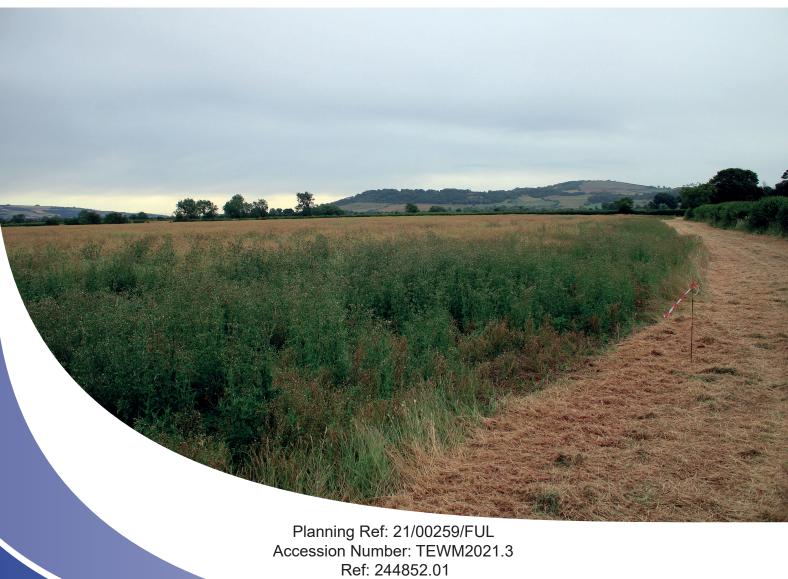


Claydon Solar Farm Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire

Post-excavation Assessment



February 2024



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Pegasus Group, on behalf of JBM Solar Projects 17 Ltd, to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising the excavation of two areas ('Areas 1–2') at Claydon Farm, Oxenton, Tewkesbury, in advance of the construction of a solar farm, battery storage facility and associated works.

The earliest archaeological activity encountered during the excavation was a Late Iron Age ring ditch located in the centre of Area 1. A Romano-British phase in Area 1 included a drip gully, a ditch and two pits. The majority of features were loosely dated as either Late Iron Age or Romano-British. These comprised penannular enclosures, ditches, and assorted pits and postholes. Medieval/post-medieval and modern activity was represented by remains of ridge and furrow that truncated earlier features in Area 1, and a single pit in Area 2. Five pits scattered across both areas were undated.

The environmental assemblage did not generate any significant findings, because of the low numbers and poor preservation of environmental material.

Most of the recovered finds span the period from the mid-late prehistoric to earlier Romano-British period (c. 200/150 BC to AD 200), with a small amount of medieval to modern material. The assemblage is consistent with the expected range for the area, and there are no intrinsically interesting objects. The flint assemblage has some significance in representing the earliest activity at the site, however it is poorly stratified and small in size. Although the pottery has produced a basic chronology for the features, very few diagnostic sherds of pottery were recovered, meaning precise dating has proven difficult and further research potential is limited.

The results of the excavation are of a local importance, contributing to the current understanding of the Late Iron Age and Romano-British rural settlement in the area. The project overall (particularly the geophysical survey) has revealed the organisation of the landscape during the Late Iron Age and the Romano-British periods, including unexcavated areas of high potential to the north and northwest of the excavation areas. The contribution of these findings is limited however, due to the size of Areas 1 and 2, their location at the furthest extents of the areas of high potential, and the resulting low number of features encountered there.

No further analysis is recommended and the results have limited potential to usefully contribute to the regional research agenda. This report will be uploaded via the OASIS portal to the Archaeology Data Service and the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record.

A summary of the results will be included as a note in the round-up section of the *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, in order to appropriately disseminate the findings.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Pegasus Group, for commissioning the archaeological mitigation works on behalf of JBM Solar Projects 17 Ltd. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of the Heritage Team at Gloucestershire County Council, who monitored the project for Tewkesbury Borough Council, and to Smiths Plant Hire for their cooperation and help on site.



Claydon Solar Farm, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire

Post-excavation Assessment

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Pegasus Group, on behalf of JBM Solar 17 Ltd, to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising the excavation of two areas covering a combined 0.88 hectares (ha). The works were centred on NGR 393547 230421 ('Area 1') and NGR 393729 230569 ('Area 2'), at Claydon Farm, Oxenton, Tewkesbury, GL52 8SD (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The development comprises the construction of a solar farm, battery storage facility and associated works, equipment and associated infrastructure. The overall development area comprises 77 ha.
- 1.1.3 A planning application (21/00259/FUL) submitted to Tewkesbury Borough Council, was granted on 17 December 2021, subject to conditions. The following condition relates to archaeology:
 - Condition 12. No development shall take place within the application site until the
 applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a
 programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of
 investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by
 the Local Planning Authority.
 - Reason: It is important to agree a programme of archaeological work in advance of the commencement of development, so as to make provision for the investigation and recording of any archaeological remains that may be destroyed by ground works required for the scheme. The archaeological programme will advance understanding of any heritage assets which will be lost.
- 1.1.4 The excavation was preceded by intrusive and non-intrusive archaeological works, including two geophysical surveys (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2014; Sumo Geophysics Ltd 2020), a heritage statement comprising a heritage statement and setting assessments (Pegasus Group 2020), and an archaeological evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2021).
- 1.1.5 Multiple areas of high archaeological potential identified by the geophysical surveys were located to the north and north-west of the areas considered within this report (Fig. 1; Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2014, Sumo Geophysics Ltd 2020). These areas were excluded from the scope of the evaluation and mitigation work as it is intended that above-ground foundations will be deployed for solar arrays in these locations.
- 1.1.6 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI), which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed for the fieldwork and the post-excavation work (Wessex Archaeology 2023). The Heritage Team at Gloucestershire County Council approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning



Authority (LPA), prior to the fieldwork. The excavation was undertaken 3 July-4 August 2023.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 This report provides the provisional results of the excavation, and the preceding evaluation, and assesses their potential to address the research aims outlined in the WSI, leading to dissemination of the archaeological results via summary publication and the curation of the archive.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The development area is located at Claydon Farm, approximately 2 km south of Ashchurch, in the Borough of Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. It lies across several arable and pasture fields, with a railway line abutting the western boundary. A public right of way extends east—west through the centre of the site (PROW number AAS32). A public footpath also extends north-west to south-east into the south-west section of the site (ASO24). The excavation areas are located in two arable fields in the south of the development site.
- 1.3.2 Existing ground levels in both areas are recorded as 30 m above Ordnance Datum (OD), rising gently in the east to 35 m OD.
- 1.3.3 The bedrock geology is Charmouth Mudstone formation, with no recorded superficial deposits (British Geological Survey 2023).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior heritage statement (Pegasus Group 2020) and summarised in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023). A summary is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced as appropriate.

2.2 Previous works related to the development

Geophysical survey (2014)

2.2.1 A geophysical survey of 30 ha in the east of the site was undertaken as part of a former planning application (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2014). An extensive complex of linear ditches, enclosures, ring ditches and pits suggestive of an Iron Age/Romano-British settlement were identified. It appeared the features had been truncated by historic and modern ploughing. No further intrusive works were undertaken in the area.

Geophysical survey (2020)

2.2.2 A geophysical survey conducted on the remaining 64 ha of the present site detected anomalies consistent with the results of the previous survey in 2014 (Sumo Geophysics Ltd 2020). The findings indicated that previously identified settlement continued across the present site, including conjoined ladder enclosures, a three-sided enclosure and an assortment of pits and linear features.

Archaeological evaluation (2021)

2.2.3 An archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2021 avoided the areas of high archaeological potential identified in the geophysical surveys in order to preserve the remains *in situ*. However, 12 of the 74 excavated trenches contained Iron Age and Romano-British



archaeological features that confirmed the results of the geophysical surveys and clarified the extent of the areas of high potential (Wessex Archaeology 2021). Additionally, the trenching results confirmed the remains of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow identified through geophysical surveys, LiDAR and historic mapping.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (870,000 BC-AD 43) and Romano-British (AD 43-AD410)

- 2.3.1 Iron Age and Romano-British activity was encountered immediately to the north and west of the north-west corner of the development site during an archaeological investigation undertaken prior to the installation of a water pipeline (HER ref. 33974). The remains included pits and ditches containing pottery and animal bone representing a small-scale settlement in use from the 1st to 4th centuries.
- 2.3.2 Additional Iron Age and Romano-British small scale-settlement was recorded 980 m southwest of the site (HER ref. 49549) during an archaeological evaluation. The settlement comprised at least four large enclosures and a series of pits.
 - Anglo-Saxon (AD 410–1066) and medieval (AD 1066–1500)
- 2.3.3 Although no Anglo-Saxon activity is recorded within 1 km of the area, the nearby villages of Fiddington and Tredington are recorded in the *Domesday* Survey of 1086 and are likely to have been established during the Late Anglo-Saxon period (HER refs 8789 and 6933). Earthworks recorded to the south of Fiddington (HER ref. 6339) and Tredington (HER refs 6933, 9477 and 5380) are thought to represent the remains of the medieval settlements that were subsequently abandoned.
 - Post-medieval (1500-1900)
- 2.3.4 Ridge and furrow has been identified across the area through geophysical survey and is visible on LiDAR imaging across the site. It is likely that by the post-medieval period the area formed part of the agricultural landscape of the parish of Ashchurch. Cartographic sources show that the area has comprised arable and pastoral farmland since the production of the Ashchurch parish tithe map in 1841. A small barn is recorded on the 1884 Ordnance Survey (OS) map in the west of the site, although it has since been demolished.
 - Modern (1901–present)
- 2.3.5 Besides the reorganisation of field boundaries between 1902 and 1969, no further changes to the use of the site are noted.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the excavation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023) and in compliance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Universal Guidance* (ClfA 2023a; 2023b; 2023c), were to:
 - examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives;
 - seek a better understanding of the resource;
 - compile a lasting record of the resource; and



analyse and interpret the results of the excavation and disseminate them.

3.2 Research objectives

- 3.2.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (Research Frameworks 2023), the research objectives of the excavation defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023) were to:
 - test the results of the geophysical survey (Archaeology Surveys Ltd 2014);
 - examine evidence for remains of the Iron Age and/or Romano-British settlement, identifying its extent and period of use;
 - address lack of understanding of key transitional periods;
 - improve understanding of non-villa Roman rural settlement;
 - examine evidence for remains of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow (known from historical maps and LiDAR) and assess if this has impacted the survival of earlier remains; and
 - tie in the excavation results with known archaeological sites in the locality, enhancing our understanding of the archaeological potential and historical development of the region.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). Updated documents were published by ClfA in December 2023, and have been considered in all work completed subsequently (ClfA 2023a; 2023b; 2023c) The post-excavation assessment and reporting also followed advice issued by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO 2015). The methods employed are summarised below.
- 4.1.2 The works comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of two areas (Areas 1 and 2) measuring 0.73ha and 1.5ha respectively (Fig. 1). Both excavation areas were defined based upon their archaeological potential indicated by the prior evaluation and geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2021, Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2014).

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The excavation areas were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the same position as that proposed in the WSI (Fig. 1). The topsoil/overburden was removed in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded in level spits until the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.
- 4.2.2 Where necessary, the surfaces of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation. A sample of natural features, such as tree-throw holes, was also investigated.



4.2.3 Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. A metal detector was also used. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.

Recording

- 4.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.
- 4.2.5 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

General

4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (ClfA 2014b), Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (English Heritage 2011) and ClfA's Toolkit for Specialist Reporting (Type 2: Appraisal).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 The Heritage Team at Gloucestershire County Council monitored the works on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Heritage Team at Gloucestershire County Council.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

Summary of archaeological features and deposits

- 5.1.1 Three main phases of activity were identified in Area 1, with the earliest remains dated to the Late Iron Age, and the majority of archaeological remains representing the Romano-British period. A subset of features were dated as either Late Iron Age or Romano-British. Recorded features included two ring ditches, a drip gully and an assortment of pits and ditches. Post-medieval and modern activity was limited to furrows, and four pits were undated.
- 5.1.2 The archaeological remains encountered in Area 2 were chiefly Late Iron Age or Romano-British, whilst others were undated. The activity in this area was characterised by a large penannular enclosure, two postholes and an assortment of pits.



5.1.3 The results of the excavation are presented below, organised by period and area. Figure 1 shows the location of all archaeological features, along with geophysical survey interpretations and the preceding evaluation results. Figures 2 and 3 provide phased plans that detail all archaeological features, along with the geophysical survey interpretations.

Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data

5.1.4 All hand written and drawn records from the excavation have been collated, checked for consistency and stratigraphic relationships. Key data has been transcribed into a database, which can be updated during any further analysis. Preliminary phasing of archaeological features and deposits was principally undertaken using stratigraphic relationships and the spot dating from artefacts, particularly pottery.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 A simple soil sequence was observed across both areas. In Areas 1 and 2, the geological substrate comprised a yellowish brown clay overlain by a light brown silty clay subsoil (0.22 m thick), which was in turn covered by a dark brown loamy topsoil (0.25 m thick).

5.3 Late Iron Age

Area 1

- 5.3.1 A curved ditch (1129: 10 m long, 1 m wide and 0.2–0.3 m deep) was located in the west of the area. The ditch contained two secondary deposits: a light brownish yellow silty clay capped by a brownish grey silty clay. An assemblage of fired clay, a possible spindle whorl, animal bone, flint and Late Iron Age pottery was recovered. The ditch corresponded to a geophysical anomaly interpreted as a ring ditch (Archaeological Surveys 2014, Fig. 2).
- 5.3.2 A group of three intercutting pits (1052, 1069 and 1074) located to the south-east of ditch 1129 also aligned with an anomaly identified as a ring ditch (Archaeological Surveys 2014, Fig. 2). Overall, the group was 3.5 m long, 0.4–1 m wide and 0.2–0.3 m deep. Pit 1069 was the earliest, having been cut by pit 1052 which was subsequently cut by pit 1074 (Figs 4 and 6). The pits contained similar deposits of greyish blue clay and an assemblage of animal bone, fired clay and Late Iron Age pottery. A fragment of an iron plate or a broken binding was also found within pit 1052.
- 5.3.3 It is likely that ditch 1129 constituted the northern section of a Late Iron Age ring ditch, with the intercutting pits representing the truncated remains of the southern section (Fig. 2). A possible continuation of this ring ditch (also aligned with the geophysical anomaly) was excavated in trench 51 as ditch 5109 during the evaluation stage (Fig. 2).

5.4 Late Iron Age or Romano-British

Area 1

5.4.1 A penannular ditch (1126: 11 m internal diameter, 0.6–1.65 m wide and 0.2–0.6 m deep) located in the centre of Area 1 corresponded to an anomaly identified during the geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys 2014, Fig. 2). It had a 6.3 m wide east facing entrance and contained two deposits. A primary fill of blue grey clay silt (0.1 m thick) was followed by a dark grey silty clay secondary deposit. The deposits contained an assemblage of animal bone, fired clay and Late Iron Age or Romano-British pottery. The ditch had been truncated by three furrows (Fig. 5). During the evaluation works, it had been excavated in trench 52 as ditch 5208. Posthole 1118 (0.4 m diameter and 0.2 m deep) situated 0.6 m north of ditch 1126 was likely related to it due to its proximity, although it contained no datable material.



- 5.4.2 Possible pit 1130 (4 m long, 1.6 m wide and 0.2 m deep) is considered related to ring ditch 1126, although it contained only animal bone. It was located 9 m to the east and continued the course of a ditch recorded in evaluation trench 52 (5204). The ditch (5204) and the pit aligned with a longer linear geophysical anomaly (Fig. 2) and are thought to represent the remains of this linear feature. A furrow had truncated the western side of the pit.
- 5.4.3 An east—west aligned ditch (1132: 5 m long, 1–1.2 m wide and 0.3–0.4 m deep) was in the east of Area 1 and corresponded to a geophysical anomaly. It was filled by a yellowish grey silty clay deposit that contained animal bone and Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age or Romano-British pottery. At its western end, a possible recut was visible along its southern side.
- 5.4.4 A lone pit (1122: >1.1 m long, 2.5 m wide and 0.2 m deep) extended from the northern limit of excavation. It contained a single secondary deposit of greyish brown clay with rare charcoal smudges. Animal bone and Late Iron Age or Romano-British pottery was found within it.
- 5.4.5 Pit 1042 (2 m long, 1.5 m wide and 0.3 m deep) contained two fills: a primary deposit of yellowish grey clay from which animal bone, fired clay and Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age or Romano-British pottery were recovered, followed by a secondary fill of dark brownish grey silty clay that contained animal bone and intrusive Romano-British pottery. The pit had been cut on its southern side by Romano-British drip gully 1131 (Fig 4).
- 5.4.6 Five undated features scattered across the area are considered to be either Late Iron Age or Romano-British in date due to their stratigraphic relationships, the assemblages of animal bone and fired clay they contained or their proximity to more chronologically secure features. The features comprised a ditch terminal and five pits and are described immediately below.
- 5.4.7 The ditch terminal (1086: 0.6 m wide and 0.15 m deep) extended 1.3 m from the western limit of excavation along a south-east to north-west alignment. It contained only animal bone and did not correspond to any geophysical anomalies.
- 5.4.8 A cluster of three pits (1063, 1065 and 1067: average 0.3 m diameter and 0.1 m deep) was located to the south of Late Iron Age ditch 1129. Pits 1065 and 1067 contained fired clay. A single pit (1019: 0.7 m long, 0.5 m wide and 0.15 m deep) was situated to the east of the cluster and south of Romano-British ditch 1127. It contained only animal bone. It was not possible to distinguish the date or purpose of the pits, although due to their proximity to the Late Iron Age and Romano-British ditches they are likely to be related to them in purpose.
- 5.4.9 The western side of pit 1006 (0.3 m wide and 0.4 m deep) had been cut by Romano-British drip gully 1131 (Fig. 4). Although the pit contained an assemblage of animal bone, it was only possible to date the feature as Romano-British or earlier, due to its stratigraphic relationship with gully 1131.

Area 2

5.4.10 A large penannular enclosure ditch (2037: 21 m diameter, 1.3–2.6 m wide and 0.8 m deep) with a west facing entrance (15 m wide) was located in the centre of Area 2 (Fig. 3). The ditch contained a sequence of three deposits, comprising a grey silty clay primary deposit, a grey clay secondary deposit and a yellowish brown clay tertiary deposit (Figs 7 and 8). An assemblage of Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age or Romano-British pottery, animal bone, fired clay and flint was recovered from the ditch. It had been excavated during the preceding



evaluation works as ditch 5804 and pit 5806 (trench 58), although it became apparent during this stage of works that they were a single feature.

5.4.11 A group of seven pits were situated close to the entrance of enclosure 2037. Five of the pits (2021, 2023, 2029, 2011 and 2019) likely represented the remnants of a fenceline that closed off the open side of the enclosure. Two outliers (2016 and 2004) were located in the south of the area, 5 m to the south-west. The pits were similar in size, ranging between 0.4–0.75 m in diameter and 0.1–0.2 m in depth. Most contained a similar grey brown silty clay deposit from which no finds were recovered, although pit 2004 contained a deposit of possibly burnt orangey grey silty clay. Pit 2016 was the only pit with a blue grey clay primary fill (Fig. 9).

5.5 Romano-British

Area 1

- 5.5.1 Fragments of an eaves drip gully (internal diameter 10 m) survived in the south-west of the area, comprised of three curvilinear gullies (1128, 1131 and 1133). The feature corresponded to a curvilinear anomaly identified during the geophysical survey as a possible ring ditch (Fig. 2). Two of the gullies, 1133 and 1131, were excavated during the evaluation as ditches 5106 and 5104, respectively.
- 5.5.2 Gully 1128 (8.3 m long, 0.5 m wide and 0.1–0.3 m deep) was the most northerly and contained only a single secondary deposit of greyish brown silty clay from which animal bone, fired clay and Roman pottery were recovered. The western gully, 1131 (Figs 10–12: 7.5 m long, 1.1–1.3 m wide and 0.3 m deep), contained a primary deposit of brownish yellow silty clay followed by a secondary deposit comprising greyish brown silty clay. The deposits contained an assemblage of animal bone, fired clay, and Late Iron Age and Romano-British pottery. The eastern side of gully 1131 (context 1008) cut pit 1006 (Fig. 4). The most southerly of the drip gullies (1133: 4 m long, 0.9 m wide and 0.35 m deep) contained two deposits: a yellowish grey silty clay that was capped by a greyish brown silty clay. The upper deposit contained fired clay, animal bone and Late Iron Age or Romano-British pottery.
- 5.5.3 Two oval pits (1040 and 1034) were located within the perimeter of the drip gully. The northerly pit, 1034 (1 m long, 0.4 m wide and 0.1 m deep) was filled by a single secondary deposit of dark blueish grey clay that contained Roman pottery and fired clay. Pit 1040 (1 m long, 0.5 m wide and 0.05 m deep) contained animal bone and Iron Age and Roman pottery.
- 5.5.4 Ditch 1127 (15 m long, 1.1–1.3 m wide and 0.3–0.5 m deep), roughly aligned north-west to south-east, with a slight bend to the south through its centre corresponded to a geophysical anomaly. It contained a single secondary deposit of blueish grey silty clay with occasional lenses of orange sand from which an assemblage of animal bone, fired clay, flint and Late Iron Age and Romano-British pottery was recovered (Fig. 13).

5.6 Post-medieval and modern

Area 1

5.6.1 Several medieval/post-medieval furrows (1114) crossed the area along a north-west to south-east alignment and truncated the majority of the surviving Late Iron Age and Romano-British features (Fig. 5). All furrows corresponded to geophysical anomalies (Archaeological Surveys 2014, Fig. 2).

Area 2

5.6.2 A single pit close to the western limit of excavation represented post-medieval/modern activity in Area 2. The pit (2006: 1.35 m long, 1.1 m wide and 0.1 m deep) was subcircular,



with a flat base and straight moderately steep sides. It contained an iron nail and modern pottery.

5.7 Undated

Area 1

5.7.1 Four undated pits were scattered across the area (Fig. 2). Three (1032, 1036 and 1124) were concentrated in the south-west of the area, close to the limit of excavation whilst the fourth (1120; Fig. 14) was in the north of the area. The pits were subcircular, with rounded sides and bases. They were of similar sizes and ranged between 0.6–0.75 m long, 0.45–0.65 m wide and 0.1–0.25 m deep. All contained secondary deposits of brown silty clay.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This assessment considers the combined assemblage from the evaluation and mitigation excavation stages of work. A total of 14.4 kg of finds, dating from the later prehistoric to the modern periods, were collected by hand and extracted from the residues of the environmental samples. The majority are of later Iron Age to Romano-British date. With the exception of the metalwork, the finds have been cleaned and quantified by material type within each context (Table 1), with the data recorded in a digital database which forms part of the permanent archive. The reporting undertaken as part of this assessment conforms to the level of ClfA's Toolkit for Specialist Reporting (ClfA 2022a) Type 2, Appraisal, which aims to characterise the finds assemblage, with specific reference to dating where possible.

Table 1 Summary of finds by material type (count and weight shown)

	E	Evaluation	S	SMS area	Total		
Material	count	weight (g)	count	weight (g)	count	weight	
Animal bone	165	1,774	764	4,842	929	6,616	
Burnt flint	-	-	1	2	1	2	
СВМ	22	1,028	-	-	22	1,028	
Clay pipe	1	3	-	-	1	3	
Fired clay	83	2,101	109	2,048	192	4,149	
Flint	-	-	5	26	5	26	
Fossil	1	28	-	-	1	28	
Iron	3	72	4	18	7	90	
Pottery	161	1,205	138	1,113	299	2,318	
Slag	24	99	-	-	24	99	
Stone	-	-	1	12	1	12	
Total	460	6,310	1,022	8,061	1482	14,371	

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 The pottery assemblage has been recorded according to the nationally accepted guidelines (Barclay *et. al* 2016, section 2.4.6) with the data added into a digital database, which will form part of the permanent archive. Sherds were assigned to fabrics based on the dominant inclusions present, or to known ware type (e.g., Severn Valley ware). These have been cross-referenced with the Gloucestershire Pottery Fabric Type Series and quantified by sherd count and weight (in grammes) within each context. This information is summarised in Table 2. Featured sherds were assigned a form type referencing standard corpora where



appropriate (e.g., Booth 2016) and variables such as rim morphology and percentage, decoration, and any evidence for use (residues, sooting etc) were recorded.

Table 2 Pottery by period and fabric/ware type

Period	Ware	Ware code	Count	Weight (g)
Later Middle Iron	Shell-tempered ware	-	91	754
Age to Late Iron Age/Early Romano- British	Malvernian coarseware	TF19	45	268
	Calcareous ware		30	104
	Grog-tempered ware	-	27	92
	Coarse sandy ware	TF35	13	63
Romano-British	Severn Valley ware	TF118	58	706
	Black Burnished ware	TF4	16	79
	Reduced sandy coarsewares	TF39?	6	28
	Reduced Severn Valley ware	TF11C	4	84
	Greyware	TF200	2	25
	Whiteware	TF1A	1	11
Medieval	Malvernian glazed ware	TF52	3	8
Post-medieval	Staffs-type slipware	TF58	2	41
Modern	Transfer-printed ware	TF71	1	55
Total			299	2318

- 6.2.2 The condition of the pottery assemblage is variable, with a high proportion of sherds exhibiting edge wear and abrasions reflected in a mean sherd weight of just 8 g. The majority consist of body fragments, with only 16 small rim sherds none representing more than 16% of the original diameter (total EVE = 0.8 vessels), and five base sherds present.
- 6.2.3 Precise dating is further limited by the longevity of many of the fabrics; in this area, many of the locally made wares remained current from the later Middle Iron Age into the 2nd century AD (Timby 2003, 31), with very little typological change even when diagnostic sherds are present. Here, they are treated as a single group (Table 2) and derived from 23 features across the site, with the largest groups from ditches 2037 (14 sherds, 75 g), and 5084 (25 sherds, 102 g), pits 1042, 1052, 1069 and 5806 (12, 8, 19 and 34 sherds, 79 g, 74 g, 207 g and 282 g respectively) as well as ring ditch 1126 (10 sherds, 49 g) and 1133 (7 sherds, 32 g). The ten rims derive mainly from jars, and include one from a handmade, slack-sided jar and another from a vessel with a beaded rim and stamped chequerboard decoration, both in grog-tempered fabrics and from pit 5806 (Fig. 15). Similar vessels occur at Bourton-onthe-Water (McSloy, 2021, fig. 4.5) and, without the decoration, from Emersons Green (Young 2021, fig 6.1. 1-2), dated to the later Middle Iron Age. A shell-tempered beaded rim (ditch 1133), a flat topped, internally bevelled rim (also shell-tempered and from ditch 1131), as well as five slightly everted rims from small jars (three in shell-tempered fabrics from pit 1042, one in grog-tempered ware (ditch 2037) and one in a calcareous fabric (subsoil 3402) are similar to forms of later Iron Age or early Roman date (Leach, 1993, 219-49 and Timby, 2004, 90-108). The only form recognisable amongst the Malvernian wares is a vessel with a slightly upright beaded rim, represented by 22 sherds (66 g) also found in subsoil context 3402.
- 6.2.4 The Romano-British assemblage mainly consists of local Severn Valley and Gloucestershire greywares, although at least some of the Malvernian coarsewares are likely to extend into this period. The majority are undiagnostic body sherds, possibly from jars and cooking pots, although the Severn Valley wares also include the side and upper portion of a tankard (ditch 3604 and land drain 7408) and rims from everted rim jars (pits 1040, 3504).



and ditch 3604). The South-east Dorset Black-Burnished sherds (ditches 2413, 7406, group 1128 and pit 7404) all derive from jar forms and represent longer distance trade, while a whiteware base sherd probably from a bowl, is likely to be from the major industry in south Oxfordshire.

6.2.5 The medieval Malvernian glazed ware sherds derive from jugs and were found in furrow 2717 and the topsoil (1001). An 18th-century Staffordshire slipware dish fragment also came from the topsoil, while a rim from a large transfer-printed ware serving plate was recovered from pit 2006.

6.3 Fired clay

- 6.3.1 Most of the assemblage (Table 1) comprises undiagnostic pieces with, at most, one flattish or convex surface. These are made in an oxidised sandy fabric with an assortment of inclusions, ranging from grog and mudstone to fossil shell and other calcareous materials including limestone. The fabrics are broadly comparable with those of Malvernian origin described by Evans (2018, 48) and Poole (2016, 115).
- 6.3.2 A number of larger fragments from ring ditch 1133 have sooted surfaces, suggesting they may have derived from oven linings. Two perforated triangular object fragments were present in pits 5806 and 2037; such objects are traditionally associated with weaving, but more recent considerations indicate that these items are far more likely to have been utilised as hearth or oven furniture (Poole 1995, 285–6). It would seem reasonable to suggest that the fired clay assemblage from both later Iron Age and Romano-British contexts derives entirely from dismantled ovens.

6.4 Ceramic building material

6.4.1 The three earliest fragments are from Romano-British Malvernian *tegula* roof tiles found in furrow 1708 and the subsoil (4002), where one of the pieces has part of a three-finger smeared signature surviving (Fig. 16). The remainder of the assemblage consists of post-medieval and modern brick fragments recovered from ditch 3104, furrows 2104 and 3006, and modern track 1803.

6.5 Clay tobacco pipe

6.5.1 A single plain stem from a clay tobacco pipe came from ditch 3104 and dates to the post-medieval or early modern period.

6.6 Ironwork

6.6.1 Part of the corner of an iron plate or a broken binding was found in pit 1052 where the associated pottery (eight sherds, 74 g) is all of Iron Age date. A large nail and a staple, both of post-medieval or modern style and date, were recovered from the topsoil of trenches 34 and 36, while nails/nail fragments of similar date came from pit 2006 and land drain 7408.

6.7 Slag

6.7.1 A small quantity of fuel ash slag (24 pieces, 99g) was recovered from ditches 3306, 3313 and 5204.

6.8 Fossil

6.8.1 A well-preserved section from the body chamber of an a Cretaceous (66–145 million years ago) ammonite was recovered from ditch 3607. The fossilised fragment has mineralised in an iron-rich mudstone exhibiting numerous burrowing chambers. These are filled with a



mineralised white sandy silt, suggesting invasion by burrowing marine organisms once on the seabed but prior to fossilisation.

6.9 Flint

- 6.9.1 Five pieces of worked flint were recovered, one collected as an unstratified find from the topsoil and four from ditches of probable Late Iron Age/Romano-British date. Flint is not readily available locally but does form a small component of the regional Quaternary drift geology; this may subsequently have been reworked into some of the tributaries of the River Severn within the area of the site. The pieces all suffer from some degree of edge damage, and two are iron stained and lightly patinated, all characteristics of material reworked in surface deposits and/or redeposited into features of later date.
- 6.9.2 Three pieces (from ditches 1127, 1129 and 2037) are small undiagnostic flakes which have been detached with a hard (stone) hammer. A blade from the topsoil has been produced at an early stage of core reduction and retains no features indicating it is the result of a purposeful blade technology. A medial blade segment (ON 2) from ditch 2037 appears more likely to represent such a blade technology, but this too lacks the features allowing this to be stated with confidence. None of these objects can be dated with any certainty; blade technologies are not a feature of industries post-dating the Neolithic period, but the uncertainty regarding the examples here means that only a broad, earlier prehistoric date can be suggested.
- 6.9.3 A single piece of burnt unworked flint was recovered from a deposit of waste material dumped into ditch 1133. Burnt flint is an intrinsically undiagnostic material but is often taken as evidence for prehistoric activity wherein it might be generated from use as an indirect source of heating water or food or used as temper in pottery production.

6.10 Stone

6.10.1 A single piece of worked stone (12 g) was recovered from ditch 1049 (group 1129). This is a small (32 x 22 mm), flattish piece of coarse sandstone with evidence for a slightly oblique perforation surviving on one edge. It appears to be the corner of a square or rectangular object, with the perforation probably originally located at the centre, but the material is prone to degradation and these features may be misleading. The purpose of this object remains uncertain, but it is perhaps most likely to be a fragment of a spindle whorl (Fig. 17).

6.11 Animal bone

- 6.11.1 The animal bone assemblage is quantified in Table 1 and includes both hand-collected and sieved material. This report focuses on the material recovered from Areas 1 and 2 of the mitigation but also references the animal bones recovered from the earlier evaluation.
- 6.11.2 The bones are in reasonable condition but highly fragmented with some weathering to cortical surfaces and the additional problem of surface concreted sediment adhering to some specimens. This has impacted on the number of identified elements. Indeed, once refits are considered the total count is reduced to 510 fragments (Table 3). Canid gnaw marks were noted on just ten post-cranial elements. This low count reflects the rarity of domestic carnivores in the assemblage but also the general condition of many bones.



Table 3 Animal bone: number of identified specimens present (or NISP) in mitigation assemblage by phase

Species	Late Iron Age/ early Romano-British	Romano- British	Undated/ unstratified	Total
Cattle	22	17	2	41
Sheep/goat	9	11	1	21
Pig	7	5	-	12
Horse	13	5	-	18
Dog	1	1	-	2
Total identified	52	39	3	94
Total unidentifiable	273	141	2	416
Overall total	325	180	5	510

Late Iron Age/early Romano-British

- 6.11.3 Most of the animal bones came from broadly dated features in both areas. These include eight pits, three linear and two ring ditches. No large concentrations were found, but the biggest groups came from pit 1042 and ring ditches 1126 and 2037. The identified bones are mostly from cattle and include a range of body parts from different areas of the carcass. A few of the cattle bones show evidence of butchery in the form of chop marks.
- 6.11.4 Horse bones are also relatively common and include groups of loose teeth from three separate jaws, two of which include the canine teeth, which are usually present in male horse but not mares. Several post-cranial elements were also recovered, including a pelvis from ditch 1132. In addition, the assemblage also includes small numbers of sheep/goat and pig bones, and a dog mandible, the latter from ditch 1132.

Romano-British

- 6.11.5 A small number of animal bones came from a few ditches, a ring ditch and a pit of Romano-British date in Area 1. Again, no particularly large concentrations of bone were noted; however, the main groups came from ditch 1127 and a potential roundhouse structure formed by ring ditch segments 1128, 1131 and 1133. Most of the identified bones are from cattle, followed by sheep/goat, and then a small range of other domestic species (Table 3).
- 6.11.6 Most deposits contained mixed waste from different processes, including primary butchery and consumption (see O'Connor 1993). This evidence indicates that livestock carcasses were processed within the settlement and the meat distributed locally. No butchery marks are present; however, this type of evidence is difficult to determine on fragmented bones with poor surface preservation.
- 6.11.7 The horse bones, which are from ditch 1127 and ring ditch segment 1131, include several small groups of loose teeth from upper and lower jaws, as well as two post-cranial bones. In addition, a dog mandible came from ring ditch segment 1131.

Undated and unstratified

6.11.8 A fragment of cattle-sized long bone shaft came from the topsoil and four further pieces of bone from a patch of root disturbed natural in Area 1. The bones from the bioturbated area include part of a cattle skull and metatarsal, as well as a sheep/goat radius.



6.12 Conservation

6.12.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field, but subsequent examination has identified some of the iron items are starting to laminate and fracture. The objects are stored with a desiccant (silica gel) to ensure a dry environment below 35% relative humidity and their condition is frequently monitored but, given the nature and date range of the objects themselves, no further conservation treatment is considered necessary. The iron has already been X-radiographed to provide a basic archive record of these unstable material types and as an aid to identification.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Four bulk sediment samples were taken from Late Iron Age, Romano-British and undated features, these comprised pits, a ring ditch and a posthole. These were processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence. Charcoal and charred plant remains recovered from the samples have been assessed.

7.2 Aims and methods

7.2.1 The aim of this assessment is to determine the nature and significance of the environmental remains preserved at the site and their potential to address the project aims. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with Historic England's guidelines as described in *Environmental Archaeology: a Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

Bulk samples

- 7.2.2 The size of the bulk sediment samples varied between 8 and 87 litres, with an average volume of 13 litres. Some of the samples were pre-soaked in a solution of water and hydrogen peroxide to help break up the clay-rich sediment. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank. The flots were retained on a 0.25 mm mesh. The residues were retained on a 1 mm mesh and were split into coarse (>4 mm) and fine (1–4 mm) residue fractions. The coarse residue fractions (>4 mm) were sorted by eye for artefactual and environmental remains. The environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots.
- 7.2.3 The fine residue fractions and the flots were scanned and sorted using a stereomicroscope at up to 40x magnification for uncharred and charred botanical remains, wood charcoal and wood remains, as well as other environmental and artefactual material (e.g., insects/invertebrates, molluscs, etc.). The presence of recent and/or intrusive material was noted in the samples, including modern roots, modern seeds, mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia, earthworm eggs and shells of burrowing blind snails (*Cecilioides acicula*).
- 7.2.4 Plant macroremains were identified through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006). Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereal remains and other cultivated crops (using traditional names). Additional habitat information has been taken from Stroh *et al.* (2023). For simplicity, the term 'seed' is used to refer to different types of plant macroremains (e.g., achene, fruit etc.).
- 7.2.5 Remains were recorded semi-quantitatively on an abundance scale: C = <5 ('Trace'), B = 5-10 ('Rare'), A = 10-30 ('Occasional'), $A^* = 30-100$ ('Frequent'), $A^{**} = 100-500$ ('Common'), $A^{***} = >500$ ('Abundant').



7.3 Results

- 7.3.1 The results are presented in Appendix 1. The flots from the bulk sediment samples were generally small. Potential indicators of bioturbation are present, indicating the possibility of contamination from later intrusive material (e.g., abundant modern roots, modern/uncharred seeds, modern insects).
- 7.3.2 Three samples were taken in Area 1, from features including a Late Iron Age or Romano-British pit (pit 1042), a likely Late Iron Age or Romano-British posthole (posthole 1118), and a Romano-British ring ditch (ditch 1016, group 1133). A single sample was taken from an undated pit (pit 2004) in Area 2.
- 7.3.3 The samples produced small quantities of poorly preserved wood charcoal. Charred plant remains include only a single Vicieae seed from undated pit 2004, which is also preserved in poor condition. No other environmental evidence was preserved in the bulk sediment samples.

8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

8.1 Stratigraphic potential

- 8.1.1 The archaeological sequence identified across Areas 1 and 2 was relatively simple and mostly comprised discrete features cut into the geological substrate.
- 8.1.2 Two main phases of activity were recorded across the site, and relationships between intersecting features were well understood. Sustained use of the area between the Late Iron Age and the Romano-British periods was apparent, given the positioning of the Romano-British drip gully (1128, 1131, 1133) overlapping with the Late Iron Age ring ditch (1129, 1052, 1069, 1074).
- 8.1.3 Post-medieval/modern agricultural practices had truncated most earlier features.
- 8.1.4 Undated features comprised five pits which contained no dateable material and possess little potential for further analysis.
- 8.1.5 The stratigraphic information recorded in the site archive provides no further potential to clarify the chronology of the archaeological remains. The archaeological sequence has been established as far as possible and is well understood overall, therefore no further analysis is recommended.

8.2 Finds potential

- 8.2.1 The flint assemblage has some significance in that it represents the earliest evidence for activity at the site, particularly given the apparent lack of evidence for earlier prehistoric activity in the local area. It is, however, a small, poorly stratified group without any diagnostic pieces and as such, it has little potential to provide information beyond that already recorded.
- 8.2.2 Most of the finds span the period from the Middle–Late Iron Age to earlier Romano-British period (c. 200/150 BC to AD 200), with a small amount of medieval to modern material. They are entirely consistent with the expected range for the area, and there are no intrinsically interesting objects. The pottery has provided a basic chronological framework for the site but, regrettably, very few diagnostic sherds were recovered, so precise dating is difficult, limiting the further research potential. The few diagnostic fragments of fired clay suggest the assemblage is related to dismantled domestic ovens/hearths, while the stone



object may provide some evidence for textile manufacture. The two small fragments from Malvernian *tegula* roof tile were recovered as residual pieces in later contexts and may have been brought to the area at any time; they are certainly too small to indicate any substantial Romanised structures with tile roofs in the immediate vicinity.

8.2.3 The small assemblage of animal bone which includes a total of just 94 identified bones, also offers only limited potential for more detailed analysis. The bones are fragmented with poor surface preservation, and consequently little detailed information relating to mortality profiles, carcass processing and the size and shape of livestock, is available for further consideration (Table 4).

Table 4 Animal bone: quantity and type of detailed information available for whole assemblage

Type of information	Evaluation	Excavation	Total
Age – fusion	10	15	25
Age – mandibles 2+ teeth	1	1	2
Butchery	2	1	3
Biometric	5	9	14

8.2.4 The small quantities of medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery, brick, clay tobacco pipe and iron nails probably derive from the practice of manuring arable land with domestic waste. They have no further potential to contribute to the understanding of site activity.

8.3 Environmental potential

- 8.3.1 Given the overall lack of environmental evidence in the samples, little can be said about significance of, or the formation processes that affected, the material recovered from ditch 1016, pits 1042 and 2004, or posthole 1118. The single Vicieae retrieved from pit 2004 is not diagnostic of any particular time period or activity.
- 8.3.2 No further analysis is required for these samples due to the low numbers and poor preservation of charred plant remains. The charcoal assemblage is of limited interpretative value.

8.4 Summary of potential

- 8.4.1 The project overall (particularly the geophysical survey) has revealed the organisation of the landscape during the Late Iron Age and the Romano-British periods. Most notably, the identification of a settlement located within the unexcavated areas of high potential, to the north and north-west of the excavation areas. The contribution of these findings is limited however, due to the size of Areas 1 and 2, their location at the furthest extents of the areas of high potential, and the resulting low number of features encountered there.
- 8.4.2 The results are of a local importance and contribute to the further understanding of Late Iron Age and Romano-British activity in the area. These findings are fully in keeping with wider patterns of rural settlement and agricultural activity recorded at Ashchurch (3 km north), Wheatpieces (3 km west), Fiddington (3 km north-west), and land to the south-east of Tewkesbury (4 km north-west); where activity of this period is characterised by rectilinear field systems, penannular enclosures, drip gullies, ring ditches and trackways similar to those revealed at the present site (Cotswold Archaeology 2013; 2012; Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service 2008; Headland Archaeology 2018; 2019, Oxford Archaeology 2019; Oxford Archaeological Unit 1992; Stratascan 2013; Walker *et al.* 2004; Wessex Archaeology 2022).



- 8.4.3 The majority of the aims and objectives set out in section 3 have been met:
 - the results of the geophysical survey (Archaeology Surveys Ltd 2014) have been tested,
 - the extent and period of use of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement has been examined so far as the usually imprecise dating evidence allows,
 - and it has been established that the ridge and furrow activity has impacted the survival of earlier remains.
 - The results have been found to conform to the patterns of known archaeological sites in the locality, and have contributed to our understanding of archaeological activity in these periods.
- 8.4.4 However, because of the nature of the excavated remains, it has not been possible to make a meaningful contribution to two of the site-specific objectives:
 - address lack of understanding of key transitional periods, and
 - improve understanding of non-villa Roman rural settlement.
- 8.4.5 The finds assemblage has been recorded to a sufficient level for archive purposes. No further analytical work is required, but a summary of this assessment placed in a broader context with reference to other relevant local/regional assemblages should be included in any further dissemination of the results.
- 8.4.6 The overall results have little potential to usefully contribute the published regional research objectives (Research Frameworks 2023) and do not merit formal publication. No further analysis is recommended. This report should be considered the final report and will be uploaded via the OASIS portal to the Archaeology Data Service and the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record.
- 8.4.7 In order to disseminate the findings, the results will be included as a note in the round-up section of the *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* annual journal. To ensure the results of the overall project are appropriately represented, the journal note will include a summary of the excavation results and the areas of archaeological potential identified during geophysical survey to the north and north-east of the excavation areas.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the excavation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury and Bristol. Tewkesbury Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **21/00259/FUL**. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.



9.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

- 9.2.1 The physical archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Tewkesbury Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; ClfA 2014c; SMA 1995).
- 9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
 - five cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
 - two files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics

Digital archive

9.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

9.3 Selection strategy

- 9.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.
- 9.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy: available on request) and follows ClfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives* (ClfA 2022b). It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.
- 9.3.3 Detailed selection proposals for the complete project archive (combining evaluation and excavation), comprising finds, environmental material and site records (analogue and digital), are made in the site-specific selection strategy (Appendix 2).

9.4 Security copy

9.4.1 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.



9.5 OASIS

9.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (http://oasis.ac.uk) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 3). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Heritage Team at Gloucestershire County Council on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

- 10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.
- 10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER), where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

10.2 Third party data copyright

10.2.1 This document and the project archive 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 Wessex Archaeology 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. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.



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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Assessment of the environmental evidence

Key: C = <5, B = 5–10. Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), I = insects. Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs.

Area	Phase	Feature type	Feature	Context	Sample code	Sample vol. (I)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Charred Ooher	Charred other notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Other	Preservation	Analysis recommendations
1	Late Iron Age (100 BC to AD 43)	Pit	1042	1044	244851_1	10	18	5% modern roots, modern seeds C	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-
1	Romano- British (AD 43 to 410)	Ring Ditch	1016	1017	244851_2	27	20	90% modern roots, modern seeds B, I,	-	-	-	-	-	<1	-	-	-
1	Late Iron Age or Romano- British (100 BC to AD 410)	Post hole	1118	1119	244851_3	8	10	30% modern roots,	-	-	-	-	-	1	Moll- T	-	-
4	Undated	Pit	2004	2005	244851_4	8	4	60% modern roots, modern seeds B	-	-	-	С	Vicieae	1	-	Poor	-



Appendix 2 Selection strategy

244851

Claydon Solar Farm, Tewkesbury – Archaeological Excavation

version 1 (02/05/2023)

Selection Strategy

Project Information							
Project Management	Project Management						
Project Manager	Bruce Eaton						
Archaeological Archive Manager(s)	Jessica Irwin						
Organisation	Wessex Archaeology (WA)						
Stakeholders		Date Contacted					
Collecting Institution(s)	Tewkesbury Museum (Ian Bartlett) Archaeology Data Service						
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Lead: TBC Assurance: Bruce Eaton	N/A					
Landowner / Developer	JBM Solar Projects 17 Ltd						
Other (external)	External finds & environmental specialists (TBC if needed) Heritage Team Leader for Gloucestershire (Toby Catchpole)						
Other (internal)	WA Finds Manager (Rachael Seager Smith) WA Environmental Manager (Sander Aerts) WA Geomatics & BIM Manager (Chris Breedon) WA internal finds & environmental specialists (see WSI)	N/A; briefed as part of standard project process					
Resources							
Resources required	WA Finds and Environmental specialists; external finds and environmental specialists (TBC if needed); WA archives team						

Context

This overarching selection strategy document is based on the ClfA Archives Selection Toolkit (2019) and relates to archaeological project work being undertaken by Wessex Archaeology as defined in the WSIs.

Relevant standards, policies and guidelines consulted include: General

- Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections (Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1993)
- Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (AAF, revised edition 2011, section 4)
- GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARCHIVE STANDARDS: A Countywide Standard for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives in Gloucestershire (version 1b: 1st January 2018)

Relevant research agendas

- South West Archaeological Research Framework Resource Assessment & Research Agenda (Webster 2007)
- South West Archaeological Research Framework Research Strategy (Croft & Grove 2012)

Finds

- Standard Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation & research of archaeological materials (CIFA, 2014)
- A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman Pottery, Medieval Pottery Research Group 2016)

Environmental

- Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory, Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (English Heritage 2011)
- Geoarchaeology: Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record (Historic England 2015)
- Guidelines for the Curation of Waterlogged Macroscopic Plant and Invertebrate Remains (English Heritage 2008)
- Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recording, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood (English Heritage 2010)
- Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation (Historic England 2018)

Research objectives of the project

Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (Grove & Croft 2012), the research objectives of the excavation are to:

- test the results of the geophysical survey (Archaeology Surveys Ltd 2014);
- examine evidence for remains of the Iron Age and/or Romano-British settlement, identifying its extent and period of use;
- address lack of understanding of key transitional periods;
- improve understanding of non-villa Roman rural settlement;
- examine evidence for remains of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow (known from historical maps and LiDAR) and assess if this has impacted the survival of earlier remains; and

• tie in the excavation results with known archaeological sites in the locality, enhancing our understanding of the archaeological potential and historical development of the region.

REVIEW POINTS

Consultation with all Stakeholders regarding project-specific selection decisions will be undertaken at a maximum of three project review points:

- 1. Data gathering: on site, if any unforeseen discovery necessitates an amendment to the proposed collection strategy, or if adjustments are made to any sampling strategy
- 2. End of data gathering (assessment stage)
- 3. Archive compilation

1 - Digital Data

Stakeholders

WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; WA Geomatics & BIM Manager; Tewkesbury Museum (Ian Bartlett); Heritage Team Leader for Gloucestershire (Toby Catchpole); ADS

Selection

Location of Data Management Plan (DMP)

This document is designed to link to the project Data Management Plan (DMP), which can be supplied on request.

To promote long-term future reuse deposition file formats will be of archival standard, open source and accessible in nature following national guidance from ADS 2013, ClfA 2014c and the requirements of the digital repository.

Any sensitive data to be handled according to Wessex Archaeology data policy to ensure it is stored and transferred securely. The identity of individuals will be protected in line with GDPR. If required, data will be anonymised and redacted. Selection and retention of sensitive data for archival purposes will occur in consultation with the client and relevant stakeholders. Confidential data will not be selected for archiving and will be handled as per contractual obligation.

Document type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Site records	Most records will be completed digitally on site (with the exception of registers). All will be selected for deposition.	2
Reports	To include WSIs, Interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports. Final versions only will be selected for deposition.	1, 2
Specialist reports	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with only minimal editing (reformatting, etc), and will be selected only if the	1, 2

	original differs significantly from the incorporated version.	
Photographic media (site recording)	Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; pre-excavation images may not be selected where duplicated by post-excavation shots; working shots will be very rigorously selected to include only good quality images with potential for reuse and those integral to understanding features, their interrelationships and location on site; site condition and reinstatement photos will not be selected.	1, 2
Survey data	Site survey data will be used to generate CAD/GIS files for use in post-excavation activities. Shapefiles of both the original tidied survey data, and the final phased drawings will be selected.	1, 2
Databases and spreadsheets	Context, finds and environmental data in linked databases. Final versions will be selected. Any specialist data submitted separately will also be selected.	1, 2
Administrative records	Includes invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, email correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	2

De-Selected Digital Data

De-selected data will be stored on WA secured servers on offsite storage locations. The WA IT department has a backup strategy and policies that involves daily, weekly and monthly and annual backups of data as stated in the DMP. This strategy is non-migratory, and original files will be held at WA under their unique project identifier, as long as they remain useful and usable in their final version format. This data may also be used for teaching or reference collections by the museum, or by WA unless otherwise required by contractual or copyright obligations.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

2 - Documents

Stakeholders

WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; Tewkesbury Museum (Ian Bartlett); Heritage Team Leader for Gloucestershire (Toby Catchpole)

Selection

A security copy of all paper/drawn records is a requirement of ClfA guidelines. This will be prepared on completion of the project, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. If the security copy is not required for deposition by Stakeholders, it will be retained on backed-up servers belonging to Wessex Archaeology.

Note that some information may be redacted to comply with GDPR legislation (personal data).

Document type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Site records	Selected records only will be completed in hard copy on site (registers, some graphics). All will be selected for deposition.	2
Reports	Hard copies of all reports (SSWSIs, Interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports). All will be selected for deposition, with the exception of earlier versions of reports which have been clearly superseded.	1, 2
Specialist reports & data	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with no significant editing. Supporting data is more likely to be included in the digital archive, but if supplied in hard copy and not incorporated elsewhere, this will be selected.	1, 2
Photographic media	X-radiographic plates: all will be selected.	2
Secondary sources	Hard copies of secondary sources will not be selected.	2
Working notes	Rough working notes, annotated plans, preliminary versions of matrices etc, will not be selected.	2
Administrative records	Invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, hard copy correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any hard copy correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	2

De-Selected Documents

De-selected sensitive analogue data will be destroyed (shredded) subject to final checking by the WA Archives team with the remainder recycled. Possible exceptions include records retained for business purposes, including promotional material, teaching and internal WA library copies of reports.

Amendments					
Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders		

3 - Materials

Material type	Artefacts (bulk and registered finds)	Section 3.	3.1

Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Finds Manager; WA internal specialists; external specialists (TBC if needed); Tewkesbury Museum (Ian Bartlett); Heritage Team Leader for Gloucestershire (Toby Catchpole); landowner

Selection

Note that human remains are not included in this selection strategy; their recovery and subsequent treatment and curation will be governed by a Ministry of Justice licence(s).

Throughout the following section, 'stratified' is taken to include topsoil deposits, while 'unstratified' indicates anything completely separated from context eg spoilheap finds, or surface finds other than those directly associated with underlying features.

Find Type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Animal bone	(929 fragments): mostly of Late Iron Age/early Romano-British date, limited future potential but of some local interest. Retain all from securely dated contexts, discard undated/unstratified elements	1, 2
Burnt (unworked) flint	(1 piece): intrinsically undatable material type; no further research potential; already discarded	1, 2
Ceramic building material	(22 fragments): highly fragmented, common types. Limited research potential but the three Romano-British are of some local interest. Retain these, discarding all post-medieval and modern fragments	1, 2
Clay tobacco pipes	(1 piece): plain stem fragment; undiagnostic and only broadly datable. Discard	1, 2
Fired clay	(192 pieces): largely undiagnostic fragments of oven/hearth lining in a range of local Malvernian fabrics. Retain only the larger fragments from ring ditch 1133 and the possible perforated triangular object pieces from pits 5806 and 2037	1, 2
Flint	(5 pieces): a small, poorly stratified group without any diagnostic pieces, but the earliest evidence for activity at the site so of some local interest. Retain all.	
Fossil	(1 piece) well-preserved but fragmentary ammonite, no direct relevance to human activity	1, 2

	on site. Discard.	
Metalworking residues	Slag (24 pieces): small, undiagnostic assemblage from Romano-British features; no further research potential; discard	2, 3
Pottery	(299 sherds): highly fragmented with just 21 diagnostic sherds (16 rims; 5 bases) present, so of limited further research potential. Later prehistoric to early Romano-British sherds and medieval sherds of some local interest; retain. Postmedieval/modern pieces can be discarded	2, 3
Stone, portable objects	(1 piece): perforated fragment, possible a spindle whole. Of some local interest; retain	2, 3

Uncollected Material

Finds which fall outside the categories proposed for on-site collection will not normally be recorded beyond a general comment on site recording sheets on the presence and nature of large concentrations (eg building materials, modern debris), but if specific sampling strategies are employed to deal with, for example, production waste, then a more accurate guide to the actual size of the parent assemblage (and thus the sample percentage) will be given.

Any uncollected material will be left *in situ* or (if collected and then de-selected), re-incorporated into the site.

De-Selected Material

Consideration will be given to the suitability for use for handling or teaching collections by the museum or Wessex Archaeology, or whether they are of particular interest to the local community. De-selected material will either be returned to the landowner or disposed of. All will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 - Materials

Material type	Palaeoenvironmental material	Section 3.	3.2

Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Environmental Officer; WA internal specialists; external specialists (TBC if needed); Tewkesbury Museum (Ian Bartlett); Heritage Team Leader for Gloucestershire (Toby Catchpole)

Selection

All contexts suitable for environmental sampling will be considered for sampling. All environmental sampling will be undertaken following Wessex Archaeology's in-house guidance, which adheres to the principles outlined in Historic England's guidance (English Heritage 2011 and Historic England 2015a) and as stated in relevant WSI.

Env Material Type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Unprocessed samples	All samples have been processed	1, 2
Assessed flots with no extracted materials	Assessed flots with no extracted materials are considered to be devoid of any significant environmental evidence and will be de-selected. All residues have been sorted and discarded.	1, 2

De-Selected Material

De-selected material from samples will be disposed of after processing and post-excavation recording. All processed material will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before deselection.

Amendments			
Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders



Appendix 3 OASIS summary

OASIS ID (UID): wessexar1-413698

Project Name: Claydon Solar Farm, Tewkesbury - Archaeological Evaluation

Activity type: EVALUATION, Excavation Project Identifier(s): 244850, 244852, 244851

Planning Id: [no data]

Reason for Investigation: Planning requirement

Organisation Responsible for work: Wessex Archaeology

Project Dates: 29-Mar-2021 - 04-Aug-2023

HER: Gloucestershire HER

Project Methodology: Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Pegasus Group, on behalf of JBM Solar Projects 17 Ltd to conduct an archaeological evaluation of a 94-hectare parcel of land located at Claydon Farm, Tewksbury, centred on NGR 393183, 230542. The evaluation consisted of 74 trial trenches, equating to a 1% sample of a proposed piled-development area of 77 hectares. The site had been subjected to two previous geophysical surveys which had identified several areas of high archaeological potential. Intrusive groundworks are to be avoided in these areas in order that archaeological features there are preserved in situ. Further works were commissioned following the excavation, comprising the excavation of two areas covering a combined 0.88 hectares (ha). The works were centred on NGR 393547 230421 ('Area 1') and NGR 393729 230569 ('Area 2')

Project Results: The evaluation was successful in clarifying the extent of the areas of interest identified in the geophysical survey and in confirming the results. Beyond outlying features relating to these areas, the evaluation did not recover archaeological material previously overlooked by the geophysical surveys. The evaluation also uncovered remains of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow (known from historical maps and LiDAR) in several trenches and established that this has not impacted the survival of earlier remains. It is possible, however, that in the areas of high archaeological potential not investigated during the evaluation impact on the archaeological resource is more significant.

The earliest archaeological activity encountered during the excavation was a Late Iron Age ring ditch located in the centre of Area 1. A Romano-British phase in Area 1 included a drip gully, a ditch and two pits. The majority of features were loosely dated as either Late Iron Age or Romano-British. These comprised penannular enclosures, ditches, and assorted pits and postholes. Medieval/post-medieval and modern activity was represented by remains of ridge and furrow that truncated earlier features in Area 1, and a single pit in Area 2. Five pits scattered across both areas were undated. The results of the excavation are of a local importance, contributing to the current understanding of the Late Iron Age and Romano-British rural settlement in the area. The project overall (particularly the geophysical survey) has revealed the organisation of the landscape during the Late Iron Age and the Romano-British periods, including unexcavated areas of high potential to the north and northwest of the excavation areas. The contribution of these findings is limited however, due to the size of Areas 1 and 2, their location at the furthest extents of the areas of high potential, and the resulting low number of features encountered there.

Keywords:

Subject/Period: RIDGE AND FURROW: UNCERTAIN

FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types

Subject/Period: Ring Ditch: LATE IRON AGE

FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Subject/Period: Gully: ROMAN FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Subject/Period: Post Hole: ROMAN FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types



Subject/Period: Boundary Ditch: ROMAN FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types

Subject/Period: Curvilinear Enclosure: LATE IRON AGE

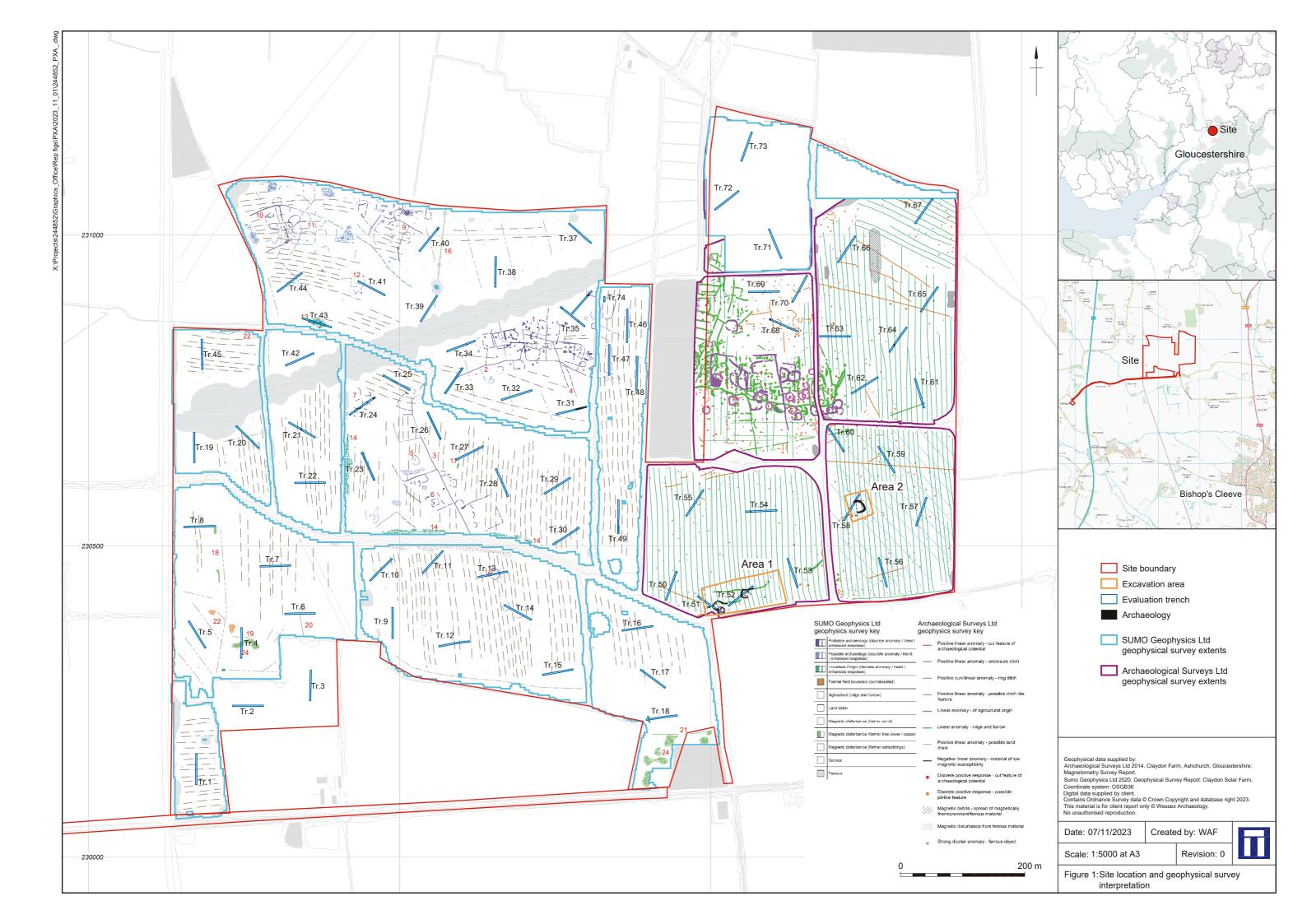
FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types

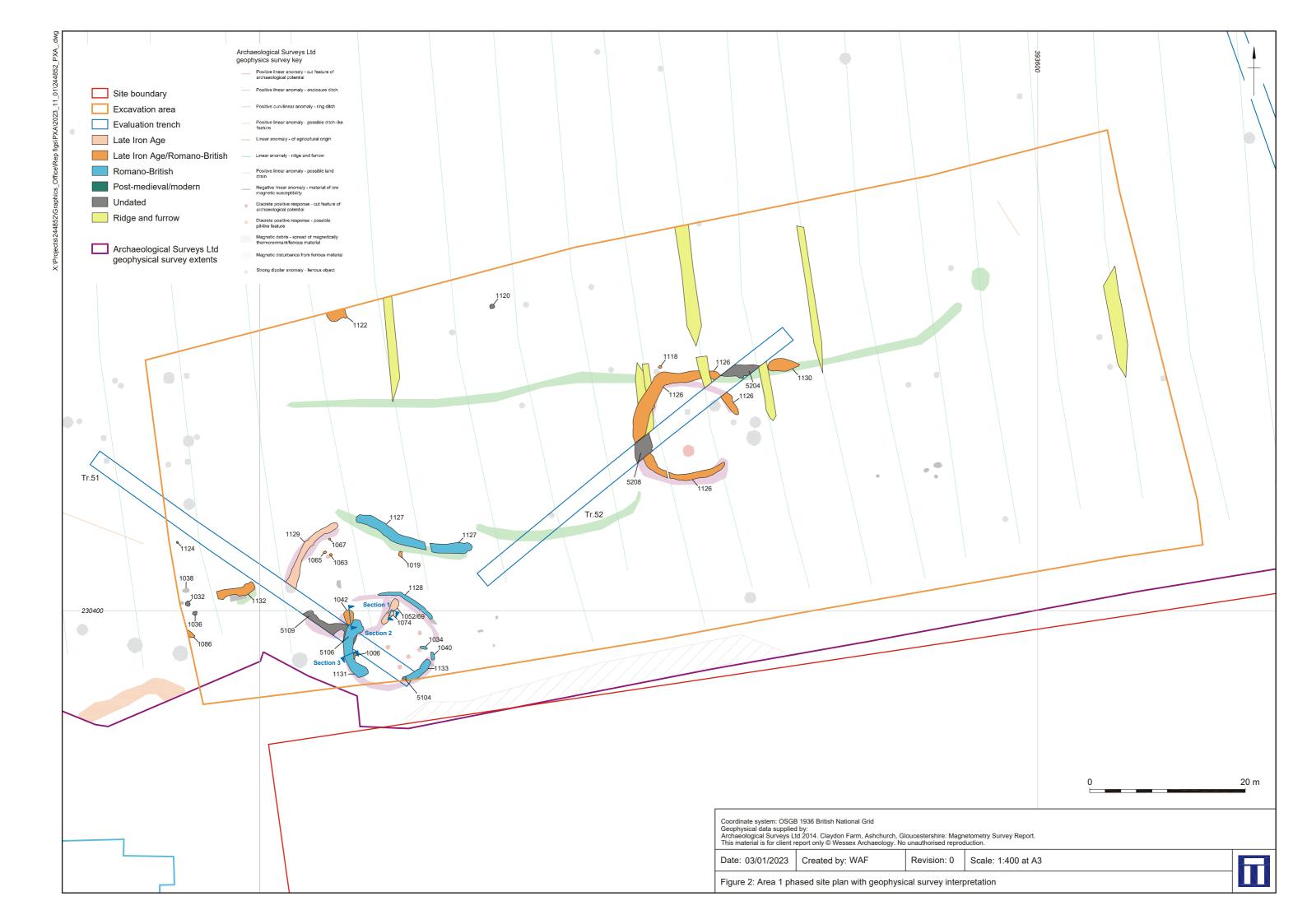
Archive:

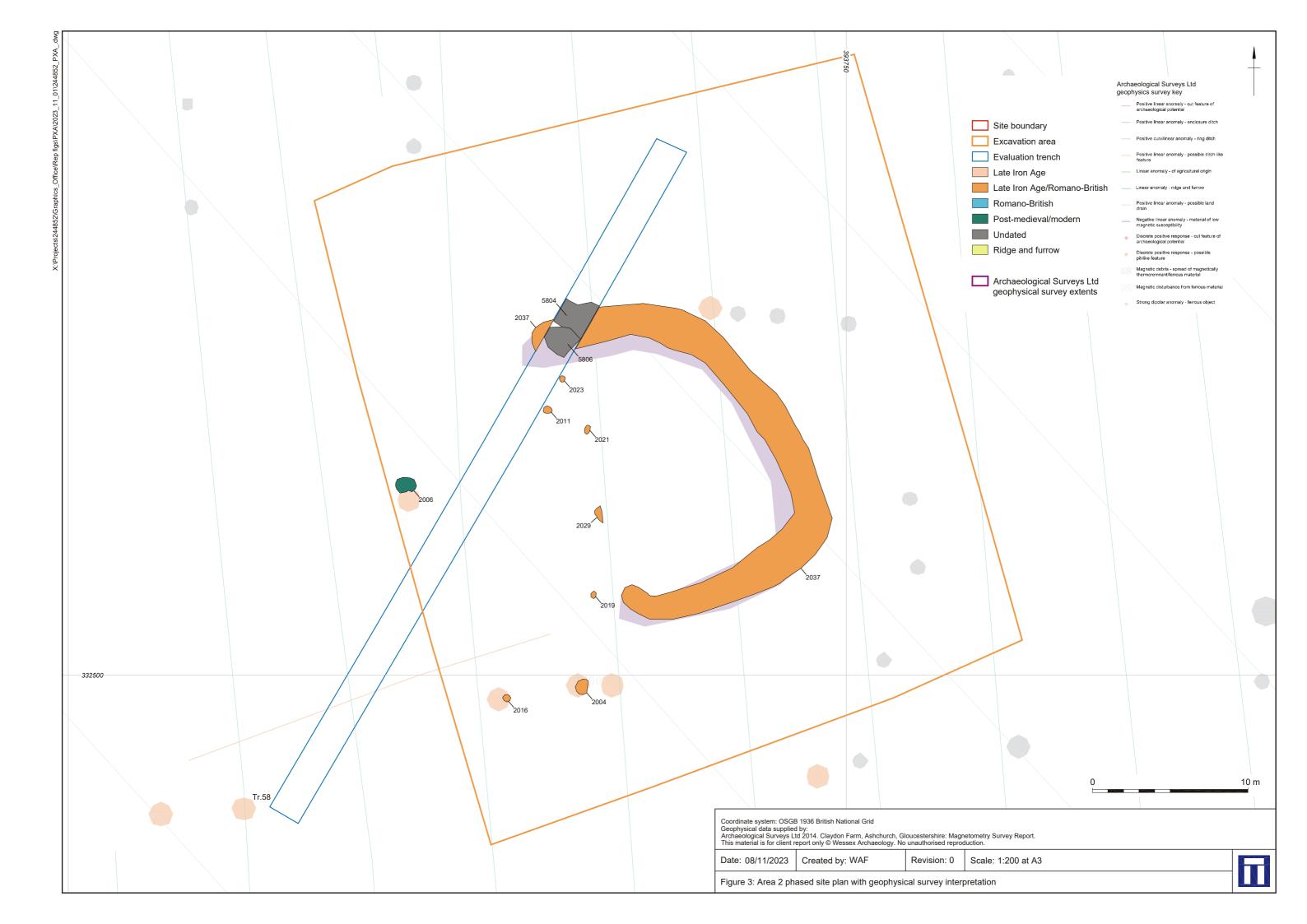
Physical Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Tewkesbury Museum;

Reports in OASIS:

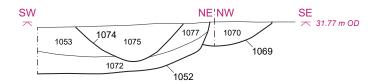
Newton, L, Cresswell, F., (2021). Claydon Solar Farm. Tewksbury, Archaeological Evaluation . Salisbury: Wessex Archaeology. 244850.2. Embargo ends: 13/05/2024 Fitzpatrick, K., (2024). Claydon Solar Farm, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire - Post-excavation Assessment. Sheffield: Wessex Archaeology. 244852.01.



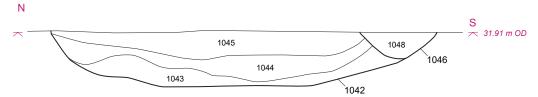




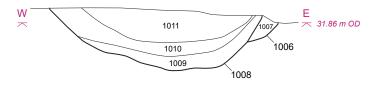
Section 1: Wraparound section of pits 1052, 1069 and 1074



Section 2: North facing section of gully1131 (context 1046) and pit 1042



Section 3: South facing section of pit 1006 and gully 1131 (context 1008)





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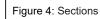






Figure 5: Ditch 1126 and furrow 1114, from the north, 1 m scale



Figure 6: Pits 1069, 1074 and 1052, from the north-east, 0.5 m scale

Date: 24/01/2024





Figure 7: Ditch 2037, from the north-east, 2 m scale



Figure 8: Terminal of ditch 2037 from the north-west, 1 m scale

Date: 24/01/2024





Figure 9: Pit 2016, from the south, 0.4 m scale



Figure 10: In situ pottery in gully 1133, 0.2 m scale

Date: 24/01/2024





Figure 11: Gully 1131, from the south-east, 1 m scale



Figure 12: Gully 1131, from the north, 1 m and 0.4 m scales

Date: 24/01/2024





Figure 13: Ditch 1127 from the west, 1 m scale



Figure 14: Pit 1120, from the south, 0.5 m scale

Date: 24/01/2024





Figure 15: Decorated pottery from pit 5806



Figure 16: *Tegula* roof tile from subsoil 4002

Date: 24/01/2024



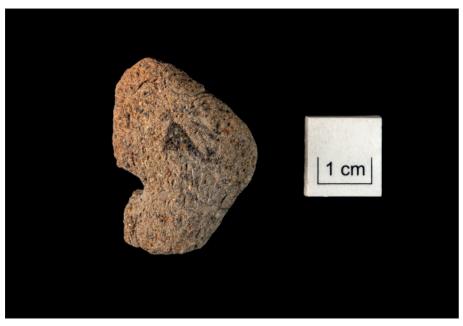


Figure 17: Possible spindle whorl from ditch 1129 (context 1049)

Date: 24/01/2024









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