



Durrington Down Farm Cable Link Larkhill, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



Ref: 215990.03
October 2019



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Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

www.wessexarch.co.uk

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Document Information

Document title	Durrington Down Farm Cable Link
Document subtitle	Archaeological Watching Brief
Document reference	215990.03
Client name	UK Power Networks Services
Address	Rear of Parsons House Ordnance Road Aldershot Hampshire GU11 2AE
Site location	Larkhill
County	Wiltshire
National grid reference (NGR)	Durrington Down Farm NGR 412407 143572 Access road to Larkhill Waste Water Treatment Works NGR 412808 143366
Statutory designations	Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site (WHS)
Planning authority	Wiltshire Council
Planning reference	N/A
Museum name	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Museum accession code	N/A
WA project name	Durrington Down Farm Cable Link
WA project code	215990
Date(s) of fieldwork	8 July 2019 to 30 August 2019
Fieldwork directed by	Darryl Freer, Neil Fitzpatrick, Kathryn Brook, Jamie McCarthy
Project management by	Ruth Panes
Document compiled by	Eleanor Legg
Graphics by	Karen Nichols

Quality Assurance

Issue number & date	Status	Author	Approved by
1 03/10/2019	Draft submitted to client	EL	



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by UK Power Networks Services to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a cable trench. The trench relates to a replacement power cable between the substation at Durrington Down Farm at NGR 412407 143572 and the access road to Larkhill Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) at NGR 412808 143366, a distance of approximately 560 m. The fieldwork was undertaken from 8 July 2019 to 30 August 2019.

The only archaeological features identified were located in the southern extent of the cable trench and comprised a possible pit feature of indeterminate form and function and a 20th century military practice trench. The latter contained artefactual evidence in the form of a horseshoe, various pieces of barbed wire and other iron items and some glass from some bottles. It is believed that the period of use of the military trench relates to earlier buildings present alongside the cable trench denoted by historical maps. The presence of a large amount of made ground (bricks, asbestos, concrete) in the southern extent of the cable trench is thought to be the resulting debris of the demolition of such buildings, which was then used to flatten and stabilise the ground surface of the arable field through which the cable trench was cut. In other areas modern services were identified alongside natural solution hollows and rooting.

The cable trench was excavated up to 1.4 m below ground level and cut through the natural chalk bedrock.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank UK Power Networks Services, for commissioning the archaeological watching brief, in particular John Pritchard. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful to the farmer, Mr Baxter and to Martin Brown, Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service and Hugh Beamish, Historic England for their help and advice.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Darryl Freer, Neil Fitzpatrick, Kathryn Brook and Jamie McCarthy. This report was written by Eleanor Legg. The project was managed by Ruth Panes on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.

Durrington Down Farm Cable Replacement Work

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by UK Power Networks Services, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of cable trenches for a replacement power cable between the substation at Durrington Down Farm at NGR 412407 143572 and the access road to Larkhill Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) at NGR 412808 143366. The works monitored covered a distance which measured roughly 560m and linked with the previously completed cable trench excavated for the HV and LV installation works for the substation at Larkhill WWTW (Wessex Archaeology 2018) (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.1.2 The scheme comprised the installation of a buried cable link via mechanical excavation of an open cut trench to lay ducting for the cable. Backfilling of the utility trench was completed as works progressed along the route.
- 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 2019). Wiltshire Council approved the WSI, prior to fieldwork commencing. Historic England was notified of the works due to their location within the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site.
- 1.1.4 The watching brief was undertaken between 08/07/2019 and 29/08/2019.

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 trench, which began at Durrington Down Farm, ran east to west for the first 430 m, then north to south for the remainder (120 m). Along the northern part of the scheme, the utility trench was primarily located on the verge immediately north of an existing farm track. The southern and eastern part of the route was predominantly located within an arable field immediately east of the access track to Larkhill WWTW.
- 1.3.2 Existing ground levels were recorded at 105 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) on the eastern end and 96 m aOD on the southern end.
- 1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Chalk Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 94 to 89 million years ago (British Geological Survey online viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.1 A summary of the archaeological and historical background of the area has been informed by prior desk-based assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2014) and assessment reports (Wessex Archaeology 2018) conducted by Wessex Archaeology. Much of this information has been previously discussed at length within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019) issued prior to work commencing and as such only that which is deemed of particular interest to this cable route is discussed.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the development

2.2.1 Recent work included an archaeological watching brief on a HV cable link at Larkhill WWTW commissioned by UK Power Networks (Wessex Archaeology 2018). This consisted of the archaeological monitoring of excavations for a new electrical switch room, a new substation and cable route. No archaeological remains or material were observed during the groundworks. The cable route between Durrington Down Farm and the access road to the Larkhill WWTW links with this previously monitored cable trench (**Fig. 1**).

2.2.2 Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology at Larkhill WWTW (Wessex Archaeology 2019) during the installation of a new below-ground sewage pumping station, emergency storage tank and associated manholes and sewers. The work was undertaken between October 2017 and February 2019 and found nothing of archaeological significance.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

2.3.1 Slightly north-west of Durrington Down Farm and approximately 25 m from the eastern end of the cable route is a single scheduled bowl barrow (SM list entry 1009069). Military activity has damaged the barrow but 19th century excavations revealed a skeleton of Bronze Age date, a later cremation and finds associated with the burials.

2.3.2 A group of bowl barrows can be found roughly 10 m to the north of the scheme, approximately 120 m south of Fargo Road. The group of three barrows within Scheduled Monument 1009064 have been subject to a high level of disturbance and truncation due to the high level of military activity within the area, but they still survive as buried features with varying levels of preservation.

2.3.3 Two Bronze Age bowl barrows can be found approximately 10 m east of the route of the cable trench. The barrows lie within Scheduled Monument 1009072 which lies 250 m north of the Stonehenge Cursus. The north western barrow mound extends into the farm track on its northern side and the track is included in the scheduling. From partial excavation, the barrows are known to contain archaeological and environmental remains pertaining to the monument and the landscape in which it is located.

2.3.4 The northern part of the route has been subject to previous development, with historic mapping (Ordnance Survey 1898 to 1939 25 inch, 3rd edition) indicating the presence of military buildings to the north and south of the existing track. Many of these buildings would have been built on raft supports and likely involved limited excavations during their construction.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019) 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 2019), 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 2019) 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 was undertaken by a single archaeologist who monitored all intrusive groundworks associated with the excavation of cable trenches for a replacement high voltage cable between the substation at Durrington Down Farm and the access road to Larkhill WWTW. The work monitored was undertaken by a single 360° tracked mechanical excavator which was fitted with a toothless ditching bucket except in instances in which a

breaker was necessary. Two trench numbers were allocated to the cable trench in order to arbitrarily differentiate between the section which ran east to west (Trench 1) and that which ran north to south (Trench 2) (**Fig. 1**).

- 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, including those from features of modern date (19th century or later).

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 2019). 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 Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire County Archaeology Services monitored the watching brief.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A small amount of archaeology, consisting of a military trench (20th century) and a possible pit (unknown date), were encountered during the works. Made ground and earlier service trenches were also observed. The features were all concentrated within the section of the

cable trench which ran north to south (Trench 2) whilst the east to west (Trench 1) section produced very little. The results are presented below by trench.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

Trench 1

- 5.2.1 Trench 1, approximately 430 m long x 0.40 m wide, was excavated to a depth of 0.90 m. It was predominately excavated through the existing turf and topsoil 101 along a grass verge to a depth of 0.15 m to 0.20 m where natural chalk geology 102 was encountered (**Plate 1**).
- 5.2.2 At various points along the route of the trench, made-ground 103, was observed, measuring up to 0.40 m. This consisted largely of brick, tarmac and concrete (**Plate 2**). This deposit was more substantial at the western end of the trench in the location of three driveways and two field entrances.
- 5.2.3 Towards the western end and the middle of Trench 1 both water and electric services, as well as a concrete drain cover, were encountered.

Trench 2

- 5.2.4 Trench 2, approximately 120 m long x 1.8 m wide, was excavated to a depth of between 1.30 m to 2.50 m. Where archaeology and services were not present, the ploughsoil was seen to directly overlie the subsoil or colluvium 202 (up to 0.15 m in depth) and overlay the natural chalk bedrock 203 which was encountered at a depth of 0.45m below ground level.
- 5.2.5 A substantial sub-circular feature 204 measuring 0.50 m in depth and 0.98 m in width, was encountered towards the northern end of Trench 2 (**Fig. 1**). This was seen to be filled with silty clay 205 which included common chalk flecks and was cut by military trench 206 (**Plate 3**). Feature 204 was underlying a remnant ploughsoil (211) and upon investigation found to be a solution hollow.
- 5.2.6 Military trench 206 (**Plates 3 and 4**) measured 1.46 m in width and 1.15 m in depth. The trench had straight, vertical sides and appears to have undergone a period of intentional backfill. Chalk fill 207(measuring 0.82 m thick), appears to have been initially used to infill the military trench and contained no archaeological components. This was overlain by dark brown loam dump deposit 208 which contained barbed wire. Chalk deposits 209 and 210 was then used to backfill the remainder of the military trench upon decommission and contained glass and iron fragments. The trench was not fully excavated due to reaching the required depth for the cable trench (1.15 m).
- 5.2.7 The old ploughsoil 211, measuring 1.40 m long x 0.76 m wide and 0.21 m thick, was found to both underlie made-ground 212 and be cut by 206 (**Plate 3**). The dark brown loamy soil was much the same as the current ploughsoil 201 found elsewhere within the trench. Made-ground (212 and 213), consisting largely of modern brick combined with topsoil material, was found and excavated to a depth of 0.45 m in Trench 2. A large amount of asbestos roof tile was present also found and is likely to represent demolition material from earlier buildings.
- 5.2.8 Feature 217 (**Plate 5**) was observed approximately 20 m from the southern end of Trench 2 and measured 1.65 m wide and 0.36 m deep, and extended beneath the baulk of the trench. The feature appears sub-circular with a concave base and was overlain by colluvium layer (221). No archaeological components were recovered and as such the feature may be natural.

- 5.2.9 Two service trenches (214 and 219) were located within Trench 2.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Approximately 4 kg of finds were recovered from two of the excavated contexts (208 and 209, backfill material of military trench 206). Although no particularly chronologically diagnostic items are included, all the material is likely to be of 20th century date and related to the military and/or agricultural use of the area.
- 6.1.2 Four short, bent lengths of barbed wire (334 g) came from context 208. All four consisted of two twisted strands with four-point barbs set approximately 3 inches (70 mm) apart. Wire of this type is known to have been used in the area since at least the early 20th century, in the training of troops destined for the Western Front during World War One, for example, as well as for much more mundane agricultural needs.
- 6.1.3 A greater quantity and a wider variety of finds came from context 209. These include one small piece (5 g) of animal bone from a pig's mandible. Cut-marks in its outer surface indicate the removal of the cheek meat for human or animal consumption. Fragments from three glass bottles (483 g) also attest to the liquid diet of the area's inhabitants. One was of pale blue/green glass and possibly a milk bottle, while the other two were green and probably used for beer. One has the number 98 and the letters AL embossed on its underside. Metal items (3208 g) included a 4¾ inch (120 mm) Fillis stirrup iron. This is a standard adult size – a lady's size 7 boot will require a 4½ or 4¾ inch stirrup, depending on its width, while most men will wear a 4¾ inch stirrup although those with very large or wide feet will need a 5 inch or larger. The rest of the assemblage comprised three iron hinges, sheet metal fragments from a large can (probably for petrol), a partially chrome-plated linkage for a trailer or from another machine, pieces of circular-sectioned fencing and barbed wire as well as various fixings and fillings (nails, screws, bolts, washers and reinforcing plates). Electrical equipment included part of a copper alloy contact, a small fragment from a ceramic insulator and two short length of electrical wire.
- 6.1.4 None of this material wants further analysis or long-term curation. In keeping with Wessex Archaeology's discard policy (see section 8.3 of this report), all this material has been discarded.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 The programme of works undertaken found limited archaeological evidence but did highlight military activity within Trench 2 (the north to south section of the cable trench). Most notably a 20th century military trench was identified alongside the demolition material from earlier buildings. Other evidence included previously laid utilities and natural features alongside a possible pit feature.

8.2 Discussion

- 8.2.1 The surviving archaeological remains are in-keeping with use of the land for military purposes. This is unsurprising given the location of the cable trench and the identification

of military practice trenches within the area through aerial photographs, as discussed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019). The presence of military trench 206 is possibly related to the wider area which is known to contain a large network of World War I practice trenches. The military trench and demolition material found throughout the cable trench are possibly related to each other.

8.2.2 Modern development has also been noted in the form of the presence of several previous utility trenches. Natural formation processes are also present in the form of a solution hollow and the presence of colluvium.

8.2.3 Overall, little significant archaeology was encountered and that which was identified was of good preservation.

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. 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.

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 Salisbury and South Wiltshire 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 code: 215990**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 file/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics;

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.

9.3.2 In this instance none of the archaeological finds are selected to be retained.

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 – OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-368903

Project details

Project name	Durrington Down Farm Cable Link, Larkhill, Wiltshire
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by UK Power Networks Services to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a cable trench. The trench relates to a replacement high voltage cable between the substation at Durrington Down Farm at NGR 412407 143572 and the access road to Larkhill Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) at NGR 412808 143366, a distance of approximately 560 m. The fieldwork was undertaken from 8 July 2019 to 30 August 2019. The programme of works undertaken found limited archaeological evidence but did highlight military activity within Trench 2 (the north to south section of the cable trench). Most notably a 20th century military trench was identified alongside the demolition material from earlier buildings. Other evidence included previously laid utilities and natural features alongside a possible pit feature.
Project dates	Start: 08-07-2019 End: 30-08-2019
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	215990 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 12 - Verge
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 3 - Utilities
Monument type	MILITARY EARTHWORK Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Army Basing Programme of works

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE SALISBURY DURRINGTON Durrington Down Farm to Larkhill Waste Water Treatment Works
Study area	0.56 Kilometres



Site coordinates SU 12407 43572 51.190717080652 -1.822439595682 51 11 26 N 001 49 20
W Point

Site coordinates SU 12808 43366 51.188855686055 -1.816708140969 51 11 19 N 001 49 00
W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology

Project brief originator UK Power Networks

Project design originator Wessex archaeology

Project director/manager Ruth Panes

Project supervisor Katheryn Brook

Project supervisor Darryl Freer

Project supervisor Neil Fitzpatrick

Project supervisor Jamie McCarthy

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum

Digital Contents "other"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum

Paper Contents "other"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

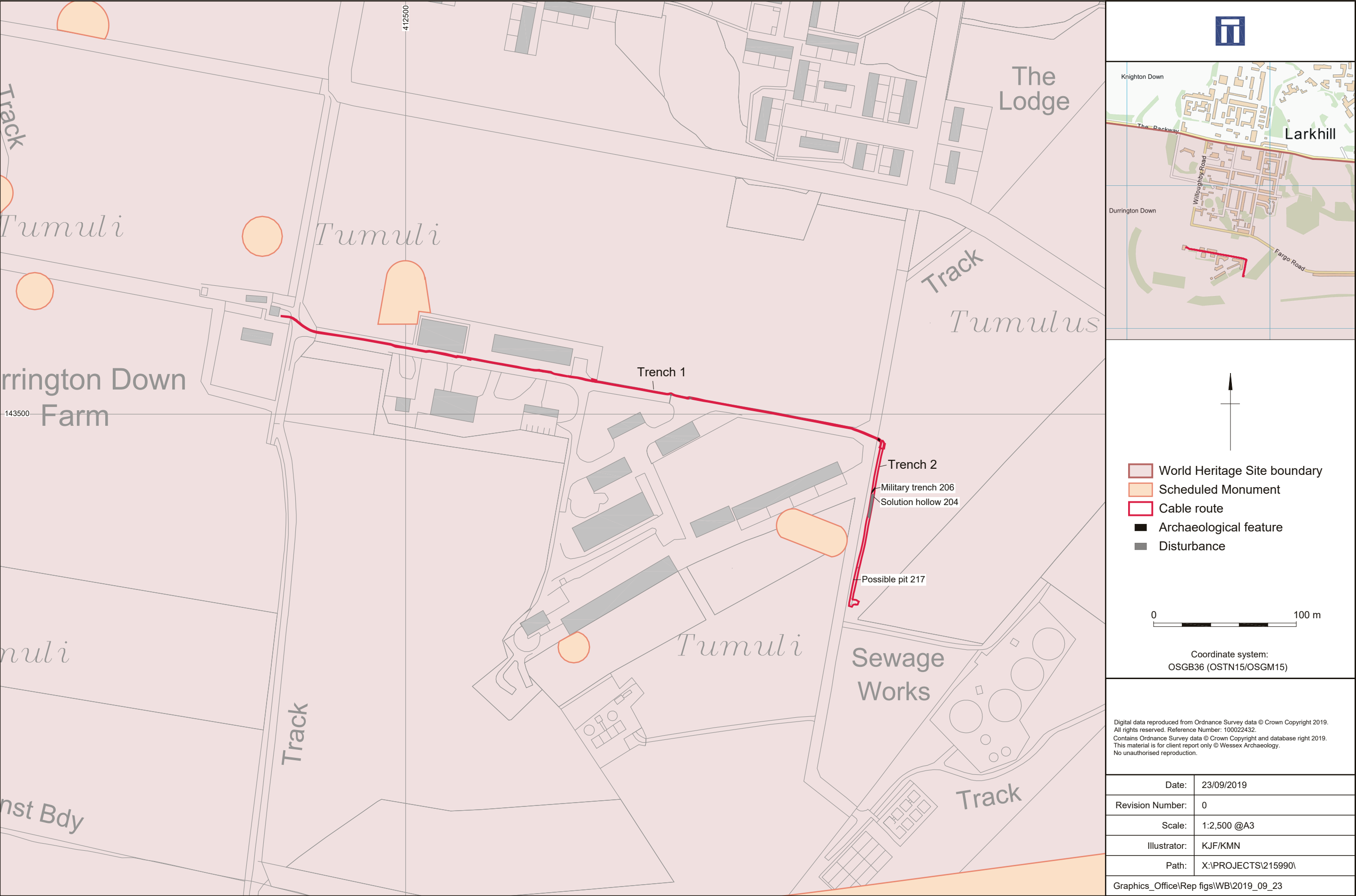
Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Larkhill Army Basing Programme (ABP) Utilities, Larkhill, Wiltshire, Archaeological Watching Brief

Author(s)/Editor(s) Legg, E



Other bibliographic details	report number 215990.03
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Wessex Archaeology - Salisbury
Description	A4 bound client report
Entered by	Eleanor Legg (e.legg@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	3 October 2019



Site location plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: South facing representative section



Plate 2: North-north-east facing representative section


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	Date:	23/09/2019	Revision Number: 0
	Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator: KMN
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\215990\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\WB\2019_09_23	



Plate 3: North facing representative section of solution hollow 204 and military trench 206



Plate 4: Plan shot of military trench 206



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	Date:	23/09/2019	Revision Number: 0
	Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator: KMN
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Plate 5: East facing representative section of colluvium 221 and possible pit feature 217

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	Date:	23/09/2019	Revision Number: 0
	Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator: KMN
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Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

