

Archaeological Watching Brief



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## **Archaeological Watching Brief**

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### **Archaeological Watching Brief**

#### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Midsummer Homes Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief at land adjacent to 15 Butterfield Drive, Amesbury, Wiltshire SP4 7WJ, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 416787 141334. The watching brief was intermittently conducted between the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2015 and the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 2015.

This document reports on the results of the excavation of seven geotechnical pits and the monitoring of the excavation of footings for 10 dwellings. The geotechnical pits did not reveal any archaeological features. The excavation of the footings revealed three ditches and a partially exposed possible pit. Two of the ditches appeared to be continuations of features that were previously recorded during the Butterfield Down excavations. One of the ditches appeared to respect the alignment of the Earls Down Farm linear and is likely to be associated; it contained two pieces of struck flint and so is likely to date to the prehistoric period. A second ditch contained two pieces of pottery and dated to the later prehistoric period, possibly the Early Iron Age. A third ditch and possible pit remained undated.



### **Archaeological Watching Brief**

### Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Mark Taylor of Midsummer Homes Limited for commissioning the work. The fieldwork was monitored on behalf of Wiltshire County Council by Clare King.

The watching brief was undertaken by Darryl Freer, Dave Murdie, Simon Flaherty and Matthew Kendall. The report was compiled by Simon Flaherty. The finds were assessed by Matt Leivers. The environmental sample was processed by Tony Scothern and analysed by Sarah F. Wyles. The illustrations were produced by Kitty Foster. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Bruce Eaton.



### **Archaeological Watching Brief**

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 A planning application to erect 10 two bed dwellings on land adjacent to 15 Butterfield Drive, Amesbury, Wiltshire SP4 7WJ (here after 'the Site') was submitted to Wiltshire Council by Midsummer Homes Limited on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014 application number 14/12116/FUL.
- 1.1.2 A Notification of Full Planning was issued by Wiltshire Council on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Condition 12 of this Notification states:

No development shall commence within the area indicated (proposed development site) until:

- a) A written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work and off-site work such as analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and
- b) The approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To enable the recording of any matters of archaeological interest.

- 1.1.3 Mark Taylor of Midsummer Homes Limited duly appointed Wessex Archaeology to produce a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an Archaeological Watching Brief to cover ground work and all associated impacts.
- 1.1.4 The archaeological watching brief took place intermittently between the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2015 and the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 2015.

#### 1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 Amesbury lies within the valley of the meandering River Avon, and is built on the river gravels that form a promontory around which the river curves on the western side.
- 1.2.2 The site lies approximately 1km south east from the historic centre of Amesbury in an area of modern development between Butterfield Drive to the west and Porton Road to the east. The Site is currently a brown field site.
- 1.2.3 The Site lies just below the crest of Butterfield Down at around 105m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.2.4 The underlying geology of the Site comprised Pleistocene River Valley Gravels which overlay Cretaceous Upper Chalk (British Geological Survey 1976 Sheet 298).



#### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Amesbury lies within an area of outstanding archaeological importance and immediately to the eastern limits of the UNESCO designated Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site, which contains over 450 monuments of national importance (Richards 1990). The Site itself lies within the area of Butterfield Down which is notable for its extensive prehistoric and Romano-British archaeology.

#### 2.2 Archaeological Background

- 2.2.1 Extensive planning and limited excavations were undertaken by Wessex Archaeology from February 1990 until 1993 on Butterfield Down in advance of the construction of new housing (Rawlings and Fitzpatrick 1996). A number of prehistoric and Romano-British site were identified, including a possible Neolithic pit-ring henge, Bronze Age inhumations and a Late Romano-British settlement. An early 5<sup>th</sup>-century gold coin hoard was also found. An area excavated at the north-eastern limit of the development area lies directly to the south of the Site. In this area a number of small pits were observed, of which two were subsequently excavated. Pit 2 contained the fragmented major portion of a large decorated Beaker along with sherds of two other Beakers. Several pieces of worked flint were recovered from Pit 6. A series of boundary ditches were also identified and recorded, one of which is almost certainly a large linear feature which extends eastwards from Butterfield Down for over 5.5km and of probable Late Bronze Age date and forms part of an extensive system of boundary markers normally classified as 'Wessex Linear Ditches', although there was evidence here for this ditch being re-cut in the Romano-British period.
- 2.2.2 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the Site in 2006 by Pathfinders. This consisted of three 20m x 2m trenches. Trench 1 and Trench 3 identified ditch features recorded during the previous archaeological works. No dating evidence was recovered, but these are assumed to be of either a prehistoric or Romano-British date.
- 2.2.3 To the south of the Romano-British settlement significant archaeological features dating from the Late-Neolithic to Late Roman have been identified (Wessex Archaeology 2002, 2005). Of particular note are two Early Bronze Age burials were identified, one of which (*The Amesbury Archer*) proved to be the richest Beaker burial excavated so far in Britain and of national importance; a Late Neolithic/Early bronze Age Pit Circle defined by at least 32 pits and measuring 63m in diameter into which an Early Bronze Age barrow and ring ditch were inserted; a small Middle/Late Bronze Age settlement and three late 4<sup>th</sup> century AD cemeteries containing 59 inhumations and a minimum of 10 cremation burials.
- 2.2.4 To the north of the Site two barrow groups, broadly Bronze Age in date, have been identified as well as extensive late Iron Age or Romano British field systems which extend south and east across Boscombe Down.

#### 2.3 Historical Background

2.3.1 Within the historic core of Amesbury little evidence of prehistoric activity has been found. A Palaeolithic hand-axe was discovered near the High Street in 1938, and in 1996 a small archaeological evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 1996) along Salisbury Street identified a large, shallow scoop and soil horizons, both yielding probable Iron Age pottery, worked flint and burnt flint. There has been no evidence found for Roman activity within the historic core of the town.



- 2.3.2 Although Amesbury is known to have developed into a sizeable settlement by the 10<sup>th</sup> century, there is little archaeological evidence for the Saxon period. There have been isolated small finds recovered. A very large north to south aligned ditch possibly dating to the Saxon period was found on land to the rear of the Antrobus Arms, Church Street (Hulka and Valentin 1999) and the fieldwork undertaken along Salisbury Street (Wessex Archaeology 1996) identified wo ditches and an amorphous feature, one of which contain a large sherd of Saxon pot.
- 2.3.3 The only extant building from the medieval period is the parish church. The prosperity of the town in this period was largely dependent on the visitors and trade generated by the priory on the western side of town. A market place is known to have existed in Amesbury since at least the 13<sup>th</sup> century and was bounded by the High Street to the north-west and by Salisbury Street to the north-east. The other extents of the market are conjectural. Pits and pottery were found to the rear of the Antrobus Arms, Church Street (Hulka and Valentin 1999).

#### 3 METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Aims and objectives

- 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.

#### 3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 The watching brief was conducted according to the agreed WSI (WA 2015). Eight geotechnical pits were proposed for excavation however due to asbestos contamination only seven geotechnical pits were excavated each measuring approximately 2.4m x 1.5m (see **Appendix 1** for details). The watching brief further required the monitoring of the excavation of the footings for 10 proposed buildings.
- 3.2.2 Prior to machining the excavations were scanned by Midsummer Homes Limited using a cable tracing device. The excavations were conducted under constant archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator employing a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.2.3 All potential features and deposits of possible archaeological origin were partially excavated to ascertain their nature and function and were fully recorded using WA's *proforma* record sheets. All deposits were assigned a unique number.
- 3.2.4 A full digital photographic record was maintained which adhered to the National Monuments Records Digital Imaging Guidelines. A full graphic record was maintained.



The site drawings were drawn at an appropriate scale, typically 1:10 for sections and 1:20 for plans.

#### 3.3 Monitoring

3.3.1 The project was monitored on behalf of Wiltshire County Council by Assistant County Archaeologist Claire King.

#### 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

#### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following presents a summary of the results of the archaeological watching brief. The results of the geotechnical test pits component of the watching brief should be read in conjunction with the trench table summaries in **Appendix 1**. Details of individual excavated contexts and features from the rest of the watching brief are retained within the site archive.

#### 4.2 Overburden Deposits

4.2.1 The sequence of over burden deposits was fairly consistent across most of the Site (**Plate 1**). It comprised of a mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil that varied between 0.10 and 0.15m, in thickness, This sealed either a layer of mid greyish brown layer of made ground containing tarmac, ceramic building material (c.b.m), glass and slate or a mid brown silty clay subsoil. The thickness of the made ground and sub soil varied between 0.22m and 0.4m. The natural chalk was encountered at a depth of between 0.32m and 0.50m.

#### 4.3 Archaeological features and deposits

- 4.3.1 During the monitoring of the excavation of footings for the construction of 10 dwellings, three ditches (103, 107, 110) and a possible pit (108) were encountered. The geotechnical test pits did not contain any archaeological features (Figure 1).
- 4.3.2 Ditch **103** (**Plate 2**, **Figure 2**) was located within the western side of the Site running through plots 9 and 10. It ran in a north-east to south-west direction. It was truncated by the footings for plots 9 and 10 at an oblique angle so a true profile of the feature was not ascertained, but it would have been 1.4m wide. It ran for approximately 7.5m within the footings and had a depth of 0.44m. The ditch contained two pieces of worked flint, which may be indicative of a prehistoric date for the feature. It contained a single mid yellowish brown silty fill (**102**) and was caused by the gradual silting up of the feature.
- 4.3.3 Ditch **107** (**Plate 3**, **Figure 2**) was located within the north of plots 1 and 2 and ran from east to west for 8.5m within the width of the footings. The ditch was 0.9m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.32m it had steep slightly concave sides. It contained a single light reddish brown soft silty clay fill that was created through the gradual silting up of the feature from the immediate surrounding area.
- 4.3.4 A final ditch, **110** (**Plate 4**, **Figure 3**), at the western side of plots 3 to 6 within the centre of the Site. It ran in a north-north-east to south-south-west direction and could be seen within the footings for 8m. It was flat based with straight, moderate to steep sides. It was 1.7m wide with a depth of 0.7m. It contained two pieces of pottery that belong to the same vessel which date the ditch to the later prehistoric period, possibly Early Iron Age in date. The pottery was found within the ditches pale brown silty clay basal fill (**111**) which was derived from the erosion and stabilization of the features sides. This was sealed by a mid brown silty clay caused by natural depositional processes (**112**)



4.3.5 Approximately 4.5m to the west of ditch **110** was a possible pit **(108, Plate 5, Figure 3)**, although the feature was only partially exposed within the footings excavation. It had a diameter of 1.8m and a depth of 0.65m. It contained a single mid brown silty clay fill **(109)** derived from the natural deposition of materials surrounding the ditch

#### 5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

#### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The watching brief produced a very small finds assemblage. Ditch **103** (Fill **102**) contained two pieces of struck flint; this material is commonly indicative of prehistoric activity but is intrinsically undatable. The basal fill (**111**) of ditch **110** contained two pieces of pottery that were originally a single fragment that dates to the later prehistoric period and is possible Early Iron Age in date.

#### **6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

#### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Bulk samples were taken from possible Early Iron Age ditch **110** and undated possible pit 108 and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal.

#### 6.2 Charred plant remains

- 6.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>4 mm) 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 **Table 1**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).
- 6.2.2 The flots varied in size with high numbers of roots and modern seeds. The charred material was poorly preserved.
- 6.2.3 A few seeds of black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*) and fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell were recorded in the sample from ditch **110**. No charred plant remains were observed in the sample from possible pit **108**.
- 6.2.4 There is no clear evidence for settlement waste or activity in the immediate vicinity from the small charred assemblage from ditch **110**.

#### 6.3 Wood Charcoal

6.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 1**. A very small quantity of charcoal fragments greater than 2 mm was recovered from possible pit 108.

#### 6.4 Land snails

6.4.1 The bulk samples were 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 (**Table 2**). Nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008). The presence of these shells may aid in broadly characterising the nature of the wider landscape.



- 6.4.2 The mollusc assemblages were dominated by shells of the open country species, in particular those of *Helicella itala, Vallonia costata* and *Vallonia excentrica*. Only a few shells of the intermediate species, those of *Trochulus hispidus* and *Punctum pygmaeum*, were recorded and no shade-loving species were present.
- 6.4.3 These assemblages are likely to be indicative of a very well established open downland environment, as seen in elsewhere in the area from the Late Bronze Age onwards from mollusc assemblages from sites such as south-east of Amesbury (Wyles in prep), Earl's Down Farm (Allen and Wyles 2004) and Butterfield Down (Wyles and Allen 1996).

#### 7 FURTHER POTENTIAL

#### 7.1 Environmental

Charred plant remains

7.1.1 The analysis of the charred plant assemblages has no potential to provide information on the nature of the settlement, the surrounding environment and local agricultural practices and crop husbandry techniques due to the small quantity of material recovered.

#### Wood charcoal

7.1.1 The analysis of the wood charcoal has no potential to provide information on the species composition, management and exploitation of the local woodland resource on the site due to the small quantity of material recovered.

#### Land snails

7.1.2 Further analysis of the mollusc assemblages is unlikely to assist in determining the nature of the local environment in much more detail.

#### 8 DISCUSSION

#### 8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 The watching brief investigated four archaeological features, three ditches (103, 107 and 110) and a possible pit (108). While ditch 107 and possible pit 108 where undated, ditch 103 could be tentatively assigned to the prehistoric period as it contained two pieces of struck flint and ditch 110 contained two pieces of later prehistoric pottery, possibly Early Iron Age in date.
- 8.1.2 Previous excavations conducted by Wessex Archaeology between 1990 and 1993 at Butterfield Down (Rawlings and Fitzpatrick 1996) directly to the south of the Site revealed a number of prehistoric features,. Two of the features 18 and 26 appeared to continue to within the watching brief area (**Figure 1**). Ditch **110** appears to be a continuation of linear 26, which was found within Trench 2 of the Pathfinders evaluation (Pathfinders 2006). Ditch **103** appeared to be a continuation of the previously investigated ditch 18. In the previous investigations this ran parallel to the Earls Down Farm linear 21 (SMR 745) and is suggested to relate to Bronze Age land division. Although ditch **110** appears to date to the Early Iron Age, it is likely the Earls Down Farm linear was still present within the landscape as the ditch respects its alignment. No evidence of the Earls Down Farm linear was found during the watching brief.



#### 9 STORAGE AND CURATION

#### 9.1 Museum

9.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under the accession code 109260. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

#### 9.2 Archive

- 9.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by **Salisbury and South 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 **109260**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:
  - 01 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts & ecofacts, ordered by material type
  - 01 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics
  - 03 A1 graphics

#### 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; 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 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 to the *Copyright and Related Rights* regulations 2003.

#### 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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## 11 APPENDICES

## 11.1 Appendix 1: Test Pit Tables

| Test pit          |                 | Dimensions (m):  | 1.9m x 1.5m            |                  |
|-------------------|-----------------|--|------------------------|------------------|
| 1                 |                 | Max. depth (m):  | 0.32m                  |                  |
| context<br>number | context<br>type | description  |                        | depth bgl<br>(m) |
| 1001              | Layer           | Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silty clay with common rooting. |                        | 0-0.10m          |
| 1002              | Layer           | Madeground. topsoil n tarmac.                              | nixed with glass brick | 0.10-<br>0.32m   |
| 1003              | Layer           | Natural. Chalk with pe                                     | riglacial scarring.    | 0.32m+           |
| comments          |                 |  |                        |                  |

| Test pit          |                 | Dimensions (m):                         | <b>Dimensions (m):</b> 2.30m x 1.90m                       |                |
|-------------------|-----------------|---|--|----------------|
| 2                 |                 | Max. depth (m)                          | 0.60m  |                |
| context<br>number | context<br>type | description                             | description  |                |
| 2001              | Layer           | Topsoil. Mid greyish to common rooting. | Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silty clay with common rooting. |                |
| 2002              | Layer           | Madeground. topsoil tarmac.             | mixed with glass brick                                     | 0.15-<br>0.45m |
| 2003 comments     | Layer           | Natural. Chalk with pe                  | eriglacial scarring.                                       | 0.45m+         |

| Test pit          |                 | Dimensions (m):                         | 2.40m x 1.50m          |                  |
|-------------------|-----------------|---|------------------------|------------------|
| 3                 |                 | Max. depth (m):                         | 0.66m                  |                  |
| context<br>number | context<br>type | description                             |                        | depth bgl<br>(m) |
| 3001              | Layer           | Topsoil. Mid greyish be common rooting. | prown silty clay with  | 0-0.10m          |
| 3002              | Layer           | Madeground. topsoil r tarmac.           | mixed with glass brick | 0.10-<br>0.50m   |
| 3003              | Layer           | Natural. Chalk with pe                  | eriglacial scarring.   | 0.50-<br>0.66m+  |
| comments          |                 |   |                        | ·                |

| Test pit          |                 | Dimensions (m):  | 2.30m x 1.50m  |                  |
|-------------------|-----------------|--|--|------------------|
| 4                 |                 | Max. depth (m):  | 0.65m  |                  |
| context<br>number | context<br>type | description  |  | depth bgl<br>(m) |
| 4001              | Layer           | Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silty clay with common rooting. |  | 0-0.10m          |
| 4002              | Layer           | Made ground. Lots of footing for the tarmac.               | Made ground. Lots of tarmac and a chalk line footing for the tarmac. |                  |
| 4003              | Layer           | Natural. Chalk with pe                                     | riglacial scarring.  | 0.50m+           |
| comments          |                 |  |  |                  |



| Test pit          |                 | Dimensions (m):   | 2.10m x 1.50m        |                  |
|-------------------|-----------------|---|----------------------|------------------|
| 5                 |                 | Max. depth (m):   | 0.60m                |                  |
| context<br>number | context<br>type | description   |                      | depth bgl<br>(m) |
| 5001              | Layer           | Topsoil. Mid greyish b common rooting.  | rown silty clay with | 0-0.10m          |
| 5002              | Layer           | Made ground. Mixed with redeposited pale chalk etc. layer of gravel c.0.10m thick then the redeposited chalk. |                      | 0.10m –<br>0.40m |
| 5003              | Layer           | Natural. Chalk with pe  | riglacial scarring.  | 0.40m-<br>0.60m+ |
| comments          |                 |   |                      |                  |

| Test pit |         | Dimensions (m):  | 2.40m x 1.50m       |                 |
|----------|---------|--|---------------------|-----------------|
| 6        |         | Max. depth (m):  | 0.62m               |                 |
| context  | context | Description  |                     | depth bgl       |
| number   | type    |  |                     | (m)             |
| 6001     | Layer   | Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silty clay with common rooting. |                     | 0-0.10m         |
| 6002     | Layer   | Made ground. Tarmac, Brick, Slate etc.                     |                     | 0.10m-<br>0.50m |
| 6003     | Layer   | Natural. Chalk with pe                                     | riglacial scarring. | 0.50m+          |
| comments |         |  |                     |                 |

| Test pit          |                 | Dimensions (m): | - |                  |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|------------------|
| 7                 |                 | Max. depth (m): | - |                  |
| context<br>number | context<br>type | description     |   | depth bgl<br>(m) |
| comments          | Abandoned du    | e to asbestos   |   |                  |

| Test pit          |                 | <b>Dimensions (m):</b> 2.50m x 1.50m    |  |        |
|-------------------|-----------------|---|--|--------|
| 8                 |                 | Max. depth (m):                         | 0.48m  |        |
| context<br>number | context<br>type | description                             | description  |        |
| 7001              | Layer           | Topsoil. Mid greyish be common rooting. | Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silty clay with common rooting. |        |
| 7002              | Layer           | Made ground. Tarmad                     | Made ground. Tarmac, Brick, Slate etc.                     |        |
| 7003              | Layer           | Natural. Chalk with pe                  | eriglacial scarring.                                       | 0.40m+ |
| comments          |                 |   |  |        |



### 11.2 Appendix 2: Environmental Data

Table 1: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

| Samples               |         |            |              | Flot         |                  |                       |       |       |                                       |         |              |
|-----------------------|---------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------------|-------|-------|---------------------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Feature               | Context | Sam<br>ple | Vol.<br>Ltrs | Flot<br>(ml) | 4   <del>-</del> | Charred Plant Remains |       |       | Charcoal                              | Other   |              |
|                       |         |            |              |              |                  | Grain                 | Chaff | Other | Comments                              | >4/2mm  | Other        |
| ?Early Iron Age Ditch |         |            |              |              |                  |                       |       |       |                                       |         |              |
| 110                   | 111     | 2          | 19           | 150          | 70               | -                     | -     | С     | Fallopia, Corylus avellana shell frag | -       | Moll-t (A*)  |
| Undated possible Pit  |         |            |              |              |                  |                       |       |       |                                       |         |              |
| 108                   | 109     | 1          | 10           | 40           | 65               | -                     | -     | -     | -                                     | 0/<1 ml | Moll-t (A**) |

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

Table 2: Land snail assessment

| Site Phase           | ?EIA  | ?    |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------|-------|------|--|--|--|--|
| Feature type         | Ditch | ?Pit |  |  |  |  |
| Feature no.          | 110   | 108  |  |  |  |  |
| Context no.          | 111   | 109  |  |  |  |  |
| Sample no.           | 2     | 1    |  |  |  |  |
| Vol (L)              | 19    | 10   |  |  |  |  |
| Open country species |       |      |  |  |  |  |
| Pupilla muscorum     | В     | Α    |  |  |  |  |
| Vertigo spp.         | -     | С    |  |  |  |  |
| Helicella itala      | Α     | Α    |  |  |  |  |
| Vallonia spp.        | Α     | Α    |  |  |  |  |
| Intro. Helicellids   | С     |      |  |  |  |  |
| Intermediate species |       |      |  |  |  |  |
| Trochulus hispidus   | С     | -    |  |  |  |  |
| Punctum pygmaeum     | -     | С    |  |  |  |  |
| Burrowing species    |       |      |  |  |  |  |
| Cecilioides acicula  | А     | А    |  |  |  |  |
| Approx totals        | 60    | 100+ |  |  |  |  |

Key: A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5;



#### 11.3 Appendix 3: OASIS form

#### OASIS ID: wessexar1-224483

**Project details** 

15 Butterfield Drive, Amesbury, Wiltshire Project name

Short description of

the project

A watching brief maintained on a housing development on land adjacent to 15 Butterfield Drive, Amesbury, 3 ditches and a possible pit were identified. One ditch dated to the Early Iron Age, another was tentatively dated as 'prehistoric'. No date for 3rd ditch and pit, but are likely to also be of prehistoric date.

Start: 18-05-2015 End: 26-08-2015 Project dates

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference

codes

109260.01 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Recording project

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

**DITCH Iron Age** Monument type Monument type PIT Uncertain Significant Finds **FLINT Uncertain** Significant Finds POTTERY Iron Age Investigation type "Watching Brief"

**Prompt** Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

**Project location** 

Country **England** 

Site location WILTSHIRE SALISBURY AMESBURY Land adjacent 15 Butterfield Drive

SP4 7WJ Postcode

Study area 0 Square metres

SU 16787 41334 51.170479015085 -1.759861166254 51 10 13 N 001 45 35 W Site coordinates

Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 104.5m Max: 104.7m

**Project creators** 

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology Project brief originator Wiltshire County Council Project design Wessex Archaeology

originator

Project

director/manager

Bruce Eaton

Project supervisor Simon Flaherty

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of

Midsummer Homes LTD

sponsor/funding body



#### **Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient

Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum

Digital Archive recipient

Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum

Paper Archive recipient

Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum

#### **Project bibliography**

1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Land adjacent 15 Butterfield Drive, Amesbury, Wiltshire SP4 7WJ:

Archaeological Watching Brief

Author(s)/Editor(s) Flaherty, S. Eaton, B.

Other bibliographic

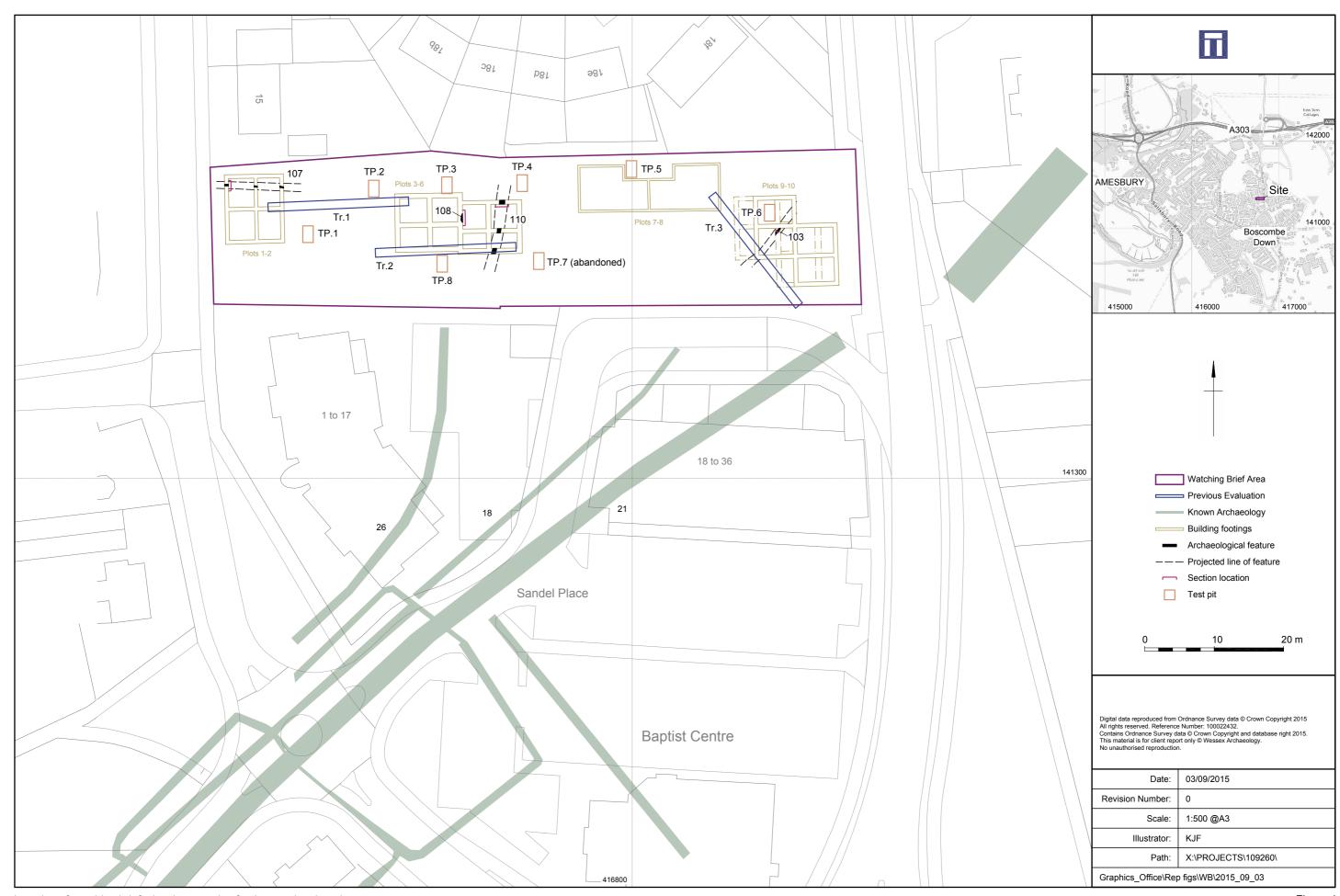
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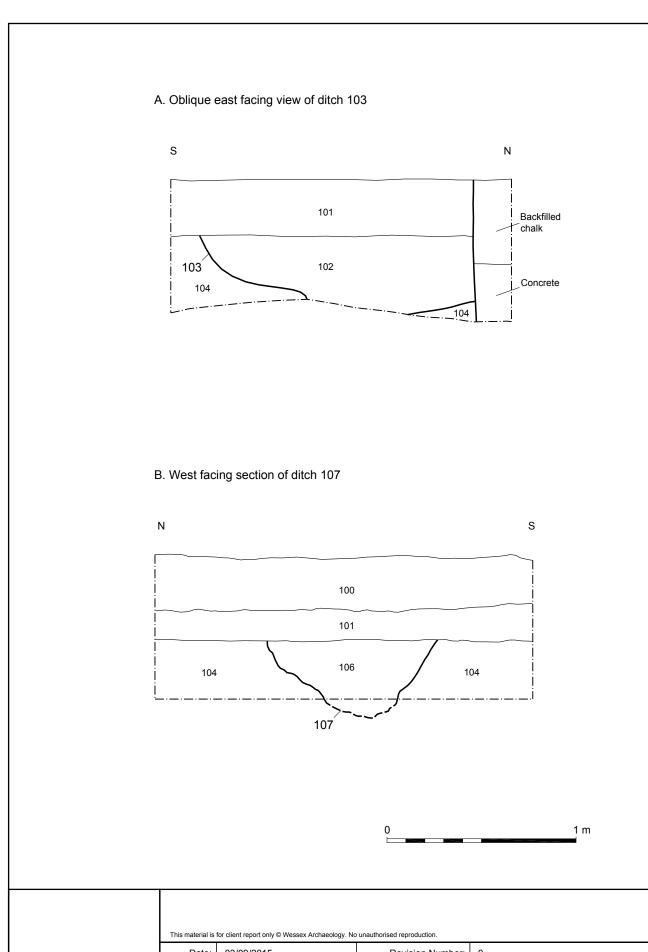
Date 2015

Entered by Bruce Eaton (b.eaton@wessexarch.co.uk)

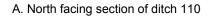
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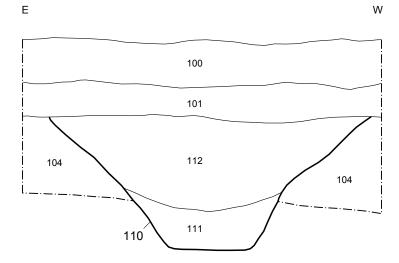


Location of watching brief showing test pits, footings and archaeology

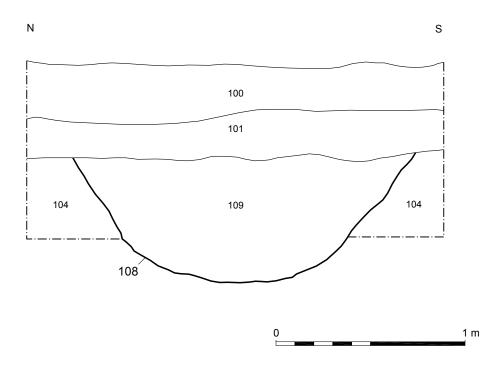


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#### B. West facing section of possible pit 108



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Plate 1: West facing representative section within plot 10



Plate 2: Oblique view of ditch 103. View from the north-west

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Plate 3: West facing section of ditch 107



Plate 4: North facing section of ditch 110

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Plate 5: West facing section of possible pit 108

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