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Rhoscrowther, Pembrokeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



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Rhoscrowther, Pembrokeshire

Report on an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by AMEC on behalf of Njord Wind developments, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Rhoscrowther, Pembrokeshire on land southeast of the village of Rhoscrowther in Pembrokeshire, National Grid Reference (NGR) 191250 201850. The work was undertaken following the submission of a planning application for the erection of five wind turbines on the site, along with associated infrastructure (access tracks, construction compound and a control building).

Previous work on the site included an assessment of the archaeological remains in the area in the Environmental Statement written to accompany the planning application (Cunnane Town Planning 2014) and a geophysical survey (Archaeological Services Durham University 2014). The former identified that whilst there was no known archaeological evidence from within the site itself, there were numerous findspots, in particular of prehistoric date and that there was therefore a potential for the presence of unrecorded prehistoric remains within the site itself. The geophysical survey was undertaken to assess this potential, and identified a number of anomalies likely to be archaeological in origin including one large oval enclosure and associated ditches in the north eastern corner of the site and, a second possible enclosure further to the south, a series of small enclosures, possibly fields, and a possible post-medieval structure. In the light of this, DAT indicated that an archaeological evaluation of the site would be required to further determine the archaeological potential of these anomalies. A targeted trial trenching strategy was therefore agreed between AMEC and DAT.

A total of 13 trial trenches were excavated during the evaluation. These were targeted on likely archaeological features within the development area identified by the geophysical survey. The trial trenching in the main confirmed that the anomalies identified in the geophysical survey are present on the site. Some of these are clearly archaeological remains in origins, whilst others are likely to reflect natural variations in the underlying geology rather than archaeological activity.

The most significant archaeological features excavated lie in the north eastern corner of the site, and probably represent the remains of a late prehistoric oval enclosure with associated ditches. Although no artefacts were recovered from these features, the form of the enclosure suggests an Iron Age date, although such sites may have been continued to be used into the Romano-British period.

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All fieldwork was undertaken with the permission of the land owners, and thanks must go to the tenant farmer, Tom Kenniford and Victoria Rees, land agent to the owner for their assistance.

The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Bagwell, Jerry B Bond, Luke Jarvis and Owen Watts. This report was written by Jerry B Bond and edited by Nicholas Cooke. The report illustrations were prepared by Will Foster.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Nicholas Cooke.



Rhoscrowther, Pembrokeshire

Report on an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Limited (AMEC) on behalf of Njord Wind Developments Limited (hereafter the 'Client') to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land south-east of the village of Rhoscrowther in Pembrokeshire, National Grid Reference (NGR) 191250 201850 (hereafter the 'Site') (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The Site comprises an area around the proposed location of five new wind turbines along with new access tracks, cable routes and temporary crane pads. The development proposal also includes the creation of a new control building, substation and a temporary site compound.
- 1.1.3 Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT), acting as an archaeological advisor to Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) requested that an archaeological evaluation of the Site be undertaken in order to investigate the anomalies identified in a geophysical survey of the site (Archaeological Services Durham University 2014) and to characterise any archaeological remains encountered. The geophysical gradiometer survey was undertaken in November 2014 (Archaeology Services Durham 2014). An assessment of the potential impact of the development on the historic and archaeological environment has also been undertaken as part of the ES (Environmental Statement) submitted with the planning application (Cunnane Town Planning 2014).
- 1.1.4 This document sets out the methodologies and standards that were employed by Wessex Archaeology during the evaluation, details the results of the trial trenching and makes some general recommendations for further work. This document adheres to the site specific methodologies outlined in the Rhoscrowther Wind Farm Specification for Archaeological Investigation report (AMEC 2014) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2015) and has been prepared in keeping with the relevant standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a).

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The Site is located on land south-east of the village of Rhoscrowther in Pembrokeshire on the south side of Milford Haven waterway. It comprises a number of fields currently used for mixture of arable and grazing farm land. The Angle Stream North watercourse runs south-east to north-west along the southern extent of the Site and to the north of the Site lies a large oil refinery.
- 1.2.2 The area subject to evaluation is approximately 13ha in size (Figure 1) and comprises areas likely to be impacted by the construction of the five turbines, including associated crane bases, new tracks and cable routes.



- 1.2.3 The Site lies within a small west-facing, moderately sloping valley with the Angle Stream North situated at the base of the valley at approximately 10m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). To the north of the stream the elevation rises to 63m aOD and to the south to 53m aOD.
- 1.2.4 The underlying geology of the Site is varied (British Geological Survey). At the base of the valley the Site is underlain by Interbedded Limestone and Mudstone of the Avon Group. On the lower slopes sandstone of the Skrinkle Sandstone Formation is recorded and on the upper valley slopes conglomerate of the Ridgeway Conglomerate Formation is present. No superficial geological deposits are recorded within the Site and the bedrock was encountered at a relatively shallow depth. Observations made during field visits (including those for hydrological and ecological purposes, as well as those for the assessment of the historic environment) noted shallow topsoils and subsoils within the Site (AMEC 2014). The topsoil generally comprises a red brown silty gravely clay, with the gravel content apparently deriving from angular mudstone.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 Previous work on the site included an assessment of the archaeological remains in the area in the Environmental Statement written to accompany the planning application (Cunnane Town Planning 2014) and a geophysical survey (Archaeological Services Durham University 2014). A summary of the results and conclusions of these is incorporated here.
- 2.1.2 In consultation DAT has suggested that the Site has high archaeological potential for remains of a prehistoric date (AMEC 2014).

2.2 Environmental Statement

- 2.2.1 The following information is summarised from the assessment of potential archaeological impact conducted as part of the ES (Cunnane Town Planning 2104). The ES established that the Site is within an area of considerable archaeological and historical interest although it identified no direct effects on any recorded archaeological sites.
- 2.2.2 Within the 1km study area the ES identified seven recorded findspots of worked flint of possible Mesolithic or Neolithic date. Although little detail about these findspots is recorded and they may not necessarily evidence any related remains; remains other than artefactual finds of earlier prehistoric dates are in any case rare, as little sedentism is known at this time.
- 2.2.3 There are also seven possible burnt mounds recorded on the margins of the Site and in the vicinity, which if confirmed would be likely to be of Bronze Age date, although these appear to have been identified from the analysis of aerial photographs; no evidence of burnt mounds was identified at the locations of the only two which have been checked in the field: one site was concluded as likely to be associated with stone clearance of an unspecified date; while at the other nothing of antiquity was reported. The assessment nevertheless highlights the potential for further unrecorded prehistoric remains, in particular, to survive within the site.

2.3 Geophysical Survey



- 2.3.1 The following section comprises a summary of the geophysical survey undertaken in late 2014 (Archaeological Services Durham University)
- 2.3.2 An anomaly thought to represent structural remains, probably a large, relatively modern structure, was identified in the north western area of the site, probably contemporary with the adjacent field boundary (**Figure 2**). A number of rectilinear anomalies to the south west of this have been interpreted as possibly representing the remains of small ancient fields.
- 2.3.3 A detailed gradiometer survey undertaken in 2014 of the Site (Archaeology Services Durham 2014) revealed a number of anomalies of archaeological interest. An enclosed settlement was detected in the north-east extent of the Site on which proposed trenches 10 to 13 were targeted (Figure 3). This appears to comprise an oval enclosure ditch of approximately 0.25ha with an entrance and approach ditches to the west. A large ditch located to the east of the enclosure may also be part of the same settlement. Settlement enclosures of this form are typical of the late Iron Age in south-west Wales.
- 2.3.4 A number of linear anomalies identified in the northern extent of the site which form rectilinear patterns (Figure 2) are interpreted as possible archaeological features. These anomalies may represent modern ploughing activity or may represent an ancient field system (Archaeology Services Durham 2014).
- 2.3.5 A possible second smaller oval enclosure was identified in the southern extent of the Site. Trenches 7 and 8 were targeted on these anomalies (**Figure 3**).
- 2.3.6 Other anomalies detected were interpreted as likely to represent the remains of former agricultural regimes.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The proposed methodology for the evaluation was set out in both the Rhoscrowther Wind Farm Specification for Archaeological Investigation report (AMEC 2014) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2015). All work was undertaken in accordance with the relevant standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a).

3.2 Aims and Objectives

- 3.2.1 The general aims and objectives of the archaeological works were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2015). These were to:
 - clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be disturbed by development;
 - identify, within the constraints of the investigation, 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; and
 - produce a report which will present the results of the fieldwork.



3.3 Evaluation Methodology

- 3.3.1 The evaluation comprised a total of 13 trial trenches which vary in length between 30m and 60m. The trenches are targeted on anomalies identified in the results of the geophysical gradiometer survey which were thought to be of archaeological interest (Archaeology Services Durham 2014). There was a provision for a contingency for an additional 10% trial trenching to be used with the agreement of Dyfed Archaeological Trust, AMEC and the Client. This contingency trenching was not required.
- 3.3.2 The trial trenches and ground investigation test pits were set-out using a Leica Viva series GNSS unit using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.
- 3.3.3 Prior to machining, the investigation areas were scanned using a cable avoidance tool (CAT) by operatives qualified in the use of such equipment. Trench excavation was carried out by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket and were supervised by a suitably qualified archaeologist at all times. Machine excavation proceeded in spits to a depth at which the top of archaeological levels, or the top of natural deposits, were exposed, whichever was the higher. The excavated spoil was stockpiled at a safe distance from the edge of each trench, and separated into topsoil and subsoil bunds. Land drains encountered were left in situ wherever possible.
- 3.3.4 Once the level of archaeological deposits had been exposed by machine, cleaning of the trench base was undertaken by hand where necessary. Appropriate sampling of archaeological features identified in the evaluation trenches was carried out by hand. Typically this involved the excavation of 10% of linear features by length and 50% of discrete archaeological features. Sampling of discrete features thought to have a natural or non-anthropogenic origin will be more restricted.
- 3.3.5 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the Client and the Planning Archaeologist for DAT were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate order in which they were excavated by Wessex Archaeology and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

3.4 Recording

- 3.4.1 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *proforma* recording system.
- 3.4.2 A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This included both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels was calculated and plans/sections were annotated with OD heights.
- 3.4.3 A full photographic record was maintained during the watching brief using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Photographs were taken to illustrate both the detail and the general context of the principal features and the site as a whole. Digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

3.5 Finds



- 3.5.1 Excavated spoil was visually scanned for artefacts. All artefacts from excavated contexts were to be retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date.
- 3.5.2 All retained artefacts would, as a minimum, be washed, weighed, counted and identified. Any artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions will be dealt with immediately in line with First Aid for Finds (Watkinson & Neal 1998). Ironwork from stratified contexts will be X-rayed and stored in a stable environment along with other fragile and delicate material. The X-raying of objects and other conservation needs will be undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in-house conservation staff, the staff of the Conservation Service, Wiltshire History Centre, Chippenham or other appropriate approved conservation centres. Suitable material, primarily the pottery, worked flint and non-ferrous metalwork, will be scanned to assess the date range of the relevant assemblages.
- 3.5.3 All artefacts would be suitably bagged, bowed in accordance with the *United Kingdom Institute for Conservation*, *Conservation Guidelines nos.*2 and, on completion of the archaeological post-excavation programme, will be deposited with the relevant museum.

3.6 Environmental Sampling

- 3.6.1 The environmental sampling strategy for the site followed the recommendations outlined in Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition) (English Heritage 2011) and Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Environmental Sampling.
- 3.6.2 No deposits were excavated that it was deemed necessary or needful to take environmental samples from.

3.7 Human Remains

- 3.7.1 In the event of discovery of any human remains, they would have been left *in situ*, covered and protected. Following discussions with the Client, Coroner and DAT, the need for and appropriateness of their excavation/removal as part of the works would have been determined. Where deemed appropriate, human remains would have to have been fully recorded, excavated and removed from the Site subject to compliance with the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence which would have been obtained by Wessex Archaeology.
- 3.7.2 No human remains were encountered during the evaluation.

3.8 Treasure

- 3.8.1 In the event of discovery of artefacts covered or potentially covered by The Treasure Act, their excavation and removal would be undertaken following notification of the Coroner and the Planning Archaeologist for DAT.
- 3.8.2 No items considered to be Treasure were encountered during the work

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The weather during the excavation of the evaluation trenches was variable, being dry and bright on some days and very wet and windy on others.



- 4.1.2 All the trenches were machine excavated as planned, although a section of trench 6 was left unexcavated where a gap was left to protect the line of a water pipe identified by the farmer.
- 4.1.3 The lowest and earliest horizon encountered during the evaluation was the natural geology for the site, comprising a reddish brown sandy silt with varying amounts of stone and clay, also mottled in colour with a pale yellowish brown and pale greyish brown also present, suggesting some waterlogging in some areas of the site, most noticeable in Trench 9 where waterlogging was an obvious issue today. The higher proportion of natural stone in some trenches suggest a nearness to geological bedrock in some areas of the site, especially on some of the slopes either side of the valley (Trenches 2, 3 &5). The natural geology was recoded as contexts 103, 203, 303, 403, 502, 603, 702, 803, 903, 1003, 1105, 1205 & 1302.
- 4.1.4 In most of the trenches there was a noticeable change between the extant subsoil/ploughsoil and the overlying topsoil horizon. In three of the trenches this was not the case and the topsoil and subsoil were indistinguishable from each other -these are discussed below.

4.2 Results

Trench 1

4.2.1 Trench 1 was orientated roughly east to west on a flattish area on top of the slope, was 50m in length, 2m in width and had a maximum depth of 0.3m. Three layers were noted. The lowest of these was the natural geology, 103, a mid reddish brown sandy silt with varying quantities of stone. Above was 102, the subsoil/ploughsoil, a mid reddish brown sandy clay loam with sparse to frequent small sub angular and angular sandstone fragments up to 0.2m in size and of up to 0.1m thickness. Overlying this was the topsoil, 101, a mid reddish brown sandy clay loam under extant grass cover with rooting and common small angular stones. The line of a recent former hedge was noted running north-south across the trench on the line of an existing hedge a short distance to the south. Discussions with the tenant farmer indicated that this hedge had been removed relatively recently (within 10 years) and that the area had housed a compound associated with works undertaken at the nearby oil refinery. This compound comprised an area of hard standing using stone laid over terram and may well have been responsible for the anomaly recorded here in the geophysical survey as possibly representing structural remains. During the excavation of the trench a corresponding area of dirty stone was revealed. No further excavation of the stone or the modern hedgeline was undertaken.

Trench 2

4.2.2 Trench 2 was orientated roughly north to south on the slope on the north side of the valley. It was 62m in length, 2m in width, with a maximum depth of 0.4m. It was targeted on a number of anomalies tentatively interpreted as archaeological in origin, possibly representing small rectilinear fields. Three layers were noted, the lowest and earliest horizon was the natural geology, 203, a mid reddish brown sandy layer with abundant (50%) small to medium sized angular sandstone fragments. Above this was 202, a slightly orangey mid brown clay sand with frequent small angular and sub angular sandstone fragments up to 0.2m in size. This layer was 0.2m thick and is considered to be a former ploughsoil. Overlying these was the topsoil, 201, a mid orangey brown silty clay loam with frequent small angular sandstone fragments under grass with visible root activity. The anomalies recorded in the geophysical survey are considered likely to represent variations in the quantity of stone in the underlying geology.



Trench 3

4.2.3 Trench 3 was 60m in length, 2m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35m. It was orientated roughly east to west and followed the contour of the valley slope perpendicular to the southern end of trench 2. It was targeted on the same anomalies as Trench 2. The lowest horizon was 303, a mid reddish brown sandy clay with abundant (50%) medium sized angular sandstone fragments. This layer was the natural geology and was noticeably banded with areas of very few stones interspersed between very stony areas, thought likely to be the reason for the anomalies noted in the geophysics survey. Sealing the geology was a subsoil, 302, a mid brownish red clay sand with frequent small angular and sub angular sandstone fragments. This layer was 0.2m thick. Overlying both was the topsoil, 301, a mid orange brown silty clay sand with extant grass cover and visible rooting and frequent small angular sandstone fragments. No other deposits or features were recorded within the trench

Trench 4

4.2.4 Trench 4 was located to the south of trenches 2 and 3, further down the slope and was oriented roughly east to west. It was 30m in length, 2m in width and was dug to a maximum depth of 0.45m. It too was targeted on the anomalies identified in the geophysical survey and interpreted as possible small rectangular fields. It contained 3 distinct horizons and the earliest and lowest horizon, the natural geology, 403, was a brownish red coarse silty clay sand with abundant small and medium sized sandstone fragments up to 0.05m in size. It was very similar to the natural geology layers noted in trenches 2 and 3, with bands of finer material interspersed between very stony areas. These variations in the geology are considered likely to be responsible for the anomalies noted in the geophysical survey. Above the geology lay 402, a subsoil/ploughsoil horizon. This was a mid reddish brown sandy clay loam with frequent small angular sandstone fragments some 0.25m thick. Overlying both was 401, the extant topsoil layer with grass cover and rooting, which was recorded as a reddish brown silty sandy clay loam containing frequent small angular sandstone fragments some 0.15m thick.

Trench 5

4.2.5 Trench 5 was located on the opposite slope of the valley, was aligned roughly north west to south east and was placed over an area within which no significant anomalies were identified during the geophysical survey. It was 41.8m long, 2m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.65m and contained two obvious horizons, although the upper horizon could have been classed as two layers, with noticeable amounts of rooting in the upper 0.1m. The lowest and earliest horizon was the natural geology, 502, a pale orangey reddish brown clay silt with an area of mottled pale yellow brown and pale grey brown material towards the western end of the trench, which was noticeably more stony than the eastern end. This was sealed by 501, the extant topsoil horizon which had noticeable rooting in its upper 0.1m but was otherwise the same throughout its extent, It was covered with grass and was a mid reddish brown clayey silt with moderate quantities of small rounded stones/gravels, also very occasional quantities of larger rounded stones and very occasional quantities of charcoal flecks. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded within this trench.

Trench 6

4.2.6 Trench 6 was located to the north and east of the small watercourse that runs along the valley bottom and was orientated roughly northeast to southwest, perpendicular to the southern end of trench 8. It was 60m long, 2m wide and was 1.06m at its deepest. It contained one archaeological feature and its associated fill and three other layers. The natural geology, 603, was a mid brownish orange sandy clay loam with frequent small and medium sized angular stones. A single ditch, 604, was recorded cutting through the



geology. This had a U shaped in profile with moderately steep straight sides, and was just over 1.5 m wide and 0.7m deep. It was orientated roughly north west to south east and corresponded to an anomaly on the geophysical survey results. It contained a single fill, 605, a mid orange brown sandy silty clay with sparse quantities of medium sized angular stones, interpreted as a secondary fill derived from the erosion of the sides of the ditch and the topsoil of the surrounding ground surface. This deposit was very similar to the extant topsoil and is thought to be of a relatively modern date, probably representing a relatively modern field boundary. Overlying the natural geology was 602, a ploughsoil - a mid greyish brown silty clay with varying quantities of sparse to common small sized angular stones some 0.2m thick. This layer sealed the ditch. The extant topsoil horizon, 601 was a dark greyish brown silty clay sandy loam with sparse quantities of small angular stones with grass cover and roots and was 0.15m thick.

Trench 7

4.2.7 Trench 7 was located to the east of trench 6 on a similar alignment and was 30m in length, 2m wide and a maximum 0.42m deep. It containing two deposits, the lowest and earliest being the natural geology, 702, which was a brownish red silty clay with frequent stone fragments greater than 0.1m in size. A crescent-shaped anomaly identified on the geophysical survey probably represents a variation in this geology, which had varying quantities of stone inclusions. Overlying this was the topsoil, 701, a mid to dark brown silty loam some 0.35m thick. The upper 0.10m of this deposit was disturbed by the roots of the grass of the turfline.

Trench 8

4.2.8 Trench 8 lay perpendicular to the southern end of trench 6 on a northwest to south east alignment. It was 50m long, 2m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.48m. The lowest horizon was the natural geology, 803, a mid brown orange sandy clay loam with frequent patches of small and medium sized angular stones. The only feature within the trench was the cut for a clay-pipe field drain, which corresponds to the location of a linear anomaly noted on the geophysical survey report. This was sealed by a former plough soil, 802, a mid grey brown silty sandy clay loam with varying quantities of small and medium sized angular stones and was 0.3m thick. The uppermost deposit was the topsoil, layer, 801, a dark grey brown silty sandy clay loam with sparse small angular sandstone fragments some 0.15m thick. The upper 0.10m was disturbed by the roots of the current turfline.

Trench 9

4.2.9 Trench 9 was located apart from the other trenches, to the east of trenches 6, 7 & 8 and to the south of trenches 10 to 13. It was located in a relatively blank area within the geophysical survey. It was aligned north north east to south south west, was 60m long, 2m wide and was excavated to maximum depth of 0.36m. The lowest and earliest horizon noted was the natural geology, 903, a bright orange silty sand. This was cut by two clay ceramic pipe field drains, one located fairly centrally and the other toward the southern end of the trench. The former was aligned almost exactly east to west across the trench whilst the latter ran almost exactly north to south. Both were relatively shallow, at only 0.30m, supporting the suggestion that this area has not been ploughed in recent years However, the presence of a former ploughsoil, 902, suggests that this part of the site had previously been subjected to ploughing. This was a mid yellowish brown silty sand with sparse small sized sub angular stones some 0.18m thick, with a diffuse interface with the topsoil layer 901. The topsoil was as a mid yellowish grey brown silty clay sand, with very infrequent small stones and was 0.12m thick. The upper 0.10m was disturbed by the roots of the current turfline.



Trench 10

4.2.10 Trench 10 was one of a cluster of trenches located to the northeast of the site and which were targeted on over a probable oval enclosure and associated linear features. It was orientated north north west to south south east and was 40m long, 2m wide and had a maximum excavated depth of 0.45m. The lowest horizon uncovered was 1003, the natural geology, a bright brownish red clayey sandy loam with bands denser stone inclusion and other areas where stones were almost totally absent and sands predominated. These changes in the geology may relate to the linear anomalies identified in the geophysical survey report. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within the trench. The geology was sealed by subsoil 1002, a mid-bright brownish red clayey sandy loam with frequent small angular sandstone fragments. It was 0.2m thick and had a very diffuse interface with the overlying ploughsoil 1001. This modern ploughsoil still contained a turnip crop at the time of the fieldwork, and was a dark reddish brown silty clay sandy loam with sparse small angular sandstone fragments some 0.15m thick.

Trench 11

- 4.2.11 **Trench 11** was targeted on a geophysical anomaly interpreted as an oval enclosure. It was interrupted to preserve the line of a modern field boundary. The trench therefore comprised two halves, one on either side of the field boundary. The trench was aligned roughly west north west to east south east and was 54m long, with 28m to the west of the field boundary and 26m to the east of it, and with a gap of c. 4m between the two sections. It was 2m wide and a maximum depth of 0.6m. The lowest horizon was **1105**, the natural geology, brownish red silty clay loam with abundant stone fragments throughout.
- 4.2.12 Cutting this layer were two archaeological features, one on either side of the extant field boundary. To the west was 1103, the terminal of the enclosure ditch which corresponded exactly with the anomaly recorded in the geophysical results Ditch terminus 1103 was some 1.8m in length, 2.25m wide and survived below the subsoil to a depth of 1.12m. It had a slightly irregular profile, with the western (exterior) side of the ditch being steeper than the eastern and had slightly concave sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill, 1104, a reddish brown silty clay loam with frequent small and medium sized angular and sub angular sandstone fragments and infrequent charcoal flecks. This deposit was very similar to the natural geology in this part of the site, and was classed a secondary fill. No finds were recovered from this fill, but it is assumed to be of Iron Age in date.
- 4.2.13 In the eastern half of the trench ditch 1106 corresponded exactly with the projected line of the oval enclosure identified by the geophysical survey. This ditch, 1106, extended across the trench, was 2.41m wide, and survived below the ploughsoil to a depth of 1.04m. It too had an irregular profile, with the eastern (external) side of the ditch being steeper, and had straight sides and a concave base. This intervention contained a single fill, 1107, which was a reddish brown silty clay loam with abundant fragments of both angular and sub angular stone up to 0.2m in size, with increasingly dense inclusions towards the base of the deposit. No artefacts were recovered, but again it is considered to be of Iron Age date.
- 4.2.14 No clear evidence for an accompanying bank was noted from either 1103 or 1106 but it is likely that one would have existed and it is thought likely that part of the both fills of the two interventions would have derived from the bank material, and either eroded naturally back into the ditch or were more likely redeposited either through ploughing deliberately backfilled after the enclosure had gone out of use. Both ditches were sealed by 1102, a former ploughsoil comprising a brownish red silty clay loam with frequent stone fragments



some 0.25m thick. The uppermost deposit in the trench, the modern ploughsoil 1101, was a mid brown silty loam, 0.35m thick and contained a turnip crop.

Trench 12

4.2.15 Trench 12 lay to the west of trench 11 and was perpendicular to the southern end of Trench 13 It was targeted a possible linear feature noted from the geophysical survey thought likely to relate to the oval enclosure. Trench 12 was orientated roughly north west to south east, was 31.3m long, 2m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.79 m. The natural geology, 1205, was a dark reddish brown clay sand with abundant small and medium sized angular sandstone fragments. This was cut by a linear feature, 1203, which corresponded closely to the anomaly identified by the geophysics survey. This ditch extended across the width of the trench, was 1.46m wide and 0.39m deep. It was U shaped in profile with concave sides and base, with the western side slightly steeper and was aligned east north east to west south west. It contained a single fill, 1204, a mid to dark brownish red clay sand with frequent small and medium sized sandstone fragments, which was very similar to the surrounding natural geology. It was probably a secondary fill, and contained no artefacts. It was sealed below a former ploughsoil, 1202, a dark brownish red, clay sand with frequent small and medium sized angular sandstone fragments some 0.15m thick. This in turn lay beneath the modern topsoil, 1201, a dark brownish, red clayey sand with frequent small and medium sized angular sandstone fragments, which was 0.25m thick.

Trench 13

4.2.16 Trench 13 lay perpendicular to the western end of trench 12, and was similarly targeted on a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. It was aligned roughly north north east to south south west and was 30m long, 2.0m wide, and was dug to a maximum depth of 0.67m. The natural geology, 1302, was a light reddish orange sandy clay with frequent gravels, cobbles and sub angular sandstone fragments. This was cut by a single shallow ditch, 1303. This corresponded closely with the anomaly identified in the geophysical survey. It extended across the full width of the trench and was 0.82m wide and 0.3m deep. Its western edge was diffuse and hard to define closely. The single fill, 1304, was a mid orangey brown sandy clay with a yellow hue and infrequent sub angular large gravels and was 0.3m thick. No finds were recovered from this deposit. It was sealed by an undifferentiated ploughsoil/topsoil, layer 1301, a mid brown gritty sandy loam with very frequent sub rounded gravels some 0.37m deep.

5 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.1.1 No artefacts were recovered during the course of the evaluation trenching. In addition, none of the archaeological deposits excavated during the course of the trial trenching contained any material considered suitable for environmental sampling.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1.1 The evaluation has established that there are archaeological remains within the site, most likely of late prehistoric date. It has also established that the geophysical survey of the site can be relied on with confidence – many of the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey and targeted by the trenches were identified, although in many cases these were shown to be geological in origin or to be modern features (ceramic field drains, field boundary ditches and the remains of a modern construction compound). It is also notable that no archaeological features were identified in the trial trenches whih had not previously been indicated by the geophysical survey.



- In the western half of the site, Trench 1 was targeted on an area thought likely to contain structural remains on the basis of the results of the geophysical survey. Excavation of the trench failed to identify any structural remains, although it did identify an area of denser stone inclusions in the upper surface of the natural geology, along with the line of a backfilled modern boundary ditch. Discussions with the tenant farmer on the site indicated that the hedge had been removed and the area identified as potentially containing a structure which had been used for a construction compound, founded on a bed of hardcore laid on terram. It is likely that the location of this compound seems to correspond with the anomaly identified on the geophysical survey, and would appear to provide the most likely explanation for the anomaly.
- 6.1.3 The remaining three trenches in this area (trenches 2 to 4) were targeted on weak anomalies identified in the geophysical survey which had been interpreted as possibly representing the remains of small fields, possibly of late prehistoric date. Excavation of these three trenches failed to find any archaeological features or deposits, but did establish that there were significant variations in the underlying gravel, including bands of stonier geology, which may well have been responsible for the anomalies recorded.
- 6.1.4 Trench 5 was targeted on an area where the geophysical survey identified no significant anomalies, and upon excavation, also contained no archaeological features or deposits. A similar picture was noted at Trench 9, further to the east.
- 6.1.5 Trenches 6, 7 and 8, towards the southern edge of the site, were targeted on a possible small oval enclosure (trench 8), a ditch (trench 6) and a possible penannular feature (trench 7). Excavation of these three trenches established that no archaeological features or deposits could be identified in Trenches 7 or 8, although the ditch was identified in Trench 6. This appears to be a relatively recent boundary ditch however, possibly associated with a post medieval or modern hedge boundary.
- 6.1.6 Four trenches in the north eastern corner of the site (trenches 10 13) were targeted on a series of anomalies recorded in the geophysical survey and interpreted as an oval enclosure, possibly with two antennae ditches and other associated features. Trench 10 was dug to examine possible linear anomalies to the south east of the enclosure. No archaeological features or deposits were identified here, although changes in the underlying geology were noted which may have caused the geophysical anomalies. Trench 11 was targeted on the possible oval enclosure itself. Excavation revealed the enclosure ditch in two places, corresponding precisely to the geophysics plot. In both cases, the ditch had an irregular profile, with the outer slope of the ditch being steeper. The westernmost ditch also terminated within the trench, indicating that there was indeed a north westerly facing entrance into the enclosure as suggested by the geophysics. Both ditches contained a single undifferentiated fill, and no artefacts were recovered.
- 6.1.7 Trenches 12 and 13 each targeted a pair of linear anomalies on the geophysics plot. These appeared to represent antennae ditches associated with the oval enclosure. Excavation did indeed reveal two shallow ditches or gullies (although that in trench 13 was more diffuse) which corresponded to the anomalies. Both contained single fills, and no artefacts were recovered. The form of the enclosure in plan. The form of this oval enclosure, along with its apparent association with antennae ditches, suggests a late Iron Age date.
- 6.1.8 From this evaluation, it is clear that most significant archaeological features excavated lie in the north eastern corner of the site, and probably represent the remains of a late prehistoric oval enclosure with associated ditches. Although no artefacts were recovered



from these features, the form of the enclosure suggests an Iron Age date, although such sites may have been continued to be used into the Romano-British period.

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

- 7.1.1 The archive is currently stored at Wessex Archaeology's office in Salisbury under the project code 108450. The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with the relevant standards set out in 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment' (MoRPHE), (English Heritage 2006), and in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation. The archive will be deposited at the completion of all post-excavation works with the Scolton Manor Museum.
- 7.1.2 Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

7.2 Preparation of the archive

- 7.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 7.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the site code (108450). A fully cross-referenced index of the archive will be prepared on completion of the project.

7.3 Discard policy

- 7.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories that are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 7.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

7.4 Copyright

- 7.4.1 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.
- 7.4.2 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.



7.5 Security copy

7.5.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project, a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

8 REFERENCES

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9 APPENDICES

9.1 Appendix 1: Trench Summaries

bgl = below ground level

| TRENCH | 1 | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|------------------|--|--|--|
| Dimensio | Dimensions: 50 x 2.0m E-W Max. depth: 0.30m Ground level: 63.43m aOD | | | | | | |
| Easting: 191190 Northing: 202176 | | | | | | | |
| Context | Description | | | Depth (m) | | | |
| 101 | Topsoil | Modern topsoil. A mid reddish brown s with rooting and common small angula | | 0.00-0.20 bgl | | | |
| 102 | Subsoil | A mid reddish brown sandy clay loam with sparse to frequent small sub angular and angular sands stone fragments up to 0.2m in size and of up to 0.1m thickness. Overlies 103. | | | | | |
| 103 | Natural | Natural geology. Brown-yellow. Silty sa subangular stones Fairly compact. | and. Sparse small-medium | 0.30+ bgl | | | |

| TRENCH | 2 | | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------|------------------|
| Dimensio | ns: 62 x 2.0m | Max. depth: 0.40m | Ground level: 58.75m | n aOD |
| Easting: | Easting: 191086 Northing: 202140 | | | |
| Context | Description | | | Depth (m) |
| 201 | Topsoil | Modern topsoil. a mid orangey brown silty clay loam under grass, with frequent small angular sandstone fragments. Overlies 202. | | 0.00-0.20 bgl |
| 202 | Subsoil | A slightly orangey mid brown clay sand with frequent small angular and sub angular sandstone fragments up to 0.2m in size. Overlies 203. | | 0.20-0.40 bgl |
| 203 | Natural | Natural geology. A mid reddish brown (50%) small to medium sized angular | | 0.40+ bgl |

| TRENCH | 3 | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---|--|------------------|
| Dimensio | ns: 60 x 2.0m | Max. depth: 0.35m | Ground level: 55.79m | aOD |
| Easting: | 191105 | Northi | ng: 202101 | |
| Context | Description | | | Depth (m) |
| 301 | Topsoil | Modern topsoil. A mid orange brown with visible rooting and frequent small fragments. Overlies 302. | 0.00-0.15 bgl | |
| 302 | Subsoil | A mid brownish red clay sand with frequent small angular and sub angular sandstone fragments. Overlies 303. | | 0.15-0.35 bgl |
| 303 | Natural | | Natural geology. A mid reddish brown sandy clay with abundant (50%) medium sized angular sandstone fragments | |

| TRENCH | 4 | | | | |
|----------|--------------|--|-------------------------|-----------|--|
| Dimensio | ns:.30 x 2.0 | Max. depth: 0.45m | Ground level: 48.39m | aOD | |
| Easting: | 191082 | Northing: 202052 | | | |
| Context | Description | | | Depth (m) | |
| 401 | Topsoil | Modern topsoil. A reddish brown silty sand | y clay loam under grass | 0.00-0.15 | |



| | | containing frequent small angular sandstone fragments. Overlies 402. | bgl |
|-----|---------|--|------------------|
| 402 | Subsoil | A mid reddish brown sandy clay loam with frequent small angular sandstone fragments. Overlies 403. | 0.15-0.35 bgl |
| 403 | Natural | Natural geology. A brownish red coarse silty clay sand with abundant small and medium sized sandstone fragments up to 0.05m in size. | 0.35+ bgl |

| TRENCH | 5 | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|--|--|-------------|
| Dimensio | ns: 41.80 x 2.0 | m Max. depth: 0.45m | Ground level: 32.10 | |
| Easting: | 190970 | | Northing: 201633 | and process |
| Context | Description | | | Depth (m) |
| 501 | Topsoil | Modern topsoil. A mid reddish brown clayey silt under grass with moderate quantities of small rounded stones/gravels, also very occasional larger rounded stones and very occasional charcoal flecks Overlies 502. Upper 0.10m root disturbed. | | |
| 502 | Natural | area of mottled pale yellow brow | y reddish brown clay silt, with an wn and pale grey brown silt trench, which was noticeably more | 0.65+ bgl |

| TRENCH | 6 | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--|----------------------|-------------------|
| Dimensio | ns: 60 x 2.0m | Max. depth: 1.06m | Ground level: 36.90m | aOD |
| Easting: 191298 Northing: 201593 | | ing: 201593 | | |
| Context | Description | | | Depth (m) |
| 601 | Topsoil | Modern topsoil. A dark greyish brown silty clay sandy loam with sparse quantities of small angular stones with grass cover and root disturbance. Overlies 602. | | 0.00-0.15 bgl |
| 602 | Ploughsoil | A mid greyish brown silty clay with varying quantities of sparse to common small sized angular stones some 0.2m thick. Overlies 603. | | 0.15-0.36 bgl |
| 603 | Natural | Natural geology. A mid brownish orange sandy clay loam with frequent small and medium sized angular stones. | | 0.36+ bgl |
| 604 | Ditch cut | Ditch aligned north west to south east. U shaped in profile, with moderately steep straight sides and a concave base. Contained a single fill 605 | | 0.36 – 1.06bgl |
| 605 | Ditch fill | Secondary fill. Only fill of 604. A mid orange brown sandy silty clay with sparse quantities of medium sized angular stones. No artefacts recovered. | | 0.36 1.06bgl |

| TRENCH | 7 | | | |
|----------|----------------|---|--------------------|-----------|
| Dimensio | ons: 30 x 2.0m | Max. depth: 0.42m | Ground level: 38.8 | 9m aOD |
| Easting: | 191337 | Northi | ng: 201580 | |
| Context | | 100-000-000-000-000-000-000-000-000-000 | | Depth (m) |
| 701 | Topsoil | Modern topsoil. A mid to dark brown soverlies 702. Upper 0.10m root distu | 0.00-0.55 bgl | |
| 702 | Natural | Natural geology, brownish red silty classification fragments greater than 0.1m in size. | 0.35+ bgl | |



| TRENCH | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|---|---------------------|--|
| Dimensions: 50 x 2m | | Max. depth: 0.48m | Ground level: 34,96 | |
| Easting: | | Northir | ig: | |
| Context | Description | | | |
| 801 | Topsoil | Modern topsoil. A dark grey brown silt sparse small angular sandstone fragm | 0.00-0.15 bgl | |
| 802 | Ploughsoil | A mid grey brown silty sandy clay loan small and medium sized angular stone | 0.15-0.45 bgl | |
| 803 | Natural | Natural geology. A mid brown orange frequent patches of small and medium | 0.45+ bgl | |

| TRENCH | 9 | | | |
|----------|-----------------|---|---------------------|-------|
| Dimensio | ns: 60 x 2.0m | Max. depth: 0.36m | Ground level: 47.47 | m aOD |
| Easting: | 191594 | Northi | ng: 201668 | |
| Context | ext Description | | | |
| 901 | Topsoil | Modern topsoil. A mid yellowish grey very infrequent small stones. Overlies | 0.00-0.12 bgl | |
| 902 | Ploughsoil | A mid yellowish brown silty sand with angular stones. Overlies 903. | 0.12-0.30 bgl | |
| 903 | Natural | Natural geology. A bright orange silty | 0.30+ bgl | |

| TRENCH | 10 | | | | |
|--|-------------|---|------------------|--|--|
| Dimensions: 40 x 2.0m Max. depth: 0.45m Ground level: 57,35r | | | | | |
| Easting: | 191550 | Northi | ng: 201865 | | |
| Context | Description | ption | | | |
| 1001 | Topsoil | Modern topsoil. A mid yellowish grey very infrequent small stones. Overlies | 0.00-0.12 bgl | | |
| 1002 | Ploughsoil | A mid yellowish brown silty sand with angular stones. Overlies 903. | 0.12-0.30 bgl | | |
| 1003 | Natural | Natural geology. A bright orange silty | 0.30+ bgl | | |

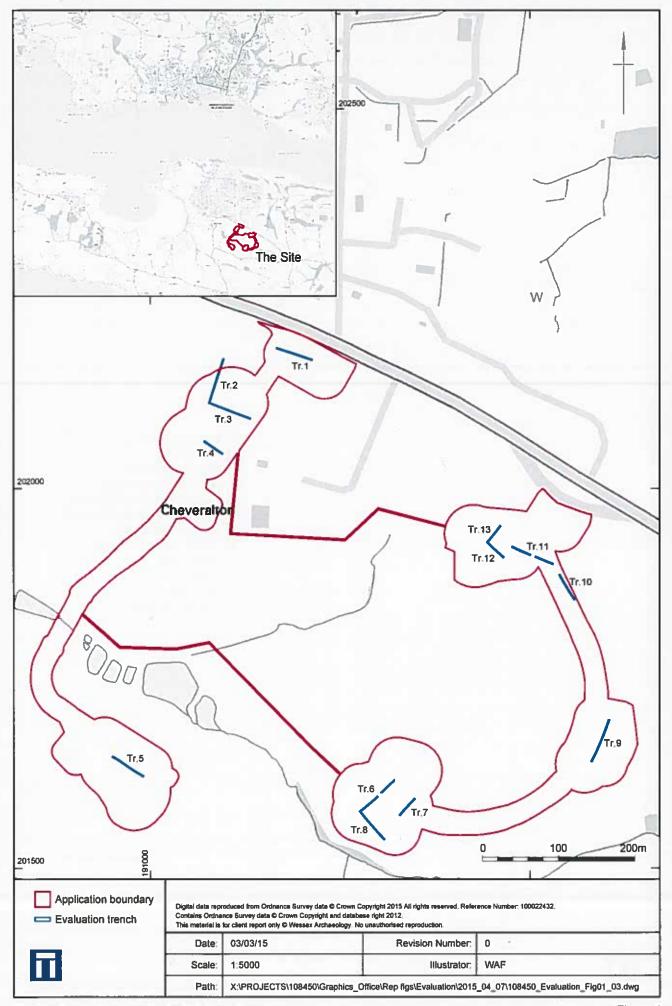
| TRENCH | 11 | | | | | |
|---|-------------|--|---|-----------|--|--|
| Dimensions: 58 x 2.0m Max. depth: 1. 54m Ground level: 57.94m | | | | n aOD | | |
| Easting: | 191501 | Northing: 201912 | | | | |
| Context | Description | | | Depth (m) | | |
| 1101 | Ploughsoil | Modern ploughsoil containing a turnip loam. Overlies 1102. | Modern ploughsoil containing a turnip crop. A mid brown silty oam. Overlies 1102. | | | |
| 1102 | Subsoil | A brownish red silty clay loam with fre Overlies 1103. | 0.35-0.60 bgl | | | |
| 1103 | Ditch cut | Ditch terminus aligned north east to swith western side of the ditch steeper sides and a concave base. Contained | 0.42- 1.54bgl | | | |
| 1104 | Ditch fill | Secondary fill. Only fill of 1103. A redowith frequent small and medium sized sandstone fragments and infrequent of recovered. | 0.42 1.54bgl | | | |
| 1105 | Natural | Natural geology. A mid brownish oran | ge sandy clay loam with | 0.60+ bgl | | |

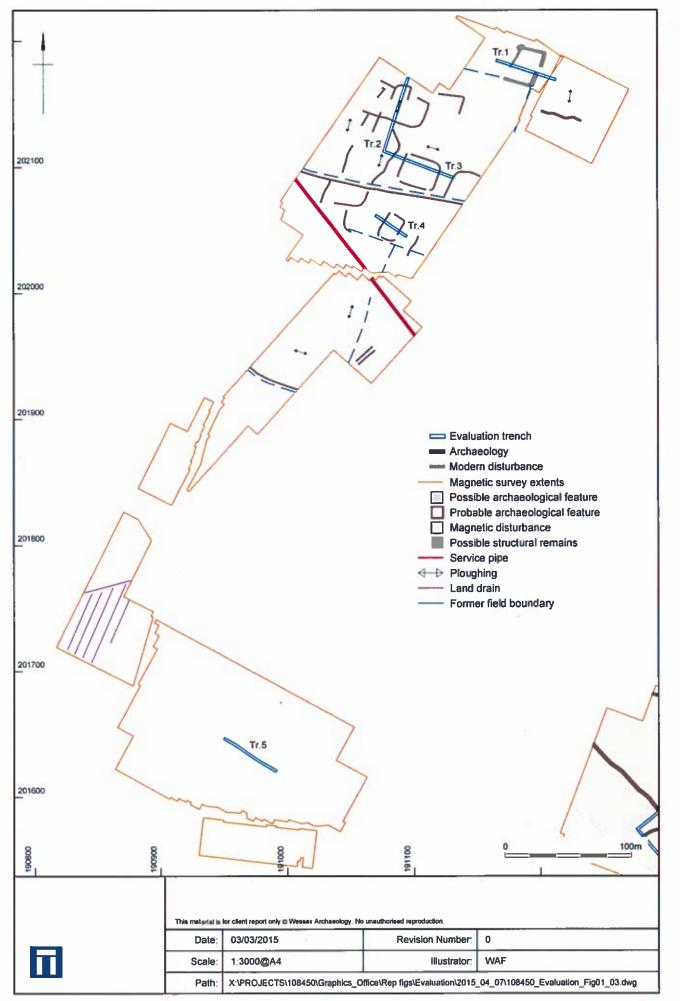


| | | frequent small and medium sized angular stones. | |
|------|------------|--|------------------|
| 1106 | Ditch cut | Ditch aligned north east to south west. Irregular profile, with eastern side of the ditch steeper than the western. Straight sides and a concave base. Contained a single fill 1107 | 0.25- 1.29bgl |
| 1107 | Ditch fill | Secondary fill. Only fill of 1106. A reddish brown silty clay loam with abundant fragments of both angular and sub angular stone up to 0.2m in size, with increasingly dense inclusions towards the base of the deposit. No artefacts recovered. | 0.25- 1.29bgl |

| TRENCH | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---|------------------|--|--|--|
| Dimensions: 31.3 x 2.0m Max. depth: 0.79m Ground level: 56.33m | | | | | | |
| Easting: | 191455 | Northi | ng: 201918 | | | |
| Context | ontext Description | | | | | |
| 1201 | Topsoil | Modern topsoil. dark brownish, red clasmall and medium sized angular sand 1202. | 0.00-0.25 bgl | | | |
| 1202 | Ploughsoil | A dark brownish red, clay sand with fresized angular sandstone fragments. | 0.25-0.40 bgl | | | |
| 1203 | Ditch cut | Ditch aligned north east to south west moderately steep straight sides and a single fill 1204 | 0.40- 0.79bgl | | | |
| 1204 | Ditch fill | Secondary fill. Only fill of 604. A mid to sand with frequent small and medium No artefacts recovered. | 0.40- 0.79bgl | | | |
| 1205 | Natural | Natural geology. A dark reddish brown clay sand with abundant small and medium sized angular sandstone fragments. | | | | |

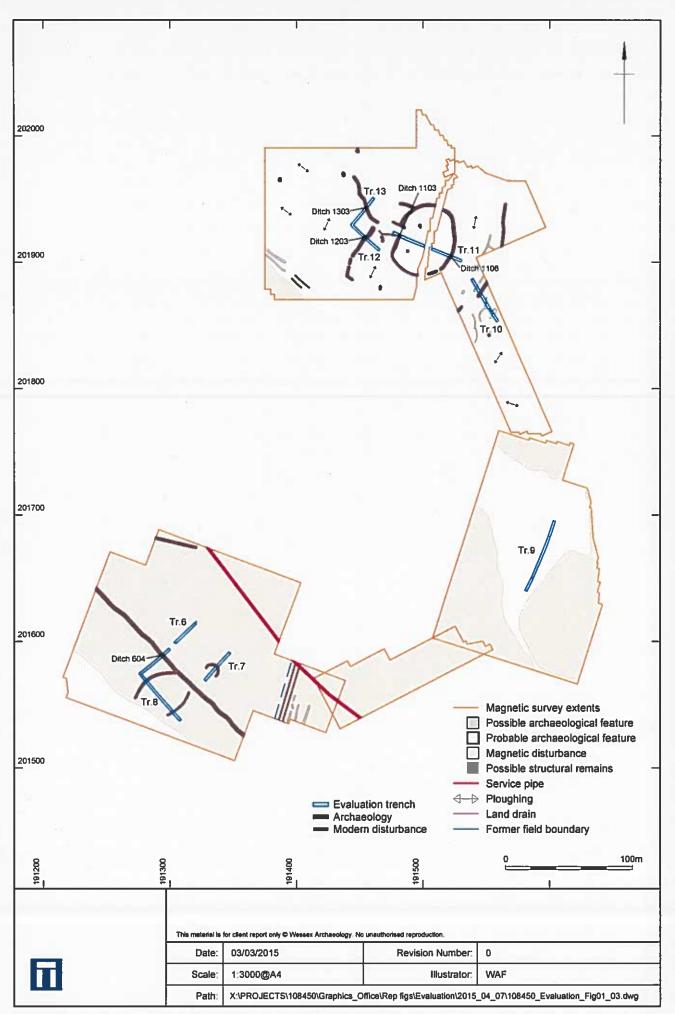
| TRENCH | 13 | | | | | |
|--|-------------|---|------------------|-----------|--|--|
| Dimensions: 30 x 2.0m Max. depth: 1m Ground level: | | | | | | |
| Easting: Northing: | | | | | | |
| Context | Description | The second second | | Depth (m) | | |
| 1301 | Topsoil | Modern topsoil. mid brown gritty sandy loam with very frequent sub rounded gravels. Overlies 1302. | | | | |
| 1302 | Natural | Natural geology. A light reddish or gravels, cobbles and sub angular | 0.37+ bgl | | | |
| 1303 | Ditch cut | Ditch aligned north west to south moderately steep straight sides at edge diffuse and difficult to define | 0.37- 0.67bgl | | | |
| 1304 | Ditch fill | Secondary fill. Only fill of 1303. A with a yellow hue and infrequent sartefacts recovered. | 0.37- 0.67bgl | | | |





Trenches 1 - 5 and geophysical survey results

Figure 2



Trenches 6 - 13 and geophysical survey results

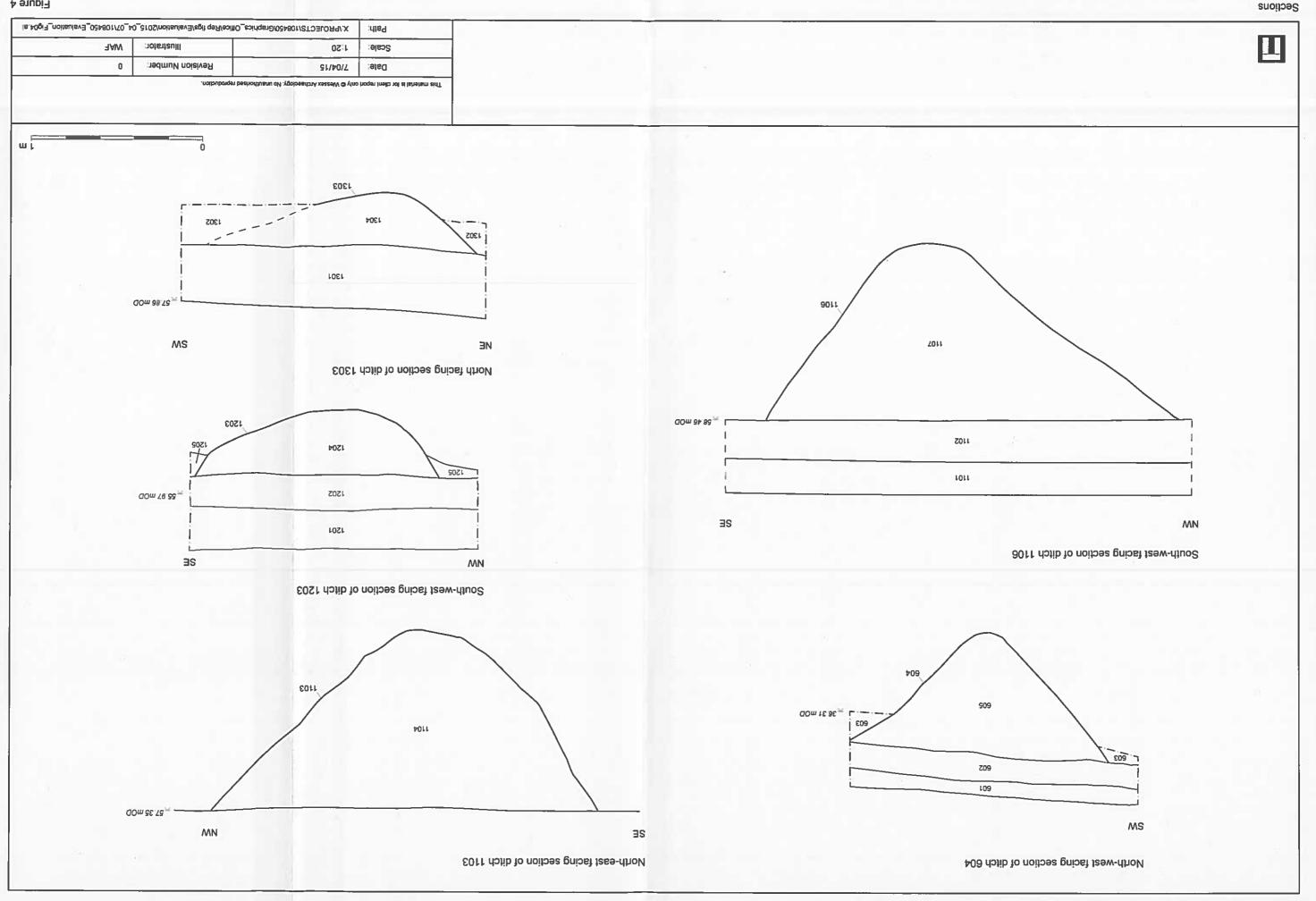




Plate 1: South-east facing section of ditch 604



Plate 2: North-east facing section of ditch 1103

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Plate 3: Ditch 1103, view from the south-west



Plate 4: South-west facing section of ditch 1106

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