



making sense of heritage

Metfield, Porton Down Wiltshire

Post-excavation Assessment Report
and Proposals for Analysis and Publication



Planning Reference: 14/00192/VAR
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November 2014



**Metfield
Porton Down
Wiltshire**

**Post-Excavation Assessment Report
and Proposals for Analysis and Publication**

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by DSTL to undertake a programme of archaeological mitigation comprising excavation and watching brief, ahead of and during the development of an extension to a new magazine storage facility at Porton Down, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 421450 136400.

Planning consent was issued by Wiltshire Council for a variation (14/00192/VAR) to the earlier planning consent (S/2010/1856) which proposed the development of an additional magazine storage facility at the site. The variation proposed the repositioning of an existing perimeter fence 100m to the west to allow for the expansion of the facility, on condition that a programme of archaeological work was undertaken.

This archaeological mitigation followed on from three previous phases of fieldwork (geophysical survey, evaluation trenching and archaeological excavation), which had recorded the southern portion of a segmented ring-ditch that enclosed a complex burial sequence comprising up to eight individuals of Early Bronze Age date, with later activity in the form of a Middle Bronze Age boundary ditch and a Late Bronze Age 'Wessex Linear' ditch also recorded.

This programme of works targeted the remaining portion of the ring-ditch and an enigmatic 'C' shaped enclosure (revealed in the geophysics) as well as recording more of the Middle Bronze Age field system.

The segmented ring-ditch measured 15m in diameter and was formed from nine separate ditch segments which surrounded two further graves containing the remains of three individuals; a single infant cremation within an inverted Collared Urn and a neonate inhumation sealed by cremated adult remains were recorded. An antler implement was recovered from the base of the segmented ring-ditch.

The 'C' shaped enclosure was approximately 13m long by 8.5m wide, with a 12m wide 'entrance' to the north. Although the date and function of the enclosure remains unclear, an association with the Early Bronze Age complex to the west is likely. In the Middle–Late Bronze Age the 'C' shaped enclosure was augmented with the addition of a small gully, which narrowed the entrance perhaps indicating an alternative use, possibly an animal corral associated with a probable watering hole or dew pond located to the south-west. Further land divisions were revealed in the watching brief indicating that the remains within the site formed part of a much wider complex of fields and paddocks established c. 1100-700BC.

The fieldwork was undertaken in June and July 2014.



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Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Clare King, Assistant County Archaeologist of Wiltshire Council who monitored the work on behalf of the local authority.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Thompson, Matt Kendall, Dave Murdie, Natalia Hunt, Jamie McCarthy, Peter Capps, Rachel Williams, Ed Grenier, Michael Fleming and Frances Ward.

This report was written and compiled by Steve Thompson, with specialist assessments by Matt Leivers (pottery and flint), Jacqueline I. McKinley (human bone), Lorrain Higbee (animal bone) and Sarah Wyles (environmental). The environmental samples were processed by Tony Scothern. The report illustrations were prepared by Elizabeth James.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.



Metfield Porton Down Wiltshire

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by DSTL (the Client), to undertake a programme of archaeological mitigation ahead of and during the development of an extension to the new magazine storage facility at Porton Down, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 421450 136400 (hereafter 'the Site') (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 Planning consent was issued by Wiltshire Council for a variation (14/00192/VAR) to the earlier planning consent (S/2010/1856) which proposed the development of an additional magazine storage facility at the Site, to enable an existing perimeter fence to be moved 100m to the west to allow for the expansion of the facility.
- 1.1.3 The Wiltshire Assistant County Archaeologist recommended an archaeological condition be attached to the approved application to ensure archaeological work was undertaken during and ahead of the proposed development. The condition was attached due to the high potential for archaeological remains within the proposed development area as identified through a series of earlier phases of archaeological work.
- 1.1.4 This document presents the post-excavation assessment of the fieldwork undertaken in June and July 2014, and includes proposals for further analysis and publication.

1.2 The Site

Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The Site is located between Battery Hill and Idmiston Down, c. 1.5km east of the village of Porton in southern Wiltshire. The land slopes down to the south-west, falling from a height of c. 94.4m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to c. 91.8m aOD.
- 1.2.2 The British Geological Survey map for the area (1:50,000 Solid and Drift Series, sheet 298) indicates that the underlying geology of the Site consists of Upper Chalk. Alluvial deposits and Valley Gravel associated with the River Bourne lie a short distance to the north and west.
- 1.2.3 A large proportion of the proposed magazine facility had already been constructed at the time of the further archaeological mitigation, and included explosive storage buildings, associated roads, tracks and security perimeter fencing within the



Metfield area, though the majority of the proposed archaeological mitigation area was under short grass pasture prior to works commencing.

- 1.2.4 One area of known archaeology which was originally proposed for preservation *in situ* had been disturbed by various construction activities, including use as a stone storage area. It was understood however that following topsoil removal, terram was laid across the area.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 Several previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the Site, including geophysical survey, field evaluation and archaeological excavation; a summary of the findings is presented below.

2.2 Designated sites

- 2.2.1 A total of 10 Scheduled Monuments lie within the Site's immediate environs. These statutorily protected monuments include several groups of Bronze Age barrows (burial mounds) to the north of the Site (SMs 26772, 26773, 26774, 26783 and 26784). The Monument Listing for SM 26784 also includes a group of modern gas testing trenches. Further groups of barrows lie to the east of the Site (SM 26785, the monument listing for which includes a Bronze Age enclosure) and to the south and south-west (SMs 26775-26778).
- 2.2.2 One Listed Building (Grade II) lies to the north of the Site. The building (Building 106) represents part of the former Chemical Defence Establishment.

2.3 Previous archaeological investigations

Geophysical survey 2008

- 2.3.1 A programme of magnetometer survey was undertaken at the Site (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2008), the results of which identified a number of anomalies of likely archaeological origin within the Site's boundaries. It is not proposed to describe the geophysical survey findings further here, as the Site was subsequently subject to targeted trial trench evaluation based upon these results.

Archaeological Field Evaluation 2009

- 2.3.2 A total of 45 evaluation trenches were machine-excavated across the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2009). The evaluation established that archaeological features comprising a segmented possible enclosure ditch, a crouched inhumation burial, a segmented ring-ditch, a small 'C' shaped enclosure and part of a 'Wessex Linear' ditch were present, though dating evidence was very limited. Relatively few other archaeological features were identified and the evaluation demonstrated that the geophysical survey had been very accurate in indicating the distribution, size and general nature of features present.

Archaeological Excavation 2011

- 2.3.3 An archaeological excavation (Wessex Archaeology 2012 & Andrews in prep.) was undertaken partially over an Early Bronze Age funerary monument which



comprised an unusually complex sequence of eight or more burials, all females or young children, surrounded by a segmented ring-ditch. In the centre was a large grave which contained the disturbed remains of an adult female, accompanied by a Beaker, which had probably been placed within a timber chamber and later revisited on one or more occasions. Two burials were accompanied by a Food Vessel and a miniature Collared Urn respectively, others were unaccompanied and there was a double cremation burial within an inverted Collared Urn. A Middle Bronze Age boundary ditch and a Late Bronze Age 'Wessex Linear' ditch reflected later prehistoric land divisions probably related to stock control.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Wessex Archaeology 2014a) and subsequent addendum (Wessex Archaeology 2014b) were prepared that outlined the strategy and methodology by which the aims of the archaeological work would be achieved. These documents in format and content conformed with current best practice and to the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2006) and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (IfA 2008).
- 3.1.2 Both WSIs were submitted to and agreed by Wiltshire Council's Archaeology Service and the Client prior to the commencement of works.

3.2 Aims and objectives

- 3.2.1 The aims of the archaeological works were:
- to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and, should remains be present, to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;
 - to confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
 - to confirm and map the approximate extent of the remains and where possible their relationship with archaeology recorded during earlier phases of archaeological excavation;
 - to determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains, particularly in relation to the 'C' enclosure;
 - to determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present;
 - to prepare an Assessment report on the archaeological investigations; and
 - to relate the archaeological results to their local, county and regional context.

3.3 Fieldwork methodology

Introduction

- 3.3.1 Due to the construction methodology, and archaeological potential within the development area, an archaeological excavation and a watching brief were proposed across the Site.



Excavation

- 3.3.2 The WSI proposed the machine excavation of an area measuring 0.36ha targeted upon the Early Bronze Age barrow and the small 'C' shaped enclosure previously identified. However due to the installation of roads and associated drainage this excavation area was divided into two areas measuring 0.21ha and 0.05ha. (**Figure 1**). The machine excavation was undertaken using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

Watching Brief

- 3.3.3 Four areas totalling approximately 3.75ha were excavated using a box scraper where previous archaeological investigation had shown the archaeological potential was low.

3.4 Survey

- 3.4.1 The excavation areas and archaeological features were digitally surveyed using Leica GNSS survey system tied into the Ordnance Survey (OS) NGR system, and related to heights above OS datum (Newlyn).

3.5 Recording

- 3.5.1 All recording was undertaken using a series of standardised Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* recording sheets and a recognised recording system.
- 3.5.2 A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This included both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections). The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels were calculated and plans/sections annotated with OD heights.
- 3.5.3 A photographic record was maintained during the excavation using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

3.6 Monitoring

- 3.6.1 All works were monitored by the Client and the Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council.

3.7 Finds

- 3.7.1 Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (IfA 2013), the UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines *Conservation Guideline No 2* and the Museums and Galleries Commissions *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (1991).
- 3.7.2 Removal of human remains took place under the terms of the appropriate Ministry of Justice licence (S25 of the Burial Act 1857).



- 3.7.3 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date. All retained artefacts were, as a minimum, washed, weighed, counted and identified. All finds have been scanned to assess the date range of the relevant assemblages and assessed for this report.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The excavations are described in chronological order (as understood at present) below. Further details of the individual contexts can be found within the Site archive.

4.2 Site stratigraphy

- 4.2.1 The topsoil (**5240**) overlying the majority of the Site was extremely shallow, as is typical of chalk downland which has been under limited agricultural activity in recent decades. Only in the relatively flat northern part of the Site, (which was ploughed up to 2011), was the topsoil/ploughsoil a little thicker, up to 0.4m deep, with an intermittent subsoil **5241** up to 0.2m thick recorded. Elsewhere, the topsoil was generally between 0.2m and 0.3m thick and overlay natural geology. For most of the Site this comprised chalk, but in the northern third large areas of clay-with-flints were noted.

- 4.2.2 It is clear that the underlying natural geology has been impacted upon by ploughing; the size of some of the plough scars suggesting that they were created by steam ploughing, potentially as early as the 1840s.

4.3 Undated – potentially pre-Early Bronze Age

- 4.3.1 A total of 80 tree throws or tree root bole holes were identified across the Site; 49 within the watching brief area and 35 within the excavation area, 15 of which were investigated (**Figures 1 & 2**). Though all were undated it was clear that a number were stratigraphically earlier than the surrounding segmented barrow ring-ditch **5225**. The investigated tree throws each showed the distinctive characteristic 'crescent' of darker topsoil derived material surrounding redeposited and reworked natural, (see Moore and Jennings, 1992, Fig 6) indicating that the tree had either been deliberately felled and the tree roots pulled out or that the tree had been uprooted as a result of strong winds. It is possible that the tree throws were the result of both natural forces and deliberate felling, as it was clear from the deposits within the tree throws that the trees had fallen/were dragged over in different directions. At least two tree throws (**5351** and **5458**) are likely to pre-date the Middle Bronze Age as aurochs bone was recovered from the fills. The aurochs was a type of wild cattle which became extinct in Britain during the Middle Bronze Age (c. 1500 BC) following the introduction of domestic cattle during the Early Neolithic (Lynch *et al.* 2008, 1025).

4.4 Early Bronze Age activity

Segmented ring-ditch 5225

- 4.4.1 The 2011 excavation (Wessex Archaeology 2012 & Andrews in prep.) focussed on the southern side of the circular segmented ring-ditch, and the complex sequence

of eight or more burials within it. This programme of work expanded on the earlier results by revealing the barrow in its entirety with a further two graves identified (**Figure 2**); the first contained both a cremation and inhumation burial, while the second contained a single cremation within an upturned pottery vessel.

- 4.4.2 The segmented ring-ditch measured approximately 15m in diameter (14m internally and 16.5m externally) and was composed of nine individual straight ditch segments (**5226**, **5227**, **5228**, **5229**, **5540**, **5541**, **5542**, **5543** and **5544**) on average 5.12m long by 1.32m wide and 0.61m deep, with steep (45° and greater) sides and a flat base with rounded terminals (see **Appendix 1:Table 1**). The segments were excavated in a series of opposing slots to provide a continuous longitudinal section and a series of cross-sections. The segments varied in length from 4.49m (**5542**) to 6.17m (**5544**), in width from 0.95m (**5542**) to 1.50m (**5228** and **5229**), and in depth from 0.46m (**5542**) to 0.73m (**5229**). The variations in width and depth can in some part be accounted for by possible truncation as a result of agricultural activity, as the northern-most (uphill) ditch segments would have been sealed by slightly thinner topsoil/subsoil, whereas the width variation of segments **5544** and **5540** was partly due to the loose fills of the tree throws through which they cut (**Figure 3**, **Plates 3 & 4**).
- 4.4.3 The deposits filling each ditch segment were relatively uniform, comprising lower deposits of washed or redeposited chalk natural material (derived from the feature edges and probably the central mound), and sealed by homogenous deposits of loose, loamy and heavily bioturbated (by worms and moles) material.
- 4.4.4 Positioned directly upon the base of segment **5541** (within cut **5256** and sealed by redeposited chalk layer **5257**) was **Object 218**, a red deer antler implement, possibly used as a rake or pick (**Plate 5**). Such antler implements have been frequently associated with Neolithic and Early Bronze Age monuments constructed on the chalk where they were used as the principle implements for digging ditches and/or postholes (Serjeantson and Gardiner 1995, 414), and used to crack the chalk and lever out blocks of material (*ibid* 426). Experimental use of antler tools to excavate in chalk, such as during the Overton Down experimental earthwork project (Ashbee and Cornwall 1961) and more recently with the recreation of the Amesbury Archer grave from Boscombe Down for the *Meet the Ancestors* television programme (S. Beach *pers. comm.*), has shown the effectiveness of antler as a digging tool.
- 4.4.5 Further dateable finds were recovered from within segment **5229** (cut **5314**, deposit **5316**) where several large sherds of Beaker pottery (**Object 219**) had been placed/discarded within the lower redeposited chalk fill of the feature (**Plate 7**).
- 4.4.6 Within the upper fill of segment **5226** (cut **5325** fill **5329**) a single piece of redeposited human bone was recovered, potentially derived from one of the disturbed burials within the centre of the ring-ditch.
- 4.4.7 Following the recording of the longitudinal and cross sections through the ditch segments, each segment was fully (100%) excavated.

- 4.4.8 The 2011 (Andrews in prep.) excavation confirmed that located centrally within the segmented ring-ditch was a complex sequence of burials perhaps spanning 250 years, and consisting of seven inhumation burials and a cremation burial, with further redeposited human bone perhaps derived from other individuals. The primary burial was contained within a timber chamber (grave **5171**) and was that of an adult female aged 30–40 years radiocarbon dated to 2460–2150 cal BC and associated with Beaker pottery of the c.2300–2200 BC. The timber chamber allowed the grave to be revisited on perhaps more than one occasion resulting in a jumble of bones at the base of the grave. The primary burial was subsequently cut through by three further graves, firstly that of an adult female (grave **5169**) aged 20–30 years and radiocarbon dated to 2210–2030 cal BC followed by an empty grave (**5100**) possibly a cenotaph, and finally a possible female infant (grave **5104**) aged 1.5–2 year old and radiocarbon dated to 2020–1780 cal BC.
- 4.4.9 Also within the ring-ditch was a grave (**5110**) containing a subadult female inhumation aged 20–23 years lying face to face with a 3–6 month old neonate. The subadult female was radiocarbon dated to 2020–1780 cal BC. Two further inhumation burials were recorded; a c.40 week old neonate accompanied with a Food Vessel and a possible ‘token’ bone from a c.18 year old adult (in grave **5087**) and a c. 6–9 month old infant accompanied by an inverted miniature Collared Urn (in grave **5116**). Finally a cremation burial made within an inverted Collared Urn contained the remains of two individuals; an infant and a possible male infant/juvenile within grave **5078**.
- 4.4.10 This current programme of works identified two further graves containing the remains of three individuals and augmenting the mixed burial rites previously observed.
- Inhumation and unurned cremation burial 5332*
- 4.4.11 Located 4.5m east of the primary burial was a small near circular feature **5332**, measuring 0.40m long by 0.35m wide and 0.15m deep, with steep concave sides and a concave base. The feature contained the remains of a neonate inhumation (**5333**) which had been sealed by the cremated remains of a young adult (**5334**).
- Urned cremation burial 5362*
- 4.4.12 Located 2.20m south-east of the primary burial was small oval pit **5362**, which measured 0.48m long by 0.40m wide and 0.12m deep, and cut into the upper fill of tree throw **5393**. The pit contained an inverted Collared Urn (**Object 221/5407**) with deposit **5363** packed in around the urn. Infilling the pottery vessel was deposit **5369**, which contained the cremated remains of a 1-2 year old infant. Pottery analysis has confirmed the Collared Urn dated to the Early Bronze Age (**Plate 6**).
- ‘C’ shaped enclosure 5545*
- 4.4.13 Previously identified through the geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2008) and Trench 27 of the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2009), enclosure **5545** was revealed in its entirety during this programme of works. Unfortunately the area had been previously stripped and the feature had been impacted upon by construction traffic and activities such as the excavation of a c. 4m square geotechnical pit within the interior of the enclosure (**Figure 2 & 4**).

- 4.4.14 The enclosure was approximately 13m long by 8.5m wide with the ditch recorded as 2.10m at its widest and 0.82m at its deepest. It had steep shouldered sides and a flat base and cut through two tree throws, **2711/5380** and **5448 (Figure 4)**. The 'entrance' was approximately 12m wide and open to the north-east. The ditch was investigated through six hand excavated slots; **5424** formed the north-western terminal (**Figure 4**), **5415**, the south-east terminal (**Figure 4**), and **5379 (Plate 8)**, **5387**, **5437 (Figure 4)** and **5490** in addition to **2703** from Trench 27 completed the interventions. The infilling deposits were fairly uniform around the enclosure, though there was variation with material derived from truncated tree throws. The infilling appears to have occurred slowly over some time as a result of the erosion of the feature edges and an associated bank, resulting in laminated heterogeneous deposits of redeposited chalk and laminates of loamy material. A number of possible stabilisation deposits were also observed. The ditch sections would infer that the associated bank was located on the exterior of the enclosure.
- 4.4.15 The function and date of the enclosure are unclear, though the north-eastern opening would have provided a sightline to the sunrise on the mid-summer solstice, and may indicate a ritual or religious aspect to the enclosure, sitting as it does within an extensive funerary landscape. One possible function of the enclosure may have been as the location of the cremation pyre from which urned cremations **5078** and **5362**, and un-urned cremation within **5332** were made.

4.5 Middle – Late Bronze Age activity

Ditch 5233

- 4.5.1 The evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2009) and excavation (Wessex Archaeology 2012 & Andrews in prep.) identified a sinuous ditch (**5233**) tentatively dated to the Middle Bronze Age, which extended across the entire Site for some 450m (**Figures 1 & 2**). The sections of ditch were recorded as **5230**, **5231**, **5232**, **5233** and **5235**. Although aligned approximately east to west in the south-west corner of the Site, the earlier surveys had confirmed the ditch headed in a north-eastwardly direction in the eastern half of the Site. The ditch showed two entrances, 270m apart along its length, with one entrance facing south and the other to the south-east. At the south-east entrance, grave **5003** contained the remains of a possible adult male aged 40–50 years sealed beneath tightly packed flint nodules, and was radiocarbon dated to 1500-1320 cal BC. This grave, potentially marking the entrance to the enclosure perhaps provides a supporting date for the ditches.

Field Systems

- 4.5.2 A north–south aligned ditch **5232 (Figures 1, 2 & 5)** was observed extending northwards from the southern limit of ditch **5233**, and bisected segmented ring-ditch **5225** and 'C' shaped enclosure **5545**. This ditch had previously been investigated in five hand excavated slots (in Trenches 20, 25 and 26 and **5093** and **5155**) and was further exposed in this programme of works and investigated through a further five slots (**5343**, **5506**, **5259**, **5301** and **5499**). Ditch **5232** was recorded for over 80m before terminating in the northern part of the excavation area.

4.5.3 At the south-western limit of the Site, north–south aligned ditch **5547** was observed and ran parallel to **5232**, partially enclosing a parcel of land with east to west aligned ditch **5548** some 130m north of **5230**. These field ditches fit within an extensive and complex network of ditch systems recorded on Porton Down associated with pastoral agriculture, and which in the Later Bronze Age would lead to a greater emphasis on animal husbandry and stock control.

Watering hole/dew pond 5319

4.5.4 Located at the junction of ditches **5232** and **5233** was possible dew pond or livestock watering hole **5319**, recorded as 4.65m long by 3.50m wide and 0.60m deep with a sloping stepped profile and a flat base. It is possible this feature was initially excavated as a quarry for flint extraction as it cuts through a band of flint nodules within the chalk. The hollow had a single posthole **5331** (0.28m in diameter and 0.25m deep) located towards the south-western edge, which potentially held an upright tethering post for animals. (**Figures 2 & 5, Plate 9**)

4.5.5 The earliest fill within feature **5319** comprised a 0.03m thick fine chalky silt **5318**, the result of water washing in chalk dust from the feature edges. It was noted that following the excavation of the feature it was allowed to stand open for a time which resulted in the accumulation of a similar thin fine particle silt layer following rain. It would appear that the silt layer acted in a similar manner to a clay lining and prevented water which collected at the base from draining away.

4.5.6 Following the abandonment of the watering hole it was backfilled over time with material perhaps derived from the original excavation washing in. Four infilling deposits were recorded: (**5317/5361, 5293/5360, 5292/5359** and **5291/5358**) which contained numerous struck flints and primary waste flakes indicative of the initial preparation of flint nodules. The feature itself had cut through a band of flint nodules within the chalk and therefore it is likely the flint originated locally, though not necessarily from this feature.

Gully 5546

4.5.7 The addition of curving gully **5546** on the south-eastern terminus of ‘C’ shaped enclosure **5545** potentially saw the alteration of the feature from its initial purpose to perhaps an animal stockade. Access into the enclosure was reduced to six metres, which though still wide, could have been fenced to control access into the enclosure (**Figure 2**).

Wessex Linear 5234

4.5.8 Ditch **5234** was revealed in the geophysical survey (Archaeological Solutions 2008), the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2009) and the excavation (Wessex Archaeology 2012), and extended for some 400m west–north–west to east–south–east across the Site and has been interpreted as a ‘Wessex Linear’; a Late Bronze Age monumental earthwork. No further slots were excavated through the feature through it could be seen to clearly turn to the south-west towards at the western limit of the Site (**Figure 1, Plates 14 & 15**).



4.6 Undated features

- 4.6.1 Six undated features were observed within this programme of works which are all of a likely pre-modern date. Large sub-circular pit **5382**, recorded as 2.45m long by 2.9m wide and 1.26m deep, with steep stepped sides and a flat base was observed 2.5m north-east of the segmented ring-ditch **5225**. It potentially functioned as a quarry for the extraction of flint. The pit was subsequently in-filled with multiple deposits, alternating between redeposited chalk, derived from the feature edges, and perhaps any initially excavated material and loose loamy material indicative of topsoil.
- 4.6.2 Positioned 5m to the south of **5382**, and immediately adjacent to **5225** was small feature **5335**. Recorded as 0.50m in diameter and just 0.15m deep, the function of this undated feature remains unclear, but could be a possible small pit, large posthole or possible satellite 'cenotaph' grave.
- 4.6.3 Located 35m south-west of **5225** was a 1.5m long by 1.14m wide and 0.31m deep sub-circular pit **5515**. No dating was recovered from the single fill (**5516**) and the function of the feature is unknown.
- 4.6.4 Three isolated postholes were observed. Posthole **5364** was positioned within the interior of **5225** adjacent to segment **5544**, posthole **5305** was revealed in slot **5301** into north-south ditch **5232**, though the stratigraphic relationship between the two is unclear, and at the northern terminus of **5232** posthole **5356** was recorded. Two further postholes (**5196** and **5198**) were observed 17m south of **5356** in a previous phase of works.

4.7 Post-medieval features

- 4.7.1 Two pits, **5435** and **5422** were revealed in the north-western part of the Site and had been used for the disposal of butchered cattle remains. A single sherd of pottery identified as Verwood-type earthenware was recovered from **5435**.

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The recovered finds included pottery, worked flint, animal bone and human bone. A brief assessment is included below.

5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 The primary dating evidence for the Site has been provided by the pottery. The assemblage includes two partially complete vessels of Early Bronze Age date. The remainder of the assemblage consists of sherds of early prehistoric, late prehistoric, Romano-British and Post-medieval date. The size and condition of these sherds is generally small and abraded; the distribution across the Site was at an extremely low level and, consequently, the use of the pottery to date various features and deposits must be treated with caution as they cannot necessarily be regarded as representing *in situ* deposits.



Early Bronze Age

- 5.2.2 The remains of a Beaker (45 sherds) were found in ditch segment **5229**. Parts of the rim and body are represented; the vessel carries simple linear twisted cord decoration. A small sherd from another Beaker came from topsoil in the watching brief area.
- 5.2.3 Grave **5362** contained the rim of a Collared Urn which had been inverted; the rest of the vessel had subsequently been truncated and only the collar and part of the neck survived. The vessel is tripartite, and carries an incised chevron pattern on the collar and neck.
- 5.2.4 All of the Beaker and Collared Urn ceramics occurred in grog-tempered fabrics, with a varying degree of coarseness.

Late Prehistoric

- 5.2.5 A single sherd from gully **5546** is in profusely flint-tempered but relatively well sorted fabric characteristic of the Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition of the Middle Bronze Age. A further featureless grog-tempered sherd from ditch **5259** may be of a similar date
- 5.2.6 Three groups of sherds are in finer and better sorted flint-tempered fabrics that typify the Globular Urn tradition. One group of nine sherds (from waterhole/dew pond **5319**) were entirely featureless and very abraded; two other groups (from ditches **5301** and **5506**) have small bosses or lugs on the shoulder angle.
- 5.2.7 Eight sandy sherds amounting to little more than crumbs (one a simple plain upright rim) from topsoil in the watching brief area and another small sherd with fossil shell inclusions from ditch **5232** are probably Late Bronze Age.
- 5.2.8 A rounded rim from ditch **5301** is not particularly chronologically distinctive, but is probably later prehistoric, and has been tentatively dated as Iron Age.

Romano-British

- 5.2.9 The remaining sherds are Romano-British. They comprise one sherd of New Forest colour coated ware, and nine of coarse greywares of unknown source(s).

Post-medieval

- 5.2.10 Two sherds of Verwood-type earthenware were recovered from pit **5435** and gully **5546**.

5.3 Worked Flint

- 5.3.1 A total of 756 pieces of worked flint were recovered, (see **Appendix 1:Table 2**). Generally the flint is dark grey with a pale brown cortex. The source of the material is doubtless local: obtained from the upper chalk during the digging of pits and ditches or during cultivation. Condition varies, but most pieces are heavily patinated, reflecting the situation on the Chalk. Most of the pieces are in good condition, with no evidence of extensive redeposition.



5.3.2 Although predominantly debitage, the technological characteristics of the assemblage suggest that it falls into two groups: one dating to the Early Bronze Age and the other to the Middle Bronze Age. In the former, flakes are predominantly large and broad, struck with hard hammers from multi-platformed cores showing a minimum of maintenance. In the latter, flakes are predominantly cortical, with a high proportion of cortical butts. Cores where present are irregular. Neither cores nor butts have any signs of maintenance.

5.3.3 The retouched tools conform to this chronological assessment, being mainly end or end-and-side scrapers on thin flakes with a flattened oval plan, typical of Early Bronze Age assemblages. The edge-flaked knife is also typical of this date.

5.4 Animal Bone

5.4.1 A total of 254 fragments (or 1.393 kg) of animal bone were recovered from the Site, but once conjoins are taken into account this figure falls to just 100 fragments. When added to the assemblage from the 2011 excavation (Wessex Archaeology 2012), this brings the total to 398 fragments (or 2.391 kg) of animal bone.

5.4.2 Bone was recovered from Early Bronze Age segmented ring-ditch **5225** and penannular enclosure **5545**, as well as from the various ditches that make up the Middle/Late Bronze Age field system, a waterhole and a small number of undated pits and tree throw holes.

5.4.3 Twenty-nine fragments of animal bone were recovered from Early Bronze Age contexts. Cattle bones are common amongst the small number of identified fragments, and most are from the foot and ankle. Other identified cattle bones include fragments of horn core and post-cranial bones from both the fore- and hindquarters.

5.4.4 Other identified species in the Early Bronze Age assemblage include pig, dog, and both red and roe deer. Of note is a complete red deer antler tine (**ON 218**) from the segmented barrow ditch that shows signs of use wear around the tip. Digging tools such as picks and rakes, crudely fashioned from red deer antlers are reasonably common finds from prehistoric monuments such as this since, once worn or broken they were usually discarded or placed back into the excavated feature.

5.4.5 The Middle/Late Bronze Age assemblage comprises 23 fragments, over half of which can be identified to species. Again cattle bones from the foot and ankle area of the carcase are common. The other identified bones belong to sheep/goat, pig and dog. One of the large-mammal long bone fragments recovered from waterhole **5319** appears to be an off-cut from bone object manufacture.

5.4.6 Cattle bones were common in the animal bone recovered from undated pits and tree throw holes. A few of these features appear to be prehistoric or modern in date. For example, pit **5382** contained a red deer first phalanx, while tree throw holes **5351** and **5458** both contained fragments of aurochs bone including a horn core and proximal radius, all of which suggest a prehistoric date. Tree throw hole

5432 on the other hand contained a group of cattle post-cranial bones (**ABG 222**), all of which are from a large improved breed. Furthermore the butchery of these joints had been carried out with a saw, an implement only used in modern butchery.

5.4.7 The assemblages from both phases of excavation at the Site should be considered as a whole and the analysis results included in any future publication.

5.5 Human Bone

Introduction

5.5.1 Cremated and unburnt human bone from three contexts was subject to assessment. The remains comprised part of a group of Beaker/Early Bronze Age mortuary deposits set within the c.15m diameter area described by the segmented ditch (**5225**) subject to analysis in 2013 (Egging Dinwiddy in prep.; McKinley in prep. a). The two main deposits were recovered from features (**5362** and **5332**) located c. 2.5m apart within the south-eastern quadrant of the enclosed area. A fragment of redeposited unburnt bone was also recovered from the south-western segment of the ditch (**5226**). Cremation grave **5362** (**Plate 6**) lay approximately 2.70m south of cremation grave **5078** excavated in the earlier investigations, both burials having been made in inverted Collared Urns (**Figure 2**).

Methods

5.5.2 The fill of the burial urn was excavated by the writer in a series of four quadranted spits, each of 20mm depth, to enable the burial formation process to be ascertained. A detailed written and photographic record was made at each spit level. The recovered samples were processed via wet-sieving to 1mm sieve fraction; the sorted >5mm residue from each sub-context was subject to a rapid scan and the smaller fraction residues were retained for scanning in analysis.

5.5.3 All the bone was subject to a rapid scan to assess the condition of the bone, demographic data, potential for indices recovery and the presence of pathological lesions. Assessments of age and sex were based on standard methodologies (Beek 1983; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000).

Results

5.5.4 Although the remains of the urned burial (**5369**; Collared Urn **Object 221/5407**) had been disturbed, removing all except the lower 0.10m depth of the vessel, no cremated bone was evident at surface level and it is unlikely that much, if any, bone will have been lost due to disturbance. Pit **5332** had survived to a relatively substantial depth (0.15m) and no bone was evident at surface level, though the excavator believed there had been some disturbance of the fill due to bioturbation. The bone from both features is in good visual condition. In contrast, the redeposited bone from the ditch segment is abraded with some longitudinal splitting suggestive of several episodes of disturbance, probably inclusive of a limited period of surface exposure.

5.5.5 A minimum of four individuals are represented. The urned cremation burial comprised the remains (10.2g bone) of a young infant, c. 1–2 years of age. Pit



5332 held the remains of an unburnt neonate (c. 49% skeletal recovery, all skeletal areas represented) and 198g of well oxidised cremated bone comprising the remains of a young/mature adult (c. 18-35 yr.). The fragment of unburnt bone from the ditch fill may derive from one of the individuals previously identified within grave **5100**, the third in a sequence of four graves situated at the centre of the monument (the older adult female 5130c). This brings the total number of individuals from this mortuary group to 12, including eight of less than 2 years of age at death.

- 5.5.6 The formation process of the urned cremation burial was deduced, and intriguingly, matches that of its neighbour in grave **5078**, in both cases the bone having apparently been placed in a bag before being put into the vessel. The full nature and formation process of the deposits within pit **5332** is currently ambiguous. The excavator believed the bone had all been disturbed and redeposited throughout the fill, but the distribution may have been more discrete. It is interesting to note that the only other cremated adult bone from the Site was in the form of a 'token' deposit in spit five of cremation burial **5078**; the bone in both deposits could have derived from the same individual. The recovery of a fragment of unburnt bone from the ditch which may have originated from one of the central graves offers intriguing possibilities for the formation processes and manipulation of human remains within this area of the monument.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A total of nine samples were taken from a range of features of Early Bronze Age, Middle/Late Bronze Age and unknown date and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains, wood charcoal and cremated bone. One sample, from Early Bronze 'C' shaped enclosure ditch **5545** (cut **5437**) was sub-sampled and processed specifically for the recovery of land snails.

6.2 Charred Plant Remains

- 6.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Appendix 1:Table 2**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals.
- 6.2.2 The flots varied in size and there were low to moderately high numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.



- 6.2.3 A moderately large quantity of false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum*) tubers and crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*) type fruit and pip fragments were recorded in the assemblage from Early Bronze Age cremation related deposit **5532**. No charred plant remains were recovered in the samples from the 'C' shaped enclosure ditch **5545**.
- 6.2.4 The very small charred plant assemblages observed in the samples from Middle/Late Bronze Age waterhole/dew pond included a grain fragment of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and a seed of ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*).
- 6.2.5 A few seeds of vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) were noted in the sample from undated posthole **5457**. There is no indication of the date of pit **5335** or posthole **5457** from the charred assemblages.
- 6.2.6 The small numbers of weed seeds are of species typically found in grassland, field margins or arable environments. The Early Bronze Age cremation related deposit assemblage is of more interest. False oat-grass in particular has an association with cremation related deposits (Godwin 1984). Crab apple fragments have been recovered from Neolithic deposits and it is thought that they are generally an indication of the exploitation of the wild food resource (Moffett *et al* 1980; Robinson 2000). In some instances however, such as at Hengistbury Head (Wessex Archaeology 2002), whole fruits have been recovered from cremation related deposits and it is believed that in these cases they could have been votive offerings.
- 6.2.7 **Wood Charcoal**
- 6.2.8 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Appendix 1:Table 3**. Moderately large quantities of wood charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were recovered from the 'C' shaped enclosure ditch **5545** (cut **5437**).
- 6.2.9 **Land Snails**
- 6.2.10 A sample of 1500g from 'C' shaped enclosure ditch **5545** (cut **5437**) was processed by standard methods (Evans 1972) for land snails. The flot (0.5mm) were rapidly assessed by scanning under a x 10 – 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 quantified (**Appendix 1:Table 3**). Nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008). In addition the range of species present in the nine bulk samples were also recorded in **Appendix 1:Table 4**. The presence of these shells may aid in broadly characterising the nature of the wider landscape.
- 6.2.11 The sample from Early Bronze Age 'C' shaped enclosure ditch **5545** (cut **5437**) contained a moderately high number of shells. The land snail assemblage was dominated by the open country species, in particular *Valloniacostata*, *Vallonia excentrica*, *Pupillamuscorum* and *Helicella italica*. The presence of the rarity



Truncatellinacylindrica, an obligatory *xerophile* which favours short dry grassland is noteworthy. This species also occurred in small quantities from deposits of Neolithic and Bronze Age date on other sites in the area such as the site at Land South of Amesbury (Wyles in prep.), Durrington Walls (Evans 1971), Figheldean (Allen and Wyles 1993), Woodhenge (Evans and Jones 1979), Dunch Hill, Tidworth (Allen 2006) and King Barrow Ridge (Allen and Wyles 1994). The assemblage may be indicative of an established open downland landscape, with grazed grassland and some areas of longer grass in the vicinity of this enclosure.

- 6.2.12 The assemblages observed in the bulk samples from Early Bronze Age features may also be indicative of this kind of local environment.
- 6.2.13 There is a greater presence and range of shade-loving species in the assemblages from Middle/Late Bronze Age waterhole/ dew pond **5319**, although the open country species, including *Truncatellinacylindracea*, are still present. These assemblages may be indicative of an open downland landscape, again with grazed grassland and a patch of scrub, with longer grass in the vicinity of the waterhole/dew pond.
- 6.2.14 The assemblages from the undated pit **5335** and posthole **5457** are dominated by the open country species, although no shells of *Truncatellinacylindracea* were observed. Again these assemblages are indicative on an established open downland landscape.

7 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

7.1 Archaeological Deposits

Introduction

- 7.1.1 The 2011 excavation publication report (Andrews in prep.) has been prepared in accordance with the publication proposals stated in the earlier assessment report (Wessex Archaeology 2012) and the results of the current work will be incorporated into that publication following the proposals stated below.
- 7.1.2 The excavation and watching brief revealed a moderate number of features which were able to enhance the results of the previous archaeological investigations and confirm that two major phases of activity had taken place, and comprised Early Bronze Age funerary activity followed by Middle–Late Bronze Age pastoral agriculture.
- 7.1.3 This programme of works achieved the basic aims stated in the two WSIs (Wessex Archaeology 2014a & b) in that it has defined the nature, extent, character and chronology of the prehistoric activity within the areas of excavation and watching brief, and has shown that the layout and density of the features closely matches the results from the geophysical survey.
- 7.1.4 The Site can be examined against the known heritage resource for the immediate area, and also has the potential to contribute to broader regional research agendas that have been identified in the South West Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF, Webster 2008). Specifically, the chronology of burial in the

Early Bronze Age, and the placement and grouping of barrows, along with the process of formal land division in the Middle - Late Bronze Age can be further examined.

Early Bronze Age

- 7.1.5 The Early Bronze Age saw changes to mortuary practices, with both cremation and inhumation taking place, variously associated with a new and diverse range of pottery including late Beakers, Food Vessels and Collared Urns. Both mortuary rites and all of these types of pottery vessel are represented in the one burial group at Porton as revealed from the 2011 work (Wessex Archaeology 2012 18). The two further graves identified within segmented ring-ditch **5225**, containing the remains of the urned cremation burial (grave **5362**) and neonate/infant inhumation burial sealed by the adult cremated remains in (grave **5332**), conform to rites previously identified within the mortuary group.
- 7.1.6 The fully exposed segmented ring-ditch **5225** contained a red deer antler implement in the base of one of the segments (**5541**) which could provide a date through radiocarbon dating to identify how the monument fits within the burial group. Beaker pottery dating to the Early Bronze Age was deliberately placed within the partially in-filled ditch **5229**.

Middle to Late Bronze Age

- 7.1.7 The Middle to Late Bronze Age saw a change in landscape use, with the emphasis at the Site moving away from funerary activity, to the division of land and creation of fields related to pastoral agriculture and, in particular cattle rearing. The identification of further ditches during this programme of work augments our understanding of the wider pattern of complex ditch systems on Porton Down and the surrounding area, though the precise dates of these systems are uncertain (Ride 2006, 92-4). Suggested ranges span various periods between c. 1500 – c. 600BC and it seems likely that the earliest of these systems was in place by the beginning of the first millennium BC (Ride 2006, 99-101. See also Bradley et al. 1994; McCormick et al. 2002).
- 7.1.8 Associated with the field system was possible flint extraction pit **5382** and watering hole **5319** as well as the alteration of a possible ritual enclosure to a more practical enclosure with the addition of **5546** to **5545**.

7.2 Finds

- 7.2.1 The Beaker and Collared Urn from the grave and barrow ditch have the potential to elaborate on the sequence of inhumation and cremation burials seen in previous phases of work at the Site. Further analysis of the ceramics will help to establish their closest affinities and, combined with radiocarbon dating, may enable refinement of this sequence.
- 7.2.2 Finds from other features, comprising small quantities of pottery has limited further potential. The pottery has provided dating evidence, although the limitations of this have been discussed.



Human Bone

- 7.2.3 The human remains from features **5332** and **5369** complete the mortuary deposits recovered from the confines of the segmented ring-ditch **5225** and will be assimilated within the previously prepared report. The burial group is intriguing, and has similarities with its contemporaneous near neighbour at Amesbury Down both in terms of preferred mortuary rite and the high proportion of immature individuals (particularly infants) (McKinley in prep. (a) & (b)).

7.3 Environmental

Charred plant remains

- 7.3.1 The analysis of the charred plant assemblages has little potential to provide detailed information on the range of species and the nature of local activities.

Wood charcoal

- 7.3.2 The analysis of the wood charcoal from 'C' shaped enclosure ditch **5545** (cut **5437**) has the potential to provide some limited information on the species composition, management and exploitation of the local woodland resource on the Site during the Early Bronze Age period.

Land snails

- 7.3.3 Analysis of the mollusc assemblages has little potential to provide detailed information on the nature of the local landscape.

8 PROPOSALS

- 8.1.1 Draft publication text has already been prepared (Andrews in prep.) for inclusion in the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine, and it is proposed that the results of this phase of works be incorporated into that existing document.

8.2 Archaeological Deposits

- 8.2.1 The known archaeology of the area will be re-examined by reviewing published reports and available grey literature. This will contribute towards the discussion of the Site within its wider landscape and its relationship to nearby sites, in particular other Early Bronze Age burial monuments and later Bronze Age land divisions.
- 8.2.2 Once the further post-excavation and stratigraphic analysis and radiocarbon dating is completed, revisions will be made as required to the phasing and the draft publication text amended accordingly, integrating the key results of the proposed specialist work. Illustrations (comprising figures and plates) will be prepared to accompany the report. The results will be discussed in their local and regional context.
- 8.2.3 For the earlier Bronze Age, the focus will be on clarifying the precise sequence of interments within the burial group. This will then be related to the overall span of development and use of the monument and understanding how the nature of this use may have changed over time, possibly several centuries.



8.2.4 For the later Bronze Age, the focus will be on clarifying the sequence of land boundaries and placing these within the wider pattern of land division known from Porton Down and the wider landscape.

8.3 Artefacts

Pottery

8.3.1 The early prehistoric pottery will be analysed following the standard Wessex Archaeology recording system for pottery (Morris 1994), which concurs with nationally recommended guidelines (PCRG 2010), and which is based on the definition of fabrics and forms. The pottery will be described and discussed in relation to ceramic tradition, with any chronological implications (including information from radiocarbon dating). The Beaker and Collared Urn will be illustrated.

Human Bone

8.3.2 Analysis of the cremated bone will follow the writer's standard procedure (McKinley 1994, 5-6; 2004). All unsorted <4mm residues will be subject to a rapid scan at this stage to extract any identifiable material, osseous or artefactual.

8.3.3 Taphonomic factors potentially affecting differential bone preservation will be assessed. The age and sex of individuals will be assessed using standard methodologies (Bass 1987; Brothwell 1972; Beek 1983; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). Pathological lesions are recorded in text and via digital photography.

8.3.4 The formation processes of the deposits will be analysed in association with the site context records and previous findings.

8.4 Environmental

Charred plant remains

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

Wood charcoal

8.4.2 It is proposed to analyse the wood charcoal from Early Bronze Age 'C' shaped enclosure ditch **5545** (cut **5437**).

8.4.3 Identifiable charcoal will be extracted from the 2mm residue together and the flot (>2mm). Larger richer samples will be sub-sampled. Fragments will be prepared for identification according to the standard methodology of Leney and Casteel (1975, see also Gale and Cutler 2000). Charcoal pieces will be fractured with a razor blade so that three planes can be seen: transverse section (TS), radial longitudinal section (RL) and tangential longitudinal section (TL). They will then be examined under bi-focal epi-illuminated microscopy at magnifications of x50, x100 and x400 using a Kyowa ME-LUX2 microscope. Identification will be undertaken according to the anatomical characteristics described by Schweingruber (1990) and Butterfield and Meylan (1980). Identification will be to the lowest taxonomic level possible, usually that of genus and nomenclature according to Stace (1997),



individual taxon (mature and twig) will be separated, quantified, and the results tabulated.

- 8.4.4 The samples proposed for charcoal analysis are indicated with a “C” in the analysis column in **Appendix 1:Table 3**.

Land snails

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

8.5 Radiocarbon Dating

- 8.5.1 The antler implement **Object 21**, located on the base of the segmented ring-ditch, could provide a possible initial excavation date for the ditch, potentially clarifying the position of the surrounding ditch within the complicated burial sequence of the monument.

- 8.5.2 At some future stage, given the inevitable advancements in the technique, it is recommended that bone samples from the two individuals from pit **5332** be submitted for radiocarbon dating. This will enable the temporal link between them to be established, facilitating a better understanding of this unusual, though not unique (e.g. Amesbury Down; McKinley in prep (b)), mortuary deposit. Currently, the quantities of material required would result in an unacceptable level of destruction given the small amount of material available for analysis.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Wiltshire Museum, Devizes. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

- 9.1.2 Details of the Site will also be submitted online to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) database.

9.2 Preparation of Archive

- 9.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data from the evaluation and both phases of excavation will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Wiltshire Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

- 9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site code (**72830, 72832, 72833**), and a full index will be prepared. The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology. It is recommended that it is deposited with the Wiltshire Museum, Devizes at a future date. The physical archive of the three phases of work comprises the following:



- 19 Context Register Sheets
- 400 Context Sheets
- 2 Continuation Sheets
- 7 Graphic Register Sheets
- 60 A4 Drawings
- 58 A3 Drawings
- 7 A1 Drawings
- 20 Survey Sheets
- 24 Digital Photographic Records
- 14 Manual Photographic Records
- 652 Digital Photographs
- 204 Colour Transparencies and 204 B&W Prints
- 4+ Pages Photocopies of day book
- 11 Object Registers (217 objects, mainly human bone)
- 18 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts & ecofacts, ordered by material type

9.3 Discard policy

- 9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 9.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993, SMA 1995 & English Heritage 2002).

9.4 Copyright

- 9.4.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms with the *Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003*.
- 9.4.2 This report, and the archive generally, may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report

9.5 Security Copy

- 9.5.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format



(PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



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APPENDIX 1: RING-DITCH 5225, FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL TABLES

Table 1: Ring-ditch 5225, Component groups, cuts and deposits.

Interpretive Group	Component Groups	Component Cuts	Component Fill	Length	Width	Depth	
5225	5226	5320	5321, 5322, 5323, 5324	5.32m	1.48m	0.50m	
		5325	5329, 5326, 5327, 5328				
		5024	5025, 5026, 5027, 5028				
		5029	5030, 5031, 5032, 5033				
	5227	5227	5070	5071, 5072, 5073, 5074	5.22m	1.48m	0.60m
			5101	5102, 5103, 5115			
			5111	5112, 5113, 5114			
			5119	5120, 5121, 5122			
	5228	5228	5131	5132, 5133, 5134	5.20m	1.50m	0.64m
			5135	5136, 5137, 5138			
			5139	5140, 5141, 5142			
	5229	5229	5314	5315, 5316	4.54m	1.50m	0.73m
			5410	5411, 5412, 5413, 5414			
			5143	5144			
			5146	5147, 5148, 5149			
	5540	5540	5246	5248, 5266, 5267, 5268	5.39m	1.65m	0.66m
			5277	5278, 5279, 5280, 5281			
			5294	5295, 5296, 5297, 5298			
	5541	5541	5243	5276, 5244, 5245	4.53m	1.02m	0.60m
			5256	5257, 5258			
			5272	5273, 5274, 5275			
	5542	5542	5250	5251, 5252	4.49m	0.95m	0.46m
			5269	5270, 5271			
			5253	5254, 5255			
	5543	5543	5263	5283, 5290, 5264, 5265	5.21m	1.09m	0.65m
			5284	5285, 5286, 5287, 5288, 5289			
			5307	5308, 5309, 5310, 5311			
	5544	5544	5338	5339, 5340, 5341, 5342	6.17m	1.26m	0.65
5370			5371, 5372, 5373, 5371				
5346			5375, 5376, 5377, 5378				
5374			5375, 5376, 5377, 5378				



Table 2: The composition of the worked flint assemblage

Flint Types	No.	% of assemblage
<i>Retouched tools:</i>		
Scrapers	3	0.40
Piercers	1	0.13
Edge-flaked knives	1	0.13
<i>Retouched tools sub-total</i>	<i>(5)</i>	<i>(0.66)</i>
<i>Unretouched tools:</i>		
Cobble pounders	1	0.13
<i>Debitage:</i>		
Flakes (incl. broken)	537	71.03
Cores / core fragments	30	3.97
Irregular debitage	21	2.78
Chips	162	21.43
Total	756	100.0%



Table 3: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
Early Bronze Age													
Cremation related deposit													
5332	5334	39	9	50	40	-	-	-	A	<i>Arrhenatherum tubers, Malus type frags, stem frags</i>	1/1 ml	Moll-t (A**)	
Cremation urn obj. 221/540													
5362	5369	47	2.9	35	60	-	-	-	C	<i>Arrhenatherum tubers</i>	0/1 ml	Moll-t (A**)	
'C' shaped enclosure ditch group 5545													
5437	5444	45	3	60	2	-	-	-	-	-	15/15 ml	Moll-t (A*)	C
	5444	45 M	1500g	60	2	-	-	-	-	-	10/15 ml	Moll-t (A*)	C
Middle/Late Bronze Age													
Waterhole/ dew pond													
5319	5291	41	40	80	35	C	-	Barley grain frag	-	-	0/2 ml	Moll-t (A**)	
	5292	42	40	160	15	-	-	-	-	-	1/3 ml	Moll-t (A**)	
	5293	43	40	80	40	-	-	-	C	<i>Plantago</i>	<1/3 ml	Moll-t (A**)	
	5317	44	40	45	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	Moll-t (A**)	
Undated													
Pit													
5335	5337	40	29	100	35	-	-	-	-	-	1/1 ml	Moll-t (A**)	
Posthole													
5457	5456	46	5	40	25	-	-	-	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	5/10 ml	Moll-t (A**)	

Key:A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Analysis: C = charcoal



Table 4: Land Snail Assessment

Site Phase	EBA				M/LBA				Undated	
Group	'C' shaped enclosure									
Group no.	5545									
Feature type	Ditch		Cremation related deposit	Cremation urn	Waterhole/ dew pond				Pit	Posthole
Feature no.	5437		5332	5362	5319				5335	5457
Context no.	5444	5444	5334	5369	5291	5292	5293	5317	5337	5456
Obj.				221/5407						
Sample no.	45 M	45	39	47	41	42	43	44	40	46
Weight (g)/ Volume (l)	1500g	3 l	9 l	2.9 l	40 l	40 l	40 l	40 l	29 l	5 l
Open country species										
<i>Pupillamuscorum</i>	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Vertigo</i> spp.	C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Helicellaitala</i>	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Valloniacostata</i>	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Valloniaexcentrica</i>	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Truncatellinacylindracea</i>	C	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	-	-
Intro. Helicellids	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X
Intermediate species										
<i>Trochulushispidus</i>	C	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Pomatiaselegans</i>	C	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-
<i>Cochlicopa</i> spp.	C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Cepaeaspp</i>	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	-
<i>Punctumpygmaeum</i>	C	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X
Shade-loving species										
<i>Carychium</i>	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	-
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	X	X	-
<i>Aegopinellanitidula</i>	C	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	-
<i>Aegopinellapura</i>	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-
<i>Clausiliabidentata</i>	C	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	-
<i>Cochlodinalaminata</i>	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	-
Approx totals	85	75	100+	100+	100+	100+	100+	100+	100+	100+

Key: A* = 30+, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; X = present



APPENDIX 2: OASIS RECORD FORM

Metfield, Porton Down, Wiltshire - Wessex Archaeology

OASIS ID - wessexar1-193773

Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	Sue Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	29 October 2014

Completed sections in current version

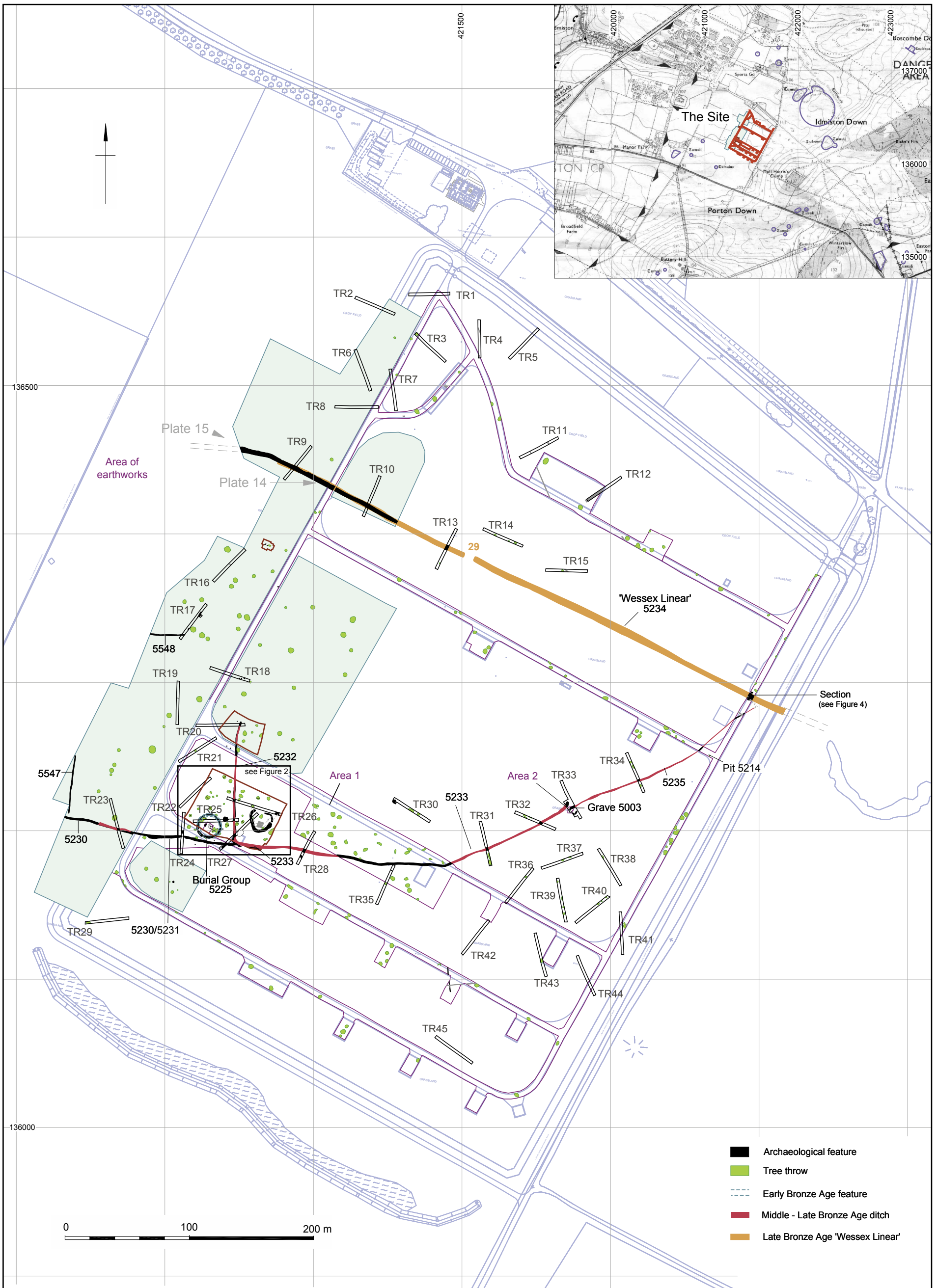
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Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
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File submission and form progress

Grey literature report submitted?	No	Grey literature report filename/s
Images submitted?	No	Image filename/s
Boundary file submitted?	No	Boundary filename
HER signed off?		NMR signed off?



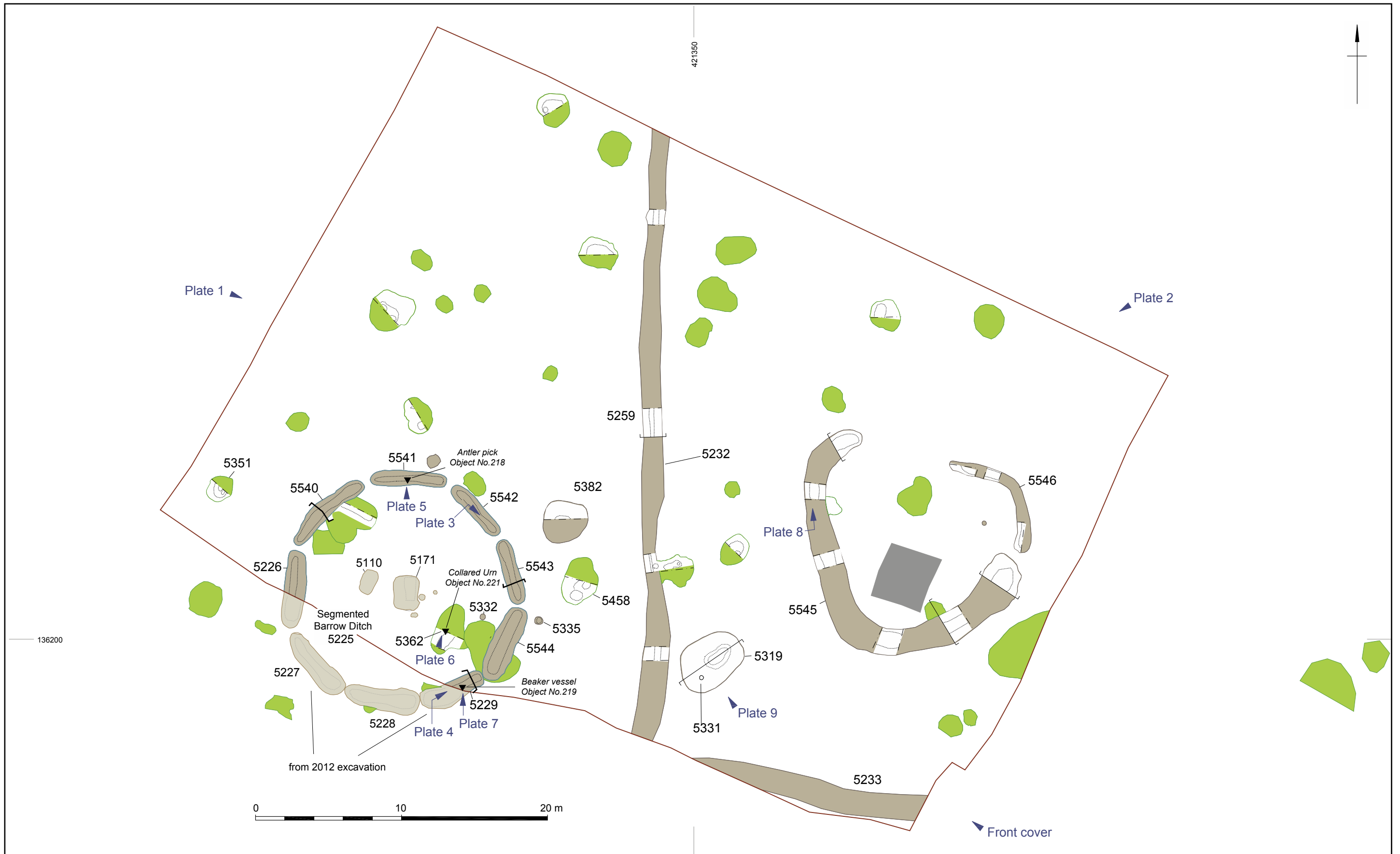
The Site	2014 excavation
Proposed development	2014 watching brief
Scheduled Monument	2011 excavation
Plate number and direction	Previous evaluation trench

Survey data provided by the Client.
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Site location – excavation and watching brief areas

Figure 1



	2014 excavation	Archaeological feature	Modern	Section
	Early Bronze Age feature	Tree throw	Object	Plate number and direction

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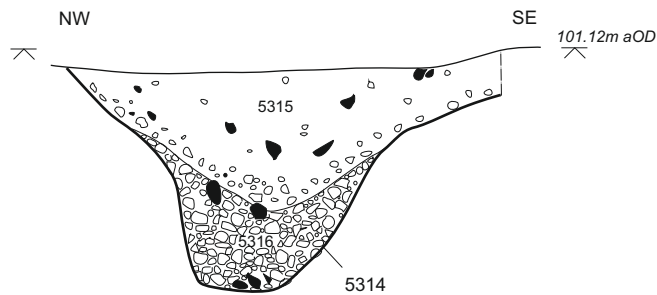
Southern excavation area

Figure 2

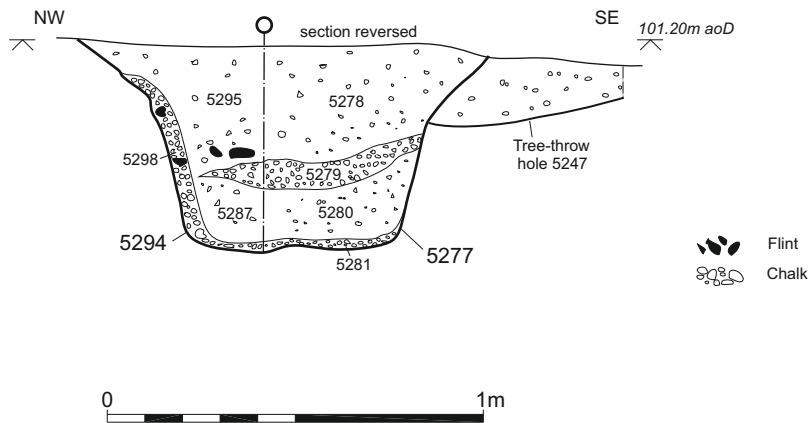
South facing section of segment 5543 (cuts 5263/5284)



South-west facing section of segment 5229 (cut 5314)



South-west facing section of segment 5540 (cuts 5277/5294)



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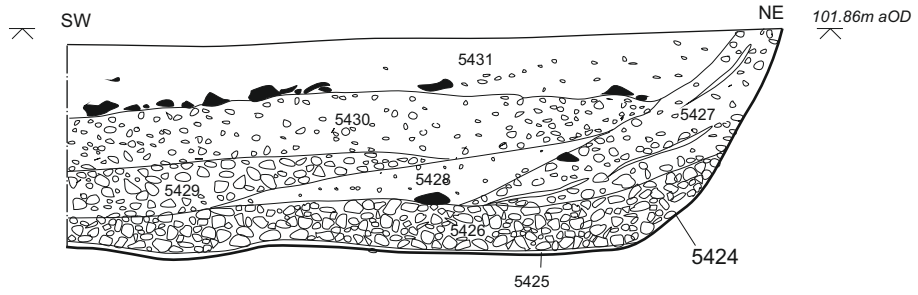
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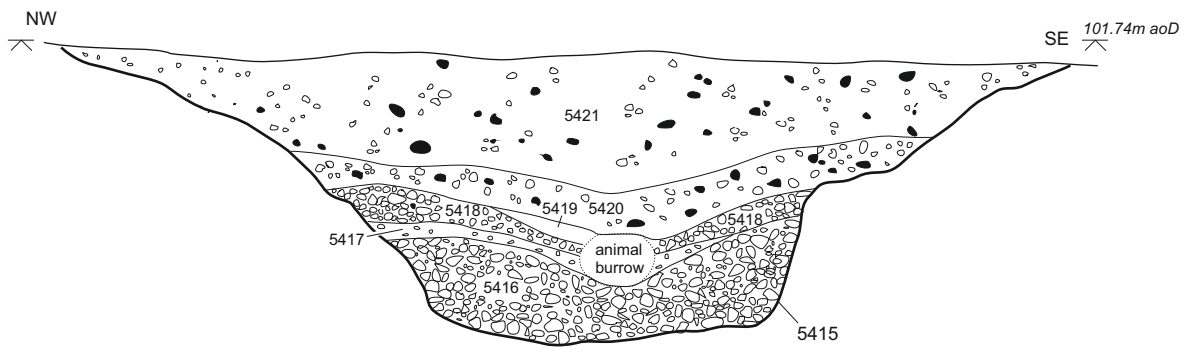
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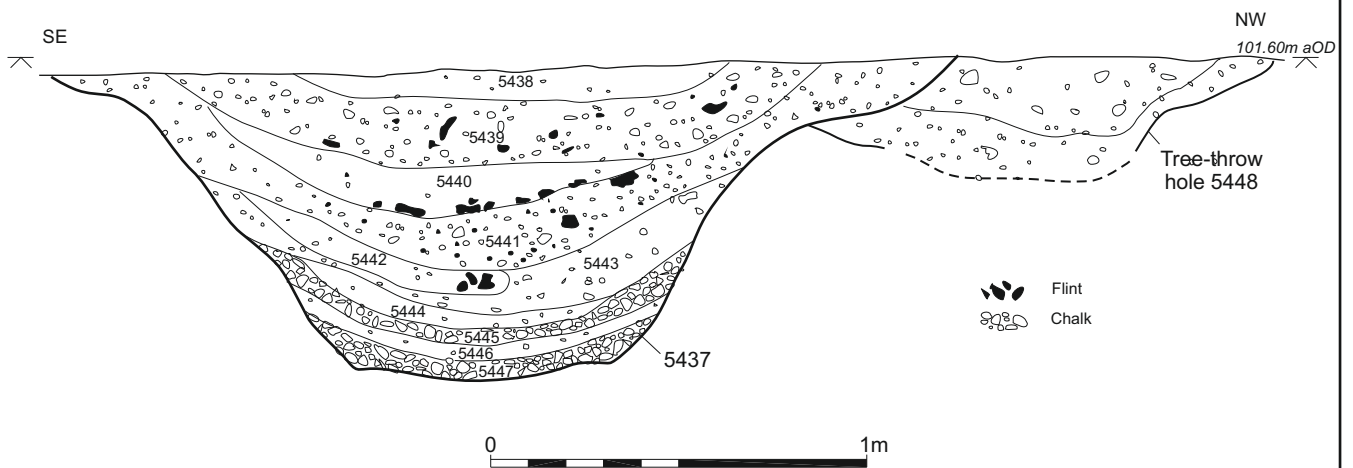
South-eastern facing section of north-western terminus 5424



North-eastern facing section of south-eastern terminus 5415



North-eastern facing section of ditch 5545 (cut 5437) cutting tree-throw 5448



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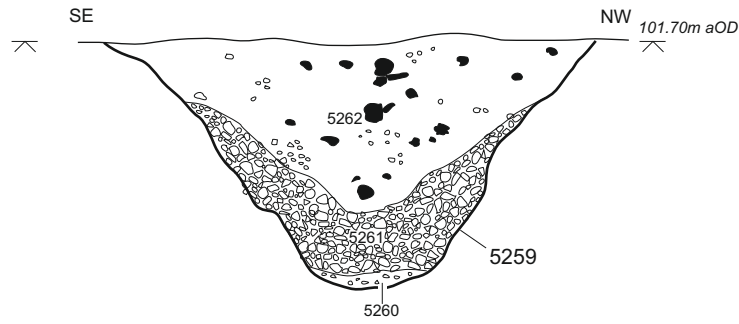
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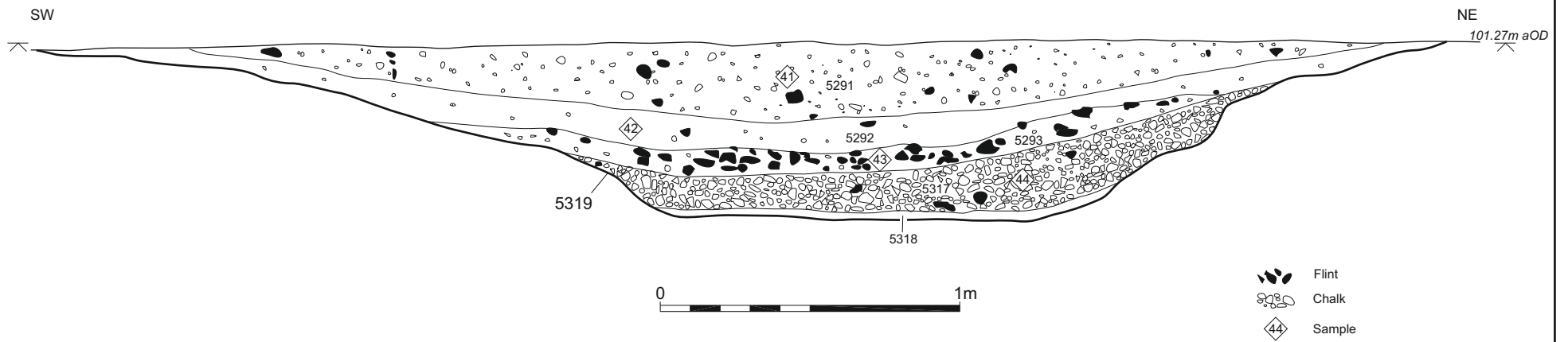
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North-west facing section of ditch 5232 (cut 5259)



South-east facing section of watering hole/dew pond 5319



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Plate 1: Southern Excavation Area from the west



Plate 2: Southern Excavation Area from the north


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Plate 3: West facing section of ring-ditch segment 5542 (cut 5269) (scale 0.5m)



Plate 4: South-west facing section of ring-ditch segment 5229 (cut 5314) (scale 1m)


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Plate 5: Antler implement Object 218 on base of ring-ditch segment 5541 (cut 5256) (scale 0.2m)



Plate 6: Inverted Collared Urn cremation vessel Object 221 in cut 5362 (scale 0.2m)



Plate 7: Smashed Beaker pottery Object 219 in ditch segment 5229 (cut 5314 fill 5316) (scale 0.2m)


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Plate 8: South facing section of 'C' shaped enclosure 5545 (cut 5379) (scale 1m)



Plate 9: South-east facing section of watering hole/dew pond 5319 (scale 2m)


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Plate 10: Working Shot – Matt Kendall excavating tree-throw 5299 cut by ditch 5232 (cut 5301)



Plate 11: Working Shot – Peter Capps and Natalia Hunt recording ring-ditch segments 5541 and 5542

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Plate 12: Working Shot – Natalia Hunt excavating tree throw 5393, into which Collared Urn cremation vessel Object 221 was inserted. Jamie McCarthy recording ring-ditch segment 5544



Plate 13: Working shot – Jamie McCarthy recording ring-ditch segment 5544 and Peter Capps recording Pit 5382


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Plate 14: 'Wessex Linear' 5234 revealed during stripping of Watching Brief Area with box-scrapers. View from the east



Plate 15: 'Wessex Linear' 5234 showing change in course to the south-west. View from the west

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