



Land off Castle Street Mere, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Ltd., acting on behalf of Richborough Estates, to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation of an approximate 6.2 ha plot of land on Castle Street, on the west side of Mere, Wiltshire (centred on NGR 380478 132114). This work was commissioned in response to a condition attached to an Outline Planning Application for the proposed development of 130 dwellings and associated supporting infrastructure.

Following submission of desk-based assessment and geophysical survey reports to the Local Planning Authority, Clare King of Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service recommended a programme of trial trenching to be carried out prior to determination of the planning application. The fieldwork consisted of the machine excavation of twelve evaluation trenches, targeted on a variety of anomalies identified during the earlier phase of geophysical survey. The twelve trenches represent a 2% sample of the proposed development area.

The few archaeological remains identified comprised three ditches and a small pit, all of which were investigated during the fieldwork. Only limited dating evidence was recovered from these features, indicating a likely Early Iron Age date for the small pit, with the ditch recorded in the same trench producing Romano-British pottery which points to low level of background prehistoric/Romano-British activity within the site. The archaeologist acting on behalf of the LPA has indicated further mitigation may be required within its vicinity.

The remaining trenches excavated within the site did not contain significant archaeological remains from any period that would have an impact on its development, with further mitigation unlikely to be required.

This conclusion is in line with those drawn from both the desk based assessment and geophysical survey, primarily that the site contains limited archaeological remains of low significance.

The fieldwork was conducted in generally favourable conditions between the 4th and 8th September 2017.

Project Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Simon Mortimer of CgMs Consultancy for commissioning the work, acting on behalf of Richborough Estates, and also Richard Smalley of CgMs Consultancy for attending the site monitoring meeting. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the collaborative support and advice of Clare King, Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service, who monitored the project for Wiltshire Council, and thanks also to G Crook and Sons for their assistance with the fieldwork.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Rachel Sawyer, Kate Stevens and directed by Tom Blencowe. This report was produced by Tom Blencowe, with artefact assessment from Lorraine Mephram and illustrations by Nancy Dixon, assisted by Kitty Foster. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andy Crockett.



Land off Castle Street, Mere

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Richborough Estates, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 6.18 ha parcel of land located in Mere, Wiltshire, centred on NGR 380478 132114 (the Site; **Fig. 1**).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the construction of up to 130 dwellings including affordable housing, landscaping, drainage features and associated infrastructure. All matters are reserved for subsequent approval except for access. An Outline Planning Application (Outline Planning Application Reference: 16/12217/OUT) submitted to Wiltshire Council, was granted, subject to conditions, one of which (Core Policy 58) relates specifically to archaeological investigation.
- 1.1.3 Core policy 58 has replaced Policy CN23 from the Salisbury District Local Plan (2011) which referred specifically to the archaeological impact of the development of Mere and a number of historic settlements within the district.
- 1.1.4 Core Policy 58 concerns ensuring the conservation of the historic environment and states development should protect, conserve and where possible enhance the historic environment. Designated heritage assets and their settings will be conserved, and where appropriate, enhanced in a manner appropriate to their significance, including:
- Nationally significant archaeological remains
 - World Heritage Sites within and adjacent to Wiltshire
 - Buildings and structures of special architectural or historic interest.
 - The special character or appearance of conservation areas.
 - Important landscapes, including registered battlefields and townscapes.
 - Historic parks and gardens.
- 1.1.5 Furthermore, Core Policy 58 also states that; *distinctive elements of Wiltshire's historic environment, including non-designated heritage assets, which contribute to a sense of local character and identity will be conserved, and where possible enhanced. The potential contribution of these heritage assets towards wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits will also be utilised where this can be delivered in a sensitive and appropriate manner in accordance with Core Policy 57 (Ensuring High Quality Design and Place Shaping). Heritage assets at risk will be monitored and development proposals that improve the condition will be encouraged. The advice of statutory and local consultees will be sought in consideration of such applications.*
- 1.1.6 Following discussions and advice from Clare King, Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council, a programme of trial trenching was agreed to sample 2% of the Site area.



- 1.1.7 It was therefore proposed to excavate twelve 50 m x 2 m trenches within the Site. The trenches were positioned to investigate anomalies identified through geophysical survey whilst also providing sufficient coverage across the Site.
- 1.1.8 The evaluation was undertaken between the 4th and 8th September 2017.
- 1.1.9 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (CgMs 2017). Clare King approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.
- 1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The evaluation area is located to the west of Mere and is relatively flat at 105m aOD (above Ordnance Datum), though there is a slightly raised area of land in the centre of the Site which measures approximately 0.75 ha.
- 1.3.2 The Site is currently used as a pastoral field, which is irregular in shape and has been subdivided with a post and rail fence although there is free access between the two areas.
- 1.3.3 The nearest watercourse is the Shreen Water some 1 km to the east of the study area. This is fed by two springs that rise within the town.
- 1.3.4 The underlying geology is mapped as predominantly Melbury Sandstone although close to the northern boundary of the Site Cretaceous sandstone from the Boyne Hollow Chert Member occurs. In the southwestern corner of the Site is Kimmeridge Clay formation with overlying head deposits of clay, silt and gravel (British Geological Survey Online Viewer)
- 1.3.5 The Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW, 1983) identifies slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils with similar fine loamy over clayey soils. Some fine loamy over clayey soils with only slight seasonal waterlogging and some slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils, belonging to the Denchworth association (712b) across the study Site. Along the northern edge the soil is from the Ardington association (571h) and is a typical brown earth consisting of a deep, well drained, fine and coarse loamy glauconitic soil.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Previous investigations related to the proposed development

Geophysical Survey (Archaeological Surveys Ltd. 2016)

- 2.1.1 A geophysical survey of the study area was undertaken by Archaeological Surveys Ltd. In May 2016 in support of the current planning application. Detailed discussion will not be repeated here but in summation, a number of potential archaeological features were identified and subsequently, trenches were targeted to investigate these responses.



- 2.1.2 The detailed magnetometer survey located a combination of weakly positive and negative broadly linear responses that relate to a former field boundary mapped in 1821 and which still survive as a low earthwork feature on an east/west alignment in the south of the western land parcel. Further east, a second weakly positive linear response appears to be related to a former boundary feature, although a natural origin has also suggested. The broad, curvilinear anomaly has a similar response to the former boundary feature. This corresponds to the edge of a distinct raised area of land within the western land parcel and was deemed likely to be of natural origin.
- 2.1.3 The results demonstrated the presence of anomalies attributed to agricultural practices and likely reflect the remains of ridge and furrow earthworks.
- 2.1.4 A group of negative linear and rectilinear responses were interpreted as potential pit features.

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

Introduction

- 2.2.1 Details of the archaeological and historical context can be found within the DBA (CgMs, 2016) and will not be repeated in full here. A summary of the key details is presented below.

Prehistoric

- 2.2.2 There is no known evidence of prehistoric activity recorded within the Site however; the HER contains nine records of background prehistoric activity within the 1 km study area.

Iron Age/Roman

- 2.2.3 The HER contains no records which relate specifically to the Iron Age period within the study area. There are five records pertaining to Roman activity within the study area and all concern isolated spot finds.

Saxon

- 2.2.4 No Saxon remains have been recorded within the Site but there is a single record of Saxon activity on the HER within the study area. A single burial discovered during house renovation works is recorded 700 m east of the Site.

Medieval

- 2.2.5 The HER contains no evidence of medieval activity within the Site but there are 13 entries of medieval finds or activity within the wider search area. The majority of these relate to Mere Castle and evidence for the medieval settlement of Mere.

Post Medieval and Modern

- 2.2.6 Mere was prominent in the pre-industrial woollen industry, although production was primarily cottage-based. From the 19th century onwards industries including linen, silk and carpet production and brewing were established in the town. The focus of industry was on the east side of Mere, around the Shreen Water watercourse. Information on sites relating to this aspect of the town adds little to the understanding of the study Site's archaeological potential, being at a significant distance (c. 1km) from it. This data is not discussed in any further detail in this report.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 The specific aims of the project (as stated in the WSI) are to, where possible;



- To investigate the geophysical anomalies on the Site and determine their character, state of preservation and date to enable an assessment of significance.
- To establish the presence/absence, extent and character of any archaeological features on the Site, and to consider the archaeological interest of these in the wider context.
- To examine any available evidence for economic activity, environmental conditions and industrial or craft activity.
- To generate an accessible and useable archive which will allow future research of the evidence to be undertaken if appropriate.
- To disseminate the results of the work in a format and manner proportionate to the significance of the findings.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (CgMs 2017) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.
- 4.1.2 The evaluation consisted of the machine excavation of twelve trial trenches. The trenches were located to target anomalies identified in the geophysical survey as well as 'blank' areas to provided representation across the Site.
- 4.1.3 Prior to the commencement of any groundworks, the trench locations were checked for any uncharted buried services using a cable avoidance tool (CAT).
- 4.1.4 An 11kv overhead service was identified on a broadly north – south alignment located toward the western edge of the Site. In accordance with the HSE guidance note "Avoiding danger from overhead powerlines", Goal posts were erected to facilitate a safe crossing point for the plant to traverse beneath these cables.
- 4.1.5 All plant movement was via access routes agreed with the client prior to the commencement of any fieldwork.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using GPS, in the approximate positions as those proposed in the WSI (**Fig. 1**).
- 4.2.2 The twelve trial trenches, each measuring 50 m in length and 1.8 m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.
- 4.2.3 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. The archaeological features identified were hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.



- 4.2.4 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.
- 4.2.5 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the Assistant County Archaeologist were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

- 4.2.6 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.
- 4.2.7 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.
- 4.2.8 A full photographic record was made using a digital camera 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 (CgMs 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 Clare King, on behalf of the LPA, monitored the evaluation and visited the Site on 7th September 2017.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Three of the twelve excavated trial trenches contained archaeological features of limited significance and interest (**Fig. 1**).
- 5.1.2 The excavation of trench three was ultimately abandoned after 25 m owing to unstable ground conditions being encountered. A machine excavated sondage, dug within the line of the proposed trench, found this unstable ground to exist to a depth of at least 2 m
- 5.1.3 The uncovered features comprise a ditch, a gully and a small pit. Evidence of post-medieval activity is represented by finds of glazed pottery fragments recovered from the machine excavated top and sub soils.



5.1.4 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits.

5.1.5 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**). **Figure 1** shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The soil sequence observed across the Site was found to be broadly consistent but depths varied with location.

5.2.2 Topsoil consisting of dark brown silty or sandy clay loam containing moderately sorted fragments of friable sandstone fragments, supporting a well-established turf, was encountered across the Site. The topsoil showed indications of deep bioturbation, however it did also show a clear horizon with deeper deposits and varied from 0.2 to 0.46 m below ground level (BGL).

5.2.3 The subsoil encountered across the Site showed considerable variation in terms of depth and manifestation but was generally observed to contain a greater concentration of friable sandstone inclusions. It was also observed to have a higher clay content than the topsoil. The subsoil was encountered to a depth of between 0.2 m and 0.88 m BGL.

5.2.4 The natural geology revealed the greatest variation across the Site, changing from a silty or sandy clay to predominantly laminations of sandstone rocks. Where the sandstone was encountered, the topsoil directly overlaid the natural with no discernible subsoil present.

5.3 Archaeological features

5.3.1 A total of four archaeological features were detected within three of the trial trenches.

5.3.2 Trench six contained a north-west to south-east aligned gully, 604. Found to exist to a depth of 0.2 m, this feature continued beyond the limits of the trench and contained a single secondary fill. A 0.5 m slot excavated within this feature recovered a number of animal bone fragments and the subsequent 100% excavation of the remaining feature within the trench limits recovered pottery fragments and slag.

5.3.3 Trench six also contained a small pit feature (606) which survived to a depth of 0.24 m. The single secondary fill of this feature contained pottery fragments and pieces of struck flint as well as charcoal flecks. Upon completion of the section recording, this feature was also 100% excavated.

5.3.4 Trench nine contained a shallow ditch terminal (904) for which a south-west to north-east alignment can be extrapolated. Found to exist to a depth of 0.15 m, this feature contained a single undated secondary fill.

5.3.5 Trench eleven revealed a substantial linear feature (1104) which corresponds with the broad, weakly positive curvilinear feature identified on the geophysical survey. During the machine excavation of this trench, the feature was not immediately visible as the fill was broadly homogenous with the surrounding natural geology. Subsequent weathering of the trench sides revealed this feature more clearly and a photographic record was made. The 0.6 m slot and subsequent 100% excavation of this feature did not recover any datable material.

- 5.3.6 The excavation of trench three was curtailed by unstable ground conditions. The natural geology encountered at the at south-western end of the trench gave way to very loose, sandy material in which a number of post-medieval items were observed (including CBM fragments and iron nails). A sondage was excavated to a depth of 1.5 m revealed no change to these conditions and a further test pit excavated to 2 m BGL at the north-eastern end of the trench revealed a continuation of this material. Photographs were taken of this test pit prior to immediate backfilling. Following on-site discussion of these findings with Clare King, it was felt that this change in geology is best explained by the trenches close proximity to the now disused Dead Maid Quarry and is likely evidence for previously unrecorded stone extraction and subsequent backfilling with waste material and arising's.
- 5.3.7 In addition to the archaeological features, a number of land drains of post-medieval origin were identified. These were not found to have affected the archaeological remains.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during the evaluation, deriving from contexts (subsoil and feature fills) in five of the trenches excavated (Trenches 1, 6, 7, 8 and 9). The assemblage, which consists of a restricted range of material types (animal bone, worked flint, pottery and ceramic building material), ranges in date from prehistoric to post-medieval.
- 6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**.

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

| Context | Animal Bone | Flint (no.) | Pottery | Other Finds |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| 102 | | | 1/5 | |
| 605 | 33/523 | 3 | 4/21 | |
| 607 | | 8 | 14/43 | |
| 702 | | | 1/7 | |
| 802 | 4/88 | | 3/48 | 1 CBM |
| Total | 37/611 | 11 | 23/124 | 1 |

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The pottery assemblage amounts to 23 sherds, weighing 124 g, and this includes material of late prehistoric, Romano-British and post-medieval date. Condition ranges from fair to poor; the assemblage is fragmentary, and the prehistoric sherds in particular are heavily abraded. Mean sherd weight overall is 5.2 g.
- 6.2.2 All 14 sherds from pit 606 (fill 607) are prehistoric. These sherds appear to represent a minimum of two vessel, one in a leached calcareous fabric (rounded and irregular voids), and the other in a very fine-grained, silty fabric. The calcareous sherds are undiagnostic, while the fine-grained sherds include the rim of a small bowl or cup with a convex profile, simple upright rim, and impressed dots around the outside of the rim. Small bowls or cups are known, for example, in the Early Iron Age assemblage from Potterne (Gingell and Morris 2000, fig. 60), and the fabric and decorative style would not be out of place in this period.
- 6.2.3 Eight sherds are Romano-British. Four sherds, two in Black Burnished ware (BB1) and two in an oxidised sandy ware came from subsoil contexts, in trenches 1, 7 and 8 respectively.



Four sherds provide the primary dating evidence for ditch 604, but came from the secondary fill (605) and in any case were almost certainly residual in this context. They include one sherd of South Gaulish samian (1st century AD), one of Oxfordshire colour coated ware (3rd/4th century AD), and two of BB1.

- 6.2.4 One sherd is post-medieval; this comes from a platter in Staffordshire-/Bristol-type feathered slipware, and came from the subsoil in trench 8.

6.3 Flint

- 6.3.1 All 11 pieces of struck flint are flakes, none of which are chronologically distinctive within the prehistoric period. One is in a cherty raw material. The flakes from pit 606 are in fresh condition, while those from ditch 604 show some edge damage.

6.4 Animal Bone

- 6.4.1 A small group of animal bone from ditch 604 includes cattle (femur, scapula) and sheep/goat (metapodial). Four pieces from trench 8 subsoil probably belong to a single bone (large mammal long bone).

6.5 Other Finds

- 6.5.1 The only other find was a small fragment of a post-medieval ceramic field drain, from trench 8 subsoil.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 The conclusions previously presented in both the DBA (CgMs 2016) and those drawn from the geophysical survey have been largely corroborated by this fieldwork. The majority of anomalies detected by geophysical survey can now be confidently attributed to geological features. Where archaeological features were detected, they have been adequately investigated, proportionally to their significance, recorded and dated.

- 7.1.2 The recovery of pottery of Early Iron Age origin in a small pit within trench 6 and the recovery of Romano-British pottery within a ditch uncovered in the same trench points to low level of background prehistoric/Romano-British activity within the Site. The archaeologist acting on behalf of the LPA has indicated further mitigation may be required within its vicinity.

- 7.1.3 The remaining trenches excavated within the Site did not contain significant archaeological remains from any period that would have an impact on the development of the Site, and further mitigation is unlikely to be required.

- 7.1.4 Overall the evaluation was successful in meeting the aims and objectives as prescribed in the WSI. A small number of archaeological features of limited significance have been identified and investigated. These features are confined to the southern half of the site where the depth of overburden is greatest.

- 7.1.5 The level of preservation of archaeological remains is generally good owing to the depth at which these remains are located.

8 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. On completion of the project, the archive is to be deposited in a



suitable repository to be agreed with the LPA Archaeological Advisor. Deposition of any finds with a museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

8.2 Preparation of the archive

- 8.2.1 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 the Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.2.2 The Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum is currently not accepting new archives for deposition. The archive will remain stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury until such time that the archive can be deposited.
- 8.2.3 All archive elements are marked with the site code **118150**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- 1 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type;
 - 1 file/document case of paper records and A3/A4 graphics;

8.3 Selection policy

- 8.3.1 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.

8.4 Security copy

- 8.4.1 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.

8.5 OASIS

- 8.5.1 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.

9 COPYRIGHT

9.1 Archive and report copyright

- 9.1.1 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.

- 9.1.2 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.

9.2 Third party data copyright

- 9.2.1 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 Trench summaries

NGR coordinates and OD heights taken at centre of each trench; depth bgl = below ground level

| Trench 1 | 47.5m x 1.8m | | NGR: 380567.65 132185.85 / 380598.84 132219.34 | 108.36m OD |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|---|----------------------|
| Context | Interpretation | Fill of | Description | Depth bgl (m) |
| 101 | Topsoil | | Topsoil: Well established turf, dark brown sandy clay loam, occasional sub angular and surrounded sandstone fragments <40mm | 0.00-0.2 |
| 102 | Subsoil | | Subsoil: Greyish brown silty clay loam with common sub angular and sub rounded sandstone frags <20mm, some rooting | 0.2-0.42 |
| 103 | Buried subsoil | | Buried subsoil: Greyish white sandy clay with very abundant angular sandstone rocks <300mm | 0.42-0.55 |
| 104 | Natural | | Greyish white sandy clay with very abundant angular sandstone <300mm | 0.55+ |

| Trench 2 | 45.5m x 1.8m | | NGR: 380588.64 132124.59 / 380616.18 132156.46 | 106.50m OD |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|--|----------------------|
| Context | Interpretation | Fill of | Description | Depth bgl (m) |
| 201 | Topsoil | | Topsoil: Well established turf, dark brown sandy clay loam with occasional sub angular and sub rounded sandstone fragments <40mm | 0.00-0.2 |
| 202 | Subsoil | | Subsoil: Greyish brown silty clay loam with common sub angular and sub rounded sandstone fragments <70mm some rooting | 0.2-0.46 |
| 203 | Natural | | Natural: Angular sandstone rocks with a band of siltier material | 0.46+ |

| Trench 3 | 32.2m x 1.8m | | NGR: 380461.46 132200.70 / 380503.89 132223.42 | 109.31m OD |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|---|----------------------|
| Context | Interpretation | Fill of | Description | Depth bgl (m) |
| 301 | Topsoil | | Topsoil: Well established turf, Mid reddish brown with yellow hue, silty clay loam, rounded sandstone flecks <6mm 5%, friable, clear horizon with sub soil, heavy bioturbation, | 0.00-0.26 |
| 302 | Subsoil | | Subsoil: Mid yellowish brown silty clay loam, sub rounded sandstone frags <20mm 10%, higher clay content than top soil, clear horizons, moderate bioturbation | 0.26-0.43 |
| 303 | Natural | | Natural: West end of trench light greyish brown silty clay, sub angular sandstone rocks <200mm 70%, East end very powdery chalky sand very loose, no bioturbation, clear horizon. 2m deep test pit dug to ensure powdery sand is natural. Trench terminated as ground too soft and unstable | 0.43+ |



| Trench 4 | | 51 m x 1.8 m | | NGR: 380485.05 132169.35 / 380529.97 132147.94 | 110.49m OD |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| Context | Interpretation | Fill of | Description | Depth bgl (m) | |
| 401 | Topsoil | | Topsoil: Well established turf, dark reddish brown with grey hue silty clay loam, sub rounded sandstone <6mm 10%, heavy bioturbation, friable, homogenous | 0.00–0.32 | |
| 402 | Natural | | Natural: Dark reddish brown with grey hue silty clay 10%, light yellowish grey sandstone rocks <300mm 90% forming layers in slabs | 0.32+ | |

| Trench 5 | | 47.3m x 1.8 | | NGR: 380493.44 132126.96 / 380540.09 132129.10 | 110.20m OD |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--|---|-------------------|
| Context | Interpretation | Fill of | Description | Depth bgl (m) | |
| 501 | Topsoil | | Topsoil: Well established turf, dark reddish brown with grey hue silty clay loam, sub rounded sandstone fragments<20mm 5%, friable, clear horizon, well sorted, heavy bioturbation | 0.00–0.25 | |
| 502 | Natural | | Natural: Dark reddish brown with grey hue sandy clay 10%, light yellowish grey sandstone <300mm 90%, little bioturbation | 0.25 | |

| Trench 6 | | 48.4m x 1.8m | | NGR: 380543.97 132109.26 / 380570.31 132069.82 | 107.14m OD |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--|---|-------------------|
| Context | Interpretation | Fill of | Description | Depth bgl (m) | |
| 601 | Topsoil | | Topsoil: well established turf, dark reddish brown silty clay loam, round sandstone <600mm 7% sun angular flint <60mm 1%, loose compaction, heavy bioturbation, well sorted, clear horizon | 0.00–0.34 | |
| 602 | Subsoil | | Subsoil: Mid reddish brown with grey hue silty clay, sub rounded sandstone fragments in concentrations <60mm 30%, poorly sorted, moderate bioturbation, clear horizons | 0.23–0.30 | |
| 603 | Natural | | Natural: Mid reddish brown with yellow hue clay, natural undulation becoming shallower at north end, also high sandstone content here 70%, patches of grey clay throughout less sandstone at south end 30% | 0.3 | |
| 604 | Ditch | | Field boundary ditch running NW-SE, straight moderate sides and flat base. Clear cut. 0.75m wide 0.2m deep. Filled with 605. Pit [606] approx. 5m north | | |
| 605 | Secondary fill | 604 | Secondary fill of 604. Firm mid greyish brown silty clay. Contains sub round sandstone nodules <60mm 20%. Contains animal bone, pot and slag. | | |
| 606 | Pit | | Sub circular pit with straight, steep sides and a flat base. Slope of SW edge, much straighter and steeper than NE and NW sides. Length 0.95 width 0.73 depth 0.24. Initially half sectioned then 100% excavated. Fill with 607 | | |
| 607 | Secondary fill | 606 | Secondary fill of 606. Moderate compaction dark greyish brown sandy clay loam. Frequent light grey sandstone 15-250mm, larger pieces concentrated in base of fill. Charcoal flecks and pottery fragments evenly distributed throughout. Struck flint mainly concentrated at very top of fill, or very close to cut in base of pit. Largest pieces of natural sandstone concentrated in and filling lower level of pit fill. Possibly intentionally deposited as part of pill but do not appear specifically placed. Sample number <1> 30 litres taken. | | |



| Trench 7 | | 48.9m x 1.8m | | NGR: 380511.77 132033.24 / 380558.71 132035.77 | | 105.24m OD | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---|---|--|----------------------|--|
| Context | Interpretation | Fill of | Description | | | Depth bgl (m) | |
| 701 | Topsoil | | Topsoil: Well established turf. Dark reddish brown silty clay loam. Sub rounded sandstone <20mm 7%. Very loose compaction, clear horizon, heavy bioturbation, well sorted | | | 0.00–0.24 | |
| 702 | Subsoil | | Subsoil: Mid reddish brown with grey hue silty clay. Sub rounded sandstone fragments <20mm 30% manganese fragments 5%. Loose compaction, moderate bioturbation, moderate sorting | | | 0.24–0.4 | |
| 703 | Natural | | Natural: Mottled mid yellowish brown with grey hue clay. Very firm compaction, patches of sandstone <200mm, patches of softer clay, clear horizon, 2 land drains appear in trench running NW-SE | | | 0.4+ | |

| Trench 8 | | 49.5m x 1.8m | | NGR: 380453.35 131969.99 / 380488.31 131999.43 | | 105.31m OD | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--|---|--|----------------------|--|
| Context | Interpretation | Fill of | Description | | | Depth bgl (m) | |
| 801 | Topsoil | | Topsoil: Well established turf. Dark greyish brown sandy clay loam. Occasional sandstone <60mm evenly distributed. Diffuse boundary with subsoil. | | | 0.00–0.32 | |
| 802 | Subsoil | | Subsoil: Mid grey brown sandy clay loam, Frequent white chalk flecks and fragments <10mm evenly distributed, rare natural manganese 50-80mm. Moderate compaction. Animal bone, medieval and post medieval pottery. | | | 0.32-0.63 | |
| 803 | Natural | | Natural: Very light grey brown sandy clay. Frequent white chalk flecks and fragments <10mm evenly distributed. Frequent manganese flecks. Sandstone 20-80mm evenly distributed. Occasional large area of mid grey clay concentrations. | | | 0.63+ | |

| Trench 9 | | 46m x 1.8 m | | NGR: 380434.05 132037.06 / 380465.55 132004.18 | | 106.69m OD | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--|---|--|----------------------|--|
| Context | Interpretation | Fill of | Description | | | Depth bgl (m) | |
| 901 | Topsoil | | Topsoil: Well established turf. Dark grey brown sandy clay loam. Rare sandstone and flint fragments 30-60mm evenly distributed. Moderate compaction, clear horizon. | | | 0.00–0.3 | |
| 902 | Subsoil | | Subsoil: Mid grey brown sandy clay loam. Occasional sandstone and flint 20-80mm evenly distributed. Clear horizons, moderate compaction. | | | 0.3-0.54 | |
| 903 | Natural | | Natural: Mid grey brown silty clay. Moderate flecks/ lensing of light grey sandstone <30mm. Rare manganese flacks evenly distributed. Occasional flint 80-200mm evenly distributed. Moderate compaction. Modern land drain in SE half of trench parallel with trench. | | | 0.54+ | |
| 904 | Ditch terminus | | Terminus running NE-SW with straight moderate sides and a flat base. Width 1m depth 0.15. Filled with 905. Base slightly sloping SW-NE, | | | | |
| 905 | Secondary fill | 904 | Secondary fill of 904. Dark grey brown silty clay. Rare natural light grey sand stone 20-60mm evenly distributed. Moderate compaction, clear horizon with cut, Occasional charcoal fragments and flecks throughout. One very small fragment of orange-red CBM recovered near base. | | | | |

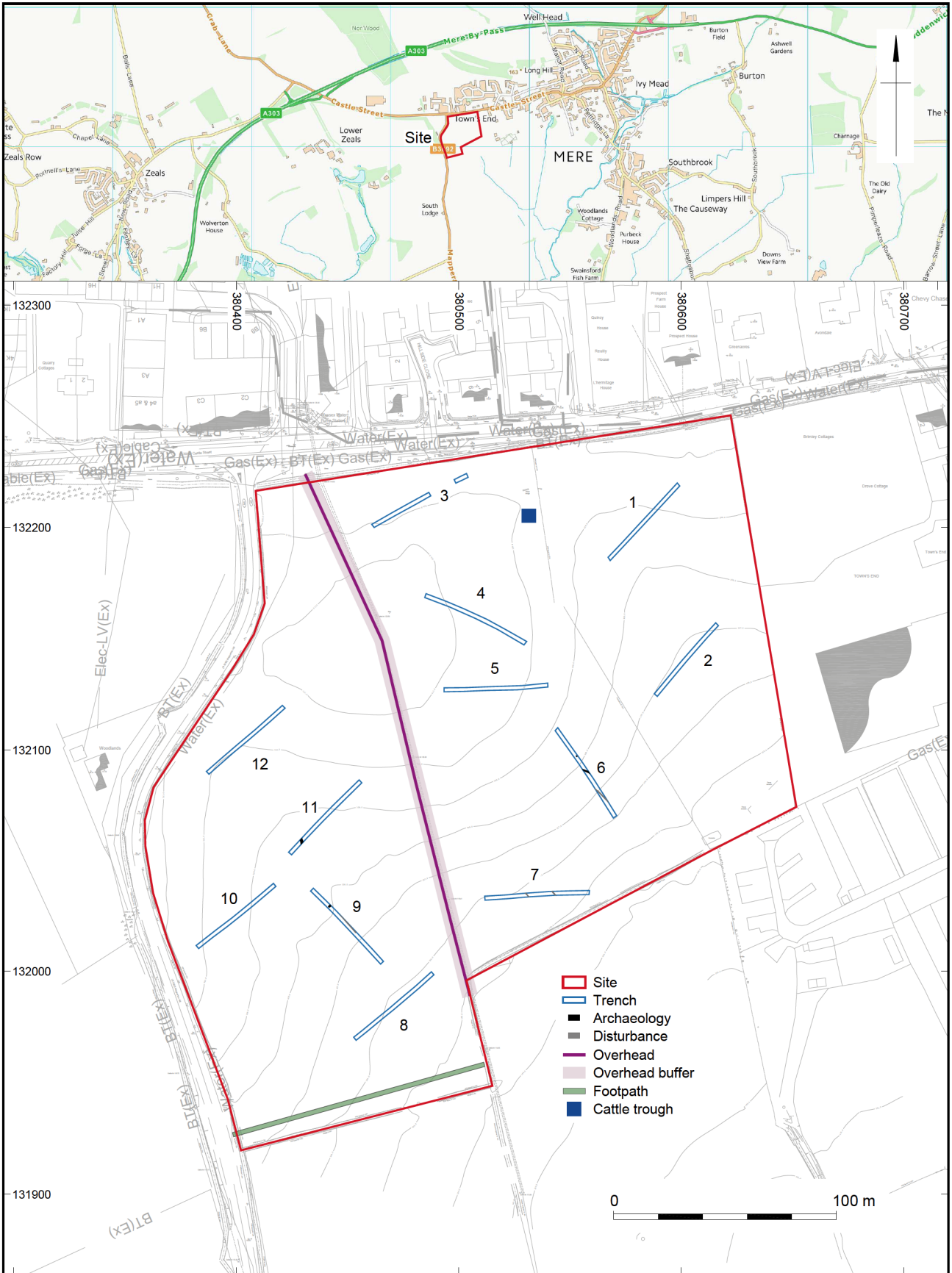


| Trench 10 | 45m x1.8m | | NGR: 380382.53 132011.25 / 380417.27 132039.20 | 108.75m OD |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--|----------------------|
| Context | Interpretation | Fill of | Description | Depth bgl (m) |
| 1001 | Topsoil | | Topsoil: Well established turf. Dark grey brown sandy clay loam. Occasional sandstone 20-80mm evenly distributed. Frequent rooting action, moderate compaction, clear horizon. | 0.00-0.46 |
| 1002 | Subsoil | | Subsoil: Mid grey brown sandy clay loam. Occasional flint 30-120mm distributed in seams throughout trench. Occasional light blue/grey sandstone <300mm in seams. Clear horizons, moderate compaction. Modern land drain at NE end. | 0.46-0.88 |
| 1003 | Natural | | Natural: Mid grey brown silty clay, with light blue sandy lensing (from stone). Frequent light blue/grey sandy stone 5-50mm in frequent seams. Natural undulates from 0.28 at SW end to 0.88 at NE end, possible coombe | 0.88+ |

| Trench 11 | 31 m x 2 m | | NGR: 380424.21 132053.33 / 380455.85 132085.78 | 108.33m OD |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--|----------------------|
| Context | Interpretation | Fill of | Description | Depth bgl (m) |
| 1101 | Topsoil | | Topsoil: Well established turf. Dark grey brown sandy clay loam. Rare sandstone 20-80mm evenly distributed. Frequent rooting action, clear but slightly undulating horizon, moderate compaction | 0.00-0.4 |
| 1102 | Subsoil | | Subsoil: Mid grey brown sandy clay loam. Moderate sandstone and flint 30-120mm, distributed in occasional seams throughout trench section, clear horizons. | 0.4-0.76 |
| 1103 | Natural | | Natural: Mid grey brown with light blue/ grey lensing (from stones) silty clay. Frequent light blue/grey sandstone <30mm evenly distributed. Rare natural manganese flecks evenly distributed. Moderate flint seams at NE end of trench. Natural undulates from 0.32m at NE end to 0.9m at SW end suggesting coombe. | 0.76+ |
| 1104 | Ditch | | Field boundary ditch running N-S. Side slope varies from shallow at top to moderate and back to shallow at base. Width 2.7m depth 0.82m, measurements taken from bulk of trench as majority of ditch was machine dug. Filled with 1105. Ditch probably cuts subsoil but difficult to tell as fill same as subsoil. | |
| 1105 | Secondary fill | 1104 | Secondary fill of 1104. Mid grey with brown hue Silty clay loam. Sub round and sub angular flint fragments 20-60mm 20%, Sandstone 20-60mm 10%, Manganese flecks <6mm 3%. Charcoal flecks <1%. Even distribution of inclusions. Homogenous, somewhat firm compaction, little bioturbation, well sorted, much like subsoil. No finds | |



| Trench 12 | 49.3m x1.8m | | NGR: 380387.17 132089.62 / 380421.34 132119.32 | 109.46m OD |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---|----------------------|
| Context | Interpretation | Fill of | Description | Depth bgl (m) |
| 1201 | Topsoil | | Topsoil: Well established turf. Dark grey brown sandy clay loam. Rare sandstone 20-80mm evenly distributed. Heavy bioturbation. Diffuse horizon. Moderate compaction. | 0.00–0.33 |
| 1202 | Subsoil | | Subsoil: Mid grey brown sandy clay loam. Moderate sandstone and flint 30-120mm distributed in frequent seams throughout. Clear horizon with natural, diffuse with topsoil | 0.33–0.77 |
| 1203 | Natural | | Natural: Mid grey brown with light grey/blue lensing silty clay. Frequent light blue/grey sandstone 10-50mm evenly distributed. Occasional natural manganese flecks evenly distributed. Moderate flint seams. Natural undulates from 0.3m at NE to 0.97m at SW, suggesting a coombe | 0.77+ |



Site plan showing "as dug" trench locations

Figure 1



Plate 1: Example trench shot, trench 1 viewed from the south-west



Plate 2: Example representative section, trench 7 viewed from the north


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Plate 3: Test pit dug into trench 3, viewed from the south-east



Plate 4: Plan view of slot 604, trench 6, viewed from the west



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Plate 5: North-west facing half section of pit 606

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