



Proposed Cheltenham Secondary School, Farm Lane, Leckhampton, Gloucestershire Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Proposed Cheltenham Secondary School, Farm Lane, Leckhampton, Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Victoria Green

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Summary

In June 2019 Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation for Kier Construction, on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council, at the proposed location for a secondary school development at Farm Lane, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. The site is centered on SO 93746 19806. A total of 19 trenches were excavated, targeted on specific features identified by a geophysical survey of the site, Lidar analysis and historic maps.

Two distinct and spatially separate archaeological sites have been identified by the evaluation. An Iron Age and Roman rural settlement is located in the north-western part of the site. Associated features were present in Trenches 3–8. The main focus of activity lies in the south-west corner of the northern field, adjacent to Farm Lane, and appears to date from the late Iron Age and/or early Roman period. This site appears to continue into the north-western corner of the central field, although at least one of the features in that field appears to be somewhat later in date, as it produced a middle Roman pottery group. The settlement is probably a continuation of the late Iron Age and Roman settlement previously excavated on the west side of Farm Lane.

A series of hollow-ways and possible stone structural remains were identified in the southern field by a combination of aerial photographic mapping, Lidar analysis, geophysical survey, trenching and historic map studies, including traces of a possible cottage or outbuilding that may correspond with a building shown on Crowe's map of Leckhampton (1746).

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Stuart Foreman. The fieldwork was directed by Victoria Green, who was supported by Tamsin Jones, Adam Moffat, Daniel Pond, Andrew Smith and Charlotte Cox. Survey and digitising was carried out by Victoria Green and Magdalena Wachnik. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Leigh Allen, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Kier Construction Ltd to undertake a trial-trench evaluation at the site of the proposed secondary school development at Farm Lane, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Nineteen 30m x 2m trenches were excavated to assess the archaeological potential of the site. This report details the results of the trial trenching.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority in advance of a submission of a Planning Application. Although the Local Planning Authority did not set a brief for the work, discussions with Charles Parry (Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council) established the scope of work required. A written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (2014) and local and national planning policies.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site is situated just east of Farm Lane, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire and measures c 5.5 ha. It is defined by Kidnappers Lane to the north, Hatherley Brook to the east and Farm Lane to the south and west. The northern area of the site is arable, whilst the remainder of the site is in use as pasture.
- 1.2.2 The British Geological Survey records the bedrock geology of the site as Charmouth Mudstone. This was formed approximately 183 to 199 million years ago during the Jurassic Period in an environment previously dominated by shallow seas (BGS 2019).
- 1.2.3 No superficial geological deposits are recorded within the site, although Cheltenham Sand and Gravel is present nearby on the eastern side of the Hatherley Brook (BGS 2019).
- 1.2.4 The site is relatively flat and is at a height of 74m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to the north and 80m aOD to the south.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

The prehistoric period

- 1.3.1 The landscape is dominated by Devil's Chimney, a limestone plateau of the Cotswold escarpment which overlooks the valley and tributaries of the River Chelt. The substantial hillfort, Leckhampton Camp, that is situated on this summit was constructed during the Iron Age. Archaeological investigations suggest that the hillfort continued to be used during the Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. A bowl barrow surrounded by a square enclosure is situated to the east of the fortification. Bowl barrows are funerary monuments dating from the late Neolithic period to the

late Bronze Age. Excavations produced two human skeletons of possible Iron Age date, but no direct link could be found between the barrow and the enclosure. The development site is located on a gentle slope near the base of Leckhampton Hill, c 1.7km north-west of Devil's Chimney.

The Iron Age and Roman period

- 1.3.2 The earliest evidence for a substantial human settlement in the immediate vicinity of the site derives from recent excavations on the west side of Farm Lane. An Iron Age settlement, located 100m west of the site, initially comprised a roundhouse within a curvilinear enclosure, with smaller probable stock enclosures. Activity continued at the enclosure in the early Roman period, when it was replaced by a sub-rectangular enclosure, which was subsequently remodelled before being eventually abandoned in the middle Roman period. To the south-west of the settlement area a possible funerary site comprising a sub-rectangular enclosure was recorded. The enclosure was associated with three inhumation graves and two cremation burials, as well as two pottery vessels that had been deliberately buried in shallow pits. A Roman settlement and evidence of agricultural activity has also been recorded 605m to the west at Shurdington Road (OA 2019a). A Roman ditch has been recorded 185m to the north-east and a Roman coin findspot is located 600m south-east of the site.

The Anglo-Saxon and medieval period

- 1.3.3 The site includes a series of medieval and post-medieval earthworks which have been investigated as part of the current trenching. Enhanced background research has been undertaken to place the remains in their landscape and historical context. The following section makes extensive use of research published by Terry Moore-Scott and the Leckhampton Local History Society (Moore-Scott 1999, 2002; Miller 1999).
- 1.3.4 The Saxon place name *Lechantone* means farmstead where garlic or leeks are grown (Brooks 2003). It is first mentioned in the 8th century. Leckhampton may have developed as a Home Farm for the adjacent Royal Manor of Cheltenham (Moore-Scott 2002). It was a comparatively thinly populated parish in the medieval and post-medieval period but incorporated valuable agricultural land (Miller 1999).
- 1.3.5 The core of the late Saxon and medieval village, located near the parish church of St Peter and Leckhampton Court, is situated c 500m south-east of the site. The oldest parts of the parish church date back to the 14th century, but a predecessor is mentioned in 1162. A moated site and adjacent fish ponds, used from the 12th to the 14th centuries, are situated immediately to the north of the church at Church Farm, c 170m from the site. Leckhampton Court is a medieval manor house dating from about 1320 and located 240m east of the church. A complex of linear mounds and ditches, field boundaries or another manor site, are located 400m south of the church. A possible medieval deer park has also been recorded here.

Medieval manorial estates in Leckhampton

- 1.3.6 At the time of the Domesday survey there were three manorial estates in Leckhampton. As the estates appear to have been intermingled to some extent, and

their subsequent history is complex and incompletely documented, it is not entirely clear which of these estates the Farm Lane site lay within.

- 1.3.7 The most important estate in the parish, of four hides, was held by the Saxon thegn Brictric. This manor, which was held from the early 12th century by the house of Despenser, was centred at Leckhampton Court, where a manor house was built in the early 14th century. The second Domesday manor, of three hides, was held by William Leoric in 1086 and came to be associated with Walter of Broadwell and his heirs, who held it from the Mortimer Earls of the Marches. Under the name 'Broadwell' It merged into the main Leckhampton estate in the early 17th century. The combined estates emerged in the post-medieval period as the Norwood Trye Estates, which occupied the bulk of the parish.
- 1.3.8 The development site is perhaps most likely to have fallen within the third and smallest Domesday estate in Lechetone, of one hide, with one plough team and four bordars on it, which was held from the crown in 1086 by Humphrey the Cook. In the 13th century a substantial estate in Leckhampton was held by the sergeanty of kitchen service, possibly at the Royal Palace at Kingsholm in Gloucester, which may well be the same as the Domesday estate held by Humphrey the Cook. In 1163, Geoffrey the Cook owned land in Leckhampton. In 1212, Peter of Kingsholm, alias Peter of the Hall (de aula) held one ploughland by sergeanty service in the king's kitchen. This estate subsequently lost its association with sergeanty service and was held by a succession of non-resident lords (of Monmouth, then of Berkeley) until the 17th century when it was broken up between various minor local gentry. The largest and oldest of these lesser estates emerged in the post-medieval period as the Nourse (or Nurse) estate, which occupied land throughout the parish but mainly concentrated in the western central part of the village, to the west of the medieval moated site. This estate is thought to have been centred on the site of Leckhampton Farm (alias Berry Farm) in the medieval and early post-medieval period, which lies just to the south of the development site (Moore-Scott 2002).
- 1.3.9 Brizen Farm (alias Brays End Farm), located 300m north-west of the site, appears to be of medieval origin and may also have developed from the estate held by Humphrey the Cook in 1086. The excavations immediately to the west of Farm Lane revealed ditches and medieval walls to the north of the 16th century Grade II listed Brizen Farm farmhouse. The presence of these features suggests that the farmhouse was built near or on the site of an earlier 13th century farm. Three ditches were also recorded and were dated to the mid-12th and 13th centuries.

Fields and field-names

- 1.3.10 An analysis of the open field system of Leckhampton by Terry Moore-Scott (based primarily on Pinnell's plan of 1778, and Croone's survey of 1835), suggests that the northern fields comprising the development site originally formed part of Upper Stanley Field in the medieval period. Stanley Fields was one of several (possibly as many as nine) open fields forming the core of arable land belonging to Leckhampton Parish in the medieval and post-medieval period. It formed a long thin stretch of land along the western bank of the Hatherley Brook, divided into Upper, Middle and Lower

Stanley Fields. The fieldname 'Stanleye' first appears in a documentary reference to a furlong within the open field in 1423. The northern field of the development site was still shown under strip cultivation on Crow's map of 1746 (Moore-Scott 1999).

- 1.3.11 The central and southern fields appear to have been separated from Upper Stanley Field (if they were ever part of it) prior to the late 18th century. They were named Brizen Piece (suggesting a link with Brizen Farm) and Priory Butts in 1778 and had been merged by 1835 to form Priory and Turnpike Grounds (Moore-Scott 1999). Simon, Dispenser to Henry 1 (1100-35), granted tithes from the demesne of his manor at Leckhampton to the Priory of Llanthony, a grant which continued through the 14th century until the Dissolution of the Monasteries, which could be reflected in this field name (Moore-Scott 2002). 'Turnpike' might suggest that in the 18th century revenue from land within the field was donated to provide upkeep for one of the turnpike roads running through the parish. The field name element 'butts' suggests a small piece of land, shorter than the usual length for a furlong.

Medieval and post-medieval settlements

- 1.3.12 A series of earthworks at King's Close / Cummin's Row are interpreted by the NMR as a possible farmstead and a series of hollow-ways. Crowe's map of 1746 (the earliest available) shows that these earthworks, along with the southern two fields within the development site, lay within a small farm called King's Close (Moore-Scott 1999). This settlement included a main house (on the site of the property now called Little Vatch), an adjacent barn, two small cottages or outbuildings to the north of the farmhouse and a small building within an enclosure next to the Hatherley stream (the latter was investigated by Trench 17). An orchard lay on the south side of the main house. The Enclosure Map of 1778 shows King's Meadow extending over a large area on the east bank of the brook, which was presumably part of the same farm at some point. The placename 'King's Close' could derive from the fact that this land was once held directly from the crown. It could equally refer to a tenant family long associated with the farmstead. A William Kinge is named as witness to the will of William Crump of Leckhampton in 1558 (1558/569), which indicates the presence of a family surnamed Kinge in Leckhampton in the mid-16th century. The settlement is named Cummin's Row for the first time on the 1st Edition OS map (1885). 'Row' suggests that the settlement consisted of a line of cottages at one point.
- 1.3.13 Cummin's Row and King's Close could be alternate names for the same smallholding or farm. The land formerly associated with King's Close seems to have been under multiple owners by the late 18th century. It is not clear whether King's Close was originally established as a farm which cultivated land owned by multiple owners, or whether it was at some point a unified smallholding which was broken up in the late 18th century. Landholding arrangements in Leckhampton were clearly complex and varied, and changed over time. In the southern part of the parish was a small parcel of land called 'Cummins Hill Ground', which may have been a detached portion of upland pasture associated with the King's Close/Cummin's Row farmstead. In the medieval period various of the historic estates in the parish had traditionally linked areas of upland pasture 'on the hill' (ie on the Cotswold escarpment) (Moore-Scott 1999).

Routeways

- 1.3.14 The King's Close/Cummin's Row settlement lay at the junction of Farm Lane with an old footpath which roughly follows the line of the modern Brizen Lane. A medieval hollow-way has been identified as a series of earthworks running east-west through the site, leading to a footbridge across the Hatherley Brook. As noted above, King's Close and King's Pasture were located on opposite banks of the brook in the mid-18th century. The footbridge at that location would have been linking the farm with its associated pasture. A meander in the brook was infilled and replaced with a straight ditch between 1835 and 1885. This may have drained an area of boggy ground by the brook as well as straightening the field boundaries. The line of the footpath can be traced on historic maps extending past Brizen Farm and to Shurdington Road.
- 1.3.15 Aerial photographs indicate the presence of a second hollow-way as a cropmark in the southern part of the site. This is the original line of Farm Lane, which formerly lay to the east of the main farm buildings. The lane was straightened between 1778 and 1835, presumably to rationalize field boundaries as part of the enclosure process. It would also have created a more direct route to Leckhampton Farm from the north. This diversion had the effect of downgrading the former branches of Farm Lane to field tracks.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 General aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive.
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains.
- iii. To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.
- iv. To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- v. To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
- vi. To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- vii. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.
- viii. To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- ix. To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation are:

- i. To determine or confirm the general nature, stratigraphical complexity and extension of the suggested multi-phased settlement remains in the northern area of the site.
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of these remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- iii. To determine or confirm the general nature and date of the suggested enclosures in the central area of the site.
- iv. To determine or confirm the general nature, the stratigraphical complexity and determine the age of the suggested hollow way with adjoining earthworks in the south-eastern area of the site.

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 Site-specific methodologies were as follows:

2.3.2 The trenches were laid out as shown in Figure 2 using a GPS with sub-25mm accuracy. Trench 19 was added to the original trench plan in order to investigate medieval remains, including possible earthworks, in the southern part of the site.

- 2.3.3 The trenches were excavated using a 13 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Spoil was stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from trench edges.
- 2.3.4 Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon dependant on what was encountered first. Once archaeological deposits were exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand and the appropriate use of machine was agreed with Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council.
- 2.3.5 The exposed surface was sufficiently cleaned to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains. A sample of each feature or deposit type was excavated and recorded. Excavation was sufficient to resolve the principal aims of the evaluation.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology (Charmouth Mudstone) consisted of silty clay with occasional gravels, overlain by a clayey silt subsoil, which in turn was overlain by topsoil.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally wet and some of the trenches were flooded soon after being excavated (Plate 7). Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in Trenches 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 16, 17 and 19 (Figure 2). Five trenches in the northern and central fields (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8) contained Iron Age and Roman features. Three trenches in the southern field (16, 17 and 19) contained medieval to early post-medieval remains.

3.3.2 Plough furrows, the remnants of medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation, were ubiquitous throughout the northern and central fields, as expected based on the geophysical survey and Lidar plots. The northern fields probably formed part of the open field known as Upper Stanley Field in the medieval and post-medieval periods. The furrows were tested where necessary to confirm their identification, but not recorded as archaeological features. Furrows were not present in the southern field, which seems to have lain outside the open fields.

3.4 Trenches in the northern field

3.4.1 Trenches 3, 4, 5, and 6 (Fig. 3) all contained archaeological features of late Iron Age or early Roman date, which for the most part correspond with enclosure ditches visible on the geophysical survey plot.

3.4.2 Trench 3 contained a single posthole which did not contain any finds and is therefore undated.

3.4.3 Trench 4 has a possible continuation of Trench 5 ditch 500 (ditch 408) which also has two recuts: 403 and 406 (Fig. 5; Plate 1). These three ditches produced a considerable quantity of late Iron Age and early Roman pottery, which appears similar to that found in Trench 5. Ditch 403 had a fill which contained a large amount of charcoal, probably representing a dump of domestic refuse.

3.4.4 Trench 5 contained a moderately deep ditch (500) which has two recuts (505 and 507, Fig. 5; Plate 2). These ditches produced a substantial amount of pottery of probable late Iron Age or early Roman date. This appears to be an enclosure ditch, as it

corresponds with a clearly defined, north-south aligned curvilinear feature on the geophysical survey plot (Fig. 3). Pit 512, also in Trench 5, produced similar pottery to that found in ditch 500 (Fig. 5; Plate 3).

- 3.4.5 Trench 6 contained a single ditch at the north-west end (605, Plate 4), which was disturbed by a modern land drain. This feature produced late Iron Age and early Roman pottery, similar to that found in Trenches 4 and 5. Again, this could represent a boundary or enclosure ditch.

3.5 Trenches in the central field

- 3.5.1 The geophysical survey suggests that the late Iron Age/early Roman enclosures recorded in the northern field extend into the north-western corner of the central field.
- 3.5.2 Trenches 7 and 8 each contained a single moderately large ditch, both of which produced small amounts of late Iron Age/Roman pottery. Fill 805 of ditch 803 produced an assemblage of middle Roman pottery, which is the latest Iron Age/Roman pottery group from the site.
- 3.5.3 Trenches 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 in the eastern and central part of this field contained no archaeology.
- 3.5.4 The Iron Age/Roman features in this field do not appear to extend as far east as Trenches 9 or 10, which contained no archaeological features at all. The linear features on the geophysical survey at these locations are probably medieval/ post-medieval cultivation features, as they follow broadly the same alignment as the medieval ridge-and-furrow.

3.6 Trenches in the southern field

- 3.6.1 Trenches 16, 17 and 19 (Fig. 4) all contained archaeological features of probable late medieval and post-medieval date, including a hollow-way and the site of a possible small cottage or outbuilding in Trench 17.
- 3.6.2 Trenches 14, 15 and 18 in this field contained no archaeological features.
- 3.6.3 Trench 17 was cut across the hollow-way (1703), which is prominently visible on the Lidar and geophysical survey plots. The profile is recorded in Section 1700 (Fig. 5; Plate 5). The natural ground at this location is on a moderately steep slope leading down to the Hatherley Brook. The eastern end of the trench was in a low-lying hollow representing an infilled former channel of the brook. Comparison of the 1835 Map of Leckhampton with the 1st Edition OS Map (1885) shows that a meander in the line of the brook was infilled and replaced by a straight length of ditch at this location, between those dates. The edge of the hollow-way merges with the edge of the former stream channel near Trench 17.
- 3.6.4 Within the hollow-way (1703), three fills were identified (1704, 1705, 1706), and a layer of flattish stones which could have been part of a track surface. Finds from the fills of the hollow-way were sparse, including two sherds of late medieval pottery from

the earliest fill (1704) and two sherds of post-medieval pottery from the latest fill (1705).

- 3.6.5 On higher ground at the western end of the trench, a substantial spread of stones was revealed (1707, Plate 9). Some of the stones appeared to be *in situ* and are probably the traces of a small late medieval and/or post-medieval building. The stone layer is poorly dated as it produced only two sherds of post-medieval pottery (16th-18th century) as well as animal bone. A small cottage or outbuilding, set within a stock enclosure, is shown at this location on Crowe's Map of Leckhampton, dated 1746 (Fig. 8). The building appears to have been demolished by the time of the 1778 Enclosure Map.
- 3.6.6 Trench 16 contained a linear band of gravel at the southern end. It was only a single layer thick with no associated artefacts, and only a small amount of animal bone. The date and function of the feature is unclear. It could be a footpath, field boundary or perhaps a horticultural feature.
- 3.6.7 Trench 19 was added to the original trench plan in order to investigate an area of very slight possible earthworks to the south of the hollow-way. No remains of buildings were found in this trench. The only archaeological features included two wide, but very shallow possible ditches or cultivation features, both aligned north-south (1903 and 1905). The fill of 1905 (1904) contained a very small assemblage (four sherds) of late medieval and post-medieval pottery. Ditch 1903 produced no finds.

3.7 Finds summary

- 3.7.1 Some 271 sherds of later Iron Age and/or early Roman pottery were recovered, all from trenches in the north-western part of the site. None of the context groups need date earlier than the late Iron Age, and, with the exception of context group 805, may all have been deposited within the late Iron Age or early Roman period. The material from context 805 (Trench 8, in the central field) dates from the middle Roman period (AD 100-300).
- 3.7.2 Eleven sherds of post-Roman pottery were recovered from five contexts in the southern field. A limited range of late medieval and post-medieval wares are represented. The earliest context groups date from the 13th-14th centuries, the latest from the 16th-18th century.
- 3.7.3 Four fragments of ceramic building material and two fragments of fired clay were recovered from Trenches 5, 6, 7, 17 and 19, from contexts ranging in date from the late prehistoric to the post-medieval period.
- 3.7.4 Four metal objects were recovered, comprising a copper alloy button and three iron nails. The objects are all post-medieval in date.
- 3.7.5 A total of 271 fragments of animal were recovered, from contexts ranging in date from the late Iron Age to the post-medieval period. The largest assemblage derives from contexts dated to the late Iron Age and Roman period.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The fieldwork was undertaken during wet weather conditions over six working days. Where present, the features were generally easy to see against the mudstone geology. However, heavy rain caused flooding in some trenches which, due to the clay geology, did not drain. Trenches 7 and 8 were particularly badly affected and the features within could not be fully excavated. Nevertheless, the trenching results, in conjunction with the geophysical survey, provide a reliable assessment of the archaeological potential of the site.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 Two distinct and spatially separate archaeological sites have been identified by the evaluation:

4.2.2 1) An Iron Age and Roman rural settlement is located in the north-western part of the site. Associated features were present in Trenches 3–8. The main focus of activity lies in the south-west corner of the northern field, adjacent to Farm Lane, and appears to date from the late Iron Age and/or early Roman period. This site appears to continue into the north-western corner of the central field, although at least one of the features in that field appears to be somewhat later in date, as it produced a middle Roman pottery group. The features include fairly deep curvilinear enclosure ditches and at least one discrete pit. No postholes or other structural evidence was recorded, although such features are notoriously difficult to identify in narrow evaluation trenches. The associated artefact assemblage is quite substantial, given the limited extent of the investigation, mainly comprising pottery and animal bone. The pottery assemblage suggests a low status rural settlement. The settlement is probably a continuation of the Late Iron Age and Roman settlement previously excavated on the west side of Farm Lane (OA 2019a).

4.2.3 2) A series of hollow ways and possible stone structural remains were identified in the southern field by a combination of aerial photographic mapping, Lidar analysis, geophysical survey, trenching and historic map studies. Associated archaeological features were identified in Trenches 16, 17 and 19, the most significant evidence being traces of a possible cottage or outbuilding in Trench 17. Associated artefacts are very sparse, but sufficient to indicate that the features date broadly from the late medieval and post-medieval periods (the earliest pottery dates from the 13th-14th century, the latest from the 16th-18th centuries. The earliest map of the site, Crowe's map of Leckhampton (dated 1746) shows that the southern field formed part of a small farm called King's Close in the mid-18th century (Fig. 8). This map shows a small rectangular cottage or outbuilding within what appears to be a small stock enclosure, located next to a crossing of the Hatherley Brook. This building is likely to be the stone structure identified in Trench 17. The footbridge shown on the historic maps at this location would have linked the King's Close settlement with King's Pasture on the east bank of the brook.

- 4.2.4 Two small square buildings, also likely to be cottages or outbuildings within the King's Close settlement, are depicted on Crowe's map within the development site, immediately north of the farmhouse currently known as Little Vatch. This area was not subject to trenching due to the presence of a buried electrical cable close by. Remains of these buildings could be encountered on either side of the present public footpath, next to Farm Lane.
- 4.2.5 Plough furrows, the remnants of medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation, were ubiquitous throughout the northern and central fields, as expected based on the geophysical survey and Lidar plots. The northern field formed part of the Upper Stanley Field in the medieval period. Furrows were not present in the southern field, which probably lay outside the open strip fields in the medieval and post-medieval period. This part of the site may have been under permanent pasture or horticulture. This would explain the survival of relict medieval and post-medieval landscape features in this part of the site. The hollow-ways represent relict branches of Farm Lane, which were downgraded to field tracks when the lane was straightened and diverted to the west of the Farm between 1778 and 1835.

4.3 Significance

- 4.3.1 The north-western part of the site contains an Iron Age and/or Roman farming settlement, which is part of a more extensive Romano-British landscape of regional importance in the vicinity of Cheltenham.
- 4.3.2 The medieval/post-medieval farmstead known in the 18th century as King's Close, comprises earthwork features such as the hollow-ways marking relict branches of Farm Lane, and archaeological remains of former cottages and/or outbuildings. The archaeological evidence has the potential to inform medieval and post-medieval landscape historical studies of Leckhampton Parish and are therefore of high local importance.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay with gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.39
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.12	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.17	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay with gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.21
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.11	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay with gravels. Four furrows run N-S across the trench and a single posthole is in the centre of the trench.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.21
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.11	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
303	Cut	0.26	0.11	Posthole	-	-
304	Fill	0.26	0.11	Fill of Posthole, orange grey silty clay with gravels	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay with gravel, with three ditches intercutting at the SW end.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 4						
401	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
403	Cut	1.27	0.49	Ditch cut, linear running NNE-SSW, possible boundary ditch	-	-
404	Fill	1.27	0.43	Fill of [403] friable dark greyish brown silty clay	Pot, Bone	LIA/RB
405	Fill	1.27	0.06	Fill of [403] friable, dark grey silty clay, charcoal throughout fill	-	-
406	Cut	1.59	0.53	Ditch cut, linear running NNE-SSW, possible boundary ditch	-	-
407	Fill	1.59	0.53	Fill of [406] friable orange brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks	-	-
408	Cut	0.79	0.84	Ditch cut, linear running NNE-SSW, possible boundary ditch	-	-
409	Fill	0.79	0.17	Fill of [408] friable, light blueish grey silty clay with occasional small stones	-	-
410	Fill	0.79	0.19	Fill of [408], overlain by (409), friable orange brown with blue grey patches, occasional charcoal flecks	-	-
411	Natural feature	0.76	0.15	Geological variation	-	-
412	Natural feature	0.65	0.19	Geological variation	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay with gravel. A large ditch runs NNW-SSE which has two recuts in the west and a pit at the eastern end.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.41
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Cut	2.00	0.5 (base not reached)	Ditch cut, running NNW-SSE. Possible boundary ditch	-	-
501	Fill	0.2	0.17	Fill of [500], firm light yellow silty clay, probable alluvium	-	-

Trench 5						
502	Fill	0.25	0.7	Fill of [500], firm brownish yellow silty clay, redeposited natural	-	-
503	Fill	1.55	0.12	Fill of [500], firm dark blackish grey silty clay	Pot	LIA/RB
504	Fill	0.30	1.42	Fill of [500], firm dark grey brown silty clay	Pot, Bone	LIA/RB
505	Cut	0.98	0.24	Ditch cut, recut of [500], running NNW-SSE, probable boundary ditch	-	-
506	Fill	0.98	0.24	Fill of [505], firm dark brownish grey silty clay	Pot, Bone	LIA/RB
507	Cut	1.1	0.36	Ditch cut, recut of [500] running NNW-SSE, probable boundary ditch	-	-
508	Fill	1.1	0.36	Fill of [507], firm yellowish brown silty clay	Pot	LIA/RB
509	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
510	Layer	-	0.13	Subsoil	-	-
511	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
512	Cut	2.00	0.5	Sub circular pit	-	-
513	Fill	1.7	0.22	Fill of [512] overlain by (514), firm, dark blackish grey silty clay with sub angular stone	Pot	LIA/RB
514	Fill	1.24	0.34	Fill of [512], firm yellow brown silty clay with rare sub angular stone	Pot, Metal, CBM	LIA/RB

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay with gravel. A furrow and a field boundary runs NE-SW, and a ditch runs NNE-SSW.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.49
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
600	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
603	Cut	0.86	0.13	Furrow running NE-SW	-	-
604	Fill	0.86	0.13	Fill of [603] friable orange brown silty clay with gravel of different sizes	Pot, Bone	
605	Cut	1.42	0.34	Ditch cut, linear running NNE-SSW, possible boundary ditch	-	-

Trench 6						
606	Fill	1.42	0.34	Fill of [605] friable greyish brown silty clay with occasional small stones	Pot, Bone	LIA/RB
607	Cut	0.98	0.15	Rooting / field boundary	-	-
608	Fill	0.98	0.15	Fill of [607] firm dark brown yellow with blue grey mottling clayey silt	Pot, CBM	Mod

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay with gravel. A ditch runs NW-SE.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
703	Cut	-	-	Not fully excavated. Ditch cut, runs NW-SE	-	-
704	Fill	-	-	Fill of [703] soft, brown yellow clayey silt, small flecks of charcoal	Pot, Bone	

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay with gravel, with two ditches running NW-SE and an uninvestigated feature on the SE L.O.E.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
803	Cut	0.7	0.24	Ditch cut, running NW-SE, truncates [804] possibly a boundary ditch	-	-
804	Cut	1.0	0.42	Ditch cut, running NW-SE, truncated by [803]	-	-
805	Fill	0.7	0.24	Fill of [803], soft orange grey silty clay	Pot	Medieval
806	Fill	1.0	0.42	Fill of [804], soft light grey orange silty clay with occasional angular flint	Pot	Roman?

Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	WSW-ENE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay with gravelly sand, with a land drain.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-
902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay with gravel, with a land drain.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.25
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.19	Subsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay with gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.39
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer	-	0.19	Topsoil	-	-
1101	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
1102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay with gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer	-	0.14	Topsoil	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
1202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE

Trench 13						
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay with gravel and sands.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
1301	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
1302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
1402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 15						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and colluvium at the SE end of the trench overlying natural geology of clay with gravel. A single furrow runs across the trench at SE end					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.33
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
1501	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
1502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1503	Layer	-	0.10	Colluvium at SE end	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay with gravel. There is a layer of stones at the southern end of the trench.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.37
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer	-	0.17	Topsoil	-	-
1601	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
1602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1603	Layer	3.0	0.08	Layer of stones overlying subsoil, 100-250mm in size. Loose, dark greyish brown clayey silt	Bone	-

Trench 17						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay with gravel. Contains a medieval Hollow way which was identified as an upstanding earthwork and a stone surface which may be the remains of a small building in an enclosure shown on Crowe's Map of Leckhampton (1746).					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1700	Layer	-	0.21	Topsoil	-	-
1701	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
1702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1703	Cut	5.0	0.32	Hollow way cut running N-S, identified as an existing earthwork.	-	-
1704	Fill	2.5+	0.16	Fill of [1703], moderate compacted dark grey yellow silty clay	Pot, Bone	Medieval
1705	Fill	2.7+	0.15	Fill of [1703], overlies (1704), soft dark brown grey silty clay	Pot, Bone	Post-medieval
1706	Layer	0.70	0.10	Sand lens in [1703], soft light yellow orange sand	-	-
1707	Layer	9.0	0.10	Spread of stones, grey yellow silt with stones 80-300mm in size. Some in situ, possibly structural.	Pot, Bone	Post-medieval

Trench 18						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.24
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.10	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 19						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay with occasional gravel. At the eastern end, there is a stone layer cutting the subsoil					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1900	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 19						
1901	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
1902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1903	Cut	1.40	0.15	Shallow ditch? Aligned N-S, irregular sides	-	-
1904	Fill	1.40	0.15	Friable, orange grey silty clay with many limestone fragments 5-20mm in size	Pot, Bone	Post-medieval
1905	Cut	0.80	0.10	Very shallow ditch? aligned N-S.	-	-
1906	Fill	0.80	0.10	Fill of [1905], moderately compacted reddish brown clay	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Later Iron Age and Roman pottery

By Edward Biddulph

Introduction

- B.1.1 Some 271 sherds of later Iron Age and Roman pottery, weighing 1636g, were recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage was scanned to identify diagnostic forms and fabrics, provide spot-dates and generally characterise the material. The assemblage was also assessed in terms of its conservation, discard and retention. Later Iron Age and Roman pottery fabrics were assigned codes from OA's standard recording system for material of that date (Booth 2016). Forms identified by rim were given codes from OA's system. Reference was also made to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (NRFRC; Tomber and Dore 1998) and Webster's (1976) typology of Severn Valley ware forms.
- B.1.2 Each context group was quantified by sherd count and weight, and any rims present were additionally quantified by estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), which measures the percentage of rim circumference that survives (thus, 0.3 equals 30%). The total was 1.33 EVEs from eight vessels identified by rim. Pottery data by context is provided in Table 1.
- B.1.3 The following later Iron Age and Roman fabrics were noted (NRFRC codes in brackets):
- E13 Late Iron Age/early Roman organic- and grog-tempered fabric
 - E30 Late Iron Age/early Roman sandy fabric
 - E40 Late Iron Age/early Roman shelly fabric
 - E50 Late Iron Age/early Roman limestone-tempered fabric
 - G25 Malvernian limestone-tempered fabric
 - O40 Severn Valley oxidised ware (including SVW OX 1)
 - O41 Organic-tempered Severn Valley oxidised ware
 - R49 Severn Valley reduced ware
- B.1.4 In addition, the following forms identified by rim were recorded:
- C Indeterminate jars
 - CD Medium-mouthed jar
 - CE High-shouldered necked jar
 - CI Everted-rim jar
 - GA Tankard

Table 1: Summary and quantification of the pottery by context (Key: EVE estimated vessel equivalent; M/LIA middle/late Iron Age)

Context	Sherds	Wt (g)	Description	Spot-date
404	37	314	Jar CE (E13, 0.13 EVE); jar C (O40, 0.1 EVE); body sherds, fabrics G25, R49 (trimmed neck of storage jar)	AD 43-100
503	84	503	Jar CI, rim and body sherds (G25, 0.77 EVE, probably all from single vessel, but possibly more than 1 vessel represented); body sherds (3 sherds, 26g) in limestone-tempered fabric - ?later prehistoric	MIA-LIA/AD 43-200
504	12	47	Jar CD (E30, 0.1 EVE); jar C (G25, 0.02 EVE)	LIA/AD 43-100
506	23	89	Body sherds, fabrics O40, G25	AD 43-200
508	9	63	Body sherds, fabrics E30 (sherd from high-shouldered necked jar), E50, G25	LIA/AD 43-100
513	46	125	Body sherds, fabrics G25, R49 (organic-tempered)	AD 43-200
514	25	114	Jar C (G25, 0.05 EVE)	MIA-LIA/AD 43-200
604	2	19	Joining body sherds, fabric O41	AD 43-400
606	28	316	Jar CI (G25, 0.06 EVE); body sherds, fabrics O40 (grooves around body, probably from a wide-mouthed jar, cf. Webster 1976, nos 20-2 or 23-4), R49, E13	AD 43-200
805	1	25	Tankard GA, Webster 1976, no. 40 or 41 (O40, 0.1 EVE)	AD 100-300
806	4	21	Body sherds, fabrics E13, E40	LIA/AD 43-100
Total	271	1636		

Description

- B.1.5 None of the context groups need date earlier than the late Iron Age, and, with the exception of context group 805, may all have been deposited within the late Iron Age or early Roman period.
- B.1.6 Context groups 503 (fill of ditch 500) and 514 (fill of pit 512) contained jars – one with an everted rim – in Malvernian limestone-tempered fabric, which spans the 5th century BC to the 2nd century AD. However, it is unlikely that the pottery was deposited as early as the middle Iron Age, as pottery collected from other contexts (504 and 513) in the same features is later in date. It is worth noting, too, that contexts 506 and 508, fills of recuts of ditch 500, also contained pottery of late Iron Age or later date. Early Roman pottery was recovered from context 404, a fill of ditch 403, while pottery of late Iron Age or early Roman date was collected from context 806, a fill of ditch 804. Ditch 605 contained pottery dating to the mid-1st to 2nd century. Pottery from context 604, a fill of furrow 603, was dated broadly to the Roman period, but could be of 1st or 2nd century date.
- B.1.7 The latest pottery was collected from context 805, a fill of ditch 803. This comprises a rim from a Severn Valley ware tankard dating to the 2nd or 3rd century AD.
- B.1.8 The assemblage was dominated by Malvernian limestone-tempered ware (G25). It can be observed that this fabric is different to the rock-tempered fabric (MAL RE A) sourced

on the basis of petrology and distribution in the Malvern area (Tomber and Dore 1998, 147). A more likely source is around May Hill, some 30km west of Leckhampton, where Malvernian shelly limestone tempered fabrics, albeit of Bronze Age date, were produced (Worcestershire Ceramics, nd). Severn Valley wares had a variety of sources, though occurrences in the current assemblage that correspond with fabric SVW OX 1 (Tomber and Dore 1998, 148) or have organic inclusions may be products of the Newland Hopfields kiln site at Great Malvern (cf. Evans *et al.* 2000). The remaining pottery is likely to have been produced locally or also in the Malvernian region.

- B.1.9 Forms were typical of the fabrics in which they were made. Jars (probably oval-bodied) with stubby everted rims were available in fabric G25, while a tankard and a wide-mouthed jar were seen in Severn Valley ware fabrics. High-shouldered necked jars in fabrics E13 and E30 are characteristically late Iron Age or early Roman. Evidence of modification was noted in context-group 404; the rim of a narrow-necked storage jar had been removed in antiquity and the break around the neck smoothed, allowing the vessel to be re-used.
- B.1.10 Overall, the assemblage was in poor condition. The mean sherd weight (weight divided by sherd count) is 6g, which is characteristic of a highly fragmented assemblage. However, the mean rim percentage (EVE divided by number of vessels represented by rim) of 0.17 EVE or 17% points to relatively well-preserved assemblage, and we may also note that context 503 contained a substantial proportion of a single, though fragmented, vessel, with up to 77% of its rim surviving. Despite the fragmented nature of the assemblage, the pottery is likely to have been deposited reasonably close to areas of use and initial discard.
- B.1.11 The pottery reported on here has the potential to inform future research through re-analysis and thus it is recommended that all the pottery is retained. This follows the advice set out in the 'Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology' (PCRG, SGRP, MPRG 2016).

B.2 Post-Roman pottery

By John Cotter

- B.2.1 A total of 11 sherds (219g) of pottery were recovered from five contexts. A limited range of medieval and post-medieval wares (after c 1480), are represented.
- B.2.2 All the pottery was scanned during the assessment and spot-dates were provided for each context. Each context group was quantified by sherd count and weight and recorded on a spot-dating spreadsheet. The pottery is fragmentary but some fairly large fresh sherds are present.
- B.2.3 The context spot-date is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types or fabrics are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the range of fabrics were recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.). For the purposes of the present report fabric codes referred to for the post-medieval wares are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014), whereas those for the medieval wares (where

identifiable) are abbreviated (alphabetic) codes borrowed from the Bristol pottery type-series (Cotter 2017). Most of these fabrics are also known from much larger published assemblages of local medieval and post-medieval pottery including that from the East and North Gates of Gloucester (Vince 1983) and that from Quedgeley nearby (Vince 2013). The range of pottery is described in some detail in Table 2 and is therefore only summarised below.

Table 2: Description of post-Roman pottery by context

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
608	c 1780-1840	1	2	Transfer-printed Pearlware (Fabric code: PEAR TR). Flake from base of dish/plate with cloudy blue transfer-printed decoration int - probably Willow Pattern?
1704	c1250-1400?	2	45	1x Malvern Chase medieval glazed ware (MALV, c1250-1550) (weight 32g): fresh sherd from jug base with continuous thumbing around basal angle; unusually fine (almost post-med looking) light orange-brown fabric with grey core, but contains sparse coarse inclusions of granitic origin indicating Malvern (Worcs) source, unglazed apart from tiny speck ext - possibly 14C rather than earlier? 1x Malvern Chase coarseware (Gloucester Fabric code: TF40, c1100-1350): fresh rim sherd from a handmade cooking pot or deep bowl with an everted thickened flat-topped rim, light grey-brown fabric with common and very coarse angular inclusions of igneous/granitic origin. Rim sooted externally from use
1705	c 1530-1770?	2	42	1x Post-medieval red earthenware (PMR), possibly Ashton Keynes ware? (AK, c1530-1770, from N. Wilts) (37g): fresh everted slightly hooked/downturned rim from a thickly-potted wide bowl or jar; oxidised light orange fabric with grey core and all over int reduced greenish-brown glaze. 1x smallish (unglazed) body sherd Malvern Chase medieval glazed ware (MALV, c1250-1550)
1707	c 1530-1770?	2	45	2x Post-medieval red earthenware (PMR), possibly Ashton Keynes ware? (AK, c1530-1770): comprises 1x fairly abraded, flat body sherd possibly from the base of a wide dish/bowl with fine pinkish sandy fabric with all over int glossy brown glaze; 1x flat base sherd from the centre of a probable jug with specks of brown glaze int and ext
1904	c 1530-1770?	4	85	3x Post-medieval red earthenware (PMR), possibly Ashton Keynes ware? (AK, c1530-1770) (44g): comprises fresh body sherds from 3 separate vessels, probably including a wide bowl wall sherd and a dish wall sherd; all with glossy brown glaze int and traces of glaze ext. 1x Malvern Chase medieval glazed ware (MALV, c1250-1550), fresh basal sherd probably from

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
				base of a wide bowl or jar with a thin greenish-brown glaze all over int and evidence of sooting ext
TOTAL		11	219	

Discussion

- B.2.4 The pottery comprises ordinary domestic kitchen and table wares typical of the Gloucestershire area and beyond. The four medieval sherds are all regional imports from the Malvern Chase area of Worcestershire. Two sherds of Malvern Chase wares occur alone in context 1704 and date this context to c 1250-1400. The other four contexts are all post-medieval in date but contain two residual medieval sherds. Three of these contexts are dated by sherds of commonplace glazed post-medieval red earthenwares - possibly products of the Ashton Keynes kilns in north Wiltshire, which are common in Gloucester (Fabric AK, c 1530-1770). A single small sherd of Pearlware with blue transfer-printed decoration (PEAR TR, c 1780-1840) is the latest piece from the site (608).
- B.2.5 The pottery here has the potential to inform research through re-analysis, particularly when reviewed alongside further assemblages from any future excavations on the site. It is therefore recommended that the pottery be retained.

B.3 Ceramic building material and fired clay

By Cynthia Poole

- B.3.1 A small quantity of ceramic building material (CBM) amounting to four fragments weighing 88g and two fragments of fired clay (FC) weighing 11g was recovered from Trenches 5, 6, 7, 17 and 19 (Table 3). The assemblage consists of small fragments, poorly preserved, with a mean fragment weight of 16.5g. The assemblage contains fragments of very varying date from the prehistoric period to post-medieval. The assemblage has been spot-dated and a brief record made in the table below.
- B.3.2 The two fragments of fired clay (contexts 506, 704) each have a single moulded surface, burnt or fired to grey and brown in colour. They are of indeterminate form but are most likely to derive from oven or hearth structures. The fired clay cannot be dated and could have been in use at time from the prehistoric to medieval period. They are likely to be contemporary with any associated dated artefacts and with the evidence for late Iron Age/Roman occupation are most likely to date from this period.
- B.3.3 Two largely amorphous fragments of CBM (608, 1904) retain small areas of rough sanded or gritted base surface, partly burnt grey. This suggests they are more likely to be fragments of Roman tile, rather than post-medieval brick.

B.3.4 Medieval to post-medieval flat roof tile was found in context 514 and 1707. Both are probably fragments of standard rectangular peg or nib tile, both forms of which may be found in Gloucester. The thicker fragment (1707) is likely to be medieval in date whilst the thinner fragment is more typical of post-medieval tile.

B.3.5 The assemblage has little intrinsic research value, apart from providing evidence of the fabrics that were in use in the area at different periods. The material may be discarded upon completion of the project prior to archiving.

Table 3: Record of the CBM and fired clay assemblage

Context	Nos	Wt (g)	Date	Fabric	Form	Description
506	1	6	Preh-Med	Reddish orange fine sandy highly micaceous clay with frequent red ferruginous argillaceous pellets 1-4mm	FC Structural: indet.	Flat uneven hand moulded surface burnt grey. 16mm thick.
514	1	35	C15-C18	Pink laminated clay with redder core and cream streaks; frequent quartz and moderate haematite sand	CBM Roof tile (flat/peg)	Flat even surfaces, sanded base. 13mm thick.
608	1	24	Ro	Cerise-red hard fine clay with occasional dark red iron oxide /ironstone inclusions.	CBM Brick?	Possibly small area of flat rough surface surviving pitted with voids from gritty mould sand and burnt grey. >35mm thick
704	1	5	Preh-Med	Red – brown laminated clay with paler streaks, moderate density of medium quartz sand; occasional ironstone grit 1-3mm.	FC Structural: indet.	Flat fairly even hand moulded surface, fired brown. 14mm thick.
1707	1	14	Med	Orange coarse sandy clay with frequent cream laminations and medium-coarse quartz sand & a scatter of small ironstone grits 1-3mm.	CBM Roof tile (flat/peg)	Flat smooth upper surface; rough sanded base. 16mm thick.
1904	1	15	Ro	Reddish brown coarse sandy slightly micaceous clay containing frequent coarse quartz sand and occasional iron oxide inclusions.	CBM Brick/tile	Flat even surface with coarse moulding sand and partly burnt grey. >20mm thick.
Total	6	99				

B.3.6 Insert all artefact reports here. Where appropriate these should be cross-references to the main body of the report, both in terms of results (i.e what was found in the features) and how the artefacts help with interpretation (e.g. with dating evidence).

B.4 Metalwork

By Leigh Allen

Introduction

- B.4.1 Four metal objects were recovered from the evaluation; a copper alloy button and three iron nails. The button is complete and in good condition the nails are incomplete and corroded. The objects are all post-medieval in date.
- B.4.2 The copper alloy button from context 1707 is a plain discoidal button (D: 25mm) with an integral attachment loop. Traces of tin plating are visible at the base of the loop and probably extended over all surfaces.
- B.4.3 The nails were recovered from contexts 514, 1707 and 1904. Only the small nail from context 1904 is complete. It has a square, flanged head and a rectangular sectioned shank. The fragment from 1707 is a slender length of shank and the fragment from context 514 has a robust square-sectioned shank but the head is missing.
- B.4.4 The presence of the button in context 1707 confirms the post-medieval date established by the pottery and ceramic building material otherwise the assemblage has no intrinsic research value.
- B.4.5 The button should be retained, the nail fragments once x-rayed can be discarded.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal Bone

By Lee Broderick

Introduction

- C.1.1 A total of 251 animal bone specimens were recovered from the site (Table 4), all of which were collected by hand. Features on the site were dated on the basis of associated ceramic finds (seriation), mostly to the early Romano-British period.
- C.1.2 The material was recorded in full, with the aid of the Oxford Archaeology skeletal reference collection and standard identification guides, using a diagnostic zone system (Serjeantson 1996).

Description

- C.1.3 Preservation on the site was mixed, with surface condition of bones generally moderate (Figure C.1) but the bones often brittle and subject to breaking. Several of the specimens had obviously broken during or since excavation and it was possible to refit these, so counting as one specimen.
- C.1.4 Domestic cattle (*Bos taurus taurus*) were the most common species, by NISP (Number of Identified SPecimens) in the late prehistoric and Romano-British phase (Table 4). Caprine (sheep, *Ovis aries*, and/or goat, *Capra hircus*, – the former was definitely present on the site) is the next most common, followed by pig (*Sus domesticus*) and horse (*Equus caballus*). Completing the domestic mammal suite is dog (*Canis familiaris*), which although not present in the earlier phases of the assemblage was probably present on the site, as demonstrated by eleven specimens gnawed by canids (Table 5), including nine from Romano-British phases and one from the earliest phase on the site.
- C.1.5 It was only possible to obtain ageing data from around 10% of the assemblage, possibly due to its brittle nature. This included eight domestic cattle epiphyses, most of which were fused. A distal tibia from AD 43-100 context 404 was fusing at the distal end, suggesting an age at death of between two and two and a half years (Silver 1969) and a femur from c AD 1530-1770 context 1707 was fusing at the proximal end, suggesting an age at death of around three and a half years (Silver 1969). All of the domestic cattle specimens with fused epiphyses were from context 404, which was a rich deposit, with the exception of a left proximal metacarpal from late Iron Age/early Roman context 503. Part of a caprine fused proximal epiphysis was also recovered from context 404, along with two sheep mandibles and one from a pig. The sheep mandibles give age at death estimates of 17-27 months and 30-66 months (Jones 2006), while the pig mandible is from a sub-adult individual (Wright *et al.* 2014).
- C.1.6 Two specimens with pathologies were also found in the assemblage, again both from AD 43-100 context 404. A caprine tooth was found with calculus adhering, reflecting an acid diet (Waldron 2009) and a domestic cattle metacarpal was observed to have a

lesion consistent with osteochondrosis on the proximal end, a benign condition (Sewell 2010); it is unlikely that either condition would have caused the animal any discomfort in life and so would have gone unobserved at the time.

Discussion

C.1.7 Animal bone evidence is relatively scarce for the prehistoric and Roman periods in south-west Britain (Grove and Croft 2012), although Gloucestershire is better served in this respect than other parts of the region. The dominance of assemblages by domestic cattle appears to be an emerging trend (Allen *et al.* 2015) although more research is needed to establish this. It is possible that the absence of juvenile individuals is due to taphonomic factors influencing survivability (favouring the survival of the more robust bones of adults). It could also reflect the actual assemblage deposited, however, which would suggest either a consumer site of older (non-breeding) stock or else, conversely, one at which the economy is geared towards using oxen for traction (favouring older animals). A larger assemblage may help to shed light on this – through pathological evidence and a larger sample of bones from which to profile the age structure. Although much of this assemblage comes from a single feature it is to be hoped that other, comparable features may be found in the full excavation. As such, the assemblage shows that the site has potential to advance our understanding of animal husbandry practices and economy in the area during the Roman period.

C.1.8 The assemblage should be retained and the results included in the final report.

Table 4: Total NISP (Number of Identified SPecimens) and NSP (Number of SPecimens) figures per period from hand-collected material

	MIA-LIA/AD 43-200	LIA/AD 43-100	AD 43-100	AD 43-200	c AD 1250-1400?	c AD 1530-1770?	Undated
Domestic cattle	3	2	18	3		2	1
Caprine		1	8	2		1	
Sheep			2		1		
Pig			1	2			
Horse			2	1			
Horse/donkey			1				
Dog					1		
Dog?			1				
Medium mammal	2		11	4			
Large mammal	10		39	18		8	2
Total NISP	15	3	83	30	2	11	3
Total NSP	26	4	139	54	4	20	4

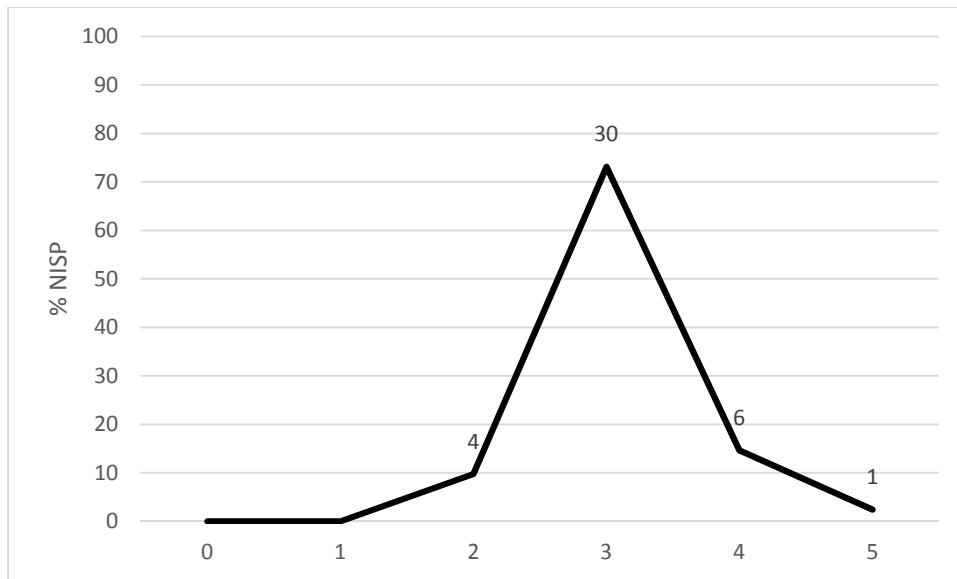


Figure C.1: Condition of identified specimens from the pre-Medieval contexts, expressed as a percentage of NISP (numbers correspond to actual NISP) (following Behrensmeyer, 1978).

Table 5: Non-species data recorded from the specimens (NSP)

	Pathologies	Gnawed	Burnt	Ageing data	Biometric data
Domestic cattle	1	7		8	3
Caprine	1	3		3	
Pig				2	
Dog				1	
Large mammal		1			
Ondet.			3		
Total	2	11	3	14	3

Table 6: Total NSP and weight of specimens from each context.

Context	NSP	Wt (g)
404	139	1780
503	1	63
504	2	140
506	5	84
513	8	31
514	25	185
606	41	742
704	1	2
806	2	12
1603	3	39
1704	4	44
1705	13	105
1707	5	68
1904	2	27

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM

Site name: Proposed Cheltenham Secondary School, Farm Lane, Leckhampton
Site code: OALESS19
Grid Reference SO 93746 19806
Type: Evaluation
Date and duration: 19/06/2019-24/06/2019 (6 days)
Area of site 5.5 hectares
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES and will be deposited with The Wilson, Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum in due course.

Summary of results:

In June 2019 Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation for Kier Construction, on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council, at the proposed location for a secondary school development at Farm Lane, Leckhampton, Gloucestershire. The site is centered on SO 93746 19806. A total of 19 trenches were excavated, targeted on specific features identified by a geophysical survey of the site, Lidar analysis and historic maps.

Two distinct and spatially separate archaeological sites have been identified by the evaluation. An Iron Age and Roman rural settlement is located in the north-western part of the site. Associated features were present in Trenches 3–8. The main focus of activity lies in the south-west corner of the northern field, adjacent to Farm Lane, and appears to date from the late Iron Age and/or early Roman period. This site appears to continue into the north-western corner of the central field, although at least one of the features in that field appears to be somewhat later in date, as it produced a middle Roman pottery group. The settlement is probably a continuation of the late Iron Age and Roman settlement previously excavated on the west side of Farm Lane.

A series of hollow-ways and possible stone structural remains were identified in the southern field by a combination of aerial photographic mapping, Lidar analysis, geophysical survey, trenching and historic map studies, including traces of a possible cottage or outbuilding that may correspond with a building shown on Crowe's map of Leckhampton (1746).

Project Details

OASIS Number	OXFORDAR1_361368		
Project Name	Cheltenham Secondary School, Leckhampton, Gloucestershire		
Start of Fieldwork	19/07/2019	End of Fieldwork	24/06/2019
Previous Work	Geophysical survey	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	OALESS19	Planning App. No.	
HER Number		Related Numbers	

Prompt	
Development Type	School
Place in Planning Process	Pre-application

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography – interpretation | <input type="checkbox"/> Grab-sampling | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new | <input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-core | <input type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch | <input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning | <input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Augering | <input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search | <input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling | <input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography | |

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Settlement	Late Iron Age (- 100 to 43)	Ceramics	Late Iron Age (- 100 to 43)
Settlement	Roman (43 to 410)	Ceramics	Roman (43 to 410)
Settlement	Medieval (1066 to 1540)	Ceramics	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Settlement	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)	Ceramics	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
		Animal bone	Late Iron Age (- 100 to 43)
		Animal bone	Roman (43 to 410)
		Animal bone	Medieval (1066 to 1540)

Project Location

County	Gloucestershire	Address (including Postcode) Farm Lane Leckhampton Gloucestershire GL53 0NS
District	Cheltenham	
Parish	Leckhampton	
HER office	Gloucestershire County Council	
Size of Study Area	5.5 hectares	
National Grid Ref	SO 93746 19806	

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology
Project Brief Originator	Charles Parry, Gloucestershire County Council
Project Design Originator	Stuart Foreman, Oxford Archaeology
Project Manager	Stuart Foreman, Oxford Archaeology
Project Supervisor	Victoria Green, Oxford Archaeology

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)		
Digital Archive		
Paper Archive		

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
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Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Digital Media

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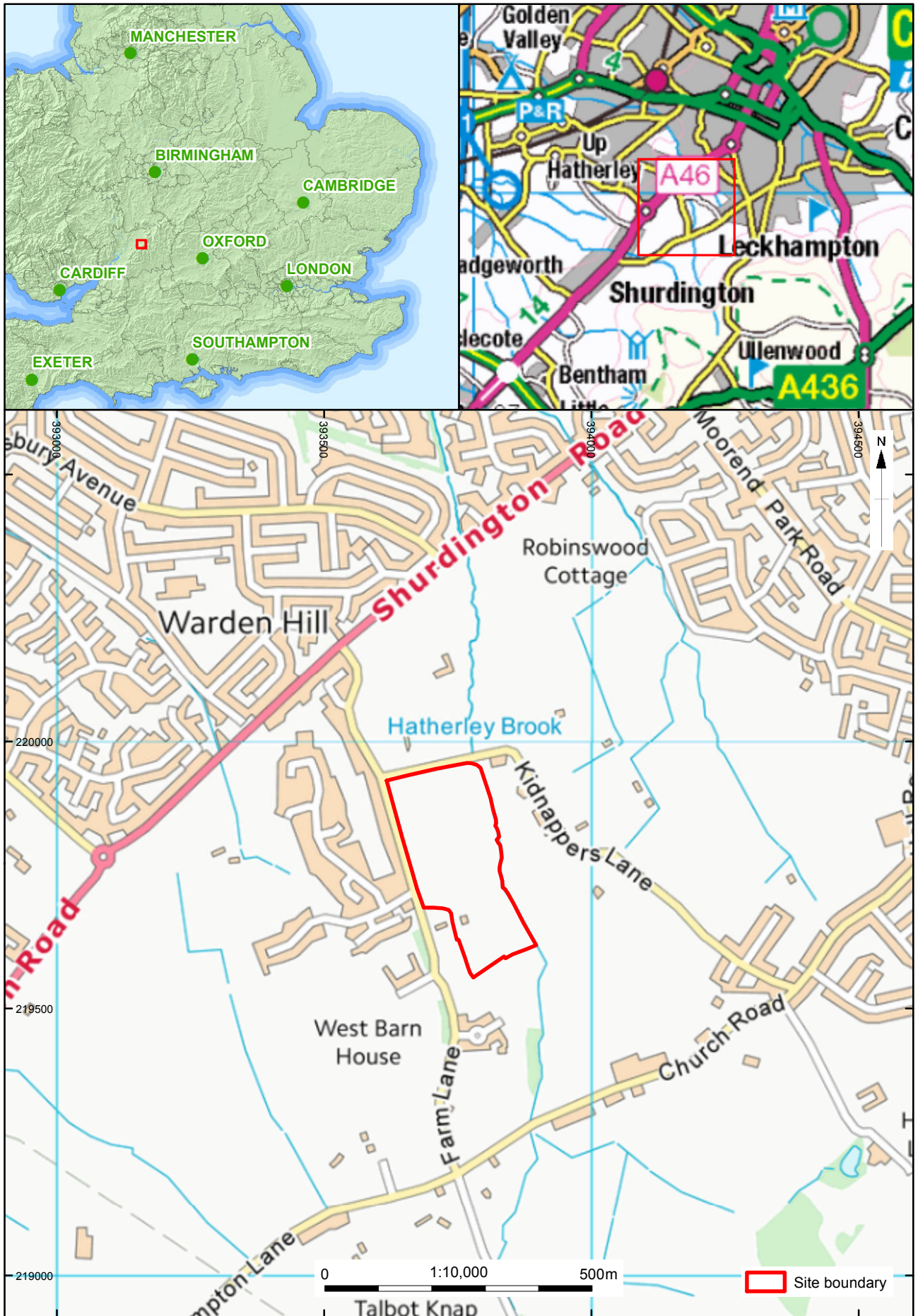
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Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Sections
Survey



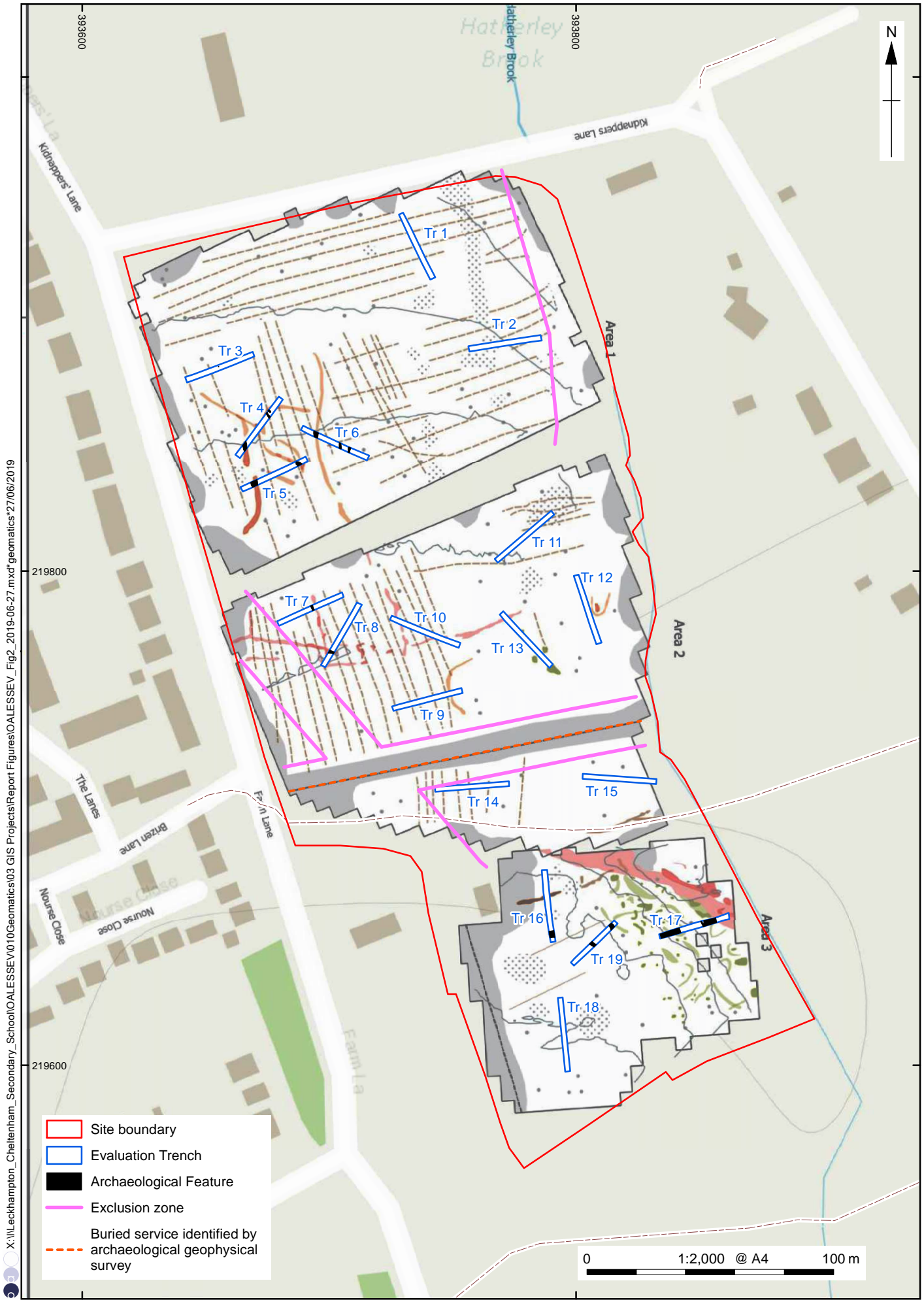
Further Comment



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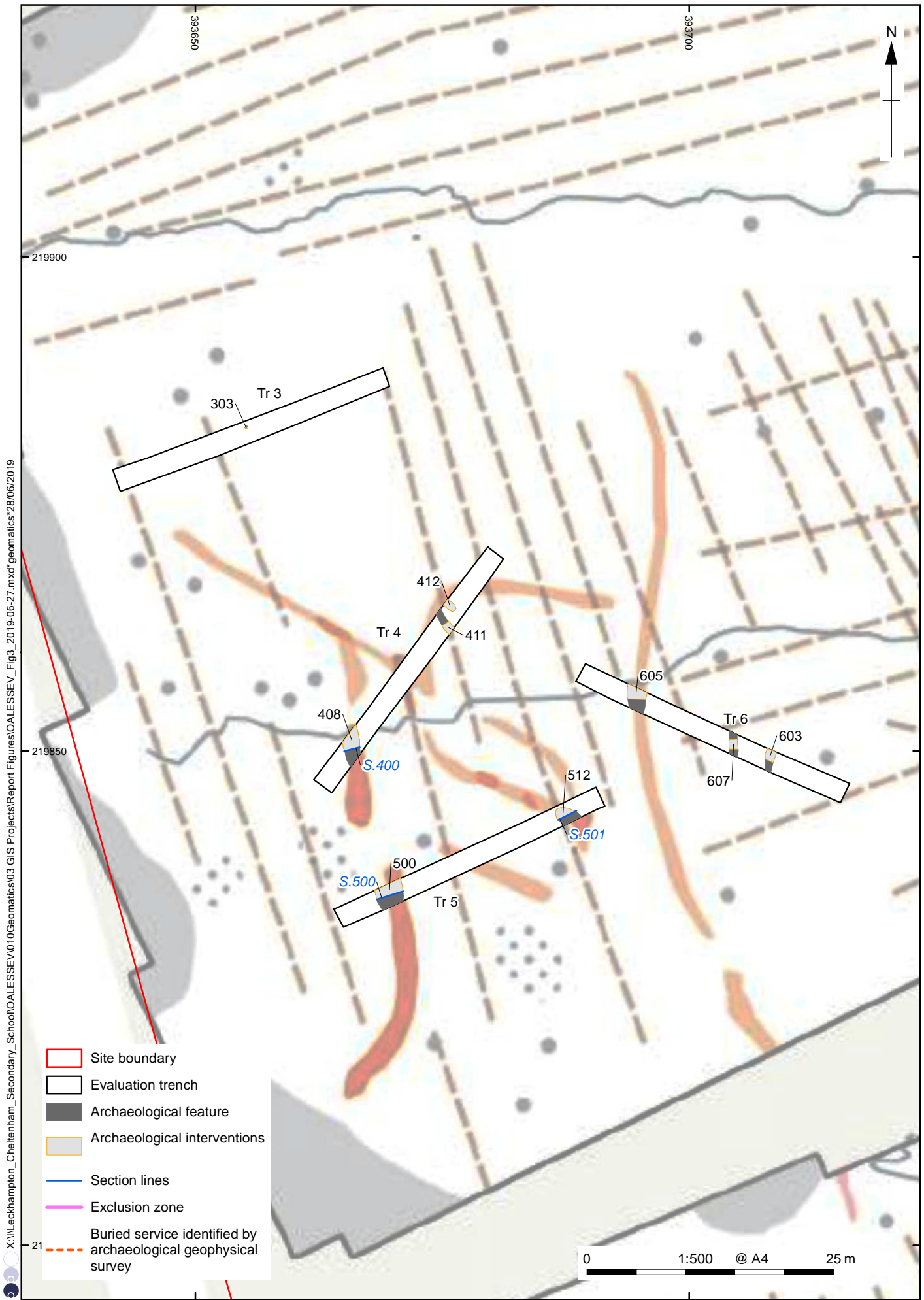
Figure 1: Site location



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Figure 2: Evaluation trenches and archaeological features overlay on geophysical survey

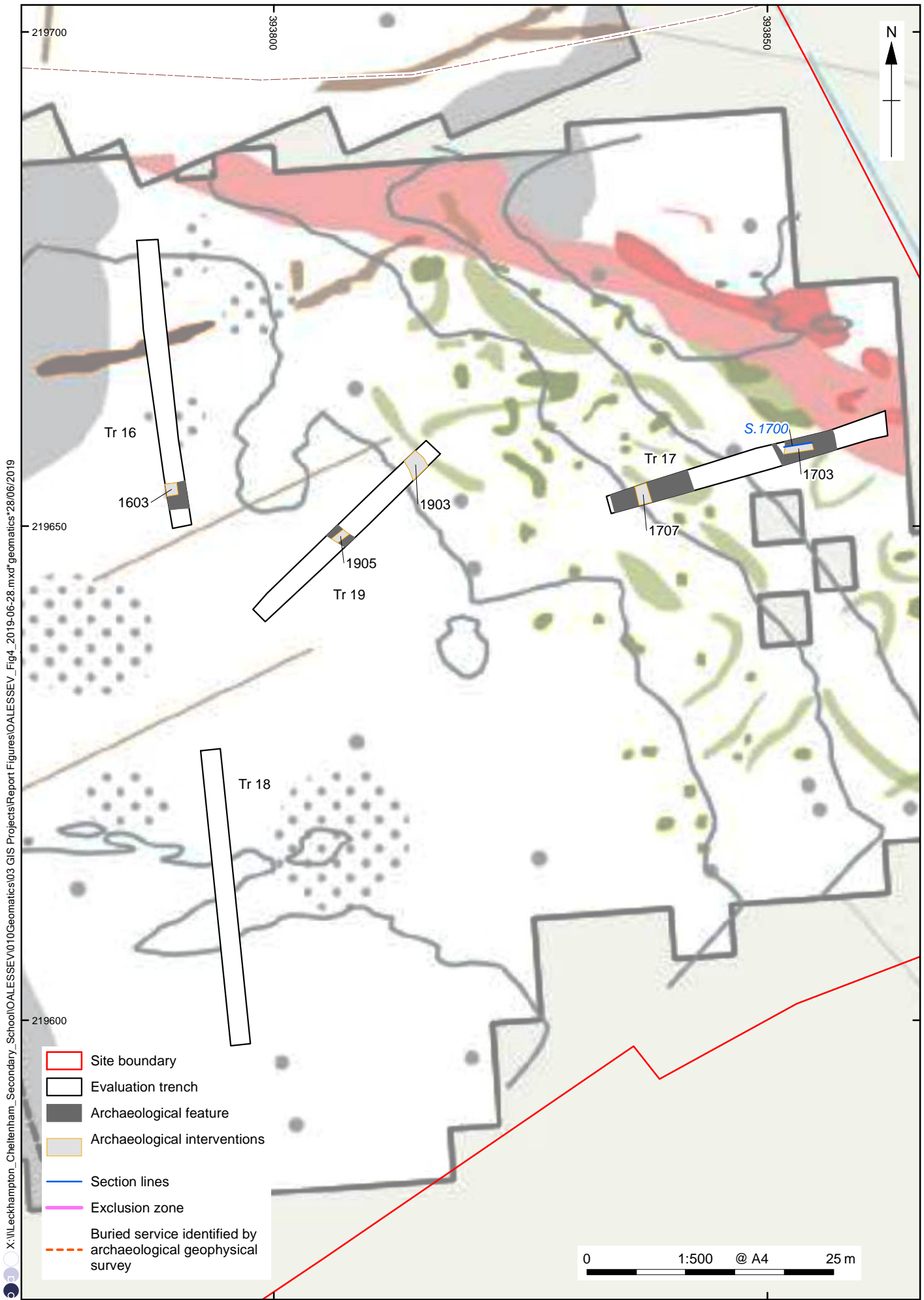


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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Archaeological interventions
- Section lines
- Exclusion zone
- Buried service identified by archaeological geophysical survey

Service information supplied by client

Figure 3: Close up of Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 6 showing archaeological features overlain on geophysical survey



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Figure 4: Close up of Trenches 16, 17, 18 and 19 showing archaeological features overlain on geophysical survey

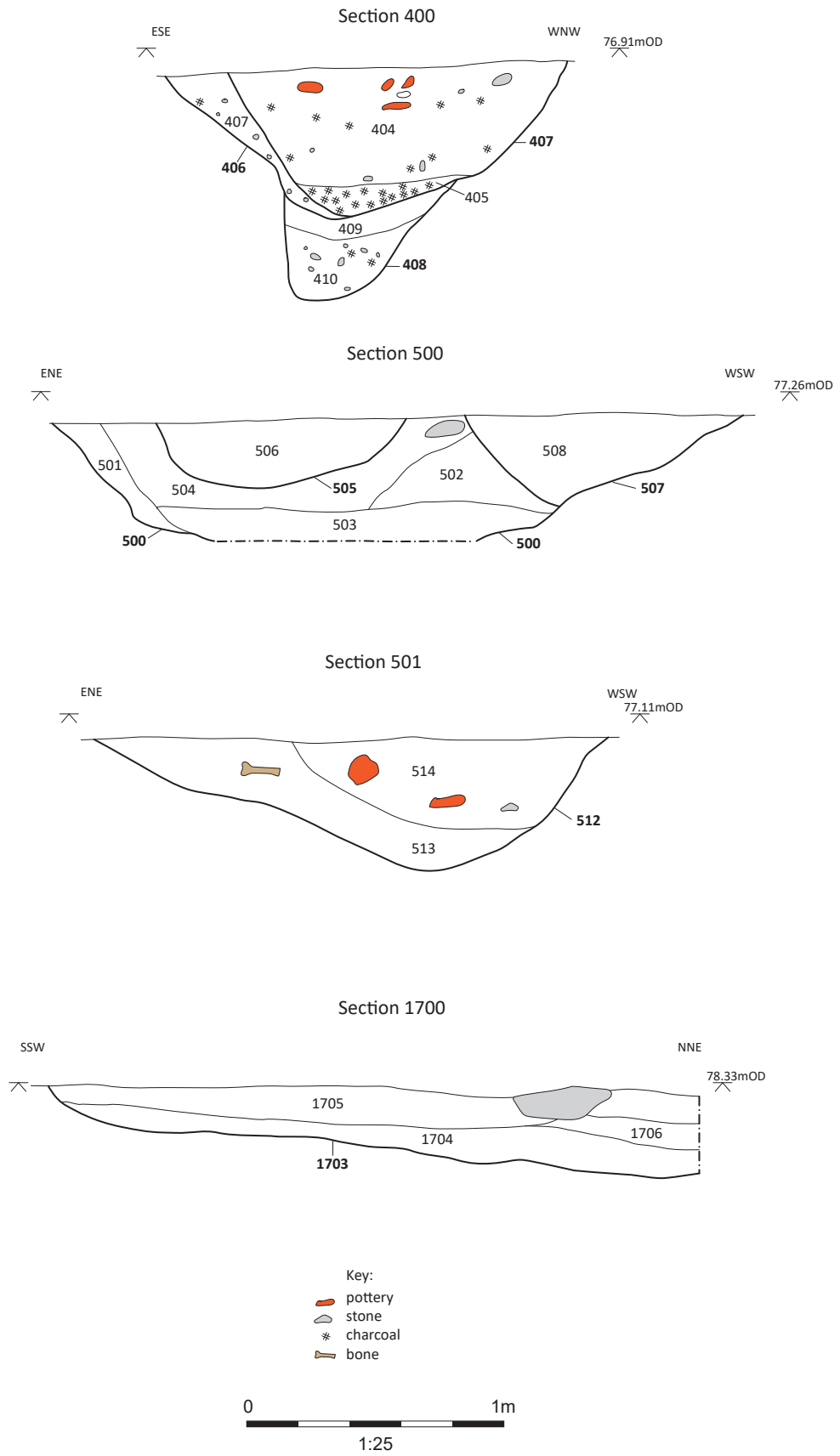


Figure 5: Sections

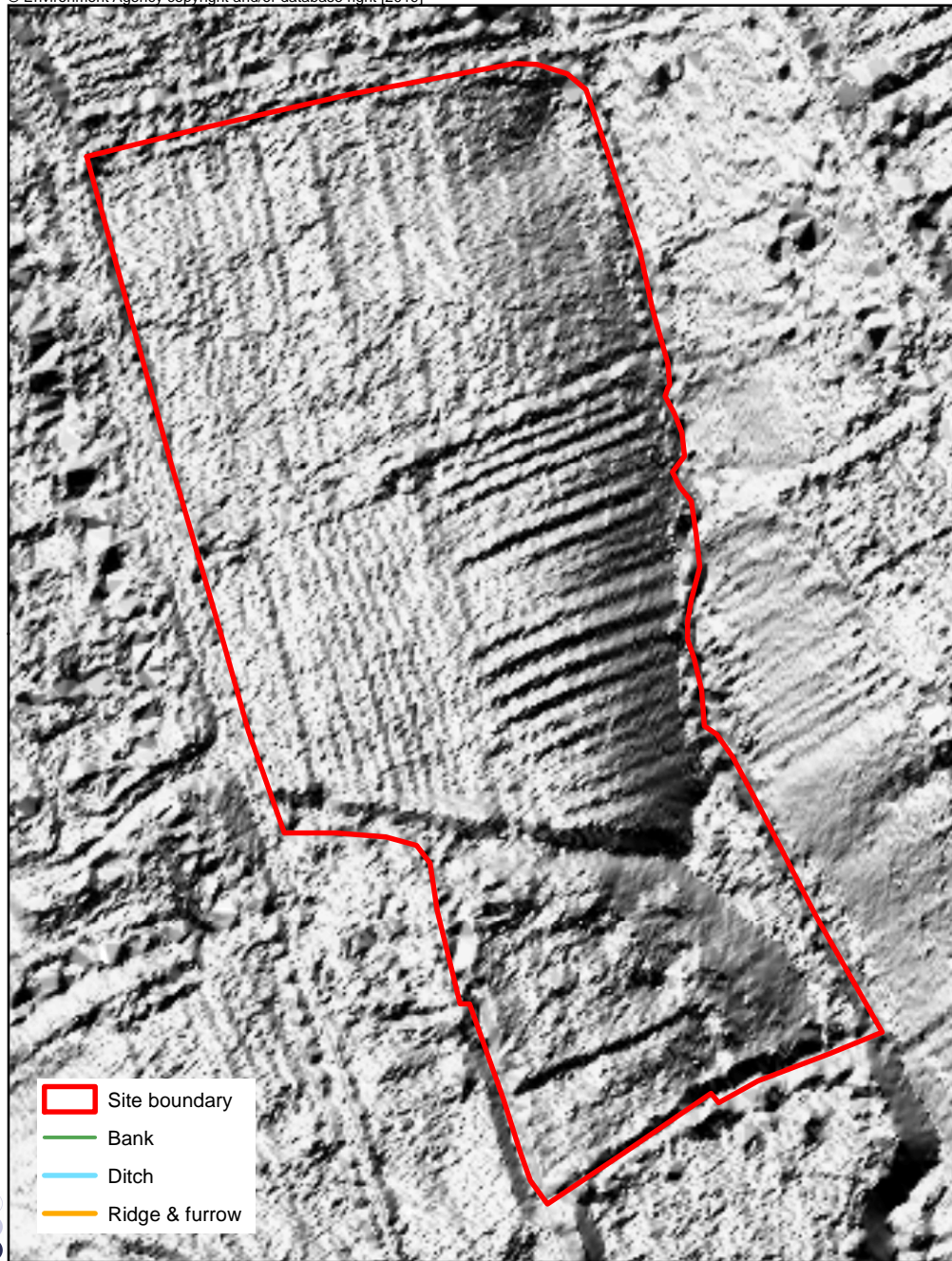


Figure 6a: LiDAR (hillshade visualisation) data

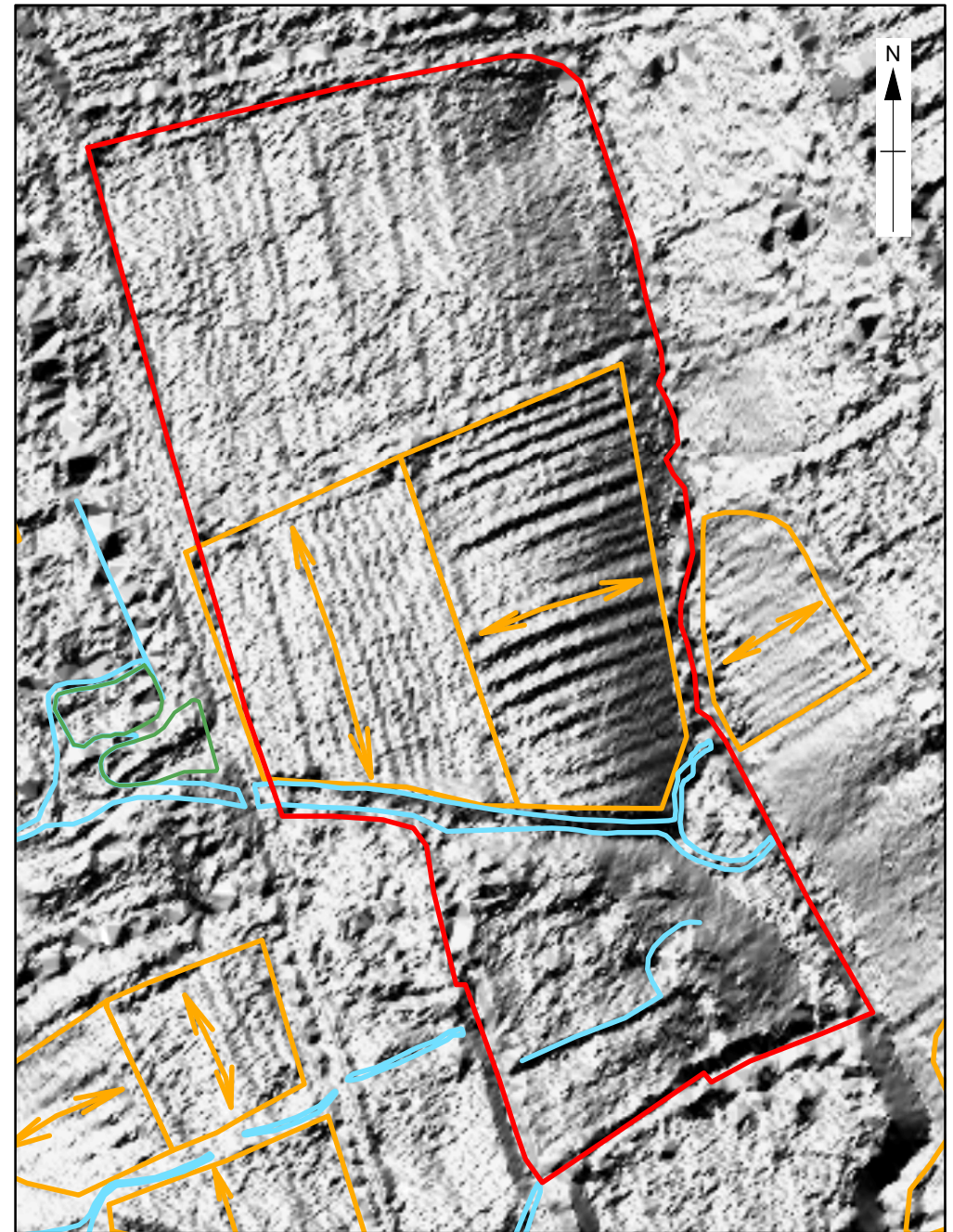


Figure 6b: LiDAR data (hillshade visualisation) with NMP overlay



Figure 7: Map of the parish of Leckhampton 1835



Plate 1: NNE facing section 400 through ditch 403



Plate 2: NNW facing section 500 through ditches 500, 507 and 505



Plate 3: Oblique photo of section 501 through pit 512



Plate 4: NNE facing section 601 through ditch 605



Plate 5: SSW facing section through hollow way 1703



Plate 6: Trench shot, looking NE, of Trench 4



Plate 7: Trench shot, looking ESE, of Trench 10 showing flooded conditions



Plate 8: Trench shot, looking W, of Trench 17 showing hollow way and stone surface



Plate 9: Trench 17 close up of the stone surface



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