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# Broad Chalke Cable Trench Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Ref: 106030.03  
October 2014



# **Broad Chalke Cable Trench Wiltshire**

## **Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

**Prepared for:**

Southern Electric Power Distribution  
PO Box 2004  
Poole  
Dorset  
BH12 1YT

**Prepared by:**

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

[www.wessexarch.co.uk](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk)



**October 2014**

**106030.03**



### Quality Assurance

<b>Project Code</b>	106030	<b>Accession Code</b>	n/a	<b>Client Ref.</b>	
<b>Planning Application Ref.</b>	n/a	<b>Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)</b>	403945 125535		

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# Broad Chalke Cable Trench Wiltshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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# **Broad Chalke Cable Trench Wiltshire**

## **Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Southern Electric Power Distribution, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the installation of an electricity cable on land in the centre of the village of Broad Chalke, Wiltshire, running from National Grid Reference (NGR) 403945 125535 to 404050 125571.

The cable lay within an area of known earthworks possibly relating to earlier settlement activity, and as a result the Wiltshire Assistant County Archaeologist had advised an archaeological watching brief was maintained during construction.

Though extant earthwork features were visible within the Site, little further information on their nature and date was gained during the course of this watching brief. A section through one of the features confirmed that the banks were constructed from mixture of redeposited topsoil and disturbed chalk, but no dating evidence or traces of settlement activity were present.

A single undated pit or linear feature was observed within the central part of the cable trench. Due to the narrow confines of the trench the exact form and nature of the feature was unclear, though the loose and humic fill was suggestive of a recent feature.

The watching brief was undertaken between the 16th and the 17th October 2014.



# **Broad Chalke Cable Trench Wiltshire**

## **Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

### **Acknowledgements**

This project was commissioned by Southern Electric Power Distribution and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Nick King and Dragos Sanda in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Clare King, Assistant County Archaeologist, for her help and advice.

The watching brief was undertaken by Pete Fairclough. This report was written and compiled by Pete Fairclough and Naomi Brennan with finds assessment undertaken by Lorraine Mephram and Lorrain Higbee and illustrations by Liz James. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.



# Broad Chalke Cable Trench Wiltshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Southern Electric Power Distribution (the Client), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the installation of an electricity cable on land in the centre of the village of Broad Chalke, Wiltshire (**Figure 1**) running from National Grid Reference (NGR) 403945 125535 to 404050 125571 (hereafter 'the Site').
- 1.1.2 The cable route lies within an area of known earthworks possibly relating to earlier settlement activity.
- 1.1.3 As a result of this archaeological potential, the Wiltshire Assistant County Archaeologist had advised an archaeological watching brief was maintained during construction, to record any archaeological features within the cable trench.
- 1.1.4 The watching brief was undertaken between the 16th and the 17th October 2014.

#### 1.2 Site location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 Broad Chalke lies approximately 10km south-west of Salisbury in the valley of the River Ebble. The village is fragmented, with centres to the north and south of the river. The Site is located to the north of the river in fields located between the two centres. It is bounded by High Road to the north, The Causeway to the west, and agricultural fields to the south and east.
- 1.2.2 The Site is relatively level, lying at an elevation of c. 83m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The British Geological Survey has mapped the underlying geology of the Site as the Zig Zag Chalk Formation. No superficial deposits are recorded.

### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (WHER) has noted 12 records within a 500m radius of the Site. In addition a Conservation Area Appraisal for the village has been completed (SDC 2009), and provides further background on the historic development of the village.

#### 2.2 Archaeological background

- 2.2.1 Across the chalk downland to the north and south of the village there are numerous monuments and sites relating to prehistoric activity including a Neolithic long barrow and Bronze Age barrows. Within the village itself worked flint and a pottery sherd have been recorded during an evaluation undertaken at Bury Orchard to the south of the Site (AC Archaeology 1994).





- 2.2.2 The south-eastern section of the parish boundary follows the line of the Roman road between Old Sarum and Badbury Rings, and a Romano-British burial was discovered in the early 1960s to the immediate west of the Site. A complex of pits and ditches were also noted during the excavations and contained 12th to 18th century pottery.
- 2.2.3 The village is known to have Saxon origins, and a Saxon cemetery containing at least 25 inhumations was discovered in the 1920s at Bury Orchard to the south of the Site. The burials dated from between the fifth and seventh centuries. Settlement earthworks are visible at various locations around the village, and the WHER shows possible earthworks within the Site itself that have not been surveyed.

### 3 AIMS

3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief 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 determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;*
- *to determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains;*
- *to determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present; and*
- *to prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.*

### 4 METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2014), this is summarised below:
- 4.1.2 The fieldwork consisted of the monitoring during the open cut machine excavation for the cable trench. The mechanical excavation was undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket and under constant supervision. Machine excavation proceeded to the required levels or the top of archaeological levels whichever was the higher. The watching brief was maintained throughout initial excavations and was concluded when it was clear that the potential for archaeological remains to be exposed has been exhausted.
- 4.1.3 A record was made of the on-site conditions and progress of groundworks using Wessex Archaeology's *pro-forma* record sheets.
- 4.1.4 A full photographic record was compiled using digital images. The record illustrated both the detail and the general context of the Site as a whole. Digital images have been subject to a managed quality control and curation process that has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure the long term accessibility of the image set.
- 4.1.5 Monitored works were referenced to the OS mapping.
- 4.1.6 A unique code **106030** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.



## 4.2 Health and safety

- 4.2.1 Health and safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices override archaeological considerations at all times.
- 4.2.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974* and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

## 4.3 Best practice

- 4.3.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the *Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008).

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 The route

- 5.1.1 The final cable route measured approximately 110m in length and 0.25m wide, and was located within the northern third of the field. Where possible the route was adjusted to avoid the majority of the earthworks noted on the WHER within the field. Within the western part of the route, evidence of modern disturbance was observed comprising modern plastic, ceramic building material (CBM) and metal within the topsoil **100** (**Figure 1**).

### 5.2 Earthworks

- 5.2.1 Though the final cable route lay at the margins of the field it still traversed a number of extant earthworks, which survived up to 2.0m in height (**Figure 1**; **Plates 1** and **2**). Whilst these may represent building platforms relating to the shrunken village remains at Broad Chalke, there was no indication of any settlement activity, and no artefacts or spreads of archaeological material within the cable trench were noted.
- 5.2.2 A section recorded through one of the earthworks showed that the banks were constructed from a mixture of redeposited topsoil and disturbed chalk (**101**) (**Plate 3**; **Section 1**). No artefactual material was recovered from this deposit.
- 5.2.3 An area of quarrying was noted to the south of the cable trench, and this disturbance is also visible on modern aerial photographs.

### 5.3 Archaeological feature

- 5.3.1 Within the central part of the cable route a feature **104** was observed and recorded (**Section 2**). This possible pit or linear feature contained a single secondary deposit comprising a dark loose and humic fill, with flecks of coal (**103**). Though undated the nature of this deposit suggested that it was a recent feature.

## 6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A small quantity of finds were recovered during the watching brief recovered from the topsoil and unstratified contexts (**100**). Quantities by context are given in **Table 1**. The assemblage includes material of post-medieval and modern date.

### 6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 A single glazed rim sherd from a dish from a Verwood-type earthenware flanged dish was recovered during the watching brief. This is broadly datable to the 17th century or later.



### 6.3 Animal bone

6.3.1 A number of large fragments of animal bone were recovered. These predominately comprised cattle bones including elements of the feet, lower long bones and rib fragments. A single fragment of sheep pelvis and an oyster shell were also recovered.

### 6.4 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

6.4.1 Of the CBM recovered four of the five fragments were identifiable as roof tile fragments. These fragments were not closely datable but are most probably post-medieval or early modern in date.

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

Context	Pottery		Animal bone		Shell		CBM	
100	1	83	11	1100	1	39	5	500

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1.1 Though extant earthwork features were visible within the Site, little further information on their nature and date was gained during the course of this watching brief.

7.1.2 A single undated feature was observed within the central part of the cable trench, **104**. Due to the narrow confines of the trench the exact form and nature of the feature was unclear though the fill was suggestive of a recent feature.

## 6 STORAGE AND CURATION

### 6.1 Museum and archive

6.1.1 While it is recommended that the project archive resulting from the watching brief be deposited with Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum this is currently a closed repository. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

6.1.2 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

6.1.3 Given the small scale of the project, and the small amount of artefactual evidence, it is proposed that following the digital scanning of the records, the physical archive is not retained for long-term curation. The digital records will be submitted to the HER, with a copy retained in the Wessex Archaeology security-copied and backed-up digital archive storage facility, under its designated Wessex Archaeology project code **106030**.

6.1.4 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report.

### 6.2 Discard policy

6.2.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories



which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

## 7.2 Copyright

7.2.1 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*.

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

## 6.3 Security copy

6.3.1 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.

## 7 REFERENCES

### 7.1 Bibliography

AC Archaeology 1994, *Bury Orchard, Broad Chalke*, unpublished client report ref. 1994.035

ADS, 2013, *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice*, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

Brown, D.H., 2011, *Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008, *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*

IfA, 2009, *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, Institute for Archaeologists

Salisbury District Council 2009, *Broad Chalke Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan*

SMA, 1993, *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections*, Society of Museum Archaeologists



SMA, 1995, *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*, Society of Museum Archaeologists



## 8 APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM

**OASIS ID: wessexar1-193880**

### Project details

Project name	Broad Chalke Cable Trench, Wiltshire
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Southern Electric Power Distribution, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the installation of an electricity cable on land in the centre of the village of Broad Chalke, Wiltshire (NGR 403945 125535 to 404050 125571). The cable lay within an area of known earthworks possibly relating to earlier settlement activity, as a result the Wiltshire Assistant County Archaeologist had advised an archaeological watching brief was maintained during construction. Though extant earthwork features were visible within the Site, little further information on their nature and date was gained during the course of this watching brief. A section through one of the features confirmed that the banks were constructed from mixture of re-deposited topsoil and disturbed chalk but no dating evidence or traces of settlement activity were present. A single undated pit or linear feature was observed within the central part of the cable trench. Due to the narrow confines of the trench the exact form and nature of the feature was unclear though the loose and humic fill was suggestive of a recent feature. The watching brief was undertaken between the 16th and the 17th October 2014.</p>
Project dates	Start: 16-10-2014 End: 17-10-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	106030 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 5 - Character undetermined
Monument type	ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURE Uncertain
Significant Finds	ANIMAL REMAINS Uncertain
Significant Finds	TILE Uncertain
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval



Investigation type "Watching Brief"  
Prompt Advice from County Archaeologist

### Project location

Country England  
Site location WILTSHIRE SALISBURY BROAD CHALKE Broad Chalke Cable Trench,  
Wiltshire  
Postcode SP5 5EJ  
Study area 0 Kilometres  
Site coordinates SU 03945 25535 51.0286295782 -1.94373904691 51 01 43 N 001 56 37 W  
Line  
Site coordinates SU 04050 25571 51.0289526039 -1.94224120552 51 01 44 N 001 56 32 W  
Line

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology  
Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body  
Project design originator Wessex Archaeology  
Project director/manager Sue Farr  
Project supervisor Pete Fairclough  
Type of sponsor/funding body Electricity Authority/Company body

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum

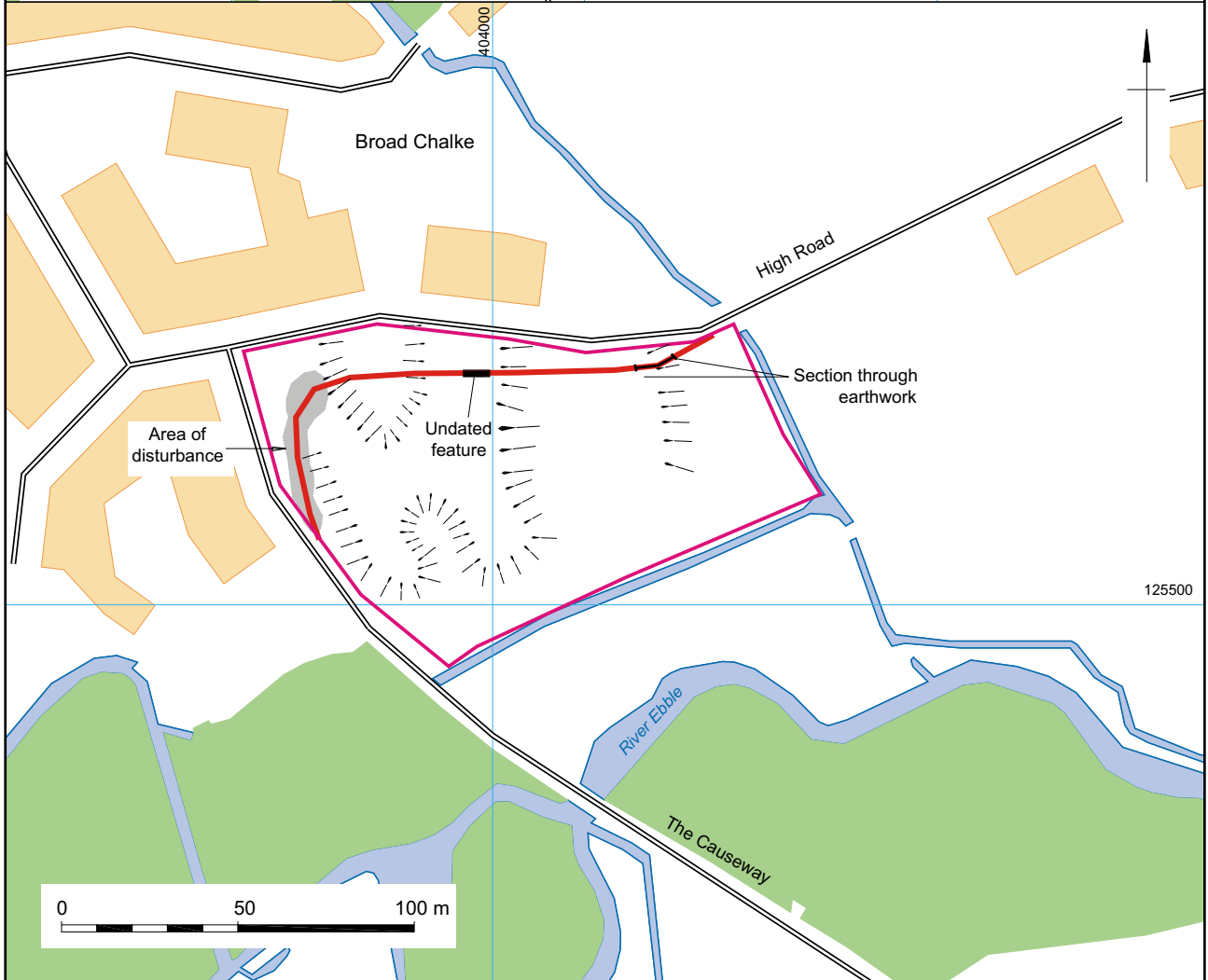
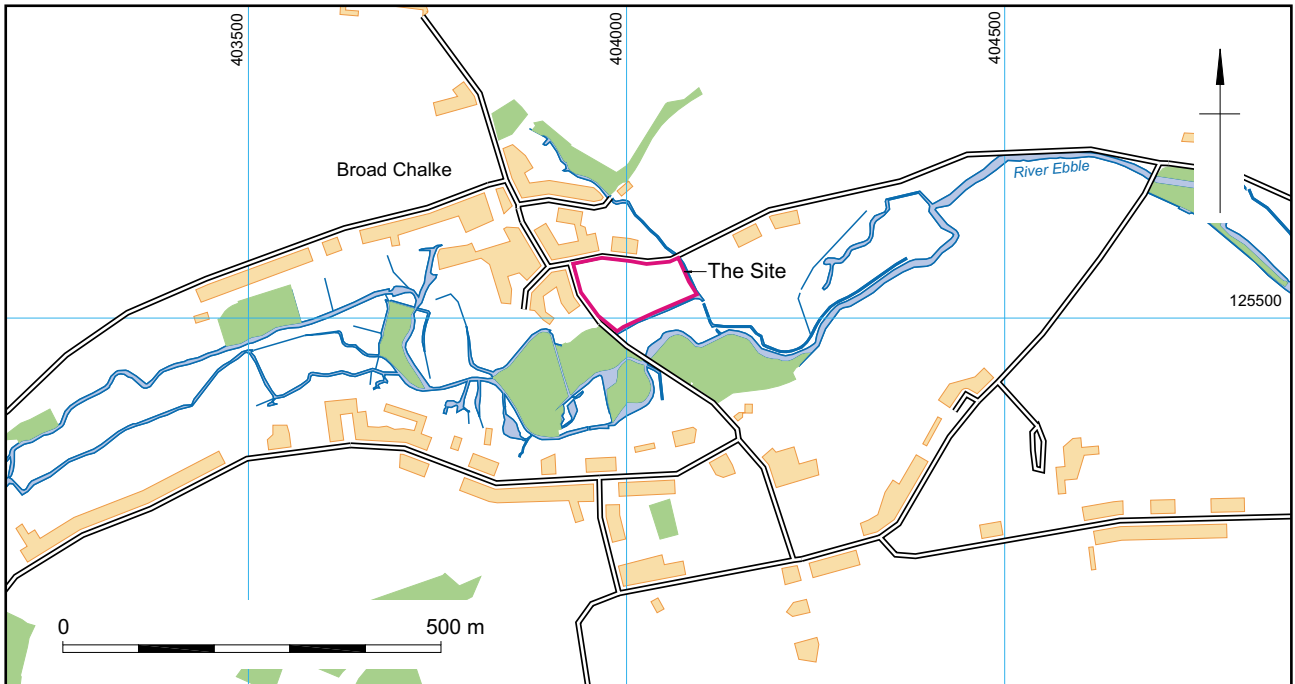


Physical Archive ID	106030
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Digital Archive ID	106030
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Paper Archive ID	106030
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

### **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Broad Chalke Cable Trench, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Brennan, N.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Fairclough, P.
Other bibliographic details	report number 106030.03
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Wessex Archaeology - Salisbury
Description	A4 bound client report





- Site boundary
- Cable route



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Location of site and watching brief area

Figure 1



Plate 1: View of the Site and earthworks, from the north



Plate 2: Extant earthworks, view from the south


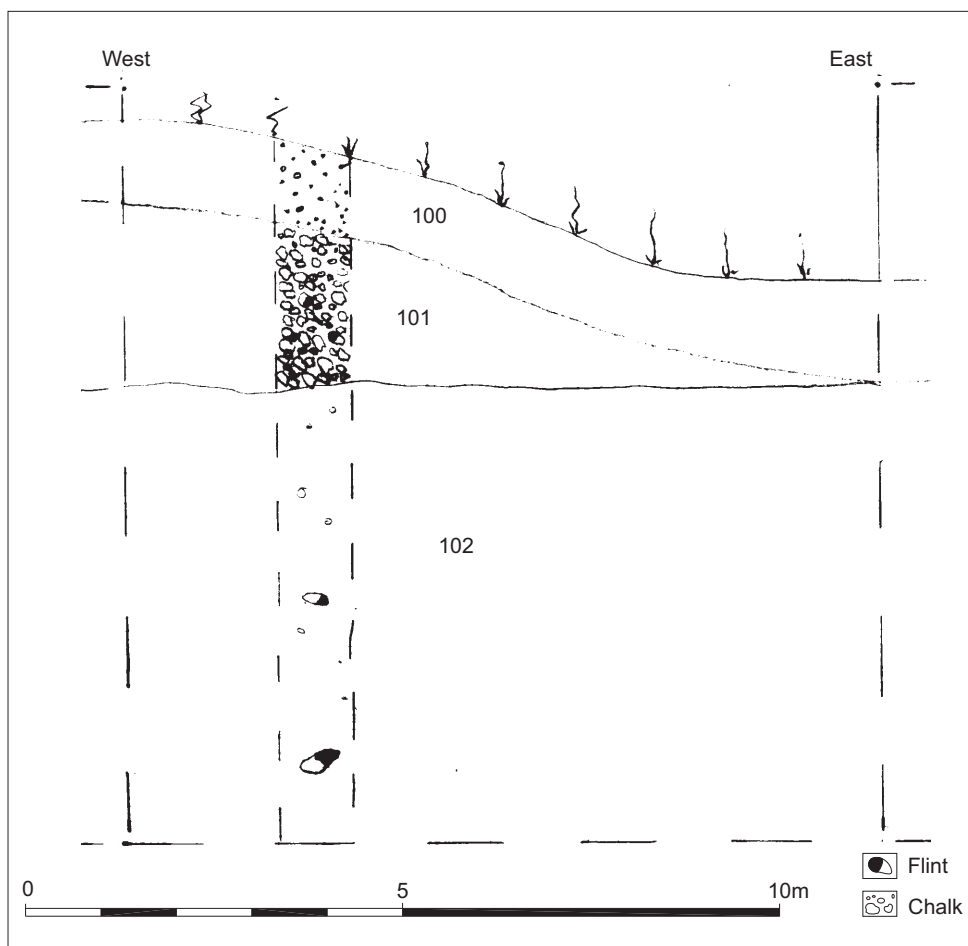

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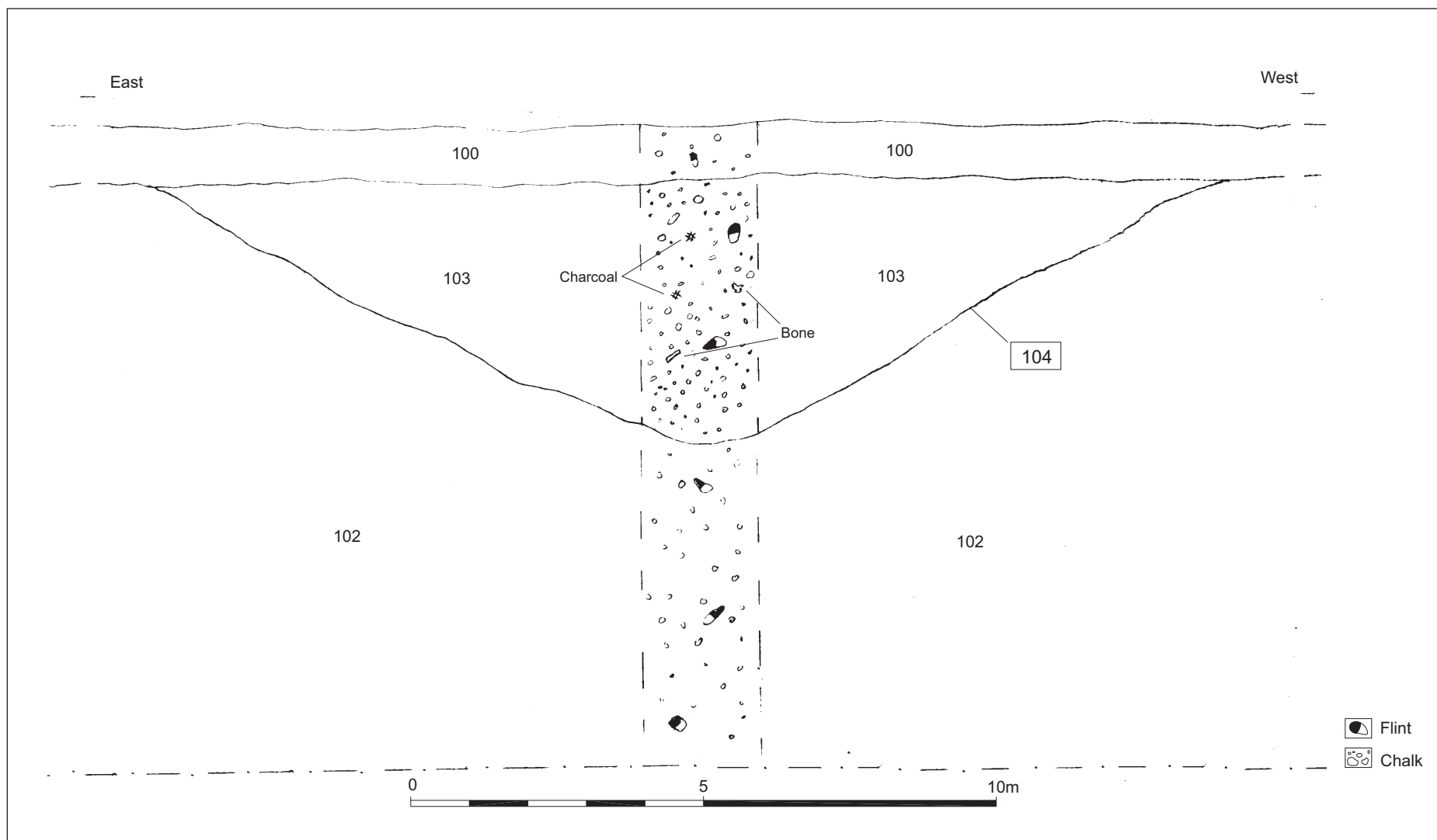


Plate 3: South facing section through earthwork



Section 1: South facing section through earthwork

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Section 2: North facing section through feature 104



Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB  
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk



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