



Proposed Playing Field, Land South-East Of Amesbury, Wiltshire

Interim Report



**PROPOSED PLAYING FIELD
LAND SOUTH-EAST OF AMESBURY
WILTSHIRE**

Interim Archaeological Evaluation Report

**Prepared on behalf of
Persimmon Homes
and
Bloor Homes**

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Persimmon Homes and Bloor Homes to undertake a 2% trenched evaluation of a 6ha block of land, located to the south-west of the Archer School, Amesbury, Wiltshire and immediately to the west of Byway 20, centred on National Grid Reference 416200 140230.

This report contains the results of the evaluation, which is required to inform the determination of the planning application covering the proposed development. Due to the early requirement for a statement, this report comprises an interim statement of the results. This report will be updated and reissued, once all environmental assessment is complete.

The evaluation was intended to assess the archaeological potential of an area proposed for cricket and football pitches and associated pavilion and car-park. Considerable prehistoric and Romano-British archaeology has been recorded nearby during archaeological investigations including the nationally important 'Amesbury Archer'-an early Bronze Age burial and later Romano-British cemeteries, all of which have been discovered within 100m to the north.

The evaluation was undertaken between 31st July and 2nd August 2006. Eleven trenches, each 50m long and 1.8m wide were excavated.

Four main archaeological features were identified within three of the eleven trenches (Trenches **328**, **333** and **336**). The archaeological features comprised two pits (**32803** and **33604**), a section of a Wessex Linear (**33606**), and a large possible well/pit group **33318**, comprising a deep central pit **33304**, surrounded by shallower pits or scoops **33307**, **33309** and **33311**). Pottery from pit **32803** and pit/well **33304** dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age.

The significance of the identified features is their late prehistoric date. Very little activity from the Late Bronze Age and none from the Iron Age have been recorded within the boundaries of the development area.

Therefore, the results of the evaluation would suggest the presence of a previously unidentified focus of late prehistoric activity which, although possibly associated with the nearby Iron Age Southmill Hill settlement, is clearly distinct.

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Acknowledgements

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The fieldwork was carried out by Jamie Wright, Steve Legg and Sue Nelson. The report was prepared by Jamie Wright with contributions from Rachael Seager Smith (Finds). The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andy Manning.

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1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Persimmon Homes and Bloor Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation within land proposed for development as playing fields, pavilion and a car-park, centred on National Grid Reference 416200 140230 and hereafter referred to as 'the Site' (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 With the exception of two archaeological evaluation trenches, part of a previous evaluation of landscaping areas (Wessex Archaeology 2005a), the Site occupies land which has not been subject to archaeological evaluation. Archaeological fieldwork on land to the north-east, south-west and north of the Site has revealed significant prehistoric and Romano-British remains (Wessex Archaeology 2005a and 2005b).
- 1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation was intended to inform the impending determination of a detailed planning application, covering the proposed playing field complex.
- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation, containing the methodology and scope of the fieldwork, was prepared by Wessex Archaeology (2006) and approved by the Archaeological Section of Wiltshire County Council before the commencement of fieldwork.
- 1.1.5 This interim report is intended to present the initial results of the evaluation, to allow a rapid determination of the archaeological conditions to the planning application for the playing fields, which is due to be considered shortly. It is intended that once environmental material has been assessed, that an illustrated updated evaluation report will be issued.

1.2 Site location, use and geology

- 1.2.1 The proposed development of the 6ha Site comprises the construction of a cricket and two football pitches, with a small clubhouse and car-park. Two roads running from the northern and north-eastern edges of the Site provide access to the complex.
- 1.2.2 The Site occupies a notable plateau at a height of 107.50m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), which currently comprises rough grassland, overlying Upper Chalk of the Cretaceous period (Geological Survey 1976). The Site is bounded to the north-east by Byway 20 and by tree planting along the western edge of the Site.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.1.1 The 100ha development area at Boscombe Down has been the subject of numerous stages of archaeological assessment. This has comprised a desk-based assessment, evaluation and excavation. A detailed review is included in the report covering the results of the Phase V excavations (Wessex Archaeology 2005b).
- 2.1.2 The Boscombe Down site lies four kilometres to the southeast of Stonehenge, and is located just outside the edge of the UNESCO designated *Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site*, that contains over 450 archaeological monuments of national importance (Richards 1990).
- 2.1.3 To the south and east, the chalk downlands contain many monuments and sites from the prehistoric and Roman periods (Palmer 1984), including the enclosed Iron Age settlement at Boscombe Down West (Richardson 1951) and elements of the network of Wessex Linear Ditches which are thought to date to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age (Bradley *et al.* 1994).
- 2.1.4 A desk-based assessment (Wessex Archaeology 1993) identified over forty sites of archaeological interest within or close to the extended proposed development area, mostly recorded as cropmarks on aerial photographs.

2.2 Previous work

- 2.2.1 Fieldwork relevant to the evaluation includes:
- An aerial survey of the Boscombe Down site (RCHME 1994)
 - An archaeological strip and record of the proposed site of a new school and distributor road network in 2002 (Phase III excavations, Wessex Archaeology 2003)
 - In late 2004, archaeological trenched evaluation was undertaken within areas proposed for a new link road, spoil storage areas, drainage and landscaping areas (Wessex Archaeology 2005a).
 - The 2004 Phase V excavations, which were undertaken within the area to the north and north-east of the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2005b)
 - Recent strip, map and record archaeological fieldwork along the line of Byway 20.
- 2.2.2 A detailed aerial survey of the Boscombe Down site was carried out (RCHME 1994) in the early stages of a desk-based assessment (Wessex Archaeology 1993). The aerial survey identified two groups of linear features running across the Site, running north-east/south-west and approximately

10m apart. These features are likely to represent surviving traces ridge and furrow cultivation.

- 2.2.3 In addition, a large linear ditch, running north-west/south-east, was also identified, close to the western edge of the Site and which was later shown to be a Wessex Linear boundary, dating to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age.
- 2.2.4 In 2002, the strip and record on the site of the proposed new school and associated roads confirmed the presence of two Late Romano-British cemeteries. In addition, two Early Bronze Age burials were also identified, one of which (*'The Amesbury Archer'*) proved to be the richest Beaker burial excavated so far in Britain and a find of national importance.
- 2.2.5 In 2004, large-scale excavations over an area of approximately 13ha were undertaken within the area surrounding the school site, immediately to the north and northeast of Byway 20. These works included the strip and recording of large areas of the land to the north and northeast of the proposed haul road and which uncovered a significant number of Romano-British graves and prehistoric features, dating from the Middle Neolithic period. In particular, a pipe trench immediately to the southwest of Byway 20 uncovered a Romano-British cemetery (referred to as the 'Wessex Water Cemetery'), which was partially excavated.
- 2.2.6 In late 2004, as part of a wider archaeological evaluation, two 50m long evaluation trenches were located within landscaping, in the north-west and south-west corners of the Site (Trenches **323** and **324**, Wessex Archaeology 2005a).
- 2.2.7 Both trenches identified a large boundary ditch, at least 3.4m in width and up to 1.3m in depth. Although undated, this boundary ditch is part of the Wessex Linear noted from the RCHME aerial survey. In addition, Trench **323** uncovered a single pit, 0.5m in diameter and 0.45m in depth, which contained Beaker pottery and worked flint. A large number of similar Early Bronze Age features were uncovered within the Phase V excavation, to the north-west.
- 2.2.8 Recent work in September and October 2006, along the line of the Byway 20, identified additional burials associated with the 'Wessex Water Cemetery' cemetery. Archaeological investigations have yet to establish the south-western limits of the 'Wessex Water Cemetery', although the results from two trenches cut during the initial Phase V excavation strongly suggests that the cemetery does not significantly extend far beyond the limits of the 2004 excavations.

3 AIMS OF THE FIELDWORK PROGRAMME

3.1 Objectives

3.1.1 The objectives of the proposed evaluation were to;

- To investigate and establish the extent, date, character and significance of archaeological features and deposits within the evaluation area.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The Evaluation was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 1999).

4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 The field work was undertaken between 20 and 24 November 2006.

4.2.2 A 2% sample of the 5.8ha Site, equivalent to thirteen 50m by 1.8m trenches was proposed. Taking into the account two previously excavated trenches, eleven trenches were excavated, each 50m by 1.8m in size.

4.2.3 All trenches were stripped using a tracked mechanical excavator, under constant archaeological supervision. All overburden was removed to the top of the natural chalk geology or the top of the archaeological deposits, whichever was higher.

4.2.4 All recording was on Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* sheets in accordance with Wessex Archaeology guidelines for fieldwork recording. A full photographic record was kept comprising black and white negatives, colour transparencies and digital images. All site drawings were at an appropriate scale, typically 1:10 for sections and 1:20 for plans.

4.2.5 The location of the trenches was surveyed by total station and tied into the OS National Grid.

4.2.6 Bulk environmental samples of at least 10 litres were taken from well-sealed and dated features following Wessex Archaeology's standard Environmental and Artefact sampling policy.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Context numbers were trench specific and consisted of the trench number followed by two digits, so that e.g. context **32602** is located in Trench **326** and **33608** from Trench 336. The **Appendix** summarises the Trench and Context Record Sheets.

5.2 Archaeological features

- 5.2.1 Four main archaeological features were identified within three of the eleven trenches (Trenches **328**, **333** and **336**). The archaeological features comprised two pits, a large possible well/pit group and a section of a Wessex Linear (**Figure 1**). One of the pits (**32803**) and the deep central pit/well (**33304**) within a pit group (**33318**) produced dating evidence for Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity, however the remaining pit is likely to be of a prehistoric date and the Wessex Linears are broadly dated to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age.

Trench 333 Pit/well group 33318

- 5.2.2 The trench was extended to expose the whole of this feature, which comprised a slightly irregular oval pit **33304**, measuring 3.0m by 5.1m. Excavation in the western quadrant, the sides of the pit descended vertically for 0.5m and then formed a 0.5m wide roughly horizontal ‘shelf’ before again descending nearly vertically. The pit was excavated to a depth of 1.1m and augering suggested that this continued for a further 0.4m, to make a total depth of least 1.5m below the level of machining (**Figure 2**). This depth is believed to be consistent with the slumping, described below.
- 5.2.3 During excavation there was little difference in the soils, but badly degraded ridges of chalk suggested that the ‘shelf’ at the edge of the deep pit may have been formed by the excavation of a series of pits or shallow scoops (**33307**, **33309** and **33311**), although the relationship between the outer pits and main pit (**33304**) is unclear. The shallow oval pit **33309** measured 1m by 1.2m and was 0.5m deep. The fill **33310** contained flint and chalk stones with some animal bone, especially in its middle. None of the fills of these shallow fringing pits could be distinguished during excavation and the pits were only identified when the degraded chalk was reached around their edges.
- 5.2.4 Within the main pit **33304**, the lowest exposed fill, **33317**, occupied much of the vertical shaft. This comprised alternating bands of dark brown relatively stone free silty clay and lenses of small chalk stones and powdered chalk. These layers and lenses slumped to the centre, but not steeply. The shallow angle of slumping is consistent with a relatively shallow, rather than a very deep, central shaft. A small number of pottery sherds were recovered and a bulk sample of apparently charcoal rich material was retained.
- 5.2.5 Overlying fill **33317** was fill **33316**, a greyish brown silty clay. With a maximum thickness of 0.25m this too occupied the central, vertical part of

the cut, and slumped towards its centre. It contained pottery and some worked flint.

- 5.2.6 Above fill **33316** was fill **33306**. With a thickness of 0.2m this was more horizontal and showed only slight signs of slumping. Its dark greyish brown colour contrasted with the paler other fills. The pottery, burnt and worked flint and animal bone recovered suggested occupational debris. A bulk sample was taken to investigate whether comminuted charcoal contributed to the dark colour of this fill. The topmost fill, **33305**, contained a similar range of artefacts to fill **33306** but a whole cattle skull and an antler were also recovered.

Trench 336 Ditch 33606

- 5.2.7 This section of the Wessex Linear had already been identified from aerial photography (RCHME 1994), had been exposed and excavated *c.* 100m to both the east and west during the previous evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2005a). Accordingly it was not fully sectioned and the north-east half was excavated to a depth of 1.2m depth, enough to confirm its identity.

- 5.2.8 The Wessex Linear was 3.2m in width, the exposed edge sloped downwards at *c.* 45° until 0.8m below the level of machining then becoming much steeper. A primary fill, **33607**, with much sub-rounded chalk was sealed by fill **33608**, which was also stony, but predominantly flint and not chalk. Overlying this, the uppermost fill, **33609**, was relatively stone free and had a maximum depth of 0.35m. No artefacts were recovered.

Trench 336 Pit 33604

- 5.2.9 This shallow oval feature continued to the south-east of the trench but measured 2.2m by an estimated 1.7m and was 0.25m deep. The only fill, **33605**, was dark brown in colour and contained a substantial quantity of burnt flint (*c.* 15 litres), much of which comprised fist sized pieces, some of which possibly had been worked before being burnt. A lens of very dark material was retained as a bulk sample.

Trench 328 Pit 32803

- 5.2.10 Located approximately 75m from the pit/well group 33318, this oval pit measured 1.82m by 1.25m and was 0.47m deep. It had a flat base and sides that were very steep near the base becoming shallower to the top, presumably the result of weathering while the pit as in use or recently abandoned.
- 5.2.11 The lower of the two fills, **32805** was a reddish brown silty clay. It was 0.25m deep in the centre of the pit becoming deeper at the pit's sides. Two small sherds of Early Iron Age pottery, some animal bone and struck flint were recovered. The upper fill **32804** had a similar colour and texture but contained large flints; this possibly represented deliberate backfilling. No artefacts were present in this fill. Two tree throw (**32806** and **32808**) were located within the trench, the fill of one, **32806**, produced a flint hammerstone of a broad prehistoric date.

6 FINDS

6.1.1 Finds were recovered from six trenches (**326-329**, **333** and **336**). All have been cleaned, marked and quantified (number and weight of pieces) by material type within each context (**Table 1**). The finds have also been rapidly scanned to establish the potential date range, nature and condition of the material.

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

Context	Context type	Animal bone		Burnt flint		Flint		Pottery	
		No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt(g)
32600	Unstratified			2	36	2	46		
32701	Topsoil					3	87		
32805	Fill of pit 32803	4	49			6	608	2	48
32809	Fill of tree throw 32806			1	36	11	461	1	2
32904	Fill of tree throw 32903			2	116	17	152		
33301	Topsoil							3	14
33305	Fill of pit 33304	74	867	348	24	5	557	28	149
33306	Fill of pit 33304	24	592	47	302	33	285	26	260
33308	Fill of pit/scoop 33307	9	80	1	71	2	44	8	10
33310	Fill of pit/scoop 33309	33	149	2	90	5	67	10	73
33313	Fill of pit/scoop 33311	8	5	1	4	1	5	8	78
33315	Fill of pit/scoop 33311	2	1					1	10
33316	Fill of pit 33304	1	1					1	2
33605	Fill of pit 33604			3	13400	56	63		
Total:		155	1744	407	14079	141	2375	88	646

6.1.2 The animal bone survived in a relatively poor condition, typical of the material from the wider Boscombe Down development area. Initial inspection indicates the presence of at least 13 identifiable bones from mature cattle, including a semi-complete skull from the uppermost fill of pit **33304**; part of a shed antler from a red deer was also found in this context. The ten sheep/goat bones included one charred fragment and were from both adult and subadult animals. Pigs were not represented at all.

6.1.3 Pieces of unworked burnt flint were found in eight of the excavated contexts, with the greatest concentration from the upper fills of pit **33604** (**Table 1**). Although intrinsically undatable, burnt flint is but is usually interpreted as indicative of prehistoric activity although here it was generally associated with nearby features containing pottery of a Late Bronze/Early Iron Age date. After initial quantification, all the burnt flint was discarded.

6.1.4 The worked flint was generally grey in colour with a white cortex and was probably obtained locally from the Upper Chalk. The condition of the assemblage varied, including relatively fresh as well as heavily patinated pieces. With the exception of a hammerstone from the fill of tree hollow 32806, no tools were recognized, the bulk of the assemblage consisting of

broad, fat flakes produced by hard hammer techniques. Although not chronologically diagnostic, this material would not be out of place within the Late Bronze Age to Early/Middle Iron Age period.

- 6.1.5 The pottery provided the only dating evidence for this evaluation. The main fabric types consisted of fine sandy wares and a range of sand with flint tempered wares. Vessel forms were comparatively scarce but among the fine sandy sherds, pieces from at least two, possibly three furrowed bowls (one red-surfaced and represented by c. 20%) as well as sherds with broad burnished line decoration, all from pit **33304**, suggest a date in the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age period, broadly from the 8th – 6th centuries BC. Flat jar bases and sherds with finger-tip/nail impressed decoration, also diagnostic of this period, were noted on one or two of the coarser, sand with flint tempered sherds. This is the first time pottery of this period has been found within the wider Boscombe Down development area.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Conclusions

- 7.1.1 The evaluation identified a small but significant number of archaeological features, comprising pits, a section of a known Wessex Linear and a pit/well group, with material which dates to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age.
- 7.1.2 The significance of the identified features is their possible late prehistoric date. Very little activity from the Late Bronze Age and none from the Iron Age have been recorded within the boundaries of the development area. The rare evidence for activity is restricted to the network of Wessex Linear ditches, which cross the northern and western fringes of the development area and a small short-lived Middle/Late Bronze Age settlement, which occupied the south-eastern edge of the plateau.
- 7.1.3 While the substantial Iron Age settlement at Southmill Hill only lies approximately 400m to the north of the Site, the condition and quantity of the pottery recovered from the well/ pit **33304** would seem to preclude the possibility that this material has simply been transported by ploughing or other means into the Site.
- 7.1.4 Therefore, the results of the evaluation would suggest the presence of a previously unidentified focus of late prehistoric activity which, although possibly associated with the Southmill Hill settlement, is clearly distinct.
- 7.1.5 The nature of this late prehistoric activity is not clear. The main pit (**33304**) within the well/pit group **33318** could only be augered to a depth of approximately 1.5m (approximately 2m below the present ground surface). It remains possible that this pit may be deeper, and a function as a well or ritual shaft- acting as a focus for ritual activity- can not be discounted.

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APPENDIX

TRENCH 326

NGR	416211.3, 140351.7, 106.0	416226.2, 140401.4, 106.0
Dimensions	Length 52.6, Width 2.2, Max. depth 0.30 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
32601	Topsoil: Dark brown with sparse to rare subangular chalk and some flint.	0 – 0.24
32602	Natural. Natural chalk with some periglacial ‘tiger’ stripping.	>0.24

TRENCH 327

NGR	4162223.3, 140347.9, 106.4	416229.7, 140298.1, 106.9
Dimensions	Length 50.3, Width 2.2, Max. depth 0.30 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
32701	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty loam with angular to sub-rounded flint and rounded chalk	0 – 0.27
32702	Natural. Natural chalk with little or no periglacial ‘tiger’ stripping. Chalk not in bedding plains and was mostly small blocks, randomly oriented.	>0.27

TRENCH 328

NGR	416275.5, 140224.5, 107.5	416308.9, 140260.6, 107.9
Dimensions	Length 49.2, Width 2.0, Max. depth 0.33 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
32801	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown with flint and chalk inclusions.	0 – 0.30
32802	Natural. Weathered chalk with flints.	>0.30
32803	Pit: An oval of 1.90m by 1.25m and 0.47m depth. Steep slightly stepped sides.	0.30 – 0.87
23804	Fill of pit: A reddish brown silty clay containing flint and chalk fragments. Upper fill.	0.30 – 0.50
23805	Fill of pit: A reddish brown silty clay containing moderate quantities of chalk and flint. Pottery, animal bone and struck flint present.	0.50 – 0.87
23806	Tree hollow: Irregular, roughly circular shape, measuring 0.65m by 0.58m. Irregular sides leading to a roughly flat base at 0.13m depth.	0.30 – 0.43
23807	Fill of tree hollow: A reddish brown silty clay with flint nodules and fragments. The nodules were thought to be post packing but excavation showed this was not so.	0.30 – 0.43
23808	Tree hollow: An irregular very roughly oval shape with steep irregular sides measuring 0.94m by 0.65m and 0.26m deep.	0.30 – 0.56
23809	Fill of tree hollow: A reddish brown silty clay with flint and chalk inclusions. Produced burnt and struck flint and a sherd of pottery.	0.30 – 0.56

TRENCH 329

NGR	416177.9, 140128.4, 107.0	416127.9, 140120.4, 106.6
Dimensions	Length 50.6, Width 2.0, Max. depth 0.34 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
32901	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown clay loam with common small angular flint. Very common roots to 60mm depth and frequent below that. Sharp lower boundary.	0 – 0.21
32902	Natural. Heavily weathered chalk. ‘Tiger’ stripes through out to trench and the chalk not laminated but as medium, randomly oriented blocks with chalk dust fills voids. Occasional bands of flint nodules.	>0.21
32903	Tree hollow: A rough oval of 1.2m by >1.2m (extended to E of trench). Was deep but had irregular shape with root tunnels extending into natural.	0.21 – 0.65
23904	Fill of tree hollow: Dark brown silty clay containing common angular flint. Looked like decalcified chalk, and old. Worked flint only on surface.	
	A second tree hollow was excavated but not recorded. Had very compact fill, suggesting antiquity.	

TRENCH 330

NGR	416139.0, 140179.6, 106.9	416183.2, 140205.7, 107.3
Dimensions	Length 51.3, Width 2.0, Max. depth 0.35 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
33001	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay with flint and chalk inclusions.	0 – 0.23
33002	Natural. Natural chalk with bands of flint nodules and some periglacial 'tiger' striping.	>0.23

TRENCH 331

NGR	416208.9, 140157.9, 107.4	416236.3, 140132.9, 107.1
Dimensions	Length 50.8, Width 2.3, Max. depth 0.44 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
33101	Topsoil: Mid to dark brown silty clay with rare subangular flint and chalk inclusions.	0 – 0.15
33102	Subsoil: Pale orange brown silty clay with moderately common chalk fragments	0.15 – 0.19
33103	Natural. Natural chalk with bands of flint nodules and some periglacial 'tiger' striping.	>0.19

TRENCH 332

NGR	416268.3, 140180.4, 107.3	416240.6, 140223.0, 107.3
Dimensions	Length 50.7, Width 2.0, Max. depth 0.41 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
33201	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty loam with rare subangular flint and chalk inclusions.	0 – 0.22
33202	Natural. Natural off white chalk with bands of flint nodules and some pale yellowish brown periglacial 'tiger' striping.	>0.22

TRENCH 333

NGR	416193.8, 140282.3, 106.8	416222.4, 140239.1, 107.2
Dimensions	Length 51.8, Width 1.9, Max. depth 0.40 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
33301	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with occasional subangular flint and rare chalk inclusions. Under turf, compact and with clear lower boundary.	0 – 0.32
33302	Periglacially modified chalk. Yellowish brown silty clay loam containing some flints. Chalk fragments towards the base. .	0.32 – 0.39
33303	Natural: Chalk with periglacial striping. The striping had joined causing layer 33302 above.	>0.39
33304	Segment of pit: Quadrant measuring 1.7m by 1.6m excavated through the W of 33318 . Not bottomed but augered to further 0.4m.	0.39 – 1. 1.49
33305	Fill of 3304: Greyish brown silty clay with flint inclusions. The final fill, possibly formed after subsidence.	0.39 – 0.63
33306	Fill of 3304: A dark greyish brown silty clay containing rare angular flints	0.63 – 0.80
33307	Scoop: A shallow scoop or pit in the E of 33318 . Measured 1.1m by 0.6 by 0.2m deep.	0.32 – 0.52
33308	Layer: A brown silty clay with some chalk and flint inclusions. It overlay/formed fill of scoops 33307 , 33309 and 33311 .	0.32 – 0.52
33309	Scoop: A circular or oval shape of which 1.0 by 0.5m was exposed. It had a slightly concave base. Before excavation this formed a bulge from the outline of 33318 .	0.32 – 0.82
33310	Fill of 33309: A dark brown silty clay with a cluster of flint nodules in the centre.	0.32 – 0.82
33311	Scoop: The third oval shaped, shallow concave based scoop in the E of 33318 .	0.32 – 0.72
33312	Fill of 33311: A pale brown silty clay degraded chalk forming the primary fill of a scoop.	0.64 – 0.72
33313	Fill of 33311: Brown silty clay filling much of what was exposed of the scoop.	0.42 - 0.64
33314	Not used	
33315	Fill of 33311: Very similar to 33313 but separated from it by degraded chalk.	0.39 – 0.42
33316	Fill of 33304: A greyish brown silty clay with rare flint and chalk inclusions. It filled the top of the vertical shaft of the pit.	
33317	Fill of 33304: Consisted of a succession of lenses of fairly stone free dark brown silty clay and calcareous degraded and solid chalk. The stone free lenses were loose and not worm sorted.	

33318	Pit: Group number given to what may be one vertical sided pit of c. 1.8 m depth surrounded by a 0.5m wide shelf, comprised of separate scoops but with common fills.	
A 4.8m by 5.8m extension was excavated fully to expose Group 33318 .		

TRENCH 334

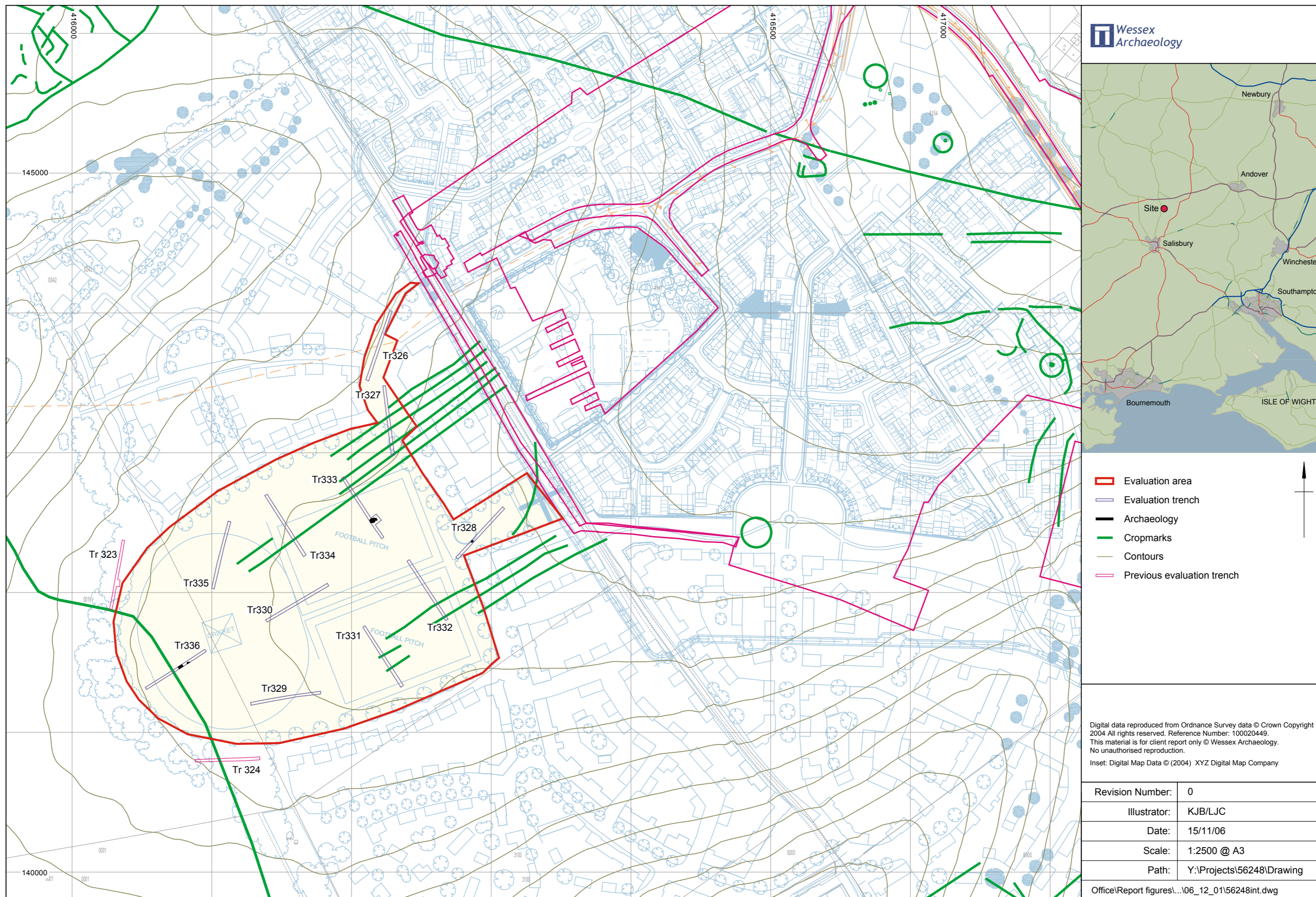
NGR	416166.6, 140226.3, 107.1	416138.8, 140269.8, 106.6
Dimensions	Length 51.7, Width 1.9, Max. depth 0.38 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
33401	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty loam with subangular flint and chalk inclusions.	0 – 0.25
33402	Natural. Chalk with bands of flint nodules and some pinkish brown periglacial 'tiger' striping.	>0.25

TRENCH 335

NGR	416100.8, 140202.8, 106.6	416112.7, 140250.8, 106.6
Dimensions	Length 51.7, Width 1.9, Max. depth 0.38 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
33501	Topsoil: Dark brown silty loam with subangular flint and chalk inclusions.	0 – 0.18
33502	Natural. Chalk with bands of flint nodules and some periglacial 'tiger' striping.	>0.18

TRENCH 336

NGR	416095.5, 140158.6, 106.6	416052.9, 140131.4, 106.0
Dimensions	Length 50.6, Width 1.9, Max. depth 0.38 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
33601	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty loam with subangular flint and chalk inclusions. Compact and with a clear lower boundary.	0 – 0.21
33602	Subsoil: Dark yellowish brown silty loam. Rare small stones and an unclear lower boundary.	0.21 – 0.23
33603	Natural. Chalk with periglacial 'tiger' striping.	>0.23
33604	Shallow pit: A roughly oval pit that extended to SE of the trench. Its exposed dimensions were 2.24m by 0.94m and it was 0.25m deep. Although shallow the cut was not irregular and there were no root holes evident. No scorching of the natural.	0.23 – 0.48
33605	Fill of 33604: A dark brown silty clay loam containing frequent large flints. Much burnt flint was present. The only fill.	0.23 – 0.48
33606	Ditch: A 3.49m wide ditch intersected at right angle by the trench. The sides sloped at c. 45° at the top but became much steeper below 0.8m depth, suggesting the original cut was very steep but had weathered considerably.	0.21 - >1.41
33607	Fill of 33606: A very stony fill, mostly of chalk fragments <50mm. Primary fill.	1.05 – 1.41
33608	Fill of 33606: A pale greyish brown silty clay. Relatively stoneless although a distinct band of slumped stones was present towards the top of the fill.	0.72 - 1.05
33609	Fill of 33606: A greyish brown silty clay with rare stones. Less compact than 33608 below and far fewer inclusions.	0.23 – 0.72



Site and trench locations

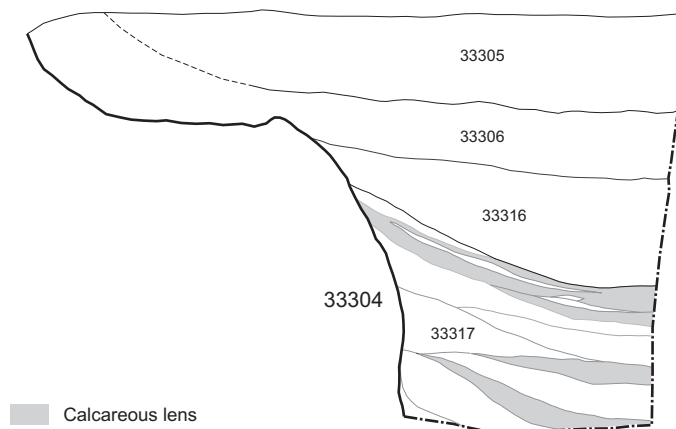
Figure 1

NW



SE

106.90m OD



Calcareous lens



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Date: 01/12/06

Revision Number: 0

Scale: 1:20 @ A4

Illustrator: LJC

Path: Y:\PROJECTS\Drawing Office\Report Figs\106_12_01\A4 fig02.cdr

South-west facing section of pit segment 33304 and photograph of pit group 33318 from north-east before excavation

Figure 2



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