

Archaeological evaluation at Gate Farm, Sutton Benger, Wiltshire

Worcestershire Archaeology
for Tor & Co on behalf of Gleeson Strategic Land



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GATE FARM SUTTON BINGER WILTSHIRE

Archaeological evaluation report



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SITE INFORMATION

Site name:	Land at Gate Farm, Sutton Benger, Wiltshire
Site code:	P7086
Local planning authority:	Wiltshire County Council
Planning reference:	Pre-application
Central NGR:	ST 93974 78470
Commissioning client:	Tor & Co on behalf of Gleeson Strategic Land
WA project number:	P7086
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Archaeological evaluation of land at Gate Farm, Sutton Benger, Wiltshire

By Graham Arnold

With contributions by Laura Griffin / Samantha Elwell

Illustrations by Abbie Horton

Summary

During early 2026, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Gate Farm, Sutton Benger, Wiltshire (the Site). The project was commissioned by Tor & Co on behalf of Gleeson Strategic Land, in advance of a proposed residential development.

A geophysical survey of the Site, undertaken by SUMO Surveys during August 2025, did not identify any anomalies of archaeological interest, apart from ridge and furrow cultivation, modern drainage and buried utilities. However, desk-based assessments produced in support of other applications in the vicinity of the Site, highlight possible Iron Age settlement activity east of Sutton Benger. Accordingly, the County Archaeologist at Wiltshire County Council (the Curator) considered that the development has the potential to disturb finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance and requested a trial trench evaluation to determine the date, significance and degree of preservation of any archaeological remains present on the Site in accordance with paragraph 207 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

37no trenches, with an 5m² extension to Trench 31, amounting to 2003m² in area, were excavated over the 4.95ha site, representing a sample coverage size of 4%.

The archaeological evaluation demonstrated that the majority of geophysical anomalies identified across the Site are attributable to modern agricultural or drainage activity of post-medieval or modern provenance.

The principal area of archaeological interest was centred on Trench 31 and characterised by a discrete cluster of pits [3106/3108/3111] and a posthole [3113]. The pits all contained a charcoal-rich basal fill, interpreted as deliberate waste disposal, sealed by a secondary, deliberate backfill deposit. The presence of heat-affected clays within the basal fills supports an association with burning activity, possibly disposal of hearth clearance material. Finds recovered from the features in Trench 31 suggest a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date of deposition.

This concentration of pits suggests an area of past human activity distinct from the agricultural and drainage features recorded elsewhere on the Site. The area occupied by Trench 31 was likely used for habitual waste disposal of material derived from domestic or craft-related activities and hint at localised Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age occupation. Possible posthole [3113], which lacked a post-pipe or packing material and differed in fill composition from the adjacent pits, is considered more likely to represent a truncated small pit and does not provide secure evidence for structural activity.

Overall, the evaluation indicates that archaeological remains within the Site are limited in extent and largely relate to later agricultural land use, with the exception of the pit cluster in Trench 31, which represents a discrete and potentially earlier phase of activity. The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved, and it is considered that the nature, density and distribution of archaeological features provide an accurate characterisation of the development site as a whole.

Report

1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

During early 2026, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Gate Farm, Sutton Benger, Wiltshire (the Site). The project was commissioned by Tor & Co on behalf of Gleeson Strategic Land, in advance of a proposed residential development.

A geophysical survey of the Site, undertaken by SUMO Surveys during August 2025, did not identify any anomalies of archaeological interest, apart from ridge and furrow cultivation, modern drainage and buried utilities. However, desk-based assessments, produced in support of other applications in the vicinity of the Site, highlight possible Iron Age settlement activity east of Sutton Benger. Accordingly, the County Archaeologist at Wiltshire County Council (the Curator) considered that the development has the potential to disturb finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance and requested a trial trench evaluation to determine the date, significance and degree of preservation of any archaeological remains present on the Site in accordance with paragraph 207 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

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No brief was provided but a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2026) and approved by the County Archaeologist at Wiltshire County Council. The evaluation also conforms to the industry guidelines and standards set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists in *Standard for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2023a), *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2023b) and *Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording* (CIfA 2023a) and *Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording* (CIfA 2023b).

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

The Site (centred on NGR ST 93974 78470; Figure 1) is located 5km north-east of Chippenham and is situated on the western outskirts of Sutton Benger. The Site is bounded to the south by the High Street (B4069) and to the north by Shrubbery Wood. The Site presently comprises pasture fields extending across approximately 4.95ha.

The Site is slightly sloped, descending from a maximum height of 58m aOD in the northeast, falling to 64m aOD in the southwest.

The underlying geology comprises Kellaways Sand Member – Sandstone, with superficial deposits recorded as River Terrace Deposits of sand and gravel and Alluvium comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel (BGS, 2025).

2 Archaeological and historical background

2.1 Introduction

A desk-based assessment was conducted by On Site Archaeology in 2020 (OSA / Bruce *et. al.* 2020) at an adjacent site within Sutton Benger. The historical and archaeological background is summarised below for ease of reference.

2.2 Desk-based Assessment

The Prehistoric Period (to the 1st Century AD)

The Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic entries all relate to the discovery of occasional flint artefacts which, in the case of the earliest material was also discovered in association with faunal remains. The

other main source of evidence relating to the prehistoric period is in the form of cropmarks. These include potentially extensive settlement (MWI5041), field systems () and a ring ditch (MWI5037). However, as none of the cropmarks have been tested through intrusive archaeological evidence their dating to the prehistoric period is provisional. Of the cropmarks identified the settlement (MWI5041) is the most convincing as there has also been associated Iron Age pottery recovered through fieldwalking (MWI5001, MWI5006, MWI5021, MWI5030).

The Roman Period (1st to the 5th centuries AD)

The search area contained limited evidence dated to this period. A sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the surface of a field to the south of the village whilst Roman pottery and building stone was recovered during fieldwalking to the east.

The potentially Iron Age sites identified by cropmarks may also be of Roman date, or span the two periods. The settlement cropmarks to the north of the B4069 are likely to extend into this period as they are associated with fieldwalking artefacts.

Early Medieval periods (5th to 11th centuries AD)

The only entries for this period record that the villages of both Sutton Benger and Christian Malford have Saxon origins. Sutton is mentioned in Malmesbury abbey's copy of a charter from King Ethulwulf in AD 854, indicating the presence of a manor long before the Conquest. However, to date no pre-Conquest artefacts or features have been identified within the village for inclusion in the HER. It is assumed that the Saxon village was located entirely within the limits of the later medieval and modern settlement.

The Medieval Period (11th to the mid-16th centuries AD)

The village of Sutton Benger developed along the Swindon-Chippenham road. The Listed churches of All Saints in both the villages of Sutton Benger and Christian Malford date to the medieval period origins. The listed Manor Farmhouse in the west part of Sutton Benger also has medieval origins.

Medieval artefacts have been recovered locally, including a finger ring and pottery from fieldwalking. The medieval period is the earliest revealed by controlled archaeological investigation within the village. This includes evidence for probably medieval ridge and furrow field systems to the southwest of the village recorded through geophysics (EWI9108) together with excavated pits, posthole and a ditch, to the north of the High Street (EWI5700).

The Post-Medieval to Modern Periods (mid-16th to 21st centuries)

A substantial proportion of the dated entries for the search area are from this period. The majority of the listed buildings are from this period as is often the case within settlements predominantly designated as Conservation Areas.

In addition, a second substantial group of entries relate to post-medieval farms, either situated within the villages of Sutton Benger and Christian Malford, or outside the settlements in more isolated locations. Some of these farms are represented by extant buildings, whilst others have suffered complete demolition. The predominance of farms within the post-medieval HER data characterises the agricultural nature of the area during this period.

The cartographic sources predominantly confirm this agricultural character of the site, and the wider area throughout the post-medieval to modern period. An exception to this landuse is however, recorded during the mid to late 20th century, which has an influence upon the archaeological potential of the site. (On Site Archaeology / Bruce et. al. 2020, 18-19)

2.3 Previous archaeological work on the Site

No intrusive archaeological works have been undertaken on the Site previously. A geophysical survey was undertaken by SUMO GeoSurveys in August 2025 (Cockcroft 2025). The executive summary is provided below:

The magnetometer survey of 6 hectares of land at Gate Farm, Sutton Benger has not identified any magnetic responses that could be interpreted as being of definite archaeological interest, except for ridge and furrow cultivation which is visible in Area 1.

Uncertain responses throughout the survey are likely to be due to a combination of natural and agricultural processes or buried ferrous objects. The routes of land drains and service pipes have also been marked and amorphous bands of increased responses in Area 2 are due to variations in the underlying geology or alluvial deposits (Cockcroft 2025, 4)

An evaluation undertaken to the north of the High Street on the East side of Sutton Benger (CA 2023), c. 750m from the Site, identified a curved ditch and adjacent pits and postholes, potentially representing part of an Iron Age roundhouse. A potential trackway was recorded in the southern half of the Site, which is also possibly Iron Age in date. Extant post-medieval field systems and furrows were also recorded.

3 Project aims

The aims and scope of the Project are to undertake sufficient fieldwork to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits beyond reasonable doubt;
- identify their location, nature date and preservation;
- assess their significance;
- assess the likely impact of the proposed development.

The Project was undertaken within the research frameworks and aims as identified in:

- The archaeology of South-west England: South-west Archaeological Research Framework (Webster, 2007).

4 Project methodology

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2025). Fieldwork was undertaken between 29th January and 10th March 2026.

37no trenches, with an 5m² extension to Trench 31 amounting to 2003m² in area, were excavated over the 4.95ha site, representing a sample coverage size of 4%. The trench locations are indicated in Figure 2.

The trenches were laid out in a broad grid array and positioned to interrogate some of the anomalies identified on the geophysical survey carried out by SUMO GeoSurveys during 2025.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under constant archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012) and trench and feature locations were surveyed using a GNSS device with an accuracy limit set at <0.04m. On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was undertaken through a combination of structural, artefactual and environmental evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Worcestershire Archaeology. Subject to the agreement of the landowner it is anticipated that it will be deposited at the Wiltshire Museum. A Museum Accession Number has been issued (DZSWS:01-2026).

5 Archaeological results

5.1 Introduction

The location of the excavated trenches and trench photos are provided in Figure 2. The archaeological features recorded in the trenches are shown in Figures 3 – 5 with associated sections and photographs. The trench and context inventory is presented in Appendix 1.

5.2 Phasing and Trench descriptions

By Graham Arnold and Michael Nicholson

5.2.1 Natural deposits across the Site

The natural substrate consisted of a firm brown clay with occasional sandstone inclusions and was recorded at an average of 0.50m below ground level across the Site. This is consistent with the superficial substrate of alluvial clays and solid Sandstone geology recorded by the BGS for the area. The natural substrate was overlain by superimposed topsoil and subsoil deposits to an average depth of 0.50m.

5.2.2 Blank trenches

Trenches 2-18, 20, 21, 23-30 and Trenches 32-37 were devoid of any finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance.

5.2.3 Prehistoric / Iron Age

Trench 31

Trench 31 was located directly south-east of Trenches 12 and 23 within the southern central portion of the Site. The Trench initially identified a pit extending beyond the southern limit of the trench. As a result, an additional 6m x 5m area of the trench was extended south, focused on pit [3106]. Two additional [3108/3111] pits and a possible posthole [3113] were then identified.

Pit [3106] measured 1.01m in width and 0.55m in depth. It had vertical sides and a flat base, with a slight undercut visible at the break of slope. The primary fill comprised a dark brown, charcoal-rich sandy clay (3105), concentrated within the base of the cut and interpreted as a deliberate waste deposit. This was sealed by a mid-brown redeposited natural clay (3103), containing fewer charcoal flecks, which is considered likely to represent a secondary, deliberate backfill intended to cap the underlying deposit. An isolated dumping event (3104) was identified within deposit (3105). Although broadly similar in composition to (3105), it contained a notable quantity of heat-affected clay and was therefore recorded separately. This deposit was not clearly distinguishable within the section and does not appear within the stratigraphic sequence shown in the section.

Pit [3108] was identified at the northern edge of the trench, approximately 3m to the northeast of Pit [3106], extending approximately 0.25m into the excavated area, with the majority of the feature continuing beyond the trench limit.

The pit contained a single fill (3107), which was comparable in composition to deposit (3105).

Pit [3111] was sited 0.4m to the southeast of Pit [3106] and comprised the same broad morphology and fill sequence. Pit [3111] measured 1.18m wide and 0.55m deep. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery fragments were recovered from the basal fill.

Possible posthole [3113] was located 0.85m to the southeast of pit [3108]. It comprised a shallow, concave feature measuring 0.25m in width and 0.07m in depth. No post-pipe or packing material was observed. Given its proximity to the adjacent waste pits, [3113] may represent the truncated remains of a small pit rather than a posthole.

The single basal fill (3112) of the possible posthole differed from the dark, charcoal-rich deposits recorded in the neighbouring pits. Instead, it comprised a mid-brown deposit lacking charcoal inclusions, suggesting a different infilling event and potentially a different function.

5.2.4 Post-medieval

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located within the north-western limits of the development area, oriented east-west and sited over a pair of parallel north-south aligned, linear anomalies identified during the geophysical survey.

Two broadly north–south aligned ditches were recorded bisecting the trench in the broad location of the linear geophysical anomalies. Ditches [104] and [106] measured 0.88m and 1.26m in width, and 0.26m and 0.78m in depth, respectively. Although ditch [106] was notably deeper than [104], it was observed to truncate the overlying subsoil. Both ditches were filled with a mid-brown clayey silt, closely comparable in composition and appearance to the subsoil recorded across the trench. No dating evidence was recovered from either ditch although the stratigraphic relationship with the subsoil hinted at a possible post-medieval or late date.

Trench 19

Trench 19 was located within the central area of the Site, targeting a curvilinear anomaly. The anomaly was not identified within the trench.

A small, northeast-southwest ditch. [1904], was observed within the southern half of the trench. The ditch measured 0.74m wide and 0.24m deep, with a concave profile and broadly corresponded with the location of a geophysical anomaly interpreted in the survey report as a land drain. No other designated land drain anomalies were identified within the base of the trenches. Ditch [1904] appears to be the same ditch as [2204] within Trench 22. No dating evidence was recovered from Ditch [1904].

Trench 22

Trench 22 was located within the eastern limits of the development area. A northeast-southwest-aligned ditch was observed within the base of the trench. The ditch measured 0.98m wide and 0.14m deep. The ditch was concave in profile and aligned with the ditch observed within Trench 19. No finds or dating evidence were recovered.

6 Artefactual evidence

By Laura Griffin

6.1 Introduction

The artefact report conforms to standards and guidance issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014), as well as further guidance on pottery analysis, archive creation and museum deposition created by various pottery study groups (PCRG/SGRP/MPRG 2016), the Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF 2011), and the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA 1993).

6.2 Aims

This assessment aimed to identify, sort, spot date, and quantify all artefacts and describe the range of artefacts present. The information has been used to provide a preliminary assessment of the significance of the artefacts.

6.3 Methodology

6.3.1 Recovery policy

Artefacts were recovered according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). All artefacts collected in the field were recovered by hand.

6.3.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A terminus post quem date was produced for each stratified context. This date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the Site. All information was recorded on a Microsoft Access 2007 database, with tables generated using Microsoft Excel.

For the purposes of this report, pottery has not been quantified according to specific fabric type. However, where possible, a brief description has been included and fabrics and forms compared to assemblages from other local and regional sites.

6.3.3 Discard policy

Artefacts from topsoil and subsoil and unstratified contexts will normally be noted but not retained, unless they are of intrinsic interest (e.g. worked flint or flint debitage, featured pottery sherds, and other potential 'registered artefacts'). Large assemblages of post-medieval or modern material, unless there is some special reason to retain (such as local production), may be noted and not retained, or, if appropriate, a representative sample will be retained. Discard of finds from post-medieval and earlier deposits will only be instituted with reference to museum collection policy and/or with agreement of the local museum.

6.4 Results

The results below provide a summary of the finds and of their associated location or contexts by site phase. Where possible, dates have been allocated, and the importance of individual finds commented upon as necessary. The results are summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

The assemblage totalled 212 finds weighing 1235g (see Table 1). All finds were retrieved from Trench 31 and came from four stratified contexts which could be dated to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age.

Although the average sherd weight was low at just 5.7g, preservation was variable with sherds of the same fabric from the same context ranging from fragments of less than 1g to far more substantial pieces, the largest of which weighed 74g. Surface abrasion was also variable, with some sherds having very little original surface surviving, whilst others were still nicely finished. This appeared to be related to fabric type, with coarser examples displaying higher levels of damage.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight (g)
late Bronze Age/early Iron Age	ceramic		pot	203	1151
late Bronze Age/early Iron Age	ceramic	fired clay	weight	1	42
early Iron Age	metal	iron	knife	2	29
earlier prehistoric	stone	flint	waste flake	5	11
earlier prehistoric	stone	flint	fragment	1	2

Table 1: Quantification of site assemblage

6.4.1 Summary of artefacts by period

Earlier prehistoric

Material of this date consisted of five unworked flint flakes (contexts 3109 and 3110) and a further unworked flake that was also burnt (context 3104).

Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age

A total of 203 sherds of pottery weighing 1151g could be dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition period. The assemblage appeared to fall into two main fabric types, both shell- and limestone- tempered, but one being coarse and the other being finer and combined with fine sand. The sherds of the coarse version are notably more abraded. In the majority of examples, most of the inclusions had leached out, leaving a fabric filled with voids although it was still relatively stable indicating it to have been well-fired. No sherds were decorated, although a small number of the better-preserved examples had smoothed surfaces.

Pottery came from two pits (contexts 3106 and 3111), the fills of which appeared to result from deliberate backfilling. Finds from the first of these pits consisted of 122 sherds of pottery spread across two fills (contexts 3104 and 3105). The sherds from both fills were small and abraded, having an average sherd weight of just 4.6g. There was no noticeable difference between the two groups, suggesting deposition of both fills within a short time span. Pottery from both fills included sherds of the two fabric variants, as well as fragments of base and one rim sherd. Where the edges survived, the bases could be seen to be slightly expanded and the rim sherd, although small, was likely from an ovoid form typical of this period.

In addition to the pottery, two joining pieces of a highly corroded tanged knife were also retrieved from this pit (context 3104). The object was incomplete, missing the pointed end of the blade and the end of the tang, but it looks to have been straight backed, with the cutting-edge tapering toward where the point would have been. Similar examples are known from Danebury hillfort (Cunliffe 1984, 349).

Material from the second pit (context 3111) again consisted primarily of pottery, with 79 sherds retrieved in total, 76 from the primary fill (context 3110), associated with initial, deliberate waste disposal of the feature and just five from the other secondary fill (context 3109), probably from backfill using more mixed materials. The largest group included a number of sizable sherds in the coarse fabric, including a number from a jar with a defined shoulder and slightly flared upright rim similar to examples from sites across the south of England, including Potterne in Wiltshire (Lawson 2002) and Reading Business Park (Moore and Jennings 1992). This fill also contained a small number of the finer sherds, but none of these were diagnostic. The five sherds from other fill all looked to be from a single vessel in the finer fabric with an oxidised exterior and reduced interior. The interior surface in particular had a nicely smoothed finish.

In addition to the pottery, a piece of a fired clay object was also retrieved from this pit (context 3110). The clay was finely sandy and well-fired with a definite surface which appeared to be curving, perhaps suggesting it to be from a weight of cylindrical form, similar to examples of late Bronze Age date from Kemerton, Worcestershire (Hurst 2015, 101).

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight (g)	finds tpq
3104	ceramic		pot	47	224	late Bronze Age/early Iron Age
	metal	iron	?knife	2	29	
	stone	flint	burnt	1	2	
3105	ceramic		pot	75	341	late Bronze Age/early Iron Age
3109	ceramic		pot	5	27	late Bronze Age/early Iron Age
	stone	flint	unworked flake	2	4	
3110	ceramic		pot	76	559	late Bronze Age/early Iron Age
	ceramic	fired clay		1	42	
	stone	flint	unworked flake	3	7	

Table 2: Finds dating of contexts

6.5 Discussion

The finds formed an interesting domestic assemblage retrieved from two adjacent pits and which appeared to have been deposited within a short timespan at some point during the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age transitional period.

6.6 Recommendations

6.6.1 Further analysis

Should further archaeological works take place on the Site, the finds from this evaluation phase should be considered alongside and future assemblage, including full fabric analysis of the pottery.

6.6.2 Discard/retention

Due to the date of this assemblage, it is recommended that all finds should be retained.

7 Environmental evidence

By Annie Moore (Headland Archaeology)

7.1 Introduction

This report details the assessment of eight bulk environmental samples recovered during archaeological trial trenching works at Gate Farm, Sutton Benger, Chippenham, Wiltshire (Site code: P7086). Bulk samples were taken from the fills of three pits, one posthole, and one ditch.

The assessment aims 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.

7.2 Method

The samples were processed and sorted for the recovery of artefacts and environmental remains by Worcester Archaeology in accordance with industry-standard guidelines. The dried flots were subsequently assessed by a Headland Archaeology environmental specialist using a binocular microscope at magnifications of up to ×60.

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).

Charcoal fragments were examined using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to ×60, with the aim of tentatively distinguishing between oak (*Quercus spp.*) and non-oak species. Where preservation allowed, anatomical features such as wood porosity, vessel arrangement and the presence of medullary rays were assessed across the transverse section. In cases where diagnostic features were obscured due to fragmentation, poor preservation, or mineral impregnation, the specimen was recorded as indeterminate. However, further analysis of the charcoal deemed indeterminate may allow for more definitive identification.

Environmental remains were quantified using the DAFOR scale, where R = rare (0–5 items), O = occasional (6–15), F = frequent (16–50), A = abundant (51–200), D = Dominant (>200).

7.3 Results

Bulk Samples

A total of eight bulk samples were recovered from contexts in Trench 1 and Trench 31. Sample <1> was taken from fill (3104) of pit [3106], sample <2> from fill (3105) of pit [3106], sample <3> from fill (3103) of pit [3106], sample <4> from fill (3107) of pit [3108], sample <5> from fill (3109) of pit [3111], sample <6> from fill (3110) of pit [3111], sample <7> from fill (3112) of posthole [3113], and sample <8> from fill (105) from ditch [106].

Charred cereals were present in small amounts in three samples. Sample <2> produced a singular wheat grain, which was tentatively identified as a grain of spelt (*Triticum cf. spelta*). Barley grains (*Hordeum vulgare*) were also recorded in small numbers in sample <3>. Sample <6> contained grains of barley and club wheat (*Triticum aestivum/compactum*), in addition to wheat grains (*Triticum sp.*) which could not be identified beyond species level.

A single charred seed of ivy-leaved speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*) was present in sample <8>, and two fragments of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*) were recovered from sample <5>.

Wood charcoal fragments were encountered in all of the assessed samples, with the largest maximum fragment size measuring eleven millimetres. Fragments larger than ten millimetres were found in samples <3>, <5>, and <6>. Sample <1> contained the greatest abundance of material (16–50 fragments >4mm). Fragments of non-oak charcoal were identified in samples <3>, <4>, and <6>.

All samples also contained charcoal for which species could not be identified due to mineral concretions, high levels of vitrification, or small fragment size.

Flots were dominated by modern intrusive rootlets, which made up between 90 and 99% of the overall flot volume. Modern seeds and the egg capsule of an insect were also noted in sample <8>.

Context	3104	3105	3103	3107	3109	3110	3112	105
Sample	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Trench	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	1
Feature	3106	3106	3106	3108	3111	3111	3113	106
Feature type	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Post hole	Ditch
Flot Vol (ml)	95	52	101	3	104	55	4	15
Sufficient for AMS?	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N
Further analysis recommended?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Charred cereal								
<i>Triticum cf. spelta</i>	-	R1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Triticum sp.</i>	-	-	-	-	-	R	-	-
<i>Triticum aestivum/compactum</i>	-	-	-	-	-	R	-	-
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	-	-	R	-	-	R	-	-
Charred plant remains								
<i>Corylus avellana</i> (nut shell)	-	-	-	-	R	-	-	-
<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	R1
Charcoal								
Charcoal >4mm Qty	F	O	O	R	O	F	-	R
Charcoal <4mm Qty	A	F	F	R	O	F	R	R
Charcoal Max size (mm)	8	9	10	5	11	10	3	5
Oak	-	O	R	-	R	F	-	R
Non-oak	-	-	R	R	-	F	-	-
Indet	A	O	O	R	O	O	R	R
Roundwood	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other								
Modern roots (%)	90	95	95	99	95	95	99	95
Modern seed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	O
Insect egg capsule	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	R

Table 3. Environmental Assessment

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

7.4 Summary and Statement of Potential

Overall, the preservation of charred plant material in the assessed samples was poor, with remains likely to be derived from secondary scatters of domestic waste. Cereals, including bread wheat, barley and possible spelt, were identified in small numbers. This may indicate that crops were being handled on the Site; however, the limited quantity of remains precludes any more detailed interpretation of arable practices or the wider agricultural economy. The presence of a single carbonised seed of ivy-leaved speedwell is also of little interpretive value, as this species grows in a wide variety of disturbed environments (Stace 2010, 590).

The presence of hazelnut shell fragments is of note, indicating foraging of wild resources from the surrounding environment. The low frequency of remains, coupled with the occurrence of a small number of cereal grains from the same feature - pit [3111] - may indicate their inclusion within the pit as incidental domestic waste.

Wood charcoal was recorded in small to moderate concentrations throughout, however, many fragments were too small for species to be determined. The identification of some fragments was also hindered by the degree of vitrification and the presence of obscuring mineral concretions.

Flots were dominated by modern, intrusive rootlets, which indicate a degree of bioturbation in the sampled contexts, with sample <8> also containing modern seeds and insect remains.

7.5 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 1, and in Table 2 (below). It is recommended that better-preserved cereal grains, plant macrofossils or non-oak charcoal be selected for radiocarbon dating. Several samples contained oak charcoal that is of a suitable size for radiocarbon dating but it is not recommended due to the potential 'old wood effect'. Dating should be undertaken with caution due to the potential for reworking of material within the sampled contexts.

Site	Context	Sample	Item
P7086	3103	3	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grain
P7086	3109	5	Fragments of <i>Corylus avellana</i> nutshell
P7086	3110	6	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grain
P7086	3110	6	<i>Triticum aestivum/compactum</i> grain

Table 4: Material suitable for radiocarbon dating

7.6 Recommendations for further environmental research

These assemblages have been fully quantified, and further analysis is unlikely to yield additional information to that gained during assessment. A summary of this report should be included in any future publications.

Should further mitigation works be undertaken at the Site, the potential for deposits of charred plant remains and charcoal to be present should be considered in the sampling strategy.

7.7 Recommendations for Archiving

The complete environmental assemblage should be retained until all phases of work are complete, when decisions may be made relating to discard.

8 Discussion Conclusions

The archaeological evaluation demonstrated that the majority of geophysical anomalies identified across the Site are attributable to modern agricultural or drainage activity of post-medieval or modern provenance.

The principal area of archaeological interest was centred on Trench 31 and characterised by a discrete cluster of pits [3106/3108/3111] and a posthole [3113]. The pits all contained a charcoal-rich basal fill, interpreted as deliberate waste domestic disposal, sealed by a secondary, deliberate backfill deposit. The presence of heat-affected clays within the basal fills supports an association with burning activity, possibly disposal of hearth clearance material. Finds recovered from the features in Trench 31 suggest a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date of deposition.

This concentration of pits suggests an area of past human activity distinct from the agricultural and drainage features recorded elsewhere on the Site. The area occupied by Trench 31 was likely used for habitual waste disposal of material derived from domestic or craft-related activities and hint at localised Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age occupation. Possible posthole [3113], which lacked a post-pipe or packing material and differed in fill composition from the adjacent pits, is considered more likely to represent a truncated small pit and does not provide secure evidence for structural activity.

In Trench 1, two north–south aligned ditches correspond broadly with linear anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey, albeit positioned approximately 1.5–2m west of their projected locations. Both were filled with mid-brown clayey silt comparable to the subsoil and produced no artefactual material. In the absence of dating evidence, and given their morphology and alignment, these features are most likely to represent agricultural boundary or drainage ditches of post-medieval or modern origin.

The northeast–southwest aligned ditch [1904/2204] recorded in Trenches 19 and 22 appears to represent a single field boundary extending across the central and eastern portion of the Site. The ditches alignment is coaxial to the modern field boundary, bordering the eastern and western portions of the Site and may reasonably be considered to be a relict internal sub-division likely removed prior to the production of the first edition Ordnance Survey mapping during the late 19th century. Accordingly, ditch [1904/2204] was interpreted as an earlier post-medieval field boundary ditch. The curvilinear anomaly targeted in Trench 19 was not substantiated by excavation.

Overall, the evaluation indicated that archaeological remains within the Site are limited in extent and largely relate to later agricultural land use, with the exception of the pit cluster in Trench 31, which represents a discrete earlier phase of probable farmstead activity, dating to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age transitional period. The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved, and it is considered that the nature, density and distribution of archaeological features provide an accurate characterisation of the development site as a whole.

9 Project personnel

The fieldwork was led by Michael Nicholson, PCIfA, assisted by Andrew Turnbull, PCIfA.

The project was managed by Rupert Lotherington, MCIfA. The report was produced and collated by Michael Nicholson and Graham Arnold. Specialist contributions and individual sections of the report are attributed to the relevant authors throughout the text.

10 Acknowledgements

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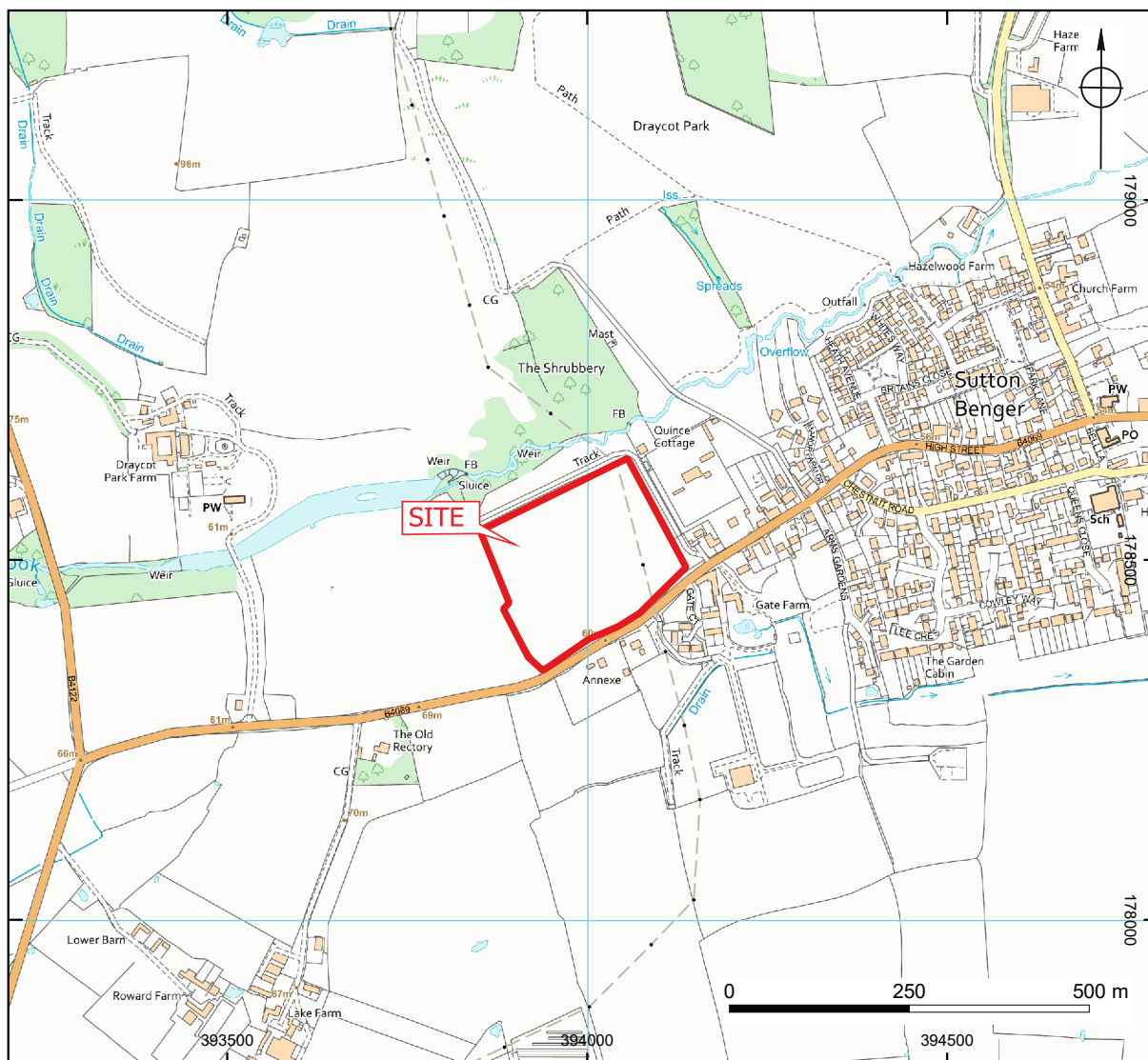
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Figures



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Figure 1: Location of the site

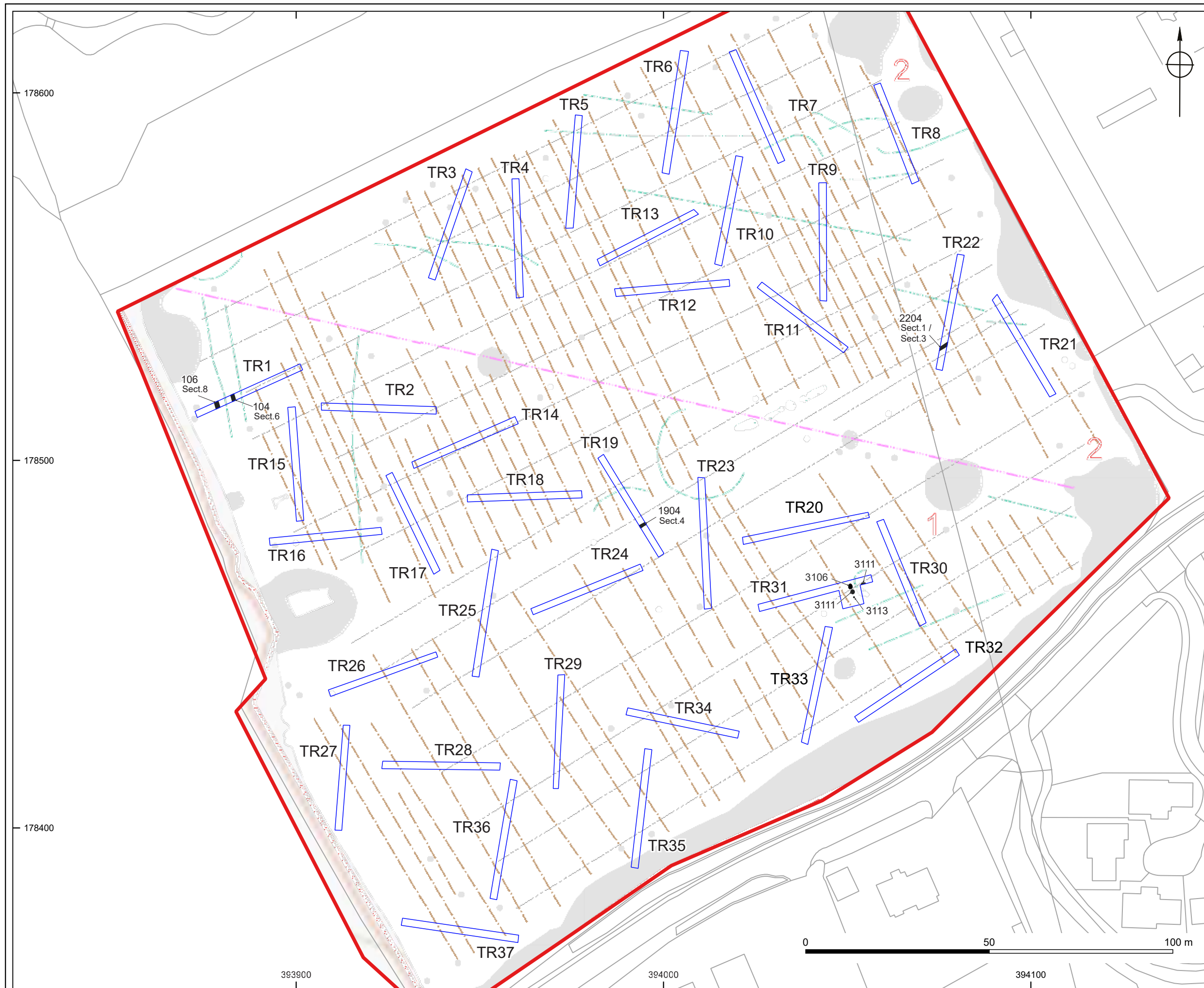


Figure 2

Location of trenches and archaeological features

- Site boundary
- Edge of trench
- Archaeological feature

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Wiltshire

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Figure 3.1: Plan of Trench 1

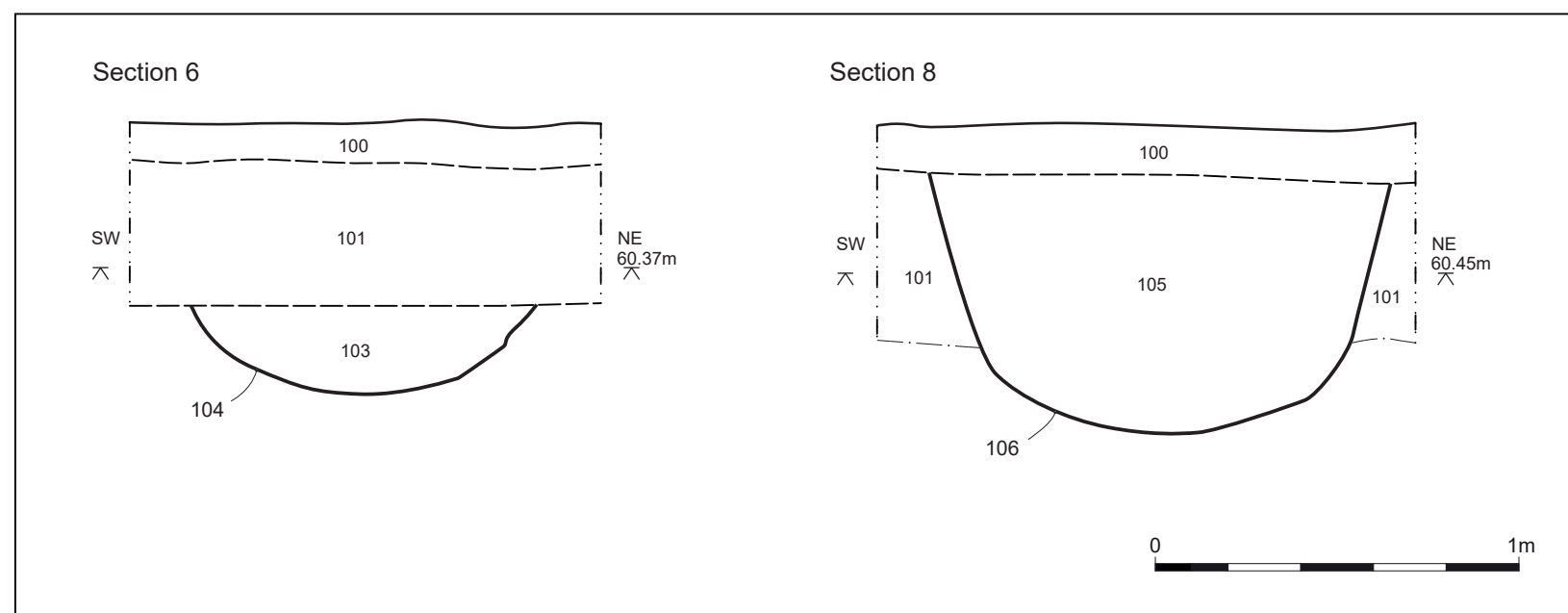


Figure 3.2: Drawings of excavated sections



Figure 3.3: Trench 1, facing west, 2x1m scales



Figure 3.4: Ditch 104, facing south, 1m scale



Figure 3.5: Ditch 106, facing south, 1m scale

Figure 3

Trench 1

- Edge of trench
- Archaeological feature
- Excavated slot
- Section drawing
- Spot height

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Wiltshire

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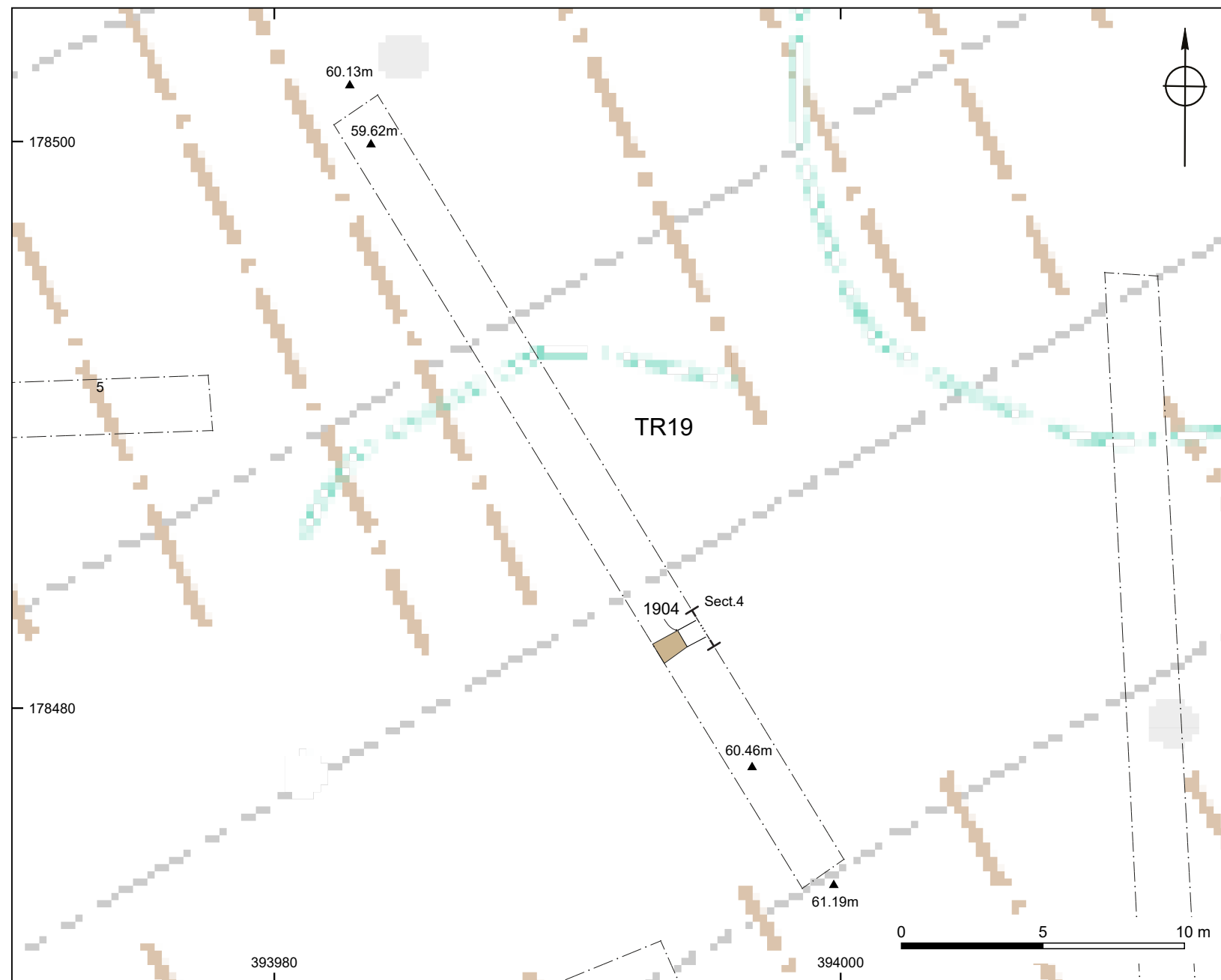


Figure 4.1: Plan of Trench 1



Figure 4.2: Trench 19, facing north, 2x1m scales



Figure 4.3: Ditch 1904, facing east, 1m scale

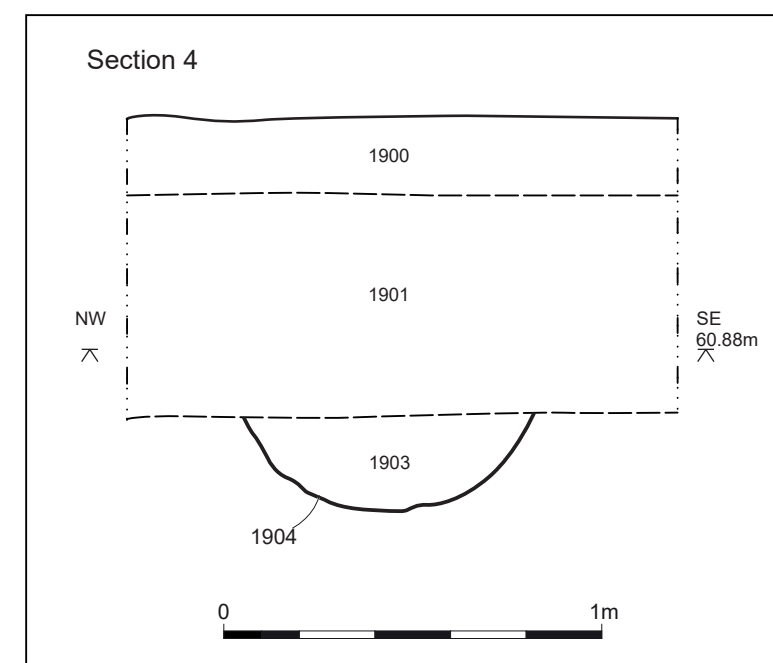


Figure 4.4: Drawing of excavated section

Figure 4
Trench 19

- Site boundary
- Edge of trench
- Archaeological feature
- Excavated slot
- Section drawing
- ▲ Spot height

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Figure 5.1: Plan of Trench 22

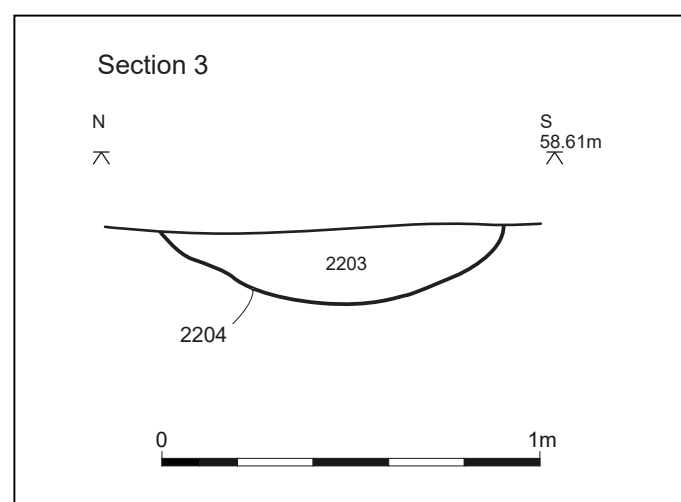


Figure 5.2: Drawing of excavated section



Figure 5.3: Trench 22, facing north-east, 2x1m scales



Figure 5.4: Ditch 2204, facing west, 1m scale



Figure 5.5: Ditch 2204, facing east, 1m scale

Figure 5
Trench 22

- Site boundary
- Edge of trench
- Archaeological feature
- Excavated slot
- Section drawing
- Spot height

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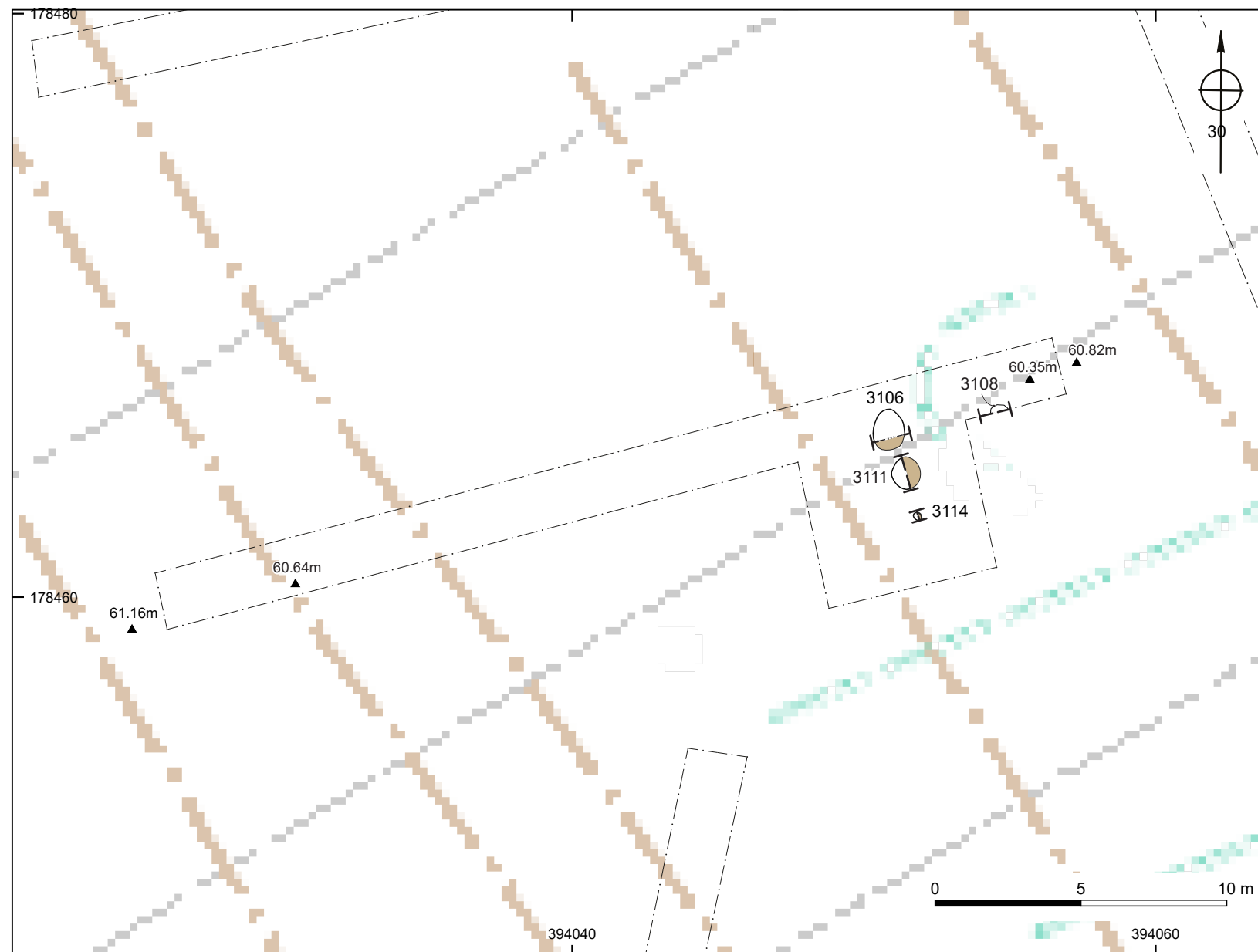


Figure 6.1: Plan of Trench 31



Figure 6.6: Pit 3111, facing south, 1m scale



Figure 6.5: Posthole 3114, facing west, 0.20m scale



Figure 6.2: Pit 3106, facing south, 1m scale



Figure 6.3: Extension pit 3111, 3114 and 3106, facing west, 1m scale



Figure 6.4: Pit 3108, facing south, 1m scale

Figure 6
Trench 31

- Edge of trench
- Archaeological feature
- Excavated slot
- Section drawing
- Spot height

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Appendix 1: Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: E-W

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
100	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 1	0.3	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
101	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 1	0.2	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
102	Deposit	Natural - Trench 1		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.
103	Fill	Fill - Ditch [104]	0.28	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
104	Cut	Cut - Ditch [104]	0.28	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: regular, shallow u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: gentle, concave.
105	Fill	Fill - Ditch [106]	0.66	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
106	Cut	Cut - Ditch [106]	0.66	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: regular, u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: sharp. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate, concave.

Trench 2

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: NW-SE

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
200	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 2	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
201	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 2	0.5	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
202	Deposit	Natural - Trench 2		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 3

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: NE-SW

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
300	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 3	0.25	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
301	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 3	0.2	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
302	Deposit	Natural - Trench 3		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 4

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: NE-SW

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
400	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 4	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
401	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 4	0.25	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
402	Deposit	Natural - Trench 4		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 5

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: NW-SE

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
500	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 5	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
501	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 5	0.2	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
502	Deposit	Natural - Trench 5		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 6

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: NE-SW

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
600	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 6	0.15	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
601	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 6	0.15	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
602	Deposit	Natural - Trench 6		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 7

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: NE-SW

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
700	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 7	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
701	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 7	0.2	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
702	Deposit	Natural - Trench 7		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 8

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: N-S

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
800	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 8	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
801	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 8	0.25	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
802	Deposit	Natural - Trench 8		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 9

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: NE-SW

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
900	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 9	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
901	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 9	0.3	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
902	Deposit	Natural - Trench 9		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 10

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: NE-SW

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
1000	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 10	0.15	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
1001	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 10	0.2	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
1002	Deposit	Natural - Trench 10		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 11

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: NW-SE

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
1100	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 11	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
1101	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 11	0.4	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
1102	Deposit	Natural - Trench 11		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 12

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: E-W

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
1200	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 12	0.15	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
1201	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 12	0.35	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
1202	Deposit	Natural - Trench 12		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 13

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation:

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
1300	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 13	0.15	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
1301	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 13	0.35	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
1302	Deposit	Natural - Trench 13		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 14

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: NE-SW

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
1400	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 14	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
1401	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 14	0.5	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
1402	Deposit	Natural - Trench 14		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 15

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: N-S

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
1500	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 15	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
1501	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 15	0.4	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
1502	Deposit	Natural - Trench 15		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 16

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: E-W

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
1600	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 16	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
1601	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 16	0.3	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
1602	Deposit	Natural - Trench 16		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 17

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: N-S

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
1700	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 17	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
1701	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 17	0.3	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
1702	Deposit	Natural - Trench 17		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 18

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: E-W

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
1800	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 18	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
1801	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 18	0.35	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
1802	Deposit	Natural - Trench 18		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 19

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation:

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
1900	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 19	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
1901	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 19	0.5	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
1902	Deposit	Natural - Trench 19		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.
1903	Fill	Fill - Ditch	0.2	our: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
1904	Cut	Cut - Ditch [1904]	0.20	Orientation: N-S. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: regular, shallow u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: imperceptible. Base: rounded. Sides: gentle, concave.

Trench 20

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: E-W

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
2000	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 20	0.25	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
2001	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 20	0.3	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
2002	Deposit	Natural - Trench 20		Colour: mid yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 21

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation:

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
2100	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 21	0.25	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
2101	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 21	0.3	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
2102	Deposit	Natural - Trench 21		Colour: mid yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 22

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: NE-SW

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
2200	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 22	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
2201	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 22	0.4	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
2202	Deposit	Natural - Trench 22		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.
2203	Fill	Fill - Ditch [2204]	0.21	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
2204	Cut	Cut - Ditch [2204]	0.21	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: regular, shallow u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: imperceptible. Base: rounded. Sides: gentle, concave.

Trench 23

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: N-S

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
2300	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 23	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
2301	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 23	0.65	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
2302	Deposit	Natural - Trench 23		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 24

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: E-W

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
2400	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 24	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
2401	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 24	0.6	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
2402	Deposit	Natural - Trench 24		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 25

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: NE-SW

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
2500	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 25	0.3	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
2501	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 25	0.6	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
2502	Deposit	Natural - Trench 25		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 26

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: E-W

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
2600	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 26	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
2601	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 26	0.5	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
2602	Deposit	Natural - Trench 26		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 27

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: NE-SW

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
2700	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 27	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
2701	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 27	0.25	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
2702	Deposit	Natural - Trench 27		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 28

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: E-W

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
2800	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 28	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
2801	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 28	0.3	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
2802	Deposit	Natural - Trench 28		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 29

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: NE-SW

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
2900	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 29	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
2901	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 29	0.4	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
2902	Deposit	Natural - Trench 29		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 30

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: N-S

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
3000	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 30	0.18	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
3001	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 30	0.25	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
3002	Deposit	Natural - Trench 30		Colour: mid yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 31

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: E-W

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
3100	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 31	0.24	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
3101	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 31	0.26	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
3102	Deposit	Natural - Trench 31		Colour: mid yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.
3103	Fill	Fill - Pit	0.30	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: sandy clay. Inclusions: occasional flecks of charcoal, evenly distributed.
3104	Fill	Fill - Pit	0.17	Colour: very dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: sandy clay. Inclusions: 1) moderate flecks of charcoal, evenly distributed 2) rare flecks to medium platy clay, evenly distributed.
3105	Fill	Fill - Pit	0.05	Colour: very dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: sandy clay. Inclusions: 1) moderate flecks of charcoal, evenly distributed 2) frequent flecks to very large platy clay, evenly distributed.
3106	Cut	Cut - Pit [3106]	0.4	Orientation: N-S. Shape in plan: regular, oval. Shape in profile: regular, shallow u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: sharp. Base: flat. Sides: 1) east: steep, straight 2) west: steep, straight, undercut.
3107	Fill	Fill - Pit [3108]	0.27	Colour: very dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: sandy clay. Inclusions: 1) moderate flecks of charcoal, evenly distributed 2) rare flecks to medium platy clay, evenly distributed.
3108	Cut	Cut - Pit [3108]	0.27	Orientation: N/A. Shape in plan: regular, square. Shape in profile: regular, u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: sharp. Base: flat. Sides: steep, straight.
3109	Fill	Fill - Pit [3111]	0.34	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: sandy clay. Inclusions: occasional flecks of charcoal, evenly distributed.
3110	Fill	Fill - Pit [3111]	0.23	Colour: very dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: sandy clay. Inclusions: 1) moderate flecks of charcoal, evenly distributed 2) rare flecks to medium platy clay, evenly distributed.
3111	Cut	Cut - Pit [3111]	0.52	Orientation: N/A. Shape in plan: regular, circular. Shape in profile: regular, deep. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: sharp. Base: flat. Sides: steep, straight, undercut.

3112	Fill	Fill - Posthole [3113]	0.07	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay.
3113	Cut	Cut - Posthole [3113]	0.07	Orientation: N/A. Shape in plan: regular, circular. Shape in profile: regular, shallow. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: sharp. Base: flat. Sides: steep, concave.

Trench 32

Length (m): 30 Width (m): 1.8 Orientation: NW-SE

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
3200	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 32	0.22	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
3201	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 32	0.25	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
3202	Deposit	Natural - Trench 32		Colour: mid yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 33

Length (m): 30 Width (m): 1.8 Orientation: N-S

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
3300	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 33	0.19	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
3301	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 33	0.21	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
3302	Deposit	Natural - Trench 33		Colour: mid yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 34

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: E-W

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
3400	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 34	0.18	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
3401	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 34	0.18	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
3402	Deposit	Natural - Trench 34		Colour: mid yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 35

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: N-S

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
3500	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 35	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
3501	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 35	0.3	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
3502	Deposit	Natural - Trench 35		Colour: mid yellowish brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench 36

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: NE-SW

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
3600	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 36	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
3601	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 36	0.3	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
3602	Deposit	Natural - Trench 36		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Trench **37**

Length (m): 30

Width (m): 1.8

Orientation: NW-SE

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
3700	Deposit	Topsoil - Trench 37	0.2	Colour: dark brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey loam.
3701	Deposit	Subsoil - Trench 37	0.3	Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.
3702	Deposit	Natural - Trench 37		Colour: mid brown. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: occasional medium very angular platy sandstone.

Appendix 2: Summary of project archive (DZSWS:01-2026)

TYPE	DETAILS*
Artefacts and Environmental	Ceramics, Environmental, unworked flint
Paper	Diary (Field progress form), Drawing, Plan, Report, Section, Survey
Digital	Database, GIS, Geophysics, Images raster/digital photography, Spreadsheets, Survey, Text

**OASIS terminology*

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Worcestershire Archaeology. Subject to the agreement of the landowner it is anticipated that it will be deposited at the Wiltshire Museum.

Appendix 3: Summary of data for HER

Finds Tables

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight (g)
late Bronze Age/early Iron Age	ceramic		pot	203	1151
late Bronze Age/early Iron Age	ceramic	fired clay	weight	1	42
early Iron Age	metal	iron	knife	2	29
earlier prehistoric	stone	flint	waste flake	5	11
earlier prehistoric	stone	flint	fragment	1	2

Table 1: Quantification of site assemblage

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight (g)	finds tpq
3104	ceramic		pot	47	224	late Bronze Age/early Iron Age
	metal	iron	?knife	2	29	
	stone	flint	burnt	1	2	
3105	ceramic		pot	75	341	late Bronze Age/early Iron Age
3109	ceramic		pot	5	27	late Bronze Age/early Iron Age
	stone	flint	unworked flake	2	4	
3110	ceramic		pot	76	559	late Bronze Age/early Iron Age
	ceramic	fired clay		1	42	
	stone	flint	unworked flake	3	7	

Table 2: Finds dating of contexts

Environmental Tables

Context	3104	3105	3103	3107	3109	3110	3112	105
Sample	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Trench	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	1
Feature	3106	3106	3106	3108	3111	3111	3113	106
Feature type	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Post hole	Ditch
Flot Vol (ml)	95	52	101	3	104	55	4	15
Sufficient for AMS?	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N
Further analysis recommended?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Charred cereal								
<i>Triticum cf. spelta</i>	-	R1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Triticum sp.</i>	-	-	-	-	-	R	-	-
<i>Triticum aestivum/compactum</i>	-	-	-	-	-	R	-	-
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	-	-	R	-	-	R	-	-
Charred plant remains								
<i>Corylus avellana</i> (nut shell)	-	-	-	-	R	-	-	-
<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	R1
Charcoal								
Charcoal >4mm Qty	F	O	O	R	O	F	-	R
Charcoal <4mm Qty	A	F	F	R	O	F	R	R
Charcoal Max size (mm)	8	9	10	5	11	10	3	5
Oak	-	O	R	-	R	F	-	R
Non-oak	-	-	R	R	-	F	-	-
Indet	A	O	O	R	O	O	R	R
Roundwood	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other								
Modern roots (%)	90	95	95	99	95	95	99	95
Modern seed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	O
Insect egg capsule	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	R

Table 3. Environmental Assessment

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

Site	Context	Sample	Item
P7086	3103	3	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grain
P7086	3109	5	Fragments of <i>Corylus avellana</i> nutshell
P7086	3110	6	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grain
P7086	3110	6	<i>Triticum aestivum/compactum</i> grain

Table 4: Material suitable for radiocarbon dating