



Army Basing Programme (ABP) ROGGEN Larkhill Camp Area 2009

Interim Report on Archaeological Works



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Aspire Defence Capital Works to undertake a programme of archaeological works within Area 2009 (tile ROGGEN), Larkhill Camp, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference NGR 412650 144210, as part of the Army Basing Programme (ABP).

The programme of archaeological works covered in this report were focused within Larkhill Camp, south of the Packway. The works were undertaken in association with planning application 17/06373/FUL for a new medical and dental facility on the site. The works comprised an evaluation with the excavation of three trenches and a watching brief to monitor the ground strip and reduction for a new car park within tile ROGGEN Area 2009. These works compliment previous archaeological investigations and watching briefs undertaken within the camp.

All three trenches identified modern disturbance across Area 2009 with the only identifiable feature during the investigations being a modern pit. No archaeological features were identified during the works.

The archaeological works were undertaken between the 20 March and the 11 April 2018.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Aspire Defence Capital Works for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, in particular David Keeble, Alan Curtis, Hamish Carr and Mike Lockwood. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Rachel Foster and Martin Brown, who monitored the project on behalf of Wiltshire Council Archaeological Service. Further thanks are owed to Dyer and Butler for their cooperation and help on site.

The fieldwork was directed by Dave Murdie. This report was written by Jamie McCarthy and Lee Newton. The report graphics were compiled by Kitty Foster. The project was managed by Ruth Panes on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



Army Basing Programme (ABP) ROGGEN Larkhill Camp Area 2009

Interim Report on Archaeological Works

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Aspire Defence Capital Works, to undertake a programme of archaeological works within Area 2009 (tile ROGGEN) of Larkhill Camp, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference NGR 412650 144210, as part of the Army Basing Programme (ABP). (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.1.2 On 5 March 2013 the Regular Army Basing Plan was announced, setting out location changes for the Army and also confirming the drawdown of all units from Germany by 2020. The Plan later transitioned into a delivery programme known as the ABP. The ABP will aim for better utilisation of the UK estate and greater concentration of the Army on Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA). The ABP works proposed within the military camps at Bulford, Larkhill, Perham Down and Tidworth will entail a major programme of new construction and the reconfiguration and refurbishment of existing facilities.
- 1.1.3 A planning application (ref 17/06373/FUL) has been approved by Wiltshire Council for a New Medical and Dental Facility (LA0692) together with associated external works, including car parking, landscaping, cycle parking and bin stores.
- 1.1.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation and watching brief (Wessex Archaeology 2018).
- 1.1.5 The archaeological works consisted of an evaluation, comprising the mechanical excavation of three trenches in Area 2009, and a watching brief to monitor the ground strip and reduction for a new car park within the same area. The works were undertaken between 20 March and 11 April 2018.

1.2 Scope of the report

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

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 Larkhill Camp is sited approximately 3 km north-west of Amesbury and c. 14 km north of Salisbury. The southern edge of the proposed development area at Larkhill Camp is situated some 1.9 km north of Stonehenge.



- 1.3.2 Larkhill Camp is currently home to the Royal School of Artillery. The military facility contains a considerable number of structures, including accommodation blocks, messing and recreation facilities, technical support, administration, stores and the main training complex. The Camp also contains several large parcels of open ground (including sports pitches and training grounds) particularly to the west and north, and to the west of Stirling Barracks.
- 1.3.3 Area 2009, tile ROGGEN is located outside of the military camp perimeter fence, immediately south of the Packway, between Willoughby Road and Wilson Road. The trenches were located in the grassed areas of this land, in between the existing Garrison Nursery, Community Centre and Medical and Dental Centre. The watching brief area was in the south-west corner of the plot, on the grass area between the Nursery and Medical and Dental Centre, immediately east of Willoughby Road. The area gently slopes down from north to south, dropping from approximately 128 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to 123 m aOD.
- 1.3.4 The underlying geology is mapped as Cretaceous Chalk of the Newhaven formation with no overlying superficial deposits (British Geological Survey online viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological background of Larkhill Camp has been extensively covered in a Desk-Based Assessment (DBA; Wessex Archaeology 2014) and the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018), and thus will not be replicated here in full. A summary of the results of the previous archaeological works undertaken within the locality of Area 2009 is provided below.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development

- 2.2.1 In 1999 an archaeological evaluation consisting of two trial trenches was undertaken within the current site boundary (Wessex Archaeology 1999). This revealed two undated gullies, interpreted as likely modern features.
- 2.2.2 In October 2008 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken in line with the construction of the existing community centre in the north-east corner of the Area 2009 (Wessex Archaeology 2008). The watching brief monitored the topsoil strip for the footprint of this building and no archaeological remains were identified.
- 2.2.3 In 2014 a single test pit was excavated along the northern boundary of Area 2009, this was part of a larger programme of test pitting across the entirety of Larkhill Camp (Wessex Archaeology 2014b). No archaeological remains were identified during the monitoring, although a layer of made ground was observed to underlie the topsoil and to overlie the chalk natural.
- 2.2.4 A gradiometer survey took place in December 2015 within ROGGEN which recorded no anomalies which could be recorded as archaeological features (Wessex Archaeology 2015).



3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the archaeological works, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) and in compliance with the ClfA' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), were:

- To provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- To inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.1.2 The general aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2015) and in compliance with the ClfA' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014d), 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 General objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- To establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- 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 within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

3.2.2 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the watching brief 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 methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a, 2014d). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) equipment, in the approximate positions as those proposed in the WSI. All trenches had to be slightly moved from their original positions due to on-site constraints, primarily comprising buried services (**Fig. 1**).
- 4.2.2 Trenches 154 and 155 were not excavated due to on-site constraints preventing access. In light of the results of the recent archaeological investigations in the vicinity, and after consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist, it was decided that excavation of these trenches would no longer be necessary.
- 4.2.3 Access to trench 158 was blocked by on-site constraints and the alternative relocation of the trench put it within the footprint of a proposed new car park. As such it was agreed that the trench would not be excavated, and instead the mechanical strip for the car park would be monitored as an archaeological watching brief.
- 4.2.4 A total of three trenches, each measuring 20 m in length and 1.6 m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.
- 4.2.5 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits identified was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.
- 4.2.6 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 of modern date (19th century or later).
- 4.2.7 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the Assistant County Archaeologist, were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.



Recording

- 4.2.8 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.
- 4.2.9 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.
- 4.2.10 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 2018). 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 Rachel Foster and Martin Brown, Assistant County Archaeologists, Wiltshire Council Archaeological Service, monitored the archaeological investigations on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA). Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with both the client and Rachel Foster.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The following section discusses the results of the evaluation and the watching brief within Area 2009 (tile ROGGEN). Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**).

5.2 Archaeological Evaluation

Trench 152

- 5.2.1 No archaeological remains were identified within trench 152. The stratigraphic sequence consisted of mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil overlying the natural chalk geology. The natural geology was identified at a depth of 0.25 m.

Trench 153

- 5.2.2 The only feature identified within trench 153 was a modern pit backfilled with dark brown silty clay containing brick and concrete. The stratigraphic sequence consisted of dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil overlying made ground consisting of crushed chalk with



brick and concrete, which sits atop the natural chalk geology. The natural was identified at a depth of 0.5 m.

Trench 157

- 5.2.3 No archaeological remains were identified with trench 157 although extensive modern disturbance was identified. The stratigraphic sequence consisted of dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil overlying a layer of crushed concrete and rubble. This overlay a layer of redeposited crushed chalk which sat atop the natural geology. The natural was identified at a depth of 1.10 m. The modern disturbance was recorded in the western half of the trench. At the undisturbed eastern end natural geology was identified at a depth of 0.25 m.

5.3 Archaeological Watching Brief

- 5.3.1 The watching brief revealed modern disturbance throughout the area at the level to which stripping took place. Therefore no archaeological deposits were encountered.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 No archaeologically significant artefactual material was recovered during the works.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1.1 No archaeological deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the works.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1.1 The archaeological works undertaken within ROGGEN Area 2009 revealed no evidence for archaeological activity. No archaeologically significant features, finds or deposits were identified throughout the works. Modern disturbance was recorded within multiple trenches and throughout the watching brief area. This may account for the lack of archaeological material, as there has clearly been substantial truncation across much of Area 2009.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. 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 relevant 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 the local 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 project code 109516, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 file/document case 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.

9.4 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.

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10.1 Archive and report copyright

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APPENDICES

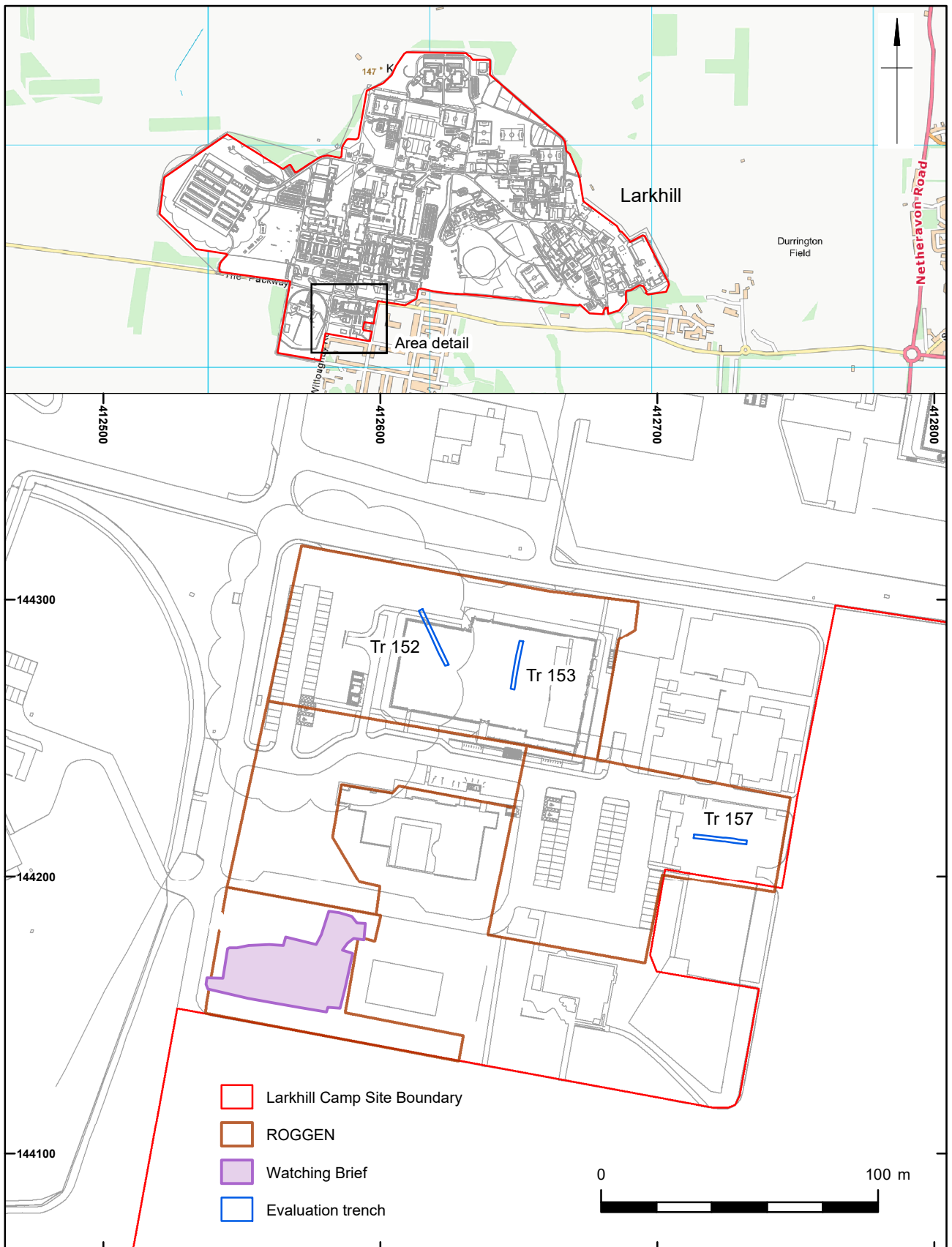
Appendix 1 Trench summaries


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

Trench	22 m x 1.6 m		NGR 412619 144287	127.8 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
15200	Layer		TOPSOIL: Mid greyish brown silty clay with sparse chalk inclusions. Sparse modern CBM and concrete fragments throughout.	0.00–0.25
15201	Layer		NATURAL: Chalk with periglacial striations.	0.25 +

Trench	20 m x 1.6 m		NGR 412649 144277	126.9 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
15300	Layer		TOPSOIL: Dark greyish brown silty clay.	0.00–0.20
15301	Layer		DEMOLITION DEPOSIT: Modern crushed chalk with concrete and brick rubble.	0.20–0.5
15302	Fill	15303	MODERN BACKFILL: Very dark brown silty clay with concrete and brick rubble.	0.20–1.00
15303	Cut		MODERN PIT: Modern pit at the south end of the trench.	0.20–1.00
15304	Layer		NATURAL: Chalk with periglacial features.	0.50 +

Trench	20.5 m x 1.6 m		NGR 412720 144213	122.4 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
15700	Layer		TOPSOIL: Dark greyish brown silty clay with sparse chalk and modern CBM inclusions.	0.00–0.25
15701	Layer		DEMOLITION DEPOSIT: Modern crushed concrete and brick rubble.	0.25–0.65
15702	Layer		DEMOLITION DEPOSIT: Modern crushed chalk with brick and concrete inclusions.	0.65–1.10
15703	Layer		NATURAL: Chalk with sparse flint nodules. Truncated by modern activity.	1.10 +



 Coordinate system: OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)	Survey data supplied by the Client.		
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Site location & trench layout

Figure 1



Plate 1: Trench 152 looking south-east



Plate 2: Trench 153 looking north



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Plate 3: Trench 157 looking east

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