



WYAS
**Archaeological
Services**

**Cowm Top
Rochdale
Greater Manchester**

Archaeological Evaluation Assessment Report

Report no. 4496
July 2026

Client: TEP/Barratt Homes Manchester



West Yorkshire Joint Services

Cowm Top, Rochdale Greater Manchester

Archaeological Evaluation

Assessment Report

Summary

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) undertook a scheme of archaeological trial trenching comprising 54 trenches at Cowm Top, Rochdale, Greater Manchester. The work was undertaken in two phases, the first in September and October 2025 and the second in May and June 2026. Shallow ditches and gullies were identified, some of which corresponded with post-medieval landscape features, along with a small number of undated pits.



Report Information

Client:	TEP
Address:	Bowden Business Village, Market Harborough, Leicestershire
Report Type:	Evaluation Report
Location:	Cowm Top, Rochdale
County:	Greater Manchester
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Museum Accession No.:	N/A (no accepting museum in the area)
OASIS No.:	archaeol11-544444
Date of fieldwork:	Phase 1: 29/09/2025 – 08/10/2025 Phase 2: 27/05/2026 – 05/06/2026
Date of report:	July 2026
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Contents

Report Information	ii
Contents	iii
Document Issue Record	v
List of Figures	v
List of Plates	v
List of Tables	vi
1 Introduction.....	1
Site location, topography and land use	1
Soils and geology	1
2 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	1
Prehistoric	1
Roman	2
Early medieval	2
Medieval	2
Post-medieval and modern.....	3
3 Aims and Objectives	3
4 Methodology	4
5 Results	5
Watching brief.....	5
Trial trenching	5
Trench 1	6
Trench 5	6
Trench 18	6
Trench 20	6
Trench 21	6
Trench 25	7
Trench 29	7
Trench 36	7
Trench 42	7
Trench 47	7
Trench 53	7
6 Artefact Record.....	8
Post-medieval finds.....	8
7 Environmental Record	8
Carbonised plant macrofossils and charcoal.....	8
8 Recommendations for Final Reporting.....	11
9 Discussion and Conclusions	11
Feature visibility and reliability	11
Dating, phasing and function	11
Research objectives.....	12

Figures

Plates

Appendices

Appendix 1: Written Scheme of Investigation

Appendix 2: Inventory of primary archive

Appendix 3: Concordance of contexts

Appendix 4: Trench summary table

Appendix 5: OASIS summary

Bibliography

Document Issue Record

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List of Figures

- 1 Site location
- 2 Site plan
- 3 Trench 1
- 4 Trench 5
- 5 Trench 18
- 6 Trench 20
- 7 Trench 21
- 8 Trench 25
- 9 Trench 36
- 10 Trench 42
- 11 Trench 47

List of Plates

- 1 General view of site, looking southwest
- 2 General view of site, looking north
- 3 General view of site, looking south
- 4 Trench 49, looking southwest
- 5 Representative section of Trench 10, looking northwest
- 6 Siltation trap in southeast part of site, looking southwest
- 7 Sondage in Trench 28, looking east
- 8 Sondage in Trench 45, looking east
- 9 Ditch 103, looking south
- 10 Gully 106, looking north
- 11 Ditch 503, looking northwest
- 12 Ditch 1804, looking northwest
- 13 Ditch 2503, looking northwest
- 14 Southeast end of Trench 29, looking south
- 15 Sondage in Trench 36, looking northwest
- 16 Pit 4704, looking south
- 17 Hedgeline in Trench 53, looking south

List of Tables

- 1 Catalogue of the glass and ceramic finds
- 2 Environmental catalogue

1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by The Environment Partnership (TEP) on behalf of Barratt Homes Manchester to undertake a trial trench evaluation at Cowm Top, Rochdale, Greater Manchester. The trenches were investigated in two phases, with Phase 1 taking place between the 29th September and 8th October 2025, and Phase 2 between 27th of May and the 5th of June 2026. The work was undertaken in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by TEP and approved by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS; Appendix 1).

An interim report was completed for Phase 1 of the works in 2025, comprising a watching brief in two areas and the excavation of 23 trenches of the planned 54, including three trenches (52, 53 and 54) positioned along the southern boundary of the site, to the south of Trenches 1, 6 and 7, which were added to the scheme with approval of GMAAS in lieu of a watching brief and/or excavation work in this area. This report is an assessment report combining the Phase 1 works with the Phase 2 trenching.

Site location, topography and land use

The development site comprises approximately 20ha of steep hilly pasture farmland situated to the south of Rochdale, Greater Manchester (SD 89162 10276 Fig. 1). The site is bounded to the south by the M62 motorway, to the east by the A627(M), to the north by warehouses, and to the west by a housing estate (Fig. 2).

The ground within the site undulates greatly (Plates 1, 2 and 3) between 153m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in Trench 40 on the southern edge of the site to 180m aOD in Trench 44 on the northern edge of the site.

Soils and geology

The bedrock geology across the site comprises the Old Lawrence Rock - Sandstone Group, described as sedimentary bedrock formed between 319 and 318 million years ago during the Carboniferous period. Superficial deposits of Hummocky (moundy) Glacial Deposits of the Devensian – Diamicton Superficial Geology Group are also recorded (BGS 2025). The overlying soils are part of the 551d Newport 1 Soil association (SSEW 1983).

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

The archaeological and historic background provided in the WSI (Appendix 1) is summarised here.

Prehistoric

Mesolithic evidence in the form of worked flints and associated waste flakes has been recovered from higher upland areas within the north and western parts of the Rochdale area and form part of a group of sites which have been identified across the central Pennine area.

These sites are frequently located on hilltops and south-facing slopes, particularly where there is natural shelter. Lowland evidence for the Mesolithic is rare within the Rochdale area, as it is across Greater Manchester and North West England.

Later prehistoric evidence is rare within the Rochdale area and what evidence has been identified is consistent with the concentration of archaeological remains and findspots on better drained soils overlooking watercourses and wetlands that has been found across Greater Manchester. Neolithic polished stone axes and Bronze Age axe-hammers and metal work have been recovered along the course of the river Roch and its tributaries. The HER records the location of field boundaries and a possible mound approximately 750m to the south-east of the site which are of a possible Bronze Age to Iron Age origin. A single Iron Age artefact has been identified within the Rochdale area: a bronze torque recovered in Calderbrook in 1832.

Despite the lack of evidence within the site and its surrounding area it has been assessed that the development site has a moderate potential for archaeological remains of the prehistoric period, due to the prevalence of sand and gravel and the site's topographic position overlooking the Trub Brook. Such evidence, if present, would likely be located on the raised areas of the site where sand and gravel deposited during the period of glacial retreat provided better drainage and an enhanced potential for human activity.

Roman

No evidence for the Roman period is recorded within the site or immediate surrounding area. Whilst Roman evidence is relatively plentiful within Greater Manchester, evidence within the Rochdale area is scarce.

Early medieval

No evidence for the early medieval period is recorded within the site or immediate surrounding area.

Physical evidence of settlement in the early medieval period within Rochdale is very rare and the main indication for a pre-Norman settlement is the inclusion of Rochdale (Recedham) in the Domesday Survey. The Survey lists Rochdale as one of the holdings of Gamel the Thane, one of 21 thanes in the manor of Radcliffe, who held land under Edward the Confessor.

Medieval

No evidence for the medieval period is recorded within the site or immediate surrounding area.

Following the Norman Conquest, Gamel the Thane continued to hold land under Roger de Poitou. The land holdings eventually passed to Henry, Earl of Lancaster, whose family held the land until the end of the 15th century. A castle is thought to have been located on Castle Hill, approximately 2.5 km to the north of the site. Given the agriculturally marginal nature of the study site, it is likely that it was in use as pasture during the medieval period.

Post-medieval and modern

No post-medieval or modern heritage assets are recorded within the site. The HER records the locations of 33 post-medieval and modern non-designated heritage assets in the surrounding area. The majority of these of assets are former or extant structures, the exceptions being an earthwork township and parish boundary located approximately 900m to the north-east of the site a ford located approximately 750m to the north-west of the site ,the site of the Trub Smithy settlement located approximately 600m to the south-west of the site and ‘Kiln Field’ located approximately 800m to the north of the site.

The earliest detailed map of the site (1851 Ordnance Survey) shows a number of straight field boundaries within the site with a road passing through the site on a north-east to south-west orientation and connecting to Castleton at the south. Little change is evident on subsequent mapping save for the removal of field boundaries and the road. The surrounding area underwent rapid change during the 19th and 20th centuries with residential and industrial development and road infrastructure.

3 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the evaluation was to gather sufficient information to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological remains and the extent, condition and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features.

The aim of the watching brief was to provide information on the presence or absence and the extent, character, chronology, depth of burial and degree of archaeological survival within the monitored areas and to fully excavate and record any remains observed. This was to be undertaken to allow enabling works and the construction of a new road to take place prior to the completion of the evaluation.

In addition, the archaeological works sought to answer the following research questions from the North West Regional Research Framework:

- PH04: How can we enhance existing datasets for prehistory in the region?
- PH23: How can we identify previously unknown prehistoric sites?
- PM10: Where does pre-18th century enclosure survive in the region?
- PM15: How well recorded and understood are farming landscapes, field patterns, distributions of buildings and building types?
- Ind05: How well understood is change and development of the agrarian landscape in response to industrialisation and enclosure?

The objective of the work was to monitor the removal of top and subsoil horizons and assess the resultant areas for their archaeological potential. Any remains were then subject to

archaeological excavation. Recovered artefacts were subject to analysis and environmental data were sampled.

4 Methodology

The work involved the excavation of 54 trenches, all of which measured 50m by 1.80m. This includes three trenches (52, 53 and 54) which were added to the scheme with approval of GMAAS in lieu of further works in the south of the Phase 1 area of the site. The trenches were positioned to provide a wide sample across the site, as no geophysical survey could be carried out. Two areas of the site were also subject to a watching brief, comprising areas of 3,590m² and 252m², during enabling works and the stripping for a new road (Fig. 2).

All work was undertaken in accordance with accepted professional standards and guidelines (Historic England 2008; CIfA 2023), in accordance with the ASWYAS site recording manual (ASWYAS 2020) and in compliance with the WSI (Appendix 1).

All trenches were set out and the limits resurveyed using a Trimble VRS differential GPS accurate to +/-0.01m. The trenches were opened in a controlled manner using a 360 excavator using a flat-bladed ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision. All topsoil deposits were removed in level spits (not more than 0.20m) with the topsoil and subsoil being separated to allow for re-instating in reverse order. Machining stopped at the first archaeological horizon or natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. All excavations of archaeological deposits were undertaken manually with the stripped surface being cleaned and investigated for archaeological remains.

An appropriate sample was excavated through all archaeological features with at least a 20% sample through linear features (with a minimum sample of 1m) and a 50% sample through discrete features. These were undertaken to investigate the full depth, profile and fills, where possible, and to recover dating evidence from the fills. All excavated sections were, where possible, located adjacent to the trench edge in order to provide a full stratigraphic sequence.

A soil sampling programme was undertaken consisting of bulk soil samples for the identification of plant macro-fossils, small animal bones and other small artefacts. All samples were taken from appropriate archaeological deposits, in accordance with the WSI and Historic England guidelines.

All archaeological features were accurately recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50. Feature sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. All plans and sections include spot heights that relate to Ordnance Datum in metres.

A full written, drawn and photographic record was made of all archaeological work undertaken. An inventory of the primary archive is presented in Appendix 2 and ASWYAS currently hold the site archive in a stable and secure location.

5 Results

Watching brief

A watching brief was maintained in two areas; one on the western side of the site, comprising an area of 3,950m² and the other in the central part of the site, comprising an area of 252m² (Fig. 2). The work was undertaken over the course of ten days between the 23rd of September 2025 and the 8th of October 2025, concurrently with the trial trenching works detailed below. A sequence of topsoil (context 99900), measuring between 0.10m and 0.36m in depth, and a shallow layer of subsoil (context 99901), measuring between 0.02m and 0.10m in depth, overlying the natural geology (99902) were exposed. Areas of tree root disturbance were clearly visible in the western area where vegetation had recently been removed, although this was largely contained within the topsoil and subsoil. No archaeological remains were observed.

Trial trenching

Below is a description of each trench containing archaeological remains. Trenches devoid of archaeological features are not discussed further but a concordance of contexts is presented in Appendix 3 and a trench summary table is provided in Appendix 4. Photographs of example trenches are presented in Plates 4 and 5.

Trenches 25, 42, 43 and 47 were reoriented or moved to avoid the deepest undulations and valleys that were present across the site. This was done to enable safe excavation with plant as well as to avoid siltation run off into natural water courses which might then run into the fisheries beyond the south and southwest boundaries of the site. Trenches 26, 27, and 29 were moved as they were in the path of siltation run off coming from a silt trap (Plate 6) set up in the southeastern part of the site, between Trenches 26 and 28.

All features were sealed by a soft, dark greyish black clayey-silt topsoil and in some cases a friable, mid-grey clayey silt subsoil that varied in depth across the site and tended to be deeper at the base of slopes, indicating that it may be the result of hill wash processes. In Phase 2, this deposit was present in trenches that cut through hollows that ran through the landscape. In some trenches to the south, the subsoil was comprised predominantly of a mid-greyish yellow silty sand. The underlying geology varied across the site, in most trenches consisting of a of a mid-brownish orange silty-clay or a bright yellowish orange fine clayey sand, with some trenches containing mid-brownish orange or mid-yellowish grey fine silty sands.

Trenches 26, 28, 30, 45 and 48 contained a deposit of very compacted backfilled clay that contained inclusions of metal and brick. Each trench was excavated to a depth of between 0.80 and 1.20m deep, with a sondage excavated at either end, to a depth of approximately 1.50m to 1.80m (Plate 7). A sondage was excavated at the northern end of Trench 45 to a depth of 2.70m (Plate 8), with natural geology not being reached in any of these trenches. The trenches appeared to be on a raised part of the site, with the backfilled clay deposit being present at the southern end of Trench 29 and the eastern end of Trench 27. It is possible that

the ground was raised by the deposition of clay and other waste material when the M62 motorway and A627 were constructed.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

Trench 1 contained one ditch, on a north-south orientation (ditch 103) and two shallow gullies (104 and 106), also on a north-south orientation.

Ditch 103 (Fig. 3, S. 5; Plate 9) measured 1.80m wide and 0.21m deep. It contained one fill (102) that comprised a dark greyish brown sandy silt that was heavily disturbed by worms and rooting. Fill 102 appeared to be very similar to the topsoil indicating that it was potentially an old field boundary, which looks to be visible on 1937 OS mapping. Hazel charcoal was recovered from the environmental sample taken from this fill.

Gully 104 (Fig. 3, S. 7) was situated just to the west of ditch 103 and measured 1.0m wide and 0.20m deep. It contained one fill (105) that comprised a dark greyish brown, friable silty clay, which produced oak charcoal. Gully 106 (Fig. 3, S. 10; Plate 10) was situated towards the southern end of Trench 1 and measured 0.40m wide and 0.16m deep. It contained one fill (107) of dark blackish grey, friable silty clay, from which a sherd of 18th-century pottery was recovered.

Trench 5 (Fig. 4)

Trench 5 contained one (ditch 503) on a north-south orientation. Ditch 503 (Fig. 4, S. 8; Plate 11) and measured 1.30m wide and 0.35m deep. It contained one dark brownish-grey fill (504) from which one piece of clay pipe stem was recovered. Fill 504 was very similar to the topsoil, indicating that it may be an agricultural feature dating to the modern period.

Trench 18 (Fig. 5)

Trench 18 contained one ditch (1804) on a northeast-southwest orientation (Plate 12). Ditch 1804 (Fig. 5, S. 11) measured 1.65m wide and 0.39m deep and contained a single mid-greyish brown silty sand fill (1805) that was disturbed by rooting. No finds were recovered from the ditch, but it appears to align with a field boundary recorded on 1851 historic mapping. It also corresponded to what appears to be a field boundary visible on Google Earth images as late as March 2025.

Trench 20 (Fig. 6)

This trench contained a large shallow pit (pit 2004; Fig. 6, S. 17) that measured 0.20m deep and at least 1.76m wide; it extended beyond the southern limit of excavation. It contained a single dark brownish grey loose silty sand fill (2005) with occasional small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, concentrated at the base of the feature.

Trench 21 (Fig. 7)

Trench 21 contained one pit (2104; Fig. 7, S. 16) that had an irregular sub-oval shape. It measured 0.90m wide and 0.20m deep and contained a single dark brownish grey silty sand

fill (2105). No finds were recovered from pit 2104 and due to its irregular shape and shallow nature, it may have been formed by rooting.

Trench 25 (Fig. 8)

This trench contained one ditch (2503; Fig. 8, S. 21; Plate 13) on a northwest-southeast orientation. It measured 0.69m wide and 0.16m deep and contained a single mid-greyish brown clayey silt fill (2104). No finds were recovered from the feature.

Trench 29

This trench contained a possible ditch that was visible in the trench section and appeared to be truncated and overlain by the backfilled clay (2903) which was present in trenches situated in the southeastern part of the site (Plate 14). The fill had an appearance similar to the subsoil and contained significant disturbance by rooting, many of which were present in the section. This possible ditch seemed to align with a north-south oriented field boundary present on 1851 OS mapping, as well as aerial photos from Google Earth showing a hedgeline that was visible as late as March 2025.

Trench 36 (Fig. 9)

Trench 36 contained one possible pit (pit 3602; Fig. 9, S. 3) that measured 0.84m wide and 0.12m deep. It contained one fill (3603) that comprised a very dark blackish brown clayey silt. The cut of pit 3602 was quite irregular and shallow, indicating that it may have been formed from burnt out rooting.

A sondage (Plate 15) was excavated through a deposit of light grey clay at the request of GMAAS to investigate the possibility of a colluvial deposit possibly filling a topological basin. Excavation showed the deposit to be a variation in the underlying geology continuing below the yellow sand geology to the north (uphill) and no regular edge to the south.

Trench 42 (Fig. 10)

This trench contained a small pit (4203; Fig. 10, S. 20) that measured 0.40m wide and 0.15m deep. It contained one fill that comprised a dark whitish friable silty sand fill (4204). No finds were recovered from this pit and due to its irregular profile, shallow nature and sterile fill, may have been formed by rooting.

Trench 47 (Fig. 11)

Trench 47 contained one pit (4703; Fig. 11, S. 14) situated to the northern end of the trench (Plate 16). It measured 0.68m wide and 0.26m deep and contained a single fill that comprised a dark greyish brown sandy silt fill (4704). No finds were recovered from this fill.

Trench 53

Trench 53 contained one ditch that was on the same alignment as ditch 103 and contained large tree roots throughout, with the fill comprising a mix of topsoil and subsoil (Plate 17). This was most probably the remains of a former hedgeline, visible on Google Earth imagery as late as March 2025.

6 Artefact Record

Post-medieval finds by Zoe Horn

One piece of clay pipe stem was recovered from ditch 503 (fill 504) and one sherd of blue porcelain ceramic was recovered from Gully 106 (fill 107) in Trench 1 (Table 1). These finds are consistent with domestic refuse dating to the post-medieval period.

No further analysis is required, and it is recommended that this assemblage is deselected from the site archive rather than being retained for museum deposition.

Table 1. Catalogue of the glass and ceramic finds

Context	Material	Description	Quantity	Date
107	Pottery	Glazed stoneware medallion from a mug or jug with cobalt blue decoration showing a crown and "GR" (George Rex) Popular during the reigns of George I (1714–1727) and George II (1727–1760). Origin: Likely Westerwald, Germany	1	1714 to 1760
504	Clay tobacco pipe	A small fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem. Borehole diameter 5/64"	1	1682 to 1757

7 Environmental Record

Carbonised plant macrofossils and charcoal by Diane Alldritt

Seven environmental sample flots were assessed for carbonised plant macrofossils and charcoal. No charred material was recovered from the sample retents. Samples were taken from ditches and gullies uncovered in Trenches 1, 5 and 25 and two pits in Trenches 20 and 47 respectively. Small quantities of charcoal were recovered from Trench 1 suggesting low levels of burning activity taking place in the vicinity possibly related to agricultural work. The remaining trenches were largely sterile.

Methodology

The bulk environmental samples were processed by ASWYAS using a Siraf-style water flotation system (French 1971). The samples were 10l to 40l in volume. The flots were dried before examination under a low power binocular microscope typically at x10 magnification. All identified plant remains including charcoal were removed and bagged separately by type.

Wood charcoal was examined using a high-powered Vickers M10 metallurgical microscope at magnifications up to x200. The reference photographs of Schweingruber (1990) were consulted for charcoal identification. Plant nomenclature utilised in the text follows Stace (1997) for all vascular plants apart from cereals, which follow Zohary and Hopf (2000).

Results

The samples produced small amounts of carbonised remains <2.5ml to 5ml in volume. The remains consist of trace finds of degraded charcoal fragments <5mm to 10mm in size in

amongst crushed charred detritus below the level of identification. Modern remains were present 5ml to 100ml mainly root detritus with a few finds of modern seeds and earthworm egg capsules indicating bioturbation was taking place. Coal was present in four samples and was likely to be natural or mixed in from post-medieval disturbance. The results are given in Table 2.

Discussion

Small quantities of charcoal were recovered from two features in Trench 1, ditch 103 (fill 102) and gully 104 (fill 105) suggesting low levels of burning activity in the vicinity, perhaps from agricultural clearance work, but likely to be residual. Ditch 103 (fill 102) contained *Corylus* (hazel) charcoal whilst gully 104 (fill 105) had a <5mm fragment of *Quercus* (oak).

Conclusion

The samples produced low levels of recovery of carbonised remains mostly indeterminate crushed fragments of charcoal mixed with coal and other geological material suggesting bioturbated remains or disturbance. Trench 1 produced a few fragments of identifiable charcoal.

No further identification work is recommended on the samples. Further excavation work has a low potential to produce any significant quantities of carbonised remains.

Table 2. Environmental catalogue

	Sample	102	105	504	1805	2005	2504	4704
	Context	1	2	3	4	6	7	5
	Feature	ditch	gully	ditch	hedgeline	pit	ditch	pit
	Cut	103	104	503	1804	2004	2503	4703
	Trench	1	1	5	18	20	25	47
	Sample Volume (litres)	40	40	20	10	20	20	20
	Total CV	5ml	5ml	<2.5ml	<2.5ml	<2.5ml	<2.5ml	5ml
	Modern	100ml	30ml	40ml	30ml	5ml	50ml	50ml
Charcoal	Common Name							
<i>Quercus</i>	oak		2 (0.09g)					
<i>Corylus</i>	hazel	1 (0.09g)						
Other Remains								
Coal			1	5+	5+		5+	
Modern seeds								1
Earthworm egg capsules								1

8 Recommendations for Final Reporting

All finds and samples have been assessed by relevant specialists and their reports are included above, with their observations added to the results section where relevant. No further analysis on this material has been recommended.

The report text illustrations (plans, sections and plates) provided here are considered to be a thorough record of the features investigated, in conjunction with the detailed context concordance provided below (Appendix 3).

9 Discussion and Conclusions

Feature visibility and reliability

Ten archaeological features were observed across the 54 trenches. These consisted of two gullies and a ditch in Trench 1, ditches in Trenches 5, 18, 25, 29 and 53; as well as pits of various sizes in Trenches 20, 21, 36, 42 and 47. The features identified were clearly visible against the geological background and no problems were encountered in finding their depth or extent.

Dating, phasing and function

The linear features were fairly shallow and contained fills that were quite similar to the overlying topsoil and subsoil. A clay pipe fragment recovered from ditch 503 in Trench 5 indicates post-medieval deposition and there is nothing to indicate the other features were not of a similar date. Ditches 103 and 1804, as well as a possible ditch observed in Trench 29, correspond with hedgelines/field boundaries present on Google Earth as late as March 2025, also supporting the view that these features are most likely post-medieval or early modern in origin. Pits excavated in Trenches 20, 21 and 42 did not contain any dating evidence but were bulk sampled, although no significant information was obtained from the samples. There was no evidence for earlier prehistoric activity on the site.

Evidence of significant landscaping was observed across the extent of Trenches 26, 28, 30, 45, and 48, as well as the eastern ends of Trenches 27, 29 and 31. This was in the form of deep compact clay deposit that contained brick, metal wiring and other modern waste.

LiDAR mapping shows the area where this deposit was observed as markedly different from the rest of the site, which show natural undulations and some signs of ploughing (National Library of Scotland 2026). The area of the site in which clay backfill was observed looks very grainy and shows no evidence of ploughing, being similar in appearance to the central reservation separating the northern and southern parts of the A627 dual carriageway. This may indicate that this layer was deposited when the M62 and A627 were built, potentially being formed as the result of dumping clay that was dug out when both these roads were built. The depth of this clay deposit is not certain, as natural geology was not reached in any of the trenches in which this deposit was observed. This was despite a 2.70m sondage being

excavated in Trench 45 and a minimum 1.50m sondage being excavated at either end of the other trenches.

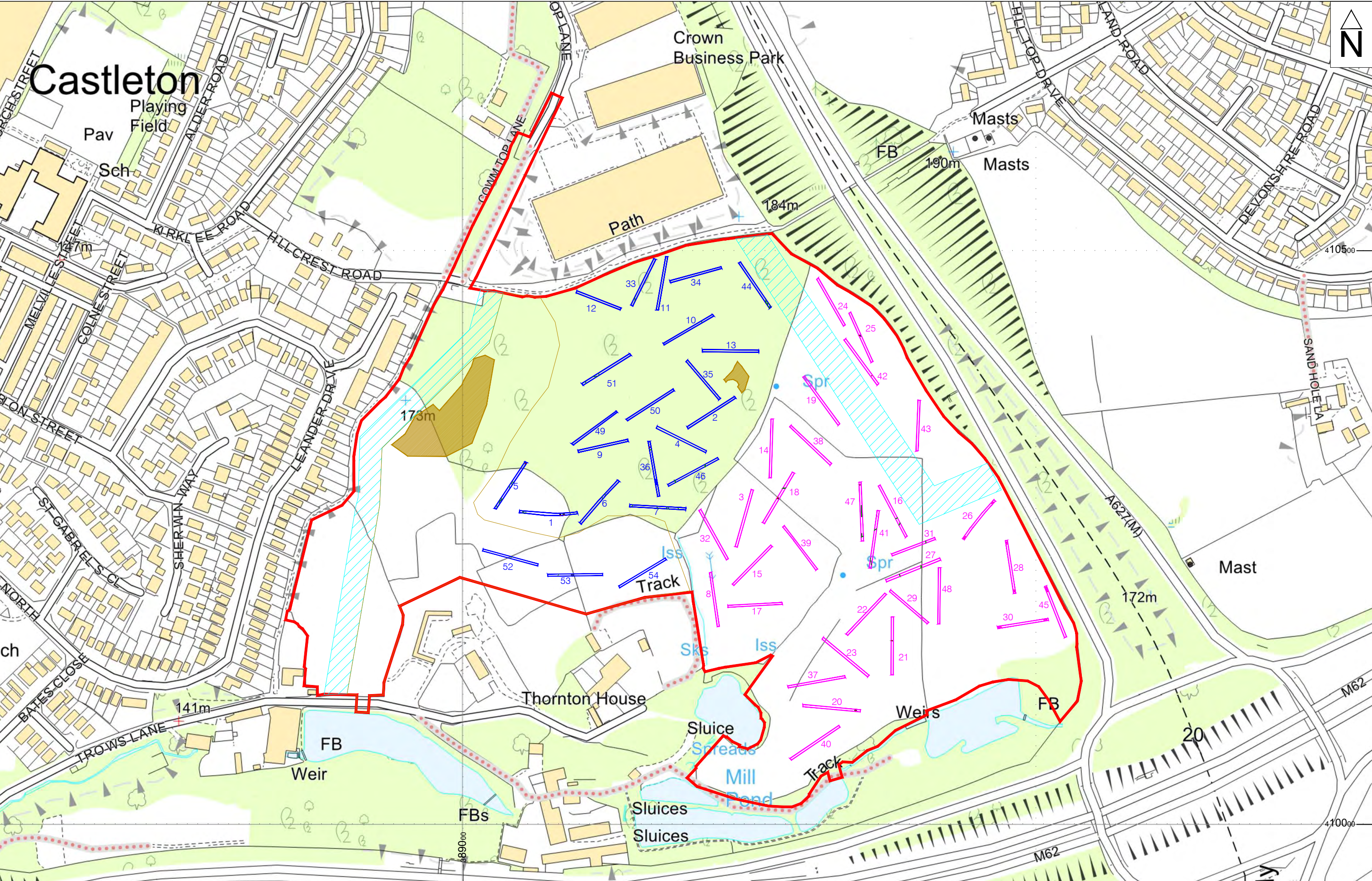
Research objectives

The trial trench evaluation and watching brief were successful in the aims and objectives of confirming the presence or absence of archaeological remains and the extent, condition and date of any archaeological features across the site.

The specific aims relating to the North West Regional Research Framework, specifically the aim of enhancing the dataset for prehistory in the region, which had been identified in the archaeological and historical background of the WSI, were not recognised. While the site's topographic position may be favourable for prehistoric occupation within the region, there is no evidence from the archaeological works to indicate human activity from this period.

The archaeological works have largely confirmed the expectations of the historical background first detailed in the WSI that the site was likely not utilised in the Roman period and if it was utilised in the medieval period it would have been as pasture, with no evidence of this surviving as sub-surface remains. This lack of earlier remains may be the result of landscaping works identified in some of the trenches (see above).

Field boundaries identified on historic mapping and recent satellite images were represented by shallow linear features crossing some trenches. These provided no evidence of recutting, realignment or development and on the evidence presented represent a single phase of fairly recent activity rather than an evolution from an earlier post-medieval landscape.





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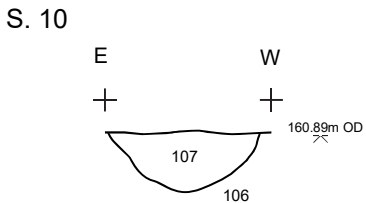
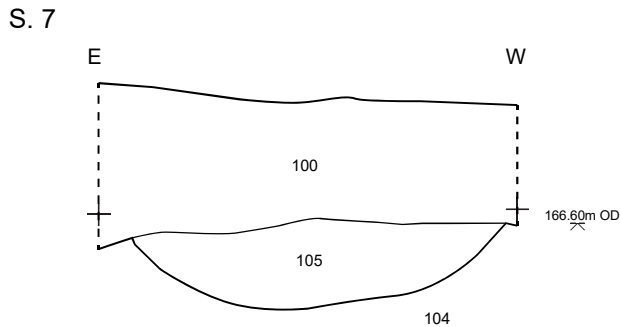
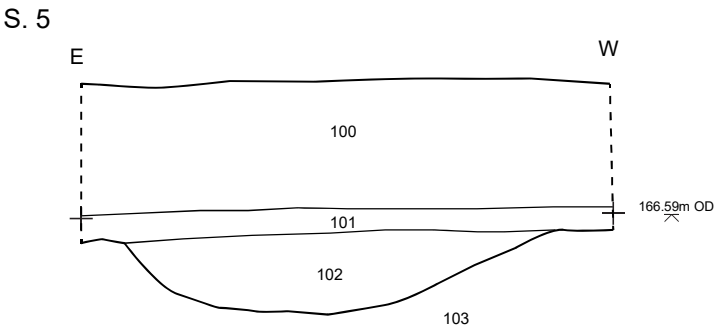
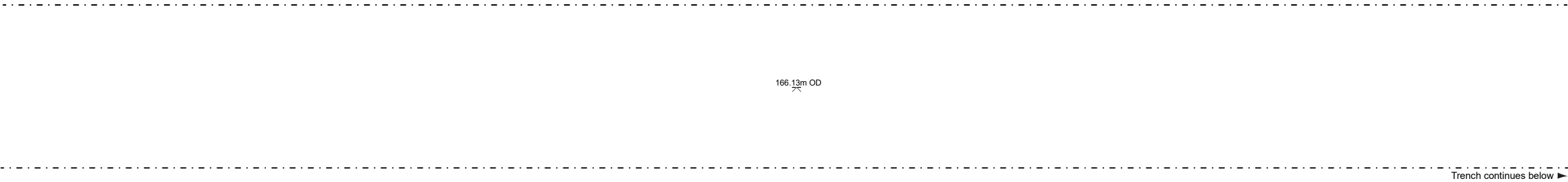
Fig. 2.

Site plan

	SITE BOUNDARY		SERVICE		LAND DRAIN
	TRIAL TRENCH (PHASE 1)		WATCHING BRIEF		
	TRIAL TRENCH (PHASE 2)		ARCHAEOLOGY		

0 150m

1:3000 @ A3



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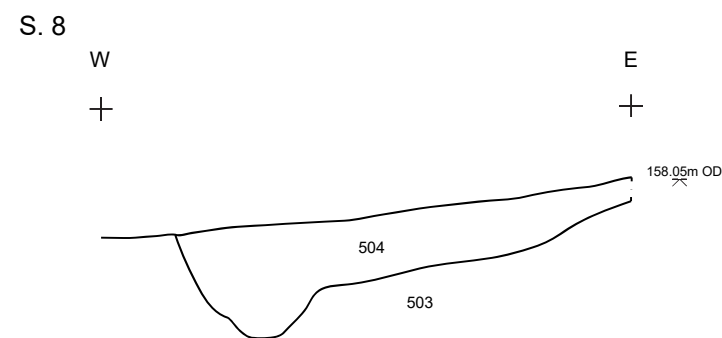
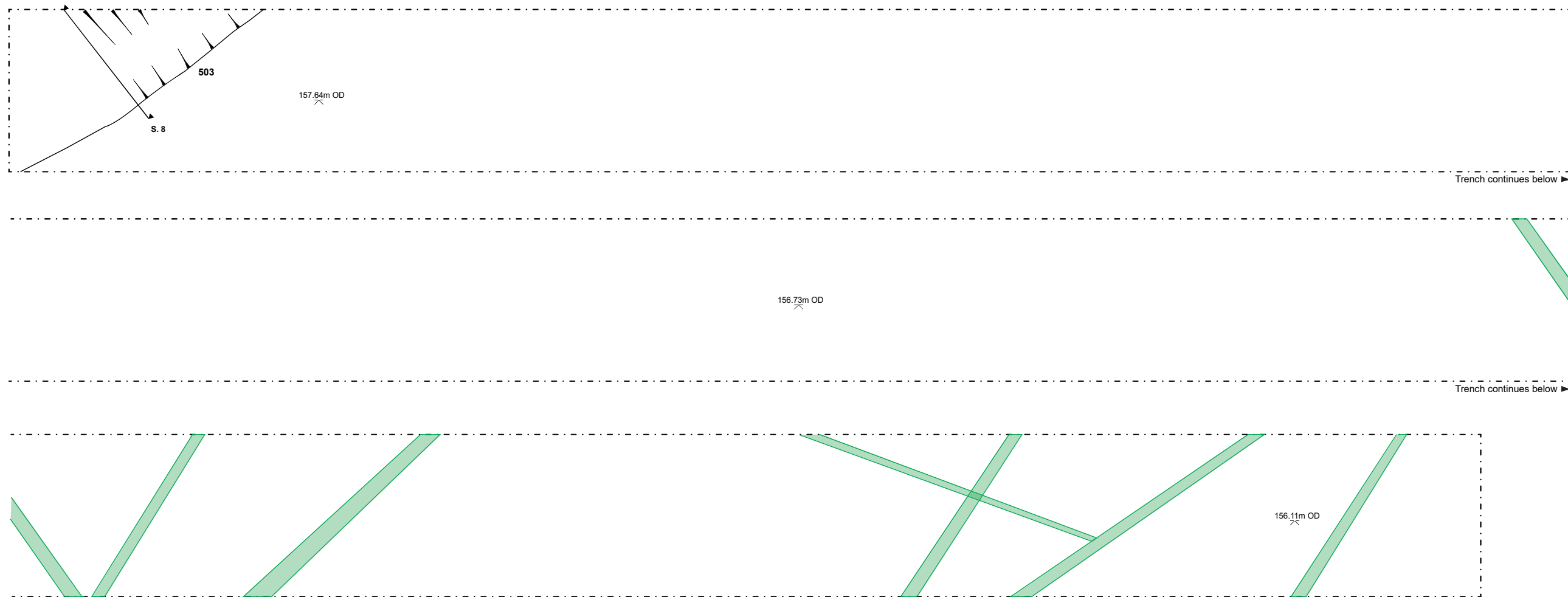
Project Code: CTR25

Fig. 3

Trench 1

Plans 0 2m (1:50)

Sections 0 1m (1:20)



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Fig. 4

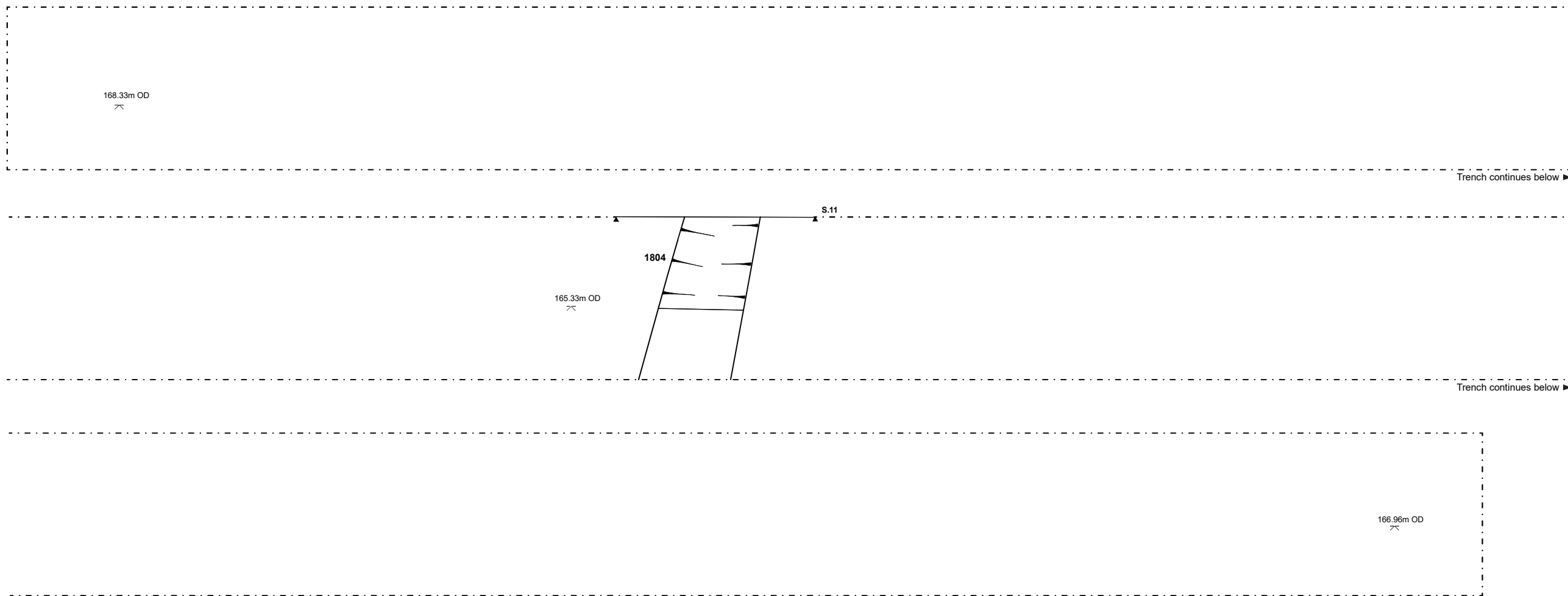
Trench 5

Key

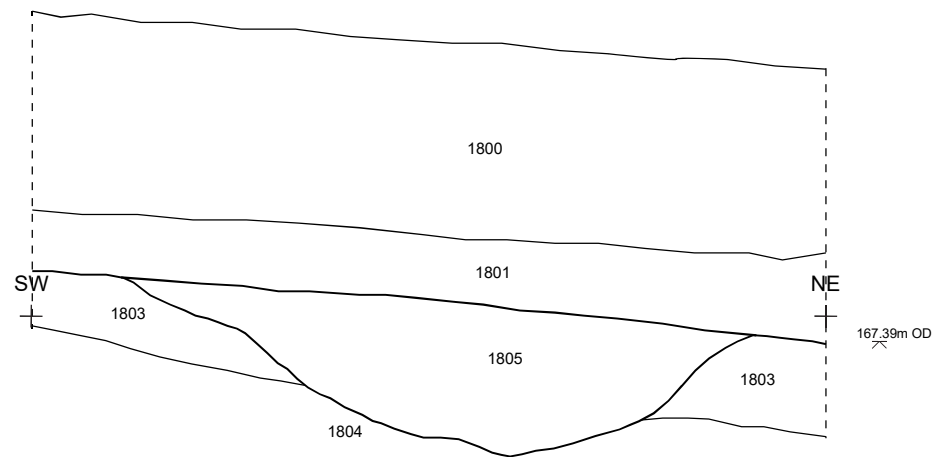
 LAND DRAIN

Plans 0 2m (1:50)

Sections 0 1m (1:20)



S. 11



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Fig. 5

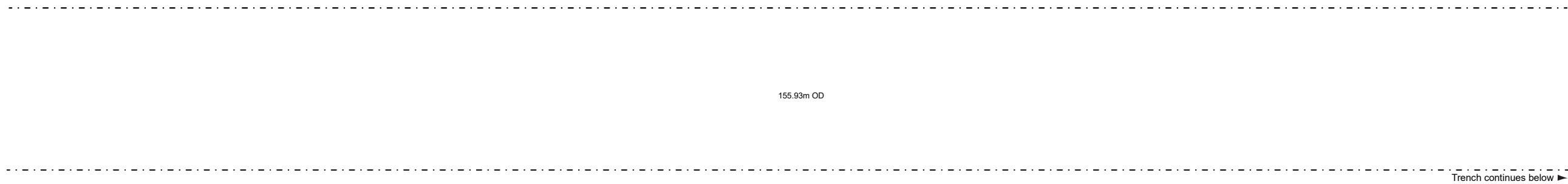
Trench 18

Plans 0 2m (1:50)

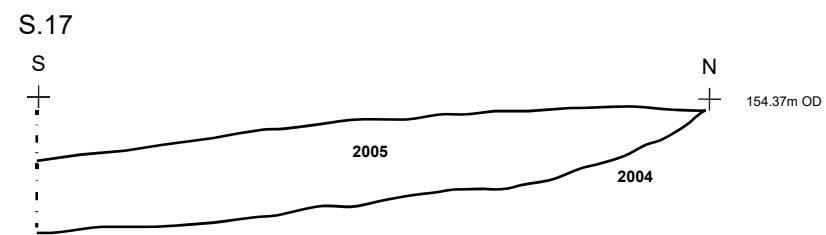
Sections 0 1m (1:20)



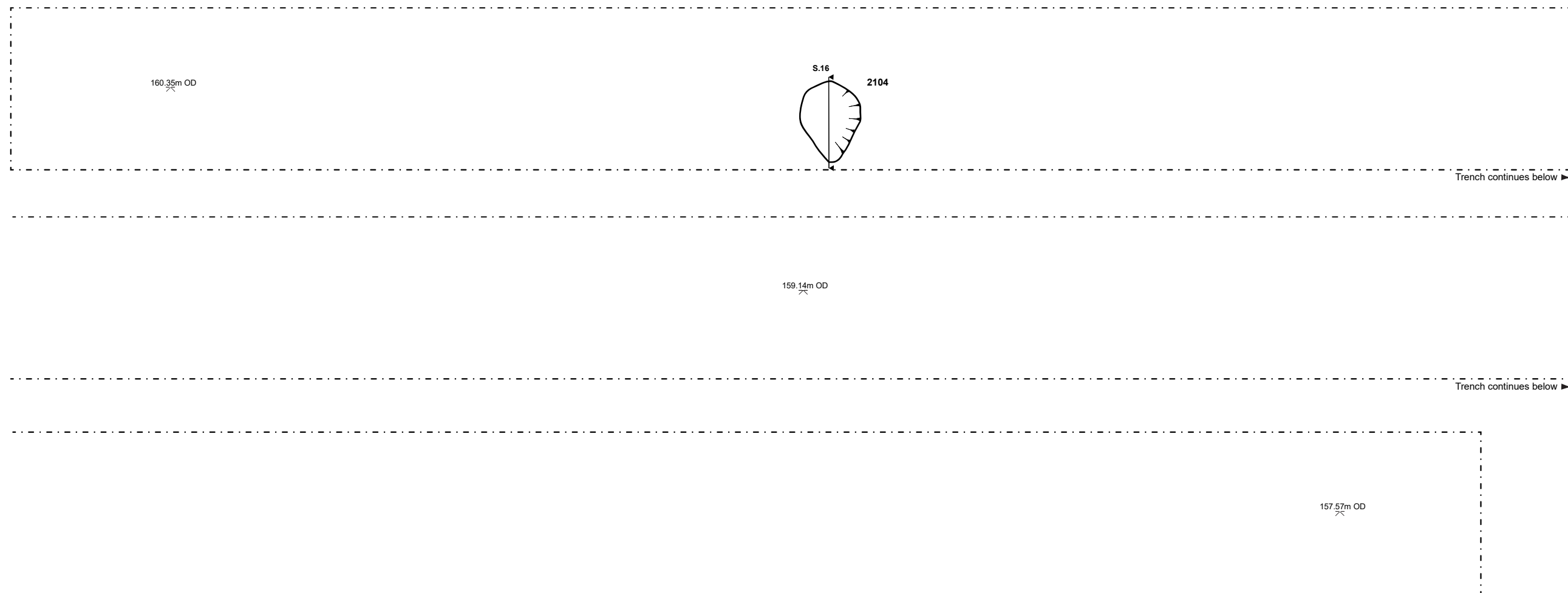
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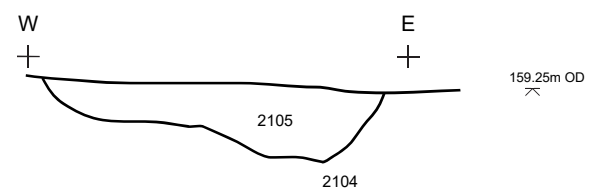
Trench continues below ►



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	<i>Fig. 6</i>		 LAND DRAIN		<i>Sections</i> 0  1m (1:20)
	<i>Trench 20</i>				



S. 16



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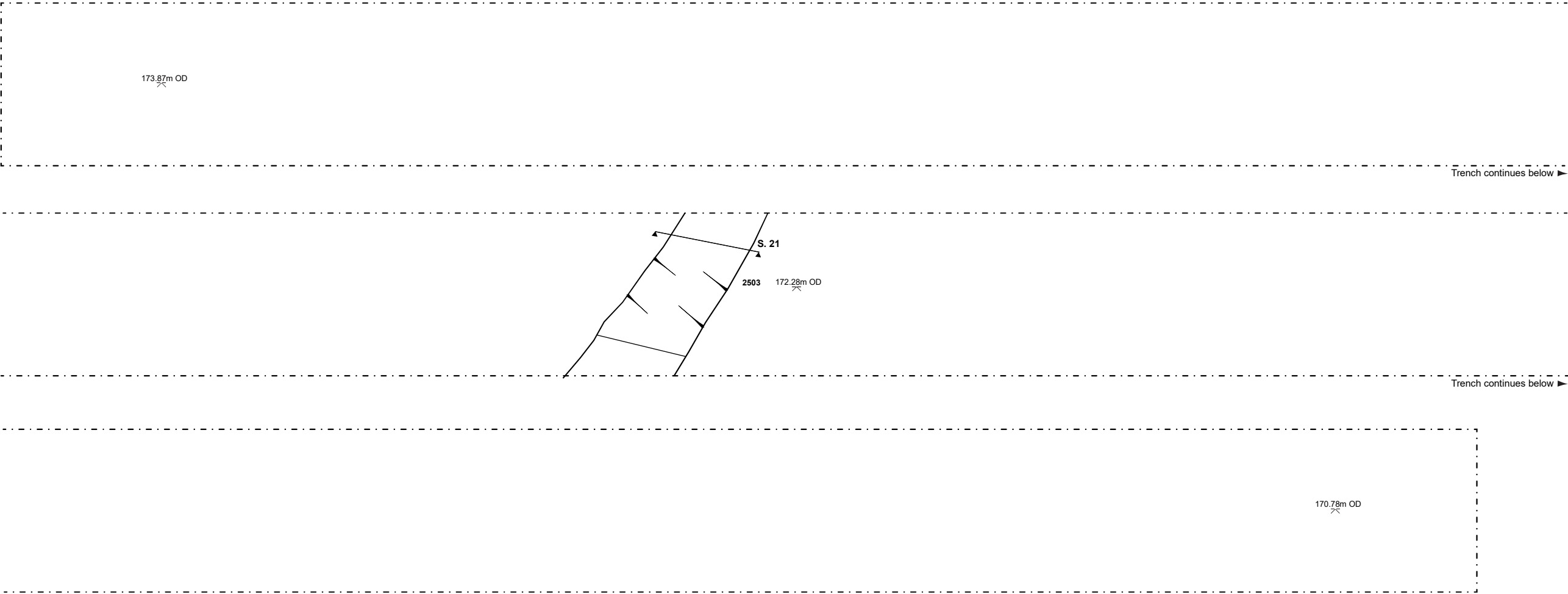
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Fig. 7

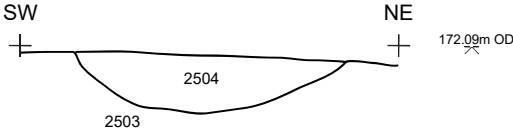
Trench 21

Plans 0 2m (1:50)

Sections 0 1m (1:20)



S. 21



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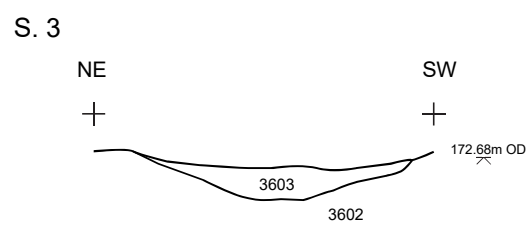
Project Code: CTR25

Fig. 8

Trench 25

Plans 0 2m (1:50)

Sections 0 1m (1:20)

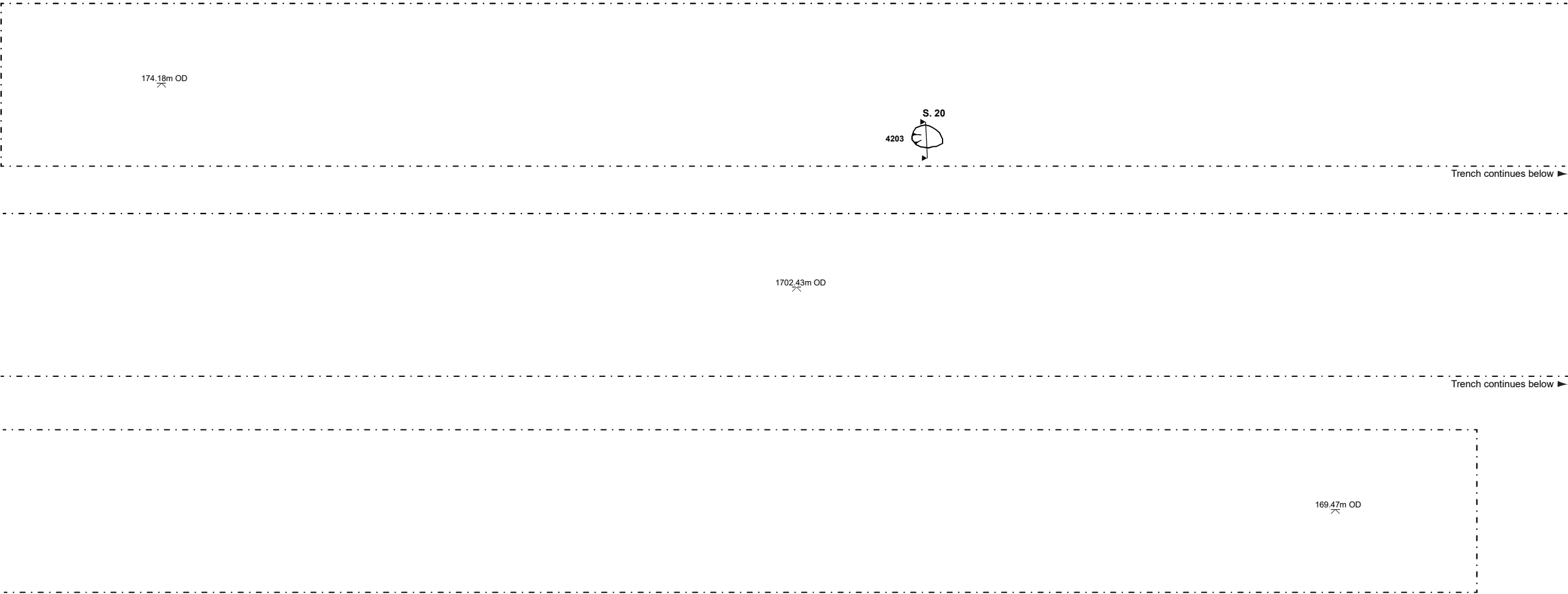


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Project No. XS07	Project Code: CTR25
Fig. 9	
Trench 36	

Key	
	LAND DRAIN

Plans	0	2m (1:50)
Sections	0	1m (1:20)



S. 20



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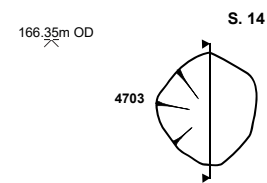
Project Code: CTR25

Fig. 10

Trench 42

Plans 0 2m (1:50)

Sections 0 1m (1:20)



Trench continues below ▶

165.27m OD

Trench continues below ▶

164.21m OD

S. 14



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Fig. 11

Trench 47

Plans 0 2m (1:50)

Sections 0 1m (1:20)



Plate 1. General view of site, looking southwest



Plate 2. General view of site, looking north



Plate 3. General view of site, looking south



Plate 4. Trench 49, looking southwest



Plate 5. Representative section of Trench 10, looking northwest



Plate 6. Siltation trap in southeast part of site, looking southwest



Plate 7. Sondage in Trench 28, looking east



Plate 8. Sondage in Trench 45, looking east



Plate 9. Ditch 103, looking south



Plate 10. Gully 106, looking north



Plate 11. Ditch 503, looking northwest



Plate 12. Ditch 1804, looking northwest



Plate 13. Ditch 2503, looking northwest



Plate 14. Southeast end of Trench 29, looking south



Plate 15. Sondage in Trench 36, looking northwest



Plate 16. Pit 4704, looking south



Plate 17. Hedgeline in Trench 53, looking south

Appendix 1: Written Scheme of Investigation



Cowm Top, Rochdale

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Investigation

Prepared For: Barratt Homes Manchester

Document Reference: 11334.001

September 2025

Version 1.2

TEP
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Document Title	Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Investigation
Document Ref	11334.001
Version	1.2
Prepared For	Barratt Homes Manchester

Author	Amir Bassir
Date	09.09.2025
Checked	Stephenie Dalby
Approved	Jason Clarke

Amendment History					
Version	Date	Modified by	Check/ Approved by	Reason	Status
1.0	09.09.2025	AB	SD / JC	Report for submission	Final
1.1	15.09.2025	AB	SD	Amendments following GMAAS review	Final
1.2	19.09.2025	AB	JC	Amended drawings	Final



Contents

1.0	Introduction	3
2.0	Policy, Standards and Guidance	7
3.0	Background	9
4.0	Programme of Archaeological Works	12
5.0	Reporting	21
6.0	Archive	23
7.0	Health and Safety	24
	References	25

Appendices

Appendix A: Drawings

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been commissioned by Barratt Homes Manchester in response to a condition of planning permission for a residential development.
- 1.2 The planning application, reference 22/01190/FUL, is for '*residential development of up to 445 dwellings with associated access, car parking, landscaping and infrastructure*' at Land South of Cowm Top, Castleton, Rochdale.
- 1.3 The Site is located to the south of Rochdale, Greater Manchester, OL11 2UE (NGR SD 89162 10276). The site forms a roughly triangular parcel of land and is bound to the south by the M62 and Junction 20, and to the east by the A627. An industrial estate lies to the immediate north and residential development lies to the west. The development site encompasses an area of approximately 20 hectares.
- 1.4 The local planning authority is Rochdale Borough Council. The archaeological advisor to the local authority is the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS).
- 1.5 Condition 6 'Archaeological Investigation' provides details for a pre-commencement programme of archaeological works:

6. No development shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works. The works are to be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) submitted to and approved in writing by Rochdale Borough Council. The WSI shall cover the following:

a. Informed by the updated North West Regional Research Framework (NWRRF), a phased programme and methodology of archaeological fieldwork investigation and recording to include:

i. Geophysical survey of proposed development areas

ii. informed by the above, targeted archaeological evaluation trenching

iii. informed by the above, more detailed targeted excavation (subject of a new WSI)

b. A programme for post fieldwork assessment to include:

i. Analysis of the site investigation records and finds

ii. Production of a final report on the significance of the archaeological and historical interest represented.

c. Deposition of the final report with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record.

d. Commensurate with the significance of any remains identified, a scheme to disseminate the results of the archaeological investigations for the benefit of the local and wider community.

e. Provision for archive deposition of the report and records of the site investigation

f. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the approved WSI.

The programme of fieldwork should be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeological contractor, funded by the applicant, and in accordance with guidance provided by GMAAS who would also monitor the implementation of the programme of works on behalf of Rochdale Borough Council.

Reason: In accordance with Places for Everyone Plan Policies JPA-23, JP-P2, Core Strategy Policy P2 and Paragraph 218 of the NPPF – To record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible.

Reason for Pre-commencement Condition: Construction/clearance works on site have the potential to impact archaeology from the initial stages, which therefore needs to be investigated, evaluated and if necessary mitigated prior to works starting on site.

- 1.6 A desk-based assessment was produced for the site as part of the planning application (RPS, 2021) which concluded that the Site has a moderate potential for the presence of currently unknown Prehistoric archaeological evidence. It noted that such evidence would likely be located within areas of higher ground where the well-drained sandy soils and topographic position overlooking Trub Brook would have provided favourable locations for human settlement and other activities.
- 1.7 The site topography and environmental constraints have been assessed as unsuitable for geophysical survey and therefore the site's archaeological potential is not fully understood, and no specific sites or areas of archaeological interest have been identified.
- 1.8 Consultation with GMAAS was carried out on 5th September to discuss the programme for the groundworks and the archaeological requirements. It was agreed that a combination of archaeological watching brief during enabling works and stripping for the new roads, and trial trench investigation targeting areas of higher ground with greater archaeological potential would be an appropriate strategy, allowing the identification of any areas of archaeological interest and for

any such features or deposits to be investigated and recorded in a manner that is proportionate to their significance.

- 1.9 This WSI sets out the proposed methodology for archaeological watching brief and trial trench evaluation within the development site. The strategy has been informed by the masterplan to ensure that areas most likely to be impacted by development will be assessed, an understanding of the archaeological potential of the site which is linked to the site's topography, and any environmental constraints and the presence of utilities and services.
- 1.10 This WSI has been prepared by The Environment Partnership (TEP) Ltd, a Registered Organisation (RO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) in accordance with CIfA guidance (CIfA, 2020). It has been authored and approved by a member of the CIfA.
- 1.11 The archaeological evaluation will be undertaken by Archaeological Services WYAS, referred to as the 'Archaeological Contractor' throughout this report.

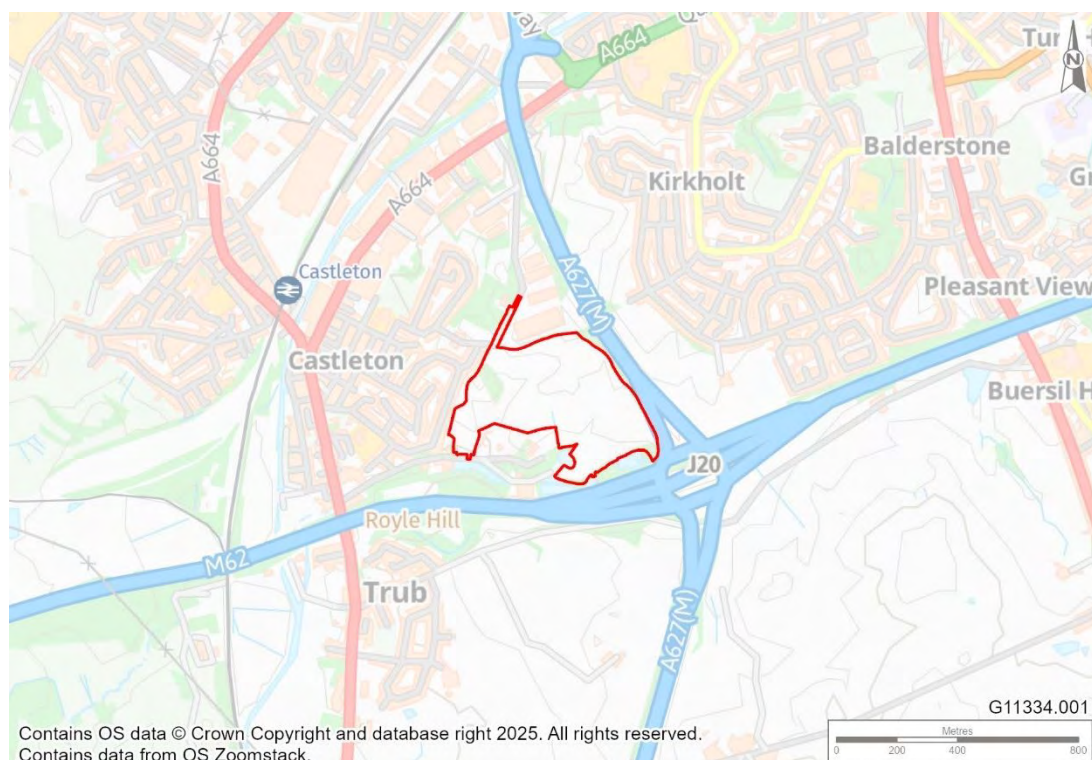


Figure 1 Site Location

Aims and Objectives

- 1.12 The programme of archaeological works has been designed to allow the identification, investigation and evaluation of any archaeological remains present within the development site. The aim of the watching brief is to allow any archaeological remains to be appropriately investigated and recorded prior to impacts from groundworks.
- 1.13 The aim of the evaluation will be to gather sufficient information to establish the extent, condition, significance, and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features, and, where appropriate, inform any further investigation or mitigation strategy.
- 1.14 This approach is in accordance with paragraphs 207 and 218 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024).
- 1.15 The research objectives of the programme of work will be determined by what, if any, archaeological remains are present within the development footprint. However, subsequent assessment and analysis will be in accordance with relevant objectives outlined in the North West England Regional Research Framework. Due to the potential for prehistoric remains to be present within the development site, the results of the archaeological work have specific potential to inform the Prehistory Research Questions.

2.0 Policy, Standards and Guidance

National Planning Policy

- 2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024) has three overarching objectives to achieve its aim of sustainable development. This includes an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment (Chapter 2, paragraph 8).
- 2.2 Chapter 16 of the NPPF (2024) then goes on to describe provisions specifically relating to conserving and enhancing the historic environment.
- 2.3 Paragraph 207 advises local planning authorities to require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected by their proposal, including any contribution made by their setting. It states that *“the level of detail should be proportionate to the assets’ importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance”*. In addition, *“Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation”*.
- 2.4 Paragraph 218 states that *“local planning authorities ... should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible”*. The request for pre-determination works attached to the planning application, and this corresponding WSI, are in accordance with this policy provision of the NPPF.

Local Planning Policy

- 2.5 The Rochdale Adopted Core Strategy (2016) replaces the Unitary Development Plan (2006).
- 2.6 Core Strategy Policy P2 sets out that the council will protect the borough’s heritage by conserving, enhancing and promoting key heritage assets and non-statutory heritage assets of local interest; prioritise the conservation of heritage assets at risk from decay and use heritage assets positively to strengthen identity and image.
- 2.7 Paragraph 9.15 in support of this policy confirms that designated and non-designated heritage assets must be conserved in accordance with their significance and the relevant national guidance, standards and good practice guides.

Guidance

- 2.8 The guidance most relevant to this WSI is provided in:
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2023, Standard for archaeological field evaluation
 - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2023, Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording
 - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2023, Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation
 - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2023, Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording
 - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020, Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials
 - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020, Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives
 - Historic England 2015, Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)

Monitoring

- 2.9 The implementation of the works outlined in this WSI will be monitored by the Senior Planning Archaeologist (SPA) at GMAAS, on behalf of Rochdale Borough Council. The SPA will be given a minimum 5 working days' notice of the commencement of works on site and be kept up to date with progress during all phases of the archaeological works.
- 2.10 All archaeological fieldwork will be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist, working under the direction of a full Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, or equivalently qualified project director.

3.0 Background

Site Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The solid geology is recorded by the British Geological Survey as Carboniferous Coal Measures comprising brick clay and coal. The Old Lawrence Rock forms two linear outcrops through the site on a NW-SE alignment. The site is overlain by 'Hummocky (moundy) glacial deposits' comprising mixed sand and gravel.
- 3.2 The general topographic trend is a rise from approximately 165m aOD to 185m aOD from south to north. The topography within the site is highly variable with higher areas of sand and gravel between which lie small valleys, the largest of which bisects the site from south-west to north-east.
- 3.3 Several springs are located within the eastern part of the site and the Trub Brook lies immediately to the south.



Figure 2 LiDAR data demonstrating the variable site topography

Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.4 The archaeological and historic background has been provided in a historic environment desk-based assessment (RPS 2021) and is summarised here.

Prehistoric

- 3.5 The HER records the location of field boundaries and a possible mound approximately 750m to the south-east of the site which are of a possible Bronze Age to Iron Age origin. Mesolithic evidence in the form of worked flints and associated waste flakes have been recovered from higher upland areas within the north and western parts of the Rochdale area and form part of a group of sites which have been identified across the central Pennine area. These sites are frequently located on hilltops and south-facing slopes, particularly where there is natural shelter. Lowland evidence for the Mesolithic is rare within the Rochdale area, as it is across Greater Manchester and North West England.
- 3.6 Later Prehistoric evidence is rare within the Rochdale area and what evidence has been identified is consistent with the concentration of archaeological remains and findspots on better drained soils overlooking watercourses and wetlands that has been found across Greater Manchester. Neolithic polished stone axes and Bronze Age axe-hammers and metal work have been recovered along the course of the river Roch and its tributaries. A single Iron Age artefact has been identified within the Rochdale area: a bronze torque recovered in Calderbrook in 1832.
- 3.7 Despite the lack of evidence within the site and its surrounding area it has been assessed that the development site has a moderate potential for archaeological remains of the prehistoric period, due to the prevalence of sand and gravel and the site's topographic position overlooking the Trub Brook. Such evidence, if present, would likely be located on the raised areas of the site where sand and gravel deposited during the period of glacial retreat provided better drainage and an enhanced potential for human activity.

Roman

- 3.8 No evidence for the Roman period is recorded within the site or immediate surrounding area. Whilst Roman evidence is relatively plentiful within Greater Manchester, evidence within the Rochdale area is scarce.

Early medieval

- 3.9 No evidence for the Early Medieval period is recorded within the site or immediate surrounding area.
- 3.10 Physical evidence of settlement in the Early Medieval period within Rochdale is very rare and the main indication for a pre-Norman settlement is the inclusion of

Rochdale (Recedham) in the Domesday Survey. The Survey lists Rochdale as one of the holdings of Gamel the Thane, one of 21 thanes in the manor of Radcliffe, who held land under Edward the Confessor.

Medieval

- 3.11 No evidence for the Medieval period is recorded within the site or immediate surrounding area.
- 3.12 Following the Norman Conquest, Gamel the Thane continued to hold land under Roger de Poitou. The land holdings eventually passed to Henry, Earl of Lancaster, whose family held the land until the end of the 15th century. A castle is thought to have been located on Castle Hill, approximately 2.5 km to the north of the site. Given the agriculturally marginal nature of the study site, it is likely that it was in use as pasture during the Medieval period.

Post Medieval and Modern

- 3.13 No Post Medieval or Modern heritage assets are recorded within the site. The HER records the locations of 33 Post Medieval and Modern non-designated heritage assets in the surrounding area. The majority of these of assets are former or extant structures, the exceptions being an earthwork township and parish boundary located approximately 900m to the north-east of the site (16901.1.0), a ford located approximately 750m to the north-west of the site (249.1.0), the site of the Trub Smithy settlement located approximately 600m to the south-west of the site (16501.1.0) and 'Kiln Field' located approximately 800m to the north of the site.
- 3.14 The earliest detailed map of the site (1851 Ordnance Survey) shows a number of straight field boundaries within the site with a road passing through the site on a north-east to south-west alignment and connecting to Castleton at the south. Little change is evident on subsequent mapping save for the removal of field boundaries and the road. The surrounding area underwent rapid change during the 19th and 20th centuries with residential and industrial development and road infrastructure.

4.0 Programme of Archaeological Works

- 4.1 The archaeological works will comprise two principal phases: watching brief during enabling works, road creation and any stripping to create site compounds, and trial trench evaluation in advance of any cut and fill activity.
- 4.2 All field work will be carried out by suitably qualified archaeologists, working under the direction of a full Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, or equivalently qualified project director.

Archaeological Watching Brief

- 4.3 The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with road and access creation and site compounds. This work will be undertaken in phases between 2025 and 2026. An archaeologist will be present during all groundwork activity which have a potential to reveal archaeological remains and will investigate and record any features or deposits prior to their disturbance.

Method of Excavation

- 4.4 A suitably experienced and qualified archaeologist will undertake continuous monitoring of groundworks and machine excavation within the defined archaeological watching brief area. The contractor will request that intrusive groundworks are carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to maximise the chance for identification of archaeological remains should they be present. However, a toothed bucket may be necessary in areas where substantial obstacles are present.
- 4.5 The supervising archaeologist will be afforded the required access by the main contractor to observe and record any archaeological remains revealed. Groundwork will not be undertaken within the watching brief areas without the presence of the site archaeologist.
- 4.6 The machine will operate in 'spits', removing only an appropriate amount of overburden with each action down to the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural geology, whichever is encountered first. The top of the first significant archaeological horizon can be exposed by the machine but will then be cleaned by hand and inspected for features. The supervising archaeologist will give the command to stop excavations should archaeological deposits, features, surfaces, or structural remains become visible. Machine excavation within the area of identified archaeology will temporarily cease so that the archaeologist can inspect the feature/s and undertake recording. The main contractor will allow the archaeologist reasonable time and resources to undertake the inspection and recording.

- 4.7 The supervising archaeologist will operate strictly within the health and safety parameters of the principal contractor and only enter the excavation areas where it is safe to do so and where there is safe access and egress. If the excavation areas are not safe to enter due to their depth, unsecured or unstable sides or any other reasons preventing work from within then the recording will be conducted from the existing ground level.
- 4.8 Within the parameters of the site health and safety restrictions and where safe access can be gained into the excavation area, all archaeological remains will be hand-excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to meet the aims and objectives of the project. The excavation will record the complete stratigraphic sequence, down to naturally occurring deposits or the completed depth of the groundworks and will investigate and record any inter-relationships between features.
- 4.9 If structural remains are identified, they will be left in-situ and any surrounding material hand-excavated stratigraphically leaving the structural remains intact for recording. Structural remains or floor surfaces may be removed, following recording, to allow investigation of underlying features of deposits only after they have been sufficiently recorded and the SPA informed, and approval for their removal confirmed.
- 4.10 All artefacts will be retained for processing and analysis except for unstratified 20th and 21st century material, which can be noted and discarded. Finds will be stored in secure, appropriate conditions.
- 4.11 The archaeologist will work with the site management and groundworks contractor team to ensure that areas and features of interest are not disturbed until the archaeologist has inspected the area and handed it back to the contractor. The archaeologist will do so within an appropriate timescale and will avoid any unnecessary delays to the work programme. Any areas that include archaeological or potential archaeological features must be appropriately tested and investigated and sign off agreed with GMAAS. Monitoring visits by GMAAS may be required as part of the sign off process.

Method of Recording

- 4.12 All archaeological features (stratigraphical layers, cuts, deposits or structures) will be sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them and to determine their significance.
- 4.13 All features will be adequately investigated and recorded in order to understand the date and character of any archaeological remains on the site and to recover sufficient finds assemblages to assess the chronological development and former occupation or usage the site.

- 4.14 Should non-structural features be identified, these will be sampled sufficiently within the constraints of the watching brief area to characterise and date them and to determine their significance. Possible intersections will be investigated to establish strategic relationships. Environmental bulk samples (usually 40 litres) will be taken where a deposit is likely to contain significant environmental assemblage. All records will be undertaken using pro forma record sheets.
- 4.15 Structural remains will be excavated, cleaned, photographed and recorded in-situ in sufficient detail to determine their form, construction methods, dating and any evidence for phasing, based on the best practice and methodology to maximise retrieval of information. All stratigraphic associations are to be recorded. Where possible, structural remains will be related to former buildings visible on historic mapping.
- 4.16 Sampling strategies will be in accordance with the Archaeological Contractor's fieldwork manual as well as the requirements of GMAAS.
- 4.17 The Archaeological Contractor will make appropriate pre-and post-excavation site records. All finds and features will be accurately located and planned accurately at appropriate scales. All site photographs will be taken using a digital SLR camera with a sensor of a minimum of 12 megapixels. All photography will be undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidance, *Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice*, 2015.

Trial Trench Evaluation

- 4.18 The trial trench evaluation will comprise the machine excavation of 51no. trenches, each measuring 50m in length and 1.8m width in accordance with the enclosed drawings (Appendix A) The number and location of trenches has been informed by the site conditions, the site topography and archaeological potential, the masterplan, and site constraints including a gas main and overhead electrical cables.
- 4.19 Due to the variable topography and ground conditions, a walkover of the Site will be carried out by the archaeological contractor in advance of the trial trench works. The trenches will be set out using the GPS and any potential constraints to the layout as defined in this WSI which will require a change to the planned trench locations will be logged. An updated trench plan will be produced for submission to and approval by the SPA. There will be no variations to the strategy outlined in this WSI without prior approval from the SPA.
- 4.20 There is a known presence of potentially harmful refuse and asbestos as surface deposits in areas of the site. The walkover survey will also take these into account and adjust trenches accordingly. Where appropriate and practical the principal contractor will remove areas of waste ahead of the survey.

Method of Excavation

- 4.21 Prior to the archaeological trial trenching, a visual inspection of the areas to be evaluated will be undertaken by the Archaeological Contractor.
- 4.22 The trial trenches will be set out using a GPS. The trial trenches will be mechanically excavated using an appropriately powered machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Under archaeological instruction the topsoil and overburden will be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits of a maximum 0.1m thickness, or the natural geology, whichever occurs first.
- 4.23 All machine work will be carried out under direct archaeological supervision and the machine will be halted if archaeological deposits or features are encountered. The top of the first significant archaeological horizon can be exposed by the machine but will then be cleaned by hand and inspected for features and then hand excavated. At each soil horizon change, the supervising archaeologist will indicate to the machine driver that each stratum should be stored separately.
- 4.24 All archaeological remains will be hand excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to meet the aims and objectives of the project. The excavation will record the complete stratigraphic sequence, down to naturally occurring deposits and will investigate and record all inter-relationships between features. In the event of significant or complex remains requiring targeted archaeological excavation, the investigation of feature interrelationships will not be undertaken until the later phase of work.
- 4.25 All artefacts will be retained for processing and analysis except for unstratified 20th and 21st century material, which can be noted and discarded. Finds will be stored in secure, appropriate conditions.
- 4.26 No trenches shall be backfilled unless they have been signed off by the SPA.

Method of Recording

- 4.27 The Archaeological Contractor will make appropriate pre-and post-excavation site records. The archaeological works will be recorded according to the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation. The stratigraphy of each trial trench will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified. Where no archaeological features are present representative sections or soil profile will be recorded and illustrated in the report
- 4.28 All finds and features will be accurately located and planned accurately at appropriate scales. Discrete features will be half-sectioned and 10% of each linear feature should, where possible, be excavated plus terminals and intersections, with slots measuring at least 1m in width wherever possible. Intersections will be

investigated to establish strategic relationships. Sections will be drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate.

- 4.29 Natural features will be investigated, particularly where they are isolated or show any evidence for burning or heat affectation. Where multiple potential features of natural origin are identified within a trench an appropriate sample will be investigated to test for artefacts, in particular prehistoric lithics, which may be present within tree boles and tree throws.
- 4.30 Representative sections of linear and curvilinear features will be sample excavated away from intersections or other features or deposits, to obtain unmixed samples of material. Environmental bulk samples (usually 40 litres) will be taken where the deposit is likely to contain significant environmental assemblage.
- 4.31 All records will be undertaken using pro forma record sheets.
- 4.32 Sampling strategies will be in accordance with the archaeological sub-contractor fieldwork manual and the requirements of the SPA.

General Recording

Photography

- 4.33 All site photographs will be taken using a digital SLR camera with a sensor of a minimum of 12 megapixels. Each image will be supplied as both a JPEG and a TIFF versions (version 6 file of not less than 25Mbs). The Archaeological Contractor will also include metadata embedded in the TIFF file, which will include the following:
 - the commonly used name for the site being photographed,
 - the relevant centred OS grid coordinates for the site to at least six figures,
 - the relevant township name,
 - the date of photograph,
 - the subject of the photograph,
 - the direction of shot, and
 - the name of the organisation taking the photograph.
- 4.34 All photography will be undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidance, Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice, 2015.
- 4.35 All site photography must:
 - be taken in colour;
 - include a north arrow;

- include a legible information board displaying the site code or accession number and the principal context number;
 - include a suitable scale bar.
- 4.36 In addition to standard photographic recording, selected images should also be taken to support public engagement. These should highlight key aspects of the archaeological progress. All such images should be reviewed to ensure they do not compromise site security, personal privacy or confidentiality of sensitive information. Consent will need to be obtained where individuals are identifiable, and images will be used in accordance with relevant data protection guidelines.

Use of Metal Detectors on Site

- 4.37 The site will be scanned during machine excavation to attempt to obtain a sample of artefacts from the top and sub-soils. The exposed site and spoil heaps will also be scanned for both ferrous and non-ferrous metal artefacts using a metal detector capable of making this discrimination, operated by an experienced metal detector user (if necessary, operating under the supervision of the contracting archaeologist). Modern artefacts are to be noted but not retained (19th-century material and earlier will be retained).
- 4.38 The make and model of the instrument used will be given in the methodology section of the Archaeology Contractor's report and metal detected finds identified in the relevant section.

Finds

- 4.39 On completion of the fieldwork, any samples taken will be processed and any finds will be cleaned, identified, assessed/analysed, dated (if possible), marked (if appropriate) and properly packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines and best practice.
- 4.40 All finds or environmental samples recovered during the archaeological works will be assessed and reported on by internal and external specialists of the Archaeological Contractor.
- 4.41 All finds will be treated in accordance with current best practice as set out in ClfA and Historic England guidance.

Human Remains

- 4.42 If human remains are encountered during the works, they will be left in situ and the SPA, and the coroner notified. If it is deemed appropriate to excavate human remains, this will be done in accordance with appropriate Historic England and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidance (e.g., ClfA Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains, 2017). Excavation, removal from

site, analysis and final placing will all be subject to the requirements of the appropriate Ministry of Justice licence and any local environmental health regulations.

Treasure

- 4.43 If any artefacts are encountered that would constitute ‘treasure’ as defined by The Treasure Act, 1996 and the Treasure (Designation) (Amendment) Order 2023, they will be reported to the local Coroner and relevant Finds Liaison Officer. Any artefacts deemed to be Treasure should be excavated on the day they are discovered and removed to a secure site. If this is impractical, then appropriate security provided until full excavation and removal can occur.

Palaeoenvironmental sampling and analysis

- 4.44 Palaeoenvironmental assessment aims to identify areas within the development site where conditions are such that deposits suitable for the study of past environments are preserved. These most commonly occur in the form of subsurface peat layers but are also taken to include all waterlogged deposits. The identification of any suitable areas for sampling will take place during the archaeological evaluation.
- 4.45 Should any such deposits exist within the area of impact, samples will be taken by a suitably qualified specialist sub-contractor. The samples would be assessed for their potential by internal or external specialists of the Archaeological Contractor, and suitable techniques applied to sub-sample from select cores to determine the preservation and taxonomic diversity within the samples. This is likely to include assessing for one or more of the following:
- Pollen (focussing on organic units)
 - Diatoms (focussing upon lithological transitions within and at the base of the Holocene sediment stack)
 - Foraminifera (focussing on mineral strata and in particular on transitions)
 - Plant macro-remains (focussing on organic units)
- 4.46 Having assessed the potential for analysis a project design will be produced that will provide a detailed proposal for analysis (including, for example, C14 dating, loss-on-ignition to measure organic carbon content, humification and mass specific magnetic susceptibility) of any present selected samples.
- 4.47** If necessary and appropriate the advice of the regional Historic England Science Advisor will be sought.

Mitigation Strategy and Unexpectedly Significant and Complex Discoveries

- 4.48 Should archaeological remains be identified whose significance requires further mitigation and more detailed recording than is appropriate within the terms of the WSI, all work in that area will be temporarily paused until TEP have liaised with the SPA with the relevant information to discuss and confirm appropriate actions to resolve the matter. TEP will aim to notify the SPA within two working days of the discovery of significant remains.
- 4.49 Where appropriate a detailed mitigation strategy would be produced, either as an addendum to this WSI or as a new WSI, setting out the methodology and programme for the archaeological work, including provision for post-excavation reporting and analysis, and archiving and publication. Depending on the complexity of the archaeological remains the existing / new WSI will be amended or drafted within 5-10 working days and submitted to the SPA for approval prior to undertaking any of the work.
- 4.50** Should archaeological remains of possible national archaeological significance be observed whose significant merits their retention and preservation in-situ, fieldwork will cease on the relevant part of the site until these remains have been inspected by the SPA, and the regional Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments. TEP will aim to notify the SPA and Historic England immediately upon any such discovery and within a maximum of two working days.

Programme

- 4.51 It is anticipated that the works will happen in accordance with the following programme:
- September 2025 - submit WSI for approval by SPA;
 - September 2025 - commence archaeological watching brief in successive phases until Q3 2026;
 - September - November 2025 - undertake trial trench evaluation;
 - +8 - 10 weeks – report;
 - +6 months - deposit archive.
- 4.52 In the event of the discovery of significant archaeological remains requiring mitigation works an updated programme will be produced and submitted to the SPA.

Organisation and Key Personnel

- 4.53 TEP is a Registered Organisation with the ClfA. The heritage team is under overall management of **Jason Clarke BSc MA MCIfA, Associate Director Historic Environment (TEP)**.
- 4.54 The archaeological works will be undertaken by appropriately qualified archaeologists from **Archaeological Services WYAS**, a ClfA Registered Organisation.
- 4.55 A projected timetable for work on site, including machine hire time and staff structure and numbers, and for all post excavation work, including staff numbers and specialist sub-contractors will be provided by the Archaeological Contractor in the form of a separate RAMS document.
- 4.56 Potential specialists that may input into the project are as follows:
- Prehistoric pottery - Dr Blaise Vyner
 - Roman pottery - Dr Ruth Leary or Ian Rowlandson
 - Medieval pottery - Dr Chris Cumberpatch
 - Ceramic building material - Dr Kevin Hayward or J.M. McComish
 - Flint specialist - Ann Clarke MA
 - Environmental - Dr Diane Alldritt
 - Animal bone - Dr Jane Richardson
 - Human bone - Malin Holst MA or Dr Alice Rose

5.0 Reporting

- 5.1 In accordance with the principles of Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2015) and the Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd Ed (MAP2) (English Heritage 1991), a programme of assessment and reporting will be undertaken, following completion of the archaeological evaluation fieldwork.
- 5.2 In the event of negative, or non-complex findings, a single report will be produced detailing the results of all fieldwork within eight weeks of the end of the fieldwork and archived within six months. The report will include:
- a front cover to include the NGR, and HER reference number;
 - a concise, non-technical summary of the results;
 - the circumstances of the project and the dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken;
 - description of the methodology, including the sources consulted;
 - a very brief summary of the historical background of the study area,
 - a statement, where appropriate, of the archaeological implications of the impact;
 - tabulations of data in relation to site phasing and contexts;
 - a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design;
 - a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of any further sources identified but not consulted;
 - a site location plan related to the national grid;
 - appropriate plans showing the location and position of features located;
 - plans and sections showing the positions of deposits and finds;
 - illustrative photographs as appropriate;
 - coordinates (NGR) of relevant sites if archaeological remains have been discovered.
- 5.3 In the event of archaeologically significant finds, the results of fieldwork combined with subsequent archaeological evaluation and mitigation will also be published in a relevant and appropriate journal, or other publicly disseminated publication, as appropriate.
- 5.4 Section drawings will be provided for all evaluation trenches which contain archaeological features (at a minimum scale of 1:20). These will include heights, O.D. Plans (at a minimum scale of 1:50), and O.D. spot heights for all principal

strata and any features. Drawings of one long section of trenches without archaeological deposits will also be provided.

- 5.5 Artefact analysis will include the production of a descriptive catalogue, quantification by context and discussion/interpretation if warranted, with finds critical for dating and interpretation illustrated.
- 5.6 Environmental analysis will include identification of the remains, quantification by context, discussion/interpretation if warranted, and a description of the processing methodology.
- 5.7 Pottery reports will refer to the appropriate type series.
- 5.8 A draft digital copy of the report will be supplied to the SPA for review prior to submission for planning purposes. The final approved report and details of archive deposition will be submitted to the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER).

6.0 Archive

- 6.1 An archive of the results of the archaeological work will be produced, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects, Appendix 3, 2nd edition, 1991*) and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA, 2020). Regional guidance is provided in '*Archaeological Evaluation: Guidance Document, December 2024*'. The archive will contain any site matrices, and summary reports of the artefact record, context records, and any other records or materials recovered.
- 6.2 A digital copy of the report will be submitted to the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER). If required, a copy of the report provided as a PDF on disk, and as hard copies, will also be submitted to the HER.
- 6.3 The Touchstones Rochdale museum will be contacted in order to request an accession number and to seek advice of the arrangements to be made for deposition of the project archive and any associated charges.
- 6.4 The original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media), and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche), together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) will be deposited with the relevant local archive. Following the completion of the work, the digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).
- 6.5 Details of the work will be entered on the OASIS database at <https://oasis.ac.uk/>. OASIS is the online system for reporting archaeological investigations and linking research outputs and archives. Reports uploaded to OASIS will become available to the public through the ADS.
- 6.6 Results of the project, even if negative, will be submitted for publication in appropriate academic journals.

7.0 Health and Safety

- 7.1 The archaeologists on site will naturally operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations. Where archaeological work is carried out at the same time as the work of other contractors, regard should also be taken of any reasonable additional constraints that these contractors may impose.
- 7.2 All work on site would be undertaken strictly in accordance with the project health and safety plan and task specific risk assessments. All companies working on the project will adhere to the client's required quality, health, safety and environment controls.
- 7.3 Access routes to working areas would be specified by the client and access would only be permitted to those routes and the area of the fieldwork.
- 7.4 All site staff, including subcontractors and visitors, will prove that they have attended a site induction and have the necessary competencies (e.g., CITB training for machine operators and CSCS cards) and any other necessary health and safety qualifications.
- 7.5 The archaeologists will maintain a record of site attendance for each day that they attend site for the archaeological works.
- 7.6 All site staff personnel will wear PPE consisting of gloves, goggles, hardhat, steel toe-capped boots with mid-sole protection and high visibility vest or jacket at all times. All equipment must be 'fit for purpose' and be maintained in a sound working condition that complies with all relevant Health and Safety regulations and recommendations, including:
- Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and
 - Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999.
- 7.7 The Archaeological Contractor will have their own Health and Safety policies compiled using national guidelines, which conform to all relevant Health and Safety legislation and best practice. The RAMS provided by the Archaeological Contractor will include a specific section covering Coronavirus (COVID 19) for working safely.

References

Data Sources

- Archaeological Data Services: <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archsearch>
- British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/>
- National Heritage List: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>
- National Library of Scotland, Map Images: <https://maps.nls.uk/index.html>
- National Monuments Record: <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway>
- Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record
- North West Regional Research Framework: <https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/>

Legislation and Policy

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979
- National Planning Policy Framework, December 2024
- The Treasure Act, 1996
- Treasure (Designation) (Amendment) Order, 2023
- Rochdale Borough Council, *Rochdale Adopted Core Strategy*, Adopted October 2016, Available at: <https://www.rochdale.gov.uk/local-planning-policy/core-strategy-local-plan/2>

Best Practice and Guidance

- ClfA (2023) *Standard for archaeological field evaluation*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- ClfA (2023) *Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- ClfA (2023) *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- ClfA (2023) *Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- ClfA (2022) *Code of conduct: professional ethics in archaeology*, Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- ClfA (2020) *Standard and guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment*, Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

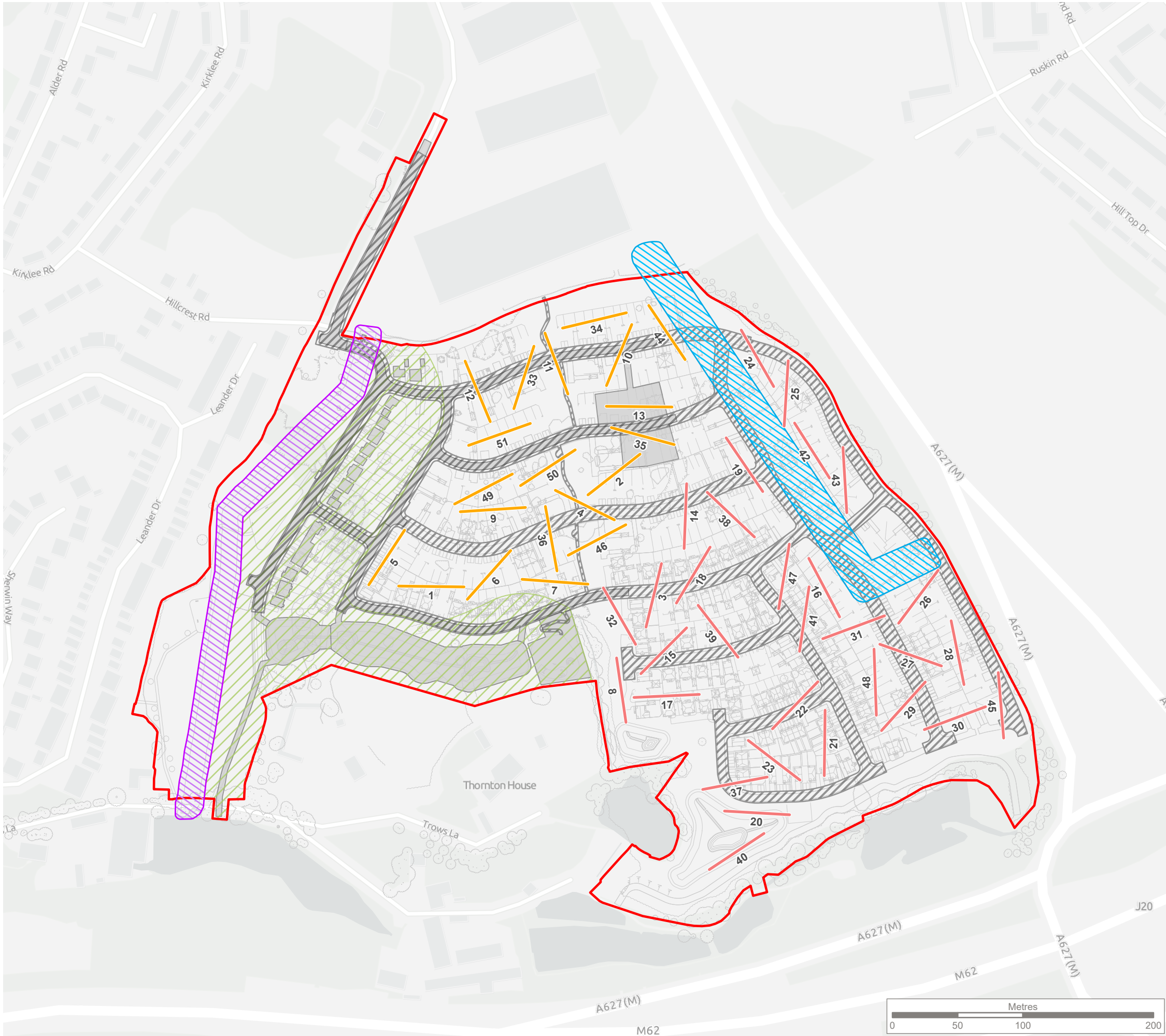
- ClfA (2020) *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- ClfA (2020) *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- English Heritage (1991) *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. London: English Heritage.
- English Heritage (2011) *Environmental Archaeology, A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (second edition). Swindon: Historic England.
- Historic England (2015) *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*. Swindon: Historic England.
- Historic England (2015) *Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice*. Swindon: Historic England.
- Planning Practice Guidance: Historic Environment, July 2019:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment>

Other sources

- RPS (2021) *Cowm Top, Rochdale, Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, JAC26981



Appendix A: Drawings

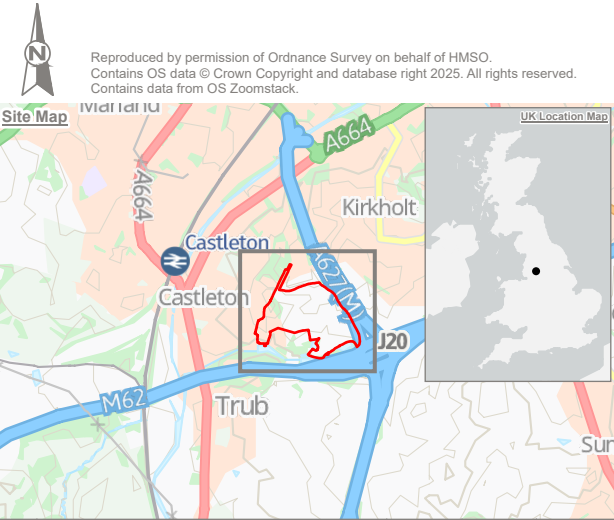


KEY

- Site boundary
- Gas main
- Overhead cable
- Roads
- Watching brief area
- Proposed trenches (50m x 1.8m)**
- Phase 1
- Phase 2

Note:

This map contains data from the following sources provided by the client:
Masterplan and roads from 'H8544-BAH-XX-XX-DR-CE-Cut and Fill Appraisal (Bind)'
Gas mains and overhead cables from 'Proposed Trench Plan - 2023'.



Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date



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Project
Cowm Top, Rochdale

Title
Proposed Archaeological Areas
OS

Drawing Number
G11334.002

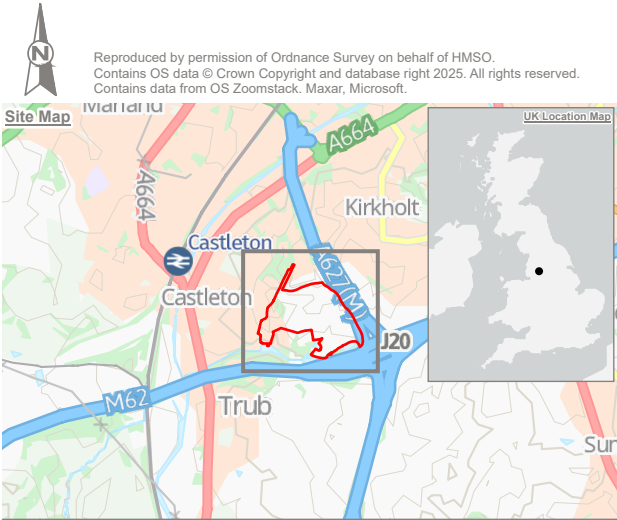
Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
OH	BJ	AB	1:3,000 @ A3	19/09/2025



KEY

- Site boundary
 - Gas main
 - Overhead cable
 - Roads
 - Watching brief area
- Proposed trenches (50m x 1.8m)**
- Phase 1
 - Phase 2

Note:
This map contains data from the following sources provided by the client:
Roads from 'H8544-BAH-XX-XX-DR-CE-Cut and Fill Appraisal (Bind)'
Gas mains and overhead cables from 'Proposed Trench Plan - 2023'.



Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date



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Project
Cowm Top, Rochdale

Title
Proposed Archaeological Areas
Aerial

Drawing Number
G11334.006

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
OH	BJ	AB	1:3,000 @ A3	19/09/2025



KEY

- Site boundary
- Gas main
- Overhead cable
- Roads
- Watching brief area

Proposed trenches (50m x 1.8m)

- Phase 1
- Phase 2

Note:

This map contains data from the following sources provided by the client:

Roads from 'H8544-BAH-XX-XX-DR-CE-Cut and Fill Appraisal (Bind)'
Gas mains and overhead cables from 'Proposed Trench Plan - 2023'.

Shaded relief shown to highlight topographical variation within the landscape.

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Topography contours from drawing 'BH.TS.08_H Trows Lane, Rochdale - Topo Survey' provided by client.

Site Map

Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date



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Project
Cowm Top, Rochdale

Title
Proposed Archaeological Areas
Terrain

Drawing Number
G11334.008

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
OH	BJ	AB	1:3,000 @ A3	19/09/2025



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Appendix 2: Inventory of primary archive

Phase	File/Box No	Description	Quantity
Evaluation	File no.1	Context register	1
Phase 1/		Drawing register	1
Watching		Watching brief daily monitoring form	1
Brief		Sample register sheets	1
		Permatrace sheets	4
		Photograph record sheet	1
		Digital photograph record sheet	3
Evaluation	File no. 2	Drawing Sheet	1
Phase 2		Digital photograph record sheet	4
		Drawing sheet register	1
		Drawing register	1
		Sample register sheets	1
		Permatrace sheets	3
Evaluation	Diggit	Context record sheets	189
Phase 1 and 2		Trench record sheets	55

Following the discard of retained artefacts and samples, in line with specialist recommendations and the low potential for further knowledge gain, the archive will be purely digital and will be entered on the OASIS database at <https://oasis.ac.uk/>. A digital copy of the final approved report will be submitted to the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record, along with a GIS shapefile showing the maximum limits of excavated areas for incorporation to the HER Event record for the project. No further publication beyond submission of this grey-literature report is required in this instance. The results will become publicly available through OASIS/ADS and the HER.

Appendix 3: Concordance of contexts

The following concordance represents the interpretation of the excavation team in the field. The records may have been subject to subsequent interpretation in light of later findings and post-excavation analysis of the site, including finds. This later interpretation is represented in the report text.

Context	Trench	Title	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds and samples
100	1	Topsoil - Trench 1	Deposit	Colour: very dark greyish black. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.27 to 0.34	
101	1	Natural - Trench 1	Deposit	Colour: mid-brownish orange. Compaction: wet, malleable. Composition: medium silty sand. Inclusions: occasional medium to large rounded to well-rounded rounded pebbles, evenly distributed.			0.49 (avg.)	
102	1	Fill - Ditch [103]	Fill	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: sandy silt.	1.12	1.8	0.21	1
103	1	Cut - Ditch [103]	Cut	Orientation: E-W. Shape in plan: irregular spread, terminus. Shape in profile: regular, shallow u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate slope, concave.	1.12	1.8	0.21	
104	1	Cut - Gully [104]	Cut	Orientation: N-S. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: regular, shallow u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate slope, concave.	> 1.00	1	0.2	
105	1	Fill - Gully [104]	Fill	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay.	> 1.00	1	0.2	2
106	1	Cut - Gully [106]	Cut	Orientation: N-S. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: regular, u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate slope, concave.	> 1.00	0.40	0.16	
107	1	Fill - Gully [106]	Fill	Colour: dark blackish grey. Compaction: wet, friable. Composition: silty clay.	> 1.00	0.40	0.16	
200	2	Topsoil - Trench 2	Deposit	Colour: very dark greyish black. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.20 (avg.)	

Context	Trench	Title	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Findings and samples
201	2	Subsoil - Trench 2	Deposit	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: sandy silt. Inclusions: moderate flecks to small very angular to angular spheroidal charcoal, evenly distributed.			0.15 (avg.)	
202	2	Natural - Trench 2	Deposit	Colour: mid-yellowish grey. Compaction: dry, friable. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.05 to 0.10	
300	3	Topsoil - Trench 3	Deposit	Colour: greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.30 to 0.50	
301	3	Subsoil - Trench 3	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish yellow. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.30 to 0.50	
302	3	Natural - Trench 3	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed				
400	4	Topsoil - Trench 4	Deposit	Colour: very dark greyish black. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.23 to 0.29	
401	4	Natural - Trench 4	Deposit	Colour: mid-brownish orange. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay.			0.44 (avg.)	
500	5	Topsoil - Trench 5	Deposit	Colour: very dark greyish black. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.25 (avg.)	
501	5	Subsoil - Trench 5	Deposit	Colour: mid-grey. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.20 (avg.)	
502	5	Natural - Trench 5	Deposit	Colour: mid-brownish orange. Compaction: wet, malleable. Composition: medium silty sand. Inclusions: occasional medium to large rounded to well-rounded rounded pebbles, evenly distributed.				
503	5	Cut - Ditch [503]	Cut	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: regular, u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: 1) southwest: moderate slope, concave 2) northeast: moderate slope, straight.	> 1.00	1.3	0.35	
504	5	Fill - Ditch [503]	Fill	Colour: dark brownish grey. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay.	> 1.00	1.3	0.35	3

Context	Trench	Title	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Findings and samples
600	6	Topsoil - Trench 6	Deposit	Colour: very dark greyish black. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.67 (avg.)	
601	6	Natural - Trench 6	Deposit	Colour: mid-orangey brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay.			0.63 (avg.)	
700	7	Topsoil - Trench 7	Deposit	Colour: very dark greyish black. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.31 (avg.)	
701	7	Natural - Trench 7	Deposit	Colour: light yellowish grey. Compaction: wet, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Notes: waterlogged/flooded to the east end.			0.72 (avg.)	
800	8	Topsoil - Trench 8	Deposit	Colour: greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.30 (avg.)	
801	8	Subsoil - Trench 8	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish yellow. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.40 to 0.60	
802	8	Colluvium - Trench 8	Deposit	Colour: strong blackish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.30 to 0.50	
803	8	Natural - Trench 8	Deposit	Colour: light orangey yellow. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: fine sand.			0.10 (avg.)	
900	9	Topsoil - Trench 9	Deposit	Colour: very dark greyish black. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.27 (avg.)	
901	9	Subsoil - Trench 9	Deposit	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: sandy silt. Inclusions: moderate flecks to small very angular to angular spheroidal charcoal, evenly distributed.			0.27 (avg.)	
902	9	Natural - Trench 9	Deposit	Colour: mid-pinkish orange. Compaction: dry, friable. Composition: silty clay.			0.47 (avg.)	
1000	10	Topsoil - Trench 10	Deposit	Colour: very dark greyish black. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.26 (avg.)	
1001	10	Natural - Trench 10	Deposit	Colour: yellowish orange. Compaction: moist. Composition: silty clay.			0.68 (avg.)	
1100	11	Topsoil - Trench 11	Deposit	Colour: very dark greyish black. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.10 (avg.)	

Context	Trench	Title	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Findings and samples
1101	11	Subsoil - Trench 11	Deposit	Colour: purplish black. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: lens of industrial deposit.			0.10 to 0.65	
1102	11	Subsoil - Trench 11	Deposit	Colour: mid-blackish grey. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay.			0.65 to 1.10	
1103	11	Natural - Trench 11	Deposit	Colour: mid-brownish orange. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay.			1.10 (avg.)	
1200	12	Topsoil - Trench 12	Deposit	Colour: very dark greyish black. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.24 to 0.35	
1201	12	Subsoil - Trench 12	Deposit	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: silty clay.			0.25 to 0.74	
1202	12	Natural - Trench 12	Deposit	Colour: mid-brownish orange. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay.			0.76 (avg.)	
1300	13	Topsoil - Trench 13	Deposit	Colour: very dark greyish black. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.40 to 0.49	
1301	13	Subsoil - Trench 13	Deposit	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: sandy silt. Inclusions: moderate flecks to small very angular to angular spheroidal charcoal, evenly distributed.			0.10 to 0.20	
1302	13	Natural - Trench 13	Deposit	Colour: mid-yellowish grey. Compaction: dry, friable. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.15 to 0.20	
1400	14	Topsoil - Trench 14	Deposit	Colour: greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.30 to 0.50	
1401	14	Subsoil - Trench 14	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish yellow. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.30 to 0.50	
1402	14	Natural - Trench 14	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed				
1500	15	Topsoil - Trench 15	Deposit	Colour: greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.30 (avg.)	

Context	Trench	Title	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Findings and samples
1501	15	Subsoil - Trench 15	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish yellow. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.30 to 0.40	
1502	15	Natural - Trench 15	Deposit	Colour: light orangey yellow. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: fine sand.			0.10 (avg.)	
1600	16	Topsoil - Trench 16	Deposit	Colour: greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.30 (avg.)	
1601	16	Subsoil - Trench 16	Deposit	Colour: light brownish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.20 (avg.)	
1602	16	Natural - Trench 16	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed			0.10 (avg.)	
1700	17	Topsoil - Trench 17	Deposit	Colour: greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.20 to 0.30	
1701	17	Subsoil - Trench 17	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish yellow. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.20 to 0.30	
1702	17	Natural - Trench 17	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed			0.10 (avg.)	
1800	18	Topsoil - Trench 18	Deposit	Colour: greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.30 (avg.)	
1801	18	Subsoil - Trench 18	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish yellow. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.20 to 0.40	
1802	18	Colluvium - Trench 18	Deposit	Colour: strong blackish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.40 to 0.60	
1803	18	Natural - Trench 18	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly			0.10 (avg.)	

Context	Trench	Title	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Findings and samples
				distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed				
1804	18	Cut - Hedgeline [1804]	Cut	Orientation: NE-SW. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: irregular, u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate slope, concave.	> 1.80	1.65	0.39	
1805	18	Fill - Hedgeline [1804]	Fill	Colour: mid-greyish brown. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.	> 1.80	1.65	0.39	4
1900	19	Topsoil - Trench 19	Deposit	Colour: greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.30 (avg.)	
1901	19	Subsoil - Trench 19	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish yellow. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.20 to 0.40	
1902	19	Natural - Trench 19	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed			0.10 (avg.)	
2000	20	Topsoil - Trench 20	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish brown. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.46 (avg.)	
2001	20	Subsoil - Trench 20	Deposit	Colour: light brownish grey. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.24 (avg.)	
2002	20	Colluvium - Trench 20	Deposit	Colour: light grey. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.30 (avg.)	
2003	20	Natural - Trench 20	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: wet, very loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed			0.08 (avg.)	
2004	20	Cut - Pit [2004]	Cut	Orientation: N/A. Shape in plan: regular, semi-oval. Shape in profile: regular, shallow u-shaped. Break at top: sharp.	1.5	1.76	0.2	

Context	Trench	Title	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Findings and samples
				Break at base: gradual. Base: flat. Sides: gentle slope, concave.				
2005	20	Fill - Pit [2004]	Fill	Colour: dark brownish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: fine silty sand. Inclusions: occasional small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, concentrated base.	1.5	1.76	0.2	6
2100	21	Topsoil - Trench 21	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish brown. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.32 (avg.)	
2101	21	Subsoil - Trench 21	Deposit	Colour: light brownish grey. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.40 (avg.)	
2102	21	Colluvium - Trench 21	Deposit	Colour: light grey. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.30 (avg.)	
2103	21	Natural - Trench 21	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed.			0.02 (avg.)	
2104	21	Cut - Pit [2104]	Cut	Shape in plan: irregular, sub-oval. Shape in profile: irregular, shallow u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: 1) west: dipping slope, concave 2) east: steep slope, straight.	0.7	0.90	0.2	
2105	21	Fill - Pit [2104]	Fill	Colour: dark brownish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: medium silty sand.	0.7	0.90	0.2	
2200	22	Topsoil - Trench 22	Deposit	Colour: greyish brown. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.30 (avg.)	
2201	22	Natural - Trench 22	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed.			0.35 (avg.)	
2300	23	Topsoil - Trench 23	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.35 (avg.)	

Context	Trench	Title	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Findings and samples
2301	23	Natural - Trench 23	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed.			0.12 (avg.)	
2400	24	Topsoil - Trench 24	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish brown. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.32 (avg.)	
2401	24	Subsoil - Trench 24	Deposit	Colour: light brownish grey. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.30 (avg.)	
2402	24	Natural - Trench 24	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: wet, very loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed			0.13 (avg.)	
2500	25	Topsoil - Trench 25	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish brown. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.40 (avg.)	
2501	25	Subsoil - Trench 25	Deposit	Colour: light brownish grey. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.14 (avg.)	
2502	25	Natural - Trench 25	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: wet, very loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed			0.05 (avg.)	
2503	25	Cut - Ditch [2503]	Cut	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: regular, shallow u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate slope, concave.	> 1.00	0.69	0.16	
2504	25	Fill - Ditch [2503]	Fill	Colour: mid-greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.	> 1.00	0.69	0.16	7
2600	26	Topsoil - Trench 26	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish brown. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.20 (avg.)	

Context	Trench	Title	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds and samples
2601	26	Backfilled clay - Trench 26	Deposit	Colour: mid-brownish grey. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: clay.			0.60 to 1.30	
2700	27	Topsoil - Trench 27	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.20 (avg.)	
2701	27	Subsoil - Trench 27	Deposit	Colour: light brownish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.20 to 0.40	
2702	27	Clay backfill - Trench 27	Deposit	Colour: mid-brownish grey. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: clay.			0.40 to 0.90	
2703	27	Modern disturbance - Trench 27	Deposit	Colour: dark greyish black. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: clayey silt.			0.40 (avg.)	
2704	27	Natural - Trench 27	Deposit	Colour: light yellowish orange. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: coarse clayey sand. Inclusions: moderate flecks to large sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.			0.10 (avg.)	
2800	28	Topsoil - Trench 28	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish brown. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.20 (avg.)	
2801	28	Backfilled clay - Trench 28	Deposit	Colour: mid-brownish grey. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: clay.			0.60 to 1.30	
2900	29	Topsoil - Trench 29	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.20 to 0.30	
2901	29	Subsoil - Trench 29	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish yellow. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.20 to 0.40	
2902	29	Colluvium - Trench 29	Deposit	Colour: strong blackish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.40 (avg.)	
2903	29	Clay backfill - Trench 29	Deposit	Colour: mid-brownish grey. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: clay.			1.00 (avg.)	

Context	Trench	Title	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds and samples
2904	29	Natural - Trench 29	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed.			0.10 (avg.)	
3000	30	Topsoil - Trench 30	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish brown. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.20 (avg.)	
3001	30	Backfilled clay - Trench 30	Deposit	Colour: mid-brownish grey. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: clay.			0.60 to 1.30	
3100	31	Topsoil - Trench 31	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.30 (avg.)	
3101	31	Subsoil - Trench 31	Deposit	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: clayey sand.			0.43 (avg.)	
3102	31	Colluvium - Trench 31	Deposit	Colour: light greyish brown. Compaction: wet, malleable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.24 (avg.)	
3103	31	Backfilled clay - Trench 31	Deposit	Colour: mid-brownish grey. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: clay.			0.10 (avg.)	
3104	31	Natural - Trench 31	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed.			0.05 (avg.)	
3200	32	Topsoil - Trench 32	Deposit	Colour: greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.30 to 0.40	
3201	32	Subsoil - Trench 32	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish yellow. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.10 to 0.30	
3202	32	Colluvium - Trench 32	Deposit	Colour: strong blackish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.50 to 1.00	

Context	Trench	Title	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds and samples
3203	32	Natural - Trench 32	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distribut				
3300	33	Topsoil - Trench 33	Deposit	Colour: very dark greyish black. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.27 to 0.46	
3301	33	Subsoil - Trench 33	Deposit	Colour: brownish grey. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.46 to 0.76	
3302	33	Natural - Trench 33	Deposit	Colour: light orangey yellow. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: clay.			0.76 (avg.)	
3400	34	Topsoil - Trench 34	Deposit	Colour: very dark greyish black. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.10 to 0.32	
3401	34	Natural - Trench 34	Deposit	Colour: mid-brownish orange. Compaction: moist. Composition: silty clay.			0.54 (avg.)	
3500	35	Topsoil - Trench 35	Deposit	Colour: very dark greyish black. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.20 to 0.40	
3501	35	Subsoil - Trench 35	Deposit	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: sandy silt. Inclusions: moderate flecks to small very angular to angular spheroidal charcoal, evenly distributed.			0.10 to 0.20	
3502	35	Natural - Trench 35	Deposit	Colour: mid-yellowish grey. Compaction: dry, friable. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.05 to 0.15	
3600	36	Topsoil - Trench 36	Deposit	Colour: very dark greyish black. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.18 to 0.26	
3601	36	Natural - Trench 36	Deposit	Colour: light greyish yellow. Compaction: moist. Composition: silty clay.			0.76 (avg.)	
3602	36	Cut - Pit [3602]	Cut	Orientation: N/A. Shape in plan: sub-oval. Shape in profile: shallow u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: gradual. Base: flat. Sides: gentle slope, concave.	0.5	0.84	0.12	
3603	36	Fill - Pit [3602]	Fill	Colour: very dark blackish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.	0.5	0.84	0.12	

Context	Trench	Title	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds and samples
3700	37	Topsoil - Trench 37	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish brown. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.40 (avg.)	
3701	37	Subsoil - Trench 37	Deposit	Colour: light brownish grey. Compaction: wet, malleable. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.32 (avg.)	
3702	37	Colluvium - Trench 37	Deposit	Colour: light grey. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.30 (avg.)	
3703	37	Natural - Trench 37	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed.			0.18 (avg.)	
3800	38	Topsoil - Trench 38	Deposit	Colour: greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.20 to 0.30	
3801	38	Subsoil - Trench 38	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish yellow. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.10 to 0.30	
3802	38	Colluvium - Trench 38	Deposit	Colour: strong blackish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.00 to 0.50	
3803	38	Natural - Trench 38	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed			0.10 (avg.)	
3900	39	Topsoil - Trench 39	Deposit	Colour: greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.30 (avg.)	
3901	39	Subsoil - Trench 39	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish yellow. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.30 to 0.40	
3902	39	Colluvium - Trench 39	Deposit	Colour: strong blackish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.20 (avg.)	
3903	39	Natural - Trench 39	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare			0.10 (avg.)	

Context	Trench	Title	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Findings and samples
				small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed				
4000	40	Topsoil - Trench 40	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish brown. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.34 (avg.)	
4001	40	Subsoil - Trench 40	Deposit	Colour: light brownish grey. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.18 (avg.)	
4002	40	Colluvium - Trench 40	Deposit	Colour: light grey. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.17 (avg.)	
4003	40	Natural - Trench 40	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: wet, very loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed			0.15 (avg.)	
4100	41	Topsoil - Trench 41	Deposit	Colour: greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.30 (avg.)	
4101	41	Subsoil - Trench 41	Deposit	Colour: light brownish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.20 to 0.40	
4102	41	Natural - Trench 41	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed			0.10 (avg.)	
4200	42	Topsoil - Trench 42	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish brown. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.34 (avg.)	
4201	42	Subsoil - Trench 42	Deposit	Colour: light brownish grey. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.13 (avg.)	
4202	42	Natural - Trench 42	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: wet, very loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed			0.09 (avg.)	

Context	Trench	Title	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Findings and samples
4203	42	Cut - Pit [4203]	Cut	Orientation: N/A. Shape in plan: regular, sub-circular. Shape in profile: regular, u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: moderate slope, straight.	0.4	0.40	0.15	
4204	42	Fill - Pit [4203]	Fill	Colour: dark whitish grey. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: medium silty sand.	0.4	0.40	0.15	
4300	43	Topsoil - Trench 43	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish brown. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.30 (avg.)	
4301	43	Subsoil - Trench 43	Deposit	Colour: light brownish grey. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.28 (avg.)	
4302	43	Colluvium - Trench 43	Deposit	Colour: strong blackish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			1.00 (avg.)	
4303	43	Natural - Trench 43	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: wet, very loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed			0.13 (avg.)	
4400	44	Topsoil - Trench 44	Deposit	Colour: very dark greyish black. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.26 to 0.48	
4401	44	Natural - Trench 44	Deposit	Colour: mid-orangey brown. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: silty clay.			0.68 (avg.)	
4500	45	Topsoil - Trench 45	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish brown. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.20 (avg.)	
4501	45	Clay backfill - Trench 45	Deposit	Colour: mid-brownish grey. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: clay.			1.00 to 2.50	
4600	46	Topsoil - Trench 46	Deposit	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist. Composition: clayey silt.			0.46 (avg.)	
4601	46	Subsoil - Trench 46	Deposit	Colour: mid-grey. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.05 to 0.19	

Context	Trench	Title	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Findings and samples
4602	46	Natural - Trench 46	Deposit	Colour: light greyish yellow. Compaction: wet, firm. Composition: silty clay.			0.05 to 0.10	
4700	47	Topsoil - Trench 47	Deposit	Colour: greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.30 (avg.)	
4701	47	Subsoil - Trench 47	Deposit	Colour: light brownish grey. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.20 to 0.40	
4702	47	Natural - Trench 47	Deposit	Colour: bright yellowish orange. Compaction: dry, very loose. Composition: fine clayey sand. Inclusions: 1) rare small to medium well-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed 2) occasional flecks to small angular platy manganese, evenly distributed			0.10 (avg.)	
4703	47	Cut - Pit [4703]	Cut	Orientation: N/A. Shape in plan: regular, sub-circular. Shape in profile: irregular, u-shaped. Break at top: sharp. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. Sides: 1) east: dipping slope, concave 2) west: steep slope, straight.	0.3	0.68	0.26	
4704	47	Fill - Pit [4703]	Fill	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: sandy silt.	0.3	0.68	0.26	5
4800	48	Topsoil - Trench 48	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish brown. Compaction: wet, loose. Composition: silty loam.			0.20 (avg.)	
4801	48	Clay backfill - Trench 48	Deposit	Colour: mid-brownish grey. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: clay.			1.00 (avg.)	
4900	49	Topsoil - Trench 49	Deposit	Colour: very dark greyish black. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.24 (avg.)	
4901	49	Subsoil - Trench 49	Deposit	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: sandy silt. Inclusions: moderate flecks to small very angular to angular spheroidal charcoal, evenly distributed.			0.24 (avg.)	
4902	49	Natural - Trench 49	Deposit	Colour: mid-pinkish orange. Compaction: wet, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.29 (avg.)	
5000	50	Topsoil - Trench 50	Deposit	Colour: very dark greyish black. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.25 (avg.)	

Context	Trench	Title	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds and samples
5001	50	Subsoil - Trench 50	Deposit	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: sandy silt. Inclusions: moderate flecks to small very angular to angular spheroidal charcoal, evenly distributed.			0.14 (avg.)	
5002	50	Natural - Trench 50	Deposit	Colour: mid-yellowish grey. Compaction: dry, friable. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.05 to 0.10	
5100	51	Topsoil - Trench 51	Deposit	Colour: very dark greyish black. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: clayey silt.			0.28 (avg.)	
5101	51	Subsoil - Trench 51	Deposit	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: sandy silt. Inclusions: moderate flecks to small very angular to angular spheroidal charcoal, evenly distributed.			0.48 (avg.)	
5102	51	Natural - Trench 51	Deposit	Colour: mid-yellowish grey. Compaction: dry, friable. Composition: fine silty sand.			0.47 to 1.00	
5200	52	Topsoil - Trench 52	Deposit	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: loamy clay.			0.30 (avg.)	
5201	52	Subsoil - Trench 52	Deposit	Colour: dark brownish grey. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: sandy silt. Inclusions: moderate flecks to small very angular to angular spheroidal charcoal, evenly distributed.			0.40 (avg.)	
5202	52	Natural - Trench 52	Deposit	Colour: mid-yellowish red. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: sandy clay.			0.10 (avg.)	
5300	53	Topsoil - Trench 53	Deposit	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: loamy clay.			0.30 to 0.40	
5301	53	Subsoil - Trench 53	Deposit	Colour: dark brownish grey. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: sandy silt. Inclusions: moderate flecks to small very angular to angular spheroidal charcoal, evenly distributed.			0.20 (avg.)	
5302	53	Natural - Trench 53	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish yellow. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: sandy clay.			0.10 (avg.)	
5400	54	Topsoil - Trench 54	Deposit	Colour: dark greyish brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: loamy clay.			0.30 (avg.)	

Context	Trench	Title	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Findings and samples
5401	54	Subsoil - Trench 54	Deposit	Colour: dark brownish grey. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: sandy silt. Inclusions: moderate flecks to small very angular to angular spheroidal charcoal, evenly distributed.			0.30 (avg.)	
5402	54	Natural - Trench 54	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish orange. Compaction: moist, firm. Composition: sandy clay. Inclusions: moderate small to large rounded spheroidal sandstones, evenly distributed.			0.10 (avg.)	
99900	999	Topsoil - Trench 999	Deposit	Colour: dark brownish grey. Compaction: moist, malleable. Composition: medium silty sand.			0.10 to 0.36	
99901	999	Subsoil - Trench 999	Deposit	Colour: mid-greyish brown. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: medium clayey sand.			0.02 to 0.10	
99902	999	Natural - Trench 999	Deposit	Colour: light orangey yellow. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: fine sand. Inclusions: 1) occasional flecks to medium very angular to sub-angular spheroidal coal 2) small to medium sub-rounded to well-rounded spheroidal rounded pebbles, evenly distrib			0.20 (avg.)	

Appendix 4: Trench summary table

Number	Notes	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1	One ditch, one feature, both dug and drawn	E-W	30	1.8	0.27 to 0.49
2	Tested two features. Non archaeological.	NE-SW	50	1.8	0.48 (avg.)
3	Blank.	N-S	50	1.8	0.50 to 0.80
4	Blank.	NW-SE	30	1.8	0.28 to 0.44
5	Trench contained 1 NW-SE oriented linear ditch that once excavated appears to be a modern drainage ditch. A few drains are present across the trench that are on different orientations	NE-SW	50	1.8	0.30 to 0.45
6	Blank.	NE-SW	30	1.8	0.63 (avg.)
7	5 land drains	E-W	30	1.8	0.58 to 0.72
8	Blank. Colluvium observed in parts of trench, which is positioned on a slope. One irregular patch of ground was tested and confirmed to not be archaeological.	N-S	50	1.8	0.50 to 0.70
9	Blank.		30	1.8	0.44 to 0.27
10	Blank	NE-SW	30	1.8	0.32 to 0.68
11	Blank.	N-S	30	1.8	0.33 to 1.10
12	Blank. Natural changes from orangey brown at NW end to yellowish grey at SE end		30	1.8	0.30 to 0.73
13	Blank.	E-W	50	1.8	0.52 to 0.80
14	Blank.	N-S	50	1.8	0.30 to 1.00
15	Blank.	NE-SW	50	1.8	0.60 to 0.80

Number	Notes	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
16	Blank.	N-S	50	1.8	0.50 (avg.)
17	Blank.	E-W	50	1.8	0.50 to 0.60
18	1 NW-SE linear running through roughly the centre of the trench. Excavated and was quite shallow, appears to match with boundary ditch on old mapping found in WSI. Colluvium in hollow towards NE end of trench. 1 field drain present	NE-SW	50	1.8	0.50 to 1.00
19	Blank.	N-S	50	1.8	0.60 to 0.70
20	Oene large pit present at eastern end of Trench.	E-W	50	1.8	0.54 to 0.74
21	Small pit, likely geological, worth testing	N-S	50	1.8	0.50 to 0.90
22	Blank.	NE-SW	50	1.8	0.40 to 0.65
23	Blank.	E-W	50	1.8	0.48 to 0.75
24	Blank.	NW-SE	50	1.8	0.50 to 0.78
25	Blank.	NE-SW	50	1.8	0.40 to 0.60
26	Blank. Same clay backfill as in other trenches in its vicinity	NE-SW	50	1.8	0.80 to 1.50
27	Two large field drains One modern linear (contained modern pottery)	NE-SW	50	1.8	1.20 to 0.60
28	Blank. Same backfilled clay present as in surrounding trenches. Natural geology not reached	N-S	50	1.8	0.80 to 1.50
29	Sondage dug at SE end of trench where it rises up towards the S end of Trench 48. Same clay as in trenches present in SE of site. Excavated to 1.2m, began to fill with water due to heavy rain and water run off, NE side collapsed. Some colluvium present		50	1.8	0.80 to 1.20
30	Blank. Sondage at either end down to 1.5m.	E-W	50	1.8	0.80 to 1.50

Number	Notes	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
31	Blank. Blank, apart from a dark linear with modern pottery within. Same backfilled clay deposit appears to be present at Eastern end of trench, only present for a couple of metres. Is present where ground rises up, indicating that raised ground was artificially	E-W	50	1.8	0.65 to 1.20
32	Blank. Colluvium observed in depressions/hollows at base of hill	NW-SE	50	1.8	0.50 to 1.20
33	One field drain	NE-SW	30	1.8	0.32 to 0.84
34	Blank.	E-W	30	1.8	0.15 to 0.54
35	Blank.	NW-SE	50	1.8	0.40 to 0.70
36	One small pit to the north of trench – tested. One land drain next to the pit	N-S	30	1.8	0.28 to 0.76
37	Blank.	E-W	50	1.8	0.58 to 0.98
38	Blank. Colluvium at base of slope towards southern end of trench				
39	Blank. Colluvium present	NW-SE	50	1.8	0.60 to 0.90
40		NE-SW	50	1.8	0.54 to 0.73
41	A couple of ceramic field drain running across trench. Possible pit at northern end. Tested to be natural	NE-SW	50	1.8	0.50 to 0.70
42	Blank.	NW-SE	50	1.8	0.55 to 0.66
43	Blank.	N-S	50	1.8	0.44 to 1.20
44	Three field drains to the south-east end of the trench	NW-SE	30	1.8	0.36 to 0.62
45	Blank. Trench excavated to approximately 1.2m across its length. At its northern end a 2.7m sondage was excavated, with natural geology still not reached.	N-S	50	1.8	1.20 to 2.70

Number	Notes	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
46	Blank. Two field drains.	NE-SW	50	1.8	0.74 (avg.)
47	1 possible pit towards the northern end of trench, against the western section	NE-SW	50	1.8	0.50 to 0.70
48	Blank.	N-S	50	1.8	1.20 (avg.)
49	Blank.	NE-SW	30	1.8	0.28 (avg.)
50	Blank.	NE-SW	50	1.8	0.42 (avg.)
51	Blank. 3 land drains.	NE-SW	30	1.8	0.30 to 1.00
52	Blank.	NE-SW	50	1.8	0.30 to 0.80
53	Blank. Former hedgeline present in western part of trench, aligned with treeline in field to the south by Thornton House.	E-W	50	1.8	0.50 (avg.)
54	Blank.	NW-SE	50	1.8	0.35 to 0.60
999	WB area. Across large hill slope running up to the south-west. No archaeological features present. Occasional rooting, mostly contained to the top and subsoils.	N-S	70	40	0.30 to 0.50

Appendix 5: OASIS Summary

OASIS Summary for archaeol11-544444

OASIS ID (UID)	archaeol11-544444
Project Name	Cowm Top, Rochdale, Greater Manchester: Archaeological Evaluation
Sitename	Cowm Top, Rochdale, Greater Manchester
Sitecode	CTR26
Project Identifier(s)	XS07 Cowm Top, Rochdale, Greater Manchester
Activity type	Evaluation, Trial Trench
Planning Id	22/01190/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Archaeological Services WYAS
Project Dates	29-Sep-2025 - 05-Jun-2026
Location	Cowm Top, Rochdale, Greater Manchester NGR : SD 89160 10276 LL : 53.58895148616535, -2.165229850530605 12 Fig : 389160,410276
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Rochdale Local Authority District : Rochdale Parish : Rochdale, unparished area

Project Methodology	The work involved the excavation of 54 trenches, all of which measured 50m by 1.80m. This includes three trenches (52, 53 and 53) which were added to the scheme with approval of GMAAS in lieu of further works in the south of the site. The trenches were positioned to provide a wide sample across the site, as no geophysical survey could be carried out. Two areas of the site were also subject to a watching brief, comprising areas of 3,590m² and 252m², in advance of enabling works and the stripping for a new road. All work was undertaken in accordance with accepted professional standards and guidelines (Historic England 2008; ClfA 2023), in accordance with the ASWYAS site recording manual (ASWYAS 2020) and in compliance with the WSI. All trenches were set out and the limits resurveyed using a Trimble VRS differential GPS accurate to +/-0.01m. The trenches were opened in a controlled manner using a 360 excavator using a flat-bladed ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision. All topsoil deposits were removed in level spits (not more than 0.20m) with the topsoil and subsoil being separated to allow for re-instating in reverse order. Machining stopped at the first archaeological horizon or natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. All excavations of archaeological deposits were undertaken manually with the stripped surface being cleaned and investigated for archaeological remains. An appropriate sample was excavated through all archaeological features with at least a 20% sample through linear features (with a minimum sample of 1m) and a 50% sample through discrete features. These were undertaken to investigate the full depth, profile and fills, where possible, and to recover dating evidence from the fills. All excavated sections were, where possible, located adjacent to the trench edge in order to provide a full stratigraphic sequence. A soil sampling programme was undertaken consisting of bulk soil samples for the identification of plant macro-fossils, small animal bones and other small artefacts. All samples were taken from appropriate archaeological deposits, in accordance with the WSI and Historic England guidelines. All archaeological features were accurately recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50. Feature sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. All plans and sections include spot heights that relate to Ordnance Datum in metres. A full written, drawn and photographic record was made of all archaeological work undertaken. An inventory of the primary archive is presented in Appendix 2 of the report and ASWYAS currently hold the site archive in a stable and secure location.
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Project Results	Ten archaeological features were observed across the 54 trenches. These consisted of two gullies and a ditch in Trench 1, ditches in Trenches 5, 18, 25, 29 and 53; as well as pits of various sizes in Trenches 20, 21, 36, 42 and 47. The features identified were clearly visible against the geological background and no problems were encountered in finding their depth or extent. The linear features were fairly shallow and contained fills that were quite similar to the overlying topsoil and subsoil. A clay pipe fragment recovered from ditch 503 in Trench 5 indicates post-medieval deposition and there is nothing to indicate the other features were not of a similar date. Ditches 103 and 1804, as well as a possible ditch observed in Trench 29, correspond with hedgelines/field boundaries present on Google Earth as late as March 2025, also supporting the view that these features are most likely post-medieval or early modern in origin. Pits excavated in Trenches 20, 21 and 42 did not contain any dating evidence but were bulk sampled, although no significant information was obtained from the samples. Evidence of significant landscaping was observed across the extent of Trenches 26, 28, 30, 45, and 48, as well as the eastern ends of Trenches 27, 29 and 31. This was in the form of deep compact clay deposit that contained brick, metal wiring and other modern waste. LiDAR mapping shows the area where this deposit was observed as markedly different from the rest of the site, which show natural undulations and some signs of ploughing (National Library of Scotland 2026). The area of the site in which clay backfill was observed looks very grainy and shows no evidence of ploughing, being similar in appearance to the central reservation separating the northern and southern parts of the A627 dual carriageway. This may indicate that this layer was deposited when the M62 and A627 were built, potentially being formed as the result of dumping clay that was dug out when both these roads were built. The depth of this clay deposit is not certain, as natural geology was not reached in any of the trenches in which this deposit was observed. This was despite a 2.70m sondage being excavated in Trench 45 and a minimum 1.50m sondage being excavated at either end of the other trenches.
Keywords	Ditch - Post Medieval - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation Barratt Homes Manchester
HER	Greater Manchester HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Kevin Moon
HER Identifiers	
OASIS+ Plant remains	Diane Alldritt - Seven environmental sample flots were assessed for carbonised plant macrofossils and charcoal. No charred material was recovered from the sample retents. The samples produced low levels of recovery of carbonised remains mostly indeterminate crushed fragments of charcoal mixed with coal and other geological material suggesting bioturbated remains or disturbance. Trench 1 produced a few fragments of identifiable charcoal. No further identification work is recommended on the samples. Further excavation work has a low potential to produce any significant quantities of carbonised remains.

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