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making sense of heritage

Bishopton Lane, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Ref: 102260.01
January 2014

archaeology

Bishopton Lane, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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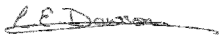
v01	I	*SF*	*LD*		23/01/14
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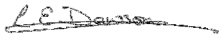
v03	E	*SF*	*LD*		27/01/14
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* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

Bishopton Lane, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by CSa Environmental Planning on behalf of Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd and Miller Homes Ltd (hereafter 'the Client'), to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of a proposed residential development on land off Bishopton Lane, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire (hereafter 'the Site'). The evaluation area covers approximately 19 ha and is centred on NGR 417871, 255870.

A desk-based assessment identified no archaeological remains or other 'undesignated' heritage assets within the proposed area of development (CSa Environmental Planning 2013). Due to a lack of previous archaeological investigations it was decided that a geophysical survey was required on the Site to ascertain if the lack of recorded archaeology was indeed indicative of a true absence of surviving archaeological features. The subsequent geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys 2013) covered an area of 25ha and identified a series of enclosures, ditches and discrete features of likely Romano British origin. This dense area of identified archaeology was located at the western limit of the Site with the eastern extent containing only probable ridge and furrow along with medieval/post-medieval field boundaries. The nature of the development is such that significant portions of the Site will be disturbed. An archaeological evaluation (28 trenches totalling 1560m) was undertaken in order to investigate the areas of probable archaeology identified by the geophysical survey and the areas of ridge and furrow to the east of the Site.

The archaeological evaluation showed the geophysical survey to be largely accurate with archaeological features concentrated in the western half of the Site and nothing besides remnants of ridge and furrow to the east. These features are mostly ditches and gullys, with a few pits, representing boundaries of small enclosures and possible structures. Relatively large amounts of pottery were recovered and suggest that the features represent a small settlement of Romano-British date.

Bishopton Lane, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire

Archaeological Evaluation

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by CSa Environmental Planning on behalf of Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd and Miller Homes Ltd. Fieldwork was carried out by Sam Fairhead with the assistance of Mike Keech and Mike O'Connell

This report was compiled by Sam Fairhead with illustrations by Chris Swales. Finds analysis was carried out by Lorraine Mepham and environmental analysis by Sarah F. Wyles. Samples were processed by Tony Scothern.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Lucy Dawson, and monitored for Warwickshire County Council by Anna Stocks (Planning Archaeologist).

Bishopton Lane, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CSa Environmental Planning on behalf of Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd and Miller Homes Ltd (hereafter 'the Client'), to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of a proposed residential development on land off Bishopton Lane, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire (hereafter 'the Site'). The evaluation area (**Figure 1**) covers approximately 19 ha and is centred on NGR 417871, 255870.

1.1.2 A desk-based assessment identified no archaeological remains or other 'undesignated' heritage assets within the proposed area of development (CSa Environmental Planning 2013). Due to a lack of previous archaeological investigations it was decided that a geophysical survey was required on the Site to ascertain if the lack of recorded archaeology was indeed indicative of a true absence of surviving archaeological features. The subsequent geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys 2013) covered an area of 25ha and identified a series of enclosures, ditches and discrete features of likely Romano-British origin. This dense area of identified archaeology was located at the western limit of the Site with the eastern extent containing only probable ridge and furrow along with medieval/post-medieval field boundaries. The nature of the development is such that significant portions of the Site will be disturbed. An archaeological evaluation (28 trenches totalling 1560m) was therefore undertaken in order to investigate the areas of probable archaeology identified by the geophysical survey and the areas of ridge and furrow to the east of the Site (**Figure 1**).

1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how Wessex Archaeology would carry out the archaeological evaluation was prepared in accordance with current industry best practice (IfA 2008) and in accordance with IfA Codes of Conduct (2010), and was approved by and Warwickshire County Council's (WCC) Planning Archaeologist.

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site is situated to the north of Bishopton Lane and bounded to the north by the A46. The western limit of the Site was bounded by The Ridgeway road with the north-eastern limit defined by the Stratford-Upon-Avon Canal and associated drains.

1.2.2 The Site is located on a gentle west-east aligned slope with the western limit being at a height of 66m aOD and the eastern limit dropping to 50m aOD. The underlying geology of the Site is made up of the Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (British Geological Survey).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A detailed description of the historical and archaeological background is provided within the desk based assessment (CSa Environmental Planning 2013). The following summarises the key findings from that document.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 A single Neolithic/Bronze Age flint was recovered approximately 550m north of the Site.

2.2.2 The limited archaeological evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the Site is likely to reflect the lack of archaeological investigations in the area, rather than a true absence of archaeological remains from the period.

2.3 Medieval

2.3.1 Bishopton Lane follows the route of 'Sealt Stret', an early medieval trackway. A Roman road (Alcester Road) is located approximately 125m to the south.

2.3.2 Throughout the medieval period the Site is likely to have been used for agriculture by the populations of nearby villages at Bishopton and Shottery. Ridge and furrow has been recorded in archaeological investigations 350m to the north.

2.4 Post-medieval to modern

2.4.1 The regionally significant Stratford-Upon-Avon Canal, constructed between 1793 and 1816, is located at the northeastern limit of the Site boundary.

2.4.2 In 1837 the Royal Victoria Spa was constructed directly north of the Site and contains two Grade II listed buildings.

2.4.3 The hedgerow fronting Bishopton Lane is of historical significance and falls under the remit of the Hedgerow Regulations. It is listed in an entry for the Warwickshire Historic Environment Record.

2.4.4 Ordnance Survey mapping between 1831 and 1917 shows the Site as being of agricultural use with several field divisions.

2.5 Recent investigation

2.5.1 Due to lack of previous archaeological investigation it was decided that a geophysical survey was required on the Site, to ascertain if the lack of recorded archaeology was indeed indicative of a true absence of surviving archaeological features. The subsequent geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys 2013) covered an area of 25ha and identified a series of enclosures, ditches and discrete features of likely Romano-British origin, located at the western limit of the Site with the eastern extent only containing probable ridge and furrow along with medieval/post-medieval field boundaries.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 The general aims of the project were:

- *to identify the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits within the Site;*

- *to determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any archaeological deposits encountered;*
- *to accurately record any revealed archaeological deposits;*
- *to recover artefacts disturbed by the Site works;*
- *to prepare a comprehensive archive, record and report of any archaeological deposits disturbed by the Site works;*
- *to aid the production of a mitigation strategy for the Site (if necessary).*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of 28 trenches (**Figure 1**). The trenches were located by means of a RTK GPS system and tied into the OS grid (within 0.1m). Eighteen trenches targeted the ridge and furrow and field boundaries identified in the eastern half of the Site during the geophysical survey. These 18 trenches all measured 50m by 1.8m. A further 10 trenches were excavated targeting the enclosures, ditches and discrete features identified during the geophysical survey. These ten trenches varied in length between 50 and 150 metres.

3.2.2 Due to the presence of overhead power lines Trenches 6, 24 and 25 could not be excavated and Trenches 7, 8, 9, 10 and 19 had to be adjusted to avoid a 15m exclusion zone either side of these lines. All changes were made in agreement with WCC.

3.2.3 All excavation and recording was undertaken by qualified archaeologists employed by Wessex Archaeology. Archaeological remains encountered were recorded, and where necessary excavated in accordance with current industry best practice (IfA 2008). Features of whatever origin requiring clarification were cleaned by hand and recorded in plan at an appropriate scale.

3.3 Recording

3.3.1 All archaeological features and deposits encountered were recorded using Wessex Archaeology pro forma recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. A stratigraphic matrix was compiled to record the relationships between features and deposits (including those within 'blank' trenches).

3.3.2 All trenches were located in relation to the OS grid, and other plans, sections and elevations of archaeological features and deposits were drawn as necessary at 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50 as appropriate. All drawings were made in pencil on permanent drafting film.

3.3.3 The spot height of all principal features and levels was calculated in metres relative to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places. Plans, sections and elevations were annotated with spot heights as appropriate.

3.3.4 Photographs were taken of archaeological features to produce a photographic record consisting of 35mm monochrome prints and digital images (at least 10 megapixel) to supplement the photographic record.

3.4 Specialist strategies

Artefacts

3.4.1 Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance (UKIC 2001; MGC 1991; English Heritage 2005, 2006).

3.4.2 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date. No finds, however, will be discarded without the prior approval of the Curator.

Environmental

3.4.3 Bulk environmental soil samples for plant macro-fossils, small animal and fish bones and other small artefacts were taken from appropriate well-sealed and dated/datable archaeological deposits. The collection and processing of environmental samples was undertaken in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2011).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Archaeological features were concentrated in the western half of the Site in Trenches 1-10 (with the exception of Trenches 3 and 4), and corresponded with anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. No features of archaeological significance were observed in the eastern half of the Site (Trenches 11-28).

4.1.2 Topsoil across the Site consisted of a mid-greyish-brown silty clay with moderate course gravel inclusions. Topsoil typically existed to a depth of 0.35m below ground level (bgl). Subsoil was present in most trenches, typically existing for a further 0.1m bgl and made up of mid brown silty clay. The natural geological deposits were encountered at an average depth of 0.4m bgl and consisted of light yellowish-brown clay with moderate course gravel inclusions.

4.2 Summary

Trench 1

4.2.1 Features in this trench corresponded to anomalies identified by the geophysical survey which appeared to represent two overlapping sub-circular enclosures (**Figure 2**). At the southeast end of the trench was a ditch (**107**) running northeast-southwest and only partially visible within the trench. Ditch (**107**) was 0.36m in depth and 0.7m of the width was visible. Romano-British pot was recovered from one of the fills, **105**.

4.2.2 A deeper ditch, **116**, was observed towards the centre of the trench (**Figure 2, Plate 1**). The ditch was 0.9m deep and approximately 1.8m wide, thought the exact width was difficult to determine due to a furrow (**114**) masking the northwestern edge. Romano-British pot was recovered from fills **118** and **119**.

4.2.3 A third ditch, **113**, was observed in the northwestern half of the trench. The ditch was 1.38m wide and 0.54m deep. Several sherds of Romano-British pottery, apparently all from the same vessel, were recovered from the upper fill, **110**.

4.2.4 The central ditch, **116**, was roughly equidistant from the outer two ditches and apparently represents the point at which the two possible enclosures meet/overlap. No clear relationship was visible and it seems likely that the later enclosure (**113**) re-cut the earlier (**107**) at this point. All three features were on the same alignment.

Trench 2

4.2.5 Three linear features were observed in this trench (**Figure 2**). At the northwest end was a small gully, **210**, running north-south. The gully was 0.5m wide and 0.36m deep and probably related to drainage.

4.2.6 To the southeast of **210** was a shallow ditch, **204**, 0.92m wide and 0.24m deep, also running north-south. A similar feature, **206**, was located at the southeast end of the trench on a similar alignment. **206** was 1.1m wide and 0.33m deep.

4.2.7 The latter two ditches represent the northwest and southeast sides of a possible rectangular enclosure identified by the geophysical survey.

4.2.8 A fourth anomaly identified by the geophysical survey was not visible in the trench.

Trenches 3 and 4

4.2.9 No features of archaeological significance were observed in these trenches.

Trench 5

4.2.10 One feature was observed in this trench, a wide ditch running northwest-southeast at the southwest end of the trench (**Figure 3**). The ditch, **506**, was 1.6m wide and 0.38m deep.

4.2.11 This feature represents the northeastern side of a large square enclosure identified by the geophysical survey. Ditches in Trenches 7 and 10 (**709** and **1016**) also formed part of this enclosure.

Trench 6

4.2.12 Trench 6 could not be excavated due to the proximity of overhead power lines.

Trench 7

4.2.13 Trench 7 (**Figure 3**) had to be shortened slightly due to the proximity of overhead power lines to the southwestern end of the trench. However, features were observed relating to the large square enclosure and smaller internal square enclosure identified by the geophysical survey.

4.2.14 A large ditch, **709**, running northwest-southeast near the original centre of the trench represets the southwest side of the larger, outer square enclosure. This ditch was 3.1m wide and 0.76m deep, and appeared to have a small re-cut (**705**) on the southwestern edge (**Figure 3, Plate 2**). The upper sections of both **709** and the re-cut **705** were filled with the same silty deposit, **703**. The lower sections were filled with secondary silting deposits **704** (in **705**) and **706**, **707** and **708** (in **709**).

4.2.15 A smaller ditch, **713**, ran northwest-southeast near the northeast end of the trench. The ditch was 1.2m wide and 0.54m deep, and represents the southwestern side of the smaller, inner square enclosure identified by the geophysical survey. A small gully (**710**) was apparently truncated by **713** at an angle of approximately 90 degrees. It appeared that this gully was earlier than **713** although it was impossible to fully understand at this stage due to **710** being only partially visible within the trench (**Figure 3, Plate 3**).

4.2.16 Gully **710** was filled with secondary silting deposits **711** and **712**. These are most likely the same deposit, either side of the point where **710** is cut by **713**. Ditch **713** was filled by two secondary silting deposits, **714** and **715**. Romano-British pottery and a coin were recovered from **714**.

Trench 8

4.2.17 A linear feature at the southwest end of the trench, **804**, had a possible post-hole in the base. The ditch itself was 0.95m wide and 0.48m deep, running northwest-southeast. The fill, **805**, contained Romano-British pot.

4.2.18 In the centre of the trench was a second ditch, **807**. The ditch was 2.7m wide and 0.45m deep, running northwest-southeast across the trench. Romano-British pot was recovered from the fill, **806**

4.2.19 A concentration of intercutting features was also observed in the centre of the trench, though left un-excavated in order to preserve stratigraphic relationships for later excavation (**Figure 4**).

Trench 9

4.2.20 The shortening of Trench 9 meant that a possible square enclosure identified by the geophysical survey could not be targeted (**Figure 4**).

4.2.21 One feature was observed, a northeast-southwest aligned ditch, **904**, the fill of which (**903**) produced a sherd of modern flowerpot. The ditch was 1.27m wide and 0.6m deep.

Trench 10

4.2.22 In the southeastern half of the trench (**Figure 5**) was a ditch running northeast-southwest, corresponding with a possible sub-rectangular enclosure identified by the geophysical survey. The ditch, **1007**, was 1.32m wide and 0.49m deep. This ditch was cut by a later, smaller ditch (**1008**) which ran parallel along the southwestern edge of **1007**, and may represent an adjustment of the possible enclosure. The later ditch was 0.62m wide and 0.39m deep.

4.2.23 Two linear features were observed in the northwestern half of the trench, both matching up with anomalies related to the internal and external square enclosures identified by the geophysical survey. A large ditch, **1016**, at the northwestern end of the trench represents the northwestern side of the larger outer enclosure and is comparable with **506** and **709**. Ditch **1016** was 2.8m wide and 1.05m deep and Romano-British pot was recovered from the upper fill, **1019**. This fill, along with the lower two fills **1018** and **1017** were all secondary silting deposits (**Figure 5, Plate 4**).

4.2.24 A smaller ditch, **1015**, ran northeast-southwest across the southeastern end of the northwestern half of the trench, and measured 1.72m in width and 0.65m in depth. Ditch **1015** corresponded with a linear identified by the geophysical survey that appeared to be an offshoot from the inner square enclosure.

Trenches 11-28

4.2.25 No features of archaeological significance were observed in these trenches.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The evaluation produced a small quantity of finds, consisting largely of animal bone and pottery, and deriving from contexts in five of the trenches (Trenches 1, 7, 8, 9, 10). Datable finds are almost exclusively of Romano-British date.

5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**.

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

Context	Animal Bone	Metal	Pottery
105			11/202
110			19/613
118	29/516		1/76
119			2/15
714	18/698	1 coin	6/154
805	2/10		2/13
808			3/27
903			2/37
1017	1/23		
1018	5/12		
1019	4/51		3/20
U/S		1 iron nail	4/40
TOTALS	**59/1310**	**1 coin; 1 iron nail**	**53/1197**

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 Pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the Site. Apart from two modern sherds, the assemblage is entirely of Romano-British date. Condition ranges from fair to good (mean sherd weight is 22.6g).

5.2.2 All Romano-British sherds are in coarseware fabrics, including grog-tempered wares (11 sherds, all from ditch **107** (fill **105**), and probably mostly from a single vessel), greywares (six sherds) and oxidised wares (34 sherds). Some if not all of the oxidised wares are likely to fall within the Severn Valley tradition. No diagnostic sherds are present, which hampers any closer dating.

5.2.3 The modern sherds are both from redware flowerpots; one was found unstratified, while the second came from ditch **904**.

5.3 Metalwork

5.3.1 Metalwork finds comprise a completely illegible Romano-British coin (ditch **713**), and an iron nail (unstratified).

5.4 Animal bone

5.4.1 The animal bone is generally in relatively good condition, with some fresh breaks. The exceptions include fragments from ditch **1016** (more heavily abraded, some burnt. Identifiable pieces consist largely of cattle (long bones and tooth), with some sheep (mandible, tooth and humerus), and one bird (goose-sized).

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A total of three bulk samples were taken from undated furrow **104** in Trench 1 and Romano-British ditches **709** and **713** in Trench 7, to evaluate the presence and preservation of palaeo-environmental remains. This information can contribute into providing an indication of the significance of the Site. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and wood charcoal.

Table 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Samples				Flot							
Feature	Context	Sample	Vol. Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% roots	Charred Plant Remains				Charcoal >4/2mm	Other Analysis
						Grain	Chaff	Other	Comments		
Trench 1 – Undated Furrow											
104	103	1	7	15	60	C	-	-	Wheat grain frag	0/<1 ml	Moll-t (B), coal
Trench 7 – Romano-British Ditches											
709	703	2	15	15	50	B	A	B	Hulled wheat grain frags, glume base frags, *Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Lolium/Festuca, Fallopia convolvus*	0/<1 ml	Moll-t (A*), Moll-f (C), bone, coal
713	715	3	17	25	15	A	A	B	Hulled wheat and barley grain frags, Glume base frags including those of spelt and ?emmer, *Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Galium, Medicago/Trifolium*	<1/<1 ml	Moll-t (A), Moll-f (C), bone, coal

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-f = aquatic molluscs

6.2 Charred plant remains

6.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh, the residues fractionated into 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Table 2** Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals.

6.2.2 The flots were generally small, with low to moderately high numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. The charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.

6.2.3 The small charred assemblage recovered from the undated furrow **104** included a wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain frag.

6.2.4 Moderately large charred assemblages were observed in the samples from Romano-British ditches **709** and **713**. The cereal remains included barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain fragments and hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), grain and glume base fragments. Some of the glume base fragments were identifiable as being those of spelt (*Triticum spelta*) and possibly emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*). The weed seeds included

seeds of oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.), vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), rye-grass/fescue (*Lolium/Festuca* sp.), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvus*), medick/clover (*Medicago/Trifolium* sp.) and bedstraw (*Galium* sp.). These weed seeds are typical of those found in grassland, field margins and arable environments.

6.2.5 The assemblages from the Romano-British ditches in Trench 7 appear to be indicative of general crop processing waste and settlement activity in the vicinity. Although spelt is generally the predominant wheat within Romano-British assemblages in Southern Britain, emmer has been recorded in samples from other sites of this date in the area such as at Tiddington (Moffett 1986).

6.3 Charcoal

6.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 2**. Very small quantities of wood charcoal fragments were observed in these samples.

6.4 Land and fresh/ brackish water molluscs

6.4.1 During the assessment of the bulk sample flots, mollusc shells were noted. The number of shells and main species present were recorded, to provide some information about shell preservation and species representation. Nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999). The presence of these shells may aid in broadly characterising the nature of the wider landscape.

6.4.2 The moderate mollusc assemblage recovered from undated furrow **104** included the open country species *Vallonia* spp.

6.4.3 A high number of shells were recorded from Romano-British ditch **709** in Trench 7. These included the open country species *Vallonia* spp., *Pupilla muscorum*, *Helicella itala* and *Vertigo pygmaea*, and the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus*. There was also a specimen of the aquatic species *Gyraulus crista*.

6.4.4 The sample from Romano-British ditch **713** in Trench 7 contained a moderately high number of shells. These included the open country species *Vallonia* spp. and *Pupilla muscorum*, and the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus*. There was also a shell of the aquatic species *Lymnaea* sp.

6.4.5 These assemblages may be indicative of a well established open landscape, such as grassland and/or arable environments, in the vicinity of the site in the Romano-British period. There is also an indication of the presence of a small aquatic environment in the locality.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Summary

7.1.1 The evaluation has shown that the geophysical survey was largely accurate, with archaeological features concentrated in the southwestern half of the Site and remains of ridge and furrow to the northeast. The concentration of archaeological features was located on the highest area of the Site, which sloped downwards fairly sharply from west to east, from just beyond the eastern extent of the archaeological features.

7.1.2 A relatively large amount of Romano-British pottery was recovered, as well as a coin of Romano-British date, from a large square enclosure at the centre of an assumed settlement.

7.2 Conclusions

7.2.1 Given the quantity of pottery recovered combined with the environmental data and proximity of the Site to a Roman road (Alcester Road), it seems likely that the features identified by the geophysical survey and evaluation trenching represent the remains of a settlement rather than just agricultural activity.

7.2.2 The most interesting features are the two square enclosures, one inside the other (the outer represented by **506**, **709** and **1016**, and the inner by **713**) at the centre of the settlement. The environmental data from features in Trench 7 indicate crop processing and settlement activity.

7.2.3 It is possible that this layout of features represents a Romano-Celtic shrine/temple, although the pottery recovered from the Site was largely utilitarian in nature with no high quality wares in evidence, thereby not strongly support this hypothesis. Alternatively these features may represent a structure within a larger enclosure, with smaller enclosures/stockades to the northwest, (represented by features **107**, **113**, **116**, **204** and **206**), and another, larger enclosure to the southeast (represented by **1007**).

7.2.4 No definite postholes were observed, though this may be due to truncation of the Site by post-medieval agricultural activity.

7.2.5 Pottery recovered indicates a Romano-British date for the Site. Re-cuts of some of the ditches suggest that there is likely more than one phase of occupation, or that features were silting up relatively quickly.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

8.1.1 The project archive resulting from the excavation will be deposited with Warwickshire Museum, accession code to be confirmed. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

8.2 Archive

8.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Warwickshire Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared, and an OASIS form will be completed.

8.3 Discard policy

8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

8.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2011).

8.4 Security Copy

8.4.1 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.

9 REFERENCES

9.1 Bibliography

Bibliographic references

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10 APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1:Context descriptions

	Trench 1	Max depth: 0.48m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
100	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.34m
101	Subsoil, compact mid yellowish grey silty clay	0.34-0.48m
102	Natural, yellowish brown clay	0.48m+
103	Fill of furrow **104**	
104	Cut of furrow	
105	Upper secondary fill of ditch **107**. Mid yellowish grey clayey silt	0.23m
106	Lower secondary fill of ditch **107**,. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt.	0.14m
107	Cut of probable Iron Age ditch.	0.36
108	Fill of furrow **109**	
109	Cut of furrow	
110	Upper secondary fill of ditch **113**, dark brownish grey silty clay	0.3m
111	Middle secondary fill of ditch **113**, dark yellowish brown silty clay	0.26m
112	Lower primary fill of ditch 113, light yellowish grey silty clay	0.14m
113	Cut of curvilinear ditch	0.6m
114	Cut of furrow	
115	Fill of furrow	
116	Cut of Romano-British ditch, probable enclosure	0.9m
117	Lower primary fill of ditch 116, mid orangey brown clayey silt	0.35m
118	Middle secondary fill of ditch 116, mid brown clay	0.5m
119	Upper secondary fill of ditch 116, mid brownish grey clay	0.23m

	Trench 2	**Max depth: 0.5m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
200	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.42m
201	Subsoil, compact mid yellowish grey silty clay	0.42-0.5m
202	Natural, yellowish brown clay	0.5m+
203	Fill of gully 204, dark brownish grey silty clay	0.24m
204	Cut of shallow gully, possible base of enclosure ditch	0.24m
205	Fill of probable Romano-British gully 206, light brownish grey silty clay	0.33m
206	Cut of probable Romano-British gully, possible drainage channel	0.33m
207	Fill of furrow 208	
208	Cut of furrow	
209	Fill of gully 210, dark greyish brown clayey silt	0.36m
210	Cut of drainage gully	0.36m

	Trench 3	**Max depth:0.47m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
300	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.4m
301	Subsoil, compact mid yellowish grey silty clay	0.4-0.47m
302	Natural, yellowish brown clay	0.47m+

	Trench 4	**Max depth:0.6m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
400	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.45m
401	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown silty clay with rare course gravel inclusions	0.45-0.6m
402	Natural, mid brownish yellow silty clay	0.6m+

	Trench 5	**Max depth:0.43m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
500	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.34m
501	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.34-0.43m
502	Natural, mid brownish yellow silty clay	0.43m+
503	Upper secondary fill of ditch **506**, mid brownish grey silty clay	0.22m
504	Middle secondary fill of ditch **506**, dark brownish grey silty clay	0.2m
505	Lower fill of ditch **506**, possibly primary, mid yellowish brown clayey silt.	0.1m
506	Cut of Romano-British ditch, part of large square enclosure	0.38m

	Trench 6	**Max depth: m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
	Trench 6 not excavated due to proximity to overhead power lines	

	Trench 7	**Max depth:0.5 m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
700	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.37m
701	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.37-0.49m
702	Natural, light brownish yellow silty clay	0.49m+
703	Upper secondary fill of ditch **709** and re-cut **705**, mid brownish grey silty clay	0.37m
704	Lower secondary fill of re-cut **705**, dark brownish grey clayey silt	0.45m
705	Re-cut of ditch **709**	0.6m
706	Middle secondary fill of ditch**709**, mid yellowish brown clayey silt	0.16m
707	Lower secondary fill of ditch **709**, dark brownish grey clayey silt	0.3m
708	Slump deposit at st side of ditch **709**, mid brownish yellow clayey silt	0.15m
709	Cut of large Romano-British ditch, part of large square enclosure	0.76m
710	Possible beam slot	0.54m
711	Secondary fill of **710**, mid brownish grey clayey silt	0.52m
712	Same as **711**	0.54m
713	Cut of Romano-British ditch, part of small square enclosure	0.51m
714	Lower secondary fill of ditch **713**, mid brownish grey clayey silt	0.23m
715	Upper secondary fill of ditch **713**, mid greyish brown silty clay	0.3m

	Trench 8	**Max depth:0.34m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
800	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.26m
801	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.26-0.32m
802	Natural, mid brownish yellow silty clay	0.32m+
803	VOID	
804	Cut of Romano-British ditch	0.48m
805	Secondary fill of ditch **804**, mid brownish grey silty clay	0.48m
806	Secondary fill of ditch **807**, mid brownish grey silty clay	0.45
807	Cut of large Romano-British enclosure ditch	0.45m

	Trench 9	**Max depth:0.45m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
900	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.36m
901	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.36-0.45m
902	Natural, mid brownish yellow silty clay	0.45m+
903	Secondary fill of ditch **904**	0.6m
904	Cut of modern ditch	0.6m

	Trench 10	**Max depth:0.46m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1000	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.36m
1001	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.36-0.45m
1002	Natural, light brownish yellow silty clay	0.45m+
1003	Fill of furrow **1004**	
1004	Cut of furrow	
1005	Secondary fill of ditch **1008**, mid yellowish grey silty clay	0.39m
1006	Secondary fill of ditch **1007**, dark brownish grey silty clay	0.49m
1007	Cut of probable boundary ditch	0.49m
1008	Cut of ditch along southern side of **1007**	0.43m
1009-1012	VOID	
1013	Upper secondary fill of ditch **1015**, mid brownish grey silty clay	0.37m
1014	Lower secondary fill of ditch **1015**	0.6m
1015	Cut of ditch, possible small enclosure	0.6m
1016	Cut of large Romano-British ditch, part of large square enclosure	1.05m
1017	Lower secondary fill of ditch **1016**, mid orangey grey silty clay	0.36m
1018	Middle secondary fill of ditch **1016**, mid yellowish grey silty clay	0.33m
1019	Upper secondary fill of ditch **1016**, mid brownish grey silty clay	0.36m

	Trench 11	Max depth:0.5m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1100	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.46m
1101	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.46-0.5m
1102	Natural, mid brownish yellow silty clay	0.5m+

	Trench 12	Max depth:0.37m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1200	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.32m
1201	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.32-0.37m
1202	Natural, mid brownish yellow silty clay	0.37m+

	Trench 13	Max depth:0.53m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1300	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.5m
1301	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.5-0.53m
1302	Natural, mid brownish yellow silty clay	0.53m+

	Trench 14	Max depth:0.48m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1400	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.42m
1401	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.42-0.46m
1402	Natural, mid brownish yellow silty clay	0.46m+

	Trench 15	Max depth:0.4m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1500	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.3m
1501	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.3-0.4m
1502	Natural, mottled grey and yellow silty clay	0.4m+

	Trench 16	Max depth:0.35m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1600	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.35m
1601	Natural, mottled grey and yellow silty clay	0.35m+

	Trench 17	Max depth:0.3m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1700	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.3m
1701	Natural, mottled grey and yellow silty clay	0.3m+

	Trench 18	Max depth:0.5m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1800	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.38m
1801	Natural, mottled grey and yellow silty clay	0.38m+

	Trench 19	Max depth:0.4m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1900	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.35m
1901	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.35-0.4m
1902	Natural, yellowish brown clay	0.4m+

	Trench 20	Max depth:0.5m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2000	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.42m
2001	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.42-0.5m
2002	Natural, mid brownish yellow silty clay	0.5m+

	Trench 21	Max depth:0.43m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2100	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.43m
2101	Natural, mottled grey and yellow silty clay	0.43m+

	Trench 22	**Max depth:0.4m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2200	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.38m
2201	Natural, mottled grey and yellow silty clay	0.38m+

	Trench 23	**Max depth:0.3m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2300	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.25m
2301	Natural, yellow clay, moderate course gravel inclusions	0.25m+

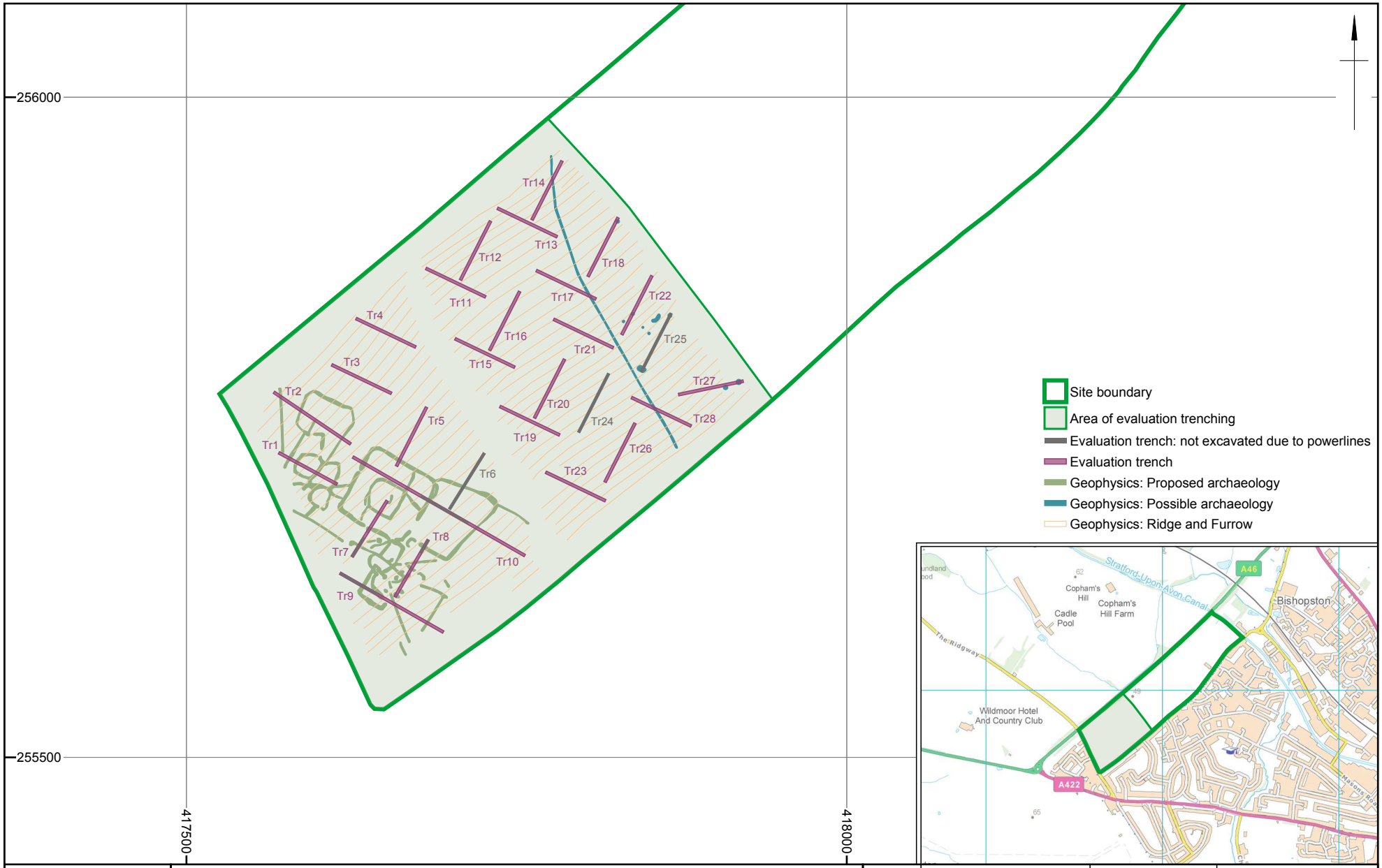
	Trench 24	**Max depth: m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
	Trench 24 not excavated due to proximity to overhead power lines	

	Trench 25	**Max depth: m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
	Trench 25 not excavated due to proximity to overhead power lines	

	Trench 26	**Max depth:0.35m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2600	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.3m
2601	Natural, yellow clay, moderate course gravel inclusions	0.3m+

	Trench 27	**Max depth:0.4m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2700	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.4m
2701	Natural, yellowish brown clay, moderate course gravel inclusions	0.4m+

	Trench 28	**Max depth:0.45m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2800	Topsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate medium gravel inclusions	0-0.4m
2801	Natural, yellowish brown clay, moderate course gravel inclusions	0.4m+



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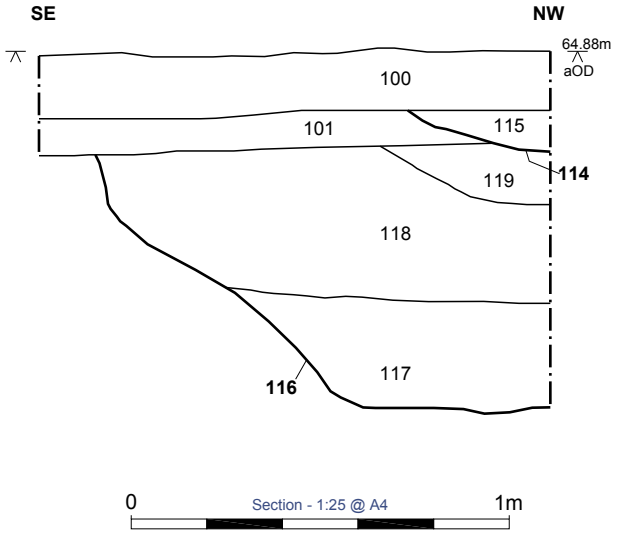
SIte location and trench plan overlain on geophysical survey

Figure 1

Site boundary
Evaluation trench
Evaluation: Linear
Evaluation: Discrete
Evaluation: Excavated slot
Geophysics: Proposed archaeology
Geophysics: Possible archaeology
Geophysics: Ridge and Furrow



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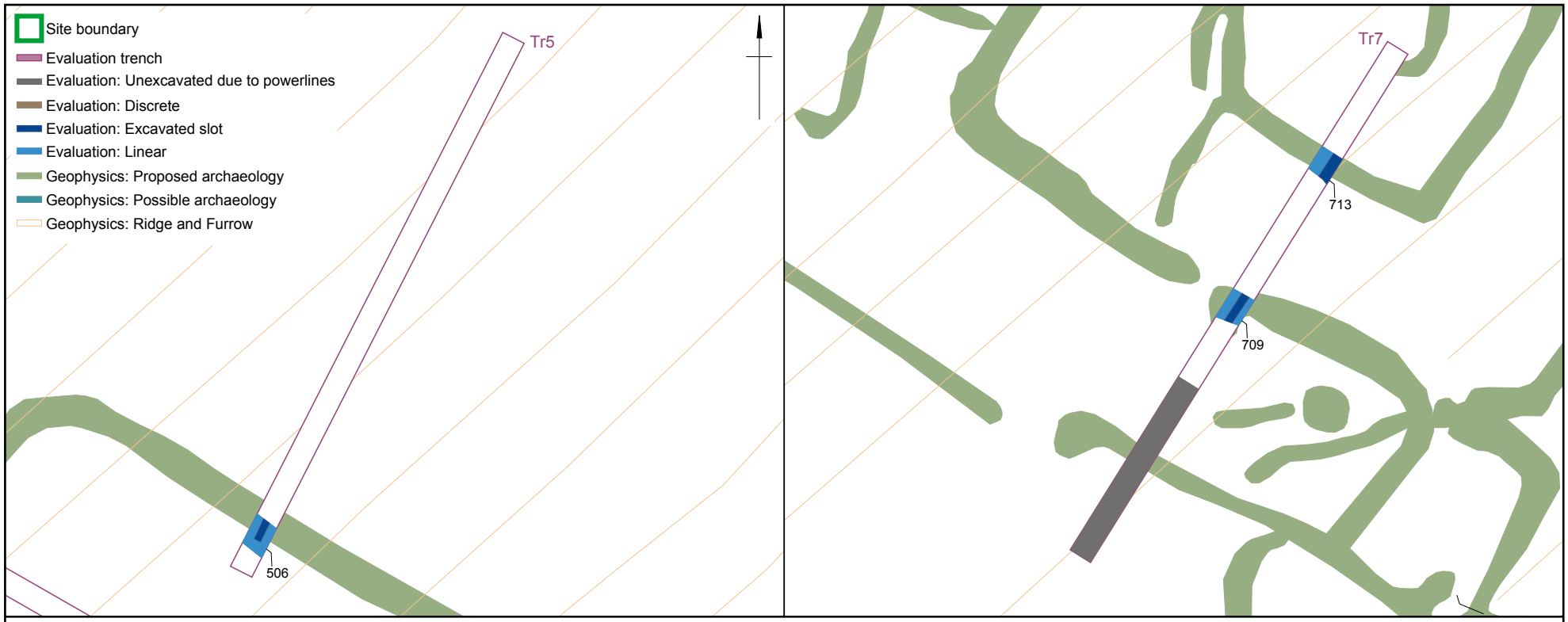
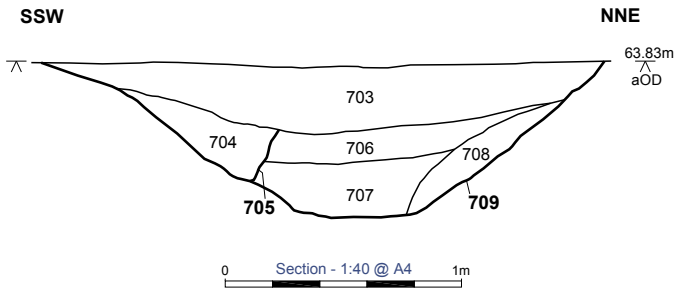
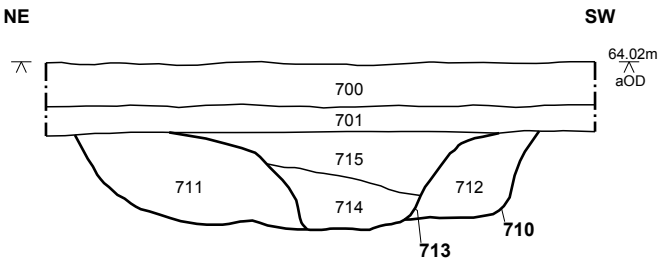
Plan of Trenches 1 and 2 overlain on geophysics results

Figure 2







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Plan of Trenches 5 and 7 overlain on geophysics results

Figure 3

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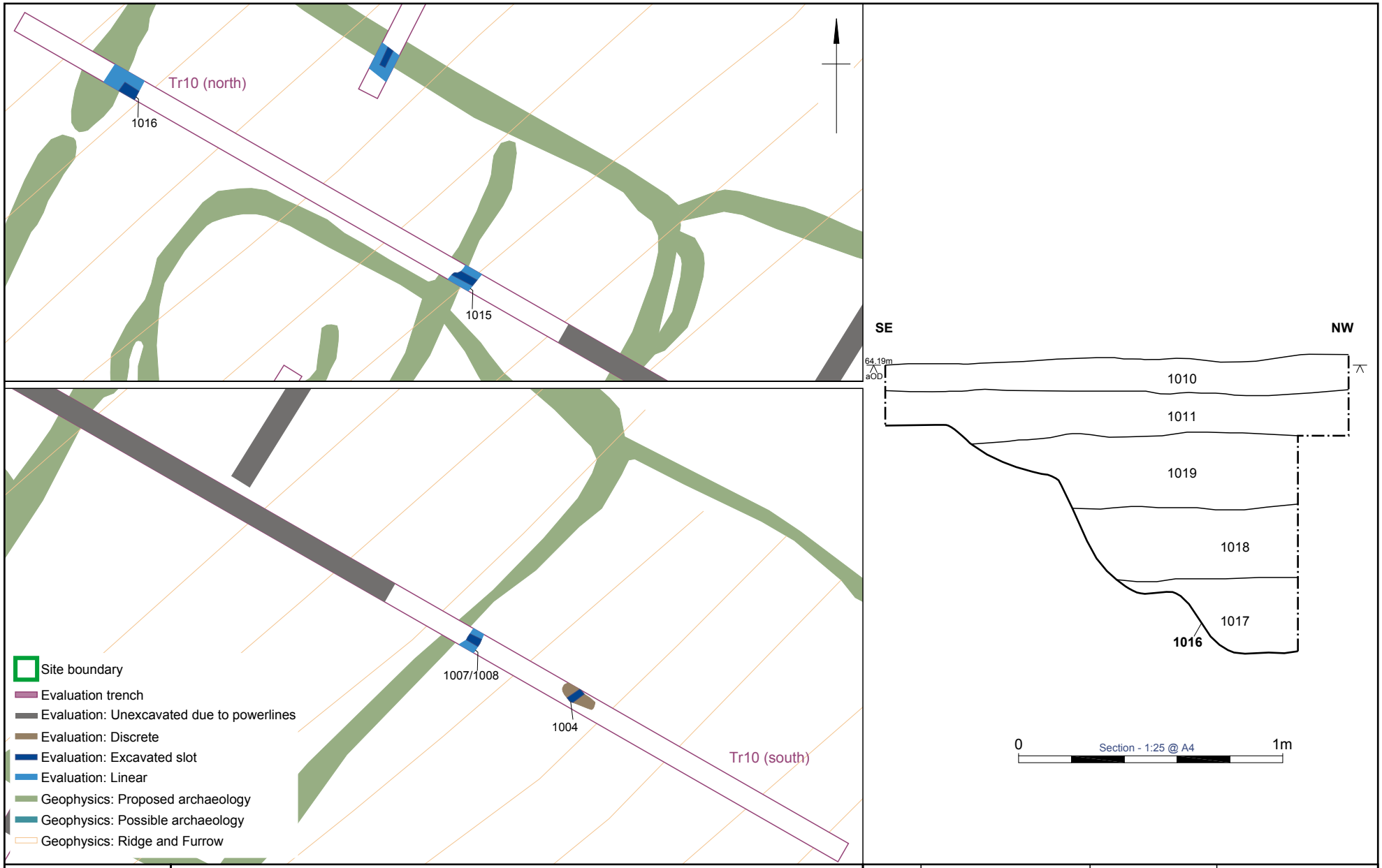
Plan of Trenches 8 and 9 overlain on geophysics results

Figure 4



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Plan of Trench 10 overlain on geophysics results

Figure 5

Plate 1: Ditch **116**, northeast facing section

Plate 2: Ditch **709**, southeast facing section

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Plate 3: Ditches **710** and **713**, northwest facing section

Plate 4: Ditch **1016**, northeast facing section

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