



# Land at Cranbourne Chase Martin Down National Nature Reserve

Archaeological Monitoring and Investigation



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## Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks ('the Client') to conduct an archaeological mitigation by means of monitoring and investigation of the proposed installation of a below ground cable. This was to replace the existing overhead cables at land located at Cranbourne Chase, Martin Down National Nature Reserve SP5 5RH (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on NGR 403413 120048 (**Figure 1**).

The works comprised two archaeologically excavated trenches across two Scheduled Monuments- Grim's Ditch (NHLE 1011006) and a Roman Road (NHLE 1008707) along the route of the proposed new cable route; along with monitoring of three launch pits for the mole plough that was employed for the excavation of the cable route outside of the Scheduled Monument areas. Scheduled Monument Consent was sought and granted (S00179352, S00179365) prior to the commencement of the works.

The trench across Grim's Ditch revealed what appears to be a fairly unremarkable, undated ditch. This feature has been dated from the listing information, however the steep, irregular sides of the ditch and nature of the fills do support that this ditch is pre-historic in date. This excavation was unable to confirm any more detailed dating; however, a profile of this ditch is now recorded within the nature reserve and its current state of preservation ascertained.

In the trench across the Roman Road, the central portion of the road has survived fairly well with the statumen and part of the rudus surviving as clear layers. At the location of the excavation the agger appears to be little more than a very small gentle rise in the ground, although to the north of the excavation area the monument survives to a height of 2.60 m. The collapse of the central portion of the agger is shown by the rounded river cobbles noted in the section lying just above the original soils. The colluvial deposits are homogenised but likely that some of the colluvial deposits were formed by bank wash from the agger. No ditch was clearly visible on the western side of the road, which may be because of the topography as the western side was upslope. Two ditches were recorded on the eastern side and of these 506 had a clearer, better defined cut. The narrowness of the trench and its obliqueness to the monument make precise measurements difficult. The lack of finds from the road and associated soils and features also makes precise dating difficult.

No archaeology was observed in the three launch pits.

The archaeological monitoring and investigation was undertaken between 2nd and 17th September 2019.

## Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks for commissioning the archaeological watching brief, in particular Greg Moore. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of David Wilkinson, Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England and David Hopkins, County Archaeologist and advisor to Hampshire County Council who monitored the project for Hampshire County Council, and to ATP for their cooperation and help on site.

The fieldwork was directed by Darryl Freer, assisted by Al Zochowski and Rachel Williams. This report was written by Naomi Brennan, Rachel Williams and Lee Newton and edited by Damian De Rosa. The project was managed by Damian De Rosa on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



# Land at Cranbourne Chase, Martin Down National Nature Reserve, Hampshire

## Archaeological Monitoring and Investigation

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks ('the Client') to provide archaeological mitigation by means of monitoring and trench investigation during installation of a below ground cable to replace the existing overhead cables at land located at Cranbourne Chase, Martin Down National Nature Reserve SP5 5RH (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on NGR 403413 120048 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The cable route was identified as crossing two Scheduled Monument areas; Grim's Ditch – three adjoining linear earthworks & bowl barrows, north of Bokerley Dyke on Martin Down (National Heritage List for England (NHLE) 1011006) and Roman Road along the south side of Vernditch Chase: Part of the Roman Road between *Sorviodunum* (Old Sarum) and *Vindocladia* (Badbury). Additionally, rectilinear features visible in aerial photographs from 1984 suggest a possible Prehistoric or Romano British field system on the Site, which would be impacted from this cable route. As a result, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring and investigation was agreed (Wessex Archaeology 2017) and Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) was sought and granted (S00179352, S00179365).

1.1.3 The works along a route of approximately 1.5km in length entailed a series of three launch and receive pits and installation of cable by use of mole plough (approximately 1 m deep x 0.3 m wide). Furthermore a 1 m wide trench was excavated over Grim's Ditch (NHLE 1011006, **Plates 1-3**) and a Roman Road (NHLE 1008707, **Plates 4-6**) to allow for archaeological mitigation. The length of the first trench was 19.5 m and the length of the second was 40.6 m.

1.1.4 The works were part of a special allowance provided by The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM) for landscape improvement at Martin Down National Nature Reserve.

1.1.5 Further to agreeing the scope of work and setting this out within the WSI (WA 2017) to support SMC, with David Wilkinson, Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England in regard of the scheduled monuments, WA on behalf of the Client consulted with David Hopkins, Senior Archaeologist at Hampshire County Council in regard of the cable excavations outside of the Scheduled Monument areas and it was agreed that given the nature of the method of cable excavation and installation by mole plough that archaeological monitoring would only be required where launch and receive pits were excavated or any similar excavations that are more extensive than that beyond use of the mole plough.

#### 1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the archaeological investigation (WA 2018). The WSI, which was submitted in support of SMC was submitted to and approved by the Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England and the Senior Archaeologist at Hampshire County Council prior to fieldwork commencing.



- 1.2.2 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the investigation, 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 information about the archaeological resource available (preservation by record).

### **1.3 Location, topography and geology**

- 1.3.1 The Site is located on Cranborne Chase within Martin Down National Nature Reserve. The cable route area is bounded by the A354 to the southeast, and by Vernditch Chase woodland to the northwest. The southern edge of Vernditch Chase woodland is formed by and respects the line of the north east to south west aligned scheduled Roman Road (1008707). The base of the Site culminates at a point directly northeast of Bokerley Junction.
- 1.3.2 The land slopes from a height of around 101 m at the north-eastern end of the route up to around 126 m, before falling once more towards the route of the Roman Road which lies at a height of around 120 m.
- 1.3.3 The underlying geology of the Site is mapped by the British Geological Survey as Cretaceous chalk of the Newhaven Chalk Formations (British Geological Survey online viewer).

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 Below is a summary of the Scheduled Monuments impacted by the development along with details of further Scheduled Monuments in the vicinity. Further detail has been provided by David Hopkins the Senior Archaeologist at Hampshire County Council using information from the Hampshire Historic Environment Record.

### **2.2 Grim's Ditch (NHLE 1011006)**

- 2.2.1 The monument, which falls into two areas, includes three adjoining linear earthworks and three Bronze Age bowl barrows on Martin Down. The three linear earthworks are aligned broadly from north to south and include: at the south, an earthwork c.570m long; a second earthwork, c.1.81km long, running west and then NNW from the southern earthwork; an 'L'-shaped earthwork c.300m long adjoining the northern end of the second earthwork.
- 2.2.2 This Scheduled linear is fully described in the formal scheduling description (sourced from <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1011006> on 12/11/2019).
- 2.2.3 A review of historic mapping indicates that prior to WW II Grim's Ditch is shown on Ordnance Survey maps within the Site as an upstanding visible boundary comprising of a double ditch. Post war OS mapping indicates Grims Ditch as course of, rather than as defined ditches, and is likely to be a result of heavy ploughing undertaken between these periods and most notably during the war years. Grim's Ditch survives as an upstanding feature for c.260m further to the south beyond the limits of the Site. Grim's Ditch continues to the north of the Roman Road where it is listed under Scheduled Monument number (1010763), This section of Grim's ditch is not to be impacted by the proposed development.

### **2.3 Roman Road (NHLE 1008707)**

- 2.3.1 The Scheduled Monument consists of c.2 km stretch of Roman Road that stretches from *Sorviodunum* (Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire) to *Vinocladia* (Badbury, Blandford Forum,





Dorset). It is aligned south eastwards from south of the Broad Chalke to Martin Road, along the southern edge of Vernditch Chase to Bokerley Junction, just north east of the A354 road.

- 2.3.2 The Scheduled Road is described in the formal scheduling description (sourced from <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1008707> on 12/11/2017) as follows:

*The course of the Roman road is clearly marked for most of its length by a raised agger, although some areas, such as that north east of Bokerly Junction, have been disturbed, in this case by ploughing.*

- 2.3.3 The route for the cable installation crossed the area northeast of Bokerley Junction, where the Roman Road has been subject to ploughing, is less visible in aerial photographs and no longer has a visible raised *agger*, creating minimal impact.

## 2.1 Archaeological and historical context

- 2.1.1 In addition to the above detailed monuments, further Scheduled Monuments are located within close proximity.

### *Prehistoric and Romano-British*

- 2.1.2 In general, there is currently little evidence for activity within the wider landscape surrounding the Site prior to the Neolithic. However, Mesolithic worked flint has been collected from across the wider landscape.

- 2.1.3 Much of the archaeological landscape of Martin Down National Nature Reserve and the surrounding area are preserved as earthworks or crop-marks, which provide a detailed understanding of the nature of early land division, agriculture and settlement.

- 2.1.4 Scheduled Monuments marking Bronze Age funerary activity and representing burial places of Britain's early farming communities are located within close proximity to the Site.

- **Long Barrow (National Monument No 12083):** Located southwest of Vernditch Chase, approximately 129 meters from the Roman Road (1008707).
- **Vernditch Chase long barrow (1004752):** Located in Vernditch Chase, approximately 178 meters from the Roman Road (1008707).

## 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### 3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017) and as defined in the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a) and ClfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014b), were:

- To examine the archaeological resource within a given area and within a framework of defined research objectives.
- To seek a better understanding of the resource and its significance.
- To compile a lasting record of the resources.



- To analyse and interpret the results of the investigation and to place the results into their local and regional context, and to disseminate the information.

### **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 2017), were:

- to ensure that all works are undertaken in strict compliance with the Scheduled Monument Consent;
- to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and should remains be present, to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;
- to confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
- to determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;
- to determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains;
- to determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present; and
- to prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.

## **4 METHODS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

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

### **4.2 Fieldwork methods**

#### *General*

4.2.1 The watching archaeologist monitored and supervised the mechanical excavation of all three launch and receive pits (Trenches 1, 3 and 4) and the two 1 m wide trenches (Trenches 2 and 5) which were located at the points the cable crosses the Scheduled Monuments.

4.2.2 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 investigation.

4.2.3 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. No artefacts were recovered during the course of the archaeological works however.

#### *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.
- 4.2.7 A photographic record of the scheduled monuments was made to illustrate the condition of the monuments prior to any excavation of the undisturbed ground, during excavation and following reinstatement of the trenches (**Plates 1 to 6 and front and back covers**)

### 4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

- 4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014c) 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 David Wilkinson, Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England and David Hopkins and Neil Adam, Senior Archaeologists at Hampshire County Council, monitored and were kept informed by WA of the progress of the archaeological works. This included a site visit by Neil Adams to monitor the works on 12 September 2019.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Trenches 2 and 5 were targeted on the Scheduled Monuments of Grim's Ditch (NHLE 1011006) and the Roman Road (NHLE 1008707) respectively (**Fig. 2**). Both were in a reasonable state of preservation given the impacts of modern ploughing. Three launch and receive pits measuring an average of 3.30 m long by 1.60 m wide were also monitored. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were recorded in any of the launch and receive pits (**Plates 7 – 9**). The stratigraphic sequence and natural deposits discussed below includes the launch and receive pits demonstrating the homogeneity of topsoil and natural deposits across the Site, except where Trench 5 dipped in to colluvial deposits (see 5.2.3 below). Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**).



## 5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The topsoil consisted of a friable pale-dark brown silty clay loam containing occasional sub-angular to rounded flint nodules measuring up to 0.07 m across, as well as occasional to common chalk flecks and fragments. This layer was between 0.20 and 0.40 m deep.
- 5.2.2 Only present in Trench 2, the subsoil consisted of a pale brown silty clay containing occasional chalk nodules and common sub-angular to rounded flint nodules measuring up to 0.08m across. This layer was 0.15m deep.
- 5.2.3 Colluvial deposits comprising a pale brown silty clay 0.40 m were recorded on the eastern extent of Trench 5, within a natural coombe.
- 5.2.4 The natural bedrock consisted of chalk which displayed signs of weathering and periglacial scarring on the surface.
- 5.2.5 Two tree-throw holes and a natural feature were recorded in Trench 2. It was not possible within the confines of the watching brief trench to ascertain the full extent of these features. Tree-throw hole **204** measured 1.95 m wide, 0.60 m deep and contained a single fill (**Plate 10**). A second tree-throw hole (**211**) was recorded within Trench 2, **211** measured 1.30 m wide, 0.49 m deep and contained a single loose chalky rubble fill. A natural feature **206** was recorded as being cut by the Grim's Ditch on the south-western side (**Plate 11**), the measurable dimensions of this features were 1.35 m wide, 0.30 m deep. This feature was only noted within one of the sections.

## 5.3 Bronze Age

- 5.3.1 Trench 2 was excavated across the line of the Scheduled Monument known as Grim's Ditch (NHLE 1011006), although within the Site this feature is no longer present as a visible earthwork. The trench located a linear feature (numbered **208**) following a north-west – south-east alignment, along with two other features, **204** and **211**, both concluded to be tree-throw holes (discussed above 5.2.5).
- 5.3.2 Ditch **208** was interpreted as the remnant of Grim's Ditch Scheduled Monument, although at this point it was not visible as an extant feature in the landscape but had been ploughed flat. **208** was 1.90 m wide and 0.85 m deep with steeply-sloping sides and a flat base (**Fig. 3, Plates 11 - 12**).
- 5.3.3 Ditch **208** contained two fills, numbered **209** and **210**. The lower of these, **209**, consisted of a pale brown silty clay containing common blocks of chalk and occasional small flint fragments. The chalk blocks were larger and occurred more frequently towards the base of the feature, possibly suggesting a primary fill formed shortly after the feature was initially dug. **209** was interpreted as the result of gradual weathering processes which naturally infilled the ditch. This material was derived from the surrounding ground surface and edges of the feature and filled most of the ditch.
- 5.3.4 Above **209**, **210** consisted of a dark brown loam containing occasional small flint fragments and chalk flecks. This fill was only present along the centre of the ditch and was interpreted as a tertiary fill of naturally accumulated material, most likely topsoil. This would have been deposited in the remaining depression as the secondary fill **209** settled over a considerable period of time and after the feature went out of use.



## 5.4 Romano-British (AD 43 - 410)

- 5.4.1 The Roman Road (NHLE 1008707) survived to a depth of 0.80 m below the current ground level. A maximum of five layers were recorded within the central portion (**GRP 511**) which measured 8.75 m wide.
- 5.4.2 The most clearly defined layers comprised the *statumen* and part of the *rudus*. The *statumen* was constructed using large flint boulders (**513**) pressed in to a layer of compacted earth. The layer of compacted earth (**512**) spread across 9.93 m of the trench. Above the *statumen* were four clear layers (**Fig. 4, Plates 13 - 20**). The *rudus* comprised layers of crushed chalk (**515**) overlain by a compacted layer of yellow sands and gravels (**516**), overlain by another layer of crushed chalk (**517**); a thin layer of medium rounded gravels (**518**) was recorded patchily overlaying the chalk. To the west of the central portion the basal layer of stripped and compacted earth continued, the deposits above this layer appeared to be more homogenised, with the large river pebbles which may have accumulated from the collapsed *agger* pressed in to the top. On the eastern side of this central portion the layers appeared to slump (**Plate 13**). East of this obvious slump it appears as though the head deposits may still be truncated but the upper part of the head deposit is mixed with river pebbles which are likely to be from the *agger*. Above this layer is a layer of colluvium, which is also likely to be from the collapsed *agger*.
- 5.4.3 Two ditches were recorded to the east of the collapsed *agger* (**Fig. 4**). Ditch **506** measured 3.05 m wide and 0.65 m deep as excavated, although the base was not reached. **506** contained a single homogenised fill, **507**. (**Plate 21**) This ditch had moderately-sloping sides. Ditch **504** had a similar profile and measured 2.84 m wide and 0.2 m deep. It also contained a single homogenised fill, **505**. (**Plate 22**). Both ditches appeared to follow the same alignment as the road **GRP 511** and it is likely that they are flanking roadside drainage ditches related to the Roman Road. No dating material was recovered from either ditch and they were not connected stratigraphically.

## 6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered from trenches 2 and 5. The assemblage has been cleaned (with the exception of the metal objects) and quantified by material type in each context; this information is summarised in Table 1.

### 6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 A single sherd of Romano-British Black-burnished ware, from the Wareham/Poole Harbour area of south-east Dorset, was recovered from colluvial layer 503.

### 6.3 Flint

- 6.3.1 Two flint objects were recovered – an end scraper from topsoil 501 and a flake from subsoil 202. Neither are chronologically distinctive but the scraper is of possible Neolithic date.

### 6.4 Iron

- 6.4.1 A small number of iron objects were recovered, including one personal item – a hobnail of Romano-British date, from colluvium 503, a second small nail and nail shank fragments. A small, dense iron object from layer 503 could not be identified.



## 6.5 Animal bone

- 6.5.1 A total of nine fragments (or 28 g) of animal bone came from overburden deposits in Trenches 2 and 5. Several re-fitting fragments of cattle-sized long bone shaft came from subsoil layer 202 and fragments of cattle tibia shaft from topsoil layer 501.

**Table 1** Quantification of finds

Layer	Pottery		Flint		Iron		Animal bone	
	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)
202			1	32	2	3	6	15
501			1	37			3	13
503	1	2			3	7		
Total	1	2	2	69	5	10	9	28

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 One bulk sediment sample was taken from a Romano-British road and was processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence.

### 7.2 Aims and Methods

- 7.2.1 The purpose of this assessment is to determine the potential of the environmental remains preserved at the site to address project aims and to provide data valuable for wider research frameworks. The nature of this assessment follows recommendations set up by Historic England (Campbell et al. 2011).
- 7.2.2 The 30-litre sample was processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted by eye and discarded. The environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots. A riffle box was used to split the large fine residue into a smaller residue subsample. The flot and 25% of the fine residue fraction were scanned using a stereo incident light microscopy (Leica MS5 microscope) at magnifications of up to x40 for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g. *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as burrowing snails or earthworm eggs and insects, which would not be preserved unless anoxic conditions prevailed on site. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence of other environmental remains such as terrestrial and aquatic molluscs and animal bone was recorded. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000), for cereals. Abundance of remains is qualitatively quantified (A\*\*\* = exceptional, A\*\* = 100+, A\* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5) as an estimation of the minimum number of individuals and not the number of remains per taxa.

### 7.3 Results

- 7.3.1 The flot from the bulk sediment sample was small (Table XXX). There were high numbers of roots and moderate numbers of modern seeds that may be evidence of some

stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination. The environmental evidence was preserved by carbonisation. Charred material was poorly preserved, comprising only of a small *Corylus avellana* (hazel) nut shell fragment. Wood charcoal was noted in very small quantities. Remains of terrestrial molluscs were also present. No other environmental evidence was preserved in the bulk sediment samples.

## 7.4 Conclusions

- 7.4.1 The environmental evidence retrieved from this sample is very small and poorly preserved and potentially disturbed by post-depositional activity (bioturbation). As the sampled feature is a road, the presence of charred hazel nut shell and a few charcoal fragments in its matrix or on the buried surface is likely to be residual from possible earlier activities in the area of an unknown chronology and therefore not representative. The small amount of terrestrial molluscs originating from a single deposit are not suitable for landscape reconstruction.

## 8 CONCLUSIONS

### 8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 The aims and objectives of the fieldwork were met and the two Scheduled Monuments crossing the area were identified and recorded in Trenches 2 and 5. Their condition and state of preservation were verified.
- 8.1.2 Trenches 1, 3 and 4 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

### 8.2 Discussion

- 8.2.1 The section through the scheduled monument recorded as the Grim's Ditch revealed what appears to be a fairly unremarkable, undated ditch. This feature has been dated from the listing information, however the steep, irregular sides of the ditch and nature of the fills do support that this is ditch is pre-historic in date. This excavation was unable to confirm any more detailed dating; however, a profile of this ditch is now recorded within the nature reserve and its current state of preservation ascertained.
- 8.2.2 It appears as though the central portion of the Roman Road has survived fairly well with the *statumen* and part of the *rudus* surviving as clear layers. At the location of the excavation the *agger* appears to be little more than a very small gentle rise in the ground, although to the north of the excavation area the monument survives to a height of 2.60 m. The collapse of the central portion of the *agger* is shown by the rounded river cobbles noted in the section lying just above the original soils. The colluvial deposits are homogenised but likely that some of the colluvial deposits were formed by bank wash from the *agger*. No ditch was clearly visible on the western side of the road, which may be because of the topography as the western side was upslope. Two ditches were recorded on the eastern side and of these **506** had a clearer, better defined cut. The narrowness of the trench and its obliqueness to the monument make precise measurements difficult. The lack of finds from the road and associated soils and features also makes precise dating difficult.

## 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. The Hampshire Cultural Trust has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **A2017.95**. 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 and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Hampshire Cultural Trust, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014d; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the accession code **A2017.95**, and a full index will be prepared.

## **9.3 Selection policy**

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

## **9.4 Security copy**

- 9.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

## **9.5 OASIS**

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

## **10 COPYRIGHT**

### **10.1 Archive and report copyright**

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





## 10.2 Third party data copyright

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



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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Stratigraphic summaries

Trench No 1		Length 3.00 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 1.00 m
Easting 404490.5457		Northing 120705.0753		101.40 m aOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
101		Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay loam. Rare sub angular and rounded flint <0.03m well sorted at weathered interface, common rooting, loose. Turf covered, fine rooting.	0 - 0.24m
102		Natural	Chalk. Quite weathered on surface has periglacial scarring.	0.24+

Trench No 2		Length 16 m	Width 0.90 m	Depth 1.10 m
Easting 404230.7338		Northing 120542.5641		105.60 m aOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
201		Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay loam, common sub-angular / rounded flints <0.06 m, Occasional chalk nodules / flecks. Turf covered, fine rooting.	0 - 0.30
202		Subsoil	Pale brown silty clay, common flints <0.08 m sub-angular / rounded, occasional chalk nodules. Both well sorted at interface.	0.30 - 0.45
203		Natural	Natural chalk	0.45 +
204	(205)	Tree-throw hole	Incomplete tree-throw hole with steep, irregular sides and an irregular / undulating base. Width: 1.95 m. Depth: 0.60 m.	0.45 - 1.05
205	[204]	Fill	Mid-pale brown to white silty clay - chalk with common tabular chalk, occasional sub-angular / rounded flints <0.04 m inclusions	0.45 - 1.05
206	(207)	Natural feature	Incomplete natural feature with irregular, concave sides and an irregular / undulating base. Length: 1.35 m. Depth: 0.30 m.	0.25 - 0.75
207	[206]	Fill	Mid-pale brown silty clay with abundant tabular chalk, inclusions	0.25 - 0.75
208	(209), (210)	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep, irregular sides and a flat base. Length: 0.90 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth: 0.85 m.	0.45 - 1.24
209	[208]	Secondary fill	Pale brown silty clay with common block chalk. occasional sub-angular / rounded flints <0.05 m inclusions	0.45 - 1.24



210	[208]	Tertiary fill	Dark brown loam with occasional sub-angular / rounded flints <0.03 m. occasional chalk flecks inclusions	0.45 - 0.85
211	(212)	Tree-throw hole	Incomplete tree-throw hole with moderate, concave sides and an irregular / undulating base. Depth: 0.49 m.	0.35 - 0.84
212	[211]	Fill	Pale brown - white silty clay. Chalk with abundant chalk nodules. occasional sub-angular / rounded flints < 0.05 m inclusions	0.35 - 0.84

<b>Trench No 3</b>		<b>Length 3.30 m</b>	<b>Width 1.40 m</b>	<b>Depth 1.00 m</b>
<b>Easting 404043.8612</b>		<b>Northing 120431.4045</b>		<b>106.72 m aOD</b>
<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Fill Of/Filled With</b>	<b>Interpretative Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth BGL</b>
301		Topsoil	Pale brown loam, rare chalk nodules, rare sub-angular / rounded flints < 0.04 m, diffuse horizon. Turf covered, fine rooting.	0.00 - 0.20
302		Natural	Natural chalk	O. 20+

<b>Trench No 4</b>		<b>Length 3.20 m</b>	<b>Width 1.60 m</b>	<b>Depth 1.00 m</b>
<b>Easting 403634.5301</b>		<b>Northing 120189.5664</b>		<b>126.3 m aOD</b>
<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Fill Of/Filled With</b>	<b>Interpretative Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth BGL</b>
401		Topsoil	Dark brown loam, occasional sub-angular / rounded flints <0.07 m. Rare sub-rounded flints >= 0.10 m, common chalk flecks / nodules, common rooting, diffuse horizon. Turf covered.	0.00 - 0.30
402		Natural	Natural chalk	0.30+

<b>Trench No 5</b>		<b>Length 40.85 m</b>	<b>Width 0.90 m</b>	<b>Depth 1.10 m</b>
<b>Easting 403404.9244</b>		<b>Northing 120088.8128</b>		<b>199.6 m aOD</b>
<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Fill Of/Filled With</b>	<b>Interpretative Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth BGL</b>
501		Topsoil	Mid brown loam. Turf covered with common rooting. Occasional sub-angular / rounded flints <0.03 m. Rare chalk nodules. Friable. At the northern end of the trench the lower horizon includes well sorted rounded pebbles, a remnant of road material. The southern end has no stones and is much more diffuse.	0.00 - 0.40
502		Natural	Natural geology. Chalk.	0.80+



503		Colluvium	Pale brown silty clay with rare sub-angular / rounded flints <0.10 m, occasional chalk nodules inclusions	0.40
504	(505)	Ditch	Linear ditch with moderate, straight sides. Depth: 0.20 m.	0.70
505	[504]	Secondary fill	Pale brown silt with rare sub-rounded flints <0.07 m, rare chalk flecks inclusions.	0.70
506	(507)	Ditch	Linear ditch with moderate, irregular sides. Depth: 0.65 m.	0.35
507	[506]	Secondary fill	Very pale off-white silt with occasional chalk flecks, rare sub-angular / rounded flints < 0.02 m inclusions	0.35
508		Colluvium	Pale brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular / rounded flints <0.02 m, occasional chalk flecks inclusions.	0.50
509		Redeposited road material	Mid-pale brown silty clay with common chalk flecks, concentrations of chalk nodules. occasional sub-angular / rounded flints <0.02 m inclusions	0.40
510		Redeposited road material	Pale brown silty clay with common rounded pebbles, occasional sub-angular / rounded flints <0.05 m inclusions	0.35



511	(509) = (528) (510) = (529) (516) = (526) (517) = (527) (507), (512), (513), (514), (515), (518), (519), (520), (521), (522)	Group number assigned to the Roman Road	Scheduled Roman Road aligned NE-SW running from Salisbury to Badbury. Truncated (ploughed at the least) at point of trench. Trench has been placed obliquely across the road as part of the planning application of the cable route. To the NW the road survives to a much greater height suggesting more of the <i>agger</i> remains in situ. Here only the base layers remain and substantial redeposition of upper layers perhaps at point of partial levelling. The width above includes the extent at which this material has been spread and to the drainage ditch. The eastern end of the trench (downslope) is quite disturbed making concise interpretations difficult. The western end (upslope) has no visible drainage ditch, this may be due to the depth reached by the trench not being deep enough to reveal it. What remains appears to follow the classic road make up with the <i>statumen</i> level intact and a good portion of the <i>rudus</i> .	0.35
512		Road foundation	Mid reddish-brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks, occasional sub-angular / rounded flints <0.02 m inclusions.	0.80
513		Road foundation	Pale brown silty clay with abundant large sub-angular / rounded flint nodules inclusions.	0.60
514		Road foundation	Mottled grey- white- brown silty clay with common chalk flecks inclusions.	0.50
515		Road foundation	Grey white silty clay with abundant chalk flecks inclusions.	0.40
516		Road foundation	Orange sand with abundant rounded pebbles <0.04 m inclusions.	0.30
517		Road foundation	Off white- grey silty clay with abundant chalk flecks / nodules inclusions.	0.25
518		Redeposited road material	Orange sand with abundant rounded pebbles inclusions.	0.40
519		Redeposited road material	Mid brown silty sandy clay with common rounded pebbles <0.04 m inclusions.	0.20



520		Redeposited road material	Off white-grey silty clay with abundant chalk flecks, nodules inclusions.	0.25
521		Redeposited road material	Pale brown silty clay with rare rounded pebbles <0.05 m, occasional chalk flecks inclusions.	0.25
522		Redeposited road material	Mid brown silty clay with common sub-angular / rounded pebbles / flints <0.10 m, occasional chalk flecks inclusions.	0.25
523		Coombe deposit	Red brown silty clay with common sub-angular / rounded flints <0.05 m well sorted inclusions.	0.50
524		Colluvium	Pale brown silty clay with common chalk flecks, common sub-angular / rounded flints <0.05 m inclusions.	0.40
525		Colluvium	Mid brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks, occasional sub-angular / rounded flints <0.05 m inclusions.	0.60
526		Road foundation	Orange sand with abundant rounded pebbles <0.04 m inclusions.	0.30
527		Road foundation	Off white- grey silty clay with abundant chalk flecks / nodules inclusions.	0.25
528		Redeposited road material	Mid-pale brown silty clay with common chalk flecks, concentrations of chalk nodules. occasional sub-angular / rounded flints <0.02 m inclusions	0.40
529		Redeposited road material	Pale brown silty clay with common rounded pebbles, occasional sub-angular / rounded flints <0.05 m inclusions	0.35



## Appendix 2 Environmental Data

**Table 1: Assessment of the environmental evidence**

Context	Sample	Vol (l)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other (type and abundance)	Comments (Preservation)
512	501	30	45	25% <4mm residue	80%, A, E, I	-	-	-	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	<1	Mature	Moll-t (A)	Poor - very small fragment

Key: Scale of abundance: A\*\*\* = exceptional, A\*\* = 100+, A\* = 30-99, A = 30-10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), E = earthworm eggs, I = insects; Sab/f/c = small animal/fish bones/charred faecal pellets, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs





## Appendix 3 OASIS form

### 10.3 OASIS ID: wessexar1-373665

#### Project details

Project name	Land at Cranbourne Chase, Martin Down National Nature Reserve, Hampshire
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks ('the Client') to conduct an archaeological mitigation by means of monitoring and investigation of the proposed installation of a below ground cable. This was to replace the existing overhead cables at land located at Cranbourne Chase, Martin Down National Nature Reserve SP5 5RH (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on NGR 403413 120048 (Figure 1). The works crossed two Scheduled Monuments-Grim's Ditch (NHLE 1011006) and a Roman Road (NHLE 1008707) which were both noted during the archaeological monitoring. Scheduled Monument Consent was therefore sought and granted (S00179352, S00179365) prior to the commencement of the works. The archaeological monitoring and investigation was undertaken between 2nd and 17th September 2019.
Project dates	Start: 02-09-2019 End: 17-09-2019
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	118610 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	1011006 - NHLE No.
Any associated project reference codes	1008707 - NHLE No.
Any associated project reference codes	S00179352 - SM No.
Any associated project reference codes	S00179365 - SM No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	National Nature Reserve
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	DITCH Bronze Age
Monument type	ROMAN ROAD Roman
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

#### Project location



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Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE NEW FOREST MARTIN Land at Cranbourne Chase, Martin Down National Nature Reserve, Hampshire
Postcode	SP5 5RH
Study area	1.5 Kilometres
Site coordinates	SU 03413 20048 50.979286925915 -1.951377682282 50 58 45 N 001 57 04 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 101m Max: 126m

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#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Damian De Rosa
Project supervisor	Darryl Freer
Type of sponsor/funding body	Energy company
Name of sponsor/funding body	Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

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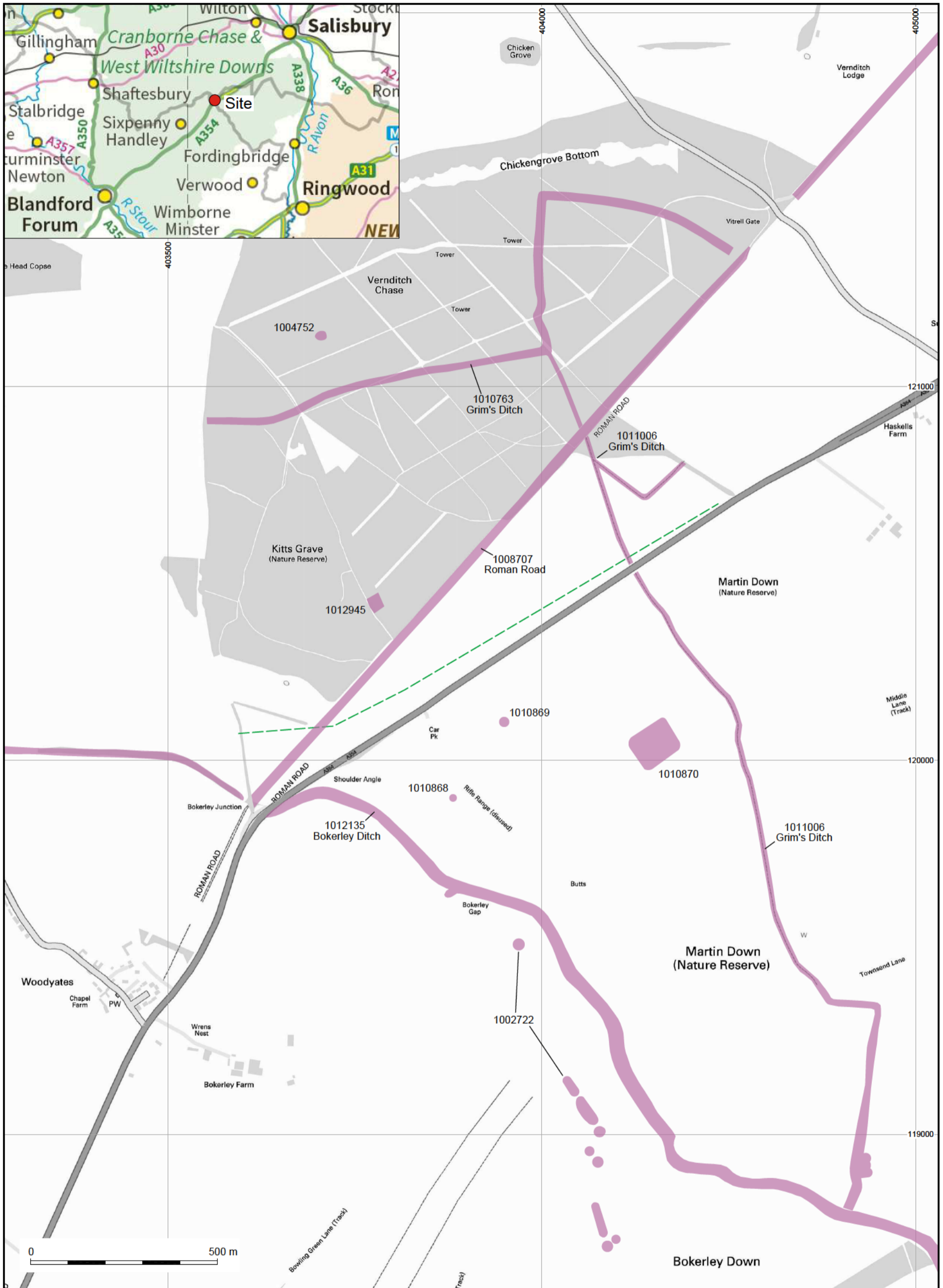
#### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes"

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Entered by	R. Williams (r.williams@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	12 November 2019

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Coordinate system:  
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

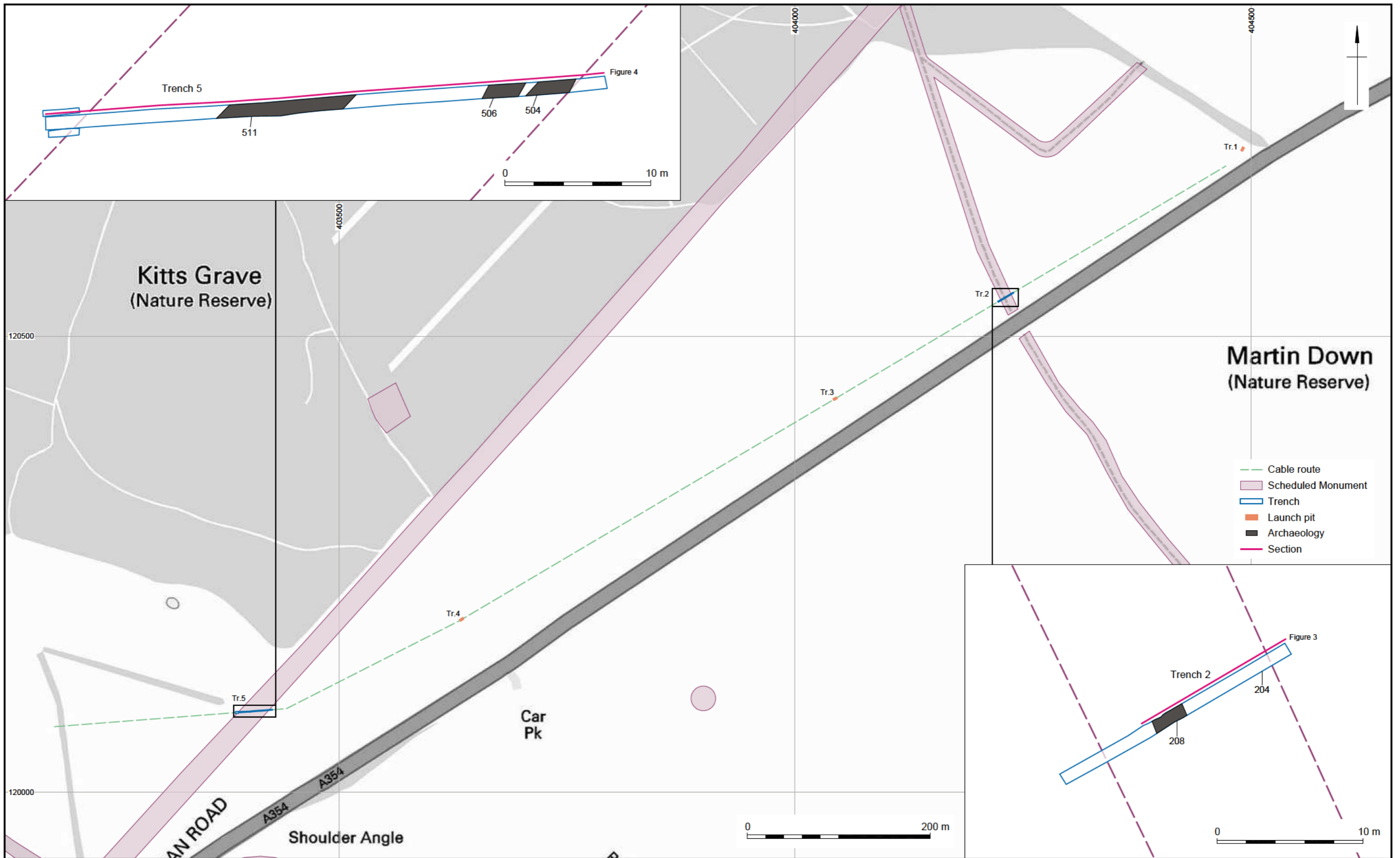
— Cable route  
— Scheduled Monument

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Site location and route of cable

Figure 1



Coordinate system:  
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

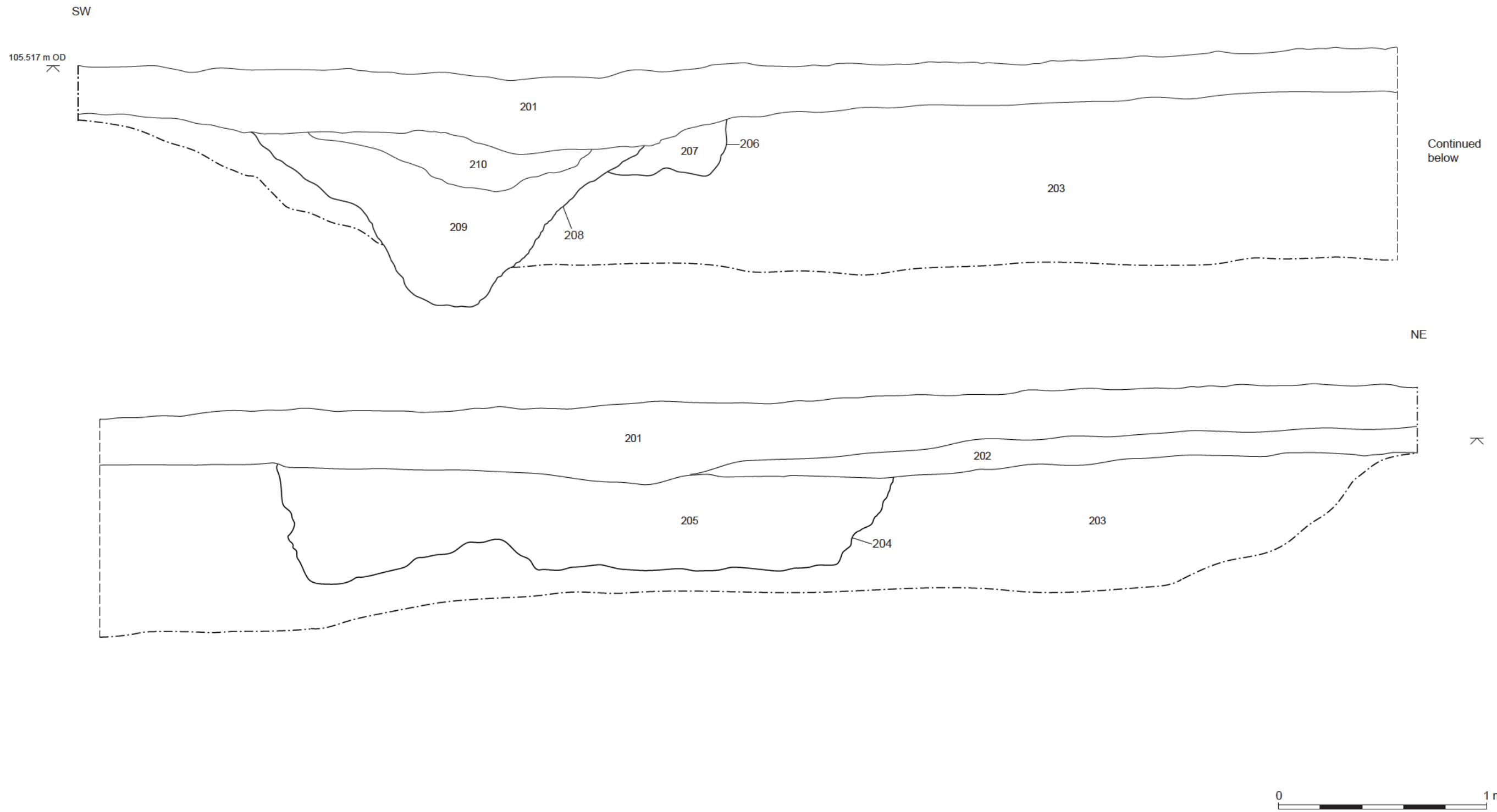
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Plan of trenches

Figure 2

South-east facing section of Ditch 208, Natural feature 206 and Tree-throw hole 204



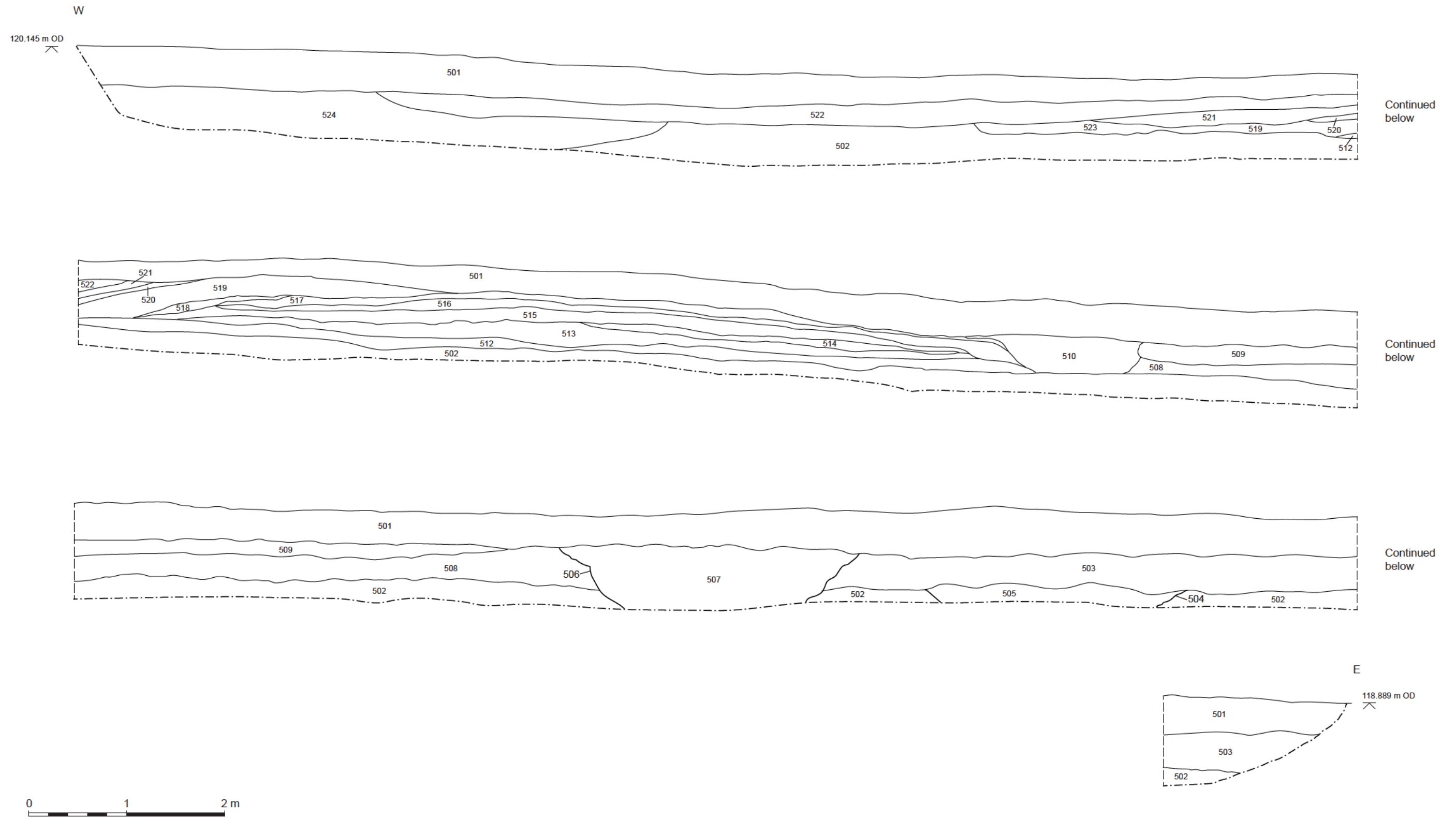
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Section across Grim's Ditch

Figure 3

South facing setion of Roman road



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Section across the Roman road

Figure 4



Plate 1: Pre-excavation condition of proposed Trench 2 taken from the south-east



Plate 2: Trench 2 showing Grim's Ditch, 208, during excavation


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Plate 3: Trench 2 reinstated taken from the south-east



Plate 4: Pre-excavation condition of proposed Trench 5 taken from the south-west


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Plate 5: Trench 5 showing Roman Road, GRP 511, during excavation taken from the south-east



Plate 6: Trench 5 reinstated taken from the south-west


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Plate 7: Trench 1 viewed from the north. Scale is 1 m



Plate 8: Trench 3 viewed from the south-east. Scale is 1 m


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Plate 9: Trench 4 viewed from the south-east. Scale is 1 m



Plate 10: Tree-throw hole 204 viewed from the north-west. Scale is 2 m


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Plate 11: Section through Grim's Ditch, 208, and natural feature, 206, viewed from the north-west. Scale is 1 m



Plate 12: Section through Grim's Ditch, 208, taken from the south-east. Scale is 2 m


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Plate 13: Section through Roman Road GRP 511, taken from the south. Scale is 2 m



Plate 14: Section through Roman Road GRP 511, taken from the south. Scale is 2 m


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Plate 15: Section through Roman Road GRP 511, taken from the south. Scale is 2 m



Plate 16: Section through Roman Road GRP 511, taken from the north, showing slumping. Scale is 2 m


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Plate 17: Section through Roman Road GRP 511, taken from the north. Scale is 2 m



Plate 18: Section through Roman Road GRP 511, taken from the north. Scale is 2 m


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Plate 19: Section through Roman Road GRP 511, taken from the north, showing slumping. Scale is 2 m



Plate 20: Oblique view of Roman Road GRP 511, taken from the south-east. Scale is 2 m


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Plate 21: Possible roadside ditch, 506, taken from the south. Scale is 2 m



Plate 22: Ditch, 504, taken from the north. Scale is 2 m

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