



making sense of heritage

# Land East of Southam Road Banbury, Oxfordshire

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design



Ref: 79073.01  
September 2015



**Land East of Southam Road  
Banbury, Oxfordshire**

**Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design**

**Prepared for**

Bellway Homes Limited – Northern Home Counties  
St Andrews House  
Caldecotte Lake Drive  
Caldecotte  
Milton Keynes  
MK7 8LE

**Prepared by**

Wessex Archaeology  
Portway House  
Old Sarum Park  
SALISBURY  
Wiltshire  
SP4 6EB

[www.wessexarch.co.uk](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk)

**September 2015**

**Report Ref: 79073.01**

**OXMS: 2012.122**





## Quality Assurance

<b>Project Code</b>	79073	<b>Accession Code</b>	OXMS: 2012.122	<b>Client Ref.</b>	NA
<b>Planning Application Ref.</b>		<b>Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)</b>	445852 243108		

<b>Version</b>	<b>Status*</b>	<b>Prepared by</b>	<b>Checked and Approved By</b>	<b>Approver's Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
v01	I	<i>Mike Dinwiddy Phil Andrews</i>	<i>AJB</i>	<i>Alistair J Barclay</i>	September 2015
File:					
File:					
File:					
File:					
File:					

\* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

## DISCLAIMER

THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT WAS DESIGNED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A REPORT TO AN INDIVIDUAL CLIENT AND WAS PREPARED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THAT CLIENT. THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT DOES NOT NECESSARILY STAND ON ITS OWN AND IS NOT INTENDED TO NOR SHOULD IT BE RELIED UPON BY ANY THIRD PARTY. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY WILL NOT BE LIABLE BY REASON OF BREACH OF CONTRACT NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE (WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OCCASIONED TO ANY PERSON ACTING OR OMITTING TO ACT OR REFRAINING FROM ACTING IN RELIANCE UPON THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT ARISING FROM OR CONNECTED WITH ANY ERROR OR OMISSION IN THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE REPORT. LOSS OR DAMAGE AS REFERRED TO ABOVE SHALL BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, ANY LOSS OF PROFITS OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS DAMAGE TO REPUTATION OR GOODWILL LOSS OF BUSINESS OR ANTICIPATED BUSINESS DAMAGES COSTS EXPENSES INCURRED OR PAYABLE TO ANY THIRD PARTY (IN ALL CASES WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OR ANY OTHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE.



# Land East of Southam Road Banbury, Oxfordshire

## Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

### Contents

Summary .....	v
Acknowledgements.....	vi
<b>1 INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Project background .....	1
1.2 Scope of document .....	1
1.3 Location, topography and geology.....	1
<b>2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND .....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1 Introduction .....	2
2.2 Desk-based assessment.....	2
2.3 Geophysical survey .....	2
2.4 Trial trench evaluation .....	2
<b>3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1 Aims.....	3
3.2 Objectives .....	3
<b>4 FIELDWORK .....</b>	<b>4</b>
4.1 Introduction .....	4
4.2 Excavation areas.....	4
4.3 Methodology.....	4
4.4 Recording.....	5
4.5 Monitoring .....	5
4.6 Specialist strategies .....	5
<i>Artefacts</i> .....	5
<i>Human remains</i> .....	5
<i>Environmental</i> .....	5
<b>5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
5.1 Introduction .....	6
5.2 Natural soil sequence.....	6
5.3 Archaeological sequence .....	6
5.4 Neolithic.....	6
<i>Middle Neolithic</i> .....	6
<i>Late Neolithic</i> .....	7
5.5 Bronze Age–Early Iron Age.....	7



	<i>Early Bronze Age</i> .....	7
	<i>Middle Bronze Age</i> .....	7
	<i>Late Bronze Age</i> .....	8
	<i>Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age</i> .....	9
5.6	Romano-British .....	10
5.7	Medieval .....	12
<b>6</b>	<b>ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE</b> .....	<b>12</b>
6.1	Introduction .....	12
6.2	Pottery .....	12
	<i>Neolithic</i> .....	13
	Middle Neolithic .....	13
	Late Neolithic .....	13
	<i>Bronze Age</i> .....	13
	Early Bronze Age .....	13
	Middle Bronze Age .....	13
	Late Bronze Age .....	14
	<i>Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age</i> .....	14
	<i>Later prehistoric</i> .....	15
	<i>Roman</i> .....	15
	<i>Post-Roman</i> .....	15
6.3	Fired clay .....	15
6.4	Worked flint .....	15
	<i>Worked flint from the evaluation</i> .....	16
	<i>Feature 4504 and pit 4506</i> .....	16
	<i>Worked flint recovered during the excavation</i> .....	16
	<i>Discussion</i> .....	17
6.5	Stone .....	17
6.6	Iron .....	17
6.7	Glass .....	18
6.8	Cremated human bone .....	18
	<i>Methods</i> .....	18
	<i>Results</i> .....	18
6.9	Animal bone .....	19
	<i>Introduction</i> .....	19
	<i>Middle Neolithic</i> .....	19
	<i>Middle–Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age</i> .....	19
	<i>Romano-British</i> .....	19
	<i>Medieval</i> .....	19
	<i>Undated</i> .....	19
<b>7</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE</b> .....	<b>20</b>
7.1	Introduction .....	20
7.2	Charred plant remains .....	20
7.3	Wood charcoal .....	21
7.4	Land snails .....	21
<b>8</b>	<b>FURTHER POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	<b>21</b>
8.1	Stratigraphic .....	21
8.2	Finds .....	22





	<i>General</i> .....	22
	<i>Pottery</i> .....	23
	<i>Stone</i> .....	23
	<i>Cremated human bone</i> .....	23
	<i>Animal bone</i> .....	24
	<i>Other finds</i> .....	24
8.3	Environmental .....	24
	<i>Charred plant remains</i> .....	24
	<i>Wood charcoal</i> .....	24
	<i>Wood charcoal</i> .....	25
<b>9</b>	<b>PROPOSALS</b> .....	<b>25</b>
9.1	Site sequence .....	25
9.2	Finds .....	25
	<i>Pottery</i> .....	25
	<i>Fired clay</i> .....	25
	<i>Worked flint</i> .....	25
	<i>Stone</i> .....	25
	<i>Cremated human bone</i> .....	25
	<i>Animal bone</i> .....	26
	<i>Radiocarbon dating</i> .....	26
9.3	Environmental .....	26
	<i>Charred plant remains</i> .....	26
	<i>Wood charcoal</i> .....	26
<b>10</b>	<b>PROGRAMME, RESOURCES AND PUBLICATION</b> .....	<b>27</b>
10.1	Proposed publication and dissemination .....	27
10.2	Management structure .....	27
10.3	Designated project team .....	27
10.4	Personnel.....	28
10.5	Task list.....	28
10.6	OASIS .....	29
<b>11</b>	<b>STORAGE AND CURATION</b> .....	<b>29</b>
11.1	Museum .....	29
11.2	Preparation of Archive.....	29
11.3	Conservation .....	29
11.4	Discard policy.....	29
11.5	Copyright.....	30
11.6	Security Copy .....	30
<b>12</b>	<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	<b>30</b>
12.1	Bibliography .....	30
<b>13</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b> .....	<b>33</b>
13.1	Appendix 1: Tables.....	33



## **Tables**

- Table 1: Quantification of finds retained
- Table 2: Quantification of features producing >25 sherds of pottery
- Table 3: Quantification of worked flint from the evaluation and excavation
- Table 4: Summary of results from scan of cremated human bone
- Table 5: Sample provenance summary
- Table 6: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal
- Table 7: Task list

## **Figures**

- Figure 1: Site location plan, showing evaluation trenches and excavation areas
- Figure 2: Archaeological features in Areas A and C
- Figure 3: Archaeological features in Areas B and D
- Figure 4: Archaeological features in Area E

## **Plates**

- Plate 1: Middle Neolithic pit 13011 (Area A), from east
- Plate 2: Middle Neolithic pit 13015 (Area A), from west
- Plate 3: Middle Bronze Age enclosure 15017, ditch section 14076 (Area E), from west
- Plate 4: Middle Bronze Age enclosure 15017, north-east entrance (Area E), from south-east
- Plate 5: Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit 14116 (Area E), from north-east
- Plate 6: Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit 14124 (Area E), from north-west
- Plate 7: Undated (?Romano-British) boundary ditch 10035 (Area B), from south
- Plate 8: Medieval trackway 15013 (Area D), from north



## Land East of Southam Road Banbury, Oxfordshire

### Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

#### Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Bellway Homes Limited to carry out archaeological excavation in advance of residential development on land East of Southam Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire (centred on National Grid Reference 445852 243108). The fieldwork was undertaken between 2nd February and 20th March 2015.

The 2.66 ha excavation, comprising five separate areas, followed a desk-based assessment, a geophysical survey and a trial trench evaluation of the site. Features of early prehistoric to medieval date were identified.

The earliest remains comprise two Middle Neolithic pits and three of Late Neolithic date, the latter containing Grooved Ware pottery and worked flint. The presence of Grooved Ware is of particular interest for the area, and suggests settlement in the vicinity.

A D-shaped enclosure is not well dated but is thought to have originated in the Middle Bronze Age. It is likely to have been settlement-related and the presence of two groups of post-holes, one defining a probable round-house, is significant in this respect. The importance of the enclosure, rare in this region during the Middle–Late Bronze Age, is enhanced by the presence of pottery with non-local Trevisker-style decoration, which may have implications for the origin and/or trading contacts of the occupants of the enclosure.

The D-shaped enclosure either continued in use into the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, or was re-occupied after a hiatus, coupled with the modifications to the enclosure. If there was a hiatus, then the sequence may have been filled by what appears to be a slightly earlier focus of Late Bronze settlement nearby. Animal bone and, in particular, the charred plant remains can provide some information on the agricultural economy at this time, though apart from pottery the finds assemblage is limited in range and quantity.

Four features containing cremated bone provide evidence of burial practices during the Romano-British period. These features were dispersed across the Site, and one lay within a small enclosure. A number of poorly dated ditches may reflect land division, but there is little evidence of contemporary Romano-British settlement in the immediate vicinity.

The course of a medieval hollow way extending north from a Deserted Medieval Village was known from cropmark evidence prior to the excavation, and extensive remains of contemporary ridge-and-furrow agriculture was also present across much of the site.

The findings from the excavation warrant further analysis and publication. It is proposed that following the further analyses outlined in this document, the results will be published as an article in *Oxoniensia*, a peer reviewed county journal with regional and national readership.





# **Land East of Southam Road Banbury, Oxfordshire**

## **Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design**

### **Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology would like to acknowledge Bellway Homes Limited for commissioning the project, and James Lambert is particularly thanked for his help on site during the course of the fieldwork. We are also grateful for the advice and assistance provided by Richard Oram, Archaeological Advisor to Cherwell District Council, who monitored the project on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC).

The fieldwork was managed by David Britchfield and directed in the field by Mike Dinwiddy, assisted by Phil Breach, Michael Cepak, Jamie McCarthy, Phoebe Olsen, Sean Rice, Bianca San Martin, Mark Stewart and Stewart Wareing.

The post-excavation assessment was managed by Alistair Barclay. This report was written by Mike Dinwiddy and Phil Andrews. The finds were assessed by Phil Harding and Matt Leivers (worked flint, worked and utilised stone), Lorrain Higbee (animal bone), Jacqueline McKinley (human bone) and Grace Jones (pottery and other finds). The environmental samples were processed by Tony Scothern and assessed by Sarah F. Wyles. The illustrations are by Will Foster.



# Land East of Southam Road Banbury, Oxfordshire

## Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Bellway Homes Limited ('the Client') to carry out an archaeological excavation on land at East of Southam Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 445852 243108. The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission being granted by Oxfordshire planning authority for the residential development of the site. (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The excavation was the final stage of a programme of archaeological works which included a desk-based assessment (WA 2011), a geophysical survey (WA 2012a) and a trial trench evaluation (WA 2012b).
- 1.1.3 The approved Written Scheme of Investigation for the Site (WSI; WA 2014) sets out the excavation aims and methodology, following current best practice and guidance as outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2015), and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2014a).
- 1.1.4 The fieldwork was undertaken between 2nd February and 20th March 2015.

#### 1.2 Scope of document

- 1.2.1 This document presents the results of the excavation, discussing them in their temporal and spatial context, and reviews their archaeological significance. It also makes recommendations regarding potential for further analysis, including appropriate ways to disseminate the findings.

#### 1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The Site is located on the northern edge of Banbury, Oxfordshire, approximately 500m south of the village of Little Bourton (**Figure 1**). It comprises a triangular parcel of land bounded by Southam Road (A423) to the west, the M40 motorway to the north-east and Hardwick Business Park to the south.
- 1.3.2 The Site, which comprises three arable fields on the west side of the River Cherwell valley, rises steeply from approximately 95m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south-west to 120m aOD in the north. The geology is mapped as Lias Group Charmouth Mudstone Formation and Dyrham Formation (Siltstone and Mudstone) (BGS online viewer).



## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 Preliminary investigations, comprising a desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, were carried out in order to examine and assess the archaeological and historical potential of the Site and surrounding area. A summary of the results of these is presented below, with further details in the relevant reports.
- 2.1.2 The preliminary investigations were followed by a trial trench evaluation, the principal results of which are outlined below.

### **2.2 Desk-based assessment**

- 2.2.1 The desk-based assessment (WA 2011) found there to be no Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Historic Battlefields, Conservation Areas or Listed Buildings within the Site boundary.
- 2.2.2 A low to moderate potential for prehistoric to Romano-British remains was identified, with most of those previously recorded being found during work associated with the Banbury flood alleviation scheme east of the M40, undertaken by Oxford Archaeology (see **Figure 1**). Features included at least 30 Neolithic pits, a Late Bronze Age hollow, a small sub-circular Late Iron Age/early Roman enclosure containing a round-house, and a complex of ditches and likely settlement-related enclosures of Roman date (Richard Oram pers comm).
- 2.2.3 A Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) is situated immediately north of, and beneath, Hardwick Farm. An earthwork survey found that the northern extent of the DMV lay within the southern part of the proposed development site. The DMV incorporates features such as house platforms and tracks, and an outlying field system retains elements of ridge and furrow and lynchets.
- 2.2.4 Hardwick House, a Grade II Listed Building, and associated curtilage buildings lie immediately south of the Site. The office building, gates and war memorial of the former Northern Aluminium Company Ltd. (Grade II Listed structures) lie approximately 250m south of the Site.
- 2.2.5 A number of pre-1840 hedgerows lie within and define the Site boundary. These are considered 'important' on heritage grounds under the terms of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

### **2.3 Geophysical survey**

- 2.3.1 The geophysical survey (WA 2012a) found extensive magnetic disturbance which masked potential weaker responses from archaeological features. However, a large sub-circular enclosure measuring 80m by at least 65m was identified east of Hardwick Business Park, in the eastern corner of the Site. Elsewhere, various anomalies indicated several possible features of archaeological interest, one group corresponding with the northern extent of the DMV.

### **2.4 Trial trench evaluation**

- 2.4.1 Based on the results of the geophysical survey, a trial trench evaluation was undertaken (WA 2012b). The DMV was not subject to intrusive investigation as it is to be preserved *in situ* under proposed green space within the development scheme.





- 2.4.2 Archaeological remains, comprising ditches, gullies, pits and stake-holes, were identified in 25 of the 55 trenches. However, the majority of the features were devoid of dating evidence.
- 2.4.3 The earliest remains indicated possible settlement of Neolithic and Bronze Age date, whilst limited evidence for Romano-British activity was also present. Peripheral evidence relating to the DMV was sparse, although a number of undated gullies and ditches were thought to relate to associated land cultivation.
- 2.4.4 The finds assemblage included 285 pottery sherds consisting mainly of Neolithic material from a single pit (188 sherds). Bronze Age and Romano-British pottery and prehistoric worked flint were also recovered.
- 2.4.5 The sub-circular, ditched enclosure recorded in the geophysical survey was not identified during the evaluation, although a concentration of prehistoric and undated features were present in this area.
- 2.4.6 In addition to the evaluation east of Southam Road, trial trench evaluation was also undertaken on a block of land immediately to the west which had been included in the desk-based assessment (WA 2011). Archaeological remains were identified in 15 of the 32 trenches and comprised ditches, gullies, pits, post-holes, stake-holes and a cremation burial. However, no dateable finds were recovered from any of the excavated deposits (WA 2012c).

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Aims**

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the programme of archaeological excavation, as set out in the WSI (WA 2014), were:
- *to further define the features identified within the evaluation;*
  - *to examine the archaeological resource within the Site;*
  - *within a framework of defined research objectives, to seek a better understanding of and compile a lasting record of that resource;*
  - *to analyse and interpret the results;*
  - *to disseminate the findings.*

#### **3.2 Objectives**

- 3.2.1 The principal objective of the excavation was to ascertain the range of past activities, and specifically whether the evidence suggests transient human activity, domestic/settled occupation, burial, industry, agriculture and/or combinations of these. Linked to this, the excavations also aimed to recover a stratified assemblage of artefacts and ecofacts which are capable of analysis and research to assist in determining the date and function of the Site during different periods.



## 4 FIELDWORK

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The detailed methodology for the archaeological works was set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2015) and is summarised below:

### 4.2 Excavation areas

4.2.1 The investigation comprised five areas (A–E) of strip, map and sample excavation, totalling 2.66ha. The location and extent of the areas was largely based on the results of the evaluation trenching, coupled with the results of the geophysical survey (**Figure 2**).

4.2.2 **Area A** (130m x 80m) covered a concentration of undated features in trenches 16–19. The features included two ditches in trench 16, a ditch containing a piece of fired clay in trench 17, and a gully and a possible boundary ditch in trench 19.

4.2.3 **Area B** (30m x 30m) was targeted on a number of Bronze Age features at the southern end of trench 23. The features comprised a series of pits/post-holes, as well as a ditch terminus. A pit containing pottery, fired clay, charcoal, animal bone and burnt flint suggested domestic activity.

4.2.4 **Area C** (20m x 20m) was focused on a Neolithic pit at the northern end of trench 32. The pit contained flint tools and a large amount of Late Neolithic pottery.

4.2.5 **Area D** (125m x 90m) extended across the hollow-way in trench 40. The feature was interpreted as the road leading north-east from the deserted medieval village, as seen in the results of the geophysical survey (WA 2012a). Also recorded in trench 40 was a stone-lined drain and a number of gullies, one of which contained a sherd of Romano-British pottery.

4.2.6 **Area E** (145m x 90m) covered a concentration of features indicative of prehistoric settlement activity in trenches 45–52. Trench 45 revealed a pit containing worked flint and a sherd of Bronze Age Beaker pottery and in trench 46 was a linear feature containing pottery of possible Middle Bronze Age date. Further features were undated and included a possible driveway measuring 3m in width in trench 47, and a number of linear features in trenches 48–52. Area E also encompassed the large sub-circular enclosure recorded in the geophysical survey but not identified in the subsequent evaluation.

### 4.3 Methodology

4.3.1 The areas were set out using GPS, and were opened under the constant supervision of qualified archaeologists. Area B was stripped first, then Areas A, C and D, and finally Area E. The Curator subsequently requested that two 30m trenches be added at the eastern edge of Area D to investigate the extent of a cluster of features.

4.3.2 In order to fulfil the aims and objectives an appropriate sample of each feature type – selected on the basis of their form, fill and stratigraphic relationship, and to ensure a broad characterisation – was excavated by hand and recorded. Features of particular archaeological interest were generally subject to more detailed/extensive investigation. Typically sampling comprised:

- At least 50% (by plan area) of each discrete archaeological feature (e.g. post-holes and pits);
- Full excavation of graves and features containing redeposited human remains;
- At least 10% of the total length of all ditches, and all ditch terminals;



4.3.3 One in eight of all the identified tree-throw holes were excavated, with the rest investigated by test slots to check for evidence for human activity.

4.3.4 No reinstatement was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology.

#### **4.4 Recording**

4.4.1 All recording was undertaken using WA's standard methods and *pro forma* recording system. A unique project code **79073** has been used on all records and finds.

4.4.2 A complete written and drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was compiled. A photographic record was created using digital cameras.

4.4.3 The site survey was carried out using a Leica Viva series GNSS unit and Leica Viva series TS12 unit using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.

#### **4.5 Monitoring**

4.5.1 The Archaeological Advisor monitored the investigations as they progressed, and was involved in any decisions regarding variations from the WSI (WA 2014).

#### **4.6 Specialist strategies**

4.6.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery of artefacts and environmental samples were devised and implemented by WA's finds and environmental specialists.

##### *Artefacts*

4.6.2 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date. These were, as a minimum, washed, weighed, counted and identified. Any artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions were dealt with immediately in line with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

4.6.3 All artefacts recovered during the excavation are the property of the landowner. They have been suitable bagged and boxed in accordance with current recommendations and will be deposited with the relevant museum, with the landowner's permission.

##### *Human remains*

4.6.4 The human remains encountered were removed under the terms of a Licence for the Removal of Human Remains held by Wessex Archaeology (application made on 25/02/15). Their excavation and assessment followed WA's protocols, current guidance documents (e.g. McKinley 2013), and in line with the standards set out in the Institute for Archaeologists Technical Paper 13: *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed remains* (McKinley and Roberts 1993).

##### *Environmental*

4.6.5 Bulk environmental soil samples for plant macro fossils, small animal bones and other small artefacts were taken from appropriate well-sealed and dated/datable archaeological contexts.

4.6.6 The environmental sampling strategy followed the guidance set out in *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).





## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following sections summarise the results of the archaeological excavation. Detailed descriptions are in the archive.

### 5.2 Natural soil sequence

5.2.1 A mid greyish-brown sandy clay topsoil (0.10m to 0.15m deep), containing various modern and residual inclusions, was present across all five excavation areas. This overlay a compact mid yellowish-brown silty clay subsoil which was 0.10m to 0.58m deep.

5.2.2 The underlying solid geology comprised mid-orange clay with frequent iron panning, exposed at between 0.30m and 0.58m below current ground level. Occasionally the mudstone bedrock (interleaved with patches of dark reddish-brown silty clay) was revealed.

### 5.3 Archaeological sequence

5.3.1 Archaeological features were sealed below the subsoil, with the exception of the medieval ridge and furrow which was apparent immediately below the topsoil.

5.3.2 Many of the features and deposits were heavily truncated, largely as a result of intensive farming. Frequent modern land drains were present.

5.3.3 The determination of archaeological relationships was hampered by wet conditions and many having similar, homogeneous fills. Moderate to abundant manganese flecking was common within the majority of fills.

5.3.4 The following phases of activity have been identified:

- *Middle Neolithic (3350–2850 BC)* – two pits;
- *Late Neolithic (2850–2400 BC)* – three pits;
- *Early Bronze Age (2400–1500 BC)* – one possible pit;
- *Middle Bronze Age (1500–1100BC)* – establishment of D-shaped enclosure, possible settlement and associated agricultural activity;
- *Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (1100–400BC)* – Late Bronze Age settlement and associated agricultural activity, followed by re-use and modification of the D-shaped enclosure for settlement;
- *Romano-British (AD 43–410)* – mortuary and agricultural activity;
- *Anglo-Saxon (AD 410–1066)* – a single sherd of pottery of possibly this date;
- *Medieval (AD 1066–1500)* – ridge and furrow agriculture, hollow-way associated with adjacent DMV.

### 5.4 Neolithic

#### *Middle Neolithic*

5.4.1 The earliest datable features were circular pits **13011** and **13015**, situated 2.5m apart in the west of Area A (**Figure 2; Plates 1 and 2**). Both were approximately 0.6m in diameter and 0.13m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Each was filled with

a single relatively charcoal-rich deposit of silty clay, and contained Middle Neolithic Peterborough ware pottery (two and five sherds respectively) and charred hazelnut shells.

#### *Late Neolithic*

- 5.4.2 Pit **14089**, in the western part of Area E (**Figure 4**), was 0.35m diameter and considerably truncated (0.05m deep), but contained 60 sherds of Grooved Ware, probably from a single vessel, and a quartzite pebble used as a rubber/polisher.
- 5.4.3 In Area C were two pits, initially interpreted as tree-throw holes, which contained Late Neolithic Grooved Ware pottery (**Figure 2**). Pit **3204** (evaluation) and pit **12005** were approximately 0.8m in diameter and 0.15m deep, and both had gently sloping sides and an undulating base. Fills comprised mid-brown clay loams. Pit **3204** contained 188 sherds of Grooved Ware from at least two vessels, along with some worked flint, whereas **12005** contained only a single sherd of Neolithic pottery.
- 5.4.4 The largest single group of Late Neolithic worked flint (27 pieces, including eight scrapers) came from pit **3204** (see above) in Area C, but the primary fills of enclosure ditch **15017** in Area E produced 16 pieces with a further 47 pieces coming from the secondary fills. This enclosure is likely to be of Middle Bronze Age date and the worked flint residual, but much of it is in mint condition. In total, 106 pieces of worked flint came from Area E, including an unfinished Late Neolithic oblique arrowhead found in the evaluation.

## **5.5 Bronze Age–Early Iron Age**

### *Early Bronze Age*

- 5.5.1 Pit/tree-throw hole **4506** (evaluation), within Area E (**Figure 4**), was a small feature that contained the only sherd of possible Beaker/Early Bronze Age pottery from the Site, as well as a fragment of quartzite stone. From a secondary fill in D-shaped enclosure **15017**, also in Area E, came a barbed and tanged arrowhead of broadly the same date.

### *Middle Bronze Age*

- 5.5.2 Pit **14034**, on the south-west edge of D-shaped enclosure **15017** in Area E (**Figure 4**), was 0.6m in diameter and 0.25m deep, and contained Middle Bronze Age pottery, worked flint and fired clay. The charcoal-rich fill had spilled into the secondary fill of the enclosure ditch and though the precise relationship between the two features was not clear, this suggests that pit **14034** predated enclosure **15017**.
- 5.5.3 Almost the entire plan of D-shaped enclosure **15017** was exposed in Area E, corresponding with an anomaly identified during the geophysical survey (but not located during the evaluation). The enclosed area measured approximately 70m north to south by 68m east to west. The south-west corner and part of the west side of the enclosure could not be investigated due to the presence of trees.
- 5.5.4 The dating evidence for enclosure **15017** is slender and equivocal but, on balance, a Middle Bronze Age date is considered likely, with the enclosure's use continuing into the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age.
- 5.5.5 The enclosure ditch was generally V-shaped, with moderately sloping sides and an 'open' profile (**Plate 3**). It was up to 3.4m wide, though only 1.9m in width at its narrowest point, and ranged from 0.45m to 1.2m in depth.

- 5.5.6 Two entrances to enclosure **15017** were identified. The largest and probably the principal entrance lay in the south-east part of the ditch circuit, with a gap of approximately 17m between the ditch terminals here. Terminals **14206** (south) and **14121** (north) were rounded in plan and profile, between 2.2m and 3.3m wide, and 0.4–0.8m deep. The fills of both generally comprised undifferentiated light yellowish grey silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal. The second, much narrower entrance lay on the north-east side and was 3.6m across, the rounded ditch terminals of this entrance being steep sided with concave bases, and measuring between 2.2m and 2.8m wide and 0.30–0.35m deep (**Plate 4**). The fills in both these terminals were grey silty clay containing scarce charcoal flecks. It appears that this entrance was subsequently blocked or taken out of use in the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age by digging a ditch (**14100**) between the terminals, of similar width to them but shallower (see **Plate 4**), perhaps when L-shaped ditch **15021** was dug (see below).
- 5.5.7 Two distinct episodes of silting were evident within most of the sections excavated across enclosure ditch **15017**. The primary fill was very similar to the natural geology and contained very little charcoal, the material deriving largely from initial weathering of the ditch sides. A small quantity of 'mint condition' Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age worked flint was collected from these earliest fills, though it is likely that this material is residual. The secondary fill, by contrast, was darker and contained more charcoal, as well as a slightly larger assemblage of worked flint and occasional sherds of pottery which suggest a Middle Bronze Age date for this episode of infilling. The interface between the primary and secondary fills was noticeably sharp, probably representing a degree of stabilisation.
- 5.5.8 An L-shaped ditch, **15021**, lay within the south-east of the enclosure, appearing to 'articulate' with the northern terminal (**14121**) of the wider of the two entrances. Ditch **15021**, filled with grey silty clay, was 44m in length, 1.2m wide and 0.5m deep. Finds recovered include a small quantity of Middle Bronze Age pottery, amongst which was a 'Trevisker-style' rim, the angular shape and regular profile of ditch **15021** perhaps a smaller version of the substantially larger examples recorded elsewhere (Lambrick 2009, fig. 3.11). It appeared to be cut by gully **15020** of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date, and if it does belong to the Middle Bronze Age then the digging of ditch **15021** would have changed the arrangements in this part of the enclosure. Its function is unclear.
- 5.5.9 A broadly circular group of seven post-holes, **15022**, just south of the middle of the enclosure, is likely to be the remains of a structure, possibly a roundhouse. This structure was 5m in diameter, and appears to have had a south-east facing entrance. Each post-hole was approximately 0.30m across and 0.25m deep, some had stone packing and all were filled with brownish grey silty clay. However, none produced any finds.
- 5.5.10 A more irregular group of post-holes, **15023**, in the north-west part of the enclosure, comprised ten post-holes of varying width and depth, the largest being 0.45m wide and 0.21m deep, the smallest 0.15m wide and 0.10m deep. The fills were similar grey brown silty clays and, unlike those in group **15022**, none contained stone packing. Small quantities of finds were recovered, including burnt animal bone, and post-holes **14002** and **14010** each produced fragments of fired clay, possibly from loomweights. No pottery was present, however, and post-hole group **15023** may be of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age rather than Middle Bronze Age date.

#### *Late Bronze Age*

- 5.5.11 Nine small pits in Area B have been assigned a Late Bronze Age date (**Figure 3**). These include **2306**, **10003**, **10007**, **10009**, **10013**, **10017**, **10018** and **10022**, all sub-circular or

oval in plan, approximately 0.5m in diameter and between 0.10 and 0.18m deep, with concave bases; pit **10045** was 0.27m deep. All contained one, or in the case of **10045** two fills of grey silty loam, and most produced no finds. Pit **10022** was exceptional in that it contained 589 sherds, many if not all from a Late Bronze Age cordoned vessel, whilst pit **10045** contained 207 sherds, along with a possible fragment of loomweight and a small quantity of animal bone. To the latter can be added a further 119 sherds from feature **10024**, initially thought to be tree throw hole but probably part of pit **10045**. Pit **2306** (evaluation) also contained 84 sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery and several small fragments of quartzite.

- 5.5.12 The pits lay within an area of apparently related shallow ditches and gullies, aligned either NNW–SSE (**10039** and **10041**) or ENE–WSW (**10015** and **10043**). These appear to form parts of small enclosures or fields, and ditch **10039** contained a few sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery.
- 5.5.13 Approximately 100m to the south-east, in Area D, was a complex of small ditches or gullies broadly aligned NNW–SSE which appeared to predate the medieval or likely medieval features here, though stratigraphic relationships were mostly unclear (**Figure 3**), Ditch **11025** contained several sherds of late prehistoric pottery, of probable Middle or Late Bronze Age date, but most of the remaining ditches (**11023**, **11041** and **11047**) are undated; ditch **11060** did, however contain a single Romano-British rim sherd, possibly intrusive.

#### *Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age*

- 5.5.14 In Area E, Middle Bronze Age enclosure **15017** either continued in use or was re-occupied after a hiatus, though the degree to which the ditch had silted up by this time is uncertain. Towards the northern edge of the enclosure were two adjacent curvilinear gullies, **15016** and **15018**, possibly drip gullies associated with roundhouses (**Figure 4**). Only part of the southern arc of gully **15018** survived, and this was up to 0.35m wide and 0.17m deep with a projected diameter of 12–15m. Gully **15016** to the north-west had a projected diameter of 11m, though the irregular plan of **14114** to the north-east, presumably part of the same circuit, is difficult to reconcile; perhaps it was later, or the two gullies defined a small enclosure rather than a roundhouse. There was a 4.8m wide gap to the north between **14114** and **15016**, and post-hole **14109** may also have been associated with this group. Both **14114** and **15016** were up to 0.45m wide and 0.26m deep, and filled with a mid to light grey silty clay. Only **15016** of the three possible roundhouse gullies produced any finds, in this case a few sherds of late prehistoric pottery, and gully **15016** also appeared to be cut by a pit (**14059**) and a post-hole (**14055**), though the relationship between all three features was somewhat unclear.
- 5.5.15 Pit **14059**, on the inside of curvilinear gully **15016**, was 0.9m in diameter and 0.19m deep, and contained a light grey silty clay fill. Finds comprised 35 sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery, one sherd of Middle Bronze Age Trevisker-style ware and a small amount of animal bone. From adjacent post-hole **14055** came 30 sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery.
- 5.5.16 The possibility that post-hole groups **15022** and **15023** within enclosure **15017** may represent Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age rather than Middle Bronze Age structures has been raised above.
- 5.5.17 The north-eastern third of enclosure **15017** appears to have been divided from the remainder by shallow ditches **15019** and **15020**, likely to be parts of the same ditch, but truncated by later ploughing that created a break towards the centre (**Figure 4**). Ditch



**15019** was 25m long and ditch **15020** 30m long, both up to 0.75m wide and 0.25m deep and filled with light grey silty clay. The ditches were slightly irregular in plan and their function is unclear. Neither produced any finds, but the northern end of ditch **15019** cut the edge of **14047**, part of enclosure ditch **15017**, and **15020** was later than L-shaped ditch **15021**. The relationship between **15019** and curvilinear gully **15018** could not be established, and whether there was originally a gap between the southern end of ditch **15020** and enclosure ditch **15017**, reflecting the location of the enclosure entrance here, or whether this gap was a result of ploughing, is unknown.

- 5.5.18 Ditch **14100**, the shallow feature which was probably dug to block the north-eastern entrance to enclosure **15017**, is also likely to belong to this period, and contained 30 sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery.
- 5.5.19 A cluster of three oval pits, **14111**, **14116** and **14124**, lay in the centre of enclosure **15017** (**Figure 4**; **Plates 5** and **6**). They measured between 0.50 and 0.74m in length and 0.09 to 0.34m in depth, and had moderately sloping sides and concave bases. All were filled with pale grey silty clay loam, and **14111** and **14116** contained Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery (42 and 2 sherds respectively). Pit **14124** produced no pottery but contained a fragment of saddle quern in an igneous rock type; this find is probably residual, though it is possible that the pit may be of earlier, Neolithic date. A little further to the north-west, a smaller pit, **14118**, contained some fired clay and a small amount of burnt animal bone.
- 5.5.20 A pair of pits lay just inside the north-western edge of enclosure **15017**. Pit **14014** was 0.76m wide and 0.16m deep, and pit **14016** 0.92m wide and 0.41m deep. Both contained single homogenous fills and are undated.
- 5.5.21 Four other undated pits (**14177**, **14171**, **14152** and **14156**) lay within enclosure **15017**, and another (**14158**) just outside to the south, though whether they were all broadly contemporary is unknown. The pits were sub-circular or oval in plan, up to 0.60m in diameter and 0.17m deep, and all had mid- or light grey silty clay fills.
- 5.5.22 In Area A were possibly four ditches or gullies that may belong to this period, but dating evidence is very sparse and they could equally be Romano-British or later (**Figure 2**). Ditch **13081**, aligned WSW-ENE, was at least 35m long and continued beyond the limit of excavation to the east. It was 0.3m wide, 0.15m deep and contained a greyish brown silty fill that produced a single sherd of late prehistoric pottery. The western terminus of ditch **13081** cut undated ditch **15008** of similar size, the latter aligned north-south and at least 80m long, continuing beyond the limits of excavation. Two short, parallel ditches, **13075** and **13079**, 5m apart, extended from the southern edge of the area, both ditches terminating a short distance to the south of ditch **13081**. These ditches were about 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep, contained reddish brown silty clay, but were undated.

## 5.6 Romano-British

- 5.6.1 A small number of features assigned a Roman date were scattered across the Site and reflect burial and possible land division, but with little evidence for settlement in the immediate vicinity.
- 5.6.2 In Area A was cremation grave **13037**, on the edge of possible Romano-British gully/ditch **15007**, the grave appearing to be cut by the ditch (**Figure 2**). Cremation grave **13037** was 0.45m in diameter and 0.11m deep, and contained human bone and at least four iron nails, some of the bone apparently coming from the adjacent section (**13047**) of ditch **15007**.





- 5.6.3 Also in Area A was pit **13066**, almost 50m WNW of cremation burial **13037** and close to ditches **15004** and **15005** (see below). Pit **13066** was circular, 1.2m diameter and 0.38m deep, and contained a few sherds of Romano-British pottery.
- 5.6.4 Ditch **15007**, noted above, 0.5m wide and just 0.1m deep, lay approximately parallel and 45m to the west of undated ditch **15008**, but whether they were related or **15008** was an earlier feature is unknown.
- 5.6.5 Four narrow shallow ditches in the north-eastern part of Area A have been provisionally assigned a Roman date (**Figure 2**), with two of them (**15003** and **15006**) producing one or two sherds of Romano-British pottery. Ditches **15003** and **15006**, along with **15005** (possibly slightly later), were less than 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep, and all extended southwards from the northern limit of excavation, before terminating (or perhaps were truncated) up to 70m to the south. Ditch **13050**, at least 22m long, was aligned east–west, and appears to respect the northern end of **15006**, though its relationship to **15005** could not be established. However, all four ditches appear from their layout and size to be related.
- 5.6.6 In the same part of Area A on a slightly different alignment was ditch **15004**, undated but possibly Romano-British. It was up to 2m wide and 0.5m deep, aligned NNW–SSE, and extended for at least 70m from the northern edge of Area A before terminating to the south-east. Adjacent parallel gully **13021** may have been contemporary, but is also undated, and both features may possibly be of later prehistoric date; they were cut by medieval ridge and furrow, but there were no relationships with the group of four ditches described above.
- 5.6.7 Part of a curving ditch, **15000**, extended some 18m from the western edge of Area A. It was 0.65m wide and 0.15m deep, appearing to cut ditch **15003** and respect ditch **15004**, but is undated.
- 5.6.8 Ditch **10035** in Area B is also undated, and comprises a series of five individual ditches or re-cuts (including **10027**, **10029**, **10031** and **10033**) on a north-west to south-east orientation, broadly similar to that of ditch **15004** in Area A (**Figure 3**; **Plate 7**). The ditches ranged in size with, for example, ditch **10033** 0.57m wide and 0.32m deep, but the fills of all were homogeneous reddish brown silty clay loams. Ditch **10033** contained four undiagnostic and abraded sherds of late prehistoric pottery, but this could be residual as the ditches cut through an area of Late Bronze Age activity. A Roman date can be tentatively suggested for ditch **10035**, partly on the basis of the slender stratigraphic evidence in Area B, but also by the fact that what appears to be a continuation (**15011**) 100m or so to the south-east in Area D was cut by medieval hollow-way **15013** (**Figure 3**). Ditch **15011** was 3m wide and 0.70m deep, filled with a slightly bluish gray silty clay, and produced one sherd of Romano-British pottery and four sherds of possibly intrusive post-medieval redware.
- 5.6.9 Some 30m south of Area A, in Area C, was ditch **15009**, on an ENE–WSW orientation, 0.9m wide and 0.4m deep (**Figure 2**). This is undated, but possibly Romano-British, though the row of four or five post-holes to the north (**15010**) may be modern.
- 5.6.10 In Area E one certain and one probable Romano-British cremation burial were present (**Figure 4**). Grave **14160** was apparently isolated, 0.5m in diameter and 0.1m deep, and in addition to cremated human bone contained fragments of at least 27 iron nails.
- 5.6.11 Grave **14024**, 100m to the north-west of grave **14160**, was circular, 0.56m in diameter and 0.16m deep, and had been cut into the upper fill of D-shaped enclosure ditch **15017**. It



contained a few tiny fragments of burnt animal bone but no human bone, six hobnails, 50 small flat-headed nails, as well as a number of nail shanks, and fragments of a glass unguent bottle. Grave **14024** was located within a small square or sub-rectangular enclosure, **15014**, 4.5m across and apparently open on the south-east side. The two termini of the gully defining enclosure **15014** cut the northern edge of D-shaped enclosure ditch **15017**. This gully, 0.15m deep, had steep sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill of mid grey-brown silty clay.

## 5.7 Medieval

- 5.7.1 Trackway or hollow-way **15013** in Area D ran NNE–SSW and was approximately 4m wide and 0.6m deep (**Figure 3; Plate 8**). It had fairly steep sides, a flat though slightly irregular base, and the remains of what was possibly a ditch along the west side. The fill was generally homogeneous and contained two sherds of medieval pottery, including a jug rim, assigned a 13th–14th century date. The southern end of hollow-way **15013** had been partly destroyed by modern disturbance but its course is clear from aerial photographs, extending north from the DMV centred immediately south of the Site.
- 5.7.2 Two or perhaps three NNE–SSW aligned ditches, each approximately 1m wide and 0.2m deep, were recorded along the eastern edge of Area D, parallel and approximately 6m to the west of hollow way **15013** (**Figure 3**). Ditch **15012** was at least 60m long and **15024**, a possible continuation to the south, at least 13m long. Each ditch contained a single mid grey silty fill, and the only finds were a couple of abraded sherds of late prehistoric pottery.
- 5.7.3 To the east of hollow way **15013** was a complex of poorly dated ditches and gullies, generally no more than 1m wide and 0.25m deep, with stratigraphic relationships that were difficult or impossible to discern. However, ditch **11011/11090**, at least 60m long, followed a course roughly parallel to **15013**, before splitting into several branches at the north end, with **11039** to the west (its relationship to **15013** unclear), **11052** to the north-east and **11080** to the east. These branches cut narrow ditches/gullies 11041 and 11060, on a different alignment, assigned a Late Bronze Age date (see above).
- 5.7.4 Remnants of ridge and furrow associated with medieval agriculture were present across much of the Site, to the north of the DMV and either side of hollow-way **15013**, and were apparent in both the geophysical survey results and during excavation (see **Figures 2 and 4**). The alignment of the ridge and furrow was generally reflected in the surviving field boundaries, with the furrows up to 0.8m wide and 0.2m deep, causing some disturbance and truncation to earlier features.

## 6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 This section provides a summary of all of the artefacts from the Site, from the evaluation and the excavation. The assemblage ranges in date from the Middle Neolithic to the post-medieval periods, although the quantities of post-Roman material were small. All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, the totals are presented in **Table 1**. This report summarises the range of material recovered, its nature, condition and potential date range. Finds, or groups of finds, of particular archaeological significance are highlighted.

### 6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 A total of 1483 sherds, weighing 7235 g, was recovered from 45 contexts, across 38 features. This includes material collected by hand and from the environmental samples.



The condition of the pottery was poor, with a mean sherd weight (MSW) of 4.9 g. The shell-tempered material is completely leached with just vesicles remaining to indicate the original inclusion. Only 10 contexts produced more than 25 sherds; the largest groups came from pits **2306**, **3204**, **10022**, **10045**, **14059**, **14089** and **14111**, post-hole **14055**, tree-throw hole **10024** and ditch **14100**, but five of these contained only very small sherds of below average weight (**Table 2**).

### *Neolithic*

#### Middle Neolithic

- 6.2.2 Adjacent pits **13011** and **13015** contained grog-tempered pottery (two and five sherds respectively). A sherd with incised lattice decoration, possibly originating from a vessel in the Peterborough Ware tradition, was recorded from each pit

#### Late Neolithic

- 6.2.3 Grooved Ware pottery came from three features: pit **3204**, pit **14089** and tree throw-hole **12005**. The largest group (188 sherds, 1372 g) was recovered during the evaluation, from pit **3204**, Area C. It included rims from at least two tub-shaped vessels and much of the base of one of the vessels, all in a soapy-textured grog-tempered fabric. They were decorated with horizontal grooves and vertical herringbone impressions. The exterior and interior surfaces had been irregularly fired, the core was unoxidised. The base displayed a similar motif to a vessel from Clacton, Essex (Warren *et al.* 1936, fig. 4, no. 6). Burnt residues were noted adhering to the interior of a number of sherds. A single sherd of highly abraded Grooved Ware was recovered from adjacent tree-throw hole **12005**.
- 6.2.4 A slightly smaller group of Grooved Ware (60 sherds, 214 g) came from pit **14089**, located just to the north of the centre of the enclosure. This grog-tempered vessel (ON 304) was decorated with two bands of horizontal impressed herringbone separated by two horizontal impressed lines. This style of decoration is again paralleled at Clacton (Warren *et al.* 1936, fig. 4, no. 4). Carbonised food remains were noted on several sherds.
- 6.2.5 The grog temper present in the vessels contrasts with the preference for shell-tempering noted for Clacton style Grooved Ware in the Upper Thames region (Barclay 1999, 12). Examples of Clacton style vessels have been found at Corporation Farm, Abingdon; Tower Hill, Ashbury; Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt and Yarnton Floodplain (Longworth and Cleal 1999).

### *Bronze Age*

#### Early Bronze Age

- 6.2.6 A single, small and abraded grog-tempered sherd from pit **4506** is more likely to be of Beaker/Early Bronze Age date.

#### Middle Bronze Age

- 6.2.7 A highly abraded and leached shell-tempered rim came from pit **14034**. It appears to derive from a probable long-necked vessel with flat-topped rim, decorated with two rows of twisted cord impressions under the rim and at least two diagonal lines of twisted cord below, presumably creating a chevron pattern. The pit appeared to have been cut by the

enclosure ditch, although the relationship could not be confirmed, and a single body sherd displaying an impressed chevron motif was recorded from the associated intervention (context 14037) through the ditch. The decorative scheme of these sherds is reminiscent of the motifs found on Trevisker Ware pottery, a style originating from the Lizard Peninsula in Cornwall with a broad chronological range in the South-West of '2500-1300 BC in funerary contexts, continuing until 1500-1000 BC', the later ones tending to relate to settlement activity (Parker Pearson 1995, 98). This style was copied in grog-tempered fabrics in Devon and Somerset during the Middle Bronze Age period, but its occurrence outside this region is rare and its presence here is therefore significant.

- 6.2.8 A T-shaped rim from a bucket-shaped vessel was recorded from pit **14059**, located within the enclosed area, but was associated with material of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date. A number of fairly thick-walled sherds in heavily leached and abraded shell-tempered fabrics were recovered from the fills of the enclosure ditch (interventions 14030, 14051, 14082 and 14132) and ditch **14100**. This material is likely to be residual as pottery of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date was also recovered from the features within the enclosure. A flat-topped, squared rim in a leached shelly fabric may have derived from a bucket-shaped vessel but was unstratified in this area.

#### Late Bronze Age

- 6.2.9 Pit **10022** contained 589 sherds (3386 g) of highly abraded pottery, predominantly from a single vessel of Late Bronze Age date. The fabric contained shell and grog in a micaceous silty clay matrix, however the shell had leached from the sherds. It was not possible to reconstruct the profile at this stage, but the rim was squared and the neck appeared to be quite long with a fingertip applied cordon and at least two rows of fingertip impressions below. The base was slightly footed. The exterior and interior surfaces were irregularly fired but predominantly oxidised; the core was unoxidised. The group included two sherds of grog-tempered pottery and two well-finished plain body sherds in a fine flint-tempered fabric. Flint-tempered pottery is extremely rare on this site, the only other example being a small, abraded coarseware sherd from ditch **10039**. The fine and well-made sherds from this pit may represent a non-local vessel.
- 6.2.10 A similar group of grog and shell-tempered pottery (207 sherds, 650 g) was recovered from pit **10045**. It was dominated by plain body sherds, a few with burnt residues adhering to their internal surfaces. Two rounded and undifferentiated rims (one with possible fingertip impressions), a plain base and a small body sherd with cordon, were present. The body sherds were of variable thickness and it is possible that more than one vessel is represented.
- 6.2.11 Pit **2306** contained 84 abraded and leached shell-tempered sherds (164 g), probably of Late Bronze Age date. The group consisted of plain body and base sherds, some quite thick.

#### Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age

- 6.2.12 Pottery broadly dated to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age period was recovered from a number of features within the enclosure ditch. Pit **14111** produced 42 sherds (296 g) in a fine, micaceous fabric with ferruginous inclusions. The group included four rim sherds from a vessel with pointed, slightly incurving rim. A similar fabric was recorded for 30 sherds (184 g) from post-hole **14055**, including an upright rim, flattened on top, from a probable slack-shouldered jar, although it was broken around the neck area, and a rounded, incurving rim (similar to the vessel in pit **14111**). The same fabric was also used



for 35 sherds from associated pit **14059**, in the northern part of the enclosure. Rim fragments from five vessels were recovered from this pit, but all were broken at the neck and too fragmentary to identify to form.

- 6.2.13 A group of shell-tempered sherds, mostly from a single vessel, came from ditch **14100**, located within the entrance to the enclosure. The 34 sherds (97 g) were leached and abraded, but appeared to come from a thin-walled vessel with a short, out-turned rim, possibly a bowl. Curvilinear gully **14139** produced four very small shell-tempered sherds, including two joining flat-topped rim fragments from a vessel of unknown profile but probably of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date. Two tiny sherds from pit **14116** may also date to this period.

#### *Later prehistoric*

- 6.2.14 Ditches **10015**, **10033**, **10039**, **11025**, gullies **10041** and **13081**, pit **2308** and post-holes **2310** and **12011** each contained no more than four undiagnostic body sherds in abraded grog-tempered or shell-tempered fabrics. A single sherd of flint-tempered pottery was also recovered from ditch **10039**. These sherds could not be closely dated but are probably of Middle or Late Bronze Age date, although they may be residual in the features from which they were recovered. Larger groups of leached, shell-tempered sherds were recorded from ditch **4604** (14 sherds, 49 g) and tree-throw hole **10024** (119 sherds, 111 g), but were equally undiagnostic.

#### *Roman*

- 6.2.15 Very little Roman pottery was recovered, with only 10 sherds (133 g) in grog-tempered wares, greywares, oxidised and whitewares. They came from ditches **11060**, **11100**, **13023**, **13058**, **4004** and pit **13066**.

#### *Post-Roman*

- 6.2.16 The post-Roman component was again small, comprising a possible Saxon sherd (unstratified), two sherds of Brill/Boarstel wares (OXAM) of 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century date (ditches 11005 and 11007, group **15013**), four post-medieval redware sherds (ditch 11100, group **15011**) and an unstratified stoneware sherd.

### **6.3 Fired clay**

- 6.3.1 Fired clay fragments were recovered from 10 contexts, mostly associated with the enclosure. A perforated, sub-rectangular object, probably used as a loomweight, came from post-hole **14010**, group **15023** (ON 310). It was 100mm in height and 70mm wide. Part of a larger object but likely to have been of similar form was recovered from adjacent post-hole **14002**, group **15023** (ON 309). Three fragments with one flat surface and an amorphous fragment came from pit **14034**, associated with Middle Bronze Age sherds. It was not possible to ascertain if they derived from weights or oven/hearth furniture or linings. Amorphous pieces were also recorded from post-hole **14118** and the enclosure ditch. Another possible loomweight fragment came from pit **10045**, Area B, associated with Late Bronze Age pottery.

### **6.4 Worked flint**

- 6.4.1 The worked flint assemblages from the evaluation and subsequent excavation have been quantified in **Table 3**.

#### *Worked flint from the evaluation*

- 6.4.2 Relatively small quantities were recovered at this stage (**Table 3**) with the majority of pieces being from a single Late Neolithic pit (**3204**), associated with Grooved Ware pottery. It included a large retouched component, including eight scrapers and utilised pieces, which accounted for 48% of the collection from the pit. The two cores conjoined to form a large gravel nodule of pale grey, very cherty, flawed material. Both pieces were quickly abandoned. The remaining flint was of much better quality - predominantly dark grey to translucent pale brown. Three scrapers, three flakes and two pieces with 'miscellaneous' retouch (one possibly a knife), all from fill 3205, except one flake in fill 3206, were characterised by a similar thin grey cortex. Two scrapers and six flakes had a much thicker, chalkier (worn) cortex. These distinct variations suggest that these flaking episodes may have resulted from only two cores. All other pieces had no cortex.
- 6.4.3 The retouched tools included an end scraper on a secondary flake, an end scraper on a thick triangular blank, an end and side scraper on a secondary trimming flake, a small ovate end and side scraper on a thick, flake with 75% cortex, a small thin end scraper on a secondary flake and a neatly-produced end scraper on a thin regular tertiary blank. Five pieces have utilised 'knife'-like margins. Additional emphasis on the extensive use of scrapers was provided by a fragment of a broken scraper blade and four probable scraper retouch flakes.
- 6.4.4 Flakes with miscellaneous retouch included a naturally-backed 'knife' on a thick blank and a large flake with crude bifacial thinning. In addition, the artefacts included a tertiary trimming flake with a heavily worn/ground edge and a triangular tertiary flake with all three margins used.

#### *Feature 4504 and pit 4506*

- 6.4.5 Eleven pieces of worked flint were also recovered from gully/natural feature **4504** and possible Early Bronze Age pit **4506**. The former contained an unfinished Late Neolithic oblique arrowhead of Clark's (1934) Type H and a fragment of a scraper blade.

#### *Worked flint recovered during the excavation*

- 6.4.6 Flint density was generally low across the site with the greatest collection of worked flint recovered from Area E. The largest single group came from enclosure ditch **15017**, the secondary silts contributed 47 pieces of material from 14 contexts, while the primary silts in contrast produced only 16 artefacts from six contexts.
- 6.4.7 The assemblage was largely in mint condition, but as so much of the assemblage was recovered from secondary contexts, no attempt was made to identify or distinguish between edge damage that might be post-depositional and that which resulted from use. There were no single groups of material that merit detailed examination and that the entire collection must be considered collectively.
- 6.4.8 Flint does not occur naturally in the area; considerable effort may have been made to obtain it and flint workers were probably sufficiently knowledgeable to be aware of the source of good quality material. The stained and battered cortex indicates that flint was undoubtedly obtained from gravel outcrops. A fragment of Bullhead flint, with its distinctive green exterior covering an orange band, probably originated from a Tertiary deposit. The flint itself was unpatinated, black and of good quality; however the 21 pieces of



miscellaneous debitage indicated that, as might be expected of flint from a gravel source, flint reliability was inconsistent and many pieces contained thermal fractures. These observations mirror those made of the flint from Late Neolithic Grooved Ware pit **3204**.

- 6.4.9 Primary, secondary and tertiary flakes, representing the entire production sequence were present in the assemblage from the excavation, although cores were scarce. One core was produced with cortical striking platforms with no clear attempt to flake the nodule using alternate flaking. This suggests certain limitations on the technological ability of the knapper in not being able to make better use of the nodule.

#### *Discussion*

- 6.4.10 Detailed discussion of the flint is limited by the lack of large, well stratified collections. However, the emphasis placed on scrapers, by-products of their manufacture and refurbishment as well as fragments of broken tools suggests that 'scraping' activities formed a significant part of site function. The date of this activity is indicated by the presence and absence of certain technological and typological indicators. The flake based technology and retouched tool components, which included blades and flakes with faceted butts (contexts **14043**, **14090**, **14185**, **14187**, **14038**), microdenticulates (contexts **14050**, **14070**) and discoidal forms of retouched tools (context **13002**), are more characteristic of Late Neolithic assemblages and contemporary with Grooved Ware pit **3204**. Oblique arrowheads of Clark's (1934) Type H, as found during the evaluation, are also commonly associated with Grooved Ware assemblages. A barbed and tanged arrowhead (context **14040**, fill of **14037**, enclosure ditch **15017**), a type fossil of the Beaker/Early Bronze Age period, also points towards a date in the 3rd millennium BC and substantiates the evidence of the pottery which included Late Neolithic and Bronze Age components. The absence of any recurring features of blade technology, in contrast, indicates that there is nothing to justify argument of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic activity.

## **6.5 Stone**

- 6.5.1 Seven pieces of stone were collected and retained. Of particular interest is a saddle quern fragment in an igneous rock type, presumably from South-Western Britain (ON 308). It was recovered from post-hole **14124**, located towards the centre of the enclosure ditch and just 13m to the south of Grooved Ware pit **14089**. Two quartzite pebble fragments were found with Grooved Ware in pit **14089**, one appeared to have an area of wear and may have been used as a rubber/grinder/polisher (ON 305). A similar function is likely for a quartzite pebble from pit **14111**; this was a good size and shape for holding in one hand. A tiny quartzite fragment was recorded from pit **4506**, located just outside the enclosure. Fragments from a quartzite pebble and a quartz conglomerate pebble from pit **2306** in Area B did not show any obvious signs of working but may have been utilised.

## **6.6 Iron**

- 6.6.1 A total of 166 nail fragments came from cremation-related features **13037** (Area A), **14024** and **14160** (Area E) and are probably Romano-British in date. The group from feature **14024** was the largest and comprised six hobnails (Manning 1985, type 10), 50 small, flat-headed nails (*ibid.* type 1B), 43 rod/shank fragments and four unidentified lumps. Mineralised wood and fragments of burnt bone, probably animal (J. McKinley pers. comm.) were noted adhering to several pieces. Most of the nails were broken at the tip, but complete examples indicate all were in a range of 25-35mm long. Several were bent at right angles. The group from feature **14160** was much smaller (27 flat-headed nails and seven rod/shank fragments) but of a similar character, mostly 15-30mm in length with one





of 45mm. Some were bent, while mineralised wood and burnt bone were again noted adhering to the pieces.

- 6.6.2 Features **14160** and **14024** also appear to be spatially related and respect the position of the earlier enclosure, with **14160** located approximately 14m to the south-east of its entrance, and **14024** dug through the silts of the enclosure ditch on the opposite side. Feature **13037** was located over 350m to the north-west of the enclosure but again contained a group of small (17–20mm) nails (four flat-headed nails and seven thin rod/shank fragments), with the remains of cremated bone and mineralised wood adhering. The size of the iron nails from the cremation-related features was consistent and indicate the presence of a small casket or box. A small, flat-headed nail was also recorded from ditch **11064**.

## 6.7 Glass

- 6.7.1 Seven fragments (20 g) of pale blue/green glass were recovered from cremation related feature **14024**. The pieces were melted and distorted but probably came from at least one conical unguent bottle (Price and Cottam 1998, fig. 77) or similar form, of Romano-British date.

## 6.8 Cremated human bone

- 6.8.1 Cremated bone was assessed from four contexts: one from the evaluation and three from the excavation. Bone was recovered from a single feature in evaluation Trench 66, which lay 325m to the south-west of the nearest other cremation-related deposit from excavation Area A. Two discrete features in Area A and E contained cremated bone, the latter (**14160**) lying 446m to the south-east of the former (**13037**). Redeposited bone was recovered from gully **13047** adjacent to earlier feature **14160** from where it presumably derived.
- 6.8.2 Feature **14160** was situated approximately 14 m to the south-east of the circular enclosure **15107**, almost mid-way between the two entrance terminals. Iron nails recovered from the fill of this feature and that of **13037** suggest a similar, probably Romano-British date, for both deposits. The fill of feature **6604** was believed to be Late Iron Age/Romano-British but only by association.

### *Methods*

- 6.8.3 All the material was subject to a rapid scan to assess the condition of the bone, demographic data, and the presence of pathological lesions. The cremation-related deposit type was assessed from the combined osteological and site context data. Assessments of age and sex were based on standard methodologies (Beek 1983; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000).

### *Results*

- 6.8.4 All three cremation-related features had suffered some level of truncation undoubtedly resulting in the loss of bone from each, particularly the very shallow **14160** (0.03m deep). The bone is in relatively good visual condition, though some is slightly worn in appearance, and little or no trabecular bone was observed in the two deposits from Areas A and E (generally subject to preferential loss in an aggressive burial environment; in this case a silty clay). A minimum of three individuals is represented (**Table 4**). The only pathological lesion observed was increased porosity in some of the fragments of skull vault from deposit 13038, probably indicative of increased blood supply to the area due to

persistent scratching of the head to relieve the irritation of lice infestation. The bone is mostly white in colour, indicative of full oxidation of the organic components. Most of the surviving fragments are of relatively small size (<20mm). The material from feature **6604** includes several fragments of cattle bone, the remnants of pyre goods probably representative of a food offering (see G. Jones, this text, for other forms of pyre good).

## 6.9 Animal bone

### *Introduction*

- 6.9.1 A total of 327 fragments (or 148 g) of animal bone were recovered from excavation Areas B, D and E. This is in addition to 29 fragments (17 g) from Bronze Age pit **2306** in trench 23 of the evaluation. The assemblage recovered from the excavation phase includes material of Middle Neolithic, Middle–Late Bronze Age and medieval date.

### *Middle Neolithic*

- 6.9.2 Eight small unidentifiable fragments of calcined animal bone were recovered from pit **13015** in Area A.

### *Middle–Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age*

- 6.9.3 Animal bone was recovered from a small number of Middle–Late Bronze Age features located in Areas B, D and E. A loose upper cattle premolar was identified from tree-throw hole **10024**. Small, unidentifiable calcined fragments of animal bone were recovered from pits **10045** and **14034**, and the enclosure ditch **15017**.
- 6.9.4 Identified fragments include loose teeth from the left mandible of an old adult animal (MWS H after Halstead 1985) from pit **10007**, and a loose upper cattle premolar from tree-throw hole **10024**. Small unidentifiable burnt (calcined) fragments of animal bone were recovered from pits and post-holes **10045**, **13015**, **14002** (part of **15023**), **14004** (part of **15023**), **14118**, **14024**, **14034**, **14059** and **14118**. Most of the features in Area E (14000 context nos.) were inside a large enclosure **15017**, from which a small amount of calcined bone was also recovered.

- 6.9.5 Twelve small calcined fragments of animal bone were recovered from pit **14059** in Area E.

### *Romano-British*

- 6.9.6 Two-hundred and forty small fragments of animal bone were recovered from the sieved residues of four samples taken from the fill of pit **14024**. All of the fragments are calcined having been burnt at a high temperature.

### *Medieval*

- 6.9.7 A sheep/goat mandible and a cattle tooth were recovered from ditch **11007** in Area D. The mandible is from a 3-4 year old animal (MWS F after Payne 1973).

### *Undated*

- 6.9.8 Eighteen fragments of bone were recovered from six undated features in Areas B, D and E. These include pits **10007**, **14004** and **14118**, ditch **14047** and post-hole **14002** (part of



**15023**). Two cattle teeth from the left mandible of an old adult animal (MWS H after Halstead 1985) were identified from pit **10007**. Small, unidentifiable calcined fragments of animal bone were recovered from the other features.

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 A series of 43 bulk samples were taken from a range of features and phases and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal. In addition seven samples from enclosure ditch 15017 were processed for the recovery and assessment of molluscs.

7.1.2 The bulk samples break down into eight phase groups spanning the Middle Neolithic to Roman periods, though more than half are from undated contexts (**Table 5**).

### 7.2 Charred plant remains

7.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>4mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Table 6**. 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, tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals.

7.2.2 The flots varied in size with generally relatively low numbers of roots and modern seeds. the charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.

7.2.3 High numbers of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments were recovered from Neolithic pits **13011** and **13015**.

7.2.4 No charred plant remains were recorded in the samples from Late Neolithic pit 14089 and Middle Bronze Age pit **14034**.

7.2.5 Small quantities of charred plant remains were observed in four of the 15 bulk and mollusc samples from possible Middle/Late Bronze Age Enclosure ditch group **15017**. These include indeterminate grain fragments and possible barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain fragments.

7.2.6 A few seeds of brassica (*Brassica* sp.) were noted in the sample from Late Bronze Age pit **10045**.

7.2.7 Large amounts of charred plant remains were recovered from Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pits **14059** and **14111**. The cereal remains include hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), grain, glume base and spikelet fragments and barley grain fragments. Some of the glume fragments were identifiable as being those of emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*) and some as being those of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*). The weed seeds include those of oat/brome grass, vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) and bedstraw (*Galium* sp.).

7.2.8 High numbers of charred plant remains were recorded in four of the samples from Romano-British features, all from cremation-related deposits **14024** and gully **13047** group **15007**. The cereal remains include hulled wheat and barley grain fragments. The weed



seeds include seeds of oat/brome grass, vetch/wild pea, brassica, bedstraw, docks (*Rumex* sp.), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) and persicaria (*Persicaria* sp.), and runch (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) capsules.

- 7.2.9 Wild food remains, in particular hazelnuts, have frequently been recovered in large quantities from Neolithic deposits and are thought to indicate the exploitation of these wild food resources potentially forming a significant part of the diet in this period (Moffett *et al.* 1989; Robinson 2000, Stevens 2007).
- 7.2.10 The richer Bronze Age and Iron Age samples appear to be generally indicative of settlement waste and activities. The weed seeds are mainly species typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments. There are some similarities between these assemblages and assemblages from a number of other Bronze Age and Iron Age deposits in the wider area such as at Ashville trading estate, Abingdon (Jones 1978) and Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt (Moffett 1989).

### 7.3 Wood charcoal

- 7.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 6**. Large quantities of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were retrieved from Neolithic pit **13015**, Middle Bronze Age pit **14034**, Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit **14059**, and Romano-British cremation-related deposits **14024** and **14160**. The charcoal included round wood and mature wood pieces.

### 7.4 Land snails

- 7.4.1 A series of seven samples of 1500g from enclosure ditch **15017** were processed by standard methods (Evans 1972) for land snails. The flots (0.5mm) were rapidly assessed by scanning under a x 10 – x 40 stereo-binocular microscope to provide some information about shell preservation and species representation.
- 7.4.2 No molluscs were preserved in these samples

## 8 FURTHER POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 8.1 Stratigraphic

- 8.1.1 The excavation has revealed multiple phases of activity on the Site, dated by finds (principally pottery) to the Middle–Late Neolithic, Middle Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age, Romano-British and the medieval periods.

#### *Middle–Late Neolithic*

- 8.1.2 The three pits containing Neolithic pottery and worked flint appear dispersed and somewhat isolated, but the presence of Late Neolithic Grooved Ware in two of them is of particular interest for the area and suggests settlement in the vicinity. The pits can be considered in relation to the rather larger number (approximately 30) of broadly similar date recorded less than 500m to the east during excavations related to the Banbury flood alleviation scheme.
- 8.1.3 Pits and their contents provide the main evidence for later Neolithic occupation, though characterising such sites is difficult, with contemporary structural evidence rarely found (Hey and Hind 2014, 100, 112).

#### *Middle Bronze Age*

- 8.1.4 The D-shaped enclosure in Area E is not well dated but is thought to have originated in the Middle Bronze Age, its use continuing into the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. It is

likely to have been settlement-related and the presence of two groups of post-holes, one defining a probable round-house, is significant in this respect. The importance of the enclosure, rare in this region during the Middle–Late Bronze Age, is enhanced by the presence of pottery with non-local Trevisker-style decoration, which may have implications for the origin and/or trading contacts of the occupants of the enclosure. Possible parallels for the late prehistoric D-shaped enclosure include an example at Terminal 5, Heathrow (Framework Archaeology 2010, 151–2).

- 8.1.5 During the later prehistoric period more permanent settlements developed, accompanying changes in farming and organisation of the landscape. The D-shaped enclosure and related features at Banbury offer an opportunity to consider whether this example was seasonally or more permanently occupied, and its role and relationship to other enclosed, as well as unenclosed later Bronze Age settlements (Hey and Hind 2014, 150–1).

#### *Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age*

- 8.1.6 The D-shaped enclosure either continued in use, or was re-occupied after a hiatus, and the evidence may allow a change in function to be identified, coupled with the modifications to the enclosure. If there was a hiatus, then the sequence may have been filled by what appears to be a slightly earlier focus of Late Bronze settlement nearby (in Area B). Animal bone and, in particular, the charred plant remains can provide some information on the agricultural economy, though apart from pottery the finds assemblage is limited in range and quantity.
- 8.1.7 Changes in the roles of settlements in the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age relating to, for example, the management of animals and crops, the local economy and increasing population, can be explored (Hey and Hind 2014, 150–1), with specific reference to the evidence from Banbury.

#### *Romano-British*

- 8.1.8 Four features containing cremated bone provide evidence of burial practices during the Romano-British period. These features were dispersed across the Site, and one lay within a small enclosure.
- 8.1.9 A number of poorly dated ditches may reflect land division, but there is little evidence of contemporary settlement in the immediate vicinity. If they are Romano-British, then these ditches may relate to the rather more extensive and denser concentration of ditched boundaries, enclosures and drip gullies recorded in the Banbury flood alleviation scheme excavations.

#### *Medieval*

- 8.1.10 The course of the hollow way extending north from the DMV was known from cropmark evidence prior to the excavation. However, this and the associated ridge-and-furrow can be considered in the light of what about the extent and layout of the DMV.

## **8.2 Finds**

### *General*

- 8.2.1 The finds provide evidence of a prehistoric presence on the Site from the Middle Neolithic period through to the Early Iron Age, with sporadic later activity. The Late Neolithic assemblage of Grooved Ware pottery not only provides dating evidence (stylistically and with burnt residues for radiocarbon dating) but will also aid in the understanding of the regional ceramic sequence. Its relationship with the worked flint allows consideration of depositional practices during this period. The Trevisker-style decoration on a vessel of Middle Bronze Age date is significant due to its distance from the Cornish heartland of this

style of pottery. Later links with the south-west are provided by an igneous quern fragment from a feature of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date. Unfortunately much of the later prehistoric pottery is highly abraded and leached, hampering efforts to identify it.

- 8.2.2 Human bone was identifiable in four features (**6604**, **13037**, **13047** and **14160**), however the bone from a fifth (**14024**) was beyond recognition, but may be animal in origin. Features **14024** and **14160** in Area E appear to respect the position of the earlier enclosure ditch and both contained assemblages of small iron nails; **13037** in Area A also produced an assemblage of small iron nails and cremated human bone. The size of the nails in all three features suggests that they contained a small casket or box. Feature **14024** contained cremated animal bone but also glass vessels and hobnails suggesting the cremation of a person with an animal amongst the pyre goods. Cremation-related feature **6604**, identified during the evaluation stage, did not contain any other finds.

#### *Pottery*

- 8.2.3 The Neolithic Grooved Ware pottery displays attributes of the Clacton sub-style, the earliest dates of which come from sites in Scotland. Radiocarbon dating of the vessels from Banbury is therefore considered important to aid in the understanding of the spread of this particular style of vessel. The deposit in pit **3204** was associated with a group of worked flint, and the pottery in pit **14089** with two pebble fragments and a flint blade (ON 307). Such associations are typical of Grooved Ware deposits and this relationship should be considered during analysis (Barclay 1999, 14).
- 8.2.4 The presence of Trevisker-style Middle Bronze Age pottery, so far from its hearthland of Cornwall, is rare. Various suggestions have been made as to the social mechanisms and meaning behind this shared style across the South-West, with the variation in fabric across the region interpreted by Parker Pearson as relating to kinship and identity (Parker Pearson 1995, 98). Its presence here would therefore be of national significance and will contribute to our understanding of the spread of this style of pottery across the South-West. Placed in the wider regional context, fabric and petrological analysis of this material may be used in the considerations of the social relationships and identities of those living in the Banbury area during the Middle Bronze Age period.
- 8.2.5 The pottery from the enclosure ditch and the features surrounded by it is mixed, with abraded Middle Bronze Age pottery but also fairly undiagnostic Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age sherds. This and the small quantity of other Late Bronze Age or Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age material offer relatively little potential for further analysis.
- 8.2.6 No further analysis is required of the Roman and later material.

#### *Stone*

- 8.2.7 The quern fragment from post-hole **12124** is of an igneous rock type and is presumed to have derived from a quern made in South-Western Britain, although a glacial erratic from a nearer source might also be a possibility. Although located near to the Grooved Ware pit, it is unlikely to be of Neolithic date (Ruth Shaffrey pers. comm.) and probably derives from the later prehistoric activity associated with the enclosure.

#### *Cremated human bone*

- 8.2.8 Full analysis of the bone may provide more detailed demographic data regarding the minimum number of individuals (MNI), and their age and sex. Although very few pathological lesions were observed during the scan, it is possible that others will be observed with more detailed analysis.



- 8.2.9 One other deposit – from feature **14024**, which cut through the northern arc of enclosure **15107** – contained a small quantity of burnt bone (47g) together with iron nails and melted Romano-British glass. The size and shape of the feature, together with the archaeological components, have a marked similarity with those of the cremation-related features/deposits noted elsewhere on the site. In this case, however, the only bone identifiable in the scan was animal (no species identification; see L. Higbee). This does not detract from the probability of this representing a cremation-related deposits comprising either the cremation of a lone animal or, more likely, of the material having derived from a cremation which included animal remains as a pyre good. The form of the deposit – the small quantity of bone being distributed fairly evenly throughout the charcoal-rich matrix in the deepest (0.16m) of the cremation-related features – suggests it represents redeposited pyre debris rather than the remains of a burial.

#### *Animal bone*

- 8.2.10 The assemblage holds little potential for further more detailed study and is heavily biased in favour of more robust elements such as teeth which generally survive well even in acid soils. Charred and calcined bone is also more likely to survive than unburnt bone in this type of burial environment. The cremated animal bone from Romano-British pit **14024** does however merit further consideration to clarify the nature of the deposit.

#### *Other finds*

- 8.2.11 The fired clay has very limited potential, though fabric analysis of the small number of objects may prove useful when seeking parallels.
- 8.2.12 The worked flint assemblage is of only moderate size and much is likely to be residual, nevertheless the material would benefit from further consideration in terms of its regional setting.
- 8.2.13 The iron has been recorded on X-radiographs and detailed on the project database. No further work is required.
- 8.2.14 On the basis of the X-radiographs, the range of iron objects present and their provenance on the Site, no further conservation treatment is considered necessary.
- 8.2.15 The glass is completely distorted and no further analysis is necessary.

### **8.3 Environmental**

#### *Charred plant remains*

- 8.3.1 The analysis of a selection of the charred plant assemblages has the potential to provide some information on the nature of the settlement, the surrounding environment, local agricultural practices and crop husbandry techniques and how this changed on the site over the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age period.
- 8.3.2 The results of this analysis could provide a comparison with the data from other sites in the wider area, such as Ashville trading estate, Abingdon (Jones 1978) and Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt (Moffett 1989)

#### *Wood charcoal*

- 8.3.3 The analysis of a selection of the wood charcoal assemblages has the potential to provide some information on the species composition, management and exploitation of the local woodland resource on the site and how this changed over time. It may also be possible to assist in determining the nature of any local funerary practices.





#### *Wood charcoal*

- 8.3.4 The analysis of a selection of the wood charcoal assemblages has the potential to provide some information on the species composition, management and exploitation of the local woodland resource on the site and how this changed over time. It may also be possible to assist in determining the nature of any local funerary practices.

## **9 PROPOSALS**

### **9.1 Site sequence**

- 9.1.1 Further examination of the stratigraphic relationships between some of the features in Areas A and E, in particular, and the associated finds assemblages, may clarify more precisely the development of, especially, the Middle–Late Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity on the Site. The unphased and poorly phased features will be reviewed, particularly pits and ditches/gullies, in an attempt to more securely assign them to a broad period.
- 9.1.2 Research will be undertaken to better understand, in particular, the Middle and Late Neolithic, Middle–Late Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity on Site, and place this within the local and regional context.

### **9.2 Finds**

#### *Pottery*

- 9.2.1 The prehistoric pottery assemblage should be fully recorded, in accordance with the guidelines published by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 2010). Parallels for the prehistoric pottery should be sought from other sites in the region and more widely. Radiocarbon dating should be undertaken to examine the date of the Clacton sub-style of Grooved Ware in the Oxfordshire area. Full fabric analysis of the Middle Bronze Age Trevisker-style pottery will allow consideration of the source of the material and should be complemented by petrological analysis. A total of 15 prehistoric vessels should be illustrated.

#### *Fired clay*

- 9.2.2 The fabric of the fired clay objects should be analysed, and parallels sought. The loomweight from post-hole **14010** (ON 310) should be illustrated and photographed.

#### *Worked flint*

- 9.2.3 The assemblage should be discussed in its regional setting. Eight scrapers from **3204** and the oblique arrowhead from feature **4504** should be illustrated.

#### *Stone*

- 9.2.4 The stone type of the quern fragment from post-hole **12124** should be identified by a specialist in this field, and may require petrological analysis. The stone types of the other objects should also be confirmed.

#### *Cremated human bone*

- 9.2.5 Analysis of the cremated bone will follow the writer's standard procedure (McKinley 1994, 5-6; 2004b). The unsorted <4mm residues will be subject to a rapid scan at this stage to extract any identifiable material, osseous or artefactual.
- 9.2.6 Taphonomic factors potentially affecting differential bone preservation will be assessed. The age of individuals will be further assessed using standard methodologies (Beek 1983; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). Sex will be assessed from the

sexually dimorphic traits of the skeleton (Bass 1987; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Gejvall 1981). Pathological lesions will be recorded in text and via digital photography.

- 9.2.7 The form and nature of some of the deposits is currently uncertain and will be further considered in light of the osteological and other finds data together with the context data (including that from pit **14024**). Aspects of pyre technology and the cremation mortuary rite will be discussed.
- 9.2.8 It is recommended that bone samples from all four cremation-related deposits are submitted for radiocarbon dating; although a Romano-British date is indicated for most deposits their position within that period is uncertain and a possible mid-late date needs to be verified. This will facilitate the study of the deposits within the correct temporal context and enable them to be viewed within their wider regional setting.

#### *Animal bone*

- 9.2.9 The cremated animal bone from Romano-British pit **14024** will be further considered to clarify the nature of the deposit.

#### *Radiocarbon dating*

- 9.2.10 Radiocarbon dating is necessary for the following: the burnt residues on the Grooved Ware from pits **3204** and **14089**; the cremated human remains from features **6605**, **13037** and **14160**; and the cremated animal bone from feature **14024**.

### **9.3 Environmental**

#### *Charred plant remains*

- 9.3.1 It is proposed to analyse the charred plant remains from a selection of samples from Neolithic pit **13015**, Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pits **14059** and **14111**, and Romano-British cremation-related deposit **14024**.
- 9.3.2 All identifiable charred plant macrofossils will be extracted from the 2 and 1mm residues together with the flot. Identification will be undertaken using stereo incident light microscopy at magnifications of up to x40 using a Leica MS5 microscope, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals and with reference to modern reference collections where appropriate. They will be quantified and the results tabulated.
- 9.3.3 The samples proposed for analysis are indicated with a “P” in the analysis column in **Table 6**.

#### *Wood charcoal*

- 9.3.4 It is proposed to analyse the wood charcoal from a selection of samples from Neolithic pit **13015**, Middle Bronze Age pit **14034**, Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit **14059**, and Romano-British cremation-related deposits **13037**, **14024** and **14160**.
- 9.3.5 Identifiable charcoal will be extracted from the 2mm residue together and the flot (>2mm). Larger richer samples will be sub-sampled. Fragments will be prepared for identification according to the standard methodology of Leney and Casteel (1975, see also Gale and Cutler 2000). Charcoal pieces will be fractured with a razor blade so that three planes can be seen: transverse section (TS), radial longitudinal section (RL) and tangential longitudinal section (TL). They will then be examined under bi-focal epi-illuminated microscopy at magnifications of x50, x100 and x400 using a Kyowa ME-LUX2



microscope. Identification will be undertaken according to the anatomical characteristics described by Schweingruber (1990) and Butterfield and Meylan (1980). Identification will be to the lowest taxonomic level possible, usually that of genus and nomenclature according to Stace (1997), individual taxon (mature and twig) will be separated, quantified, and the results tabulated.

- 9.3.6 The samples proposed for charcoal analysis are indicated with a “C” in the analysis column in **Table 6**.

## **10 PROGRAMME, RESOURCES AND PUBLICATION**

### **10.1 Proposed publication and dissemination**

- 10.1.1 The significance of the results of the excavation in relation to the long term development of the local landscape warrants formal publication. It is proposed that following the further analyses outlined above, the results will be published as an article (estimated 40 pages) in *Oxoniensia*, a peer reviewed county journal with regional and national readership.
- 10.1.2 The article will include a brief introduction summarising the project background, its aims and objectives, a description of the sequence of archaeological activity and relevant specialist findings, accompanied by appropriate illustrations and tables. The overall significance of the excavation results will be discussed within their local and regional contexts.
- 10.1.3 It is anticipated that a draft publication report will be prepared, checked and submitted to *Oxoniensia* within 18 months (depending on the availability of specialists) of the submission and acceptance of this assessment report.

### **10.2 Management structure**

- 10.2.1 Wessex Archaeology operates a project management system. The team will be headed by a Post-Excavation Manager who will assume ultimate responsibility for the implementation and execution of the project specification as outlined in the Updated Project Design, and the achievement of performance targets, be they academic, budgetary, or scheduled.
- 10.2.2 The Post-Excavation Manager may delegate specific aspects of the project to other key staff, who will both supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. They may also undertake direct liaison with external consultants and specialists who are contributing to the publication report, and the museum named as the recipient of the project archive. The Post-Excavation Manager will have a major input into how the publication report is written. They will define and control the scope and form of the post-excavation programme.
- 10.2.3 The Post-Excavation Manager will be assisted by the Quality and Publications Manager, who will help to ensure that the report meets internal quality standards as defined in WA's guidelines.

### **10.3 Designated project team**

- 10.3.1 It is proposed that WA core staff and specialists will be involved in the programme of post-excavation analyses. WA reserves the right to replace any member of the named team at its discretion. The project will be managed by (TBC), who will be responsible to the Team leader, Analysis and Reporting.



## 10.4 Personnel

10.4.1 The following Wessex Archaeology core staff are scheduled to undertake the work as outlined in the task list for post-excavation analysis and publication (**Table 7**).

## 10.5 Task list

**Table 7: Task list**

Task no.	Task description	Days	Staff	
<b>Management and support</b>				
1	Project management	2	Andrews P	WA
2	Project monitor and QA	1	Bradley P	WA
3	Finds management	1	Seager Smith R	WA
<b>Pre-analysis</b>				
4	Check phasing and grouping, update site database	3	SPO	WA
5	Digitisation of selected drawings	1	GO	WA
6	Project meetings	1	All	WA
7	Background research	2	SPO	WA
8	Extraction of charred plants and wood charcoal	2	Mulhall N	WA
9	Radiocarbon dating (x6)			Ext
<b>Analysis and reporting</b>				
<i>Stratigraphic</i>				
10	Stratigraphic report	5	SPO	WA
<i>Finds</i>				
11	Pottery	12.5	Jones G	WA
12	Pottery and stone thin sectioning	1.5	TBC	Ext
13	Fired clay	0.5	Jones G	WA
14	Flint	1.5	Harding P	WA
15	Stone	1	TBC	Ext
16	Animal bone	0.5	Higbee L	WA
17	Human bone	4	McKinley J	WA
18	Other categories	1.5	SPO	WA
19	Illustrations: finds	7	GO	WA
<i>Environmental</i>				
20	Plant remains	4	Wyles S	WA
21	Charcoal	4	Challinor D	Ext
<b>Report:</b>				
22	Introduction and background	1.5	SPO	WA
23	Compile and integrate report	2	SPO	WA
24	Discussion	3	SPO	WA
25	Bibliography	1	SPO	WA
26	Captions (figures, plates and tables)	0.5	SPO	WA
27	Brief finds and figure illustrations	1	All	WA
28	Illustrations: site	4.5	GO	WA
29	Edit/amend report	2	SPO	WA
30	Review report and journal preparation	1.5	Bradley P	WA
31	Check proofs	1	All	WA
32	Journal publication cost ( <i>Oxoniensia</i> )	n/a		
<b>Archiving</b>				
33	Environ archiving	1	Wyles S	WA
34	Archive preparation	1	SPO	WA
35	Archive preparation	1	Nelson S	WA
36	Copy jobsheets and checking	0.5	Mephram L	WA
37	Copy paper records	n/a	ext.	
38	Archive deposition	0.5	Nelson S	WA
39	Box storage grant	n/a		



## **10.6 OASIS**

- 10.6.1 An OASIS online record has been initiated for the work, and key fields in regard of the excavation will be completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included in the archive).

## **11 STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **11.1 Museum**

- 11.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Oxford Museum (under the accession code OXCMS 2012.122) who has agreed in principle to accept the project archive. Deposition of the finds will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

### **11.2 Preparation of Archive**

- 11.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Oxford Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 11.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the accession code (OXCMS 2012.122) and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

10 cardboard or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type  
4 files of paper records and A3/A4 graphics  
6 A1 graphics

### **11.3 Conservation**

- 11.3.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field. None of the artefacts were deemed to be in an unstable condition, although the iron objects (as an inherently unstable material type), are potentially in need of further conservation treatment. These have all been X-radiographed as part of this assessment and are stored with supportive packaging and a desiccant (silica gel) to ensure a dry environment below 35% relative humidity to ensure their survival for as long as possible; their condition is frequently monitored.

### **11.4 Discard policy**

- 11.4.1 Wessex Archaeology 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 documented in the project archive.
- 11.4.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows the nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2011).



## 11.5 Copyright

- 11.5.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the sites 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 purpose, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights* regulations 2003.

## 11.6 Security Copy

- 11.6.1 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.

## 12 REFERENCES

### 12.1 Bibliography

- ADS 2013 *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice*, Archaeology Data Service and Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice
- Barclay, A, 1999 Grooved Ware from the Upper Thames Region, in R Cleal and A MacSween (eds), *Grooved Ware in Britain and Ireland*, Oxford: Oxbow Books, 9–22
- Bass, W M, 1987 *Human Osteology*, Missouri Arch Soc.
- Beek, G C van 1983 *Dental Morphology: an illustrated guide*, Bristol: Wright PSG
- Brown, D H 2011 *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)
- Buikstra, J E and Ubelaker, D H 1994 *Standards for data collection from human skeletal remains*, Arkansas Archaeological Survey Research Series 44
- Butterfield, B G and Meylan, B A, 1980 *Three-Dimensional Structure of Wood. An Ultrastructural Approach*, London and New York: Chapman and Hall
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014a *Standard and guidance for an archaeological excavation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014b *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- Clark, J G D 1934 Derivative forms of the petit tranchet in Britain., *Archaeological Journal* 91, 32–58
- English Heritage 2011, *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (2nd edition), Centre for Archaeology Guidelines, Swindon
- Evans, J G, 1972 *Land Snails in Archaeology*, London: Seminar Press
- Framework Archaeology, 2010 *Landscape Evolution in the Middle Thames Valley: Heathrow Terminal 5 Excavations Volume 2*, Framework Archaeology Monograph 3





- Gale, R and Cutler, D, 2000, *Plants in Archaeology*, London: Westbury and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
- Halstead, P, 1985 A study of mandibular teeth from Romano-British contexts at Maxey, in F. Pryor and C. French, *Archaeology and environment in the Lower Welland Valley vol. 1*, East Anglian Archaeology 27, 219–24
- Hey, G and Hind, J (eds), 2014 *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment. Resource assessments and Research Agenda*, Oxford: Oxford Wessex Monograph 6
- Jones M, 1978 The plant remains, in M Parrington, *The excavation of an Iron Age settlement, Bronze Age ring ditches and Roman features at Ashville Trading Estate (Oxon) 1974-6*, Counc Brit Archaeol Res Rep 28, 93–110
- Lambrick, G, 2009 *Thames through Time. The Archaeology of the Gravel Terraces of the Upper and Middle Thames. Late Prehistory: 1500 BC-AD 50*, Oxford Archaeology: Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph 29
- Longworth, I and Cleal, R, 1999 Grooved Ware gazetteer, R Cleal and A MacSween (eds), *Grooved Ware in Britain and Ireland*, Oxford: Oxbow Books, 177–206
- Manning, W H, 1985 *Catalogue of the Romano-British Iron Tools, Fittings and Weapons in the British Museum*, London: British Museum
- McKinley, J I, 1994 *The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Spong Hill, North Elmham Part VIII: The Cremations*, East Anglian Archaeology 69
- McKinley, J I, 2004b Compiling a skeletal inventory: cremated human bone, in M Brickley and J I McKinley (eds), *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*, British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology and Institute for Field Archaeology, 9–12
- McKinley, J I, 2013 Cremation: Excavation, Analysis and Interpretation of Material from Cremation-Related Contexts, in S Tarlow and I Nilsson Stutz (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology of Death and Burial*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 147–71
- Moffett L C, 1989 The evidence for crop processing products from the Iron Age and Romano-British periods at Gravelly Guy and some earlier prehistoric plant remains, AML Rep. New Ser. 46/89
- Moffett, L, Robinson, M A and Straker, S, 1989 Cereals, fruit and nuts: charred plant remains from Neolithic sites in England and Wales and the Neolithic economy, in A Milles, D Williams and N Gardner (eds), *The Beginnings of Agriculture.*, Oxford: Brit. Archaeol. Rep. Int. Ser. 496, 243–61
- Parker Pearson, M, 1995 Southwestern Bronze Age pottery, in I Kinnes and G Varndell (eds), *'Unbaked Urns of Rudely Shape'. Essays on British and Irish Pottery for Ian Longworth*, Oxford: Oxbow Monograph 55, 89–100
- Payne, S, 1973 Kill-off patterns in sheep and goats: the mandibles from Asvan Kale. *Anatolian Studies* 23, 281–303





- Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, 2010 *The Study of Pottery. General Policies and Guidelines for Analysis and Publication*. PCRG Occasional Papers 1 and 2 (3rd edition). Salisbury: Wessex Archaeology (<http://www.pcr.org.uk>)
- Price, J and Cottam, S, 1998 *Romano-British Glass Vessels: a Handbook*. York: Council for British Archaeology
- Robinson, M A, 2000 Further considerations of Neolithic charred cereals, fruits, and nuts, in A.S. Fairbairn (ed.), *Plants in Neolithic Britain and Beyond* (Neolithic Studies Seminar Paper 5), Oxford: Oxbow Books, 85–90
- Scheuer, L and Black, S, 2000 *Developmental Juvenile Osteology*, London: Academic Press
- Schweingruber, F H, 1990 *Microscopic Wood Anatomy* (3rd edition), Birmensdorf: Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research
- Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA) 1993 *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections*, Society of Museum Archaeologists
- Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA) 1995 *Towards and accessible Archaeological Archive*, Society of Museum Archaeologists
- Stace, C, 1997, *New flora of the British Isles* (2nd edition), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Stevens, C J, 2007 Reconsidering the evidence: towards an understanding of the social contexts of subsistence production in Neolithic Britain, in S Colledge and J Conolly (eds), *The origin and spread of domestic plants in Southwest Asia and Europe*, Walnut Creek, Left Coast Press
- Warren, S H, Piggott, S, Clark, J G D, Burnkitt, M C, Godwin, H and Godwin, M E, 1936 Archaeology of the submerged land-surface of the Essex coast, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 11, part 2, 178–210
- Wessex Archaeology 2011a *Land to the East of Southam Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire. Heritage Desk Based Assessment*, Unpublished client report ref. 79070.02
- Wessex Archaeology 2012a *Land to the East of Southam Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire. Recorded Scanning and Detailed Gradiometer Survey Report*, Unpublished developer report for Hargreaves Management Limited, ref. 79070.01
- Wessex Archaeology 2012b *Land East of Southam Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire. Archaeological Trial Trenching Evaluation Report*, Unpub. client report ref. 79072.01
- Wessex Archaeology 2012c *Land West of Southam Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire. Archaeological Trial Trenching Evaluation Report*, Unpub. client report ref. 79072.02
- Wessex Archaeology 2014 *Land East of Southam Road Banbury Oxfordshire. Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological Excavation*, Unpub. report ref. T19217.02
- Zohary, D, and Hopf, M, 2000 *Domestication of plants in the Old World: the origin and spread of cultivated plants in West Asia, Europe, and the Nile Valley* (3rd edition), Clarendon Press, Oxford



## 13 APPENDICES

### 13.1 Appendix 1: Tables

**Table 1. Quantification of finds retained**

Material	Number	Weight (g)
Pottery:		
? Mid Neolithic	7	56
Late Neolithic (Grooved Ware)	249	1597
? Early Bronze Age	1	2
Middle Bronze Age	10	79
Mid/Late Bronze Age	232	376
Late Bronze Age	816	4178
Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age	145	750
Later prehistoric	5	22
Roman	10	133
Saxon	1	8
Medieval	2	8
Post-medieval	5	26
Sub-total	1483	7235
Animal bone	77	102
Burnt flint	1	59
Cremated human bone	N/A	233
Fired clay	90	1415
Flint	141	2026
Glass	7	20
Iron	167	224
Stone	7	964
<b>Total</b>	<b>1973</b>	<b>12278</b>

**Table 2. Quantification of features producing >25 sherds pottery**

Feature	Number	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
Pit 10022	589	3386	5.7
Pit 10045	207	650	3.1
Pit 3204	188	1372	7.3
Tree-throw hole 10024	119	111	0.9
Pit 2306	84	164	2.0
Pit 14089	60	214	3.6
Pit 14111	42	296	7.0
Pit 14059	36	196	5.4
Ditch 14100	34	97	2.9
Post-hole 14055	30	184	6.1



**Table 3. Quantification of worked flint from the evaluation and excavation**

	Evaluation			Excavation					
	Pit 3204	Others	Total	A	B	C	D	E	Total
<b>No of contexts</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>66</b>
Core	2	1	3					4	4
Debitage					3		3	15	21
Blade		1	1			1		7	8
Broken blade	1		1					1	1
Broken bladelet				1					1
Flake	6	8	14		5	1	4	32	42
Broken flake	4	1	5	4	1		3	24	32
Rejuvenation				1				2	3
Chip	1		1		2			2	4
Scraper	8	1	9		2	1		7	10
Retouched flake	4	3	7	1				6	7
Retouched blade					1			2	3
Microdenticulate								2	2
Barbed and tanged								1	1
Oblique		1	1	1				1	2
Other	1		1						
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>141</b>

**Table 4: Summary of results from scan of cremated human bone**

KEY: R.. - redeposited; crd – cremation-related deposit; rpd - redeposited pyre debris

context	cut	deposit type	weight	age/sex	pathology	comment
6605	6604 0.08m	?un. burial +. rpd	117.4g	subadult/adult >13 yr.		Quads, most bone (81%) in north-east half; fuel ash rich, fired clay.
13038	13037 0.11m	crd inc. rpd	88.1g	subadult/adult >15 yr.	exocranial porosity	Quads, bone evenly distributed, evident at surface level; fuel ash (not rich) & fired clay; Fe nail
13049	13047 0.17m	R. (gully)	2.1g	subadult/adult >13 yr.		
14162	14160 0.03m	crd inc. rpd	25.7g	subadult/adult >13 yr.		Quads, most bone in N. quad but spread throughout. Very heavily truncated. Bone & fuel ash at surface level. Fe nails.



**Table 5: Sample provenance summary**

<b>Phase</b>	<b>No of samples</b>	<b>Volume (litres)</b>	<b>Feature types</b>
Middle Neolithic	2	15	Pits
Late Neolithic	1	4	Pit
Middle Bronze Age	1	10	Pit
Middle/Late Bronze Age	8	127	Enclosure ditch
Late Bronze Age	2	25	Pits
Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age	3	121	Pits, post-holes
Romano-British	4	62	Cremation related deposits
Undated	22	51	Gullies, pit, post-holes, tree throw
<b>Totals</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>415</b>	



**Table 6: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal**

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
<b>Neolithic</b>													
<b>Pits</b>													
13011	13012	4	9	40	10	-	-	-	A	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags	8/8 ml	-	
13015	13016	5	6	150	2	-	-	-	A**	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags	10/30 ml	-	P C
<b>Late Neolithic</b>													
<b>Pit</b>													
14089	14090	24	4	7	10	-	-	-	-	-	2/2 ml	-	
<b>Middle Bronze Age</b>													
<b>Pit</b>													
14034	14036	21	10	250	2	-	-	-	-	-	70/50 ml	-	C
<b>Middle/Late Bronze Age</b>													
<b>Enclosure Ditch Group 15017</b>													
14030	14032	20	20	25	10	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	10/5 ml	-	
14030	14031	42 M	1500g	4	10	-	-	-	-	-	<1/<1 ml	-	
14030	14031	42	6	20	10	-	-	-	-	-	3/3 ml	-	
14041	14043	43 M	1500g	5	10	-	-	-	-	-	1/1 ml	-	
14041	14043	43	19	10	15	-	-	-	-	-	3/<1 ml	-	
14041	14042	44 M	1500g	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
14041	14042	44	19	5	20	C	-	?Barley grain frag	-	-	<1/<1 ml	-	
14051	14052	45 M	1500g	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	
14051	14052	45	17	7	10	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	1/<1 ml	-	
14051	14053	46 M	1500g	3	10	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	
14051	14053	46	17	7	10	-	-	-	-	-	2/<1 ml	-	
14184	14185	47 M	1500g	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
14184	14185	47	12	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	1/1 ml	-	
14184	14186	48 M	1500g	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	
14184	14186	48	17	5	10	-	-	-	-	-	<1/<1 ml	-	
<b>Late Bronze Age</b>													
<b>Pits</b>													
10022	10023	2	15	15	20	-	-	-	-	-	2/2 ml	-	
10045	10046	3	18	10	40	-	-	-	C	<i>Brassica</i>	1/1 ml	-	



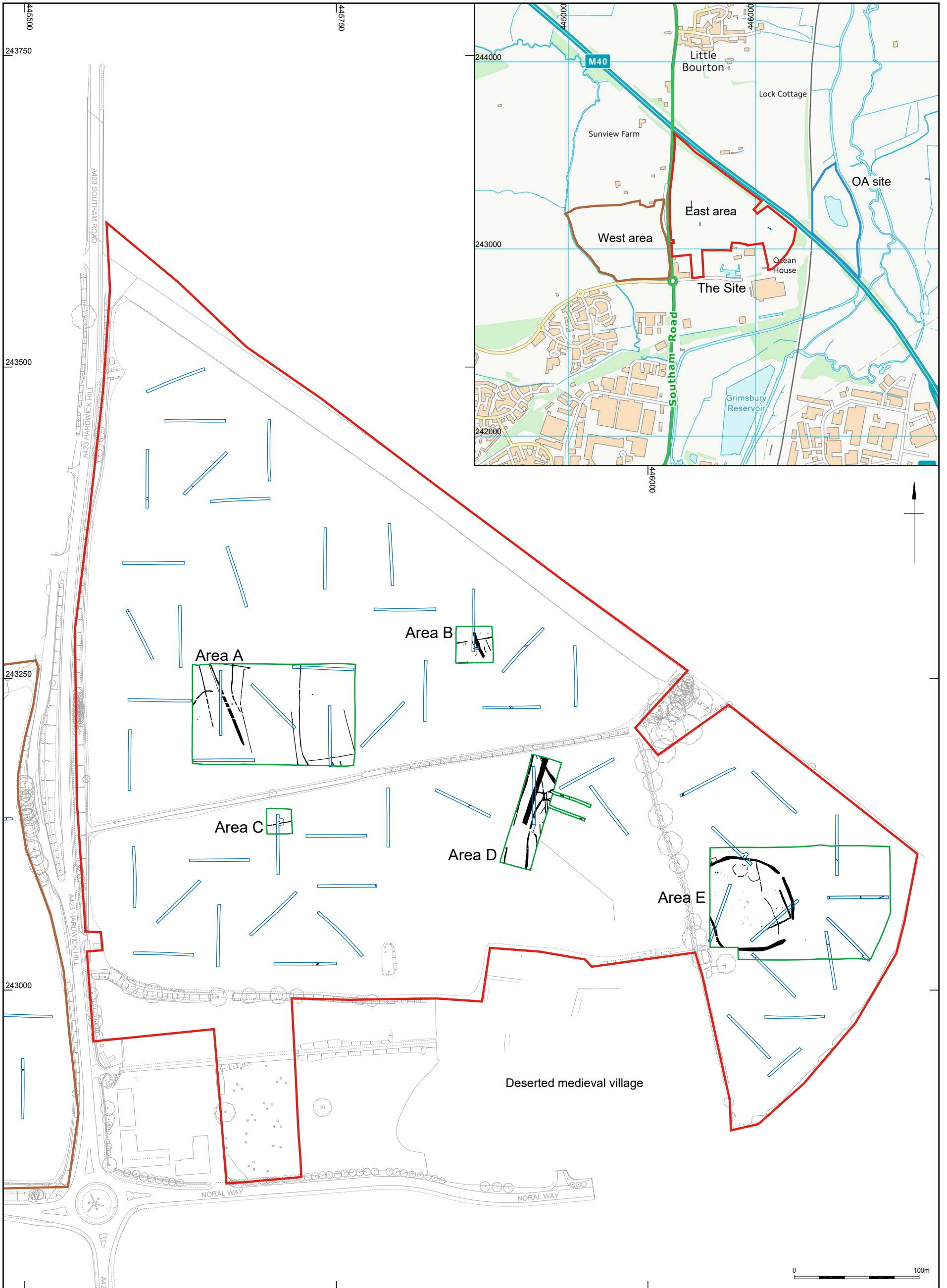
Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
<b>Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age</b>													
<b>Pits</b>													
14059	14060	22	74	300	3	A	A*	Hulled wheat + barley grain frags, glume base + spikelet fork frags inc. emmer + spelt	B	<i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	75/60 ml	-	P C
14111	14113	26	20	80	2	B	A	Hulled wheat + barley grain frags, glume base + spikelet fork frags inc. spelt	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	20/15 ml	-	P
<b>Post-hole</b>													
14055	14056	23	27	55	2	B	-	Hulled wheat + ?barley grain frags	C	<i>Galium</i>	10/10 ml	-	
<b>Romano-British</b>													
<b>Cremation Related Deposits</b>													
13037	13038	6	3.5	35	5	C	-	Hulled wheat grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus, stems.</i>	3/7 ml	burnt bone	
	13038	7	3	35	5	C	-	Indet. grain frag	C	<i>Raphanus, Vicia/Lathyrus, stem frags</i>	3/10 ml	burnt bone	
	13038	8	4	50	10	C	-	Hulled wheat grain frag	-	Stem frags	10/8 ml	burnt bone	C
	13038	9	4	40	10	-	-	-	C	<i>Lolium/Festuca, Raphanus, stem frags</i>	5/8ml	burnt bone	
14024	14025	16	10	50	10	C	-	Hulled wheat grain frags	A	<i>Raphanus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Brassica, stem frags</i>	15/10 ml	-	
	14025	17	10	400	1	B	-	Hulled wheat grain frags	A	<i>Raphanus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Brassica, stem frags</i>	50/100 ml	burnt bone	P C
	14025	18	7	40	5	B	-	Hulled wheat + barley grain frags	A	<i>Raphanus, Rumex, Vicia/Lathyrus, Brassica, stem frags</i>	10/5 ml	burnt bone	
	14025	19	9	40	5	C	-	Hulled wheat grain frags	C	<i>Brassica, Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	10/10 ml	burnt bone	
14160	14162	32	2	60	5	C	-	Indet. grain frags	B	<i>Galium, Vicia/Lathyrus, Rumex</i>	25/10 ml	-	
	14162	33	2	40	10	-	-	-	B	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	10/10 ml	-	
	14162	34	2	60	5	C	-	Indet. grain frags	B	<i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Galium, ?heather stem frags</i>	25/10 ml	burnt bone	C
	14162	35	2	60	5	C	-	Wheat grain frag	C	<i>Montia, Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	20/15 ml	burnt bone	
14188	14189	37	1	25	5	C	-	Indet. grain frags	-	-	5/3 ml	-	
	14189	38	0.5	5	10	-	-	-	-	-	1/1 ml	-	
	14189	39	1	10	10	C	-	Barley grain frag	-	-	3/2 ml	-	
	14189	40	1	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	1/2 ml	-	





Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
Undated													
Gullies													
13047 gp 15007	13049	11	2	3	20	C	-	Hulled wheat grain frag	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	<1/<1 ml	-	
14103 gp 15014	14104	25	20	55	5	C	-	Wheat grain frag	A	<i>Raphanus, Avena/Bromus, Persicaria, Rumex, Vicia/Lathyrus, Chenopodium</i>	10/10 ml	-	
Pit													
13056	13057	12	4	5	20	C	C	Hulled wheat grain frag, glume base frag	-	-	<1/<1 ml	-	
Post-hole Group 15022													
14068	14070	27	2	10	5	C	-	?Free-threshing wheat grain	-	-	3/2 ml	-	
Post-hole Group 15023													
14002	14003	28	4	5	10	C	-	Indet. grain frags-		-	<1/1 ml	-	
14004	14005	13	5	5	40	C	-	Barley + wheat grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	0/<1 ml	-	
14010	14011	29	2	7	10	C	-	Barley grain frag	-	-	1/2 ml	-	
14012	14013	14	2	3	10	C	-	Barley grain frag	-	-	<1/<1 ml	-	
Post-hole													
14118	14120	30	2	10	5	C	-	Indet. grain frags	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	3/2 ml	-	
Tree throw													
10024	10025	1	8	60	10	-	-	-	-	-	10/10 ml	-	

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



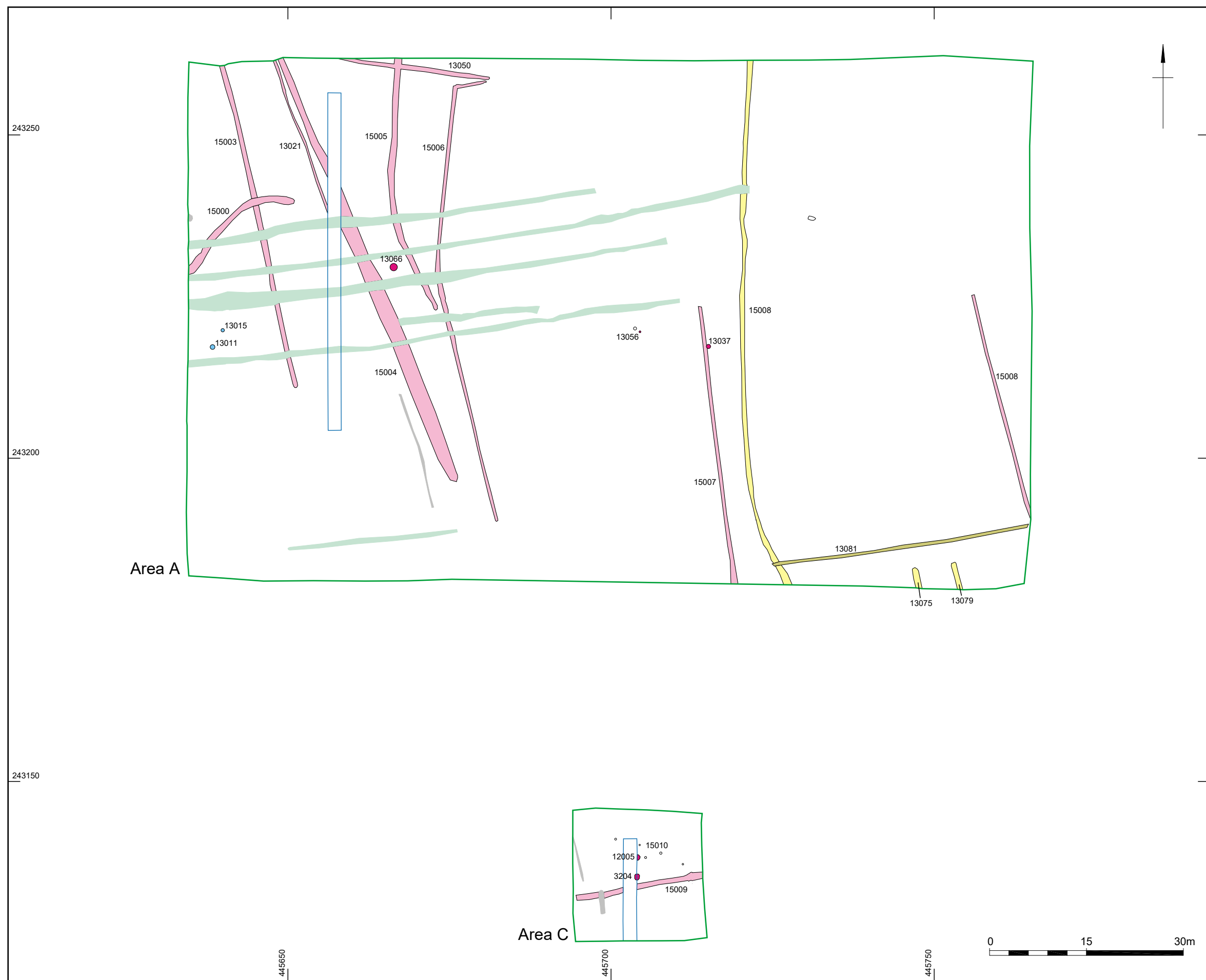
- Site boundary
- Excavation Area
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeology

Reproduced from the (2012) Ordnance Survey (1:10000 Streetview ©) map with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright, Wessex Archaeology, Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6EB. Licence Number: 100028190. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2014. Digital data supplied by the Client and reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright (2014) All rights reserved. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Date:	14/09/15	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:3000@A3	Illustrator:	WAF
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\79073\GO\Rep figs\Assessment\2015_09_14\79073_Assessment_Fig01_04.dwg		

Site location plan, showing evaluation trenches and excavation areas

Figure 1



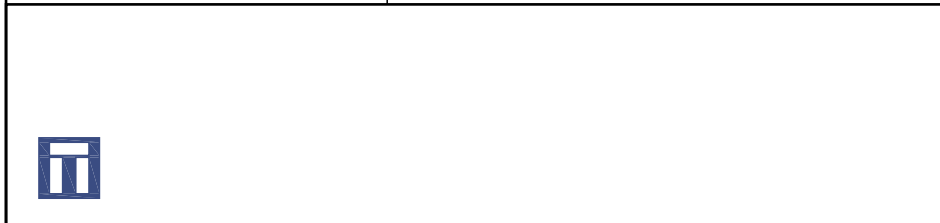
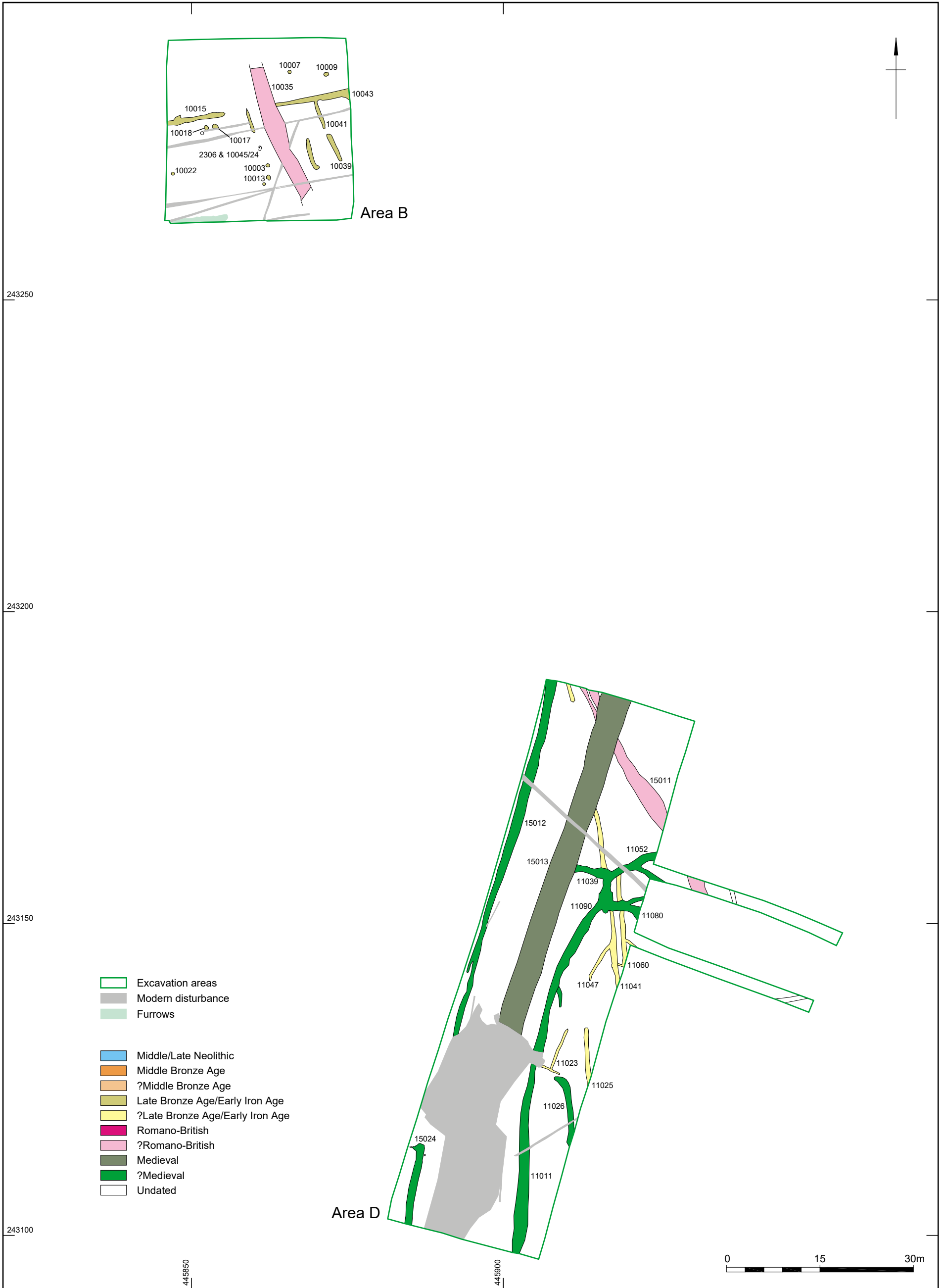
- Excavation areas
- Modern disturbance
- Furrows
- Evaluation Trench
- Middle/Late Neolithic
- Middle Bronze Age
- ?Middle Bronze Age
- Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age
- ?Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age
- Romano-British
- ?Romano-British
- Medieval
- ?Medieval
- Undated

This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology.  
No unauthorised reproduction.

Date:	14/09/15
Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:600@A3
Illustrator:	WAF
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\179073\GO\Rep Figs\
Assessment\2015_09_14\179073_Assessment_Fig01_04.dwg	

Archaeological features in Areas A and C

Figure 2

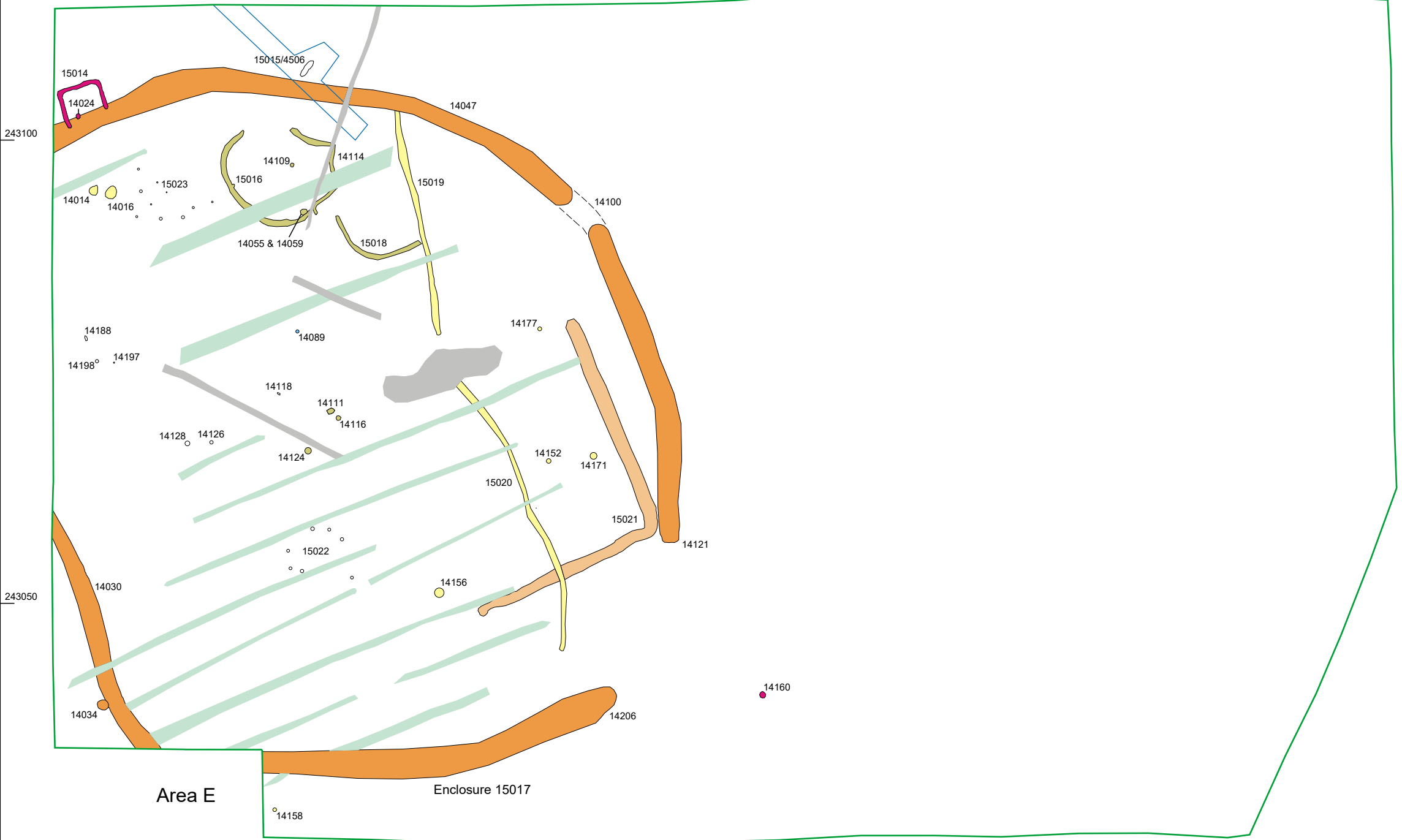


This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Date:	14/09/15	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:600@A3	Illustrator:	WAF
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\79073\GO\Rep figs\Assessment\2015_09_14\79073_Assessment_Fig01_04.dwg		

Archaeological features in Areas B and D

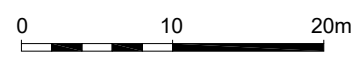
Figure 3



- Excavation areas
- Modern disturbance
- Furrows
- Middle/Late Neolithic
- Middle Bronze Age
- ?Middle Bronze Age
- Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age
- ?Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age
- Romano-British
- ?Romano-British
- Medieval
- ?Medieval
- Undated

This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology.  
No unauthorised reproduction.

Date:	14/09/15
Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:500@A3
Illustrator:	WAF
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\79073\GO\Rep Figs\
Assessment\2015_09_14\79073_Assessment_Fig01_04.dwg	



Archaeological features in Area E

Figure 4






Plate 1: Middle Neolithic pit 13011 (Area A), from east



Plate 2: Middle Neolithic pit 13015 (Area A), from west

	This material for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction			
	Date:	15/09/15	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	n/a	Illustrator:	WAF
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\79073\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Assessment\2015_09_14		



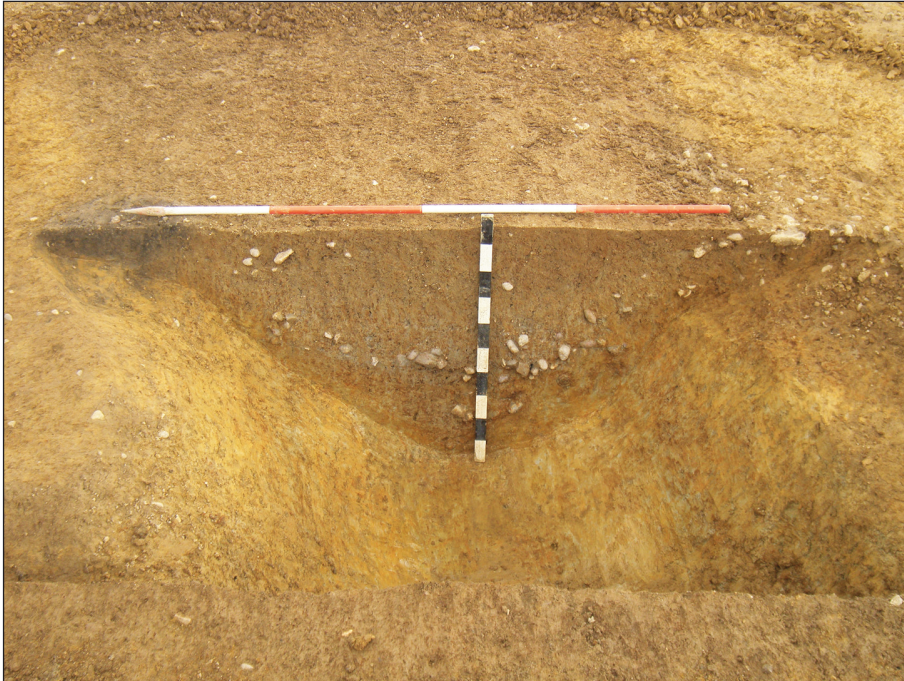


Plate 3: Middle Bronze Age enclosure 15017, ditch section 14076 (Area E), from west



Plate 4: Middle Bronze Age enclosure 15017, north-east entrance (Area E), from south-east


	This material for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction			
	Date:	15/09/15	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	n/a	Illustrator:	WAF
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\79073\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Assessment\2015_09_14		





Plate 5: Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit 14116 (Area E), from north-east

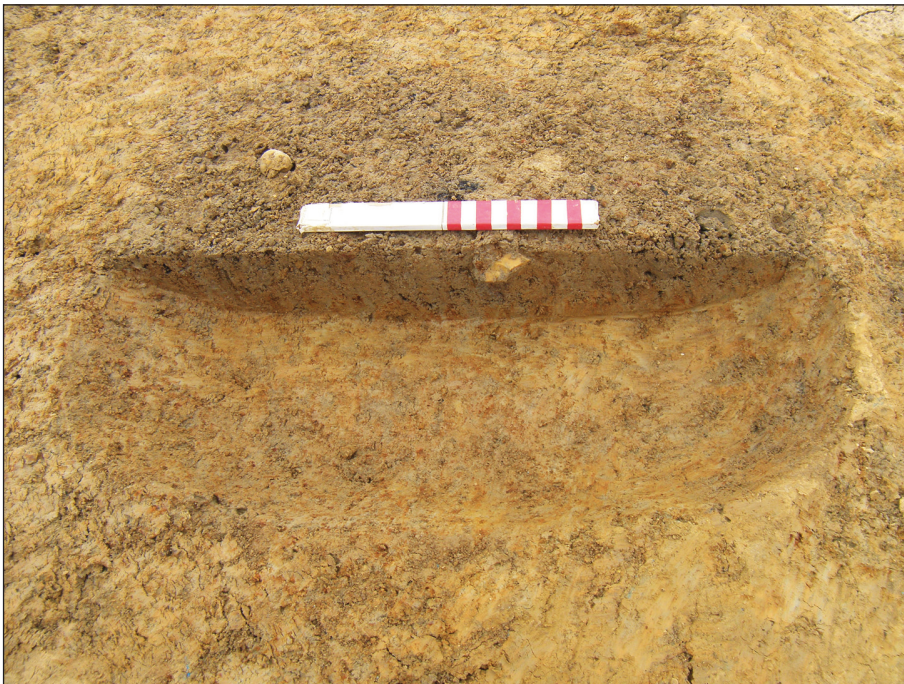



Plate 6: Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit 14124 (Area E), from north-west

	This material for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction			
	Date:	15/09/15	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	n/a	Illustrator:	WAF
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\79073\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Assessment\2015_09_14		



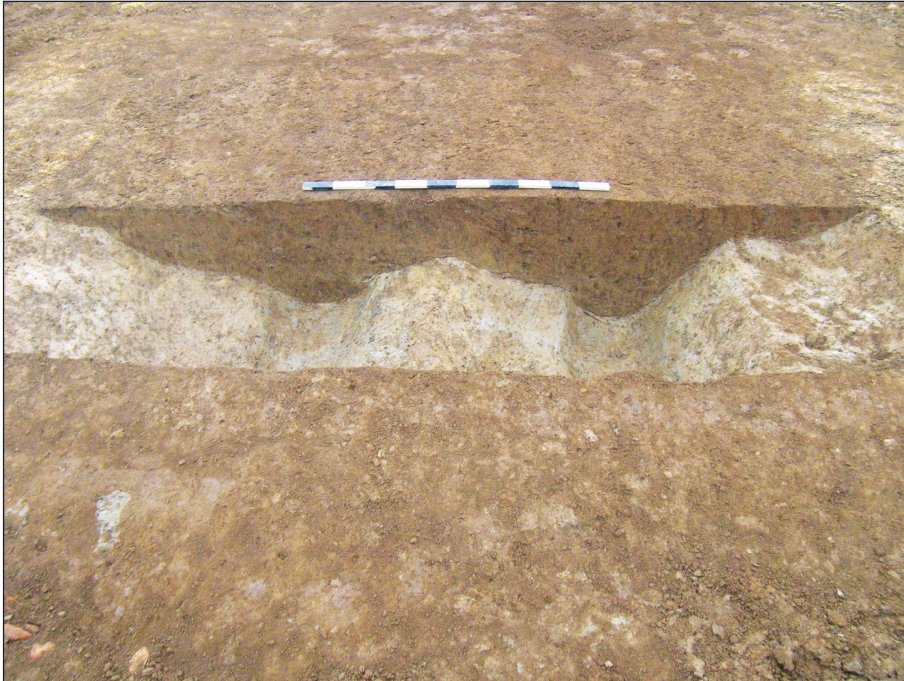


Plate 7: Undated (?Romano-British) boundary ditch 10035 (Area B), from south

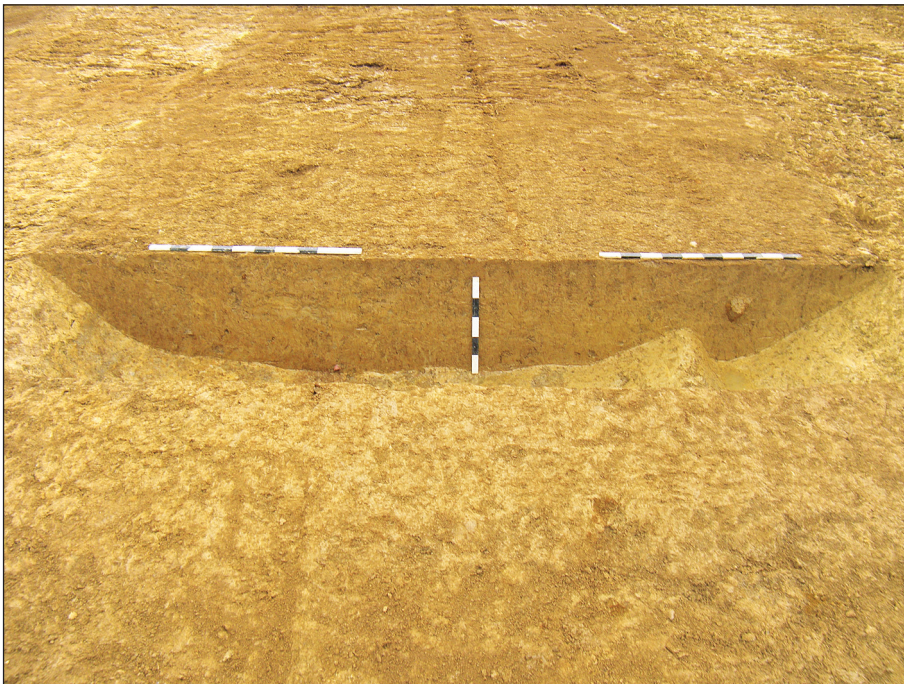



Plate 8: Medieval trackway 15013 (Area D), from north

	This material for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction			
	Date:	15/09/15	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	n/a	Illustrator:	WAF
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\79073\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Assessment\2015_09_14		



Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB  
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk



Wessex Archaeology Ltd is a company limited by guarantee registered in England, company number 1712772. It is also a Charity registered in England and Wales, number 287786; and in Scotland, Scottish Charity number SC042630. Our registered office is at Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.