# B25 Film, SPTA
# Cheverell Hill Farm, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

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## Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by B25 Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of 39 'pits' associated with explosive special effects. The works were undertaken on land immediately east of the disused Cheverell Hill Farm, covering an area of approximately 4000 $m^2$.

A single pit, dated to the Neolithic, containing struck flint, antler and small fragments of pottery was recorded during the archaeological monitoring. The pit itself is small and ovoid and stylistically similar to other Neolithic pits found in Wiltshire. The red deer antler, despite showing no signs of wear, is thought to have been bisected in order to form a pick and rake. Environmental evidence indicates the presence of some charred plant remains, though a certain level of intrusive material was also present. Given the sparse evidence for Neolithic activity within this area, the identification of this feature is of at least local significance.

## Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank B25 Ltd for commissioning the archaeological watching brief, in particular Charlie Hayes. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Martin Brown of Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service, who monitored the project for Wiltshire Council, and to Richard Osgood of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and Adam Young from Landmarc Solutions for their advice.

The fieldwork was directed by Phil Harding, Piotr Orczewski, Benjamin Cullen, Matt Kendall. The environmental sample was processed by Jenny Giddins and Samantha Rogerson, the flot sorted by Nicki Mulhall, and assessed by Inés López-Dóriga. This report was written by Eleanor Legg and Kathryn Brook and edited by Bill Moffat. The project was managed by Bill Moffat on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.

# B25 Film, SPTA, Cheverell Hill Farm, Wiltshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

### 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by B25 Ltd (Buckinghamshire), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of 'pits' for explosive special effects. The monitored works covered an area of approximately 4000 $m^2$, centred on NGR 397290 152605, at Cheverell Hill Farm, Great Cheverell, Wiltshire SN10 5TT (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.2 Although planning permission was not required for the works, they were designed according to best practice and in consultation with Richard Osgood of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), Adam Young from Landmarc Solutions and Martin Brown of Wiltshire County Archaeological Service (WCAS). All parties agreed that the site had a low archaeological potential and that archaeological monitoring of the works was sufficient.

1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2019a). WCAS approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The watching brief was undertaken between 1/10/2019 and 11/10/2019.

### 1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

### 1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The watching brief was located in the field immediately east of the disused Cheverell Hill Farm, approximately 1.5 km from Erlestoke and Great Cheverell respectively.

1.3.2 The area of works lay in the head of a deeply dissected chalk coombe, with steep hillsides rising to the north, west and south. Principal access to the site was from the north using the gated farm track off Pear Tree Lane and the B3098.

1.3.3 Existing ground levels were recorded as 144 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) within the north-eastern area of the site, dropping to 142 m aOD in the north.

1.3.4 The underlying geology is mapped as chalk of the Zig-Zag grouping, formed in the Cretaceous Period (British Geological Survey online viewer). Some superficial colluvial deposits were expected at the base of the coombe.

# 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

## 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The site lies within the Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA) and is part of one of the most important archaeological landscapes in the United Kingdom. However, while the wider landscape and its preservation are remarkable, the Wiltshire Heritage Environment Record (WHER) shows that the site lies in an area of relatively low archaeological potential, though this may partly reflect a lack of archaeological investigations in the area. This was highlighted in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019a) which considered known archaeological and historical sites within a 1 km radius of the monitored works. The findings are summarised below.

## 2.2 Archaeological and historical context

2.2.1 Undated field systems and lynchets comprise the majority of sites within a 1 km radius of the site. An undated barrow lies on the edge of the Earlestoke escarpment and a scatter of Neolithic flakes from the hillside above the coombe head. These are over 500 m from the site. The closest known archaeological sites are the 19th century Cheverell Hill Farm itself and the now demolished Glebe Farm, also 19th century (just east of the site boundary).

# 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

## 3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019) and as defined in the CIfA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a), were:

- To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
- To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
- To guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

## 3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the watching brief, also defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019a), were:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
- To record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);

- To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and

- To make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.

# 4 METHODS

## 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019a) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

## 4.2 Fieldwork methods

*General*

4.2.1 The watching brief was undertaken by an archaeologist whom monitored the ground intrusive works associated with the excavation of 39 individual 'pits' for the purposes of explosive special effects during filming (**Fig. 1**). 36 of these were arranged in nine rows of four 'pits' and measured approximately 2.5 m x 2.5 m. Three larger areas ('pits' 37-39) were excavated within the south-west of the site approximately 430 m to the west of the southern smaller 'pits'. These measured a minimum of 4 m square to a maximum of 5.9 m x 3.8 m. Each 'pit' was numbered and recorded in line with Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system.

4.2.2 The work monitored was undertaken by a single tracked 360° mechanical excavator which was fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

4.2.3 The watching archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the specified area. Where necessary, the surface of uncovered archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits identified was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the watching brief.

4.2.4 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Where found, artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.

*Recording*

4.2.5 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections), and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.

4.2.6 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.7 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control

and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

### 4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

### 4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 WCAS, on behalf of the LPA, monitored the watching brief. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with both the client and the WCAS.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A total of 39 Explosive Pits were investigated, with the majority comprising only natural deposits. A single Neolithic pit, **2904,** containing a red deer antler (**Plate 1 and 2**) was identified within Explosive Pit 29 in the south-south-east of the site. A description of the natural deposits encountered is given below, with a detailed table of the deposits within Explosive Pit 29 in **Appendix 1.**

### 5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

Explosive Pits 1 – 36 were all located within the eastern portion of the site. They varied in size measuring between 2.0 m (l) x 1.7 m (w), and 2.50 m (l) x 2.50 m (w). The majority of the 'pits' comprised of a, mid to dark grey silty loam, topsoil which directly overlay the natural chalk geology. The natural chalk was encountered at approximately 0.30 m below ground level (**Plate 3**).

5.2.1 A subsoil was observed within Explosive Pits 5-8, 16, 19-24, 27-32. The subsoil comprised of a light brown silty loam varied in thickness from 0.20 m to 0.40 m. It was observed underlying the topsoil and overlying the natural chalk bedrock (**Plate 4**). The natural chalk was encountered between 0.50 -0.70 m below ground level.

5.2.2 The presence of subsoil in some of the Explosive Pits and not in others appears to broadly follow a pattern of lines, aligned southeast – northwest, and is probably the result of former agricultural activity.

5.2.3 Three larger Explosive Pits 37 – 39, were excavated in the south-west of the site (**Plates 5 and 6**). 'Pit' 37, measured 5.90 m x 3.8 m and was excavated through the topsoil encountering the chalk at a depth of 0.20 m below ground level. 'Pits' 38-39 measured 4m x 4m, a pale grey silty clay subsoil was observed below the topsoil and sealed the natural chalk in 'pit' 38. Within 'pit' 39 a band of colluvium was observed overlying by the natural chalk. The colluvium was encountered at approximately 0.24 m below ground level and comprised a mid-brown silty clay with chalk flecks and rare flint inclusions.

### 5.3 Neolithic (4000-2200 BC)

5.3.1 A single, sub-oval pit with straight steep sides and a flat base (**2904**), was identified directly beneath the subsoil (**2902**) in 'pit' 29 (**Figure 2**, **Plate 1**). It was fully excavated and measured 1.40 m (l) x 1.06 m (w) x 0.33 m (d). Two deposits were recorded within **2904**, representing a sequence of intentional backfilling.

5.3.2 The earliest deposit (**2906**) comprised a mid-grey silty clay and covered the base of the pit. It measured 0.17 m thick and contained a red dear antler which was possibly intentionally placed within the pit. This fill was directly overlain by the upper deposit (**2905**), a very dark brown, nearly black, silty clay loam, 0.11 m thick. Sparse charcoal flecks were noted, and a small assemblage of struck flint was recovered along with a few tiny fragments of pottery. An environmental sample was taken from the deposit (see **Section 6**).

## 6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during the watching brief, from a single pit 2904. All are of prehistoric date. The assemblage has been cleaned and quantified by material type in each context; this information is summarised in Table 1.

### 6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 Five small and abraded fragments of pottery, weighing just 1 g and in a sandy fabric, were recovered from pit 2904. These are of prehistoric origin but are not closely datable.

### 6.3 Flint

6.3.1 Seven worked flints were collected from the pit. They comprise four flakes, one of which is burnt, a broken flake and two retouched pieces, one a broken blade. The collection is composed of tertiary removals, which are lightly patinated, but sufficiently alike to suggest that they were probably removed from the same nodule. Artefact edges are all fresh indicating that the assemblage was probably discarded soon after it was manufactured.

6.3.2 Technologically the most distinctive piece is the blade, which is likely to have come from a prepared core. Two of the flakes have small, narrow butts which have been prepared before the removal was made. The use of such detailed preparation indicates a good knowledge of flint control.

6.3.3 Two of the pieces show marginal edge retouch, which may be classified as microdenticulate. The retouched blade also has a thin band of gloss along part of the edge; such gloss is common on microdenticulates.

6.3.4 The collection is small and clearly lacks a range of artefacts that are clearly diagnostic. However, the probable inclusion of microdenticulates and platform abrasion, as a means of core control, suggests a Neolithic, probably Early Neolithic date for these worked flints. Such conclusions do not contradict those derived from the antler.

### 6.4 Animal bone

6.4.1 A large piece of red deer antler (ON 101) weighing 445 g came from fill 2906, near the base of pit 2904. The shed antler comprises the beam to just above the trez tine (Plate 7). There are no obvious signs of use wear on the ends of the bez and trez tines, however the surface of the antler is root etched and this could mask such evidence. An ancient break between the bez and trez tines indicates the point at which the beam was bisected to form a pick

from the proximal half and a rake from the distal end. There is no evidence that fire-branding was used to weaken the structure in order to break it (Serjeantson 1995, 420–1).

**Table 1** Quantification of finds by count and weight (grammes)

| Layer | Pottery | | Flint | | Animal bone | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2905 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 18 | | |
| 2906 | | | | | 22 | 445 |
| Total | 5 | 1 | 7 | 18 | 22 | 445 |

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 One bulk sediment sample was taken from a pit of suspected Neolithic chronology and was processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence.

### 7.2 Aims and Methods

7.2.1 The purpose of this assessment is to determine the potential of the environmental remains preserved at the site to address project aims and to provide archaeobotanical data valuable for wider research frameworks. The nature of this assessment follows recommendations set up by Historic England (Campbell *et al.* 2011).

7.2.2 The 19-litre sample was processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse fraction (>4 mm) was sorted by eye and discarded. The environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots. The fine residue fractions and the flot were scanned using a stereo incident light microscopy (Leica MS5 microscope) at magnifications of up to x40 for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g. *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as burrowing snails (*Cecilioides acicula*), or earthworm eggs and insects, which would not be preserved unless anoxic conditions prevailed on site. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence of other environmental remains such as terrestrial and aquatic molluscs, and animal bone was recorded. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000), for cereals. Abundance of remains is qualitatively quantified (A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5) as an estimation of the minimum number of individuals and not the number of remains per taxa. Mollusc nomenclature follows Anderson (2005).

### 7.3 Results

7.3.1 The flot from the bulk sediment sample was small with moderate amounts of roots, and low numbers of modern seeds and the burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula* that may be indicative of some stratigraphic movement and could result in contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material comprised a small number of poorly preserved, and some possibly intrusive, cereal grains and fragments including *Triticum* sp. (wheat) and *Hordeum vulgare* (barley). A moderate amount of mature wood charcoal was also present. Other terrestrial molluscs were also present in the sample.

### 7.4 Conclusions

7.4.1 The presence of charred cereal remains could indicate that crop processing activities were taking place in the area. However, as some of the grain is probably intrusive this small assemblage may not be representative and further analysis would be of little value in the absence of radiocarbon dating. Similarly, the analysis of the wood charcoal could provide information on the exploitation of the local woodland, but the presence of probably intrusive material in the sample limits the reliability of the results. The terrestrial molluscs could provide some information on the immediate landscape but the interest of this is again limited due to possible intrusion of recent material.

## 8 RADIOCARBON DATING

### 8.1 Aims and methods

8.1.1 A sample of red deer antler was submitted to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC), University of Glasgow. Detailed descriptions of the methods employed by the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory can be found in Dunbar et al. (2016). The calibrated age ranges were calculated with OxCal 4.2.3 (Bronk-Ramsey and Lee 2013) using the IntCal13 curve (Reimer et al. 2013). The radiocarbon dates are quoted as uncalibrated years before present (BP), followed by the lab code and the calibrated date-range (cal. BC) at the 2σ (95.4%) confidence, with the end points rounded out to the nearest 10 years.

### 8.2 Results

8.2.1 The sample was successfully measured providing an Early Neolithic result (SUERC-92147: 4776±37 BP: 3650-3380 cal. BC). Although the result is imprecise due to the nature of the calibration curve for the period, the majority of the probability (90%) concentrates on the older part of the 4th millennium (3650-3510) cal BC.

**Table 2** Radiocarbon date for a Red Deer antler

| Lab. Ref | Sample reference | Material | Date BP | δC13‰ | δN15‰ | calibration (2σ 95.4%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SUERC-92147 (GU54099) | Pit fill (2906) Small find 101 | Red deer antler (1.2 g) | 4776 ± 37 | -22.1‰ | 2.7‰ | 3650-3510, 3420-3380 cal. BC |

## 9 CONCLUSIONS

### 9.1 Summary

9.1.1 The archaeological watching brief identified a single pit. The pit contained worked flint stylistically typical of the Early Neolithic period. A radiocarbon dating sample taken form the Red Deer antler found within the pit also confirmed the pit is Early Neolithic (3650-3380 cal. BC). The red deer antler, despite showing no signs of wear, is thought to have been bisected in order to form a pick and rake. An environmental sample taken form the pit found both chard wheat and barley grains, but the presence of intrusive material in the sample limits the reliability of the results.

9.1.2 The presence of subsoil in some of the Explosive Pits and absence in others, appears to form an interspersed pattern that may represent the possible ploughed out remains of ridge and furrow.

### 9.2 Discussion

9.2.1 The discovery of an Early Neolithic pit within the project area is of local significance. The only other known Neolithic find within the vicinity of the site is a Neolithic worked flint (ST95SE102) found at Great Cheverell Hill, approximately 500 m to the west.

9.2.2 Within the wider landscaper there are a small number of Neolithic flint scatters and find spots recorded on Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record. However, this pit is the first Neolithic feature to be found in the area.

9.2.3 The Neolithic pit found within the project area is stylistically similar to Neolithic pits found during archaeological works at Bulford, Wiltshire (Wessex Archaeology 2019b). Many of the pits at Bulford were found to have antlers placed near the base and contained worked flint and pottery. These types of pits are often considered to be 'ritualistic', however given the very limited nature of this watching brief it is not possible to determine the pits function. It is unlikely to be an isolated feature within the landscape; Neolithic pits are commonly found in clusters or pairs as indicated at sites such as Bulford and elsewhere in Wessex.

## 10 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

### 10.1 Museum

10.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. The Wiltshire Museum (Devizes) has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **DZSWS:11-2019**. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

### 10.2 Preparation of the archive

10.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by The Wiltshire Museum (Devizes), and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

10.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the accession code **DZSWS:11-2019**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type;
- 1 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics;

### 10.3 Selection policy

10.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum, and is fully documented in the project archive.

### 10.4 Security copy

10.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, 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.

### 10.5 OASIS

10.5.1 An OASIS online record (http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main) has been initiated, with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

## 11 COPYRIGHT

### 11.1 Archive and report copyright

11.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations* 2003. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

11.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

### 11.2 Third party data copyright

11.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Explosive Pit 29

| Trench No 29 | Length 2.5 m | Width 2.5 m | Depth 1.6 m |
|---|---|---|---|
| Easting 397248 | Northing 152422 | m OD 167.55 | |

| Context Number | Fill Of/Filled With | Interpretative Category | Description | Depth BGL in metres |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2901 | | Topsoil | Friable, light grey silty loam. Very rare chalk flecks. Clear soil horizon with subsoil | 0 - 0.30 |
| 2902 | | Subsoil | Friable, light brown silty loam. Very rare chalk flecks. Clear soil horizon with natural | 0.30 - 0.70 |
| 2903 | | Natural | Compact, off white, degraded chalk. Rare sub round flint inclusion up to 20mm | 0.7 + |
| 2904 | 2905, 2906 | Cut of Pit | Sub-oval in plan with shallow straight steep side to a flat base. 1.40 m(l) x 1.06 m (w) x 0.33 m (d) | 0.70 – 1.03 |
| 2905 | 2904 | Deliberate Backfill | Dark brown black silty clay loam with rare sub-round flint <60mm. rear charcoal flecks. Finds: Struck flint and pottery | 0.70 -0.87 |
| 2096 | 2904 | Deliberate Backfill | Mid grey, silty clay with abundant sub-rounded chalk <60mm. Finds: OJB 1 Antler | 0.87 – 1.03 |

## Appendix 2: Assessment of the environmental evidence

| Feature | Context | Sample | Vol (l) | Flot (ml) | Sub-sample | Bioturbation proxies | Grain | Chaff | Cereal Notes | Charred Other | Charred Other Notes | Charcoal > 2mm (ml) | Charcoal | Other | Analysis | Comments (Preservation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2904 | 2905 | 1 | 19 | 40 | 100 <4mm residue | 30%, B, E, *C. acicula* (A) | B | - | Triticeae (inc. *Triticum* sp. and *Hordeum vulgare*) | - | - | 15 | Mature | Moll-t | | Poor (grain looks mostly intrusive) |

Key: Scale of abundance: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = 30-10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), F = mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia, E = earthworm eggs, I = insects; Sab/f/c = small animal/fish bones/charred faecal pellets, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-f = aquatic molluscs, Moll-m = marine molluscs; Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs, C14 = radiocarbon

## Appendix 3 OASIS Record

### OASIS ID: wessexar1-392231

| | |
|---|---|
| **Project details** | |
| Project name | B25 Film, SPTA, Cheverell Hill Farm |
| Short description of the project | Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by B25 Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of 39 'pits' associated with explosive special effects. The works were undertaken on land immediately east of the disused Cheverell Hill Farm. A single pit, dated to the Neolithic, containing struck flint, antler and small fragments of pottery was recorded during the archaeological monitoring. The pit itself is small and ovoid and stylistically similar to other Neolithic pits found in Wiltshire. The red deer antler, despite showing no signs of wear, is thought to have been bisected in order to form a pick and rake. Environmental evidence indicates the presence of some charred plant remains, though a certain level of intrusive material was also present. Given the sparse evidence for Neolithic activity within this area, the identification of this feature is of local significant. |
| Project dates | Start: 01-10-2019 End: 24-04-2020 |
| Previous/future work | No / No |
| Any associated project reference codes | 226470 - Sitecode |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation |
| Monument type | PIT Early Neolithic |
| Significant Finds | ANTLER Early Neolithic |
| Significant Finds | FLINT Early Neolithic |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Uncertain |
| Investigation type | "Watching Brief" |
| Prompt | Permitted works |
| **Project location** | |
| Country | England |
| Site location | WILTSHIRE KENNET CHEVERELL MAGNA B25 Film, SPTA Cheverell Hill Farm |
| Postcode | SN10 5TT |
| Study area | 4000 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | ST 97290 52605 51.27207840353 -2.038852088292 51 16 19 N 002 02 19 W Point |
| **Project creators** | |
| Name of Organisation | Wessex Archaeology |

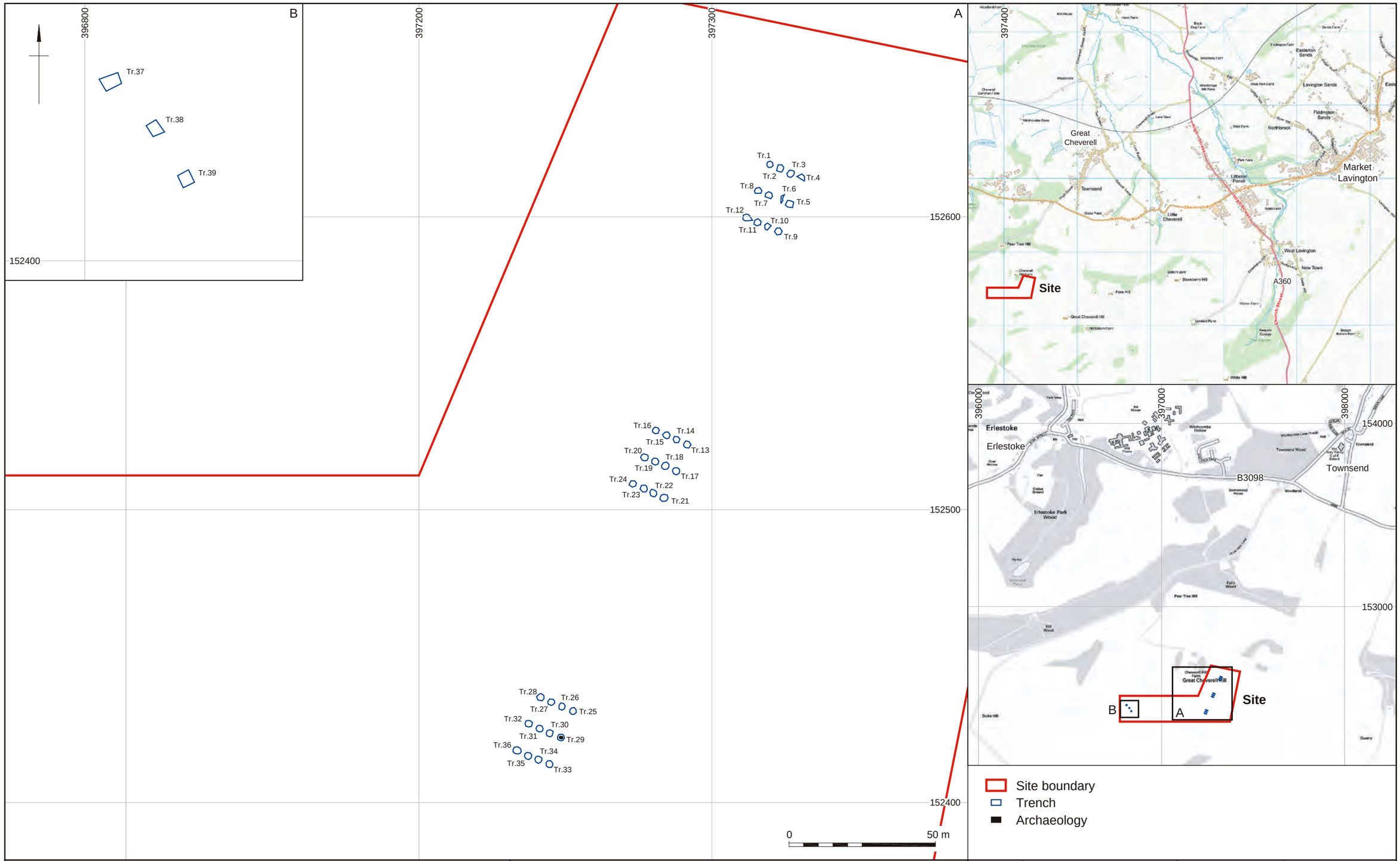
| | |
|---|---|
| Project brief originator | Wiltshire Council Archaeology |
| Project design originator | Wessex Archaeology |
| Project director/manager | Bill Moffat |
| Project supervisor | Ben Cullen , Matt Kendall and Piotr Orczewski |

**Project archives**

| | |
|---|---|
| Physical Archive recipient | Devizes Museum |
| Physical Archive ID | DZSWS:11-2019 |
| Physical Contents | "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics" |
| Digital Archive recipient | Devizes Museum |
| Digital Archive ID | DZSWS:11-2019 |
| Digital Contents | "none" |
| Digital Media available | "Images raster / digital photography","Survey" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Devizes Museum |
| Paper Archive ID | DZSWS:11-2019 |
| Paper Contents | "none" |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet","Drawing","Plan","Report" |

**Project bibliography 1**

| | |
|---|---|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | B25 Film, SPTA, Cheverell Hill Farm, Wiltshire |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Brook, K. and Legg, E. |
| Other bibliographic details | 226470.02 |
| Date | 2020 |
| Issuer or publisher | Wessex Archaeology |
| Place of issue or publication | Salisbury |




Coordinate system:
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)



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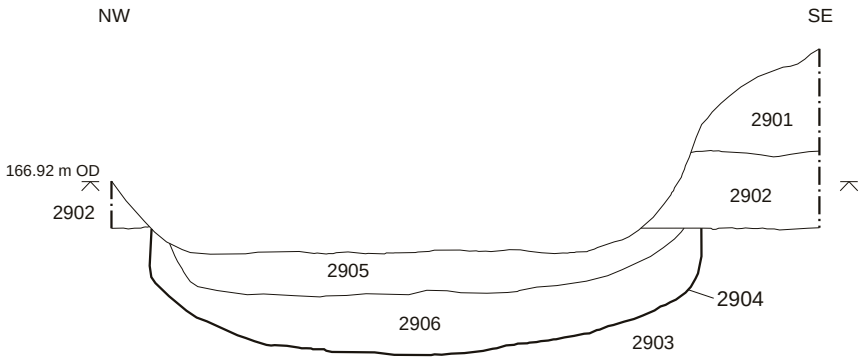
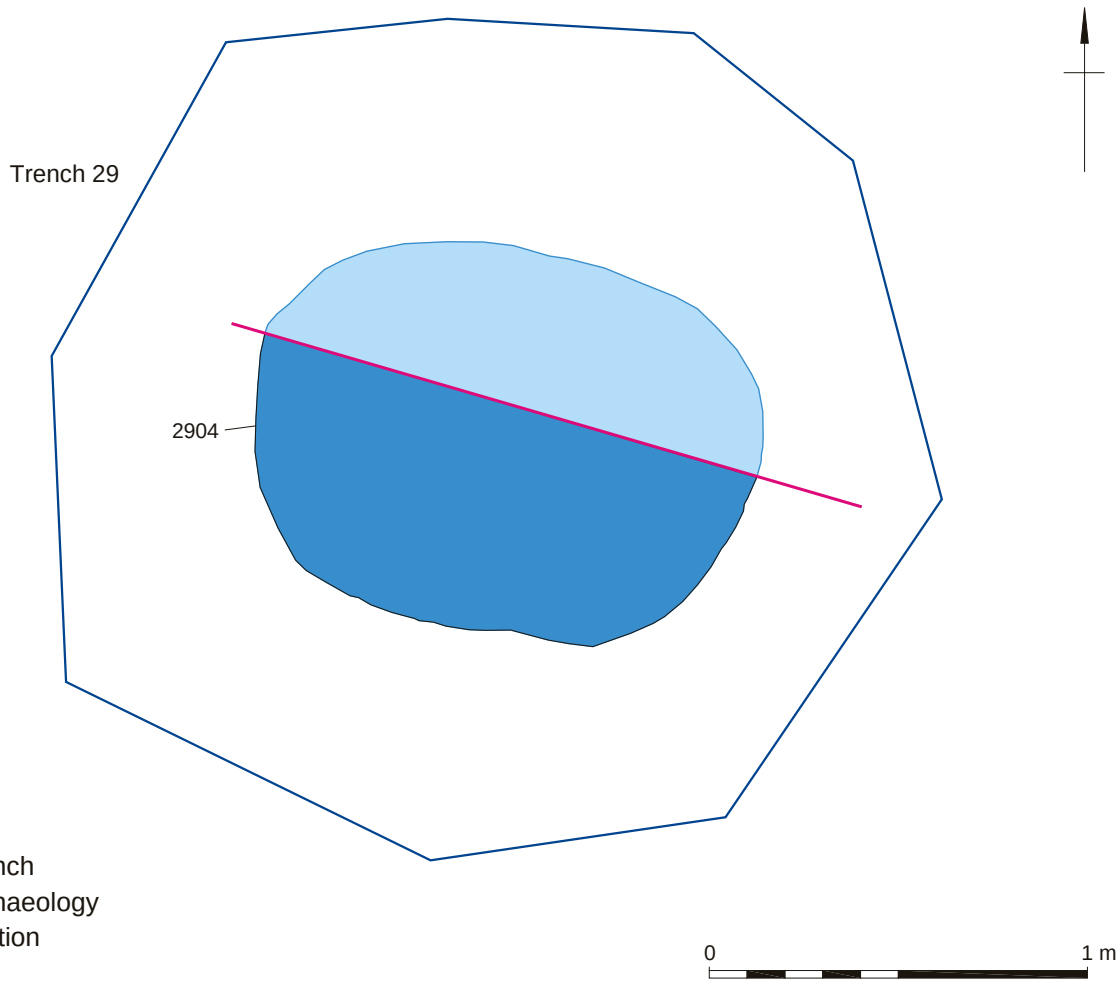
Site location plan

Figure 1

A. Section




B. Plan



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Coordinate system: OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

Plan and section of Neolithic pit 2904

Figure 2

Plate 1: South facing section of probable Neolithic pit 2904

Plate 2: Antler (object 101) *in situ* within deposit 2905



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Plate 3: North facing representative section of trench 25

Plate 4: North facing representative section of trench 13



| | | | |
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Plate 5: Plan shot of trench 39 from the north-east

Plate 6: North-west facing representative section of trench 39



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Plate 7: Red deer antler (object 101) from Neolithic pit 2904



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