

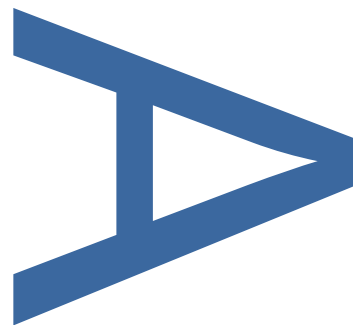
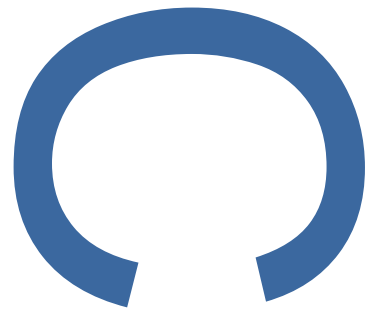
**PARK FARM, RAMSBURY,
WILTSHIRE, SN8 2HW**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF REPORT**

PCA REPORT NO: R15845

SITE CODE: WPFR22

MARCH 2024



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**PARK FARM, LONDON ROAD, RAMSBURY, WILTSHIRE, SN8 2HW:
REPORT FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Site Code: WPFR22

Central NGR: SU 2553 6968

Local Planning Authority: Wiltshire Council

Planning Reference: PL/2022/07157

Commissioning Client: Reza Baradaran-Azimi of RBA Project Solutions

Accession Number: DZSWS:68-2022

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March 2024

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

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Type of project: Archaeological Watching Brief
Report: R15845

Quality Control

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1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Reza Baradaran-Azimi of RBA Project Solutions on behalf of Mr C S E Persson to carry out an archaeological watching brief on groundwork for a proposed development at Park Farm, London Road, Ramsbury, Wiltshire. The development includes the construction of a new estate house, a new pond, a lake, and an access drive within the Park Farm Estate.

In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation, watching brief monitoring visits were made between November 2022 and December 2023.

The groundwork at the site of the Ha-Ha revealed four pits that are thought to be of the early/middle Iron age, these pits contained sherds of pottery and animal bone. The groundwork undertaken for the development of the lake revealed a cluster of small undated pits on the northern edge of the excavated area.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by RBA Project Solutions on behalf Mr C S E Persson to carry out an archaeological watching brief on groundwork for a proposed development at Park Farm, London Road, Ramsbury, Wiltshire, SN8 2HW, (NGR: SU 2553 6968) hereafter 'the Site' (**Figure 1**). The Site consists of the curtilage of Park House at 3.36ha, the curtilage of Gate Lodge at 0.18ha, and the wider farmland and parkland estate area of 128.5ha. The development includes the construction of a new estate house, new ponds, new tree and hedgerow planting, a new lake, and an access drive within the Park Farm Estate.

2.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was required by the Local Planning Authority Wiltshire Council to accord with advice from the Assistant County Archaeologist for archaeological mitigation works in the form of a watching brief to be completed during the groundworks for the construction of a new road, ponds, ancillary buildings, and a new estate dwelling at Park Farm, Ramsbury, Wiltshire. This is present as a condition of the previous planning consent for the same project (Planning Ref 14/05721/FUL), based on the advice of the Wiltshire Council Archaeologist (WCA). The watching brief was commissioned pre-emptive of the same condition being applied to the current planning permission application for the same project (PL/2022/07157). The watching brief was intended to ensure that, in the event archaeological remains are affected by the development works, the remains are investigated and recorded. The archaeological potential that may be affected by the development was identified in Archaeology and Planning Solutions' Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation as deposits associated with Medieval and Post-Medieval activity. Archaeological potential for all other time periods is low.

2.1.2 The standard planning condition states:

"No development shall commence within the area indicated (proposed development site) until: a) a written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and b) the approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details"

2.1.3 This document has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (ClfA 2014) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England, 2015). PCA is a ClfA Registered Archaeological Organisation and is bound by its code of conduct.

2.2 Location, Topography and Geology

2.2.1 The Site lies 2.4km southwest of the village of Ramsbury, centred on SU 2552 6967. The Site consists of several modern agricultural buildings, the Grade II listed Park Farmhouse which was built in 1830 and is located east of the farm buildings, a small cottage known as 'The Bothy', and two bungalows thought to have been constructed during World War Two. There are also poplar plantations to the north, west and east of the farm buildings. The site also consists of arable farmland and farmland laid to pasture.

2.2.2 The Site lies on the Seaford Chalk Formation - Chalk. Sedimentary bedrock formed between 89.8 and 83.6 million years ago during the Cretaceous period, overlain with a superficial deposit of Clay-with-flints Formation - Clay, silt, sand, and gravel. Sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 23.03 million and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Neogene and Quaternary periods.

2.3 Proposed development

2.3.1 The proposed development consists of the construction of a new estate house and access drive, pond, and lake along with associated groundworks.

2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.4.1 The Site once formed part of the Royal Forest of Savernake which was established in the 12th century AD. In the mid-17th century, the land was sold by the 5th Earl of Pembroke to Henry Powle, and formed part of what became the Ramsbury Manor Estate. A survey plan prepared by William Walgrave in 1676 (**figure 3**) provides a record of the arrangement, extent, and character of the land. Buildings are shown on the Site of the current Park Farm lying in the centre of an area described as "The Great Parke".

2.4.2 The buildings at Park Farm are again shown on the Andrews and Drury map of 1773 (**figure 4**). The buildings are described as Park Farm on an Ordnance Survey map of 1887 where Park Farmhouse is shown in its current location with a range of farm buildings forming a courtyard to the west. The land around the farm was largely open and had few field boundaries. A similar arrangement can be seen on an aerial photograph taken in 1934 (**figure 5**).

2.4.3 Ramsbury Air Force Station was constructed along the plateau to the east of Park Farm and was used by the US Air Force between 1942 and 1946. The main runway followed the ridgeline and numerous taxiways, access roads and airplane parking bays were constructed on the adjacent land which extended around the south side of Park Farm. The two bungalows which now exist to the southeast of Park Farm were constructed at this time – reputedly as pilot officer accommodation. Most of the runway and associated hard standing was cleared in the two decades following the end of the War. However, large areas of concrete and several sections of trackway have remained to the present day. The complex of agricultural buildings at Park Farm has changed markedly in the post-war period, significantly expanding the surface area of hard standing and the massing of buildings. Park Farm was recently in use as a dairy unit.

3 AIM

3.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological watching brief was to monitor groundwork and investigate and record archaeological remains, if revealed by development groundwork, taking account of the date, nature, extent, bio-archaeological and palaeo-environmental potential of the remains and the potential of the Site that has been identified.

3.1.2 A further aim of the work was to prepare an archive of the results of the investigation leading to the preparation of this report. This report will aim to satisfy the requirement of the Local Planning Authority that the watching brief was carried out in accordance with the requirement of planning consent.

Despite the seemingly limited archaeological potential that has been identified, the aim of the watching brief will include the following research aims:

- To determine whether any prehistoric evidence which would relate to other potential prehistoric sites in the wider area is present.
- To determine whether any Medieval and Post-Medieval remains associated with the settlement of Park Farmhouse are present.
- To establish the likely impact of post land use and development on any archaeological remains.

3.1.3 This report aims to provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the watching brief was carried out in fulfilment of the conditions of planning consent and in keeping with the aims and methods set out in the Written scheme of Investigation.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following describes the watching brief observations and is based upon the Site archive, which comprises a Site diary, written records, and digital photographs. Photographs of the Site appear in **Appendix 2**. The Site archive is held at PCA's Winchester office under the Site code **WPFR22** and will in due course be deposited with Wiltshire Museum.

4.2 Methodology

4.2.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken following the methodology detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2022), which was approved by the Local Planning Authority in advance of the works.

4.2.2 The watching brief was carried out on various dates between November 2022 and December 2023 when groundwork was underway. Visits coincided with the removal of topsoil and subsoil in the areas where the ha-ha, pond, access drive and lake were under construction.

4.3 Summary of Deposition Sequence

4.3.1 Two depositional sequences were observed during the course of the watching brief:

- The sequence of deposition on the high ground near the Ha-Ha and the access road consisted of modern topsoil, a silty clay subsoil and a clay natural.
- The deposition sequence on the low ground near the under-construction Lake consisted of a modern topsoil, a reddish-brown clay silt subsoil and a grey-white chalk natural.
- All features were dug into either the clay natural or the chalk natural.

4.4 Archaeological Features

4.4.1 Four pits [007], [009], [013] and [016] (**plates 2-3**) were uncovered during the stripping of the subsoil for the Ha-Ha. Pit [007] contained some undated CBM. Pits [009] and [013] contained pottery of a probable Early/Middle Iron age date. Pit [016] Contained pottery and animal bone, the pottery likely being either Early or Middle Iron age.

4.4.2 Eight pits [022], [024], [26], [028], [030], [032], [034] and [036] (**plate 5**) were exposed and recorded during the works that were undertaken as part of the construction of the Lake. All these pits with the exception of [026] were bereft of any archaeological finds. Pit [026] (**plate 6**) contained animal bone and a piece of antler both of which are consistent with red deer. With red deer being an endemic species no accurate dating can be provided.

4.5 Conclusion

- 4.5.1 The ground investigations revealed the general sequences for the Site as well as uncovering Early/Middle Iron Age dated pits in the area occupied by the Ha-Ha, these pits contained numerous sherds of pottery and some animal bone. The condition of the pottery assemblage was fairly poor and is difficult to date closely beyond the late prehistoric period (**Appendix 4**).
- 4.5.2 The pits uncovered during the works undertaken for the development of the Lake were undated, but one pit [026] contained a moderate amount of red deer bone and antler. The specialist report on the animal bone (**Appendix 3**) found that attempts at refitting had occurred and thus suggests that the bone all came from one animal. It is unclear if this material was recovered due to hunting or from gathering shed antler bone. Due to red deer being an endemic species, the bone was unable to be dated.
- 4.5.3 Despite the archaeological potential of the site, no evidence of Medieval, post Medieval or WW2 occupation was uncovered. The only evidence uncovered on site was a small amount of mid to late Prehistoric pottery which would indicate either occupation by transient peoples who stayed in the area briefly before moving on, or possibly these finds may indicate that this area is on the periphery of an unknown settlement in the surrounding landscape.

5 ARCHIVE PREPARATION AND DEPOSITION

5.1 The Site Archive

5.1.1 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 in accordance with the provisional arrangements made with Wiltshire Museums and the costs will be discharged by PCA on behalf of the client. Any alternative arrangements will be agreed with the NFNPA.

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 Historic Environment 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 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology is grateful to RBA Project Solutions on behalf of LJ Partnership for commissioning the watching brief. The watching brief was undertaken by Edwin Whyatt. This report was prepared by Edwin Whyatt. The report illustrations were prepared by Hayley Baxter and the project was managed for PCA by Cameron Hardie.

7 REFERENCES

Archaeology and Planning Solutions, 2014 *Park House, Ramsbury, Wiltshire; Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation.*

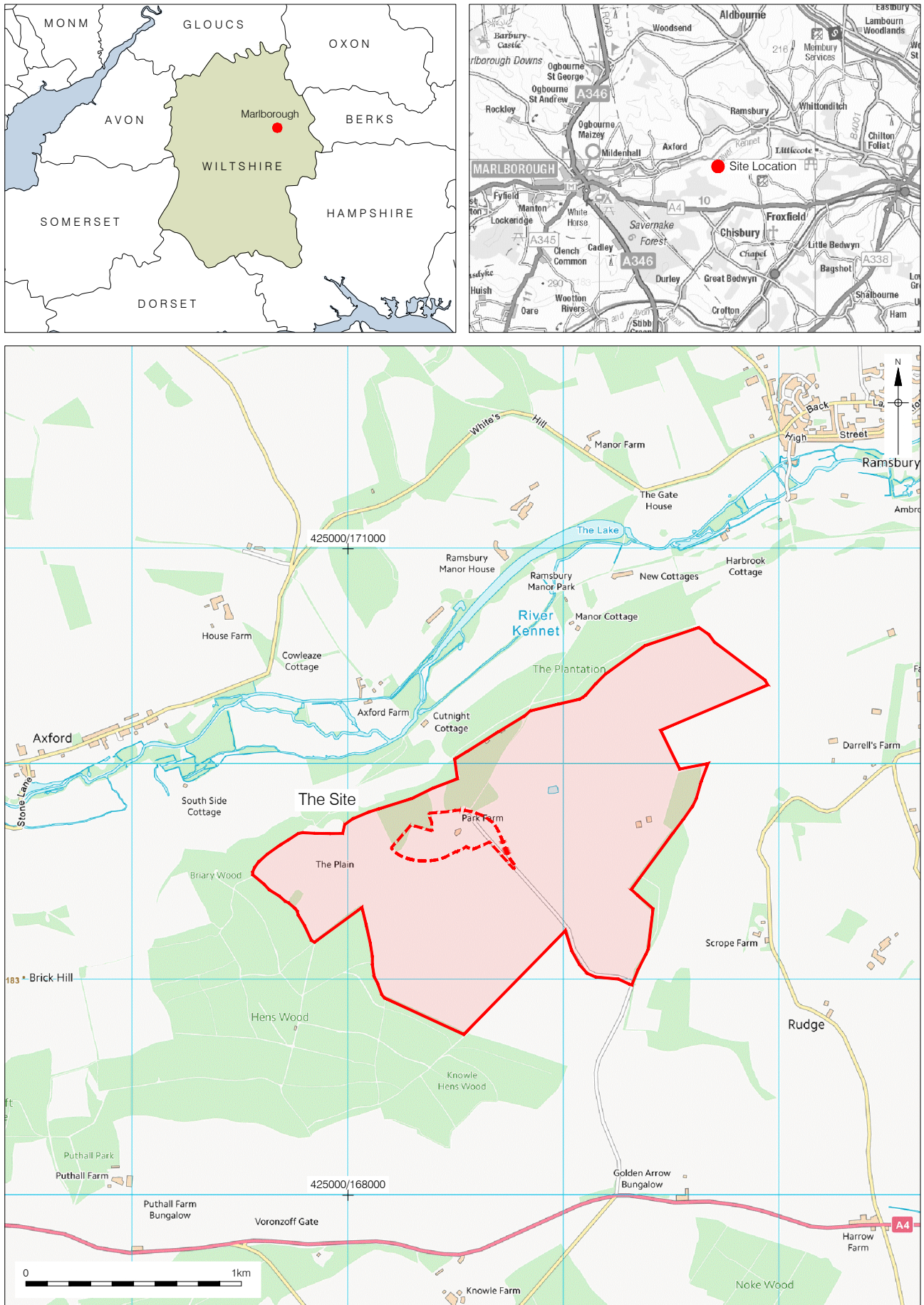
British Geological Survey <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk>

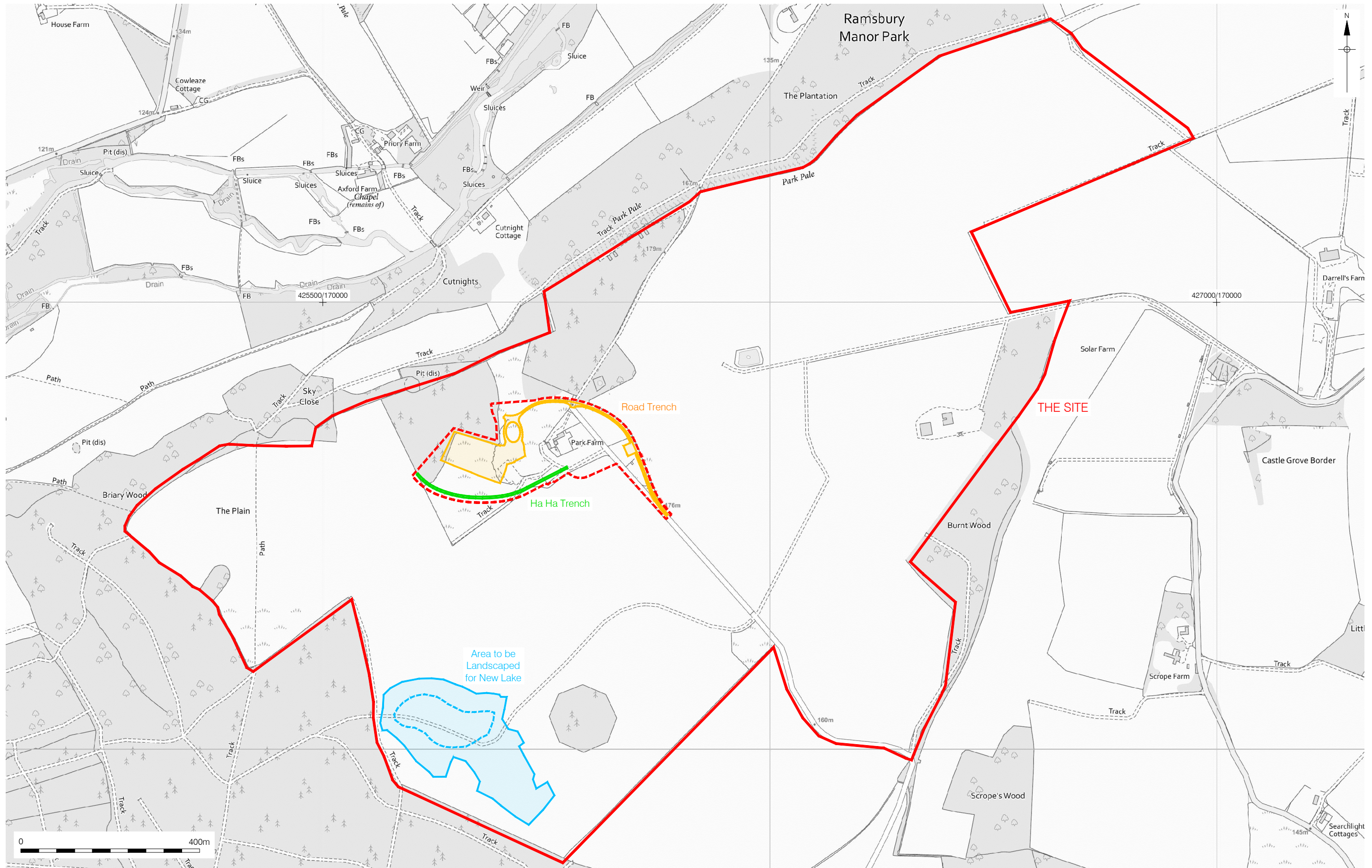
ClfA, 2014 '*Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.*'

Historic England, 2015 '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*'.

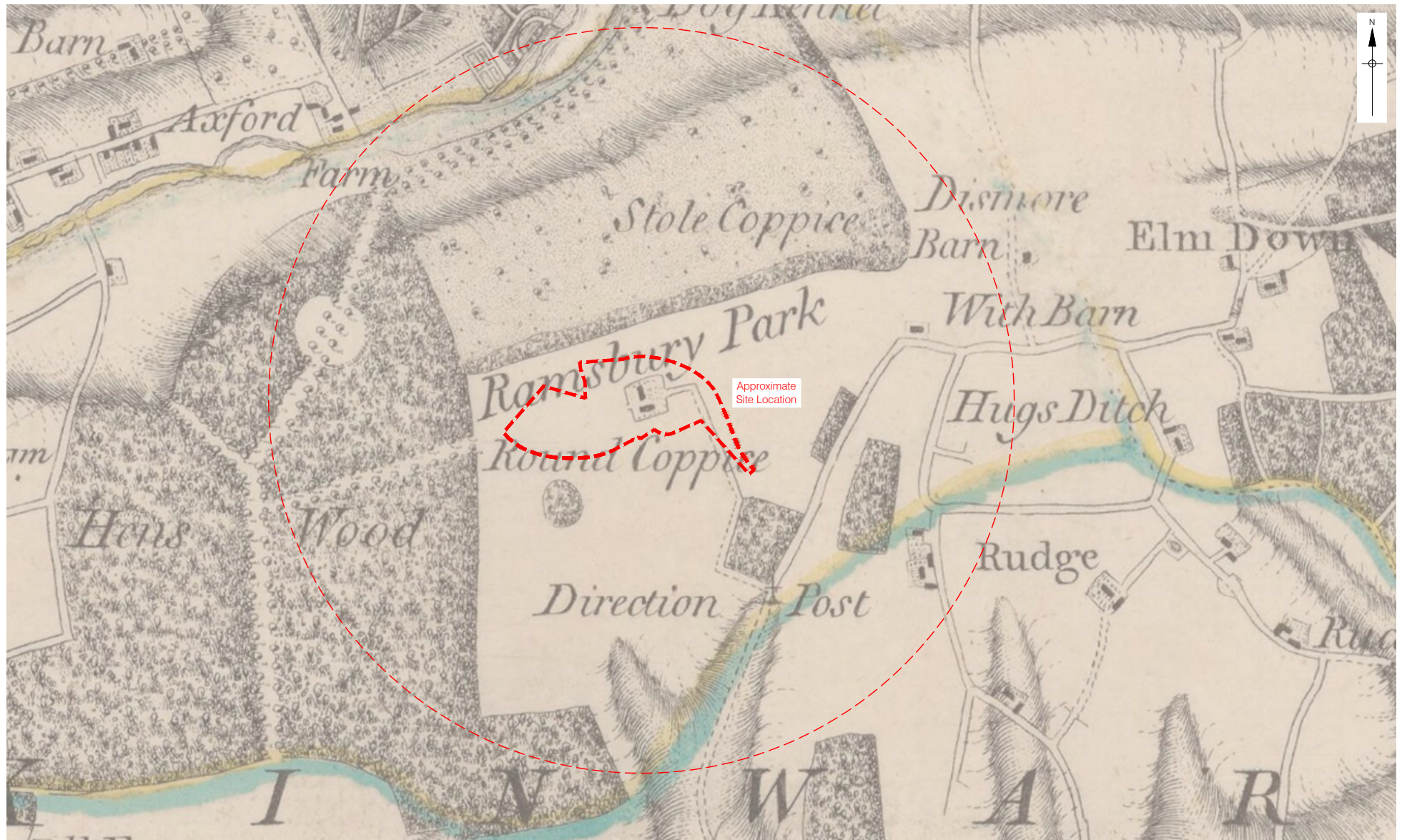
Jane Timby, 2024 '*The Prehistoric Pottery*' Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

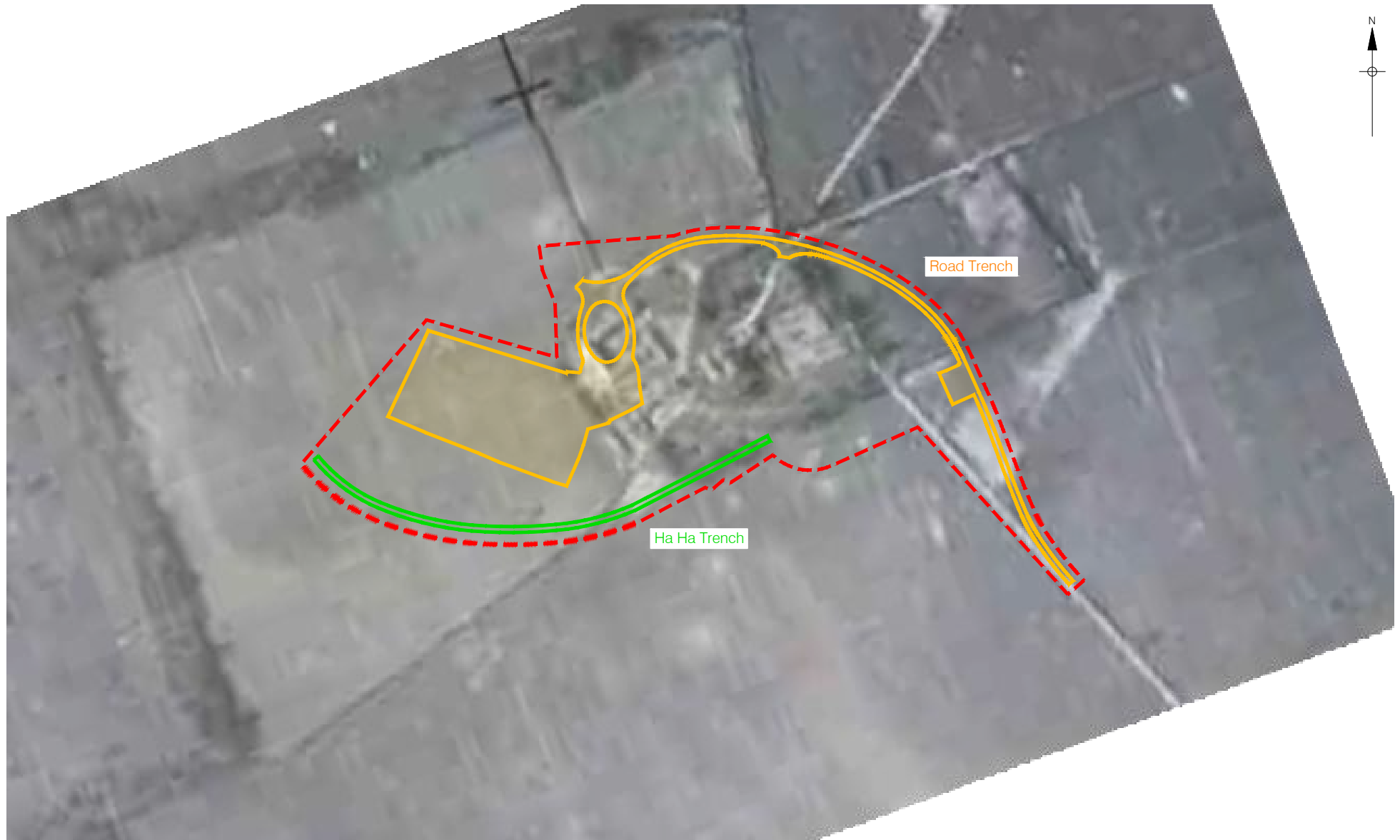
Karen Deighton, 2024 '*The Animal Bone*'. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.











0 200m

Figure 5
Aerial Photograph, 1934
Approx. 1:4,000 at A4

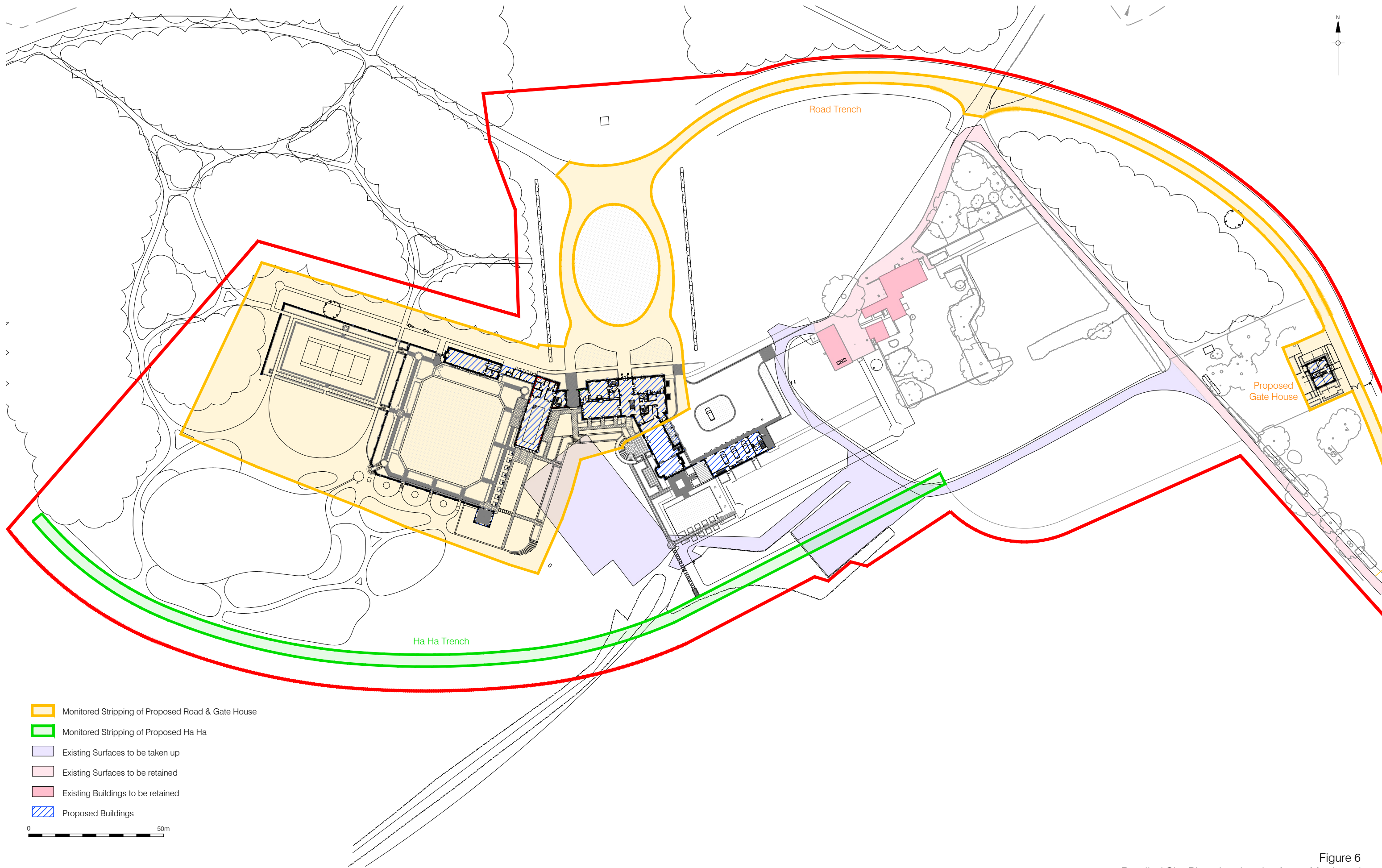
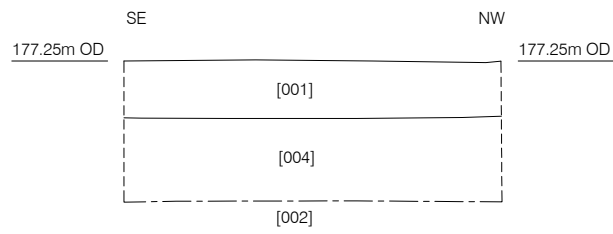
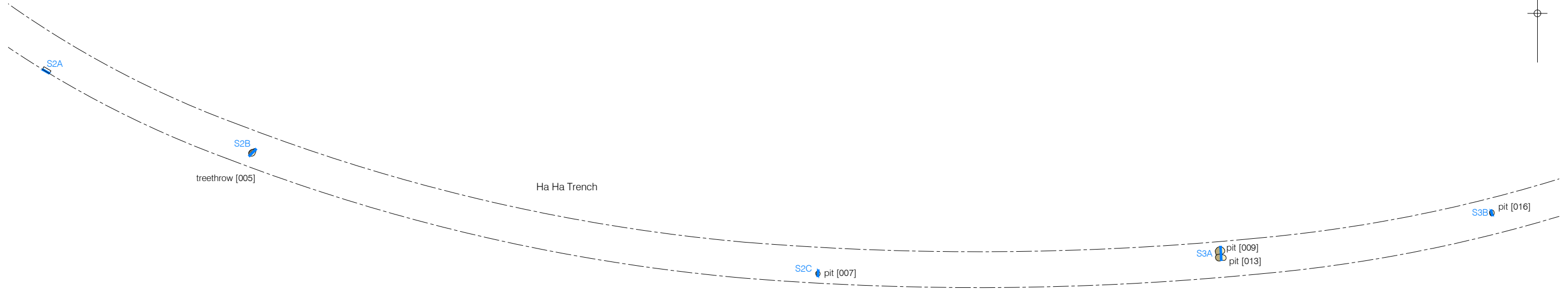
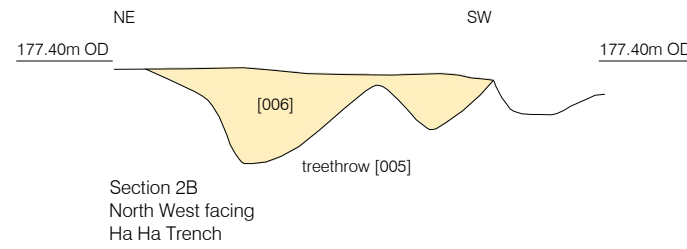


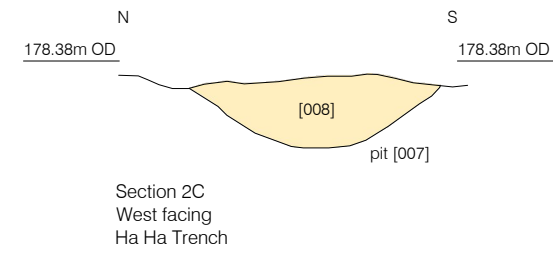
Figure 6
Detailed Site Plan showing the Areas Monitored
overlay onto the Combined Existing & Proposed Site Plan
1:1,250 at A3



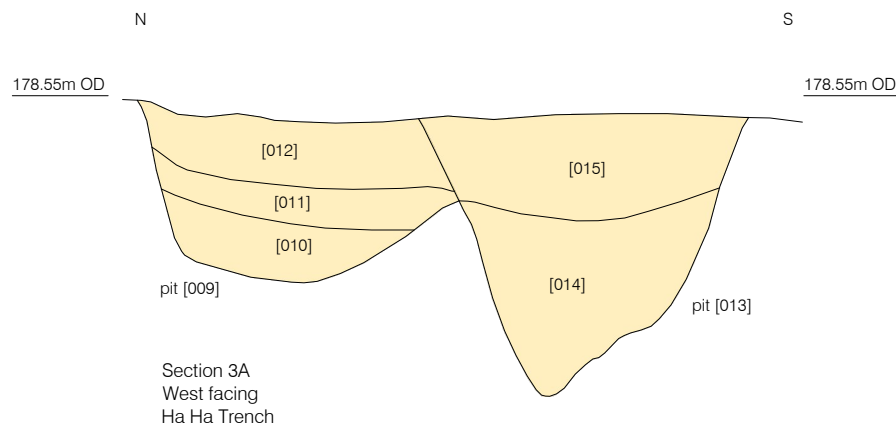
Representative Section 2A
North East facing
Ha Ha Trench



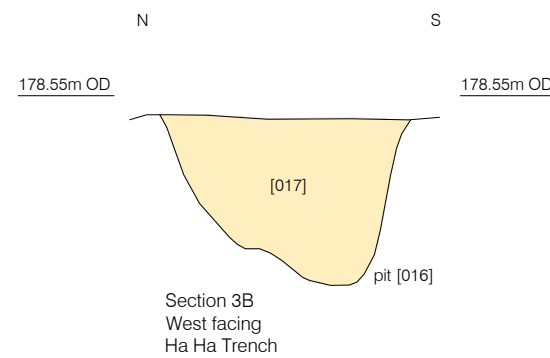
Section 2B
North West facing
Ha Ha Trench



Section 2C
West facing
Ha Ha Trench

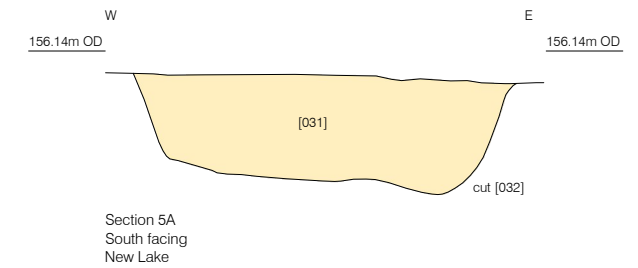
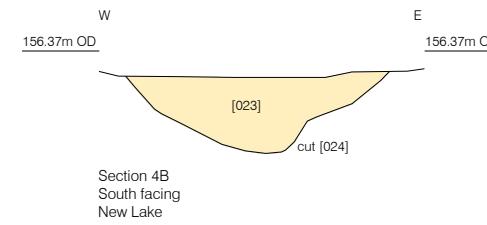
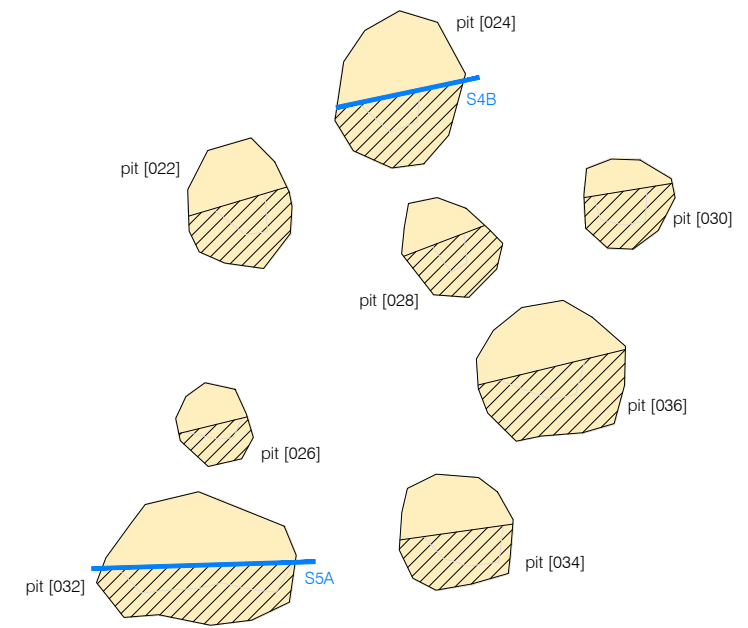
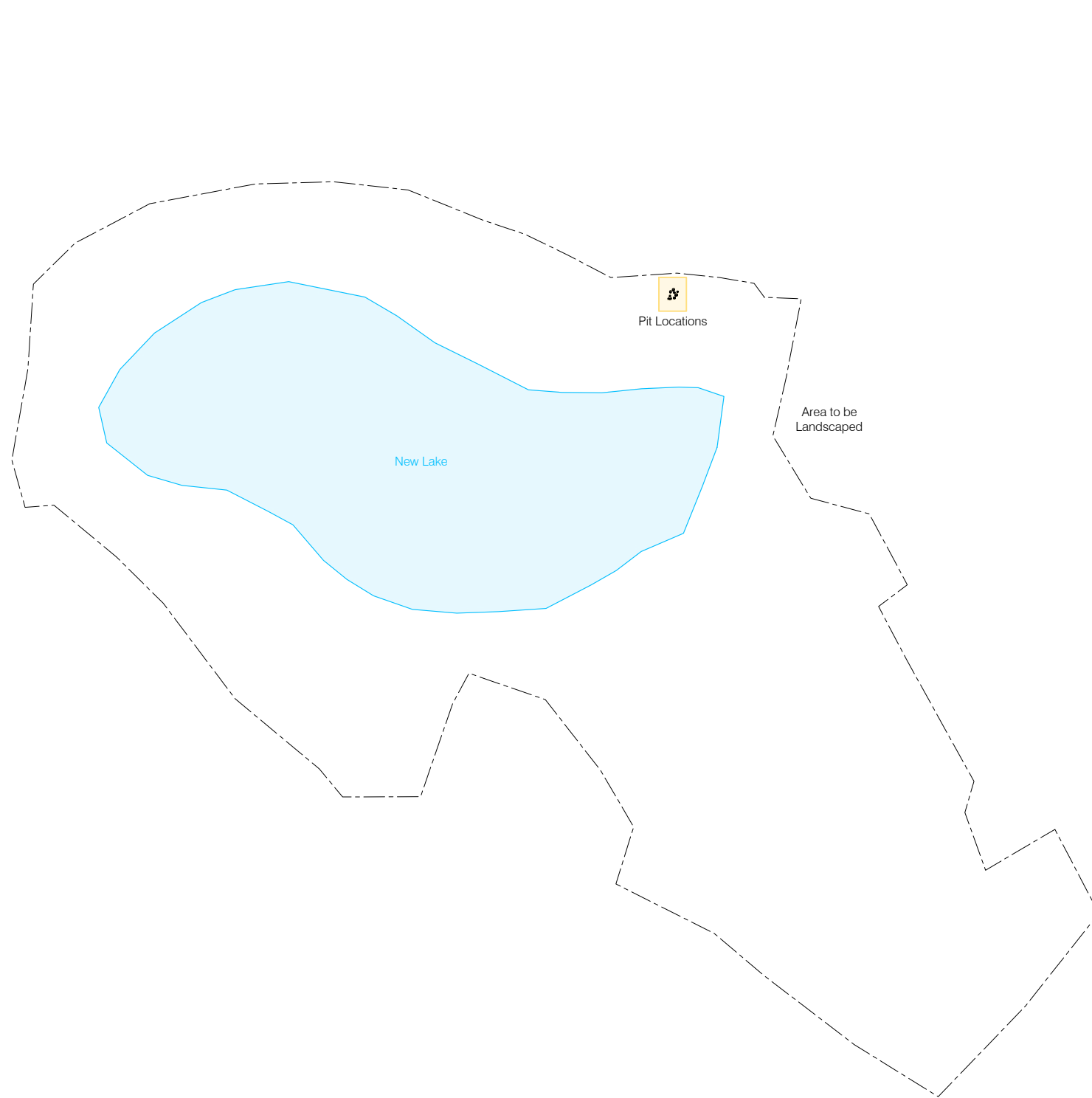


Section 3A
West facing
Ha Ha Trench



Section 3B
West facing
Ha Ha Trench





Appendix 1: Context Register

| Context Number | Type | Description | Date | Interpretation | Fill of | Filled by |
|----------------|-------|---|---------|---|---------|-----------|
| 001 | LAYER | Firm, light brown clayey silt with moderate small to medium CBM fragments, flint and sparse charcoal. Site width with a maximum thickness recorded at 0.31m | Modern | Modern topsoil with no archaeological interest | | |
| 002 | LAYER | Firm, mid orange brown silty clay with common small to medium flint inclusions | Natural | Natural Clay | | |
| 003 | LAYER | Friable, dark grey brown silty clay with evidence of rooting. Thickness of 0.22m | Natural | Dark layer of material above (001) localised to the wooden area to the west. South west of the road strip. Layer of decomposed vegetation from the woodland | | |
| 004 | LAYER | Firm, mid orange brown silt clay with large flint inclusions and evidence of rooting. Thickness of 0.21m | Natural | Subsoil with no archaeological interest | | |
| 005 | CUT | Oval feature with moderate steep sides and an irregular concave base. Measures 0.95m in length, 0.90m in width and a maximum depth of 0.24m | Natural | Cut of possible treethrow | | 006 |
| 006 | FILL | Firm and Sticky, mid greyish brown clay with shards of natural flint and rooting inclusions | Natural | Single fill of treethrow, accumulated through natural silting | 005 | |
| 007 | CUT | Sub-oval feature with moderate sides and concave base. Measures 0.85m in length, 0.76m in width and maximum depth of 0.18m | Undated | Cut of shallow pit | | 008 |
| 008 | FILL | Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay with rooting and small sub rounded stone inclusions | Undated | Single fill of pit, accumulated through natural processes | 007 | |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|------|---|-----------------------|---|-----|---------------|
| 009 | CUT | Sub-oval feature with steep to vertical sides with flat base. Measures 0.78m in length, 0.74m in width and maximum depth of 0.44m | Late Iron Age - Roman | Cut of pit, truncated by pit [013] | | 010, 011, 012 |
| 010 | FILL | Firm, dark greyish brown silty clay with medium sized natural flint nodules and small charcoal inclusions | Late Iron Age - Roman | Lowest fill of pit [009]. Possibly a dumped deposit of refuse | 009 | |
| 011 | FILL | Moderately firm, light yellowish grey gravelly clay with natural flint and various sub rounded and sub angular stone inclusions | Late Iron Age - Roman | Middle fill of pit [009], possible redeposited natural | 009 | |
| 012 | FILL | Firm, light greyish brown silty clay with natural flint nodules | Late Iron Age - Roman | Upper fill of pit [009], accumulated through natural silting processes | 009 | |
| 013 | CUT | Sub oval feature with steep to almost vertical sides and undulating base. Measures 0.85m in length, 0.82m in width and a maximum depth of 0.28m | Late Iron Age - Roman | Cut of pit that truncates pit [009] | | 014, 015 |
| 014 | FILL | Moderately compact, dark greyish brown silty clay with small sub angular stone and charcoal fleck inclusions. Evidence of rooting | Late Iron Age - Roman | Lower fill of pit [013]. Possibly a dumped deposit of refuse | 013 | |
| 015 | FILL | Firm, light greyish brown silty clay with natural flint nodules and evidence of rooting | Late Iron Age - Roman | Upper fill of pit [013], accumulated through natural silting processes | 013 | |
| 016 | CUT | Oval feature with very steep to vertical sides and an undulating base. Measures 0.67m in length, 0.62m in width and a maximum depth of 0.44m | Late Iron Age - Roman | Cut of pit | | 017 |
| 017 | FILL | Moderately firm, mid greyish brown silty clay with natural flint nodules and evidence of rooting | Late Iron Age - Roman | Single fill of pit [016], probable dumping pit for the deposition of waste material | 016 | |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|-------|--|---------|---|-----|-----|
| 018 | LAYER | Loose, dark brown clayey silt with flint inclusions. Measures site wide | Modern | Modern topsoil with no archaeological interest | | |
| 019 | LAYER | Moderately firm, mid reddish brown clayey silt with flint inclusions. Measures site wide | Modern | Modern subsoil with no archaeological interest | | |
| 020 | LAYER | Firm, light grey white chalk with flint inclusions. Measures site wide | Natural | Natural Chalk | | |
| 021 | FILL | Loose, mid brown clayey silt with chalk and flint inclusions | Undated | Single, deliberate backfill of pit | 022 | |
| 022 | CUT | Circular feature with moderate to concave sides and flat base. Measures 0.73m in length, 0.80m in width and a maximum depth of 0.18m | Undated | Cut of pit, located within a cluster of other similar sized pits | | 021 |
| 023 | FILL | Loose, mid reddish brown clayey silt with flint and chalk inclusions | Undated | Single, deliberate backfill of pit | 024 | |
| 024 | CUT | Circular feature with moderate sides and concave base. Measures 0.95m in length, 0.80m with a maximum depth of 0.25m | Undated | Cut of pit, located within a cluster of other similar sized pits | | 023 |
| 025 | FILL | Loose, light reddish brown clayey silt with chalk inclusions | Undated | Single, deliberate backfill of pit. Animal bone and single antler found | 026 | |
| 026 | CUT | Circular feature with concave to steep sides and flat base. Measures 0.50m in length, 0.48m in width and maximum depth of 0.10m | Undated | Cut of pit, located within a cluster of other similar sized pits | | 025 |
| 027 | FILL | Loose, mid reddish brown clayey silt with flint and chalk inclusions | Undated | Single, deliberate fill of a pit | 028 | |
| 028 | CUT | Circular feature with concave to steep sides and concave base. Measures 0.56m in length, 0.52m in width and a maximum depth of 0.30m | Undated | Cut of pit, located within a cluster of other similar sized pits | | 027 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|------|---|---------|--|-----|-----|
| 029 | FILL | Loose, mid reddish brown clayey silt with small chalk fleck inclusions | Undated | Single, deliberate fill of a shallow pit | 030 | |
| 030 | CUT | Circular feature with concave sides and flat base. Measures 0.55m in length, 0.51m in width and a maximum depth of 0.05m | Undated | Cut of pit, located within a cluster of other similar sized pits | | 029 |
| 031 | FILL | Loose, mid reddish brown clayey silt with flint and chalk inclusions | Undated | Single, deliberate fill of pit | 032 | |
| 032 | CUT | Oval feature with concave side and flat base. Measures 1.27m in length, 0.70m in width and a maximum depth of 0.33m | Undated | Cut of pit, located within a cluster of other similar sized pits | | 031 |
| 033 | FILL | Loose, mid reddish brown clayey silt with flint and chalk inclusions | Undated | Single, deliberate fill of pit | 034 | |
| 034 | CUT | Circular feature with almost vertical sides and flat base. Measures 0.72 m in length, 0.68m in width and a maximum depth of 0.37m | Undated | Cut of pit, located within a cluster of other similar sized pits | | 033 |
| 035 | FILL | Loose, mid reddish brown clayey silt with flint and chalk inclusions | Undated | Single, deliberate fill of pit | 036 | |
| 036 | CUT | Circular feature with concave to moderate sloping sides and concave base. Measures 0.85m in length, 0.80m in width and a maximum depth of 0.30m | Undated | Cut of pit, located within a cluster of other similar sized pits | | 035 |

Appendix 2: Photographs (Plates 1-6)



Plate 1 – Ha-Ha strip, looking West.



Plate 2- Pits [009] & [013] Looking North. 1m Scale.



Plate 3- Pit [016] Looking Northeast. 1m Scale.



Plate 4 – Lake strip, Looking West. 1m Scale.



Plate 5 – Group shot of pits, Looking North. 1m Scale.



Plate 6 – Photo of pit [026], Looking North. 1m Scale.

Appendix 3:

The Animal Bone

By Karen Deighton

Introduction

A small quantity of animal bone was collected by hand from contexts (017)/ [016] and (025)/ [026] during the excavation.

Method

The material was analysed using standard zooarchaeological methods (see references). The results were recorded on to a Microsoft Access style database.

Condition of the Bone

Fragmentation was heavy with 44% of long bone less than 25% complete. Bone surface condition varied with context; surfaces were good in context (017) with little abrasion noted, whereas the antler from (025) exhibited heavy abrasion. Canid gnaw marks were noted on an ovicaprid ulna from (017)/[016]. Chop marks were observed on a cattle size long bone fragment from (017)/ [016].

The Taxa Present

Table 1, taxa by context (Minimum anatomical unit) (fragment count in brackets)

| Context/cut | feature | Date | Cattle size | S/G | S/G size | Red Deer | Total |
|--------------|---------|-------------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 017/ [016] | pit | Later prehistoric | 1 | 4 | 3 | | 8 |
| 025/ [026] | pit | undated | | | | 1(19) | 1(19) |
| Total | | | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 9 |

Key S/G=Sheep/goat

Later Prehistoric

Bone was collected from fill (017) of pit [016]. The collection consisted of small amounts of common domestic food taxa. Little more can said due to the paucity of material available.

Undated

The material consisted solely of red deer antler from an undated pit [026]. Attempts at refitting suggested the antler to be from a single animal (the beam and trez tine of the antler). It is unclear if this material was acquired by hunting deer or gathering shed antler. Unfortunately, as red deer is an endemic taxon, as opposed to a species introduced at a known period, no date can be estimated from its presence. Likewise, the working of antler has a long history and without the presence of specific artefacts created from the material can give no hint of a date.

Bibliography

Lawrence, M, J., and Brown, R.W. 1973, *Mammals of Britain their tracks, trails and signs*, London: Blandford Press

Schmid, E., 1972. *Atlas of Animal Bones*, London: Elsevier press

Appendix 4:

The Prehistoric Pottery

By Jane Timby

Introduction and Methodology

The archaeological work produced a small assemblage of some 32 sherds of pottery, weighing 176 g and dating to the later prehistoric period.

The condition of the assemblage is fairly poor with an average sherd weight of 5.5 g. In at least two cases sherd joins could be made within a feature.

The pottery was recorded using recommendations outlined in Barclay *et al.* (2016). To this end it was examined macroscopically and sorted into fabrics based on inclusions present, the frequency and grade of the inclusions and the firing colour. The data was recorded on to an MS Excel spreadsheet (Table 1), a copy of which is deposited with the site archive.

Pottery was recovered from four defined pits with quantities ranging from a single sherd from pit [007] to 14 sherds from both pits [013] and [016] respectively, possibly in each case from single vessels. Overall, the sherds probably represent just four vessels; one per feature.

No ancillary research has been carried out at this stage to place the assemblage in its local or regional context.

Description of the Pottery

All the sherds recovered are unfeathered bodysherds from handmade vessels. At least three fabrics are present:

SAF: a finely micaceous sandy ware with a black surface and a dark grey core. One sherd from pit [009].

SAVO: a coarser sandy ware with moderately well-sorted, rounded quartz sand and a sparse frequency of irregular-shaped voids up to 3 mm across from dissolved calcareous inclusions. Twenty-eight sherds from pits [013] and [016].

OXSA: Oxidised ware with a common frequency of well-sorted, iron-stained, rounded, grains of quartz > 0.5 mm. Single, small, abraded sherd from pit [007].

The sherd from pit [009] in the finer sandy fabric is likely to be from a fine-ware jar or bowl whilst the thick-walled sherds from pit [016] are probably from a slack shouldered jar. The similarity of the sherds in terms of fabric and wall thickness might suggest the 14 sherds come from a single vessel. Similarly,

the 14 sherds from pit [013], in the same ware but from a thinner-walled jar, could also be from one vessel.

Chronology

Without any clear distinguishing characteristics, the assemblage is difficult to date closely beyond later prehistoric. The nature of the archaeology in terms of the cluster of pits and the similarity of fabric between pits [013] and [016] would suggest the group is probably contemporary. In broad terms a date in the early/middle Iron Age is most probable for these sherds.

Potential and Retention

The assemblage is very limited in terms of the range of material present and thus it is difficult to draw any firm conclusions. Further diagnostic material would be needed to confirm or refute the dating. If no other finds of this date have been recorded from the area it is recommended that the pottery should be retained.

References Barclay A, Knight D, Booth P, Evans H, Brown D & Wood I, 2016: *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology: Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, the Study Group for Roman Pottery and the Medieval Pottery Research Group* (<http://romanpotterystudy.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology.pdf>)

Appendix 5:

OASIS Summary for preconst1-523570

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| OASIS ID (UID) | preconst1-523570 |
| Project Name | Watching Brief at Park Farm |
| Sitename | Park Farm |
| Sitecode | WPFR22 |
| Project Identifier(s) | Park Farm, Ramsbury |
| Activity type | Watching Brief |
| Planning Id | |
| Reason For Investigation | Planning requirement |
| Organisation Responsible for work | Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd |
| Project Dates | 23-Nov-2022 - 05-Nov-2024 |
| Location | Park Farm NGR : SU 25527 69695 LL : 51.42569695034329, -1.634245980345669 12 Fig : 425527,169695 |
| Administrative Areas | Country : England County/Local Authority : Wiltshire Local Authority District : Wiltshire Parish : Ramsbury |
| Project Methodology | The archaeological watching brief was undertaken following the methodology detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2022), which was approved by the Local Planning Authority in advance of the works. The watching brief was carried out on various dates between November 2022 and December 2023 when groundwork was underway. Visits coincided with the removal of topsoil and subsoil in the areas where the ha-ha, pond, access drive and lake were under construction. |
| Project Results | The ground investigations revealed the general sequences for the Site as well as uncovering Early/Middle Iron Age dated pits in the area occupied by the Ha-Ha, these pits contained numerous sherds of pottery and some animal bone. The condition of the pottery assemblage was fairly poor and is difficult to date closely beyond the late prehistoric period (appendix 4). The pits uncovered during the works undertaken for the development of the Lake were undated but one pit [026] contained a moderate amount of red deer bone and antler, the specialist report on the animal bone (appendix 3) found that attempts at refitting had occurred and thus suggests that the bone all came from one animal. It is unclear if this material was recovered due to hunting or from gathering shed antler. Due to red deer being an endemic species the bone was unable to be dated. Despite the archaeological potential of the site, no evidence of Medieval, post Medieval or WW2 occupation was uncovered. The only evidence uncovered on site was a small amount of mid to late Prehistoric pottery which would indicate either occupation by a transient peoples who stayed in the area briefly before moving on, or possibly these finds indicate that this area is on the periphery of a unknown settlement in the surrounding landscape. |
| Keywords | |
| Funder | Private individual |
| HER | Historic England review - unRev - STANDARD |

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Person Responsible for work | Cameron Hardie |
| HER Identifiers | |
| Archives | |