

Thorpe C of E School, The Bence Rosemary Lane, Thorpe, Surrey

Archaeological Excavation Report



Ref: 86371.03

November 2012



Archaeological Excavation Report

Prepared for:

CgMs Consulting 7th Floor, 140 London Wall, London EC2Y 5DN

by:

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

Reference: 86371.03

November 2012

© Wessex Archaeology Limited 2012 all rights reserved Wessex Archaeology Limited is a Registered Charity No. 287786



DISCLAIMER

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

QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	86371	ACCESSION CODE	CLIENT CODE
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	RU.12/0575	NGR	NGR 501927 168711

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
01	I	SC	SF	E-	29/11/12	\\PROJECTSERVER\WESSEX\PROJECTS\86371\RE PORT
02	E	SF	RAC	AB	30/11/12	\\PROJECTSERVER\WESSEX\PROJECTS\86371\RE PORT

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



Archaeological Excavation Report

Contents

	Sum	imary	Error! Bookmark not defined.
	Ackı	nowledgements	Error! Bookmark not defined.
1	INTI	RODUCTION	1
	1.1	Project Background	1
	1.2	Site Location, Topography and Geology	1
2	ARC	CHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BAC	KGROUND2
	2.1	Introduction	2
	2.2	Prehistoric	2
	2.3	Romano-British	2
	2.4	Saxon–early medieval	3
	2.5	Previous fieldwork	3
3	AIM	S AND OBJECTIVES	3
	3.1	General	3
	3.2	Specific	3
4	EXC	AVATION METHODOLOGY	4
	4.1	Introduction	4
	4.2	Excavation methodology	4
	4.3	Health and Safety	5
	4.4	Service Location	5
	1.2	Finds and Environmental Strategies	5
5	RES	SULTS	6
	5.1	Introduction	6
	5.2	Natural deposits and soil sequence	6
	5.3	Late Bronze Age Features	6
	5.4	Romano-British Features	7
	5.5	Saxon	8
	5.6	Undated Features	8
6	ART	EFACTS	8
	6.1	Introduction and results	
	6.2	Pottery	
	6.3	Ceramic Building Material (CBM)	
	6.4	Animal Bone	
	6.5	Shell	
	6.6	Flint	
	6.7	Burnt Flint	10
_	6.8	Fired Clay	10
7	PAL	AEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE	
	7.1	Introduction	10
	7.2	Charred Plant Remains	
	7.3	Wood Charcoal	
	7.4	Land Snails and fresh/brackish water mol	uscs12
-	7.5	Small animal and tish bones	
8	DIS	CUSSION, POTENTIAL AND RECOMMEN	DATIONS12
	8.1	Stratigraphic and Structural analysis	
	8.2	Finds	

	8.3 Pala	aeo-environmental evidence1	3
9	PROPOS/	ALS FOR PUBLICATION, ANALYSIS AND ARCHIVE1	4
	9.1 Publ	lication proposal1	4
	9.2 Pers	sonnel	4
	9.3 Prog	gramme1	4
10	STORAGE	E AND CURATION1	4
	10.1 Mus	eum1	4
	10.2 Arch	nive1	5
	10.3 Stora	age1	5
	10.4 Disc	card Policy1	5
	10.5 Cop	yright1	5
	10.6 Seci	urity Copy1	6
11	REFEREN	NCÉS	6
APPE	ENDIX 1: F	FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL TABLES1	7
APPE	ENDIX 2: C	DASIS RECORD FORM	9
	Thorpe C	of E School, Thorpe, Surrey - Wessex Archaeology1	9

Figures and Plates

- Figure 1Site location plan
- Figure 2 Detail of stripped area
- Figure 3 Sections and Plates 1 & 2
- Plate 1 North facing section of pit 347
- Plate 2 South-east facing section of ditch 370
- Plate 3 North-west facing section of ditch 360
- Plate 4 North-west facing section of pit 338
- Plate 5 West facing section of ditches 360 and 370
- Plate 6 Postholes 306, 307 and 313 facing north
- Plate 7 Concentration of tree throws in the centre of the Site, looking north



Archaeological Excavation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological excavation at Thorpe Church of England School, The Bence, Rosemary Lane, Thorpe, Surrey, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 501927 168711.

Planning permission (12/0575) has been granted by Surrey County Council for the construction of a new single storey hall with front entrance and new classroom block, with provision for new parking spaces, on condition that a programme of archaeological work was undertaken. An initial archaeological trial trench evaluation identified a prehistoric ditch containing pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age and the County Archaeologist advised an excavation was undertaken within the development area.

Prehistoric activity was attested by two north-west to south-east aligned Bronze Age ditches defining an area with several large rubbish pits. The pits were filled with deliberately dumped occupation debris including degraded pottery, animal bone, charcoal and fired clay indicative of settlement or industrial activity nearby. The northernmost ditch was located on slightly higher ground and may have retained some significance as a boundary division in the wider landscape. An alignment of vegetation hollows and tree boles appear to respect this marker and were all found to contain heavily degraded fragments of Bronze Age pottery. The alignment was re-established during the Romano-British period and the base of a Romano-British vessel was recovered from a small 'v-shaped' ditch that cut away the earlier Bronze Age boundary division.

A layer of alluvium predominately present towards the south of the site, was also found to contain degraded Bronze Age pottery fragments and struck flint, however a fragment of a fired clay circular weight was of probable Saxon origin. Following occupation during the Bronze Age it is thought that land clearance may have led to subsequent successive flooding events. As a result, the site became a marginal area of flood plain, associated with the Chertsey Branch of the River Bourne located some 700m to the south, with settlement located elsewhere.

An undated narrow u-shaped gully bisected the centre of the site and cut through several vegetation hollows and one of the Bronze Age pits. Three postholes were also recorded at the northern end of the site, which appear to represent a fairly modern fence. The central of the three postholes was the most substantial and likely to be a straining post.



Archaeological Excavation Report

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Michelle Collings and Sally Dicks in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Tony Howe, the Archaeological Officer at Surrey County Council who advised on the project on behalf of the local authority. The help and assistance of the staff of Thorpe Church of England School during the course of the excavation is also gratefully acknowledged.

Susan Clelland directed the fieldwork with the assistance of Helen Rickwood. This report was written and compiled by Susan Clelland with contributions from Matt Leivers (artefacts) and Lorrain Higbee (animal bone). The environmental samples were processed by Steve Winterton and were assessed by Dr. Chris J. Stevens. The illustrations were produced by Linda Coleman and the project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.



Archaeological Excavation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting (the Client) to undertake an archaeological excavation at Thorpe Church of England School, The Bence, Rosemary Lane, Thorpe, Surrey, hereafter 'the Site' (Figure 1). The Site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 501927 168711.
- 1.1.2 Planning permission (12/0575) has been granted by Surrey County Council for the construction of a new single storey hall and front entrance with a new classroom block with associated external works including the laying out of 16 new parking spaces on condition that a programme of archaeological work was undertaken.
- 1.1.3 Phase 1 of this programme of archaeological mitigation comprised an archaeological evaluation. Two trenches were machine excavated within the footprint of the proposed building and identified a north-west to south-east aligned ditch, which contained pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age (*c*. 1100-700BC) accompanied by numerous pieces of burnt flint.
- 1.1.4 A subsequent strip, map and sample excavation was proposed within the footprint of the building to further investigate any archaeological remains impacted by the development.
- 1.1.5 This report presents an initial statement and assessment of the excavation results. Proposals and recommendations for further analysis and publication are also included.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The Site lies centrally within Thorpe village which is located between the M25 to the west, the M3 to the south and the A320 Staines Road to the east. The school is located off Rosemary Lane and is bounded by Midway Avenue to the west, Western Avenue to the north and residential development to the east and south.
- 1.2.2 The Site is occupied by an infant school which was built in the mid to late 20th century. The main school building is positioned to the south of the Site and surrounded by grassed areas on all sides. A tarmac parking area lies to the immediate south and west of the building, and tarmac playground lies to the immediate north.
- 1.2.3 The area of the proposed development was grassed with a small woodland area to the far south. A tarmac pavement bisected the centre of the development footprint.

- 1.2.4 The British Geological Survey identifies the geology of the Site and the surrounding area as Kempton Park Gravel comprising a River Terrace deposit of the Post-diversionary River Thames and its tributaries (BGS 1974, map 269 Windsor). A band of alluvium of the Claygate Member lies to the south of the Site.
- 1.2.5 A geotechnical investigation was undertaken in February 2012 and comprised the excavation of five boreholes. Made ground deposits and alluvium overlying Kempton Park Gravels (Albury SI Ltd 2012) was recorded. The made ground was recorded up to depths of 0.40m to 1.40m below ground level (bgl).
- 1.2.6 The Site is recorded at an elevation of 16m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 No designated heritage assets are recorded within the Site or immediate vicinity.
- 2.1.2 An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment has previously been prepared (CgMs 2012), the results of which are briefly summarised below.

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 There is only limited evidence for early prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity of the Site comprising a single Mesolithic findspot recorded to the south-east of the Site and a Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead recovered from the Thorpe Gravel Pit, also to the south-east.
- 2.2.2 More extensive evidence for Bronze Age activity is recorded nearby. An early Bronze Age ring ditch is recorded to the north-east of the Site at a gravel quarry just outside Thorpe village. The ring ditch was approximately 30m in diameter. Two crouched inhumations were recorded in the basal fill of the ditch and pottery and worked flint was collected.
- 2.2.3 A further ring ditch was recorded at Muckhatch Farm to the south-west of the Site. In addition, further evidence for Bronze Age activity is recorded in the vicinity, including pits and hearths which produced Bronze Age pottery along with burnt flint and surface finds. Four large pits of Late Bronze Age date were recorded with a further pit recorded at Longside Gravel Pit to the north-east of the Site. Quantifies of daub with wattle impressions, pottery and two loom weights were recorded. In addition sherds of Iron Age pottery were collected from the site.
- 2.2.4 Bronze Age activity has also been recorded within the Site (see below) during an archaeological evaluation (WA 2012a) of the development area.

2.3 Romano-British

2.3.1 There is limited evidence for Romano-British activity in the DBA's study area, comprising a series of linear features interpreted as the remains of a field system located to the east of the Site, along with a T-shaped corn drier.

2.3.2 Occasional isolated Romano-British finds have been recorded in the vicinity of the Site including a greyware cooking pot dating to the 2nd century AD during excavation of a drain in Thorpe churchyard in 1963. A scatter of Romano-British pottery was collected during fieldwalking to the south-east of the Site. In addition a bronze fibula, a ring and eight coins were recorded from Whyteleafe in the late 19th century.

2.4 Saxon–early medieval

- 2.4.1 Only two widely dispersed Saxon findspots are recorded within the immediate area, suggesting a low potential for remains of this date overall. A scatter of Saxon pottery was collected during fieldwalking after topsoil stripping to the south-east of the Site and a small assemblage of possible Saxon pottery was recovered during an evaluation to the north-east of the Site.
- 2.4.2 St. Mary's Church lies to the east of the Site and dates to the 12th century.
- 2.4.3 Further medieval finds comprise an assemblage of medieval artefacts recovered during an evaluation to the north-east of the Site, and a medieval iron swivel link recovered from Thorpe Gravel Pit to the south-east.

Late medieval and post-medieval

- 2.4.4 Early mapping records the Site as open land.
- 2.4.5 The fragmentary remains of a post-medieval homestead are recorded to the east of the Site.

2.5 Previous fieldwork

- 2.5.1 An archaeological evaluation (WA 2012) has previously been undertaken at the Site. Two trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed classroom block each measuring 10m by 1.6m. Trench 1 revealed a single north-west to south-east aligned ditch, which contained pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age (*c*. 1100-700BC) accompanied by worked and burnt flint suggesting the location of a settlement in the wider vicinity of the Site.
- 2.5.2 Trench 2 revealed a waterborne deposit, which may mark the location of an old river channel or possibly the edge of the flood plain associated with the Chertsey branch of the River Bourne

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General

3.1.1 The objective of the archaeological mitigation was to establish within the constraints of the agreed strategy the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition, and depth of any surviving remains which may be affected by the proposed works.

3.2 Specific

3.2.1 The specific aims of the project were:



- To define (within the constraints of the excavation area) the nature, extent, character and chronology of the Bronze Age activity on the Site;
- To preserve *by record* archaeological remains within the Site that were subject to disturbance and damage by the development
- To excavate and record features/deposits associated with the Bronze Age activity of the Site at an appropriate level to assist and inform the chronology and phasing.
- To determine whether buried soils are preserved on the Site and to place the evidence from this Site in its wider landscape context.
- To produce a report which to present the results of the excavation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential.
- To ensure the long-term conservation of the Site archive generated by the works.

4 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All excavation and post-excavation procedures were conducted in accordance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Field Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (IFA 2008), except where they are superseded by statements below.

4.2 Excavation methodology

- 4.2.1 The fieldwork comprised the mechanical stripping of the proposed development area followed by the mapping, sample excavation and recording of archaeological features identified. This work was undertaken in advance of commencement of development activities.
- 4.2.2 Machine excavation ceased upon identification of archaeological deposits, or at the top of the undisturbed natural geology, whichever was encountered first. The excavated spoil was inspected for finds and all features or potential features were investigated by hand.
- 4.2.3 A full written, drawn and photographic record was made of all archaeological features. Hand drawn plans and sections were produced at a scale of 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections. Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* sheets were used exclusively for all recording.
- 4.2.4 The extent of the excavation areas were accurately recorded using a Leica Global Positioning System (GPS 1200). The data was overlaid onto the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid (using digital map data). During fieldwork digital plans were produced using AutoCAD.
- 4.2.5 Colour transparency, monochrome negative photographs (35mm) and digital images were taken (including a scale) as appropriate. A number of general photographs were also taken to provide an overview of the Site and the progress of the excavation.
- 4.2.6 Following completion of the excavation, the archive and all artefacts were taken to the offices of Wessex Archaeology.

4.2.7 The methodologies for this excavation phase of mitigation are recorded in detail in the Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Excavation (WA 2012b).

4.3 Health and Safety

- 4.3.1 All works were 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.
- 4.3.2 Wessex Archaeology supplied a copy of their Health and Safety Policy and a Risk Assessment to the Client before the commencement of the fieldwork. The Risk Assessment was read and understood by all staff attending the Site before any groundwork commenced.

4.4 Service Location

- 4.4.1 Before excavation began the Site was walked over and inspected to visually identify, where possible, the location of above and below ground services. The excavation area was also fully scanned before and during excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) in order to verify the absence of any live underground services.
- 4.4.2 Several service pipes were identified during both the evaluation and excavation phases of mitigation which affected the extent of the area subject to excavation and comprised:
 - a mains electricity service orientated north-east to south-west positioned along the eastern side of the excavation area;
 - a north to south aligned water pipe. The pipe was identified during the evaluation bisected the southern end of the excavation area;
 - three drainage pipes on the western side of the excavation area feeding into a large concrete soak-away located within the footprint of the proposed building. Two of these led from the extant school guttering and the other from a manhole situated on the north-east corner of the extant school building.

1.2 Finds and Environmental Strategies

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

Artefact Recovery

- 4.4.4 All artefacts were collected, stored and processed in accordance with standard methodologies and national guidelines (IfA 2008, SMA 1993, SMA 1995).
- 4.4.5 All artefacts have been retained from excavated contexts unless they are of modern origin, in which case the relevant context records have been amended and the finds discarded.

Environmental Sampling

- 4.4.6 Sampling targeted dateable archaeological contexts where appropriate and was conducted under the guidance of the Wessex Archaeology environmental specialists.
- 4.4.7 Bulk environmental samples (up to 60 litres) were taken from well-sealed and dated features, following Wessex Archaeology's standard Environmental and Artefact sampling policy.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The following section summaries the results of the archaeological excavation (**Figures 2-3**, **Plates 1-7**). An assessment of the artefactual and palaeo-environmental assemblages is presented in Sections 6 and 7 below. More detailed descriptions of the archaeological features and deposits can be found in the paper and digital archive.
- 5.1.2 Evidence for activity dating from the Bronze Age to the post-medieval periods was identified within the excavation area.

5.2 Natural deposits and soil sequence

- 5.2.1 The modern overburden comprised a 0.30m thick topsoil, typically a mid dark grey brown silty loam, overlying a mid yellow brown silty loam subsoil. This layer increased in depth from north-east to south-west and its notable depth is considered largely due to centuries of post-medieval ploughing.
- 5.2.2 At the southern end of the Site an alluvial layer of mid-light grey silty sand was found to be overlying the natural substrate and sealed archaeological features. Residual struck flint pieces were recovered from this alluvial deposit which was also found to contain a fragment of a fired clay weight of possible Saxon origin.

5.3 Late Bronze Age Features

- 5.3.1 The first significant evidence for occupation of the Site dates from the Late Bronze Age and is consistent with other prehistoric activity recorded in and around the village. Activity during the Bronze Age was represented by two parallel north-west to south-east aligned ditches lying 23m apart defining an area containing several large contemporaneous rubbish pits (**Figure 2**).
- 5.3.2 Ditch **369** (Figure 2 & Plate 3), which represented the northernmost of these two boundaries, had been previously identified in evaluation Trench 1 as ditch **104** (WA 2012a). The 1.1m wide ditch decreased in depth from south-east to north-west (from 0.35m to 0.2m) and had concave sides and a flat base. Pottery sherds and burnt flint fragments were recovered from the secondary fill derived from the weathering of the contemporary topsoil and suggest close proximity to an associated Late Bronze Age settlement.
- 5.3.3 Parallel ditch **370** (Figure 3) lay 23m to the south and was sealed by alluvial layer **337**. The ditch was 1m wide and on average 0.3m deep and though shallower, had a similar profile to that of ditch **369**. A primary deposit of



weathered natural material was overlain by a high energy waterborne secondary fill containing Late Bronze Age pottery, occasional charcoal flecks and rare small burnt flint fragments. This secondary deposit was very similar in texture and appearance to overlying layer **337**.

- 5.3.4 Two large pits **338** (**Plate 4**) and **347** (**Figure 3**) were located between ditches **369** and **370**. Both pits contained substantial deposits of deliberately dumped domestic debris comprising charcoal, fired clay, animal bone, Late Bronze Age pottery and burnt and struck flint fragments. It should be noted that the quantity of pottery recovered from these pits and discussed below (see 6.2.3) represents only a proportion of that actually present. The remainder were degraded under-fired sherds which, though visible during excavation could not be retrieved. Bulk samples were processed for charred plant remains from both pits and low quantities of charred cereals suggesting low level settlement activity in the immediate area were recorded.
- 5.3.5 Pit 347 (Figure 3) was sub-oval in plan and measured 5m long, 3m wide and 1m deep. Natural sandy gravel deposits (348) were present at the base of the pit and the basal pit fill deposits showed several horizontal lenses of concreted iron (349 & 350) indicating at least two episodes of prolonged standing water. The majority of the pit was filled with deliberately dumped debris (336) which included fired clay and moderate to large pieces of charcoal in quantities perhaps indicative of industrial rather than domestic activity. The pit contained Late Bronze Age pottery sherds and a single likely intrusive Romano-British sherd. A tertiary deposit (351) of possible alluvial material sealed the pit. A modern borehole inspection pipe cut through the centre of the pit.
- 5.3.6 Pit **338** had a diameter of approximately 2.5m, was 0.8m deep and contained a similar fill sequence to that observed in pit **347**. Basal material (**339**), the result of primary weathering, was overlain by a dump of occupation debris (**340**) which comprised domestic waste including animal bone (cattle) and pottery, though with notably less fired clay than was present in pit **347**. A tertiary fill of topsoil derived material (**341**) which contained abraded occupation debris sealed the pit.

5.4 Romano-British Features

- 5.4.1 A single Romano-British 'v-shaped' ditch **371** was recorded within the excavation area and was located in the north of the Site, cutting Bronze Age ditch **369** (Figure 2). The 1m wide and 0.4m deep ditch tapered to a narrow 0.15m wide concave base and appeared to curve slightly on a south-east to north-west alignment.
- 5.4.2 The ditch contained two distinct deposits comprising a primary fill of weathered natural material overlain by a low energy largely waterborne secondary deposit from which residual Late Bronze Age pottery and burnt flint fragments were recovered. The base of a Romano-British greyware jar dated to the second century was found upturned towards the base of this secondary ditch fill (**Plate 5**).

5.4.3 The location and orientation of ditch **371** suggests it was excavated to reestablish an extant boundary perhaps demarcating the north-eastern limit of flood inundation.

5.5 Saxon

5.5.1 A fragment of a fired clay circular weight (see above) was recovered from alluvial layer **337**

5.6 Undated Features

- 5.6.1 A 'u-shaped' gully **365** (**Figure 1**) aligned north-west to south-east within the centre of the excavation area was recorded. No datable material was recovered from the fill of this gully.
- 5.6.2 A small circular pit/post pit **342** measuring 0.3m in diameter and 0.2m deep was recorded in the centre of the Site. The feature contained abraded and likely residual Late Bronze Age pottery fragments; the pit cut through an area of probable Late Bronze Age tree clearance hollows.
- 5.6.3 Three adjacent postholes (**306**, **308**, **313**) present at the northern end of the excavation area (**Plate 6**) are thought to form part of a broadly north to south aligned fence (**Figure 1**). Posthole **313** appeared to demarcate a slight change in alignment and as the most substantial of the three, with a diameter of 0.5m and a depth of 0.2m, is thought to be a straining post with smaller and shallower (0.3m diameter x 0.08m deep) fence posts (**306** and **313**) either side. The postholes, filled by disturbed natural and slumped topsoil, were fully excavated however no datable artefacts were recovered.
- 5.6.4 A concentration of tree throw holes within the centre of the Site (**Plate 7**) were all found to contain abraded pottery (Bronze Age in date), occasional burnt flint and rare charcoal and may represent a small copse or tree lined boundary aligned broadly with both the Bronze Age ditch **369** and Romano-British linear **371**.

6 ARTEFACTS

6.1 Introduction and results

- 6.1.1 The fieldwork produced a small finds assemblage in which animal bone, burnt (unworked) flint and pottery are most numerous. All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**. The chronological focus of the assemblage is Late Bronze Age, with a little Romano-British pottery and a very small amount of later material.
- 6.1.2 The following section provides summary descriptions of the assemblage by material type for the 2012 evaluation and excavation. Although full details of the previously recovered assemblage are not repeated here reference will be made to specific types where appropriate, and quantifications are included.



6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 The pottery assemblage consists primarily of Late Bronze Age material, with much smaller quantities of Romano-British, post-medieval and modern sherds also present.

Late Bronze Age

- 6.2.2 Flint-tempered body sherds dating to the Late Bronze Age were recovered from topsoil (one sherd), waterborne deposit 203 (one sherd) and from alluvial layer 204 (two sherds). In total 24 sherds came from fill 105 in ditch 104, including flint-tempered body sherds from at least three coarse vessels, sandy body sherds from at least two vessels, two sherds from a fineware vessel with sand and flint temper, a plain simple rim-sherd from a flint-tempered vessel and a portion of a (probably semi-circular) flint-tempered handle.
- 6.2.3 A second handled sherd came from pit 347. This example was much flatter and more strap-like, but parallels from the Late Bronze Age assemblage from Queen Mary Hospital, Carshalton are known. With the exception of two simple pointed rims in sandy fabrics, the rest of the Late Bronze Age pottery (from ditches 369 and 370; pits 338, 342, and 347; and tree throws 323 and 344) consisted of featureless flint-tempered or sandy body sherds.

Romano-British

6.2.4 A small thin-walled oxidised pottery sherd in pit **347** may be Romano-British, although two larger sherds in the same context are Late Bronze Age in date. Two large joining sherds in ditch **371** form the base and lower wall of a greyware jar of second century date.

Post-medieval and Modern

6.2.5 Single sherds of post-medieval redware and modern china were recovered from the topsoil.

6.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 6.3.1 Three fragments of medieval roof tiles were recovered from topsoil (two in Trench 1,one in Trench 2 of the evaluation). No other medieval material was present.
- 6.3.2 A single fragment of brick from pit **347** is likely to be a modern intrusion and a result of the borehole inspection pipe in the centre of the pit.

6.4 Animal Bone

- 6.4.1 A total of 78 fragments (or 531kg) of animal bone were recovered from three separate features of Late Bronze Age date. Bone preservation is good and only a few fragments show signs of scavenger gnawing.
- 6.4.2 The bone fragments recovered from pit **338** include a cattle rib and pelvis, the latter has faint cut marks across its surface where meat was filleted off the bone. A second pit **347** contained a small number of identifiable fragments, including a horse pelvis, cattle femur and two sheep/goat humeri. Ditch **369** produced a single sheep/goat radius.

6.5 Shell

6.5.1 A single snail shell came from fill **105** in ditch **104**; either *Cepaea nemoralis* or *hortensis*. Both are native.

6.6 Flint

6.6.1 Twenty pieces of struck flint were recovered. One (from the topsoil in Trench 2 of the evaluation) was the distal portion of a narrow flake of glauconitic (Bullhead) flint. A second (from fill **105** in ditch **104**) was a fragment of a broken flake. A third (also from fill **105** in ditch **104**) was a small multiplatform flake core, whilst a further three flakes were recovered from **336**. A total of 14 pieces came from alluvium **337** and included a fine horseshoeshaped scraper. Although the pieces are in good condition they are likely to be of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date, and probably redeposited.

6.7 Burnt Flint

6.7.1 Burnt flint was recovered from topsoil in Trenches 1 and 2 (five and two fragments respectively), from fill **105** of ditch **104** in Trench 1 (30 pieces), from natural alluvium (**204**) in Trench 2 (one piece) and from ditch **369** and tree throw **323**. Small quantities of burnt flint in isolation are intrinsically undateable and of little significance, however, in association with other material (as in **105**) they may be indicative of some domestic, light industrial or other process and as such may indicate otherwise unattested activity in the vicinity.

6.8 Fired Clay

- 6.8.1 Over 600g of fired clay came from fill **336** in pit **347**. Some of these pieces are very light and have pale grey external surfaces, indicative of exposure to high temperatures. Other larger pieces have linear impressions on surviving external surfaces. The material is likely to derive from an oven, kiln, furnace or similar.
- 6.8.2 Approximately half of a doughnut-shaped weight approximately 75mm in diameter with a central perforation 22mm across came from alluvial layer **337**. The form suggests a Saxon date.

7 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

Environmental samples taken

7.1.1 Six bulk samples were taken from features of Bronze and/or Romano-British date and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals. The sampled features included two from probable Late Bronze Age ditches 331 and 325 and pit 338. A further sample came from a possible Bronze Age pit 347. The remaining two samples came from Romano-British ditches 371 and 334.

7.2 Charred Plant Remains

- 7.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6mm) 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 2**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals.
- 7.2.2 The flots from the Bronze Age features were relatively large, while that from pit **338** was over 500ml. The two more definite Romano-British samples from ditches **371** and **334** were very small. In general there were low numbers of modern uncharred roots and seeds in the sample, although the Late Bronze Age ditches **331** and **325** had slightly higher quantities of such material that might be indicative of stratigraphic movement and hence the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements.
- 7.2.3 Cereal remains were relatively scarce and only recovered from three samples, ditch **325**, pit **347** and **338**. In most cases these were low numbers of charred wheat grains, although a single glume base of hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) was recovered from pit **347**. Also of some interest was a single possible rachis fragment of rye (*Secale cereale*). Both pits **347** and **338** also produced fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell.
- 7.2.4 Other remains included a seed of dock (*Rumex* sp.) and a probable flower of heather (Ericaceae) from ditch **325**. The sample from pit **347** also produced a number of seeds of mainly vetch/wild pea (*Vicia Lathyrus* sp.), along with several of the wetland species, spikerush (*Eleocharis* sp.). The same sample also contained some possible thorns of sloe/hawthorn (*Prunus spinosa/Crataegus monogyna*). The sample from pit **338** was similar and had many seeds of vetch (*Vicia* sp.) along with on of oat (*Avena* sp.).
- 7.2.5 Remains of charred cereals are characteristic of domestic activity and hence settlement. Their density can therefore be reflective of the density of occupation, length of occupation and/or proximity to such occupation. In that none of the samples were particularly rich might indicate only low levels of such activity associated either with Late Bronze Age or Romano-British activity. The absence of material from ditches **371** and **334** in particular does not appear to indicate such domestic settlement activity associated with them.
- 7.2.6 Whilst rye is occasionally recovered from Bronze Age features, it is more commonly recovered from Saxon or later period, although it can turn up on Romano-British sites with some frequency. The recording of rye from pit **347** may suggest a later date for this feature.

7.3 Wood Charcoal

7.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in Table 2. In general wood charcoal was only present within pits **347** and

338. Within pit **338** the charcoal was clearly ring-porous and probably therefore of oak. Pit **347** had many larger fragments of charcoal, again most probably of oak. In a number of cases the charcoal clearly came from relatively large round wood, of probable branch material, at least 40mm to 50mm in diameter.

7.4 Land Snails and fresh/brackish water molluscs

7.4.1 Mollusc remains were only recovered from Romano-British ditches **311** and **335**. Most of these were of open grassland, *Vallonia* sp., although some fragments of probable *Cepaea* sp. were also recorded.

7.5 Small animal and fish bones

- 7.5.1 During the processing of bulk soil samples for the recovery of charred plant remains and charcoals, small animal bones were noted, and recorded (Table 2). Most notable was a bird bone and also a vertebra of eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) in the flots from pit **347**, along with a few fragments of burnt bone including a small mammalian tail bone.
- 7.5.2 Remains of fish only become common in features of Romano-British or later date, and the same is generally true of bird bones. As such a Romano-British or later date would seem more probable for this feature.

8 DISCUSSION, POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Stratigraphic and Structural analysis

- 8.1.1 The results of the archaeological work discussed above forms the final phase of a programme of mitigation associated with the proposed development, and provides evidence for occupation and possible land clearance during the Late Bronze Age, which led to the area potentially becoming peripheral to settlement and susceptible to flooding during later periods. By the later medieval to post-medieval period this area had become open agricultural land.
- 8.1.2 The excavation has demonstrated that a previously unidentified Late Bronze Age site pertaining to small scale settlement activity lay in the centre of Thorpe. Prehistoric occupation of the area was attested by two north-west to south-east aligned Bronze Age ditches defining an area which contained several large rubbish pits. These pits were filled with deliberately dumped occupation debris containing degraded pottery, animal bone, charcoal and fired clay and suggested a proximity to settlement or industrial processes. The northernmost of these boundary ditches was located on slightly higher ground and may have retained some significance as a boundary division. An alignment of vegetation hollows and tree boles appear to respect this marker and were all found to contain heavily degraded fragments of Bronze Age pottery. This alignment was again re-established during the Romano-British period. The base of a Romano-British vessel was recovered from a small 'vshaped' ditch that cut away this earlier Bronze Age ditched boundary.
- 8.1.3 A layer of alluvium predominately present towards the south of the Site, was also found to contain degraded Bronze Age pottery fragments and struck flint however a fragment of a fired clay circular weight was of probable

Saxon origin. Following occupation during the Bronze Age it is thought that land clearance may have led to successive flooding of this area, such that it became a marginal area of flood plain associated with the Chertsey Branch of the River Bourne, located some 700m to the south with settlement located elsewhere.

- 8.1.4 An undated narrow u-shaped gully bisected the centre of the Site and cut through several vegetation hollows and the three postholes at the northern end of the Site which appear to represent a fairly modern fence. The central of the three postholes was the most substantial and likely to be a straining post.
- 8.1.5 Although the excavation at Thorpe has demonstrated low level Late Bronze Age and later phases of activity within the Site, the relatively small scale of the excavation area restricts a fuller understanding of the Site overall.

8.2 Finds

- 8.2.1 The finds assemblage is small and with the exception of the prehistoric pottery, has no potential for further analysis.
- 8.2.2 Although limited in size, the prehistoric ceramic assemblage has a number of features which are of interest, particularly the presence of thin strap handles, which suggest links with other local assemblages (Queen Mary Hospital, Carshalton, for instance) potentially forming a distinct regional tradition with the overall Post-Deverel-Rimbury sequence. On this basis, full fabric and form analysis is warranted, along with illustration of relevant featured sherds.
- 8.2.3 Information on other classes of material can be incorporated from this assessment.

8.3 Palaeo-environmental evidence

Charred plant remains

8.3.1 The charred plant remains have the possibility to provide information on the range of crops growing, their processing and husbandry. However, given the low number of remains recovered from the features and the questionable date of the two richer features such potential is extremely limited.

Wood charcoal

8.3.2 The analysis of wood charcoal can provide information on the use of woodland resources, as well as on past woodland composition and management. Given the range of samples available for analysis and the uncertain date such potential is likely to be limited.

Land snails and fresh/brackish water molluscs

8.3.3 While molluscs can provide information on the local environment the narrow range of species and small number of shells make such potential limited.

Small animal and fish bones

8.3.4 There is some potential to identify the bird bone within this assemblage, but the significance of such an identification would depend on the date of the feature.

9 PROPOSALS FOR PUBLICATION, ANALYSIS AND ARCHIVE

9.1 **Publication proposal**

- 9.1.1 It is proposed that the results of the evaluation and excavation should be published as a short note (maximum 3000 words, with supporting illustrations), summarising the results presented in this assessment report, and incorporating relevant information from the evaluation report, and be submitted for publication in a suitable journal (Surrey Archaeological Collections) and made available online (OASIS).
- 9.1.2 The report will comprise a brief introduction detailing the circumstances of the project and its aims and objectives; a description of the archaeological remains recorded, summaries of the finds and environmental data contained in this report and a discussion of the results, placing the Site within its wider regional context.
- 9.1.3 A copy of this assessment report will be deposited with the NMR at Swindon and the Surrey Historic Environment Record.
- 9.1.4 In addition, an Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) online record <u>http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/</u> has been initiated. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form have been completed for submission to the Surrey HER. Once approved, this will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).

9.2 Personnel

9.2.1 The following Wessex Archaeology staff and nominated specialists are currently proposed to undertake the post-excavation analysis, report production and archive deposition:

Regional Director Project Manager Senior Project Officer Illustrator Specialist Chris Moore Sue Farr BA, MIFA Susan Clelland/Andrew Powell Liz James Lorraine Mepham

9.3 Programme

9.3.1 The post-excavation programme is achievable within six months of an agreed start date, to be followed by submission of the draft publication report to a suitable journal Surrey Archaeological Collections and the availability of this report online (OASIS).

10 STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 Museum

10.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with the Surrey County Council's Museum Service. Deposition of the finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

10.2 Archive

- 10.2.1 The artefacts and accompanying documentary records from the excavation have been compiled into a stable, fully cross referenced, and indexed archive in accordance with Appendix 6 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).
- 10.2.2 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, digital data, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard procedures for the transfer of archaeological archives to the Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990; Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA) 1995; Richards and Robinson 2000; Brown 2007). It is currently stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury, Wiltshire, under Wessex Archaeology Project codes **86370** and **86371**.

10.3 Storage

- 10.3.1 The finds are currently stored in cardboard or airtight plastic boxes, ordered by material type, following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990).
- 10.3.2 Storage and curation of environmental material will follow standard Wessex Archaeology guidelines.

10.4 Discard Policy

- 10.4.1 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. In this instance, burnt, unworked flint has already been discarded. Any further discard could target undiagnostic fired clay, post-Romano-British building material and unworked stone, on the grounds of lack of archaeological interest. The full discard policy will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 10.4.2 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; 1995; English Heritage 2002) and is available upon request.

10.5 Copyright

- 10.5.1 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.
- 10.5.2 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.

10.6 Security Copy

10.6.1 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.

11 **REFERENCES**

- Albury SI Ltd 2012, Report on a Site Investigation at Thorpe C of E School, The Bence Thorpe, Egham, Surrey
- CgMs Consulting 2012, Thorpe C of E School, The Bence, Thorpe, Surrey Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (unpublished client report)
- Stace, C, 1997, *New flora of the British Isles* (2nd edition), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Wessex Archaeology 2012a, Thorpe C of E School, The Bence, Rosemary Lane, Thorpe, Surrey, Archaeological Evaluation Report (unpublished client report)
- Wessex Archaeology 2012b, Thorpe C of E School, The Bence, Rosemary Lane, Thorpe, Surrey, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Excavation (86371.01)
- Zohary, D, and Hopf, M, 2000, *Domestication of plants in the Old World: the origin and spread of cultivated plants in West Asia, Europe, and the Nile Valley*, 3rd edition, Clarendon Press, Oxford.



APPENDIX 1: FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL TABLES

Context	Animal Bone	СВМ	Burnt Flint	Pottery	Shell	Stone	Flint	Fired Clay
101		2/64	5/141	-		1/8	1/32	-
105			30/446	24/254	1/2		1/2	
201		1/40	2/65	3/12			1/1	
203				1/23				
204			1/4	2/5				
311				2/226				
316				7/22				
327				1/18			3/5	
333				7/55				
336	57/423			7/66			3/3	23/689
337							14/74	1/106
340	1/8			5/53				
343				7/68				
345				5/33				
347		1/2		3/29				
821	20/100		1/28	23/139				
824			2/16	7/47	1/1			
TOTALS	78/531	3/106	41/700	104/1050	2/3	1/8	23/117	17/795

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



Table 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

	Samples	5				Flot						
Feature	Context	Sam	Vol.	- Flot	ot %	Charred Plant Remains			Charcoal	Other	Anal	
		ple	Ltrs	(ml)	roots	Grain	Chaff	Other	Comments	>4/2mm		ysis
Late Bro	nze Age											
LBA? Ditch 331	333	6	18	160	50%	-	-	-	-	1/1ml	sheep/goat? Metatarsal smb - (C)	-
Ditch 325	327	8	38	70	30%	С	-	С	2x Triticum sp. 1x hulled wheat grain, 1x Rumex sp. 1x Calluna/Erica type? Flower/capsule	2/2ml`	-	-
Possible	Bronze /	Age			•							
?BA/RB pit 347	336	9	40	550	0%	с	С	A	Very large fragments of charcoal (including oak roundwood 5cm diameter). Corylus avellana x3-4f. hulled wheat/rye x1. Vicia/Lathyrus. Crataegus thorn. Cyperaceae, Eleocharis, single glume. Rye rachis	300/300ml	Animal bone some burnt. Bird bone Eel – (C)	-
pit 338	340	10	17	60	0	С	-	В	Oak charcoal, hulled wheat grain, Avena, Corylus avellana, several Vicia, dock	25/35ml	Animal bone	-
Romano	-British											
Ditch 371	311	5	3	20	0	-	-	-	-	-	Moll-t (C)	-
Ditch 334	335	7	35	55	0	-	-	-	-	0/1ml	Moll-t (B)	-

Key: A^{***} = exceptional, A^{**} = 100+, A^* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Charcoal volumes are given in ml for material greater than 4mm and 2mm. sab/f = small animal/fish bones, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-f = freshwater molluscs; Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs, C14 = radiocarbon



APPENDIX 2: OASIS RECORD FORM

Thorpe C of E School, Thorpe, Surrey - Wessex Archaeology

OASIS ID - wessexar1-138322

Versions					
View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date	
<u>View 1</u>	1	Sue Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	29 November 2012	
Completed	sections in cu	rrent version			
Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications	
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1	
Validated s	ections in curr	ent version			
Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications	
No	No	No	No	0/1	
File submis	ssion and form	progress			
Grey liter submitted?	ature report	No	Grey literature report filename/s		
Images sub	mitted?	No	Image filename/s		
Boundary f	ile submitted?	No	Boundary filename		
HER signed	l off?		NMR signed off?		





Detail of stripped area









Plate 3: North-west facing section of ditch 369

Plate 4: North-west facing section of pit 338



Plate 6: Postholes 306, 307 and 313, facing north









WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED. Registered Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB. Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk Regional offices in Edinburgh, Rochester and Sheffield For more information visit www.wessexarch.co.uk



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