

 Wessex  
Archaeology



**ZIONSHILL FARM, CHANDLERS FORD,  
HAMPSHIRE**

**Proposals for the Post-excavation Analysis and Publication of the Results of  
the Archaeological Investigations 1995-1996**

**Prepared on behalf of:**

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**Document Ref. No. 39634.1**

**Wessex Archaeology  
October 1996**

# ZIONSHILL FARM, CHANDLERS FORD, HAMPSHIRE

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## Summary

Following an initial desk-based assessment of the archaeological potential of a proposed residential development site and its environs, Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by J S Bloor (Newbury) Ltd to under-take further archaeological investigation. The development site is in the vicinity of Zionshill Farm, near Chandlers Ford, Hampshire (SU 4185 2000), and the work was carried out between October 1995 and March 1996.

A preliminary programme of minimally intrusive field survey by surface artefact collection highlighted seven concentrations of lithic material across the site. Four of these were then investigated in more detail by way of a second, more intensive surface artefact collection. This second stage of work identified a distinct concentration of surface material (lithics and pottery), which was provisionally dated to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age periods.

The area occupied by this concentration of artefacts was then topsoil stripped and excavated in a third stage of work, carried out in February and March 1996. These excavations uncovered a low density of features which yielded pottery dating solely from the mid- to late 1st century AD. Most of this pottery was recovered from a section excavated across the centre of a single, shallow, east-west aligned ditch.

This assessment report sets out the preliminary results of all three stages of work, outlines the project aims in the light of these results, and presents proposals for post-excavation work and the production of a full publication report. It is envisaged that the excavation results will be prepared for publication as an article in the *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club*. Ultimately, the excavation archive will be deposited with the Hampshire Museum Service.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All three stages of the fieldwork were commissioned and funded by J S Bloor (Newbury) Ltd and particular thanks are due to Mr P Halfacree and Mr R Hatchett of that company. The collaborative role of Mr D Hopkins of the Hampshire County Council Archaeology Service is also acknowledged. The smooth progress of the site operations in the latter stage was due to the co-operation and assistance of Mr Merrick Clark of Bryant Homes and Mr Sid Sandhu of Laing Homes.

The three stages of field work were directed by Neil J Adam, W A Boismier and Rod Brook respectively, with assistance from Dominic Barker, C J Ellis, Neil Fitzpatrick, Robert Garnham, Phil Harding, Jon Hart, Julie Lovell, Phil McMahon, Natasha Meader, Kevin Ritchie, Nick Wells, Joe Whelan and Marion White. The ploughing and rolling of the collection areas for Stages 1 and 2 was carried out by Mr D Jones of Knowle Hill Farm, Fair Oak, Hampshire.

This report was compiled by Neil J Adam, W A Boismier, Rod Brook, C J Ellis and Mick Rawlings. Comments on the finds were made by W A Boismier, Lorraine Mepham, Rosie Edmonds and Moira Laidlaw. The illustrations were prepared by Linda Coleman, Erica Hemming and Elizabeth James. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Mick Rawlings.

**ZIONSHILL FARM, CHANDLERS FORD, HAMPSHIRE**  
**Assessment Report**

**PART A: PROJECT BACKGROUND AND RESULTS**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by J S Bloor (Newbury) Ltd to undertake an archaeological investigation of an area of proposed residential development in the vicinity of Zionshill Farm, near Chandlers Ford, Hampshire (SU 4185 2000). The fieldwork was carried out in three stages between October 1995 and March 1996. This development had gained outline planning permission from the Local Planning Authority in May 1995, subject to the fulfilment of a section 106 agreement. Condition No. 8 of this agreement required the submission of a written scheme of archaeological investigation to be approved by the County Council Archaeology Service.
- 1.1.2 A preliminary stage of archaeological work comprised a desk-based assessment carried out in June 1995 by Tempus Reparatum (Ref. TR 31131DCA) on behalf of Boyer Planning Ltd. The assessment report (Tempus Reparatum 1995) indicated that the area of proposed development contained very few known archaeological remains. However, the County Council Archaeological Service recognised that the potential for the discovery of previously unknown sites remained quite high.
- 1.1.3 As a response to the archaeological potential of the proposed development area, J S Bloor (Newbury) Ltd commissioned Wessex Archaeology to prepare a schedule of works for a minimally intrusive field survey/surface artefact collection at the site (Wessex Archaeology 1995a). The results of this survey were summarised in a short report (Wessex Archaeology 1995b) and led to a brief (Wessex Archaeology 1995c) being commissioned for a further intensive survey of several areas of archaeological interest in the south-western corner of the site.
- 1.1.4 As a result of this second stage of fieldwork (Wessex Archaeology 1996a), a limited area excavation was carried out within a part of the intensive survey area which suggested a high potential for archaeological remains (Wessex Archaeology 1996b). The briefs for all three stages of this work were prepared in conjunction with both J S Bloor (Newbury) Ltd and the County Council Archaeology Service.
- 1.1.5 With the completion of the surveys and excavations at the site, this assessment report has been prepared as the next stage of work, in

accordance with the guidelines expressed in the document *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). The assessment report outlines the preliminary results of the investigation and presents proposals for the requisite post-excavation analyses and subsequent report production. This has been achieved by the cross-checking and ordering of the project archive, the spot-dating of pottery, the scanning of all other categories of artefacts, the processing of soil samples, and the preliminary recovery of the sample residues.

## **1.2 Topography and Geology**

- 1.2.1 The area of the proposed development lies immediately to the west of the town of Chandlers Ford, Hampshire (Figure 1), and is centred on NGR SU 418200. It covers some 32.6 ha of pasture land to the south and east of Zionshill Farm. The proposed development area is bordered to the south by Castle Road, to the east by Knightwood Road and recent residential development, to the north by the woodland of Zionshill Copse and to the west by the woodland of Great Covert.
- 1.2.2 Generally, the site is gently undulating, and mainly comprises permanent pasture. A small stream flows west-east through the middle of the site at about 30m aOD. To the north of this stream the land rises gradually to the summit of Zion Hill at 45m aOD, where Zionshill Farm is located. To the south of the stream the land rises to a lower ridge or crest before falling away towards Castle Road.
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology of the site largely comprises marine-deposited Bracklesham Beds, these are clays and sands of the Eocene Period (Geological Survey of Great Britain, 1:50,000 Drift Series, Sheet 315). Within this group is the Wittering Formation of clays which form the slopes within the development area. The summit of Zion Hill is formed of Earnly Sand, another part of the Bracklesham group.
- 1.2.4 The part of the proposed development area investigated by the second and third stages of archaeological fieldwork was situated within the south-west of the overall development area (Figure 2). At the time of fieldwork commencing, it comprised farmland under permanent pasture and it is centred on NGR SU 41701980.
- 1.2.5 The land here is gently undulating, with an area of higher ground in the centre of Site 2 from which the land slopes down in all directions. The higher ground reaches a maximum height of c. 35m OD whereas the lower ground to the east, at Site 7, lies at c. 30m OD.

## **1.3 Methodology**

- 1.3.1 Full details of the methodologies employed during each stage of work can be found in the respective client reports (Wessex Archaeology 1995b; 1996a; 1996b). A brief summary is provided here. The scale and nature of the full range of archaeological investigations was in accordance with the



scope of works approved by the County Council Archaeology Service (Wessex Archaeology 1995c)

- 1.3.2 The first stage of work involved the ploughing of a total of 26 linear transects, each one being ten metres wide. This represented a 25% sample of the development area. Each transect was then sub-divided into 10m x 10m quadrats. All visible artefacts on the surface were collected from each quadrat with the exception of brick, tile and any recognisably modern materials.
- 1.3.3 The second stage of work comprised more intensive surface artefact collection within three potential 'sites' identified following the initial stage (Sites 2, 3 and 4). The area of each 'site' was ploughed up and divided into a series of 4m x 4m squares. All visible artefacts on the surface were then collected from each square as before.
- 1.3.4 Also as part of stage 2, a fourth 'site' identified following the initial stage was subjected to a detailed auger survey which was carried out on a 5m x 5m grid both within and adjacent to the identified limits of the site.
- 1.3.5 The third stage of work was a continuation of investigations in the south-western part of Site 2, which had already been subjected to total surface artefact collection during stage two. A total area of c. 4,020m<sup>2</sup> was topsoil stripped using a 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. A site grid, based on the Ordnance Survey national grid, was then established before the commencement of manual cleaning and excavation of all exposed archaeological features and deposits.

## **2 EXCAVATION RESULTS**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 Detailed results from all three stages of work can be found in the relevant client reports (Wessex Archaeology 1995b; 1996a; 1996b). A brief summary of those results will be provided here.

### **2.2 Stage 1**

- 2.2.1 The totals of each artefact type recovered from the individual collection quadrats were used to create an isopleth (contour) map of artefact densities per unit area, utilising the ©SURFER computer graphics package. This map identified a total of five concentrations of worked flint and two of burnt flint within the development area. Extensive low-density non-clustered worked and burnt flint distributions also occurred and were often found to surround individual concentrations.
- 2.2.2 Five concentrations of worked flint (Sites 1-5) occurred in three of the evaluated fields. The assemblage from Site 1 probably represented the remains of some type of limited activity site, while the three

concentrations in the south-west field (Sites 2; 3; 4) appeared to represent the remains of a number of occupation sites. The single concentration in the north-east part of the development area (Site 5) was characterised by a general absence of tools and a low incidence of blades, which suggests that this site may represent the remains of a Late Neolithic limited activity site.

- 2.2.3 Two concentrations of burnt flint (Sites 6 and 7) were located, both were isolated and discrete, and these were interpreted as potential indicators of the locations of Bronze Age 'burnt mounds'.

### **2.3 Stage 2**

- 2.3.1 The @SURFER computer graphics package was again employed to identify activity areas occurring within the three artefact collection zones which were established within Sites 2, 3 and 4. An isopleth (contour) map of artefact densities per unit area was produced, and this identified a total of nine separate concentrations of worked flint, four of burnt flint and four of prehistoric pottery.

- 2.3.2 Six of the concentrations of worked flint, and all four of the concentrations of prehistoric pottery were found within the boundaries of Site 2. Preliminary analysis of the nature of the lithic assemblages suggested that these concentrations represented the locations of multi-purpose activity areas of probable Late Neolithic and/or Early Bronze Age date. The four concentrations of pottery suggested the possible survival of negative features sealed below the ploughsoil.

- 2.3.3 Two low-density concentrations of worked flint, and two discrete concentrations of burnt flint were found within the boundaries of Site 3. Preliminary analysis of the nature of the lithic assemblage here also suggests the locations for multi-purpose activity areas from the Late Neolithic and/or Early Bronze Age periods.

- 2.3.4 A single concentration of worked flint was found within Site 4, along with two concentrations of burnt flint. The flint assemblage here indicated the remains of an activity area devoted to core preparation and reduction which was also Late Neolithic and/or Early Bronze Age in date.

- 2.3.5 The auger survey of Site 7 consisted of 88 individual boreholes. A few pieces of burnt flint were found in the upper subsoil of two of these boreholes, whilst minor occurrences of small charcoal flecks were recorded in 13 of the boreholes. No evidence was found for any 'burnt mound'.

### **2.4 Stage 3**

- 2.4.1 A total of four features was cleaned and recorded following initial topsoil stripping. Three of these features were shallow sub-circular pits, each one c. 0.7m in diameter and varying between 0.1m and 0.13m in depth. All of these pits contained pottery of earlier Romano-British date (1st-2nd

centuries AD) and fragments of fired clay. Parts of four triangular loom weights were found in one pit, whilst four relatively complete cylindrical ones were recovered from another one. Triangular loomweights appear from the Middle Iron Age onwards in central southern England and continue in use into the Romano-British period. The cylindrical type is generally regarded as being of Bronze Age or Iron Age date.

- 2.4.2 A single ditch was aligned east-west across the area of investigation. A total length of 27m was recorded and three separate sections were excavated across it. The feature had a U-shaped profile, varying in width to a maximum of 1.2m and in depth to 0.35m. Scattered sherds of earlier Romano-British pottery were found in the excavated sections at each end of the feature, although a particularly heavy concentration (556 sherds weighing 10442 g) was found in the central slot.
- 2.4.3 The stage 3 investigation therefore uncovered a number of features with no obvious correlation to the location, distribution and date of the concentrations of artefacts found within the ploughsoil during stages 1 and 2. Analysis of the surface collection artefacts from Stages 1 and 2 had suggested patterns of prehistoric occupation and activity of Late Neolithic and/or Early Bronze Age date. However, the features recorded during stage 3 were only of earlier Romano-British date. Virtually no material of this period had been recovered during the previous phases.
- 2.4.4 The combination of earlier Romano-British pottery and Late Iron Age/earlier Romano-British loom weights found in the pits suggests that the site can be dated to the earliest decades of the Roman occupation. The scarcity of features suggests that the stage 3 excavations have not located the centre of a Roman site, although the density of material from the ditch suggests that such a focus must be situated nearby, possibly within the current development area. A fired clay kiln bar which was recovered from an unstratified deposit during the stage 3 investigation also hints at the potential existence in the area of a pottery production site.

### 3 THE EXCAVATION ARCHIVE

- 3.1 The project archives (as of May 1996) are currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury, under the site codes W39631, W39632 and W39636. The archives consists of the following:

#### W9631 (Stage 3)

<b>Written Record:</b>	
Context Index	1
Context Record	13
Day Book Sheets	10
Client Report	14

<b>Graphics Record:</b>	
A3 Drawing Sheets	1
A4 Drawing Sheets	4
Graphics Register Sheets	2
<b>Photographic Record:</b>	
Monochrome Films	2
Colour Transparency Films	2
Photographic Record Sheets	4
<b>Environmental Record:</b>	
Environmental Sample Sheets	1
<b>Finds Record:</b>	
Context Finds Record	10
Spot Dating and Scanning Sheet	10
Object Register	1
Finds Box Index	1

**W9632 (Stage 1)**

<b>Written Record:</b>	
Day Book Sheets	4
Transect Record Sheets	52
Quadrant Location Sheets	17
Artefact Density Contour Maps	12
<b>Graphics Record:</b>	
A3 Drawing Sheets	2
A4 Drawing Sheets	1
Plots of Transects	3
Site Location Plan with SMR information	1
Map of Enclosure in Zionshill Farm Woods	1
<b>Photographic Record:</b>	
Monochrome Films	1
Colour Transparency Films	1
Photographic Record Sheets	2
Aerial Photographic Information	2
<b>Finds Record:</b>	
Finds Box Index	1
Finds List Excluding Flint	3
Flint Assemblage Record Sheets	16
Flint Totals Computer Print out	10

**W9636 (Stage 2)**

<b>Written Record:</b>	
Level Sheets	10
Auger Log Sheets	88
Auger Location and Level Depth Sheets	10

**Finds Record:**

Flint Record Sheets	62
Finds Totals Excluding Flint	8
Finds Box Index	1
Raw Finds Data for dBase Input	61

**4 THE FINDS****4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 This section considers each category of artefactual material recovered, with reference to the quantity, range, provenance, and date range, and potential significance. All of the finds have been washed, quantified by material type within each context, and are currently boxed in suitable stable cardboard containers.

4.1.2 At the conclusion of each stage in the project, the artefacts were subjected to a brief scanning exercise, the results of which are detailed in the relevant client report (Wessex Archaeology 1995b; 1996a; 1996b). This section summarises that information, while the potential significance of the relevant categories has been incorporated into the proposed post-excavation methodologies (Section 7).

**4.2 Worked Flint**

4.2.1 A total of 454 pieces of worked flint was recovered from the transects during the stage 1 work. This total consisted of 268 unretouched flakes, 19 unretouched blades, 108 broken and burnt unretouched flakes and blades, 19 cores, five core fragments and burnt cores, 24 pieces of core shatter and 11 retouched tool forms. This information is summarised in Table 1.

**Table 1: Stage 1: Worked flint totals by Field**

Field	Flake	Flake Frag.	Burnt Flake	Blade	Blade Frag.	Burnt Blade	Core	Core Frag.	Burnt Core	Core Shatter	Tool	Tool Frag.	total
1	15	3	1	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	23
2	45	6	2	3	3	1	3	-	-	5	4	1	73
3	176	49	10	11	22	2	10	3	-	16	5	-	303
4	7	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	10
5	14	4	-	2	2	-	2	2	-	3	1	-	29
6	11	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	16
total	268	64	13	19	28	3	19	4	1	24	10	1	454

4.2.2 Stage 2 retrieved a total of 2200 pieces of worked flint from the surface of the three investigated Sites. The assemblage includes 1141 unretouched flakes, 100 unretouched blades, 713 broken and burnt unretouched flakes and blades, 70 cores, 12 core fragments and burnt cores, 110 pieces of

core trimming debris, 13 core rejuvenation flakes and 41 complete, broken and burnt retouched tool forms. Three hammerstone flakes and one hammerstone were also recovered. This information is summarised in Table 2.

**Table 2:** Stage 2: Worked flint totals by Site

	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Total
Flakes	856	226	59	1141
Flake fragments	390	88	12	490
Burnt flakes	47	5	1	53
Blades	78	22	0	100
Blade fragments	126	34	1	161
Burnt blades	7	2	0	9
Cores	14	55	1	70
Core fragments	8	2	1	11
Burnt cores	1	-	-	1
Core rejuvenation flakes	10	3	-	13
Core-trimming debris	73	35	2	110
Tool	13	14	-	27
Tool fragment	9	4	-	13
Burnt tool	1	-	-	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1674</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>2200</b>

- 4.2.3 The stage 3 excavations recovered 11 pieces of worked flint, of which five were unstratified. The assemblage comprises three unretouched flakes, one unretouched blade, two end scrapers and a scraper, one core, one burnt piece of core shatter, one core rejuvenation flake and one possible tool.
- 4.2.4 A large majority of the lithic artefacts are made from flint obtained from local sources, although one piece from stage 2 is made of chert, and some fragments from the stage 3 excavations are of non-local origin. The condition of the individual artefacts is variable, with most pieces exhibiting some degree of edge damage characteristic of plough activity. Most of the pieces recovered are unpatinated or lightly patinated with a transparent waxy film. No spatial patterning in the distribution of patinated artefacts was observed in the material collected during stages 1 and 2.
- 4.2.5 Technologically, the worked flint recovered from stages 1 and 2 conforms to the general characteristics of Neolithic and Early/Middle Bronze Age industries in southern England. The vast majority of material from stage 2 conformed to Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age examples only. The few fragments recovered from stage 3 remain undated.

### 4.3 Burnt Flint

- 4.3.1 A total of 3427 pieces of burnt flint weighing 44.05 kg was recovered from the stage 1 transects, while 50,104 pieces, weighing 346.70 kg were recovered from the stage 2 Sites. Sixty seven pieces, weighing 3.979 kg

were found during the stage 3 excavation. None of this material could be intrinsically dated, but was assumed to be of a similar date to the worked flint assemblages. It was counted, weighed and then discarded.

#### 4.4 Pottery

4.4.1 Pottery provides the best dating evidence recovered during each stage of work, and was collected in some quantity during surface artefact collection and also from excavated features. The total assemblage includes material of prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date (Table 3).

**Table 3:** All finds except flint- total quantities by site and by material type

	stage 1		stage 2		stage 3		TOTAL	
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
Burnt Stone	-	-	-	-	25	1516	25	1516
CBM	11	72	711	8626	-	-	722	8698
Clay Pipe	6	11	77	*	1	1	84	22+
Fired Clay	-	-	-	-	682	14262	682	14262
Glass	-	-	*	*	-	-	*	*
Pottery	132	2608	259	1713	1258	18667	1649	22988
<i>E.prehist.</i>	-	-	5	-	-	-	5	-
<i>L. prehist</i>	1	-	20	-	-	-	21	-
<i>R-B</i>	2	-	-	-	1258	-	1260	-
<i>Medieval</i>	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
<i>Post-med</i>	128	-	234	-	-	-	362	-
Shell	-	-	4	*	-	-	4	*
Slag	4	30	31	*	-	-	35	30+
Stone	4	104	-	-	2	516	6	620
Iron	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Cu alloy	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

\* present but not quantified

4.4.2 The prehistoric material may be subdivided into earlier prehistoric (Neolithic/Early Bronze Age) and later prehistoric (Late Bronze Age/Iron Age). Five sherds were identified as earlier prehistoric. Of particular interest is a single sherd of Late Neolithic Peterborough Ware. The other four sherds are of Early Bronze Age date, although not attributable to a particular ceramic tradition. All five sherds came from the surface collection, as did the 21 sherds identified as later prehistoric (20 Late Bronze Age and one possible Late Iron Age).

4.4.3 Romano-British sherds provide the most significant evidence from excavated features. These features accounted for all but two of the total number of Romano-British sherds recovered, and contained material, largely jars in the native Iron Age tradition, associated with a few 'Romanised' wares, with a restricted date range in the third quarter of the 1st century AD.

4.4.4 One sherd of medieval coarseware came from the surface collection. The remainder of the ceramic assemblage, all derived from surface collection, is of post-medieval or modern date. This material is not considered further here.

#### **4.5 Fired Clay**

4.5.1 Fired clay was recovered in some quantity from features excavated during stage 3. The majority comprises small featureless fragments, but fragments of at least eight loomweights, of two different forms, were identified. One feature contained pieces of four triangular loomweights, a form which is known from the Middle Iron age onwards in this region. A second feature contained four relatively complete cylindrical loomweights. This form is usually regarded as being of Late Bronze Age or Iron Age date, and is considered to have been replaced by the triangular form within the Iron Age. In this case, however, both forms were clearly associated with pottery of the later 1st century AD. A fragment of a possible kiln bar was also found in an unstratified context.

#### **4.6 Stone**

4.6.1 One piece of worked sarsen, from an excavated feature, may be part of a saddle quern.

#### **4.7 Other Finds**

4.7.1 Other finds, deriving almost entirely from the surface collection, comprise small quantities of burnt, unworked stone, ceramic building material, clay pipe fragments, bottle glass, oyster shell, ironworking slag, two iron nails and a halfpenny. With the exception of the burnt stone, which came from excavated features associated with Romano-British pottery, all this material is likely to be of post-medieval or modern date, and is not considered further here.

### **5 THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

#### **5.1 The Sampling Strategy**

5.1.1 One bulk sample of 10 litres was taken from the early Romano-British ditch excavated during stage 3. This sample has not yet been processed, and is currently stored pending the commencement of further analyses.

#### **5.2 Animal Bone**

No animal bone was recovered during the course of the fieldwork. This may be due to poor survival on this particular soil type.



## **PART B: PROPOSALS FOR POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION**

### **6 STATEMENT OF AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **6.1 Introduction**

6.1.1 As a result of this assessment it is possible to outline a series of aims and objectives to be realised by the requisite post-excavation work. Each of the objectives is targeted at specific aspects of the data recovered from the surface artefact collections and excavation of the site. The objectives can be grouped into chronological divisions within which the aims will overlap. The overall aim is to produce a thorough report in which the objectives are realised and the conclusions are placed within their local, and if possible, regional context (cf. Fulford 1996).

#### **6.2 Aims**

6.2.1 The aims of the post-excavation stage of the project are as follows:

- to produce an integrated and synthesised report of the stages of surface artefact collection and subsequent excavation for dissemination via an academic publication. This to be achieved through the analyses of the surface artefact collection and excavation data to the appropriate level of detail to meet the project objectives outlined in para. 6.3 below, and in accordance with English Heritage guidelines expressed in the 1992 document *Management of Archaeological Projects*
- to create a fully ordered and indexed research archive of a sufficient standard to be deposited with Hampshire County Museum Service, Winchester, Hampshire

#### **6.3 Objectives**

- **Objective 1:** to try and establish, through examination of the typology and distribution of the lithic assemblages, the extent, date and nature of the earlier prehistoric activity, including the potential relationships of such activity to the topography and to the use of the landscape.
- **Objective 2:** to try and establish, through examination of the artefact assemblages, the date and function of the Romano-British features.
- **Objective 3:** to assess the activities on this site in their local/regional context.

## 7 METHOD STATEMENT

### 7.1 Post-excavation Methodology

#### 7.1.1 Introduction

The following methods are proposed as those necessary to achieve the objectives as stated in Section 6.3. Each proposed method is linked to the achievement of the research aims outlined in Section 6.2, and has been allocated a unique task reference number. The staff and man-days required to achieve each task is presented in section 8. Throughout this section, reference is made to the relevant *Data Level* of analysis to be employed, as set out in *Data levels Guidelines* (Wessex Archaeology Guideline No. 2, 1994). A summary of *Data Levels Guidelines* is included in this report as **Appendix 1**; further details are available on request.

#### 7.1.2 The Structural Analysis

- **Task 1 -Stratigraphic analysis**

A brief reappraisal of the contextual data for the excavation, to be cross-referenced in line with the further artefact and ecofact analyses.

#### 7.1.3 The Finds Analysis

- **Task 2 -Worked Flint**

The material will be processed to Data Level 5 and the data will be presented in a quantified and tabular format. A full text report will be produced which will include the following analyses:

The assemblage compositions along with technological descriptions (e.g. metric attribute analysis), the formation processes involved in the creation of these Sites, including characterisations of numerically abundant artefact class groups and the characterisations of artefact class size.

Spatial patterning will be studied via analysis of technological/type fossil distributions as well as artefact size class and numerically abundant class groups.

Statistical analysis will include non-parametric statistics, both descriptive and analytical; spatial statistics (e.g. patterns of association and covariations); surface and subsurface isomorphism.

- **Task 3 - Burnt Flint**

A brief note will be prepared for the report, no further analytical work is proposed.

- **Task 4 - Pottery**

Only the early Romano-British pottery from excavated features warrants further analysis. Full fabric and form analysis is proposed (Data Level 4). In addition to fabric and form, details of surface treatment, decoration and manufacturing technique will also be recorded. The text will discuss the assemblage within its regional context, with particular reference to

contemporary assemblages from Twyford Down, Winchester and Nursling, Southampton. A selection of vessels may be illustrated.

The pottery recovered during surface artefact collection will be briefly re-examined in order to confirm the ascribed chronological attributions. Examination of the Bronze Age material may contribute towards an assessment of activity on the site during that period.

The Peterborough Ware sherd recovered from surface collection will also be described and briefly discussed in terms of its significance as an additional findspot for Late Neolithic pottery in the region. This sherd will be illustrated.

- **Task 5 - Fired Clay**

The ceramic objects (loomweights and kiln bar) from the excavated features will be described and discussed with relation to their provenance, date range and functional significance to the site (Data Level 4). A selection of objects may be illustrated. The remaining (undiagnostic) pieces of fired clay will not be analysed further, but a brief text statement will summarise quantity, provenance and potential origin.

- **Task 6 - Other Finds**

No further analysis will be required, but a brief paragraph on each category will be prepared for the report.

#### 7.1.4 *The Environmental Analysis*

- **Task 7 - Sample Processing**

The single environmental sample will be processed by standard flotation methods: the flot will be retained on a 0.5 mm mesh and residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (<5.6 mm) will be sorted, weighed and discarded.

The flots will be scanned under a 10x30 stereo-binocular microscope and presence of charred remains quantified. This will be undertaken in order to determine the potential of the site to produce information concerning activities undertaken during the period of occupation.

- **Task 8 - Sample Assessment**

Standard Wessex Archaeology methodology will then be used in processing and analysing the environmental data. Initial processing will involve the assessment of processed material as to whether the sample warrants full extraction and sorting. Identifiable plant remains and charcoal will then be analysed.

- **Task 9 - Plant Remains**

Any identifiable remains may require further detailed analysis by a specialist. In such an instance a brief report will be prepared.

- **Task 10 - Charcoal**  
The charcoal from the sample may be identified by a specialist if this is felt necessary. A brief report will be prepared.
- 7.1.5 *Report Preparation*
- The series of tasks outlined above will all contribute towards the completion of a publication report on the results of the archaeological investigations. The principal elements involved in the publication of the report are outlined below, again as a series of tasks.
- **Task 11 - Introduction**  
The preparation of a brief introduction to the project history, the geology and topography of the area, and the archaeological background of the area.
  - **Task 12 - Site description**  
The preparation of an interpretative site description, outlining the principal developments by archaeological period, with illustrations.
  - **Tasks 13-15 - Synthesis**  
The preparation of a synthesis and discussion of the project, drawing on the individual stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental reports, and any other additional background material. This may include illustrations.
  - **Task 16 - Illustrations**  
The illustrations will be produced by the graphic and photographic departments of Wessex Archaeology.
  - **Tasks 17-19 - Publication**  
The completion of **Tasks 11-19** will represent the final elements in the production of a draft publication report. At this stage the Reports Manager of Wessex Archaeology and the Project Manager will oversee the final progression through to publication. This will include internal editing of the draft report, the co-ordination of comments on the text and the implementation of the final revisions, the submission of the report to the publishing journal and proof reading prior to publication.
  - **Task 20 - Microfiching of the site archive**  
The fieldwork archives will be copied onto microfiche prior to deposition with Hampshire Museum Service.
  - **Task 21 - Archive deposition**  
The post-excavation analyses will generate additional archive material which will be added to the existing archives in due course. On completion of the full archaeological programme, the project archive will be ordered and indexed for ultimate deposition with the Hampshire Museum Service. As required by the original Project Design, Wessex Archaeology has been

in contact with the Keeper of Archaeology and the requirements and conditions of deposition have been established.

- **Task 22 - Supervision and monitoring**

During the course of the post-excavation programme, overall project supervision and monitoring will be undertaken by a Project Manager. The Project Manager assumes overall responsibility for the organisation, implementation and execution of the programme. Other key staff are also delegated supervisory roles within the project as well as having a direct input into the analyses and report production. These staff include the Finds and Archives Manager, the Environmental Manager and the Reports Manager. In order to maintain overall quality standards the progress of the report will be monitored by the Deputy Director.

## **7.2 Publication**

7.2.1 It is currently proposed to produce a single report on the project and its results, to be published as an article in the next available edition of the *Proceedings of The Hampshire Field Club*. Precise details of section headings, word totals and illustration titles have not been attempted as it is recognised that the process of analysis outlined in this assessment document may produce additional and unforeseen information that will necessitate some revision to the content and layout of the final report.

## **8 TASK LIST AND RESOURCES**

### **8.1 Introduction**

8.1.1 Section 8.2 lists the main tasks involved in achieving the project aims and states the personnel and time required to complete each task. Proposed personnel and their qualifications are listed in Section 10.

## 8.2 Task List

TASK	OBJECTIVES	PERSONNEL	DURATION
<b>Structural evidence</b>			
1. Stratigraphic analysis	1,2,3	Project Officer 1	0.25 days
<b>Finds analysis and reporting</b>			
2. Worked Flint	1,3	Project Officer 2	10 days
3. Pottery	1,2,3	Project Officer 3	5 days
4. Fired Clay	1,2	Project Officer 3	2 days
5. Other finds	1,2,3	Finds and Archives Manager	3 days
<b>Environmental analysis and reporting</b>			
6. Sample processing	1,3	Environmental technician	0.5 days
7. Plant remains	1,3	Specialist	0.5 days
8. Charcoal	1,3	Specialist	0.5 days

<b>Report Preparation</b>		
11. Introduction	Project Officer 1	0.5 days
12. Site description	Project Officer 1	0.5 days
13. Editing of finds reports	Finds and Archives Manager	0.25 days
14. Editing of Environmental reports	Environmental Manager	0.25 days
15. Synthesis / Discussion	Project Officer 1	2 days
	Project Manager	2 days
16. Illustrations	Drawing Office	3 days
17. Internal editing	Reports Manager	1 day
	Deputy Director	0.25 days
18. Final revisions	Project Officer 1	0.5 days
19. Proof reading	Project Officer 1	0.5 days
20. Microfiching	Finds and Archives Manager	0.25 days
21. Archive deposition	Supervisor	0.5 days
	Travel	£40
	Finds and Archives Manager	0.5 days
	Storage Grant	£400
	Publication Grant	£ 500
22. Monitoring / meetings	Project Manager	5 days

## 9 STORAGE AND CURATION

### 9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 The recipient museum will be:  
 Hampshire Museum Service  
 Chilcomb House  
 Chilcomb Lane  
 WINCHESTER  
 Hampshire  
 GL5 1BB

Curator: David Allen

- 9.1.2 Arrangements were made with the museum before the commencement of the excavation for the acceptance of the complete site archive.

## **9.2 Conservation**

- 9.2.1 There were no immediate conservation requirements in the field. No objects will require analytical conservation, i.e. cleaning and stabilising.

## **9.3 Storage**

- 9.3.1 The artefacts and ecofacts are currently stored by material type and are held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology. All material has been packaged according to the recipient Museum's '*Conditions for the acceptance of Archaeological Archives*'. The complete site archive, which will include records, plans, photos, artefacts, ecofacts and sieved residues, will likewise be prepared to comply with the Museum's specifications, and in general following guidelines set out in *Environmental standards for the permanent storage of excavated material from archaeological sites* (UKIC 1984, Conservation Guidelines 3), and *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (Walker 1990).

## **9.4 Discard Policy**

- 9.4.1 Wessex Archaeology, in consultation with recipient museums, follows the guidelines set out by the Society of Museum Archaeologists in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (1993). This allows for the discard (by means of outright disposal, or dispersal to reference or teaching collections) of undiagnostic and/or poorly provenanced material, whose further study is considered to be of limited value to the project.
- 9.4.2 The assemblage from Zionshill Farm, Chandlers Ford contained a small amount of such material, including fragments of glass and modern ceramic building materials. Details of all artefacts discarded will be held in the archive.

## **9.5 Microfilming**

- 9.5.1 A full microfilm copy will be made of the entire paper archive at the end of the project. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be retained by the National Archaeological Record, and one diazo copy will be held by the Museum.

## **10 PERSONNEL**

- 10.1 The following Wessex Archaeology staff and external specialists are currently nominated to undertake the post-excavation analyses, report production and archive deposition:

### **Nominated Wessex Archaeology Personnel**

Deputy Director	Susan M Davies BA, FSA, MIFA
Project Manager	Mick Rawlings BA, AIFA
Finds and Archives Manager	Lorraine Mepham BA
Environmental Manager	Michael J Allen BSc, PhD, MIFA, MAEA
Reports Manager	Julie Gardener BA, PhD, FSA, MIFA
Project Officer 1	Neil J Adam BA, AIFA
Project Officer 2	W A Boismier BA, MPhil, MA, PhD, MIFA
Project Officer 3	Rachael Seager Smith BA
Environmental Technician	Sarah F Wyles BA

### **Nominated External Specialists**

Charred plant remains	Patricia Hinton
Charcoal	Rowena Gale

## **11 REFERENCES**

- Fulford, M 1996 'Roman Hampshire', in D A Hinton and M Hughes (eds)  
*Archaeology in Hampshire: A framework for the future* Hampshire  
County Council
- Tempus Reparatum 1995 *Knightwood Road Chandler's Ford, Hampshire,  
Archaeological Desk Based Study* TR 31131DCA
- Wessex Archaeology 1995a *Zionshill Farm Chandler's Ford Project  
Design for Field Evaluation* T2744
- Wessex Archaeology 1995b *Zionshill Farm, Chandlers Ford, Hampshire:  
Field Evaluation* Wessex Archaeology client report, Document Ref.  
39632.01
- Wessex Archaeology 1995c *Zionshill Farm, Chandlers Ford, Hampshire:  
Project Specification for further archaeological work* Wessex  
Archaeology, Document Ref. 396
- Wessex Archaeology 1996a *Zionshill Farm, Chandlers Ford, Hampshire:  
Second Stage Field Evaluation* Wessex Archaeology client report,  
Document Ref. 39636.3
- Wessex Archaeology 1996b *Zionshill Farm, Chandlers Ford, Hampshire:  
Archaeological Investigation of Site 2* Wessex Archaeology client report,  
Document Ref. 39631.1



## Appendix 1: Summary of *Data Levels Guidelines*

The creation of the *Data Levels Guidelines* formalises the kinds of processing and analysis which Wessex Archaeology has been conducting for the past ten years. It provides a structure for finds work. It is to be used as part of the finds assessment and report preparation procedures.

### *Data Level 1*

*Record presence; do not collect.* This level can be used in field scanning only if experienced personnel are participating. It is a level of recording which could be used to enhance information about an area which has been well-documented archaeologically. Data Level 1 could comprise, for example, part of a rapid field scan to identify areas of potential for more detailed survey in an environmental assessment or evaluation. Information could be sketch-plotted and recorded on field or hectare sheets. In excavation or evaluation by excavation it is unlikely to be used except, for example, in the excavation of dumps of ceramic building materials from building demolition, or for modern finds in topsoil. Such occurrences must be noted on context records.

### *Data Level 2*

This is the basic finds records: for bulk finds, this is the *Context Finds Record*; for objects, this includes the mandatory fields of the *Object Record* (see *WA Guideline No. 3*). This level is the minimum requirement in order to provide quantified data about each material type by context or by collection unit. For excavated artefacts, it includes preparation of the *Finds Index by Category*, which lists and quantifies each material type by context and summarises the information. This can be done by entering all the *Context Finds* and *Object Records* onto a computer database, or can be calculated manually. Include all material recovered from samples selected for artefact analysis, and artefacts recovered from environmental samples if required.

### *Data Level 3*

This is the assessment level. The artefactual evidence collected during fieldwalking, or any stage of evaluation and excavation, is scanned, and the potential and suggested methodology for further analysis assessed. The assessment stage can be implemented at two levels. The general dating and quantification information from Data Level 3 can be used to assist in the preparation of client reports, and provide information for SMR work. Spot-date for general chronological range of the material and scan to assess the nature and quality of the material, using the *Spot-Dating and Scanning* form, or those specifically targeted for particular materials such as the *Ceramic Building Material and Stone Scanning* form. The scan may include an assessment as to whether the material is representative of primary deposition or mainly redeposited material, activity areas, or evidence for a building. Give the reasons for date range, such as specific types of pottery or metalwork. At this stage, no further analysis is proposed.

Data Level 3 may also be used in the preparation of detailed research designs for post-excavation work, a process which is formalised as the 'assessment of

potential for analysis' in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). In addition to the scanning procedure outlined above, the assessment should also include a statement of the archaeological potential of the material, and an outline of the proposed analysis. Determine whether a selection of the material type is necessary or if the full collection is to be analysed. Prepare a series of questions to be asked of the material type, and the analytical methods to be implemented. An indication of the range and quantity of material to be illustrated should also be given.

#### *Data Level 4*

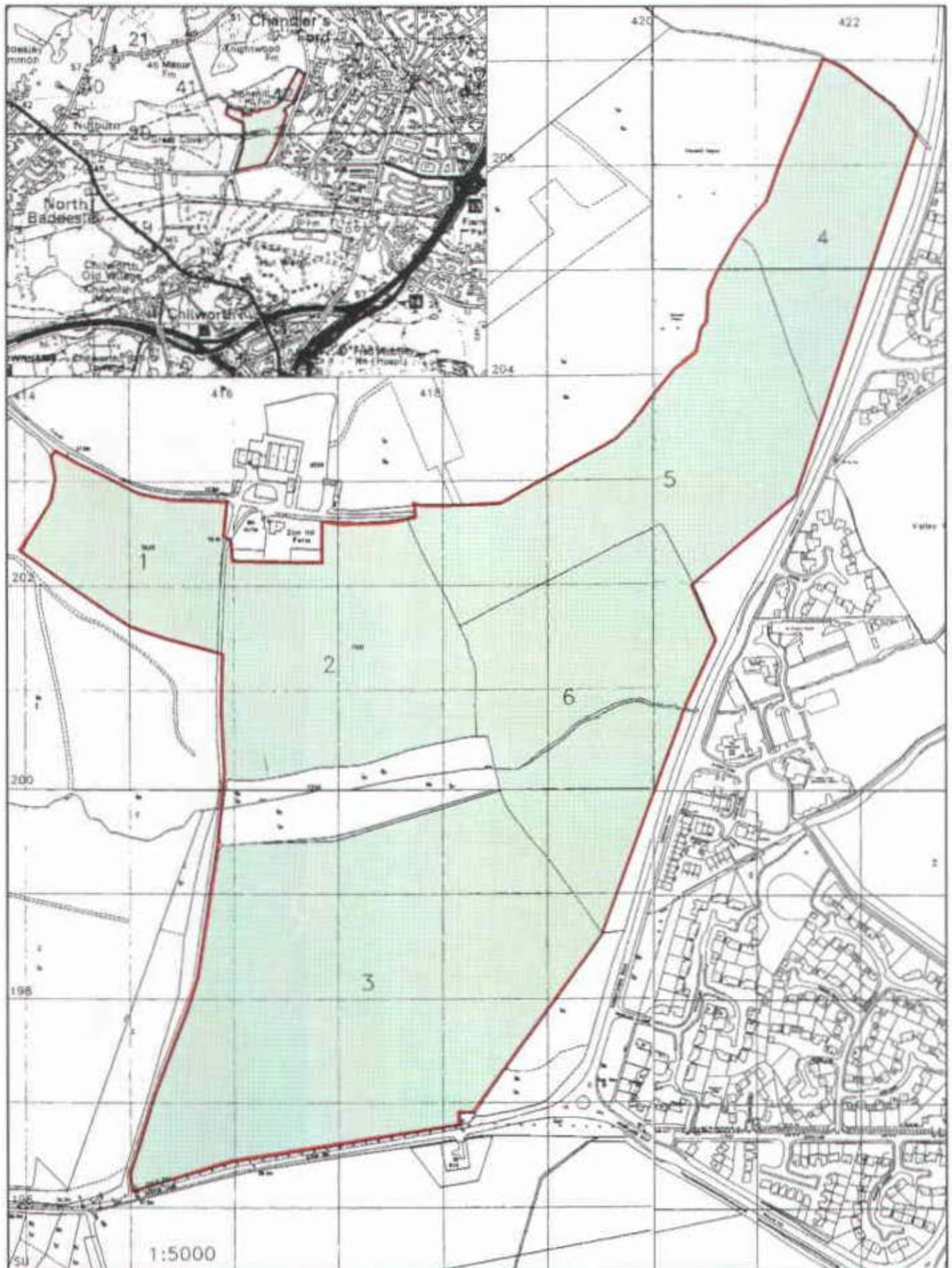
This is the first analytical stage, and is the level of analysis employed for standard assemblages where no specialised research is to be undertaken (e.g., for pottery, this is basic fabric and form analysis; for ceramic building materials, recording of the general diagnostic pieces; for lithic material, the recording of metrical and technological data). For selected material types and certain deposits, this stage of work is enough to provide a great deal of information from a limited amount of work. This is the level of analysis traditionally achieved in most excavation reports.

#### *Data Level 5*

This is the second analytical stage, and includes the more detailed research which may be undertaken on selected material types if the nature of the assemblage (and the project budget) allows it. It is generally only undertaken on large assemblages, i.e., those where the return of information justifies a more labour-intensive approach than *Data Level 4*. It might include, for example, the detailed recording of an assemblage of decorated floor tiles, in order to investigate production groups; or an in-depth spatial analysis of pottery sherds individually recorded within an occupation deposit.

#### *Data Level 6*

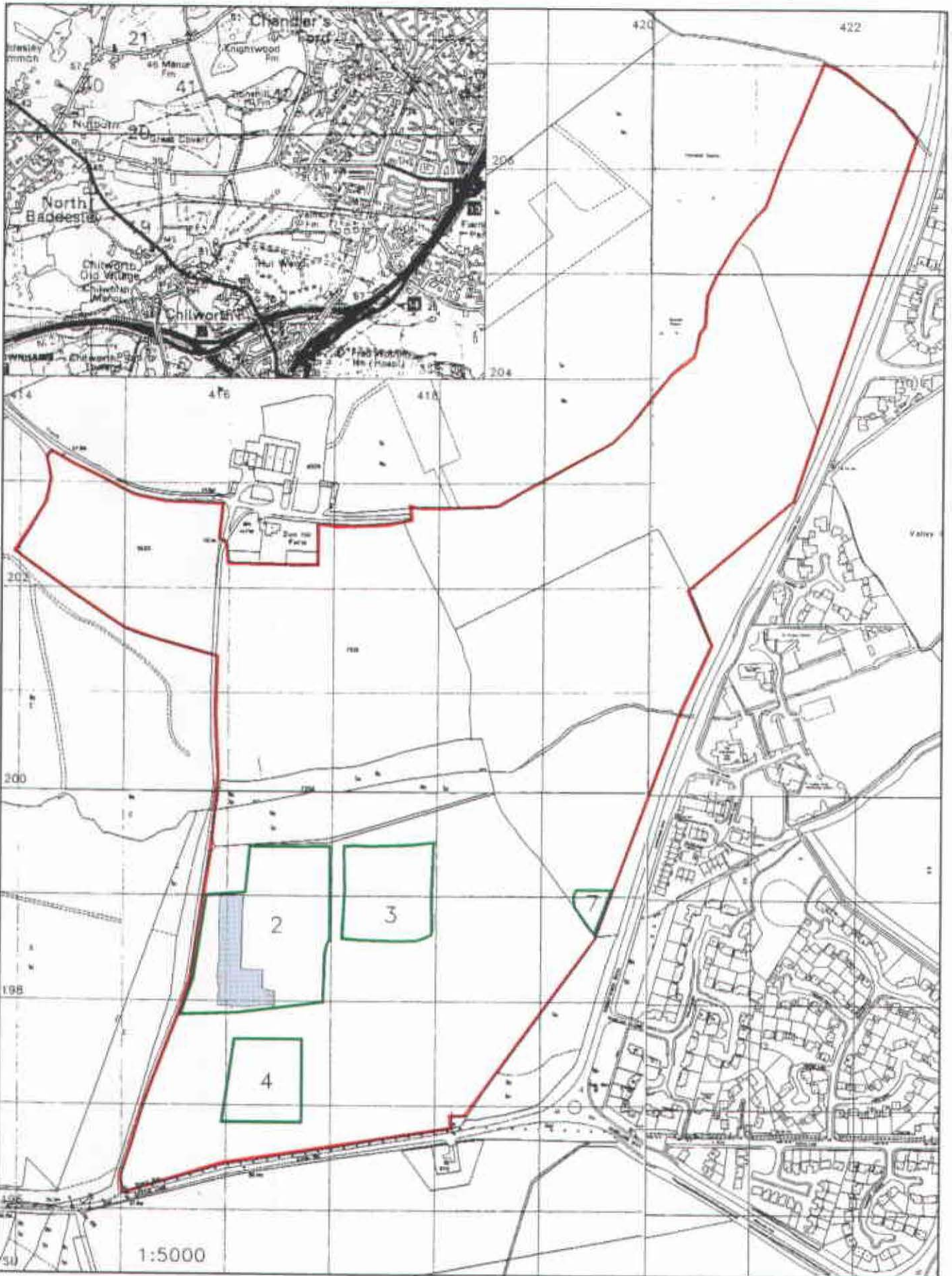
This consists of *scientific and other detailed research*, as well as *regional analyses* with support sought from outside bodies such as the period societies, universities, English Heritage and the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, the British Museum, the Oxford Research Laboratory for the History of Art and Archaeology, the British Academy (Research Grants and Fund for Applied Science in Archaeology), and the Science and Engineering Research Council. Encourage specialists interested in particular research topics which may need a body of data for the application and testing of techniques.



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- Development Area
- Fields surveyed

Fig.1: Site location



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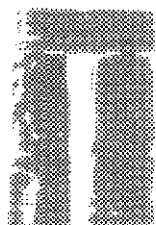
- Development Area
- Site investigated - Stage 3
- Sites investigated - Stage 2

Fig.2: Location of sites investigated during stages 2 and 3



**Wessex**  
**Archaeology**

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Wessex  
Archæology



SJ4256

**ZIONSHILL FARM, CHANDLERS FORD  
HAMPSHIRE**

**Archaeological Investigation of Site 2**

**March 1996**

**Document 39631.1**

Prepared for:

**J.S.Bloor (Newbury) Ltd  
West Mills  
NEWBURY  
Berkshire  
RG 14 5HH**

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# ZIONSHILL FARM, CHANDLERS FORD HAMPSHIRE

## Archaeological Investigation of Site 2

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Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Site 2; Archaeological recording



## SUMMARY

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by J.S. Bloor (Newbury) Ltd to undertake further archaeological recording within part of a residential development site at Zionshill Farm, Chandlers Ford, Hampshire (NGR SU 4185 2000). Previous work in the form of intensive surface artefact collection had resulted in the identification of a number of concentrations of worked lithic material and of prehistoric pottery. This current stage of work involved the stripping of topsoil and subsequent investigation of archaeological features.

A limited number of archaeological features were recorded, comprising three small pits and a ditch aligned east/west. A large assemblage of earlier Romano-British pottery was recovered from these features as a result of detailed excavation, along with examples of two distinctive types of fired clay loomweights. A single possible fired clay kiln bar was also recovered, but from an unstratified context.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The fieldwork was commissioned and funded by J.S.Bloor (Newbury) Ltd and particular thanks are due to Mr R Hatchett and Mr P Halfacree of that company. The smooth progress of the site operations was due to the co-operation and assistance of Mr Merrick Clark of Bryant Homes and Mr Sid Sandhu of Laing Homes. The collaborative role of Mr D Hopkins of the Hampshire County Council Archaeology Service is also acknowledged.

The fieldwork was directed by Rod Brook with assistance from Natasha Meader and Robert Garnham. This report was compiled by Rod Brook, with comments on the finds from Rosie Edmunds and Lorraine Mephram. The illustrations were prepared by Linda Coleman. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Mick Rawlings.

# ZIONSHILL FARM, CHANDLERS FORD HAMPSHIRE

## Archaeological Investigation of Site 2

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by J S Bloor (Newbury) Ltd to undertake a further stage of archaeological investigation within the southern part of a current residential development located near Zionshill Farm, Chandlers Ford, Hampshire.
- 1.1.2 This stage of archaeological work was undertaken as part of a condition (No. 8) of a Section 106 agreement which has been applied to a number of planning applications concerning the proposed development at the site.
- 1.1.3 An initial stage of archaeological evaluation <sup>Bloor</sup> was carried out in October 1995 by Wessex Archaeology on behalf of J S (Newbury) Ltd. This comprised a programme of surface artefact collection along a series of systematically-spaced transects. As the current land use was predominantly pasture, these transects had been ploughed in order to expose the artefacts occurring within the topsoil. Analysis of the results of this stage of fieldwork identified six distinct concentrations of artefact material, subsequently noted as 'Sites' or areas of higher archaeological potential (Wessex Archaeology 1995a; Sites 2-7). A seventh artefact concentration was also identified, but this is thought to represent the remains of a limited activity site which did not require further work (*op cit*; Site 1).
- 1.1.4 Following discussion with the County Archaeological Service, a project specification for further archaeological work within the development area was prepared (Wessex Archaeology 1995b). This was subsequently submitted to, and approved by, the County Archaeological Service.
- 1.1.5 In line with the approved Specification, a further stage of evaluation was carried out in November and December 1995. This comprised the ploughing of three separate areas (Sites 2, 3 and 4) in the southern part of the overall development area. Subsequent to a period of weathering, the three Sites were subject to a programme of intensive surface artefact collection based on a 4m x 4m quadrat grid layout. All artefactual material not of recognisably modern date was collected from the surface of the ploughsoil.

- 1.1.6 The artefact categories recovered during surface collection included worked flint, burnt flint and prehistoric pottery (of Late Neolithic, Early Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age and Iron Age date). Subsequent data analyses and computer mapping of artefact densities per unit area identified a total of nine distinct concentrations of worked flint and four of burnt flint. In addition, four smaller concentrations of prehistoric pottery were also recognised (Wessex Archaeology 1996).
- 1.1.7 The concentrations having the highest artefact densities (per unit area) of worked flint were in Site 2, as were all finds of prehistoric pottery. The preservation of such friable pottery suggested the possible presence of subsurface archaeological features. Following discussions with the County Council Archaeological Service, it was decided that a further stage of archaeological investigation within specific parts of Site 2 was required in order to fulfil the terms of the planning condition.

## 1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 Site 2 is situated within the south-western part of the overall development area and is centred on NGR SU 4170 1980 (Fig. 1). The area identified for further investigation is located within the south and west parts of Site 2. In terms of topography the southern part of the area is higher, at about 35m AOD, and from here the land slopes down gently to the north and west.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 Prior to the commencement of the work, the full area to be investigated was agreed with the County Council Archaeology Service. It comprised two adjacent areas, a 'minimum' and a 'maximum'. The initial investigation would be of the 'minimum' area, a total of c. 4,300m<sup>2</sup>. If the results of the work in this area indicated that the archaeological potential was reasonably high, then the 'maximum' area, a further c. 3,900m<sup>2</sup>, would also be examined. The decision concerning whether or not to undertake investigation of the 'maximum' area was to be made in full consultation with the County Council Archaeological Service.
- 2.2 Across the area identified for further investigation, the topsoil was removed under constant archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. The resulting spoil was removed in 6-ton dumpers and stored beyond the area of investigation. The plant was not allowed to run over any of the stripped area and the stripped surface was generally of a reasonable standard considering the nature of the ground conditions. Some manual cleaning was necessary to define some areas before detailed excavation and recording could commence.

- 2.3 A site grid had already been established during the previous stage of surface artefact collection, and this was based on the Ordnance Survey national grid. The grid was reused for the current stage of work in order to ensure that the area of investigation included all of the main identified concentrations of worked flint and prehistoric pottery.
- 2.4 All archaeological features were investigated and fully recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. This includes full written, photographic and graphic records. The scope and nature of the archaeological investigation was in accordance with the agreed scope of works (Wessex Archaeology 1995b).
- 2.5 Cleaning and cataloguing of all of the recovered artefactual material commenced once the fieldwork had been completed. All retained artefacts were cleaned, marked and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the Hampshire County Museum Service, the proposed repository of both the finds and site archives.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 The Features

- 3.1.1 In the end, only the 'minimum' area was investigated. The number of features recorded within this area was sufficiently low for an agreement to be reached with the County Council Archaeology Service that it would not be necessary to continue the investigation into the 'maximum' area. A total area of 4,020m<sup>2</sup> was investigated, roughly L-shaped with the longer side aligned north/south (Fig. 1).
- 3.1.2 The topsoil comprised a dark brown sandy clay loam with frequent gravel inclusions, and contained fragments of modern pottery, tile and clinker. In terms of depth, this topsoil varied considerably within the area of investigation, with a maximum depth of 0.4m and a minimum of 0.2m.
- 3.1.3 A total of four features was found (Fig. 2). Three of these were sub-circular pits, each one c. 0.7m in diameter. Pit 5004 was 0.1m deep and had steep sides and a flat base. The feature was totally excavated and the dark brown fill (5003) contained a large quantity of fragments of fired clay and sherds of pottery of Early Roman date. Amongst the fired clay fragments were pieces of at least four triangular loomweights. Some pieces of burnt flint and a single piece of worked flint were also recovered from this feature. Neither the base nor the sides of the feature exhibited any evidence for *in situ* burning.
- 3.1.4 Pit 5005 was also 0.1m deep, with irregular sides and a gently sloping base. The western edge of the feature was cut by a modern field drain. The single orange-brown homogenous fill (5006) contained a large quantity of sherds of Early

Roman pottery along with a few pieces of burnt flint and burnt stone, and a small amount of fired clay fragments. None of these fragments of fired clay could be shown to be derived from distinct objects.

- 3.1.5 Pit 5014 was 0.13m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. A single homogenous fill of orange-brown sandy clay loam (5015) contained fragments of fired clay and a considerable amount of sherds of Early Roman pottery. The fired clay fragments included four relatively complete examples of cylindrical loomweights. A single small piece from a post-medieval clay pipe stem was also found in this pit fill.
- 3.1.6 Linear feature 5016 was a ditch aligned east/west across the area of investigation (Fig. 2). A total length of 27m was recorded in plan, and three separate sections (5007, 5010, 5012) were excavated through this ditch, resulting in a total excavated length of 4.5m. The excavations revealed a rounded profile, varying in width up to 1.2m and in depth up to 0.35m. The ditch was filled with a single homogenous fill of orange-brown sandy clay which contained pottery of Early Roman date. This was found in each of the excavated sections, but the fill (5008) of the central section (5007) contained a very substantial amount of large sherds. Some pieces of burnt flint and worked flint were also recovered from the ditch fill.

### 3.2 The Finds

- 3.2.1 Finds, largely ceramic, were recovered in some quantity. All have been cleaned and quantified by material type, both by number and by weight, within each context (see Table 1). A subsequent brief scan of the artefacts has yielded details of their nature and potential date range, information which is discussed by material type below.

#### 3.2.2 *Clay Pipe*

A single fragment of a post-medieval clay pipe stem was recovered from the fill of pit 5014, presumably intrusive in this context.

#### 3.2.3 *Fired Clay*

A considerable quantity of fired clay was recovered during the excavation (over 14 kg). The majority of this total comprises small and featureless fragments, but the presence amongst these of diagnostic fragments from at least eight loomweights suggests that the undiagnostic pieces could represent further similar objects. The most common fabric type was a considerably well-fired but poorly-wedged sandy fabric with iron ore and occasional large flint inclusions. Less commonly occurring is a sandy fabric with small flint inclusions

- 3.2.4 Pit 5004 contained at least four triangular loomweights, one almost complete, and three other fragments of different fabric type. Triangular loomweights appear from the Middle Iron Age onwards in central southern England, and

appear to continue in use into the Romano-British period; here they are in association with pottery dating to the second half of the 1st century AD (see below).

- 3.2.5 Pit 5014 produced four relatively complete examples of cylindrical loomweights. This form of loomweight is generally regarded as dating from the Late Bronze Age or Iron Age; at Danebury, for example, it has been noted that triangular clay loomweights replaced the chalk cylindrical examples during the Iron Age (Poole 1984, 406). At Zionshill, however, these examples of cylindrical loomweights occur in clear association with pottery dating to the later 1st century AD and it must be assumed that the loomweights are of similar date.
- 3.2.6 One other object was recovered from an unstratified context: a fragment of a cylindrical object, possibly a kiln bar. This item could have been used in a rudimentary pottery kiln of Late Iron Age or early Romano-British date (cf. Swan 1984, 62). The presence of such an object here raises the possibility of the existence of such a kiln in the near vicinity of the site, although no other evidence for pottery manufacture was observed.
- 3.2.7 *Pottery*  
The pottery assemblage appears to derive entirely from a limited time span in the early Romano-British period. This assemblage is dominated by handmade, bead-rimmed jars in coarse, flint-tempered fabrics in the native Iron Age tradition. A lesser proportion comprises smaller, better-finished bead-rimmed jars and bowls in coarse sandy fabrics. While these coarseware vessels alone might be considered as Late Iron Age, the presence of a small quantity of 'Romanised' wares in the form of a few very coarse sandy grey ware jars, and fine white ware sherds representing at least one ring-necked flagon, indicates a slightly later date, probably in the third quarter of the 1st century AD. Most of this pottery was recovered from pit 5003 and ditch fill 5008, but the sherds from other contexts appear very similar and are likely to be very much contemporary.
- 3.2.8 *Worked and Burnt Flint*  
Eleven pieces of worked flint were recovered from the site, of which five were unstratified. The total assemblage comprises three unretouched flakes, one unretouched blade, two end scrapers and a third backed piece or scraper, one core, one burnt piece of core shatter, one core rejuvenation flake and one possible tool. The raw material sources for the flint are both local and non-local in origin.
- 3.2.9 In addition, burnt unworked flint was recovered in moderate quantities, particularly from ditch fill 5011. This material type is undatable, but is likely to be of prehistoric origin.

### 3.2.10 *Worked and Burnt Stone*

One fragment of worked sarsen was recovered from ditch fill 5008, possibly a fragment of a saddle quern. A small quantity of burnt, unworked stone was also recovered from pit 5005. The latter is intrinsically undatable, but associated pottery is of early Romano-British date.

**Table 1: All finds by context**

NB. Quantities are presented by number/weight in grammes.

Feature	Context	Burnt Flint	Burnt Stone	Clay Pipe	Fired Clay	Worked Flint	Pottery	Worked Stone
-	Unstrat.				1/160	5/57	15/144	
-	5001				1/13		23/220	
-	5002				5/222		64/906	
5004	5003	5/77			619/11243	1/7	471/4310	
5005	5006	13/674	25/1516		23/491		95/2411	
5007	5008	2/11			1/7	3/165	556/10442	2/516
-	5009	1/12				1/13	1/11	
5010	5011	41/2881				1/5	1/16	
5012	5013	5/324					4/42	
5014	5015			1/1	32/2109		45/277	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>67/3979</b>	<b>25/1516</b>	<b>1/1</b>	<b>682/14245</b>	<b>11/247</b>	<b>1275/18779</b>	<b>2/516</b>

## 4 DISCUSSION

- 4.1 The stripping of topsoil from this part of Site 2 revealed very few archaeological features. There was no correlation at all between the number, location, distribution and date of these features and the concentrations of artefacts within the ploughsoil which had been identified during the previous stages of artefact collection.
- 4.2 Analysis of the artefact concentrations had suggested patterns of prehistoric occupation, mostly of probably Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. The current work, however, located features which appear to be exclusively of earlier Romano-British date, specifically within the later part of the 1st century AD. Virtually no material of this period was recovered during the previous phases of surface artefact collection.
- 4.3 Excavation of the limited number of features resulted in the recovery of a substantial quantity of artefacts, specifically pottery and objects of fired clay. The pottery was entirely of earlier Romano-British date and large numbers of sherds were found in one of the pits (5004) and in one of the excavated sections (5007) through the ditch. Both of the other pits (5005, 5014) also contained a



fairly high number of sherds. The assemblage from each of the features was almost identical and was dominated by coarse flint-tempered wares. Further analysis may allow assessment of the number of individual vessels represented within the assemblage.

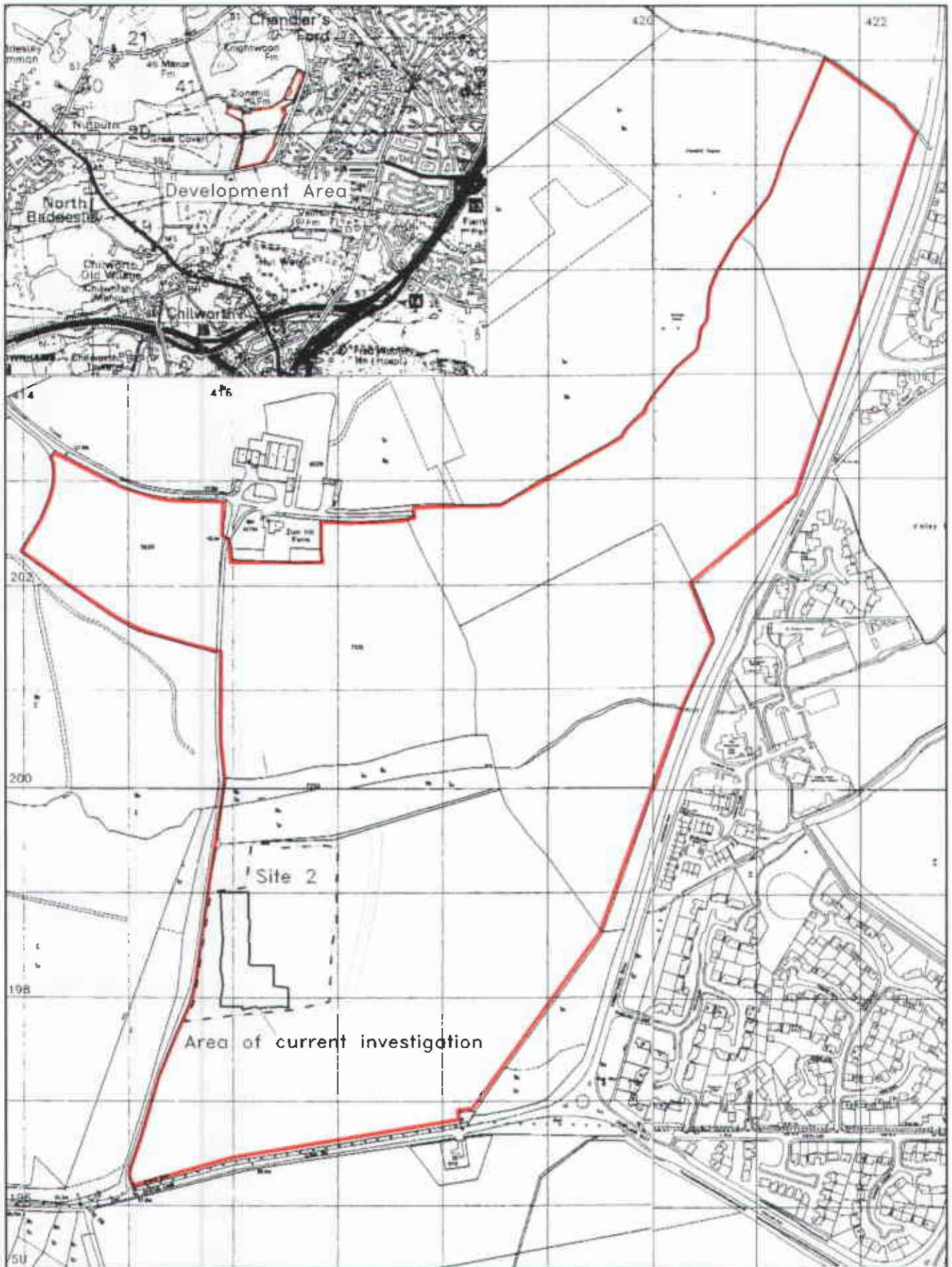
- 4.4 Fired clay in the form of distinctive objects and other fragments was recovered mainly from pits 5004 and 5014. Despite the homogeneity of the pottery assemblage from these two features, the preliminary analysis of the fired clay objects revealed a distinct difference. Pit 5004 contained parts of a minimum of four large triangular loomweights, a reasonably well-known object type of Iron Age and Romano-British date. Pit 5014, however, contained four almost complete cylindrical loomweights. This object type is generally considered to pre-date the triangular form, and was gradually replaced by the triangular form during the Iron Age. In this instance, it appears that both loomweight types were in use during the earlier part of the Romano-British period.
- 4.5 Although the low number of features located during the current stage of investigations precludes any suggestion that a Romano-British settlement site has been directly located, the quantity of artefacts recovered from the excavated features suggests that the remains of some form of settlement of this date must be situated fairly nearby. This settlement could lie within the uninvestigated woodland to the west of Site 2. However, given that the Romano-British material is not represented at all within the assemblage recovered by surface artefact collection, it is possible that settlement remains of this date could still lie within the development area.
- 4.6 The recovery, albeit unstratified, of a possible kiln bar raises the potential existence in the area of a pottery production site. None of the recovered pottery is thought to represent production waste, but nonetheless the sheer quantity of the assemblage from so few features may be linked in some way to production rather than merely domestic settlement.

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Fig.1: Site location

Scale 1:5000

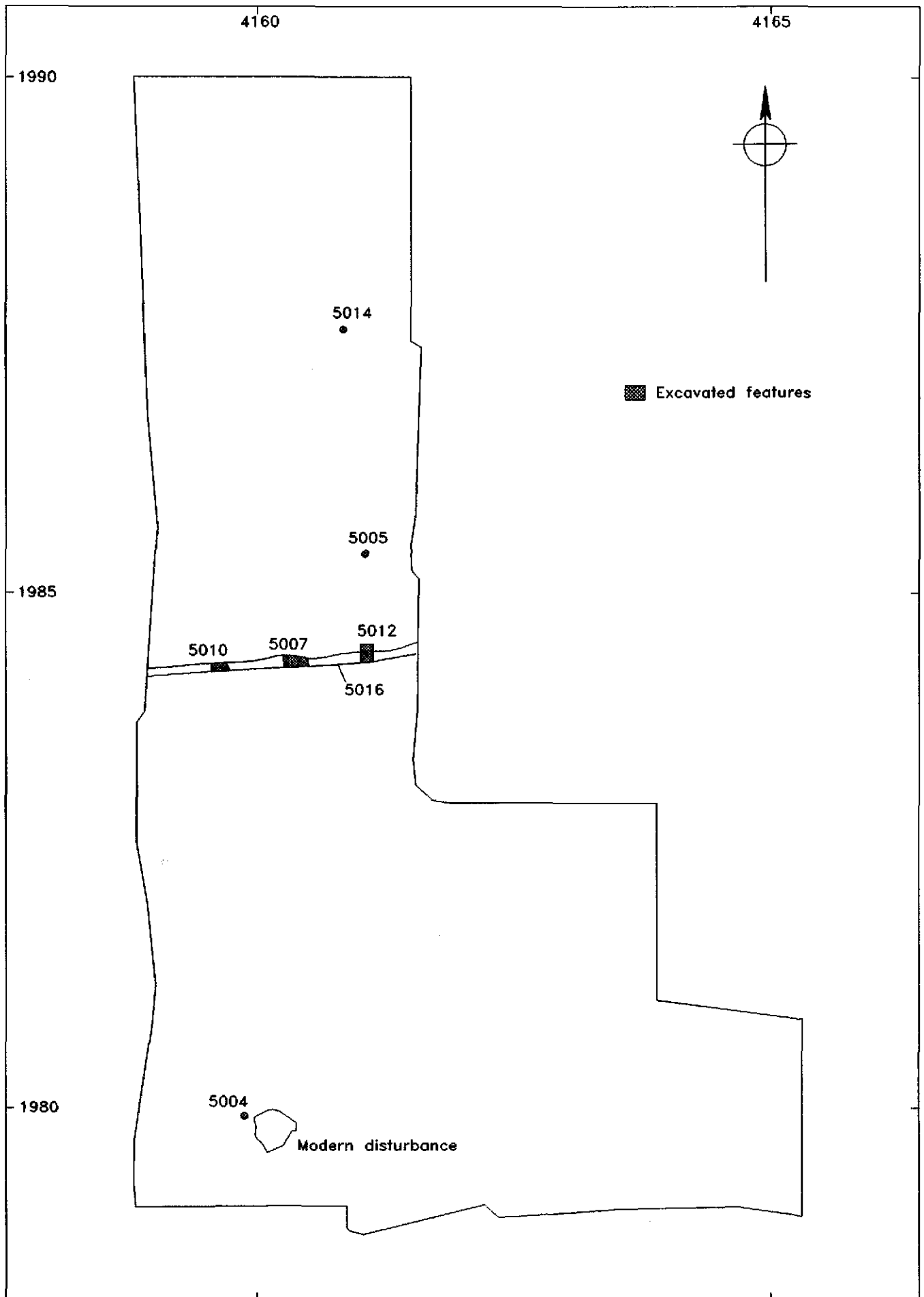


Fig. 2: Site 2 Archaeological recording

Scale 1:500



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