Compton House, Winchester

Archaeological Excavation Post-Excavation Assessment

Client: JACKSON DESIGN ASSOCIATES

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Compton House, Winchester

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Project Number	**10384**
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GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purposes of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from Prehistoric times to the Modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

Medieval

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and circa AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance Datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Post-medieval

The period after circa AD 1500.

Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43. Traditionally sub divided into; Palaeolithic – c. 500,000 BC to c. 12,000 BC; Mesolithic – c. 12,000 BC to c. 4,500 BC; Neolithic – c. 4,500 BC to c. 2,000 BC; Bronze Age – c. 2,000 BC to c. 800 BC; Iron Age – c. 800 BC to AD 43.

Roman

The period traditionally dated AD 43 to circa AD 410.

Saxon

The period between circa AD 410 and AD 1066.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between 15th and 26th September 2014 AB Heritage's nominated archaeological contractor, Foundations Archaeology, undertook a programme of archaeological excavation on land at Compton House, Compton, Winchester (NGR: 447123.125724). The project was commissioned by Jackson Design Associates.

The excavation revealed significant archaeological remains, which comprised two north – south aligned probable Roman ditches, along with a possibly contemporaneous pit with associated postholes.

One of the ditches (Ditch 1) was up to 8m wide and c.1.4m deep and represented a significant landscape feature, which was situated on the upper slopes of the high ground, to the west of the Itchen Valley. Due to the limited nature of the investigation it remained unclear if the ditch represented part of a linear boundary or an enclosure. The dating evidence associated with the ditch suggested that it had been in-filled in the later Roman or early Saxon period.

The pit with associated postholes contained a series of dumped chalk in-fills; however, no positive evidence relating to its possible function was forthcoming and its precise relationship with the postholes remained uncertain.

Artefacts recovered from the site included a small amount of highly abraded Iron Age and Roman pottery, residual Mesolithic and later Prehistoric struck flints and a small amount of animal bone, along with a small assemblage of charred plant remains and snail shells. Due to uncertain provenance and imprecise dating the analysis of the charred plant remains and snail shells was generally inconclusive.

This assessment document provides an overview of the results from the archaeological works and sets out the requirements to bring the site to publication.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Between 15th and 26th September 2014 AB Heritage's nominated archaeological contractor, Foundations Archaeology, undertook a programme of archaeological excavation on land at Compton House, Compton, Winchester (NGR: 447123.125724). The project was commissioned on behalf of Jackson Design Associates.

1.1.2 In accordance with the principles of NPPF12 (National Planning Policy Framework 2012) a programme of archaeological excavation was required prior to development within the site.

1.1.3 The archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by AB Heritage and Foundations Archaeology (2014) and with CIfA Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Excavation (2013).

1.2 Site Location & Description

1.2.1 The site is located within the grounds of Compton House and is bounded to the west by Otterbourne Road; a former Roman Road, to the east by the M3, to the north by South Winchester Park and Ride and to the south by Place Lane.

1.3 Geology & Topography

1.3.1 The underlying geology comprises Seaford Chalk Formation – chalk (BGS online viewer) and the site is situated on land which generally slopes downwards form northwest to southeast.

1.4 Proposed Development

1.4.1 Planning permission was granted for the refurbishment of an existing care home and the new-build construction of a seven bedroom care home, along with three stand-alone annexes. A condition requiring archaeological mitigation was attached to the planning condition.

2. METHODOLOGY OF WORKS

2.1.1 This document provides an assessment of the evidence recovered during the project and a programme to bring the results to publication, in accordance with Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment - MoRPHE (English Heritage 2006).

2.1.2 Area 1 (15m by 13m) was targeted on two ditches present within evaluation Trench 3 and Area 2 (10m by 8m) was located in order to investigate a pit-like feature present within Trench 4. The excavation areas were reduced to the top of archaeological deposits or the natural substrates, whichever was encountered first, by use of a tracked 360º excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket, whilst under constant archaeological direction.

2.1.3 All identified features and deposits were subject to manual excavation and recording in accordance with the WSI.

2.1.4 All archaeological excavation and recording was undertaken in accordance with the requirements set out in the WSI and Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: *Excavation Manual*.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE BASELINE

3.1 Statutory Designated Features

3.1.1 There are no Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields or Registered Parks and Gardens within the site itself; however, in relation to designated assets, the 12th century Church of All Saints at Compton is Grade II* listed. A number of later Listed Buildings, mainly of Post-medieval date, are also present within Compton. The site is located at the eastern edge of Compton End Conservation Area and The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) Map shows the site straddling areas designated Old Settlement and Recent Settlement.

3.1.2 There is a designated Roman Road immediately to the west of the site, a designated Historic Water Meadow approximately 200m to the east and a Scheduled Medieval moated site (SM Ref: 1012675 / MWC1609) approximately 230m to the southeast of the site.

3.2 Previous Archaeological Works in the Study Area

3.2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the site in July 2014 by AB Heritage's nominated archaeological contractor, Foundations Archaeology (AB Heritage, 2014). The evaluation revealed two probable Prehistoric ditches, one of which contained seven worked flints, an undated pit-like feature of some antiquity and a number of garden features. A single sherd of residual Roman pottery was recovered from a test-pit excavated as part of the evaluation works.

3.3 Historic Environment Record Data

3.3.1 The following HER Records are located within a 500m radius of the site.

Prehistoric

3.3.2 An early Neolithic 'Thames Pick' flint axe (MWC1363) is recorded as a findspot approximately 200m to the west of the site, while a rare early Neolithic inhumation, associated with a cluster of pits (MWC7577), was situated approximately 150m to the north of the site. Evidence for Bronze Age settlement activity, in the form of a roundhouse with associated features (MWC7840), is recorded approximately 100m north of the site. Evidence for later Prehistoric activity includes:

- parts of postulated Iron Age – early Roman field systems (MWC7578), approximately 300m north of the site;
- possible later Prehistoric settlement 'earthworks' (MWC1408), c. 350m to the northeast;
- a possible Iron Age ditch (MWC1388), approximately 400m to the southwest and possible later Prehistoric lynchets (MWC1387), located approximately 500m to the southwest of the site;
- the site of a possible 'later Prehistoric' stone (MWC1354), which is recorded within the later building fabric of All Saints Church, approximately 300m west of the site.

Roman

3.3.3 There is extensive evidence for Roman activity near to the site. The postulated route of the Roman road from Winchester to Bitterne (MWC6683) is located immediately to the west of the site. Roman burials and other evidence for funerary activity (MWC1395/MWC1396/ MWC1397) are recorded approximately 200m to the east; although these records are related to the construction of the Winchester By-pass and there precise locations are uncertain. Further evidence for Roman burials, along with fields and trackways (MWC7578) is also recorded approximately 300m to the north of the site.

Saxon and Medieval

3.3.4 Two Saxon burials (MWC8019) are listed approximately 400m north of the site, while an early Medieval coin (MWC1393) is recorded as a findspot approximately 100m - 150m northeast of the site. A Medieval Moated site (MWC1609) is situated adjacent to the River Itchen, at a distance of approximately 230m to the southeast of the site.

Post-medieval

3.3.5 There are four Post-medieval records, comprising 'Tombs' (MWC1357) in All Saints Churchyard, approximately 300m to the west; a milestone (MWC1405) approximately 250m north of the site; a 17th century hearth (MWC4522) within an 18th century building, described as 'The Manor House – Grade II listed building', approximately 50m to the southwest and a Post-medieval plaque (MWC1359) at Cherrycroft, Compton Street, approximately 250m west of the site.

Undated

3.3.6 There are four records describing 'undated earthworks/lynchets' (MWC1394/MWC1404/MWC7173/MWC7175) located in the general vicinity of the site.

3.3.7 The potential for the presence of archaeological features, with particular emphasis on Prehistoric and Roman activity, was confirmed by the evaluation. A programme of mitigation works was therefore agreed in order to expand upon the results of the evaluation.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 Stratigraphic Evidence

4.1.1 The general stratigraphic sequence was relatively uniform across both areas. The solid natural chalk, present at an average depth of 0.83m below ground, was sealed by an orange brown clay silt subsoil (103/203), average 0.18m thick, which was, in turn, overlaid by a relatively thick layer of brown clay silt (102/202), average 0.35m thick. Layer (102/202) was overlaid by dark brown clay silt topsoil (101/201), average 0.30m thick. Archaeological features were present cut into the top of the natural chalk.

4.1.2 A full stratigraphic description of all contexts identified during the course of the project is given in Appendix 1, along with specialist reports/lists in Appendices 2 to 7.

4.2 Area 1

4.2.1 Area 1 contained two ditches: Ditch 1 and Ditch 2.

4.2.2 Ditch 1 comprised features [1000], [1002] and [1010] and consisted of a substantial north-south aligned ditch with a wide, slightly uneven, sloping profile. Feature [1000] comprised the primary cut of the ditch, whilst features [1002] and [1010] appeared to represent ditch re-cuts; although, these were only recorded within the single section cut across the ditch and, as such, should be considered untested and highly tentative.

4.2.3 Ditch 1 contained a series of chalk and soil fills (1003 – 1008), which probably represented layered dumped in-fills. There was no evidence, in the form of substantial chalk deposits, for re-deposited bank material.

4.2.4 Artefacts recovered from Ditch 1 included a small amount of highly abraded Iron Age and Roman pottery, residual Prehistoric struck flints and animal bone fragments.

4.2.5 A single C14 determination from a fragment of animal bone present in Ditch 1 primary fill (1003) indicated that the ditch was likely to have been in-filled during the later Roman to sub-Roman/Saxon periods. This is consistent with the highly abraded state of the Iron Age and Roman pottery recovered from the ditch; as these sherds were probably exposed for a considerable time before being incorporated into the ditch fills. It is therefore most likely that the ditch in-fill event occurred towards the latter end of the date spectrum and that the ditch itself was likely to have been originally constructed in the Roman period.

4.2.6 Ditch 2 comprised feature [1001] and consisted of a north-south aligned ditch, with a shallow undulating profile, which was located immediately to the west of Ditch 1. The fill of Ditch 2 (1009) was indistinguishable from the secondary fill (1006) of possible ditch re-cut [1002].

4.2.7 No artefacts were present within Ditch 2 and, as such, it remained undated. However, the spatial association and equivalence of fills between Ditches 1 and 2 indicated that they were likely to be at least partly contemporary; although, their precise relationship remained uncertain.

4.3 Area 2

4.3.1 Features [2000/2/4/6] represented four possible postholes, two of which [2004/6] were located immediately west of pit [2008], whilst postholes [2000/2] were situated approximately 2.5m to the east. The postholes varied in depth from a minimum of 0.06m to a maximum of 0.30m and they were all sub-circular in plan. The occurrence of Prehistoric struck flints within the fills of postholes [2000] and [2002] indicated that these features represented archaeological remains as opposed to natural hollows.

4.3.2 Pit [2008] comprised a large sub-circular pit, with steep sloping sides and a flat base, which had been in-filled with a series of dumped chalk deposits (2009-11). The previous evaluation identified evidence for possible animal or root intrusion, in the form of soil fills present in the top of the chalk deposits. These soil fills were not visible within the section exposed during the excavation works and, as such, the animal/root intrusion was likely to have been fairly localised.

4.3.3 No artefacts were present within the fills of pit [2008] and it remained poorly dated; however, the feature was sealed beneath subsoil (203) and was, therefore, likely to be of some antiquity. The spatial association between the pit and postholes [2000/2/4/6] suggested that they were likely to have been contemporary, although, their precise relationship and function remained unclear.

4.3.4 The shared approximate north – south alignment of Ditches 1 and 2 and postholes [2000/2/4/6] indicated that the features present in Areas 1 and 2 were possibly contemporaneous.

4.3.5 A low density of charred plant remains and wood charcoal was present within the sampled fills of Ditch 1 and the sampled features within Area 2 (Appendix 5). Evidence for free threshing wheat was present; although, a high proportion of intrusive roots were present within the samples and, as such, there was an increased likelihood that the charred material present in these deposits may have been intrusive. Therefore, the analysis of the charred plant remains and wood charcoal could draw no firm conclusions relating to past environmental conditions or economic activity.

4.3.6 Analysis of the snail shells recovered from the site (Appendix 6) indicated the presence of woodland and shade loving species, as well as some species associated with open grassland. Due to the uncertain provenance of the feature in-fills, it remained unclear if the snail shell assemblage represented local or wider environmental conditions. In light of this, along with the relatively imprecise in-fill dates obtained from the on-site features, the molluscan evidence must be treated as inconclusive.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1.1 The archaeological excavation recorded significant archaeological remains, which comprised two north – south aligned probable Roman ditches, along with a possibly contemporaneous pit with associated postholes.

5.1.2 One of the ditches (Ditch 1) was up to 8m wide and 1.4m deep and represented a significant landscape feature, which was situated on the upper slopes of the high ground, to the west of the Itchen Valley. Due to the limited nature of the investigation it remained unclear if the ditch represented part of a linear boundary or an enclosure. The dating evidence associated with the ditch suggested that it had been in-filled in the later Roman or early Saxon period.

5.1.3 The pit with associated postholes contained a series of dumped chalk in-fills; however, no positive evidence relating to its possible function was forthcoming and its precise relationship with the postholes remained uncertain.

5.1.4 Artefacts recovered from the site included a small amount of highly abraded Iron Age and Roman pottery, residual Mesolithic and later Prehistoric struck flints and a small amount of animal bone, along with a small assemblage of charred plant remains and snail shells. Due to uncertain provenance and imprecise dating, the analysis of the charred plant remains and snail shells was generally inconclusive.

5.1.5 The evidence from the archaeological fieldwork is significant and warrants a short note in a relevant local journal. In order to contextualise the publication note, a brief comparison of the features present at Compton House with those recorded at the South Winchester Park and Ride excavations (Lewis and Preston 2012) should be undertaken. The results of this comparison should also be related to the relevant themes set out in the *Solent Thames Research Framework* (Fulford, M 2010).

5.1.6 No further analysis of artefacts and samples recovered from the site is recommended.

5.1.7 Elucidating the nature Ditch 1 should form a clear research priority for any future fieldwork within the locale of the excavation area.

6. NATURE OF THE RECORD

6.1.1 The stratigraphic archive for the site consists of the following elements:

- context sheets;
- record sheets;
- plans;
- sections;
- acetate sheets;
- black and white photographs;
- digital photographs;
- geo-referenced GPS data;
- C14 data;
- artefacts and samples.

6.1.2 The following contexts types were represented:

- ditch;
- possible ditch re-cut;
- pit;
- posthole;
- fill.

6.1.3 The methodologies used to recover this evidence were set out in the WSI. In summary the following excavation methods were utilised. A mechanical excavator was used to remove overburden onto the surface of archaeological deposits, thereafter an appropriate sample of selected deposits was removed by manual excavation. All contexts were recorded on a pro-forma context sheet and principal deposits were recorded in plan and section. These are available in the archive. Photographs were taken of all excavated features and sections.

6.1.4 Following the completion of the excavation, artefacts were appropriately conserved and an ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive was compiled in accordance with MoRPHE. All applied conservation methodologies are detailed in the archive.

7. STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

7.1.1 Of the specific objectives set out in the WSI, the following have been achieved:

i/ *to further define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible; with particular regard to evidence relating to the prehistoric and Roman periods as evidenced by the evaluation and the excavations to the north of the site. Interpretation should address themes outlined in the relevant sections of the Solent Thames Research Framework.*

- This has been partly achieved; the publication note will relate the results of the fieldwork and local comparison with the relevant research framework.

ii/ *to attempt to characterise the nature and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present within the excavation areas.*

- This has been achieved.

iii/ *to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.*

- This has been achieved, although the dating evidence from the site is relatively imprecise.

iv/ *to define any research priorities that may be relevant*.

- This been achieved.

The results of the fieldwork justified the implementation of the archaeological works and the site is of sufficient quality to warrant a short publication note.

8. PUBLICATION, PRESENTATION AND ARCHIVING

8.1.1 The report should comprise a short note in a relevant local archaeological journal. Prior to publication the fieldwork should be contextualised at a local level and the results related to the Solent Thames Research Framework.

8.1.2 A full OASIS record, with attached report, will be created.

8.1.3 The site archive for the project will be submitted to the National Monuments Record of English Heritage for security copying upon completion of the report.

8.1.4 The site archive and artefactual collection will be deposited with the appropriate Museum.

9. REFERENCES

AB Heritage. 2014. *Compton House, Compton, Winchester: Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished Report.

AB Heritage and Foundations Archaeology. 2014. *Compton House, Winchester: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Mitigation*. Unpublished Report.

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Fulford, M. 2010. *Solent Thames Research Framework: Research Agenda the Roman Period*. Oxford Archaeology. Oxford.

Lewis, J. & Preston, S. 2012. *Bronze Age and Roman Settlement, with Neolithic and Saxon Burials, at Itchen Farm, Winchester, Hampshire: The Archaeology of the South Winchester Park and Ride*. TVAS. Reading.

Appendices

APPENDIX 1: STRATIGRAPHIC DATA

Context	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Description	Later than	Earlier than
				Area 1: 15.3m long by 13.3m wide. Natural = solid chalk at		
				average 47.65m OD.		
101	na	na	n = 0.27	Topsoil; dark brown loose clay silt, which contained	102	na
			s = 0.30	occasional chalk fragments and occasional charcoal		
				flecks.		
102	na	na	n = 0.24	Layer of mid brown soft clay silt, which contained occasional	103	101
			s = 0.44	chalk fragments, frequent small stones, occasional CBM		
				and occasional lenses of loose chalk fragments.		
103	na	na	n = 0.14	Layer of orange brown soft clay silt, which contained	natural	102
			s = 0.17	occasional chalk fragments and frequent small stones.		
[1000]	>1.5	3.4	0.4	North - south aligned ditch base with a rounded profile.	natural	1003
				Contained fills 1003 and 1004.		
[1001]	13.3	1.25	0.3	North - south aligned ditch with an uneven base. Contained	natural	1009
				fill 1009.		
[1002]	>1.5	5	0.83	Possible re-cut of ditch [1000] with a wide, rounded profile.	1004	1005
				Contained fills 1005 and 1006.		
1003	>1.5	1	0.2	Primary fill of ditch [1000]; light beige brown loose	[1000]	1004
				chalk silt, which contained frequent chalk fragments and		
				flint nodules, along with occasional charcoal flecks.		
1004	>1.5	3.4	0.37	Secondary fill of ditch [1000]; grey brown soft clay silt,	1003	[1002]

				which contained occasional chalk lumps and flint nodules, as		
				well as occasional charcoal flecks.		
1005	>1.5	4.4	0.35	Primary fill of possible ditch re-cut [1002]; mid brown	[1002]	1006
				soft clay silt, which contained occasional chalk lumps		
				and flint nodules, along with rare charcoal flecks.		
1006	13.3	5.7	0.53	Secondary fill of possible ditch re-cut [1002]; light brown	1005	[1010]
				soft clay silt, which contained occasional to frequent		
				chalk lumps and occasional flint nodules, as well as		
				occasional charcoal flecks. Fill 1006 was indistinguishable		
				from fill 1009. The fill extended beyond the western		
				extent of ditch [1002].		
1007	>1.5	3	0.32	Primary fill of possible ditch re-cut [1010]; mid brown soft	[1010]	1008
				clay silt, which contained occasional chalk lumps,		
				occasional to rare flint nodules and occasional charcoal		
				flecks.		
1008	13.3	5.75	0.5	Secondary fill of possible ditch re-cut [1010]; mid to light	1007	103
				brown soft silt clay, which contained occasional chalk		
				lumps and flint nodules, along with rare charcoal flecks.		
1009	13.3	1.25	0.3	Fill of ditch [1001]; light brown soft clay silt, which	[1001]	103
				contained occasional to frequent chalk lumps and		
				occasional flint nodules, along with occasional charcoal		
				flecks.		

[1010]	13.3	5.75	0.8	Possible re-cut of ditch [1000] with a wide, sloping profile.	1006	1007
				Contained fills 1007 and 1008.		
				Area 2: 9.7m long by 8m wide. Natural = solid chalk at		
				average 46.23m OD.		
201	na	na	0.31	Topsoil; dark brown loose clay silt, which contained	202	na
				occasional chalk fragments.		
202	na	na	0.35	Layer of mid brown soft clay silt, which contained occasional	203	201
				chalk fragments, frequent small stones and occasional CBM.		
203	na	na	0.19	Layer of orange brown soft clay silt, which contained	natural	202
				occasional chalk fragments and frequent small stones.		
[2000]	0.38	0.38	0.3	Sub-circular posthole with steep sides and a rounded base.	natural	2001
				Contained fill 2001.		
2001	0.38	0.38	0.3	Fill of posthole [2000]; light brown loose chalk	[2000]	203
				silt, which contained frequent flecks of chalk and		
				occasional flint nodules.		
[2002]	0.47	0.46	0.19	Sub-circular posthole with steep sides and an uneven	natural	2003
				base. Contained fill 2003. Equivalent to posthole [2000].		
2003	0.47	0.46	0.19	Fill of posthole [2002]; light brown orange loose chalk	[2002]	203
				silt, which contained frequent flecks of chalk and		
				occasional flint nodules.		
[2004]	0.36	0.32	0.06	Possible sub-circular posthole with a shallow, flat profile.	natural	2005
				Contained fill 2005.		

2005	0.36	0.32	0.06	Fill of possible posthole [2004]; light brown orange	[2004]	203
				chalk silt, which contained frequent chalk flecks.		
[2006]	0.32	0.32	0.13	Possible sub-circular posthole with a rounded profile.	natural	2007
				Contained fill 2007. Equivalent to [2004].		
2007	0.32	0.32	0.13	Fill of possible posthole [2006]; light brown orange	[2006]	203
				chalk silt, which contained frequent chalk flecks.		
[2008]	3.3	3	0.7	Sub-circular pit with steep sides and a flat base. Contained	natural	2009
				fills 2009, 2010 and 2011.		
2009	?	1.2	0.68	Primary fill of pit [2008]; beige white compact chalk.	[2008]	2011
2010	?	0.42	0.7	Fill of pit [2008]; brown white compact chalk.	2011	203
2011	?	0.76	0.6	Fill of pit [2008]; white compact chalk.	2009	2010

APPENDIX 2: THE POTTERY

By Jane Timby

Summary

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of eight small sherds of pottery weighing 17g. The sherds were all bodysherds and in degraded condition. Freshly broken sherds were counted as single pieces. The assemblage is briefly catalogued below.

Most of the sherds were recovered from three defined contexts (1005), (1007) and (1008); all within a substantial ditch. One broken sherd was an unstratified find. The sherds from the ditch include one calcined flint-tempered Iron Age sherd and four reduced fine sandy ware Roman sherds. In addition there are, from (1008), two small handmade sherds, moderately thin-walled (3-4 mm) with a slightly sandy fabric and sparse rounded calcareous inclusions. These sherds are difficult to date, and given the later Roman/early Saxon C14 date from the feature, might be post-Roman but could equally be redeposited Iron Age sherds. The unstratifed sherd is from an Oxfordshire colour-coated mortarium which has a production date in the period AD 240-400 (Young 1977).

Catalogue

1. One small bodysherd, fine grey, slightly micaceous ware. Wt. 2 g. Cxt. (1005). Date: Roman.
2. One small moderately finely crushed, calcined flint-tempered ware. Wt. 1 g. Cxt. (1005). Date: Iron Age.
3. Three small black surfaces fine sandy grey ware bodysherds. Wt. 4 g. Cxt. (1007). Date: Roman.
4. Two small handmade bodysherds with a sparse rounded calcareous temper. Wt. 5 g. Cxt (1008). Date: Iron Age or post-Roman.
5. Four freshly broken fragments from a much degraded sherd of Oxfordshire colour-coated mortarium. Wt., 5 g. Cxt: A1 u/s. Date: AD 240-400.

Reference:

Young, C J, 1977, *The Roman pottery industry of the Oxford region*, BAR 43, Oxford

APPENDIX 3: THE STRUCK FLINTS

By Robin Holgate

Introduction

A total of 65 flints weighing 1.25kg was recovered during the excavation of ditch [1000]/re-cut [1002] and postholes [2000] and [2002].

Raw material

The flints were fashioned on nodular dark grey-brown nodular flint with relatively unabraded cortex of variable quality which was probably obtained from the locality. Flaked surfaces had acquired bluish-white to white patenation in varying degrees.

Technology and typology

Four pieces, including three bladelets and a flake, were detached from cores using soft hammers; care was taken to prepare the platform edge of the cores by abrasion and the width of butts was minimal. The remaining flakes or blades (comprising 48 flakes and three blades), which are of varying shapes and sizes, were struck from cores using hard, probably stone, hammers without abrading the striking platform edges before their removal. Sixteen of the flakes had either hinged or plunged during removal, and the core surface had scars from at least two flake removals that had also hinged. A single platform core from which flakes had been detached in this manner was recovered from one of the ditch fills (1007), along with a flint hammerstone from (1004). Ten implements had been fashioned on flakes or blades: a side scraper, a piercer, two cutting flakes, a cutting blade and four miscellaneous retouched pieces.

Discussion

The four soft hammer-struck bladelets and flake probably date to the Mesolithic period. Whilst these flints could date to the later Neolithic period or earlier Bronze Age, the method of fabricating the flints and the nature of the implements are typical of those that occur in later Bronze Age (cf. Fasham & Ross 1978; Ford et al. 1984, 164-7; Butler 2005, 187) or Iron Age (Young and Humphrey 1999; Butler 2005, 189-91) assemblages. Indeed, it is possible that the assemblage, excluding the four probably Mesolithic pieces, could be of Iron Age date (cf. Young and Humphrey 1999, 240-1).

Recommendations for further work

It is recommended that this assemblage is retained for future study.

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Ford, S., Bradley, R., Hawkes, J. and Fisher, P. 1984. Flint-working in the Metal Age. Oxford J. Archaeol. 3, 157-73.

Young, R. and Humphrey, J. 1999. Flint Use in England after the Bronze Age: Time for a Re-evaluation? Proc. Prehist. Soc. 65, 231-42.

APPENDIX 4: THE STRUCK FLINTS

Complied by Natasha Moaks

Cxt	Element (C = complete, P = partial, F = fragment)	Species	Age	Pathology	Butchery	Other (e.g. taphonomy)
1003	1st phalanx (PHF) (C)	Bos taurus				Surface condition poor
1003	long bone shaft (F)					Surface condition poor
1003	long bone shaft (F)					Surface condition poor
1003	long bone shaft (F)					Surface condition poor
1003	flat bone (F)					Surface condition poor
1003	long bone shaft (F)					Surface condition poor
1003	long bone - adjacent to epiphysis (F)					Surface condition poor
1003	ulna/radius? (F)					Surface condition poor
1004	maxilla and zygomatic with M1 (F)	Canis lupis familiaris				Surface condition poor
1004	mandible (F)					Surface condition poor
1004	ulna? (F)					Surface condition poor
1004	rib (P) - in 2 fragments	Gallus gallus domesticus?				Surface condition poor
1004	metapodial (F)	Bos taurus				Surface condition poor
1004	rib (F)					Surface condition poor
1004	rib (F)					Surface condition poor
1004	long bone shaft (F)					Surface condition poor
1004	unidentified (F)					Surface condition poor
1004	unidentified (F)					Surface condition poor

Cxt	Element (C = complete, P = partial, F = fragment)	Species	Age	Pathology	Butchery	Other (e.g. taphonomy)
1005	rib (F)	Gallus gallus domesticus?				Surface condition poor
1005	calcaneus (F)					Surface condition poor
1006	tooth (C)	Ovis/Capra				
1006	tooth (C)	Ovis/Capra				
1006	long bone, near epiphysis (F)					Surface condition poor
1006	mandible/maxilla (F)					Surface condition poor
1006	mandible/maxilla (F)					Surface condition poor
1006	long bone (F)					Surface condition poor
1006	lateral scapula (F)					Surface condition poor
1007	unidentified (F)					Surface condition poor
1007	long bone shaft (F)					Surface condition poor
1007	unidentified (F)					Surface condition poor
1008	tooth (C)	Ovis/Capra				
1008	mandibular (?) epiphysis (F)					Surface condition poor

Key	
Bos taurus	domestic cow
Canis lupis familiaris	domestic dog
Gallus gallus domesticus	domestic chicken
Ovis/Capra	sheep/goat

APPENDIX 5: THE CHARRED PLANT REMAINS AND WOOD CHARCOAL

By Ellen Simmons

Introduction

Archaeological excavations were carried out by Foundations Archaeology at Compton House, Compton, just South of Winchester. Flotation samples were taken from four fills (1004-7) from Ditch 1, three posthole fills (2001/3/7) and the basal fill (2009) of large circular pit [2008]. Radiocarbon dating was carried out on an animal bone fragment from the basal fill of Ditch 1, which indicated that the ditch was in-filled in the later Roman or early Saxon period. The flotation samples were assessed in order to determine the concentration, diversity, state of preservation and suitability for use in radiocarbon dating, of any archaeobotanical material present. A further aim of this assessment was to evaluate the potential of this material to provide evidence for the function of the contexts, the economy of the site or for the nature of the local environment.

Recovery, Processing and Laboratory Methods

The flotation samples were processed for charred plant remains and wood charcoal by GeoFlo Southwest Geophysical and Flotation Services using a water separation machine. Floating material was collected in a 250µm mesh, and the remaining heavy residue retained in a 1mm mesh. The flots and heavy residues were air dried.

The samples were assessed in accordance with English Heritage guidelines for environmental archaeology assessments (Jones, 2011). A preliminary assessment of the samples was made by scanning under a stereo-binocular microscope (x10 - x65) and recording the abundance of the main classes of material present. Where less than five items of identifiable charred plant remains were present, these were fully identified and quantified. Identification of plant material was carried out by comparison with material in the author's own reference collection and various reference works (e.g. Cappers et al, 2006). Cereal identifications and nomenclature follow Jacomet (2006). Other plant nomenclature follows Stace (2010). The composition of the samples is recorded below in Table 1.

Preservation

A relatively high proportion of intrusive roots were present in the samples indicating an increased likelihood that some charred material present in these samples may be intrusive, particularly as charred material was present in low densities.

Low densities of charred plant remains were present in the samples. Preservation of the charred cereal grains that were present was however good, with the majority of grains being undistorted and retaining epidermis. Wood charcoal was also present in low densities in the samples, although preservation of wood charcoal was also good.

Charred Plant Material

Two barley grains and one bread / club wheat or rivet wheat type grain were present in posthole fill (2001). One hulled barley grain was present in posthole fill (2003). One hulled barley grain, one hulled symmetrical barley grain and one wheat grain were present in ditch fill (1004). One hulled symmetrical barley grain and one indeterminate cereal grain were present in ditch fill (1005). One hulled

asymmetrical barley grain, one hulled barley grain, one bread / club wheat or rivet wheat and one indeterminate what grain were present in ditch fill (1007).

Wood Charcoal

Low densities of less than thirty wood charcoal fragments greater than 2mm in size, were present in the samples. The wood charcoal fragments were largely of diffuse porous taxa with occasional ring porous taxa also present.

Discussion and Recommendations for Futher Work

Both hulled barley and free threshing wheat were present in the posthole fills and the fills of Ditch 1. Free threshing wheat grains cannot be identified to species based on morphological characteristics and so either the hexaploid bread or club wheat was present or possibly the tetraploid rivet wheat which is cultivated from the early Saxon period onwards in Britain. No cereal grains were present in the fill of the large pit. The presence of the six row variety of barley is indicated by an asymmetrical hulled barley grain in ditch fill (1007). Asymmetrical grains are characteristic of the lateral spikelets of six row barley (Hordeum vulgare subsp. vulgare).

Although no firm conclusions can be drawn from such a low density of charred material, the presence of free threshing wheat in post hole fill (2001) and ditch fill (1007) would be consistent with a late Roman or early Saxon date for the in-fill of these features. Free threshing wheat became the predominant wheat type cultivated in the region at some point during the late Roman and early Saxon period, replacing spelt wheat which was predominant during the Roman period. It should however be noted that free threshing wheat is also occasionally present in Roman archaeobotanical assemblages (Straker 2007, 163-164).

The charred cereal grains are likely to represent material charred accidentally during food preparation or drying prior to milling as well as possible charred waste from crop processing. Other sources of charred cereal grains however include waste roofing or flooring material and animal fodder. The low density of charred cereal grains and wood charcoal present in the samples, suggests that domestic activities involving crop processing or food preparation were not carried out in the near vicinity of the sampled features.

No further analysis would be recommended for the charred plant assemblage or the wood charcoal assemblage from Compton House due to the paucity of remains present.

It should be noted that the low density of charred remains present in these samples, along with the high proportion of intrusive roots, does indicate an increased likelihood that the charred material present in these deposits may be intrusive.

References

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Straker, V. 2007. Early Medieval environmental background. In C. J. Webster (ed.) *The Archaeology of South West England: South West Archaeological Research Framework*. Resource Assessment and Research Agenda. Taunton: Somerset County Council. Somerset Heritage Service.

Table 1 – Archaeobotanical Sample Scanning Table

Archaeobotanical Sample Scanning Table								
SITE: Compton House, Compton (CHC14EX)								
CONTEXT NUMBER	**2001**	**2003**	**2007**	**2009**	**1004**	**1005**	**1006**	**1007**
FEATURE NUMBER	**2000**	**2002**	**2006**	**2008**	**Ditch 1**	**Ditch 1**	**Ditch 1**	**Ditch 1**
FLOTATION SAMPLE NUMBER	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**1**	**6**	**7**	**8**
CONTEXT TYPE	posthole fill	posthole fill	posthole fill	large pit fill	large ditch fill	large ditch fill	large ditch fill	large ditch fill
PROVISIONAL DATE	Late IA/ Roman?	Late IA/ Roman?	Late IA/ Roman?	Late IA/ Roman?	late Roman/ early Saxon	late Roman/ early Saxon	late Roman/ early Saxon	late Roman/ early Saxon
SAMPLE VOLUME (litres)	15	9	4	35	50	45	45	53
Charred plant material (*key - = < 5 items, + = > 5 items, ++ = > 10 items, +++ = > 30 items, ++++ = > 50 items, +++++ = > 100 items.)								
CROP MATERIAL*								
Hulled asymmetrical barley grain (Hordeum								1
Hulled symmetrical barley grain (*Hordeum* sp.)					1	1		
Hulled barley grain (*Hordeum* sp.)		1						1
Barley grain (*Hordeum* sp.)	2				1			
Bread / club wheat or rivet wheat grain (*Triticum aestivo-compactum* type /) (*Triticum turgidum*)	1							1
Probable bread / club wheat or rivet wheat grain (*Triticum* cf. *aestivo-compactium / turgidum*)								
Wheat grain indet. (*Triticum* sp.)					1			1
Cereal grain indet.						1		

Archaeobotanical Sample Scanning Table								
SITE: Compton House, Compton (CHC14EX)								
CONTEXT NUMBER	**2001**	**2003**	**2007**	**2009**	**1004**	**1005**	**1006**	**1007**
FEATURE NUMBER	**2000**	**2002**	**2006**	**2008**	**Ditch 1**	**Ditch 1**	**Ditch 1**	**Ditch 1**
FLOTATION SAMPLE NUMBER	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**1**	**6**	**7**	**8**
CONTEXT TYPE	posthole fill	posthole fill	posthole fill	large pit fill	large ditch fill	large ditch fill	large ditch fill	large ditch fill
PROVISIONAL DATE	Late IA/ Roman?	Late IA/ Roman?	Late IA/ Roman?	Late IA/ Roman?	late Roman/ early Saxon	late Roman/ early Saxon	late Roman/ early Saxon	late Roman/ early Saxon
SAMPLE VOLUME (litres)	15	9	4	35	50	45	45	53
Total identifiable crop material	**-**	**-**			**-**	**-**		**-**
NON SEED PLANT MATERIAL*								
> 4mm wood charcoal fragments	1		1		3		1	2
> 2mm wood charcoal fragments	19	2	5	8	26	8	26	20
> 2mm vitrified charcoal	-					-	+	
> 2mm roundwood								
> 2mm parenchyma	-			-				
> 2mm vesicular material	-	-	-					
> 2mm hazel nutshell					1			
< 2mm culm node							1	
Intrusive plant material / non-plant material (- = < 5 items, + = > 5 items, ++ = > 10 items, +++ = > 30 items, ++++ = > 50 items, +++++ = > 100 items.)								
% Intrusive roots	80	80	80	80	70	50	50	50
Land snail shells (Mollusca)	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++

Archaeobotanical Sample Scanning Table								
SITE: Compton House, Compton (CHC14EX)								
CONTEXT NUMBER	**2001**	**2003**	**2007**	**2009**	**1004**	**1005**	**1006**	**1007**
FEATURE NUMBER	**2000**	**2002**	**2006**	**2008**	**Ditch 1**	**Ditch 1**	**Ditch 1**	**Ditch 1**
FLOTATION SAMPLE NUMBER	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**1**	**6**	**7**	**8**
CONTEXT TYPE	posthole fill	posthole fill	posthole fill	large pit fill	large ditch fill	large ditch fill	large ditch fill	large ditch fill
PROVISIONAL DATE	Late IA/ Roman?	Late IA/ Roman?	Late IA/ Roman?	Late IA/ Roman?	late Roman/ early Saxon	late Roman/ early Saxon	late Roman/ early Saxon	late Roman/ early Saxon
SAMPLE VOLUME (litres)	15	9	4	35	50	45	45	53
Sample summary information								
Further analysis of charred plant material	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Further analysis of wood charcoal	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Charred material suitable for C14 dating	✓	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×
Retain flots	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

APPENDIX 6: THE SNAILS

By Matt Law

Introduction and Methodology

Snails from 8 samples from excavations at Compton House, Compton, Hampshire were presented for assessment. The samples were taken through ditch fills of Roman to Saxon date, as well as posthole and pit fills. For the purposes of rapid assessment, samples were scanned and estimated abundance of taxa were determined to at least genus level. Ecological information is derived from Evans (1972), Kerney and Cameron (1979) and Davies (2008).

Results

Preservation was extremely good throughout all the samples. The samples from Ditch 1 were especially productive. Estimated abundances are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Estimated abundance of snails from CHC10ex. + = 1-10, ++ = 10-50, +++ = 50-150, ++++ = >150.

Cxt	2001	2003	2007	2009	1004	1005	1006	1007
Sample	2	3	4	5	1	6	7	8
Feature type	Posthole	Posthole	Posthole	Pit	Ditch 1	Ditch 1	Ditch 1	Ditch 1
Pomatias elegans						+	++	
Carychium spp.	+		+			+	++	
Succinea/ Oxyloma sp/					+			
Cochlicopa spp.	+	+	+		++	+	+	+
Pupilla muscorum	+	+			++	++	+++	++
Lauria cylindracea							+	
Vallonia costata	++	++	+	+	++	+++	++	++
Vallonia excentrica	+	+	+	+	++	++	++	++
Vertigo pygmaea	+	+			+	+		+
Clausilia bidentata							+	+
Discus rotundatus	+			++			++	
Oxychilus/ Aegopinella spp				+		+	++	

Cornu aspersum						+		+
Helicella itala	++	++	++	++	++	+++	++	++
Trochulus spp.	+	++	++	++	+++	+++	++	+++
Cecilioides acicula	++	++	++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++
Snail eggs	+	+			++	++	++	++

Discussion

Snail faunas from ditches, posthole and pits may pose interpretative problems. Snails could derive from the feature itself, be washed in from the surrounding surface, be eroded out of the deposits that have been cut through, or be artificially introduced as dumped waste material. The snail fauna appears to make coherent ecological sense, however, and is broadly representative of a terrestrial environment with tall vegetation.

Clausilia bidentata, present in samples 7 and 8, is a rupestral species which lives above ground on trees, logs, rocks and walls. Its presence is likely to suggest trees adjacent to the ditch. Discus rotundatus, present in samples 2, 5 and 7 is associated with shade, while Pomatias elegans lives in disturbed ground usually in shaded places. The Vallonia spp., Helicella itala and Pupilla muscorum are more associated with open grassland however, although Vallonia can be tolerant of woodland conditions, and Davies (1996) has previously noted Pupilla as the only dry ground species in wet ground environments in Wiltshire, where it was suggested that it was active only during the summer months. Cecilioides acicula, thought to be a Medieval introduction, is a subterranean species found up to two metres below the ground surface and is very likely to be intrusive in these samples.

The uniformly good preservation throughout the assemblage suggests that reworking is unlikely. Of particular note, there are no indications in the snail assemblage that the ditch or other features held appreciable amounts of water; in fact even freshwater and wet ground species tolerant of seasonal drying out are absent. The common snail Cornu aspersum, a very familiar large snail, is a Roman period arrival in Britain, most likely deliberately introduced as a foodstuff. The specimens in samples 6 and 8 may thus be quite early representatives of this species in the British fauna.

Statement of Potential and Recommendations

In an English Heritage review of molluscs from archaeological sites in southern Britain, Wilkinson (2011, 48-50) notes a lack of data about snails from the Roman and Medieval periods. Full analysis would therefore be desirable; however, given the uncertainties relating to the provenance of the feature in-fills and their associated snails, along with the imprecise dating of the on-site features, it is suggested that, at this stage, the assemblage should be retained with the archive in order to facilitate possible future synthetic study.

References

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Kerney, M.P. and Cameron, R.A.D., 1979. *A Field Guide to the Land Snails of Britain and North-west Europe*. London: Collins.

Wilkinson, K., 2011. *Regional Review of Environmental Archaeology in Southern England: Molluscs*. London: English Heritage.

APPENDIX 7: THE C14 DATA

Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre
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Rankine Avenue, Scottish Enterprise Technology Park,
East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 0QF, Scotland, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1355 223332 Fax: +44 (0)1355 229598 www.glasgow.ac.uk/suerc

RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE

19 December 2014

Laboratory Code	SUERC-56993 (GU35796)
Submitter	Tracy Michaels Foundations Archaeology 1st Floor, Shaftesbury Centre Percy Street Swindon, SN2 2AZ
Site Reference	CHC14
Context Reference	-1003
Sample Reference	1
Material	Animal Bone : unknown
$\delta^{13}C$ relative to VPDB	-22.5 ‰
$\delta^{15}N$ relative to air	6.1 ‰
C/N ratio (Molar)	3.4
Radiocarbon Age BP	1664 ± 31

N.B. The above ^{14}C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD). The error, which is expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.

The calibrated age ranges are determined from the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program (OxCal4).

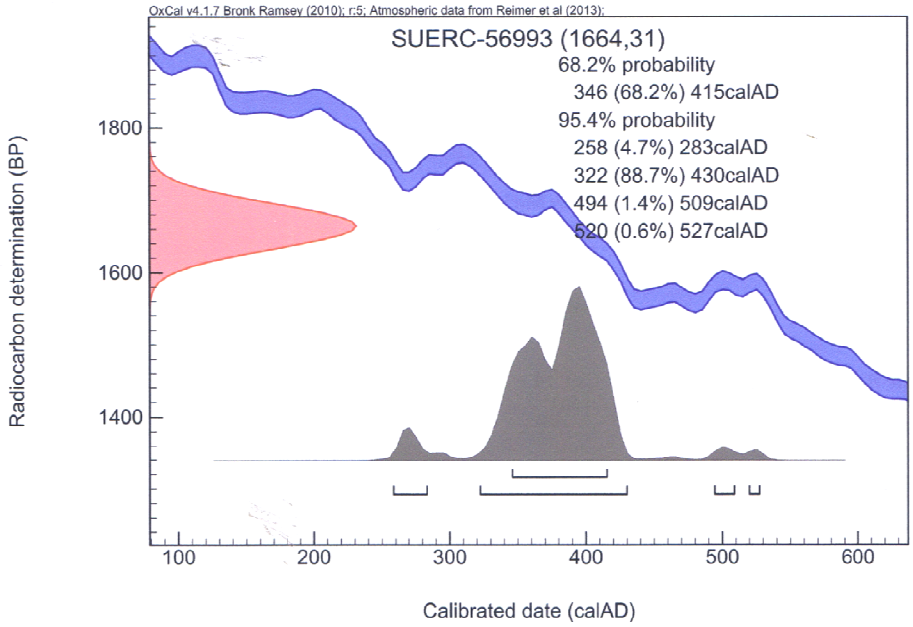
Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Facility and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. Any questions directed to the Radiocarbon Laboratory should also quote the GU coding given in parentheses after the SUERC code. The contact details for the laboratory are email g.cook@suerc.gla.ac.uk or telephone 01355 270136 direct line.

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by :- E. Dunbar Date :- 19/12/14

Checked and signed off by :- P. Naysmith Date :- 19-12-14

University of Glasgow

Calibration Plot



N

Legend

Site Location

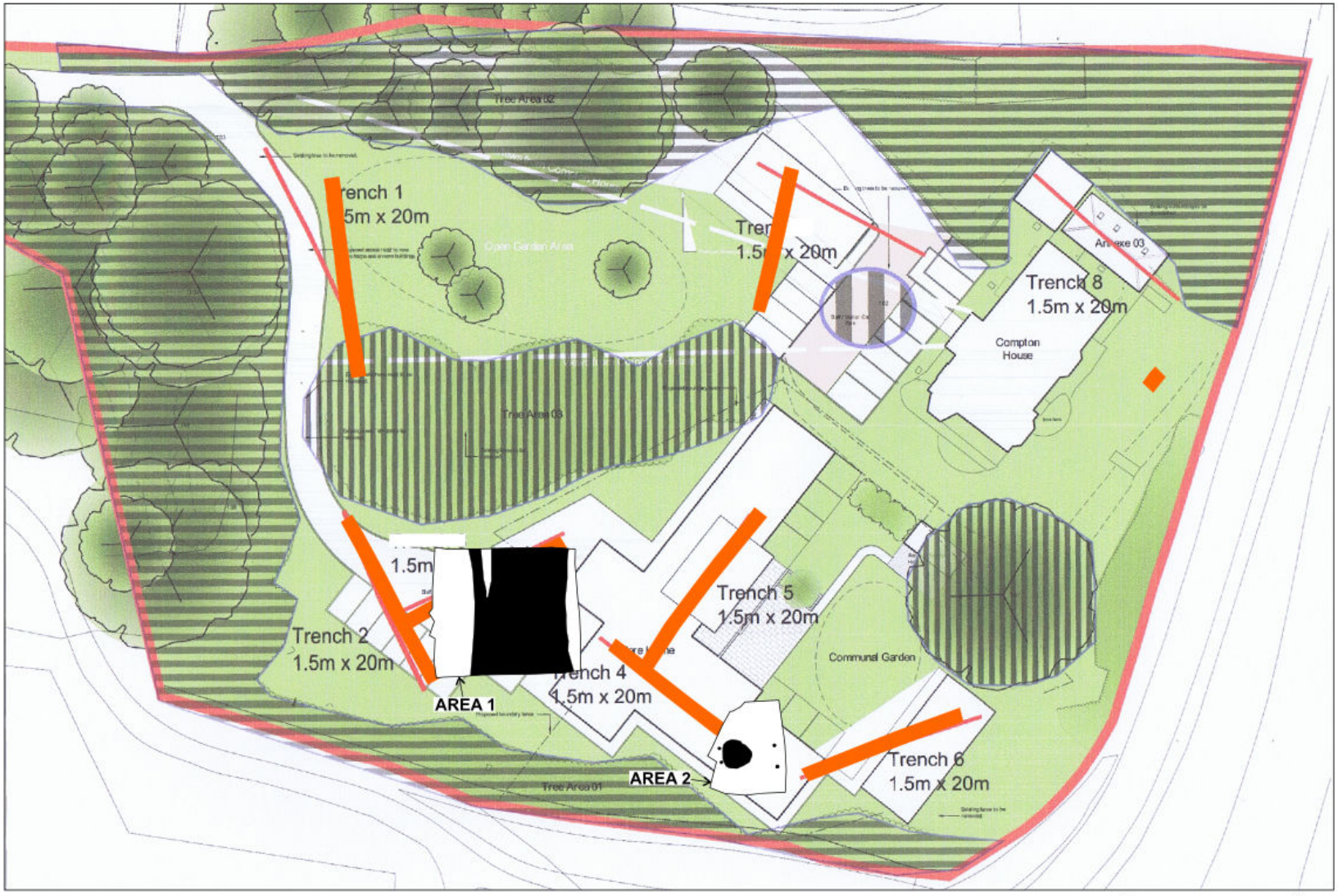
Figure 1: Site Location

Project: Compton House, Winchester

Date: 27/02/15 | Job Number: 10354

Drawn by: Foundations Archaeology

AB HERITAGE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY



Legend

Evaluation Trench Location

Features Within Excavation Areas

Figure 2: Site Plan

Project: Compton House, Winchester

Date: 27/02/15 | Job Number: 10354

Drawn by: Foundations Archaeology

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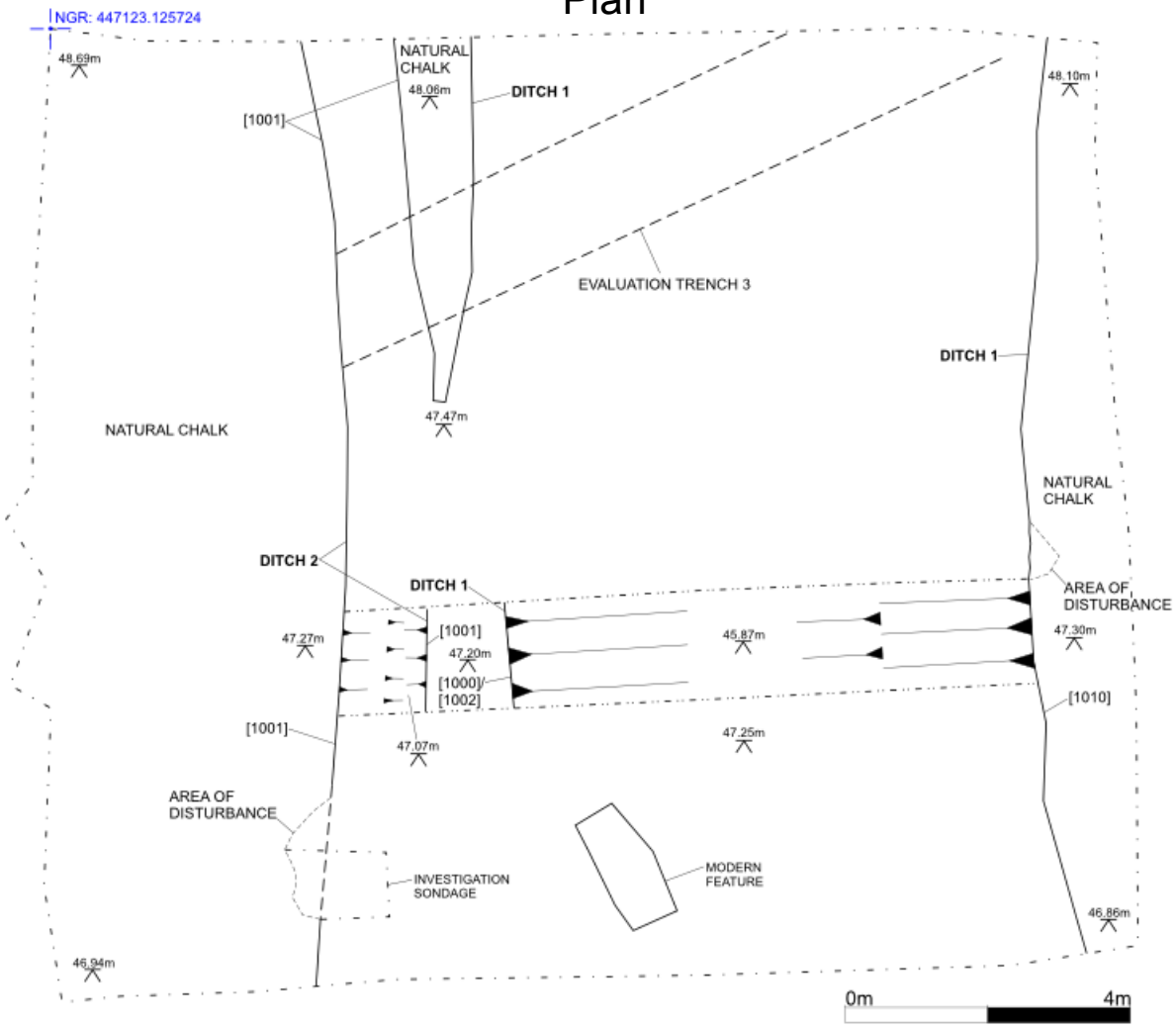
ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY

Plan



N

North Facing Section

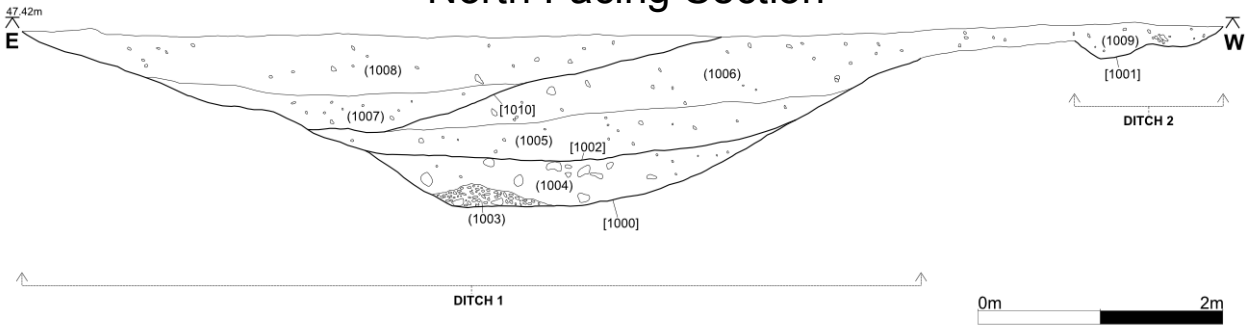


Figure 3: Area 1 Plan & Section	
Project: Compton House, Winchester	
Date: 27/02/15	Job Number: 10354
Drawn by: Foundations Archaeology	

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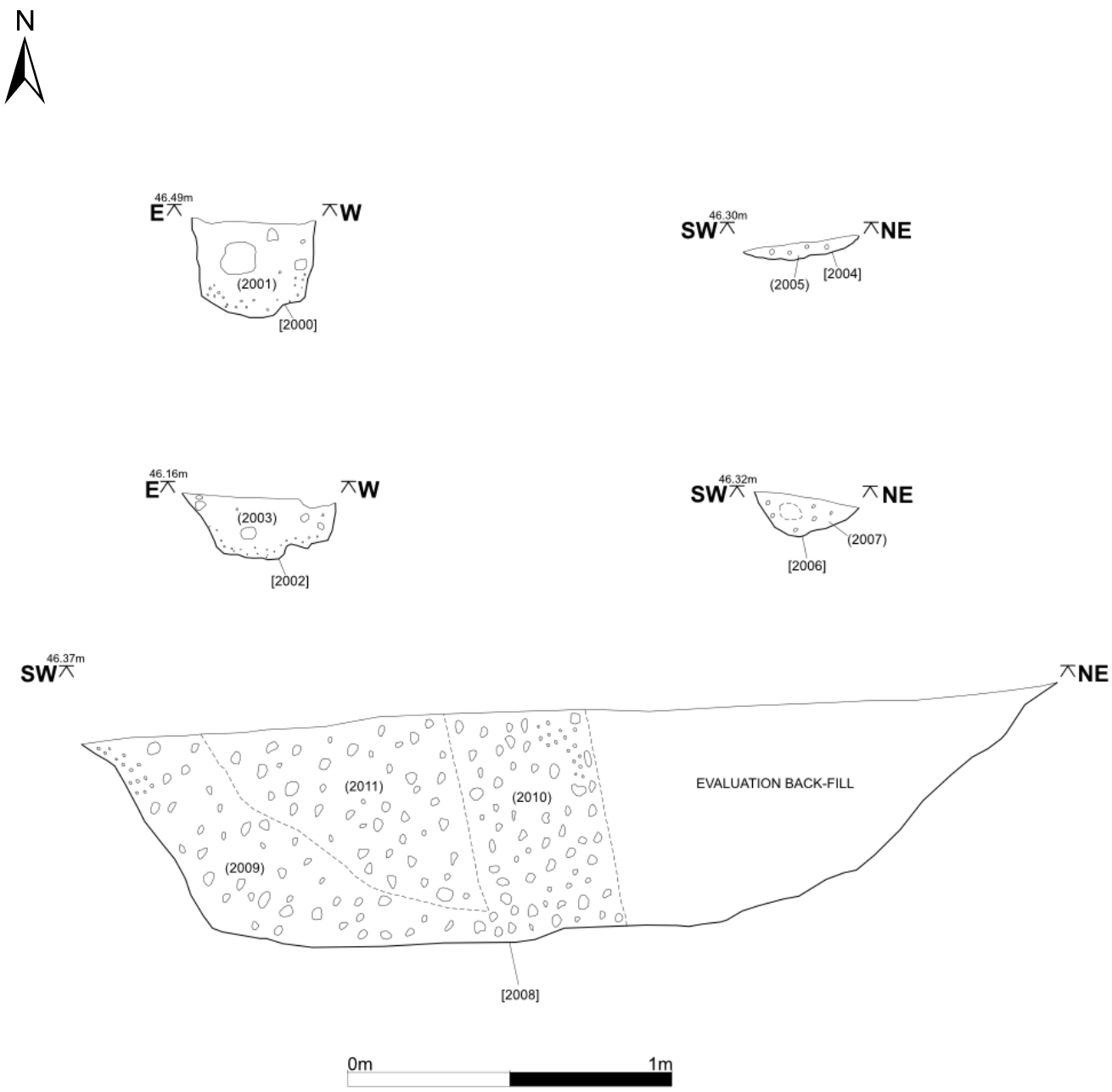

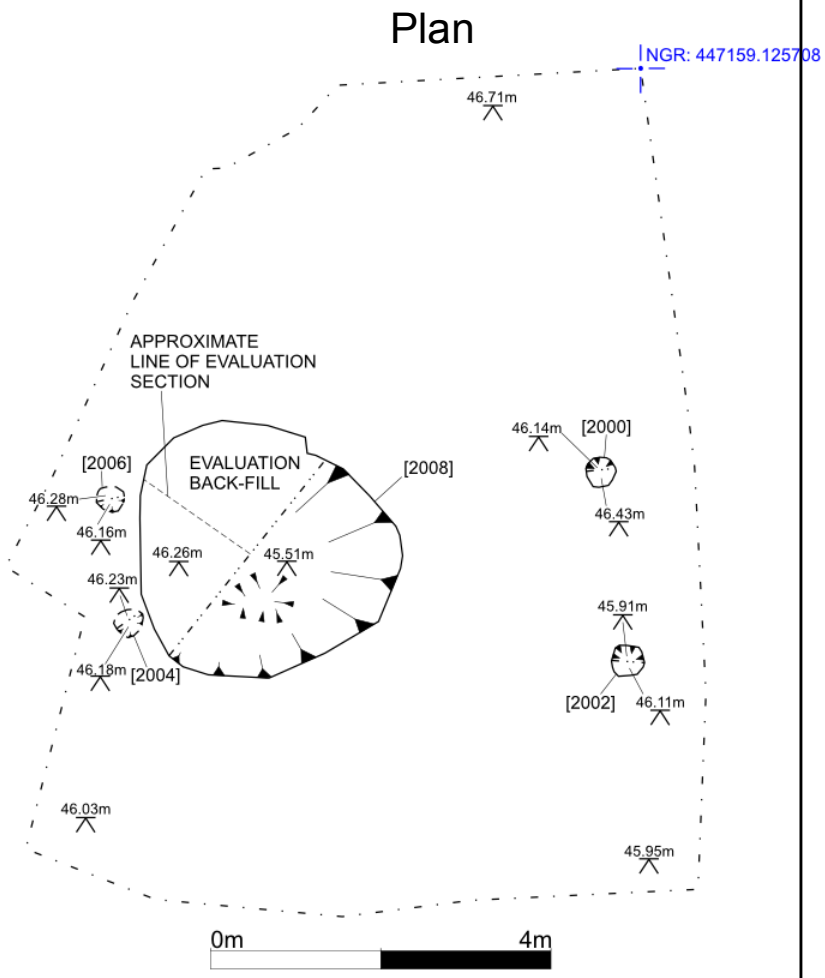

Figure 4: Area 2 Plan & Sections

Project: Compton House, Winchester

Date: 27/02/15 | Job Number: 10354

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