



New Pit, Paddocks and Track Amendments,
Silverstone Racetrack, Buckinghamshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report





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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Prepared for
Terence O'Rourke Ltd
Everdene House
Deansleigh Road
Bournemouth
BH7 7DU

on behalf of
Silverstone Circuits Ltd
Towcester
Northamptonshire
NN12 8TN

by
Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
SALISBURY
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Silverstone Circuits Ltd, through their agent Terence O'Rourke Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the Silverstone Racetrack, Biddlesden, Buckinghamshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 467293 241843. The fieldwork was undertaken between 19th November and 1st December 2009 and comprised machine excavation of thirteen 30m x 1.5m trenches.

The Benedictine priory of Luffield, which was founded in 1118, is known to have been located to the north of the evaluation area. In the early 17th century, at the latest, (Whittlewood Forest map) it was converted into a farm and the surrounding area was occupied by agricultural fields. During the Second World War the farm grounds were incorporated within the Silverstone Airport which was later converted into a racing circuit.

Archaeological features were recorded in seven of the thirteen trenches. They comprised a series of field ditches, pre-dating the airfield. The ditches most likely form the field boundaries identified on historical maps and visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs.

Little dating material was recovered from the features. The ditches identified in Trenches 1, 4, 7, 8 and 13 are thought to represent the aforementioned mapped field boundaries and are provisionally dated to the post-medieval period. The only pit identified from the evaluation, which was situated in Trench 1, contained no dating material, but it is likely that it is contemporary with the field system. One ditch identified in Trench 9 is thought to represent the former Luffield parish boundary, which may have originally dated to the medieval period.

Romano-British pottery was recovered from another ditch in Trench 9, which may suggest that the boundary continued to be in use from the Romano-British period onwards. A single sherd of Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British pottery was found in a ditch in Trench 13 and several abraded residual sherds of pottery of this date were also recovered from a modern ditch in Trench 12.

The development plans for the Site suggest that the scheme would require the destruction and loss of any archaeological features which may be present. Despite the fact that the impact of the development is high, the nature of the archaeology, as identified by trial trenching (field boundary ditches with no associated occupation evidence), suggests that the overall archaeological potential of this area is low and, therefore, the impact on the archaeological resource, as a whole, is thought to be minimal.

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Acknowledgements

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The fieldwork was undertaken by Piotr Brożyna, Christo Nicolle, Robert Scott, Andy Sole and Julia Sulikowska (all Wessex Archaeology) and Sandy Pullen (Pre-Construct Archaeology). The report was prepared by Julia Sulikowska. The illustrations were prepared by Linda Coleman. The finds were assessed by Rachel Seager Smith (pottery), Pippa Bradley (flint) and Jessica Grimm (animal bone). The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Caroline Budd.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Silverstone Circuits Ltd (the Client), through their agent Terence O'Rourke Ltd (the Consultant), to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the Silverstone Racetrack, Biddlesden, Buckinghamshire (hereafter, 'the Site') (**Figure 1**). The Site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 467293 241843. The Site is the subject of development proposals that comprise construction of a Formula 1 Pit and Paddock complex, Pit Lane and circuit alterations.

1.1.2 Planning permission for the pit and paddock development has been granted by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Aylesbury Vale District Council (Planning reference no. 08/00744/APP) and is subject to an archaeological condition requiring a staged programme of archaeological work to be carried out in advance of the development. The archaeological evaluation is identified as the first stage of the required work in the Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Trial Trenching) issued in May 2008 by the Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service, advisor to the LPA (BCAS 2008).

1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the *New Pit, Paddocks and Track Amendments, Silverstone Racetrack, Buckinghamshire. Written Scheme of Investigation: Project Design for an Archaeological Evaluation (WSI)* (WA 2009).

1.1.4 The fieldwork was undertaken between 19th November and 1st December 2009.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The Site is located in the south-western part of the Silverstone circuit, between Club and Abbey corners. The Site lies at approximately 153m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) on a relatively flat, gentle, west and south-west facing slope. It comprised an area of grass and gravel trap between the existing racetrack and a stretch of former runway.

1.2.2 The underlying geology of the Site comprises Oldhaven, Blackheath, Woolwich and Reading and Thanet Beds (Geological Map of Great Britain. Sheet 2 1957).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 In advance of the development, an Environmental Impact Assessment was prepared by Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) (OAU 2001). Moreover, Luffield Priory lay within the area studied by the Whittewood Project, a multi-disciplinary archaeological and historical study (Jones and Page, 2006). The results of these studies, together with a map regression prepared by Wessex Archaeology for the WSI (WA 2009) (**Figure 4, a-e**), are summarised below.

Prehistoric

2.1.2 Dense woodland and location on the heavy clay soils would have made the area of Silverstone circuit fairly unattractive for settlement. The evidence of Bronze Age activity is shown on early maps, where a bell barrow was mapped in the eastern part of the circuit. The monument was excavated by W. G. Grimes during construction works for the airfield in 1941 and was described as 'much disturbed'. An oval cropmark, located to the north east of the circuit was provisionally interpreted to be of Iron Age date.

Romano-British

2.1.3 The Roman Road between Towcester and Alcester is known to have run on a north-south alignment, approximately 250m to the east of the Silverstone estate boundary. Another road joined this to the south of the circuit, near Stowe.

2.1.4 Some traces of the artificial embankment that carried the road survive as earthworks or soilmarks. Cropmarks, identified as rectilinear enclosures, and coin and pottery finds associated with the road have also been found.

Medieval

2.1.5 The Domesday Book mentioned settlements of Lillingstone Dayrell and Lillingstone Lovell, which are located to the east of the Silverstone circuit. In the later medieval period, a part of the Silverstone estate lay within the royal forest of Whittlebury (**Figure 3e**). The beginning of agricultural activity in the circuit area, evident as medieval ridge and furrow earthworks and possible rectilinear field boundaries (**Figure 2, a-b**), is also dated to the late medieval period.

2.1.6 The Benedictine priory of Luffield was founded in 1118, but remained small and suffered an early decline. In 1494, due to poverty, it was annexed to the college and hospital of St. George, Windsor. After the Dissolution, the monastic buildings decayed, were robbed of their stone and were eventually replaced by Luffield Abbey Farm, shown on the earliest maps of c. 1600 (Whittlewood Forest map, here reproduced from its 1725 copy, **Figure 3e**).

- 2.1.7 Antiquarian reports indicate that the priory lay astride the Buckinghamshire/Northamptonshire county boundary, with the church in Northants and conventual buildings in Buckinghamshire. By c. 1760, only a small part of the buildings survived as a ruin recorded by Browne Willis. The monastic cartulary has been published by the Bucks Records Society (Elvey 1968 and 1975).
- 2.1.8 The direct archaeological evidence for the priory itself is very limited and still largely comprises aerial photographs believed to show the sites of former monastic buildings and also ditches possibly associated with the priory. Skeletons and weapons are known to have been found in the vicinity of the Farm. In 1967, a discovery of two inhumation burials was mentioned, but no precise location of the graves was recorded.
- 2.1.9 The Chapel of St. Thomas Becket is known to have been located to the east of the priory from 15th century. By the late medieval period it was converted into cottages.

Post-medieval

- 2.1.10 In the post-medieval period, the Site lay at the periphery of several parishes and there is little evidence of intensification of settlement. Early maps (**Figure 3, a-e**) show that the area surrounding Luffield Abbey Farm was occupied by fields, mostly pasture and that this situation did not change until the Second World War.
- 2.1.11 Four ponds were shown on 1833 map (OAU 2001) in the area of the Farm. Three of them were backfilled by the 1880s and the largest remained in use until the Second World War. No trace of the ponds remains on the ground today.

Modern

- 2.1.12 The Farm grounds were incorporated within the Silverstone Airport, which opened in March 1943 as a base for Bomber Command Operation Training Units (**Figure 2b**). After the war, the airfield was converted into a racing circuit and the British Grand Prix was held there in 1948.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Evaluation Strategy

- 3.1.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the methodology agreed in the WSI (WA 2009).

3.2 Fieldwork

- 3.2.1 A total of 13 machine-dug trial trenches were excavated in the course of the evaluation (**Figure 2**). The trenches measured 30m x 1.5m, with the exception of Trench 1, which was extended into a cross shape and measured 55m x 1.5m.

- 3.2.2 All trenches were marked out on the ground prior to the commencement of work and were scanned with the Cable Avoidance Tool to verify the absence of live underground services. Topsoil and overburden were removed using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Spoil was stockpiled at a safe distance from the edge of the trenches, with topsoil and subsoil stockpiled separately.
- 3.2.3 Topsoil and modern overburden were removed in a series of level spits down to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon. Excavation did not exceed a depth of 1.2m in accordance with Health and Safety guidelines.
- 3.2.4 Following an on-site meeting and on completion of the archaeological recording, all trenches were backfilled using excavated material in order, in which it was excavated, in accordance with best practice, but not otherwise reinstated.
- 3.2.5 All archaeological features exposed in the trial trenches were cleaned and excavated by hand and recorded in plan at an appropriate scale. Wet weather conditions and the high water table caused difficulties in excavating and recording Trenches 1, 7 and 8 in particular. The use of trash pumps allowed the excavation of features in Trenches 1 and 7. The attempt to drain and clean Trench 7 was unsuccessful, although the trench was photographed and surveyed on initial excavation.
- 3.2.6 All archaeological features and/or deposits encountered in each trench were planned and recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. A full photographic record was maintained using digital format with colour transparencies and black and white negatives (on 35mm film).
- 3.2.7 All records included a written description using unique number context records, hand drawn pre-excavation trench plans, with detailed sections of excavated features at a scale of 1:10 and post excavation plans at 1:20. All features were subsequently located using GPS and tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

3.3 Health and Safety

- 3.3.1 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 and regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 3.3.2 Prior to the commencement of the fieldwork a site-specific Risk Assessment was produced. All site staff involved in the works signed and complied with this document.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This section presents the results of the field evaluation. Detailed descriptions of the trial trenches are included in the **Appendix 1: Trench Summaries**.

4.2 Soil Sequence and Geology

- 4.2.1 In most of the trenches, topsoil, subsoil and occasionally colluvium overlay the natural deposits. In Trench 4, modern made ground was laid directly onto natural geology.
- 4.2.2 The topsoil comprised a humic mid greyish brown silty clay loam with sparse flint inclusions and on average was 0.2m deep. It overlay a mid orangey brown compact silty clay subsoil. The colluvium, which was encountered in Trenches 1, 3 and 10, was characterised by a light orangey brown clay deposit (**Figure 5a**).
- 4.2.3 The natural deposits were recorded as mixed gravels and clays. Most commonly, mid orange gravels and orangey grey clay with moderate gravel inclusions. The natural deposits were encountered at a depth of between 0.10m and 0.81m below the current ground surface (147.04 – 154.07m aOD).

4.3 Archaeological features

- 4.3.1 No archaeological features were recorded in Trenches 2, 3, 5, 6, 10 and 11.

Trench 1

- 4.3.2 Two ditches, a stone drain and a pit were excavated in Trench 1 (**Figure 2**). Drain **109** was aligned northeast-southwest, with vertical sides and a flat base. Sandstone slabs, positioned vertically at sides with flat slabs covering them, were placed in the cut for drainage purposes (**Figure 5a**). This was the latest of the features and was cut through colluvium **105**.
- 4.3.3 The remaining features were sealed by **105** and were cut into the natural deposits. Ditches **117** and **114** were aligned northeast-southwest. Ditch **117** was 0.92m wide and 0.29m deep with steep, straight sides and a flat base (**Figure 5b**). Ditch **114** was located approximately 5m to southeast of **117**. It was 1.05m wide and 0.34m deep, with moderate concave sides and concave base. Both features were filled with water lain deposits showing signs of standing water. No dating material was recovered from these features, but their alignment corresponds with the orientation of a field boundary shown on 1856, 1885 and 1900 maps (**Figure 4, a, b and d**).
- 4.3.4 Pit **112** was circular, with moderate, concave sides and measured 1.10m in diameter. The shape of the feature base and its depth were not recorded due to high water table. It was filled with mid orangey grey silty clay with common flint inclusions. The function and date of the pit remain unknown.

Trench 4

- 4.3.5 Ditch **404** was excavated and recorded in Trench 4 (**Figure 2**). It was aligned north-south and measured 2.50m wide and at least 1.10m deep. It had moderate and straight sides. A modern drain truncated the feature and, as a result, it could not be fully excavated. The fill **403** was mid brown sandy silt with sparse flint inclusions. No dating material was retrieved, but the feature corresponds with a cropmark (OAU 2001) and a filed boundary visible on the 1947 aerial photograph and on 1856, 1885 and 1900 maps (**Figure 3, a-b; Figure 3, a, b and d**).

Trench 7

- 4.3.6 Ditch **704** was exposed and surveyed in Trench 7 (**Figure 2**). However, due to difficult weather conditions and high water table, it was not feasible to excavate the feature. The ditch was aligned roughly east-west and it is probable that it is the field boundary feature recorded on the 1947 aerial photograph (**Figure 3b**).

Trench 8

- 4.3.7 A shallow field ditch aligned northeast-southwest was recorded in Trench 8 (**Figure 2**). Ditch **804** was 0.63m wide and 0.15m deep, with concave sides and base. It was filled with dark orangey brown silty clay deposit. Map regression revealed that a post-medieval field boundary shown on the 1856, 1885 and 1900 maps had similar orientation (**Figure 4, a-d**).

Trench 9

- 4.3.8 Ditch **908**, a large north-south aligned feature and ditch **913**, which was aligned northwest-southeast, were present in Trench 9 (**Figure 2**). Ditch **908** (**Figure 5c**) was 3.50m wide and 1.70m deep. It had concave, moderate sides and a concave base. It was filled with a sequence of secondary deposits (**911** and **907**) of mid to dark reddish brown clay loam with sparse flint inclusions. A stabilisation layer **906** overlay those deposits. It comprised dark greyish brown silty clay loam and was interpreted as a former topsoil, filling a depression in the ground. The remaining depression was deliberately backfilled with redeposited natural gravels and large concrete blocks (**905**) in order to level the ground, possibly for the construction of the airfield. Ditch **908** had the same orientation and location as a cropmark shown in the Environmental Impact Assessment (OAU 2001) (**Figure 3a**).
- 4.3.9 Ditch **913** was 0.9m wide and 0.32m deep with moderate, straight sides and a flat base. The fill (**912**) was a mid orangey brown silty clay loam with sparse flint inclusions. It produced two sherds of pottery dating the feature to the Romano-British period (mid 1st – early 2nd century AD). A similarly aligned feature was mapped as a field boundary in 1856, 1885 and 1900 (**Figure 4, a-d**), which may suggest that the boundary remained in use from the Romano-British period onwards.

Trench 12

- 4.3.10 Ditch **1204** was recorded in Trench 12 (**Figure 2**). It was 3m wide, aligned roughly northeast-southwest and produced modern artefacts (rubber strap) along with residual pottery of Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British date.

Trench 13

- 4.3.11 Three linear features were recorded in Trench 13 (**Figures 2 and 5d**). Ditch **1304** was aligned east-west and had steep, concave sides and a concave base. It measured 0.90m wide and 0.63m deep. A mid greyish brown silty clay deposit (**1305**) contained no archaeological components, but a field boundary on similar alignment was shown on the 1856 map (**Figure 4c**).

- 4.3.12 Ditches **1306** and **1308** were located next to each other on a northeast-southwest alignment and are interpreted as field boundaries. Ditch **1306** was 0.65m wide and 0.19m deep. It had moderate, concave sides and a concave base and was filled with mid brownish grey silty clay. No dating material was recovered from the feature. Ditch **1308** had steep concave sides and a concave base. It measured 0.90m wide and 0.54m deep and contained a mid greyish brown silty clay deposit. A sherd of Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British pottery and an Early Bronze Age flint were recovered from the deposit.

5 FINDS

- 5.1.1 The evaluation produced a very small quantity of finds, including objects of prehistoric, Romano-British and modern date.
- 5.1.2 Grog tempered pottery of Late Iron Age/Early Romano British date was found in **1205** (several fragmented sherds) and **1309** (a single sherd).
- 5.1.3 Two sherds of pottery from **912** were identified as Belgic Grogged Ware (Fabric 46a at Milton Keynes) (Marney 1989). This ware can be dated to the mid 1st – early 2nd century AD.
- 5.1.4 A single piece of struck flint was recovered from deposit **1309**. It was identified as an Early Bronze Age knife.
- 5.1.5 Animal bone retrieved from **1309** was too fragmented to allow identification. The only identifiable piece was interpreted as a pig's tooth.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL

- 6.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the field evaluation.

7 STATEMENT OF IMPACT

- 7.1.1 The perceived impact of the proposed development scheme is outlined on **Figure 6** and summarised below.
- 7.1.2 The trial trenching has identified a series of linear features, in seven trenches (1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 12 and 13).
- 7.1.3 The proposed formation levels for the various elements of the scheme are as follows (all depths are below current ground surface):
- new gravel: 0.50m
 - new asphalt track: 0.90m
 - landscaping: 0.20m
 - drainage (general): 1.20m
 - storm drainage: up to 1.65m

7.1.4 Given that the depth of the archaeological horizon varies throughout the trenches from 0.10m to 0.80m below the current ground surface, there will be significant impact on a variety of areas summarised in **Table 1** (below).

Table 1. Perceived impact on archaeological features (by trench)

Trench number	Archaeological features	Depth of archaeology (below ground surface) (m)	Impact rating
1	Two undated linear ditches 114 and 117 and undated pit 112 ; stone drain 109 , postdating these features	0.75	High
4	Undated linear ditch 404	0.10	High
7	Undated linear ditch 704	0.60	High
8	Undated linear ditch 804	0.50	Low
9	Undated linear ditch 908 and Early Romano-British ditch 913	0.50	Low
12	Modern linear ditch 1204	0.60	Low
13	Two undated linear ditches 1304 and 1306 and Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British ditch 1308	0.45	High

7.1.5 The development of the Site in the areas of trenches 1, 4, 7 and 13 would entail the destruction and permanent loss of any archaeological features which may be present. Despite the fact that the impact of the development within these areas is high, the nature of the archaeology, as identified by trial trenching (field system/boundary ditches with no associated occupation evidence), suggests that the overall archaeological potential of this area is low and, therefore, the impact on the archaeological resource, as a whole, will be minimal.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

8.1.1 The archive is currently stored at Wessex Archaeology's office in Salisbury under the project code 72960. In due course, the complete project archive will be deposited with the Buckinghamshire County Museum under the accession number: AYBCM: 2009.198.

8.2 Preparation of archive

8.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990; SMA 1995; Richards and Robinson 2000; Brown 2007).

8.3 Conservation

8.3.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field.

8.4 Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988

- 8.4.1 Wessex Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. Excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of the report by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the specification. Any document produced to meet planning requirements may be copied for planning purposes by the Local Planning Authority.
- 8.4.2 This report, and the archive generally, may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

8.5 Security copy

- 8.5.1 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.

9 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench 1	Dimensions (m): 28.62 x 1.50 x 1.00		
	Coordinates: 467204.938, 241745.660, 147.537m aOD		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
101	Modern Topsoil	Dark brownish grey silty clay loam, loose compaction, very humic with lots of root activity. Fresh, modern topsoil with crushed brick on the bottom	0-0.24m
102	Topsoil	Mid brownish grey silty loam, moderate compactness, humic, occ. bits of flint, other rock and roots. An older topsoil	0.24-0.36m
103	Subsoil	Clay deposit, rather sterile, light yellowish brown, very compact. Not consistent along length of trench	0.36-0.42m
104	Peat deposit	Pretty much consistent along length of trench. Greyish brown organic deposit – peat or cess. No coarse components, quite loose compactness	0.42-0.56m
105	Clay Deposit	Heavily compacted, sterile, orangey yellow clay deposit (colluvium?)	
106	Natural	Yellowish orange silty clay, moderate compactness, quite gravelly	0.81m+
107	Cut of Ditch	Linear with some side disturbance in trench 1. Depth suggests it is an old feature, but no finds or any dating. Unable to excavate fully due to high water table. Most likely part of a field system	N/A
108	Fill of Ditch	Medium orangey grey silty clay with very occ. small pebbles	N/A
109	Cut of Channel	Cut for a possibly post-medieval stone structure – sewer channel possible – very regular, rectangular shape in section. SW-NE alignment	0.30m
110	Channel Structure	Sandstone structure – probably post-medieval sewer channel	0.28m
111	Fill of Channel	Mid grey silty clay secondary deposit	0.20m
112	Cut of Pit	Cut of circular pit, unknown date or purpose	0.13m
113	Fill of Pit	Mid orangey grey silty clay with frequent angular flint incl. 2-5cm	0.13m
114	Cut of Ditch	Probable post med. linear, NE-SW aligned. Field boundary/drainage ditch	0.34m
115	Fill of Ditch	Mid orangey grey silty clay (high clay content) with sparse round pebbles 0.05m< Secondary fill of ditch composed of material washed down with water from top of hill	0.11m
116	Fill of Ditch	Mid greyish orange sandy clay with common sub rounded gravel incl. Primary fill of ditch	0.25m
117	Cut of Ditch	A roughly NE-SW aligned linear, probably the same as [107]. Most likely part of a field system	0.29m
118	Fill of Ditch	Mid – light orangey brown clay with moderate sub rounded flint incl. 0.06m< Primary fill.	0.29m
119	Fill of Ditch	Mid reddish orange silty clay loam. Secondary fill	0.24m
120	Fill of Ditch	Mid grey clay, secondary fill	0.22m
121	Fill of Ditch	Mid – light orangey brown silty clay loam with very occ. sub rounded flint incl. 0.03m<	0.09m

Trench 2	Dimensions (m): 29.84 x 1.50 x 0.43		
	Coordinates: 467259.631, 241801.657, 148.534m aOD		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
201	Topsoil/turf	Mid greyish brown silty clay loam with very occ. sub rounded/angular Flint incl. 0.02m<	0-0.08m
202	Subsoil	Mid - light brown silty clay loam with very occ. sub rounded flint incl. 0.01m<	0.08-0.39m
203	Natural	Mottled – mid orange & light grey/brown clay with occ. sub rounded flint incl. 0.05m<	0.39m+
No archaeological features recorded			

Trench 3	Dimensions (m): 29.51 x 1.50 x 0.65		
	Coordinates: 467258.674, 241929.767, 150.83m aOD		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
301	Topsoil	Mid brownish grey silty loam, quite loose, humic, soft, lots of root activity – grass on surface, occ. small angular rocks	0 – 0.16m
302	Subsoil	Diffused with topsoil and colluvium. Moderate compactness, mid brown silty clay, occ. small rocks of various shapes.	0.16-0.32m
303	Colluvium	Very diffused with subsoil but distinctive from natural. Mid brownish yellow silty clay, mid compactness with frequent pebbles and flint 0.05m<	0.32-0.56m
304	Natural	Mid – dark yellow silty clay, moderate compactness, frequent various shaped/sized rocks	0.56m+
No archaeological features recorded			

Trench 4	Dimensions (m): 26.75 x 1.50 x 0.40		
	Coordinates: 467286.846, 241961.066, 151.343m aOD		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
401	Layer	Made ground	0 – 0.10m
402	Natural	Sandy/gravelly silty clay	0.10-0.30m
403	Fill of Ditch	Fill of post med. drainage ditch (see 1947 map). Mid – light brown sandy silt with occ. small and medium sub angular flint pebbles	1.10m
404	Cut of Ditch	Probably a post-medieval ditch, truncated by modern drain	

Trench 5	Dimensions (m): 29.43 x 1.50 x 0.46		
	Coordinates: 467338.935, 241921.713, 150.816m aOD		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
501	Topsoil	Dark yellowish brown clay silt	0 – 0.20m
502	Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown clay silt	0.20-0.40m
503	Natural	Sandy clay with gravels	0.40-0.46m
No archaeological features recorded.			

Trench 6	Dimensions (m): 28.88 x 1.50 x 0.54		
	Coordinates: 467447.570, 241891.465, 151.232m aOD		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
601	Topsoil/turf	Mid grey/brown silty clay loam	0 - 0.14m
602	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay loam with very occ. sub angular/rounded flint incl. 0.02m<	0.14-0.54m
603	Natural	Variable – mostly mid orange or mid brown/grey clay with patches of gravel.	0.54m+
No archaeological features recorded.			

Trench 7	Dimensions (m): 26.86 x 1.50 x 0.61		
	Coordinates: 467422.613, 241862.755, 150.686m aOD		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
701	Topsoil/turf	Mid greyish brown silty clay loam with very occ. sub angular flint incl. 0.02m<	0 – 0.29m
702	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown silty clay loam (high clay content) with occ. sub rounded flint incl. 0.04m< & very occ. large sub rounded stones 0.15m<	0.29-0.61m
703	Natural	Very mixed material - mottled – light orangey brown & light grey clay with moderate chalk incl. & moderate sub rounded flint incl. 0.02m<. Possibly alluvial/colluvial build up	0.61m+
704	Cut of Ditch	Unexcavated due to high water table	N/A
705	Fill of Ditch	Mid – light orange clay	N/A

Trench 8	Dimensions (m): 28.54 x 1.50 x 0.53		
	Coordinates: 467460.414, 241842.866, 151.363m aOD		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
801	Topsoil/turf	Mid greyish brown silty clay loam with very occ. sub rounded/angular flint incl. 0.02m<	0 – 0.15m
802	Subsoil	Light brownish orange clay with moderate chalk flecks & occ. sub rounded flint incl. 0.02m<	0.15-0.50m
803	Natural	Mottled – light orangey brown & light grey clay with moderate chalk incl. & moderate sub angular/rounded flint incl. 0.05m<	0.50m+
804	Cut of Ditch	E-W aligned linear, probable field system ditch	0.15m
805	Fill of Ditch	Dark orange/brown silty clay with common stone incl. 0.08m<.	0.15m

Trench 9	Dimensions (m): 30.16 x 1.50 x 0.80		
	Coordinates: 467524.252, 241910.983, 152.527m aOD		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
901	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay loam	0 – 0.20m
902	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay loam	0.20-0.50m
903	Natural	Dirty orangey brown clay	0.50m+
904		Void	N/A
905	Fill of Ditch	Mid reddish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel & yellow sandy clay lenses	0.20m
906	Fill of Ditch	Mid - dark greyish brown clay silt with very occ. medium flint pebbles	0.20m
907	Fill of Ditch	Mid yellowish brown clay silt with occ. small flint pebbles	0.30m
908	Cut of Ditch	Post-medieval linear	1.70m
909	Fill of Ditch	Mid greyish brown clay silt with very occ. medium flint pebbles	0.25m
910	Cut of Ditch	Possible change in nat. as opposed to an archaeological feature – no finds, irregular edges	0.25m
911	Fill of Ditch	Dark reddish brown clay silt with very occ. small flint pebbles. Fill of a post med. boundary ditch	0.60m
912	Fill of Ditch	Mid orangey brown silty clay loam with occ. sub angular/rounded flint incl. 0.05m< & very occ. chalk flecks. Secondary fill containing bone and pot	0.32m
913	Cut of Ditch	A roughly NS aligned linear of prehistoric date – possibly LIA/ERB from pot, most likely part of a field system	0.32m

Trench	Dimensions (m): 28.72 x 1.50 x 0.72		
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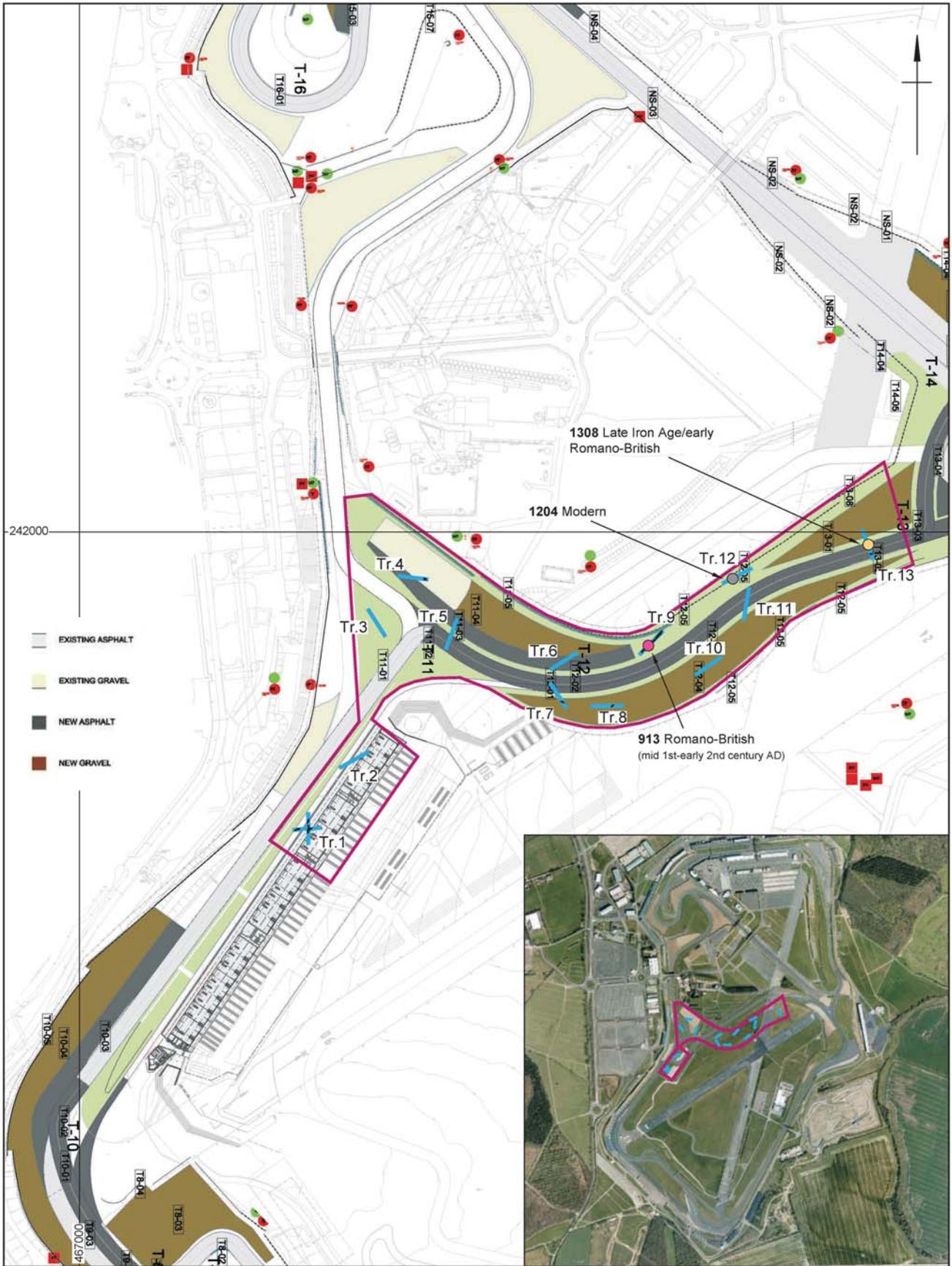
10	Coordinates: 467577.362, 241887.533, 153.238m aOD		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1001	Topsoil/turf	Mid greyish brown silty clay loam with occ. Sub rounded flint incl. 0.04m<	0 – 0.17m
1002	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay with occ. sub angular/rounded flint incl. 0.05m<	0.17-0.40m
1003	Colluvium	What looks to be a thin colluvial layer of mid – light orange/brown clay	0.40-0.54m
1004	Natural	Mid orangey brown clay with moderate tiny stone incl. 0.01m<	0.54m+
No archaeological features recorded.			

Trench 11	Dimensions (m): 30.12 x 1.50 x 0.74		
	Coordinates: 467601.426, 241949.848, 153.463m aOD		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1101	Topsoil/turf	Mid – light greyish brown silty clay loam with occ. sub rounded flint incl. 0.04m<	0 – 0.31m
1102	Colluvium	Compact light orangey brown clay with occ. sub angular flint incl. 0.02m<. Possibly a colluvial layer	0.31-0.74m
1103	Natural	Mid orange gravel	0.74m+
1104	Cut of Tree throw	Unexcavated	N/A
1105	Fill of Treethrow	Unexcavated	N/A

Trench 12	Dimensions (m): 29.99 x 1.50 x 0.65		
	Coordinates: 467604.473, 241967.816, 153.41m aOD		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1201	Topsoil/turf	Mid greyish brown silty clay loam with moderate sub rounded flint incl. 0.04m<	0 – 0.18m
1202	Subsoil	Light greyish brown silty clay loam with moderate sub angular/rounded flint incl. 0.07m<	0.18-0.63m
1203	Natural	Mid orangey brown gravel	0.63m+
1204	Cut of Modern Ditch	At first this looked like a large (possibly prehistoric) ditch with pot on the surface. However, a piece of rubber came out from about 1m down	
1205	Fill of Modern Ditch	Mid – light brown silty clay loam with moderate sub angular/rounded flint and stone incl. 0.10m<	

Trench 13	Dimensions (m): 28.35 x 1.50 x 1.06		
	Coordinates: 467703.059, 242001.969, 154.07m aOD		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1301	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty loam, loose compactness, very humic, lots of root activity	0 – 0.16m
1302	Subsoil	Quite thick, mid brownish grey silty clay, moderate compactness, frequent coarse components (angular flints – 5-10cm)	0.16-0.40m
1303	Natural	Light brownish orange silty clay with moderate compactness, sparse angular flints of various sizes	0.40m+
1304	Cut of Ditch	E-W aligned linear, no dating, possibly a field boundary	0.63m
1305	Fill of Ditch	Mid brownish grey silty clay with sparse small sized angular flints. Secondary deposit in ditch	0.63m
1306	Cut of Ditch	SW-NE aligned linear, undated, most likely part of field system.	0.19m
1307	Fill of Ditch	Mid greyish brown silty clay with sparse various sized angular flints 0.05m<	0.19m
1308	Cut of Ditch	SW-NE aligned linear, prehistoric in date from the pot and flint recovered. Most likely part of an	0.54m

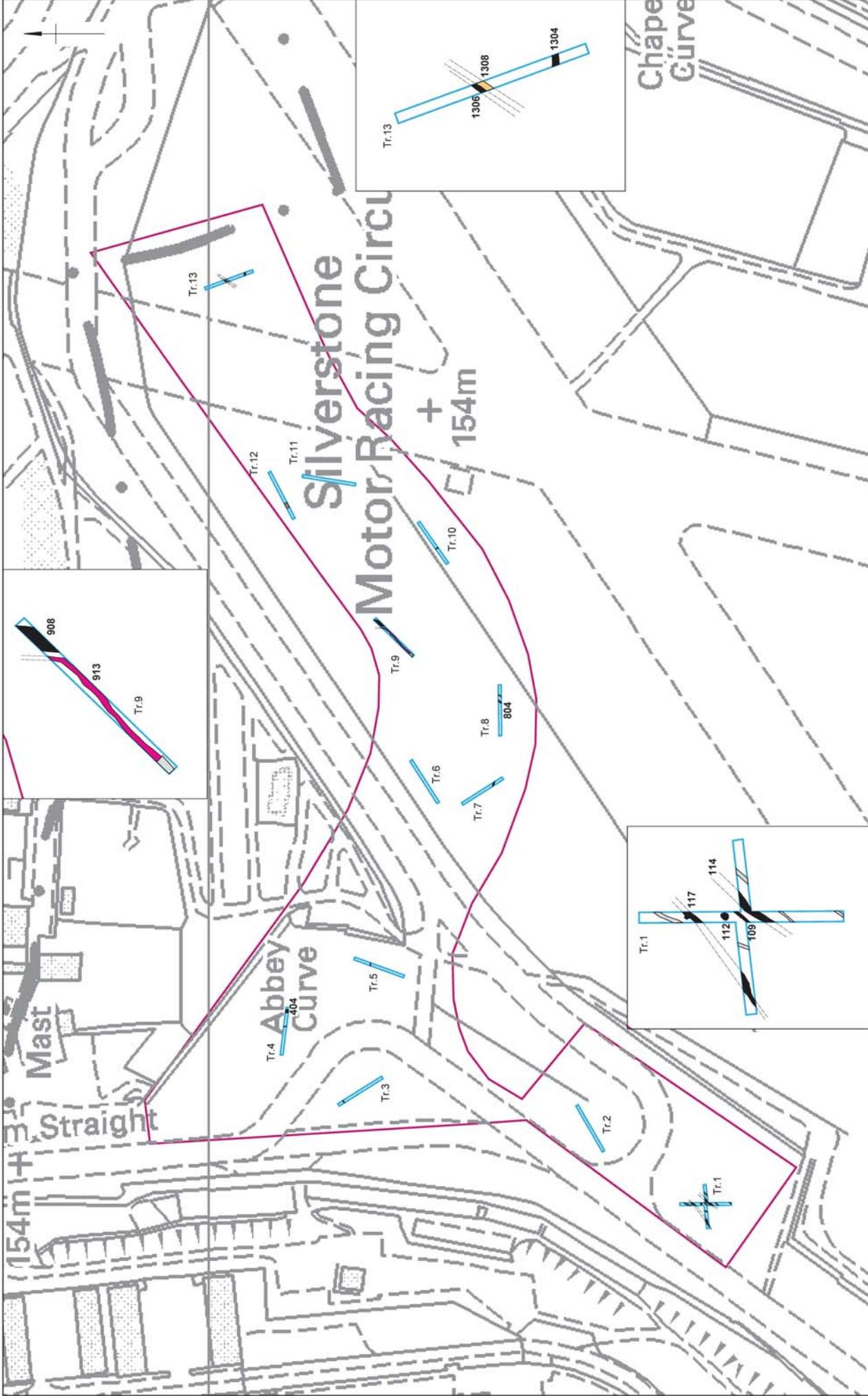
		old field system	
1309	Fill of Ditch	Mid greyish brown silty clay with sparse/moderate various sized angular flints. Secondary fill of prehistoric field boundary ditch.	0.54m



	<p> Evaluation area Evaluation trench Archaeological feature </p>		<p> Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Terrence o'Rourke Ltd. AL: 100017826. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction. </p>	
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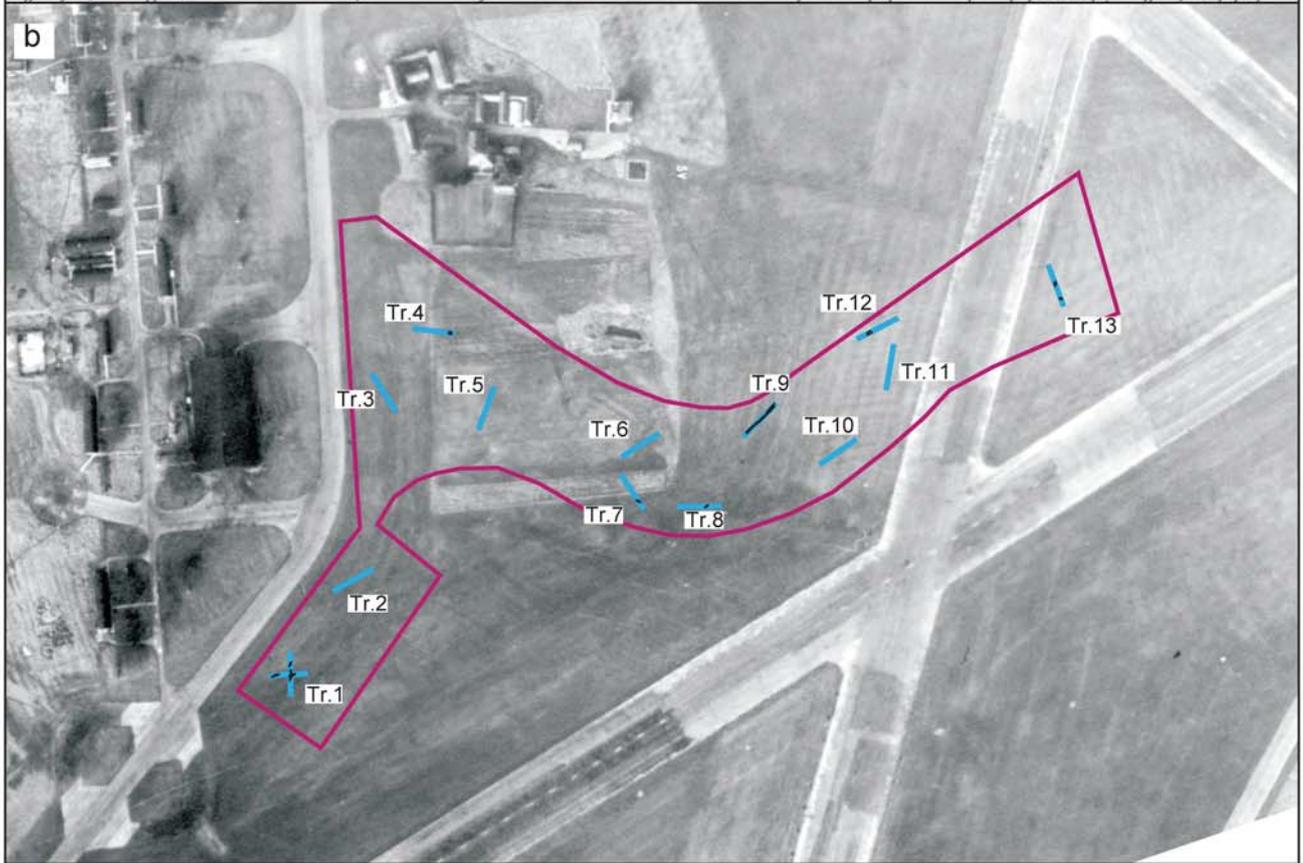
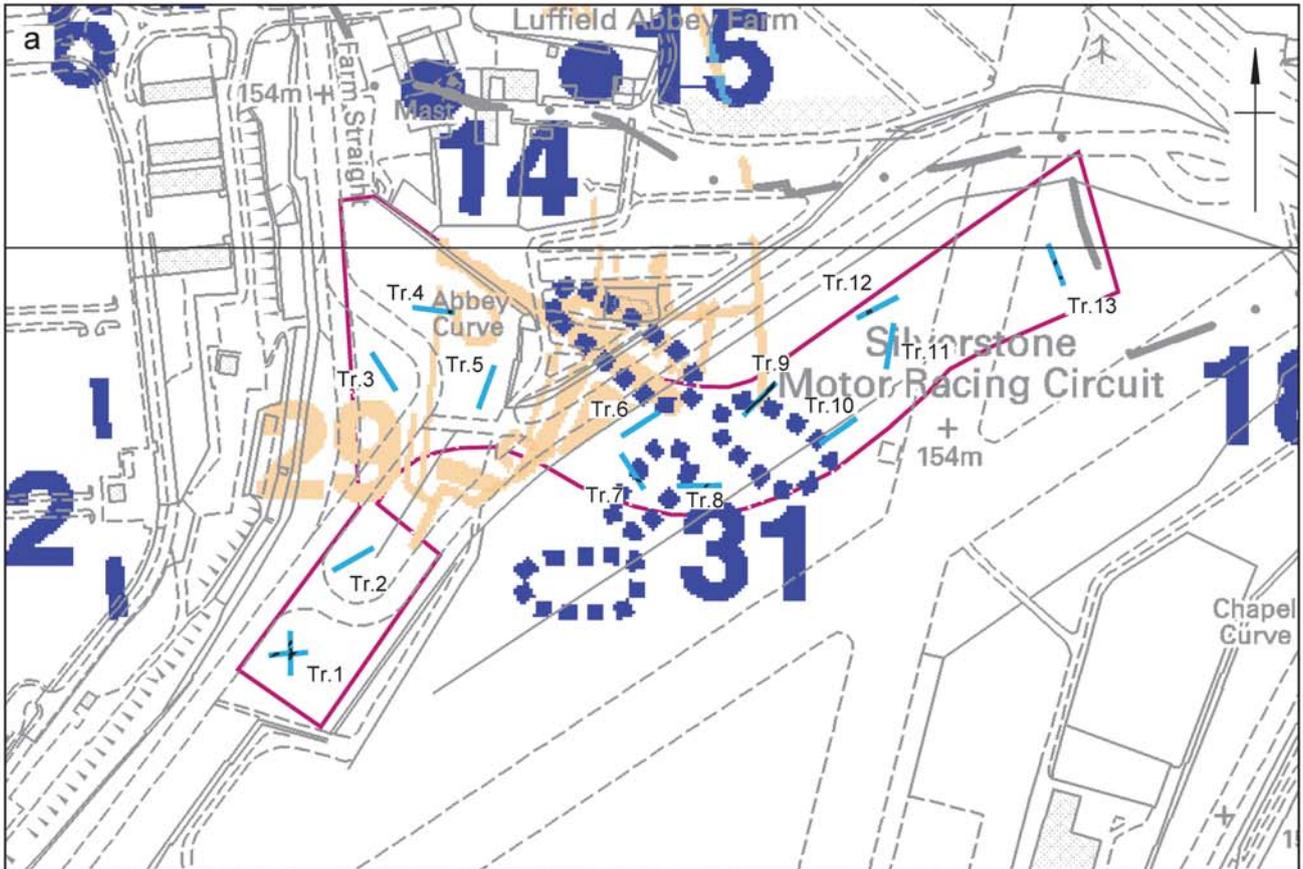
Site and trench location plan

Figure 1



	Evaluation area Evaluation trench Late Iron Age/early Romano-British Romano-British Modern Undated Disturbance	Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Terence & Rowan Ltd. AL: 10007826. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.	Date: 03/12/09 Scale: 1:2000 & 1:500 Path: Y:\PROJECTS\72960\Drawing Office\Report Figs\EVAL09_12_03\72960_eval.dwg	Revision Number: 0 Illustrator: LJC
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Trench plan Figure 2

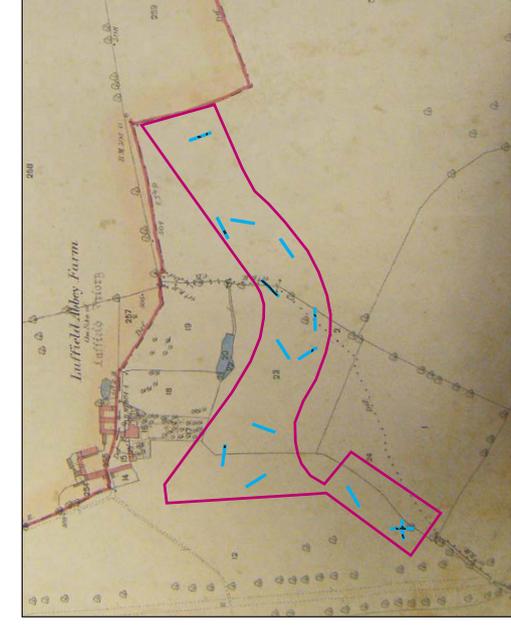


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Location of site in relation to a) Cropmarks (OAU 2001) b) 1947 aerial photograph Figure 3



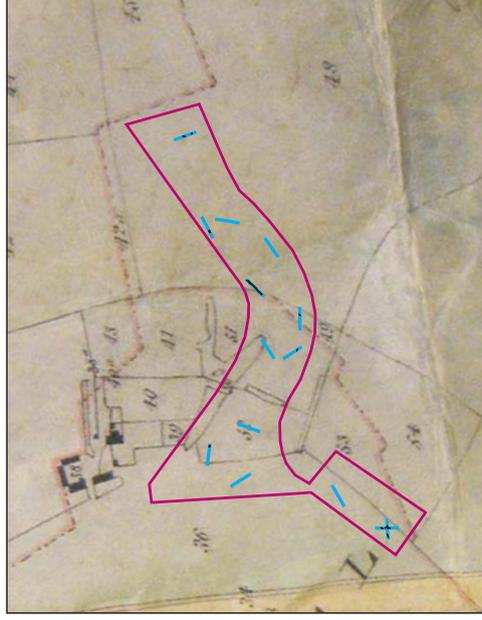
a) 1900 25" OS map



b) 1800 25" OS map



c) 1856 Silverstone Parish map



d) 1856 Luffield Abbey and Parish fields map



e) 1725 Whittlewood Forest map (copy of early 17th century map)

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a) West facing representative section of Trench 1 showing drain 109



b) West facing section of undated ditch 117



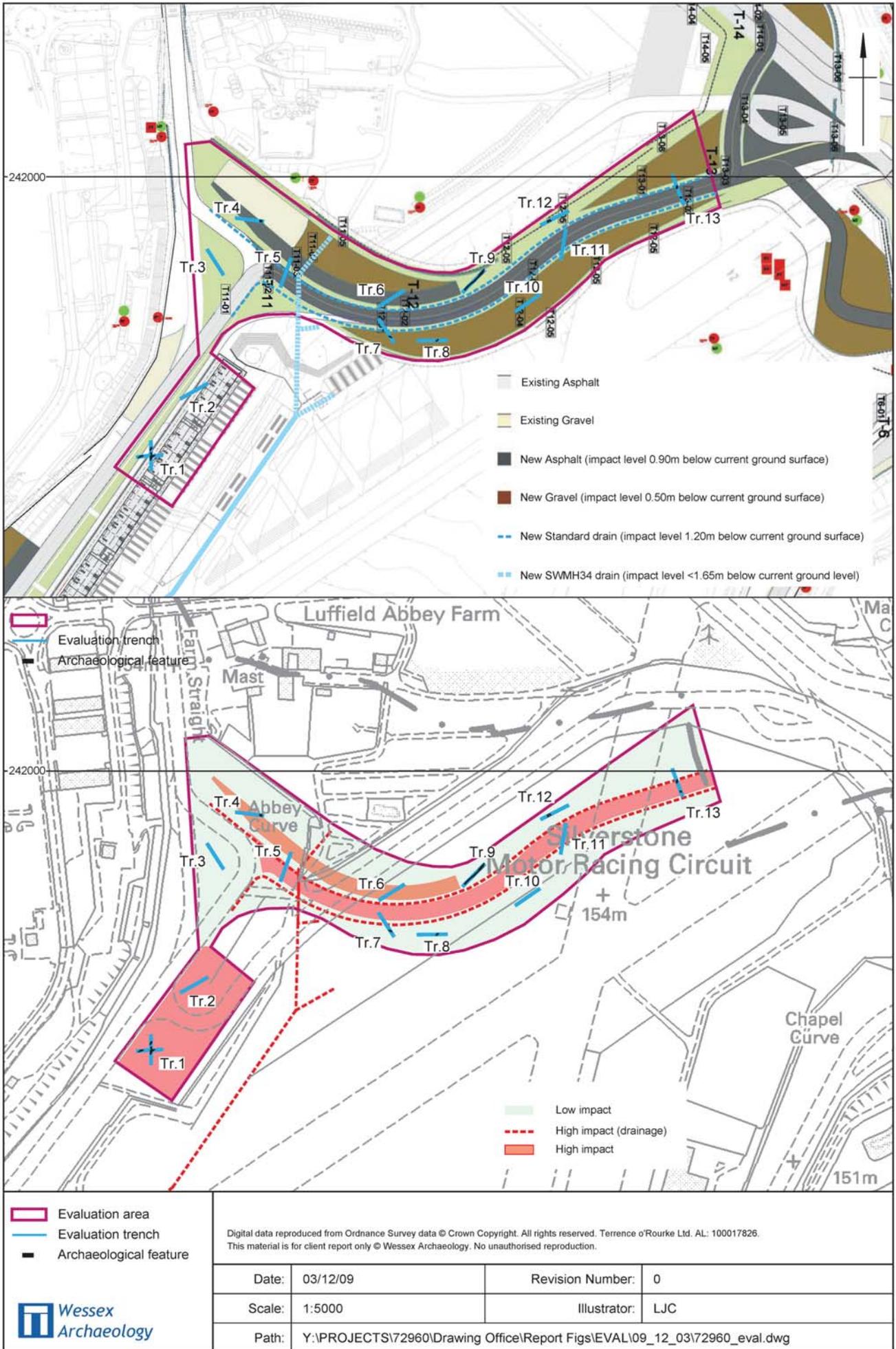
c) General view of ditch 908 from north west



d) General view of Trench 13 from south



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Potential construction impact

Figure 6



WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.

Registered Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

Maidstone Office: The Malthouse, The Oast, Weaving Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5JN.

Tel: 01622 739381 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

