



# Wokingham Major Highways Programme North-West Distributor Road

Strip, Map and Sample Excavation Report



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## Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Balfour Beatty, to undertake an archaeological Strip, Map and Sample excavation in advance of the proposed construction of the North West Distributor Road (NWDR) to the west of Old Forest Road and Toutley Road, Wokingham, centred on NGR 479424 170349. The construction works specifically comprise the construction of a single carriageway road shared with cycle/footway to either side, associated street lighting, a new bridges over the railway and the Emm Brook on Old Forest Road, new culverts and drainage, and highway fencing along the length of the road. The archaeological work was undertaken in order to mitigate condition 19 of the planning permission granted by Wokingham Borough Council.

The archaeological investigation was undertaken following a prior evaluation which highlighted potential iron working remains, field boundaries and revealed extant remains of the WWS anti-aircraft gun battery known to have been positioned on the site, with the majority of features located in the eastern area of the site. The results of the strip, map and sample, which comprised four areas, correlated with those of the evaluation. Features were concentrated within Areas 1 and 2, in the eastern extent of the site, whilst Areas 3 and 4 were void of any archaeological signature. The natural geology was also confirmed to vary across the site, becoming more clayey to the west.

Field boundaries depicted on OS mapping dating to 1877 were located alongside a spread of discoloured material resembling the natural geology. The spread was found to contain remnants of slag and the discolouration possibly reflects localised heating/burning. Whilst the precise character of the material remains uncertain, it may be associated with the iron working site at Sadlers End approximately 900 m from the site. A possible pond was also located, containing a soil sequence suggesting natural silting prior to modern infilling.

Elsewhere significant modern disturbance was encountered. Various extents of structural remains comprising concrete footings, surfaces and brick-built walls are almost certainly the remnants of the WW2 anti-aircraft defence previously identified and believed to have been erected on the site in defence of the railway like to the west. These structural remains were found in proximity to a number of modern pits which were seen to contain material consistent with that found in the fabric of the structure. It is believed that the pits were dug in association with the demolition of the gun battery, with the structure bulldozed into the pits.

Artefactual evidence across the site was slight with a single post-medieval pottery sherd recovered one field boundary and burn flint indicative of prehistoric activity from the other. Post-medieval ceramic building material was also evident.

## Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Balfour Beatty for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, in particular Craig Morris. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Roland Smith (Archaeological Curator for Berkshire Archaeology) who monitored the project for Wokingham Borough Council.



# Wokingham Major Highways Programme North West Distributor Road

## Archaeological Evaluation

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Balfour Beatty, to undertake an archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation in advance of the proposed construction of the North West Distributor Road (NWDR) to the west of Old Forest Road and Toutley Road, Wokingham, centred on NGR 479424 170349 (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the construction of a single carriageway road shared with cycle/footway to either side, associated street lighting, a new bridge over the railway and a new bridge over the Emm Brook on Old Forest Road, new culverts and drainage, and highway fencing along the length of the road.
- 1.1.3 A planning application (Ref: 190198) submitted to Wokingham Borough Council, was granted (13/05/2019), subject to conditions, including Condition 19 relating to archaeological mitigation work. The condition states:

#### *Archaeology*

*No development shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The mitigation will provide for:*

- i) A programme of site investigation and recording*
- ii) A programme of post investigation assessment, analysis, publication, dissemination and archiving. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements of the programme have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.*

*Reason: The site lies in an area of archaeological potential as identified by archaeological evaluation. Further work is required to ensure that any archaeological remains within the site are adequately investigated and recorded or preserved in situ in the interest of protecting the archaeological heritage of the borough.*

- 1.1.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the Strip, Map and Sample Excavation (WSP 2019). The Archaeological Curator for Berkshire Archaeology approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The current work is part of a wider scheme of investigations including a desk-based assessment (DBA; WSP 2018) and a trenched evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2018).



1.1.5 The Strip, Map and Sample Excavation targeted four areas where ground reduction was required for the construction of the proposed road, with archaeological mitigation occurring only where ground reduction within those areas took place. A broader archaeological watching brief across the entire area of proposed groundworks outside the Strip, Map and Sample areas was not required due to a considered lack of archaeological remains informed by the 2018 evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2018).

1.1.6 The fieldwork was carried out as works proceeded in each area. Area 1 (02/03/2020 to 13/03/2020); Area 2 (15/10/2019 to 18/10/2019; 25/11/2019 to 26/11/2019), Area 3 (22/06/2020 to 23/06/2020) and Area 4 (28/09/2020 to 29/09/2020).

## 1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the Strip, map and Sample Excavation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the excavation have been met.

1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.2.3 It is proposed to produce an overarching updated project design (UPD) detailing all archaeological elements of the wider scheme (*Wokingham Major Highways Programme*), once the ongoing works have been completed.

## 1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The development site is located within the Emm Brook valley, with a section of Emm Brook located within the eastern extent of the site. The site is situated to the west of Toutley Road, Wokingham, Berkshire and is bound to the north-west by the M4. Open fields comprise the north-eastern boundary of the site with Old Forest Road and residential housing to the south-east. A petrol service station, car dealership and more residential properties are located to the south-west. Four areas within the wider development site were identified for the strip, map and sample excavation (**Fig. 1**).

1.3.2 The site is located within a landscape seen to slope gently to the north-east. The ground level within the central part of the development site is recorded as 41.8 m in the north-east, rising to 52.6 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south-west. The western extent of the wider development site is bisected by the Wokingham to Reading railway line and lies at 50.5 m to 54.9 m aOD. Ground levels between 41.9 m and 42.7 m aOD have been recorded within the east of the site.

1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as clay, silt and sand of the London Clay formation with some areas of overlying superficial River Terrace Deposits, 4 (Sand and Gravel) within the southern and north-western extent of the development site. Alluvial deposits are also mapped within the eastern most part of the development area and comprise clay, silt, sand and gravel (British Geological Survey online viewer).

1.3.4 A geotechnical ground investigation (GI) was undertaken across the south-eastern extent of the site in 2017 and confirmed the presence of made-ground at a depth of between 0.1 and 1 m below ground level (bgl). This was seen to overlie the alluvium which in turn overlay the River Terrace Deposits, the top of which were encountered between 0.5 m and 1.8 m bgl. Natural London Clay geology was found at a depth of 0.5 m and 3.8 m bgl (WSP 2019)





- 1.3.5 Further GI works were undertaken across the remainder of the site, with results confirming the presence of alluvium within the vicinity of Emms Brook. Elsewhere the made ground and topsoil was found to directly overlie the River Terrace Deposits (WSP 2019).
- 1.3.6 During the evaluation undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in 2018 natural geology, which ranged from a sandy silt in the west to a sandy clay in the east, was encountered at a depth of between 0.2 m and 1.4 m bgl. Alluvial deposits were recorded within the vicinity of Emms Brook.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 A detailed archaeological and historical background was provided within a Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment (HEDBA) associated with the works (WSP 2018). A summary of the results is presented below.

### **2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development**

#### *Archaeological Evaluation (Cotswold 2018)*

- 2.2.1 108 trenches, split into two phases, were excavated within the footprint of the proposed road alignment and 50 m buffer either side (approximately 60%) of the site. Phase 1 comprised trenches within the central and eastern extent of the site where a single ditch orientated east – west was identified. This was recorded as having been heavily truncated by ploughing activity and contained a single potsherd provisionally dated to the Romano-British or later medieval period.
- 2.2.2 Phase 2, which consisted of 73 trenches, was undertaken across the central and western area of the site. Nine of the trenches contained archaeological features. The remains of a WW2 anti-aircraft battery, comprising a large concrete slab, demolition rubble, drains, sand bags and chain link fence, were identified within Trenches 27, 30, 31 and 32. Parts of a ditch believed to represent a post-medieval field boundary, were identified within trenches 40, 63 and 58 in the central part of the site. A single isolated pit was observed within the agricultural fields north of Old Forest Road in Trench 55.

### **2.3 Archaeological and historical context**

#### *Palaeolithic – Bronze Age (970,000 – 2200 BC)*

- 2.3.1 The majority of Palaeolithic activity known within Berkshire is concentrated within the river valleys, with associated finds encountered within higher river gravel deposits. Sites dating to the Upper Palaeolithic period are few within the area, with those that have been identified located within the Kennet Valley in the west of the county. In proximity to the site, a single Acheulian handaxe was found approximately 950 m to the north-east.
- 2.3.2 Mesolithic sites are also concentrated within the Kennet Valley. However, residual finds comprising a piece of Mesolithic/Bronze Age debitage and fragments of burnt flint were identified within a post-medieval ditch during an evaluation 100 m south-east of the site.
- 2.3.3 Evidence pertaining to the Neolithic period is more widespread. Two main areas of settlement have been identified on the Thames Valley floor and the Chalk downland of the Berkshire Downs. An arrowhead dating to the period was recorded during an evaluation of land adjacent to Winnersh Primary School (900 m to the north of the site), and an axe, also Neolithic in date, was found approximately 320 m to the north-east.

*Bronze Age – Iron Age (2200 BC – AD 43)*

- 2.3.4 Activity dating to the Bronze Age appears to have been concentrated within the Thames Valley and the Kennet Valley with extensive remains recorded in both areas. Evidence relating to the period is less widespread within the Lodden Valley. Two Middle Bronze Age urns were excavated during archaeological works at Sadler's End (900 m to the south-west of the site) and a late Bronze Age urn was found near Merryhill (c.820 m to the north-west of the site).
- 2.3.5 Iron Age activity within the vicinity of the site is more prevalent with a large iron working site having been identified during the excavations at Sadler's End. Features comprised small pits with the remains of furnaces used for iron smelting, gullies and postholes. Whilst most of the features remained undated, pottery recovered during the works is indicative of a Middle Iron Age date. Further activity is evidenced approximately 520 m to the south-east of the site at Matthewsgreen Farm. A pit, postholes and a pair of shallows (possibly the remains of a roundhouse) were all dated to the Iron Age.

*Romano-British (AD43 – 410)*

- 2.3.6 Despite ditches and gullies dating to the early Romano-British period and an irregular feature dating to the later Romano-British period having been identified during the works at Matthewsgreen Farm, archaeological evidence pertaining to the period remains slight within proximity to the site. Indeed activity during the period appears concentrated within the area of Matthewsgreen Farm with a coin hoard and pottery also having been located during further work undertaken on the Farm.
- 2.3.7 It remains unclear whether this activity is isolated within the immediate area of the farm or whether it extends into the wider vicinity and the site itself.

*Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)*

- 2.3.8 A single charcoal pit dating to the period has been found within proximity to the site. Located at Sadler's End, the pit was dated to the late 7th to early 8th century AD.

*Medieval (AD 1066 – 1500)*

- 2.3.9 During the medieval period the majority of the site lay within the liberty of Winnersh held by the Bishop of Salisbury, with the south-eastern extent located within the manor of Sonning, also held by the Bishop of Salisbury in 1086.
- 2.3.10 A number of medieval sites and findspots are recorded within the vicinity of the site. Pottery has been recovered from land adjacent to Winnersh Primary School and Matthewsgreen Farm and boundary ditches are recorded at Hewden Depot, Old Forest Road (c.100 m south-east of the site). A penny found to the south of the north-western extent of the site was also dated to the reigns of Edward I to Edward III.

*Post-Medieval – Modern (1500 – present)*

- 2.3.11 Rocque's 1761 map of Berkshire depicts the majority of the site as two open fields to the north of Bear Wood Common. The south-eastern portion of the site, however, is located within the eastern end of Bear Wood Common, in an area shown as 'Piper's Close'. A road or track is evident along the southern edge of the site and may represent an early phase of the London to Reading turnpike road which was built in the 1770s and follows the modern trajectory of Old Forest Road.



- 2.3.12 The 1812 enclosure map of the parish of Hurst shows the site as a series of small enclosed fields to the north of Forest Road. The 1840 Tithe Map of Hurst shows no change to the site.
- 2.3.13 In 1849 the Reading branch of the South Eastern Railway, which crosses the site in the west, was constructed. No further changes are evident on the site until the 1938 OS map depicts and extension of the gardens of Toutley Hall into the central area of the site. Housing development is also shown along Old Forest Road.
- 2.3.14 A heavy anti-aircraft gun battery was located within the eastern extent of the development site during WW2. It was likely installed as a defence of the railway and represents the only development on the site since the extension of the gardens at Toutley Hall.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 General aims**

- 3.1.1 The general aim of the Strip, Map and Sample Excavation, as stated in the WSI (WSP 2019) and in compliance with the ClfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (ClfA 2014a), was to provide:

*a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design.*

#### **3.2 Research aims and objectives**

- 3.2.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site, with particular regard to the results of previous archaeological evaluation trenches (Cotswold Archaeology 2018), the following research objectives were defined in the WSI (WSP 2019):
- In Area 1, to record any structural remains of the World War 2 anti-aircraft battery.
  - In Area 2, to investigate further the area where iron slag was recorded and determine if the site was used for iron smelting during the iron age.
  - In Areas 3 and 4, to determine if there are any further archaeological features in the arboretum and allotments.
  - What is the nature of the natural topography and does it concatenate with the results of the evaluation in the corresponding areas? How does this affect the archaeological resource?

### **4 METHODS**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (WSP 2019) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

## 4.2 Fieldwork methods

### *General*

- 4.2.1 The excavation areas were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI. However, excavations within those areas were limited to the extent of the ground disturbance works as opposed to the entire area (**Fig. 1**).
- 4.2.2 A total of four areas were excavated 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 until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.
- 4.2.3 Where necessary, 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 strip, map and sample.
- 4.2.4 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

### *Recording*

- 4.2.5 All exposed archaeological deposits and features 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 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.
- 4.2.6 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.
- 4.2.7 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

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (WSP 2019). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

## 4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The Archaeological Curator for Berkshire Archaeology monitored the evaluation 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 Archaeological Curator for Berkshire Archaeology.



## 5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Archaeological features were located within Areas 1 and 2 (**Figs. 1 and 2**), confirming the results of the preceding evaluation which suggested that activity was concentrated within the central and eastern extent of the site (Cotswold Archaeology 2018).
- 5.1.2 Features largely comprised field boundaries and structural remains pertaining to the WW2 anti-aircraft gun known to exist within the area. A possible pond and various modern pits were also identified. A spread of material within Area 2 was found to contain slag, though the precise nature of the spread remains uncertain.
- 5.1.3 Area 3 within the arboretum and Area 4 within the western most area of the development did not contain any archaeological features.
- 5.1.4 The following section presents the results of the strip map and sample excavations with archaeological features and deposits discussed by area.
- 5.1.5 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**). **Figure 1** shows all archaeological features within the areas, **Figure 2** shows the concentration of Archaeology within Areas 1 and 2.

### 5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 Areas 1, 2 and 3 were excavated through topsoil which overlay subsoil. The subsoil was found to overlie the natural geology which differed across the areas, confirming the results of earlier borehole investigations and the prior evaluation. Loose gravels comprised the natural geology within Area 1 with more clayey deposits located within the western areas of the site (**Plates 1 and 2**).
- 5.2.2 The subsoil layers across the areas were similar, becoming more clayey to the west. However, that in Trench 2 was merely evident as surviving residual patches of up to 0.05 m in depth.
- 5.2.3 Area 4 was excavated through topsoil which overlay a deposit of modern made ground containing fragments of brick and concrete (**Plate 3**). The deposit is likely a mixture of debris from the allotments and remains from the construction of the M4 and overlay the natural geology.

### 5.3 Area 1

- 5.3.1 Various concrete remains (2623, 2626-7, 2638, 2640-1) were revealed within Area 1 which almost certainly relate to WW2 structures (**Plates 4 – 6**). The northern and western extent of foundations 2623 were exposed, with the remainder having been removed during the excavation of a large modern pit (2624) (**Plate 4**).
- 5.3.2 Further structural elements comprising foundations and walls with associated concrete floor were exposed (2626 and 2627). The rectangular expanse of floor (2626) remained intact with slight degradation noted at its extant edges with the remains of walls and their foundations (2627) present on its northern, western and southern sides (**Plate 5**). Whilst no wall was identified on the eastern side the eastern extent of the wall appears 'ragged' possibly indicating its removal along with any previously existing wall. The remains indicate that the concrete foundations and associated walls were constructed prior to the laying of the concrete floor. Elsewhere concrete fragments, brick fragments, ceramic building

material and asbestos were identified (2640) along with concrete footings (2641). The former represents demolished footings of similar fabric to those previously identified.

- 5.3.3 It is likely that these structural remains, alongside those of 2638 which comprised the same elements as described above but was not investigated due to the presence of asbestos, are most likely associated with the WW2 anti-aircraft gun battery known to have been placed on the site and previously identified during the evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2018). Indeed, an electric cable capped with red bricks identified within Area 1 is also believed to relate to the WW2 structure(s) (**Plate 6**)
- 5.3.4 A number of modern pits were also recorded within Area 1 (2624, 2628, 2630, 2634, 2636 and 2642) (**Plates 7 and 8**). These were typically irregular or sub-circular in plan and ranged from 2 m (l) x 1.9 m (w) to 6 m (l) x 3 m (w). Their fills (2625, 2629, 2631, 2635, 2637 and 2643) were seen to contain modern bricks, concrete fragments, tarmac and other materials also seen within the fabric of the structure(s) associated with the WW2 anti-aircraft gun battery (**Plate 9**). The presence of this material and the proximity of the pits to the structural remains suggests that the pits were dug in association with the demolition of the WW2 structure(s).
- 5.3.5 A linear feature was also revealed within Area 1 during the investigations. The 2 m wide feature (2632) was aligned north-east – south-west and contained a single fill (2633) (**Plate 10**). The deposit was very mixed and contained modern brick, ceramic building material and pipe. A significant amount of rooting and bioturbation was evident, suggesting that the linear, previously identified during the evaluation as traversing the site, comprises the remains of a hedgerow. The projected line of the hedgerow is indicative of a continuation of a field boundary (existing hedgerow) seen to the north-east of the development area.

## 5.4 Area 2

- 5.4.1 The field boundary identified within Area 1 was found to continue into Area 2 (2607, 2610) (**Plate 11**) where the linear became more ditch like with less bioturbation and a relatively flat base (2607). It is also noted that the ditch became shallower towards the east with the base and sides also becoming more concave (2610). The ditch contained a single deposit (2608, 2611) with occasional flint gravels and rare chalk flecks (**Plate 11**). Post-medieval pottery dating to the 16th or 17th century was recovered from the ditch, along with a brick fragment also of post-medieval date.
- 5.4.2 A second ditch was also identified within Area 2, aligned perpendicular to 2607/2610 (**Fig 2; Plate 12**). Ditch 2603 was located within the eastern extent of the area and continued beyond the limit of excavation to the south-east. Comprising a concave base with moderately sloping sides the feature contained a single deposit derived from natural weathering of the ditch sides and the immediate environs. Burnt flint fragments pertaining to prehistoric activity, and ironworking slag were recovered. The ditch is believed to represent the remains of a field boundary which is seen to cut, and therefore post-date, a spread of material (2606) (**Plate 12**).
- 5.4.3 The spread of dark sandy gravel (2606) may represent the presence of a pit (2605) however the cut was particularly diffuse and irregular with the spread itself appearing as discoloured natural with slag inclusions. The slag recovered was similar to that found within ditch 2603 and, though undiagnostic, is likely the result of smelting activity. The spread appears relatively isolated with no further evidence of such activity occurring within the investigated area. Investigations of the spread were unable to be completed due to the presence of the water table.



5.4.4 A large sub-oval feature was investigated within the southern central extent of Area 2. The feature (2609) was orientated south-west – north-east and comprised a concave base and convex sides with a fill sequence suggestive of natural silting with a final levelling event (2612 – 2616) (**Plate 13**). Basal fill 2612 and subsequent overlying deposits (2613-2615) typically comprised clays, gravels or sands derived from weathering of the cut sides and the surrounding landscape over time. The particularly dark appearance of 2614 is likely due to the presence of organic matter, such as leaf litter, within the washed in overburden and subsequently rotting down. The uppermost deposit, 2616, however, was similar to the overburden through which Area 2 was excavated (2600, 2601) and contained ceramic building material, modern glazed ceramics and chalk fragments (**Plate 13**) It is believed that this deposit represents a backfilling event, with soil from the surrounding area used to level the depression left after the natural silting of the feature. The exact nature of the feature remains uncertain, though it is believed to represent the present of a possible pond or an area of lower, wetter ground.

## 5.5 Areas 3 and 4

5.5.1 No archaeological features were identified within Areas 3 and 4.

## 6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A very small quantity of finds was recovered from three contexts. The material has quantified by material type in each context; this information is summarised in Table 1.

**Table 1** Quantification of finds

Context	Pottery		CBM		Slag		Burnt flint	
	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)
2604					2	33	1	30
2606					3	120		
2608	1	7	1	1607				
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1607</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>

### 6.1 Pottery

6.1.1 The single sherd of pottery recovered (from ditch 2607) is a body sherd in a green-glazed redware from the neck of a vessel of 16th- or 17th-century date.

### 6.2 Ceramic building material

6.2.1 Part of an unfroged brick, of post-medieval date, came from ditch 2607. It is in a fine, sandy fabric, orange in colour, with a width of 110 mm and height of 60 mm.

### 6.3 Slag

6.3.1 Small quantities of undiagnostic ironworking slag, probably deriving from smelting, were recovered from ditch 2603 (33 g) and feature 2605 (120 g).

### 6.4 Burnt flint

6.4.1 A single piece of burnt flint (30 g) came from ditch 2603. This material type is intrinsically undatable but frequently associated with prehistoric activity.



## **6.5 Selection and retention**

- 6.5.1 The finds form part of a larger archive and should (with the exception of the burnt flint) be retained in the first instance and considered during the archive selection strategy for the wider site.

## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Summary**

- 7.1.1 Archaeological remains of post-medieval and modern date were concentrated within the eastern areas of the site, with Areas 3 and 4 devoid of any features of archaeological origin. Artefactual evidence was also relatively sparse across the site.
- 7.1.2 A continuation of the existing field boundary to the north-east of Area 1 was located with a second boundary ditch perpendicular to this located within the north-eastern extent of Area 2. Various structural remains pertaining to the WW2 anti-aircraft gun battery known to have been located within the area were recorded. The remains were found in proximity to modern pits which contained fragments of brick and concrete. Elsewhere a dark deposit within Area 2 is indicative of heating and possible ironworking.

### **7.2 Discussion**

- 7.2.1 The results of the investigation confirm the archaeological and geological results from earlier studies. The geology encountered varied across the site with gravels predominantly comprising natural deposits within Area 1 to the east of the site, and gradually becoming more clayey to the west. The concentration of archaeological features within the eastern areas is also comparable with the results of the preceding evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2018).
- 7.2.2 The modern structural remains within Area 1 correlate with those identified within trenches 27 and 30-32 of the evaluation and are almost certainly the remains of the WW2 anti-aircraft gun battery known to have existed within the development site, likely as a defence of the railway to the west.
- 7.2.3 The field boundary crossing the site (2607, 2610, 2632) appears to be a continuation of that which exists as hedgerow to the north-east of the site, with the boundary perpendicular to it (2603) comprising a further field division. Both boundaries appear consistent with those marked on OS mapping dating to 1877. The field boundaries remain unchanged until ditch (2603) is no longer shown on the OS map of 1989.
- 7.2.4 The slag found within the north-east – south-west boundary ditch (2603) may be associated with the indiscriminate spread of material through which the ditch is cut. The precise nature of the spread remains uncertain, though the discolouration and presence of slag may indicate the presence of ironworking. While the material remains undated there remains the possibility that it is related to the Iron Age ironworking site at Sadler's End (900 m south-west of the development). However, it is noted that no other feature of similar composition was observed during the works.

## **8 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **8.1 Museum**

- 8.1.1 The archive resulting from the archaeological strip, map and sample excavation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. There is currently no museum or





store able to receive archaeological archives from sites within Wokingham Borough (WSP 2019).

## **8.2 Preparation of the archive**

8.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013)

8.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the site code **209224**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 01 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type;
- 01 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics;

## **8.3 Selection policy**

8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum, and is fully documented in the project archive.

## **8.4 Security copy**

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

## **8.5 OASIS**

8.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 2). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Archaeological Curator for Berkshire Archaeology 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.

## **9 COPYRIGHT**

### **9.1 Archive and report copyright**

9.1.1 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*. In some instances, certain regional museums may



require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

- 9.1.2 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.

## **9.2 Third party data copyright**

- 9.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, 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 Area summaries

Trench No 1		Length Unknown	Width Unknown	Depth 0.46 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
2620		Topsoil	Mid-dark grey / brown silty clay. possible old plough soil, although hasn't been ploughed in some time. moderate amounts of modern material, CBM, brick etc. Fairly compact. High clay content.	0-0.20
2621		Subsoil	Although more likely a diffuse mix of topsoil and natural gravels. Mottled mid-light grey brown silty clay. Compact with moderate gravel incl throughout, fairly evenly distributed. Some occasional modern intrusions and finds, CBM, brick etc. Increasing amounts of FE stains and incl towards the base. Reasonably clear horizon with the natural, but they do become more mixed higher up.	0.20-0.35
2622		Natural	Mostly loose sandy gravels with some clay patches here and there. Varies in colour, with areas of mid-light grey, other areas are more mid-light orange in colour. Some modern intrusions here and there, a pipe, a probable farm rubbish pit (modern material and possible contamination). Clay areas become more prominent up slope (west).	0.35+
2623		Foundation	Foundation for WW2 concrete structure	
2624	2625	Pit?	Possible irregular pit.	
2625	2624	Deliberate backfill	Mid-dark grey silty clay with moderate sub rounded gravel incl inclusions	
2626	2647	Floor surface	Concrete floor – likely WW2 structure	
2627		Wall	Rectangular wall Length: 3.30 m. Width: 1.90 m.	
2628	2629	Pit	Irregular pit Length: >6.00 m. Width: >3.00 m.	
2629	2628	Deliberate backfill	Mid-dark grey silty clay with moderate sub rounded gravel incl throughout inclusions	
2630	2631	Pit	Irregular pit Length: >5.00 m. Width: >4.00 m.	



2631	2630	Deliberate backfill	Mid-dark grey silty clay with moderate sub rounded gravel incl throughout inclusions
2632	2633	Hedgerow	Linear hedgerow Width: >2.00 m.
2633	2632	Bioturbation	Very mixed - largely mid brown with frequent patches of mid-dark grey / brown silty clay with occasional gravel patches and incl throughout inclusions
2634	2635	Pit	Sub-circular pit Length: >2.00 m. Width: 1.90 m.
2635	2634	Deliberate backfill	Dark grey silty clay with frequent gravel throughout inclusions
2636	2637	Pit	Irregular pit.
2637	2636	Deliberate backfill	Mid-dark grey brown silty clay with moderate gravel incl throughout, FE staining inclusions
2638		Structure	WW2 structure
2639	2640	Construction cut	Rectangular construction cut Length: >4.00 m. Width: >3.50 m.
2640	2639	Deliberate backfill	Mid grey silty clay with occasional sub rounded gravel incl throughout inclusions
2641		Floor surface	Concrete floor surface
2642	2643	Pit	Sub-rectangular pit Length: 5.00 m. Width: 3.00 m.
2643	2642	Deliberate backfill	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional sub rounded gravel incl throughout inclusions

Trench No 2		Length Unknown	Width Unknown	Depth Unknown
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
2600		Layer	Grey brown slightly clayey sandy silt with occasional flint gravels inclusions	0 - 0.20
2601		Subsoil	Grey brown clayey silty sand with few flint gravels inclusions	0.2 - 0.25
2602		Natural		0.25 +
2603	2604	Ditch	Linear ditch with moderate and a concave base. Length: >15.00 m. Width: 1.40 m. Depth: 0.30 m.	
2604	2603	Fill	Yellow brown clayey sandy silt with rare flint gravels inclusions	
2605	2606	Cut	Irregular uncategorised feature with concave sides. Length: >3.05 m. Width: 1.10 m. Depth: 0.30 m.	
2606	2605	Fill	Grey brown grit silty sand with common flint gravels inclusions	



2607	2608	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep and a flat base. Length: >50.00 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth: 0.38 m.
2608	2607	Fill	Grey brown clayey sand with occasional flint gravels and rare chalk flecks inclusions
2609	2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616	Pond	Sub-oval pond with moderate, convex sides and a concave base. Length: >2.20 m. Width: 8.60 m. Depth: 0.70 m.
2610	2611	Ditch	Linear ditch with concave sides and a concave base. Length: >50.00 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth: 0.31 m.
2611	2610	Fill	Grey brown clayey sand with few flint gravels inclusions
2612	2609	Secondary fill	Bluish grey sandy clay with frequent sub rounded stones c<20mm inclusions
2613	2612	Secondary fill	Brownish mid to light grey silty clay with sparse rounded stones c<30mm inclusions
2614	2609	Secondary fill	Greyish dark brown clay loam with occasional rounded stones c<20mm inclusions
2615	2609	Secondary fill	Bluish mid to light grey silty clay with occasional sub rounded stones c<20mm inclusions
2616	2609	Deliberate backfill	Greyish mid brown clay loam with occasional sub rounded stones c<30mm inclusions

Trench No 3		Length Unknown	Width Unknown	Depth Unknown
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
2617		Topsoil		
2618		Subsoil	Contained sparse, very small red brick frags. Not retained.	
2619		Natural	Mid - dark yellow clay with abundant root disturbance across the area.	

Trench No 4		Length Unknown	Width Unknown	Depth Unknown
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
2644		Topsoil	Topsoil	0-0.30
2645		Made ground	Mixture of allotment debris and rubbish prob from construction of m4(bits of brick, mixed up lumps of concrete, wheel ruts)	0.30-0.50
2646		Natural	Natural	



## Appendix 2: OASIS record

OASIS ID: wessexar1-406797

### Project details

Project name	Wokingham Major Highways Programme - North West Distributor Road, Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological strip map and sample investigation in advance of the proposed construction of the North West Distributor Road (NWDR) to the west of Old Forest Road and Toutley Road, Wokingham. The investigation was undertaken in order to mitigate condition 19 of the planning permission granted by Wokingham Borough Council (Ref: 190198). The results of the strip, map and sample, which comprised four areas, correlated with those of the preceding evaluation. Features were concentrated within Areas 1 and 2, in the eastern extent of the site; whilst areas 3 and 4 for void of any archaeological signature. The natural geology was also confirmed to vary across the site, becoming more clayey to the west. Field boundaries depicted on OS mapping dating to 1877 were located alongside a spread of discoloured material resembling the natural geology. The spread was found to contain remnants of slag and although the precise character of the material remains uncertain, it may be associated with the iron working site at Sadlers End approximately 900 m from the site. A possible pond was also recorded. Structural remains are almost certainly the remnants of the WW2 anti-aircraft defence previously identified and believed to have been erected on the site in defence of the railway like to the west. These structural remnants were found in proximity to a number of modern pits which were seen to contain material consistent with that found in the fabric of the structure.</p>
Project dates	Start: 15-10-2019 End: 29-09-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	209224 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	ANTI AIRCRAFT GUN IMPLACEMENT Modern
Monument type	POND Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SLAG Uncertain
Significant Finds	FLINT Uncertain
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation"



Prompt Planning condition

### Project location

Country England  
Site location BERKSHIRE WOKINGHAM WINNERSH West of Old Forest Road and Toutley Road, Wokingham  
Study area 0 Square metres  
Site coordinates SU 79424 70349 51.426082309102 -0.857492450808 51 25 33 N 000 51 26 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology  
Project brief originator Berkshire Archaeology  
Project design originator Wessex Archaeology  
Project director/manager Gareth Chaffey  
Project supervisor Peter Capps, Alistair Zochowski, Darryl Freer

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient No collecting Museum  
Physical Contents "Ceramics","Industrial"  
Digital Archive recipient No collecting Museum  
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"  
Paper Archive recipient No collecting Museum  
Paper Media available "Miscellaneous Material","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography

1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Document title Wokingham Major Highways Programme - North West Distributor Road, Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation Report  
Author(s)/Editor(s) Legg, S. Legg, E.  
Other bibliographic details 209224  
Date 2020





Issuer or publisher      Wessex Archaeology

Place of issue or  
publication                Salisbury

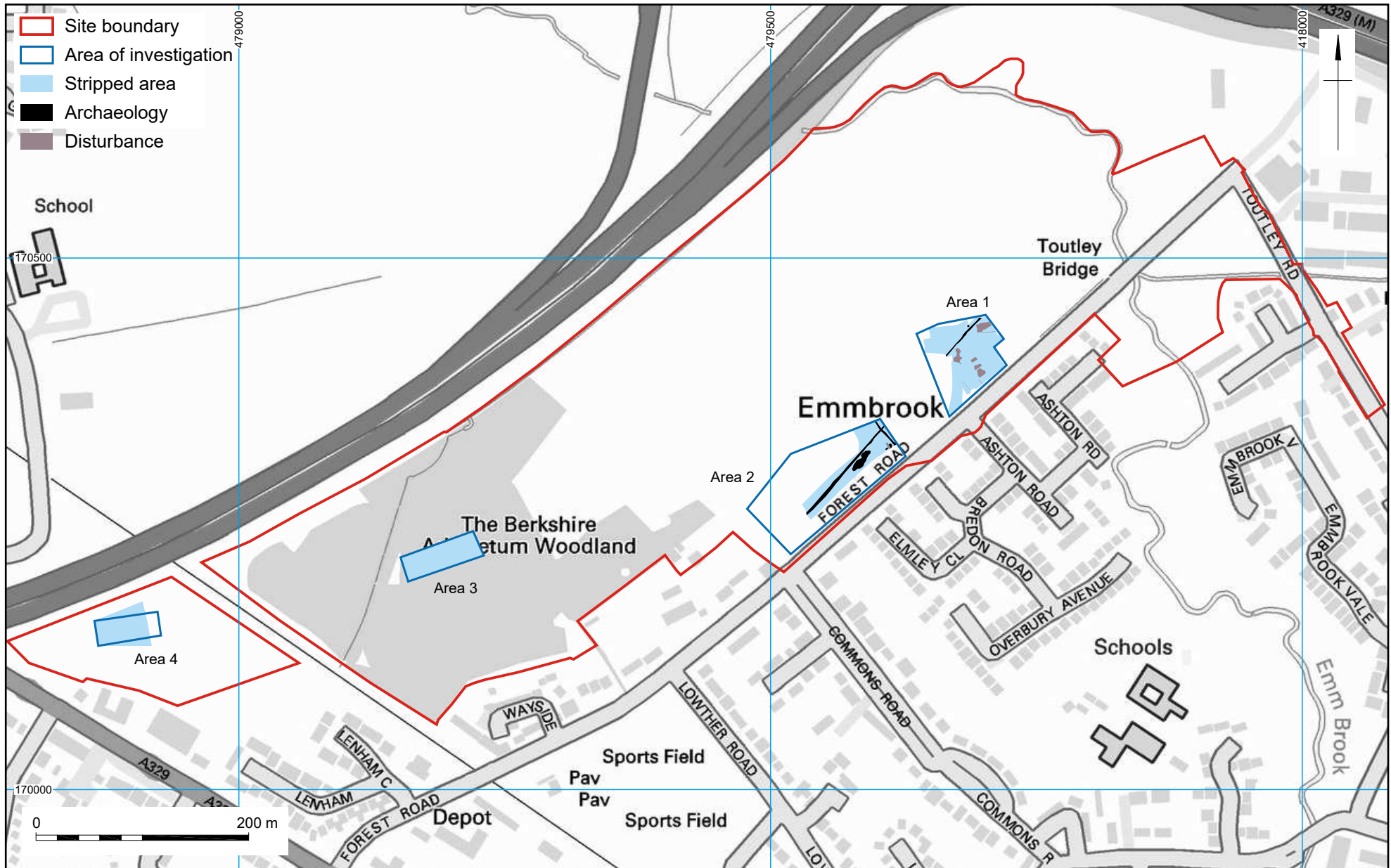
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Entered on                 29 October 2020

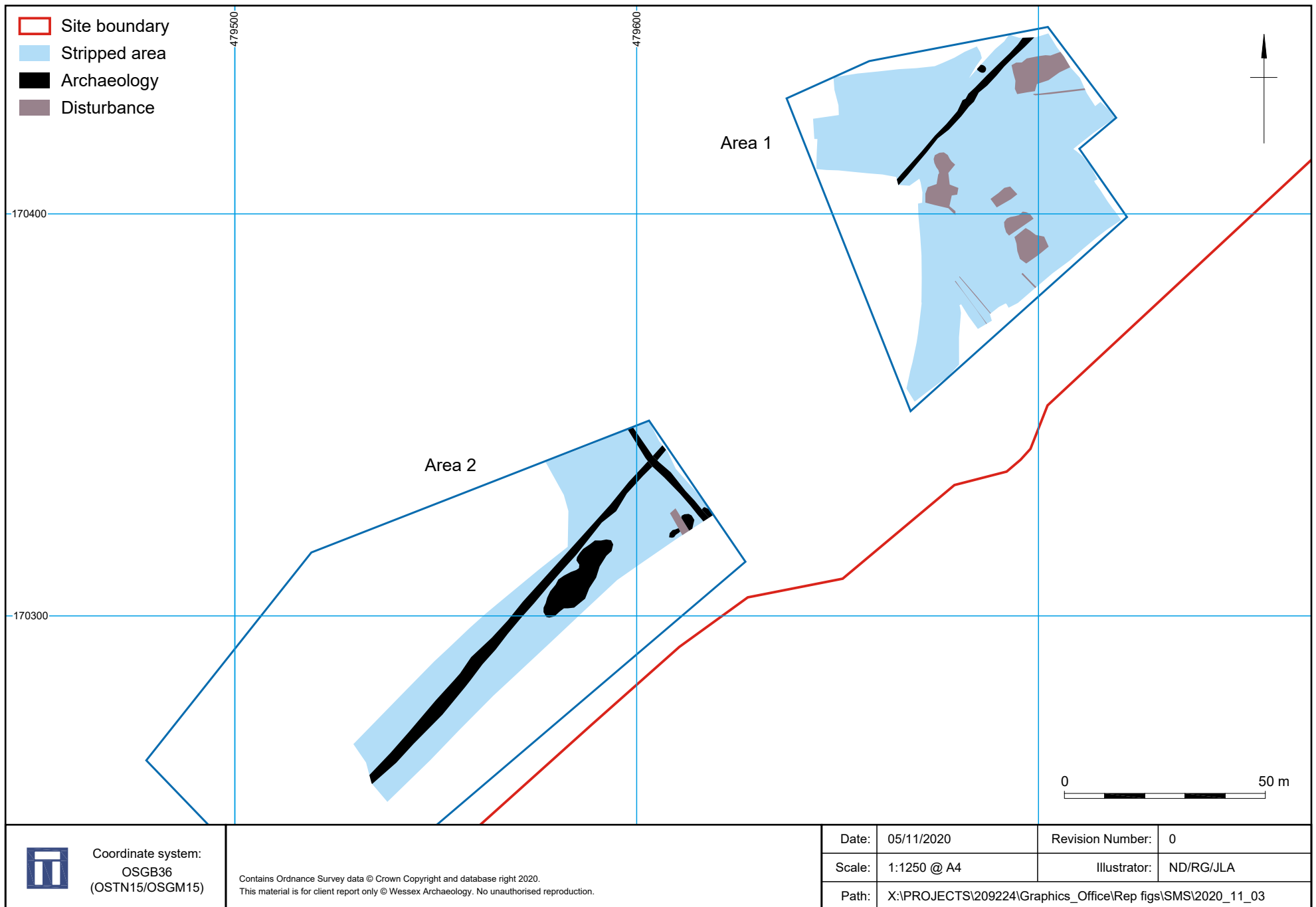
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Site location plan

Figure 1



Strip, Map and Sample Excavation Areas 1 & 2

Figure 2



Plate 1: South facing representative section of Area 1. 1 m scale.



Plate 2: Stripping of Area 3. 1 m and 2 m scales.


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Plate 3: Northern edge of Area 1, view from the east.



Plate 4: Remains of foundations 2623 within Area 1, view from the north. 1 m scale.


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Plate 5: Structural remains 2626 and 2627, view from the north. 1 m scale.



Plate 6: WW2 electric cable, view from the south-east.



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Plate 7: Modern pit 2628 with Area 1, view from the west. 1 m scale.



Plate 8: Modern pit 2364 within Area 1, view from the south-east. 1 m scale.

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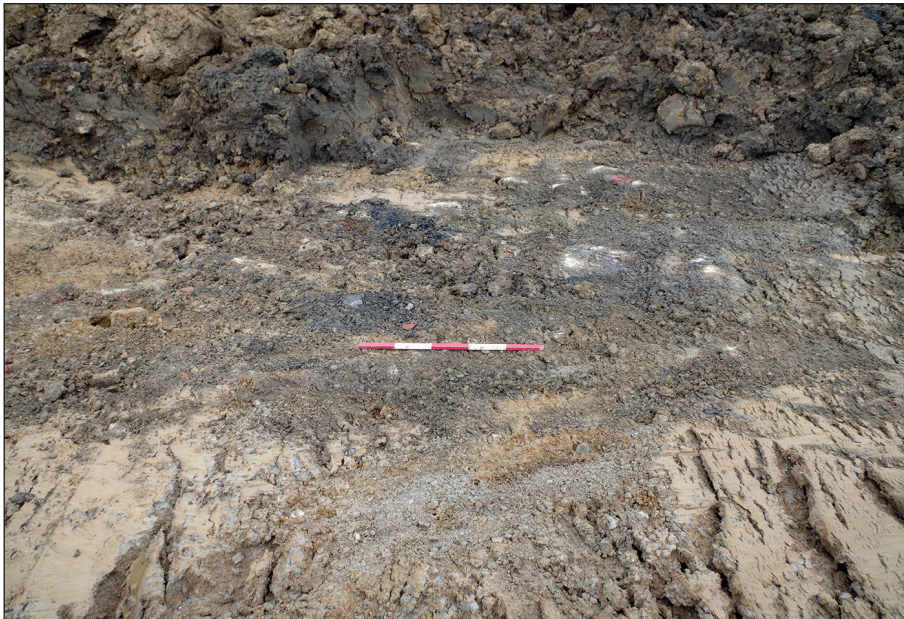


Plate 9: Modern pit 2630 within Area 1, view from the north. 1 m scale.



Plate 10: Field boundary 2632, view from the west. 1 m scale.


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Plate 11: West facing section of ditch 2607. 1 m scale.



Plate 12: Ditch 2603 and spread 2605, view from the north-west. 2 m and 0.5 m scales.

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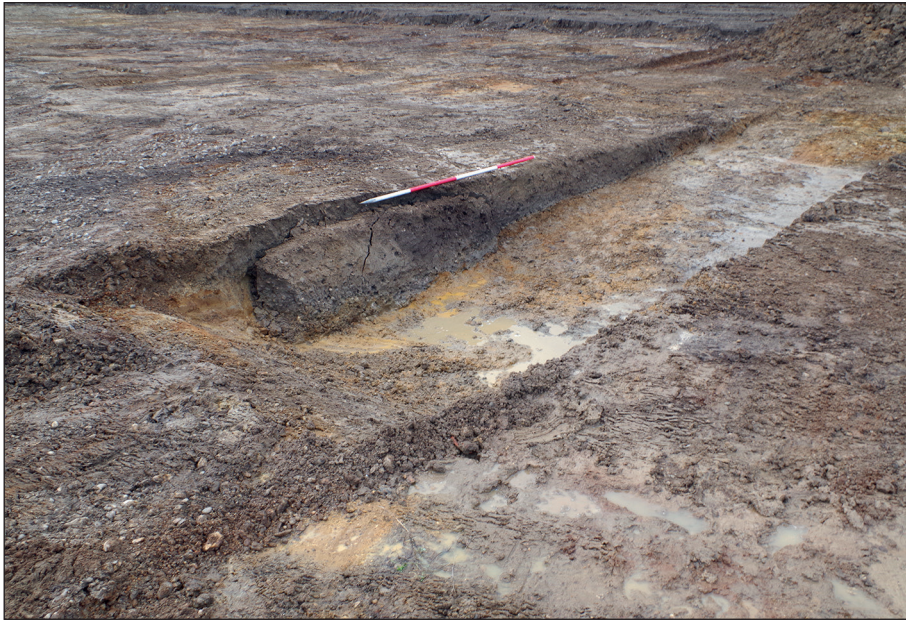



Plate 13: North-east facing section of possible pond 2609. 2 m scale.

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