Wessex Archaeology

Lyde Road, Yeovil, Somerset

Archaeological Field Evaluation Report

Ref: 71480.03

May 2009

LYDE ROAD, YEOVIL, SOMERSET

Archaeological Field Evaluation Report

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Barrett Homes, Exeter, to undertake an archaeological field evaluation on land off Lyde Road, Yeovil, Somerset centred on NGR 327624 117623. The fieldwork was undertaken subsequent to an earlier desk-based assessment and geophysical survey which produced evidence of probable Romano-British activity.

The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of nine trenches, (eight 30m trenches and one 40m trench) equating to a 3% sample (by area) of the Site. Two of the trenches (Trenches 1 and 5) were targeted on anomalies identified from the geophysical survey results, with the remaining trenches positioned in 'blank' areas. Overall, the results of the trenches correlated well with the geophysical survey.

Other than a single pit containing charcoal and Iron Age pottery in Trench 1 and a possible Iron Age buried soil horizon in Trench 9, the principal features recorded were of Romano-British date. These included two broad east-west aligned ditches located on the higher ground to the north-west of the Site in Trench 1. Evidence of post-medieval field boundaries and drains was recorded in Trench 5.

All the recorded archaeological features, were sealed by subsoil and were generally cut from depths of *c*. 0.30 – 0.40m from the present ground surface. Most features were filled with characteristically grey brown silty clay derived from the local soils.

The evaluation has demonstrated that the main focus of activity is centred on the high ground in the north-west area of the Site. A further area of activity, albeit at a much lower level, was identified at the south-east end of the Site, in an area of steeply sloping ground.

The evaluation was undertaken between 6th and 10th of April 2009.

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Archaeological Field Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Barratt Homes Exeter and we are grateful to John Atkinson for his support during the works. The fieldwork was monitored by Steven Membery, Senior Historic Environment Officer for Somerset County Council. Machine excavation of the trenches was carried out by staff of R.K. Bell Ltd.

The evaluation was supervised by Bob Davis assisted by Dave Reay, Piotr Orczewski and Nicola Mulhall. This report was complied by Bob Davis and the illustrations prepared by Elizabeth James. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mepham and the environmental samples were processed by Marta Perez-Fernandez and assessed by Dr Chris J. Stevens. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

LYDE ROAD, YEOVIL, SOMERSET

Archaeological Field Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Barratt Homes Exeter to undertake an archaeological field evaluation on land off Lyde Road, Yeovil, Somerset (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference 327624 117623 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 Planning permission has been granted for the residential development of the Site with a condition that a programme of archaeological works was undertaken both before and potentially during development works.

1.1.3 The archaeological and historical potential of the development area was initially identified through the preparation of an archaeological desk-based assessment (BaRAS 2004) and subsequently through a geophysical survey (Oxford Archaeotechnics 2008), comprising topsoil magnetic susceptibility mapping and targeted magnetometer survey.

1.1.4 Both surveys had identified the potential for the presence and survival of buried archaeological remains of Bronze Age/Romano-British settlement activity.

1.1.5 Following assessment of the geophysical survey results and in consultation with Steven Membery, Senior Historic Environment Officer, Somerset County Council, it was agreed that a 3% sampling strategy of the *c*.3.8ha Site should be undertaken by evaluation trenching to further identify and clarify underlying archaeological features and deposits.

1.1.6 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, Wessex Archaeology 2009), which was approved in advance by the Senior Historic Environment Officer, Somerset County Council. All works were carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008).

1.1.7 The evaluation fieldwork took place between the 6th and 10th of April 2009.

1.2 Site location, topography, geology and land use

1.2.1 The Site comprises an irregular parcel of agricultural land of approximately 3.8ha, situated within the South Somerset district of Somerset. It is situated on the outskirts of Yeovil, to the north-east of the town centre. It is bounded by residential properties to the west, agricultural land to the north and south, and the River Yeo to the east (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 The north-western half of the Site occupies a level elevated plateau lying at *c.* 50-60m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). From this elevated platform the Site slopes south and south-eastwards meeting a steep overgrown scarp before descending to the floodplain of the river.

1.2.3 Underlying solid geology comprises Lias clay beds (British Geological Survey).

1.2.4 Land use at the time of the fieldwork comprised recently planted short grass over the northern half of the area and uncultivated ground along the south edge of the field.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Previous Archaeological Work

2.1.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment was undertaken in 2004 (BaRAS 2004) for the Site. Further study of the Somerset Historic Environment Record (SHER) was undertaken in March 2009 and focused on a Study Area of 1000m around the Site.

2.1.2 A geophysical survey of the Site was undertaken by Oxford Archaeotechnics in December 2008 (OA 2008). The survey comprised a combination of topsoil magnetic susceptibility field sensing and magnetometry.

2.1.3 A summary of the results is presented below.

2.2 Desk-based assessment

Prehistoric

2.2.1 No evidence for prehistoric occupation of the Site or Study Area is recorded within the SHER. Given the often ephemeral nature of prehistoric features and sites however, this does not preclude the presence of remains dating to the pre-Roman period within the Site's boundaries. Given the elevated location of the Site and its proximity to the river and flood plain, there is an enhanced potential for the presence of settlement remains relating from the Bronze Age period and later.

Romano-British

2.2.2 In the early 1990s metal detectorists showed a collection of Roman pottery, a coin of Constantine I, a lead object, a flint axe and arrowhead to members of the Yeovil Archaeological Society. With the exception of the pottery and the lead object, the material was kept by the finders. The finds came from an area known as Great Lyde with the spread of material lying within the Site's boundary. It comprised 167 sherds weighing 2kg. About half of this was Dorset Black Burnished Ware of both early and late types. Finewares showed a similar spread of dates with both samian and New Forest wares present. There was no Oxford ware apart from mortaria but this may be due to the collection policy of the finders who may have held back decorated sherds. The scatter of material was reported to have been accompanied by rubble and may well be indicative of Romano-British settlement.

2.2.3 Further finds of Romano-British pottery recovered from Lyde Lane in 1925 to the south of the Site may be related to the above, suggesting the spread of material may extend beyond the Site in this area.

Medieval

2.2.4 Earthworks recorded in the vicinity of Up Mudford to the immediate north of the Site may be indicative of shrunken settlement remains, surrounded by remnant ridge and furrow.

2.2.5 Lyde Farm, to the south of the Site also has its origins in the medieval period, or possibly earlier (BaRAS 2004). Lyde Farm probably formed part of the medieval Manor of Lyde, which also would have encompassed the Site.

Post-medieval and modern

2.2.6 A number of sites lay within the Study Area relating to the post-medieval and modern periods, including the former sites of an isolation hospital, a glove factory and a degreasing works, all to the south and west of the Site within areas now occupied by residential housing.

2.2.7 The only SHER entry relating to the Site itself is a former rifle range dating to the pre-war period, illustrated on the 1927 OS map and extending approximately north-south in the eastern part of the Site, broadly parallel with the course of the river.

2.3 Geophysical survey

2.3.1 A geophysical survey was undertaken at the Site by Oxford Archaeotechnics in December 2008 (OA 2008). The survey comprised a combination of topsoil magnetic susceptibility field sensing and magnetometry and identified three areas of increased archaeological potential.

Topsoil magnetic susceptibility

2.3.2 The Site proved extremely responsive to topsoil magnetic susceptibility mapping, producing dynamic magnetic patterns indicative of the presence of underlying features with archaeological potential.

2.3.3 Two major magnetic trends dominated the topsoil magnetic susceptibility map. A general east-west patterning had been generated as a result of agricultural activity, and most likely representing subdivisions of a former agricultural regime. A further trend of magnetic patterning suggests what may be the remains of an earlier relict landscape.

Magnetic (gradiometer) survey

2.3.4 Three areas showing strong magnetic patterning were selected for detailed magnetometer survey in order to define the extent and geometry of any underlying features (Areas A to C). Although none of these areas fall within the Phase 1 development area, two of the trenches (Trench 1, Area A and Trench 5, Area B) were targeted on features identified in the survey, to assess the reliability of the results (**Figure 1**).

2.3.5 Immediately to the north-west of the proposed trenching, Area A measured approximately 5.5ha and was positioned on the elevated plateau within the north-western part of the Site. The survey revealed a considerable number

of underlying linear features, representing ditches, a complex series of former trackways, enclosures and possible structural features indicative of a former settlement. Indeed the morphology of the features identified, in association with the surface flintwork and pottery collected during the survey, suggest a prehistoric (Middle to Late Bronze Age) date (OA 2008).

2.3.6 Areas B and C were positioned to the north-east of the proposed trenching and were placed over results of strong topsoil magnetic susceptibility. Area B identified a series of striations, indicating possible linear features, although none as substantial as the probable ditches in Area A. In Area C magnetic survey confirmed a series of weak linear features and areas of potential pitting, which, given this is an area of potential colluvial deposits could be greater than the signals have indicated.

2.3.7 The topsoil magnetic susceptibility mapping in the area of the evaluation did not produce strong magnetic patterning, indeed, on the David Wilson Homes development area the ground became increasingly wet, with a spring issuing at the time of the geophysics survey, making it unlikely that the settlement continued into this area (OA 2008).

3 EVALUATION AIMS

3.1 General

3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological field evaluation were to:

- clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the site that may be threatened by development.
- identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the Site.
- assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.
- target two trenches on anomalies identified as a result of the geophysical survey in order to clarify the nature and presence/absence of any underlying remains.
- the production of a report which will present the project information in sufficient detail to allow interpretation without recourse to the project archive. This will facilitate judgements on the status of the archaeological resource and allow the formulation of an appropriate response ('a mitigation strategy') to the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological deposits, if required.

4 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following methodology was proposed in order to meet the aims and objectives of the fieldwork. All works were undertaken in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the 'Institute For Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008) excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

4.1.2 In consultation with Steven Membery of SHES, acting on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, it was agreed that up to a 3% sampling strategy of the Site equating to the excavation of an initial 9 trenches (1no 40m x 2.0m & 8no 30m x 2.0m) would be undertaken. Positioning of 2 trenches (**Trenches 1** and **5**) would be over geophysical anomalies and 7 over apparent 'blank' areas. Once opened, a site monitoring meeting would be held to determine whether further trenching in (the area of the current evaluation) was required as a contingency. If necessary, a further 12 trenches were proposed for excavation (30m x 2.0m).

4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 A total of 9 trenches were excavated. All trenches were at least 2.0m wide and 30m long, with the exception of Trench 1 which measured 40m in length. The trenches were located using DGPS (Differential Global Positioning System, **Figure 1**).

4.3 Health and safety

4.3.1 All work was carried out in accordance with 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.

4.3.2 Prior to the commencement of the fieldwork a Risk Assessment was produced. All staff involved in works signed and complied with this document.

4.4 Service Location

4.4.1 Prior to, and during excavation, the trenches were scanned to verify the absence of any underground services using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT). No underground services were present within the footprint of the trial trenches.

4.5 Survey

4.5.1 Trial trenches were laid out in advance and in accordance with the pattern given in **Figure 1** and surveyed using DGPS (Differential Global Positioning System), to an accuracy of ± 20mm.

4.5.2 All trenches were excavated by tracked excavator under constant archaeological supervision. All machining was carried out using a 2.0m wide toothless bucket in discrete level spits of approximately 0.10m maximum depth. Topsoil and underlying deposits of lias clay were stored adjacent to the trenches in preparation for reinstatement. All trial trenches were machine excavated to the upper surface of archaeological features and /or underlying geology (lias clay) whichever was encountered first.

4.5.3 On the completion of the trenches to the satisfaction of the client and the Senior Historic Environment Officer for SCC, the trenches were backfilled using the excavated material in the order in which they were excavated by Wessex Archaeology and left compacted and level by the machine tracks. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

4.6 Depth of excavation

4.6.1 None of the trenches exceeded 1.2m in depth and therefore required no stepping or battering in profile.

4.7 Recording

4.7.1 Written recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology *pro-forma* recording sheets. Representative soil profile sections of trial trenches were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Archaeological features were recorded at 1:10 in section and 1:20 in plan. The Site was surveyed using DGPS.

4.7.2 A unique number was issued for each feature and deposit, relating to the trench in which it was found.

4.7.3 A photographic record was produced consisting of 35mm monochrome prints and colour transparencies. Digital images were also taken to support general site recording.

4.8 Finds

4.8.1 All recovered objects were retained unless they were undoubtedly of modern or recent origin. All finds were recorded by context.

5 EVALUATION RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Overall the results of the two targeted trenches (Trench 1 and Trench 5) correlated well with the earlier geophysical survey results. Archaeological features were present in both trenches as well as Trench 9. These remains comprised two linear features and a pit in Trench 1, five linear features in Trench 5 and a possible buried soil horizon in Trench 9. None of the remaining trenches contained any archaeological features or deposits. Detailed trench summaries are contained in **Appendix 4**.

5.2 Natural deposits and soil sequence

Topsoil

5.2.1 This deposit varied in depth across the evaluated area. It comprised medium grey brown silt/clay topsoil ranging in depth from 0.15m in the north-west area to 0.30m in the south-east. This had a fairly well defined interface with the subsoil below.

Subsoil

5.2.2 This was characterised by a layer of mid brown silty clay. This layer varied in depth across the Site, probably due to the steep slope running down from north-west to south-east. The depth varied between 0.15m and 0.30m. It was slightly paler in colour than the topsoil and generally had a sharp well defined interface with the natural geology.

Natural

5.2.3 The underlying natural geology of the Site was lias clay and was identified in all of the trenches. This had a generally mottled yellowish blue grey appearance and was fairly dense in texture.

5.3 Evaluation trenches

Trench 1

5.3.1 Trench 1 was targeted over two parallel linear anomalies and both features were identified during the excavation. At the north end of the trench, a broad ditch was recorded (**103**, **Figure 2**, **Plate 1**). This feature ran across the trench from north-west to south-east and measured 2.8m wide and 0.4m deep. The profile formed a slight step on the south side while the north side was fairly steep. The fill (**104**) contained Romano-British pottery.

5.3.2 At the southern end of the trench another broad ditch was recorded (**106**) (**Figure 2**, **Plate 2**). This feature also ran in a north-west south-east direction and was similar to **103** in size, profile and date; it measured 2.3m wide and was 0.64m deep and had a broadly similar, mirrored profile to that of the northern ditch **103**. This feature produced a quantity of Romano-British pottery from the fill (**107**).

5.3.3 Ditch **106** cut through a pit on its southern side. The pit, (**109**, **Figure 2**, **Plate 3**) was elliptical in plan with a maximum length of 1.0m and a maximum width of 0.65m. It was fairly shallow at 0.38m deep, but had a base lining of charcoal (**111**). An environmental sample was collected and the layer produced pottery of probable Iron Age date.

Trench 2

5.3.4 This trench contained no archaeological deposits or features and no finds were recovered from the spoil heaps.

Trench 3

5.3.5 This trench contained no archaeological deposits or features and no finds were recovered from the spoil heaps.

Trench 4

5.3.6 This trench contained no archaeological deposits or features and no finds were recovered from the spoil heaps. A very modern feature was recorded crossing the approximate centre of the trench from west to east. It contained bricks, concrete and plastic items and was not investigated further.

Trench 5

5.3.7 This trench was also targeted over geophysical anomalies. Five features were recorded within this trench and all form roughly parallel linear features which all ran approximately north-south across the trench (**Figure 2**). At the west end, a ditch (**502**, **Plate 4**) was recorded and measured 1.87m wide and 0.80m deep with a generally rounded profile. The fill (**507**) consisted of a brown grey silt clay and contained a quantity of modern artefacts including bottle glass and glazed pot sherds. The ditch cut through the subsoil layer suggesting recent activity.

5.3.8 Gulley **503** was recorded to the east of ditch **502** and measured 1.14m wide and 0.42m deep (**Figure 2**, **Plate 5**). It had a slight step in the base of the west side and the fill, (**509**) consisted of a mid brown grey silt clay, which did not contain finds.

5.3.9 Located in the approximate centre of the trench, a broad shallow feature (**504**) was recorded (**Figure 2**, **Plate 6**). It measured 3m wide and only

0.10m deep. The feature had a generally flat base and the fill (**510**) consisted of a brown grey silty clay.

5.3.10 In the east end of the trench a narrow drainage gulley (**505**) was recorded. It measured 0.90m wide at the top and 0.19m deep. A narrow 'channel' 0.15m wide ran down the centre of the base (**Figure 2**, **Plate 7**). The upper fill (**511**) consisted of brown grey silt clay and contained no finds. The channel in the base of the gulley (**512**) was yellowish brown silty clay. This was possibly derived from erosion of the surrounding natural soil and contained no finds.

5.3.11 At the east end of the trench another ditch (**506**) was recorded. It had an asymmetrical profile 2.08m wide and 0.63m deep (**Figure 2**, **Plate 8**). The profile was very steep on the west side but stepped from broad and shallow to steep on the east. The upper fill (**513**) was brown grey silty clay and may represent the base of the subsoil. The secondary fill (**514**) consisted of medium grey brown clay silt and produced very small quantities of unworked flint. The primary fill (**515**) appeared as yellow brown silty clay and was probably formed by eroded or weathered natural.

Trench 6

5.3.12 This trench contained no archaeological deposits or features and no finds were recovered from the spoil heaps.

Trench 7

5.3.13 This trench contained no archaeological deposits or features and no finds were recovered from the spoil heaps.

Trench 8

5.3.14 This trench contained no archaeological deposits or features and no finds were recovered from the spoil heaps.

Trench 9

5.3.15 The soil sequence within this trench was much deeper than the other trenches, due largely to its position, further down the slope. The subsoil layer (**901**) consisted of slightly paler brown silty clay and measured up to 0.30m deep. Below this layer a narrow band of grey, manganese flecked silty clay (**902**) was recorded. This was identified as the upper fill of a fairly well defined broad shallow flat bottomed feature (**903**) that appeared to cross the eastern end of the trench obliquely (**Figure 2**, **Plate 9**). The north edge of this feature was partly visible within the trench and appeared to meander slightly, its edge highlighted by a line of manganese flecking. This feature was not fully understood but may relate to ancient hill wash or an erosion episode. The primary fill of this feature (**904**) consisted of mottled grey brown silty clay containing charcoal flecks and medium quantities of manganese flecking. It also produced a small quantity of undiagnostic flint and a single, possibly Iron Age, pot sherd.

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during the evaluation, deriving from two of the nine trenches excavated (Trenches 1 and 9), as well as some

unstratified material. Finds occurred in a restricted range of material types; only pottery was found in any quantity. The assemblage includes material of prehistoric, Romano-British and modern date.

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 Pottery constitutes the primary dating evidence for the Site. The assemblage ranges in date from late Iron Age to modern, although the bulk of the material is Romano-British.

6.2.2 Three sherds have been identified as later prehistoric. One small, undiagnostic body sherd from context **904** is in a sandy fabric which is not particularly chronologically distinctive, although an Iron Age date is most likely. Two joining sherds from a vessel rim from context **111** have been heavily burnt, and the original fabric type is not immediately obvious, although this is also likely to be a sandy ware of Iron Age date. The rim is slightly distorted, but appears to come from a relatively thick-walled bowl form.

6.2.3 The majority of the assemblage (64 sherds) is of Romano-British date; all these sherds came from Trench 1, mostly from contexts **104** and **107**. Wares represented include Black Burnished ware (BB1), coarse greywares of uncertain source, New Forest parchment ware, Oxfordshire colour coated ware, Dressel 20 amphora, and a very coarse fabric containing prominent buff/pink rock fragments and mica flakes, identified as Norton Fitzwarren ware (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 175, fabric 107). In terms of date range, although some wares (such as the Black Burnished ware and the amphora) have a potential date range from the early Roman period onwards, there appears to be an emphasis on the later Roman period (mid 3rd century AD onwards), suggested by the presence of dropped flange bowls and everted rim jars of late form, and the new Forest and Oxfordshire products. There is nothing here which is necessarily earlier than 3rd century AD.

6.2.4 The nine sherds found unstratified are all modern refined whitewares; these have been discarded.

6.3 Other Finds

6.3.1 Other finds were recovered in minimal quantities, and included animal bone (fragments of cattle tooth), featureless fragments of fired clay (unknown date and function); three worked flints (not closely datable); three iron nails (uncertain date); small fragments of micaceous mudstone and ferruginous sandstone (not obviously worked but possibly building material), and modern vessel glass (discarded).

7 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

Environmental samples taken

7.1.1 A single bulk sample was taken from a shallow pit (**109**) of possible Romano-British date with a large deposit of charred material (**111**) within it.

The sample was processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals.

7.2 Charred Plant Remains

7.2.1 The bulk sample was processed by standard flotation methods; the flot was retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, with residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fraction (>5.6 mm) was sorted, weighed and discarded. The flot was fractionated and scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Appendix 3**) 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 flot was very large comprising mainly wood charcoal with very low numbers of roots indicating a generally well sealed deposit.

7.2.3 Only a single grain of possible free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* cf. *aestivum*) was recovered. Free-threshing wheat is rare in Romano-British deposits and generally more indicative of Saxon and medieval deposits. However, it is possible that the grain is intrusive.

7.3 Wood Charcoal

7.3.1 Wood charcoal was the main constituent of the sample from pit **109** and the volume of charcoal in the 4ml and 2ml fractions is recorded in **Appendix 3**. Almost all of the larger fragments could be seen to be clearly ring-porous and it is probable that the majority of the charcoal comprises of oak wood (*Quercus* sp.). No round wood was seen in the samples or wood that could be seen to derive from branch or twig material.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1.1 Overall, the results of the trenching correlated well with the earlier geophysical survey, which had strongly suggested that the focus of archaeological activity lay to the north-west of the Site and mainly on the higher ground. The targeted trenches have identified that the archaeological potential in theses areas, although mixed, is high.

8.1.2 Similarly the other ‘blank’ trenches to the south-east and down slope have demonstrated that these areas are largely devoid of archaeological material. The soil sequences and depth in the south and east have reflected both the topography and arable use of the land. The steep sloping ground provided an environment which allowed soil movement from agricultural activity to move down slope and effectively bury earlier land surfaces and/or features. Whilst this suggests that the steep slopes were not intensively occupied, evidence found of ancient soils below the present horizons indicate that there was localised archaeological activity.

8.1.3 The main focus of activity is certainly on the north-western plateau and artefactual evidence confirms the majority of features identified are predominantly of Romano-British date. There is however, some evidence of

earlier, probable Iron Age activity on the Site, although the results suggest a less intensively settled area.

8.1.4 Other features recorded in the targeted trenches confirm a former post medieval field pattern consistent with an agrarian landscape. The present Site and the surrounding fields all have characteristics of field expansion with many post-medieval field boundaries removed to make larger fields. Possible field drains have been identified too which would appear to be mainly modern but the absence of finds evidence could suggest that some of these features relate to early land use.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1.1 The project archive from the 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 **71480**. The full list of contents of this archive is detailed in **Appendix 1** of this report. The project archive will be deposited with the Somerset Museum Service in due course.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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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	18
1	B	Day Book (photocopy)	A4	2
1	B	Graphics Register	A4	1
1	B	Trial Trench Records		9
1	B	Context Records		25
1	B	Survey Data Index	A4	2
1	B	Survey Data Print-out	A4	-
1	B	Graphics Register	A4	2
1	B	Site Graphics	A4	6
1	B	Site Graphics	A3	4
1	D	Photographic Register	A4	1
1	E	Environmental Sample Register & Records	A4	1
1	C	Object Register & Records	A4	-
2	-	Colour slides	35mm	
FINDS	**No. OF BOXES (1)**			

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

Context	Prehist Pottery	RB Pottery	Modern pottery	Stone	Other Finds
104		48/650		8/159	2 iron
105		1/34			
107		15/102			23 animal bone; 11 fired clay
111	2/31				
904	1/3				2 flint
unstrat			9/29		1 flint; 5 glass; 1 iron
TOTAL	**3/34**	**64/786**	**9/29**	**8/159**	

APPENDIX 3: TABLE OF CHARRED PLANT REMAINS AND CHARCOAL

Sample				Flot								
Feature	Context	Sample	Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% roots	Grain	Chaff	charred other	Seeds	Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Analysis
Pit 109	111	1	20	1500	2	C	-	-	1x *Triticum* cf. *aestivum*	500/500ml		

APPENDIX 4: TRENCH SUMMARY TABLES

Evaluation Trench 1		**Max Depth: 0.35m Mid Ground Level (m aOD): 62.56m**	**Length: 40m**	**Width:2.1m**
Context	**Type**	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
101	*Layer*	Topsoil: medium grey brown silty loam with grass roots. Very rare inclusions with clear interface onto natural.		0-0.35m
102	*Layer*	Natural: Brownish yellow with bluish grey mottling clay loam. Sticky and compact in upper levels. Some iron staining or manganese spotting.		0.35-..
103	*Cut*	Feature targeted as geophys anomaly. Broad ditch crossing the north end of trench. Clearly defined with a slightly stepped profile.		2.8m wide 0.40m deep
104	*Fill*	Of 103, pale bluish grey silty clay. Very rare stones but with high quantities of artefacts. Clear interface onto.		0.30m deep
105	*Fill*	Basal fill of 103. medium bluish grey silty clay, contains rare flecks of charcoal and pot sherd, some iron or manganese staining.		0.10m deep
106	*Cut*	Feature targeted as geophys anomaly. Broad ditch crossing trench from west to east at south end. Well defined with slightly stepped profile.		2.3m wide 0.64m deep
107	*Fill*	Of 106, Medium bluish grey with brown mottling. Rare stones but containing pot sherds.		2.3m wide 0.55m deep
108	*Fill*	Of 106. band of light yellowish brown silty clay representing redeposited natural lining bottom of ditch. Formed as a result of erosion.		0.10m deep
109	*Cut*	Pit, elliptical in plan and cut by ditch 106. well defined with shallow concave even profile.		Length 1.0m Width 0.65m depth 0.38m
110	*Fill*	Of 109. light bluish grey with brown/yellow silty clay. Very rare stone content with some flecking of charcoal. Probably redeposited natural.		0.28m deep
111	*Fill*	Basal fill of 109, very dark grey black, silty clay. 80% charcoal containing single pot sherd		0.1m deep

Evaluation Trench 2		Max Depth: 0.40m Mid Ground Level (m aOD): 52.78m	Length: 30m	Width:2.1m
Context	**Type**	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
200	*Layer*	Topsoil-mid brown silty clay, very rare inclusions of fine gravel. Diffuse boundary.		0.33m
201	*Layer*	Subsoil- slightly paler mid brown silty clay, very rare inclusions of fine sub-rounded gravel. Fairly compact with diffuse boundary onto natural below.		0.33-0.56m
202	*Layer*	Natural lias clays-mid orange brown silty clay, no visible heavy inclusions but flecked with iron or manganese		0.56-0.65m base of trench

Evaluation Trench 3		Max Depth: 0.40m Mid Ground Level (m aOD): 49.261m	Length: 30m	Width:2.1m
Context	**Type**	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
300	*Layer*	Topsoil- mid brown silty clay. Rare inclusions of sub rounded medium gravel. Some ploughed in plant material present. Clear boundary onto subsoil.		0-0.24m
301	*Layer*	Subsoil- slightly paler mid brown silty clay. Rare inclusions of sub rounded medium gravel. Little or no roots present, dense with clear boundary onto natural clay.		0.24-0.54m
302	*Layer*	Natural lias clay- mid orange brown no visible inclusions with flecks of iron or manganese.		0.54-0.66m base of trench

Evaluation Trench 4		Max Depth: 0.40m Mid Ground Level (m aOD): 50.72m	Length: 30m	Width:2.1m
Context	**Type**	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
401	*Layer*	Topsoil, medium grey brown silty clay with very rare stone inclusions.		0-0.3m
402	*Layer*	Subsoil, mid grey brown silty clay, with very rare stone inclusions.		0.3-0.65m
403	*Layer*	Natural lias clay, dense and mottled blue/grey and yellow/orange.		0.65m-0.85 base of trench

Evaluation Trench 5		Max Depth: 0.40m Mid Ground Level (m aOD): 48.24m	Length: 30m	Width:2.1m
Context	**Type**	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
500	*Layer*	Topsoil, dark grey brown with very little inclusions, diffused boundary onto..		0-0.2m
516	*Layer*	Subsoil, mid brown silty clay with clear boundary onto..		0.2-0.50m
501	*Layer*	Natural, mottled bluish grey/yellow lias clay		0.5m-0.70m
502	*Cut*	Clearly defined ditch running north south across west end of trench. Possibly relates to field boundary shown on late 19th century os map. Broad rounded profile		Width 1.87m Depth 0.80m
507	*Fill*	Of 503, mid brown grey silty clay, containing glazed ceramics and bottle glass all modern and not kept. Diffuse boundary.		Width 1.87m Depth 0.70m
508	*Ffill*	Of 503, yellow grey silt clay with some iron or manganese flecking. Probably eroded natural.		Width 0.70m Depth 0.10m
503	*Cut*	Small linear 'gulley' crossing trench north south. Clearly defined with a slight step in base. Was seen to cut just below plough line		1.14m wide 0.48 deep
509	*Fill*	Of 503, brown silty clay, sterile fill with no inclusions or artefacts.		1.14m wide 0.48m deep
504	*Cut*	V shallow feature crossing trench north-south. Fairly well defined with very shallow concave profile.		3m wide 0.10m deep
510	*Fill*	Of 504, mid browny grey silty clay. No inclusions and may well be base of subsoil collecting in shallow feature fairly diffuse boundary onto 501		3m wide 0.10m deep
505	*Cut*	Well defined shallow 'gully' crossing trench north-south. Profile is generally concave with well defined shallow square sectioned channel in centre base. Possible drainage gully.		0.90m wide 0.19m deep
511	*Fill*	Of 505, brown grey silty clay. Upper fill of feature may be eroded subsoil. No artefacts diffuse boundary onto..		0.90m wide 0.13m deep
512	*Fill*	Basal fill of channel in feature, yellowish brown silty clay, possibly eroded natural filling centre channel		0.15m wide 0.06m deep
506	*Cut*	Fairly well defined linear ditch/gulley running n/e s/w across trench. The profile is steep on west side and is partly stepped on the east. The base is narrow and concave. The edges have become diffuse with natural as a result of erosion.		2.08m wide 0.63m deep
513	*Fill*	Of 506, mid brown grey silty clay, low inclusions, possibly subsoil 516 sinking into top of feature.		1.65m wide 0.10m deep
514	*Fill*	Of 506, light brown silt clay. Low to no inclusions or artefacts.		1.03m wide 0.26m deep

515	*Fill*	Or 506, yellowish brown silty clay, probably Redeposited natural. Presence of undiagnostic frags of flint suggest it is a fill.	2.08m wide 0.15m deep

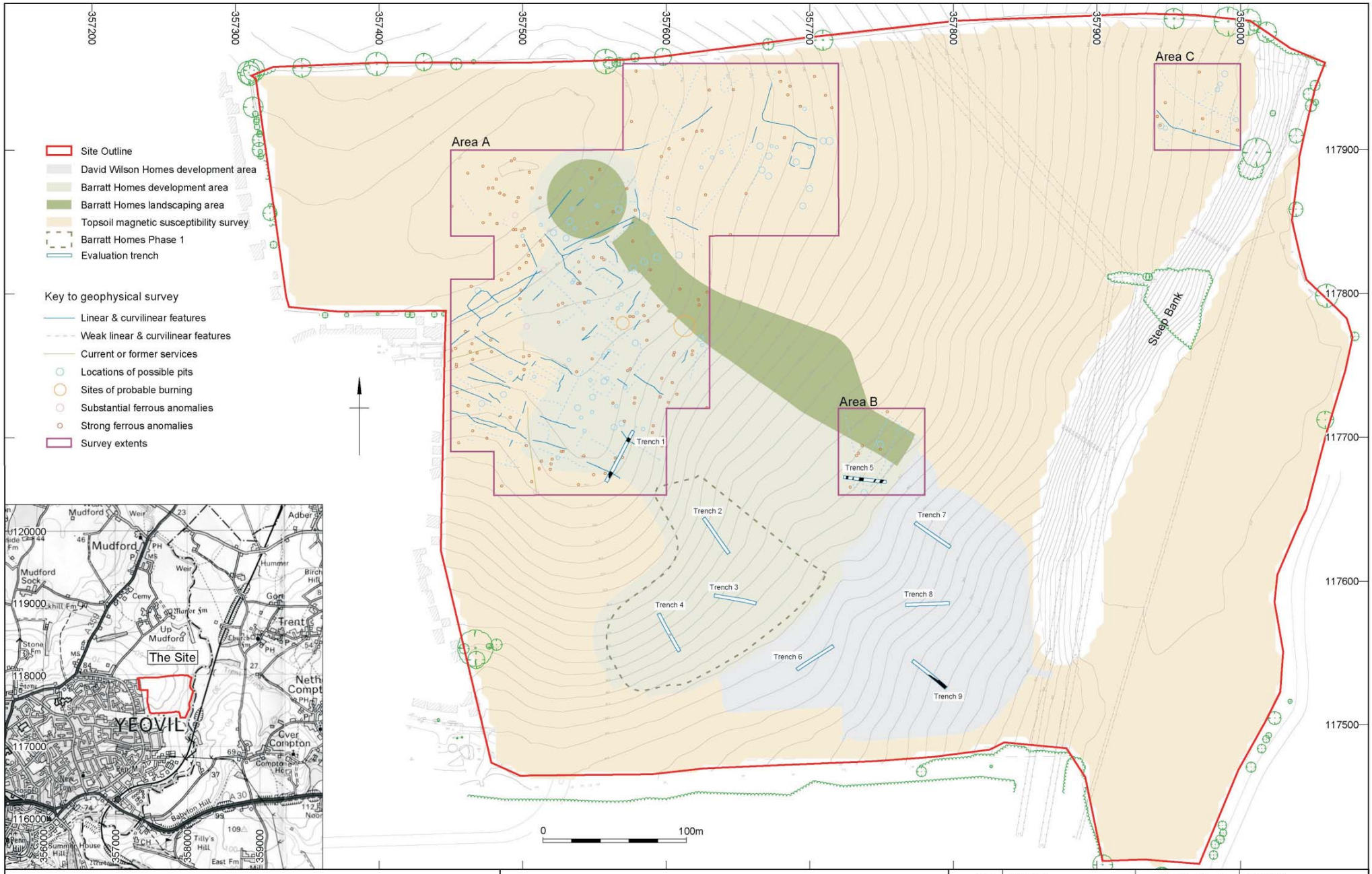
Evaluation Trench 6		**Max Depth: 0.40m Mid Ground Level (m aOD): 44.28m**	**Length: 30m**	**Width:2.1m**
Context	**Type**	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
601	*Layer*	Topsoil, medium grey brown silty clay.		0-0.15m
602	*Layer*	Subsoil, light brown silty clay with diffuse boundary onto..		0.15m - 0.40m
603	*Natural*	Natural lias clays, light yellow brown silty clay.		0.40m- 0.80m base of trench

Evaluation Trench 7		**Max Depth: 0.40m Mid Ground Level (m aOD): 42.72m**	**Length: 30m**	**Width:2.1m**
Context	**Type**	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
700	*Layer*	Topsoil, mid brown silty clay very rare inclusions. Diffuse boundary onto…		0-0.27m
701	*Layer*	Subsoil, slightly paler brown silty clay, rare inclusions of fine sub rounded gravel, diffuse boundary onto..		0.27-0.72m
702	*Layer*	Natural lias clay, mid orange brown with flecks of iron or manganese.		0.72-0.92m base of trench

Evaluation Trench 8		**Max Depth: 0.40m Mid Ground Level (m aOD): 40.96m**	**Length: 30m**	**Width:2.1m**
Context	**Type**	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
800	*Layer*	Topsoil, mid brown silty clay very rare inclusions of fine gravel. Very clear boundary onto natural clay.		0-0.25m
801	*Layer*	Natural lias clay. Very rare inclusions of fine gravel		0.25-0.59m base of trench

Evaluation Trench 9		**Max Depth: 0.40m Mid Ground Level (m aOD): 37.31m**	**Length: 30m**	**Width:2.1m**
Context	**Type**	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
900	*Layer*	Topsoil. Mid brown silty clay very rare inclusions of fine gravel. Fairly clear boundary.		0-0.25m

901	*Layer*	Subsoil, slightly paler brown silty clay. Rare inclusions of fine sub rounded gravel. Deep deposit perhaps formed as a result of hill wash. Fairly clear boundary onto..	0.25m-0.54m
902	*Layer*	Thin layer of iron panning and or manganese rich silty clay. Poorly defined but definitely a layer sealing..	0.54m-0.64m
903	*Cut*	Shallow flat bottomed feature recorded meandering to the south and east within trench limits. Fairly well defined and appeared to be sealed below the deep subsoil horizon.	0.34m deep, full width beyond trench
904	*Fill*	Of 903. Mottled grey brown silty clay. Iron or manganese flecking common. Contained single pot sherd and undiagnostic flints.	0.34 deep



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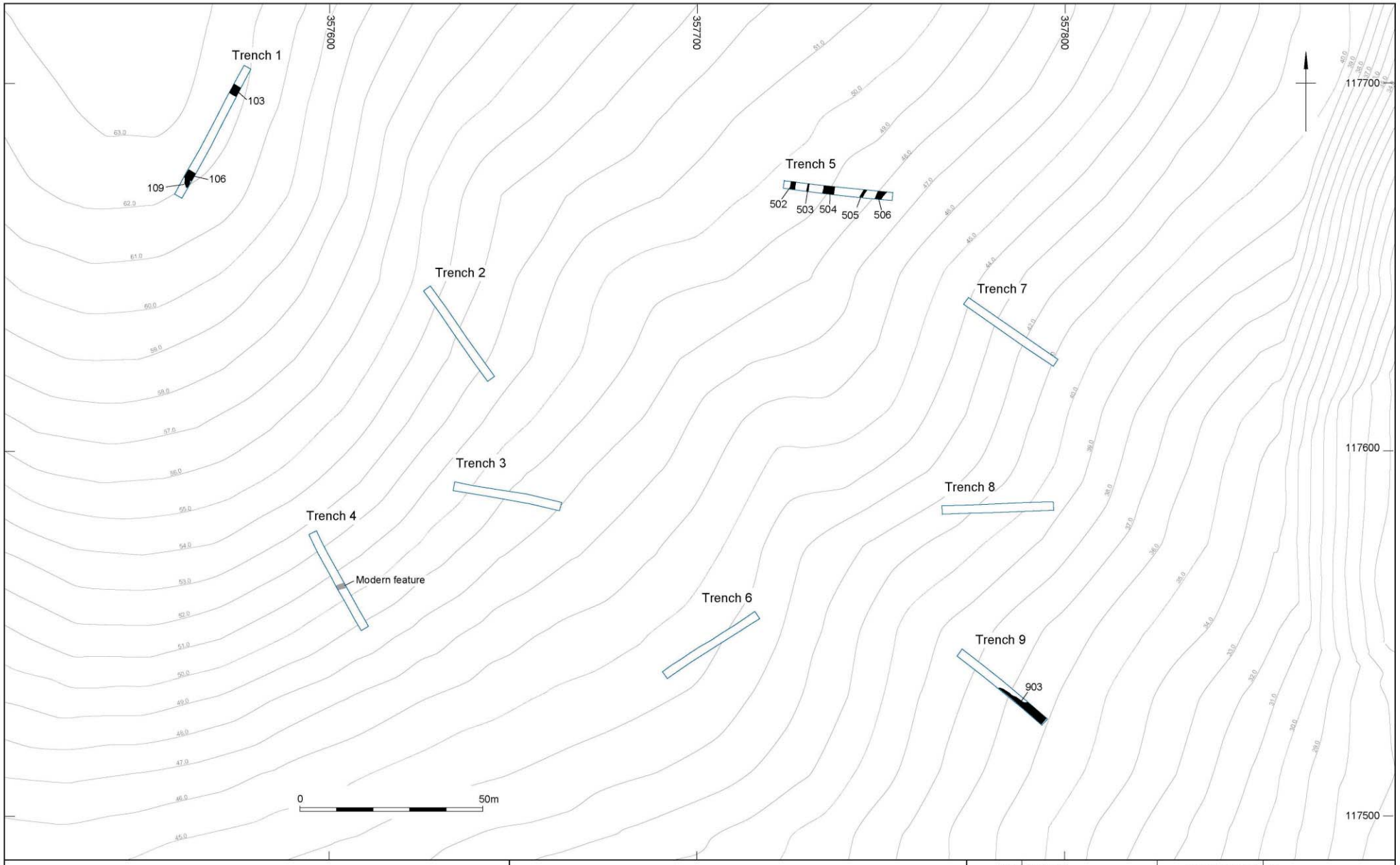
Site location plan showing geophysical survey and trench locations

Figure 1



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Digital contour data supplied by client

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Detail of evaluation trenches showing archaeological features recorded

Figure 2

Plate 1: Ditch 103 - east facing section

Plate 2: Ditch 106 - east facing section

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Plate 3: Pit 109

Plate 4: Ditch 502 - south facing section

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Plate 5: Gully 503 - south facing section

Plate 6: Feature 504 - south facing section

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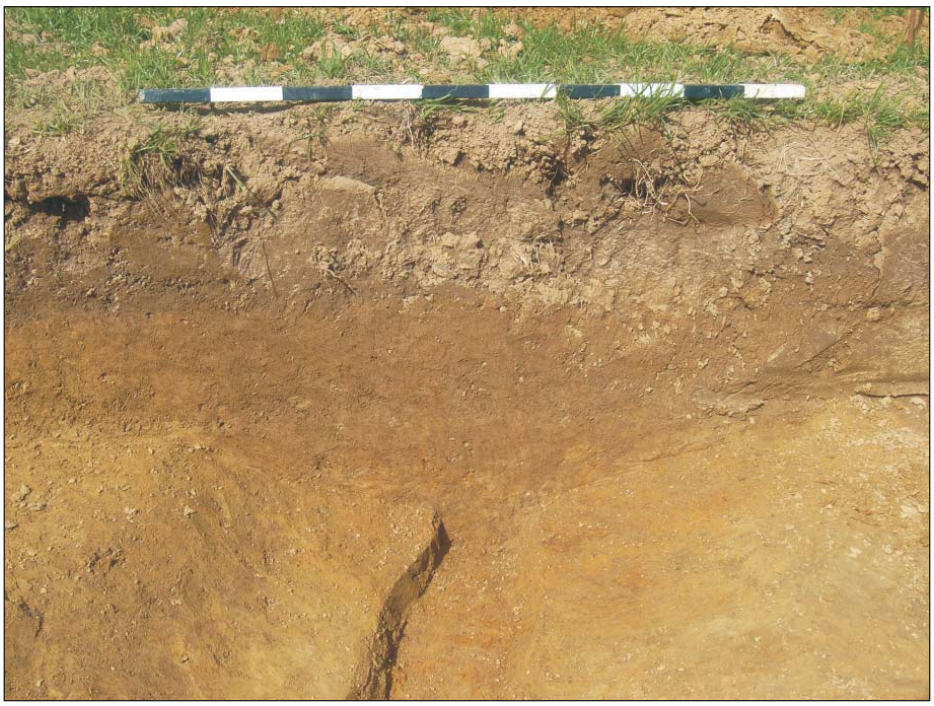

Plate 7: Gully 505 - south facing section

Plate 8: Ditch 506 - north-east facing section

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Plate 9: Feature 903 - oblique view

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