



# **Aylesbury Eastern Link Road, Buckinghamshire**

## **Interim Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

**Jan 2023**

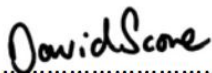
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## Aylesbury Eastern Link Road, Buckinghamshire

### *Interim Archaeological Watching Brief Report*

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## Summary

In November 2022, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief to monitor ground investigations along the proposed Aylesbury Eastern Link Road, in Buckinghamshire. This fieldwork formed the first phase of site investigations works along the proposed scheme and a total of 24 test pits and borehole trial pits were monitored. One possible undated small ditch or gully was identified in Test Pits 10.

The lack of any significant remains found during the monitoring may reflect the areas low-lying topography, which is arguably better suited to agricultural usage rather than long-term human activity or settlement. However, this is may also simply reflect the limited scope of these investigations and does not mean that archaeological remains will not be present across the scheme. The remaining test pits will be observed during a second phase of investigations and reported on separately.

## Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Stantec for commissioning this project on behalf of Balfour Beatty Ltd. Thanks are also extended Phil Markham, who provided advice and assistance on behalf of Buckinghamshire County Council.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Mark Dodd and Carl Champness. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Bruce, David Kay and Christof Heistermann. The figures and images were compiled by Lucy Gane and Caroline Souday. Thanks are also extended to Nicola Scott who prepared the archive.



## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Scope of work**

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Stantec on behalf of Balfour Beatty to undertake a watching brief during ground investigations (GI) along the route of the proposed Aylesbury Eastern Link Road (ELR). The ground investigation works required the monitoring of GI borehole inspection pits and test pits along the proposed scheme to assess and mitigate any potential impacts on archaeological remains.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the planning authority in advance of the submission of a Planning Application. Although the Local Planning Authority has not set a brief for the work, discussions between Tim Haines (Stantec Heritage Consultant), Ian Barnes (Stantec Archaeology and Heritage Team Lead) and Phil Markham (Senior Archaeology Officer for Buckinghamshire County Council, BCC) established the scope of work required. These requirements were detailed in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by OA, prior to commencing fieldwork (OA 2022). This document outlines the results of the monitoring work during the first phase of GI investigations.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and guidance for archaeological watching brief (CIfA 2014).

### **1.2 Location, topography and geology**

- 1.2.1 The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 853 143 and lies c 3.5km east of Aylesbury (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.2 Aylesbury ELR extends from the south-east at the A41 Aston Clinton Road roundabout, north-westwards to the A418 Aylesbury Road, east of Bierton. The length of the proposed scheme is about 3.7 km and has been split into two sections, ELR South and ELR North. ELR South will comprise a new dual carriageway, and the remainder of ELR North will comprise the widening of the existing Mike Griffin Way to the east to make it a dual carriageway.
- 1.2.3 The site currently comprises open agricultural land under pastoral and arable use and is bisected by the Grand Union Canal. The topography is gently undulating between 89m AOD in the north to approximately 82m AOD across the central portion and rising to 85m AOD at the southern end.
- 1.2.4 In the south of the site the geology is mapped as mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Gault Formation and Upper Greensand Formation. To the north the underlying geology is mudstone of the Kimmeridge Clay Formation (BGS online).

### **1.3 Archaeological and historical background**

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site was described in detail and presented in the WSI for the project. Below is a summary of the information covered in the WSI:

### ***Previous archaeological investigations***

- 1.3.2 In 2007, Archaeological Solutions excavated 15 evaluation trenches on land to the north of Aston Clinton Road. Twelve of the trenches were empty of archaeological features. Where features were present they were predominantly early to 'high' medieval in date (c AD 1050 - 1300/1350) and included boundary and drainage ditches and an occupation layer. The associated pottery and animal bone suggested that some of the features might represent the remains of medieval house plots (AS 2007).
- 1.3.3 In 2012, Wessex Archaeology carried out a magnetometry survey across a 220ha site situated to the south-east of Aylesbury, south-west of the A41. The survey revealed evidence for a possible Roman-British farmstead in the north-eastern part of the site, with several networks of enclosures or field systems to the north-east. The possible farmstead is located close to the A41, also known as Akeman Street, a Roman road connecting Cirencester and St. Albans. Nearby, a possible 'banjo' or stock enclosure was also detected. Further ditches and enclosures were detected in the western portion of the site, although they are less frequent than to the northeast.
- 1.3.4 In 2011, 2012 and 2014, Oxford Archaeology undertook trial trenching on land south of Bierton. This work was in advance of a development that now includes the northern portion of this proposed development. The evaluation revealed two main concentrations of settlement evidence dating to the late Iron Age and early Roman periods (OA 2014).
- 1.3.5 Much of the southern portion of this site and the adjacent fields were evaluated by MoLA as part of the Aylesbury Woodlands project in 2016. The trenches largely targeted anomalies detected in an earlier geophysical survey which identified six potential areas of archaeological interest. A total of 146 trenches were excavated, with archaeological remains comprising ditches, pits and furrows present in 106 of the trenches. The trial trenching confirmed the results of the geophysical survey with Iron Age and Roman enclosures, settlement and a Bronze Age pit being recorded across the 218 ha investigated. Following the abandonment of the Roman settlement and enclosures, the land was under cultivation from at least the medieval period onwards (MoLA 2016).
- 1.3.6 Cotswold Archaeology followed on from trial trenching work carried out by Wessex Archaeology and Archaeological Solutions with targeted excavations on land north of Aston Clinton Road, to the south-west of this site. This work revealed a cluster of Neolithic pits, middle to late Bronze Age enclosure systems and late Iron Age to Roman trackways and boundary. Two later medieval structures were also identified, including one of probable agricultural function.

### ***Prehistoric period (500,000 BC –AD 43)***

- 1.3.7 A cluster of 17 pits revealed during excavations north of the Aston Clinton Road have been attributed to the early Neolithic (CA 2019). Three of the pits were closely carbon dated to 3641-3522 BC by hazelnut shells found within their fills. Early Neolithic pottery was recovered from eight of the pits and a small assemblage of worked flint was also recovered in association with these features.

- 1.3.8 Two (Middle to late) Bronze Age features, a small pit containing charred pottery and a ditch were also identified during an evaluation to the south of the site, close to the A41.
- 1.3.9 Excavations along the route of the A41 Aston Clinton Bypass included 'Woodlands Roundabout' and the associated area of dual carriageway to the east (much of which is commensurate with the proposed enlarged roundabout). The earliest archaeological feature identified there was a small pit that contained large sherds from several vessels including a very rare 'concertina' pot of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age. In addition, a large, elongated pit close to the northern edge of the bypass, and therefore adjacent to the proposed development, contained Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age sherds along with a Middle Bronze Age human skull (radiocarbon dated 1430-1270 cal BC – Beta 189875) (Masefield 2008). The skull therefore appears to have been a 'relic' that was deposited in the pit perhaps hundreds of years after that individuals' death. Structures at the site included a four-post structure within a c 7.5m diameter ring gully of earliest Iron Age date, also located close to the northern edge of the site. The structure may represent a typical four post granary. However, the large size of the associated posts, the finding that the ring gully entrance gap was 'blocked off', or was restricted, whilst another human bone finds from a nearby pit (a femur that appeared polished as though frequently handled) were postulated to suggest a potential use as a shrine or excarnation platform structure. A second unusual possible building (Structure A2) was defined by a partial oval gully enclosing an area c 12m by 10m in extent. The buildings were probably set within associated enclosures, in part defined by gullies and post-hole alignments. It is not presently clear whether this site extends further north to within the adjacent area of the proposed remodelled roundabout.
- 1.3.10 Late Iron Age to early Roman settlement evidence has been revealed across the wider landscape during investigations associated with developments on adjacent land parcels. These include the land south of Bierton, either side of the A41 and during targeted trial trenching undertaken for the wider Woodlands application and the adjacent Hampden Fields application site. However, no activity of Iron Age date has been confirmed within the present site (MoLA 2016).

### ***Roman period (AD43 – 410)***

- 1.3.11 A number of Romano-British farmsteads and finds locations have been identified within the surrounding landscape including within the MoLA evaluation for Woodlands development area and the adjacent Hampden Fields development site to the west. Local farms also include an example at Aston Clinton Bypass at the Lower Icknield Way (Masefield 2008). Perhaps the most significant Roman site is located within the Hampden Fields development area near Rectory Farm where geophysics and trenching identified complex ditched enclosure to the north of Rectory Farm and east side of New Road (WA 2012 and 2013). The enclosure ditches around the site and its internal features within, that include dry-stone wall footings, dated to the Roman period. It was suggested that these enclosures were part of either a military camp or a more standard rural Roman villa farmstead.

- 1.3.12 Akeman Street at the southern end of the site was a key east-west Roman arterial road across the South Midlands, connecting St Albans, to the east with Alchester and Cirencester. Aston Clinton Bypass investigations at Woodlands Roundabout identified make-up layers associated with Roman Akeman Street, along with roadside ditches and gravel extraction pits. Clusters of poorly dated quarry pits were sampled and planned immediately adjacent to the road within the then new Woodlands Roundabout footprint. Also excavated within the present roundabout footprint were several poorly dated ditches flanking the Roman and later road alignment.
- 1.3.13 More recently, significant Roman remains have been recorded during the excavations in advance of the construction of HS2. These include a large roadside settlement and cemetery at Fleet Marston and the possible Roman temple near to Stoke Mandeville.
- 1.3.14 Evidently the positioning of Akeman Street has brought widespread activity to this area during the Roman period.

#### ***Early Medieval to Medieval periods (AD 410 – 1545)***

- 1.3.15 Limited finds of early Saxon date have been recorded further to the southwest of the site within Bedgrove and there are also records of Saxon finds being recovered from Broughton Manor Farm during the 19th century. Otherwise, there are no records of early medieval activity from the site or wider landscape.
- 1.3.16 To the west of the site, outside the proposed development footprint, a complex of earthworks representing a late medieval, double-moated enclosure, is designated as a Scheduled Monument. The moated site is believed to represent the Manor of Broughton Parva, which was occupied from the 12th to the 15th centuries. An associated chapel is understood to be located within the Scheduled Monument boundary.
- 1.3.17 The various phases of excavations north of Aston Clinton Road revealed medieval ridge and furrow, and associated earthworks including a late medieval house platform.

## **1.4 Archaeological potential**

- 1.4.1 The WSI established that there is little evidence for early prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity of the scheme. However, Mesolithic implements have been recovered from the wider landscape and it was considered possible that this activity extended across the area. Although, it is unlikely that this has survived as *in situ* flint scatters due to subsequent agricultural activity.
- 1.4.2 Neolithic activity and Bronze Age fields systems have been recorded to the south-west of the site. Although none have been recorded within the site boundary it is possible that they extended across the adjacent areas. But given the low density and dispersed nature of this activity, there was considered to be a low potential for encountering these remains during the monitoring works.
- 1.4.3 Late Iron age and Roman settlement activity is well attested from work in the immediate area and wider landscape. Given the small impact of these works, there

was a low to moderate potential for revealing further remains of these periods during the GI works.

- 1.4.4 Remains of early medieval date were thought to have a low potential of being revealed given the lack of activity previously recorded in the area. Whereas medieval and later evidence was likely to be limited to agricultural activity, particularly the remains of ridge and furrow.

## **2 WATCHING BRIEF AIMS AND METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 General**

2.1.1 The general aim of the watching brief was to mitigate the impacts of the intrusive groundworks on any buried archaeological remains that may be present. This was to be achieved through the recording of any archaeological features and deposits present by written, drawn and photographic record.

### **2.2 Specific aims and objectives**

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the watching brief were:

- i. To identify and record any archaeological remains exposed during the SI works;
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains exposed, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
- iii. To provide details of the depth of overburden and nature of exposed deposits;
- iv. To provide information to help inform and develop further evaluation and mitigation strategies, and
- v. To disseminate the results through the production of a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to Buckinghamshire HER.

2.2.2 The results of the archaeological monitoring will be assessed in accordance with the relevant regional research agendas outlined in the Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment: Resource Assessment and Research (Hey and Hind (eds) 2014).

### **2.3 Methodology**

2.3.1 The methodology for archaeological watching brief was outlined in detail in the WSI for this project (OA 2022). In summary, an archaeologist was in attendance during all groundworks with the potential to disturb archaeological deposits or features. The groundworks were monitored to the proposed impact depth or natural geology, whichever was encountered first. Any archaeological features encountered were recorded in accordance with the ClfA Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (ClfA 2014b).

2.3.2 In total, 24 test pits were monitored and recorded during the course of these works. The remaining test pits will be excavated in a later phase of works and will be reported on separately. The inspection pits for the boreholes were also inspected during their excavation, but due to the narrow dimensions of the holes excavated, were not conducive to identifying archaeological remains. The excavated spoil was examined for artefacts, particularly for any lithic material or other finds that may have indicated potential remains.

## **3 RESULTS**

### **3.1 Introduction and presentation of results**

3.1.1 The results of the watching brief are described below. The full details of all test pits 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 was uniform and comprised the natural geology of Gault Clay with a weathered upper horizon, overlain where present by subsoil and then topsoil. In the northern portion of the site, modern construction work had resulted in the truncation of the overburden and a subsequent deposition of modern made ground.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the watching brief were generally good, with ground water affecting only a small number of test pits during excavation. The variations in the deposits observed were distinct and this facilitated the identification of archaeological features, where present.

### **3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits**

3.3.1 Nearly all of the test pits were devoid of archaeological remains. Only Test Pits 10 and 14 revealed features of possible archaeological origin.

### **3.4 Test pits 10 and 14 (Fig. 2; Plates 1 and 2)**

3.4.1 A steep sided feature, 1006 was observed in the section of TP 10. It measured 0.21m wide and 0.3m deep along an east-west alignment. It was filled with a sterile greyish brown, sandy silt (1007). The feature was directly overlain by ploughsoil (1000).

3.4.2 In TP 14, feature 1402 was observed extending beyond the north-east edge of the test pit. It had a slightly irregular shape in plan and an undulated base, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.2m deep. It was defined by a deposit of naturally accumulated, mid grey clay silt (1403).

3.4.3 No artefacts were recovered from either of these two possible features.

### **3.5 Finds and environmental summary**

3.5.1 No artefacts were recovered during this watching brief and no deposits were identified as being suitable for environmental sampling.

## 4 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 It is not possible to confidently determine the nature of the feature revealed in TP 10 due to the limited size of the excavation area. Features of this appearance could represent a small undated ditch or perhaps a gully. However, in this instance the sterile fill of the feature would suggest it was located well away from any intensive areas of human activity. The irregular nature of feature 1402 and its sterile clayey silt fill suggest it was naturally silted and was probably the remains of a tree-throw hole or other natural feature.
- 4.1.2 Archaeological remains and settlement activity are well evidenced in the surrounding landscape, spanning multiple periods. In contrast, the results from this investigation reveal very limited archaeological remains. The lack of any significant remains may reflect its low-lying topography, which is arguably better suited to agricultural usage rather than long-term human activity or settlement. However, this is may also simply reflect the limited scope of these investigations and does not mean that archaeological remains will not be present across the scheme.



## APPENDIX A DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Test Pit 002						
General description					Orientation	E-W
No archaeology revealed. Consisted of ploughsoil and subsoil overlying natural sandy geology and Gault clay.					Length (m)	4.8
					Width (m)	1.2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.49
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.32	Ploughsoil. Dark grey brown silty loam	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil. Light grey brown, silty loam	-	-
202	Layer	-	1.01	Light grey/yellowish silty sand with chalk flecks	-	-
203	Layer	-	0.4	Light/mid grey silty clay	-	-
204	Layer	-	>2m	Dark bluish grey, silty clay	-	-

Test Pit 003						
General description					Orientation	E-W
No archaeology revealed. Consisted of ploughsoil and thin subsoil overlying natural sandy geology and Gault clay.					Length (m)	4.9
					Width (m)	1.2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.31	Ploughsoil. Dark grey brown silty loam	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.19	Subsoil. Light grey brown, silty loam	-	-
302	Layer	-	0.2	Mid yellow, silty sand with Fe staining	-	-
303	Layer	-	0.4	Light grey/yellowish silty sand	-	-
304	Layer	-	0.7	Light mid grey, silty clay, moderate Fe staining.	-	-
305	Layer	-	>2m	Dark bluish grey, silty clay	-	-

Test Pit 004						
General description					Orientation	E-W
No archaeology revealed. Consisted of ploughsoil and thin subsoil overlying natural sandy geology and Gault clay.					Length (m)	4.8
					Width (m)	1.2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.3	Ploughsoil. Dark grey-brown silty loam	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil. Light grey-brown, clayey silty loam	-	-

402	Layer	-	0.25	Mid yellow, silty sand with Fe staining	-	-
403	Layer		0.3	Light grey/yellowish silty sand.		
404	Layer	-	0.65	Light mid grey, silty clay, moderate Fe staining.	-	-
405	Layer		>2.5m	Dark bluish grey, silty clay		

**Test Pit 005**

<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
No archaeology revealed. Consisted of ploughsoil and thin subsoil overlying natural sandy geology and Gault clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	4.9
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.2
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.49
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
500	Layer	-	0.31	Ploughsoil. Dark grey brown silty loam	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil. Light grey brown, clay silty loam	-	-
502	Layer	-	0.15	Light grey yellowish sandy silt.	-	-
503	Layer		0.1	Light grey yellowish silty sand		
504	Layer	-	0.8	Light mid grey, silty clay, moderate Fe staining.	-	-
505	Layer		>2m	Dark bluish grey, silty clay		

**Test Pit 006**

<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
No archaeology revealed. Consisted of ploughsoil and thin subsoil overlying natural sandy geology and Gault clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	4.4
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.2
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.49
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
600	Layer	-	0.31	Ploughsoil. Dark grey brown silty loam	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil. Light grey brown, clay silty loam	-	-
602	Layer	-	0.2	Light grey yellowish silty sand.	-	-
603	Layer		0.22	Light grey yellowish silty sand with some orange staining		
604	Layer	-	0.5	Light mid grey, silty clay, moderate Fe staining.	-	-
605	Layer		>1.5m	Dark bluish grey, silty clay		

**Test Pit 007**

<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
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No archaeology revealed. Consisted of ploughsoil and thin subsoil overlying clayey head deposit and sandy gravels onto the Gault clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	4
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.2
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.55
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
700	Layer	-	0.33	Ploughsoil. Dark grey brown sandy silt	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil. Mid brown grey, silty clay.	-	-
702	Layer	-	0.15	Mid to light yellow brown, sandy clay.	-	-
703	Layer		0.35	Pale grey, fine to coarse, clay sandy gravel.		
704	Layer	-	0.37	Light olive brown, silty clay, with light blue grey patches.	-	-
705	Layer		>1.4m	Mid to dark bluish grey, silty clay.		

<b>Test Pit 008</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
No archaeology revealed. Consisted of ploughsoil and head deposit overlying Gault clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	4
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.2
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.3
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
800	Layer	-	0.3	Ploughsoil. Dark grey brown silty loam	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.24	Head. Light olive brown, clay silt with chalk and flint fragments.	-	-
802	Layer	-	>1.15	Mid to dark bluish grey, silty clay.	-	-

<b>Test Pit 009</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
No archaeology revealed. Consisted of ploughsoil and head deposit overlying Gault clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	4
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.2
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.3
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
900	Layer	-	0.3	Ploughsoil. Dark grey brown silty loam	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.15	Head. Light olive brown, clay silt with chalk and flint fragments.	-	-
902	Layer	-	0.5	Head? Light bluish grey, silty clay with patches of yellow brown sandy silt and stones		

903	Layer	-	-	Mid to dark bluish grey, silty clay.	-	-
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Test Pit 010						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Revealed a linear feature, likely to be a mole drain. Consisted of ploughsoil and thin subsoil overlying clayey head deposit and sandy gravels onto the Gault clay.					Length (m)	4
					Width (m)	1.2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	-	0.28	Ploughsoil. Dark grey brown sandy silt	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.32	Light grey brown, sandy silt with chalk and flint fragments	-	-
1002	Layer	-	0.15	Light yellow brown, sand.	-	-
1003	Layer	-	0.35	Light greyish brown, coarse silty sand.	-	-
1004	Layer	-	0.37	Mid to light grey, silty clay.	-	-
1005	Layer	-	>1.4m	Stiff, bluish grey silty clay	-	-
1006	Cut	0.21	0.3	Linear feature. Steep V-Shape profile.	-	-
1007	Fill	0.21	0.3	Fill of 1006. Mid grey brown, sandy silt. No finds.	-	-

Test Pit 011						
General description					Orientation	E-W
No archaeology revealed. Consisted of ploughsoil overlying clayey head deposit and sandy gravels onto the Gault clay.					Length (m)	4
					Width (m)	1.2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer	-	0.33	Ploughsoil. Dark grey brown sandy silt	-	-
1101	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil. Mid brown grey, silty clay.	-	-
1102	Layer	-	0.15	Light yellowish brown, mid to fine sandy silt with patches of pale grey with flint and stones.	-	-
1103	Layer	-	0.35	Mixed light yellow brown, to pale grey coarse sand and sandy gravel.	-	-
1104	Layer	-	>1.05	Stiff, bluish grey silty clay	-	-

Test Pit 012						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
No archaeology revealed. Consisted of ploughsoil overlying clayey head deposit and sandy gravels onto the Gault clay.					Length (m)	5
					Width (m)	1.2

					Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer	-	0.28	Ploughsoil. Dark yellow brown sandy silt loam.	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.22	Head. Firm mid to dark yellowish brown, clay silt.	-	-
1202	Layer	-	0.2	Head. Light yellowish brown, clay sand.	-	-
1203	Layer	-	0.2	Head. Light yellow brown, fine sand.	-	-
1204	Layer	-	0.8	Ice wedge? Light grey, coarse clay sand with chalk.	-	-
1205	Layer	-	>3.1	Stiff, bluish grey silty clay	-	-

Test Pit 013						
General description					Orientation	N-S
No archaeology revealed. Consisted of topsoil overlying clayey head deposit onto the Gault clay.					Length (m)	1
					Width (m)	1.2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt loam.	-	-
1301	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil. Mid grey, brown, silty clay loam.	-	-
1302	Layer	-	0.2	Head. Light yellowish brown, sandy loam.	-	-
1303	Layer	-	0.95	Head. Light yellow brown, loamy sand.	-	-
1304	Layer	-	0.7	Weathered Gault. Light grey clay with chalk.	-	-
1305	Layer	-	>2.2	Stiff, dark bluish grey silty clay	-	-

Test Pit 014						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Excavations revealed a small possible pit or tree throw hole. Consisted of ploughsoil overlying clayey head deposit. Excavation stopped at a depth of 0.7m due to flooding from land drains.					Length (m)	5.2
					Width (m)	1.2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.7
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	0.26	Ploughsoil. Dark greyish brown, sandy silt loam.	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.38	Subsoil. Firm mid to dark yellowish brown, clay silt.	-	-
1402	Cut	0.9	0.2	Possible pit. Shallow concave profile.	-	-

1403	Fill	0.9	0.2	Fill of 1402. Mixed grey, clay silt.		
1404	Layer	-	0.8	Head? Light yellow brown clay silt.	-	-

**Test Pit 015**

<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	<b>NE-SW</b>
No archaeology revealed. Consisted of ploughsoil overlying clayey head deposit and sandy gravels onto the Gault clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	5.8
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	1.2
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
1500	Layer	-	0.3	Ploughsoil. Mid brown, silty clay loam.	-	-
1501	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil. Mid brown, sandy clay loam.	-	-
1502	Layer	-	0.4	Head. Light grey/brown sandy clay loam with orange mottling in patches.	-	-
1503	Layer		0.6	Weathered Gault. Light, mid grey clay.		
1504	Layer	-	>2.3	Stiff, dark bluish grey silty clay	-	-

**Test Pit 016**

<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	<b>N-S</b>
No archaeology revealed. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology.					<b>Length (m)</b>	5
					<b>Width (m)</b>	0.6
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	1.1
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
1600	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay.	-	-
1601	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil. Olive brown silty clay.	-	-
1602	Layer	-	0.7	Weathered natural. Light brownish grey slightly silty clay with chalk flecks.	-	-
1603	Layer	-	>1.3	Gault clay. Dark grey clay.	-	-

**Test Pit 022**

<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	<b>E-W</b>
No archaeology revealed. Area disturbed with dump of material, likely associated with adjacent road. Consisted of made ground overlying weathered Gault clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	2.2
					<b>Width (m)</b>	0.7
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.63
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>

2200	Layer	-	0.63	Made ground. Dark brown, silty clay loam with pebbles and CBM fragments.	-	-
2201	Layer	-	0.87	Weathered gault. Yellow, light brown clay.	-	-
2202	Layer	-	0.7	Weathered gault. Mid blue grey clay.	-	-
2203	Layer		>2.2	Natural. Dark blue grey clay.		

**Test Pit 023**

General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
No archaeology revealed. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the Gault clay.					Length (m)	2.4
					Width (m)	0.7
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2300	Layer	-	0.2	Ploughsoil. Dark brown, silty clay loam with pebbles and CBM fragments.	-	-
2301	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil. Yellow, light brown clay.	-	-
2302	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil. Mid blue grey clay.	-	-
2303	Layer	-	0.6	Weathered gault. Dark blue grey clay.	-	-
2304	Layer	-	1.3	Weathered gault. Dark blue grey clay.	-	-
2305	Layer	-	>1.4	Gault clay. Bluish, mid grey clay.	-	-

**Test Pit 024**

General description					Orientation	N-S
No archaeology revealed. Consisted of made ground overlying natural geology.					Length (m)	2
					Width (m)	0.7
					Avg. depth (m)	1.1
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2400	Layer	-	0.16	Made ground. Mid brown silty loam, with pebbles, CBM and asphalt fragments.	-	-
2401	Layer	-	0.34	Made ground. Yellow, mid brown sandy silt. Pebbles, CBM, asphalt and wood throughout.	-	-
2402	Layer	-	0.6	Redeposited natural. Stiff blue clay, some lenses of organic material and rare CBM fragments.	-	-
2403	Layer	-	1.7	Weathered gault. Light grey, yellow green clay.	-	-

2404	Layer	-	>2m	Gault clay. Mid grey, bluish clay.	-	-
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Test Pit 025						
General description					Orientation	N-S
No archaeology revealed. Consisted of made ground overlying buried topsoil and natural geology. Includes part of a bank adjacent to the road.					Length (m)	2.3
					Width (m)	0.7
					Avg. depth (m)	1.9
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2500	Layer	-	0.23	Made ground. Mid brown clay loam, with pebbles.	-	-
2501	Layer	-	0.67	Made ground. Light mid brown silty clay. Pebbles, CBM, asphalt and wood throughout.	-	-
2502	Layer	-	0.3	Buried topsoil. Dark brown, silty clay loam.	-	-
2503	Layer	-	0.7	Subsoil. Light yellow brown silty clay.	-	-
2504	Layer	-	0.2	Weathered gault. Light to mid grey, clay.	-	-
2505	Layer	-	1.1	Gault clay. Mid grey bluish clay.	-	-
2506	Layer	-	>0.4	Gault clay. Mid grey, bluish clay. Very stiff.	-	-

Test Pit 026						
General description					Orientation	N-S
No archaeology revealed. Consisted of made ground overlying natural geology.					Length (m)	2.2
					Width (m)	0.7
					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2600	Layer	-	0.3	Made ground. Dark to mid brown silty clay loam with CBM fragments.	-	-
2601	Layer	-	1.2	Weathered gault. Yellow to light grey/brown clay.	-	-
2602	Layer	-	0.5	Weathered gault. Mid grey blue clay.	-	-
2603	Layer	-	>1.9	Gault. Dark grey, blue clay	-	-

Test Pit 027						
General description					Orientation	N-S
No archaeology revealed. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology.					Length (m)	2
					Width (m)	0.7
					Avg. depth (m)	1.1



Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2700	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil. Dark, mid brown silty loam with moderate clay.	-	-
2701	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil. Mid brown, silty clay loam.	-	-
2702	Layer	-	0.3	Mid brown grey, silty clay.	-	-
2703	Layer	-	0.9	Weathered gault. Yellow, light brown/grey clay.	-	-
2704	Layer	-	0.6	Weathered gault. Yellow, greyish blue clay.	-	-
2705	Layer	-	>1.7	Gault. Mid, dark bluish grey clay, very stiff. Some pebbles.	-	-

Test Pit 028						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE	
No archaeology revealed. Consisted of made ground overlying truncated natural geology. Depth limited by due to flooding.				<b>Length (m)</b>	3.2	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	0.6	
				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.45	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2800	Layer	-	0.45	Made ground. Mid brown clay loam, some CBM fragments.	-	-
2801	Layer	-	>0.55	Weathered gault. Yellow, greenish light brown clay with large gravel lens.	-	-

Test Pit 029						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE	
No archaeology revealed. Consisted of thin topsoil overlying natural geology.				<b>Length (m)</b>	3.2	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	0.6	
				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.27	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2900	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil. Mid clay loam	-	-
2901	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil. Yellow, mid brown silty clay	-	-
2902	Layer	-	0.83	Weathered gault. Yellow light brown clay.	-	-
2903	Layer	-	0.6	Weathered gault. Bluish light grey, brown clay.	-	-
2904	Layer	-	1.2m	Weathered gault. Bluish mid grey clay with slight orangey yellow mottling.	-	-

2905	Layer		>1m	Gault clay. Dark bluish grey clay.		
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Test Pit 030						
General description					Orientation	SSE-NNW
No archaeology revealed. Consisted of made ground associated with adjacent road, overlying truncated natural geology.					Length (m)	2.8
					Width (m)	0.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.9
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3000	Layer	-	0.3	Made ground. Mid brown silty clay loam, with pebbles, CBM, plastic and asphalt fragments.	-	-
3001	Layer	-	0.6	Subsoil/weathered gault. Mid grey, brown, silty clay. Inclusions of plastic, CBM and pebbles.	-	-
3002	Layer	-	1.6	Weathered gault. Greenish mid grey/brown clay.	-	-
3003	Layer	-	1	Weathered gault. Bluish mid-grey clay. Some angular pebbles.	-	-
3004	Layer	-	>0.4	Gault clay. Dark bluish grey clay.	-	-

## APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY

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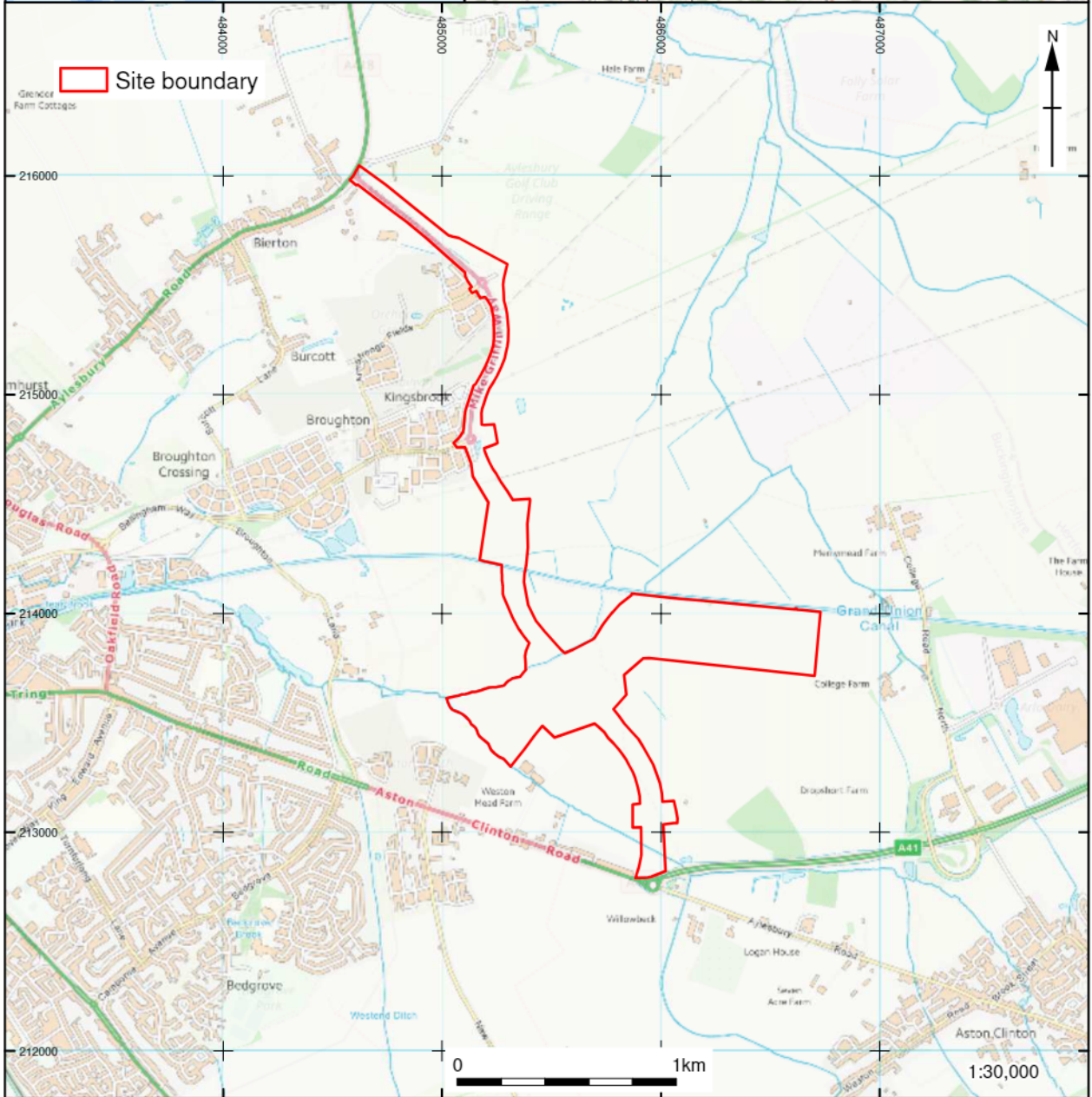
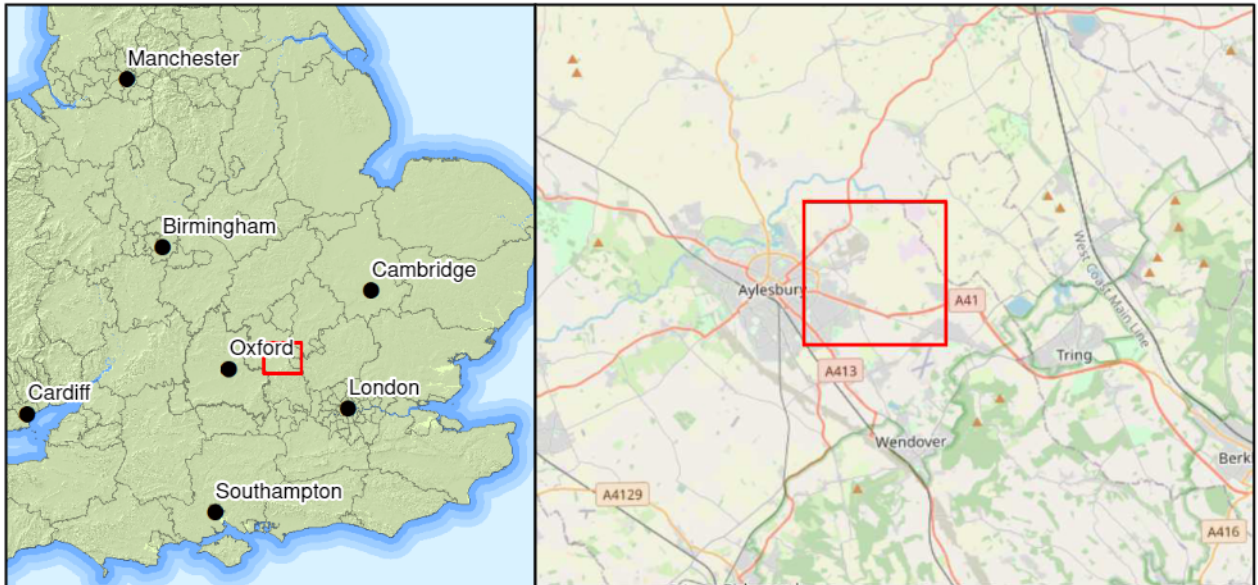
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**APPENDIX C****SITE SUMMARY DETAILS**

<b>Site name:</b>	Aylesbury Eastern Link Road
<b>Site code:</b>	WETAEL22
<b>Grid Reference</b>	SP 853 143
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date and duration:</b>	November 2022
<b>Location of archive:</b>	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Discover Bucks in due course, under the following accession number: AYBCM: 2023.18.
<b>Summary of Results:</b>	<p>During November 2022, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief to monitor site investigations along the proposed Aylesbury Eastern Link Road. This fieldwork formed the first phase of site investigations and a total of 24 test pits were observed. One possible archaeological feature was identified in test pits 10 but was undated.</p> <p>The remaining test pits will be observed during a second phase of investigations and reported on separately.</p>





X:\Aylesbury Eastern Link Road\WETAEL22\001\_GIS\Projects\Figures\WETAEL22\_Figure1.mxd\aidan.farman\14/11/2022

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Figure 1: Site location

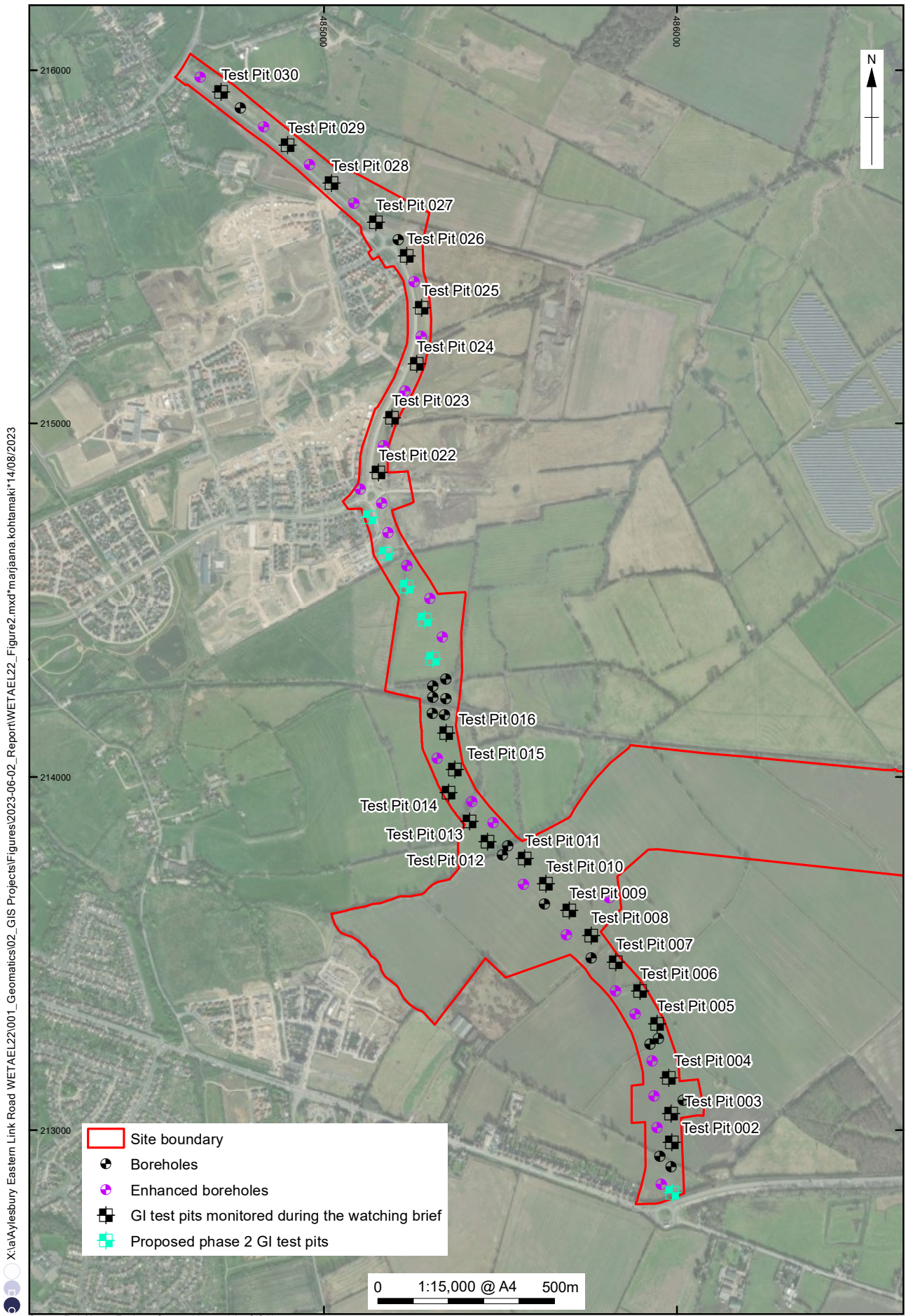


Figure 2: Plan of GI locations monitored during the watching brief

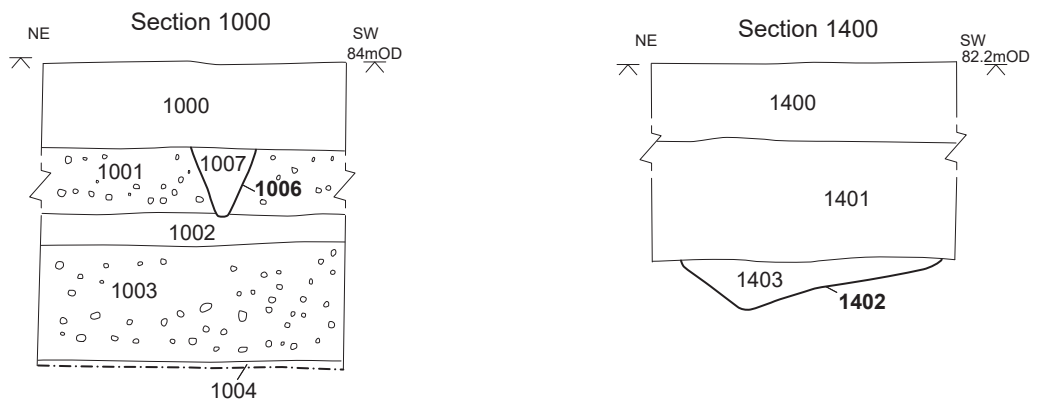


Figure 3: Sections 1000 and 1400



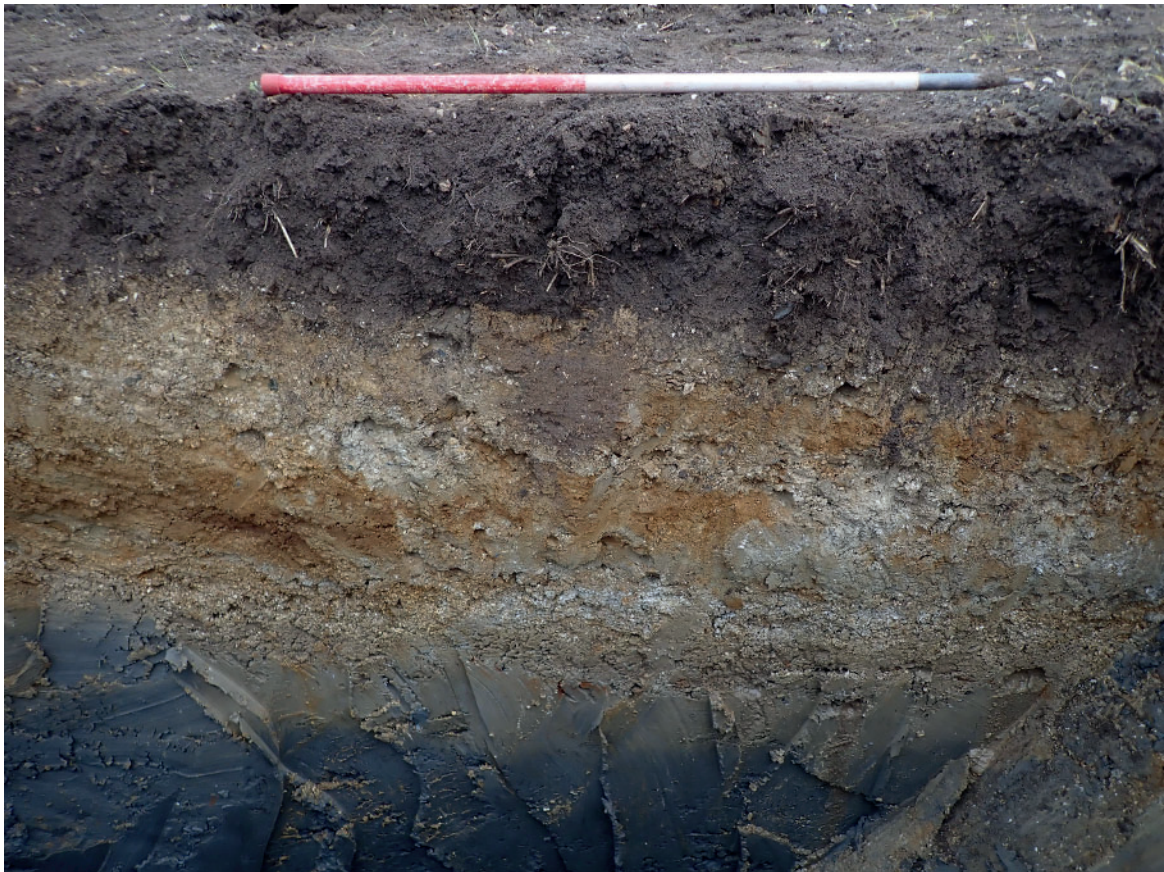


Plate 1: Feature 1006, looking southeast



Plate 2: Feature 1402, looking southeast



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