Wessex Archaeology

A14 Haughley Bends Improvements

Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report

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A14 HAUGHLEY BENDS IMPROVEMENTS

Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief

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Summary

In 2005 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mouchel Parkman, on behalf of the Highways Agency to undertake a review of the heritage constraints of the Preferred Route of the A14 Improvement Proposals between Haughley New Street and Stowmarket. The Scheme involved the closure of the present stretch of the A14 known as `the 'Haughley Bends', a notorious accident black spot, and the construction of a new 4km length of dual two-lane carriageway, situated to the south and west of the existing road, running from NGR 601284, 261759 to NGR 604287, 259825.

The review was based on a desk-based assessment of the scheme route, followed by a geophysical survey and fieldwalking. The review identified areas for field evaluation involving trial trenching prior to construction and proposed an archaeological watching brief on all remaining sections of the route.

Subsequently Wessex Archaeology undertook an evaluation of two areas between 25th and 29th June 2007 and maintained a watching brief on all topsoil stripping and intrusive groundworks between 25th June and 9th August 2007.

The natural soil sequence along the whole route comprised glacial till substrata, a reddish brown clay that became a more bluish grey with depth, with common chalk and flint inclusions. This was overlain by a slightly variable yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil that varied between 0.05m and 0.50m in thickness. The subsoil sealed two Late Iron Age or Romano-British features and one probable post-medieval feature identified during the evaluation trenching, but was cut by several fairly recently filled former field boundaries, suggesting that this is probably the product of modern ploughing activity. The subsoil was in turn overlain by brownish grey silty clay loam topsoil, between 0.30 and 0.45m thick.

Only a very low level of archaeologically significant features and deposits were encountered during both the watching brief and the evaluation. The most significant evidence of past land use comprises two Late Iron Age or early Romano-British features found in the western side of Gallows Field at NGR 602450 261300. Although only examined during the evaluation, it appears that these features possibly relate to a small farmstead or settlement in the general area. As these features and deposits were sealed below the sandy clay subsoil, in an area of proposed embankment, it was possible to construct the embankment above the remains without any further disturbance, thus preserving them *in situ.* The deposits relating to a possible palaeochannel to the east of Tot Hill were also in an area of proposed embankment and were also preserved *in situ*. No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief and the scheme has therefore had a negligible impact upon the archaeology of the area.

A small assemblage of prehistoric flintwork and pottery was recovered from the topsoil during the watching brief and residual Early Neolithic and Beaker pottery was recovered from a Late Iron Age or Romano-British feature during the evaluation, whilst not associated with any settlement remains, these finds attest to the prehistoric occupation and exploitation of the area. The presence of two sherds of Saxon pottery

in a probable Late Iron Age or Romano-British ditch, whilst probably intrusive, suggests Saxon activity in the immediate area. Other remains recorded during the evaluation and watching brief appear to represent the post-medieval and later occupation and exploitation of the area, in the form of field boundaries, ponds and trackways. It is uncertain whether the deposits in the base of the valley to the east of Tot Hill represents the course of a braded channel, marshy land along the margins of the now culverted stream or episodes of overbank flooding.

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The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Peter Reeves and directed in the field by Vaughan Birbeck, assisted by Steve George, Darren Baker, Owen Batchelor, Dorothee Facquez, Piotr Orczewski and Daniel Tarrant. This report was compiled by Vaughan Birbeck with Lorraine Mepham (finds) and Dr Chris J. Stevens (palaeo-environmental) and the illustrations were prepared by Will Foster.

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Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scheme Background

1.1.1 In 2005 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mouchel Parkman, on behalf of the Highways Agency to undertake a review of the baseline data for heritage constraints of the Preferred Route of the A14 Improvement Proposals between Haughley New Street and Stowmarket.

1.1.2 An archaeological desk based assessment of the proposed route was undertaken (Wessex Archaeology 2002a) and included an examination of archaeological and historical sources including the Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record and historical maps and documents. A geophysical survey (WYAS 2002) and a field walking survey (Wessex Archaeology 2002b) were subsequently undertaken in autumn 2002.

1.1.3 The archaeological review of the Scheme was completed in spring 2006 and was incorporated into the Environmental Statement. The archaeological assessment concluded that the route had a moderate potential for the presence of archaeological deposits but a low likelihood that those deposists would be of significant extent or importance.

1.1.4 Prior to the commencement of construction of the Scheme, Wessex Archaeology produced an Archaeological Project Design (Wessex Archaeology 2007) to meet the requirements of the mitigation proposals set out in the Environmental Statement. The Design included a description of the known archaeological resource, a research framework and detailed proposals and methodologies for the fieldwork and post-fieldwork elements of the archaeological mitigation strategy.

1.1.5 Subsequently Wessex Archaeology undertook a field evaluation of two areas of archaeological potential on the route between 25th and 29th June 2007 and maintained a watching brief on all topsoil stripping and intrusive groundworks between 25th June and 9th August 2007. This document presents the detailed results of the evaluation and the watching brief.

1.2 Scheme Description

1.2.1 The Scheme involves the closure of the present stretch of the A14 known as `the 'Haughley Bends', a notorious accident black spot, and the construction of a new 4km length of dual two-lane carriageway, situated to the south and west of the existing road, running from NGR 601284, 261759 to NGR 6042871, 259825 (**Figure 1).**

1.2.2 The route passes through arable farmland, but encroaches close to patches of Ancient Woodland at the northern or Haughley end.

1.2.3 The topography consists of a gently rolling landscape draped along the northern flank of an east west orientated ridge. The ridge crest is at c.50 m

above Ordnance Datum (aOD) dropping down to c. 35-40 m aOD to the east of the present A14.

1.2.4 The geology of the route crosses mainly glacial till, this is overlain to the north of the present road by calcareous clayey soils of the Hanslope association and to the south by fine loamy over clayey soils of the Beccles 1 association. The Lowestoft till is bluish grey sandy silt clay derived largely from Jurassic clays with erratics mainly of chalk and flint. To the north of the area, and possibly underlying the north west limit of the proposed improvements, the geology comprises Corton Sands, fine-medium grained sands with sandy gravels including Scandinavian erratics.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The Scheme route has previously been subject to a staged process of assessment and evaluation comprising desk-based assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2002), geophysical survey (WYAS 2002) and field walking survey (Wessex Archaeology 2002).

2.2 The geophysical survey comprised a magnetic scan of 93% of the route followed by detailed magnetometry of approximately 20% of the route.

2.3 Field walking comprised artefact collection on a line walking basis of approximately 75% of the route.

2.4 Collectively these assessment techniques identified a number of known and potential archaeological resources that were impacted by the construction of the Scheme. These comprise:

2.5 In Gallows Field a concentration of prehistoric worked flint was recovered from field walking. A number of previous findspots of Roman material has also been recovered from Gallows Field and the vicinity. Geophysical survey in Gallows Field identified weak linear anomalies that may be of modern or archaeological origin and two areas of magnetic enhancement that were considered most likely of geological origin, although an archaeological origin was not discounted. The field name suggests potential for medieval or post-medieval features associated with a gallows.

2.6 Tot Hill House is Grade II Listed. Tot Hill is a name of Saxon derivation and may indicate the location of a Saxon settlement.

2.7 The sites of two milestones are recorded along the Scheme, one of which no longer exists and the second of which is recorded on current OS plans but has not been located in the field.

2.8 Desk-based assessment sources identified no other previously recorded archaeological sites within the Scheme route.

2.9 Geophysical survey in other sections of the route recorded no anomalies of probable archaeological origin. Areas of magnetic disturbance and linear trends were recorded but all were considered to be of modern origin. Areas of magnetic enhancement were also present but an archaeological origin was considered unlikely.

2.10 The results of field walking of other sections of the route recovered only rare pieces of worked flint and occasional post-medieval finds.

2.11 The Environmental Statement concluded that there was a low probability that the Scheme contained unproven features of significant extent or importance.

3 MITIGATION STRATEGY

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 In view of the of the known and potential archaeological resource along the Scheme, the following mitigation strategy was designed to ensure the appropriate investigation and recording of the archaeological resource along the route that would unavoidably be disturbed or damaged by its construction.

3.1.2 Two areas within Gallows Fields were proposed for field evaluation through trial trenching in advance of construction. The two areas correspond to the location of concentrations of prehistoric worked flint recovered during the field walking, the location of geophysical anomalies possibly of archaeological origin and the proximity of findspots of Roman material.

3.1.3 An area close to Tot Hill was also to be subject to field evaluation through trial trenching in advance of construction. The area proposed for evaluation was that closest to the existing settlement at Tot Hill. However this area was not subsequently evaluated due to access issues relating to nesting birds and this area was subsequently subject to a watching brief during construction.

3.1.4 In view of the low potential in the remaining sections of the route, a watching brief was to be undertaken during those elements of the construction programme throughout the Scheme, including all associated off-site works, that had the potential to uncover unexpected archaeological discoveries.

3.1.5 Subject to the findings of the field evaluation and watching brief, provision was made for further mitigation which may have comprised preservation in situ where the Scheme proposals allow, or preservation by record through excavation, a strip, map and record exercise, or other mitigation as considered appropriate.

3.1.6 A milestone, whose presence is unverified, was proposed for recovery and relocation but does not form part of this scheme of works and was dealt with separately by Birse Civils.

3.2 Research Framework

3.2.1 The basis of the mitigation strategy was to identify and mitigate potential impacts on the archaeological and historic environment. On the basis of the known archaeological and historic potential of the Scheme, three principal research themes were identified:

- the changing environment of the area as revealed by the analysis of palaeo-environmental remains,

- the prehistoric settlement pattern and usage of the area, and

- the establishment and development of field systems from the medieval period onwards.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Archaeological Trial Trenching

4.1.1 Archaeological trial trenching was used to establish the extent and nature of archaeological remains within areas of archaeological potential, to determine the character, date, integrity and state of preservation.

4.1.2 A total of 22 trenches, each 20m in length and 1.8m in width were originally proposed, comprising a 5% sample of 3 areas, two in Gallows Field and one at Tot Hill. This was reduced to 15 trenches in two areas in Gallows Field. The proposed evaluation at Tot Hill could not be undertaken due to nesting skylarks in the area. This area was subsequently examined, once access was available, as a watching brief.

4.1.3 Trial trenches were laid out in advance using GPS, to an accuracy of within ± 100mm. The final locations of some of the trial trenches were adjusted in the field to take account of any site hazards or obstructions; for example to avoid excavation beneath overhead cables, close to known services, or to preserve known land drains.

4.1.4 Where geophysical survey has been carried out, approximately half of the trial trenches were targeted on features identified by the geophysical survey as showing potential for archaeological remains. The remaining trenches were located within areas identified by the geophysical survey as having low or no archaeological potential, to test the reliability of the geophysical survey.

4.1.5 The general trial trenching objectives were:

- To identify the presence/ absence of buried archaeological remains;
- To determine (where possible) the nature, depth, extent, character and date of any archaeological deposits or features encountered;
- To determine the condition or state of preservation of any archaeological deposits or features encountered;
- To determine the likely range, quality and quantity of artefactual and environmental evidence present;
- To test the interpretations of anomalies identified by geophysical survey;
- To determine the significance of any archaeological remains present.

4.2 Machine Excavation

4.2.1 All machine excavation (by 360 excavator) was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. All machining was carried out using a toothless ditching bucket in discrete level spits of approximately 0.2m maximum depth, with topsoil and subsoil stored separately adjacent to each trench. All trial trenches were machine-excavated to the upper surface of significant

archaeological features and/or deposits or the surface of *in situ* solid or drift geology, whichever was encountered first. Potential archaeological features or deposits were cleaned by hand to ensure the confident identification and extent of archaeological remains.

4.3 Hand Excavation Strategy

4.3.1 All features encountered within the trial trenching were cleaned by hand and a sufficient sample, in line with minimum requirements from Suffolk County Council, were excavated from identified archaeological features (*e.g.* ditches, pits, post-holes etc.) to fulfil the aims and objectives of that stage of fieldwork.

4.3.2 Where significant archaeological remains were encountered, the requirements were reviewed following on-site discussions with the archaeological monitoring team, to ensure that the project aims and objectives were met.

4.3.3 Metal detectors were used to scan archaeological features prior to and during excavation, and to scan spoil heaps. All archaeological remains were recorded in plan using electronic survey equipment and tied in to the national grid. Full written, drawn and photographic records were made of all archaeological features. Plans, sections and elevations of archaeological features and deposits were drawn as necessary at an appropriate scale (normally 1:10 or 1:20). Drawings were made in pencil on permanent drafting film. Written records were made using pro-forma record sheets, following the Wessex Archaeology recording system.

4.3.4 Photographs were taken as necessary to produce a photographic record consisting of monochrome prints and colour transparencies. Digital images were also taken to support report preparation but did not replace archive standard material.

4.4 Finds Collection

4.4.1 All objects relating to human exploitation of the area that were exposed in the course of the fieldwork were recovered. All recovered objects were retained unless they were undoubtedly of modern or recent origin. The presence of modern objects was, however, noted on context records.

4.5 Finds Treatment

4.5.1 All finds were processed in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. All artefacts were, as a minimum, washed, marked, counted, weighed and identified.

4.6 Environmental Sampling

4.6.1 Provision was made for the bulk sampling of appropriate archaeological deposits recorded during the fieldwork investigation for artefactual, economic and environmental data.

4.6.2 The environmental sampling strategy followed the guidance set out in *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods,*

from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (English Heritage 2002), the minimum environmental requirements from Suffolk County Council and the advice of the English Heritage advisor for archaeological science.

4.6.3 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods. Flots were retained on a 0.25mm mesh and the residues fractionated into 4mm, 2mm, 1mm and 0.5mm fractions, as advised by the appropriate environmental specialist, and dried. The coarse fractions (>4mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded; any artefacts or animal bone were extracted and retained. The flots were scanned under a x10 - x30 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified, to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and charcoal remains.

4.7 Watching Brief

4.7.1 A watching brief is an archaeological attendance before or during construction. It is intended to provide the opportunity to record archaeological features or deposits or areas deemed to contain a low potential for archaeological remains and which were not covered by mitigation in the form of excavation. All recording, survey and sampling followed the same methodology as that used during machine excavation.

4.7.2 The general watching brief objectives were to allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits or features.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Trench descriptions, giving brief soil and feature descriptions are presented in Appendix 1; context numbers used during the watching brief, along with brief descriptions are presented in Appendix 2. More detailed records are available in the site archive. In general there was a very low level of archaeology along the route with only a few archaeological features located by evaluation trenching and very few archaeologically significant finds recovered during the watching brief (**Figure 2**). During the evaluation weather conditions and feature visibility was good (**Plate 1**); although conditions during the watching brief were more variable, as work continued in all but the heaviest rain and the constant movement of vehicles could damage and obscure features (**Plate 2**), however, as all work was monitored by suitably experienced archaeologists it is unlikely that any significant archaeological features or deposits were overlooked.

5.1.2 The natural soil sequence along the whole route comprised glacial till substrata, a reddish brown clay that became a more bluish grey with depth, with common chalk and flint inclusions. This was overlain by a slightly variable yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil that varied between 0.05m and 0.50m in thickness. The subsoil sealed the two Late Iron Age or Romano-British features and one probable post-medieval feature identified during the evaluation trenching, but was cut by several fairly recently filled former field boundaries, suggesting that this is probably the product of modern ploughing activity. The subsoil was in turn overlain by brownish grey silty clay loam topsoil, between 0.30 and 0.45m thick.

5.2 Prehistoric

5.2.1 A small assemblage of worked flint, comprising four flakes and one scraper, was recovered from the topsoil during the watching brief towards the north-west of the route in a localised area around NGR 602050 261625 (**Figure 2, (100)**). Despite careful hand cleaning of the exposed surface in the vicinity of the findspot no features or deposits of archaeological significance were located. Although not closely datable and not associated with any subsurface features, this small assemblage attests to prehistoric activity in the general area. All of the flintwork displayed some edge damage consistent with its topsoil provenance.

5.2.2 Of the 60 sherds of pottery recovered from pit 604 during the evaluation (**Figure 3**), a group of 14 sherds, all in relatively fine flint-tempered fabrics, differed significantly from the rest of the assemblage. Although the fabrics were not chronologically distinctive, two rim sherds and a decorated body sherd were; the two rim sherds were identified as Early Neolithic, within the range of decorated types with a date range of *c.*3600-3300 BC (Gibson 2002, 70). On the basis of similarity of fabric type, the plain body sherds within this group have also been dated as Early Neolithic, but the single decorated body sherd, which is fully oxidised, in contrast to the other sherds, is from an early Bronze Age Beaker vessel. Although clearly residual within the pit fill, the relative absence of abrasion suggests little post-depositional movement.

5.2.3 A very small assemblage of later prehistoric pottery, probably of Late Bronze Age date, was recovered from the topsoil in the north-western part of the route in a localised area around NGR 602250 261450, along with a single sherd of Romano-British pottery (**Figure 2, (101)**). Although the area around the findspot was carefully hand cleaned following topsoil removal, no archaeologically significant features or deposits were identified.

5.3 Late Iron Age and Romano-British

5.3.1 Two features, a broad, shallow ditch and a small pit, both of Late Iron Age or early Romano-British date were encountered in evaluation trenches 6 and 8, in the western side of Gallows Field (**Figure 3**). The small pit (604) encountered in trench 6 was sub-circular in shape, approximately 1m in diameter and 0.23m deep with moderately steep, irregular sides and an irregular base. The single dark greyish brown silty clay fill of this feature (605), which was clearly sealed below the 0.30m thick subsoil in this area, produced a fairly large assemblage of Late Iron Age or early Romano-British pottery in grog-tempered and sandy fabrics, including rim sherds from a necked and cordoned jar, which have a broad date range of 1st century BC to 1st century AD.. The same feature also produced a small assemblage of Early Neolithic date (flint-tempered fabrics, including two rim sherds), and one Beaker sherd.

5.3.2 A broad, shallow ditch (804), aligned approximately north-west to south-east, was recorded in trench 8. This was 2.80m wide and 0.35m deep with irregular sides and base and was filled with a single dark greyish brown silty clay fill (805). As with pit 604, the ditch was also sealed below the 0.30m thick subsoil in this area. This feature also produced a moderate assemblage of Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British pottery, along with two sherds of probable Saxon date, which are assumed to be intrusive here.

5.3.3 Bulk environmental samples were taken from the pit fill (sample 1) and the ditch fill (sample 2) in order to address questions relating to their possible function and the wider environment in which they were used. Analysis of the environmental remains recovered from these samples indicated that these features were unlikely to have been within a settlement and were more probably peripheral to settlement or even remote from it.

5.3.4 Both of the Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British features were sealed below at least 0.30m of subsoil and as they were in an area where the proposed road would be on an embankment a decision was made to preserve these remains *in situ*. The topsoil was removed under constant archaeological supervision, to the upper surface of the subsoil, using a large mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. As no significant archaeological features were visible, the level in this area was then raised to form the embankment, ensuring that no damage was done to the known remains.

5.4 Saxon

5.4.1 No features or deposits of clearly Saxon date were encountered during either the evaluation or the watching brief; however, two pottery sherds from ditch 804 were in an organic-tempered fabric characteristic of the Early/Mid Saxon period. It is uncertain whether ditch 804 was of Saxon date, with a moderate assemblage of residual Romano-British material (9 sherds), or was of Romano-British date with two sherds of intrusive Saxon pottery. Given the Romano-British activity in the near vicinity, represented by the pit in trench 6, it is assumed that ditch 804 is more likely to be of Romano-British date, although the intrusive Saxon material attests to the utilisation of this area during that period.

5.5 Post-Medieval and Modern

5.5.1 Although undated, two ditches encountered during the evaluation in trenches 4 and 10 (404 and 1004) were presumed to be of post-medieval or modern date; the ditch in trench 4 probably represents a recently filled former field boundary depicted on recent OS mapping and was sealed below the sandy clay subsoil. The ditch in trench 10 (**Figure 2**), which was also recorded during the watching brief, along with a second parallel ditch, approximately 5m to the east, almost certainly represents a flanking ditch to a small trackway, depicted on OS mapping in 1889 (1st edition), but not on any subsequent OS maps. These trackway ditches were at least partially sealed below the sandy clay subsoil, suggesting that this deposit has developed fairly recently.

5.5.2 Several other recently filled former field boundaries, all depicted on recent OS mapping, were recorded during the watching brief. The majority of these contained modern glass, brick and tile fragments and, in one case, plastic fertiliser sacks.

5.5.3 A large, clearly modern, feature was recorded in evaluation trench 14; during the watching brief this was seen to comprise a sub-circular feature, approximately 25m in diameter, filled with redeposited natural clay with common modern inclusions, such as beer cans, plastic sheeting and frogged bricks. Discussion with the farmer revealed that this was a former

pond, depicted on recent OS mapping, that had been deliberately backfilled in the 1970s.

5.5.4 At Tot Hill, a very substantial deposit of redeposited natural clay with occasional modern brick and tile inclusions was found to cover the majority of the broad ridge crossed by the route at this point. Excavation showed that this was up to 1.50m thick and overlay an original topsoil deposit. It is probable that this deposit represents dumping associated with the construction of the present A14, which lies in a cutting approximately 50m to the north-east, in the 1960s.

5.6 Undated

5.6.1 In the base of a small valley, immediately to the south-east of Tot Hill, the watching brief recorded the presence of a broad linear deposit, approximately 40m wide, of dark brownish grey silty clay subsoil with sparse charcoal inclusions across the base of the approximately east-west valley (**Figure 2**). Where this deposit was cut by a small, culverted stream it was seen to be 0.40m thick, overlay the natural substrata and was overlain by a narrower (*c.* 5m wide) deposit of pale grey sandy clay, 0.20m thick. As this area of the route was to be built on an embankment, no further excavation was undertaken and the deposits were preserved *in situ*.

5.6.2 It seems likely that these deposits represent the former course of the now culverted stream. Early OS mapping (1889) depicts the area in the base of the valley as a series of small enclosures aligned along the base of the valley, possibly indicating that, prior to culverting, the stream was far wider, or perhaps merely prone to flooding; the land in the base of the valley being more marginal was enclosed in the series of small fields, away from the more productive, or more easily farmed land of the valley sides.

6 THE FINDS

6.1 Finds were recovered from two contexts during the evaluation – from the fill of pit 604 (fill 605), and the fill of ditch 804 (fill 805) – and from two topsoil contexts during the watching brief. The quantification for these finds is presented by material type in Table 1. The assemblage includes material of prehistoric, Romano-British and Saxon date.

Prehistoric

6.2 Of particular interest is the group of sherds from pit 604. This included 14 sherds, all in relatively fine flint-tempered fabrics. The fabrics themselves are not particularly chronologically distinctive, but there are three diagnostic sherds - two rim sherds and one decorated body sherd. The larger of the two rim sherds is thickened and everted, with a slightly flattened top; the form is open, and there is a vestigial carination below the rim, carrying impressed dot decoration. The smaller rim sherd is of similar form but probably derives from a second vessel; slight transverse ‘fluting’ is visible on the rim. The form of these two sherds serves to identify them as Early Neolithic, within the range of decorated types with a date range of *c.*3600-3300 (Gibson 2002, 70). On the basis of similarity of fabric type, the plain body sherds within this group have also been dated as Early Neolithic, but the single decorated body sherd, which is full oxidised, in contrast to the other sherds, is from an early Bronze Age Beaker vessel. These early prehistoric sherds occurred residually in this context, accompanied by early

Romano-British wares, although the relative absence of abrasion, on the Early Neolithic sherds at least, suggests little post-depositional movement.

6.3 Three flint-tempered sherds recovered during the watching brief (101) are coarser, and are more characteristic of the later prehistoric period, probably the Late Bronze Age.

6.4 Other prehistoric finds comprise five pieces of worked flint, recovered from the topsoil during the watching brief. These comprise four flakes and one scraper, all showing some edge damage commensurate with their topsoil provenance. These pieces cannot be closely dated within the prehistoric period, and have been assigned to a broad date range of Neolithic/Bronze Age.

Romano-British

6.5 The remaining 46 sherds from pit 604 are of Late Iron Age or early Romano-British date (1st to early 2nd century AD), comprising sherds from necked and cordoned jars in grog-tempered and sandy fabrics. Further grog-tempered and greyware sherds from the watching brief (topsoil) and from pit 804 are not diagnostic, and are broadly dated as Late Iron Age/Romano-British.

Saxon

6.6 Two sherds from ditch 804 are in an organic-tempered fabric characteristic of the early/mid Saxon period.

6.7 Other finds, all from pit 604, are of uncertain date; these comprise a few small fragments of burnt animal bone, an unidentified iron object, and three small, abraded fragments of fired clay.

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

	Context	Description	Animal Bone	Prehist. Pottery	LIA/RB Pottery	Saxon Pottery	Worked Flint	Other Finds
W/brief	100	Unstratified finds	-	-	-	-	5/63	-
W/brief	101	Unstratified finds	-	3/12	1/4	-		-
Evaluation	605	Fill of pit 604	15/3	14/87	46/171	-	-	1 iron; 3 fired clay
Evaluation	805	Fill of ditch 804	-	-	9/24	2/16	-	-
TOTALS			**15/3**	**17/99**	**56/199**	**2/16**	**5/63**	

7 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Two bulk samples were taken during the project, one from pit 604 and one from ditch 804. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods and assessed for charred plant remains and other environmental material. The results are presented in Table 2.

7.2 The flots were generally small, with high numbers of roots and modern seeds. As such there is some possibility of contamination of the samples by both younger and older material through stratigraphic movement.

7.3 Only a single charred seed of clover (*Trifolium* sp.) was recovered from the sample from ditch 604. No remains of cereals were recovered. Remains of

chaff and grains of hulled wheats are common finds within Iron Age and Roman settlements in England, usually associated with domestic activities and settlement. The absence of such material from these features may then indicate either that settlement activity is generally short-lived or absent from the area, and/or that the features are only peripheral to such areas.

7.4 Charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in Table 2. As with the charred plant remains, charcoal was generally poorly represented within the samples. While the samples looked relatively dark and charcoal rich in the field, under the reasonable amount of root action noted above, wood charcoal will readily fragment into finer fractions that pass through the 0.5mm sieve.

Table 2. Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

				Flot							Residue
Feature type/no	Context	Sample	size litres	flot size ml	Grain	Chaff	Charre other	Seeds	Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm
Trench 6				Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British							
Pit 604	605	1	10	20 ^{70}	-	-	C	1x Trifolium	3/2ml	-	-
Trench 8				Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British (intrusive? E-M Saxon)							
Ditch 804	805	2	10	20 ^{80}	-	-	-	-	0/0.2ml	-	-

KEY: A** = exceptional, A* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs Moll-f = freshwater molluscs; Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs, C14 = radiocarbon suggestions

NOTE: ^{1}flot is total, but flot in superscript = % of rooty material. ^{2}Unburnt seed is in lower case to distinguish it from charred remains

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Only a very low level of archaeologically significant features and deposits were encountered during both the watching brief and the evaluation. The most significant evidence of past land use comprises the two Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British features found in the western side of Gallows Field. Although only examined during the evaluation, it appears that these features possibly relate to a small farmstead or settlement in the general area. As these features and deposits were sealed below the sandy clay subsoil, in an area of proposed embankment, it was possible to construct the embankment above the remains without any disturbance, thus preserving them *in situ.* The deposits relating to a possible palaeochannel to the east of Tot Hill were also in an area of proposed embankment and were also preserved *in situ*. No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief and the scheme has therefore had a negligible impact upon the archaeology of the area.

8.2 The small assemblage of prehistoric flintwork and pottery recovered from the topsoil during the watching brief, and the residual Early Neolithic and Beaker pottery recovered from a later feature during the evaluation, whilst not associated with any settlement remains, attests to the prehistoric occupation and exploitation of the area. The relatively unabraded condition of these sherds suggests very little movement prior to their redeposition within the Late Iron Age or Romano-British pit. The presence of two sherds of Saxon pottery in ditch 804, whilst probably intrusive, suggests Saxon activity in the immediate area. Although the majority of the pottery recovered from ditch 804 was of Late Iron Age or Romano-British date, it is

possible that these may have derived from the possible nearby settlement and the ditch is actually Saxon in date.

8.3 Other remains recorded during the evaluation and watching brief appear to represent the post-medieval and later occupation and exploitation of the area. It is uncertain whether the deposits in the base of the valley to the east of Tot Hill represents the course of a braded channel, marshy land along the margins of the now culverted stream or episodes of overbank flooding.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 In view of the limited results of the archaeological project for the A14 Haughley Bends Improvement, no further analysis of the results is proposed. A copy of this report will be submitted for inclusion in the Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record. A note on the results will be published in an appropriate local archaeological journal and the project archive, including the finds, will be deposited with the Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service in due course.

10 REFERENCES

Gibson, A., 2002, *Prehistoric Pottery in Britain and Ireland*, Stroud: Tempus

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APPENDIX 1: Catalogue of Trench Descriptions

TRENCH - 1		**NGR:** 60235 261385
Dimensions – 20m x 2.2m		**Ground Level –** 52.40m OD
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
101	Mid-dark brownish grey silty clay loam topsoil with abundant sub-rounded pebble inclusions.	0-0.29m
102	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil with sparse pebble inclusions.	0.29-0.39m
103	Mid reddish brown clay with abundant stone inclusions. Natural glacial till substrata.	0.39m+

TRENCH – 2		NGR: **602345 261380**
Dimensions – 18m x 2.2m		**Ground Level –** 52.10m OD
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
201	Mid-dark brownish grey silty clay loam topsoil with abundant sub-rounded pebble inclusions.	0-0.34m
202	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil with sparse pebble inclusions.	0.34-0.52m
203	Mid reddish brown clay with abundant stone inclusions. Natural glacial till substrata.	0.52m+

TRENCH - 3		NGR: **602360 261360**
Dimensions – 18m x 2.2m		**Ground Level –**49.80m OD
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
301	Mid-dark brownish grey silty clay loam topsoil with abundant sub-rounded pebble inclusions.	0-0.30m
302	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil with sparse pebble inclusions.	0.30-0.41m
303	Mid reddish brown clay with abundant stone inclusions. Natural glacial till substrata.	0.41m+

TRENCH - 4		NGR: **602385 261345**
Dimensions – 20m x 2.2m		**Ground Level –** 49.90m OD
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
401	Mid-dark brownish grey silty clay loam topsoil with abundant sub-rounded pebble inclusions.	0-0.44m
402	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil with sparse pebble inclusions.	0.44-0.70m
403	Mid reddish brown clay with abundant stone inclusions. Natural glacial till substrata.	0.70m+
404	Approximately north-south orientated ditch, 1.10m wide and 0.65m deep with moderately steep, concave sides and a concave base. Filled with 405, cuts natural substrata. Probable field boundary shown on recent OS mapping.	0.70-1.35m
405	Dark reddish brown silty clay fill of ditch 404. Sealed below subsoil 402. No finds recovered.	0.70-1.35m

TRENCH - 5		NGR: **602400 261330**
Dimensions – 20m x 2.2m		**Ground Level –** 49.50m OD
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
501	Mid-dark brownish grey silty clay loam topsoil with abundant sub-rounded pebble inclusions.	0-0.34m
502	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil with sparse pebble inclusions.	0.34-0.50m
503	Mid reddish brown clay with abundant stone inclusions. Natural glacial till substrata.	0.50m+

TRENCH - 6		NGR: **602420 261320**
Dimensions – 20m x 2.2m		**Ground Level –**48.80m OD
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
601	Mid-dark brownish grey silty clay loam topsoil with abundant sub-rounded pebble inclusions.	0-0.32m
602	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil with sparse pebble inclusions.	0.32-0.62m
603	Mid reddish brown clay with abundant stone inclusions. Natural glacial till substrata.	0.62m+
604	Small, sub-circular pit, approximately 1m in diameter and 0.23m deep with moderately steep, irregular sides and an irregular base. Cuts natural substrata 603, filled with 605	0.62-0.85m
605	Dark greyish brown silty clay with abundant angular flint inclusions; fill of pit 604. Sealed below subsoil 602. Late Iron Age and early Romano-British pottery recovered. Bulk environmental sample (sample 1) taken for plant macrofossils and charcoal.	0.62-0.85m

TRENCH - 7		NGR: **602445 261290**
Dimensions – 20m x 2.2m		**Ground Level –**48.50m OD
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
701	Mid-dark brownish grey silty clay loam topsoil with abundant sub-rounded pebble inclusions.	0-0.33m
702	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil with sparse pebble inclusions.	0.33-0.63m
703	Mid reddish brown clay with abundant stone inclusions. Natural glacial till substrata.	0.63m+

TRENCH - 8		**NGR:** 602460 261270
Dimensions –20m x 2.2m		**Ground Level –** 49.10m OD
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
801	Mid-dark brownish grey silty clay loam topsoil with abundant sub-rounded pebble inclusions.	0-0.25m
802	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil with sparse pebble inclusions.	0.25-0.55m
803	Mid reddish brown clay with abundant stone inclusions. Natural glacial till substrata.	0.55m+
804	Approximately north-west to south-east orientated ditch, 1.0m wide and 0.35m deep with irregular sides and base. Cuts natural substrata 803, filled with 805.	0.55-0.90m
805	Dark greyish brown silty clay with abundant angular flint inclusions; fill of ditch 804. Sealed below subsoil 802. Late Iron Age and early Romano-British pottery recovered. Bulk environmental sample (sample 2) taken for plant macrofossils and charcoal.	0.55-0.90m

TRENCH – 9		NGR: **602580 261175**
Dimensions – 15m x 2.2m		**Ground Level –** 51.55m OD
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
901	Mid-dark brownish grey silty clay loam topsoil with abundant sub-rounded pebble inclusions.	0-0.24m
902	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil with sparse pebble inclusions.	0.24-0.61m
903	Mid reddish brown clay with abundant stone inclusions. Natural glacial till substrata.	0.61m+

TRENCH - 10		NGR: **602600 261165**
Dimensions – 20m x 2.2mm		**Ground Level –**51.40m OD
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
1001	Mid-dark brownish grey silty clay loam topsoil with abundant sub-rounded pebble inclusions.	0-0.29m
1002	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil with sparse pebble inclusions.	0.29-0.67m
1003	Mid reddish brown clay with abundant stone inclusions. Natural glacial till substrata.	0.67m+
1004	Approximately north-east to south-west orientated ditch, 1.40m wide and 0.35m deep with moderately steep concave sides and a concave base. Cuts natural substrata, filled with 1005. Probable flanking ditch of trackway/green lane, which is still extant to the south-west.	0.67-1.02m
1005	Mid reddish brown silty clay fill of ditch 1004, probably derived from gradual silting. Sealed below subsoil 1002.	0.67-1.02m

TRENCH - 11		NGR: **602615 261150**
Dimensions – 20m x 2.2m		**Ground Level –** 51.55m OD
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
1101	Mid-dark brownish grey silty clay loam topsoil with abundant sub-rounded pebble inclusions.	0-0.30m
1102	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil with sparse pebble inclusions.	0.30-0.52m
1103	Mid reddish brown clay with abundant stone inclusions. Natural glacial till substrata.	0.52m+

TRENCH - 12		NGR: **602635 261135**
Dimensions – 20m x 2.2m		**Ground Level –**51.70m OD
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
1201	Mid-dark brownish grey silty clay loam topsoil with abundant sub-rounded pebble inclusions.	0-0.34m
1202	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil with sparse pebble inclusions.	0.34-0.48m
1203	Mid reddish brown clay with abundant stone inclusions. Natural glacial till substrata.	0.48m+

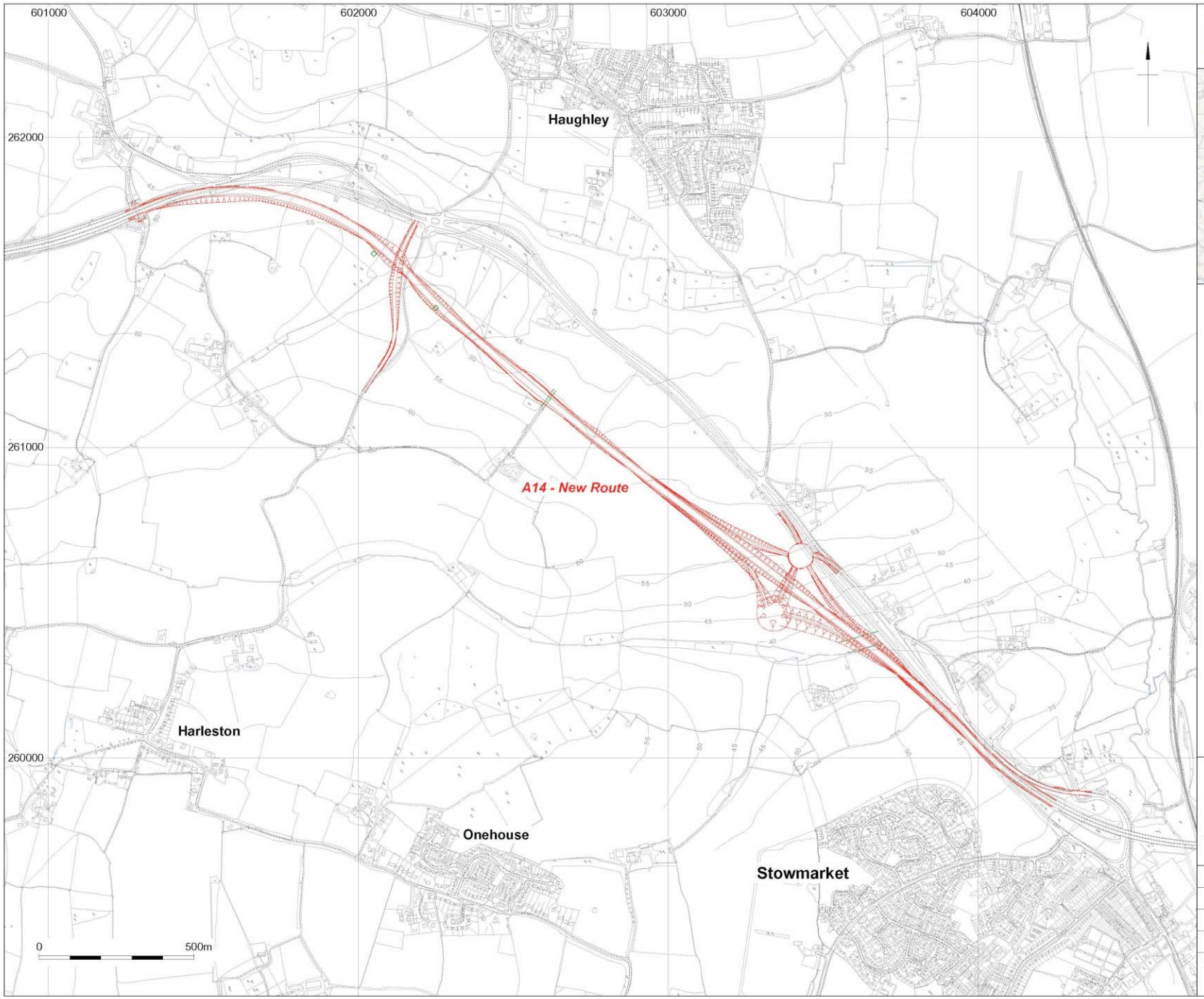
TRENCH - 13	NGR: **602650 261125**	
Dimensions – 20m x 2.2m	**Ground Level –**51.75m OD	
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
1301	Mid-dark brownish grey silty clay loam topsoil with abundant sub-rounded pebble inclusions.	0-0.30m
1302	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil with sparse pebble inclusions.	0.30-0.57m
1303	Mid reddish brown clay with abundant stone inclusions. Natural glacial till substrata.	0.57m+

TRENCH - 14	NGR: **602665 261110**	
Dimensions – 20m x 2.2m	**Ground Level –**51.45m OD	
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
1401	Mid-dark brownish grey silty clay loam topsoil with abundant sub-rounded pebble inclusions.	0-0.28
1402	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil with sparse pebble inclusions.	0.28-0.77m
1403	Mid reddish brown clay with abundant stone inclusions. Natural glacial till substrata.	0.77m+
1404	Very large modern feature, probably a backfilled pond depicted on recent OS mapping, fills almost entire trench. Not excavated, cuts subsoil 1402, filled with 1405.	0.28m+
1405	Very mixed dark greyish brown-pale grey silty clay fill of feature 1404. Contained modern bottles, plastics and bricks. Not excavated.	0.28m+

TRENCH - 15	**NGR:** 602685 261095	
Dimensions –20m x 2.2m	**Ground Level –** 51.40m OD	
Context No.	**Description**	**Depth**
1501	Mid-dark brownish grey silty clay loam topsoil with abundant sub-rounded pebble inclusions.	0-0.42m
1502	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil with sparse pebble inclusions.	0.42-0.63m
1503	Mid reddish brown clay with abundant stone inclusions. Natural glacial till substrata.	0.63m+
1504	Shallow, irregular feature, 1m+ long, 0.5m+ wide and 0.18m deep with irregular sides and base, probable recent tree root disturbance. Cuts natural substrata 1503, filled with 1505.	0.63-0.81m
1505	Mid reddish brown silty clay fill of probable root disturbance 1504. Contained probable in-situ root remains, but no datable finds. Sealed below subsoil 1502.	0.63-0.81m

APPENDIX 2: Catalogue of Context Descriptions (Watching Brief)

Context No.	Description
100	No. allocated to topsoil finds around NGR 602050 261625
101	No. allocated to topsoil finds around NGR 602250 261450
102	Dark brownish grey silty clay. Possible fill of palaeochannel at NGR 603650 260350
103	Pale grey sandy clay. Possible fill of palaeochannel at NGR 603650 260350
104	Cut of modern field boundary depicted on recent OS mapping.
105	Dark greyish brown silty clay fill of 104. Modern brick and plastics noted, but not recovered. Not excavated.
106	Probable ditch flanking trackway; encountered in trench 10 of evaluation (60951/1004). Not excavated.
107	Fill of 106. Not excavated.
108	Probable ditch flanking trackway; parallel to 106, some 5m to the north-west. Not excavated.
109	Fill of ditch 108.
110	Cut of modern field boundary aligned approximately east-west depicted on recent OS mapping.
111	Mid brownish grey silty clay fill of 110. Modern brick and plastic noted, but not recovered. Not excavated.
112	Cut of modern field boundary aligned approximately north-south depicted on recent OS mapping. Appears contemporary with ditch 110. Not excavated.
113	Mid brownish grey silty clay fill of 110. Modern bottles and brick noted, but not recovered. Not excavated.
114	Cut of poss. Palaeochannel, c. 40m wide running approximately N-S across easement in base of valley. Filled with 102 and 103.



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Site location plan

Figure 1

Wessex Archaeology

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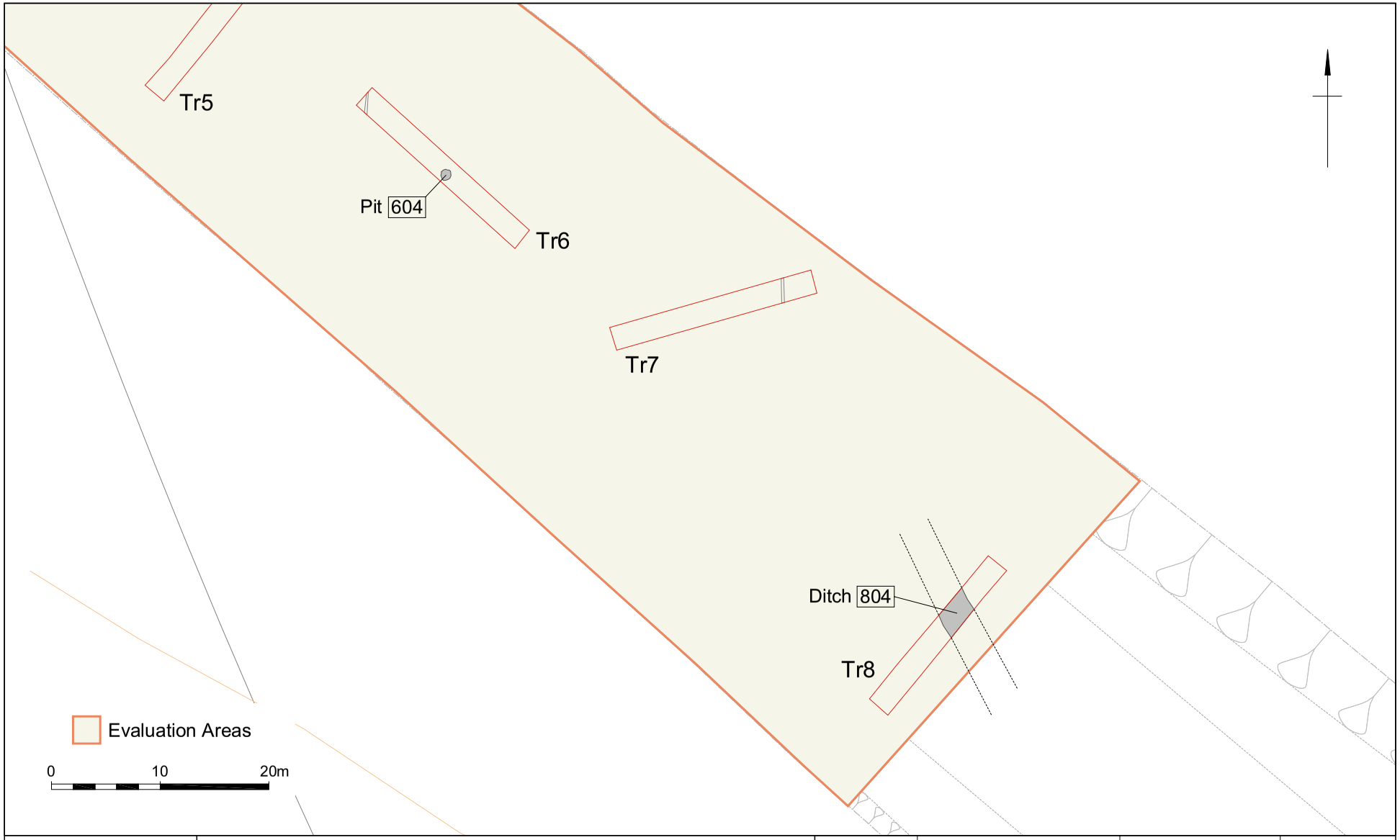
Plan of Scheme with trench locations and watching brief finds

Figure 2



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Detail of Evaluation trenches 6, 7 and 8 showing pit 604 and ditch 804

Figure 3

Plate 1: Excavating Late Iron Age or Romano-British Ditch

Plate 2: Watching Brief working shot; note recent field ditch in foreground

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Plates 1 and 2

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