

# WHITESHOOTS HOUSE, WHITESHOOTS HILL, BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

NGR: SP 1568 2045

# **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION**

Report No. 887 November 2013







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Quality Assurance					
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#### **GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

Archaeology:	For the purposes of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.
CBM:	Ceramic Building Material.
HER:	Historic Environment Record.
L.O.E	Limit of Excavation.
Medieval:	The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and c. AD 1500.
Modern:	The period from 1900 to the present day.
Natural:	In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site, in this case Limestone brash and light yellow-brown sandy silt.
NGR:	National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.
OD:	Ordnance Datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.
OS:	Ordnance Survey.
Post-medieval:	The period after c. AD 1500, and before 1900.
Prehistoric:	The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43. Traditionally sub divided into; <i>Palaeolithic</i> – <i>c</i> . 500,000 BC to <i>c</i> . 12,000 BC; <i>Mesolithic</i> – <i>c</i> . 12,000 BC to <i>c</i> . 4,500 BC; <i>Neolithic</i> – <i>c</i> . 4,500 BC to <i>c</i> . 2,000 BC; <i>Bronze Age</i> – <i>c</i> . 2,000 BC to <i>c</i> . 800 BC; <i>Iron Age</i> – <i>c</i> . 800 BC to AD 43.
Roman:	The period traditionally dated AD 43 to c. AD 410.
Saxon:	The period between AD 410 and AD 1066. Sometimes referred to as Early Medieval.
Terminus ante	<i>quem:</i> Is used to indicate the date before which an artefact or layer must have been deposited.
Terminus post	<i>quem:</i> Is used to indicate the date after which an artefact or layer must have been deposited.

**WSI:** Written Scheme of Investigation.

Site name:	Whiteshoots House, Whiteshoots Hill, Bourton-on-the-Water,
	Gloucestershire.
Site code:	WHW12
Grid reference:	SP 1568 2045
Site activity:	Archaeological Investigation
Date of fieldwork:	$9^{\text{th}} - 15^{\text{th}}$ October 2012
Site area:	Approximately 3.2 ha
<b>Project manager:</b>	Roy King
Site supervisor:	Hayley Nicholls
Archive location:	To be deposited with Corinium Museum
Accession code:	To be confirmed

#### SUMMARY

Between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012 Foundations Archaeology conducted a programme of archaeological investigation on land at Whiteshoots House, Whiteshoots Hill, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire (NGR: SP 1568 2045). The investigation was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a riding arena, stables and access trackway.

The archaeological investigation identified good preservation of archaeological deposits within the trackway area. A cluster of archaeological features were identified, which included two postholes and four possible pits. Two further possible pits were identified approximately 60m northeast of the cluster. To the southwest of the cluster lay a possible linear pit or gully, a large Post-medieval/ Modern ditch and a further two postholes in close proximity to an undefined shallow cut or hollow. All four of the postholes and two of the large circular pits were fully exposed. The remaining four pits, the shallow linear pit or gully, the large northwest-southeast aligned ditch, and the shallow cut or hollow were partially revealed within the trackway area.

Iron Age pottery was recovered from posthole [106], possible gully [102], shallow cut/hollow [144] and pits [115], [124], [127] and [139]. However, given the lack of evidence of later phases of archaeological activity prior to the Post-medieval/Modern era and the similarity of pit [136] to that of [124] and [139] and of postholes [110], [130] and [133] to posthole [106], it would appear reasonable to date these features as probably of Iron Age origin.

The nature and concentration of the Iron Age features identified during this investigation combined with the evidence from the Cotswold Archaeology Archaeological Evaluation (2011), indicated a high probability that an Iron Age occupation site lay in close proximity to the trackway area (Figure 3).

No archaeological deposits were revealed in the three other investigated areas (the arena, hard standing area and stables area). However, this is due to the fact that the excavations for the proposed development in these areas were shallow and would not expose the natural deposits/archaeological horizon. It was therefore agreed that sufficient buffer would survive to prevent impact on any buried archaeological deposits.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Between 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012 Foundations Archaeology conducted a programme of archaeological investigation on land at Whiteshoots House, Whiteshoots Hill, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire (NGR: SP 1568 2045). The work was commissioned by Neil Warrilow of Pegasus Arenas, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Roddick of Whiteshoots House.
- 1.2 Planning permission was granted for change of use to include erection of a riding arena, stables and access (Planning Ref. No. 11/03031/FUL). In accordance with the general principles of the *National Planning Policy Framework 2012* (NPPF) and the archaeological policies of Cotswold District Council, a programme of archaeological mitigation was required as a condition of planning permission. The investigation comprised the agreed archaeological mitigation.
- 1.3 The archaeological investigation and recording was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2012), based on the brief issued by Gloucestershire County Archaeological Services, acting as advisors to Cotswold District Council, and with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (1994, revised 2008).
- 1.4 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological works.

## 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies to the southwest of Whiteshoots house and approximately 1km west of Bourton-on-the-Water. Area 1 (Figure 2) comprised the route of a proposed access trackway, which crossed a large pasture field on a northeast-southwest alignment from an existing barn area to meet with Clapton Road via an existing gateway. Area 2, 3 and 4 (Figure 2) were focussed around the existing barn within the paddocks and comprised a proposed riding arena area, the footprint of new stables, and a proposed area of hard-standing. The site is bordered to the north-west by the A429 and south-west by Clapton Road; to the north-east and south-east is open pasture.
- 2.2 An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken partly within the proposed development area (HER40550) by Cotswold Archaeology in 2011. This evaluation revealed four Iron Age storage pits in Trench 1 immediately to the west of the proposed development area (see Figure 3), which may indicate the presence of a settlement. Within the proposed hard-standing area, evaluation Trench 5 revealed a northeast-southwest aligned ditch of Post-medieval or Modern date which probably related to agricultural activity in the area.
- 2.3 The development area therefore contained the potential for the preservation of archaeological deposits; predominately associated with the later Prehistoric period and the Post-medieval or Modern periods.

## **3 METHODOLOGY**

## 3.1 AREA 1 (TRACKWAY)

- 3.1.1 The proposed alignment of the trackway had been altered prior to our arrival on site. This was in order to leave as much distance between the trackway and the cluster of Iron Age pits identified in Trench 1 during an earlier archaeological evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology, 2011). The new alignment ran approximately 8° southeast of the initially proposed route.
- 3.1.2 The proposed track was to be excavated to a depth of 0.15m (150mm) from existing ground level. As outlined in the brief, non-significant overburden was removed to the top of the formation level, except in the areas where this was less than 50mm from the top of the archaeological horizon or natural. There were four zones in which the depth of non-significant overburden was great enough to allow for 50mm or more of buffering material between the formation level and the archaeological horizon or natural. Buffered zones measured a total length of 58m, 30% of the total length of the excavated trackway (Figure 3).
- 3.1.3 Excavation of the trackway was achieved through use of a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless grading bucket, working under constant archaeological supervision. All further investigation and excavation was undertaken manually by an archaeologist.
- 3.2 AREA 2 (ARENA)
- 3.2.1 The area of the proposed arena was graded to a depth of between 1.8m and 0.0m from the existing ground level. This was achieved through use of a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless grading bucket, working under constant archaeological supervision. All further investigation and excavation was undertaken manually by an archaeologist.
- 3.3 AREA 3 (HARD-STANDING)
- 3.3.1 The area of the proposed hard standing was graded to a depth of 0.1 to 0.15m from the existing ground level. This was achieved through use of a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless grading bucket, working under constant archaeological supervision.
- 3.4 AREA 4 (NEW STABLES)
- 3.4.1 The area of the proposed stable block will be graded to a depth of between 1.0 and 0.0m from the existing ground level. This was achieved through use of a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless grading bucket, working under constant archaeological supervision. All further investigation and excavation was undertaken manually by an archaeologist.

- 3.5 Any revealed archaeological deposits and features were subject to appropriate levels of investigation and recording. Spoil tips were scanned for finds. Any recovered archaeological artefacts were allocated a context reference number and retained. Modern artefacts were noted and discarded.
- 3.6 All on-site excavation and recording was undertaken in accordance with the specific requirements detailed in the WSI.

## 4 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

- 4.1 A full stratigraphic description of all the contexts identified in the course of the project is presented in Appendix 1, along with assessments of the recovered pottery, bone and charred plant macrofossils and wood charcoal (Appendices 2, 3 and 4) and as a list of miscellaneous finds (Appendix 5).
- 4.2 The natural substrates consisted of limestone brash and light yellow-brown sandy silt and were encountered at an average depth of 0.14 to 0.31m below Modern ground level in Area 1, (175.19m OD at the northeast end and 178.51m OD at southwest end). Excavation in Areas 2, 3 and 4 were not deep enough to expose the natural deposits. The natural substrates were directly overlain by a dark brown sandy silt topsoil (101). Archaeological features were only present within the trackway area (Area 1) and were cut into the natural substrate. All archaeological features were directly sealed by topsoil (101), with the exception of the undefined shallow cut or hollow [144], which was sealed by possible make-up/dumped layer (122). No archaeological features were identified in Areas 2, 3, and 4, however, this is most likely to be related to the fact that the excavations did not expose the natural deposits/archaeological horizon rather than a lack of archaeological potential.
- 4.3 Area 1 (Figure 4) contained a cluster of archaeological features, which included two postholes and four possible pits. Two further possible pits were identified approximately 60m northeast of the cluster. To the southwest of the cluster lay a possible linear pit or gully, which appeared to cut an earlier feature, a large Post-medieval/ Modern ditch and a further two postholes in close proximity to an undefined shallow cut or hollow. The features varied in depth from 0.1m to 1.15m. There appeared to have been relatively minimal truncation of archaeological deposits from ploughing.
- 4.4 The identified pits appeared to fall within two distinct groups. Two pits were significantly deeper than the other four, with depths greater than 0.85m, whilst the shallower pits had depths of between 0.2 and 0.5m.
- 4.5 Two of the most defined features within Area 1 comprised two of the shallower pits [124] and [139].
- 4.6 Circular Pit [139] lay apart from a cluster of pits and postholes at a distance of approximately 55m. Pit [139] was almost entirely exposed within the excavated area, had steep sides and a broad, flat base. The pit contained two

distinct fills (140) and (141), of which the lower fill contained 13 animal bone fragments and 15 body sherds of coarse shell Iron Age pottery.

- 4.7 Circular pit [124] lay centrally within a cluster of features which included postholes [106] and [110] and pits [115], [127] and [136]. Pit [124] had steep sides and a broad flat base. The pit contained two fills (125) and (126), of which the upper fill (125) contained four body sherds of coarse shell Iron Age pottery.
- 4.8 Posthole [106] lay 1.1m east of pit [124], was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Irregular limestone packing stones (107) encircled probable post-pipe (109). Fill (108) possibly represented further packing deposited around stones (107). Post-pipe (109) contained a single small sherd of coarse shell Iron Age pottery. Although the size of the sherd could suggest it was a residual find, the lack of any evidence for later phases of archaeological activity prior to the Post-medieval/Modern era would suggest that the posthole can be fairly confidently dated as Iron Age.
- 4.9 Posthole [110] was situated 0.95m southwest of posthole [106] and was similar in form. The posthole had steep sides and a flat base. Probable packing fill (111) consisted of a clay silt deposit with frequent irregular limestone fragments. These limestone fragments did not retain the tight enclosing circle around the post-pipe (112) as packing stones (107) did within posthole [106], which may suggest some disturbance before the post decayed. No dating evidence was present within the posthole and its fills. However, given the lack of evidence of later phases of archaeological activity prior to the Post-medieval/Modern era, and its proximity and similarity in construction to [106], posthole [110] can be provisionally dated as Iron Age.
- 4.10 Circular pit [115] lay 0.75m southwest of pit [124], had steep, almost vertical sides and a depth of more than 1.14m. The pit could not be fully excavated due to its depth and the loose consistency of its fills. The earliest fill encountered was (117), which was most likely a slump of the natural substrates, this was sealed by a thin layer of loose ashy fill (118) which contained two sherds of fine shell Iron Age pottery, which consisted of a rim-sherd and a pierced lug. Also present were two fragments of burnt animal bone, which appeared to have been heated to a higher temperature than the rest of the bone in the sample. The main deposit of the pit was fill (116), this contained a large quantity of animal bone, industrial waste (slag), two body sherds of coarse shell, and one small sherd of fine shell Iron Age pottery. Fill (116) was then sealed by (119), which was devoid of artefactual evidence.
- 4.11 Possible pit [127] lay 0.8m northwest of the pit central to the cluster, [124] and was similar in appearance and composition to [115]. The feature had steep almost vertical sides and a depth of more than 0.85m. Possible pit [127] was only partially located within Area 1 and the proximity of the pit to the limit of excavation (L.O.E) meant it was not possible to fully excavate this feature. The lowest excavated deposit (129), did not contain any artefactual evidence but the main fill (128), which lay directly below topsoil (101) contained a

fragment of sheep radius, one small sherd of coarse shell pot and one sherd of fine shell pot, both of Iron Age date.

- 4.12 The last feature within the cluster of pits and postholes was another partially revealed possible pit, [136]. Pit [136] lay 0.7m south of central pit [124], had steep sides and a depth of 0.5m. The area of the feature revealed was semicircular in plan. A single fragment of sheep bone was present in upper fill (138) but no dating evidence was present within either of the pits' two fills. However, the lack of any evidence of later phases of archaeological activity within the vicinity prior to the Post-medieval/Modern era may suggest that the pit could be provisionally dated as Iron Age.
- 4.13 One other possible pit was identified within the trackway area but extended beyond the LOE. Feature [142] lay in close proximity to pit [139] and was located approximately 60m northeast of the cluster. Possible pit [142] was considerably different in form to all other pits and possible pits identified within the area. The feature had shallow sloping sides, a flat base and was only 0.2m deep. The revealed extent of the feature was sub-square in plan and it cannot be discounted that this feature may also represent a ditch terminus. The fill (143) within the cut was also considerably different to the fills within other pits and possible pits identified. Fill (143) consisted of a clean orange-brown silt-clay with very rare stone inclusions. No dating evidence was present within this feature.
- 4.14 To the southwest of the cluster of pits and postholes lay what appeared to be two inter-cutting features. The earliest of which was feature [113], which was truncated at the western end by possible shallow linear pit or gully [102]. Feature [113] was hard to define, but may have been a shallow pit or scoop, or possibly a natural feature. No dating evidence was present within this feature. Possible gully [102] was aligned northwest-southeast for a length of 2.5m and extended beyond the northwest LOE. The southeastern edge of [102] appeared to terminate where it intersected with earlier feature [113]. A single large body sherd of coarse shell Iron Age pottery along with a probable cow rib was retrieved from fill (103) within [102].
- 4.15 The final cluster of features identified within the trackway area consisted of two postholes and a shallow undefined cut or hollow. The first posthole [130] was circular in plan, had steep sides and a flat base. Large irregular limestone packing stones (131) lined the edge of the cut but no post-pipe was visible and no artefactual material was present.
- 4.16 The second posthole [133] lay 2.5m southeast of posthole [130]. The posthole was circular in plan, had steep sides and a concave base. Large irregular limestone packing stones (134) lined the edge of the cut, but no post-pipe was visible and no artefactual material was present. Both postholes [130] and [133] lay immediately northeast of and parallel to the northeast edge of undefined shallow cut or hollow [144] and it is possible that the three features are contemporary.

- 4.17 Feature [144] was partly contained within Area 1 for a width of 4.5m. The features' northeast edge was aligned approximately northwest-southeast, had a shallow edge and a maximum depth of 0.36m. The shallow angle of the features' northeast edge left some doubt as to whether it represented a cut feature or a natural hollow. The southwest edge of [144] extended into a buffered area of the trackway, making the extent and function of [144] uncertain.
- 4.18 Fill/deposit (121) lay within possible cut [144] and had frequent charcoal inclusions. Frequent bone fragments present from a number of species including pig, sheep, cow and a single bone from a dog. Also contained were 13 sherds of Iron Age pot, a worked flint and a fragment of Iron object; possibly a pick. Fill (121) may represent a deposit of dumped domestic waste, or a make-up/levelling layer deposited within hollow [144].
- 4.19 A layer of irregular limestone pieces, (123), were laid directly over and pressed into deposit (121). Layer (123) may have been intentionally laid to create a hard surface, possibly a trackway or hard standing area. However, this is merely speculation due to the unknown extent of both layer (123) and feature [144]. There was no order to the arrangement of the stones, which may have been subject to disturbance from ploughing.
- 4.20 Layer (122) sealed stone layer (123) and deposit (121) and extended across [144] for up to 0.2m beyond the northeast edge of [144]. The layer had a similar consistency to topsoil (101), although with a higher abundance of limestone inclusions. It is possible that (122) is plough disturbance of the interface between topsoil (101) and underlying stony layer (123).
- 4.21 Feature [144] appeared to cut through a possible residual subsoil (120). The layer was 0.05m deep at its most shallow point and 0.2m deep beyond the northeast edge of [144]. However, as the layer was not present elsewhere in the site area and only extended for approximately 1m beyond the northeast edge of cut [144], its interpretation as a subsoil is tentative. The layer was similar in consistency to the light yellow-brown sandy silt natural substrate, but yielded occasional charcoal inclusions, three small sherds of coarse shell Iron Age pot and one large sherd of grog-tempered Iron Age pot, as well as animal bone fragments.
- 4.22 Between gully [102]/[113] and feature [144] lay a large Post-medieval/ Modern ditch [104]. The ditch was aligned northwest-southeast and yielded an intact 'Yeast-vite' glass bottle dating to between 1930 and 1980 from fill (105).

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The archaeological investigation identified good preservation of archaeological deposits within the trackway area (Area 1). A cluster of archaeological features were identified, which included two postholes and four possible pits. Two further possible pits were identified approximately 60m

northeast of the cluster. To the southwest of the cluster lay a possible linear pit or gully, a large Post-medieval/Modern ditch and a further two postholes in close proximity to an undefined shallow cut or hollow. All four of the postholes and two of the large circular pits were fully exposed. The remaining four pits, the shallow linear pit or gully, the large northwest-southeast aligned ditch, and the shallow cut or hollow were only partially contained within the trackway area.

- 5.2 Iron Age pottery was recovered from posthole [106], possible gully [102], shallow cut/hollow [144], pits [115], [124], [127], and [139] and deposit/possible subsoil (120). However, given the lack of evidence of later phases of archaeological activity prior to the Post-medieval/Modern era, and the similarity in the construction of pit [136] to that of [124] and [139], and postholes [110], [130], and [133] to posthole [106], it seems reasonable to provisionally date these features to the Iron Age.
- 5.3 The positioning of postholes [130] and [134] along the edge of feature [144] would suggest that these features are contemporary and most likely related in function. The close similarity in appearance and fills of pits [115] and [127] would also suggest that they are also of a similar function and most likely contemporary.
- 5.4 The nature and concentration of the Iron Age features identified during this investigation combined with the evidence from the Cotswold Archaeology Archaeological Evaluation (2011), indicated a high probability that an Iron Age occupation site lay in close proximity to the trackway area (Figure 3).
- 5.5 No archaeological deposits were revealed in the three other investigated areas (the arena, hard standing area and stables area). However, this is due to the fact that the excavations for the proposed development in these areas were shallow and would not expose the natural deposits/archaeological horizon. It was therefore agreed that sufficient buffer would survive to prevent impact on any buried archaeological deposits.

## 6 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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<b>APPENDIX 1</b>	- STRATIGRAPHIC DATA
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схт	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				Strip Map and Sample		
101	NA	NA	NA	Topsoil:Dark brown sandy silt with rare small limestone inclusions		
102	2.5+	0.4 - 0.9	0.11	Possible gully or shallow linear pit. NW-SE aligned	113	
103	2.5+	0.4 - 0.9	0.11	Fill of [102]: Soft dark brown silty clay.	113	
104	3.70+	3.5	0.5+	Linear cut of NNW-SSE aligned ditch with steep 45° sides. Not fully excavated	Natural	
105	3.70+	3.5	0.5+	Fill of [104]: Dark brown, loose silt clay.		
106	0.59	0.48	0.3	Sub-circular posthole. 50° - 70° edges. Concave base.	Natural	
107				Fill of [106]: Stone packing made up of irregular limestone fragments.		
108		0.16	0.2	Fill of [106]: Mid brown plastic clay silt around packing stones 107.		
109		0.25	0.2	Fill of [106]: Dark brown clay silt with rare charcoal flecks. Possible post pipe.		
110	0.6	0.5 +	0.34	Sub-circular posthole. 50° - 70° edges. Flat base.	Natural	
111		0.18	0.24	Fill of [110]: Mid brown clay silt with frequent limestone fragments (possible stone packing).		
112		0.3	0.28	Fill of [110]: Dark brown clay silt with rare charcoal flecks. Possible post pipe.		
113	1.6	0.5 - 0.7	0.1	Possible gully or shallow linear pit. WSW-ENE aligned. May also be a natural feature.	Natural	102
114	1.6	0.5 - 0.7	0.1	Fill of [113]: Mid orange-brown silty clay.		102
115		1.95	1.12+	Large circular pit. Steep 70° edges. Not fully excavated due to depth and loose consistency of fills	Natural	
116		1.8	0.9	Fill of [115]: Dark brown friable silt clay with frequent medium-large fragments of limestone.		
117		0.2	0.3	Fill of [115]: Mid orange-brown silty clay.		
118		1	0.1	Fill of [115]: Dark brown-grey loose silty ash.		
119		1.85	0.18	Fill of [115]: Dark orange-brown friable silt clay with occasional small limestone fragments.		
120	5+		0.1- 0.2	Thin layer of possible subsoil or deposit in hollow. Mid orange-grey-brown soft silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks.		
121	4.68	4	0.32	Possible fill of [121]: Dark black-brown soft clay silt with an abundance of medium stone and frequent charcoal. Possible dumped or make-up layer in natural hollow.		
122	5.22	4	0.1	Mid Brown loose silt, with frequent small stones and charcoal. Possible layer of subsoil underlying the topsoil.		
123				Possible layer (or fill of [144]) of stone overlying dumped make-up layer (121). Abundant irregular limestone fragments underlying (122).		
124	1.6	0.94	0.42	70° steep sided circular pit with flat base.	Natural	

схт	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
125		0.94	0.18	Fill of [124]: Mid Brown friable silt clay with occasional small stones.		
126		0.94	0.42	Fill of [124]: Mid Brown friable silt clay.		
127	1.42	0.5 +	0.85+	70° steep sided probable pit. Area exposed was semi-circular in plan, extended beyond L.O.E. Not fully excavated.	Natural	
128	1.42	0.5 +	0.85	Fill of [127]: Dark brown friable silt clay with frequent medium-large fragments of limestone.		
129		0.6+	0.23 +	Fill of [127]: Dark brown-grey loose silty ash.		
130		0.32	0.28	Circular posthole with 70° -75° sides and a flat base.	Natural	
131				Fill of [130]: Irregular limestone fragments-post packing.		
132		0.32	0.28	Fill of [130]: Mid Brown moderately loose clay silt with occasional charcoal and frequent stone.		
133		0.56	0.34	Circular posthole with 60° -70° sides and a concave base.	Natural	
134				Fill of [133]: Irregular limestone fragments-post packing.		
135		0.56	0.34	Fill of [133]: Mid Brown moderately loose clay silt with occasional charcoal and frequent stone.		
136		1.3	0.5	Pit with steep 65° -70° sides and flat base.	Natural	
137		1.3	0.5	Fill of [136]: Dark brown friable silty clay with very occasional stones. Possibly equivalent to 138.		
138		0.76	0.41	Fill of [136]: Dark brown silt clay with frequent small-medium stones. Possibly equivalent to 137		
139	1.55	1.26+	0.48	Pit with steep 70° edges and a flat base. Appeared circular in plan, although part of the SE edge extended beyond the L.O.E	Natural	
140		1.26+	0.36	Fill of [139]: Dark brown friable silt clay with frequent medium-large fragments of limestone.		
141		1.26+	0.17	Fill of [139]: Dark grey-brown friable silt clay with occasional small limestone fragments.		
142	1	0.78+	0.22	Possible shallow pit cut with gentle 40° edges and a flat base. Exposed area was roughly semi- circular in plan, extended beyond L.O.E	Natural	
143	1	0.78+	0.22	Fill of [142]: Dark orange-brown friable silt clay.		
144	4.58	4	0.36	Possible shallow cut of unknown extent and function or natural hollow used as an area to dump waste deposits.	Natural	

## **APPENDIX 2 – THE POTTERY**

By Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 49 sherds with a total weight of 514g. The bulk of the material was of Iron Age date. The following fabric types were noted:

## Iron Age

F1: Coarse Shell. Moderate to dense shell fragments up to 10mm, sparse red grog up to 0.5mm. 40 sherds, 366g

F2: Fine shell. Sparse to moderate shell fragment up to 2mm. Highly burnished outer surface. 4 sherds, 60g.

F3: Grog-tempered. Hand-built, sparse to moderate grog up to 2mm, rare subrounded quartz up to 0.5mm. 2 sherds, 21g.

## **Post-Medieval**

Glazed Red Earthenware, 16th – 19th century. Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was first made in the 16th century, and in some areas continued in use until the 19th century (Brears 1969). 2 sherds, 32g.

In addition, a single highly abraded and unstratified Roman-British sherd was also noted (35g). The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a terminus post quem. The range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites in the region (eg. Morris 2005), and suggests a date of the early to middle Iron Age.

Most of the Iron Age pottery consisted of plain body-sherds, other than a single rimsherd from context (121), and another, along with a pierced lug, from context (118). Both the rims have upright and slightly everted profiles.

## Bibliography

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	F1		F2		F3		RB		GRI	Ŧ	
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
U/S							1	35	1	30	U/S
101									1	2	17thC
103	1	24									IA
109	1	1									IA
116	2	20	1	3							IA
118			2	42							IA
120	3	12			1	18					IA
121	13	82			1	3					IA
125	4	16									IA
128	1	3	1	15							IA
140	15	208									IA
Total	40	366	4	60	2	21	1	35	2	32	

**Table 1**: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type.

## **APPENDIX 3 – THE ANIMAL BONE**

## By Heidi Dawson

## **Introduction**

A collection of bone from twelve contexts, mostly dated to the Iron Age, was presented to the author for assessment. Preservation was generally good, although all elements were fragmentary, except one. Root markings were noted across many of the larger elements but no cut marks or animal action, such as gnawing, was in evidence. All bone elements were from animal species, with no human bone present, and the author has identified the bone fragments, where possible, to element represented and species.

## **Methods**

The bones analysed for this report were identified to species where possible using diagrams and descriptions from Hillson (1996), Schmid (1972) and Ryder (1969). Bones of the following species were identified in the assemblage: cattle<sup>1</sup>, pig, sheep<sup>2</sup>, horse and dog. Those bones not identifiable to species were listed either as cow-size, sheep-size, or unidentified. Tooth wear stages follow the method of Grant (1982), and measurements were recorded as Von Den Dreisch (1976). Most of the material was unsuitable for taking measurements due to its fragmentary nature.

## Analysis by Context

## Context 101

Three fragments of cow-size rib bone were present in this context.

## Context 103

One fragment of a cow-size rib bone was present in this context.

## Context 105

This context produced the distal shaft of a left humerus of a sheep.

## Context 108

This context contained one long bone fragment with a highly tapered end to it. The surface of this bone was quite eroded and it is most likely to be part of the distal shaft of an ulna of a horse.

## Context 116

This context contained thirty-one bone fragments and five loose teeth. The distal shaft of the femur of a horse was represented by four fragments. The proximal end of the left radius of a cow, and fragments of two mandibles, one an adult (6 fragments) and the other a juvenile (two fragments), were present within this context. Four loose teeth were also recorded, a deciduous fourth premolar, an adult premolar tooth, and two adult molar teeth. The adult molar teeth had very little wear on them (stage a and b respectively) and the deciduous premolar had stage e wear. The lower molar tooth of a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Cattle bones are referred to as cow throughout the report regardless of sex of the remains.

 $<sup>^2</sup>$  Sheep and goat bones are very similar so although the bones in this report are referred to as sheep they could potentially be goat.

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pig was also represented which had stage c wear, and the left side of a sheep's mandible which had only the second deciduous premolar tooth still in-situ, the rest of the tooth socket area having been broken. The distal shaft of a left humerus and a fragment of a left tibia shaft both identified as sheep were also represented. Other elements identified included one burnt fragment of a vertebral body which was black in colour (cow-size), three fragments of cow-sized ribs, nine long bone shaft fragments of cow-size and two long bone shaft fragments of sheep-size.

### Context 118

Two burnt fragments of vertebrae were present in this context the burning was mostly a greyish colour on the outside of the bone with some blacker colouration on the trabecular bone.

#### Context 120

The distal shaft of a left humerus from a sheep, and a molar tooth fragment of a juvenile cow (a permanent tooth which was still developing) were the only fragments present in this context.

#### Context 121

Three pig mandibles are represented in context 121, two left fragments and one right. One of the left mandibles still contained the second and third molar teeth in-situ. The second molar is damaged but the third was scored as stage b for wear. A second left mandible has only the second premolar tooth present. The third mandible was from the right side and has only the first molar tooth present; this was scored as wear stage e. Three more fragments of mandible bone were recorded, two from the right side and one unsided, and these were of comparable size to be from a pig. One fragment of pig maxilla was also present with an unerupted premolar tooth observable where the bone was broken; two other fragments of maxilla may also be from pig. Six loose pig teeth were present in this context, three lower incisors, one upper incisor, a fragment of a canine tooth, and a broken molar tooth fragment. Four other loose teeth were present, an upper molar from a sheep, and two lower molars (both wear stage g) and one lower incisor tooth from a cow. Pig was also represented in this context by fragments of two left and one right ulnae, and one right first phalanx. Cow was represented by four rejoining fragments of a metapodial bone, one fragment of a scapula, and a complete first phalanx. Sheep was represented by three fragments of radial shaft (two separate bones but unsided) and a near compete left rib. There also appeared to be at least one dog bone represented in this context with the fragment of a radius (part of the proximal end and shaft). Fragments of one thoracic vertebra (unfused centrum plate) and one lumbar vertebra also appeared dog-like in morphology. Nine fragments of cow-sized rib bones, one fragment of a sheep-sized scapula, eleven sheep-size rib fragments, one of these completely black (burnt) were also present, along with thirtysix fragments of long bone shaft, and fourteen fragments of flat bone.

## Context 128

Only one fragment of a sheep radius shaft was represented in this context.

## Context 135

The right mandible of a sheep was present in this context with the third deciduous incisor present. A loose premolar tooth from a sheep was also present, which does not appear to be associated with the mandible.

## Context 138

The proximal end and shaft of a right metacarpal bone from a sheep was the only fragment present in this context. Measurements could be taken on this element and are presented in Table 1.

## Context 140

Contained within this context are thirteen bone fragments. The front of a horse mandible, with right incisor 2 and incisor 3 still in-situ, and with quite significant wear, is present as well as two other loose teeth, lower left incisor 2 (also with significant wear) and lower left premolar 2, which is also fairly worn. Three fragments from the left side of a cow mandible were recorded, with the second molar tooth still in-situ and scoring wear stage g. The right side of a juvenile sheep mandible with deciduous premolar teeth 2, 3, and 4 (wear stage h) is present as well as the first molar tooth (wear stage d). The right side of a juvenile pig mandible is also present with deciduous premolar 3 (dp3), and premolar 4 (dp4) in-situ. Slight dentine exposure can be seen on dp3 and enamel only (wear stage a) on dp4. Other bone elements identified all come from cattle including a right side metacarpal bone which has an erosive lesion, consisting of a small circular area of cortical bone destruction 7x6mm, on the proximal articular surface (medial side), and a fused radius/ulna (proximal end of the radius and shaft of the ulna). Measurements could be taken on the cow metacarpal (see Table 1). One thoracic vertebra fragment, two rib fragments, and one mandible fragment are also probably from cattle. One other unidentified fragment (probably rib) has been burnt to a black colouration.

Context	Species	Element	Greatest Length	Breadth proximal	Breadth distal	Depth proximal	Smallest breadth diaphysis	Smallest depth diaphysis
140	Bos	MC	179	51	54	32	28	22
138	S/G	MC		19		13		

#### Table 2: Measurements taken

S/G = sheep or goat

## **Species Representation**

## Cattle (Bos)

There is a MNI (Minimum number of individuals) of 2 (one juvenile and one adult) and a NISP (Number of identified specimens) or TBC (total bone count) value of 33. This represents 49% of the animal remains recovered which were identified to species.

## Pig (Sus)

There is a MNI of 3 (one juvenile and two adults) and a NISP value of 16. This represents 24% of the animal remains recovered which were identified to species.

## Sheep (Ovis/Capra)

Elements recorded as sheep could equally be identified as goat due to the similarity of most bones between these two closely related species. There is a MNI of 3 (of which at least two are juvenile individuals) and a NISP value of 14, and this represents 21% of the animal remains recovered which were identified to species.

## Horse (Equus)

The MNI for horse is 1 and the NISP value is 3, this represents 4% of the animal remains recovered which were identified to species.

## Dog (Canis)

The MNI for dog is 1 and the NISP value 1, this represents 2% of the animal remains recovered which were identified to species.

## **Conclusions**

Only small numbers of fragmentary animal bones were recovered and these represent the usual range of domesticated animals which would be expected to be found in such contexts. From the MNI figures there may only be three individuals represented for sheep and pig, two for cattle and one for both horse and dog. Five of the fragments had evidence for burning, three of low temperature blackening (around 300<sup>o</sup>C) and two, from context 118, of a more greyish colour possibly indicating slightly higher temperature burning (Devlin & Herrmann 2008). One cattle metacarpal had evidence for a slight erosive lesion within the carpal/metacarpal joint. No cut marks were noted on analysis nor were any animal gnawing marks; root markings were present across the assemblage. Whilst some of the loose teeth may be re-associated with the mandibles recorded there was no evidence for any articulating elements.

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### APPENDIX 4 – ASSESSMENT OF CHARRED PLANT MCROFOSSILS AND WOOD CHARCOAL

The soil samples were assessed by Ellen Simmons. The tables referred to are in Table 3.

#### Introduction

Archaeological excavations were carried out at Whiteshoots House, Gloustershire by Foundations Archaeology in advance of development of the site. This report summarises the assessment of three flotation samples, representing fifty two litres of soil, which were recovered from a lower and an upper fill of pit 115 and the upper fill of pit 127.

#### Recovery, processing and laboratory methods

The flotation samples were processed for charred plant remains and wood charcoal by GeoFlow Southwest Geophysical and Flotation services, using a water separation machine. Floating material was collected in a  $300\mu$ m mesh, and the remaining heavy residue retained in a 1mm mesh. The flots and heavy residue were air dried and the greater than 2mm fraction of the heavy residue sorted for organic remains and artefacts.

The samples were assessed in accordance with English Heritage guidelines for environmental archaeology assessments (Jones, 2011). The main aim of this assessment was to determine the concentration, diversity, state of preservation and suitability for use in radiocarbon dating, of any archaeobotanical material present within the samples. A further aim was to evaluate the potential of this material to provide evidence for the function of the contexts, the economy of the site or for the nature of the local environment.

A preliminary assessment of the samples was made by scanning under a low power binocular microscope (x7-x45) and recording the abundance of the main classes of material present. Preliminary identification of plant material was carried out by comparison with material in the author's own reference collection and various reference works (e.g.; Berggren, 1969; Berggren, 1981; Anderberg, 1994; Cappers *et al*, 2006). Cereal identifications and nomenclature follow Jacomet (2006). Other plant nomenclature follows Stace (2010). This data is recorded below in table 1.

#### Species represented

Preservation of charred cereal grains was variable, with the majority being puffed and distorted and with only fragments of epidermis remaining. Some cereal grain exhibited good preservation with minimal puffing and distortion and with epidermis intact. Preservation of wood charcoal was good, with no vitrified charcoal fragments noted as present and little evidence of mineralisation, whereby mineral deposits penetrate into the vessels of the wood charcoal fragments, obscuring morphological characteristics and potentially hampering identification. A moderate quantity of intrusive roots was present in all three of the samples.

Charred cereal grains were present in all three pit fills. Between ten and thirty cereal grains were present in sample 1, between thirty and fifty cereal grains were present in sample 2 and between ten and thirty cereal grains were present in sample 3. Cereal grains morphologically similar to barley (*Hordeum* sp.) were the dominant crop type present in all three of the pit fills, with occasional grains well enough preserved in all three deposits to indicate the presence of the hulled variety of barley. Cereal grains morphologically similar to spelt wheat were also present in all three of the pit fills with the heavily veined glume bases characteristic of spelt wheat also present in sample 1, from an upper fill of pit 115, and in sample 3, from an upper fill of pit 127. A single 'twisted' hulled barley grain was also noted in sample 2, from a lower fill of pit 115, indicating the presence of the 'six-row' variety of barley in this context

(*Hordeum vulgare* L. emend. Lam.). Less than five cereal grains tentatively identified as being morphologically similar to probable emmer wheat (*Triticum cf. dicoccum* type) were also present in sample 2, from the lower fill of pit 115.

Charred seeds of wild or weed plant seeds were present in all three pit fills. Between five and ten wild or weed plant seeds were present in sample 1, including blinks (Montia *fontana* ssp. *chondrosperma*), medick or clover (*Medicago / Trifolium*), cleavers (*Galium aparine* L.) and brome or rye grass / (*Bromus* sp. / *Lolium* sp.). Just over thirty wild or weed plant seeds were present in sample 2, including nettle (*Urtica dioica* L.), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* spp.), blinks, black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus* (L.) Á. Löve, knotgrass (*Polygonum arenastrum / aviculare*), plantain (*Plantago* sp.), cleavers, brome or rye grass and various other grasses (Poaceae). Between ten and thirty wild or weed plant seeds were present in sample 3 including Chenopodiaceae, orache (*Atriplex* sp.), curled, clustered, broad-leaved dock (*Rumex crispus / conglomeratus / obtusifolius*), medick or clover, cleavers, elder (Sambucus nigra L.) and brome or rye grass.

Wood charcoal fragments were present in all three pit fills, although only small quantities of between five and ten fragments greater than 2mm in size, were present.

Land snail shells (Mollusca) were also present in all three deposits, although generally only in small quantities of between ten and thirty shells.

#### Discussion and recommendations for further work.

The crop types identified as being present at the site during the deposition of all three pit fills were hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta* L.). The 'six-row' variety of barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L. emend. Lam.) was also represented in sample 2 from a lower fill of pit 115, along with probable emmer wheat (*Triticum cf. dicoccum*). Archaeobotanical evidence from Iron Age sites in Gloucestershire is somewhat sparse (Bell 1984: 85), with the majority of material being recovered from sites in the Thames Valley and on the Hampshire chalklands (Campbell and Straker 2003: 18). Hulled barley and spelt wheat are, however, typical crops of the Iron Age in Southern Britain (Campbell and Straker 2003: 21). Hulled barley had replaced naked barley by the Iron Age in south west England and emmer wheat was gradually being replaced by spelt wheat (Fitzpatrick, 2007: 139). It is not possible to determine however, due to the small sample size, whether the emmer wheat present in the lower fill of pit 115 represents the cultivation of emmer wheat as a crop, or residual contamination.

It is likely that the charred cereal grains present in the three pit fills were charred accidentally during parching or food preparation, and are therefore likely to represent domestic hearth waste. Parching enables easier removal of the tough glumes of spelt wheat, and the chaff of hulled barley during crop processing, resulting in an increased likelihood of these cereals coming into contact with fire (Hillman 1981: 153-154). The presence of spelt wheat glume bases may represent chaff charred alongside the grain as a result of a parching accident prior to threshing or may indicate the use of crop processing waste as fuel.

The wild or weed plant species represented in the samples include a range of typical weeds of cultivation such as goosefoot, black bindweed, knotgrass, cleavers and brome or rye grass. The wild or weed plant seeds present are likely to have been harvested along with the crops but may also derive from other sources such as kindling, waste roofing or flooring material and animal fodder. The presence of small seeds from typical crop weeds in association with cereal grain however, indicates that the majority of wild or weed plant seeds represent waste from crop processing, possibly having been used as fuel. The seeds of elder however, are unlikely to have been harvested as crop weeds and may represent the collection of wild wood resources. The presence of seeds of nettle and elder also indicate nitrogen rich soils and the seeds of blinks indicate damp soil conditions.

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No further analysis of the wood charcoal present in these samples would be recommended due to the paucity of material present. Full identification and analysis of the charred plant remains present in samples 1 (116), 2 (118) and 3 (128) would be recommended in order to provide an accurate record of the proportions of the different crop types present. Despite the relatively low density of charred material in samples 1 and 3, full analysis of the charred plant assemblage recovered at Whiteshoots House would provide a useful addition to records of crop utilisation in Gloucestershire during the Iron Age. In addition, the full identification of the wild or weed plant seeds present, including the potential recovery of seeds missed during the preliminary scan, would be expected to provide information concerning crop husbandry and harvesting practices as well as information concerning the local environment.

The charred cereal grains present in all three samples would provide suitable material for use in radiocarbon dating due to their short life. The presence of a relatively high density of charred material in sample 3 in particular, minimises the potential for charred material to be intrusive. Should any charred cereal grains be utilised for dating purposes, full identification and recording of the material to be sent would be recommended.

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#### Table 3

Archaeobotanical Sample Scanning Sheet			
SITE: Whiteshoots House WHW12			
National Grid Ref: SP 1568 2045			
CONTEXT NUMBER	116	118	128
FLOTATION SAMPLE NUMBER	001	002	003
FEATURE NUMBER	115	115	127
CONTEXT TYPE	upper pit fill	lower pit fill	upper pit fill

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PROVISIONAL DATE	Iron Age	Iron Age	Iron Age
SAMPLE VOLUME (litres)	16	15	21
Charred plant material (*key - = $< 5$			
items, $+ = > 5$ items, $++ = > 10$ items,			
+++ = > 30 items, $++++ = > 50$			
items, +++++ = > 100 items.)			
CROP MATERIAL*			
Spelt wheat glume base (Triticum			
spelta L.)	-		-
Spelt wheat type grain (Triticum			
spelta type)		-	-
(Triticum of spolta time)			Т
(Truccum cj. spena type)	-	-	T
Boggible ammer wheat type grain	-		+
(Triticum of dicoccum type)		_	
Wheat grain (Triticum sp.)		-	
Barley grain (Hordown sp.)	-	-	Т
'twisted'		-	
Barley grain (Hordeum sp.)	++	+	+
Wheat / barley grain ( <i>Triticum</i> sp. /			
Hordeum sp.)	-	-	-
Cereal grain	-	-	-
Total identifiable crop material	++	+++	++
WILD / WEED PLANT			
MATERIAL*			
Nettle (Urtica dioica L.)		-	
Goosefoot ( <i>Chenopodium</i> spp.)		+	
Chenopodiaceae			_
Blinks (Montia fontana ssp.			
chondrosperma)	-	-	
Orache (Atriplex sp.)			-
Black bindweed (Fallopia			
convolvulus (L.) Á. Löve		-	
Knotgrass (Polygonum arenastrum /			
aviculare)		-	
Curled, clustered, broad-leaved dock			
(Rumex crispus / conglomeratus /			
Medick / Clover (Medicares /			-
Trifolium)	_		_
Plantain (Plantago sp.)		_	
Cleavers (Galium anarina L)		+	
Elder (Sambueus pigra L.)	-		-
Brome grass / Rve. grass / (Rrowing		+	-
sn / Lolium sn )	_	+	_
> 2 mm grass (Poscess)			
< 2mm grass (Decease)		-	-
Value 211111 grass (Function 2) Unidentified wild good		-	
Total identifiable wild / wood plant	-	-	-
notal identifiable wild / weed plant	+	+++	++
NON SEED DI ANT MATEDIAI *	Т	1 T T	ΙT
Hozal nutshall (Complex small small )			
Corylus aveilana L.)			
2mm wood charcoal tragments	+	+	+
> 2mm round wood charcoal			

Archaeobotanical Sample Scanning			
Sheet			
SITE: Whiteshoots House WHW12			
National Grid Ref: SP 1568 2045			
CONTEXT NUMBER	116	118	128
FLOTATION SAMPLE NUMBER	001	002	003
FEATURE NUMBER	115	115	127
CONTEXT TYPE	upper pit fill	lower pit fill	upper pit fill
PROVISIONAL DATE	Iron Age	Iron Age	Iron Age
SAMPLE VOLUME (litres)	16	15	21
Intrusive plant material / non-plant			
material (- = $< 5$ items, + = $> 5$ items,			
++ = > 10 items, $+++ = > 30$ items,			
++++=>50 items, $+++++=>100$			
items.)			
Intrusive roots	+++	++	++++
Non – charred wild plant seeds	+	+	+
Land snail shells (Mollusca)	++	++	++
Metallurgical debris			
Sample summary information			
Further analysis of charred plant			
material	yes	yes	yes
Further analysis of wood charcoal	no	no	no
Charred material suitable for C14			
dating	yes	yes	yes
Retain flots	yes	yes	yes

## **APPENDIX 5 – THE MISCELLANEOUS FINDS**

CONTEXT	
NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
101	1xGlass
105	1xModern bottle glass
116	1xSlag
121	1xflint, Small Find 1-Iron(Fe) object, possibly a pick
140	1xIron(Fe) nail
144	1xIron (Fe) object

















## 012: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [136]

177.80m NE ⊼

#### 011: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [127]



#### 010: EAST FACING SECTION [124]





#### 017: NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [139]





018: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [144]

#### 019: NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [142]







