

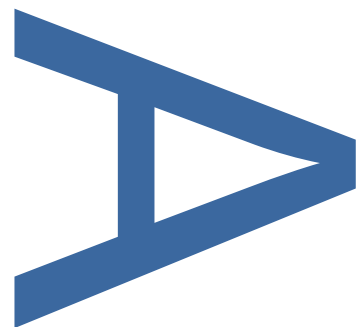
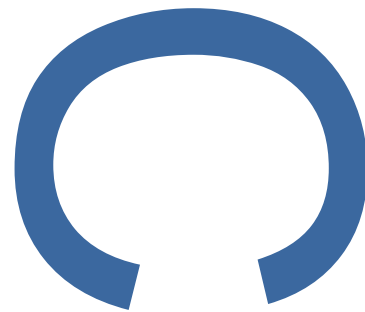
**135 COUNTESS ROAD, AMESBURY,
WILTSHIRE, SP4 7AR**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION REPORT**

SITE CODE: CRAW18

PCA REPORT NO: 13481

DECEMBER 2018



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**135 COUNTESS ROAD, AMESBURY, WILTSHIRE, SP4 7AR:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

Local Planning Authority: Wiltshire County Council
Planning Ref: 18/07655/FUL

Site Code: CRAW18
Central NGR: 415216 143103

Commissioning Client: Spencer Architecture

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December 2018

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name: 135 Countess Road, Amesbury, Wiltshire, SP4 7AR

Type of project: Archaeological Evaluation

Report: R13481

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code		K5838
	Name & Title	Date
Written by:	Callum Paisnel	28/11/2018
Graphics by:	A. Tonelli	28/11/2018
Graphics checked:	M. Rougely	28/11/2018
Project Manager:	P. McCulloch, Regional Manager	12/12/2018

Revision No.	Checked	Approved	Date

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Figure 1: SITE LOCATION

Figure 2: TRENCH LOCATIONS

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1 ABSTRACT

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Spencer Architecture on behalf of John Rayfield to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 135 Countess Road, Amesbury, Wiltshire. The Site is the subject of a development proposal to demolish existing dwellings at 135 and 135A Countess Road and construct a new dwelling and detached garage.

The archaeological evaluation was required by the Local Planning Authority Wiltshire County Council, acting on the advice of the Wiltshire Asst. County Archaeologist (ACA) and in keeping with NPPF Section 12 and Local Plan Policy. The requirement was made in order to inform a planning application for the proposed development and subsequent decisions regarding the potential for the development to impact archaeological remains.

The evaluation comprised 2no 10m X 1.8m trenches designed to determine the archaeological resource potential of the Site and in particular the eastern part of the Site affected by the proposed development.

No archaeological features were recorded in either Trench 1 or 2. The lack of archaeological evidence found in the evaluation is in contrast with evidence for large amounts of prehistoric activity in surrounding areas and the Site itself, in the form of the levelled round barrow NMN10434. However, the Site appears to have undergone several episodes of modern landscaping. It is concluded that the eastern part of the Site, where the proposed development will be sited, retains no significant archaeological potential.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Spencer Architecture on behalf of John Rayfield to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 135 Countess Road, Amesbury, Wiltshire, (NGR 415216 143103) hereafter 'the Site' (**Figure 1**). The Site is the subject of a development proposal to demolish existing dwellings at 135 and 135A Countess Road and construct a new dwelling and detached garage.

2.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was required by the Local Planning Authority Wiltshire County Council, acting on the advice of the Wiltshire Asst. County Archaeologist (ACA) and in keeping with NPPF Section 12 and Local Plan Policy. The requirement was made in order to inform a planning application for the proposed development and subsequent decisions regarding the potential for the development to impact archaeological remains.

2.1.3 The evaluation comprises 2 10m x 2m trenches and was completed in keeping with the Written Scheme of Investigation between 22nd – 23rd November 2018. This document has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (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, an area of approximately 0.2ha, is located along the western side of Countess Road, Amesbury, and forms part of a row of properties extending from Countess Road roundabout north to Fargo Road. Countess Road links Amesbury and Durrington and runs west of the River Avon. The Site comprises a narrow property extending west from Countess Road, the eastern half of which is occupied by a single storey house and outbuildings all of which are currently dilapidated. The western half of the Site is enclosed by mature hedges and contains mature vegetation and a wood shed.

2.2.2 The Site, at approximately 90m above OD, lies on fairly level ground above the valley floor of the River Avon to the east

2.2.3 The Site lies on bedrock Chalk (Seaford Chalk Formation).

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.3.1 The Site lies in an area rich in archaeological sites and monuments, which make up the well-known and internationally recognised prehistoric ceremonial and funerary landscape, the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site (WHS). The Site is located at the eastern extent of the Stonehenge part of the WHS. The Site lies close to a number of Scheduled Monuments including henge monuments at Durrington and Woodhenge, long barrows and round barrows. A bowl barrow (NMN 10434 'Bowl barrow 70m west of A345 on Countess Farm'), of which the surrounding ditch survives, extends beneath the western part of the Site.

3 AIM

3.1 Archaeological Evaluation

- 3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to establish, within the strategy of trenching that is proposed, the character, extent, date, condition and significance of archaeological remains within the Site, taking account of their potential to contain biological and palaeo-environmental remains.
- 3.1.2 This report aims to provide sufficient information concerning the Site's archaeological potential in order that the need for any further archaeological work, in respect of the proposed development, can be determined.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following presents a summary of the evaluation results based upon the Site archive, which comprises a Site diary, trench recording sheets, drawings and digital photographs. A summary of recorded contexts is provided in a Trench Index in **Appendix 1** and photographs of the trenches in **Appendix 2**. The archive is held at PCA's Winchester office under the site code **CRAW18** and will in due course be deposited with Salisbury Museum.

4.2 Methodology

- 4.2.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following the methodology that was detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2018), which was approved by Wiltshire County Council.
- 4.3 The evaluation was carried out between 22nd and 23rd November 2018 and comprised the excavation of 2no 10m X 1.8m trenches. The trenches (**Figure 2 and Plate 1**) were set out using a GPS device to ensure their pre-determined location was achieved accurately. The trenches were then mechanically excavated using a wide toothless blade bucket. All mechanical excavation was supervised by a suitably qualified archaeologist familiar with the ground conditions anticipated on the Site.

4.4 Summary of Deposition Sequence

- 4.4.1 The deposition sequence was consistent across the Site with topsoil appearing in both Trenches, However, Trench 1 was over lain with a modern garden soil and debris. The natural chalk geology was relatively high and was seen at a depth of 0.18-0.19m below ground level (**Figure 3 and Plates 2 & 3**).

4.5 Archaeological Features

4.6 No archaeological features were seen in either trench. Small modern features were seen in both trenches, and all contained modern dating evidence.

4.7 Conclusion

4.7.1 No archaeological features were recorded in either Trench 1 or 2. The lack of archaeological evidence found in the evaluation is in contrast with evidence for large amounts of prehistoric activity in surrounding areas and the Site itself, in the form of the levelled round barrow NMN10434. However, the Site appears to have undergone several episodes of modern landscaping. It is concluded that the eastern part of the Site, where the proposed development will be sited, retains no significant archaeological potential.

5 ARCHIVE PREPARATION, DEPOSITION AND COPYRIGHT

5.1 The Site Archive

5.1.1 The Site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, is to be prepared in accordance with Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (UKIC 1990). On completion of the project PCA will arrange for the archive to be deposited in accordance with the provisional arrangements made with a suitable museum or repository at the onset of fieldwork. Any alternative arrangements will be agreed with the ACA and the Local Planning Authority.

5.1.2 The designated receiving museum is Salisbury Museum. The Curator of Archaeology will be contacted in advance of the fieldwork for an accession number/Site code and to obtain information regarding the appropriate archive preparation standards.

5.2 Copyright

5.2.1 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. Wiltshire 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.

5.2.2 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 Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record).

5.2.3 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.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology is grateful to Spencer Architecture, for commissioning the Evaluation, on behalf of John Rayfield, and to Martin Brown, Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire, for his advice.

The evaluation was supervised by Katherine Marshall with assistance from Callum Paisnel. This report was prepared by Callum Paisnel with Illustrations prepared by Anna Tonelli. The project was managed for PCA by Paul McCulloch.

7 REFERENCES

CIfA, 2014, 'Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation', Chartered Inst. For Archaeologists, Reading

Historic England, 2015, 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment; The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide'.

PCA 2018 a, '*135 Countess Road, Amesbury, Wiltshire: WSI for an Archaeological Evaluation*'.

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH INDEX

Trench	Context Number	Type	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m) BGL
Tr 1	(+)	Layer	Turf/Topsoil	Modern Garden Soil	0-0.04m
	101	Layer	Sub-soil	Mid Greyish-Brown, Silty Clay, Very Soft	0.04-0.18m
	102	Layer	Natural	Chalk	0.18+
	103	Cut	Cut of Small Pit	Likely Modern, but undated	0.18-0.24m
	104	Fill	Fill of Small Pit	//	0.18-0.24m
Tr 2	201	Layer	Turf/Topsoil	Mid Greyish-Brown, Silty Clay, Very Soft	0-0.19m
	202	Layer	Natural	Chalk	0.19m+
	203	Cut	Cut of Small Pit	Land owner remembers this as location of a steel bath for ducks and chickens, therefore likely relates to this.	0.19-0.33m
	204	Fill	Fill of Small Pit	//	0.19-0.33m

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHS (PLATES 1, 2, 3)



Plate 1. Site overview, view to north-east, scale 2m



Plate 2. Trench 1, view to south, scale 2m



Plate 3. Trench 2, view to south-west, scale 2m

APPENDIX 3: OASIS RECORD

8 OASIS ID: preconst1-335249

Project details

Project name	135 Countess Road, Amesbury, Wiltshire
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Spencer Architecture on behalf of John Rayfield to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 135 Countess Road, Amesbury, Wiltshire. The Site is the subject of a development proposal to demolish existing dwellings at 135 and 135A Countess Road and construct a new dwelling and detached garage. The archaeological evaluation is required by the Local Planning Authority Wiltshire County Council, acting on the advice of the Wiltshire Asst. County Archaeologist (ACA) and in keeping with NPPF Section 12 and Local Plan Policy. The requirement has been made in order to inform a planning application for the proposed development and subsequent decisions regarding the potential for the development to impact archaeological remains. The excavation comprised 2no 10m X 1.8m trenches designed to determine the archaeological resource potential of the Site and in particular the eastern part of the Site affected by the proposed development. An investigation of a Historic Building was also conducted but features in another report (PCA, 2018b).
Project dates	Start: 22-11-2018 End: 23-11-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	World Heritage Site
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE SALISBURY AMESBURY 135 Countess Road
Postcode	SP4 7AR
Study area	0.2 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 153 421 51.17740933855 -1.781099983484 51 10 38 N 001 46 51 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Spencer Architecture
Project design originator	Paul McCulloch
Project director/manager	Paul McCulloch
Project supervisor	Katherine Marshall
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

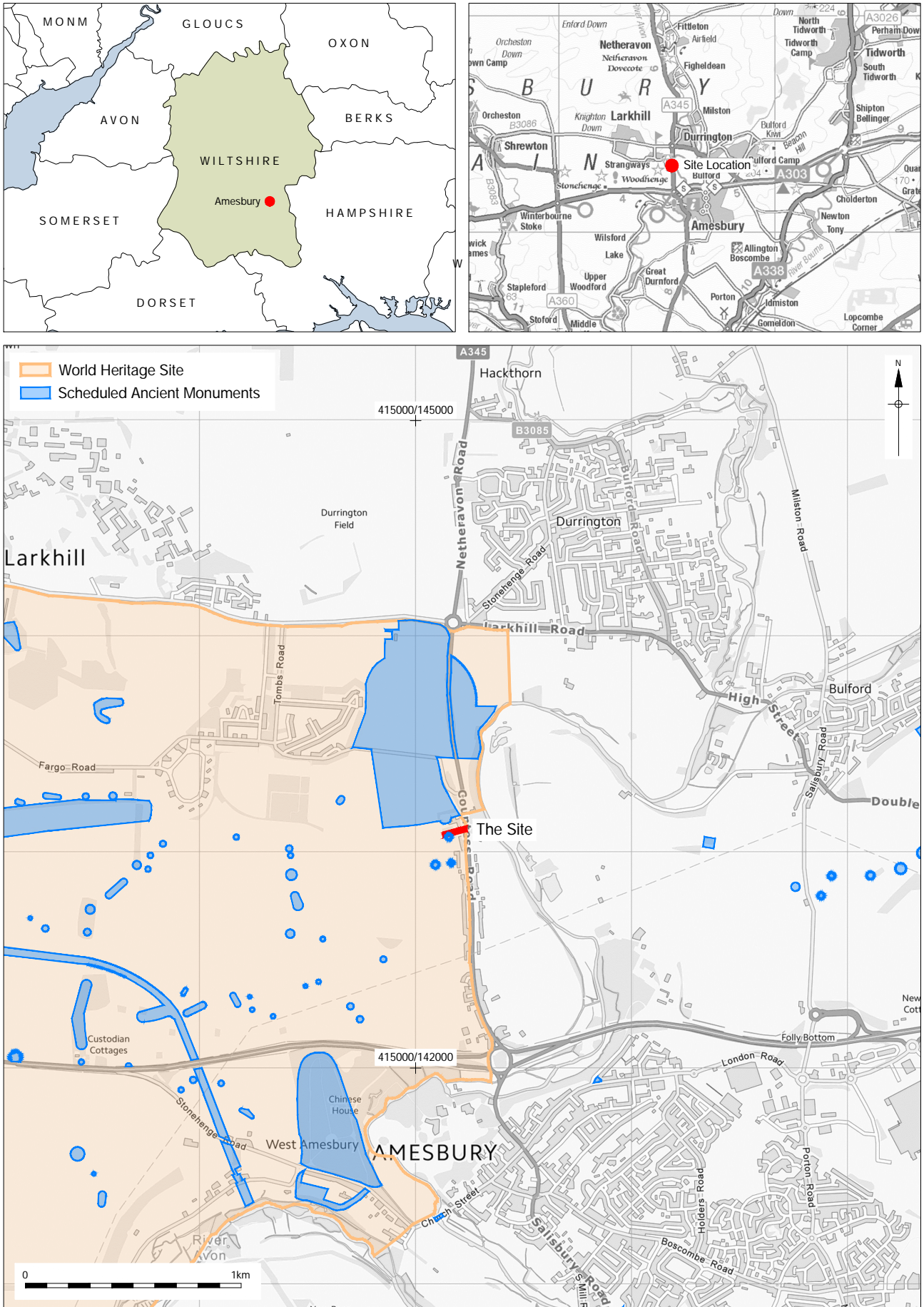
Project archives

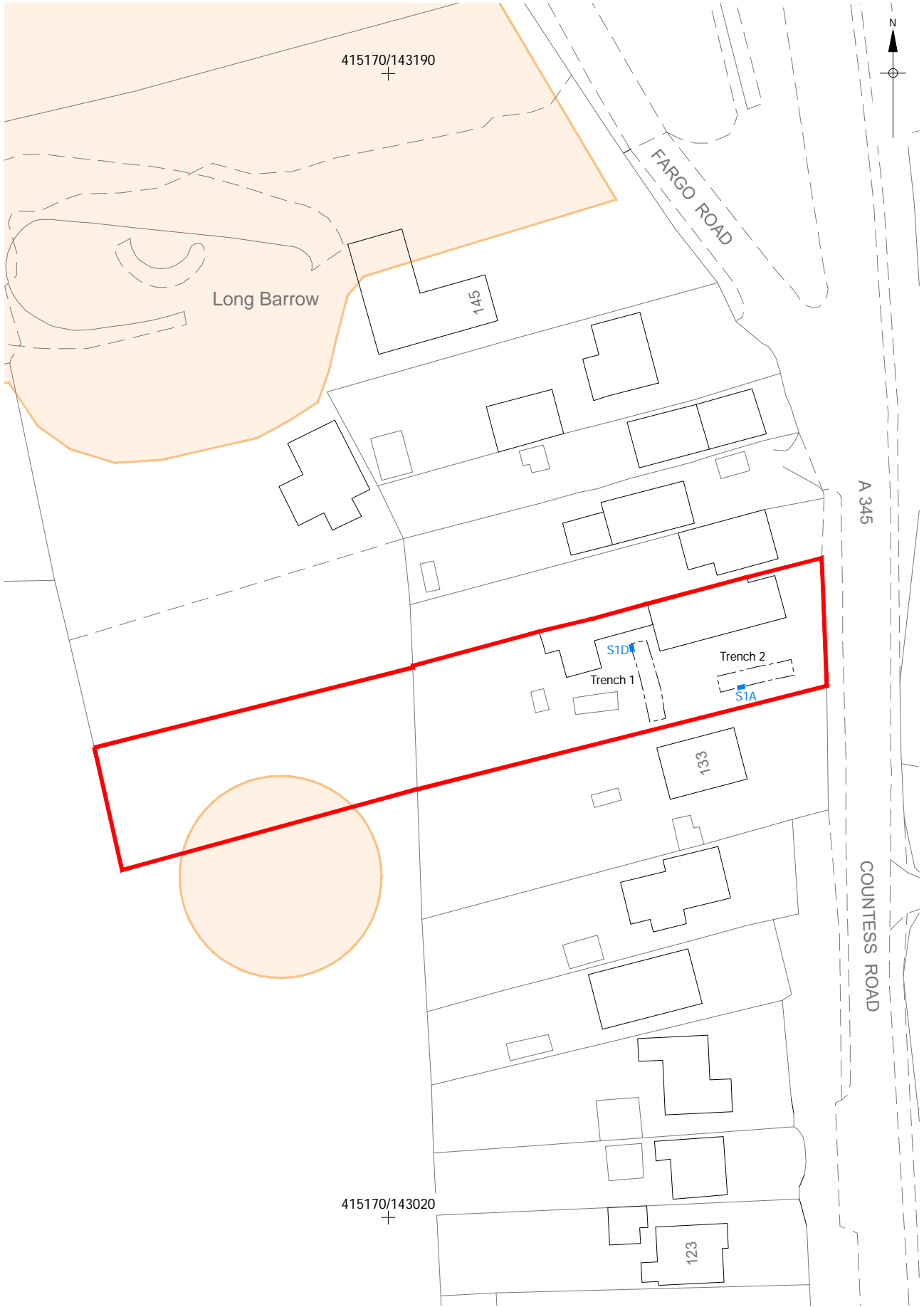
Physical Archive Ex	No
Digital Archive recipient	Salisbury Museum
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Salisbury Museum
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	135 Countess Road, Amesbury, Wiltshire, SP4 7AR: Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Paisnel, C.
Other bibliographic details	R13481
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	PCA Winchester
Place of issue or publication	Winchester
Description	A4, ring-bound report, unpublished client document. Three figures, three plates.

Entered by	Callum Paisnel (callumpaisnel@yahoo.com)
Entered on	28 November 2018





Orange-shaded area: Scheduled Ancient Monuments

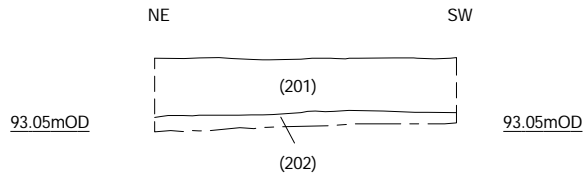
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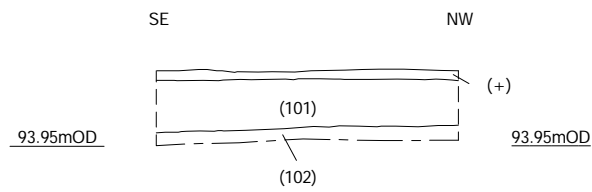
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28/11/18 AT

Figure 2
Trench Locations
1:800 at A4



Section 1A
North West facing
Trench 2



Section 1D
North East facing
Trench 1

PCA

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