Land off A4103, Leigh Sinton, Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Land off A4103, Leigh Sinton, Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

In October 2022 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by RPS on behalf of Miller Homes to undertake a trial-trench evaluation of the site of a proposed residential development. A total of 27 trenches were excavated, representing a 4% sample of the 3.3ha site.

A preceding geophysical survey of the site undertaken in 2017 detected no anomalies suggestive of significant archaeological remains. Anomalies relating to former boundaries and other post-medieval/modern agricultural activities and modern impacts were identified.

The evaluation revealed remains associated with post-medieval and modern land use in six of the 27 trenches. A field boundary revealed in Trenches 2 and 3 contained modern material and correlated with a field boundary visible on the 1888 Ordnance Survey (OS) map. A holloway revealed in Trench 6 filled with modern material including pieces of coal corresponded with the route of a pathway also shown on the 1888 OS map. A possible tree-throw hole noted in Trench 9 was in keeping with the presence of an orchard across much of the site during the 19th and 20th centuries. Plough furrows noted in Trenches 18 and 19 are also considered to be post-medieval in date. No artefactual or environmental remains were recovered during the evaluation. The remains are all demonstrative of the agricultural use of the site during the more recent historical period and provided a good correlation between the results of the geophysical survey and the archaeological remains revealed within the trenches.

The medieval moated site of Moat Farm lies immediately south-west of the site. Historic mapping indicates that the northern and eastern branches of the moat may extend into the west of the site, although geophysical survey did not identify the moat or evidence of its possible infilling. This area could not be targeted by trial trenching due to the presence of overhead cables, therefore potential archaeological remains associated with the moat may still be present at the very western edge of the site.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Richard Smalley at RPS for commissioning this project on behalf of Miller Homes. Thanks are also extended to Aidan Smyth, Archaeology and Planning Advisor, who monitored the work on behalf of Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Carl Champness. The fieldwork was directed by Tamsin Jones, who was supported by Ben McAndrew and Kieran Sherlock. Survey and digitising were carried out by Adam Rapiejko and Benjamin Brown. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that 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 RPS on behalf of Miller Homes to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed residential development. A programme of 27 trenches were undertaken across the development area to assess its archaeological potential.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken in support of a planning application (planning ref. M/22/00187/OUT). Although the Local Planning Authority did not set a brief for the work, discussions between Aidan Smyth (Archaeology and Planning Advisor for Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils) and Richard Smalley, RPS Consultant, established the scope of work required. This document outlines the results of the archaeological evaluation that was undertaken.

1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014b).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies close to the centre of Leigh Sinton in the Malvern Hills District of Worcestershire and covers an area of *c.* 3.3ha (NGR SO 7830 5091; Fig. 1). It comprises a single field currently under arable cultivation. The site is mainly level, lying at 57m aOD in the south with a gentle fall to 55m aOD to the northeast and east towards the A4103.

1.2.2 The site is bounded on to the south and east by the A4103, the main Worcester to Hereford Road. Beyond the A4103 to the east lies the Leigh and Bransford Primary School, while the centre of Leigh Sinton lies to the south-east. Further residential development including a care home lies to the west of the site. To the north is an arable field currently in crop.

1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as mudstone of the Sidmouth Formation. No superficial deposits are recorded for the site although head deposits extend into the field to the north (BGS online).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in a Heritage Statement prepared by Andrew Josephs Associates (2022). This forms the basis of the summary provided below, with reference to the WSI produced by OA (2022).

Prehistoric (pre- 43 AD) and Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

1.3.2 An isolated find of a Neolithic stone axe has been recorded approximately 900m north of the site. Within the parish of Leigh, the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) records a possible unfinished Neolithic arrowhead, as well as flint flakes, scrapers and blades possibly dating to the Mesolithic or Early Bronze Age (CA 2019).

1.3.3 The PAS records an Iron Age coin from the parish and a copper alloy penannular brooch of late Iron Age – early Roman date (CA 2019).

1.3.4 A possible Roman farmstead settlement lies c. 900m south-east of the site where a collection of 16 sherds of Severn Valley Ware and a Roman bracelet were recovered from a field adjoining Stocks Lane, Bransford. A possible Roman pottery kiln containing second and third century sherds has also been identified during groundworks c. 1.2km south-east of the site. Pevsner lists Roman kilns at Leigh Sinton and various finds including ceramics, coins and a silver bracelet are known from the parish (CA 2019).

1.3.5 A single abraded sherd of Roman Severn Valley Ware was found in 2006 during evaluation work at Moat Farm, immediately south-west of the site (Vaughan 2006).

Early medieval (410 AD – 1066) and Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)

1.3.6 Immediately to the west of the site lie the remains of a moat associated with Moat Farm. The 1838 tithe map shows the moat as a broadly square feature with a southern entrance enclosing a range of buildings including a substantial house. By the late 19th century OS mapping shows that only the western and northern arms survived. These arms were already irregular in plan, perhaps having served latterly as stock ponds.

1.3.7 A trench excavated across the southern arm of the moat in 2006 identified the northern edge, but not the southern, indicating that the moat is over 10m wide at this point. Hand augering revealed the base to be generally flat at 0.78-1.10m below the existing ground surface. Although waterlogged, no suitable deposits were identified for environmental analysis. The uniform nature of the fill indicated that the moat was deliberately back-filled in a single episode during the mid to late 19th century (Vaughan 2006).

1.3.8 Two HER entries relate to earthworks of ridge and furrow, supplanted as orchard, on the south-eastern margin of the study area. The 1884 OS map shows a number of individual trees scattered across the site and a small orchard along the southern boundary.

1.3.9 Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation has been identified on aerial photographs to the south and west of the site. Also evident on aerial photographs are probable house platforms and hollow ways to the south-west of the site. Earthwork remains of a hollow way running on a NE-SW alignment are documented approximately 1km to the north-west of the site. This evidence suggests that Leigh Sinton may once have been a more extensive settlement, or that it may have migrated northwards over time.

1.3.10 The HER records a World War Two type FW3/26 pillbox at the junction directly to the south of the site.

Geophysical Survey

1.3.11 In 2017, TigerGeo undertook a geophysical survey of the site. The heritage statement asserts that the survey identified the eastern extension of the moat's northern arm in the west of the site. However, the geophysical report does not identify the route of the moat within the site.

1.3.12 A former field boundary aligned NE-SW was identified crossing the north-western corner of the site. Scatters of magnetic debris and evidence of field drains are also noted within the site.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The evaluation 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; and

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 project specific aims were:

i. To test the results of the geophysical survey, including targeting possible archaeological features and areas suggested to be devoid of archaeological remains.

2.2.2 The programme of archaeological investigation was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by *The Archaeology of the West Midlands, a Framework for Research* (Watt 2011).

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 A total of 27 trenches were excavated across a total accessible area of *c.* 3.3ha. Trenches measured 25m x 1.8m and extended to an average depth of 0.4m. The locations of the trenches were intended to target specific anomalies identified by the geophysical survey and to provide an even coverage of the apparently blank areas (Fig. 2).

2.3.2 The trenches were laid out according to the trench plan specified in the WSI (OA 2022) using a GPS with sub-15mm accuracy. No adjustments were required owing to ground conditions or site obstructions.

2.3.3 Trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist with spoil stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from, the trench edges. The machining was undertaken in even spits of no more than 100mm thickness down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon depending upon which was encountered first.

2.3.4 The exposed surface was sufficiently cleaned to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains and any features present were investigated. Once recorded the trenches were backfilled with the permission of the County Archaeologist.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a description of the trenches excavated. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of reddish firm silty clay was overlain across most of the site by a grey friable clayey silt subsoil, which in turn was overlain by topsoil. In the east, southeast and south of the site adjacent to the A4103, trenches contained only topsoil overlying natural geology. The depth of overburden was notably uniform, measuring 0.35m to 0.55m deep in trenches with topsoil and subsoil, and 0.3m to 0.45m in trenches without subsoil.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were good, and the site remained dry throughout. Where modern or natural features were present, these were easy to identify against the natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of trenches (Plates 1-3)

3.3.1 Archaeological features predating the post-medieval period were not present in any of the trenches excavated. Post-medieval or modern features were present in six trenches.

3.3.2 A known field boundary (103, 203) aligned NE-SW which appears on historical mapping was noted in the north-western ends of Trench 1 and the centre of Trench 2 during machining (Fig. 3; Plate 1). The field boundary was investigated in both trenches and found to contain a single fill (104, 204) that contained modern material.

3.3.3 A known footpath (603) revealed in Trench 6 running on a NW-SE alignment contained a single fill (604) comprising modern material including pieces of coal. The ditch corresponded with the route of a path shown on historical mapping and was not investigated further.

3.3.4 A plough furrow was noted running on a NW-SE alignment through Trench 18 and extending west into Trench 19 (Plate 2). The furrow was investigated but no dating material was recovered and it is considered to be post-medieval in date.

3.3.5 A possible tree-throw hole was noted in Trench 9 during machining (Plate 3). The tree throw displayed an irregular base and profile and produced no finds or dating material.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Generally favourable conditions prevailed during the fieldwork with good ground and site conditions throughout. Machining was generally carried out cleanly, providing good visibility of features and deposits in the evaluation trenches.

4.1.2 The trenches provided good coverage of the site area and were located to maximise the potential for identifying archaeological remains. The evaluation results demonstrate the presence of a low density of archaeological remains associated with post-medieval and modern activity, primarily agricultural in nature.

4.1.3 The evaluation generally confirmed the reliability of the geophysical survey results and established the post-medieval and modern origins of the targeted geophysical anomalies.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The trial-trench evaluation established and recorded the presence and extent of post-medieval and modern features in six of the 27 trenches investigated. A low density and low complexity of features were recorded, comprising a known field boundary, a former pathway, a plough furrow and a possible tree-throw.

4.2.2 No artefactual material was recovered from the site. The field boundary and pathway noted in the north-west of the site both contained modern material which was not retained. No samples were taken during the evaluation due to the absence of significant archaeological remains.

4.2.3 The evaluation established the overall reliability of the geophysical survey results across the area investigated. The trenches were positioned to investigate and verify the results of the survey, which had identified no anomalies suggestive of significant archaeological features.

4.2.4 The medieval moated site of Moat Farm lies immediately to the south-west. Historic mapping shows the northern and eastern branches of the moat extending into the extreme west of the site, although geophysical survey did not detect any magnetic signatures that could be associated with the moat or its possible infilling. This area could not be targeted by trial trenching due to the presence of overhead cables running along the site's western boundary (Fig. 2), therefore potential archaeological remains associated with the moat may still be present at the edge of the site.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 A low density of post-medieval and modern remains was encountered during the evaluation. Where possible, features were dated on the basis of cartographic evidence.

4.3.2 The former field boundary revealed in the north-west of the site running NE-SW through Trenches 1 and 2 is visible on Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping into the early 20th century (Fig. 3; TigerGeo 2017). It contained modern infilled material and is therefore considered to be a modern feature.

4.3.3 The former pathway that was noted running NW-SE through Trench 6 is also visible on the 1888 OS map (Fig. 3). It also contained lumps of coal and is considered to be a modern feature.

4.3.4 A plough furrow identified in Trenches 18 and 19 was aligned NW-SE and was located within a loose concentration of linear agricultural trends identified by geophysical survey. The tree throw revealed in Trench 9 is in keeping with the 1888 OS mapping which shows orchards extending across much of the site in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The evaluation has identified a low density archaeological remains indicative of post-medieval and modern activity on site. No evidence of activity predating the post-medieval period was found.

4.4.2 The field boundary recorded in the north-west of the site demonstrates the agricultural use of the landscape during the late post-medieval and modern periods, supporting the historic mapping of the area. The pathway documented running NW-SE in the west of the site is also visible on historic mapping and is of limited local significance. The plough furrow and tree-throw revealed in the centre of the site further underscore the site's agricultural history but are of little archaeological significance.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1

General description				Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Modern backfill of known field boundary at WNW end of trench.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
100	Layer		0.3	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	
101	Layer		0.2	Subsoil. Mid to light greyish brown friable clayey silt	
102	Layer			Natural. Mid to light red firm silty clay mixed with light yellowish brown clayey silt	
103	Cut		0.30	Cut of known field boundary orientated NE-SW	
104	Fill			Fill of field boundary containing modern material	

Trench 2

General description				Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Modern backfill of known field boundary at WNW end of trench.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
200	Layer		0.3	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	
201	Layer		0.15	Subsoil. Light greyish brown firm friable clayey silt	
202	Layer			Natural. Mid to light red firm silty clay mixed with light yellowish brown firm friable clayey silt	
203	Cut			Cut of known field boundary orientated NE-SW	
204	Fill			Fill of field boundary. Modern material within the fill	

Trench 3

General description				Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil and topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
300	Layer		0.35	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	

301	Layer		0.15	Subsoil. Mid to light grey firm friable clayey silt	
302	Layer			Natural. Mid to light red firm silty clay mixed with light yellowish brown firm friable clayey silt	
Trench 4					
General description				Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil and topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
400	Layer		0.3	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	
401	Layer		0.2	Subsoil. Mid to light brownish grey firm friable clayey silt	
402	Layer			Natural. Mid to light red firm silty clay mixed with light yellowish brown firm friable clayey silt	
Trench 5					
General description				Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil and topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
500	Layer		0.3	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	
501	Layer		0.2	Subsoil. Mid grey firm friable clayey silt	
502	Layer			Natural. Mid to light red firm silty clay mixed with light yellowish brown firm friable clayey silt	
Trench 6					
General description				Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil and topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
600	Layer		0.25	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	
601	Layer		0.25	Subsoil. Mid brownish grey firm friable clayey silt	

602	Layer			Natural. Mid to light red firm silty clay mixed with light yellowish brown firm friable clayey silt	
603	Cut			Cut of known pathway orientated NW-SE	
604	Fill			Fill of pathway containing modern material including coal	

Trench 7

General description				Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil and topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
700	Layer		0.35	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	
701	Layer		0.05	Subsoil. Mid to light brownish grey firm friable clayey silt	
702	Layer			Natural. Mid to light red firm silty clay mixed with light yellowish brown firm friable clayey silt	

Trench 8

General description				Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil and topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
800	Layer		0.35	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	
801	Layer		0.05	Subsoil. Mid to light brownish grey firm friable clayey silt	
802	Layer			Natural. Mid to light red firm silty clay mixed with light yellowish brown firm friable clayey silt	

Trench 9

General description				Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
900	Layer		0.3	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	

901	Layer			Natural. Mid to light red firm silty clay mixed with light yellowish brown firm friable clayey silt	

Trench 10

General description				Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil and topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
1000	Layer		0.4	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	
1001	Layer		0.05	Subsoil. Mid brownish grey firm friable clayey silt	
1002	Layer			Natural. Mid to light red firm silty clay mixed with light yellowish brown firm friable clayey silt	

Trench 11

General description				Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil and topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
1100	Layer		0.35	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	
1101	Layer		0.05	Subsoil. Mid brownish grey firm friable clayey silt	
1102	Layer			Natural. Mid to light red firm silty clay mixed with light yellowish brown firm friable clayey silt	

Trench 12

General description				Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil and topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
1200	Layer		0.35	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	
1201	Layer		0.1	Subsoil. Mid brownish grey firm friable clayey silt	
1202	Layer			Natural. Mid to light red firm silty clay mixed with light yellowish brown firm friable clayey silt	

Trench 13

General description				Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil and topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
1300	Layer		0.4	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	
1301	Layer		0.1	Subsoil. Mid brownish grey firm friable clayey silt	
1302	Layer			Natural. Mid to light red firm silty clay mixed with light yellowish brown firm friable clayey silt	

Trench 14

General description				Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil and topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
1400	Layer		0.3	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	
1401	Layer		0.2	Subsoil. Mid to light brownish grey firm friable clayey silt	
1402	Layer			Natural. Mid to light red firm silty clay mixed with light yellowish brown firm friable clayey silt	

Trench 15

General description				Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil and topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
1500	Layer		0.35	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	
1501	Layer		0.2	Subsoil. Mid to light brownish grey firm friable clayey silt	
1502	Layer			Natural. Mid to light red firm silty clay mixed with light yellowish brown firm friable clayey silt	

Trench 16

General description				Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
1600	Layer		0.4	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	
1601	Layer			Natural. Mid to light red firm silty clay mixed with light yellowish brown firm friable clayey silt	

Trench 17

General description				Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
1700	Layer		0.4	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	
1701	Layer			Natural. Mid to light red firm silty clay mixed with light yellowish brown firm friable clayey silt	

Trench 18

General description				Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
1800	Layer		0.45	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	
1801	Layer			Natural. Mid to light red firm silty clay mixed with light yellowish brown firm friable clayey silt	

Trench 19

General description				Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil and topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
1900	Layer		0.4	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	

1901	Layer		0.05	Subsoil. Mid to light brownish grey firm friable clayey silt	
1902	Layer			Natural. Mid to light red firm silty clay mixed with light yellowish brown firm friable clayey silt	

Trench 20

General description				Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil and topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
2000	Layer		0.3	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	
2001	Layer		0.2	Subsoil. Mid to light brownish grey firm friable clayey silt	
2002	Layer			Natural. Mid to light red firm silty clay mixed with light yellowish brown firm friable clayey silt	

Trench 21

General description				Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil and topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
2100	Layer		0.3	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	
2101	Layer		0.2	Subsoil. Mid to light brownish grey firm friable clayey silt	
2102	Layer			Natural. Mid to light red firm silty clay mixed with light yellowish brown firm friable clayey silt	

Trench 22

General description				Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
2200	Layer		0.4	Topsoil. Mid brown soft friable clayey silt	
2201	Layer			Natural. Light grey friable clayey silt	

Trench 23

General description				Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
2300	Layer		0.4	Topsoil. Mid brownish grey firm friable silty clay	
2301	Layer			Natural. Light grey friable gravel	

Trench 24

General description				Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
2400	Layer		0.4	Topsoil. Mid brown firm friable clayey silt	
2401	Layer			Natural. Light grey friable compact gravel	

Trench 25

General description				Orientation	NNW-SEE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
2500	Layer		0.35	Topsoil. Mid brownish grey firm friable clayey silt	
2501	Layer			Natural. Light yellowish grey compact gravel	

Trench 26

General description				Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
2600	Layer		0.35	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown firm friable clayey silt	
2601	Layer			Natural. Light greyish yellow loose sandy gravel	

Trench 27					
General description				Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology.				Length (m)	25
				Width (m)	1.8
				Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
2700	Layer		0.45	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown firm friable clayey silt	
2701	Layer			Natural. Light yellowish grey compact sandy gravel	

APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY

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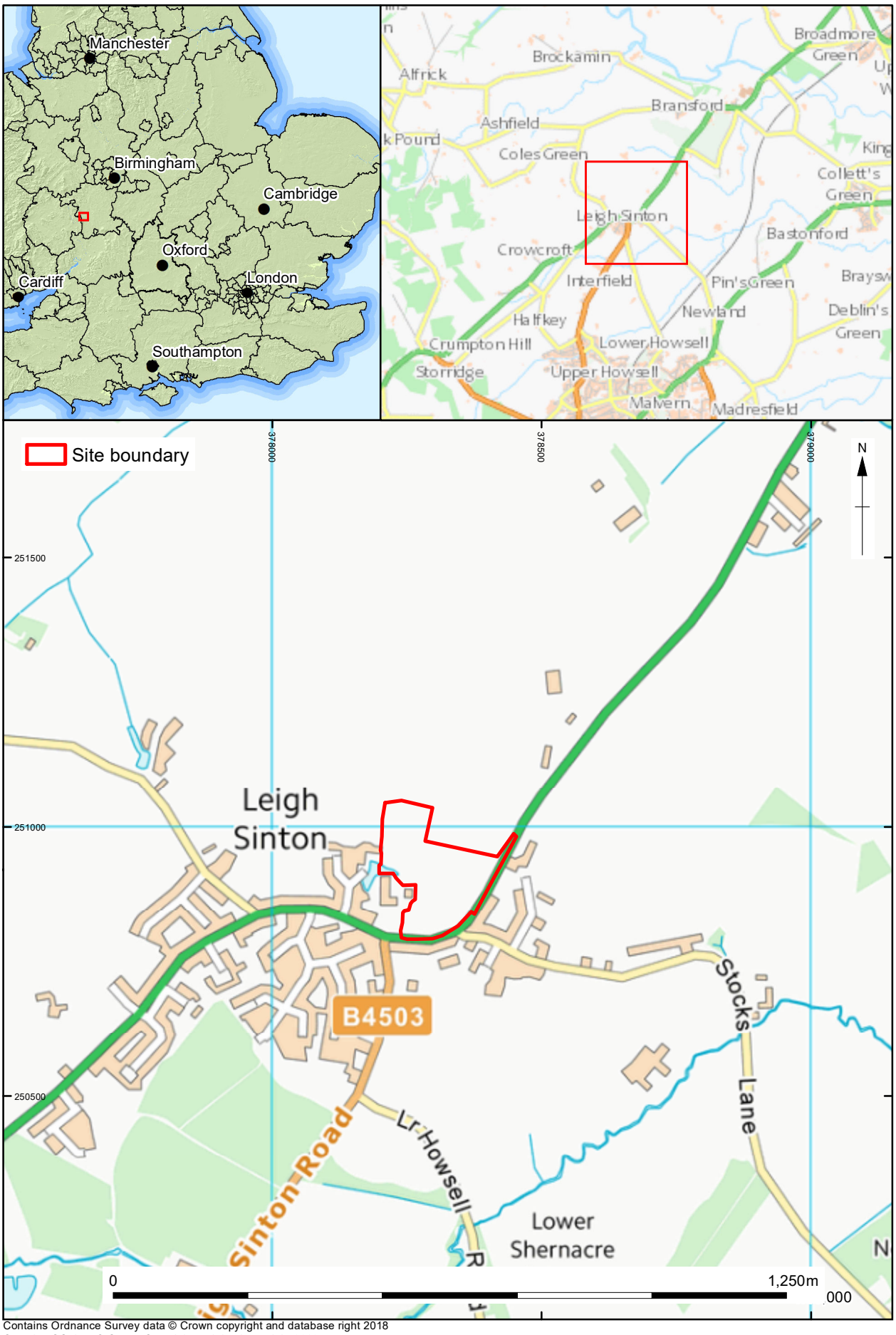
APPENDIX C SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Land off A4103, Leigh Sinton, Worcestershire
Site code:	WSM78428
Grid Reference	SO 7830 5091
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	17th – 21st October 2022, 1 week
Area of Site	*c.* 3.3ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Worcestershire Museums in due course, under the following accession number: TBC.
Summary of Results:	Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by RPS on behalf of Miller Homes to undertake a trial trench evaluation of the site of a proposed residential development. The fieldwork was completed in October 2022. A total of 27 trenches were excavated, representing a 4% sample of the 3.3ha site. The evaluation revealed remains associated with post-medieval and modern land use in six of the 27 trenches. A field boundary revealed in Trenches 2 and 3 and a pathway identified in Trench 6 are both visible on late 19th century OS mapping and are considered modern features. A possible tree-throw noted in Trench 9 was in keeping with cartographic evidence that shows orchards extending across much of the site in the late 19th century. A plough furrow noted in Trenches 18 and 19 is also considered to be post-medieval in date. No artefactual or environmental material was recovered. The remains reflect the agricultural use of the site and a good correlation between the results of a preceding geophysical survey and the archaeological evaluation was demonstrated. The possible location of a medieval moat in the extreme west of the site could not be investigated due to the presence of overhead cables.



X:\w\Worcestershire_Land_off_A4103_Leigh_Sinton\Geomatics\02_GIS Projects\Figures\27230_Figure1.mxd*matt.bradley*07/10/2022

Figure 1: Site location

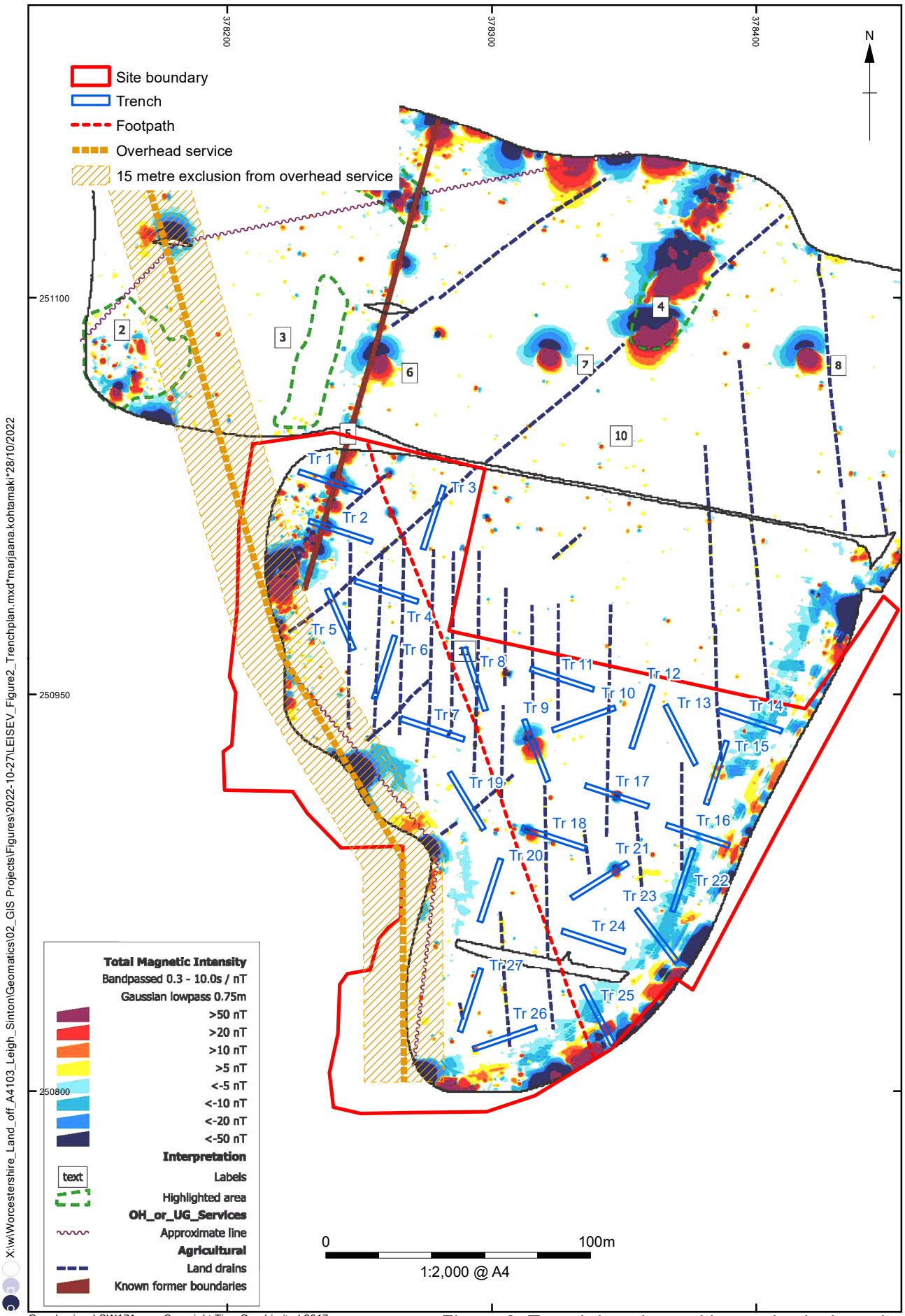


Figure 2: Trench locations with geophysical results

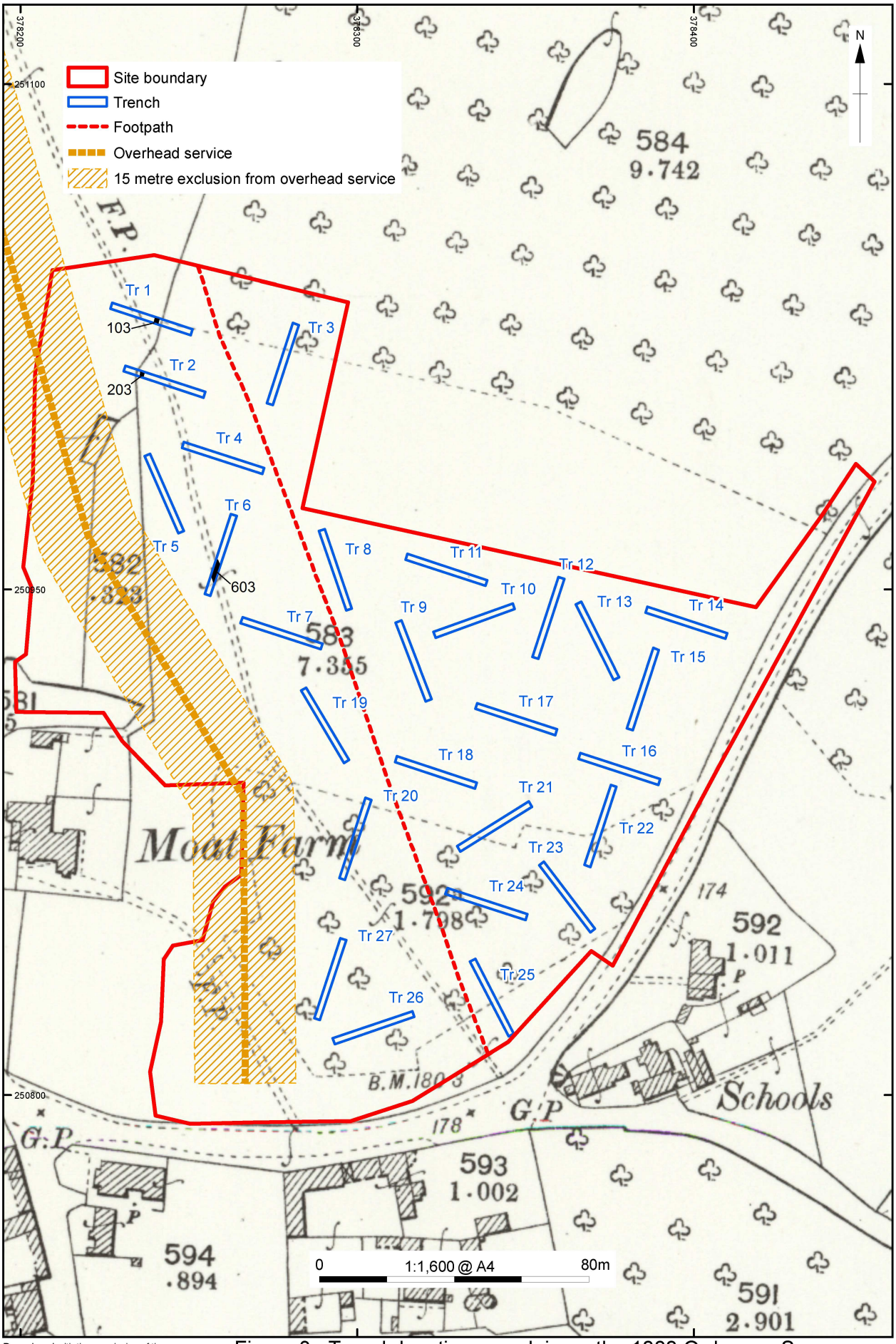


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Figure 3: Trench locations overlain on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map

Plate 1: Trench 2, looking ESE, 2m and 1m scales

Plate 2: Trench 18, looking south-east, 2m and 1m scales.

Plate 3: Trench 9, looking north-west, 2m and 1m scales.

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