Wessex Archaeology

# Land at Bushmead Road, Eaton Socon, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Ref: 61320.01

Cambridgeshire Event No. ECB2082

November 2005

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# LAND AT BUSHMEAD ROAD, EATON SOCON, CAMBRIDSHIRE

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

# REPORT

**Prepared on behalf of:**

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## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

## SUMMARY

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Laing Homes North London to undertake an archaeological field evaluation at land at Bushmead Road, Eaton Scoton, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, NGR 516400, 259300 (hereafter the Site).

The Site comprises an area of approximately 1.146 ha and is bounded by Bushmead Road to the north, Bushmead Primary School to the south, residential properties fronting Bushmead Road to the east and the A1 to the west (Figure 1)

In order to fully assess the archaeological potential within the Site a total of 10 evaluation trenches, one measuring 45 metres in length with the remainder measuring 30 metres long, were excavated representing a 5% sample of the site. Archaeological features were revealed in 6 of the 10 trenches, with a total of 11 features identified. Eight of the features, including a posthole, remain undated.

The most significant feature was a substantial Middle Iron Age ditch, which was located in the central area of the Site and may form part of an Iron Age enclosed settlement that has been previously recorded to the north of the Site.

**LAND AT BUSHMEAD ROAD, EATON SOCON, ST NEOTS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**


## Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs to undertake the evaluation, and would like to thank Rob Bourne for his assistance. Andy Thomas from Cambridshire County Council monitored the fieldwork and his help and guidance during the course of the project is gratefully acknowledged.

Mike Dinwiddy directed the fieldwork, assisted by Phil Frickers and Nigel Ward. Mike Dinwiddy compiled the report; Linda Coleman prepared the illustrations. Finds were analysed and reported on by Lorraine Mepham and Stephanie Knight. The samples were processed by David Parry under the supervision of Sarah F. Wyles. The plant remains were assessed by Chris Stevens, snails by Michael J. Allen and Sarah Wyles. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andy Manning.

# LAND AT BUSHMEAD ROAD, EATON SOCON, ST NEOTS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

## 1 PLANNING BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Laing Homes North London to undertake an archaeological field evaluation at land at Bushmead Road, Eaton Scoton, St Neots Cambridgeshire (hereafter the Site). The Site comprises an area of approximately 1.146 ha centered on NGR 516400, 259300 and is bounded by Bushmead Road to the north, Bushmead Primary School to the south, residential properties fronting Bushmead Road to the east and the A1 to the west (**Figure 1**)

1.1.2 Outline planning permission (000148OUT) has been granted for the demolition of Bushmead School and the construction of a residential development of 68 units. Condition 17 of the Planning Approval states:

*"No development shall take place within the area indicated until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority."*

1.1.3 An archaeological desk-based assessment of the Site produced by CgMs Consulting (CgMs, 2005, Ref RB/6024) concluded that the Site had the potential to contain significant archaeological remains and recommended that an archaeological evaluation, by means of trial trenching, should be undertaken.

1.1.4 The evaluation was undertaken following the methodology set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology, 2005, Ref T9538.01) and approved by the Archaeological Advisor to Cambridgeshire County Council in advance of the commencement of the fieldwork.

### 1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site comprises a sub-rectangular section of land measuring 1.146ha in area. The eastern part of the Site was formerly occupied by the Bushmead County Primary School which has been demolished. The demolition works were thought to have had a highly destructive impact on any potential archaeological remains in this area of the Site (CgMs, 2005).

1.2.2 The geology of the area comprises alluvium and river terrace gravels (BGS sheet 187 Huntington, 1975).

## 1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1 A desk-based archaeological assessment of the Site has been prepared by CgMs Consulting(CgMs, 2005, Ref RB/6024); a summary of the results is included below.

1.3.2 A single Palaeolithic flint axe is recorded as having been found in St Neots. However, the exact provenance and the context from which this find was made is not known.

1.3.3 A small assemblage of Neolithic flint tools comprising a flaked blade, a double edged scraper, a thumb scraper and a burin has been recorded in Eaton Socon. However, the exact provenance and the context from which this find was made is not known.

1.3.4 A Bronze Age adze has been recorded at Eaton Ford. However, the exact provenance and the context from which this find was made is not known.

1.3.5 An Iron Age/Romano-British occupation site has been recorded *c*. 200m to the north of the study site (CB00370). The nature and extent of this site is a little unclear. It is reported that there was a ploughed out earthwork within a large area to the north of Bushmead Road within which late Iron Age and 1st and 3rd century Roman pottery sherds, glass, coins and a 'trumpet' brooch were visible on the surface. In 1962 a ditch containing Iron Age pottery was found during house construction. When a corner of the earthwork was cut during the construction of the A1, 4 early Iron Age roundhouses and a large fortification ditch with an entrance were revealed, which were overlain by a series of late Iron Age ditches, a rectangular aisled timber building and a number of Iron Age and Romano-British pits. A large quantity of pottery, bone and metal slag were recovered. Cropmarks of the enclosure have been recorded on the western side of the A1 on aerial photographs taken in the late 1990s (BHER 16781)

1.3.6 The implication of the description of the earthwork and the remains recorded within it, is that there was a relatively large defended settlement that appears to have been occupied throughout much of the Iron Age and into the Romano-British period.

1.3.7 Undated cropmarks of sub-rectangular and curvilinear enclosures have been recorded c. 500m to the north-west of the study site (BHER 8572). These are indicative of a possibly contemporary settlement to the north-west of the enclosure discussed above.

1.3.8 During the medieval and post-medieval periods, the Site appears to have been open fields at some distance to the west of the settlement at Eaton Socon. Bushmead County Primary school was constructed on the Site by 1978 and extended by 1988. The County Primary school was demolished and an infant school constructed between 1999 and 2005, when it too was demolished.

## 2 METODOLOGY

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A written scheme of investigation for the trench evaluation was prepared by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2005) and approved by Cambridge County Council.

2.1.2 A total of 10 trenches, nine measuring 30 m long and 1.8 m wide, and one measuring 45m long and 2.05 m wide (Trench **7**), representing an approximate 5% sample of the site, were set out (Trenches **1** to **10**) (**Figure 1**). The trenches were arranged in a grid pattern with trench **7** being extended and moved 5 m to the south in order to clarify the extent of an archaeological feature and to avoid damage to existing trees, shrubs and hedgerows.

### 2.2 Aims and Objectives

2.2.1 The objectives of the evaluation were be to determine, as far as reasonably possible, the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological remains within the area of the Site.

### 2.3 Fieldwork

2.3.1 The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the guidelines and standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (as amended 1994).

2.3.2 All trenches were marked out on-site prior to excavation and located using GPS. All mechanical excavation was carried out using a 360° tracked excavator with an appropriately qualified driver. Excavation was undertaken using a toothless (ditching) bucket and was under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

2.3.3 Topsoil or recent overburden was removed first and stored separately from any subsoils/non-humic horizons that were subsequently removed. Mechanical excavation continued to the top of archaeological horizons. Further excavation proceeded by hand (see below). Where no archaeological deposits or features were encountered, machine excavation proceeded, in spits, onto the subsoil or underlying 'natural' geological deposits, as appropriate.

2.3.4 A representative sample of exposed archaeological features were excavated by hand. Sampling was designed to be minimally intrusive, with the aim of recovering sufficient information to determine date, nature and deposit quality without compromising the archaeological value of the deposits

2.3.5 All archaeological deposits were given individual context numbers and recorded on Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording sheets. Plans and sections were drawn at appropriate scales (1:50, 1:20, 1:10). A photographic record in black and white and colour was maintained of all trenches and features.

2.3.6 Trench locations, levels and Ordnance Survey (OS) data were recorded using a GPS.

2.3.7 Bulk environmental samples were taken from well sealed and dated features for processing and assessment, following Wessex Archaeology's standard environmental policy. The sampling was intended to evaluate the presence, preservation and significance of palaeo-environmental remains to aid in determining the value and significance of the archaeological remains.

2.3.8 The environmental soil samples were collected for plant macro-fossils, small animal bones and other small artefacts. The soil samples were processed by flotation and scanned to assess the environmental potential of deposits. The residues and sieved fractions were recorded and retained with the project archive.

2.3.9 All artefacts were retained from excavated contexts, except those undoubtedly of recent or modern date. The machine-excavated spoil heaps were examined and checked for artefacts and these were retained and recorded. Material of undoubted modern date from the spoil heaps was noted but not retained.

2.3.10 All finds were washed and processed and stored temporarily at Wessex Archaeology's offices in Salisbury. All pottery was marked with site code and context number. Suitable material (primarily ceramics) was scanned to assess the date range of the assemblage and the results appear in this evaluation report. All finds work was monitored by Wessex Archaeology's Finds Manager.

2.3.11 All trenches were backfilled upon completion of fieldwork. Subsoils and topsoils were reinstated in their original order and compacted using the mechanical excavator. Spreads or mounds of soil were not left across the surrounding area.

2.3.12 The fieldwork was carried out over a four-day period between 24-28th October 2005.

# 3 RESULTS

## 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Detailed summaries of the individual trenches are presented in Appendix 1 and full details are available in the project archive.

3.1.2 Archaeological features were recorded in 6 of the 10 trenches. A total of 11 features were recorded, comprising two phases of activity on the Site during the Middle Iron-Age and the post-medieval periods (**Figure 1**).

3.1.3 The principal dated feature was a curvilinear Iron Age ditch. In addition to this feature, a small number of undated linear features, gullies and a posthole were identified.

## 3.2 Middle Iron Age (400-100 BC)

3.2.1 Three sherds of pottery from the Middle Iron Age were recovered from the lower fill of linear feature **404** in Trench 4 together with three poorly preserved animal

bones. Linear feature **404** was north-west to south-east in orientation, 1.2 m wide and 0.60 m deep.

3.2.2 Fills (**503**) and (**501)** both from linear feature **504** (Figure 2, Plate 1) in Trench 5 produced 14 sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery, together with animal bone and fired clay. Linear feature **504** was 2.00 m wide and 0.85 m deep, and oriented north-west to south-east.

3.2.3 Iron Age pottery was also found in fill (**712)** and (**713)** (**Figure 2**) of linear feature **704** which also contained animal bone. The feature was orientated north to south.

### 3.3 Undated

3.3.1 A posthole and a number of shallow gullies were undated. In Trench 1 there was a north-south orientated gully (**105**) measuring 0.30 m wide and 0.26 m in depth. Its fill (**104**) was a mid greenish silty clay and contained no finds.

3.3.2 In Trench 2, ditch **205** was 1.60 m wide and 0.30 m and aligned east-west. Its fill (**206)** was a mid orangey brown sandy silt with no finds. The shallow depth of the feature was due to truncation in this area of the Site

3.3.3 In Trench 5 a posthole (**510**) was recorded measuring 0.33 m in diameter containing a fill (**509**) of mid-greenish brown sandy silts which was sampled for environmental evidence. The posthole was in close proximity to east- west gully **508** which was also shallow at 0.40 m wide and 0.40 m deep. The fill (**507**) of the gully was a mid-green brown silty clay.

3.3.4 Trench 7 revealed ditch **704** which was 1.30 m wide and 0.20 m in depth, and ditch **705** which was 1.10 m wide and 0.15 m deep. Their stratigraphic relationship suggested that **704** was the more recent of the two. Both had similar fills which consisted of light yellowy orange stiff clay with no finds. It is notable that both ditches had been heavily truncated.

3.3.5 Trench 9 contained two intersecting shallow gullies **904** and **906.** Unfortunately it was not possible to discern the stratigraphic relationship between the two features as a later three throw had obscured the area of intersection.

3.3.6 Trenches 3, 6, 8, and 10 revealed no archaeology.

## 4 FINDS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The evaluation produced a small quantity of finds in a restricted range of material types: pottery, bone, fired clay and stone. Appendix Table 1 gives the full quantification of finds by context.

## 4.2 Pottery

4.2.1 Pottery constitutes the only datable material. The whole of this small assemblage appears to be of Middle Iron Age date. Fabrics are either shelly or sandy, with three sherds in a sandy fabric with limestone inclusions (713). The most diagnostic piece is a large rim/body sherd from 511, which derives from a slack-shouldered jar with upright rim and deep scoring below the shoulder. Two other body sherds (also in shelly fabrics) are similarly scored (contexts 511 and 402), and there are two other rims which also appear to derive from shouldered jars, again both in shelly fabrics (contexts 511 and 712). Decoration places these vessels within the Midlands 'Scored ware' tradition, current from at least the 4th (possibly 5th) century BC and widespread across the Midlands by the 2nd century BC (Knight 2002, 133-4).

## 4.3 Animal Bone

4.3.1 The small assemblage of animal bone is fragmentary, and bone from context **402** in particular is in poor, eroded condition. Cattle is the most common species (six identifiable bones), followed by sheep/goat (two identifiable bones) and with one example of pig. Cattle size is small, consistent with the Iron Age date range suggested by the pottery.

## 4.4 Other Finds

4.4.1 Other finds comprise six small, abraded fragments of fired clay, all of uncertain date and origin; and two pieces of stone, neither obviously worked but both non-local to the site.

4.4.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are summarised by trench in Table 1.

# 5 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

## 5.1 Aims

5.1.1 Samples were taken to evaluate the presence, preservation and significance of palaeo-environmental remains to aid in determining the value and significance of the archaeological remains. Suggestions of appropriate and targeted palaeo-environmental sampling and aims are suggested should further field intervention be undertaken.

## 5.2 Samples taken and palaeo-environmental evidence

5.2.1 Seven bulk samples of between 5 and 15 litres were taken from a range of ditches and a posthole of Middle Iron Age date and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal.

5.2.2 Three sub-samples from two ditches were processed for the retrieval of molluscs.

Categories of palaeo-environmental evidence:

- charred plant remains
- charcoal

molluscs

5.2.3 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh and the residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded.

5.2.4 The flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and presence of charred remains quantified (Table 2), to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and charcoal remains.

5.2.5 The flots were small with large amounts of roots and modern seeds. It is also possible that some snails were modern as a few still had remnants of their periostricum. As such it is possible that contamination of intrusive elements may be present in the flots.

## 5.3 Charred plant remains

5.3.1 The samples contained very few remains, comprising a few glume bases of probable spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) from posthole 510, and occasional grains of barley and wheat (Triticum sp.). A single grain resembling free-threshing wheat (Triticum aestivum) was also recovered from ditch 705. As free-threshing wheat is generally commoner in later periods (Greig 1991) and given the high number of roots in the samples it is possible that such material is intrusive.

5.3.2 Charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in Table 2. Charcoal was also relatively scarce in the samples with a few small fragments of twig wood coming from 707.

5.3.3 The only plant material preserved was charred. The general absence of material from the enclosure ditches may indicate that domestic activities and/or the deposition of midden waste containing evidence for such activities was situated away from the ditch. Postholes often contain only fragmentary evidence for such activities. That the posthole contains a few fragments of glume bases indicates that such processing waste is present in the general vicinity of the area covered by the evaluation.

5.3.4 Some comparison may be drawn with excavations at the site of Wardy Hill lying to the north, where a large number of samples were taken from the area of occupation inside the enclosure and the two enclosure ditches. These revealed very few remains of charred material from the outer-enclosure ditch, while the inner ditch only had high densities within the south-east segment (Murphy 2003).

## 5.4 Molluscs

5.4.1 Three samples of 1500g were processed by standard methods (Evans 1972) for land snails. The flots (0.5mm) were rapidly assessed by scanning under a x10 - x 40 stereo-binocular microscope to provide some information about shell preservation and species representation. The numbers of shells and the presence of taxonomic groups were recorded using a relative abundance scale. Further shells were also noted and recorded within the bulk samples.

5.4.2 Shell preservation was moderate to good, and it is likely that statistically high-enough numbers would be obtainable from flots and extracted residues. Typically one would expect open country conditions to prevail, however, the presence and preponderance of shade-loving species in ditch 705 and 404 suggest local shady conditions might prevail. Open country species prevail in other samples

5.4.3 The terrestrial molluscs suggest a variety of environments and the spot samples are probably not contemporaneous. This probably represents changing local environmental conditions, possibly with vegetation growing in the Iron Age ditches (cf. Allen 2001), or regeneration of the whole site indicating abandonment or lessening of human activity. This indicates the potential of ditch sequences to provide a land-use history (cf. Allen et al. 1995; Allen 2001) contra Evans (1972).

5.4.4 The presence of fresh/brackish water species in a number of ditches (504, 404, 705) suggests standing water, and the potential to determine the precise aquatic environment, e.g. permanent or seasonal water, muddy, clean, vegetated, stagnant or well-oxygenated.

# 6 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

6.1.1 The palaeo-environmental remains provide some indication of domestic activities and processing, and like other sites in the area the level of charred remains is low. The possibility of pollen preservation and the presence of snails should enable an understanding of the wider landscape in which this activity is located. This complements palaeo-environmental and economic evidence from the immediately local prehistoric sites at Eynesbury (Allen et al. 2004) and the Romano-British site at Priors Gate, Eaton Socon (Gibson forthcoming), where charred and waterlogged remains were present. Similar evidence is gained from the Iron Age site Wardy Hill (Murphy 2003) located on the fen-edge. This site contrasts with that location and makes this palaeo-environmental data all the more important in attempting to understand both local and sub-regional environments, activities and economies.

# 7 DISCUSSION

## 7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The evaluation has shown that the site contains significant archaeological features and deposits that date to the Middle Iron Age. Further features and deposits were recorded, however the absence of artefactual or stratigraphic relationships made the dates of these features uncertain although it is probable that some, if not all are contemporary with the Middle Iron Age features.

7.1.2 The evaluation has also demonstrated that the recent truncation of the Site, a result of the demolition of the old school buildings and the subsequent landscaping has not had the highly destructive impact that was anticipated. In particular at the eastern area of the site the damage has not proved to have had such detrimental effect upon

the archaeology as previously envisaged. Therefore the condition of the surviving archaeological remains across the site is good.

### 7.2 Middle Iron Age

7.2.1 In the western field transecting trenches **7**, **5**, and **4** a Middle Iron Age curvilinear ditch of north-west to south-east orientation was recorded. Archaeological material recovered from this ditch suggests that domestic and agricultural activity occurred some time between 400-100 BC in fairly close proximity. Environmental evidence collected during the evaluation also provided an indication for domestic activity. This ditch is most likely to have formed part of an enclosure or field system related to the Iron Age activity that has been noted previously some 200m to the north (CB00370).

### 7.3 Features of unknown date

7.3.1 The fills of the remaining six features produced no dating evidence. The features consisted of a posthole, small ditches and gullies. The absence of evidence for activity later than the Middle Iron Age may suggest that some or all of these features may be contemporary with the enclosure ditch.

### 7.4 Likely Impact of the Proposed Development

7.4.1 The construction of the proposed development will have an impact upon the surviving archaeology on the Site. In particular archaeological survival is good within the central and western areas of the Site. A reduction in current ground level has occurred in the eastern portion of the Site, however even in this area archaeological features, albeit truncated, were recorded.

## 8 ARCHIVE

8.1.1 The paper field records have been compiled to form an indexed and internally cross-referenced archive, which is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the project code 61320. In due course the archive will be deposited with the County Archaeological Store or CUMAA. If this should prove impossible, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the County Archaeological Store or CUMAA.

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## APPENDIX

## EVALUATION TRENCH SUMMARIES

| Trench No | Width (m) | Length (m) | Max Depth (m) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2.0 | 30 | 0.60 |
| **Context No** | **Description** | **Depth** | **Finds** |
| 101 | Topsoil – Dark grey brown silty clay | 0-0.15 | n |
| 102 | Subsoil – Dark grey brown silty clay flint incl. | 0.15-0.24 | n |
| 103 | Natural – Mid orangey brown silty clay | 0.24-0.48 | n |
| 104 | Fill of 105- Mid greenish brown silty clay | 0.40-0.60 | n |
| 105 | Cut of Gully | | |
| 106 | Fill of 105-pale greenish grey clay moderate flint inclusions | 0.45? | n |

| Trench No | Width (m) | Length (m) | Max Depth (m) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 2.0 | 30 | 1.00 |
| **Context No** | **Description** | **Depth (m)** | **Finds** |
| 201 | Topsoil – Dark grey brown silty clay | 0-0.16 | n |
| 202 | Pale yellow brown sand with large gravel inclusions. Modern make up/ disturbance | 0.16-0.28 | n |
| 203 | Subsoil - Dark greenish brown silty clay. Possible contamination. | 0.28-0.40 | n |
| 204 | Fill of 205 – Mid orangey brown silty clay | 0.40-0.97 | n |
| 205 | Cut of linear | | |
| 206 | Natural – Pale greenish grey clay moderate chalk inclusions | 0.60 + | n |

| Trench No | Width (m) | Length (m) | Max Depth (m) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 2.0 | 30 | 1.0 |
| **Context No** | **Description** | **Depth (m)** | **Finds** |
| 301 | Topsoil – v dark greyish black. Common sub-oval pebble sized stone | 0-0.30 | Mod CBM |
| 302 | Natural – Light brownish yellow silty clays-common chalk flecking | 0.30 + | n |

| Trench No | Width (m) | Length (m) | Max Depth (m) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1.9 | 30 | 0.80 |
| **Context No** | **Description** | **Depth (m)** | **Finds** |
| 401 | Topsoil - Dark grey brown silty clay | 0-0.20 | n |
| 402 | Fill of 404 - Mid greenish brown silty clay | 0.20-0.80 | y |
| 403 | Natural – Mid orangey brown silty clay | 0.50 + | n |
| 404 | Cut of ditch | | |

| Trench No | Width (m) | Length (m) | Max Depth (m) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 2.0 | 30 | 1.10 |
| **Context No** | **Description** | **Depth (m)** | **Finds** |
| 501 | Topsoil - Dark grey brown silty clay | 0-0.20 | n |
| 502 | Fill of 504 – Mid greenish brown silty clay | 0.20 – 0.25 | n |
| 503 | Fill of 504 – Mid greenish brown silty clay | 0.25 – 0.50 | y |
| 504 | Cut of linear | | |
| 505 | Fill of 504 – Pale grey brown silty clay with moderate flint inclusions. | 0.50 – 1.0 | n |
| 506 | void | | |
| 507 | Fill of 508 - Mid greenish brown silty clay | 0 – 0.04 | n |
| 508 | Cut of gully | | |
| 509 | Fill of post hole 510 – Mid greenish brown sandy silt | 0 – 0.28 | n |
| 510 | Cut of post hole | | |
| 511 | Fill of 504 – Mid greenish brown silty clay | 0.70 – 1.10 | y |
| 512 | Natural – Mid orangey brown silty clay | 0.48 + | n |

| Trench No | Width (m) | Length (m) | Max Depth (m) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 1.9 | 30 | 0.55 |
| **Context No** | **Description** | **Depth (m)** | **Finds** |
| 601 | Topsoil – Dark greyish brown sandy silty | 0-0.30 | n |
| 602 | Subsoil – Mid orangey brown silty clay | 0.30 – 0.55 | n |
| 603 | Natural – orangey brown silts and grey clays | 0.55+ | n |
| 604 | Field drain mod | | n |
| 605 | geological | | n/a |

| Trench No | Width (m) | Length (m) | Max Depth (m) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 1.8 | 45 | 0.30 |
| **Context No** | **Description** | **Depth (m)** | **Finds** |
| 701 | Topsoil - Mid brown orangey sand, mod dumping | 0-0.5 | n |
| 702 | Mid brown silty clay | 0.14- 0.35 | Mod cbm |
| 703 | Subsoil - Mid orangey brown slightly silty clay | 0.55 – 0.65 | Mod cbm |
| 704 | Cut of ditch | | |
| 705 | Cut of ditch | | |
| 706 | Mod post hole | | |
| 707 | Cut of ditch | | |
| 708 | Fill of 704 – light yellowy orange silty clay | 0.70 – 0.90 | y |
| 709 | Fill of 705 – light yellowy orange silty clay | 0.65 – 0.80 | n |
| 710 | Dumped material amongst topsoils | 0.- 0.30 | Mod cbm |
| 711 | Dark grey black dumped material | 0.30 – 0.35 | Mod cbm |
| 712 | Fill of 707 – Mid grey brown clayey silt | 0.35 – 0.65 | y |
| 713 | Fill of 707 – Mid orangey brown clay | 0.65 – 1.0 | y |
| 714 | Fill of 707 –Mid grey brown silty clay | 1.0 – 1.25 | y |
| 715 | Natural – Light orangey brown silty clay | 0.30 + | n |

| Trench No | Width (m) | Length (m) | Max Depth (m) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 2.0 | 30 | 0.8 |
| **Context No** | **Description** | **Depth (m)** | **Finds** |
| 801 | Topsoil – Dark grey brown silty clay | 0-0.35 | n |
| 802 | Subsoil – Mid orangey brown silty clay | 0.35 – 0.60 | n |
| 803 | Natural – light brown silty clay | 0.60 + | n |

| Trench No | Width (m) | Length (m) | Max Depth (m) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 1.9 | 50 | 0.8 |
| **Context No** | **Description** | **Depth (m)** | **Finds** |
| 901 | Topsoil – grey brown silt | 0 -0.35 | n |
| 902 | Subsoil – Mid brown silty clay | 0.35 – 0.60 | n |
| 903 | Natural – Mid brown silty clay | 0.60 + | n |
| 904 | Cut of gully | | |
| 905 | Fill of 904 – Dark reddish brown silty clay | 0.56 – 0.67 | n |
| 906 | Cut of gully | | |
| 907 | Fill of 906 – Light brown silty clay | 0.48 – 0.56 | n |

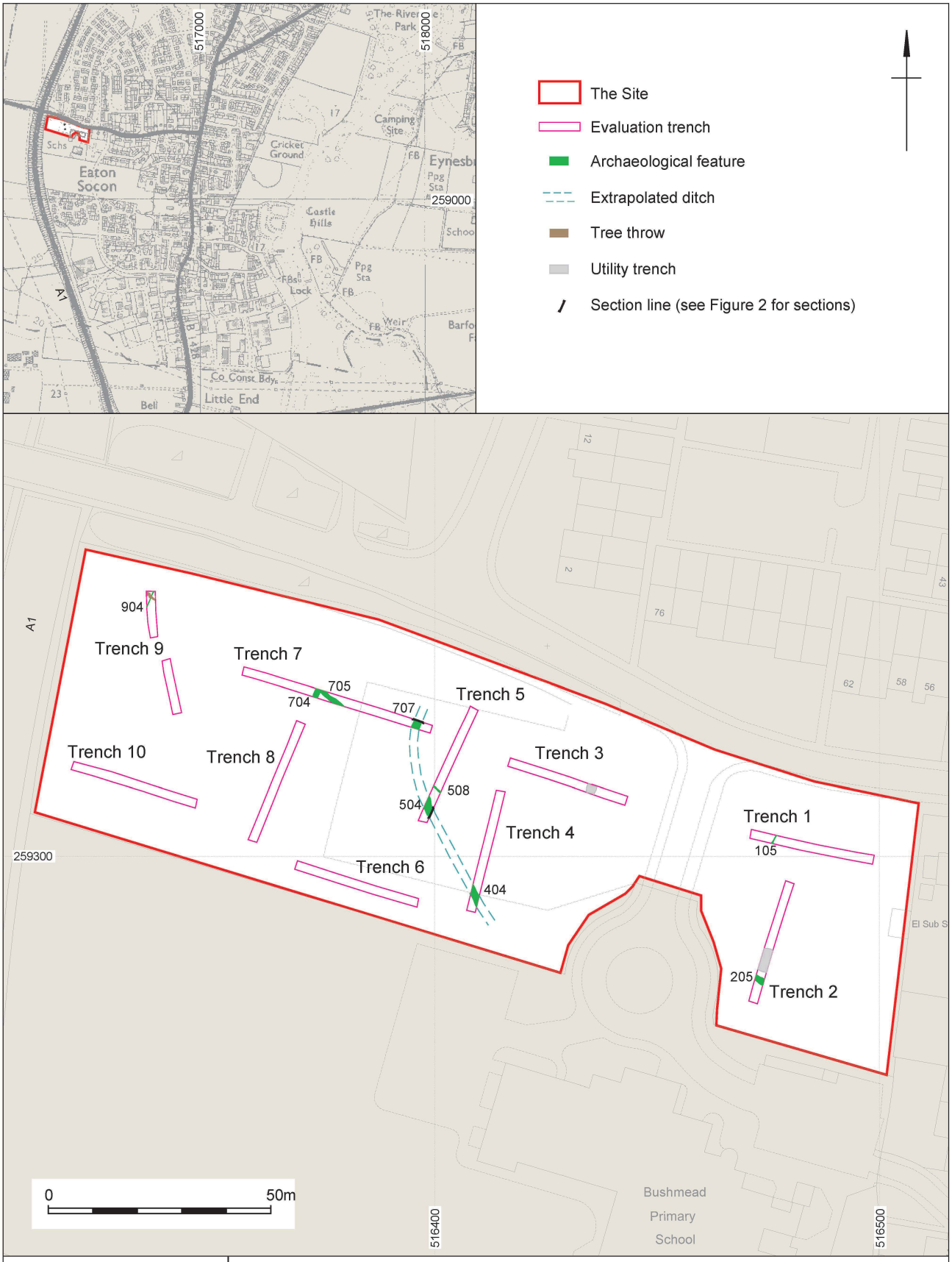
| Trench No | Width (m) | Length (m) | Max Depth (m) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | 2.05 | 30 | 0.85 |
| **Context No** | **Description** | **Depth (m)** | **Finds** |
| 1001 | Topsoil – Mid grey brown clayey silt | 0 – 0.25 | n |
| 1002 | Subsoil – Light orangey brown silty clay | 0.25 – 0.50 | n |
| 1003 | Natural – Light orangey brown clay | 0-50 + | n |

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

| Tr. | Context | Animal Bone | Fired Clay | Pottery | Stone |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 402 | 3/23 | | 3/28 | |
| 5 | 503 | 60/42 | 4/49 | 6/38 | |
| 5 | 511 | 2/26 | | 8/771 | 2/608 |
| 7 | 708 | | 1/4 | | |
| 7 | 712 | | | 2/25 | |
| 7 | 713 | 23/59 | | 5/22 | |
| 7 | 714 | | 1/4 | 5/28 | |
| | **TOTAL** | **88/150** | **6/57** | **29/912** | **2/608** |

**Table 2. Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal**

| Feature | Context | Sample | Volume | Flot size | Roots % | Grain | Chaff | Notes | Other charred | Notes | Charcoal | Other | Notes | Res. Charcoal |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Middle Iron Age | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Post Hole | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 510 | 509 | 73 | 5 | 10 | 80 | - | C | 3-4 glume bases | - | - | - | moll-t (C) | - | - |
| Ditches | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 504 | 503 | 71 | 15 | 50 | 70 | - | - | - | C | *Avena* | C | moll-t (A)<br>moll-f (C) | *Lymnaea Cepea Cochlicopa, Aegopinella Pupilla Vallonia Carychium* | - |
| | 511 | 72 | 11 | 30 | 80 | C | - | 2x barley<br>1x *T. spelta* | - | - | - | moll-t (B) | *Trichia, Pupilla, Cochlicopa Helicella Pupilla* | - |
| 704 | 708 | 74 | 10 | 20 | 80 | - | - | large frag parenchyma x1 | - | - | - | moll-t (B) | *Vallonia* sp. | - |
| 705 | 709 | 75 | 15 | 15 | 60 | C | - | 1x cf. f-t wheat<br>1x barley | - | - | C | moll-t (A)<br>moll-f (A) | *Clausiliidae, Vertigo Trichia Oxychilus/Aegopinella Planorbids Carychium* | - |
| 707 | 713 | 76 | 9 | 40 | 90 | C | - | 1x *Triticum* grain | - | - | - | moll –t (A)<br>moll –f (B) | *Helicella, Vertigo, Vallonia Lymnaea* | - |
| 404 | 402 | 77 | 10 | 60 | 90 | | | - | - | - | C | moll–t (A*)<br>moll-f (A) | Clausiliidae, *Helicella itala . Oxychilus Pupilla, Lymnaea Carychium, Cochlicopa* spp. *Discus rotundatus.* | - |






| | | | |
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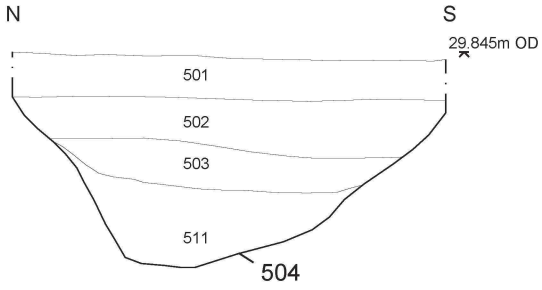
Wessex Archaeology

Site and trench location showing archaeological features Figure 1

Trench 5




Trench 7

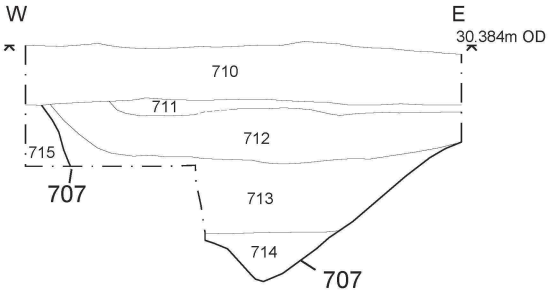



Plate 1: Section through Iron age ditch 504



| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
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Sections of Iron Age ditch 504 and 707

Figure 2