



## 106 Cadley Road, Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





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**106 CADLEY ROAD,  
COLLINBOURNE DULCIS,  
WILTSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

Prepared for:

**REDACTED**

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Collingbourne Ducis

By

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**Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by REDACTED to undertake a watching brief on land at the rear of 106 Cadley Road, Collingbourne Dulcis, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 424607 154138. This work was undertaken between the 21<sup>st</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

The watching brief resulted in the excavation of four graves and therefore demonstrates that the early Anglo-Saxon (500-650 AD) cemetery first excavated in 1974 and again in 2007 continues southwards; the four inhumation burials making a total of one hundred and sixteen inhumations and at least four cremation burials so far recorded from the cemetery. The human remains represent a minimum of four individuals, including a juvenile (c. 6-8 yr.) and three adults. The adults included a female (>50 yr.) and two males (one probable) at c. 35-45 yr. and >35 yr.

At least one of the graves was seen to have been disturbed in antiquity. A very shallow, highly truncated ditch was also recorded which may be a possible boundary feature for the cemetery.

Finds were recovered from three of the four graves and included both deliberately deposited grave goods and residual finds. Deliberately deposited objects included two iron knives, two fragments of iron of unknown function, two small fragments of copper alloy sheet from an unknown object and a second, unidentifiable iron object.

The results from this watching brief, along with that of the 2007 and 1974 excavations form one of the largest cemeteries of this period in Wiltshire and as such it represents an archaeological resource of considerable regional and potentially national value.

It is therefore proposed that the results from this watching brief are incorporated into the detailed, integrated report on the results of the archaeological excavations at Cadley Road, which will be produced as a stand alone Wessex Archaeology Monograph.

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**Acknowledgements**

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The watching brief was undertaken by Naomi Hall with the assistance of Piotr Brozyna and Phil Harding.

The report was compiled by Naomi Hall and edited by Nick Truckle. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mepham (pottery and metalwork) and Matt Leivers (flint). Assessment of the human remains was undertaken by Kirsten Dinwiddy and the illustrations were prepared by Linda Coleman. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Nick Truckle.



# 106 CADLEY ROAD, COLLINBOURNE DULCIS, WILTSHIRE

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

### 1 BACKGROUND

#### 1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by REDACTED, to undertake a watching brief on land at the rear of 106 Cadley Road, Collingbourne Dulcis, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 424607 154138, hereafter referred to as the 'Site' (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The work was required as a condition of planning permission (K/56026/F) granted for the construction of a residential dwelling with associated access at the rear of 106 Cadley Road.
- 1.1.3 A written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology, 2009, ref T12840.01) was produced setting out the methodologies and standards under which the watching brief would be carried out. This document was submitted to and approved by Wiltshire Council Archaeological Service in advance of the Site works.
- 1.1.4 The watching brief was carried out between the 21<sup>st</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> May 2009, during groundworks for the proposed construction of a new dwelling with an additional visit in August to observe clearance of a tree stump in the north east corner of the Site.

#### 1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The Site comprised land within the existing back garden of 106 Cadley Rd (**Figure 1**). The stripped area was approximately 78m<sup>2</sup> and roughly 'L' shaped with the long side to the north and orientated west – east. The Site was originally under a number of trees and shrubs and is bounded by residential development on all four sides.
- 1.2.2 The Site is located on the northern slope of a dry valley c.250m to the east of the River Bourne and slopes steeply away from the north from a height of 133.65 to 132.60m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.2.3 The natural geology consists of Upper Chalk of the Cretaceous Period which is heavily weathered and degraded with multiple periglacial stripes and areas of colluvium/hillwash deposits.

### **1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 1.3.1 A chance discovery during the construction of the housing development (Saxon Rise) directly to the west of the Site in 1974 led to the discovery of burials dating to the early Saxon period (500-650AD).
- 1.3.2 A total of 33 graves were excavated cut to an average depth of 0.3m into the natural chalk (Gingell 1978). Several contained objects buried with the bodies, including knives, shield bosses and swords as well as items such as brooches, keys, buckles and beads pointing to a mixed community associated with a nearby settlement.
- 1.3.3 No obvious patterning to the burial ground could be ascertained and no archaeological features other than graves were observed.
- 1.3.4 In 1999 an excavation undertaken by Thames Valley Archaeological Services approximately 150 m to the south west of the Site revealed a settlement comprising ten sunken-featured buildings and associated features (Pine, 2001). Radiocarbon dates suggest that most of the site is dated to the early eighth to tenth centuries AD, although one building was dated to the fifth to seventh century AD and is therefore contemporary with the cemetery.
- 1.3.5 In March 2006 an archaeological evaluation comprising of six trenches was undertaken within the western area of the Site (Wessex Archaeology, 2006). The eastern half was covered with trees and scrub and was not accessible for evaluation at this time. The trenches were positioned to target anomalies identified following a geophysical survey of the Site using Ground Probing Radar (GPR) (Stratascan, 2006). These anomalies were interpreted as graves or areas of graves.
- 1.3.6 The evaluation revealed one definite inhumation burial and a further four probable grave cuts, as well as recovering fragments of early Saxon pottery from the trenches. A number of the graves were just 0.25m below the current ground surface. The evaluation failed to identify the limit of the burials.
- 1.3.7 In April 2006 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the monitoring of seven geotechnical pits dug to investigate the nature of the underlying natural geology. Five of the pits revealed no archaeological remains. However one pit identified a possible undated ditch aligned roughly east west.
- 1.3.8 In 2007 an excavation was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology on land located to the rear of the properties of 106-108 Cadley Road. This excavation discovered a total of 78 graves, a minimum of four cremation burials, three urned and one unurned, cremated human



bone from 23 contexts, two possible cenotaphs and a funerary enclosure. The majority of the burials were fairly well preserved and an initial assessment of the pathology on the skeletons identified an unusual case of spinal tuberculosis and both rickets and scurvy in the children. Most of the other conditions were more common findings such as degenerative joint disease or trauma.

- 1.3.9 Initial assessment of the grave goods suggests that the burials span the fifth to seventh centuries AD with the majority of the burials dating to the sixth century. The majority of the burials contained weapons and personal items. There was also a discovery of a bed burial near the eastern extent of the site, one of only fourteen ever recorded in the country.
- 1.3.10 In May 2009 a watching brief was carried at land to the rear of Roxana, Cadley Road which is just to the east of the Site. No archaeological features were encountered (Wessex Archaeology 2009a).

#### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The objective of the watching brief was to record, as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, nature, character and relationships of any surviving archaeological remains observed during the groundworks required for the proposed development.
- 1.4.2 Specifically in light of the known archaeological background of the area and the proximity of the Site to the previous excavations, this watching brief was to establish and record any continuation of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery.

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2009b), and is summarised below:
- 2.1.2 The proposed footprint for the building was machine excavated using a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological remains, or at natural geology if this was encountered first. A metal detector was employed to scan all deposits prior to excavation.
- 2.1.3 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. A full photographic record was compiled utilising colour transparencies, black and white negatives

(on 35mm film) and digital images. The photographic record will illustrate both the detail and the general context of the principal excavated features and finds, and the Site as a whole. A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was compiled, hand-drawn at either 1:10 or 1:20. Features were surveyed and located using a Leica GPS 1200 SmartNet utilising Ordnance Survey heights and co-ordinates.

- 2.1.4 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (revised 2008).
- 2.1.5 The excavation and assessment of the human remains was undertaken in compliance with a Licence for the Removal of Human Remains issued by the Ministry of Justice under Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857 in May, 2009 and also followed Wessex Archaeology's guidelines, which fully comply with all current legislation and standards.
- 2.1.6 A unique site code **71830** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.

### **3 RESULTS**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

- 3.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features are retained in the archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.1.2 The location of the watching brief area and its relationship to the previous excavations is shown on **Figure 1**.
- 3.1.3 Stripping commenced in the southern part of the Site. Here a deep sequence of modern layers and soil horizons was found to overlay a thin layer of colluvium which directly overlay the natural chalk geology. The depth of the overburden overlying the natural geology decreased towards the north from 1.05m to 0.77m. The natural geology was a weathered and degraded chalk and there was substantial root disturbance. Although the archaeological deposits may have cut the base of the colluvium they were not clearly discernable at this level.
- 3.1.4 Running north west – south east across the southern part of the Site was a wide but very shallow ditch **106 (Figure 2; plate 1)**. This feature was situated on a defined contour of the hillside and appears to have been highly truncated. Despite excavation of 50% of the exposed length of this feature it remained undated.
- 3.1.5 Further stripping of the Site revealed a number of potential grave cuts (**Figure 2; plate 2**). After a meeting with the Client and the Assistant

County Archaeologist the decision was made to proceed with the excavation and full recording of these features.

- 3.1.6 Four grave cuts lay to the north of **106**. The southernmost grave, **116** was extremely shallow and highly truncated. It contained the west – east aligned, extended, supine burial of a very robust adult male **117**, head orientated to the west (see **front cover**). Interestingly the grave cut appeared to be too short, with the feet resting high up against the grave edge. Similar observations were made in several instances during the 1974 excavation (Gingell 1978, 62).
- 3.1.7 The human remains indicate that the burial was that of a large male c. 35-45 years. Distinct polishing of the back of the anterior upper teeth suggests that they may have been used in activities such as grasping material. Changes to and disparity between the shape and muscle attachments of the clavicles (collar bones) may indicate repeated (asymmetric) movements of the shoulder and arms, which might (upon further investigation) indicate the performance of certain tasks and activities. Two iron fragments (ON 1002) were also found associated with this burial. Pottery from the grave included fragments which may have derived from a single vessel placed with the body as well as residual Romano-British and early to mid Saxon sherds. Cremated bone was also recovered from the grave fill.
- 3.1.8 Typically, grave fills predominantly comprise re-deposited natural material, as in grave **116**, derived from the formation of the grave cut. In the two south - north aligned graves **110** and **119**, however, the fills were loose, dark silty deposits containing a number of large flint nodules (**Figure 2; plate 3**).
- 3.1.9 Excavation of **110** showed that this grave had been disturbed, probably in antiquity (**Figure 2; plate 4**). However it was possible to determine from the sparse human remains that the burial was that of an adult, probably male not more than 35 years old and had probably been laid south - north. Comparison of the bones with those from grave **116**, indicate that this individual was of a broadly similar size.
- 3.1.10 The lack of obvious disturbance of the form of the grave cut may suggest that the grave had been deliberately re-excavated. Despite the possibility that the grave had been targeted by grave robbers, an iron knife (ON1000) remained (see **back cover**) although this may not have been considered of value. Residual prehistoric and Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered from the fill, as were several early-mid Anglo-Saxon sherds, although it is not clear whether the latter were residual or contemporaneous with the burial, or indeed if they were incorporated during the disturbance. A cluster of nails (ON 1001) within the backfill are thought to be a later, modern intrusion i.e. the remains of a post.

- 3.1.11 Although the fill of **119** was almost identical to that of **110**, subsequent excavation showed that the burial itself was undisturbed (**Figure 2; plate 5**). Although only fractionally deeper than **110**, it may be that the disturbance stopped above the level of the inhumation. The body was aligned south - north and laid in a flexed position with the torso supine, and the legs lying on the left side. The remains were those of a fairly small adult female up to 50 years old. Moderate polishing was observed on the back of the anterior upper teeth (see above), and unusually a fourth molar had erupted on the left side of the maxilla (upper jaw). Deterioration of the joints associated with old age and perhaps often repeated movements were seen in the neck, ribs, right shoulder, left elbow, both hands and knees. A fracture (spondylolysis) in the lowest vertebra and the impressions of vertebral disc disruption in several thoracic vertebrae indicate that the individual participated in activities that involved hyper-extension of the spine and heavy loading (either repeated or single episodes) probably during young adulthood (c. 18-25 years). As well as a small knife (ON1004), a small iron object (ON1005) was found directly beneath the chin which may be a clothes fitting. Also some small fragments of copper alloy were found by the right hand (ON 1003).
- 3.1.12 The northernmost feature was a much smaller west - east aligned grave cut **113**. This grave, although also substantially truncated, contained a flexed burial (supine torso, legs on right side) (**Figure 2; plate 6**) of a juvenile approximately 6-8 years of age. The presence of a layer of dense new bone within the skull vault indicates that the individual probably suffered inflammation of the lining of the skull, the causes of which include infection. No finds were found associated with this burial.
- 3.1.13 A square feature and two linear features were also found in the north-eastern part of the Site. All were highly root disturbed and filled with a deposit similar to the colluvium. The uneven nature of the features suggests that they were possible hedgelines. Trial excavation of these features showed them to be highly irregular and they were concluded to be the result of bioturbation, possibly associated with an earlier allotment (**REDACTED** pers. comm.).

## **4 HUMAN BONE**

### **4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 Unburnt human remains were recovered from four contexts, representing a minimum of four early to mid Anglo-Saxon individuals. The remains of each individual were recovered from graves; three burials were *in situ*, whilst a fourth was moderately disturbed (probably in antiquity). Evidence indicates that all the burials were uncoffined. Grave goods were recovered from three graves; objects include iron knives and a pin. Sparse fragments of cremated human bone were recovered from the backfill of grave **116** (McKinley

forthcoming). The graves were part of the Collingbourne Ducis cemetery, discovered in 1974 and excavated further in 2007 (Gingell 1978; Wessex Archaeology 2007; Egging Dinwiddy forthcoming). The cemetery lies in the north-eastern area of the village of Collingbourne Ducis (**Figure 1**). The site of a small 5th to 10th century settlement lies c. 150 m to the south-west (Pine 2001). The total number of graves now stands at 116, although the limits of the cemetery are yet to be discovered. It is likely that the cemetery continues beyond the excavation areas (**Figure 1**).

- 4.1.2 This is a summary of the assemblage recovered from 106 Cadley Road. The data has been incorporated and analysed with the larger assemblage excavated in 2007; the results will be published as part of a stand-alone Wessex Archaeology monograph (Egging Dinwiddy and Stoodley forthcoming).

## **4.2 Methods**

- 4.2.1 The degree of erosion to the bone was recorded using McKinley's system of grading (2004, fig. 7.1-7). Age was assessed from the stage of tooth and skeletal development (Beek 1983; Scheuer and Black 2000), and the patterns and degree of age-related changes to the bone (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). Sex was ascertained from the sexually dimorphic traits of the skeleton (Bass 1987; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994); where the quantity and quality of sexing criteria was compromised the indicated sex may be qualified (e.g. ??probable). Measurements were taken (Brothwell and Zakrzewski 2004) and skeletal indices calculated where possible (Trotter and Gleser 1952, 1958; Bass 1987; Schwartz 1995). Non-metric traits were recorded in accordance with Berry and Berry (1967) and Finnegan (1978).

## **4.3 Results of analysis**

- 4.3.1 The graves, cut into the southward sloping chalk and clay-with-flint geology, were substantially truncated to between 0.06 and 0.18 m in depth. The truncation was probably due to a combination of natural erosion, agricultural activity and subsequent landscaping of the domestic garden. A small amount of damage occurred to skeleton 117 during the Site preparation. No graves cut, or were cut by other archaeological features including other graves. Grave **110** was cut by a modern posthole. The condition of the bone (**Table 1**) varied from excellent (grade 0 – no surface erosion) to poor (grade 5 – severe surface erosion and loss of morphology), with the majority of bone at grade 3 (moderate surface erosion) or poorer. Preservation lacked uniformity within most graves, something also observed in the previously excavated material. The disturbed skeletal remains were poorly, yet less diversely preserved.

- 4.3.2 The human remains represent a minimum of four individuals, including a juvenile (c. 6-8 yr.) and three adults (**Table 1**). It is usually not possible to determine the sex of immature individuals. The adults included a female (>50 yr.) and two males (one probable) at c. 35-45 yr. and >35 yr.
- 4.3.3 It was possible to calculate the stature for the adult male (117), who was rather tall for the period at 1.78 m or 5'10", Roberts and Cox (2003, 220) calculated an average male stature of 1.72 m (5'7¾"). However, he was by no means the tallest in the Collingbourne Ducis cemetery, the greatest stature being 1.83 m, or 6' (Egging Dinwiddy forthcoming). The second male (probable) was probably of similar size. Greater statures could be interpreted in several ways including access to a good diet, better ability to utilise the available diet and/or the inclusion of taller genetics (Roberts and Cox 2003, 195).
- 4.3.4 Morphological variations can indicate familial relationships, though some may be the result of repeated movements and stresses caused by particular activities. Dental variations are generally fairly common, for example shovelled maxillary incisors (juvenile 114). A rare example of a supernumerary tooth was the distomolar (an additional (4th) molar) in the maxilla of female 120. Other variations include bilateral coalition anomalies in the calcanea of 117, who also had an additional parietal foramen on the right side of the skull. None of the activity-related variations commonly recorded were observed.
- 4.3.5 Given the small sample size and inclusion of the material into a larger assemblage, a brief summary of pathological lesions is provided here. Comparisons and discussion will be made in the monograph (Egging Dinwiddy and Stoodley forthcoming).
- 4.3.6 Caries were seen in one deciduous and two permanent dentitions (114, 117, and 120), all affected molars. Calculus (calcified tartar and plaque) was observed in all dentitions, generally as a moderate tidemark at the gum line. The teeth of 117 had a much heavier deposit of the right side, affecting both the maxilla and mandible, the build-up unusually covering much of the occlusal surface on this side. Periodontal disease (chronic gingivitis), characterised by the resorption and flaring of the tooth socket (Ogden 2005) was seen in two adults (117 and 120), affecting a range of teeth. Hypoplasia (malformation or disruption of dental enamel formation during childhood, caused by severe nutritional or health stresses) affected the juvenile 114 and adult male 117. Stress occurred in infancy (c. 4-9 mth) in the juvenile, and c. 5 yr. and again c. 11-14 yr. in the adult. Distinct polishing of the palatal (back) side of the 1st maxillary incisors of 117 and 120 indicate their use in non-masticatory activity. The polishing of 117's teeth was accompanied by a distinct horizontal groove running across the middle portion of the lingual side, measuring only a few millimetres wide. The second incisors, and unfortunately the sockets were missing. A possible explanation for

such polishing is that the jaws and tongue were used as a third hand, gripping a soft but abrasive material such as fabric, plant matter or leather. In the case of 117, it may be that something like thread or sinew was being passed between and across the teeth. Heavy polishing of the palatal incisors was observed in several individuals excavated in 2007.

- 4.3.7 Evidence for trauma was restricted to spondylolysis (fracture of the posterior, inferior portion of the fifth lumbar vertebrae) and stress fractures of the superior articular facets of the first thoracic vertebra (related to degenerative disc disease – see below) seen in female 120. The fracture in the lumbar vertebra, probably caused by extreme hyperflexion and heavy loading of the spine in early adulthood, had healed without uniting.
- 4.3.8 The juvenile 114 had extensive endocranial smooth new bone suggesting irritation and/or inflammation of the interior lining of the skull. Such irritation may have been caused by an infection, suffered long enough to allow the bone to react.
- 4.3.9 Joint disease is the most commonly observed condition, and is generally related to advancing age, activity and general wear-and-tear, although some individuals may be more prone to joint deterioration. Joint deterioration in its mildest form is characterised by mild marginal bony lipping or pitting of the articular surface. Where these occur together they usually indicate osteoarthritis (where the cartilage is deteriorating, eventually allowing bone to rub on bone). Advanced osteoarthritis presents as substantial lipping (osteophytes), gross changes in the form of the joint surface, heavy pitting, grooves and glassy polish (eburnation). Adult male 117 suffered mild changes to the thoracic vertebrae, arms and hands, and more severe changes to the first rib heads. Older female 120 had more widespread and advanced osteoarthritis affecting joints in the neck, ribs, right shoulder, left elbow, hands and knees.
- 4.3.10 Degenerative disc disease is an age related condition where the intervertebral discs degenerate and the surfaces of the vertebral bodies become heavily pitted and weakened. A severe case was observed in the cervical vertebrae of female 120, and the lumbar vertebrae of male 117 were mildly affected.
- 4.3.11 Schmorl's nodes occur when the intervertebral disc is pinched or put under extreme pressure (heavy lifting, bending and twisting), causing the jelly-like contents to protrude into the vertebral body. The projections cause depressions of varying shapes, sizes and orientations in the vertebral body. Such lesions mostly occur in early adulthood but remain evident into later adulthood. Both 117 and 120 had Schmorl's nodes, affecting the mid to lower thoracic vertebrae in both, with a lumbar vertebra also affected in 120.



- 4.3.12 Other observations include the distinct asymmetric nature of the clavicles of 117. The right clavicle was slightly shorter as the distal end was more acutely curved, whilst the proximal end was more robust than the left. Muscle attachments at the distal ends were very distinctly different in size and robusticity suggesting participation in activities that required different movements of the arms and shoulders, but probably requiring a relatively equal amount of strength.

## **5 FINDS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 Finds were recovered from three of the four graves excavated, and included both deliberately deposited grave goods and residual finds. In addition, one piece of worked flint (waste flake) was a surface find.
- 5.1.2 The finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and this information is summarised in **Table 2**.

### **5.2 Flint**

- 5.2.1 A secondary blade-like flake from a single platform blade core, removing a step fracture from the flaking surface. Both margins have heavy damage - the topsoil context means that some or all of this could be the result of natural processes, although some of it could derive from use. The distal portion of the left dorsal margin has an abrupt retouch, approximating to oblique blunting. The crudeness of the blank and the lack of any preparation suggests that the piece is a retouched flake of Early Neolithic date.

### **5.3 Grave Goods**

- 5.3.1 Grave goods comprise objects of iron and copper alloy, and possibly pottery.
- 5.3.2 Three iron nails in grave **110** may be intrusive as they appear to come from a modern post. This grave also produced a large iron knife.
- 5.3.3 From grave **116** came two fragments of iron of unknown function.
- 5.3.4 Grave **119** produced two small fragments of copper alloy sheet, from an unknown object, an iron knife, and a second, unidentifiable iron object.
- 5.3.5 Ten body sherds in a coarse, organic-tempered fabric from grave **116** are sufficiently similar in appearance to suggest that they derive from a single vessel, although the form is unknown. This could represent a disturbed and fragmented vessel placed within grave **116** (which was heavily truncated), although the alternative possibility that these

sherds are residual within the grave backfill cannot be ruled out. Two other sherds from the same grave are certainly residual (see below).

#### **5.4 Residual Finds**

- 5.4.1 Pottery sherds from the backfill of graves **110** and **116** are residual. These comprise one Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age flint-tempered sherd, two Romano-British coarse oxidised sherds, and four early/mid Saxon organic-tempered sherds from **110**; and one Romano-British oxidised sherd and one early/mid Saxon organic-tempered sherd from **116**.

### **6 CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1.1 The results of this watching brief clearly demonstrated that the Anglo-Saxon cemetery continues southwards beyond the previous excavation areas. In common with those excavations a variety in orientation was seen which, after the detailed assessment of the cemetery as a whole is completed, may be shown to reflect different phases of use within the cemetery. Although not closely dated, the burials seem to occupy the mid fifth to seventh century date range proposed for the rest of the cemetery. The cemetery therefore potentially spans the transition from pagan to Christian practices and some of the variation in burial practices may on further analysis be seen to reflect these changes in society (Geake 1992). The mixture of age and gender even within such a small sample seems to reflect the ratios encountered in the previous excavations.
- 6.1.2 No boundary feature for the cemetery was seen in either of the previous excavations. The position of ditch **106** on such a distinct contour is suggestive of a boundary ditch, although its shallowness and the lack of dating make this conclusion very tentative.
- 6.1.3 The nature of the backfill of graves **110** and **119**, as well as the disturbance of the inhumation 111 suggests some targeted disturbance may have been carried out. No evidence for this has been noted from the previous excavation though the 1974 excavation mentions one apparently empty 'grave' (Gingell 1978, 86) and several graves from both the previous excavations were heavily truncated. Grave robbing is known and documented throughout the medieval and early post-medieval period and may be undertaken for a variety of reasons including greed, curiosity, scientific study and superstitious practices. A number of examples of the disturbance of Anglo-Saxon graves, in some cases thought to be within the living memory of the burials, have been documented within the later Kentish cemeteries (Lucy 2000, 102).
- 6.1.4 In common with the previous excavation, knives were the most frequently encountered grave good and these are generally culturally undiagnostic and not closely datable. In comparison with some of the

notable wealthy burials from the previous excavations the four graves contained few artefacts although potentially **110** and even **116** may have contained other items lost through disturbance or truncation. However in considerations of this type, the bias of what is preserved must be taken in account as status, gender and culture may have been expressed through textiles and other perishable materials and therefore the surviving artefacts may not directly reflect these variables (Chapman and Randsborg 1981, 8).

- 6.1.5 In addition to the four inhumations, some sparse fragments of burnt bone may be an indication of a disturbed cremation burial. This could potentially be associated with the possible vessel from the backfill of grave **116**.
- 6.1.6 Residual pottery as well as an unstratified flint flake suggests prehistoric activity in the area.

## **7 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1.1 The results from this watching brief, along with that of the 2007 and 1974 excavations form one of the largest cemeteries of this period in Wiltshire and as such it represents an archaeological resource of considerable regional and potentially national value.
- 7.1.2 It is proposed that the results from this watching brief are incorporated into the detailed, integrated report on the results of the archaeological excavations at Cadley Road, which will be produced as a stand alone Wessex Archaeology Monograph.

## **8 ARCHIVE**

- 8.1.1 The project archive was prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990). It comprises of a ring-bound file containing the written records and a copy of the *Written Scheme of Investigation* as well as 4 boxes of finds. The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the project code **71830**. In due course the complete archive will be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes.

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## Appendix 1: Context summary

bgl= below ground level

Context	description		depth
101	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown silty clay. 2% flint/gravel, sub-angular, 2-8cm. Fairly loose and friable. Fairly homogeneous. Some bioturbation. Contains modern glass, iron objects and animal bone. Overlies (102).	0.00-0.33m bgl
102	<i>Layer</i>	Made ground/modern subsoil. Mid grey-orange silty clay. 25% flint/gravel, sub-angular, 2-8cm. Moderately compact. Fairly homogeneous. Bioturbated. Also includes chalk hardcore in northern part of site. Overlies (103).	0.17-0.66m bgl
103	<i>Subsoil</i>	Buried subsoil. Mid brown-orange silty clay. 2% flint/gravel, sub-angular, 2-4cm. Fairly loose and friable. Fairly homogeneous. Some bioturbation. Overlies (104).	0.66-0.83m bgl
104	<i>Layer</i>	Colluvium. Mid orange clay. 5% flint, sub-angular – angular, 2-10cm. Compact. Homogeneous. Bioturbated. Overlies (105).	0.60-1.05m bgl
105	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Weather/degraded chalk. Heavily bioturbated.	0.77- 1.05m+ bgl
<b>106</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Cut of north-west – south-east aligned ditch. Heavily truncated. Filled with (107)-(109). Steep to moderate straight sides, flat base. 1.29m wide. Cuts (105).</b>	<b>0.25m deep</b>
107	Deposit	Primary fill of ditch (106). Very pale yellow-white silt. 3% chalk flecks. <1% flint, sub-angular, 2-4cm. Compact. Very diffuse interface with (108). Overlies (106).	0.09m deep
108	Deposit	Secondary fill of ditch (106). Pale yellow-white silt loam. 5% chalk sub-rounded, <1-2cm. <1% flint, sub-angular, 2-3cm. Fairly compact, moderately homogeneous. Very diffuse interface with (107). Slightly diffuse interface with (109). Overlies (107).	0.15m deep
109	Deposit	Secondary fill of ditch (106). Pale yellow-brown silty clay. 3% chalk flecks. 2% flint, sub-angular, 2-8cm. Fairly compact, moderately homogeneous. Slightly diffuse interface with (108). Overlies (108).	0.08m deep
<b>110</b>	<b>Grave cut</b>	<b>Large rectangular grave cut. Disturbed in antiquity. North – south aligned. 1.98m wide, 1.08m long. Filled with (111) and (112).</b>	<b>0.17m deep</b>
111	<i>Inhumation</i>	Partial, disturbed remains of probable adult male. Associated with iron knife SF1000.	0.17m deep
112	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of grave cut (110). Mid brown silty clay. 15% flint, sub-angular – angular, 5-15cm. Fairly loose.	0.17m deep
<b>113</b>	<b>Grave cut</b>	<b>Rectangular grave cut. North-west – south-east aligned. 1.10m long, 0.42m wide. Filled with (114) and (115).</b>	<b>0.06m deep</b>
114	<i>Inhumation</i>	Juvenile inhumation. Flexed, on right side, torso supine. Head to west.	0.05m deep
115	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of grave cut (113). Mid brown-yellow silty clay. 2% flint, sub-angular – angular, <1-5cm. Sparse chalk flecks. Moderately compact.	0.06m deep
<b>116</b>	<b>Grave cut</b>	<b>East – west aligned, highly truncated, rectangular grave cut. 1.78m long, 0.85m wide. Filled with (117) and (118).</b>	<b>0.08m deep</b>
117	<i>Inhumation</i>	Large, robust adult male. Extended, supine. Head to west. Associated with SF 1002.	0.10m deep
118	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of grave cut (116). Mid orange-brown silty clay. 5% flint, sub-angular – angular, <1-6cm. <1% chalk, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Slightly compact. Bioturbated.	0.08m deep
<b>119</b>	<b>Grave cut</b>	<b>North – south aligned rectangular grave cut. 1.64m long, 0.87m wide. Filled with (120) and (121).</b>	<b>0.18m deep</b>
120	<i>Inhumation</i>	Adult female. Flexed, on left side, torso supine. Head to south.	0.12m deep
121	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of grave cut (119). Mid grey-brown silty clay. 5% flint, sub-angular – angular, <1-12cm. <1% chalk, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Upper level very loose and friable. Bioturbated.	0.18m deep

## Appendix 2:

**Table 1: Human Bone analysis**

context	cut	deposit type	quantification	age/sex	pathology	condition
111	110	disturbed	c. 15% s.u.l.	adult >35 yr. ?male	calculus	4
114	113	<i>in situ</i>	c. 45%	juvenile c. 6-8 yr.	caries, calculus, hypoplasia; endocranial new bone (lamellar); MV – shovelled ls	2-4
117	116	<i>in situ</i>	c. 90%	adult c. 35-45 yr. male	calculus, periodontal disease, hypoplasia; oa – 1st ribs; op – l. costo-clavicular, l. dist. ulna, dist. radii, carpals, 1st meta-phalangeals (hands); enth – clavicles (asym), r. MtCs, r. prox. phalanges, l. patella; coalition – calcanea; MV – mandibular torus, activity related toothwear, additional parietal foramina	0-2
120	119	<i>in situ</i>	c. 90%	adult >50 yr. female	caries, calculus, periodontal disease; fracture – T1 (apj), spondylolysis – L5; ?cyst – T1; ddd – C3-7, T1; sch – T7-12; oa – C1-2, T1, 5 r., 4 l. ribs, r. prox. humerus, l. dist. humerus, r. 1st carpo-metacarpal, knees; op – Cs, 1st rays (hands), dist. IPs (hands); pitting – 1st rays (hands); enth – ischium, l. dist. humerus, calcanea; cortical defect – l. 1st prox. phalanx (foot); MV - distomolar; rotation (Cs), activity related toothwear	3-5

Key:

s. a. u. l. – skull, axial, upper limb, lower limb; aml - *ante mortem* tooth loss; pnb – periosteal new bone; C, T, L, S cervical, thoracic, lumbar, sacral vertebrae; apj – articular process joint; c-v – costo-vertebral joint; tpj – transverse process joint; Sch. – Schmorl's node; ddd - degenerative disc disease; r. – right; l. – left; oa – osteoarthritis; op – osteophytes; enth - enthesophytes; enthy – enthesopathy; exo – exostoses; IP – interphalangeal joint; MtC – metacarpal; MtT – metatarsal; cort. def. - cortical defect; MV – morphological variation.

**Table 2: Finds by context, excluding human bone (number / weight in grammes)**

Context	Description	Grave Goods	Residual Finds
0101	surface find		1 worked flint
0111	grave 110	3 iron nails 1 iron knife	
0112	grave 110		7 sherds pottery (1 prehistoric; 2 RB; 4 Saxon)
0118	grave 116	2 iron nails ?1 pottery vessel	2 sherds pottery (1 RB; 1 Saxon)
0120	grave 119	2 copper alloy sheet frags; 1 iron knife; 1 unidentified iron object	



### Appendix 3: Grave Catalogue entries

This information has been included in the grave catalogue for the rest of the Collingbourne Ducis cemetery (62673). Predominantly inhumation graves are cut into the natural chalk and clay-with-flint geology and the fills are pale greyish brown silty clay, with varying proportions of flint and chalk inclusions. None of the graves contained evidence for coffins. Exceptions are detailed below.

#### **Cut 110 (burial 111; fill 112) (grave 114 of CD cemetery)**

S(SE)-N(NW), sub-rectangular cut with rounded northern end. Steep concave sides and flat base. 1.98 x 1.08m, 0.17m deep (base at 132.35m aOD – deepest at N end due to surface slope). Highly disturbed (?revisited in antiquity), but suspect head at S, width suggests flexed. Modern post through S end. Fill has darker patches and contains charcoal flecks.

*Human bone:* c. X %, adult >35 yr. male

*Grave goods:*

ON 1000: iron knife blade

*Residual/other finds:*

ON 1001: iron nails (possibly part of modern post)

Pottery: one sherd late prehistoric; two sherds Romano-British; five sherds early/mid Saxon.

#### **Cut 113 (burial 114; fill 115) (grave 113 of CD cemetery)**

W(NW)-E(SE), rectangular cut with steep, concave sides and flat base. 1.11 x 0.43m, 0.06m deep (base at 132.72 m aOD). Flexed, on right side, torso supine, hands either side of skull. Occasional charcoal flecks in fill. Shallow due to truncation.

*Human bone:* c. X%, juvenile c. 6-8 yr.

#### **Cut 116 (burial 117; fill 118) (grave 116 of CD cemetery)**

W-E, sub-rectangular to oval cut with steep, straight sides and flat base. 1.85 x 0.90m, 0.08m deep (base at 132.25m aOD). Extended, supine with arms by the sides. Shallow due to truncation. Heavy bioturbation (roots).

*Human bone:* c. X% adult c. 35-45 yr. male

*Grave goods:*

ON 1002: ?iron knife blade

Pottery vessel: ten sherds organic-tempered pottery, probably from same vessel, form unknown, possibly disturbed grave good.

*Residual/other finds*

Pottery: one sherd Romano-British; one sherd early/mid Saxon.

#### **Cut 119 (burial 120; fill 121) (grave 115 of CD cemetery)**

S-N, sub-rectangular cut with rounded northern end. Steep, straight sides and flat base. 1.64 x 0.87m, 0.18m deep (base at 132.34m aOD). Flexed, on left side, torso supine. Arms by sides. Shallow due to truncation. Upper part of fill dark and loose indicating disturbance.

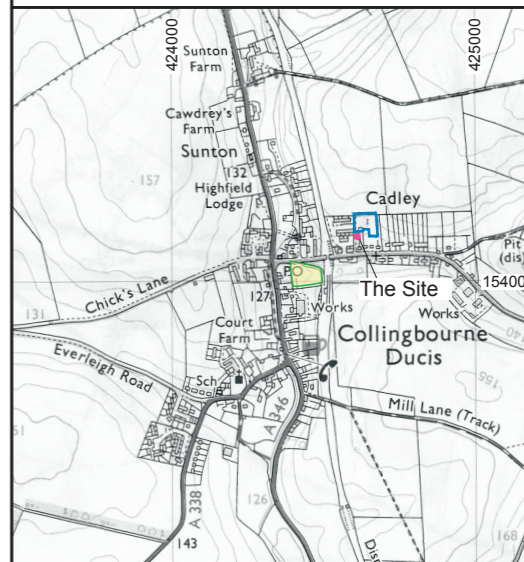
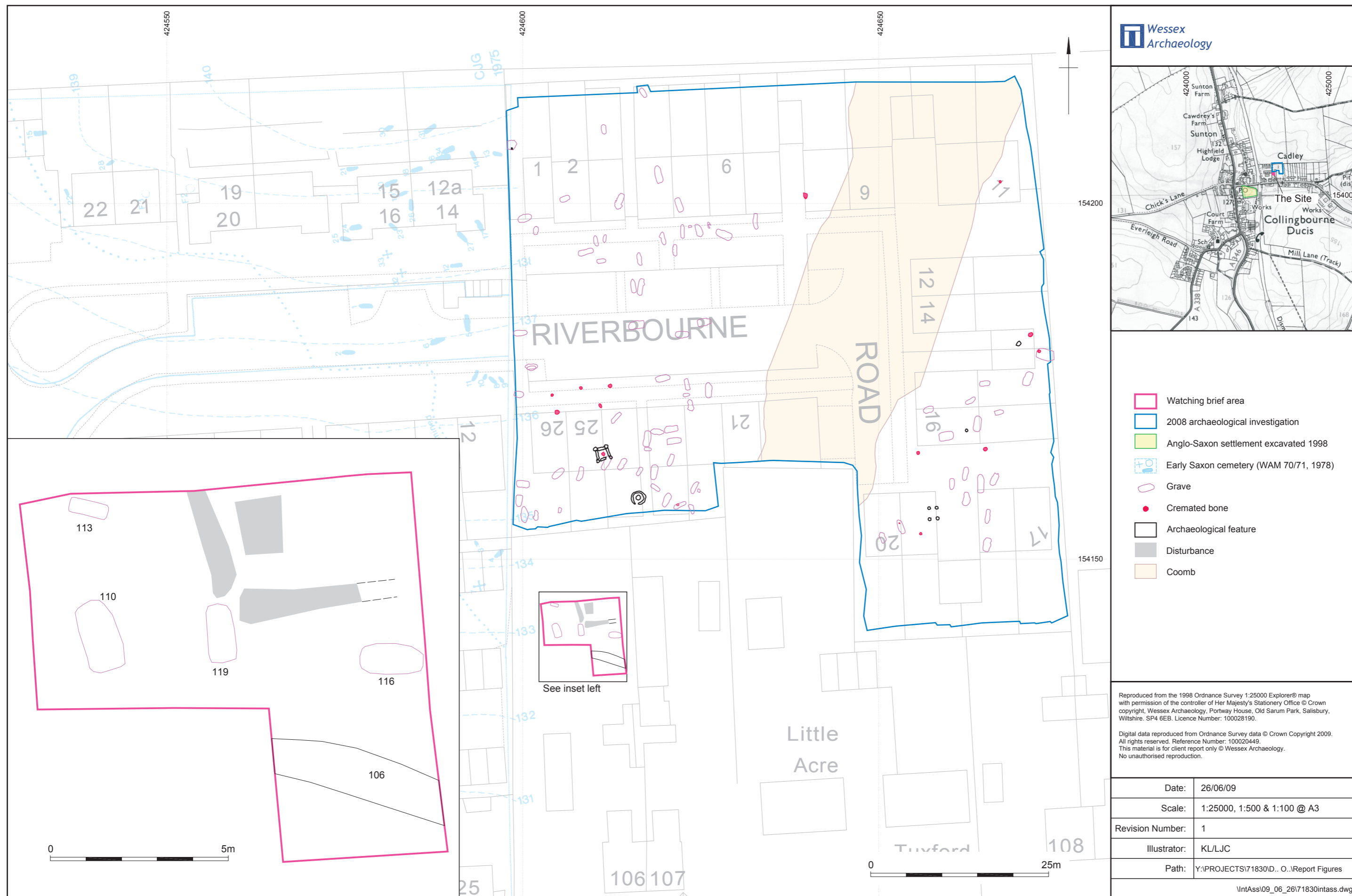
*Human bone:* c. X%, adult >50 yr. female

*Grave goods:*

ON 1003: copper alloy object

ON 1004: iron knife blade

ON 1005: iron ?pin



- Watching brief area
- 2008 archaeological investigation
- Anglo-Saxon settlement excavated 1998
- Early Saxon cemetery (WAM 70/71, 1978)
- Grave
- Cremated bone
- Archaeological feature
- Disturbance
- Coomb

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Site location (including results from previous excavations)

Figure 1





Plate 1: North-west facing section through ditch 106



Plate 3: Pre-excavation view of grave cut 119 (from the south)



Plate 4: View of inhumation burial 111/110 (from the south)

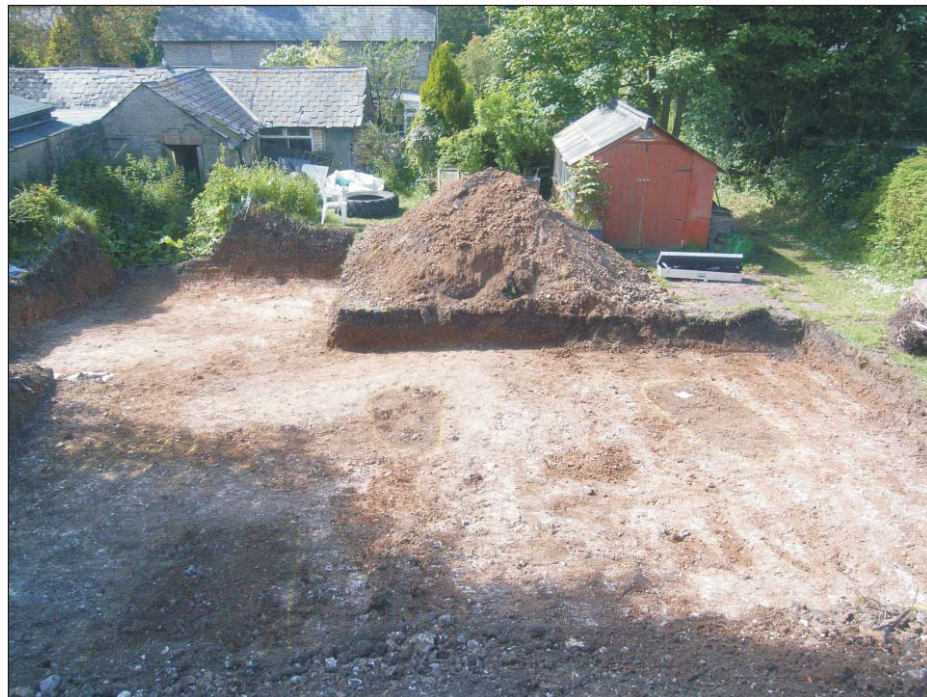


Plate 2: View of site (from the north)



Plate 5: View of inhumation burial 120/119 (from the north)



Plate 6: View of inhumation burial 114/113 (from the east)