Archaeological evaluation at Oakley Farm, Battledown, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Worcestershire Archaeology

for RPS Consulting on behalf of Robert Hitchins Limited

December 2019

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OAKLEY FARM
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Archaeological evaluation report

Worcestershire Archaeology
Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service
The Hive
Sawmill Walk
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Worcester
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SITE INFORMATION

Site name:	Oakley Farm, Battledown, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
Local planning authority:	Cheltenham Borough Council
Planning reference:	P18/0847
Central NGR:	SO 97087 22442
Commissioning client:	RPS Consulting
WA project number:	P5607
WA report number:	2760
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Archaeological evaluation at Oakley Farm, Battledown, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

By Tim Cornah

With contributions by Rob Hedge and Elizabeth Pearson

Illustrations by Laura Templeton

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Oakley Farm, Battledown, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (NGR SO 97087 22442). It was commissioned by RPS Consulting on behalf of their client, Robert Hitchins Limited, in advance of a proposed residential development of the site. A planning application has been submitted to Cheltenham Borough Council.

The 26 trenches excavated in an approximate grid array across the site revealed a single late prehistoric gully, along with a further two gullies and four small firepits, which were undated. This aligned closely with the suggested low to moderate potential for the site, for features of Iron age and Roman date. Given the site's steeply sloping topography, the features identified are considered likely to have been peripheral to a settlement site within the wider area and therefore of local significance only.

The remainder of the features related to agricultural practice from the medieval period onwards, most notably in the form of a field boundary ditch and furrows, which had been previously identified.

Only a very small quantity of stratified artefacts was recovered, including pottery of the 1st century AD from the single gully. Environmental remains recovered from the firepits were of limited significance. Although charcoal was moderately abundant, it was poorly preserved and only of possible use for radiocarbon dating.

Report

1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA) in November 2019 at Oakley Farm, Battledown, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (NGR SO 97087 22442). It was commissioned by RPS Consulting, on behalf of their client Robert Hitchins Limited, in advance of a proposed residential development of the site. A planning application has been submitted to Cheltenham Borough Council (reference number P18/0847).

The archaeological advisor to the local planning authority considered that the proposed development had the potential to impact upon possible heritage assets. Previous desk-based assessment (CgMs 2019) highlighted a low to moderate potential for prehistoric and Roman activity within the site based on settlement and other activity in the vicinity. The proximity of the site to Battledown Camp was highlighted, although the interpretation of this site as an Iron Age Hill fort is now largely discredited. Geophysical survey (SUMO 2019) within the site identified no definite archaeological anomalies during the magnetometer survey. A few linear anomalies of uncertain origin were mapped, along with an historic field boundary, and evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation (mostly aligned north to south) and underground services were detected.

No brief was provided but a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2019) and approved by the Gloucestershire County Council Archaeologist. The evaluation also conforms to the industry guidelines and standards set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance: for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a).

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

The site is located approximately 2.3km east of the centre of Cheltenham, within Batteldown. The site is 14 hectares in area and consists of arable farmland and small elements of woodland with the building of Oakley Farm on its northern side. The southern boundary lies at a height of *c* 100m (south-west) and *c* 125m (south-east) above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The ground slopes down by approximately 17m towards the northern boundary, which is situated at *c* 82m AOD to the north-west, and *c* 108m AOD to the north-east (CgMs 2019). The site is bounded on its south-eastern side by a reservoir, and a road to the south. On all other sides it is bounded by modern residential development.

The study site is wholly situated upon solid mudstone geology (Charmouth Formation). No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS, 2019).

2 Archaeological and historical background

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site was undertaken by CgMs (2019). The findings presented in the DBA are summarised below.

Battledown Camp is 175m to the south of the site, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. This was previously considered to have been the site of an Iron Age hill fort, although this interpretation has increasingly been questioned, with modern descriptions of the site as a group of natural gullies, scarps and ridges accessed via a natural gully. It is clear that there was Iron Age settlement in the area, but this was downslope, at the Whaddon Flood Alleviation scheme *c* 250 to the north of the site. This settlement continued into the Roman period, along with the broad pattern of occupation on lowland areas principally to the south. The broader area at this time was within the hinterland of the settlements at Gloucester and Cirencester, with no known major settlements in Cheltenham.

The origins of Cheltenham are thought to have been in the Saxon period, with sporadic indications of activity within the wider landscape. The site and its surroundings are likely to have been either wooded or agricultural, which is likely to have continued into the medieval period, when it was put into largely agricultural use, as shown by extant ridge and furrow.

The earliest maps of the site in the 19th century indicates the agricultural use, with the buildings of Oakley Farm constructed before the 1880s 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.

Geophysical (magnetometer) survey (SUMO 2019) within the site identified no definite archaeological features. A few linear anomalies of uncertain origin were mapped, along with an historic field boundary, and evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation (mostly aligned north to south), and modern underground services were detected.

Lidar survey of the site highlights the ridge and furrow cultivation detected during the geophysical survey, as is a probable east to west curvilinear former field boundary. The majority of ridge and furrow is aligned north to south, running downslope, with a small east to west portion surviving within the south-western corner of the site. Several curvilinear features are visible within the southern part of the study site, which may be of natural origin.

3 Project aims

The aims and scope of the project were to undertake sufficient fieldwork to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits beyond reasonable doubt;
- identify their location, nature, date and preservation;
- assess their significance;
- assess the likely impact of the proposed development (where the groundworks plans are available).

4 Project methodology

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2019). Fieldwork was undertaken between 28 October and 6 November 2019.

26 trenches, amounting to 2,340m² in area, were excavated over the 14.1ha site, representing a sample of 1.6%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

The trenches were laid out in an approximate grid array across the available areas of the site and were arranged to avoid a number of trees and a potential bat roost. Trench 20 had to be moved approximately 3m south to avoid a service.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under constant archaeological supervision using a 360º tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected, and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012) and trench and feature locations were surveyed using a differential GPS with an accuracy limit set at <0.04m. On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was undertaken through a combination of structural, artefactual and environmental evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Worcestershire Archaeology. Subject to the agreement of the landowner it is anticipated that it will be deposited at Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum.

5 Archaeological results

5.1 Introduction

The features recorded in the trenches are shown in Figures 2 and 3. The trench and context inventory is presented in Appendix 1.

5.2 Natural deposits

Natural deposits within all trenches consisted of yellow and grey clays with manganese rich grey silty clay patches. The geology is consistent with the Charmouth mudstone recorded for the area. In Trenches 1 - 6 a further deposit of up to 0.33m was present, that was deepest at the base of the slope in the northern end of the field. This consisted of a compact light yellowish silty clay, of colluvial origin.

5.3 Prehistoric deposits

A single probable prehistoric feature [1704] was recorded in Trench 17, aligned broadly north to south. It was present at a depth of 0.41m below the ground surface, and measured 0.65m in width and 0.18m deep. Its mid brownish yellow silty clay fill (1703) contained a single fragment of prehistoric pottery.

5.4 Undated deposits

Below sub-soil deposits within Trench 24, three small pits, up to 0.45m in diameter, were present [2421, 2423 and 2425]. Of these, one was excavated [2421]. It was 0.13m deep, and contained two charcoal rich fills (2419 and 2420). The base of the feature was hardened through having been heat affected, although no clear evidence for a specifically built structure was present as would be expected for an oven or similar feature. A further such feature of similar scale and form was present in Trench 21 [2105], filled with deposits (2103 and 2104) similar to those present within the firepits in Trench 24. No artefactual material was recovered from any of these features to aid dating. Trench 18 contained two parallel gullies [1804] and [1806]. Gully [1804] was excavated and measured 0.96m wide and 0.25m deep (Figure 3). While no finds were recovered from either of these features, they were potentially of post-medieval date as they were broadly parallel with an extant ditch.

5.5 Medieval to post-medieval deposits

Furrowing was present in numerous trenches, and consistently aligned with extant ridge and furrow at the surface. Within Trenches 1 - 6 and 24 - 26, the furrowing was aligned north to south, although in Trenches 1 - 6 the furrows did not typically extend to the base of the trenches due to the depth of colluvium. In Trenches 7 - 11 the furrowing was aligned in a broadly east to west direction. The furrow fills were indistinguishable from the subsoil which was seen across the site and consisted of a mid orangey brown silty clay of between 0.08 and 0.29m deep.

A north-west to south-east aligned ditch within Trench 19 [1904] clearly truncated the subsoil, indicating a likely post-medieval date. This was 3.5m wide and 0.65m deep, and aligned closely with an extant earthwork, the position of which suggested a drainage function.

A further shallow north-west to south-east aligned feature was present in Trench 22 [2204] which had shallow sides consistent with furrowing, although no other furrows remained in the vicinity to support this. Its fill was however consistent with furrowing in that it was similar to the subsoil.

5.6 Modern deposits

Large areas of modern truncation were present in Trenches 20 and 22, as well as ceramic land drains in the majority of trenches. Topsoil consisted of a mid brownish grey silty clay of between 0.23-0.40m in depth and was present in all trenches.

6 Artefactual evidence

By Rob Hedge, PCIfA

Report

6.1 Introduction

The artefact report conforms to standards and guidance issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014b), as well as further guidance on pottery analysis, archive creation and museum deposition created by various pottery study groups (PCRG/SGRP/MPRG 2016), the Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF 2011), and the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA 1993).

6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined, identified, quantified and dated to period.

The pottery was examined under x20 magnification and referenced according to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992; WAAS 2017).

6.3 Discard policy

Artefacts from topsoil and subsoil and unstratified contexts will normally be noted but not retained, unless they are of intrinsic interest (e.g. worked flint or flint debitage, featured pottery sherds, and other potential 'registered artefacts'). Large assemblages of post-medieval or modern material, unless there is some special reason to retain (such as local production), may be noted and not retained, or, if appropriate, a representative sample will be retained. Discard of finds from post-medieval and earlier deposits will only be instituted with reference to museum collection policy and/or with agreement of the local museum.

6.4 Results

A small quantity of post-medieval pottery was recovered from topsoil deposits. Sherds were heavily abraded, and their condition is consistent with material incorporated into agricultural soils through processes such as manuring. Topsoil in Trench 5 yielded a single (52g) body sherd of 17th/18th century glazed earthenware (fabric 90) of Ashton Keynes type and a small (4.5g) sherd of unglazed red earthenware (fabric 78), probably an 18th or 19th century flowerpot. Topsoil in Trench 25 contained a single (3g) sherd of black basalt ware, a refined earthenware produced in Staffordshire from approximately AD 1750 to 1820.

Environmental samples from the four firepits in Trenches 21 and 24 yielded only fragments of undiagnostic fired clay, which are not readily dateable by eye. Several fragments from fill (2420) of pit [2421] contained cylindrical impressions and voids 10-11mm in diameter, suggesting they had once been formed around wooden poles.

The only feature to yield dating evidence was gully [1704] in Trench 17. Fill (1703) contained three badly abraded sherds of pottery (21g). One small sandy micaceous sherd contained rounded voids typical of oolitic limestone-tempered wares produced in the Cotswolds in the Iron Age (e.g. fabric 4.6). The remaining two sherds were in a grog-tempered fabric with wiping visible on a blackened outer surface. They had a grey core, orange margins, and an orange inner surface. The grog included occasional rounded red pieces up to 2mm in diameter; other inclusions included quartz and iron-rich rounded stone. Although the size and condition precludes confident identification, it is similar in character to 1st century AD grog-tempered wares such as Gloucester TF2 (Timby 1998, 247). These are generally thought to have their origins in the Late Iron Age, but may continue beyond the Roman conquest (L Griffin, *pers. comm.)*.

Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Period	Context TPQ date range
500	Pottery	2	56.5	Post-medieval	AD 1750 - 1900
1703	Pottery	3	21	Iron Age/ early Roman	AD 0 - 100
2103	Fired Clay	N/A	41	Undated	Unknown
2104	Fired Clay	N/A	133	Undated	Unknown
2419	Fired Clay	N/A	236	Undated	Unknown
2420	Fired Clay	N/A	892	Undated	Unknown
2500	Pottery	1	3	Post-medieval	AD 1750 - 1820

Table 1: Finds quantification and dating by context

6.5 Discussion

Although only a very small quantity of stratified artefacts were recovered, the pottery from Trench 17 suggest a *terminus post quem* for the infilling of gully [1704].

7 Environmental evidence

By Elizabeth Pearson, ACIfA

7.1 Introduction

The environmental project conforms to guidance by CIfA (2014b) on archaeological evaluation, further guidance by English Heritage (2011) and the Association for Environmental Archaeology (1995).

7.2 Aims

This project aimed to determine the state of preservation, type, and quantity of environmental remains recovered. The information has been used to assess the importance of the environmental remains.

7.3 Methodology

7.3.1 Sampling policy

Samples were taken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). A total of four samples (each of 10 litres) were taken from the site (Table 2), of which two were selected for assessment.

7.3.2 Processing and analysis

The samples were processed by flotation using a Siraf tank. The flots were collected on a 300µm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residues were scanned by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammerscale. Only flots and sorted charcoal from lower pit fills were assessed. The flots were scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology, and a seed identification manual (Cappers *et al* 2012). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (2010).

A selection of the charcoal from the lower fills was examined under a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope in order to determine the presence of oak and non-oak charcoal.

Context	Sample	Feature type	Fill of	Period	Sample volume (L)	Volume processed (L)	Residue assessed	Flot assessed
2103	3	Pit	2105	undated	10	10	Yes	Yes
2104	4	Pit	2105	undated	10	10	Yes	Yes
2419	1	Pit	2421	undated	10	10	Yes	Yes
2420	2	Pit	2421	undated	10	10	Yes	Yes

Table 2: List of bulk samples

7.3.3 Discard policy

Remaining soil sample and residues (post scanning) will be discarded after a period of three months following submission of this report unless there is a specific request to retain them.

7.4 Results

7.4.1 Charred plant macrofossils and charcoal

The results are summarised in Tables 3 and 4.

A moderate quantity of oak (*Quercus robur/petreae*) and non-oak were identified in both lower fills (2104) and (2420) of fire pits [2105 and 2421] respectively. The charcoal was poorly preserved and not suitable for analysis of wood species in order to interpret wood fuel use, although it may be possible to identify non-oak species for the purposes of dating the pits by radiocarbon dating.

Small amounts of charred fungal sclerotia (spores) were also identified in fill (2104) of pit [2105]. Charcoal and flots were not assessed from the upper fills (2103) and (2419), although the results from scanning of heavy residues are presented in Table 2.

Uncharred remains, consisting of mainly root fragments are assumed to be modern and intrusive as they are unlikely to have survived in the soils on site for long without charring or waterlogging.

context	sample	residue mesh size (mm)	residue volume (L)	charcoal	unch*	hammerscale
2103	3	1	0.4	mod	occ	mod fired clay
2104	4	1	0.5	mod	abt	abt fired clay
2419	1	1	1.3	mod	occ	abt fired clay
2420	2	1	2.2	mod	abt	abt fired clay

Table 3: Summary of environmental remains (occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant, unch = uncharred - probably modern and intrusive)*

context	sample	preservation type	species detail	category remains	quantity/diversity	comment
2104	4	unch*	unidentified root fragments (herbaceous)	misc	++++/low	
2104	4	ch	unidentified wood fragments, unidentified fungal sclerotia	misc	+/low	
2104	4	ch	*Quercus robur/petraea* wood	misc	+++/high	*Poor preservation*
2420	2	unch*	unidentified moss fragments, unidentified root fragments (herbaceous)	misc	++++/low	
2420	2	ch	*Quercus robur/petraea* wood, unidentified wood fragments, non-oak wood	misc	+/low	Poorly preserved - not suitable for analysis

Table 4: Plant remains from bulk samples

Key:

preservation	quantity
ch = charred	+ = 1 - 10
unch* = waterlogged or uncharred	++ = 11- 50
	+++ = 51 - 100
	++++ = 101+
	* = probably modern and intrusive

7.5 Significance

The environmental remains are of limited significance. Although charcoal is moderately abundant, it is poorly preserved and only of possible use for radiocarbon dating.

7.6 Discard/retention

Remaining soil samples and residues will be discarded after three months following submission of this report.

8 Discussion

The background research and geophysical survey of the site indicated a low to moderate potential for Iron Age and Roman features within the site. Combined with the site's sloping topography, it was not considered likely to contain extensive settlement activity. This level of potential was reflected in the trenching which identified a single gully of probable late Iron Age date and four undated firepits.

The function of the gully was unclear, although an agricultural function was likely given the unsuitability of the site for settlement. The four fire pits could potentially be contemporary with the prehistoric gully. The exact function of these pits also remained unclear as they did not contain any obvious superstructure and, although in a group, were otherwise in isolation.

The remaining features of the site related closely to the results of the geophysical and lidar survey in that they highlighted agricultural features, most notably ridge and furrow of probable medieval to post-medieval date.

9 Significance

The primary significance of the archaeological features on the site relate to a single prehistoric gully and four undated firepits. Given the lack of density of these features, it is unlikely that the site represents anything beyond outlying activity. They therefore may be considered to be of local significance only.

The furrows and other drainage features are of negligible significance, all being products of medieval to modern agricultural activity. The residual artefacts recovered reflect this activity.

10 Conclusions

The 26 trenches excavated in an approximate grid array across the site revealed a single late prehistoric gully and four small firepits, the latter of which were all undated. This aligned closely with the suggested low to moderate potential for the site, for features of Iron age and Roman date. Given the site's steeply sloping topography, the features identified are considered likely to have been peripheral to a settlement site within the wider area and therefore of local significance only.

The remainder of the features related to agricultural practice from the medieval period onwards, most notably in the form of a field boundary ditch and furrows, which had been previously identified.

Only a very small quantity of stratified artefacts was recovered, including pottery of the 1st century AD from the single gully. Environmental remains recovered from the firepits were of limited significance. Although charcoal was moderately abundant, it was poorly preserved and only of possible use for radiocarbon dating.

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved. Conditions were suitable in all of the trenches to identify the presence or absence of archaeological features. It is considered that the nature, density and distribution of archaeological features provides an accurate characterisation of the proposed development site as a whole.

11 Project personnel

The fieldwork was led by Tim Cornah, ACIfA, assisted by Elspeth Iliff, PCIfA.

The project was managed by Tom Vaughan, MCIfA. The report was produced and collated by Tim Cornah. Specialist contributions and individual sections of the report are attributed to the relevant authors throughout the text.

12 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for the successful conclusion of the project: Neil Wright (Senior Archaeological Consultant, RPS Consulting), and Charles Parry (Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council).

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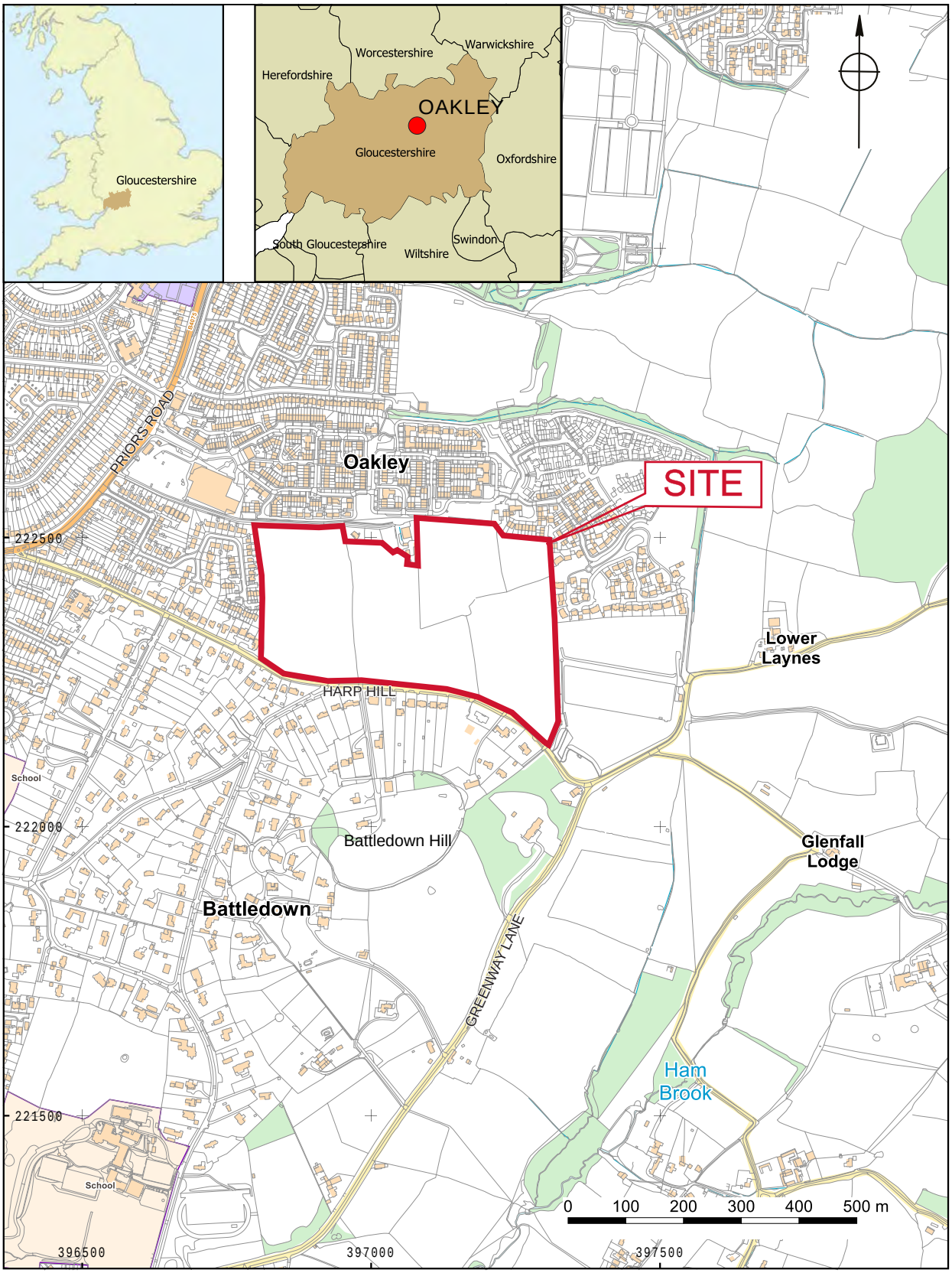
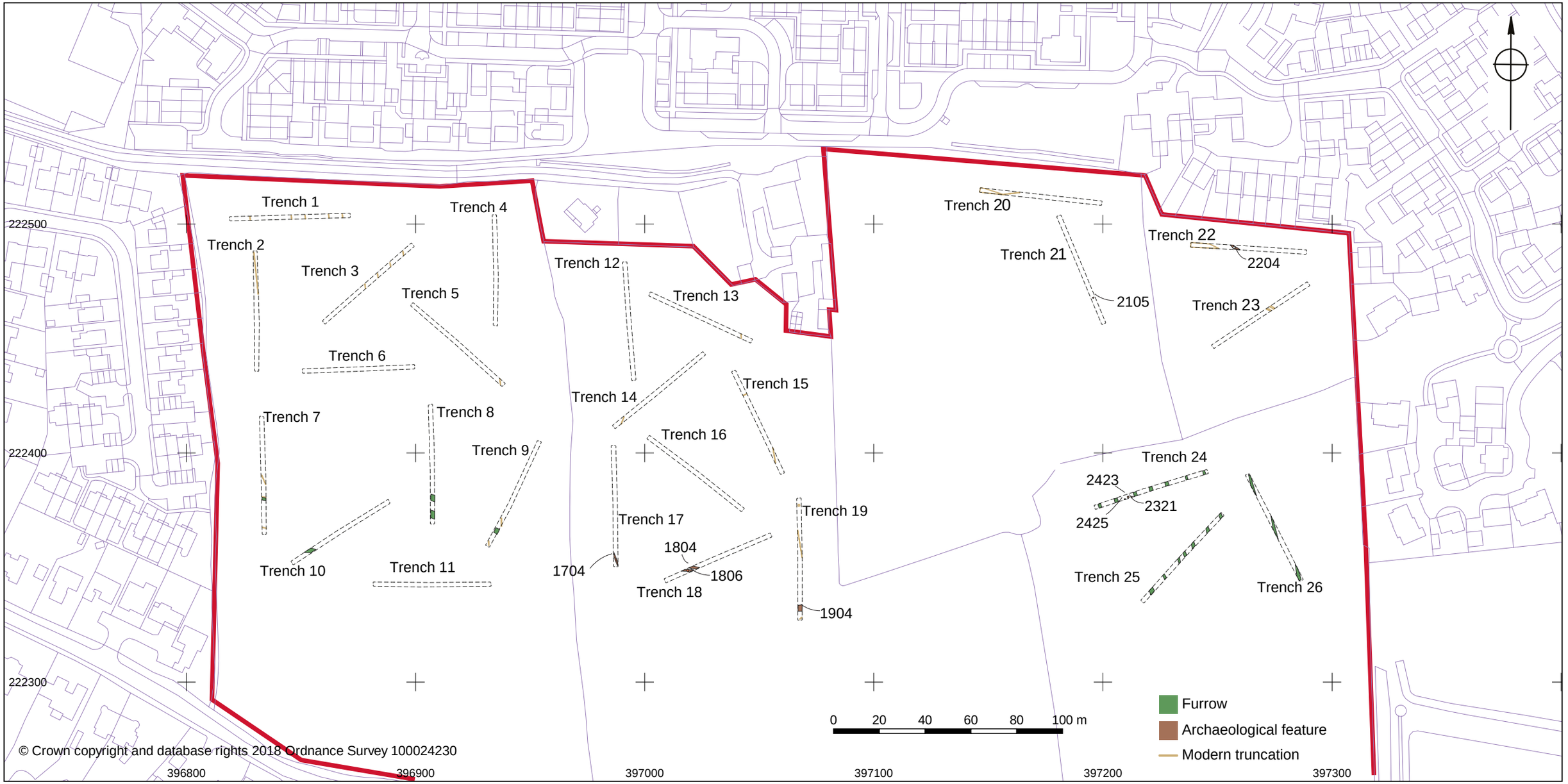
Figures



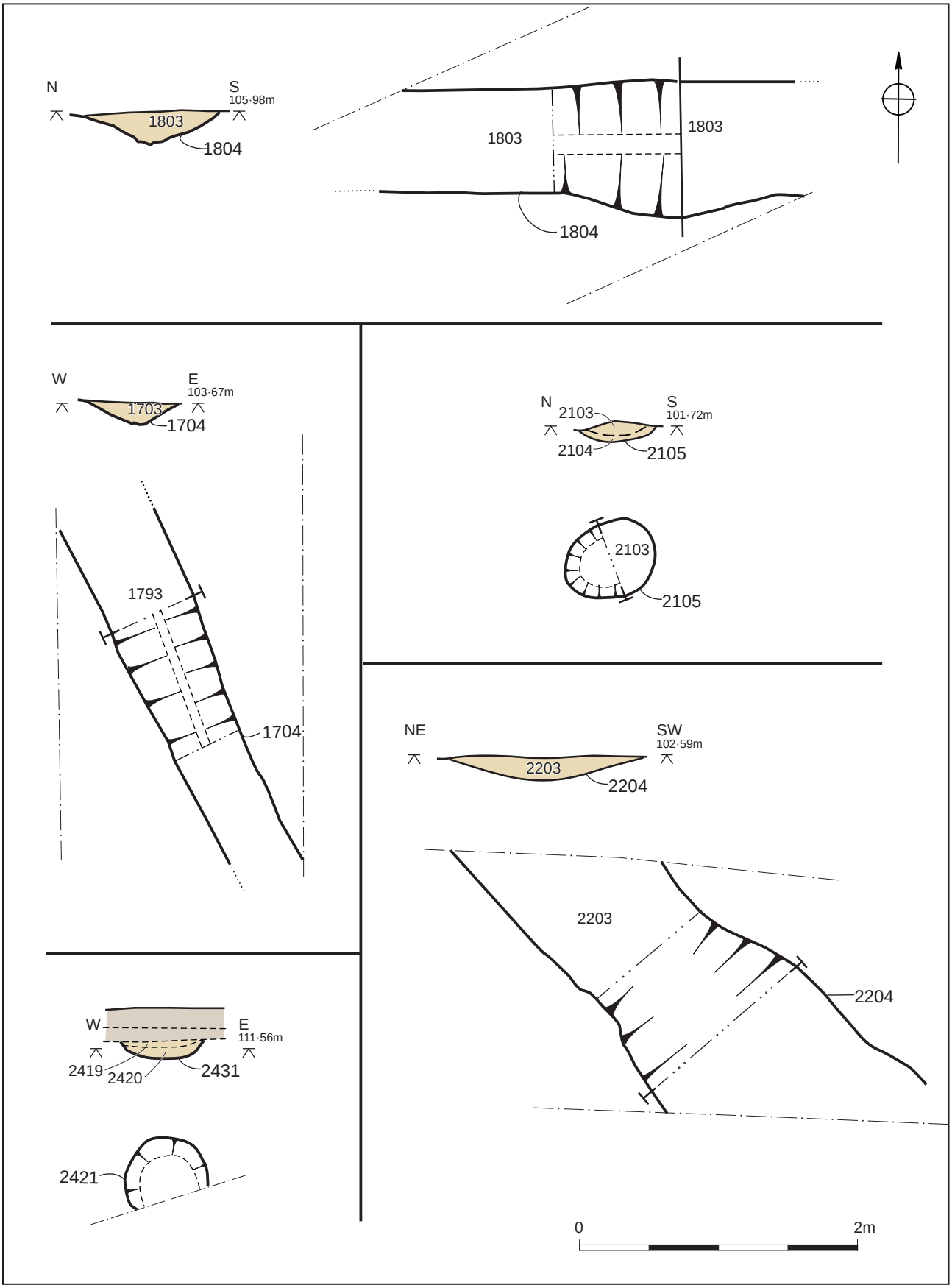
Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench Plan

Figure 2



Archaeological features; plans and sections *Figure 3*

Plates

Plate 1 Trench 17, Gully 1704, looking north-west, scale 0.5m

Plate 2 Trench 24, Firepits [2421, 2423 and 2425], looking south, scale 1m

Plate 3 Trench 24, Fire pit [2421], looking south, scale 0.5m

Plate 4 Trench 21, Fire pit [2105], looking east, scale 0.5m

Plate 5 Trench 18, Gully [1806], looking north-west, scale 1m

Plate 6 Trench 22, Probable furrow [2204], looking south-east, scale 1m

Plate 7 Trench19, Ditch [1904], looking noth-west, scale 1m

Appendix 1: Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Length: 50 Width: 1.8 Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
100	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.23m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
101	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.1m	Moderately compact brownish orange silty clay
102	Colluvium	Layer	Colluvium	0.32m	Compact yellowish orange silty clay
103	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact greyish yellow silty clay

Trench 2

Length: 52 Width: 1.8 Orientation: North to south

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
200	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.3m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
201	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.23m	Moderately compact orangey yellow silty clay
202	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact greyish yellow silty clay

Trench 3

Length: 51.6 Width: 1.8 Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
300	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.31m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
301	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.29m	Compact yellowish orange silty clay
302	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact greyish yellow silty clay

Trench 4

Length: 48.5 Width: 1.8 Orientation: North to south

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
400	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.36m	Friable greyish brown silty clay
401	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil/Colluvium	0.4m	Moderately compact yellowish orange silty clay
402	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact greyish yellow silty clay

Trench 5

Length: 53.4 Width: 1.8 Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
500	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.32m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
501	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.26m	Moderately compact yellowish orange silty clay
502	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact greyish yellow silty clay

Trench 6

Length: 49 Width: 1.8 Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
600	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.32m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
601	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.22m	Moderately compact yellowish orange silty clay
602	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact greyish yellow silty clay

Trench 7

Length: 51.5 Width: 1.8 Orientation: North to south

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
700	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.35m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
701	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.32m	Moderately compact yellowish orange silty clay
702	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact greyish yellow silty clay
703	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [704]	unexc.	
704	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	

Trench 8

Length: 52 Width: 1.8 Orientation: North to south

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
800	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.38m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
801	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.16m	Moderately compact yellowish orange silty clay
802	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact greyish yellow silty clay
803	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [804]	unexc.	
804	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	
805	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [806]	unexc.	
806	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	

Trench 9

Length: 51 Width: 1.8 Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
900	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.36m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
901	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.18m	Moderately compact brownish orange silty clay
902	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact greyish yellow silty clay
903	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [904]	unexc.	
904	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	

Trench 10

Length: 51.3 Width: 1.8 Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1000	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.4m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
1001	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.22m	Moderately compact brownish orange silty clay
1002	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact greyish orange silty clay
1003	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [1104]	unexc.	
1004	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	

Trench 11

Length: 51.8 Width: 1.8 Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1100	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.26m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
1101	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.08m	Moderately compact yellowish orange silty clay
1102	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact greyish yellow silty clay

Trench 12

Length: 49.1 Width: 1.8 Orientation: North to south

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1200	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.18m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
1201	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.1m	Moderately compact brownish orange silty clay
1202	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact yellowish orange silty clay

Trench 13

Length: 49 Width: 1.8 Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1300	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.27m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
1301	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.11m	Moderately compact brownish grey silty clay
1302	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact yellowish orange silty clay

Trench 14

Length: 51 Width: 1.8 Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1400	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.3m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
1401	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.14m	Moderately compact brownish orange silty clay
1402	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact yellowish orange silty clay

Trench 15

Length: 49.7 Width: 1.8 Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1500	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.3m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
1501	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.12m	Moderately compact brownish orange silty clay
1502	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact yellowish orange silty clay

Trench 16

Length: 52 Width: 1.8 Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1600	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.29m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
1601	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.15m	Moderately compact brownish orange silty clay
1602	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact greyish orange silty clay

Trench 17

Length: 52.8 Width: 1.8 Orientation: North to south

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1700	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.2m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
1701	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.21m	Moderately compact brownish orange silty clay
1702	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact yellowish orange silty clay
1703	Gully	Fill	Fill of gully [1704]	0.18m	Soft brownish yellow silty clay
1704	Gully	Cut	Cut of gully. Small, possibly prehistoric? Function unclear given hillside position and nothing else around.	0.18m	

Trench 18

Length: 50.5 Width: 1.8 Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1800	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.35m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
1801	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.18m	Moderately compact brownish orange silty clay
1802	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact greyish orange silty clay
1803	Gully	Fill	Fill of gully [1804].	0.25m	yellowish brown silty clay
1804	Gully	Cut	Cut of small gully. Probably post-med as it is broadly parallel with a visible ditch.	0.25m	
1805	Gully	Fill	Fill of gully [1806].	unexc.	yellowish brown silty clay
1806	Gully	Cut	Cut of gully.	unexc.	

Trench 19

Length: 53 Width: 1.8 Orientation: North to south

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1900	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.31m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
1901	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.11m	Moderately compact brownish orange silty clay
1902	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact yellowish orange silty clay
1903	Ditch	Fill	Fill of ditch [1904].	0.56m	Moderately compact greyish brown silty clay
1904	Ditch	Cut	Cut of ditch. Cuts from high, through subsoil so likely post-med. Lines up with an extant ditch visible in landscape. Likely drainage or	0.56m	

Trench 20

Length: 53 Width: 1.8 Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
2000	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.24m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
2001	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.07m	Moderately compact brownish orange silty clay
2002	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact greyish yellow silty clay

Trench 21

Length: 51 Width: 1.8 Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
2100	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.33m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
2101	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.11m	Moderately compact greyish orange silty clay
2102	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact greyish orange silty clay
2103	Pit	Fill	Upper fill of pit [2105].	0.12m	Compact grey clay
2104	Pit	Fill	Fill of pit [2105]. Probably heat affected natural.	0.17m	Compact greyish red clay
2105	Pit	Cut	Cut of pit. Undated. Possibly a fire pit.	0.19m	

Trench 22

Length: 50.6 Width: 1.8 Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
2200	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.34m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
2201	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.06m	Moderately compact brownish orange silty clay
2202	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact greyish orange silty clay
2203	Furrow	Fill	Fill of possible furrow [2204].	0.17m	Compact yellowish grey silty clay
2204	Furrow	Cut	Cut of possible furrow. Aligned roughly nw-se.	0.17m	

Trench 23

Length: 50.1 Width: 1.8 Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
2300	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.25m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
2301	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.07m	Moderately compact brownish orange silty clay
2302	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact greyish yellow silty clay

Trench 24

Length: 51.6 Width: 1.8 Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
2400	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.29m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
2401	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.11m	Moderately compact brownish orange silty clay
2402	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact greyish yellow silty clay
2403	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [2404].	unexc.	
2404	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	
2405	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [2406].	unexc.	
2406	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	
2407	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [2408].	unexc.	
2408	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	
2409	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [2410].	unexc.	
2410	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	
2411	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [2412].	unexc.	
2412	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	
2413	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [2414].	unexc.	
2414	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	
2415	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [2416].	unexc.	
2416	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	
2417	Pit	Fill	Fill of possible pit [2418].	unexc.	
2418	Pit	Cut	Cut of possible pit. Not visible following flooding so may not be real.	unexc.	
2419	Pit	Fill	Fill of pit [2421].	0.05m	Compact grey silty clay
2420	Pit	Fill	Fill of pit [2421].	0.08m	Compact blackish red silty clay
2421	Pit	Cut	Cut of fire pit. Undated.	0.13m	
2422	Pit	Fill	Fill of pit [2423].	unexc.	Compact grey silty clay
2423	Pit	Cut	Cut of pit. Possible fire pit. Similar to [2421].	unexc.	
2424	Pit	Fill	Fill of pit [2425].	unexc.	Compact grey silty clay
2425	Pit	Cut	Cut of pit. Possible fire pit. Similar to [2421].	unexc.	

Trench 25

Length: 52 Width: 1.8 Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
2500	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.33m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
2501	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.15m	Moderately compact orangey brown silty clay
2502	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact greyish yellow silty clay
2503	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [2504].	unexc.	
2504	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	
2505	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [2506].	unexc.	
2506	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	
2507	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [2508]	unexc.	
2508	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	
2509	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [2510].	unexc.	
2510	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	
2511	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [2512].	unexc.	
2512	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	
2513	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [2514]	unexc.	
2514	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	
2515	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [2516].	unexc.	
2516	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	

Trench 26

Length: 51.8 Width: 1.8 Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
2600	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.32m	Friable brownish grey silty clay
2601	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.14m	Moderately compact brownish orange silty clay
2602	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact orangey yellow silty clay
2603	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [2604].	unexc.	
2604	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	
2605	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [2606].	unexc.	
2606	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	
2607	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [2608].	unexc.	
2608	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	
2609	Furrow	Fill	Fill of furrow [2610].	unexc.	
2610	Furrow	Cut	Cut of furrow	unexc.	

Appendix 2: Summary of project archive

TYPE	DETAILS*
Artefacts and Environmental	Ceramics, Environmental
Paper	Context sheet, Diary (Field progress form), Drawing, Photograph, Plan, Report, Section, Survey
Digital	Database, GIS, Images raster/digital photography, Spreadsheets, Survey, Text

**OASIS terminology*