



Bulford and Amesbury Cycle Path Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



Planning Ref: 15/06930/FUL
Ref: 111860.03
August 2019

wessexarchaeology

Document Information

Document title	
Document subtitle	Archaeological Watching Brief
Document reference	111860.03
Client name	Wessex Archaeology
Address	Portway House Old Sarum Park Salisbury SP4 6EB
On behalf of	Wiltshire Council
Address	Council House Bourne Hill Salisbury Wiltshire SP1 3UZ
Site location	Salisbury Road, Bulford, Amesbury
County	Wiltshire
National grid reference (NGR)	416187 143243 to 416829 142788
Statutory designations	
Planning authority	Wiltshire County Council
Planning reference	15/06930/FUL
Museum name	Salisbury and South Wilts Museum
Museum accession code	
WA project code	111860
Dates of fieldwork	02/06/16 to 09/06/2016
Fieldwork directed by	Peter Capps and Neil Fitzpatrick
Project management by	Simon Cleggett
Document compiled by	Peter Capps
Contributions from	
Graphics by	

Quality Assurance

Issue number & date	Status	Author	Approved by
1		JW	<i>Lorraine Hoptain</i>
2			
3			



Contents

Summary	ii
Acknowledgements.....	iii
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Project and planning background.....	1
1.2 Scope of the report	1
1.3 Location, topography and geology	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
2.1 Introduction.....	2
2.2 Bulford	2
2.3 Amesbury	2
3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	3
3.1 Aims	3
3.2 Objectives.....	3
4 METHODS.....	4
4.1 Introduction.....	4
4.2 Fieldwork methods.....	4
4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies	4
4.4 Monitoring.....	4
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS	5
5.1 Introduction.....	5
5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits	5
6 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION.....	5
6.1 Museum.....	5
6.2 Preparation of the archive	5
6.3 Selection policy	5
6.4 Security copy	5
6.5 OASIS	6
7 COPYRIGHT	6
7.1 Archive and report copyright	6
7.2 Third party data copyright	6
REFERENCES	7

List of Figures

Figure 1 Site location plan

List of Plates

Cover Strip for cycle path from the south, 1 m and 0.5 m scales

Plate 1 view of strip from the north, 2 m scale

Plate 2 East facing section of strip, 1 m scales



Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wiltshire County Council to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief on the route of a new cycle path between Bulford and Amesbury running from NGR 416187 143243 to 416829 142788. During the watching brief no archaeological features or deposits were encountered, probably due to the programme of works only needing to remove the plough soil, and for the most part a thin subsoil was left intact, masking any potential archaeology.



Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Wiltshire County Council, for commissioning the archaeological watching brief, in particular Julie Wharton. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Planning Archaeologist Clare King, who monitored the project for Wiltshire County Council, and to Atkins Global for their cooperation and help on site.

The watching brief was undertaken by Neil Fitzpatrick and Peter Capps. This report was written by Peter Capps and edited by Simon Cleggett. The project was managed by Simon Cleggett on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



BULFORD AND AMESBURY CYCLE PATH

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wiltshire County Council (hereafter 'the Client'), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a shared user path (hereafter 'the Site'), including a ramp and stairs, from Salisbury Road, Bulford (north of junction with High Street) centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 416861 143391 to Salisbury Road, Amesbury at Folly Bottom (north of junction with A303) in Wiltshire, (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on NGR 416737 141934 (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.2 The watching brief was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Wiltshire County Council (15/06930/FUL).

1.1.3 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 2016). The Local Planning Archaeologist approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The watching brief was undertaken from the 2nd of June 2016 to the 9th of June 2016.

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 along the route of the cycle path which is 1.7 km long from Salisbury Road, Bulford (north of the junction with High Street), it follows the A3028 south for some 200 m, cuts across pasture land for some 132 m to the rear of Station Terrace then joins Salisbury Road southbound to a roundabout where it continues south along Porton Road to a second roundabout where it leaves the main road at Folly Bottom, Amesbury (**Fig.1**).

1.3.2 The route climbs to a maximum of 112 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north and then gently decreases to a minimum of 85 m aOD in the south.

1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Chalk from the Seaford Chalk Formation; sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 84 to 89 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. The overlying superficial deposits are recorded as being Head deposits- clay, silt, sand and gravel, formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS online <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>)



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 An earlier Desk Based Assessment (DBA) (WA 2014) provided a detailed archaeological and historical background for the military camp at Bulford.
- 2.1.2 A Heritage Statement (WA 2011) for the Old Dairy (located 500 m west of the proposed route) provided an overview of the archaeological and historical background for Amesbury.
- 2.1.3 The Site is located within a rich archaeological landscape with remains dating from the prehistoric period including multiple Bronze Age barrows through to 20th century military features. It traverses an area between two significant prehistoric landscapes; one at Bulford and the other at Amesbury.

2.2 Bulford

- 2.2.1 The entirety of the Site lies within an Area of Special Archaeological Significance as defined within the Salisbury District Local Plan (2011).
- 2.2.2 Some 550 m north-west of the proposed route are two probable Bronze Age barrows, a double ditched circular feature (Monument no. 914483) and a single ditched feature (219332). To the south of these a third barrow (1358556) is known to the north of Double Hedges Road. Immediately south of Double Hedges Road and east of the proposed path is a barrow cemetery of at least eight monuments, these features are considered of national importance and have been designated as Scheduled Monuments (List Nos. 1009602, 1009604, 1009969, 1009564, 109605, WSHER MWI12156, MWI12157, MWI11945).
- 2.2.3 Recent archaeological work was undertaken by WA in the field containing the two aforementioned probable Bronze Age barrows (Monuments 914483 and 219332) in the form of a geophysical survey and an archaeological trial trench evaluation in two phases (WA 2015a and b). This work has identified the area at the northernmost extent of the proposed cycleway as a significant funerary and mortuary landscape with remains of activity ranging from the Neolithic period to the 20th century. This recent work has highlighted the potential for funerary and monumental archaeological assets within the immediate environs of the proposed development.
- 2.2.4 The route runs south from Bulford Camp, which was purchased by the War Office in March 1898, with the original encampment comprising white canvas bell tents. The camp was enlarged by 1903, with many buildings constructed with wooden walls and framing covered with felt and corrugated iron. Cropmark evidence indicates the former presence of numerous zig-zag practise trenches within Bulford Camp, which were presumably dug during the First World War

2.3 Amesbury

- 2.3.1 During the Iron Age, activity in the Amesbury area was concentrated towards the south and south-west of the Site (approximately 1 km away). However, during the construction of the railway at the beginning of the 20th century, immediately to the east of the Site, a circular enclosure ditch, dated to the Early Iron Age, was identified (Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record No. SU14SE202).
- 2.3.2 The Romano-British activity in the wider area seems to have been focused some 750 m to the west of the proposed route, around Countess, and to the south, at Boscombe Down.



Four inhumation burials (Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record No. SU14SE306) were found within the Iron Age enclosure ditch described above.

2.3.3 During the Saxon period, Amesbury was held by the Royal House of Wessex and the Amesbury Abbey nunnery was founded in AD 979.

2.3.4 The settlement of Amesbury was held by the Crown until the late 12th century. In 1177, the abbey was replaced with a priory of the order of Fontevrault and new buildings and a church were constructed.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2016) and as defined in the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), were:

- 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, also defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2016), were:

- 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 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 2016) 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 archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the specified area. Where necessary, the surface of uncovered deposits were cleaned by hand.

4.2.2 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval.

Recording

4.2.3 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.

4.2.4 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.

4.2.5 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 2016). 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 The Planning Archaeologist on behalf of the LPA, monitored the watching brief. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with both the client and the Planning Archaeologist



5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief. This is partly due to the strip only reaching the natural chalk geology in a few places along the route, for the most part only the plough soil was removed, leaving in place the subsoil, which may have masked any existing archaeology (**Plate 1**).

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The site was covered by a plough soil approximately 0.2-0.25 m thick, this was a greyish light brown clay loam with frequent sub angular chalk inclusions and occasional flints.

5.2.2 In places this was underlain by a thin 0.1 m subsoil of greyish brown clay loam with frequent to abundant chalk and flints (**Plate 2**).

6 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

6.1 Museum

6.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Salisbury and South Wiltshire 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.

6.2 Preparation of the archive

6.2.1 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 Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

6.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **site/accession code**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 files/document cases of paper records.

6.3 Selection policy

6.3.1 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.

6.4 Security copy

6.4.1 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.



6.5 OASIS

- 6.5.1 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.

7 COPYRIGHT

7.1 Archive and report copyright

- 7.1.1 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.
- 7.1.2 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.

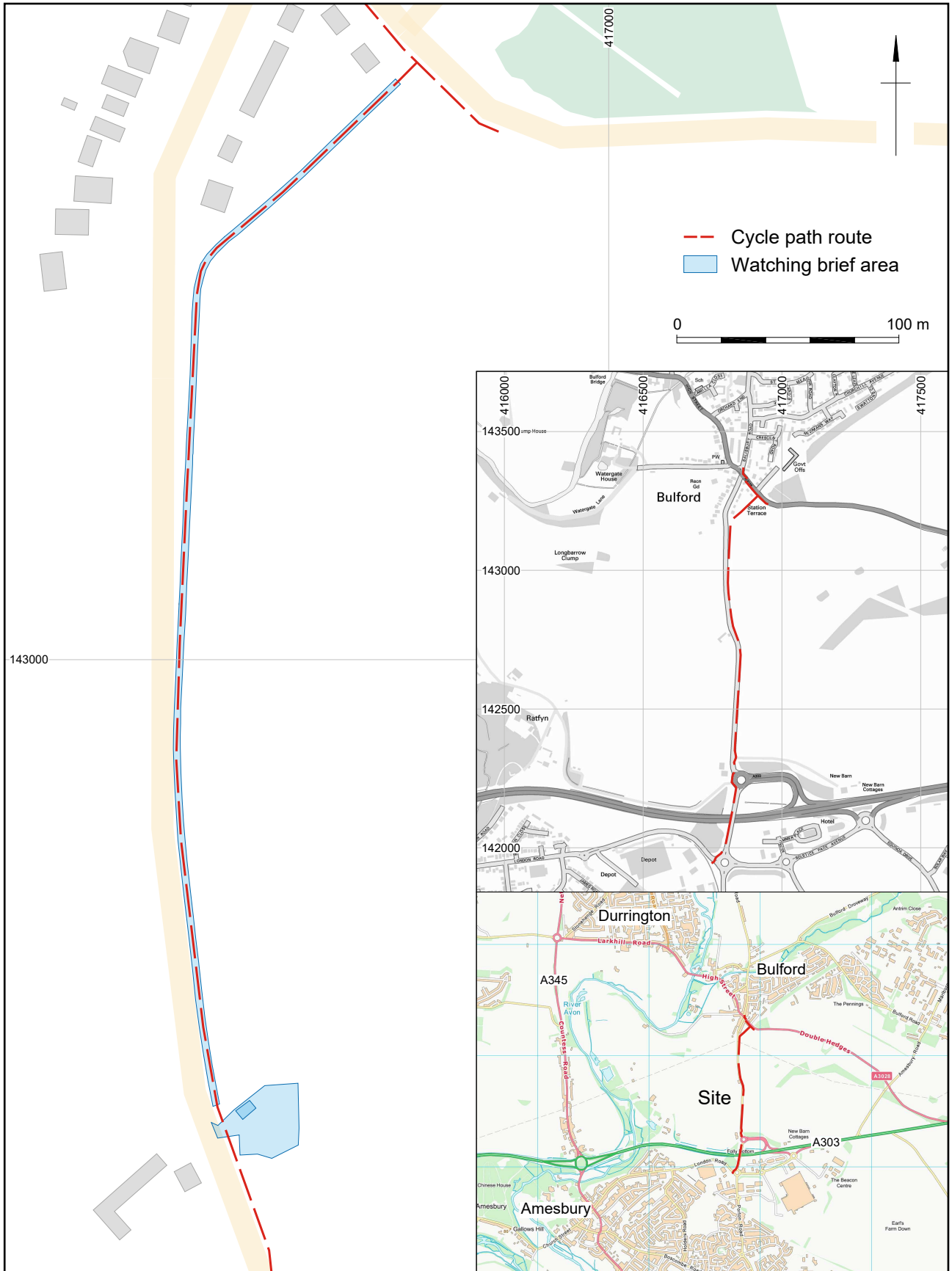
7.2 Third party data copyright

- 7.2.1 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.



REFERENCES

- ADS 2013 *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice*. Archaeology Data Service and Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice
- British Geological Survey online viewer <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (12/08/2019)
- Brown, D H 2011 *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (revised edition). Archaeological Archives Forum
- ClfA 2014a *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- ClfA 2014b *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- ClfA 2014c *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- English Heritage 2011 *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*. Swindon, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines
- SMA 1993 *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections*. Society of Museum Archaeologists
- SMA 1995 *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*. Society of Museum Archaeologists
- Wessex Archaeology 2011 The Old Dairy, London Road, Amesbury, Wiltshire: Heritage Statement. WA Report.no. 79290
- Wessex Archaeology 2014 Project Allenby/Connaught, Bulford, Wiltshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. WA Report no.101480.31
- Wessex Archaeology 2015a Bulford South SFA, Phase II Investigations, Bulford, Wiltshire. WA Report No. 107943.02
- Wessex Archaeology 2015b Bulford South SFA, Bulford, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report. WA Report No. 107940.01
- Wessex Archaeology 2016 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpublished report ref. 111860.01



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2019.
 This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.



Coordinate system:
 OSGB36
 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

Date:	28/08/2019	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:50,000; 1:20,000; 1:2,500 @ A4	Illustrator:	ND
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\111860\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\WB\2019_08_28\111860_WB.dwg		

Site location and area of strip


Figure 1



Plate 1: View of strip from the north, 2 m scale



Plate 2: East facing section of strip, 1 m scale

	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	28/08/2019	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	ND
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\111860\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\WB\2019_08_28\111860_Plates.ai		



© Wessex Archaeology Ltd 2019, all rights reserved.

Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

www.wessexarch.co.uk

Wessex Archaeology Ltd is a Registered Charity no. 287786 (England & Wales) and SC042630 (Scotland)

Disclaimer

The material contained in this report was designed as an integral part of a report to an individual client and was prepared solely for the benefit of that client. The material contained in this report does not necessarily stand on its own and is not intended to nor should it be relied upon by any third party. To the fullest extent permitted by law Wessex Archaeology will not be liable by reason of breach of contract negligence or otherwise for any loss or damage (whether direct indirect or consequential) occasioned to any person acting or omitting to act or refraining from acting in reliance upon the material contained in this report arising from or connected with any error or omission in the material contained in the report. Loss or damage as referred to above shall be deemed to include, but is not limited to, any loss of profits or anticipated profits damage to reputation or goodwill loss of business or anticipated business damages costs expenses incurred or payable to any third party (in all cases whether direct indirect or consequential) or any other direct indirect or consequential loss or damage.