



Newbury Racecourse Car Parking Area, Newbury, West Berkshire

Post-excavation Assessment Report





**NEWBURY RACECOURSE CAR PARKING AREA,
NEWBURY, WEST BERKSHIRE**

Post-excavation Assessment Report

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Newbury, West Berkshire****Post-excavation Assessment Report****Contents**

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**NEWBURY RACECOURSE CAR PARKING AREA,
NEWBURY, WEST BERKSHIRE****Post-excavation Assessment Report****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by David Wilson Homes to undertake a third phase of archaeological works, comprising strip, map and record, on land at the west end of Newbury Race course (centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 448017 166602) in advance of development. The work followed an archaeological evaluation which demonstrated that the foundations of Round Oak, a house of 19th century construction, survived below a veneer of modern topsoil. The evaluation works also located a Mid to Late Bronze Age boundary ditch. The strip, map and record works were carried out from the 15th September to the 1st October 2010.

An area across the ditch was stripped (Area 2) and an additional section excavated, from which pottery was recovered that confirmed the date of the ditch as Late Bronze Age. Although no associated features were found in the excavation area the presence of an increased level of artefactual material from that recovered during the evaluation does suggest that there was occupation in the vicinity.

The area excavations across Round Oak exposed foundations sufficient to reconstruct the entire ground plan of the house and also located previously unrecorded foundations relating to an earlier building, part of Greenham Farm.

Cartographic evidence suggests that the original structure was built before 1808, although the actual date of construction cannot be confirmed. The structure, Greenham Farm, is thought to have comprised a main range aligned north-south, with a western frontage and projecting ranges at the northern and southern ends. Only limited evidence, probably of the southern range, was revealed during the excavations and it is likely that the remainder was destroyed during the construction of the later Round Oak building.

By 1877 maps indicate that Greenham Farm had been replaced by Round Oak. The stimulus to redevelop the Site is open to speculation; nevertheless the 1877 mapping does include the course of the railway which arrived in Newbury in 1845. This development brought about a marked change in the fortunes of the area, providing easy access to London. A number of 'gentlemen's villas' were erected in the locality at about the same time, including Greenham House of 1845 and Cookham House, which was itself redeveloped on the site of an earlier residence, in 1850 (www.sopse.org.uk). Round Oak may represent a similar development.

Despite being demolished to ground level in 1968, enough of the floorplan of Round Oak survived beneath the topsoil to allow the layout to be established. The building comprised a rectangular southern and square northern range based around four chimney stacks. The main entrance was to the west and the rear entrance was situated to the north. Evidence for reception rooms, utilities/service areas, outbuildings and a cellar was recorded during the course of the excavations. Photographic evidence confirms that the building had two main floors with additional service/storage accommodation provided in the roof space. Round Oak was

constructed in a single phase with the addition of a conservatory being the only major alteration affected to the building during its lifespan of roughly 120 years.

The archaeological strip, map and record works on the car parking area of the racecourse have been successful in confirming the presence of a Late Bronze Age boundary ditch and in clarifying the two phases of structure that inhabited the Round Oak site.

No further works are required by West Berkshire Council following the results of the strip, map and record works. The results will be disseminated to a wider readership via the online OASIS database.

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Acknowledgements

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The fieldwork was directed by Bob Davis and Phil Harding for Wessex Archaeology assisted by Neil Fitzpatrick and Tom Wells. This report was compiled by Phil Harding. The finds assemblage was assessed by Lorraine Mephram and the illustrations were prepared by Rob Goller. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Caroline Budd.

**NEWBURY RACECOURSE CAR PARKING AREA,
NEWBURY, WEST BERKSHIRE****Post-excavation Assessment Report****1 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by David Wilson Homes (The Client) to carry out a programme of archaeological mitigation on land west of Newbury racetrack at Newbury Racecourse, Newbury, West Berkshire, in advance of construction associated with a proposed development to regenerate and expand the current facilities. The Site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 448017 166602 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 Outline planning permission (ref:09/00971/OUTMAJ) was granted for the western area of the development on the condition that archaeological work should be undertaken in advance of construction.
- 1.1.3 A three-stage approach, comprising desk based research, evaluation trenching and open area excavation, was agreed in advance through consultation with West Berkshire Council (WBC). The third stage of the work involving strip, map and record in the western area of the Racecourse was based around the results of an archaeological evaluation previously carried out on the Site (WA 2008) (**Figure 1**). The results of this third stage of works is reported on here.
- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation (WSI) was drawn up by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2010) before work commenced. This document, which was approved by the Archaeological Officer of WBC, set out the methodologies and standards to be employed to complete the project in this part of the development area.

1.2 The Site, location and geology

- 1.2.1 The Site (**Figure 1**), was situated within the walled enclosure around the western margins of the Newbury Racecourse. It comprised an area of flat, open grassland interspersed by mature deciduous trees and is currently utilised for car parking during race meetings.
- 1.2.2 The Site lies at approximately 78m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying natural geology of the Site is mapped as the boundary between River and Valley Gravel and Reading Beds (Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 267).
- 1.2.3 The results of the excavation and the informal observation of geotechnical control pits dug during the archaeological excavation confirmed that the deposits comprised bedded fluvial River and Valley Gravel capped by a variable thickness of light to mid brown sandy clay silt ('brickearth').

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

2.1 Study Area

- 2.1.1 Preliminary investigations for archaeological and historic sites within a 1km radius of the Site (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk>) listed a number of locations, predominantly of prehistoric or Romano-British date, in the area. Other entries, of more recent date, related primarily to agricultural field boundaries and trackways.
- 2.1.2 Surveys of aerial photographs of the area have also identified ditches, enclosures, trackways and medieval or later field systems.
- 2.1.3 Archaeological field work, including fieldwalking survey (Lobb and Rose 1996) and systematic excavation (WA 1990; 1991), has also indicated the potential density of archaeological remains within the valley of the River Kennet.
- 2.1.4 In addition to features and findspots of prehistoric and later date the development area also incorporated the site of Round Oak. The history of this large house, thought to have been built during the 19th century, was known primarily from historic mapping, archive photographs and limited documentary sources. Nothing was recorded of its early development or archaeology.
- 2.1.5 Round Oak house lay within the former estate of Greenham. Lloyd Baxendale, who made a fortune through Pickfords bought the Greenham Lodge Estate in 1873 for £63,000. On his death in 1882 the title of Lord of the Manor and the estate passed to his son, Lloyd Henry Baxendale, who became instrumental in the conception of Newbury race course in 1903 (Osgood 1993). Baxendale, who became Chairman and Director of the course until his death in 1937, provided options on land for the construction of the course and subsequently offered additional land on Round Oak meadow for stables at a price of £300 per acre.
- 2.1.6 The race course was requisitioned for military use during both World Wars and Round Oak itself staffed by USAAF personnel during World War II.
- 2.1.7 By 1954 Round Oak was in the possession of Mr. A. S. B. Tull, who had acted as a Director of the race course since 1945, and who died in February of that year. Dreweatt Watson and Barton were instructed to 'deal with the dilapidations' (Osgood 1993) at the house which were agreed at £1,000.
- 2.1.8 The house of Round Oak was demolished to ground level in December 1968 (Osgood 1993).

2.2 Recent Investigations

- 2.2.1 A series of drafts of the Environmental Statement (ES) chapter concerned with Cultural Heritage were submitted to West Berkshire Council, at various stages of the design process (Terence O'Rourke, 2007). The ES identifies the Site as lying within an area of known archaeological potential due to its situation on the floodplain of the River Kennet and its close proximity to the historic core of Newbury, whose origins date to around the time of the

Norman Conquest. The ES identifies the potential of the Site as being predominantly for prehistoric and Romano-British remains. However, it does also indicate that the Site may have been previously disturbed, as during World War II it was utilised extensively by USAAF and was also subject to the large scale construction of the racecourse, which may have left little or no below ground archaeological remains intact.

- 2.2.2 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken (WA 2008), targeted on anomalies identified by aerial photography, in order to assess the potential for archaeological remains to survive in the western area of the racecourse and to assess the survival and date of the house known as Round Oak, known to be present on the Site. A sample of the area comprising 15 machine-dug trial trenches was excavated and evaluated. The trenches on the main were empty and a high level of modern disturbance was identified throughout.
- 2.2.3 Trench 15 (**Figure 1**) revealed the remnants of the structure known as Round Oak, which had previously stood on the Site and which only survived as backfilled cellars and demolition rubble suggesting that only the basic floorplan is likely to have survived the demolition process. The nature of the brick and construction of the cellars did not contribute to the dating of the origins of the structure. Three ditches were also revealed within Trenches 11 and 12 which were all post-medieval in date and are likely to represent changing land divisions or garden features associated with Round Oak.
- 2.2.4 The evaluation also revealed a Middle to Late Bronze Age boundary ditch, located in Trench 14 (**Figure 1**), suggesting that the area was utilised during the prehistoric period however, the paucity of settlement evidence in terms of further features and material culture suggests that the landscape was probably utilised for agricultural purposes.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Objectives

- 3.1.1 The objective of the archaeological mitigation was to expose, plan and examine the archaeological resource, to seek a better understanding of that resource, to analyse the findings and to disseminate the results of the work.

3.2 Aims

- 3.2.1 The archaeological mitigation aimed:
- To determine the survival, extent, alterations/extensions and layout of Round Oak.
 - To excavate and record features/deposits (i.e. cellars) associated with Round Oak at an appropriate level to assist understanding of the extent, alterations/extensions and layout of the building.
 - To record any information dating to the wartime occupation of Round Oak.
 - To identify any earlier structures that might have predated Round Oak.
 - To expose, plan, record and re-sample the Middle to Late Bronze Age boundary ditch to confirm its date, function and alignment.

- To identify any other associated archaeological features revealed in the immediate vicinity of the feature within the trench area.
- To relate any Bronze Age features, where possible, to the broader prehistoric landscape of the middle Kennet Valley.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Two targeted areas were opened for archaeological excavation as a result of archaeological evaluation (**Figure 1**):

- **Area 1:** Investigation of the Round Oak floor-plan by excavation of an area 22m x 25m targeted to expose the entire footprint of the building as established by historic mapping and located within evaluation trenches 15.1 and 15.2 (**Figures 3 and 4**).
- **Area 2:** Investigation of the Middle to Late Bronze Age boundary ditch by excavation of a 10m x 10m area centred over evaluation Trench 14 (**Figure 2**).

4.1.2 The works were carried out from the 15th September to the 1st October 2010.

4.2 Fieldwork

Area 1

4.2.1 The area defined within Area 1 was excavated using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. All work was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision. Modern topsoil, laid to landscape the site following the demolition of the house, and underlying demolition rubble, mainly excavated from the cellar cavity, were all removed in this way.

4.2.2 Excavation progressed to the top of the surviving walls/foundations of the post-medieval building identified in the evaluation. At appropriate locations machine excavation continued to reveal the depth of foundations and to define parts of an earlier, previously unrecorded brick-built structure. All walls were left *in situ* at the completion of the work.

4.2.3 Once exposed the wall lines were cleaned by hand to define details of wall construction and, where possible, identify phases of construction. Once defined the structure of the building was planned.

4.2.4 During the course of the works it became apparent that the predicted 30m by 30m area, as specified by the WSI (WA 2010), would more than expose the remains of the building footprint and therefore, in consultation with WBC it was agreed that the area would be reduced to the area of the building footprint only.

4.2.5 The north-west corner of the building could not be exposed, surveyed or recorded due to the close proximity of trees; however a projected ground plan of this part of the building has been reconstructed (**Figure 4**).

Area 2

- 4.2.6 Area 2 was stripped in a similar fashion to Area 1. Machine excavation progressed to the top of the natural deposits into which archaeological features were cut.
- 4.2.7 A section was excavated by hand through the Bronze Age boundary ditch (**Figure 2**) to confirm the stratigraphic sequence and recover additional dating material to that from the evaluation works (WA 2008). A number of discrete modern features were also sectioned and recorded sufficient to allow an informed interpretation of their date (**Figure 2**).

4.3 Recording

- 4.3.1 A unique site code (70092) was assigned for all aspects of the project archive.
- 4.3.2 All wall lines and foundations, associated architectural detail, including floor supports, thresholds, fire places, paths and drains in Area 1 were plotted using a Leica GPS.
- 4.3.3 All exposed archaeological deposits in Area 2 were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A corresponding drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was also compiled, primarily sections were drawn to a scale of 1:10.
- 4.3.4 A comprehensive digital photographic record was maintained to illustrate both the detail and the general context of the principal features and the Site as a whole. This format was supplemented by colour transparencies and monochrome images using 35 mm film.

4.4 Survey

- 4.4.1 All investigation areas, architectural details and excavated archaeological features were planned digitally using a Leica GPS system to integrate with both the OS NGR system and the OS datum (Newlyn). The electronic survey data was downloaded daily and retained within the Site archive, with co-ordinate and/or datum information transposed onto the appropriate paper archives. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels was calculated and paper plans/sections annotated with OD heights.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The results of the archaeological works are presented below in chronological order, and therefore will focus on the results of Area 2 first, followed by the larger Area 1.

5.2 Area 2

- 5.2.1 The archaeological remains discussed below are shown in plan, with a section and photograph (**Plate 1**) of the Bronze Age ditch, on **Figure 2**. A summary of all context numbers is provided in **Appendix 1**.

- 5.2.2 A layer of topsoil (1000), 0.30 m in depth, and a layer of subsoil (1001), of a similar depth, were removed by mechanical excavator to the surface of the natural 'brickearth' to trace the course of the Bronze Age boundary ditch.
- 5.2.3 The ditch [1009] was aligned east-west, measured 3.0 m wide and 0.66 m deep with sloping sides and an irregular concave base. It was filled with a series of silts (1010 – 1014, see below), derived from natural weathering, indicating a gradual, natural process of infilling. These fills contained pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age period and worked and burnt flint representing human activity in the locality.
- 5.2.4 Mottled, yellow-grey, sandy silt, primary fills (1010, 1011), derived from weathering of the upper ditch slopes, occupied the base of the feature and contained isolated fragments of burnt flint.
- 5.2.5 Two overlying secondary fills (1012, 1013), of similar character to the primary fills, also contained fragments of burnt flint. Fragments of Late Bronze Age pottery, apparently from a single vessel, were found in fill 1013.
- 5.2.6 The final episode of silting was represented by light-mid grey sandy silt (1014), which contained worked and burnt flint with occasional charcoal flecks.
- 5.2.7 Three other shallow, circular features (1003, 1005 and 1007) (**Figure 2**) were identified in close proximity to the ditch. All were sectioned to confirm that they represented modern features. They were photographed and planned but not recorded in further detail.

5.3 Area 1

Introduction

- 5.3.1 The results of the building recording of the structural remains are presented below, as a summary, with the full detail of all structural elements contained in the project archive. The plans of the building remains (including interpretation) are shown on **Figures 3 and 4**, with photographs illustrating the main structural elements of the building shown on **Plates 2 to 20**.
- 5.3.2 The structural elements are described by phase. Broad phasing has been ascribed on the basis of the structural sequence. Approximate dates have been allocated according to cartographic sources and this is discussed in Section 8 (below). Context numbers have been assigned to individual rooms of the building to clarify the key structural elements of the building.
- 5.3.3 A full list of maps consulted is provided in Section 11 (below). These sources have provided a valuable archive that makes it possible to broadly reconstruct the post-medieval structural sequence on the Site and to place it in a local context.
- 5.3.4 Due to the north-west corner of the building remaining unexcavated (discussed above, 4.2.5) a projected ground plan of this part of the building has been reconstructed (**Figure 4**).

Phase 1: Greenham Farm

- 5.3.5 Elements of an earlier phase of building were identified beneath the southern range of the Round Oak floorplan. Sufficient wall lines of the rectangular structure, surviving as foundations and the lowest courses of the walls, survived to indicate that it was aligned north-south and that it stratigraphically predated Round Oak.
- 5.3.6 Wall lines denoting two rooms (Rooms 15 and 16), belonging to this earlier phase of construction, could be identified with confidence whilst two other possible rooms (Rooms 17 and 18), suggested by less coherent remains, were less clear. These wall lines appear to represent the southern extent of the earlier building as no further remains could be traced outside the foundation extents of the later Round Oak building. All construction of Phase 1 was undertaken using standard sized, hand-made bricks with no frog, suggesting a construction date of pre-1800 for the structure. The brick foundation courses were laid onto coarse concrete bedding material which would have offered stability given the brickearth geology of the area.
- 5.3.7 Rooms 15 and 16, measuring 4 m and 3 m east-west respectively were identified beneath Rooms 12 and 13 of the later house (**Figure 3** and **Plate 2**).
- 5.3.8 The external wall foundations, which were identified on the south and west of the Phase 1 building (**Figure 3** and **Plate 3**), were constructed of 13 inch English bond, with the two interior wall lines of 9 inch English bond.
- 5.3.9 The western side of the structure was separated from the east by a narrow corridor/passageway (Room 17). The corridor which measured approximately 1 m wide was of a similar construction to the external walls. A tile-capped drain (**Figure 3** and **Plate 4**) ran along the eastern edge of the corridor, which may have been hidden beneath an internal floor or left as a visible feature to allow maintenance access.
- 5.3.10 The northern wall lines of the Phase 1 house were not exposed but may lie immediately beneath the north boundaries of Rooms 11, 12 and 13 of the later Round Oak building. A hand excavated test pit which was dug in the corridor (Room 9) of Round Oak, towards the centre of the original building, found no trace of the continuation of the earlier building with the exception of a possible external structure / boiler base (Room 19) to the northeast of the remains.
- 5.3.11 The interpretation of this structure (Room 19) remains unclear. It was backfilled with a mixture of demolition rubble, including peg tile fragments, domestic refuse and furnace clinker and appeared to have been constructed in multiple phases (**Figure 3** and **Plate 5**).
- 5.3.12 A thin layer of domestic refuse was visible elsewhere separating the two building phases. In places this was also supplemented with other material to make up the foundation levels of the later structure.

Phase 2: Round Oak

- 5.3.13 The southwest corner of Round Oak was superimposed almost directly over the foundations of the Phase 1 structure; however the outline of the earlier building was clearly visible following the inside line of the later building which was built on a slightly different alignment (**Figure 4**).
- 5.3.14 Round Oak was a brick house of single phase construction. There were only minor additions or modifications, the most notable being the addition of a conservatory at the southeast corner of the building (see below). The house measured 18 m north-south with a western frontage measuring 15.5 m long. The ground plan was designed around four chimney stacks approximately 8 m apart. This general plan incorporated two principal parts; a south facing oblong range, 15.5 m long and 6 m wide and a block, 12m square, to the north (**Front Cover**).
- 5.3.15 Photographic records indicate that the southern facing range comprised a two storey façade with additional third floor accommodation in an internal roof space with dormer windows (**Front Cover**). The northern range was divided into two sections. Aerial photographs, taken from the west, show that each section was equipped with a gable ended roof that shared a common central gutter.
- 5.3.16 The walls of the house, which were constructed of English bond, were built on stepped foundations, 0.45 m deep, constructed on a thin blinding level of concrete.
- 5.3.17 Round Oak would have been entered via a main, west facing entrance, leading into a central east-west aligned corridor (Room 9) (**Plate 6**). It was furnished with an overhanging porch and tiled floor and was approached from a modern concrete path into the central corridor (room 9).
- 5.3.18 At the end of the corridor (to the east) a downstairs toilet block would have been situated (Room 8) (**Plate 7**).
- 5.3.19 To the right of the main corridor lay a southern rectangular range comprising two reception rooms (Rooms 11 and 13) (**Plate 8**) separated and accessed via a central north-south aligned corridor (Room 12) (**Plate 2**). These rooms would have been the main formal entertaining rooms of the house and each would have been dominated by a large brick built fireplace (**Plate 9**) located in the centre of each northern wall. Each of these rooms measured 6 m x 5 m and would have had wooden floors that were supported on brick built beams, approximately 1.2 m apart.
- 5.3.20 These rooms are shown on archive photographs, dating to the 1960s, to have had floor to ceiling sash windows. There is a suggestion, from these images, that the central corridor would have had French windows that would have allowed access into the garden area to the south of the house.
- 5.3.21 To the left of the main corridor lay the northern square range comprising a central north-south aligned corridor (Room 5) (**Plate 10**) from which further domestic accommodation would have been accessed to the left.

- 5.3.22 The domestic accommodation, situated at the front of the house, was split into two rooms (Rooms 6 and 7) (**Plate 11**) which shared a central chimney stack allowing a back to back fireplace on the adjoining wall of each room (**Plate 11**). Each room measured approximately 4 m square. As in the formal reception rooms there would have been wooden floors supported by brick built beams.
- 5.3.23 The central corridor (Room 5) would have also provided access to the internal service area to the right and to the rear door to the house. It is likely that stairs to the upper levels were also accessed from this corridor. Beneath these stairs a flight allowed access to the cellar of the house (**Plate 12**).
- 5.3.24 The service areas, situated to the northeast of the house, survived as a utility/service room (Room 2), the cellar (Room 1) and associated external outbuildings (Rooms 10, 3 and 4). Each of these rooms/buildings was floored with terracotta tiles, approximately 0.25 m square (**Plates 13 and 14**).
- 5.3.25 The kitchen, which would have been situated adjacent to Room 2 and above the cellar (Room 1), did not survive due to its demolition and position above the cellar. However, the cellar did retain evidence of a chimney base (**Plate 15**) suggesting that there would have been back to back fireplaces in the kitchen and service room (Room 2) which would have shared the chimney on their adjoining wall. The fireplace above the cellar would have been suspended above projecting arched buttresses.
- 5.3.26 The cellar (Room 1), which was divided into two areas by a central partition, would have been illuminated, in the northern area, by a semi-circular, glazed cellar-light in its northeast corner (**Plates 16 and 17**). The southern area of the cellar was internally partitioned and evidence for collapsed slate shelving, in conjunction with a large selection of preserving jars (see below), was observed during machine excavations (**Plate 18**).
- 5.3.27 The cellar measured approximately 5 m N-S x 4 m E-W and was 1.30 m deep. It was accessed from the corridor (room 5) above by a flight of six brick steps with wooden treads.
- 5.3.28 The outbuildings (Rooms 10, 3 and 4) (**Plates 13 and 14**) were attached to the external north and east walls of the property and would have been accessed externally via individual entrances with stone thresholds. Two of these buildings were accessed via a tiled path which ran from the rear door of the house to the entrance of the outbuildings (Rooms 3 and 10) (**Plate 19**). This path would have also allowed access to clean and maintain the glass of the cellar-light.
- 5.3.29 A number of external features, including pathways of brick and concrete and drains, were also recorded. The most notable of these was a brick-built drain that ran along the southern façade of the house. This drained into an arch roofed culvert that utilised the line southwards of the ditch-like feature associated with the early building.

Modifications

- 5.3.30 The archaeological evidence and successive representations on successive editions of the Ordnance Survey mapping indicate that Round Oak underwent very few changes in its lifetime. The most marked addition was of a glass conservatory on a low brick wall that was erected at the southeast corner of the building (Room 14) (**Figure 3** and **Plate 20**).
- 5.3.31 Photographic evidence indicates that it was accessed through a door on the south side (**Front cover**) and it seems almost certain that an additional doorway was inserted into the southeast corner of Room 11 to allow entrance from inside the house.
- 5.3.32 The conservatory does not appear on the Ordnance Survey mapping of 1899 but is present on the 1913 edition.
- 5.3.33 Internal modifications were more difficult to identify. Brick piers were apparently added to the northern corners of corridor/entrance hall (Room 12), narrowing it, possibly for the addition of a doorway (**Figure 3**).

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A very small quantity of finds was recovered during the excavation. These related either to the investigation of the Round Oak site (Area 1), or to the Bronze Age boundary ditch (Area 2). These finds are quantified by number and weight in **Appendix 2**.

6.2 Finds from Area 2

- 6.2.1 The earliest material recovered came from Area 2, and comprises 37 sherds of pottery, three pieces of worked flint, and 17 pieces of burnt, unworked flint.
- 6.2.2 Of these, the pottery, consisting exclusively of coarse, flint-tempered wares, possibly mostly from a single vessel, provides the closest dating evidence, and confirms a Late Bronze Age date for ditch [1009], at least for the secondary fill (1013). The primary fills (1010, 1011) produced only burnt, unworked flint, which is not datable, while the worked flint (three flakes, which can only be broadly dated as Neolithic/Bronze Age) came from the uppermost fill of the ditch (1014).

6.3 Finds from Area 1

- 6.3.1 All finds from Area 1 are of post-medieval date. This includes a group of complete jars recovered as a sample from the cellar of Round Oak. Most of these are preserving jars, and bear the proprietary names of Kilner (original and 'Improved' types), Forster ('Atlas Type'), Timothy Whites ('Gordon Preserving Jar') and ABGA ('Mason Perfect', made in the USA). Both Kilner and Mason jars have a long period of use in their respective countries of origin, from the mid 19th century onwards, but these jars are all of 20th century type, and the Kilner 'Improved' jars are post-1948. From the 1960s onwards Kilner jars were not normally marked with the brand name. Mason jars were made by several different companies, of which Ball and Kerr were

the most common (the Ball Perfect Mason jar was the most commonly produced fruit jar in the USA in the 1930s and 1940s); the AGBA brand seen here has not been traced.

- 6.3.2 Also present amongst the group of jars are recent jam jars and a coffee jar of the familiar Maxwell House form of the 1960s and 1970s.
- 6.3.3 Other finds from Area 1 (all unstratified) comprised a few fragments of pottery, clay pipe and animal bone, a coin and a metal spoon.
- 6.3.4 Of these, the clay pipe and the pottery are potentially the earliest, and may therefore belong to the putative precursor of Round Oak. The pipe fragments include a partial spurred bowl, which can be broadly dated to the 18th century. The pottery sherds are all in coarse red earthenware, and include one slip-decorated sherd; earthenwares cannot generally be dated closely within the post-medieval period, but the slipware is a 17th or 18th century type.
- 6.3.5 The coin and the spoon are both 20th century, the coin a halfpenny of George V, and the spoon (a plated alloy) stamped 'Harrods'.

7 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

- 7.1.1 No material suitable for environmental analysis was demonstrated to be present within archaeological excavation areas.

8 DISCUSSION

- 8.1.1 The strategy to strip, map and sample, where necessary, archaeological features located by the evaluation (WA 2008) has achieved the anticipated aims.
- 8.1.2 It has been possible to trace the alignment of the Bronze Age ditch and to confirm its date by the excavation of an additional section. The work has increased the quantity of material from the ditch sufficient to confirm the date of the feature. No traces of settlement were recovered; however the quantities of burnt flint and pottery were sufficient to indicate that it may have existed in the immediate area.
- 8.1.3 In addition to confirming the floorplan of Round Oak the excavation has confirmed cartographic evidence which indicates that the house was not constructed on a 'green field' site, but that it replaced an earlier structure (Greenham Farm) on the Site.
- 8.1.4 The date of the initial post-medieval occupation of the site of the house cannot be established with certainty; nevertheless cartographic studies have indicated that a complex of buildings, listed as Greenham Farm was present by 1808.
- 8.1.5 More detailed tithe map of 1845 repeats the layout of buildings, including more detail. It shows that the principal structure comprised a main range aligned north-south, with a western frontage and projecting ranges at the northern and southern ends. It was approached from the west by a 'private

carriage road and bridleway and public bridle road and footway No.1. 18ft wide' (Tithe Map 1845), now enshrined in the modern street plan as Queen's Road.

- 8.1.6 The foundations underlying Round Oak cannot be guaranteed to represent the complete footprint of this principal structure, although it is highly likely. The wall alignments are consistent with those of the earlier structure identified by historic mapping and it is entirely probable that the later building was superimposed, as subsequent mapping suggests, over the site of the earlier house.
- 8.1.7 The tithe map of 1845 indicates that the land was allocated to T.R. Ward, who is named in regard of a number of other plots of land in the immediate area.
- 8.1.8 The landscape had undergone marked changes when it was mapped by the Ordnance Survey of 1877. The most significant of these was the appearance of and change of name to Round Oak, shown with its outbuildings, but otherwise detached, and surrounded by gardens. Access remained from the west with a sweeping carriage circle, surrounding a tree, immediately in front of the main entrance.
- 8.1.9 The stimulus to redevelop the Site is open to speculation; nevertheless the 1877 map does include the course of the railway which arrived in Newbury in 1845. This development brought about a marked change in the fortunes of the area, providing easy access to London. A number of 'gentlemen's villas' were erected in the locality at about the same time, including Greenham House of 1845 and Cookham House, which was itself redeveloped on the site of an earlier residence, in 1850 (www.sopse.org.uk accessed 05/11/10). Round Oak may represent a similar addition.
- 8.1.10 The purchase of the Greenham Lodge Estate by Lloyd Baxendale in 1873 may also have influenced development in the area. The purchase of the estate was accompanied (www.thamespilot.org.uk accessed 05/11/10) by the construction of a new church, as well as cottages for the estate staff and a rest home for sick employees of Pickfords. It is by no means certain that the re-development of Round Oak was in any way related to this work although it is a possible alternative to the introduction of the railway.
- 8.1.11 The 1877 and 1899 Ordnance Survey editions indicate very few alterations to the house or its gardens; however the 1913 issue clearly shows that the conservatory had been added to the front of the house and greenhouses to the rear in the kitchen garden. An aerial photograph (Osgood 1993, 34) of Round Oak, from the west, indicates that these remained extant until after World War II. However, no evidence associated with the use of the building during the World War II occupation of the site was recovered during the course of the works.
- 8.1.12 The artefactual assemblage does very little to add any specific detail to this chronology. The clay pipe bowl does date to before the projected redevelopment of the house in the mid 19th century. It is unworn suggesting that it may have become lost below the floor levels during construction work or during the occupation of the earlier house.

8.1.13 Similarly the date of the coin is unclear. It was found with refuse, apparently underneath the floor of Round Oak. However whether it dates to the demolition of Greenham Farm and its redevelopment or was introduced from elsewhere with material to make up the ground is uncertain and arguably unreliable.

8.1.14 Round Oak was demolished to ground level in 1968.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1.1 Following consultation with WBC it is recommended that a single page summary be published in *Berkshire Archaeology Journal* which will also signpost the location of the Post-excavation Assessment Report via the online OASIS database (see 11.1.4 below).

10 CONCLUSION

10.1.1 The excavation carried out in Area 2 succeeded in identifying the boundary ditch, dated in the evaluation works (WA 2008) as Middle to Late Bronze Age. These works have provided further dating evidence for the ditch which has confirmed a Late Bronze Age date for the feature. No associated features were revealed within the excavation area suggesting that the initial interpretation, boundary ditch, seems likely. The increased artefactual material recovered from the ditch does however; indicate Late Bronze Age settlement activity within the area.

10.1.2 The works on Area 1 have been successful in determining the survival, extent, alterations/extensions and layout of Round Oak. The works have also been successful in identifying an earlier structure beneath Round Oak. However, given the limited survival of the remains of Greenham Farm, confirmation of the floorplan and interpretation of this earlier structure has proved more difficult.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1.1 The project archive, containing site documentation, written and drawn records, photographic images, specialist reports and digitally captured data, is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's Salisbury office, under the site code 70092. In due course the archive will be deposited with the West Berkshire Museum. An accession number will be issued on receipt of the archive.

11.1.2 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation, in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990)*, in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and with up-to-date guidance in English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide*, 2006.

-
- 11.1.3 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 the Museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.
- 11.1.4 Details of the Site, including a copy of this report, will be submitted online to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) database.

12 REFERENCES

12.1 Bibliography

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Osgood, F., 1993 *The Story of Newbury Race Course*. Kingsclere Publications

www.sopse.org.uk Greenham. A Common Inheritance (accessed 05/11/10)

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Wessex Archaeology, 1990, *The excavation of a Ring Ditch at Lower Farm, Greenham, Berkshire*, Unpublished client report ref. 32692 (W321)

Wessex Archaeology, 1991, *Newbury Racecourse – Proposed golf course and driving range Watching Brief Observations*, Unpublished client report ref. 34241 (W428)

Wessex Archaeology, 2008, *Newbury Racecourse Car Parking Area, Newbury, West Berkshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report*, unpublished client report ref 70091.03

Wessex Archaeology, 2010, *Newbury Racecourse Car Parking Area, Newbury, West Berkshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation*, unpublished client ref 70092.01

12.2 Cartographic Sources

1808 OSD ??

1845 The Map or Plan Referred to in the annexed Award
http://www.berkshirenclosure.org.uk/xml/getImage.aspx?app=Archive&db=Catalog&fname=O_R_D_C_74B\Map.jpg (accessed 05/11/10)

1877 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 First Edition

1899 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 Second Edition

1903 Ordnance Survey 6" 1:10,560 Second Edition

1913 Ordnance Survey

1932 Ordnance Survey 6" 1:10,560 Third Edition

1938 Ordnance Survey 6" 1:10,560 Fourth Edition

1961 Ordnance Survey 6" 1:10,560 Fifth Edition

1997 Ordnance Survey Explorer 155 (1:25,000)

2008 Ordnance Survey Landplan (1:10,000)

Geological Survey of Great Britain (England & Wales) 1:63,360 sheet 265

13 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

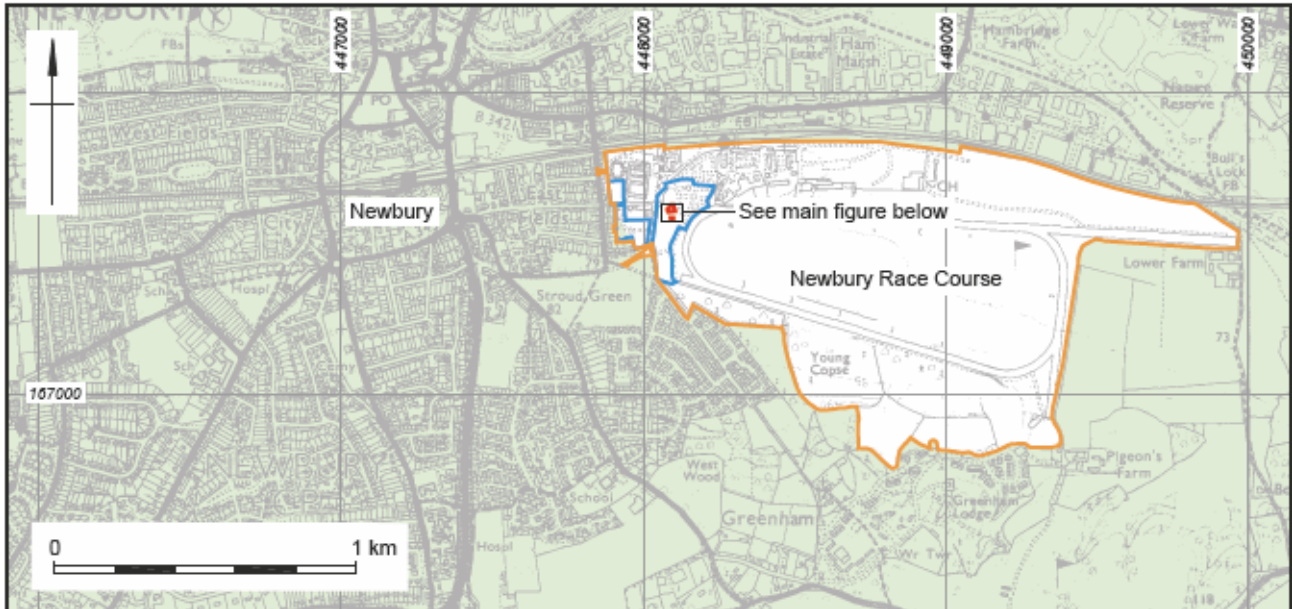
Area	Context	Description	Size
1	1015	Group number allocated to Round Oak. 19 th century house constructed of English bond. Comprises contexts 1016-29.	18 x 15.5
1	1016	Room 1. Cellar, with light well to east, stairwell access on west side. Chimney base on south side for room above	4.2 x 2.8
1	1017	Room 2. Located on central east side, tiled floor. Central raised chimney base in north wall	5.2 x 4.0
1	1018	Room 3. Out-house, ancillary room on E side of building. Accessed from threshold in SE corner of room. Tiled floor.	1.9 x 1.1
1	1019	Room 4. External service room on NE corner of building. Accessed from threshold in SW corner of room. Tiled floor.	4.5 x 2.5
1	1020	Room 5. Central corridor from back door in N wall. Incorporates stairs to cellar in NE corner	
1	1021	Room 6. Reception room in NW corner of house. NW corner covered by tree. Sleeper walls running N-S. Fireplace in central position of S wall.	4.2 x 4.0
1	1022	Room 7. Reception room S of room 6 on W side of building. Sleeper walls aligned N-S. Fireplace in central position of N wall.	4.6 x 4.0
1	1023	Room 8. Toilet at E end of main corridor, room 9. Sleeper walls aligned E-W.	2.1 x 0.8
1	1024	Room 9. Main corridor, aligned E-W from main entrance at W end. Sleeper walls aligned E-W.	10.8 x 2.0
1	1025	Room 10. Possible ancillary/service extension on E side of main building. Tiled floor.	3.6 x 2.4
1	1026	Room 11. Principal reception room in SE corner of building. Sleeper walls aligned E-W. Central fire place on N wall. Probable door connecting to later conservatory.	6.0 x 4.6
1	1027	Room 12. Corridor accessing S central façade, aligned N-S. Sleeper walls aligned E-W. Two later blocking pillars at N end to for possible added door.	1.8 x 4.6
1	1028	Room 13. Principal reception room in SW corner of building. Sleeper walls aligned E-W. Central fire place on N wall.	6.0 x 4.6
1	1029	Room 14. Conservatory added to E wall at S corner of the house. Central external door to S and possible connecting door to Room 11	4.7 x 3.6
1	1030	Group number allocated to brick structure underlying Round Oak. Constructed of English bond and aligned N-S. Comprises contexts 1031-.4. Details of this building are sketchy, but sufficient to confirm its existence.	
1	1031	Room 15. Possible reception room of Greenham Farm. N wall not exposed	4.0 wide

Area	Context	Description	Size
1	1032	Room 16. Room of Greenham Farm. N wall not exposed. Function not known	3 m wide
1	1033	Room 17. Possible corridor of Greenham Farm, aligned N-S.	1 m wide
1	1034	Room 18. Possible room or open area E of Greenham Farm, fronting an open ditch.	2 m wide
1	1035	Room 19. Brick structure of unknown function associated with Greenham Farm.	
2	1000	Topsoil	
2	1001	Subsoil	
2	1002	Natural 'brick-earth' overlying gravel	
2	1003	Cut of modern post hole	
2	1004	Fill of 1003	
2	1005	Cut of modern pit	
2	1006	Fill of 1005	
2	1007	Cut of modern post hole	
2	1008	Fill of 1007	
2	1009	Cut of Bronze Age ditch, aligned E-W. Sloping sides, rounded base.	3.00 m wide x 0.66 deep
2	1010	Primary silts of 1009. Light yellow grey brown mottled sandy silt. Sparse burnt flint	0.14 thick
2	1011	Primary silts of 1009. Light yellow grey brown sandy silt, on N side. Burnt flint.	0.17 thick
2	1012	Secondary silting of 1009. Light yellow grey sandy silt on N side. Sparse burnt flint.	0.28 thick
2	1013	Secondary silting of 1009. Mid yellow brown sandy silt. Bronze age pot.	0.20 thick
2	1014	Tertiary silts of 1009. Light-mid grey brown sandy silt. Worked and burnt flint, charcoal flecks	0.36 thick

14 APPENDIX 2: FINDS QUANTIFICATION

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

Context	Animal Bone	Burnt Flint	Clay Pipe	Metal	Worked Flint	Glass	Pottery
1010		3/33					
1011		3/34					
1012		6/132					
1013							37/216
1014		5/37			3/52		
Cellar						17/9404	
Area 1 unstrat	9/85		3/14	2/78			4/371
TOTAL	9/85	17/236	3/14	2/78	3/52	17/9404	41/587



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Site location showing archaeological excavation areas

Figure 1

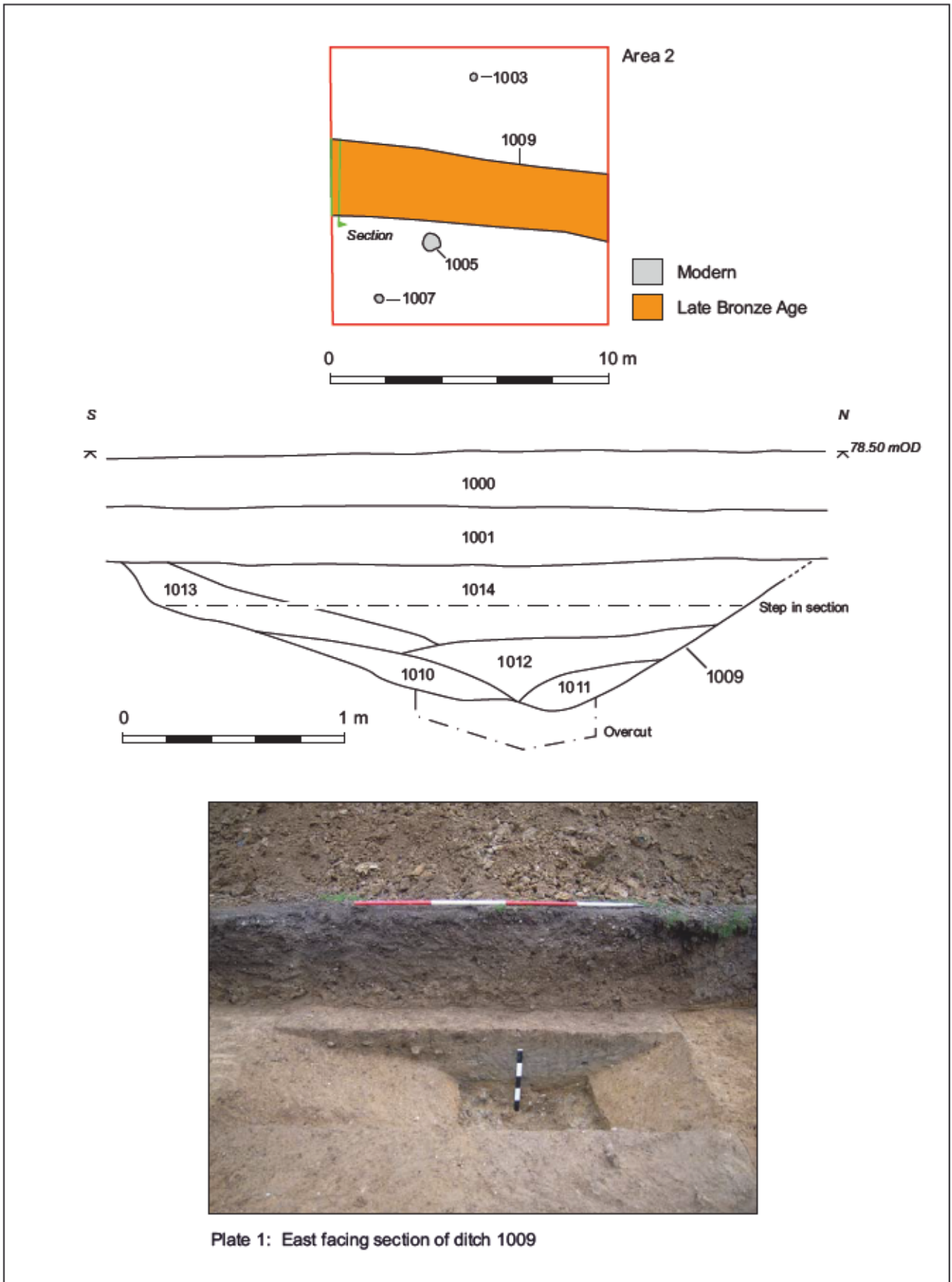


Plate 1: East facing section of ditch 1009


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Plate 2



Plate 3



Plate 4



Plate 5



- Phase 1 - ?Greenham Farm wall line
- Rubble infill
- Drain
- Round Oak phase 2

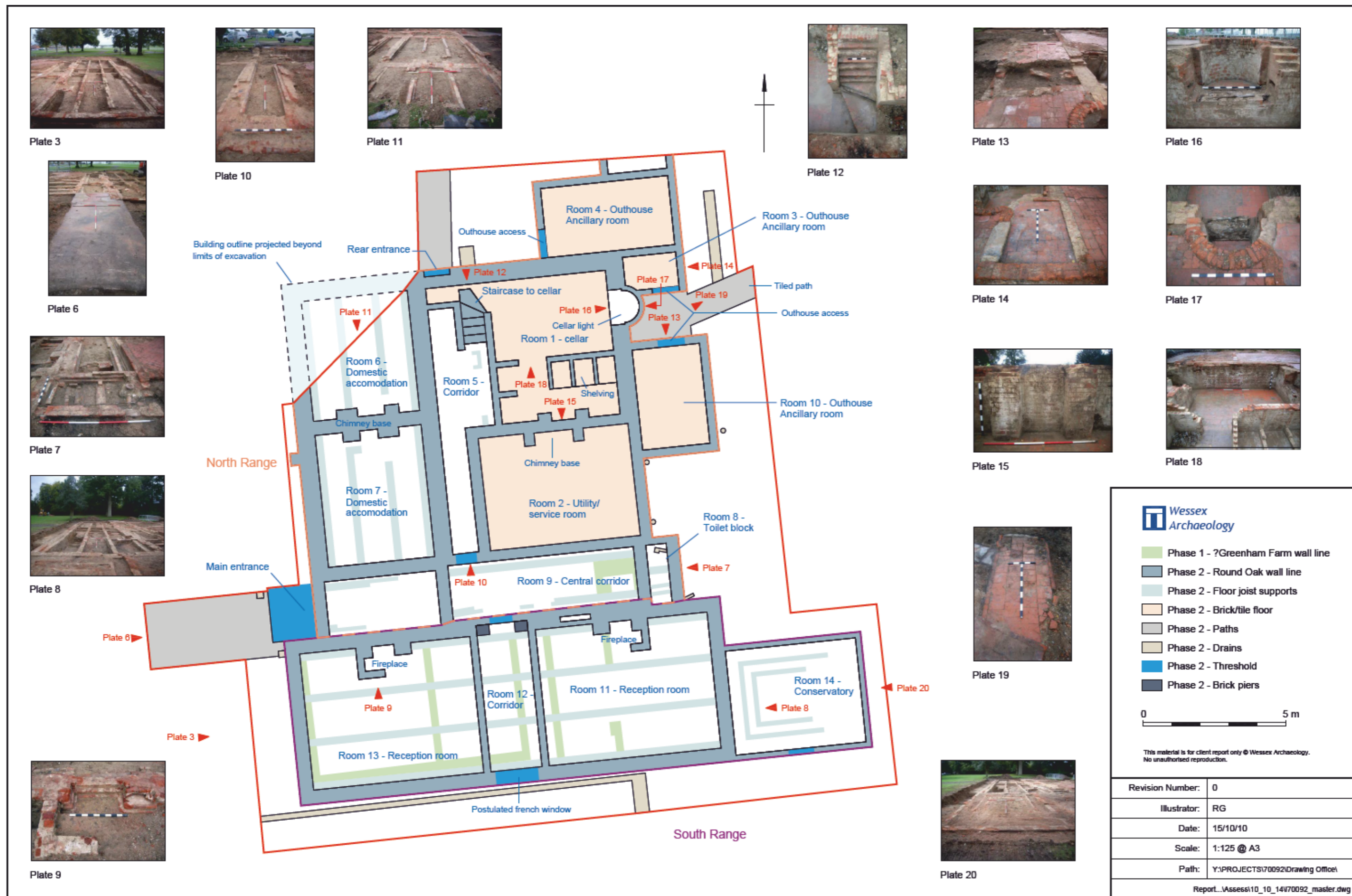


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Floor plan of the Phase 1, Greenham Farm, structure and associated plate thumbnails

Figure 3



Floorplan of the Phase 2 Round Oak, structure and associated plate thumbnails

Figure 4



Plate 2: Corridor (Room 12) with the earlier wall lines of Room 16 below, viewed from the north-west



Plate 3: View of southern range, from the west, showing Phases 1 and 2 of the structure



Plate 4: Detail of eastern side of Phase 1 corridor (Room 17), viewed from the south, showing the adjacent tile-capped drain



Plate 5: Brick construction of unknown use (Room 19) associated with the Phase 1 building, viewed from the south


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Plate 6: Main entrance leading into the central corridor (Room 9), viewed from the west



Plate 7: Toilet block (Room 8), viewed from the east



Plate 8: Reception rooms (Rooms 11 and 13) and central corridor (Room 12), viewed from the east



Plate 9: Chimney base in Room 13, viewed from the south


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Plate 10: Corridor (Room 5) leading to the cellar (Room 1) and rear entrance, viewed from the south

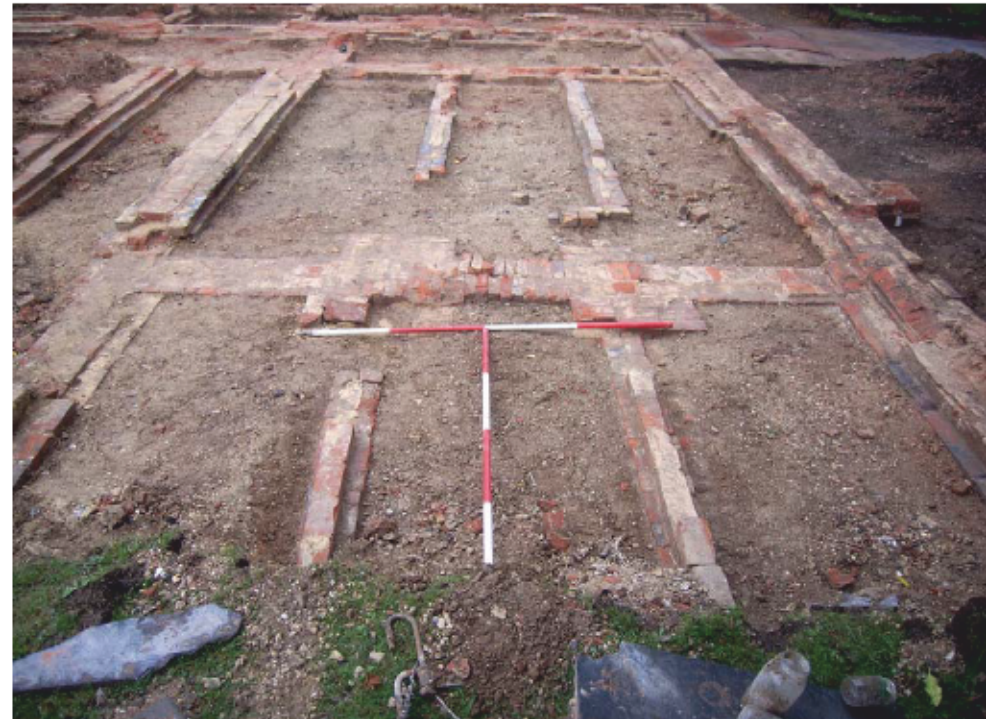


Plate 11: Domestic accommodation (Rooms 6 and 7) showing central chimney base, viewed from the north



Plate 13: Outbuilding (Room 10), viewed from the north



Plate 12: Stairs into the cellar (Room 1), viewed from the north


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Plate 14: Outbuilding (Room 3), viewed from the east



Plate 15: Chimney base in the cellar (Room 1) associated with the postulated kitchen above, viewed from the north



Plate 16: Cellar light in section, viewed from the west



Plate 17: Cellar light in plan, viewed from above


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Plate 18: Cellar (Room 1) with preserving jars and shelving partitions to the fore, viewed from the south



Plate 20: The conservatory (Room 14), viewed from the east



Plate 19: Detail of tiled path allowing access to outbuildings (Rooms 3 and 10), viewed from the southwest

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