

**LAND NORTHWEST OF GERARD BUXTON SPORTS
GROUND,
BRINKWORTH ROAD,
ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT,
WILTSHIRE.**

NGR: 407033 184287

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE

April 2026

Report No. 1718

A. Hood BSc MCIfA



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

Between 25th March and 2nd April 2025 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological strip, map and sample on land northwest of Gerard Buxton Sports Ground, Brinkworth Road, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire (NGR: 407033 184287). The project was commissioned by Paul Harrison on behalf of the Royal Wootton Bassett Sports Association.

The archaeological fieldwork consisted of two area strips in advance of the construction of grass playing surfaces, within areas of perceived archaeological potential, as indicated by the results of previous geophysical survey and evaluation.

The archaeological fieldwork successfully confirmed the presence of, and investigated, two previously identified Roman enclosure boundary ditches. These probably formed the west and south edges of a rural, possibly agricultural site, of relatively low status. Post-Roman activity consisted of two partly revealed quarry pits of Post-medieval date.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

Medieval

The period between AD 1066 and AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms, this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level. (aOD above Ordnance Datum).

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Post-medieval

The period between AD 1500 and AD 1900.

Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43, which can be sub-divided into; *Palaeolithic* – c. 500,000 BC to c. 12,000 BC; *Mesolithic* – c. 12,000 BC to c. 4,000 BC; *Neolithic* – c. 4,000 BC to c. 2,500 BC; *Copper Age (Chalcolithic)* – c. 2,500 BC to 2,200 BC; *Bronze Age* – c. 2,200 BC to c. 800 BC; *Iron Age* – c. 800 BC to AD 43.

Roman

The period traditionally dated AD 43 until AD 410.

Saxon (Early Medieval)

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of a programme of archaeological strip, map and sample, undertaken by Foundations Archaeology between 25th March and 2nd April 2025 on land northwest of Gerard Buxton Sports Ground, Brinkworth Road, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire (NGR: 407033 184287). The project was commissioned by Paul Harrison on behalf of the Royal Wootton Bassett Sports Association.
- 1.2 The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with an approved Project Design – PD (Foundations Archaeology 2025), *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Assessment and Fieldwork in Wiltshire and Swindon Borough* (WCAS 2025), and the following standard and guidance issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Cifa):
- *Standard for archaeological excavation* (2023);
 - *Universal Guidance for archaeological excavation* (2023);
 - *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2020);
 - *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (2020).
- 1.3 The Cifa code of conduct was adhered to throughout.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission (**Ref: PL/2024/10635**) was granted for the conversion of arable land into grass playing surfaces for the hosting of youth football, and to join the new land to the existing RWBSA sports ground. In accordance with the general principles of NPPF23 and the archaeological policies of Wiltshire Council, a programme of archaeological works was attached to the planning permission.
- 2.2 The study area was located approximately 500m north of Royal Wootton Bassett (Figure 1). The site was situated within arable agricultural land to the east of Driffield Farm, northeast of Brinkworth Road (B4042) and southwest of the M4 motorway. Archaeological strip, map and sample Area 1 (NGR: 407033 184287) was located in the west part of a relatively large field, whilst Area 2 (NGR: 407046 184245) was situated to the south, in the north part of a smaller field (Figure 2). The topography within and immediately around the site is generally flat at around 33m aOD. The underlying geology is recorded as *Stanford Formation* – limestone (British Geological Survey Online Viewer). There are no recorded water courses within 1km of the site.
- 2.3 The site is located within an area of known archaeological potential:
- 2.3.1 The site is located approximately 1.3km to the north of the historic core of Royal Wootton Bassett (MWI9343). The town is first mentioned as *Wodeton* (Wood

farm/settlement) in Saxon documents dating to AD 681. It is referred to as *Wodetone* in the Domesday Book, being little more than a small settlement at this time. The town was granted a market in 1219.

- 2.3.2 Nearer to the site, a well containing 2nd century Roman pottery sherds (MWI9336) was discovered during the construction of the M4 motorway. The exact location of the feature is not clear, but the approximate grid reference is just under 100m to the east of the site. An intensive scatter of 1st - 4th century Roman pottery was also found nearby, during the motorway construction works (MWI9337).
- 2.3.3 A geophysical survey undertaken by AOC Archaeology (2014) within and around the site area identified a possible rectangular enclosure complex (MWI74348). The complex appeared to be relatively discrete, with few obvious features beyond it, and it was thought to be of Iron Age or Roman date. A subsequent evaluation by TVAS in 2015 partly revealed the enclosure ditches, as well as possible internal sub-divisions and other features. The identified features mainly dated to the Roman period; although, large quarry pits were thought to be of Post-medieval date, with some undated quarry pits also present.
- 2.4 The construction of the playing surfaces had a potential to impact upon the western and southern extent of the Roman enclosure complex. The site therefore contained the potential for archaeological features and deposits, predominately dating to the Roman period. This did not prejudice the works against evidence relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological works were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to confirm the nature, extent, preservation and potential of surviving archaeological remains.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
 - i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
 - ii) to attempt to characterise the nature and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present on the site;
 - iii) to recover a well-dated stratigraphic sequence, which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples;

- iv) to determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present;
- v) to integrate the results of the fieldwork into relevant local and regional research frameworks;
- vi) to confirm the nature and extent of the previously identified Roman activity.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The strip, map and sample areas were located in the areas where the proposed playing surfaces had a potential to impact upon the known extent of the Roman enclosure complex, as shown in Figures 2 and 3.
- 4.2 Non-significant overburden was removed using a suitable mechanical excavator, which was equipped with a toothless grading bucket, whilst under constant archaeological direction.
- 4.3 Thereafter, all further archaeological investigation was conducted manually by archaeologists. All archaeological excavation and recording was undertaken in accordance with the approved Project Design and the Foundations Archaeology *Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual*.
- 4.3.1 Archaeological features and spoil heaps were subject to a metal detector survey. Spoil heaps were also visually scanned for finds.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 **Area 1** was up to 40.50m long by 22.10m wide, and it encompassed an area of 641m². The top of natural beige brown limestone brash was present at an average depth of 0.30m (133.30m aOD) below the Modern ground surface. The natural was directly overlain by ploughsoil (1001), up to 0.30m thick, which consisted of a brown clay silt with occasional fragments of limestone. Archaeological features were present cut into the top of the natural, and beneath the ploughsoil.
- 5.2 **Ditch 1** was 25.35m long by up to 1.98m wide and up to 0.83m in depth and it comprised a north-northeast – south-southwest aligned linear ditch with a generally steep rounded profile. The ditch consisted of primary ditch cuts [1002], [1008], [1012] and [1017], as well as probable ditch re-cuts [1006] and [1010].

Primary Ditch Cuts

- 5.2.1 Feature [1002] was 0.85m long by 0.70m wide, 0.40m in depth, and it consisted of the west edge of a ditch with a sloping profile, which was cut into the natural. The ditch contained fill (1003), up to 0.70m wide by 0.40m thick, which consisted of an orange brown clay silt with occasional fragments of limestone and rare charcoal flecks. Fill (1003) contained a total of five sherds of Roman pottery, along with a single animal bone fragment. Ditch [1002]/(1003) was subsequently cut by quarry pit [1004].
- 5.2.2 Feature [1008] was 0.80m long by 1.98m wide by 0.81m in depth, and it consisted of a ditch with steep sloping to slightly uneven sides and a rounded base, which was cut into the natural. The ditch contained fill (1009), up to 1.98m wide by 0.81m thick, which consisted of a mid-brown clay silt with occasional fragments of limestone and occasional charcoal flecks, as well as two small sherds of Roman pottery and two fragments of animal bone, one of which could be identified as cattle. Ditch [1008]/(1009) was subsequently cut by probable ditch re-cut [1010].
- 5.2.3 Feature [1012] was 1.0m long by 1.80m wide by 0.83m in depth, and it consisted of a ditch with steep sloping to slightly uneven sides and a rounded base, which was cut into the natural. The ditch contained fill (1013), up to 1.0m wide by 0.83m thick, which consisted of an orange brown clay silt with occasional fragments of limestone and rare to occasional charcoal flecks. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from fill (1013). Ditch [1012]/(1013) was subsequently cut by probable ditch re-cut [1006].
- 5.2.4 Feature [1017] was 3.50m long by 1.65m wide and it was the west edge of a probable ditch, which was cut into the natural. Ditch [1017] was recorded in plan only. The ditch appeared to contain fill (1018), which consisted of a brown clay silt with occasional fragments of limestone. Fill (1018) was subsequently overlain by ploughsoil (1001).

Probable Ditch Re-cuts

- 5.2.5 Feature [1006] was 1.0m long by 1.10m wide by 0.57m in depth, and it consisted of a probable ditch re-cut with a steep rounded profile, which was cut into the fill (1013) of ditch [1012]. The ditch re-cut contained primary fill (1014) and secondary fill (1007). Fill (1014) was up to 1.10m wide by 0.31m thick, and it consisted of a grey brown silt with very frequent fragments of limestone and rare charcoal flecks. A total of six sherds of Roman pottery and three fragments of animal bone were recovered from fill (1014). Fill (1007) was up to 0.98m wide by 0.26m thick, and it comprised a mid-orange brown clay silt with very frequent fragments of limestone and rare charcoal flecks. A total of eight sherds of Roman pottery, a fragment of cattle bone, a fragment of oyster shell and a residual Prehistoric struck flint were present within fill (1007), which was subsequently overlain by ploughsoil (1001).

- 5.2.6 Feature [1010] was 0.80m long by 0.91m wide by 0.69m in depth, and it was a probable ditch re-cut with a very steep rounded profile, which was cut into the fill (1009) of ditch [1008]. The ditch re-cut contained fill (1011), up to 0.91m wide by 0.69m thick, which consisted of a dark brown clay silt with frequent fragments of limestone and occasional charcoal flecks, as well as a probable iron nail. A total of five sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from fill (1011), which was subsequently overlain by ploughsoil (1001).
- 5.2.7 Ditch [1008/10]/[1017] was equivalent to ditch 145, which was present within evaluation Trench 3.

5.3 Quarry Pits

- 5.3.1 Feature [1004] was 16.50m long by 5m wide, at least 0.40m in depth and it consisted of the west edge of an irregularly shaped and substantial probable quarry pit with a near vertical upper profile. The pit was cut into the natural, as well as Ditch 1. The quarry contained fill (1005), which comprised a variable beige brown clay silt with frequent fragments of limestone and rare charcoal flecks, from which was recovered a single fragment of probable Post-medieval CBM, along with a fragment of animal bone and an iron nail. Fill (1005) was subsequently overlain by ploughsoil (1001). Quarry [1004] was partially investigated in order to establish its stratigraphic relationship with ditch cut [1002]/(1003).
- 5.3.2 Feature [1019] was 3.75m long by 0.75m wide and it was the north edge of a probable quarry pit, which was cut into the natural, as well as Ditch 1. Quarry [1019] was recorded in plan only. The quarry appeared to contain fill (1020), which consisted of a variable dark brown to brown clay silt with occasional fragments of limestone. Fill (1020) was subsequently overlain by ploughsoil (1001). Quarry pit [1019] was equivalent to Modern quarry 142, which was present within evaluation Trench 7.
- 5.4 Unstratified material recovered from Area 1 comprised two small sherds of Roman pottery, a small lump of possible slag and two probable iron nails.
- 5.5 **Area 2** was up to 32.10m long by 11.70m wide, and it encompassed an area of 204m². The top of natural beige brown limestone brash was present at an average depth of 0.35m (133.12m aOD) below the Modern ground surface. The natural was directly overlain by ploughsoil (1021), up to 0.35m thick, which consisted of a brown clay silt with occasional fragments of limestone. Archaeological features were present cut into the top of the natural, and beneath the ploughsoil.
- 5.6 **Ditch 2** was 4.0m long by up to 0.52m wide, up to 0.25m in depth and comprised the southern edge of an east-west aligned probable ditch with a sloping profile [1015]. The ditch contained fill (1016), up to 0.52m wide by 0.25m thick, which consisted of an orange brown clay silt, with occasional limestone. Fill (1016) was subsequently overlain by ploughsoil (1021). No finds were present within Ditch 2. It should be noted that, due to the limited nature of the investigation,

along with the stoney nature of the natural substrates, Ditch 2 was only convincingly visible in section. Ditch 2 was probably equivalent to ditch 143, which was present within evaluation Trench 9.

- 5.7 A single Prehistoric struck flint was recovered as unstratified material from Area 2.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The presence of two probable struck flints, which were present as either residual or unstratified material, represents limited evidence for Prehistoric activity in the general locale.
- 6.2 The archaeological works have confirmed the presence of the west and south boundary ditches (Ditches 1 and 2) of a probable Roman enclosure, or group of enclosures. Limited dating evidence from the current project indicated that the revealed ditches, and subsequent possible ditch re-cuts, were in use in the early Roman period; possibly the mid to later 1st century AD. This was somewhat at odds with the results of the previous evaluation, which suggested a mid to late Roman date for activity in this area (TVAS 2015, p.13). Due to the limited nature of the investigation, the interpretation of the revealed ditches was difficult; however, a generally low level of finds suggested that they were most likely to be related to a rural, possibly agricultural site of relatively low status. The recorded presence of a nearby possible Roman well (MWI9336), as well as an intensive scatter of 1st - 4th century Roman pottery (MWI9337), suggested that the enclosure was not likely to be an isolated site within the wider contemporary landscape.
- 6.3 Finds from the revealed Roman ditches consisted of a relatively small amount of early Roman pottery, which was dominated by grog-tempered local wares, as well as a few animal bone fragments, some of which could be identified as cattle and sheep/goat. Other finds included a residual Prehistoric struck flint, a small fragment of oyster shell and a probable iron nail. Analysis of a bulk soil sample recovered from ditch fill (1013) indicated the presence of a small amount of charred organic remains, which included wheat grains, rye grass/fescue seeds and indeterminate charcoal fragments. Limited evidence for industrial activity in the vicinity of the site was present in the form of a small lump of possible slag, which was recovered as unstratified material from Area 1; although, this material could not be definitively dated to the Roman period.
- 6.4 Evidence for post-Roman activity consisted of two probable quarry pits, which was consistent with the results of the previous investigation.
- 6.5 Due to the limited nature of the investigation, the results of the current project have a limited potential to meaningfully contribute to the *South West England Archaeological Research Framework* (<https://researchframeworks.org/swarf/>).

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The archaeological investigation has successfully confirmed the presence of, and investigated, two previously identified Roman enclosure boundary ditches. These probably formed the west and south edges of a rural, possibly agricultural site, of relatively low status. Post-Roman activity consisted of two partly revealed quarry pits of Post-medieval date.
- 7.2 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited with *Wiltshire Museum* under Accession Code DZSWS: 11-2025. A digital report/archive will also be submitted to OASIS/ADS. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal.

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APPENDIX 1: The Ceramics

By Jane Timby

Summary

The archaeological work undertaken at Wootton Bassett resulted in the recovery of a small assemblage of 29 sherds of pottery weighing 187.5g, accompanied by a single fragment of ceramic building material (CBM), which was probably of Post-medieval date. The pottery assemblage dates to the early Roman period.

The pottery was recorded using the recommendations outlined in Pottery Standards (Barclay *et al.* 2016). To this end, it was examined macroscopically and sorted into fabrics based on inclusions present, the frequency and grade of the inclusions and the firing colour. The sorted fabrics were quantified by sherd count and weight by recorded context.

In terms of condition, the sherds are quite small with worn surfaces and breaks with a moderately low average sherd size of 6.5 g. The material was recovered from just six contexts.

Description of Pottery

The pottery is dominated by grog-tempered local wares including 10 sherds of Savernake ware (SAV GT) and thinner walled handmade and wheel-made sherds (BWGR; GYGR). Accompanying these are some black or grey sandy wares and two very small pieces of fine oxidised ware. Apart from one small jar rim from cxt (1011), and a base from (1003), there are no featured sherds.

Chronology

The assemblage would suggest the presence of activity at the location dating to the mid to later 1st century AD. An almost complete absence of any featured sherds or fine ware component militates against any further chronological refinement.

Potential and Further Work

The small size and poor condition of the material, and the absence of diagnostic featured sherds suggests there no further potential from a ceramic point of view. No further work is recommended.

Reference

Barclay A, Knight D, Booth P, Evans H, Brown D & Wood I 2016 *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology*: Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, the Study Group for Roman Pottery and the Medieval Pottery Research Group
http://romanpotterystudy.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Standard_for_Pottery_Studies_in_Archaeology.pdf

Land Northwest of Gerard Buxton Sports Ground, Royal Wootton Bassett: Archaeological SMS

Table 1: The ceramics from Wootton Bassett (RWB25)

Cxt	Fabric	Form	Wt	No	Comment	Date
1003	GYGR	base	40	2		
1003	BWGR		3	1		
1003	BWFSY		3	1		
1003	GYFSY		2.5	1		m-IC1 AD
1005	CBM		13	1	2=1 fresh bk	?Pmed
1007	SAVGT		40.5	6		
1007	BWGR		1.5	1		
1007	BWSY		0.5	1		m-IC1 AD
1009	OXIDF		0.5	1		
1009	BWFSY		2	1		m-IC1 AD
1011	GYFSY		13	1	micaceous	
1011	GYFSY		9.5	1		
1011	SAVGT		24	2		
1011	GYSY	jar	4	1		m-IC1 AD
1013	BWGR		7	1		
1014	SAVGT		15	1		
1014	BWFSY		2	2		
1014	GRASFL		3	1		
1014	OXIDF		2	1		
1014	GYGR		2	1		m-IC1 AD
Area 1 us	GRGY		3	1		
Area 1 us	SAVGT		9.5	1		m-IC1 AD
TOTAL			200.5	30		

APPENDIX 2: The Animal Bones

By Matilda Holmes

Introduction

A few animal remains of Roman date were recorded. Findings are summarised, but no further work is recommended.

Methodology

Bones were fully recorded and those that could not be identified to species were, where possible, categorised according to the relative size of the animal represented (micro – rat/ vole size; small – cat/ rabbit size; medium – sheep/ pig/ dog size; or large – cattle/ horse size). Tooth wear and eruption were recorded using guidelines from Grant (1982) and Payne (1973).

Summary of Findings

The animal remains were in poor condition and friable, with refitted fragments recovered from contexts (1009) and (1007). A summary of findings is provided in Table 1. Most bones were from large mammals, most likely cattle, except for a medium mammal long bone fragment from context (1003) that may have been a sheep/ goat tibia. The cattle mandible from Ditch 1 recut was from a young adult animal at wear stage E.

Potential and Recommendations

The zooarchaeology is in poor condition, unremarkable and from a sample too small to provide reliable information regarding diet, economy or status. No further work is recommended.

Selection and Retention

Due to demands for space in long-term archiving, the assemblage has been assessed based on its potential to inform future research, contribute to further analysis and be used in educational activities. This assemblage has been fully recorded and is of low priority for retention.

References

Grant A 1982 The use of toothwear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates. In Wilson B, Grigson C and Payne S (eds) *Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*. Oxford: British Archaeological Reports British Series **109** 91-108

Payne S 1973. Kill-off patterns in sheep and goats: The mandibles from Asvan Kale. *Anatolian Studies* **XXIII**: 281-303

Land Northwest of Gerard Buxton Sports Ground, Royal Wootton Bassett: Archaeological SMS

Table 1: The animal bones from Wootton Bassett (RWB25)

Context	Feature	N	Element	Taxon	Age	Comments
1003	Ditch 1	1	Longbone fragment	Medium mammal		prob s/g tibia
1009	Ditch 1	1	Pelvis	Cattle	fused	refit x4
1009	Ditch 1	1	Skull fragment	Large mammal		
1007	Ditch 1 (recut)	1	Mandible	Cattle	wear stage E	refit x40
1014	Ditch 1 (recut)	3	Fragments	Unidentified mammal		
1005	Quarry pit 1004	1	Longbone fragment	Large mammal		

APPENDIX 3: Miscellaneous Finds List

Context	Description
1005	1 x probable iron nail, 1g.
1007	1 x oyster shell fragment, >1g.
1007	1 x Prehistoric struck flint, 2g.
1011	1 x probable iron nail, 1g.
Area 1 U/S	1 x industrial waste (slag) fragment, 16g.
Area 1 U/S	2 x probable iron nail, 7g.
Area 2 U/S	1 x Prehistoric struck flint, 1g.

APPENDIX 4: The Palaeoenvironmental Evidence

By Ellen Simmonds

Introduction

One flotation sample taken during an archaeological strip, map and sample by Foundations Archaeology on land northwest of Gerard Buxton Sports Ground, Royal Wootton Bassett (NGR: 407033 184287) was processed for the recovery of charred plant remains and wood charcoal by GeoFlo. The flot from the sample was sent to the author for assessment in March 2026. The sample is from a ditch fill that is dated to the Roman period.

Aims and Objectives

- To determine the concentration, diversity, state of preservation and suitability for use in scientific dating, of any palaeoenvironmental material present in the samples.
- To evaluate the potential of any palaeoenvironmental material to provide evidence for arable agriculture and/or the exploitation of wild plant resources.
- To evaluate the potential of any palaeoenvironmental material to provide evidence for the natural environment and/or land use.

Methodology

The sample was processed by flotation using a water separation machine. Floating material was collected in a 250µm mesh, and the remaining heavy residue was retained in a 0.5mm mesh. A total of 20 litres of sediment was processed in this way. The flot and heavy residue were air dried and the >4mm fraction of the heavy residue was sorted for artefacts and ecofacts.

The sample was assessed in accordance with Historic England guidelines for environmental archaeology assessments (Campbell *et al.* 2011) and the ClfA toolkit for specialist reporting (ClfA 2021). The flot was scanned using a stereo-binocular microscope (x10 – x80). All material present in the sample was quantified using a scale of abundance (x = < 10 items, xx = 10-29 items, xxx = 30-49 items, xxxx = 50-99 items, xxxxx = >100 items). Wood charcoal was tentatively identified using low power microscopy as either being derived from ring porous (i.e. probably oak, ash or elm) or diffuse porous taxa (i.e. not oak, ash or elm). An estimate of the proportion of ring porous and diffuse porous taxa in the sample was recorded using the DAFOR scale (D = Dominant (76-100%), A = Abundant (51-75%), F = Frequent (26-50%), O = Occasional (11-25%), R = Rare (0-10%)).

Preliminary identification of plant material was carried out by comparison with the author's own reference collection and various reference works (e.g. Cappers *et al.* 2006). Plant nomenclature follows Stace (2019) and cereal nomenclature follows (Zohary *et al.* 2012).

Results

The results of this assessment are presented in Table 1. The seed, in the broadest sense, of the plant is always referred to in Table 1, and all plant material referred to in Table 1 is charred, unless stated otherwise.

The sample was 20 litres in volume and the flot is 10ml in volume (excluding Modern roots). The sample produced both charred plant remains and identifiable wood charcoal fragments (>2mm), although the abundance of these remains is low. A high abundance of land snail shells (Mollusca) is also present in the sample.

The charred plant remains assemblage includes cereal grain and wild/weed plant seeds. The preservation of charred plant remains is generally quite poor. The only cereal grains that are present are puffed and distorted which indicates high temperature charring conditions (Braadbaart, 2008; Charles *et al.*, 2015).

The preservation of wood charcoal is also somewhat poor. Most charcoal fragments are less than 4mm in size which suggests that the charred material in the sample has been subject to trampling or re-working.

Charred Plant Remains

A low abundance of poorly preserved cereal grain that is only identifiable as indeterminate wheat (*Triticum* sp.) is present in the sample from fill (1013) of ditch cut [1012]. A low abundance of seeds derived from rye grass/fescue (*Lolium/Festuca* sp.) are also present.

Wood Charcoal

A low abundance of identifiable wood charcoal fragments are present in the sample from fill (1013) of ditch cut [1012]. Preliminary examination using low power microscopy indicates that most of the charcoal in this sample is derived from ring porous taxa (i.e. probably oak, ash or elm) although some fragments derived from diffuse porous taxa (i.e. not oak, ash or elm) are also present.

Discussion and Potential

The charred plant remains and wood charcoal assemblage has little to no potential to provide evidence for Roman arable agriculture or wood fuel use. The sparse and poorly preserved charred remains in the sampled fill of ditch [1012] are likely to derive from redeposited hearth waste, which suggests some form of settlement activity nearby, although it is unlikely such activity took place in close proximity to the ditch.

Significance of the Data

The charred plant remains and wood charcoal evidence from this site is of limited significance for research into Roman arable agriculture and wood fuel use, due to the low abundance of charred remains recovered from the sampled feature.

Recommendations

No further analysis of the charred plant remains, or identifiable wood charcoal is recommended.

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Land Northwest of Gerard Buxton Sports Ground, Royal Wootton Bassett: Archaeological SMS

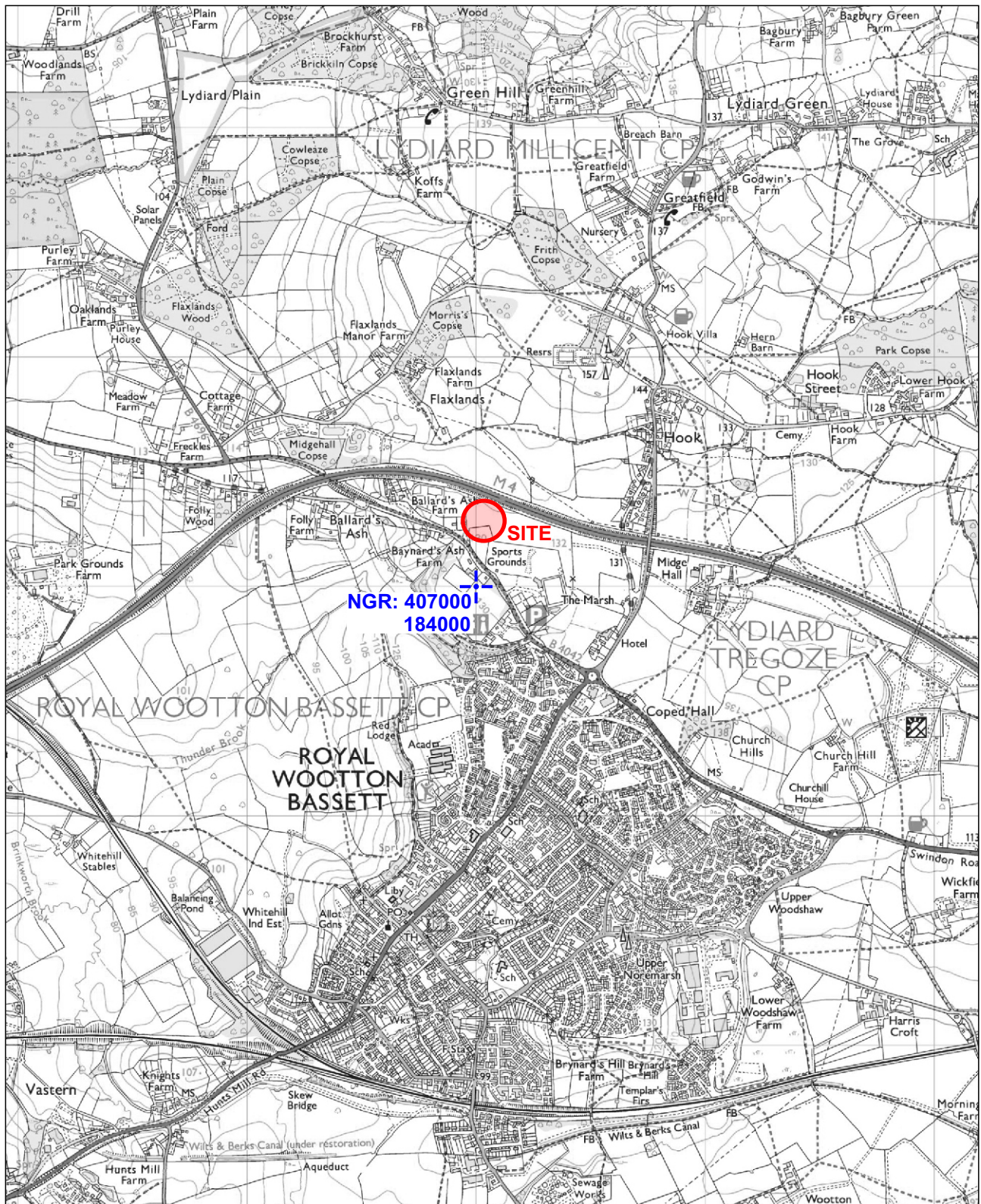
Table 1: The charred plant remains and wood charcoal from Wootton Bassett (RWB25)

Sample No.	Context No.	Volume (litres)	Context description	Provisional date	Volume of roots/ flot volume excluding roots (ml)	Grain/ chaff	wild/ weed plant seeds	Plant remains and other material present in flot	>4mm/ 2-4mm charcoal	Charcoal composition
1	1013	20	Fill of ditch [1012]	Roman	5/10	x/0	x	<i>Triticum</i> sp. grain. <i>Lolium/Festuca</i> seed. Mollusca (xxxxx) 5-10 taxa types	x/xx	Abundant RP. Occasional DP
Abundance scale: x = <10, xx = 10-29, xxx = 30-49, xxxx = 50-99, xxxxx >100. Abbreviations: DP= diffuse porous taxa, RP = ring porous taxa.										

APPENDIX 5: OASIS Form

OASIS ID (UID)	foundati1-542263
Project Name	Land Northwest of Gerard Buxton Sports Ground, Brinkworth Road, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire
Sitename	Land Northwest of Gerard Buxton Sports Ground, Brinkworth Road, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire
Sitecode	RWB25
Project Identifier(s)	2125
Activity type	Excavation
Planning Id	PL/2024/10635
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Foundations Archaeology
Project Dates	25-Mar-2025 - 02-Apr-2025
Location	Land Northwest of Gerard Buxton Sports Ground, Brinkworth Road, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire NGR: SU 07033 84287 LL: 51.55742359782175, -1.899948072772928 12 Fig: 407033,184287
Administrative Areas	Country: England County/Local Authority: Wiltshire Local Authority District: Wiltshire Parish: Lydiard Tregoze
Project Methodology	The strip, map and sample areas were located in the areas where the proposed playing surfaces had a potential to impact upon the known extent of the Roman enclosure complex. Non-significant overburden was removed using a suitable mechanical excavator, which was equipped with a toothless grading bucket, whilst under constant archaeological direction. Thereafter, all further archaeological investigation was conducted manually by archaeologists. All archaeological excavation and recording was undertaken in accordance with the approved Project Design and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were subject to a metal detector survey. Spoil heaps were also visually scanned for finds.
Project Results	The archaeological fieldwork successfully confirmed the presence of, and investigated, two previously identified Roman enclosure boundary ditches. These probably formed the west and south edges of a rural, possibly agricultural site, of relatively low status. Post-Roman activity consisted of two partly revealed quarry pits of Post-medieval date.
Keywords	Ditched Enclosure - Roman - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Quarry - Post Medieval - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation Royal Wootton Bassett Sports Association
HER	Wiltshire and Swindon HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	T Michaels
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Wiltshire Museum;

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Site Code: RWB25

Accession Code: DZSWS: 11-2025

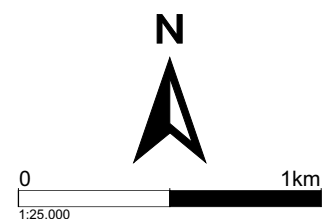
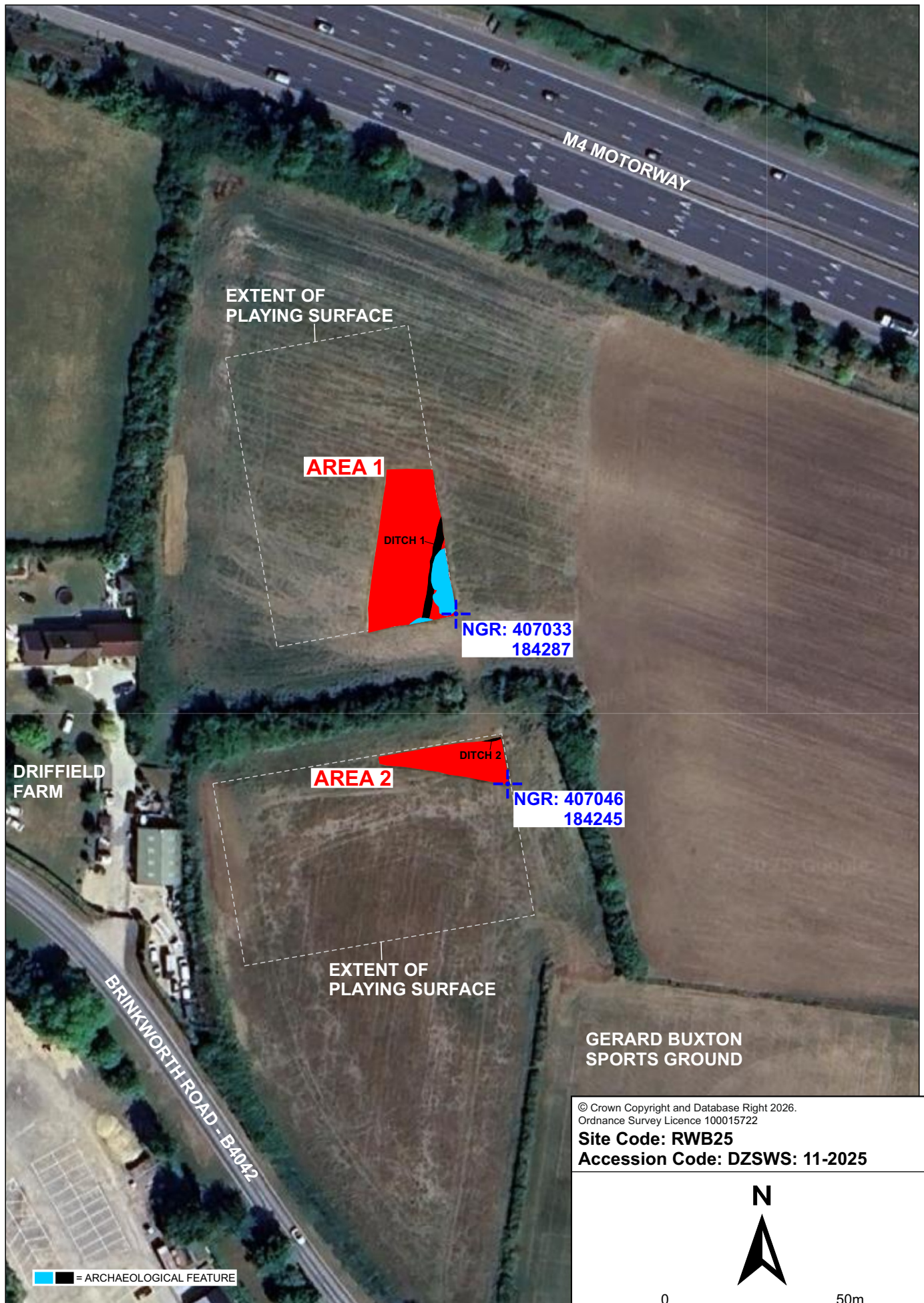


FIGURE 1: Site Location



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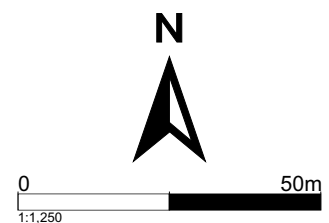


FIGURE 2: Site Plan

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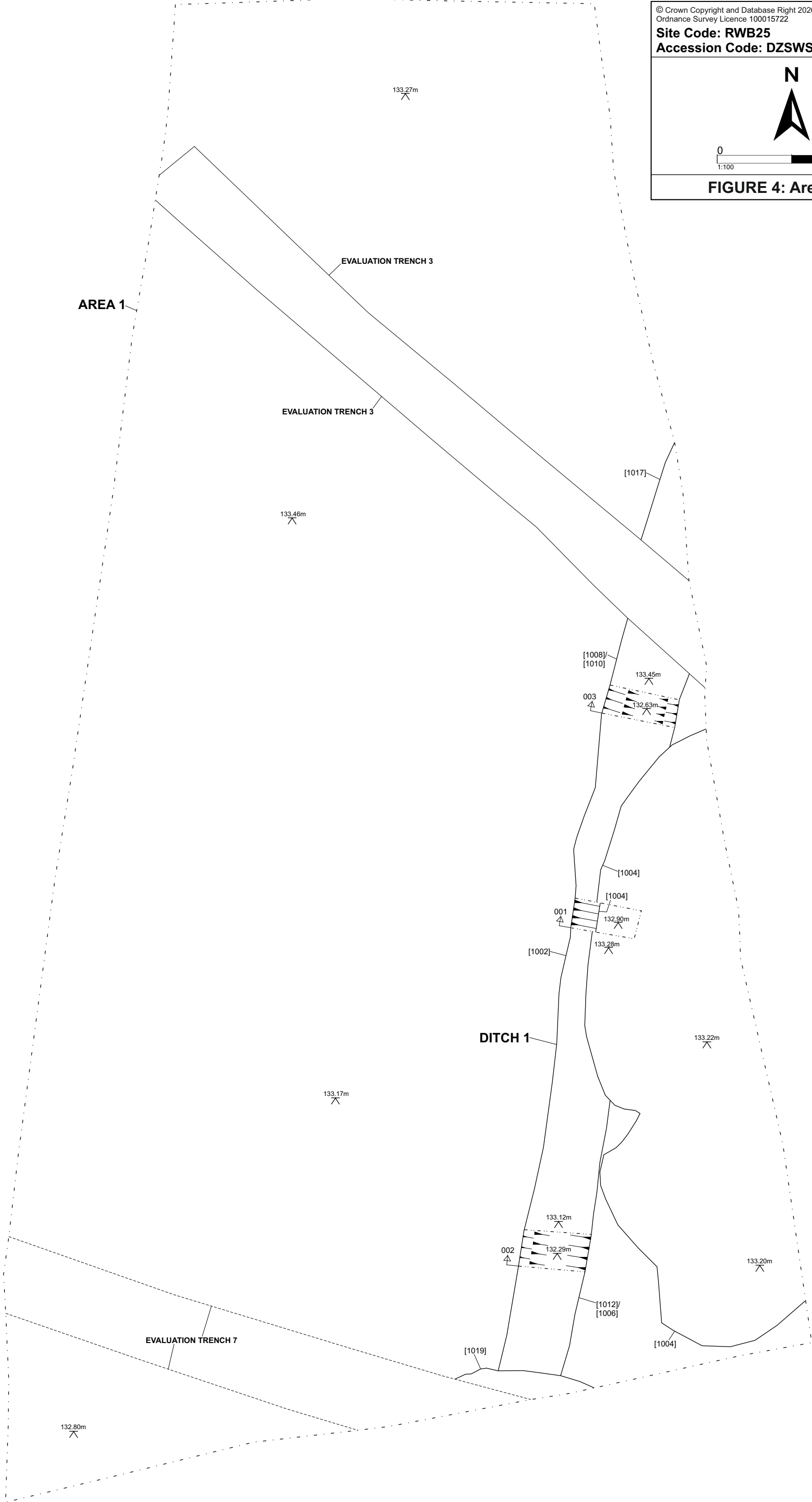
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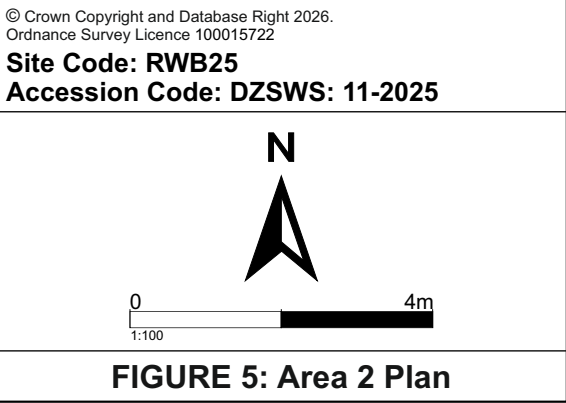
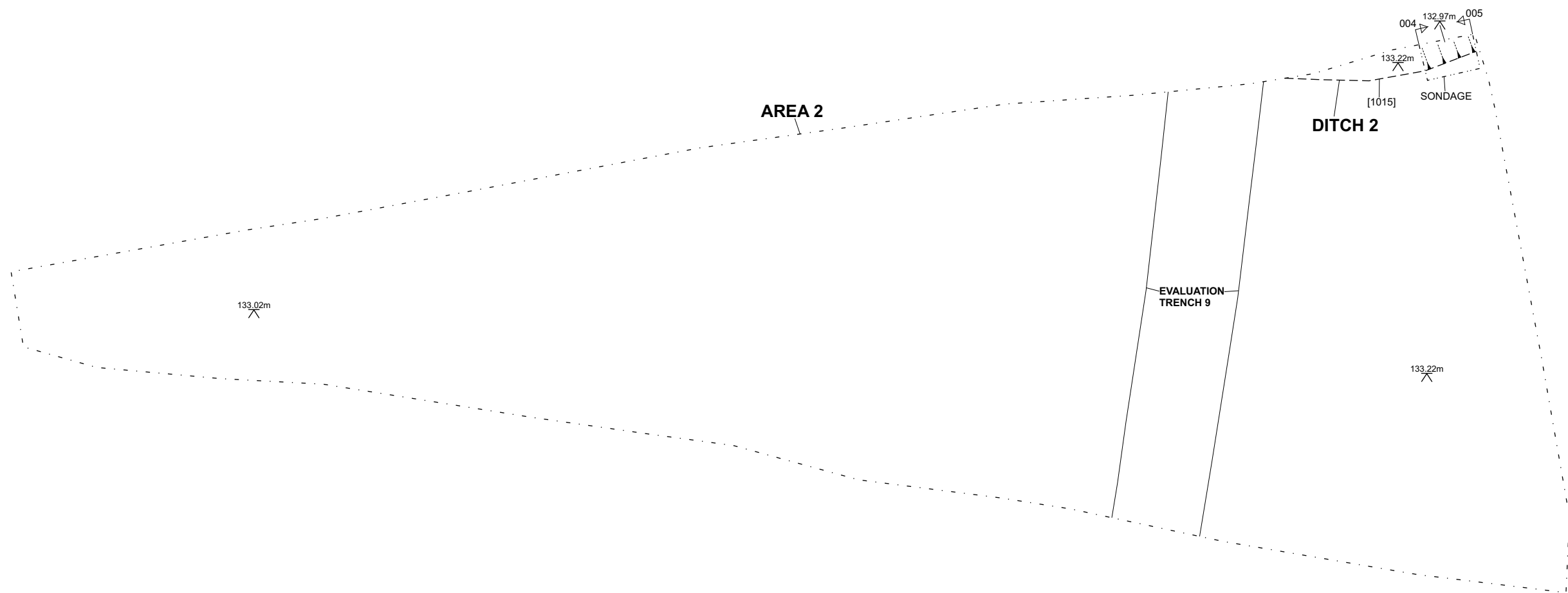
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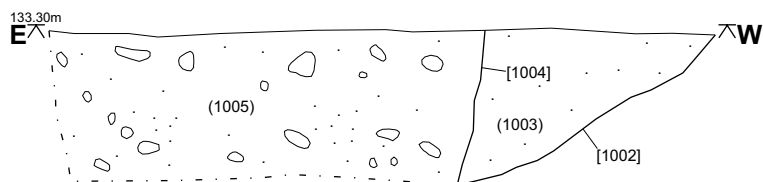
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FIGURE 4: Area 1 Plan

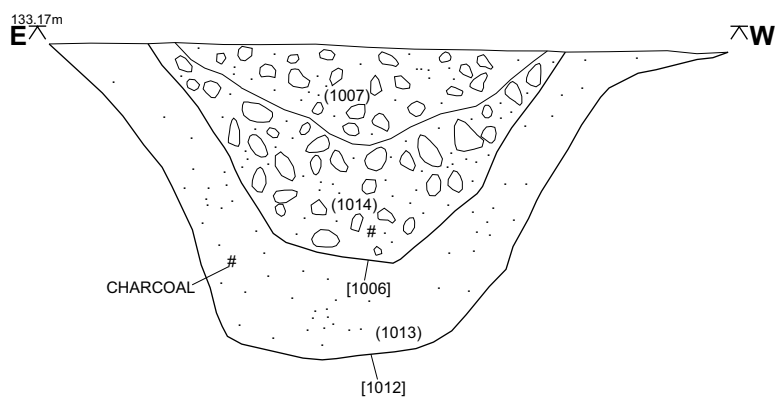




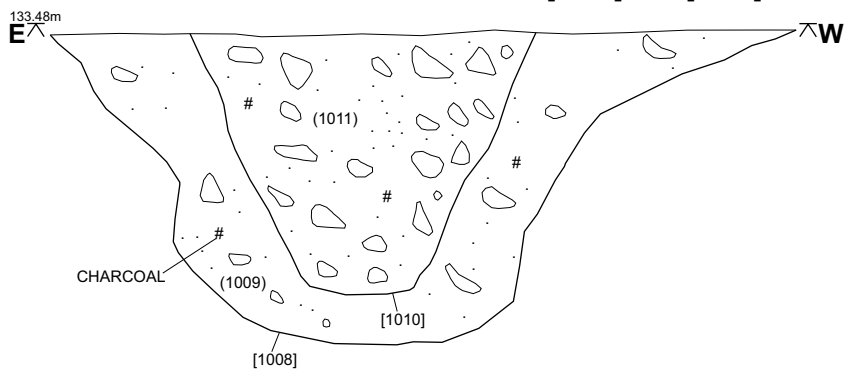
SEC 001: NORTH FACING SECTION [1002] and [1004]



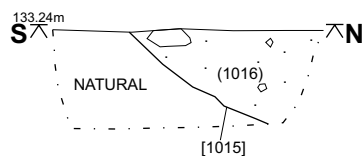
SEC 002: NORTH FACING SECTION [1012] and [1006]



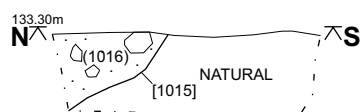
SEC 003: NORTH FACING SECTION [1008] and [1010]



SEC 004: EAST FACING SECTION [1015]



SEC 005: WEST FACING SECTION [1015]



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FIGURE 6: Sections



PHOTOGRAPH 1: AREA 1 LOOKING SOUTHWEST



PHOTOGRAPH 2: AREA 2 LOOKING SOUTHWEST



PHOTOGRAPH 3: AREA 1 LOOKING SOUTH ALONG THE LINE OF DITCH 1



PHOTOGRAPH 4: SECTION 001 LOOKING SOUTH



PHOTOGRAPH 5: SECTION 002 LOOKING SOUTH



PHOTOGRAPH 6: SECTION 003 LOOKING SOUTH



PHOTOGRAPH 7: SECTION 004 LOOKING WEST



PHOTOGRAPH 8: SECTION 005 LOOKING EAST