Wessex Archaeology

Land at former Whiteknights Halls Upper Redlands Road University of Reading, Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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April 2009

LAND AT FORMER WHITEKNIGHTS HALLS UPPER REDLANDS ROAD, UNIVERSITY OF READING, BERKSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Heery International on behalf of the University of Reading to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land of the former Whiteknights Halls, Upper Redlands Road University of Reading (herafter UoR), Reading, located at NGR SU 73197229. The work was undertaken in advance of development proposals for the Site, including the construction of a new Halls of Residence.

Fifteen trenches were proposed as part of this phase of the evaluation (all 30m long and 1.6m wide). However due to access problems only 8 were excavated and these were moved slightly in location, due to the presence of trees and spoil heaps. Trench 23 was extended following the identification of archaeological features.

Natural geology (London Clay with Boyn Hill Gravel bands) was encountered at different depths across the Site. This was primarily a result of levelling and landscaping of parts of the Site, and was probably contemporary with the construction of the Whiteknights Halls.

A total of nine features were identified, with all but one concentrated to the eastern limits of the Site in Trench 23. These comprised three small pits or postholes with two containing burnt bone and a small pit containing worked flint, as well as curving gully. A short ditch segment containing Early to Middle Iron Age pottery was also revealed together with a large post-medieval ditch a undated tree throw.

A small undated pit or probable tree bole hole was observed in Trench 25, towards the southern limit of the Site.

A large exploratory sondage was excavated within the expanded Trench 23 to investigate the Boyn Hill Gravels, this was excavated to a depth of 2.10m to investigate the possible presence of Lower Palaeolithic material within the gravels. None were observed.

The fieldwork was undertaken between 2nd and 13th March 2009.

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Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Nadia Butt of Heery International for commissioning the work on behalf of the University of Reading. Wessex Archaeology would also like to acknowledge the help and assistance of Mary O'Donoghue, County Archaeologist for Berkshire County Council, who monitored the evaluation.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Thompson, Dave Reay, Cornelius Barton, Gary Evans and Steve Beach. This report was compiled by Steve Thompson with specialist contributions by Lorraine Mepham (finds) and Sarah F. Wyles. (environmental). The illustrations were prepared by Ken Lymer and the finds were processed by Sue Nelson and environmental samples were processed by Marta Perez-Fernandez.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Mark Williams,

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Heery International on behalf of the University of Reading to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Whiteknights Halls, Upper Redlands Road, University of Reading (hereafter The Site) (**Fig. 1**). This work was undertaken in advance proposed redevelopment of the Site. The Site is located at NGR SU 73197229

1.1.2 The development proposals for the University of Reading comprise the construction of a new Halls of Residence to replace the existing Whiteknights Hall. The evaluation followed the guidelines, methodology and aims set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (hereafter WSI: Wessex Archaeology 2009).

1.1.3 The WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2009) set out in detail the methodology to be employed by Wessex Archaeology during the course of the field evaluation. The format and content of the WSI is in accordance with guidance given in the document Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991) and in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (1994, revised 2001) and was approved by the Archaeological Advisor to the Local Planning Authority.

2 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1.1 The Site lies within the recently demolished Whiteknights Halls of Residence of the Whiteknights campus of the University of Reading (UoR). The Site is located at NGR SU 73197229 and slopes gently from the south to the north from 67.98m to 64.11m aOD (above Ordnance Datum).

2.1.2 The underlying geology is mapped as London Clay overlain by areas of Plateau Gravel (Boyn Hill Gravel).

2.1.3 The Site has been recently stripped and the previous halls demolished resulting in large spoil heaps of crushed brick occupying much of the Site. The periphery of the Site lies under grass, planted with trees, mostly under 30 years of age and the general landscape has been subject to extensive landscaping in the recent past, much of it associated with the construction of Whiteknights Hall.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Summary

3.1.1 The WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2009) indicated that Site lies in an area of known archaeological potential. The Reading Valley Gravels have Palaeolithic potential. Sites of late prehistoric (Iron Age) and Roman date have been discovered in the vicinity of the Site, with Roman and possibly later burials.

3.1.2 White Knights Manor was located close to the now demolished Whiteknights House, and there is potential for encountering landscape features associated with the estate.

3.2 Previous Investigations

3.2.1 There has been little archaeological investigation in the immediate vicinity of the Site. The construction of the University Buildings in the surrounding area was carried out prior to PPG16; therefore almost nothing is known of the impacts of previous development.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to :

- Determine the presence or absence of a former buried ground surface and archaeological remains beneath the Site, or parts of the Site and where present determine the extent, nature, date and importance of the archaeological remains.
- To investigate the potential for Palaeolithic remains preserved within the gravels.
- Establish the extent of the existing impacts on the Site
- Provide information which may be used to determine the subsequent treatment of the archaeological remains within the Site in light of the existing planning permission for this development.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Stripping and fieldwork methodology

5.1.1 It was proposed to open a total of 15 30m long and 1.6m wide evaluation trenches by machine within the proposed development, with a sondage excavated at the end of each trench to assess the potential for Palaeolithic artefacts. However due to problems with access to the entire Site due to the large spoil heaps 8 (recorded as Trenches 19-26) were excavated and these were not in their original proposed location due to the spoil heaps and the presence of trees with Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) upon them. A sondage was only able to be excavated in the extension to Trench 23 due to

Health and Safety concerns with regards to the stability of the basal geology and the high level of the water table.

5.1.2 Following the identification of significant archaeological remains within Trench 23 the trench was widened to create an open area excavation following discussion with the Archaeological Advisor to the Planning Authority.

5.1.3 The evaluation trenches were laid out and surveyed using a Global Positioning System (GPS).

5.1.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with the standards set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2009).

5.1.5 All works were conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations (as amended 1994), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

5.1.6 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

5.1.7 All overburden was removed under constant archaeological supervision with a 360º tracked excavator down to the natural clay and gravel geology. In general a depth of 0.55m-1m of topsoil, subsoil, made-ground and levelling deposits was removed down to natural geology. All trenches were scanned with a CAT prior to machining.

5.1.8 Fieldwork commenced on the 2nd to the 13th March 2009.

5.2 Monitoring

5.2.1 The evaluation was monitored by Mary O'Donoghue, Berkshire County Archaeologist, and all trenches were signed off prior to backfilling.

5.3 Recording

5.3.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system.

5.3.2 A full graphic archive was maintained. Plans and sections were produced at a scale of 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, where appropriate, with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels were calculated, with plans and sections annotated with OD heights. All features and archaeological interventions and objects were surveyed with a Leica GPS 1200, and hand-planned at an appropriate scale.

5.3.3 A full photographic record was maintained using digital cameras, colour transparencies and black and white negatives (on 35mm film). The photographic record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the principal features, finds excavated, and the site as a whole.

5.4 Finds and environmental strategies

5.4.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery of artefacts and environmental samples were devised by Wessex Archaeology's Finds and Environmental staff (see section 7).

6 RESULTS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The evaluation at the former Whiteknights Halls of Residence, UoR, demonstrated that much of the University grounds have been subject to disturbance in the form of landscaping and levelling, However to the eastern limit of the Site a small concentration of preserved archaeological features survived.

6.2 Trench Summary

6.2.1 The majority of trenches were blank or only revealed modern features or disturbance and therefore are only briefly summarised here. All trench records are detailed in **Appendix 1**.

6.2.2 Trenches **19**, **20**, **21**, **22** and **24** contained no archaeological remains of any significance, except for modern services and patches of disturbance. The natural geology where it was revealed was very clean an indication that the upper levels of the basal geology had been truncated, thus removing any archaeological remains which may have existed.

6.3 Trench 23

6.3.1 Trench **23** was located at the eastern periphery of the Site and measured 17m long by 2.4m wide, however this was extended to 20m by 14m following the identification of prehistoric archaeological remains. The Trench was extended to the west across the line of the footings relating to the recently demolished Whiteknights Halls of Residence, and it was clear that severe truncation of the basal geology had occurred, where it survived. Two phases of activity were identified within Trench **23**; Later Prehistoric and post-medieval.

Prehistoric

6.3.2 Most of the features were only dated by flint artefacts with a very broad date range through the prehistoric period.

6.3.3 Three post holes forming a roughly north south alignment were observed and recorded as (2331), (2310) and (2314). The latter two contained burnt animal bone and burnt flint. A slight curving east west aligned gully (2306/2308/2327) was observed which contained un-diagnostic worked flint as did a small pit (2312). These features were very shallow and had suffered some truncation.

6.3.4 The only dated feature was roughly east west aligned ditch segment (2325/2304) which contained two sherds of a soft, friable sandy fabric with organic inclusions of probable Early to Middle Iron Age date.

6.3.5 An undated large tree throw (2316) was identified at the northern end of the stripped area; this is also potentially prehistoric in date.

Post-medieval

6.3.6 A single large east west aligned ditch containing post-medieval coarse redwares and sherds of flower pot was observed at the northern end of Trench 23, and recorded as (2320). The ditch was recorded as 2.50m wide and 0.60m deep however where the ditch extended to the west. It became much narrower and shallower as a result of the truncation of the Site during the initial levelling and landscaping of the Site during the construction of the old Whiteknights Halls. Where patches of natural geology were observed between the old footings the ditch was recorded as 0.73m wide and 0.43m deep, however further to the west it was completely truncated.

Sondage

6.3.7 To investigate the Boyn Hill gravels a 2.4m wide sondage was excavated in an area of undisturbed natural within the extended area of Trench **23** to a depth of 2.10m (63.76m aOD). The upper levels of the natural had already been truncated and the sondage revealed laminated layers of gravel for the first 0.40m, and then revealed 0.18m of clean stone free sand, which overlay 0.26m of manganese and iron stained compact sand which was encountered at 65.28m aOD. Below the compact sand at a depth of 65.02m aOD further laminated layers of gravel (0.82m thick) were observed and these overlay the blue grey London clay which was observed at 64.32m aOD. The excavated arisings were scanned for artefacts, none were recovered.

6.4 Trench 25

6.4.1 Trench **25** revealed a possible pit or tree bole hole (2504), cutting the truncated natural geology. It was unclear if the feature was man-made as the fill (2505) was naturally derived and no finds were recovered.

6.5 Trench 26

6.5.1 A number of features were observed within Trench **26,** however on excavation it is was clear they were post medieval or modern. A roughly north south aligned linear ditch (2605) with vertical sides and a flat base filled with very organic compost type material was observed and interpreted as a probable plant bedding trench. The feature contained modern CBM (ceramic building material: brick and tile).

6.5.2 Two intercutting modern pits were also observed and recorded as (2607) and (2609) and in filled with modern CBM, coal and glass, these were in turn cut by a modern gas main.

6.6 Finds

6.6.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during the evaluation, deriving from two trenches (Trenches **23** and **25**). These are quantified by material type and by context in Table 1.

6.6.2 Pottery constitutes the only closely datable material from the Site. Of the seven sherds recovered, the two (conjoining) sherds from ditch (2325) are in a soft, friable, sandy fabric with organic inclusions. These sherds are

undiagnostic, and are dated on the grounds of fabric alone. While there is a possibility that this organic-tempered fabric is of Saxon date, the softness and low frequency of organic inclusions argues instead for a later prehistoric date, probably Early to Middle Iron Age. The five sherds from ditch (2320) are post-medieval coarse redwares, and include modern flowerpot.

6.6.3 Other finds comprise two worked flint flakes (not closely datable within the prehistoric period), some burnt, un-worked flint (un-datable), a sarsen pebble fragment showing no signs of working or utilisation, and a small quantity of burnt animal bone (not identifiable to species).

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

Context	Animal Bone	Burnt Flint	Worked Flint	Pottery	Stone
2305		1/69			1/81
2307			1/1		
2311	109/12	2/27			
2313			1/1		
2315	4/1	6/69			
2321				5/50	
2326				2/12	
TOTAL	**113/13**	**9/65**	**2/2**	**7/62**	**1/81**

CBM = ceramic building material

7 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Nine bulk samples were taken from a range of features thought to be of prehistoric date from within Trench 23 and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals.

7.2 Charred Plant Remains

7.2.1 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>4 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (Table 2) to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

7.2.2 The flots varied in size generally with low numbers of roots. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation, with plant remains being sparse and wood charcoal more abundant.

7.2.3 Small numbers of grain fragments were recorded from postholes (2312) and (2314) and pit (2312). The majority of these fragments were of indeterminate grain although there were a few fragments of grains of hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), and possibly of barley (*Hordeum vulgare* sl).

7.2.4 Very few weed seeds were recovered from these features. These included seeds of wild oats / brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* spp.) and knotgrass (polygonaceae). There was also a bud observed in posthole (2310).

7.2.5 These small assemblages are compatible with assemblages of prehistoric date from other sites in the area, such as the Bronze Age charred plant remains from Reading Business Park (Campbell 1992).

7.3 Wood Charcoal

7.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in Table 2. The wood charcoal fragments were mainly mature wood pieces with a small number of round wood pieces. Moderate quantities of wood charcoal were recovered in most of the samples.

8 POTENTIAL

8.1 Charred plant remains and wood charcoal

8.1.1 There is no potential for further analysis on the charred plant assemblages due to the paucity of remains. The study of the wood charcoal from these features is unlikely to provide much information about the nature of the site.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Further work

9.1.1 No further analysis is proposed on this suite of samples.

9.1.2 While there is no potential for further work on this set of samples, they do indicate that charred plant remains are preserved in the area, even if only in limited amounts, and that there is the potential for the recovery of charred assemblages if further excavation is undertaken in the area.

10 DISCUSSION AND STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

10.1 Overview

10.1.1 The evaluation demonstrated that the majority of the Site especially that which falls within the footprint of the earlier Whiteknights Halls of Residence has suffered considerable truncation.

10.1.2 It was identified that within the central courtyard between the now demolished Halls and under the line of the earlier footings that the upper levels of the basal geology have been removed resulting in only very clean natural and modern features being evident in the base of the trenches. This was most evident in Trench **23** where a large portion of the demolished Halls footings were observed and features observed externally of the footings were badly truncated when observed between the footings.

10.1.3 This truncation suggests that the original ground surface was rising towards the south and west with a much steeper gradient than exists today and that any archaeological features cut from this higher ground surface have not

survived as well as those to the eastern limit of the Site. Due to changes in the topography of the Site prior to the construction of the early Whiteknights Halls, the area has been extensively landscaped to create a flat, level working platform through which to cut the footings; removing the upper layers of geology, and any shallow archaeology.

10.1.4 Where the archaeology did survive at the very eastern limit of the Site (Trench **23**) it was in an area which is not to be impacted upon by the proposed development and therefore any further remains which may exist will not be threatened. However the area is close to large established trees and it is possible the roots from these trees may already have had a detrimental effect to any underlying archaeological remains.

10.1.5 It is possible that the deeply stratified Boyn Hill Gravels in this area may contain Palaeolithic flints however only a single sondage could be excavated due to the unstable nature of the geology. Should further investigation of the Palaeolithic potential of this area be required, it is recommended that either stepping or shoring is implemented within the methodology.

11 STORAGE AND CURATION

11.1 Museum

11.1.1 The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, under the site code **71100**. It is recommended that it is deposited with the Berkshire County Museum, Reading at a future date. Deposition of the archive with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

11.2 Security Copy

11.2.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Archaeological Record (English Heritage), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

12 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH APPENDIX

bgl = below ground level; aOD – above Ordnance Datum

TRENCH 19			Type: Machine
Dimensions: 29.5 x 2.40m		**Max. depth:** 0.85m	**Ground level:** 65.46m aOD **Basal Geology:** 64.61m aOD
context	**description**		**depth**
1901	*Made Ground*	Mixed clay deposit containing brick, ceramic drainage pipe and concrete. Mix of building demolition material. Modern made ground.	0-0.85m
1902	*Natural*	Natural basal gravel geology. Sealed directly beneath the modern made ground, and cut by a number of modern service trenches and other modern disturbance, The natural where it was exposed was very clean which inferred the upper layers of the geology had been truncated, thus removing any shallow archaeological features, No archaeology was observed	0.85m+

TRENCH 20			Type: Machine
Dimensions: 30 x 2.40m		**Max. depth:** 0.80m	**Ground level:** 65.33m aOD **Basal Geology:** 64.73m aOD
context	**description**		**depth**
2001	*Made ground*	Mixed clay deposit containing brick, ceramic drainage pipe and concrete. Mix of building demolition material. Modern made ground.	0-0.80m
2002	*Natural*	Natural basal gravel geology. Sealed directly beneath the modern made ground, and cut by a number of modern service trenches and other modern disturbance, The natural where it was exposed was very clean which inferred the upper layers of the geology had been truncated, thus removing any shallow archaeological features, No archaeology was observed	0.80m+

TRENCH 21			Type: Machine
Dimensions: 12.2 x 2.40		**Max. depth:** 0.80m	**Ground level:** 65.45 m aOD **Basal Geology:** 64.65 m aOD
context	**Description**		**depth**
2101	*Made ground*	Mixed clay deposit containing brick, ceramic drainage pipe and concrete. Mix of building demolition material. Modern made ground.	0-0.80m
2102	*Natural*	Natural basal gravel geology. Sealed directly beneath the modern made ground, and only revealed at the southern end of the trench. Natural cut by brick built structure Probable soak-away) which was in filled with modern rubble. The natural where it was exposed was very clean which inferred the upper layers of the geology had been truncated, thus removing any shallow archaeological features, No archaeology was observed	0.80m+

TRENCH 22			Type: Machine
Dimensions: 19.2 x 2.40m		**Max. depth:** 0.60m	**Ground level:** 65.56m aOD **Basal Geology:** 64.94m aOD
context	**description**		**depth**
2201	*Made ground*	Mixed clay deposit containing brick, ceramic drainage pipe and concrete. Mix of building demolition material. Modern made	0-0.60m

		ground.	
2202	*Natural*	Natural basal gravel geology. Sealed directly beneath the modern made ground, and cut by a number of modern service trenches and other modern disturbance, The natural where it was exposed was very clean which inferred the upper layers of the geology had been truncated, thus removing any shallow archaeological features, No archaeology was observed	0.60m+

TRENCH 23			Type: Machine	
Dimensions: 17 x 2.40m extended to 20 by 14m		**Max. depth:** 0.78m	**Ground level:** 66.59 m aOD **Basal Geology:** 65.81 m aOD	
context	**description**			**depth**
2301	*Topsoil*	Dark orangey brown soft clayey sand with 10% sub angular and sub rounded flint gravel 10-50mm, moderately sorted.		0-0.30m
2302	*Subsoil*	Mid to dark orangey brown soft clayed sand with 15% sub angular- rounded flints 10-60mm, moderately sorted		0.30-0.72
2303	*Natural*	Natural basal gravel geology. Light yellow orange loose coarse sandy (40%) gravel (60%) poorly sorted, appears roots disturbed and cut through by a number of modern features as well as archaeological features.		0.72m+
2304	***Cut***	**Initially identified as a post hole but following the extension to Trench 23 it was clear it was the terminus of a short segment of ditch, equal to (2325), recorded as 0.31m wide and 0.11m deep with shallow concave sides and a concave base and filled with (2305).**		**0.11m deep**
2305	*Fill*	Mid brownish grey coarse sandy clay with 30% poorly sorted rounded and sub angular flint gravels 5-40mm, containing occasional charcoal and burnt flint. Single secondary fill of the terminus of (2304), material derived from the surrounding ground surface with gravel components potentially from the erosion of the feature edges.		0.11m thick
2306	***Cut***	**Terminus of a slightly curving roughly east west aligned gully recorded as 0.72m long and 0.35m wide and 0.15m deep with steep concave sides and a concave base. Recorded in other interventions as (2308) and (2325) and containing a single fill (2307). The function of this gully is unclear however it is potentially the drip gully of round house.**		**0.15m deep**
2307	*Fill*	Mid greyish brown clayey sand fill of (**2306**), with poorly sorted sub angular and rounded gravels 5-70mm, with rare charcoal and Object SF 2, worked flint. Possible primary fill of gully terminus. Identical to (2309).		0.15m thick
2308	***Cut***	**Cut of slightly curving roughly east west aligned gully recorded as 0.66m long and 0.37m wide and 0.22m deep with steep to vertical sides and a concave/flat base. Identical to (23025) and (2306). Possible drip gully.**		**0.22m deep**
2309	*Fill*	Mid greyish brown clayey sand fill of (**2306**), with poorly sorted sub angular and rounded gravels 5-70mm. Possible primary fill of gully terminus. Identical to (2307).		0.22m thick
2310	***Cut***	**Cut of possible posthole or small pit. Containing burnt bone and so initially identified as a cremation grave, recorded as sub circular with shallow concave sides and a concave base and 0.35mlong by 0.28m wide and 0.09m deep and containing cremation material (2311).**		**0.09m deep**

2311	*fill*	Dark brownish grey sandy clay with 20% sub angular and rounded flint gravels and abundant charcoal and a few fragments of burnt bone and a fragment of burnt flint. Deliberate deposit of material burnt elsewhere, no burning *in situ.* Deposit was half sectioned at first before realising it was a cremation (western half sampled as Sample 1), the remaining half was halved (samples 2 and 3). Identified in Post-excavation analysis as not a cremation grave.	0.09m thick
2312	***Cut***	**Cut of a sub circular slightly irregular sided concave based pit recorded as 1m long by 0.91m wide and 0.35m deep and filled with single mixed fill (2313). Pit heavily disturbed by modern services and root activity.**	**0.35m deep**
2313	*Fill*	Single recorded mixed fill of (2312), mid to dark greyish brown sandy clay with 30% gravel and occasional charcoal, also contains SF 1, worked flint. Mixed nature of the deposit infers a deliberate dumping.	0.35m thick
2314	***Cut***	**Cut of posthole or small pit, (contained burnt bone and so initially thought to be a cremation grave). Recorded as sub-circular with shallow sides and a concave base 0.34m long by 0.24m wide and 0.07m deep, cut directly into the natural gravels (2303). No *in situ* heat affected natural observed and so feature dug to place cooled material in. filled with (2315). Feature had been partially truncated by the excavation of Trench 23 and (2314) was revealed in section.**	**0.07m deep**
2315	*Fill*	Very dark brown black sandy silt loam with rare small sub angular and sub rounded flint gravels, and rare fragments of burnt bone and common charcoal. The deposit was divided into quadrants, with the NW Quad recorded as (2315A), SW Quad (2315B), SE Quad (2315C) and NE Quad as (2315D). material deposited once it had cooled as no evidence of heat affection on the underlying natural. Identified in Post-excavation analysis as not a cremation grave	0.07m thick
2316	***Cut***	**Cut of sub circular shallow sided and concave based tree throw recorded as 2m long by 1.30m wide and 0.31m deep, and in filled with (2317), (2318) and (2319). Undated but potentially prehistoric.**	**0.31m deep**
2317	*Fill*	Very light yellow sandy silt with abundant gravels of all sizes. Redeposited/disturbed/reworked natural basal geology which had been dragged up by the action of the root bole of the tree moving.	0.31m thick
2318	*Fill*	Light grey silty sand with rare to occasional sub rounded flint gravels. Natural erosion deposit into he partially collapsed tree throw, probably derived from the surrounding ground surface, though heavily leached material.	0.18m thick
2319	*Fill*	Mid grey sandy silt pea grit rich fill of tree throw, a mix of gravels and naturally eroded material.	0.11
2320	***Cut***	**Cut of roughly east west aligned linear ditch recorded as 14.30m (in total) long and 2.50m wide at the widest point and 0.75m wide and the narrowest (most truncated) point and a maximum of 0.60m deepest and 0.43 a the shallowest. Post-medieval boundary ditch. Filled with (2321), (2322), (2323), (2324) and (2330).**	**0.60m deep**
2321	*Fill*	Mid grey brown coarse sandy clay silt fill of (**2320**) overlies	0.50m

		(2322) and sealed by (2330), appears to be natural erosion deposit, material washing in over time. Contains post medieval coarse redwares including modern flower pot	thick
2322	*Fill*	Dark brown coarse sandy silt clay fill of (**2320**), overlies (2324) and sealed by (2321), natural erosion of the features edges.	0.20m thick
2323	*Fill*	Mid grey coarse sandy clay silt, gleyed deposit, waterborne and wet deposit, which is sealed by (2321) and seals (2324), waterborne silting.	0.20m thick
2324	*Fill*	Light greyish yellow soft coarse sandy clay, very similar to (2323), though has not undergone as much post-depositional gleying.	0.20m thick
2325	***Cut***	**Cut of slightly curving ditch segment recorded as 3.4m long (in total) and 0.90m wide and a maximum of 0.32m deep, partially truncated by the excavation of Tr23, and equal to (2304). Function of the feature is unknown as it is a small segment of ditch with no other clearly associated features. Prehistoric in date. Filled with (2326) and (2329)**	**0.32m deep**
2326	*Fill*	Mid greyish brown coarse sandy clay silt, upper fill of (**2325**) and overlies (2329), appears to be material derived from the erosion of the feature edges. Contains Early to Middle Iron Age pottery sherds.	0.20, thick
2327	***Cut***	**Cut of shallow (truncated) gully recorded as slightly curving east west aligned wth steep straight sides and a concave to flat base and 0.50m long by 0.24m wide and 0.08m deep, continuation of gully (2306/2308) to the east. The date and function of this feature is unclear, though it is tentatively a drip gully.**	**0.08m deep**
2328	*Fill*	Mid to light grey sandy silt single fill of (**2327**), secondary natural silting deposit.	0.08m thick
2329	*Fill*	Light greyish brown sandy silt lower fill of (2325) sealed by (2326). Secondary fill, natural silting.	0.08m thick
2330	*Fill*	Dark grey sandy silt clay fill of (2320), natural erosion deposit which seals (2321).	0.10m thick
2331	***Cut***	**Cut of small sub circular steep concave sided and concaved base of probable post hole, recorded as 0.40m long by 0.24m wide and 0.19m deep. Contains a single fill with no clear evidence of deliberate packing except for redeposited natural.**	**0.19m deep**
2332	*Fill*	Mid grey sandy silt fill of (**2331**), redeposited natural gravel utilised as post packing material, no deliberate large stone packing material or dating.	0.19m thick

Trench 23 Sondage through the Boyn Gravels.

Sondage 1				**Ground Level:** 65.86 m aOD
Depth (m bgs)	**Colour**	**Textural Class**	**Description**	**Comments/Interpretation**
0-0.40	Mixed and mottled light yellow to	Sandy gravel	Laminated layers/bands of natural gravel	Very clean upper layer of gravel which suggests the geology has been truncated

	mid orange			
0.40-0.58	Light yellow	Sand	Stone free sand	Layer of sand within the gravel bands
0.58-0.84m	Mixed and mottled, light yellow to dark brown black	Compact sand	Compact sand deposit with manganese and iron staining throughout	Iron stained stone free sand
0.84-1.54	Mixed mid to light yellow orange.	Sandy gravel	Common sub rounded gravels and large flint nodules <0.20m	Laminated bands of gravel.
1.54-2.10	Light blue grey	Clay	Very firm clay	London Clay

TRENCH 24			Type: Machine
Dimensions: 29 x 2.2m		**Max. depth:** 0.78m	**Ground level:** 67.37m aOD **Basal Geology:** 66.63m aOD

context	**description**		**depth**
2401	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf of an area of site which as not been stripped, dark grey sandy loam, very organic with occasional sub angular and sub rounded flint pebbles <0.04mm highly bioturbated and containing modern material.	0-0.30m
2402	*Subsoil*	Probable old subsoil which has been highly disturbed in parts by modern services, mid brown sandy loam with common sub rounded flints <0.04,	0.30-0.58m
2403	*Natural*	Natural deposit, mid yellow brown sandy silty very rare sub rounded flints, lens of sand within the natural gravels.	0.58-0.74m
2404	*Natural*	Natural gravel basal geology, mix of sub rounded and sub angular flints in a sandy matrix. No archaeology identified	074m+

TRENCH 25			Type: Machine
Dimensions: 19.5 x 2.2m		**Max. depth:** 0.73m	**Ground level:** 67.41m aOD **Basal Geology:** 66.67m aOD

context	**description**		**depth**
2501	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf of area of grass around trees at the southern end of the Site. Mid grey brown silty sand with common small gravels, deliberate modern deposit associated with previous campus landscaping.	0-0.20m
2502	*Layer*	Possible old topsoil layer which is sealed by (2501) and overlies (2503), mid grey brown stone free silty loam.	0.20-0.34m
2503	*Made-ground*	Thin band of brick and coal and clinker waster.	0.34-0.38m
2504	***Cut***	**Cut of possible pit or tree bole hole, (not tree throw) recorded as oval/sub-circular in shape with steep concave sides and a concave to flat base and 0.98m long by 0.43m wide and 0.31m deep, which has had the upper levels truncated. Unclear if man-made or natural. Filled with (2505).**	**0.31m deep**

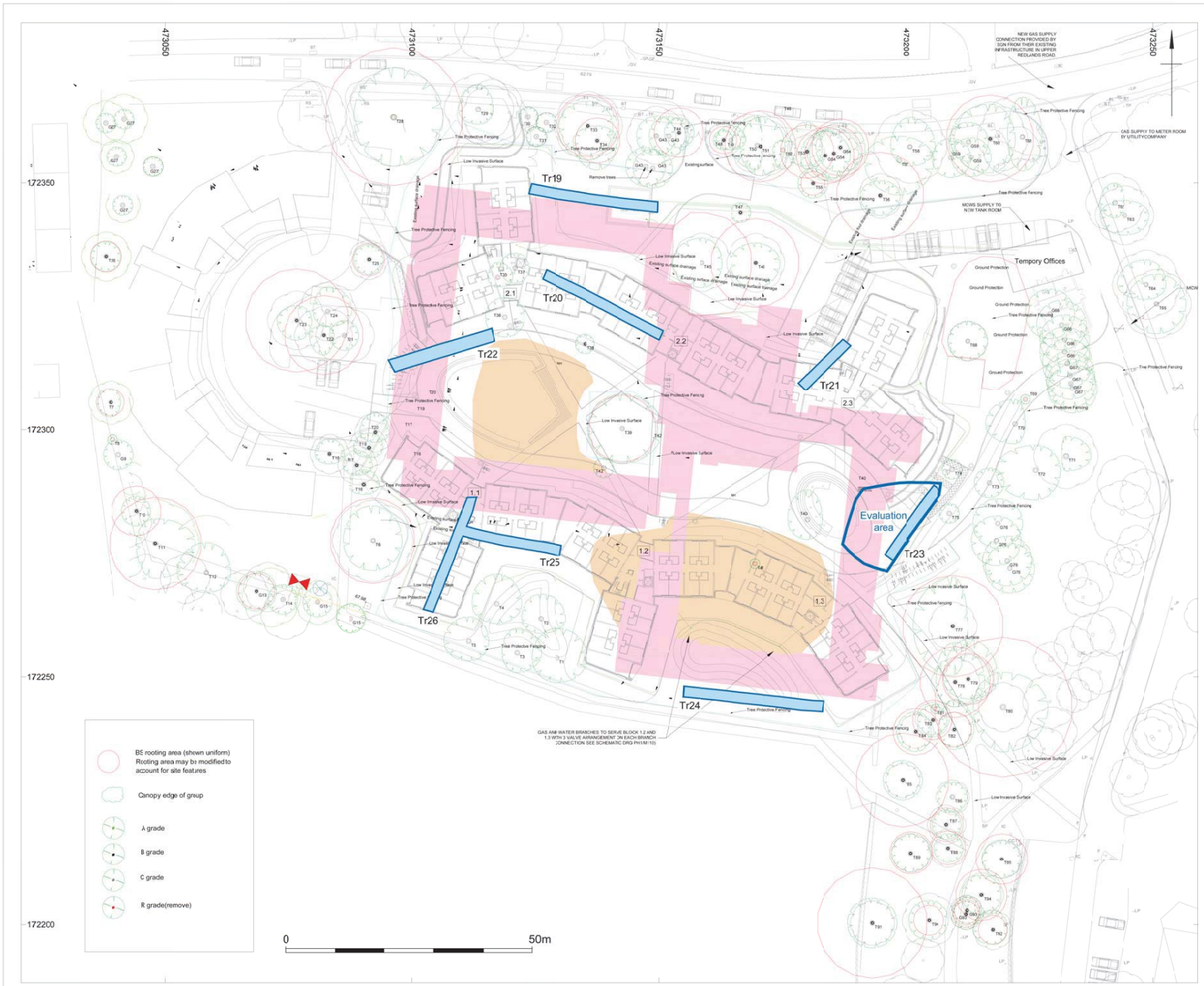
2505	*Fill*	Mid yellow grey silty sand with common small to medium <0.05m sub rounded and rounded flint pebbles. Single homogenous fill of (**2504**), if a deliberate man-made deposition then it has been a relatively high energy deposit to give rise to the amount of coarse components, material eroded from the surrounding landscape. However if the remains of tree bole hole it is just disturbed natural. It is unclear.	0.31m thick
2506	*Made-ground*	Redeposited natural gravel, mid yellow brown with abundant sub rounded and rounded gravels.	0.38-0.54m
2507	*Made-ground*	Light yellow grey sandy silt with common sub rounded flint pebbles, made-ground overlying truncated natural.	0.54-0.58m
2508	*Natural*	Natural basal geology, light yellow sandy gravel very loose, evidence of landscaping in the past associated with the recently demolished Halls of Residence, the natural is very clean and indication of truncation.	0.58m+

TRENCH 26			Type: Machine
Dimensions: 14.5m x 2.2m		**Max. depth:** 0.83m	**Ground level:** 67.98m aOD **Basal Geology:** 67.15m aOD
context	**description**		**depth**
2601	*Topsoil*	Dark brownish grey fines sandy clay silt with common sub angular to rounded medium flint pebbles. Current topsoil and turf of area of green.	0-0.30m
2602	*Made-ground*	Dark grey black loose clinker, coal and slag rich make-up layer below (2601), which seals buried old topsoil layer (2604).	0.30-0.45m
2603	*Made-ground*	Mid grey brown loose silty sand with common modern CBM inclusions below (2601), which seals buried old topsoil layer (2604).	0.30-0.40m
2604	*Buried topsoil*	Mid grey brown silty loam, buried topsoil deposit below series of made-ground layers, associated with the site prior to the construction of the recently demolished Halls of Residence.	0.40
2605	***Cut***	**Cut of modern ditch, potentially a planting bedding trench, recorded as linear with vertical sides and a flat base, and 1m long by 0.40m wide and 0.36m deep containing (2606).**	**0.36m deep**
2606	*Fill*	Very dark grey organic loose loam with common small sub rounded flint pebbles, and modern CBM. Appears to be a deliberate deposit of compost for plants	0.36m thick
2607	***Cut***	**Cut of large modern pit recorded as 1.10m long by 1m wide and 0.50m deep with vertical sides and flat base, true size and shape not ascertained due to the limits of the trench.**	**0.50m deep**
2608	*Fill*	Single modern fill of (**2607**), homogenous deposit of mid grey brown sandy silt with common rounded pebbles and modern CBM and plant pot sherds, cut by later modern pit (2609).	0.50m thick
2609	***Cut***	**Cut of modern sub rounded pit which cuts through earlier modern pit (2607) not excavated.**	**-**
2610	*Fill*	Upper fill of (**2609**), containing modern brick and glass, cut by gas main (2611).	-
2611	***Cut***	**Cut of modern gas main.**	**-**
2612	*Fill*	Modern gas main pipe and backfill.	-

Table 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol.	Flotsize	%Roots	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes	Charcoal 4mm/2mm
Trench 23											
Prehistoric											
Postholes											
2310	2311, half section A	1	2	40	10	C	-	Hulled wheat + ?barley grains	C	*Avena/Bromus*, bud	10/4 ml
	2311, quad B	2	2	35	7	C	-	Indet. Grain frags	C	*Avena/Bromus*	10/3 ml
	2311, quad C	3	1.5	60	7	C	-	Indet. Grain frags	C	Polygonaceae	12/10 ml
2314	2315, NW quad A	6	1.5	30	15	-	-	-	C	*Avena/Bromus*	7/3 ml
	2315, SW quad B	7	2	40	10	C	-	Indet. Grain frags	-	-	8/6 ml
	2315, SE quad C	8	2	15	20	-	-	-	-	-	5/2 ml
	2315, NE quad D	9	3	35	20	C	-	Indet. Grain frags	C	*Avena/Bromus*	8/7 ml
Gully Terminus											
2306	2307	4	20	5	35	-	-	-	C	*Avena/Bromus*	<1/ 1 ml
Pit											
2312	2313	5	20	40	15	C	-	Wheat grain frags	-	-	8/7 ml

Key: A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5



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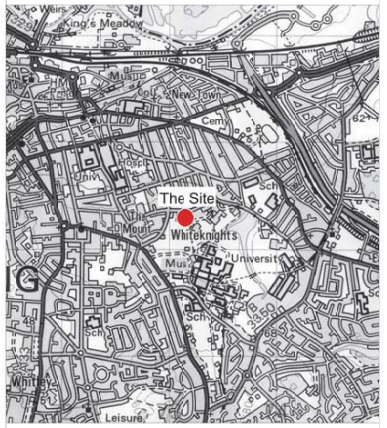

Former Whiteknights Halls

Evaluation trench

Evaluation area

Dump of demolished material

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Revision Number:	0
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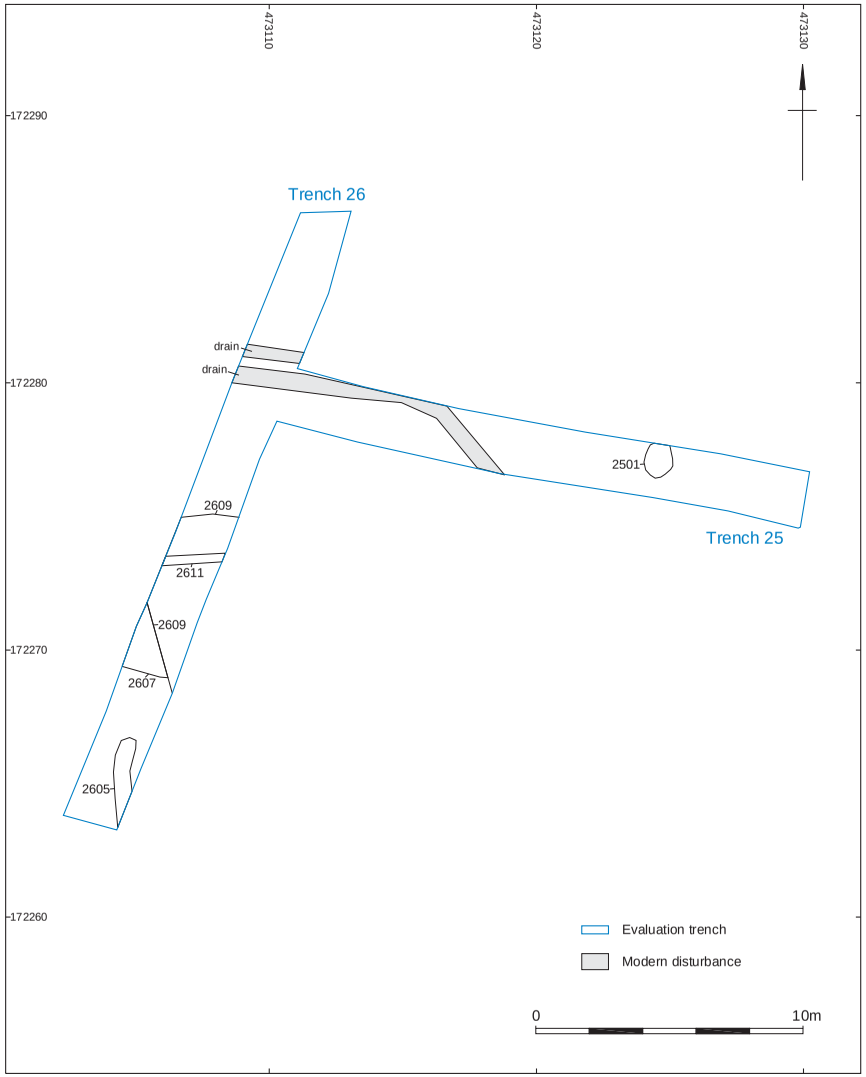
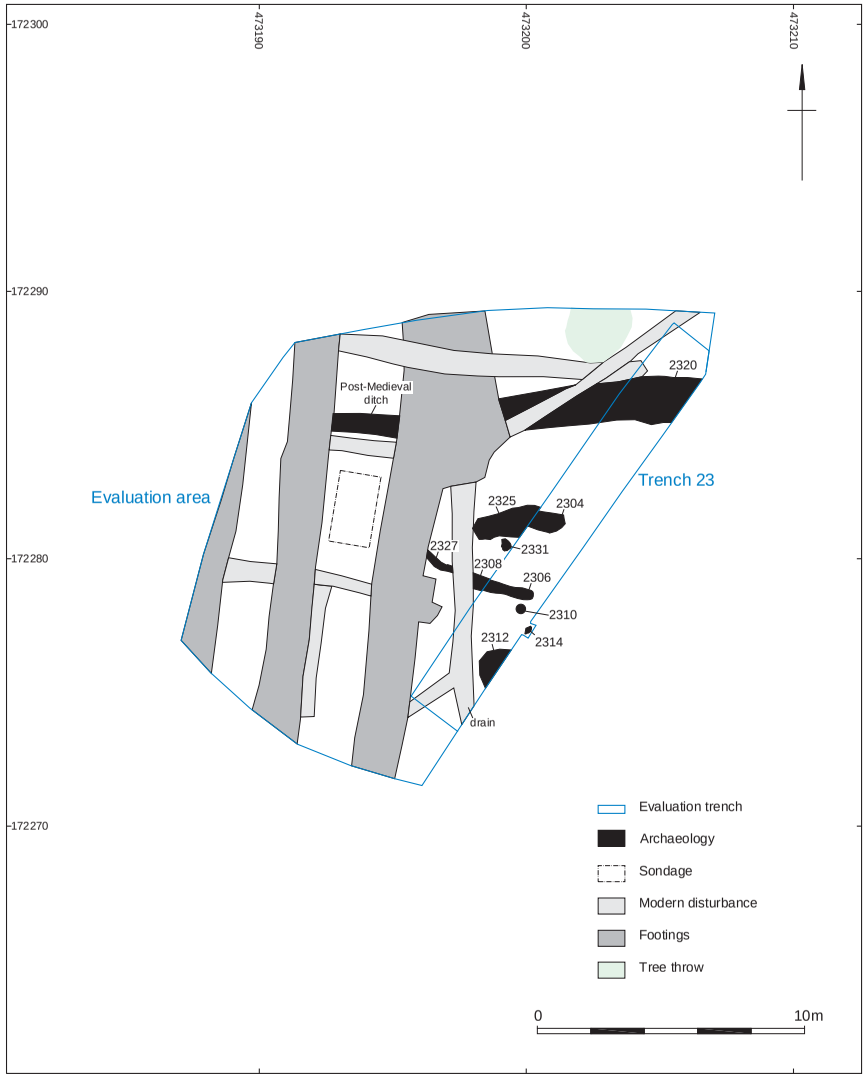
Site plan and trench locations

Figure 1



Trenches 25 and 26



Trench 23

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Detail of Trenches 25 and 26 and Trench 23

Figure 2

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