Wichelstowe Areas 1, 4 and 5, and Parcel 5

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

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wessexarchaeology

Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

www.wessexarch.co.uk

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Document Information

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Fieldwork directed by	Simon Flaherty
Assisted by	Laura Breeds, Josh Bower, Phil Breach, Holly Brown, Elena Calabria, Ben Cullen, Tom Dawkins, Michael Eldridge, Eva Estela, Neil Fitzpatrick, Steve Froud, Jamie Gibbons, James Goodall, Luke Jarvis, Jennifer Loader, Scarlett McGrail, Callum Nye, Victor Ortin, Piotr Orczewski, Marion Plumer, Tom Slater, Anna Smaldone, Phil Trim, Sam Wilson, and Virva Lompolo
Project management by	Bruce Eaton
Document compiled by	Kathryn Brook, Lee Newton, Peter Capps (Parcel 5) and Simon Flaherty (Areas 1, 4 and 5)
Contributions from	Phil Harding (flint), Lorrain Higbee (animal bone), Katie Marsden (pottery and other finds) and Megan Scantlebury (environmental remains)
Graphics by	Rob Goller

Document edited by Lorrain Higbee

Quality Assurance

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services Ltd, to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising the excavation of four areas (Areas 1, 4 and 5, and Parcel 5) covering 5 hectares centred on 413761, 182652 (Area 1), 413656, 182714 (Parcel 5), 412942, 183163 (Area 4) and 413905, 182813 (Area 5) at Peglars Way, Swindon, SN1 7DA and at land off Foxham Way, Wichelstowe, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 7AB. The works follow previous phases of mitigation that comprised archaeological evaluation of the entire development site and excavations at The Deanery in the central area and along the route of the Southern Access Scheme to the south-west.

The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Swindon Borough Council (S/13/1524/SAC) for a large development of 4500 houses and associated infrastructure, including employment, commercial, shopping, schools, open space, park and ride, roads, sewers, and associated works at Wichelstowe, Wiltshire. The overall development area comprises 300 hectares, the majority of which is located to the north of the M4, east of the Toothill area of Swindon.

A small collection of Early Neolithic flints, including part of an arrowhead, were recovered from Area 4 and Parcel 5, and represent the earliest activity identified across the excavated areas. The later prehistoric periods were represented by the remains of a ditched enclosure in Area 4 of possible Middle to Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date. The enclosure comprised a large ditch and two gullies with a possible entranceway in the south-west corner. A further ditch to the north of the enclosure indicates these features were part of a wider complex of land divisions. Two undated curvilinear gullies to the north-west of the enclosure may represent the truncated remains of roundhouses. Several discrete later prehistoric features were recorded, these comprised a posthole of possible Middle to Late Bronze Age date and a small Iron Age pit in Area 1, and three, pits in Area 5, two of possible Early Bronze Age date and the other of Middle to Late Bronze Age date.

Apart from a tentatively dated pit in Parcel 5, all Romano-British activity was confined to Area 5, where three phases of Romano-British land division were recorded. The first phase comprised a single ditch, which showed evidence of recutting, and a possible pit. This was followed by phase of formal land division comprising a coaxial system of small fields and paddocks alongside a trackway (phase 2). The final phase is characterised by the addition of a small, ditched enclosure on the west side of the field system. Pottery and other datable finds indicate that the main phases of activity dated from the 2nd–4th century AD. Other notable finds include a copper alloy hair pin, bracelet fragments, a spoon, a probable silver denarius of Septimus Severus, as well as a small quantity of ceramic building material, including *tegula*. The finds evidence suggests the field system was situated in proximity to a settlement, most probably a farmstead or other small rural community.

Limited evidence for later activity was recorded despite proximity to the scheduled Monument at West Leaze, a deserted medieval settlement. A few sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from a single pit and the base of a possible furrow, although these agricultural features, which were recorded in all areas, are likely to represent contemporary land use associated with the wider environs of the settlement.

Several undated features were found across all the areas, while most were natural in origin (e.g., tree-throw holes), several pits or postholes also fall into this category. Most of the natural features were concentrated on the west side of Area 5. These were cut by the later Romano-British field system and a few contained finds of Bronze Age, Romano-British and medieval date.

Following selected further analysis of the stratigraphic sequence and finds assemblage, it is proposed that the results of the excavations will be reported on in the form of an illustrated article in the regional journal, *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Magazine*.

Following completion of the publication, the archive will be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank RPS Consulting Services Ltd for commissioning the archaeological mitigation works, in particular Matthew Smith. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of the Archaeological Advisor to Swindon Borough Council, who monitored the project for Swindon Borough Council, and to David Beecroft Ltd for their help on site.

Wichelstowe Areas 1, 4 and 5, and Parcel 5

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consultancy Services Ltd to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising the excavation of four areas covering a total of 5 ha. Area 1 was centred on NGR 413761 182652, Parcel 5 on NGR 413656 182714, Area 4 on NGR 412942 183163 and Area 5 on NGR 413905 182813 at Peglars Way and on land off Foxham Way, Wichelstowe, Swindon, Wiltshire (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The excavation areas are part of a wider development scheme known as the Southern Town Expansion which covers 300 ha. The proposed development is for the construction of up to 4500 houses and associated infrastructure including employment, commercial, shopping schools, open space, park and ride, roads sewers and associated works. The urban development area lies immediately north of the M4, east of the Toothill area of Swindon and encompasses several agricultural fields, areas of woodland and small rivers. To the north, the site is bounded by the Okus and Kingshill area of urban Swindon.

1.1.3 The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Swindon Borough Council (SBC) (PLANNING REF S/13/1524/SAC). Outline Planning Permission was granted by Swindon Borough Council (SBC) in 2005 and updated in 2014, subject to conditions. The following conditions relate to archaeology:

Condition 22: Programme of Archaeological Investigation

No development shall take place on site until a written scheme of archaeological investigation, to include on-site and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results has first been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority, Thereafter the development will proceed in accordance with the approved programme.

Reason: To enable recording of any matters of archaeological interest.

1.1.4 An overarching WSI, covering the entire development area, was produced by CgMs (2016) on behalf of SBC and Barratt Homes and approved by the Local Planning Authority to partially discharge the condition. Investigation is required to proceed in line with this approved document. The WSI states:

Subsequent Project Designs or addendums to this WSI will detail proposals for the specifics of the archaeological work including specialist information, post excavation assessment and analysis and archive deposition. All work on the project work will comply with the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Field Archaeologists (IFA).

1.1.5 The entire development area has been subject to a desk-based assessment (or DBA, Armour Heritage 2013), management plan (Armour Heritage 2015), geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys 2013), trial trench evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2014a,

2014b and 2017) and a written scheme of investigation (or WSI, CgMs 2016) The overarching WSI identified four areas of archaeological potential to be investigated by strip, map, and sample excavation. This included the strip map, and sample excavations at The Deanery (Wessex Archaeology 2018; Lichtenstein forthcoming) and Wichelstowe Southern Access Scheme (Wessex Archaeology 2021c).

1.1.6 The excavations were undertaken in accordance with site specific WSI's that detailed the aims, methodologies, and standards to be employed, for both the fieldwork and the post-excavation work (CgMS 2016; Wessex Archaeology 2020a; 2021a; 2021b; RPS 2021). The archaeological advisor for SBC approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The excavations were undertaken between 28 September to 20 November 2020 (Parcel 5), 19 July to 13 August 2021 (Area 4), and 21 Aug to 22 October 2021 (Areas 1 and 5).

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the provisional results of the excavation and to assess the potential of the results to address the research aims outlined in the WSI. Where appropriate, it includes recommendations for a programme of further analysis, outlining the resources needed to achieve the aims (including the revised research aims arising from this assessment), leading to dissemination of the archaeological results via publication and the curation of the archive.

1.3 Location, topography, and geology

1.3.1 The excavation areas were located to the south of Swindon, on the northern side of the M4 motorway. Area 1, Parcel 5, and Area 5 were in the centre of Wichelstowe, either side of Foxham Way, and surrounded by pasture fields. Area 4 was bounded on all sides by rough pasture fields and located just to the east of Elcombe Way.

1.3.2 Existing ground levels across the four excavation areas varied from 98 m to 105 m above Ordnance Datum, with minor fluctuations of 2 to 3 m at each location.

1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Kimmeridge Clay Formation – Mudstone Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 152 to 157 million years ago in the Jurassic Period, where the local environment was previously dominated by shallow seas. Locally there are superficial deposits of alluvium consisting of clay, silt, sand, and gravel that were formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period where the local environment was previously dominated by rivers (British Geological Survey, accessed online 2022).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was covered in the desk-based assessment and heritage statement (Armour Heritage 2013) and looked at the recorded historic environment within the proposed development area. This information was also summarised in the overarching WSI (CgMS 2016) and the site specific WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020a; 2021a; 2021b; RPS 2021).

2.1.2 The DBA identified evidence for prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval, and post-medieval activity within the bounds of the overall development area and its broader environs. Five Scheduled Monuments were identified within the study area including a bowl barrow near Rushy Platt Farm (SM 1016326) and a medieval settlement with associated ridge and furrow and a watermill at West Leaze. Extensive remains of ridge and furrow have been

recorded across many parts of the development area and mapped through the South Swindon Survey between 1984 and 1986 (Swindon Borough Council 1986).

2.1.3 The Scheduled Monument at West Leaze represents important evidence for settlement and land use in the immediate area during the medieval period. The monument includes the remains of a small deserted medieval settlement with an associated hollow way, house platforms and ridge and furrow. This is located directly to the west of Area 5.

2.1.4 The remains of the Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal, which survives in part as a sinuous linear earthwork, lies to the east of the site, running north-east to south-west across the development area. The canal was constructed in 1804, and ceased use for commercial traffic in 1906, being largely infilled in 1962. It is visible as a low earthwork flanked by a low bank, and its alignment is preserved by the continuation of Wharf Road and water-filled elements within the site.

2.2 Previous works related to the development

Archaeological excavation and watching brief 2009

2.2.1 Excavations and watching briefs associated with the construction of new roads within the central area of the development, south of West Leaze, recorded evidence of Romano-British and medieval activity (Foundations Archaeology 2009; Hood 2012). Several Romano-British ditches, pits and postholes were identified, most of the ditches being interpreted as field boundaries. The limited stratigraphy indicated at least two phases of activity, dating to the 2nd–4th centuries AD. The only direct evidence for any structural remains comprised a small number of postholes, a sherd of probable 2nd-century AD pottery was recovered from one of these. Many amorphous, shallow pits of varying size were present and contained a mixed group of pottery of prehistoric, Romano-British, and medieval date. It is possible that these features were backfilled clay quarry pits, associated with medieval pottery production and domestic settlement to the north at West Leaze.

Archaeological evaluation 2013–2017

2.2.2 The entire development area was subject to archaeological trial trench evaluation. Phase I (Wessex Archaeology 2014a) comprised 147 trenches. Two further phases of trial trench evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2014b and 2017) followed on other parts of the development area.

2.2.3 The trial trench evaluations demonstrated the presence of buried archaeological remains within the development area and identified five broad zones of archaeological potential. Two zones (covered by Area 1, Parcel 5, and Area 5) were recorded to the south and east of the deserted medieval settlement of West Leaze, where ditches and pits containing Neolithic, Bronze Age and Romano-British pottery were recorded (Trenches 239–240 and 250–258). The third zone related to Romano-British activity at the western extent of the development area, spanning the M4 motorway (Trenches 113–127). A further zone was coincident with a substantial Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age ditch recorded in Trench 143 (covered by Area 4) in the West Wichel part of the development area. The final zone was located within the central part of the development area, where Mesolithic worked flints and Bronze Age pottery were recovered (Trenches 195–200).

The Deanery archaeological excavation 2018

2.2.4 The excavation associated with playing fields and a car park adjacent to new primary and secondary schools within the central area of the development, recorded evidence for settlement and land division dating to the prehistoric and Romano-British periods (Wessex

Archaeology 2018; Lichtenstein forthcoming). Late Bronze Age activity is represented by at least one, and possibly two roundhouses, several pits, postholes, and potential post-built structures. Rectilinear field systems were also represented but their precise dating is uncertain. A polished stone object interpreted as a possible stone hammer for metalworking was found in a layer sealing a Late Bronze Age pit.

Southern Access Scheme excavation 2020

2.2.5 Archaeological excavation undertaken along the route of the Southern Access Road for the development recorded evidence for settlement and land division dating to the prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval, and post-medieval periods (Wessex Archaeology 2020b and 2021c). The medieval remains recorded on the western extreme of the road scheme (Area 8) included part of a stone-build structure and field systems relating to settlement and land use on the outskirts of the Scheduled Monument at West Leaze.

Aims and objectives

2.3 Aims

2.3.1 The general aims of the excavation, as stated in the WSI's (Wessex Archaeology 2020a; 2021a; 2021b; RPS 2021) and in compliance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a), were to:

- determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the detectable archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices; and
- inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.
- locate, identify, investigate, and record the presence/absence of archaeological features or deposits;
- confirm, where possible, the extent, date, character, relationship, condition and significance of archaeological features, artefacts, and deposits within the proposed development area;
- inform the scope and nature of any requirements for any potential further fieldwork, whether additional watching brief, excavation, or post-excavation work;
- enable the preservation by record of any archaeological features or deposits uncovered; and
- place any identified archaeological remains within their historical context.

2.4 Research objectives

2.4.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (Webster 2008; Croft and Grove 2012), the research objectives of the excavation defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020a; 2021a; 2021b; RPS 2021) were to:

- determine the date, extent and character of landscape organisation, and its development from the Neolithic to the Romano-British period;
- inform how the landscape was used and to what level of intensification in the later prehistoric periods occurred; and

- assess the environmental conditions in later prehistory.

2.4.2 Further research objectives were established in the overarching WSI (CgMS 2016) these were to:

- establish whether the development site contains evidence for Mesolithic to Bronze Age settlement or features within the development site, and the nature of these remains;
- inform how the landscape was used and to what level of intensification in the prehistoric periods occurred at the development site;
- inform how the landscape was used and what level of intensification occurred in the Iron Age to Romano-British periods;
- inform how the landscape was used and to what level of intensification in the medieval period, particularly in relation to understanding the landscape of the Scheduled Monument;
- establish whether there are any post-medieval agricultural, industrial or occupation related elements within the development site, not currently known from cartographic or historical sources; and
- to excavate, record and remove any human burials.

3 METHODS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020a; 2021a; 2021b; RPS 2021) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (2014a). The post-excavation assessment and reporting followed advice issued by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO 2015). The methods employed are summarised below.

3.2 Fieldwork methods

General

3.2.1 The excavation area was set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the same position as that proposed in the WSI (Fig. 1). The topsoil/overburden was removed in level spits using a 360º excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded in level spits until the archaeological horizon, or the natural geology was exposed.

3.2.2 Where necessary, the surfaces of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation. A sample of natural features, such as tree-throw holes, was also investigated.

3.2.3 Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. A metal detector was also used to enhance the recovery of metal objects. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.

Recording

3.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits 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.

3.2.5 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.

3.2.6 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.

3.3 Finds and environmental strategies

General

3.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing, and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021a, 2021b, RPS group 2021). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation, and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and CIfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

3.4 Monitoring

3.4.1 The Archaeological Advisor to Swindon Borough Council (SBC) monitored the works 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 Archaeology Advisor for SBC

4 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

4.1 Introduction

Summary of archaeological features and deposits

4.1.1 A few archaeological features were recorded in Area 1 (Fig. 2). These include two pits, one of which was securely dated to the Iron Age by pottery and the other more tentatively assigned to this period. Alongside the pits were four possible postholes, one potentially of Middle to Late Bronze Age date. Residual sherds of prehistoric and medieval pottery, and Early Neolithic worked flint were recovered from overburden deposits in Parcel 5, which wrapped around the south and west sides of Area 1. A few cut features were also recorded but none were securely dated. The features include a small pit of possible Romano-British date.

4.1.2 Part of a large, ditched enclosure and field boundary ditch of possible Middle to Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date were recorded in Area 4, together with two possible contemporary roundhouse structures (Fig. 3). Several Early Neolithic worked flints were also recovered from across the area, mostly from the interface between the subsoil and natural interface, but also as residual finds from furrows. Three possible Bronze Age pits and part of a Romano-British field system and associated trackway were recorded in Area 5 (Fig. 4).

4.1.3 Remnants of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow were recorded across all excavation areas, and in addition, many natural features were also identified, the majority located in the south-west corner of Area 5.

Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data

4.1.4 All handwritten and drawn records from the excavation have been collated, checked for consistency and stratigraphic relationships. Key data has been transcribed into a database, which can be updated during any further analysis. Preliminary phasing of archaeological features and deposits was principally undertaken using stratigraphic relationships and the spot dating from artefacts, particularly pottery.

4.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

4.2.1 The sequence of overburden deposits was consistent across the excavation areas (Fig. 5). There was some slight localised variation but in general the natural was encountered at 0.5 m below current ground surface. The topsoil consisted of dark grey black slightly clayey silt and was up to 0.25 m thick. This had a diffuse lower horizon with a layer of mid-orange grey mottled silty clay subsoil, also up to 0.25 m thick. The natural consisted of a light yellow grey silty clay with occasional sub-rounded moderately sized (<80 mm) river gravel inclusions.

4.2.2 Pottery of prehistoric (69 g), Romano-British (780 g), medieval (41 g) and post-medieval/modern (96 g) date was recovered from overburden deposits. In general, the date range of the pottery was consistent with the main phases of activity in each individual area. In addition, a small quantity of flint (165 g) and two iron objects (50 g), both nails, were also recovered.

4.3 Area 1

4.3.1 Area 1 (Figs 1 and 2) was located to the south of Foxham Way and defined by the evaluation results from trenches 239 and 240 (Wessex Archaeology 2014a). Eight features were investigated across the two trenches. Six of the features were irregular in plan with undulating bases but two contained Neolithic pottery and flint while a third contained Late Bronze Age and Romano-British pottery. These were interpreted as probable tree-throw holes, potentially related to land clearance during the early prehistoric period. A further two features in trench 240 were more convincing as cut feature but were both undated.

Prehistoric

4.3.2 Two prehistoric features were recorded in the south-east corner of Area 1. Posthole 5513 (Fig. 6) contained a single secondary fill from which Middle to Late Bronze Age pottery (3 sherds, 24 g) and four small, most probably intrusive, sherds of Late Iron Age or Romano-British pottery (1 g) were recovered. The circular posthole had straight sides and a flat base, was 0.2 m in diameter and 0.11 m deep.

4.3.3 Approximately 13.25 m to the south-west of posthole 5513 was sub-circular pit 5515. It had shallow irregular sides and an irregular, or undulating base (Fig. 7), was relatively small measuring 0.4 m in length, 0.26 m wide and 0.3 m deep. It contained 11 sherds (22g) of Late Bronze Age pottery and 140 sherds (424 g) of Early Iron Age pottery in from four vessels. Other finds include 51g of burnt flint and three pieces (11 g) of worked flint. The feature had a single dark grey brown silty clay fill with mottled orange clay patches and charcoal inclusions. The original function of the pit is uncertain, but its secondary usage appears to have been for the disposal of domestic refuse.

Medieval/post-medieval

4.3.4 Furrows were present across Area 1. These were aligned east-north-east to west-south-west on the eastern side of the area (e.g., 5511, 5517, 5519), and towards the west, a single furrow (5725) was aligned north-east to south-west, suggesting perhaps these areas were separate fields or land parcels. The furrows generally had shallow concaves sides and flat or undulating bases, were 0.93–2.14 m wide and up to 0.14 m deep. Furrow 5517 contained 4 g of medieval pottery and 5575 contained 2 g of residual Romano-British pottery.

Undated

4.3.5 On the north side of Area 1 was sub-circular pit 5539 which had irregular sides and a concave base, was 0.83 m in diameter and 0.26 m deep (Fig. 8). It contained two fills, an upper fill of redeposited natural clay that acted as a capping for the deliberate dump deposit below. The dark charcoal-rich lower dump deposit contained a small quantity of burnt animal bone (9 g) and a large quantity of burnt flint (350 g) along with two worked flints (1 g). The only dateable material recovered from the lower deposit was a single sherd (8 g) of Early Iron Age pottery along with 3 sherds (3 g) of Late Iron Age or Romano-British pottery. The dating evidence is by no means conclusive, and all the sherds may be residual.

4.3.6 Three possible postholes (5521, 5523 and 5529) were also recorded. Posthole 5523 in the south-east corner of Area 1, approximately 8 m south of Early Iron Age pit 5515, had steep straight sides and a flat base, was 0.15 m in length, 0.1 m wide, 0.06 m deep and contained a secondary fill with charcoal inclusions but no dateable material. The other two postholes (5521 and 5529) were situated 0.3 m apart on the central south side of Area 1. They had moderate to steep concaves sides and a flat base, were 0.3–0.44 m in diameter and 0.13–0.16 m deep. The adjacent trial trench (240) contained several other undated discrete features, including three additional postholes (Wessex Archaeology 2014a) however, the arrangement did not form an obvious structure.

Natural features

4.3.7 Several irregular to sub-circular natural features (5503, 5507, 5525 and 5537) were also recorded. These had shallow to steep, concave to stepped sides and undulating to flat bases, were 0.5–1.2m in length, 0.16–0.84 m wide and up to 0.16 m deep. Natural feature 5507 contained two sherds (6 g) of broadly dated prehistoric pottery.

4.4 Parcel 5

4.4.1 Area 1 was excavated in two phases, the first phase generally referred to as Parcel 5. This comprised two areas (1 and 2) on the south and west sides of the land parcel, separated by a hedgerow. The results were initially provided in a separate report (Wessex Archaeology 2021d) but have been incorporated here for ease of reference.

Area 1

Medieval/post-medieval

4.4.2 A group of four medieval/post-medieval furrows (1014, 1016, 1018 and one unexcavated) were recorded on the north-west side of the area. The features were aligned east–west, approximately 1.5 m apart, and had moderate straight sides and a concave base. They were approximately 0.25 m wide, 0.07–0.09 m deep and filled with a compact light grey clay deposit derived from weathering and erosion of the surrounding landscape.

Undated

4.4.3 On the north-east side of the area was undated posthole 1004. The shallow circular feature had concave sides and a concave base, was 0.25 m in diameter, 0.08 m deep and filled with a dark grey silty loam with rare angular gravel inclusions.

Tree-throw holes

4.4.4 Six tree-throw holes were recorded, two (1006 and 1008) on the north-east side of the excavation area and four (1010, 1012, 1020 and 1022) adjacent to the furrows on the north-west side. The shallow irregular features were 0.88–1.66 m long, 0.49–1.32 m wide, 0.05–0.11 deep and filled with redeposited topsoil/subsoil and natural. Prehistoric pottery (213 g), including eight sherds from a Late Bronze Age vessel (from 1022, ON 4008), and pieces (37 g) of worked flint were recovered from four (1010, 1012, 1020 and 1022) of the tree-throw holes.

Area 2

Romano-British

4.4.5 On the north-east side of the area, adjacent to two modern gullies, was sub-rectangular pit 2005. The feature had straight sides and a flat base, was 1.11 m long, 0.75 m wide and 0.10 m deep (Fig. 9). The primary fill 2006 was a 0.05 m thick deposit of mid-orange-brown clay with rare, rounded gravel inclusions. This was overlain by secondary fill 2007, a 0.10 m thick deposit of dark grey silty loam with rare sub-angular gravel inclusions from which a small sherd (6 g) of Roman pottery was recovered, together with fragments of CBM (2 g) and fired clay (5 g). A few poorly preserved charred cereal grains from wheat and barley were also recovered from this deposit.

Undated

4.4.6 Eleven meters to the south-west of possible Romano-British pit 2005, was sub-circular pit 2010. The feature had a concave profile, was 0.70 m long, 0.36 m wide, 0.11 m deep and filled with a dark brown silty clay backfill deposit that included rare subangular gravel inclusions.

4.4.7 On the central east side of the area was a pair of undated postholes, spaced 1.10 m apart. Posthole 2016 was sub-circular with vertical straight sides and a flat base, and posthole 2019 was sub-rectangular with steep sides that tapered to a narrow 'V-shaped' base. The postholes were 0.45–0.49 m long, 0.36–0.42 m wide, 0.13–0.30 m deep and filled with a black silty loam deposit containing rare sub-angular gravel inclusions.

Modern

4.4.8 On the north-east corner of the area were two parallel gullies on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment. Gully 2012 had concave sides and a flat base, was 4.28 m long, 0.76 m wide and 0.12 m deep. It was filled with a secondary deposit of dark greyish-brown silty loam with sub-angular gravel inclusions from which fragments of brick (478 g), coal (81 g), safety glass (2 g) and synthetic material (e.g., baler twine) were recovered.

4.4.9 Gully 2014 was only partially revealed within the stripped area but was over 2 m long, 0.75 m wide and 0.12 m deep. It cut the east side of 2012 and had a similar profile and fill. Both features are likely to be associated with activity relating to the deposit of made ground (2002) to the west.

4.4.10 A linear spread of modern hard core (2002) formed a 7.20 m wide temporary road surface on a north-east to south-west alignment. It is likely that this was used as a haul road

during construction work on new roads to the north of the Parcel 5 (Foundations Archaeology 2009; Hood 2012).

Tree-throw holes

4.4.11 Tree-throw hole 2008 was sealed beneath the dumps of hardcore that formed trackway 2002. The sub-oval feature had irregular sides and an undulating base, and was 1.56 m long, 1.38 m wide and 0.04 m deep. It was filled with a mid-bluish-grey silty clay with sub-angular gravel inclusions from which two small sherds (9 g) of Roman pottery and a piece of worked flint (2 g) were found. Several unexcavated tree-throw holes were recorded on the south side of the area.

4.5 Area 4

4.5.1 Area 4 (Figs 1 and 3) was located to the east of Elcombe Road, on the north side of the M4. The west side was bordered by a small stream and the other sides were surrounded by pasture fields. The area was selected for further mitigation works following the identification of a Late Bronze Age ditch in trial trench 143.

Early Prehistoric

4.5.2 A small collection of worked flint, including eight Early Neolithic blades and part of a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead (ON 4011) were recovered from across Area 4. Two of the blades were recovered from ditch 4202 (ON 4014–5), the rest (ON 4009, ON 4010–2 and ON 4017–9) were retrieved from the surface of the natural clay. A further six pieces of worked flint (36 g) were recovered from across the site, but these are mostly undiagnostic and unstratified.

Middle/Late Bronze Age

Enclosure

4.5.3 A ‘D-shaped’ enclosure was recorded on the central south-east side of the excavation area. The eastern side of the enclosure was defined by a deep, defensive ditch (4202) and the north and west sides by two truncated gullies (4203 and 4206). The enclosure had an internal area of approximately 1224 m².

4.5.4 Curvilinear ditch 4202, which was previously recorded in trial trench 143 (Wessex Archaeology 2014a), extended from the southern edge of excavation in a north-east to south-west direction before turning northwards for approximately 32 m and then sharply north-eastwards for a short distance where it terminated. The north-south section of the ditch intersected with shallow gully 4205. The relationship between these features could not be ascertained, however, gully 4205 shared the same alignment as the furrows indicating perhaps that it was later in the sequence. The northern terminal was cut by shallow gully 4203.

4.5.5 Ditch 4202 had a ‘V-shaped’ profile with steep straight sides and a flat base for most of its length (Fig. 10), however, the northern terminal was wider and more ‘U-shaped’ with a much broader base (Fig. 11). The ditch was 0.78–1.54 m wide, 0.58–0.96 m deep and contained a sequence of three or four fills, mostly derived from episodes of silting, consequently the deposits had diffuse boundaries. In a few of the slots, discrete layers of edge collapse and stabilization were also identified. A total of 65 g of Middle/Late Bronze Age pottery and three pieces of worked flint (27 g, includes ONs 4014–5) were recovered from the ditch fills. During the evaluation stage an additional 184 g of pottery from a single Late Bronze Age vessel were recovered from the lower fills of the ditch, together with a few worked flints.

4.5.6 Gullies 4203 and 4206 defined the north and west sides of the enclosure. Gully 4203 extended in a broadly east-north-east to west-south-west direction for approximately 47 m and at the west end, turned 90 degrees southwards, defining the north-east corner of the enclosure in one continuous circuit. The north–south section was truncated by a later furrow, and it is likely that gully 4206 represents a continuation of the alignment further southward. However, there was some, albeit slight, evidence for a rounded terminal at the north end of gully 4206, indicating perhaps that the enclosure had a narrow entranceway in the north-east corner. The east end of gully 4203 extended beyond the terminal of ditch 4202 for 8.5 m before petering out due to truncation, however evidence of a shallow, narrow gully on the same alignment was recorded in the adjacent trial trench (142), indicating perhaps that the gully extended much further eastwards, potentially linking the enclosure to a wider system of land divisions.

4.5.7 The gullies had shallow 'U-shaped' profiles (see for example Fig. 12), were 0.40–0.83 m wide and 0.02–0.44 m deep. A worked flint (8 g), some burnt flint (19 g) and four small, abraded sherds (1 g) of prehistoric pottery were recovered from the silty fill of gully 4203 but no artefacts were recovered from 4206, however these features form a coherent unit with ditch 4202 and are probably broadly contemporary.

Other land divisions

4.5.8 North-north-west to south-south-east aligned ditch 4208 on the central north side of the excavation area, formed part of a more extensive land division. It had a 'U-shaped' profile, was approximately 0.8 m wide, 0.4 m deep (Fig. 13), extended from the northern edge of excavation for 6.5 m and had a shallow rounded terminal at the south-south-east end. It contained three fills with diffuse boundaries formed by gradual silting due to water action. Two small sherds of broadly dated prehistoric pottery (3 g) were recovered from the central fill of the ditch. While the pottery dating is tenuous, the alignment suggested that it was probably broadly contemporary with ditch 4202. A discrete dump of charcoal-rich fill in the terminal of ditch 4208, contained fragments of burnt animal bone (4 g) and burnt flint (24 g).

Medieval/Post-medieval

4.5.9 An array of furrows relating to later agricultural land use were recorded across the area. On the south side these were aligned broadly north-north-east to south-south-west and on the north side they were aligned north-west to south-east. There was some overlap between the two different alignments with the southern array, potentially later in the sequence. Both sets of furrows do not continue beyond a certain point within the excavation area, suggesting there were boundaries within the fields that do not appear in the archaeological record.

4.5.10 A few of the furrows were investigated (4021, 4062, 4068, 4091, 4201 and 4210). These had straight to concave moderate sides and flat or irregular bases, were up to 5 m wide and 0.1–0.2 m deep. Furrows 4201 and 4060 both contained residual worked flint (5 g). Later land drains were inserted along the length of the furrows.

Undated features

4.5.11 Two curvilinear features (4207 and 4209) approximately 8.8 m and 5.8 m in length respectively, were recorded on the central north-west side of the excavation area and potentially represent the truncated remains of roundhouse gullies. The gullies had moderate concave sides and a concave, or flat base, were 0.2–0.8 m wide and 0.02–0.28 m deep. The internal diameter of the more complete example (4207) is estimated to have been approximately 9 m.

4.5.12 Part of a possible field system was recorded on the central part of the excavation area. This was delineated by gully 4200 which extended over 35 m and formed the north-east corner of a small field, potentially with a second land division extending northwards, and to the south-east, by north-east to south-west aligned gully 4205. The gullies were 0.2–0.42 m wide and 0.03–0.25 m deep, and their profiles varied, but was generally concave, occasionally with a flat base Gully 4200 cut the north-east corner of the large Late Bronze Age enclosure, as represented by ditch 4202 (see Fig. 12), while gully 4203 and was cut by furrow 4201. The spatial association between the earlier enclosure and the later field system, particularly the shared alignment at the eastern end, implies the former was still visible in the landscape when the latter was laid out. The relationship between gully 4205 and the enclosure could not be ascertained, but by association is also assumed be a later feature.

4.5.13 Gully 4101 extended in a south-east to northwest direction at its north-eastern end it was cut by furrow 4201. The gully 4101 had shallow concave sides and a flat base, was 0.24 m wide and 0.17 m deep.

Natural features

4.5.14 A total of 22 natural features (4009, 4013, 4024, 4031, 4039, 4049, 4051, 4070, 4087, 4089, 4093, 4116, 4153, 4155) were also investigated. Most were irregular in plan and section and probably formed through bioturbation and root action. Natural feature 4116 contained a small quantity of residual finds, comprising three sherds (20 g) of Middle to Late Bronze Age pottery and 4 g of fired clay. Two of the features (4031 and 4070) were more pit-like, both were sub-circular, 4031 had steep straight sides and an irregular undulating base, while 4070 had moderate concave sides and a concave base. The features were 0.85–1.2 m in diameter and 0.21–0.28 m deep.

4.6 Area 5

4.6.1 Area 5 (Figs 1 and 4) was located to the north of Foxham Way and directly to the east of the scheduled deserted medieval village at West Leaze. The evaluation (Trenches 251–8; Wessex Archaeology 2014a) identified ditches and pits relating to a 2nd–4th century AD Romano-British settlement previously recorded in an earlier excavation (Foundations Archaeology 2009), as well as probable natural features.

Bronze Age

4.6.2 Three prehistoric pits were recorded in Area 5. These comprised a pair of pits (5105 and 5129) on the north-west side of the excavation area, and an isolated pit (5089) approximately 32 m to the south.

4.6.3 Sub oval pit 5129 had straight sides and a flat base, was 0.58 m in length, 0.48 m wide, 0.3 m deep and contained three fills (Fig. 14). The basal fill was a mottled yellow-grey silty clay with patches of a greyer charcoal-rich material, likely formed by edge collapse and erosion. Seven sherds (46 g) of Early Bronze Age pottery were recovered from the fill. This was overlain by a charcoal-rich dumped deposit of silty clay that contained degraded burnt/fired clay (158 g), Early Bronze Age pottery (13 g) and burnt flint (116 g). Overlying the dump deposit was a very fine pale grey clay silt.

4.6.4 Pit 5105, approximately 1.5 m to the south-east of pit 5129, contained a similar charcoal-rich dump deposit but was truncated by the terminal of Romano-British ditch 5704. The surviving part of the pit appeared to be circular with a flat base, and was approximately 0.58 m in length, 0.30 m wide, 0.18 m deep. It contained a single mixed silty clay dump deposit from which 505 g of fired clay was recovered, together with worked (9 g) and burnt

flint (10 g). Eight fragments of Roman greyware pottery (57 g) were also found but these are likely to be intrusive and probably derived from the later ditch.

4.6.5 Oval pit 5089, approximately 32 m to the south of pits 5129 and 5105, had moderate concave sides and a flat base, was 0.9 in length, 0.46 wide, 0.26 m deep and contained a secondary fill from which two sherds of possible Middle to Late Bronze Age pottery (31 g) were recovered.

Romano-British

Phase 1

4.6.6 Three phases of Roman-British land division were identified. The first phase is represented by north-west to south-east aligned ditch 5719 on the west side of the excavation area (Fig. 4). The profile and size of the ditch varied along its length but in general had concave or stepped sides and a flat base, was over 60 m in length, 0.6–1.95 m wide and 0.65–0.73 m deep. Possible evidence of recutting was recorded towards the south-east end where the ditch was heavily truncated (0.15 m deep) and divided in two. Romano-British pottery (33 g) was recovered from the ditch, along with three small sherds of residual prehistoric pottery (6 g) and some worked (16 g) and burnt flint (78 g). The ditch was cut by ditches 5717 and 5701, which defined part of the Phase 2 field system and a later (Phase 3) enclosure.

4.6.7 Pit 5297 on the central south side of the area, may have been contemporary with this phase of activity and was cut by ditch 5715 which defined part of the Phase 2 field system. The oval pit had concave sides and an irregular or undulating base, was 1.86 m in length, 0.98 m wide, and 0.32 m deep. It contained a secondary fill from which three sherds (116 g) of Romano-British pottery were recovered.

Phase 2

4.6.8 The second phase of Romano-British activity comprised part of a coaxial field system and associated trackway (Figs 4 and 15). The fields were laid out perpendicular to the north-west to south-east aligned part of the trackway, which extended across the west side of the excavation area. At the north-west end, the trackway turned sharply north-eastwards and extended for approximately 105 m. This provided direct access to fields on the east side of the system and potentially fields further northwards, beyond the excavation area. The presence of a 2.5 m gap between trackside ditches 5703 and 5704, provides evidence for a possible point of access into this area. No other entranceways were identified into the adjoining fields from the trackway, however truncation in some areas, for example on the west side, between trackside ditches 5707 and 5723, is likely to have obliterated such evidence.

4.6.9 The ditches defined a trackway that was an average of 2.3–4.2 m wide with a broad 7.3 m wide intersection. The profiles of the trackside ditches (5703, 5704, 5705, 5707 and 5723) varied but in general they had moderate to steep concave, stepped or straight sides with a flat or concave base. The ditches were 0.4–1.41 m wide and 0.11–0.51 m deep.

4.6.10 Ditches 5360, 5717, 5720 and 5721 defined the boundaries of four fields on the west side of the trackway. The most complete example formed a subrectangular field adjacent to the trackway, with a similar sized field to the north and two other fields to the south-west. Several of the ditches were quite substantial relative to those on the east side of the trackway. In general, the ditches had concave profiles, or concave sides and a flat base and were up to 2.5 m wide and 0.52 m deep (see for example Fig. 16), the exception was, ditch 5717, which was just 0.58 m wide and 0.32 m deep.

4.6.11 The ditches (5133, 5210, 5706, 5708, 5709, 5710, 5711, 5712, 5713, 5714, 5715, 5716 and 5724) on the east side of the trackway defined a rectilinear arrangement of subrectangular fields, mostly quite large and aligned broadly east–west, but with a few smaller fields on the southern perimeter. The field system was potentially laid out in a single phase with limited evidence of remodelling or maintenance in the form of recuts (see below). The profiles and size of the ditches varied but the majority had shallow to moderate concave sides with a flat or concave base and were 0.32–1.18 m wide and 0.03–0.57 m deep. A few had stepped or straight side. A noticeable kink at the west end of ditch 5715 on the south side of the field system, suggests that the ditch was realigned to avoid an existing obstruction or to enclose a particular feature, although no supporting evidence was found.

4.6.12 Many of the ditches were discontinuous due largely to truncation, however, a possible staggered entranceway to one of the fields was identified between ditches 5708 and 5709, where there was a narrow, 1.9 m wide gap between the opposing terminals. A further ditch segment (5165) just to the south-west of the staggered entranceway, approximately 3.3 m from the southern terminal of ditch 5708, extended the narrow opening into the field, and possibly also incorporated posthole 5187. The north-east to south-west aligned ditch segment, extended for 5.5 m, and had shallow concave sides and a 'U-shaped' base. It was 0.81 m wide, 0.12 m deep and a single fill from which 17 sherds (91 g) of Romano-British pottery and a fragment of ceramic tile (19 g) were recovered. This arrangement may have aided the management of livestock as they were moved from one pasture field to the next on a seasonal basis, allowing individual animals to be separated from the herd or flock.

4.6.13 There was limited evidence for remodelling or recutting of the field system, although due to the wet ground conditions, it seems likely that some maintenance work would have been necessary. Possible examples of this include ditch 5717, a later extension on the same north-east to south-west alignment as ditch 5720, and ditch 5708, a possible recut on the same north-west to south-east aligned as gully 5133.

4.6.14 The field system produced 5.145 kg of pottery (not including the pottery from potentially associated ditch 5165) the majority of which was broadly dated to the Romano-British period, although some was more closely dated to the 2nd–4th centuries AD. The single largest concentration of pottery (822 g) came from elongated pit or ditch segment 5198, situated 0.41 m to the north-west of ditch 5709 and on the same north-west to south-east alignment.

4.6.15 Other Romano British finds comprise ceramic building material (474 g) including brick and *tegula* fragments, and four hobnails. In addition, a Romano-British copper alloy hairpin (4 g, ON 5002), two fragments of copper alloy bracelet (3 g, ON 5009) and a fragment of molten solidified lead waste (10 g, ON 5008) were recovered from ditch 5721 (Fig. 16). A probable silver denarius of Septimus Severus (ON 5010) dated AD 195 was recovered during the metal detecting survey in the vicinity of ditch 5715 which formed part of the eastern field system. Residual sherds of Bronze Age (5 g) and Late Iron Age (16 g) pottery and worked (226 g) and burnt flint (187 g) were also recovered from the field system, together with animal bone (88 g), fired clay (452 g) and metalworking slag (1 g).

Phase 3

4.6.16 Ditch 5701 on the west side of the excavation area, defined a small enclosure, possibly for livestock, and represents the final phase of Romano-British land division. The ditch had steep to moderate concave or straight sides and a flat base and was 0.96–2.65 m wide (Fig. 17). It was shallower on the north-east side (0.3 m) than in the south-west corner,

where it was up to 0.72 m deep. Finds recovered from the ditch fills include sherds of Romano-British pottery (708 g), mostly dated to the middle 3rd–4th century AD, a residual worked flint (22 g), animal bone (105 g) and an iron rod (5 g). A copper spoon (10 g, ON 5004) and a possible copper alloy belt or strap fitting (7 g, ON 5006) were also recovered from the metal detecting survey in this area.

4.6.17 Pit 5208 which cut an earlier field ditch (5708) is probably broadly contemporary with this later phase of Roman-British activity. The circular pit had irregular, concave sides, was 0.39 m in length, 0.13 m wide and 0.17 m deep. It contained seven sherds (51 g) of Roman-British pottery and 6 g of animal bone.

Discrete features

4.6.18 Two pits on Area 5 could be broadly dated to the Romano-British period. Pit 5173 on the north-west side of the area, was truncated by a field drain, consequently its relationship with ditch 5708 was unclear. It had moderate, concave sides and a concave base, was 1.53 m in length, 0.66 m wide, 0.53 m deep, and contained five sherds of Romano-British pottery (124 g) including a sherd Samian with the maker's mark of Quintus V, dated between AD 160–200.

4.6.19 Sub-oval pit 5158 on the south side of Area 5 had steep straight sides and a sloping base, was 0.6 m in diameter, 0.11m deep and contained 14 sherds (62 g) of Romano-British pottery.

Medieval

4.6.20 A small sub-circular pit (5320) on the central north side of Area 5, had concave sides and a concave base, was 0.72 m in diameter, 0.13 m deep and a single secondary fill from which three sherds of medieval pottery (9 g) and a residual worked flint (8 g) were recovered.

4.6.21 Linear feature 5229, situated between trackside ditches 5703 and 5705, on the north-west side of the excavation area, potentially represents a truncated furrow. The spacing and aligned were comparably to other furrows in the area (see Fig. 4). It extended for 5.3 m, was 0.78 m wide, 0.2 m deep, had moderate concave sides and a flat base, and contained a single sherd (9 g) of residual Romano-British pottery.

Undated

4.6.22 North-east to south-west aligned ditch 5722 extended across the central part of Area 5 and beyond the limit of excavation. It had concave sides and a concave base, was up to 1.98 m wide but shallow, with a maximum depth of 0.35 m and cut several of the earlier Romano-British ditches (e.g., 5705, 5719 and 5723). Sherds of Romano-British pottery (42 g) were recovered from the ditch; however, these are likely to be residual and the ditch much later, possibly a post-medieval field boundary although not shown the 1840s tithe map of the area.

4.6.23 Nine discrete undated features were recorded across the excavation area (pits 5074, 5167, 5179, 5202, 5223 postholes 5187, 5237, 5315 and 5331). Two further pits contained small quantities finds but not enough to date them. Pit 5020 contained a piece of worked flint (14 g) and pit 5151 a single sherd of Romano-British pottery (2 g). The pits and postholes were oval to sub-circular in plan, had steep straight to concave sides with a flat base and varied in size but were generally 0.44– 0.75 m in length, 0.34–0.44 wide and up to 0.25 m deep. Postholes 5237, 5315, and 5331 on the east side of area, probably formed part of a north-west to south-east aligned fence line.

Natural features

4.6.24 A considerable number of non-anthropogenic features were recorded on the west side of Area 5 (5006, 5008, 5010, 5012, 5014, 5016, 5018, 5020, 5037, 5082, 5088, 5116, 5153, 5304, 5318, 5325, 5327, 5329, 5348, 5352, 5362, 5700 and 5718). These potentially formed in waterlogged and boggy conditions through a combination of factors such as water run-off, livestock trampling or root action and bioturbation (Figs 4 and 18). While separate features could be distinguished over part of the area, the concentration increased significantly in the far south-west corner where the features amalgamated into a single entity. Several were cut by elements of the Romano-British field system. The shape and size of these features varied considerably, although most were irregular or sub-circular, some were linear, and most were 0.46–5 m wide and 0.05–0.5 m deep.

4.6.25 The features contained mixed assemblages of residual finds. Feature 5327 was relatively finds-rich and contained 24 sherds (118 g) of Romano-British pottery, animal bone (21 g) and a single flint (6 g), while feature 5082 contained two pieces of Romano-British ceramic building material, identified as part of a box flue tile and a possible fragment of *tegula*, indicating there were once buildings nearby. A few sherds of Romano-British pottery (23 g) came from natural features 5006, 5010, 5348 and 5700.

4.6.26 Several small, abraded sherds of broadly dated prehistoric pottery (29 g) were recovered from natural feature 5008, together with worked (1 g) and burnt flint (11 g), while feature 5718 contained two sherds of Middle/Late Bronze Age pottery (12 g) and a single flint (3 g). In addition, two pieces of flint (36 g), three sherds (9 g) of Romano-British pottery and a single sherd (8 g) of medieval pottery were recovered from natural feature 5352.

5 FINDS EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A total of *c.* 16.1 kg of finds was recovered, dating from Early Bronze Age to modern, with a focus on the Romano-British period. The finds were recovered by hand collection and environmental sampling. They have been cleaned, with the exception of the metalwork, and quantified by material type (Appendix 1, Table 1). Recording and reporting conforms to the level recommended by the CIfA's Toolkit for Specialist Reporting Type 2, Appraisal, which aims to characterise the finds assemblage, with specific reference to dating where possible.

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 Pottery (Appendix 1, Table 2) was found in all four of the areas investigated. The maximum distance between the areas is around 1000 m and the assemblage has been combined and assessed as a whole at this stage, drawing spatial conclusions as necessary. The pottery dates from the early Bronze Age to modern periods, with two main areas of focus; the Bronze Age and the Romano-British periods.

5.2.2 The pottery was recorded using a digital database, which will form part of the permanent project archive, and according to nationally accepted guidelines (Barclay *et al.* 2016, section 2.4.6). Sherds were recorded by fabric, based on the dominant inclusion type, or by ware group (e.g., Oxfordshire colour-coated ware) where known. The assemblage has been quantified by sherd count and weight (in grammes). Featured sherds were assigned a form type referencing standard corpora where appropriate (e.g., Young 1977) and variables such as rim morphology and percentage, decoration, and evidence for use (residues, sooting etc) were recorded where appropriate.

5.2.3 The condition of the assemblage is variable but generally poor, attested by a mean sherd weight of just 8.6 g. Slips have suffered particularly badly, in some cases being almost entirely missing. Most sherds were recovered from ditches (64% by sherd count), suggesting the focus of activity lies beyond the excavation areas which limits the usefulness of the assemblage. Sherds from pits amount to 22% of the total by count and the remaining 14% of sherds came from topsoil and subsoil layers (7%), tree-throw holes (3%), postholes (less than 1%) and natural features (3%).

Prehistoric

5.2.4 The earliest material comprised 13 grog-tempered sherds of Early Bronze Age date from pit 5129 in Area 5. The sherds were recovered from two of the fills but are likely to belong to the same vessel – of possible biconical form with an upright, internally bevelled rim and an applied cordon, perhaps on the shoulder.

5.2.5 Flint-tempered Middle to Late Bronze Age sherds occur in small numbers (14, 16 and 5 respectively) in all three areas. The use of flint as a tempering agent in pottery fabrics has a long tradition in the area, which hinders precise dating, especially as no rims or other diagnostic sherds are present within this group. However, the coarse tempering used, and thick-walled nature of the body sherds suggests affinities with Deverel-Rimbury forms of the Middle to Late Bronze Age date, and are like other, more diagnostic groups of this date in the area (e.g., Wessex Archaeology 2021c, 8; Brook forthcoming, 11). One sherd has a fingertip decorated cordon (posthole 4116, in Area 1).

5.2.6 The only Early Iron Age sherds were recovered from Area 1, with all but one sherd derived from pit 5515. A greater variety of fabrics is present in this group, with gritty wares and sherds in vesicular (probably leeched shell) fabrics predominating (Appendix 1, Table 2). All the fabrics are likely to be of local origin. Six rims from four vessels were recorded, all in a highly fragmented state. These comprise two rounded, in-turned rims (one each in the vesicular and gritty fabrics), probably from ovoid jars like examples from The Deanery (Brook forthcoming, fig. 12, nos. 5–7) to the west of the site, a neutral profiled vessel with short, out-turned rim in a vesicular fabric and a jar or bowl with rounded body and almost bead-like rim in a gritty fabric.

5.2.7 A further 52 sherds are of broad prehistoric date. No vessel forms can be identified, and the mean sherd weight of this group is just 1.2 g. These pieces are all too small to realistically add meaningful information regarding date or activities.

Later Iron Age and Romano-British

5.2.8 The largest group of pottery is of late Iron Age and Romano-British date, amounting to 80% of the assemblage.

Continental imports

5.2.9 Imported wares are limited to samian which accounts for 2% of the Romano-British sherds. This is slightly above the average for rural sites, which rarely exceeds 1% (Brindle 2017, 285, fig. 7.2). The sherds survive in mixed condition, with a high mean sherd weight (20 g) but with abraded, powdery fabrics missing their slip in some cases. Production centres have not been assigned at this stage, but the predominant forms (form 18/31 dishes or shallow bowls, form 31R and 38 bowls) suggest the majority are from Central or Eastern Gaul. One footring base from pit 5173 has a complete maker's stamp. The mark is that of Quintus V, die 5a, a potter active at Lezoux between AD 160–200 (Hartley and Dickinson 2008, 316–7).

5.2.10 Five small sherds (9 g) from ditch 5708 are from a Central Gaulish 'black samian' ware vessel, probably a Déchelette (1904) form 74, although no evidence of the handles survive. Some of the sherds have moulded decoration, but too little survives for the decorative scheme or motifs to be identified. A complete Déchelette form 74 vase with a moulded design featuring erotic imagery was recovered from Nursling, Southampton, dated to AD 110–30 (Seager Smith 1997, 34). Fragments of this form are also known from Worcester and other black samian ware vessels are known from Alcester (Ward 2021, 130). This fabric is especially rare in Britain (Simpson 1973, 42), although recorded numbers may be reduced by misidentification, possibly being confused for Central Gaulish colour-coated ware.

Regional imports

5.2.11 The regionally imported wares amount to 18% of the group and show a wide-ranging access to trading networks and contacts. Specialist wares, specifically *mortaria*, were sourced exclusively from Oxfordshire and Mancetter-Hartshill (Warwickshire). The Mancetter-Hartshill vessel was found in the topsoil of Area 5 and has a bead and flanged rim belonging within the 2nd to 4th centuries AD (Hartley 1992, type A). The Oxfordshire types (Young 1977, 97 and 173, types W22 and C97), are the commonest *mortaria* forms produced by the industry, and are of mid 3rd to 4th century AD date. Both came from ditch 5723 in Area 5, with other colour-coated ware body sherds and two rim scraps from vessels of uncertain form from the topsoil and ditches 5340, 5717 and 5721. A base from a New Forest colour-coated ware beaker, also of late 3rd or 4th century AD date, came from ditch 5711 in this area.

5.2.12 The Savernake Ware sherds are all from storage jars, found exclusively in Area 5. These were made in the Oare and Savernake Forest region of north Wiltshire (Swan 1975, 1). At least some of the grog-tempered sherds may also be products of this industry which started during the third quarter of the 1st century AD and continued into at least the late 2nd or early 3rd century. The only diagnostic sherds comprise a plain, thickened rim from a vessel of uncertain form from natural feature 5153 and a rim from an everted rim jar from ditch 5723.

5.2.13 Southeast Dorset Black-burnished wares account for just over 10% of the Romano-British sherds. This fabric reached the area from the 2nd century AD onwards, evidenced by a flat flanged bowl or dish (Seager Smith and Davies 1993 form WA 22) from ditch 5722 in Area 5. However, most vessels – everted rim jars, shallow, straight-sided plain-rimmed dishes and bead and flanged bowls (*ibid,* WA types 2, 3, 20 and 25) - are of later 3rd and 4th century AD date.

5.2.14 A single sherd from a South Midlands shelly ware hooked-rim jar, typically of later 4th to early 5th century AD date (Brown 1994, figs 30 and 37), was recovered from Area 5 natural feature 5253. The rarity of these later fabrics suggests the focus of activity petered out in the 4th century AD.

Local wares

5.2.15 Locally produced coarsewares amount to 80% of the Romano-British sherds, with greywares predominating (Table 2). Whilst exact sources are difficult to pinpoint, the area is well served with kilns producing greywares - Toothill Farm (Anderson 1979, 13), just *c.* 2 km to the west, a cluster around Lydiard Tregoze (Swan 1975) *c.* 4 km to the west and Purton (Anderson 1980), *c.* 7 km to the north-west. The forms are dominated by everted rim jars (45 of the 49 recorded rims), along with three shallow, straight-sided plain rimmed dishes (two, from pit 5198 in Area 5, surviving as full profiles) and a beaker (ditch 5701 in Area 5).

5.2.16 Many of the oxidised ware sherds (Table 2) have an overfired appearance with mottled grey surfaces. Most are plain bodies, with rims limited to sherds from four bowls (including bead rimmed and flanged types) and two jars. At least some of these wares are probably from Purton kilns (Anderson 1980), although a rim from a necked bowl (Area 5, ditch 5710) is like examples made by the Oxfordshire industry (e.g., Young 1977, 195, type O27) during the late Romano-British period.

5.2.17 Seven of the sandy ware sherds from Area 1 (posthole 5513 and pit 5539) are of late Iron Age or Romano-British date. Among the rest of these wares, some overlap with the greywares is likely, given the highly variable nature of these fabrics. Just two vessel forms were recognised - an everted rim jar and a bead and flanged bowl from ditches 5340 and 5723, both in Area 5, indicating that these wares extend into the late Romano-British period.

Medieval

5.2.18 Medieval sherds are scarce, limited to just six body sherds and one foot from a small tripod pitcher-type vessel, occurring in Kennet Valley B wares, a vesicular fabric is likely to be leeched sherds of the same and coarse sandy wares (Table 2). Kennet Valley B wares are widely found across west Berkshire and north-east Wiltshire (Mepham 2000) and one source is thought to be in the Savernake Forest, to the south (Vince 1997). They have a lengthy currency, beginning in the 11th century and continuing throughout the medieval period. The coarse sandy wares are likely to also be local, although their provenance is uncertain.

Post-medieval/modern

5.2.19 A small group of pottery, dateable from the late 18th to 20th centuries, was recovered from the topsoil of Area 4. The group is typical of domestic wares, comprising stoneware, unglazed earthenware and transfer-printed refined whiteware. Only one vessel type was identifiable, a plate in blue transfer-printed refined whiteware.

5.3 Burnt flint

5.3.1 Burnt flint (Table 1) was recovered from 16 deposits. This material is intrinsically undatable, although it is commonly interpreted as indicative of prehistoric activity. The only significant concentration came from undated pit 5539 in Area 1 (420 pieces, 337 g). This feature also contained burnt animal bone, so it is feasible that the burnt flint relates to this burning activity.

5.3.2 Smaller quantities were found in other features in Area 1 (pit 5515, natural feature 5537 and posthole 5513. Two pieces (43 g) came from pit 4097 and gully 4203 in Area 4, while 214 fragments (427 g) were recovered from Area 5 (pits 5105, 5129 and 5198, ditches 5340, 5376, 5705, 5708, 5719 and 5721 and natural feature 5008). All this material probably derived as an accidental by-product of some other form of industrial, agricultural, or domestic burning process, but the nature and date of these activities are unclear and maybe widely varied.

5.4 Flint

5.4.1 A total of 45 pieces was found, 44 were of flint with a single piece of Portland chert. Most pieces are in mint or sharp condition showing that they are unlikely to have moved far from their point of discard. A small number, predominantly from topsoil of Area 5, had developed post depositional edge damage as a result of having been reworked in the plough soil.

5.4.2 Material from Area 4 included a small number of well-made blades, the flake of Portland chert and a barbed and tanged arrowhead of Green's (1980) Green Low 'fancy' arrowhead sub-type. The blade component was marked by a series of technological features that include platform abrasion and negative flake scar patterns that show that blades were removed from cores with opposed striking platforms. Retouched pieces comprise three blades and a truncated blade. With the exception of the barbed and tanged arrowhead, these artefacts are likely to be of Early Neolithic date. Portland chert was also exploited in considerable quantities during this period and was transported across the Neolithic landscape. It is well documented in Somerset and the West Country although this example marks a relatively rare occurrence in the North Wiltshire. The artefacts were predominantly recovered from the surface of the natural clay (4003) and can be linked to comparable scatter of Early Neolithic material that has been described for an earlier phase of work on the Wichelstowe South Southern Access Road (Wessex Archaeology 2021).

5.4.3 The assemblage from Area 5, together with a small collection from Area 1, was recovered from the east side of the development area and contrasts markedly from the material from Area 4 to the west. These collections are dominated by undiagnostic flakes and broken flakes with only one broken blade and are more difficult to date accurately. The collection includes 13 pieces found in the silts of ditches, their fresh condition indicating that they were nevertheless derived from the immediate surroundings.

5.5 Ceramic building material

5.5.1 The ceramic building material (Table 1) is fragmentary and was all derived from Area 5. Although quantities are small, its potentially indicates the presence of a substantial Romanised building in the locality although outside the current excavation areas. The assemblage includes *tegula* (flanged roof tile) fragments from ditch 5724 and possibly from natural feature 5082, as well as a box flue tile fragment with keying from the same deposit and one Roman brick fragment. These were used in the construction of hypocausts, as flooring and lacing and bonding courses in walls; box flue tiles carried the hot air from the underfloor area of a hypocaust up through the walls to heat the room above.

5.6 Fired clay

5.6.1 The small group of fired clay (Table 1) was mostly from Area 5, with just three pieces from Area 4. The group consists of small, amorphous fragments probably of structural origin.

5.7 Metalwork

5.7.1 The metalwork is all from Area 5. All the pieces have been x-radiographed, to provide a basic archive record of the inherently unstable materials and as an aid to identification. Where datable, items appear to be of Romano-British date, with a few modern finds confined to topsoil deposits.

5.7.2 A single coin (ON 5010) was found unstratified in Area 5. Although recorded here as copper alloy, it survives in a highly degraded condition and may be silver. It is probably a *denarius* of Septimus Severus dating to AD 195, and has a reverse type depicting Mars advancing, holding a spear and trophy.

5.7.3 The five other copper alloy objects are also likely of Romano-British date. Four are items of personal ornament in such fragmentary condition they may have been lost during use. Two are fragments of bracelets, both of flat, rectangular strip form. One, from ditch 5721 (ON 5005), is incised with vertical and diagonal lines, while the second (unstratified; ON

5009) has panels of laterally positioned ovals, containing a ring-and-dot design, between incised vertical lines. They are both likely to belong within the later 3rd or 4th centuries AD (Crummy 1983, 37). A hairpin (ON 5002), with an unusual crescent-shaped terminal decorated with rings was also found in ditch 5721. It probably belongs to a group of projecting, ring-headed pins (Cool 1991, 165, type 17, fig. 10, no. 4), the crescent-shaped head of this example perhaps being the product of breaks and ware. This type of pin appears to have developed in northern Britain, with southern examples possibly imported from Ireland via the Bristol channel or locally made (*ibid,* 165). A plain, belt strap or fitting (ON 5006) and a spoon (ON 5004) were both found unstratified. The spoon has an oval or 'mandolin' shaped-bowl and belongs to a type (Crummy 1983, 69, type 3) made throughout the Roman period.

5.7.4 The ten iron objects comprise five hobnails or tacks of Romano-British date (ditches 5340 and 5723), two undatable rod fragments (ditches 5701 and 5709) and a modern nail and rod fragment with a screw thread from the topsoil. A small scrap of lead alloy waste was also found unstratified in Area 5.

5.8 Slag

5.8.1 A single undiagnostic piece of slag, weighing just 1 g, was recovered from Area 5 ditch 5709. It is too small to determine specific activity and is inherently undatable.

5.9 Stone

5.9.1 A single piece of Old Red Sandstone was recovered from ditch 5720. No clear evidence of working is visible, nor is the item dateable.

5.10 Animal bone

5.10.1 The animal bone is quantified in Appendix 1, Table 1 and was assessed following current guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019). The bones are fragmented and in generally poor condition, consequently the overall number of identified bones is low and once refits are considered the overall total falls to 135 fragments (Appendix 1, Table 3).

Late prehistoric

5.10.2 Six small, abraded fragments of calcined bone were recovered from the charcoal-rich fill of pit 4097 in Area 4.

Middle/late Romano-British

5.10.3 Most of the animal bone came from a series of middle/late Romano-British field boundary ditches in Area 5. The identified fragments are mostly from cattle and include a small range of skeletal elements, mostly robust parts such as teeth, small compact bones from the feet and the denser ends of long bones. A cattle mandible recovered from ditch 5717 is from a juvenile animals aged between 18–30 months (mandible wear stage D, after Halstead 1985).

5.10.4 The other identified bones include a small number of sheep/goat elements, mostly loose teeth, three horse bones, including a mandible from a pony-sized animal, the radius from a pig and a possible piece of eroded deer antler.

Undated

5.10.5 Approximately 56 small, abraded fragments of calcined animal bone were recovered from the charcoal-rich fill of pit 5539 in Area 1.

5.11 Conservation

5.11.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field, but subsequent examination has identified the iron and copper alloy objects as being of unstable material types potentially in need of further conservation treatment.

5.11.2 As such, the iron and copper alloy objects are all stored with supportive packaging and a desiccant (silica gel) to ensure a dry environment below 35% relative humidity. They have all been x-radiographed and appear to be in a relatively stable condition. Their condition is frequently monitored.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Thirty-nine bulk sediment samples were taken from ditches, gullies, pits, and postholes and were processed for the recovery and assessment of environmental evidence. The provenance of the samples is provided in Appendix 2, Table 4.

6.2 Aims and methods

6.2.1 The aim of this assessment is to determine the nature and significance of the environmental remains preserved at the site and their potential to address the project aims. Appropriate recommendations for further work are provided. This assessment follows recommendations from Historic England (English Heritage 2011).

6.2.2 The size of the bulk sediment samples varied between 2 and 40 litres, with an average volume of approximately 15 litres. Most of the samples were pre-soaked in a solution of water and hydrogen peroxide to help break up the clayey sediment. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse fractions of the residues (>4 mm) were sorted by eye for artefactual and environmental remains and discarded. The environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots. The fine residue fractions and the flots were scanned and sorted using a Leica MS5 at magnifications of up to x40.

6.2.3 Different potential indicators of bioturbation were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds alongside the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g., *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as burrowing snails (*Cecilioides acicula),* or earthworm eggs and modern insects. The preservation and nature of the charred plant remains and wood charcoal, as well as the presence of other environmental remains was recorded. Remains 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’).

6.2.4 Plant remains were identified through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (e.g., Cappers *et al.* 2006). The volume of charcoal (≥2 mm) from the flots and fine residues fractions was recorded, and preliminary classifications were undertaken through examination of the transverse section to provide information on the presence/absence of oak (*Quercus* sp.) and non-oak species. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereals and other cultivated crops (using traditional names).

6.3 Results

6.3.1 The results are presented in Appendix 2, Table 5.

6.3.2 The flots were of variable volumes and potential indicators of bioturbation are abundant in some samples, indicating the high possibility of contamination from later intrusive material (e.g., abundant modern roots, modern seeds, modern insects, earthworm eggs). Environmental evidence comprised charred plant remains and wood charcoal.

Parcel 5

6.3.3 Only one sample from pit 2005 produced charred plant remains (deposit 2007), these consisted of small numbers of grains of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*). A very small quantity of wood charcoal was noted, with some mineral staining observed.

Area 1

6.3.4 The samples from pit 5539 produced small quantities of monocotyledon stems and tubers/rhizomes, likely originating from the burnt remains of a species of grass (Poaceae) or sedge (Cyperaceae). One of the samples also contained seeds of buttercups (*Ranunculus* subg. *Ranunculus*). The samples were exceptionally rich in wood charcoal, which was well preserved and comprised a mixture of different species of non-oak (non-*Quercus* sp.) alongside oak (*Quercus* sp.) charcoal. Bioturbation proxies, such as modern roots, were minimal in these samples.

6.3.5 The samples from pits 5515 and 5537 were relatively scarce in charred plant remains, with a single barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grain noted in the sample from pit 5515. Both pits contained charcoal which was mineral stained but identifiable as both oak and non-oak species and was well-preserved. Pit 5515 contained more charcoal than 5537.

Area 4

6.3.6 The samples from pit 4097 yielded no charred plant remains but were abundant in charcoal fragments which were mineral stained. The charcoal was moderately well-preserved despite the mineral staining and was identifiable as mixtures of non-oak species and oak. Bioturbation proxies, such as modern roots, were minimally present within these samples.

6.3.7 The other sampled features from Area 4 consisted of ditch 4202 (slot 4064), posthole 4116, and gullies 4203, 4205 and 4209. The flot matrices of these samples predominantly consisted of modern root material, with small quantities of charcoal in poor to moderate condition and a majority yielded no charred plant remains. Ditch 4202 did contain a small quantity of poorly preserved charred plant remains, consisting of a single barley rachis internode, indeterminate cereal grains (Triticeae), vetches (Vicieae), and grasses. Charcoal was also noted in moderate quantities in these features and consisted of well-preserved but mineral stained non-oak and oak charcoal.

Area 5

6.3.8 Most of the samples from this area were dominated by modern root contamination, and very small quantities of charcoal which was generally poorly preserved and highly fragmented. Clinker/cinder fragments and highly fragmented coal was also noted in many of the samples. Some features contained poorly preserved charred plant remains, including indeterminate cereals, wheat (*Triticum* sp.), barley, vetches, fragmented hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragments, and grasses. The samples from pits 5105 and 5129 and posthole 5513 did contain a higher abundance of charcoal, noted to be of oak and

non-oak species. The sample from pit 5105 also contained a small assemblage of charred plant remains, including barley, wheat, indeterminate grains, and a spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) glume base. A single cultivated flax (*Linum usitatissimum*) seed was noted, alongside other taxa including seeds of the daisy family (Asteraceae), clovers/medicks/trefoils (Trifolieae), and an indeterminate thorn.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 The samples, while not rich in charred plant remains, are very rich in charcoal in some cases, such as pits 4097 (Area 4) and 5539 (Area 1). However, it is unclear why pits 4097 and 5539 contain such large quantities of charcoal. These features may be the heavily truncated remains of an oven/kiln or charcoal production pit, although the lack of evidence for in situ burning renders this unlikely. Alternatively, they could both be dumps of fuel waste.

6.4.2 The small quantity of charred cereal remains identified in the samples from Parcel 5 and Area 5, are suggestive of agricultural activities taking place in the wider area, together with wild taxa which would be consistent with arable weed species (e.g., grasses, vetches, clovers/medicks/trefoils). However, the plant remains were too fragmented to be identified further and are not indicative of any period. Previous work on the site revealed evidence for medieval agricultural activities in the area (Wessex Archaeology 2021c).

6.4.3 The mineral staining noted on the charred plant remains and charcoal is indicative of fluctuating water levels.

7 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

7.1 Stratigraphic potential

7.1.1 Most features across the excavation areas have been assigned to an archaeological period or phase, and although there is little potential to refine or redefine the phasing, the remains are of local interest and merit further consideration.

7.1.2 The Early Neolithic flint from Area 4 and Parcel 5 provide limited evidence for earlier prehistoric activity. A search of the HER demonstrates the paucity of Neolithic finds within the area and the small but interesting assemblage should be considered along with the flint from the Southern Access Scheme (Wessex Archaeology 2021c) and the wider Swindon area to provide a better understanding of the evidence.

7.1.3 Re-evaluation of the pottery from the ‘D-shaped’ enclosure in Area 4 will refine the dating of this feature and by association the field boundary ditch to the north, which shared a similar alignment to the east side of the enclosure. Elements of a field system were also identified but are later in the stratigraphic sequence although certain alignments appeared to reference the enclosure, suggesting the earthwork was still visible in the landscape. The two undated roundhouse gullies may be associated with the later field system, with similar arrangements recorded in the wider landscape, for example at the Deanery (Wessex Archaeology 2018; Lichtenstein forthcoming). The Bronze Age to Iron Age was sparsely represented across Areas 1 and 5 by six discrete features, most of which are poorly dated.

7.1.4 Apart from a single small pit in Parcel 1, Romano-British activity was largely confined to Area 5. Three phases of Middle to Late Romano-British land division were recorded. The first phase was a single ditch, this was followed by a more formal division of the land for agricultural use. The principal components of which were a trackway and system of small

fields and paddocks (phase 2) either side. There was limited evidence to indicate that the field system had been modified over time, although some closer examination of certain key areas may clarify this and provide a better understanding of any developments to the general layout. The final phase is characterised by a small, ditched enclosure, added to the west side of the field system.

7.1.5 The Romano-British field system will need to be considered in relation to the nearby excavation at Foxham way (Hood 2009) to help ascertain its extent and with evidence from the wider landscape. For example, the field system and possible granary found within the Southern Access Scheme (Wessex Archaeology 2021c) and the Romano-British land divisions at The Deanery site (Wessex Archaeology 2018). The general pattern of land divisions indicates extensive use for agriculture, but any direct associations with settlement evidence remain elusive. The finds assemblage suggests the possibility of a nearby settlement, and further consideration should be given to the spatial association between these elements within the wider landscape. Possible sites for comparison include the rural settlements at Lydiard Tregoze (Robinson 2010), Ridge Green, Shaw (Powell 2010), Delta Industrial Estate (King 1998), The Hermitage, Old Town (Kenyon 2002) and Pipers Way (Hardy and Poole 2010). The field systems location within the broader environs of the potential villa at Westlecote farm (Passmore 1899) should also be explored.

7.1.6 A single pit of possible medieval date was recorded in Area 5 and an array of furrows were recorded across the excavation areas. However, despite the proximity of the scheduled monument at West Leaze, evidence for wider activity during this period was limited.

7.2 Finds potential

7.2.1 The potential of the finds assemblage is limited by its relatively small size and restricted nature. The Early Neolithic flint from the surface of the natural clay in Area 4, is of interest, these pieces having not moved far from the point of their original deposition and representing a continuation of the scatter identified in Parcel 5 and on the route of the Southern Access Scheme (Wessex Archaeology 2021). The barbed and tanged arrowhead from Area 4 and the less diagnostic prehistoric flintwork from Area 5 suggests that this activity continued at least on a small scale into the Bronze Age.

7.2.2 The Bronze Age pottery sherds add to a growing corpus from North Wiltshire. Early Bronze Age material is scarce in the area, although six sherds from a Collared Urn in a vesicular fabric are known from The Deanery, Wichelstowe (Brook forthcoming, 11), situated between Areas 4 and Areas 1 and 5. Occupation in the later prehistoric period appears not to be continuous, with no material dating to the Middle Iron Age and only very small amounts of later Iron Age date.

7.2.3 The Romano-British assemblage is typical of rural sites in the area, providing limited evidence for the life-style (copper alloy objects), economy (coin, animal bone) and wider trade and exchange networks (pottery) with the ceramic building materials hinting at the presence of substantial Romanised structures somewhere in the locality. Among the pottery, samian occurs in slightly higher than average quantities and the rare ‘black samian’ vessel is of particular interest. The lack of other continental imports suggests restricted access to markets, despite a wide range being recorded at the nearby Roman town of *Durocornovium* at Wanborough (Hartley 2001; Keay 2001).

7.2.4 The medieval assemblage is small, suggesting that the site is on the very edge of occupation identified in the Southern Access Scheme works, to the south-west (Wessex

Archaeology 2021). Post-medieval pottery was only found in Area 4, suggesting limited domestic activity in this area, while two pieces of modern metalwork came from Area 5.

7.2.5 The small animal bone assemblage offers no potential for more detailed analysis.

7.3 Environmental potential

7.3.1 There is some potential to undertake charcoal analysis on pits 4097 and 5539. However, this would be unlikely to significantly add to the information outlined in this assessment report due to the ambiguity surrounding these features' original function.

7.3.2 No further analysis is recommended on the charred plant remains or charcoal from samples, as they are of limited significance.

7.3.3 A summary of the results should be included in any future publication.

8 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

8.1 Updated project aims

8.1.1 The original project aims have been achieved and many of the original research objectives can be discarded due to the limited information recovered and a lack of further potential. The revised aims of the project are therefore to:

- determine the date and extent of land use during the Neolithic period through analysis of the flint assemblage in conjunction with evidence from the wider landscape;
- inform how the landscape was used and to what level of intensification in the Bronze Age and Romano-British periods; and
- summarise the results and disseminate them through publication.

8.2 Stratigraphic evidence – recommendations for analysis

8.2.1 A review of published reports and available unpublished 'grey literature' reports will be carried out to provide and up-to-date understanding of wider context of and enable discussion of the broader archaeological context of the archaeological remains in the proposed publication. Emphasis will be placed on relating the results of the excavation areas to similar evidence in the environs and wider region.

8.2.2 Some minor reappraisal of the stratigraphic sequence may also be required in light of this, and other specialist analyses recommended below. The results from the previous trial trench evaluation will also be incorporated where appropriate.

8.3 Finds evidence – recommendations for analysis

8.3.1 The finds assemblage has already been recorded to an acceptable archive level. However, it is recommended that the Early Neolithic flint is compared with that from the Parcel 5, the Southern Access Scheme (Wessex Archaeology 2021) and the wider Swindon environs to provide a better understanding of the evidence for this remote period.

8.3.2 The prehistoric pottery from coherent feature groups, such as pits 5129 and 5515, would benefit from full analysis and comparison with other assemblages in the area (e.g., Brook, forthcoming; Wessex Archaeology 2021c). No further work is proposed for the rest of the

prehistoric sherds, although the records made during this assessment and comments included in this report may be adapted for publication.

8.3.3 The Romano-British pottery has also been recorded to a sufficient standard, although the imported samian ware would benefit from specialist study to better understand sources of supply to the site. Closer consideration of the assemblage in its feature groups and in relation to other assemblages from the immediate vicinity and wider area should also be undertaken, based on the dataset recorded during this assessment. The medieval and post-medieval pottery has been fully recorded, and a short note should be prepared for publication.

8.3.4 Catalogue entries for the metalwork, particularly the copper alloy objects will be enhanced, and suitable parallels sourced as required. The metal used for the Septimus Severus coin will also be ascertained (using XRF). The remaining materials (burnt flint, ceramic building material, fired clay, slag, and stone) do not require further analysis or illustration but should be noted in any future publication.

8.3.5 Illustrations are merited for up to 30 pottery sherds, including the 'black' and stamped samian ware vessels as well as a selection of other vessels demonstrating the range of types present. The five copper alloy objects also merit illustration.

8.3.6 The animal bone groups have been fully recorded and the resulting dataset can be used to produce a summary of the assemblage for publication. The report will attempt to place the assemblage within a wider context and provide a general overview of the local livestock economy during the Romano-British period.

8.4 Environmental evidence – recommendations for analysis

8.4.1 No further work is recommended on the environmental evidence (Appendix 2, Table 6), but the dataset will be summarised for publication.

8.5 Summary of recommendations for analysis

8.5.1 It is recommended that, following selected analyses of the finds, and potentially limited re-assessment of certain key stratigraphic relationships, the results should be written up for publication. The publication will focus on land use from the Neolithic to Romano-British period and will provide an interpretative overview of the evidence, within a broader local and regional context.

8.6 Proposals for publication

8.6.1 It is proposed that the results of the excavation will be reported on in the form of an illustrated article in the regional journal *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Magazine.*

Provisional synopsis of journal publication

Working title:

Bronze Age and Romano-British land use at Wichelstowe, Swindon, Wiltshire

by Simon Flaherty, with specialist contributions from Phil Harding, Lorrain Higbee, Katie Marsden, and Megan Scantlebury

Introduction	1000 words
Results	5500 words
Finds reports	8000 words
Environmental reports	500 words
Discussion	2000 words

Total: approximately 17,000 words, 8 figures, 2 plates, 5 tables (30 pages)

8.7 Programme for analysis and publication

8.7.1 Analysis and publication will commence when this document and the proposals therein have been approved by the Wiltshire County Council Senior Archaeologist, on behalf of the LPA, and the work has been commissioned in full by RPS Consultancy Services Ltd.

8.7.2 Typically, the analysis and publication programme for a project of this scale and complexity will take around 12-18 months but will vary depending on the availability of specialists and external laboratories. A project-specific programme will be developed and agreed at the time of commission.

8.8 Personnel and resources

8.8.1 The following Wessex Archaeology core staff are scheduled to undertake the work as outlined in the task list for post-excavation analysis and publication (Appendix 3, Table 7).

8.9 Management structure

8.9.1 The team will be headed by a Project Manager, who will assume ultimate responsibility for the execution of the project as outlined in the Updated Project Design. The Project Manager will ensure performance targets, be they academic or budgetary, are met within the agreed timetable.

8.9.2 The Project Manager may delegate specific aspects of the project to other key staff, who will supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. They may also liaise with external consultants and specialists who are contributing to the publication, and the recipient museum of the project archive.

8.9.3 The Project Manager will be assisted by the Senior Research Manager, who will ensure that the report meets internal quality standards as defined in Wessex Archaeology's guidelines.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the excavation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Swindon Museum and Art Gallery has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession codes **SWIMG: 2021.11** (Area 1), **SWIMG: 2020.18** (Parcel 5), **SWIMG: 2021.10** (Area 4) **and SWIMG: 2021.12** (Area 5). 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 physical archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014c; Brown 2011).

9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the accession codes (see above) and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 7 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 7 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics

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. Full details of the collection, processing and documentation of digital data are given in the project Digital Management Plan (available on request).

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: available on request) and follows CIfA'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 Detailed selection proposals for the complete project archive, comprising finds, environmental material, and site records (analogue and digital), are made in the site-specific Selection Strategy (Appendix 4). The proposals are summarised below.

Finds

9.3.4 The moderate-sized assemblage contains several elements of particular interest, these are outlined in Appendix 4 and summarised below:

- Animal bone (280 fragments): small assemblage, mostly from Romano-British ditches. No further research potential, discard all.

- Burnt flint (671 items): little additional value, discard.
- Ceramic building material (21 items): Romano-British brick or tile, retain.
- Fired clay (305 pieces): amorphous, possibly structural, no further research potential, discard.
- Metalwork (16 items; 10 iron, 5 copper alloy, 1 lead alloy): retain diagnostic and dateable items.
- Metalworking residues (1 small item): no further potential. Discard.
- Prehistoric pottery (245 sherds); further research potential, retain all.
- Pottery, all other periods (1061 sherds): further research potential, retain all.
- Stone, unworked (1 item): unworked, no potential, discard.
- Worked flint (45 items): small but interesting collection of Neolithic items. Retain all.

Palaeoenvironmental material

9.3.5 Some of the material retrieved from environmental samples merits retention with the site archive for future access. This is a summary of proposals for a site-specific Selection Strategy (Appendix 4)

9.3.6 The assessed flots from Areas 1 and 4 which have the potential for further work beyond this project, should all be retained within the site archive. The flots which have no potential for further work from Areas 1 and 4, and those from Area 5, should be discarded.

9.3.7 Residues from most features were discarded after sorting, with the charcoal-rich residues from pits 4097 and 5539 retained to be held within the site archive.

Documentary records

9.3.8 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

9.3.9 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 5). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Wiltshire County Council Senior 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 Finds data

Table 1 Summary of finds by material type, by count and weight

Material	Count	Weight (g)
Animal bone	280	1086
Burnt flint	671	862
Ceramic building material	21	790
Fired clay	305	1129
Flint	74	672
Metalwork – *total*	*17*	*113*
Copper alloy	6	28
Iron	10	75
Lead alloy	1	10
Pottery	1306	11294
Slag	1	1
Stone	1	186
Total	**2676**	**16133**

Table 2 Pottery by period and fabric/ware type

Fabrics by Period	Count	Weight (g)	Number of rims
Bronze Age	**48**	**256**	**1**
Grog-tempered ware	13	59	1
Flint-tempered ware	35	197	-
Early Iron Age	**145**	**480**	**5**
Gritty ware	85	218	1
Vesicular fabric	48	162	2
Flint-tempered ware	8	52	-
Sandy ware	3	29	1
Grog-tempered ware	1	19	1
Uncertain prehistoric	**52**	**64**	-
Grog-tempered ware	44	41	-
Uncertain	4	1	-
Flint-tempered ware	2	3	-
sandstone and argillaceous inclusions	1	18	-
Sandy ware	1	1	-
Late Iron Age/Romano-British	**1048**	**10365**	**102**
Greyware	707	5492	50
Black Burnished ware	107	822	26
Savernake ware	65	1464	6
Oxidised ware	64	850	6
Sandy ware	36	90	2
Grog-tempered ware	30	982	2
Samian	21	420	5
Oxon colour coat	9	25	1
Oxon colour coated ware mortaria	3	28	1
Oxon whiteware mortaria	3	100	1
Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria	1	83	1
New Forest colour-coated ware	1	3	-
Shell-tempered	1	6	1
Medieval	**7**	**33**	-
Coarse sandy ware	2	11	-
Kennet Valley A ware	2	13	-
Vesicular fabric	3	9	-
Post-medieval/modern	**6**	**96**	**1**
Redware	1	30	-
Refined whiteware	2	10	1
Stoneware	3	56	-
Total	**1306**	**11294**	**109**

Table 3 Animal bone: number of identified specimens present (or NISP)

Species	Late prehistoric	Middle/late Romano-British	Undated	Total
Cattle	-	12	-	12
Sheep/goat	-	5	-	5
Pig	-	1	-	1
Horse	-	3	-	3
Deer	-	1	-	1
Total identified	**-**	**22**	**-**	**22**
Total unidentifiable	**6**	**51**	**56**	**113**
Overall total	**6**	**73**	**56**	**135**

Appendix 2 Environmental data

Table 4 Sample provenance summary

Area	No. of bulk samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
Parcel 5	2	20.5	Pit
Area 1	10	105	Pit
Area 4	11	192	Ditches, gullies, posthole, pit
Area 5	16	251	Ditches, pits, postholes
Totals	**39**	**568.5**	-

Table 5 Assessment of the environmental evidence: charred plant remains and charcoal

Area/Parcel	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Groups	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 (notes)
Parcel 5	Pit	2005	2006	2005	239280_5001	2.5	10	90%, A*, E, I, F	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	Fragmented. Mineral stained.		Charcoal from residue only.
Parcel 5	Pit	2005	2007	2005	239280_5002	18	80	90%, A*, E, I	C	-	*Triticum* sp., *Hordeum vulgare*	-	-	1	Fragmented. Mineral stained.		Preservation poor, iron coated. Charcoal and CPR from residue only.
Area 1	Pit	5515	5116	5515	239284_5017	14	120	70%	C	-	*Hordeum* sp.	-	-	70	Mostly non-*Quercus* sp. with some *Quercus* sp. Moderate to good condition. Some mineral staining.	-	Poor
Area 1	Pit	5537	5538	5537	239284_5018	7	30	20%	-	-	-	-	-	15	*Quercus* sp. and non-*Quercus* sp. Moderate condition. Some mineral staining.	-	-
Area 1	Pit	5539	5540	5539	239284_5020	18	1000	<5%	-	-	-	B	Monocot stems	450	Mixture of *Quercus* sp. and non-*Quercus* sp. Good condition.	-	-
Area 1	Pit	5539	5540	5539	239284_5021	10	330	<5%	-	-	-	B	Monocot stems	210	Mixture of *Quercus* sp. and non-*Quercus* sp. Good condition.	-	-
Area 1	Pit	5539	5540	5539	239284_5022	7	500	<5%	-	-	-	B	Monocot stems, rhizomes/tubers	200	Mixture of *Quercus* sp. and non-*Quercus* sp. Good condition.	Calcined bone, (C)	-
Area 1	Pit	5539	5540	5539	239284_5023	9	80	<5%	-	-	-	B	Monocot stems, rhizomes/tubers, *Ranunculus* subg. *Ranunculus*	50	Mixture of *Quercus* sp. and non-*Quercus* sp. Good condition.	Calcined bone (C)	-

Area/Parcel	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Groups	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 (notes)
Area 1	Pit	5539	5540	5539	239284_5024	10	400	<5%, E	-	-	-	B	Monocot stems, rhizomes/tubers	240	Mixture of *Quercus* sp. and non-*Quercus* sp. Good condition.	-	-
Area 1	Pit	5539	5540	5539	239284_5025	10	750	<5%, I	-	-	-	B	Monocot stems, rhizomes/tubers	370	Mixture of *Quercus* sp. and non-*Quercus* sp. Good condition.	Calcined bone, (C)	-
Area 1	Pit	5539	5540	5539	239284_5026	10	220	<5%	-	-	-	B	Monocot stems	140	Mixture of *Quercus* sp. and non-*Quercus* sp. Good condition.	-	-
Area 1	Pit	5539	5540	5539	239284_5027	10	300	<5%	-	-	-	B	Monocot stems	150	Mixture of *Quercus* sp. and non-*Quercus* sp. Good condition.	-	-
Area 4	Pit	4097	4098/4129	?4208	239283_4001	9	60	10%	-	-	-	-	-	40	Mostly non-*Quercus* sp. with some *Quercus* sp. Moderate condition. Heavy mineral staining.	Calcined bone, (C)	-
Area 4	Pit	4097	4098/4129	?4208	239283_4002	9	120	10%	-	-	-	-	-	80	Mostly non-*Quercus* sp. with some *Quercus* sp. Moderate condition. Heavy mineral staining.	Calcined bone, (C)	-
Area 4	Pit	4097	4098/4129	?4208	239283_4003	7	60	10%	-	-	-	-	-	40	Mostly non-*Quercus* sp. with some *Quercus* sp. Moderate condition. Heavy mineral staining.	Calcined bone, (C)	-
Area 4	Pit	4097	4098/4129	?4208	239283_4004	6	70	10%	-	-	-	-	-	60	Mostly non-*Quercus* sp. with some *Quercus* sp. Moderate condition. Heavy mineral staining.	Calcined bone, (C)	-
Area 4	Posthole	4116	4117	4116	239283_4005	3	8	99%	-	-	-	-	-	-	Fragmented <2mm	-	-
Area 4	Ditch	4064	4067	4064	239283_4006	19	160	10%	C	C	Triticeae, *Hordeum vulgare* rachis internode	C	Vicieae, Poaceae	120	Mostly non-*Quercus* sp. with some *Quercus* sp. Moderate to good condition. Some mineral staining.	-	Poor

Area/Parcel	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Groups	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 (notes)
Area 4	Ditch	4064	4096	4064	239283_4007	8	20	95%	-	-	-	-	-	2	Mostly non-*Quercus* sp. Moderate condition. Some mineral staining.	Clinker/cinder (C)	-
Area 4	Ditch	4064	4066	4064	239283_4008	18	70	10%, C	-	-	-	-	-	45	Mostly non-*Quercus* sp. Moderate condition. Some mineral staining.	Coal (C)	-
Area 4	Ditch	4053	4054	4209	239283_4009	37	65	99%	-	-	-	C	Poaceae (cf. *Avena* sp.)	<1	Non-*Quercus* sp. Poor condition. <2mm highly fragmented.	Coal (B)	Poor
Area 4	Gully	4146	4147	4203	239283_4010	40	90	95%	-	-	-	-	-	3	Mostly non-*Quercus* sp. Moderate to poor condition. Some mineral staining.	-	-
Area 4	Gully	4085	4086	4205	239283_4011	36	35	95%	-	-	-	-	-	2	*Quercus* sp. and non-*Quercus* sp. Moderate to poor condition. Some mineral staining.	-	-
Area 5	Pit	5105	5106	5105	239282_5001	20	110	10%	B	C	*Hordeum* sp. grains, *Triticum* sp. grains, Triticeae grains, *Triticum spelta* glume base	B	*Linum usitatissimum*, Asteraceae, Trifolieae, indet thorn	80	Mostly *Quercus* sp. with some non-*Quercus* sp. Moderate to poor condition. Heavy mineral staining.	Fired clay (C)	Poor
Area 5	Pit	5129	5131	5713	239282_5002	27	100	10%	-	-	-	C	*Corylus avellana* nutshell frags	70	*Quercus* sp. and non-*Quercus* sp. Moderate to good condition. Some mineral staining.	Clinker/cinder (B), Coal, fragmented (B)	Poor
Area 5	Ditch	5191	5192	5719	239282_5003	20	14	<5%	C	-	*Hordeum* sp. grain	-	-	3	*Quercus* sp. and non-*Quercus* sp. Moderate condition.	-	Poor
Area 5	Pit	5198	5199	5198	239282	9	3	80%	-	-	-	-	-	-	Highly fragmented <2mm	Clinker/cinder (C), Coal,	-

Area/Parcel	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Groups	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 (notes)
					_5004											fragmented (C)	
Area 5	Pit	5198	5200	5198	239282_5005	10	5	80%	C	-	*Triticum* sp. grains, Triticeae grain frags	-	-	<1	*Quercus* sp. and Non-*Quercus* sp. Moderate to poor condition. Highly fragmented <2mm	Coal (B)	Poor
Area 5	Posthole	5331	5332	5331	239282_5006	3	3	95%	-	-	-	-	-	<1	Single fragment of a diffuse porous species. Moderate condition. Highly fragmented <2mm	Coal (C)	-
Area 5	Posthole	5331	5333	5331	239282_5007	2	3	99%	-	-	-	-	-	<1	Highly fragmented <2mm	-	-
Area 5	Posthole	5513	5514	5513	239282_5008	2	50	15%, C	-	-	-	C	Poaceae (*Poa*-tp.)	30	*Quercus* sp. and non-*Quercus* sp. Moderate to good condition. Some mineral staining.	-	Fair
Area 5	Pit	5507	5508	5507	239282_5009	8	20	95%	-	-	-	C	*Corylus avellana* endocarp frag (very small)	<1	*Quercus* sp. Moderate condition. Some mineral staining.	Clinker/cinder (A)	Poor
Area 5	Ditch	5358	5359	5721	239282_5010	38	100	95%	-	-	-	C	Vicieae	2	Mostly non-*Quercus* sp. Moderate condition.	-	Poor
Area 5	Ditch	5340	5341	5340	239282_5011	19	20	95%	C	-	Triticeae grain frags	-	-	-	Highly fragmented <2mm	Clinker/cinder (B), Coal, fragmented (A)	Poor
Area 5	Ditch	5171	5172	5171	239282_5012	19	5	99%	-	-	-	-	-	-	Highly fragmented <2mm	Coal (B)	-
Area 5	Ditch	5142	5143	5709	239282_5013	18	8	99%	-	-	-	-	-	<1	Non-*Quercus* sp. Moderate condition.	-	-
Area 5	Ditch	5377	5376	5377	239282	20	30	99%	-	-	-	-	-	<1	*Quercus* sp. Moderate condition. Some mineral staining.	-	-

Area/Parcel	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Groups	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 (notes)
					_5014												
Area 5	Ditch	5061	5062	5061	239282_5015	18	8	99%	-	-	-	-	-	-	Highly fragmented <2mm	-	-
Area 5	Ditch	5382	5383	5382	239282_5016	18	50	99%	-	-	-	-	-	<1	Single fragment of non-*Quercus* sp. Moderate condition. Highly fragmented <2mm	-	-

Scale of abundance: C = <5, B = 5–10, A = 10–30, A* = 30–100, A** = 100–500, A*** = >500; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), E = earthworm eggs, I = insects.

Table 6 Environmental evidence: recommendations for further work

Area/Parcel	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Analysis potential	Analysis recommendations
Parcel 5	Pit	2005	2006	2005	239280 _5001	-	-
Parcel 5	Pit	2005	2007	2005	239280 _5002	-	-
Area 1	Pit	5515	5116	5515	239284_5017	C, C14	-
Area 1	Pit	5537	5538	5537	239284_5018	-	-
Area 1	Pit	5539	5540	5539	239284_SS. 5019	C, C14	-
Area 4	Pit	4097	4098	4097	239283_4001, 4002, 4003, 4004	C, C14	-
Area 4	Posthole	4116	4117	4116	239283_4005	-	-
Area 4	Ditch	4064	4067	4064	239283_4006	C, C14	-
Area 4	Ditch	4064	4096	4064	239283_4007	-	-
Area 4	Ditch	4064	4066	4064	239283_4008	C, C14	-
Area 4	Ditch	4053	4054	4209	239283_4009	-	-
Area 4	Gully	4146	4147	4203	239283_4010	-	-
Area 4	Gully	4085	4086	4205	239283_4011	-	-
Area 5	Pit	5105	5106	5105	239282_5001	C, P, C14	-
Area 5	Pit	5129	5131	5713	239282_5002	C, C14	-
Area 5	Ditch	5191	5192	5719	239282_5003	-	-
Area 5	Pit	5198	5199	5198	239282_5004	-	-
Area 5	Pit	5198	5200	5198	239282_5005	-	-
Area 5	Posthole	5331	5332	5331	239282_5006	-	-
Area 5	Posthole	5331	5333	5331	239282_5007	-	-
Area 5	Posthole	5513	5514	5513	239282_5008	C, C14	-
Area 5	Pit	5507	5508	5507	239282_5009	-	-
Area 5	Ditch	5358	5359	5721	239282_5010	-	-
Area 5	Ditch	5340	5341	5340	239282_5011	-	-
Area 5	Ditch	5171	5172	5171	239282_5012	-	-
Area 5	Ditch	5142	5143	5709	239282_5013	-	-
Area 5	Ditch	5377	5376	5377	239282_5014	-	-
Area 5	Ditch	5061	5062	5061	239282_5015	-	-
Area 5	Ditch	5382	5383	5382	239282_5016	-	-

Key: P = Plant remains analysis. C = Charcoal. C14 = Radiocarbon dating.

Appendix 3 Publication proposal

Table 7 Task list

Task no.	Task description	Days	Staff
Management and support			
1	Project management	3	TBC
2	Project monitor and QA	2	L Higbee
3	Finds management	1	R Seager Smith
4	Environmental management	0.5	S Aerts
5	Publication/production management	2	TBC
Pre-analysis			
6	Check phasing and grouping, update site database	3	S Flaherty
7	Digitisation of selected drawings	1	R Goller
8	Project meetings	1	All
9	Background research	2	S Flaherty
Analysis and specialist reporting			
Stratigraphic			
10	Stratigraphic analysis and reporting	8	S Flaherty
Finds			
11	Pottery analysis and reporting	8	K Marsden
12	Samian pottery analysis and reporting	2	J Mills (external)
13	Other finds analysis and reporting	2	K Marsden
14	Worked flint analysis and reporting	1	P Harding
15	Animal bone analysis and reporting	1	L Higbee
16	Illustrations: finds		N Dixon
Environmental			
17	Summary of environmental evidence	1	M Scantlebury
Report compilation			
18	Introduction and background	1	S Flaherty
19	Compile and integrate report	2	S Flaherty
20	Discussion	2	S Flaherty
21	Bibliography	1	S Flaherty
22	Captions (figures, plates, and tables)	1	S Flaherty
23	Prepare brief for illustrations	1	S Flaherty
24	Prepare illustrations	4	R Goller
25	Edit report	1	L Higbee
26	Review report	1	TBC
27	Revise report following journal review	2	All
28	Check proofs	1	All
29	Journal publication cost	Ext	-
Archiving			
30	Archive preparation	1.25	TBC
31	Archive scan	1	TBC
32	Finds archive final check	0.25	TBC
33	Environmental archive final check	0.25	TBC
34	Digital archive preparation	3	T Burt
35	Physical archive deposition	0.5	TBC
36	Digital archive deposition	1	T Burt

Task no.	Task description	Days	Staff
37	Museum fee (box storage grant)	ext.	-
38	ADS fee	ext.	-

Appendix 4 Selection Strategy

239280–4

Wichelstowe, Areas 1, 4 and 5, and Parcel 5

version 2, 31/07/2022

Selection Strategy

Project Information

Project Management		
Project Manager	Bruce Eaton	
Archaeological Archive Manager	Lorraine Mepham	
Organisation	Wessex Archaeology (WA)	
Stakeholders		**Date Contacted**
Collecting Institution(s)	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery (contact: Frances Yeo) Archaeology Data Service	
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Lead: Simon Flaherty Assurance: Bruce Eaton	N/A
Landowner / Developer	unknown commissioned through consultants RPS Consultancy Services (London)	
Other (external)	Wiltshire County Council Senior Archaeologist (Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger)	
Other (internal)	WA Finds Manager (Rachael Seager Smith) WA Environmental Manager (Sander Aerts) WA Geomatics & BIM Manager (Chris Breeden) WA internal finds & environmental specialists	N/A; briefed as part of standard project process
Resources		
Resources required	WA Finds and Environmental specialists; WA archives team	
Context		

This overarching selection strategy document is based on the CIfA Archives Selection Toolkit (2019) and relates to archaeological project work being undertaken by Wessex Archaeology as defined in the WSIs. It will be modified as the project progresses and (from review stage 2) should be viewed in the context of the overall Wichelstowe project.

Relevant standards, policies and guidelines consulted include:

General

- *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1993)
- *Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF, revised edition 2011, section 4)
- *Guidelines and Conditions for the Preparation and Deposition of Archaeological Archives, Version 1.3. Swindon Museum and Art Gallery (2020)*

Relevant research agendas

- South West Archaeological Research Framework [SWARF] 2012 *The Archaeology of South West England* Somerset Heritage Services

Finds

- *Standard Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation & research of archaeological materials* (CIFA, 2014)
- *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman Pottery, Medieval Pottery Research Group 2016)

Environmental

- *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory, Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011)
- *Geoarchaeology: Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record* (Historic England 2015)
- *Guidelines for the Curation of Waterlogged Macroscopic Plant and Invertebrate Remains* (English Heritage 2008)
- *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recording, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood* (English Heritage 2010)
- *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation* (Historic England 2018)

Research objectives of the project

Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (SWARF 2012), the research objectives of the excavation are to:

- Determine the date, extent and character of landscape organisation, and its development from the Neolithic to the Romano-British period;
- Inform how the landscape was used and to what level of intensification in the later prehistoric periods occurred;
- Assess the environmental conditions in later prehistory.

REVIEW POINTS

Consultation with all Stakeholders regarding project-specific selection decisions will be undertaken at a maximum of three project review points:

1. Data gathering: on site, if any unforeseen discovery necessitates an amendment to the proposed collection strategy, or if adjustments are made to any sampling strategy
2. End of data gathering (assessment stage)
3. Archive compilation

1 – Digital Data

Stakeholders

WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; WA Geomatics & BIM Manager; Wiltshire CC Senior Archaeologist; ADS

Selection

Location of Data Management Plan (DMP)

This document is designed to link to the project Data Management Plan (DMP), which can be supplied on request.

To promote long-term future reuse deposition file formats will be of archival standard, open source and accessible in nature following national guidance from ADS 2013, CIfA 2014c and the requirements of the digital repository.

Any sensitive data to be handled according to Wessex Archaeology data policy to ensure it is stored and transferred securely. The identity of individuals will be protected in line with GDPR. If required, data will be anonymised and redacted. Selection and retention of sensitive data for archival purposes will occur in consultation with the client and relevant stakeholders. Confidential data will not be selected for archiving and will be handled as per contractual obligation.

Document type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Site records	Most records will be completed digitally on site (with the exception of registers). All will be selected for deposition.	3
Reports	To include WSIs, Interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports. Final versions only will be selected for deposition.	2, 3
Specialist reports	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with only minimal editing (reformatting, etc), and will be selected only if the original differs significantly from the incorporated version.	2, 3
Photographic media (site recording)	Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; pre-excavation images may not be selected where duplicated by post-excavation shots; working shots will be very rigorously selected to include only good quality images with potential for reuse and those integral to understanding features, their inter-relationships and location on site; site condition and reinstatement photos will not be selected.	2, 3
Photographic media (objects)	Images of individual or groups of objects, to include those of significance selected for publication and reporting. Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; all others will be selected.	3

Photographic media (photogrammetry)	All terrestrial photogrammetry recording will generate orthographic photos. For those features or finds which are particularly archaeological significant, 3D models will be generated and deposited but raw photos will only be selected where models have been selected and OBJs are to be deposited, where re-processing may have some archaeological value (eg very significant features, or where the model is less accurate than the surveyed georeference targets or of lower quality and the quality of the original photos is good enough to represent a reasonable chance of better future outcomes). Aerial photogrammetry topographic surveys will generate 3D models and orthographic photos, and the final outputs in the form of the report. These will all be selected, but not the raw photos from aerial surveys.	2, 3
Photographic media (community engagement and other activities)	General shots, promotional videos, etc. None will be selected, unless images are generated that are not duplicated in the main site record, but which have specific archaeological value.	3
Survey data	Site survey data will be used to generate CAD/GIS files for use in post-excavation activities. Shapefiles of both the original tidied survey data, and the final phased drawings will be selected.	2, 3
Databases and spreadsheets	Context, finds and environmental data in linked databases. Final versions will be selected. Any specialist data submitted separately will also be selected.	2, 3
LIDAR data	All will be selected	2, 3
Laser Scan data	All will be selected	2, 3
Geophysical data	RAW data and Interpretation Geo-tiffs	2, 3
Administrative records	Includes invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, email correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	3

De-Selected Digital Data

De-selected data will be stored on WA secured servers on offsite storage locations. The WA IT department has a backup strategy and policies that involves daily, weekly and monthly and annual backups of data as stated in the DMP. This strategy is non-migratory, and original files will be held at WA under their unique project identifier, as long as they remain useful and usable in their final version format. This data may also be used for teaching or reference collections by the museum, or by WA unless otherwise required by contractual or copyright obligations.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

2 – Documents

Stakeholders

WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; Swindon Museum and Art Gallery; Wiltshire CC Senior Archaeologist

Selection

A security copy of all paper/drawn records is a requirement of CIfA guidelines. This will be prepared on completion of the project, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. If the security copy is not required for deposition by Stakeholders, it will be retained on backed-up servers belonging to Wessex Archaeology.

Note that some information may be redacted to comply with GDPR legislation (personal data).

Document type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Site records	Selected records only will be completed in hard copy on site (registers, some graphics). All will be selected for deposition.	3
Reports	Hard copies of all reports (SSWSIs, Interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports). All will be selected for deposition, with the exception of earlier versions of reports which have been clearly superseded.	2, 3
Specialist reports & data	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with no significant editing. Supporting data is more likely to be included in the digital archive, but if supplied in hard copy and not incorporated elsewhere, this will be selected.	2, 3
Photographic media	X-radiographic plates: all will be selected.	3
Secondary sources	Hard copies of secondary sources will not be selected.	3
Working notes	Rough working notes, annotated plans, preliminary versions of matrices etc, will not be selected.	3
Administrative records	Invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, hard copy correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any hard copy correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	3

De-Selected Documents

De-selected sensitive analogue data will be destroyed (shredded) subject to final checking by the WA Archives team with the remainder recycled. Possible exceptions include records retained for business purposes, including promotional material, teaching and internal WA library copies of reports.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Material type	Artefacts (bulk and registered finds)	Section 3.	3.1

Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Finds Manager; WA internal specialists; external specialists; Swindon Museum and Art Gallery; Wiltshire CC Senior Archaeologist; landowner

Selection

Note that human remains are not included in this selection strategy; their recovery and subsequent treatment and curation will be governed by a Ministry of Justice licence(s).

The on-site finds recovery strategy is given below; it is of necessity fairly generic. It is anticipated that this will be reviewed and updated at the project assessment stage, once all collected finds have been processed and quantified. Amendments may be made prior to that on site in the event of unforeseen discoveries necessitating adjustments to recovery or sampling strategies (eg production sites, large concentrations of building debris, 'burnt mounds').

Throughout the following section, 'stratified' is taken to include topsoil deposits, while 'unstratified' indicates anything completely separated from context eg spoilheap finds, or surface finds other than those directly associated with underlying features.

Find Type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Animal bone	All will normally be collected from stratified contexts. Selection could be recommended at next review point, dependent on stratigraphic integrity, condition and size of assemblage. (281 fragments): small assemblage, mostly from Romano-British ditches. No further research potential, discard all.	2, 3
Burnt (unworked) flint	All will normally be collected from stratified contexts. Selection likely to be recommended at next review point. (671 items): little additional value, discard.	2, 3
Ceramic building material	All CBM from stratified contexts will be collected and reviewed at the processing stage. If *in situ* structures	2, 3

	are encountered, these should be fully recorded on site, but samples of components may be collected for a closer examination of form, fabric and dimensions. Selection likely to be recommended at next review point. (21 items): Romano-British brick or tile, retain.	
Coins	All will be collected, including unstratified finds. Single item, provides dating evidence, retain	2, 3
Fired clay	Includes structural material ('daub') as well as briquetage, and undiagnostic fragments. All will be collected from stratified contexts. Selection likely to be recommended at next review point. (305 pieces): amorphous, possibly structural, no further research potential, discard.	2, 3
Metalwork	All will be collected from stratified contexts, with the exception of obviously modern (19th-/20th-century) objects found in topsoil/overburden or unstratified. Selection likely to be recommended at next review point. (16 items; 10 iron, 5 copper alloy, 1 lead alloy) Retain diagnostic and dateable items.	2, 3
Metalworking residues	All will be normally collected from stratified contexts. Selection likely to be recommended at next review point. Single, small item, no further potential. Discard.	2, 3
Pottery, prehistoric	All will be collected, including unstratified finds. (245 sherds) Further research potential, retain all.	2, 3
Pottery, all other periods	All will be collected from stratified contexts. From unstratified contexts, only pieces of intrinsic interest will be collected, unless this is the only datable material recovered. Selection could be recommended at next review point. (1061 items): further research potential, retain all.	2, 3
Stone, unworked	Unworked stone will only be collected if considered to be archaeologically significant, ie included in features intentionally, or thought to have fulfilled a specific function. One probable unworked item, no potential, discard.	2, 3
Worked flint	All will be collected. (45 items): small but interesting collection of Neolithic items. Retain all.	2, 3

Uncollected Material

Finds which fall outside the categories proposed for on-site collection will not normally be recorded beyond a general comment on site recording sheets on the presence and nature of large concentrations (eg building materials, modern debris), but if specific sampling strategies are employed to deal with, for example, production waste, then a more accurate guide to the actual size of the parent assemblage (and thus the sample percentage) will be given.

Any uncollected material will be left *in situ* or (if collected and then de-selected), re-incorporated into the site.

De-Selected Material
Consideration will be given to the suitability for use for handling or teaching collections by the museum or Wessex Archaeology, or whether they are of particular interest to the local community. De-selected material will either be returned to the landowner or disposed of. All will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.

Amendments			
Date	**Amendment**	**Rationale**	**Stakeholders**

3 – Materials

Material type	Palaeoenvironmental material	**Section 3.**	3.2

Stakeholders
WA Archives Manager; WA Environmental Manager; WA internal specialists; Swindon Museum and Art Gallery; Wiltshire CC Senior Archaeologist

Selection
All contexts suitable for environmental sampling will be considered for sampling. All environmental sampling will be undertaken following Wessex Archaeology's in-house guidance, which adheres to the principles outlined in Historic England's guidance (English Heritage 2011 and Historic England 2015a) and as stated in relevant WSI. All environmental samples collected and suitable to address project aims and research objectives, as deemed by Wessex Archaeology's Environmental team, have been processed and assessed.

Env Material Type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Unprocessed samples	In the event of any samples being eliminated from processing due to lack of archaeological significance, these will not be retained.	2, 3
Unsorted residues	Residues from samples not proposed for further analysis will be de-selected, with the possible exception of any taken for the recovery of human remains.	2, 3
Assessed flots with no extracted materials	Assessed flots with no extracted materials are considered to be devoid of any significant environmental evidence and will be de-selected.	2, 3
Assessed or analysed flots with extracted materials	All analysed samples will be selected; assessed flots with extracted materials with no further research potential (to be established on a sample by sample case) may be de-selected.	2, 3

	The assessed flots from Areas 1 and 4 which have the potential for further work beyond this project, should all be retained within the site archive. These are the flots from 239282/3/4 samples: 5001, 5002, 5008, 4001, 4002, 4003, 4004, 4006, 4008, 5017, and SS. 5019. The flots which have no potential for further work from Parcel 5 should be discarded. These include flots from 239280 samples: 5001 and 5002. The flots which have no potential for further work from Areas 1 and 4, and those from Area 5, should be discarded. These are flots from 239282/3/4 samples: 5003, 5004, 5005, 5006, 5007, 5009, 5010, 5011, 5012, 5013, 5014, 4015, 5016, 4005, 4007, 4009, 4010, 4011, 5018, and 5019.	
Charred & waterlogged plant remains	All extracted plant remains will be selected	3
Mollusca	All extracted mollusca will be selected	3
All other analysed material (eg insects, pollen)	All material will be selected	3

Uncollected Material

Any uncollected material will be left *in situ* or re-incorporated into the site.

De-Selected Material

De-selected material from samples will be disposed of after processing and post-excavation recording. All processed material will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.
De-selected material and finds from samples will be responsibly disposed of after processing and post-ex recording.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

Appendix 5 OASIS record

Summary for wessexar1-508333

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-508333
Project Name	Open Area Excavation at Wichelstowe Area 1, Wichelstowe Area 4, Wichelstowe Area 5, Wichelstowe Parcel 5
Sitename	Wichelstowe Area 1, Wichelstowe Area 4, Wichelstowe Area 5, Wichelstowe Parcel 5
Activity type	Open Area Excavation
Project Identifier(s)	239282 - Area 5, 239283 - Area 4, 239285 - PXA, 239284 - Area 1, 239280 - Parcel 5
Planning Id	Swindon Borough Council (S/13/1524/SAC)
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	28-Sep-2020 - 13-Aug-2021
Location	Wichelstowe Area 1 NGR : SU 13761 82652 LL : 51.5426001284401, -1.8029653842415 12 Fig : 413761,182652 Wichelstowe Area 4 NGR : SU 12993 83218 LL : 51.5477072785206, -1.81401886246234 12 Fig : 412993,183218 Wichelstowe Area 5 NGR : SU 13905 82813 LL : 51.5440442343006, -1.80088266469868 12 Fig : 413905,182813 Wichelstowe Parcel 5 NGR : SU 13656 82714 LL : 51.5431601209991, -1.8044770477929 12 Fig : 413656,182714
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Wiltshire District : Swindon Parish : Wroughton

Project Methodology	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services Ltd, to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising the excavation of four areas (Areas 1, 4 and 5, and Parcel 5 covering 5.7 hectares centred on 413761, 182652 (Area 1), 413656, 182714 (Parcel 5), 412942, 183163 (Area 4) and 413905, 182813 (Area 5) at Peglars Way, Swindon, SN1 7DA and at land off Foxham Way, Wichelstowe, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 7AB. The works follow previous phases of mitigation that comprised archaeological evaluation and excavations at The Deanery and Wichelstowe Southern Access Scheme. The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Swindon Borough Council (S/13/1524/SAC) for a large development of 4500 houses and associated infrastructure, including employment, commercial, shopping, schools, open space, park and ride, roads, sewers and associated works at Wichelstowe, Wiltshire. The overall development area comprises 300 hectares, the majority of which is located to the north of the M4, east of the Toothill area of Swindon. The excavation areas are part of a wider development scheme known as the Southern Town Expansion which covers 300 ha and comprises the construction of up to 4500 houses and associated infrastructure including employment, commercial, shopping schools, open space, park and ride, roads sewers and associated works. The urban development area lies immediately north of the M4, east of the Toothill area of Swindon and encompasses several agricultural fields, areas of woodland and small rivers. To the north, the site is bounded by the Okus and Kingshill area of urban Swindon. The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Swindon Borough Council (SBC) (PLANNING REF S/13/1524/SAC). Outline Planning Permission was granted by Swindon Borough Council (SBC) in 2005 and updated in 2014, subject to conditions. The entire development area has been subject to a desk-based assessment (or DBA, Armour Heritage 2013), management plan (Armour Heritage 2015), geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys 2013), trial trench evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2014a, 2014b and 2017) and a written scheme of investigation (or WSI, CgMs 2016) The overarching WSI identified four areas of archaeological potential to be investigated by strip, map and sample excavation. This included the strip map, and sample excavations at The Deanery (Wessex Archaeology 2018; Lichtenstein forthcoming) and Wichelstowe Southern Access Scheme (Wessex Archaeology 2021c). Please see the related OASIS records in the additional info section of OASIS record wessexar1-508333 of this project. The excavations were undertaken in accordance with site specific WSI's that detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed, for both the fieldwork and the post-excavation work (CgMS 2016; Wessex Archaeology 2020a; 2021a; 2021b; RPS 2021). The archaeological advisor for SBC approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The excavations were undertaken between 28 September to 20 November 2020 (Parcel 5), 19 July to 13 August 2021 (Area 4), and 21 Aug to 22 October 2021 (Areas 1 and 5).

Project Results	A small collection of Early Neolithic flints, including part of an arrowhead, were recovered from Area 4 and Parcel 5, and represent the earliest activity identified across the excavated areas. The later prehistoric periods were represented by the remains of a ditched enclosure in Area 4 of possible Middle to Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date. The enclosure comprised a large ditch and two gullies with a possible entranceway in the south-west corner. A further ditch to the north of the enclosure indicates these features were part of a wider complex of land divisions. Two undated curvilinear gullies to the north-west of the enclosure may represent the truncated remains of roundhouses. Several discrete later prehistoric features were recorded, these comprised a posthole of possible Middle to Late Bronze Age date and a small Iron Age pit in Area 1, and three, pits in Area 5, two of possible Early Bronze Age date and the other of Middle to Late Bronze Age date. Apart from a single cautiously dated pit in Parcel 5, all Romano-British activity was confined to Area 5, where three phases of Romano-British land division were recorded. The first phase comprised of a ditch which showed evidence of recutting and a possible associated pit. This was followed by a more formally laid out coaxial field system, comprising of small fields and paddocks alongside a trackway (phase 2). The final phase is characterised by the addition of a small, ditched enclosure on the west side of the field system. Pottery and other datable finds indicate that the main phases of activity dated from the 2nd–4th century AD. Other notable finds include a copper alloy hair pin, bracelet fragments, a spoon, a probable silver denarius of Septimus Severus, as well as a small quantity of ceramic building material, including tegula. The finds evidence suggests the field system was situated in proximity to a settlement, most probably a farmstead or other small rural community. Limited evidence for medieval activity was recorded despite the proximity to West Leaze deserted medieval village. A few sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from a single pit and the base of a possible furrow. Furrows were present across all four investigated areas although it was unclear whether these were medieval or post-medieval in origin. A number of undated features were found across all of the areas, while most were natural in origin likely created by bioturbation or tree throws, several pits or postholes also fall into this category. A series of natural features, likely caused by bioturbation, water or livestock action, were present in Area 5. These were cut by the later Romano-British field system and a few contained finds of Bronze Age, Romano-British and medieval date. Following limited further analysis of the stratigraphic sequence and selected full analysis of the finds assemblages, it is proposed that the results of the excavations will be reported on in the form of an illustrated article in the regional journal, Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Magazine. The project archive will be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery under the following accession numbers: SWIMG: 2021.11 (Area 1) SWIMG: 2020.18 (Parcel 5) SWIMG: 2021.10 (Area 4) SWIMG: 2021.12 (Area 5)

Keywords	D Shaped Enclosure - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Gully - BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ridge And Furrow - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Round House (Domestic) - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Field System - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Rubbish Pit - BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Field System - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Trackway - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Rubbish Pit - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditched Enclosure - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - LATE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Post Hole - LATE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Tree Throw - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Narrow Ridge And Furrow - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Barbed And Tanged Arrowhead - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Blade - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Pit - IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Rim Sherd - EARLY BRONZE AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - EARLY IRON AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Burnt Flint - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Flake - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Animal Remains - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Animal Remains - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus

	Coin - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Bracelet - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Hair Pin - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	
HER	Wiltshire and Swindon HER - unRev - STANDARD Historic England review - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Lee, Newton, Kathryn, Brook, Peter, Capps, Simon, Flaherty
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive; Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery;

Area 4 (see Figure 3)

Area 5 (see Figure 4)

Area 1 and Parcel 5 (see Figure 2)

Southern access scheme

- Development outline
- Scheduled monument
- Site outline
- The Deanery site
- Southern Access Scheme site
- Previous evaluation trench

0 500 m

Coordinate system: OSGB36

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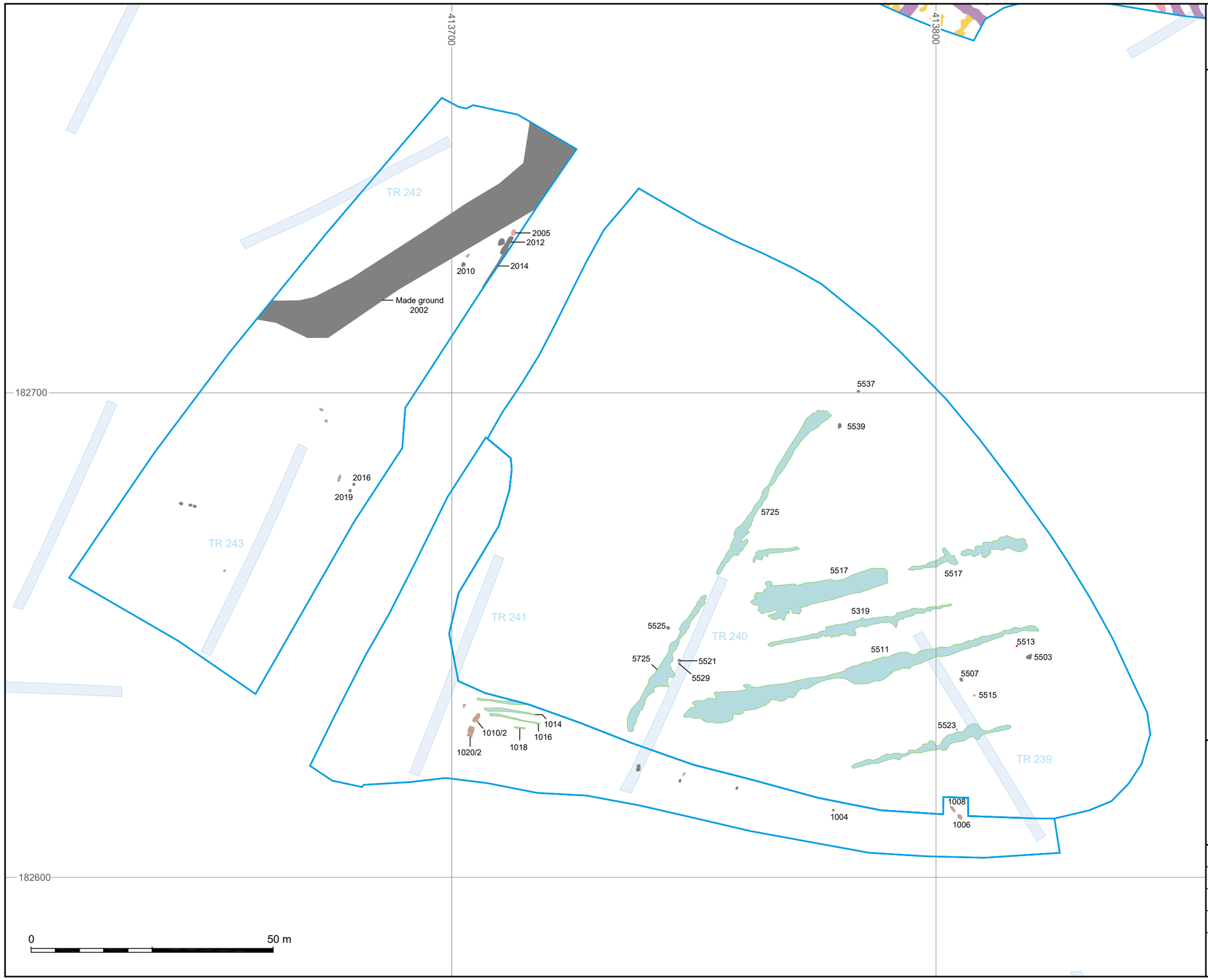
Overall plan of Wichelstowe Development

Figure 1



Excavation Area
Bronze Age feature
Iron age feature
Romano-British feature
Undated feature
Ridge and furrow
Tree-throw hole
Previous evaluation trench

Coordinate system: OSGB36

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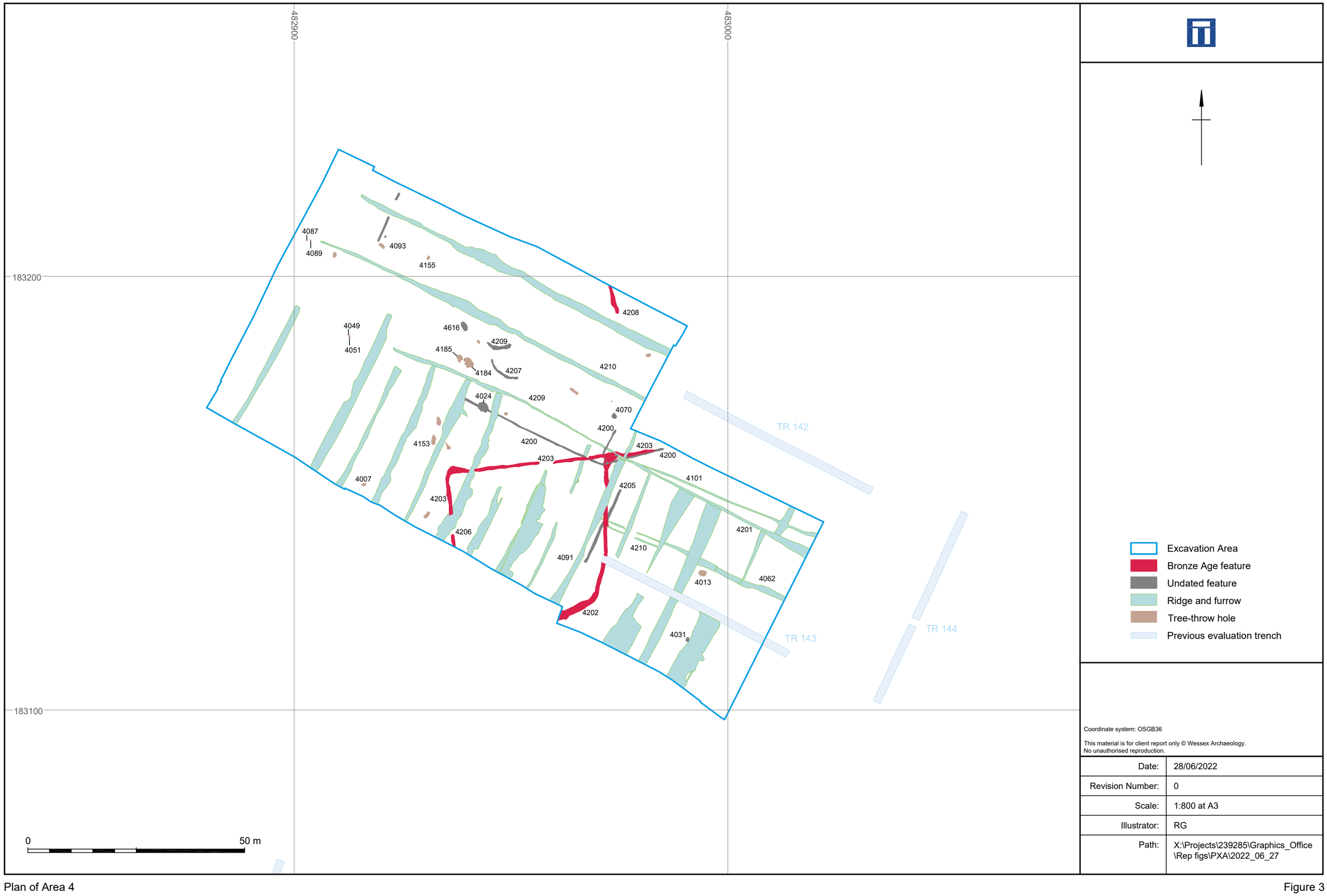
Plan of Area 1 and Parcel 5

Figure 2



Plan of Area 4

Figure 3

413800
413900
414000
182900
182800
0
50 m
Excavation Area
Bronze Age feature
Romano-British feature (Ph.1)
Romano-British feature (Ph.2)
Romano-British feature (Ph.3)
Medieval feature
Undated feature
Ridge and furrow
Geological feature
Tree-throw hole
Previous evaluation trench
Coordinate system: OSGB36

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Plan of Area 5

Figure 4

Figure 5: South-east facing representative section of overburden deposits in Area 4, scale 1 m

Figure 6: West facing section of Middle to Late Bronze Age posthole 5513, scale 0.2 m

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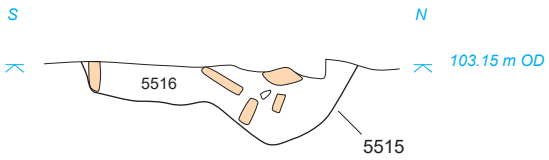

Pottery
Flint

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West facing section of Early Iron Age pit 5515

Figure 7

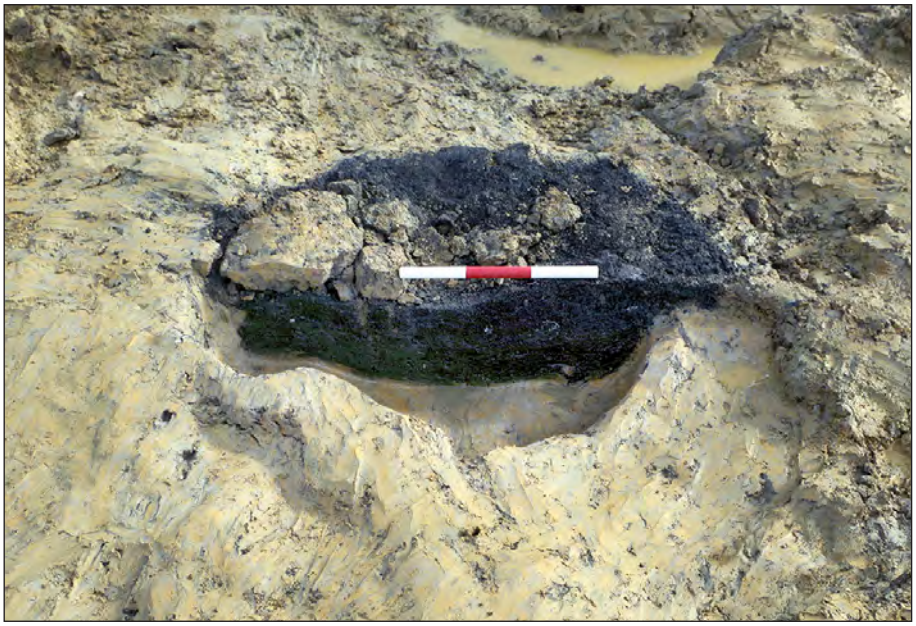

Figure 8: West facing section of undated pit 5539, scale 0.3 m

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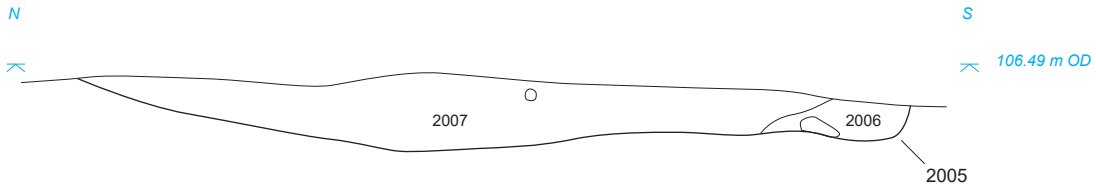

Flint

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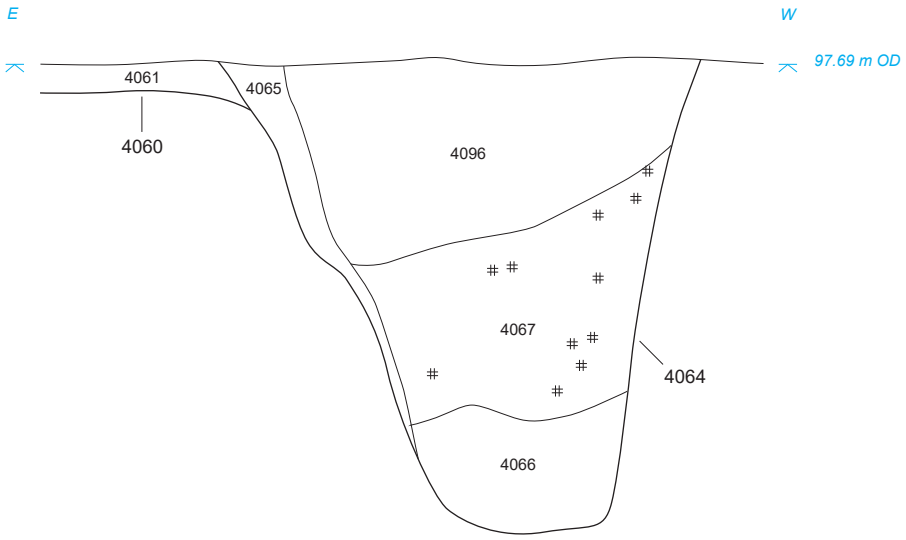
West facing section of Romano-British pit 2005

Figure 9



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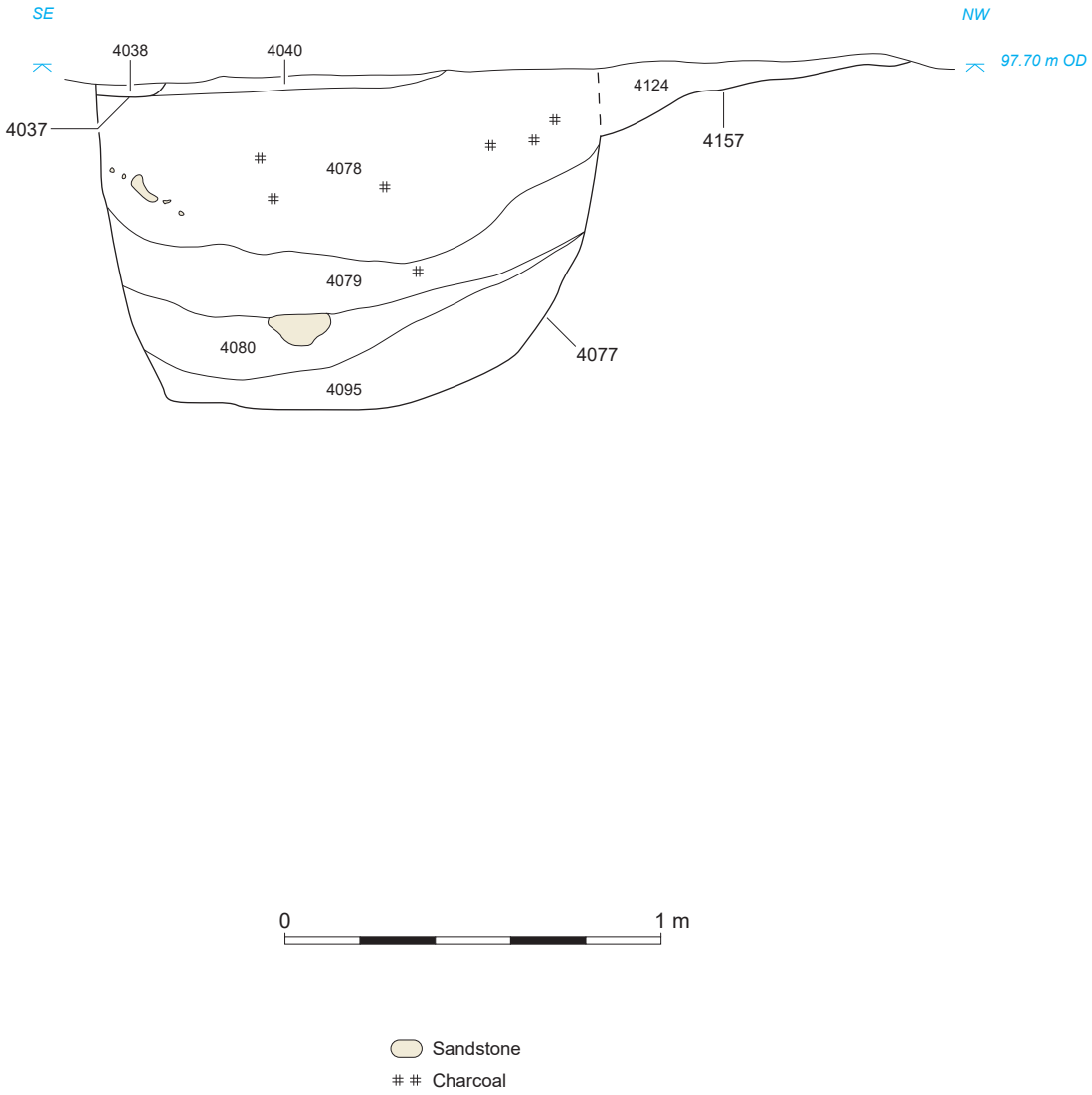
North-east facing section of Late Bronze Age ditch 4202 (slot 4064) Figure 10



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North facing section of Late Bronze Age ditch 4202 (slot 4077) and gully 4203 (slot 4157), and undated gully 4200 (slot 4037)

Figure 11

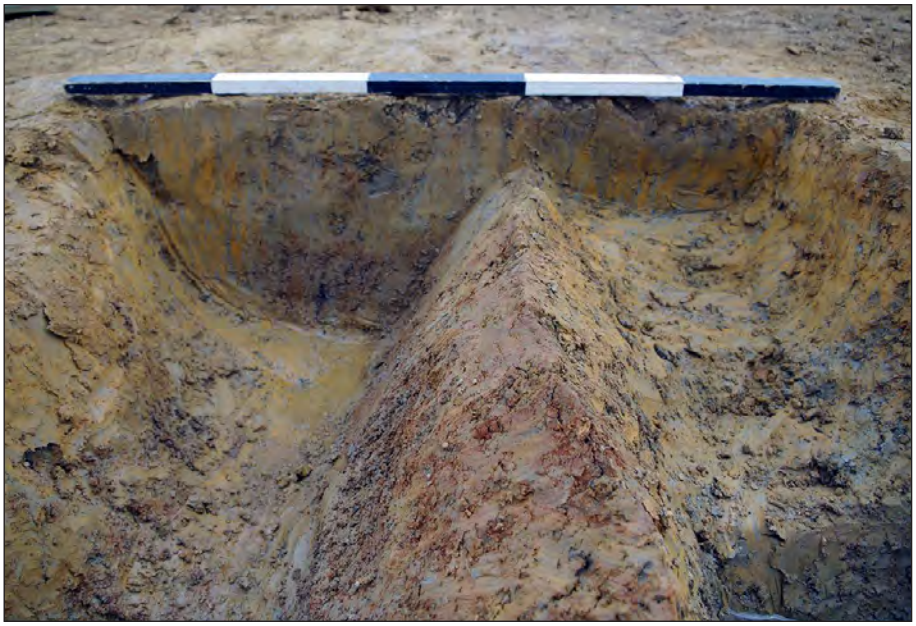

Figure 12: West-south-west facing section of possible Bronze Age gully 4203 and undated gully 4200, scale 1 m

Figure 13: South-south-east facing section of Bronze Age ditch 4208, scale 1 m

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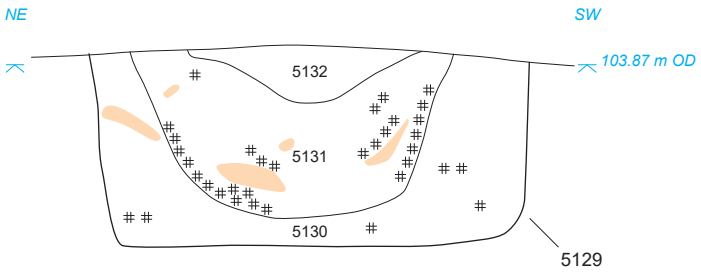

Fired clay

Charcoal

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North-west facing section of Bronze Age pit 5129

Figure 14

Figure 15: North-east to south-west aligned Romano-British trackside ditches 5703 and 5705

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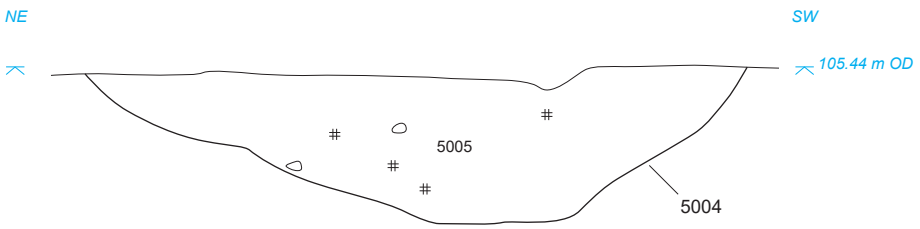

Flint

Charcoal

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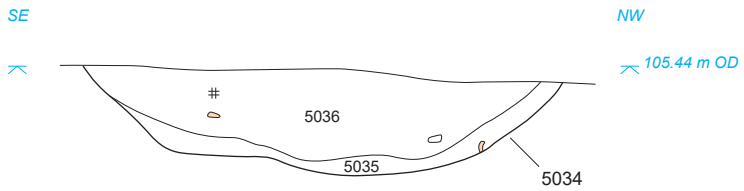
North-west facing section of Romano-British ditch 5721 (slot 5004) Figure 16



Pottery
Flint
Charcoal

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South-west facing section of Romano-British ditch 5701 (slot 5034) Figure 17

Figure 18: View from the north-west of natural features in the west of Area 5

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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

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