

A303 Stonehenge Archaeological Surveys

Archaeological Evaluation Report: Area P

Final Issue

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A303 STONEHENGE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS

Archaeological Evaluation Report Area P

Prepared for

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Archaeological Evaluation Report Area P

SUMMARY

Wessex Archaeology as sub-consultants to Mott MacDonald was commissioned by the Highways Agency to undertake the archaeological evaluation of the Preferred Route of the A303 Stonehenge Improvement in Wiltshire. This report presents the results of the evaluation of Area P, which lies south of the A303 to the east of Longbarrow Roundabout, between NGR SU 4100 1414 and SU 4112 1415.

In the west of Area P, part of an undated field system revealed by aerial photographs is associated with significant quantities of struck flint and prehistoric pottery recovered by fieldwalking. Geophysical survey has identified linear anomalies which may confirm traces of the field system, and other linear anomalies. Beyond the area affected by the Illustrative Design, The Wilsford Shaft, probably a Bronze Age well, is also a scheduled monument. Other evidence for archaeological remains within Area P is scant. The area contains one excavated Bronze Age round barrow, an outlier from the Normanton Down group. Documentary evidence suggests that during the Middle Ages the area formed downland grazed by the manors of Normanton and Wilsford. A Listed (Grade II) turnpike milestone is situated on the southern verge of the A303.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of 18 trial trenches, targeted on the basis of previous surveys to evaluate the character, date and state of preservation of archaeological remains across Area P. Evaluation revealed only four features of archaeological interest. Two possible Middle Bronze Age rubbish pits in Trench 2 at the western extent of Area P would appear to be related to the undated field system associated with the settlement at Longbarrow Roundabout. Two Early Bronze Age Beaker burial pits located in Trench 15 at the eastern extent of Area P clearly relate to the previously excavated Bronze Age round barrow. Excavation of an additional trench close by found only natural features, suggesting that the burials do not form part of any extensive flat cemetery here. The objects recovered comprise primarily Beaker vessels and human bone from the Early Bronze Age burial pits in Trench 15, together with Middle Bronze Age pottery, animal bone, burnt flint and worked flint of Neolithic-Bronze Age date from the two pits in Trench 2.

A preliminary assessment of importance indicates that the Middle Bronze Age remains located by the evaluation are of Minor to Moderate Importance, while the burial evidence from Trench 15 is considered to be of Major Importance as it is clearly associated with a monument scheduled as of national importance.

The trial trenches were variously targeted to intercept possible features visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs and linear and pit-type anomalies located by geophysical survey. No subsurface features that might account for the cropmarks were located by the evaluation, suggesting that the cropmarks seen in these areas reflect material within the ploughsoil rather than subsurface features. In only two of the trenches were the geophysical anomalies found to represent buried archaeological

remains, while elsewhere they appear to represent natural features or variations in the chalk substrata; possible linear features suggested by the survey were not located in any of the targeted trenches. A number of trenches also encountered pit-type features, of natural origin, that had not been detected by the geophysical survey. The general spread of features of whatever origin has been successfully predicted, and a reasonable reliance may therefore be placed on the geophysical survey. Given the relatively high trenched sample (3.4%), the even distribution of the trenches and the generally low level of remains encountered, it is considered unlikely that substantive archaeological remains may have been missed by the evaluation. However, further small features may occur: in particular, the proximity of a known Bronze Age settlement to the north-west indicates that the discovery of further remains is a possibility.

The Illustrative Design presents a diversion from the existing A303 carriageway to the south. The existing at grade roundabout to the west is replaced with a grade-separated junction, with the main carriageway of the A303 passing beneath the A360 in a cutting extending into Area P, returning to grade through much of Area P, before passing again into shallow cutting at the eastern extent of the area. It is intended that the design will avoid all Scheduled Monuments in this area. Excavation of the cutting for the main carriageway in the west of Area P and the construction of the main carriageway and slip roads at grade will destroy any other archaeological remains, however.

The construction of the main carriageway on-line will impact on the turnpike milestone. This feature is of Moderate Importance as part of a series and benefits from statutory protection as a Listed structure. It is recommended that the stone should be either protected during construction, or removed and replaced once works are complete: the latter course would require listed building consent.

The Middle Bronze Age pits identified by the present evaluation in the west of Area P are of Moderate Importance. Preservation *in situ* of these remains is not, therefore, merited. However, the proximity of known settlement remains here increases the likelihood of further discoveries and provision should be made for the location, identification and recording of any remains, prior to construction.

The Early Bronze Age Beaker burials are considered to be of Major Importance. The human remains encountered have been removed from the site, however, and preservation *in situ* of the burial pits is not, therefore, merited. Nevertheless, the presence of further burials must be considered possible in this area and provision should be made for the location, identification and recording of any remains, prior to construction. The site of the adjacent scheduled round barrow should be marked and protected during construction.

Given the location of Area P within the WHS, and the potential for settlement-related remains and human burials to be discovered, it is recommended that provision should be made for 'strip and record' investigation throughout Area P. This is in order to ensure that any further remains are exposed under archaeological control and to allow opportunity for an appropriate record to be made prior to their destruction.

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The co-operation of the land owners, Max and Rachel Hosier, is gratefully acknowledged.

The advice and comments provided by Roy Canham of Wiltshire County Council and David Batchelor of English Heritage are also gratefully acknowledged.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Chris Moore. The evaluation was directed in the field by Vaughan Birbeck. This report was prepared by Chris Moore and Tara Fairclough. The finds were assessed by Rob Court and the environmental samples by Sarah F. Wyles and Michael J. Allen. The illustrations were prepared by Linda Coleman.

A303 STONEHENGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS

Archaeological Evaluation Report Area P

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Project background

- 1.1.1. Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by the Highways Agency, through their design consultants, Mott MacDonald, to undertake archaeological evaluation of the Preferred Route of the A303 Stonehenge Improvement in Wiltshire.
- 1.1.2. An Illustrative Design for the proposed road improvement has been prepared by Mott MacDonald. This broadly follows the published Preferred Route but includes amendments where necessary to comply with highways standards and to reduce environmental impacts. An Illustrative Environmental Design proposes associated areas for environmental improvement, such as landscaping. A programme of archaeological field evaluation has been developed to inform the development of the road design, and to support the assessment of the likely impacts of the road on the cultural heritage.
- 1.1.3. An overall Field Evaluation Strategy (Wessex Archaeology 2001a) sets out the background and principles for the evaluation programme. Archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with this and a site specific Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2001b). Both the Strategy and the WSI were submitted for comment to English Heritage, the National Trust and the County Archaeological Officer.
- 1.1.4. This document sets out the project background, results and conclusions for the archaeological evaluation of Area P (**Figures 1 and 2**), to the east of Longbarrow Crossroads, Winterbourne Stoke. The fieldwork was undertaken between 3rd 19th December 2001.

1.2. Site description

- 1.2.1. The part of Area P affected by the Illustrative Design (**Figures 1 and 2**) comprises the northern parts of three arable fields. It extends from SU 4100 1414 to SU 4112 1415 and falls within the Parish of Wilsford cum Lake. The ground here undulates where it crosses the head of a shallow dry valley between the northern parts of Wilsford Down and Normanton Down, falling from 108.46m to 97.00m aOD (above Ordnance Datum), before rising gently to c. 103m aOD towards Stonehenge Down.
- 1.2.2. The part of Area P affected by the Illustrative Design contains two Scheduled Monuments (a round barrow and a prehistoric shaft, **Figure 2**), while the boundary with Area O comprises a linear bank and ditch earthwork, which is also a Scheduled Monument (**Figure 1**).

- 1.2.3. A Listed milestone stands on the southern verge of the A303, 0.7 km east of Longbarrow Crossroads.
- 1.2.4. The underlying geology comprises Middle Chalk. All the fields in Area P were under arable cultivation at the time of the evaluation.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. Archaeological Appraisal

- 2.1.1. The *A303 Stonehenge Archaeological Appraisal* (Mott Macdonald/Wessex Archaeology 2001) has identified five known sites within Area P:
 - 277: undated field systems revealed by aerial photographs (APs)(Figure 1)
 - 337: probably modern linear ditch revealed by APs (**Figure 1**)
 - 356-8: prehistoric shaft: The Wilsford Shaft (SM 10478) (**Figure 2**)
 - 360: linear features probably natural (**Figure 2**)
 - 509: round barrow (SM 10477)(**Figure 2**)
- 2.1.2. Fieldwalking for the Stonehenge Environs Project collected significant quantities of struck flint and prehistoric pottery from the north-western end of Area P (Richards 1990, Area 59). This coincides with the traces of the field system (277) and both probably relate to the later Bronze Age settlement excavated at Longbarrow Crossroads (Areas M and O). However, the concentration of surface finds does not extend into the area fieldwalked to the north of the A303 (Area N: Wessex Archaeology in Samuels 1992), nor to the east.
- 2.1.3. Geophysical survey undertaken for English Heritage on both sides of the A303 (Darvill 1991) did not locate any significant features. More recent geophysical survey (GSB 2001/82) has identified linear anomalies which may confirm traces of the field system (277), and other linear anomalies (360). It has also confirmed the position of the scheduled round barrow (509).
- 2.1.4. With the exception of the field system and its associated artefact scatters, the evidence for archaeological remains within Area P is scant. The area contains one excavated Bronze Age round barrow (509), an outlier from the Normanton Down group. The presence of the Wilsford Shaft, probably a Bronze Age well, may suggest that at that time the area was used for pasture.
- 2.1.5. Documentary evidence (Bond in Darvill 1991) suggests that during the Middle Ages the area formed downland grazed by the manors of Normanton and Wilsford. Although the modern field boundaries reflect the alignment of the boundary between these manors, its line (which is followed by the eastern limit of the Winterbourne Stoke Clump to the north of the A303) is now lost. The boundary between Areas P and R, which forms the parish boundary between Wilsford and Amesbury, also follows the same alignment. The boundary between Areas P and O follows a prehistoric earthwork (306,

- SM 10489) which also marks the boundary between Wilsford and Berwick St James.
- 2.1.6. Although the road existed earlier, the A303 was formalised as a turnpike road in 1760/1. The Listed milestone beside the A303 at SU 107415 (No 5/201) is thought to be of this period.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1. Trenching Strategy

- 3.1.1. A total of 18 trial trenches was excavated in Area P. Seventeen trenches were excavated in locations specified in the WSI, representing a sample of some 3.4% of the affected area. An additional trench (Trench 18) was excavated adjacent to Trench 15, following discussions with Wiltshire County Council and English Heritage.
- 3.1.2. Known Sites 337, 356-8 and 509 lie outside the area affected by the Illustrative Design and were therefore excluded from the evaluation.

3.2. Aims and Objectives

- 3.2.1. The overall aims and general objectives of the field evaluation survey were set out in the *Field Evaluation Strategy* (Wessex Archaeology 2001a). Site specific objectives were set out in the *WSI* (Wessex Archaeology 2001b). These were (within the limits of the specified techniques and trench disposition):
 - To confirm the nature of the geophysical anomalies, where targeted;
 - To confirm the nature of the cropmark features, where targeted;
 - To confirm the presence or absence of archaeological remains in areas that appear blank;
 - To identify and date if possible elements of the field systems (Site 277);
 - To locate and assess the preservation of possible linear features (Site 360); and
 - To assess the degree of preservation of remains across the whole road corridor.
- 3.2.2. In addition to these general aims and objectives, a number of trench specific objectives were identified, relating to the investigation of particular cropmarks or geophysical anomalies identified in previous work. These objectives are reviewed in section 5 below.

4. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

4.1. Mechanical Excavation

- 4.1.1. All trenches were marked out on the ground prior to the commencement of work
- 4.1.2. Topsoil and overburden were removed using a 360° excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist.
- 4.1.3. Topsoil and modern overburden were removed in a series of level spits down to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon.

4.2. Hand Excavation

- 4.2.1. All features of whatever origin requiring clarification were cleaned by hand and recorded in plan at an appropriate scale. Sufficient of the features located were investigated by hand in order to fulfil the aims of the project. Where features were thought to be of natural origin, this was confirmed by the excavation and recording of one or two samples in each trench, as appropriate.
- 4.2.2. Care was taken not to compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits that might be better excavated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation.

4.3. Recording

- 4.3.1. All archaeological features and deposits encountered during the evaluation were recorded by Wessex Archaeology using *pro forma* recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system.
- 4.3.2. A plan at an appropriate scale was prepared, showing the areas investigated and their relation to more permanent topographical features.
- 4.3.3. A representative section of each trial trench was recorded at an appropriate scale.
- 4.3.4. Other plans, sections and elevations of archaeological features and deposits were drawn as necessary at 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50 as appropriate. Drawings were made in pencil on permanent drafting film.
- 4.3.5. The spot height of all principal features and levels were calculated in metres relative to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places.
- 4.3.6. A full photographic record was created using both monochrome prints and colour transparencies.

- 4.3.7. An environmental sampling strategy was developed during the course of the project. This broadly followed best practice developed by Wessex Archaeology during the Stonehenge Environs Project and was adopted throughout the Stage 1 evaluations. The strategy also took into account the draft *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology* (English Heritage 2001) and the recommendations contained in *Environmental archaeology and archaeological evaluations* (Association for Environmental Archaeology 1995).
- 4.3.8. The project archive was prepared in accordance with procedures outlined in *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museum and Galleries Commission, 1992) and in accordance with the requirements of Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, who were consulted by Wessex Archaeology prior to commencement of the investigation.

5. RESULTS

5.1. Introduction

- 5.1.1. This section presents a summary of the principal archaeological features and deposits investigated. The objectives of each trench or, where appropriate, group of trenches, are also reviewed.
- 5.1.2. A catalogue of the features and deposits found in each trench is presented in Appendix 1 and detailed descriptions are available in the project archive.

5.2. Trenches 1-5 (Figure 1)

- 5.2.1. Trenches 1-5 were positioned to investigate a series of linear cropmarks forming part of an extensive field system (site 277), together with a number of pit-type anomalies identified by the geophysical survey (Trenches 2 and 3).
- 5.2.2. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed in Trench 1; there was no trace of the cropmark that was anticipated in the northern and southern ends of the trench.
- 5.2.3. In Trench 2, two Middle Bronze Age pits (203 and 205) were recorded. Both pits contained animal bone, flint and Middle Bronze Age pottery. The location of these pits corresponded very broadly to the two pit-type anomalies identified by the geophysics. No trace of a linear anomaly, or the anticipated cropmark, was found.
- 5.2.4. In Trenches 3 and 4, a number of pit type anomalies identified by geophysics were located, but on investigation these were found to be natural features. No trace was found of the anticipated cropmark features.
- 5.2.5. In Trench 5, a short linear feature identified by geophysics was located, but investigation revealed it to be a tree throw (504). A further feature (502, not

identified by geophysics) was also found to be a tree throw. No trace was found of the cropmark that was anticipated in the eastern half of the trench.

5.3. Trenches 6 - 8 (Figure 1)

5.3.1. Trenches 6 and 7 were located to investigate a series of pit-type anomalies. No features or deposits of archaeological significance, nor any trace of the pit type anomalies, were found in Trenches 6 and 7. In Trench 8, two possible pit type features (801 and 803), not identified by geophysics, were found to be tree throws.

5.4. Trenches 9 - 14 (Figure 2)

- 5.4.1. Trenches 9-14 were excavated to investigate a series of linear and pit-type anomalies.
- 5.4.2. In Trench 9, evaluation revealed no features or deposits of archaeological significance and no trace of the linear anomalies identified by geophysics.
- 5.4.3. In Trench 10, a possible pit-type feature not identified by geophysics was observed, but investigation revealed it to be a tree throw (1002).
- 5.4.4. In Trench 11, a possible pit-type feature identified by geophysics was observed but investigation revealed it to be a tree throw (1103). No trace was found of the linear anomaly identified by geophysics.
- 5.4.5. In Trench 12, evaluation revealed no trace of the linear and pit-type anomalies identified by geophysics. A possible pit-type anomaly not identified by geophysics was found to be a tree throw (1203).
- 5.4.6. In Trench 13, evaluation revealed no features or deposits of archaeological significance and no trace of the pit-type anomaly identified by geophysics.
- 5.4.7. In Trench 14, no trace of the linear or pit-type anomalies identified by geophysics was found. Two pit-type features not identified by geophysics were observed but investigation revealed these to be natural features.

5.5. Trench 15 (Figure 2)

- 5.5.1. Trench 15 was excavated to investigate the survival of any features related to the scheduled round barrow (site 509) to the south.
- 5.5.2. Evaluation revealed two Early Bronze Age burial pits, 1502 and 1509. Burial pit 1502, was 2.22m long, 1.64m wide and 0.55m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a north-south aligned crouched inhumation with associated Beaker pottery. The inhumation was excavated and removed under Home Office licence, on the advice of English Heritage. The skeletal remains and Beaker pottery showed signs of displacement or disturbance, from which an animal skull and a bone belt ring were recovered (1513). The displacement may suggest either that the inhumation had been deposited in a coffin or chamber, creating a void into which the grave backfill subsequently

- collapsed, displacing the remains, or possibly that the grave had been disturbed after skeletalisation, presumably in antiquity.
- 5.5.3. The second burial pit, 1509, appears to be the disturbed grave of a child. The pit was 1.28m long, 1.05m wide and 0.24m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. It contained a complete Beaker pot and four fragments of neonatal/infant bone.

5.6. Trenches 16 and 17 (Figure 2)

5.6.1. Trenches 16 and 17 were excavated to investigate pit-type anomalies Evaluation revealed no trace of the linear or pit type anomalies identified by geophysics. Two pit type features not identified by geophysics were observed in each trench, but investigation revealed these to be natural features.

5.7. Trench 18 (Figure 2)

5.7.1. Additional Trench 18 was excavated to the north-east of Trench 15 following discovery of the crouched inhumation with associated Beaker pottery, in order to investigate a cluster of pit-type anomalies identified by geophysics and ascertain the presence of further burials. A number of possible pit-type features were observed, but investigation revealed these to be of natural origin.

6. FINDS

6.1. Introduction

6.1.1. The evaluation of Area P produced a fairly small assemblage with a range of materials, including human and animal bone, worked and burnt flint, and pottery. All the finds have been washed and quantified. The pottery has been categorised by ware group and spot dates recorded by context. The burnt, unworked flint has been quantified and discarded. Table 1 provides a breakdown of all the finds by number and weight (in grammes). All the finds were recovered from two trenches, 2 and 15 and they are all demonstrably or probably prehistoric in date.

Material	Number	Weight (g)
Animal Bone	113	972
Burnt Flint	2	270
Flint	15	269
Human Bone	2 individuals	-
Pottery	137	1,121
Early Bronze Age	131	1,074
Middle Bronze Age	6	47

Table1: All finds by number and weight

6.2. Pottery

- 6.2.1. The pottery assemblage comprises two Early Bronze Age Beaker vessels, both from inhumation burials, and a small group of Middle Bronze Age sherds.
- 6.2.2. One Beaker vessel came from pit 1502 and the second from 1509, both in Trench 15. Pit 1502 contained an adult inhumation, and was accompanied by a decorated Beaker. This vessel survives almost complete, but fragmentary. The fabric is fine and grog-tempered, and the vessel is decorated with all-over comb impressions. Very close to 1502, a smaller pit 1509 contained fragments of infant bones and most of a Beaker vessel in fragments. This second vessel is in a grog-tempered fabric very similar to that of the decorated Beaker from 1502, but is completely plain, although relatively well finished. Both vessels are of similar form, with smooth, S-shaped profiles.
- 6.2.3. The Middle Bronze Age assemblage consists of six sherds weighing 47 grammes. This pottery came from two pits, 203 and 205, both in Trench 2. The sherds from 203 are thick-walled, and tempered with coarse and frequent shell inclusions, while those from 205 are coarsely flint-tempered. No diagnostic sherds are present, and this material is therefore dated solely on fabric grounds.

6.3. Worked Bone

6.3.1. The evaluation recovered one worked bone object (object number 40) from burial pit 1502 on Trench 15. The object is a Class I belt ring, an object type which is typically found in Beaker burials (Clarke 1970, figs. 143 and 261).

6.4. Flint

- 6.4.1. The flint assemblage is fairly small and consists entirely of waste flakes. These were recovered from three features: 205 (Trench 2), 1502 and 1509 (both in Trench 15). The raw material is from a chalk source and there is a varying degree of patination. Most of the flakes are broad and squat, although some are longer and more blade like, especially those recovered from burial pit 1502. In the absence of diagnostic pieces this small collection can be only broadly dated as Neolithic-Bronze Age.
- 6.4.2. Burnt, unworked flint was found in pit 203 in Trench 2 (2 pieces weighing 207g), which also contained Middle Bronze Age pottery. Burnt flint is not inherently dateable, but is generally associated with prehistoric activity.

6.5. Human Bone

6.5.1. Two inhumation burials were excavated. The first, from pit 1502, contained the slightly disturbed remains of a mature adult male (c.30-40 years). The bone is in relatively good condition, although vertebrae were not well preserved, and the skull is very fragmentary. The second burial, in pit 1509,

comprised a disturbed grave, containing four fragments of neonatal/infant bone.

7. PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1. Introduction

7.1.1. Environmental samples were taken from the Beaker burial pit (1502) in Trench 15 in order to recover bone and artefacts, and to identify the survival, nature and range of preserved charred remains and molluscs. The potential of these remains to aid in the interpretation of the burial rite and the contemporary landscape was assessed.

7.2. Method

- 7.2.1. A single sample of 0.5 litres from inside a Beaker vessel for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal. Eleven samples were sieved from a Beaker pit around a skeleton for the retrieval of charcoal, bone and artefact. Two samples from within the Beaker pit were processed for molluscs.
- 7.2.2. The bulk sample was processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh and the residues fractionated into 4 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fraction (>4 mm) was sorted, weighed and discarded. The flot was scanned under a x10 x30 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 2**), to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and charcoal remains.

		-					Flot				Residue
Feature type/ no	Context	Sample	size litres		Grain	Chaff	Weed uncharred		Charcoal >5.6mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm
Vessel Fill								•		•	
1509	1512	13	0.5	3 2.25	-	-	С	-	-	moll-t (A)	-
Burial Pit									•		
1502	1505	3	5	Artefact S	ieved						-
1502	1505	12	0.02	Artefact S	ieved						30
1502	1515	5	0.4	Artefact S	ieved						-
1502	1515	6	1.6	Artefact S	ieved						10
1502	1515	7	0.8	Artefact S	ieved						-
1502	1515	8	2.2	Artefact S	ieved						-
1502	1515	9	0.6	Artefact S	ieved						_
1502	1515	10	2	Artefact S	ieved						_
1502	1515	11	0.2	Artefact S	ieved						-
1502	1515	14	1.6	Artefact S	ieved						1
1513	1514	4	5	Artefact S	ieved						5

KEY: A^{**} = exceptional, A^{*} = 30+ items, A = \geq 10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts, moll-t = land snails

NOTE: ¹flot is total, but flot in superscript = ml of rooty material. ²Unburnt seed in lower case to distinguish from charred remains

Table 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

7.2.3. Samples of 2000g were processed by standard methods (Evans 1972) for land snails. The flots were rapidly assessed by scanning under a x10 - x 30 stereo-binocular microscope to provide some information on shell preservation and species representation. The numbers of shells and the presence of taxonomic groups were quasi quantified (**Table 3**).

7.3. Results

Charred plant remains

7.3.1. The flot was small (average flot size for a 10 litre sample is 60 millilitres) with 75% rooty material and a few uncharred weed seeds, which can be indicative of stratigraphic movement. No charred remains were observed but land snails were recorded.

Charcoal

7.3.2. Charcoal fragments of greater than 5.6 mm were retrieved from four artefact samples and are recorded in **Table 2**. The presence of charcoal fragments can provide limited evidence for the nature of the local woodland. Species identification may also suggest whether the wood was selected for a specific high-temperature burn (e.g. pyre, kiln, furnace), or originated from more 'domestic' fires. Although the charcoal could provide a radiocarbon determination, its precise functional relationship to the burial is uncertain and it therefore cannot be considered to provide a date on the burial event.

Land snails

-	_	
SAMPLE	3	4
CONTEXT	1505	1514
FEATURE	1502	1513
WEIGHT (G)	2000	2000
DEPTH	spot	spot
Open country	species	}
Pupilla	В	Α
muscorum		
Vertigo spp.	C	С
Helicella itala	С	Α
Vallonia spp.	Α	Α
Catholic species	s	
Trichia hispida	-	С
Cochlicopa spp.	-	С
Burrowing spec	cies	
Cecilioides	-	-
acicula		
Approx totals	35	50

KEY: $A = \ge 10$ items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (+) = present

Table 3: Land snail assessment from Beaker pit

- 7.3.3. Shell numbers are typically low for these backfill contexts, and contain typically open country taxa (cf. Evans 1984). However, assemblages from pits need to be considered with some caution: the shells may have derived from the local landscape and fallen into an open pit, or they may have weathered in from the soils through which the pit was cut, or been dumped in with soils and extraneous material in the backfill of the pit (cf. Shackley 1976; Thomas 1985).
- 7.3.4. The two land snail assemblages therefore have no potential to provide detailed environmental information. However, their presence in a securely dated context here can contribute to the mapping of land-use development around Stonehenge (cf Allen *et al.* 1990; Allen 1997).

8. DISCUSSION

8.1. Summary

- 8.1.1. Evaluation revealed only four features of archaeological interest, in two trenches located at either extent of Area P. Both groups of features are associated with known archaeological sites, however.
- 8.1.2. Two possible rubbish pits in Trench 2 at the western extent of the area produced pottery dated to the Middle Bronze Age. These would appear to be related to Site 277, an undated field system located to the south-east of a settlement at Longbarrow Roundabout dated to the later Bronze Age. The features may relate to agricultural activity, or they may represent peripheral activity associated with the Bronze Age settlement to the north-west.
- 8.1.3. Two burial pits located in Trench 15 at the eastern extent of Area P contained Early Bronze Age Beaker pottery. Geophysical survey of this part of Area P indicates the presence of a number of large pit-type anomalies close to Trench 15, but excavation of an additional Trench (18) to investigate some of these found only natural features. This suggests that the burials do not form part of any extensive flat cemetery here, although they clearly relate to the previously excavated Bronze Age round barrow, Site 509. Excavation of this site in 1960 produced other burials associated with Beaker pottery.
- 8.1.4. The finds recovered comprise primarily Beaker vessels and human bone from the Early Bronze Age burial pits in Trench 15. A single worked bone object, a belt loop, was also recovered from the principal burial context here, together with charcoal and land snails.
- 8.1.5. Other finds included Middle Bronze Age pottery, animal bone, burnt flint and worked flint of Neolithic-Bronze Age date from two pits in Trench 2.
- 8.1.6. A number of pit and linear type anomalies identified by geophysics were located but investigation found the majority of these to be tree throws, or other natural features and variations in the natural geology. There was only a limited number of instances where archaeological features were observed to coincide with the geophysical survey. A number of features were observed

throughout the evaluation which geophysics failed to identify; however, the vast majority of these features were of natural origin. No features were identified that could be related to anticipated crop marks.

8.2. Preservation of Archaeological Remains

- 8.2.1. The distribution of archaeological remains in Area P was extremely restricted, but correlated well with two known sites. The archaeological features correlated well with geophysical anomalies in Trench 15, but less clearly in Trench 2. Elsewhere, the identification of pit-type anomalies was notably inconsistent, with features not predicted by geophysics being encountered across the whole area: all these pit-type features, whether predicted or not, were found to be of natural origin. Linear anomalies were found to be even more elusive; indeed, no linear features were recorded anywhere in Area P.
- 8.2.2. As seen elsewhere along the Preferred Route, the cropmark features targeted by the trenches were not located and do not therefore seem to represent buried archaeological remains. Rather, the soil marks seen on aerial photographs may result from variable degrees of chalk suspended in the ploughsoil, derived from the boundaries of extinct field systems.

8.3. Assessment of Importance

8.3.1. The WSI reviewed the Monument Interest Value (MIV) previously calculated (Blore *et al* 1995) for the known sites within Area P (Wessex Archaeology 2001b). The scores for the five known sites within the evaluated area are shown in **Table 4**. These suggest that three of the known sites are of Moderate Importance; the two sites that are scheduled are of Major Importance, however.

Site	Type	Survival	Potential	GV	GV	Diversity	SAM	Total
				(clust.)	(Assoc)			MIV
277	fields	1	2	2	3	2	X	22
337	linear	0	0	0	0	0	X	0
356-	shaft	1	1	1	1	1	Y	45
8								
360	linear	1	2	1	2	1	X	11
509	barrow	1	1	1	1	1	Y	45

Table 4: Review of Monument Interest Values

- 8.3.2. These scores reflect the current knowledge and perceived importance of the sites. Thus, the barrow and the shaft are considered to be of Major Importance because of their situation within the WHS and their scheduled status, despite the fact they have been extensively excavated. The Moderate Importance attached to the field system acknowledges its association with a known settlement.
- 8.3.3. The evaluation in Area P has located few archaeological remains. A preliminary assessment of the importance of these remains is presented in **Table 5** below.

Trench	Type	Survival	Potential	GV	GV	Diversity	SAM/	Total
				(cluster)	(assoc.)		MPP	
15	EBA Beaker burials associated with round barrow (site 509)	2	2	2	2	1	Y	45
2	MBA pits	1	2	2	3	1	X	19

KEY: BA = Bronze Age, EBA = Early Bronze Age, LBA = Late Bronze Age, EIA = Early Iron Age, RB = Romano-British

Table 5: Preliminary assessment of importance

- 8.3.4. The preliminary assessment of importance indicates that the Middle Bronze Age pits in Trench 2 are of Moderate Importance, as they lie within the WHS and appear to be associated with the field system, Site 277, which may itself be associated with the later Bronze Age settlement at Longbarrow Crossroads. The burials in Trench 15, are clearly associated with the scheduled Bronze Age round barrow, Site 509. Although they do not lie within the presently scheduled area, this association, together with their potential wider association within the Stonehenge landscape and their location within the WHS, indicates that they should be regarded as of Major Importance.
- 8.3.5. The evaluation has not provided any evidence to support the re-scoring of any of the previously known sites in Area P (**Table 4**).
- 8.3.6. The milestone (no. 5/201) is Listed Grade II. Its value derives from its position as part of a prominent series associated with the turnpiking of the A303 and it may be considered to be of Moderate Importance in line with its statutory designation. No re-consideration of the importance implied by its designation is proposed here.

8.4. Confidence Rating

- 8.4.1. The evaluation has located a limited range of archaeological features in two locations in Area P. The general aims and objectives of the evaluation, as set out in the WSI, have therefore been fulfilled. In particular, the nature of the geophysical anomalies, the presence or absence of archaeological remains in areas that appear blank, and the degree of preservation across Area P have been assessed. Where the predicted features were encountered, the specific objectives set for each trench have also been achieved.
- 8.4.2. Four trenches (Trenches 1-4) were designed to intercept possible features visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs, the majority of which were thought to represent part of an extensive field system (Site 277). No subsurface features that might account for the cropmarks were located by the evaluation, however. This phenomenon probably reflects the nature of the cropmark evidence (see 8.2.2 above).
- 8.4.3. Fourteen trenches (Trenches 2 and 5-18) were excavated to examine anomalies detected by geophysical survey. In only two of these trenches (Trenches 2 and 15) were the anomalies found to represent buried archaeological remains, while in the remaining nine trenches (trenches 5, 10,

11 and 13) they appear to represent natural features or variations in the chalk substrata. Only pit-type anomalies suggested by the geophysical survey were located; the (often ephemeral) possible linear features suggested by the survey were not located in any of the targeted trenches. A number of trenches also encountered pit-type features, of natural origin, that had not been detected by the geophysical survey. Despite this apparent inconsistency, however, the general spread of features of whatever origin has been successfully predicted, and a reasonable reliance may therefore be placed on the geophysical survey as a means of predicting substantial archaeological remains in these areas.

8.4.4. The evaluation in Area P has successfully confirmed the nature, date range and character of the very limited archaeological remains predicted from the previous surveys. Given the relatively high trenched sample (3.4%), the even distribution of the trenches and the generally low level of remains encountered, it is considered unlikely that substantive archaeological remains may have been missed by the evaluation. However, further small features may occur: in particular, the proximity of a known Bronze Age settlement to the north-west indicates that the discovery of further remains is a possibility.

8.5. Potential for Further Analysis

8.5.1. The few archaeological features encountered have produced small datasets. Only those from the Beaker burial in Trench 15 offer any potential for further analysis. The human bone and associated artefacts should be analysed; species identification from associated charcoal remains may offer some insight into the use of woodland resources.

8.6. Recommendations for Mitigation

- 8.6.1. The Illustrative Design presents a diversion from the existing A303 carriageway to the south. The existing at grade roundabout to the west is replaced with a grade-separated junction, with the main carriageway of the A303 passing beneath the A360 in a cutting extending into Area P, returning to grade at about ch. 6900. The cutting accommodates a slip road on the southern edge to allow westbound traffic to join the A360. In the east of Area P, the illustrative design for the cut and cover tunnel option shows the road passing into shallow cutting from ch. 7300. For the shallow bored tunnel option, the road will diverge from the existing carriageway and enter cutting from about ch. 7250, with landtake extending up to the scheduled round barrow (site no. 509). No additional landtake for landscaping is proposed in Area P.
- 8.6.2. It is intended that the design and construction will avoid all Scheduled Monuments. Excavation of the cutting for the main carriageway in the west of Area P and the construction of the main carriageway and slip roads at grade will destroy any other archaeological remains, however.
- 8.6.3. The construction of the main carriageway on-line will impact on the turnpike milestone. This feature is of Moderate Importance as part of a series and benefits from statutory protection as a Listed structure. Whilst it is not yet

clear whether works will impinge directly on the stone, it is recommended that the stone should be either protected during construction by means of a suitable fence, or removed for safekeeping and replaced close to its original position once works are complete: the latter course would require listed building consent.

- 8.6.4. The Middle Bronze Age pits identified by the present evaluation in the west of Area P are of Moderate Importance. Preservation *in situ* of these remains is not, therefore, merited and provision should be made for the location, identification and recording of associated remains, prior to construction. However, the proximity of known settlement remains here increases the likelihood of further discoveries.
- 8.6.5. The Early Bronze Age Beaker burials are considered to be of Major Importance. The human remains encountered have been removed from the site, however, and preservation *in situ* of the burial pits is not, therefore, merited. Nevertheless, although no evidence for any other burials was found during the evaluation, the presence of further such discoveries must be considered possible in this area and provision should be made for the location, identification and recording of any remains, prior to construction. The adjacent scheduled round barrow (Site 509) should be marked and protected during construction by means of a suitable fence.
- 8.6.6. Given the location of Area P within the WHS, and the potential for settlement-related remains and human burials to be discovered, it is recommended that provision should be made for 'strip and record' investigation throughout Area P. This is in order to ensure that any further remains are exposed under archaeological control and to allow opportunity for an appropriate record to be made prior to their destruction. The nature and extent of the Bronze Age settlement activity and associated field system in the west and the area will be of particular interest, together with confirmation of the extent of burials associated with the round barrow in the east.

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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

The order in which the deposits are listed reflects their stratigraphical position, except where noted.

* =layer with finds + =sample taken

Trench 1		Max Depth: 0.30m	Length: 50m	Width: 1.90m	
No.	Type	Description			Depth
101	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty <0.03m and chalk flecks.	clay with moderate flint and chalk	fragments	0-0.30m
102	Natural	Natural weathered chalk.			0.30m→

Trench	2	Max Depth: 0.30m	Length: 50m	Width: 1.90)m
No.	Type	Description			Depth
201	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty <0.03m and chalk flecks.	clay with moderate flint and chalk	fragments	0-0.30m
204	Fill	Dark brown loose silty c pottery, burnt flint and ar Age. Fill of 203 and seale	0.30-0.40m		
203	Pit		w/straight sides and a flat base, 1.4 ddle Bronze Age rubbish pit. Cuts 20		0.30-0.40m
206	Fill	Very dark grey silty clay of 205 and sealed by 201	with rare flint and chalk fragments <	<0.03m. Fill	0.30-0.42m
207	Fill		ty loam with occasional chalk and flir n pea chalk, 0.10m deep. Fill of 205.	nt fragments	0.30-0.48m
208	Fill	Very dark brown grey si deep. Contains pottery, Bronze Age. Deliberate b	0.30-0.61m		
205	Pit	Sub-circular with moder 2.70m wide and 0.31m Cuts 202 and filled with 2	0.30-0.61m		
202	Natural	Natural weathered chalk.	<u> </u>		0.30m→

Trencl	h 3	Max Depth: 0.33m Length: 10m Width: 10m			1
No. Type Description					Depth
301	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay with moderate flint and chalk fragments <0.03m and chalk flecks.			0-0.33m
302	Natural	Natural weathered chalk.			0.33m→

Trencl	h 4	Max Depth: 0.34m Length: 50m Width: 1.90			0m
No. Type Description					Depth
401	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay with moderate flint and chalk fragments <0.03m and chalk flecks.			0-0.34m
402	Natural	Natural weathered chalk.			0.34m→

Trench 5		Max Depth: 0.25m Length: 50m Width:			0m		
No.	Type	Description	Description				
500	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay and chalk flecks.	Dark grey brown silty clay with moderate flint and chalk fragments <0.03m				
503	Fill	Fill of 502, sealed by 500.			$0.25m\rightarrow$		
502	Tree Throw	Irregular cut of tree throw t	filled with 503.		0.25m→		
505	Fill	Fill of 504, sealed by 500.			0.25m→		
504	Tree Throw	Irregular cut of tree throw filled with 505.			0.25m→		
501	Natural	Natural weathered chalk.	0.25m→				

Trench 6		Max Depth: 0.24m Length: 10m Width: 10m			n
No. Type Description				Depth	
601	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay with moderate flint and chalk fragments <0.03m			0-0.24m
		and chalk flecks.			
602	Natural	Natural weathered chalk.			0.24m→

Trench 7		Max Depth: 0.40m	Length: 50m	Width: 2m	
700	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay with moderate flint and chalk fragments <0.03m			0-0.40m
		and chalk flecks.			
701	Natural	Natural weathered chalk.			0.40m→

Trench 8		Max Depth: 0.30m	Length: 50m	Width: 2m		
No.	Type	Description			Depth	
805	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay	Dark grey brown silty clay with moderate flint and chalk fragments < 0.03m			
		and chalk flecks.	and chalk flecks.			
802	Fill	Fill of 801, sealed by 805.	Fill of 801, sealed by 805.			
801	Tree Throw	Irregular cut of tree throw,	rregular cut of tree throw, filled with 802.			
804	Fill	Fill of 803, sealed by 805.			0.30m→	
803	Tree Throw	Irregular cut of tree throw,	filled with 804.		0.30m→	
806	Natural	Natural weathered chalk.			0.30m→	

Trench 9		Max Depth: 0.31m	Length: 10m	Width: 10m	
No.	Type	Description			Depth
901	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay and chalk flecks.	Dark grey brown silty clay with moderate flint and chalk fragments <0.03m and chalk flecks.		
902	Natural	Natural weathered chalk.			0.31m→

Trench	10	Max Depth: 0.36m	Length: 50m	Width: 2m	
No.	Type	Description			Depth
1000	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay with moderate flint and chalk fragments			0-0.36m
		<0.03m and chalk flecks.			
1003	Fill	Dark brown silty loam	Dark brown silty loam with rare flint rubble <0.02m, rare chalk rubble		
		<0.02m and pea chalk. Fi			
1005	Fill	Very dark brown silty cla	y loam with moderate pea chalk. Fill	of 1002.	0.52-0.68m
1002	Tree Throw	Irregular with shallow/straight sides and an irregular base, 0.32m deep.			0.36-0.68m
		Cuts 1001 and filled with	1005 and 1003. Possibly a very irregu	ılar pit.	

1001	Natural	Natural weathered chalk.	0.36m→
1001	1 1000001 000	ratarar weatherea chain.	0.50111 /

Trench 11		Max Depth: 0.32m	Max Depth: 0.32m Length: 10m Width: 10m		n
No.	Type	Description	Description		
1101	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty	clay with moderate flint and chalk	fragments	0-0.32m
		<0.03m and chalk flecks.			
1104	Fill	Fill of 1103, sealed by 11	.01.		0.32-0.82m
1103	Tree Throw	Irregular cut filled with 1	104.		0.32-0.82m
1102	Natural	Natural weathered chalk.			0.32m→

Trench 12		Max Depth: 0.36m	66m Length: 50m Width: 1.90		0m	
No.	Type	Description			Depth	
1201	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty	clay with moderate flint and chalk	fragments	0-0.36m	
		<0.03m and chalk flecks.				
1204	Fill	Fill of 1203, sealed by 12	201.		0.36m→	
1203	Tree Throw	Irregular cut filled with 1	204.		0.36m→	
1202	Natural	Natural weathered chalk.			0.36m→	

Trench 13		Max Depth: 0.30m	Length: 50m	Width: 2m	
No.	Type	Description			Depth
1301	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay and chalk flecks.	Dark grey brown silty clay with moderate flint and chalk fragments <0.03m and chalk flecks.		
1302	Natural	Natural weathered chalk.			0.30m→

Trench 1	14	Max Depth: 0.30m	Length: 10m	Width: 10m	
No.	Type	Description			Depth
1401	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay and chalk flecks.	Dark grey brown silty clay with moderate flint and chalk fragments <0.03m and chalk flecks.		
1403	Natural	Natural weathered chalk.			0.30m→

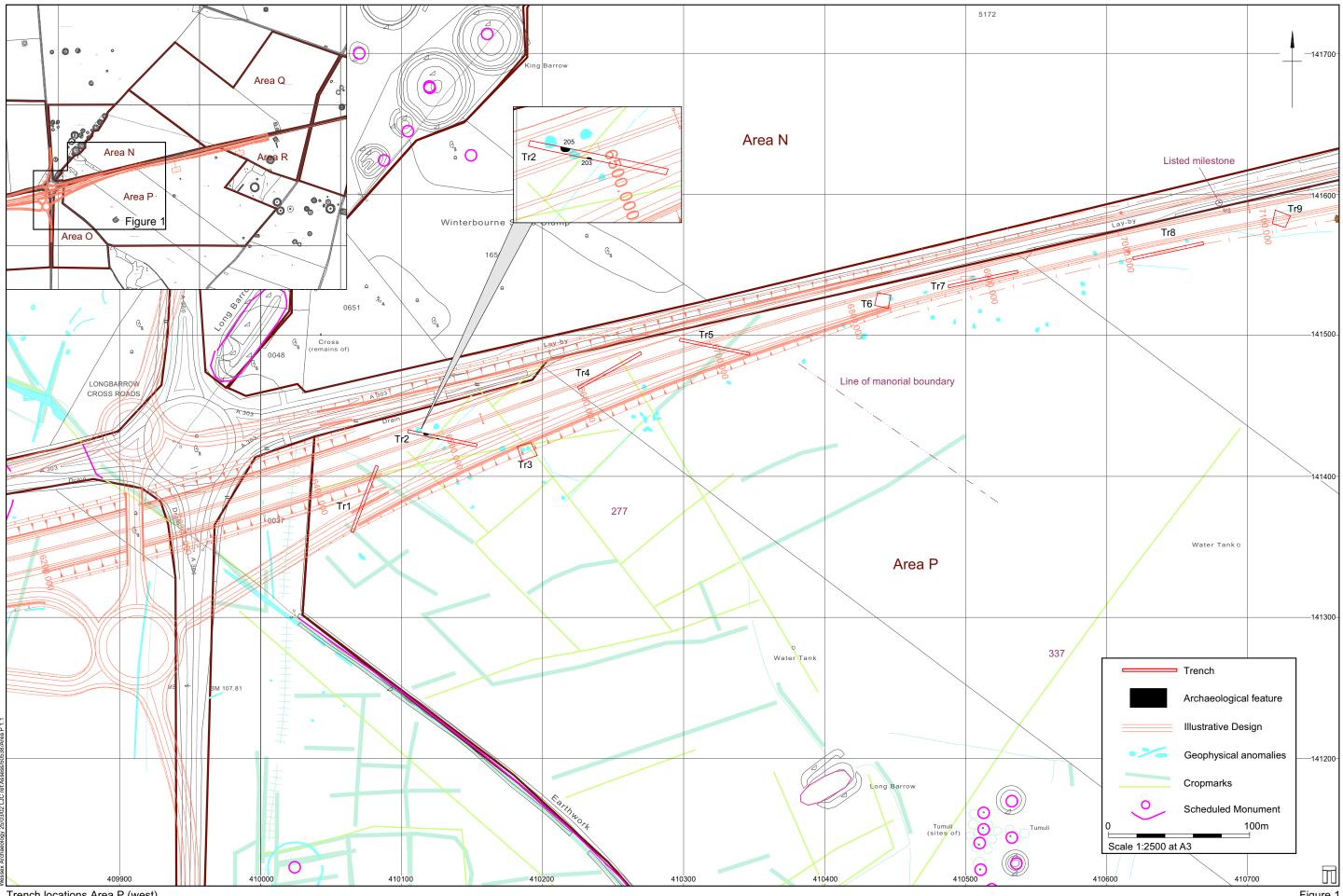
Tuench 15		Mary Daniela, 0.20m	I	W7: J41		
Trench 15		Max Depth: 0.30m Length: 20m Width: 5m		Depth		
No.	Type	Description	Description			
1500	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty	clay with moderate flint and chall	fragments	0-0.30m	
		<0.03m and chalk flecks.				
1503	Fill	Mid brown sandy clay lo	oam with moderate flint rubble < 0.08n	n, rare chalk	0.30-0.68m	
*		rubble <0.01m and pea	chalk. Contains lithics. Fill of 1513	s, sealed by		
		1500.				
1504	Fill	Light/mid brown silty cl	ay loam with moderate flint rubble <	0.04m, rare	0.30-0.68m	
*		chalk rubble <0.04m an	d pea chalk. Bone and Fe object. F	ill of 1513,		
		sealed by 1500.				
1514	Fill	Mid brown sandy clay lo	oam with moderate flint rubble < 0.08n	n, rare chalk	0.30-0.68m	
*		rubble <0.01m and pea c	halk. Contains animal skull and bone	belt buckle.		
		Fill of 1513, sealed by 15	500.			
1513	Disturbance	Cut number attributed to	disturbance of grave 1502. Disturban	ce probably	0.30-0.68m	
		happened in antiquity	but after skeletalisation of remain	ins due to		
		displacement of bones a	nd Beaker pottery. Possibly grave ro	bbers. Cuts		
		1505 and contains 1514,	1504, and 1503 all of which represe	nt the same		
		deposit.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
1505	Fill	Mid/light brown grey silty clay loam with moderate chalk rubble <0.04m,			0.45-0.0.85m	
*/+		rare flint rubble <0.101	m and rare pea chalk. Contains Be	eaker burial		
		including skeleton and po	ottery. Beaker pottery dates this burial	to the Early		

		Bronze Age. Fill of 1502 and cut by 1513.	
1515	Skeleton	Crouched inhumation aligned N-S, originally deposited in a	
+		coffin/chamber. Skeleton appears to have been disturbed in antiquity.	
		Fragments of Beaker pottery were observed along the west side of the	
		remains. 1.10m long and 0.64m wide. Burial of 1502.	
1508	Fill	Mid/light brown grey silty loam with frequent chalk rubble <0.06m and	0.30-0.85m
		pea chalk. Weathering layer suggesting grave was left open before	
		deposition of human burial, thicker to the south. Fill of 1502.	
1502	Burial Pit	Sub-circular with vertical/straight sides and a flat base, 2.22m long, 1.64m	0.30-0.85m
		wide and 0.55m deep. Contains a crouched burial 1515 aligned N-S,	
		originally deposited in a coffin/chamber with associated Beaker pottery	
		and other grave goods. Skeletal and grave good displacement is probably	
		due to a combination of anthropogenic disturbance in antiquity and the	
		presence of a void above the burial. Burial is dated to the Early Bronze	
		Age. Cuts 1501 and filled with 1508, 1515, and 1505.	
1507	Fill	Mid brown silty loam with rare flint rubble <0.07m, rare chalk rubble	0.30-0.53m
*		<0.02m and pea chalk. Contains complete Beaker pot, flint, four sherds of	
		neonatal/infant human bone and other sherds of pottery. Beaker pottery	
		dates this burial to the Early Bronze Age. Fill of 1506 and sealed by 1500.	
1511	Beaker Pot	Complete Beaker pot.	
1510	Fill	Light/mid brown sandy silty loam with moderate chalk rubble <0.03m and	0.30-0.54m
		rare pea chalk. Fill of 1509.	
1509	Burial Pit	Sub-circular with moderate/straight sides and a concave base, 1.28m long,	0.30-0.54m
		1.05m wide and 0.24m deep. Disturbed child's grave with associated	
		Beaker pot probably containing an offering. Burial is dated to the Early	
		Bronze Age. Cuts 1501 and filled by 1510 and 1507.	
1501	Natural	Natural weathered chalk.	0.30m→

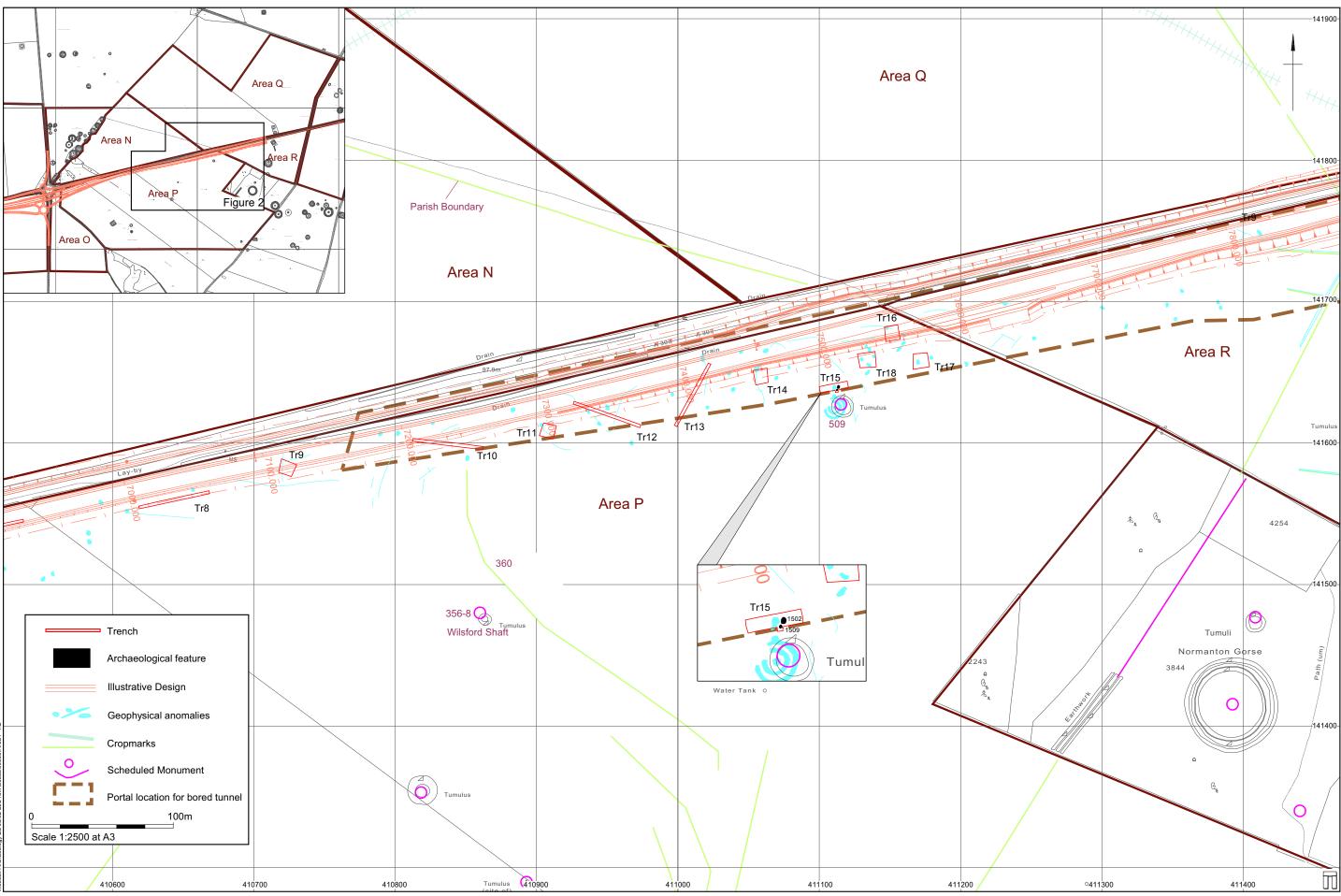
Trench 16		Max Depth: 0.30m Lei	ength: 10m	Width: 10m	
No.	Type	Description			Depth
1601	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay <0.03m and chalk flecks.	y with moderate flint and chalk	fragments	0-0.30m
1602	Natural	Natural weathered chalk.			0.30m→

Trench 17		Max Depth: 0.35m	Length: 10m Width: 10r		ı
No.	Type	Description			Depth
1701	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty <0.03m and chalk flecks.	clay with moderate flint and chalk	fragments	0-0.35m
1702	Natural	Natural weathered chalk.			0.35m→

Trench 18		Max Depth: 0.27m	Length: 10m	Width: 10n	n
No.	Type	Description	Depth		
1801	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty	clay with moderate flint and chalk	fragments	0-0.27m
		< 0.03m and chalk flecks.			
1803	Fill	Fill of 1805, sealed by 18	0.27-0.61m		
1804	Fill	Fill of 1805.	0.27-0.61m		
1805	Tree Throw	Irregular cut filled with 1	0.27-0.61m		
1807	Fill	Fill of 1806, sealed by 18	801.		0.27-0.52m
1806	Tree Throw	Irregular cut filled with 1	0.27-0.52m		
1809	Fill	Fill of 1808, sealed by 18	801.		0.27-0.47m
1808	Tree Throw	Irregular cut filled with 1	809.		0.27-0.0-47m
1802	Natural	Natural weathered chalk.			0.27m→



Trench locations Area P (west)



Trench locations Area P (east)

