

Wessex Archaeology

A303 Stonehenge Archaeological Surveys

Archaeological Evaluation Report: Areas L and O

Final Issue

Ref: 50412.1a

July 2002

A303 STONEHENGE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS
Archaeological Evaluation Report
Areas L and O

Prepared for

Mott MacDonald
Capital House
48-52 Andover Road
WINCHESTER
SO23 7BH

On behalf of

Highways Agency
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
BRISTOL
BS1 6HA

By

Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
SALISBURY
SP4 6EB

FINAL ISSUE

Reference no. 50412.1a

July 2002

A303 STONEHENGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS

Archaeological Evaluation Report Areas L and O

CONTENTS

SUMMARY.....	III
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	V
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1. Project Background.....	1
1.2. Site Description.....	1
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
2.1. Archaeological Appraisal.....	2
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	3
3.1. Trenching Strategy.....	3
3.2. Aims and Objectives.....	3
4. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY.....	4
4.1. Mechanical Excavation.....	4
4.2. Hand Excavation.....	4
4.3. Recording.....	4
5. RESULTS.....	5
5.1. Introduction.....	5
5.2. Area L.....	5
5.3. Area O.....	9
6. FINDS.....	10
6.1. Introduction.....	10
6.2. Pottery.....	10
6.3. Worked and Burnt Flint.....	12
7. ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE.....	12
7.1. Introduction.....	12
7.2. Method.....	12
7.3. Results.....	13
7.4. Conclusions.....	14
8. DISCUSSION.....	14
8.1. Summary.....	14
8.2. Preservation of Archaeological Remains.....	15
8.3. Assessment of Importance.....	15
8.4. Confidence Rating.....	17
8.5. Potential for Further Analysis.....	18
8.6. Recommendations for Mitigation.....	18
9. REFERENCES.....	19
10. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES.....	20

Table 1	Finds totals by material type
Table 2	Bulk finds taken by phase group
Table 3	Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal
Table 4	Review of Monument Interest Values
Table 5	Preliminary assessment of importance

Figure 1	Trench layout Area L (West)
Figure 2	Trench layout Areas L (East) and O

A303 STONEHENGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS

Archaeological Evaluation Report Areas L and O

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 Areas L and O, which lie south of the A303 at Long Barrow Roundabout, between NGR SU 049 404 and 065 409.

The junction location is dominated by Neolithic and Early Bronze Age funerary monuments. During the construction of the existing roundabout, a settlement site of Late Bronze Age date was recorded, from which a coaxial field system extends to the east (Area P) and south (Areas L and O), together with a linear ditch and bank forming part of a long-distance linear boundary. Other sites located by aerial photography and geophysical survey include an enclosure bisected by the A303 in Areas K and L, ring ditches in Areas L and O, and a long barrow in Area O; these are protected as scheduled monuments. In Area L, geophysical survey identified an interrupted oval enclosure, part of a possible C-shaped enclosure and a number of pit type anomalies. A Listed (Grade II) turnpike milestone is situated on the western verge of the A360 adjacent to Area L. Area O is crossed by the line of the First World War military light railway.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of 23 trial trenches, targeted on the basis of previous surveys to evaluate the character, date and state of preservation of archaeological remains across Areas L and O; other adjacent areas are not affected by the Illustrative Design and were therefore excluded from the evaluation.

Archaeological features and deposits of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British date, along with a number of undated features, were identified in 18 of the evaluation trenches. A wide distribution of features and deposits was recorded in Area L, although more features were found in the westernmost field of Area L, to the west of a major cropmark boundary feature; the geophysical survey also recorded an increased number of anomalies, both linear and pit-type, in this field. This broad spread of features appears to represent sporadic and extensive activity across a wide time range. The finds assemblages recovered were generally small, suggesting that there is no major centre of activity, such as a settlement, within the evaluation area. The low levels of environmental remains recovered from the soil samples appear to confirm this. In Area O, the prehistoric boundary ditch was found to survive well as a subsurface feature. Possible ephemeral traces of the former military light railway were also recorded.

A preliminary assessment of importance indicates that all of the remains located by the evaluation are of Minor Importance, with the exception of a well-preserved boundary ditch in Area O, which is considered to be of Major Importance as it

represents part of a monument, the extant sections of which are scheduled as of national importance.

The trial trenches were variously targeted to investigate cropmark features, geophysical anomalies and apparently blank areas. In only one trench did a cropmark feature unequivocally reflect the buried archaeological remains, suggesting that the cropmarks seen in these areas reflect material within the ploughsoil rather than subsurface features. However, in the majority of the 13 trenches excavated to examine anomalies detected by geophysical survey, the anomalies were found to represent buried archaeological remains, while of the seven trenches designed to examine apparently blank areas, only three located archaeological features. These results suggest that a reasonable reliance may be placed on the geophysical survey as a means of predicting archaeological remains in these areas and it is considered unlikely that substantive remains may have been missed by the evaluation. However, the evaluation evidence together with the proximity of a known Bronze Age settlement to the north indicates that the discovery of further remains is likely. Nevertheless, a reasonable degree of confidence may be attached to the evaluation results.

The Illustrative Design presents a diversion from the existing A303 carriageway to the south, with the existing at grade roundabout replaced with a grade-separated junction and the main carriageway of the A303 within a cutting. It is intended that the design will avoid all Scheduled Monuments. Excavation of the cutting for the main carriageway and the construction of the junction and slip roads at grade will destroy any other archaeological remains, however.

The construction of the southern roundabout dumb-bell to the west of the A360 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 or removed and replaced once works are complete: removal and/or relocation of the stone would require listed building consent.

The unscheduled section of boundary ditch excavated in Area O is considered to be of Major Importance. Preservation *in situ* is unlikely to be feasible and, given that the monument survives extant further to the south, it is suggested that the impact of the road construction can be adequately mitigated here through preservation by record.

The sub-surface archaeological remains identified by the present evaluation in Area L are of Minor Importance, as are the possible remains of the military light railway in Area O. Preservation *in situ* of these remains is not, therefore, merited and provision should be made for the location, identification and recording of the remains, prior to construction. However, as the proximity of known settlement remains increases the likelihood of further discoveries it is recommended that provision should be made for 'strip and record' investigation around the locations of features identified by the evaluation in Area L, and across Area O. The Boundary ditch recorded in Area O is considered to be of Major Importance, but as the monument survives extant elsewhere it suggested that preservation by record as part of the 'strip and record' investigations would constitute appropriate mitigation here.

A303 STONEHENGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS

Archaeological Evaluation Report Areas L and O

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The evaluation was commissioned by the Highways Agency via their consultants, Mott MacDonald.

The co-operation of the land manager, Rod Crossley (Druid's Lodge Estate), is gratefully acknowledged.

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

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Chris Moore. The evaluation was directed in the field by Vaughan Birbeck, assisted by Nick Best. This report was prepared by Vaughan Birbeck and Chris Moore. 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 Areas L and O

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 (WSI)(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 Areas L and O (**Figure 1**), to the east of Winterbourne Stoke in the area of the junction of the A303 and the A360, known as Longbarrow Crossroads. The fieldwork was undertaken between the 16th and 27th of November 2001.

1.2. Site Description

- 1.2.1. The WSI considered the need for evaluation in those parts of Areas K, L, M, N and O that would be impacted on by the Illustrative Design. The affected part of Area K, to the north-west of the Longbarrow Crossroads junction, lies within a thicket across part of a former staggered junction layout, and was therefore excluded from the trial trenching proposal. Areas M and N, to the north-east of the junction, contain the important Winterbourne Stoke barrow group and are not impacted upon by the Illustrative Design; they were also excluded from the proposals. Areas of suggested landscape planting shown on the Illustrative Environmental Design were also excluded at this stage.

- 1.2.2. Areas L and O lie to the south of the Longbarrow Crossroads junction at NGR SU 099 414, which forms the intersection of the A303 and A360. Prior to construction of the roundabout, the junction comprised a staggered crossroads, elements of which remain.
- 1.2.3. Area L comprises two fields on the south side of the A303 and west side of the A360 in the south-western quadrant of the junction, at NGR SU 096412. The ground undulates slightly east-west but generally lies at some 110m aOD, rising towards Oatlands Hill in the south-west at c. 129m aOD.
- 1.2.4. The part of Area O affected by the Illustrative Design comprises the extreme northern part of a single field, in the south-eastern quadrant of the junction. Here, there is a slight coombe, the land falling by some 3m from the A303 before rising again to the south.
- 1.2.5. The Areas contain a number of Scheduled Monuments. Area L falls outside the World Heritage Site (WHS), whereas Area O is within it. A Listed milestone (no. 4/232) lies in the western verge of the A360 at SU 099 412 (Area L).
- 1.2.6. The underlying geology in both Areas comprises Middle Chalk. Both of the fields in Area L were under arable cultivation at the time of the fieldwork. The part of Area O that was under investigation was uncultivated.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. Archaeological Appraisal

- 2.1.1. The *A303 Stonehenge Archaeological Appraisal* (Wessex Archaeology 2001c) has identified five known sites within the northern parts of Area L and Area O:
 - 193: Field system visible on aerial photographs (Area L; **Figure 1**)
 - 195: Boundary earthwork (Area L; **Figure 1**)
 - 197: Small rounded enclosure visible on aerial photographs (Areas K and L), SM No 10484/01 (**Figure 1**)
 - 203: a cropmark feature thought to represent an extension of a possible stockade trench recorded during the excavation of the settlement remains at Longbarrow junction (**Figure 1**)
 - 277: Extensive field system seen on aerial photographs (Area O; **Figure 2**)
 - 306: Linear earthwork. SM No 10489 (Area O; **Figure 2**)
- 2.1.2. Neolithic and Early Bronze Age funerary monuments, the distribution of which extends far beyond the area directly affected by the road scheme, dominate the junction location to the north-east. Other sites located by aerial photography and geophysical survey may have been functionally associated with these monuments. These include: a rounded enclosure bisected by the A303 (Site 197, Areas K and L); ring ditches (198, 311, Area L; 310, 312,

Area O); a long barrow (276, Area O); and an interrupted oval enclosure recently discovered by geophysical survey (Area L).

- 2.1.3. In Area L, fieldwalking in the western field (Wessex Archaeology 2002) identified two small concentrations of worked flint and one of burnt flint; only a single sherd of pottery, of Romano-British date, was recovered. A geophysical survey (GSB 2001) identified part of a possible C-shaped enclosure and a number of pit type anomalies.
- 2.1.4. During the construction of the existing roundabout, archaeological investigation recorded post-built round houses, pits and a 'stockade trench' (Site 203) of Late Bronze Age date; the stockade trench may since have been located by geophysical survey, running parallel to the A360 in Area L. It is probable that part of the coaxial field system to the east (Area P) and to the south (193, Area L; 277, Area O) was created at about this time. Some elements of this field system were subsequently overlain by a linear ditch and associated bank forming part of a long-distance linear boundary, one of a system of extensive prehistoric territorial division visible across Salisbury Plain. This ditch and bank is in part extant (306, Area O; SM10489), but can be traced further on aerial photographs and geophysical survey (196, Area K).
- 2.1.5. The milestone on the verge at Area L is one of a series erected along the A360 associated with the turnpiking of the road and is Listed, Grade II .
- 2.1.6. Area O is crossed by the line of the First World War military light railway, which ran parallel to the A360 as far south as the former Druids Lodge airfield.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1. Trenching Strategy

- 3.1.1. A total of 23 trenches was excavated in locations specified in the WSI, representing an approximately 3% sample of the area proposed for trial trenching. The WSI excluded the scheduled enclosure (197) and its immediate environs from the evaluation area as it is intended that design development should avoid any impact (Wessex Archaeology 2001b).
- 3.1.2. The location of two trenches (Trenches 9 and 19) were altered slightly to avoid crossing field boundaries and the alignment of Trench 13 was altered to avoid a large manure heap.

3.2. Aims and Objectives

- 3.2.1. The general aims and objectives of the proposed evaluation were set out in the *Field Evaluation Strategy* (Wessex Archaeology 2001a). Site specific objectives were detailed 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 presence or absence of archaeological remains in areas that appear blank;
 - To identify and date if possible elements of the field systems (Sites 193, 277);
 - To investigate the extent of the Late Bronze Age settlement features (Site 203);
 - To locate and assess the preservation of possible linear boundary features (Sites 195, 306); 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. Area L

Trench 1

- 5.2.1. Trench 1 was excavated to investigate the nature of any activity in an apparently blank area. Two sub-surface features, comprising a probable tree throw and a small, undated pit (1040), were identified.

Trench 2

- 5.2.2. Trench 2 was excavated to investigate the level, nature and date of activity represented by two pit-type and one linear anomaly identified by geophysical survey. Three archaeological features were identified, comprising two intercutting pits (203, 204) and a small ditch (202) aligned approximately north-west to south-east. A relatively large assemblage of Early Bronze Age pottery was recovered from the earlier of the two pits, along with worked flint and burnt flint. No datable material was recovered from the ditch or the later pit.
- 5.2.3. The location and orientation of the ditch broadly corresponds to the linear anomaly, as does the location of the two pits and one of the pit-type anomalies. No features were found to coincide with the location of the second pit-type anomaly. Fieldwalking in this part of Area L identified a small concentration of worked flint.

Trench 3

- 5.2.4. Trench 3 was excavated to investigate the level, nature and date of activity represented by one linear and two pit-type anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. A total of four small pits (303, 306, 308 and 310) was identified within the trench. Two of these were datable to the Early Iron Age (pits 306 and 308) on the basis of pottery recovered from their fills. A relatively large assemblage of quite fresh worked flint, possibly representing a single knapping episode, was recovered from pit 308.
- 5.2.5. The locations of three of the pits and two of the pit-type anomalies roughly coincided, as did the location of the fourth pit and the linear anomaly.

Trenches 4 and 5

- 5.2.6. Trenches 4 and 5 were excavated to investigate the level, nature and date of activity represented by a number of pit-type anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. A single possible ditch (402) was identified in Trench 4, although its very irregular form may indicate a natural origin. No anthropogenic material was recovered from this feature. The location of the possible ditch broadly corresponded to that of the large pit-type anomaly. No features were found to coincide with the location of the linear anomalies.
- 5.2.7. In Trench 5, two archaeological features, comprising a small sub-circular pit (507) and a possible ditch terminal (503), were identified. A small assemblage of burnt flint was recovered from the possible ditch terminal, but no datable finds. A small assemblage of animal bone, worked flint and Middle Bronze Age pottery was recovered from pit 503. Neither of the two archaeological features was identified by the geophysical survey and no features were found to coincide with the location of the anomalies that were identified.

Trench 6

- 5.2.8. Trench 6 was excavated to investigate the nature of any activity in an apparently blank area. No archaeological features or deposits were located. Four possible features, comprising three tree throws and a natural solution feature, were investigated.

Trench 7

- 5.2.9. Trench 7 was excavated to investigate the character, function and date of a linear cropmark feature in the centre of the trench, and to investigate the level, nature and date of activity represented by two linear anomalies identified by geophysical survey at either end. Four features were identified, comprising a small pit (710), which contained a near-complete Middle Bronze Age Bucket Urn, a small posthole (712) of similar date immediately to the west, and an approximately north-south aligned ditch (705), which cut a small, shallow undated feature. A single sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the fill of the ditch.
- 5.2.10. The location of the Middle Bronze Age pit and posthole coincides with that of the western linear anomaly, and the location of the Romano-British ditch coincides with that of the eastern anomaly. No feature was found to coincide with the cropmark feature, although the topsoil in this part of the trench was slightly deeper than at either end. Fieldwalking in this part of Area L identified a concentration of worked flint; a single sherd of Romano-British pottery was also recovered from this area.

Trench 8

- 5.2.11. Trench 8 was excavated to investigate the level, nature and date of activity represented by two pit-type anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. A single archaeological feature, a large circular pit (802), from which a small assemblage of burnt flint and worked flint was recovered, was identified. The location of this coincided with that of one of the pit-type anomalies. A natural solution feature was found to roughly coincide with the location of the second pit-type anomaly.

Trench 9

- 5.2.12. Trench 9 was excavated to investigate the level, nature and date of activity represented by a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. A single undated pit (902), heavily disturbed by burrowing animals, was the only feature identified. The location of this pit roughly coincided with that of the geophysical anomaly.

Trenches 10 to 13

- 5.2.13. Trenches 10 to 13 were excavated to investigate the character, function and date of a series of linear cropmark features, possibly representing part of a field system (Site 193), a possible boundary feature (Site 195), and a number of linear and pit-type anomalies.
- 5.2.14. In Trench 10, a single, undated, north-south aligned gully (1002) was identified towards the centre of the trench. Whilst the location of this feature roughly coincides with that of one of the cropmarks and the central geophysical anomaly, the alignment appears closer to that of the cropmark. No features were found to coincide with the location of the other cropmark, the boundary earthwork or the geophysical anomalies targeted by this trench.
- 5.2.15. No features were found in Trench 11 to coincide with the location of any of the cropmarks or anomalies that were identified. However, a sub-soil deposit, up to 0.20m deep, was noted in the centre of the trench, in approximately the same position as one of the linear cropmarks, which it may represent.
- 5.2.16. The only feature identified in Trench 12 comprised a small pit (1203), heavily disturbed by animal burrows, from which a single sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered. No features were found to coincide with the location of any of the cropmark features. However, it was noted that a sub-soil deposit in this trench was thicker (by up to 0.10m) in the northern end of the trench than elsewhere. It is possible that this variation in thickness is visible as a cropmark.
- 5.2.17. In Trench 13, three small, discrete features, probably pits, were identified. Two of these (1305 and 1307) were dated to the Early/Middle Iron Age on the basis of pottery recovered, and one was undated (1303). No features were found to coincide with the location of the cropmarks or the geophysical anomaly that was identified.

Trench 14

- 5.2.18. Trench 14 was excavated to investigate the nature of any activity in the apparently blank area. Three archaeological features, comprising two intercutting pits (1406 and 1408) and a possible ditch terminal (1403), were located. No datable material was recovered from the possible ditch terminal or from the earlier pit. The later pit contained a single sherd of Early-Middle Iron Age pottery.

Trenches 15 to 17

- 5.2.19. These trenches were excavated to investigate the character, function and date of three linear cropmark features, possibly representing part of a field system (SMR ref. 193), and (Trench 17) a linear geophysical anomaly.

5.2.20. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within Trenches 15 and 16.

5.2.21. In Trench 17, a single possible ditch (1704), aligned approximately north-south, was identified, excavated and recorded, but no finds were recovered. The location and alignment of this feature roughly coincides with that of the geophysical anomaly. No features or deposits were found to coincide with the location of the cropmark.

Trenches 18 and 19

5.2.22. Trenches 18 and 19 were excavated to investigate the nature of any activity in an apparently blank area to the south-east of the scheduled enclosure (Site 197). No archaeological features or deposits were observed in either trench.

Trench 20

5.2.23. Trench 20 was excavated to investigate the character, function and date of a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey (Site 203), thought to be a continuation of a possible stockade trench associated with Late Bronze Age settlement remains excavated to the north. An undated ditch (2002) was identified, the location and alignment of which only broadly coincided with that of the geophysical anomaly, but coincided well with a parallel cropmark.

Trench 21

5.2.24. Trench 21 was excavated to investigate the nature of any activity in an apparently blank area. A single large, irregular feature (2118), probably of peri-glacial origin was located. Although the primary fills comprised deposits of chalk rubble with humic lenses, the several upper fills contained relatively large assemblages of worked flint, burnt flint, Neolithic pottery, Early Bronze Age pottery and Middle Bronze Age to Early/Middle Iron Age pottery, indicating that the deposits accumulated over a considerable period of time.

5.3. Area O

Trench 22

5.3.1. Trench 22 was excavated to investigate the character, function and date of the relict linear ditch and bank boundary (Site 306), and to investigate the level, nature and date of a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. Two archaeological features, comprising a very large ditch aligned approximately north-west to south-east and a shallow linear feature, possibly the base of a truncated ditch, were located. The large ditch (2205) corresponded with the ditch and bank boundary and produced animal bone, worked flint and burnt flint, and a single sherd of Romano-British pottery from its upper fills. The shallow linear feature (2203) can be equated with the geophysical anomaly and produced no finds.

Trench 23

- 5.3.2. Trench 23 was excavated to investigate the survival and nature of any traces of the military light railway and to investigate the nature of any activity in an apparently blank area. The only features recorded comprised a pair of parallel depressions, approximately 1.60m apart and a shallow, irregular linear feature, possibly a continuation of that recorded in Trench 22. The parallel depressions (2305 and 2307) coincide with the line of the military light railway visible on aerial photographs. Excavation of trial trenches across the line at Fargo North (Wessex Archaeology 1998) revealed more substantial evidence in the form of sleeper imprints in the chalk flanked by two trackside ditches, however, and the relationship of the very shallow features seen in Trench 23 must therefore be doubtful. No finds were recovered from the irregular linear feature (2303).

6. FINDS

6.1. Introduction

- 6.1.1. The evaluation recovered a relatively small number of finds, in a limited range of material types. All the finds have been cleaned and quantified by material type (see **Table 1** for overall totals). In addition, the pottery has also been spot dated and quantified by broad ware group. All the finds have been retained, except for the burnt flint, which has been discarded following quantification.

6.2. Pottery

- 6.2.1. The pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the site; pottery was only recovered from Trenches 2, 3, 5, 7, 12, 13, 14, 21 and 22. The assemblage includes material of Middle Neolithic, Early Bronze Age, Middle Bronze Age to Early/Middle Iron Age and Romano-British date, but it should be noted that the overall totals are biased by a single large deposit (216 sherds) of a partial Middle Bronze Age vessel from one pit.

Table 1: Finds totals by material type

Material	Number	Weight (g)
Animal Bone	24	108
Burnt Flint	-	6855
Worked Flint	226	2578
Pottery	282	6475
<i>Middle Neolithic</i>	1	9
<i>Early Bronze Age</i>	20	62
<i>Middle Bronze Age</i>	221	6223
<i>Late Bronze Age –</i>	36	169
<i>Middle Iron Age</i>		
<i>Romano-British</i>	4	8

Middle Neolithic

- 6.2.2. A single sherd of coarsely flint-tempered Middle Neolithic pottery was recovered from pit **2118** in Trench 21. This is a rim sherd of Peterborough Ware, probably belonging to the Mortlake substyle, with twisted cord impressions on the inside and outside of the rim.

Early Bronze Age

- 6.2.3. Early Bronze Age pottery (20 sherds, 61 g) came from three contexts. All sherds are grog-tempered. Pit **203** in Trench 2 produced the greatest amount (17 sherds, 57 g). These sherds probably derive from a single vessel, probably a Collared Urn; the sherds are fairly abraded, but there is one rim sherd, and one body sherd has traces of impressed (?twisted cord) decoration. The three remaining sherds came from feature **2118** in Trench 21; these are plain and undiagnostic and cannot be attributed to ceramic tradition.

Middle Bronze Age

- 6.2.4. The Middle Bronze Age assemblage largely comprises a single vessel from pit **710** in Trench 7, probably deposited complete, although subsequently truncated by ploughing, removing part of the rim. The vessel, which is in a fabric tempered with frequent but well sorted calcined flint inclusions, is a large, bucket shaped form, relatively thin-walled, with a thickened and flattened rim, decorated with one row of finger impressions below the rim and a second about one-third of the way down the vessel. Form and decoration are both well paralleled within Deverel-Rimbury assemblages from the Wessex region (eg. Annable and Simpson 1964, 1357).
- 6.2.5. A further five sherds (from pit/posthole **711** in Trench 7 and feature **1307** in Trench 13), all in similar coarse flint-tempered fabrics, are likely to be of Middle Bronze Age date, or possibly Late Bronze Age; none are diagnostic.

Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age

- 6.2.6. Thirty-six sherds fall within a potential date range of Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age. Three main fabric groups are present: flint-tempered, calcareous (tempered with shelly limestone) and sandy fabrics. There is little in the way of diagnostic material here, but only fabric grounds the coarser fabrics (flint-tempered and calcareous), which include one hooked rim jar (pit **308**, Trench 3) are characteristic of the Late Bronze Age, while the sandy fabrics are likely to be later, probably Early (or possible Early/Middle) Iron Age. The latter wares include one convex bowl (pit **308**), one shouldered jar with applied cordon (pit **1305**, Trench 13) and a second cordon, probably from a similar vessel (feature **2118**, Trench 21), all forms which can be paralleled within local assemblages of Early Iron Age date (eg. Morris 2000,

figs. 49, 58; bowl type 7, jar type 56). Other sherds came from Trenches 3 (pit **306**) and 14 (pit **1406**).

Romano-British

- 6.2.7. The remaining four sherds (ditch **705**, Trench 7; pit **1203**, Trench 12; ditch **2205**, Trench 22) are of Romano-British date, all coarsewares of unknown source, none of which can be dated more closely within the Romano-British period.

6.3. Worked and Burnt Flint

- 6.3.1. The lithic assemblage is broadly homogeneous. Apart from one piece of Portland chert, the raw material derives from the locally available chalk flint, and most pieces are patinated to a light grey colouring. Condition ranges from good to fair, with a few pieces showing signs of edge damage; a few pieces are burnt. One group in particular (pit **308**, Trench 3) has a fresh appearance, and may represent a single knapping episode. Tools comprise three scrapers, none of which are chronologically distinctive, and there are no other utilised pieces; the remainder of the assemblage comprises flake and core material. In the absence of chronologically diagnostic pieces, the assemblage can be only broadly dated, although the flake morphology and technology employed (broad, squat flakes struck using hard hammer technique) can be taken as characteristic of the Bronze Age.
- 6.3.2. Burnt, unworked flint was found in trenches 2, 3, 5, 8, 12, 13, and 2, with a concentration in Trench 21 – approximately two-thirds of the total (by weight) came from this trench, from contexts within feature **2118**. This type of material is inherently undatable, but is usually associated with prehistoric activity.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1. Introduction

- 7.1.1. Environmental samples were taken from selected features in order to identify the survival, nature and range of preserved charred remains, and to assess the potential of these to aid in the interpretation of specific features.

7.2. Method

- 7.2.1. A series of six bulk samples of between 1.5 and 20 litres were processed from a range of feature types for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal. The bulk samples break down into the following phase groups (**Table 2**):

Phase	No. of samples	Volume (litres)
Middle Bronze Age	4	33
Undated	2	18
TOTAL	6	51

Table 2: Bulk samples taken by phase group

7.2.2. The bulk samples were 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 fractions (>4 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were scanned under a x10 - x30 stereobinocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 3**), to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and charcoal remains.

7.3. Results

Charred plant remains

7.3.1. The flots were generally small (average flot size for a 10 litre sample is 60 millilitres) with between 40 and 60% rooty material and mainly high numbers of uncharred weed seeds, which can be indicative of stratigraphic movement.

Feature type/ No	Context	Sample	size litres	Flot							Residue
				flot size ml	Grain	Chaff	Weed seeds uncharred charred	Charcoal >5.6mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm	
Middle Bronze Age											
Pot Fills											
710, pot 708	707	2	20	50 ³⁰	C	-	a	C	-	moll-t (A)	-
710, pot 708	707	3	1.5	10 ⁶	-	-	a	C	-	moll-t (A)	-
Pit											
710	709	4	10	30 ¹⁸	C	-	a	C(h)	-	moll-t (A)	-
710	709	5	1.5	3 ^{1.5}	C	-	b	-	-	moll-t (A)	-
Undated											
Pit											
310	311	1	10	50 ²⁰	-	-	a	B(h)	B	moll-t (A)	-
Irregular ?Peri-glacial Depression											
2118	2103	6	8	15 ^{7.5}	-	-	c	-	C	moll-t (C) burnt bone	-

KEY: A** = exceptional, A* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones ; moll-t = molluscs - terrestrial

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

Table 3: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

7.3.2. Three of the four samples from inside and around vessel 708 (within pit 710, Trench 7) contained a few charred grain fragments. Small quantities of charred weed seeds, including hazelnut fragments, were observed in three samples. Molluscs were present in all four samples.

7.3.3. A moderate amount of charred weed seeds, including hazelnut fragments was recorded from one of the undated samples. Molluscs were present in both samples and burnt bone fragments were observed in a single sample.

Charcoal

- 7.3.4. Charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in table 2. Small quantities of charcoal fragments of greater than 5.6 mm were retrieved from both undated samples. The charcoal was mainly large wood fragments.

7.4. Conclusions

- 7.4.1. Although charred remains were present, their preservation was poor and occurrence low: even where 20 litres samples were processed, the quantity of remains was minimal. This suggests that the sampled features, although indicating past activity in the Middle Bronze Age, may not be within the centre of major activity. While well-dated remains of this period within the Stonehenge landscape are considered important, the assemblages here are too small and peripheral to warrant further analysis; indeed, it seems unlikely from the evidence of the sampled pits that major databases will be recovered from the evaluated area in any future fieldwork.

8. DISCUSSION

8.1. Summary

- 8.1.1. Evaluation of Areas L and O identified archaeological features and deposits of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British date, along with a number of undated features, in 18 of the evaluation trenches. Only 5 of the 23 trenches contained no archaeological features or deposits (Trenches 6, 15, 16, 18 and 19). Although there was a wide distribution of features and deposits, there was no significant concentration of activity identified within the evaluation area. However, more features were recorded in the western field of Area L, to the west of the major cropmark boundary feature (195); the geophysical survey also recorded an increased number of anomalies, both linear and pit-type, in this field. The distribution of archaeological features broadly corresponded to the concentrations of worked flint recovered during fieldwalking.
- 8.1.2. A large assemblage of worked flint, and pottery of Neolithic, Early Bronze Age and Middle Bronze Age to Early/Middle Iron Age date recovered from a periglacial feature excavated in Trench 21 indicate prehistoric activity over an extended timespan in the vicinity. Although the feature is of natural origin, the presence of such an extensive range of material is of significance given its location within the Stonehenge landscape, with Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary monuments and Bronze Age settlement remains close by.
- 8.1.3. The earliest dated archaeological features comprised a pit and ditch of Early Bronze Age date in Trench 2, within the western field of Area L. Also within this field, Trenches 5 and 7 contained Middle Bronze Age pits, one of which contained a near complete Bucket Urn. In addition to these dated features, the undated ditch in Trench 20 is thought to represent an extension of the

‘stockade trench’ recorded in the excavation of the later Bronze Age settlement to the north.

- 8.1.4. Early/Middle Iron Age pits were recorded in Trench 3 (western field) and Trenches 13 and 14 (eastern field). Romano-British material was recovered from a ditch in Trench 7 (western field) and a pit in Trench 12 (eastern field). Undated features, both pits and ditches, were encountered across Area L.
- 8.1.5. Few features were encountered close to the scheduled enclosure 197, although two possible pits dated to the Early/Middle Iron Age were recorded in Trench 13. The extensive field boundary 195, although targeted by Trench 10, was not located.
- 8.1.6. This broad spread of features in Area L appears to represent sporadic and extensive activity across a wide time range. The generally small finds assemblages recovered suggest that there is no major centre of activity, such as a settlement, within the evaluation area. The low levels of environmental remains recovered from the soil samples appear to confirm this.
- 8.1.7. In Area O, the continuation of the ditch of the boundary earthwork 306 was found to survive well as a sub-surface feature. An undated gully located in both trenches here appears from the geophysical survey to be possibly related to the boundary feature.
- 8.1.8. Ephemeral features recorded in Area O may represent traces of the military light railway, 312, although the nature of the features contrasts with more substantial evidence recorded elsewhere.

8.2. Preservation of Archaeological Remains

- 8.2.1. Archaeological remains were found to be widely distributed across Areas L and O. In general, features predicted by geophysical survey were successfully located, although there was a notable dislocation with the predicted positions. However, the correlation of remains with cropmarks was generally poor. The cropmark features examined in Trenches 11 and 12 probably represent variations in soil and/or sub-soil depth. One of the three cropmark features intercepted by Trench 10 may be represented by the small gully recorded in this trench; however, in the majority of cases the cropmarks did not appear to represent buried archaeological remains. It is possible that the soil marks seen on aerial photographs result from variable degrees of chalk suspended in the ploughsoil, derived from the boundaries of extinct field systems, which may not survive as sub-surface features.

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 Areas K-O (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	Area	Type	Survival	Potential	GV (cluster)	GV (assoc.)	Diversity	SAM/MPP	Total
193	L	Fields	1	2	2	2	2	X	17
195	L	Boundary	1	2	3	2	2	X	22
197	L	Enclosure	1	2	1	2	2	Y	45
203	L	Settlement	1	2	1	2	1	X	11
306	O	Boundary	1	1	1	1	1	Y	45

Table 4: Review of Monument Interest Values

8.3.2. The evaluation has located an extensive scatter of remains. However, few of these correlate well with elements of the known sites. The enclosure (197) was not included in the area for evaluation. The field boundary 195 was not located and only Trenches 10 and 17 located ditches or gullies that might be related to the field system, 193. There was no evidence of settlement activity; an undated ditch located in Trench 20 may be related to the ‘stockade’ trench linked to the settlement 203. Only in Area O was one of the known sites (the sub-surface remains of the boundary earthwork 306) located.

8.3.3. A preliminary assessment of the importance of all the remains located by the evaluation is presented in **Table 5** below.

Trench	Type	Survival	Potential	GV (cluster)	GV (assoc.)	Diversity	SAM/MPP	Total
21	Neo/BA/IA material in periglacial feature	1	1	1	1	2	X	8
2	EBA pit & ditch	1	1	2	2	2	X	14
5, 7	MBA pits	1	1	2	2	1	X	11
22	?LBA boundary (site 306)	1	1	1	1	1	Y	45
3	EIA pits	1	1	1	1	1	X	5
13, 14	EIA/MIA pits	1	1	1	2	1	X	8
7, 12	/RB ditch & pit	1	1	1	1	1	X	5
1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 14	Undated pits & ditches	1	1	1	1	1	X	5
10, 17	Undated gully & ditch – part of Site 193?	1	1	1	2	1	X	8
20	Undated ditch – related to settlement 203?	1	1	1	2	1	X	8
23	Undated linear features – part of light railway?	1	1	1	1	1	X	5

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 all of the remains located by the evaluation are of Minor Importance, with the exception of the boundary ditch 306 in Trench 22. This is considered to be of Major Importance as it represents part of a monument, the extant sections of which are scheduled as of national importance. The evaluation has not provided any evidence to support the re-scoring of any of the previously known sites (**Table 4**).

- 8.3.5. The milestone (no. 4/203) is Listed Grade II. Its value derives from its position as part of a prominent series associated with the turnpiking of the A360 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 and investigated a range of archaeological features across Areas L and O. 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 Areas L and O have been assessed. Where the predicted features were encountered, the specific objectives set for each trench have also been achieved.
- 8.4.2. Nine trenches (Trenches 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17 and 22) 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 (SMR ref. 193). Only in Trench 22, which was designed to investigate a large linear feature, also detected by geophysical survey, did the cropmark feature unequivocally reflect the buried archaeological remains. This phenomenon probably reflects the nature of the cropmark evidence (see 8.2.2 above).
- 8.4.3. A total of 13 of the trenches (Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 17, 20 and 22) was excavated to examine anomalies detected by geophysical survey. In the majority (nine) of these trenches the anomalies were found to represent buried archaeological remains, although there was a notable dislocation between the features identified and the positions of anomalies as plotted by the geophysical survey. In the remaining four trenches (trenches 5, 10, 11 and 13) the anomalies appear to represent natural features or variations in the chalk substrata. Of the seven trenches designed to examine apparently blank areas (trenches 1, 6, 14, 18, 19, 21 and 23), only four (1, 14, 21 and 23) located archaeological features. Overall, these results suggest that a reasonable reliance may be placed on the geophysical survey as a means of predicting substantial archaeological remains in these areas.
- 8.4.4. The evaluation in Areas L-O has successfully confirmed the nature, date range and character of the archaeological remains predicted from the previous surveys. Given the relatively high trenched sample (3%), the even distribution of trenches, the generally successful location of predicted remains and the consistent examination of apparently blank areas employed here, it is considered unlikely that substantive archaeological remains may have been missed by the evaluation, although further small features are likely to occur sporadically throughout Areas L and O. In particular, the proximity of a known Bronze Age settlement to the north indicates that the discovery of further remains is likely. Nevertheless, a reasonable degree of confidence may be attached to the evaluation results.

8.5. Potential for Further Analysis

- 8.5.1. The general distribution and nature of the features and deposits, together with the relatively sparse environmental remains, suggests that the activity represented here is peripheral to any settlement activity. None of the material recovered has the potential for further analysis in the absence of any broader archaeological context. However, the datasets may contribute to useful analysis where they are extended by further fieldwork (mitigation).

8.6. Recommendations for Mitigation

- 8.6.1. The Illustrative Design presents a diversion from the existing A303 carriageway to the south, with the existing at grade roundabout replaced with a grade-separated junction and the main carriageway of the A303 within a cutting. The A360 crosses by means of a short span perpendicular to the A303, with a dumb-bell roundabout arrangement displaced to the west of the A360, taking the southern roundabout into Area L.
- 8.6.2. It is intended that the design will avoid all Scheduled Monuments. Excavation of the cutting for the main carriageway and the construction of the junction and slip roads at grade will destroy any other archaeological remains, however.
- 8.6.3. The construction of the southern roundabout dumb-bell to the west of the A360 will impact on the turnpike milestone. This feature is of Local 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.
- 8.6.4. The sub-surface archaeological remains identified by the present evaluation in Area L are of Minor Importance, as are the possible remains of the military light railway in Area O. Preservation *in situ* of these remains is not, therefore, merited and provision should be made for the location, identification and recording of the remains, prior to construction. However, the proximity of known settlement remains increases the likelihood of further discoveries. It is therefore recommended that provision should be made for 'strip and record' investigation in the vicinity of remains identified in the trial trenches in Area L, and throughout Area O, in order to ensure that remains are exposed under archaeological control. The nature and extent of the Bronze Age and Iron Age activity recorded in the western field, and the opportunity for further investigation of the periglacial feature in Trench 21, will be of particular interest, together with confirmation of the extent of the known settlement site.
- 8.6.5. The unscheduled section of boundary ditch excavated in Area O is considered to be of Major Importance. Construction of the westbound off-slip road here will result in the destruction of this stretch of the monument and preservation *in situ* is unlikely to be feasible. Given that the monument

survives extant further to the south, where it benefits from statutory protection as a scheduled monument, it is suggested that the impact of the road construction can be adequately mitigated here through preservation by record as part of the 'strip and record' exercise outlined above (8.6.4).

9. REFERENCES

Annable, F.K. and Simpson, D.D.A., 1964, *Guide Catalogue of the Neolithic and Bronze Age Collections in Devizes Museum*, Wilts. Archaeol. Natur, Hist. Soc.

Association for Environmental Archaeology, 1995 *Environmental archaeology and archaeological evaluations: recommendations concerning the environmental component of archaeological evaluations in England*. Working Papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology, Number 2.

English Heritage 2001 *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology* (draft).

Evans, J.G. 1972 *Land Snails in Archaeology*. London, Seminar Press.

GSB Prospection, 2001 *Geophysical Survey Report 2001/82 Stonehenge VI*

Morris, E. L., 2000, 'Pottery' in A. J. Lawson, *Potterne 1982-5: Animal Husbandry in Later Prehistoric Wiltshire*, Wessex Archaeology, Ref. 17, 136-178.

Museums and Galleries Commission, 1992 *Standards for the museum care of archaeological collections*, London; Museums and Galleries Commission.

Wessex Archaeology, 1998 *Stonehenge Visitor Centre, Fargo North, Winterbourne Stoke: Archaeological Evaluation* Unpublished client report, ref. 45044.03

Wessex Archaeology, 2001a *A303 Stonehenge Archaeological Surveys Field Evaluation Strategy*. Unpub client report 48066.10

Wessex Archaeology, 2001b *A303 Stonehenge Archaeological Surveys. Written scheme of investigation for field evaluation: Areas K, L, M, N and O*. unpub. client report 48066.13

Wessex Archaeology, 2001c *A303 Stonehenge Archaeological Appraisal First Draft*, unpub. client report .

Wessex Archaeology, 2002 *A303 Stonehenge Improvement Stage 2 Fieldwalking Survey*, unpub. client report 48066.02.

10. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench 1		Max. Depth:- 0.60m	Length:- 50m	Width:- .1.80m
Depth	Context	Description		Finds
0-0.22m	101	Topsoil: Dark grey brown silty clay loam with small flint & chalk inclusions.		None
0.22-0.60m (Max)	102	Sub-soil: Mid brown silt with small sub-angular chalk & flint inclusions. Peters out c. 2m from the eastern (upslope) end of the trench.		None
Feature	104 Fill 105.	A small sub-circular pit approximately 0.70m in diameter and 0.30m deep with straight, moderately steep sides and a flat base. Filled with a loose reddish brown silty clay.		None
Feature	106 Fill 107.	Tree throw.		None
0.60m+	103	Natural weathered chalk.		

Trench 2		Max. Depth:- 0.28m	Length:- 10m	Width:- 10m
Depth	Context	1. Description		Finds
0-0.28m	200	Topsoil: Dark grey brown silty clay loam with small flint & chalk inclusions.		None
Feature	202 Fills: 205, 206.	Small ditch aligned approximately north-south, on average 1.0m wide and 0.40m deep with a 'V' shaped profile. Primary fill (206) comprised a mid yellowish brown chalky silt with occasional large sub-angular flint inclusions, largely confined to the west side of the ditch suggesting the former presence of a bank from which it may have derived. The remainder of the ditch was filled with a dark brown clayey silt loam with occasional sub-angular flint inclusions (205).		Animal bone burnt flint, worked flint.
Feature	203 Fills: 207, 208.	Small sub-circular pit approximately 0.80m in diameter and a maximum of 0.32m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. The primary fill (208) comprised a mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional small flint and chalk gravel inclusions. This was overlain by (207); a dark brownish grey silty loam with sparse charcoal and flint inclusions.		Worked flint, burnt flint, EBA pottery.
Feature	204 Fill 209.	Small sub-circular pit which partly cut the fills of pit 203. Approximately 0.50m in diameter and 0.40m deep with steep, irregular sides and a concave base. Contained a single mid greyish brown silty clay fill.		None
0.28m+	201	Natural weathered chalk with occasional flint fragments and nodules.		

Trench 3		Max. Depth:- 0.3m	Length:- 50m	Width:- 1.80m
Depth	Context	Description		Finds
0-0.26m	301	Topsoil: Dark grey-brown silty clay loam with small flint & chalk inclusions		None
Feature	303 Fills: 304, 305.	Small sub-circular pit approximately 0.70m in diameter and 0.29m deep moderately steep sides and a concave base. Filled with a pale reddish brown calcareous silty clay (305) overlain by a reddish brown silty clay (304).		None
Feature	306 Fill 307.	Small oval pit approximately 0.90m long, 0.60m wide and 0.28m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. Filled with a reddish-brown silty loam with frequent small flint and chalk inclusions.		EIA pottery, animal bone, worked flint, burnt flint
Feature	308 Fill 309.	Small oval, pit approximately 0.60m long, 0.50m wide and 0.28m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. Filled with a reddish brown silty clay loam with frequent small flint and chalk inclusions		LBA pottery, worked flint, burnt flint.
Feature	310 Fills: 311, 312.	Small sub-circular pit, approximately 1.10m in diameter and 0.48m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. Filled with a very dark-greyish brown silty clay (311) overlain by a reddish brown silty		Worked flint, burnt flint.

		clay (312) with chalk and flint inclusions.	
0.26m+	302	Natural weathered chalk.	

Trench 4		Max. Depth:- 0.24m	Length:- 50m	Width:- 1.80m
Depth	Context	Description	Finds	
0-0.24m	400	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with small flint & chalk inclusions	None	
Feature	402 Fills: 403, 404.	Possible ditch aligned north-east to south-west, approximately 1.30m wide and 0.30m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. Filled with chalk rubble in a light greyish brown silty matrix (404) overlain by a mid-dark brown silty clay (403).	None	
0.24m+	401	Natural weathered chalk		

Trench 5		Max. Depth:- 0.38m	Length:- 50m	Width:- 1.80m
Depth	Context	Description	Finds	
0-0.25m	501	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with small flint & chalk inclusions	None	
Feature	503 Fills: 504; 505; 506.	Possible terminal of north-south ditch, approximately 1.28m wide and 0.25m deep with moderately steep, irregular sides and an irregular base. The primary fill comprised chalk rubble in a pale brown silty clay matrix (506), predominantly against the north-western side. This was overlain by reddish brown silty clay deposits (504 and 505).	Burnt flint	
Feature	507 Fill: (508)	Small sub-circular pit, approximately 0.80m wide and 0.55m deep with irregular sides and base. Filled by a reddish brown silty clay with sparse flint and clay inclusions.	Worked flint, burnt flint, LBA pottery.	
0.25m+	502	Natural weathered chalk		

Trench 6		Max. Depth:- 0.25m	Length:- 50m	Width:- 1.80m
Depth	Context	Description	Finds	
0-0.25m	600	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with small flint & chalk inclusions	None	
Feature	602 Fill 603	Natural solution feature.	None	
Feature	604 Fill 605.	Irregular feature, probable tree-throw	None	
Feature	606 Fill 607.	Irregular feature, probable tree-throw	None	
Feature	608 Fill 609.	Irregular feature, probable tree-throw	None	
0.25m+	601	Natural weathered chalk.		

Trench 7		Max. Depth:-	Length:- 50m	Width:- 1.80m
Depth	Context	Description	Finds	
0-0.30m	701	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with small flint & chalk inclusions. Thins to 0.25m towards either end of the trench.	None	
Feature	703 Fill 704.	Possible tree-throw or irregular pit partially truncated by feature [705] (see below).	None	
Feature	705 Fill 706.	Possible north-south aligned ditch, approximately 0.70m wide and 0.59m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Filled with a light reddish brown silty clay with frequent small flint and chalk inclusions.	RB pottery	
Feature	710 Fills: 707; 708, 709.	A shallow pit, approximately 0.50m in diameter and 0.20m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. Contained a Middle Bronze Age Bucket Urn (708) deliberately placed within the pit before the pit was back-filled with a yellowish brown silty clay loam (709). The urn was filled with a similar deposit (707), which seems to have accumulated as the upper part of the urn collapsed into itself following deposition.	MBA Pottery	
Feature	712 Fill 711.	Small circular pit or post hole immediately adjacent to pit 710, approximately 0.20m in diameter and 0.20m deep with vertical sides	MBA Pottery	

		and a flat base. Filled with a brownish yellow silty clay loam.	
0.30m+	702	Natural weathered chalk.	

Trench 8		Max. Depth:- 0.30m	Length:- 10m	Width:-10m
Depth	Context	Description		Finds
0-0.30m	800	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with small flint & chalk inclusions		None
Feature	802 Fill 803	Large circular pit approximately 3.00m in diameter and 0.25m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Filled with a mid-dark greyish brown silty loam with small flint and chalk inclusions.		Burnt flint, worked flint.
0.30m+	801	Natural weathered chalk.		

Trench 9		Max. Depth:- 0.32m	Length:- 50m	Width:- 1.80m
Depth	Context	Description		Finds
0-0.32m	900	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with small flint & chalk inclusions		None
Feature	902 Fill: 903.	Sub-circular pit, approximately 0.70m in diameter and 0.30m deep with irregular sides and concave base. Filled with a dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional flint inclusions. Feature heavily disturbed by burrowing animals.		None
0.32m+	901	Natural weathered chalk.		

Trench 10		Max. Depth:- 0.23m	Length:- 50m	Width:- 1.80m
Depth	Context	Description		Finds
0-0.23m	1000	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with small flint & chalk inclusions		None
Feature	1002 Fills: 1003, 1004.	A steep-sided 'v' profile gully, approximately 0.65m wide and 0.30m deep, aligned approximately north-south. Filled with a mid yellowish brown silty clay (1004) overlain by a mid yellowish brown silty loam (1003).		None
0.23m+	1004	Natural weathered chalk.		

Trench 11		Max. Depth:- 0.50m	Length:- 50m	Width:- 1.80m
Depth	Context	Description		Finds
0-0.30m	1101	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with small flint & chalk inclusions		Worked flint
0.30-0.50m	1102	Sub-soil: Mid brown silty loam with small sub-angular chalk & flint inclusions. Only present in central part of the trench; possibly represents linear feature identified in aerial photographs.		None
0.50m+	1103	Natural weathered chalk.		

Trench 12		Max. Depth:- 0.50m	Length:- 50m	Width:- 1.80
Depth	Context	Description		Finds
0-0.30m	1201	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with small flint & chalk inclusions		None
0.30-0.50m (Max)	1202	Sub-soil: Mid-brown silt with small sub-angular chalk & flint inclusions. Thicker towards northern end of trench, possibly represents linear features identified in aerial photographs.		None
Feature	1203 Fill 1204.	Irregular pit approximately 1.40m long, 0.90m wide and 0.80m deep with irregular sides and base. Fill comprised a pale brown loose fine sandy silt. Heavily disturbed by burrowing animals.		RB pottery, burnt flint.
0.50m+	1205	Natural weathered chalk.		

Trench 13		Max. Depth:- 0.35m	Length:- 50m	Width:- 1.80m
Depth	Context	Description		Finds
0-0.25m	1301	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with small flint & chalk inclusions		None
Feature	1303	Sub-circular pit approximately 1.20m in diameter and 0.43m deep with		Burnt flint

	Fill 1304.	steep sides and a flat base. Filled with reddish brown silty clay with chalk and flint inclusions.	
Feature	1305 Fill 1306.	Sub-circular pit approximately 0.75m in diameter and 0.35m deep with moderately steep sides and a flat base. Filled with a mid reddish brown silty clay with chalk and flint inclusions.	LBA/EIA pottery, burnt flint, worked flint.
Feature	1307 Fills: 1308, 1309.	Steep-sided sub-circular feature approximately 0.55m in diameter and 0.75m deep with very irregular sides and base. Filled with a yellow clayey sand (1309) overlain by a reddish brown silty clay (1308) with inclusions of large flint nodules. Very badly affected by burrowing animals.	M-LBA pottery, burnt flint
0.25m+	1302	Natural weathered chalk.	

Trench 14		Max. Depth:- 0.36m	Length:- 50m	Width:- 1.80m
Depth	Context	Description		Finds
0-0.22m	1400	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with small flint & chalk inclusions		None
0.22-0.36m	1401	Sub-soil: Mid brown silt with small sub-angular chalk & flint inclusions		None
Feature	1403 Fills: 1404; 1405	Possible pit or ditch terminal, approximately 1.40m wide and 0.35m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. Filled with a very light brownish grey sandy loam with abundant chalk inclusions (1404) overlain by a dark brown silty clay loam (1405) with sparse flint and chalk inclusions.		None
Feature	1406 Fill 1407.	Sub-circular pit approximately 0.90m in diameter and 0.30m deep with gradual sloping sides and irregular base. Partly truncates earlier pit [1408]. Filled with a mid brownish grey silty clay loam with occasional chalk rubble and pea-grit inclusions. Cut fill of pit 1408		E-MIA pottery.
Feature	1408 Fill: 1409	Small sub-circular pit, approximately 0.60m in diameter and 0.35m deep with nearly vertical sides and a flat base. Truncated by later pit [1406]. Filled with a very light greyish brown sandy clay loam with common chalk inclusions. Partly truncated by pit 1406.		None
0.36m+	1402	Natural weathered chalk.		

Trench 15		Max. Depth:- 0.25m	Length:- 50m	Width:- 1.80m
Depth	Context	Description		Finds
0-0.25m	1500	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with small flint & chalk inclusions		None
0.25m+	1501	Natural weathered chalk		

Trench 16		Max. Depth:- 0.30m	Length:- 50m	Width:- 1.80m
Depth	Context	Description		Finds
0-0.30m	1601	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with small flint & chalk inclusions		None
0.30m+	1602	Natural weathered chalk.		

Trench 17		Max. Depth:- 0.60m	Length:- 50m	Width:- 1.80m
Depth	Context	Description		Finds
0-0.30m	1701	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with small flint & chalk inclusions		None
0.30-0.45m	1702	Sub-soil: Mid brown silt with small sub-angular chalk & flint inclusions		None
Feature	1704 Fill: 1705	Possible north-south aligned ditch, approximately 1.00m wide and 0.50m deep with gently sloping sides and irregular base. Filled with a pale brown clayey silt with small flint and chalk inclusions.		None
0.30m+	1703	Natural weathered chalk.		

Trench 18		Max. Depth:- 0.23m	Length:- 50m	Width:- 1.80m
Depth	Context	Description		Finds
0-0.23m	1800	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with small flint & chalk		None

		inclusions	
0.23m	1801	Natural weathered chalk.	

Trench 19		Max. Depth:- 0.25m	Length:- 50m	Width:- 1.80m
Depth	Context	Description		Finds
0-0.25m	1900	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with small flint & chalk inclusions		None
0.25m	1901	Natural weathered chalk.		

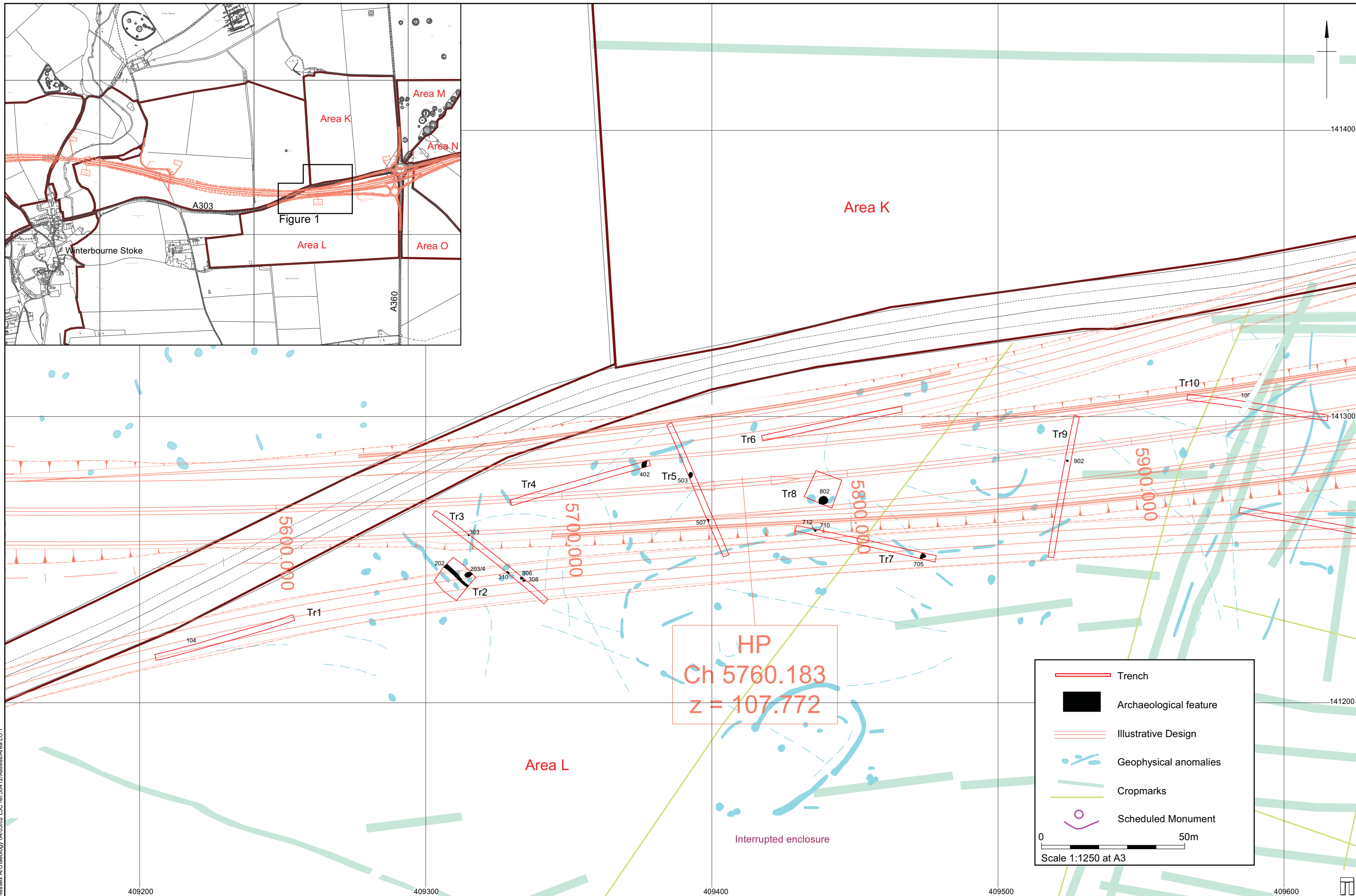
Trench 20		Max. Depth:- 0.30m	Length:- 50m	Width:- 1.80m
Depth	Context	Description		Finds
0-0.30m	2000	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with small flint & chalk inclusions		None
0.30-0.40m	2007	Sub-soil: Mid brown silt with small sub-angular chalk & flint inclusions		None
Feature	2002 Fills: 2003- 2006	North-south aligned ditch, approximately 1.50m wide and 0.60m deep with steep, straight sides and a flat base. Primary fills comprised chalk rubble with silty clay lenses (2003 , 2004 and 2005). The majority of this material appeared to have been derived from the eastern side, possibly from a bank. The secondary fill (2006) comprised a brown silty clay loam with occasional chalk pebble inclusions.		Animal bone
0.40m+	2001	Natural weathered chalk.		

Trench 21		Max. Depth:- 0.34m	Length:- 50m	Width:- 1.80m
Depth	Context	Description		Finds
0-0.23m	2100	Topsoil: dark greyish brown clay loam with flint and chalk inclusions. Large quantities of worked and burnt flint noted in vicinity of [2118]		Worked flint
	2101	Sub-soil: Mid-brown silt with small sub-angular chalk & flint inclusions		None
Feature	2118 Fills: 2103- 2125.	An irregular depression of probable peri-glacial origin, over 4.00m wide and continuing beyond the eastern and western limits of excavation. Approximately 1.00m deep with steep, irregular sides and an irregular base. The primary fills of this feature comprised substantial deposits of chalk rubble with common lenses of humic material. These were overlain by deposits of humic silty clay loam, which may have accumulated over a quite long period of time. Only the upper fills produced any finds, of these a single sherd of Middle-Late Neolithic Peterborough Ware was recovered from 2108, a small assemblage of Early Bronze Age pottery from 2105 and 2107 and a single sherd of Middle-Late Bronze Age pottery from 2103. A relatively large assemblage of worked flint and burnt flint was also recovered from the upper fills.		Neo, EBA & EIA pottery, worked flint and burnt flint
0.34m+	2102	Natural weathered chalk with occasional flint fragments and nodules.		

Trench 22		Max. Depth:- 0.25m	Length:- 50m	Width:- 1.80m
Depth	Context	Description		Finds
0-0.25m	2201	Topsoil: Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with small flint & chalk inclusions		None
Feature	2203 Fill: 2204	Shallow flat-bottomed ditch, approximately 1.50m wide and 0.25m deep with shallow, irregular sides and an irregular base. Filled with a brown silty clay loam with occasional chalk and flint inclusions. Disturbed by animal burrows.		None
Feature	2205 Fills: 2206- 2215	Large ditch aligned approximately north-north west to south-south-east, a continuation of a scheduled earthwork which forms the eastern field boundary. Approximately 4.00m wide and 1.50m deep with a pronounced 'V' shaped profile. A possible re-cut was recognised during excavation (cut 2212, fill 2213) at the interface between the primary and secondary fills. The primary fills (2206 and 2207) comprised chalk rubble with silty lenses. These were overlain by pale brown silty clay deposits (2208-		RB pottery, burnt flint, worked flint, animal bone

		2211). A single sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from 2211 and a small assemblage of animal bones from 2208. The upper fills comprised a layer of compacted chalk rubble within a silty clay matrix (2214), which may represent a metallised surface, overlain by an accumulation of dark brown silty clay loam (2215).	
0.25m+	2202	Natural weathered chalk.	

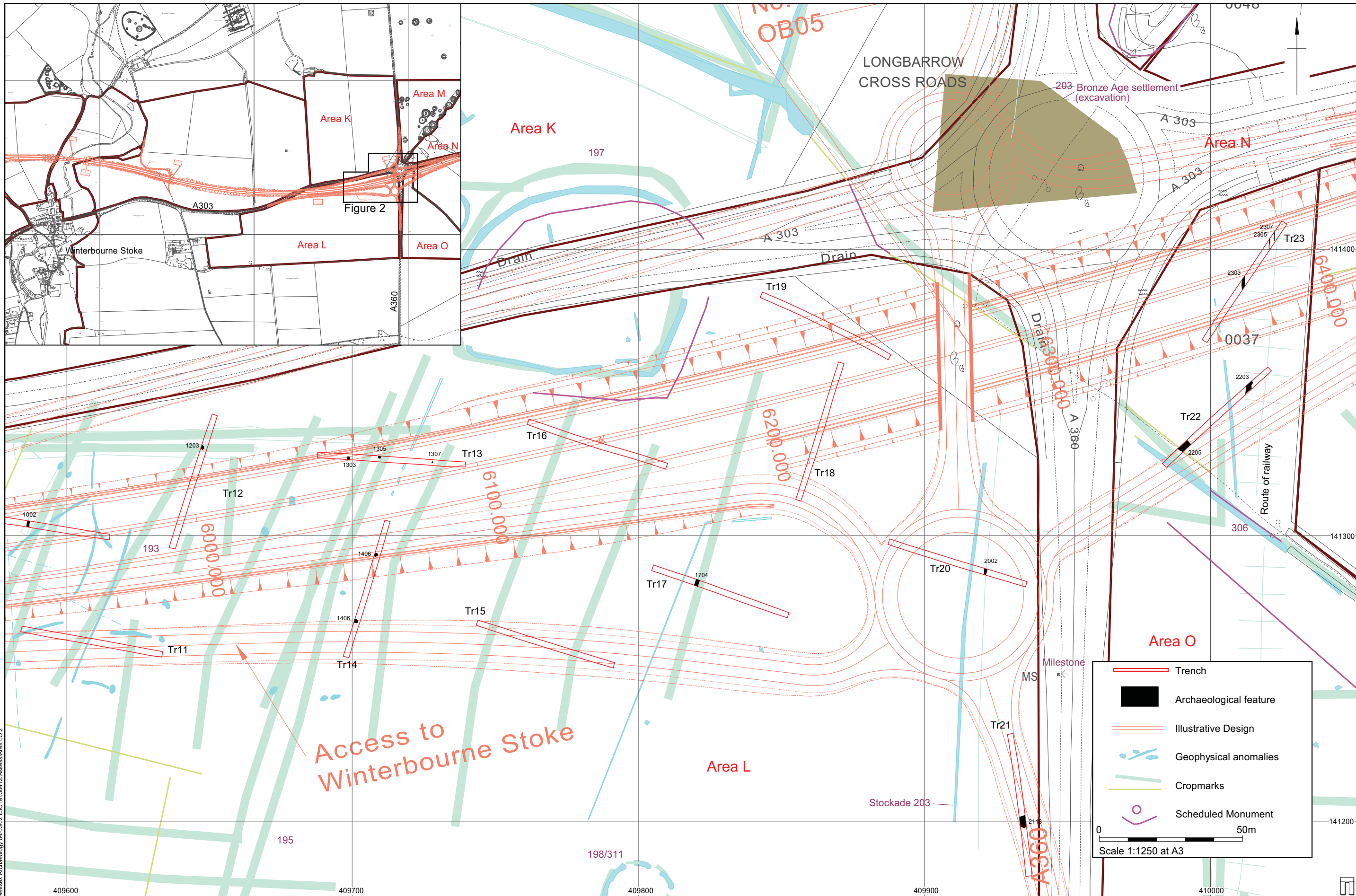
Trench 23		Max. Depth:- 0.30m	Length:- 50m	Width:- 1.80m
Depth	Context	Description		Finds
0-0.30m	2300	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with small flint & chalk inclusions		None
Feature	2303; Fill: 2302	Shallow irregular linear feature, approximately 0.90m wide and 0.05m deep with irregular sides and base. The single fill comprised a light brownish grey silty loam with abundant chalk inclusions. It is unclear whether this is an anthropogenic or natural feature.		None
Features	2305 and 2307 Fills: 2304, 2306	Pair of narrow linear features on a parallel, approximately north-south alignment, and approximately 1.60m apart. Both were approximately 0.25m wide and up to 0.05m deep with steep sides and a flat base. Possibly wheel ruts or associated with the early 20 th century military light railway.		None
0.30m+	2301	Natural weathered chalk.		



Trench layout Area L (West)

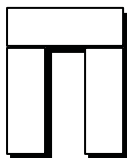
Figure 1

Wessex Archaeology_04/03/02_LIC ref 50412/Assess/Area L.O.1



Trench layout Areas L (East) and O

Figure 2



THETRUSTFORWESSEXARCHAEOLOGYLTD.

PortwayHouse,OldSarumPark,Salisbury,WiltshireSP46EB

Tel:(01722)326867Fax:(01722)337562E-mail:info@wessexarch.co.ukwww.wessexarch.co.uk

RegisteredasanarchaeologicalorganisationwiththeInstituteofFieldArchaeologists

RegisteredCharityNo.287786

AcompanywithlimitedliabilityregisteredinEnglandNo.1712772