



Land West of Reading Road,
Winterbrook,
Wallingford

Archaeological
Evaluation Report



**LAND WEST OF READING ROAD, WINTERBROOK,
WALLINGFORD**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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LAND WEST OF READING ROAD, WINTERBROOK, WALLINGFORD

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SUMMARY

CgMs Consulting Limited commissioned Wessex Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a c. 3.26 hectare, sub-rectangular area of land centred on National Grid Reference 460450 188640. This fieldwork followed an earlier desk-based assessment and two geophysical surveys which produced evidence of probable prehistoric features including two sub-circular 'ring-ditch' features and two east-west aligned ditches in the northern field (Field No 3) of the two surveyed. The evaluation was undertaken over four days, between the 7th and 12th January 2009.

The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of eight trenches, (six 30m trenches and two 20m trenches) equating to a 1.31% sample (by area) of the Site. Where appropriate, these trenches were targeted on anomalies arising from the geophysical survey results. Overall, the results of the targeted trenches (Trenches 1 - 6) correlated well with the recent (2008) geophysical survey.

Aside from a single flake of earlier prehistoric (Neolithic?) worked flint and a possible Middle/Late Bronze Age ditch in the north-west of the Site, all the features were either Middle Iron Age or Late Saxon/Early medieval in date. The overall density of features, including the postholes of post-built structures, pits, two roundhouse foundation trenches and a possible roundhouse drip-gully, would strongly suggest the presence of Middle Iron Age settlement in the northern field of the Site. The spatial relationships, morphology and fill characteristics of the parallel ditches in the south of the northern field indicate the settlement was almost certainly enclosed at some point during its development.

In the north-west of the Site a large area (c. 9m in extent) of Late Saxon/Early medieval pitting (10th – 13th century) was recorded which also contained residual Early Saxon pottery (5th – 8th centuries). Although no other Saxon material was recovered during the evaluation, its presence is not unexpected given the importance of Wallingford from the Early Saxon period onwards.

All the recorded archaeological features, disregarding natural and modern features, were sealed by the subsoil and were generally cut at depths of c. 0.40 – 0.60m from the present ground surface. Most features were filled with characteristically dark greyish-brown sandy loam/sand clay fills containing relatively common and unabraded artefacts of Middle Iron Age pottery, animal bone and fired clay.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Lorraine Darton for her assistance in the implementation of the fieldwork. Wessex Archaeology would also like to acknowledge the collaboration of Richard Oram (Oxfordshire County Council Planning Archaeologist). The help and assistance of Mrs Rachel Seymour and Mr Andrew Carr during the fieldwork is also gratefully acknowledged.

Sue Farr managed the project for Wessex Archaeology. The fieldwork was directed by Chris Ellis with the assistance of Phil Harding and Jonathon Milward. This report was compiled by Chris Ellis with the assistance of Lorraine Mephram (Finds) and Jessica Grimm (bone). The illustrations were prepared by Will Foster.

LAND NORTH OF WINTERBROOK LANE, WALLINGFORD, OXFORDSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 CgMs Consulting Limited commissioned Wessex Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a c. 3.26 hectare, sub-rectangular area of land (hereafter referred to as the 'Site') centred on National Grid Reference 460450 188640 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 This fieldwork followed an earlier desk-based assessment and two geophysical surveys which produced evidence of probable prehistoric features, including two sub-circular 'ring-ditch' features and two, east-west aligned ditches in the northern field (Field No 3) of the two surveyed.
- 1.1.3 The evaluation included the machine excavation of a total of eight trenches, (including six, 30m trenches and two 20m trenches) equating to a 1.31% sample (by area) of the Site. Where appropriate these trenches were targeted on anomalies arising from the geophysical survey results.
- 1.1.4 The evaluation was undertaken over four days, between the 7th and 12th January 2009.

1.2 Planning Background

- 1.2.1 Planning permission is to be sought for residential development of the Site.
- 1.2.2 A Desk-based Assessment indicated an archaeological potential for the prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon periods (CgMs 2007).
- 1.2.3 Further to the inconclusive results of an earlier geophysical survey (GSB 1997), a second geophysical survey was undertaken which produced evidence of probable prehistoric features comprising two circular features and two linear features in Field No 3 (Wessex Archaeology 2008).
- 1.2.4 An archaeological evaluation was advised by Richard Oram (Planning Archaeologist for South Oxfordshire District Council) to confirm the presence/absence of archaeology on the Site.

1.3 Site Description, Topography and Geology

- 1.3.1 The proposed development area is located on the north side of Winterbrook Lane, in the parish of Cholsey, immediately south of Wallingford and comprises fields between Winterbrook Lane to the south and Bradford's Brook to the north. It is bordered by housing to the east and open fields to the west and lies c. 250m west of the River Thames. The Site (this evaluation) comprised the northernmost two fields only (Fields 2 & 3).

- 1.3.2 The Site is relatively level and flat, and situated at approximately c. 47 metres above Ordnance Datum (m aOD), though does rise slightly as it approaches the south side of Bradford's Brook. The land of all three fields of the proposed development area is currently under pasture. The underlying geology is Thames River Gravels (British Geological Society 1:63,660 Series – Sheet 254).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 Prior to the second geophysical survey (WA 2008) being undertaken, there were no known archaeological sites or findspots recorded within the boundaries of the Site itself. The following findings (below) are derived from the Specification for Archaeological Evaluation (CgMs 2009).

2.2 Background

- 2.2.1 The archaeological potential of the Site has been fully summarised in an earlier Desk Based-Assessment carried out by CgMs (2008).
- 2.2.2 The environs of Winterbrook have produced considerable evidence of past land-use and settlement activity spanning cultural periods from the Neolithic (4000 – 2400 BC) to Romano-British (AD 43 - 410) periods. A fragment of Neolithic polished stone axe-head has been found in the area (PRN 2198)(SU 6052 8818), while a watching brief carried out on an adjacent site at SU 6053 8815 revealed a late Neolithic or Bronze Age pit with associated flint implements of the same period (PRN 16420).
- 2.2.3 Extensive evidence from cropmarks has been recorded immediately west of the Site. Undated linear features with other associated features at the NW end (PRN 15391) (SU 6020 8870) are visible 200m west of the Site and an Iron Age occupation site (PRN 2291) (SU 6008 8865) is also recorded 320m to the west. An extended inhumation burial with a 4th century unglazed red bowl was found at a depth of about 0.3m when excavating for a new gas main in November 1948 in this area (PRN 2292)(SU 6008 8870).
- 2.2.4 Further cropmarks are visible 170m north west of the Site which show Early Iron Age enclosures (PRN D2227.01)(SU 6027 8883) and a Neolithic to Bronze Age (2400 – 1500 BC) ring-ditch with an inhumation (PRN D2227)(SU 6027 8884). Romano-British pottery sherds (PRN D2225) (SU 6010 8880) have also been recorded near these features. To the south-west of the Site, c. 230m, cropmarks have revealed a probable Bronze Age double concentric circle (PRN 8593)(SU 6028 8834) and a Neolithic hengi-form enclosure (PRN 2295)(SU 6024 8818) 380m south-west of the Site. A programme of surface collection and geophysical survey carried out over fields to the west of the Site have not only confirmed evidence identified from aerial photographs of extensive cropmark sites, but also provided new evidence (PRN 26137)(SU 6032 8815).

2.3 Geophysical Survey

- 2.3.1 Improvements to technical equipment since the initial geophysical survey in 1997 (GSB 1997), led to a recommendation to undertake a further survey to identify the presence or absence of archaeological features on the Site.
- 2.3.2 A detailed gradiometer survey (WA 2008) was conducted using Bartington Grad 601-2 Gradiometer systems over 30m x 30m grids with a sample interval of 0.25m along transects spaced 1m apart. Data was collected in a zigzag method along traverses running from south to north across the entire survey area.
- 2.3.3 The geophysical survey detected a number of anomalies of archaeological potential. Two ring-shaped anomalies positioned in Field 3 were identified, along with several other linear anomalies, indicative of ditches. In addition, a number of small discrete responses and numerous weak magnetic linear trends on various alignments were highlighted across the Site.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 The evaluation aims were to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date of any archaeological deposits within the area affected by the proposed development in order to inform an appropriate mitigation strategy.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Full details of the evaluation methodology are contained in the Specification of Archaeological Evaluation (CgMs 2009), and will not be reiterated in detail here, though is summarised as follows.

4.2 Method

- 4.2.1 It was proposed to evaluate the Site through the excavation of eight machine-excavated trenches which would be machine-excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m or at the level of archaeological features, where these were present.
- 4.2.2 Four of the trenches (**Trenches 3 to 6**) were targeted on 'probable archaeology' geophysical anomalies in the south of the northernmost field. This included two possible ring-ditches and two parallel east-west aligned ditches. Two trenches (**Trench 1 & 2**) were targeted on 'possible archaeology' and 'trend' anomalies noted in the geophysical survey in the northern field, adjacent to Bradford's Brook. The two other trenches (**Trenches 7 & 8**) were randomly located to provide greater coverage of the Site.
- 4.2.3 **Trench 1** was extended by 5m to the south-west to expose the southern edge of a large area of pitting. **Trench 8** was moved c. 7m eastwards of the proposed location to avoid any potential damage to existing orchard trees within Field 2.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section includes all information on the natural deposits encountered and the archaeological features and deposits recorded. A detailed summary of the evaluation trench stratigraphic sequences and deposits are listed in **Appendix 4**.
- 5.1.2 Overall, the results of the targeted trenches (**Trenches 1 - 6**) correlated well with the earlier geophysical survey results (Wessex Archaeology 2008). If the recorded archaeological features were not defined as 'probable archaeology' in the geophysical survey results (**Trenches 3 - 6**) they were tentatively identified as 'possible archaeology' or linear 'trend' anomalies.
- 5.1.3 All the recorded archaeological features, disregarding natural and modern features, cut the natural geology and were sealed by the subsoil. Given the differing nature of the natural and the fills of the archaeological features, the interfaces between them were very good to sharp and therefore the features were easily discernible.
- 5.1.4 All features occurred generally at depths of c. 0.40 – 0.60m from the present ground surface and were mostly filled with characteristically dark greyish-brown sandy loam/sand clay fills. Nearly all the exposed features had pottery, bone and fired clay visible on their surfaces (which was collected from all unexcavated features).

5.2 Natural deposits and soil sequence

Topsoil

- 5.2.1 This deposit was 0.25 – 0.30m thick and characterised by a mid to dark greyish-brown fine sandy loam, homogenous, friable, with rare sub-angular/rounded flint gravel (<30mm) and common fine root disturbance (turfline). This mostly had a diffuse interface with the subsoil below. Post-medieval pottery, ceramic building material (tile), bone and rare charcoal flecks were noted.

Subsoil

- 5.2.2 This was characterised by a 0.25 – 0.40m thick deposit of mid greyish-brown sandy loam/silty clay with very rare sub-angular flint (<20mm). It was slightly paler in colour than the topsoil and had a sharp interface with the natural geology as well as with most of the fills of the recorded archaeological features.

Natural

- 5.2.3 The underlying geology of the Site is Thames River Gravels but is characterised by a 0.30 – 1.0m(+) thick, fine alluvial deposits of light yellowish-brown, orange/brown sandy or silty clay. In deeper archaeological features and deeper trenches (**Trenches 2, 5, 8**) at c. 46.0m (aOD), another, lower, natural was encountered. This was characterised by a light yellowish-grey medium sandy clay with sparse sub-angular flint gravel inclusions (30mm). This covered the whole of the base of **Trench 2**.

5.3 Evaluation trenches

Trench 1

- 5.3.1 A residual worked flint flake from the topsoil (**100**) indicates earlier prehistoric (Neolithic/Bronze Age) activity on or near the Site. This trench was extended by 5m to the south to record the extent of a large area of dark material (**104**) – (**Plate 1**), thought initially to represent a spread of possible midden material, because of the upper fill's dark colouring and the relatively common finds on the surface. A small number of discrete geophysical anomalies at this end of the trench (Wessex Archaeology 2008) correspond with the pitting activity but the resolution of readings was too low to define the feature better.
- 5.3.2 A small 'sondage' on the northern edge of this material exposed a number of small, inter-cutting pits (**103**). The area, measuring c. 9m in extent, comprised a large area of pitting, containing Early/Middle (5th – 8th centuries) and Late Saxon/Early medieval pottery (11th – 13th century), bone, burnt stone and two forged iron nails.
- 5.3.3 Further to the north a NW/SE ditch (**105**) (**Plate 2**) and an east-west ditch (**107**) (**Plate 3**), was recorded being respectively 0.62m wide by 0.15m deep and 1.52m wide by 0.44m deep, both with shallow, concave sides. Ditch **105** corresponded closely to a linear 'trend' crossing the trench at this point (*ibid*). Both ditches contained light to mid greyish-brown silty and sandy clay secondary fills (**106**, **108**) which contained rare charcoal flecks. Middle Iron Age pottery, worked flint and ironworking slag was recorded from ditch **107** (fill **108**).
- 5.3.4 Further north, a large, unexcavated, possible pit was recorded (**109**) which was 1.78m by 1.40m in extent. No finds were recorded from the fill's surface (**110**). Nearby an unexcavated possible oval post-hole (**111**) was recorded which was 0.31m by 0.28m in extent.
- 5.3.5 In the very north of the trench a NNE/SSW aligned linear ditch (**113**) was recorded (**Plate 4**) which measured 1.05m wide and 0.26m deep with shallow concave sides and base, filled with a light grey sandy silt (**114**) containing Middle/Late Bronze Age pottery.
- 5.3.6 The shallow nature and slightly different fills of these ditches, compared to those to the south (**Trenches 3 -6**), could suggest they are agricultural in nature, rather than relating to settlement activity.

Trench 2

- 5.3.7 This trench contained three features; a modern service trench (**208**) at the east and a ditch (**203**) and possible post-hole (**206**) at the west end. Linear ditch **203** (**Plate 5**) was aligned north-south and corresponded with a linear geophysical 'possible archaeology' anomaly (*ibid*). It was characterised by a c. 2.70 wide cut, with a moderate, flat west side and was 0.70m(+) deep. The secondary fills (**204**, **205**) indicative of the slow silting of the ditch during its use, contained Middle Iron Age pottery and bone. The ditch was cut by a later (unexcavated) oval post-hole (**206**) which was 0.40 by 0.30m in extent.

Trench 3

- 5.3.8 This trench was located to examine the northern ring-ditch anomaly with a possible central feature, at a point where the c. 11m diameter ring-ditch is

intersected by a large linear ditch that also appears in the north-west of **Trench 4** to the west. Both features were identified in the trench when excavated.

- 5.3.9 In the north-west of the trench a well-defined NE/SW aligned curvilinear ditch, the northern segment of the ring-ditch (**303**), was clearly discernible. The ditch was 1.0m wide and 0.58m deep (**Plate 6**) with steep/near-vertical concave and convex sides terminating in a 0.20m wide and 0.20m deep sub-rectangular 'slot' at the base. The single, secondary fill (**304**) derived from slow silting of the ditch during its use, contained Middle Iron Age pottery, bone, burnt flint and charcoal. The relatively unabraded finds assemblage and the morphology of the ditch suggests the ring-ditch is close to, or within a Middle Iron Age settlement, and indicative of a roundhouse foundation trench.
- 5.3.10 To the south, another large unexcavated feature (**309**), almost certainly relates to two inter-cutting ditches noted in the geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2008). The feature correlated exactly with the intersection of the ring-ditch and east-west ditch identified as 'probable archaeology'. The northern curvilinear edge of the feature suggested a section of ring-ditch, whereas the straight, east-west edge to the south, suggested the large east-west ditch which is also recorded in **Trench 4** (**404**). Middle Iron Age pottery, bone and fired clay were recovered from the surface of both possible inter-cutting features (**310**).

Trench 4

- 5.3.11 This trench was located to intersect with the southern ring-ditch anomaly and an east-west ditch that also appeared in the centre of **Trench 3** (**309**) to the east. Both features were identified in the trench when excavated.
- 5.3.12 The east-west linear ditch (**404**) was recorded in the very north-west of the trench (**Plate 7**) and comprised a 1.80m wide and 0.70m deep 'V-shaped' ditch with moderate to steep, concave sides and a narrow concave base (0.13m). The primary fills of the ditch were derived from initial silting from the topsoil/subsoil horizons after construction (**408**) and the erosion of the ditch sides resulting in a redeposited natural fill (**407**). Middle Iron Age pottery, bone, burnt stone and a bone point were recovered from **407**. The later secondary fills (**405**, **406**) resulted from the slow silting of the ditch during its use and both contained relatively common charcoal flecks and lumps (<5mm), as well as Middle Iron Age pottery, bone, worked and burnt flint.
- 5.3.13 Between two ring-ditch segments in the south-east of the trench (see below) a short section of shallow, concave-sided curvilinear gully was recorded (**409**) which was 0.5m wide (**Plate 8**). The single fill contained Middle Iron Age pottery, worked and burnt flint and is indicative of a drip-gully for a roundhouse structure.
- 5.3.14 In the south-east of the trench two (unexcavated) segments of the south-western ring-ditch were exposed (**411**, **413**), being 1.2 – 1.9m wide ditches, comprising parts of a c. 11m diameter feature. They had identical dark greyish-brown sandy clay upper fills (**412**, **414**) from which Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered. This sub-circular feature may represent a second roundhouse foundation trench similar to the example recorded in **Trench 3**.

Trench 5

- 5.3.15 This trench was targeted on two geophysical anomalies; an east-west aligned feature that continued into **Trench 6**, and a possible pit in the north-west of the trench.
- 5.3.16 In the south-east an unexcavated, 2.8m wide, east-west aligned, ditch was recorded (**504**) with the uppermost fill containing pottery and bone collected from the surface. In the north-west of the trench an unexcavated, circular (0.70m diameter) possible pit (**506**) was recorded which corresponded with a discrete geophysical anomaly. It contained fired clay fragments (perhaps daub from a collapsed structure) and Middle Iron Age pottery on the surface,

Trench 6

- 5.3.17 This trench was targeted on a single geophysical anomaly; an east-west aligned feature that continued from **Trench 5**. In the south-west of the trench the unexcavated east-west ditch (**605**) was clearly visible. It measured 1.60m wide and intersected with another ditch (**603**) which showed as a linear 'trend' in the geophysical survey. Ditch **603** was 1.10m wide and 0.32m deep (**Plate 9**), and contained Middle Iron Age pottery and bone. In the north-east of the trench a 'lobe-shaped' feature (**607**), defined as a ferrous anomaly in the geophysical survey, was not excavated but probably represents a tree-throw.

Trench 7

- 5.3.18 This trench contained no archaeological deposits or features and no finds were retrieved from the spoil heaps.

Trench 8

- 5.3.19 This trench contained no archaeological deposits or features and no finds were discernible on the spoil heaps.

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The evaluation produced a small quantity of finds, deriving from six of the eight evaluation trenches excavated. Most of the finds appear to be of Iron Age date, with a small quantity of medieval and later material.
- 6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Appendix 2**.

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 Pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the site. The small assemblage includes sherds of Middle/Late Bronze Age, Iron Age, Saxon and medieval date.

Prehistoric

- 6.2.2 The majority of the pottery recovered (55 sherds) is of prehistoric date (only the 21 sherds from pit(s) **103** are later, see below).
- 6.2.3 The earliest sherds collected are two sherds from ditch **113**, both in flint-tempered fabrics, but one noticeably coarser than the other. Both sherds are undiagnostic, but could be dated on fabric grounds to the Middle/Late Bronze Age.
- 6.2.4 One other finely flint-tempered sherd from ditch **404** (fill **407**) could be Early Iron Age, but occurred with sherds in sandy fabrics. Sandy wares make up the rest of the prehistoric assemblage and, although there are no diagnostic sherds, there are sufficient indications of rounded vessel forms to suggest a probable date in the Middle Iron Age.

Post-Roman

- 6.2.5 The 21 sherds from pit(s) **103** are the only sherds later than prehistoric that were encountered on the Site. Six sherds are in sandy fabrics; these are visually very similar to the Iron Age sandy wares, but are fired slightly harder. A tentative dating in the Early/Middle Saxon period (5th-8th centuries) is suggested.
- 6.2.6 The remaining 15 sherds from the context, however, are later. These are in two fabric types, both of which are recognised within the Oxfordshire type series (e.g. Mellor 1994): Late Saxon and Early Medieval South-West Oxfordshire Ware (fabric OXBF) and Early to Late Medieval East Wiltshire Ware (OXAQ). One sherd in OXBF carries multiple stamped rosettes, but otherwise there are no diagnostic sherds. OXBF, although possibly dating as early as the late 9th century, is generally considered to date from the mid 11th to early 13th century, and this is broadly equivalent to the suggested date range for OXAQ (Mellor 1994, 54, 106).

6.3 Fired Clay

- 6.3.1 The small quantity of fired clay recovered consists largely of abraded and featureless pieces, but one piece from pit **506** has a flat surface and may derive from a slab or block, while a small piece from ditch **603** is flat and slab-like, with a rounded edge, and could be part of an oven plate (e.g. Poole 1984, figs. 4.76-77).

6.4 Animal Bone

- 6.4.1 The potential of the assemblage to provide information about husbandry patterns, population structures and consumption practices was ascertained from the number of bones that could give information on the age and sex of animals, butchery, burning and breakage patterns. The number of bones that could provide metrical information was also counted.
- 6.4.2 Conjoining fragments that were demonstrably from the same bone were counted as one bone in order to minimise distortion. No fragments were recorded as 'medium mammal' or 'large mammal'; these were instead consigned to the unidentified category.
- 6.4.3 The extent of mechanical or chemical attrition to the bone surface was recorded, with 1 indicating very poor condition, 2 poor, 3 fair, 4 good and 5

very good. The numbers of gnawed bone were also noted. Marks from chopping, sawing, knife cuts and fractures made when the bone was fresh were recorded as butchery marks.

Results

- 6.4.4 90 bones were hand-recovered at the site and date mainly to the Iron Age with some material being medieval in date. Animal bone was present for Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6. All bones derive from mammals. No bones from birds, fish or amphibians were present.

Condition and preservation

- 6.4.5 Almost all animal bone fragments were in fair or good condition. No bones showed signs of butchery but the breaking patterns indicate that the remains contain food waste (**Appendix 3**). The gnawed bones show that dogs had access to the bones prior to deposition. No loose but matching epiphyses or articulating bones were found. This might indicate that most bones come from re-worked contexts or secondary deposits.

Animal husbandry

- 6.4.6 The identified bones in this small assemblage derive from horse (n=6), cattle (30), sheep/goat (18) and pig (14). The low number of ageable remains indicates subadult and adult cattle. No bones were complete enough to be measured.

Consumption and deposition

- 6.4.7 The small assemblage contains a wide range of skeletal elements and this suggests that the animals were butchered nearby. Context **407** contained object 1, a horse splint bone of which the distal end was fashioned into a sharp point.
- 6.4.8 This small assemblage from Wallingford indicates the consumption of domestic animals as well as the presence of dogs. The worked horse bone indicates the use of bone tools.

6.5 Other Finds

- 6.5.1 Other finds comprise small quantities of prehistoric worked flint (flakes, not closely datable), ceramic building material (medieval/post-medieval brick and tile), burnt (unworked) flint and stone, ironworking slag and iron (two nails, not chronologically distinctive).

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 Overall, the results of the targeted trenches (**Trenches 1 - 6**) correlated well with the earlier geophysical survey results (Wessex Archaeology 2008). If the recorded archaeological features were not defined as 'probable archaeology' in the geophysical survey results (**Trenches 3 - 6**) they were noted as 'possible archaeology' or linear 'trend' anomalies.
- 7.1.2 A single, well struck residual worked flint flake recovered from the surface of the pitting in the south of Trench 1, represents general 'background activity' of the earlier prehistoric period (Neolithic?) recorded in many river valley locations. A ditch in the north of Trench 1 may be Middle/Late Bronze Age in date.

- 7.1.3 All the recorded archaeological features, disregarding natural and modern features, cut the natural geology and were sealed by the subsoil. They were generally recorded at depths of c. 0.40 – 0.60m from the present ground surface. All features were mostly filled with characteristically dark greyish-brown sandy loam/sand clay fills containing relatively common and unabraded artefacts of Middle Iron Age pottery, animal bone and fired clay.
- 7.1.4 These results, along with the overall density of features, including possible postholes of post-built structures, two roundhouse foundation trenches, and a possible roundhouse drip-gully strongly suggest the presence of Middle Iron Age settlement in this area of the Site. The spatial relationships, morphology and fill characteristics of the parallel ditches in the south of Field 3 would suggest the settlement activity was enclosed at some point during its use.
- 7.1.5 The fieldwork undertaken adds to an emerging picture of Wallingford in the later prehistoric period. Previous evidence of Bronze Age funerary activity and Early Iron Age settlement to the north of the Site, alongside an Iron Age occupation site to the west, had indicated an area of moderately intense activity at this time. Coupled with the results of this evaluation, it extends the area of known occupation eastwards towards the River Thames, indicating the continuation of settlement and related activity, in the form of ribbon development, alongside the banks of Bradford's Brook, in the later prehistoric period.
- 7.1.6 In the north-west of the Site a large area of Late Saxon/Early medieval pitting (10th – 13th century) was recorded which also contained Early Saxon pottery (5th – 8th centuries). The presence of Saxon material is not unexpected given the importance of Wallingford from the Early Saxon period onwards.
- 7.1.7 The archaeological remains recorded on site are not of national significance and on this basis a programme of archaeological investigation and recording ahead of development, would form an appropriate mitigation strategy for the proposed development. It is considered that the archaeological mitigation could be dealt with by a standard archaeological planning condition. A suitable archaeological mitigation strategy will be prepared in consultation with the Planning Archaeologist for South Oxfordshire District Council.

8 THE ARCHIVE

- 8.1.1 The project archive from the present fieldwork has been compiled into a stable, fully cross-referenced and indexed archive in accordance with Appendix 6 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd Edition, English Heritage 1991). The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury, under the project code **70781**. The full list of the contents of this archive are detailed in **Appendix 1** of this report. The project archive will be deposited with the Oxford Museum Service in due course.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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10 **APPENDIX 1: ARCHIVE INDEX**

File No.	NAR Cat.	Details	Format	No. Sheets
1	-	Index to Archive	A4	1
1	A	Client Report	A4	31
1	-	Project Design	A4	14
1	F	2008 Geophysical Survey	A4	17
1	B	Day Book (photocopy)	A4	6
1	B	Graphics Register	A4	1
1	B	Trial Trench Records		11
1	B	Context Records		51
1	B	Survey Data Index	A4	2
1	B	Survey Data Print-out	A4	8
1	B	Graphics Register	A4	2
1	B	Site Graphics	A4	12
1	B	Site Graphics	A3	3
1	D	Photographic Register	A4	3
1	E	Environmental Sample Register & Records	A4	4
1	C	Object Register & Records	A4	3
2	-	Colour slides	35mm	
FINDS	No. OF BOXES (1)			

11 APPENDIX 2: ALL FINDS BY CONTEXT (NUMBER / WEIGHT IN GRAMMES)

Context	Description	Animal Bone	Fired Clay	Pottery	Other Finds (No.)
100	topsoil				1 worked flint
104	pit(s) 103	5/8	4/94	21/307	1 worked flint; 2 iron
106	ditch 105	1/3		1/10	
108	ditch 107				1 slag
114	ditch 113			2/12	
204	ditch 203			1/34	
205	ditch 203			2/12	
304	ring ditch 303	12/205	1/3	6/71	
307	ring ditch 303				1 worked flint
310	ditch(es) 309	3/20	1/12	2/4	
405	ditch 404	13/140	1/24	12/170	1 worked flint; 1 burnt flint; 2 burnt stone
406	ditch 404	5/50		6/136	2 CBM; 3 stone
407	ditch 404	8/73		5/32	2 burnt flint; 1 worked bone
410	gully 409	1/1		1/14	
412	ring ditch 411			5/27	
500	topsoil	4/155			1 CBM
505	ditch 504	6/112		4/43	
507	pit 506		9/196	3/26	
604	ditch 603	8/36	1/41	5/63	
TOTALS		66/803	17/370	76/961	

CBM = ceramic building material

12 APPENDIX 3: ANIMAL BONE CONDITION (N)

Context	Unidentified	Loose teeth	Gnawed	Measureable	Ageable	Butchered	Total number of fragments
all	22	3	8	-	3	-	45

13 APPENDIX 4: TRENCH SUMMARY TABLES

All archaeological deposits/features shown in **bold**.

All (+) indicate deposits/features not fully excavated.

'Depth' equals depth from present ground surface.

All geophysical survey results mentioned refer to the 2008 survey (Wessex Archaeology)

Trench No. 1	Co-ordinates: (SW) 460421.82E, 188692.49N; (NW) 460436.82E, 188725.06N Ground Level (m AOD): (SW) 46.8; (NW) 46.5	Dimensions: 34.5x1.85m Max.depth: 0.56m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
100	Topsoil – dark greyish-brown sandy loam. Friable, homogenous with very rare sub-angular flint (<30mm).	0 – 0.28
101	Subsoil – mid greyish-brown sandy loam, homogenous, sterile, with very rare sub-angular flint (<20mm).	0.28 – 0.56
102	Natural – light yellowish-brown sandy clay with rare dark orange/brown iron mottles.	0.56(+)
103	Cut of intercutting pits, cuts 102, filled with 104 . A small 'sondage' within the northern extent of a c.9m wide area of pitting in the south end of the trench. Has steep concave sides and 0.48m(+) deep.	0.50 – 0.98(+)
104	Single fill of pit(s) 103 , not fully excavated. A dark grey sandy silt, with a band of relatively charcoal-rich material within it. Contains residual Early Saxon (5 th - 8th centuries) as well as Late Saxon/Early Medieval pottery (10 th -13 th century), bone, burnt stone and two iron nails.	-
105	Cut of ditch, cuts 102, filled with 106 (0.62m wide). A NW/SE aligned linear ditch with shallow concave sides and a very shallow concave base.	0.52 – 0.67
106	Single (secondary) fill of ditch 105 , below 101. Light greyish-brown silty clay with very rare charcoal flecks.	-
107	Cut of linear ditch, cuts 102, filled with 108 . A shallow, E/W aligned ditch (1.52m wide) with shallow to moderate concave sides and a flat base.	0.48 – 0.92
108	Single (secondary) fill of ditch 107 , below 101. A mid greyish-brown fine to medium sandy clay with very rare sub-angular flint (<20mm), sparse dark orange/brown iron mottles and rare fine root disturbance. Contains Middle Iron Age pottery, worked flint, slag(?), charcoal flecks.	-
109	Unexcavated possible pit cut, filled with 110 . A 1.78m x 1.40m sub-oval feature in the north end of trench. No finds on surface.	0.43(+)
110	Unexcavated fill of possible pit 109 . A dark greyish-brown sandy clay with sparse dark orange/brown iron mottling and rare charcoal flecks.	-
111	Unexcavated possible oval post-hole cut, filled with 112 . A 0.31m x 0.28m feature in the north of the trench.	0.43(+)
112	Unexcavated fill of possible post-hole cut 111 . A dark greyish-brown sandy clay with rare sub-rounded flint (<50mm). No finds on surface.	-
113	Cut of a linear ditch, cuts 102, filled with 114 . A NNE/SSW aligned ditch (1.05m wide) in the very north of the trench, with shallow concave sides and base.	0.43 – 0.69
114	Single fill of shallow ditch 113 , below 101. A light grey sandy silt with dark orange/brown iron mottles. Contains possible Middle/Late Bronze Age pottery.	-

Trench No. 2	Co-ordinates: (S) 460514.88E, 188674.88N; (N) 460489.77E, 188692.42N Ground Level (m AOD): (S) 46.53, (N) 46.70	Dimensions: 29 x 1.9m Max.depth: 0.6m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
200	Topsoil – Mid greyish-brown clayey silt with very rare sub-angular flint, diffuse boundary with 201.	0 – 0.25
201	Subsoil – light greyish-brown silty clay with very rare, small sub-angular flint.	0.25 – 0.50
202	Natural – light yellowish-grey medium sandy clay with sparse sub-angular flint.	0.50 – 0.60(+)
203	Cut of linear ditch, cuts 202, filled with 204 , 205 . A N/S aligned ditch (2.70m wide) with a moderate flat side, not fully excavated.	0.60 – 1.30(+)
204	Lower (secondary) fill of ditch 203 , below 205 , not fully excavated. A 0.30m(+) thick layer of light greyish-brown silty clay with sparse, small sub-rounded flint and sandstone pebbles. Contains Middle Iron Age pottery.	-
205	Latest (secondary) fill of ditch 203 , below 201, above 204 , cut by possible post-hole 206 . A 0.50m thick layer of light greyish-brown silty clay with rare small sub-rounded flint and dark orange/brown iron mottling. Contains Middle Iron Age pottery and bone.	-
206	Unexcavated possible oval post-hole (0.4 x 0.3m), cuts 202, filled with 207 .	0.60(+)
207	Latest fill of possible oval post-hole. A mid greyish-brown silty clay.	-
208	Modern service ditch cuts 202, filled with 209 . A 0.36m wide, N/S aligned feature cut from surface where it is visible away from the trench.	0 – 0.60(+)
209	Backfill of modern service ditch 208 , a mottled and disturbed redeposited natural consisting of a mixed orange/brown, greyish- brown and yellowish-white silty clay.	-

Trench No. 3	Co-ordinates: (SW) 460474.55E, 188651.74N; (NW) 460453.69E, 188677.00N Ground Level (m AOD): (SW) 46.88, (NW) 46.87	Dimensions: 30.4 x 1.9m Max.depth: 0.72m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
300	Topsoil – dark greyish-brown sandy loam (fine), friable, homogenous. Moderate definition with 301, contains rare sub-angular/rounded flint (<30mm), charcoal flecks and rare fine root disturbance.	0 – 0.26
301	Subsoil – mid greyish-brown fine sandy clay, lighter than 300, soft, malleable, very good interface with 302.	0.26 – 0.52
302	Natural – strong, light yellowish-brown fine sandy clay with very rare sub-rounded flint (<10mm) and sparse dark orange/brown iron mottles, rises up to the north where trench is only 0.52m deep. A lower natural is comprised of a pale yellowish-grey fine to medium sand with sparse sub-angular flint (<30mm).	0.52 – 0.72(+)
303	Cut of ring-ditch (c.11m diameter), cuts 302, filled with 304 , 307 . A 1.0m wide curvilinear ditch with steep/near-vertical concave (W) and convex (E) sides and a flat sub-square base (0.2m wide and 0.2m deep), possibly a beam slot? Recorded in the north of the trench. A possible roundhouse foundation trench corresponding to 309 to the south-east.	0.36 – 0.94

Trench No. 3 cont.	Co-ordinates: (SW) 460474.55E, 188651.74N; (NW) 460453.69E, 188677.00N Ground Level (m AOD): (SW) 46.88, (NW) 46.87	Dimensions: 30.4 x 1.9m Max.depth: 0.72m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
304	Secondary fill of ring-ditch 303 , below 301, above 307 . Dark greyish-brown sandy loam with rare sub-angular flints (some burnt). Contains Middle Iron Age pottery, bone, burnt flint and charcoal flecks.	-
305	Unexcavated possible sub-oval post-hole cut (0.33m x 0.30m), filled with 306 . Recorded in the south of the trench.	0.58(+)
306	Unexcavated fill of possible sub-oval post-hole 305 . A mid greyish-brown sandy clay with rare charcoal flecks. No finds on the surface.	-
307	Primary fill of ring-ditch 303 , below 304 . A light grey coarse sandy loam with common orange/brown mottles. Contains Middle Iron Age pottery and worked flint.	-
308	Unexcavated possible sub-circular post-hole cut (0.29m), filled with 317 . Recorded in the south of the trench.	0.61(+)
309	Unexcavated linear ditch(es), cut 302, filled with 310 . An E/W feature (2.38m wide) which has a slight curvilinear cut on the north edge suggesting this represents the intersection of a ring-ditch (c.11m diameter), with an E/W aligned ditch (as clearly seen in geophysical survey).	0.59(+)
310	Fill of unexcavated linear ditch(es) 309 , below 301. A dark greyish-brown sandy clay with rare sub-angular and angular flint (30mm) and charcoal flecks. Contains Middle Iron Age pottery, bone and fired clay.	-
311	Unexcavated possible sub-circular post-hole cut (0.34m), filled with 312 . Recorded in the north-west of the trench.	0.54(+)
312	Unexcavated fill of possible sub-circular post-hole 311 . A dark greyish-brown sandy clay with rare charcoal flecks. No finds on surface.	-
313	Unexcavated possible sub-oval post-hole cut (0.28m x 0.26m), filled with 314 . Recorded in the north-west of the trench.	0.61(+)
314	Unexcavated fill of possible sub-oval post-hole 313 . A mid greyish-brown medium sandy clay. No finds on surface.	-
315	Unexcavated possible animal burrow (?) in the north-west of the trench, cuts 302, perhaps 301 but very poor interface with 301, filled with 316. A 0.53m(+) long and 0.28m wide linear cut and rounded terminal to the south-east.	0.32 – 0.58(+)
316	Unexcavated fill of possible animal burrow (?), below 300, possibly 301 also. A mid greyish-brown medium sandy clay with rare sub-angular/rounded flint and sandstone frag's (<60mm) and rare charcoal flecks. No finds on surface.	-
317	Unexcavated fill of possible sub-circular post-hole 308 . A mid greyish-brown fine sandy clay. No finds on surface.	-

Trench No. 4	Co-ordinates: (SW) 460455.13E, 188644.88N; (NW) 460433.78E, 188667.50N Ground Level (m AOD): (SW) 46.90, (NW) 46.95	Dimensions: 29 x 1.9m Max.depth: 0.68m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
400	Topsoil – dark greyish-brown sandy loam, friable, homogenous with very rare sub-angular flint (<20mm).	0 – 0.26
401	Subsoil – mid greyish-brown fine sandy clay, soft, malleable, homogenous, sterile.	0.26 – 0.46
402	Natural (upper) – strong light yellowish-brown fine sandy clay with very rare sub-angular/rounded flint (<10mm) and sparse dark orange/brown iron mottles.	0.46 – 0.68(+)
403	Natural (lower) – pale greyish-yellowish fine sand with sparse sub-angular flint gravel (<30mm).	0.52 – 0.68(+)
404	Cut of linear ditch, cuts 402, filled with 405-408 . A 1.80m wide, linear, E/W aligned ditch with moderate to steep concave sides and a narrow concave base. Continues to the east into Tr.3 (309). Relatively unabraded finds of domestic nature and ditch morphology suggest this is a foundation trench of a roundhouse structure.	0.45 – 1.15
405	Latest (secondary) fill of ditch 404 , below 401. A 0.22m thick deposit of dark grey sandy clay with rare sub-angular flint (<40mm) and rare charcoal flecks and lumps (<5mm). Contains Middle Iron Age pottery, bone, worked and burnt flint.	-
406	Secondary fill of ditch 404 , below 405 . A 0.25m thick deposit of mid greyish-brown sandy clay with rare sub-angular flint (<30mm) and sparse charcoal flecks (more than 405). Contains Middle Iron Age pottery, bone and burnt flint.	-
407	Later (primary) fill of ditch 404 , below 406 . A 0.18m thick deposit of dark yellowish-brown sandy clay with sparse mottles of 406 material. Derived from erosion of feature sides during initial use. Contains Middle Iron Age pottery, bone, burnt stone and a bone point.	-
408	Primary fill of ditch 404 , below 401. A 0.19m thick, compact deposit of light grey fine to medium sandy clay with sparse sub-angular flint (<30mm) (more towards the base) and rare charcoal. No finds. Derived from initial silting after ditch construction.	-
409	Gully, cuts 402, filled with 410 . An E/W aligned, 0.5m wide, slightly curvilinear shallow gully with moderate, concave sides and a very shallow, concave base. Possible roundhouse drip-gully.	0.42 – 0.53
410	Single fill of gully 409 , below 401. A dark grey sandy loam. Contains Middle Iron Age pottery, worked and burnt flint.	-
411	Unexcavated ring-ditch (south), (c.11m diameter), cuts 402, filled with 412 . An E/W aligned, 1.9m wide, slightly curvilinear feature. A possible roundhouse foundation trench. Corresponds with ring-ditch segment 413 to the north-west.	0.46 – 0.74(+)
412	Unexcavated latest fill of ring-ditch (south) 411 , below 401. Dark greyish-brown sandy clay with rare sub-angular and angular flint (<30mm). Middle Iron Age pottery from the surface.	-
413	Unexcavated ring-ditch (north), (c.11m diameter), cuts 402, filled with 414 . A NNE/SSW aligned, 1.17m wide, linear segment of a ring-ditch (geophysical anomaly) in the middle of the trench. A possible roundhouse foundation trench.	0.45(+)

414	Unexcavated fill of ring-ditch (north) 413 , below 401. Dark greyish-brown sandy clay with rare sub-angular flint (<40mm). No finds on surface.	-
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Trench No. 5	Co-ordinates: (SW) 460417.18E, 188650.01N; (NW) 460428.61E, 188631.26N Ground Level (m AOD): (SW) 47.0, (NW) 47.29	Dimensions: 19.9 x 1.9m Max.depth: 1.0m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
500	Topsoil – a compact, mid greyish-brown silty clay with rare, small, sub-angular flint. Diffuse interface with 501.	0 – 0.28
501	Subsoil – light greyish-brown silty clay with very rare, small, sub-rounded 'pea gravel' (flint/chert) and charcoal flecks. Sharp interface with 502.	0.28 – 0.50
502	Natural (upper) – reddish-brown silty clay, homogenous, sterile, soft.	0.50 – 1.0(+)
503	Natural (lower) – a pale yellowish-grey fine silty clay with sparse sub-angular flint.	0.90 – 1.0(+)
504	Unexcavated cut of linear ditch cuts 502, filled with 505 . An E/W aligned, 2.80m wide ditch in the south of the trench. Also seen in Tr. 6 where it continues (from geophysical survey).	0.63(+)
505	Unexcavated latest fill of linear ditch 504 , below 501. Mid brown silty clay with rare, rounded flint and charcoal. Middle Iron Age pottery and bone from surface.	-
506	Unexcavated cut of small pit, cuts 502, filled with 507 . A 0.70m diameter circular feature in the north of the trench.	0.76(+)
507	Unexcavated fill of small pit 506 , below 501. Light greyish-brown silty clay with sparse charcoal. Middle Iron Age pottery and common fired clay from surface.	-

Trench No. 6	Co-ordinates: (NW) 460422.98E, 188628.30N; (NE) 460459.52E, 188642.08N Ground Level (m AOD): (NW) 46.94, (NE) 46.90	Dimensions: 19 x 1.9m Max.depth: 0.60m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
600	Topsoil – very dark grey fine sandy loam, virtually stone-free, homogenous.	0 – 0.20
601	Subsoil – dark greyish-brown sandy loam with rare sub-angular flint gravel (10 – 20mm). Diffuse interface with 600.	0.20 – 0.60
602	Natural – orange/grey sandy silt with irregular pockets of pale yellowish-grey fine sandy gravel at the south end of trench.	0..60(+)
603	Cut of ditch, cuts 602, filled with 604 . An ENE/WSW linear ditch (1.10m wide) in the south of the trench, with irregular, shallow to moderate sides and a flat base. Intersects with unexcavated ditch 605 to the north-east. Correlated with a linear 'trend' in the geophysical survey.	0.51 – 0.83
604	Single fill of ditch 603 , below 601. Dark greyish-brown sandy loam with sparse, sub-angular flint gravel (<10mm). Contains Middle Iron Age pottery and bone.	-
605	Unexcavated cut of ditch, cuts 602, filled with 606 . An WNE/ESE aligned, 1.60m wide, linear ditch in the south of the trench. Intersects with ditch 603 to the east.	-
606	Unexcavated fill of ditch 605 , below 601. Dark greyish-brown sandy loam. No finds from surface.	-
607	Unexcavated irregular 'lobed-shaped' feature, cuts 602, filled with 608 , 2.20m(+) long by 0.20m wide. Possible tree-throw.	0.80(+)

608	Unexcavated fill of irregular 'lobed-shaped' feature 607 , below 601. Dark grey fine sandy silt notably similar to subsoil 601.	-
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Trench No. 7	Co-ordinates: (SW) 460421.59E, 188542.17N; (NW) 460422.59E, 188573.92N Ground Level (m AOD): (SW) 46.55, (NW) 46.67	Dimensions: 29.2 x 1.9m Max.depth: 0.8m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
700	Topsoil – light to mid greyish-brown, compact silty clay with very rare, small, sub-angular flint. Diffuse interface with 701.	0 – 0.30
701	Subsoil – light greyish-brown, silty clay with rare, small, sub-rounded flint gravel mainly present at the basal c. 0.10m of the context.	0.30 – 0.80
702	Natural – a slightly reddish-brown sandy silt with small, sub-rounded flint gravel occurring in moderate concentrations.	0.80(+)

Trench No. 8	Co-ordinates: (SW) 460471.69E, 188561.90N; (NW) 460474.17E, 188594.11N Ground Level (m AOD): (SW) 46.65, (NW) 46.80	Dimensions: 29 x 1.9m Max.depth: 0.90m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
800	Topsoil – dark brown sandy loam, virtually stone-free. Diffuse interface with 801.	0 – 0.25
801	Subsoil – mid brown sandy loam with increased silty clay below.	0.25 – 0.65
802	Natural – orange/grey chalky, some clear lenses of bedded chalk, mostly stone-free.	0.65 – 0.90(+)
803	Natural – bed of orange sand with angular flint gravel (10 – 20mm).	0.90 - 0.95
804	Natural – lenses of fine chalky gravel inter-bedded with lenses of sand.	0.95 – 1.10

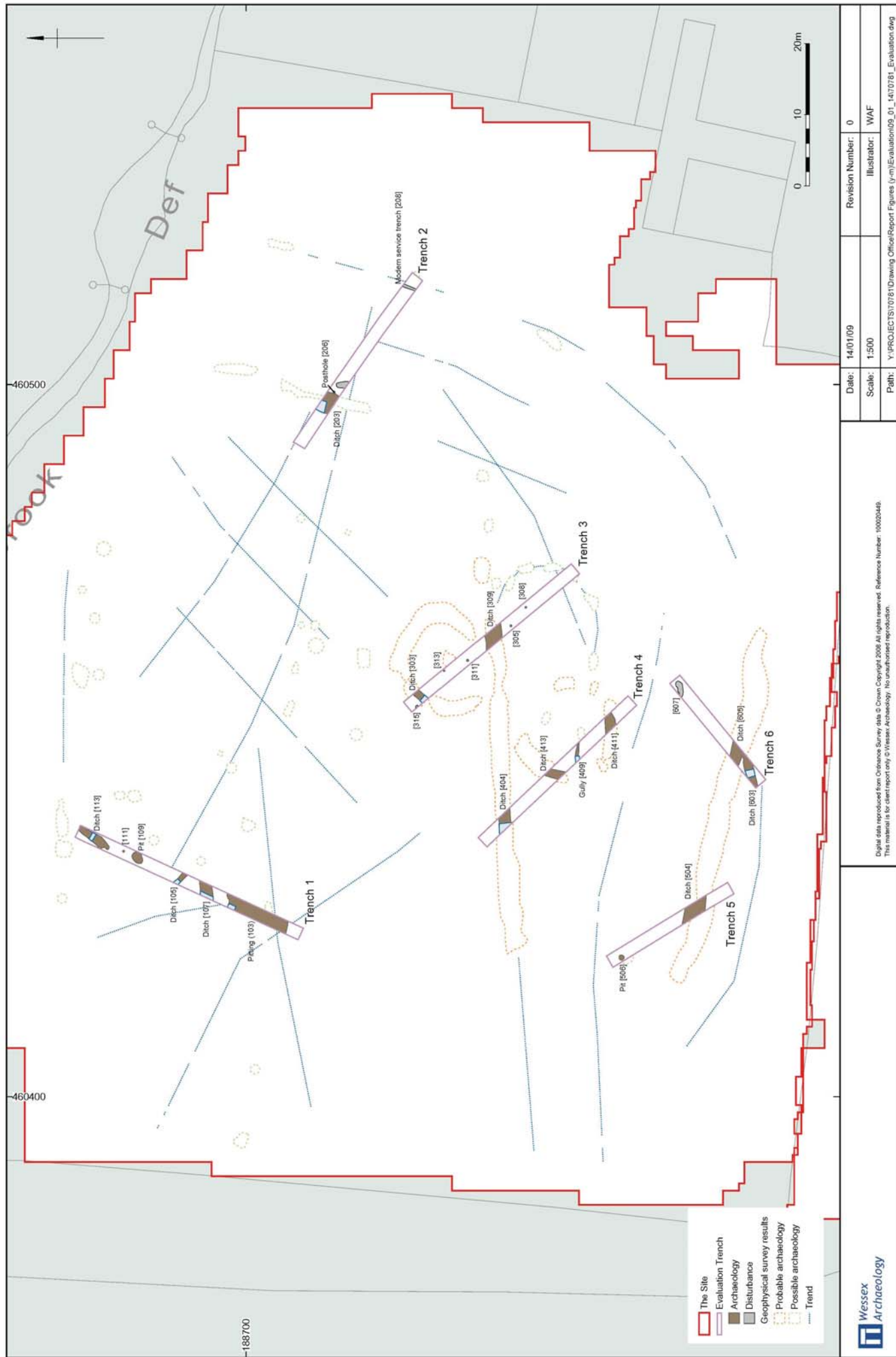




Plate 1: Pitting [103] in Trench 1 looking north-east



Plate 2: Ditch [105] in Trench 1 looking north-west (scale 1m)


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Plate 3: Ditch [107] in Trench 1 looking west (scale 1m)



Plate 4: Ditch [113] in Trench 1 looking south-west (scale 50cm & 20cm)


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Plate 5: Ditch [203] in Trench 2 looking north-east (scale 2m)

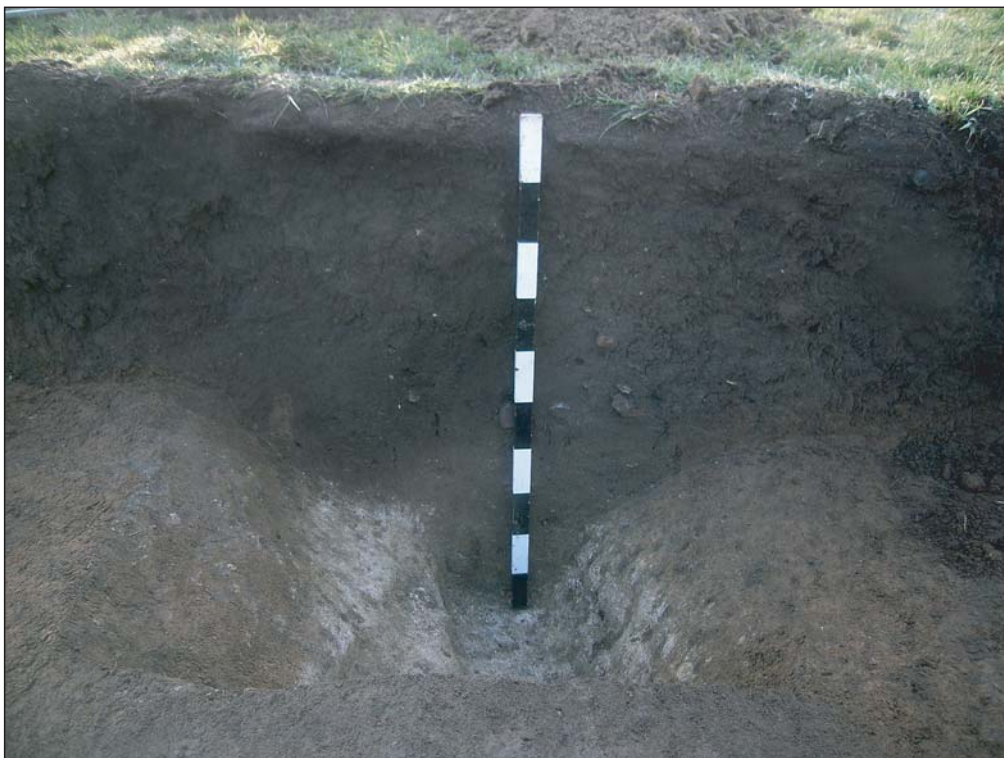


Plate 6: Ditch [303] in Trench 3 looking south-west (scale 1m)


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Plate 7: Ditch [404] in Trench 4 looking east (scale 1m & 50cm)



Plate 8: Gully [409] in Trench 4 looking east (scale 50cm)



Plate 9: Ditch [603] in Trench 6 looking west (scale 50cm)

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