

Berkshire Archaeology

Wessex Archaeology



White Place Farm,
Cookham, Berkshire

Post-excavation Assessment Report

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**WHITE PLACE FARM,
COOKHAM, BERKSHIRE**

Post-excavation Assessment Report

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**WHITE PLACE FARM,
COOKHAM,
BERKSHIRE**

Post-excavation Assessment Report

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**WHITE PLACE FARM,
COOKHAM,
BERKSHIRE****Post-excavation Assessment Report****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Trenac Estates Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological mitigation at White Place Farm, Cookham, Berkshire (NGR 490106 184472). Following on from a historic buildings assessment of seven structures and an initial evaluation comprising four trenches this report details the results of the excavation of two areas, two further evaluation trenches and an archaeological watching brief.

At the western edge of the site, within Area 1, a previously identified grave (1085) is shown to be an isolated feature containing an adult male. No other graves were observed. Many of the features in this area were clearly modern and related to allotment and garden activity.

At the eastern edge of the site in the vicinity of Area 2, residual Neolithic activity and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age is indicated by a small number of finds. The main period of occupation of the Site appears to start in the Middle to Late Iron Age with continuity of occupation into the Romano-British period, again focused within Area 2. The results were consistent with a small scale rural settlement, or activity on the periphery of a larger scale settlement.

The environmental evidence from both the excavation and evaluation is indicative of arable and field margin habitats and is consistent with general settlement waste. Unusually both the samples produced a mixture of emmer and spelt wheat in both the Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British samples. This suggests that this community deliberately continued to grow emmer alongside the newly introduced spelt while other sites in the region changed their focus of production almost entirely to spelt.

Overall, the archaeological deposits have local and regional significance in that they further contribute to the knowledge of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement in Berkshire. Although the potential for further analysis of the material collected and site information is very limited, it is recommended that appropriate environmental and human remains analysis are undertaken and published with an account of the excavations in an article in the *Berkshire Archaeological Journal*.

**WHITE PLACE FARM,
COOKHAM,
BERKSHIRE****Post-excavation Assessment Report****Acknowledgements**

This project was commissioned by Trenac Estates Ltd, Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Robert Cattle and Andy Walter for all their help and assistance on site. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Fiona Macdonald (Berkshire Archaeology) for monitoring the archaeological work on behalf of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

The excavation was directed by Naomi Hall, assisted by Neil Fitzpatrick, Dave Murdie, Andy Sole and Ross Lefort. The archaeological watching brief was carried out by Naomi Hall, Jon Martin and Steven Tatler. The report was written and compiled by Naomi Hall with specialist reports by Lorraine Mephram (pottery and other finds), Nick Cooke (coin identification), Kirsten Dinwiddy (human bone) and Lorraine Higbee (animal bone). The environmental samples were processed by Nicki Mulhall and Amy Radford and were assessed by Sarah F. Wyles and Dr Chris J. Stevens. Radiocarbon potential was provided by Dr Chris J Stevens. The illustrations were prepared by S.E James. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Damian De Rosa and Andy Manning.

**WHITE PLACE FARM,
COOKHAM,
BERKSHIRE**

Post-excavation Assessment Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Trenac Estates Ltd, to undertake a programme of archaeological mitigation works on land at White Place Farm, Cookham, Berkshire. Centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 490106 184472, the farm and its access routes is hereafter referred to as the 'Site' (**Figure 1**). The work was undertaken prior and during re-development of the Site, as a number of the barns are to be converted to residential use while other structures are demolished or relocated and a few new structures built.

1.1.2 An earlier historic building assessment of the farm buildings (Wessex Archaeology 2004 and 2005) and a small evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2006) had already been undertaken for the former developers.

1.1.3 The excavation of two areas and two additional evaluation trenches was carried out between 21st June to 7th July 2010 with periods of watching brief on 12th and 26th August and 15th December 2010.

1.2 The Site, Location and Geology

1.2.1 The Site is situated on the west bank of the River Thames, 1km to the south-east of the village of Cookham and 1km to the north-east of Maidenhead (**Figure 1**). The main part of the Site comprises just over 2 hectares of land, approximately sub-rectangular in shape and is the location of a number of former farm buildings. The northern edge of the Site is bounded by the access road to the farm and other residential properties. A second area of mitigation was situated approximately 425m to the west and consisted of the existing access and new access road from the A4094, Sutton Road, these lie to the north and south of the late 19th century lodge.

1.2.2 The topography of the Site is fairly flat, rising from 25.40m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) in the west to 25.90m aOD in the central area before falling to 24.70m aOD on the eastern fringes of the Site. The land rises up to the west toward the main Sutton Road (in the area of the proposed new access road) to a height of 26.51m aOD. Within the proposed line of the new access road on to the residential area levels lay slightly below that of the former farmyard at a height of 25.15m aOD.

1.2.3 The Site geology consists of Flood Plain Terrace River Gravels, overlain by the floodplain alluvium of the River Thames, which support calcareous alluvial gley soils of the Thames Association (814a) and typical palaeo-argillic brown earths of the Sonning 1 Association (581b) (British Geological Survey Sheet 255). These are well developed soils developed in Holocene alluvium and the Flood Plain Terrace Gravels. The underlying bedrock is chalk (Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation (undifferentiated)).

- 1.2.4 Within the floodplain there are slight rises of relict former gravel 'islands', which are now largely surrounded by deeper soils developed on former floodplain alluvium over the Terrace Gravel.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 1.3.1 An assessment of the archaeological potential of the Site was undertaken prior to the historic building assessment undertaken in 2004, the full details of the findings are listed in the evaluation report (Wessex Archaeology 2006), a summary is provided here.
- 1.3.2 There is relatively little prehistoric activity known in the vicinity of the Site. Two Neolithic struck flint artefacts are listed in the Berkshire Sites and Monument Record (BSMR) (reference numbers RW8016 and RW8015), as well as some cropmarks identified as a Bronze Age barrow cemetery to the south (RW364-7) and an Iron Age dagger recovered from the Thames (RW7933). However less than 3km at Furze Platt, just north of Maidenhead the discovery of over 250 hand axes and a number of other tools indicated a major Palaeolithic flint-working site (Phillips 1993, 9-10).
- 1.3.3 Several Romano-British villa sites are also known in the vicinity of Maidenhead, including that at Castle Hill and the large villa at Cox Green, in the centre and south of Maidenhead respectively (Phillips 1993, 20-21).
- 1.3.4 Three post-Roman weapons also retrieved from the Thames (RW8022, RW7985, RW8023) may be evidence for the traditional location of a battle between the Saxons and Danes in the 10th century. A number of medieval metal weapons have also been recovered from the River Thames (RW8022, RW8027, RW8028, RW8030).
- 1.3.5 Over 100m to the south-east of the Site, a building containing 14th century pottery was excavated in 1883 (RW362). Another medieval building is known a further 300m to the south-east, within the present channel (RW15734). This suggests that there is dispersed medieval settlement activity in the area, and that a medieval precursor for White Place Farm is possible. Indeed, there are three 16th century buildings in White Place Farm, which may well have been constructed on the site of earlier medieval structures.
- 1.3.6 The area just to the east of the Site is the probable location of a battle between Royalist and Parliamentary forces during the Civil War, the only physical evidence for this being a single canon ball recovered from the field in the 19th century (RW361).
- 1.3.7 The Site was historically part of the Cliveden House Estate. In 1893, Lord and Lady Astor bought Cliveden which remained in the Astor family until 1966. The estate was responsible for converting White Place into a model farm during their ownership. Historic building recording and assessment undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in August 2004 showed that some of the farm buildings are much earlier and can be dated stylistically to the 16th or 17th century (Wessex Archaeology 2004). By the mid 20th century the farm complex had been considerably expanded and included a pump house, purported to supply Cliveden House, a milking parlour with integral dairy and a large cow barn (Wessex Archaeology 2004). This purpose built cow barn

is thought to have been constructed between 1925 and 1938 and is a rare example of an American style barn with some unusual architectural features (Wessex Archaeology 2005).

- 1.3.8 Following this, an archaeological field evaluation was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology (2006), comprising four evaluation trenches within the footprint of the proposed new access roads and relocated barn, it identified two principal periods of activity: Middle/Late Iron Age and Early Romano-British. A number of pits were dated to the Middle to Late Iron Age while Early Romano-British occupation was represented by a pit containing pottery of 1st century AD date and a ditch containing pottery of 2nd century AD date. In the trench adjacent to Sutton Road, an undated north-west - south-east aligned inhumation grave was identified but left *in situ*. An apparently isolated, undated posthole was also observed.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The aims of the archaeological mitigation works were to investigate and record, through excavation, all significant archaeological remains within the Site that will be impacted by groundwork for the development, sufficient to achieve their preservation *by record*. The full aims and objectives are detailed in the project design (Wessex Archaeology 2010).

- 1.4.2 Specifically the project aimed to:

- Define the nature, extent, character and chronology of the Late Bronze Age/Early to Late Iron Age and Roman occupation of the Site as identified in the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2006).
- Establish whether there is any evidence for continuity of occupation/settlement from the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age through to the Late Iron Age and continuing into the Romano-British period.
- Determine the date, extent, nature and duration of habitation of the Site and identify whether other periods not seen during the evaluation are present on the Site.
- Ascertain whether specific agricultural or industrial activities can be determined from the excavated evidence.
- Determine whether buried soils or occupation horizons are preserved on the Site.
- Ascertain the date of the burial identified during the evaluation and identify whether it is an isolated event or part of a more extensive cemetery/burial ground.
- Characterise the attributes and range of funerary practice in evidence including the chronological and cultural affinities of the burials within the wider context.
- Determine from the human skeletal remains, where possible, the age at death, gender, and evidence of pathology present, toward providing an assessment of the human remains.

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2010), this is summarised below:

- 2.1.2 Two areas (Areas 1 – 2) were subjected to full excavation. Area 1 measured c.325m² and comprised the footprint of the proposed new access road off of Sutton Road. Area 2 measured c.525m² and comprised the footprint of a proposed new access road, which comes off the existing farm access road. Two additional evaluation trenches were also excavated, one within the centre of the large cow barn, where the sunken floored cinema is to be located, and one in the proposed location for the new sewage treatment plant. They were numbered Trenches 5 and 6 respectively in order to continue the numbering from the original evaluation. The remaining areas of the Site were subjected to a programme of archaeological monitoring in the form of a watching brief. This involved observation of groundworks thought to potentially impact on archaeological deposits. Where monitoring of an area revealed no archaeological features or deposits are present or that the ground has been severely truncated by modern disturbance then no further observation was undertaken.
- 2.1.3 The excavation areas and trenches were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a wide toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation continued in spits through topsoil and subsoil down to either the uppermost archaeological features or natural deposits, whichever was encountered first.
- 2.1.4 Where archaeological features were encountered they were investigated by hand, with a sufficient sample of each layer/feature type excavated in order to establish, as may be possible, their date, nature, character, extent and condition. As a minimum 50% of each intrusive feature (i.e. pits, postholes) and up to 20% of each linear feature's exposed area was excavated as well as all terminals and intersections.
- 2.1.5 Archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Archaeological features and deposits were hand-drawn at either 1:10 or 1:20, including both plans and sections, these were referred to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels were calculated and this information is included on both plans and sections.
- 2.1.6 Both the spoil from the excavated areas and trenches and the features themselves were scanned using a metal detector in order to enhance artefact retrieval.
- 2.1.7 A photographic record was kept utilising black and white film, colour slides and digital images. The record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the principal features, finds excavated, and the site as a whole.
- 2.1.8 The survey was carried out with a Leica Viva series GNSS unit using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.
- 2.1.9 A unique site code **56983** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.

2.2 Best practice

- 2.2.1 The archaeological mitigation works were carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation, Evaluation and Watching Briefs* (revised 2008) and with reference to the Mitigation Strategy (Wessex Archaeology 2006) submitted to Berkshire Archaeology.

2.3 Copyright

- 2.3.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.
- 2.3.2 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The Museum, 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.
- 2.3.3 A licence will also be granted to Berkshire Archaeology and Berkshire Sites and Monuments Record, for 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 BSMR).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features are retained in the archive. A list of features is contained in **Appendix 1**.

3.2 Area 1 (Figure 2)

Introduction

- 3.2.1 Area 1 was located adjacent to the main Sutton Road and to the north of the lodge house. It was also the location of Trench 1 from the 2006 evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2006).
- 3.2.2 Stripping was initially begun at the western end of the area, nearest the main road. Despite locating a number of features beneath the current subsoil investigation proved that this were all modern, this and the fact that the base of the evaluation trench could be seen to be deeper than the stripped level, led to the conclusion that this was modern made ground. The depth of stripping was then increased until the natural geology was seen. Over most of the area the natural geology comprised a yellow sand, although adjacent to the road the depth of overburden was significantly greater and the natural geology was a sandy clay. The previous evaluation trench reached the natural geology at a depth of 0.5m below ground level, the current depth of

stripping in the location of Trench 1 was 0.3m greater than this indicating that the ground had been modified and built up since the previous evaluation.

Undated inhumation

- 3.2.3 The excavation relocated and excavated the grave originally observed in the 2006 evaluation. The grave cut (1085) (originally numbered as (104) in the evaluation) was fully exposed and shown to be sub-oval and aligned north-west – south-east. It contained the inhumation of an adult male (1086) (evaluation context (105)), lying supine with the legs tightly flexed and turned to the east (**Figure 2, plate 1**). Within the backfill of the grave (1087) (evaluation context (106)), only a single artefact was found. This was a worked bone bead or toggle (ON 1). It was unclear whether this had been directly associated with the body or was an accidental inclusion.

Undated features

- 3.2.4 A number of postholes ((1096), (1098), (1110), (1112), (1118), (1115), (1121), (1123), (1125)) were also found in a disparate group approximately 6m to the east of the grave (1085) indicating that the posthole (102) found within Trench 1 was not as isolated as it first appeared. Though a number were clearly modern the rest remained undated. No clear structures or association between any of these features were obvious though (1096)/(1098) and (1110)/(1112) may be possible paired features (**Figure 2, plate 2**). The majority of these postholes were small sub-circular features, around 0.2m in diameter and 0.1-0.2m in depth. Exceptions to this were (1123), which was slightly larger and deeper with a diameter of 0.28m and a depth of 0.24m, and (1115) which was also larger and more oval in shape.
- 3.2.5 Two more isolated postholes were found further to the south-east, (1117) and (1107) both were also undated.
- 3.2.6 A possible pit (1108) was also found in this part of the area. It was relatively shallow, its single fill (1108) was fairly sterile, re-deposited natural sand. This and the diffuse edges of this feature may indicate that it is a natural feature rather than of anthropogenic origins.

3.3 Area 2 (Figure 3)

- 3.3.1 Area 2 was located just to the west of the main complex of farm buildings and just south of the farm access road. Trenches 2 and 3 from the 2006 evaluation were located within this area.
- 3.3.2 Stripping commenced at the northern end of the area and it was here that the depth of overburden was deepest as the ground level rose up towards the farm access road. At this end a layer of modern made ground could also be seen beneath the topsoil and overlying the former subsoil. The natural geology was variable and consisted of areas of mid yellow-orange sandy silt loam and areas of dark grey-brown river terrace gravels.

Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age (1100-400 BC)

- 3.3.3 A possible Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pit (204) within Trench 2 of the evaluation was reassessed as being Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British though a sherd of residual flint tempered Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age was recovered from the buried subsoil horizon (202) in this trench.

- 3.3.4 A small assemblage of Neolithic or Bronze Age flintwork was recovered from the excavation, the majority from Area 2, however this was all either residual within later features or unstratified.

Middle Iron Age – Late Iron Age (400 BC - AD 43)

- 3.3.5 A single pit (1072) was dated to the Middle Iron Age (400-100 BC), its profile in section was a typical bell-shaped storage pit with highly convex sides (**Figure 4, plate 3**). It contained an initial primary gravel rich fill (1101) followed by a possible dump or in-wash of occupational debris (1091). Pottery sherds from this context were dated to the Middle Iron Age. Above this was a rapid backfill deposit (1100) derived from the south which contained little archaeological material apart from very occasional charcoal flecks. The final fill of pit 1072) contained frequent pottery and burnt flint as well as occasional animal bone and fired clay once more indicating occupational debris. The pottery from this context suggests that both its initial use and decommissioning occurred during the Middle Iron Age.
- 3.3.6 A further pit (406) was recorded within the area of Trench 4 of the previous evaluation. This was however much shallower than (1072) and with a more concave profile.
- 3.3.7 Trench 2, to the west of the excavation area, also contained two Middle Iron Age or Late Iron Age pits ((206) and (208)), as well as a pit which could not be more closely dated than the Iron Age, (210).
- 3.3.8 Within the southern section of Area 2, just to the east of pit (1072), was a small curvilinear gully (group 1251). Pottery from this gully suggests a Middle to Late Iron Age date. Too little of the feature was exposed for it to be clear whether this was a ring gully. Its southern extent was truncated by a Romano-British ditch (group 1252).
- 3.3.9 Three postholes in the northern part of Area 2, (1004) and (1008) and (1019), contained a few small, abraded sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery. Although no dating was obtained it is believed that posthole (1010) formed a group with (1004), (1008) and (1019) to create a possible four post structure (1254), approximately 3.1m by 2.8m in size.

Late Iron Age – early Romano-British (100 BC – AD 150)

- 3.3.10 A north-west/south-east aligned ditch (group number 1250) was found in the northern part. This feature had a shallow U-shaped profile and this is likely to have been a minor boundary or drainage ditch. The southern edge of the ditch was cut by a large ovate pit (1050) (**Figure 4, section**). The intervention through the ditch at this point (1042) revealed the earliest deposit (1043) to have been a defined layer or deliberate dump of material containing Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery as well as a single Middle to Late Iron Age sherd, burnt flint, fired clay and frequent charcoal flecks. Since this deposit is not seen in the intervention further to the north-west it is likely to have been restricted to this part of the ditch and probably reflects activity further to the south. Other fills within this feature included more Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery but also a single Roman sherd of oxidised ware. This feature seems to have been in use throughout the Late Iron Age transition period and into the early Roman-British period.

- 3.3.11 Pit (1050) as well as two lower secondary deposits ((1051) and (1052)), contained a charcoal rich upper deposit, a deliberate backfill of fire debris and refuse. This pit was truncated on its southern edge by pit (1055) (**Figure 4, section**). Pit 1055 also appeared to cut a ditch terminus (1045) which extended beyond the eastern edge of the area. In turn, the ditch terminus (1045) cut a short section of a north-south aligned gully, (group number 1253), the northern extent of which was entirely truncated by later features. A west – east aligned gully terminus (1033) lay to the south of gully 1253. All the pottery from these features was Late Iron Age/early Roman in date with a few definitely Roman sherds from features (1045) and (1033).
- 3.3.12 At the junction of pit (1050), feature (1045) and ditch (group number 1253) was another sub-oval pit (1055), stratigraphically above pit (1050) (**Figure 4, section**). It was deeper and with a steeper profile than many of the other pits and the multiple deposits within it suggested deliberate deposition. Environmental sample 702 from (1058) one of the fills in the pit contained significant quantities of charred grain and charcoal, supporting the idea that this was a refuse pit. The majority of the pottery from this feature is Late Iron Age/early Roman grog-tempered ware but there is one small fragment of samian in the upper fill (1059).
- 3.3.13 Just to the north of ditch group 1250 and immediately south of posthole structure 1254 was much deeper posthole (1006). Pottery from this feature suggests it was contemporary with the Late Iron Age/early Romano-British activity in this area.
- 3.3.14 To the south of ditch group 1250 was a concentrated deposit of Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery fragments (1069). Although no clear cut could be discerned, this may have been the remains of a highly truncated feature.

Romano-British (AD 43- 410)

- 3.3.15 A fairly large but relatively shallow pit or hollow (1062) which lay to the south of ditch group 1250 contained a mixture of Late Iron Age and early Roman wares but the presence of greyware indicates that it was post-conquest.
- 3.3.16 Cut into the top of pit (1062) were features (1036) and (1066) (**Figure 4, plate 4**). Both were small, shallow, oval features. The earlier (1036) was north-east/south-west aligned on its longer axis while (1066) was north-west /south-east aligned. However, both features were very similar in size, depth and deposits. They were originally thought to be hearth related features but the results of the environmental samples (environmental sample numbers 705, 706 and 707) taken from the heat affected deposits contained more charred grain than charcoal suggesting possible cooking waste.
- 3.3.17 Pottery obtained from the upper fill of both features included a mixture of Late Iron Age/early Roman grog-tempered wares and Roman greyware similar to that seen in pit (1062). This suggests that these were all fairly closely contemporary features and likely to date to the early Romano-British period.
- 3.3.18 A shallow oval pit (403), located within evaluation Trench 2, was dated to the 1st century AD.

- 3.3.19 Just to the south of Middle Iron Age pit (1072) and cutting the possible ring gully group 1251 was a south-west/north-east aligned ditch, (group number 1252). This feature had a steep, V-shaped profile and was probably a boundary feature. While the upper fill (1079) contained a mixture of Middle/Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery the presence of greyware sherds in this deposit dates it to the post-conquest period. This feature was also recorded in the evaluation as ditch (303) where it contained a large number of greyware sherds and was dated to the 2nd century AD.
- 3.3.20 Cutting into the top of ditch (group 1252) was a shallow, sub-oval pit (1080) (**Figure 4, plate 5**). Although its upper fill contained Middle to Late Iron Age material its stratigraphic position shows that this material must be residual. It marks a period when the ditch was no longer in use and was comparatively isolated from the main concentration of pits.

Undated

- 3.3.21 At the north end of the Site, just to the north of the possible structure (1254) was an extremely shallow, truncated posthole (1021). Another posthole, (1014), lay just to the south of the possible structure. A possible pit (1012) was also in this area but its shallow depth and slightly irregular profile indicated that this could have been a natural feature. A further feature (1025), just into the northern edge of pit (1062), could have been a natural feature.
- 3.3.22 A possible pit (1061) was identified just to the north of Trench 2. The nature of the natural geology at this point made the edges diffuse and uncertain. Only burnt flint was recovered from this feature and similar amounts of burnt flint were recovered from features dated from the Middle Iron Age through to the early Romano-British period, however given its location and the focus of activity on Site, it is most likely to date to the Late Iron Age/early Romano-British period.
- 3.3.23 The most southerly feature identified was ditch (1090), running on a similar alignment to ditch group 1252. This feature remains undated.

3.4 Trench 5

- 3.4.1 Trench 5 was situated within the large cow barn in the area which would be impacted by the sunken floored cinema (**Figure 1**).
- 3.4.2 Underneath the modern overburden of concrete (501), sand (502) and hardcore (503), a very mixed deposit of clay and brick rubble (504) was encountered at a depth of 0.65m below the floor of the barn which appeared to be post-medieval in date. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.3m (23.81m aOD) and was still within the brick rubble (504). Variation in the size, colour and shape of the bricks from the rubble suggests that they derive from the demolition of more than one structure. One of the brick stamps indicated that it came from the Cattybrook works near Bristol.

3.5 Trench 6

- 3.5.1 Trench 6 was located approximately 16m to the north-east of the cow barn within the area of the proposed new sewage treatment plant (**Figure 1**).

3.5.2 Beneath the topsoil (601) was 0.3m of modern made ground (602), overlying the former subsoil (607). The natural geology was gravel (608). Cut in the subsoil (607) was (606) a west-south-west – east-north-east aligned service trench. This was cut by (604), another service trench, aligned north-west – south-east. Both features were left unexcavated due to their obvious modern origins. The maximum depth of the trench was at a height of 24.30m aOD.

3.6 Watching Brief Results

3.6.1 In conjunction with the excavation a number of excavations for pad footings were monitored just to the east of Area 2 where one of the modern portal framed barns is to be relocated. No archaeological features were observed.

3.6.2 A period of monitoring carried out on the 12th August 2010 observed the excavation of the foundation trenches of the new outbuilding situated to the south of the timber-framed barn. The natural geology encountered here was gravel. Only one potential feature was seen in a small area of compacted chalk and gravel in the south-west facing section of the northernmost foundation trench, some 0.6m below ground level. There were no clear edges to the feature and it may have been no more than an isolated deposit.

3.6.3 Further monitoring was undertaken on the 26th August as a service trench was dug alongside the northern side of Area 1 and along the northern edge of the farm access road. No features were observed. The service trench did continue alongside the western edge of Area 2 but it was not possible to observe the full depth in this area.

3.6.4 A service trench cut alongside the portal framed barn adjacent to the cow barn, which will be subsequently relocated, observed 15th December 2010, did not contain any archaeology.

4 FINDS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Archaeological mitigation works on the Site produced a small finds assemblage, which augments that recovered from evaluation trenches previously excavated (Wessex Archaeology 2006). All finds from the current stage of work derived from excavation areas; no finds were recovered from the two further evaluation trenches excavated, or from the watching brief.

4.1.2 The assemblage is almost exclusively of prehistoric or Romano-British date. Condition is fair to good; the ceramics have suffered varying levels of surface and edge abrasion, with sherds from the earlier part of the sequence more heavily abraded, suggesting a degree of reworking and redeposition. Lithics, too, have suffered edge damage, although this has affected mostly those pieces found in topsoil contexts.

4.1.3 Finds have been quantified by material type within each context; the results are presented in **Table 1 Appendix 2**, which also includes the totals from the evaluation.

4.2 Pottery

4.2.1 The pottery assemblage includes material of late prehistoric and Romano-British date. For the purposes of spot-dating, the assemblage has been

quantified by ware type, and note made of diagnostic forms. Totals by ware type are given in **Table 2, Appendix 2**.

Late prehistoric

- 4.2.2 One sherd of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date was recovered during the evaluation, but the excavation produced no further material of this date.
- 4.2.3 From the excavation, 63 sherds have been dated as Middle Iron Age, and occur in three ware types: sandy, sparsely flint-tempered, and shelly. One other ware type, which has a light, vesicular, 'corky' texture, probably also represents a shelly ware from which the inclusions have leached out. These leached sherds, as well as the flint-tempered and shelly wares, also contain prominent ferruginous pellets. All these ware types were also identified within the small evaluation assemblage.
- 4.2.4 The only diagnostic forms are two rounded vessels with beaded rims, both in sandy fabrics (fills 1071 and 1091 within pit 1072). Both vessels are burnished and carry tooled decoration featuring geometric motifs in horizontal bands around the upper part of the vessel. A third vessel (context 1065) has two tooled horizontal lines just above the base angle. These vessels find parallels amongst Cunliffe's Southcote-Blewburton ceramic style, dated between the 3rd and 1st centuries BC including examples from the type-site at Southcote, Berkshire (Piggott and Seaby 1937, fig. 3). Otherwise, general parallels for the ware types are known, for example, from Hurst Park, to the east of Reading (Walker 1991-3), and from the large assemblage from Heathrow (Leivers *et al.* 2010).
- 4.2.5 The Middle Iron Age sherds serve to date pit 1072. In these contexts, sherds were in relatively good condition. In other contexts, however, sherds were small and abraded, and appear to be residual, even where they constitute the only dating evidence (postholes 1004, 1008, curvilinear gully 1251, pit 1080).

Late Iron Age/Romano-British

- 4.2.6 The remaining 165 sherds from the excavation are of Late Iron Age or Romano-British date. The majority comprise coarse, handmade grog-tempered wares belonging to the regional Late Iron Age ceramic tradition, as well as finer, 'Romanised' greywares. There is a single sherd of samian, and one sherd in a fine, oxidised fabric. One other coarseware of Late Iron Age origin is represented by a single flint-tempered sherd, of a type identified in central Berkshire and north Hampshire as 'Silchester ware'. In some cases the wares of native Late Iron Age origin occur alone, and in other instances alongside 'Romanised' wares. Quantities, however, are too small to determine whether this represents a real chronological sequence – only two features from the excavation yielded more than 25 sherds (26 from pit 1069 and 37 from ditch 1033). Overall, the wares seen here have a potential date range of 1st century BC through to the later 1st century AD, or possibly into the early 2nd century.
- 4.2.7 Diagnostic forms are confined to grog-tempered bead rim jars of varying sizes (some are large, thick-walled storage jars), and everted rim jars, some necked and cordoned, in wheelthrown greywares. Again, parallels can be

found at Heathrow (Jones with Brown 2010), and at local sites such as Binfield, east Berkshire (Booth 1995).

4.3 Worked and Burnt Flint

- 4.3.1 The small lithic assemblage consisted entirely of flake and core debitage. The raw material is gravel-derived flint. Condition varies; the 17 pieces from the topsoil (1001) are heavily edge-damaged, and one or two pieces are rolled. None are patinated. Pieces from other contexts are in better condition.
- 4.3.2 In the absence of diagnostic tool types, this small group can only be broadly dated as Neolithic or Bronze Age. All pieces are clearly residual in later prehistoric or Romano-British contexts, or were from unstratified contexts.
- 4.3.3 Burnt, unworked flint was recovered in higher quantities. This material type is intrinsically undatable, and not necessarily of anthropogenic origin, but is often taken as an indicator of prehistoric activity. In this instance, the association is with Iron Age or Romano-British material. No large concentrations were observed; no feature produced more than 1kg of burnt flint.

4.4 Coin

- 4.4.1 A single coin was recovered as an unstratified find from Area 2. This is a very corroded small copper alloy coin, probably an *Antoninianus* or *Nummus* of the late 3rd or 4th century AD.

4.5 Worked Bone

- 4.5.1 An object of worked bone (Obj No 1) was found in the backfill of undated grave 1085. This is a short length of sheep/goat tibia shaft, and appears to have been polished through use. It is uncertain whether this represents a deliberately deposited grave good with the inhumation, or just an incidental find incorporated in the backfill. Its function is uncertain, although it could perhaps have been used as a bead or toggle.

4.6 Human Bone

Introduction

- 4.6.1 Human bone was recovered from one undated context. The bone represents the remains of an uncoffined, flexed inhumation burial, made within a deliberately cut grave (1085; 0.27m deep). An undated bone object found in the grave fill (1087) may or may not have been associated with the burial. The remains were previously exposed within an archaeological evaluation trench in 2006 (Wessex Archaeology 2006). A cluster of undated postholes lay immediately to the east of the grave.

Methods

- 4.6.2 The bone was rapidly scanned to assess its condition, the age and sex of the individual, potential for indices and the presence of pathological lesions. The bone was quantified by percentage of skeletal recovery. Assessment of age and sex was based on standard methodologies (Buikstra and Ubelaker

1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). Grading for bone preservation followed McKinley (2004, fig 6).

Results

- 4.6.3 The buried remains were mostly intact, with no intercutting from other features. Disturbance included modern damage to the skull, and disturbance/truncation of the feet (?animal, agricultural or similar activity).
- 4.6.4 The bone is in very good to good condition (grade 1-2) with only light surface erosion, possibly from water percolation through the sandy matrix. Approximately 90% of the skeleton was recovered. Most elements are complete or near complete, however the skull is moderately fragmented. Breaks are predominantly old but most will re-construct.
- 4.6.5 The remains represent those of an adult male, probably over 45 years of age. A summary of pathological changes and observations (rapid assessment only) is provided below:
- **Dental:** caries, calculus, periodontal disease, heavy dental attrition;
 - **Spinal:** degenerative disc disease; Schmorl's nodes; osteoarthritis; osteophytes
 - **Extra-spinal:** osteophytes (shoulder, elbow, wrist, hip and knee joints); pitting (shoulder and hip); enthesophytes/enthesopathy (right clavicle, left elbow, knee, ankle and toe joints)
 - **Other observations:** xiphoid process fused with sternal body; abnormal bony process (sacrum); mild spina bifida occulta; acetabular creases; coalition defect (right calcaneum)

4.7 Animal Bone

Introduction

- 4.7.1 A total of 58 fragments (or 396g) of hand-recovered animal bone was recovered from the Site; once conjoins are taken into account this figure falls to 31 fragments (**Table 3, Appendix 2**). The assemblage includes material of Iron Age and Romano-British date, and was recovered from a small number of pits and ditches.

Methods

- 4.7.2 The assemblage was rapidly scanned and the following information quantified where applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion data, tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was directly recorded into a relational database (in MS Access) and cross-referenced with relevant contextual information and spot dating evidence.

Results

4.7.3 Bone preservation is extremely good, cortical surfaces are intact and details such as fine knife cuts are clear and easily observed. The assemblage is however, quite fragmented and includes a moderate number of small unidentifiable splinters.

4.7.4 Thirteen fragments (or 42%) are identifiable to species and elements (**Table 3, Appendix 2**). All of the identified bones belong to livestock species. Cut marks were observed on two Roman cattle bones, a mandible and distal humerus, the location of these marks indicates that they were made during dismemberment. Several complete sheep/goat mandibles were also recorded, two of the mandibles are from young animal less than 2 years of age and the other is from a more mature adult. Pig is represented by a single fragment of skull.

4.8 Other Finds

4.8.1 Other finds comprise very small amounts of ceramic building material (one possibly Romano-British, one post-medieval), fired clay (small, abraded and undiagnostic fragments), and iron (two nails). The evaluation also produced possible slag (although not necessarily from metalworking) and burnt, unworked stone. Apart from the ceramic building material, none of these finds are closely datable, although most occurred in association with Late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery.

5 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 *Environmental samples taken*

5.1.2 A total of 10 bulk samples was taken from a range of features of Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British and Romano-British date from Area 2 and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals. These samples should augment the three bulk samples from the evaluation phase.

5.1.3 The bulk samples break down into the following phase groups:

Table 4: Sample Provenance Summary

Phase	No of samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
MIA	2	40	Pit
LIA/ERB	7	98	Ditches, Pit, Hearths
RB	1	10	Pit
Totals	10	148	

5.2 Charred Plant Remains

5.2.1 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-

binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Table 4, Appendix 3**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

- 5.2.2 The flots varied in size and there were low to high numbers of roots and modern seeds that are indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.
- 5.2.3 The Middle Iron Age pit 1072 contained moderate quantities of cereal remains, including grain and glume fragments of hulled wheat, both of emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*) and spelt (*Triticum spelta*), and higher numbers of weed seeds. The weed seeds included seeds of sedge (*Carex* sp.), knotgrass (Polygonaceae), oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* spp.), meadow grass type (Poaceae), brassicas (Brassicaceae), clover/meddick (*Trifolium/Medicago* sp.), speedwell (*Veronica* sp.) and goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.).
- 5.2.4 The charred plant assemblages recovered from the six Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British features were similar in composition with generally moderate to high numbers of cereal remains and smaller amounts of weed seeds. The richest assemblage was observed in ditch 1033. The cereal remains were mainly grain and glume fragments of hulled wheat, again of both emmer and spelt. There were also a few possible grains of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) in ditch 1033 and hearth 1036. The weed seed assemblages included seeds of oat/brome grass, meadow grass type, knotgrass, vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* spp.), goosefoot, clover/meddick, brassicas and bedstraw (*Galium* sp.).
- 5.2.5 The large quantity of cereal remains recorded in the Romano-British pit 1055 comprised grain fragments of hulled wheat and barley and glume fragments of hulled wheat, including those of spelt. The moderate number of other charred remains included seeds of oat/brome grass, knotgrass and vetch/wild peas and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) stone fragments.
- 5.2.6 These assemblages are mainly indicative of arable and field margin habitats and are typical of general settlement waste. Similar results were observed in the three evaluation samples.
- 5.2.7 As was noted in the evaluation report, the mix of emmer wheat and spelt wheat is unusual for the Upper and Middle Thames Valley for any period other than Late Bronze Age. Sites in the Upper Thames Valley are generally dominated by spelt wheat throughout the Iron Age and Roman period, as are sites lying to the north (e.g. Jones 1988). Emmer wheat grains and chaff are generally only recovered from Middle to Late Bronze Age settlements in the area e.g. Aldermaston Wharf (Arthur and Paradine 1980), Runnymede (Greig 1991), Reading Business Park (Campbell 1992a), while spelt wheat is regarded as a Late Bronze Age introduction. This is not to say that records of emmer are entirely absent from Iron Age and Roman sites in the general region, e.g. to the south at Binfield (Robinson 1995); the east at Saint Albans (Wainwright 1990) and Reading (Campbell 1992b), but most of these comprise a single sampled context. Significant amounts of emmer wheat are however present on Iron Age and Roman sites alongside spelt in

other parts of east and south-east England (e.g. Cambridgeshire and Kent), as well as to the north to the south of Milton Keynes (Stevens 2009).

5.3 Wood Charcoal

5.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 4, Appendix 3**. Wood charcoal fragments of >4mm were retrieved in large quantities from the Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British ditch 1042, group 1250, and pit 1050 and Romano-British pit 1055. The charcoal appeared to be mainly mature wood fragments, with a few round wood fragments.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1.1 The earliest identified evidence of activity within the Site was a small assemblage of worked flint with a broad Neolithic to Bronze Age date and a single Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery sherd. All this material was broadly focused within Area 2 at the eastern edge of the Site. However, all this material was recovered from later deposits and features.

6.1.2 The main period of occupation of the Site covers the Middle to Late Iron Age with continuity of occupation into the Romano-British period, again focused within Area 2, covering a likely period of approximately 600 years. The majority of the features uncovered comprised pits, postholes and possible boundary or enclosure ditches and gullies, including a possible four post structure, and clearly extended beyond the limits of the mitigation area.

6.1.3 No firm evidence of domestic residential structures was found, although the results of the evaluation would be consistent with either a small scale domestic settlement, or activity located at the periphery of a larger scale settlement, as of yet unidentified.

6.1.4 The environmental evidence suggests arable farming of emmer and spelt. Sites in the Upper and Middle Thames Valley are generally dominated by spelt wheat throughout the Iron Age and this may suggest that this community deliberately continued to grow emmer alongside the newly introduced spelt while other sites in the region changed their focus of production almost entirely to spelt.

6.1.5 The excavation within Area 1, at the western edge of the Site, showed that the grave (1085) found during the evaluation in 2006 was an isolated feature rather than part of a wider cemetery. However, a single worked bone bead or toggle found within the grave was not diagnostic and the burial was undated. A number of postholes found close to the grave were clearly post-medieval or modern would appear to relate to allotment and garden activity.

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

7.1.1 The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the project code **56983** along with the evaluation archive under the code **56982**. It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation together with the evaluation will be deposited with Reading Museum. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive

on completion of the project, under the accession code **REDMG:2006.336**. Deposition of the finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

7.2 Preparation of Archive

7.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard procedures for the transfer of archaeological archives by Reading Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990; SMA 1995; Richards and Robinson 2000; Brown 2007).

7.2.2 All archive elements are marked with site code and accession code, and a full index has been prepared. The archive currently comprises of the following:

- 1 A4 folder
- 4 cardboard boxes of artefacts & ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 2 clam shell cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics
- 8 sleeves of black and white negatives and contact sheets and 8 sleeves of colour slides
- 1 A1 graphic

7.2.3 A full microfiche of the primary archive will be prepared prior to deposition.

7.3 Conservation

7.3.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field. Finds which have been identified as of unstable condition and therefore potentially in need of further conservation treatment comprise the metal objects (two iron nails). These do not warrant any further conservation treatment.

7.4 Discard Policy

7.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this instance, burnt, unworked flint has been discarded; no further discard is anticipated. The discard has been fully documented in the project archive.

7.4.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows the guidelines laid out in Wessex Archaeology's 'Archive and Dispersal Policy for Environmental Remains and Samples'. The archive policy conforms with nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002) and is available upon request.

7.5 Security Copy

7.5.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, either in the form of microfilm, or as a PDF file. If microfilm is prepared, the master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Archaeological Record (English Heritage), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

8 POTENTIAL AND FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Structural and Overall Potential

- 8.1.1 These features noted within Area 2 are evidently part of a wider spread of surviving archaeological features, which extend beyond the limits of the mitigation area. The observed features, included storage pits, a four post structure, postholes and boundary/enclosure ditches which are relatively well dated and internally phased and clearly related to settlement activity dating to between the Middle Iron Age and the Early Romano-British period.
- 8.1.2 A review of the known Iron Age material in Berkshire (Hutt, Goodenough and Pyne 2009, 153, 169) identifies two other potential settlement sites within less than 5km of White Place Farm, Mount Hill (SU 868 842) and Prior's Pit (SU 887 832), just to the east and north-west of Furze Platt respectively. A Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age hillfort is also located at Taplow Court (SU 90661 82373; Buckinghamshire HER reference 0632100000), some 2km to the south-east and on the other side of the river.
- 8.1.3 It would be proposed that the publication note would include references to known nearby activity to place the Site within an Iron Age and Romano-British context.
- 8.1.4 Overall, the potential of further analysis of the material collected is very limited. No recommendations for further analysis have been proposed for the pottery or general finds. The Solent Thames Research Framework has outlined the need for investigation of the change spelt and free-threshing varieties of wheat in the later prehistoric period. Accordingly, proposals for the analysis of four samples, covering the period of the settlement occupation have been made. In addition, it is proposed to carry out full analysis and dating of the human burial to place it within its archaeological context/
- 8.1.5 Overall, the archaeological deposits have local and regional significance in that they further contribute to the knowledge of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement in Berkshire

8.2 Finds

- 8.2.1 The excavation produced only a small amount of finds, and the assemblage recovered from the evaluation stage does not supplement this significantly. The date range of Middle Iron Age to Romano-British suggested by the evaluation finds has been confirmed. The pottery assemblage offers an addition to the overall distribution of ceramics of this period found across east Berkshire, but adds little or no new evidence to the known ceramic sequence for the region. Nevertheless, it warrants at least a brief note in publication, utilising the information presented in this report.
- 8.2.2 None of the other finds categories warrant any further analysis or publication.

Human Bone

- 8.2.3 The human bone offers some potential for further analysis. A reasonable number of post-cranial and a few cranial measurements can be taken, which will allow the calculation of some standard indices including stature. It is

possible to assess the state of a large proportion of joints, and record the presence or absence of most non-metric traits. Osteological analysis, particularly on well-preserved examples such as this, enables a better and more reliable assessment of the individual's age and sex, and to some degree aspects of their health and lifestyle.

- 8.2.4 Archaeological evaluation and excavation on the Site has revealed evidence to suggest Middle Iron Age to early Romano-British settlement in the vicinity. As the date of the human remains is currently unknown it is strongly recommended that a bone sample is submitted for radiocarbon dating. This will allow the remains to be set in their regional and temporal contexts, and facilitate relevant discussion.
- 8.2.5 Full analysis will be undertaken on the human bone. It will be necessary first to re-wash a few pieces (skull and thoracic vertebrae), and reconstruct some long bones. The unsorted small fraction (<4mm) residues will be subject to a rapid scan to extract any identifiable material, osseous or artefactual.
- 8.2.6 Taphonomic factors potentially affecting differential bone preservation will be assessed. Age will be estimated using standard methodologies (Brothwell 1972; Beek 1983; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). Sex will be ascertained from the sexually dimorphic traits of the skeleton (Bass 1987; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). Where possible a standard suite of measurement will be taken (Brothwell and Zakrzewski 2004) and non-metric traits recorded (Berry and Berry 1967; Finnegan 1978).
- 8.2.7 Pathological lesions will be recorded in text and digital images. Certain pathological changes may require X-radiographing, and/or photographing for publication.

Pottery

- 8.2.8 No further analysis is proposed, but the existing text can be presented as part of the publication (some minor editing may be required). The two decorated Middle Iron Age vessels would be illustrated to support the text.

Worked bone

- 8.2.9 A description of the bone object found in Grave 1085 (as presented in this report) should be included in the publication text, and the object should be illustrated.

8.3 Palaeo-Environmental Remains

Charred plant remains

- 8.3.1 Detailed analysis of the charred plant remains has the potential to provide information on the local environment, crop processing and local agricultural techniques and the nature of the settlement and whether this changed over time from the Middle Iron Age to Romano-British periods.
- 8.3.2 The charred plant assemblages also have the potential to augment information on the distribution of emmer and spelt during these periods in this area.
- 8.3.3 It is proposed to analyse the charred plant remains from three of the excavation samples and one of evaluation samples. These samples

comprise: the Middle Iron Age pit 1072, Middle/Late Iron Age pit 208, Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British ditch 1033 and Romano-British pit 403.

- 8.3.4 All identifiable charred plant macrofossils will be extracted from the 2 and 1mm residues together with the flot. Identification will be undertaken using stereo incident light microscopy at magnifications of up to x40 using a Leica MS5 microscope, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) and with reference to modern reference collections where appropriate, quantified and the results tabulated.
- 8.3.5 The samples proposed for analysis are indicated with a "P" in the analysis column in **Table 5**.

Wood charcoal

- 8.3.6 There is only limited potential in detailed analysis of the three larger wood charcoal assemblages. Analysis would provide some information on the range of species present and the nature, exploitation and management of the local woodland resource. It is not possible, however, to relate these larger wood charcoal deposits to any specific activities or structures. Therefore no further work is proposed.

Dating

- 8.3.7 There is potential for radiocarbon dating charred material (the animal bone assemblage is very small) from several of the features spanning the Later Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, Middle Iron Age and Romano-British period. Such potential is however, limited in particular for the Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Romano-British period where the nature of the calibration curve often makes dating less accurate potentially than pottery dating, although, depending on the returned date, it is possible sometimes to broadly divide Middle Iron Age/Late Iron age from Late Iron Age/Romano-British
- 8.3.8 As such dating generally only has only the potential on the site to confirm pottery phasing on the site therefore no further dating is proposed.

8.4 Proposed Publication

- 8.4.1 Information on the Site, the archaeological work undertaken and the results will be placed on the online information resource OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigations).
- 8.4.2 It is anticipated that the results of the fieldwork will be published in a extended note within one year of completion of all phases of fieldwork in

8.5 Report Structure

- 8.5.1 It is proposed that the publication text will take the form of a short illustrated report, comprising a description of the stratigraphic/structural evidence with specialist reports on the results of the finds and radiocarbon dating and a discussion of the Site's wider regional context.
- 8.5.2 It is proposed, at this stage, to publish the report in *Berkshire Archaeological Journal*.

Table 5: Proposed publication

Report section	Word length
Summary	100
INTRODUCTION	
Project background	150
Geology topography and land-use	150
Historical period and archaeological background	300
Project aims and excavation methodology	300
RESULTS	
Stratigraphic narrative and phasing scheme with integrated finds information	2500
Specialist Reports	
Human bone and environmental reports with selected methodologies and tabulated data	2000
CONCLUSIONS	700
References	800
Figures	c. 3 pages
Tables	1 tables
Acknowledgements	100
TOTAL	7,100 words

9 PROVISIONAL TASK LIST, RESOURCES AND PROGRAMME

9.1 Task list

9.1.1 The table below presents the list of tasks required within the proposed programme to produce the publication report, together with the necessary resources. Proposed personnel and their qualifications are listed. Costs and Tasks

Table 6: Task list and resources

Task	Grade	Time
PRE-ANALYSIS TASKS		
Extraction of Charred Plant remains (4 samples)	EO	1 day
ANALYSIS TASKS		
<i>Finds</i>		
Human Bone	SPO	1.5 days
<i>Environmental analyses</i>		
Analysis and reporting of Charred Plant Remains	SPO	3 days
C14 selection/IDs, commissioning and calibration- 1 date on human bone from grave 1085	SPO	0.25 day
Radiocarbon Dating: 1 sample		Fixed price
REPORTING TASKS		
SPO Tasks		
Archive preparation	PO Archive	0.5 days
Preparation of publication note text and additional background search	PO	3 days
PO Tasks		
Project/technical management		
Editing of finds reports	PM	0.3 days
Environmental editing and management	PM	0.14 days
Editing/reading and amendments	PM	0.25 day

Publication sub-editing/reading and amendments	Reports Manager (JPG)	0.14 day
Project Management	PM	1 day
Drawing Office: Site illustrations	Drawing Office	1.25 days
Drawing Office: Finds illustrations – pot and bone	Drawing Office	1 day
Microfilm*	Marathon	Fixed price
HER Information (est. 2 hrs)		£60@hr
Staff preparation and transport of archive	PO	1day
Archive Box Storage grant†		Fixed price
Publication Berkshire Studies (estimate 7100 words@700 words/page)	8 pages of text 3 figures 1 table	£50/page

* based on rate of £35 per Lever Arch file

† based on current EH rate

9.2 Personnel

9.2.1 It is currently proposed that the following Wessex Archaeology core staff will be involved in the programme of post-excavation analyses. Wessex Archaeology reserved the right to make changes to project personnel, during the course of the project.

Project Manager	Andrew Manning MA, BSc, MIfA
Reports Manager	Julie Gardiner, BA, PhD, MIfA, FSA
Main author	Naomi Brennan, BSc, AIfA
Senior Project Officer/Pottery/ Other finds/Environmental remains	Rachael Seager Smith, BA, MIfA/ Kayt Marter Brown BA and Lorraine Mephram, FSA, BA, MIfA; Chris Stevens, PhD, BSc, MIfA
Environmental Officer	Sarah Wyles, BA, PIfA, MAEA

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The Solent Thames Research Framework available at:

http://thehumanjourney.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=564&Itemid=286

APPENDIX 1: ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES AND TRENCH TABLES
Area 1

Layer	Layer type	Cut	Feature type	Period	Description	Filled with:
1092	Topsoil				Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown sandy silt loam. 2% stone and chalk, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Moderately compact. Fairly homogeneous. Overlies (1093).	
1093	Subsoil				Modern subsoil. Dark yellow-grey sandy silt loam. 2% stone and chalk, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Occasional CBM fragments. Moderately compact. Fairly homogeneous. Overlies (1094).	
1094	Made ground				Made ground. Dark yellow-orange sand. Fairly compact. Fairly homogeneous. Overlies (1095).	
1095	Natural				Natural geology. Mid yellow sand. Compact. Homogeneous.	
		1085	Grave	Unphased	Sub-oval grave containing supine, flexed adult male inhumation burial. N-S aligned.	1086, 1087
		1096	Posthole	Unphased	Possible pair with [1098]. Sub-circular in plan. Concave, moderate sides, concave base. 0.20m long, 0.18m wide. 0.09m deep.	1097
		1098	Posthole	Unphased	Possible pair with [1096]. Sub-circular in plan. Concave, steep sides, concave base. 0.18m long, 0.16m wide. 0.14m deep.	1099
		1107	Posthole	Unphased	Sub-circular in plan. Straight, steep sides, concave base. 0.4m in diameter. 0.22m deep.	1106
		1108	Pit	Unphased	Possible pit or natural feature. Sub-oval in plan. Concave, shallow sides, concave base. 1.16m long, 1.02m wide. 0.16m deep.	1109
		1110	Posthole	Unphased	Possible pair with [1112]. Sub-circular in plan. Straight, steep sides, concave base. 0.17m long, 0.15m wide. 0.12m deep.	1111

Layer	Layer type	Cut	Feature type	Period	Description	Filled with:
		1112	Posthole	Unphased	Possible pair with [1110]. Sub-circular in plan. Straight, steep sides, concave base. 0.19m in diameter. 0.10m deep.	1113
		1115	Posthole	Unphased	Sub-oval in plan. Straight, steep sides, concave base. 0.60m long, 0.40m wide. 0.26m deep.	1114
		1117	Posthole	Unphased	Sub-oval in plan. Straight, steep sides, flat base. 0.32m long, 0.26m wide. 0.20m deep.	1116
		1118	Posthole	Unphased	Sub-circular in plan. Straight, steep sides, concave base. 0.16m long, 0.12m wide. 0.13m deep.	1119
		1121	Posthole	Unphased	Sub-circular in plan. Straight, steep sides, concave base. 0.26m long, 0.22m wide. 0.19m deep.	1120
		1123	Posthole	Unphased	Sub-circular in plan. Straight, steep sides, flat base. 0.28m in diameter. 0.24m deep.	1122
		1125	Posthole	Unphased	Sub-circular in plan. Straight, steep sides, concave base. 0.28m in diameter. 0.22m deep.	1124
		1127	Posthole	Unphased	Sub-circular in plan. Straight, steep sides, concave base. 0.26m long, 0.20m wide. 0.19m deep.	1126

Area 2

Layer	Layer type	Group	Group type	Cut	Feature type	Period	Description	Filled with:
1000	Topsoil						Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown sandy silt loam. 2% stone and chalk, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Moderately compact. Fairly homogeneous. Overlies (1001).	
1001	Made ground						Made ground, northern end of area. Dark grey sandy silt loam. 5% stone and chalk, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Occasional CBM fragments. Moderately compact. Fairly homogeneous. Overlies (1002).	
1002	Subsoil						Subsoil. Mid orange brown sandy silt loam. 2% stone and chalk, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Moderately compact. Fairly	

Layer	Layer type	Group	Group type	Cut	Feature type	Period	Description	Filled with:
1003	Natural						homogeneous. Overlies (1003). Natural geology. Mid orange sandy clay with bands of river gravels.	
		1254	Four-post structure	1004	Posthole	Middle-Late Iron Age	Sub-circular with steep to moderate concave sides, concave base. 0.42m long, 0.36m wide. 0.14m deep.	1005
				1006	Posthole	Late Iron Age- Early Romano-British	Sub-circular with steep near vertical sides, concave base. 0.44m diameter. 0.42m deep.	1007
		1254	Four-post structure	1008	Posthole	Middle-Late Iron Age	Sub-circular with steep to moderate concave sides, concave base. 0.42m diameter. 0.11m deep.	1009
		1254	Four-post structure	1010	Posthole	Middle-Late Iron Age	Sub-circular with steep to moderate concave sides, flat base. 0.70m long, 0.54m wide. 0.13m deep.	1011
				1012	Tree throw	Unphased	Irregular feature with concave sides, flat base. 1.70m long, 1.06m wide. 0.11m deep	1013
				1014	Posthole	Unphased	Sub-oval with steep concave sides, slightly concave base. 0.52m long, 0.45m wide. 0.18m deep.	1015
				1017	Tree throw	Modern	Irregular feature, cuts modern boundary ditch. 4.0m long, 2.0m wide. Unexcavated.	1016
		1254	Four-post structure	1019	Posthole	Middle-Late Iron Age	Sub-circular with steep, straight sides, flat base. 0.40m long, 0.37m wide. 0.07m deep.	1018
				1021	Posthole	Unphased	Sub-oval with moderate, concave sides, concave base. 0.40m long, 0.30m wide. 0.05m deep.	1020
				1023	Ditch	Modern	Modern, E-W aligned boundary ditch. 1.9m wide. Unexcavated.	1022
				1025	Pit	Unphased	Or treethrow. Sub-oval in plan, steep to moderate concave sides. Concave base. 1.15m long, 0.9m wide. 0.18m deep. Cuts pit (1062).	1024

Layer	Layer type	Group	Group type	Cut	Feature type	Period	Description	Filled with:
		1250	Ditch group	1026	Ditch	Late Iron Age- Early Romano- British	NW-SE aligned ditch. Moderate, straight sides. Concave base. 0.97m wide.	1027
				1028	Cut	Late Iron Age- Early Romano- British	Possible ditch re-cut on southern edge of (1026). Concave, moderate sides, concave base. 0.63m wide.	1029
				1033	Ditch	Late Iron Age- Early Romano- British	E-W aligned ditch, W terminus. Concave, moderate sides, concave base. 1.0m wide. 0.26m deep.	1030, 1031, 1032
		1253	Ditch group	1035	Ditch	Late Iron Age- Early Romano- British	SW-NE aligned ditch, SW terminus. Concave, moderate sides, concave base. 0.80m wide. 0.20m deep.	1034
				1036	Pit	Romano-British	Oval pit. Shallow, concave sides, flat base. 1.0m long, 0.51m wide. 0.16m deep. Cuts (1062), cut by pit (1066).	1037, 1038
		1253	Ditch group	1039	Ditch	Late Iron Age- Early Romano- British	SW - NE aligned. Concave, moderate sides, concave base. 1.2m wide. 0.29m deep. Cut by ditch (1045).	1040, 1041
		1250	Ditch group	1042	Ditch	Late Iron Age- Early Romano- British	NW-SE aligned ditch. Steep, straight sides. Concave base. 1.12m wide. Cut by pit (1050).	1043, 1044
				1045	Ditch	Late Iron Age- Early Romano- British	NW - SE aligned, possible NW ditch terminus. Concave, moderate to steep sides, slightly concave base. 2.4m wide. 0.66m deep. Cuts ditch (1039), cut by pit (1050).	1046, 1047, 1048, 1049
				1050	Pit	Late Iron Age- Early Romano- British	Sub-oval pit, moderate, concave sides, concave base. 3.0m long, 1.62m wide. 0.41m deep. Cuts ditches (1045) and (1042). Cut by pit (1050).	1051, 1052, 1053, 1054
				1055	Pit	Late Iron Age- Early Romano- British	Sub-oval pit, steep, concave sides, concave base. 1.53m diameter. 0.70m deep. Cuts pit (1050).	1056, 1057, 1058, 1059
				1061	Tree throw	Unphased	Irregular, steep to moderate irregular sides, concave base. 1.5m long, 1.25m wide. 0.19m deep.	1060

Layer	Layer type	Group	Group type	Cut	Feature type	Period	Description	Filled with:
				1062	Pit	Romano-British	Or hollow. Shallow, slightly irregular sides, flat base. 2.5m long, 2.0m wide. 0.42m deep. Cut by pit (1036).	1063, 1064, 1065
				1066	Pit	Romano-British	Oval pit. Shallow, concave sides, flat base. 1.02m long, 0.54m wide. 0.14m deep. Cuts pit (1036).	1067, 1068
				1069	Pit	Romano-British	Very truncated feature, concentration of pottery.	1070
				1072	Pit	Middle Iron Age	Bell-shaped storage pit. 2.10m long, 2.0m wide. 0.74m deep.	1071, 1091, 1100, 1101
		1251	Ditch group	1074	Ditch	Middle-Late Iron Age	N - S aligned, slightly curvilinear gully. Moderate, concave sides. Concave base. 0.45m wide. 0.18m deep.	1073
1075	VOID						VOID	
		1252	Ditch group	1076	Ditch	Romano-British	SW - NE aligned boundary ditch. Steep, convex sides, concave base. 1.9m wide. 0.78m deep. Cut by (1080).	1077, 1078, 1079
				1080	Pit	Romano-British	Sub-oval pit with moderate, concave sides, concave base. 1.38m long, 1.08m wide. 0.25m deep. Cuts (1076).	1081, 1082
				1083	Posthole	Unphased	Possible posthole, sub-circular. Irregular, concave sides, concave base. 0.42m diameter. 0.15m deep.	1084
				1090	Ditch	Unphased	NE - SW aligned, possible field boundary/hedgeline. Shallow, concave sides, slightly irregular base. 0.72m wide. 0.26m deep.	1088, 1089
		1251	Ditch group	1103	Ditch	Middle-Late Iron Age	N - S aligned, slightly curvilinear gully. Moderate, concave sides. Concave base. 0.40m wide. 0.18m deep. Cut by (1105).	1102
		1252	Ditch group	1105	Ditch	Romano-British	SW - NE aligned boundary ditch. Moderate, straight sides. Relationship slot only, not bottomed. 1.8m wide. Cuts (1103).	1104

Trenches 5 and 6

TRENCH 5			Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 4.8x2.7m		Max. depth: 1.3m	Ground level: 25.12m aOD	
Context	Description			Depth (m)
501	<i>Made ground</i>	Concrete floor of barn		0.00-0.10 bgl
502	<i>Made ground</i>	Yellow sand and gravel ballast for concrete		0.10-0.50 bgl
503	<i>Made ground</i>	Crushed brick and concrete hardcore		0.50-0.65 bgl
504	<i>Layer</i>	Mid yellow-grey clay. 40% gravel, sub-angular, 2-6cm. Frequent brick rubble.		0.65-1.30+ bgl

TRENCH 6			Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 4.6x4.0m		Max. depth: 0.70m	Ground level: 24.96-25.02m aOD	
Context	Description			Depth (m)
601	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown sandy silt loam. 2% stone and chalk, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Moderately compact. Fairly homogeneous. Overlies (602).		0.00-0.10 bgl
602	<i>Made ground</i>	Modern made ground. Sub-rounded chalk rubble. Occasional CBM fragments. Overlies (607).		0.10-0.40 bgl
603	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of service trench (604). Unexcavated.		-
604	<i>Cut</i>	North-west – south-east aligned service trench, probably sewage. Filled with (603). Cuts (605). Unexcavated.		-
605	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of service trench (606). Unexcavated.		-
606	<i>Cut</i>	North-east – south-west aligned service trench, probably sewage. Filled with (605). Cuts (607). Unexcavated.		-
607	<i>Subsoil</i>	Pale yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 2% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Moderately compact. Fairly homogeneous. Overlies (608).		0.40-0.70 bgl
608	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid grey-brown river gravels. Compact. Slightly mixed.		0.70+ bgl

APPENDIX 2: FINDS
Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Animal Bone	Burnt Flint	Fired Clay	Worked Flint	Pottery	Other Finds
EVALUATION						
all contexts	8/120	6/531	2/227	-	131/1547	5 slag; 6 stone
EXCAVATION						
1000				17/227		
1005				1/5	2/4	
1007				1/1	1/35	
1009				1/16	1/1	
1013		1/79				
1015		2/4			1/1	
1016				1/5	4/50	2 iron; 2 CBM
1018			4/45		1/2	
1020		1/13				
1027					3/27	
1030					8/87	
1031					29/314	
1034					1/156	
1037		6/113				
1038		9/22			1/51	
1041					2/37	
1043		8/55			5/110	
1044					2/22	
1046					3/53	
1047					6/33	
1048	4/89				1/15	
1052					1/24	
1053		10/765			14/405	
1054		2/57			5/75	
1056					13/426	
1058		6/229		1/5	1/96	
1059					3/53	
1060		12/170				
1065					18/171	
1068		24/90	6/56		3/31	
1070					26/633	
1071	13/18	18/123			16/246	
1073	5/1	8/291		1/9	8/21	
1077					1/2	
1079	3/42	2/29		1/13	14/157	
1082	4/20				3/15	
1084	8/5					
1086						1 individual
1088					1/1	
1091	10/84	2/92	2/10		18/141	
1102					3/1	
1104	3/17	3/20			9/53	

Unstrat.				2/19		
subtotal excav.	50/276	114/2152	12/111	26/300	228/3549	
TOTAL	58/396	120/2683	14/2338	26/300	359/5096	

Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type

Date	Ware type	EVALUTION		EXCAVATION		TOTAL	
		No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
LBA/EIA	Flint-tempered	1	11	-	-	1	11
M/LIA	Sparse flint & ferruginous pellets	5	21	16	60	21	81
	Shelly ware	1	6	24	226	25	232
	Sandy ware	31	191	10	202	41	393
	Leached 'corky' ware (prob shelly)	35	99	13	51	48	150
LIA/RB	Grog-tempered ware	27	514	130	2720	157	3234
	Flint-tempered	9	290	1	30	10	320
	Samian	-	-	1	1	1	1
	Oxidised ware	-	-	1	6	1	6
	Greyware	22	415	32	253	54	668
		131	1547	228	3549	359	5096

Table 3: Number of identified specimens present (or NISP)

Species	Middle/Late Iron Age	Late Iron Age/ Early Roman	Roman	Undated	Total
cattle	1	2	2	1	6
sheep/goat	2		3	1	6
pig			1		1
unidentifiable	8			10	18
Total	11	2	6	12	31

APPENDIX 3: PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE
Table 4: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature Number	Context	Sample	Size Litres	Flot Size ml	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal >4/2mm	Analysis
Excavation Area 2												
Middle Iron Age												
Pit												
1072	1091	715	20	15	65	C	C	Indet. grain frags, glume frags	C	<i>Chenopodium</i>	0/1 ml	
	1071	716	20	120	75	B	B	Hulled wheat grain frags, glume frags inc. those of Emmer and Spelt	A	<i>Carex</i> , Polygonaceae, <i>Avena/Bromus</i> , Poaceae, Brassicaceae, <i>Trifolium/Medicago</i> , Veronica, <i>Chenopodium</i> (prob. modern)	0/3 ml	P
Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British												
Ditches												
1033	1031	700	8	20	55	A*	B	Hulled wheat and ?Barley grain frags, glume frags	A	<i>Avena/Bromus</i> , Poaceae, Polygonaceae, <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Chenopodium</i>	0/2 ml	P
1042 gp 1250	1043	703	10	80	12	B	A	Hulled wheat grain frags, glume frags inc. of ?Emmer, awn frags	B	<i>Avena/Bromus</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Trifolium/Medicago</i>	10/15ml	
1045	1046	704	10	10	10	B	B	Hulled wheat grain frags, glume frags	C	Poaceae, Brassicaceae	<1/<1 ml	
Pit												
1050	1053	701	10	175	7	B	B	Indet. grain frags, glume frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	40/10 ml	
Hearths												
1066	1068	705	20	35	60	A	B	Hulled wheat grain frags, glume frags	C	Poaceae, <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	2/1 ml	
1036	1037	706	20	40	65	A	B	Hulled wheat and ?Barley grain frags, glume frags	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , Poaceae	2/2 ml	
	1038	707	20	40	60	A	C	Hulled wheat grain frags, glume frags	B	<i>Galium</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , Poaceae, <i>Trifolium/Medicago</i>	3/3 ml	
Romano-British												
Pit												
1055	1058	702	10	120	7	A*	B	Hulled wheat and Barley grain frags, glume frags inc. of spelt	B	<i>Avena/Bromus</i> , Polygonaceae, <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Crataegus</i>	30/35 ml	

Feature Number	Context	Sample	Size Litres	Flot Size ml	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal >4/2mm	Analysis
Evaluation Area 2												
Middle/ Late Iron Age												
Pits												
204	205	4	10	60	8	B	C	Hulled wheat, inc. those of emmer, grain and glume frags and barley grain frags	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus, Rumex, Trifolium, Chenopodium, Plantago lanceolata</i>	10/5 ml	
208	209	6	10	20	40	-	A	Hulled wheat, inc. those of emmer glume frags	A	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus, Rumex, Trifolium, Chenopodium, Corylus avellana shell frags</i>	1/3 ml	P
Evaluation Area 4												
Romano-British												
Pit												
403	405	2	10	60	3	A	A*	Hulled wheat, inc. those of emmer, grain and glume frags and barley grain frags	A*	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus, Rumex, Chenopodium, Polygonum aviculare, Odontites vernus, Tripleurospermum inodorum, Montia fontana, Trifolium</i>	6/8 ml	P

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Analysis: P = plant

APPENDIX 4: OASIS SUMMARY

OASIS ID: wessexar1-119729

Project details

Project name White Place Farm, Cookham, Berkshire

Short description of the project Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Trenac Estates Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological mitigation at White Place Farm, Cookham, Berkshire (NGR 490106 184472). Following on from a historic buildings assessment of seven structures and an initial evaluation comprising four trenches this report details the results of the excavation of two areas, two further evaluation trenches and an archaeological watching brief. At the western edge of the site, within Area 1, a previously identified grave (1085) is shown to be an isolated feature containing an adult male. No other graves were observed. Many of the features in this area were clearly modern and related to allotment and garden activity. At the eastern edge of the site in the vicinity of Area 2, residual Neolithic activity and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age is indicated by a small number of finds. The main period of occupation of the Site appears to start in the Middle to Late Iron Age with continuity of occupation into the Romano-British period, again focused within Area 2. The results were consistent with a small scale rural settlement, or activity on the periphery of a larger scale settlement. The environmental evidence from both the excavation and evaluation is indicative of arable and field margin habitats and is consistent with general settlement waste. Unusually both the samples produced a mixture of emmer and spelt wheat in both the Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British samples. This suggests that this community deliberately continued to grow emmer alongside the newly introduced spelt while other sites in the region changed their focus of production almost entirely to spelt.

Project dates Start: 21-06-2010 End: 15-12-2012

Previous/future work Yes / Yes

Any associated project reference codes 56983 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes 56982 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes 56980 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type DITCH Late Prehistoric
Monument type PIT Late Prehistoric
Monument type PIT Roman
Monument type DITCH Roman
Significant Finds POTTERY Iron Age
Significant Finds POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds HUMAN REMAINS Uncertain
Significant Finds COIN Roman
Investigation type 'Open-area excavation'
Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country England
Site location BERKSHIRE READING READING White Place Farm Cookham
Postcode SL6 9QZ
Study area 2.00 Hectares
Site coordinates SU 8970 8440 51.5508691717 -0.706139982429 51 33 03 N 000 42 22 W Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 25.00m Max: 26.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist
Project design Wessex Archaeology

originator

Project director/manager Andrew Manning and D. De Rosa

Project supervisor Naomi Brennan

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding bodyName of Trenac estates
sponsor/funding body**Project archives**Physical Archive Reading Museum
recipient

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Human Bones','Metal','Worked bone','Worked stone/lithics'

Digital Archive recipient Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter

Digital Media available 'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Report','Section'

Project bibliography

1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title White Place Farm, Cookham, Berkshire

Author(s)/Editor(s) Brannan, N

Other bibliographic 56983.04
details

Date 2012

Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology

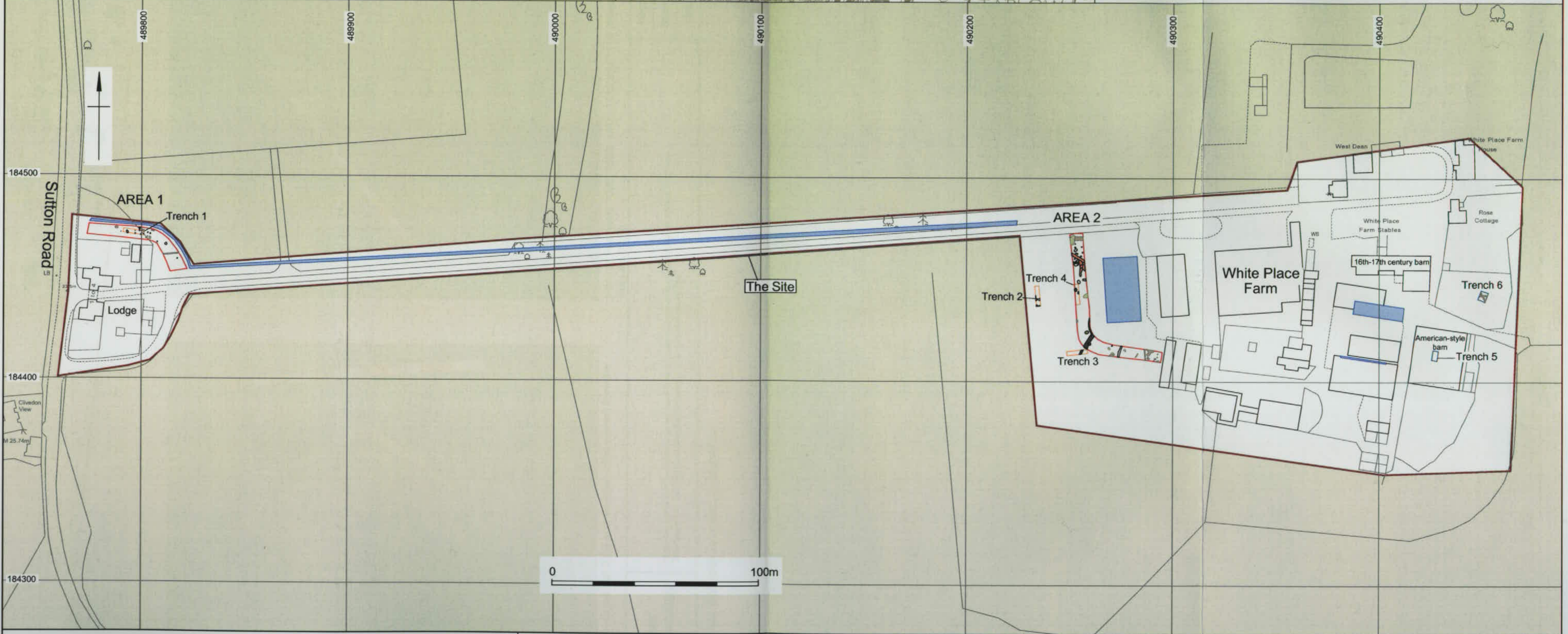
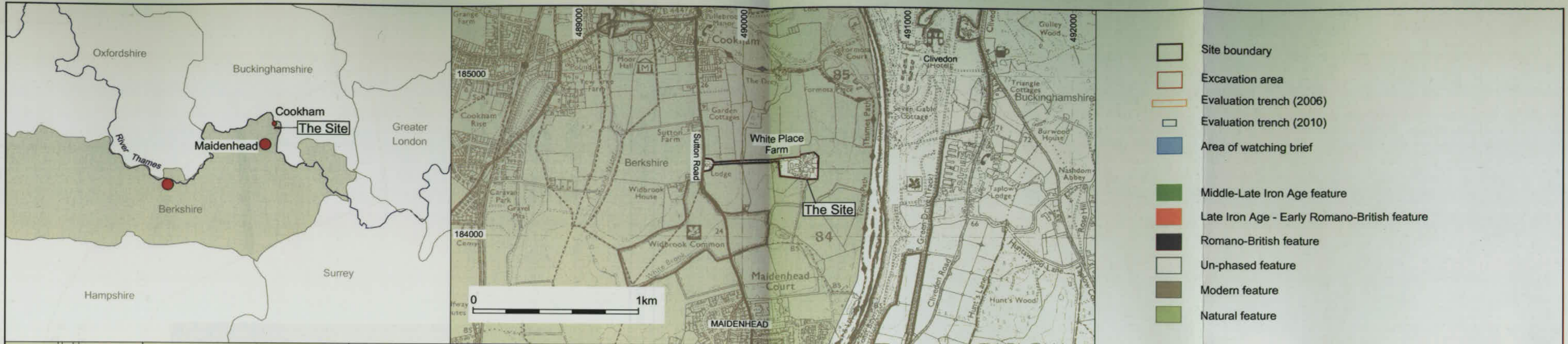
Place of issue or Salisbury

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Entered by Andrew Manning (a.manning@wessexarch.co.uk)

Entered on 21 February 2012



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	Scale:	1:25000 & 1:2000 @ A3	Illustrator:	SEJ		
	Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\56983\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Assessment\11_08_23\56983_assess.dwg				

Location of site, excavation areas, evaluation trenches and watching brief

Figure 1

AREA 1

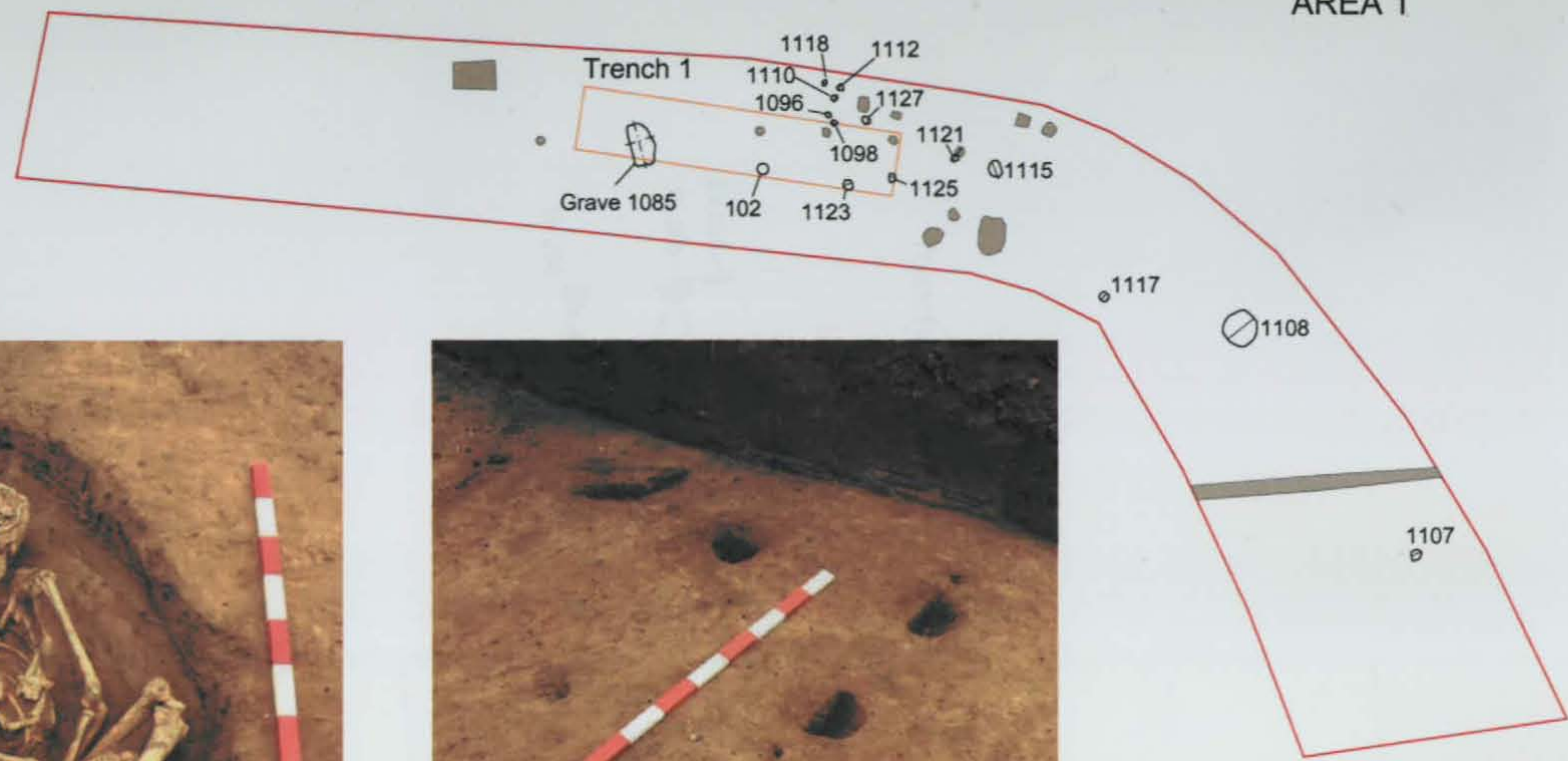
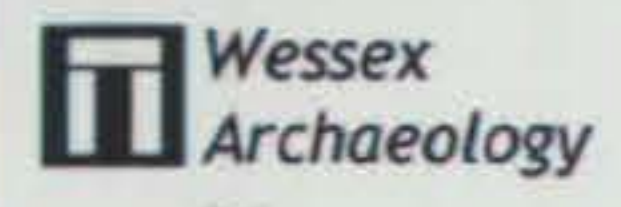


Plate 1: Grave cut 1085 and skeleton 1086 viewed from the south



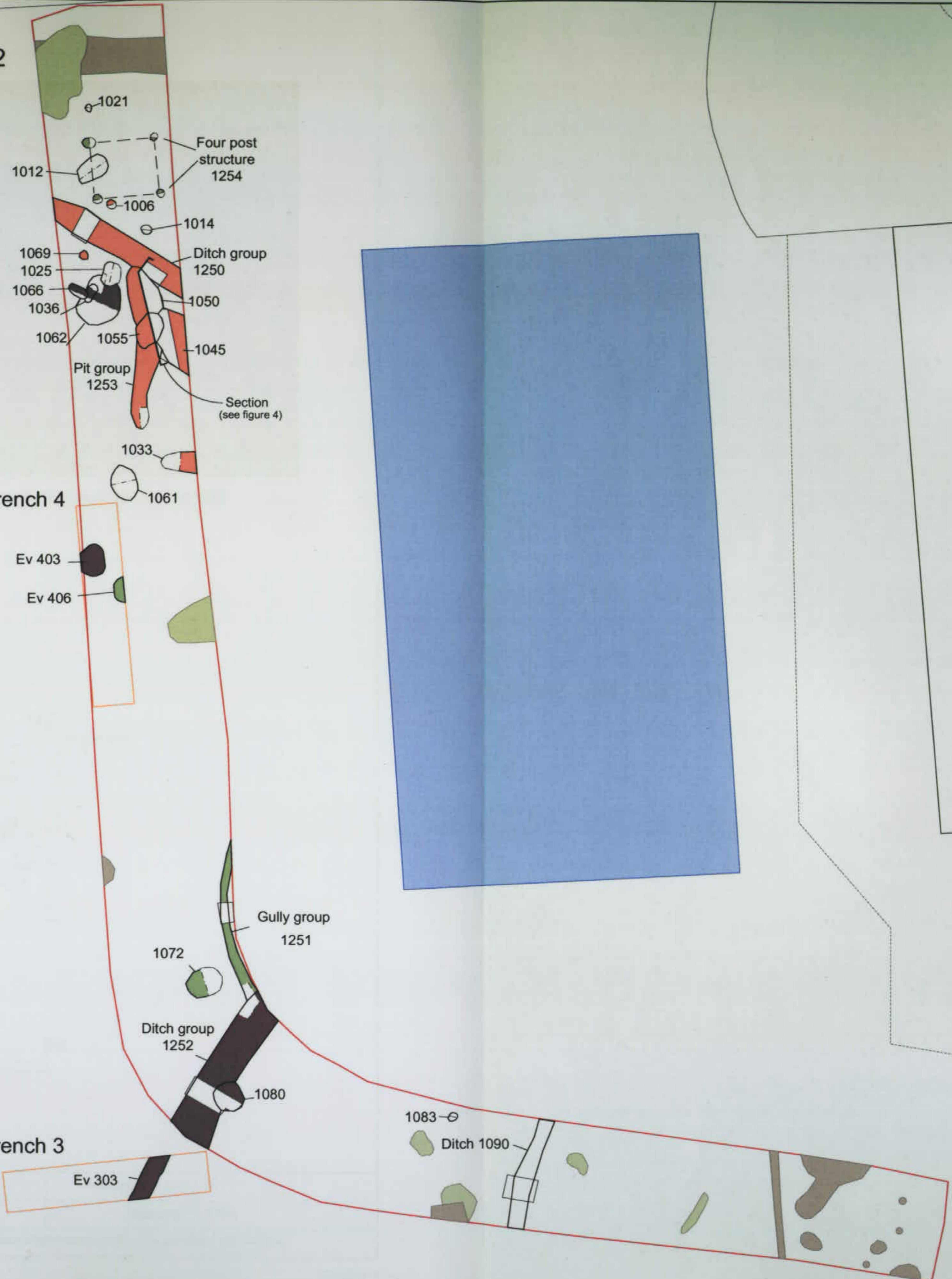
Plate 2: Postholes 1096, 1098, 1110, 1112 and 1118 viewed from the south



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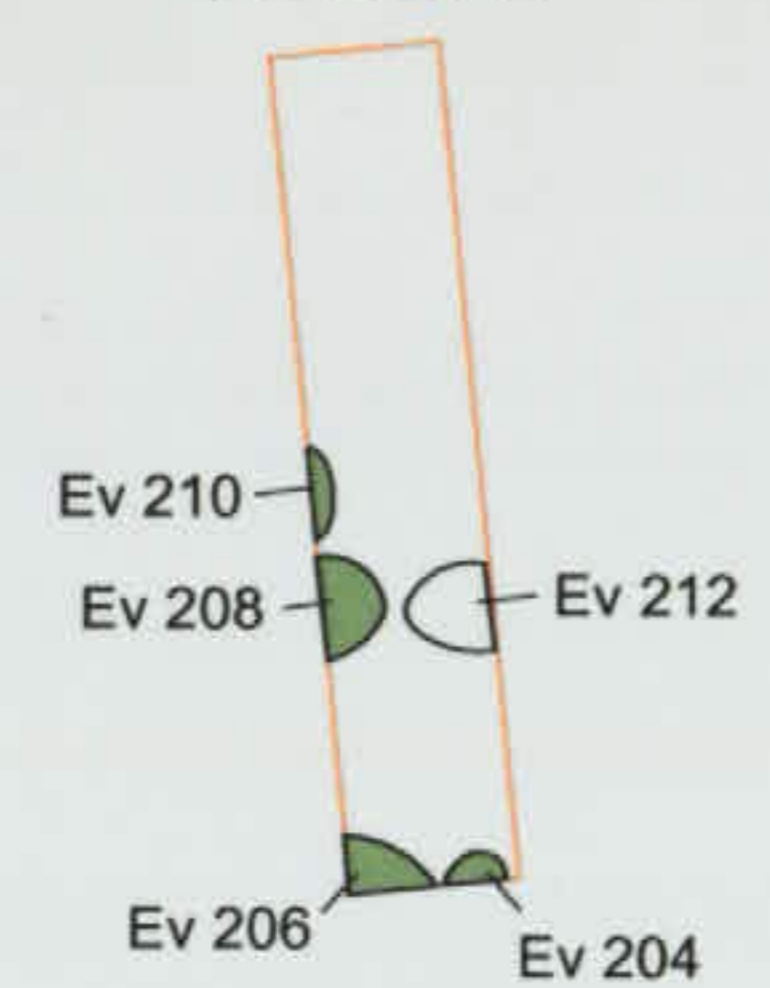
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AREA 2

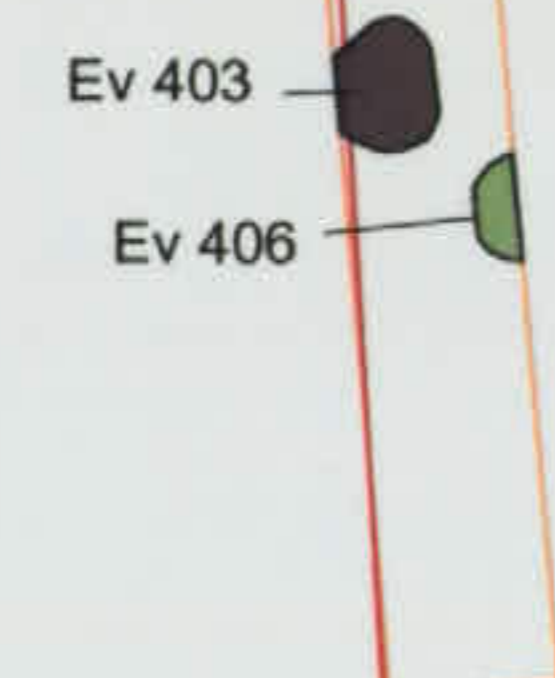


- Excavation area
- Evaluation trench (2006)
- Area of watching brief
- Middle-Late Iron Age feature
- Late Iron Age - Early Romano-British feature
- Romano-British feature
- Un-phased feature
- Modern feature
- Natural feature

Trench 2



Trench 4



Trench 3



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Area 2: Phased plan

Figure 3



Plate 3: East facing section of pit 1072



Plate 4: North-east facing section through features 1062 and 1066

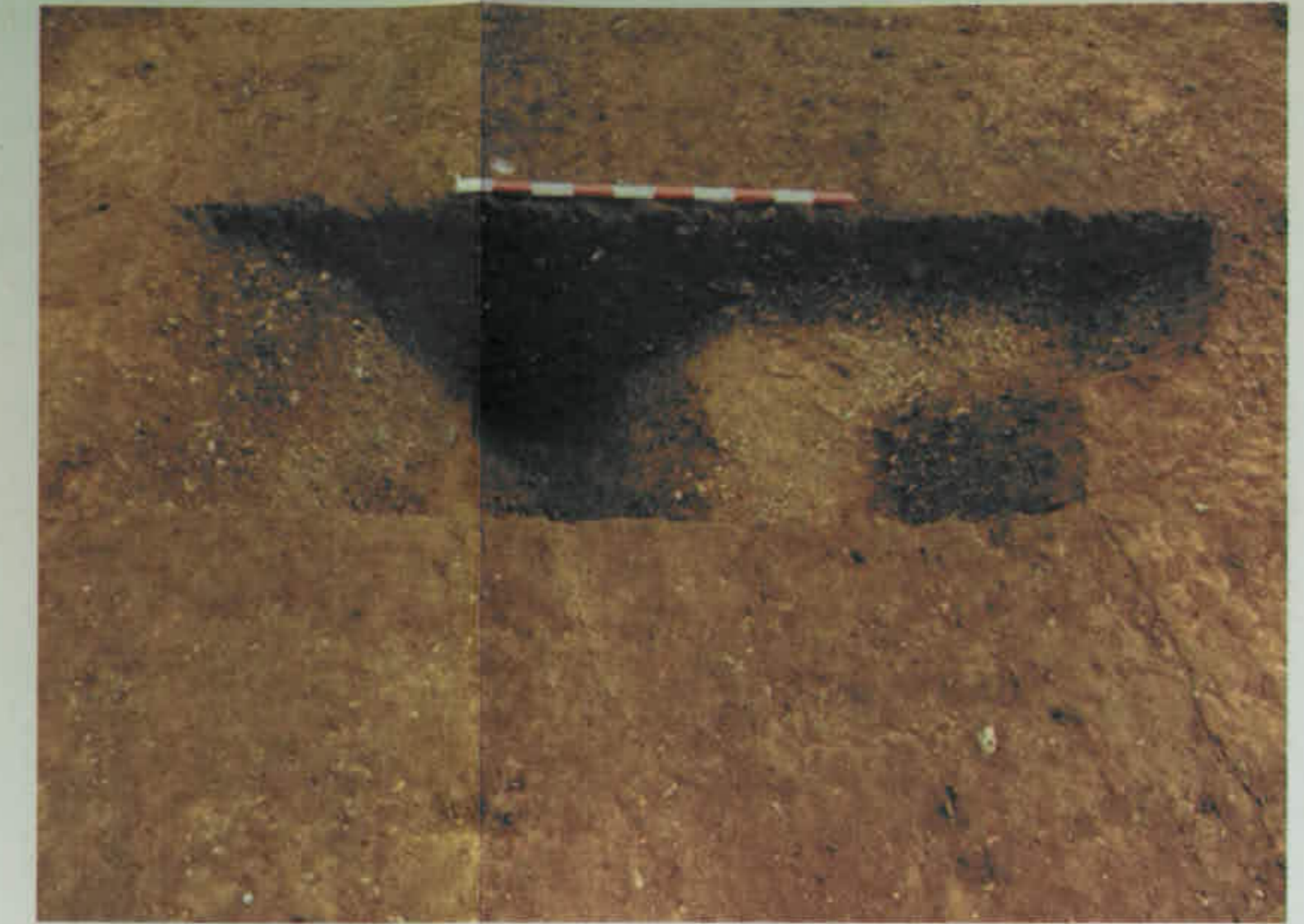
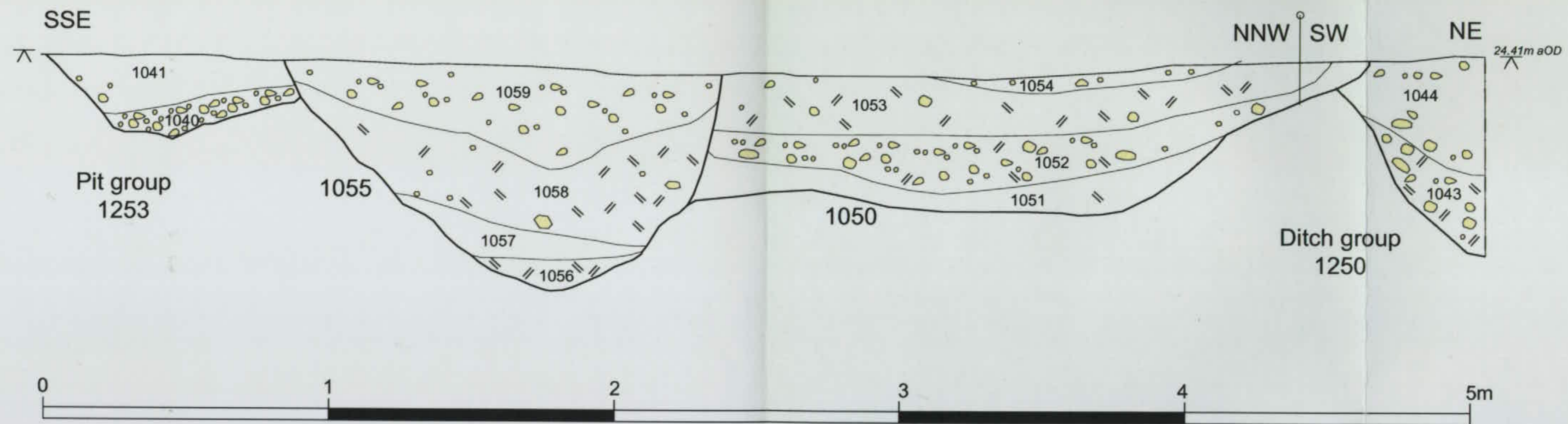


Plate 5: South-west facing section through ditch group 1252 and pit 1080



Wessex
Archaeology

- Stones
- Charcoal

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