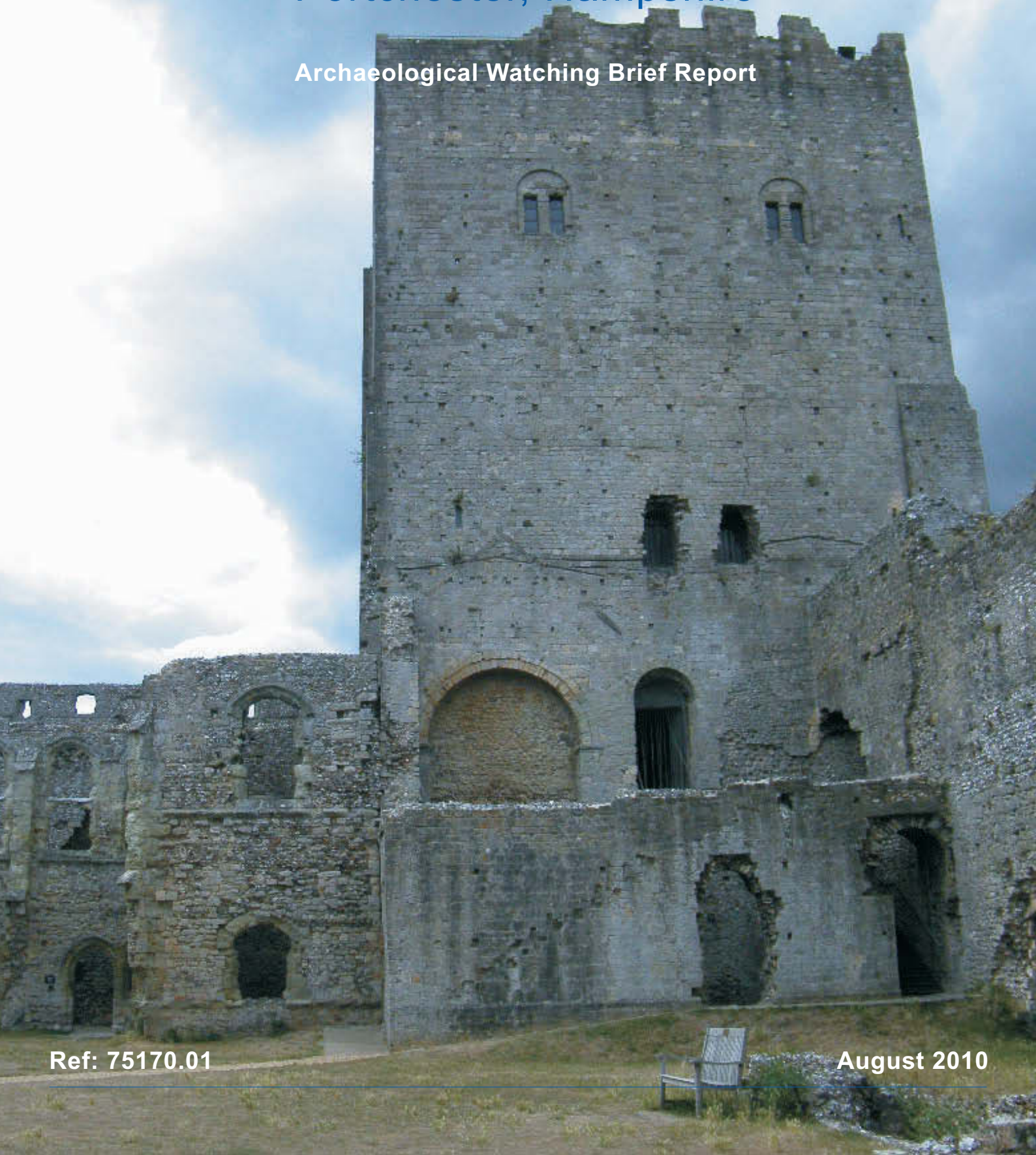




Portchester Castle Carpark
Portchester, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**PORTCHESTER CASTLE CAR PARK,
PORTCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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PLANNING APPLICATION REF.		NGR			

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I = INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

**PORTCHESTER CASTLE CAR PARK,
PORTCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE**

Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief

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Figure 1: Location of Site and watching brief area

Front cover: View of keep from the south-east

Back cover: View of Site from the north-west

**PORTCHESTER CASTLE CAR PARK,
PORTCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Fareham Borough Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the larger car park immediately adjacent to the scheduled area of Portchester Castle, Portchester, Hampshire (SMN 26714). The watching brief was undertaken during the replacement of 10 fence posts. The sequence observed was similar to that seen in an earlier watching brief for the adjacent fence with modern topsoil overlying a chalky deposit. Artefacts within this chalky layer confirmed that it was re-deposited. In two of the postholes a silty clay layer was seen beneath this.

**PORTCHESTER CASTLE CAR PARK,
PORTCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE**

Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Fareham Borough Council and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Alan Carlisle and Sarah Boswell in this regard. Wessex Archaeology was also like to thank John and Stella Cosens of JDC Outdoor Services for all their help during the work.

The watching brief was undertaken by Naomi Hall. This report was compiled by Naomi Hall and the illustrations were prepared by Ken Lymer. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Paul White.

**PORTCHESTER CASTLE CAR PARK,
PORTCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE****Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief****1 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Fareham Borough Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the replacement of a stretch of fencing within a car park adjacent to Portchester Castle. This was centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 462436 104712, hereafter referred to as the 'Site' (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The work was carried out between the 26th – 27th July 2010.

1.2 The Site, Location and Geology

1.2.1 The Site lies just to the north of Portchester Castle and within the scheduled area (SM 26714). Portchester Castle itself lies at the eastern end of a stubby peninsula that juts into the northern end of Portsmouth Harbour. The Site lies at 5m aOD on an outlier of undifferentiated river/valley gravel (BGS Sheet 316, Fareham).

1.2.2 The area monitored was a small area of rough grass which lies between the tarmac surface of the car park and the tarmac access road to the sailing club.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1 The castle has a long and impressive history beginning from its construction in the 3rd century AD as a Roman shore fort. The stone walls were later adapted to accommodate the erection of a square Norman keep in 1090 with subsequent developments sufficient to ensure its importance during the reign of Edward III and conversion into a royal palace by Richard II. An Augustinian priory was constructed in the 12th century within the outer bailey; which is now occupied by the church of St Mary.

1.3.2 In the post-medieval period the castle declined in status but remained in use as a prison building, most successfully for the detention of Napoleonic prisoners of war. The castle remains are designated as a Scheduled Monument and are also a Grade 1 Listed building.

1.4 Previous Archaeological Work

1.4.1 A watching brief was undertaken in March 2010 when the northern perimeter fence around the castle was replaced for English Heritage. A total of 140 postholes were observed and revealed a sequence of topsoil and made ground overlying chalk beach deposits (Wessex Archaeology 2010). No features or artefacts were observed.

1.5 Aims and Objectives

1.5.1 The objective of the watching brief was to record, as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, nature, character and relationships of

any surviving archaeological remains observed during the excavation of postholes for a replacement fence.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Method Statement

2.1.1 The project contained no formal written method statement for this work, however it was requested that all work to excavate post holes should be undertaken under continuous archaeological supervision. The sequence of deposits within all the postholes was recorded and the spoil scanned for artefacts. A full photographic record was kept utilising digital photography.

2.1.2 A unique site code **75170** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.

2.2 Best Practice

2.2.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the *Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008).

2.3 Copyright

2.3.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

3 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

3.1.1 Ten postholes were observed, each was approximately 0.20m² and between 0.62-0.72m deep. The postholes were numbered east to west along the fence line.

3.1.2 The sequence of deposits observed was fairly consistent between all the observed postholes with between 0.42-0.45m of topsoil overlying between 0.19-0.26m of a disturbed or made ground deposit. This was similar to what was observed in the earlier watching brief (Wessex Archaeology 2010). This lower layer was a mid grey silt loam consisting in the majority of degraded chalk and had been considerably disturbed by roots from the nearby mature trees. The topsoil contained fragments of modern brick, concrete and small flint nodules. Within the chalky marl deposit fragments of animal bone and fragments of a copper alloy object were recovered from the fourth posthole, context (402). This indicates that although a similar chalky marl deposit is seen in the eroded edges of the moat and would appear to form part of the natural stratigraphic sequence, within the area of the watching brief this material has been re-deposited.

3.1.3 The ground rose slightly from the east to the west and this corresponded with a slight increase in depth of the topsoil and chalky layer. For this reason a third deposit beneath the chalky layer was only encountered in postholes 1

and 2. This was a mid orange-brown silty clay with occasional small flints and may be a natural deposit. Due to disturbance from previous structures only topsoil and concrete was seen in postholes 9 and 10.

4 FINDS

4.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during the watching brief. All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**.

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

CONTEXT	ANIMAL BONE	COPPER ALLOY
402	2/10	2/2
	1/3	
TOTAL	3/13	2/2

4.1.2 All three fragments of animal bone are slightly abraded. The two fragments from (402) are significant in that they show that this layer is an archaeological rather than a natural deposit. The two fragments of copper alloy are from one object (ON 1) but are undiagnostic.

4.1.3 The small size and type of assemblage means that no further analysis of the assemblage is considered necessary.

5 CONCLUSIONS

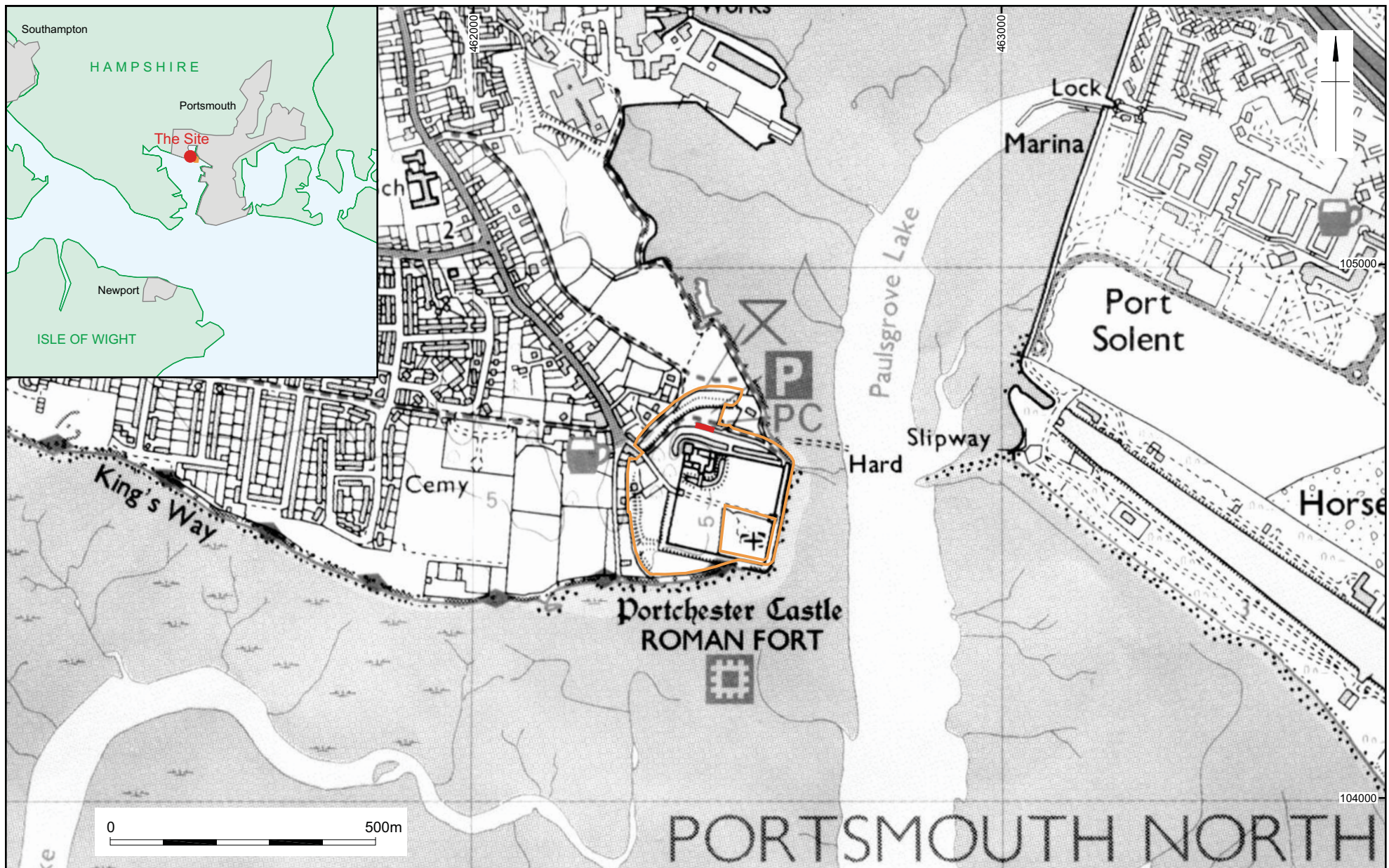
5.1.1 The watching brief achieved its primary aim to observe the replacement posts and record any archaeological deposits that might be present. The scope of the work was limited by the restricted views of the sections provided by the post holes but was able to confirm that the chalky marl deposit encountered beneath the modern topsoil was re-deposited or disturbed but this activity could not be dated from the limited investigations.

6 ARCHIVE

6.1.1 The project archive was prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990). The project archive is currently kept at the Head Office of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under the project reference **75170**.

7 REFERENCES

Wessex Archaeology, 2010, *Portchester Castle, Portchester, Hampshire: Archaeological Watching Brief Report*, unpublished client report ref 73890.01



	<p>Reproduced from the 1998 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 Explorer® map with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright, Wessex Archaeology, Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6EB. Licence Number: 100028190. Additional digital map data © XYZ Digital Map Company. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</p>	<p>— Area of watching brief (line of fence)</p> <p>□ Scheduled Monument areas</p>	Date:	17/08/10	Revision Number:	0
			Scale:	1:10000 @ A4	Illustrator:	KL
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Location of site and watching brief

Figure 1



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