



Warminster Community Centre, Pepper Place, Warminster, Wiltshire

Report on an Archaeological Investigation





**Warminster Community Centre
Pepper Place,
Warminster, Wiltshire**

Report on an Archaeological Investigation

Prepared for:
Brymor Contractors Ltd
Brymor House
Parklands Business Park
Forest Road
Denmead
Hampshire
PO7 6XP

On behalf of
Aspire Defence Capital Works
Aspire House
Princes Avenue
Aldershot
Hampshire
GU11 2LF

by
Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
SALISBURY
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

Report reference: 72510.01
Path: \\Projectserver\WESSEX\PROJECTS\72510\Report



November 2010

DISCLAIMER

THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT WAS DESIGNED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A REPORT TO AN INDIVIDUAL CLIENT AND WAS PREPARED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THAT CLIENT. THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT DOES NOT NECESSARILY STAND ON ITS OWN AND IS NOT INTENDED TO NOR SHOULD IT BE RELIED UPON BY ANY THIRD PARTY. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY WILL NOT BE LIABLE BY REASON OF BREACH OF CONTRACT NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE (WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OCCASIONED TO ANY PERSON ACTING OR OMITTING TO ACT OR REFRAINING FROM ACTING IN RELIANCE UPON THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT ARISING FROM OR CONNECTED WITH ANY ERROR OR OMISSION IN THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE REPORT. LOSS OR DAMAGE AS REFERRED TO ABOVE SHALL BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, ANY LOSS OF PROFITS OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS DAMAGE TO REPUTATION OR GOODWILL LOSS OF BUSINESS OR ANTICIPATED BUSINESS DAMAGES COSTS EXPENSES INCURRED OR PAYABLE TO ANY THIRD PARTY (IN ALL CASES WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OR ANY OTHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE

QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE		ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	08/01233/FUL	NGR			

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
01	I	CH	SF		19/11/10	\\PROJECTSERVER\WESSEX\PROJECTS\72510\REPORT
02	E	SF	NDT		25/11/10	\\PROJECTSERVER\WESSEX\PROJECTS\72510\REPORT

* I= Internal Draft E= External Draft F= Final

**WARMINSTER COMMUNITY CENTRE,
PEPPER PLACE,
WARMINSTER, WILTSHIRE**

Report on an Archaeological Investigation

Contents

Summary	v
Acknowledgements.....	vi
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Project Background	1
1.2 The Site, location and geology	1
1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background	1
2 AIMS.....	2
3 METHODOLOGY	3
3.1 General.....	3
3.2 Excavation	3
3.3 Recording	3
3.4 Human Remains.....	4
3.5 Artefact Recovery	4
4 RESULTS	4
4.1 General.....	4
4.2 Romano-British.....	5
4.3 Inhumation Burial.....	6
4.4 Natural Features.....	7
5 RADIOCARBON DATING.....	7
5.1 Introduction.....	7
5.2 Result	7
6 HUMAN BONE	8
6.2 Interpretation	10
7 FINDS	11
7.1 Introduction.....	11
7.2 Pottery	11
7.3 Animal Bone	12
7.4 Worked Flint	12
7.5 Other finds.....	12
8 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL	13
8.1 Introduction.....	13
8.2 Charred Plant Remains and Charcoal.....	13
9 DISCUSSION.....	14
10 RECOMMENDATIONS	15
10.1 Finds.....	15
10.2 Palaeo-environmental.....	15
11 PUBLICATION PROPOSAL	15
12 STORAGE AND CURATION	15
12.1 Museum.....	15
12.2 Preparation of Archive	16

12.3 Conservation	16
12.4 Discard Policy.....	16
13 COPYRIGHT	16
14 REFERENCES	17
14.1 Bibliography.....	17
15 APPENDIX 1: FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL TABLES	20
16 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND.....	22
16.1 OASIS ID: wessexar1-87625.....	22

List of Figures and Tables

Figure 1	Site location plan showing all features
Figure 2	Plan and profile of Grave 135 and selected sections from the investigation
Plate 1	Remains of Skeleton 134 in Grave 135
Plate 2	Excavation area showing inter-cutting features including partially excavated Skeleton 134 in Grave 135 , Ditch 150 and natural features
Plate 3	North facing section of Pit 111
Plate 4	Skeleton 134 : Buccal (cheek) view of left maxillary molars showing heavy and extensive calculus (calcified plaque) deposits
Plate 5	Skeleton 134 : Left trapezium (carpal/hand bone) showing marked osteoarthritic changes (eburnation (polishing), modification of surface contours, pitting and marginal new bone) in the articular surfaces for the scaphoid (a) and 1 st carpal/metacarpal joint (b)
Plate 6	Skeleton 134 : Marked Osteoarthritic changes in the anterior facet of the axis (2 nd cervical vertebra) odontoid process
Plate 7	Skeleton 134 : Dorsal view of the skull showing extra ossicles in the lambdoid suture
Table 1	Radiocarbon date from Skeleton 135 within Grave 134
Table 2	All finds by context
Table 3	Pottery by context
Table 4	Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

**WARMINSTER COMMUNITY CENTRE,
PEPPER PLACE,
WARMINSTER, WILTSHIRE**

Report on an Archaeological Investigation literature

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Brymor Contractors Ltd on behalf of Aspire Defence Capital Works to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a new community centre on land at Pepper Place, Warminster, Wiltshire (hereafter the Site), centred on National Grid Reference 388540 145470. The work was required as a condition of planning consent issued by Wiltshire Council. The watching brief was carried out in September 2009.

Inhumation burials had previously been discovered near the Site during construction works along the Imber Road in 1937. Two of the skeletons were likely to have been Anglo-Saxon in date, whilst two further burials on the eastern side of the Imber Road were of probable Romano-British date. Given the date of the discovery, the location of each burial was approximated and there was the potential for further burials to exist within the Site. In addition a Neolithic bowl barrow and a number of undated field systems, lay within 500m of the Site.

The watching brief revealed a small number of features, the most notable being a grave containing a single inhumation burial. The shallow, sub-rectangular grave was oriented east to west and had cut through a Romano-British field drainage ditch and a number of tree throws. The grave contained a single elderly adult male, buried in a supine, extended position with the head to the west. Iron hobnails around the feet indicated hobnailed boots, and a fragment of iron pin may have been a clothes fastening. The hobnailed footwear and fragments of pottery date the burial to the late Romano-British period. A sample of bone from the skeleton was submitted for radiocarbon dating. The result confirmed the above findings, with a calibrated date of cal. AD 220-390, indicating a probable Middle to Late Romano-British or early 3rd to late 4th century AD date for the burial.

Skeleton 134 was an elderly (>50) adult male. He suffered from serious dental problems, mainly extensive ante mortem tooth loss and from a number of degenerative changes due to age and physical stress, which affected the spinal column and the hands in particular. Despite skeletal indicators of a fairly low status background, he lacked the common signatures of an impoverished childhood, which together with his robust build, indicated that he was relatively well nourished and not amongst society's poorest. Well developed muscle attachments show that the individual's occupation included forceful use of his forearms and hands, suggesting he was possibly a stone-mason or a blacksmith as opposed to a general labourer.

A number of other features were identified, including three shallow, parallel and evenly spaced ditches running north to south, which are likely to represent field drainage, and a small storage pit which contained nails from a hobnailed boot, animal bone and a whole bird's egg. All these features date to the Romano-British period, with pottery sherds dating to the middle Romano-British period retrieved from two of the ditches.

It is proposed that a short note of the findings will be published in the Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine.

**WARMINSTER COMMUNITY CENTRE,
PEPPER PLACE,
WARMINSTER, WILTSHIRE**

Report on an Archaeological Investigation

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Brymor Contractors Ltd and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Keith White in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Vanessa Clarke of Wiltshire Council for her advice and assistance during the project.

The watching brief was undertaken by Chloe Hunnisett with assistance from Neil Fitzpatrick, Gareth Holes, Jonathon Martin, David Murdie and Andrew Sole. The report was researched and compiled by Chloe Hunnisett with contributions from Rachael Seager Smith (pottery), Dr Ruth Pelling (environmental), Jessica Grimm (animal bone) and Matt Leivers (flint). The human bone was assessed and reported by Jacqueline McKinley. The palaeo-environmental samples were processed by Nicola Mulhall. The illustrations were prepared by Elizabeth James. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Nick Truckle.

**WARMINSTER COMMUNITY CENTRE,
PEPPER PLACE,
WARMINSTER, WILTSHIRE****Report on an Archaeological Investigation****1 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Brymor Contractors Ltd on behalf of Aspire Defence Capital Works (hereafter 'the Client') to carry out an archaeological watching brief on land at Pepper Place, Warminster, Wiltshire, during construction of a new community centre (hereafter 'the Site'). The Site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 388540 145470.

1.1.2 The watching brief was required as part of the planning permission (Planning Reference: 08/01233/FUL) granted to the Client by Wiltshire Council, the local planning authority, for the proposed community centre.

1.1.3 The work was carried out between the 10th and 24th September 2009

1.2 The Site, location and geology

1.2.1 The Site comprises a roughly rectangular parcel of land measuring approximately 0.2ha, situated immediately to the north of Pepper Place and bounded to the east by an unnamed road which connects Pepper Place to Firbank Crescent, to the north by the existing community centre and its grounds, and to the west by a wooded area of mature trees.

1.2.2 Prior to commencement of construction works, the Site was occupied by a garage and associated parking. The western part of the Site was originally covered by a number of mature trees. All of the trees had been cleared and the garage demolished before the commencement of the watching brief.

1.2.3 Natural bedrock within the Site comprises Cretaceous Upper Chalk, with recent alluvium mapped to the south, on the floor of the Itchen Valley (Geological Survey of Great Britain (England & Wales) 1957). The Site's topographic setting meant that there was also potential for unmapped deposits of soliflucted 'Coombe Rock' and for more superficial accumulations of colluvium.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background*Prehistoric*

1.3.1 The Site lies 1.14km west of Battlesbury Camp, a Scheduled Iron Age hill fort of national significance. The monument encompasses the hill fort with defensive earthworks, containing a field system and enclosures within an Iron Age settlement, three bowl barrows and an Iron Age inhumation cemetery.

1.3.2 A further Scheduled bowl barrow lies 550m west of Site, at Cop Heap. The barrow is recorded as 2.9m high with a mound 27m wide, originally with a ditch and bank. The barrow was partially excavated in the early 19th century,

revealing a primary female inhumation burial with a child accompanied by shell and bone beads, and two secondary inhumations. A Neolithic date is probable.

- 1.3.3 On the basis of these specific sites, and the location of the Site on the periphery on the prehistoric landscape of Salisbury Plain, there was the potential for further prehistoric remains to occur within the Site.

Romano-British

- 1.3.4 Inhumation burials described as Romano-British were discovered during construction works on Imber Road, approximately 100m to the north of the Site. The four inhumation burials were found in 1937, and all were identified as Romano-British at the time (Cunnington 1943). Grave goods described as a “tanged iron knife blade” were associated with two individuals, whilst another had hobnails, the latter forming the basis for assigning a Romano-British date to the skeletons.

- 1.3.5 The burials are described as being located in two pairs, one on either side of the Imber Road to the north of the Site. The two individuals on the “western” side of the road (actually the north-west side as the road runs north-east to south-west), who were buried with iron knives, cannot be confidently dated as Romano-British and are more likely to be of perhaps Anglo-Saxon date. However there is no reason not to accept that the other pair of burials, excavated from the (south-)eastern side of Imber Road, are of Romano-British date. On this basis, the small group of two, and possibly four burials could form part of a small Romano-British cemetery.

- 1.3.6 The location of the inhumation burials is somewhat approximate given the date of discovery, but is likely to be in the region of 100m to 500m from the Site.

Undated

- 1.3.7 There are undated field systems recorded to the north and to the south of Site. Approximately 550m to the north-west of Site is a small remnant of field system and a further field system is recorded 450m east of Site, although the latter was not confirmed during an evaluation in 1996 (Wiltshire SMR).

2 AIMS

- 2.1.1 The aims of the watching brief were:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains and, should remains be found to be present, to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard.
- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent, condition and state of preservation of the remains.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (revised 2008).
- 3.1.2 All mechanical stripping on Site was carried out with a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.1.3 In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WA, 2009), all topsoil stripping and machine excavation into natural sub-soils or made ground deposits within the development footprint was monitored at all times by a suitably qualified member of Wessex Archaeology staff.

3.2 Excavation

- 3.2.1 Machine stripping was carried out under constant archaeological supervision to the depths specified by the Client, generally well into natural bedrock chalk. However, where archaeological features or deposits were revealed, machine excavation was stopped at this level. Machine excavation then continued on Site under the direction of, and to levels specified by, the archaeologist, until archaeological or natural deposits were revealed. Once it was clear that archaeological features did not continue within an area, machining reverted to a depth specified by the Client.
- 3.2.2 Where archaeological features were revealed, excavation continued by hand. A sufficient sample of each layer/feature type was excavated in order to establish the date, nature, extent and condition of the archaeological remains. Pits and postholes were subject to a minimum of a 50% sample. Sufficient lengths of all ditches were excavated in order to establish the stratigraphic relationships and function of the features.
- 3.2.3 Palaeo-environmental samples were taken from appropriate datable stratified contexts within archaeological features. A minimum of 10L was taken from each sampled context for bulk sample processing.

3.3 Recording

- 3.3.1 Archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. All features and deposits were assigned a unique context number.
- 3.3.2 A full graphic record was maintained. Sections and plans were produced at 1:10 and 1:20 respectively. All archaeological features were surveyed by GPS and the Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all features was calculated. The extent of all construction work areas was surveyed using GPS survey equipment. All interventions and archaeological features were located in relation to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 3.3.3 A photographic record was maintained, consisting of black and white and colour slides and digital images. The record included detailed images of archaeological deposits and features and other images to illustrate their location and context. The record also included digital photographs taken during the watching brief.

3.3.4 A unique site code **72510** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.

3.4 Human Remains

3.4.1 The recovery and assessment of the human remains followed Wessex Archaeology's guidelines, which fully comply with all current legislation (*i.e.* post April 1st 2007) and standards set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008) and English Heritage (2002).

3.4.2 The excavation and assessment of the human remains was undertaken in compliance with a Licence for the Removal of Human Remains (License no. 09-0150) issued by the Ministry of Justice under Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857 in September 2009.

3.5 Artefact Recovery

3.5.1 All artefacts were collected, stored and processed in accordance with standard methodologies and national guidelines (Institute for Archaeologists 2008, SMA 1993 & 1995). All non-modern artefacts were collected and retained. Bulk finds were collected and recorded by context.

4 RESULTS

4.1 General

4.1.1 The Site was known to have contained a garage, recently demolished, and the footprint of this building was clearly identifiable within the Site as an area of made ground and gravel underlay measuring approximately 20m by 30m. The footings of this building lay entirely within the footprint of the current development, and mechanical stripping of this area revealed that natural deposits were heavily truncated beneath the garage. No natural topsoil or subsoil remained, and any archaeological deposits present would have been destroyed during the construction of the garage.

4.1.2 Intact natural deposits were revealed in the western third of the development footprint, and also in narrow strips on the northern and southern edges of the footprint, either side of the old garage. All archaeological features and deposits were confined to these areas of intact soils.

4.1.3 Within areas where an intact soil sequence was revealed, the large trees which had previously covered the entire Site were shown to have caused extensive disturbance of *in-situ* subsoil and natural deposits.

4.1.4 The deposits within the development footprint were characterised by a thick, compact silty loam topsoil, overlying deposits of soliflucted chalk; a calcareous silty deposit which varied in thickness across the Site. Chalk bedrock was present from 0.45-0.65m Below Ground Level (BGL). The natural bedrock varied across the Site and in places was better described as very soft, calcareous siltstone within a clay matrix.

4.1.5 With the exception of a single natural feature **132**, the archaeology revealed was restricted to the eastern half of the Site, with a small concentration of features in the north-east corner, which formed a small excavation area. The linear features crossed the Site from north to south, although they were destroyed in the centre by the footprint of the modern garage.

4.2 Romano-British

- 4.2.1 All archaeological features revealed on the Site dated to the Romano-British period. The most notable feature was a grave containing a single inhumation burial of an adult male, dated to the Romano-British period. In addition, three shallow ditches or gullies and a pit were dated to the same period. A number of natural features were also identified.
- 4.2.2 The three ditches revealed on Site were all parallel and aligned north to south. The ditches were all very similar in size and profile. Two ditches (**150** and **151**), revealed in the south of the Site, were also evident to the north of the garage footprint. The footings for the garage had been deeply cut into the natural chalk, thus destroying any archaeology within the footprint of the building. The ditches revealed either side of the garage were identical in profile and alignment, to the extent that they could be confidently identified as continuations of the same features, hence they have been grouped as single features.
- 4.2.3 Ditch **150**, the western-most ditch, was aligned north to south and was at least 40m long. The sides were shallow and the base flat. A typical section measured 0.61m wide and 0.21m deep (**Figure 2**). The ditch contained a single, sterile and naturally derived secondary fill. Animal bone and struck flint was recovered as well as a single basal sherd of Romano-British pottery. The fill of ditch **150** was cut by grave **135** (see below).
- 4.2.4 Ditch **151** lay to the east of ditch **150** and formed the middle of the three linear features. The feature had shallow concave sides and a generally flat base, with a typical section measuring 0.56m wide and 0.1m deep (**Figure 2**). Animal bone, a few small sherds of Romano-British pottery and a single piece of worked flint were recovered from the feature. Ditch **151** had been re-cut along part of its length, with the fill of the re-cut yielding finds of a similar date and nature to the original cut.
- 4.2.5 Ditch **113**, the most easterly of the three parallel features, was only present in the southern half of Site; the alignment of the feature suggests that the ditch continues beyond the north-eastern corner of the Site. The ditch measured over 8.4m long, and was the smallest of the three linear features identified, measuring 0.47m wide and 0.1m deep, with shallow concave sides and a concave base (**Figure 2**). Finds were again fairly sparse but included sherds of Samian pottery datable to the 2nd century AD, as well as struck flint and animal bone.
- 4.2.6 All three ditches seem to be contemporary on the basis of the finds retrieved. In addition, their arrangement strongly suggests that all three features were created in association. Not only were they exactly parallel, on a north to south alignment, but they were evenly spaced, with an average distance of 5.5m between ditch **150** and ditch **151**, and an average of 5.2m between ditches **151** and **113**, which strongly suggests that the ditches were associated with each other. Grave **135** cut ditch **150** and therefore post-dated at least the most westerly of the three ditches.
- 4.2.7 Pit **111** lay immediately to the east of ditch **150**, and was a shallow, sub-circular pit measuring 1.10m diameter and 0.15m deep (**Figure 2**). The pit contained a single fill containing animal bone, and a single pottery sherd of

Romano-British date. In addition, the pit contained **Object 1**, a group of 15 iron hobnails, likely representing a single shoe or boot, and is consistent with the Romano-British date. The pit also contained **Object 2**, a single bird's eggshell, crushed but complete and well preserved. The species could not be positively identified but it was possibly a pigeon's egg.

- 4.2.8 Analysis of charred plant remains recovered from the pit identified spelt wheat, a species which was commonly grown during the Romano-British period (see below).
- 4.2.9 The pit seems likely to have been a small storage pit, which was utilised at some point for grain storage. The finds of a single shoe and a bird's egg could reflect either storage of items within the pit, or possibly a ritual deposit within the pit once it was emptied of grain.
- 4.2.10 It should be noted that pit **111** stopped at the base of the softer, re-deposited or soliflucted chalk, and did not extend into the solid natural chalk which lay beneath; perhaps reflecting the difficulty of excavating by hand below this depth.

4.3 Inhumation Burial

- 4.3.1 The most significant feature identified within the Site was a single inhumation burial of an adult male (skeleton **134**). The isolated grave, **135**, was revealed in the north-east corner of Site and formed the focus of the excavation area. The grave itself was initially only partly exposed within the excavated area, extending beyond the limits of excavation. Once hand excavation revealed the presence of human remains, the excavation area was extended by machine to the north, up to the physical limit of the Site, exposing the complete grave cut and a number of additional natural features.
- 4.3.2 The grave measured 1.67m by 0.6m, and was a maximum of 0.25m deep (**Figure 2**). It was generally sub-rectangular, although rather uneven in plan and was oriented roughly east to west. It contained skeleton **134** and a single deliberate backfill, **136**.
- 4.3.3 The grave was cut into the fills of ditch **150**, and also cut the fill of a large tree hollow. The edges of the grave cut were fairly indistinct, although the base of the grave was very clear. The grave appeared to be a little too short for the body, as the head was pushed up against the western end of the grave. This is perhaps suggestive of a lesser degree of care and time spent whilst the grave was being dug.
- 4.3.4 Skeleton **134** was positioned within grave **135** with the head to the west, although the body lay at a slight angle within the grave, giving the body an orientation closer to north-west to south-east. The body had been placed in a supine and extended position, with the legs together and the hands together over the pelvis. The bone was in generally good condition with c. 96% of the skeleton recovered.
- 4.3.5 The remains represents an elderly adult (>50) male. The individual suffered from a number of pathological and degenerative changes. Evidence of extensive ante-mortem tooth loss, non-specific infection, degenerative joint disease of the spine and other joints, osteo-arthritis and other age- and

stress-related “wear and tear” degenerations were present. In addition analysis of the muscle attachments and bone development of the skeleton suggests a life of physically strenuous activity.

- 4.3.6 The individual was buried without grave goods, however the grave contained evidence of the clothing he was buried in. A collection of iron hobnails, **Objects 3** and **4**, was positioned around each foot, indicating that the individual had been buried wearing hobnailed boots or shoes. In addition an iron pin, **Object 5**, likely a clothes fastening of some kind, was recovered from soil samples collected from around the bones of the thorax. The practise of burying individuals in hobnailed boots is typical of burials dating to the Romano-British period, but cannot be considered conclusive dating evidence. Four sherds of greyware pottery were recovered from the grave backfill, and combined with the hobnail footwear these finds date the burial to the Romano-British period. However in order to obtain a more specific date the decision was taken to carry out radiocarbon dating of the burial (see below).

4.4 Natural Features

- 4.4.1 A number of the features identified on Site were naturally created. Grave **135** had been cut into a number of large features, which were originally considered as additional graves. It transpired however that these were all tree hollows.
- 4.4.2 A number of these naturally formed features contained worked flint, animal bone fragments and Romano-British pottery sherds, which became incorporated within the natural features. Tree throw **141** was a very large, irregular tree throw located at the northern Site limit, and extended beyond the limit of excavation. The feature contained naturally derived fills, but also contained a moderate quantity of pottery, in addition to animal bone and struck flint. The pottery was again dateable to the Romano-British period, and included a greyware jar rim fragment from context **146**, and Samian ware and a Savernake-type ware bead rim jar sherd from context **147**. The latter can be dated more specifically to the late 1st or the 2nd century AD.
- 4.4.3 These natural features were closely grouped and inter-cutting in places, and likely represent the existence of a small stand of trees during the Romano-British period.

5 RADIOCARBON DATING

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A single sample of bone (left-femur) from grave **135**, which contained a single inhumation burial (skeleton **134**), was submitted to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre, East Kilbride (SUERC) for radiocarbon dating.

5.2 Result

- 5.2.1 The returned radiocarbon determination (1745±30 BP, SUERC-30883) was calibrated within OxCal 4.1.5 (Bronk Ramsey 2001; 2009) using the IntCal09 calibration curve (Reimer et. al. 2009). The calibrated date for the burial was cal. AD 220-390 (**Table 1**) and indicates a probable Middle to Late Romano-British, early 3rd to late 4th century AD for the burial.

Table 1: Radiocarbon date from Skeleton 135 within Grave 134

Feature	Material	Lab ref.	$\delta^{13}\text{C}\text{‰}$	$\delta^{15}\text{N}\text{‰}$	C:N Ratio	Date BP	Cal. AD (2 sig. 94.5%)
grave 135 (134)	human bone Left femur	SUERC -30883	-20.5‰	10.6	3.4	1745±30	220-390 cal. AD.

6 HUMAN BONE

- 6.1.1 The remains of an inhumation burial were recovered from an apparently isolated grave situated close to the northern margins of the Site. A late Romano-British date had been attributed on the basis of the grave goods, which comprised a large collection of iron hobnails located along the planter surfaces of the feet indicating that the individual had been buried wearing hobnail boots/shoes.
- 6.1.2 The bone is in fairly good condition with only light root marking and some degradation of the trabecular bone (Grade 2; McKinley 2004, fig. 7.1-7). The skull was extensively fragmented as a result of machine damage, largely due to its position set hard against the end of the grave and tipped forward, resulting in the cranium resting higher in the grave fill than the rest of the bone. The burial was made supine and extended, the right leg flexed slightly to the left at the hip resulting in the knee resting against the left thigh and with the hands together over the pelvis, the left hand lying over the right wrist. There was moderate ancient fragmentation to the rest of the skeleton but no bone appears to have been lost from the grave (0.25m surviving depth) as a result of disturbance.
- 6.1.3 The c. 96% of the skeleton recovered represents the remains of an elderly (>50 yr.) adult male (Bass 1986; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). The estimated stature of c. 1.65m (c. 5' 4³/₄"); Trotter and Gleser 1952; 1958) is below the average of 1.69m recorded by Roberts and Cox for the Romano-British period (2003, 163), but close to that of 1.66m observed at Poundbury and Alington Avenue, Dorchester, Dorset (Molleson 1993, table 28; Waldron 2002, table 29a).
- 6.1.4 Although apparently below average height this individual had a large and robust skeleton which would have supported a powerful musculature; the attachments for several of the shoulder and arm muscles were particularly strongly marked (trapezius, pectoralis major, deltoideus and pronator teres) as were some of the hip (adductor longus, gluteus maximus) and, to a lesser extent, leg muscle attachments (gastrocnemus).
- 6.1.5 The cranial index of 77.0 is close to that recorded from several contemporaneous cemeteries in Dorset and within the same mesocranial range (Brothwell 1972, 88; McKinley 2008; Molleson 1993, 167; Waldron 2002, 151). The platymeric index (demonstrating the degree of anterior-posterior flattening of the proximal femur) of 92.2 falls in the eurymeric range, (moderate/broad) and the platycnemic index (illustrating the degree of meso-lateral flattening of the tibiae) of 86.0/77.8 in the eurycnemic range (broad; Bass 1986, 214 and 233). The variation between the left and the right sides, suggesting greater stress was being placed on the former, is not

reflected in the robusticity index for the femora which give almost identical readings (130.0/129.2; Bass 1986, 214).

- 6.1.6 The individual had suffered extensive ante mortem tooth loss (21/32, 65.6%) and had small interproximal carious lesions in three of the nine remaining teeth (33.3%; all molars). Small destructive lesions, one probably indicative of an apical cysts and the other a dental abscess, were recorded at the apex of two anterior tooth sockets (2/5, 40%). Very heavy calculus deposits (calcified plaque) are present on the left maxillary molars (**Plate 4**), and its slight extension over the occlusal surface of two premolars demonstrates the lack of any teeth against which to occlude and thereby clean the biting surface of these teeth. The level of attrition noted to the four remaining molar distal teeth and the right premolars is unusually light (such as might be expected in an individual of c. 25-35 yr.) and appears in major contrast to the very heavy wear in the left maxillary premolars. This suggests that the individual developed dental problems, probably caries, early in his adult life and that they were initially concentrated on the left side resulting in heavier use of the right for chewing. The implied heavy caries rate and heavy calculus deposits suggests a diet dependent on carbohydrates in the form of stews, soups, potages etc., although certainly later in life there was probably little else this man could eat given his lack of teeth. The high calculus deposits also point to a poor level of dental hygiene and the concentration on one side may be indicative of a problem with the largest of the salivary glands (parotid), the duct of which enter the mouth in this area (maxillary M2).
- 6.1.7 Slight, very fine lamellar (healed) periosteal new bone on the anterior-distal shaft of the right femur is indicative of the one time presence of non-specific infection, probably spread from a focus elsewhere in the body, which would have been generally debilitating and cause localised pain (Manchester 1983, 37; Roberts and Manchester 1997, 129-130).
- 6.1.8 There was extensive evidence for various forms of degenerative joint disease in both the spinal and extra-spinal skeleton; most of these conditions are age-related in their extent and severity, but the latter and their location are indicative of skeletal areas subject to physical stress. Small, centrally located Schmorl's nodes (a pressure defect resulting from a rupture in the intervertebral disc; Rogers and Waldron 1995, 27; Roberts and Manchester 1997, 107) were recorded in the T5-9 vertebral bodies (5/22), the rate of 22.7% being slightly above the average of 17.7% for the Romano-British period given by Roberts and Cox (2003, table 3.21). Degenerative disc disease, resulting from the breakdown of the intervertebral disc and reflecting age-related wear-and-tear (Rogers and Waldron 1995, 27), was observed in all vertebral bodies, the macro- and micro-pitting becoming progressively heavier and more extensive through the cervical region and thereon the changes were generally universally heavy, with more extensive marginal osteophytes in the thoracic and lumbar regions, and slight body collapse particularly in the cervical and lumbar areas (possibly indicative of some underlying osteoporosis).
- 6.1.9 Lesions indicative of osteoarthritis (Rogers and Waldron 1995, 43-44) were recorded at 25 extra-spinal and 14 spinal sites (rates 17.7% and 52% respectively). The hands were badly affected with heavy eburnation (polishing) and modification of surface contours in five left and three right

carpal bones (1st and 2nd row; **Plates 5a and 5b**); eburnation and osteophytes (new bone formed on joint margins) in both 1st carpal/metacarpal joints and in the left 4th distal inter-phalangeal joint. Similar but less extensive lesions were also seen in the right patella (medial surface) and the right foot 4th distal inter-phalangeal joint. Pitting and osteophyte formation was recorded in a minimum of six of the lower costo-vertebral joints (bi-lateral). Spinal lesions were particularly heavy in the C1-2 anterior facet (**Plate 6**), a pivotal joint for head movement. Varying levels of lesions, including some extensive eburnation, were also observed in the 2nd-5th cervical articular process joints and in a minimum of seven thoracic vertebrae.

- 6.1.10 Lone osteophytes were relatively common around other joint surfaces including those of the shoulder, the right elbow, left knee, 1st proximal inter-phalangeal joints of the hand, and all left and most right distal inter-phalangeal joints. Heavy macro-pitting and erosion of the joint surfaces was observed in the acromio-clavicular joints of the shoulder, with slight micro-pitting in the inferior-dorsal parts of the acetabulae (hip joints). These lone lesions may have represented the early stages of osteoarthritis, although in at least some cases they are likely to simply be reflective of age-related wear and tear. Several small juxta-articular, non-proliferative destructive lesions seen in the 1st metatarsal heads and those of the middle finger phalanges may be indicative of rheumatoid arthritis (Rogers and Waldron 1995, 55-63), although the former, together with other similar lesions observed in two carpal bones, probably represent 'pseudo-erosions' or solitary bone cysts, which are believed to be asymptomatic and not related to a specific disease process (Rogers and Waldron 1995, 61-3).
- 6.1.11 Mild-moderate enthesophytes (bony growths at tendon and ligament insertions), were observed at several muscle attachment sites including the proximal humerus, along the iliac crest (obliquus externus abdominis attachment) and at the transverse head of the right adductor pollicis attachment in the 3rd metacarpal (adducts the thumb). A number of factors may be related to such lesions but advancing age and traumatic stress are probably most pertinent in these cases (Rogers and Waldron 1995, 24-25), the latter also being the most probable cause of the minor exostoses (*ibid.*, 23) observed at various interosseous margins including those of the forearm.
- 6.1.12 Several non-metric traits - minor variations in skeletal morphology (Berry and Berry 1967; Finnegan 1978; Tyrrell 2000) - were observed including sutural ossicles at the lambda and in the lambdoid suture (**Plate 7**), and unilateral os acromiale (non-fusion of the tip of the acromion process of the scapula), a variant generally observed in c. 3-6% of individuals although in some cases there are indications that activity-related stress may be a factor in its occurrence (Stirland 1984; Knüsel 2000, 115-6). More unusually, the styloid processes of the 3rd metacarpals is foreshortened or absent presenting an uneven pitted surface such as seen in cases of coalition (fusion).

6.2 Interpretation

- 6.2.1 The skeletal markers observed in this strongly-built adult male indicate he had led a physically strenuous life focused on bending/lifting and upper-body activity, including forceful use of his forearm and hands. This suggests

he was some form of craftsman/artisan as opposed to a general labourer, possibly something like a stone-mason or a blacksmith. Despite suffering from reduced spinal mobility ('stiffness'), and doubtless being in great discomfort given the state of his back and his hands, he appears to have remained active until his death at a relatively advanced age. The poor condition of his teeth and short stature suggests he may have had a fairly low status background, but the lack of some of the other common signatures of an impoverished childhood (e.g. cribra orbitalia (Molleson 1993; Roberts and Manchester 1995, 166-9) and dental hypoplasia (Hillson 1979; although the latter could have been masked by the heavy calculus deposits), together with his robust build, indicate that he must have been relatively well nourished and not amongst society's poorest.

- 6.2.2 The planter surface (sole) of several of the right foot bone were iron stained; the medial cuneiform, 1st metatarsal, 1st proximal and distal phalanges. Given the large number of hobnails recovered (**106**) it is interesting to note that only these few bones were stained, and it may give some indication of the construction of the footwear and/or the formation process of the deposit. The position of the right leg and foot, the former being slightly bent resulting in the foot resting slightly on its medial side, may have retained the foot bones in contact with the hobnails following decomposition the nails falling away from the foot in all other locations.

7 FINDS

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during the archaeological investigation. This included the remains of a single individual from an inhumation grave, who had apparently been buried with hobnailed footwear. The grave is presumed, on the basis of the hobnails, to be of Romano-British date, and most other datable finds from the Site are similarly of Romano-British, with the exception of a few residual worked flints.

- 7.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Appendix 1:Table 2** (below). Following quantification, all finds were subjected to a visual scan, in order to ascertain their potential date range, nature and condition. Spot dates were recorded for pottery. All data are held on the project database (Access).

7.2 Pottery

- 7.2.1 40 pieces of pottery, weighing a total of 343g, were recovered during the excavation (See **Appendix 1:Table 3**, below).
- 7.2.2 All the sherds are Romano-British. Most (34 sherds) are sandy grey coarsewares, probably from fairly local sources. Kiln furniture and greyware wasters have been found at Westbury (Rogers and Rodham, 1991) for example, while a small greyware producing kiln has been discovered at Chapmanslade (M.J. Heaton pers. comm.), both to the north-west of Warminster.
- 7.2.3 Only one featured sherd occurred, a jar rim, broken at the neck/shoulder junction, from context **148**; all the others were undiagnostic and these wares cannot be dated with any more precision. A Savernake-type ware bead rim

jar sherd (37g) from context **147** (tree throw **141**) is probably of late 1st or 2nd century AD date while the samian (5 sherds, 19g, from two vessels including a form 35 cup from context **112**) is of 2nd century AD date.

7.3 Animal Bone

Methodology

7.3.1 67 mammal bones were hand-recovered from the Site. All material is assumed to date to the Romano-British period. Conjoining fragments that were demonstrably from the same bone were counted as one bone in order to minimise distortion, and so totals vary from the raw fragment counts given in **Appendix 1:Table 2**.

7.3.2 The extent of mechanical or chemical attrition to the bone surface was recorded, and the numbers of gnawed bone were also noted. Marks from chopping, sawing, knife cuts and fractures made when the bone was fresh were recorded as butchery marks.

Results

7.3.3 Most bone fragments were in fair to good condition and 20 bones were identifiable to species. With 20%, the number of loose teeth is high and so was probably the level of re-working. Gnawing marks probably made by dogs were seen on two bones and thus indicates that scavenger destruction is probably a biasing factor. One bone showed signs of contact with fire.

Animal husbandry

7.3.4 The material included horse (n=2), cattle (n=14), sheep/goat (n=3) and deer (n=1). No fragments were recorded as 'medium mammal' or 'large mammal'; these were instead consigned to the unidentified category. Context **110** contained part of a shed red deer antler.

7.3.5 Three bones could be aged; not enough to provide insight in the population structure of the animals. A further three bones could be measured; not enough to provide insight into the phenotype of the animals.

Consumption and deposition

7.3.6 The assemblage is too small to make any comments on the consumption and deposition practices on the Site.

7.4 Worked Flint

7.4.1 Only eight pieces of struck flint were recovered (from ditch **150**, ditch **151**, ditch **113**, natural feature **137** and tree throw **141**). All are flakes or fragments of flakes, two (from **150** and **141**) with retouch.

7.4.2 The likelihood is that all are re-deposited, although the condition of all is similar, and none are especially worn or damaged. None are closely dateable, and all need not be contemporary.

7.5 Other finds

7.5.1 Small pieces of Romano-British ceramic building material were also found in contexts **140** (tree Throw **139**) and **147** (tree throw **141**). Two of the pieces from context **147** join, forming the corner of a brick; at 34mm thick, this probably derives from one of the smaller, thinner Roman brick types

(bessalis, lydion and pedalis), mostly used in hypocausts or as lacing/bonding courses in walls (Brodrigg 1987). The others are undiagnostic.

- 7.5.2 A piece (43g) of moderately coarse-grained sandstone with a small area of a slightly polished, dished surface has been tentatively identified as part of a quern- or rub- stone. It was found in context **106** (ditch **151**).
- 7.5.3 Iron hobnails found around the feet of skeleton **134** indicate that the deceased was wearing nailed boots or shoes at the time of burial. 19 hobnails were associated with the left foot (**Object 3**) and 34 with the right foot (**Object 4**). In addition, a further 53 hobnails were recovered which could have derived from the left or the right boot (**Object 7**). Inhumations with footwear become common from the late 2nd-early 3rd century AD onwards, although the vast majority of datable examples belong to the 4th century AD (Philpot 1991, 167).
- 7.5.4 Fifteen other hobnails, **Object 1**, probably also from a boot or shoe, were found in pit **111**.
- 7.5.5 A single bird's eggshell, **Object 2**, was recovered from pit **111**. Due to the crushed state of the egg, it was not possible to identify the species of bird, but the egg was approximately 3cm long, not inconsistent perhaps with a pigeon's egg.

8 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 One bulk sample was taken from context **110**, the fill of a shallow circular pit of Romano-British date, pit **111**. The sample was processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals.

8.2 Charred Plant Remains and Charcoal

- 8.2.1 The bulk sample was processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fraction (>5.6 mm) was sorted, weighed and discarded. The flot was scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Appendix 1:Table 4**) to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).
- 8.2.2 The flot was small and dominated by modern roots, indicative of mixing and possible disturbance of the deposit. A small number of highly degraded charred grains were present but could not be identified to genus. Two glume bases suggest the presence of emmer or spelt wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*). Spelt wheat is the wheat species most strongly associated with the Roman period in southern Britain, although either species is possible. No weeds were noted. Charcoal was present in small fragments only.

9 DISCUSSION

- 9.1.1 The features discovered on Site all date broadly to the Romano-British period. The few fragments of pottery which can be dated with more accuracy are middle Romano-British, likely late 1st or 2nd century AD. These pottery sherds originated from ditch **113** and tree throw **141**.
- 9.1.2 The parallel linear features which cross the Site are of Romano-British date. The ditches seem to be contemporary on the basis of the finds retrieved, but also given their alignment; being both exactly parallel and evenly spaced. Therefore it can be assumed that all three linear features are likely to be of early Romano-British date, a supposition corroborated by the westernmost ditch which is cut by a late Romano-British grave (**135**).
- 9.1.3 The features are likely to be agricultural in origin, although given their small size and narrow spacing, they are unlikely to represent major field boundaries. The parallel layout of the ditches could suggest a viticultural function, however the spacing between the features (c. 5m) is too wide to make this a plausible explanation. It seems likely that the narrow spacing between the features indicates that they may have been internal field divisions, potentially for drainage purposes or crop division.
- 9.1.4 Pit **111**, located adjacent to these probable drainage features, can be assigned a broadly contemporary earlier Romano-British date. The finds, combined with the nature of the fill, suggest that the pit was indicative of a storage pit which was utilised at some point for grain storage. The pit was likely to have been in-filled by natural processes after being abandoned, with the finds of a single shoe and a bird's egg reflecting the deposition of items within the pit, however it is possible that these items represent a ritual deposit within the pit once it was emptied of grain.
- 9.1.5 The inhumation burial within grave **135** was assigned a later Romano-British date, as the practice of burying individuals in hobnailed boots or shoes became common between the late 2nd and 4th centuries AD, with most examples dating from the latter end of this period (Philpot 1991, 167).
- 9.1.6 The result of the radiocarbon dating carried out on a sample of bone from skeleton **134** assigned the burial a date of cal. AD 220-390 (**Table 1**) and indicates a probable Middle to Late Romano-British, or early 3rd to late 4th century AD date for the burial, a date which corroborates with the pottery recovered from the grave fill.
- 9.1.7 The burial is therefore likely to postdate the agricultural features identified within the Site; this is again supported by the fact that the grave physically cuts ditch **150**. Therefore at least one, but it seems likely all three, field drainage ditches had fallen out of use by the time that grave **135** was dug.
- 9.1.8 Whilst the largest tree throw is contemporary with the earlier field ditches, it can be postulated that some of the trees which formed this small cluster of natural features were standing at the time **Skeleton 134** was buried, and that the grave was dug underneath the trees in a rural setting.
- 9.1.9 The excavation was extended to the physical limits of the Site with no further graves revealed, and no graves were identified in any other part of the Site

during the watching brief. Further graves may of course have existed beneath the garage, having been destroyed during its construction. However on the basis of the evidence from the current Site there is no evidence that Romano-British burials continue to the south of **Grave 135**.

- 9.1.10 The recovery of singleton burials of prehistoric to Anglo-Saxon date is not uncommon in rural settings, but in this case there is evidence to suggest there may have been scattered groups of contemporaneous burials in the same area. Two (possibly a male and a female adult) of the four burials recovered in 1937 during construction of the then 'new camp' (Cunnington 1943) are likely, on the evidence of their grave goods (hobnails) to be of the same late Romano-British date as the current example. Although their precise location is unknown, they were, as in this case, situated on the east side of the Imber Road, probably within 100-500m of the current find. All are likely to be related to an individual rural settlement. Given the uncertainty over the exact location of the original two burials, the burials are unlikely to be part of a formalised cemetery, although without knowledge of the area of land which lies between the two sets of burials this cannot be clarified.

10 RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Finds

- 10.1.1 The Romano-British inhumation burial should be published, but this will not entail any further analysis – the human bone has already been recorded and reported on to publication level, and other associated finds recorded to an appropriate level.
- 10.1.2 Finds from other contexts occurred in insufficient quantities to warrant further analysis or publication, although information recorded as part of the assessment phases could be incorporated in any publication report.

10.2 Palaeo-environmental

- 10.2.1 There is no potential for further work on the single palaeo-environmental sample.
- 10.2.2 Given the potential for disturbance and the poor preservation of material in the sample there is no potential for dating the material.

11 PUBLICATION PROPOSAL

- 11.1.1 It is proposed that the results will be published as a short article in the Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine.

12 STORAGE AND CURATION

12.1 Museum

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

12.2 Preparation of Archive

- 12.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics and artefacts, will be prepared following the 'Guidelines and conditions for the preparation and deposition of archaeological archives to Wiltshire Heritage Museum and Library', and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990; SMA 1995; Richards and Robinson 2000; Brown 2007).
- 12.2.2 The archive is currently stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire, under the project code **72510**.

12.3 Conservation

- 12.3.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field. No finds have been identified as of unstable condition and therefore there is no need of further conservation treatment of any objects

12.4 Discard Policy

- 12.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. No discard is anticipated of the artefacts.

13 COPYRIGHT

- 13.1.1 This report 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 we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

14 REFERENCES

14.1 Bibliography

- Bass, W.M. 1987 *Human Osteology Missouri Archaeological Society (Columbia)*
- Berry, A.C. and Berry, R.J. 1967 *Epigenetic variation in the human cranium Jnl. Anatomy 101(2), 261-379*
- Brodribb, G., 1987 *Roman Brick and Tile*
- Brothwell, D.R. 1972 *Digging Up Bones British Museum (Nat. Hist.) London.*
- Buikstra, J.E. and Ubelaker, D.H. 1994 *Standards for data collection from human skeletal remains Arkansas Archaeological Survey Research Series 44*
- Cunnington, M. E. 1943 'Skeletons found near Warminster' *WAM 48, 468-9*
- Finnegan, M. 1978 *Non-metric variations of the infracranial skeleton. J. Anatomy 125(1); 23-37*
- Hillson, S.W. 1979 'Diet and dental disease' *World Archaeology II (2); 147-162*
- Knüsel, C. 2000 'Activity related changes', V. Fiorato, A. Boylston and C. Knüsel (eds.) *Blood Red Roses: The archaeology of the mass grave from the battle of Towton AD 1461 Oxbow Books (Oxford) 103- 118*
- Manchester, K. 1983 *The Archaeology of Disease Bradford University Press*
- McKinley, J.I 2004 'Compiling a skeletal inventory: disarticulated and commingled remains' in M. Brickley and J.I. McKinley (eds.) *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology and Institute for Field Archaeology, 13-16*
- McKinley, J.I. 2008 'Human Bone' in K. Egging Dinwiddy (ed.) *A late Roman cemetery at Little Keep, Dorchester, Dorset*
- Molleson, T.I. 1993 *The Human Remains, in Farwell, D.E. and Molleson, T.I. Poundbury Volume 2: The Cemeteries. Dorset Nat. Hist. & Arch. Soc. Monograph No. 11, 142-214*
- Philpott, R., 1991 *Burial Practices in Roman Britain; A Study of Grave Treatment and Furnishing A.D. 43 – 410, Oxford: Brit. Archaeol. Rep. Brit. Ser. 219*
- Roberts, C. and Cox, M. 2003 *Health and Disease in Britain from Prehistory to the Present Day Sutton (Stroud)*

- Roberts, C. and Manchester K. 1997 *The Archaeology of Disease Sutton (Stroud)*
- Rogers, B., and Roddham, D., 1991 *The Excavations at Wellhead, Westbury 1959-66, Wilts. Archaeol. Mag. 84, 51-60*
- Rogers, J. and Waldron, T. 1995 *A field guide to Joint Disease in Archaeology Wiley (Chichester)*
- Stace, C, 1997, *New flora of the British Isles (2nd edition), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press*
- Stirland, A. 1984 'A possible correlation between *Os acromiale* and occupation in the burials from the *Mary Rose*. *Proceedings of the fifth European meeting of the Palaeopathology Association Siena. 327 – 334.*
- Trotter, M. and Gleser, G.C. 1952 'Estimation of stature from long bones of American whites and Negroes' *American Journal of Physical Anthropology 10(4): 463-514.*
- Trotter, M. and Gleser, G.C. 1958 'A re-evaluation of estimation of stature bases on measurements of stature taken during life and of long bones after death' *American J. Physical Anthropology 16(1): 79-123.*
- Tyrrell, A. 2000 *Skeletal non-metric traits and the assessment of inter- and intra-population diversity: past problems and future potential, in M. Cox and S. Mays (eds.) Human osteology in archaeology and forensic science GMM (London)*
- Waldron, T. 2002 'The human remains' in S. Davies, P.S. Bellamy, M.J. Heaton and P.J. Woodward *Excavations at Alington Avenue, Fordington, Dorchester, Dorset, 1984-87 Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society Mono. 15, 147-154*
- Wessex Archaeology 2009 *Warminster Community Centre, Pepper Place, Warminster, Wiltshire, Written Scheme of Investigation: Method Statement for an Archaeological Watching Brief Report Ref: 72501*

15 APPENDIX 1: FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL TABLES
Table 2: All finds by context

Context	Animal Bone	Worked Flint	Human Bone	Pottery	Other finds
101	18/175				
105	2/1	2/21		1/18	
106	1/1	1/6		1/1	1 stone
108	2/15			1/2	
110	12/122			1/3	16 iron; 1 eggshell
112		1/1		3/11	
113		1/2			
116	1/27			1/2	
120	9/72	1/3		9/52	
134	2/14		1 individual		114 iron
136	34/97			4/37	
138		1/3			
140	7/9			1/5	1 CBM
143				2/17	
146	10/150			9/115	
147	17/131	1/8		7/80	3 CBM
TOTALS	115/814	8/44	1 individual	40/343	

Table 3: Pottery by context

Context	Ware	Form	Broad Period	Period	Quantity	Weight	Additional Comments
105	Greyware		Roman		1	18	base frag; abraded
106	Greyware		Roman		1	1	
108	Greyware		Roman		1	2	
110	Greyware		Roman		1	3	
112	Samian	1 x form 35	Roman	Middle Roman	3	11	CG; probably C2nd AD
116	Greyware		Roman		1	2	
120	Greyware		Roman		9	52	
136	Greyware		Roman		4	37	
140	Greyware		Roman		1	5	
143	Greyware		Roman		2	17	joining
147	Samian		Roman	Middle Roman	2	8	joining; CG
147	savernake-type ware	bead-rimmed jar	Roman		1	37	
147	Greyware		Roman		4	35	
148	Greyware	1 x jar rim frag	Roman		9	115	

Table 4: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Samples				Flot								Residue	
Feature	Context	Sample	Litres	Flot (ml)	% roots	Grain	Chaff	Charred other	Seeds	Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Charcoal >4mm	Analysis
111	110	1	10	50	90	C	C	-	-	-/<1	-	-	No

Key:

A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5

16 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

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

Printable version

16.1 OASIS ID: wessexar1-87625

Project details

Project name Warminster Community Centre, Pepper Place, Warminster

Short description of the project Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Brymor Contractors Ltd on behalf of Aspire Defence Capital Works to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a new community centre on land at Pepper Place, Warminster, Wiltshire (hereafter the Site), centred on National Grid Reference 388540 145470. The work was required as a condition of planning consent issued by Wiltshire Council. The watching brief revealed a small number of features, the most notable being a grave containing a single inhumation burial. The shallow, sub-rectangular grave was oriented east to west and had cut through a Romano-British field drainage ditch and a number of tree throws. The grave contained a single elderly adult male, buried in a supine, extended position with the head to the west. Iron hobnails around the feet indicated hobnailed boots, and a fragment of iron pin may have been a clothes fastening. The hobnailed footwear and fragments of pottery date the burial to the late Romano-British period. A sample of bone from the skeleton was submitted for radiocarbon dating. The result confirmed the above findings, with a calibrated date of cal. AD 220-390, indicating a probable Middle to Late Romano-British or early 3rd to late 4th century AD date for the burial. A number of other features were identified, including three shallow, parallel and evenly spaced ditches running north to south, which are likely to represent field drainage, and a small storage pit which contained nails from a hobnailed boot, animal bone and a whole bird's egg. All these features date to the Romano-British period, with pottery sherds dating to the middle Romano-British period retrieved from two of the ditches.

Project dates Start: 10-09-2009 End: 25-11-2010

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project codes 72510.01 - Contracting Unit No. reference

Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	GRAVE Roman
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	HOB NAILS Roman
Significant Finds	IRON PIN Roman
Investigation type	'Part Excavation','Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE WEST WILTSHIRE WARMINSTER Warminster Community Centre, Pepper Place
Postcode	BA12 0BY
Study area	15000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	ST 887 456 51.2089777169 -2.161781724040 51 12 32 N 002 09 42 W Point

Project creators

Name Organisation	of Wessex Archaeology
Project originator	brief Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design Wessex Archaeology
 originator

Project director/manager N Truckle

Project supervisor Chloe Hunnisett

Type of Developer
 sponsor/funding
 body

Name of Aspire Defence Capital Works
 sponsor/funding
 body

Project archives

Physical Archive Wiltshire Heritage Museum
 recipient

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Human
 Bones','Metal','Worked stone/lithics'

Digital Archive Wiltshire Heritage Museum
 recipient

Digital Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Human
 Bones','Metal','Stratigraphic','Survey','Worked stone/lithics'

Digital available Media 'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Images
 vector','Survey','Text'

Paper Archive Wiltshire Heritage Museum
 recipient

Paper Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Human
 Bones','Metal','Stratigraphic','Survey','Worked stone/lithics'

Paper available Media 'Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Matrices','Notebook - Excavation','
 Research',' General
 Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey ','Unpublished
 Text'

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Warminster Community Centre, Pepper Place, Warminster

Author(s)/Editor(s) Hunnisett, C

Other bibliographic details 72510.01

Date 2010

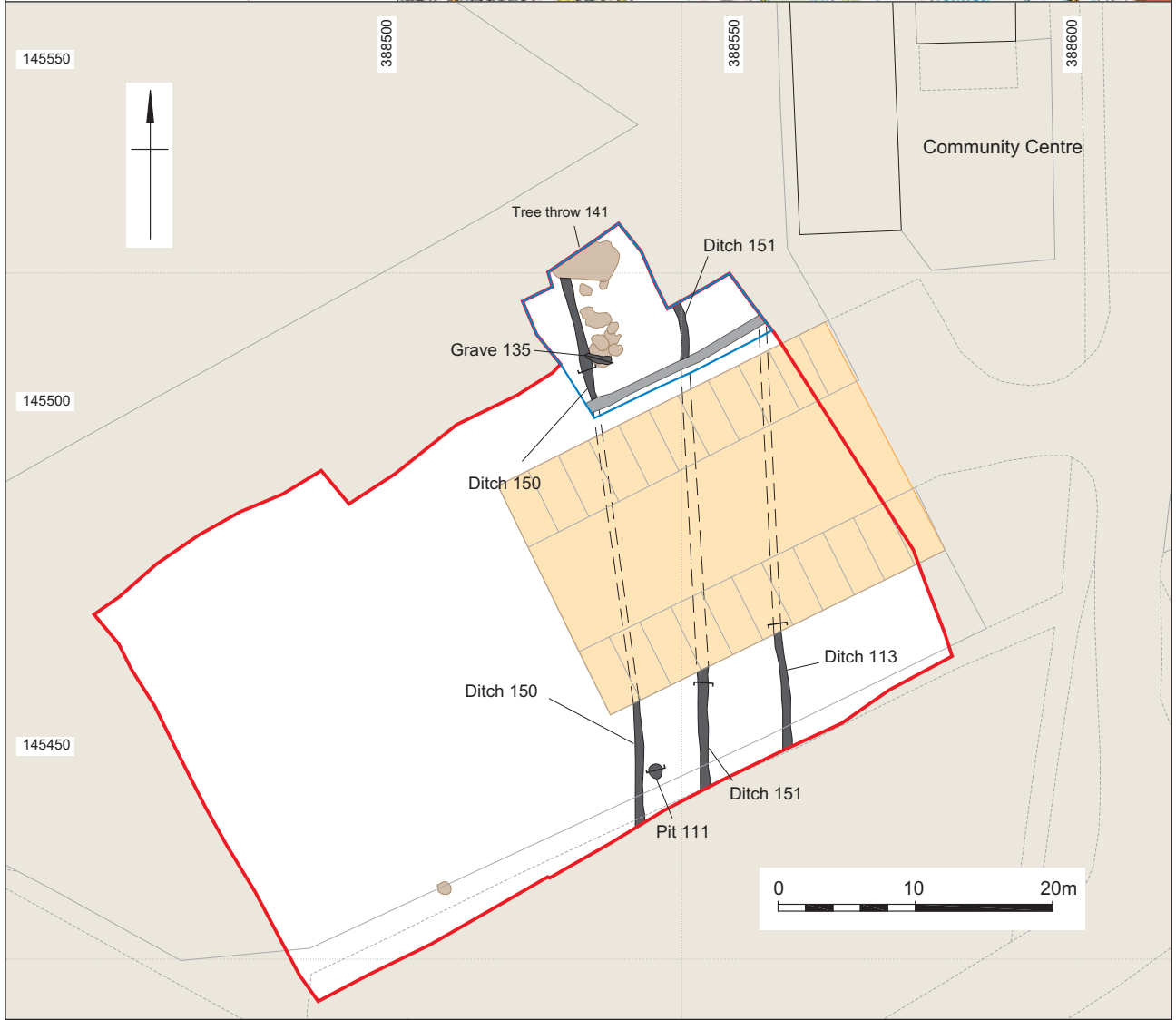
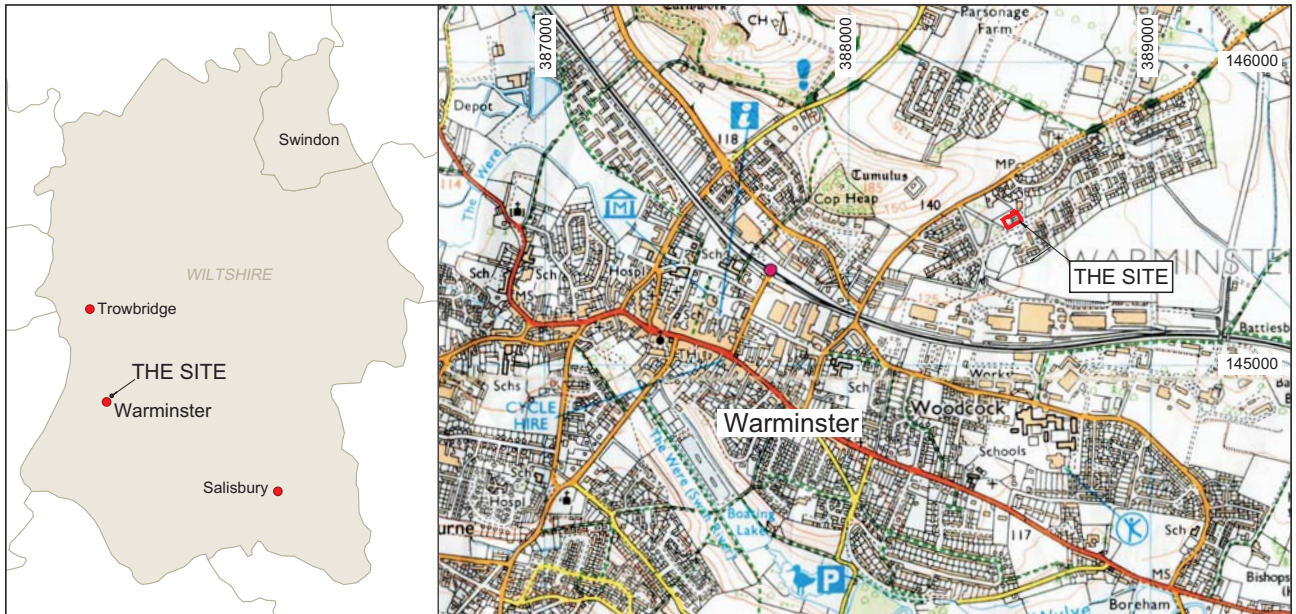
Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology

Place of issue or publication Salisbury

Description Grey literature client report

Entered by S Farr (s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk)

Entered on 25 November 2010



Area of watching brief	Disturbance
Area of excavation	Tree throw
Site of Garage	Section line
Romano-British feature	

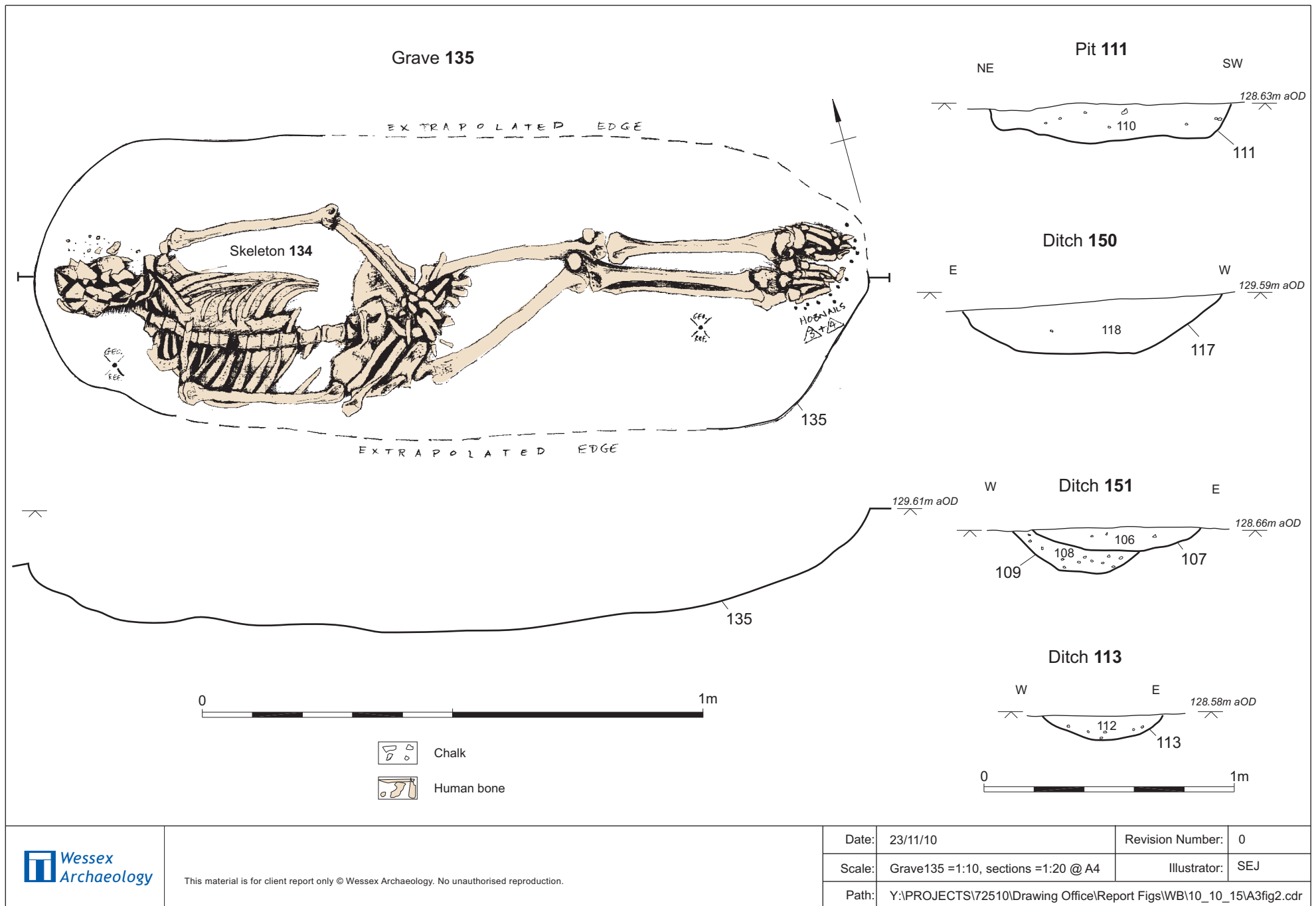
Wessex Archaeology

Reproduced from the 1998 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 Explorer® map with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright, Wessex Archaeology, Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire. SP4 6EB. Licence Number: 100028190. Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2010. All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020449. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Date:	18/10/10	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:25000 & 1:500@ A4	Illustrator:	SEJ
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\72510\Drawing Office\Report Figs\WB\10_15\57210_sitebase.dwg		

Site location plan showing all features

Figure 1



Plan and profile of Grave 135 and selected sections from the investigation

Figure 2



Plate 1: Remains of Skeleton 134 in Grave 135



Plate 2: Excavation area showing inter-cutting features including partially excavated Skeleton 134 in Grave 135, Ditch 150 and natural features

This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Date: 18/10/10

Revision Number: 0

Scale: N/A

Illustrator: SEJ

Path: Y:\PROJECTS\72510\Drawing Office\Report Figs\WB\10_10_15\A4_Plates 1&2.cdr



Plate 3: North facing section of Pit 111



Plate 4: Skeleton 134: buccal (cheek) view of left maxillary molars showing heavy and extensive calculus (calcified plaque) deposits

This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Date: 18/10/10

Revision Number: 0

Scale: N/A

Illustrator: SEJ

Path: Y:\PROJECTS\72510\Drawing Office\Report Figs\WB\10_10_15A4_Plates 3&4.cdr



Plate 5a



Plate 5b

Skeleton **134**: Left trapezium (carpal/hand bone) showing marked osteoarthritic changes [eburnation (polishing), modification of surface contours, pitting and marginal new bone] in the articular surfaces for the scaphoid (**a**) and 1st carpal/metacarpal joint (**b**)

This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Date: 18/10/10

Revision Number: 0

Scale: N/A

Illustrator: SEJ

Path: Y:\PROJECTS\72510\Drawing Office\Report Figs\WB\10_10_15\A4_Plates 5a&b.cdr

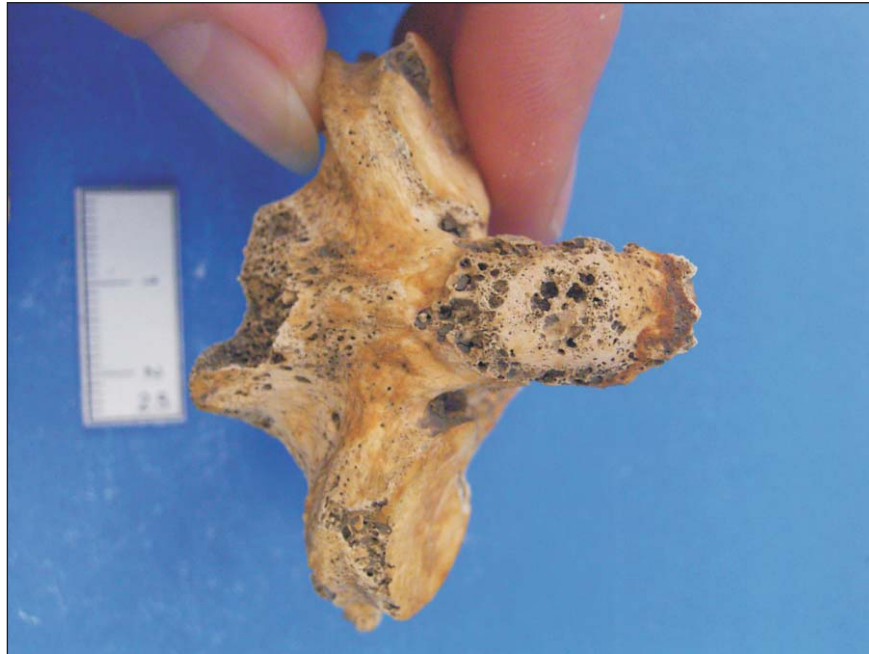


Plate 6: Skeleton 134: Marked osteoarthritic changes in the anterior facet of the axis (2nd cervical vertebra) odontoid process



Plate 7: Skeleton 134: Dorsal view of the skull showing extra ossicles in the lambdoid suture

This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Date: 18/10/10 Revision Number: 0

Scale: N/A Illustrator: SEJ

Path: Y:\PROJECTS\72510\Drawing Office\Report Figs\WB\10_10_15A4_Plates 6&7.cdr



WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.

Registered Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk

Regional offices in Edinburgh, Maidstone and Sheffield

For more information visit www.wessexarch.co.uk

