



Fareham Innovation Centre (Phase 2), Meteor Way, Daedalus, Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

www.wessexarch.co.uk

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Address 1650 Parkway
Solent Business Park
Fareham
Hampshire
PO15 7AH

On behalf of Fareham Borough Council

Site location Meteor Way
Lee-on-Solent
Fareham
Hampshire
PO13 9FU

County Hampshire

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Fieldwork directed by Alistair Zochowski

Project management by Andrew Manning

Document compiled by Tom Wells and Alistair Zochowski

Contributions from Inés López-Dóriga (environmental) & Lorraine Mephram (finds)

Document edited by Bob Clarke

Graphics by Karen Nichols and Kitty Foster

Quality Assurance

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1 15/06/2021	TW & AZ	



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Morgan Sindall Construction & Infrastructure Ltd on behalf of Fareham Borough Council to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the initial groundworks associated with the construction of a three-storey extension to the existing Fareham Innovation Centre, at Meteor Way, Daedalus, Lee-on-Solent, Fareham, Hampshire, PO13 9FU, centred on NGR 456839 101776.

The watching brief was carried out as a condition of planning permission for the development, which was granted by Fareham Borough Council (ref. P/16/1337/D3) on 27 February 2017. The work followed archaeological investigations carried out under conditions attached to separate planning applications for the construction of Phase 1 of the Fareham Innovation Centre and other developments nearby.

The watching brief, carried out between 19 April and 16 May 2017, revealed further, albeit sparse and poorly dated elements of the fragmented, multi-period landscape uncovered during previous archaeological works within the site of the former RNAS Lee-on-Solent/HMS Daedalus.

No archaeologically significant finds, features or deposits were recorded within three areas monitored during the watching brief (Zones 2–4), as the groundworks in these locations largely coincided with areas which had been substantially affected by modern ground disturbance and service installations. A sparse scatter of shallow linear ditches, pits and possible postholes was recorded within another area, where the groundworks provided the opportunity to examine a less disturbed part of the site (Zone 1).

Little intrinsically datable artefactual material was recovered from any excavated contexts. The majority of the features are of uncertain date, although a pit and a ditch, which yielded considerable quantities of marine shell, are potentially of earlier medieval origin; similar traces of medieval activity were previously recorded within the footprint of the neighbouring CEMAST building, and interpreted as evidence for nearby domestic occupation. However, the focus of the putative medieval settlement remains elusive. No significant indications of prehistoric activity were recorded during the watching brief. This is in contrast to earlier work associated with the construction of the Phase 1 development and, in particular, the CEMAST building, which revealed several Bronze Age pits and ditches. This suggests that Zone 1 lies on the periphery of the more intensively utilised area previously investigated to the south-east.

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The fieldwork was directed by Alistair Zochowski, with the assistance of Steve Thompson and Matt Kendall. This report was written by Alistair Zochowski and Tom Wells, and edited by Robert Clarke. The finds and environmental evidence were assessed, respectively, by Lorraine Mepham and Inés López-Dóriga. The project was managed by Andrew Manning on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



Fareham Innovation Centre (Phase 2), Meteor Way, Daedalus, Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Morgan Sindall Construction & Infrastructure Ltd on behalf of Fareham Borough Council, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial groundworks associated with the construction of a three-storey extension (Phase 2) to the Fareham Innovation Centre at Meteor Way, Daedalus, Lee-on-Solent, Fareham, Hampshire, PO13 9FU, centred on NGR 456839 101776 (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.2 The watching brief was carried out as a condition of planning permission for the Phase 2 development, which was granted by Fareham Borough Council (FBC; planning ref. P/16/1337/D3) on 27 February 2017. The work followed archaeological investigations carried out partially within the site and the immediate area, which were required under conditions attached to separate planning applications for the construction of Phase 1 of the Fareham Innovation Centre and other developments nearby (see section 2.2).

1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2017). Hampshire County Council's (HCC's) County Archaeologist approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The watching brief was undertaken between 19 April and 16 May 2017.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The areas monitored during the watching brief were located within the Phase 2 development site, which measures approximately 1.6 ha, and consists of a sub-rectangular parcel of land centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 456839 101776. Of this area, approximately 0.8 ha is occupied by the existing Fareham Innovation Centre, landscaping and parking, which formed the Phase 1 development. At the time of the watching brief, the remainder of the site comprised an area of grassland, two areas of concrete hardstanding, and the footprint of a recently demolished hangar.

1.3.2 The Phase 2 development site is located within the former Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) Lee-on-Solent (subsequently HMS Daedalus). It is bounded to the south-east by Meteor Way, to the north-west by a taxi-way, to the north-east by grass and hardstanding, and to the south by grassland. The site is immediately to the west of Fareham College's Centre of Excellence for Engineering, Manufacturing and Advanced Skills Technology (CEMAST) building.



- 1.3.3 The Phase 2 development site is located at approximately 8 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The bedrock geology is mapped as sand, silt and clay of the Earnley and Marsh Farm Formations, overlain by river terrace deposits (British Geological Survey online viewer). The river terrace deposits have been identified as belonging to Terrace 2 of the Eastern Solent, dating from MIS 7, c. 200 kya (Briant *et al.* 2009, 25–32).
- 1.3.4 During previous archaeological investigations within and adjacent to the site, the uppermost geological deposit encountered beneath the modern topsoil and subsoil was a mid reddish-yellow/brown silt clay brickearth, with the upper surface of the underlying river terrace gravels occurring at depths of between 1.5–1.75 m below the current ground level (Wessex Archaeology 2013a; 2014a). These findings were also supported by earlier geotechnical works within the site (AP Geotechnics 2014).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following presents a summary of the archaeological and historical background to the site, which is derived from that presented in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017). Relevant entry numbers from the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (HAHBR) are included where appropriate and illustrated on Figure 1.

2.2 Previous investigations

CEMAST site – 2013

- 2.2.1 A trial trench evaluation was undertaken in 2013 in advance of the construction of the CEMAST building (permitted under FBC planning ref. P/13/0201/FP), located immediately to the east of the Phase 2 development site. The work identified several archaeological features, at an average depth of approximately 0.40 m below the present ground surface (Fig. 2). The majority of the features could not be securely dated, although the background presence of worked flint and the proximity to the known midden and hearth site to the west of Broom Way may suggest a prehistoric origin (Wessex Archaeology 2013a). The subsequent strip, map and sample excavation recorded a number of late Bronze Age pits and undated ditches interpreted as possibly representing a prehistoric field system (Wessex Archaeology 2013b). Several pits and postholes contained medieval pottery and worked stone were also identified.

Airfield Hangers East – 2014

- 2.2.2 A further phase of trial trenching was undertaken (in association with works permitted under FBC planning ref. P/13/1115/FP) in 2014 on land to the north of the Phase 2 development site. The work identified that the area had suffered from a considerable degree of modern disturbance, which may have obscured or destroyed archaeological features and deposits. Despite this, an undated pit, a possible prehistoric ditch and a post-medieval pit were excavated and recorded (Wessex Archaeology 2014b).

Fareham Innovation Centre (Phase 1) – 2014

- 2.2.3 A programme of archaeological monitoring and strip and record excavation was carried out in 2014 in association with the Phase 1 construction of the Fareham Innovation Centre (permitted under FBC planning ref. P/14/0081/FP; Wessex Archaeology 2014a). Although the overall density of archaeological features was less than that seen at the neighbouring CEMAST site, a small number of archaeological features were observed, comprising a Late Bronze Age boundary ditch and pit, a ditch containing medieval material and a further ditch and pit of uncertain date.

- 2.2.4 The archaeological features were evident after the removal of up to 0.5 m of modern topsoil and subsoil. However, there was evidence of considerable truncation across the site, which was attributed to the effects of agricultural or development activities. As a result, archaeological remains were relatively shallow, with most features only around 0.1–0.15 m in depth.
- 2.2.5 Six geotechnical trial pits and two boreholes were also excavated within the Phase 1 site prior to the construction of the existing Fareham Innovation Centre building (AP Geotechnics 2014). In general, these investigations encountered between 0.3–0.4 m of topsoil directly overlying up to 1.5 m of clay, which in turn was situated above river terrace deposits. Modern made ground containing brick, metal and earthenware was located in two of the trial pits beneath the overburden. This area of made ground was situated next to the hanger within the Phase 2 development site and may be related to its construction or operation.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Palaeolithic and Mesolithic (c. 1,000, 000–4000 BC)

- 2.3.1 A number of Lower Palaeolithic tools have been found on the beach at Lee-on-Solent after being eroded out from the terrace gravels that are also thought to extend beneath the development site (HAHBR 19684, 19698, 19711, 37821). Palaeolithic and Mesolithic artefactual flintwork has also been recovered within the area of Cherque Farm, to the south of the development site (HAHBR 19654, 19709, 38722).
- 2.3.2 Visibility of the terrace gravels within the Phase 1 investigations and adjacent CEMAST investigations was restricted as the deposits were found to lie beneath brickearth at a depth of 1.5–1.75 m below the current ground level (Wessex Archaeology 2013a; 2014a). No indications of any early prehistoric activity were observed within either site.

Neolithic and Bronze Age (4000–700 BC)

- 2.3.3 The recorded distribution of Neolithic and Bronze Age finds suggest that the coastal plain continued to be exploited in these periods. Confirmed settlements are as yet unknown, although their presence may be suggested by the occurrence of isolated midden sites. One such midden and associated hearth has been recorded to the east of Broom Way, believed to date from the Early Bronze Age (HAHBR 19656/19712).
- 2.3.4 The 2013 trial trench evaluation at the CEMAST site identified a number of small archaeological features that could not be securely dated, although a background presence of burnt flint and a few very fragmentary and badly abraded pottery sherds suggested a possible later prehistoric date for this activity (Wessex Archaeology 2013a). The subsequent excavation recorded a number of late Bronze Age pits and undated ditches possibly representing a prehistoric field system (Wessex Archaeology 2013b), which may correspond with two ditches recorded within the Phase 1 development site (Wessex Archaeology 2014a).

Iron Age and Romano-British (700 BC–AD 410)

- 2.3.5 There is currently limited evidence of Iron Age activity within the coastal plain and, with the exception of the Porchester Roman Fort and associated road, there is little to suggest that the coastal area was intensely settled in the Roman period either. Two possible Romano-British kilns are noted on the HAHBR to the west of Broom Way (HAHBR 19714) and at Chark Common (HAHBR 31010), but there are no other known finds or features of this period to suggest any nearby occupation.



2.3.6 A small amount of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the CEMAST site from within a natural hollow (Wessex Archaeology 2013b), although no substantial evidence of activity during this period has been identified during previous investigations elsewhere within the Daedalus site.

Saxon and medieval (AD 410–1500)

2.3.7 Saxon settlements are known at Rowner (HAHBR 39282) and Grange to the east of Lee-on-Solent, but no contemporary sites or findspots are recorded in the immediate vicinity of the Daedalus site.

2.3.8 From at least the medieval period, this area of Hampshire has been dominated by dispersed settlement, mainly small farmsteads and hamlets. It is possible that the farmstead called Milvill shown on nineteenth century maps within the area of the airfield was also of medieval origin (Terence O'Rourke 2007, 2). The site of a possible medieval settlement (HAHBR 39280) and associated chapel (HAHBR 38748) are also located at Cherque Farm, to the south of the site.

2.3.9 A ditch containing sherds of 11–12th-century pottery was found within the Phase 1 area and several medieval pits and postholes (containing 11th–13th century pottery) were recorded within the CEMAST site (Wessex Archaeology 2013b; 2014a). This suggests some limited activity and possible occupation in these areas, which may have been contemporary with the nearby settlement at Cherque Farm.

Post-medieval to modern (AD 1500–present day)

2.3.10 The rural land use pattern seems to have continued relatively unchanged in the post-medieval and later periods. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map of the area shows the site lying within an area of large semi-regular fields which are likely to represent post-medieval and 19th century enclosure. The intense residential and military development of the peninsula means that little of this landscape pattern remains recognisable today.

2.3.11 The watching brief area is located within the footprint of the former RNAS Lee-on-Solent / HMS Daedalus (HAHBR 39580), built in 1917 as a temporary satellite to the Royal Navy Sea Plane School at RNAS Calshot. It became a permanent RAF station in 1919, and in 1939, the site was formally commissioned as HMS Daedalus, with two main concrete runways being constructed and a third added in 1943. After the Second World War the site continued as a training station until 1996. In 2006 the main airfield was transferred to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency who continued to use it as a base for air sea rescue helicopters. The outer part of the airfield has now been released for development.

2.3.12 The development of the airfield is first visible on the 1965 edition OS map with the location of the watching brief shown at the eastern edge of the active airfield where a large concrete apron and several hangers can be seen. The hanger within the Phase 2 site can be seen to be surrounded at the sides and to the rear by a raised bund.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 With due regard to the ClfA *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), the aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017), were to:



- Examine the archaeological resource within the site, including clarifying the extent of any buried archaeological remains;
- Identify, within the constraints of the works, the date, character and condition of any surviving remains within the site;
- Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits;
- Analyse and interpret the results; and
- Produce a report, which will present the results of the works.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

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

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The watching brief entailed the monitoring of groundworks within the four areas, or 'Zones' specified in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017), where individual elements of the Phase 2 development were expected to entail ground reduction in excess of 0.3 m below existing ground levels (Fig.2):
- Zone 1: Car parking area. An area of 0.17 ha was stripped to a reduced level of 7.68 m OD (c. 0.6 m below existing ground/tarmac level) (Pl. 1 and 2) and three soakaways were excavated to a depth of c. 1.70 m;
 - Zone 2: Small car park area. An area of 0.005 ha was excavated to an average depth of up to 0.6 m below existing ground/tarmac level, and to a maximum depth of 7.27 m OD (Pl. 6 and 7);
 - Zone 3: Footprint of new building. The Zone measured 0.21 ha. Excavations for foundation pads were carried out to a depth of 1.55 m below existing ground level and drainage to c.1.0 m, following the removal of tarmac surfaces;
 - Zone 4: Car parking and landscape area. An area of 0.27 ha was excavated to a depth of 0.6 m below ground level, following the removal of the existing concrete surface.
- 4.2.2 Existing areas of hard standing (tarmac, concrete, paving) within Zones 1–4 were removed via mechanical means. Where possible, all mechanical excavations within the specified areas were undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket and under constant supervision by the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded in level spits until either the uppermost archaeological horizon was exposed, or the formation level was attained.
- 4.2.3 Groundworks were temporarily halted, as required, to enable exposed archaeological features to be investigated and recorded. Where necessary, the surfaces of uncovered

archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the watching brief.

- 4.2.4 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Where found, artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

Recording

- 4.2.5 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.
- 4.2.6 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service was used to survey the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.7 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

- 4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).
- 4.3.2 The specific methodology employed during the processing and assessment of the environmental evidence obtained during the watching brief is presented in section 7.2

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 Hampshire County Council's County Archaeologist monitored the watching brief on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with both the client and the HCC County Archaeologist.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A small number of archaeological features, comprising linear ditches, pits and possible postholes, were exposed and investigated during the watching brief. All of these were located within the north-western part of Zone 1 (Fig. 3). Very little intrinsically datable artefactual material was recovered from any of the excavated contexts within Zone 1. A pit (20006) and a ditch (20004) both yielded considerable quantities of marine shell and are potentially of medieval origin, although the remainder of the features are of uncertain date.



As witnessed during earlier investigations in the vicinity (eg, Wessex Archaeology 2014a), all of the features within Zone 1 were of relatively shallow depth, possibly due to horizontal truncation.

- 5.1.2 No archaeologically significant finds, features or deposits were observed within Zones 2–4, as the observed ground reduction works in these areas did not extend below the level of modern deposits / areas affected by modern ground disturbance and service installations.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

Zone 1

- 5.2.1 Beneath the turf line within Zone 1, the uppermost deposit consisted of a mid-dark brown silty clay topsoil with an average thickness of 0.26 m. This overlaid an intermittent layer of made ground, which attained an average thickness of 0.3 m and consisted of a mixed silty clay, incorporating a high proportion of modern construction debris (brick, patches of yellow sand, rebar and concrete). In turn, the layer of made ground overlaid a patchy mid-dark greyish brown subsoil, with an average thickness of 0.30 m. In places, the layer of made ground was absent, and the topsoil was observed to directly overlie the subsoil horizon.
- 5.2.2 The natural, geological deposits beneath the subsoil consisted of a firm light to dark yellow silty clay (brickearth) with occasional patches of gravel and numerous flint inclusions. The upper surface of the underlying river terrace gravels was observed within the deeper excavations required for three soakaways, at a depth of approximately 2.1 m below the existing ground level, and beneath the 1.4 m thick layer of brickearth.
- 5.2.3 Numerous services and areas of modern disturbance were observed to be cut through the upper surface of the brickearth within Zone 1, particularly within the southern and eastern parts of the area (Pl. 1 and 2).

Zone 2

- 5.2.4 The modern block paving and tarmac surface within Zone 2 were observed to overlie a series of deposits consisting of gravels and sand, all resultant from the installation of services and the construction of the footpath / handstanding.
- 5.2.5 The upper surface of the natural substrate was not exposed within Zone 2 as the formation level (excavated to a maximum depth of 7.27 m OD) did not extend below the depth of modern deposits (Pl. 6 and 7).

Zone 3

- 5.2.6 The concrete and tarmac surfaces within Zone 3 were observed to overlie layers of mixed demolition rubble, deposited as made ground / levelling material / bedding layers for the overlying surfaces (Pl. 8). Numerous services were seen to have been routed through this area of the site.
- 5.2.7 Undisturbed natural deposits were not encountered within Zone 3, as the observed groundworks in this area of the site did not extend below the level of modern layers and areas of disturbance.

Zone 4

- 5.2.8 The surface layer of modern concrete slabs in Zone 4, which formed part of the taxi-way associated with the main airfield, was seen to have an average thickness of 0.3 m. The concrete surface overlaid a thick layer of brick rubble, which formed the sub-base for the

taxi-way (Pl. 9). The underlying brickearth was observed to have been highly truncated and disturbed by the works associated with the construction of the taxi-way.

5.3 Medieval

- 5.3.1 North-west to south-east aligned ditch 20004 (Fig. 3, Pl. 3) crossed the north-western part of Zone 1 for an observed distance of 10.5 m, and extended beyond the limits of the watching brief area. The ditch varied in width from 0.5–0.7 m, and had an excavated depth of 0.11 m. It had a gently sloping U-shaped profile and was filled with a single deposit of mottled grey brown silty clay (20005). A notable quantity of marine shell (oyster and winkle; 944 g) was recovered from the fill of the ditch, along with two small pieces of (probably residual) Romano-British pottery (6 g).
- 5.3.2 Pit 20006 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4) was located immediately to the south of ditch 20004. It was sub-circular in plan, measured 0.8 m in diameter and 0.14 m in depth, and cut undated feature 20008 (see below). The pit contained a single fill, composed of a mottled grey brown silty clay (20007), which yielded two tiny pieces (2 g) of prehistoric pottery and a quantity of marine shell (oyster and winkle; 179 g).
- 5.3.3 Assemblages of marine shell were recovered exclusively from medieval features during earlier work in the immediate vicinity (Wessex Archaeology 2013b; eg, pits 2107 and 2202). Consequently, it is suspected that pit 20006 and ditch 20004 are of broadly similar date, despite an absence of conclusive dating evidence.
- 5.3.4 In addition, ditch 20004 can be correlated with a ditch excavated immediately to the south-east of Zone 1 during investigations associated with the Phase 1 development, and from which a small assemblage of 11–12th century pottery had been recovered (Wessex Archaeology 2014a; ditch 512). The locations of the ditches surveyed in this area during the separate phases of investigation suggests that they are not contiguous. Given the similarity of their profiles and orientation, however, this slight discrepancy could be accounted for as a result of difficulties in defining the precise position of the feature in plan due to the circumstances of the investigations.

5.4 Modern

- 5.4.1 No archaeologically significant remains relating to the early development and operation of RNAS Lee-on-Solent / HMS Daedalus were encountered. However, traces of activity associated with the former military airfield were evident throughout the monitored areas. These included numerous services and fuel lines, areas of sporadic and occasionally severe ground disturbance, evidence of remodelling / levelling works, and the highly truncated footings of a comparatively recent, small square brick structure in the southern part of Zone 1. A small number of pieces of unexploded ordnance (UXO) were also uncovered and removed from the site by specialist contractors during the watching brief.

5.5 Uncertain date

- 5.5.1 The remaining features recorded during the watching brief, all of which were located in the north-western part of Zone 1, are of uncertain date.
- 5.5.2 Ditch 20012 extended to the north-east of ditch 20004 (although it did not intersect with it) for 3 m, before changing orientation and continuing 3.5 m to the east. It was 0.38–0.52 m wide, 0.2 m deep and contained a single fill of mottled dark grey brown silty clay, from which no artefactual material was recovered.



- 5.5.3 East-west ditch 20018 crossed Zone 1 for a distance of 6 m and extended beyond the western limits of the watching brief area. To the east, the feature exhibited a conspicuous narrowing in plan, suggesting that it had been truncated rather than forming a genuine terminal. At its widest point, the ditch measured 1 m across and 0.25 m in depth. The sole deposit infilling the ditch was a mottled yellow brown silty clay, which contained no artefactual material.
- 5.5.4 Ditch 20020, located 14 m to the south of ditch 20018, also followed a broadly east-west orientation. The ditch extended beyond the limits of Zone 1 to the west, but did not continue beyond the line of a service trench some 6 m to the east, possibly due to truncation. It measured 1.2 m in width and 0.14 m in depth. No finds were recovered from the naturally accumulated fill of the ditch.
- 5.5.5 Two small and shallow sub-circular features, 20008 and 20010, located to the south of ditch 20004 were interpreted as possible truncated pits or postholes. No artefactual material was recovered from the features and no obvious function or date could be assigned to them. However, one of the features (20008) was cut by probable medieval pit 20006.

5.6 Natural features

- 5.6.1 Two further small and shallow sub-oval features, 20014 and 20016, also located to the south of ditch 20004, were initially identified as possible postholes. These contained charcoal rich fills, although no anthropogenic/artefactual material was recovered from them. The features were re-interpreted as burnt-out root bowls following excavation, which demonstrated the very irregular nature of their 'cuts' (Pl. 5).

6 Artefactual evidence

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A very small quantity of finds was recovered from the site, partly by hand excavation and partly through extraction from sieved soil samples rather than by hand excavation (only one sherd of pottery was recovered by hand). They derived from two contexts: 20005 (fill of ditch 20004) and 20007 (fill of pit 20006), and comprise worked and burnt flint, fired clay, pottery, animal bone and shell. Quantities by context are given in Table 1.

Table 1 Finds by material type (number of pieces/weight in grammes)

Context	Burnt Flint	Fired Clay	Pottery	Shell	Other Finds
20005		3/6	2/6	591/944	2 animal bone
20007	72/89	3/17	2/2	174/179	1 worked flint
Total	72/89	6/23	4/8	765/1123	

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The pottery provides the primary dating evidence for both features, but all five sherds are small and abraded, and are unlikely to represent primary refuse deposits. As such their use as dating tools should be viewed with caution.
- 6.2.2 The two sherds from pit 20006 are in sparsely flint-tempered fabrics. These sherds are undiagnostic and particularly badly worn, but can be broadly dated on fabric grounds as later prehistoric. The two sherds from ditch 20004 are in a Romano-British sandy greyware, but in the absence of diagnostic features cannot be dated more closely within the period.

6.3 Shell

- 6.3.1 The quantity of shell recovered in comparison to the other finds is striking, but much of this total comprises fragments of oyster shell. Identifiable valves (more complete shells) are limited to 23 from ditch 20004 and 16 from pit 20006. These are divided fairly equally between right-hand valves (preparation waste, 19 valves) and left-hand valves (consumption waste, 20 valves). There are also 385 winkle shells from ditch 20004, and one from pit 20006.

6.4 Other Finds

- 6.4.1 Other finds are limited to negligible quantities of fired clay (undiagnostic fragments of unknown date and function), worked flint (small flake, not chronologically distinctive within prehistoric period), burnt, unworked flint (unknown date and origin) and animal bone (unidentifiable to species).

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 Four bulk samples were taken from a range of features, comprising a ditch (20004), a pit (20006) and two features initially identified as postholes and subsequently interpreted as burnt out root bowls (20014 and 20016). The samples were processed and assessed for the presence of environmental evidence.

7.2 Aims and methods

- 7.2.1 The purpose of this assessment is to determine the potential of the environmental remains preserved at the site to address project aims and to provide archaeobotanical data valuable for wider research frameworks.
- 7.2.2 The size of the samples varied between 6 and 39 litres, and on average was around 15 litres. The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>4 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots and the finer residue fractions (or a subsample of them) were scanned using a stereo incident light microscopy (Leica MS5 microscope) at magnifications of up to x40 for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (eg, *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as earthworm eggs and insects, which would not be preserved unless anoxic conditions prevailed on site. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence of other environmental remains such as molluscs was recorded.
- 7.2.3 Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals. Abundance of remains is qualitatively quantified (A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30–99, A = >10, B = 9–5, C = <5) as an estimation of the minimum number of individuals and not the number of remains per taxa.

7.3 Results

- 7.3.1 The flots were of variable volumes (Appendix 2) and there were high numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material was poorly preserved and

comprised a small number of remains from seeds and nutshell fragments from taxa such as indeterminate cereal (Triticeae), wild vetches (Viciaeae), grasses (Poaceae) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*). Wood charcoal was noted in variable quantities and was mostly from mature wood. Remains of mollusc shells were present in moderate quantities in the samples.

7.4 Discussion

7.4.1 The assemblages have little potential and require no further analysis. They provide evidence for plant processing activities on site, although they are not indicative of any particular chronology.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

8.1.1 The watching brief achieved its stated aims by establishing the extent of previous disturbance caused by prior development, and enabling the investigation, interpretation and preservation by record of surviving archaeological remains within the site.

8.1.2 The results of the watching brief were generally consistent with expectations based on the known history of development on the site, and the findings of previous investigations associated with the construction of the Phase 1 development and the adjacent CEMAST building (Wessex Archaeology 2013a–b, 2014a).

8.1.3 No archaeologically significant finds, features or deposits were recorded within Zones 2–4, primarily as the groundworks monitored in these locations largely coincided with areas which had been substantially affected by modern ground disturbance and service installations.

8.1.4 A sparse scatter of largely undated linear ditches, pits and possible postholes was, however, recorded within Zone 1, where the groundworks provided the opportunity to examine a less disturbed part of the site. Nevertheless, all of the features in this area were relatively shallow, as has been observed during previous archaeological investigations nearby. This may, in part, be attributable to horizontal truncation caused by prior development of the airfield and/or earlier agricultural activity.

8.1.5 No significant indications of prehistoric activity on the site were recorded during the watching brief. This is in contrast to earlier work in the immediate vicinity, which revealed several Bronze Age pits and ditches (Wessex Archaeology 2013a–b, 2014a). However, very little artefactual material was recovered from any of the excavated features in Zone 1, which imposed difficulties in terms of dating and characterising them.

8.1.6 The principal exceptions to this were a small pit (20006) and a ditch (20004), which yielded assemblages of oyster and winkle shell. These are likely to be contemporary with a small number of earlier medieval features previously recorded to the south-east, some of which also contained marine shell (Wessex Archaeology 2013b). Indeed, the ditch probably represents the continuation of an earlier medieval land division recorded immediately to the south-east of Zone 1 during archaeological monitoring associated with the Phase 1 development (Wessex Archaeology 2014a; ditch 512).

8.1.7 Whilst sharing similarities in terms of dimensions, profile and infilling deposits, the three other linear ditches within Zone 1 could not be directly correlated with any others recorded nearby (eg, on the basis of shared orientations or spatial patterning). Whilst their date and



function remains uncertain, this does not preclude the possibility that they relate to the same phases of (medieval and Bronze Age) land division recorded previously on the sites of the Phase 1 development and the CEMAST building (Wessex Archaeology 2013a-b, 2014a).

- 8.1.8 The remainder of the features recorded in Zone 1 comprised a small number of shallow, undated pits and/or possible postholes. These were broadly similar in character to a number of other features recorded during earlier archaeological works in the immediate vicinity. Although of uncertain date, one of the pits (20008) was cut by, and therefore pre-dated the possible medieval pit, 20006.

8.2 Discussion

- 8.2.1 The watching brief has revealed further, albeit sparse and poorly dated elements of the fragmented, multi-period landscape uncovered during previous archaeological works within the site of the former RNAS Lee-on-Solent / HMS Daedalus.
- 8.2.2 Truncation could have accounted for the loss of more ephemeral remains within Zone 1. However, there is no clear evidence that this location had been more significantly affected in this regard than the areas previously investigated to the south-east, where recorded archaeological features attained a similar average depth (Wessex Archaeology 2013a–b, 2014a). Differential preservation is therefore unlikely to account for any apparent disparity in the levels of activity indicated by the types and densities of archaeological remains uncovered throughout these areas.
- 8.2.3 Little evidence for Bronze Age activity was identified during the watching brief. This suggests that Zone 1 lies on the periphery of the more intensively utilised area investigated to the south-east within the Phase 1 development area and, in particular, the footprint of the CEMAST building (Wessex Archaeology 2013a–b, 2014a). However, it is some of the undated features recorded within Zone 1 could derive from the same phase of activity.
- 8.2.4 The watching brief has provided evidence of earlier medieval land division and exploitation of marine resources, adding to that from earlier phases of investigation to the south-east. The oyster and winkle shells recovered from pit 20006 and ditch 20004 appears to represent the dumped waste products from shellfish gathered from the adjacent coastline, which was then processed and consumed nearby. Similar evidence has been recorded at the site of the CEMAST building (Wessex Archaeology 2013b) and from medieval rural domestic contexts investigated in neighbouring coastal areas (eg, at Hilsea; TVAS 2011).
- 8.2.5 The shellfish presumably supplemented the diet of an otherwise largely agricultural community living in close proximity. However, the focus of the putative medieval settlement remains elusive in the absence of evidence for structures, or other proxy indicators of domestic activity, such as large assemblages of cultural material or dense concentrations of features.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. The Hampshire Cultural Trust has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **A2017.15**. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.



9.2 Preparation of the archive

- 9.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Hampshire Cultural Trust, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the site / accession code (**104761 / A2017.15**), and a full index will be prepared.

9.3 Selection policy

- 9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4), with the aim of retaining only those finds which are considered to have further research potential, or which fulfil other criteria within the museum's collecting policy.
- 9.3.2 In this instance, given the small quantity of finds and environmental remains recovered, their nature and condition (datable material possibly redeposited; significant proportion of undatable finds), retention for long-term curation would not be recommended. The selection policy will be fully documented in the project archive.

9.4 Security copy

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

9.5 OASIS

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

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

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



10.2 Third party data copyright

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



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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 OASIS form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: wessexar1-423891

Project details

Project name	Fareham Innovation Centre (Phase 2), Meteor Way, Daedalus, Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology commissioned by Morgan Sindall Construction and Infrastructure Ltd on behalf of Fareham Borough Council undertook an archaeological watching brief as a condition of planning permission (planning ref. P/16/1337/D3, Fareham Borough Council, 27 February 2017) during initial groundworks of an extension to the existing Fareham Innovation Centre, at Meteor Way, Daedalus, Lee-on-Solent, Fareham, Hampshire, PO13 9FU, centred on NGR 456839 101776. The work followed archaeological investigations carried out under conditions attached to separate planning applications for the construction of the Fareham Innovation Centre (Phase 1) and other developments nearby. The watching brief, undertaken between 19 April and 16 May 2017, revealed further, albeit sparse and poorly dated elements of the fragmented, multi-period landscape uncovered during previous archaeological works within the former RNAS Lee-on-Solent/HMS Daedalus. No archaeologically significant finds, features or deposits were recorded within three areas monitored during the watching brief (Zones 2-4), as groundworks largely coincided with areas substantially affected by modern ground disturbance and service installations. In contrast a sparse scatter of shallow linear ditches, pits and possible postholes was recorded within another area (Zone 1). Little intrinsically datable artefactual material was recovered from any excavated contexts, although a pit and a ditch yielded considerable quantities of marine shell, potentially of earlier medieval origin. The focus of a putative medieval settlement remains elusive, but this suggests that Zone 1 lies on the periphery of the more intensively utilised area previously investigated to the south-east. No significant indications of prehistoric activity were recorded during the watching brief.</p>
Project dates	Start: 19-04-2017 End: 16-05-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	104761 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	P/16/1337/D3 - Planning Application No. 89352 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated
project reference
codes

Any associated project reference codes wessexar1-189570 - OASIS form ID

Any associated project reference codes 89351 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes wessexar1-164180 - OASIS form ID

Type of project Recording project

Current Land use Other 15 - Other

Monument type PIT Medieval

Monument type DITCH Medieval

Monument type POSTHOLE Uncertain

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type ""Watching Brief""

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location HAMPSHIRE FAREHAM FAREHAM Fareham Innovation Centre (Phase 2), Meteor Way, Daeadalus,

Postcode PO13 9FU

Study area 0 Hectares

Site coordinates SU 56839 01776 50.812178654963 -1.193146932168 50 48 43 N 001 11 35 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology

Project brief originator Morgan Sindall

Project design originator Wessex Archaeology

Project director/manager Andrew Manning

Project supervisor Alistair Zochowski

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Digital Archive ID	A2017.15
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Paper Archive ID	A2017.15
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Fareham Innovation Centre (Phase 2), Meteor Way, Daedalus, Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire, Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor (s)	Wells, T.
Author(s)/Editor (s)	Zochowski, A.
Other bibliographic details	104761.3
Date	2021
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
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Description	A4 bound Client report with figures and blue spine
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Entered on	15 June 2021

OASIS:

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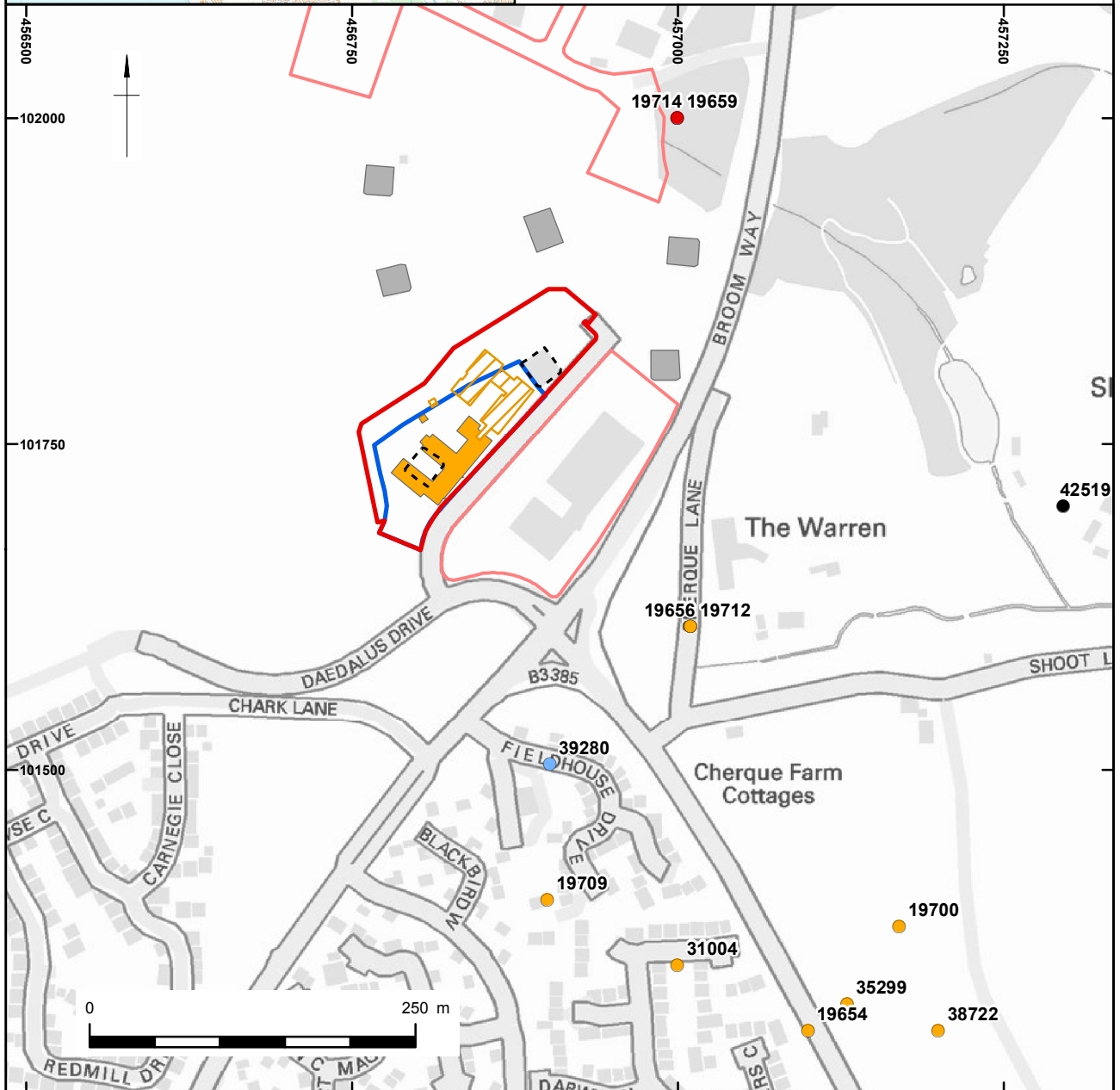
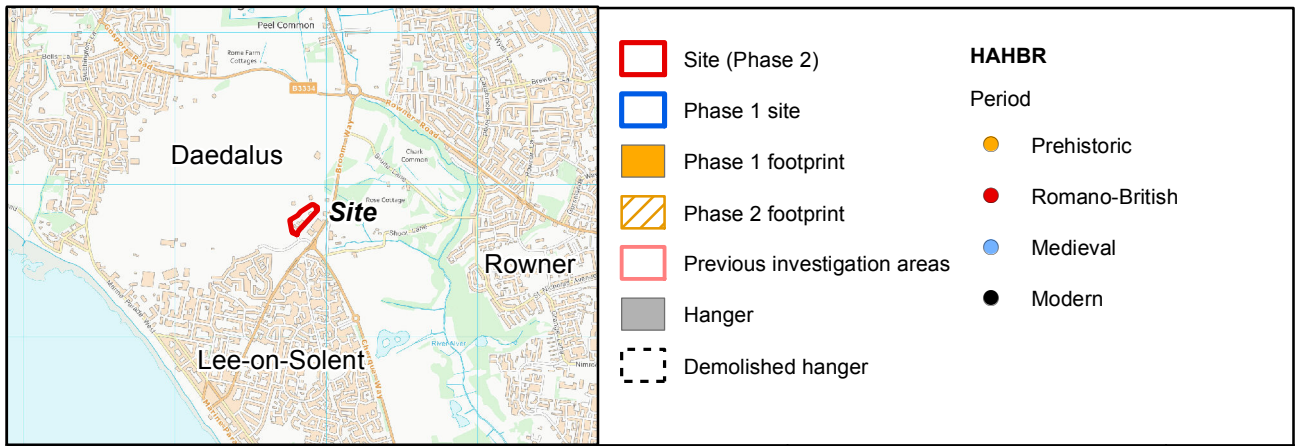
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Appendix 2 Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
20004	20005	20000	39	250	25 % residue	90%	-	-	-	C	Viciae, Chenopodiaceae, Poaceae, <i>Corylus avellana</i> , indet.	30 ml	Moll, slag
20006	20007	20001	19.5	8	50% residue	90%	-	-	-	C	Viciae, Poaceae	20 ml	Moll, slag
20014	20015	20002	10	170	100% residue	70%	C	-	Triticeae	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	140 ml	Moll, slag
20016	20017	20003	6	50	75% residue	50%	-	-	-	-	-	60 ml	Moll

Key: C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%); Sab/f/c = small animal/fish bones/charred faecal pellets, Moll = molluscs



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Site location

Figure 1



Results from previous investigations

Figure 2

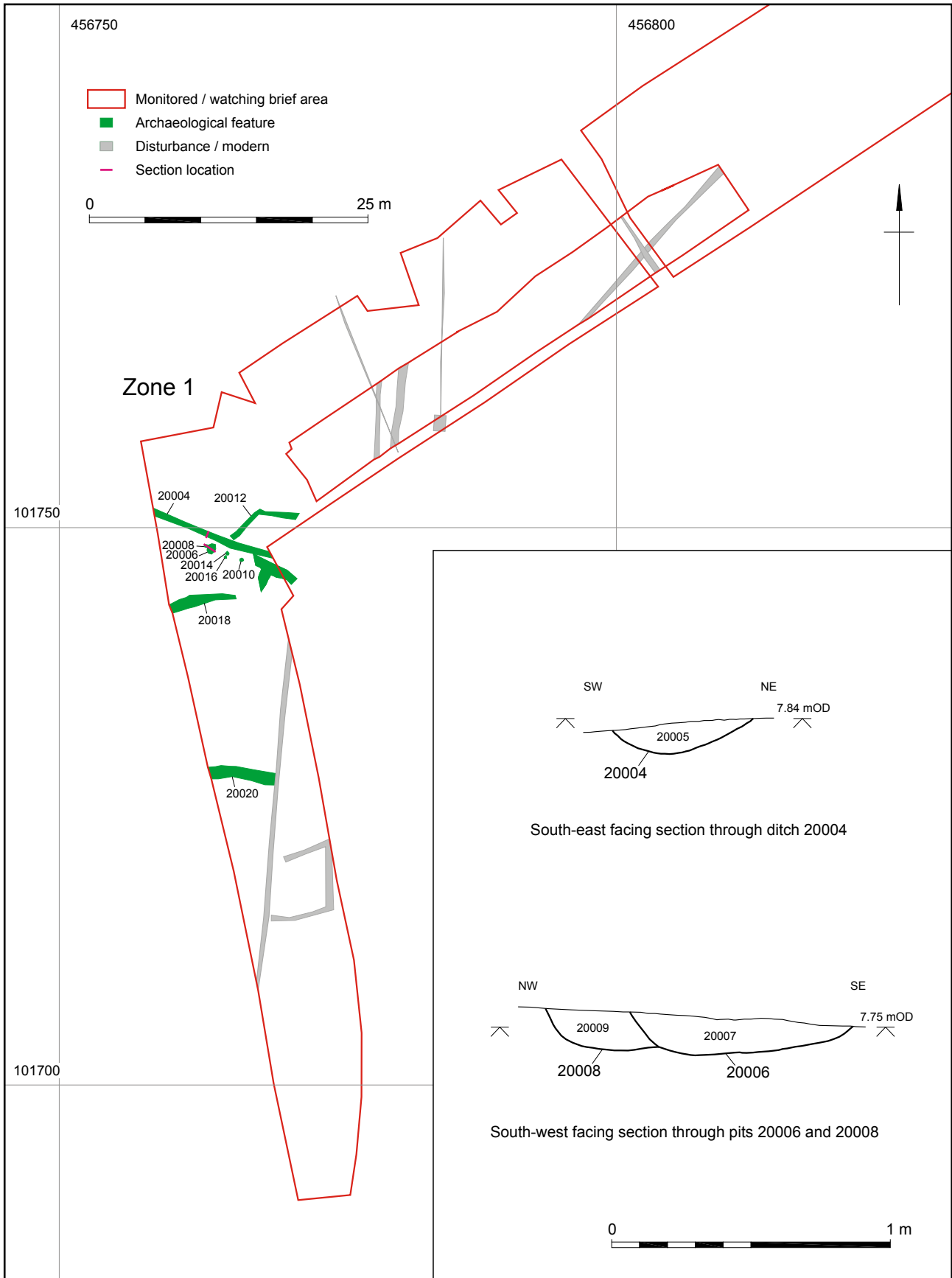



- Site zones
- Site (Phase 2)
- Phase 1 site
- Phase 1 footprint
- Phase 2 footprint
- Previous investigation areas
- Hanger
- Demolished hanger
- Previous evaluation trench
- Previous strip map and sample area
- Monitored / watching brief area
- Archaeological feature
- Disturbance
- Natural feature

Coordinate system:
OSGB36 (OSTN02/OSGM02)

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Zone 1 plan and sections

Figure 3



Plate 1: Zone 1 showing modern truncation, looking north



Plate 2: Zone 1 showing modern truncation, looking north east


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Plate 3: Ditch 20004, looking north west, 0.20m scale

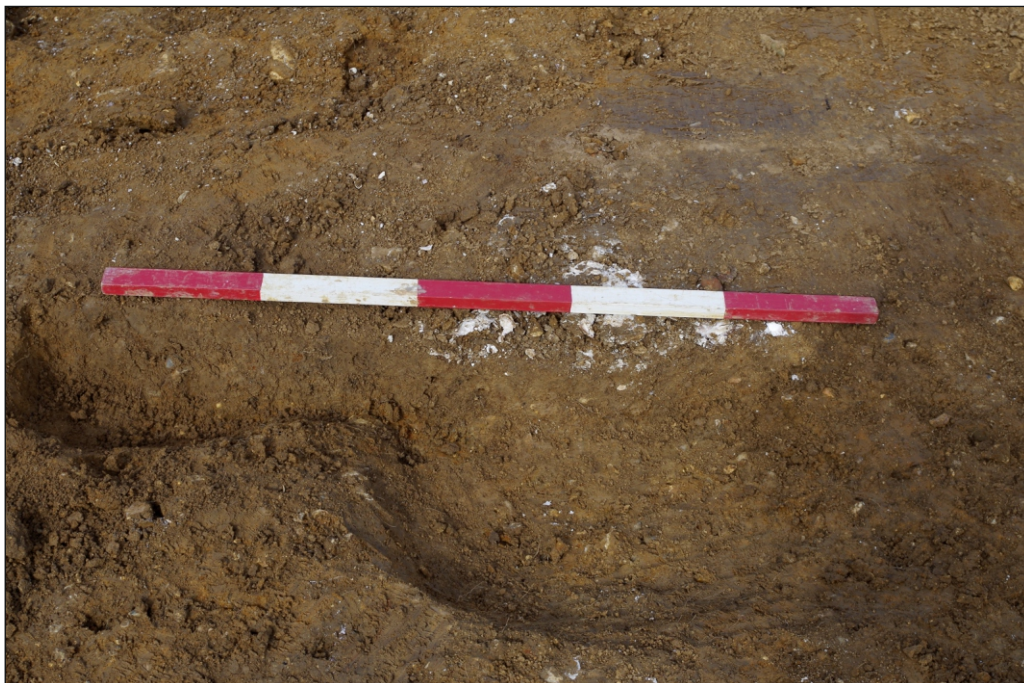


Plate 4: Pits 20006 and 20008, looking north, 1m scale


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Plate 5: Root bores 20014 and 20016 looking east, 1m scale



Plate 6: Excavation of Zone 2, looking south east


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Plate 7: Representative section of Zone 2, looking east. 1m scale



Plate 8: Excavation of Zone 3, looking south



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Plate 9: Excavation of Zone 4, looking east

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Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

