



Kingsclere Road, Manor Farm, Monk Sherborne, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation



Planning Ref: 18/01064/CMA
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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Integrated Skills Limited, on behalf of G B Foot Limited, to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land at Kingsclere Road, Manor Farm, Monk Sherborne, Hampshire (NGR) 460104 154796. The archaeological evaluation, consisting of 12 trenches, each measuring approximately 30 m by 2 m, was carried out between the 13th and 15th September 2021 and was the addition to the evaluation conducted in 2017.

The Site has been proposed for a new chalk/agricultural limestone quarry to replace the existing quarry at Manor Farm located to the north of the Site. Results from an earlier Heritage Statement and Detailed Gradiometer survey had identified archaeological potential for the result, including the presence of a Scheduled Monument 'keyhole' enclosure in the adjacent field to the east (undated, but presumed to be of Iron Age date), and a small quantity of geophysical anomalies that possibly represented archaeological remains. On the basis of these results, the Hampshire County Archaeologist, as advisor to the Local Planning Authority, determined that a trial trench evaluation was required, to test the apparent archaeological potential of the Site.

The archaeological evaluation combined targeted trenches to specifically investigate geophysical anomalies, and a more general spread of trenches to test apparent blank areas and ensure a relatively even spread of trenches across the site. The evaluation comprised 12 trenches, five of which were cancelled during the course of the evaluation in 2017 due to a live badger sett that was discovered towards the northern edge of the site. Additionally due to the quarry entrance redesign, seven more trenches were positioned along the South-East edge of site.

A small number of archaeological features were found during the evaluation. An undated pit was uncovered in the northern portion of the site (Trench 8), its lack of archaeological material and steep profile may suggest is the result of quarrying. Another pit was found (Trench 9) to contained Early Bronze Age pottery derived from as least two fragmented vessels, along with burnt flint and a fragment of animal bone. This features sits in a known Bronze Age landscape, with the round barrows located to the north-east and south-east of the site. A single ditch was uncovered in the southern area (Trench 39) which corresponded with the results of the geophysical survey, no finds were recovered. Geophysical anomalies that could be identified as subsurface 'features' were found to be either geological in origin or the result of bioturbation (tree throw holes).

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The samples were processed by Jenny Giddins. The flots were sorted and assessed by Ed Treasure. The environmental assessment was written by Ed Treasure with contributions from Samantha Rogerson and was edited by Inés López-Dóriga. Finds were assessed by Elina Brook.



Kingsclere Road, Manor Farm Monk Sherborne, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Integrated Skills Limited, on behalf of G B Foot Limited (hereafter 'the client') to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Manor Farm, Monk Sherborne, Hampshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 460104 154796 (hereafter 'the site') (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprises a new chalk/agricultural limes quarry to replace an existing site located to the north, at Manor Farm. A planning application submitted (18/01064/CMA) submitted to Hampshire County Council was granted, subject to conditions. The evaluation was undertaken as part of a series of archaeological works carried out both in support of and following conditions of the planning decision.
- 1.1.3 A Heritage Statement for the site was undertaken in 2016 (Wessex Archaeology 2016a), the results of which warranted geophysical survey to be undertaken across the wider proposed development area (Wessex Archaeology 2016b). Due to the presence of archaeological features concentrated within the eastern half of the site, the proposed extraction area was moved to the west. Further archaeological mitigation in the form of a trial trench evaluation was agreed, to establish the presence/absence of archaeological features. The initial evaluation was undertaken in 2017 comprising 28 trenches revealed no features of archaeological origin, though flints recovered from topsoil contexts suggests a background of low-level prehistoric activity (Wessex Archaeology 2017a). However, five trenches within the northern extent of the investigation were unable to be excavated due to the presence of a badger sett, resulting the need for this second investigation.
- 1.1.4 In addition to the five unexcavated trenches from the previous evaluation, seven further trenches were positioned along the south-eastern edge of the site in response to a redesign of the quarry entrance.
- 1.1.5 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2017b). The County Archaeologist approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.6 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between the 13th and 15th September 2021.

1.2 Scope of the report

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



1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The site comprises an irregular parcel of land of approximately 11.70 hectares (ha) located south-west of the village of Monk Sherborne, some 4.30 km north-east of Basingstoke, Hampshire.
- 1.3.2 The site is split into two areas; the working area and a proposed biodiversity area. The working area, which is proposed for extraction, covers approximately 5.50 ha of the area proposed for development and, as it is the area on which groundworks area proposed it is therefore the only area in which the archaeological resource will be affected it shall henceforth be referred to as the site.
- 1.3.3 The site is bordered to the south by Kingsclere Road (A339), and which forks into Basingstoke Road which heads north-west. The east of the site is bordered by a single entrance road leading towards Monk Sherborne. The remainder of the site faces open fields and farmland.
- 1.3.4 The site is situated within a meandering landscape at an elevation of approximately 125 m (to the north) to 138 m (to the south) above Ordnance Datum (aOD). Local topography falls sharply to the east towards the source of the River Loddon (located to the east of Basingstoke) 6.20 km south-east.
- 1.3.5 The underlying bedrock geology throughout the site is mapped as the Lewes Nodular Chalk formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, and Newhaven Chalk Formation. There are no superficial deposits recorded on the Site (British Geological Survey 2021).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site was assessed in detail within a Heritage Statement (WA 2016a) which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1 km Study Area around the site. The results of this assessment and relevant Hampshire Historic Environment Records (HHER) and entries from the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) are summarised below.

2.2 Previous investigations

- 2.2.1 Wessex Archaeology carried out an excavation and controlled strip at Weybrook Park and Golf Course in 2008, located 780 m to the west of the site (Wessex Archaeology 2008). One undated posthole and a probable tree-throw were revealed; however, no datable finds were retrieved.
- 2.2.2 In 2016 Wessex Archaeology conducted a detailed gradiometer survey of the site including the area to the east not designated for extraction (Wessex Archaeology 2016b). This survey revealed the probable extent of the Iron Age keyhole enclosure to the east of the site as well as several pit and ditch like features likely associated with it. The survey also identified clusters of pit-like features across the site, although it is not clear if all of these discrete anomalies were archaeological in origin.
- 2.2.3 In 2017 Wessex Archaeology carried out the evaluation of the western part of site. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within the investigated areas. Geophysical anomalies that could be identified as subsurface 'features' were found to be either geological in origin or the result of bioturbation. Artefacts, predominantly comprising worked flint of indeterminate date, were recovered from topsoil contexts throughout the site,



indicating a low-level prehistoric background activity within the general area, and most likely associated with the Scheduled Monument enclosure located immediately to the east.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

- 2.3.1 There is one Scheduled Monument within the area of the site which is an Iron Age keyhole enclosure measuring 60 m west to east and 50 m north to south (NHLE No. 1001802; **Figure 1**). The monument is located in the north-east corner of the site, outside the proposed extraction area.
- 2.3.2 A possible late Neolithic enclosure identified from aerial photographs lies 520 m north-east of the site. Within the enclosure is a sub-division and two inter-connecting features.
- 2.3.3 Occupation of the surrounding landscape during the Bronze Age is demonstrated by several features in the Study Area. Towards the south-east of the site (71 m) there is a round barrow. A scatter of brick, charcoal and burnt flints were found present on western side of the mound. There is also a levelled round barrow still visible on the ground as a concentration of chalk and flint nodules. Two inter-locking ring ditches 50 m north-east of the site have been identified through aerial photography, while 630 m north-east of the site, a further ring ditch is visible as a crop mark.
- 2.3.4 To the south-east of the site is a high concentration of Iron Age sites and cropmark features, indicating a settlement site in this location. Features include two banjo enclosures as well as other enclosures with internal features and a number of undated linear features most likely representing field systems. This complex of features is considered to represent three phases of enclosure systems.
- 2.3.5 A further Iron Age settlement site has been identified to the east of the site. This irregular series of cropmarks includes an enclosure with internal features and a trackway running north-east to south-west. Across the Study Area a number of undated linear features have been identified from aerial photography. Although undated these may relate to further Iron Age activity within the landscape as it has been shown that a number of settlement site existed in this area during this period.
- 2.3.6 The possible remains of a Romano-British villa were discovered 450 m east of the site. Roman building material was also identified north of the villa at (410 m north-east of the site). To the north of the site, south of the village of Monk Sherborne, a high concentration of Romano-British material was recovered. At the northeast corner of the Study Area a Roman building was identified on the edge of an extensive chalk pit with finds of pottery, building remains and shells recovered.
- 2.3.7 Manor Farm 980 m north-east of the site reflects the growth and adoption of Saxon culture, with evidence of the farm being used from the 3rd to the 7th century. As well as the Romano-British remains discussed above, a rectangular timber structure was uncovered which is believed to date to the Anglo-Saxon period. Burnt flint, charcoal and a burnt clay area were recovered within the building, with a hoard found just to the north. Monk Sherborne is named in the Domesday Book, as Monk Sherborne (Sireborne) meaning bright or clear stream, with 'Monk' indicating there was a priory here. There is no evidence for medieval remains located within the site boundary, however there are undated lynchets which may relate to medieval or later farming practices. The Site during the medieval period was most likely part of the agricultural hinterland of the surrounding settlements.
- 2.3.8 The post-medieval period appeared to have spurred an increase in growth and development around the parish of Monk Sherborne. There is a number of post-medieval Grade II Listed



Buildings that reflect the growth of the village, including cottages along Monk Sherborne Road. Agriculture appears to have formed an important aspect of the economy of Monk Sherborne and the surrounding landscape. The site itself was most likely used for agricultural purposes as part of the hinterland of Monk Sherborne.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1.1 As stated within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017a), the overall aim of the programme of archaeological evaluation was to provide further information regarding the potential location and nature of the archaeological remains within the site. If remains were present, the evaluation was to seek to establish sufficient details such that informed decisions could be made regarding the need and scope of any further mitigation that may be required before or during the development of the Site.

3.1.2 With due regard to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation* (CIfA 2014a), the generic aims of the project were to:

- To locate, identify and to investigate and record the presence/absence of archaeological features and deposits;
- To confirm, where possible, the extent, date, character, relationship, condition and significance of archaeological features, artefacts and deposits within the proposed development area;
- To inform the scope and nature of any requirements for any potential further fieldwork, whether additional watching brief, excavation or post-excavation work;
- To enable the preservation by record of any archaeological features or deposits uncovered; and
- To place any identified archaeological remains within their historical context.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

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

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI (**Fig. 1**).

4.2.2 A total of 12 trial trenches, each measuring 30 m in length and 2 m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Two trenches (9 and 10) were extended slightly to allow for defining of observed features. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.3 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. All of the archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.



- 4.2.4 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. 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.
- 4.2.5 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the County Archaeologist were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

- 4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including 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.
- 4.2.7 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.8 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 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 Finds and environmental strategies

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017a). 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), *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011), and ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The County Archaeologist monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the County Archaeologist.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Three of the 12 excavated trial trenches contained archaeological features and deposits, indicating archaeological remains, though very sparse, are present across the site (**Fig. 1**).
- 5.1.2 The uncovered features comprised a ditch, a possible quarrying pit and an Early Bronze Age pit, from which a small assemblage of finds were recovered.
- 5.1.3 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed. Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench

summary tables (**Appendix 1**). **Figure 1** shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches, together with the preceding geophysical survey results (REF).

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 All trenches were situated on agricultural land which had previously been natural downland. The ploughsoil consisted of mid reddish brown silty clay, 0.28-0.38 m thick. The underlying geology across all of the trenches was off-white Upper Chalk of Lewes Nodular, Seaford, and Newhaven Formation (**Plate 1**).

5.3 Archaeological results

5.3.1 The trenches in the southern part of site (Trenches 39 – 45) were targeted on anomalies identified during the earlier geophysical survey and one (Trench 39) was positioned over an east – west aligned ditch (**Figure 1**). Most of the geophysical anomalies corresponded to a mixture geological variances or features formed by bioturbation (i.e., tree throw holes) (**Plate 2**). Most tree throw holes were investigated but no artefacts were retrieved (**Plate 3**).

5.3.2 In Trench 8 a large oval pit like feature (803; **Plate 4**) was excavated. It measured 2.40 m by 1.20 m. Clear in plan and cut into a very degraded chalk which made the steep sides very unstable. Featured not bottomed due to health and safety reasons (stopped at 1m from the ground surface). No finds were retrieved from its fill and the function remains unknown, although it is suggested that it was possibly a quarry pit.

5.3.3 In Trench 9 pit 903 (**Plate 5**) measuring approximately 0.5 m in diameter was uncovered. It was up to 0.15 m deep with steep sides and shallow base. Its fill contained two 50 mm fragments of charcoal and few small fragments of an Early Bronze Age collared urn. It is very likely that the feature was truncated by ploughing, as the trenches in this area were shallow with visible plough scars. The environmental sample contained hazel charcoal and a single fragment of grain.

5.3.4 In Trench 39 the ditch was excavated which corresponds to the linear geophysical anomaly. Ditch 3903 (**Plate 6**) was 1.0 m wide and 0.38 m deep with moderately sloped, straight sides forming a wide V-shaped profile. No finds were recovered.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A total of 469 g of finds was recovered from a single feature (pit 903) found within Trench 9. The finds have been quantified by material type and scanned to assess their nature, condition and potential date range. The results are presented in Table 1.

Table 1 All finds by context (no./wt. in grammes)

Context	Feature	Pottery	Animal bone	Burnt flint
904	Pit 903	19/157	1/1	11/311

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 The 19 sherds (157 g) of pottery found within pit 903 date to the Early Bronze Age. The condition of this material is poor (mean sherd weight 8.3 g) and characterised by a high degree of brokenness although some conjoining sherds were noted.

6.2.2 The assemblage has been quantified (sherd count and weight) by ware type and the presence of diagnostic features have been noted. Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs)

have not been calculated due to the absence of any rims. The level of recording accords with the 'basic record' advocated for the purpose of characterising an assemblage rapidly and providing a comparable dataset (Barclay *et al.* 2016, section 2.4.5).

Fabric, form and decoration

- 6.2.3 All sherds are in a soft, grog-tempered fabric (G1) containing moderate (15%) quantities of moderately sorted grog (1-3 mm, rarely up to 5 mm) and sparse iron oxides (<1mm) in a slightly sandy matrix (quartz <1mm).
- 6.2.4 Fragments from at least two vessels are present including 17 pieces (149 g) from a Collared Urn. This vessel is of tri-partite form with a concave collar and a weak shoulder. The collar is decorated with impressed twisted cord, possibly in a herringbone motif with a border of short, diagonal twisted cord impressions at the lower edge of the collar. The neck is undecorated whilst a single row of sub-oval stabbed impressions decorates the shoulder. Unfortunately, given the absence of a rim it is not possible to place this vessel within any classificatory schemes such as those of Longworth (1984) or Burgess (1986).
- 6.2.5 The second vessel is represented by just two joining thin-walled fragments with a plain horizontal cordon or lug on the exterior.

Discussion

- 6.2.6 Although the fragmentary nature of this small group of pottery limits direct comparisons with other assemblages the range of fabrics and decorative techniques present fit well within Early Bronze Age ceramic traditions as a whole. Amongst the Collared Urns listed by Longworth (1984) are 35 from Hampshire, including one from Basingstoke (201, no. 617, Plate 154c) whilst more recent discoveries include groups from Beggarwood Lane, Basingstoke (McSloy 2019) and Walworth Industrial Estate, Andover (Mephram 2015, 15).

6.3 Animal bone

- 6.3.1 A single small fragment of burnt animal bone was found. It is not identifiable to species.

6.4 Burnt, unworked flint

- 6.4.1 The 11 pieces of burnt unworked flint are intrinsically undateable, but this material type is frequently associated with prehistoric activity.

6.5 Finds Potential and recommendations

- 6.5.1 The assessment results from this and previous phases of work (Wessex Archaeology 2017b) indicate that the preservation of artefacts across the site is poor. Chronological evidence from the pottery (this phase) indicates Early Bronze Age activity in the area whilst the flint (Wessex Archaeology 2017b) suggests a low level of Neolithic–Bronze Age activity in the vicinity.
- 6.5.2 The pottery has been recorded in accordance with the nationally recognised guidelines (Barclay *et al.* 2016) and the burnt bone and burnt flint have been recorded to recommended minimum standards for the archiving of archaeological finds. No further work is recommended at this stage. However, in the event of any future archaeological excavations at the site the material recovered from this evaluation should be reviewed alongside any additional material and as a minimum this report should be adapted for inclusion in any future dissemination of the results.



7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 One bulk sample was taken from an Early Bronze Age pit (903) and was processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence.

7.2 Aims and methods

7.2.1 The aim of this assessment is to determine the nature, significance and potential of the environmental remains preserved at the site. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidelines (Campbell *et al.* 2011).

7.2.2 The sample was 750 ml in volume and was processed by manual flotation; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse residue fraction (>4 mm) was sorted by eye and discarded. Environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots. The fine residue fractions and the flots were examined using a Brunel BMSZ stereomicroscope at up to x40 magnification.

7.2.3 Plant remains were identified through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006). Selected charcoal fragments were identified through examination of the transverse (TS), tangential longitudinal (TLS) and radial longitudinal (RLS) sections at up to x400 magnification using a Kyowa ME-LUX2 microscope. Charcoal identifications were assisted by the descriptions of Gale and Cutler (2000), Hather (2000) and Schweingruber (1990), together with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereals and other cultivated crops (using traditional names).

7.2.4 Different potential indicators of bioturbation were noted, including the percentage of modern roots and abundance of modern seeds, alongside the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g., *Cenococcum geophilum*), burrowing snails (e.g., *Cecilioides acicula*), earthworm eggs and modern insects.

7.2.5 Remains within flots and residues were recorded semi-quantitatively on an abundance scale: C = <5 ('Trace'), B = 5-10 ('Rare'), A = 10-30 ('Occasional'), A* = 30-100 ('Common'), A** = 100-500 ('Abundant'), A*** = >500 ('Very abundant/Exceptional').

7.3 Results

7.3.1 The results are presented in Appendix 2 (Table 2). The flot is moderate in size and almost entirely composed of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) charcoal. The charcoal is in good condition with large fragments up to approximately 40 mm in length, although these are quite friable. The fragments exhibit moderate to strong ring curvature and wide growth rings, suggesting that the charcoal derives from a roundwood pole/stem growing in open conditions. Based on the condition of the charcoal and the distinctive growth ring patterns, it is evident that all the charcoal derives from the same piece of wood. Plant remains are restricted to a single charred indeterminate cereal (Triticeae) grain fragment.

7.3.2 Other material noted comprises occasional terrestrial molluscs, including blind burrowing snail (*Cecilioides acicula*), and modern uncharred seeds. These indicate some bioturbation within the feature.



7.4 Conclusions

- 7.4.1 The sample appears to contain a single charred fragment of a hazel stem/pole which was deposited into the feature shortly after been charred. It has further broken up during excavation and sample processing. The evidence recovered is difficult to interpret, although it is unlikely to reflect typical hearth debris due to the absence of small fragments from a range of wood species. The charcoal could be the remnants of an artefact (e.g., a tool handle) or part of a structural timber piece (e.g., a hurdle, wattle and daub). Due to the shallow depth of the feature, it is very likely that some material has been lost through later truncation.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 The archaeological evaluation undertaken has been successful in meeting the aims and has provided information about the archaeological potential of the site. The results of the evaluation help to refine the understanding of the presence, nature and distribution of archaeological features across the development area and confirm many of the anomalies detected in the geophysical survey to be of a natural origin (Wessex Archaeology 2016b). The evaluation revealed a small number of archaeological features across the site, too few to reveal any particular concentrations. The works have been successful in dating one of features which indicates Early Bronze Age activity in the area, possible associated with the nearby round barrows in the north-east and south-east of the site.

- 8.1.2 This evaluation revealed that three archaeological features were present within the trenches, unlike the previous evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2017) which did not uncover any. Both evaluations confirm that the anomalies encountered in the geophysical survey are largely of natural origin, either being variations in the geology or tree throws. The single undated ditch (Trench 39) recorded in the geophysical survey had a significantly clearer trend than other anomalies targeted (**Fig. 1**).

8.2 Discussion

- 8.2.1 The evidence of Early Bronze Age activity demonstrated by the pit in Trench 9 is of note as there are several barrow and ring-ditch features within 100 m of the site, to the north-east and south-east. The pottery recovered from the pit was in poor condition, possibly the result of ploughing through the shallow overburden. The fragments were identified to be from at least two vessels, one of which being a Collared Urn of unknown scheme due to lack of rim sherds. The second vessel is represented by just two joining thin-walled fragments with a plain horizontal cordon or lug on the exterior.
- 8.2.2 Environmental samples taken from the pit revealed the charcoal to have derived from a single stem/pole of hazel, this may have been the remains of a tool or part of a structural timber piece (e.g., a hurdle, wattle and daub) as hearth debris is typically indicated by a variety in the wood species.
- 8.2.3 Although the pit in Trench 8 is close in proximity to the Early Bronze Age pit, there is no evidence to suggest they are associated or contemporary. Little can be determined about this pit, other than that its profile is suggestive of quarrying activity.
- 8.2.4 The ESE-WNW ditch in Trench 39 which aligns with the results from the geophysical survey may possibly be the southern extent of a wider field system associated with the Iron Age keyhole enclosure to the north. Although no finds were retrieved to determine whether they

are possibly contemporary, the lack of finds and homogenous fill is suggestive of a field boundary ditch.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Hampshire Cultural Trust has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **A2021.30**. 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

Physical archive

9.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Hampshire Cultural Trust, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011).

9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the site code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 file of paper records
- 1 small box of finds

Digital archive

9.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

9.3 Selection strategy

9.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

9.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows ClfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

9.3.3 In this instance, given the relatively low level of finds recovery, the selection process has been deferred until after the fieldwork stage was completed. Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. These proposals are based on recommendations by



Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.

- 9.3.4 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Finds

- 9.3.1 All finds have been recorded to an appropriate archive level prior to any selection proposals being implemented, and the selection process will be fully documented in the project archive. Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

- 9.3.2 Pottery (19 sherds): All of Early Bronze Age date. Some further research potential. Retain all

- 9.3.3 Animal bone (1 piece): Unidentifiable to species. Do not retain

- 9.3.4 Burnt, unworked flint (11 fragments): Undiagnostic. Discarded

Palaeoenvironmental material

- 9.3.5 It is recommended that the flots and extracted materials (charcoal, charred plant remains) are retained within the site archive.

Documentary records

- 9.3.6 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

- 9.3.7 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

9.4 Security copy

- 9.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., 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 access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 3). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the County Archaeologist on behalf of the LPA. 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 (ADS) 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*.
- 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 (e.g., 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 Trench summaries

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

Trench No 2		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.40 m
Easting 459921.41		Northing 15954.56		m OD 131.11
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
201		Topsoil	Ploughsoil. Light brown silty clay, very loose, with common rootings and medium and fine chinks and sparse medium and fine angular flints. Clear boundary with natural.	0.00–0.40
202		Natural	White fairly degraded and crumbly chalk with sparse flints. Few plough scars visible.	0.40+

Trench No 3		Length 30.50 m	Width 2.20 m	Depth 0.35 m
Easting 459957.69		Northing 154925.50		m OD 129.93
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
301		Topsoil	Ploughsoil. Light brown silty loam with numerous angular flints and chalk nodules as inclusions	0–0.30
302		Natural	Underlying chalk natural	0.30–0.35+

Trench No 8		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.38 m
Easting 45989.09		Northing 154931.40		m OD 133.15
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
801		Topsoil	Ploughsoil. Light brown silty clay, very loose, with common rootings and medium and fine chinks and sparse medium and fine angular flints. Clear boundary with natural.	0.00–0.38
802		Natural	White fairly degraded and crumbly chalk with sparse flints and occasional flint nodules. Few plough scars visible.	0.38+
803	804, 805, 806, 807	Pit	Oval pit aligned N / S with steep, concave sides. Length: 2.40 m. Width: 1.20 m. Depth: 0.70 m.	0.70
804	803	Tertiary fill	Mid reddish brown silty clay with common medium and fine angular flints, sparse medium and fine chalk	0.15
805	803	Deliberate backfill	Dark brown silty clay with 90% flint nodules and abundant medium angular flints mixed with common medium chalk	0.62
806	803	Secondary fill	Light brown silty clay with very abundant medium and fine chalk, occasional medium angular flints	0.67
807	803	Primary fill	White chalk	0.62



Trench No 9		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.42 m
Easting 459918.04		Northing 154898.31		m OD 133.75
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
901		Ploughsoil	Light brown silty clay, very loose, with common rootings and medium and fine chalks and sparse medium and fine angular flints. Clear boundary with natural.	0–0.32
902		Natural	White fairly degraded and crumbly chalk with sparse flints and occasional flint nodules. Few plough scars visible.	0.32–0.42+
903	904	Pit	Sub-circular pit with vertical, straight sides and a flat base. Length: 0.52 m. Width: 0.50 m. Depth: 0.15 m.	0.42–0.57
904	903	Deliberate backfill	Light brow silty loam with abundant flints (≥10cm, pea grit, abundant chalk (frequent ≤2cm, rare ≥3cm)	

Trench No 10		Length 29.60 m	Width 2.20 m	Depth 0.40 m
Easting 459954.43		Northing 154890.48		m OD 131.55
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1001		Ploughsoil	Mid to light brown silty loam with numerous angular flints and chalk nodules as inclusions.	0–0.30
1002		Natural	Underlying chalk natural	0.30–0.40+

Trench No 39		Length 30 m	Width 2.15 m	Depth 0.38 m
Easting 459937.87		Northing 154677.63		m OD 138.70
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
3901		Ploughsoil	Mid grey brown plough soil, silty loam with flint inclusions.	0–0.2
3902		Natural	Degraded chalk with flint and reddish clay patches.	0.2–0.38+
3903	3904, 3905	Ditch	aligned Ne-se with moderate, straight sides and a u-shaped base. Length: 2.20 m. Width: 1.00 m. Depth: 0.28 m.	
3904	3903	Primary fill	Mid reddish brown silty clay with common chalk frags	
3905	3903	Secondary fill	Mid reddish brown silty clay with common flint frags, more towards the bottom of the fill	

Trench No 40		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.48 m
Easting 459971.38		Northing 15648.22		m OD 137.71
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL



4001		Ploughsoil	Dark reddish brown silty clay, fairly soft, with common rootings and sparse medium and fine angular flints and common fine chalk. Clear boundary with natural.	0.00–0.32
4002		Natural	Degraded chalk with light brown plough scars and occasional flint nodules.	0.32–0.48+

Trench No 41		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.50 m
Easting 216000.51		Northing 154626.72		m OD 136.64
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
4101		Ploughsoil	Mid reddish brown silty clay moderately compact with common medium and fine angular flints and fine chalk. Clear boundary with natural.	0.00–0.38
4102		Natural	Degraded chalk with light brown plough scars and occasional flint nodules.	0.38–0.50+

Trench No 42		Length 30.10 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.45 m
Easting 460036.46		Northing 154606.84		m OD 134.37
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
4201		Ploughsoil	Mid reddish brown silty clay, frequent chalk pieces ($\leq 2\text{cm}$), common chalk ($\geq 3\text{cm} \leq 5\text{cm}$), moderate A. flints . Obvious boundary	0–0.35
4202		Natural	Very degraded chalk	0.35–0.45+

Trench No 43		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.40 m
Easting 460063.47		Northing 154584.52		m OD 132.28
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
4301		Ploughsoil	Dark reddish brown silty clay, fairly soft, with common rootings and sparse medium and fine angular flints and common fine chalk. Clear boundary with natural.	0.00–0.38
4302		Natural	Degraded chalk with light brown plough scars and occasional flint nodules.	0.38–0.40+

Trench No 44		Length 30 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.40 m
Easting 460086.11		Northing 154642.50		m OD 131.33
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
4401		Ploughsoil	Mid reddish brown silty clay moderately compact with sparse medium and fine angular flints and abundant fine chalk. Clear boundary with natural.	0.00–0.34



4402		Natural	Fairly smooth chalk with rare plough scars and flint nodules.	0.34–0.40+
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Trench No 45		Length 31.10 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.40 m
Easting 460109.32		Northing 154637.49		m OD 129.30
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
4501		Ploughsoil	Dark reddish brown silty clay, fairly soft, with rare medium and fine angular flints and flint nodules, common fine chalk. Clear boundary with natural.	0.00–0.28
4502		Natural	Degraded chalk with light brown plough scars and occasional flint nodules.	0.28–0.40+



Appendix 2 Assessment of the environmental evidence

Table 2 Assessment of the environmental evidence

Area	Phase	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Preservation
9	EBA	Small pit	903	904	114443_1	0.75	100	1%, C, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (C)	C	-	Triticeae grain frag.	-	-	90	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	-	Good

Key: Scale of abundance: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30–99, A = 30–10, B = 9–5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (abundance),



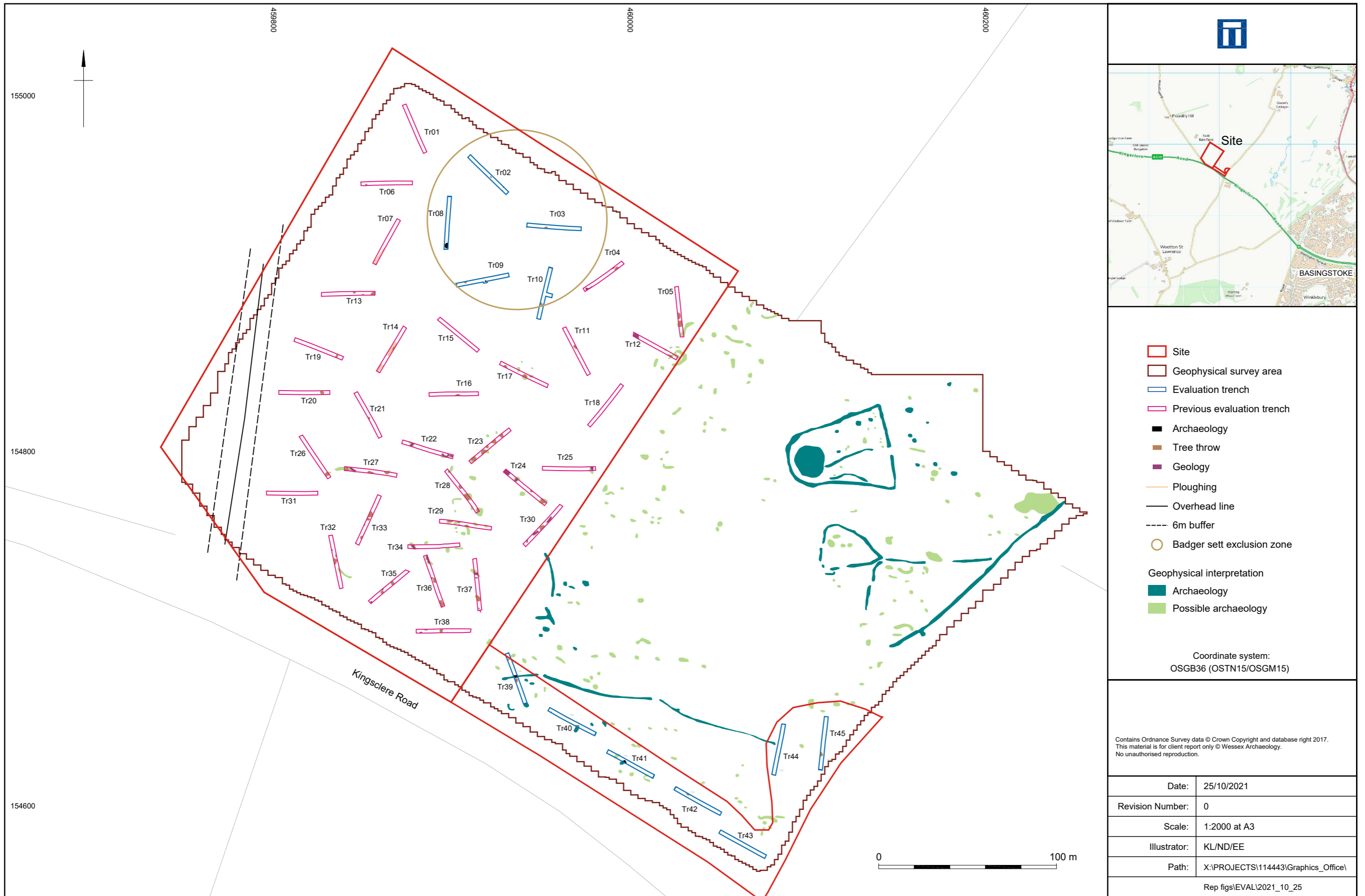
Appendix 3 OASIS record

Summary for wessexar1-502661

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-502661
Project Name	Evaluation at Kingsclere Road, Manor Farm, Monk Sherborne, Hampshire: Archaeological Evaluation
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	114443, 114442, A2021.30
Planning Id	18/01064/CMA
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	13-Sep-2021 - 15-Sep-2021
Location	Kingsclere Road, Manor Farm, Monk Sherborne, Hampshire NGR : SU 60104 54796 LL : 51.289135470721, - 1.13948141043044 12 Fig : 460104,154796
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Hampshire District : Basingstoke and Deane Parish : Monk Sherborne
Project Methodology	<p>This evaluation is the continuation of a previous evaluation. The archaeological evaluation combined targeted trenches to specifically investigate geophysical anomalies, and a more general spread of trenches to test apparent blank areas and ensure a relatively even spread of trenches across the site. This evaluation comprised 12 trenches, five of which were cancelled of the evaluation in 2017 due to a live badger sett that was discovered towards the northern edge of the site.</p> <p>Additionally due to the quarry entrance redesign, seven more trenches were positioned along the South-East edge of site.</p>



Project Results	<p>A small number of archaeological features were found during the evaluation. An undated pit was uncovered in the northern portion of the site (Trench 8), its lack of archaeological material and steep profile may suggest is the result of quarrying. Another pit was found (Trench 9) to contained Early Bronze Age pottery derived from as least two fragmented vessels, along with burnt flint and a fragment of animal bone. This feature may possibly be associated with the round barrows located to the north-east and south east of the site. A single ditch was uncovered in the southern area (Trench 39) which corresponded with the results of the geophysical survey, no finds were recovered. Geophysical anomalies that could be identified as subsurface 'features' were found to be either geological in origin or the result of bioturbation (tree throws).</p>
Keywords	<p>Pit - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p>
HER	<p>Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (AHBR) - unRev - STANDARD</p>
HER Identifiers	
Archives	<p>Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Hampshire County Council Arts & Museums Service</p>



Site and trench location plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: North-east facing section of Trench 42 (1 m scale)



Plate 2: Trench 41 viewed from north-west showing Clay-with-Flint patches (2 and 1 m scales)


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	Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	EE
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Plate 3: Tree throw hole in Trench 45 viewed from north (1 m scale)



Plate 4: Pit 803 viewed from the north (1 m scale)



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Plate 5: Pit 903 viewed from the south (0.2 m scale)



Plate 6: Ditch 3903 viewed from the west (0.5 m scale)

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