



Rollestone Camp Cable Installation

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording



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Contents

Summary	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iii
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Project background.....	1
1.2 Scope of the report	1
1.3 Location, topography and geology	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
2.1 Introduction.....	2
2.2 Previous investigations	2
2.3 Archaeological and historical context.....	2
3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	3
3.1 Aims	3
3.2 Objectives.....	3
4 METHODS.....	4
4.1 Introduction.....	4
4.2 Fieldwork methods.....	4
4.3 Finds and environmental strategies	4
4.4 Monitoring.....	4
5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE	5
5.1 Introduction.....	5
5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits	5
5.3 Archaeological results.....	5
6 FINDS EVIDENCE.....	6
6.1 Introduction.....	6
9 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE.....	11
9.1 Introduction.....	11
9.5 Recommendations.....	13
10 CONCLUSIONS	13
10.1 Summary	13
10.2 Discussion	13
11 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION.....	14
11.1 Museum.....	14
11.2 Preparation of the archive.....	14
11.3 Selection strategy	15
11.4 Security copy	16
11.5 OASIS	16
12 COPYRIGHT	16
12.1 Archive and report copyright	16
12.2 Third party data copyright	16
REFERENCES	18
APPENDICES	21
Appendix 1.....	21
Table 1 Assessment of the environmental evidence.	21
Appendix 2 OASIS summary	22



List of Figures

- Cover** Cable trench from the from the north-east
Figure 1 Site location plan and monitored area
Figure 2 Pit 203, plan and section
Figure 3 Pit 405, plan and section
Figure 4 Pit 412, plan and section
Figure 5 Cable trench from the south-west
Figure 6 Cable trench from the north-west
Figure 7 Cable trench from the south-east
Figure 8 Cable trench from the east
Figure 9 South-east facing section of pit 203
Figure 10 Pit 405 from the south
Figure 11 East facing section of pit 412
Figure 12 South-east facing section of ditch 206
Figure 13 Gully 410 from the north-west

List of Tables

- Table 1** Summary of finds by material type (no. and wt. in grammes)
Table 2 Quantification of pottery by context, chronological period and ware type
Table 3 Flint object type by feature/deposit
Table 4 Animal bone: number of identified specimens present (or NISP) by feature



Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by UK Power Networks Services, to undertake an archaeological monitoring and recording during installation of electrical cables between Rollestone Camp and the Rollestone substation. The monitored works cover a distance of 410 m, outside Rollestone Camp, Shrewton, Salisbury SP3 4UZ. The watching brief was undertaken 15–25 August 2022.

The archaeological monitoring and recording uncovered five archaeological features including three pits, a ditch and a gully, along with two tree throw holes. All datable finds recovered were prehistoric in date, with Neolithic and Beaker pottery. Features were concentrated toward the northern end of the scheme, with a ditch and pit at the southern end of the cable route.

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Rollestone Camp Cable Installation WBR

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by UK Power Networks Services, to undertake Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (AMR) during installation of electrical cables between Rollestone Camp and the Rollestone substation. The monitored works cover a distance of 410 m, outside Rollestone Camp, Shrewton, Salisbury SP3 4UZ (Fig. 1). The AMR was undertaken 15 –25 August 2022.
- 1.1.2 The existing HV cable between Fargo Ammo Compound and Rollestone Substations have been in use for many years and have been identified for lifecycle replacement. The new route was monitored during these AMR works under permitted development. The client sought advice from Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service (WCAS) who responded on 21 December 2021:

Given the high archaeological potential of the wider area, I consider that archaeological monitoring of the cable trench outside of the Camp only, i.e. east of the road, would be appropriate. As the cable trench is not especially wide and deep, if at an early stage monitoring indicates that there are reasons why archaeological deposits are unlikely to be encountered, e.g. due to disturbance or insufficient depth, the monitoring can be curtailed.

1.2 Scope of the report

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

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The AMR was located between Shrewton, 2.3 kilometres to the West and Larkhill, 2.9 kilometres to the east and north of the Rollestone Roundabout on The Packway (B3086). The cable line commenced at the Rollestone Camp Remote TX substation, it ran north-east to the Camp entrance, cross the road and then turned northwards to end at the Rollestone substation.
- 1.3.2 The Site slopes gently from 128 m Ordnance Datum (OD) at the substation in the north to 125 m OD in the south and 119 m OD at the eastern end of the route. In the wider landscape the land drops away more rapidly so that Rollestone Camp is located on the end of a north-east to south-west ridge.
- 1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Seaford Chalk Formation – Chalk, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 84 to 90 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period with no superficial deposits (British Geological Survey 2022).



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has not been previously assessed. There are no previous investigations related to this development. The following section summarises the recorded historical environment resource within a 500 m study area of the development. The results are presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (WSHER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Previous investigations

2.2.1 There have been no investigations of the Site itself but there has been a large amount of archaeological work done in the area, with a recent evaluation within the Rollestone Camp reporting only 20th century finds (WCAS comment on Wiltshire Council planning application PL/2021/08202).

2.2.2 Rollestone Corner, 400m to the south, was investigated as part of the A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down project (Wessex Archaeology 2018). At evaluation stage, two tree throws were found to contain worked flint, burnt flint, and two small pottery sherds, suggesting short-term activity. The worked flint was likely to date to the later Neolithic period. Worked flint, burnt flint and pottery were also recovered during fieldwalking.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (500,000 BC to AD 43)

2.3.1 The landscape surrounding the Site is rich in prehistoric remains of a funerary and ritual nature with numerous Bronze Age burial mounds. A group of four burial mounds lie to the west of the Site (MWI16939) and another was found during excavation beneath the current silos in the Rollestone Camp (MWI17188) approximately 400 m to the west. A Neolithic causewayed enclosure, known as Robins Hoods Ball Clump (Scheduled Monument 1009593), is located approximately 1 km to the north east of the Site. Stonehenge and Woodhenge lie to the south-west and west of the Site respectively, and the Site lies just outside the Stonehenge, Avebury and associated sites World Heritage Site.

2.3.2 However, it is noticeable that most of the Site is on a ridge and almost all the known funerary activity is downslope to the south and west. The closest are two confluent bowl barrows (NHLE 1012166) 250 m south-east of the eastern end on the cable route.

2.3.3 There is an expansive prehistoric field system shown on the WSHER (MWI16773), the western edge of which intrudes into the Site in the form of two linears. A Bronze Age enclosure was discovered during excavations in 1996, located 400m to the west (MWI7105), together with other prehistoric field systems to its south and west (MWI7092). The WSHER shows the Site to be surrounded by such field systems across Salisbury Plain.

Romano-British (AD 43 – AD 410)

2.3.4 There are no specifically Romano-British records in the HER but some of the undated field systems may date from that period and many others would have carried on through. A Bronze Age Barrow within the Net Barrow Group, to the west of the Site was found to contain Roman pottery (SU04SE305).



Medieval (AD410 – AD 1538)

- 2.3.5 The Domesday Book of 1086 records a manor at Rollestone, named Winterburne which is usually derived from the word meaning a stream that flows in winter. It is recorded as six hides in the possession of Cuthwulf. The manor later becomes known as Rollestone, probably from the name Ralph and the Saxon 'tun' for place. The manor changed hands many times but remains in place throughout the period.
- 2.3.6 The field system to the north of the Site is recorded as Medieval or post-medieval (MWI73349) but there is no evidence given to support this.

Post-medieval (AD 1538 – Present)

- 2.3.7 The manor/estate continues into the post-medieval with possible two farmstead, at Middle Farm 1 km to the south-west and another 200 m to 400 m to the east of the Site.
- 2.3.8 Rollestone Camp, immediately to the west, was established in 1916 by the Royal Flying Corps for observation balloon training (MWI6734). During WWII it was used as an RAF Anti-Gas School and has continued in military use since.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The aims of the AMR, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022) and as defined in the ClfA *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), were to:
- allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
 - provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the AMR itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
 - guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

3.2 Objectives

- 3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the AMR, also defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022), were to:
- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
 - record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
 - place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
 - make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the AMR.



4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The watching archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the cable route. Where necessary, the surfaces of uncovered archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. All archaeological features and deposits were hand-excavated.

4.2.2 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

Recording

4.2.3 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.

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

4.2.5 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 1: Description).

4.4 Monitoring

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



5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The AMR uncovered five archaeological features including pits, a ditch and a gully, along with two natural features. All datable finds recovered were prehistoric in date, with possible Neolithic and Beaker Age pottery. Features were concentrated toward the northern end of the scheme, with two features at the southern end of the cable route.
- 5.1.2 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed by feature type.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The soil sequence was consistent along the length of the route. Mid-grey brown silty loam (0.20–0.26 m thick) overlaid the natural chalk geology which varied from solid chalk to weathered chalk with periglacial scaring (Figs 5–7). To the south of the route, a modern carpark surface and associated bedding material buried the topsoil (Fig. 8).
- 5.2.2 Worked flint artefacts including scrapers and flakes and burnt flint fragments were recovered from the topsoil in the vicinity of pit 203 and may have originally derived from the pit.

5.3 Archaeological results

Discrete features

- 5.3.1 Pit 203 located at the eastern end of the route was revealed in part within the excavated cable trench (Figs 2 and 9). The straight sided flat based pit (visible dimensions 0.98 m long, 0.34 m wide and 0.47 m deep) contained a dark brown grey silty clay loam backfill (204) in the base (0.20 m thick), from which worked flint flakes and animal bone was recovered. This was overlaid by a second deliberate backfill (205) of mid-grey brown silty clay (0.28 m thick) with prehistoric pottery, worked flint including a scraper, core fragment and broken blade, along with flint flakes, burnt flint and animal bone. One flint object possibly exhibits a faceted butt and would therefore be more typical of later Neolithic technology, though this cannot be relied on to date the feature. The environmental samples collected hazel nutshell fragments and poorly preserved cereals, along with well-preserved charcoal.
- 5.3.2 Pit 405 at the northern end of the route was partially exposed within the cable trench (Figs 3 and 10). The small pit (0.70 m long, 0.4 m wide and 0.30 m deep) contained a single fill of dark brown silty loam (406) with prehistoric pottery and worked flint.
- 5.3.3 Large Pit 412 (1 m long, 0.70 m wide and 0.85 m deep) with straight sides and a flat base was located toward the northern end of the route (Figs 4 and 11). The pit contained five fills, the basal fill 413 (0.23 m thick) of dark brown grey contained a placed deposit of Late Neolithic pottery, animal bone and deer antler. The environmental sample contained abundant fragments of hazel nutshell, and a small quantity of well-preserved charcoal.
- 5.3.4 The basal fill was sealed by a deliberate dump 417 (0.10 m thick) of dark grey silty loam with worked flint including a scraper, animal bone fragments and burnt flint. The environmental sample contained well-preserved charcoal. The dumped deposit was overlaid by fills derived from natural silting and side collapse of the pit which contained a small amount of highly fragmented charcoal, the uppermost fill (415) contained two fragments of Beaker pottery, worked flint, burnt flint and animal bone.

Linear features

- 5.3.5 Ditch 206 located 100m south-west of pit 203, very little was exposed within the cable trench making the orientation difficult to determine although it appears to be broadly north-west-south-east (visible dimensions 0.90 m long, 0.35 m wide and 0.30 m deep). The ditch contained a single secondary fill of mid-red-brown silty clay (207), from which no finds were recovered (Fig. 12).
- 5.3.6 East-west aligned gully 410 at the northern end of the route had a concave shallow profile (visible dimensions 1 m long, 0.5 m wide and 0.11 m deep). It contained a single fill of dark brown silty loam (411) from which no finds were recovered (Fig. 13).

Natural features

- 5.3.7 Two tree throw holes were exposed toward the northern end of the route, the irregular shaped tree throw hole 403 (1.86 m long, 0.7m wide and 0.18 m deep) contained a single fill of mid-brown silty loam (404), from which no finds were recovered.
- 5.3.8 Tree throw hole 407 was also irregular in shape (2.60 m long, 1.30 m wide and 0.28 m deep), it contained two fills of grey brown silty loam (408 and 409) the upper of which contained prehistoric pottery and animal bone.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A small assemblage of finds totalling approximately 2.4 kg was recovered from this phase of work. The assemblage ranges in date from Late Neolithic to Beaker, although a significant amount can only be assigned a broad prehistoric date. The finds have been cleaned and quantified by material type in each context, and scanned to assess their nature, condition, and potential date range. Totals by material type are presented in Table 1.

Table 1 Summary of finds by material type (no. and wt. in grammes)

Material	No.	WT. (g)
Animal bone	44	385
Burnt flint	68	1178
Flint	36	666
Pottery		
<i>Late Neolithic</i>	11	85
<i>Beaker</i>	2	3
<i>Prehistoric unspecified</i>	12	28
Sub-total	25	116
Total	173	2345

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 A small quantity of pottery amounting to 25 sherds (116 g) was recovered from four features. It includes sherds of Late Neolithic, Beaker and prehistoric date. The condition is poor; levels of fragmentation, surface abrasion and edge damage are high. Overall, the mean sherd weight is 4.6 g.
- 6.2.2 The assemblage has been quantified by context (count and weight) and subdivided into broad ware group(s) based on the dominant inclusions (e.g., flint-tempered ware); detailed fabric descriptions are retained in the archive. Details of vessel form and other diagnostic

features have been noted and a spot date for each context has been assigned. The level of recording accords with a 'basic record' advocated for the purpose of characterising an assemblage rapidly. (Barclay *et al.* 2016, 16–17). Estimated Vessel Equivalents have not been used due to the absence of any rims. A breakdown of the pottery by context, period and ware type is presented in Table 2.

Table 2 Quantification of pottery by context, chronological period and ware type

Context	Feature	Period	Ware type	Fabric code*	No.	Wt. (g)
204	Pit 203	Prehistoric	Flint-tempered ware	F3	1	7
406	Pit 405	Prehistoric	Fine flint-tempered ware	F2	1	2
406	Pit 405	Prehistoric	Flint-tempered ware	F1	3	4
409	Tree-throw hole 407	Prehistoric	Flint-tempered ware	F1	5	11
409	Tree-throw hole 407	Prehistoric	Shell and flint-tempered	SF1	2	4
413	Pit 412	Late Neolithic	Shell and grog-tempered	SG1	11	85
415	Pit 412	Beaker	Grog-tempered ware	G1	1	1
415	Pit 412	Beaker	Grog-tempered ware	G2	1	2
Total					25	116

*Details retained in the archive

Late Neolithic

- 6.2.3 A total of 11 sherds (85 g) from pit 412 date to this period (Table 2) and belong to the Grooved Ware ceramic tradition. The sherds are present in a coarse fabric containing shell and flint inclusions. Two pieces are decorated on the exterior with multiple horizontal grooved lines with a band of diagonal grooved lines above/below, whilst a third sherd also has remnants of parallel grooved lines. The surfaces of the remaining sherds are too poorly preserved to identify any decoration, but their firing suggests that they may derive from the same vessel as the decorated pieces. The fabric and decorative motifs on this vessel find parallels amongst the large Durrington Walls style Grooved Ware assemblages from Durrington Walls itself (Longworth 1971) as well as Woodhenge (Cunnington 1929, e.g., Plate 28, 14) both of which are located within 6 km to the south-east of Rollestone Camp. Durrington Walls style Grooved Ware dominates the collections of Late Neolithic pottery within the area, mainly due to the large assemblages from Durrington Walls (Longworth 1971) and Woodhenge (Cunnington 1929) but other vessels of this ceramic style were also found at multiple sites within the Stonehenge Environs project (Cleal 1990, 236) as well as at other sites in the area (Brook forthcoming; Wessex Archaeology 2020; Leivers 2018). Concentrations of Late Neolithic worked flint were found during archaeological works approximately 500 m to the south (Highways England 2018), indicating that Late Neolithic activity was taking place in the more immediate area.

Beaker

- 6.2.4 Two small, abraded body sherds of Beaker were also found along with the Grooved Ware in pit 412. Both are in grog-tempered fabrics, (Table 2) one slightly finer than the other indicating that they are originally from two separate vessels. One piece is decorated with horizontal and zig-zag lines of toothed comb impressions, the other piece has a single line of toothed comb impressions. These sherds are too small to assign to any classificatory scheme.

Prehistoric unspecified

- 6.2.5 The remaining sherds were found in pits 203 and 405 and three-throw hole 407; they could only be dated more broadly to the prehistoric period (Table 2). They are present in a range of predominantly coarse flint-tempered fabrics and one containing shell and flint inclusions. Given the longevity of the use of flint as a temper in ceramic traditions within the area these pieces could date to either the Neolithic or Bronze Age. Early Neolithic ceramics in both flint- and shell- tempered fabrics were identified amongst the assemblage from Robin Hood's Ball (Thomas 1964), located approximately 1 km to the north-east and therefore an Early Neolithic date cannot be ruled out entirely.

6.3 Worked Flint

- 6.3.1 A small assemblage of worked flint amounting to only 36 pieces was recovered. The majority (29 pieces) was collected from the excavation of three pits, with the remainder derived from the topsoil (Table 3 below).

Table 3 Flint object type by feature/deposit

Object type	Topsoil	Pit 203	Pit 405	Pit 412	Total
Core fragment		1			1
Flake	2	7	1	6	16
Broken flake	2	4	1	1	8
Broken blade		1			1
Crested piece	1				1
Shatter		1			1
Scraper	2	1		2	5
Notched piece		1			1
Misc. Retouch				2	2
TOTAL	7	16	2	11	36

Raw Material and Condition

- 6.3.2 The condition of the assemblage varies. Those pieces found in the topsoil, and occasional examples from pits are in a state typical of material collected from the ploughzone or redeposited through erosion. These are deeply patinated (white) and glossy, heavily edge damaged and often liberally spotted with iron staining. The pieces derived from the pits are more typically in a fresher, undamaged condition and patination, although present without exception, is less pronounced. Where recent breaks have occurred it is possible to see that the flint is a grey to black colour. The cortex is thick, off-white, and relatively unabraded suggesting that the raw material has been sourced from the local chalk geology.

The Assemblage

- 6.3.3 The bulk of the assemblage consists of essentially undiagnostic flakes (67% including broken examples). These are generally thick, relatively squat pieces struck with a hard hammer, although several examples are rather indeterminate. However, although only one complete blade (pit 412, with miscellaneous retouch) and one broken blade (pit 203) were recovered, there is some additional evidence for blade manufacture. Two broken flakes from pit 203, and one from pit 412 are notably narrower and might be considered blade-like in form. A broken flake, also from pit 412, has parallel blade scars on its dorsal surface, as does a scraper from the topsoil. A unilaterally crested blade, also from the topsoil, provides further evidence for deliberate blade manufacture. A core fragment from pit 203 has been only minimally worked but has produced at least 2 small blades. None of these are strictly

chronologically diagnostic but they are not typical features of Bronze Age assemblages and, in the case of pit 412, fit comfortably with the Late Neolithic pottery recovered.

- 6.3.4 Retouched pieces are relatively common for such a small assemblage (22%), with scrapers by far the dominant tool type. These are of limited use as chronological indicators but one example (ON 3 from pit 203) possibly exhibits a faceted butt and would therefore be more typical of later Neolithic technology. The notched piece and the remaining miscellaneous retouched examples are undiagnostic but would not be out of place in an assemblage of this period, and one of the latter is on a reasonably well-made blade that would similarly fit well with a late Neolithic date.
- 6.3.5 Overall, the assemblage is lacking clear chronological or technological information, but some of these features suggest, albeit tentatively, the presence of late Neolithic material. Pits 203 and 412 contain most of the material of this character and, as these form a component of deliberate backfill deposits, could be contemporary with these features. A group of four pieces from such a deposit in pit 412, whilst not refitting, are clearly derived from one nodule and might represent local knapping. Some of the flakes from the topsoil are relatively crude and may imply some mixture with Bronze age material, but nothing demonstrably of this date is present.
- 6.3.6 Rollestone Camp is situated only 6 km to the west of Durrington Walls and Woodhenge, and less than 5 km northwest of Stonehenge, all significant centres of Neolithic activity. More locally, previous work only 500 m south at Rollestone Corner (Highways England 2018) produced material of a comparable character. A program of ploughzone sampling and trial trenching similarly failed to produce any truly secure chronological indicators, but several flakes with faceted butts, collected alongside blades and a blade core, were considered likely to be of late Neolithic date.
- 6.3.7 A total of 68 pieces of burnt, unworked flint was recovered from four contexts within two pits (203 and 412) and the topsoil. The largest quantity was found in pit 412 (61 pieces, just under 1 kg). This material type is intrinsically undatable but is often taken as an indicator of prehistoric activity. The material from pit 412 derives from deposits likely to represent deliberate backfill and as such might be considered contemporary with the feature.

6.4 Animal Bone

- 6.4.1 The animal bone is quantified in Table 1 above, but once refits have been accounted for the total falls to 37 fragments (Table 4). The assemblage was assessed following current guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019) and period specific recommendations for zooarchaeological analysis (Serjeantson 2011, 102–3).
- 6.4.2 Bone preservation is generally good to fair and consistent within individual contexts. Cortical surfaces show the characteristic root etching and corrosion typical of bones from chalkland sites. Consequently, fine surface details such as cut marks are difficult to discern or have been entirely obliterated.

Table 4 Animal bone: number of identified specimens present (or NISP) by feature

Species	Pit 203	Tree-throw hole 407	Pit 412	Total
Cattle	-	-	6	6
Sheep/goat	-	1	1	2
Pig	-	-	3	3
Red deer	-	-	1	1
Aurochs	-	-	1	1



Total identified	-	1	12	13
Total unidentifiable	4	-	20	24
Overall total	4	1	32	37

- 6.4.3 Animal bones were recovered from a tree-throw hole and two pits. A fragment of sheep/goat tibia shaft came from tree-throw hole 407 and several cattle-sized long bone shaft fragments from prehistoric pit 203. Scorch marks on the end of one of the fragments, provides evidence for the direct application of heat, most probably to break the shaft and access the marrow, a technique often referred to as 'burn and smash' (Serjeantson 1996, 201).
- 6.4.4 Most of the animal bones came from Late Neolithic pit 412, particularly basal fill 413, with smaller amounts from fills 414, 415 and 417. The identified bones are largely from cattle and comprise, two loose teeth, fragments of rib and two semi-complete metacarpals from a calf. The other bones include part of a sheep/goat tibia, three pig bones, potentially from the same juvenile animal, a complete red deer antler tine and the distal end of a bovine humerus.
- 6.4.5 The three pig bones include part of a maxilla, two vertebrae and a semi-complete humerus. The red deer antler tine and one of the rib fragments were found at the same level within fill 413 of the pit. Signs of use wear are evident on the tip of the antler tine, indicating that it potentially formed part of a larger tool, perhaps a pick use to excavate the pit. The associated rib fragment is shaped or abraded at one end, a may also have been used as rudimentary tool. The preservation condition of the fragment of bovine humerus from fill 414, suggests it is residual and the overall large size of the bone indicates that it is probably from an aurochs.

6.5 Conservation

- 6.5.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field or during the assessment of this material.

7 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

7.1 Finds potential

- 7.1.1 The assemblage highlights relatively low levels of prehistoric activity, with the range of material culture limited to only four categories, none of which occur in any great quantity. Nevertheless, when considered alongside the significant regional evidence for prehistoric activity, even this small collection can augment our understanding of the human presence within the area.
- 7.1.2 The pottery has provided a chronological framework for the site through the allocation of spot dates for each context. Given the very small numbers of diagnostic forms or featured sherds, further analysis will be of limited help in refining this sequence further. The worked flint, burnt flint and animal bone have limited potential to provide information beyond that already recorded. However, the pair of calf metacarpals from basal fill 413, represent good candidates for radiocarbon dating, should this be deemed appropriate to place the pit deposits within a wider chronological and regional framework.



8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Finds evidence – recommendations for analysis

- 8.1.1 The finds have all been recorded to recommended minimum standards for the archiving of archaeological finds.
- 8.1.2 The pottery has already been recorded to a fairly detailed level, equating to a 'basic record' of analysis as outlined by the national guidelines (Barclay *et al.* 2016, section 2.4.5) in order to ensure a comparable dataset. A summary report based on this completed assessment should be included in any further dissemination of the results.
- 8.1.3 The animal bone requires no further analytical work but has potential for radiocarbon dating and reworking the above narrative for wider dissemination.
- 8.1.4 The worked flint requires no further analysis but again, a summary report based on this assessment should be included in any further dissemination of the results.

9 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 Five bulk sediment samples were taken from two pits and were processed for the recovery and assessment of environmental evidence. Wood charcoal and charred plant remains recovered from the samples have been assessed.

9.2 Aims and methods

- 9.2.1 The aim of this assessment is to determine the nature and significance of the environmental remains preserved at the. Appropriate recommendations for further work are provided. This assessment follows recommendations from Historic England (English Heritage 2011).
- 9.2.2 The size of the bulk sediment samples varied between 6 and 31 litres, with an average volume of approximately 15 litres. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse fractions of the residues (>4 mm) were sorted by eye for artefactual and environmental remains and discarded. The environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots. The fine residue fractions and the flots were scanned and sorted using a Leica MS5 stereomicroscope at magnifications of up to x40.
- 9.2.3 Different potential indicators of bioturbation were considered, including the percentage of roots and the abundance of other material including modern seeds, mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g., *Cenococcum geophilum*), earthworm eggs, and modern insects. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence of other environmental remains such as terrestrial molluscs and animal bone was recorded.
- 9.2.4 Plant remains were identified through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (e.g., Cappers *et al.* 2006). Wood charcoal fragments were identified through examination of the transverse section to identify the presence of oak (*Quercus* sp.) and non-oak species. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereals and other cultivated crops (using traditional names).



9.2.5 All remains were recorded semi-quantitatively on an abundance scale: C = <5 ('Trace'), B = 5–10 ('Rare'), A = 10–30 ('Occasional'), A* = 30–100 ('Common'), A** = 100–500 ('Abundant'), A*** = >500 ('Very abundant/Exceptional').

9.3 Results

9.3.1 The results are presented in Appendix 1, Table 1.

9.3.2 Environmental evidence comprises varying quantities of wood charcoal, charred plant remains, and terrestrial molluscs. No potentially invasive burrowing blind snails (*Cecilioidea acicula*) were noted. The charred plant material retrieved ranges from poorly to well-preserved. No other environmental evidence is preserved in the bulk sediment samples. There is moderate evidence of later bioturbation in some contexts, based on the occurrence of modern roots and some uncharred seeds in pit 203.

9.3.3 Pit 203 is rich in hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragments. Some poorly preserved cereals are present, although these were generally unidentifiable (Triticeae). The better-preserved specimens are identifiable as barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.). A small quantity of moderately well-preserved charcoal was noted, a mixture of oak (*Quercus* sp.) and non-oak species. Terrestrial molluscs are abundant in the sample, alongside some small fragments of clinker/cinder.

9.3.4 Four fills from pit 412, each differing slightly in character, were sampled. The basal fill, 413, contained abundant fragments of hazel nutshell, and a small quantity of well-preserved charcoal which mostly comprised non-oak species. Terrestrial molluscs were exceptionally abundant. In comparison, fills 414 and 415 were sterile in charred plant remains, and only contained a small quantity of highly fragmented charcoal, and abundant terrestrial snail shells. Conversely, fill 417 was richer in well-preserved charcoal, mostly representing non-oak species. Small fragments of hazel nutshell were also recorded, alongside abundant terrestrial molluscs.

9.4 Conclusions

9.4.1 Pits 203 and 412 contain environmental evidence which would be consistent with a Neolithic or Bronze Age date (Pelling and Campbell 2013). Neolithic sites tend to yield varying quantities of hazel nutshell, and cereal species are sometimes recorded; naked barley and emmer wheat are the main cereal species recorded on Neolithic to Early Bronze Age sites in southern England (ibid.; Anderson-Whymark and Thomas 2012). However, it is unclear if some of the cereals from pit 203 are contemporary with early prehistoric activity or whether they are later contaminants (cf. Pelling *et al.* 2015). Radiocarbon dating would be required to establish if these cereals are of early prehistoric or later chronology.

9.4.2 The large quantities of terrestrial molluscs are potentially significant, however further sampling and assessment will be required to assess their full potential as environmental proxies. It is unclear if the molluscs are of prehistoric date or if they represent later intrusions. The largest quantity of molluscs was retrieved from the basal fill 413 of pit 412, which may suggest that the snails accumulated in the pit while the feature remained open for a prolonged period of time.

9.4.3 Overall, this assessment indicates that other features on the site have high potential for the preservation of charred plant remains, charcoal, and terrestrial molluscs.



9.5 Recommendations

- 9.5.1 If further fieldwork is undertaken at the site, sampling should continue to follow Wessex Archaeology's in-house guidance. Samples should be taken for the recovery of charred plant remains and wood charcoal from well-sealed features, covering as wide a range of different feature types and phases as possible. Where available deposits permit, the sample size should be 40 litres. Further investigation and sampling around the pits might identify further potential early prehistoric environmental material.
- 9.5.2 Sampling should be undertaken to recover molluscs which are likely to be abundant at the site. This will allow an investigation as to if there are any patterns to be observed in the snail assemblage, depending on depth and feature. Columns of contiguous samples should be taken through deep, well-sealed deposits such as enclosure ditches, field ditches, pits, palaeochannels, colluvium, alluvium, buried soils, tree-throws, and other similar feature/deposit types. The column should be approximately 20 cm wide, with samples taken at 10 cm intervals, respecting natural boundaries where appropriate. Each sample should be between 1-2 litres in volume.
- 9.5.3 Some of the samples contain material suitable for radiocarbon dating which could be used to refine site phasing. Radiocarbon dating should be undertaken on the cereal grains from pit 203, to establish if they are of early prehistoric or later chronology.

10 CONCLUSIONS

10.1 Summary

- 10.1.1 The AMR undertaken has been successful in meeting the aims and has provided information about the archaeological potential of the site. The results of the AMR help to refine the understanding of the presence, nature and distribution of archaeological features across the development.
- 10.1.2 The AMR established that archaeological features were present across the cable route, with a concentration towards the north end. The AMR was successful in mitigating against the disturbance of archaeological remains without proper record. The finds retrieved from the features and topsoil were prehistoric in date, with pottery suggesting a more specific date of Late Neolithic–Early Bronze Age.

10.2 Discussion

- 10.2.1 The archaeological features uncovered during the AMR consisted of three pits, a ditch and a gully, along with two tree throw holes. Pit 412 at the northern end of the cable route contained pottery from the Grooved Ware ceramic tradition, which bore similarities to the large Durrington Walls style Grooved Ware assemblages, suggesting the material was locally sourced. The pit also contained two small sherds of Beaker, a complete red deer antler tine and rib both appearing to have been used as tools, and an assemblage of animal bone. The large quantities of terrestrial molluscs which appeared to have accumulated in the basal fills of the pit may suggest that the pit had remained open for a prolonged period. The collection of material from the base of the pit may suggest they were purposefully placed and the pit was left open for a period of time prior to backfilling. Neolithic pits with placed deposits are frequent within the Stonehenge landscape and can be associated with ceremonial and funerary monuments, although no evidence of such monuments was observed during the AMR.
- 10.2.2 All other material recovered from the pits and a tree throw was broadly dated to the prehistoric period, no finds were recovered from the linear features.



- 10.2.3 Rollestone Camp is situated only 6 km to the west of Durrington Walls and Woodhenge, and less than 5 km northwest of Stonehenge, all significant centres of Neolithic activity. More locally, previous work 400 m south at Rollestone Corner indicated probable short-term activity during the Late Neolithic period in the form of worked and burnt flint material recovered from the overburden or tree throw holes. Whilst the finds assemblage from Rollestone Corner is comparable to that found during the AMR, the presence of archaeological features indicates a more significant use of the immediate area during the Late Neolithic period than previously understood.
- 10.2.4 The series of Bronze Age burial mounds and enclosure, and extensive prehistoric field system to the south and west of the AMR indicate that the landscape was utilised for both funerary and agricultural practices. Although no features relating to funerary activity were observed, the linear features investigated during the AMR may form part of the prehistoric field system, although no finds were recovered to confirm their date.
- 10.2.5 Previously identified activity in the area appeared to be in the lower landscape, down slope to the south and west. The results AMR demonstrated that there is archaeological activity on the north-east to south-west aligned ridge and that the features are concentrated toward the top of the ridge in the northern extent of the cable trench.

11 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

11.1 Museum

- 11.1.1 The archive resulting from the AMR is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. The Salisbury Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code SBYWM:2022.21. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

11.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

- 11.2.1 The physical archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by The Salisbury Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; ClfA 2014c; SMA 1995).
- 11.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- 1 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
 - 1 files/document cases of paper records

Digital archive

- 11.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

11.3 Selection strategy

- 11.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.
- 11.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows ClfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.
- 11.3.3 In this instance, given the relatively low level of finds recovery, the selection process has been deferred until after the fieldwork stage was completed. Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. These proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 11.3.4 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Finds

- 11.3.5 All finds have been recorded to an appropriate archive level prior to any selection proposals being implemented, and the selection process will be fully documented in the project archive. Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.
- Pottery (25 pieces): includes material of Late Neolithic, Beaker and prehistoric date; some further research potential; retain all.
 - Worked flint (36 pieces): includes material of probable Late Neolithic date; some further research potential; retain all.
 - Animal bone (44 fragments): small assemblage, majority from Late Neolithic pit 412, potential for radiocarbon dating. Retain all bones from pit 412, discard those from poorly dated pit 203 and tree-throw hole 407.
 - Burnt flint (68 pieces): intrinsically undatable; discarded.

Palaeoenvironmental material

- 11.3.6 Some of the samples have potential for further analysis, this should be reconsidered once further sampling has been undertaken. The material should be retained as part of the archive until further sampling has been undertaken when recommendations for analysis and deposition will be made. Should no further fieldwork be undertaken, the samples should be retained in the site archive. The sample from pit 2003 (fill 205) and pit 412 (fills 413 and 417) should be considered for the full quantification and analysis of charred plant remains, charcoal and terrestrial molluscs. This further work should be supported by radiocarbon dating charred plant material and/or charcoal from both pits.



- 11.3.7 Some residues were discarded after sorting; those rich in charred plant remains were retained.

Documentary records

- 11.3.8 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (written scheme of investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

- 11.3.9 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

11.4 Security copy

- 11.4.1 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.

11.5 OASIS

- 11.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 2). A.pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by WCAS on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

12 COPYRIGHT

12.1 Archive and report copyright

- 12.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

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

12.2 Third party data copyright

- 12.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for



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APPENDICES

Appendix 1

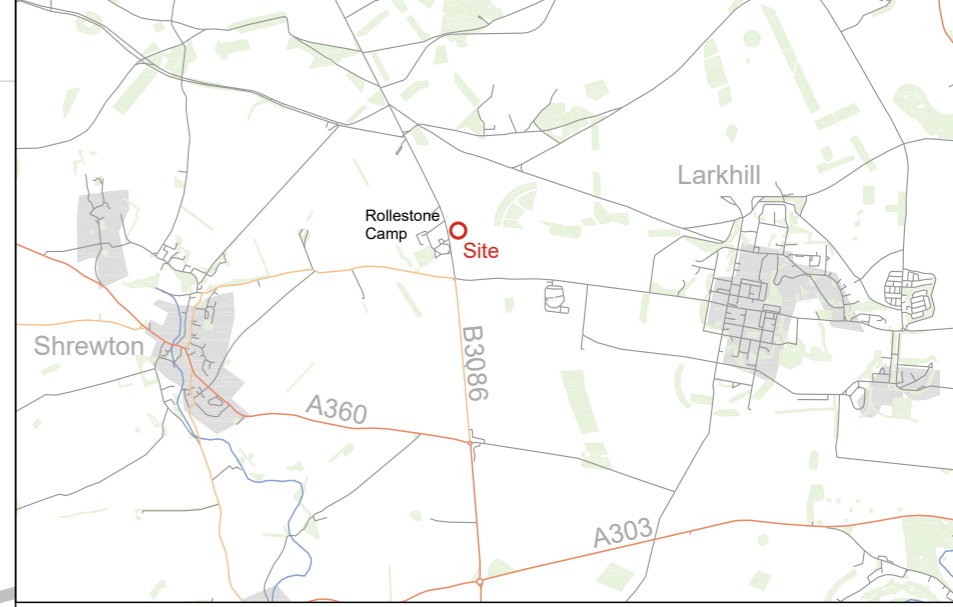
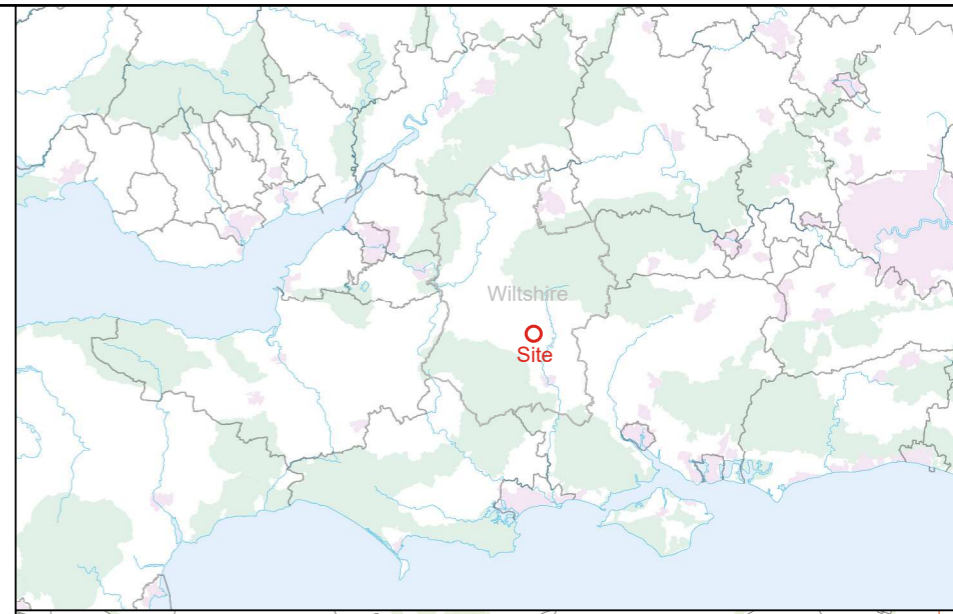
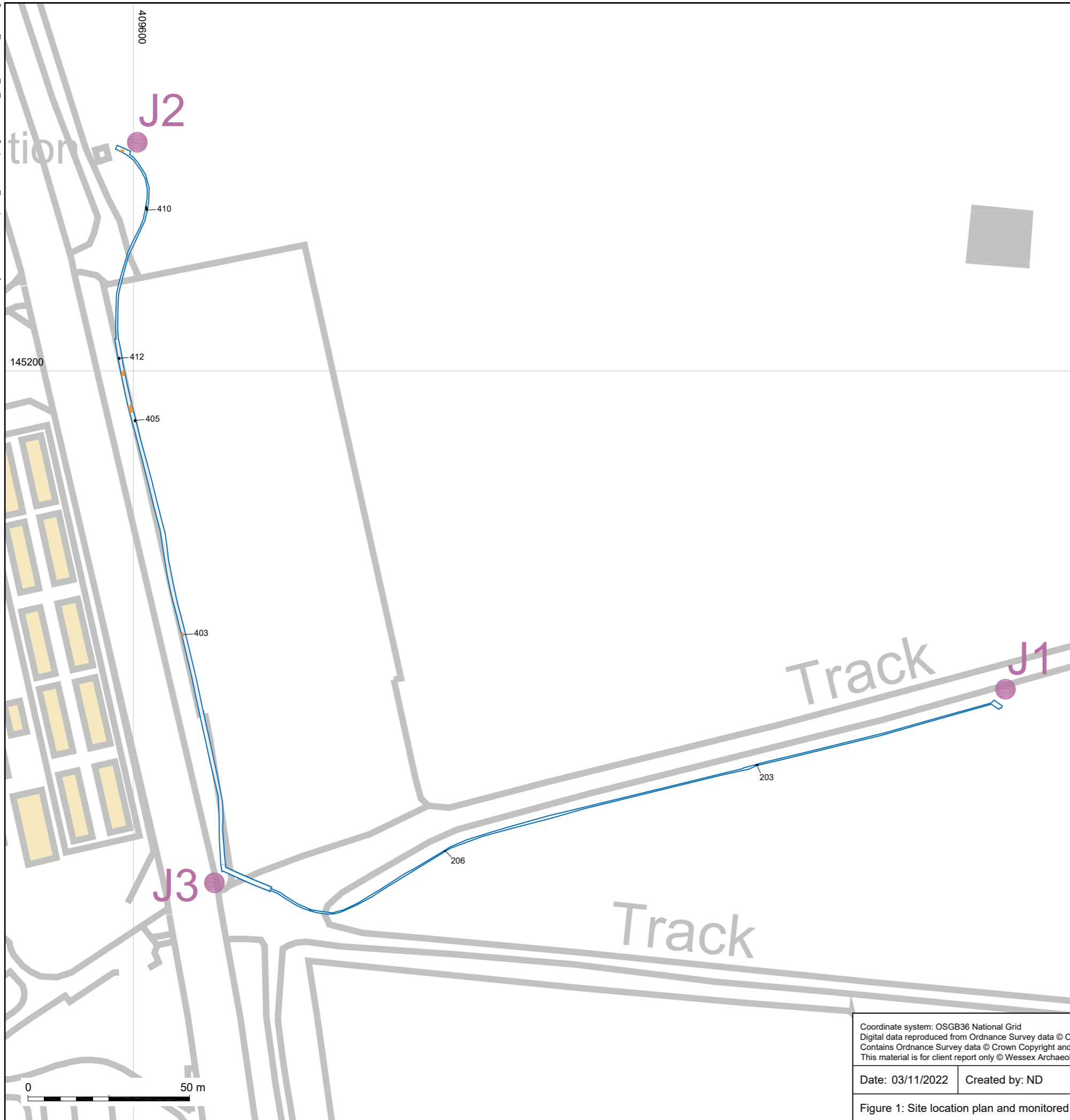
Table 1 Assessment of the environmental evidence.

Area	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Sample Code	Sample Vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain (abundance)	Chaff (abundance)	Cereal Notes (Taxa)	Charred Other (abundance)	Charred Other Notes (Taxa/type)	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal (type)	Other	Preservation	Material available for C14	Analysis potential
TR. 2	Pit	203	205	258660_1	13	60	30%, B, E, I	A*	-	<i>Hordeum</i> sp., <i>Triticum</i> sp., Triticeae (whole and highly fragmented grains)	A**	<i>Corylus avellana</i> nutshell fragments	4	Mixture of <i>Quercus</i> sp. and non- <i>Quercus</i> sp. Roundwood/twig. Moderate condition.	Moll-t (A**), Clinker/cinder (C), amorphous unburnt animal bone frags (B)	P	Yes	P, C, Moll-t
TR. 4	Pit	412	413	258660_2	31	100	30%, E, I	-	-	-	A*	<i>Corylus avellana</i> nutshell fragments	6	Mostly non- <i>Quercus</i> sp. Good condition.	Moll-t (A***)	F	Yes	P, C, Moll-t
TR. 4	Pit	412	414	258660_3	9	30	50%	-	-	-	-	-	<1	Highly fragmented	Moll-t (A**)	-	No	Moll-t
TR. 4	Pit	412	415	258660_4	14	60	70% (incl. modern cereal straw)	-	-	-	-	-	<1	Highly fragmented	Moll-t (A**)	-	No	Moll-t
TR. 4	Pit	412	417	258660_5	6	20	50% (incl. modern cereal straw)	-	-	-	A	<i>Corylus avellana</i> nutshell fragments	8	Mostly non- <i>Quercus</i> sp. Good condition.	Moll-t (A**)	P	Yes	P, C, Moll-t

Scale of abundance: C = <5, B = 5–10, A = 10–30, A* = 30–100, A** = 100–500, A*** = >500; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), E = earthworm eggs, I = insects; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs. Preservation: P = Poor. F = Fair. Analysis potential: C = Charcoal analysis. P = Charred plant remain analysis. Moll-t = Terrestrial mollusc analysis.



Appendix 2 OASIS summary




- Watching Brief Trench
- Archaeology
- Tree-throw
- Cable Joint

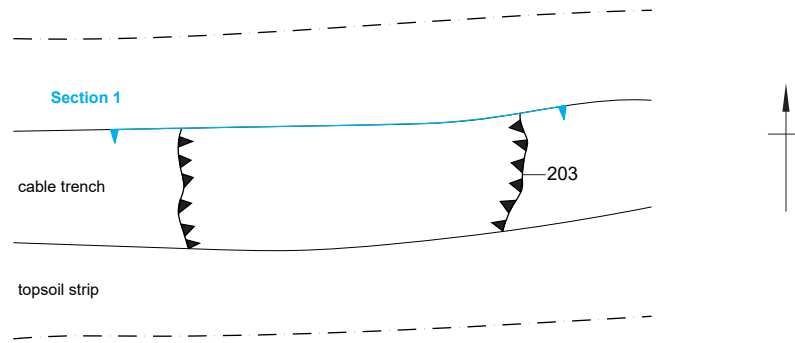
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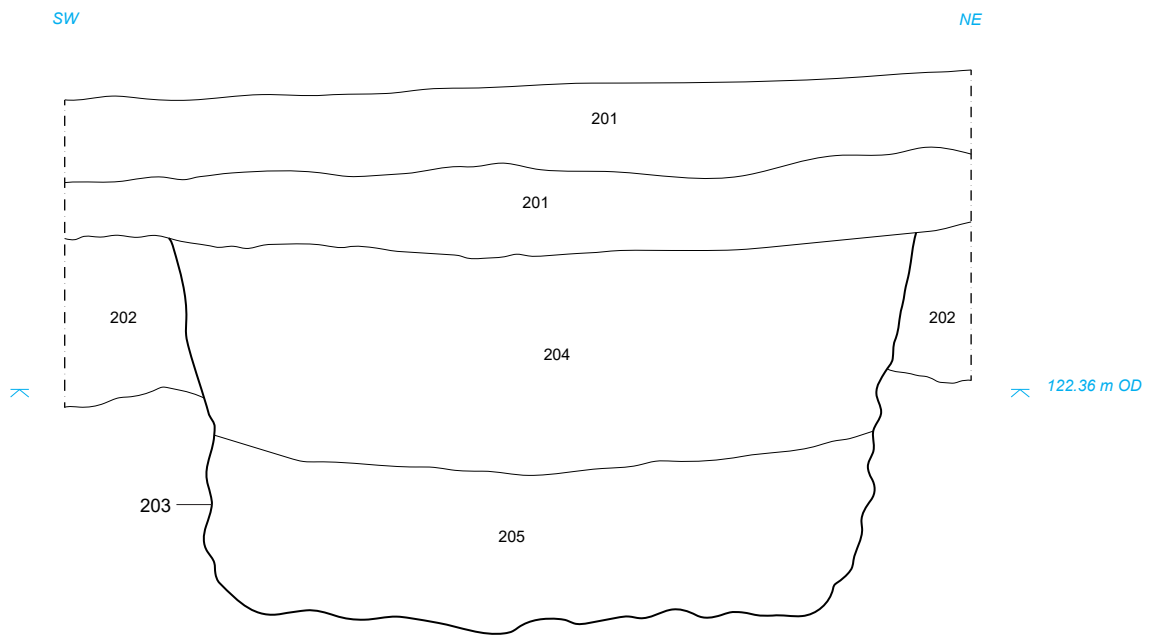
Figure 1: Site location plan and monitored area



A. Plan of Pit 203



B. South-east facing section of Pit 203



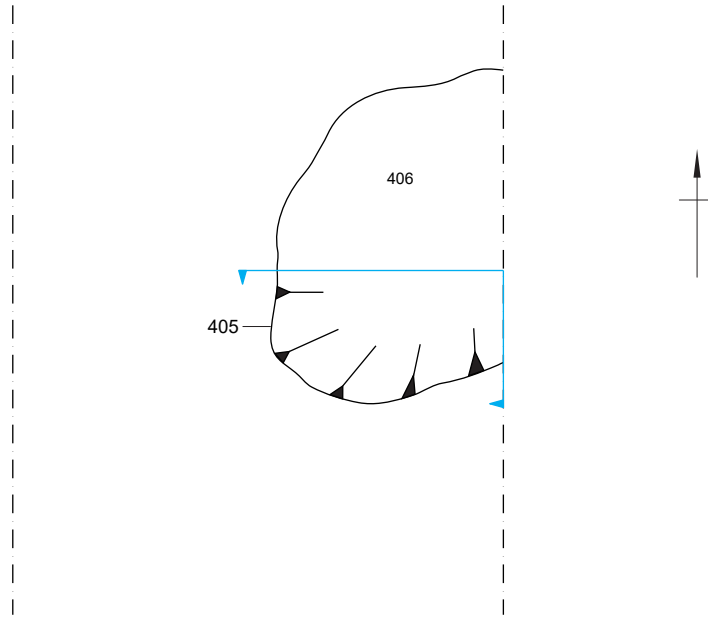
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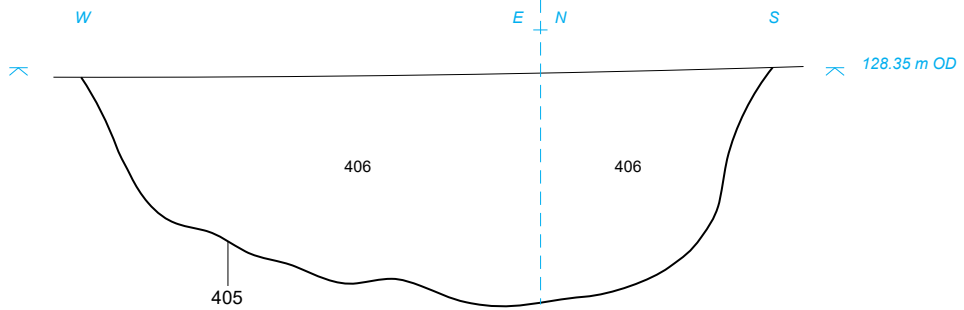


Figure 2: Pit 203, plan and section

A. Plan of Pit 405



B. South and west facing section of Pit 405



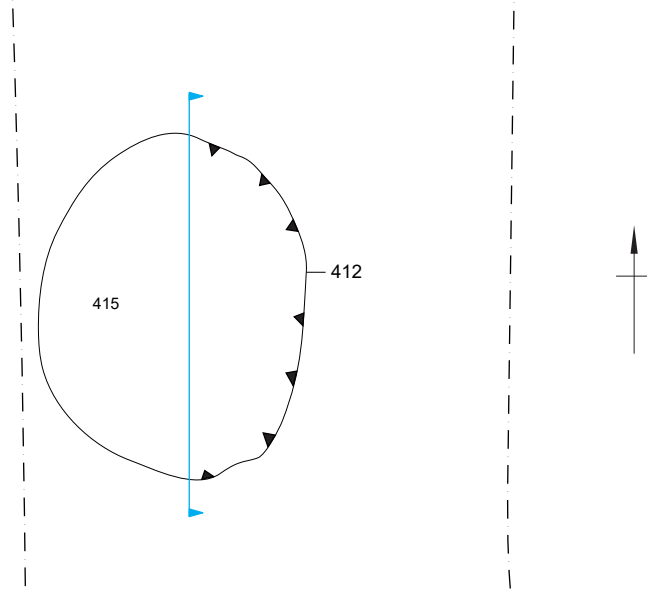
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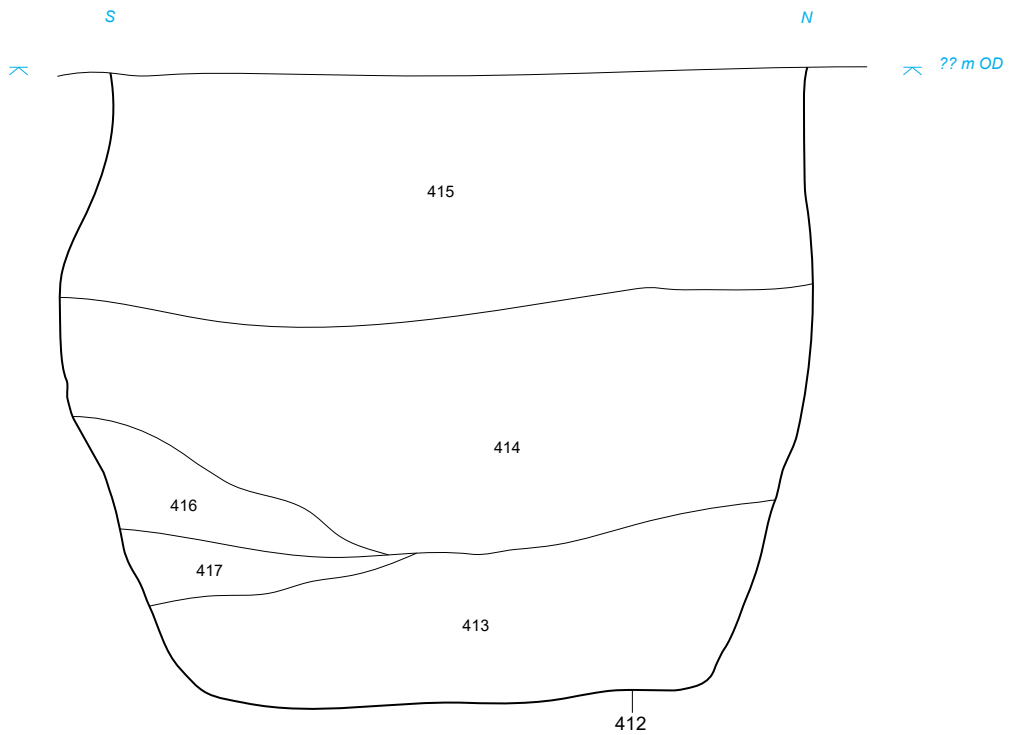
Figure 3: Pit 405, plan and section



A. Plan of Pit 412



B. East facing section of Pit 412



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Figure 4: Pit 412, plan and section



Figure 5: Cable trench from the south-west



Figure 6: Cable trench from the north-west



Figure 7: Cable trench from the south-east



Figure 8: Cable trench from the east



Figure 9: South-east facing section of pit 203



Figure 10: Pit 405 from the south



Figure 11: East facing section of pit 412



Figure 12: South-east facing section of ditch 206



Figure 13: Gully 410 from the north-west



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