

**NEW CEMETERY, NORTH
WALTHAM, BASINGSTOKE,
HAMPSHIRE**

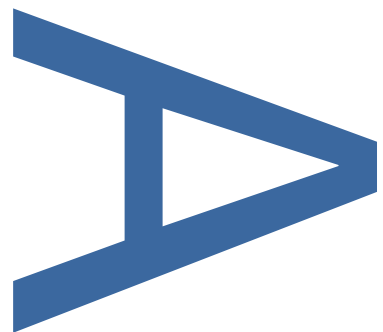
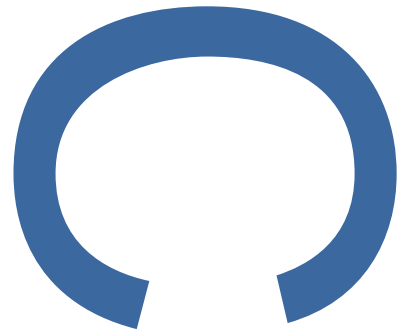
**POST EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT
REPORT**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBERS:
15/01528/BPA3**

PCA REPORT NO: R13123

SITE CODE: NWBH16



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

NEW CEMETERY, NORTH WALTHAM, BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE: POST EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

Local Planning Authority: Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

Planning Reference: 15/01528/BPA3

Central NGR: SU 55837 45176

Site Code: NWBH16

Commissioning Client: Ecus Ltd.

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name: New Cemetery, North Waltham, Basingstoke, Hampshire

Type of project: Strip, Map, Sample Investigation

Report: R13123

Document Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K5088
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CONTENTS

1	Non – Technical Summary.....	4
2	Introduction.....	5
3	Aim	7
4	Results	8
5	Statement of Potential.....	9
6	Updated Project Design	10
7	Archive Prerparation and Deposition	12
8	Acknowledgements	13
9	References.....	14
	Appendix 1: Trench Index	15
	Appendix 2: Photographs (Plates 1 – 4)	16
	Appendix 3: Pottery Assessment	18
	Appendix 4: OASIS Record.....	20

1 NON – TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was appointed by ECUS Ltd. to undertake an archaeological investigation on the site of a proposed new cemetery North Waltham, Basingstoke, Hampshire. The Site is the subject of a development proposal and covers an area of some 6.4ha.

The archaeological investigation comprised of a 'Strip, Map and Sample' program targeting a late prehistoric urned cremation burial identified in Trench 19 of the archaeological evaluation. The area stripped measured 5m X 5m, and was centred on the known location of the burial. The evaluation was completed in keeping with the Written Scheme of Investigation.

The excavation revealed an *in-situ* urn, which was identified during the evaluation, but no other archaeological features. The pottery is dated to the Middle Bronze Age and contained no human remains.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by ECUS Ltd. to undertake an archaeological investigation on the site of a proposed new cemetery North Waltham, Basingstoke, Hampshire (**Figure 1 & 2**), hereafter 'the Site'. The Site is the subject of a development proposal and covers an area of some 6.4ha. This document reports on the results of the investigation, which was intended to mitigate the impact of the proposed use of the site on archaeological resources identified in an archaeological evaluation (PCA, 2016).

2.1.2 The archaeological investigation was required, in keeping with NPPF Section 12 and Local Plan Policy, by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. The requirement follows consultation by ECUS with the LPA's archaeological advisor David Hopkins, County Archaeologist (CAO), Hampshire County Council. The requirement for archaeological works forms a condition (14) of planning permission for the proposed new cemetery (planning ref: 15/01528/BPA3).

2.1.3 The archaeological investigation comprised of a 'Strip, Map and Sample' programme targeting a late prehistoric urned cremation burial identified in Trench 19 of the archaeological evaluation (PCA 2016). The area stripped measured 5m X 5m, and was centred on the known location of the burial.

2.1.4 This document has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists standard and guidance for archaeological excavation (CIfA 2014) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England, 2015).

2.2 Location, Topography and Geology

2.2.1 The Site is a sub-rectangular area of land 6.4 hectares and is located to the south of the village of North Waltham and 9km to the north-east of Basingstoke. The Site is situated to the north-east of the existing Basingstoke Crematorium, with arable fields to the north and east, and is accessed from the south off Stockbridge Road.

2.2.2 The Site slopes gently down at an even gradient from 150m aOD on the north side to 136m aOD in the southeast corner.

2.2.3 The underlying geology for the Site is mapped as Seaford Chalk Formation. Along the southern boundary of the Site, superficial Head deposits are also mapped on top of the natural bedrock geology (BGS 2017).

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site is included within a desk-based assessment (DBA) prepared in advance of the proposed development in 2015, and is not repeated here.

2.3.2 The DBA summarised the archaeological and historical background as follows (LPA 2015):

'A site located at Basingstoke Cemetery, North Waltham is proposed for development involving a crematorium, parking, gardens and access.

The site is close to a Bronze Age ritual landscape consisting of groups of barrows that appear to focus on Harridge, a ridge of high ground that runs northeast from Popham. None of the barrows are visible from the site and the potential for such features within the site area is considered moderate to low.

The area was also occupied in the middle and late Iron Age and there are several banjo enclosures in the vicinity which have been identified from crop marks from aerial photographs. No such cropmarks were identified within the site and therefore the potential for a settlement enclosure is considered low, although there may be scattered features such as pits and ditches. One darker green area of crop was noted during the walkover which could represent buried archaeological deposits.

The area around the site was also occupied during the Roman period and there are at least two substantial stone buildings within the study area. The site was probably within agricultural land during this period. Early Medieval and Medieval activity is focussed about 1km to the south of the site and it is likely that the site was open agricultural fields from the Early Medieval period onwards.

Overall there is a low to moderate potential for rural features such as pits and ditches from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods, although the possibility of a ploughed out barrow on the site cannot be completely discounted.'

3 AIM

3.1 Archaeological Investigation – Strip, Map & Sample

3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological investigation was to excavate archaeological resources identified by prior evaluation within the defined area, taking account of their potential to contain biological and palaeo-environmental remains and in mitigation of the proposed development.

3.1.2 This report aims to provide an assessment of the results of the investigation and recommendations, as appropriate, for further analysis and publication, in keeping with the methods, archiving and reporting requirements set out within the WSI.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following sections present a summary of the results of the excavation based on the site archive, which comprises a site diary, context sheets, site drawings, digital photographs and a small finds assemblage. A summary of recorded contexts is provided in a Trench Index in **Appendix 1**. The archive is held at PCA's Winchester office under the site code NWBH16 and in due course will be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust.

4.2 Methodology

4.2.1 The fieldwork was undertaken following the methodology that was detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA, 2017), which was approved on behalf of the Local Planning Authority in advance of the commencement of works.

4.2.2 The fieldwork comprised the mechanical excavation of an 5x5m² area. This work was carried out on 4th September 2017.

4.3 Archaeological Features

4.3.1 The excavation revealed an *in-situ* urn, which was previously identified during the evaluation (**Plate 1 and Figure 3**). No other archaeological features were identified during the excavation. The vessel [4102] measured approximately 30cm in diameter and was sub-circular in shape, with evidence of previous truncation (**Plate 3 & 4**). The cut, [4103], in which the vessel was placed could be seen in the natural and was fully excavated. It was sub-circular, approximately 0.40m in width and 0.16m in depth.

4.3.2 The contents of the urn were excavated off site, in spits and contained no remains of human bone (**Plate 3**).

4.3.3 The pottery analysis and assessment report is provided in **Appendix 3**. The vessel is considered to be a part of the Deverel-Rimbury tradition and, as such, is thought to date to the Middle Bronze Age.

5 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

5.1 Discussion

5.1.1 The primary objective of the archaeological investigation was to further investigate the archaeological feature that was identified in the archaeological evaluation and to see if any further features would be revealed. Beyond the feature previously observed no archaeological features were identified.

5.1.2 The remains of the *in-situ* urn, which was identified during the evaluation, is of the Deverel-Rimbury tradition and has been dated to the Middle Bronze Age. Although initial interpretations of the vessel suggested its possible use as a cremation urn, no human bone or charcoal was recovered from the contents of the vessel.

5.1.3 As the urn contained no human bone, or other artefacts, it cannot be described as a funerary object with any certainty. However, the fact it appears to have been purposely placed in an isolated location may still suggest some form of ritual deposition, as has been considered in similar cases of whole vessel burials (PCA 2015).

5.2 Conclusion

5.2.1 The archaeological investigation at the New Cemetery, North Waltham, Hampshire, successfully satisfied the aims and objectives as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation and in section 3 of this document. The archaeological resources that were identified during the evaluation were fully investigated. The *in-situ* urn, identified in trench 41, was revealed to be the remains of a vessel of the Deverel-Rimbury tradition (dating to the Middle Bronze-Age) which had suffered significant truncation, likely to be the result of plough damage. No other archaeological features, significant or otherwise, were identified during the course of the investigation.

5.2.2 Owing to the lack of other archaeological features and the lack of any human remains within the contents of the vessel, the exact nature of Bronze Age activity on site is unknown.

6 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

6.1 Original Research Objectives

6.1.1 The fieldwork aimed to address the following research objectives as outlined in the mitigation WSI (PCA 2017). Below, the research objectives are addressed with regard to the extent to which they were answered during the archaeological investigation.

A possible late prehistoric funerary landscape:

- ***What evidence is there for late prehistoric funerary practice within the site and can that evidence be compared to similar evidence within the Site's landscape context?***

As the *in-situ* urn contained no human bone or other artefacts and therefore cannot be classified as funerary object with any certainty. However, it is possible that the vessel may represent some form of ritual deposition, as was thought at Ranelagh Road, Hampshire (PCA, 2015), which found two *in-situ* urns of a similar date which also contained no human remains.

- ***What is the date, nature and extent of the evidence?***

The vessel has been dated to the Middle Bronze Age and was the only significant archaeological find and feature identified during the course of the investigation.

- ***Is there evidence for contemporary use of the site for other purposes, e.g. settlement?***

There is little evidence of further activity on the site than the single *in-situ* Bronze Age urn; no other evidence was seen during the excavation of contemporary use of the site for other purposes, such as settlement.

- ***How does the evidence contribute to local and regional research frameworks (Hey & Hinds et al 2014)?***

While the find itself is of interest due to the lack of further evidence on site, the excavation does little to further research in local or regional fields.

6.2 Specialist Recommendations

6.2.1 Assessment of the Pottery assemblage has led to the following recommendations (Appendix 3):

Owing to its small size, the isolation of its find spot and the generic nature of the pottery comprising it, the assemblage is unlikely to yield more data of interpretive use, and therefore no further work on it is recommended.

6.3 Further Work

- 6.3.1 The results of the excavation, while contributing to research framework objectives within the region generally, are limited in extent and do not present significant diversity. As such, they offer limited possibilities for further analysis or research and do not warrant full publication. It is recommended the results, as set out in this report, are incorporated into the Hampshire Historic Environment Record maintained by Hampshire County Council.

7 ARCHIVE PRERARATION AND DEPOSITION

7.1 The Site Archive

7.1.1 The Site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, will be prepared in accordance with 'Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage' (UKIC 1990) and the Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives' (ClfA 2014). On completion of the project PCA will arrange for the archive to be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust on behalf of Hampshire County Council.

7.2 Copyright

7.2.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. Hampshire County Council, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003. Further distribution and uses of the report either in its entirety or part thereof in paper or electronic form is prohibited without the prior consent of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

7.2.2 The licence extends to the use of all documents arising from this project in all matters relating directly to the project, as well as for bona fide research purposes (which includes the Hampshire County Council Archaeology and Historic Building Record).

7.2.3 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the content of this report. However, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd cannot accept any liability in respect of, or resulting from, errors, inaccuracies or omissions this report contains.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology is grateful to Paul White of Ecus Ltd for commissioning the Evaluation. Thanks is due to Readypower for their assistance on site. The evaluation was supervised by Katherine Marshall, assisted by Bartlomiej Grden This report was prepared by Katherine Marshall with Illustrations prepared by Hayley Baxter. The project was managed for PCA by Thomas Hayes.

9 REFERENCES

L-P: Archaeology, 2015. *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: North Waltham Cemetery.*

PCA, 2015. *Land off Ranelagh Road, Havant, Hampshire: An Archaeological Strip, Map and Record*

PCA 2016. *New Cemetery, North Waltham, Basingstoke, Hampshire: An Archaeological Evaluation*

PCA, 2017, *New Cemetery, North Waltham, Basingstoke, Hampshire: WSI for an Archaeological Investigation.*

Appendix 1: Trench Index

Trench No.	Context	Type	Description
41	4101	Natural	
	4102	Pot	In situ Urn - SF1
	4103	Cut	Cut for Urn
	4104	Fill	Fill of [4103]

Appendix 2: Photographs (Plates 1 – 4)



Plate 1 – Trench 41 Overview - Looking South



Plate 2 – Excavation of in-situ Urn



Plate 3 – Pre-excavation shot of Urn



Plate 4 – Fully excavated urn.

Appendix 3: Pottery Assessment

Assessment of the prehistoric pottery from North Waltham, Hants (NWBH17)

Description

The pottery assemblage from North Waltham (NWBH17) comprises 216 sherds weighing 2.785 kgs. These are in a coarsely flint tempered fabric, and derive from the base and the lower and — probably — the upper sides of a thick-bodied pot with a flat, sharply carinated base, splayed sides and a slightly raised or applied, fingertip impressed cordon, below which are traces of a carefully drilled post-firing perforation. The pot was found upright in the ground and had been truncated about 6cm above its base. Its base had a diameter of about 20cm, at the point it was truncated it had a diameter of 30–33cm, and at the cordon a diameter of about 35cm. The fingertip impressed sherds do not join any of the sherds from the lower body and had presumably fallen into it from higher up and do not therefore have any implications in terms of the pot's original height, which at best can only be inferred from the depth of the base below the modern ground surface (40cm). The sherds are slightly weathered but unabraded and there is no evidence of burning after firing. Both fabric and pot form are characteristic, locally and further afield, of the Deverel-Rimbury pottery tradition, currently dated to Middle Bronze Age (c. 1500BC).

Interpretative context

Because they do not form part of a recognizable domestic suite, and because sometimes they contain cremated human remains, isolated buried urns of this type tend to be interpreted as cinerary urns, while post-firing perforations (which often straddle breaks) are viewed as evidence of repair, or a change in the use for which the pot was originally intended, either of which would suggest that this urn had been used for something else prior to its use as a cinerary urn — *if that is what it is*. Alternatively, the repair may indicate the use of a 'second', rather than a perfect pot. If either of the first two interpretations is correct, the North Waltham Urn would conform exactly to current perspectives on Middle Bronze Age funerary deposition within the Deverel-Rimbury cultural area. If the alternative is correct, it would be at variance with them, and reflect perhaps the status of, or a previously unacknowledged attitude to inurnment. The final interpretation of the urn, however, must rest upon the results of the analysis of its contents, whether or not it contained cremated human bone, as *by themselves*, nothing about the pot or its position proves or refutes any of these with certainty. It does prove, however, is that there was Bronze Age pottery using activity on the site and this is important both in terms of our understanding of the archaeology of, and the future investigative strategies for the area.

Further work

Owing to its small size, the isolation of its find spot and the generic nature of the pottery comprising it, the assemblage is unlikely to yield more data of interpretive use, and therefore no further work on it is recommended.

Mike Seager Thomas 21/12/17

Context/ bags	Qty	Weight in kg	Fabric	Other diagnostic features	Pottery tradition	Date
1904	31	0.285	CF	thick	DR	MBA
4102	36	0.11	CF	thick	DR	MBA
4102	97	1.19	CF	thick; fingertip- impressed cordon (2 joining sherds); flat, obtusely angled base sherds	DR	MBA
4102	52	1.2	CF	thick; flat, obtusely angled base sherds	DR	MBA

Appendix 4: OASIS Record

OASIS ID: preconst1-303939

Project details

Project name	New Cemetery, North Waltham,
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was appointed by ECUS Ltd. to undertake an archaeological investigation on the site of a proposed new cemetery North Waltham, Basingstoke, Hampshire. The Site is the subject of a development proposal and covers an area of some 6.4ha. The archaeological investigation comprised of a 'Strip, Map and Sample' program targeting a late prehistoric urned cremation burial identified in Trench 19 of the archaeological evaluation. The area stripped measured 5m X 5m, and was centred on the known location of the burial. The evaluation was generally completed in keeping with the Written Scheme of Investigation. The excavation revealed an in-situ urn which was identified during the evaluation, no other archaeological features were identified during the excavation. The pottery is dated to the Bronze Age and contained no human remains.
Project dates	Start: 04-09-2017 End: 04-09-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	NWBH16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	A2016.88 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	PIT Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Bronze Age
Investigation type	"Full excavation"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE NORTH WALTHAM New Cemetery, North Waltham
Postcode	RG25 2BA
Study area	6.4 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 55837 45176 51.202546177082 -1.200689494907 51 12 09 N 001 12 02 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA Winchester
Project brief originator	ECUS Ltd.

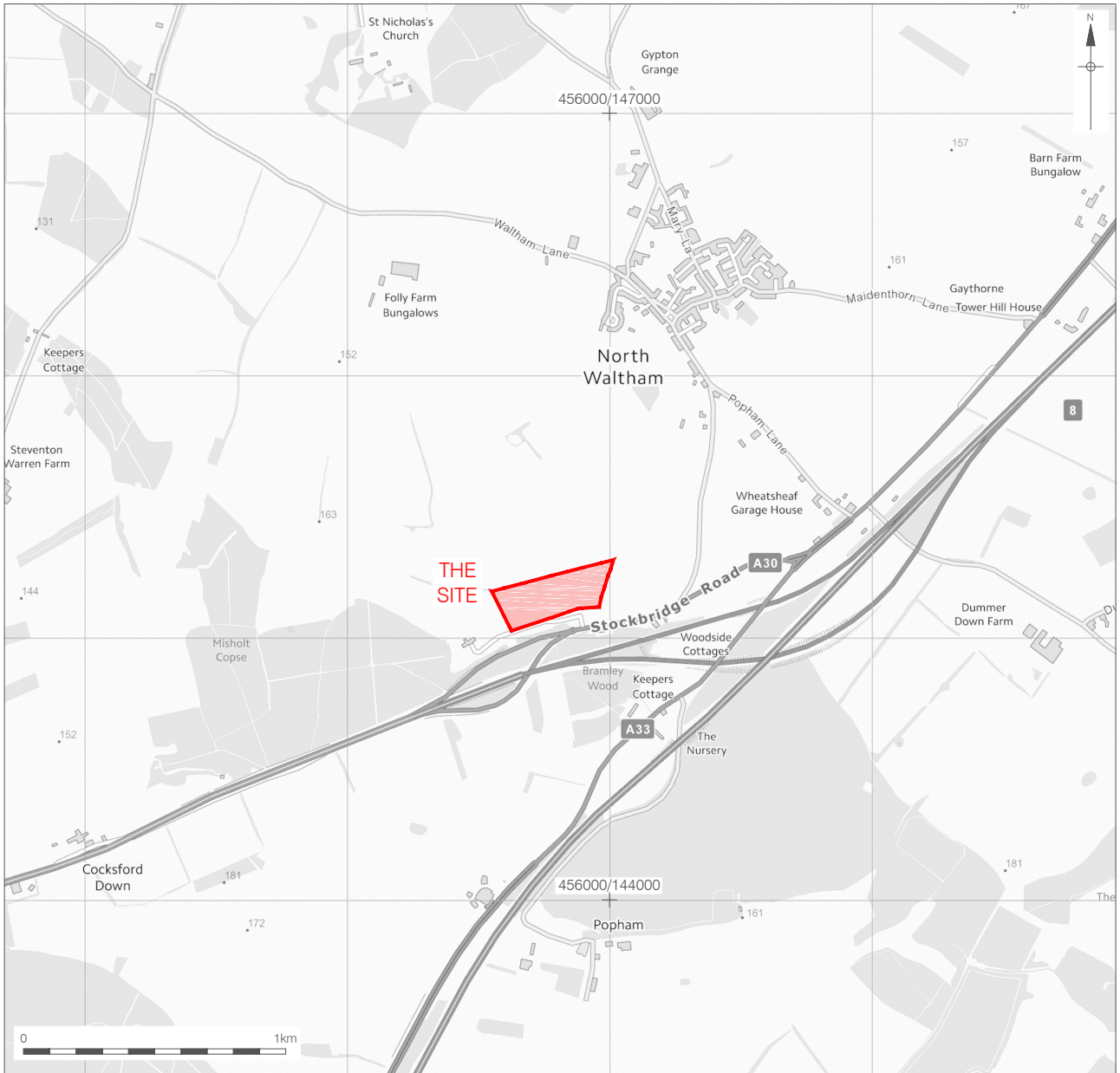
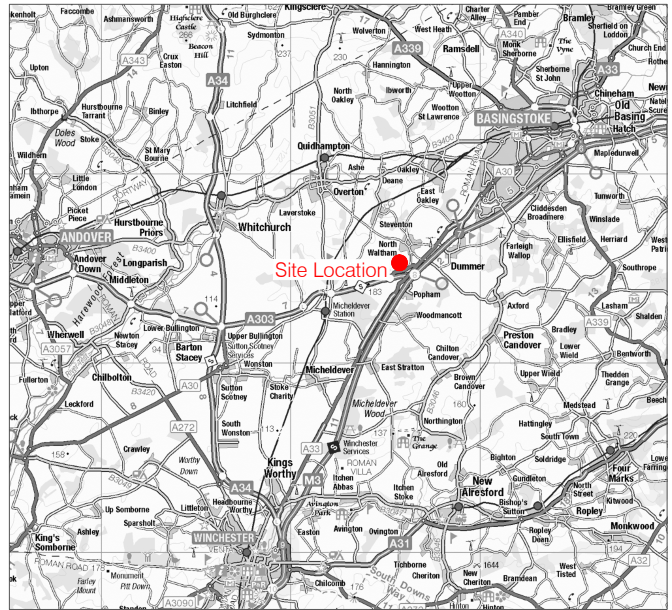
Project design originator Paul McCulloch
Project director/manager Paul McCulloch
Project supervisor Katherine Marshall
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Hampshire Cultural Trust
Physical Archive ID A2016.88
Physical Contents "Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient Hampshire Cultural Trust
Digital Archive ID A2016.88
Digital Contents "Stratigraphic' 'Survey"
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient Hampshire Cultural Trust
Paper Archive ID A2016.88
Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Report"

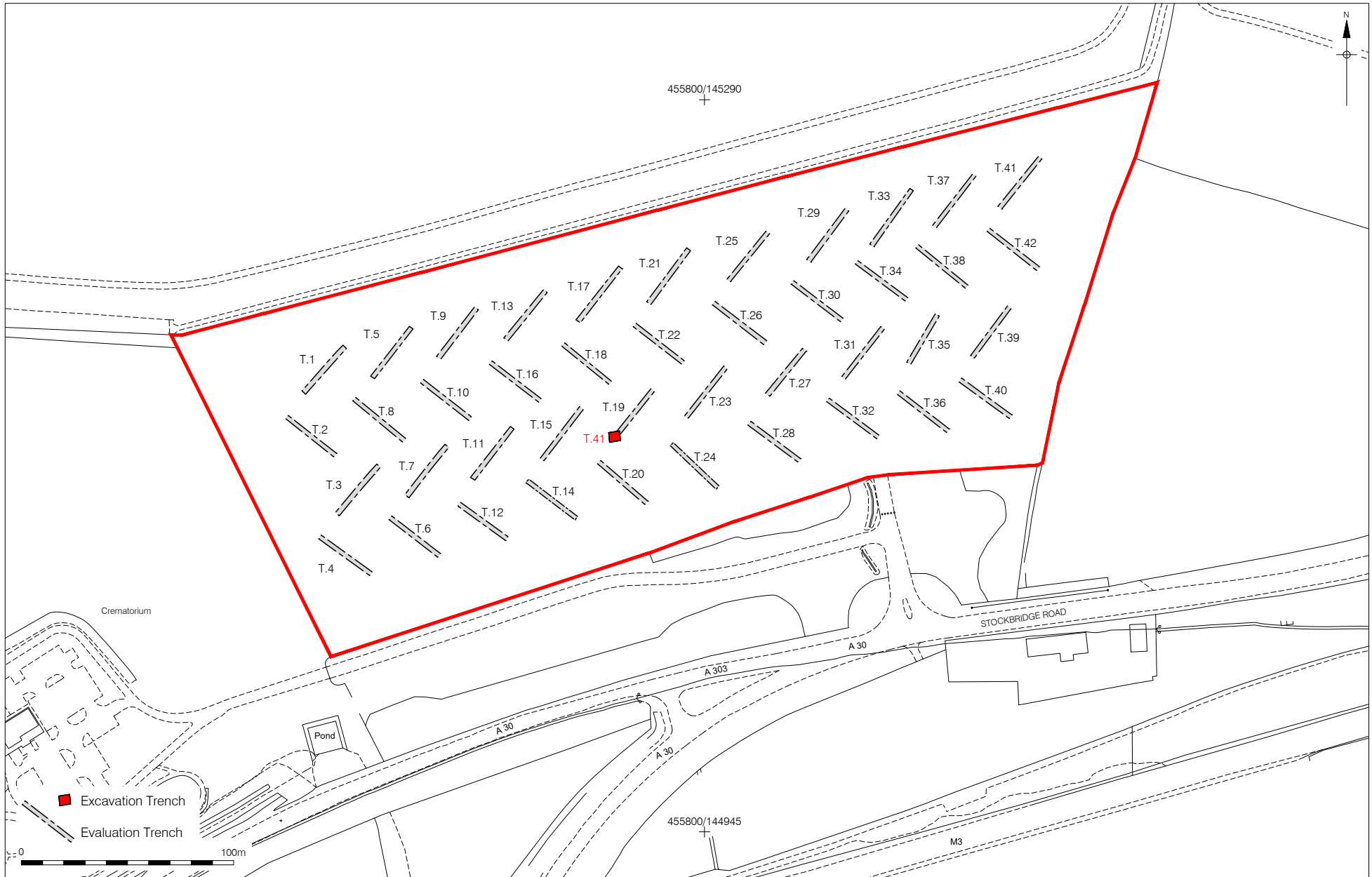
Project bibliography 1

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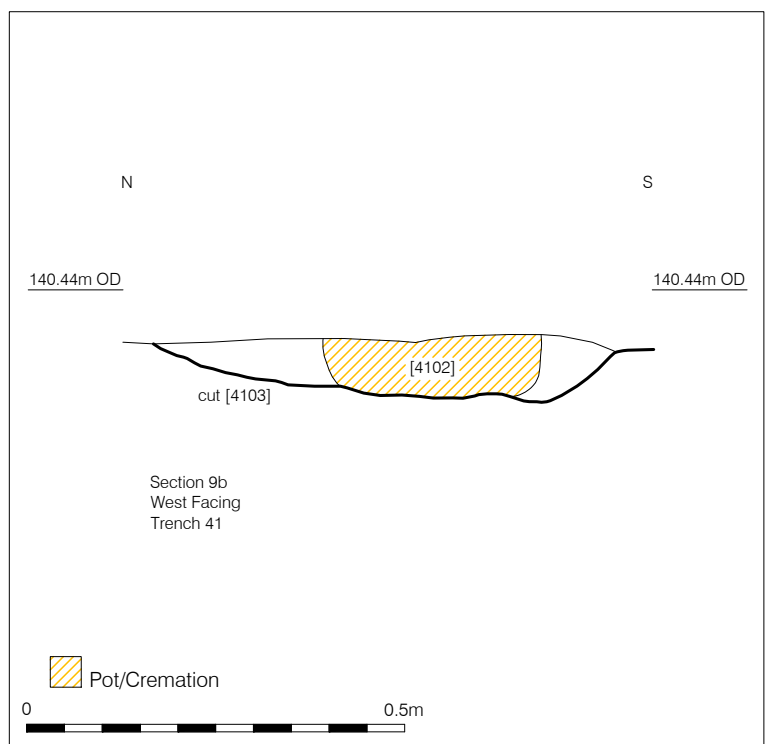
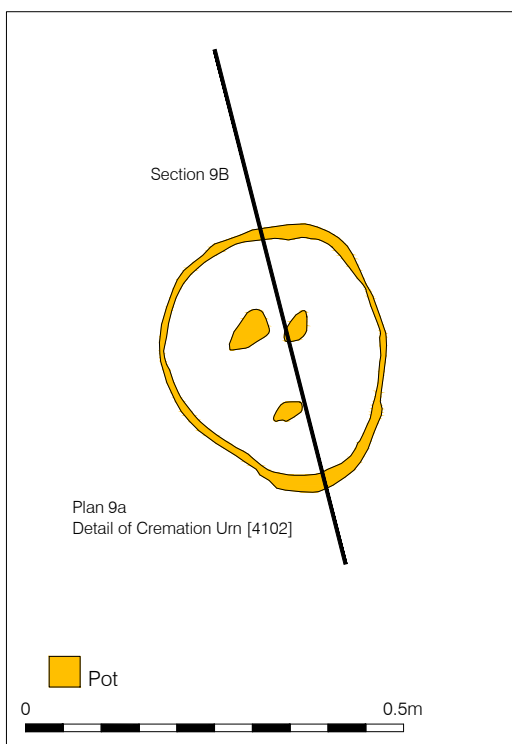
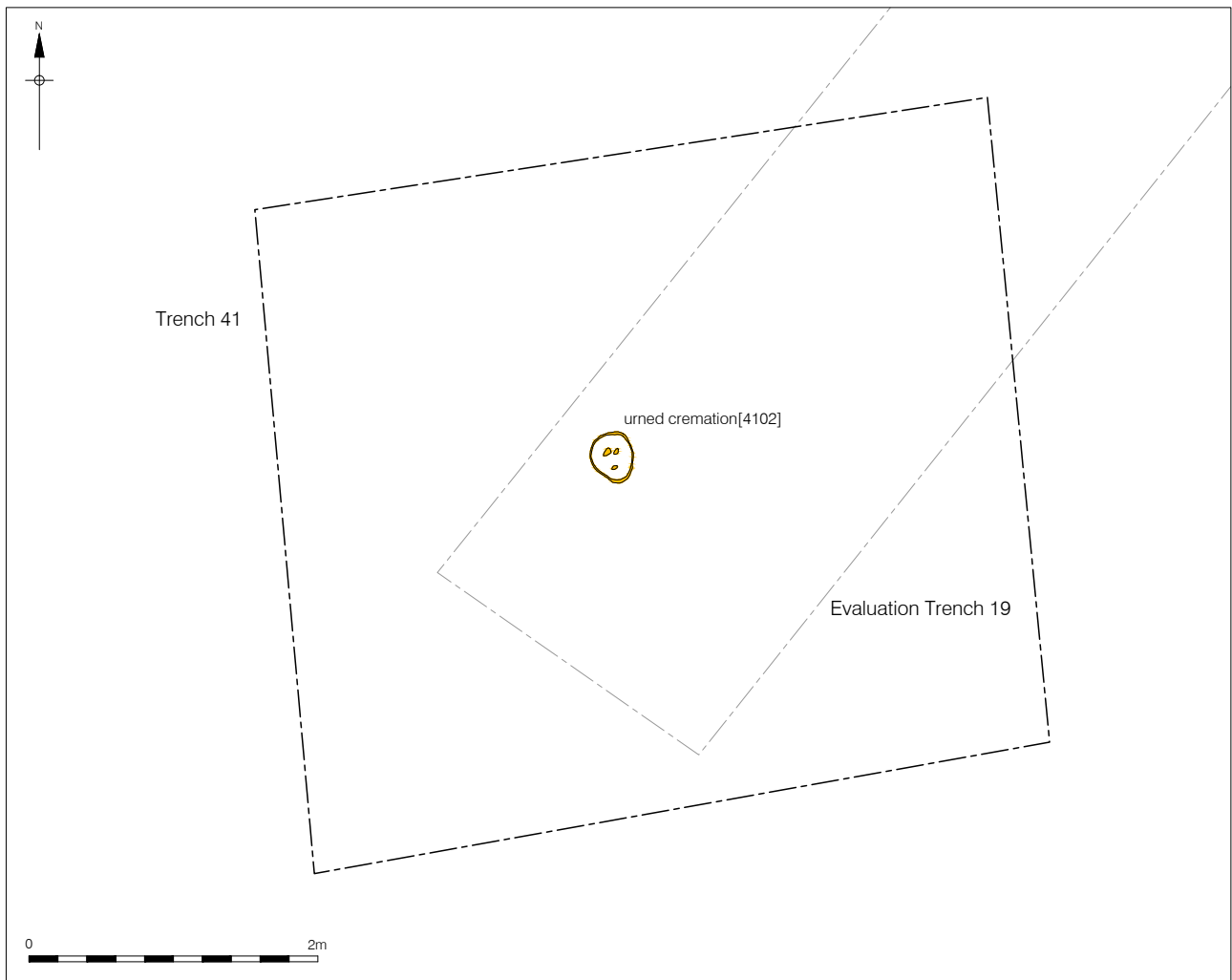
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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000 & 1:400,000 & 1:25,000 at A4



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Figure 2
 Trench Locations
 1:2,500 at A4



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Figure 3
Plan of Trench 41 showing location of Cremation Urn
& Detail of Plan 9a & Section 9b
Plan 1:50; Details 1:10 at A4

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