



Land at Downton Road,
Salisbury, Wiltshire
Post-Excavation Assessment Report





Wessex Archaeology

**LAND AT DOWNTON ROAD,
SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE**

Post-Excavation Assessment Report

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Persimmon Homes South Coast (the Client) to undertake an archaeological excavation in advance of the residential development of land to the west of the Downton Road (A338), NGR 414920 128290

The archaeological work was required in order to comply with a condition placed on a planning consent granted by the local authority for the residential development of the site. The original planning application was supported by an archaeological desk-based assessment and the results of an archaeological field evaluation conducted on the Site. This fieldwork identified three areas where significant remains worthy of preservation by record were present and therefore a programme of archaeological excavation targeting these three areas was undertaken between 9th and 19th March 2009.

Area 1 was focussed on evaluation trench 6 where a human burial had been identified during evaluation, **Area 2** was located over evaluation trench 10 in an area of possible Late Bronze Age activity and **Area 3** was excavated to the west of evaluation trench 15 in order to investigate a possible ditch.

The burial in **Area 1** was found to be of a child aged between 7-8 years and has been scientifically dated to 580-650 AD. This provides a rare example of a lone indigenous burial from the 6-7th centuries. The ditch excavated in **Area 3** dates from the late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age and was thought to be part of a wider enclosure or boundary system.

It is recommended that in due course these results are published as a summary note in the Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine.

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This project was commissioned by Persimmon Homes South Coast and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Stuart Benfield in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Helena Cave-Penny Archaeological Officer for Wiltshire Council for her assistance throughout the course of the work.

The excavation was undertaken by John Powell and Dave Murdie. This report was compiled by John Powell with illustrations contributed by Liz James. The finds report was written by Pippa Bradley (Worked Flint), Jacqueline McKinley (Human Bone) and Lorraine Mephram (Pottery and other finds). The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Nick Truckle.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Persimmon Homes South Coast to undertake an archaeological excavation in advance of development of land at Downton Road Salisbury, hereafter 'the Site' (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The archaeological work was required as a condition of planning consent by the local authority. An archaeological desk-based assessment (WA, 1999) and archaeological field evaluation (WA, 2004) had previously been undertaken for the Site.

1.1.3 The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of twenty four trial trenches, averaging 25m long and 2m wide, across the Site. A number of archaeological features and finds dating from the Early Bronze Age to the post-medieval period were recorded (WA 2004) including a human burial (which was left *in situ*) and linear ditch-like features along with a number of natural features, probably the result of the action of trees.

1.1.4 In response to the results of the evaluation a brief for excavation (HCP/MJU/03HCP057.br3) was produced by Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service that identified 3 areas within the Site where detailed excavation was required.

1.1.5 Before fieldwork commenced, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was submitted to, and approved by Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service.

1.1.6 The excavation was undertaken between 9th and 19th March 2009.

1.2 Scope of Document.

1.2.1 This text synthesises and assesses the results of the excavation and proposes requirements for further work that will lead to the dissemination of the results in an appropriate journal.

2 THE SITE

2.1 The Site, location and geology

2.1.1 The Site forms an irregular parcel of land of approximately 4 hectares situated to the west of Downton Road, and is centred on NGR 414920 128290 (**Figure 1**). It is bounded to the north-west by recent residential development, to the north-east by the A338, Downton Road, and to the south by land rising up to a low ridge. A 30m wide buffer zone for strategic landscape planting comprising an additional 1.6 hectares has been identified along the southern boundary of the Site.

2.1.2 The Site comprised open pasture often utilised for light grazing, and was crossed by a number of well-used, though undesignated, paths frequented

by local residents. It is located on a moderately steep north-facing slope that forms part of the south-western flank of the valley of the River Avon. The land rises from c. 60m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) at the north-eastern part of the Site to c. 80m aOD at the south-western edge. The underlying geology of the area is Upper Chalk of the Cretaceous Period.

2.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 2.2.1 An archaeological Desk-based Assessment which examined the archaeological potential of the Site was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology, in July 1999 (WA 1999). This established that at least one of a group of linear features that were recorded as cropmarks on aerial photographs appeared to run into the Site from the west. These findings were based on information held in the Wiltshire County Sites and Monuments Record. A subsequent independent review of the available aerial photographic information (Air Photo Services 1999) confirmed the presence of one or more of these linear features.
- 2.2.2 Archaeological evaluation associated with a residential development immediately to the north-west of the Site (see below) examined a number of linear features similar to those identified by the aerial photographs, including some that were actually contiguous with them. This work established that the features were shallow ditches of Middle to Late Bronze Age date, most probably representing former field boundaries (WA 1994).
- 2.2.3 To the south-east of the Site, a pennanular cropmark indicative of the ploughed-out remains of a round barrow is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record although this feature was not located during the review of aerial photographs (Air Photo Services 1999). Other ring ditches and an extant round barrow (Rowbarrow) were recorded within the area of residential development to the north-west of the Site (WA 1994).
- 2.2.4 Archaeological evaluation and excavation took place circa 650 meters to the west of the site in 1997 ahead of housing development. During the excavations a ditch of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Date and several prehistoric pits were recorded. The linear ditch was aligned north-west to south-east and was interpreted as a possible trackway. (WA 1997)
- 2.2.5 Archaeological investigation has previously taken place within the Site, as it lay within the route of the proposed A36 Salisbury Bypass road. A series of 1m square test pits was excavated along the postulated line of the road and small amounts of pottery and worked/burnt flint were recovered (WA 1992). The pottery included examples of Bronze Age, Late Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval date, although not in any significant quantities.
- 2.2.6 To the south of the Site is the Scheduled Monument known as the Woodbury Iron Age Settlements (County No. 298). This includes the enclosed settlement of Little Woodbury, excavated in the early 1940s and found to be of Early-Middle Iron Age date (Bersu 1940; Brailsford 1948; 49). To the west of Little Woodbury, (situated on the other side of Odstock Road) is the much larger enclosure of Great Woodbury. This is almost certainly of Late Iron Age date and may have replaced Little Woodbury as the focal point of settlement in the vicinity at that time. A number of ditches radiate

outwards from Great Woodbury, and other cropmarks to the north of Little Woodbury may well be contemporary with the occupation of that site.

- 2.2.7 Due do the potential for significant archaeological remains to be present on the Site, Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Westbury Homes (Holdings) Ltd to undertake an archaeological field evaluation of the Site in Autumn, 2004.
- 2.2.8 The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of twenty four trial trenches, averaging 25m long and 2m wide, across the Site. On excavation a number of archaeological features and finds dating from the Early Bronze Age to the post-medieval period were recorded (WA 2004).
- 2.2.9 Features included linear ditches and one human burial, along with a number of natural features, probably the result of the action of trees. The majority of finds were recovered from topsoil, subsoil, and a number of deposits of colluvium, present in lower-lying areas and natural depressions, including a large, naturally in-filled combe. Quantities of pottery and worked flint were recovered from these layers, along with finds of iron, glass, slate and clay pipe.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General

The aims of the excavation were:

- 3.1.1 Investigate and record, through excavation, all significant archaeological remains within the Site impacted by groundwork for the development, sufficient to achieve their preservation *by record*.
- 3.1.2 Establish the extent to which previous development and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the Site.

3.2 Specific

- 3.2.1 To record and investigate to an appropriate standard the archaeological features uncovered, and to assess the extent of the activity associated with the burial (trench 6) and two other areas around trench 10 and 15.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1.1 The excavation comprised the investigation of three separate areas as shown on **Figure 1**)
- Area 1 comprised an area measuring 15m by 15m around the location of the burial recorded in evaluation trench 6.
 - Area 2 comprised an area measuring 10m x 10m around the southern end of trench 10 to identify any further prehistoric features in this location.
 - Area 3 comprised an area measuring 30m x 30m to the west of trench 15 to assess the presence of any features associated with Great Woodbury to the south.

- 4.1.2 A 360° tracked excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket was used under constant archaeological supervision to remove overburden from the three areas of investigation, to the depth of natural geology or a level where archaeological features were defined (**Figure 2** and **Figure 3**).
- 4.1.3 Exposed deposits were cleaned and where necessary further excavation continued by hand.
- 4.1.4 The Site was fully recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system.
- 4.1.5 A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This included both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels were calculated and plans/sections annotated with OD heights.
- 4.1.6 A full photographic record was maintained using both colour transparencies and black and white negatives (on 35 mm film). Digital photography was employed as appropriate. The photographic record is designed to illustrate both the detail and the general context of the principal features, finds excavated, and the site as a whole.
- 4.1.7 The excavation areas were located in relation to the National Grid using GPS surveying equipment. A dumpy level was used for spot heights on the human burial.
- 4.1.8 All excavation works were conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (as amended 2008).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Area 1

- 5.1.1 **Area 1** (**Figure 1** and **Figure 2**) was located towards the north-eastern boundary of the Site and focussed on evaluation Trench **6**. It was intended to record the burial identified in the earlier evaluation and to ascertain the presence or absence of further burials in the vicinity of Trench **6**.
- 5.1.2 The overburden in **Area 1** varied from between 0.25m and 1.12m. This variation was related to a colluvium filled natural bowl/hollow in the underlying chalk. To the south of the area topsoil overlay the natural chalk directly but to the north an area of colluvium, upto 0.78m deep, overlay the chalk.
- 5.1.3 Archaeological features were observed to cut into the chalk and included three undated postholes towards the southern edge of the area (**3003**, **3005**, and **3007**). In the centre of the area grave **3011**, containing the remains of a juvenile **sk3010** was recorded. No further graves were identified

- 5.1.4 The grave was cut into the natural chalk to a depth of 0.13m, however during the evaluation phase the grave was seen to cut the lowest layers of colluvium (WA 2004). The burial was located on a north facing slope overlooking the valley and was excavated within a natural bowl/hollow in the underlying chalk, which had been subsequently in-filled with colluvium.
- 5.1.5 The body was laid on its side facing south-west with arms and legs flexed in a crouched position with extensive fragmentation to the skull and some of the long bones. Analysis of the remains suggest that they represent the burial of a juvenile (c. 7-8 years old) –see section 6.5. A sample of the right femur was submitted for radio-carbon dating, which proved the burial to have been made in the Early Saxon period (1439 +/- 25 bp or 580-650 AD).
- 5.1.6 No evidence of grave goods or associated finds were recovered from the grave.
- 5.1.7 A number of tree throw features were recorded in plan in the north-western corner of the stripped area.

5.2 Area 2

- 5.2.1 **Area 2 (Figure 1)** was targeted on Trench **10**, which contained evidence from a tree throw of Late Bronze Age activity. The area measured 10m by 10m, the topsoil was 0.34m deep and had a clear horizon to the natural chalk.
- 5.2.2 No features of an archaeological nature were observed in the area. The tree throw excavated during the evaluation phase of work was recorded in plan on the northern edge of the area.

5.3 Area 3

- 5.3.1 **Area 3** was located on the western edge of Trench **15**, and was intended to assess the presence of any features associated with Great Woodbury to the south.
- 5.3.2 The overburden was composed of both topsoil and colluvium, in general 0.30m was removed across the area before natural chalk was encountered. However to the north-west corner colluvium was recorded to a depth of 0.77m below ground surface.
- 5.3.3 A roughly linear ditch **3037** ran north-west south-east across the area. Four sections were excavated in this ditch. The ditch generally had a rounded “V” shaped profile, with steep straight sides and a flat or concave base. Ditch **3037** was between 0.86m and 0.96m wide and 0.61m and 0.82m deep. A re-cut was noted in one section **3018**, but was not recorded in any other section.
- 5.3.4 The stratigraphic sequence showed the ditch had filled in naturally with a mixture of both primary and secondary fills. Sections to the west of the area contained significantly less chalk rubble in their primary fills than the sections to the east. The majority of finds were recovered from the secondary fills and the assemblage included worked and burnt flint, pottery and animal bone.

- 5.3.5 Diagnostic pottery recovered from the secondary fill suggests an Early Iron Age date for this fill, perhaps suggesting that the ditch itself dates from the later Bronze Age.

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The excavation produced a small finds assemblage, consisting largely of worked flint, with smaller amounts of animal bone, burnt (unworked) flint and pottery. Human remains from a child's inhumation burial were also recovered. The finds are quantified by context in **Table 1**.

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Animal Bone	Burnt Flint	Worked Flint	Human Bone	Pottery
3001		6/512	15/501		
3010				1 individual	
3013	3/40	5/505	69/1208		7/24
3014	1/1	2/17	25/260		1/9
3021			7/217		
3022		7/656	22/1188		4/6
3025			28/918		
3026	1/1	2/119	82/2374		3/25
3034	1/1	1/20	5/36		
Total	6/43	23/1829	254/6702	1 individual	15/64

6.1.2

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 All of the 15 sherds of pottery recovered can be broadly dated as Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age. Two fabric types are represented: flint-tempered and sandy, although there is clearly some overlap between the two, demonstrated by the presence of sand in some of the flint-tempered wares. Diagnostic pieces comprise two decorated body sherds from context **3026** – one carrying fingernail impressions and probably from the shoulder of a vessel, and the second with horizontal furrowing. Both these sherds are in sandy fabrics; the fabric type combined with the decorative techniques employed suggest a date within the later part of the overall date range, i.e. Early Iron Age.

6.3 Worked Flint

- 6.3.1 A total of 254 pieces of worked flint were recovered from the excavations. Worked flint was recovered from eight contexts including colluvium excavated in **Area 1, 3001**, and from both the primary and secondary fills of Ditch Group **3037** in **Area 3**. The assemblage is composed mainly of debitage (flakes, irregular pieces, cores and core fragments) with only a few relatively undiagnostic retouched pieces (see **Table 2**). However given the technology a broad Neolithic-Bronze Age date can be assigned to the material.

Table 2: Summary of worked flint

Context	Flakes	Irregular waste	Cores, Core fragments	Retouched pieces	Total
3001	14			1	15
3013	66	1	2		69
3014	22	1		2	25
3021	5	1	1		7
3022	21		2		22
3025	27		1		28
3026	78	1	3		82
3034	3			2	5
Total	236	4	9	5	254

6.3.2

6.3.3 The flint is fairly good quality with a buff, thin cortex. Cortication is generally very heavy but a dark brown to black colour can be seen in occasional breaks. A chalk source for this material is probable.

6.3.4 Many of the flakes are large, thick and many have cortex remaining. There is little evidence for platform preparation, most butts being plain or cortical. These flakes have been struck using predominately hard hammers as evidenced by hinge fractures. A couple of core rejuvenation flakes do however indicate that unworkable platforms were being rejuvenated. The cores and core fragments are all flake cores. Typically these are fairly large but have been relatively crudely worked. The exception is a probable discoidal core from context **3026**, which has been neatly worked. Much of this material appears to have originated from only a few cores, however although very similar flint was noted no refits were found.

6.3.5 A limited range of retouched pieces was recovered: two possible scraper fragments, a serrated flake and two piercers. A little possible usewear was noted on some of the flakes. The retouched pieces have generally been neatly worked and would be consistent with a Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date.

6.4 Burnt Flint

6.4.1 Burnt, unworked flint was also recovered. This material type is intrinsically undatable, although frequently associated with prehistoric activity. In this instance its provenance generally corresponds with that of the worked flint.

6.5 Human Bone

6.5.1 The bone is heavily root marked (grade 3-4; McKinley 2004, fig. 7.1-7), with extensive fragmentation to the skull and some of the long bones. The c. 82% of the skeleton recovered, some bone having undoubtedly been lost due to disturbance given the shallow surviving depth of the grave (0.13m), represents the remains of a juvenile (c. 7-8 yr.; Beek 1983; Scheuer and Black 2000), possibly female (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994).

6.5.2 Moderate porotic and cribotic pitting was observed in both orbital vaults indicative of *cribra orbitalia*, a condition generally believed to result from a metabolic disorder associated with childhood iron deficiency anaemia, though other contributory factors, such as parasitic infection, are also

recognised (Molleson 1993; Roberts and Manchester 1995, 166-9; Robledo *et al* 1995, fig. 1).

- 6.5.3 Areas of fine-grained periosteal new bone on parts of the right tibia and 1st metatarsal shaft are indicative of a non-specific infection active at the time of death. The tibia appears more prone to infection via transmission from foci elsewhere in the body than other bones and, as here, only one bone is usually involved in such circumstances (Manchester 1983, 37; Roberts and Manchester 1997, 129-130). As with any infection there will have been a general debility and pain in the affected limb, and the condition may have been linked to the death of the child.
- 6.5.4 A sample of the right femur was submitted for radio-carbon dating, which proved the burial to have been made in the late 6th-early 7th century. Although the date falls within the early Saxon period, the location and lack of grave goods suggest this individual was not an ethnic Anglo-Saxon and the burial may better be described as post-Roman. A small but growing number of early Anglo-Saxon burials have been found in the vicinity of Salisbury (Musty and Stratton 1964, fig. 2; Davies 1985 fig. 1; Eagles 1994, fig. 1.1; Dinwiddy and Stoodley in prep.), generally featuring extended, supine burials (E-W or N-S) with associated grave goods.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL

- 7.1.1 Although environmental samples were taken from all recorded archaeological features, soil conditions were not conducive for the preservation of environmental remains and therefore no environmental evidence was recovered.

8 DISCUSSION

- 8.1.1 Evidence recorded during the excavations has provided evidence of a rare lone 6-7th century burial and could add to the limited knowledge of indigenous burials of this period. The Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age linear ditch can be viewed as part of a wider enclosure/boundary system of this date that may pre-date the settlements of Little and Great Woodbury.
- 8.1.2 The ditch recorded in **Area 3, 3037** was dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and corresponded closely to cropmarks noted from aerial photographs. The ditch was also present in evaluation Trenches **9** and **15** and as such can be interpreted to extend for at least 220 meters across the Site. The ditch was sinuous and followed the contour of the slope and was interpreted as a linear boundary ditch.
- 8.1.3 A 'v' shaped ditch recorded during evaluation immediately to the north-west of the Site (Wessex Archaeology 1994) may be part of the same boundary. Excavations 650 meters west of the Site, off Odstock Road, recorded a ditch of similar dimensions and alignment. The presence of linear ditches that broadly follow the contours could show evidence of a wide scale field system or a series of linear boundary ditches. Artefacts from ditch **3037** suggest a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date and could suggest a relationship with the Early Iron Age hilltop settlement of Little Woodbury or earlier linear boundaries.

- 8.1.4 The burial recorded in Area 1 is significant as few non-Saxon burials of 5-7th century date have been found in the region, the largest assemblages comprising those from Ulwell and Tolpuddle Ball, both in Dorset (Cox 1988; Herne and Birbeck 1999). A 5-6th century singleton was, however, recently reported from Lake in the Woodford Valley to the north of Salisbury (McKinley 2003); in that instance, as here, the date was attributed by radio-carbon dating. The recovery of this second 'indigenous' burial in circumstances in some ways similar to those at Lake, highlights the importance of obtaining radio-carbon dates for human remains which are otherwise undated. Our current understanding of post-Roman mortuary practices within the indigenous population of this region is severely limited. Given the lack of datable artefactual material recovered from such graves and the potential for variants within the mortuary rite, only by absolute dating will we fill this void in our understanding and provide the link between the late Roman and early Christian periods.
- 8.1.5 The results of the archaeological excavations reflect the findings of the previous work on the Site and are indicative of a low density of activity on the Site. The presence of an isolated burial dating from the sixth to seventh century AD is significant as the lack of grave goods and the orientation of the body suggests that the individual was part of the indigenous population rather than an incoming Saxon, something that appears to be unrepresented in the archaeological record. This may be because the lack of grave goods and the crouched nature of the body would usually be suggestive of a prehistoric date and it is only when scientific dating techniques are utilised that the true nature of the burial can be recognised.

8.2 Recommendations for further work

- 8.2.1 All necessary analytical work has been undertaken as part of the assessment process and therefore no further work is proposed

8.3 Publication proposals

- 8.3.1 Because of the significance of the lone Saxon burial it is proposed that a short note should be prepared setting out the results of the excavation for submission to the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 *Museum*

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

9.2 Preparation of Archive

- 9.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the

standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990; SMA 1995; Richards and Robinson 2000; Brown 2007).

9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the site code (57811), and a full index has been prepared. The archive comprises the following:

- 2 cardboard boxes of artefacts, ordered by material type
- 1 file of paper records & A3/A4 graphics
- digital data (photographs, Access database)

9.3 Discard Policy

9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this instance, burnt, unworked flint has been discarded.

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

9.4 Copyright

9.4.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms with the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

9.5 Security Copy

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

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11 APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT DATA

Area 1	
Context No	Description
3000	Topsoil: Dark grey-brown silty loam with modern turf line up to 0.26m
3001	Colluvium: Mid to Dark Reddish Brown up to 0.78m. Filled natural undulations/slope in chalk natural. Probably built up through prolonged hill wash.
3002	Natural Chalk: Pale yellowish white; chalk.
3003	Posthole cut: Circular cut with steep concave sides and concave base 0.16m deep, 0.25m long and 0.19m wide.
3004	Posthole fill/Primary: Light greyish brown silty loam with moderate coarse components. No finds.
3005	Posthole cut: Oval cut steep straight sides with a concave base, 0.12m deep, 0.23m long and 0.19m wide
3006	Posthole fill/Primary: Light grey brown silty loam with common chalk inclusions.
3007	Posthole cut: Sub-circular with steep straight sides and a flat base. 0.12m deep, 0.24m long and 0.23m wide.
3008	Posthole fill/Primary: Light grey brown silty loam with common chalk inclusions. No finds.
3009	Deliberate backfill of Grave [3011]: Mix of topsoil, colluvium and natural chalk derived from upcast of grave excavation.
3010	Skeleton: Flexed inhumation of 8-10 year old probable girl, aligned SSW-NNE, skull to SSW.
3011	Grave cut: Sub-rectangular in plan moderate straight sides and flat base. 0.13m deep, 0.45m wide and 1.05 long. Situated within colluvium filled hollow on north facing valley slope.

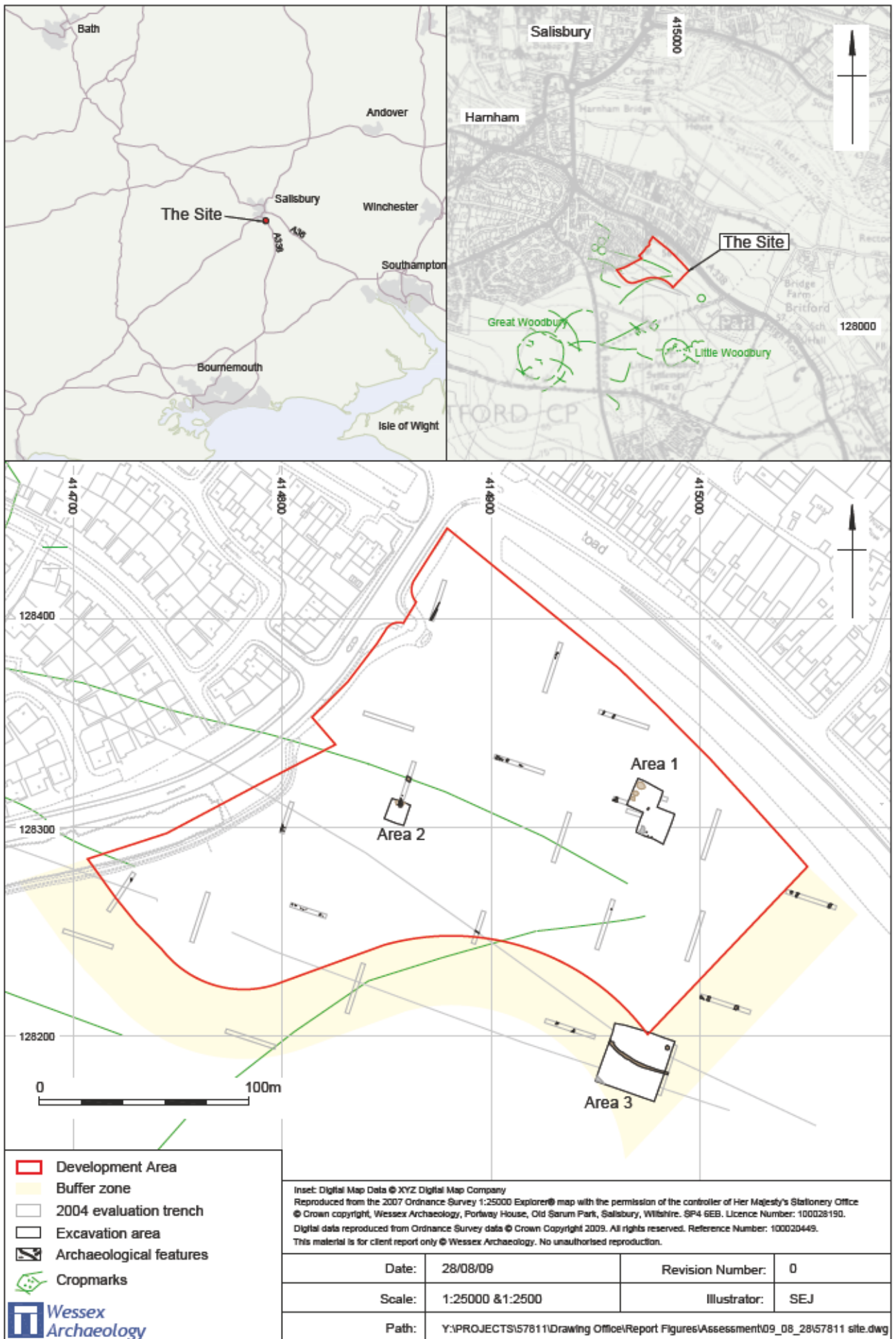
11.1.1

Area 2	
Context No	Description
3035	Topsoil: Mid to Dark grey-brown silty loam with modern turf line. Maximum depth of 0.34m
3036	Natural Chalk: Pale yellowish white: chalk.

11.1.2

Area 3	
Context No	Description
3012	Layer: Light grey brown silty loam. Possibly naturally formed colluvium that had formed in hollow at North eastern edge of ditch [3016].
3013	Secondary Fill: Mid to dark grey brown silty loam with common inclusions. Main fill of ditch and contained a high percentage of finds including worked flint and pottery.
3014	Primary Fill: Dark grey brown silty loam with moderate inclusions. Max depth of 0.12m.
3015	Primary Fill: Dark reddish brown silty loam located in base of ditch. Max depth of 0.13m
3016	Cut of Ditch: Steep sided ditch with rounded 'v' shaped profile, part of Group 3037.
3017	Cut of Ditch: Steep sided ditch with rounded 'v' shaped profile, part of Group 3037. Was re-cut by ditch [3018].

3018	Cut of Ditch: Moderately sloped sides and concave base formed a fairly wide rounded cut. This ditch was a re-cut of ditch [3017] .
3019	Primary Fill: Light grey brown silty loam context was composed of nearly completely chalk, possibly shows evidence of eroded bank material or side of cut.
3020	Primary Fill: Light grey brown silty loam with common chalk inclusions. Max depth of 0.15m.
3021	Primary Fill: Pale yellowish brown silty loam with common chalk inclusions. Max depth of 0.17m
3022	Secondary Fill: Pale yellowish grey brown silty loam contained common chalk and flint inclusions. Max depth of 0.23m.
3023	Cut of Ditch: Steep sided ditch with 'v' shaped profile, part of Group 3037 .
3024	Primary Fill: Pale yellowish grey silty loam. Layer was composed of near complete re-deposited chalk inclusions. Max depth of 0.18m
3025	Primary Fill: Mid grey brown silty loam with abundant chalk inclusions. Max depth of 0.13m
3026	Secondary Fill: Mid grey brown silty loam with moderate chalk and flint inclusions. Contained fairly large quantity of finds. Max depth of 0.40m.
3027	Topsoil: Mid to Dark grey-brown silty loam with modern turf line. Maximum depth of 0.34m
3028	Colluvium/Subsoil: Mid reddish brown silty loam. Most prevalent to north west and eastern sides of area where it filled a hollow in chalk. Maximum depth of 0.51m
3029	Natural Chalk: Pale yellowish white: chalk.
3030	Cut of Ditch: Steep sided ditch with a flat base formed a 'v' shaped profile, part of Group 3037 . Max depth of 0.61m.
3031	Primary Fill: Light grey brown silty loam with near complete chalk inclusions. Max depth of 0.18m
3032	Primary Fill: Mid grey brown silty loam with moderate chalk inclusions. Max depth of 0.08m.
3033	Secondary Fill: Mid grey brown silty loam with common chalk and sparse flint inclusions. Possibly slumped into ditch from North Eastern edge. Max depth of 0.29m.
3034	Secondary Fill: Mid yellowish brown silty loam with moderate flint and chalk inclusions, contained worked flint and burnt stone. Max depth of 0.15m
3037	Group Number: Number assigned to group cuts of linear ditch. Ditch probably represents a linear boundary ditch and may be linked to nearby settlement. Group contains cuts 3016, 3017, 3023, and 3030



Site and trench location plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: General view of Area 1 from the south-east



Plate 2: Grave 3011, viewed from the north-west showing Sk 3010 being excavated

- Development Area
- 2004 evaluation trench
- Excavation area
- Archaeological feature
- Disturbance
- Tree throw hole

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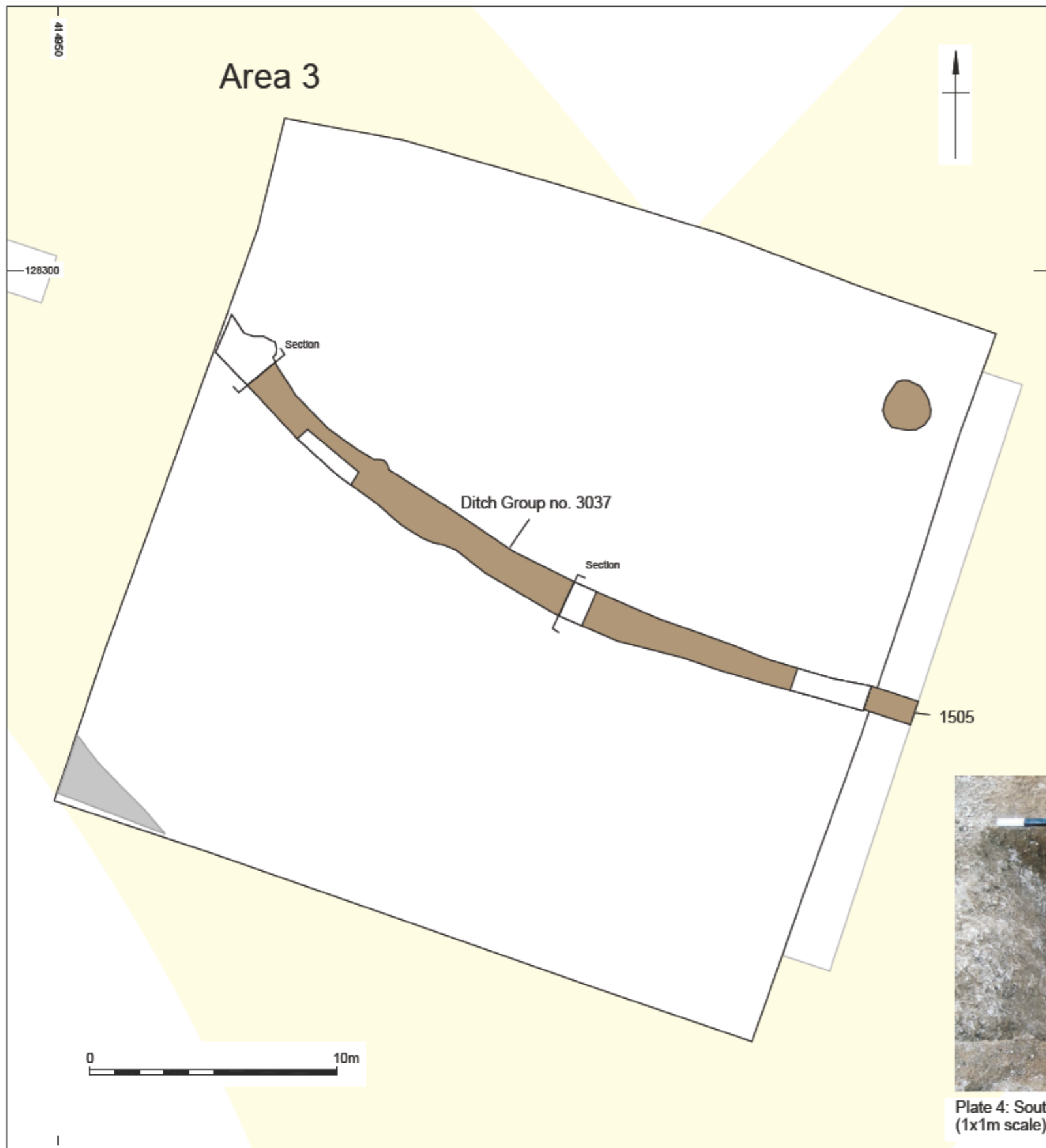


Plate 3: General view of Ditch Group 3037 from the south-east



Plate 4: South-east facing section of Ditch 3016 (1x1m scale)



Plate 5: North-west facing section of ditches 3017 and 3018 (1x1m scale)



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