.

NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

5.31 The primary impact of the Proposed Development on the archaeological resource within the site will result from direct truncation and/or removal of remains during groundworks.

5.32 The geophysical survey, identified a number of archaeological features within the south-west of the site, predominantly ditches and pits. These features were considered likely to be of Romano-British date, based on their proximity to previously identified Roman remains to the west. The subsequent trial trenching confirmed the presence of such features in the southern field of the site, defined as enclosure ditches, enclosing an area of pits and gullies as well as a post-hole and potential sunken temporary structure, with artefactual evidence confirming a Roman date. These features were interpreted as being related agricultural land management.

5.33 The features are assessed to be of no greater than moderate value and any remains within their vicinity are likely to be of a similar nature. Given their moderate level of significance, it is assessed that these remains are not of such significance to warrant preservation *in-situ* and instead could be suitably mitigated via a programme of archaeological excavation or 'preservation by record'.

5.34 As indicated on the Illustrative Masterplan submitted with the application (**Appendix EDP 4**), this area at the south of the site is proposed to form part of a public open space, with drainage and landscaping.

5.35 Therefore, subject to detail design at the reserved matters stage, these Roman remains could either be preserved through record via a programme of archaeological recording, or

preserved *in-situ*, if not subject to any intrusive development, any remains preserved in situ would be subject to an Archaeological Management Strategy (AMP) that would highlight the archaeological potential, should future work take place in this part of the site. The scope of any mitigation would be agreed in advance with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA and could be suitably addressed through a condition attached to any planning permission granted.

5.36 The features identified by the geophysical survey within the two southwestern fields of the site were not subject to trial trenching, given that these are not subject to ground works related to the Proposed Development. Instead, these areas are just to be used for Bio-diversity Net Gain (BNG) purposes, as shown on the Illustrative Masterplan (**Appendix EDP 4**). Given that no intrusive groundworks are proposed in this area, it is assessed that there would be no resultant impact upon any potential archaeological features in this location.

5.37 The remaining areas of the site were largely devoid of archaeological features, with only a small linear ditch dated to the modern period, recorded. Whilst it is noted that given the agricultural nature of the site from the medieval period onwards, there is potential for similar features to be encountered during development, such features related to medieval to modern agriculture, such as infilled furrows and ditches would be considered of very low heritage significance. The loss of such features would therefore result in no more than a very low impact upon the archaeological record, and no specific mitigation measures are warranted in this regard.

5.38 It is also noted that the proposed development provides an opportunity to deliver minor heritage benefits with regard to the archaeological remains within the site. This would be through: 1) the implementation of an information board, which could deliver information on the significance of the buried Romano-British remains and their historic context; and 2) the implementation of a 'themed' play area inspired by the Romano- British remains.

5.39 It is proposed that this information board could be located on the intended pedestrian route that would run through the area of public open space proposed within the southern field of the site (where the archaeological remains are present). This location would be at a point which is accessible to the general public, and so an information board would allow members of the public using the adjacent footpath to understand and appreciate the significance of the Romano–British remains, thus providing a minor heritage benefit.

5.40 With regard to the themed play area, this would also be located at the southern edge of the site, adjacent to the archaeological remains, as indicated by the Illustrative Masterplan. The play equipment could be inspired by characteristic features of agriculture from the transition of the prehistoric period (i.e. late Iron Age) to Roman, such as Round Houses with hearths, agricultural buildings such as granaries, and husbandry of animals such as sheep, oxen and pigs. The themed play also provides an opportunity to make a connection with themed play at the northern end of the site, focusing on agricultural practices coming into the modern era (inspired by Blackmore Farm), such that the two areas combined could illustrate the evolution of agriculture across the site from the prehistoric to modern era.

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.41 With regard to the Historic Landscape Character of the site, it is assessed that the land use change of the site from open fields to a residential development will alter its character. This will result in a localised change to the historic landscape character of the area, with it losing its historic countryside character. However, it is noted that the existing hedgerows will be retained within the development, albeit with very minor loss to allow for access ways, and thus an element of this rural character will be retained.

5.42 Furthermore, as set out in **Section 4**, the historic landscape character of the land within the site is of very low significance. As such, the Proposed Development would result in only a very low adverse effect on the significance of the historic landscape.

5.43 It is considered that mitigation already incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development, by retaining the historic hedgerows on the site's boundaries wherever possible, has already limited the effect of the construction phase on this receptor, so no further mitigation is considered appropriate to mitigate the very low adverse effect in this respect.

Section 6
Conclusions

6.1 This archaeological and heritage assessment concludes that the site does not contain any designated heritage assets, such as world heritage sites, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields or conservation areas that would represent a constraint to development.

6.2 The site's contribution to the settings of designated heritage assets has been considered in accordance with Historic England guidance: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (HE, 2017 - Second Edition). All designated heritage assets located within a 1km radius of the site boundary were assessed in order to understand whether their settings have the potential to be affected by change within the site.

6.3 Only one designated asset was deemed to have the potential for its setting to be affected: the Grade II Listed Blackmore House.

6.4 The site comprises agricultural land which has a historical, functional association with Blackmore House. The house is experienced from the land to the north and centre of site, across the fields located immediately east and south-east of the listed building. These views are already within the context of modern built form at the periphery, along the A302 to the north, with further modern buildings that will be constructed following the implementation of the future development of PL/2023/11188 to the west. As such, these areas are considered to make a low contribution to the asset's significance.

6.5 The Proposed Development has been designed to respect the setting of Blackmore House as best as possible, in order to reduce the potential for harm to the significance of the listed building. With design mitigation, whilst its setting to the east and south-east will change in character from agricultural fields to a housing development with designed open spaces, the farmhouse will still be experienced across open grassed areas with retained hedgerows and trees and additional planting in the foreground, notably as a focal point in views across the site from the bridleway to the east.

6.6 As such, it is assessed that the Proposed Development would result in harm to the significance of the listed building but, due to the design mitigation this would comprise a low level of less than substantial harm to the listed building's significance.

6.7 With regard to non-designated assets, the archaeological evaluation identified one distinct area containing archaeological features in the southern field of the site. This ditches and pits dated to the Romano-British period. These features are assessed as being of moderate significance, with the finds found within them suggesting that they probably relate to agricultural land management, possibly as a focal 'working area' of the farm.

6.8 The illustrative masterplan shows the area in which they are located as public open space, with the only intrusive development being attenuation basins as part of the SuDS strategy. Therefore, subject to detail design at the Reserved Matters stage, these Roman remains could either be preserved through record via a programme of archaeological recording or

preserved *in-situ* and subject to an AMP. The scope of any mitigation would be agreed in advance with the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA and could be suitably addressed through a condition attached to any planning permission granted.

6.9 The remaining areas of the site were largely devoid of archaeological features, with the exception being remains relating to post-medieval agriculture that are of very low heritage significance. The loss of remains of very low significance relating to the agricultural use of the site from the medieval period onwards would not warrant any specific mitigation measures.

6.10 The historic landscape of the site is considered to be of no greater than very low sensitivity. As such, while the development will result in a land use change at the site that will alter its character, such changes are assessed as resulting in a no more than very low impact. Furthermore, mitigation is incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development, by retaining the historic hedgerows on the site's boundaries wherever possible, thus further reducing this very low impact.

6.11 It is considered that, on the basis of current evidence, the development of the site would potentially result in a low level of less than substantial harm to the designated asset Blackmore Farm. As per paragraph 215 of the NPPF, this low level of harm will need to be weighed in the planning balance against the public benefits of the Proposed Development.

6.12 The very low level of harm to the historic landscape and harm through the loss of archaeological remains will need to be considered with reference to paragraph 216 of NPPF in that: "*In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset*."

Section 7
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LIST OF CONSULTED MAPS

1814 Enclosure Map of Melksham

Tithe Map of Melksham Parish 1837

1886 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map

1924 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

1972 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

1980-1988 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

Appendix EDP 1
Images

Image EDP A1.1: View of the south facing elevation of the Grade II listed Blackmore House, taken from the field immediately south of the house (outside of the site boundary).

Image EDP A1.2: View from the northern part of the site looking east towards Blackmore House illustrating its setting within farmland, albeit obscured by the intervening vegetation and topography, and in the context of modern pylons and farm buildings.

Image EDP A1.3: View from the northern part of the site looking east towards Blackmore House illustrating the screening effect of the intervening vegetation.

Image EDP A1.4: View of the south facing elevation of the Grade II listed Blackmore House, illustrating the screening effect of the modern shed, taken from the field immediately south of the house (outside of the site).

Image EDP A1.5: View from the central part of the site looking north-west towards Blackmore House illustrating its setting within farmland, albeit relatively distant and obscured by intervening vegetation.

Image EDP A1.6: View north towards Blackmore House from the southern end of the site, illustrating the screening effect of the rising topography in this direction, as well as the intervening hedgerows.

Image EDP A1.7: View towards Blackmore House from the south-west edge of the site, illustrating the screening effect of intervening modern outbuildings, as well as intervening vegetation and topography.

Image EDP A1.8: View north-west across the northern/central part of the site from the PRoW along the site's eastern boundary, illustrating views of Blackmore House across fields, with mature hedgerows and trees, as well as modern built form along the A302 and pylons.

Image EDP A1.9: View south from the southern edge of the site, illustrating that distant views of Tanhouse Farmhouse (**1194746**), albeit so distant and obscured by intervening vegetation, that a clear appreciation of the building is not possible.

Image EDP A1.10: View north-east from the site, illustrating that views towards Sandridge Park (**MWI49202**), and associated assets including the listed Coach House (**1194747**), as well as Sandridge Tower (**1021771**), are screened by intervening built form, vegetation and rising topography.

Image EDP A1.11: View north-east towards the listed Old Coach House (**1194747**), illustrating its appearance as well as its well enclosed setting within the densely vegetated Sandridge Park.

Image EDP A1.12: View south-east from Sandridge Park towards the site, illustrating that views in this direction are entirely screened by the dense vegetation within the park.

Image EDP A1.13: View south of the faint earthwork noted in the south-west field of the site.

Appendix EDP 2
Geophysical Survey
(SUMO, 2025)

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT

Land at Melksham, Wiltshire

Client

The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

Survey Report

23296

OASIS Ref. No.

Sumogeop1-534825

Date

17 September 2025

Survey Report 23296: Land at Melksham, Wiltshire

Survey dates	01 - 03 September 2025
Field co-ordinator	Simon Lobel BSc
Field Team	Stephen Weston BA Gabriel Mazeski BA Baeli Fern (BSc (Hons)
Report Date	17 September 2025
CAD Illustrations	Rebecca Fradgley BSc (Hons) ACIfA
Report Author	Rebecca Fradgley BSc (Hons) ACIfA
Project Manager	Rebecca Fradgley BSc (Hons) ACIfA
Report approved	Dr John Gater BSc DSc(Hon) MCIfA FSA

SUMO GeoSurveys
Suite1
Deer Park Business Centre
Woollas Hill
Eckington
Pershore
Worcestershire
WR10 3DN
T: 01684 592266
www.sumoservices.com
geophysics@sumoservices.com

SUMO GeoSurveys is a trading name of SUMO Geophysics Ltd.

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2 LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A	Technical Information: Magnetometer Survey Methods, Processing and Presentation
Appendix B	Technical Information: Magnetic Theory
Appendix C	OASIS Data Collection Sheet
Appendix D	Data Management Plan & Archive Selection Strategy

3 SURVEY TECHNIQUE

3.1 Detailed magnetic survey (magnetometry) was chosen as the most efficient and effective method of locating the type of archaeological anomalies which might be expected at this site. All survey techniques followed the guidance set out by CIfA (2020) and the European Archaeology Council (EAC) (2016).

Bartington Cart System Traverse Interval 1.0m Sample Interval 0.125m

The only processes performed on data are the following unless specifically stated otherwise:

Zero Mean Traverse	This process sets the background mean of each traverse within each grid to zero. The operation removes instrument striping effects and edge discontinuities over the whole of the data set.

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4 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF RESULTS

4.1 A detailed magnetometer survey conducted over approximately 23.5 hectares at Melksham has identified an area of probable later prehistoric or Romano-British occupation in the form of adjoining enclosures, a trackway and pits. Other tentative trends and discrete anomalies could reflect further areas of activity, whilst two parallel ditches correspond with an undated cropmark and could relate to a track or drove way. The interpretation of an unusual line of at least 8 small rings is unclear. Former ridge and furrow is mapped, along with two former field boundaries, ploughing effects and a series of land drains. Two infilled ponds have been identified, as well as debris associated with a former building. Natural magnetic responses and an underground service are also evident in the results.

5 INTRODUCTION

5.1 **SUMO GeoSurveys** was commissioned to undertake a geophysical survey of an area outlined for development. This survey forms part of an archaeological investigation being undertaken by **The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd**.

5.2 Site Details

NGR / Postcode	ST 92957 64097 / SN12 7QU	
Location	The survey area is situated approximately 500m to the east of Melksham, Wiltshire. The A3102, Sandridge Common, lies to the north of the site, with an unmarked trackway forming the eastern boundary. Eight Acre Plantation bounds the site in the southeast, with agricultural land on all other sides. An unnamed watercourse crosses the southern and western parts of the survey area.	
HER	Wiltshire HER	
OASIS Ref. No.	Sumogeop1-534825	
District	Wiltshire	
Parish	Melksham Without	
Topography	Mostly level	
Land Use	Arable	
Geology (BGS 2025)	Bedrock:	Oxford Clay Formation - mudstone.
	Superficial:	No superficial deposits are recorded for the majority of the area, however Alluvium - clay, silt, sand and gravel, is present flanking the watercourse in the south and west of the site.
Soils (CU 2025)	Soilscape 18: slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils.	
Survey Methods	Magnetometer survey (fluxgate gradiometer)	
Study Area	*c.* 23.5 hectares	

5.3 ***Archaeological Background*** (EDP 2021)

5.3.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment for the site, and wider area, concludes that there is a moderate potential for remains of Roman date, and a low potential for prehistoric or early medieval finds or features to be identified.

5.3.2 Within a 1km radius of the site, Wiltshire HER holds entries for Roman period archaeology. Within the western part of the site, an excavation in 1986 (EWI7670) identified a ditch, two burnt areas and one pit containing Romano-British pottery sherds, animal bone, iron fragments and charcoal. It is noted, however, that the records are stated as originating from personal communication with the excavator, and there are no known reports detailing the finds or features identified, and their exact location is subjective. The low density of archaeology identified, appear to represent general agricultural activity, although it is apparent that the HER

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records are clustered adjacent to the stream that runs through the site which could have represented a focus for activity.

5.3.3 Roman ditches and pits were also identified immediately to the west of the site during excavation in 2022 (MWI178364; MWI78365).

5.3.4 A geophysical survey and subsequent excavation at Melksham Town Football Club recorded buried remains of a Roman period farmstead, *c.* 750m southwest of the site (MWI647220).

5.3.5 HER records relating to ridge and furrow cultivation (MWI73994; MWI73970) are located within the site and wider area, suggesting that they formed agricultural land during the medieval period. A former outbuilding (MWI68876) is also recorded within the site.

5.3.6 A single undated cropmark is visible in the north of the survey area and comprises a double linear mark which is visible on several aerial images. The mark does not correspond to any feature known from historic maps and runs diagonally across the present field, appearing on a different alignment to the field system. It could represent an archaeological feature such as a road or trackway.

5.4 *Aims and Objectives*

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

6 RESULTS

6.1 *The survey has been divided into eight survey areas (Areas 1-8) and specific anomalies have been given numerical labels [1], [2], etc which appear in the text below, as well as on the Interpretation Figure(s).*

6.2 *Probable / Possible Archaeology*

6.2.1 Numerous ditch-like responses, linear trends and pit-like anomalies have been detected throughout the dataset which have been assigned to the categories of *Probable / Possible Archaeology* according to the magnetic strengths of the anomalies.

6.2.2 Within Areas 1, 2 and 3, a number of linear ditch-like anomalies are visible, including slightly curving, parallel, linear trends [1] on a northeast-southwest alignment in Area 2. They are partially obscured by the pipeline crossing the field but are indicative of ditches and appear to correspond with the undated cropmark recorded on the site (see 5.3.5) It is possible that they reflect a track or drove way, though further interpretation is difficult due to being masked by the underground service.

6.2.3 A cluster of tentative rectilinear trends and discrete anomalies [2] have been detected in Area 4, with numerous additional discrete and linear trends visible in Area 5. The responses lie within immediate proximity of the Roman remains excavated in 1986 (EWI7670) and could represent small enclosures containing pits or areas of burning, such as ovens or hearths.

6.2.4 Within Area 5, linear anomalies form a partial rectilinear enclosure [3], with numerous pit-like anomalies also visible. An additional sub-rectangular enclosure [4] has also been identified. Discrete, slightly enhanced, pit-like anomalies have also been detected; they could reflect refuse pits, form parts of enclosures or provide other evidence for habitation.

6.2.5 A cluster of discrete anomalies and enhanced magnetic responses [5] are visible in the north of Area 7. They could be of archaeological origin, reflecting areas of small-scale industrial

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activity, however they flank a corroborated former field boundary (see 6.1.1) and could simply be a result of consolidation along the boundary.

6.2.6 A linear arrangement of at least eight, small, circular and sub-circular or partially circular, anomalies [6] have been identified in Area 7, each of which has a diameter of *c.* 4m. The circular form and linear arrangement of the responses suggests that they have an archaeological explanation, however their small size leads to speculation in their interpretation. They could possibly be related to a linear barrow cemetery, but such an interpretation is speculative. They are likely too small to reflect ring ditches, and could be a result of extraction, or relate to a more recent activity.

6.2.7 A series of linear, curvilinear and rectilinear ditches plus discrete anomalies [7] have been detected across Area 6. The responses indicate an area of settlement or small-scale land management, of possible later prehistoric or Romano-British date, with small several adjoining enclosures flanking a curving trackway which bisects the area of occupation. Discrete anomalies are indicative of pits.

6.3 *Ridge and Furrow*

6.3.1 Widely spaced, slightly curving, parallel linear anomalies can be seen in Areas 1 and 2 which are indicative of former ridge and furrow cultivation.

6.4 *Uncertain*

6.4.1 Several weak linear trends have been detected in the results, and they have been assigned to the category of *Uncertain*. They generally lack the defined morphology of anomalies that would usually be interpreted as being of archaeological interest. They are most likely to be a result of natural or agricultural processes, although an archaeological explanation cannot be entirely ruled out.

6.5 *Former Field Boundary – Corroborated*

6.5.1 Linear anomalies running north-south through Area 1 and east-west across Area 7 can be corroborated with former field boundaries that are visible on historic maps of the site (Fig. 11).

6.6 *Agricultural – Ploughing / Land Drains*

6.6.1 Closely spaced, magnetically weak, parallel linear trends are mapped in Areas 2, 3, 4, and 6 which are a result of modern ploughing effects.

6.6.2 Straight linear anomalies form a herringbone pattern in Area 3 and are typical of responses associated with modern land drains.

6.7 *Natural / Geological / Pedological*

6.7.1 A few small amorphous zones of enhanced magnetic response are visible in Areas 2 and 3. They are likely to be a result of localised natural magnetic variations.

6.8 *Service*

6.8.1 A strong bipolar linear anomaly runs northeast-southwest across the survey area, and it marks the route of an underground service pipe.

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6.9 *Ferrous / Magnetic Disturbance*

6.9.1 Discrete zones of strong magnetic disturbance have been identified in the north of Area 1, Area 5 and the south of Area 7. The disturbance in Areas 1 and 5 are a result of former ponds, whilst the debris in Area 7 is relates to a former outbuilding, each of which are visible on historic maps of the site. The outbuilding is also recorded on the HER (MWI68876).

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

7 DATA APPRAISAL & CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT

7.1 Historic England Table 4 (EH 2008) states that the typical magnetic response on the local soils / geology is variable. The results from this survey indicate the presence of a series of enclosures, ditches and pits reflecting a settlement area, along with numerous other linear trends and discrete anomalies which could represent additional archaeological remains as such, the technique is deemed to have been effective.

8 CONCLUSION

8.1 The magnetometer survey at Melksham has identified a number of anomalies indicative of small-scale land management or potential settlement of later prehistoric or Romano-British date. The features have been detected in the form of adjoining enclosures, a trackway and pits. Additional clusters of linear trends, pit-like anomalies and enclosure are mapped in the results, along with parallel linear ditches which correspond with an undated cropmark. An unusual line of small ring anomalies could have archaeological potential. Areas of former ridge and furrow are mapped in the data, along with a series of land drains, former field boundaries and modern plough effects. Discrete areas of magnetic disturbance reflect infilled ponds and a former farm outbuilding visible on maps and recorded on the HER. An underground service and areas of natural magnetic variation are also visible.

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10 ARCHIVE

10.1 The minimally processed data, data images, XY traces and a copy of this report are stored in **SUMO GeoSurveys'** digital archive, on an internal RAID configured NAS drive in the Midlands Office. These data are also backed up to the Cloud for off-site storage**.**

10.2 The Grey Literature will be archived with OASIS and the relevant HER within a period of 12 months.

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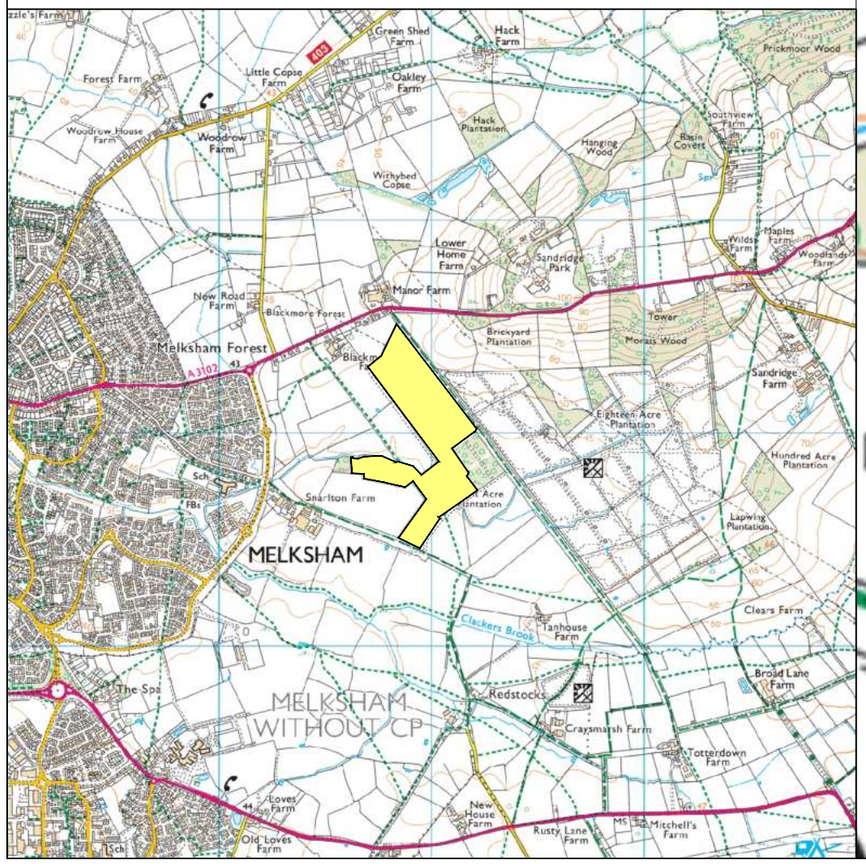

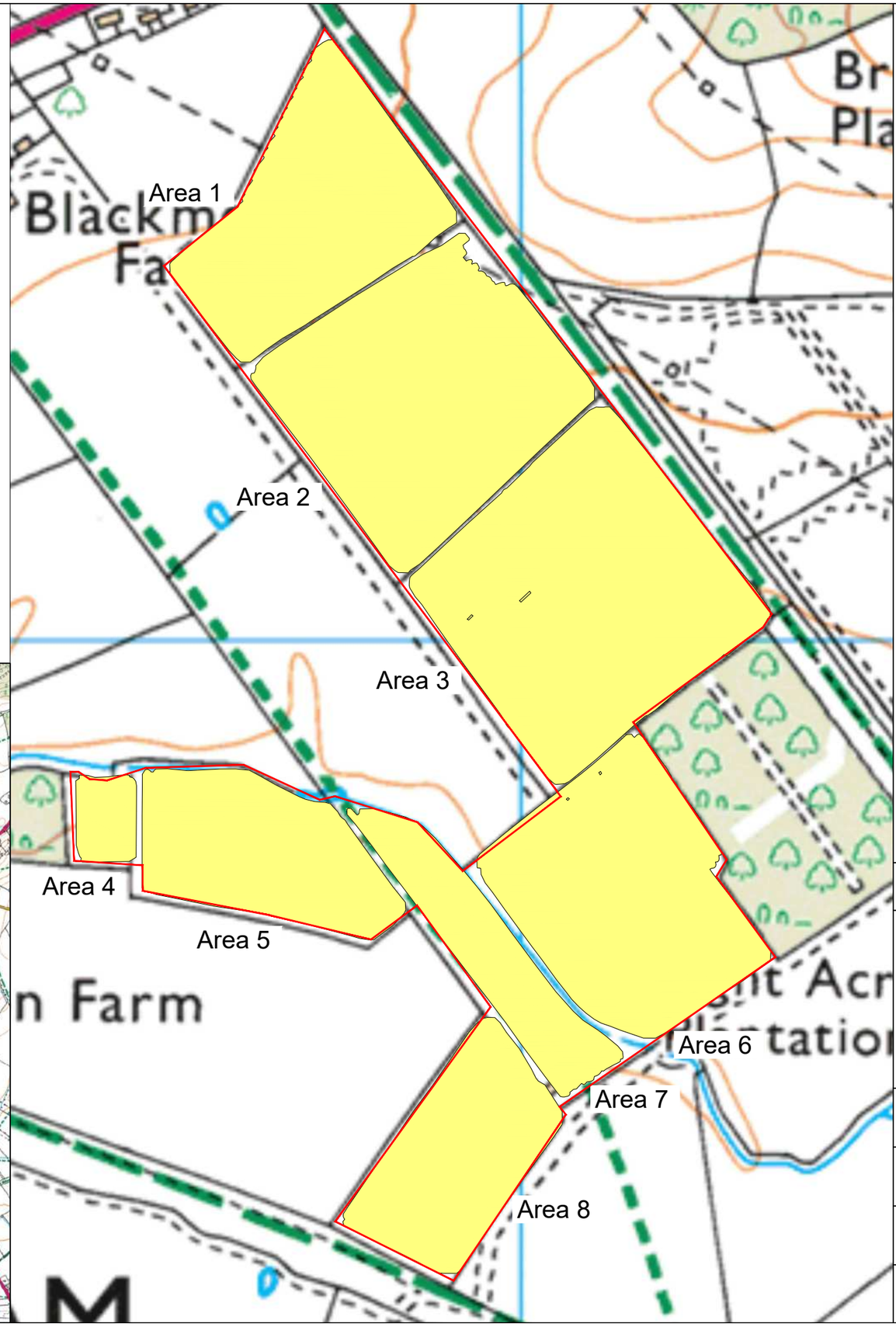

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Survey Areas

SUMO GeoSurveys

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Site Location

Client:
The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

Project:
SUMO-23296: Land at Melksham, Wiltshire

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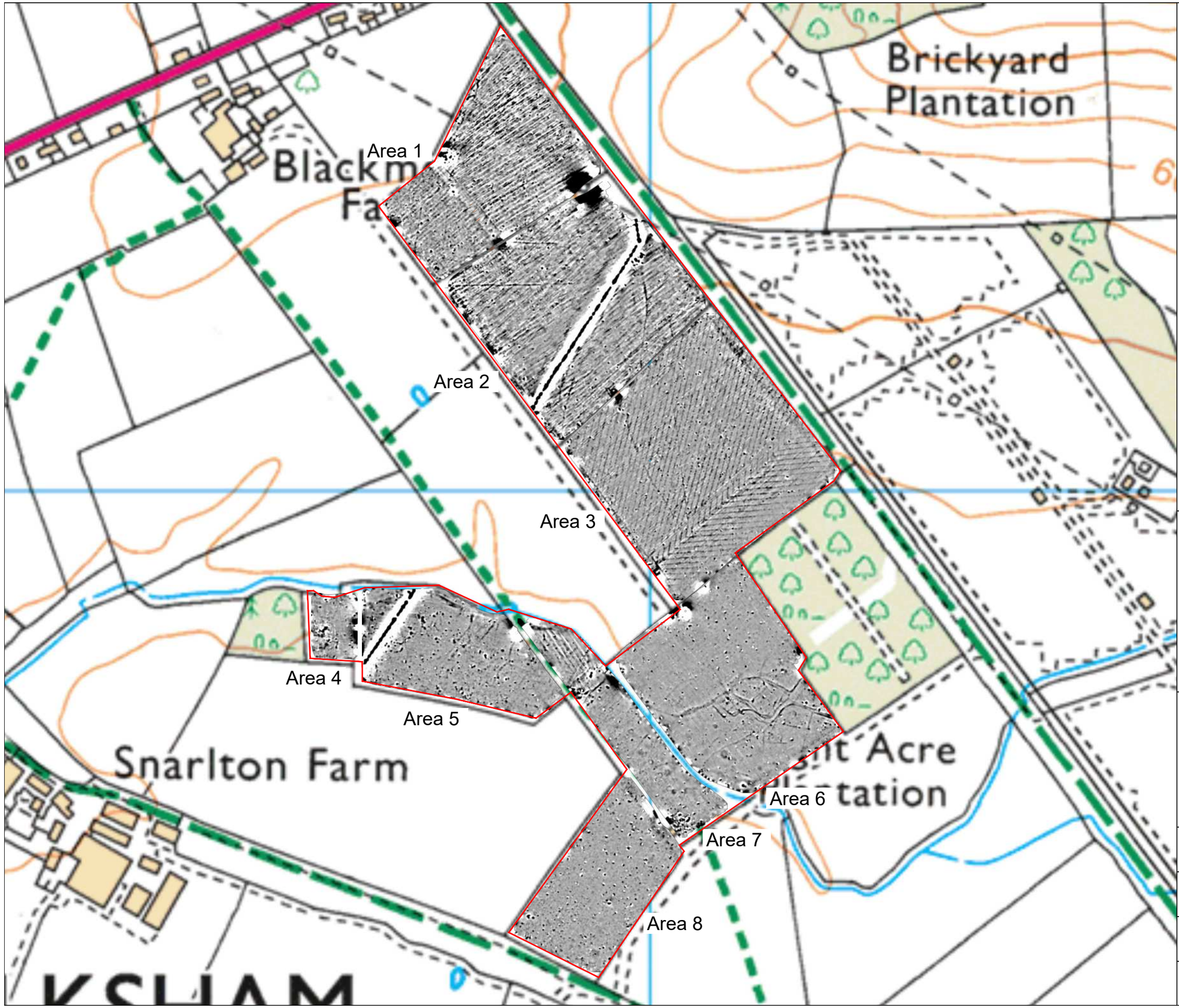

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Client:
The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

Project:
SUMO-23296: Land at Melksham, Wiltshire

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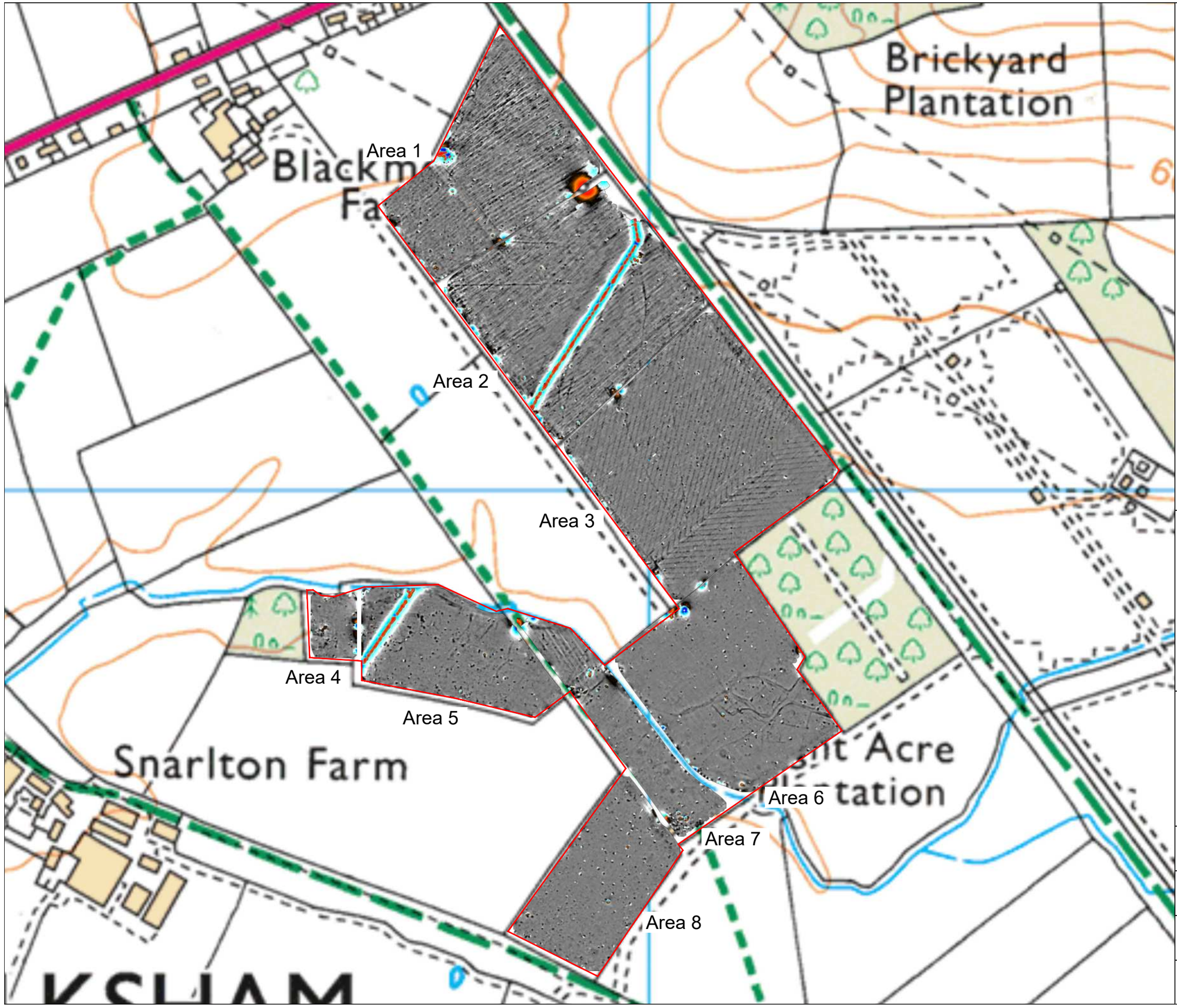

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The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

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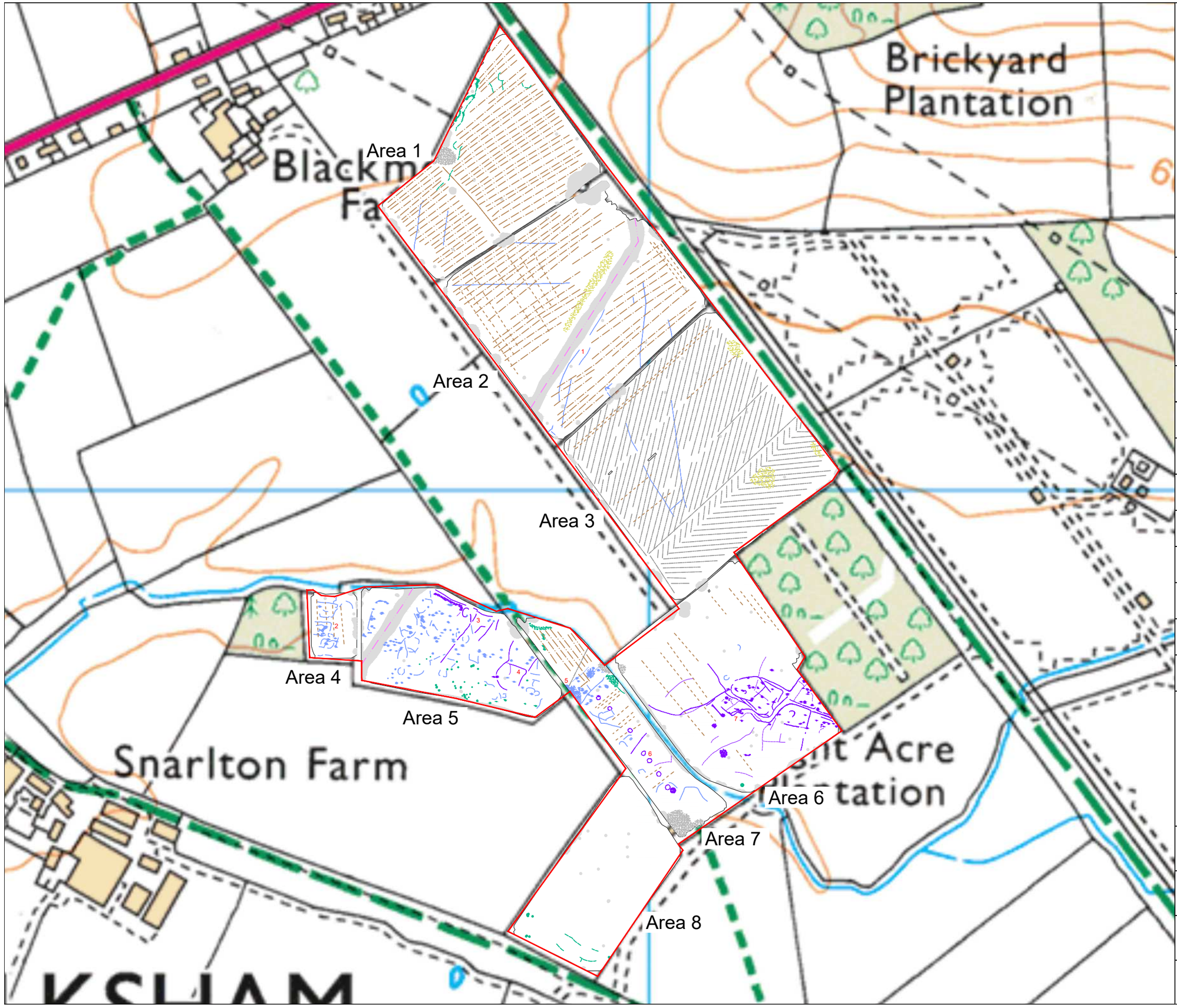

KEY

	Probable archaeology (discrete anomaly / trend / increased response)
	Possible archaeology (discrete anomaly / trend / increased response)
	Ridge and furrow
	Uncertain Origin (discrete anomaly / trend / increased response)
	Former field boundary (corroborated)
	Agriculture (plough)
	Agriculture (land drain)
	Natural (e.g. geological / pedological)
	Magnetic disturbance
	Service
	Ferrous

SUMO GeoSurveys

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Magnetometer Survey - Interpretation - Overview

Client:
The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

Project:
SUMO-23296: Land at Melksham, Wiltshire

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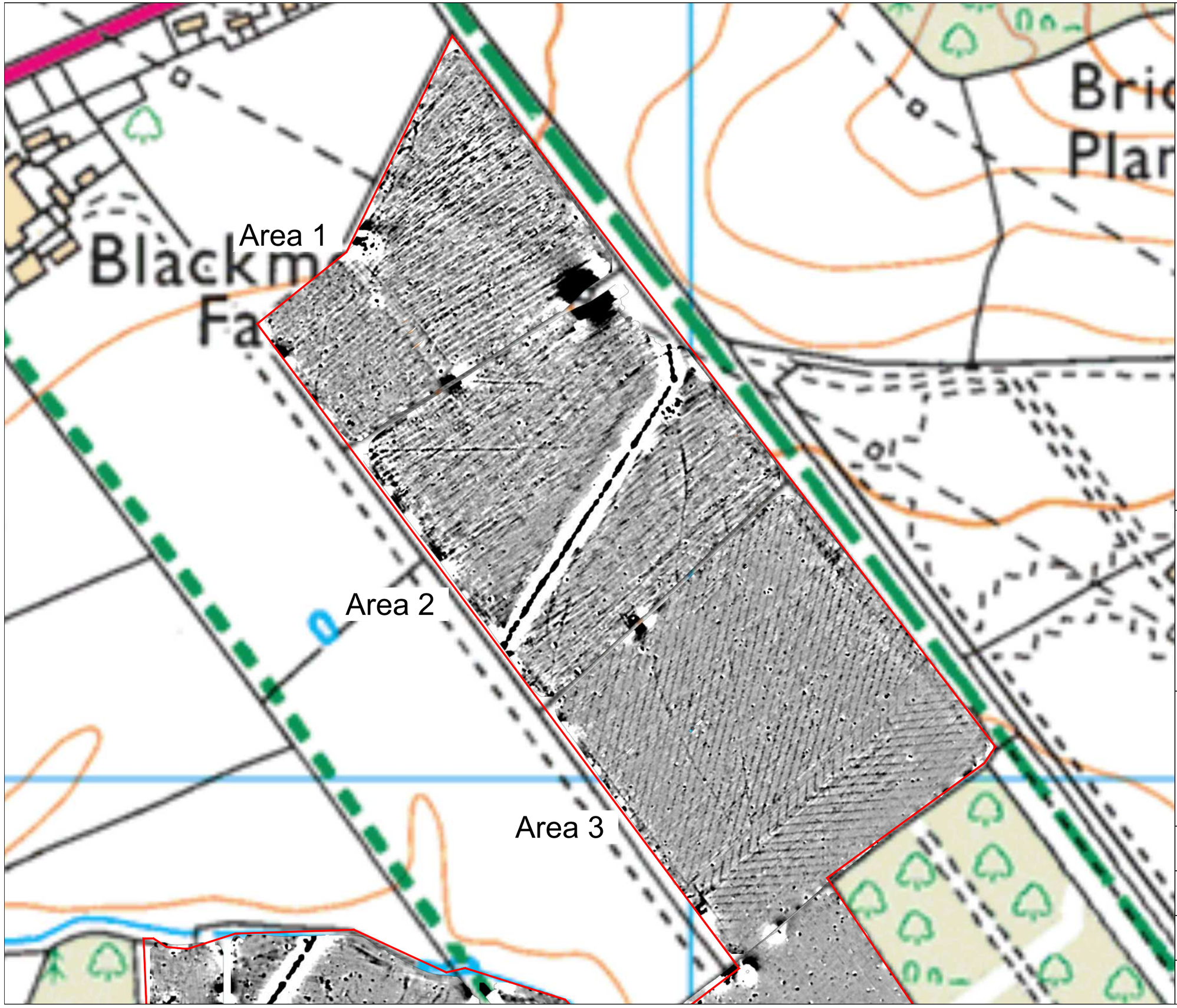

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- Areas 1, 2 and 3

Client:
The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

Project:
SUMO-23296: Land at Melksham, Wiltshire

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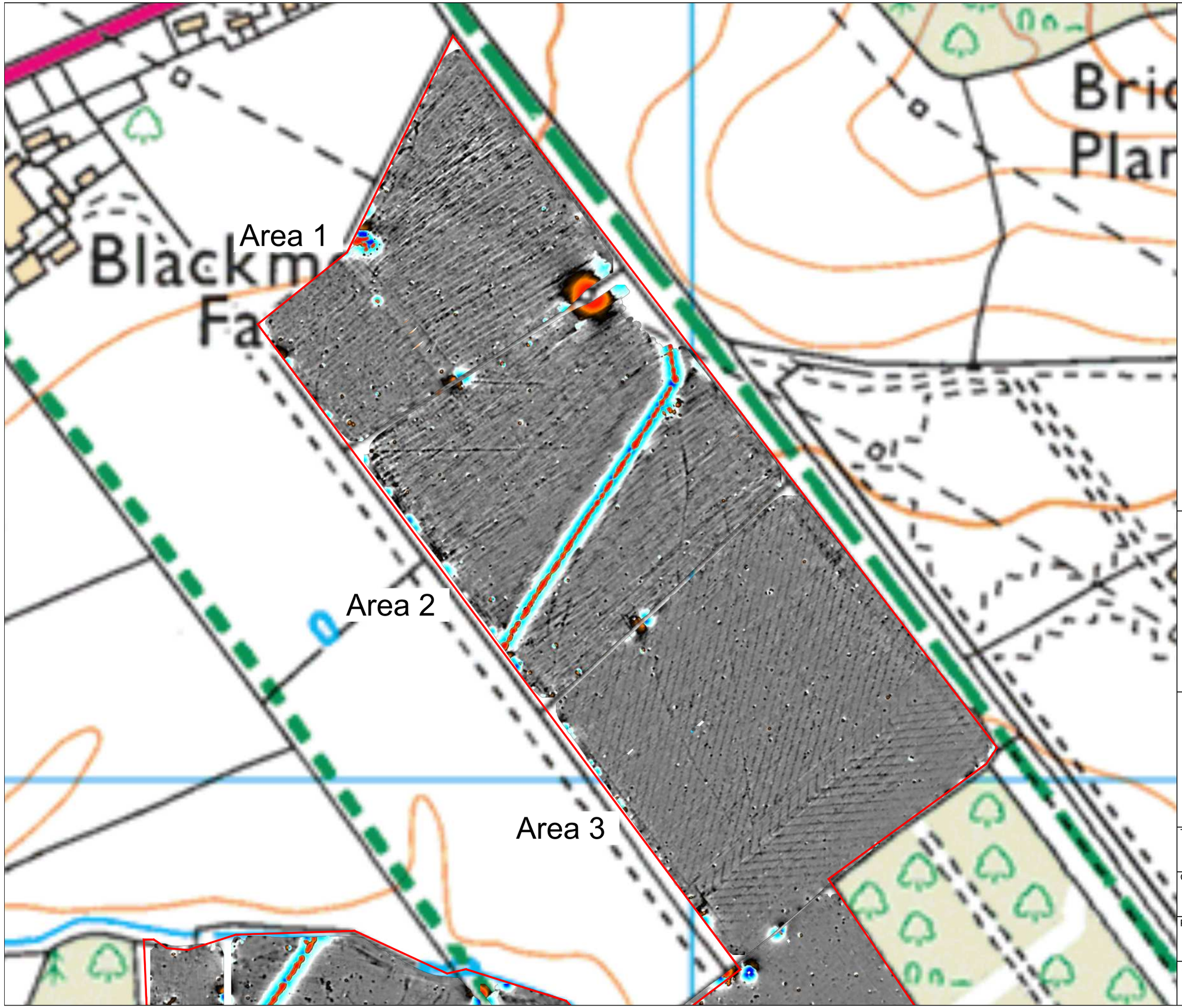

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Magnetometer Survey - Colour Plots
- Areas 1, 2 and 3

Client:
The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

Project:
SUMO-23296: Land at Melksham, Wiltshire

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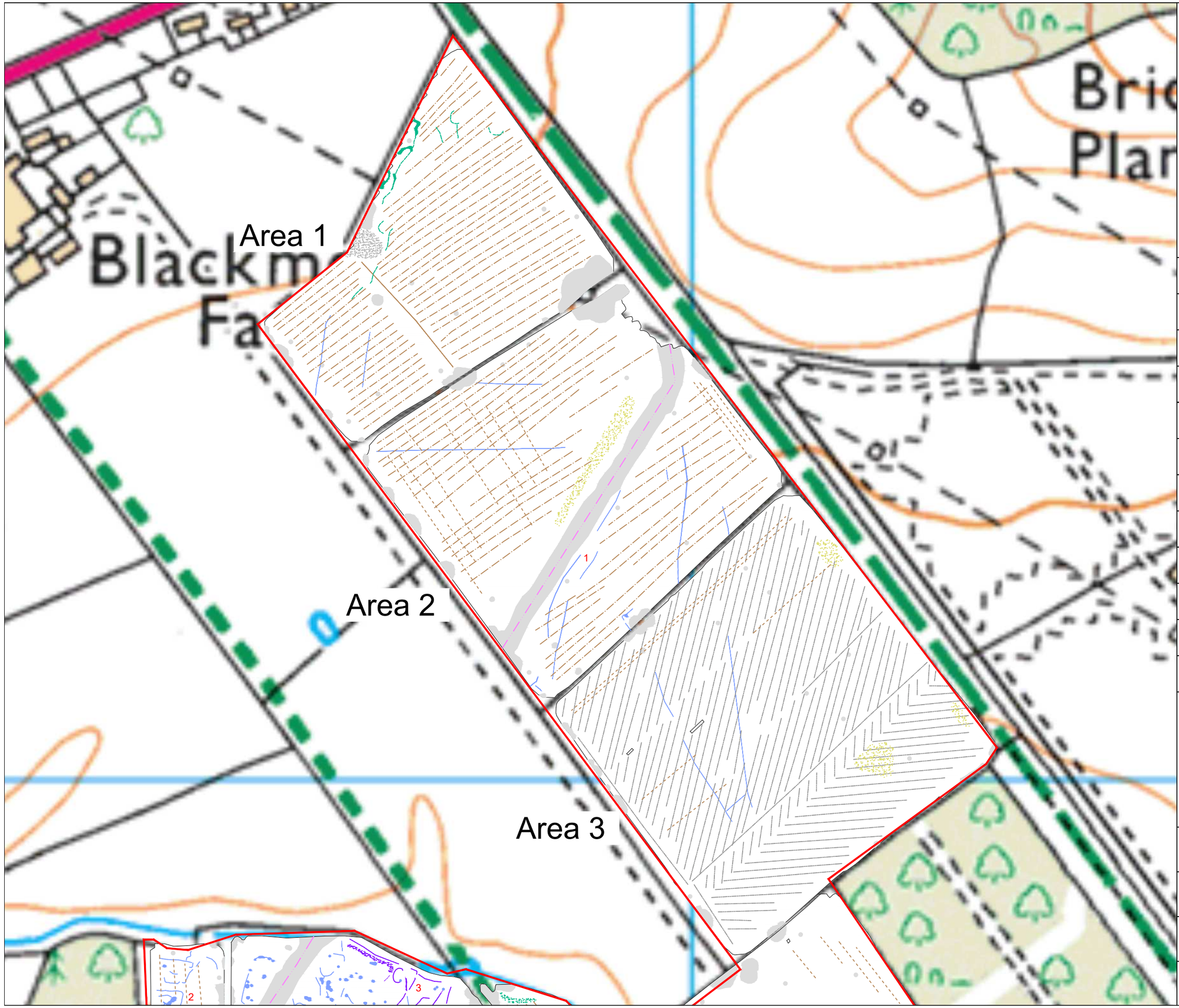

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	Possible archaeology (discrete anomaly / trend / increased response)
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	Magnetic disturbance
	Service
	Ferrous

SUMO GeoSurveys

Title:
Magnetometer Survey - Interpretation - Areas 1, 2, and 3

Client:
The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

Project:
SUMO-23296: Land at Melksham, Wiltshire

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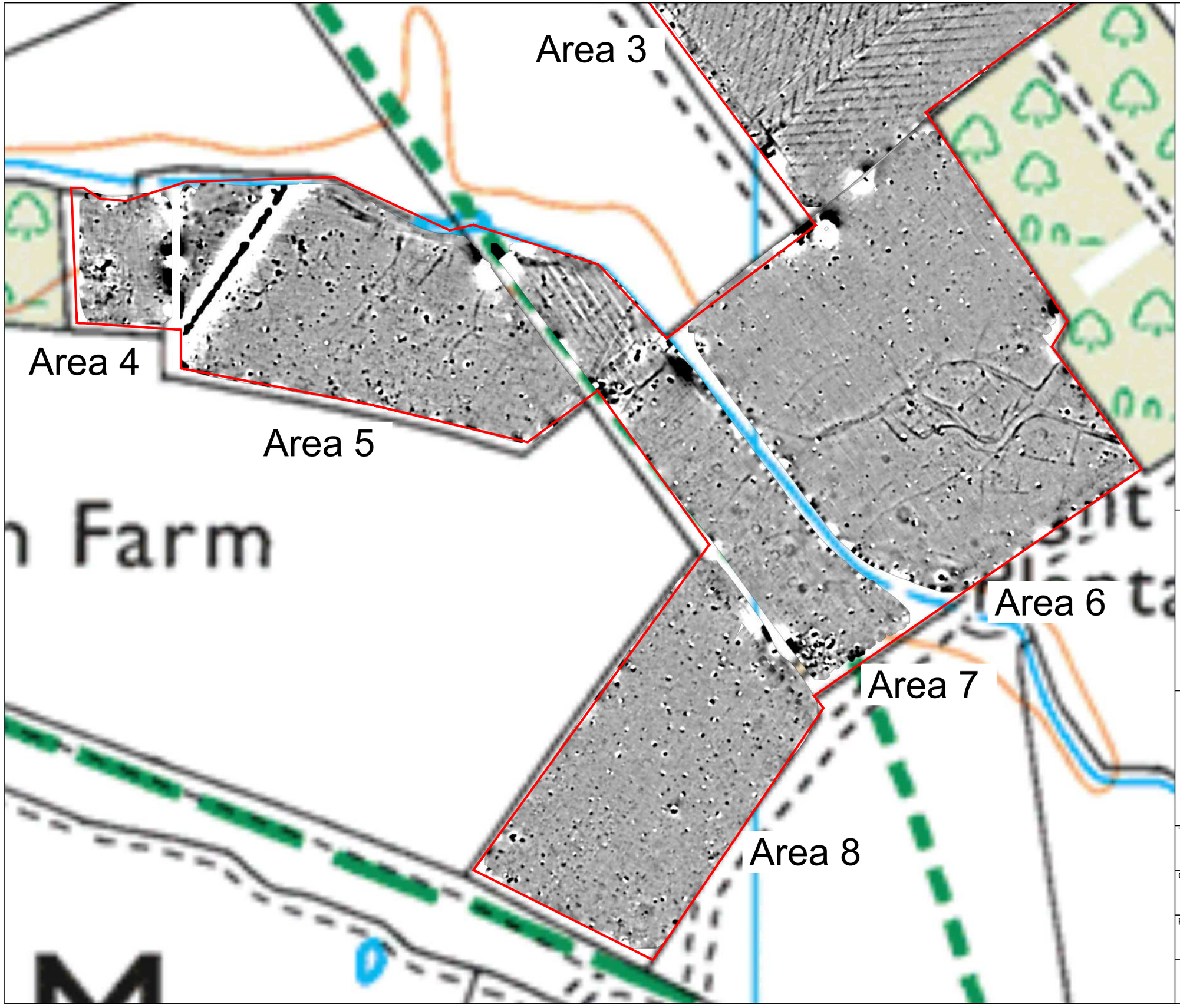

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SUMO GeoSurveys

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Magnetometer Survey - Greyscale Plots
- Areas 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8

Client:
The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

Project:
SUMO-23296: Land at Melksham, Wiltshire

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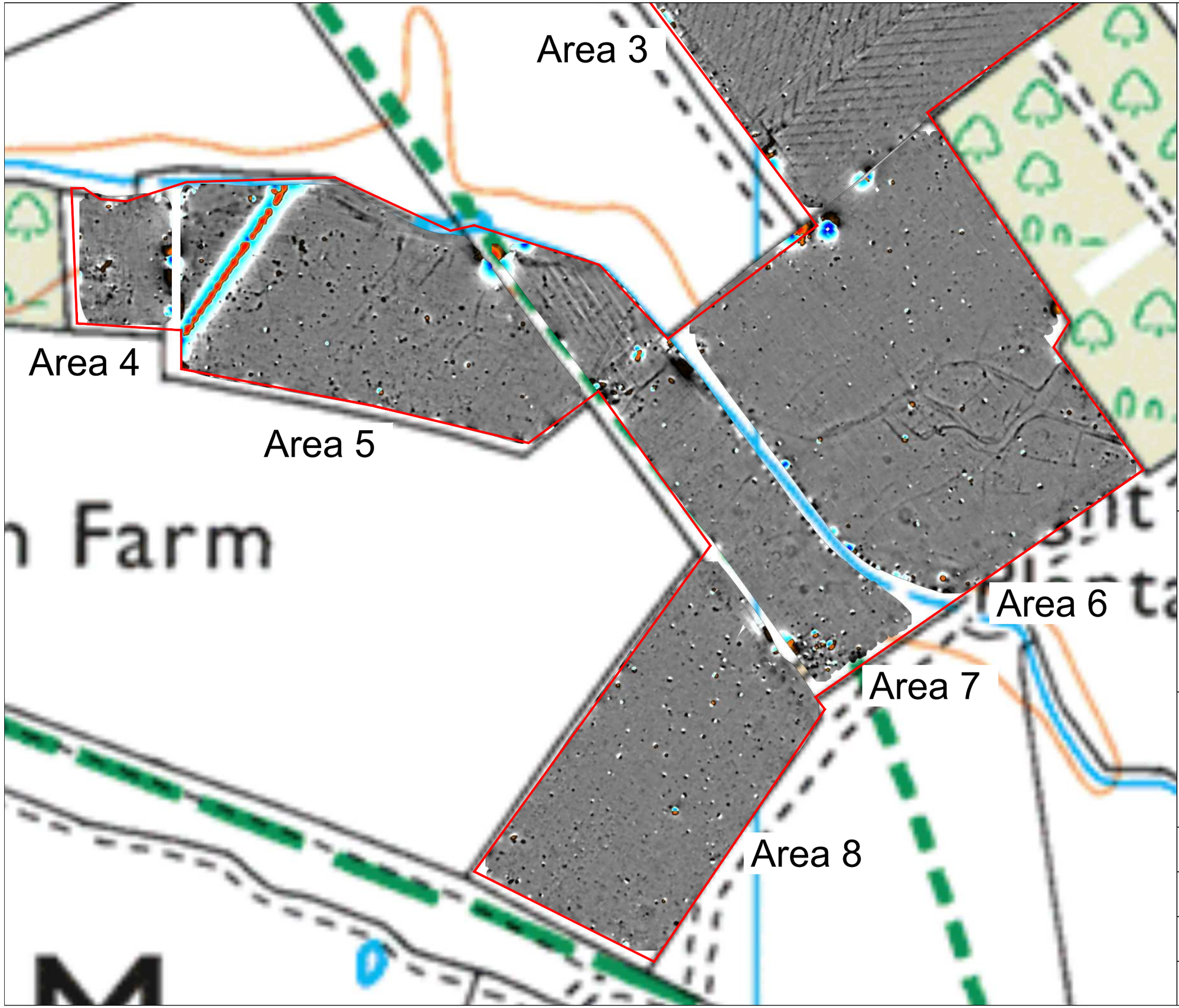

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Magnetometer Survey - Colour Plots
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Project:
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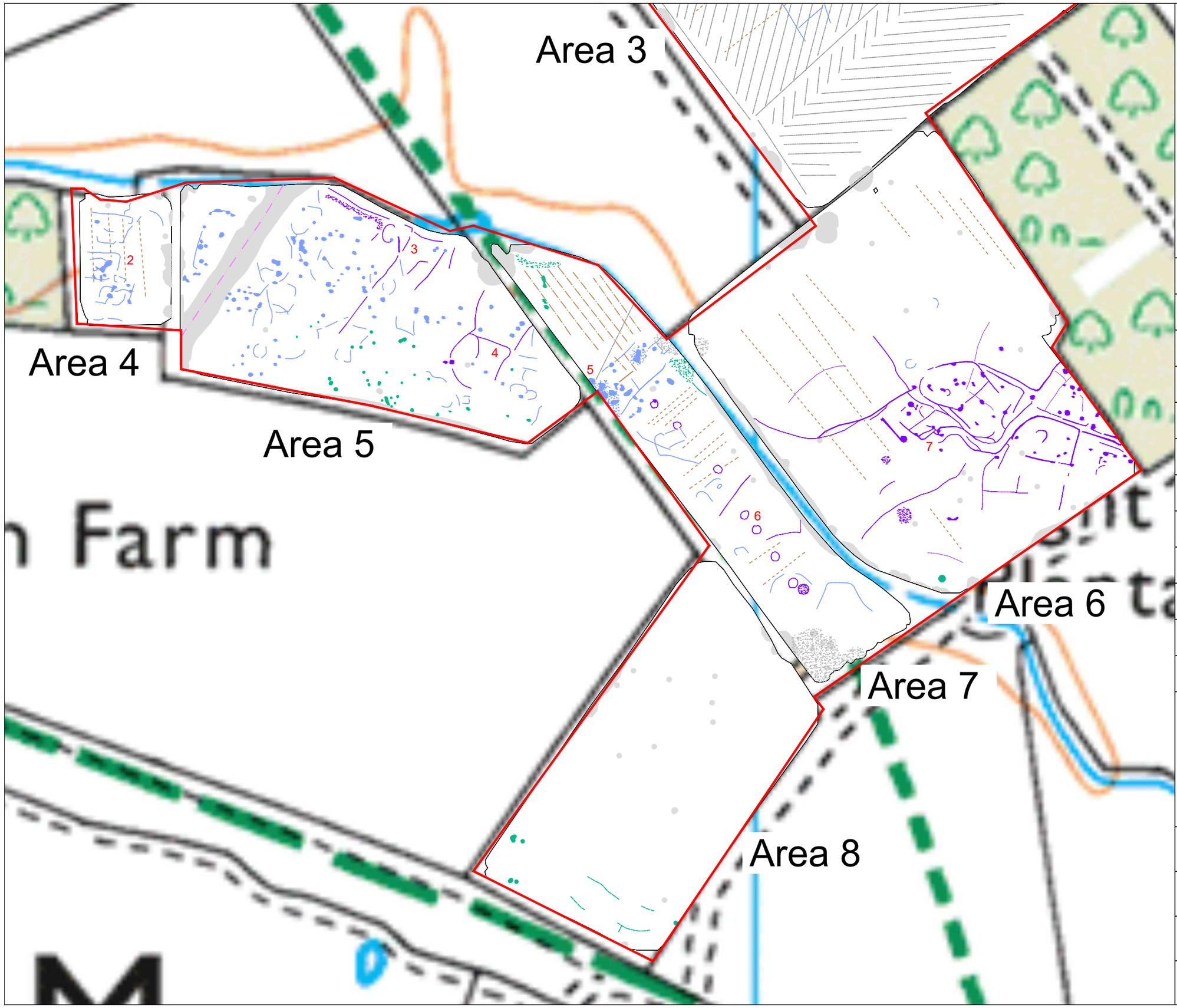

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	Magnetic disturbance
	Service
	Ferrous

SUMO GeoSurveys

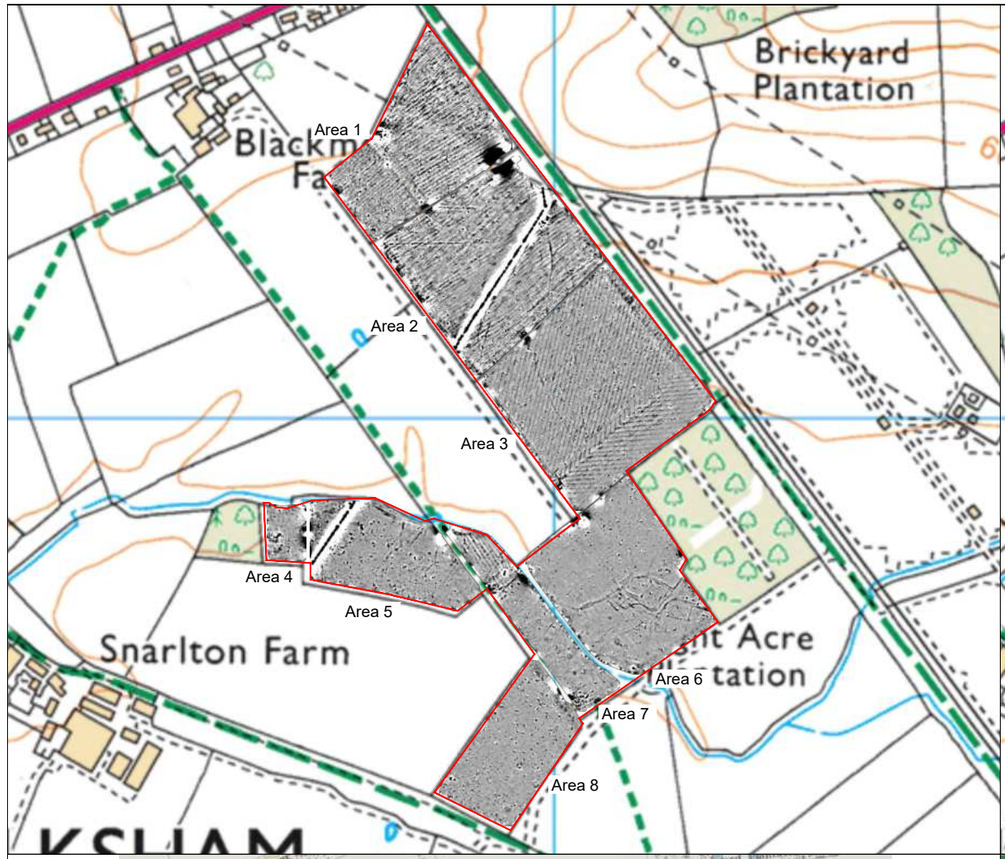
Title:
Magnetometer Survey - Interpretation - Areas 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8

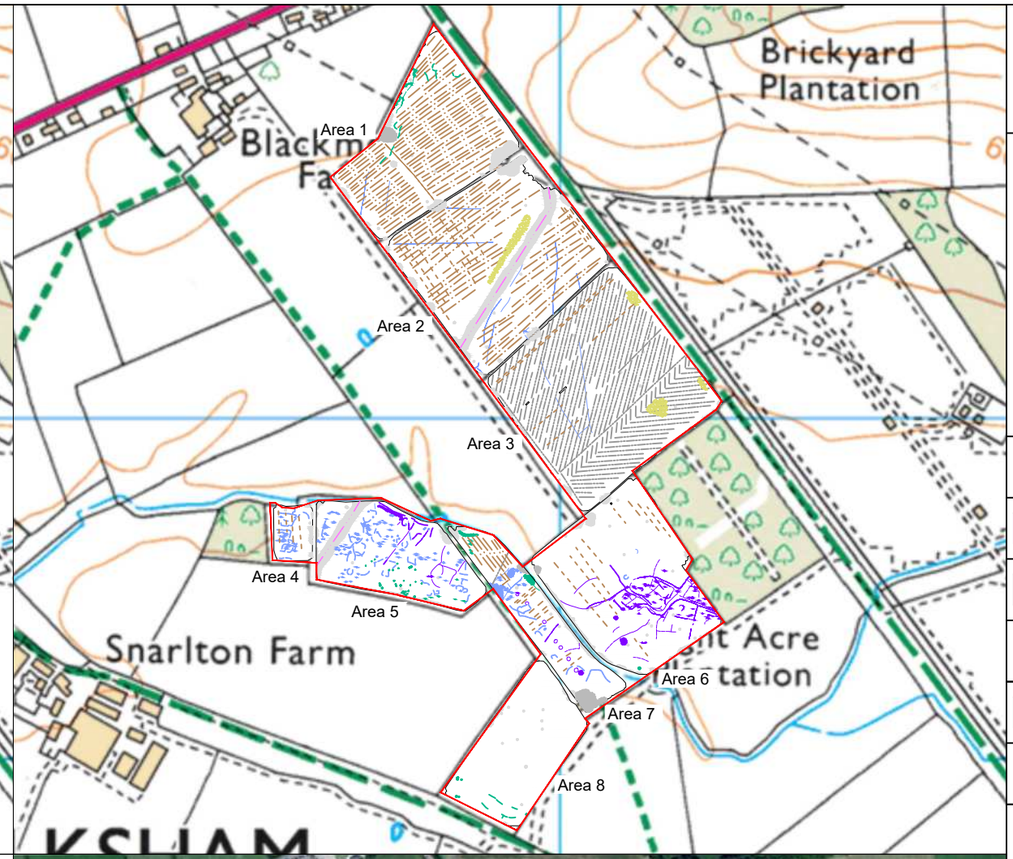
Client:
The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

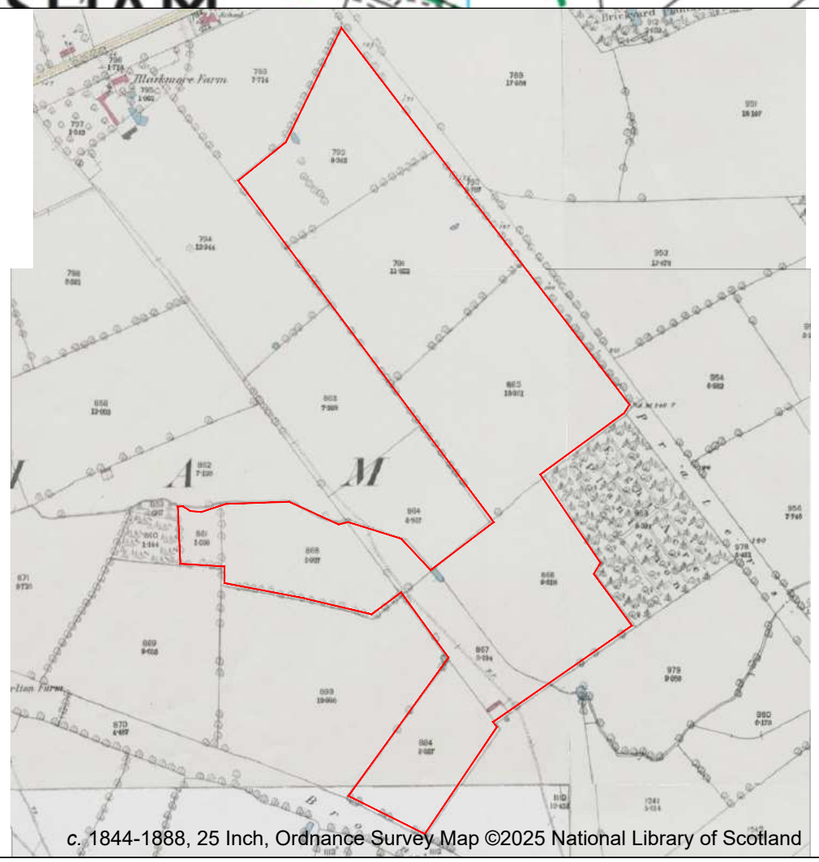
Project:
SUMO-23296: Land at Melksham, Wiltshire

Scale: 0 metres 100
1:2000 @ A3

Fig No: 10







N

+2nT

-1nT

KEY

	Probable archaeology (discrete anomaly / trend / increased response)
	Possible archaeology (discrete anomaly / trend / increased response)
	Ridge and furrow
	Uncertain Origin (discrete anomaly / trend / increased response)
	Former field boundary (corroborated)
	Agriculture (plough)
	Agriculture (land drain)
	Natural (e.g. geological / pedological)
	Magnetic disturbance
	Service
	Ferrous

SUMO GeoSurveys

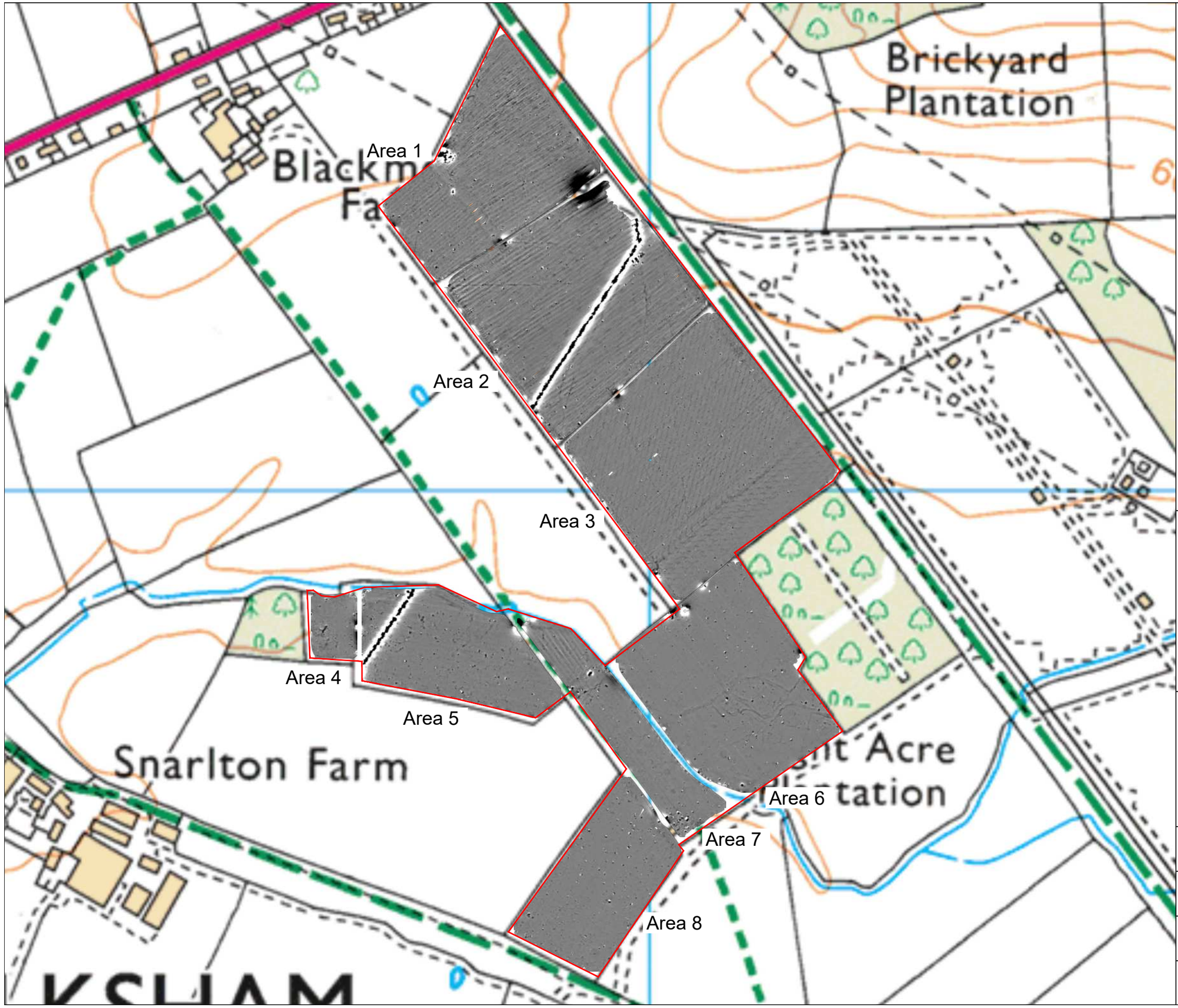
Title:
Greyscale Plots / Interpretation / *c.* 1844-1888 Ordnance Survey Map / 2015 Aerial Image

Client:
The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

Project:
SUMO-23296: Land at Melksham, Wiltshire

Scale:
NOT TO SCALE

Fig No:
11



N

+10nT

-10nT

SUMO GeoSurveys

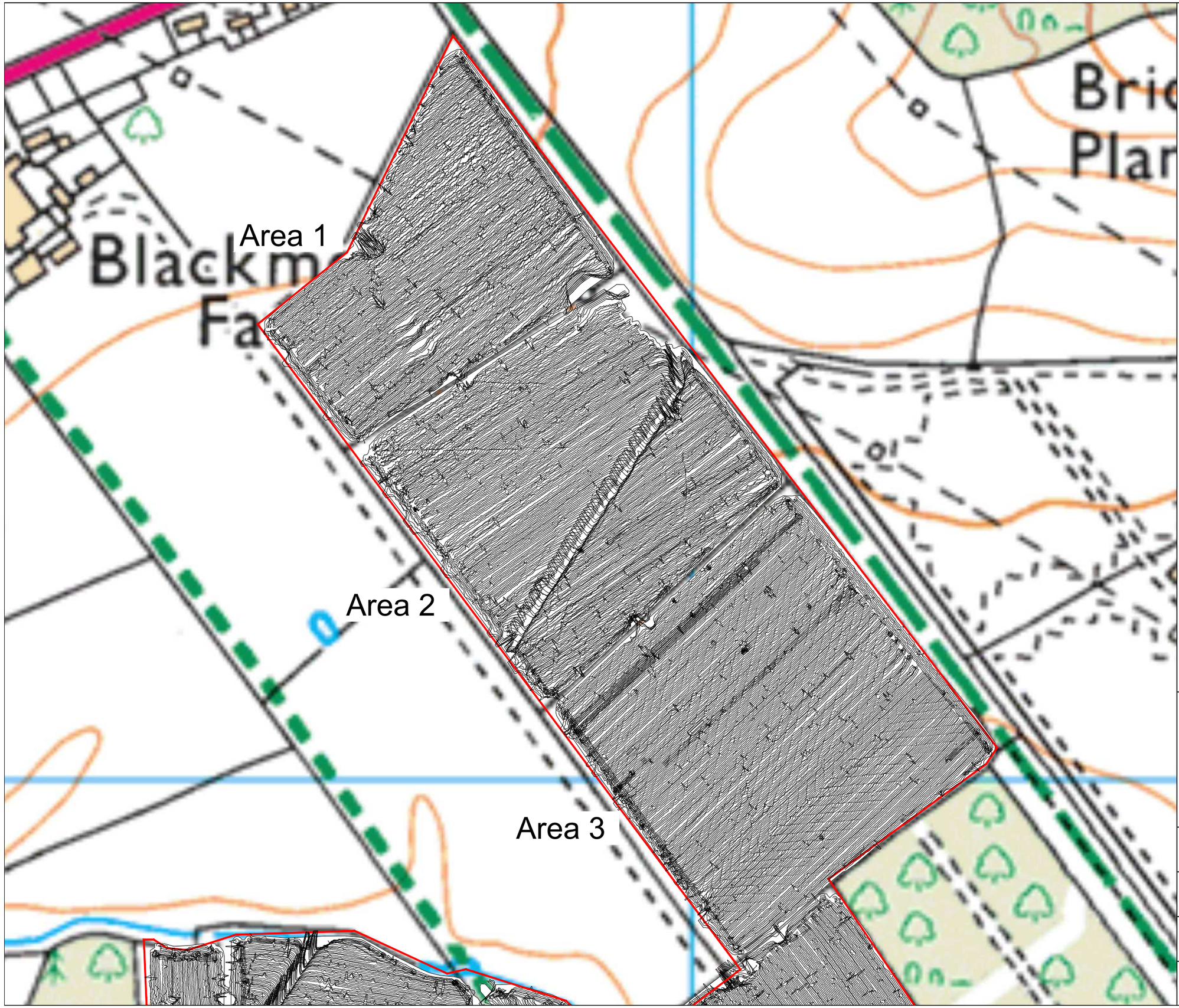
Title:
Minimally Processed Data - Greyscale Plots

Client:
The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

Project:
SUMO-23296: Land at Melksham, Wiltshire

Scale:
0 metres 200
1:4000 @ A3

Fig No:
12



N

SUMO GeoSurveys

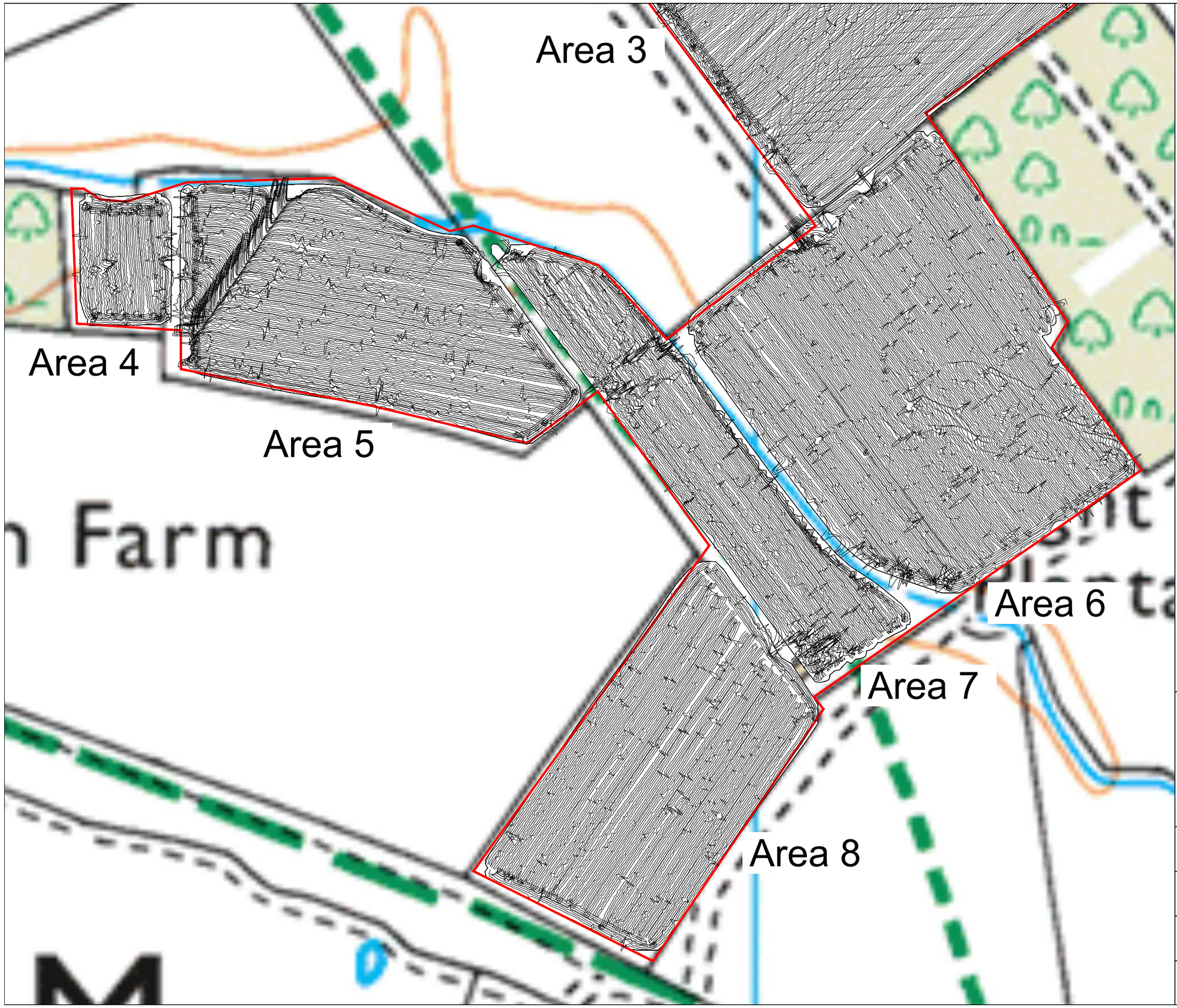
Title:
XY Trace Plots (clipped at +/-15nT)
- Areas 1, 2 and 3

Client:
The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

Project:
SUMO-23296: Land at Melksham, Wiltshire

Scale:
0 metres 125
1:2500 @ A3

Fig No:
13



Title:
XY Trace Plots (clipped at +/-15nT)
- Areas 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

Client:
The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

Project:
SUMO-23296: Land at Melksham, Wiltshire

Scale:
0 metres 100
1:2000 @ A3

Fig No:
14

Appendix A - Technical Information: Magnetometer Survey Method

Grid Positioning

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

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

Technique	Instrument	Traverse Interval	Sample Interval
Magnetometer	Bartington Grad 601-2	1.0m	0.25m
Magnetometer	Bartington Cart System	1.0m	0.125m

Instrumentation:

Bartington instruments operate in a gradiometer configuration which comprises fluxgate sensors mounted horizontally, set 1.0m apart. The fluxgate gradiometer suppresses any diurnal or regional effects. The instruments are carried, or cart mounted, with the bottom sensor approximately 0.1-0.3m from the ground surface. At each survey station, the difference in the magnetic field between the two fluxgates is measured in nanoTesla (nT). The sensitivity of the instrument can be adjusted; for most archaeological surveys the most sensitive range (0.1nT) is used. Generally, features up to 1m deep may be detected by this method, though strongly magnetic objects may be visible at greater depths.

Bartington Grad 601-2

Hand-Held: Data will be collected using a Bartington Grad 601-2. The instrument consists of two paired sensors and readings are logged at 0.25m centres along traverses 1.0m apart across 30m grids. The collection of data at 0.25m centres provides an appropriate methodology balancing cost and time with resolution as per Historic England guidelines

Bartington Cart System

Data will be collected using a cart carrying four paired Bartington magnetic sensors. Each data point is geographically referenced using an on-board Trimble RTK survey grade GPS system. Readings will be taken at 0.125m centres along traverses 1.0m apart.

Data Processing

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

Display

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

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Interpretation Categories

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

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

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

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Appendix B - Technical Information: Magnetic Theory

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Appendix C - OASIS Summary Sheet

OASIS Summary for sumogeop1-534825

OASIS ID (UID)	sumogeop1-534825
Project Name	Geophysical Survey, Magnetometry Survey at Land at Melksham, Wiltshire
Sitename	Land at Melksham, Wiltshire
Sitecode	23296
Project Identifier(s)	23296
Activity type	Geophysical Survey, Magnetometry Survey, MAGNETOMETRY SURVEY
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	SUMO Geophysics Ltd.
Project Dates	01-Sep-2025 - 03-Sep-2025
Location	Land at Melksham, Wiltshire NGR : ST 92957 64097 LL : 51.375882203180254, -2.10257547873297 12 Fig : 392957,164097
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Wiltshire Local Authority District : Wiltshire Parish : Melksham Without
Project Methodology	Data was collected using a cart carrying four paired Bartington magnetic sensors. Four sensors mounted 1m horizontally apart and very accurately aligned to nullify the effects of the earth's magnetic field. Readings relate to the difference in localised magnetic anomalies compared with the general magnetic background. Each data point is geographically referenced using an on-board Trimble RTK survey grade GPS system. Readings were taken at 0.125m centres along traverses 1.0m apart. Readings relate to the difference in localised magnetic anomalies compared with the general magnetic background.
Project Results	A detailed magnetometer survey conducted over approximately 23.5 hectares at Melksham has identified an area of probable later prehistoric or Romano-British occupation in the form of adjoining enclosures, a trackway and pits. Other tentative trends and discrete anomalies could reflect further areas of activity, whilst two parallel ditches correspond with an undated cropmark and could relate to a track or drove way. The interpretation of an unusual line of at least 8 small rings is unclear. Former ridge and furrow is mapped, along with two former field boundaries, ploughing effects and a series of land drains. Two infilled ponds have been identified, as well as debris associated with a former building. Natural magnetic responses and an underground service are also evident in the results.
Keywords	Enclosed Settlement - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Multiple Ditch System - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Circular Enclosure - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ridge And Furrow - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types

Funder	Private or public corporation The Environmental Dimension Partnership
HER	Wiltshire and Swindon HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Rebecca Fradgley
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

Report generated on: 16 Sep 2025, 09:07

Appendix D – Data Management Plan & Archive Selection Strategy

Data Management Plan
Project ID / OASIS Ref.
SUMO-23296 / sumogeop1-534825
Project Name
Land at Melksham, Wiltshire
Project Description
Detailed magnetic survey over approximately 23.5 hectares at Melksham, Wiltshire.
Client
The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd
Project Manager
Rebecca Fradgley
Field Leader
Simon Lobel
Date DMP created
25.06.2025
Date DMP last updated
16.09.2025
Version
2
Technique - data
Detailed magnetic survey.
Manual – cart - other
ATV cart system
Documentation and metadata
All documentation and data produced are stored on SUMO servers in a specific job file.
Data storage, access and back-up

- SUMO Secure server during the project life set up in a RAID configuration (a RAID configuration incorporates a level of data redundancy meaning if a single hard drive in fails data can still be restored).
- Snap shots of the data will be made at several intervals during the day to allow data to be restored for up to 30 days if changed / deleted.
- Once the final report has been completed data will be moved onto NAS drive set up in a RAID configuration.
- All data is backed up to an off-site location (Cloud storage).

Archive Selection Strategy

Digital Data

Selection

It is proposed that only the final version of all born digital documents (reports, images and CAD files) will be selected for inclusion in the Preserved Archive. All raw and processed survey data will be included in the preserved archive. Below is what will constitute the selected archive:

- Raw data in XYZ format .csv and .png plus .pgw world file
- Processed data as .png plus .pgw world file
- Final survey report .pdf
- CAD and Vector graphics (interpretations) in .dwg format

De-selected digital data

The de-selected material will be retained on the SUMO Secure server and Cloud storage.

Documents

Not applicable – no archive

Materials

Not applicable – no archive

- Archaeological Geophysics
- Engineering Geophysics
- Measured Building Services
- Utility and Topographic Services
- Aerial Surveys
- Rail Surveys

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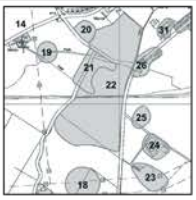
SUMO Services Ltd, incorporated under the laws of England and Wales,
Company Registration No.4275993.
Registered Office Unit 8 Hayward Business Centre, New Lane, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 2NL

Appendix EDP 3
Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
(Headland Archaeology, 2026)

BSMW25



BLACKMOOR FARM, SANDRIDGE COMMON, MELKSHAM, WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd
on behalf of Gleeson Land Limited

January 2026

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

REGISTERED ORGANISATION CIfA

BLACKMOOR FARM, SANDRIDGE COMMON, MELKSHAM, WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd
on behalf of Gleeson Land Limited

January 2026

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This report adheres to the quality standard of ISO 9001:2015

PROJECT INFO:

HA Project Code **BSMW25** / HA Report No **2025-151** / NGR **ST 92347 64358** / Parish **Melksham Without** / Local Authority **Wiltshire County Council** / Fieldwork Date **6th October 2025 to 6th November 2025** / OASIS Ref. **headland1-536599** / Archive Repository **Wiltshire Heritage Museum**

PROJECT TEAM:

Project Manager **Stuart Milby** / Author **Alexander Fuller** / Fieldwork **Alexander Fuller, Lois Turnbull, Solomon Fairfax, Tom Cochrane** / Graphics **Beata Wieczorek-Oleksy, Marc Zubia-Pons** / Environmental **Annie Moore, Megan Roberts** / Finds **Claudia Goodbrand, Rebecca Sillwood, Sara Machin**

Approved by **Stuart Milby** .....

Headland Archaeology Midlands & West
Unit 1 | Clearview Court | Twyford Rd | Hereford HR2 6JR
t 01432 364 901
e midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com
w www.headlandarchaeology.com

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY
an RSK company

REGISTERED ORGANISATION CIfA

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), on behalf of Gleeson Land (the client), commissioned Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd to agree an investigative programme of archaeological work in support of a proposed planning application relating to a mixed-use development.

This work comprised an archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site, totalling 73 trenches, of which forty-five were 50m by 1.8m trenches and twenty-eight were 30m by 1.8m trenches.

Areas 1, 2 and 3, which included the 50m x 1.8m trenches, were shown to be archaeologically sterile, with exception of a modern ditch recorded in Trench 24. The trenching revealed archaeological activity within thirteen of the twenty-eight 30m by 1.8m trenches, primarily exposing archaeology in the southeastern corner of the site, Area 6, and a smaller presence in the adjoining Area 7.

Area 6 showed an extensive series of enclosures with large ditches which enclosed further activity. Two narrow ditches were investigated within Trenches 71 and 72 in Area 7. All dateable evidence from Area 6 and Area 7 were of Romano-British date and reflected agricultural activity from the period.

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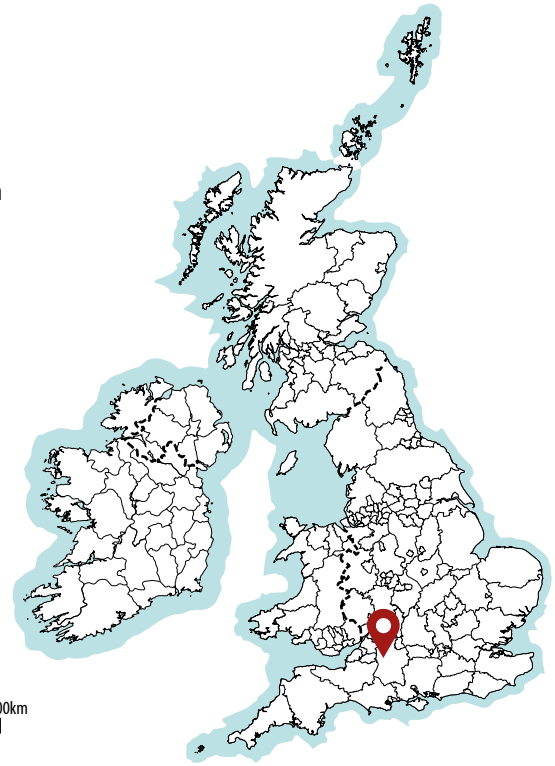
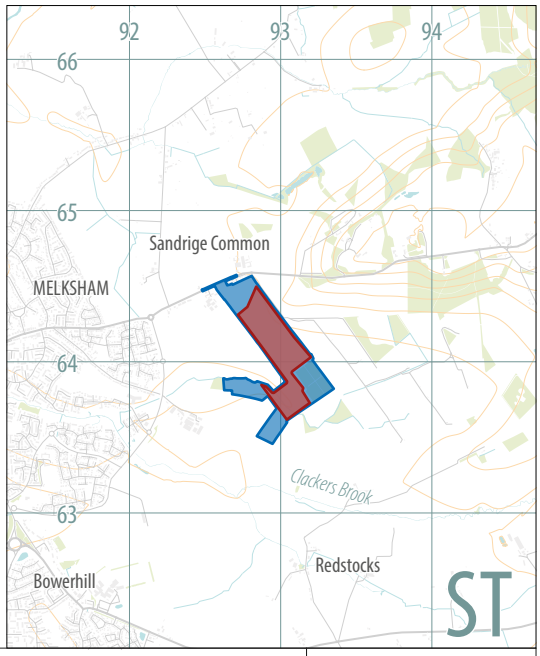
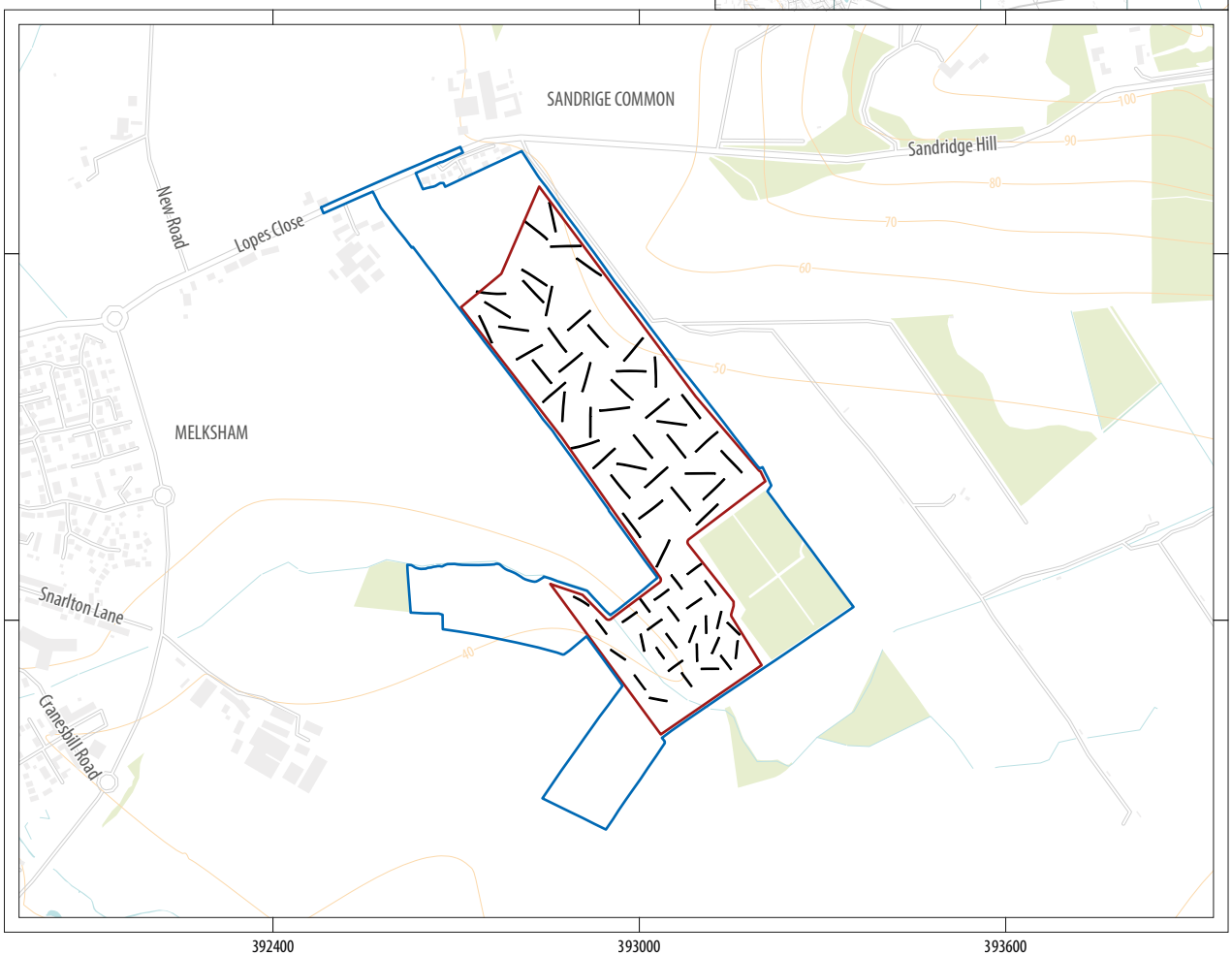
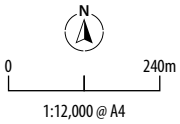
Blackmore Farm
Sandridge Common
Wiltshire









proposed development area
site boundary
trench location

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY
Headland Archaeology Midlands & West
Unit 1 | Clearview Court | Twyford Rd | Hereford HR2 6JR
t 01432 364 901
e midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com
w www.headlandarchaeology.com

ILLUS 1 Site location

BLACKMOOR FARM, SANDRIDGE COMMON, MELKSHAM, WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), on behalf of Gleeson Land (the client), commissioned Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd to agree an investigative programme of archaeological work in support of a proposed planning application relating to a mixed-use development. This work comprised an archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site, totalling 73 trenches, of which forty-five were 50m x 1.8m trenches and twenty-eight were 30m x 1.8m trenches.

1.1 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is situated at NGR ST 92347 64358, located to the east of the town of Melksham and had been subdivided into eight areas. The current land use is agricultural pasture fields, with the site situated between 41m and 52m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) over 23.9 ha. From the total area, the northern most field had been subject to previous archaeological investigation and as such was excluded from this phase of evaluation. In addition, an area of woodland at the south-east corner of the area was not suitable for archaeological trenching. The most southwestern fields (Areas 4, 5 and 8) have been proposed for ecological purposes of Biodiversity net gain (BNG). As such, they will not be subject to any groundworks and were also excluded from this phase of evaluation. As a result, the area for investigation totalled c 18.6ha, hereafter to referred to as the site (Illus 1 and Illus 2)

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

An archaeological and heritage assessment carried out by EDP established a 1km study area around the site to inform the potential impact of the development on any known heritage assets (EDP 2025). Analysis of Wiltshire Historic Environment (HER) data in this assessment suggested that within the site itself, there was moderate potential for Roman period remains, particularly in the southern part of the site, and low potential for Prehistoric or early medieval remains. The likelihood was of remains of low significance related to agricultural activity.

Records for archaeology previously identified within the site that dated to the Roman period comprised a Roman ditch, a pit and two burnt areas identified in the southern area of the site during excavation for research purposes (ST96SW308, from excavation EWI7670), though there are no known reports of the features or finds. Within the 1km radius study area, remains of a small Roman period farmstead were recorded, and just outside of the 1km study area, a slightly larger Roman period settlement was also investigated, both to the south-west of the site. It was these records that suggested the site's moderate potential for Roman period remains within the EDP assessment. Supporting this assessment, a programme of archaeological trial trenching was carried out across the survey area in 2022 by Cotswold Archaeology (Cotswold Archaeology, 2022). No archaeological finds or features were identified within most of the fields, but the evaluation identified an area of Roman activity at the southeast corner of the survey area. This lay to the west of Area 3 and northwest of Area 6 of the current site. A pair of double-ditch enclosure ditches were identified within one trench, and a single pit within an adjacent trench, with dating evidence from the Mid-1st to 2nd century AD. This was interpreted as an area of agricultural activity, likely within close proximity of a settlement (Cotswold Archaeology, 2022).

The low potential for medieval remains determined within the EDP assessment was ascribed to the visible presence of possible ridge and furrow cultivation identified through aerial photography in the north and central parts of the site, while the Blackmore Farm complex itself was described as medieval in origin, with no further details. Demolished 19th century outfarm buildings previously

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located on the site's southern boundary were also identified as no longer extant.

In addition, Headland Archaeology carried out a geophysical survey of an area adjacent to the site, in support of a previous planning application (PL/2023/11188). This survey included the northmost field of the current planning application. The survey identified no features of archaeological origin within this field. A subsequent trenching evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology in 2024, of the field to the southwest of the current site's Area 1, determined no archaeological remains besides a suspected historic field boundary (and modern disturbance) (Cotswold Archaeology, 2024).

Finally, a further geophysical survey was undertaken in September 2025 (Sumo Geosurveys, 2025), which summarised:

There is a series of ditches / enclosures mapped in Area 6, indicative of a small area of settlement, with additional ditches and pit-like anomalies visible extending across Area 7 and into Area 5. Clear ridge and furrow can be seen in Areas 1, 2 and 3, with a series of drains also mapped in Area 3.

From this archaeological background and geophysical survey, potential for a small area of activity from the Roman period in Areas 6 and 7 of the current site, with little-to-no other archaeological remains within the other Areas, was determined.

1.3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The general aims of the trial trench evaluation outlined in the project design included:

- to evaluate the archaeological potential of the development site and determine the location, character, extent and quality of any archaeological remains identified within it.
- to provide information about the archaeological resource, to enable appropriate decisions to be reached regarding any requirement for further mitigation works.

The resulting archive (finds and records) will be organised and deposited with an appropriate museum/archive repository to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

The relevant regional research framework for the region is South West England Archaeological Research Framework. Based on this framework, the following research questions have been highlighted as of potential relevance to the works summarised above, and as such will inform strategy both on site and during the assessment phase:

- Research Aim 21: Improve our understanding of the environmental aspects of farming.
- Research Aim 26: Investigate the changes in landscape and population at the end of the Roman period.
- Research Aim 29: Improve our understanding of non-villa Roman rural settlement.

2 METHODOLOGY

The archaeological trial trenching was conducted as specified in the WSI (Written Scheme of Investigation), and in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) code of conduct (2014a, updated 2022) and relevant standards and guidance (CIfA 2023a; 2023b; 2023c; 2023d)

2.1 SITE WORKS

The evaluation consisted of the excavation of 73 trenches in total (28 trenches measuring 30m by 1.8m, and 45 trenches measuring 50m by 1.8m). The trenches were targeting both likely archaeology and anomalies appearing on the geophysical survey, as well as a sufficient number laid out over blank areas to these as well. The locations of Trenches 03, 05 and 10 within Area 1 and Trenches 26 and 27 within Area 2 were adjusted during stakeout, with approval, to accommodate their proximity to utilities and access. All ground breaking works were controlled and monitored by a supervising archaeologist to the first archaeological horizon or geological subsoil (whichever was encountered first). This was followed by appropriate archaeological investigation and recording where required, and trenches were then backfilled following approval from the LPA.

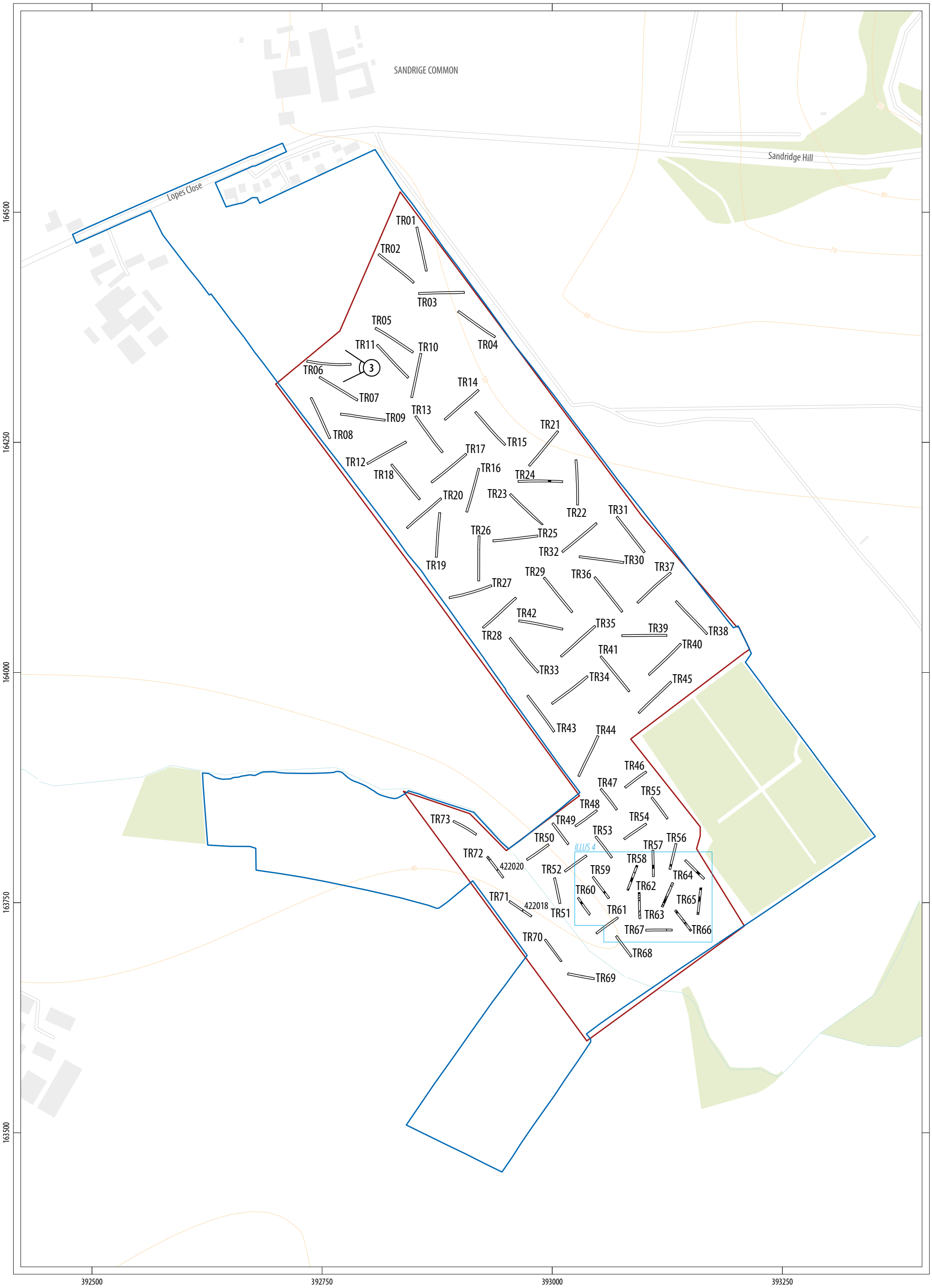
All trenches were opened with a mechanical excavator, suitably equipped with a toothless grading bucket measuring 1.8m in width. Mechanical excavation was carried out under direct archaeological supervision to remove topsoil and deposits of modern make-up. Excavation was carried out in controlled spits, and spoil was stored beside the trench, divided where required into topsoil and subsoil (Illus 3). Excavation of archaeological deposits and features required to satisfy the objectives of the evaluation were subsequently continued by hand (except when agreed otherwise with the curator). The stratigraphic sequence was recorded in full in each of the trenches, even where no archaeological deposits had been identified.

Thirty-five of the identified features were investigated and recorded, typically involving excavation of 50% of discrete features, and a 1m slot of linear features. Where features formed a definite arrangement/continued across trenches, a sample of features within the arrangement were excavated, as agreed with the curator.

2.2 RECORDING

All recording will follow CIfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological excavation and Field Evaluation (CIfA 2023b, 2023c). All contexts, small finds and environmental samples were given unique numbers. Recording was undertaken on Headland's pro forma digital recording system 'HARK!'. Digital photography was used to record any archaeological features, with a graduated metric scale clearly visible. Paper registers were created for all Digital Photography and Drawings, which were then digitised.

A site plan including all identified features, areas of excavation and other pertinent information was recorded 3-dimensionally using Headland's digital spatial recording system with a dGPS, accurately linked to the National Grid and heights to OD. Complex sections were hand drawn on permatrace at an appropriate scale.



ILLUS 2 Site plan

ILLUS 3 Example of Trenching (Trench 06)

Bulk samples were taken from selected archaeologically significant deposits for wet sieving and floatation in order to recover any environmental material and other finds.

Finds were recorded by context and recorded 3-dimensionally where appropriate. Artefacts retrieved during the evaluation were cleaned using appropriate techniques and packaged and stored in accordance with First Aid for Finds (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

2.3 REPORTING AND ARCHIVES

This assessment report sets out the principal findings from the programme of trial trenching. The results section sets out the results on an trench-by-trench basis, detailing the findings within the thirteen trenches that held archaeological remains, with the findings from each trench outlined.

All aspects of reporting and archive have been undertaken in accordance with guidelines published by CIfA in 'Standard for archaeological field evaluation' (2023c); 'Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation' (2023d) and 'Standard and guidance for the collection, 'documentation, conservation, and research of archaeological materials' (2020). The project archive will be compiled in accordance with the guidelines published by the CIfA on behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum (2011). This document's contents and format have been completed in line with the specifications set out in the WSI.

The physical and digital project archive will be deposited at the Wiltshire Heritage Museum, and an OASIS entry has been completed (headland1-536599).

3 RESULTS

3.1 EXCAVATION

The trenches excavated in Areas 1–3 were blank, with the exception of a modern ditch observed and investigated within Trench 24 (Area 2), and will not be discussed further within these results. Similarly, Areas 4, 5 and 8 were descoped from the evaluation, and will also not be discussed further.

Area 6 (Illus 4)

Of the twenty-three trenches within Area 6 (TR 46-68), eleven contained archaeological remains.

Trenches 58, 59 and 60 Located in the middle of Area 6's southwestern edge, Trench 60 contained a large northeast-southwest aligned ditch, [800006], measuring c 2.5m wide, and corresponding with geophysical survey. This ditch was not fully investigated within this trench, as it was also observed and investigated in slot [157150] in Trench 59 (Illus 5).

Located approximately 23m to the northeast of Trench 60, Trench 59 contained the large northeast-southwest aligned ditch [157150],

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investigated with a 1m wide intervention. Though disturbed by a modern drain, the ditch measured 1.88m in width and 0.24m in depth. It had curved sides and a flat base and contained a single fill of plastic, mid-blueish grey, sandy clay (157151), with incidental pottery sherds. This ditch was the first of the large enclosure ditches observed during the trenching, corresponding with anomalies seen on the geophysical survey.

Located 20m to the northeast of Trench 59, Trench 58 contained more significant archaeological activity. At the southwestern end, a potential sunken structure [422023] (Illus 6 and Illus 7) was investigated, close to several large, displaced stones, recorded as the potential remains of a wall [422026] (Illus 8). Extending from the southeastern trench baulk, structure [442023] appeared rectangular in shape, but was fairly shallow in depth on excavation, reaching 0.21m. Suspected stake-holes [422027] and [442029] were excavated at its base, and its fills (422024) and (422025) contained Roman pottery sherds (incl. the base of a large Samian open dish or bowl with feather rouletting and the corner of a small stamp (Appendix 3)), animal bone fragments and a lead sheet which had two perforations in each edge.

A post-hole, [422032], was investigated in the centre of the trench, and measured 0.28m in diameter and 0.14m in depth. It contained a single plastic, mid-yellowish grey, sandy clay, (422033), most likely natural infilling deposited after removal of the post itself (Illus 9). A continuation of a second large ditch, [800003], initially believed to be a continuation from Trenches 60 and 59, was observed, but disturbed by modern ploughing. In addition, a deposit of Modern material (800005) was observed at the northeastern trench end.

Trenches 56, 57 and 64 Moving west to east, starting 15m to the east of Trench 58's northeastern end, Trenches 56, 57 and 64 contained a large ditch of varying orientation, partially corresponding with an anomaly on the geophysical survey. Within Trench 57, the ditch appeared c. 3m to the south of the location suggested on the geophysical survey. Within Trench 56, only one ditch appeared where the survey suggested two parallel ditches. However, the location of each within the trenches matched the geophysical survey closely enough to confidently prove the anomaly real. The ditch was investigated with a half-section slot [422036] in Trench 57, and fully investigated in Trench 64 as ditch [114003], as well as recorded as [800001] in Trench 56. Ditch [422036] had a profile of gently sloping sides and a flat base, reaching 0.18m in depth. Its single fill (422037) was a friable, mid-blueish grey, sandy clay that contained a single sherd of pottery. Ditch [114003] showed a similar profile of curving sides to a flat base, with a width of 2.95m and a depth of 0.54m (Illus 10). The two fills, (114004) and (114005), were determined to be the result of slumping, weathering and silting of the ditch over time. Roman pottery sherds were recovered from the upper fill, (114005). In addition, within Trench 57, a roughly square-shaped pit [422034] of uncertain function was excavated and recorded. This measured 0.83m in width and 0.07m in depth. No finds were recovered from the pit fill.

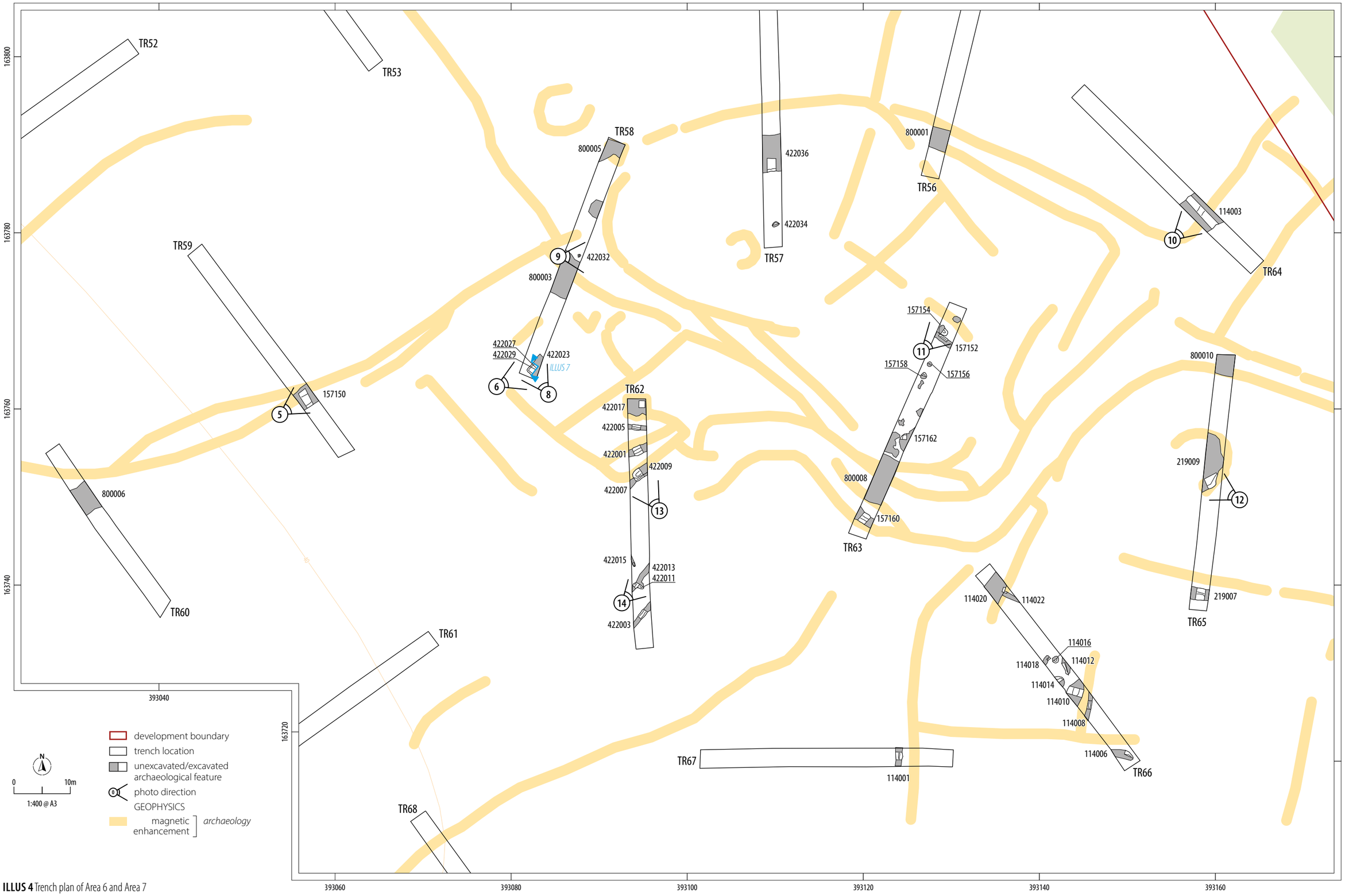
Trenches 62 and 63 Located approximately 25m to the south-west of Trench 64, Trench 63 also contained several archaeological features. Two north-west to south-east aligned narrow ditches were excavated at each end of the trench. At the northeast end, ditch [157152] measured 0.68m wide and 0.18m deep, with a regular rounded profile. Its fill (157153) of plastic, mid-blueish grey sandy clay contained pottery sherds and fragments of animal bone. It was investigated in relationship to medium-sized pit [157154], to which it was adjacent (Illus 11). However, no relationship was determined. The pit, [157154], was irregular and sub-circular in plan, and measured 1.32m in extant length from the trench baulk, 0.8m in width, and 0.18m in depth. It appeared to have had at least a secondary function as a waste pit judging by the number of Roman pottery sherds recovered, and possible deposited burnt material observed within its fill (157155). A sample of this material, <15701>, was recovered for further investigation. The north-west to south-east aligned ditch [157160] located at the southwestern trench end measured 1.13m in width and 0.3m in depth with a rounded profile. Within the plastic, mid-blueish grey sandy clay fill, Roman pottery sherds and animal bone were recovered.

Within the centre of Trench 63, several patches of occupation material and potential pits were observed, with three of these possible features investigated and recorded. Pits [157156] and [157158] were both near-circular in plan, measuring 0.58m and 0.72m in length, and 0.53m and 0.64m in width respectively. Roman pottery sherds were recovered from the fills of both, though [157156] was more rounded in profile, and [157158] was shallower in depth, more likely to have been trampled occupation material than a defined pit. Pit [157162] appeared in plan to be similar in shape to possible sunken structure [422023] in Trench 58. It was sub-rectangular in shape and extended ~2m in visible length and ~1.1m in visible width from trench baulk. However, the shallow depth of 0.1m and lack of inclusions suggested it was occupation material as with feature [157158]. Ditch [800008], observed in the southwestern half of the trench, was a narrow ditch which had a diffuse horizon with the surrounding occupation material and was investigated in adjacent trenches, 58 and 62.

To the west of Trench 63, Trench 62 also contained a higher frequency of archaeological features. One layer/spread [422017] was investigated at the northern end of the trench with a sondage. To the south of this, one east-west aligned narrow ditch [422005] was excavated. Continuing to the south, four northeast-southwest aligned ditches were excavated, [422001], [422007], [422013] and [422003]. In addition, ditch [422007] was truncated by the terminus to a later ditch [422009] (Illus13) on the same alignment, and ditch [422013] truncated an earlier pit [422011] (Illus 14). Finally, a very narrow north-northwest to south-southeast aligned linear, [422015] was also investigated. From these archaeological features, spread [422017] and four of the ditches yielded Roman pottery sherds, and their shared orientation most likely suggest a series of drainage channels, though perhaps demarcating a smaller area within the large enclosures.

TABLE 1 Summary of Ditches in Trench 62

CONTEXT	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	D (M)	PROFILE	BASAL FILL
422001	NE-SW	2	0.88	0.19	Shallow v-shaped	Firm, mottled greyish orange fine sandy clay
422003	NE-SW	2.5	0.55	0.2	Curved base and sides	Firm, mid-yellowish grey coarse sandy clay



ILLUS 4 Trench plan of Area 6 and Area 7

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ILLUS 5 Shot of ditch [157150]

CONTEXT	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	D (M)	PROFILE	BASAL FILL
422005	E-W	1.8	0.48	0.18	Curved base and sides	Firm, yellowish grey silty clay
422007	NE-SW	2.5	0.57	0.32	Steep v-shaped	Firm, mid-yellowish grey fine sandy clay
422009	NE-SW	2.14	0.97	0.36	Flat base and gently sloping sides	Firm, mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay
422013	NE-SW	2.4	0.49	0.19	Steep v-shaped	Firm, mid-yellowish grey fine sandy clay
422015	NNW-SSE	1.5	0.23	0.07	Shallow v-shaped	Firm, mottled yellowish grey sandy clay

Trenches 65, 66, and 67 Located approximately 15m south-east of Trench 62, Trench 67 contained one narrow north-south aligned ditch [114001] at the eastern end. This was most likely a drainage ditch given its size and shape though geophysical survey might link the feature to a small enclosure across Trenches 66 and 67. It measured 0.6m in width and 0.33m in depth, with a steep V-shaped profile. Two incidental Roman pottery sherds were recovered from its single fill (114002).

Approximately 12m to the northeast of Trench 67, in the southeastern corner of the area, Trench 66 was another archaeologically busy trench. It contained three northeast-southwest aligned ditches, with ditches [114010] and [114008] located near the centre of the trench, and ditch [114020] located at the northwestern trench end. Ditch [114020] was truncated by a narrower northwest-southeast aligned ditch, [114022]. In the centre of the trench, a north-east to south-west aligned ditch terminus [114018] and a north-south aligned ditch terminus [114012] were both excavated. Ditch [114012] notably contained fragments of tegula and a Dragendorff 33 Samian war cup with a spot date of AD50–230 (Appendix 3).

A north-west to south-east aligned ditch terminus [114006] was also at the southeastern end of the trench. Additionally, two pits [114014] and [114016] were also excavated in the centre of the trench. Pit [114014] measured 0.81m in length, 0.7m in width and 0.19m in depth, and pit [114016] measured 0.75m in length, 0.72m in width and 0.13m in depth. Both had curved sides leading to flat bases, and contained ceramic building material (CBM) fragments.

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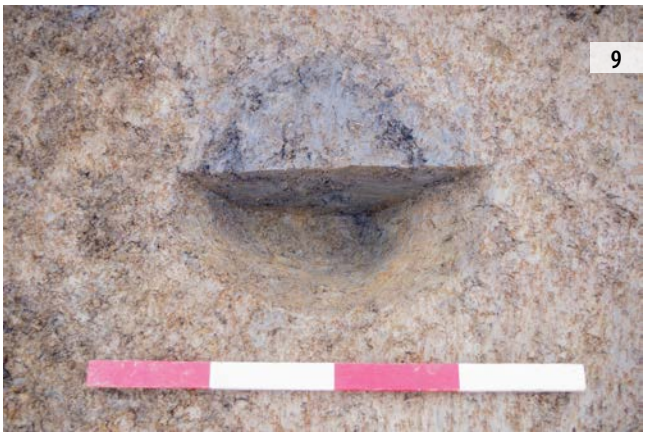
ILLUS 6 Shot of potential Sunken Structure [442023] **ILLUS 7** Section drawing of potential Sunken Structure [442023] with stake-holes [422027] and [442029]

TABLE 2 Summary of Ditches and Termini in Trench 66 (from south-east to north-west)

CONTEXT	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	D (M)	PROFILE	BASAL FILL
114006	WNW-ESE	1	0.77	0.23	Flat base and curved sides	Firm, mid-orangeish brown silty clay
114008	NE-SW	1	0.5	0.13	Flat base and curved sides	Firm, mid-blueish brown silty clay
114010	NE-SW	1	1.7	0.18	Flat base and curved sides	Firm, dark greyish black silty clay
114012	N-S	1.4	0.46	0.09	Flat base and curved sides	Firm, mid-greyish brown silty clay
114018	NE-SW	0.48	0.28	0.11	Steep v-shaped	Firm, dark brownish grey silty clay
114022	NW-SE	0.53	0.32	0.18	Flat base and curved sides	Firm, dark yellowish grey silty clay
114020	NE-SW	0.61	0.17	0.17	Curved base and vertical sides	Firm, dark brownish grey (yellow mottled) silty clay

Approximately 15m to the northeast of Trench 66, also in the southeastern corner of the area, Trench 65 contained heavy



ILLUS 8 Shot of Wall remains [422026] **ILLUS 9** Shot of post-hole [422032] **ILLUS 10** Shot of ditch [114003]

archaeological activity, consistent with results of the geophysical survey. A west-northwest by east-southeast aligned ditch [219007], which measured 1.18m in width and 0.24m in depth, was excavated at the southern trench end. Within its single fill (219008), stone inclusions and pieces of roofing material and tegula suggested possible rubble/remnants from a nearby structure were deliberately dumped or infilled here, potentially associating this ditch with the demolition of a nearby structure (Appendix 3). A stone find, which may have been part of a millstone grit quernstone was also recovered (Appendix 3). A large potential pit [219009], corresponding with a large irregular anomaly on the geophysical survey, was investigated in the centre of the trench (Illus 12). The function of the pit was difficult to determine, but it measured at least 5m in length along the trench baulk and measured 0.28m deep. Medium-large sized stones appeared to have been dumped within its fill (219010), which was plastic, mid-blueish grey silty clay, and may have come from the demolition of a nearby structure, as in ditch [219007]. Pottery sherds and animal bone fragments were also recovered from the fill. Finally, a west-northwest by east-southeast aligned ditch, [800010], was observed at the northern trench end, which was investigated in adjacent trenches, Trenches 63 and 66.

Area 7 (Illus 4)

Of the five trenches within Area 7, two contained archaeology comprising two narrow ditches [422018] and [422020] investigated in Trenches 71 and 72 respectively. Within Trench 71, in the centre of Area 7, ditch [422018] measured 1.3m in width and 0.07m in depth, with gently curving sides to a flat base. It did not appear on the geophysical survey. It had a single fill, (422019), of firm, mid-yellowish grey sandy clay. Within Trench 72, located 25m to the north-west of Trench 71, ditch [422020] did correspond with the geophysical survey. It measured 1.26m in width and 0.59m in depth, with a steep V-shaped profile. It contained two fills (422021) and (422022), both firm, mid-greyish brown sandy clay that were determined to have derived from natural infilling. Incidental inclusions of animal bone and Roman pottery sherds were recovered from both fills. At the northwestern end of Trench 72, other potential activity observed was determined to be Modern wheel ruts, aligning with the farmers' gates.

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ILLUS 11 Oblique shot of ditch [157152] and pit [157154] **ILLUS 12** Oblique shot of pit [219009] **ILLUS 13** Oblique shot of ditches [422007] and [422009] **ILLUS 14** Oblique shot of ditch [422011] and pit [422013]

4 DISCUSSION

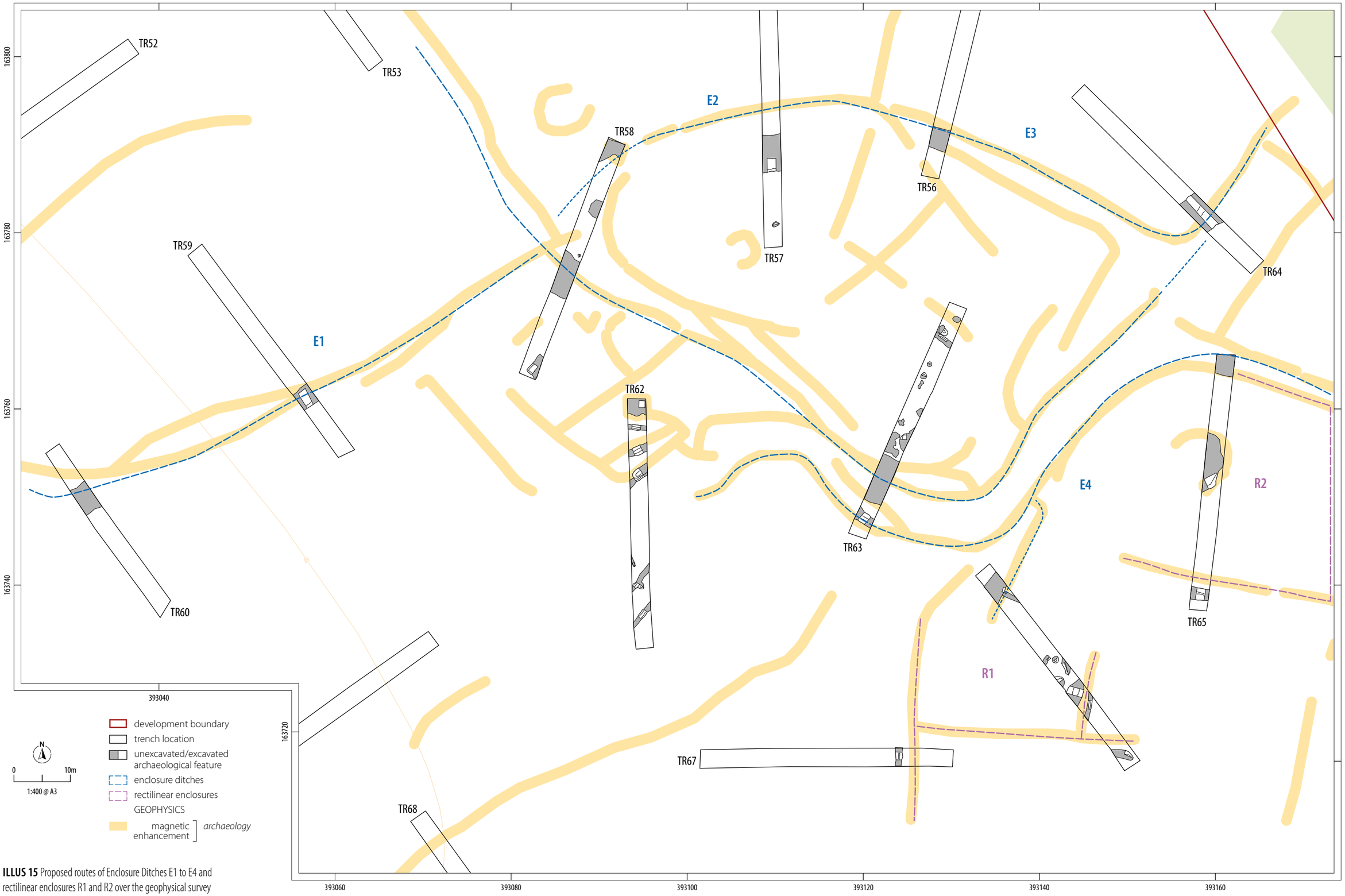
The programme of trial trenching identified that the concentration of archaeological features was centred in Areas 6 and 7, in the southern and southeastern regions of the PDA. A series of large enclosure ditches, shifting in alignment and encompassing smaller areas within the fields were uncovered with numerous discrete features. This was expected, based on the anomalies identified in the geophysical survey.

The general stratigraphy consisted of between two (topsoil and geological subsoil) or three layers, with subsoil identified in 8 of the trenches. Those containing subsoil were located on the west and south-west edge of Area 6 where the lands sloped towards a stream to the west where the material will naturally slump to the base of hills. These trenches were typically between to 0.2m to 0.4m deeper than the rest of the trenches in the area. An expanse of land drains dominated most of the site and were clearly represented on the geophysical survey, particularly in Areas 1, 2 and 3.

In Area 6, the first of the large enclosure ditches (E1) ran on a northeast-southwest alignment through Trenches 59 and 60, before it met a second large northwest-southeast aligned ditch (E2). E2 was observed running from the northwest into Trench 58 and continuing southeast into Trench 63. Between these trenches, the geophysical survey showed this linear feature splitting, with continuations in the smaller ditches excavated at the northern end of Trench 62 and demonstrating varying areas being demarcated by these ditches over time. From Trench 63, the geophysical survey also suggested a potential continuation of E2 curving northeast into Trench 64 to join a third enclosure ditch (E3) in slot [114003], though no recuts were observed in excavation of this slot. Ditch E3 itself was observed running east-northeast within Trenches 56 and 57 and continuing east-southeast, before turning sharply northeast once again into Trench 64 (slot [114003] as above). As it runs west-southwest out of Trench 57, E3 could be argued to align with E1, though a definite continuation remains uncertain to prove from the geophysical survey and this evaluation.

A fourth large ditch, (E4), was observed connecting Trenches 63 and 65. From the northern end of Trench 65, the ditch looped south-west and west to the southwestern end of Trench 63, where it was excavated in slot [157160]. The geophysical survey also suggested a split in this ditch, suggesting it followed another route southwest into the northwestern end of Trench 66 [114020], providing another example of the varying enclosures created and recut to demarcate changing areas over time during the use of the site. While exact paths of these enclosure ditches remained uncertain, their function and the use of this area for agricultural activity dating to the Roman period was clear.

Within the larger demarcation of the area by these ditches, further activity could also be determined from excavated features and by the geophysical survey. Two rectilinear anomalies observed on the geophysical survey near to the southeastern corner of the field were proven through excavation. Ditches [114001], [114010] and [114006] demonstrated the presence of one of these rectilinear enclosures,



ILLUS 15 Proposed routes of Enclosure Ditches E1 to E4 and rectilinear enclosures R1 and R2 over the geophysical survey

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R1, across Trenches 66 and 67, while [219007] and [Trench 65 new context] in Trench 65 demonstrate the second, R2. Pits and smaller archaeological features such as [114014] and [219009] within Trenches 66 and 65, as well as additional anomalies on the geophysical survey outside of the trenches, evidenced activity that included in-situ or nearby structural remains within these smaller enclosures (and within the larger enclosures of the field as a whole). The presence of smaller and larger enclosures within the site, particularly where these overlapped (e.g. smaller enclosure R2 and larger ditch E4), would suggest that as use of the site continued and expanded over time (perhaps with more permanent settlement nearby), the larger ditches came to replace initial smaller enclosures. However, the range within the dating of the Roman pottery recovered from these features means that this cannot be definitively asserted.

Other excavated features confirmed the site's agricultural use, indicating consistent drainage systems in the area. The narrow and shallow northeast-southwest aligned ditches in Trench 62 suggested a series of recut drainage channels. Nearby, the structural activity at southwestern end of Trench 58, in the form of a temporary sunken structure [422023] with evidence of stake holes ([422027] and [422029]) and post hole [422032] at the centre of the trench, evidenced at least temporary structures built to support agricultural activity, if not more permanent settlement. The nature of the evaluation limited whether it could be determined that the use of the site might have expanded to the extent of a small-scale settlement (within the current site or adjacent to it), a fact that further works might clarify.

In Area 7, ditches [422020] and [422018] in Trench 70 and 71 respectively, appeared to be at the fringes of the archaeological activity found within the PDA. While [422018] does not appear as an anomaly on the geophysical survey, [422020] is shown to run on a northeast-southwest alignment before forking and forming a possible square enclosure, though the Modern rutting does make this somewhat unclear. The fill of the ditch [422020] contained an equid (horse/donkey/mule) metapodial with evidence of butchery on its distal end. It was one of two bones (the other from a ditch [422003] in Trench 62) to have evidence of chop marks on site (see Appendix 2).

Overall, the evaluation demonstrated evidence for the environmental aspects of farming with a particular focus on non-villa Roman rural activity and settlement. The environmental evidence offers tentative conclusions based on the limited dataset recovered from sampling during the investigation. Results suggest that cereals were potentially handled at a local scale with the animal bone assemblage suggesting that animals were not being kept in large quantities on site - or that they were processed elsewhere (see Appendix 2).

Romano-British agricultural activity was the predominant evidence of land use across the investigation area. All of the dateable evidence indicated that the main activity on site took place between the later 3rd to 4th century AD, with a significant number of dating evidence from the 1st to 2nd centuries AD, suggesting that the site was used over several centuries of the Roman period (see Appendix 3). While there is no direct evidence of habitation within the site from this evaluation, which is further evidenced in previous archaeological investigations (Cotswold Archaeology, 2022), the presence of Roman tegula and evidence of structural demolition from pit [219009] in Trench 65 suggests the possibility of such activity and its likely presence nearby if not within the current site. The occurrence of pottery in varying in typology from locally produced coarse wares, to wares from the Oxfordshire region and six Samian ware vessels imported from Gaul (Appendix 3) further emphisises this while, also implying the potential for trading routes to the wider landscape and continent.

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6 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE AND CONTEXT REGISTERS

Appendix 1.1 Trench and Context Register

Area 1

TR01	**1.8 X 50 M, 0.22-0.3 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
219001	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay.	0.25m thick
219002	Geological Subsoil	Mid yellowish orange clay.	0m thick
Summary: Archaeologically sterile			

TR02	**1.8 X 50 M, 0.26-0.35 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
219005	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay.	0.35m thick
219006	Geological Subsoil	Mid yellowish orange silty clay.	0m thick
Summary: Archaeologically sterile			

TR03	**1.8 X 50 M, 0.25-0.31 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
219003	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay.	0.31m thick
219004	Geological Subsoil	Mid yellowish orange clay.	0m thick
Summary: Archaeologically sterile			

TR04	**1.8 X 50 M, 0.26-0.38 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157148	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.27m thick
157149	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.14m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR05	**1.8 X 50 M, 0.29-0.41 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157146	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.24m thick
157147	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.17m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile			

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TR06	**1.8 X 50 M, 0.27-0.43 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157140	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.28m thick
157141	Geological Subsoil	Mottled orangeish grey fine sandy clay.	0.17m thick
Summary: E-W trench, archaeological sterile			

TR07	**1.8 X 50 M, 0.31-0.38 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157138	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.25m thick
157139	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.13m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR08	**1.8 X 50 M, 0.28-0.39 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157136	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.26m thick
157137	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.14m thick
Summary: NE-SW trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR09	**1.8 X 50 M, 0.29-0.41 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157134	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.26m thick
157135	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.16m thick
Summary: WNW-ESE trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR10	**1.8 X 50 M, 0.34-0.41 M DEEP**		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Dimensions
157142	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.27m thick
157143	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.15m thick
Summary: N-S trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR11	**1.8 X 50 M, 0.34-0.41 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157144	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.25m thick
157145	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.18m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile			

Area 2

TR12	**1.8 X 50 M, 0.29-0.37 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157122	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.26m thick
157123	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.15m thick
Summary: NE-SW trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR13	**1.8 X 50 M, 0.27-0.42 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157126	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.28m thick
157127	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.2m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR14	**1.8 X 50 M, 0.33-0.4 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157124	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.24m thick
157125	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.16m thick
Summary: NE-SW trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR15	**1.8 X 50 M, 0.26-0.41 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157128	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.27m thick
157129	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.17m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR16	**1.8 X 50 M, 0.31-0.42 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157130	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.25m thick
157131	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.18m thick
Summary: NNE-SSW trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR17	**1.8 X 50 M, 0.34-0.41 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157132	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.27m thick
157133	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.18m thick
Summary: NE-SW trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR18	1.8 X 50 M, 0.29-0.37 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157120	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.24m thick
157121	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.15m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR19	1.8 X 50 M, 0.31-0.42 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157116	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.28m thick
157117	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.16m thick
Summary: N-S trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR20	1.8 X 50 M, 0.34-0.42 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157118	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.26m thick
157119	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.16m thick
Summary: NE-SW trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR21	1.8 X 50 M, 0.27-0.34 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157106	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.26m thick
157107	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.09m thick
Summary: NE-SW trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR22	1.8 X 50 M, 0.29-0.36 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157110	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.25m thick
157111	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.15m thick
Summary: N-S trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR23	1.8 X 50 M, 0.35-0.44 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157104	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.27m thick
157105	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.15m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR24	1.8 X 50 M, 0.28-0.41 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157108	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty loam.	0.26m thick
157109	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.16m thick
Summary: E-W trench, 1 large linear observed with modern material, corresponding with geophysical survey			

TR25	1.8 X 50 M, 0.28-0.34 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157102	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clayey silt.	0.24m thick
157103	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.08m thick
Summary: WSW-ENE trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR26	1.8 X 50 M, 0.25-0.33 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157112	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.24m thick
157113	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.1m thick
Summary: N-S trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR27	1.8 X 50 M, 0.25-0.36 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157114	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.25m thick
157115	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.12m thick
Summary: ENE-WSW trench, archaeologically sterile			

Area 3

TR28	1.8 X 50 M, 0.29-0.44 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157081	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.27m thick
157082	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.16m thick
Summary: NE-SE trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR29	1.8 X 50 M, 0.25-0.38 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157100	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.25m thick
157101	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.14m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile, with 1 ceramic drain exposed but not damaged			

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TR30	1.8 X 50 M, 0.27-0.34 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157095	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.26m thick
157096	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.1m thick
Summary: WNW-ESE trench, archaeologically sterile (with 1 ceramic drain clipped, but already impacted prior to machining)			

TR31	1.8 X 50 M, 0.3-0.43 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157093	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.28m thick
157094	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.16m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile (1 ceramic drain clipped, but already impacted prior to machining)			

TR32	1.8 X 50 M, 0.28-0.34 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157097	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.26m thick
157098	–	VOID	–
157099	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.12m thick
Summary: NE-SW trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR33	1.8 X 50 M, 0.31-0.43 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157079	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.27m thick
157080	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.16m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR34	1.8 X 50 M, 0.29-0.46 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157083	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.29m thick
157084	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.18m thick
Summary: ESE-WNW trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR35	1.8 X 50 M, 0.27-0.41 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157087	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.28m thick
157088	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.17m thick
Summary: NE-SW trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR36	1.8 X 50 M, 0.29-0.38 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157089	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.29m thick
157090	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.15m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile (1 ceramic drain clipped, but already impacted prior to machining)			

TR37	1.8 X 50 M, 0.31-0.39 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157091	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.28m thick
157092	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.13m thick
Summary: NE-SW trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR38	1.8 X 30 M, 0.25-0.36 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157067	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.27m thick
157068	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.1m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR39	1.8 X 50 M, 0.26-0.39 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157065	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.27m thick
157066	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.13m thick
Summary: E-W trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR40	1.8 X 50 M, 0.31-0.43 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157063	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.26m thick
157064	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.16m thick
Summary: NE-SW trench, 1 possible linear tested and determined unreal			

TR41	1.8 X 50 M, 0.28-0.45 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157069	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.28m thick
157070	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.17m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile, 1 ceramic drain clipped			

TR42	1.8 X 50 M, 0.28-0.48 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157085	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.3m thick
157086	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.18m thick
Summary: NE-SE trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR43	1.8 X 50 M, 0.32-0.46 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157077	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.27m thick
157078	Geological Subsoil	Mottled orangeish grey fine sandy clay.	0.16m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile, with 1 broken and 1 clipped ceramic drains			

TR44	1.8 X 50 M, 0.33-0.48 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157071	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.27m thick
157072	Geological Subsoil	Mottled orangeish grey fine sandy clay.	0.22m thick
Summary: NE-SW trench, archaeologically sterile, with 2 broken ceramic drains, 1 clipped drain			

TR45	1.8 X 50 M, 0.26-0.42 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157061	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.25m thick
157062	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.2m thick
Summary: NE-SW trench, archaeologically sterile, 1 ceramic drain exposed but not broken			

Area 6

TR46	1.8 X 30 M, 0.26-0.33 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157049	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.26m thick
157050	Geological Subsoil	Mottled orangeish grey fine sandy clay.	0.09m thick
Summary: NE-SW trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR47	1.8 X 30 M, 0.26-0.35 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157047	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.25m thick
157048	Geological Subsoil	Mottled orangeish grey fine sandy clay.	0.12m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR48	1.8 X 30 M, 0.36-0.52 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157045	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.26m thick
157046	Geological Subsoil	Light yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.25m thick
Summary: NE-SW trench, archaeologically sterile, 1 broken and repaired alcathene pipe as in TR67			

TR49	1.8 X 30 M, 0.42-0.56 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157007	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.33m thick
157008	Geological Subsoil	Light orangeish grey fine sandy clay.	0.24m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile, 1 broken ceramic drain			

TR50	1.8 X 30 M, 0.37-0.53 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157004	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.28m thick
157005	Subsoil	Mid brownish grey fine sandy clay.	0.19m thick
157006	Geological Subsoil	Light orangeish brown fine sandy clay.	0.13m thick
Summary: NE-SW trench, archaeologically sterile, 1 broken ceramic drain			

TR51	1.8 X 30 M, 0.52-0.67 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157012	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.31m thick
157013	Subsoil	Mid brownish grey fine sandy clay.	0.23m thick
157014	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.15m thick
Summary: NNW-SSE trench, archaeologically sterile, 2 broken ceramic drains			

TR52	1.8 X 30 M, 0.44-0.58 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157009	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.26m thick
157010	Subsoil	Mid brownish grey fine sandy clay.	0.32m thick
157011	Geological Subsoil	Mottled orangeish grey fine sandy clay.	0.12m thick
Summary: NE-SW trench, archaeologically sterile, 1 broken ceramic drain			

TR53	1.8 X 30 M, 0.36-0.42 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157043	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.29m thick
157044	Geological Subsoil	Mottled orangeish grey fine sandy clay.	0.12m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile			

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TR54	1.8 X 30 M, 0.23-0.28 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157041	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.23m thick
157042	Geological Subsoil	Light orangeish grey fine sandy clay.	0.06m thick
Summary: NE-SW trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR55	1.8 X 30 M, 0.38-0.54 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157039	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.35m thick
157040	Geological Subsoil	Mottled greyish orange fine sandy clay.	0.15m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile, 1 broken ceramic drain			

TR56	1.8 X 30 M, 0.41-0.47 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157037	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.32m thick
157038	Geological Subsoil	Light yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.15m thick
800001	Ditch	Linear. Unexcavated, recorded in plan	1.80m x 2.40m
800002	Fill	Unexcavated, recorded in plan	
Summary: NE-SW trench, with 1 large linear feature corresponding with geophysical survey - a large suspected trackway-side ditch [800001] also observed in TR57 and TR64, and investigated in slot [114003] in Trench 64.			

TR57	1.8 X 30 M, 0.32-0.44 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157073	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.29m thick
157074	Geological Subsoil	Mid orangeish grey fine sandy clay.	0.15m thick
422034	Pit	Sub-Square in plan with regular profile with flat base and gently sloping sides.	0.07m thick
422035	Natural Infilling	Mid yellowish grey fine sandy clay. Fill of 422034.	0.07m thick
422036	Ditch	Linear, aligned E - W with regular profile with flat base and gently sloping sides.	1.8x3m, 0.18m deep
422037	Natural Infilling	Mid blueish grey coarse sandy clay. Inclusions: rare, small in size, poorly sorted pot. Fill of 422036.	0.18m thick
Summary: N-S trench, with 1 large linear feature (part of the suspected trackway-side ditches) tested with a half section and fully investigated in slot [114003] in Trench 64, and 1 discrete feature additionally excavated and recorded.			

TR58	1.8 X 30 M, 0.29-0.45 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157075	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.34m thick
157076	Geological Subsoil	Mid orangeish grey fine sandy clay.	0.13m thick
422023	Other	Rectangular in plan with regular profile with flat base and curved sides.	2.4x1.35m, 0.21m deep
422024	Natural Infilling	Mid yellowish blue fine sandy clay. Inclusions: occasional, small in size, poorly sorted bone; occasional, small in size, poorly sorted pot; rare, small to medium in size, poorly sorted metal. Fill of 422023.	0.09m thick
422025	Natural Infilling	Mid blueish grey fine sandy clay. Inclusions: frequent, small in size, well sorted charcoal; rare, small in size, poorly sorted pot. Fill of 422023.	0.03m thick
422026	Wall/Sill	Wall/Sill, 0m thick	–
422027	Stake-Hole	Circular in plan with regular profile with steep v-shape.	0.05m in diameter, 0.07m deep
422028	Natural Infilling	Mid yellowish grey fine sandy clay. Fill of 422027.	0.07m thick
422029	Stake-Hole	Circular in plan with regular profile with steep v-shape.	0.09m in diameter, 0.07m deep
422030	Natural Infilling	Mid yellowish grey fine sandy clay. Fill of 422029.	0.09m thick
422031	Natural Infilling	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay. Fill of 422023.	0.03m thick
422032	Post-Hole	Circular in plan with regular profile with flat base and steeply sloping sides.	0.28m in diameter, 0.14m deep
422033	Natural Infilling	Mid yellowish grey fine sandy clay. Fill of 422032.	0.14m thick
800003	Ditch	Linear. Unexcavated, recorded in plan	1.80m x 4.70m
800004	Fill	Unexcavated, recorded in plan	
800005	Modern	Modern deposit	1.80m x 2.40m
Summary: NE-SW trench, with heavy archaeological activity. A potential sunken structure with stake-holes, a possible wall and a post-hole were investigated and recorded. A continuation of a suspected trackway-side ditch [800003] was observed (fully investigated in slot [157150] in Trench 59), but disturbed by modern ploughing, and a modern deposit (800005) observed at the northeastern trench end.			

TR59	1.8 X 30 M, 0.51-0.76 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157001	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.33m thick
157002	Subsoil	Mid brownish grey coarse sandy clay.	0.37m thick
157003	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.15m thick

157150	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE - SW with regular profile with flat base and curved sides.	1x1.88m, 0.24m deep
157151	Natural Infilling	Mid blueish grey coarse sandy clay. Inclusions: moderate, very small in size, well sorted iron pan; rare, small in size, well sorted pot. Fill of 157150.	0.24m thick

Summary: NW-SE trench, with 1 large linear feature excavated and recorded, corresponding with geophysical survey - a large suspected trackway-side ditch also observed in TR58 and TR60.

TR60	**1.8 X 30 M, 0.52-0.77 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157015	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.26m thick
157016	Subsoil	Mid brownish grey fine sandy clay.	0.32m thick
157017	Geological Subsoil	Mottled blueish grey fine sandy clay.	0.18m thick
800006	Ditch	Linear. Unexcavated, recorded in plan.	1.80 m x 3.10m
800007	Fill	Unexcavated, recorded in plan.	

Summary: NW-SE trench, with 1 large linear feature [800006] corresponding with geophysical survey - a large suspected trackway-side ditch also observed in TR58 and TR59, and investigated in [157150] in TR59. 1 broken ceramic land drain.

TR61	**1.8 X 30 M, 0.56-0.76 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157018	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.31m thick
157019	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown fine sandy clay.	0.36m thick
157020	Geological Subsoil	Light blueish grey fine sandy clay.	0.11m thick

Summary: NE-SW trench, archaeologically sterile, 1 broken ceramic land drain.

TR62	**1.8 X 30 M, 0.34-0.54 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157035	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.29m thick
157036	Geological Subsoil	Light yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.19m thick
422001	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE - SW with regular profile with shallow v-shape.	2x0.88m, 0.19m deep
422002	Natural Infilling	Mottled greyish orange silty clay. Inclusions: frequent, small in size, well sorted manganese; rare, small in size, poorly sorted bone; occasional, small to medium in size, poorly sorted pot; occasional, small to medium in size, poorly sorted fired clay/cbm. Fill of 422001.	0.19m thick
422003	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE - SW with regular profile with curved base and sides.	2.5x0.55m, 0.2m deep
422004	Natural Infilling	Mid yellowish grey coarse sandy clay. Inclusions: rare, small to medium in size, poorly sorted bone. Fill of 422003.	0.2m thick
422005	Ditch	Linear, aligned E - W with regular profile with curved base and sides.	1.8x0.48m, 0.18m deep
422006	Natural Infilling	Yellowish grey silty clay. Inclusions: rare, small in size, moderately sorted pot. Fill of 422005.	0.18m thick
422007	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE - SW with regular profile with steep v-shape.	2.5x0.57m, 0.32m deep
422008	Natural Infilling	Mid yellowish grey fine sandy clay. Inclusions: occasional, small in size, moderately sorted pot; moderate, small in size, moderately sorted fired clay/cbm. Fill of 422007.	0.32m thick
422009	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE - SW with regular profile with flat base and gently sloping sides.	2.14x0.97m, 0.36m deep
422010	Natural Infilling	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay. Inclusions: rare, small in size, well sorted bone. Fill of 422009.	0.36m thick
422011	Pit	Linear, aligned none with regular profile with curved base and sides.	0.45m in diameter, 0.13m deep
422012	Natural Infilling	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay. Fill of 422011.	0.13m thick
422013	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE - SW with regular profile with steep v-shape.	2.5x0.49m, 0.19m deep
422014	Natural Infilling	Mid yellowish grey fine sandy clay. Inclusions: occasional, small in size, moderately sorted bone; occasional, small in size, moderately sorted pot. Fill of 422013.	0.19m thick
422015	Ditch	Linear, aligned NW - SE with regular profile with shallow v-shape.	1.5x0.23m, 0.07m deep
422016	Natural Infilling	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay. Fill of 422015.	0.07m thick
422017	Occupation Layer	Unknown in plan	1.7x1.8m, 0.08m deep

Summary: N-S trench, with one spread (possibly structurally related) at the N end, tested with a sondage, one E-W aligned linear and four NE-SW aligned linears. In addition, one NE-SW aligned ditch is truncated by the terminus to a later ditch on the same alignment, and a second ditch truncates an earlier pit. A v narrow NNW-SSE aligned linear was also investigated.

TR63	**1.8 X 30 M, 0.22-0.33 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157033	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.23m thick
157034	Geological Subsoil	Light yellowish grey fine sandy loam.	0.1m thick
157152	Ditch	Linear, aligned NW - SE with regular profile with curved base and sides.	1.18x0.33m, 0.18m deep

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157153	Natural Infilling	Mid blueish grey coarse sandy clay. Inclusions: moderate, very small in size, well sorted iron pan; rare, small in size, moderately sorted bone; occasional, small in size, moderately sorted pot. Fill of 157152.	0.18m thick
157154	Pit	Sub-Circular in plan with regular profile with curved base and sides.	1.32x0.8m, 0.18m deep
157155	Dumped Layer	Dark blueish grey coarse sandy clay. Inclusions: moderate, very small in size, well sorted iron pan; moderate, very small to small in size, well sorted charcoal; occasional, very small to small in size, moderately sorted pot. Fill of 157154.	0.18m thick
157156	Pit	Sub-Circular in plan with regular profile with curved base and sides.	0.58x0.53m, 0.11m deep
157157	Natural Infilling	Mid brownish grey coarse sandy clay. Inclusions: moderate, very small in size, well sorted iron pan; occasional, very small to small in size, well sorted pot. Fill of 157156.	0.11m thick
157158	Pit	Sub-Circular in plan with regular profile with flat base and curved sides.	0m thick
157159	Natural Infilling	Mid blueish grey coarse sandy clay. Inclusions: moderate, very small in size, well sorted iron pan; rare, very small to small in size, well sorted pot. Fill of 157158.	0.07m thick
157160	Ditch	Linear, aligned NW - SE with regular profile with curved base and sides.	1x1.13m, 0.3m deep
157161	Natural Infilling	Mid blueish grey coarse sandy clay. Inclusions: moderate, very small in size, well sorted iron pan; rare, small in size, well sorted bone; occasional, very small to small in size, moderately sorted pot; rare, small to medium in size, moderately sorted coarse stone. Fill of 157160.	0.3m thick
157162	Pit	Sub-Circular in plan with regular profile with flat base and curved sides.	2x1.1m, 0.1m deep
157163	Natural Infilling	Mid blueish grey coarse sandy clay. Inclusions: moderate, very small in size, well sorted iron pan. Fill of 157162.	0.1m thick
800008	Ditch	Linear. Unexcavated, recorded in plan.	1.80m x 5.50m
800009	Fill	Unexcavated, recorded in plan.	

Summary: NE-SW trench, with heavy archaeological activity. 2 x NW-SE aligned ditches excavated at each trench end, with 1 medium pit investigated adjacent to one (no relationship determined). Of several patches of possible occupation material and discrete features, 3 possible features were investigated and recorded. The somewhat large linear observed (appearing to be a narrower linear [800008] with surrounding occupation material) near the southwestern trench end was investigated in adjacent trenches.

TR64	**1.8 X 30 M, 0.26-0.51 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157031	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.25m thick
157032	Geological Subsoil	Light greyish yellow fine sandy clay.	0.25m thick
114003	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE - SW with regular profile with flat base and curved sides.	1x2.95m, 0.54m deep
114004	Natural Infilling	Mid brownish yellow silty clay. Inclusions: occasional, very small in size, well sorted fired clay/cbm. Fill of 114003.	0.14m thick
114005	Natural Infilling	Dark greyish brown silty clay. Inclusions: occasional, small to medium in size, well sorted pot; occasional, very small in size, well sorted fired clay/cbm. Fill of 114003.	0.54m thick

Summary: NW-SE trench, 1 large linear excavated and recorded

TR65	**1.8 X 30 M, 0.25-0.35 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157029	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.24m thick
157030	Geological Subsoil	Light yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.11m thick
219007	Ditch	Linear, aligned E - W with regular profile with curved base and sides.	1x1.18m, 0.24m deep
219008	Dumped Layer	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Inclusions: occasional, medium in size, moderately sorted rounded stones; moderate, small to medium in size, well sorted pot; occasional, small to medium in size, well sorted fired clay/cbm. Fill of 219007.	0.24m thick
219009	Pit	Unknown in plan with regular profile with flat base and gently sloping sides.	5x1.8m, 0.28m deep
219010	Deliberate Backfill	Mid blueish grey silty clay. Inclusions: moderate, medium to large in size, moderately sorted rounded stones; rare, small to medium in size, well sorted charcoal; rare, small to medium in size, well sorted bone; occasional, small to medium in size, well sorted pot. Fill of 219009.	0.28m thick
800010	Ditch	Linear. Unexcavated, recorded in plan.	1.80m x 2.50m
800011	Fill	Unexcavated, recorded in plan.	

Summary: NNE-SSW trench, with archaeological activity corresponding with geophysical survey. 1 WNW-ESE aligned ditch excavated at SSW trench end and large potential pit investigated in the centre of the trench. WNW-ESE aligned ditch [800010] at NNE trench end investigated in adjacent trenches

TR66	1.8 X 30 M, 0.34-0.46 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157027	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.27m thick
157028	Geological Subsoil	Light yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.16m thick
114006	Ditch	Linear, aligned NW - SE with regular profile with flat base and curved sides.	1x0.77m, 0.23m deep
114007	Natural Infilling	Mid orangeish brown silty clay. Inclusions: rare, large in size, well sorted rounded stones; occasional, very small in size, well sorted charcoal; rare, small in size, well sorted bone; occasional, small to medium in size, well sorted pot; rare, small in size, well sorted metal. Fill of 114006.	0.23m thick
114008	Ditch	Linear, aligned N - S with regular profile with flat base and curved sides.	1x0.5m, 0.13m deep
114009	Natural Infilling	Mid blueish brown silty clay. Inclusions: moderate, small in size, well sorted pot; occasional, small in size, well sorted fired clay/cbm. Fill of 114008.	0.13m thick
114010	Ditch	Linear, aligned N - S with regular profile with flat base and curved sides.	1x1.7m, 0.18m deep
114011	Natural Infilling	Dark greyish black silty clay. Inclusions: moderate, small to medium in size, well sorted pot. Fill of 114010.	0.18m thick
114012	Ditch	Linear, aligned N - S with irregular profile with flat base and curved sides.	1.4x0.46m, 0.09m deep
114013	Natural Infilling	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Inclusions: occasional, medium to large in size, well sorted rounded stones; occasional, small to medium in size, well sorted pot; rare, large in size, well sorted fired clay/cbm. Fill of 114012.	0.09m thick
114014	Pit	Sub-Circular in plan with regular profile with flat base and curved sides.	0.81x0.7m, 0.19m deep
114015	Natural Infilling	Mottled greyish brown clayey clay. Inclusions: rare, very small to small in size, well sorted fired clay/cbm. Fill of 114014.	0.19m thick
114016	Pit	Circular in plan with regular profile with flat base and curved sides.	0.75x0.72m, 0.13m deep
114017	Natural Infilling	Mottled yellowish grey silty clay. Inclusions: rare, small in size, well sorted fired clay/cbm. Fill of 114016.	0.13m thick
114018	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE - SW with regular profile with steep v-shape.	0.48x0.28m, 0.11m deep
114019	Natural Infilling	Dark brownish grey silty clay. Inclusions: rare, very small to small in size, well sorted rounded stones; occasional, very small in size, well sorted fired clay/cbm. Fill of 114018.	0.11m thick
114020	Ditch	Linear, aligned NW - SE with irregular profile with curved base and vertical sides.	0.61x0.17m, 0.17m deep
114021	Natural Infilling	Dark brownish grey silty clay. Inclusions: occasional, very small to small in size, well sorted pot. Fill of 114020.	0.17m thick
114022	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE - SW with irregular profile with flat base and curved sides.	0.53x0.32m, 0.18m deep
114023	Natural Infilling	Dark yellowish grey silty clay. Inclusions: rare, small in size, well sorted fired clay/cbm. Fill of 114022.	0.18m thick

Summary: NW-SE trench, with 3 NE-SW aligned linears and 1 NW-SE aligned linear terminus, and 4 irregular discrete features. Additionally, the northwestern-most NE-SW linear is truncated by a second narrower NW-SE aligned linear. Finds included Roman-dated pottery

TR67	1.8 X 30 M, 0.46-0.64 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157024	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.3m thick
157025	Subsoil	Mid brownish grey fine sandy clay.	0.19m thick
157026	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.1m thick
114001	Ditch	Linear, aligned N - S with steep v-shape.	1x0.6m, 0.33m deep
114002	Natural Infilling	Mid blueish grey silty clay. Inclusions: rare, very small to small in size, well sorted bone; moderate, small to medium in size, well sorted pot; occasional, small to medium in size, well sorted fired clay/cbm. Fill of 114001.	0.33m thick

Summary: E-W trench, 1 linear excavated and recorded, with repaired alcathene pipe

TR68	1.8 X 30 M, 0.54-0.76 M DEEP		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157021	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.27m thick
157022	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown fine sandy clay.	0.28m thick
157023	Geological Subsoil	Mottled blueish grey fine sandy clay.	0.23m thick

Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile, 2 broken ceramic drains (and 1 intact)

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TR69	**1.8 X 30 M, 0.26-0.53 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157059	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.34m thick
157060	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.18m thick
Summary: WNW-ESE trench, with one possible discrete feature tested and determined unreal			

TR70	**1.8 X 30 M, 0.23-0.43 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157057	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.28m thick
157058	Geological Subsoil	Mottled orangeish grey fine sandy clay.	0.16m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile			

TR71	**1.8 X 30 M, 0.25-0.4 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157055	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.26m thick
157056	Geological Subsoil	Mottled orangeish grey fine sandy clay.	0.15m thick
422018	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE - SW with regular profile with flat base and gently sloping sides.	1.8x1.3m, 0.07m deep
422019	Natural Infilling	Mid yellowish grey fine sandy clay. Inclusions: rare, small in size, poorly sorted pot. Fill of 422018.	0.07m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, 1 linear			

TR72		**1.8 X 30 M, 0.26-0.5 M DEEP**	
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157053	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.35m thick
157054	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.15m thick
422020	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE - SW with regular profile with steep v-shape.	1.8x1.26m, 0.59m deep
422021	Natural Infilling	Mid greyish brown fine sandy clay. Inclusions: rare, small in size, moderately sorted bone; occasional, small in size, well sorted pot. Fill of 422020.	0.36m thick
422022	Natural Infilling	Mid greyish brown fine sandy clay. Inclusions: moderate, small in size, moderately sorted bone; moderate, small in size, moderately sorted pot. Fill of 422020.	0.35m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, 1 ditch containing Roman pottery excavated and recorded. 2 Modern wheel ruts surveyed			

TR73	**1.8 X 30 M, 0.25-0.42 M DEEP**		
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
157051	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.31m thick
157052	Geological Subsoil	Mottled yellowish grey fine sandy clay.	0.12m thick
Summary: NW-SE trench, archaeologically sterile			

Appendix 1.2 Drawing register

DRAWING	DESCRIPTION
10001	NW facing section of ditch of Context 114003. Also shows 114004, 114005
10002	SW facing section of Context 422007. Southwest-facing section of relationship slot. Also shows Context 422009
10003	SW facing section of Context 422011. Southwest-facing section of relationship slot. Also shows Context 422013
10004	SE facing section of Context 114020. Southeast-facing section of relationship slot. Also shows Contexts 114021, 114022, 114023
10005	SW facing section of Context 422020. Southwest-facing section of ditch
10006	Section of Context 422023. Wraparound sections of discrete feature. Also shows Contexts 422027, 422029

Appendix 1.3 Photographic register

PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	FACING
1000001	Id shot	
1000002	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 50.	NE
1000003	Se facing representative section. Trench 50.	NW
1000004	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 50.	SW
1000005	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 50.	SW
1000006	Se facing trench shot. Trench 49.	SE
1000007	Sw facing representative section. Trench 49.	NE
1000008	Sw facing representative section. Trench 49.	SW
1000009	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 49.	NW
1000010	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 52.	SW
1000011	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 52.	SW
1000012	Se facing representative section . Trench 52.	NW
1000013	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 52.	NE
1000014	Se facing trench shot. Trench 51.	SE
1000015	Ne facing representative section. Trench 51.	SW
1000016	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 51.	NW
1000017	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 51.	NW
1000018	Se facing trench shot. Trench 59.	SE
1000019	Sw facing representative section. Trench 59.	NE
1000020	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 59.	NW
1000021	Se facing trench shot. Trench 60.	SE
1000022	Sw facing representative section. Trench 60.	NE
1000023	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 60.	NW
1000024	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 60.	NW
1000025	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 61.	NE
1000026	Id shot.	–
1000027	Nw facing representative section. Trench 61.	SE
1000028	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 61.	SW
1000029	Void.	–
1000030	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 68.	NW
1000031	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 68.	NW
1000032	Se facing trench shot. Trench 68.	SE
1000033	Sw facing representative section. Trench 68.	NE
1000034	W facing trench shot. Trench 67.	W
1000035	E facing trench shot. Trench 67.	E
1000036	S facing representative section. Trench 67.	N
1000037	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 66.	NW
1000038	Se facing trench shot. Trench 66.	SE
1000039	Sw facing representative section. Trench 66.	NE
1000040	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 65.	NE
1000041	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 65.	SW
1000042	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 65.	SW
1000043	Nw facing representative section. Trench 65.	SE
1000044	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 65.	NW
1000045	Se facing trench shot. Trench 64.	SE
1000046	Sw facing representative section. Trench 64.	NE
1000047	Sw facing representative section. Trench 64.	NE
1000048	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 63.	SW
1000049	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 63.	NE
1000050	Nw facing representative section. Trench 63.	SE
1000051	Id shot.	–
1000052	N facing trench shot. Trench 62.	S
1000053	N facing trench shot. Trench 62.	S
1000054	S facing trench shot. Trench 62.	N
1000055	S facing trench shot. Trench 62.	N
1000056	E facing representative section. Trench 62.	W
1000057	Context 114001, n facing section of ditch. Also shows Contexts 114002. Trench 67.	S
1000058	Context 114001, s facing section of ditch. Also shows Contexts 114002. Trench 67.	N
1000059	Context 114001, plan shot of ditch. Also shows Contexts 114002. Trench 67.	E
1000060	Context 422001, ne facing section of ditch. Trench 62.	SW

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PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	FACING
1000061	Context 422001, se facing plan shot of ditch. Trench 62.	SE
1000062	Context 422001, se facing plan shot of ditch. Trench 62.	SE
1000063	Context 422003, sw facing section of ditch. Trench 62.	NE
1000064	Context 422003, se facing plan shot of ditch. Trench 62.	SE
1000065	Context 422003, gen shot of ditch. Trench 62.	SE
1000066	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 46.	NE
1000067	Se facing section. Trench 46.	NW
1000068	Se facing section. Trench 46.	NW
1000069	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 46.	SW
1000070	Se facing trench shot. Trench 47.	SE
1000071	Ne facing representative section. Trench 47.	SW
1000072	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 47.	NW
1000073	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 48.	NE
1000074	Nw facing representative section. Trench 48.	SE
1000075	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 48.	SW
1000076	Id shot.	–
1000077	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 53.	SE
1000078	Ne facing representative section. Trench 53.	SW
1000079	Se facing trench shot. Trench 53.	NW
1000080	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 54.	SW
1000081	Nw facing representative section. Trench 54.	SE
1000082	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 54.	NE
1000083	Se facing trench shot. Trench 55.	SE
1000084	Sw facing representative section. Trench 55.	NE
1000085	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 55.	NW
1000086	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 56.	NE
1000087	Nw facing representative section. Trench 56.	SE
1000088	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 56.	SW
1000089	N facing trench shot. Trench 57.	N
1000090	E facing representative section. Trench 57.	W
1000091	S facing trench shot. Trench 57.	S
1000092	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 58.	NE
1000093	Se facing representative section. Trench 58.	NW
1000094	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 58.	SW
1000095	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 69.	NW
1000096	Ne facing representative section. Trench 69.	SW
1000097	Se facing trench shot. Trench 69.	SE
1000098	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 70.	NW

PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	FACING
1000099	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 70.	SW
1000100	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 70.	SW
1000101	Se facing trench shot. Trench 70.	SE
1000102	Id shot.	–
1000103	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 71.	NW
1000104	Sw facing representative section. Trench 71.	NE
1000105	Se facing trench shot. Trench 71.	SE
1000106	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 72.	NW
1000107	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 72.	NE
1000108	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 72.	NE
1000109	Se face tr shot. Trench 72.	SE
1000110	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 73.	NW
1000111	Sw facing representative section. Trench 73.	NE
1000112	Se facing trench shot. Trench 73.	SE
1000113	Context 422005, e facing section of ditch. Trench 62.	W
1000114	Context 422005, s facing plan shot of ditch. Trench 62.	S
1000115	Context 422005, sw facing gen shot of linears. Also shows Contexts 422001. Trench 62.	SW
1000116	Context 422005, sw facing gen shot of linears. Also shows Contexts 422001. Trench 62.	SW
1000117	Ne facing section of ditch. Trench 64.	SW
1000118	Sw facing section of ditch. Trench 64.	NE
1000119	Plan shot of ditch. Trench 64.	SE
1000120	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 44.	SW
1000121	Nw facing representative section. Trench 44.	SE
1000122	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 44.	NE
1000123	Se facing trench shot. Trench 43.	SE
1000124	Ne facing representative section. Trench 43.	SW
1000125	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 43.	NW
1000126	Id shot.	–
1000127	Context 422007, sw facing section of linears. Also shows Contexts 422009. Trench 62	NE
1000128	Context 422007, ne facing section of linear. Also shows Contexts 422009. Trench 62.	SW
1000129	Context 422007, plan shot of linear. Also shows Contexts 422009. Trench 62.	NW
1000130	Context 422007, plan shot of linear. Also shows Contexts 422009. Trench 62.	SW
1000131	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 42.	SW
1000132	Se facing representative section. Trench 42.	NW
1000133	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 42.	NE

PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	FACING
1000134	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 45.	SE
1000135	Se facing representative section. Trench 45.	NW
1000136	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 45.	NE
1000137	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 40.	SW
1000138	Se facing representative section. Trench 40.	NW
1000139	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 40.	NE
1000140	E facing trench shot. Trench 39.	E
1000141	N facing representative section. Trench 39.	S
1000142	W facing trench shot. Trench 39.	W
1000143	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 38.	NW
1000144	Sw facing representative section. Trench 38.	NE
1000145	Se facing trench shot. Trench 38.	SE
1000146	Se facing trench shot. Trench 41.	SE
1000147	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 41.	SW
1000148	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 41.	NW
1000149	Nw afc tr shot. Trench 33.	NW
1000150	Sw facing representative section. Trench 33.	NE
1000151	Se facing trench shot. Trench 33.	NW
1000152	Id shot.	–
1000153	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 28.	NE
1000154	Nw facing representative section. Trench 28.	SE
1000155	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 28.	SW
1000156	Se facing trench shot. Trench 34.	SE
1000157	Sw facing representative section. Trench 34.	NE
1000158	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 34.	NW
1000159	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 35.	SW
1000160	Nw facing representative section. Trench 35.	SE
1000161	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 35.	NE
1000162	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 36.	NW
1000163	Sw facing representative section. Trench 36.	NE
1000164	Se facing trench shot. Trench 36.	SE
1000165	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 37.	NE
1000166	Nw facing representative section. Trench 37.	SE
1000167	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 37.	SW
1000168	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 31.	NE
1000169	Nw facing representative section. Trench 31.	SE
1000170	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 31.	SW

PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	FACING
1000171	Context 422011, sw facing section. Also shows Contexts 422013. Trench 62.	NE
1000172	Context 422011, se facing section. Also shows Contexts 422013. Trench 62.	NW
1000173	Context 422013, ne facing section. Trench 62.	SE
1000174	Context 422011, sw facing shot. Also shows Contexts 422013. Trench 62.	SW
1000175	Context 422011, ne facing shot. Also shows Contexts 422013. Trench 62	NE
1000176	Context 422011, plan shot of relationship slot. Also shows Contexts 422013. Trench 62.	NE
1000177	Context 422011, general shot of relationship slot. Also shows Contexts 422013. Trench 62.	N
1000178	Context 422011, general shot of relationship slot. Also shows Contexts 422013. Trench 62.	S
1000179	Id shot.	–
1000180	Context 422013, ne facing section of linear. Trench 62.	SW
1000181	Context 422013, plan shot of ditch. Trench 62.	SE
1000182	Context 114006, se facing section of terminus. Also shows Contexts 114007. Trench 66.	NW
1000183	Context 114006, ne facing section of terminus. Also shows Contexts 114007. Trench 66.	SW
1000184	Context 114006, plan shot of terminus. Also shows Contexts 114007. Trench 66.	SW
1000185	Context 422015, ne facing section of terminus. Trench 62.	SW
1000186	Context 422015, plan shot of terminus. Trench 62.	SW
1000187	Context 422015, general shot of trench 62. Also shows Contexts 422013, 422011, 422003. Trench 62.	SE
1000188	Context 114008, plan shot of ditch. Also shows Contexts 114009. Trench 66	E
1000189	Context 114008, n facing section of ditch. Also shows Contexts 114009. Trench 66.	S
1000190	Context 114008, s facing section of ditch. Also shows Contexts 114009. Trench 66.	N
1000191	Context 422015, se facing section of linear terminus. Trench 62.	NW
1000192	Context 422015, plan shot of linear terminus. Trench 62.	SW
1000193	Trench shot. Trench 29.	SE
1000194	Trench shot. Trench 29.	SE
1000195	Ne facing representative section. Trench 29.	SW
1000196	Ne facing representative section. Trench 29.	SW
1000197	Trench shot. Trench 29.	NW
1000198	Trench shot. Trench 30.	WNW
1000199	Trench shot. Trench 30.	ESE
1000200	Sse-facing representative section. Trench 30.	NNW

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PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	FACING
1000201	Id shot.	–
1000202	Trench shot. Trench 32.	NE
1000203	Se facing representative section. Trench 32.	NW
1000204	Trench shot. Trench 32.	SW
1000205	S facing section of deposit. Trench 62.	N
1000206	Plan shot of deposit excavated. Trench 62.	E
1000207	Plan shot of deposit. Trench 62.	N
1000208	Context 114010, plan shot of ditch. Also shows Contexts 114012. Trench 66.	W
1000209	Context 114010, s facing section of ditch. Also shows Contexts 114012. Trench 66.	N
1000210	Context 114010, n facing section of ditch. Also shows Contexts 114012. Trench 66.	S
1000211	Context 114012, w facing section of terminus. Also shows Contexts 114013. Trench 66.	E
1000212	Context 114012, plan shot of terminus slot. Also shows Contexts 114013. Trench 66.	E
1000213	Context 114012, s facing section of terminus. Also shows Contexts 114013. Trench 66.	N
1000214	Context 114014, ne facing section of possible pit. Also shows Contexts 114015. Trench 66.	SW
1000215	Context 114014, ne facing section of possible pit. Also shows Contexts 114015. Trench 66.	SW
1000216	Context 114014, plan shot of possible pit. Also shows Contexts 114015. Trench 66.	SW
1000217	Context 114014, nw facing section of possible pit. Also shows Contexts 114015. Trench 66.	SE
1000218	Context 114016, plan shot of pit. Also shows Contexts 114017. Trench 66.	NW
1000219	Context 114016, se facing section of pit. Also shows Contexts 114017. Trench 66.	NW
1000220	Context 114018, plan shot of terminus. Also shows Contexts 114019. Trench 66.	SE
1000221	Context 114018, se facing section of terminus. Also shows Contexts 114019. Trench 66.	NW
1000222	Context 114018, ne facing section of terminus. Also shows Contexts 114019. Trench 66.	SW
1000223	Context 422018, se facing shot of linear. Trench 71.	SE
1000224	Context 422018, se facing shot of linear. Trench 71.	SE
1000225	Context 422018, sw facing section of linear. Trench 71.	NE
1000226	Id shot.	–
1000227	Context 114020, plan shot of relationship slot. Also shows Contexts 114021, 114022, 114023. Trench 66.	NE
1000228	Context 114022, nw facing section of relationship slot. Also shows Contexts 114023. Trench 66.	SE

PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	FACING
1000229	Context 114022, ne fsc sec of relationship slot. Also shows Contexts 114023, 114021, 114022. Trench 66.	SW
1000230	Context 114020, se facing section of relationship slot. Also shows Contexts 114021. Trench 66.	NW
1000231	Context 114020, nw facing section of relationship slot. Also shows Contexts 114021. Trench 66.	SE
1000232	S facing trench shot. Trench 22.	S
1000233	E facing representative section. Trench 22.	W
1000234	N facing trench shot. Trench 22.	N
1000235	E facing trench shot. Trench 24.	E
1000236	N facing representative section. Trench 24.	S
1000237	W facing trench shot. Trench 24.	W
1000238	Sw facing trench shot. Trench 21.	SW
1000239	Se facing representative section. Trench 21.	NW
1000240	Ne facing trench shot. Trench 21.	NE
1000241	Context 422020, sw-facing section of ditch. Trench 72.	SW
1000242	Context 422020, sw-facing section of ditch. Trench 72.	SW
1000243	Context 422020, sw-facing section of ditch. Trench 72.	SW
1000244	Context 422020, plan shot of ditch. Trench 72.	SE
1000245	Context 422020, plan shot of ditch. Trench 72.	SE
1000246	Context 422020, working shot of linear. Trench 72.	N
1000247	Se facing trench shot. Trench 15.	SE
1000248	Ne facin representative section. Trench 15.	NE
1000249	Nw facing trench shot. Trench 15.	NW
1000250	Context 219007, nw facing section. Trench 65.	SE
1000251	Id shot.	–
1000252	Context 219007, general shot. Trench 65.	SE
1000253	Context 219007, se facing section. Trench 65.	NW
1000254	Context 422023, pre-ex plan shots. Trench 58.	NE
1000255	Context 422023, pre-ex plan shots. Trench 58.	SE
1000256	Context 422023, pre-ex plan shots. Trench 58.	S
1000257	Context 422023, pre-ex plan shots. Trench 58.	NW
1000258	Context 422023, pre-ex plan shots. Trench 58.	NW
1000259	Context 422023, pre-ex plan shots. Trench 58.	S
1000260	Context 422026, plan shot of structure (sunny). Trench 58.	SE
1000261	Context 422026, plan shot of structure (sunny). Trench 58.	SE
1000262	Context 422026, plan shot of structure (sunny). Trench 58.	SE
1000263	Context 422026, plan shot of structure (sunny). Trench 58.	SE
1000264	Context 422026, plan shot of structure (sunny). Trench 58.	SE

PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	FACING
1000265	Context 422026, plan shot of structure (sunny). Trench 58.	SE
1000266	Context 422026, plan shot of structure (sunny). Trench 58.	SE
1000267	Context 422026, plan shot of structure (sunny). Trench 58.	SE
1000268	Context 422026, plan shot of structure (sunny). Trench 58.	SE
1000269	Context 422026, plan shot of structure. Trench 58.	NE
1000270	Context 422026, plan shot of structure. Trench 58.	NE
1000271	Context 422026, plan shot of structure. Trench 58.	NE
1000272	Context 422026, plan shot of structure. Trench 58.	SE
1000273	Context 422026, plan shot of structure. Trench 58.	SE
1000274	Context 422026, plan shot of structure. Trench 58.	SE
1000275	Trench shot. Trench 27.	ENE
1000276	Id shot.	–
1000277	Trench shot. Trench 27.	WSW
1000278	Sse-facing representative section. Trench 27.	NNW
1000279	Trench shot. Trench 26.	N
1000280	Trench shot. Trench 26.	S
1000281	E-facing representative section. Trench 26.	W
1000282	Trench shot. Trench 25.	ENE
1000283	Sse-facing representative section. Trench 25.	NNW
1000284	Trench shot. Trench 25.	WSW
1000285	Trench shot. Trench 23.	NW
1000286	Sw -facing representative section. Trench 23.	NE
1000287	Trench shot. Trench 23.	SE
1000288	Trench shot. Trench 20.	SW
1000289	Se-facing representative section. Trench 20.	NW
1000290	Trench shot. Trench 20.	NE
1000291	Trench shot. Trench 19.	N
1000292	E-facing representative section. Trench 19.	W
1000293	Trench shot. Trench 19.	S
1000294	Trench shot. Trench 18.	NW
1000295	Sw-facing representative section. Trench 18.	NE
1000296	Trench shot. Trench 18.	SE
1000297	Trench shot. Trench 12.	NE
1000298	Se-facing representative section. Trench 12.	NW
1000299	Trench shot. Trench 12.	SW
1000300	Trench shot. Trench 16.	NNE
1000301	Id shot.	
1000302	Wnw-facing representative section. Trench 16.	ESE

PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	FACING
1000303	Trench shot. Trench 16.	SSW
1000304	Trench shot. Trench 17.	SE
1000305	Sw-facing representative section. Trench 17.	NW
1000306	Trench shot. Trench 17.	NE
1000307	Trench shot. Trench 13.	NW
1000308	Trench shot. Trench 13.	SE
1000309	Trench shot. Trench 14.	NE
1000310	Nw-facing representative section. Trench 14.	SE
1000311	Trench shot. Trench 14.	SW
1000312	Sw-facing representative section. Trench 13.	NE
1000313	Trench shot. Trench 5.	SE
1000314	Ne-facing representative section. Trench 5.	SW
1000315	Trench shot. Trench 5.	NW
1000316	Trench shot. Trench 6.	W
1000317	S-facing representative section. Trench 6.	N
1000318	Trench shot. Trench 6.	E
1000319	Trench shot. Trench 7.	SE
1000320	Ne-facing representative section. Trench 7.	SW
1000321	Trench shot. Trench 7.	NW
1000322	Trench shot. Trench 8.	SE
1000323	Ne-facing representative section. Trench 8.	SW
1000324	Trench shot. Trench 8.	NW
1000325	Trench shot. Trench 9.	E
1000326	Id shot.	–
1000327	N-facing representative section. Trench 9.	S
1000328	Trench shot. Trench 9.	W
1000329	Void.	–
1000330	Context 422023, nw facing sec of discrete. Also shows Contexts 422027, 422028. Trench 58.	SE
1000331	Context 422023, nw facing sec of discrete. Also shows Contexts 422027, 422028. Trench 58.	SE
1000332	Context 422023, sw facing sec of discrete. Also shows Contexts 42201. Trench 58.	NE
1000333	Context 422023, sw facing sec of discrete. Also shows Contexts 42201. Trench 58.	NE
1000334	Context 422023, sw facing sec of discrete. Also shows Contexts 42201. Trench 58.	NE
1000335	Context 422023, se facing post ex shot of discrete. Also shows Contexts 422027, 422029. Trench 58.	SE
1000336	Context 422023, se facing post ex shot of discrete. Also shows Contexts 422027, 422029. Trench 58.	SE

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PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	FACING
1000337	Context 422023, plan shot of discrete (post ex). Also shows Contexts 422027, 422029. Trench 58.	SE
1000338	Context 422023, plan shot of discrete (post ex). Also shows Contexts 422027, 422029. Trench 58.	NE
1000339	Context 157150, plan shot of ditch. Also shows Contexts 157151. Trench 59.	NW
1000340	Context 157150, plan shot of ditch. Also shows Contexts 157151. Trench 59.	SW
1000341	Context 157150, ne-facing section shot of ditch. Also shows Contexts 157151. Trench 59.	SW
1000342	Context 157152, oblique shot of ditch + pit. Also shows Contexts 157153, 157154, 157155. Trench 63.	W
1000343	Context 157152, ne-facing sec shot of ditch. Also shows Contexts 157153, 157154, 157155. Trench 63.	SW
1000344	Context 157152, se-facing sec shot of ditch + pit. Also shows Contexts 157153, 157154, 157155. Trench 63.	NW
1000345	Context 157152, plan shot of ditch + pit. Also shows Contexts 157153, 157154, 157155 . Trench 63 .	SW
1000346	Context 157156, ne-facing sec shot of pit. Also shows Contexts 157157. Trench 63.	SW
1000347	Context 157156, plan shot of pit. Also shows Contexts 157157. Trench 63.	SW
1000348	Context 157158, ne-facing sec shot of pit. Also shows Contexts 157159. Trench 63.	SW
1000349	Context 157158, plan shot of pit. Also shows Contexts 157159. Trench 63.	SW
1000350	Context 422032, plan shot of discrete. Trench 58.	SE
1000351	Context 422032, plan shot of discrete. Trench 58.	SE
1000352	Context 422032, nw facing sec of discrete. Trench 58.	SE
1000353	Context 422032, nw facing sec of discrete. Trench 58.	SE
1000354	Id shot.	–
1000355	Context 422034, plan shot of discrete. Trench 57.	S
1000356	Context 422034, n facing sec shot of discrete. Trench 57.	S
1000357	Context 157160, plan shot of ditch. Also shows Contexts 157161. Trench 63.	NE
1000358	Context 157160, se-facing section shot of ditch. Also shows Contexts 157161. Trench 63.	NW
1000359	Context 157162, oblique shot of pit (/occupational material). Also shows Contexts 157163. Trench 63.	SE
1000360	Context 157162, w-facing section shot of pit (/occupational material). Also shows Contexts 157163. Trench 63.	E
1000361	Context 157162, n-facing section shot of pit (/occupational material). Also shows Contexts 157163. Trench 63.	S
1000362	Context 157162, plan shot of pit (/occupational material). Also shows Contexts 157163. Trench 63.	E
1000363	Context 157162, oblique shot of pit (/occupational material). Also shows Contexts 157163. Trench 63.	SE

PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	FACING
1000364	Context 219009, s facing section. Trench 65.	N
1000365	Context 219009, e facing section. Trench 65.	W
1000366	Context 219009, general shot. Trench 65.	NW
1000367	Context 422036, nw facing section of ditch. Trench 57.	SE
1000368	Context 422036, sw facing section of ditch. Trench 57.	NE
1000369	Context 422036, plan shot of ditch. Trench 57.	NE
1000370	Context 422036, general shot of ditch. Trench 57.	NE
1000371	Trench shot. Trench 11.	SE
1000372	Sw-facing representative section. Trench 11.	NE
1000373	Trench shot. Trench 11.	NW
1000374	Trench shot. Trench 10.	N
1000375	W-facing representative section. Trench 10.	E
1000376	Id shot.	
1000377	Trench shot. Trench 10.	S
1000378	Trench shot. Trench 1.	SSE
1000379	Ene-facing representative section. Trench 1.	WSW
1000380	Trench shot. Trench 1.	NNW
1000381	Trench shot. Trench 2.	SE
1000382	Ne-facing representative section. Trench 2.	SW
1000383	Trench shot. Trench 2.	NW
1000384	Trench shot. Trench 3.	ENE
1000385	Sse-facing representative section. Trench 3.	NNW
1000386	Trench shot. Trench 3.	WSW
1000387	Trench shot. Trench 4.	SE
1000388	Sw-facing representative section. Trench 4.	NE
1000389	Trench shot. Trench 4.	NW
1000390	Id shot.	–
1000391	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 73.	SE
1000392	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 72.	NW
1000393	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 71.	NW
1000394	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 70.	SE
1000395	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 69.	NW
1000396	Post-backfilling condition shot, field 7.	NW
1000397	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 44.	SW
1000398	Id shot.	–
1000399	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 42.	NE
1000400	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 43.	SE
1000401	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 28.	NE

PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	FACING
1000402	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 33.	SE
1000403	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 34.	SE
1000404	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 29.	NW
1000405	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 35.	SW
1000406	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 45.	NE
1000407	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 41.	NW
1000408	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 40.	NE
1000409	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 39.	W
1000410	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 38.	NW
1000411	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 37.	SW
1000412	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 31.	NW
1000413	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 30.	NW
1000414	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 35.	NW
1000415	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 32.	NE
1000416	Post-backfilling condition shot, field 3.	S
1000417	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 12.	SW
1000418	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 18.	NW
1000419	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 17.	NE
1000420	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 20.	SW
1000421	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 19.	SW
1000422	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 16.	NW
1000423	Id shot.	–
1000424	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 15.	NW
1000425	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 14.	SW
1000426	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 13.	NW
1000427	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 26.	SW
1000428	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 27.	SW
1000429	Post-backfilling condition shot, trench 25.	NW
1000430	Post-backfilling condition shot, field 1.	SE

Appendix 1.4 Finds register

AREA	TR	FIND	RELATED CONTEXT	OBJECT TYPE	MATERIAL TYPE	SURVEYED
Area 6	TR66	F-11401	114007	Fe nail	Iron	Yes
Area 6	TR58	F-42201	422024	–	Lead	Yes

Appendix 1.5 Samples register

AREA	TR	CONTEXT	SAMPLE	BUCKETS	VOLUME
Area 6	TR62	422004	S-42201	4	40
Area 6	TR58	422025	S-42202	1	10
Area 6	TR63	157155	S-15701	2	20
Area 6	TR58	422033	S-42203	1	10

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APPENDIX 2 ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

Annie Moore and Megan Roberts

Introducation

This report details the assessment of four bulk environmental samples, of between ten and forty litres, and 278g of hand collected animal bone recovered during archaeological Trial Trenching works at Blackmore Farm, Sandridge Common in Melkham, Wiltshire (Site code: BSMW25). Bulk samples were taken from the fills of a linear, posthole, pit, and a feature excavated as a potential temporary sunken structure. The finds recovered from the site are thought to be predominantly Romano-British in date.

The aims of the assessment are to determine the presence and preservation of any environmental remains and to evaluate their significance and potential for enhancing the environmental and economic interpretation of the site.

Method

The samples were processed using a Siraf-style water floatation system. The floating material (flot) was collected using a 250µm mesh and the residue (retent) a 1mm mesh. Both fractions were air-dried, and the heavy residue was sieved at 10mm, 5mm and 1mm and then sorted for the recovery of finds and environmental remains. Once dried, the flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x60.

Macro-botanical identifications were carried out with reference to standard catalogues (Cappers et al 2012 and Jacomet 2006) and using modern reference material. Nomenclature for economic plants follows Van Zeist (1984) and for other plant taxa follows Stace (1991).

Animal bone was examined by eye or under low magnification and, as far as possible, identified to species (or taxon) and skeletal element, using modern comparative reference material and published works (eg Schmid 1972). Subjective records were made of the state of preservation, and the bones were examined for evidence of dog or rodent gnawing, burning, butchery, and fresh breaks which were noted where applicable.

Remains that could not be identified to species were grouped into categories: large mammal (assumed to be cattle, equid, or large deer), medium-sized mammal 1 (assumed to be sheep/goat (caprine), pig or small deer), medium-sized mammal 2 (from a cat or hare-sized mammal), small mammal (from a rabbit or smaller) and completely unidentifiable. No attempt was made at this assessment stage to distinguish sheep and goat, or horse, donkey, and mule. Instead remains have been recorded as sheep/goat and equid respectively.

Results

Four bulk samples were collected during trial trenching at Blackmore Farm, from fills (157155) of pit [157154] in Trench 63, (422004) of linear [422003] in Trench 62, (422025) from possible sunken feature [422023] in Trench 58, and (422033) from posthole [422032] in Trench 58.

Charred cereals

Of the four samples collected, two contained charred cereal grains. Sample <15701> of fill (157155) and sample <42201> of fill (422004) each produced a single indeterminate cereal grain which were heavily vitrified and could not be identified to species. Charred plant remains were otherwise absent from the assessed samples.

Wood charcoal

All four samples contained varying amounts of wood charcoal, with sample <42202> producing the highest frequency of fragments overall (16–50 fragments), and sample <15701> the lowest. Fragments from three samples were smaller than four millimetres in all dimensions, rendering identification problematic. Fragments larger than four millimetres recovered from only sample <42201>. Sample <15701>, which contained very few fragments, produced no identifiable specimens. Fragments of Quercus (oak) charcoal were identified in samples <42201>, <42202> and <42203>, along with unidentifiable fragments. Roundwood charcoal was not present. There were no identifiable fragments of non-oak charcoal recovered. Fragments from sample <42201> are of a suitable size for C14 dating yet not recommended. No other samples contained material suitable for dating.

Molluscs

The shell of a terrestrial mollusc was present in sample <42202> of fill (422025) of feature [422023].

Other remains

Sample flots were comprised predominantly of modern intrusive rootlets, ranging from 85 to 95% of the overall flot volume. Sample <42202> also contained small amounts of modern insect remains.

The results of the assessment are presented in full in Table 2.3 (bulk samples).

TABLE APP 2.3 Bulk sample assessment

CONTEXT	157155	422004	422025	422033
SAMPLE	15701	42201	42202	42203
FEATURE	157154	422003	422023	422032
FEATURE TYPE	PIT	DITCH	OTHER	POST-HOLE
TR	63	62	58	58
Sample Vol processed (l)	20	40	10	10
Flot Vol (ml)	19	20	15	4
Sufficient for AMS?	N	Y*	N	N
Full analysis?	N	N	N	N
CHARRED CEREALS				
Cerealia indeterminate	R1	R1	–	–
MOLLUSCS				

CONTEXT		157155	422004	422025	422033
SAMPLE		15701	42201	42202	42203
FEATURE		157154	422003	422023	422032
FEATURE TYPE		PIT	DITCH	OTHER	POST-HOLE
TR		63	62	58	58
Terrestrial		–	–	R1	–
CHARCOAL					
Charcoal >4mm	Qty	–	R	–	O
Charcoal <4mm	Qty	R	O	F	R
Charcoal	Max size (mm)	3.7	6.6	3.2	3.5
Oak		–	O	F	R
Non-oak		–	–	–	–
Indet		R	–	–	R
Roundwood		–	–	–	-
OTHER					
Modern roots (%)		95	95	85	90
Modern insect		–	–	R	–

Scale of abundance: R = rare (0–5), O = occasional (6–15), F = frequent (16–50), A = abundant (51-200), D = Dominant (>200)

Charcoal: fragments >4 mm in all dimensions may be sufficient for identification and AMS dating Y* = suitable but not recommended

Animal Bone

Animal bone comprised 18 fragments of 15 elements (278g) from two areas; Area 6 and Area 7. Bone was recovered from five trenches in Area 6, and one trench in Area 7. The remains were moderately to well preserved, with limited fragmentation. Quantifications are detailed in Table 2.4 and Table 2.5.

TABLE APP 2.4 Hand-collected bone quantification by area

AREA	CONTEXTS WITH BONE	WGT OF BONE (G)	NO OF BONES	NO OF BONES EXCLUDING INDET. FRAGMENTS	BUTCHERED	GNAWED	AGEABLE	MEAS
Area 6	10	128	15	13	1	–	–	1
Area 7	2	150	4	4	1	–	–	–
Total	12	278	19	17	2	–	–	–

TABLE APP 2.5 Hand collected bone by taxon and area.

SPECIES		AREA 6	AREA 7
Equid	horse/donkey/mule	2	1
Caprine	sheep/goat	2	–
Large mammal	–	5	3
Medium mammal 1	–	5	–
Unidentified mammal	–	1	–
Total		15	4

The assemblage contained both cranial and post-cranial elements. The remains of equids, and sheep/goat were identified in the assemblage, in addition to the remains of unidentified large and medium mammals.

Equid remains comprised three metapodials. One metacarpal was recovered from (422022) of ditch [422020] in Trench 72 which displayed a shop mark to the distal end, and which was measurable. Two metapodials were recovered from Trench 62, one metapodial shaft fragment from (422004) of ditch [422003], and one distal end from (422014) of ditch [422013] which displayed chop marks on the shaft.

Sheep/goat remains were limited to two elements from Trench 65. One tibia shaft was recovered from dumped layer (219008) in ditch [219007], and a tooth was present in the deliberate backfill (219010) of ditch [219009].

The remains of large mammals comprised five long bone fragments and two fragments of vertebrae. Medium mammal 1 remains comprised two long bone fragments, one sherd of tooth enamel, and one indeterminate fragment of cortical bone. Indeterminate bone was limited to one small fragment of trabecular bone.

Summary and Statement of Potential

Preservation of charred plant material was poor in the assessed samples. Indeterminate cereals were present in low numbers in two of the four samples. Little can be said regarding the environment or economy of the site, apart from to suggest that cereals may have been handled locally. Charcoal was preserved throughout but in very small quantities.

A small assemblage of animal bone assemblage was recovered, and the assemblage offers little potential to inform on the environment and economy of the site. Overall, remains were moderately preserved with bone identifiable to taxon being limited to five elements. Chop marks were observed on two equid metapodials. No gnawing or evidence of burning was seen on any of the bones. The small amount of animal remains recovered suggests that animals were not being kept or butchered on these two sites in large numbers, or that the deposition of animal remains took place elsewhere.

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Scientific Dating Potential of the Remains

The dating potential of the remains will be dependent on the nature of the research questions posed. Samples that contain suitable material from AMS (Accelerator mass spectrometry) radiocarbon dating are indicated in Table 2.3 and further detail is provided in Table 2.6. It is recommended that non-oak charcoal is selected for radiocarbon dating, if present. Dating should be undertaken with caution due to the potential for reworking of material within the sampled contexts.

TABLE APP 2.6 Material suitable for C14 dating

SITE	AREA	CONTEXT	SAMPLE	ITEM
BSMW25	Trench 62	422004	42201	Oak charcoal >4mm. Suitable but not recommended.

The following animal bone may be suitable for radiocarbon dating.

TABLE APP 2.7 contexts with bone suitable for AMS dating

AREA	CONTEXT	TR	PARENT CONTEXT
Area 6	422014	TR62	422013
Area 6	219008	TR65	219007
Area 6	219010	TR65	219009

Recommendations for Further Environmental Research

The environmental assemblage has been fully recorded, but should be retained until any additional works are completed, at which point it may be discarded.

APPENDIX 3 FINDS DATA

Rebecca Sillwood, Claudia Goodbrand & Sara Machin

The finds assemblage numbered 127 sherds (1993g) of pottery, 13 sherds of ceramic building material (CBM; 1211g), two stone finds (870g), and two metal finds. These were found in ten separate trenches. Where dating was apparent, all the finds were Romano-British. The finds are summarised by trench and feature in Table 3.8 and a complete catalogue is given at the end.

TABLE APP 3.8 Finds summary

TR	FEATURE	FEATURE TYPE	POTTERY (RB)		METAL	STONE		CBM		SPOT DATE
			QTY	WGT (G)	QTY	QTY	WGT (G)	QTY	WGT (G)	
–	0	Unstratified	1	18	–	–	–	–	–	Rom
57	422036	Ditch	2	21	–	–	–	–	–	AD 1st - 4thC
58	157076	Geological subsoil	11	238	–	–	–	–	–	AD 4thC
	422023	Other	18	315	1	–	–	–	–	AD 1st - 3rdC
59	157150	Ditch	8	207	–	–	–	–	–	AD 1stC
62	422001	Ditch	2	16	–	–	–	2	29	M3rd - 4thC
	422005	Ditch	6	46	–	–	–	–	–	M-L3rdC
	422007	Ditch	1	5	–	–	–	1	13	1st - M3rdC
	422013	Ditch	4	10	–	–	–	–	–	M3rd to 4thC
	422017	Occupation layer	2	12	–	–	–	–	–	AD 1st - 4thC
63	157152	Ditch	2	15	–	–	–	–	–	AD 1stC
	157154	Pit	3	5	–	–	–	–	–	AD 1st - 2ndC
	157156	Pit	1	15	–	–	–	–	–	AD 1st - 4thC
	157158	Pit	1	6	–	–	–	–	–	AD 1st - 2ndC
	157160	Ditch	3	51	–	–	–	–	–	AD M3rd - E4thC
64	114003	Ditch	4	93	–	–	–	–	–	AD 1st - 4thC
65	219007	Ditch	3	105	–	1	137	7	953	AD 1stC
	219009	Pit	15	282	–	–	–	–	–	AD 1st - 2ndC
66	114006	Ditch	3	35	1	–	–	–	–	AD 1st - 4thC
	114008	Ditch	3	13	–	–	–	2	7	AD 1st - 4thC
	114010	Ditch	11	117	–	–	–	–	–	AD 4thC
	114012	Ditch	2	37	–	–	–	1	209	AD 1st - M3rdC
	114020	Ditch	3	21	–	–	–	–	–	AD M3rd - 4thC
	114022	Ditch	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	AD 1st - 4thC
67	114001	Ditch	1	44	–	1	733	–	–	AD 1st - 4thC
72	422020	Ditch	16	264	–	–	–	–	–	AD 1st - M3rdC
Total			127	1993	2	2	870	13	1211	

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Methodology

The report includes hand-collected finds and those from sample retents. The finds were collected, processed and packaged for long term storage in accordance with professional guidelines (CIfA 2020; Watkinson and Neal 1998). The finds were each assessed and recorded by appropriate specialists using relevant typologies (CIfA 2021; 2024; 2025). The resultant data was then drawn together into one MS Excel database. A copy of this data is given at the end of the report.

The Roman pottery was visually examined, using a 20x magnifying glass where necessary. The recording of the wares follows the fabric code for Wiltshire (Seager Smith 2001) and where appropriate the ones published in the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection where appropriate (Tomber and Dore 1980). The forms of the diagnostic fragments were mostly determined following the type series from Wanborough (Seager Smith 2001). The ones for the Oxford region were recorded following the typology established by Young (2000) and the Samian wares the Dragendorff type series (Dragendorff 1895).

The metalwork and stone were catalogued by count and weight, with spot dates and descriptions produced where possible. Measurements were recorded in millimetres using digital callipers, and weight was recorded in grams, to the nearest 1g, using digital scales.

All Roman CBM forms were recorded according to the typology described in Brodribb (1987). Flat pieces greater than 30mm thick and without distinguishing features have been classified as bricks. There were few complete dimensions present meaning that only a few bricks were able to be speculatively assigned to specific form types eg, lydion, bessalis. Flat pieces, measuring less than 30mm thickness, and without diagnostic features are recorded as tile. Some of the fragments recorded as tile will undoubtedly be tegulae, imbrices, and other forms. Tegulae were identified where a flange is present, there is clear evidence of a flange having been removed, or where a lower or upper cutaway can be identified.

Roman pottery

Claudia Goodbrand

A total of 127 fragments from the equivalent of 98 vessels weighing just under 1993g were recovered from the site. The assemblage comprised mostly locally produced coarse wares with a significant proportion of oxidised and red/brown-slipped wares from the Oxfordshire region. Several of the latter were heavily abraded and recorded as Oxford Oxidised ware, while it is possible that they would have been coated with a slip that did not survive. There was also a total of seven sherds from six Samian ware vessels, imported from various production centres in Gaul. Most of these fragments were rather small and abraded, apart from one Dragendorff 33 cup, of which two large (but not joining) fragments were unearthed.

TABLE APP 3.9 Roman pottery fabric series

FABRIC CODE	FABRIC TYPE	QTY	WGT (G)	MNV	DATE
OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	39	391	32	1st –4thC
52	Common Grey ware	11	168	10	1st –4thC
90	Flint-gritted ware	10	195	5	1st –4thC
54	Black Burnished ware	9	220	6	1st –4thC
SAV GT	Savernake Grog-tempered ware	9	175	7	1st –4thC
SAM	Samian	7	205	6	1st –3rdC
18	Coarse Micaceous Sandy Grey ware	7	59	4	1st –4thC
26	Sandy Grey ware	5	65	4	1st –4thC
OXF OX	Oxford Red-slipped ware	4	29	3	1st –4thC
OXF RS	Oxford Red-slipped ware	4	17	1	1st– 4thC
12	Mica-dusted ware A	4	10	2	1stC
7	Brown Sandy ware	3	27	3	1st– 4thC
13	Sandy White/orange ware	2	140	2	1stC
92	Micaceous Sandy Orange ware	2	34	2	1st – 4thC
3	Coarse Pink-surfaced Grey ware	2	28	2	1stC
SAV GT	Savernake ware	1	53	1	1stC
59	Orange-brown Sandy Coarse ware	1	50	1	1st –4thC
29	Black-surfaced Orange ware	1	40	1	1st–4thC
103	Fine Micaceous Black-surfaced ware	1	20	1	1st – E4thC
10/ Horningsea Reduce	Coarse Cream-slipped Sandy ware	1	16	1	1stC
121	Fine Sandy Micaceous Grey ware	1	15	1	1stC
57	Pale Grey Sandy ware	1	15	1	1st –2ndC
127	Sandstone and Grog-gritted Coarse ware	1	11	1	1st – 4thC
60	Fine Micaceous Grey ware	1	10	1	1st – 4thC
Total		127	1993	98	

Due to the small number of fragments from each context, the dating evidence for the features on site has to remain vague. Many of the contexts only contained one sherd, with the larger assemblages providing a handful of diagnostic fragments. Nevertheless, this can provide a rough time frame that suggests that the main activity on site took place sometime around the later 3rd to 4th century AD. A significant amount of pottery dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD however indicates that the site was used over several centuries during the Roman period.

Metalwork
Rebecca Sillwood

A total of two metal finds, one of iron and one of lead, were recovered from the site (67g). An undated iron nail was recovered from ditch [114006] (SF11401) in Trench 66. An undated lead sheet was recovered from feature [422023] (SF42201) in Trench 58. Both were associated with Roman pottery and are potentially contemporary.

Coarse stone
Rebecca Sillwood

Two stone finds (870g) were recovered from the site. An incomplete possible floor tile with burning to one side, possibly used in a hearth or fireplace, was recovered from ditch [114001] in Trench 67. The second piece was possibly part of a millstone grit quernstone from ditch [219007] in Trench 65. Both were associated with Roman pottery and are potentially contemporary.

Ceramic building material
Sara Machin

The CBM assemblage comprises 13 fragments with a total weight of 1121g. The CBM assemblage was all recovered from Trenches 62, 65 and 66. The dated material is Roman, with examples roofing material, tegulae and imbrices, recorded. The undated CBM was severely abraded.

Statement of Potential
Should further fieldwork be undertaken, then the potential of the assemblage should be re-evaluated in the light of any further finds, the following outlines the potential of the existing evaluation assemblage.

All the finds recovered from this site appear to be of Roman date, though dating evidence derived solely from the pottery and the CBM. These were largely found in the area of Trench 58, 66 and 65 with smaller amounts in Trenches 57, 59, 62, 63, 64, 67 and 72. The undated finds of stone and metalwork, were all feasibly of Roman date. It seems likely that further fieldwork would reveal more Roman-period archaeology.

The assemblage as it stands, however is small and of limited further archaeological potential. It points towards Roman activity and provides dating evidence for a number of features on site; however, it has been fully recorded, and further analysis is unlikely to reveal new information.

Recommendations for further work
These recommendations refer to the current evaluation assemblage. Should further fieldwork be undertaken, then these recommendations should be revised in the light of any further finds.

No further work is recommended on any finds type at present, however, if further excavations reveal more, this assemblage should be incorporated into any analysis.

Recommendations for archive
These recommendations refer to the current evaluation assemblage. Should further fieldwork be undertaken, then retention/discard policies should be revised in the light of any further finds.

Retention and discard recommendations have been made with reference to the CIfA Archives Selection Toolkit (CIfA 2022). Recommendations are recorded in the finds data and are summarised here. The archive will be prepared in accordance with professional standards (AAF 2011) and the specific requirements of the receiving repository.

MATERIAL	RETAIN		DISCARD		TOTAL SUM OF QTY	TOTAL SUM OF WGT (G)	NOTES
	QTY	WGT (G)	QTY	WGT (G)			
Pottery (RB)	127	1993	–	–	127	1993	Retain all
Iron	–	–	1	5	1	5	Discard all – low significance
Lead	–	–	1	62	1	62	Discard all – low significance
Stone	–	–	2	870	2	870	Discard all – low significance
CBM	–	–	13	1211	13	1211	Discard all – low significance
Total	127	1993	17	2148	144	4141	

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Appendix 3.1 Finds catalogue

TR	CONTEXT	FEATURE TYPE	PARENT CONTEXT	SF	QTY	WGT (G)	MATERIAL	OBJECT/ FABRIC	FORM/TYPE	DESCRIPTION	SPOT DATE
–	0	Unstratified	0	–	1	18	Pottery (RB)	54	Black Burnished ware	–	AD40–400
TR67	114002	Ditch	114001	–	1	733	Stone	Floor tile	–	sub-square thick slab, sooted/burnt to top smooth surface	Undated
TR67	114002	Ditch	114001	–	1	44	Pottery (RB)	54	Black Burnished ware	–	AD40–400
TR64	114005	Ditch	114003	–	1	5	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	–	AD40–400
TR64	114005	Ditch	114003	–	1	22	Pottery (RB)	52	Common Grey ware	–	AD40–400
TR64	114005	Ditch	114003	–	1	16	Pottery (RB)	SAV GT	Savernake Grog-tempered ware	–	AD40–400
TR64	114005	Ditch	114003	–	1	50	Pottery (RB)	59?	Orange-brown Sandy Coarse ware	very heavy fragment, feels a bit heavy and cold for pottery, possibly sandstone? But otherwise fabric looks like pottery. Very hard fired, possibly fire damage as black on underside	AD40–400
TR66	114007	Ditch	114006	11401	1	5	Iron	Nail	–	incomplete flat circular head; circular sectioned shank	Undated
TR66	114007	Ditch	114006	–	3	35	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	–	AD40–400
TR66	114009	Ditch	114008	–	2	7	CBM	–	–	small abraded fragments; undiagnostic;	Undated
TR66	114009	Ditch	114008	–	2	5	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	very thin fragments, one with two horizontal grooves. Orange outside, grey core	AD40–400
TR66	114009	Ditch	114008	–	1	8	Pottery (RB)	52	Common Grey ware	–	AD40–400
TR66	114011	Ditch	114010	–	1	7	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	–	AD40–400
TR66	114011	Ditch	114010	–	1	9	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	–	AD40–400
TR66	114011	Ditch	114010	–	1	13	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	–	AD100–200
TR66	114011	Ditch	114010	–	1	24	Pottery (RB)	92	Micaceous Sandy Orange ware	looks similar to OXF OX, but different orange and grey, lighter grey and different surface colour and appearance. Possibly more likely to be fabric 92. Feels a little softer than OXF OX	AD60–400
TR66	114011	Ditch	114010	–	3	–	Pottery (RB)	12	Mica-dusted ware A	three fragments likely of the same vessel	AD6–100
TR66	114011	Ditch	114010	–	1	10	Pottery (RB)	60	Fine Micaceous Grey ware	similar to form 443, but different ware. Light brownish grey surface that feels soapy and light pale grey core. Few inculsions visible. Very fine fabrick, but fairly thick, chunky fragment. Lots of mica	AD40–400
TR66	114011	Ditch	114010	–	2	45	Pottery (RB)	54	Black Burnished ware	matching sherds	AD325–400
TR66	114011	Ditch	114010	–	1	9	Pottery (RB)	18	Coarse Micaceous Sandy Grey ware	surfaces slightly orange/buff	AD40–400
TR66	114013	Ditch	114012	–	1	209	CBM	Tegula	–	abraded fragment of tegula flange; finds sandy oxidised fabric	Roman

TR	CONTEXT	FEATURE TYPE	PARENT CONTEXT	SF	QTY	WGT (G)	MATERIAL	OBJECT/ FABRIC	FORM/TYPE	DESCRIPTION	SPOT DATE
TR66	114013	Ditch	114012	–	2	37	Pottery (RB)	SAM	Samian	dark red/orange core and darkerthick slip. Slightly micacious, but very fine and sparse. Very fine clay with no visible inclusions. Fragments most likely from the same cup, but not matching.	AD50–230
TR66	114021	Ditch	114020	–	1	9	Pottery (RB)	26	Sandy Grey ware	–	AD40–400
TR66	114021	Ditch	114020	–	1	6	Pottery (RB)	OXF RS	Oxford Red-slipped ware	very thin fine fragment, feels a bit soapy, remains of brown/dark red slip visible on inside, but heavyly abraded fragment, possibly through washing (?)	AD240–400
TR66	114021	Ditch	114020	–	1	6	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	–	AD40–400
TR66	114023	Ditch	114022	–	1	2	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	–	AD40–400
TR58	157076	Geological Subsoil	157076	–	3	90	Pottery (RB)	54	Black Burnished ware	–	AD325–400
TR58	157076	Geological Subsoil	157076	–	1	15	Pottery (RB)	7	Brown Sandy ware	–	AD40–400
TR58	157076	Geological Subsoil	157076	–	1	2	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	thin fragment, possibly belonging to the smaller jar	AD40–400
TR58	157076	Geological Subsoil	157076	–	1	28	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	bit of handle survived	AD40–400
TR58	157076	Geological Subsoil	157076	–	1	11	Pottery (RB)	OXF RS	Oxford Red-slipped ware	remains of brown slip visible on inside of rim. Otherwise brigth orange marigines and outside with grey core.	Roman
TR58	157076	Geological Subsoil	157076	–	4	92	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	three fragments of the rim, all matching, one body fragment not matching. Same as vessel in ctx 422024	AD50–150
TR59	157151	Ditch	157150	–	4	107	Pottery (RB)	SAV GT	Savernake Grog-tempered ware	–	AD50–100
TR59	157151	Ditch	157150	–	4	100	Pottery (RB)	90	Flint-gritted ware	–	AD65–100
TR63	157153	Ditch	157152	–	1	10	Pottery (RB)	12	Mica-dusted ware A	dark grey core with little visible mica. Surface dark orange/brown with lots of fine mica, sand and ferrous inclusions visible	AD65–100
TR63	157153	Ditch	157152	–	1	5	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	–	AD40–400
TR63	157155	Pit	157154	–	1	2	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	one small fragment from sample, the other three pieces in the bag are stone.	AD40–400
TR63	157155	Pit	157154	–	2	3	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	thin fragments, orange in and outside with grey core, black traces, probably burning on outside	AD70–200
TR63	157157	Pit	157156	–	1	15	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	discoloured fragment, possibly thorugh soil, possibly fire.	AD40–400
TR63	157159	Pit	157158	–	1	6	Pottery (RB)	SAV GT	Savernake Grog-tempered ware	only upper part of rim	AD60–150
TR63	157161	Ditch	157160	–	1	15	Pottery (RB)	54	Black Burnished ware	–	AD230–325
TR63	157161	Ditch	157160	–	1	21	Pottery (RB)	52	Common Grey ware	–	AD40–400

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TR	CONTEXT	FEATURE TYPE	PARENT CONTEXT	SF	QTY	WGT (G)	MATERIAL	OBJECT/ FABRIC	FORM/TYPE	DESCRIPTION	SPOT DATE
TR63	157161	Ditch	157160	–	1	15	Pottery (RB)	57	Pale Grey Sandy ware	appearance matches description of fabric exactly: light ish gre clay with buff orange brown margine and dark grey surface, lots of sand and some white grains	AD80–150
TR65	219008	Ditch	219007	–	1	137	Stone	Quernstone?	–	possibly millstone, fine grained; sub-rectangular	Undated
TR65	219008	Ditch	219007	–	3	760	CBM	Tegula	–	fragments of flange and tegula bed; find sandy oxidised fabric;	Roman
TR65	219008	Ditch	219007	–	4	193	CBM	Imbrex	–	fragments of imbrex; sandy oxidised fabric; one example with reduced core;	Roman
TR65	219008	Ditch	219007	–	1	53	Pottery (RB)	SAV GT?	Savernake ware?	only upper part of rim survived. Whitish light grey fabric with pinkish surface, large grains of stone, coarse	AD60–100
TR65	219008	Ditch	219007	–	1	16	Pottery (RB)	10/ Horningsea Reduce	Coarse Cream-slipped Sandy ware	possibly Horningsea reduced ware??	AD60–100
TR65	219008	Ditch	219007	–	1	36	Pottery (RB)	26	Sandy Grey ware	thick coarse fragment. Large includions, orange pale core with larger grains of ferrous material, thick margines and surface light grey	AD40–400
TR65	219010	Pit	219009	–	1	13	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	decoration similar to O13	AD40–400
TR65	219010	Pit	219009	–	1	110	Pottery (RB)	13	Sandy White/orange ware	mica present, otherwise looks very simlar to fabrics 13 and 26	AD55–100
TR65	219010	Pit	219009	–	1	25	Pottery (RB)	52	Common Grey ware	chunky fragment	AD40–400
TR65	219010	Pit	219009	–	1	14	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	very abraded fragment, looks almost waterrolled	AD40–400
TR65	219010	Pit	219009	–	3	43	Pottery (RB)	18	Coarse Micaceous Sandy Grey ware	surfaces slightly orange/buff	AD40–400
TR65	219010	Pit	219009	–	1	16	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	groove possibly just below rim, but broken off above that	AD40–400
TR65	219010	Pit	219009	–	1	6	Pottery (RB)	SAM	Samian	dark red core and darker slip surface, no mica, very fine	AD40–250
TR65	219010	Pit	219009	–	1	8	Pottery (RB)	54	Black Burnished ware	–	AD40–400
TR65	219010	Pit	219009	–	1	11	Pottery (RB)	52	Common Grey ware	body fragment of very carinated vessel, almost 90 degree angle. Thin and fine but coarse sandy texture	AD80–150
TR65	219010	Pit	219009	–	1	15	Pottery (RB)	52	Common Grey ware	–	AD80–150
TR65	219010	Pit	219009	–	1	11	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	–	AD40–00
TR65	219010	Pit	219009	–	2	10	Pottery (RB)	26	Sandy Grey ware	mathching breaks	AD40–400
TR62	422002	Ditch	422001	–	2	29	CBM	–	–	small abraded fragments; undiagnostic;	Undated
TR62	422002	Ditch	422001	–	1	5	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	upper part of rim only	AD50–400
TR62	422002	Ditch	422001	–	1	11	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	–	AD240–400
TR62	422006	Ditch	422005	–	1	10	Pottery (RB)	92	Micaceous Sandy Orange ware	looks similar to OXF OX, but different orange and grey, lighter grey and different surface colour and appearance. Possibly more likely to be fabric 92. Feels a little softer than OXF OX	AD60–400

TR	CONTEXT	FEATURE TYPE	PARENT CONTEXT	SF	QTY	WGT (G)	MATERIAL	OBJECT/ FABRIC	FORM/TYPE	DESCRIPTION	SPOT DATE
TR62	422006	Ditch	422005	–	1	4	Pottery (RB)	SAM	Samian	dark red/orange core and darker slip. no visible mica, very fine clay and thick slip	AD50–230
TR62	422006	Ditch	422005	–	1	13	Pottery (RB)	52	Common Grey ware	–	AD40–400
TR62	422006	Ditch	422005	–	1	11	Pottery (RB)	127	Sandstone and Grog-gritted Coarse ware	coarse orange pink fabric with abundand large inclusions of red grog and white limestone. Core also pink, not grey. Surface in and outside black, possibly slip or fire damage. Roughly smoothened	AD40–400
TR62	422006	Ditch	422005	–	1	2	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	–	AD40–400
TR62	422006	Ditch	422005	–	1	6	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	–	AD240–300
TR62	422008	Ditch	422007	–	1	13	CBM	–	–	small abraded fragment of CBM; undiagnostic;	Undated
TR62	422008	Ditch	422007	–	1	5	Pottery (RB)	SAM	Samian	dark red core and darker slip. Micacious. Thick good quality slip	AD40–250
TR62	422014	Ditch	422013	–	1	1	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	–	AD40–400
TR62	422014	Ditch	422013	–	2	5	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	–	AD240–400
TR62	422014	Ditch	422013	–	1	4	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	–	AD40–400
TR62	422017	Occupation Layer	422017	–	2	12	Pottery (RB)	52	Common Grey ware	–	AD40–400
TR72	422021	Ditch	422020	–	1	12	Pottery (RB)	SAV GT	Savernake Grog-tempered ware	–	AD40–400
TR72	422021	Ditch	422020	–	1	20	Pottery (RB)	3	Coarse Pink-surfaced Grey ware	orange pink surface with grey core. Coarse, with some flakes of lime and quarz	AD60–100
TR72	422021	Ditch	422020	–	1	20	Pottery (RB)	103?	Fine Micaceous Black-surfaced ware	lots of mica, fine sandy fabric with lots but very small grains, light grey brownish core, black surface	AD60–325
TR72	422021	Ditch	422020	–	2	19	Pottery (RB)	90	Flint-gritted ware	–	AD65–400
TR72	422022	Ditch	422020	–	1	34	Pottery (RB)	52	Common Grey ware	–	AD40–400
TR72	422022	Ditch	422020	–	1	40	Pottery (RB)	29	Black-surfaced Orange ware	–	AD40–400
TR72	422022	Ditch	422020	–	2	55	Pottery (RB)	90	Flint-gritted ware	–	AD65–400
TR72	422022	Ditch	422020	–	1	8	Pottery (RB)	3	Coarse Pink-surfaced Grey ware	–	AD60–100
TR72	422022	Ditch	422020	–	3	7	Pottery (RB)	18	Coarse Micaceous Sandy Grey ware	–	AD40–400
TR72	422022	Ditch	422020	–	1	15	Pottery (RB)	121	Fine Sandy Micaceous Grey ware	–	AD60–100
TR72	422022	Ditch	422020	–	2	34	Pottery (RB)	SAV GT	Savernake Grog-tempered ware	–	AD50–230
TR58	422024	Other	422023	42201	1	62	Lead	Sheet	–	folded sheet with two perforations in each edge	Undated
TR58	422024	Other	422023	–	1	36	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	Same as vessel in ctx 157076. Some dark discolouration on rim, possibly burnt	AD50–150

TR	CONTEXT	FEATURE TYPE	PARENT CONTEXT	SF	QTY	WGT (G)	MATERIAL	OBJECT/ FABRIC	FORM/TYPE	DESCRIPTION	SPOT DATE
TR58	422024	Other	422023	–	4	38	Pottery (RB)	OXF OX	Oxford Oxidised ware	possibly some remians of brown slip visible, but unclear	AD40–400
TR58	422024	Other	422023	–	1	134	Pottery (RB)	SAM	Samian	base of large open dish/bowl, feather rouletting and the corner of a small stamp still visible, but illegible as only small part of corner survived. Dark red fabric and slip. No mica	AD40–250
TR58	422024	Other	422023	–	4	17	Pottery (RB)	OXF RS?	Oxford Red-slipped ware?	abraded/heavily scrubbed. Oxford Red Slip or Oxidised ware. Very thin, like egg shell fabric. Bright orange, base has abit of grey core visible. Some mica, grains of sand and iron visible.	AD40–400
TR58	422024	Other	422023	–	1	6	Pottery (RB)	7	Brown Sandy ware	fairly thin fragment	AD60–85
TR58	422024	Other	422023	–	1	30	Pottery (RB)	13	Sandy White/orange ware	chunky fragment	AD50–100
TR58	422025	Other	422023	–	1	7	Pottery (RB)	52	Common Grey ware	–	AD40–400
TR58	422025	Other	422023	–	1	19	Pottery (RB)	SAM	Samian	Orange clay and darker red slip, no visual inclusions, no mica	AD40–250
TR58	422025	Other	422023	–	1	10	Pottery (RB)	26	Sandy Grey ware	scratch/knife mark on outside	AD40–400
TR58	422025	Other	422023	–	1	6	Pottery (RB)	7	Brown Sandy ware	thin fragment, abraded, lots of mica and lighter colour core, but inside surface also dark-ish brown	AD60–85
TR58	422025	Other	422023	–	2	12	Pottery (RB)	OXF RS	Oxford Red-slipped ware	heavily abraded, only small remains of slip visible. No stamps, but abraded surfaces in and outside. Feels slightly soapy	AD240–400
TR57	422037	Ditch	422036	–	2	21	Pottery (RB)	90	Flint-gritted ware	–	AD65–400

APPENDIX 4 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

OASIS ID (UID): headland1-536599

Project Name:	Evaluation at Blackmoor Farm, Sandridge Common, Melksham Without, Wiltshire SN12 7QS, United Kingdom
Activity type:	Evaluation
Sitecode(s):	BSMW25
Project Identifier(s):	P25-225
Planning Id:	[no data]
Reason for Investigation:	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work:	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
Project Dates:	06-Oct-2025 - 06-Nov-2025
HER:	Wiltshire and Swindon HER
HER Identifiers:	[no data]
Project Methodology:	The evaluation consisted of the excavation of 73 trenches in total (28 trenches measuring 30m by 1.8m, and 45 trenches measuring 50m by 1.8m). The trenches were targeting both likely archaeology and anomalies appearing on the geophysical survey, as well as a sufficient number laid out over blank areas to these as well. The locations of Trenches 03, 05 and 10 within Area 1 and Trenches 26 and 27 within Area 2 were adjusted during stakeout, with approval, to accommodate their proximity to utilities and access. All ground breaking works were controlled and monitored by a supervising archaeologist to the first archaeological horizon or geological subsoil, as encountered first. This was followed by appropriate archaeological investigation and recording where required, and trenches were then backfilled following approval from the LPA. All trenches were opened with a mechanical excavator, suitably equipped with a toothless grading bucket measuring 1.8m in width. Mechanical excavation was carried out under direct archaeological supervision to remove topsoil and deposits of modern make-up. Excavation was carried out in controlled spits, and spoil was stored beside the trench, divided where required into topsoil and subsoil. Excavation of archaeological deposits and features required to satisfy the objectives of the evaluation were subsequently continued by hand (except when agreed otherwise with the curator). The stratigraphic sequence was recorded in full in each of the trenches, even where no archaeological deposits had been identified. Thirty-five of the identified features were investigated and recorded, typically involving excavation of 50% of discrete features, and a 1m slot of linear features. Where features formed a definite arrangement/continued across trenches, a sample of features within the arrangement were excavated, as agreed with the curator. All contexts, small finds and environmental samples were given unique numbers. Recording was undertaken on Headland's pro forma digital recording system 'HARK!'. Digital photography was used to record any archaeological features, with a graduated metric scale clearly visible. Paper registers were created for all Digital Photography and Drawings, which were then digitised. A site plan including all identified features, areas of excavation and other pertinent information was recorded 3-dimensionally using Headland's digital spatial recording system with a dGPS, accurately linked to the National Grid and heights to OD. Complex sections were handdrawn on permatrace at an appropriate scale. Bulk samples were taken from selected archaeologically significant deposits for wet sieving and floatation in order to recover any environmental material and other finds. Finds were recorded by context and recorded 3-dimensionally where appropriate. Artefacts retrieved during the evaluation were cleaned using appropriate techniques and packaged and stored in accordance with First Aid for Finds (Watkinson and Neal 1998).
Project Results:	[no data]
Keywords:	–
Archive:	Physical Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Wiltshire Museum;

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Headland Archaeology Scotland
13 Jane Street
Edinburgh EH6 5HE
t 0131 467 7705
e scotland@headlandarchaeology.com

Headland Archaeology Yorkshire & North
Units 23–25 & 15 | Acorn Business Centre | Balme Road
Cleckheaton BD19 4EZ
t 0127 493 8019
e yorkshireandnorth@headlandarchaeology.com

Headland Archaeology South & East
Building 68C | Wrest Park | Silsoe
Bedfordshire MK45 4HS
t 01525 861 578
e southandeast@headlandarchaeology.com

Headland Archaeology Midlands & West
Unit 1 | Clearview Court | Twyford Rd
Hereford HR2 6JR
t 01432 364 901
e midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com

Headland Archaeology North West
Fourways House | 57 Hilton Street
Manchester M1 2EJ
t 0161 236 2757
e northwest@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com

Appendix EDP 4
Illustrative Masterplan
(Origin3, April 2026)

- Site Area (Land East of Blackmore Farm)
- Indicative Residential Blocks
- Accessible POS Greenspace inc Park with Destination Equipped Play
- Allotments & Orchards
- Naturally Characterised Landscape (inc Accessible Greenspace, stream corridor, SUDs basins / drainage infrastructure, hedgerows and habitat areas)
- (indicative SUDs basins)
- Urban Spaces & Highway Areas
- New highway connections
- Existing PRoWs / Existing Bridleways
- Proposed key pedestrian routes on-site
- Land identified for ecological habitat enhancement, with managed footpath access
- Scope for Foot/Cycle routes on-site
- Scope for Foot/Cycle connections
- Existing trees & hedgerows
- Proposed trees & planting area
- Existing deciduous woodland
- Proposed orchard trees

proj: 25-004 drg: 421 date: 09/04/26 rev: E

ORIGIN3
23 Westfield Park
Redland,
Bristol,
BS6 6LT

0117 980 4900
www.origin3.co.uk
info@origin3.co.uk

N

Land East of Blackmore Farm, Melksham

Masterplan

Gleeson Land

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Sketch proposals are for illustrative purposes only & as such are subject to detailed site investigation including ground conditions/contaminants, drainage, design & planning/density negotiations. Sketch proposals may be based upon enlargements of OS sheets & visual estimations of existing site features, accuracy will therefore need to be verified by survey.

1:2500 @ A1 / 1:5000 @ A3

m 50 100 150 200 250

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W:\PLANNING\25-004 Blackmore Farm, Melksham Ph2, Gleeson\Urban Design\2 Graphics\1 In Progress\CAD\25004_421E East of Blackmore Farm - Masterplan_090426.dwg

Plans

Plan EDP 1: Designated Heritage Assets
(edp9278_d010d 29 January 2026 JLe/EBR)

Plan EDP 2: HER Monument Records and Observations Made During Assessment
(edp9278_d011c 29 January 2026 JLe/EBR)

Plan EDP 3: HER Event Records
(edp9278_d012c 29 January 2026 JLe/EBR)

Plan EDP 4: Extract from 1814 Enclosure Map of Melksham
(edp9278_d013c 29 January 2026 JLe/EBR)

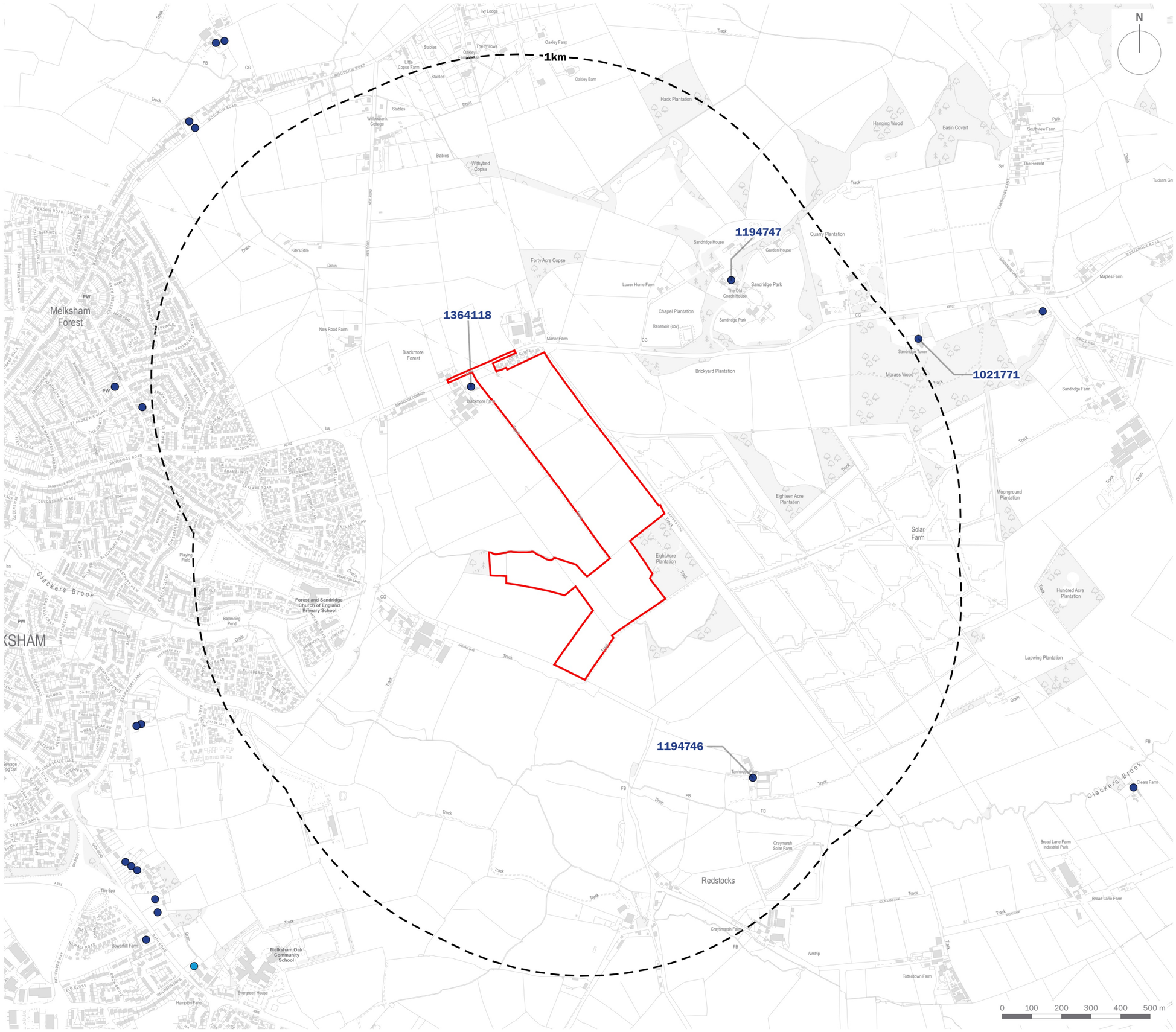
Plan EDP 5: Extract from 1837 Tithe Map of Melksham
(edp9278_d014c 29 January 2026 JLe/EBR)

Plan EDP 6: Extract from 1886 Ordnance Survey Map
(edp9278_d015c 29 January 2026 JLe/EBR)

Plan EDP 7: Extract from 1924 Ordnance Survey Map
(edp9278_d016c 29 January 2026 JLe/EBR)

Plan EDP 8: Extract from 1972 Ordnance Survey Map
(edp9278_d017c 29 January 2026 JLe/EBR)

Plan EDP 9: LiDAR Data
(edp9278_d018c 29 January 2026 DJo/EBR)



Site Boundary

1km Study Area

Grade II Listed Building

client

Gleeson Land

project title

Land East of Blackmore Farm, Melksham

drawing title

Designated Heritage Assets

date	**29 JANUARY 2026**	drawn by	**JLe**
drawing number	**edp9278_d010d**	checked	**EBR**
scale	**1:12,500 @ A3**	QA	**JFr**

the environmental dimension partnership

Registered office: 01285 740427 - www.edp-uk.co.uk - info@edp-uk.co.uk

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