

Defence Training Estate: Salisbury Plain Delta Track West

Post Excavation Assessment Report





**DEFENCE TRAINING ESTATE: SALISBURY PLAIN
DELTA TRACK WEST**

Post-Excavation Assessment Report

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Defence Training Estate: Salisbury Plain
Delta Track West**Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Landmarc Support Services to conduct a programme of archaeological strip, map and record excavation in advance of the construction of Delta Track West, Defence Training Estates - Salisbury Plain (DTE SP). Planning permission (**E/09/1674/FUL**) with conditions has been granted for the construction of an 1.7km track to improve the connectivity of the training areas in DTE SP West with the new EIP infrastructure on DTE SP East.

This document presents a post-excavation assessment of the excavation works conducted at Delta Track West between October and November 2011, and includes proposals for a programme of post-excavation analysis and publication, as well as an outline of the resources required.

The excavation has allowed the definition of a chronological sequence from the Early Bronze Age to the modern period. The project has identified evidence of Early Bronze Age activity overlain by Romano-British and post-Roman agricultural activity and field systems that indicate near-by occupation sites in the southern portion of the Site; and an important Bronze Age funerary landscape, including a linear cremation cemetery, overlain by undated field system adjacent to Delta Crossing in the north.

The results of these works will form the subject of a Wessex Archaeology paper which will focus on the Bronze Age funerary landscape and will provide important additions to our knowledge and understanding of local and regional archaeological resource during the Middle to Late Bronze Age.

**Defence Training Estate: Salisbury Plain
Delta Track West**

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Thanks are also due Nick Dredge of Defence Infrastructure Organisation and WO1 Les French, Senior Training Area Safety Marshall, for the successful completion of this phase of the project.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Paul White. The report was researched and compiled by Stephen Beach with contributions and QA by Paul White (WSI), Alistair Barclay (Radiocarbon Dating), Chris Stevens (Charcoal, Charred Plant Remains and Radiocarbon Dating), David Norcott (Soils and Sediments), Sarah Wyles (Land Snails), Jackie McKinley (Human Bone), Lorraine Higbee (Animal Bone), Matt Leivers (Flint) and Lorraine Mephram (Pottery).

The fieldwork was directed by Stephen Beach with the assistance of Benjamin Cullen, Matthew Fenn, Neil Fitzpatrick, Mathew Kendall, Ray Kennedy, Dave Murdie, Tom Wells and Rebecca Wills. Environmental samples were processed by Moi Watson and Nicola Mulhall.

**Defence Training Estate: Salisbury Plain
Delta Track West****Post-Excavation Assessment Report****1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Landmarc Support Services to conduct a programme of archaeological strip, map and record excavation in advance of the construction of Delta Track West (hereafter “the Site” – **Figure 1**).

1.1.2 Planning permission (**E/09/1674/FUL**) with conditions has been granted for the construction of an 1.7km track from the western side of A360 at Delta Road Crossing in a south-westwards towards Vedette Post 3. The purpose of the track is to enhance the infrastructure of the training estate and to improve the connectivity of the training areas across Salisbury Plain.

1.1.3 Based on the results of a Desk-based Assessment (DBA) and walkover survey (WA 2009a) and geophysical survey (WA 2009b) undertaken for the Site, the Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council requested that 900m of the track, extending from Delta Crossing to where the track bends towards Vedette Post 3 (V3), should be investigated under a strip map and record exercise with the remainder dealt with under an archaeological watching brief.

1.1.4 At the request of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) based on the most effective strategy for undertaking the strip, it was proposed that the whole length of the Site (1.7km) was investigated as a strip, map and record excavation. However, the westernmost 40m of the track is heavily truncated, inundated with large areas of standing water and located within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Therefore it was proposed that this short length of track is investigated as a watching brief during construction. The watching brief phase of the works had not been conducted at the time of writing.

1.2 Scope of the document

1.2.1 This document presents a post-excavation assessment of the excavation works conducted between Delta Crossing and V3 between October and November 2011, and includes proposals for a programme of post-excavation analysis and publication, as well as an outline of the resources required.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The Site occupies an area of 1.6ha and is located between Delta Crossing (National Grid Reference (NGR) 400869, 151145) and Vedette Post 3 (V3) (NGR 399778, 149992). The Site includes approximately 118m of track at its northern end which is permitted under the main Delta Crossing planning consent (Ref: K/56701/F) as part of the Eastern Infrastructure Project (EIP).

1.3.2 The Site is located between 127m and 150m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) on undulating ground to the south of West Lavington village and runs

primarily through farmland comprising arable, semi-improved and improved grassland. The northern portion of the Site is situated within a shallow topographical bowl between Delta Crossing and Delta (West) Crossing before extending over higher ground towards V3.

- 1.3.3 The geology of the Site comprises Cretaceous Middle Chalk that borders the northern edge of Salisbury Plain. The Plain itself, to the south, is predominantly comprised of Upper Chalk (Geological Survey of Great Britain 1:50,000 map sheet 282)

Current land use

- 1.3.4 The north-western fields between Delta Crossing and Delta (West) Crossing were under young winter crops. The south-western fields, adjacent to V3, were under roughly grazed pasture. In parts, the vegetation became dense and the ground more rutted.

1.4 Project History

- 1.4.1 An archaeological DBA including the results of a previous walkover survey (WA 2009a) detailing the archaeological and historical background of the Site, along with a geophysical survey (WA 2009b) was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in order to establish the archaeological potential for the Site. The results of this work are summarised below.

2 THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE SURROUNDING AREA

- 2.1.1 The Defence Training Estate of Salisbury Plain is well known for its prehistoric archaeology including round and long barrows, field systems and enclosures and contains over 2,300 archaeological sites and monuments from all ages. The area has been in military use for over 100 years and contains features associated with the development of warfare during this period.

2.2 Recent investigations in the area

- 2.2.1 A field evaluation was conducted by Wessex Archaeology at Delta Crossing in 2002. The evaluation comprised of three 50m×1.60m and one 68m×1.60m east-west evaluation trenches located either side of Delta Crossing, and to the north and south of the original track. The trenches on the western side of the crossing were targeted on a feature identified during aerial photographic survey, and interpreted as a ploughed out barrow (SMR No. SU05SW644). The evaluation did not detect the ploughed out barrow, but a ditch containing Iron Age pottery was identified (Wessex Archaeology, 2002).
- 2.2.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment, walk-over survey and accompanying geophysical survey have also been conducted at the Site (Wessex Archaeology, 2009a and 2009b). This study was concentrated on area surrounding Delta Crossing and the western extent of the proposed track from Delta Crossing to V3.
- 2.2.3 The desk-based assessment and walk-over survey determined that;
- There were no features with statutory or local heritage designations on either of the tracks.

- The known archaeological record comprises archaeological sites, deposits and finds dating from the Bronze Age to the modern period
- The known archaeological record suggests a significant funerary landscape in the valley of Lavington Down.
- The lack of other prehistoric and Romano-British archaeology may not be indicative of a lack of human activity during these periods but just as likely to be a product of the lack of archaeological investigation conducted within the Site.
- The archaeological potential for other periods are considered to be low.

2.2.4 The geophysical survey (detailed gradiometer) determined that a number of anomalies of probable archaeological interest, based upon their morphology were present within the Site.

2.2.5 Areas to the east of the Site around Delta Crossing (**Figures 1 and 4**) were investigated as part of the Salisbury Plain Eastern Infrastructure Project (DTE:SP EIP) (Wessex Archaeology, 2012). One Late Bronze Age pit (**11520**) and a Late Bronze Age ditch (**12010**) were identified, along with a large number of undated features, mostly comprising boundary ditches, but including two possible ring ditches (**11579** and **11582**) and a pit containing burnt or fire cracked flint (**11506**), believed to be prehistoric funerary or ritual in function, rather than domestic or settlement related.

2.2.6 Where relevant the archaeological features identified during the DTE:SP EIP are discussed in detail within this report. For other features refer to the original report (*ibid*).

2.3 Recent investigations within the wider landscape

2.3.1 Mesolithic worked flint has been found on Strawberry Hill c.2km northwest of the Site and represents the earliest known evidence of occupation within the area. Middle Bronze Age pottery has also been found on Strawberry Hill and Early to Middle Bronze Age pottery has been found on White Hill c.600m northwest of the Site (Morris and Powell, 2011, p66), indicative of settlement activity on higher ground.

2.3.2 A plough damaged prehistoric funerary landscape is recorded in close proximity to the Site by the Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). Elements of which have been recognised during several different phases of aerial photographic survey (RCHME, Cambridge University Aerial Photographic Unit and Wiltshire County Council). These studies have identified a probable barrow cemetery comprising at least 9 ploughed-out barrows, situated on two distinct alignments (one northwest-southeast, and the other northeast-southwest), the main concentration of which is situated adjacent to the Site.

2.3.3 Fragments of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery (SMR No. SU05SW153) have also been found on the top of Stibb Hill c.1km northwest of the Site, and a Bronze Age tanged bronze chisel (SMR No. ST94NE152) has been found on West Lavington Down, c.750m south of the Site indicating continued activity in the area. An Early Iron Age open settlement has also been excavated on Strawberry Hill; this produced pottery fabric

styles similar to those found at the midden sites of Potterne, All Cannings Cross and East Chisenbury (*ibid*).

- 2.3.4 Two relatively small (under 2ha) and one possibly bi-partite enclosure have been identified on higher ground within 1.5km of the north-western edge of the Site. Although undated, these enclosures are morphologically similar enclosures found on the eastern half of the SPTA (Ablington Furze, Brimston Down, Milston Down and Dunch Hill). These enclosures have been loosely dated to Middle to Late Bronze Age, some of which may have continued in use in to the Romano-British period (McOmish, Field and Brown, 2002). A morphologically similar enclosure has also been excavated at Corporation Farm, near Abingdon in the upper Thames Valley. Here a multi-phased enclosure was dated to the Middle to Late Bronze Age (Lambrick and Robinson, 2009 after Barclay *et al*, 2003). A large and irregular undated double oval enclosure has also been identified to the west of Highland Cottages c.700m north of the Site.
- 2.3.5 The landscape to the south of the Site is characterised by widespread ancient field systems including the designated system on West Lavington Down c.550m to the south (SM No. 10107), and the scheduled extensive prehistoric and Romano-British landscape on Chapperton Down c.1.5km to the south (SM No. 10105).
- 2.3.6 A Roman coin-hoard (SMR No. SU05SW313) has been found on White Hill c.700m to the northwest, and a bronze knife cap and silver pin (SMR No. SU05SW312) dated to the Romano-British period have been found on Stibb Hill c.1km to the northwest of the Site.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction and General Objectives

- 3.1.1 The principal aim of this archaeological work was to provide further information concerning the presence/absence, date, nature and extent of any buried archaeological remains, and to investigate and record all archaeological features revealed, to ensure their preservation by record.
- 3.1.2 A further objective was to record potential features identified through the geophysical survey, and hence to further establish the accuracy of such methods in helping to identify the archaeological potential of the Site.
- 3.1.3 A specific aim was to identify whether potential archaeological features identified as anomalies in the geophysical survey were related to the known barrow group, which lie in the immediate vicinity.
- 3.1.4 **Excavation Areas**
- 3.1.5 The strip, map and record (S/M/R) area measures approximately 1,600m in total length and between 7.00m and 8.00m wide (**Figure 1**) and was established partly as a result of the previous phases of work detailed in section 2, and as a result of being the preferred option to three proposed routes that were initially considered.

3.2 Stripping and Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.2.1 The majority of the archaeological fieldwork was undertaken and completed in advance of any scheme construction. The exception was the westernmost 40m and small hardstanding area located to the west of V3 which will be monitored at a later date during construction as an archaeological watching brief.
- 3.2.2 A 360⁰ mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket was used to remove the overburden (topsoil/subsoil) under the constant supervision of a qualified professional archaeologist. Machine excavation continued down to the first recognisable archaeological horizon or natural geology, whichever was encountered first.
- 3.2.3 Spoil was temporarily stored along the edge of the stripped area and where practical did not exceed 5.00m from the edge of excavation. Topsoil and subsoil/overburden deposits were stored separately and scanned, both visually and by metal detector, for artefacts.
- 3.2.4 No machinery was allowed to track on exposed archaeological or natural surfaces, excepting where all archaeological recording had been completed, and the work signed off by the Wiltshire Council's Archaeology Service.
- 3.2.5 Subsequent to machine removal of the upper layers, the Site was cleaned by hand, as appropriate, to enable an accurate site plan to be produced. Further excavation of archaeological features or deposits was then undertaken by hand.

3.3 Excavation Sampling Strategy

- 3.3.1 All archaeological features were sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them. However, the following strategy was employed as a minimum sample level:
- 50% (by plan area) of each post hole.
 - 50% (by plan area) of each pit.
 - Up to 20% (by plan area) of each linear feature.
 - 100% of ditch terminals.
 - 100% of intersections between linear features will be examined.
 - 100% of human burials (cremation and inhumation)
 - 100% of major features such as ring ditches.

3.4 Monitoring

- 3.4.1 Wiltshire Council's Archaeological Advisor, was notified prior to commencement of work on the Site. Reasonable access to the Site was arranged for representatives of the Local Planning Authority and their Archaeological Advisors.

3.5 Recording

- 3.5.1 All exposed archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and recording system.
- 3.5.2 Areas under archaeological observation were surveyed using a differential GPS and tied in to the Ordnance Survey.

3.5.3 A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This included both plans and sections, drawn to the appropriate scale (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels were calculated and plans/sections were annotated with OD heights.

3.5.4 A full photographic record was maintained using colour transparencies, black and white negatives (on 35 mm film) and Digital photography. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and the general context of the principal features, finds excavated, and the Site as a whole.

3.6 Reinstatement

3.6.1 At the conclusion of the excavation, once the Wiltshire Council's Archaeological Advisor had signed off all the areas within this phase of work, the stripped area was backfilled with the up cast spoil. The backfilling was undertaken with a mechanical digger and the spoil was replaced in order of excavation, i.e. sub-soils beneath topsoil/ploughsoil.

3.7 Human Remains

3.7.1 Human remains were left *in situ*, covered and protected as appropriate, until the Client, Coroner and Local Planning Authority Advisor had been informed. Where development unavoidably disturbed remains, they were fully recorded, excavated and removed from the Site subject to compliance with the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence which was obtained by Wessex Archaeology.

3.8 Artefact Recovery

Finds

3.8.1 Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (amended 2008), the UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines "Conservation Guideline No 2" and the Museums and Galleries Commissions "Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (1991)" excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

3.8.2 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date. No finds will be discarded without the prior approval of the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisors and Wiltshire Museum Service and Library Service.

3.8.3 All retained artefacts were, as a minimum, washed, weighed, counted and identified. Any artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions were dealt with immediately in line with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 1998).

3.8.4 Information will be obtained from Wiltshire Museums Service and Library Service, concerning conditions and arrangements for the deposition of finds.

Environmental Sampling

- 3.8.5 The strategy for sampling archaeological and environmental deposits and structures was developed in consultation with Wessex Archaeology's Environmental Department.
- 3.8.6 Where possible, bulk environmental soil samples of a minimum of 40 litres were taken from suitable sealed archaeological features and deposits for plant macrofossils, small animal bones and small artefacts.
- 3.8.7 Bulk environmental soil samples were processed by flotation and scanned to assess the environmental potential of deposits, but were not fully analysed at this assessment stage. The residues and sieved fractions were recorded and retained with the project archive.
- 3.8.8 A specialist geo-archaeologist visited the Site to comment on, and record the Early Bronze Age deposit sequence including layer **13156**, and to inform the understanding of the site formation processes (section 4, below).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following section summarises the results of the archaeological excavation and is integrated with selected specialist material and presented as a chronological narrative describing the development of the Site. All periods of activity identified on the Site are shown on **Figures 2, 3 and 4** with detail of the eastern end of the Site depicted on **Figures 5 and 6**. The detailed assessment of the artefactual assemblage is presented in section 5 and the detailed assessment of the environmental evidence in Section 6 of this report. More detailed descriptions of the archaeological features and deposits can be found in the paper and digital archive.

4.2 The archive

- 4.2.1 The completed project archive, which will include records, plans, photos, artefacts, ecofacts and sieved residues, will be prepared to comply with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990)
- 4.2.2 It is recommended that the project archive, including the finds and environmental samples and subject to the wishes of the landowner, will be deposited with the Wiltshire Museums and Library Service, as appropriate for long-term curation.

4.3 Natural deposits and soil sequences

- 4.3.1 The Site is depicted on the British Geological Survey (BGS) mapping (sheet 282, 1:63360) as lying on Middle Chalk, however overlying ancient, possibly peri-glacial, colluvial deposits were encountered between Delta Crossing and Delta (West) Crossing. Many of the archaeological features encountered in the northern portion of the Site, including cremation cemetery **13345** were found to be cutting this colluvial deposit.

4.4 Early Bronze Age (c.2400 – 1500 BC)

4.4.1 A spread of Early Bronze Age worked flint comprising 483 pieces was recovered from the far south-western end of the Site, c.50m northeast of V3 (**Figure 2**). The finds included numerous flint flakes, broken flakes, flake cores, retouched flakes, a rejuvenation tablet and a scraper (**OB108**).

4.4.2 This spread of worked flint (**13156**) and one sherd (14g) of Early Bronze Age grog-tempered pottery (**OB107**), was situated at the base of a shallow-sloping dry-valley (**Plate 1**), in which a soil and colluvial sequence was found to overlay the scatter. The deposit within which these flints were lying was exposed in plan across the full width of the trench, with the overlying deposits clearly visible in section.

4.4.3 This sequence comprised;

- **13000** - 0-0.24m - Modern topsoil (rendsina type); 10YR 3/3 dark brown silt loam with rare flint up to 40mm
- **13154** - 0.24m-0.40m – Roman or post-Roman colluvium – 10YR 3/4 dark yellowish brown silt loam, slight bit of clay, poorly to un-sorted, quite common flint up to c.40mm and occasional chalk.
- **13155** - 0.40m-0.62m - Buried soil – 10YR 3/3 dark brown clay loam, stonefree, occasional flint to base
- **13156** - 0.62m+ - brecciated flint with occasional chalk pieces in a sparse dark brown matrix

4.4.4 The buried soil (**13155**) near the base of the sequence represents the prehistoric through to Romano-British or later land-surface, probably truncated to some degree at the same time the colluvium (**13154**) was laid down. It is worm-sorted and stonefree, and represents a rendsina soil probably developed in a chalk grassland environment broadly similar to the current land cover. It has been sealed by colluvium (**13154**), the deposition of which would have been a direct result of ploughing upslope at some point during or after the Romano-British period (as indicated by the finds within it).

4.4.5 The flints from layer **13156** were found to be distributed throughout the thickness (10-20cm) of the brecciated flint layer, and this layer is therefore best viewed as colluvium of prehistoric date, originating from the slopes surrounding the point of investigation, and probably with some of the finer material (e.g. silts) being flushed down the valley axis. The finds therefore represent material from 'sites' from the immediate area, but are not necessarily *in-situ*.

4.5 Middle to Late Bronze Age (c.1500 – 700 BC)

4.5.1 A linear cremation cemetery (**13345**) was identified in the north-western limit of the Site (**Figures 4 and 6**). The cemetery comprised a total of 54 circular and sub-circular features, one possible ring ditch and a sub-oval pit containing burnt or fire cracked flint. Of the 54 identified circular and sub-circular features, 27 were fully excavated whilst the remainder were preserved *in-situ*.

4.5.2 The cemetery area exposed by excavation was between 3m and 5m wide and extended in a northeast to southwest direction for at least 50m. Although the actual limits of the cemetery are obscure, it can be considered

that the cemetery extends further to the northeast, and potentially further to the southwest beyond the limits of excavation, even though there is a reduction in the density of features in that direction.

- 4.5.3 A possible section of ring ditch was also identified within the cemetery (**13243**). The ditch was extremely shallow and rather ephemeral. A c.4.00m long section could be identified within the excavation area, but a full arc was not observed. The ditch could not be identified at the level of the initial strip, and was only identified after a second phase of stripping (see below).
- 4.5.4 A single northeast to southwest ditch (**13346**) was identified approximately 4m to the northwest of the cemetery; this ditch extended parallel to the cremations and clearly respected, or was respected by the cemetery.
- 4.5.5 A continuation of the northeast to southwest trend exhibited by the cremation cemetery and ditch **13346** can be observed in the wider area. A small barrow cemetery comprising four contiguous ploughed out barrows, is present c.50m to the northwest and extends on the same alignment parallel to the cremation cemetery. Five other dispersed ploughed out barrows have been identified within 600m of the cremation cemetery, these are broadly situated along the line of the present A360, the foremost communication route through the western portion of Salisbury Plain (Morris and Powell, 2011, 62). It is likely that the small contiguous barrow cemetery and these barrows are part of the same group. The four contiguous barrows, and by association the cremation cemetery, form a clear and distinct alignment.
- 4.5.6 The cemetery was excavated in two phases; the first phase comprised the initial machine stripping, down to the first level at which archaeological features were identified. At this stage 22 features were identified, and comprised 17 cremation burials (**13004**, **13005**, **13008**, **13015**, **13020**, **13021**, **13024**, **13030**, **13034**, **13047**, **13056**, **13060**, **13064**, **13076**, **13078**, **13085** and **13103**), three similarly sized pits containing fuel ash or pyre debris (**13014**, **13040** and **13042**), and two similarly sized empty pits or post holes (**13110** and **13029**). Many of these features contained a final backfill which was derived from, and in some cases almost indistinguishable from, the colluvial material which they cut. Given these conditions, it was considered highly likely that more features were present, which could not be visually identified at the level of the initial excavation; consequently a second phase of machine excavation was conducted once all the previously recognised features had been fully excavated. The Site was reduced by an average of 0.1m, and to a maximum of 0.19m below the level of the initial strip, under constant supervision of two experienced archaeologists. Subsequently a further 33 features were identified at this second stage; these included three cremation burials (**13233**, **13237** and **13242**), 27 unexcavated circular features, considered likely to be cremation burials, which were preserved *in-situ*, two further empty cremation burial sized pits or post holes (**13236** and **13239**), and a possible section of ring ditch (**13243**).
- 4.5.7 Five of the cremation burials (**13021**, **13024**, **13030** (**Plate 2**), **13056** and **13060**) contained partially intact or fragmentary ceramic vessels. Four of these cremation burials were 'block lifted' off the Site, to be excavated by an osteoarchaeologist under controlled laboratory conditions; this was done partly because of the difficult seasonal working conditions encountered on

Site, and to maximise the potential information which can be retrieved from stratigraphic excavation of these burials. At this stage these burials await excavation; present information was obtained during the lifting process and cursory scans of the material before storage, and therefore should not be considered definitive.

- 4.5.8 The excavated cremation graves were circular or sub-circular in plan with an average diameter of 0.46m and the average depth was 0.23m. Edges of cuts were steep to vertical and the bases were flat to concave. The largest excavated diameter was 0.64m from multiple cremation grave **13103**, which was also the deepest at 0.30m below excavated ground level. The smallest diameter was 0.26m, from grave **13237**, and the shallowest was grave **13233** at 0.05m. Both of these small graves contained infant remains.
- 4.5.9 Six of the graves contained a single episodic fill (**13004**, **13047**, **13076**, **13233**, **13237** and **13242**) from one phase of deposition. Cremated human remains, pyre debris and fuel ash were recovered from burial **13004**, while cremated human remains and pyre debris were retrieved **13047**, **13237** and **13242**; burials **13076** and **13233** contained cremated human remains only.
- 4.5.10 Seven of the graves contained two distinct phases of broadly contemporaneous deposition (**13005**, **13008**, **13015**, **13020**, **13064**, **13078** and **13085**). With the exception of grave **13005**, where cremation related deposits were present in both the initial and final (upper) fill, all of these fills comprised a principal deposition containing cremated human remains and pyre debris (**13008**, **13015**, **13064**, **13078** and **13085**), or cremated human remains alone (**13020**), followed by a secondary backfill, or sealing deposit of colluvium derived material, presumably originating from the initial excavation of the grave pit.
- 4.5.11 Multiple fills were identified within two graves (**13034** and **13103**). These were both situated within the projected interior of possible ring ditch **13243**. Grave pit **13103** (**Plate 3**) was the largest excavated cremation grave within the Site (Ø0.64m×0.30m); it contained a principle deposition of cremated remains (an adult and foetus) and re-deposited pyre debris, followed by a second deposit containing the cremated remains of a sub-adult or adult. One broken flint blade, one broken flint flake and a relatively large (4200g) piece of greensand (**OB113**), with a central, natural hole, were retrieved from this subsequent phase of deposition. It is considered unlikely that the piece of greensand represented a grave marker, as it is deliberately covered by successive sealing deposit of colluvium derived material, and it should be considered to be a deliberately placed stone. Grave **13034** (**Plate 4**) was essentially similar to the bi-phase cremation graves noted above. However, an erosion deposit originating from the southern side of the pit, was deposited before the principle cremation burial of human remains and re-deposited pyre debris was placed in the cavity, indicating the pit was probably pre-dug, perhaps some time before the actual interment.
- 4.5.12 The initial assessment of the human bone from the cremation burials indicated that there is a high percentage (>50%) of immature individuals, including infants (0.5-5 years old), juveniles (5-12 years old) and sub-adults (<18yr.). The majority of the adult remains recovered appear to have been under 45 years old (see section 5).

- 4.5.13 There was no obvious spatial distribution or grouping among the excavated immature and adult burials. However, all of the five cremation graves containing partially intact or fragmentary ceramic vessels were situated within a 3m radius, located adjacent to, and southwest of the possible ring ditch **13243**. No stratigraphic relationship could be obtained or observed between ring ditch **13243** and these burials.
- 4.5.14 Although no obvious spatial distribution between immature and adult burials could be observed at this stage, a potential stratigraphic distinction was noted between the depositional procedure within pits containing immature and adult burials. Infant or juvenile remains were recovered from 83% of the excavated single fill burials (**13047**, **13076**, **13233**, **13237** and **13242**), with only burial **13004** containing adult cremated remains; while only 28% of the 'two phase' burials (**13064** and **13085**) contained infant or juvenile/sub-adult remains. In a continuation of this apparent pattern, 100% of the multiple fill burials (**13034** and **13103**), contained adult or sub-adult remains (assuming the foetal remains were cremated *in-utero*).
- 4.5.15 Excluding the ceramic vessels associated with the block lifted cremation graves (**13024**, **13030**, **13056** and **13060**), finds from the cremation graves were limited to fragments of prehistoric pottery and worked flint, with one piece of sandstone found with burial **13103**. Middle Bronze Age pottery was recovered from burials **13004** and **13047**, while prehistoric pottery was retrieved from **13015**, and small quantities of worked flint were retrieved from burials **13034**, **13047**, **13076**, **13064**, **13085** and **13103**. Mature wood charcoal was also recovered from burials **13004**, **13005**, **13008**, **13015**, **13034**, **13047**, **13078**, and **13103**. In terms of stratigraphic structure and finds distribution:
- 50% of the excavated single fill burials contained finds and 33% contained mature wood charcoal;
 - 42% of the double fill burials contained finds and 57% contained mature wood charcoal; and
 - 100% of the multiple fill burials contained both finds and mature wood charcoal.
- 4.5.16 Pit **13014** was found to contain only fuel ash and two sherds (8g) of Middle Bronze Age flint tempered pottery. The pit was relatively large in diameter at 0.62m and 0.17m deep with steep sides and a flat to concave base. It contained three distinct fills. The first was colluvium derived and may have originated from the north side of the pit. The second fill contained the fuel ash and pottery; this also appears to have been deposited from the north side. The final fill was also colluvium derived, and in-filled a small settling cone on the southern side of the pit.
- 4.5.17 Two further pits (**13040** and **13042**) were found to contain pyre debris only. Pit **13040** was relatively large at 0.77m in diameter and 0.27m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. Similar to fuel ash pit **13014**, pit **13040** also contained an initial fill which was derived from the surrounding colluvial material; with only the second and final fill containing the fuel ash and (also like pit **13014**) two sherds (6g) of Middle Bronze Age flint tempered pottery. Pit **13042** was much shallower at only 0.04m deep with a diameter of 0.42m.

It contained a single fill from which re-deposited pyre debris, including 1g of cremated infant bone; four pieces of animal bone, two worked flint flakes and one retouched flake were also recovered.

- 4.5.18 All three fuel ash or pyre debris pits (**13014**, **13040** and **13042**) were located along the northern edge of the cemetery.
- 4.5.19 Four relatively sterile cremation burial sized pits were identified at the south-western end of the cemetery (**13029**, **13110**, **13239** and **13236**). No cremated human remains were recovered from these pits which, with the exception of pit **13236**, contained only one fill, derived from the surrounding colluvium. Pit **13236** contained two distinct fills; the first being derived from the colluvial material and the second final fill being topsoil derived; this fill was found to contain a single broken worked flint flake, which was probably residual. The presence of these 'empty' pits in the south-western end of the cemetery is indicative of some forward planning regarding the lay out of the cemetery, and it is considered likely that these pits were initially excavated in advance, perhaps some time in advance of any cremation rite.
- 4.5.20 Pits **13029**, **13110** and **13236** have all been excavated broadly in line with the north-western edge of the cemetery. Pit **13239** protruded c.2.00m further to the northwest at right angles to the north-western edge of the cemetery. This pattern appears to be repeated 22m to the northeast where one of the unexcavated (preserved *in-situ*) cremation pits also protrudes further to the northwest, at right angles to the northern edge of the cemetery. This pattern is again repeated to the south-west where sub-ovoid pit **13135**, which contained large quantities of burnt flint, was situated immediately in line and 22m distant from pit **13239**, making these three protruding features equidistantly placed.
- 4.5.21 Sub-ovoid pit **13135** was situated 13m south-west of the last identified cremation size pit (empty pit **13110**) at the south-western end the cemetery. It was located 1.20m southeast of ditch **13346**, which curves around the pit to the southwest. Pit **13135** was 1.26m long, 0.64m wide and 0.22m deep, it contained two fills, the final fill (**13133**) contained c.25kg (1270 fragments) of burnt or fire cracked flint, no other finds were recovered.
- 4.5.22 A single northeast to southwest linear ditch (**13346**) was identified c.4m northwest of the cemetery and extended parallel to it for at least 37m before extending beyond the limits of the excavated area. The previous geophysical survey (see section 2) indicated that the ditch is likely to extend for at least another 32m to the northeast. Ditch **13346** evidently respected, or was respected by the cremation cemetery, and the southern 'off-line' turn in this features course (around pit **13135**), may potentially represent the south-western limit of the cremation cemetery itself. Finds from ditch **13346** suggest it is broadly contemporary with the cremation cemetery.
- 4.5.23 Ditch **13346** was found to be between 0.98m and 1.18m wide and between 0.36m and 0.51m deep. It contained two distinct fills in its central and south-western portion, which reduced to one in the northeast. Where present, the first fill of the ditch appeared to be gradually formed through a process of silting rather than more rapid edge derived deposition or slumping and no clear direction of deposition could be ascertained. Only one sherd (3g) of

heavily abraded Middle/Late Bronze Age pottery and four pieces of burnt or fire cracked flint were recovered from this phase of deposition.

- 4.5.24 In formation process the second and final fill of ditch **13346** was very similar to the first, however a slightly greater quantity and diversity of finds were recovered, these included; one base sherd (78g) of Middle Bronze Age flint tempered pottery and 12 sherds (58g) of Middle Bronze Age shell temper pottery; 1g of possible Late Bronze Age pottery was also recovered, although this could be intrusive, two worked flint flakes, three broken flakes and two pieces of burnt or fire cracked flint (34g). Animal bone was retrieved from throughout the ditch although much was unidentifiable. Nevertheless, a varied assemblage comprising of a fragmentary cattle skull (**ABG112**), two cattle vertebrae, horse pelvis and a red deer mandible were recovered from fill **13082** (see section 5).
- 4.5.25 Although undated, the short section of possible ring ditch **13243** appeared to be respected by cremation burials **13021**, **13056** and **13060** indicating this feature may be contemporaneous or perhaps pre-dating the cremation cemetery. Ditch **13243** was extremely ephemeral in plan, but proved to be rather more convincing on investigation. The ditch was up to 0.70m wide and 0.09m deep and was filled with a single topsoil derived deposit from which no finds were recovered. Ditch **13243** curved tightly round from the south-eastern bulk towards the northwest, and if complete would have formed a circle c.6m in diameter. Efforts to locate any returns to ditch **13243** were made, but proved to be unsuccessful. However it should be noted that cremation burials **13021**, **13078**, **13085** and **13233** are all located on the perimeter of the projected 6m circle, and may have been positioned in a way that respects this fragmentary ring ditch.
- 4.5.26 Away from the cremation cemetery features that can be attributed Middle Bronze Age date were limited to two contiguous small pits (**13043** and **13057**) located to the north of Delta (West) Crossing (**Figure 4**). Pit **13043** was sub-oval in plan with moderate to steeply sloping straight sides and a concave base, 0.73m long (NE-SW), 0.56m wide and 0.16m deep. It contained a single fill (**13044**) probably derived from the initial excavation up cast with no direction of deposition observed. Fill **13044** was found to contain 16 sherds body and base sherds of Middle Bronze Age flint tempered pottery (121g), one piece of burnt flint (7g) and 20 fragments (4855g) of burnt quern stone (**OB104**). Pit **13057** was situated 0.60m south of pit **13043**; it was also sub-oval in plan and measured 0.90m long (N-S), 0.65m wide and 0.34m deep, with steep to moderately sloping steeped sides and a V-shaped base. Pit **13057** was contained two fills (**13059** and **13058**), with no clear direction of deposition. Finds were only retrieved from the upper fill (**13058**) and these included four sherds (51g) of Middle Bronze Age pottery from a plain flint tempered upright rim, 6 pieces of burnt or fire cracked flint (179g), and three fragments (191g) of quern stone (not burnt).
- 4.5.27 Although the finds from pits (**13043** and **13057**) appear to originate from settlement or domestic based activity, the quality of environmental evidence recovered from them was extremely limited. This may indicate these pit features were more closely linked to activities associated with the surrounding funerary landscape, rather than domestic activity. The potentially rapidly backfilled nature of these pits, and the (deliberately?) burnt quern fragments may also support this hypothesis.

4.5.28 Ditch **13069** was situated to the north of Delta (West) Crossing. Although no finds were recovered from ditch section **13069**, the south-western continuation of this feature (**12010**) was investigated during a previous phase of work (Wessex Archaeology, 2012), and four sherds (24g) of Late Bronze Age pottery were retrieved. Ditch **12010** extended in a broadly northeast to southwest direction for c.23m within the excavation area. The geophysical survey indicates this feature continues under the northwest bulk in a northwest direction for at least 55m before potentially terminating. This projection would place ditch **12010** directly in line with undated ditch **13349** further to the northwest.

4.6 Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

4.6.1 A number of Romano-British features were identified during this phase of the works; these were linked to agricultural activities rather than settlement activity, although pottery finds in a number of features are indicative of nearby occupation.

4.6.2 At the south-western limit of the Site (**Figure 2**), colluvial layer **13154**, formed as a direct result of ploughing upslope, was found to contain the base of a Roman oxidised flagon or beaker (OB109) and one sherd of high status Roman Samian ware (OB110) was recovered. These finds in themselves do not necessarily date colluvial layer **13154** to the Romano-British period, but they are indicative of Romano-British settlement activity in the areas to the north of the Site.

4.6.3 A second layer (**13330**) was identified within the settling hollow left by undated anomaly **13350** (**Figure 3**). This deposit, which was extremely fine, formed through a mixed process of water-borne silting, colluvial deposition and aeolian deposition. It was found to contain one sherd (1g) of Roman oxidised ware and three sherds (13g) of Roman Savernake ware pottery and 36 pieces of residual worked flint.

4.6.4 Situated c.20m northeast of anomaly **13350**, a substantial lynchet (**13253**) was also found to contain similar Roman pottery. Two sherds (3g) of Roman oxidised ware and two sherds (41g) originating from a Savernake ware beaded rim jar were recovered from the 'fill' (**13254**) of the lynchet.

4.6.5 Shallow pit **13252** was situated immediately northeast of lynchet **13253**. The pit was oval in plan, 1.56m long (E-W), 0.84m wide and 0.12m deep, with shallow sloping concave sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (**13251**) which was found to contain one sherd (1g) of Savernake ware pottery.

4.6.6 Two further Romano-British features (**13338** and **13343**) and were identified c.160m southwest of Delta (West) Crossing (**Figure 3**). Ditch **13338** was situated c.10m north of small linear **13343**. It extended in a northwest to southeast direction across the excavation area, to the south of overhead power cables that crossed the Site. The ditch was 0.84m wide and 0.23m deep with moderately sloping concave sides and a concave base. The ditch contained two fills (**13284/13339** and **13340**) from which, relatively large quantities of Roman pottery were recovered from the first (**13284/13339**). These finds included a diverse assortment of Roman pottery, including, the neck of a oxidised ware flagon (34g), three body sherds (10g) from a

mortarium (Oxford colour coat ware), 13 sherds (135g) from a grey ware everted rim jar, 10 sherds (109g) from a Black burnished ware dropped flange bowl, 7 sherds (40g) of Savernake ware pottery and four very adraided sherds (3g) of Samian pottery and a small piece of sandstone roof tile. This clearly domestic group has been spot-dated to the late 3rd or 4th century AD, and is indicative of near-by settlement activity. Small ditch **13343**, extended east-west for 2.70m within the west side of the excavation area. The ditch was 0.26m wide and 0.06m deep with shallow sloping straight sides and a concave base, the single fill of this feature (**13344**) contained one sherd (1g) of Roman grey-ware pottery.

- 4.6.7 A possible gully or root line (**13104**) was found to be cut by undated ditch **13349** (**Figure 5**). Feature **13104** was 0.26m wide and 0.09m deep and did not extend beyond the southern edge of ditch 13349. Feature **13104** was found to contain one sherd (6g) of Roman grey-ware pottery in its single mid brown silty clay fill (**13105**). The identification of Roman pottery within this context causes some potential phasing issues within this portion of the Site, as undated ditch **13349**, which cuts this feature (**13104**), is situated on the same alignment as Late Bronze Age ditch **12010** and appears to part of the same structure. No other Romano-British features or finds have been identified in this portion of the Site, and given small quantity of Roman pottery (1 sherd), and the shallow nature of feature **13104**, it is quite feasible that this pottery is intrusive, that both feature **13104** and ditch **13349** are both considerably earlier in date, however at present, a question mark must remain as to the phasing of ditch **13349**.

4.7 Features of uncertain date

- 4.7.1 A total of 51 undated features comprising 31 pits or post holes and 20 linear features, were investigated during the works. Many of these features can be cautiously dated by association (of form and/or orientation) to other, more securely dated features within the Site; others remain undated.
- 4.7.2 In the south-western portion of the Site, c.50m northeast of brecciated flint spread (**13156**), a small group of two pits (**13177** and **13181**) and one linear (**13179**) was detected (**Figure 2**). Pit **13177** was sub-circular in plan, 1.07m×0.05m, 0.20m deep with moderately sloping concave sides and a concave base. This feature appeared to have been left open for a period and silted naturally. Pit **13181** was situated 20m northwest of **13177**; it measured 1.53m×0.32m and was 0.21m deep. It was oval in plan with moderately sloping concave sides and a concave base. Pit **13181** also appears to have filled through natural processes rather than rapid deliberate backfill. Small linear feature **13179** extended in a northeast to southwest direction for 25m within the excavation area. This feature was 0.47m wide and 0.05m deep, and although it is not certain it is considered likely this feature may have formed as a result of ploughing.
- 4.7.3 Located in apparent isolation, possible post hole **13194** was found to be 0.37m in diameter and 0.05m (**Figure 2**). Post hole **13194** was situated amongst a tight cluster of undated northeast-southwest plough scars (a sort of proto-lynchet), although no relationship between the post hole and the plough scars could be identified. No finds were recovered from this post hole.

- 4.7.4 The next group of undated features were situated c.80m northwest of post hole **13194** (**Figure 2**). This dispersed group comprised two linear features (**13203** and **13214**) and two possible pits (**13201** and **13208**). Linear features **13203** and **13214**, both extended in a broadly north-south direction, it is considered likely that they both represent natural features, **13203** being a probable peri-glacial scar and **13214** being a tree throw or bioturbation. Pit **13201** was sub-ovoid in plan, 1.40m×0.38m and 0.26m deep, and appears to have been left open for some time and silted naturally. Pit **13208** was rectangular in plan (0.74m×0.58m and 0.23m deep), and is considered likely to be modern in origin.
- 4.7.5 A series of undated lynchets were investigated c.100m northwest of pit **13208** (**Figures 2** and **3**). This group comprised three northeast-southwest lynchets (**13211**, **13351** and **13247**), one east-west lynchet (**13224**). On investigation these feature proved to be formed through ploughing of the hill slope, and many revealed plough scarring at the base. Although no dating evidence was recovered from any of these features they are almost certainly from the same phase of activity as lynchet **13253** which was found to contain Roman pottery; this cautiously dates these feature to the Romano-British or post-Roman period. It is also considered likely that many of the northeast-southwest plough scars identified in the south-western portion of the Site also relate to this phase of activity.
- 4.7.6 Undated ditch **13351** was situated c.5m north of lynchet **13224** (**Figure 2**). This ditch was 1.08m wide and 0.32m deep with moderately to steeply sloping sides and a flat to concave base. The northeast to south west alignment of this ditch may indicate similar phasing.
- 4.7.7 Anomaly **13350** (**Figure 3** and **Plate 5**) comprised a series of parallel north-south linear features (**13331** and **13333**) possible linear pits (**13329** and **13227**) and three flanking ditches (**13218**, **13220** and **13229**). No dating evidence was retrieved from any of these features, however within the exception of the north-western “flanking” ditches **13218** and **13220**, all of the features were sealed by the fine multi-process deposit **13330** (see above), which contained Roman pottery and residual worked flint. A double sheep/goat burial (**13249**) (**Plate 6**) was also situated on top of deposit **13330**, but this is considered to be relatively modern.
- 4.7.8 Apart from the upper layers, the only clear stratigraphic relationship identified within this group was between the south-western “flanking” ditch **13229** which predates, and was overlain by pits **13227** and **13329**. Ditch **13229** was found to be 0.58m wide and 0.07m deep with shallow concave sides and a concave base. Flanking ditch **13218** was situated 11.00m northeast of ditch **13229**; it was found to be 0.98m wide and 0.13m deep with steeply sloping straight sides and an undulating base. Extending immediately parallel to ditch **13218**, ditch **13220** was 0.59m wide and 0.08m deep with moderately sloping straight sides and a flat base. Two linear features were identified within the flanking ditches (**13331** and **13333**). Ditch **13331** was found to be 1.00m wide and 0.18m deep with moderately sloping straight sides and a concave base. This ditch was found to be extending parallel to pit **13329**, but no convincing relationship could be established between these features.

- 4.7.9 The large ditch (**13333**) was situated c.0.50m northeast of ditch **13331** and appeared to be extending parallel to this feature. Ditch **13333** was wide but relatively shallow at 0.31m. During the early phases of excavation it was considered possible that this feature (given the smaller flanking ditches) represented a hollow way track cutting the hill slope, however no evidence of wheel rutting, trampling or loess deposition was detected within the base of the feature, and it is therefore considered more likely to be a large boundary ditch.
- 4.7.10 Between anomaly **13350** and the crest of the hill slope, five ovoid and sub-circular pits were identified (**13256**, **13278**, **13286**, **13288** and **13289**) (**Figure 3**). These ranged in size from 1.90m×0.80m in plan to 0.65m×0.25m and from 0.29m to 0.17m deep. Although no retainable dating evidence was retrieved from these features, some minute fragments of pottery, perceived to be prehistoric by the excavator, were recovered from pit **13289**, and it would seem plausible to cautiously date the rest of these features to the prehistoric period by association.
- 4.7.11 Two undated post holes or pits (**13293** and **13300**) were identified c.85m to the north of the possible prehistoric pits (**Figure 3**). These were associated with a small group of modern military rubbish pits, and it is considered likely that these two feature also relate to this phase of activity.
- 4.7.12 Situated on the north facing slope leading to Delta (West) Crossing, four parallel east-west linear ditches were identified (**13307/13309**, **13313**, **13316** and **13328**- **Figure 3**). Broad and shallow linear boundary ditch **13316** was 1.67m wide and 0.28m deep. It was found to contain one worked flint flake within the secondary fill **13315**, but may be considered to be residual in original and not a contemporaneous placed deposit. Ditch **13316** was re-cut by later ditch **13313**. Ditch **13313** was similar in profile to earlier ditch **13316**, being 1.49m wide and 0.37m deep, with moderately sloping straight sides and a flat base. This re-cut boundary ditch was flanked to the south by smaller ditch **13328**. Ditch **13328** was 0.78m wide and 0.20m deep and extended exactly parallel to ditches **13313** and **13316** and is believed to be broadly contemporary. Small linear ditch or gully **13307/13309** was situated c.30m to the north of ditch **13313**. Linear **13307/13309** was found to be 0.45m wide and 0.03m deep; it has clearly suffered some modern plough truncation, but is believed to be part of the same system as the southern group.
- 4.7.13 Two groups of undated pits, possible post-holes and one possible undated linear terminus were identified around, and to the north of Romano-British ditch **13338** (**Figure 3**). The features situated in closest proximity to the Romano-British ditch (pits **13317**, **13324** and post hole **13319**) appear to respect the Romano-British ditch and it is considered they are broadly contemporaneous. The second group of features (pits **13257**, **13260**, **13263**, post holes **13269** and **13273** and linear terminus **13267**) are spatially separated from the first group, but were morphologically similar, and are probably from a similar phase of activity.
- 4.7.14 A further group of three undated pits (**13049**, **13051** and **13065**) and one post hole (**13045**) were located 23m north of the two Middle Bronze Age pits **13043** and **13057** (**Figure 4**). Small pit **13049** was found to be cut by small pit **13051** which contained mature wood charcoal. Post hole **13045**

measured 0.32m in diameter and was 0.11m deep, it was situated c.1m northeast of pits **13049** and **13051** and is believed to be contemporary.

- 4.7.15 All three features were sealed within a slight hollow, by an undated layer of colluvial material. This colluvial material was distinctly different, and perhaps later than the colluvium cut by the Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery (**13345**), located c.250m to the northeast. Circular pit **13065** was situated c.15m northeast of post hole **13045**, it shallow and circular in plan (1.18m in diameter) and 0.09m deep. It was found to contain three pieces (33g) of burnt or fire cracked flint, and is considered likely to be contemporary with the features (**13045**, **13049** and **13051**).
- 4.7.16 The next group of undated features comprised northeast-southwest linear ditch **13349** (cautiously dated to the Late Bronze Age – see above, paragraph 4.6.7), which was found to cut and overlie linear pit **13098**, possible gully **13104** and northwest to southeast linear ditch **13348** (**Figure 5**). A third east-west linear ditch and terminus (**13347**) was situated c.3.50m to the east.
- 4.7.17 Ditch **13348** was clearly cut by ditch **13349**; it was quite substantial at 1.63m wide and 0.76m deep with steeply sloping stepped sides and a flat base. Finds were limited to a single broken flint flake. Ditch **13349** was found to be 1.78m wide and 0.36m deep, three fragments (17g) and nine pieces antler were recovered from this feature. To the east linear ditch and ditch terminus **13347** was 1.60m wide and only 0.12m deep, its single fill was found to contain one piece (8g) of burnt or fire cracked flint.
- 4.7.18 Possible post hole **13142** (**Figure 5**), was found to be 0.25m in diameter and 0.03m deep, its function is unclear but the single broken flint flake retrieved from its single fill may be indicative of prehistoric origins. Situated c.35m northeast of post hole **13142**, a line of three post holes (**13144**, **13146** and **13148**) were identified extending in a northwest to southeast direction. These post holes were generally sub-rectangular and sub-angular in plan and believed to be modern.
- 4.7.19 A final group of undated linear ditches or gullies (**13172**, **13139/13160**, **13136/13157**, **13162** and **13222**), a possible ditch terminus (**13187**) and a shallow pit (**13185**) were situated c.12m southwest of the cremation cemetery ditch **13346** (**Figure 5**). No finds were retrieved from any of these features, although no stratigraphic phasing was retrieved. Small linear ditch **13172** extended in a slightly curving northwest to southeast direction, c.4m west of ditch **13139/13160**. It was found to be 0.58m wide and 0.20m deep with moderately sloping straight sides and a flat base. Gully **13162**, was found to be cut by small linear ditch **13136/13157**, which was itself cut by **13139/13160**. These features are believed to be field boundary ditches which have been successively re-cut as necessary. Linear feature **13187** was found to extend in a northwest to southeast direction before terminating 0.70m short of gully **13162**. A small pit **13185** was located c.2m northeast of terminus **13187**. Pit **13185** was 0.74m in diameter and 0.15m deep, it was found to contain four pieces of burnt flint, which may indicate a prehistoric date. Gully **13222** was located c.2m east of pit **13185**; it extended in a northwest-southeast direction and was 0.55m wide and 0.08m deep.

5 ARTEFACTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The finds assemblage recovered is not large, but is of interest for the presence of human remains and associated artefacts from a cremation cemetery of Middle Bronze Age date, including several urned burials. Small quantities of other Middle/Late Bronze Age material were recovered, as well as a small group of Romano-British material, but these components are very limited in terms of the range of material types encountered.

5.2 Summary quantification

- 5.2.1 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals are presented in **Table 6**.

5.3 Pottery

- 5.3.1 The pottery assemblage includes material of prehistoric and Romano-British date.

Prehistoric

- 5.3.2 The prehistoric assemblage consists largely of a group of Middle Bronze Age vessels found in cremation graves. Six of these were recovered, in various states of completeness, from cremation graves **13004 (OB100)**, **13021 (OB101)**, **13024 (OB102)**, **13030 (OB103)**, **13056 (OB105)** and **13060 (OB111)**. Four were block-lifted on site (although some sherds were recovered separately and have already been processed) and will be fully excavated under controlled conditions in the offices of Wessex Archaeology as part of the proposed analysis (see below).
- 5.3.3 Four of the cremation urns are in coarse, flint-tempered fabrics, although there is some variation in the size and frequency of inclusions. Vessel 105 is unusual in also containing grog inclusions, the grog itself flint-tempered. No details of fabric are as yet known for Vessels 103 or 111.
- 5.3.4 The full profile of Vessel 101 survives, although the vessel was broken in antiquity and the sherds are abraded. This is a small, tub-shaped vessel with a straight-sided, slightly flaring profile, a height of c. 100mm and a diameter of c. 160mm. It is decorated around the rim with a band of simple incised chevrons. Similar decoration is seen on domestic vessels of Deverel-Rimbury type from Bishops Cannings Down, on the Marlborough Downs (Tomalin 1992, figs. 63, 65). Three sherds found within the fill of the vessel are in a more frequently flint-tempered fabric and appear to be from another vessel.
- 5.3.5 Vessel 100 survived only as a few rim, base and body sherds, from which the full profile could not be reconstructed, although is likely to have been gently convex, with a plain, rounded rim. No decoration is visible. A few of the sherds appear to have been burnt, possibly during the cremation process, although in this instance the vessel seems to have functioned as a pyre good rather than as a container for cremated bone, hence an urned burial.

- 5.3.6 Three small sherds from cremation grave **13015** (context 13016) are in a very friable fabric with frequent voids, possibly representing leached-out shell inclusions. The date can be suggested as Middle Bronze Age, but these two sherds can be regarded as residual within the grave backfill, as can the few flint-tempered sherds from the backfills of graves **13014** and **13047**.
- 5.3.7 Most of the prehistoric sherds from other contexts are also coarsely flint-tempered. Again, there is variation in the size and frequency of the flint inclusions, but this could encompass a potential date range from Middle to Late Bronze Age, the inclusions becoming sparser through time. There is one small rim sherd, plain and upright, from pit **13057**; this can be compared to the Middle Bronze Age cremation urns. Otherwise there are no diagnostic pieces.
- 5.3.8 Twelve sherds from ditch **13182**, probably deriving from a single vessel, are in a coarse, shell-tempered fabric. Shell-tempered fabrics are recorded in several Middle Bronze Age assemblages from the Marlborough Downs (Tomalin 1992, fabric F).
- 5.3.9 All the sherds from non-grave contexts (including residual sherds in grave backfills) are small and most are heavily abraded (mean sherd weight 6.4g).

Romano-British

- 5.3.10 The remainder of the assemblage (59 sherds) is Romano-British. Despite its small size, this assemblage includes a range of wares from various sources. These include five sherds of imported samian (later 1st or 2nd century AD), grog-tempered wares of Savernake type (1st to 3rd centuries AD), Oxfordshire colour coated wares (later 3rd/4th century AD), and south-east Dorset Black Burnished ware, including a dropped flange bowl (later 3rd/4th century AD), as well as general coarse greywares and oxidised wares.

5.4 Fired Clay

- 5.4.1 A small group of small, heavily abraded and featureless fragments of fired clay were retrieved from a sieved soil sample taken from the fill of cremation grave **13015**. Two further undiagnostic fragments were found in cremation grave **13056**. These are all of unknown function.

5.5 Worked Flint

- 5.5.1 A total of 560 pieces was recovered. Of these, 483 (c. 86%) came from layer **13156**. Of the remaining 77 pieces, 36 came from colluvial layer and ploughsoil **13335**, and the other 41 came from 21 features (10 cremation graves; six ditches and four pits/post-holes) of Middle Bronze Age date or later. All are accidental inclusions.
- 5.5.2 The assemblage is quantified by type in **Table 8**. The whole assemblage consists of nodular flint. The predominant colour of the visible surfaces is a dark grey-brown to dark brown with some sandier brown and dark brown/black pieces. The majority of the assemblage is unpatinated, although a few pieces have a cream/white patina and a small number of pieces have various mineral stains. Some of the more heavily patinated pieces have

blotchy orange iron stains common on pieces from ploughzone assemblages.

- 5.5.3 The raw material consists primarily of rather poor quality flint with frequent cherty inclusions. This material is likely to have been obtained from secondary sources. While some flint may have come direct from the undisturbed natural chalk (there is a small proportion of pieces with a thick chalky cortex), the prevalence of thermally fractured pieces and thin worn cortex suggests that more came from either cryoturbated chalk or the local drift geology.

Layer 13156

- 5.5.4 The 483 pieces from this layer consist mostly of unretouched flake debitage. The pieces are short and broad, typical of Bronze Age knapping. There is a single flake which removes a damaged platform edge and a small number of core face trimming flakes, but otherwise no sign of any particular attempts at systematic core maintenance. Platform edges are not abraded. Flake scars indicate removals were generally from a single direction, although the seven cores include both single and multi-platform types. Retouched tools are limited to two scrapers and three pieces with miscellaneous retouch. Overall, indications appear to be of an Early Bronze Age date.

5.6 Burnt Flint

- 5.6.1 A significant quantity of burnt, unworked flint was recovered (total 25.67kg), although this consists largely of a single deliberate deposit of 24.5kg within undated pit **13135**. Otherwise the burnt flint occurred in small quantities in various features; none came from the Middle Bronze Age cremation graves.
- 5.6.2 Burnt flint is intrinsically undatable, although is often taken as an indicator of prehistoric activity. In this instance burnt flint was recovered from both prehistoric and Romano-British contexts.

5.7 Utilised Stone

- 5.7.1 This category includes both portable objects and possible building material. Fragments of quernstone were recovered from two Middle Bronze Age pits (**13043** and **13057**). Both are in greensand and both have been partially burnt. A third possible quern fragment, of saddle form, came from Romano-British gully **13283**.
- 5.7.2 A large, irregular fragment of greensand, with a roughly central, natural perforation, appeared to have been deliberately placed within cremation grave **13103**. The stone showed no obvious signs of working, and the surfaces were heavily abraded.
- 5.7.3 Finally, a small, slab-like fragment in micaceous sandstone is probably from a Romano-British roof tile; this came from Romano-British field boundary ditch **13338**.

5.8 Human Bone

Introduction

- 5.8.1 Cremated human bone from 39 contexts was subject to assessment. The material derived from 23 features predominantly situated in the central and

south-western portion of the investigated area of the cemetery (**Figure 6**). A further 27 features of similar form and, at least in some cases, nature were observed in the north-eastern portion of the Site but were not subject to excavation. The features formed a c. 4m wide SW-NE 'band' (the limits of their spread was confirmed in at least the northern half of the Site), with what appears have been a central concentration possibly associated with a ring ditch (**Figure 6**).

- 5.8.2 The deposits included the remains of a minimum of 13 unurned cremation burials (at least five of which were undisturbed), three urned burials and two burials which may have combined both modes of deposition; most grave fills contained redeposited pyre debris. The vessels functioning as containers all indicate a Middle Bronze Age date for the urned burials (see above) and whilst this may suggest a similar date for the unurned burials this cannot be assumed to be the case; locations with a recognised mortuary function frequently maintained their landuse across multiple temporal phases (e.g. McKinley 2004a).

Methods

- 5.8.3 The cremated remains were subject to a rapid scan to assess the condition of the bone, demographic data, presence of pathological lesions and pyre goods. Assessments of age and sex were based on standard methodologies (Beek 1983; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). The deposit type was assessed from the combined osteological and site context data.
- 5.8.4 Four deposits, believed to represent the remains of intact urned burials, were lifted *en masse* on site for detailed excavation and analysis of the formation processes by the osteoarchaeologist (see **Tables 7 and 9**). This excavation will form part of the full analysis of the assemblage and for the purposes of this assessment only the site context data and material recovered from the grave fills has been considered.

Results

- 5.8.5 A summary of the results is presented in **Table 9**. Most of the cremated bone is slightly worn and occasionally of 'chalky' appearance, and many of the deposits contained little or no trabecular bone (generally subject to preferential loss in an aggressive burial environment). Half the features had survived to a relatively substantial depth (>0.20m) and it is unlikely in these cases that any of the burial deposit with have been lost due to disturbance; in at least five graves the burial remains were clearly sealed by an upper grave fill.
- 5.8.6 The remains of a minimum of 19 individuals are represented. The majority 58% are immature individuals comprising one foetus (in dual cremation/burial 13102), six infants (0.5-5 yr.), three juveniles (5-12 yr.) and one juvenile/subadult (5-18yr.). Most of the six adults appear to have been less than 45 years of age and it was possible to suggest the sex of only one of them from the osteological scan (a possible male), though doubtless the individual cremated with the foetus was female.
- 5.8.7 No pathological lesions were observed.

- 5.8.8 Most of the bone is white in colour indicative of full oxidation, however, there are a few cases where some of the bone is blue or black in colour demonstrating less efficient oxidation. The most probable cause is a lack of time for complete oxidation to occur due either to insufficient fuel being used to construct the pyre or adverse weather conditions (i.e. rain).

5.9 Animal Bone

Introduction

- 5.9.1 A total of 1259 fragments (or 1.801kg) of animal bone was recovered from the site. Once conjoins are taken into account the total falls to 192 fragments, 166 of which belong to four sheep/goat skeletons from undated pit **13249**. The pit cuts a post-Roman feature, and the size and robustness of the sheep/goat bones suggests that they are an improved breed. In other words, the pit is likely to be modern in date. The remaining bones are from Middle and Late Bronze Age ditches and a posthole.

Methods

- 5.9.2 The assemblage was rapidly scanned and quantified. The following information was noted: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion data, tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was cross-referenced with relevant contextual information and spot dating evidence.

Results

- 5.9.3 Bone preservation varies significantly; bones recovered from prehistoric features are in a poor state, they are more fragmented than the bones from later contexts and have pitted and eroded cortical surfaces. This has inevitably prevented identification to species and in some instances skeletal element. By way of contrast, the bones recovered from pit **13249** (**Plate 6**) are in a good state of preservation and most elements are complete.

Middle and Late Bronze Age

- 5.9.4 A small number of poorly preserved unidentifiable fragments were recovered from Middle Bronze Age ditch **13182**.
- 5.9.5 Late Bronze Age ditch **13081** contained a heavily fragmented cattle skull (ABG 112), a horse pelvis, red deer mandible and two cattle-sized vertebrae (a cervical and thoracic). Tooth wear analysis suggests that the red deer mandible is from a three year old animal that was probably killed over the winter months (Legge and Rowley-Conwy 1988, 32-3).
- 5.9.6 Bone was also recovered from broadly dated Bronze Age post-hole **13042**, and three undated, but probable prehistoric ditch sections (**13116**, **13130** and **13246**). Identified bones include a horse metacarpal from **13116** and a cattle tibia from **13246**.

Modern

- 5.9.7 Pit **13249** contained the remains of four sheep/goats; ABGs 115 and 116 are both sub-adults aged between one to two years and two to three years. These were accompanied by the partial skeletons from a neonate and a foetus. The presence of young lambs indicates that the pit was backfilled

sometime in the spring. It might also suggest that the two sub-adult animals are ewes that suffered complications during lambing and died.

5.10 Marine Shell

- 5.10.1 A single oyster shell, an almost complete left valve, was recovered from Romano-British ditch **13338**.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

Environmental samples taken

- 6.1.1 A total of 232 bulk samples were taken from 26 cremation related deposits of Middle Bronze Age and possible Middle Bronze Age date. A further six bulk samples were taken from four pits and two ditches of Middle Bronze Age, Prehistoric and unknown date. These samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains, wood charcoal and cremated bone.
- 6.1.2 In addition four cremation urns were block lifted to be excavated in spits. The samples from the spits will also be processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains, wood charcoal and cremated bone as part of the analysis phase.
- 6.1.3 The bulk samples break down into the following phase groups:

Table 1: Cremation Related Sample Summary

Phase	No of samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
Middle Bronze Age	86	402.2	Cremation related deposits
	4	-	Cremation urn fills
?Middle Bronze Age	146	517.9	Cremation related deposits
Totals	236	920.1	

Table 2: Bulk Sample Provenance Summary

Phase	No of samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
Middle Bronze Age	2	48	Pits
Prehistoric	1	10	Pit
Undated	1	10	Pit
	2	32	Ditch
Totals	6	100	

6.2 Charred Plant Remains

6.2.1 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>4 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Table 10 (Appendix 2)**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

6.2.2 The flots varied in size and contained low to high numbers of roots and modern seeds that are indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.

Cremation related deposits

6.2.3 Very few charred plant remains were recovered from the cremation related deposits. The small number of cereal remains included grain fragments of hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) and free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) although the majority were indeterminate grain fragments.

6.2.4 There were also a few fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell and of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) stones and false oat-grass tubers (*Arrhenatherum elatius var bulbosum*) recorded in the cremation related samples. The small number of weed seeds included seeds of goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), sedge (*Carex* sp.), oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.), bedstraw (*Galium* sp.), speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*) and vetch/wild peas (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.).

6.2.5 There is little evidence for crop processing as no chaff fragments were recovered. However, as settlements may be located away from both cremation pyres and burial sites, such remains would not always be expected. Free-threshing wheat became common in Southern England only within the Saxon and medieval period (Greig 1991) and few secure, radiocarbon dated remains of free-threshing wheat are known prior to the Romano-British period (cf. van der Veen and O'Connor 1998). Such grains are therefore likely to be intrusive in these samples. The few weed seed species are typical of those found in arable environments, field margins and waste ground.

6.2.6 The hawthorn stone fragments may have become incorporated along with deadwood gathered as fuel for the cremations. False oat-grass in particular has an association with cremation related deposits (Godwin 1984), being associated with the creation of firebreaks (Stevens 2009). Relatively large numbers of false oat grass tubers were recorded from the Bronze Age cremation related deposits at Twyford Down, Hampshire (Clapham 2000).

6.2.7 The single fragments of hazelnut shell are less likely to have come from material gathered for fuel, but are a common component of food waste dating from the Mesolithic to the later Bronze Age. It has been a common component of Neolithic features within the DTE:SP EIP archaeological

investigations to the east on Salisbury Plain (Wessex Archaeology 2012), and as such might well have been reworked from earlier periods.

Other bulk samples

- 6.2.8 Very few charred remains were recorded in the samples from the non-cremation related features. These included a few cereal remains, hazelnut shell fragments and a seed of bedstraw. The level of charred remains recovered was too low to provide any clear indication of date of the undated features, or indeed the presence of settlement. The single grain of hulled wheat observed within ditch **13130** would be compatible with a Romano-British or earlier date for the feature.

6.3 Wood Charcoal

- 6.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 10 (Appendix 2)**. The wood charcoal was mainly mature wood fragments. Charcoal fragments >4mm were retrieved in moderate to large quantities from nine of the cremation related deposits, **13004**, **13015**, **13030**, **13047**, **13005**, **13008**, **13034**, **13078** and **13103** and the prehistoric pit **13051**.

6.4 Land Snails

- 6.4.1 A number of land snails were noted within the bulk samples from non-cremation related features **Table 10 (Appendix 2)**. The species observed may aid in broadly characterising the nature of the wider landscape. Nomenclature is according to Kerney (1999). The majority of these samples contained high numbers of rooty material and Introduced Helicellids (post Bronze Age introductions) were present in pits **13043** and **13263**.
- 6.4.2 The mollusc assemblages from the Middle Bronze Age pits 13043 and 13057 were dominated by the open country species, including shells of *Helicella itala*, *Vallonia* sp., *Pupilla muscorum* and *Vertigo pygmaea*, with a few shells of the intermediate species *Cochlicopa* sp. and *Trichia hispida*.
- 6.4.3 A few shells of the open country species *Helicella itala* and *Vallonia* sp. were recorded from the prehistoric pit **13051**.
- 6.4.4 Mixed mollusc assemblages were recorded from undated pit 13263 and tree throw 13192, including the open country species *Helicella itala*, *Vallonia* sp and *Pupilla muscorum*, the intermediate species *Trichia hispida*, *Cepaea* sp. and *Pomatias elegans* and the shade loving species *Oxychilus cellarius*, *Discus rotundatus*, *Carychium tridentatum*, *Vitrea* sp., *Aegopinella nitidula* and *Clausilia bidentata*.
- 6.4.5 The undated ditch **13130** contained shells of *Helicella itala*, *Vallonia* sp. and *Trichia hispida*.
- 6.4.6 The molluscs are broadly indicative of a generally open environment with small areas of longer grass and possibly of woodland in the vicinity of the undated pit **13263** and tree throw 13192.

7 FURTHER POTENTIAL

7.1 Overview of the stratigraphic sequence

- 7.1.1 The excavation has allowed the definition of the chronological sequence from the Early Bronze Age to the modern period within the boundary of the excavated area (the track). The archaeological fieldwork conducted during the project identified evidence of Early Bronze Age activity overlain by Romano-British and post-Roman agricultural activity and field systems, indicating the presence of near-by occupation sites, in the southern portion of the Site, and an important Bronze Age funerary landscape overlain by undated field system was identified at the northern area of the Site. Limitations in the spatial understanding of individual archaeological sites are inherent in this type investigation (within a narrow linear track), and the full extent of any of the archaeological features and sites identified during this project has not, and could not, within the scope of the project, be fully determined.
- 7.1.2 The spread of Early Bronze Age worked flint identified adjacent to V3 can be seen as indicative of Early Bronze Age activity on the higher ground surrounding the colluvial spread (particularly to the north, west and southwest), rather than evidence of *in-situ* activity, although some *in-situ* activity should not be totally ruled out.
- 7.1.3 The Middle and Late Bronze Age activity identified in the northern portion of the Site is indicative of an important funerary landscape, with little, if any, evidence of contemporary occupation within, or immediately outside the Site itself.
- 7.1.4 Elements of this funerary landscape have been identified during several phases of previous study. Aerial photographic surveys conducted by RCHME, Cambridge University Aerial Photographic Unit and Wiltshire County Council have identified a probable extended barrow cemetery comprising at least 9 ploughed-out barrows, situated on two distinct axis (one northwest-southeast, and the other northeast-southwest). Recent excavations conducted by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology, 2012), revealed a Late Bronze Age ditch (12010 – see above), two elongated pits (12034 and 12028) and two incomplete, possibly pen-annular, shallow ring ditches (11579 and 11582) and one pit (11506) containing notable quantities of burnt or fire cracked flint.
- 7.1.5 Topographically this funerary landscape is not situated on high ground, inter-visible for some distance, rather it is contained within a broad relatively flat bowl surrounded by higher ground, which provides a circular false-horizon, except to the northwest and southeast where line of the present A360, delineates similar level ground. This level ground to the northwest and southeast also represents the main communication route through the western portion of Salisbury Plain (Morris and Powell, 2011, 62). The elongated northwest-southeast axis of possible ploughed-out barrow cemetery (SMR No. SU05SW643, SU05SW628, SU05SW624, SU05SW644 and SU05SW646) appears to respect this route and may indicate a considerable time-depth to the utilisation of this topographical alignment as an important route-way.

- 7.1.6 The alignment of the second less extended northeast-southwest axis of contiguous barrows (SMR No. SU05SW645, SU05SW621, SU05SW620 and SU05SW619), does not appear to be aligned on any obvious topographical landscape features, nor does it appear to be aligned to the northwest-southeast axis of barrows; it is however, aligned approximately on the summer solstice sunrise, and the sunset at the winter solstice.
- 7.1.7 The identification of ring ditches by aerial photography is not an exact science and it is not certain that all, if any, of the truncated barrows identified adjacent to the excavation area are genuine funerary monuments, however, the identification of Middle to Late Bronze Age cremation cemetery (**13345**), extending parallel to and apparently respecting the northeast-southwest contiguous barrows group adds weight to this interpretation of these features. The zenith of bowl barrow construction was during the Beaker and Early Bronze Age periods, and assuming the monuments identified by aerial photography are genuine (the identification of Middle and Late Bronze Age funerary monuments apparently respecting these monuments, would add weight to this interpretation), then an Early Bronze Age date for this adjacent barrow cemetery may be speculated.
- 7.1.8 Although undated, the short section of possible ring ditch **13243** did appear to be respected by adjacent cremation burials indicating this feature may pre-date the Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery. Two other similar features, were identified during the previous phase of fieldwork (**11579** and **11582**) (Wessex Archaeology, 2012), although these were not associated with burials (within the excavation area).
- 7.1.9 All three of these features were extremely shallow and somewhat ephemeral, and a degree of plough truncation has undoubtedly occurred. Feature **11579** averaged 0.41m wide and 0.12m deep, while feature **11582** averaged 0.52m wide and 0.10m deep and feature **13243** was 0.70m wide and 0.09m deep. Survival of these shallow features was not good and only partial sections of ring ditches **11579** and **13243** survived. The most complete example **11582** was excavated during the previous phase of fieldwork, although much of this feature remained unexcavated under the southern bulk, only the northern third was situated within the limits of the excavation area with the centre of the ring under the baulk.
- 7.1.10 Feature **11582** was found to have a possible north facing “entrance” c.3m wide, making it more correctly pen-annular in shape, and if complete would have a diameter of c.11m. Partial ring ditch **11579** had a projected diameter of c.7.50m, the central portion of this feature was contained within the excavation area of the previous phase of work (Wessex Archaeology, 2012), although no internal features or deposits were identified. The projected diameter of feature **13243** was c.6m, but only a short south-western section of this feature survived. A continuation of its projected arc did appear to be formed around its north edge by cremation burials **13021**, **13233**, **13078** and **13085**. Cremation burials **13076**, **13237**, **13064**, **13103**, **13024**, **13034** and **13056** were also situated inside this arc. It should also be noted that the “richer” Middle Bronze Age cremation burials (those associated with urns) were all situated within or adjacent to ring ditch **13237**. Within the fill of these three features, finds were limited to three worked flint flakes and one piece of flint debitage recovered from the fill of feature **11579**.

- 7.1.11 Similar features have been identified at Showell Farm near Chippenham, c.22km to the northwest of the Site (Young and Hancocks, 2006). Here a pen-annular ditch (Ring ditch 1), 0.10m deep, with an internal diameter of 10.50m, and a badly plough truncated ring ditch (Ring ditch 2), with an internal diameter of c.7m and 0.21m deep were identified. Both features were considered to be funerary or ritual in function, rather than settlement related (i.e. roundhouse gullies).
- 7.1.12 Ring ditch 1, the more complete of the two, had a possible northeast facing entrance and no internal features, with finds dating from the Beaker period to the Early Bronze Age recovered from the fill of this feature. Ring ditch 1 has been speculatively interpreted as a small class I (single entrance) mini-henge, rather than a pen-annular barrow ditch, due to the lack of any internal burials and the northeast facing entranceway (Young and Hancocks, 2006, p45). Ring ditch 2 was considered to be the quarry ditch from a small round barrow, the internal features having been previously removed by plough truncation (*ibid*).
- 7.1.13 The Middle to Late Bronze Age linear cremation cemetery (**13345**) is considered likely to be later than either the undated ploughed-out contiguous barrow cemetery to the north, and the associated pen-annular or ring ditches identified to within, to the northeast and to the southwest.
- 7.1.14 The linear cremation cemetery (**13345**) was orientated parallel to the contiguous northeast-southwest barrow cemetery, and therefore an alignment with both the rising summer solstice and the setting winter solstice sun and can be perceived. The Middle Bronze Age ditch (**13346**) which extends to the north and parallel to the cremation cemetery appears to turn to the southwest of the cremation cemetery and may delineate the southwestern limit of the cemetery.
- 7.1.15 In addition to the orientation of the linear cremation cemetery (**13345**), other potential structural traits were also identified. These comprised;
- the “richer” cremation burials, containing partially intact or fragmentary ceramic vessels were all being situated within a tight group (a 3.00m radius)
 - potential stratigraphic differences can be distinguished between the depositional procedure within pits containing immature and adult burials, with a very high percentage (83%) of infant or juvenile remains were recovered from single fill burials, and all (100%) of the multiple fill burials containing adult or sub-adult remains (assuming the foetus from **13103** was cremated was in-utero)
 - three features (pits **13135**, **13239** and an unexcavated pit or cremation burial) were found to be protruding at right angles from the main body of the cemetery. These features were found to be exactly in line and positioned equidistantly apart (22m), centre to centre
- 7.1.16 It also appears possible that the cremation cemetery may have constructed from the northeast to the southwest. Evidence for this supposition is three fold;

- Cremation burial **13047** which is situated to the southwest, truncates cremation burial **13060**
- There is an apparent increase in the number of empty (pre-dug?) marker cremation burial sized pit to the southwest.
- There is an apparent decrease in the density of burials in the south-western end of the cemetery.

7.1.17 The Romano-British or post-Roman agricultural activity identified in the southern and central portion of the Site are indicative of the activity in the immediate area pertaining to these periods. Although the Roman finds retrieved from these features does not securely date or phase the agricultural features themselves, it does suggest the potential for a Romano-British settlement, probably a relatively high status site (given the samian pottery and sandstone roof tile fragment recovered from ditch **13338**), on the higher ground to the northwest. The identification of a Romano-British coin hoard on White Hill c.600m northwest of the Site (SMR No.SU05SW313), worked bronze (knife cap), a silver pin, a coin and ceramics (Savernake ware) on Stibb Hill c.1km north (SMR No.SU05SW312 and SU05SW300) are indicative of Romano-British activity, perhaps relatively high status in the general area, albeit biased to the north of the Site.

7.1.18 Further work is not considered necessary for the Early Bronze Age worked flint spread or the Romano-British or post-Roman agricultural activity. The artefacts recovered from these features are most likely residual, useful for the identification of occupation or working sites in the immediate area, but not necessarily evidence of *in-situ* settlement activity.

7.1.19 The Bronze Age funerary landscape identified within the Site is considered to be of at least regional importance. Important information regarding funerary rites and the treatment of the remains of immature individuals during the Middle to Late Bronze Age periods will be obtained through further study of these remains.

7.2 Finds Potential and further recommendations

Finds from cremation-related deposits

7.2.1 The interest in this assemblage lies in the human remains and associated artefacts (pottery, worked flint, stone) from the Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery (**Table 7**). This part of the assemblage warrants further analysis and publication.

7.2.2 Full analysis of the human bone will provide more detailed demographic data regarding the minimum number of individuals (MNI), and the age and sex of the individuals. 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.

7.2.3 Excavation by the osteoarchaeologist of the four deposits lifted *en masse* should reveal details of the formation process of these burial deposits, the data from which will enhance our understanding and interpretation of the mortuary rite. The latter will also be well served by many of the other burial deposits, most of which were excavated on site by quadrant and, where a depth of more than 0.10m survived, separate spits.

- 7.2.4 The assemblage includes a high proportion of immature individuals, particularly infants. Comparisons of the form and location of these burial remains with others from the region (e.g. Boscombe Down and Porton Down, Wiltshire; McKinley in prep.; Wessex Archaeology 2011) and nation-wide may give insights into how the loss of such young individuals was viewed and dealt with, and potentially what their role within the community was perceived to be.
- 7.2.5 Prior to the excavation of the block-lifted urns, the full range of vessel forms is unknown, but the single vessel for which a full profile is available (Vessel 101) does not find a ready parallel within the range of Middle Bronze Age funerary vessels from the region (e.g. Annable and Simpson 1964), although there are similarities with domestic vessels from the Marlborough Downs (Tomalin 1992, figs. 63, 65). The use of flint-tempered grog inclusions in one vessel is also anomalous within the regional tradition. Aspects which should be explored further include the local and regional affinities of the cremation vessels, and their role within the burial process, while their chronology/ies should be investigated through a series of radiocarbon dates on the cremated bone.

Finds from other contexts

- 7.2.6 Artefacts from other prehistoric contexts occurred generally in small quantities and are correspondingly limited in potential. There are some larger groups, for example the worked flint from colluvial layer **13156**, and the burnt, unworked flint from pit **13135**, but sufficient detail has already been recorded for these groups, and no further analysis is proposed for these, or for any other of the prehistoric artefacts apart from the pottery, which should be included in the analysis of the cremation vessels.
- 7.2.7 The Romano-British component is small (pottery, one stone tile fragment, one oyster shell) and of limited potential. The pottery has provided dating evidence which spans the Romano-British period, but the types represented are well paralleled within larger assemblages found elsewhere on Salisbury Plain (e.g. Seager Smith 2006), and the limited range enables little interpretation of the type of site from which they derived. No further analysis or publication is proposed for this part of the finds assemblage.

7.3 Palaeoenvironmental Potential

Charred Plant Remains

- 7.3.1 There is very little potential for the charred plant remains to provide detailed information on the nature of the settlement and local crop processing and funerary practices due to the paucity of remains recovered.

Wood Charcoal

- 7.3.2 There is the potential for the analysis of the wood charcoal to provide some information on species selection and the management and exploitation of the local woodland resource during the Middle Bronze Age. It may also augment information on the local funerary practices during this period. It may be possible to discern differences in the wood charcoal assemblages recovered from within the cremation urns themselves, the urned cremation related deposits and the unurned cremation related deposits.

Land Snails

- 7.3.3 There is no potential for further analysis of the mollusc assemblages to provide a more detailed picture of the local landscape during the Middle Bronze Age.

7.4 Radiocarbon Dating Potential

- 7.4.1 There is the potential for further analysis of the cremation cemetery using both traditional radiocarbon dating methods to obtain simple calendar ages from suitable samples and the Bayesian method of modelling to provide a more precise chronology for the cemetery as a whole.
- 7.4.2 The Bayesian approach to archaeological dating has been outlined by Buck *et al.* (1996). Whereas radiocarbon dating will simply return the calendar age of the submitted sample, the Bayesian technique will provide estimates of actual archaeological events. This is achieved by combining known stratigraphic (prior) information with radiocarbon dates to produce age estimates (posterior density). Overall the method tends to produce chronologies that are routinely more precise than conventional radiocarbon dating. The technique allows the following to be generated and measured: start and end dates, first and last, duration (span), and interval (hiatus in activity). It can also be used to estimate events within a radiocarbon dated sequence (eg date of construction). Date estimates for archaeological events can also be compared. The OxCal programme can also be used to order radiocarbon dates eg to sequence burials within a cemetery.
- 7.4.3 In order to evaluate whether the method would be useful in the case of the Delta West cemetery two simulation models of ten dates were tested. In models 1 and 2 it was assumed that the selected burials were all made within a 100 or 200 year period respectively. In model 1 (short duration) the dates were too close together to analyse, that is to illustrate any significant differences between results and to demonstrate any trends. In model 2, which assumes a longer duration of cemetery use, the possibility of being able to demonstrate trends is more likely. On this basis the following dating strategy is recommended:
- 7.4.4 Submission round 1: five dates chosen in consultation with the specialists from set intervals across the cemetery.
- 7.4.5 From these results it should be possible to calculate a start and end date for cemetery use and to calculate whether the cemetery had a relatively short (less than 100 years) or longer (over 200 years) period of use. If the latter then it is recommended that a further five samples are submitted.
- 7.4.6 Submission round 2: up to five further dates to be obtained once the above is reviewed in consultation with the specialists.
- 7.4.7 Review of all results would be followed by an analysis of the probability order of the radiocarbon results. This analysis which is part of the OxCal programme would help identify any directional trends in cemetery use.
- 7.4.8 Using the simulation model 2 of ten dates (each falling at equal intervals of 20 years between 1700-1500 BC) the following parameters were calculated. The likely start date for the sample of burials fell within 1760-1610 BC and

the last burial within 1590-1410 BC. It was also possible to calculate that the cemetery could have been used for as little as 50 years or as many as 300 years.

Table 3: Probability table for 10 simulated radiocarbon results. The table puts the results in probability order and should be read along each row from left to right. The probability value is for example that 2 is older than 1 = 94% and therefore almost certain.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1		6	9	4	6	15	8	1	3	2
2	94		59	37	51	71	57	6	28	14
3	91	40		28	41	63	48	4	21	10
4	96	63	71		64	80	70	11	40	24
5	94	49	58	35		70	56	5	27	13
6	85	29	37	20	29		35	2	14	6
7	92	43	52	30	44	65		4	22	11
8	99	94	96	89	95	97	96		82	69
9	97	72	79	60	73	85	78	17		32
10	98	86	90	76	87	94	89	30	68	

7.4.9 Using the OxCal order command on the simulated model 2 results it was possible to demonstrate that two of the dates were of similar age and that all of the results could be placed in a sequence (see table of generated probabilities above). This gives the following sequence of dated events from oldest to youngest: 8, 10, 9, 4, 5=2, 7, 3, 6.

8 AIMS AND METHODS

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 This section details the aims and method statements for analysis and references the required tasks (see **Task list** below Section 9.1). The known archaeological background in the immediate vicinity of the Site will be reviewed. This will include reviewing published reports and available archaeological 'grey literature', and investigation of all available aerial photographs. This will contribute towards discussion of historic land utilisation beyond the boundaries of the Site.

8.2 Stratigraphic

8.2.1 Where necessary stratigraphic analysis will be revisited and the provisional phasing outlined in this report will be checked and corrected in the project database, following the proposed scientific dating and further study of the palaeoenvironmental and artefactual remains for the features which warrant further study. It is anticipated that many of the context groups of ambiguous date will be reconsidered.

8.3 Finds

8.3.1 The principal aims of the finds analysis will be to provide the following:

- dating evidence,
- the procurement and use of local and non-local resources,

- the use, deposition and disposal of goods and materials in domestic and funerary contexts, and
- the understanding of ritual and funerary practices.

8.3.2 Further analysis is recommended for many of the finds categories, although at varying levels of detail. In general, the analysis will concentrate on the prehistoric assemblage. The following section sets out the aims and methods to be used for each of the material types.

Pottery

8.3.3 The prehistoric pottery will be subjected to full fabric and form analysis, following the standard Wessex Archaeology pottery recording system (Morris 1994), which accords with nationally recommended guidelines for the recording of prehistoric pottery (PCRG 2010). The cremation urns in particular will be described and discussed within the context of the regional ceramic traditions of the period, with comparison and contrast with other funerary and domestic assemblages in the region. Their role within the funerary rite, as either cremation containers or pyre goods, will be explored, and correlation will be made with the human bone data. Samples of cremated bone from at least two, preferably three urned burials will be submitted for radiocarbon dating, in order to provide dates for the vessels.

Human Bone

8.3.4 Each of the four '*in situ*' deposits will be excavated in detail by the osteologist. The fills will be removed by context, and where appropriate, quadrant spits. A full photographic record will be made at each level, with annotated scale drawings and a text record. The context sub-division will be maintained throughout subsequent processing (wet-sieved to 1mm sieve fraction) and analysis.

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

8.3.6 Taphonomic factors potentially affecting differential bone preservation will be assessed. The age of individuals will be further assessed using standard methodologies (Beek 1983; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). Sex will be confirmed from the sexually dimorphic traits of the skeleton (Bass 1987; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Gejvall 1981). 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 deposits 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.

Animal Bone

8.3.7 No further analytical work is required for the animal bone, but a very brief summary (c. 200 words) of the Bronze Age assemblage should be included in any publication of the fieldwork results.

Other Finds

- 8.3.8 No analysis is proposed for any other finds category, although details of the finds as presented here may be incorporated as appropriate in the publication text.

8.4 Environmental*Charred Plant Remains*

- 8.4.1 It is proposed to analyse the charred plant remains from the two of the four cremation urns yet to be excavated in spits, if they contain suitable material.
- 8.4.2 All identifiable charred plant macrofossils will be extracted from the 2 and 1mm residues together with the flot. Identification will be undertaken using stereo incident light microscopy at magnifications of up to x40 using a Leica MS5 microscope, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) and with reference to modern reference collections where appropriate, quantified and the results tabulated.

Wood Charcoal

- 8.4.3 It is proposed to analyse a selection of eight samples from both the urned and unurned cremation related deposits, 13004, 13015, 13030, 13005, 13034, 13078 and 13103. It is also suggested that the wood charcoal from the two of the four cremation urns yet to be excavated in spits should also be analysed, if they contain suitable material.
- 8.4.4 Identifiable charcoal will be extracted from the 2mm residue together and the flot (>2mm). Larger richer samples will be sub-sampled. 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.
- 8.4.5 The samples proposed for charcoal analysis are indicated with a "C" in the analysis column in **10 (Appendix 2)**.

Land Snails

- 8.4.6 No further work is proposed on this material.

8.5 Radiocarbon Dating

- 8.5.1 It is proposed that the sampling strategy for radiocarbon dating is not finalised until the four cremation burials awaiting investigation under controlled conditions have been fully excavated, and the archaeological potential of these burials is better understood.
- 8.5.2 The proposed aims of the radiocarbon dating programme are;

- To obtain radiocarbon dates for selected individual burial deposits.
- To calculate the start and end dates for cemetery use and the overall duration (based on a representative sample).
- To calculate the probability order of the selected burial deposits and to identify any temporary trends in cemetery use.
- To highlight any other chronological differences and trends recognised within the study of the human remains, associated pottery and/or pyre remains (eg changes in practice, pottery forms/fabrics, type of fuel etc.).

9 RESOURCES AND PUBLICATION

9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 The results will be published as a Wessex Archaeology paper submitted to *The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine*. This is a well established journal that is subjected to academic peer review. The report will also be subjected to Wessex Archaeology's standard internal review procedures.

9.2 Management Structure

- 9.2.1 Wessex Archaeology operates a project management system. The team will be headed by the Project Manager, in this instance Paul White, who will assume ultimate responsibility for the implementation and execution of the project specification as outlined in the Updated Project Design, and the achievement of performance targets, be they academic, budgetary or scheduled.
- 9.2.2 The Manager may delegate specific aspects of the project to other key staff, who both supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. They may also undertake direct liaison with external consultants and specialists who are contributing to the publication report, and the museum named as the recipient of the project archive. The Manager will have a major input into how the publication paper is written. He will define and control the scope and form of the post-excavation programme.

9.3 Performance Monitoring and Quality Standards

- 9.3.1 The Project Manager (Paul White) will ensure that the report meets internal quality standards as defined in Wessex Archaeology's guidelines.

9.4 Designated Project Team

- 9.4.1 The team consists primarily of internal Wessex Archaeology staff. The post-excavation team will be managed by Paul White. The following WA staff and external specialists (**Table 4**) are scheduled to undertake the work as outlined in the task list and the programme. The lead author will be Stephen Beach, and Alistair Barclay will manage the production of the paper.

9.5 Personnel

9.5.1 It is currently proposed that the following Wessex Archaeology core staff will be involved in the programme of post-excavation analyses:

Table 4: The Project Team

Project Management and Coordination	Project Role and organisation
Paul White	WA Project Manager
Stephen Beach	WA Project Officer
Andrew Crockett	WA Team Leader Finds & Environs
Chris Stevens	WA Coordination of Environmental Work
Linda Coleman	WA Management of graphics work
Research and publication	
Stephen Beach	WA Lead author
Robert Goller	WA Lead illustrator
Alistair Barclay	WA Publication Lead Reviewer
Specialist Services WA	
Chris Stevens	WA Environmental coordinator/charred plant remains and charcoal
Chris Stevens	WA Charred Plant Remains
Michael Grant	WA Pollen
David Norcott	WA Sediments
Lorrain Higbee	WA Animal Bone/worked bone
Jacqueline McKinley	WA Human Bone
Matt Leivers	WA Prehistoric pottery and fired clay
Philippa Bradley	WA Flintwork and stone
Rachel Seager Smith	WA Roman pottery
Helan MacIntyre	WA Archive Officer
Lynn Wootten	WA Conservation
Alistair Barclay	WA Radiocarbon Dating
Specialist services	
SUERC	Radiocarbon lab

9.6 Proposed publication and dissemination

- 9.6.1 It is proposed that the results of the excavation be made available to the academic community and the wider public through publication of a paper in journal format. It is anticipated that the paper will focus on;

A Bronze Age Cremation Cemetery and Associated Funerary Monuments at Delta Crossing on the Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA)

By Stephen Beach

With contributions by Jacqueline I. McKinley, Alistair Barclay, Matt Levers, Lorraine Higbee and Chris Stevens

Illustrations by Rob Goller

Introduction

Archaeological Background
Methods

Archaeological Deposits

Early Bronze Age
Middle Bronze Age
Late Bronze Age

Finds

Worked and Burnt Flint by **Matt Levers**
Pottery by **Matt Levers**
Cremated Human Bone by **Jacqueline I. McKinley**

Environmental Evidence

Charcoal by **Chris Stevens**
Charred Plant Remains by **Chris Stevens**
Animal Bone by **Lorraine Higbee**
Radio Carbon Dating by **Alistair Barclay**

Discussion

Early Bronze Age
Middle Bronze Age
Late Bronze Age

Acknowledgements

Bibliography

Plus figures, plates & tables

Total <10,000 words

9.7 Task list

TASKS	TASK DESCRIPTION	GRADE	STAFF	DAYS
Management				
1	Consultation	SPM	Paul White	2
2	Management	SPM	Paul White	5
3	Finds/Environ management	SPM	Andy Crockett	2
4	Finds QA & conservation management	SPM	Matt Leivers	2
5	Environ management & ext contracts	SPO	Andy Crockett	1
6	Graphics management	SPM	Linda Coleman	2
7	Project meetings: internal	Int	All	1
8	Project meetings: monitoring	SPM/PO	Paul White and Steve Beach	1
9	Specialist briefing & coordinate work	PO	Steve Beach	1
Analysis				
10	Prehistoric pottery	SPO	Matt Leivers	3
11	Excavation & recording of 4 cremation vessels	SPO	Jackie McKinley	6
12	Human bone	SPO	Jackie McKinley	18
13	Finds illustration (6 vessels)	DO	Liz James	2
14	Finds reports QA	PM	Lorraine Mephram	1
15	Processing Cremation urn spit samples	SA	Nicola Mulhall	5
16	Assessment of the Cremation urn samples	EO	Sarah Wyles	0.5
17	Extraction of Charred Plants and Wood Charcoal (10 samples)	EO	Sarah Wyles	2.5
18	Analysis and Reporting of Charred Plant Remains (2 samples)	SPO	Chris Stevens	1
19	Analysis and Reporting of Wood Charcoal (10 samples)	SPO	Chris Stevens	10
20	Radiocarbon Sample Selection	SPO	Jackie McKinley	0.5
21	Radiocarbon Submission Forms	SPO	Chris Stevens	1
22	Radiocarbon Dating Report	SPM	Alistair Barclay	1
23	Archive preparation	PO	Steve Beach	0.5
24	Preparation for security copying & checking	PS	Helen MacIntyre	0.5
25	Security copying	Ext		
26	Final checking of finds archive	PS	Helen MacIntyre	0.25
26	Final checking of environmental archive	PO	Helen MacIntyre	0.25
27	Archive deposition	PS	Helen MacIntyre	0.5
28	Box storage grant	-	-	-
Publication				

TASKS	TASK DESCRIPTION	GRADE	STAFF	DAYS
29	Archaeological Background Methods	PO	Steve Beach	1
30	Methods	PO	Steve Beach	0.5
31	Early Bronze Age	PO	Steve Beach	1
32	Middle Bronze Age	PO	Steve Beach	4
33	Late Bronze Age	PO	Steve Beach	1
34	Worked and Burnt Flint	SPO	Matt Leivers	2
35	Pottery	SPO	Matt Leivers	3
36	Cremated Human Bone	SPO	Jackie McKinley	5
37	Charcoal	SPO	Chris Stevens	3
38	Charred Plant Remains	SPO	Chris Stevens	0.5
39	Animal Bone	SPO	Lorraine Higbee	1
40	Radio Carbon Dating	SPM	Alistair Barclay	1
41	Discussion	PO	Steve Beach	5
42	Acknowledgements	PO	Steve Beach	0.25
43	Bibliography	PO	Steve Beach	0.5
44	Illustrations	DO	Rob Goller	5

Table 5: Combined Project Task List

10 STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 Museum

- 10.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project. Deposition of the finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

10.2 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 Wiltshire Heritage Museum, and in general following nationally

recommended guidelines (Walker 1990; SMA 1995; Richards and Robinson 2000; Brown 2007).

10.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the site code (79420), and a full index has been prepared. The archive comprises the following:

- 5 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts & ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 3 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics
- 1 file photographs
- 1 A1 graphics

10.3 Conservation

10.3.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field. No finds have been identified as of unstable condition and therefore potentially in need of further conservation treatment.

10.4 Discard Policy

10.4.1 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. In this instance, burnt, unworked flint has already been discarded; no further discard is anticipated.

10.4.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows the guidelines laid out in Wessex Archaeology's 'Archive and Dispersal Policy for Environmental Remains and Samples'. The archive policy conforms with nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002) and is available upon request.

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-profitmaking, and conforms with the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

10.6 Security Copy

10.6.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Archaeological Record (English Heritage), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology. Alternatively, the security copy may be in the form of a pdf file.

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APPENDIX 1 ARTEFACTS TABLES

Table 6: Finds totals

Material Type	Number	Weight (g)
Pottery	240	1715
<i>Prehistoric</i>	181	1196
<i>Romano-British</i>	59	519
Fired Clay	27	171
Worked Flint	560	-
Burnt Flint	1333	25667
Stone	34	10222
Human Bone (cremated)	-	5932
Animal Bone	1259	1801
Marine Shell	1	26

Table 7: Finds from Cremation Graves

Grave No.	Type	Human Bone (wt)	Worked Flint (no.)	Pottery (no./wt.)	Other Finds
13004	Unurned	250		22/84 (ON100)	
13005	Unurned	53			
13008	Unurned	402			
13014	Unurned	2		2/8	
13015	Unurned	524	8	3/4	25 frags fired clay
13020	Unurned	2			
13021	Urned	986	6	52/542 (ON101)	
13024	Urned	20	2	3/10 (ON102)	
13030	Urned	184		(ON103)	
13034	Unurned	523	4		
13047	Unurned	427	3	2/19	
13056	Urned	82		14/140 (ON105)	
13060	Urned	41		(ON111)	
13064	Unurned	123	1		
13076	Unurned	186	2		
13078	Unurned	926			
13085	Unurned	61	1		
13103	Unurned	901	2		1 stone
13233	Unurned	3			
13236	Unurned		1		
13237	Unurned	118			
13239	Unurned				
13242	Unurned	115			
TOTAL		5932	30	98/807	

highlighted graves are still to be fully excavated (block-lifted urns)

Table 8: The composition of the flint assemblage

Flint Types	No.	% of assemblage
Debitage:		
Cores & fragments	7	1.25
Core preparation & rejuvenation	1	0.2
Flakes (incl. broken)	518	92.5
Blades (incl. broken)	1	0.2
Chips	21	3.75
Irregulardebitage	3	0.5
<i>Debitage sub-total</i>	<i>551</i>	<i>98.4</i>
Retouched tools:		
Scrapers	2	0.35
Misc. retouched pieces	7	1.25
<i>Retouched tools sub-total</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>1.6</i>
TOTAL	560	100

Table 9: Summary of result from scan of human bone

Context	Cut	Deposit type	Weight	Age/sex	Comment
13003	13004 (0.21m)	unurned burial + rpd	250g	adult > 18 yr.	quads & 2 spits.
13006	13005	crd inc. rpd	20g	= 13007	quads.
13007	(0.19m)	crd inc. rpd	33g	subadult/adult >13 yr.	quads.
13009*	13008	unurned burial + rpd*	395g	subadult/adult >15 yr.	quads & 3 spits; some trab.
13010	(0.28m)	interface in grave fill	7g	= 13009	quads. some mix in two quads with 13009
13012	13014	fuel ash	1g	?	Scrap worn bone, probably human
13013	(0.17m)	?	1g	?	Scrap worn bone, probably human
13016*	13015	unurned burial + rpd*	521g	adult >18 yr.	quads. & 3 spits; moderate trab.
13017	(0.28m)	grave fill	3g	= 13016	quads.; no trab.

13018	13020 (0.16m)	bioturbation	0.1g	= 13019	scrap worn bone, probably human.
13019		crd	1g	?immature	quads.
13022	13021 (0.16m)	?urned burial + rpd	820g	adult c. 18-45 yr.	quads+ 'spare'
13023		redep.?	166g	= 13022	quads.
13026	13024 (0.15m)	?urned burial	-		to be excavated
13027		?spill from vessel/ ?rpd	20g	infant c. 1-2 yr.	quads.
13031	13030 (0.13m)	crd - ?urned burial + rpd	184g	1) infant c. 4 yr. 2) adult >18 yr.	quads., moderate trabecular
13033		?urned burial	-		to be excavated
13035	13034 (0.23m)	interface layer	1g	= 13036	quads.
13036		urned burial + rpd	450g	adult c. 18-45 yr.	quads. & 3 spits.; much poorly oxidised
13037		upper interface	72g	= 13036	quads.
13038	13040 (0.27m)	fuel ash			no bone – no reason to suppose cremation-related
13041	13042 (0.04m)	redep.	1g	>infant	scraps bone
13048	13047 (0.19m)	urned burial + rpd	410g	juvenile c. 5-12 yr.	quads. & 2 spits; some trab.
13053	13056 (0.15m)	?urned burial	17g	juvenile/subad ult c. 5-18 yr. (=13055)	to be excavated - bone seen at assessment from clearance level only.
13055		?urned burial + rpd/?rpd in grave fill	65g	juvenile/subad ult c. 15-18 yr.	quads. & 2 spits
13061	13060 (0.05m)	crd in grave fill	41g	juvenile/subad ult c. 5-18 yr.	quads.
13062	13064	interface	1g	= 13063	quads.

13063*	(0.20m)	unurned burial + rpd*	122g	infant/juvenile c. 3-10 yr.	quads. & 2 spits; some trab.
13068	13060	<i>?urned burial</i>	18g	subadult/adult >12 yr.	<i>to be excavated;</i> bone seen here = cleaning level; quads. + 1.
13075	13076 (0.23m)	unurned burial	186g	juvenile c. 5-12 yr.	quads. & spits
13079	13078 (0.21m)	unurned burial + rpd	876g	adult c. 18-40 yr. ??male	quads. & 2 spits; mod. trab.; common poor oxidation
13080		interface	50g	= 13079	quads.

KEY: * undisturbed burial deposit; crd - cremation-related deposit; rpd - redeposited pyre debris; trab. - trabecular bone; quads. - excavated in quadrants

APPENDIX 2 ASSESSMENT OF THE CHARRED PLANT REMAINS AND CHARCOAL

Table 10: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Spit	Quad	Depth	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Anal ysis
Middle Bronze Age																
Cremation Related Deposits																
13004	13003			surface	217	1	8	10	-	-	-	-	-	1/2 ml	Burnt bone	
	13003	1	SW	0-0.10	218	5	20	10	-	-	-	-	-	1/3 ml	Burnt bone	
	13003	2	SW	0.10-0.20	219	1.5	90	5	-	-	-	-	-	25/25 ml	Burnt bone	C
	13003	1	NE	0-0.10	220	3	10	10	C	-	Hulled wheat grain frag	-	-	0/1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13003	1	SE	0-0.10	221	4	15	25	-	-	-	-	-	0/2 ml	Burnt bone	
	13003	2	SE	0.10-0.20	222	2	5	25	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13003	1	NW	0-0.10	223	4	25	5	-	-	-	-	-	1/6 ml	Burnt bone	
	13003	2	NW	0.10-0.20	224	2	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	1/1 ml	Burnt bone	
13014	13012	1	SW	0-0.10	213	5	10	8	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	1/1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13013	2	SW	0.10-0.17	214	6	5	30	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	-	
	13012	1	NE	0-0.10	215	5	5	20	-	-	-	-	-	<1/1 ml	-	
	13013	2	NE	0.10-0.17	216	4	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	<1/<1 ml	-	
	13012	1	SE	0-0.10	235	8	20	8	C	-	Free-threshing wheat frag	-	-	2/5 ml	Burnt bone	
	13013	2	SE	0.10-0.17	236	13	5	30	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13012	1	NW	0-0.10	237	6	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	2/3 ml	Burnt bone	
	13013	2	NW	0.10-0.17	238	11	3	20	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
13015	13017	1	SE	0-0.08	200	4.2	3	10	C	-	Indet. grain frag	C	<i>Chenopodium</i> (prob. modern)	-	Burnt bone	
	13016	2	SE	0.08-0.18	201	7.5	60	3	-	-	-	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	15/15 ml	Burnt bone	
	13016	3	SE	0.18-0.28	202	8	90	2	-	-	-	-	-	25/25 ml	Burnt bone	
	13017	1	NW	0-0.08	203	4	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	

Feature	Context	Spit	Quad	Depth	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Anal ysis
	13016	2	NW	0.08-0.18	204	4	60	3	-	-	-	-	-	15/15 ml	Burnt bone	
	13016	3	NW	0.18-0.28	205	3	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	1/1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13017	1	SW	0-0.08	206	3	3	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13016	2	SW	0.08-0.18	207	4	100	2	-	-	-	-	-	50/20 ml	-	
	13016	3	SW	0.18-0.28	208	5	45	7	-	-	-	-	-	10/15 ml	-	
	13017	1	NE	0-0.08	209	6	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	
	13016	2	NE	0.08-0.18	210	7	160	2	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	60/35 ml	Burnt bone	C
	13016	3	NE	0.18-0.28	211	8	40	10	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	15/10 ml	Burnt bone	C
13021	13022	1	NE	0-0.08	253	5.5	10	20	-	-	-	-	-	<1/2 ml	Burnt bone	
	13022	1	SW	0-0.07	254	7	20	25	-	-	-	-	-	1/2 ml	Burnt bone	
	13022	1	NW	0-0.07	255	4	15	25	-	-	-	-	-	0/2 ml	Burnt bone	
	13022	1	SE	0-0.09	256	3	10	30	C	-	Indet. grain frag	C	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	2/2 ml	Burnt bone	
	13023	2	NE	0.08-0.17	257	2	3	25	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13023	2	SW	0.08-0.16	258	3	10	20	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	1/3 ml	Burnt bone	
	13023	2	NW	0.07-0.15	259	12	15	30	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	0/3 ml	Burnt bone	
	13023	2	SE	0.09-0.15	260	3	3	30	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	Burnt bone	
13024	13027	1	SW	0-0.10	274	2	30	5	-	-	-	-	-	2/10 ml	Burnt bone	
	13027	1	NE	0-0.10	275	1	15	5	-	-	-	-	-	1/2 ml	-	
	13027	1	SE	0-0.10	276	1.5	25	5	-	-	-	-	-	2/5 ml	Burnt bone	
	13027	1	NW	0-0.10	277	1.5	30	5	-	-	-	-	-	3/7 ml	-	
	13027	2		0.10-0.17	278	6	3	25	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	0/1 ml	-	
13030	13031	1	NE	0-0.10	266	3	30	5	-	-	-	-	-	5/10 ml	Burnt bone	
	13031	1	NW	0-0.10	267	5	60	5	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	10/25 ml	Burnt bone	C
	13031	1	SE	0-0.10	268	2	10	5	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13031	1	SW	0-0.10	269	2.5	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13031	2	NW	0.10-base	270	1	25	8	-	-	-	-	-	5/10 ml	Burnt bone	
	13031	2	SW	0.10-base	271	0.3	1	10	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	
13040	13038	1	SW	0-0.10	283	9	5	30	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	stem frag	1/<1 ml	-	

Feature	Context	Spit	Quad	Depth	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
	13039	2	SW	0.10-0.22	284	16	5	50	C	-	Wheat grain frag	-	-	-	-	
	13038	1	NE	0-0.10	285	8	5	50	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	0/1 ml	-	
	13039	2	NE	0.10-0.20	286	11	4	25	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	-	-	
	13039	3	NE	0.20-0.28	287	10	3	50	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	-	-	
	13038	1	NW	0-0.10	288	10	5	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13039	2	NW	0.10-0.20	289	14	5	40	-	-	-	C	Carex	0/<1 ml	-	
	13039	3	NW	0.20-0.28	290	11	4	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13038	1	SE	0-0.10	291	8	5	20	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	<1/1 ml	-	
	13039	2	SE	0.10-0.20	292	16	4	30	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	
	13039	3	SE	0.20-0.28	293	18	4	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
13047	13048	1	SE	0-0.10	295	5	50	7	-	-	-	-	-	5/15 ml	Burnt bone	
	13048	2	SE	0.10-0.19	296	4	5	15	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13048	1	NW	0-0.10	297	4	30	7	-	-	-	-	-	4/15 ml	Burnt bone	
	13048	2	NW	0.10-0.19	298	2	3	20	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13048	1	SW	0-0.10	299	5	40	7	-	-	-	-	-	3/12 ml	Burnt bone	
	13048	2	SW	0.10-0.19	300	3.5	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	Burnt bone	
	13048	1	NE	0-0.10	301	6	60	7	C	-	?Free-threshing wheat grain frag	-	-	10/20 ml	Burnt bone	
	13048	2	NE	0.10-0.19	302	4	10	10	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	1/3 ml	Burnt bone	
	13048			surface	304	1	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	Burnt bone	
13056	13055	1	NE	0-0.10	329	2.5	7	10	-	-	-	-	-	0/2 ml	Burnt bone	
	13055	1	NW	0-0.10	330	2.5	2	25	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13055	1	SW	0-0.10	331	2.5	4	20	-	-	-	C	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> tuber frag	0/1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13055	1	SE	0-0.10	332	1.5	5	15	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13055	2	NE	0.10-0.15	333	1	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13055	2	NW	0.10-0.15	334	1	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13055	2	SW	0.10-0.15	335	1.5	2	20	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	

Feature	Context	Spit	Quad	Depth	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Anal ysis
	13055	2	SE	0.10-0.15	336	3.5	7	15	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13053		Um	0.01-0.02	350	0.5	1	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13053		Um	below um	351	1.5	1	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
13060	13061	1	SW	0-0.05	352	1.5	3	20	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	
	13068	1	SW	urn - 0-0.01	353	0.2	2	20	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	
	13061	1	SE	0-0.05	354	1	1	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13068	1	SE	urn - 0-0.01	355	0.5	3	15	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	
	13061	1	NE	0-0.05	356	1.5	1	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13068	1	NE	urn - 0-0.01	357	1	5	10	-	-	-	-	-	1/1 ml	-	
	13061	1	NW	0-0.05	358	2	5	10	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	-	
	13068	1	NW	urn - 0-0.01	359	1	4	10	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	-	
	13068			cleaning	360	0.5	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
?Middle Bronze Age																
Cremation Related Deposits																
13005	13006	2	NE	0.10-base	226	1.5	35	5	-	-	-	-	-	7/12 ml	Burnt bone	
	13006	2	NW	0.10-base	227	4	110	5	-	-	-	-	-	35/50 ml	Burnt bone	C
	13006	2	SE	0.10-base	228	1.5	10	7	-	-	-	-	-	2/3 ml	Burnt bone	
	13006	2	SW	0.10-base	229	2.5	15	8	-	-	-	-	-	2/5 ml	Burnt bone	
	13007	1	NE	0-0.10	230	4	12	10	-	-	-	-	-	2/4 ml	Burnt bone	
	13007	1	NW	0-0.10	231	4	12	10	-	-	-	-	-	3/3 ml	Burnt bone	
	13007	1	SE	0-0.10	232	3.5	5	10	-	-	-	-	-	0/2 ml	Burnt bone	
	13007	1	SW	0-0.10	233	2	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	<1/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
13008	13010/13009	1	NE	0-0.10	239	5	12	5	C	-	Indet. grain frags	-	-	3/2 ml	Burnt bone	
	13009	2	NE	0.10-0.20	240	4	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	2/2 ml	Burnt bone	
	13009	3	NE	0.20-0.28	241	3	5	10	-	-	-	-	-	0/2 ml	Burnt bone	

Feature	Context	Spit	Quad	Depth	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
	13010/13009	1	SW	0-0.10	242	5	25	7	-	-	-	-	-	3/10 ml	Burnt bone	
	13009	2	SW	0.10-0.20	243	3.5	10	5	-	-	-	-	-	2/2 ml	Burnt bone	
	13009	3	SW	0.20-0.28	244	1	20	5	-	-	-	-	-	3/5 ml	Burnt bone	
	13010	1	NW	0-0.03	245	3.5	10	10	-	-	-	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i> sp.	3/2 ml	Burnt bone	
	13009	2	NW	0.03-0.13	246	6	50	5	-	-	-	-	-	12/15 ml	Burnt bone	
	13009	3	NW	0.13-0.28	247	6	50	5	-	-	-	C	<i>Galium</i>	12/15 ml	Burnt bone	
	13010	1	SE	0-0.04	248	3.5	7	10	C	-	Indet. grain frag	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	2/1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13009	2	SE	0.04-0.14	249	4	30	8	-	-	-	-	-	5/10 ml	Burnt bone	
	13009	3	SE	0.14-0.28	250	2.2	15	5	-	-	-	-	-	3/5 ml	Burnt bone	
13020	13018	1	SW	0-0.06	340	1.5	4	10	-	-	-	-	-	1/1 ml	-	
	13018	1	SE	0-0.06	341	1.5	2	25	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	
	13018	1	NW	0-0.06	342	5	2	15	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	
	13018	1	NE	0-0.06	343	3.5	2	25	-	-	-	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	-	-	
	13019	2	SW	0.06-0.16	345	4.5	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	2/3 ml	Burnt bone	
	13019	2	SE	0.06-0.16	346	5	8	10	-	-	-	-	-	2/2 ml	Burnt bone	
	13019	2	NW	0.06-0.16	347	5	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	2/3 ml	-	
	13019	2	NE	0.06-0.16	348	4	15	5	-	-	-	-	-	2/4 ml	Burnt bone	
13029	13028	1	SE	0-0.07	261	1	1	70	-	-	-	C	<i>Veronica</i>	-	-	
	13028	1	SW	0-0.07	262	1.5	1	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	Burnt bone	
	13028	1	NE	0-0.07	263	1.5	2	60	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	-	-	
	13028	1	NW	0-0.07	264	1.5	2	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	Burnt bone	
13034	13037	1	SW	0-0.04	305	2	7	15	-	-	-	-	-	1/1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13036	2	SW	0.04-0.14	306	3	25	7	-	-	-	-	-	3/7 ml	Burnt bone	
	13036	3	SW	0.14-0.20	307	2	20	7	-	-	-	-	-	3/4 ml	Burnt bone	
	13035	4	SW	0.20-0.23	308	2	1	50	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	-	-	
	13037	1	NE	0-0.04	309	3	10	7	-	-	-	-	-	1/3 ml	Burnt bone	
	13036	2	NE	0.04-0.14	310	7	60	5	-	-	-	-	-	8/12 ml	Burnt bone	

Feature	Context	Spit	Quad	Depth	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Anal ysis
	13036	3	NE	0.14-0.20	311	2	15	7	-	-	-	-	-	3/5 ml	Burnt bone	
	13035	4	NE	0.20-0.23	312	5	2	25	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13037	1	NW	0-0.04	313	4	7	15	C	-	?Free-threshing wheat grain frag	-	-	2/2 ml	Burnt bone	
	13036	2	NW	0.04-0.14	314	8	60	5	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	15/15 ml	Burnt bone	
	13036	3	NW	0.14-0.20	315	3	80	3	-	-	-	-	-	25/20 ml	Burnt bone	C
	13035	4	NW	0.20-0.23	316	3	7	15	C	-	Wheat grain frag	-	-	1/1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13037	1	SE	0-0.04	317	7	15	10	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	3/4 ml	Burnt bone	
	13036	2	SE	0.04-0.14	318	4	175	3	-	-	-	-	-	50/90 ml	Burnt bone	
	13036	3	SE	0.14-0.20	319	1	15	7	-	-	-	-	-	2/3ml	Burnt bone	
	13035	4	SE	0.20-0.23	320	8	4	25	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
13042				final cleaning	321	2	1	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13041	1	SE	0-0.03	323	1.5	2	40	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13041	1	SW	0-0.03	324	1.5	1	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13041	1	NE	0-0.03	325	1.5	2	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
13064	13041	1	NW	0-0.03	326	1.5	1	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13062	1	NW	0-0.06	362	2	1	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13062	1	NE	0-0.06	363	1	1	10	-	-	-	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	-	-	
	13062	1	SW	0-0.06	364	1	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13062	1	SE	0-0.06	365	2	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13063	2	NW	0.06-0.16	367	4	2	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	Burnt bone	
	13063	2	NE	0.06-0.16	368	4	2	20	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13063	2	SW	0.06-0.16	369	3	3	10	-	-	-	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	-	-	
	13063	2	SE	0.06-0.16	370	5	4	10	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13063	3	NW	0.16-0.20	372	0.5	1	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	Burnt bone	
	13063	3	NE	0.16-0.20	373	1	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13063	3	SW	0.16-0.20	374	1	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	Burnt bone	
	13063	3	SE	0.16-0.20	375	1	2	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	Burnt bone	

Feature	Context	Spit	Quad	Depth	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
13076	13075	1	NE	0-0.10	377	3	2	10	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	-	Burnt bone	
	13075	2	NE	0.10-0.25	378	3	1	10	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13075	1	SW	0-0.10	379	3.5	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	Burnt bone	
	13075	2	SW	0.10-0.25	380	8	2	20	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13075	1	NW	0-0.10	381	4.5	2	20	-	-	-	C	<i>Galium</i>	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13075	2	NW	0.10-0.25	382	4	1	20	-	-	-	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	-	Burnt bone	
	13075	1	SE	0-0.10	383	2	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13075	2	SE	0.10-0.25	384	2	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	Burnt bone	
13078	13077			0-0.23	386	12	2	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	Burnt bone	
	13080	1	NE	0-0.07	405	3	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13079	2	NE	0.07-0.17	406	5	35	5	-	-	-	-	-	15/5 ml	Burnt bone	C
	13079	3	NE	0.17-0.21	407	1	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	Burnt bone	
	13080	1	SW	0-0.07	408	4	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13079	2	SW	0.07-0.17	409	3	2	15	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13079	3	SW	0.17-0.21	410	1	1	10	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13080	1	NW	0-0.07	411	3	1	10	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13079	2	NW	0.07-0.17	412	2.5	2	20	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13079	3	NW	0.17-0.21	413	1	1	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	Burnt bone	
	13080	1	SE	0-0.07	414	6	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13079	2	SE	0.07-0.17	415	5	3	10	-	-	-	-	<i>Galium</i>	0/1 ml	Burnt bone	
13085	13079	3	SE	0.17-0.21	416	2	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	Burnt bone	
	13086	1	SW	0-0.10	389	8	2	25	-	-	-	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	0/<1 ml	-	
	13086	2	SW	0.10-0.15	390	3.5	2	10	C	-	Indet. grain frag	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	0/<1 ml	-	
	13087	3	SW	0.15-0.25	391	7	4	15	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13087	4	SW	0.25-0.30	392	3	2	15	-	-	-	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	-	Burnt bone	
	13086	1	NE	0-0.10	393	10	3	25	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	
	13086	2	NE	0.10-0.15	394	4	3	30	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	
	13087	3	NE	0.15-0.25	395	10	10	30	-	-	-	-	-	<1/3 ml	Burnt bone	

Feature	Context	Spit	Quad	Depth	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Anal ysis
	13087	4	NE	0.25-0.30	396	3	1	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	Burnt bone	
	13086	1	NW	0-0.10	397	8	3	30	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	-	
	13086	2	NW	0.10-0.15	398	1.5	2	20	-	-	-	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	0/<1 ml	-	
	13087	3	NW	0.15-0.25	399	8	10	20	-	-	-	C	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> tuber frag	<1/3 ml	Burnt bone	
	13087	4	NW	0.25-0.30	400	3	2	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	Burnt bone	
	13086	1	SE	0-0.10	401	7	4	15	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	
	13086	2	SE	0.10-0.15	402	2.5	2	20	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	
	13087	3	SE	0.15-0.25	403	5	4	20	-	-	-	-	-	<1/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13087	4	SE	0.25-0.30	404	2	1	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
13103	13100	1	SW	0-0.06	418	6	2	25	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	-	-	
	13101	2	SW	0.06-0.16	419	8	10	10	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	1/2 ml	Burnt bone	
	13101	3	SW	0.16-0.20	420	6	25	10	-	-	-	-	-	5/7 ml	Burnt bone	
	13102	4	SW	0.20-0.30	421	5	25	10	-	-	-	-	-	5/7 ml	Burnt bone	
	13100	1	NE	0-0.06	422	6	3	20	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	
	13101	2	NE	0.06-0.16	423	5	15	10	-	-	-	-	-	3/3 ml	Burnt bone	
	13101	3	NE	0.16-0.20	424	2	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	1/3 ml	Burnt bone	
	13102	4	NE	0.20-0.30	425	6	30	5	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	12/5 ml	Burnt bone	
	13100	1	SE	0-0.06	426	6	3	20	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	
	13100	1	NW	0-0.06	427	6.2	3	20	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	
	13101	2	SE	0.06-0.16	428	6	15	10	-	-	-	-	-	3/3 ml	Burnt bone	
	13101	3	SE	0.16-0.20	429	2	15	5	-	-	-	-	-	5/3 ml	Burnt bone	
	13102	4	SE	0.20-0.30	430	8	25	10	C	-	Wheat grain frag	-	-	7/7 ml	Burnt bone	
	13101	2	NW	0.06-0.16	431	6	5	15	C	-	?Hulled wheat grain frag	-	-	<1/1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13101	3	NW	0.16-0.20	432	6	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	2/2 ml	Burnt bone	
13233	13232	1	NW	0-0.05	455	1.5	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	1/<1 ml	Burnt bone	C
	13232	1	NE	0-0.05	456	3	2	35	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	

Feature	Context	Spit	Quad	Depth	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
	13232	1	SW	0-0.05	457	1.5	1	20	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	
	13232	1	SE	0-0.05	458	1	1	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
13236	13234	1	NW	0-0.10	437	1.5	1	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13235	2	NW	0.10-0.17	438	1	1	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13234	1	SE	0-0.10	439	2	1	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13235	2	SE	0.10-0.17	440	1	1	20	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	-	-	
	13234	1	SW	0-0.10	441	1.5	1	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13235	2	SW	0.10-0.17	442	2	1	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13234	1	NE	0-0.10	443	2	1	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
13237	13235	2	NE	0.10-0.17	444	4	1	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13238	1	NE	0-base	460	2	4	15	-	-	-	-	-	1/1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13238	1	NW	0-base	461	2	1	20	-	-	-	C	<i>Crataegus</i>	-	Burnt bone	
	13238	1	SE	0-base	462	2	2	20	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
13239	13238	1	SW	0-base	463	2	3	20	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13240	1	NE	0-0.10	446	4	2	20	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	
	13240	2	NE	0.10-0.14	447	2	1	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13240	1	SW	0-0.10	448	3	5	10	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	-	
	13240	2	SW	0.10-0.14	449	2	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13240	1	NW	0-0.10	450	4	3	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13240	2	NW	0.10-0.14	451	1.5	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	13240	1	SE	0-0.10	452	2	1	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
13242	13240	2	SE	0.10-0.14	453	1.5	1	10	C	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	-	-	
	13241	1	NW	0-0.10	465	1	2	20	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13241	1	NE	0-0.10	466	2	2	20	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13241	1	SW	0-0.10	467	1.5	3	20	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	Burnt bone	
	13241	1	SE	0-0.10	468	1.5	1	25	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	Burnt bone	
Middle Bronze Age																
Pits																

Feature	Context	Spit	Quad	Depth	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
13043	13044				338	18	100	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	Moll-t (A*)	
13057	13058				339	30	90	80	C	-	Indet. grain frag	C	<i>Galium</i>	0/1 ml	Moll-t (A*)	
Prehistoric																
Pit																
13051	13052				328	10	250	20	-	-	-	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	40/80 ml	Moll-t (C)	
Undated																
Pit																
13263	13265				470	20	50	80	-	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	Moll-t (A*)	
Ditches																
13130	13131				435	22	40	75	C	-	Hulled wheat grain frag	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	0/1 ml	Moll-t (A)	
13192	13199				436	10	50	70	-	-	-	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	0/1 ml	Moll-t (A**)	

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Charcoal Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Analysis: C = charcoal

APPENDIX 3 WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

**Defence Training Estate: Salisbury Plain
Delta Track West**

**Written Scheme of Investigation
For Archaeological Mitigation**

**Prepared for:
Landmarc Support Services Ltd
Westdown camp
Tilshead
Wiltshire**

**by:
Wessex Archaeology,
Portway House,
Old Sarum Park,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire,
SP4 6EB**

Planning Ref: E/09/1674/FUL

Report reference: 79420.001v2

Date: September 2011

Defence Training Estate: Salisbury Plain Delta Track West

Written Scheme of Investigation For Archaeological Mitigation

INTRODUCTION

Project Background

Wessex Archaeology has been requested by Landmarc Support Services to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a programme of archaeological mitigation (through strip, map and record excavation) during the construction of Delta Track West (hereafter “the Route”).

Planning permission (E/09/1674/FUL) with conditions has been granted for the construction of an additional 1.7km of track to improve the connectivity of the training areas in DTE SP West with the new EIP infrastructure on DTE SP East.

Based on the results of a Desk-based Assessment and walkover survey (WA 2009a) and geophysical survey (WA 2009b) undertaken for the Route, the Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council requested that 900m of the Route (extending from Delta Crossing to where the track bends towards the vedette point) should be investigated under a strip map and record exercise with the remainder dealt with under an archaeological watching brief.

At the request of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) based on the most effective strategy for undertaking the strip, it was proposed that the whole length of the Route (1.7km) will be undertaken as a strip, map and record investigation. However, the westernmost 40m of the track (Chainage 1660-1700) is heavily truncated and comprise of large areas of standing water within a SSSI. It is proposed this short length of track is investigated as a watching brief during construction.

This WSI set out the methods by which Wessex Archaeology will undertake the programme of archaeological works and will be submitted to Wiltshire Council's Archaeological Advisor for approval prior to any fieldwork commencing.

THE SITE

Location, topography and geology

The Route occupies an area of 1.6ha and is located between Delta Crossing (National Grid Reference (NGR) 400869, 151145) and Vedette Post V3 (NGR 399778, 149992). There is an existing unconsolidated dirt track running along part of the proposed new track (Delta Track West), which will run generally in a south westerly direction from the existing Delta Crossing on the A360 which links the track to DTE SP Central.

The proposed Delta Track West will also include approximately 118m of track which is permitted under the main Delta Crossing planning consent (Ref: K/56701/F), and the remaining 1600m (E/09/1674/FUL) of the Route comprising generally virgin ground (with short sections of existing track) which requires removal of vegetation and top soil.

The Route runs primarily through farmland comprising arable, semi-improved and improved grassland.

The Route is located between 130m and 150m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) on undulating ground to the south of West Lavington village.

The Route is situated on the Cretaceous Middle Chalk that borders the northern edge of Salisbury Plain. The Plain itself, to the south, is predominantly comprised of Upper Chalk (Geological Survey of Great Britain 1:50,000 map sheet 282)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

The SPTA is well known for its prehistoric archaeology including round and long barrows, field systems and enclosures and contains over 2,300 archaeological sites and monuments from all periods. The area has been in military use for over 100 years and contains features associated with the development of warfare over this period.

An archaeological DBA including the results of a previous walkover survey (WA 2009a) detailing the archaeological and historical background along with a geophysical survey (WA 2009b) was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in order to establish the archaeological potential for the Route. The results of this work is summarised below.

Desk-based Assessment

The DBA (WA 2009a) revealed some locally important archaeological sites within a 500m Study Area of the Route. These are:

- A ploughed round barrow west of Gore Cross Farm (shown as a ring ditch);
- Remains of a barrow (to the north-west of Gore Cross Farm);
- An undated round barrow located to the north-west of Gore Cross Farm, identified from aerial photographs;
- A field system recorded to the east of Gore Cross Farm;
- Evidence of medieval ridge and furrow on West Lavington Down;
- Modern military activity noted from aerial photographs;
- Lynchets forming part of a field system on West Lavington Down;
- An undated enclosure on West Lavington Down;
- A complex of undated linear cropmarks, possibly a field system;
- An undated ring ditch located to the west of Gorse Cross Farm; and
- An undated rectangular enclosure identified from aerial photographs

There are no Scheduled Monuments within the immediate vicinity of Delta Track West. There is an enclosure/field system (SM10107) is designated approximately 500m south of the track on West Lavington Down, but it will not be directly impacted by the scheme. There are, however, two Listed Buildings/Structures concerning Gore Cross Old Farmhouse which dates to the 18th century and is now used for storage, and The Robbers Stone which commemorates a robbery which took place on the road.

The Route passes closely to a number of the barrows/ring ditches recorded in the area and, therefore, there is the potential for underground archaeological remains

particularly at the eastern end of the Route being present near to and associated with these recorded features.

Walkover Survey

The walkover survey also identified a number of features which are crossed by the proposed Route and comprise a linear bank feature, linear earthworks and a series of banks/ditches, most probably dating to the Prehistoric period.

Geophysical Survey.

Detailed gradiometer survey was conducted over the entire area of the then three route options that was suitable for survey, totalling 3.4ha. The aim of the survey was to establish the presence/absence, extent, character and date of detectable archaeological remains within three designated survey areas, in order to inform further stages of archaeological investigation.

Two groups of anomalies of probable anthropogenic origin appear within the dataset and most likely represent an enclosure at least 45m east-west by 35m north-south. Elsewhere, linear and curvilinear anomalies are likely to reflect former boundaries or enclosures, although their proximity to a barrow group identified by the DBA suggests that they may relate to the prehistoric funerary landscape.

Elsewhere within the survey area, several strongly magnetic responses were indicative of substantial ferrous targets; it is possible that these are related to unexploded ordnance given the proximity of the survey area to current and historic live fire ranges. A number of modern services were also identified.

Numerous linear and curvilinear trends and isolated anomalies were apparent within the dataset, although it was difficult to determine whether the majority of these were genuine associations between anomalies or simply chance alignments. It is likely that at least some of the trends are the results of ploughing, given the similarity of their alignments to nearby field boundaries.

OBJECTIVES

Introduction

The principal aim of the archaeological work is to provide further information concerning the presence/absence, date, nature and extent of any buried archaeological remains and to investigate and record all archaeological features revealed to ensure their preservation by record.

A further objective will be to record potential features identified through geophysical survey and hence to further establish the accuracy of such methods in helping to identify the archaeological potential of a site.

A specific aim will be to identify whether potential archaeological features identified as anomalies in the geophysical survey are related to the known barrow group, which lie in the immediate vicinity.

Excavation Areas

The S/M/R area measures approximately 1,600m in total length and between 5 and 7m wide and has been established partly as a result of the work undertaken, and

further as a result of being the preferred option to three proposed routes that were initially considered. It is proposed that the strip will be undertaken in 4 no 400m sections over a period of up to six weeks by a team of up to 6 archaeologists.

FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

Introduction

The excavation will be undertaken in accordance with the document *Standards for Archaeological Excavation in Wiltshire* (CAS 1995) and Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (as revised 2008).

Health and Safety

Health and Safety considerations will be of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices will override archaeological considerations at all times.

All work will be carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

Wessex Archaeology will produce a Risk Assessment before the commencement of any fieldwork for approval by the Client.

Fieldwork programme

The majority of the archaeological fieldwork will be undertaken and completion in advance of any scheme construction. The exception will be the westernmost 40m and small hardstanding area located to the west of VP3 which will be monitored during construction as an archaeological watching brief.

It is proposed that the work will be undertaken in 4 no 400m sections over a period of up to 6 weeks by a team of up to 6 archaeologists.

Watching Brief Methodology: Fieldwork

A 360° mechanical excavator equipped with toothless grading buckets will be used to remove the overburden (topsoil/subsoil) under the constant supervision of a qualified professional archaeologist. The archaeologist will work on with the site contractors to expose any archaeological features uncovered during the watching brief.

Where practicable, all archaeological deposits and features observed during the watching brief will be cleaned manually to an archaeologically acceptable standard and planned and/or drawn in section and located on a site plan.

These features will be related to the Ordnance Survey national grid and related to Ordnance Survey Datum. They will be recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. Where practicable, a sufficient sample of each feature type will be excavated in order to establish the date, nature, extent and condition of the archaeological remains.

Where it is deemed, in discussion with DIO and Wiltshire Archaeological Service, that further excavation of substantial or significant archaeological features or deposits is

required, construction will cease in these areas to enable adequate excavation of these features. Excavation and sampling will be undertaken as specified in this document.

Excavation Methodology: Fieldwork

A 360° mechanical excavator equipped with toothless grading buckets will be used to remove the overburden (topsoil/subsoil) under the constant supervision of a qualified professional archaeologist. Machine excavation will continue down to the first recognisable archaeological horizon, and/or natural whichever is encountered first

Spoil will be temporarily stored along the edge of the stripped area which will not exceed 5m from the edge of excavation. Topsoil and subsoil/overburden deposits will be stored separately and scanned, both visually and by metal detector, for artefacts.

No machinery will be allowed to track on exposed archaeological or natural surfaces, excepting where all archaeological recording has been completed and an area has been signed off by the Wiltshire County Archaeologist.

Subsequent to machine removal of the upper layers, the Route will be cleaned by hand, as appropriate, to enable an accurate site plan to be produced. Further excavation of archaeological features or deposits will then be undertaken by hand. Excavation and sampling will be undertaken as specified in this document, and will be sufficient to resolve the principal aims of the excavation.

All spoil will be visually examined and a metal detector will be employed to aid in artefact recovery.

Excavation Sampling Strategy

All archaeological features will be sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them. However, the following strategy will be employed as a minimum sample level:

- 50% (by plan area) of each post hole.
- 50% (by plan area) of each pit.
- Up to 20% (by plan area) of each linear feature.
- 100% of ditch terminals.
- 100% of intersections between linear features will be examined.
- 100% of human burials (cremation and inhumation)
- 100% of major features such as ring ditches.

The above strategy represents a minimum level of intervention, with more extensive excavation to be undertaken where appropriate following agreement between the Wiltshire Council Archaeological Officer and Wessex Archaeology.

Recording

All exposed archaeological features and deposits will be recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and recording system. Details of Wessex Archaeology's recording system are available on request.

Areas under archaeological observation will be surveyed using a Total Station/GPS and tied in to the Ordnance Survey.

A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits will be compiled. This will include both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels will be calculated and plans/sections will be annotated with OD heights.

A full photographic record will be maintained using both colour transparencies and black and white negatives (on 35 mm film). Digital photography will be employed as appropriate. The photographic record will illustrate both the detail and the general context of the principal features, finds excavated, and the site as a whole.

Monitoring

The Wiltshire Council's Archaeological Advisor, will be notified by at least ten working days prior to commencement of work on the Route of the start date and will be informed at this time of Wessex Archaeology key staff.

Reasonable access to the Route will be arranged for representatives of the Local Planning Authority and their Archaeological Advisors, who may wish to make Site inspections to ensure that the archaeological investigation is progressing satisfactorily.

Reinstatement

At the satisfactory conclusion of the excavation, once the Wiltshire Council's Archaeological Advisor, has signed off areas, the stripped area will be backfilled with the arisings. The backfilling will be undertaken with a mechanical digger and arisings will be replaced in order of excavation, i.e. sub-soils beneath topsoil/ploughsoil.

FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

Finds

Finds will be treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (amended 2008), the UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines "*Conservation Guideline No 2*" and the Museums and Galleries Commissions "*Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (1991)" excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

All artefacts from excavated contexts will be retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date. No finds will, however, be discarded without the prior approval of the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisors and Winchester Museum Service. In such circumstances, sufficient artefacts will be retained in order to elucidate the date and/or function of the feature or deposit.

All retained artefacts will, as a minimum, be washed, weighed, counted and identified. Any artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions will be dealt with immediately in line with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 1998). Metalwork from stratified contexts will be assessed as to whether it should be X-rayed before being stored in a stable environment along with other fragile and delicate material. The X-raying of objects and other conservation needs will be undertaken by the staff of the Wiltshire Museums and Library Service Conservation Consortium, Chippenham or other appropriate approved conservation centre.

Information will be obtained from Wiltshire Museums Service, concerning conditions and arrangements for the deposition of finds.

Environmental Sampling

The strategy for sampling archaeological and environmental deposits and structures will be developed in consultation with Wessex Archaeology's Environmental Manager.

Bulk environmental soil samples of a minimum of 40 litres where possible would normally be taken from sealed archaeological features or deposits for plant macrofossils, small animal bones and small artefacts. Where appropriate, column samples for molluscan remains would also be taken.

Bulk environmental soil samples for plant macro fossils, small animal bones and other small artefacts will be taken from appropriate dateable archaeological contexts. Bulk samples of up to 40 litres will be taken, where practical, for processing by flotation.

Any bulk environmental soil samples which are taken will be processed by flotation and scanned to assess the environmental potential of deposits, but will not be fully analysed at assessment stage. The residues and sieved fractions will be recorded and retained with the project archive.

Where appropriate, a specialist geo-archaeologist will visit the Site to comment on and record significant deposit sequences, to inform an understanding of site formation processes. Detailed soil micromorphological analysis will not however be undertaken at this stage but an assessment will be undertaken and recommendations for any detailed analysis that may be required will be included within the assessment report.

A statement on the environmental potential of excavated deposits will be included within the assessment report which will include recommendations for any detailed analytical work that may be required.

Human Remains

In the event of discovery of any human remains, it is proposed that they will be left *in situ*, covered and protected, until the Client, Coroner and Local Planning Authority Advisor have been informed. Where development will unavoidably disturb them they will be fully recorded, excavated and removed from the Site subject to compliance with the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence which will be obtained by Wessex Archaeology.

Should human remains be excavated during the watching brief all excavation and post-excavation will be in accordance with the standards set out in IFA Technical Paper 13 *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed remains*. Appropriate specialist guidance/site visits will be undertaken by Jackie McKinley of Wessex Archaeology. The final placing of human remains following analysis will be subject to the requirements of the Ministry of Justice Licence.

Treasure

In the event of discovery of artefacts covered or potentially covered by The Treasure Act 1996 and Designation Order 2002, their excavation and removal will be

undertaken following notification of the Client, Coroner and Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor.

POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORTING

Assessment Report

On completion of all fieldwork, an assessment report will be prepared. This document will be in accordance with the standards set out in Appendices 4 and 5 of the document *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). The assessment report will present detailed proposals for further analysis, report production, publication and archiving, along with the strategies, estimated resources, and programme necessary to carry out such work. It will form part of the wider publication strategy for the DTE SP Eastern Infrastructure Project archaeological results.

The assessment report will contain, as a minimum:

- a Route location plan at an appropriate scale
- details of the archaeological organisation and personnel involved
- the date of works
- a site-centred grid reference
- a concise non-technical summary of the results
- specialist assessment reports
- a summary of the archive contents
- a copy of this WSI as an appendix
- survey and technical illustrations as appropriate
- An assessment of the potential of the archive (including the evaluation archive) for further analysis will be undertaken. The assessment phase may include the following elements:
 - The conservation of appropriate materials, including the X-raying of metalwork
 - The spot-dating of all pottery from excavated contexts. This will be corroborated by scanning of other categories of material
 - An assessment statement will be prepared for each category of material, including reference to quantity, provenance, range and variety, condition and existence of other primary sources
 - The bulk soil samples will be taken for artefactual, economic, environmental and dating purposes. The samples will be assessed and a statement made on charred food and plant remains, waterlogged remains and mollusca, including references as for the categories of finds material. An assessment of monoliths for pollen and foraminifera will be undertaken if appropriate
 - A statement of potential for each material category and for the data set as a whole will be prepared, including specific questions that can be answered and the potential value of the data to local, regional and national investigation priorities.

ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

Museum

It is recommended that the project archive, including the finds and environmental samples and subject to the wishes of the landowner, will be deposited with the Wiltshire Museum Service, as appropriate.

Archive Storage

The completed project archive, which will include records, plans, photos, artefacts, ecofacts and sieved residues, will be prepared to comply with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990).

Copyright

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 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-profitmaking, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

Security Copy

In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Monuments Record Centre (Swindon), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records at the relevant museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING

The fieldwork will be directed and supervised by a Project Officer from Wessex Archaeology's core staff, who will be on site at all times. The overall responsibility for the conduct and management of the project will be held by the Project Manager, who will visit the Site as appropriate to monitor progress and to ensure that the scope of works is adhered to. The appointed Project Manager and Project Officer will be involved in all phases of the excavation through to its completion.

All archaeological personnel will be full time professional archaeological staff.

The analysis of the finds and environmental data will be undertaken by Wessex Archaeology core staff or external specialists, using Wessex Archaeology's standard *pro forma* recording system.

In all cases analysis will be supervised and monitored by the following staff, under the overall direction of the Project Manager;

Paul White BA(Hons), MIfA	Project Manager
Steve Beach BSc(Hons) AIfA	Project Officer
Andy Crockett Btech, MIfA	Finds and Environmental Team Leader

Personnel

It is currently proposed that the following Wessex Archaeology core staff will be involved, where appropriate, in the programme of post-excavation work;

Project Manager	Paul White BA(Hons), MIfA
Project Officer	Steve Beach BSc(Hons) AIfA
Finds and Environmental	Andy Crockett Btech, MIfA
Team Leader	
Environmental Technician	Sarah Wyles, BA, PIfA
Charcoal	Chris Stevens, BSc, PhD, MIfA
Charred Plant Remains	Chris Stevens, BSc, PhD, MIfA
Soils and sediments	David Norcott BSc, MSc, MIfA
Animal Bone	Lorrain Higbee
Human Bone	Jackie McKinley, BTech., MIfA
Flint/Worked Stone	Matt Leivers, BA, PhD
Prehistoric Pottery	Matt Leivers, BA, PhD
Roman Pottery	Rachel Seager Smith BA, MIfA
Medieval Pottery	Lorraine Mephram, BA, MIfA
Finds Manager	Lorraine Mephram, BA, MIfA
Environmental Manager	Chris Stevens, BSc, PhD, MIfA
Reports Manager	Julie Gardiner, BA, PhD, FSA, MIfA

Wessex Archaeology reserves the right, because of its developing work programme, to change its nominated personnel at any time. This will be in consultation with the Client and Wiltshire Council.

QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES

Wessex Archaeology operates a computer-assisted project management system. Projects are undertaken under the direction of Project Managers who are responsible for the successful completion of all aspects of the project. Their performance is monitored by the Head of General Development and the Operations Director. The Reports Manager ensures the consistency and academic quality of the published output. The Chief Executive has ultimate responsibility for the maintenance of quality standards for all the companies work.

All work is monitored and checked whilst in progress on a regular basis, and all reports and other documents are checked by the Head of General Development before being issued. A series of guideline documents or manuals form the basis for

all work. Additional assistance and advice is provided by the Technical Support Managers (for Computing, Environment, Finds and Publication).

Although Wessex Archaeology is not currently certificated as a result of assessment against ISO9000, the practice nevertheless holds approved status from a number of clients as a result of assessment of the systems and past experience, including government departments and agencies, and multi-national companies.

Wessex Archaeology Limited is registered as an archaeological organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists (first registered in 1997).

Wessex Archaeology fully endorses the *Code of Conduct*, the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*, and the Standards and Guidance documents of the Institute for Archaeologists. All staff are employed in line with the Institute's Codes and will usually be members of the Institute.

INSURANCE AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

Policy and Risk Assessment

Health and safety considerations will be of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practises will override archaeological considerations at all times.

All work will be carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

Wessex Archaeology will supply a copy of their Health and Safety Policy and a Risk Assessment to the Client before the commencement of any fieldwork. The Risk Assessment will have been read and understood by all staff attending the Site before any groundwork commences.

Wessex Archaeology has both public liability (£10,000,000) and professional indemnity insurance (£5,000,000).

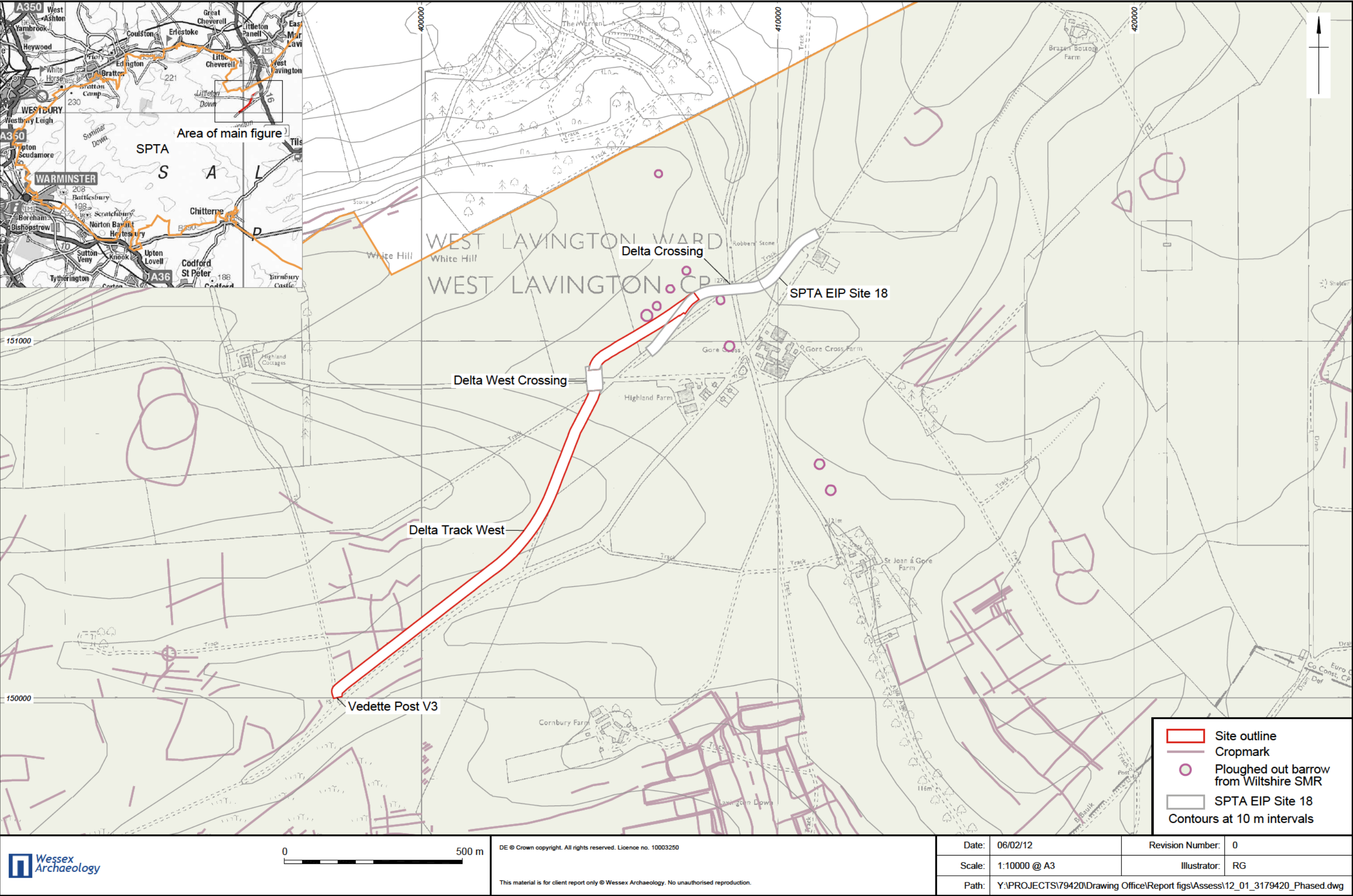
Wessex Archaeology will ensure that all work is carried out to within the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992.

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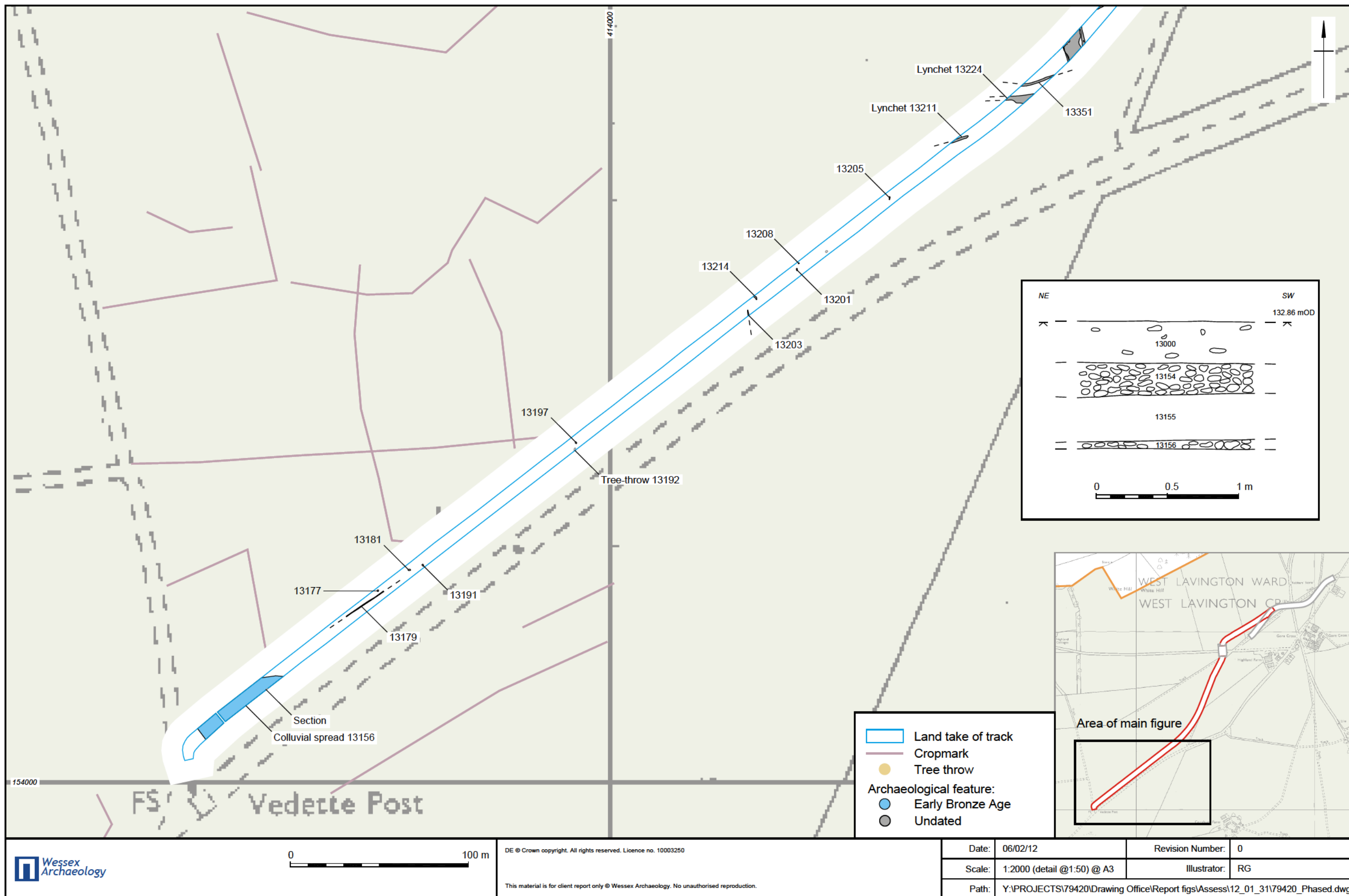
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Revised October 2008

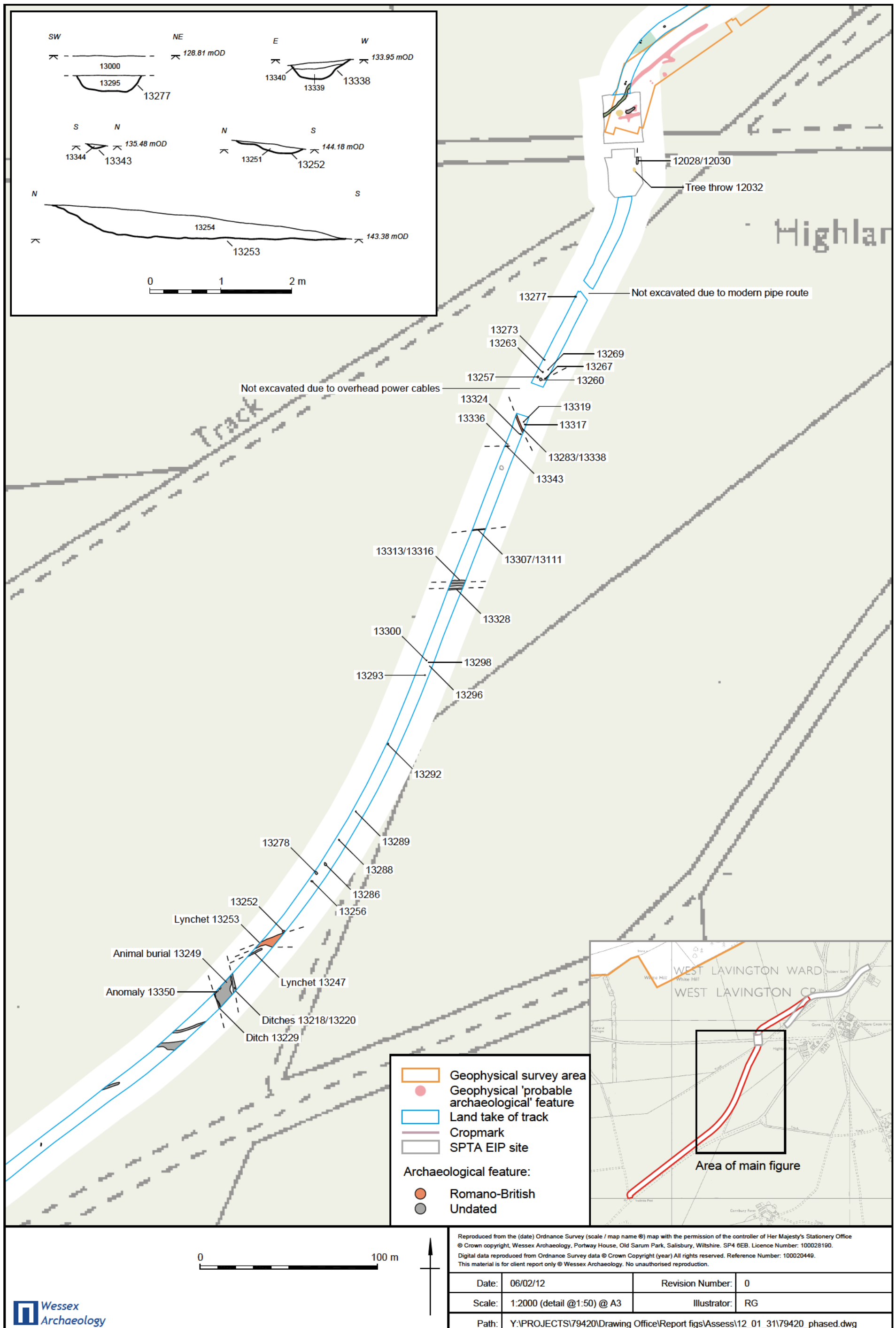
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WA ref no. 72240.01

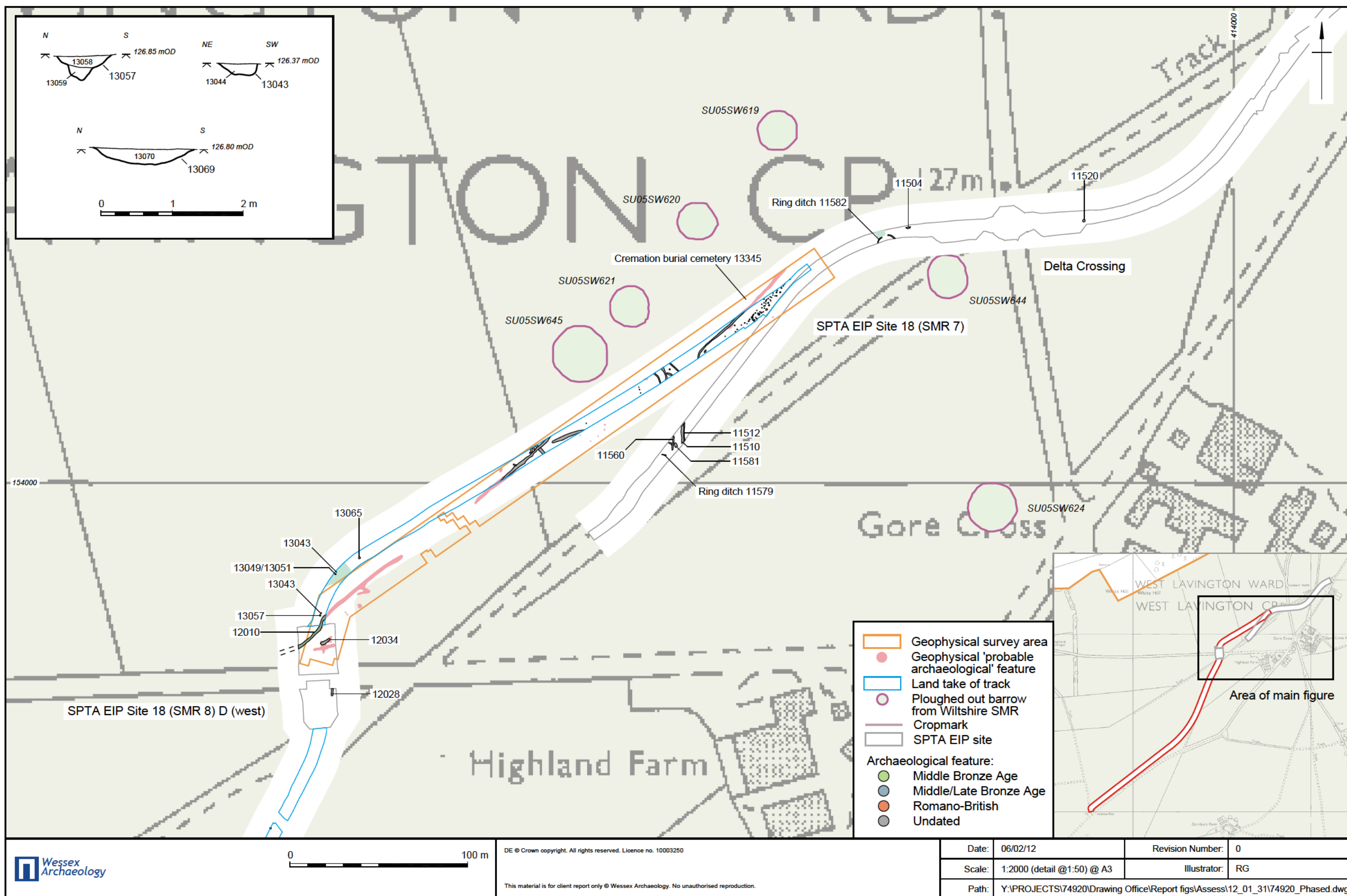
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72240.02

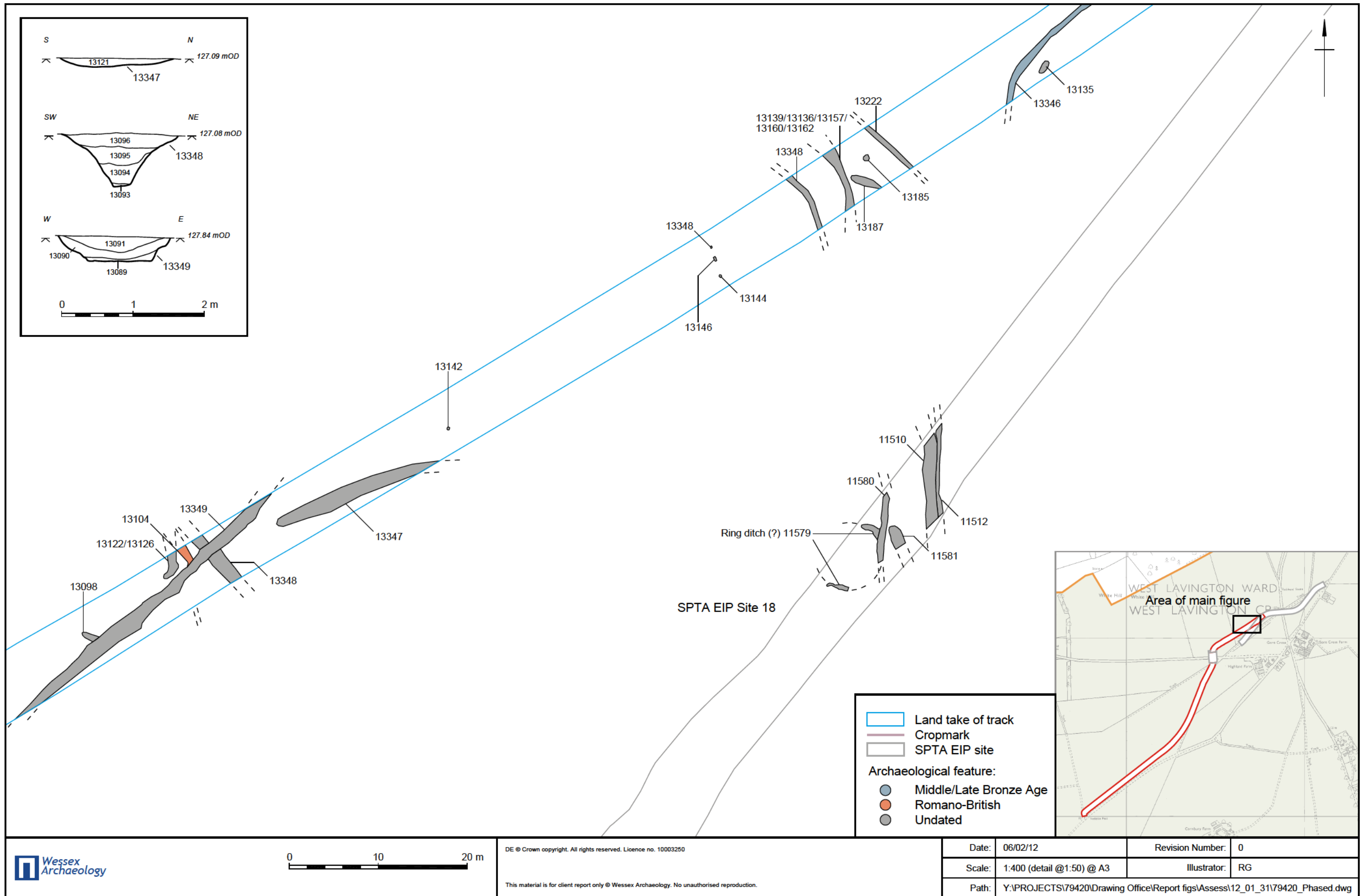


Site location Figure 1









Detail of linear features - Eastern End

Figure 5

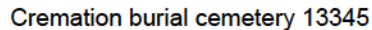




Plate 1: View of Early Bronze Age spread 13156 from the northwest

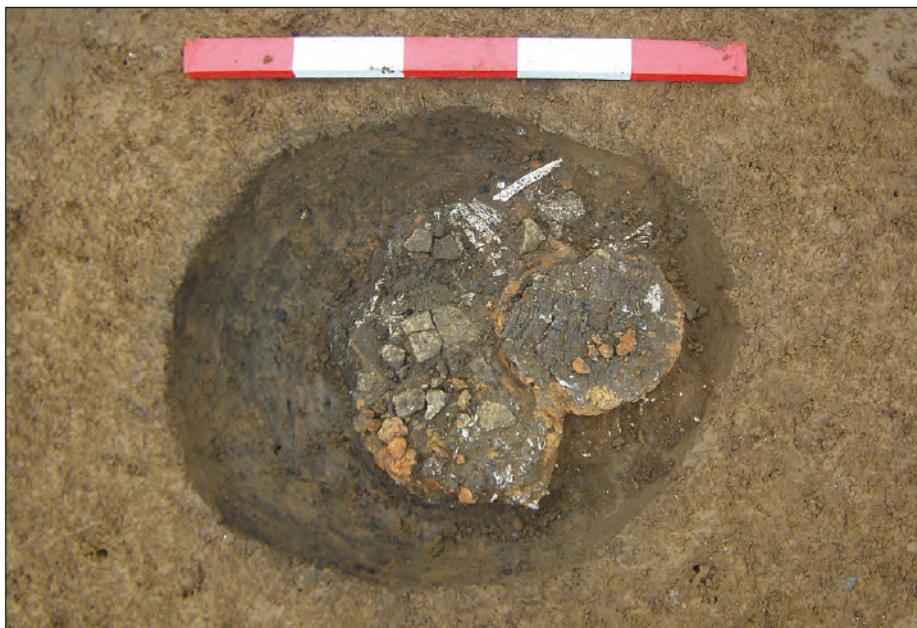


Plate 2: Plan view of cremation burial 13030, showing ceramic vessels and cremated bone


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Plate 3: Plan view of cremation burial 13103 showing stone object 113



Plate 4: View of cremation burial 13034 from the northwest



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Plate 5: View of anomaly 13350 from the north



Plate 6: View of animal burial 13249 from the west

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