



## Land at Newport Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight Archaeological Assessment Report





**LAND AT NEWPORT ROAD,  
COWES, ISLE OF WIGHT**

**Post-Excavation Assessment Report**

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## LAND AT NEWPORT ROAD, COWES, ISLE OF WIGHT

### Post-Excavation Assessment Report

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#### QUALITY ASSURANCE

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**\* I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL**

# LAND AT NEWPORT ROAD, COWES, ISLE OF WIGHT

## Post-Excavation Assessment Report

### Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>PROJECT BACKGROUND .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	PROJECT BACKGROUND .....	1
1.2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	1
1.3	LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY .....	2
<b>2</b>	<b>AIMS AND METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF EXCAVATION .....	2
2.2	GENERAL AND PERIOD SPECIFIC AIMS AND OBJECTIVES .....	2
2.3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY .....	3
2.4	HEALTH AND SAFETY.....	4
2.5	MONITORING.....	5
2.6	RECORDING .....	5
2.7	FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES .....	5
<b>3</b>	<b>STRATIGRAPHIC RESULTS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1	INTRODUCTION .....	6
3.2	SUMMARY OF THE EXCAVATION RESULTS.....	6
3.3	LATE BRONZE AGE TO EARLY IRON AGE (1100 BC – 400 BC) .....	7
3.4	LATER PREHISTORIC (LATE BRONZE AGE AND IRON AGE, 1100BC – 43AD) .....	8
3.5	POST-MEDIEVAL AND MODERN (AD 1500 ONWARDS) .....	10
3.6	FEATURES OF UNCERTAIN DATE .....	10
<b>4</b>	<b>ARTEFACTS.....</b>	<b>11</b>
4.1	INTRODUCTION .....	11
4.2	POTTERY .....	11
4.3	FIRED CLAY .....	12
4.4	WORKED AND BURNT FLINT .....	12
4.5	SLAG .....	12
4.6	OTHER FINDS .....	12
<b>5</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE .....</b>	<b>13</b>
5.1	INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES.....	13
5.2	CHARRED PLANT REMAINS AND CHARCOAL.....	13
5.3	WORKED CHARCOAL.....	14
<b>6</b>	<b>FURTHER POTENTIAL.....</b>	<b>14</b>
6.1	STATEMENTS OF POTENTIAL .....	14
6.2	REVISION OF RESEARCH AIMS.....	15
<b>7</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b>	<b>15</b>
7.1	ARCHAEOLOGY .....	15
7.2	FINDS .....	16
7.3	ENVIRONMENTAL.....	16
<b>8</b>	<b>STORAGE AND CURATION .....</b>	<b>16</b>

8.1	MUSEUM .....	16
8.2	ARCHIVE.....	16
8.3	CONSERVATION .....	17
8.4	DISCARD POLICY .....	17
8.5	COPYRIGHT .....	17
8.6	SECURITY COPY.....	17
<b>9</b>	<b>RESOURCES AND PUBLICATION .....</b>	<b>17</b>
9.1	PROPOSED PUBLICATION SYNOPSIS AND DISSEMINATION .....	17
9.2	PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND QUALITY STANDARDS.....	18
9.3	PERSONNEL.....	18
9.4	TASKLIST .....	19
<b>10</b>	<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>20</b>
	<b>APPENDIX 1.....</b>	<b>22</b>
	<b>APPENDIX 2: FINDS SUMMARIES .....</b>	<b>23</b>
	<b>APPENDIX 2.....</b>	<b>1</b>

### List of Figures

- Figure 1** Site location plan
- Figure 2** **Area 16:** Detailed excavation plan and selected plates and sections
- Plate 1:** General view of machine excavation of **Area 16**
- Plate 2:** South-southwest facing section of ditch **1618**
- Section 1:** South-southwest facing section of ditch **1618**
- Section 2:** South-southwest facing section of ditch **1619**
- Section 3:** South facing section of ditch terminus **1619**
- Figure 3** **Area 17:** Detailed excavation plan and selected plates and sections
- Plate 3:** Southeast facing section of pit **1716**
- Section 4:** Southeast facing section of post hole **1704**
- Section 5:** Southeast facing section of post hole **1706**
- Plate 4:** Southeast facing section of post hole **1710**
- Figure 4** **Area 18:** Detailed excavation plan
- Figure 5** **Area 18:** selected plates and sections
- Section 6:** North-west facing section through gullies **2063** and **2064**
- Plate 5:** Round house **2101**, viewed from east
- Section 7:** North-east facing section of posthole **1942**
- Plate 6:** Structure **1865**, viewed from north-east
- Plate 7:** South-west facing section of pit **1852**
- Section 8:** West-southwest facing section through ditches **2098** and **2099**

**Front cover:** Post-excavation view ring ditches 2063 and 2064

**Back cover:** Ring ditches 2063 and 2064 after rain

### List of Tables

- Table 1** All finds by context
- Table 2** Sample Provenance Summary
- Table 3** Proposed publication
- Table 4** Task list and resources
- Table 5** Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

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## **LAND AT NEWPORT ROAD, COWES, ISLE OF WIGHT**

### **Post-Excavation Assessment Report**

#### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited acting on behalf of BAE Systems Land to undertake an archaeological excavation within the southern portion (totalling 0.45ha) of a planned retail development on land at Newport Road, Cowes, the Isle of Wight (NGR 449036 94578).

The excavation consisted of three areas located in the north-west, north-east and southern portions of the Site, measuring 0.03ha, 0.04ha and 0.45ha respectively.

The two northern areas identified two Later Prehistoric linears, a number of undated postholes and two pits thought to be of post-medieval or modern date.

The southern and largest area located a large number of postholes, several pits and some linear features thought to represent the periphery of a Later Prehistoric settlement. Within this three clear structures were identified; a ring ditch or drip gully dating to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age, a post built roundhouse dated to the Later Prehistoric and a four-post structure dated to the Late Iron Age. A possible fenceline was also identified and it is probable that other structures are represented by some of the remaining postholes. Some traces of possible enclosure ditches were located in the vicinity of the ring ditch in the south-west part of the area.

The excavation produced a small quantity of finds the date range of which, apart from a few medieval or later items, appears to be exclusively prehistoric. The environmental evidence was representative of settlement waste and activity.

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## Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited acting on behalf of BAE Systems Land. Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Rob Bourne of CgMs in this regard. Howard Prosser, Michael Craddock and John Bache-Duke of BAE Systems are thanked for their advice on site specific Health and Safety and in the initiation of the project. The knowledge and assistance of Danny Newns (EOD Advisor) during the machine stripping was much appreciated.

Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Owen Cambridge, Isle of Wight Council's Planning Archaeologist (IOWPA), who monitored the project and offered valuable advice throughout the project.

The field work was undertaken by John Powell, Matthew Kendall, Mark Stewart and Darryl Freer.

The report was researched and compiled by John Powell and Naomi Brennan and edited by Richard Greatorex. Specialist reports were written by Lorraine Mepham. The environmental samples were processed by Nicola Mulhall and assessed by Sarah F. Wyles. The figures were prepared by Liz James.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Richard Greatorex.

**LAND AT NEWPORT ROAD,  
COWES, ISLE OF WIGHT****Archaeological Assessment Report****1 PROJECT BACKGROUND****1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited, (acting on behalf of BAE Systems Land) to undertake an archaeological excavation within the southern portion (totalling 0.45ha) of a planned retail development on land at Newport Road, Cowes, the Isle of Wight centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 449036 94578 (see **Figure 1**, hereafter referred to as 'the Site').
- 1.1.2 Full planning permission has been granted for the construction of a retail foodstore with associated parking, landscaping, balancing pond and vehicular access from Three Gates Road. Outline consent has been granted for commercial/industrial development (B class uses) with vehicular access from Three Gates Road (ref: P/01589/09 TCP/21760/X).
- 1.1.3 This document presents an assessment of the archaeological excavation and its results, and an updated project design for a programme of post-excavation and publication, as well as an outline of the resources required.

**1.2 Archaeological background**

- 1.2.1 A desk based assessment was carried out by CgMs in 2007 (CgMs 2007). The study recorded finds from the Prehistoric to the Post-medieval periods and are summarised below.

***Prehistoric***

- 1.2.2 A flint scatter of early Neolithic date and a Neolithic polished stone axe were found at Cockleton Farm approximately 500m to the south-west of the Site. A ditch and four pits of Iron Age date were located some 800m to the south of the Site

***Romano-British and Medieval***

- 1.2.3 A Roman lamp was recorded 500m to the north and seven Roman coins were recovered from a field 900m to the south of the Site. In the Saxon period the Site was within the northern wood of Parkhurst Forest.

***Post-medieval to modern***

- 1.2.4 In 1915 a civil aerodrome was established on the Site and this was used to test amphibious aircraft during WWII. By the 1960's the airfield had been closed and a radar complex was constructed on the Site, and is still in use today.

***Archaeological Evaluation***

- 1.2.5 As a consequence of the desk based assessment an archaeological trial trench evaluation was required. The site was evaluated by Oxford Archaeology in 2008 and in summary, the evaluation revealed the remains



of an Iron Age settlement toward the southern end of the planned development area, which comprises the current excavation footprint.

- 1.2.6 The archaeological remains recorded, comprised the drip gully of a roundhouse, posthole clusters and a number of possible post hole structures, all dating to the Iron Age.
- 1.2.7 In addition to the remains identified in the southern part of the planned development (the Site), a number of undated drainage/field boundaries were recorded in the north western portion of the development.
- 1.2.8 Whilst remains of other periods have been identified within the wider environs of the Site, no other remains within an immediate 500m radius of the Site are known.

### **1.3 Location, topography and geology**

- 1.3.1 The site is located at Newport Road, Cowes, on NGR grid reference 449036 94578 (**Figure 1**). It is bound to the north and west by Three Gates Road, to the east by Newport Road and to the south by the BAE works. The geology is Plateau Gravel. The Site is essentially flat lying at approximately 53m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

#### ***Current land use***

- 1.3.2 The Site is currently part of a BAE Systems works located immediately to the south. The Site is located on part of the WWII airfield and is mainly laid to grass.

## **2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Aims and objectives of excavation**

- 2.1.1 The excavation was and the post-excavation analysis will be undertaken within the context of regional research questions outlined in the Later Bronze Age and Iron Age Research Agenda of the Solent Thames Archaeological Research Framework.

### **2.2 General and Period Specific Aims and Objectives**

- 2.2.1 General and specific objectives of the excavation are set out below;
- To establish the date, importance, nature of any remains identified during the series of archaeological investigations and set them within the context of the wider rich archaeological landscape.
  - To establish whether any earlier prehistoric activity is present on the Site.
  - To establish the nature of any Iron Age activity, within the development footprint.
  - To determine the internal morphology of the site and land-use, to identify the nature, date and range of zones of activity: residential, industrial, religious, etc. and to determine the dynamics of the spatial distribution of activities and changes over time.

- To establish if there is any evidence of abandonment/destruction in the later Iron Age period.
- Can the existing detailed understanding of the character and chronology of the Iron Age occupation of the area be enhanced by evidence from this development?
- Can the size of the wider settlement be estimated from the results, and if so what size population may it have supported?
- Is there evidence of burials and if so, what does this reveal about the afterlife beliefs of the occupants?
- What evidence is there for ritual/religious activity on the site?
- To determine the environmental history of the site and its immediate surrounding area throughout the sequence of human activity on the Site.
- To support the detailed assessment of the chronology of the artefactual and environmental material with a programme of radiocarbon samples, if appropriate.
- To establish whether the so far undated field boundaries known to the north of the excavation area continue to the south and if so whether dating evidence can be recovered.
- To disseminate the results of the excavation through the deposition of an ordered archive at an appropriate local museum and by the production of a fieldwork report for the IOW HER and, if appropriate, by the production of a suitable publication.

### **2.3 Archaeological Fieldwork Methodology**

2.3.1 The excavation was carried out in accordance with the methodology set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2012). All works were undertaken to the requirements of the Isle of Wight Council and their archaeological advisors and in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations (IfA 2008).

2.3.2 Archaeological excavation was carried out in three areas and was targeted on features identified during the trial trench evaluation of the Site. In total 0.52ha of the Site was excavated.

#### **Area 16**

2.3.3 **Area 16** was located to the north-west corner of the Site and was centred on evaluation Trench 11 and intended to target a number of linear ditches recorded during the evaluation (**Figure 1**). The area measured 39.2m x 8m (0.03ha), the south-western end of **Area 16** was moved approximately 2m to the north-east due to its proximity to an electricity supply for footpath lighting.

**Area 17**

- 2.3.4 **Area 17** was located towards the northern edge of the Site and was centred on evaluation Trench 13, within which a possible ditch terminus had been recorded (**Figure 1**). The area measured 39.2m x 9m (0.04ha).

**Area 18**

- 2.3.5 Area 18 was the largest area and was located across the southern edge of the Site (**Figure 1**). The area was positioned within the footprint of the proposed retail food store, and measured approximately 0.45ha. Evaluation Trenches 1, 2, 5 and 6 were located partially or totally within the stripped area; evidence for an Iron Age settlement had been recorded within the evaluation trenches and included a possible drip gully, postholes and linear ditches.

**Excavation Methodology**

- 2.3.6 The excavation areas were laid out using a Leica Viva GNSS in general accordance with the pattern given in **Figure 1**. The excavation area locations were tied in to the Ordnance Survey.
- 2.3.7 Topsoil and subsoil were removed from the excavation areas by a 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Machine excavation proceeded to a depth at which the top of archaeological features, or the top of natural deposits, were exposed, whichever was the higher.
- 2.3.8 A metal detector survey was undertaken prior to and during the removal of topsoil to identify and small finds.
- 2.3.9 Once machine stripping had been completed archaeological remains were hand-excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner in order to meet the aims and the objectives of the excavation. Appropriate sampling of all archaeological features identified was carried out by hand and to the satisfaction of the Isle of Wight Planning Archaeologist.

**2.4 Health and Safety**

- 2.4.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time. Wessex Archaeology prepared a Health and Safety Method Statement and Site Specific Risk Assessment before the commencement of the fieldwork. The Risk Assessment was read and understood by all staff attending the Site before any groundwork commenced.
- 2.4.2 The remains of WWII pipe bombs were known to be present on the Site. Wessex Archaeology asked for reassurance from the client on the location and stability of the pipe bombs prior to fieldwork being undertaken. As a consequence, the client provided a specialist EOD Advisor who monitored the machine stripping and remained on Site until they were satisfied that no further risk of UXO was likely to be encountered.

## 2.5 Monitoring

2.5.1 The Isle of Wight Council's Planning Archaeologist, Owen Cambridge, (IOWPA) was notified by CgMs/Wessex Archaeology of the date of commencement of fieldwork. During the course of the fieldwork access to the Site was arranged for the Isle of Wight Council's Planning Archaeologist and a programme of monitoring meetings was undertaken. Monitoring meetings were attended by Owen Cambridge (IOWPA), Rob Bourne (consultant CgMs) and Richard Greatorex (Senior Project Manager Wessex Archaeology).

## 2.6 Recording

2.6.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. Individual context numbers were assigned to all archaeological contexts and natural deposits. A full written, drawn and photographic archive was maintained. Plans and sections were produced at a scale of 1:20 and 1:10 respectively.

2.6.2 Colour transparency, monochrome negative photographs (35mm) and digital images were taken and included an appropriate scale bar. In addition a number of general site photographs and working shots were taken to give an overview of the Site and the progress of the excavation. Particular attention was paid to obtaining shots suitable for displays, exhibitions and other publicity.

2.6.3 The extent of the excavation areas, together with all archaeological features were accurately recorded using a Leica Viva 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.

### **Artefact Recovery**

2.6.4 All artefacts were collected, stored and processed in accordance with standard methodologies and national guidelines (IfA 2001, SMA 1993 and 1995). Small finds were recorded three dimensionally using the Lecia Viva GNSS unit. Bulk finds were collected and recorded by context.

2.6.5 All artefacts have been retained from excavated contexts unless they are of modern origin, and the relevant context records amended.

## 2.7 Finds and Environmental Strategies

2.7.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery of artefacts and environmental samples devised by Wessex Archaeology's Finds and Environmental staff.

2.7.2 Bulk environmental samples (up to 40 litres) were taken from well-sealed and dated features, following Wessex Archaeology's standard Environmental and Artefact sampling policy.

2.7.3 All artefacts were, as a minimum, washed, weighed, counted and identified. Any artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions were dealt with immediately in line with First Aid for Finds (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Suitable material, primarily the pottery, worked flint and any non-ferrous metalwork, were scanned to assess the date range of the relevant

assemblages. All ferrous metalwork was X-rayed to provide further detail concerning their original form as part of the assessment.

### **3 STRATIGRAPHIC RESULTS**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

3.1.1 The fieldwork comprised a single phase of works and three areas were subjected to archaeological excavation and recording across the Site, in total the areas measured approximately 0.52ha. The excavated areas and archaeological features are shown on **Figures 1 to 5**.

3.1.2 The following section summarises the results of the excavation, detailed context description are available in the project archive.

##### ***The archive***

3.1.3 All artefacts and accompanying documentary records from the excavation have been compiled into a stable, fully cross-referenced and indexed archive in accordance with the guidance of 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment' (MoRPHE) (English Heritage 2006). The archive is currently stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire, under the project code 84930, and will in time be deposited with the Isle of Wight Museums Service, under the accession number IWCMS.2012.8401. The content of the Archive is listed in **Appendix 1**.

##### ***Natural deposits and soil sequences***

3.1.4 The Site is essentially flat at a height of approximately 53m OD, and is located on land above the valley of the River Medina. From the eastern edge of the Site the land surface slopes down, relatively sharply, to the river. The underlying geology is mapped as Pleistocene Plateau Gravel (BGS 1976).

3.1.5 The topsoil was fairly uniform across the Site and was characterised by dark greyish-brown sandy-loam topsoil with moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel inclusions. The deposit was fairly uniform within the three areas and was a maximum depth of 0.25m. Below the topsoil a mid grey-brown sandy-loam subsoil (0.22m deep) with frequent flint gravels was observed, this is thought to represent the weathered natural geology. The underlying natural was mixed sand and gravels and was characterised by a mid yellow-brown, sandy-clay with abundant flint gravel inclusions.

#### **3.2 Summary of the excavation results**

3.2.1 The following section summaries the excavation results by period and Area. The excavation predominantly produced evidence for activity on the Site dating from the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age through to the Late Iron Age. The pottery assemblage was almost exclusively Later Prehistoric in date; however the pottery was generally small and abraded. The archaeological features recorded included pits and postholes, with at least three post-built structures, a ring ditch or drip gully and a series of small enclosure ditches. Post-medieval and modern features were identified in the form of small pits and modern land drains or services.

### **Area 16**

- 3.2.2 **Area 16** was located to the north-western corner of the Site and was targeted on evaluation Trench 11 (**Figures 1 and 2, Plate 1**). The area measured approximately 39.2m x 8m (0.03ha). A dark grey-brown sandy loam topsoil and a mid grey-brown, sandy-loam subsoil were removed by mechanical excavator to the top of the underlying gravel, which was present at 0.47m below ground level (BGL). Two linear ditches, a rectilinear enclosure and a posthole were recorded within Area 16.

### **Area 17**

- 3.2.3 **Area 17** was located towards the northern edge of the Site and was centred on evaluation trench 13 (**Figure 3**). This area was intended to 'link' **Areas 16 and 18** and establish whether or not the ditches recorded in **Area 16** continued across the Site towards **Area 18** (Owen Cambridge *pers. comm.*). The area measured approximately 39.2m x 9m (0.04ha). Topsoil and subsoil were removed to a depth of 0.52m BGL. Features recorded within Area 17 comprised postholes and pits.

### **Area 18**

- 3.2.4 **Area 18** was located along the southern boundary of the Site (**Figure 4 and 5**). The area measured approximately 0.45ha and was located within the footprint of the proposed retail food store. Topsoil and subsoil were removed across the area to a depth of 0.57m. Across **Area 18** the land surface sloped downwards from the south-west to the north-east, from 55m and 53m above Ordnance Datum.
- 3.2.5 Features recorded within **Area 18** comprised postholes, pits, linear ditches and a probable ring ditch/drip gully of a round house. The majority of the features were fairly small, shallow features, but, were well defined when excavated. The shallow nature of the features probably reflects the degree of truncation that had occurred on Site and possibly the nature of the underlying geology (firm sandy and gravels), which would possibly have provided a stable enough base from which to build timber structures.

## **3.3 Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (1100 BC – 400 BC)**

### **Area 18**

#### ***Ring Ditch/ Drip Gully 2063/2064***

- 3.3.1 Ring ditch **2063/2064** was located towards the south-western corner of Area 18 (**Figure 4; Figure 5, section 6; front cover**). Roughly half of the feature lay within the excavated area; from the visible portion, the ring ditch appears to have had an overall diameter of 12m. Two phases of the ring ditch/drip gully were evident. The earliest phase of the ring ditch/drip gully (**2063**) was recorded on the southern edge of the feature and had a moderate concave profile and contained both primary and secondary fills. Ditch **2063** had been re-cut on the same alignment by ditch **2064**, which had completely truncated away the earlier phase of the ditch.
- 3.3.2 Ring ditch/drip gully **2064** had a steep, wide u-shaped profile and measured 1.15m wide and was up to 0.4m deep. The ditch had between one and three fills, all of which are thought to be the result of natural silting. On the western side of the ring ditch, within the secondary fill, a darker lens of material was evident along the internal edge of the ditch, which contained pottery, fired

clay and charcoal. This deposit may represent deliberate dumps of material within the main secondary fill of the ditch. The ditch was fairly uniform throughout the excavated sections, but became slightly shallower towards the northern sections.

- 3.3.3 The ditch terminated on the northern side of the ring ditch, and rose sharply to form a rounded terminus. Within the terminus a posthole (**2061**) was recorded, but it was not possible to establish a stratigraphic relationship, and the two features are thought to be contemporary.
- 3.3.4 Pottery, fired clay fragments and worked and burnt flint were recovered from the fills of the ring ditch/drip gully. In total 26 sherds of pottery has been dated to the later prehistoric period and were all in a similar flint tempered fabric. Two joining rim sherds have been dated to the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age.

### **3.4 Later Prehistoric (Late Bronze Age and Iron Age, 1100BC – 43AD)**

#### **Area 16**

- 3.4.1 A linear boundary ditch **1618**, aligned broadly north to south, crossed the north-eastern half of the area (**Figure 2, Plate 2** and **Section 1**). The ditch had a steep v-shaped profile and contained a single mid grey-brown, sandy-clay deposit. The ditch was recorded for a distance of 15m and measured up to 1.03m wide and 0.34m deep. The fill was naturally derived and was probably a mixture of both primary and secondary silting events. A sherd of Later Prehistoric pottery, fired clay and burnt flint were recovered from the fill.

#### **Area 18**

- 3.4.2 Pottery was recovered from approximately 20 features in **Area 18**, the majority of the features are considered to be of Later Prehistoric date, although the pottery recovered from the features was generally small and abraded sherds. The features probably represent a dispersed Iron Age settlement located on the flatter ground above the River Medina. Towards the south-western edge of **Area 18** a ring ditch/drip gully and a rectilinear enclosure ditch contained Iron Age pottery. To the eastern edge of the area four probable post-built structures have been identified and include a post-built roundhouse, a possible four-post-structure and fence lines. Among the remaining postholes there are further linear arrangements, possibly indicating fence lines or screens, but these potential structures remain uncertain.

#### **Round House 2101**

- 3.4.3 Round house **2101** was located towards the eastern edge of Area 18 (**Figure 4; Figure 5, Plate 5**) it was comprised of 23 postholes and had a diameter of 7m. A possible porch structure was located on the north-eastern side of the round house. The postholes were fairly shallow but well defined on excavation and measured between 0.18m and 0.47m in width/diameter and up to 0.19m deep. Five postholes (**1912, 1928, 1937, 1942 (Figure 5, Section 7)** and **1971**) contained possible packing material that was predominantly re-deposited flint gravels. Pottery was recovered from one posthole within the structure **1937** and has been dated to the Late Prehistoric.

- 3.4.4 Further postholes were located in close proximity to round house **2101** and may well be associated to this structure. On the south-eastern edge a linear arrangement of postholes may indicate a fence line or screen, but this remains uncertain.

***Fence Line 2102 (Figure 4)***

- 3.4.5 At the eastern edge of **Area 18** a rectangular arrangement of postholes that probably represented a fence line were recorded. Six postholes formed a clear group and were of similar shape and size. Several further postholes appeared to continue the alignment towards the south-west, but can not be confidently placed within the group due to the shallow nature of the features.

- 3.4.6 The postholes in fence line **2102** were generally sub-circular and were between 0.31m and 0.39m in diameter and up to 0.28m in depth. The postholes were filled with similar deposits that were generally dark grey-brown, silty-clay-loams with common fired clay, charcoal and burnt flint inclusions. Late Prehistoric pottery was recovered from the fills of three of the postholes (**1976**, **1984** and **2000**) and it may well be that the group relates to Structure **2101**.

***Structure 1865 (Figure 4; Figure 5, Plate 6)***

- 3.4.7 A possible four-post structure lay to the south-west of groups **2101** and **2102**. This consisted of four substantial postholes which were in general between 0.4-0.6m in size and between 0.16-0.25m deep forming a structure approximately 1.2m wide and 2.2m long. Two of the postholes had remnants of post-packing material (**1845** and **1862**). A grog-tempered everted rim jar from **1848** was the only diagnostically Late Iron Age material recovered from the Site.

***Groups 2103 and 2104 (Figure 4)***

- 3.4.8 Although dating evidence was only recovered from group **2104** the characteristics and position of group **2103** strongly indicate that they are related contemporary features. Together they form a small open sided enclosure, though this may be a factor of truncation. Given the slight nature of the feature its function is slightly unclear. Without the addition of some kind of palisade this cannot be a stock enclosure it may however be more of a symbolic attempt to demarcate an area to a particular function. Given the sharp northern return in the vicinity of groups **2064** and **2065** it is possible that it is contemporary with these structures.

***Group 2099 (Figure 4)***

- 3.4.9 Just to the south of groups **2103** and **2104** was an east – west aligned gully **2099**. This was fairly insubstantial being around 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep but is thought to be a boundary for another enclosure. Only a single sherd of Later Prehistoric pottery was recovered but its continued alignment would intersect with the presumed extent of ring gully **2064** strongly indicating that it is a later feature.

***Postholes***

- 3.4.10 In total 103 postholes were excavated within **Area 18**, (**Figure 4**) in addition a number of possible postholes were investigated, but proved to be very shallow and as such were of uncertain archaeological provenance, but could well have been the truncated bases of postholes. The excavated postholes



varied in their dimensions and were between 0.18 and 0.54 in width/diameter and from 0.05 up to 0.35 m deep. Post packing and post-pipes were evident in a number (14) of the postholes and generally took the form of re-deposited natural gravels with a darker deposit within the post-pipe. Although very few of these features containing any dating material it is probable that many if not most of these features relate to the Later Prehistoric activity.

#### ***Pits (Figure 4)***

- 3.4.11 Seven pits were excavated containing Late Prehistoric material (**1825, 1838, 1871, 1873, 1878, 1880** and **2014**) these were located in the central and eastern portions of the Site suggesting that much of the domestic focus lay in these areas.

### **3.5 Post-medieval and modern (AD 1500 onwards)**

#### ***Area 17 (Figure 3)***

- 3.5.1 Two shallow, sub-circular pits (**1708** and **1716**) were excavated in the western half of **Area 17** and are thought to be post-medieval in date (**Figure 3, Plate 3**). Both pits were similar in size (approximately 1.10m x 0.86m x 0.15m) and contained single fills. Two small pieces of ceramic building material were recovered from the fill of pit **1716**. Pit **1708** had been partially excavated during the evaluation phase.

### **3.6 Features of uncertain date**

#### ***Area 16 (Figure 2)***

- 3.6.1 A rectilinear enclosure ditch **1619** (**Figure 2, Section 2 and 3**), was located approximately 6m to the west of boundary ditch **1618**. The ditch ran in a broadly north to south alignment for 11m before it turned through 90° to run east to west for a further 9m before it terminated. The ditch had a fairly wide, shallow profile (0.66m wide by 0.16m deep) and contained a single fill. No datable evidence was recovered.
- 3.6.2 Enclosure ditch **1619** was probably related to Iron Age ditch **1618**, which it is parallel to. Taken together both features probably represent part of a wider enclosure/field system of Late Prehistoric or Iron Age date.
- 3.6.3 A small, poorly defined linear gully **1612**, ran parallel to ditch **1618** (**Figure 2**). Gully **1612** had a shallow (0.07m deep), concave profile and terminated within the excavation area. Towards the south-west the gully had been truncated by later modern drains and services, and as such no relationship with boundary ditch **1618** was established.

#### ***Area 17 (Figure 3)***

- 3.6.4 Seven postholes were recorded within the area, all of which were undated. Of note were three small sub-circular postholes (**1704, 1706** and **1710**) that were in close proximity and may represent the truncated remains of a four post-structure (**Figure 3, Sections 4, 5** and **Plate 4**). The three postholes were evenly spaced (2.1m) and formed a roughly sub-square shape in plan, albeit with one side missing.

**Area 18 (Figure 4)**

- 3.6.5 Five small pits were excavated in Area 18 that contained no datable material (**1804, 1817, 1822, 1841 and 1843**). Two additional pits contained worked flint (**1852 and 2082**), which could imply a prehistoric date. One of these, **1852**, contained a distinct clay lining suggesting a storage pit (**Figure 5, Plate 7**). It is likely that several of these features represent storage and refuse pits associated with the Later Prehistoric settlement. **1804, 1817 and 1822** possibly form a northwest to southeast pit alignment with pit **1825** which contained Late Prehistoric material.
- 3.6.6 A small gully was located on the southern edge of Site (**1806**); its full extent in plan was not seen as it appears to largely lie beyond the limit of excavation. However, its slightly curving form and shallow depth suggest it could be another drip gully implying further settlement to the south.

**Group 2098 (Figure 4)**

- 3.6.7 Cutting the east – west aligned gully **2099** was ditch **2098 (Figure 5, Section 8)**. This equally shallow but wider feature was also situated at a slightly divergent alignment running east-north-east – west-south-west. It was undated but its alignment would suggest it post-dates the majority of the features in this area of the Site.

**Group 2100 (Figure 4)**

- 3.6.8 Parallel to gully **2099** was another small gully with a flat bottomed profile. This potentially terminated at the western end but this may be the result of truncation. The feature was undated but given its alignment it may well relate to the Late Prehistoric activity in this area.

**4 ARTEFACTS****4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 The excavation produced a small quantity of finds in a very limited range of material types (see **Table 1** for a list of finds by context). Most finds derived from cut features in **Area 18**. The date range, apart from a few medieval or later items, appears to be exclusively prehistoric. The condition of the material is fair to poor, with the ceramics in particular showing high levels of surface and edge abrasion, and heavy leaching of calcareous inclusions.

**4.2 Pottery**

- 4.2.1 All of the pottery is of prehistoric date. Sherds are generally small and abraded, however, and in many cases calcareous inclusions have leached out, leaving voids in very friable sherds. Poor condition, and the extreme scarcity of diagnostic sherds, has hampered close dating of the assemblage.
- 4.2.2 Fabrics fall into two broad groups: flint-tempered wares and shelly wares. Within the first group most sherds are in fabrics containing frequent but well sorted flint inclusions, with a smaller proportion containing sparser, more randomly distributed inclusions. The shelly wares are more difficult to characterise as in most cases the shell inclusions have completely leached out, leaving platey voids. Some of these wares also contain rare flint and/or grog/clay pellets, and in generally have a soapy feel. There are also three sherds in grog-tempered fabrics.

4.2.3 Only three diagnostic sherds were identified, all rim sherds. The first is from an upright or slightly everted rim with a flattened top and finger impressions around the outside of the rim; overall body profile is unknown (ring ditch/drip gully **2064**). The second (from posthole **2016**) is a smaller rim, in a fabric containing shell, rare flint and grog/clay pellets, with probable finger impressions along the top of the rim; this appears to derive from a slack-shouldered form. The third is in a grog-tempered fabric and appears to come from an everted rim jar of Late Iron Age form (four-post structure **1865**).

4.2.4 Dating this small group is difficult. The diagnostic rims from posthole **2016** and ring ditch/drip gully **2064** can be fairly confidently assigned to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age, and none of the flint-tempered or shelly wares represented here would be out of place in this date range. The co-occurrence of flint-tempered and shelly wares in several features suggests that they were in contemporaneous use, although ring ditch/drip gully **2063/2064** yielded almost exclusively well sorted flint-tempered fabrics, which might have some chronological implication. The grog-tempered everted rim jar from structure **1865** is clearly later, but this is the only sherd which can be confidently dated later than the rest of the assemblage.

### 4.3 Fired Clay

4.3.1 The fired clay consists largely of small, abraded and completely undiagnostic fragments, of uncertain origin; their date is presumed to be later prehistoric on the basis of associated pottery. Two larger fragments from posthole **2069** join to form a slightly curving, very irregular bar, again of unknown function and probable late prehistoric date.

### 4.4 Worked and Burnt Flint

4.4.1 The worked flint includes one end scraper, but otherwise comprises waste flakes and one possible core fragment. Condition is fair; a few pieces have suffered some edge damage and a few of the flakes are broken. In the absence of diagnostic tool types, this small group can only be broadly dated as Neolithic/Bronze Age.

4.4.2 Burnt, unworked flint was also recovered. This material type, although intrinsically undatable, is often taken as an indicator of prehistoric activity. In this instance it occurred broadly in association with Iron Age pottery, but did not correlate with the distribution of worked flint.

### 4.5 Slag

4.5.1 A small quantity of ironworking slag was recovered, representing iron smithing, nearly all from undated pit **1843** (just under 1kg), with one piece from undated boundary ditch **2099**).

### 4.6 Other Finds

4.6.1 Other finds comprise three small fragments of ceramic building material, all probably of medieval or later date (pit **1716**, and intrusive in enclosure ditch **1619**).

## 5 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 5.1 Introduction and Objectives

5.1.1 A total of 12 bulk samples were taken from a range of features, predominantly of Iron Age date, within **Area 18**. These were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and wood charcoal.

5.1.2 The bulk samples break down into the following phase groups:

**Table 2: Sample Provenance Summary**

<i>Phase</i>	<i>No of samples</i>	<i>Volume (litres)</i>	<i>Feature types</i>
Iron Age	10	156	Pits, postholes and ring ditch
Prehistoric	1	8	Pit
Unphased	1	5	Pit
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>169</b>	

### 5.2 Charred Plant Remains and Charcoal

5.2.1 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in Table 3. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals.

5.2.2 The flots were generally relatively large with high numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.

5.2.3 Small quantities of cereal remains were recovered in most of the samples from the Iron Age features. The majority of these remains were indeterminate grain fragments. Hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), grain and chaff fragments were recorded from posthole **1933**, part of Roundhouse group **2102**. There was also a single grain of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) observed in posthole **2000**, part of fence line group **2102**. Free-threshing wheat becomes common in Southern England only within the Saxon and medieval period, with the change from the cultivation of spelt common in the Romano-British period (Greig 1991). It is possible that it is intrusive within this feature, particularly given the rooty nature of the samples.

5.2.4 A few weed seeds were recorded within these samples, including those of vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), meadow grass/cat's-tails (*Poa/Phleum* sp.) and stitchwort (*Stellaria* sp.). Shell fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) were observed in a moderate quantity within posthole 1848, part of 4 post structure group 1865 together with a small number of stem fragments.

- 5.2.5 The sample from pit **1852** of Prehistoric date only contained a small amount of charred material including a few fragments of hazelnut shell and a seed of dock (*Rumex* sp.).
- 5.2.6 No charred plant remains were recovered from the unphased pit **1843**.
- 5.2.7 The charred plant assemblages from the Iron Age features, although small, are representative of settlement waste and activity. Similar small assemblages were recorded in the two samples from Iron Age features recovered from the evaluation (Oxford Archaeology 2008).

### **5.3 Worked Charcoal**

- 5.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in Table 3. Moderate quantities of wood charcoal fragments greater than 4mm were retrieved from pit **1878**, posthole **1933**, part of roundhouse group **2101**, and ring ditch group **2064** of Iron Age date. A high number of charcoal fragments were recorded from the unphased pit **1843**. This mainly appeared to be mature wood fragments. The sample from this pit also contained fragments of slag but no hammerscale.

## **6 FURTHER POTENTIAL**

### **6.1 Statements of potential**

#### ***Overview of the stratigraphic sequence***

- 6.1.1 This excavation identified what appears to be the periphery of an area of Late Prehistoric settlement in the southern part of the Site with further indications of activity in the northern part. Given the large number of undated features and the lack of closely datable material many of the features cannot be phased or only phased to a broad chronological period. This greatly restricts the potential of the Site. Although the Solent Thames Research Framework identifies a need to explore the development of domestic architecture and the function of associated features during the Late Prehistoric period, given the poor stratigraphic detail on this site and the small number of clear structures identified, the results from this excavation can add little detail to that objective.
- 6.1.2 Three clear structures were identified; a ring ditch or drip gully dating to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age which had been re-cut (**2063** and **2064**), a post built roundhouse dated to the Later Prehistoric (**2101**) and a four-post structure dated to the Late Iron Age (**1865**). A possible fenceline was also identified (**2102**) and it is probable that other structures are represented by some of the remaining postholes, though none could be clearly determined. Some traces of possible enclosure ditches (**2099**, **2103** and **2104**) were located in the vicinity of the ring ditch in the south-west part of the **Area 18**. A number of storage and refuse pits were also located.
- 6.1.3 The presence of features along the southern boundary of the Site suggests that the main focus of the settlement lies to the south of the excavation area. Further settlement evidence may also be in the south-eastern part of the Site.

***Finds potential***

- 6.1.4 This is a small assemblage, in which the poor condition and lack of diagnostic pieces amongst the most closely datable material type (pottery) greatly restricts the potential for further research. As has been discussed, the pottery can only be tentatively dated within the later prehistoric period, and further research is unlikely to enable any refinement of this dating. Of the other finds, the worked flint is sparse and contains nothing closely datable; and the burnt flint, fired clay and slag are all undatable and can contribute little or nothing to an understanding of the nature of activity on the Site.
- 6.1.5 The finds have already been recorded to an appropriate archive level, and no further analysis is proposed. Details of the finds as presented here could be incorporated in any publication report.

***Environmental Potential******Charred Plant Remains***

- 6.1.6 There is no potential to ascertain detailed information on the nature of the settlement and landscape, the local crop husbandry and agricultural processing techniques and any specific activities on the site due to the paucity of charred remains recovered.

***Wood Charcoal***

- 6.1.7 Although there is the potential to obtain some limited information on the composition, management and exploitation of the local woodland resource through wood charcoal analysis, it is unlikely that the data from phased features could be related to any specific settlement activities. The wood charcoal from pit **1843** may be associated with metal working, although none of the charcoal fragments appeared vitrified, but this feature is undated.

**6.2 Revision of research aims**

- 6.2.1 Although this excavation has broadly identified the period of activity on Site it was not possible to closely date the stratigraphic sequence. The vast majority of the features are consistent with Late Prehistoric small scale domestic settlement. No burial activity was identified and only a small amount of slag was recovered consistent with small scale iron smithing.
- 6.2.2 As most of the features and structures are not closely datable no indications of population size can be confidently estimated as the length of occupation is unknown.

**7 RECOMMENDATIONS****7.1 Archaeology**

- 7.1.1 Overall, the potential of further analysis of the material collected is very limited. No recommendations for further analysis have been proposed for the pottery or general finds. However the archaeological study of the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age periods on the Isle of Wight is limited, with very few scientifically dated sites and a large amount of material excavated before 1950 (Waller 2006). At the time of the Late Bronze Age to Iron Age Resource Assessment for the Isle of Wight in 2006 only 31 sites or findspots of Late Bronze Age date and 118 of Iron Age date were known and

generally restricted to the chalk ridge, river valleys and the southern coastal zone (Waller 2006). Sites covering the Late Bronze Age to Early Age transition are extremely rare (Waller 2006) and as such this excavation has local and regional significance in that it further contributes to the knowledge of this period. As such it is recommended that details of the features and stratigraphic sequence be included in any publication report.

## **7.2 Finds**

- 7.2.1 The finds have already been recorded to an appropriate archive level, and no further analysis is proposed. Details of the finds as presented here could be incorporated in any publication report.

## **7.3 Environmental**

### ***Charred Plant Remains***

- 7.3.1 No further work is proposed on these samples but these assessment results should be written up for publication.

### ***Wood Charcoal***

- 7.3.2 No further work is proposed on these samples but these assessment results should be written up for publication.

## **8 STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **8.1 Museum**

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the fieldwork be deposited with the Isle of Wight's Museum Service in Newport. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project. Deposition of the finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

### **8.2 Archive**

- 8.2.1 The project archive, containing site documentation, written and drawn records, photographic images, specialist reports and digitally captured data, is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's Salisbury office, under the site codes **84930**. In due course the archive will be deposited with the Isle of Wight's Museum Service in Newport, an accession number has been issued (IWCMS.2012.8401) by the museum.
- 8.2.2 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation, in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (Walker 1990), Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and with up-to-date guidance in English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide*, 2006. The content of the archive is listed in **Appendix 1** of this document.
- 8.2.3 Details of the Site, including a copy of this report, will be submitted online to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) database.

### **8.3 Conservation**

- 8.3.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field. No finds were subsequently identified as of unstable condition and therefore potentially in need of further conservation treatment.

### **8.4 Discard Policy**

- 8.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. The full discard policy will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 8.4.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows the guidelines laid out in Wessex Archaeology's 'Archive and Dispersal Policy for Environmental Remains and Samples'. The archive policy conforms with nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993 and 1995) and is available upon request.

### **8.5 Copyright**

- 8.5.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1998 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purpose, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms with the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.
- 8.5.2 This report, and the archive generally, 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-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

### **8.6 Security Copy**

- 8.6.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Archaeological Record (English Heritage), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

## **9 RESOURCES AND PUBLICATION**

### **9.1 Proposed publication synopsis and dissemination**

- 9.1.1 Information on the Site, the archaeological work undertaken and the results will be placed on the online information resource OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigations).



- 9.1.2 It is anticipated that the results of the fieldwork will be submitted for publication to *the Hampshire Field Club* within one year of the formal approval of the post excavation assessment by the Isle of Wight Council's Planning Archaeologist.
- 9.1.3 It is proposed that the publication text will take the form of a short illustrated report, comprising a description of the stratigraphic/structural evidence with specialist reports on the results of the finds and paleo-environmental evidence and a discussion of the Site's wider regional context (**Table 3**).

**Table 3: Proposed publication**

<b>Report section</b>	<b>Word length</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>150</b>
Project background	<b>150</b>
Geology topography and land-use	<b>200</b>
Historical period and archaeological background	<b>300</b>
Project aims and excavation methodology	
<b>RESULTS</b>	<b>2500</b>
Stratigraphic narrative and phasing scheme with integrated finds information	
<b>Specialist Reports</b>	<b>800</b>
Finds and environmental reports	
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>700</b>
References	<b>500</b>
Figures	<b>c. 3 pages</b>
Tables	<b>1 tables</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,500 words</b>

## 9.2 Performance Monitoring and Quality Standards

- 9.2.1 Wessex Archaeology operates a Project Management system. Projects are assigned to individual managers who monitor their progress and quality, and control budgets from inception to completion, in all aspects including Health and Safety etc. Projects are managed in accordance with English Heritage guidelines outlined in the document Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991). At all stages the manager will carefully assess and monitor performance of staff, adherence to objectives, timetables and budgets. The manager's performance is monitored in turn by the Director of Heritage & Archaeology who will ensure that the project meets Wessex Archaeology's quality standards and is adequately programmed and resourced within Wessex Archaeology's portfolio of project commitments. A formal written report is made to the Executive Management Group once a month by the Senior Project Manager.

## 9.3 Personnel

- 9.3.1 It is currently proposed that the following Wessex Archaeology core staff will be involved in the programme of post-excavation analyses. Wessex Archaeology reserved the right to make changes to project personnel, during the course of the project.

Project Manager                      Richard Greatorex, BA (Hons)

Reports Manager	Pippa Bradley, BA, MPhil, MIfA
Main author	John Powell BA (Hons), AlfA
Finds report	Lorraine Mepham, FSA, BA, MIfA;
Environmental report	Sarah Wyles, BA, PIfA, MAEA

#### 9.4 Tasklist

9.4.1 The table below (**Table 4**) presents the list of tasks required within the proposed programme to produce the publication report, together with the necessary resources. Proposed personnel and their qualifications are listed.

**Table 4: Task list and resources**

REPORTING TASKS	Grade	Time
Archive preparation	PO Archive	0.5 days
Preparation of publication note text and additional background search	PO	3 days
Editing of finds reports	PM	0.25 days
Environmental editing and management	PM	0.25 days
Editing/reading and amendments	PM	0.25 day s
Publication sub-editing/reading and amendments	Reports Manager	0.14 day
Project Management	PM	1 day
Drawing Office: Site illustrations	Drawing Office	2 days
Microfilm*	Marathon	Fixed price
HER Information (est. 2 hrs)		£60@hr
Staff preparation and transport of archive	PO	1day
Archive Box Storage grant†		Fixed price
Publication <i>Hampshire Field Club</i> (estimate 5500 words@700 words/page	8 pages of text 3 figures 1 table	£50/page

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[http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/assets/content/bcc/docs/archaeology/A\\_ST\\_IOW\\_3\\_Isle\\_of\\_Wight\\_LBAIAresource\\_assessment.pdf](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/assets/content/bcc/docs/archaeology/A_ST_IOW_3_Isle_of_Wight_LBAIAresource_assessment.pdf)
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**The Solent Thames Research Framework** available at:

[http://thehumanjourney.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=564&Itemid=286](http://thehumanjourney.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=564&Itemid=286)

**APPENDIX 1**
**Archive Index**
**Site Name: Land at Newport Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight.**
**Wessex Archaeology project number: 84930**
**Isle of Wight Accession Number: IWCMS.2012.8401**

File no.	Details	Format	No. sheets
<b>Stratigraphic archive</b>			
1	Written Scheme of Investigation	A4	17
1	Day Book	A4	20
1	Context Index	A4	13
1	Context Records (Numbers 1601 – 1999)	A4	238
2	Context Records (Numbers 2000 – 2104)	A4	105
2	Survey Book Photocopies	A4	9
2	Survey Database Printout	A4	56
2	Graphics Register	A4	6
2	Site Drawings	A4 and A3	100 (including 5 x A3)
2	Photographic Register (Digital)	A4	6
2	Photographic Register (Film)	A4	10
2	Environmental Register	A4	1
2	Environmental Records	A4	
2	Plant Hire Timesheets	A5	4
2	Toilet Hire Service Receipts	A5	4
2	Post-Excavation Notes	A4 and A3	3
2	Project Risk Assessment (Double Sided)	A4	6
2	Project Health and Safety Risk Plan	A4	34

**APPENDIX 2: FINDS SUMMARIES**
**Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)**

Context	Burnt Flint	Fired Clay	Worked Flint	Pottery	Other Finds
1605				1/7	
1609	1/12	3/8			
1617					1 ceramic building material
1717					2 ceramic building material
1801			3/39		
1814				2/1	
1827			1/2	1/1	
1840				2/10	
1842	4/118			2/2	
1844					910g slag
1849	12/147	2/13		3/12	
1854	13/111		1/21		
1872				13/13	
1874				1/8	
1879	27/533			3/17	
1881				1/1	
1888				1/18	
1904		6/19		3/3	
1909	1/3				
1937				1/1	
1946	3/84				
1956		1/4			
1958	1/19				
1970	1/25				
1977	66/1055	2/20		3/16	
1983				1/3	
1985	16/372			2/17	
1993				1/3	
2001	175/2488			2/14	
2003	1/41				
2011	1/14				
2015				1/3	
2017				16/22	
2021	10/178			1/6	
2026					30g slag
2031		2/3			
2034				1/6	
2040			1/7	5/21	
2043				1/1	
2049	1/8		1/19	2/7	
2052	37/871		1/36	3/52	
2054	6/285		1/14	4/44	
2055				5/26	
2059	57/663			6/19	
2060		2/39	1/39		
2070	4/103	2/221		1/2	

2083			1/1		
2091			1/24		
2092				2/1	
2095	1/7				
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>438/7137</b>	<b>20/327</b>	<b>12/202</b>	<b>91/357</b>	

## APPENDIX 2

**Table 5: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal**

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm
<b>Iron Age</b>											
<b>Pits</b>											
1871	1872	102	5	50	50	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	1/3 ml
1878	1879	107	20	170	50	C	-	Indet. grain frags	-	-	15/15 ml
<b>4 Post Structure Group 1865 Posthole</b>											
1848	1849	101	8	60	50	C	-	Indet. grain frag	A	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags, <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , stems	5/4 ml
<b>Roundhouse Group 2101 Posthole</b>											
1933	1934	103	6	100	35	C	C	Hulled wheat grain frag, glume bases and spikelet forks	C	<i>Stellaria</i> (prob. modern)	12/10 ml
<b>Fence line Group 2102 Posthole</b>											
1976	1977	105	10	90	60	-	-	-	C	<i>Poa/Phleum</i>	3/4 ml
2000	2001	106	10	120	40	C	-	Free-threshing wheat grain frag	-	-	7/10 ml
<b>Posthole</b>											
2069	2070	108	7	50	60	C	-	Indet. grain frags	-	-	2/3 ml
<b>Ring Ditch Group 2064</b>											
2050	2052	109	37	90	50	C	-	Indet. grain frags	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Stellaria</i> (prob. modern)	10/8 ml
2053	2054	110	35	140	50	C	-	Indet. grain frags	-	-	3/2 ml
2058	2059	111	18	100	40	-	-	-	-	-	10/10 ml
<b>Prehistoric</b>											
<b>Pit</b>											
1852	1854	104	8	100	60	-	-	-	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags, <i>Rumex</i>	1/2 ml
<b>Unphased</b>											
<b>Pit</b>											
1843	1844	100	5	250	20	-	-	-	-	-	70/50 ml

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



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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: wessexar1-132738**

### Project details

Project name	BAE SYSTEMS LAND, COWES, ISLE OF WIGHT
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited, (acting on behalf of BAE Systems Land) to undertake an archaeological excavation within the southern portion of a planned retail development on land at Newport Road, Cowes, the Isle of Wight centred on National Grid Reference 449036 94578. Archaeological excavation was carried out in three areas and was targeted on features identified during the trial trench evaluation of the Site. In total 0.52ha of the Site was excavated. Area 16 was located to the north-western corner of the Site revealed an Iron Age ditch and gully and an undated but possibly contemporary enclosure ditch. 3.4.1 Area 17 was located towards the northern edge revealed post-medieval pits and undated post-holes. Within Area 18 at the southern end of the site, comprised settlement features, including ring ditches (drip gullies) of Iron Age date.
Project dates	Start: 20-04-2012 End: 21-05-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	84930 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	DITCH Iron Age
Monument type	GULLY Iron Age
Monument type	ROUND HOUSE Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Significant Finds	FLAKE Bronze Age
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ISLE OF WIGHT ISLE OF WIGHT COWES BAE Systems Land, Cowes, Isle of Wight
Postcode	PO31 8PF
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	SZ 489 945 50 -1 50 44 50 N 001 18 24 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 53.80m Max: 54.40m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology

Project brief originator Consultant

Project design originator Wessex Archaeology

Project director/manager R Gatorex

Project supervisor John Powell

Type of sponsor/funding body Consultant

Name of sponsor/funding body CgMs

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Isle of Wight Heritage Service

Physical Contents "Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Archive recipient Isle of Wight Heritage Service

Digital Contents "other"

Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Isle of Wight Heritage Service

Paper Contents "other"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Plan","Report","Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title LAND AT NEWPORT ROAD, COWES, ISLE OF WIGHT Post-Excavation Assessment Report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Powell, J.

Other bibliographic details 84930.03

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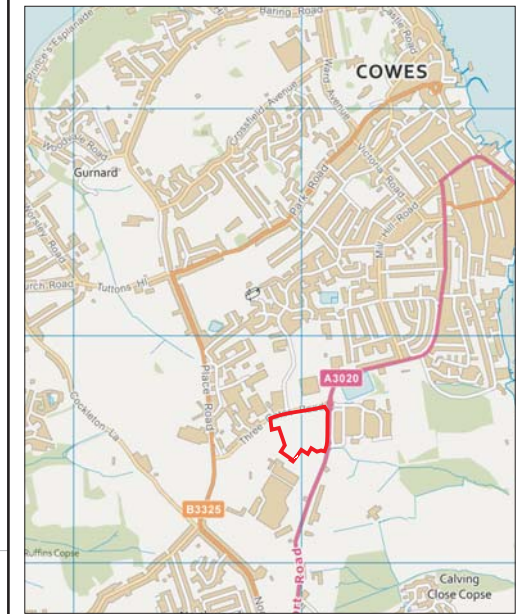
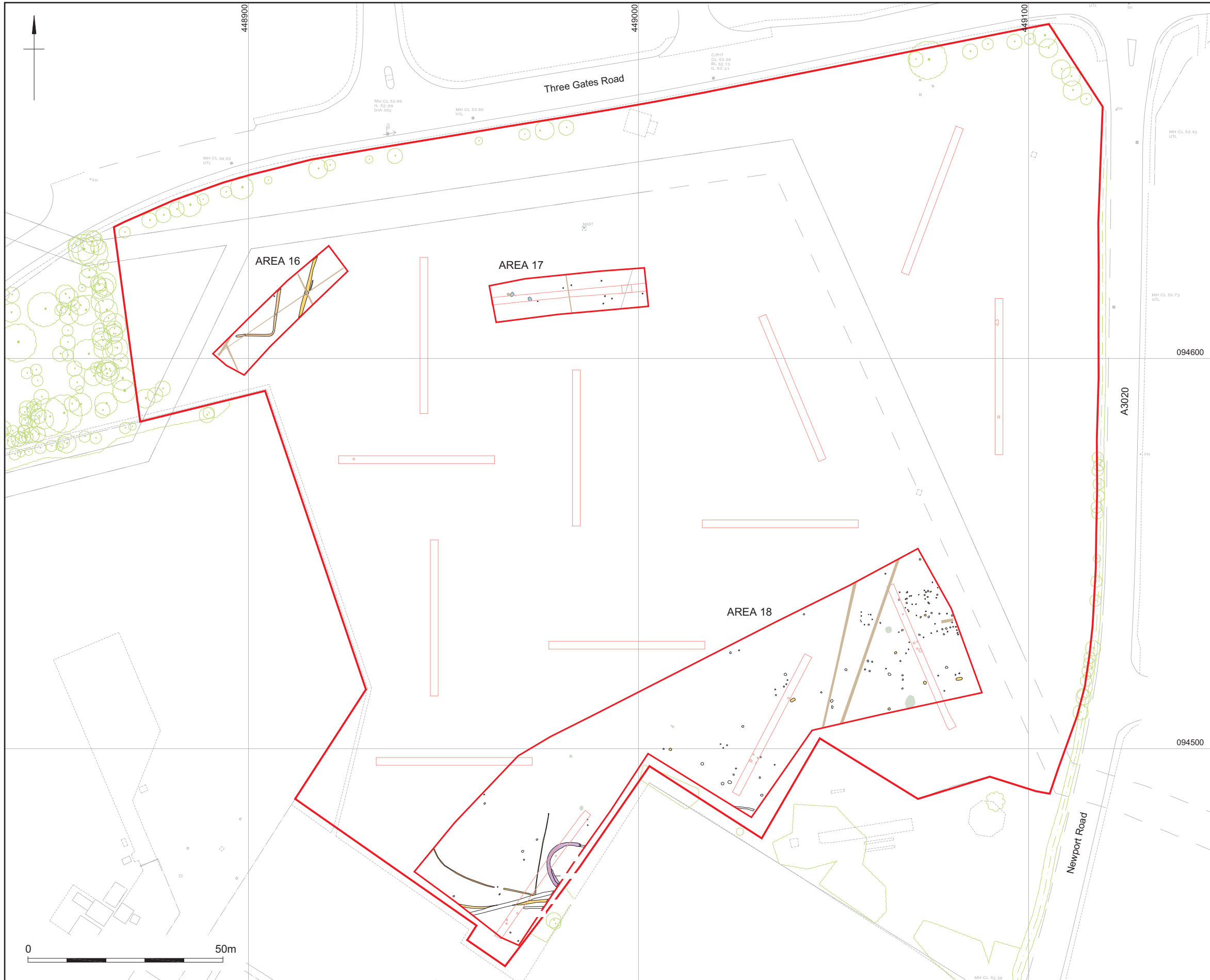
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- The Site
- Excavation area
- Oxford Archaeology evaluation trench
- Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age
- Late prehistoric
- Possible Late Prehistoric - Iron Age
- Late Iron Age
- Undated
- Disturbance
- Tree throw

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Site location plan

Figure 1

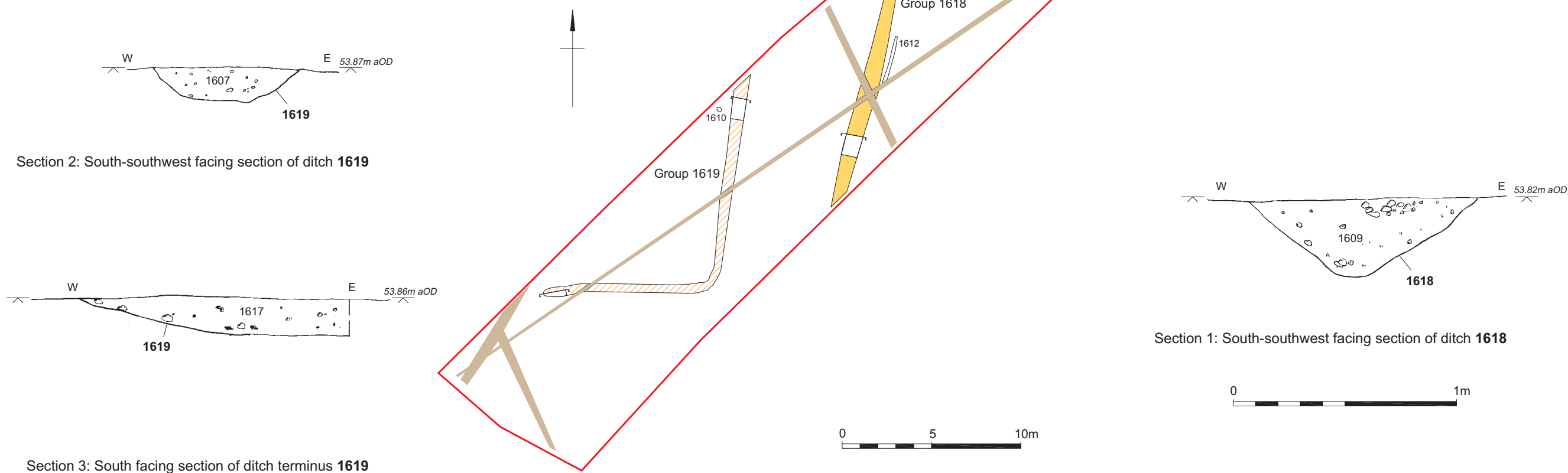


Plate 1: General view of machine excavation of Area 16



Plate 2: South-southwest facing section of ditch 1618

# AREA 16



Section 2: South-southwest facing section of ditch 1619

Section 3: South facing section of ditch terminus 1619

Section 1: South-southwest facing section of ditch 1618



- Excavation area
- Late prehistoric
- Possible Late Prehistoric - Iron Age
- Undated
- Disturbance

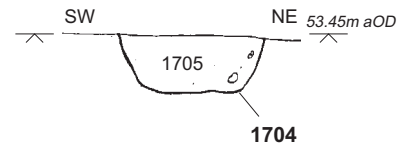


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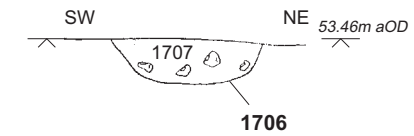
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Plate 3: South-east facing section of pit 1716



Section 4: South-east facing section of posthole 1704



Section 5: South-east facing section of posthole 1706



# AREA 17

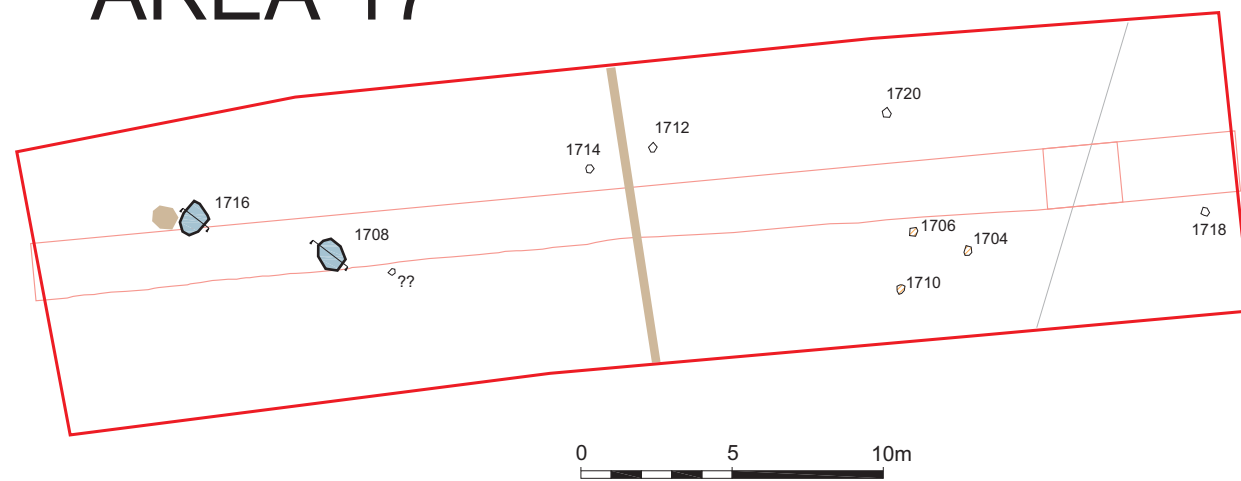


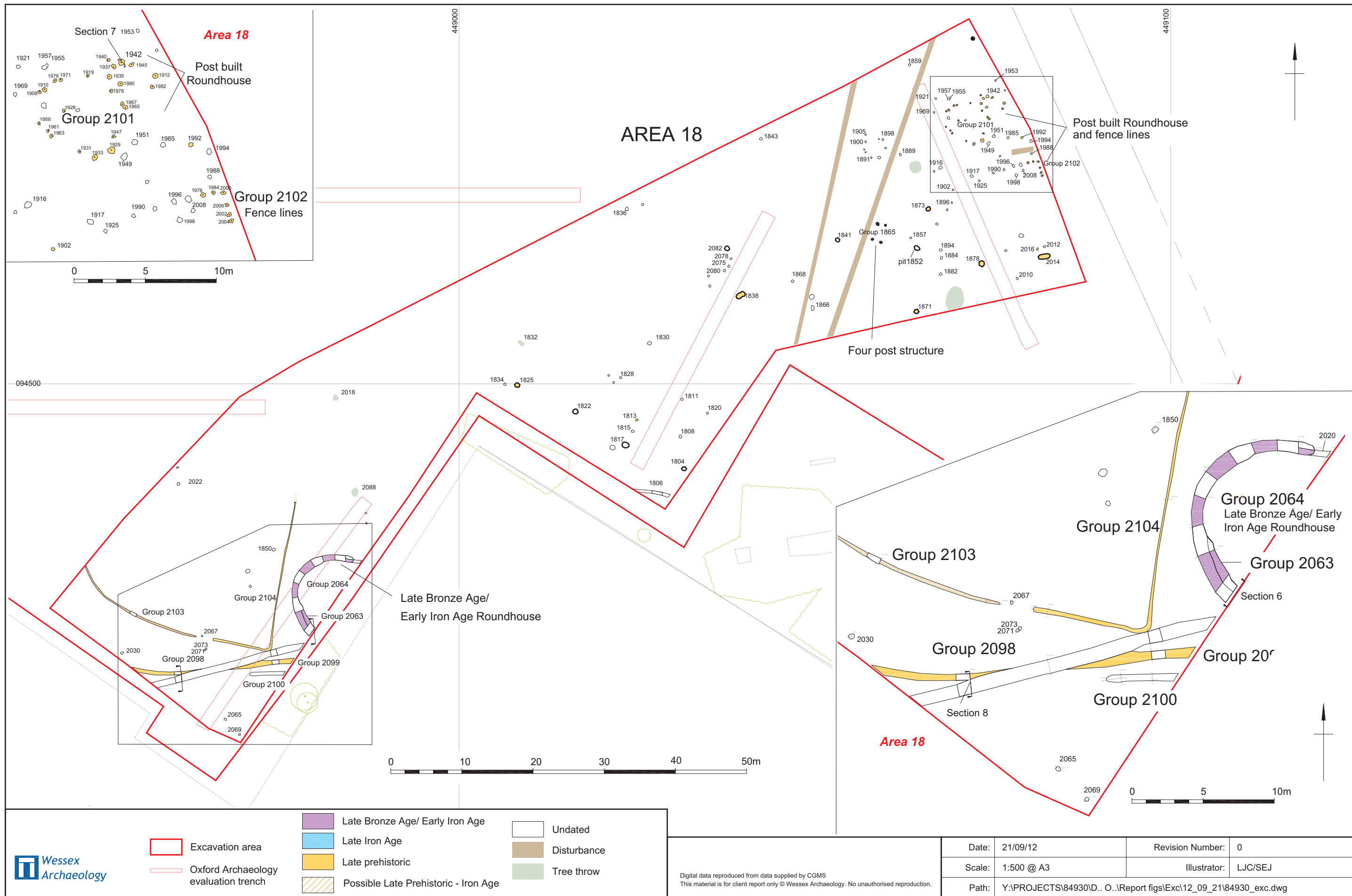
Plate 4: South-east facing section of posthole 1710

- Excavation area
- Oxford Archaeology evaluation trench
- Undated
- Disturbance
- Post-medieval - modern pit



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Area 18: Detailed excavation plan

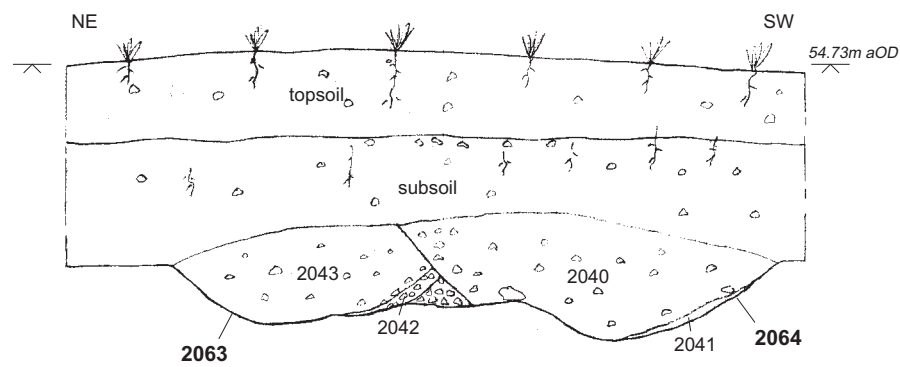
Figure 4



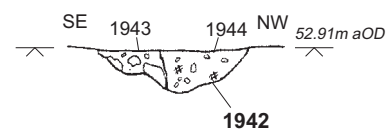
Plate 5: Roundhouse 2101, viewed from the east



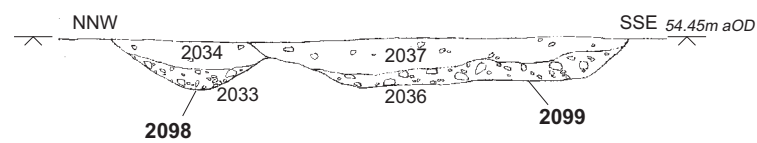
Plate 6: Structure 1865, viewed from the north-east



Section 6: North-west facing section through gullies 2063 & 2064



Section 7: North-east facing section of posthole 1942



Section 8: West south-west facing section through ditches 2098 & 2099



Plate 7: South-west facing section of pit 1852





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