

## MOD Headquarters, High Street, Durrington Wiltshire

### Archaeological Evaluation Report





**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](mailto:info@wessexarch.co.uk)

Regional offices in **Edinburgh, Rochester and Sheffield**

For more information visit [www.wessexarch.co.uk](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk)





**MOD HEADQUARTERS, HIGH STREET, DURRINGTON  
WILTSHIRE**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report (Phase 2)**

Prepared for:  
**Persimmon Homes (South Coast) Ltd**  
100 Wickham Road  
Fareham  
Hants  
PO16 7TH

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

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# MOD HEADQUARTERS, HIGH STREET, DURRINGTON WILTSHIRE

## Archaeological Evaluation Report (Phase 2)

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## **MOD HEADQUARTERS, HIGH STREET, DURRINGTON WILTSHIRE**

### **Archaeological Evaluation Report (Phase 2)**

#### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Persimmon Homes (South Coast) Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land which was formerly the MOD Headquarters complex, located in Durrington, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference NGR 415400 144700.

A small portion of the MOD Headquarters was initially evaluated in 2006 which identified a significant concentration of Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement within the northwest section of the site. The Phase 2 evaluation was intended to clarify the extent and nature of these archaeological remains, to evaluate other areas which had been previously inaccessible and to inform discussions as the extent and nature of subsequent archaeological mitigation.

The Phase 2 evaluation was carried out in July and August 2010 and the results confirmed that the MOD Site contains significant concentrations of archaeological features, finds and deposits dating to the Early Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval periods. The evaluation was able to clarify the nature of the settlement activity in the northwest corner of the site which was found to be enclosed by a significantly large enclosure ditch up to eight metres in width and four metres in depth. A possible continuation of this enclosure ditch was traced across the site and into the southeast corner of the development area, although access issues severely restricted the area available for evaluation.

A pit containing a single Early Bronze Age vessel containing cremated human remains was identified within the southwestern corner of the site. However, the majority of the identified features dated to the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British and Late Romano-British periods. Although no post-built structures were identified, large numbers of pits/postholes and possible sub-enclosure or boundary ditches were found and comprise an area of significant archaeological importance.

The initial investigation of sections through the large enclosure ditch did not recovered any dateable material from the primary fills, however finds from the upper fills suggest that a substantial part of the ditch was open in the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British period which indicates a potential Late Iron Age date for the construction of the ditch.

The full extent of this enclosure ditch, and thus the general size of the associated settlement area, is unclear although the enclosed settlement is likely to cover a large part of the northern half of the Site (at least 1-2ha) and clearly extends well beyond the site's northern limit to form a very substantial settlement.

The size and nature of the enclosure ditch, the known multi-period occupation and the likely large size of the enclosed settlement appears to be broadly similar to the 9ha enclosed settlement at Figheledean which is located 2km to the north of the site.

## **MOD HEADQUARTERS, HIGH STREET, DURRINGTON WILTSHIRE**

### **Archaeological Evaluation Report (Phase 2)**

#### **Acknowledgements**

This project was commissioned by Persimmon Homes (South Coast) Ltd and Wessex Archaeology is grateful for the help and support of Stuart Benfield and Russell Brewer during the course of this project.

The project was monitored by Clare King (Wiltshire Council Archaeological Service) on behalf of Wiltshire Council and Wessex Archaeology acknowledges her help, advice and support during the course of the evaluation.

The fieldwork was directed in the field by Bob Davis with the assistance of Dave Murdie, Kimberley Teale and Steven Tatler. The reporting was undertaken by Bob Davis and Andy Manning, with post-excavation undertaken by Rachael Seager Smith (Pottery and general finds), Lorrain Higbee (Animal bone), Jon Kaines (environmental sample processing), Sarah F. Wyles and Chris Stevens (Snails, Charred Plant Remains and Wood Charcoal). Report illustrations were by Linda Coleman and Kitty Brandon. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andy Manning.

## MOD HEADQUARTERS, HIGH STREET, DURRINGTON WILTSHIRE

### Interim statement of Archaeological Evaluation

#### 1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Persimmon Homes (South Coast) Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation on a 5.4ha block of land which was formerly the MOD Headquarters complex, located in Durrington, Wiltshire, hereafter referred to as 'the Site'. The Site is centred on National Grid Reference NGR 415400 144700 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The former MOD Headquarters Site has been the subject of a planning application for the development of residential housing. Before the determination of the outline planning application, a limited programme of archaeological evaluation (Phase 1) was undertaken in 2006, which identified that the Site contained significant evidence of archaeological activity. The planning application (Planning Application S/2006/1698/OL) was subsequently approved, subject to two archaeological conditions:
- **Number 16:** requiring *'the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority'* and
  - **Number 25:** In order to protect the existing archaeological remains the condition requires that *'no excavation below 50cm in depth shall take place on the area of land north of the new main access road unless in accordance with details submitted in relation to condition 25 or otherwise agreed in writing with the local planning authority'*.
- 1.1.3 In June 2010, the developers (Persimmon Homes (South Coast) Ltd) made a Reserved Matters application to remove Condition 25 to enable excavation to exceed the 0.5m depth limit.
- 1.1.4 Following discussions with Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service (WCAS) (advisor to the Local Planning Authority) and given the unclear nature and extent of the archaeological remains within the Site, WCAS requested that an additional evaluation (Phase 2) was carried out within the proposed development area to clarify the extent and nature of the archaeological remains present and to inform discussion as to the nature and scope of subsequent archaeological mitigation, if required.
- 1.1.5 A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced and submitted to WCAS for approval before the commencement of the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2010). The Phase 2 evaluation was carried out in late July and early August 2010.
- 1.1.6 The archaeological mitigation of the Site (Phases 3 and 4) commenced in late August 2010 and is due to finish in early March 2011.



- 1.1.7 Due to the early need to commence the mitigation works, an interim evaluation statement was produced at the request of the Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire to give an initial indication of the results of the Phase 2 evaluation. This report comprises the full updated evaluation report and contains the fieldwork results and quantification and assessment of the finds and environmental samples.

## **2 THE SITE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 The Site**

- 2.1.1 The Site is located on the northwestern edge of the village of Durrington in Wiltshire (**Figure 1**). It measures just over 4ha. The eastern part of the Site fronts onto the High Street of the village and buildings here were used for office, storage and industrial purposes. To the rear are car parking areas, allotments and a paddock, the western edge of which fronts onto the A345 Netheravon Road.

- 2.1.2 To the north of the MOD land, an additional piece of land to the rear (east) of a private dwelling forms part of the Site.

### **2.2 Topography, geology and hydrology**

- 2.2.1 The area surrounding Durrington is characterised as 'Upper Chalk'. The Site lies at c. 82m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in a meander of the valley of the River Avon.

- 2.2.2 The basal geology of the area is mapped as rolling Upper Chalk downland typical of Salisbury Plain. The downland is bisected here by the meandering course of the River Avon, the valley of which contains Valley Gravel and alluvium. The immediate vicinity of the Site is mapped as River and Valley Gravels.

- 2.2.3 The soils are mainly brown rendzinas over the Upper Chalk, with typical calcareous brown earths over alluvium and flinty subsoils within the Avon Valley.

### **2.3 Archaeological background**

- 2.3.1 The MOD Site has been the subject of a Desk Based Assessment (DBA) (Wessex Archaeology 2004). There is considerable evidence for prehistoric activity across much of Salisbury Plain, including funerary monuments, settlements and field systems. The Avon Valley represents a key north-south transit route across the Plain, and is consequently a focus of this activity.

- 2.3.2 Neolithic and Bronze Age material is predominantly represented by burial monuments and stray finds. Neolithic long barrows are present on the slopes of the valleys within the Plain, and Bronze Age round barrows are found on the floodplain gravels and on the adjacent terraces. Most major settlement sites of these periods have been identified on the higher ground rather than within the floodplain.

- 2.3.3 The modern parish of Durrington contains the sites of two very significant Neolithic monuments; the great henge at Durrington Walls (Wainwright and

Longworth 1971) and to the south of this the more enigmatic site of Woodhenge. Evidence of contemporary activity including flint working and quarrying has been found to the north of here (Cleal *et al* 2004). Bronze Age activity in the form of barrows and a large ditch has also been recorded at two later Iron Age/Romano-British settlement sites at the Packway Enclosure and Figheldean to the north of the great henge (**Figure 1**).

- 2.3.4 The Packway Enclosure lies approximately 600m to the south of the Site. This site was partly investigated in 1968 during the works on Durrington Walls and again in 1991 during the laying of a gas pipeline (Graham and Newman 1993). The steep 'v'-sided enclosure ditch which forms the trapezoidal-shaped enclosure is at least 3.5m in width and up to 2m in depth and encloses an approximate area of 0.5ha. The interior of the enclosure appears to have been heavily truncated by later ploughing, although material collected from the few remaining features and the ditch itself indicates that the enclosure is likely to have been constructed and occupied in the Late Iron Age.
- 2.3.5 A second nearby enclosed settlement and a Romano-British villa are located to the north of Durrington village at Figheldean, approximately 2km to the north of the Site. The substantial trapezoidal-shaped enclosure has been only partially investigated but appears to cover an area of approximately 9ha with the enclosure ditch measured at least 7m wide and up to 3m in depth. The enclosure appears to date to the Late Iron Age with occupation in the Late Iron Age/early Romano-British period and Late Romano-British period (Graham and Newman 1993; McKinley 1999).
- 2.3.6 Although the DBA identified no known archaeological sites and finds within the Site, the significant levels of prehistoric and Romano-British activity within the immediate vicinity indicated strong potential for the presence of archaeological remains within the Site.
- 2.3.7 In 2006, an initial evaluation of the Site (Phase 1) was undertaken (a total of 12 trenches forming an approximately 2% sample of the Site), which due to access/standing buildings restrictions was largely restricted to the middle of the Site (Trenches 1-12, **Figure 1**) (Wessex Archaeology 2006).
- 2.3.8 Potential Iron Age and Romano-British pits and ditches, together with evidence of a possible Late Glacial Allerod deposit were identified within five trenches (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 12) in the northern section of the Site. A small number of short trenches (Trenches 8, 9 and 10) in the eastern half of the Site appear to indicate deep modern made ground deposits with no evidence of archaeological features.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Aims and objectives**

- 3.1.1 The objectives of the Phase 2 archaeological evaluation was to;
- Locate, identify, investigate and record the presence/absence of archaeological features or deposits,

- If significant archaeological features or deposits are located, then the evaluation would establish, where possible, the extent, date, character, relationship, condition and significance of archaeological features, artefacts and deposits within the area impacted, and
- To inform the scope and nature of any requirements for potential future mitigation.

3.1.2 In particular, the Phase 2 evaluation aimed to establish;

- The relationship between the archaeological features and hill wash deposits, and
- The nature of the deep feature noted in Trench 4 (Feature **408**) and to re-assess the potential Late Glacial deposit.

## **4 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Methodology**

4.1.1 Nineteen machine excavated trenches (Trenches 13 to 25 and 29, 33, 34, 36 to 38), each approximately 30m in length and 1.8m in width, were excavated across the Site in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (**Figure 1**). Some trenches were reoriented or shortened to further clarify archaeological features or to avoid existing services. A number of trenches (Trenches 26-28, 30-32 and 35) which were all located within the existing allotment area or hardstanding areas in the eastern half of the Site were not excavated due to on-site services or access issues.

4.1.2 An additional four trenches (Trenches 39 to 42) were also excavated and recorded (including two geotechnical pits) to help clarify the extent and nature of archaeological features and deposits.

4.1.3 All trenches were machined under constant archaeological supervision and recorded following the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation.

### **4.2 Results**

4.2.1 The Phase 2 evaluation results confirmed that the MOD Site contains significant concentrations of archaeological features, finds and deposits dating to the Early Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval periods. The majority of the features dated to the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British and Late Romano-British periods and comprised settlement activity which appears to be largely located within the northwestern corner of the Site.

4.2.2 Archaeological features were encountered at a depth of between 0.50-0.60m below the present ground surface and were sealed by colluvium and topsoil.

4.2.3 The principal findings include (**Figures 1 and 2**):

- A single Early Bronze Age cremation burial **1805** within a Collared Urn located in Trench 18 within the southwestern part of the Site with a

scatter of Neolithic and bronze Age worked flint flakes found across the Site

- A large 'V'-shaped enclosure ditch **4301**, between 6-8m wide and up to 4m in depth, with an internal bank (Trenches 14, 20, 22 and 23). The date of construction of the ditch could not be confirmed at this stage but is likely to be Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British in date. Further sections of the same ditch or a similar ditch **4401** were recorded in the southeastern corner of the Site (Trenches 33, 37 and 38)
- Along the northwestern edge of the Site, the enclosure contains evidence of numerous pits, post holes and curvilinear gullies and small ditches containing at least two phases of settlement activity dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British and Late Romano-British periods (Trenches 21, 22, 23, 39, 40 and 41) (**Figure 2**).
- A shallow natural hollow (Trench 21) filled with a washed in occupation deposit **2113** which was cut by three Early Romano-British and Late Romano-British curvilinear gullies and ditches (**2109/2110** and **2119**)
- No evidence of later occupation found except for minor quantities of medieval pottery.
  - The trench targeted on the potential Late Glacial deposit was unable to locate the deposit. This objective will be addressed in the subsequent mitigation phase.

#### **Early Bronze Age cremation burial 1805** (Trench 18)

4.2.4 A single, prehistoric pit was identified in Trench 18 in the southwest corner of the Site (**Figure 1**). The top of the small circular pit, 0.50m in diameter, was hand-cleaned and was found to contain fragments of an Early Bronze Age Collared Urn and charcoal although no evidence for human remains was seen. Following discussion with the Wessex Archaeology Human remains specialist and WCAS this feature was not excavated and has been preserved *in-situ* and will be subject to future mitigation, if required.

4.2.5 A possible feature 4m to the south was investigated and found to be a natural geological feature.

#### **The enclosure ditch 4301/4401** (Trenches 14, 20, 22, 23, 33, 37, 38 and 42)

4.2.6 A significantly large enclosure ditch (Group **4301**) at least 130m in length was located as running southwards into the northwestern corner of the Site before turning east across the northern half of the Site (**Figures 1** and **2**).

4.2.7 Due to access issues, no evaluation could be undertaken in the existing allotment area to trace the eastern extent of this substantial ditch. However, a possible continuation of this ditch into the southeast corner of the Site was identified in Trenches 33, 37 and 38 and a geotechnical trial pit (Trench 42), where the ditch was recorded as Group **4401**.

4.2.8 Two machine-excavated interventions were dug across the line of the large ditch **4301/4401** within Trenches 38 and 20 (**Figures 1** and **3** and **Plates 1-2**). Within Trench 38 in the southeast corner of the Site the ditch profile was a steep sided 'V' (**3804**) and measured 6m wide at the top and was 4.10m deep (**Plate 1**). The ditch was also evident in Trench 37 where the line of the ditch appeared to be turning to the south (**Figure 1**). Within Trench 20, Ditch **4301** measured 5.10m wide and 3.90m deep with a similar steep side 'V' profile (**Figures 1** and **2**, **Plate 2**).

4.2.9 No datable material was recovered from the lower fills of either of the ditches but finds were present in the upper fills, dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British period. An initial assessment of the ditch fills strongly suggested that the ditch or ditches had been rapidly infilled.

4.2.10 The large amount of up-cast material from each of the large ditches has suggested large banks on the northern or inside edge of the enclosure ditch. The sterile nature of the infilling of the ditches suggested that the bank material was used to infill the ditch.

***The interior of enclosure ditch 4301*** (Trenches 14, 20, 21, 22, 23, 39, 40 and 41)

4.2.11 A concentration of pits, ditches, gullies and post holes were uncovered along the northwestern edge of the Site within the area enclosed to the south and west by ditch **4301**. (**Figure 2**). Trenches 22 and 23 which were located across the enclosure ditch revealed a number of shallow circular pits and tree throws (**2204/5**, **2305**, **2307**, **2309**, **2311** and **2313**) running parallel to, and approximately 4-8m to the north of, the line of the enclosure ditch (**Figure 4 G/F** and **Plate 5**). The majority of these features were between 0.10m to 0.20m deep and were undated although a small quantity of struck flint was recovered.

4.2.12 Evaluation trenches (Trenches 21, 39, 40 and 41) located to the north of Trenches 22 and 23 contained a higher concentration of features including gullies, ditches and postholes.

4.2.13 In Trench 21, a deep alluvial silty clay deposit **2113**, at least 1.2m in depth, was identified within the western half of the trench. This deposit coincided with a large depression visible on the ground which is likely to be natural in origin. Deposit **2113** was cut by three northwest-southeast running ditches (**2119** and **2110/2109**) which all extended for a further 30m into trenches to the southeast.

4.2.14 At the western end of Trench was a well defined ditch (**2119**) with a steep sided 'V' profile 2.55m wide and 1.30m deep (**Figure 4 D**). Large quantities of Late Romano-British pottery, animal bone and other items were found in this ditch all suggesting dump deposits (**Plate 6**). Further to the east, two parallel ditches (**2109** and **2110**) were recorded, each approximately 0.90m in width and 0.45m in depth. Both of these ditches were sealed by the same upper fill **2105**.

4.2.15 Ditches **2119** and **2109/2110** continued into Trenches 39, 40 and 41 (Ditches **4119**, **4117**, **4115** and **3920/21**) with at least one of the ditches ending in a ditch terminus **3907** which measured 1.5m wide and 0.56m deep (**Figure 4 H**, **Plate 7**). However within these trenches were a large number

of pits/postholes (**4109**, **4113**, **4105**, **3910**, **3912**, **4003** and **4005**) and a small narrow ditch or gully (**4006**) which appeared to share the same general northwest-southeast orientation of the nearby ditches.

- 4.2.16 A sample section was excavated to the north of the ditch terminus (**3907**) which revealed multiple ditches suggesting re-cutting was undertaken (**Plate 8**). The well defined post holes (**3910**), 0.84m by 0.60m and 0.60m in depth and **3912**, 0.20m in diameter and 0.11 in depth, were located close to the ditch terminus and may indicate the potential for structures (**Figure 4 I** and **J**, **Plate 9** and **10**).

**Features outside the enclosure ditch 4301** (Trenches 13 and 29)

- 4.2.17 Only two groups of archaeological features were found outside the immediate area bounded by enclosure ditch **4301**.
- 4.2.18 An undated linear feature in Trench 13 in the northwest corner of the site (**1305**) measured 1.80m wide and 0.48m deep (**Figure 4 C**). The profile was irregular and may indicate re-cutting (**Plate 3**).
- 4.2.19 In the northeast area of the Site, Trench 29 revealed four shallow intercutting linear features (**2902**, **2903**, **2904** and **2912**) aligned northeast-southwest (**Figure 4 E** and **Plate 4**).

## **5 FINDS**

### **5.1 Finds statement**

- 5.1.1 Overall, approximately 20kg of finds were recovered from 13 of the excavated trenches. All the artefacts have been quantified (number and weight of pieces) by material type within each context; this information is summarised by trench in **Appendix 2, Table 1**.
- 5.1.2 The finds were then scanned to assess the range and condition of the material types present, and, where appropriate, broad spot-dates have also been recorded. All the artefacts survived in relatively good condition but the range of material types is restricted with only the pottery and animal bone occurring in any quantity. The pottery also provided the primary dating evidence for the Site, indicating a predominantly Romano-British date, with small quantities of earlier (prehistoric) and later (medieval) material. The greatest quantities of finds were from Trenches 20, 21, 38 and 39.

### **5.2 Pottery**

- 5.2.1 The earliest pottery comprised three joining sherds from the decorated collar of an Early Bronze Age Collared Urn from cremation grave **1805**. The rest of this vessel, used to contain the cremated (human) remains, was left *in-situ*; these sherds being removed for identification purposes only and the feature remains unexcavated at this stage.
- 5.2.2 The Romano-British pottery was dominated by coarsewares, comprising sandy grey wares from sources including north Wiltshire and the New Forest, Black Burnished wares from southeast Dorset, Savernake-type grog-tempered wares and a few flint-tempered sherds. The use of grog and flint as tempering materials pottery originated during the Iron Age, but both continued after the conquest and into at least the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. The only

imported finewares consisted of three pieces of samian of late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD date, from a buried topsoil **2103** and ditches **3919** and **4117**. The pieces from the ditches were both from small rounded cup forms (e.g. forms 27 or 35). Two pieces from Late Roman Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware bowls, both with rouletted decoration, were found in ditch **2908** and a dump deposit **2912**; two pieces from an Oxfordshire whiteware mortaria were also found in this latter deposit.

5.2.3 The majority of features/deposits could only be assigned a generalised Romano-British date at this stage but exclusively early Roman (mid 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD) sherds were noted in the lower fill of ditch **2003**, ditches **2110** and **2121**, the buried topsoil **2103** and layer **2105** in Trench 21 and in ditch **3804**. Thereafter, there appears to have been something of a hiatus in activity although 2<sup>nd</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> century sherds occurred in layer **3913** and in ditch **4117**. Significant quantities of Late Roman (late 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> century AD) pottery, including numerous cross-context joins, were recovered from the V-shaped ditch **2119** in Trench 21, with smaller amounts from ditch **2903** and dump deposit **2912** in Trench 29. Most of the pieces in ditch **2119** were from two vessels: a Black Burnished ware jar and a perforated New Forest greyware storage jar; both probably belong within the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

5.2.4 Three joining sherds from the rim of a jar in a sand and flint tempered fabric akin to Newbury A ware were found in the colluvium in Trench 34 (context **3403**) and are probably of 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century AD date.

### 5.3 Other finds

5.3.1 Other Roman finds included part of a pair of copper alloy wire tweezers from ditch **2119** (context **2114**; Obj. 1002). A group of 39 iron hobnails (Obj. 2003) and a cleat, all probably from a nailed boot or shoe, along with three nail/nail shank fragments were also found in this ditch. Other finds from this feature included part of a fired clay disc of uncertain function although uses as oven/hearth furniture, pot lids, food- or hand-warmers have all been suggested. The other fired clay pieces were all small, featureless fragments probably of uncertain date. The left valve of an oyster shell was found in ditch **2903**, associated with pottery of late Romano-British date.

5.3.2 A featureless fragment of Romano-British ceramic building material and part of a peg-hole roof tile of medieval or post-medieval date was also found in layer **2104**, overlying ditch **2119**, while the third fragment, of uncertain date, came from the tertiary fill of ditch **3804**. Two quern fragments, both of Late Roman disc-type, one of Greensand, the other unsourced sandstone, were recovered from the lower fill of feature **3910**. A small piece from an unsourced sandstone rubstone or saddle quern was also found in ditch **2119**.

5.3.3 Although intrinsically undatable, burnt flint fragments are generally interpreted as indicative of prehistoric activity. However, with the exception of a single tiny piece from feature **2305**, all the burnt flint was found associated with Romano-British pottery and may therefore be of similar date. The piece from feature **2305** was found with four worked flint flakes, together, these materials may indicate a prehistoric date for this feature.

## **5.4 Animal bone**

### ***Quantity and provenance***

- 5.4.1 A total of 253 fragments (or c.7kg) of animal bone were recovered by hand during the normal course of excavation. Bone was recovered from 29 separate contexts (mostly ditch fills) located in trenches 13, 14, 20, 21, 29, 38, 39 and 41. Approximately half of the assemblage is from Early Romano-British contexts, a further 35% is from more broadly dated Late Iron Age/Early Roman contexts and the remainder (16%) is from Late Roman contexts.

### ***Methods***

- 5.4.2 The assemblage was rapid scanned and the following information quantified were applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion data, tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was directly recorded into a relational database (in MS Access) and cross-referenced with relevant contextual information and spot dating evidence.
- 5.4.3 Two associated bone groups (hereafter referred to as ABGs) were identified during fieldwork; for quantification purposes these have been counted as single specimens.

### ***Preservation condition***

- 5.4.4 Bone preservation at the Site is extremely good and fine surface details such as knife cuts are clear and well-defined. The incidence of gnaw marks is fairly low at only 3% and this suggested either that most of bone waste was rapidly buried or that scavenging carnivores were unable to access it.

### ***Species represented***

- 5.4.5 Forty-five percent of fragments are identifiable to species and element. The following were identified and are listed in terms of their relative abundance: sheep/goat (41%), cattle (29%), horse (14%), crow/rook (9%), pig (4%) and dog (3%).
- 5.4.6 Unfortunately the samples from each phase are too small to provide any insight into the local pastoral economy of the Site however, enclosed settlements in the Wessex region, particularly those located on chalk, generally have sheep-dominated assemblages (Hambleton 1999).
- 5.4.7 The Late Iron Age/Early Roman component of the assemblage includes an articulating section of cattle vertebral column and ribs (ABG 1) from ditch fill (2005).
- 5.4.8 The material from Early Roman contexts includes a number of horse bones, one of which has skinning marks across its surface. Also of note amongst the Early Roman assemblage is a fragmented dog skull and radius from ditch fill (3805) and the wing and leg bones from a crow or rook from ditch fill (2107). These birds are carrion eaters and were probably attracted to the Site by the opportunity to scavenge, however it is also worth noting that corvids were important in Iron Age and Roman ritual and religious practices, therefore their presence in the assemblage might have greater significance (Serjeantson and Morris *in press*).



- 5.4.9 The small amount of material from Late Roman contexts includes an articulated group of dog bones (ABG 109) from ditch fill (**2114**). This group includes the lower spine, sacrum and pelvic girdle for a small, but fairly robust individual. Also of note is a horse mandible from ditch fill (**2118**) that has extremely worn teeth and is clearly of considerable age.

### **Conclusions**

- 5.4.10 A small well preserved assemblage of animal bone has been recovered from the evaluation stage. It is highly likely that any further stages of fieldwork will provide a larger and more informative assemblage for analysis and discussion given the generally favourable nature of chalk geology for bone survival and the general character of archaeological features and deposits identified during the evaluation.

## **6 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

### **6.1 Environmental samples taken**

- 6.1.1 A total of five bulk samples from ditches and gullies from five different trenches across the Site were selected to evaluate the presence and preservation of palaeo-environmental remains. The samples were predominately related to features of a Romano-British date. These samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals. This information can contribute to the assessment of the archaeological significance of the Site.

### **6.2 Charred Plant Remains and Wood Charcoal**

- 6.2.1 Bulk samples were 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 fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Appendix 3, Table 2**) 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).
- 6.2.2 The flots were generally small with high numbers of rooty material that is indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. As often the case within samples from features located close to the active soil horizon charred material was generally poorly preserved.
- 6.2.3 Cereal remains were observed in four of the features, in particular ditch 3907 in Trench 39. These remains included grain fragments of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and grain and glume fragments of hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*). Low levels of weed seeds were also present in these four features. These included seeds of rye grass/fescue (*Lolium/Festuca* sp.), bedstraws (*Galium* sp.) oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.), vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), medick/clover (*Medicago/Trifolium* sp.) and knotgrass (Polygonaceae, all species found in arable assemblages on the chalk).

6.2.4 Very small quantities of wood charcoal fragments were recovered from these samples.

6.2.5 The charred plants observed on this Site can be seen as indicative of general settlement background waste, particularly which centred on Trench 39, and are comparable with those found from other Iron Age and Romano-British sites in the Salisbury Plain area (Stevens 2006).

### **6.3 Land snails**

6.3.1 Molluscs were observed during the assessment of the bulk samples and notes made on the species recorded. Nomenclature is according to Kerney (1999). The open country species *Vallonia* spp., *Helicella itala* and *Pupilla muscorum* were present in all five ditches and gullies. The mollusc species in the sample from enclosure ditch 2002 also included the open country species *Vertigo pygmaea* and intermediate species, *Trichia hispida* and *Cepaea* sp. *Trichia hispida* and *Cepaea* sp. were both present in ditch **3907** and *Trichia hispida* in enclosure ditch **2119** and gully **2904**. These molluscs are indicative of an open landscape. It is not possible to determine whether this was one of arable or pasture from these spot samples.

## **7 DISCUSSION**

7.1.1 The Phase 2 evaluation confirmed the results of the initial 2006 evaluation which located a significant concentration of settlement-type activity within the northwestern section of the Site in the Late Iron Age and Romano-British period. In addition, there was a small amount of Early Bronze activity in the form of the cremated burial found in Trench 18.

7.1.2 Within the settlement area, although no post-built structures were identified, large numbers of pits/postholes and possible sub-enclosure or boundary ditches were found and comprise an area of significant archaeological importance. In addition, the Phase 2 evaluation has identified that the settlement area was enclosed by a very substantial enclosure ditch, at least 6m in width and between 3-4m in depth.

7.1.3 Although the initial excavations of the enclosure ditch has not recovered any dateable material from the primary fills, pottery from the upper fills of the enclosure ditch and from features within the enclosed settlement appears to indicate two distinct phases of occupation in the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British and Late Romano-British periods.

7.1.4 The full extent of this enclosure ditch, and thus the general size of the associated settlement area, is unclear since access to the eastern half of the Site was very limited. Accordingly it has not been able to say whether the large ditch sections uncovered in Trenches 33, 37 and 38 are part of a large single enclosure ditch or elements of a separate enclosure. In addition, the eastern limits of the settlement activity have been impossible to establish at this stage.

7.1.5 At the very least, the enclosed settlement is likely to cover a large part of the northern half of the Site (at least 1-2ha) and clearly extends well beyond the Site's northern limit to form a very substantial settlement. At this point, the likely large size and multi-period occupation history of the enclosure

settlement draws strong parallels with the Late Iron Age/Romano-British Figcheldean enclosed settlement which covers 9ha, 2km to the north of the Site.

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## APPENDIX 1: EVALUATION TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trenches 1-12 were excavated during the Phase 1 evaluation (Wessex archaeology 2006). Trenches 26-28, 30-32 and 35 (eastern half of the Site) were not excavated due to modern services

Evaluation Trench 13		Max Depth: 0.50m Ground Level (m aOD): 85.75	Length: 30m	Width: 2.20m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
1301	Layer	Topsoil: mid yellowish brown calcareous silty loam. Moderate flint pieces and chalk pea grit.	0-0.20	
1302	Layer	Natural white Coombe chalk with reddish brown clay flint pockets.		
1303	Fill	Pale yellowish brown calcareous silty loam forming upper fill of a linear feature. Sparse flint and chalk inclusions. Finds of flint, pottery and animal bone.	0.35	
1304	Fill	Pale yellowish brown calcareous silty loam forming lower fill of a linear feature. Contains moderate flint pieces and animal bone.	0.50	
1305	Cut	Linear feature aligned E-W in western half of trench; possible boundary ditch. Length 1m, width 1.80m, moderate concave sides and flat irregular base	0.48	

Evaluation Trench 14		Max Depth: 0.46m Ground Level (m aOD): 85.35	Length: 42m	Width: 2m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
1401	Layer	Topsoil: mid grey silty clay. Poorly sorted small flints, sparse chalk. Clear interface onto.	0-0.20	
1402	Layer	Subsoil: Mid reddish brown silty clay. Frequent flints.	0.20-0.35	
1403	Layer	Natural white Coombe chalk. Weathered powdery upper surface with clay flint pockets or hollows.	0.35	
1404	Cut	Clearly defined large pit, est. 4m wide, depth exceeds 1.35m. Truncated on east side by large linear 1408. Curving shape suggests circular plan form with steep vertical sides – excavation required.	+1.35 – base not found as partially excavated	
1405	Fill	Upper fill of pit 1404: pale brown silty clay containing animal bone, flint and pottery. Poor sorting suggests rapid infill.	0.40	
1406	Fill	Distinctive middle fill of pit 1404: mottled brown white silty clay with abundant chalk pieces and moderate flints. Poorly sorted, no archaeological finds.		
1407	Fill	Lowest found fill of pit 1404: Mid to dark reddish brown silty clay, poorly sorted, moderate chalk inclusions. No archaeological finds. Tip line S-N.	Approx. 0.60	
1408	Cut	Linear feature cutting pit 1404 on north side. Length 7.60m, width 2.30m. Possible re-cut or infilled hollow along outside edge of larger linear. Further excavation required.		
1409	Fill / re-cut	Fill of linear re-cut / hollow 1408. Poorly sorted, may fill hollow long after fill of large ditch.		
1410	Fill	Possible bank material filling large linear feature 1411. Chalky mottled brown silty clay, poorly sorted. No archaeological finds.		
1411	Cut	Very large linear ditch running N-S and turning sharply to E almost at right angle. Width 6m, steep V-profile estimated like ditch in Trench 20. Requires excavation as is of significant size.	Estimated +4m.	

Evaluation Trench 15		Max Depth: 0.40m Ground Level (m aOD): 85.94	Length: 30m	Width: 2.20m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
1501	Layer	Topsoil: mid brown calcareous silty loam with sparse flint pieces and moderate chalk pea grit.	0-0.20	
1502	Layer	Natural mixed deposit of Coombe chalk with reddish brown clay and flint pockets.	0.20 -	

Evaluation Trench 16		Max Depth: 0.60m Ground Level (m aOD): 85.45	Length: 30m	Width: 2.20m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
1601	Layer	Topsoil: mid brown calcareous silty loam with sparse flint pieces and moderate chalk pea grit.	0-0.20	
1602	Layer	Natural mixed deposit of Coombe chalk with reddish brown clay and flint pockets. Abundant flint pieces.	0.20 -	

Evaluation Trench 17		Max Depth: 0.50m Ground Level (m aOD): 85.37	Length: 31.5m	Width: 2.10m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
1701	Layer	Topsoil: mid greyish brown silty clay, occasional flint gravels and nodules.	0-0.20	
1702	Layer	Subsoil: light yellowish brown silty clay, occasional flint gravels and chalk flecks.	0.20-0.30	
1703	Layer	Natural solifluxion chalk with flinty silty clay pockets. Natural base.	0.30 -	

Evaluation Trench 18		Max Depth: 0.45m Ground Level (m aOD): 85.86	Length: 30m	Width: 2.20m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
1801	Layer	Topsoil: mid yellowish brown calcareous silty loam with moderate flint pieces and sparse chalk pea grit.	0-0.20	
1802	Layer	Colluvium: Pale yellowish brown calcareous silty loam with frequent flint pieces and sparse chalk pea grit.	0.20-0.30	
1803	Layer	Natural mixed deposit of Coombe chalk with reddish brown clay and flint pockets.	0.30-	
1804	Fill	Fill of feature 1805: mid yellowish brown silty clay loam with rare flint pieces and pottery.		
1805	Cut	Circular feature at northern end of trench, 0.50m diameter, containing cremation grave. Unexcavated.		

Evaluation Trench 19		Max Depth: 0.40m Ground Level (m aOD): 85.78	Length: 30.5m	Width: 2.10m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
1901	Layer	Topsoil: light greyish brown silty clay with occasional flint gravels and nodules.	0-0.24	
1902	Layer	Subsoil: light yellowish brown silty clay with occasional flint gravel and fragments, occasional chalk fleck and pea grit.	0.24-0.30	
1903	Layer	Natural solifluxion chalk with flinty silty clay pockets. Natural base.	0.30 -	

Evaluation Trench 20		Max Depth: m Ground Level (m aOD): 84.69	Length: 30m	Width: 2.20m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
2001	Layer	Topsoil: mid yellowish brown calcareous silty loam, with frequent chalk pea grit and moderate flints.	0-0.25	
2002	Cut	Enclosure linear/ ditch cut filled with 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011.		
2003	Fill	Fill of ditch 2002: pale yellowish brown calcareous silty loam, frequent chalk pea grit, moderate flint, becomes thicker towards middle of feature.		
2004	Fill	Upper fill of linear 2013: pale yellowish brown silty loam, moderate chalk pea grit, rare flint, sparse chalk. Cuts upper fills of ditch 2002.	0.25	
2005	Fill	Lower fill of linear 2013: pale yellowish brown silty loam, frequent chalk pea grit, large flint nodules concentrated in centre of feature. Contains articulated animal torso. Cuts 2002 upper fills.	0.15	
2006	Fill	Fill of ditch 2002: pale yellowish brown silty loam, moderate chalk pea grit, rare flint, tips from N-S in northern half of linear.	0.35	
2007	Fill	Upper fill of ditch 2002: pale yellowish brown silty loam, frequent chalk pea grit, rare flint. Tips N-S similar to 2003, but more chalk pieces.	0.15	
2008	Fill	Fill of ditch 2002: lens of pale yellowish brown silty loam, mainly chalk pea grit, sparse flint pieces.	0.12	
2009	Fill	Fill of ditch 2002: very pale yellowish brown silty loam, abundant chalk pea grit, tipping N-S in middle of linear. Similar to 2008, possibly same as 2011.		
2010	Fill	Fill of ditch 2002: pale yellowish brown silty loam, frequent chalk pea grit, lying against N side of large linear, slopes down towards base of feature.	0.60	
2011	Fill	Very pale yellowish brown calcareous silty loam, abundant chalk pea grit, lying against southern side of large linear dipping towards centre, possibly same as 2009.		
2012	Layer	Natural mixed deposit of Coombe chalk with reddish brown clay and flint pockets. Abundant flint pieces.		
2013	Cut	Linear enclosure ditch aligned E-W across middle of trench. Cuts upper fills of linear 2002. Length 2.20m, width 1.50m.	0.40	
2014	Fill	Fill towards base of ditch 2002: very pale yellowish brown calcareous silt, tipping from S edge - centre.	0.25	
2015	Fill	Primary fill of ditch 2002: pale yellowish brown silty clay lying against N side of linear and filling base. Sparse flint.	0.70	

Evaluation Trench 21		Max Depth: m Ground Level (m aOD): 84.98	Length: 30m	Width: 2.20m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
2101	Layer	Topsoil: yellowish brown silty loam, moderate chalk and flint.	0-0.30	
2102	Layer	Colluvium: pale yellowish brown silty loam, with frequent chalk pea grit and sparse flint pieces. Unique to this trench.	0.35	
2103	Layer	Buried topsoil: mid yellowish brown silty loam with frequent chalk pea grit, moderate chalk and flint pieces. Finds of pottery.	0.20	
2104	Fill	Upper fill of linear 2119 towards W edge of trench. Red brown silty loam, finds of pottery, animal bone and flint.	0.18	
2105	Layer	Deposit overlying two linears in middle of trench. Mid yellowish brown silty loam, possibly buried topsoil. Finds of pottery, animal bone, flint and burnt flint.	0.10	
2106	Fill	Fill of linear 2109: mid yellowish brown silty loam, moderate chalk pea grit. Finds of pottery, animal bone, flint and burnt flint. Larger flints towards base.	0.48	
2107	Fill	Fill of linear 2110: mid yellowish brown silty loam, sparse chalk and flint, larger nodules along base. Finds of pottery, animal bone, flint, burnt flint, CBM.	0.43	
2108	Fill	Deposit in linear 2119: light brown sandy silty loam, moderate chalk and flints, with chalk becoming abundant towards base and larger flint nodules. Finds of pottery, animal bone, flint, mortar and iron hobnails.	0.40	
2109	Cut	Linear feature aligned E-W across trench: moderate straight sides and V-shaped base, width 0.90m.	0.48	
2110	Cut	Linear feature aligned parallel to 2109. Steep/stepped sides and concave base, width 0.85m.	0.43	
2111	Fill	Fill of linear feature running along top of 2110. Mid yellowish brown silty loam with abundant flint rubble nodules – possibly field drain.	0.22	
2112	Cut	Cut for rubble filled field drain 2111. Linear, E-W, vertical	0.22	
2113	Layer	Spread of mid reddish brown clayey silt covering most of trench. Abundant flecks of iron staining. Main infill of hollow.		
2114	Fill	Fill of linear 2119: grey brown silty loam surrounding abundant large flint nodules up to widths of 0.20m. Flints concentrated in centre suggesting concave base or collapsed structure. Finds of animal bone and copper tweezer arm.	0.80	
2115	Layer	Large deposit covering middle of trench. Yellowish brown silty loam, occasional chalk pea grit, sparse flint. Silted up layer.		
2116	Layer	Dump of burnt flint in N of trench. L 3.80m, width 0.80m.	0.16	
2117	Layer	Natural: soliflucted chalk and gravel		
2118	Fill	Deposit in base of linear 2119: light brown sandy silt, moderate flint and moderate to abundant chalk pea grit in base. Finds of animal bone, pottery and Fe nail.	1.30	
2119	Cut	Ditch cut: steep convex V-shaped cut into natural chalk, filled with 2118, 2114, and 2108. Chalk pea grit on N base of ditch, natural clean cut chalk on S.	1.30	
2120	Fill	Fill of linear 2121: mid yellowish brown silty loam, frequent chalk flecks, occasional flint becoming concentrated in centre of feature. Finds of pottery, bone, flint and burnt flint.	0.16	
2121	Cut	Linear feature E-W alignment, concave with flat base, parallel to 2109 and 2110. Length 3m, width 0.60m.	0.16	

Evaluation Trench 22		Max Depth: Ground Level (m aOD): 85.51	Length: 30m	Width: 2.20m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
2201	Layer	Topsoil: dark greyish brown silty clay common flint gravel and fragments, occasional chalk fleck.	0-0.25	
2202	Layer	Colluvial subsoil: light greyish brown silty clay, frequent flint gravels, occasional chalk fleck.	0.25-0.45	
2203	Fill	Fill of tree throw 2204: light greyish brown silty clay in-wash, occasional flint gravels, fragments and chalk fleck. Finds of animal bone, pottery and CBM.	0.07	
2204	Cut	Shallow tree throw: length 1.40, width 1.10, sub-rectangular slightly concave.	0.07	
2205	Cut	Feature containing animal burial. Unexcavated.		
2206	Cut	Large ditch at south end of trench. Unexcavated.		
2207	Layer	Natural solifluxion chalk with flinty silty clay pockets.	0.45	

Evaluation Trench 23		Max Depth: 0.90m Ground Level (m aOD): 85.17	Length: 30m	Width: 2.20m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
2301	Layer	Topsoil: brown silty loam, sparse flint	0-0.25	
2302	Layer	Buried topsoil: yellow brown silty loam, moderate flint	0.25-0.50	
2303	Layer	Natural weathered upper surface - Coombe chalk	0.50 -	
2304	Fill	Deposit in tree throw cut 2305: light brown silty loam, sparse flint.		
2305	Cut	Circular shallow tree throw, 1.80m wide, steep sides rounding off to flat uneven base. Aligned with 2307, 2309, 2311.	0.20 deep	
2306	Fill	Deposit in tree throw cut 2307: light brown silty loam, occasional flint and chalk pea grit inclusions.		
2307	Cut	Oval shallow tree throw, 1.60m diameter, sloped concave sides dipping into a concave base. Aligned with 2305, 2309, 2311.	0.12 deep	
2308	Fill	Deposit in tree throw cut 2309: light brown sandy silt, moderate flint fragments, filling small holes in pit walls either from roots / worms.		
2309	Cut	Circular shallow tree throw, 0.80m diameter, steep irregular sides with small circular hollows. Aligned with 2305, 2307, 2311.	0.12 deep	
2310	Fill	Deposit in possible pit / tree throw 2311: dark brown rich silty loam, inclusions of moderate flint.		
2311	Cut	Circular pit cut / tree throw, 0.80-0.90m diameter, steep and vertical with a concave to flat base. Cut is sharper than others in alignment – 2305, 2307, and 2309.	0.27	
2312	Fill	Deposit in tree throw cut: light brown sandy silt, pea grit and inclusions of flint.		
2313	Cut	Circular / oval tree throw, steep irregular sides with a concave to flat base, 0.90m width, to south of other tree throw alignment.	0.16 deep	
2314	Cut	Large ditch at north end of trench. Unexcavated.		



Evaluation Trench 24		Max Depth: 0.60m Ground Level (m aOD): 84.76	Length: 31m	Width: 2.10m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
2401	Layer	Topsoil: light greyish brown silty clay, occasional flint gravels and nodules, rare chalk fleck.	0-0.20	
2402	Layer	Colluvial subsoil: light yellowish brown silty clay, occasional chalk fragments and flint gravels.	0.20-0.50	
2403	Layer	Natural solifluxion chalk, flinty gravels and silty clays.	0.50 -	

Evaluation Trench 25		Max Depth: 0.40m Ground Level (m aOD): 85.33	Length: 30m	Width: 2 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
2501	Layer	Topsoil: dark grey silty loam, poorly sorted, sparse flints. Clear interface onto...	0-0.22	
2502	Layer	Subsoil: pale brown silty loam, abundant chalk pea grit, rare flint. Diffuse horizon.	0.22-0.32	
2503	Layer	Natural upper chalk, patches of gravels and silts. Exposed surface powdery and consisting of pea grit.	0.32 -	

Evaluation Trench 29		Max Depth: 1m Ground Level (m aOD): 87.70	Length: 13.8m	Width: 2.10m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
2901	Layer	Modern made up ground: tarmac, limestone and ballast	0-0.20	
2902	Cut	Ditch cut: shallow linear gully orientated NW-SE, steep sides and a slightly concave base, truncated at east. Width 0.83m. Possibly creating a double ditch and bank with 2904.	0.24	
2903	Cut	Ditch cut: linear gully orientated NW-SE, moderate sides and concave base. Width 1.12m. Cuts 2904.	0.24	
2904	Cut	Ditch cut: linear gully orientated NW-SE, moderate sides and concave base, truncated at east. Width 0.80m. Possibly creating a double ditch and bank with 2902.	0.30	
2905	Layer	Topsoil: very dark greyish, compact, occasional flint gravel and chalk fleck. Possibly redeposited.	0.20 – 0.35	
2906	Layer	Subsoil: pale yellowish brown silty clay, occasional flint gravels and chalk flecks.		
2907	Fill	Ditch fill of 2909 – primary in wash: mid greyish brown silty clay with common flint nodules and gravels and occasional chalk fleck. Similar to fill 2909. Finds of pottery.	0.24	
2908	Fill	Ditch fill of 2903 – primary in wash: light greyish brown silty clay with occasional flint nodules and gravel, and occasional chalk fragments and fleck. Finds of struck flint, pottery and oyster shell.	0.24	
2909	Fill	Ditch fill of 2904 – primary in wash: mid greyish brown silty clay, occasional flint nodules, chalk fragments and fleck. Similar to 2907.	0.30	
2910	Fill	Dump / spread of flint rubble in cut 2912, within a yellow brown fine silty clay. Finds of animal bone, pottery. Width 2.10m.	0.27	
2911	Layer	Natural: Coombe chalk		
2912	Cut / dump	Linear feature filled with 2910, slightly concave, may not actually be a cut feature, just a dumped spread of flint rubble.	0.27	

Evaluation Trench 33		Max Depth: 1.20m Ground Level (m aOD): 86.65	Length: 20m	Width: 2.20m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
3301	Layer	Tarmac	0.08	
3302	Layer	Road surface materials	0.08-0.28	
3303	Layer	Made ground, inclusions of modern CBM	0.28-0.65	
3304	Layer	Yellow silty sandy clay – possibly modern, inclusions of modern CBM and flints	0.65-0.80	
3305	Layer	Buried topsoil: grey-brown silty loam	0.80-0.90	
3306	Layer	Subsoil: brown silty loam, occasional chalk and flint.	0.90-1.12	

Evaluation Trench 34		Max Depth: 1.20m Ground Level (m aOD): 85.78	Length: 29.28m	Width: 1.20m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
3401	Layer	Made ground: tarmac, CBM, hardcore, gravels	0-0.64	
3402	Layer	Buried topsoil: dark grey brown silty clay loam, moderate chalk flecks, and sparse flint. Diffuse horizon.	0.64-0.78	
3403	Layer	Colluvium: mid-dark orange brown silty clay, moderate chalk flecks, sparse flint.	0.78-1.18	
3404	Layer	Natural chalk	1.18 -	

Evaluation Trench 36		Max Depth: 1.20m Ground Level (m aOD): 87.40	Length: 20m	Width: 2.20m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
3601	Layer	Tarmac car park surface	0-0.12	
3602	Layer	Flint gravel levelling ballast	0.12-0.22	
3603	Layer	Modern black cinder layer	0.22-0.34	
3604	Layer	Topsoil: Dark grey silty clay, occasional flint gravels, modern CBM.	0.34-0.38	
3605	Layer	Subsoil: compacted yellowish brown silty clay, frequent flint gravels, occasional chalk fragments.	0.38-0.41	
3606	Layer	Natural base – chalk and calcareous flint gravels.	0.41 -	

Evaluation Trench 37		Max Depth: 1.20m Ground Level (m aOD): 85.11	Length: 20m	Width: 2.20m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
3701	Layer	Rubble / Road surface layer	0-0.10	
3702	Layer	Topsoil: brown silty loam, moderate flint inclusions	0.10-0.35	
3703	Layer	Subsoil / colluvium: red brown silty loam	0.35-0.62	
3704	Layer	Diffusing into natural chalk: chalky loam	0.62-0.64	
3705	Cut	Large ditch, orientated NE-SW. Possibly same as 3804. Unexcavated.	0.64 -	

Evaluation Trench 38		Max Depth: 1.10m Ground Level (m aOD): 85.45	Length: 30.5m	Width: 2.10m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
3801	Layer	Modern made up ground: limestone hogging, brick rubble, concrete	0-0.25	
3802	Layer	Topsoil: mid greyish brown silty clay, common flint gravels, rare chalk fragments. Compact.	0.25-0.35	
3803	Layer	Subsoil: light yellowish brown silty clay, very common flint gravels and fragments, common chalk.	0.35-0.43	
3804	Cut	Linear ditch cut: large steep sided defensive enclosure ditch, width 6m, orientated NW-SE, very steep sides with slightly concave base. Filled with 3805, 3806, 3807, 3809, 3810, 3811, 3814, 3815, 3816, 3817, and 3818. Layer tips suggest bulk filled from NE edge.	4.10	
3805	Fill	Final tertiary fill: mid greyish brown silty clay, frequent chalk fragments, occasional flint nodules and gravels. Deeper at centre filling slump hollow.	0.40	
3806	Fill	Ditch fill of 3804: very light greyish brown silty clay, very common chalk flecks and flint nodules. Same as 3811 – large backfill episode.	1.80	
3807	Fill	Ditch fill of 3804: dark greyish brown silty clay, common chalk fragments, occasional flint, occasional charcoal flecks. In-fills hollow in centre of ditch top.	0.65	
3808	Layer	Yellowish brown fine silty clay, bioturbated, very occasional chalk fleck, on north side of ditch 3904.	0.24	
3809	Fill	Ditch fill of 3804: very light greyish brown fine silty clay, profuse chalk and common flint nodules. Tertiary fill in slump hollow of backfilled ditch.	0.45	
3810	Fill	Ditch fill of 3804: pale greyish brown silty clay, occasional chalk fragments, and very occasional flint nodules.	0.30	
3811	Fill	Ditch fill of 3804: mid greyish brown silty clay, occasional chalk fragments, rare flint. Large backfill dump deposit.	1.80	
3812	Layer	Dark greyish brown silty clay, modern CBM.		
3813	Cut	Modern circular posthole, filled with 3812		
3814	Fill	Ditch fill of 3804: very light greyish brown silty clay, profuse small chalk pea grit, occasional flint. Re-deposited bank up-cast. Below large backfill episode.	0.30	
3815	Fill	Ditch fill of 3804: pale yellowish brown fine silty clay, very occasional chalk fragments, rare flint nodules and gravels. Similar to 3817. Tips in from NE edge.	0.45	
3816	Fill	Ditch fill of 3904: very dark greyish brown silty clay, very occasional small chalk fragments, common charcoal flecks. Against NE edge of feature.	0.35	
3817	Fill	Ditch fill of 3904: pale yellowish brown, occasional chalk, tips in from NE, very similar to 3815.	0.25	
3818	Fill	Ditch fill: primary silting at base of ditch, dark greyish brown organic looking silty clay, rare chalk, and very rare flint. Possible initial stabilization.	0.20	
3819	Layer	Natural calcareous gravels and silty clays.		

Evaluation Trench 39		Max Depth: 1m Ground Level (m aOD): 85.24	Length: 8.5m	Width: 2.20m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
3901	Layer	Topsoil: mid yellowish brown silty loam, frequent chalk pea grit, common flint pieces	0-0.22	
3902	Layer	Colluvium: mid yellowish brown calcareous silty clay loam, common chalk pea grit, sparse flint	0.20	
3903	Layer	Natural – mixed deposit of soliflucted chalk with pockets of clay with flint		
3904	Fill	Upper fill of linear terminus 3907: yellowish brown calcareous silty loam, frequent chalk pea grit, common flint. Dump of large broken flints east end of terminus.	0.38	
3905	Fill	Fill of terminus 3907: dump of white chalk tipping from E, includes rare lumps of daub.	0.12	
3906	Fill	Lower fill of terminus 3907: pale yellowish brown calcareous silty loam with frequent chalk pea grit and common flint. Finds of pottery and flint.	0.18	
3907	Cut	Ditch terminus aligned E-W, linear with steep concave sides and flat base, 1.50m width. Filled with 3904, 3905, 3906, cutting into natural.	0.56	
3908	Fill	Upper fill of 3910: yellowish brown silty loam, common flint pieces, with abundant amount of broken flint nodules. Finds of pottery.	0.20	
3909	Fill	Lower fill of 3910: pale yellowish brown calcareous silty clay loam, common chalk pea grit and interlocking broken flint nodules. Finds of pottery.	0.40	
3910	Cut	Sub-circular feature in middle of trench, to south of terminus 3907. Vertical sides with concave base, filled with 3908 and 3909. Possible gate post hole. Length 0.84m, width 0.60m.	0.60	
3911	Fill	Fill of 3912: pale yellowish brown silty loam, common chalk pea grit, rare flint pieces.	0.11	
3912	Cut	Circular feature in middle of trench, to east of ditch terminus 3907. Vertical sides with flat base, length 0.19m, width 0.17m. Possible gate post hole.	0.11	
3913	Fill	Deposit/fill: yellowish brown calcareous silty loam, with common chalk pea grit and sparse flint pieces. Covers linear feature in north of trench, infilling depression above three intercutting ditches. Finds of pottery and bone.	0.30	
3914	Fill	Fill of 3918: pale yellowish brown loose silty loam, common chalk pea grit and flint pieces. Finds of pottery.		
3915	Fill	Fill of 3919: pale yellowish brown calcareous silty loam, common chalk pea grit, sparse flint. Compact. Finds of pottery.		
3916	Fill	Fill of 3920: pale yellowish brown silty loam, common chalk pea grit, sparse flint. Compact. Finds of pottery.		
3917	Fill	Fill of 3921: very pale yellowish brown calcareous silty clay, common chalk pea grit, sparse flint. Cut by linears 3918, 3919, 3920.		
3918	Cut	Linear boundary ditch aligned E-W across N half of trench, moderate concave sides and concave base. One of three intercutting parallel ditches. Cuts 3917.		
3919	Cut	Linear boundary ditch aligned E-W terminating in N half of trench. Moderate concave sides and concave base. One of three intercutting parallel ditches. Cuts 3917.		
3920	Cut	Linear boundary ditch aligned E-W across N half of trench. Steep straight sides and narrow concave base. One of three intercutting parallel ditches. Cuts 3917.		
3921	Cut	Linear boundary ditch aligned E-W across N half of trench. Steep straight sides and irregular concave base. Cut by linears 3918, 3919, 3920.		

Evaluation Trench 40		Max Depth: 0.60m Ground Level (m aOD): 85.52	Length: 13m	Width: 2.20m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
4001	Layer	Topsoil: dark greyish brown silty clay, occasional flint fragments and gravels	0-0.25	
4002	Layer	Colluvial subsoil: light yellowish brown silty clay, common flint, occasional chalk. Thins down slope to S. Overlies 4003 – 4006 at centre west where deposit is deeper.	0.25 – 0.45	
4003	Cut	Pit cut: semi-circular shallow cut with concave base, length 0.30m width 0.80m. Filled with dark greyish brown silty clay, frequent flint and chalk. Finds of pottery. Continues into western trench edge south of similar 4004.	0.15	
4004	Cut	Pit / ditch terminus in W section of trench.		
4005	Cut	NW-SE ditch terminus in W section of trench.		
4006	Cut	Small pit on S edge at end of 4005.		
4007	Fill	Fill of 4003: dark greyish brown silty clay, common flint and gravels, occasional chalk. Silty in wash from surrounding topsoils. Finds of pottery.	0.15	
4008	Layer	Natural solifluxion chalk and flinty clays	0.40 -	

Evaluation Trench 41		Max Depth: 0.75m Ground Level (m aOD): 85.06	Length: 16.5m	Width: 2.20m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
4101	Layer	Topsoil: grey brown silty loam	0-0.15	
4102	Layer	Subsoil: Colluvial, red brown	0.15-0.40	
4103	Layer	Weather upper surface of natural chalk	0.40 -	
4104	Fill	Square pit, 1m width, grey brown silty loam fill truncated by trench cut, NW alignment.		
4105	Cut	Pit cut, filled with 4104. Unexcavated.		
4106	Fill	Fill of 4107: grey brown silty loam, with finds of animal bone, burnt flint, flint. E-W orientation.		
4107	Cut	Linear cut, width 1m, length +2.5m. Filled with 4106. Unexcavated.		
4108	Fill	Pit fill of 4109, grey brown silty loam, no finds, and moderate flint.		
4109	Cut	Pit cut, 1.5m diameter, filled with 4108. Unexcavated.		
4110	Fill	Fill of linear 4111, orange brown sandy loam, NW-SE orientation.		
4111	Cut	Linear/gully cut, length +2.4m, filled with 4110. Unexcavated.		
4112	Fill	Pit fill of 4113: brown silty loam		
4113	Cut	Pit cut, circular, diameter 0.80m, cutting 4110 and 4114. Unexcavated.		
4114	Fill	Fill of linear gully 4115: grey brown silty loam, inclusions of large flint nodules and mortar.		
4115	Cut	Cut of linear/gully filled with 4114. E-W orientation, cut by pit 4114. Unexcavated.		
4116	Fill	Fill of linear 4117: silty loam, inclusions of flint and large fragments of pottery.		
4117	Cut	Linear cut: cuts / cut by linear 4118, NW-SE orientation, filled with 4116. Unexcavated.		
4118	Fill	Fill of linear 4119: silty loam, inclusions of large flint nodules.		
4119	Cut	Linear cut: cuts / cut by linear 4117, similar orientation, filled with 4118. Unexcavated.		

Evaluation Trench 42: geotechnical test pit		Max Depth: 3m Ground Level (m aOD): 86.70	Length: 3m	Width: 0.60m
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	
4201		Made ground / mixed	0-0.50	
4202		Mid brown soil / animal bone- fill of ditch	0.50 – 1.70	
4201		Natural chalk	1.70 -	

## APPENDIX 2: FINDS TOTALS BY MATERIAL TYPE AND TRENCH

**Table 1: Finds totals by material type and trench (number/weight in grammes)**

Trench	Material types:			
	Animal Bone	Flint	Pottery	Other finds
13	6/20	7/54	1/7	
14	4/42	3/63	3/12	1/17 burnt flint
16		2/42		
18			3/25	
20	145/1065	11/215	35/313	
21	256/1337	16/237	269/3963	14/715 burnt flint; 2/63 CBM; 1 cu alloy obj; 6/80 fired clay; 43 iron obj; 1/143 stone
23		5/90		1/1 burnt flint
29	30/605	4/18	11/157	1/42 oyster shell
34			4/23	
38	104/891	6/132	84/1064	21/887 burnt flint; 1/12 CBM; 1/4 fired clay
39	40/350	27/422	91/1257	22/556 burnt flint; 2/3 fired clay; 2/3091 stone
40			5/22	
41	56/127		37/724	
MTP103	1/1		2/23	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>642/4438</b>	<b>81/1273</b>	<b>545/7590</b>	59/2176 burnt flint; 3/75 CBM; 1 cu alloy obj; 9/87 fired clay; 48 iron obj; 1/42 shell; 3/3234 stone



### APPENDIX 3 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

**Table 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal**

Samples				Flot							
Feature	Context	Sample	Litres	Flot (ml)	% roots	Grain	Chaff	Charred other	Seeds	Charcoal >4/2mm	Other
Tr 13 – Boundary Ditch											
1305	1304	12	20	100	80	C	-	C	Indet. grain frag, <i>Lolium/Festuca</i>	0/1 ml	Moll-t (A)
Tr 20 – Enclosure Ditch											
2002	2009	7	17	15	40	-	-	-	-	0<1 ml	Moll-t (A*), Sab (C)
Tr 21 – Enclosure Ditch											
2119	2108	9	18	50	75	C	C	C	Hulled wheat + ?Barley grain frags, glume frags, <i>Galium</i>	0/1 ml	Moll-t (A), Sab (C)
Tr 29 – Gully											
2904	2909	13	19	10	70	B	C	C	Hulled wheat + Barley grain frags, glume frags, <i>Vicia/Lathyrus, Avena/Bromus</i>	0/1 ml	Moll-t (A)
Tr 39 – Ditch											
3907	3906	17	10	50	65	A	B	C	Hulled wheat + Barley grain frags, glume frags, <i>Medicago/Trifolium, Polygonaceae</i>	1/1 ml	Moll-t (A)

Key: A\*\*\* = exceptional, A\*\* = 100+, A\* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5  
sab = small animal/fish bones, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs;

## APPENDIX 4 OASIS FORM

**OASIS ID: wessexar1-92154**

### Project details

Project name MOD HEADQUARTERS, HIGH STREET, DURRINGTON

Short description of the project Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Persimmon Homes (South Coast) Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land which was formerly the MOD Headquarters complex, located in Durrington, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference NGR 415400 144700. A small portion of the MOD Headquarters was initially evaluated in 2006 which identified a significant concentration of Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement within the northwest section of the site. The Phase 2 evaluation was intended to clarify the extent and nature of these archaeological remains, to evaluate other areas which had been previously inaccessible and to inform discussions as the extent and nature of subsequent archaeological mitigation. The evaluation was able to clarify the nature of the settlement activity in the northwest corner of the site which was found to be enclosed by a significantly large enclosure ditch up to eight metres in width and four metres in depth. The full extent of this enclosure ditch, and thus the general size of the associated settlement area, is unclear although the enclosed settlement is likely to cover a large part of the northern half of the Site (at least 1-2ha) and clearly extends well beyond the Site's northern limit to form a very substantial settlement. The size and nature of the enclosure ditch, the known multi-period occupation and the likely large size of the enclosed settlement appears to be broadly similar to the 9ha enclosed settlement at Figheldean which is located 2km to the north of the Site.

Project dates Start: 19-07-2010 End: 06-08-2011

Previous/future work Yes / Yes

Any project codes associated reference 55700 - Contracting Unit No.

Any project codes associated reference 74411 - Contracting Unit No.

Any project codes associated reference 74412 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 1 - Allotment

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices

Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	BURIAL Early Bronze Age
Monument type	SETTLEMENT Late Iron Age
Monument type	SETTLEMENT Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Bronze Age
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Late Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE SALISBURY DURRINGTON Former MoD Estate Offices - Avon Fields
Postcode	SP4 8DE
Study area	5.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 15400 44700 51.2007882417 -1.779557754380 51 12 02 N 001 46 46 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 78.00m Max: 82.00m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project originator brief	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project originator design	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	A Manning
Project supervisor	Bob Davis
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Persimmon Homes (South Coast) Ltd

### Project archives

Physical recipient	Archive Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
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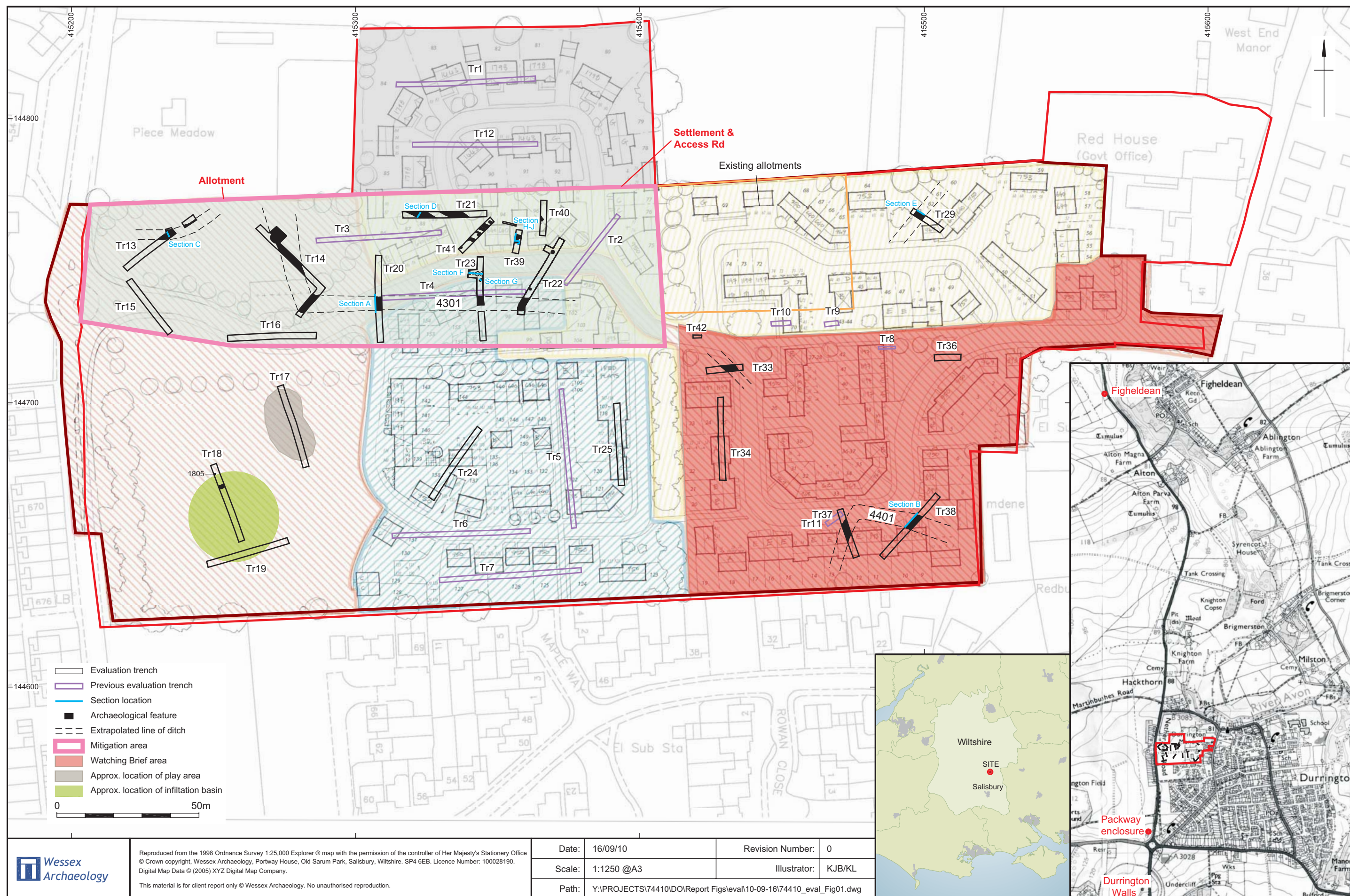
Physical Contents		'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Metal','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital recipient	Archive	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Digital Contents		'none'
Digital available	Media	'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Paper recipient	Archive	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Paper Contents		'none'
Paper available	Media	'Context sheet','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Plan','Section'

### **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	MOD HEADQUARTERS, HIGH STREET, DURRINGTON
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Davis, B
Other bibliographic details	74410.04
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Salisbury
Description	Short A4 standard evaluation report

Entered by	Andrew Manning (a.manning@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	27 January 2011





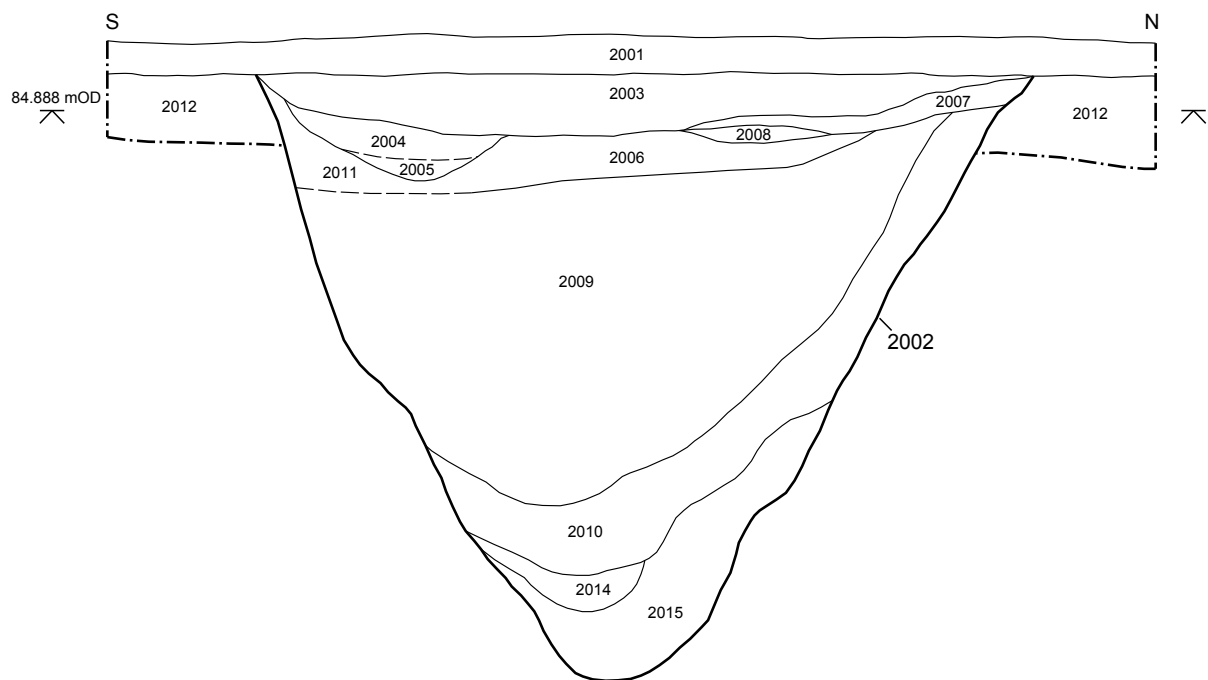
Site location and trench location

Figure 1

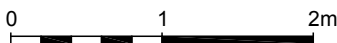
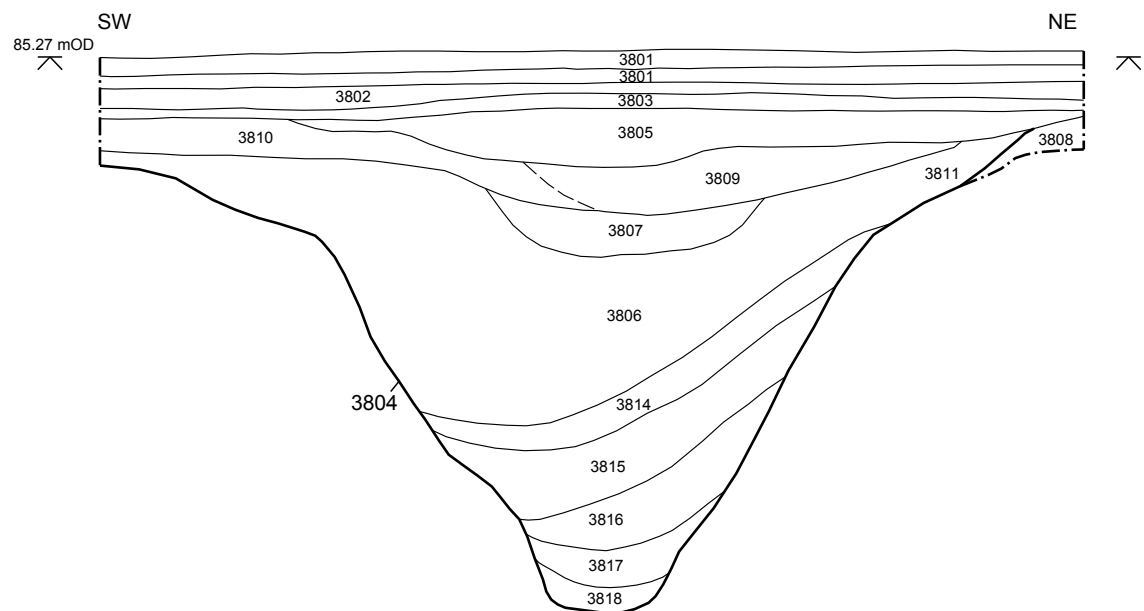




A. East facing section through ditch 2002 (Group 4301)



B. South-east facing section through ditch 3804 (Group 4401)



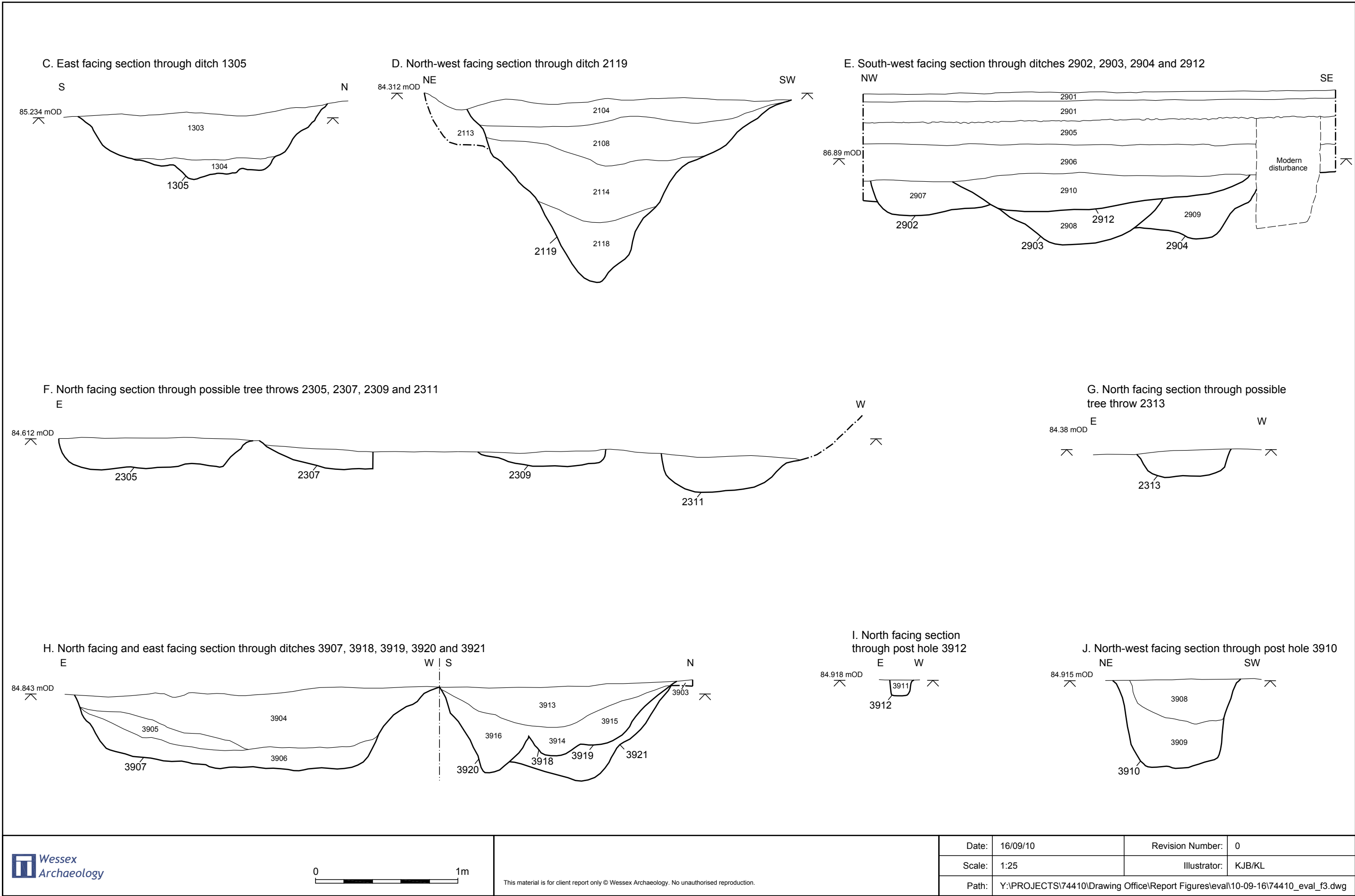
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Sections through ditches in Trenches 20 and 3

Figure 3





Sections through selected features in Trenches 13, 21, 23, 29 and 39

Figure 4





Plate 1: Trench 38 ditch 3804



Plate 2: Trench 20 ditch 2002


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Plate 3: Trench 13 feature 1305



Plate 4: Trench 29 ditch 2904





Plate 5: Trench 23 features 2305, 2307, 2309, 2311 and 2313



Plate 6: Trench 21 ditch 2119





Plate 7: Trench 39 ditch terminus 3907



Plate 8: Trench 39 intercutting ditches 3919, 3918 and 3920



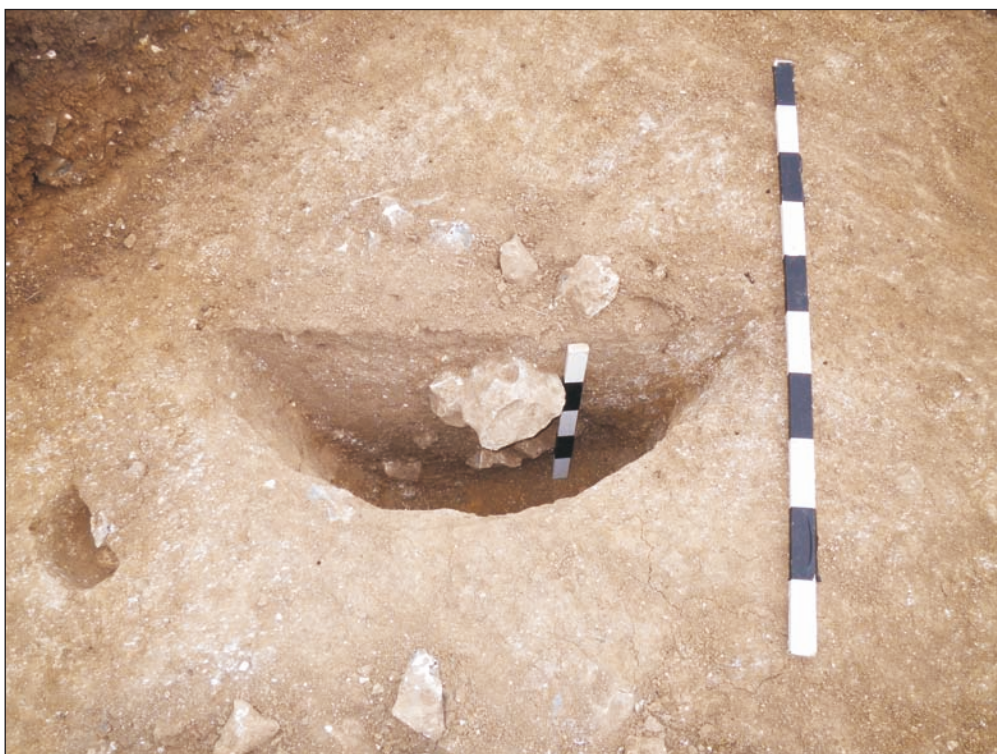



Plate 9: Trench 39 post hole 3910



Plate 10: Trench 39 post hole 3912

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