



Land off Sackmore Lane Marnhull, Dorset

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation and Watching Brief



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November 2016



**Land off Sackmore Lane,
Marnhull, Dorset**

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation and Watching Brief

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Siam Consultancy & Investments Ltd to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land off Sackmore Lane, Marnhull, Dorset. The evaluation comprised the excavation of three trial trenches, each measuring approximately 30m x 1.5m. The trenches were targeted on the proposed housing development and green spaces using information from a previous geophysical survey. The work took place on 3rd and 4th November 2016.

At the same time as the trial trench evaluation, WA carried out a watching brief on five geological test pits excavated within the same plot. None of these produced any positive archaeological results.

One area of archaeological potential was identified towards the southern end of Trench 3 in the south-eastern corner of the site, which corresponded to a geophysical anomaly indicative of an enclosure. A number of linear features and deposits dating to the Romano-British period was identified, suggesting a possible focus of activity within this part of the site dating to this period.



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Acknowledgements

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The fieldwork was directed by Lee Newton assisted by Barry Hennessey. This report was compiled by Lee Newton. The finds report was written by Rachael Seager Smith. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Gareth Chaffey and Damian De Rosa.



Land off Sackmore Lane, Marnhull, Dorset

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation and Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Siam Consultancy & Investments Ltd ('the Client') to conduct an archaeological trial trench evaluation and watching brief on land off Sackmore Lane, Marnhull, Dorset, centred on NGR 377615 119240, (hereafter referred to as 'the Site', **Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The Site has been proposed for residential development, namely the erection of 13 dwellings, new vehicular access, open space, landscaping and associated works (**Figure 2**). A formal planning application (North Dorset District Council Planning Ref 2/2014/0247/PLNG) has been submitted. An archaeological condition (Condition 7) was placed on the approved notice:

No development or excavation shall take place within the site until the applicant has secured a programme of investigative archaeological work in accordance with a scheme to be submitted to, and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority and the development shall thereafter accord with the approved scheme.

Reason: To safeguard and/or record the archaeological interest on and around the site in accordance with North Dorset District Wide Local Plan (First Revision) Policies 1.1, 1.28, 1.29 and 1.30.

1.1.3 A geophysical survey was carried out across the application area in October 2016 (WA 2016a) which recorded a number of anomalies of likely, probable and possible archaeology.

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site is located in the north-western area of the village of Marnhull, Dorset, and comprises an irregular block of land approximately 0.88 hectares, currently pasture. The Site is bounded to the north by Burton Street and to the west by Sackmore Lane. At the north-western edge of the Site are a number of properties which lie at the junction of these two roads. The southern boundary of the Site is formed by the rear of properties within Sackmore Green and the eastern by land associated with Grange Cottage.

1.2.2 The Site is situated on a gentle south-east facing slope at an approximate height of 80m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is listed as Hazelbury Bryan Formation, a sandstone and mudstone bedrock. No superficial deposits are recorded although Head (clay, silt, sand and gravel) is noted further south (British Geological Survey online viewer).



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background of the Site and its surrounding area was assessed in detail within the DBA (WA 2013). This considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1km study area around the Site in order to place it within its archaeological and historic context.

2.1.2 It is not intended to repeat this information in detail, but a short summary is included below, focused largely on the area of the Site.

2.2 Recent investigations in the area

2.2.1 A detailed gradiometer survey (WA 2016a) was successful in detecting anomalies of definite, probable and possible archaeological interest within the Site. In addition to regions of increased magnetic response, geological changes and several modern services were noted.

2.2.2 Linear features interpreted as land divisions of earlier periods, the majority predating the historic mapping available for the Site, were recorded within the application area, concentrated in the south-eastern portion of the Site.

2.3 Archaeological and historical background

2.3.1 Evidence of prehistoric activity within the area is limited. To the north-west of the Site at Pond Farm a flint flake of Mesolithic date was found in 1985 during the groundworks associated with a new water main between Marnhull and Kington Magna in 1985 (Ross 1986, 90). A number of findspots in the wider area indicate prehistoric activity in the vicinity, including a hoard of Bronze Age axes found at New Inn Farm which lies to the south-east of the Site.

2.3.2 There has been little modern development of the area and, as a result, the archaeological potential remains largely unknown and untested. However, quarrying in the 19th and 20th centuries has located evidence of Iron Age and Romano-British activity in the wider landscape, most notably at Allard's Quarry (Williams 1951), which lies to the north-east of the Site.

2.3.3 Marnhull is not included in the Domesday Survey (1086), although settlement appears to have established in the area at the time. It is thought that originally the village was composed of three separate areas of occupation which focused on the church, the southern part of the village, and around Burton Street and it is these that are listed in the Domesday entry (Taylor 1967, 208-9). From one of the land owners, Chetel is derived Kentleworth (Chentels worth or farm), the former name for the village (ibid.). From this it can be seen that the Site lies close to the medieval centre of one of these settlements. The course of a drove road can still be seen at the north-western edge of the village. Sackmore Lane may have originated following the unification of these settlements in the 17th century.

2.3.4 The Marnhull Tithe Map of 1838 demonstrates that much of the existing layout of the village was established by this time. The Site itself is depicted within a single field of meadow at the periphery of the north-western area of settlement, with an expanse of agricultural land situated to the south. Early Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping shows that the village remained largely unchanged in the later 19th century, with only limited and small scale development. On the 1902 edition a regular pattern of trees is depicted within



the Site, suggesting its use as an orchard. By the time of the 1962 OS edition, the Site appears to have been cleared of trees, although the extant tree belt at the eastern limit was retained, resulting in the formation of the existing field boundary. A single building is shown in the north-eastern corner.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological work were to:

- *Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be impacted by the proposed development;*
- *Identify, within the constraints of the works, the date, character and condition of any surviving remains within the Site;*
- *Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits; and*
- *Produce a report which presents the results of the works in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI (WA 2016b) and in compliance with the standards set out in the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation* (ClfA (2014a), except where they were superseded by the statements made below.
- 3.2.2 All works were carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974*, 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.
- 3.2.3 All the evaluation trench areas were also scanned before and during excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) to further verify the absence of live underground services.
- 3.2.4 Three machine-excavated trial trenches, each measuring 30m x 1.5m were originally proposed, targeted on anomalies highlighted in the geophysical survey (**Figure 1**). A contingency of a fourth trench was also proposed if required by the Senior Archaeologist for DCC, to allow for the further investigation of any features or deposits not sufficiently characterised within the initial trench area.
- 3.2.5 All trenches were laid out using GPS in general accordance with the pattern given in **Figure 1**. Trench locations were tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum (Newlyn).
- 3.2.6 The trenches were excavated using a 360 tracked excavator equipped with a toothless bucket working under constant supervision by WA. Machine excavation, under the instruction of the monitoring archaeologist, proceeded in spits (c. 20-200 mm deep), to the point at which the top of the archaeological levels or the top of the natural deposits, were exposed, whichever was the higher. Where appropriate, hand cleaning was then undertaken to establish the nature of the deposits.



- 3.2.7 Archaeological features were then sampled sufficiently to address the aims of the evaluation, and recorded to professionally accepted standards. Appropriate sampling of features identified in the trenches was carried out by hand, to establish their character, date and function.
- 3.2.8 All spoil derived from trenches, including archaeological features, was visually scanned by trained archaeological personnel for the purposes of finds retrieval.
- 3.2.9 Completed trenches were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate order in which it was excavated. The trench areas were left level on completion, but no other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.
- 3.2.10 Five geological test pits were also excavated under the supervision of WA, measuring approximately 3m x 0.6m. The procedure for excavation, inspection, recording and backfilling was the same as for the trenches. However, due to their depth it was not possible to physically enter these test pits.

3.3 Monitoring

- 3.3.1 WA informed the Senior Archaeologist for Dorset County Council of the commencement of fieldwork and the progress of the investigations of the site.

3.4 Recording

- 3.4.1 All exposed archaeological contexts were recorded using WA's *pro forma* recording system.
- 3.4.2 A complete drawn record of all excavated features and deposits was compiled. This includes both plans and section drawings at appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) heights of all principle features and levels have been calculated and the plans and sections annotated with these OD heights.
- 3.4.3 A complete photographic record was maintained, using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subjected to quality control and curation processes, which embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

3.5 Specialist strategies

Artefacts

- 3.5.1 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.
- 3.5.2 All artefacts recovered during the evaluation remain the property of the landowner. As a minimum, all the retained artefacts have been cleaned, weighed, counted and identified. They have been suitably bagged and boxed in accordance with guidance given by the relevant museum and generally in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standards and Guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and the Museums and Galleries Commissions *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (1992). With the permission of the landowner, it is anticipated that the artefacts will be deposited with the relevant museum.

Environmental

- 3.5.3 None of the excavated deposits were deemed suitable for environmental sampling.



4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Each of the three excavated trenches contained archaeological features. However, those in Trenches 2 and 3 were cut from relatively high up and therefore deemed to be relatively recent.

4.1.2 None of the five geological test pits produced positive archaeological results.

4.2 Summary

4.2.1 The excavated features, were of Iron Age and Romano-British date. Given the quantity and nature of the pottery recovered from their fills, it is suggested that these relate to settlement activity within the Site and its immediate vicinity.

4.3 Romano-British

4.3.1 Ditch **308 (Figure 1 and Plate 3)** in Trench 3 measured approximately 4.5m wide and was aligned north-east/south-west. It was not fully excavated so it was not possible to ascertain its depth. It contained at least two fills which both contained pottery dating to the Romano-British period. The exact function of this feature remains unclear but it is likely to form a boundary associated with localised settlement activity.

4.4 Post-medieval

4.4.1 Gully **104 (Figure 1 and Plate 2)** in Trench 1 has been assigned a Post-medieval date due to its being cut from relatively high in the trench section. It was 0.73m wide and 0.40m deep and aligned east-west. It contained no dating evidence however, apart from a single, residual, worked flint.

4.5 Modern

4.5.1 Was a trackway visible in the northern end of Trench 2. This could be observed as a sinuous linear hollow on the surface of the field running from the gateway in the western edge of the plot in an approximate eastern direction. A worn, rather than dug, feature, **204 (Figure 1)** could conceivably date to an earlier period but the only finds recovered from it were of a modern date. **204** was approximately 2m wide and 0.4m deep.

4.6 Features of uncertain date

4.6.1 Trench 3 (**Figure 1**) contained a north-west/south-east aligned ditch, **303, (Plate 4)** which was 2.05m wide and 0.53m deep. The only archaeological material recovered from this feature was a single struck flint from the upper fill and therefore residual. The geophysical survey (**Figure 1**) suggests **303** may be the return of Romano-British ditch **308**, although the lack of finds from the former may suggest that if this is the case, **303** was re-cut at a later date. There is some evidence in the section through **303** to support this theory.

4.6.2 Gully **310, (Plates 4 and 5)** also in Trench 3 was 0.5m wide as excavated although partly obscured beneath the edge of the trench so must be slightly wider than this. It was 0.33m deep and although its true nature was difficult to ascertain due to it being one of several intercutting features, the others being **308, 312** and **317**. It is suggested that **310** forms the western edge of a curvilinear ditch which would lie mostly to the east. A Romano-British date is suggested for **310** on the basis of pottery derived from ditch **308**.

4.6.3 Feature **312 (Plate 4)** in Trench 3 was unexcavated so only visible in plan. It was approximately 0.5m wide and could represent either the terminus of a ditch or a discrete



pit. **312** intercut **308**, **310** and **317** although no relationship was visible due to the similarity of their fills. This similarity to features containing Romano-British pottery suggests **312** could belong to this period.

4.6.4 **317** was an unexcavated east-west aligned linear feature in Trench 3. Again, although intercutting **308**, **310** and **312** no stratigraphic relationship between them was visible.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Only minimal quantities (560g) of artefacts were recovered. Unsurprisingly, most came from Trench 3, coincident with the concentration of archaeological features and deposits in the south-eastern corner of the site. No items of archaeological significance were encountered in Trench 2.

5.2 Background and summary quantification

5.2.1 After cleaning, all the finds were quantified by material type within each context, and the totals by material type, feature and trench are presented in Table 1. They were then scanned to establish the range of types present, their condition, and potential date range. Spot dates have been recorded for the pottery, and all data are currently held on an Access database.

Table 1: All finds by material type (number of pieces/weight in grammes)

| | | | Burnt flint | Flint | Pottery | Total |
|--------------|--------------|---------|-------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Trench | Feature | Context | No/Wt | No/Wt | No/Wt | No/Wt |
| 1 | subsoil | 102 | | 1/3 | med: 4/59 | 5/62 |
| | gully 104 | 105 | | 1/3 | | 1/3 |
| 3 | ditch 303 | 307 | 1/14 | | | 1/14 |
| | ditch 308 | 309 | | | MIA: 1/3 RB: 19/154 | 20/157 |
| | | 314 | | | RB: 23/179 | 23/179 |
| | | 315 | | 1/8 | RB: 1/15 | 2/23 |
| | unstratified | - | | | MIA: 10/122 | 10/122 |
| Total | | | 1/14 | 3/14 | 58/532 | 62/560 |

5.3 Pottery

5.3.1 The earliest pottery (11 sherds, 125g), is of Middle Iron Age date (400 – 100 BC). Five sherds (three rejoining) from a slack-shouldered jar with a slightly thickened rim in a fabric tempered with oolitic limestone were found unstratified in Trench 3. Two other body sherds in a similar oolitic fabric and three in an oxidised, shell-tempered ware came from the area of the intersection between ditches **308**, **310** and **312** but these, unfortunately, could not be assigned to a particular context. One other small, oolitic body sherd was found residually in ditch 308. The jar finds parallels among the Allard's Quarry material (Williams 1950, fig. 7, 20, fig. 11, 58 and 60, fig. 12, 86) and a source in the area of the Inferior Oolite around Sherborne is considered likely.

5.3.2 Sherds of Romano-British date (1st – 4th centuries AD) formed the bulk of the assemblage from Trench 3 (Table 1). The majority of these consist of base and body sherds of South-east Dorset Black Burnished ware (31 pieces, 274g). One of the jars in



this fabric (ditch **308**) had had a post-firing perforation drilled through its lower wall, indicating a deliberate change in the use of this vessel at some point during its lifespan. Unfortunately, there are no chronologically diagnostic pieces amongst this fabric group with which to refine their date range. However, 11 pieces (59g) from a small to medium-sized bead rimmed jar made in an unsourced, wheel-made, sandy grey ware (layer **314** in ditch **308**) hint at a date in the 1st to late 2nd or early 3rd century AD.

- 5.3.3 The four medieval sherds (three bodies and part of a jar rim) come from the subsoil of trench 1. These occur in coarse sandy, sandy and sand with sparse flint-tempered fabrics, all of local origin and of 12th – 13th century date.

5.4 Worked flint

- 5.4.1 The earliest items consist of three flint flakes (subsoil and gully **104** in Trench 1 and ditch **315** in Trench 3). All have at least patches of cortex surviving. Although likely to be of prehistoric date, none can be more closely dated.

5.5 Burnt flint

- 5.5.1 A single piece of burnt flint was the only item found in the filling of ditch **307**. In an area such as this where flint is naturally abundant, its burning was probably a by-product of some other form of agricultural or domestic burning process. It is commonly interpreted as indicative of prehistoric activity, but it is intrinsically undatable and need not be contemporary with the features from which it was recovered. This piece has been discarded.

5.6 Potential

- 5.6.1 No items of intrinsic interest are present in this small assemblage, but the pottery does indicate three main periods of activity (Middle Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval), while the flints provide evidence for low-level use of the landscape during the earlier prehistoric period. The artefacts all survive in good condition and highlight the potential for the survival of a wider range of material types and far greater quantities if further fieldwork is undertaken, especially in the area of Trench 3 in the south-east corner of the site.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 No archaeological deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the evaluation.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Conclusions

- 7.1.1 The evaluation has confirmed that the Site does contain a concentration of archaeological activity, which appears to date to the Romano-British period. This was concentrated within the south-eastern corner of the Site, centred on Trench 3 and the features within this part of the site corroborate the results of the previously undertaken geophysical survey. The results of both investigations suggest the presence of a ditched enclosure within the south-east corner of the site. Given the limited nature of the trial trench evaluation however, it is not possible to clearly define what the nature of the enclosure is and whether it relates to settlement or some other form of activity. Previous investigation within



the wider vicinity had identified Romano-British activity in the wider landscape, and the current investigation has been able to demonstrate that evidence of activity dating to this period is present within the site.

- 7.1.2 The earliest physical evidence identified comprises a small number of worked flints dating broadly to the prehistoric period. This conforms to evidence within the wider vicinity which indicates limited prehistoric background activity categorised by individual findspots.
- 7.1.3 Trenches 1 and 2 contained features dated to the Post-medieval/modern periods. The lack of evidence within these trenches and the geotechnical test pits, which contained no archaeological material, indicates that during these periods and likely within the medieval periods the site lay within agricultural land on the periphery of Marnhull. A geophysical anomaly identified in the survey as crossing between Trenches 1 and 2 could not be identified during the evaluation although the same anomaly was identified as an undated ditch in Trench 3. It is unclear whether this feature relates to the Romano British activity in the south-east corner of the site or is a localised feature of more recent date.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the evaluation be deposited with Dorset County Museum in Dorchester. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

8.2 Archive

- 8.2.1 On completion of the report a cross-referenced and internally consistent archive will be produced, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the unique site code **89112**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following-
- *1 cardboard boxes/airtight plastic boxes of artefacts, ordered by material type*
 - *1 file/document case of paper records & A4/A3 graphics*
- 8.2.3 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).
- 8.2.4 All the artefacts so far recovered have already been recorded to a sufficient standard to meet basic archive requirements (e.g. PCRG, SGRP & MPRG 2016). No further analysis is considered appropriate at this stage, but comments based on the results of this assessment could be adapted for use in any publication note. If, however, further fieldwork is undertaken, the assemblage from this evaluation should be reconsidered in the light of any larger collection of material resulting from these interventions



8.3 Conservation

- 8.3.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field. During assessment, none of the finds were identified as being of unstable material types or as being in an unstable condition, so no further conservation treatment is considered necessary.

8.4 Storage

- 8.4.1 No charge will be made for the temporary storage of finds or archives during the period when Wessex Archaeology are undertaking analysis or report preparation.
- 8.4.2 However, if, after completion and submission of the report, finds and archives cannot be deposited with the relevant museum due to circumstances beyond Wessex Archaeology's control, a charge will be made for storage.
- 8.4.3 A charge for storage may also be made where a delay is caused by a lack of confirmation of post-fieldwork analyses and report, if the delay exceeds three months.

8.5 Discard policy

- 8.5.1 WA follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard will be noted with the project archive. In this instance, modern and undated finds, having little or no further potential, have been discarded.

8.6 Copyright

- 8.6.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology 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*.

8.7 Security Copy

- 8.7.1 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.

9 REFERENCES

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10 APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1: Trench and Context Summaries

Bgl: Below Ground Level,

| Trench 1 | Dimensions : | 30m by 1.5m by 0.55m | Ground surface level: | 83.27m aOD |
|----------|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------|------------|
| | Centre line Coordinates (NGR): | 377597.80, 119238.10 to 377612.60 to 119263.45 | | |
| Context | Category | Description | Depth (bgl) | |
| 101 | Topsoil | Mid brown silty clay. | 0-0.25m | |
| 102 | Subsoil | Dark yellow/brown silty clay. | 0.25-0.53m | |
| 103 | Natural | Mid yellow/brown sandy clay (approx. 50% sand & 50% clay). | 0.53m + | |
| 104 | Cut | E-W aligned gully with steeply-sloping sides & concave base. 0.73m wide x 0.40m deep. Cut through subsoil. | 0.20-0.60m | |
| 105 | Fill | Secondary fill of [104]. Mid grey/brown fine sandy clay. | | |

| Trench 2 | Dimensions : | 30m by 1.5m by 0.5m | Ground surface level: | 82.50m aOD |
|----------|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------|------------|
| | Centre line Coordinates (NGR): | 377613.25, 119221.00 to 377634.25, 119241.65 | | |
| Context | Category | Description | Depth (bgl) | |
| 201 | Topsoil | Mid brown silty clay. | 0-0.20m | |
| 202 | Subsoil | Dark yellow/brown silty clay. | 0.20-0.45m | |
| 203 | Natural | Mid yellow/brown sandy clay (approx. 50% sand & 50% clay). | 0.45m + | |
| 204 | Cut | Approximately E-W aligned trackway visible on surface. Gently sloping sides & concave base. Approx. 2m wide x 0.40m deep. | 0.20-0.50m | |
| 205 | Fill | Secondary fill of [204]. Mid grey/brown silty clay. Contains modern material. | | |



| Trench 3 | Dimensions : | 30m by 1.5m by 0.55m | Ground surface level: | 81.63m aOD |
|----------|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------|------------|
| | Centre line Coordinates (NGR): | 377639.00, 119198.20 to 377640.20, 119227.40 | | |
| Context | Category | Description | Depth (bgl) | |
| 300 | Topsoil | Dark yellow/brown clay sandy silt. | 0-0.25m | |
| 301 | Subsoil | Dark yellow/brown silty clay. | 0.25-0.45m | |
| 302 | Natural | Light yellow/brown sandy clay (approx. 50% sand & 50% clay). | 0.45m + | |
| 303 | Cut | NW-SE aligned ditch, stepped sides & flat base, 2.05m wide x 0.53m deep. Possibly re-cut. | 0.55-1.08m | |
| 304 | Fill | Primary fill of [303]. Yellow/brown silty clay. Possibly same as (306) and part of original fill largely removed by re-cutting of feature. | | |
| 305 | Fill | Secondary fill of [303]. Dark grey/brown sandy silty clay containing frequent manganese. Natural silting. | | |
| 306 | Fill | Primary fill of [303]. Yellow/brown silty clay. Possibly same as (304) and part of original fill largely removed by re-cutting of feature. | | |
| 307 | Fill | Secondary fill of [303]. Dark yellow/brown sandy silty clay. Natural silting. | | |
| 308 | Cut | NE-SW aligned ditch. Approx. 4.5m wide but not fully excavated so depth unknown. Gently sloping sides as far as revealed. Uncertain relationship with [310], [312] and [317]. | 0.55m+ | |
| 309 | Fill | Secondary fill of [308]. Dark grey/brown sandy clay silt containing moderate manganese flecks. Also contains moderate burnt animal bone, moderate pottery fragments, moderate charcoal flecks & small fragments and moderate fired earth flecks i.e. possible hearth material. Post-occupational surface deposit. | | |
| 310 | Cut | Cut of gully. Aligned NW-SE where excavated but possibly turns to form part of curvilinear. Partially obscured beneath L.o.E but just over 0.5m wide x 0.28m deep. Steeply sloping sides & concave base. Uncertain relationship with [308], [312] and [317]. | 0.55-0.83m | |
| 311 | Fill | Secondary fill of [310]. Mid grey sandy clay containing occasional medium-sized sub-angular ironstone fragments & moderate pottery fragments. | | |
| 312 | Cut | Cut of ditch terminus/pit. Not fully excavated. 0.5m wide. Uncertain relationship with [308], [310] and [317]. | 0.55m+ | |
| 313 | Fill | Fill of [312]. Dark grey sandy clay. Post-occupational surface deposit. | | |
| 314 | Fill | Secondary fill of [308]. Mid yellow/brown silty clay sand. Contains occasional charcoal & burnt animal bone frags & abundant pottery frags. Natural deposition. Possibly same as (315). | | |



| | | | |
|-----|------|--|-------|
| 315 | Fill | Secondary fill of [308]. Mid yellow/brown silty clay sand. Contains occasional charcoal & burnt animal bone frags, 1 x pottery frag & 1 x struck flint frag. Natural deposition. Possibly same as (314). | |
| 316 | Fill | Secondary fill of [310]. Light grey with light & dark yellow/brown mottling. Sandy clay. Contains frequent manganese. | |
| 317 | Cut | Cut of east-west ditch. Uncertain relationship with [308], [310] and [312]. No dimensions available as not excavated. | 0.55+ |
| 318 | Fill | Fill of [317]. Mid grey slightly sandy clay. Natural silting | |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|------------|
| Test Pit 1 | Dimensions : | 3.2m by 0.67m by 1m | Ground surface level: | 83.66m aOD |
| | Centre line Coordinates (NGR): | 377597.55. 119252.00 to 377597.95. 119255.10 | | |
| Context | Category | Description | Depth (bgl) | |
| 401 | Topsoil | Mid brown silty clay. | 0-0.30m | |
| 402 | Subsoil | Dark yellow/brown silty clay. | 0.30-0.50m | |
| 403 | Natural | Mid yellow/brown fine sandy clay (approx. 50% sand & 50% clay) containing mid blue/grey mottling | 0.50m+ | |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|------------|
| Test Pit 2 | Dimensions : | 3.2m by 0.6m by 2.6m | Ground surface level: | 82.75m aOD |
| | Centre line Coordinates (NGR): | 377624.60. 119250.20 to 377625.70. 119253.30 | | |
| Context | Category | Description | Depth (bgl) | |
| 501 | Topsoil | Mid brown silty clay. | 0-0.30m | |
| 502 | Subsoil | Dark yellow/brown silty clay. | 0.30-0.60m | |
| 503 | Natural | Mid yellow/brown sandy clay (approx. 50% sand & 50% clay) with mid blue/grey mottling | 0.60m+ | |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|---------|
| Test Pit 3 | Dimensions : | 3m by 0.7m by 2.94m | Ground surface level: | 82m aOD |
| | Centre line Coordinates (NGR): | 377627.95. 119203.80 to 377628.15. 119206.75 | | |
| Context | Category | Description | Depth (bgl) | |
| 601 | Topsoil | Mid brown silty clay. | 0-0.25m | |
| 602 | Subsoil | Dark yellow/brown silty clay. | 0.25-0.50m | |



| | | | |
|-----|---------|---|--------|
| 603 | Natural | Mid yellow/brown soft sandy clay (approx. 50% sand & 50% clay). | 0.50m+ |
|-----|---------|---|--------|

| Test Pit 4 | Dimensions : | 2.95m by 0.7m by 1m | Ground surface level: | 82.45m aOD |
|------------|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------|------------|
| | Centre line Coordinates (NGR): | 377626.20. 119226.80 to 377626.40. 119223.95 | | |
| Context | Category | Description | Depth (bgl) | |
| 701 | Topsoil | Mid brown silty clay. | 0-0.25m | |
| 702 | Subsoil | Dark yellow/brown silty clay. | 0.25-0.45m | |
| 703 | Natural | Mid yellow/brown soft sandy clay (approx. 50% sand & 50% clay) with light blue/grey mottling | 0.45m+ | |

| Test Pit 5 | Dimensions : | 3m by 0.7m by 2.6m | Ground surface level: | 81.50m aOD |
|------------|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------|------------|
| | Centre line Coordinates (NGR): | 377652.50. 119217.20 to 377655.45. 119216.35 | | |
| Context | Category | Description | Depth (bgl) | |
| 801 | Topsoil | Mid brown silty clay. | 0-0.25m | |
| 802 | Subsoil | Dark yellow/brown silty clay. | 0.25-0.55m | |
| 803 | Natural | Mid yellow/brown soft fine sandy clay (approx. 50% sand & 50% clay) with mid grey mottling | 0.55m+ | |



10.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form

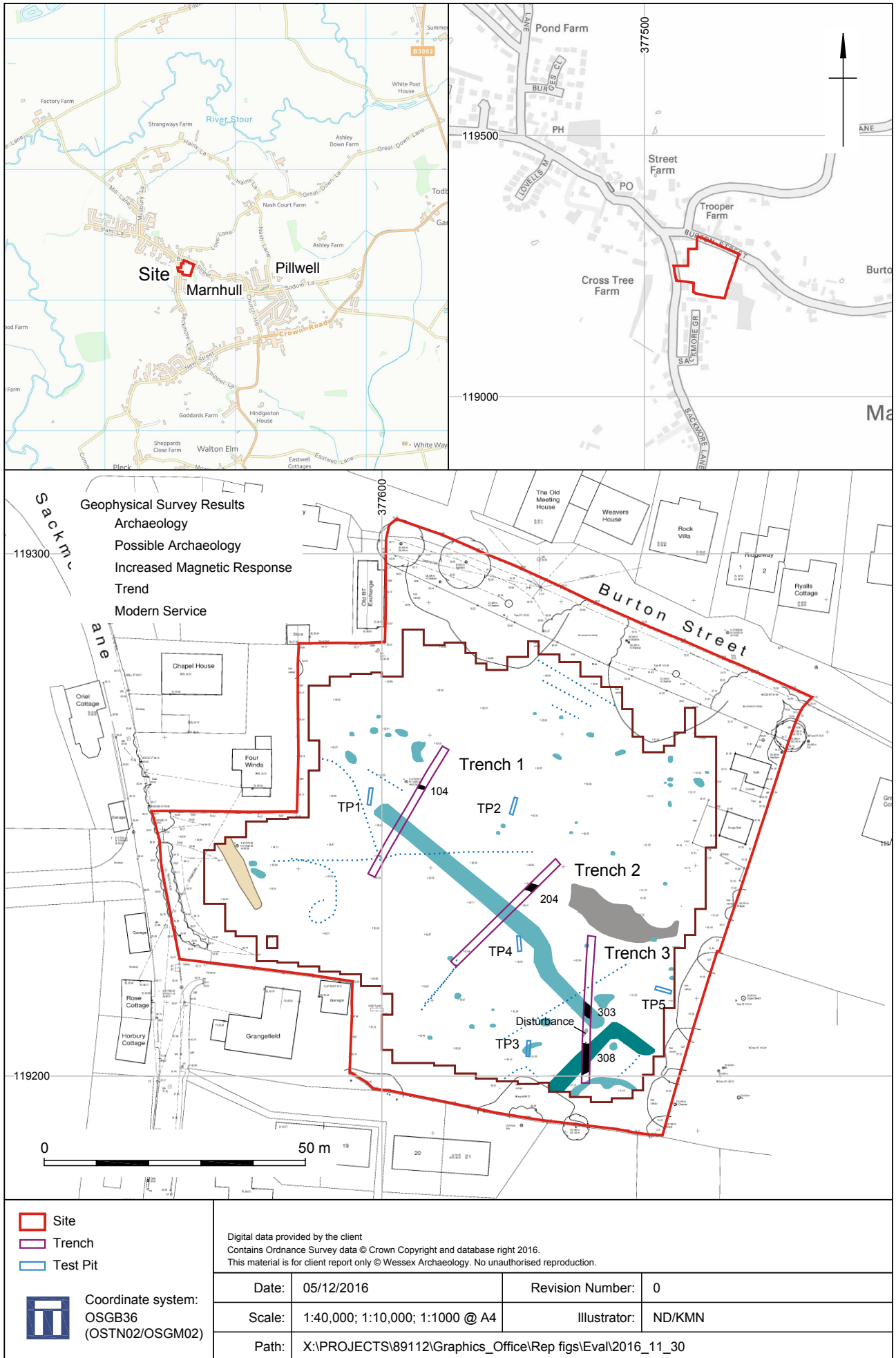
| | |
|--|--|
| OASIS ID: wessexar1-270361 | |
| Project details | |
| Project name | Land off Sackmore Lane, Marnhull, Dorset |
| Short description of the project | Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Siam Consultancy and Investments Ltd to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land off Sackmore Lane, Marnhull, Dorset. The evaluation comprised the excavation of three trial trenches, each measuring approximately 30m x 1.5m. The trenches were targeted on the proposed housing development and green spaces using information from a previous geophysical survey. The work took place on 3rd and 4th November 2016. At the same time as the trial trench evaluation, WA carried out a watching brief on five geological test pits excavated within the same plot. None of these produced any positive archaeological results. One area of archaeological potential was identified towards the southern end of Trench 3 in the south-eastern corner of the plot, which corresponded to a geophysical anomaly indicative of an enclosure. A number of linear features and deposits dating to Romano-British period was identified, suggesting a possible focus of activity within this part of the site dating to these periods |
| Project dates | Start: 03-11-2016 End: 04-11-2016 |
| Previous/future work | Yes / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | 89112 - Contracting Unit No. |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Site status | Conservation Area |
| Current Land use | Other 10 - Orchard |
| Monument type | DITCH Roman |
| Monument type | DITCH Post Medieval |
| Monument type | DITCH Modern |
| Significant Finds | WORKED FLINT Late Prehistoric |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Medieval |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Middle Iron Age |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Roman |
| Project location | |
| Country | England |
| Site location | DORSET NORTH DORSET STURMINSTER NEWTON Land off Sackmore Lane, Marnhull, Dorset |
| Postcode | DT10 1PP |
| Study area | 0.88 Hectares |
| Site coordinates | 377615 119240 377615 00 00 N 119240 00 00 E Point |



| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Lat/Long Datum | Position derived from charts |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 81.18m Max: 82.74m |
| Project creators | |
| Name of Organisation | Wessex Archaeology |
| Project design originator | Wessex archaeology |
| Project director/manager | Gareth Chaffey |
| Project director/manager | Damian De Rosa |
| Project supervisor | Lee Newton |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Developer |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | Siam Consultancy & Investments Ltd |



| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Project archives | |
| Physical Archive recipient | Dorset County Museum |
| Physical Contents | "Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics" |
| Digital Archive recipient | Dorset County Museum |
| Digital Contents | "Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics" |
| Digital Media available | "Images raster / digital photography", "Text" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Dorset County Museum |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet", "Plan", "Report" |
| | |
| Project bibliography 1 | |
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Land off Sackmore Lane, Marnhull, Dorset. Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation and Watching Brief |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Newton, L. |
| Other bibliographic details | 89112.01 |
| Date | 2016 |
| Issuer or publisher | Wessex Archaeology |
| Place of issue or publication | Salisbury |
| Description | A4 Format text report with illustrations |



Location of site, development area and excavated trenches

Figure 1



Proposed development plan

Figure 2



Plate 1: Trench 2 viewed from the south-west



Plate 2: West-north-west facing section through gully 104


| | | | | |
|---|---|--|------------------|-----|
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| | Date: | 05/12/2016 | Revision Number: | 0 |
| | Scale: | N/A | Illustrator: | KMN |
| | Path: | X:\PROJECTS\89112\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2016_11_30 | | |



Plate 3: South-east facing section through ditch 308



Plate 4: Plan shot of 303 (top), 312 (middle) and 310 (bottom) viewed from the south



| | | | | |
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Plate 5: North-west facing section through gully 310

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|------------------|-----|
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