



## Chippenham Golf Course Chippenham, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**CHIPPENHAM GOLF COURSE,  
CHIPPENHAM, WILTSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

Prepared for:  
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**May 2012**

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## QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	<b>65591</b>	ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	<b>07/00160/FUL</b>	NGR	<b>390102, 175794</b>		

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
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\* I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL



**CHIPPENHAM GOLF COURSE,  
CHIPPENHAM, WILTSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
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**Front:** View across Site, from north-west

**Back:** View of Site, from north-east

**CHIPPENHAM GOLF COURSE,  
CHIPPENHAM, WILTSHIRE****Archaeological Watching Brief Report****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Chippenham Golf Course, to undertake a watching brief during groundworks associated with the excavation of a lake as part of an extension to the course (NGR 390102, 175794). This was required as a condition of planning permission (planning reference 07/00160/FUL). The watching brief was carried out between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

A small number of undated features were identified during the watching brief, all of which appear to suggest sporadic human activity in the area. These features consisted of a substantial north-west – south-east aligned ditch, likely to be a boundary ditch, a series of pits which appear to have some association with burning and fire debris, a possible stone surface and a shallow north-east – south-west aligned ditch.

Two of the pits contained indications of possible *in situ* heating. However as all of the pits were undated this activity cannot be assigned to a particular period.

The possible surface which was constructed of a series of small stones was situated within a tree throw hole and may have been laid to consolidate a soft area of ground and potentially to form a base for a fire.

The shallow linear feature was very ephemeral in plan. The archaeological evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2007) located a number of similarly shallow undated ditches and concluded that they were likely to be former field boundaries or remnants of enclosures.

**CHIPPENHAM GOLF COURSE,  
CHIPPENHAM, WILTSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

**Acknowledgements**

This project was commissioned by Chippenham Golf Course and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to their project manager Matt Maryon for all his help and assistance. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank the County Archaeologist Melanie Pomory-Kellinger.

The watching brief was undertaken by Naomi Brennan. This report was written and compiled by Naomi Brennan with illustrations by Ken Lymer. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Caroline Budd.

**CHIPPENHAM GOLF COURSE,  
CHIPPENHAM, WILTSHIRE****Archaeological Watching Brief Report****1 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Chippenham Golf Course, to undertake a watching brief during groundworks associated with the excavation of a lake as part of an extension to the course. The monitored area was centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 390102, 175794, hereafter referred to as the 'Site' (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The original proposed site layout on which the evaluation trench array (WA 2007) was designed has subsequently been modified with the southern part of the main lake and the northern part of the smaller lake no longer to be excavated. A condition of the planning consent (07/00160/FUL) was that the stripping of the larger of the two proposed lake areas be archaeologically monitored.

1.1.3 The watching brief was carried out between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

**1.2 The Site, location and geology**

1.2.1 The Site lies immediately to the north of Chippenham and to the west of the A350 Malmesbury Road. It is flanked to the east and south by the existing course and otherwise by woodland and agricultural land (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 The Site itself slopes steeply downwards from approximately 115m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south-east to around 95m aOD in the north-west. However the monitored area of the lake lies in a shallow depression in the south-western part of the field at a height of between 94-97m aOD.

1.2.3 The Site geology consists of Kellaways Clays and the sandstone and siltstone of the Kellaways Sand (BGS).

**1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

1.3.1 The Site lies in an area of known archaeological remains and lies approximately 3km north of the historic core of Chippenham. No sites or findspots have been recorded from within the Site.

1.3.2 Close to the southern boundary of the existing golf course, an assemblage of Late Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flint work was recovered from fieldwalking carried out in the 1980s. The findspot is recorded on the Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record (Reference ST97NW062).

1.3.3 Extensive evidence for later prehistoric and Romano-British settlement and agriculture exists across the landscape north of Chippenham and the River Avon. There is also evidence for medieval land enclosure north of the Site at Kings Langley. The archaeological potential of the immediate landscape is recognised in the North Wiltshire Local Plan, which identifies designated sites and landscapes of significant archaeological potential.

1.3.4 Trial trenching was carried out by Wessex Archaeology in 2007 (WA 2007). Twenty trenches of varying lengths were excavated across the site of the proposed extension. Generally the evaluation identified a low level of archaeological activity across the Site with the majority of the features which comprised undated ditches thought to represent former field boundaries. Two possible postholes were also located.

1.3.5 Only one trench was situated within the monitored area, Trench 13, which contained no archaeological features. Just to the south of the monitored area a large, probably late prehistoric ditch, was recorded in Trench 17 which has the potential to be present in the monitored area.

## **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The aims of the watching brief with reference to construction of the proposed lake areas were:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and should remains be found to be present to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard.
- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains.
- To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains.
- To prepare a report on the results of the watching brief

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

2.1.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2012), this is summarised below.

2.1.2 Topsoil stripping and all groundworks across the Site were undertaken by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket under the supervision and control of the site archaeologist to the level of *in situ* weathered natural or archaeological deposits, whichever was highest in the stratigraphic sequence.

2.1.3 A full photographic record was compiled using digital images. The record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the principal features, finds excavated, and the site as a whole. Digital images have been subject to a managed quality control and curation process which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and ensures the long term accessibility of the image set.

2.1.4 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Archaeological features and deposits were hand-drawn at either 1:10 or 1:20, as applicable.



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

2.1.6 A unique site code **65591** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.

## **2.2 Best practice**

2.2.1 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) and in the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

## **3 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS**

### **3.1 Introduction**

3.1.1 Details of the excavated contexts and features are retained in the project archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences are presented in **Appendix 1**. An overall plan of the archaeological features is available on **Figure 2** with relevant sections drawings and photographs shown on **Figure 3**).

### **3.2 Site Wide Deposits**

3.2.1 The general stratigraphic sequence was similar to that encountered during the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2012). This comprised 0.20-0.35m of modern ploughsoil **2101** above the natural clay **2103**. In the north-east of the Site a thin layer of colluvial/subsoil material, **2102**, was observed between the ploughsoil and the natural.

### **3.3 Archaeological Features**

3.3.1 A substantial north-west – south-east aligned ditch **2119** was located in the north-western part of the Site (**Figure 3, section and Plate 1**). It was 1.2m wide and had a very steep sided profile. Due to H&S considerations and the difficulty of excavating at depth within a confined space excavation ceased at 1.1m. Given the steep angles of the ditch it is unlikely that the base would have been at any deeper than 1.2m. There were two main deposits within the ditch, separated by a thin lens of re-deposited natural **2121**. The lowest fill was a very hard, compact manganese rich deposit suggestive of slow moving water. The uppermost deposit **2122** was a silty, homogeneous fill suggestive of gradual silting.

3.3.2 At the south-eastern extent of ditch **2119** it intersected with a roughly north - south aligned linear **2109** (**Figure 3, Plate 2**). The ditch was a shallow, fairly ephemeral feature with a single, secondary fill, **2110**. It was unclear whether this was of manmade origin or a natural runoff channel. Due to the nature of this feature it was not possible to establish a relationship between this and ditch **2119**. Both features contained sterile, homogenous deposits containing no dating material.

- 3.3.3 Four pits were also indentified across the Site. Two of these, **2111** and **2123**, were very similar being oval in plan but very shallow. Each contained a deposit affected by *in situ* heating, **2112** and **2124**. In each case this was overlain by a layer of silting, **2113** and **2125**. Despite indications of burning very little charcoal was present in either of these features and both were undated.
- 3.3.4 Pit **2104**, the most easterly feature indentified, was also shallow however in this case it appeared to have been deliberately backfilled with a succession of deposits containing fire or hearth debris (**2105**, **2106**, **2107** and **2108**). The only finds recovered from this feature consisted of burnt flint.
- 3.3.5 The final pit **2114**, situated in the north-western part of the Site was circular in plan but was otherwise similar to **2104**. It also contained some deliberate deposits of heat affected material and degraded charcoal (**2116**, **2117** and **2130**) along with some more mixed more silty deposits which are also likely to have been deliberately deposited (**2115** and **2118**) (**Figure 3, section and Plate 3**). No dateable material was recovered from this feature.
- 3.3.6 The final feature identified was a possible surface **2128** constructed of stones, this was situated within the top of a tree throw hole **2126** (**Figure 3, Plate 4**). Only half the possible surface was excavated but it appeared to be oval in plan, slightly concave in profile and composed of tightly packed fairly small stones. Some of these had slight traces of burning. It is thought that the stones may have been laid to consolidate a soft area of ground and potentially to form a base for a fire, though not all the stones showed signs of being heated. A layer of silt **2129**, overlay the possible surface **2128**.

## 4 FINDS

- 4.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during the watching brief, consisting entirely of burnt flint. This was discarded once counted and weighed. The burnt flint has been quantified within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**.

Context No.	Pit No.	Burnt Flint
2107	2104	3/44
2108	2104	4/164
2110	2109	1/16
Total		8/224

**Table 1:** All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

- 4.1.2 Burnt flint is intrinsically undatable but is often suggestive of prehistoric activity. However such a small quantity of it may have been accidentally incorporated into a fire.
- 4.1.3 No further analysis of the assemblage is recommended due to its undiagnostic nature and low volume.

## 5 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL

- 5.1.1 No material suitable for environmental sampling was demonstrated to be present during the watching brief.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 A small number of undated features were identified during this watching brief, suggestive of sporadic and non-intensive activity.
- 6.1.2 Ditch **2119** represents a substantial feature and is likely to be boundary ditch, it could be a former field boundary but does not appear on any of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey maps.
- 6.1.3 The majority of the remainder of the features are pits which appear to have some association with burning and fire debris. In two instances (**2111** and **2123**) there are indications of possible *in situ* heating. However as these features are undated this activity cannot be assigned to a particular period. The same is true of the possible surface **2128**, situated within treethrow **2126**.
- 6.1.4 The other linear **2109** located during this work was very shallow and its appearance was very ephemeral in plan. The previous evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2007) located a number of similarly shallow undated ditches and concluded that they were likely to be former field boundaries or remnants of enclosures.

## 7 ARCHIVE

- 7.1.1 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* (Walker 1990). It comprises a ring-bound file containing the written records and a copy of the *Written Scheme of Investigation*. The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the project code **65591**. In due course the complete archive will be deposited with the Chippenham Museum and Heritage Centre.
- 7.1.2 The resulting archive will be microfiched to the standards accepted by the National Monuments Record (NMR). One copy will be deposited with the Wiltshire and Swindon Sites and Monuments Records (WSSMR); a further copy will be deposited with the NMR.

## 8 OASIS

- 8.1.1 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the AHBR, a copy of this has been included as an Appendix to the report. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive). A full archive of site photographs will also be submitted to the ADS.

## 9 COPYRIGHT

- 9.1.1 This report 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 we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

## 10 REFERENCES

**English Heritage, 1991**, *Management of Archaeological Projects*, English Heritage

**Institute for Archaeologists, 2008**, *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs*

**Walker, K., 1990**, *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for Long-term Storage*, UKIC Archaeology Section

**Wessex Archaeology, 2007**, *Chippenham Golf Course, Chippenham, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report. Unpublished client report, reference number 65590.02*

**Wessex Archaeology, 2012**, *Chippenham Golf Course, Chippenham, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief. Unpublished WSI, reference number 65590.01*

1:50,000 British Geological Survey information can be accessed online at:  
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/services/digmap50wms.html>

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

bgl = below ground level

Context	Description	Depth (m)
2101	<i>Topsoil</i> Modern topsoil/ ploughsoil. Mid grey-brown silty clay. <1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Homogeneous. Bioturbated. Under rough grass.	0.20-0.35 bgl
2102	<i>Subsoil</i> Subsoil/ colluvium. Seen in north-east area of Site only. Mid yellow-orange silty clay. <1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Fairly homogeneous. Compact.	0.30-0.40 bgl
2103	<i>Natural</i> Natural geology. Mid orange clay. Occasional pale green and pale yellow mottles. Compact. Some bioturbation.	0.20+ bgl
<b>2104</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b> <b>Shallow oval pit filled with 2105-2108. Charcoal rich fills suggestive of fire/ hearth debris. Straight moderate to shallow sides. Flat base. 1.04m long, 0.88m wide. North-west edge (upslope) much steeper than south-east edge. Cuts 2103.</b>	<b>0.23 deep</b>
2105	<i>Deposit</i> Primary fill of pit <b>2104</b> . Pale yellow clay. No visible inclusions. Occasional charcoal. Very mixed, bioturbated interface with cut. Overlies <b>2104</b> .	0.07 deep
2106	<i>Deposit</i> Secondary fill or possible deliberate backfill of pit <b>2104</b> . Mid brown silty clay. No visible inclusions. Occasional mid red mottles – possible heat affected material. Fairly compact. Overlies 2105.	0.02 deep
2107	<i>Deposit</i> Deliberate backfill of pit <b>2104</b> . Dark grey-black silty clay. No visible inclusions. Frequent charcoal. Mixed deposit. Fairly compact. Overlies 2106.	0.08 deep
2108	<i>Deposit</i> Possible deliberate backfill of pit <b>2104</b> . Mid grey-brown silty clay. <1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Occasional charcoal. Slightly mixed, fairly compact. Overlies 2107.	0.12 deep
<b>2109</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b> <b>Possible ditch, though could be natural run-off channel. North – south aligned, filled with 2110. Straight, shallow sides, concave base. 1.0m wide. Fairly ephemeral and diffuse in plan. Cuts 2103.</b>	<b>0.10 deep</b>
2110	<i>Deposit</i> Secondary fill of ditch <b>2109</b> . Pale brown silty clay. No visible inclusions. Moderately compact. Bioturbated. Some slight mixing at interface. Overlies <b>2109</b> .	0.10 deep
<b>2111</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b> <b>Base of possible oval pit, filled with 2112-2113. Very shallow, straight, very shallow sides, flat base. 1.2m long, 0.76m wide. Traces of possible <i>in situ</i> heating. Cuts 2103.</b>	<b>0.02 deep</b>
2112	<i>Deposit</i> Fill of <b>2111</b> . Possible <i>in situ</i> heat affected material. Mid red clay. No visible inclusions. Rare charcoal flecks. Compact. Overlies <b>2111</b> .	0.01 deep
2113	<i>Deposit</i> Secondary fill of pit <b>2111</b> . Mid brown silty clay. No visible inclusions. Fairly homogeneous. Moderately compact. Overlies 2112.	0.01 deep
<b>2114</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b> <b>Sub-circular pit filled with 2115-2118 and 2130. Concave, moderate sides, flat base. 1.08m in diameter. Cuts 2103.</b>	<b>0.19 deep</b>
2115	<i>Deposit</i> Possible deliberate backfill of pit <b>2114</b> . Pale brown-yellow silty clay. No visible inclusions. Occasional charcoal. Mixed, fairly compact. Overlies 2130.	0.06 deep
2116	<i>Deposit</i> Possible deliberate backfill of pit <b>2114</b> . Mid red clay. No visible inclusions. Rare charcoal. Slightly mixed. Fairly compact. Contains heat affected material. Overlies 2115.	0.07 deep
2117	<i>Deposit</i> Deliberate backfill of pit <b>2114</b> . Lens/ layer of charcoal.	0.02 deep
2118	<i>Deposit</i> Possible deliberate backfill of pit <b>2114</b> . Pale grey silty clay. No	0.15 deep

		visible inclusions. Occasional charcoal flecks. Fairly mixed. Moderately compact. Overlies 2117.	
<b>2119</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>North-west – south-east aligned ditch filled with 2120-2122. Straight, steep sides, base not fully excavated. 1.21m wide. Cuts 2103.</b>	<b>1.08+ deep</b>
2120	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch <b>2119</b> . Dark brown silty clay. No visible inclusions. Hard and compact. Abundant manganese flecks and mottles. Overlies <b>2119</b> .	0.48+ deep
2121	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch <b>2119</b> derived from erosion of feature sides. Pale yellow-brown silty clay. No visible inclusions. Mixed. Fairly compact. Overlies 2120.	0.05 deep
2122	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch <b>2119</b> . Pale red-brown silty clay. <1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Occasional manganese flecks. Fairly homogeneous. Moderately compact. Overlies 2121.	0.58 deep
<b>2123</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Base of possible sub-oval pit, filled with 2124-2125. Very shallow, straight, very shallow sides, flat base. 1.8m long, 0.56m wide. Traces of possible <i>in situ</i> heating. Cuts 2103.</b>	<b>0.04 deep</b>
2124	<i>Deposit</i>	Fill of <b>2123</b> . Possible <i>in situ</i> heat affected material. Mid red silty clay. No visible inclusions. Compact. Overlies <b>2123</b> .	0.02 deep
2125	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of pit <b>2123</b> . Pale yellow-brown silty clay. No visible inclusions. Fairly homogeneous. Moderately compact. Overlies 2124.	0.02 deep
<b>2126</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Treethrow, unexcavated. 3.10m long, 1.30m wide. Upper fill 2127. Cuts 2103.</b>	-
2127	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper visible fill of treethrow 2126. Mid red-brown silty clay. No visible inclusions. Unexcavated.	-
2128	<i>Layer</i>	Sub-oval area of rounded – sub-rounded stone, 4-8cm situated in top of treethrow <b>2126</b> . Some show signs of burning. Overlies 2127.	-
2129	<i>Layer</i>	Silting over area of stone 2128. Pale red-brown silty clay. No visible inclusions. Fairly compact. Fairly homogeneous	0.06 deep
2130	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of pit <b>2114</b> . Lens/ layer of charcoal.	0.01 deep



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**OASIS ID: wessexar1-126468**

### Project details

Project name	CHIPPENHAM GOLF COURSE
Short description of the project	Archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks associated with the excavation of a lake as part of an extension to the course.
Project dates	Start: 09-05-2012 End: 10-05-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	65591 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
Monument type	DITCH None
Monument type	PIT None
Significant Finds	BURNT FLINT None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE NORTH WILTSHIRE CHIPPENHAM Chippenham Golf Course
Postcode	SN15 5LT
Study area	0.30 Hectares
Site coordinates	ST 390102 175794 50.9538670825 -2.868406348690 50 57 13 N 002 52 06 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 94.20m Max: 96.20m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Unitary Authority Archaeologist
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology

Project director/manager	Caroline Budd
Project supervisor	Naomi Hall
Name of sponsor/funding body	Chippenham Golf Course

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Archaeological Data Service
Digital Archive ID	65591
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Wiltshire Heritage Museum
Paper Archive ID	65591
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Plan','Report','Section'

### Project bibliography 1

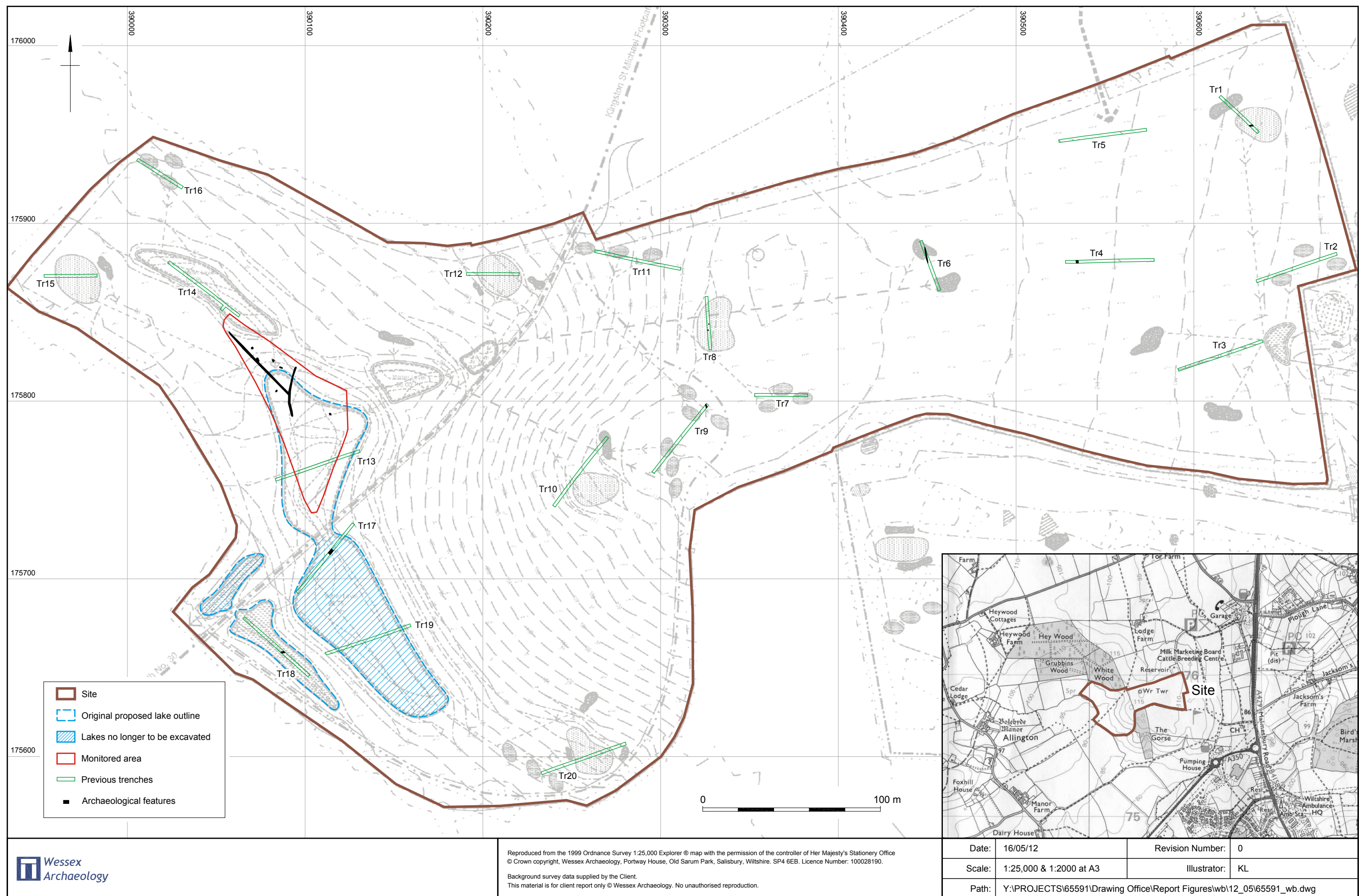
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	CHIPPENHAM GOLF COURSE, Chippenham, Wiltshire, Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hall, N
Other bibliographic details	65591.03
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Entered on	17 May 2012

# OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](mailto:English Heritage) for OASIS help and advice

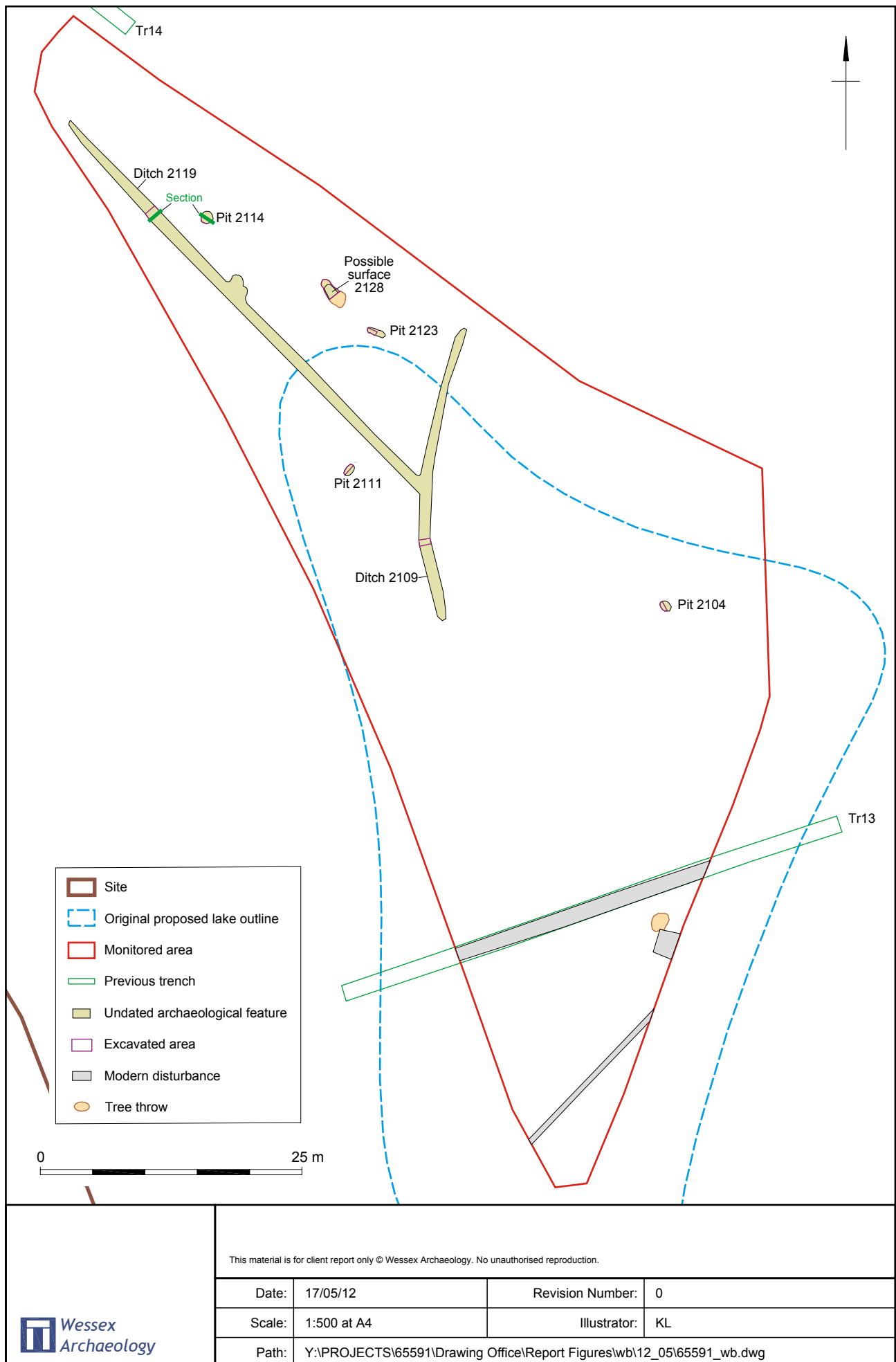
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### Location of site and monitored areas

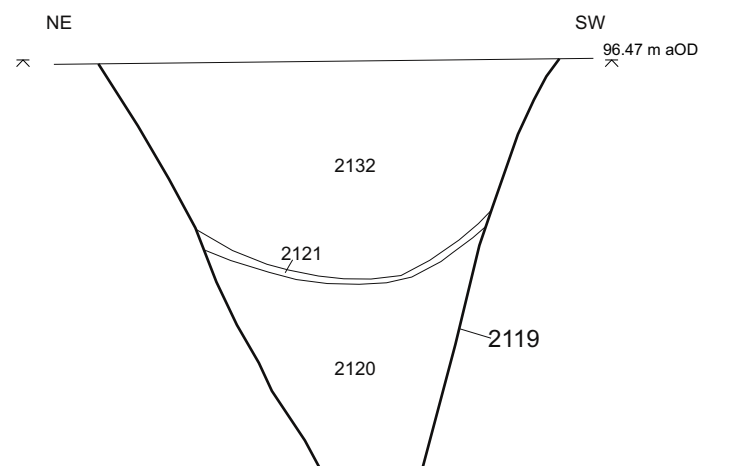
Figure 1



Detail of monitored area

Figure 2





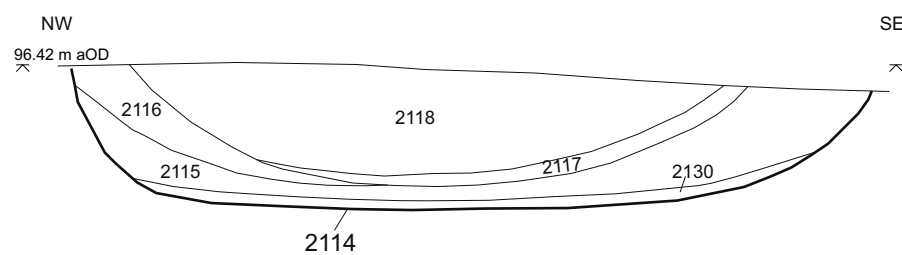
North-west facing section through ditch 2119



Plate 1: North-west facing section through ditch 2119



Plate 2: North facing section through ditch 2109



South-west facing section of pit 2114



Plate 3: South-west facing section through pit 2114



Plate 4: Cobbling 2128, view from north-west





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