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Delta East Crossing Approaches DIO SP EIP

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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March 2013



Defence Training Estate: Salisbury Plain Delta East Crossing Approaches

Archaeological Watching Brief

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

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Figure 1: Site location plan

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Plate 1: Test pit at Delta East, view from south



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Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by WYG Management Services to carry out an archaeological watching brief during construction works on land at Delta East Crossing centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 401520, 151968. The mitigation formed part of a wider scheme of archaeological work undertaken as part of the Eastern Infrastructure Project and Delta Track West project. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken between the 20th and 29th of July 2012.

An earlier programme of strip, map and record excavation in advance of construction of Delta Track West was carried out in October and November 2011 and identified archaeological features dating from the Early Bronze Age to the modern period at the Delta Road Crossing on the A360. Archaeological watching briefs were therefore undertaken during subsequent construction work.

The watching brief was maintained during groundwork associated with improvements to the track at the approach to Delta East crossing. The strip was generally c. 6m in width, and included the removal of topsoil deposits to the Upper Chalk natural geology. The groundwork was undertaken by a 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Several test pits and the route of a shuttle lane associated with the trackway crossing and areas of the trackway itself were monitored during the watching brief.

No archaeological deposits or features were noted during the course of the works. The watching brief did identify two tree throws which were investigated but did not produce any anthropogenic material.



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Archaeological Watching Brief

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank WYG Management Services Ltd. for commissioning the archaeological mitigation, and in particular Mathew Wilkey in this regard.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Beach. This report was compiled by John Powell and the report illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Paul White and Sue Farr edited the final report.



Defence Training Estate: Salisbury Plain Delta East Crossing Approaches

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by WYG Management Services Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on construction works at Delta East Crossing, West Lavington, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 401520, 151968 (**Figure 1**) hereafter referred to as 'the Site'.
- 1.1.2 The works formed part of the wider scheme of archaeological works undertaken as part of the Eastern Infrastructure Project (EIP) and Delta Track West project. Both projects comprise the construction of a track, hardstandings and covered training facilities to enable the safe movement of military vehicles and personnel within the Training Estate.
- 1.1.3 An intermittent archaeological watching brief was undertaken between the 20th and 29th July 2012.

1.2 The Site, location and geology

- 1.2.1 The Site was located approximately 950m northeast of the A360 at Delta Road Crossing, within the DTE Salisbury Plain which is mainly situated within the centre of Wiltshire and covers 38,000ha (**Figure 1**). The village of West Lavington is located 1km to the northwest and Brazen Bottom Farm lies 325m to the east.
- 1.2.2 The British Geological Survey map for the area shows that the trackway lies on Upper Chalk (1959, Sheet 282, Devizes). The Site lies on undulating chalk downland at an elevation of 165m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The Salisbury Plain Training Area is well known for its prehistoric archaeology including round and long barrows, field systems and enclosures and contains over 2,300 archaeological sites and monuments from all ages. The area has been in military use for over 100 years and contains features associated with the development of warfare over this period.
- 2.1.2 A programme of archaeological strip, map and record was undertaken as part of the EIP and Delta Track West project. Detailed excavation of an important Bronze Age funerary landscape, including a linear cremation cemetery, overlain by later Romano-British and post-Roman agricultural activity was recorded during works at Delta Crossing on the A360 to the south of the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2012).



3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 The objective of the watching brief was to record, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, nature, character and relationships of any surviving archaeological remains observed during the groundwork programme.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork methodology

- 4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the guidance and standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008).
- 4.1.2 Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist during groundwork. The watching brief was maintained throughout initial stripping until it was clear that the potential for archaeological remains to be exposed had been exhausted. Where practicable and without causing unreasonable delay to the works programme, excavations were halted whilst investigations were carried out by Wessex Archaeology staff.
- 4.1.3 During the fieldwork three test pits, the route of a shuttle lane associated with the trackway crossing and the trackway itself were monitored.
- 4.1.4 The works were conducted using a 21 tonne 360° tracked excavator employing a 1.8m toothed ditching bucket.
- 4.1.5 Recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the course of the watching brief. During the watching brief the excavation of three test pits, measuring up to 6.0m by 0.90m by 1.8 were excavated, a shuttle lane and areas to the northeast and southwest of the existing track were monitored.

5.2 Natural Soil Sequences

- 5.2.1 The natural soil sequences recorded at the Site was fairly uniform. The topsoil comprised a mid to dark brown silty-clay-loam with common chalk fragments and was up to 0.35m thick. Below the topsoil the underlying natural chalk was recorded. It was noted that the surface of the natural chalk was very heavily plough scarred and rutted within the Site. It is possible that any archaeological features may have been truncated.
- 5.2.2 Two tree throws were observed cut into the natural chalk; both tree throws were investigated by hand but no archaeological material was recovered.
- 5.2.3 No deposits deemed suitable for environmental sampling were identified.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 The watching brief did not identify any archaeological features or deposits.



7 ARCHIVE

7.1 Preparation and Deposition

7.1.1 The complete project archive has been prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's *Guidelines for Archive Preparation* and in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (UKIC 1990). Details of the watching brief have also been entered into the online Oasis1 database maintained by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). A copy of the OASIS entry is included below.

7.2 Archive

7.2.1 The watching brief project archive consists of:

- One A4 file containing the paper records
- Digital data (site photographs, Word and pdf files).

7.2.2 The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under the WA project code 86920. On completion of the project, the archive will be deposited with the Wiltshire Heritage Museum, 41 Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1NS.

7.3 Copyright

7.3.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

7.4 Security Copy

7.4.1 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 Monuments Record Centre (Swindon); a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records at Devizes Museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

8 REFERENCES

8.1 Bibliography

British Geological Survey (BGS), 1959, *Devizes: Sheet 282*, 1:63, 360

IfA 2008: Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief. http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/ifa_standards_watching.pdf

McOmish, D. Field, D. and Brown, G. 2002. *The Field Archaeology of Salisbury Plain*, English Heritage

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APPENDIX 1: OASIS RECORD FORM

Delta east crossing approaches - Wessex Archaeology

OASIS ID - wessexar1-149029

Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	S Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	26 April 2013

Completed sections in current version

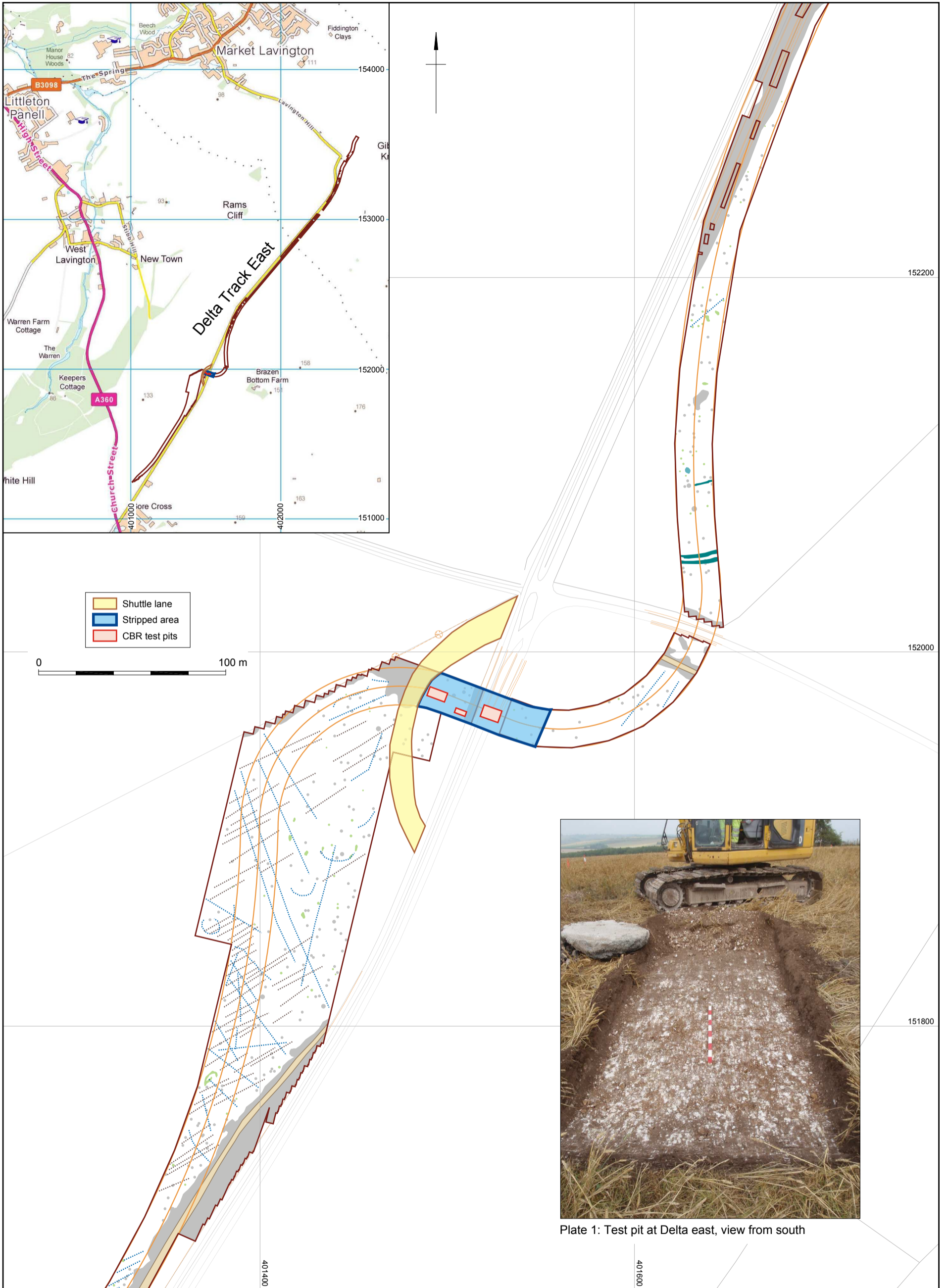
Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

File submission and form progress

Grey literature report submitted?	No	Grey literature report filename/s	
Report release delay specified?	Yes	Release delay	Release into ADS library once signed off
Images submitted?	No	Image filename/s	
Boundary file submitted?	No	Boundary filename	
HER signed off?		NMR signed off?	



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Site location plan

Figure 1



salisbury rochester sheffield edinburgh



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