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# SVEP, Airman's Corner Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Ref: 14/12106/FUL  
Ref: 107320.02  
January 2015



**SVEP, Airman's Corner  
Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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**Plate 6:** North facing section of modern ditch **12706**.

**Front cover:** View of Site from north.



# **SVEP, Airman's Corner Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology (WA) were commissioned by English Heritage to undertake an archaeological evaluation comprising 10 machine excavated trenches and 10 hand dug test pits on land to the north of the new Stonehenge Visitor Centre located at Airman's Corner, Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire; centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 409950, 143000.

A previous geophysical survey had been carried out in 2009 at the Site in relation to the Stonehenge Environmental Improvements Project (SEIP), and a subsequent archaeological evaluation in the same year was completed immediately to the south of the Site.

As part of the SVEP (Stonehenge Visitor Enhancement Project), a planning application has been submitted to Wiltshire Council for the extension of the existing coach park. Consultation with the Archaeological Working Group (AWG), comprising representatives of Wiltshire Council, English Heritage and The National Trust, has established that the results of this archaeological field evaluation will be used to inform the determination of the planning application and any subsequent requirement for archaeological mitigation.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified within the excavated trenches or test pits, although a small number of modern postholes and ditch features were uncovered. A number of tree throws and natural geological features were also uncovered and investigated, although no associated archaeological finds were recovered.

A small assemblage of worked flint was recovered from seven of the ten test pits (a combined total of one core, 21 worked flakes and two broken flakes). The material was fairly evenly spread across the test pits with no significant concentration of material being evident and the results appear to represent a typical low-level background scattering of later Neolithic-Bronze Age (3000-1100BC) material.

The results are similar to, and corroborate the previous results of, the 2009 trial trench and test pit evaluation, undertaken immediately to the west and south of the Site, both in the even spread and quantity of material per test pit of recovered material and the absence of any evidence for significant archaeological features.



# **SVEP, Airman's Corner Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank David Brown, Timothy Slator, Kate Davies and Heather Sebire of English Heritage and Chris Moore for their help and assistance during the course of the project. Wessex Archaeology also gratefully acknowledged the help and assistance of the members of the Stonehenge Archaeological Working Group, Clare King (Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service) who monitored the site, and to the landowner Rob Turner for facilitating access to the Site for archaeological trenching and test pitting.

The field work was undertaken by Dave Murdie, Darryl Freer, Talia Hunt, Jamie McCarthy and Peter Capps. This report was written and compiled by Steve Thompson, Piotr Orczewski and Andy Manning with specialist report by Matt Leivers (finds) and report illustrations by Rob Goller. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr and Andy Manning.



# SVEP, Airman's Corner Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) were commissioned by English Heritage (The Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation comprising machine excavated trenches and hand dug test pits on land to the north of the new Stonehenge Visitor Centre located at Airman's Corner, Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire (hereafter 'the Site') centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 409950, 143000.
- 1.1.2 A previous geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2009a) was carried out at the Site in relation to the Stonehenge Environmental Improvements Project (SEIP), and a subsequent archaeological evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2009c) was completed to the immediate south.
- 1.1.3 As part of the SVEP (Stonehenge Visitor Enhancement Project), a planning application (Ref. 14/12106/FUL) has been recently submitted to Wiltshire Council for the extension to the existing coach park at the Site. Consultation with the Archaeological Working Group (AWG), comprising representatives of Wiltshire Council, English Heritage and The National Trust, has established that the results of this archaeological field evaluation will be used to inform the determination of the planning application and the requirements of any subsequent mitigation, if required
- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (WA 2014) setting out the methodologies and standards that would be employed by WA in order to undertake the archaeological evaluation was submitted to and approved by The Client and the AWG prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.5 This document presents the results of the archaeological field evaluation which took place between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

#### 1.2 Site location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The Site is located at Airman's Corner at NGR 409950 143000, and comprises land to the north-east of the existing roundabout, linking the A360, B3086 and the existing Stonehenge visitor facilities (**Figure 1**). The Site lies within the Stonehenge World Heritage Site (WHS).
- 1.2.2 The Site slopes generally from a height of 103m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north east to 98m aOD in the south of the area, and forms the northern edge of a dry valley or coombe extending through the existing Stonehenge visitor facilities to the south. Current land use comprises an area of arable farmland. The underlying geology is Upper Chalk (BGS Sheet 298).



## 1.3 Development Proposals and impact

- 1.3.1 The development proposes the construction of an extension to the existing coach parking facilities, and will comprise an additional 26 coach parking bays, each measuring 15m x 4m, associated landscaping, pedestrian walkways and 50 no. staff car parking bays to the north and east of the existing coach park.
- 1.3.2 The current proposals indicate the coach park will be formed above existing levels with the existing topsoil retained *in situ* beneath a geo-textile membrane, with the exception of the northern coach circulation road, coach parking bays in the east of the Site and coach turning circle to the south of the coach parking bays. In these areas, topsoil will be removed by machine to a depth of 150mm.
- 1.3.3 The construction works at the Site may include some or all of the following ground disturbance:
- Ground works and landscaping;
  - Excavation of service trenches;
  - Excavation of drainage;

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological potential of the Site was considered in a desk-based assessment (DBA) produced by English Heritage to inform option selection (Leary, June 2008) associated with the original SEIP proposals. The DBA considered five sites within and in close proximity to the Stonehenge WHS. The results of the DBA in respect to the Airman's Corner site (Area Y) are summarised below.
- 2.1.2 There are no Scheduled Monuments within the Site, however, its location on the western periphery of the WHS and its proximity to major barrow groups to the north-east and south-east indicate a high potential for prehistoric activity.
- 2.1.3 The only Bronze Age activity recorded within Area Y was an isolated round barrow (SMR No. SU04SE633) seen as a mound and mapped from aerial photographs. Two ring ditches and an amorphous feature, and three circular features are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs to the south of the previously evaluated area. These were originally recorded as probable ring ditches and attributed to the Bronze Age, but are almost certainly fungus rings.
- 2.1.4 A substantial field system (SMR No. SU04SE682) covers an area of 65 hectares on Winterbourne Stoke Down to the west of the Site, although in the vicinity of the Site it is now mostly destroyed by ploughing. The field system is thought to be later prehistoric in date, though possibly related to Romano-British settlements to the west (SMR Nos. SU04SE686 and SU04SE685) suggesting that at least some phases may be later in date. A linear ditch (SMR No. SU14SW956) recorded to the west of the Site as a cropmark mapped from aerial photography is probably associated with this field system. A further (largely flattened) field system (SMR No. SU14SW982) extends to the east of the Site. It is likely that both field systems extend across the Site and, therefore, the potential to recover remains associated with field systems is high.



## 2.2 Previous Archaeological Work

2.2.1 Although no intrusive archaeological investigations have been carried out on the Site, several geophysical surveys have been conducted within or in close proximity to the Site in response to earlier development proposals and archaeological trial trenching was completed within the existing coach park and visitor centre facilities to the south.

### *Geophysical Surveys*

2.2.2 Extensive geophysical surveys have been undertaken previously in the vicinity of Airman's Corner, in connection with an earlier Stonehenge visitors' centre proposals in 1991 and 1993 (Bartlett Clark for Timothy Darvill Archaeological Consultants) and 2002 (GSB Prospection for Wessex Archaeology); and (ii) proposals to improve the A303 through the WHS (Geophysical Surveys of Bradford for John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 1993).

2.2.3 Approximately 3ha south-east of Airman's Corner was surveyed by the EH archaeometry team. The survey confirmed the location of former 19th century agricultural buildings recorded by historic mapping and suggested a wider scatter of possibly much earlier pit-type anomalies across the downs. A large ferrous anomaly may be related to the aviation accident commemorated by the Airman's Cross memorial (Linford and Martin 2009).

2.2.4 A further 24.6ha survey was completed in relation to the SEIP works (Wessex Archaeology 2009a), and identified an apparent complex of post-pits which formed an approximate circle of 25m diameter approximately 100m to the east of an upstanding Scheduled bowl barrow (SMR No. SU04SE633). The Scheduled barrow and the circle of post-pits appear to form a continuation of the linear barrow cemetery associated with the Lesser Cursus. Elsewhere within the survey area, a profusion of discrete circular and sub-circular anomalies are consistent with the responses from possible pits, with some evidence for localised clustering. Numerous linear and curvilinear trends may be of anthropogenic origin, and whilst all the survey areas show some traces of ploughing trends, the north-eastern quadrant (the Site) was most affected by these responses.

### *Previous fieldwork*

2.2.5 No upstanding earthworks have been recorded within the Site itself.

2.2.6 Four trenches (Trenches 6 – 9) and six test pits (TP63 – TP68) were excavated within the existing coach park to the immediate south of the Site in relation to the SEIP proposals (Wessex Archaeology 2012). With the exception of a single Romano-British pottery sherd and four pieces of worked flint retrieved during the test pitting, no cultural material or archaeological features were recorded within the interventions. Two tree boles were excavated within Trench 6 and Trench 8.

2.2.7 A watching brief was undertaken during the decommissioning of the B3086 and other groundwork associated with the SEIP works (Wessex Archaeology *in prep.*). No archaeological features or finds were recorded.

## 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1.1 The Aims and Objectives of the archaeological field evaluation were outlined within the submitted and approved WSI (WA 2014) which conforms to current best practice and to the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2006) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014).



### **3.2 Research framework**

3.2.1 The evaluation results will contribute to the following archaeological research priorities as identified in *The Stonehenge World Heritage Site: an archaeological research framework* (Darvill 2005) and considered in section 11.0 of the Management Plan:

- (15) Filling the data gaps
- (22) Compile a corpus of material culture from the Stonehenge Landscape.

### **3.3 Trenching**

3.3.1 The aims of the archaeological field evaluation were to:

- Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be impacted by development;
- Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character and condition of any surviving remains within the Site;
- Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits;
- Record the soil sequence present within the trial trenches and assess the geo-archaeological and palaeo-environmental potential of colluvial deposits, where present;
- Assess the degree of preservation of remains across the whole evaluation area;
- Target trenches on anomalies identified as a result of the geophysical survey in order to clarify the nature and presence/absence of underlying archaeological remains; and
- Produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential and determine the extent and nature of any subsequent mitigation, if required.

### **3.4 Test pitting**

3.4.1 In addition to the aims detailed above, the specific aims of the archaeological test pitting were to:

- Assess the nature, date and distribution of artefacts within the topsoil as an indicator of past activity.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Service location**

4.1.1 All evaluation trench and test pit locations were scanned before and during excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) in order to verify the absence of any live underground services.

### **4.2 Fieldwork methodology**

4.2.1 The evaluation works associated with the SEIP followed the strategy and methodologies set out in the SEIP Evaluation Strategy (Wessex Archaeology 2009b), and that same general approach to the fieldwork has been used to formulate this fieldwork. In summary, the strategy considered three principal areas of archaeological interest, comprising:

- the artefact content within the topsoil as an indicator of past activity;



- the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains; and
- the geo-archaeological potential.

4.2.2 All survey work was undertaken in accordance with the *Statement of Principles Governing Archaeological Work* (2002) as set out in Appendix D of the Management Plan (English Heritage 2009).

4.2.3 All works were conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

#### *Trenching*

4.2.4 A total of ten machine-excavated trial trenches (**Trenches 120–129**) each measuring approx. 30m in length and 1.8m wide, and ten hand excavated 1m<sup>2</sup> test pits (**TPs 130–139**) were excavated, as indicated on **Figure 1**. This amounts to 550sq. m, and represents an approximate 5% sample of the available area. The numbering of trenches and test pits followed on from the numbering sequence assigned during the 2009 SEIP evaluation (WA 2009c) and watching brief (WA *in prep*).

4.2.5 The trial trenches were excavated using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket under constant supervision by Wessex Archaeology. Machine excavation proceeded in spits to a depth at which the top of archaeological levels or the top of natural deposits were exposed, whichever was the higher. Where appropriate, hand cleaning of the trenches was undertaken to establish the nature of the deposits and features investigated.

4.2.6 Trenches were completed to the satisfaction of the Client and the AWG and were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate order in which they were excavated by Wessex Archaeology and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

#### *Test pitting*

4.2.7 Test pitting comprised the hand digging of ten 1m x 1m square test pits as indicated on **Figure 1** from which the overlying material was sieved to provide a random sample of the artefact content of the topsoil across the Site.

4.2.8 The test pits were excavated stratigraphically to the top of the natural geology and all soil put through a 10mm mesh sieve in order to facilitate good artefact retrieval. The sieved residues were sorted by hand on Site and all artefacts collected for cataloguing. All artefacts were retained except the following, which were catalogued and recorded on Site and then discarded:

- Burnt, unworked flint
- Obviously post-medieval and modern building debris
- Modern pottery, glass, metal, military detritus etc

4.2.9 On completion of the recording, the test pits were backfilled with excavated material, but not otherwise reinstated or consolidated.

### **4.3 Recording**

4.3.1 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system.



4.3.2 A complete drawn record of archaeological features and deposits was compiled including both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels will be calculated and plans/sections will be annotated with OD heights. A representative section of the overlying deposits recorded within the trenches and the test pits was recorded and drawn.

4.3.3 A photographic record was maintained during the evaluation using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

#### **4.4 Monitoring**

4.4.1 The field work was monitored by representatives of the AWG.

#### **4.5 Finds**

4.5.1 Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and guidance For the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, (CIfA 2014b), the UK Institute of Conservators *Guidelines Conservation Guideline No 2* and the Museums and Galleries Commissions *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (1991) excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

4.5.2 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date. The artefacts were retained in order to elucidate the date and/or function of the feature or deposit.

4.5.3 All retained artefacts were, as a minimum, washed, weighed, counted and identified. All finds were scanned to assess the date range of the relevant assemblages and assessed for this report.

4.5.4 All artefacts recovered during the excavations on the Site are the property of the landowner and were suitably bagged, in accordance with the *United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Conservation Guidelines No 2* and, on completion of the archaeological post-excavation programme, will be deposited with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum.

4.5.5 Contingency will be made for external specialist advice and conservation needs on site should unexpected, unusual or extremely fragile and delicate objects be recovered. X-raying and storing of metalwork and other delicate objects will be undertaken by WA in-house conservation staff, the staff of the Conservation Service, Wiltshire History Centre, Chippenham or other appropriate approved conservation centres.

### **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

5.1.1 The following sections provide a summary of the information held in the Site archive. Details of individually excavated contexts and features are retained in the Site archive and a tabulated version of these can be found in **Appendix 1** and **2**.

5.1.2 This results section should be read in conjunction with trench descriptions in **Appendix 1** and test pit descriptions in **Appendix 2**.



## 5.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences

5.2.1 The depth of overlying topsoil, under arable cultivation was consistent across the Site and comprised loose, mid to dark greyish brown silty clay of between 0.13m to 0.33m in depth. Directly below the topsoil, natural chalk deposits were encountered. Chalk was mostly weathered and blocky with visible periglacial striations.

5.2.2 No colluvial deposits were identified.

## 5.3 Archaeological and other features

5.3.1 No archaeological features or deposits were revealed during evaluation.

5.3.2 A total of five tree throws were identified. Of these tree throw **12003** was excavated and recorded and **12206**, **13003**, **13303**, **13403** were tested. All were undated.

5.3.3 A modern, 2m wide ditch was excavated and recorded in **Trench 127** as **12706**, although this may be related to a known modern drainage feature, known to have been located immediately to the south. In addition two modern, machine driven postholes were also revealed in **Trench 122**.

## 6 FINDS

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 All the finds comprised flint material and came from six test pits. The majority of the finds were from topsoil and were recovered during test pit sieving. A small quantity of finds was recovered from the fill of tree throw **13404**, recorded in **TP 134**.

6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by type within each context and are presented in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Finds totals by context 0**

Context	Core fragments	Flakes	Broken flakes	Unworked burnt	TOTAL	Comments
13001		6			6	
13101		2	2	4	4	2 burnt flint flakes,
13201		5			5	
13401	1	5		4	6	1 core trimming flake, flint from tree throw fill
13601				1		
13801		2			2	these two flakes the only ones not all-over cream patina
13901		1			1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>24</b>	

### 6.2 Flint

6.2.1 24 pieces of worked flint were recovered, as tabulated. Most were flakes and broken flakes (23 pieces); the remaining piece was a broken multi-platform core. One of the flakes (from **13404**) was a core trimming flake. Two (from **13201**) have more regular ridges, tending towards blade proportions, and may be Neolithic. The rest are most likely to be later Neolithic or Bronze Age.



6.2.2 None of the pieces are in good condition, all showing wear and edge damage. Most pieces have an even all-over cream/white patina; additionally those from **13001** have dull orange iron splotches common on pieces from topsoil contexts in the region. The only pieces without this patina were two flakes from **13801**.

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL

7.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified.

## 8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1.1 The excavation of 10 machine excavated trenches and 10 hand dug test pits confirmed results of earlier archaeological works in direct vicinity (WA 2009c) and revealed no evidence for archaeological features or deposits.

8.1.2 The original geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2009, Area B **Figures 3-5**) did not identify any specific features which could be determined to be of probable archaeological origin although, as is very common within the chalk and other geology, a broad spread of non-ferrous 'features' were noted. A number of these were targeted in the trial trench and test pitting and all proved to be of natural origin, whether as tree throws or geological deposits.

8.1.3 A number of modern features were identified, including two postholes/stokehole (**12203** and **12208**) in **Trench 122** and a possible ditch (12706) in **Trench 127**. The ditch may be related to a known modern drainage feature which had previously been excavated within the present coach park, immediately to the south.

8.1.4 Only a relatively small quantity of worked flint (24 items of worked flint) was recovered from the topsoil sieving. This material was spread throughout seven of the ten test pits (a combined total of one core, 21 worked flakes and two broken flakes). There is no evident concentration or patterning to the recovered material.

8.1.5 The results of this stage of fieldwork are similar to, and corroborate the previous results from the 2009 trial trench and test pit evaluation which was undertaken immediately to the west and south of the Site. With the exception of the Scheduled Bowl barrow and adjacent pit/timber circle monuments, which lie less than 100m from the evaluation area, the majority of the 2009 works did not identify any significant clusters of archaeological features, either immediately focused on the immediate environs around the monuments or within the wider area.

8.1.6 In addition, comparison of the test pit sieving also provides similar results in the even spread and quantity of material per test pit. Accordingly, the material recovered from the 2015 works would appear to be representative of a typical low-level background scattering of later Neolithic-Bronze Age (3000-1100BC) material.

8.1.7 The survival of the natural features identified in the evaluation, together with the known pit/timber circle, demonstrates that the impact from agricultural practice has not been sufficiently heavy to have completely removed any archaeological traces and that what we observe appears to be a true reflection of the distribution of the archaeological resource. In short, the significance of the results of the 2009 and 2015 trial trenching, together with the distribution of material observed from topsoil sieving, is that there is no evidence for concentrated activity in the areas close to, or associated with, the known monuments.



## **9 STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **9.1 Museum**

9.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the evaluation will be deposited with the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, which is to be confirmed. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

### **9.2 Preparation of archive**

9.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the local museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the Site code **107320**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- 1 file of paper records & A4 graphics
- 1 box of finds

9.2.3 The archive of all records and finds will be consistent with the principles of Management of *Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (English Heritage 2006).

### **9.3 Discard policy**

9.3.1 WA follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

9.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

### **9.4 Copyright**

9.4.1 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 recipient 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-profit making, and conforms with the *Copyright and Related Rights regulations* 2003.

### **9.5 Security Copy**

9.5.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

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Wessex Archaeology 2009c *Land at Airman's Corner, Wiltshire; Archaeological evaluation report* WA report no. 71651.02

Wessex Archaeology *in prep* Stonehenge Environmental Improvements Project, Wiltshire. Assessment Report on Archaeological Mitigation.



## Appendix 1; Evaluation Trench Context Summary Tables. Trenches 120–129

Bgl = below ground level. CBM = ceramic building material (brick and tile)

Trench 120	Dimensions :	31x1.8m, 0.2m deep	Ground surface level:	105.06m aOD
	Centre line Coordinates (NGR):	409910.7820, 143025.8230		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
12001	Layer	Topsoil: Greyish dark to mid brown sandy clay. Frequent inclusions of sub angular flint up to 7cm and chalk up to 4cm in diameter.	0-0.2m	
12002	Layer	Natural: Chalk natural with periglacial striping running N-S	0.2m+	
12003	Cut	Tree throw; half sectioned feature, measured 1.7x1.4m and 0.33m deep.		
12004	Fill	Fill of tree throw; a mix of redeposited natural and topsoil. Mid to dark greyish brown sandy clay with moderate sub rounded/angular flint (10cm) and frequent sub angular chalk fragments (5cm)		
12005	Cut	Tree throw: very similar to 12003.		
12006	Fill	Fill of tree throw.		
12007	Cut	Natural feature of geological origin.		
12008	Fill	Fill of natural feature.		
12009	Cut	Natural feature of geological origin.		
12010	Fill	Fill of natural feature.		

Trench 121	Dimensions :	29.7x1.8m, 0.28m deep	Ground surface level:	104.08m aOD
	Centre line Coordinates (NGR):	409945.2070, 143029.8120		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
12101	Layer	Topsoil: Mid to dark brown loose loam with common chalk fragments (1cm) and rare angular flint (8cm).	0-0.22m	
12102	Layer	Blocky chalk with periglacial scarring and flint nodules of all shapes (20cm)	0.22m+	

Trench 122	Dimensions :	30.5x1.8m, 0.22m deep	Ground surface level:	104.14m aOD
	Centre line Coordinates (NGR):	409900.7620, 142995.9050		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
12201	Layer	Topsoil: dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional sub angular chalk fragments (2cm) and flint fragments (10cm).	0-0.22m	
12202	Fill	Fill of modern stake hole. Mix of topsoil and chalk fragments infilled after post removal.	0.22m-0.52m	
12203	Cut	Cut of modern stake hole (machine driven, pointed fence stake). 0.28m in diameter and 0.30m deep.		
12204	Layer	Natural chalk: weathered blocky chalk with periglacial striations.	0.22m+	
12205	Fill	Fill of tree throw: mid greyish brown silty clay. Very common interlocking flint nodules and fragments.		
12206	Cut	Cut of tree throw.		
12207	Fill	Topsoil fill of posthole void, modern.		
12208	Cut	Cut of modern posthole.		



Trench 123	Dimensions :	29.3x1.8m, 0.35m deep	Ground surface level:	103.93m aOD
	Centre line Coordinates (NGR):	409931.8620, 142998.9590		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
12301	Layer	Topsoil: mid to dark brown silty/sandy clay. Ploughed and rooted with assorted flint.	0-0.3m	
12302	Layer	Natural: chalk geology with periglacial striping.	0.3m+	
12303	Cut	Natural feature		
12304	Fill	Fill of natural feature; light brown loam with flint inclusions.		
12305	Cut	Natural feature.		
12306	Fill	Fill of natural feature.		
12307	Cut	Natural feature.		
12308	Fill	Fill of natural feature.		

Trench 124	Dimensions :	29.5x1.8m, 0.26m deep	Ground surface level:	103.90m aOD
	Centre line Coordinates (NGR):	409986.1350, 142982.3690		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
12401	Layer	Topsoil: Mid dark brown loam, loose with common chalk fragments (1cm) and rare angular flints (7cm)	0-0.2m	
12402	Layer	Natural: Blocky chalk with periglacial scarring and flint nodules (20cm)	0.2m+	
12403	Cut	Natural feature, 0.35m deep.		
12404	Fill	Fill of natural feature: light brown loam with common flint fragments.		
12405	Cut	Natural feature.		
12406	Fill	Fill of natural feature.		
12407	Cut	Natural feature.		
12408	Fill	Fill of natural feature.		

Trench 125	Dimensions :	29.8x1.8m, 0.32m deep	Ground surface level:	103.17m aOD
	Centre line Coordinates (NGR):	409930.3070, 142970.8560		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
12501	Layer	Greyish mid to dark brown silty sandy clay. Moderate sub angular chalk (4cm) and sub rounded and sub angular flint fragments (5cm). Ploughed and heavily rooted.	0-0.26m	
12502	Layer	Natural: chalk geology with periglacial striping running N-S.	0.26m+	
12503	Cut	Natural feature.		
12504	Fill	Fill of natural feature.		
12505	Cut	Natural feature.		
12506	Fill	Fill of natural feature.		
12507	Cut	Natural feature.		
12508	Fill	Fill of natural feature.		



<b>Trench 126</b>	<b>Dimensions :</b>	30.2x1.8m, 0.3m deep	<b>Ground surface level:</b>	102.94m aOD
	<b>Centre line Coordinates (NGR):</b>	409967.6740, 142946.3390		
<b>Context</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (bgl)</b>	
12601	Layer	Topsoil: Mid to dark brown loam, loose with common chalk fragments (1cm) and rare angular flints (11cm).	0-0.2m	
12602	Layer	Natural: Blocky chalk with periglacial scarring and flint nodules (20cm)	0.2m+	
12603	Cut	Natural feature.		
12604	Fill	Fill of natural feature: mid brown loam with common flints.		

<b>Trench 127</b>	<b>Dimensions :</b>	29.2x1.8m, 0.3m deep	<b>Ground surface level:</b>	101.31m aOD
	<b>Centre line Coordinates (NGR):</b>	409995.6720, 142921.1910		
<b>Context</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (bgl)</b>	
12701	Layer	Topsoil: mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent sub angular chalk fragments (2cm) and occasional flint fragments (10cm).	0-0.3m	
12702	Layer	Blocky chalk natural with periglacial striations.	0.3m+	
12703	Fill	Compact topsoil in top of modern linear.	0.2-0.4m	
12704	Fill	Redeposited chalk upcast in modern linear.	0.4m-0.58m	
12705	Fill	Greyish brown coarse builders sand in base of modern linear contained brick rubble and torn bits of terram.	0.58m-0.85m	
12706	Cut	Cut of modern linear. 2m wide and 0.55m deep. Probably temporary drainage feature associated with new visitor centre construction, N-S aligned.	0.2-0.85m	

<b>Trench 128</b>	<b>Dimensions :</b>	30.1x1.8m, 0.35m deep	<b>Ground surface level:</b>	100.06m aOD
	<b>Centre line Coordinates (NGR):</b>	410037.9990, 142882.1460		
<b>Context</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (bgl)</b>	
12801	Layer	Topsoil: Mid to dark brown loam with common chalk nodules (1cm) and rare angular flint fragments (4cm)	0-0.25m	
12802	Layer	Natural: blocky chalk with proglacial scarring and flint nodules (20cm)	0.25m+	
12803	Cut	Natural feature.		
12804	Fill	Fill of natural feature: light brown loam with common flint fragments.		

<b>Trench 129</b>	<b>Dimensions :</b>	30.4x1.8m, 0.30m deep	<b>Ground surface level:</b>	99.95m aOD
	<b>Centre line Coordinates (NGR):</b>	410041.1470, 142900.4110		
<b>Context</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (bgl)</b>	
12901	Layer	Topsoil: mid to dark brown loose loam with common small (1cm) chalk fragments and sparse angular flint (7cm).	0-0.20m	
12902	Layer	Natural: blocky chalk with periglacial scarring with flint nodules (20cm)	0.20m+	



## Appendix 2: Test Pit Context Summary Tables. Test Pits 130–139

Bgl = below ground level. CBM = ceramic building material (brick and tile)

Test Pit 130	Dimensions :	1x1m , 0.64m deep	Ground surface level:	104.75m aOD
	Centre Point Coordinates (NGR):	409892.4160, 143012.1250		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
13001	Layer	Topsoil: Dark grey brown silty loam with common subrounded chalk inclusions (6cm) and medium coarse gravel, subangular (2-6cm).	0-0.24m	
13002	Layer	Natural: light brown white chalk with moderate medium subangular gravel (2-6cm).	0.67m+	
13003	Cut	Possible tree throw, encompasses whole test pit.	0.24-0.67m	
13004	Fill	Fill of tree throw: mix of redeposited chalk natural, degraded chalk and eroded topsoil with common subangular flint inclusions (2-20cm)		

Test Pit 131	Dimensions :	1x1m , 0.33m deep	Ground surface level:	104.87m aOD
	Centre Point Coordinates (NGR):	409915.7670, 143021.3250		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
13101	Layer	Topsoil: Mid brown silty loose loam with common poorly sorted coarse flint fragments (2cm) and dense rooting.	0-0.33m	
13102	Layer	Natural: Brownish yellow to white chalk with moderate common flint fragments and pea grit. Compact.	0.33m	

Test Pit 132	Dimensions :	1x1m , 0.3m deep	Ground surface level:	104.12m aOD
	Centre Point Coordinates (NGR):	409898.9700, 142990.5620		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
13201	Layer	Topsoil: Dark grey brown silty loam common chalk inclusions, subrounded (2cm)	0-0.3m	
13202	Layer	Natural: light brown white chalk with patches of degraded chalk.	0.3m+	

Test Pit 133	Dimensions :	1x1m , 0.53m deep	Ground surface level:	103.51m aOD
	Centre Point Coordinates (NGR):	409963.3650, 142987.5970		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
13301	Layer	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown silty loam. Frequent poorly sorted coarse angular subrounded flint fragments (2cm). Common dense rooting.	0-0.24m	
13302	Layer	Natural: White, densely packed chalk with moderate, common flint fragments and pea grit.	0.24m+	
13303	Cut	Tree throw, partially visible in the test pit.		
13304	Fill	Fill of tree throw: very similar to topsoil but more stone inclusions. Mid greyish brown silty loam, moderately compact with degraded chalk and pea grit.		



Test Pit 134	Dimensions :	1x1m , 0.67m deep	Ground surface level:	103.68m aOD
	Centre Point Coordinates (NGR):	409978.5840, 142993.7910		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
13401	Layer	Topsoil: mid greyish brown silty loam with low crop coverage. Frequent poorly sorted flint nodules (up to 20cm). Common dense rooting throughout. Loose.	0-0.21m	
13402	Layer	Natural: white, densely packed chalk with common flint fragments (up to 20cm)	0.21m+	
13403	Cut	Tree throw.		
13404	Fill	Fill of tree throw: mid yellowish brown silty loam with frequent to abundant flint fragments and sparse chalk fragments.		

Test Pit 135	Dimensions :	1x1m , 0.28m deep	Ground surface level:	101.93m aOD
	Centre Point Coordinates (NGR):	409938.7710, 142939.8740		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
13501	Layer	Topsoil: dark grey brown silty loam with common subrounded chalk inclusions (2cm) and sub angular flint (2-6cm). Light rooting.	0-0.16m	
13502	Layer	Natural: light brown/white chalk.	0.16-0.28m+	
13503	Cut	Tree throw or natural feature.		
13504	Fill	Fill of tree throw.		

Test Pit 136	Dimensions :	1x1m , 0.24m deep	Ground surface level:	103.01m aOD
	Centre Point Coordinates (NGR):	409982.9240, 142973.4210		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
13601	Layer	Topsoil: mid greyish brown silty loam with dense rooting. Common poorly sorted angular flint fragments and sparse pea grit and chalk frags.	0-0.24m	
13602	Layer	Natural: white densely packed chalk with sparse flint inclusions.	0.24m+	

Test Pit 137	Dimensions :	1x1m , 0.28m deep	Ground surface level:	101.04m aOD
	Centre Point Coordinates (NGR):	410002.6680, 142920.4700		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
13701	Layer	Topsoil: dark grey brown silty loam with common chalk inclusions, subrounded (2cm), sub angular flint (2-6cm) and light rooting.	0-0.28m	
13702	Layer	Natural: light brown white chalk including some degraded chalk.	0.28m+	



<b>Test Pit 138</b>	<b>Dimensions :</b>	1x1m , 0.13m deep	<b>Ground surface level:</b>	100.17m aOD
	<b>Centre Point Coordinates (NGR):</b>	410010.3360, 142899.2420		
<b>Context</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (bgl)</b>	
13801	Layer	Topsoil: dark grey brown silty loam with common chalk inclusions, sub rounded (2cm), sub angular flint (2-6cm) and light rooting.	0-0.13m	
13802	Layer	Natural: light brown white chalk. Chalk far more compact and clear than anywhere else – possibly disturbed.	0.13m+	

<b>Test Pit 139</b>	<b>Dimensions :</b>	1x1m , 0.15m deep	<b>Ground surface level:</b>	99.52m aOD
	<b>Centre Point Coordinates (NGR):</b>	410058.8210, 142891.8860		
<b>Context</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (bgl)</b>	
13901	Layer	Topsoil: dark grey brown silty loam with common chalk inclusions, sub rounded (2cm), sub angular flint (2-6cm) and light rooting.	0-0.15m	
13902	Layer	Natural: light brown white chalk with patches of degraded chalk.	0.15m+	



## Appendix 3; Oasis Summary Form

**OASIS ID: wessexar1-201528**

### Project details

Project name	SVEP, Stonehenge
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology (WA) were commissioned by English Heritage to undertake an archaeological evaluation comprising 10 machine excavated trenches and 10 hand dug test pits on land to the north of the new Stonehenge Visitor Centre located at Airman's Corner, Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire; centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 409950, 143000. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within the excavated trenches or test pits, although a small number of modern postholes and ditch features were uncovered. A number of tree throws and natural geological features were also uncovered and investigated, although no associated archaeological finds were recovered.
Project dates	Start: 05-01-2015 End: 09-01-2015
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	107320 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	World Heritage Site
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Neolithic
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches", "Test Pits"
Development type	Car park (flat)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE SALISBURY WINTERBOURNE STOKE SVEP
Postcode	SP3 4DX
Study area	2.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 09969 42967 51.1853240848 -1.85734723325 51 11 07 N 001 51 26 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 98.00m Max: 103.00m



### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	A Manning
Project supervisor	Steve Thompson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	English Heritage

### Project archives

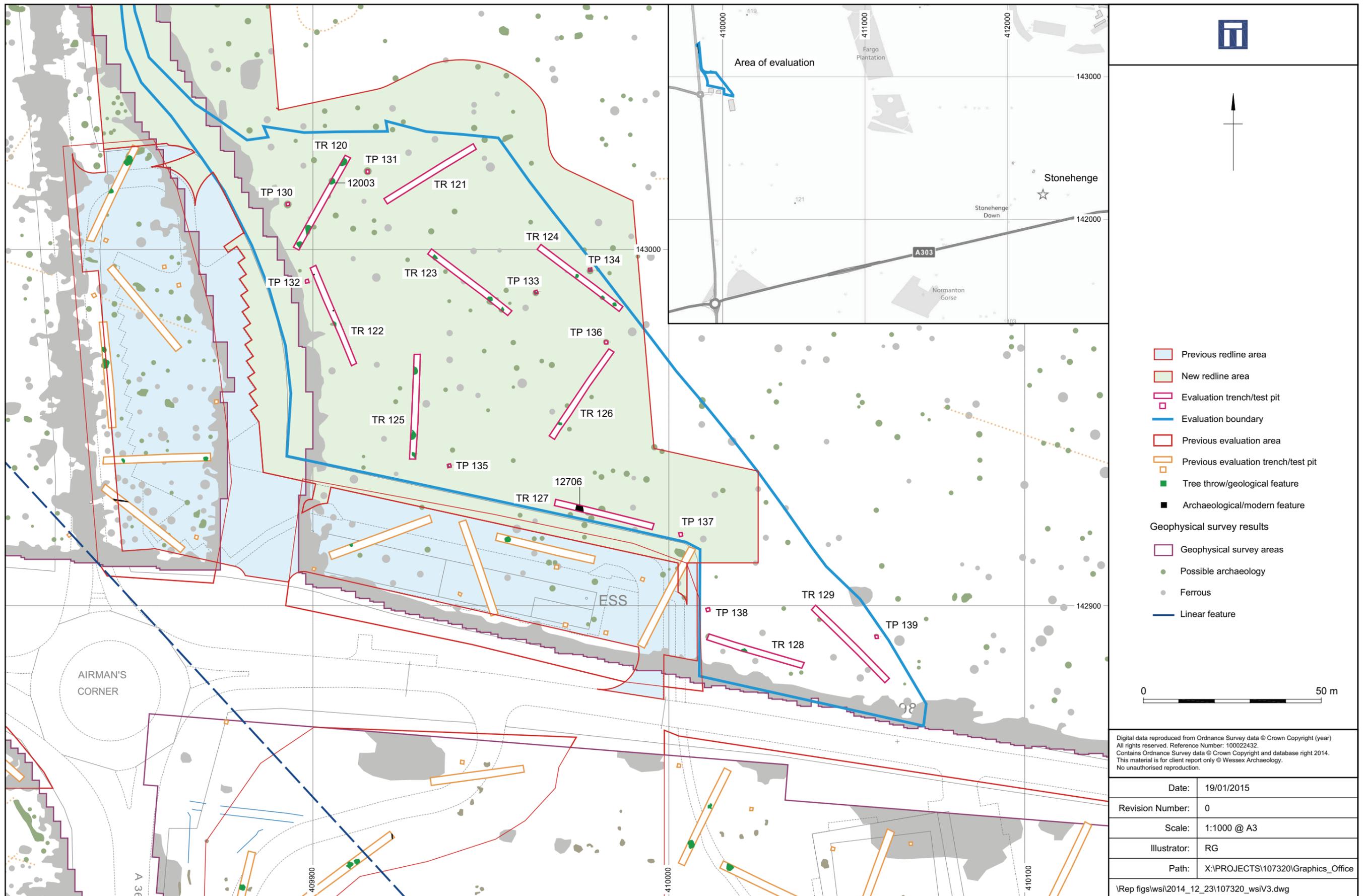
Physical Archive recipient	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Physical Contents	"Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	TTNCM129/2009
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	SVEP, Airman's Corner, Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Thompson, S
Other bibliographic details	107320.02
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Salisbury



Description	Standard illustrated evaluation report of c. 22 pages
Entered by	Andrew manning (a.manning@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	26 January 2015



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Site and trench location

Figure 1



Plate 1: View of trench 120 from north east.



Plate 2: North east facing section of tree throw 12003.

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Plate 3: View of trench 128 from west.



Plate 4: South facing section of trench 128.

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Plate 5: South facing section of test pit 138.



Plate 6: North facing section of modern ditch 12706.

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