



making sense of heritage

Barton Dene Ducting Trench, Marlborough, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Ref: 113410.03
June 2016



**Barton Dene Ducting Trench,
Marlborough, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Prepared for:
Marlborough College
Bath Road
Marlborough
SN8 1PA

Prepared by:
Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

www.wessexarch.co.uk

June 2016

WA project number: 113410.03



Quality Assurance

Project Code	113410	Accession Code		Client Ref.	
Planning Application Ref.		Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	Route from 418200 169013 (south-east) to 417925 169503 (north-west)		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	I	NB	RAP	<i>Nase</i>	22/06/2016
File:	X:\PROJECTS\113410\ Reports\113410_Barton Dene_Watching Brief Report_v01_160607_NB.docx				
File:					
File:					
File:					
File:					
File:					

* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

DISCLAIMER

THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT WAS DESIGNED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A REPORT TO AN INDIVIDUAL CLIENT AND WAS PREPARED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THAT CLIENT. THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT DOES NOT NECESSARILY STAND ON ITS OWN AND IS NOT INTENDED TO NOR SHOULD IT BE RELIED UPON BY ANY THIRD PARTY. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY WILL NOT BE LIABLE BY REASON OF BREACH OF CONTRACT NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE (WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OCCASIONED TO ANY PERSON ACTING OR OMITTING TO ACT OR REFRAINING FROM ACTING IN RELIANCE UPON THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT ARISING FROM OR CONNECTED WITH ANY ERROR OR OMISSION IN THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE REPORT. LOSS OR DAMAGE AS REFERRED TO ABOVE SHALL BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, ANY LOSS OF PROFITS OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS DAMAGE TO REPUTATION OR GOODWILL LOSS OF BUSINESS OR ANTICIPATED BUSINESS DAMAGES COSTS EXPENSES INCURRED OR PAYABLE TO ANY THIRD PARTY (IN ALL CASES WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OR ANY OTHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE.



Barton Dene Ducting Trench, Marlborough, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Contents

Summary	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iv
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Project background	1
1.2 The Route	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
2.1 Introduction	2
2.2 Archaeological and historical background	2
<i>Prehistoric</i>	2
<i>Romano-British</i>	2
<i>Saxon, medieval and post-medieval</i>	2
<i>Undated</i>	3
3 METHODOLOGY.....	3
3.1 Project aims	3
3.2 Watching brief methodology	4
3.3 Health and safety	4
4 RESULTS	4
5 ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE.....	5
6 CONCLUSIONS.....	5
7 STORAGE AND CURATION	5
7.1 Museum	5
7.2 Archive.....	5
7.3 Copyright.....	5
7.4 Security copy.....	6
8 REFERENCES.....	6
8.1 Bibliography	6
9 APPENDIX 1: STRATIGRAPHIC SUMMARY	7
10 APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM	8



Figures

Figure 1: Location of Route and watching brief area

Plates

Plate 1: South-west facing representative section, south-eastern end of the Route

Plate 2: South-east facing representative section across the track, north-western end of the Route

Plate 3: Ducting trench by cottages at the north-western end of the Route

Plate 4: Modern brick rubble/made ground by cottages at the north-western end of the Route

Front cover View of ducting trench, from south-east



Barton Dene Ducting Trench, Marlborough, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Marlborough College to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a ducting trench at Barton Dene, Marlborough, Wiltshire, running for almost 600 m from approximately NGR 418200 169013 in the south-east to 417925 169503 in the north-west.

The watching brief consisted of monitoring of all intrusive groundworks associated with the proposed ducting trench, including the associated draw pits. The work was undertaken between 23 May and 1 June 2016.

No archaeological features or deposits were found and no finds recovered. Although the route of a possible Roman road may have crossed the Route, no evidence for this was observed, however the monitored works were small in scale with relatively limited visibility.



Barton Dene Ducting Trench, Marlborough, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Marlborough College and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Simon Bowler in this regard. We would also like to thank Rachel Foster (Wiltshire County Archaeology Service) for her help and advice during the course of the project.

The watching brief was undertaken by Michal Cepak. The report was written and compiled by Naomi Brennan with illustrations by Kitty Foster and Karen Nichols. Ruth Panes managed the project on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



Barton Dene Ducting Trench, Marlborough, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Marlborough College (the Client) to carry out an archaeological watching brief during excavation of an approximately 580m long ducting trench at Barton Dene, Marlborough, Wiltshire running from approximately NGR 418200 169013 in the south-east to 417925 169503 in the north-west (hereafter 'the Route').
- 1.1.2 Although the works did not fall within the planning system the Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (WCAS) advised that a watching brief should be undertaken during the groundworks due to the potential for Romano-British and prehistoric remains.
- 1.1.3 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared and submitted to the Client and WCAS for approval prior to the commencement of works (WA 2016).
- 1.1.4 The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of all intrusive groundworks associated with the proposed ducting trenching, including the associated draw pits. The work was undertaken between 23 May and 1 June 2016.

1.2 The Route

- 1.2.1 The Route lies adjacent to an existing track, on the western side of Marlborough and to the north of the A4 Bath Road. The Route is bordered by open scrub on the eastern and western sides. Further to the south-west is the housing development around College Fields, while to the east are sports fields of Marlborough College. Immediately to the south is the Marlborough Leisure centre, while to the north are agricultural fields and Wedgewood Recreation Ground.
- 1.2.2 The land slopes down from a height of approximately 137 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the north-western end of the Route to 133 m aOD at the south-eastern end. To the south-west and north-east the land rises, with the track lying within a narrow dry valley.
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology of the Route is mapped as the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation, with superficial deposits of sand and gravel River Terrace Deposits (British Geological Survey).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in detail within the WSI (WA 2016). The results of this assessment and relevant Wiltshire and Swindon Historical Environment Record (WSHER) and entries from the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) are summarised below.

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric

2.2.1 While no Palaeolithic or Mesolithic artefacts are known within the immediate area of the Route, a Palaeolithic handaxe is recorded as being found at Granham Hill and another at the gas works in Marlborough (Wessex Archaeology 1993, 60–61). In the wider area Mesolithic flints and *in situ* flint scatters have been located in the eastern part of Marlborough at London Road (Wessex Archaeology 2004) and at Elcot Sewage Works (WSHER MWI4039).

2.2.2 Marlborough Mound, though largely associated with being the motte of a medieval castle, has more recently been confirmed as a Neolithic monument contemporary with and similar to Silbury Hill, which lies some 8.3 km to the west (Leary *et al.* 2013).

2.2.3 To the west of the Route lies the Manton Barrow (NHLE 1012262, WSHER MWI14047), a presumed high status Bronze Age burial of a woman. Other isolated Neolithic and Bronze Age finds spots are recorded in the vicinity of the Route, for example at West Manton (WSHER MWL14067), 1.5 km to the south-east and a stone axe fragment (WSHER MWL14047) came from immediately south of the Route at Barton Farm.

2.2.4 The only Iron Age activity recorded in the area is the findspot of a pennanular brooch between Cardigan Road and Back Lane (WSHER MWI14082), though a field system thought to date to this period is located at Postern Hill to the south-east. (Baggs *et al.* 1999, 207-215).

Romano-British

2.2.5 A possible Roman road is thought to run from Fyfield to Mildenhall, though the exact course of this is unknown. It is possible the road extends from Clatford Arboretum to the south-west of the Route, where earthworks have been recorded (WSHER MWI64042), towards the north-east end of the Route. This would place it on a course past the medieval bowling green on Marlborough Common (NHLE 1005635), where Roman pottery has been recovered, and onwards towards the dam of King's fishpond (NHLE 1005644) (Rachel Foster *pers. comm.*), following the current line of North View Place. However, the road could lie to the south close to the course of the River Kennet and the current A4 Bath Road.

2.2.6 At Granham Hill to the south, a Romano-British field system has been identified along with a possible bowl barrow of Bronze Age date. A significant number of Roman finds are also recorded within the vicinity including pottery, coins and a stone carving.

Saxon, medieval and post-medieval

2.2.7 Saxon pottery is recorded as being found in Summerfield during the construction of a tennis court (WSHER MWI14123), suggesting possible occupation in this area. Saxon finds are also recorded to the south on the other side of the river valley (WSHER MWI14122).

- 2.2.8 At the time of the Domesday Survey (1086) Manton to the south-west of the Route is recorded as a medium sized settlement of 12 households. Medieval finds have been found within the village and earthworks are known at the eastern end of the settlement.
- 2.2.9 In the medieval period Marlborough, Merleberge or Maerla's Hill was the property of the king, with a church also documented. The church mentioned is likely to be on the site of St Mary's Church (NHLE 1034302), situated in the north-eastern part of Marlborough, which itself dates to the 12th century. Medieval finds and features have been identified at a number of locations in Marlborough within the area of the historic town.
- 2.2.10 Due south of the Route is the motte and bailey castle at Marlborough Mound. The castle is documented from 1110 and was a royal demesne from the 12th century. However, by the end of the 16th century the castle is known to have become ruinous. By the 17th century a mansion house had been constructed within what is now the college site, the mound being incorporated as a landscape feature.
- 2.2.11 Preshute to the south-west of the Route (WSHER MWI 14136) was a village known as 'Prestcheta' in AD 1185. A large area to the north of Preshute (south of the A4 Bath Road) along the river valley is known to have been water meadows in the 17th century (WSHER MWI14171).
- 2.2.12 Barton Farm immediately south of the Route (WSHER MWI69786) is documented from AD 1198, and was probably a grange farm associated with an ecclesiastical institution (WSHER MWI14144). It's proximity may mean that the Route formed part of the land associated with this farm.

Undated

- 2.2.13 To the south-east of the Route two possible enclosures have been identified north of Cotton House (WSHER MWI14236, MWI14235) from aerial photographs. Such features are typically prehistoric or Romano-British in date, though medieval examples are known.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Project aims

- 3.1.1 Within the WSI (WA 2016) the following aims were identified:

- *to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains;*
- *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 Watching brief methodology

- 3.2.1 The watching brief consisted of monitoring the excavation of the ducting trench and associated draw pits. All works were carried out in accordance with the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a).
- 3.2.2 Investigations were recorded commensurate with the archaeological results using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system and a comprehensive day book. Recording also included written, drawn and photographic elements as conditions determined.
- 3.2.3 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.
- 3.2.4 Monitored works were referenced to client plans and Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 3.2.5 A unique code **113410** was allocated to the Site, and has been used on all records.

3.3 Health and safety

- 3.3.1 Health and safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices override archaeological considerations at all times.
- 3.3.2 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 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The ducting trench was on average 0.3 m wide and between 0.7–1 m deep, with a series of eight 0.45 m square by 0.7 m deep draw pits installed approximately every 70 m along the 580 m length.
- 4.1.2 The general stratigraphic sequence (**Appendix 1**) encountered was approximately 0.3 m of topsoil (context 101) overlying 0.4–0.45 m of subsoil (102) (**Plate 1**). Modern finds and inclusions within the topsoil layer are likely the result of the construction of the adjacent track.
- 4.1.3 Beneath the subsoil was a silty clay layer incorporating significant amounts of flint gravel (103) (**Plate 2**). This is likely to be the superficial natural geology but potentially modified by the inclusion of sediment eroded from the surrounding valley sides. The superficial geology of the area is recorded as river terrace deposits, mapped as forming a thin band along the line of the Route, reflecting the narrow dry valley setting.
- 4.1.4 At the north-western end the Route turned to the south-west and crossed the track, passing to the side of a pair of cottages. Here the chalk bedrock was observed (**Plate 3**), its visibility here likely the result of the properties being terraced into the valley side. Considerable disturbance was visible in this area, most probably the result of the construction and use of these buildings (**Plate 4**).



5 ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 5.1.1 Modern pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) along with some animal bone were noted within the topsoil and subsoil but were not retained. No earlier artefactual material was recovered during the project.
- 5.1.2 Due to the absence of any features or dated deposits no environmental samples were taken.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 Observation of groundworks along the ducting route did not identify any archaeological features or deposits of pre-modern date.
- 6.1.2 No trace of the possible Roman road between Fyfield and Mildenhall was identified, but the limitations of the area available for observation means that its presence or absence cannot be confirmed. An alternative route could have taken it further to the south, closer to the course of the River Kennet and the existing A4 road.

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

- 7.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the evaluation will be deposited with Wiltshire Museum, Devizes, though it should be noted that this is currently a closed repository. The project archive will therefore be retained at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury until such time as this situation can be resolved.
- 7.1.2 Given the small scale of the project, and the lack of stratified 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, including this report, 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 113410.

7.2 Archive

- 7.2.1 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 appropriate museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; Brown 2011; ADS 2013; ClfA 2014b).

7.3 Copyright

- 7.3.1 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 to the *Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003*.
- 7.3.2 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.

7.4 Security copy

7.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), a security copy of relevant written records has been 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.

8 REFERENCES

8.1 Bibliography

- ADS 2013 *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice*. Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice
- Baggs A P, Freeman J, Smith C, Stevenson J H and Williamson E 1999 'Savernake', in D. A. Crowley (ed.) *A History of the County of Wiltshire: Volume 16*. London, Victoria County History Series, 207–215
- British Geological Survey, available at:
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/services/digmap50wms.html> [accessed June 2016]
- Brown, D H 2011 *Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (revised edition). Archaeological Archives Forum
- ClfA 2014a *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- ClfA 2014b *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- Leary, J, Canti, M, Field, D, Fowler, P, Marshall, P and Campbell, G 2013 'The Marlborough Mound, Wiltshire. A Further Neolithic Mound by the River Kennet', *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 79, 137–163
- SMA 1995 *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*. Society of Museum Archaeologists
- Wessex Archaeology 1993 *The Southern Rivers Palaeolithic Project, report no.1 1991-1992: the Upper Thames Valley, the Kennet Valley and the Solent drainage system*
- Wessex Archaeology 2004 *Coombe End House, London Road, Marlborough, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report*. Salisbury, unpublished report, ref. 56090.01
- Wessex Archaeology 2016 *Barton Dene Ducting Trench, Marlborough, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Salisbury, unpublished WSI, ref. 113410.01



9 APPENDIX 1: STRATIGRAPHIC SUMMARY

bgl= below ground level

Context	Description	Depth (m)
101	<i>Topsoil</i> Mid grey black silty clay loam. Frequent modern inclusions, likely due to the construction of the adjacent track. Bioturbated. 3% sub-angular stone and flint <5cm. Under grass. Overlies 102.	0–0.3 bgl
102	<i>Subsoil</i> Pale grey brown silt clay loam. Some bioturbation. 15% sub-angular – sub-rounded flint <10cm and sub-rounded chalk <5cm. Overlies 103.	0.3–0.75 bgl
103	<i>Layer</i> Mid grey brown silty clay, moderately compact. 35% sub-angular – sub-rounded flint 5–20cm. Rare chalk flecks. Overlies 104.	0.75–1.0+ bgl
104	<i>Natural geology</i> Chalk. Only exposed where trench cuts into valley side at north-western end of route.	0.75+ bgl



10 APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-255677

Project details

Project name	Barton Dene Ducting Trench, Marlborough, Wiltshire
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Marlborough College to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a ducting trench at Barton Dene, Marlborough, Wiltshire, running for almost 600 m from approximately NGR 418200 169013 in the south-east to 417925 169503 in the north-west. The watching brief consisted of monitoring of all intrusive groundworks associated with the proposed ducting trench, including the associated draw pits. The work was undertaken between 23 May and 1 June 2016. No archaeological features or deposits were found and no finds recovered. Although the route of a possible Roman road may have crossed the Route, no evidence for this was observed, however the monitored works were small in scale with relatively limited visibility.
Project dates	Start: 23-05-2016 End: 01-06-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	113410 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE KENNET MARLBOROUGH Barton Dene, Marlborough, Wiltshire
Postcode	SN8 1NZ
Study area	290 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 418200 169013 50.949479975788 -1.404602379766 50 56 58 N 001 24 16 W Line
Site coordinates	SU 417925 169503 50.949922621921 -1.404988252748 50 56 59 N 001 24 17 W Line
Height OD / Depth	Min: 133m Max: 137m

Project creators



Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	with advice from County Archaeologist
Project design originator	Wessex archaeology
Project director/manager	Ruth Panes
Project supervisor	Michal Cepak
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Marlborough College

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Not yet transferred
Digital Archive ID	113410
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Not yet transferred
Paper Archive ID	113410
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Plan", "Report"



Plate 1: South-west facing representative section, south-eastern end of the Route



Plate 2: South-east facing representative section across the track, north-western end of the Route



	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	10/06/2016	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	KJF
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\113410\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\WB\2016_06_10		

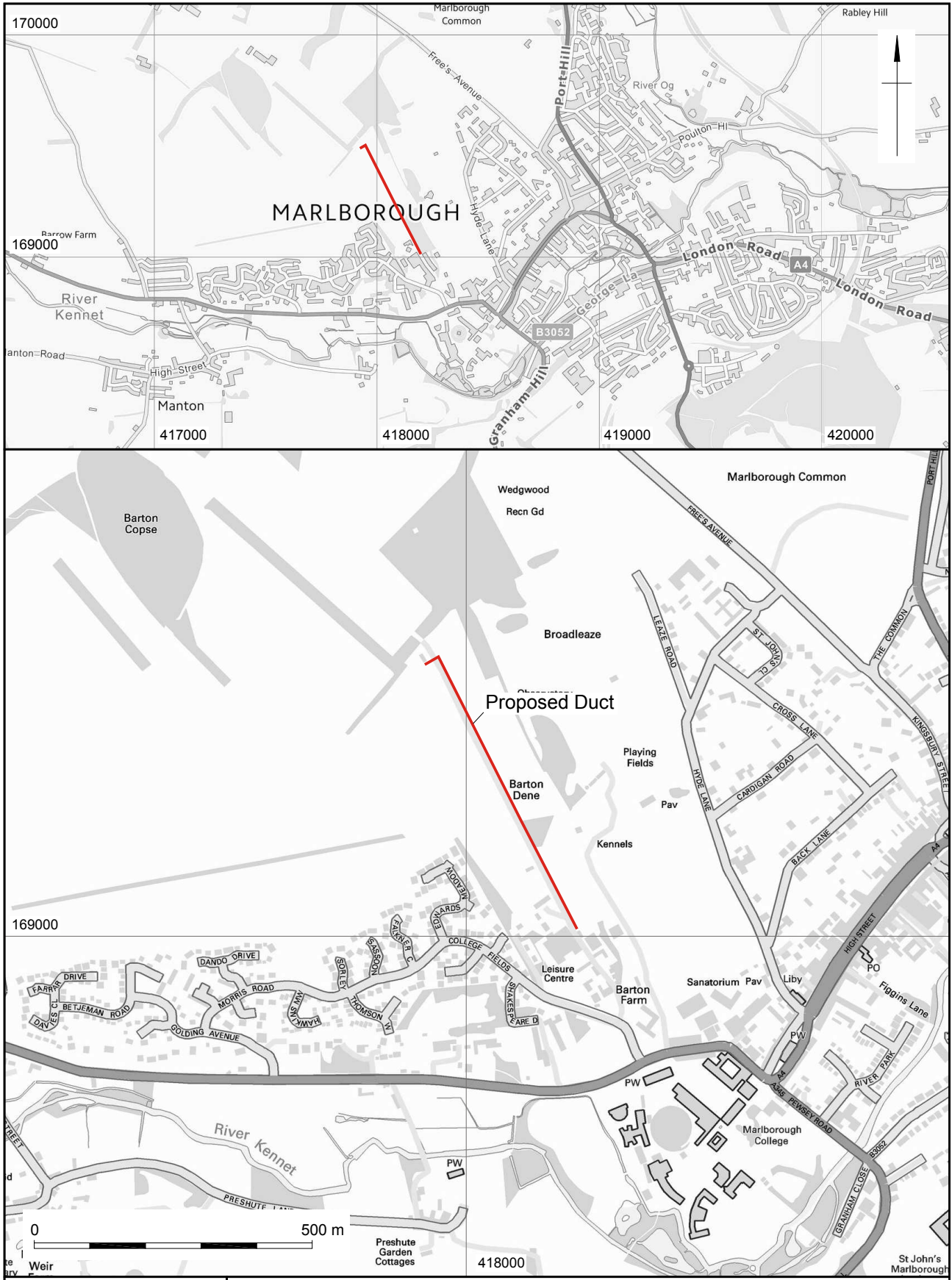



Plate 3: Ducting trench by cottages at the north-western end of the Route



Plate 4: Modern brick rubble/made ground by cottages at the north-western end of the Route

	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.		
	Date:	10/06/2016	Revision Number: 0
	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator: KJF
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\113410\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\WB\2016_06_10	



	Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2016. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	10/06/2016	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	1:25,000 and 1:10,000 at A4	Illustrator:	KMN/KJF
Path:		X:\PROJECTS\113410\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\WB\2016_06_10		

Location of route and watching brief area

Figure 1



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



FS 606559

Wessex Archaeology Ltd is a company limited by guarantee registered in England, company number 1712772. It is also a Charity registered in England and Wales, number 287786; and in Scotland, Scottish Charity number SC042630. Our registered office is at Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.