Hengistbury Head, Bournemouth

Archaeological Observations and Recording during installation of New Water Troughs

Report No. 53467/3/1

July 2017

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Project Report Summary Page

Project Details			
OASIS Reference	terraina1-291054		
Project Title	New Water Troughs, Hengistbury Head		
Short Description of Project	As a condition of the scheme's scheduled monument consent, Terrain Archaeology, in co-operation with the Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre, carried out a programme of archaeological observations and recording and an associated a metal detector survey at Hengistbury Head, Bournemouth, Dorset, during the excavation new service trenches for the installation of two new livestock watering troughs. Work was carried out adjacent to the Visitor Centre, the Iron Age double dyke defences and part of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery, and comprised mechanical excavation of some 150m of new service trench 0.2 m wide and 0.75 m deep. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the works, although a small collection of struck flint included four cores (amongst which was a multi-platform example made on Portland Chert) and a rolled and stained flake of likely Lower- or Middle Palaeolithic date.		
Project Dates	Start: 07-06-2017	End: 09-06-2017	
Previous/Future Work	No/No		
Project Code	53467		
Monument Type and Period	None		
Significant Finds	None		
Project Location			
County/District/ Parish	Dorset/ West Dorset/ Dorchester		
Site Address	Hengistbury Head, Broadway, Bournemouth, BH6 4EW		
Site Coordinates	SZ 16600 91049		
Site Area	c 30 m^2		
Height OD			
Project Creators			
Organisation	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Brief Originator	None		
Project Design Originator	Bournemouth Borough Council		
Project Supervisor	Mike Trevarthen		
Project Manager	Peter Bellamy		
Sponsor or Funding Body	Bournemouth Borough Council		
Project Archive			
Archive Type	**Physical**	**Digital**	**Paper**
Location/Accession No	No physical archive	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre
Contents		Digital photography Digital copy of report	Record sheets Site diary

Hengistbury Head, Bournemouth

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1. Introduction

1.1 Project introduction

Terrain Archaeology was commissioned by Bournemouth Borough Council, to undertake a programme of archaeological observations and recording during trenching works associated with installation of two new livestock watering troughs near the Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre and the northern end of the Iron Age Double Dykes.

The entirety of Hengistbury Head from the Double Dykes eastward is afforded statutory protection as a Scheduled Monument (National Heritage List Entry Number 1002367, Multi-period landscape on Hengistbury Head), and the works were carried out under scheduled monument consent.

The fieldwork was carried out between the 7th and 9th July 2017 by Mike Trevarthen BA (Hons.), ACIfA (Terrain Archaeology) and Gabrielle Delbarre (Curator, Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre). The assistance of Dr John Stewart (Bournemouth University) and Mike Tizzard is gratefully acknowledged. The copper alloy strap slide was identified by Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen.

1.2 Brief

No written brief for the scheme of works was prepared by or on behalf of the client. The programme of archaeological works was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Delbarre 2016, as amended), submitted to, and approved by, Historic England as part of the scheme's application for Scheduled Monument Consent.

1.3 Site Location

Hengistbury Head is located on the eastern edge of Bournemouth and borders the southern side of Christchurch Harbour. Parts of the headland rise to *c.* 36 m aOD (at Warren Hill), although the area of the present works (centred on OS NGR 416600 91049; Figure 1) adjacent to the Visitor Centre and Double Dykes is lower-lying.

1.4 Geology

The complex geology of Hengistbury Head and the wider Bournemouth/Christchurch Harbour area will not be discussed in detail here: in summary, the headland comprises strata forming part of the Tertiary Hampshire Basin series (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk /geologyofbritain/home.html), overlain in places by a complex of more recent fluvial and aeolian deposits (see for example West 2017).

1.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site is located in an area known for its rich and chronologically deep archaeological remains. Excavations undertaken at Hengistbury Head during the twentieth century have revealed important Late Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic sites. There is lesser evidence for Neolithic activity. During the Early Bronze Age, at least thirteen round barrows were present on the headland, including one (in Barn Field, adjacent to the present works) from which a rich Wessex Burial was excavated in 1910. The Headland was occupied in the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age, and was defended (possibly in the Middle Iron Age) by construction of an earthwork Double Dyke system. During the Late Iron Age, Hengistbury Head was a thriving harbour supporting industrial activities and cross-channel trade. This occupation continued into the Roman period, but with an increased emphasis on agriculture (Bushe-Fox 1915; Barton 1992; Campbell 1977; Cunliffe 1987; Mace 1959). Recent archaeological watching briefs on the headland

have revealed small numbers of mainly Late Neolithic and Iron Age/Roman finds (Tatler & Bellamy 2006; Tatler & Bellamy 2009).

There is no evidence for medieval and early post-medieval settlement of the site: the earliest evidence for building is on the Grose (1797) map of Hengistbury Head. During the nineteenth century the Hengistbury Head Mining Company quarried ironstone doggers in the south shore of the headland, bringing about severe coastal erosion. The old barn (now part of the Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre) was built in the 1860s. A capped 19th century well was found during an archaeological evaluation prior to construction of the new Visitor Centre (Trevarthen & Bellamy 2010).

During the Second World War, various military structures and associated infrastructure were built across the headland, including a Chain Home (Low) radar station (Hoodless 2005, Hawes & Delbarre 2010). Modern features were also revealed during construction of the Visitor Centre (Trevarthen & Bellamy 2010).

1.6 Previous Archaeological fieldwork

There have been several archaeological investigations in the immediate vicinity of the site. A Bronze Age round barrow (Dorset Historic Environment Record number MDO8620) immediately to the south was investigated by J. P. Bushe-Fox in 1911, revealing a primary burial associated with a collared urn and items of gold, amber and bronze. An Archaeological evaluation and watching brief were carried out as part of the works associated with creation of the present Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre, revealing nineteenth and twentieth century features (Trevarthen & Bellamy 2010). A watching brief on construction of the new cattle handling pen immediately east of the Visitor Centre (Bellamy & Trevarthen 2010) produced negative results.

1.7 Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the archaeological works were laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Delbarre 2016).

The principal aim of the Archaeological programme of works was to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

The objectives of the works were to:

- Observe and record all the in situ archaeological deposits and features revealed during the groundworks
- present the results in a report.

1.8 Methods

The methodology, scope, aims and objectives of the works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Gabrielle Delbarre (Curator, Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre) in November 2016 (revised March 2017).

All archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2014).

1.8.1 Metal detector survey

In accordance with an amendment to the WSI (dated 31/3/2017) a metal detector survey of the pipe-route was carried out. This was carried out primarily by Dr John Stewart (Bournemouth University) assisted by Mike Trevarthen (Terrain Archaeology), and comprised prior scanning of the pipe-route corridor, and subsequent detecting of the excavated spoil. All metal items (other than modern aluminium drinks cans and aluminium foil) were retained for initial study, with their positions plotted on a scale base map of the site. The positions of significant finds are shown in Figure 3. A summary listing of all finds is presented as Appendix 1.

1.8.2 Archaeological Observations and Recording

Excavation of the pipe trench was carried out using a towed mechanical trenching machine, producing a trench nominally 0.20 m wide and 0.75 m deep. Arisings from the trench were subject to close visual scan and metal detected for recovery of artefacts. Deposit sequences exposed by the trenching were recorded using elements of Terrain Archaeology's suite of *pro-formae* written and graphic record sheets. A digital photographic record was

maintained throughout the works, recording aspects of their setting, conduct and technical detail. Key images are reproduced in this report.

Backfilling of the trench did not form part of the archaeological programme, and was not monitored.

1.9 Archive and Dissemination

1.9.1 Paper Archive

The primary site archive will be deposited for long-term curation by the Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre.

Paper and digital copies of this report will be lodged with Dorset County Council's Historic Environment Record (HER). The HER is a publicly funded and accessible resource, and deposition of the report will place it, and the project results, in the public domain.

A digital summary of the archive will be placed with the OASIS project (www.oasis.ac.uk) under the reference code *terraina1 -291054.* A digital copy of this report will be uploaded for inclusion in the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) online 'grey literature' library.

A summary note on the project and its results will be published by Terrain Archaeology in the next edition of the *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*.

1.9.2 Artefacts

The artefacts will be deposited with the Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre, where the disposal strategy will be determined by Gabrielle Delbarre, Curator.

1.9.3 Report

A copy of this report will be lodged with Dorset County Council's Historic Environment Record (HER). The HER is a publicly funded and accessible resource, and deposition of the report will place it, and the project results, in the public domain.

A digital summary of the archive will be placed with the OASIS project (www.oasis.ac.uk) under the reference code *terraina1-291054.* A digital copy of this report will be uploaded for inclusion in the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) online 'grey literature' library.

2. Results

2.1 Introduction

The excavation of the pipe trench did not expose any archaeological features, only general soil layers over the underlying drift geology.

2.2 Natural Deposits

Deposits that can, for the purposes of the project, be regarded as 'natural' were encountered in two separate areas of the pipe trench (Figure 2) at depths of as little as 0.40 m below ground level. These exposures comprised clean, poorly-sorted angular- to rounded fluvial outwash gravels, composed primarily of rolled and often stained flint.

The complexity of the drift geology in the Christchurch Harbour area (see for example West 2017) means that caution should be exercised in attributing a specific formation date to these gravels, which could be as recent as Late Pleistocene/ Early Holocene.

2.3 Topsoil and Other Developed Soils

Topsoil comprised grass turf over mid-dark grey-brown sandy loam with a variable gravel clast component. In those parts of the trench which did not overlie slightly elevated gravel bars, the depth of this soil exceeded 0.75 m without appreciable texture- or colour change, and may represent long-term soil formation in lower-lying parts of the landscape.

Humic soils along the toe of the Double Dykes at the far western end of the pipe trench may additionally have been artificially deepened by material eroding from the eastern bank and by preferential vegetation of its lee side.

3. Finds

3.1 Finds Assemblage

A total of 125 objects were recovered during the course of the fieldwork. These are catalogued in Appendix 1. The find spots of key objects are shown on Figure 3.

With the exception of a small group of struck flint and a single potentially 18th century copper alloy strap-slide (object 057), the finds assemblage comprised 19th-20th century material, which is not discussed in greater detail. Some of this material relates to leisure and tourism on the headland, whilst other elements are more likely to result from recent agriculture, or from military use of the headland in the Second World War (for example object 039, the spent rear section and tailfins of a 2_inch mortar round).

3.2 Flint

Seventeen pieces of artificially altered flint were recovered from upcast spoil, weighing a total of 306.4g. Most was unpatinated, and some post-depositional edge-damage was noted. Of this material, five pieces (133.4g) were calcined unworked flint, which is intrinsically undateable.

Four cores were recovered. Two (objects 006 and 044) are single platform types comprising small numbers of small flake removals from brecciated river gravel pieces. Object 014 comprises small flake removals from one face of a thick flake of nodular flint with worn chalky cortex on one face. Its form superficially resembles Later Neolithic bifacial Keeled cores although any such attribution must remain tentative. Object 012 is a small two (possibly three) platform core, and is unusual for the area, being made on grey limestone (Portland) chert.

Seven small flakes, some broken and all unmodified, are chronologically undiagnostic, although Object 005 could, inconclusively, derive from a small blade industry.

One small deeply yellow-brown stained and moderately rolled secondary or tertiary flake (Object 100) was recovered from disturbed clean fluvial gravel in the western part of the site. This is probably Lower- or Middle Palaeolithic in date.

An eighteenth small flake or chip (Object 009) is stained and patinated, and is probably a natural gravel impact product. It is listed in Appendix 1 but not located on Figure 3 or included in the quantification above.

4. Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Discussion

Despite the proximity of major prehistoric earthworks, no archaeologically significant features or deposits were identified during the trenching. The presence of buried fluvial outwash gravels in parts of the site was confirmed, although they cannot readily be assigned to a particular geological unit without recourse to greater specialist input than this report warrants. The recovery of a flint flake (probably of Lower or Middle Palaeolithic date) from these gravels is unusual for the Headland, but not otherwise significant in the wider context of the Hampshire Basin drainage system.

Sporadic finds of more recent struck flint, probably broadly of Neolithic – Bronze Age date, attest later prehistoric activity, but add little to understanding of the site and its development.

No pre-modern pottery was recovered, despite a detailed search of the excavated soil. This suggests that the site lay at some distance from Iron Age and/or Roman settlements or other activity foci within the defended headland.

Many of the metal finds recovered during the metal detector survey probably relate to leisure and tourism, agriculture and military land use throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

4.2 Conclusions

The archaeological potential of the site was unknown prior to commencement of groundwork. The programme of precautionary observations and recording of the site groundworks has confirmed that no significant archaeological features or deposits were harmed during the works, and has been successful in offsetting any loss in the significance of the wider Scheduled Monument.

5. References

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Figure 1: Site Location.

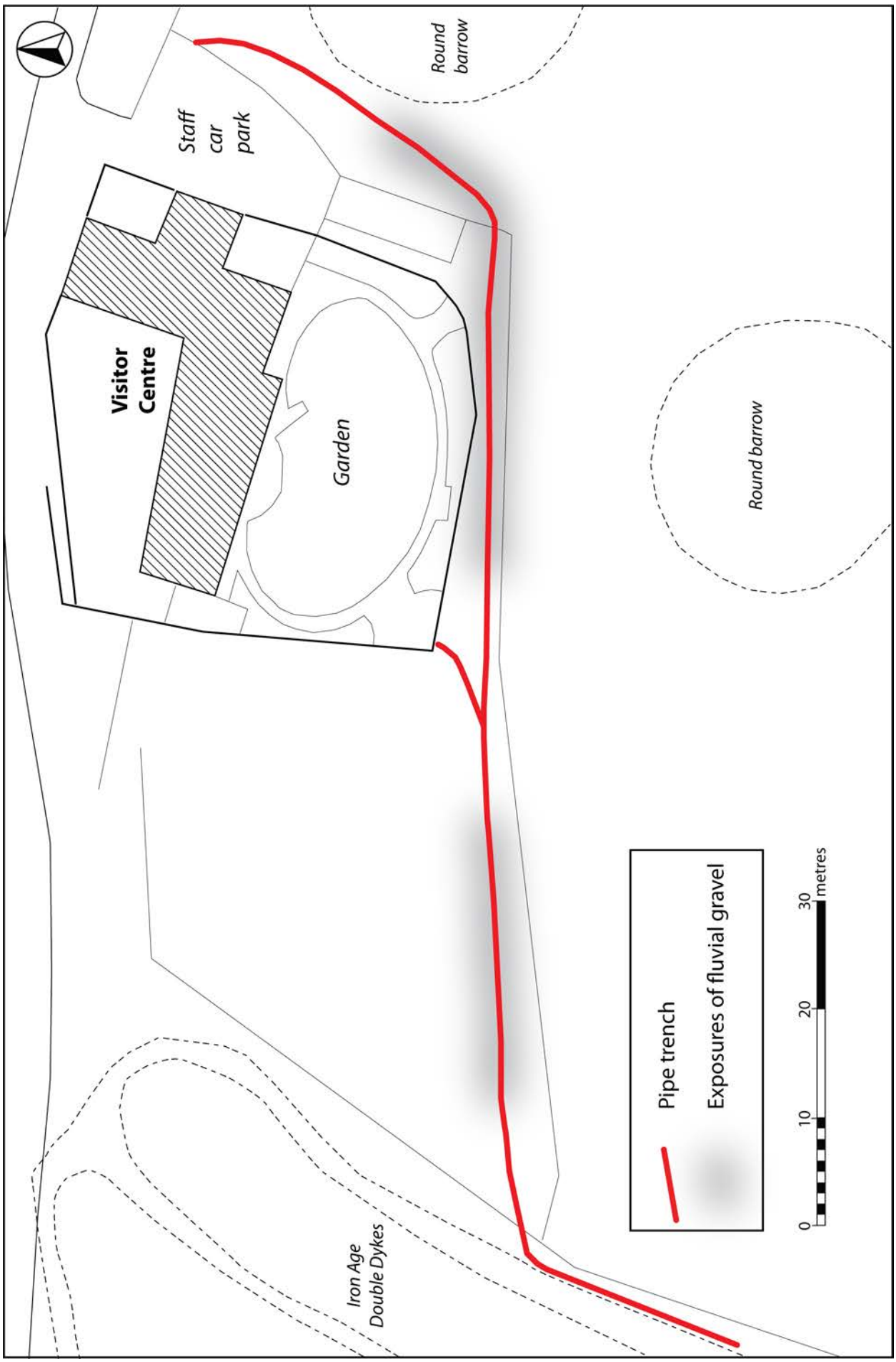

Figure 2: ite plan Showing trench location, position of nearby monuments and exposures of fluvial gravel within the trench.

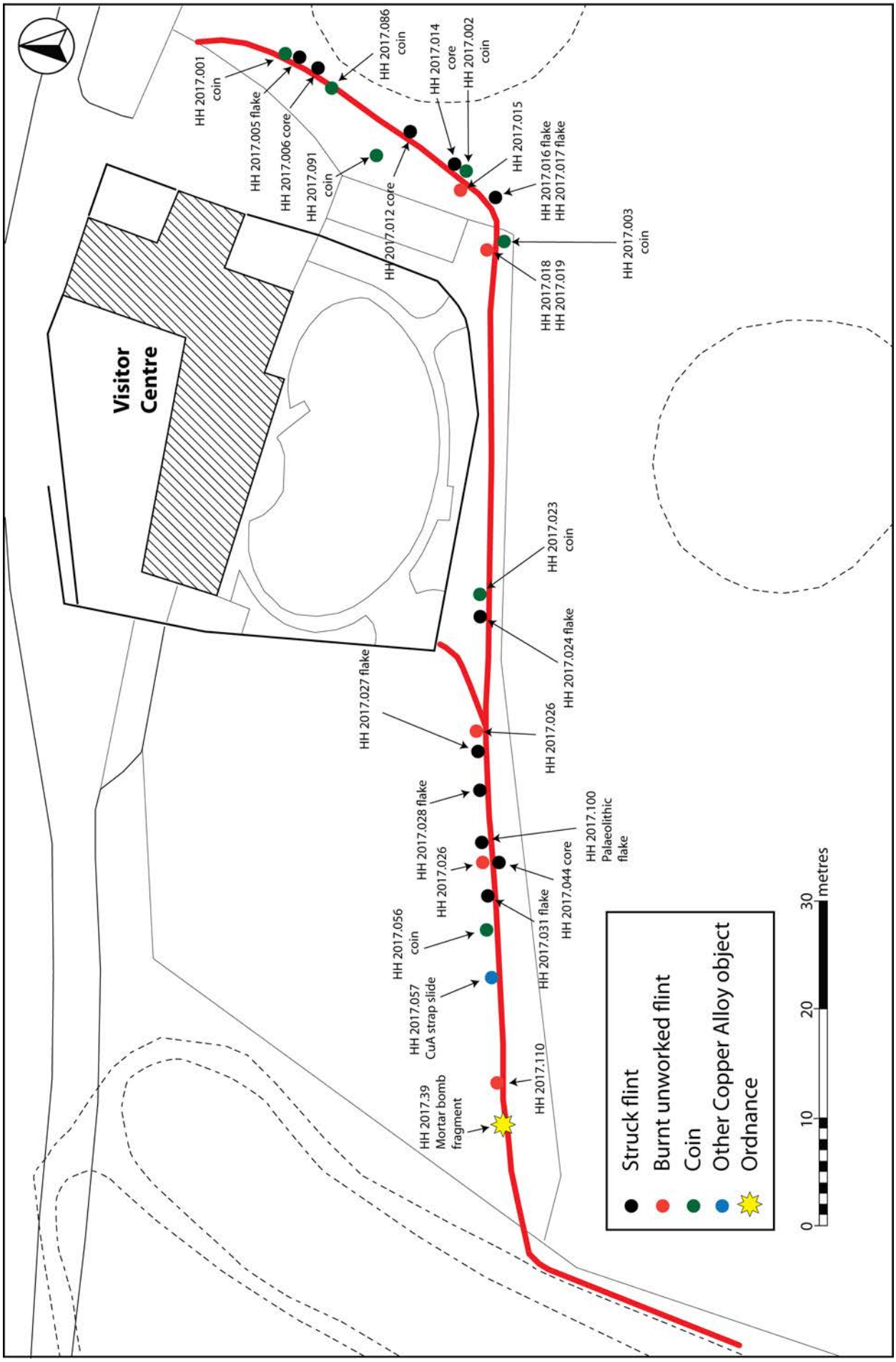

Figure 3: Site plan showing find spots of selected objects

Plate 1: Pipe trench east of the Visitor Centre. View from north.

Plate 2: Pipe trench excavation in progress south of the Visitor Centre. View from east.

Plate 3: Overview of the eastern part of the works. View from south

Plate 4: Pipe trenching works immediately east of the Double Dykes. View from west

Appendix 1: Catalogue of Finds

Find spots for object numbers in bold are indicated on Figure 3.

Object Number	Material	Description
HH2017.01		Coin: Penny of Queen Elizabeth II, dated 1963.
HH2017.02	Cu/Ni alloy	Coin: Decimal 10 pence coin of Queen Elizabeth II, dated 1969.
HH2017.03	Silver	Coin: Sixpence of Queen Victoria, dated 1862.
HH2017.04	Iron	Black plastic covered bracket, unknown function
HH2017.05	Flint	Small bulbar flake, possibly indicative of bladelet industry?
HH2017.06	Flint	Possible small single-platform core on natural gravel fragment
HH2017.07	White metal	Broken fragment of teaspoon bowl
HH2017.08	Copper Alloy	Flat-sided disc with central perforation, unknown function
HH2017.09	Flint	Small stained chip: possibly naturally derived
HH2017.10	Pottery	Small chip of industrially produced glazed whiteware
HH2017.11	Clinker	Small fragment of coal-based fuel residue
HH2017.12	Flint (chert)	Small multi-platform core made on Portland Chert
HH2017.13	Iron	Unidentified object, unknown function
HH2017.14	Flint	Single-platform or possibly keeled core made on thick, irregular flake
HH2017.15	Flint	Burnt unworked
HH2017.16	Flint	Small secondary flake
HH2017.17	Flint	Small secondary/tertiary flake
HH2017.18	Flint	Burnt unworked
HH2017.19	Flint	Burnt unworked
HH2017.20	Clinker	Small fragment of coal-based fuel residue
HH2017.21	Lead	Modern annular fishing (crab line) weight
HH2017.22	Iron	Fragment of flat plate, unknown function
HH2017.23	Copper Alloy	Coin: Penny of King George V, dated 1914
HH2017.24	Flint	Longitudinally broken secondary flake, gravel flint
HH2017.25	Iron	Broken segment of earthfast spiral support post, probably for barbed wire fence or entanglement
HH2017.26	Flint	Burnt unworked
HH2017.27	Flint	Small broken secondary flake
HH2017.28	Flint	Small tertiary flake
HH2017.29	Ceramic/Iron	2 x small white glazed ceramic electrical insulators, possibly for fuse wire, 1 x unidentified iron object of unknown function
HH2017.30	Flint	Burnt unworked
HH2017.31	Flint	Irregular chip
HH2017.32	Unidentified metal	Fragment of pressed metal with applied (spot-welded?) attachment- or connection point, unknown function
HH2017.33	Iron	45 mm diameter washer
HH2017.34	Iron	45 mm diameter washer
HH2017.35	Iron	Unidentified bar or rod, unknown function
HH2017.36	Iron	45 mm diameter washer
HH2017.37	Iron	45 mm diameter washer
HH2017.38	Iron	Bent round-section rod, unknown function
HH2017.39	Aluminium alloy	Spent (detached) tail-section from British 2-inch mortar round
HH2017.40	Iron	Large (c10.5 x 10.5 cm) square attachment plate: One large central perforation, four smaller perforations, one near each corner, unknown function
HH2017.41	Iron	45mm diameter washer
HH2017.42	Iron	45 mm diameter washer
HH2017.43	Aluminium alloy, Iron	Broken and twisted strip of flush-rivetted aluminium alloy with two attached stainless-steel fixing nuts, unknown function
HH2017.44	Flint	Possible single-platform core made on naturally fractured gravel flint fragment
HH2017.45	Glass	19th-20th century small brown glass screw-top bottle, basal mark: 2 in circle
HH2017.46	Bone	Broken long bone fragment, medium sized mammal
HH2017.47	Iron	Unidentified object, unknown function
HH2017.48	Iron	45mm diameter washer
HH2017.49	Iron	45mm diameter washer

Object Number	Material	Description
HH2017.50	Iron	45mm diameter washer
HH2017.51	Iron	45mm diameter washer
HH2017.52	Iron	C45mm diameter washer
HH2017.53	Iron	Large square section nail or fixing pin, unknown function
HH2017.54	Iron	45 mm diameter washer
HH2017.55	Iron	Curved section of bar or rod, unknown function
HH2017.56	Copper Alloy	Coin: Three pence coin of George VI, dated 194(0)?
HH2017.57	Copper Alloy	Rectangular decorative strap slide. Possibly 18th century
HH2017.58	Copper Alloy	Cylindrical copper object, open at one end, part-closed at the other with broken projecting attachment, unknown function
HH2017.59	Iron	45 mm diameter washer
HH2017.60	Iron	Unidentified object, unknown function
HH2017.61	Iron	45 mm diameter washer
HH2017.62	Iron	Broken bolt or large fixing pin, unknown function
HH2017.63	Iron	45 mm diameter washer
HH2017.64	Copper Alloy	Pressed metal clothing button
HH2017.65	Iron	Probable nail
HH2017.66	Iron	33mm round wire nail
HH2017.67	Iron	1 x unidentified rod or bar, unknown function; 1 x ? nail
HH2017.68	Iron	Tack
HH2017.69	Iron	Wire
HH2017.70	Iron	Nail
HH2017.71	Copper Alloy	Broken fixing eyelet from canvas tarpaulin
HH2017.72	Iron	Rectangular section rod or bar, unknown function
HH2017.73	Copper Alloy	Hexagonal section bar with one slightly domed end; other slightly recessed with slight central projection, unknown function
HH2017.74	Iron	45 mm diameter washer
HH2017.75	Iron	Large bolt or fixing pin, unknown function
HH2017.76	Iron	Connected circular and sub-oval loops
HH2017.77	Iron	Large ferrule
HH2017.78	Iron	Unidentified object, unknown function
HH2017.79	Iron	Unidentified rod or bar, unknown function
HH2017.80	Iron	Unidentified rod or bar, unknown function
HH2017.81	Iron	Unidentified object, unknown function
HH2017.82	Iron	Spike or tapering rod, unknown function
HH2017.83	Unidentified metal	Broken hinge with fixing hole and part of pivot rod?
HH2017.84	Iron	Possible nail fragment
HH2017.85	Iron	Length of bent round-section rod, wrought into loop attachment and offset lug at one end, unknown function
HH2017.86	Copper Alloy	Coin: Farthing of Queen Victoria, dated 1868
HH2017.87	Copper Alloy	Centrally perforated domed object; possibly the head of a two-piece drawing pin
HH2017.88	Iron	Unidentified rod or bar, unknown function
HH2017.89	Iron	Broken nail or bolt
HH2017.90	Iron	Unidentified object, unknown function
HH2017.91	Copper Alloy	Coin: Half penny of King George V, dated 1912
HH2017.92	Iron	Part of broken loop
HH2017.93	Iron	Unidentified object, unknown function
HH2017.94	Iron	Unidentified tabular object, unknown function
HH2017.95	Iron	Unidentified object, unknown function
HH2017.96	Glass	Complete milk bottle, marked 'M & P Dairies' in two lines
HH2017.97	Iron	Broken section of flat bar, deliberately bent at one end, unknown function
HH2017.98	Iron	Unidentified object, unknown function
HH2017.99	Iron	Small sub-square plate, unknown function
HH2017.100	Flint	Deeply stained & rolled flake: probably Lower or Middle Palaeolithic
HH2017.101	Iron	Rod or bar, bent into hook at one end, unknown function
HH2017.102	Copper Alloy	Large (bent) brass slot-head screw
HH2017.103	Iron	Large square-section nail
HH2017.104	Copper Alloy	Hollow annular curtain suspension ring
HH2017.105	White metal	Silver plated teaspoon. Rear of shank has 'Gladwin Ltd' in recessed cartouche; 'A1' in

Object Number	Material	Description
		separate recessed cartouche
HH2017.106	Iron	Unidentified object, unknown function
HH2017.107	Iron	Square-head nail or small bolt
HH2017.108	Unidentified metal	Cast mechanical component, unknown function
HH2017.109	Iron	45 mm diameter washer
HH2017.110	Flint	Burnt unworked
HH2017.111	Iron	45 mm diameter washer
HH2017.112	Iron	45 mm diameter washer
HH2017.113	Iron	2 x flat 45mm diameter washers
HH2017.114	Ceramic	Sherd of industrially produced plain glazed whiteware saucer
HH2017.115	Glass	2 x fragments of 'cob' type carbonated drink bottle
HH2017.116	Iron/Copper Alloy	Iron bolt with flanged nut; broken copper alloy D-ring through perforation in bolt shank. Unknown function
HH2017.117	Iron/Copper Alloy	Large iron padlock with decorative brass keyhole surround or keyhole cover-plate
HH2017.118	Iron	Length of wrought, square-section iron rod or bar. Unknown function
HH2017.119	Iron	Short length of rectangular-section iron rod or bar; bent; possibly a nail shank
HH2017.120	Iron	Length of round-section iron rod or bar, expanded at one end, possibly from use as a percussion punch.
HH2017.121	Iron	Iron nail or small spike
HH2017.122	Iron	One small corroded irregular iron object, unknown function; one short fragment of iron round wire
HH2017.123	Iron	Two short lengths of iron round wire
HH2017.124	Iron	Short length of iron round wire.
HH2017.125	Copper Alloy	Part of end cap and (spent) detonator of shotgun cartridge: gauge uncertain