



Crowdhill Green, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, Hampshire

Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design



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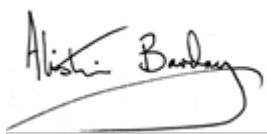
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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Linden Homes South and Bloor Homes Southern to undertake an archaeological excavation and watching brief on land at Crowdhill Green, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, Hampshire. The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission being granted by Eastleigh Borough Council (Planning Reference O/13/73707 and R/14/75539) for the residential development of the site, which covers 17.3 ha centred on National Grid Reference 448830 119560.

The mitigation works, undertaken between April and June 2015, were the final stage in a programme of archaeological works which had included a heritage statement, a geophysical survey and a trial trench evaluation. Two large areas (Areas 1 and 2) and seven smaller areas (Areas 3–9) each approximately 20 x 20 m, totalling 1.3 ha, were subject to strip map and record excavation. A watching brief was also maintained during groundworks associated with the construction of an access road within the eastern half of the development area. In addition, a watching brief is also being undertaken in the south-western field, focused on the construction of a swale. This work is still on-going, although no significant archaeological remains have been identified to date. There results and any subsequent findings will be incorporated into the proposed publication.

Among the small collection of prehistoric worked flints was a naturally backed blade (recovered from the subsoil during the evaluation) which may be part of a 'long blade' industry of Late Glacial/Early Post-glacial date (c. 12,000–9300 cal BC). A subcircular feature contained a Mesolithic tranchet axe (c. 8500–4000 BC) and fragments of charred hazelnut shells. Further Mesolithic flints were recovered from the subsoil, and residually from later features.

There was a group of three Middle Bronze Age cremation graves containing urned burials, two of which were radiocarbon dated. All three urns were inverted and although damaged by ploughing, were well preserved. A small pit contained three sherds of possibly Middle Bronze Age pottery along with three pieces of struck flint and burnt flint. Further late prehistoric sherds were also found residually in other features. A long curving gully that pre-dates a Romano-British ditch, may also be of later prehistoric date.

Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery and Romano-British tile were recovered from a small number of features in Area 1, including two ditches possibly forming part of a small Romano-British enclosure and a group of intercutting pits. Other features in this area may also belong to this date.

A few sherds of medieval pottery, some of them intrusive in one of the Romano-British ditches, were recovered in Area 1. A number of ditches are considered likely to be of post-medieval/modern date, including one in Area 2 that corresponds to a field boundary depicted on the 1840 tithe map, and a series of ditches running alongside the existing road at the eastern side of Area 1. A number of undated postholes are also considered likely to be of relatively recent date. Many features could not be securely dated due to the low numbers of datable finds. These include a number of ditches in Area 2 which appear to form components of rectilinear field systems.

No archaeological remains have been previously recorded within the site, although a background level of prehistoric, Romano-British, and medieval activity is recorded in a wider landscape. The fieldwork has therefore helped provide a fuller understanding, particularly of prehistoric and Romano-British developments in the area. It is proposed that a limited programme of further artefactual and environmental analysis be undertaken, after which a short article describing the results of the fieldwork will be submitted for publication in the *Proceeding of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society*.



The project archive will be curated at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury, until such time as it can be deposited with Hampshire Museum Service.



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The fieldwork was directed by Lee Newton, assisted by Ben Cullen, Andy Sole, Tom Burt, Stuart Pierson, Steven Froud and John Sanigar. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Manning. The post-excavation assessment was managed by Alistair Barclay. The finds were assessed by Elina Brook (pottery, ceramic building material, burnt flint) and Phil Harding (worked flint). The human bone was assessed by Jaqueline McKinley. The environmental samples were processed by Tony Scothern, and assessed by Inés López-Dóriga. This report was compiled by Lee Newton and Andrew Powell; the illustrations are by Rob Goller. The report was edited by Andrew Manning and Alistair Barclay.



Crowdhill Green, Eastleigh, Hampshire

Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Linden Homes South and Bloor Homes Southern to undertake an archaeological excavation and watching brief on land at Crowdhill Green, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, Hampshire (**Fig. 1**). The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission being granted by Eastleigh Borough Council (Planning Reference O/13/73707 and R/14/75539) for the residential development of the site, which covers 17.3 ha centred on National Grid Reference 448830 119560.

1.1.2 The archaeological mitigation was the final stage in a programme of on-site works, which had included a heritage statement (Wessex Archaeology 2013), geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2014), and a trial trench evaluation which identified several areas of archaeological potential (Wessex Archaeology 2015a).

1.1.3 A written scheme of investigation (WSI), containing a method statement for archaeological mitigation, was submitted to and approved by Hampshire Council's Archaeologist (Wessex Archaeology 2015b). It covered on- and off-site work including the analysis, publication and archiving of the results.

1.1.4 Between April and June 2015 two large areas (Area 1, 0.34 ha; Area 2, 0.67 ha) and seven smaller areas (Areas 3–9, each approximately 20 m by 20 m), totalling 1.3 ha, were subject to strip map and record excavation (**Fig. 1**). A watching brief was maintained in the south-western field and during groundworks associated with the construction of an access road.

1.1.5 At this stage, a watching brief is being undertaken in the south-western field during excavation of a drainage swale. This work is still on-going, although no significant archaeological remains have been identified to date.

1.2 Scope of document

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the results of the fieldwork, and to assess their potential to reveal past activities that have taken place on the site, so increasing knowledge of Hampshire's past and providing a resource for future research and education. The report also recommends a costed programme of further work needed to achieve that aim, including analysis, public dissemination through publication, and the curation of the archive.

1.3 Site location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The development site comprises an irregular parcel of land, consisting of three main fields (north-east, central and south-west). It lies within the parish of Fair Oak, approximately 3 km east of the town of Eastleigh (**Fig. 1**). It is bounded to the east by Winchester Road (B3354) and the residential housing located along Upper Barn Copse, to the south by



Hardings Lane, and to the south-west and west by Stoke Park Wood, a designated Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), which joins Crowdhill Copse to form the north-western boundary of the site.

- 1.3.2 It occupies slightly undulating ground that drops from 60 m above Ordnance Datum (OD) at the south-east to 55 m OD at the north-west, 52 m OD at the south and 37 m OD at the west. It lies immediately south and east of a south-west flowing brook, and 2 km east of the River Itchen.
- 1.3.3 The underlying geology of the eastern part of the site is mapped as Wittering Formation Sand, Silt and Clay (British Geological Survey online viewer); Whitecliff Sand Member is recorded across the remainder of the site with the exception of an area of London Clay in the north-eastern corner.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following section summarises the results of previous archaeological investigations within the site and its immediate vicinity, and entries listed in the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Building Record (HAHBR).

2.2 Heritage statement

- 2.2.1 The heritage statement (Wessex Archaeology 2013) – which updated an earlier desk-based assessment of the south-western part of the site (Wessex Archaeology 2012) – recorded no archaeological finds within the site, but did identify a background level of prehistoric, Romano-British, and medieval activity in a wider study area extending 1 km beyond the site.

Prehistoric

- 2.2.2 Several findspots of material dating to the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic have been recorded within Eastleigh's wider environs, and may be indicative of exploitation of the Itchen river valley landscape during the early prehistoric period, but none were from within the site or the study area. A large assemblage of Palaeolithic handaxes was recovered from Colden Common, 2.5 km north of the site (Gardiner 2002) and Mesolithic flint tools have been recorded at Knowle Hill to the south and Stoke Common to the north-west (Wymer and Bonsall 1977). The site itself is positioned beyond the floodplain of the River Itchen and rises above the valley on a slight plateau, possibly forming an attractive location for occupation during this period.
- 2.2.3 An elongated rectilinear enclosure, approximately 1 km south-east of the site, has been identified from cropmark evidence and tentatively assigned a prehistoric date, although without further investigation its precise date is uncertain.
- 2.2.4 There are some indications of possible Bronze Age funerary activity. Within the site a curvilinear feature identified from cropmark evidence has been interpreted as either a possible round barrow or as an Iron Age roundhouse. Further similar features, also interpreted as possible round barrows, lie along a ridge to the north-west of the site. Within the wider landscape, a round barrow at Moorgreen, approximately 4 km to the south, is a scheduled monument (SM 1012710).



2.2.5 There is no firm evidence for Iron Age activity within the study area, although some of the undated cropmarks within the site (below) could date to this period. Within the wider landscape, the Winchester area to the north is known to have been a focus for Iron Age occupation, including the extensive settlement of Oram's Arbour, the large hillfort at St. Catherine's Hill (Champion and Champion 1981), and settlement evidence on Twyford Down (Walker and Farwell 2000). To the south is the Iron Age hillfort at Hickley Wood (SM 1017888).

Romano-British

2.2.6 There is no firm evidence for Romano-British activity recorded within the study area, although, again, some of the undated cropmarks within the site (below) could date to this period. The nearest evidence for Romano-British activity is East Horton Farm, approximately 2 km to the south-east (Wessex Archaeology 1989), where a series of ditches and postholes, together with the large quantity of Romano-British pottery, suggests the presence of an early Roman-British settlement. Isolated Romano-British finds, including coins and pottery, recorded from several other locations to the south of the site (Wessex Archaeology 2003) provide additional indications of Romano-British activity in the wider landscape.

2.2.7 The Roman road between *Venta Belgarum* (Winchester) and *Portus Adurni* (Portchester) lies 3.5 km east of the site, while that between *Venta Belgarum* and *Clausentum* (Bitterne in Southampton) lies 4 km to the west. A Romano-British building, interpreted as a possible villa, is depicted on Ordnance Survey maps approximately 2 km to the south-west of the site; no further investigations appear to have been carried out, and its location is now occupied by a sewage works.

Undated

2.2.8 A group of rectilinear enclosures, visible as cropmarks in aerial photographs, are presently undated and could be of prehistoric, Romano-British or later date.

2.3 Geophysical survey

2.3.1 The geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2014) suggested a low archaeological potential across the site. It was noted, however, that most of the areas considered within the heritage statement to be of high archaeological importance were unsuitable for survey.

2.4 Evaluation

2.4.1 The evaluation comprised 95 trenches (Wessex Archaeology 2015a); due to the flooding of the western field, little evaluation could be undertaken there. The evaluation confirmed that the site contains some significant concentrations of archaeological features, which appear to date mainly to the Middle/Late Bronze Age, the Late Iron Age and the Romano-British period. A very small amount of material relating to potential earlier activity (Late Palaeolithic and Neolithic/Early Bronze Age) and later activity (medieval) was also recovered.

2.4.2 Two main concentrations of archaeological potential were identified in the north-eastern field. The evidence for archaeological activity was more diffusely represented in the central field, where several areas of isolated discrete features were identified.



3 AIMS AND METHODS

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The aim of the excavation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2015b), was 'to establish within the constraints of the agreed strategy the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains which may be affected by the proposed works'.

3.2 Methods

- 3.2.1 The fieldwork was undertaken in compliance with standards and guidance by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a).

Excavation

- 3.2.2 Two large areas (Areas 1 and 2) were excavated in the north-eastern field, where the evaluation had recorded concentrations of archaeological features (**Fig. 1**). Area 2 was originally going to be larger, but was reduced in area following consultation with the Hampshire Council Archaeologist during stripping. A further seven small areas were targeted on features in individual trenches, one of them (Area 9) in the north-eastern field, and the rest (Areas 3–8) widely dispersed across the central field, based on the results of the evaluation.
- 3.2.3 The overburden was removed under constant archaeological supervision, using a 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, proceeding in spits until the top of the archaeological levels, or the top of natural deposits was reached. A sufficient sample of features exposed was excavated to fulfil the aim of the works, as agreed with the Hampshire Council Archaeologist.
- 3.2.4 A watching brief was also maintained during groundworks associated with the construction of an access road within the eastern half of the development area. In addition, a watching brief is also being undertaken in the south-western field, focused on the construction of a swale. This work is still on-going, although no significant archaeological remains have been identified to date.
- 3.2.5 All features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's standard methods and *pro forma* recording system, with all features and deposits being assigned a unique number. A full graphic record was made, with plans and sections drawn at scales of 1:20 and 1:10, respectively. A full photographic record was made using digital cameras.
- 3.2.6 The location of features was accurately surveyed by GPS and tied into the OS National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) heights of all principal features and levels were calculated, with plans and sections annotated with OD heights.

Human remains

- 3.2.7 The human remains were removed under the terms of a Licence for the Removal of Human Remains (Ref: 15-0146) held by Wessex Archaeology. Their excavation and assessment followed Wessex Archaeology's guidelines, in compliance with all current legislation and standards set out by the CIfA (IfA 2004).



Artefacts

- 3.2.8 All artefacts were recovered, stored and processed in accordance with standard methodologies and national guidelines (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014b; Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993; 1995). Small finds were recorded three-dimensionally using GPS surveying equipment. Bulk finds were collected and recorded by context from both excavated features and the surfaces of unexcavated features.

Environmental

- 3.2.9 Bulk environmental soil samples, normally up to 40 litres, for plant macro-fossils, charred plant remains, small animal bones and other small artefacts, were taken from appropriate well-sealed and dated/datable archaeological deposits following Wessex Archaeology's standard environmental sampling policy.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The archaeological features were concentrated largely in the north-eastern field, as had been suggested by the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2015a) (**Figs 2–4**). The majority were linear features and postholes, although most of the latter were not deemed to be particularly old; modern fence posts were still present nearby when the site stripping commenced. A number of the features recorded during the evaluation were not subsequently identified when the areas around them were stripped. All of the excavation areas were crossed by numerous modern field drains; these are not further discussed nor shown on the figures.
- 4.1.2 Finds of Bronze Age, late prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date were recovered from the site. Finds and features recorded during the evaluation are referred to, and indicated in the figures, where relevant.

4.2 Natural deposits and soil sequence

- 4.2.1 The soil sequence varied slightly across the site. In the eastern part the natural geology comprised a light brownish orange sandy clay with varying degrees of flint gravel inclusions. This was overlain by a largely mid brown to greyish brown sandy loam subsoil 0.11–0.4 m thick, and a dark brownish black sandy silt topsoil 0.11–0.32 m thick.
- 4.2.2 In the central field the natural comprised a mid-yellow brown silty clay with occasional to moderate gravel patches, with some areas being sandier, varying in colour from light yellowish grey to mid grey. This was overlain by a mid brown grey silty sandy loam subsoil 0.08–0.17 m thick, although in the trenches in the western side of the site the natural was overlain directly by the topsoil. There was a spread of irregular features across the site, which upon investigation were shown to be of natural origin, including tree-throw holes.

4.3 Late Glacial/Early Post-glacial and Mesolithic

- 4.3.1 During the evaluation, a naturally backed blade was recovered from the subsoil in trench 14 (Wessex Archaeology 2013, 12). Although undated, it could form part of a 'long blade' industry of Late Glacial/Early Post-glacial date (c. 12,000–9300 cal BC).
- 4.3.2 A subcircular feature (11150), 0.7 m by 1.1 m and 0.3 m deep with moderately steep sides and a flat base (**Figs 3 and 5A**), was recorded towards the northern end of Area 2. The

only find was a core tool roughout (ON 101), probably a Mesolithic (c. 8500–4000 BC) tranchet axe, recovered from the upper (11152) of its two fills, along with fragments of charred hazelnut shells. On the basis of its fills – a moderately stony silty clay (1151) on the base and a similar but less stony upper fill (11152) this feature was interpreted in the field as a probable tree-throw hole, but its relatively regular shape and the presence within it of a significant flint tool and hazelnut shells raises the possibility that it was a deliberate feature. Further Mesolithic flints were recovered from the subsoil, and residually from later ditches (see **Worked flint**, below).

4.4 Middle Bronze Age and late prehistoric

- 4.4.1 There were three Middle Bronze Age (c. 1600–1100 BC) cremation graves (11203, 11231 and 11258), all within 2 m of each other in Area 2, containing urned burials (**Fig. 5B**). They were 0.30–0.35 m in diameter and 0.13–0.25 m deep with vertical sides and flat bases. All three vessels – Bucket Urn ON 102 in grave 11203, Bucket Urn ON 103 in grave 11231 and Globular Urn ON 104 in grave 11258 – were inverted. Although the burials had been damaged by ploughing (**Plates 1–3**) but this does not appear to have led to any loss of bone. The burials were of one individual aged over 13 years (grave 11203), and two over 18 years (graves 11231 and 11258). Samples of cremated human bone from graves 11231 and 11258 were submitted for radiocarbon dating and returned dates, respectively, of 1620–1430 cal BC (SUERC-70575, 3237±33 BP) and 1500–1300 cal BC (SUERC-70576, 3130±33 BP) (**Table 4**).
- 4.4.2 A single small pit (11110) in Area 4, 0.45 m wide and 0.13 deep, contained three sherds (10 g) of late prehistoric pottery (possibly Middle or Late Bronze Age), along with three pieces of struck flint and 305 g of burnt flint. The finds, along with flecks of charcoal, were found in the lower and upper of the pit's three fills (**Fig. 5C**). The only other features in this part of the site were a posthole (6804) surrounded by a cluster of stakeholes, 7 m to the north-west, recorded during the evaluation; the posthole had contained a well-made flint end scraper of possible Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date.
- 4.4.3 Eleven sherds of similarly late prehistoric pottery were found residually in ditch 11219 (below; **Fig. 4**); single sherds had previously been recovered from ditch 1404 in nearby evaluation trench 14, and from the subsoil in evaluation trenches 9 and 25 (Wessex Archaeology 2013). Their distribution suggests a low level of possibly later Bronze Age activity in Area 2.
- 4.4.4 A shallow curving gully (11057) aligned NW–SE in Area 1 (**Fig. 2**), produced no finds but it was cut by Romano-British ditches 11065 and 11058 (below), and therefore could be of later prehistoric date. It was 0.4–0.6 m wide and up to 0.2 m deep. Its north-western end, 7 m beyond ditch 11065, was heavily truncated and obscured by a tree-throw hole, and it may have continued further to the north-west. Another length of gully (104), approximately perpendicular to it, was recorded during the evaluation (in trench 1), but not subsequently identified during the excavation.

4.5 Late Iron Age/Romano-British

- 4.5.1 The bulk of the pottery recovered from the site was of Late Iron Age/Romano-British (117 sherds, 1606 g), early Romano-British (36 sherds 258 g) or general Romano-British (45 sherds, 813 g) date, suggesting a period of activity spanning the 1st–mid 2nd centuries AD. All of it came from Area 1, and 94% (by weight) came from three features – ditches 11056 and 11058 which may be associated, and a group of in intercutting pits (11076).

- 4.5.2 Ditch 11056 ran north-east for 35 m from a rounded terminal, before turning to the south-east. It was up to 2.3 m wide and 1.05 m deep, with a generally V-shaped profile (**Fig. 5D**). At the north-east its eastern side cut a short length of undated gully 11059, 0.4 m wide and up to 0.16 m deep. After 12 m ditch 11056 was cut by a large possibly modern feature of uncertain nature on the edge of the excavation area, from the south end of which a much smaller ditch (11058) ran towards the south-south-west for over 20 m. This ditch was recorded during the evaluation (106) as 1.5 m wide and 0.5 m deep with moderately steep straight sides and a flat base (Wessex Archaeology 2015a, fig. 6); it was more heavily truncated (no more than 0.25 m deep) when examined during the excavation. It produced 34 sherds (380 g) of Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery, six pieces of ceramic building material (893 g), a fragment of saddle quern (ON 100), two pieces of worked flint and a large quantity (almost 37 kg) of burnt flint (most of it recovered from trench 1 during the evaluation).
- 4.5.3 Ditch 11058 cut undated gully 11057 (above). Immediately east of their intersection was a cluster in intercutting small pits (11076), up to 0.9 m deep, and measuring overall at least 4 m east-west by 3 m north-south (**Plate 4**). At the west these abutted ditch 11058, but their relationship was not established. The south-eastern quadrant of the pit group was excavated and produced 50 sherds of Romano-British pottery and a piece of Romano-British tile, as well as small quantities of fired clay and burnt flint. At the east, the relationship between the pit group and a north-south gully (11026, below) was also not established.
- 4.5.4 Three Late Iron Age/early Romano-British sherds were also recovered from a 9 m length of shallow gully (11060), 0.65 m wide and up to 0.1 m deep. It appeared to terminate just short of ditch 11058 at the south-east, and was cut at the north-west by another possible group of intercutting pits (including pit 11097) covered by a large spread of soil (11084). Two further sherds were recovered from the spread, while an iron nail was recovered from pit 11097.
- ## 4.6 Medieval
- 4.6.1 Medieval activity is represented by 15 sherds of pottery, nine of them from the upper fill of Romano-British ditch 11056, at its northern corner (**Fig. 2**). A further four of the sherds came from the south-west terminal of a smaller ditch (11087), 0.8 m wide and 0.3 m deep, 4 m north-east of the corner, and with a similar orientation to the western part of ditch 11056. Single medieval sherds were recovered from ditch 11219 in Area 1, and previously from the subsoil in evaluation trench 5 (Wessex Archaeology 2013) (**Fig. 2**).
- ## 4.7 Post-medieval and modern
- 4.7.1 A substantial east-west ditch (11169), extending across the full width of Area 2, and recorded also in evaluation trench 33, matches the line of a field boundary shown on the 1840 Bishopstoke tithe map (Wessex Archaeology 2013, fig. 4 C). It was just over 2 m wide and up to 0.44 m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill contained fragments of modern brick and clinker, as well as residual pieces of struck flint. It cut ditches 11168 and 11170 (below).
- 4.7.2 Three parallel north-south ditches (11103, 11106 and 11108) were recorded in the north-east corner of Area 1 (**Plate 5**). Although none contained datable finds, their roadside location (alongside the current B3354) and the presence of clinker in the fill of ditch 11103, suggests they are of post-medieval/modern date. All had moderately steep sides, and while ditches 11006 and 11008, which were 0.32 m and 0.36 m deep, petered out to

the north, ditch 11003, at 0.68 m deep, continued beyond the excavation area. To the south all three features were cut by modern disturbance.

4.7.3 Further to the south another undated gully (11026) was recorded on a similar north–south line, and could be of similar date. Its relationships with Romano-British pit group 11076, to its west, and an irregular feature to its east, were not established.

4.7.4 A modern coin (George V penny, 1918) was found unstratified.

4.8 Features of uncertain date

4.8.1 There was a small number of discrete features in Area 1. A shallow circular pit (11013), 1.2 m in diameter and 0.2 m deep, lay in the angle formed by ditches 11058 and 11060; it contained single pieces of worked and burnt flint. Two elongated features were recorded close together on either side of ditch 11057. That to the north-east was a shallow oval feature (11036), 1 m by 1.8 m, with a possible posthole, 0.23 m deep, in the base of its north-eastern end, and a stakehole (11038) at the south-west end. To its south, on the other side of the ditch, was an irregular shallow feature (11020), 0.5 m by 1.7 m and 0.13 m deep. Neither feature contained any finds.

4.8.2 A length of ditch (11260) orientated approximately north-north-west to south-south-east was recorded during the watching brief in the area immediately north of Area 1.

4.8.3 In Area 2, ditch 11219, which was traced running north-west for 44 m, was 0.7–1 m wide and 0.2–0.3 m deep with moderately steep sides with a concave base. It contained finds with a range of dates, including 11 sherds of late prehistoric pottery, and single sherds of Late Iron Age/early Romano-British, Romano-British and medieval pottery, along with small quantities of struck and burnt flint. Although its orientation suggests that it could be associated with Romano-British ditch 11056, it is not securely dated, and the small number of finds could be either residual or intrusive.

4.8.4 The orientation of ditch 11219 may also associate it with two parallel but undated ditches (11168 and 11170), 13–15 m apart, running at right angles to it (NE–SW) and extending across the whole of Area 2 but not recorded in surrounding evaluation trenches. Ditch 11219 terminated 24 m from ditch 11170, but together these three ditches may have formed part of a larger rectilinear field system. Ditch 11168 was up to 1.4 m wide and 0.4 m deep, with a profile similar to ditch 11219. Ditch 11170 was more substantial in size, up to 1.6 m wide and 0.7 m deep.

4.8.5 Two undated ditches, possibly associated, were recorded at the northern end of Area 2. East–west ditch 11266 continued west beyond the excavation, but to the east ended at a large undated subcircular feature (2513), partially revealed during the evaluation (but not subsequently), which appeared to be a group of intercutting pits; their relationship was not established. The second ditch (11171) ran north from pit group 2513. Both ditches had similar dimensions and profiles, 0.7 m wide and 0.5 m deep with steep sides. The only find was a piece of worked flint from ditch 11171.

4.8.6 Immediately to the east of ditch 11171 was a group of up to seven postholes (11172, 11177, 11178, 11213, 11224, 11226 and 11227), some of them intercutting (**Plate 6**). They averaged 0.2 m diameter and were 0.2–0.6 m deep. None contained any dating evidence, but all contained small amounts of charcoal. Given that they were very well preserved, and that there were other posts still standing nearby, these features are



considered likely to be of modern date. Another undated posthole (11215) and a shallow oval pit 11229 lay to their south-east.

- 4.8.7 There was a further group of five postholes (11244, 11248, 11250, 11252 and 11254) in Area 9 (to the south of Area 2). These again were interpreted as modern, containing similar fills to those discussed above and existing in a very good state of preservation. The presence of modern posts in the immediate vicinity should also be noted. These postholes were all 0.23–0.32 m in diameter and 0.11–0.17 m deep.
- 4.8.8 Other more isolated postholes were also present towards the middle of Area 2, 11182, 11186 and 11211 all being undated but containing similar fills to those discussed above.
- 4.8.9 A north–south linear feature (11218), 13 m long and 1.3 m wide, but only 0.3 m deep, was recorded towards the southern end of Area 2. The only finds were three pieces of worked flint.
- 4.8.10 Two lengths of undated ditch (11134 and 11135) were recorded in the central field, in Areas 7 and 8, respectively (**Figs 3–4**). Ditch 11134 (also noted in evaluation trench 69 to the west), ran west–east before turning towards the south-east. It was up to 1 m wide and 0.5 m deep with moderately steep sides and a flat base. Ditch 11135, which was orientated NNE–SSW direction, was of a similar size and profile.

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The excavation produced a total of approximately 13.4 kg of finds, ranging in date from the Mesolithic to post-medieval/modern. The focus, however, is primarily on the Middle Bronze Age (1600–1100 BC) and the Late Iron Age/early Romano-British period (100 BC–C2nd AD). The finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and scanned to assess their nature, condition and potential date range. Totals are presented in **Table 1**, along with those recovered from the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2015a), however, the following discussion refers only to the material recovered during the mitigation stage.

Table 1 Quantification of finds by material type

Material	Evaluation		Excavation	
	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)
Pottery				
<i>Prehistoric</i>	3	7	381	3304
<i>Late Iron Age/Romano-British</i>	31	348	169	2353
<i>Medieval</i>	1	4	14	221
<i>Post-medieval/modern</i>	-	-	19	142
Sub-total	37	542	583	6010
Worked flint	37	-	53	1434
Burnt flint	374	36,850	161	2928
Ceramic building material	35	1877	15	1570
Fired clay	-	-	8	486
Metalwork				
<i>Copper alloy</i>	1	8	-	-
<i>Iron</i>	-	-	2	44
Worked stone	2	14,433	-	-
Glass	-	-	2	46
Human bone (cremated)	-	-	n/a	872
Total	486	53,710	824	13,390



5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 Pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the site. Approximately 6 kg was recovered. Sherds from each context have been subdivided into broad ware groups (eg, flint-tempered ware; sandy ware) or known fabric types (eg, Central Gaulish samian) and quantified by the number and weight of pieces. A breakdown of the assemblage by chronological period and ware type is shown in **Table 2**. The condition of the assemblage is moderately poor, with a mean sherd weight of 10.3 g. Many pieces have suffered post-depositional surface abrasion – particularly the more lightly fired Middle Bronze Age and late prehistoric sherds.

Table 2 Quantification of pottery by period and ware type

Period	Ware	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
<i>Prehistoric</i>				
Middle Bronze Age	Flint-tempered ware	363	3252	
Late prehistoric	Flint-tempered ware	17	41	
	Sandy ware	1	11	
<i>Sub-total</i>		381	3304	8.7
<i>Late Iron Age/Romano-British</i>				
Imported wares	Samian	1	5	
	Amphora	9	406	
	Other imports	5	48	
Local wares	Sandy ware	78	943	
	Sandy ware with oxidised surfaces	31	210	
	Coarse sandy ware	18	179	
	Flint-tempered ware	15	324	
	Grog-tempered ware	6	177	
	Greyware	4	54	
	Sandy ware with iron oxides	2	7	
	<i>Sub-total</i>		169	2353
<i>Medieval</i>	Laverstock-type coarseware	13	206	
	Glazed sandy ware	1	5	
<i>Sub-total</i>		14	211	15.1
<i>Post-medieval</i>	Redware	1	13	
	White salt glazed ware	1	11	
<i>Sub-total</i>		2	24	12.0
<i>Modern</i>	Refined whiteware	15	83	
	Stoneware	2	35	
<i>Sub-total</i>		17	118	6.9
Total		583	6010	10.3

Middle Bronze Age (1600–1100 BC)

5.2.2 The entirety of the assemblage was recovered from three cremation graves in Area 2, each of which contained a fragmentary, inverted urn associated with cremated human remains. With the exception of a single fragment of base angle surviving from vessel ON 102 (in grave 11203), the base and lower parts of all three vessels are missing.

5.2.3 Two of the vessels are Bucket Urns (ON 102, grave 11203; ON 103, grave 11231) in coarse, flint-tempered fabrics. These vessels are of neutral profile, with plain rims that vary in shape around their circumference, although the rim of vessel ON 102 is slightly inturned. Neither vessel appears to be decorated, although the exterior surface condition is so poor that more subtle forms of decoration, such as finger-tip impressions, may have been lost.

5.2.4 The third vessel is a globular urn (ON 104, grave 11258) made in a slightly finer flint-tempered fabric. The vessel has a plain, upright rim with a row of at least nine plain

lugs/bosses arranged approximately 70 mm below the rim. The exterior surface is burnished.

- 5.2.5 Stylistically, these vessels fit within the Central Wessex group of Middle Bronze Age pottery as defined by Dacre and Ellison (1981, 173–83). The globular urn is comparable to Type 1B vessels (*ibid.* 176, fig. 15, D/E 5), whilst the Bucket Urns are likely to fall within the Type 3 category (*ibid.*, 173). Other sites in the area with material of comparable (Middle Bronze Age) date include Easton Lane, Winchester (Ellison 1989), Twyford Down (Woodward 2000) and Dairy Lane, Nursling (Morris 1997).

Late prehistoric

- 5.2.6 Eighteen abraded sherds could only be allocated a broad late prehistoric date (**Table 2**). Seventeen pieces are in coarse, flint-tempered fabrics including one small rounded rim fragment found in ditch 11219. This sherd has possible finger-nail impressions below the rim and may be Bronze Age in date. A single abraded sandy ware body sherd, found in subsoil 11001, could be of either Iron Age or Late Iron Age/early Romano-British date.

Late Iron Age/early Romano-British (100 BC–2nd century AD)

- 5.2.7 Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery (**Table 2**) accounts for approximately 29% of the assemblage (by sherd count; 39% by weight) and largely appears to date from the 1st into the 2nd centuries AD. It is dominated by a broad range of 'local' coarse wares with a very small quantity of imported ware.
- 5.2.8 The fragment of Central Gaulish samian came from ditch 11056 and is likely to date to the 2nd century AD. This ditch also contained five sherds of unsourced amphora, in a very soft, powdery fabric. Other imported wares include five sherds of a collared flagon of probable North Gaulish White ware and four sherds from Baetican Dressel 20 amphora, including one handle fragment (all from quarry pit 11076). The latter was the most common amphora type imported into Britain throughout the late 1st to early 3rd centuries AD (Peacock and Williams 1986, 136).
- 5.2.9 The remainder of the assemblage comprises coarsewares including 31 sherds in a sandy ware with oxidised surfaces (pit group 11076). These are all from a very fragmentary flanged rim bowl with rouletted decoration on the interior. The form is comparable to a bowl found in phase 6 (early Romano-British) deposits at Winnall Down (Hawkes 1985, fig. 58, 116).
- 5.2.10 The unoxidised coarsewares are dominated by medium grained sandy wares (**Table 2**). Identifiable forms include bead rim jars, one of which has a high angular shoulder similar to types 101 and 102 at Twyford Down (Seager Smith 2000, 63), and a necked cordoned jar with grooved shoulder comparable to form 23 at Winnall Down (Hawkes 1985, 69, fig. 58, 106–18). A thinner walled, flared rim may possibly be from a beaker (ditch 11056). Fifteen sherds are in coarse, flint-tempered fabrics that belong to a ceramic tradition of Late Iron Age origin which continued in use into the early Romano-British period. However, with the exception of one unstratified jar rim fragment, no featured sherds were present. Elsewhere, flint-tempered fabrics dominate the assemblages from Dowd's Farm, Hedge End (Clelland 2012, 154) and accounted for 45% of the Iron Age/Romano-British assemblage from Twyford Down (Seager Smith 2000, 65).
- 5.2.11 The remaining unoxidised coarsewares (**Table 2**) comprise featureless body sherds in a range of fabrics also likely to be from local sources. Apart from six grog-tempered sherds, they are predominantly tempered with quartz sand of varying coarseness as well as a small number of pieces with iron oxides



Medieval (1066–1500)

- 5.2.12 Fourteen undiagnostic body sherds are dated as medieval. These have been broadly divided into coarsewares and glazed sandy wares. The 13 coarseware sherds, found in ditch 11056 and gully 11087, are all of Laverstock-type ware. The finer, green glazed sandy ware fragment (ditch 11219) is of uncertain origin, but is likely to date to the 13th–15th centuries.

Post-medieval and modern (1500–present)

- 5.2.13 The remaining 19 sherds are post-medieval/modern; all were recovered from the subsoil 11001. They include one glazed redware fragment, a single moulded body sherd of 18th-century white salt glazed ware, 19th/20th century stoneware (two sherds) and 15 sherds of refined white wares, among which are at least two rims from plates/dishes

5.3 Worked flint

- 5.3.1 A collection of worked flint, comprising 53 pieces from 23 contexts, including four listed as unstratified, was recovered during the excavation; the flints from the evaluation have been described previously (Wessex Archaeology 2015a). Raw material is dominated by flint derived from a gravel source and includes a flake of Bullhead flint. Artefact condition is variable; material from unstratified contexts frequently includes edge damage while artefacts from stratified contexts remain relatively fresh.
- 5.3.2 The collection is dominated by flakes (28) and broken flakes (10) with small quantities of blades/bladelets (3) and broken blades/bladelets (4). There were two cores, including a well worked bladelet core with opposed striking platforms and two retouched tools, a crude end scraper and a core tool roughout. The collection is too small to contain any meaningful groups; however, the presence of Mesolithic groups is reinforced by the presence of a bladelet core residually in ditch 11056 (context 11045), and the core tool roughout, probably a tranchet axe, from feature 11150 (context 11152).

5.4 Burnt flint

- 5.4.1 Approximately 3 kg of burnt unworked flint was recovered from a range of feature types including pits, ditches and postholes. This material type is intrinsically undatable but is often taken as an indicator of prehistoric activity. In this instance, associated pottery suggests late prehistoric (pit 11110, 305 g; ditch 11219, 188 g) and Late Iron Age/early Romano-British (ditch 11056, 776 g; quarry pit 11076, 495 g) dates. Given the large quantity of (approximately 13 kg) recovered from a slot through ditch 11058 during the evaluation, the relatively small quantity (48 g) found during the excavation is notable.

5.5 Ceramic building material (CBM)

- 5.5.1 The CBM (**Table 1**) came from six contexts. Seven pieces are of Romano-British date and include five *tegulae* found with one flat fragment (ditch 11056), and one featureless fragment from pit group 11076. With the exception of one post-medieval brick fragment from subsoil layer 11001, the remaining pieces are from medieval roof tiles, two of which have circular peg holes; these were found in the topsoil (11000) and subsoil (11001).

5.6 Human bone

- 5.6.1 The remains of three Middle Bronze Age urned cremation burials were recovered for excavation under controlled laboratory conditions. The three graves formed a compact isolated group (within a 2 m diameter area) in Area 2. They had survived to depths of



between 0.13 m and 0.25 m, but in each case, although the vessels had been truncated to some degree (see **Fig. 5; Plates 1–3**), the burial remains within them were undisturbed and no bone had been lost via this mechanism.

- 5.6.2 The bone from all three contexts is slightly worn/eroded in appearance, that from grave 11203 particularly so. Little or no trabecular bone (generally subject to preferential loss in an aggressive burial environment such as this site – predominantly a sandy silt) was observed during the assessment scan, or, with the exception of burial 11263, during excavation. In the latter case some trabecular bone was observed *in situ* but it crumbled to ‘dust’ fraction on lifting. It is probable that additional bone to that recorded in **Table 3** from each context will have been lost due to taphonomic effects

Table 3 Summary of scan of cremated human bone

Cut	Context	Deposit type	Bone weight (g)	Age/sex
11203	11264	urned burial/?cenotaph deposit (inverted vessel)	24.7	subadult/adult >13 years
11231	11262	urned burial (inverted vessel)	306.1	adult >18 years
11258	11263	urned burial (inverted vessel)	357.3	adult >18 years

- 5.6.3 A minimum of two, probably three individuals are represented, one from each deposit. The nature of the deposit in feature 11203, which contained a very small quantity of bone, is uncertain. Although it probably derived from the cremation of a different individual to those in the other two graves (irrespective of deposit type), it is possible that the bone could have derived from one of the same pyres. No clear sexually dimorphic traits were observed in the scan. No pathological lesions or pyre goods were observed.
- 5.6.4 The bone is all white in colour, indicative of full oxidation. The fragments are relatively small (max. 30–40 mm). Much fragmentation occurred during excavation along dehydration fissures formed during cremation due to the adverse taphonomic effects of the burial environment (soil texture); the maximum *in situ* fragment size was 80–90 mm.
- 5.6.5 Excavation suggests that the bone from grave 11231 was contained in a bag within the burial urn (ON 103), and there are indications that this may also have been the case for that buried in grave 11203. Small quantities of fuel ash, intrusive from the grave fills, were recovered amongst all of the burial remains; more substantial quantities of pyre debris were observed in grave 11203. This may have implications relating to the proximity of the pyre sites to the place of burial.

5.7 Other finds

- 5.7.1 Other finds include eight fragments (486 g) of fired clay found in pit group 11076. All are in a predominantly oxidised sandy fabric with seven pieces containing sparse iron oxides/ferruginous pellets. The dating of all these pieces relies on associated material. One fragment, with two perpendicular flat surfaces and a partial circular perforation, may be part of a loomweight or oven brick, while a second piece has a possible withy impression (indicating the presence of structural debris). The remainder are featureless fragments.
- 5.7.2 Two pieces of iron were recovered – one is a flat, round-headed nail with a tapering shank from pit 11097, while the other is a currently unidentifiable scrap (heavily encrusted with corrosion product) found in Late Iron Age/early Romano-British ditch 11056.
- 5.7.3 Subsoil layer 11001 contained two pieces of modern glass – a clear bottle rim and a green bottle base fragment



5.8 Conservation

- 5.8.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field. However, as a potentially unstable material type the iron objects are stored with supportive packaging and with a desiccant (silica gel) to ensure a dry environment below 35% relative humidity. They will also be x-radiographed to provide a basic record.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Eight bulk sample(s) were taken from features and processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal (**Table 4**).

Table 4 Environmental sample provenance summary

Phase	No of samples	Volume (l)	Feature types
?Mesolithic	1	40	?Tree-throw hole
Middle Bronze Age	3	55	Cremation graves
Late prehistoric	1	19	Pit
Undated	3	68	Ditches, posthole
<i>Totals</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>182</i>	

6.2 Charred plant remains

- 6.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were scanned under a x10–x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded (see **Appendix 1**). 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, tables 3 and 5) for cereals.
- 6.2.2 The flots varied in size, and there were low to high numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.
- 6.2.3 The sample from a feature (11150) that contained a Mesolithic flint axe provided a few remains of charred hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragments.
- 6.2.4 The Middle Bronze Age cremation graves (11203, 11231 and 11258) provided few identifiable plant macro-remains, as expected in features of that nature. A sedge (Cyperaceae) and speedwell (*Veronica* sp. *hederifolia*) were among the identifiable seed remains.
- 6.2.5 Late prehistoric pit 11110 produced very distorted wheat remains (grains and glume bases, *Triticum* cf. *spelta*), and a large number of fungi sclerotia (sp. *Cenococcum geophilum*).
- 6.2.6 Assemblages from undated ditches 11087 and 11219 were restricted to a few hazelnut shell fragments and undetermined plant tissue.



6.2.7 The sample from the undated posthole 11132 gave an assemblage of poorly preserved charred plant tissue, including pericarp fragments which could not be identified to any taxonomic level. Fungi sclerotia were also present.

6.3 Wood charcoal

6.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples (**Appendix 1**). Wood charcoal from mature wood was recovered in all flots in very variable quantities.

6.3.2 The sample from the feature (11150) that contained a Mesolithic flint axe provided an almost negligible amount of charcoal fragments.

6.3.3 The Middle Bronze Age cremation grave assemblages were variable in the quantity of charcoal, and only that from grave 11203 is likely to be sufficiently rich for a meaningful analysis.

6.3.4 Late prehistoric pit 11110 provided a rich charcoal assemblage; woodworm holes were recorded in some of the fragments.

6.3.5 The undated possible posthole (11132) also provided a rich charcoal assemblage.

7 RADIOCARBON DATING

7.1.1 Two samples of cremated human bone (from graves 11231 and 11258) were submitted to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre for radiocarbon dating (). The aim was to precisely date the burials, since there was some uncertainty as to whether the fragmentary vessels were as suggested – a Bucket Urn and a Globular urn or were actually transitional Middle/Late Bronze Age.

7.1.2 The dates have been calculated using the calibration curve of Reimer *et al.* (2013) and the computer program OxCal (v4.2.4) (Bronk Ramsey and Lee 2013) and cited at 95% confidence and quoted in the form recommended by Mook (1986), with the end points rounded outwards to 10 years. The ranges in plain type in the radiocarbon tables have been calculated according to the maximum intercept method (Stuiver and Reimer 1986).

7.1.3 No sample was submitted from the burial in grave 11203 due to the small quantity of bone recovered. As this burial was also in a Bucket Urn, and immediately adjacent to that in grave 11231, it is considered likely to be closely contemporary. The results obtained for 11231 and 11258 (**Table 4**) suggest that this burial is also likely to have been made during the Middle Bronze Age. However, the two results are not statistically consistent indicating that they are not of the same date. This could suggest that the burials were made at different times and are unlikely to be close in date (at least one or two generations apart).

Table 4 Summary of the radiocarbon dates obtained during the assessment

Lab ref	Sample and context	Date BP	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	95% confidence
SUERC-70575	11262 Human bone, cremated, single femur fragment	3237±33	-22.5‰	1620-1430 cal BC
SUERC-70575	11263 Human bone, three femur fragments	3130±33	-21.1‰	1500-1300 cal BC



- 7.1.4 It is suggested that two other features are radiocarbon dated. Probable tree-throw hole 11150, which contained a Mesolithic flint axe and hazelnut shell, and pit 11110, which contained cereal grain and wood charcoal. In both cases radiocarbon dating will be used to clarify the date of the feature.

8 FURTHER POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Stratigraphy

Potential

- 8.1.1 The fieldwork has revealed significant information about a number of periods. Among the small collection of prehistoric worked flints was a naturally backed blade recovered from the subsoil during the evaluation which may be part of a 'long blade' industry of Late Glacial/Early Post-glacial date (c. 12,000–9300 cal BC). A subcircular feature contained a probable a Mesolithic tranchet axe (c. 8500–4000 BC) and fragments of charred hazelnut shells. Further Mesolithic flints were recovered from the subsoil, and residually from later features.
- 8.1.2 There was a group of three Middle Bronze Age cremation graves containing urned burials. All three urns were inverted, and although damaged by ploughing, were well preserved. A small pit contained three sherds of possibly Middle or Late Bronze Age pottery along with three pieces of struck flint and burnt flint. Further late prehistoric sherds were also found residually in other features. A long curving gully that pre-dates a Late Iron Age/early Romano-British ditch, may also be of late prehistoric date.
- 8.1.3 Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery and Romano-British tile were recovered from a small number of features in Area 1, including two ditches possibly forming part of a small enclosure and a group of intercutting pits. Other features in this area may also belong to this phase.
- 8.1.4 A small number of sherds of medieval pottery, some of them intrusive in earlier features, were recovered in Area 1. A number of ditches are considered likely to be of post-medieval/modern date, including one in Area 2 that corresponds to a field boundary depicted on the 1840 tithe map, and a series of ditches running alongside the existing road at the eastern side of Area 1. A number of undated postholes are also considered likely to be of relatively recent date.
- 8.1.5 Many features were either insecurely dated due to the low numbers of datable finds, or undated. These include a number of ditches in Area 2 which appear to form components of rectilinear field systems, although on two different orientations.

Recommendations

- 8.1.6 No further stratigraphical analysis is considered necessary, and the stratigraphic information presented in this report will be adapted for the publication report.

8.2 Finds

- 8.2.1 The assessment indicates that the preservation of artefacts varies from poor to moderate. The range of finds is, however, relatively restricted, with only pottery, burnt flint and worked flint occurring in any quantities. Chronological evidence, primarily from the pottery, indicates activity during the prehistoric period through to the post-medieval period, with the main focus being during the Middle Bronze Age and the Late Iron Age/early Romano-



British period. The following potential and recommendations consider the finds from both the evaluation and mitigation phases of work.

Pottery

Potential

- 8.2.2 The pottery provides evidence for the trading links and ceramic influences on the region and has already provided chronological evidence through the spot-dating of contexts. The Bronze Age assemblage is comparable with Middle Bronze Age material from sites such as Easton Lane, Winchester (Ellison 1989), Twyford Down (Woodward 2000), Dairy Lane, Nursling (Morris 1997) and Kimpton (Dacre and Ellison 1981), whilst the Late Iron Age/early Romano-British collection provides an addition to the known ceramic groups of the region. However, it is unlikely that the dating of the Late Iron Age/early Romano-British material can be refined significantly, due to the generally small size of the context groups and the scarcity of distinctive forms and finewares.

Recommendations

- 8.2.3 Fabric and form analysis is recommended for the Bronze Age pottery in accordance with the national guidelines (PCRG 2010), and time should be allowed for the (temporary) reconstruction of the three urns prior to illustration. The Late Iron Age/early Romano-British and later pottery has already been recorded to a fairly detailed level in accordance with current guidelines (Darling 1994), and no further analysis of this material will be required. As a minimum, the results of this scan, including the pottery from the evaluation, should be subjected to more detailed consideration of their stratigraphic groups and the wider local and regional context of the assemblage. Provision should be made for the illustration of up to six vessels.

Human bone

Potential

- 8.2.4 Full analysis of the human bone will provide more detailed demographic data regarding the minimum number of individuals, and their age and sex. Although no pathological lesions were observed in the scan, some may be observed with more detailed analysis and could contribute towards a broad assessment of the health status of individuals.
- 8.2.5 Radiocarbon dating indicates that at least two of the three cremation burials are of Middle Bronze Age date. A date should also be obtained on the third of the three deposits to clarify whether it is also of Middle Bronze Age date or perhaps slightly later.
- 8.2.6 Middle Bronze Age cremation deposits are generally common. However the overall number of cremation burials known for the Late Bronze Age remains relatively small despite those which have been found – often with the assistance of radiocarbon dating on otherwise undated deposits – over the last decade (eg, Cooke and Powell 2014; Timby *et al.* 2007; Webley *et al.* 2007, 139). Most occur, as here, either as singletons or small dispersed clusters indicative of small, probably equally dispersed domestic settlements/households. Radiocarbon dating of the remains will enable the deposits to be set within a tighter temporal context. Details of the form, nature and components of the burial deposits will enhance our understanding of mortuary activity both locally and within the wider region within the period.

Recommendations

- 8.2.7 Analysis of the cremated bone will follow the writer's standard procedure (McKinley 1994, 5–6; 2004). All unsorted <4 mm residues will be subject to a rapid scan at this stage to extract any identifiable material, osseous or artefactual. Taphonomic factors potentially



affecting differential bone preservation will be assessed. The age and sex of individuals will be further assessed using standard methodologies (Bass 1987; Beek 1983; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Gejvall 1981; Scheuer and Black 2000). Pathological lesions will be recorded in text and via digital photography, and non-metric traits will be noted (Berry and Berry 1967; Finnegan 1978). The form and nature of the deposit currently of uncertain type will be further considered in light of the osteological and context data. Aspects of pyre technology and the cremation mortuary rite will be discussed within their regional and temporal contexts.

Other finds

Potential

- 8.2.8 The other material categories provide limited evidence for structures (ceramic building material, fired clay) and economic activities (worked flint, stone, copper alloy coin). It is unlikely they will provide any further information beyond that which has already been recorded.

Recommendations

- 8.2.9 No further analysis is proposed for the worked flint, burnt flint, ceramic building material, fired clay, or glass. The iron objects and copper alloy coin will be x-radiographed and geological identification will be confirmed for a saddle quern fragment (found during the evaluation). Although little or no additional work is recommended for these material categories, the information gathered as part of this assessment (including the evaluation report) will be adapted for use in the publication report.

8.3 Environmental

Charred plant remains

- 8.3.1 The scarcity of plant macro-remains (other than wood charcoal) in the samples from both stages of work means that their potential is very limited, and no further analysis is recommended.

Wood charcoal

Potential

- 8.3.2 The analysis of the wood charcoal from Middle Bronze Age cremation grave 11203 and late prehistoric pit 11110 would provide information on the species composition, management and exploitation of the local woodland resource on the site. It may also be possible to ascertain if there was any species selection for specific functions, such as cremation. Although possible posthole 11132 also contained a rich charcoal assemblage, the feature is undated and its nature is unclear.

Recommendations

- 8.3.3 Two samples of wood charcoal from the excavation are proposed for analysis, from Middle Bronze Age cremation grave 11203, late prehistoric pit 11110 (**Appendix 1**); none of the samples from the evaluation were recommended for analysis. Identifiable charcoal will be extracted from the 2 mm residue together and the flot (>2 mm). Fragments will be prepared for identification according to the standard methodology of Leney and Casteel (1975, see also Gale and Cutler 2000). Charcoal pieces will be fractured with a razor blade so that three planes can be seen: transverse section (TS), radial longitudinal section (RL) and tangential longitudinal section (TL). They will then be examined under bi-focal epi-illuminated microscopy at magnifications of x50, x100 and x400 using a Kyowa ME-LUX2 microscope. Identification will be undertaken according to the anatomical characteristics described by Schweingruber (1990) and Butterfield and Meylan (1980).



Identification will be to the lowest taxonomic level possible, usually that of genus and nomenclature according to Stace (1997), individual taxon (mature and twig) will be separated, quantified, and the results tabulated.

8.4 Radiocarbon dating

Potential and recommendations

- 8.4.1 Radiocarbon dates have already been obtained for two of the three burial deposits confirming that both belong to the Middle Bronze Age. A further sample, of cremated human bone from grave 11258 (context 11264) should also be submitted. Two further samples should also be submitted to clarify the precise date of features 11150 and 11110 so that they can be assigned to the correct phase.

8.5 Summary

- 8.5.1 The following further tasks and analyses are proposed:

- Fabric and form analysis of the Bronze Age pottery;
- Analysis of the cremated human bone from graves 11203, 11231 and 11258;
- Geologically identification of a saddle quern fragment found during the evaluation (in trench 1);
- Analysis of the wood charcoal from Middle Bronze Age cremation grave 11203 and late prehistoric pit 11110;
- The possible radiocarbon dating of cremated human bone from grave 11228 to confirm that it is of Middle Bronze Age date.
- X-radiographs of the two iron objects.

9 RESOURCES AND PUBLICATION

9.1 Proposed analysis and publication

- 9.1.1 No archaeological remains have been previously recorded in the site, although a background level of prehistoric, Late Iron Age/early Romano-British, and medieval activity is recorded in a wider landscape. The results of the fieldwork therefore help provide a fuller understanding particularly of prehistoric and early Romano-British developments in the area.
- 9.1.2 It is proposed that, following the further analyses outlined above, a short article, of up to 6000 words with 10 figures, will be submitted for publication in the *Proceeding of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society* (Hampshire Studies) a peer-reviewed journal with a regional and national readership.
- 9.1.3 The article will comprise a brief introduction giving background of the project, followed by a largely integrated description of the archaeological features, incorporating relevant specialist detail within the narrative text, followed by specialist reports on selected finds/environmental categories. The significance of the findings will be discussed within their local and regional contexts.



Provisional synopsis of Hampshire Studies article

Working title:

Middle Bronze Age burials and Late Iron Age/Romano-British activity at Crowdhill Green, Fair Oak, Eastleigh

by Andrew Powell and Lee Newton, with specialist contributions

Introduction	250 words
Prehistoric features	500 words
Late Iron Age/early Romano-British features	1000 words
Finds and environmental reports	3000 words
Discussion	1250 words

Total: approximately 6,000 words, 10 figures, 3 plates, 3 tables

9.2 Personnel

9.2.1 The following Wessex Archaeology core staff are scheduled to undertake the work as outlined in the task list for post-excavation analysis and publication (**Table 5**).

Table 5 Task list

Task ID	Task	Resource	Duration
1	Management	Barclay AJ	3
2	Finds Management	Seager Smith R	0.5
3	Project meeting	All	0.5
<i>Finds</i>			
4	Pottery analysis	Brook E	4
5	Human bone analysis and reporting	McKinley JI	2
6	Other finds reporting	Brook E	1
7	Conservation	Wootten L	0.25
8	Finds illustration (pottery)	Dixon N	3
<i>Environmental</i>			
9	Commissioning analysis and contracts	Lopez Doriga I	0.5
10	Analysis and Reporting of Wood Charcoal (3 samples)	Ext.	1
11	Environmental Illustration Requirements	Dixon N	0.5
12	Overview and Palaeo-environmental Summary	Lopez Doriga I	0.5
13	Radiocarbon sample submission and report	Lopez Doriga I	1
	Radiocarbon dates	SUERC	3
<i>Report and publication</i>			
14	Write descriptive report and discussion	Powell A	5
15	Report plates and figures	Dixon N	5
16	Compile report	AP	1
17	Management, monitoring, editing text	PB	0.5
18	Referee comments	All	1
19	Publication journal costs	Ext	1
<i>Archive</i>			
20	Preparation and deposition	All&ext	1



10 STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 Museum

10.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Hampshire Museum Service. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project under the accession code A2015.27. Deposition of the finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

10.2 Preparation of the archive

10.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Hampshire Museum Service, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

10.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the appropriate site codes (87712 evaluation; 87713 excavation) and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- 6 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts & ecofacts, ordered by material type, plus 1 stone (loose)
- 4 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics

10.3 Selection policy

10.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

10.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2011).

10.4 Security copy

10.4.1 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.

10.4.2 The digital records will be submitted to the HER, with a copy retained in the Wessex Archaeology security-copied and backed-up digital archive storage facility, under its designated Wessex Archaeology project code 87713.

10.5 Copyright

10.5.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all



rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.



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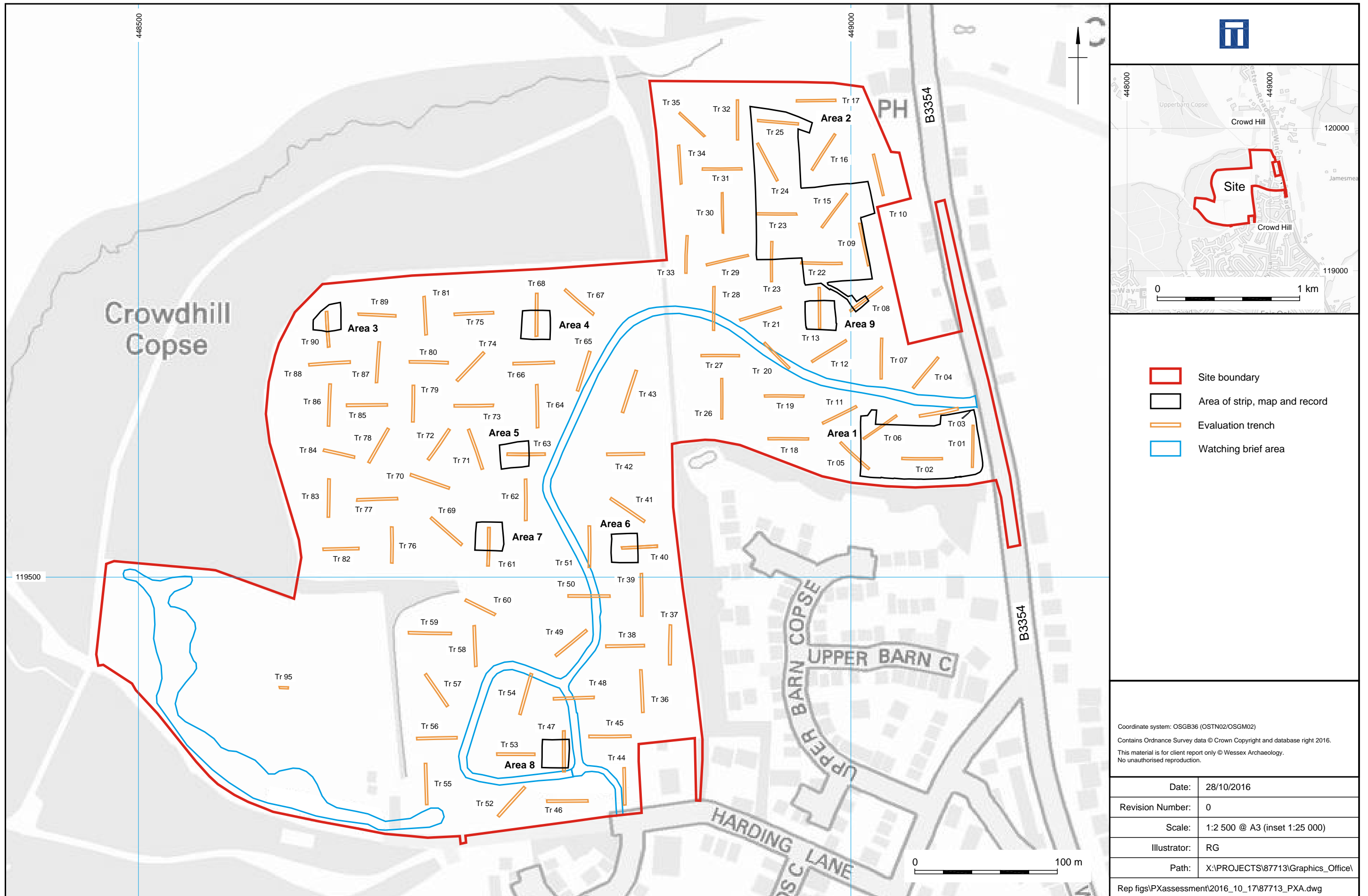
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APPENDIX 1 Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

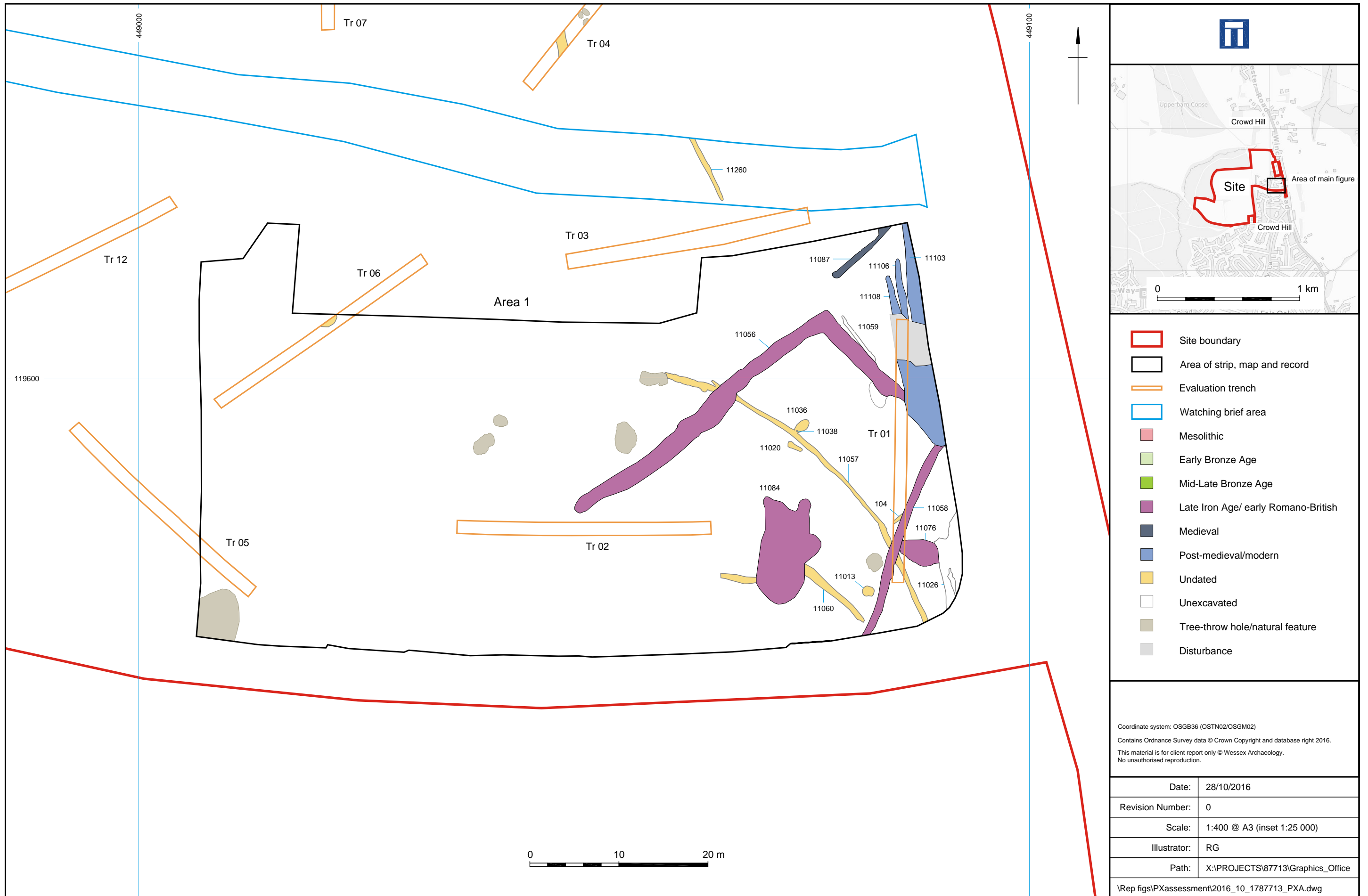
Trench/Area	Feature/group	Cut/slot	Context	Samp.	Vol (l)	Flot (ml)	Roots %	Unch'd	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Charred other	Charred other notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Analysis
Evaluation															
Tr. 1	RB pit	106	108	100	10	120	50	-	C	C	Hulled wheat grain frags, glume base frags,	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag. Charcoal incl. mature + round wood frags	20/15 ml	-
Tr. 68	Posthole	6804	6805	102	0.5	100	5	-	-	-	-	-	Charcoal incl. mature wood frags	20/20 ml	-
Excavation															
<i>?Mesolithic</i>															
2	?Tree-throw	11150	11152	109	40	80	75	Yes	-	-	-	C	Hazelnut shell	1 ml	-
<i>Middle Bronze Age</i>															
2	Cremation grave	11203	11204	107	40	220	30	-	-	-	-	C	Cyperaceae, indet. fragments of parenchymatic tissue, roots, stems	90 ml	Charcoal
2	Cremation grave	11231	11232	108	10	45	40	-	-	-	-	C	Indet. frags of parenchymatic tissue	5 ml	-
2	Cremation grave	11258	11259	111	5	55	30	-	-	-	-	C	<i>Veronica</i> tp. <i>hederifolia</i> , indet., indet. frags of parenchymatic tissue, stems, tubers	5 ml	-
<i>Late prehistoric</i>															
4	Pit	11110	11111-3	105	19	350	10	-	C	C	Wheat (possible spelt) grain, hulled wheat chaff (glume base), Triticeae	A	<i>Cenococcum</i> sclerotia (A), indet. frags of parenchymatic tissue (C)	150 ml	Charcoal
<i>Undated</i>															
1	Ditch 11087	11073	11074	104	18	40	80	-	-	-	-	C	Hazelnut shell	5 ml	-
2	Ditch 11219	11256	11257	110	40	65	50	-	-	-	-	C	Indet. Frags of parenchymatic tissue	5 ml	-
8	Posthole	11132	11133	106	10	550	1	-	-	-	-	B	<i>Cenococcum</i> sclerotia, indet. Pericarp frags, indet. frags of parenchymatic tissue	400 ml	Charcoal

Key: A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5



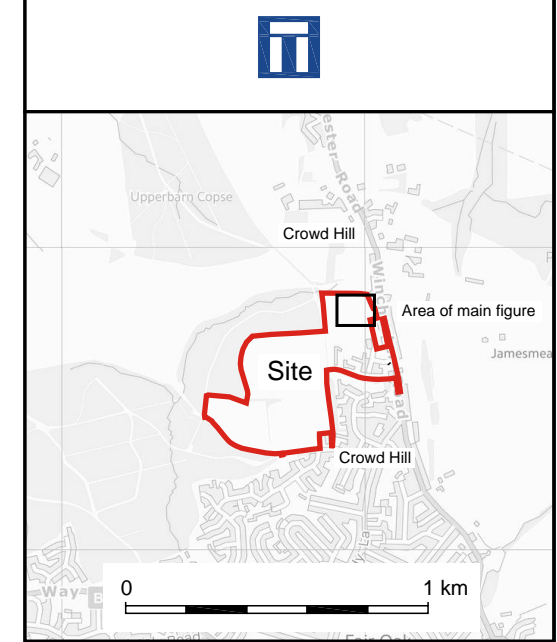
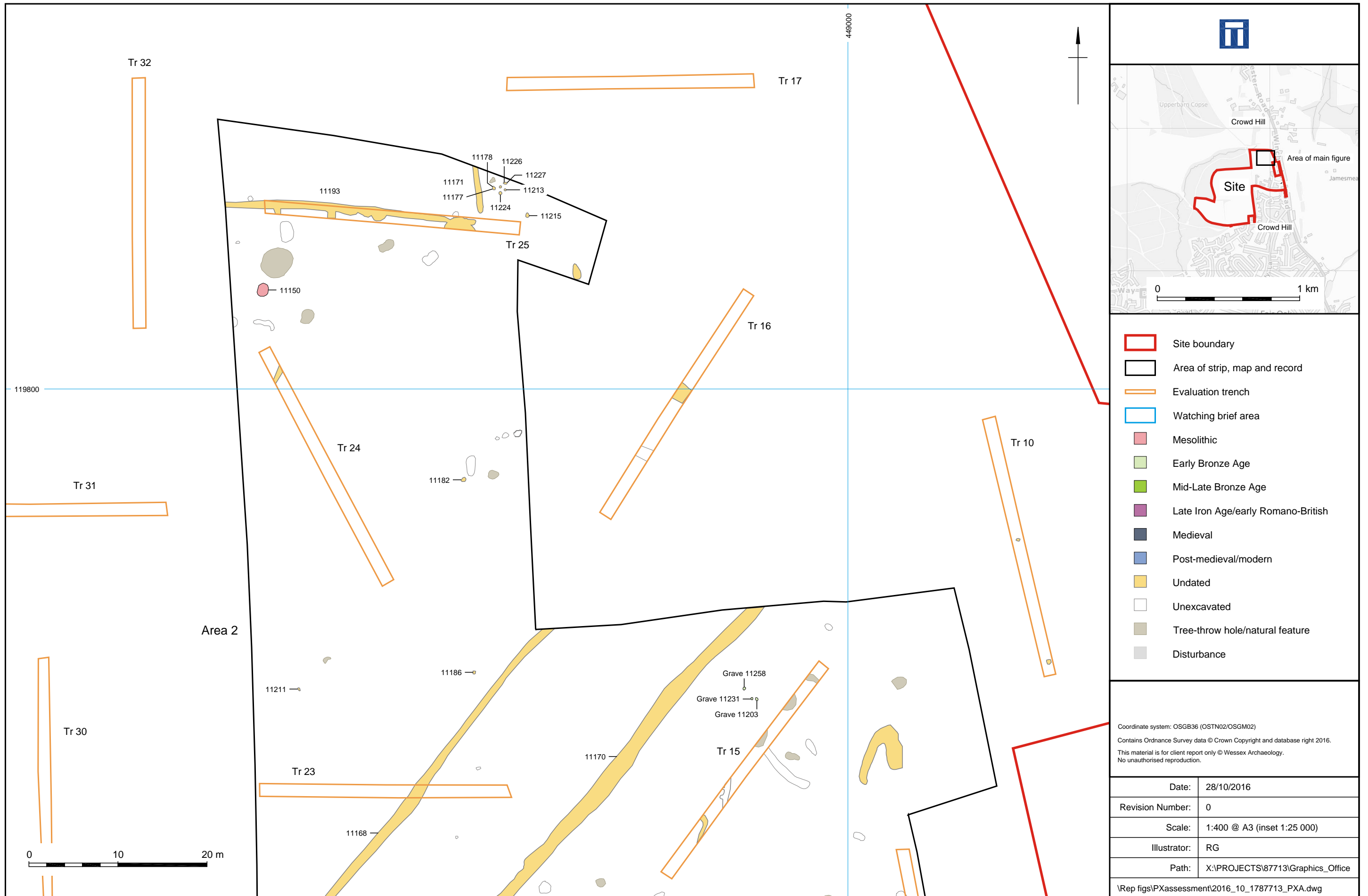
Site location and phases of work

Figure 1



Area 1 all phases

Figure 2



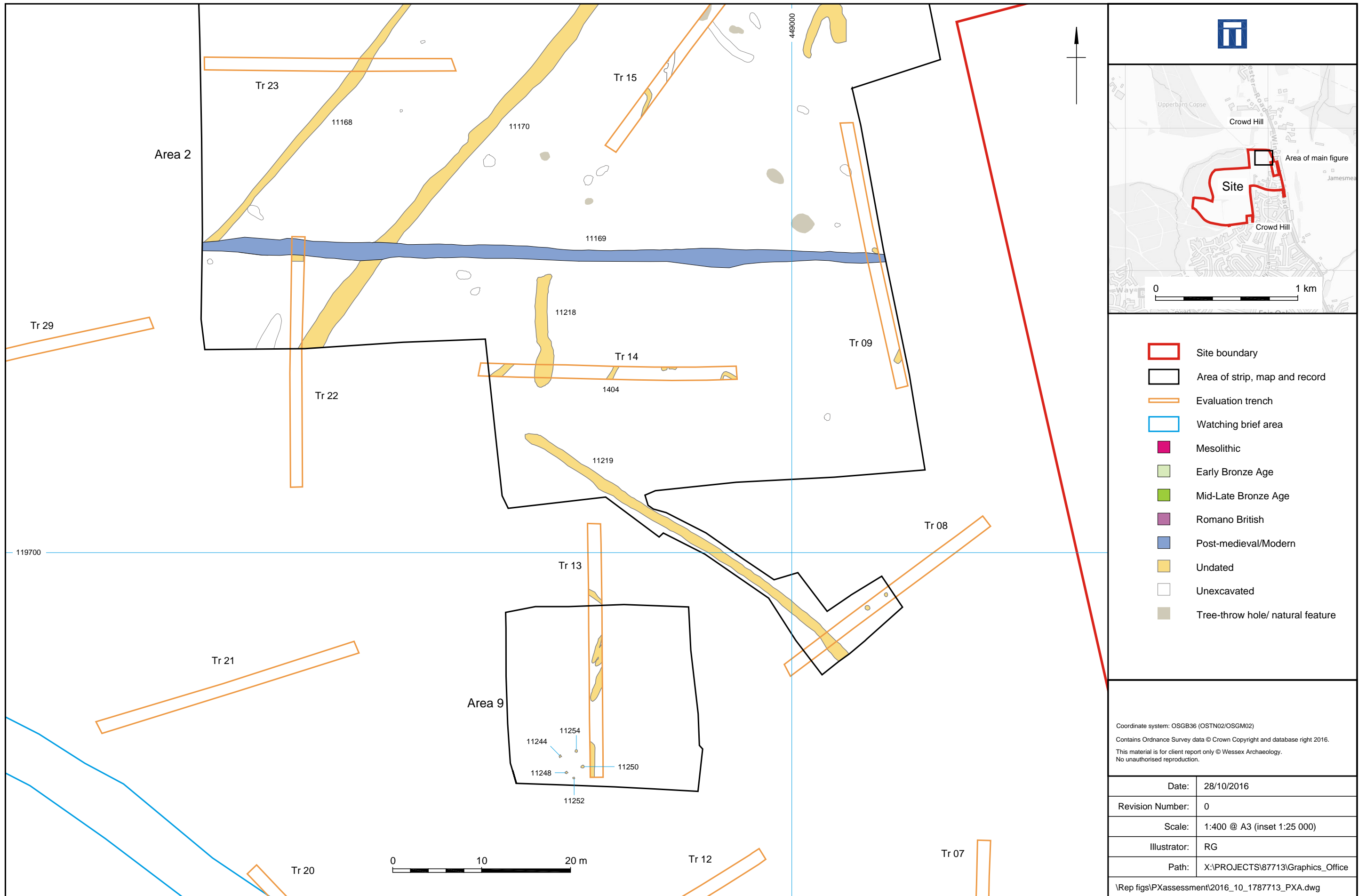
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- Area of strip, map and record
- Evaluation trench
- Watching brief area
- Mesolithic
- Early Bronze Age
- Mid-Late Bronze Age
- Late Iron Age/early Romano-British
- Medieval
- Post-medieval/modern
- Undated
- Unexcavated
- Tree-throw hole/natural feature
- Disturbance

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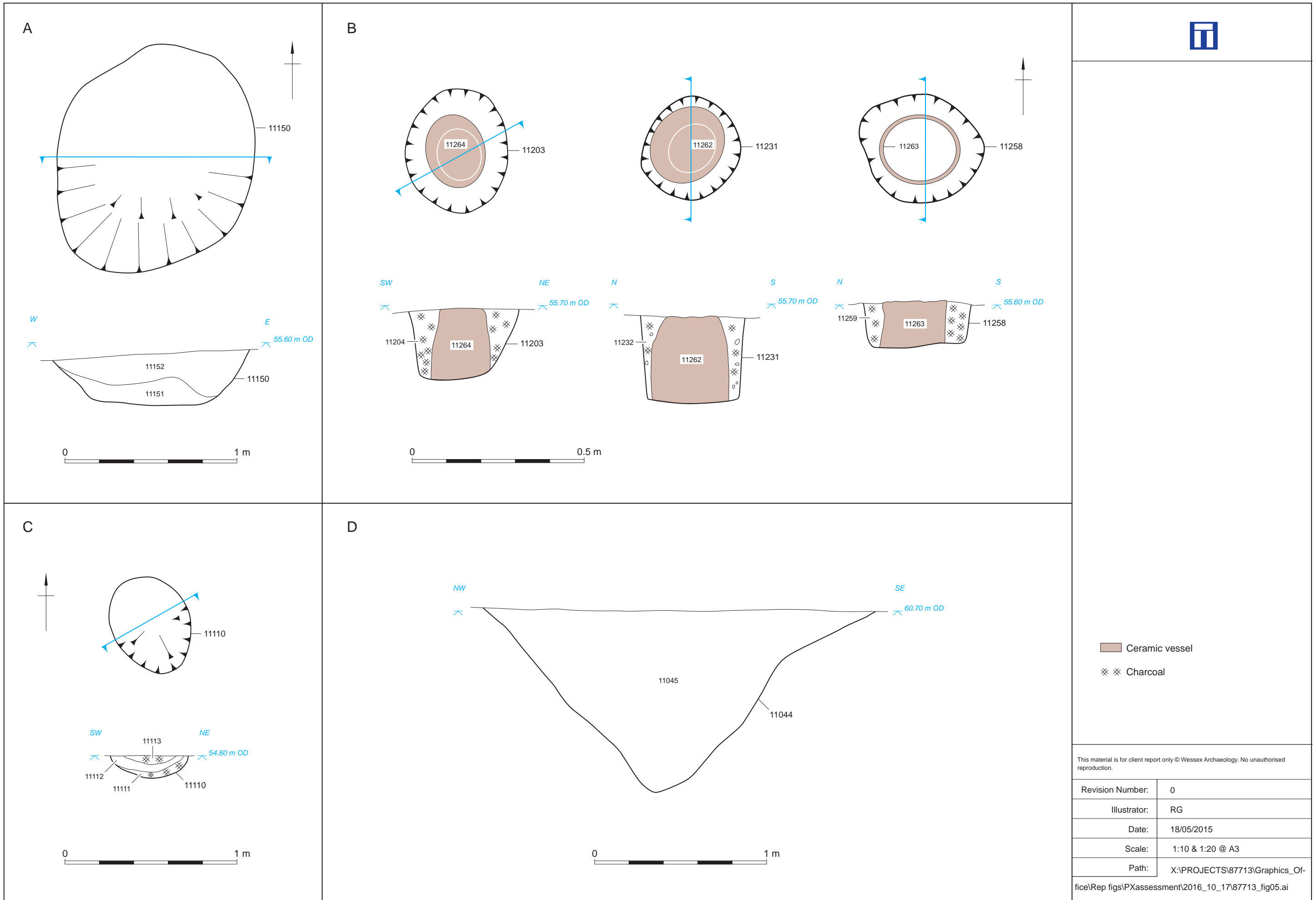
Area 2 north, all phases

Figure 3



Area 2 south, all phases

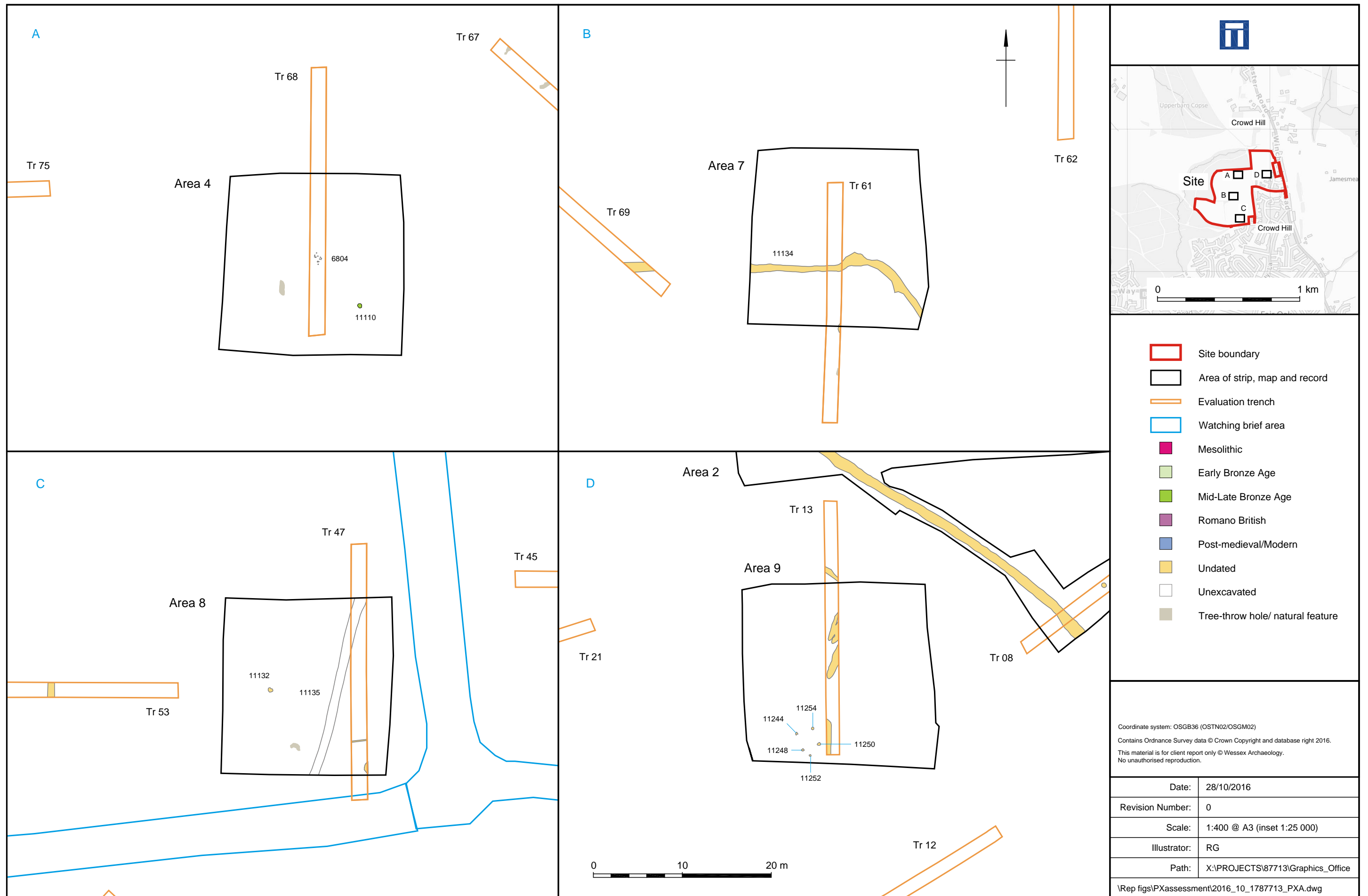
Figure 4



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(A) Feature 11150, plan and section; (B) Cremation graves 11203, 11231 and 11258, plans and sections; (C) Feature 11100, plan and section; (D) Ditch 11056 (slot 11044), section



Features in Areas 4, 7, 8 and 9

Figure 6



Plate 1: Cremation grave 11203 during excavation



Plate 2: Cremation grave 11231 during excavation


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Plate 3: Cremation grave 11258 during excavation



Plate 4: Sample excavation of intercutting pit group 11076, viewed from the south-west



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Plate 5: Slot through ditches 11103, 11106 and 11108, viewed from the north-west



Plate 6: Posthole group in Area 2, viewed from the north-west

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