



Land at Chickerell Dorset

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of C G Fry and Son (the Client), to carry out an archaeological watching brief during excavation and enlargement of two ponds on Land at Chickerell, Dorset Centred on national grid reference (NGR) 364637, 081004. The monitored works covered a total of 800m².

The ponds were located to the east and west of an area of archaeological potential identified in a geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2016). This consisted of a group of field system enclosure ditches and gullies dated to the latter part of the Romano-British period (post 220-250AD), most likely related to a settlement that lies outside the development area.

The watching brief revealed a further enclosure within the field system, and a group of three pits, two of which may well have been natural. Evidence was recovered of some phasing within the field system, in the form of recutting of the enclosure and a date from the earlier part of the Romano-British period (1st-2nd Century AD).

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Land at Chickerell, Dorset

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of C G Fry and Son (the Client), to carry out an archaeological watching brief during excavation and enlargement of two ponds on Land at Chickerell, Dorset Centred on national grid reference 364637, 081004. The monitored works covered a total of 800m² (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The excavation of the two ponds was being undertaken in regard of and in advance of the proposed residential led development of the site. An application for the development of the site is in preparation and is to be submitted to West Dorset District Council the local planning authority (LPA).

1.1.3 Following consultation by CgMs with Steve Wallis, the Senior Archaeologist at Dorset County Council (SADCC), the archaeological advisor to the LPA, due to the archaeological potential identified within the Site during a geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation (CA 2016) it was agreed that an archaeological watching brief to monitor the excavation of the ponds should be undertaken.

1.1.4 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed Wessex Archaeology 2017). Steve Wallis, the Senior Archaeologist at Dorset County Council (SADCC), approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.5 The watching brief was undertaken 25/10/2017 – 06/11/2017.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The watching brief was located within the northern part of the wider proposed development area. The Site as a whole comprises an area of c. 7.9 ha and comprises agricultural fields. To the north are open agricultural fields, immediately to the south lies the village of Chickerell. The two ponds comprise an area of c. 200m² for Pond 2 (including existing pond and extension) and c. 600m² for Pond 4 which will be a new pond (Figs. PDL-101 and D2239L.300). The ponds are located to the east and west of an area of archaeological potential identified in the evaluation (CA 2016) centred on Trenches 12 to 14 (**Figure 2**). The natural geology was identified at a depth of 0.45 m below ground level within these trenches overlain by a subsoil and topsoil.



- 1.3.2 The Site lies at approximately 46 to 47 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.3.3 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Forest Marble Formation - Mudstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 165 to 168 million years ago in the Jurassic Period (British Geological Survey online viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The information presented below is a summary of a Desk Based Assessment produced by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2010) based on a site to the east of the current Site, and set out within the evaluation report (CA 2016). A summary of the results of the evaluation (CA 2016) is also set out below.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the development

- 2.2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during July 2016 at the Site. Thirty trenches were excavated with a series of Romano-British ditches and possible pits recorded in four of the trenches with the main activity and potential centred on Trenches 12 to 14. The ditches represent field boundaries and drainage features relating to a probable Romano-British farmstead located external to the Site, somewhere within the wider landscape.
- 2.2.2 A total of 129 sherds of Roman pottery was recovered mainly from features recorded within trenches 13 and 14.
- 2.2.3 Other contemporary farmsteads and settlements are known of locally upon similar coastal promontories including those at Radipole and Portesham. Other evidence comprising later medieval/post-medieval ground consolidation was also recorded.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric and Romano-British activity

- 2.3.1 The earliest recorded evidence of human activity within the area dates to the Mesolithic period, with the discovery of a brown flint convex scraper at Chickerell Brickyard and a Mesolithic core of Portland chert at Ridgeway Hill on the Weymouth Golf Links.
- 2.3.2 A single Neolithic find, comprising a ground axehead, was found at Radipole, to the east of the Site, but there are no other finds or sites of Neolithic date in the immediate area.
- 2.3.3 There are no finds or sites of Bronze Age or Iron Age date recorded within the immediate environs of the site, although find-spots of Early Iron Age pottery are known as well as a Romano-British inhumation cemetery and possible settlement in the wider environs.
- 2.3.4 Whilst there is therefore only a background level of human activity recorded in the area during the prehistoric period, extensive prehistoric remains are recorded to the northeast in the area around Littlemoor and The Ridgeway. Weymouth to the south is also suggested as a port of entry to the south coast during the Bronze Age.
- 2.3.5 The earliest extensive archaeological remains recorded date to the Romano-British period, with a number of sites to the north, east and south-west of the Site. Evidence from this period consists of inhumation cemeteries, other burial sites, an enclosure and occupation debris. The two large inhumation cemeteries to the east of the Site served part of a well-populated agrarian landscape throughout the Romano-British period. The civitas

of Dvrnovaria (Dorchester) was a major town in the area, being the likely capital of the Durotriges tribe, whilst a small port at Radipole, located at the top end of Radipole Lake, is believed to have been established during the Romano-British period and would have served Dvrnovaria via a branch road. In the Southill area of Radipole parish a number of Roman artefacts have been found in addition to settlement evidence in the area around Spa Road.

Saxon and medieval settlement and land use

- 2.3.6 The village of Chickerell are mentioned in Domesday, suggesting they have a Saxon foundation. Domesday records Chickerell, or Cicherelle, as being held by Bolla the priest, thought to be a tenant of Cerne Abbey, although he was not recorded as such in the Domesday texts. However, in Chickerell “Yer Tiz”, Bollo is described as one of the King’s Thaners, a man who held land from an English King or other superior by military service, ranking between ordinary freemen and hereditary roles (Chickerell Parish Council, 1997, p.9).
- 2.3.7 Although no sites or finds of Saxon date are recorded within the wider area, it is possible that some of the present field systems may represent remnants of Saxon or medieval agricultural land use and division.
- 2.3.8 During the medieval period the present day village of Chickerell was known as West Chickerell (Westchykerel). Other local medieval sites relate to the settlements of Chickerell, in particular the two parish churches, both of which are Grade II* Listed Buildings. The site therefore lies in the agricultural hinterland to the north of the medieval settlements of Chickerell.

Post-medieval and modern landscape

- 2.3.9 There are 28 post-medieval sites recorded within the immediate environs of the site although none lie within the boundary of the Site itself. Half of these sites comprise Grade II Listed Buildings and structures which are concentrated within the two conservation areas of Radipole and Chickerell and largely relate to cottages/houses, a former corn mill and structures associated with the parish churches.
- 2.3.10 The remaining sites consist largely of old lime kilns, quarries, and brickworks. There are two sites close to the Site, an old quarry and a lime kiln respectively, which are located in the area to the northwest of the electricity substation.
- 2.3.11 There are 15 sites dating to the 19th century within the Study Area, 13 of which are Grade II Listed Buildings. There are two 19th century limekilns recorded.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The aims (or purpose) of the watching brief, as defined in the ClfA’ *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a) are:
- To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
 - To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an



archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and

- To guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the watching brief are:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
- To record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
- To identify whether the archaeology previously identified in the geophysical survey and evaluation extends into the footprints of the two ponds;
- To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- To make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The watching brief monitored the excavation of the two ponds which will comprise the extension to an existing pond (Pond 2) and excavation of a new pond (Pond 4). Excavation was to a depth of up to c.1.80m below existing ground level. The two pond locations lie to the east and west of an area of archaeological potential identified during a geophysical survey and evaluation (CA 2016) within Trenches 12 to 14
- 4.2.2 The watching archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the specified area. Where necessary, the surface of uncovered archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits identified was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the watching brief.
- 4.2.3 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Where found, artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained. Recording
- 4.2.4 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated

features and deposits was made including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections), and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.

- 4.2.5 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

- 4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 Steve Wallis, Senior Archaeologist at Dorset County Council, archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) monitored the watching brief, and was kept updated on the progress of the fieldwork.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Investigations revealed extensive soil layers, enclosure ditch and three relatively small pits. These features were confined to Pond 4.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 Both ponds revealed topsoil (**100**) and subsoil (**101**) horizons maximally 500mm thick over an undisturbed natural base of yellowish brown silty clay and degraded forest marble fragments. The eastern edge of Pond 2 also revealed what appeared to be a relict ploughsoil (**119**), ca 0.2m thick, sealed by the subsoil horizon (**101**). Metal detecting of the subsoil layer **102** in Pond 4 recovered three Roman coins, one a small 4th-century AD radiate copy (Wolf and Twins), and the other two very abraded and completely illegible but probably also 4th-century. Other objects include a possible fragment from a Romano-British bow brooch, a post-medieval button, and two small fittings. Pottery dating from the Romano-British Period to the modern period was also recovered from subsoil **101**.

5.3 The pits

- 5.3.1 The three pits were situated in close proximity to one another in the western half of the area of the new pond, Pond 4. These were features **106**, **108** and **116** (**Figures 2, 3** and **Plates 2** and **3**).



- 5.3.2 Pit **106** was sub-circular, of roughly 0.75m diameter and was 0.12m deep. It contained an undifferentiated single fill (**107**), of slightly stony dark yellowish brown silty clay. It also contained several archaeological finds including pottery dating to the later 1st to early 2nd century AD and was interpreted as a rubbish pit.
- 5.3.3 Pit **108** was circular, but much smaller, at 0.32m diameter and was 0.09m deep. It contained a single undifferentiated fill of slightly stony greyish brown silty clay, and no finds.
- 5.3.4 Pit **116** (**Figures 2, 3** (section) and **Plate 1**) was heavily truncated by the enclosure/boundary ditch **103** and not fully exposed. The excavated section of the pit was 1.15m long and 0.35m wide. The shape of the pit was unusual in that it was not symmetrical. While its eastern edge was almost vertical, the western edge was essentially contiguous with the base and ran from the surface at an angle of +/- 30° till it met the bottom of the eastern edge. The upper 0.3m of the pit had been largely cut away by the enclosure, but it contained two surviving fills. These consisted of basal fill (**117**) of yellowish brown silty clay and a soil deposit (**118**), which may represent a stabilisation layer.

5.4 The enclosure ditch

- 5.4.1 This was a broad, L-shaped section of a linear feature, roughly 28m long and 1.5m wide, running north-south across the pond before turning eastward, co-linear with the northern pond boundary. A single section was excavated, which showed the feature to consist of a sequence of ditches, **113** and **103**, of which **103** was the later.
- 5.4.2 Ditch **113** was truncated by **103** and only approximately half its width survived. The surviving element was 0.65m wide and, judging by the slope of its western edge could easily have been twice that. It was 0.3m deep and contained two fills. Basal fill **114** was a deposit of slightly stony mod-yellowish brown silty clay and was 0.16m thick. Secondary fill **115** was of greyish brown slightly stony silty clay. The horizon between the two was very diffuse.
- 5.4.3 Ditch **113** truncated pit **116**.
- 5.4.4 Ditch **103** was 1.10m wide and 0.40m deep. It, too, had two fills. Basal fill **104** was of mid-dark yellowish brown slightly stony silty clay and was concentrated along the western edge of the ditch. It was interpreted as slumping – perhaps of upcast, but also very likely of the softer fills of **113**, which were adjacent. Its secondary fill **105** was of greyish brown slightly stony silty clay, and contained some domestic refuse, and contained pottery of later 1st to early 2nd century AD date.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 The watching brief produced a very small finds assemblage, ranging in date from prehistoric to post-medieval/modern. Finds were recovered from three contexts (**101**, **105** and **107**), and included hand-retrieved finds as well as a few items extracted from sieved soil samples, augmented by a small group of metal finds recovered from a metal detector survey of the spoil heap.
- 6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Appendix 2 - Table 1**.

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The pottery assemblage amounts to 79 sherds (627 g), of which 64 sherds are Romano-British, two are medieval, and 13 are post-medieval/modern. The condition is fair to poor. The whole assemblage is very fragmentary, and Romano-British and medieval sherds in particular are badly abraded, suggesting a high level of reworking and redeposition. Mean sherd weight overall is 7.9 g.
- 6.2.2 The assemblage has been quantified (sherd count and weight) by ware type within each context, noting the presence of diagnostic sherds and identifiable vessel forms. This information is summarised in **Appendix 2 - Table 2**.

Romano-British

- 6.2.3 The majority of the assemblage is of Romano-British date. Only three ware types were identified. Unsurprisingly, given the Site's location, South-east Dorset Black Burnished ware (BB1) dominates this small group (60 sherds). Identifiable vessel forms include one small bead rim vessel from pit fill **107**, and a convex vessel with external flange from ditch fill **105** (an unusual form with one known, but unpublished, parallel from Dorchester). Also from this context were two countersunk handles and a footring base, while a second footring base came from pit fill **107**. These bases are possibly from bead-rimmed bowls. All these forms could be accommodated within a date range of later 1st to early 2nd century AD.
- 6.2.4 Other ware types are limited to one oxidised ware (undiagnostic body sherd) and three whitewares, including a flagon handle from context **105**.

Medieval

- 6.2.5 Two medieval sherds were recovered from the topsoil. One is a flint-/chert-tempered coarseware of a type found across south-west Dorset and into adjacent parts of Somerset and Devon; the likely source is the industry based in the Blackdown Hills south of Taunton, which was operating from the Late Saxon period through to the medieval period. This sherd is a jar rim, and is likely to be of 11th or 12th century date. The other sherd is a glazed West Dorset sandy ware, dating to the 13th-15th century.

Post-medieval/modern

- 6.2.6 All 13 post-medieval/modern sherds came from the topsoil. These include Frechen stoneware (late 16th/17th century), Verwood-type earthenware (probably 18th century or later), feldspathic-glazed English stoneware and refined whiteware, some transfer-printed (all of 19th/20th century date).

6.3 Flint

- 6.3.1 Six pieces of worked flint were recovered. Five are waste flakes and the sixth is a crudely made scraper. Raw material includes both flint and chert, both of which are locally available. None of these pieces are chronologically distinctive, and the small group is dated as Neolithic/Bronze Age.

6.4 Metalwork

- 6.4.1 Objects of copper alloy (10), lead (4) and iron (6) were found. The copper alloy includes three Roman coins, one a small 4th-century AD radiate copy (Wolf and Twins), and the other two very abraded and completely illegible but probably also 4th-century. Other objects include a possible fragment from a Romano-British bow brooch, a post-medieval



button, and two small fittings, one of which is possibly a post-medieval belt mount or hook fastener (Bailey 1999, 32, nos 36–7).

6.4.2 The lead, all from topsoil, includes one musket ball; the other three objects are waste.

6.4.3 All six of the iron objects are nails, and these are not chronologically distinctive. Five came from the topsoil and one from context **105**.

6.5 Animal Bone

6.5.1 The nine fragments of animal bone include two conjoining fragments, and are mostly in an abraded condition. They include sheep (tooth), cattle (ulna) and dog (radius).

6.6 Other Finds

6.6.1 Other finds comprise a small amount of marine shell (2 bivalve, 1 oyster), and parts of two limestone roofing slates. The latter are of uncertain date, as limestone slates were used from the Romano-British period onwards.

6.7 Potential and further recommendations

6.7.1 This assemblage differs somewhat in overall date from the larger assemblage recovered from the evaluation (CA 2016), however it is very small, and the potential for further research is therefore very limited. The earlier date gives some indication of wider phasing and is thus of interest, although continuity throughout the Romano-British period is by no means unusual locally. The faunal assemblage is abraded and includes only 9 identified fragments

6.7.2 The whole finds assemblage has been recorded to a sufficient level for archive purposes, and no further work is required, but if publication of the fieldwork results is envisaged then the results of the assessment, as presented here, could be summarised for incorporation in the publication text.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Aims and Methods

7.1.1 The purpose of this assessment is the evaluation of the quality of environmental remains preserved at the site and the potential for further analysis to address specific site archaeological issues and to provide environmental data valuable for wider research frameworks

7.1.2 A bulk sample was taken from a ditch of and was processed for the recovery and assessment of environmental evidence. The size of the sample was of 14 litres. The sample was processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fraction (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flot and the smaller fraction of the residue were scanned using a stereo incident light microscopy at magnifications of up to x40. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g. *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as earthworm eggs and insects, which would not be preserved unless anoxic conditions prevailed on site. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence of other environmental remains such as molluscs and animal bone, is recorded in **Appendix 3 - Table 3**.



- 7.1.3 Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals. Abundance of remains is qualitatively quantified (A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5) as an estimation of the minimum number of individuals and not the number of remains per taxa.

7.2 Results

- 7.2.1 The flot was small and there were high numbers of roots and other bioturbation indicators such as modern seeds that are indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements.
- 7.2.2 Charred material was poorly preserved and comprised a single fragment of cereal (Triticeae) grain, which was not identifiable to species level, and some very small fragments of wood charcoal. Small animal bones and shells of terrestrial, freshwater and marine molluscs were also present in a very fragmentary state. This assemblage is representative of probable remains of domestic resource processing activities, which was redeposited in the ditch after a period of exposure and weathering

7.3 Discussion and further potential

- 7.3.1 The assemblages recovered so far are small and eroded, probably reworked, and have little potential.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 The watching brief on the two ponds followed from an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2016). This had recovered evidence of field systems and drainage features relating to a probable Romano-British farmstead located external to the Site, and the watching brief was designed to record any further elements of this material.
- 8.1.2 The investigations revealed a further element of the field system in the form of enclosure ditch **103/113**, as well as three pits **103**, **106** and **116** and a possible relict ploughsoil **119**. The features were confined to Pond 4. There is some correspondence between the pits and enclosure ditch and the arrangement of features seen in the evaluation and hinted at in geophysical survey.

The Romano-British Field System

- 8.1.3 Specifically, the evaluation revealed two sections of shallow gully (CA 1203-1304) which were ca 400 mm wide and ca 150 mm deep. These appeared to be elements of a linear anomaly on the geophysics plot. The watching brief revealed the presence of a further linear feature – the two-phase enclosure ditch **103/113** - which was situated inside the angle of the gully and approximately 1.5m east of it. In form it most resembled the larger elements of field system revealed to the east (CA 1306 & 1411).
- 8.1.4 The pottery recovered from 1306 and 1411 was largely of later date within the period (post 220-250 AD), while that from the watching brief was of 1st-2nd Century date.
- 8.1.5 All of the finds recovered were more or less abraded or weathered and this, taken together with the evidence for exposure, weathering and reworking of material shown from

the environmental data, suggests that all of the features seen here are related to field systems or other activities external to a settlement located elsewhere.

The pits

- 8.1.6 Pits **103** and **106** were situated close together approximately 1.5m west of ditch **103/113**, while the third pit, **116**, was heavily truncated by the enclosure ditch itself. Of the three, only **103** produced any archaeological evidence, and although relatively shallow, is also the most convincing of the group. It is sub-circular, relatively large at 0.75m diameter and although shallow has distinct, regular edges and a flat base. Pit 106 was relatively small, and may in fact be natural in origin.
- 8.1.7 Similarly, pit **116** has a very unusual shape. While its eastern edge was almost vertical, the western edge was essentially contiguous with the base and ran from the surface at an angle of +/- 30° till it met the bottom of the eastern edge. Its interpretation as circular is based on limited observation in the excavation slot for **103/113**. Given that its northward extent is wholly obscured by the ditch which truncates it, it is entirely possible that the feature may be considerably larger than the small section exposed. Taken together with the hint of stabilisation in layer **118**, which suggests that the feature may have lain open for some time, the irregularity and peculiar profile suggest that this may in fact be a partially exposed tree throw, rather than an archaeological feature.

8.2 Discussion

- 8.2.1 In essence, the results of the watching brief support the conclusion drawn by the evaluation report, that the Site contained a field system relating to a Romano-British farmstead located external to the Site. The variation in date and location of the features indicates that the activity may have been somewhat more complex in use and phasing than was initially suggested, and that the settlement and agricultural activity may have spanned the Romano-British period rather than being confined to its later centuries.
- 8.2.2 While this is of some interest it is not unusual either locally or nationally for such rural settlements to span large parts, if not all, of the Roman period.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Dorset County Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

- 9.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Dorset County Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **site/accession code**, and a full index will be prepared.



9.3 Selection policy

- 9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum, and is fully documented in the project archive.

9.4 Security copy

- 9.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, 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.

9.5 OASIS

- 9.5.1 An OASIS online record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated, with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

- 10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. 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 conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
- 10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

10.2 Third party data copyright

- 10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Context table

Context	Description	Ground level 46.5m AOD Depth BGL (m)
100	<i>Layer</i> Topsoil. Dark yellowish brown silty clay with frequent stone fragments and occasional flint gravel. Thickness <0.25. ca	0.0m
101	<i>Layer</i> Subsoil. Dark yellowish brown silty clay with frequent stone fragments and occasional flint gravel. Thickness <0.25. ca	0.25m
102	<i>Layer</i> Natural. Mid yellowish brown silty clay with moderate stone fragments and flecks of degraded stone.	0.5m
103	<i>Cut</i> Enclosure Ditch. Entered Pond 4 approximately 1/3 along southern edge and ran due north across it for 15m before making a turn to the NE along the northern edge of the pond, where it was disturbed by a modern water supply trench. Also truncated at turn by Geotech pit. 1.10m wide by 0.40m deep. Overall length +/- 30m. Recut of Ditch 113. Filled with 104 and 105. Cuts 115.	0.9m (base)
104	<i>Fill</i> Secondary Fill of 103. Mid-dark yellowish brown silty clay with moderate broken l/s fragments and occasional flint gravel. Located along inner, eastern side of ditch and appears to represent an episode of slumping. 0.20m thick	0.7m
105	<i>Fill</i> Secondary fill of 103. Mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional l/s fragments and flint gravel. Contained pottery and animal bone, most of which showed abrasion. Seals 104.0.37m thick.	0.5m
106	<i>Cut</i> Pit. Circular feature of 0.75m diameter with steep concave sides and flat base. Located in north-western quadrant of pond 4. 0.18m deep. Filled with 107.	0.68m (base)
107	<i>Fill</i> Pit fill. Dark yellowish brown silty clay with occasional l/s fragments and flecks, rare flint gravel. Pottery. 0.18m thick. Fill of 106.	0.5m
108	<i>Cut</i> Pit. Small circular feature of 0.52m diameter located 1m NE of pit 106 and 0.8m due west of ditch 103. Concave sides running into base with no appreciable break of slope between the two. 0.09m deep. Filled with 109.	0.59m
109	<i>Fill</i> Pitfall greyish brown silty clay with rare fragments and flecks of l/s. 0.09 thick. Fill of 108.	0.5m
110	<i>Cut</i> Natural/non-archaeological. Irregular and very thin. Probably represents a patch of remnant subsoil.	0.51m (base)
111	<i>Fill</i> Fill. Mid greyish brown silty clay. Less than 10mm thick.	0.5m
112	<i>Void</i> Void. Not used.	Void
113	<i>Cut</i> Ditch. N-S running linear recut by 103. Assumed to have same approximate shape and extent in plan. 0.65m wide (surviving) and 0.30 deep. Truncation by 103 may, from the shape of the profile and distribution of fills have removed up to half of the width of this feature. Filled with 114 and 115. Cuts 118.	0.80m (base)
114	<i>Fill</i> Secondary fill. Mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional stone fragments and flint gravel. 0.16m thick. Below 115. Fill of 113.	0.5m
115	<i>Fill</i> Secondary fill. Mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional l/s fragments and flint gravels. 0.20m thick. Cut by 103. Fill of 113.	0.5m
116	<i>Cut</i> Pit. Apparently circular feature +/- half sectioned during sectioning of ditches 103/113 and beneath them. The excavated section of the pit was 1.15m long and 0.35m wide. The shape of the pit was unusual in that it was not symmetrical. While it's	1.02m (base)



		eastern edge was almost vertical, the western edge was essentially contiguous with the base and ran from the surface at an angle of +/- 30° till it met the bottom of the eastern edge. The upper 0.3m of the pit had been largely cut away by the enclosure, but it contained two surviving fills 117 and 118.0.52m deep.	
117	<i>Fill</i>	Pit fill. Mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional fragments of marine shell. Fill of 116. Below 118. 0.15m thick.	0.80m
118	<i>Fill</i>	Pit fill. Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with occasional l/s fragments and marine shell fragments. May represent a domestic refuse deposit, or possibly, a stabilisation layer.	0.5m
119	<i>Layer</i>	Relict soil. Located along eastern edge of pond 2. Sealed by subsoil 101. Dark greyish brown silty clay, boundary to natural relatively abrupt and may represent a plough-soil rather than a soil proper. Only became apparent after heavy rain after the pond was completed, so no specific investigation possible.	0.5m

Appendix 2; Finds Data

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

Context	Animal Bone	Flint	Metal	Pottery	Other Finds
101		4/33	5 Fe; 10 Cu; 4 Pb	20/174	1 shell; 2 stone
105	8/100		1 Fe	49/405	2 shell
107	1/1	2/5		10/48	
Total	9/101	6/38	6 Fe; 10 Cu; 4 Pb	79/627	

Cu = copper alloy; Fe = iron; Pb = lead

Table 2: Pottery by context

Context	Ware type	No. sherds	Wt. (g)	Additional Comments	Date
101	Refined whiteware	10	97	plates and tureen lid; including transfer-printed; one plate has rim monogram CPC	Modern
101	English stoneware	1	8	feldspathic glaze	Modern
101	Verwood-type earthenware	1	6		Post-med
101	Frechen stoneware	1	15		Post-med
101	Black Burnished ware	5	27	small abraded body sherds	RB
101	West Dorset sandy ware	1	10	glazed	Medieval
101	Flint-/chert-tempered coarseware	1	11	jar rim	Medieval
105	Black Burnished ware	5	7	small, very abraded sherds (sample finds)	RB
105	Oxidised ware	1	2	small, abraded sherd (sample finds)	RB
105	Black Burnished ware	41	328	hemispherical vessel with external lid seating; footring base; 2 countersunk handles	RB
105	Whiteware	2	68	micaceous; flagon handle	RB
107	Black Burnished ware	9	40	Footring base; small bead rim vessel	RB
107	Whiteware	1	8		RB



Appendix 3: Environmental Data

Table 3: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal	Charcoal	Other
103	105	1	14	60	80%, C, E, F	C	-	Triticeae	-	-	<1 ml	Mature	Moll-t, Moll-f, Moll-m, Sab

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), F = mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia, E = earthworm eggs; Sab = small animal bones, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-f = aquatic molluscs, Moll-m = marine molluscs.



Appendix 4: Oasis Form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-303184

Project details

Project name	Land at Chickerell, Dorset
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of C G Fry and Son (the Client), to carry out an archaeological watching brief during excavation and enlargement of two ponds on Land at Chickerell, Dorset Centred on national grid reference (NGR) 364637, 081004. The monitored works covered a total of 800m ² . The ponds were located to the east and west of an area of archaeological potential identified in a geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2016). This consisted of a group of field system enclosure ditches and gullies dated to the latter part of the Romano-British period (post 220-250AD), most likely related to a settlement that lies outside the development area. The watching brief revealed a further enclosure within the field system, and a group of three pits, two of which may well have been natural. Evidence was recovered of some phasing within the field system, in the form of recutting of the enclosure and a date from the earlier part of the Romano-British period (1st-2nd Century AD).
Project dates	Start: 25-10-2017 End: 06-11-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	118740 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	COIN Roman
Significant Finds	COIN Roman
Significant Finds	COIN Roman
Significant Finds	BROOCH FRAGMENT Roman
Significant Finds	BUTTON Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BELT MOUNT OR HOOK FASTENER Post Medieval
Significant Finds	LEAD MUSKET BALL Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"

Project location



Country	England
Site location	DORSET WEST DORSET CHICKERELL Land at Chickerell, Dorset
Postcode	DT3 4BG
Study area	800 Square metres
Site coordinates	364637 81004 364637 00 00 N 81004 00 00 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 46m Max: 46m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Dorset County Council's Senior Archaeologist
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Damian De Rosa
Project supervisor	Barry Hennessy
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	C G Fry & Son

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Dorset County Museum
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Dorset County Museum
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Dorset County Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

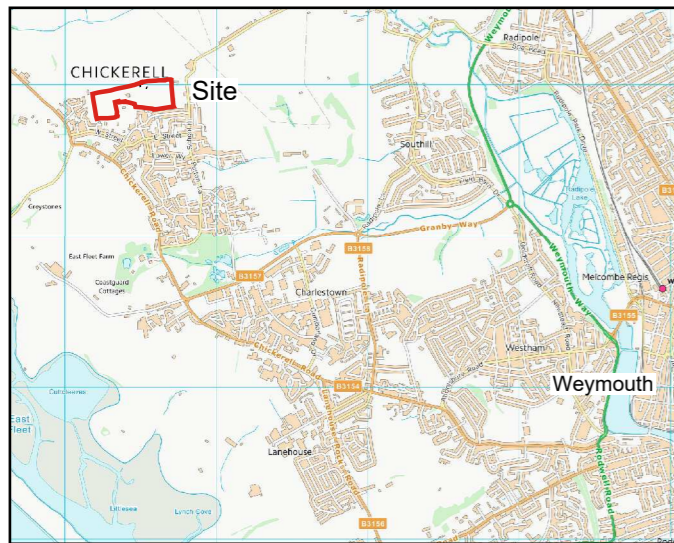
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Chickerell, Dorset. Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Moffat, B.
Other bibliographic	118740.02



details

Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Salisbury
Description	Standard WA A4 format text report with illustrated cover, figures and plates



Key

- Existing Pond
- Extension to Existing Pond
- New Pond
- 100mm Pipe
- Headwall Detail
- Manhole (450mm diameter)

- Site boundary
- Watching brief area

Coordinate system:
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

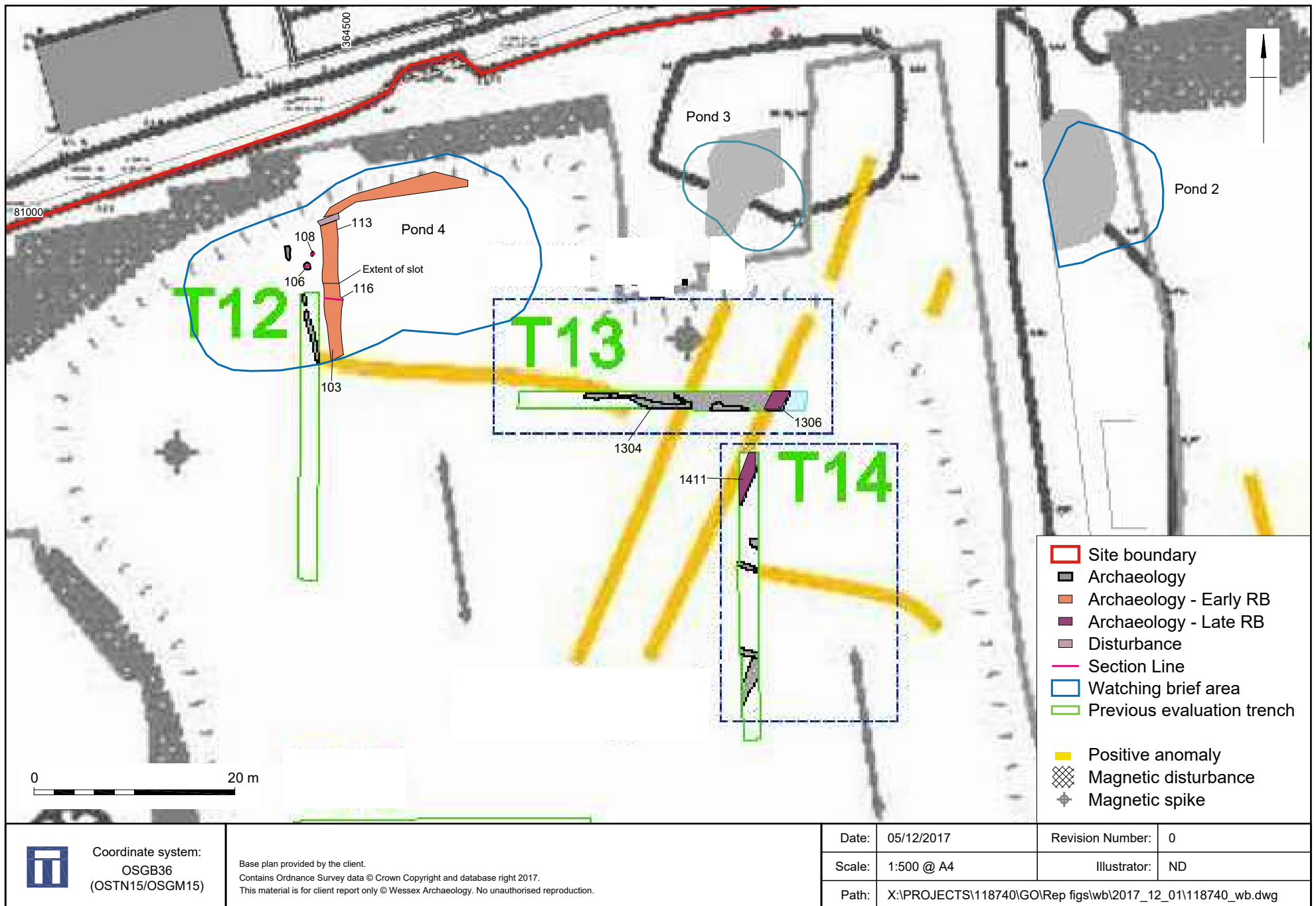
Site plan provided by the client.

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Date:	05/12/2017
Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:800 @ A3
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Site location plan

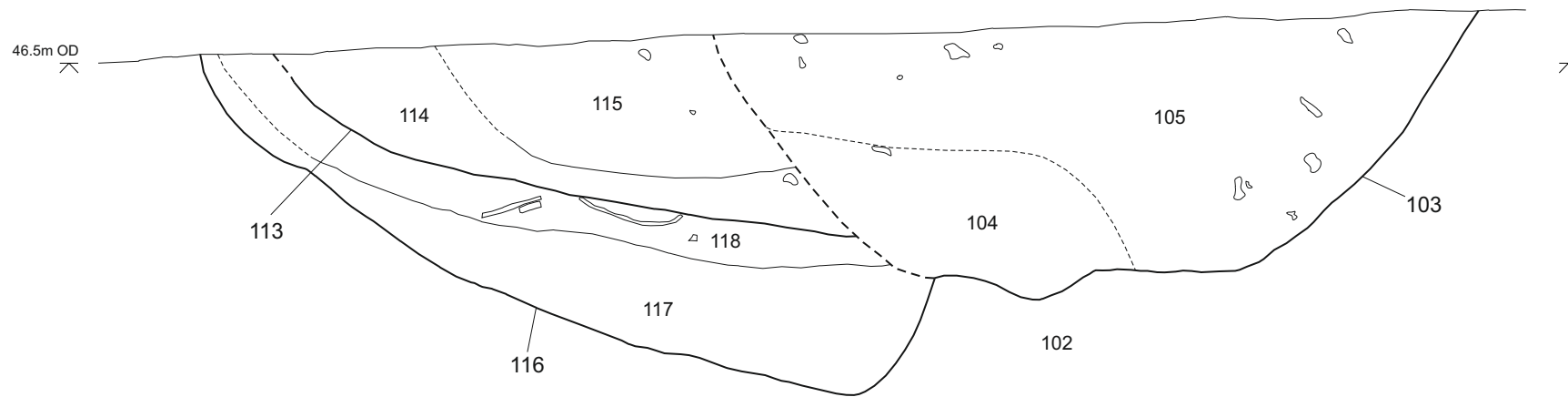
Figure 1



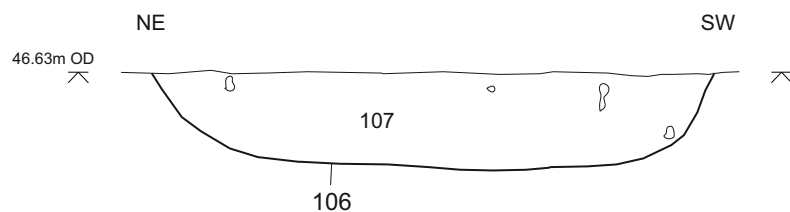
Detailed site plan

Figure 2

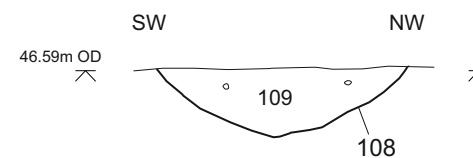
North facing section of ditches 103 and 104, and pit 116



North-west facing section of pit 106



South-east facing section of pit 108



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Plate 1: North facing section of Ditch 103/113 and Pit 116



Plate 2: North facing section of Pit 106



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Plate 3: South facing section of Pit 108



Plate 4: Pond 2 from the east, showing buried soil 119 in foreground

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