Archaeology South-East

ASE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT OVERTON WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS, OVERTON, HAMPSHIRE

POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

NGR: 450440 150120

Planning Reference: HCC/2011/0122

ASE Project No: 4872
Site Code: SRV06

ASE Report No: 2011247
OASIS ID: archaeol6-112332
Hampshire Museums Service Accession No. A2011.05

by

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With contributions by
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Abstract

This report presents the results of the archaeological excavation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Overton Wastewater Treatment Works, Overton, Hampshire in October 2011. The fieldwork was commissioned by 4Delivery Limited in advance of the construction of an extension to the existing wastewater treatment works.

There was a background scatter of Mesolithic/Neolithic flintwork across the site as a whole and there was limited evidence for later Neolithic activity with the recovery of two sherds of Peterborough ware from a tree throw.

Most significantly, the excavations have revealed evidence of Beaker activity at the site (dated c.2500-1700BC), the first confirmed discovery of a 'domestic' Beaker site in Hampshire. The nature of the evidence suggests the deliberate burial of 'special deposits' (structured deposition), supported by the presence of part of an antler implement in one of the Beaker period features.

The final period of datable activity was the Middle Iron Age, with the cutting of a ditch. There was no evidence of any later activity at the site.

The report is written and structured so as to conform to the standards required of post-excavation analysis work as set out in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Project Planning Notes 3 (PPN3): Archaeological Excavation (English Heritage 2008). Interim analysis of the stratigraphic, finds and environmental material has indicated a provisional chronology, and assessed the potential of the site archive to address the original research agenda, as well as assessing the significance of those findings. This has highlighted what further analysis work is required in order to enable suitable dissemination of the findings in a final publication. It is suggested that this should take the form of an article in the Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location

1.1.1 The site consists of part of an open pasture field immediately to the north of the current extent of Overton Wastewater Treatment Works (WTW), which lies in an isolated location *c.*1.5km of the centre of Overton (NGR 4550440 150120) (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The site is approached from the B3400 via Southington Road, The Lynch and an unmetalled track leading to Overton WTW. It is bounded to the south by the WTW and to the east by a public footpath which crosses the railway track to the north. Open pasture lies to the north and west.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site displays a marked slope from north-west to south-east. This reflects its position on the upper slopes of the valley of the current course of the River Test to the south. Hence there is little in the way of a view to the north, but extensive views into and across the valley to the south.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey the underlying bedrock at the site consists of Lewes, Seaford and Newhaven Chalk Formation (BGS 2012). There are no recorded superficial geological deposits at the site, although there are areas of Alluvium and River Terrace Gravels associated with the River Test to the south.

1.3 Scope of the Project

1.3.1 As part of pre-planning application work at the site, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of four geotechnical test pits (ASE 2006) and an archaeological evaluation was carried out across the footprint of the new development in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ASE 2011a) agreed with the Hampshire County Archaeologist.

1.3.2 During the archaeological evaluation, two lengths of ditch and a gully were identified as well as two pits. The ditch sections may represent a single, or possibly two, ditches. One ditch contained probable Mesolithic or early Neolithic flint, while the other contained probably Middle of Late Iron Age pottery. One of the pits contained Beaker pottery, (2,500 – 1,700BC), and Neolithic flints (ASE 2011b). Beaker period settlements are unknown in Hampshire (Gardiner 2007) suggesting the site may be of regional importance (ASE 2011b, 12).

1.3.3 Having considered the results of the report on the evaluation the Hampshire County Archaeologist recommended that a further programme of archaeological mitigation work be undertaken should a planning application be approved. A planning application was submitted and in anticipation it's approval, it was agreed with all interested parties that

Archaeology South-East should proceed with the archaeological mitigation work. Planning permission for the extension of the WTW was duly granted by Hampshire County Council (ref: HCC/2011/0122).

1.3.4 Archaeology South-East, a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at University College London (UCL) was commissioned by 4Delivery Limited (4D) to undertake an archaeological excavation on the area to be impacted by the groundworks for the WTW extension. The methodology and programme of work for the excavation was laid out in a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI; ASE 2011c).

1.3.5 The excavation was undertaken by ASE during October 2011. The site was staffed by a team of ASE archaeologists, project managed by Neil Griffin and directed in the field by Simon Stevens.

1.4 Circumstances and dates of archaeological work by ASE

1.4.1 Watching Brief commissioned by 4Delivery Limited. Undertaken in February 2011.

1.4.2 Archaeological Evaluation by trial trenching commissioned by 4Delivery Limited. Undertaken in late January and early February 2011.

1.4.3 Open Area archaeological excavation commissioned by 4Delivery Limited. Undertaken in October 2011.

1.5 Archaeological Methodology

1.5.1 The excavation area was machine stripped using a tracked mechanical 360° excavator. All mechanical excavation was undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket under the direct supervision of experienced archaeologists from ASE. Machine excavation was taken down to the surface of natural geology whereupon archaeological features were exposed. Care was taken not to machine off seemingly homogenous layers that might have been the upper parts of archaeological features. The resultant surfaces were cleaned as necessary and a pre-excavation plan prepared using Global Positioning System (GPS) planning technology. This was made available to the Project Manager, the Supervisor and the HCC County Archaeologist.

1.5.2 This pre-excavation plan was made available in Autocad and PDF format and printed at a suitable scale (1:20 or 1:50) for on site use. The plan updated by the on-site ASE Surveyor who plotted excavated features and recorded levels in close consultation with the Supervisor.

1.5.3 After the manual cleaning and planning of the excavation areas it was anticipated the following sampling strategy would be employed:

- all structures and all zones of specialised activity (e.g. funerary, ceremonial, industrial, agricultural processing) were to be fully excavated and all relationships recorded.

- ditches and gullies were to have all relationships defined, investigated and recorded. All terminals were excavated. Sufficient of the feature lengths were excavated to determine the character of the feature over its entire course; the possibility of recuts of parts, and not the whole, of the feature were considered.
- pits were to be excavated to safe depths (generally 1.2m) and fully recorded. Samples of pits were subsequently mechanically excavated to facilitate further collection of artefacts.
- post and stake holes were to be fully excavated ensuring that all relationships were investigated.
- for other types of feature such as working hollows, quarry pits etc., all relationships at least were to be ascertained. Further investigation would be a matter of on-site judgement, but would seek to establish as a minimum their extent, date and function.
- for layers, a decision on-site was made as to the extent that they were excavated. The factors governing the judgement include the possibility that they masked earlier remains, the need to understand function and depositional processes, and the necessity to recover sufficient artefacts to date the deposit and to meet the project aims.

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1.5.4 In the event, the number of anthropomorphic archaeological features was outnumbered by tree throws and geological features. All discrete archaeological features were half-sectioned, recorded and then the second halves were removed and the completed feature surveyed. Linear features were sectioned a sufficient number of times to characterise them as outlined above.

1.5.5 All excavated deposits and features were recorded according to current professional standards using the standard context record sheets used by ASE.

1.5.6 A full digital photographic record of all features was maintained. This illustrates the principal features and finds both in detail and in a general context. The photographic record also includes working shots to represent more generally the nature of the fieldwork at the site.

1.5.7 All finds recovered from excavated deposits were collected and retained in line with the ASE artefacts collection policy. The excavation area and spoil were metal detected for artefact recovery but no artefacts were recovered.

1.5.8 On-site sampling methodology, processing and recording was undertaken within the guidelines laid out by English Heritage (2002).

1.5.9 A standard bulk sample size of 40l (or 100% of small features) was taken from each dated/datable sealed context to recover environmental remains such as fish, small mammals, molluscs and botanicals. Sub-samples of up to 10 litres were kept aside from the bulk samples for specialist processing and analysis to target retrieval of insects, fish bone and parasites for example.

1.6 Organisation of the Report

1.6.1 This post-excavation assessment (PXA) and updated project design (UPD) has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Project Planning Notes 3 (PPN3): Archaeological Excavation (English Heritage 2008).

1.6.2 The report seeks to place the results from the site within the local archaeological and historical setting; to quantify and summarise the results; specify their significance and potential, including any capacity to address the original research aims; lists any new research criteria; and lays out what further analysis work is required to enable the final dissemination of the information and what form the latter should take.

1.6.3 Following on from the archaeological evaluation conducted by Archaeology South-East (ASE 2011b, Trenches 1-6; Fig. 2) work at the site ran as a single open area excavation, with the finds and environmental archives from both the evaluation and excavation campaigns recorded under a single site code: SRV06. The evaluation and the excavation material are both considered together in this report.

2.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The site lies in an area of the country particularly rich in archaeological remains, although the Hampshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) lists only a few positively dated sites within a radius of 1km. This undoubtedly reflects the paucity of archaeological fieldwork in the immediate area, rather than a true absence of archaeological remains.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 Despite the richness of the prehistoric evidence from Salisbury Plain to the west, the HER lists only one positively identified prehistoric site within a radius of 1km, a Mesolithic tranchet axe.

2.2.2 However the site lies on the periphery of a complex of undated cropmarks plotted from aerial photographs of the area (Fig. 2). It is possible that some, or even all of these are the result of prehistoric activity at the site, and appear to form a number of broadly rectilinear enclosures mostly to the west and south-west of the current site, but also partly within it. The present archaeological work is the first intrusive investigation of some of these features.

2.3 Romano-British

2.3.1 Reported evidence of Romano-British activity on the HER is equally sparse in the immediate area of the site. Finds of Late Iron Age and Roman coins have been made *c.*300m to the south near Southington Mill, apparently in association with a rectilinear enclosure plotted from aerial photographs (this enclosure is of a different character, size and orientation to those closer to the site: Fig. 2). Other finds of Roman coins have been made to the south. The course of a Roman Road is thought to form part of the northern boundary of Overton parish (Morris 2007).

2.4 Anglo-Saxon

2.4.1 No early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries or associated settlements are known in the immediate area. The HER records the discovery of a single sherd of late Anglo-Saxon Porchester ware at Turrill House on London Road to the south of the site, along with medieval pottery (see below).

2.5 Medieval

2.5.1 The HER includes an entry for the location of a Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) to the south of the site at Northington Farm, which lies between The Lynch and the River Test. Southerington Mill (elements of which survive on The Lynch) and Othin's Mill which is thought to have been located in Silk Mill Lane are listed as corn mills in the Domesday Book of 1086 (Morris 2007).

2.5.2 Further afield, 12th- and 13th-century pottery has been found at Turrill House. St. Mary's Church has surviving medieval above-ground elements,

and a bell casting pit, quarry pit and associated medieval artefacts was also located there. The Bishops of Winchester also had a residence and associated deer park in the vicinity, and are thought to have founded the town of Overton in the 13th century (*ibid.*).

2.6 Post-medieval

2.6.1 The HER includes references to a number of post-medieval buildings known to have fronted onto The Lynch, some surviving and others demolished. Southerington Mill and Othins Mill (converted into a fulling mill and later a silk mill) were both still in use in the post-medieval period. The railway to the north of the site, which lies in a deep cutting was opened in 1854 (*ibid.).*

3.0 ORIGINAL RESEARCH AIMS

3.1 The research aims given in the WSI (ASE 2011c) were

General

to excavate record, characterise, date and report on any archaeological remains on the site which will be impacted upon by the proposed development design.

Specific

OR1 Identifying whether there was Mesolithic/Early Neolithic activity on the site.

OR2 Establishing whether the Beaker pottery is a solitary residual find on the site or whether there is further evidence to suggest there is in fact a settlement or other activity of this period.

OR3 Establishing whether the site was in continual use throughout the periods identified or whether there was in fact a pause or break in use.

OR4 Establishing whether the activity on site is anything beyond a simple enclosure; i.e. is there defining evidence for settlement activity on the site? If so what period (s)?

0R5 To enable the County Archaeologist to make an informed decision as to the necessity for further analysis and a suitable journal for publication in order to fulfil the requirements of the archaeology condition.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Individual contexts, referred to thus [***], have been sub-grouped and/or grouped together during post-excavation analysis and features are generally referred to by their sub-group (SGP**) or group label (GP **). In this way, linear features, such as ditches which may have numerous individual slots and context numbers, are discussed as single entities, Environmental samples are listed within triangular brackets <**>, and registered finds thus: RF<*>.

4.1 Summary

4.1.1 The archaeology is discussed under provisional date-phased headings determined primarily through assessment of the datable artefacts, predominantly the pottery and flint, with partial reliance on limited stratigraphic relationships.

4.1.2 There was a background scatter of Mesolithic/Neolithic flintwork across the site as a whole. This suggests activity on the hillside over a long period, perhaps beginning with woodland clearance, followed by at least intermittent occupation.

4.1.3 Evidence for later Neolithic activity was limited to the recovery two sherds of Peterborough ware from a tree throw. Little can be said about activity at the site during this period.

4.1.4 However, there was clearly a marked upturn in the level of activity at the site in the Early Bronze Age, seen in the apparent structured deposition of Beaker pottery and part of an antler implement. Six small pits appear to have been excavated and backfilled during this period. The deposition of Beaker ware in a ‘domestic’ setting is a first for Hampshire (cf. Gardiner 1997), and although the number of features and size of the pottery assemblage is comparatively small, it is none-the-less highly significant.

4.1.5 The final period of datable activity was the Middle Iron Age, when an attempt at land division was carried out, with the cutting and later re-cutting of ditch. There was no evidence of any later activity at the site.

Type	Description	Quantity
Context sheets	Individual context sheets	104
Section sheets	A1 Multi-context permatrace sheets 1:10	3
Plans	Multi-context DWG plans	All features
Photos	Digital images	77
Environmental sample sheets	Individual sample sheets	8
Context register	Context register sheets	3
Environmental sample register	Environmental sample register sheets	1
Photographic register	Photograph register sheets	2
Drawing register	Section register sheets	3

Table 1: Site archive quantification

4.2 Natural Deposits

4.2.1 Excavations in all parts of the site revealed a typical stratigraphic sequence of 0.20m- *c.*1m of top and subsoil/colluvium overlying soliflucted chalk.

4.2.2 No archaeological features were visible in the top or subsoil/colluvium during the closely monitored machining. A number of archaeological features were observed cut into the top of the chalk. There were also a number of anomalies resulting from tree falls and geological processes.

4.3 Period 1: Mesolithic - Neolithic

4.3.1 A small assemblage of flintwork was recovered from either unstratified contexts or was present, almost certainly residually, in later cut features, (for example in the lower fills of ditch GP1). Taken as a whole, the assemblage was broadly of Mesolithic to Neolithic date.

4.3.2 There is little that can be said beyond that this is at least evidence of some activity in the vicinity in these early periods.

4.4 Period 2: Later Neolithic

4.4.1 Two small sherds of Later Neolithic ?Peterborough Ware and a fragment of a broken polished flint ?axe were recovered from tree throw [120] (SGP36) along with a small quantity of snail shell.

4.4.2 Little more can be said based on the slim evidence, but the presence of both types of artefacts does go some way to showing Later Neolithic activity in the vicinity.

4.4.3 There is the possibility that many of the tree removal features found across the site represent clearance of the land in this period. However at this assessment stage they have all been provisionally phased as 'Undated' (Period 5). This will be reviewed during the analysis stage.

4.5 Period 3: Beaker Period (Early Bronze Age)

Pit Context No(s).	Fill Context No(s).	SGP No.	Diameter	Depth	Pottery recovered
[112] [5-004]	[5-005] [5-006] [113]	SG22	1.4m	310mm	Beaker; good condition; 7 sherds, weighing 66g from 3 estimated vessels; possibly sherds from same vessel in Pit [107]
[103]	[104]	SG29	710mm	320mm	Beaker; heavily abraded; 3 sherds, weighing 6g, from 3 estimated vessels
[105]	[106]	SG30	-	310mm	

Pit Context No(s).	Fill Context No(s).	SGP No.	Diameter	Depth	Pottery recovered
[107]	[107]	SG31	830mm	200mm	Beaker; good condition; 4 sherds, weighing 48g, from 2 estimated vessels; possibly sherds from same vessel in Pit [112]
[164]	[165]	SG56	780mm	480mm	Beaker; good condition; 9 sherds, weighing 50g, from 5 estimated vessels
[171]	[172]	SG59	850mm	250mm	Beaker; retrieved from environmental sample; 1 sherd, weighing 2g

Table 2: Summary of Beaker period features

4.5.1 Six small pits excavated at the site contained sherds of Beaker Ware, detailed in Table 2. These formed two groups, one group of four pits and a further group of just two.

4.5.2 A cluster of four broadly similar-sized pits (Beaker Pit Group 1), [103], [105], [107], [112], (SGs 22, 29, 30 and 31) was encountered in the eastern half of the site, one of which had been encountered and recorded in Trench 5 ([112]).

4.5.3 The features were all sub-circular, with steeply sloping sides and largely flat bases. All contained similar greyish brown clayey silt fills from which small assemblages of Beaker pottery were recovered. Contemporary flintwork was also recovered from the majority of the features.

4.5.4 One of the most interesting pits in this group [112], (SGP22) contained part of a worked antler tool which appeared to have been deliberately placed on the base of the feature. It is also worth noting that two of the pits ([107] and [112]) contained sherds possible derived from the same vessel. This is potentially significant, suggesting that both features were dug and backfiled within a short space of time.

4.5.5 A further two features were located in the western portion of the site pit [164] (SGP 56) and pit [171] (SGP59) (Beaker Pit Group 2). They contained similar assemblages and were of comparable size and character to those pits in Beaker Pit Group 1.

4.6 Period 4: Middle Iron Age

4.6.1 Ditch GP1 was originally encountered in Trenches 1 and 4, and was re-examined during the later open area excavation. It was a maximum of 2.15m in width and 740mm in depth, with steeply sloping sides and a broadly flat base. Flintwork of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date from recovered from chalky fill of the ditch, which appeared consistent in character in each of the five recorded sections [1/004], [4/004], [162], [184], and [196] (SGPs 4, 16, 55, 63 and 69). The flintwork was never recovered

in large quantities and is, for the present assumed to be residual. This will be reviewed at the analysis stage.

4.6.2 Slightly more convincing dating evidence was recovered from a later recut (GP2). This recut was narrower and shallower than ditch GP1 and was visible in all of the five recorded sections (SGPs 5, 17, 17, 56, 64 and 70). It was a maximum of 1.69m in width and 570mm in depth, and was 'v'-shaped in

4.6.3 Two sherds of pottery recovered date to the Mid Iron Age and are probably from the same vessel.

4.7 Period 5: Undated

4.7.1 The majority of the features encountered at the site were tree throws, or geological in origin and although all were excavated only SGP36 produced datable pottery (see Period 2) and hence any utilisation of the others remains undated. There is the strong possibility, however, that many of these features represent prehistoric clearance of the land.

4.7.2 Of the 'true' archaeological features, five were undated; pit [3/006] (SGP 14), post-holes [114] (SGP33) and [118] (SGP35), and shallow gullies GP3 (encountered in Trench 3 and reinvestigated in the open area) and GP4 (only encountered in Trench 2).

4.7.3 It seems possible that despite the lack of dating evidence, ditch GP3 may be interrelated with the Mid Iron age ditch GP1 as it appears to respect it. This will be further investigated during the analysis stage.

5.0 FINDS ASSESSMENT

5.1 **Worked Flint** by Karine Le Hégarat

5.1.1 Introduction

In total, 87 pieces of flint considered to be humanly struck, weighing 1216g were recovered through hand collection and from sample residues during archaeological work at Overton Wastewater Treatment Works (evaluation SRV06/4432 and subsequent excavation work SRV06/4872). A further 20 fragments of burnt unworked flints weighing 1126g were retrieved from eight numbered contexts and from unstratified deposits. Although the flint assemblage contains only a single diagnostic piece, technologically the flintwork forms a relatively coherent assemblage reflecting activities spanning from the Neolithic to the early Bronze Age. The flint assemblage also comprises a small possibly Mesolithic component.

5.1.2 Methodology

The pieces of struck flint were individually examined and classified using standard set of codes and morphological descriptions (Bamford 1985, Butler 2005 and Inizan *et al.* 1999). Technological details were noted in order to aid characterising the material and further information was recorded regarding the condition of the artefacts (evidence of burning or breakage, degree of cortication and degree of edge-damage). Dating was attempted when possible. Burnt unworked flints were quantified by piece and by weight. The assemblage was directly catalogued onto a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and is summarised by period and context type in Table 3.

5.1.3 Raw Material

In total, 85 pieces or 97.7% of the total assemblage were entirely re-corticated pale milky blue or white. Where the edges of the re-corticated pieces have been recently broken, a light brown to dark grey flint was most commonly recorded. The outer surface was usually an off-white chalky cortex of variable thickness although it was frequently slightly abraded. Inclusions were common but no frost or thermal fractures were recorded and the flint appeared to be of moderate flaking quality. The raw material is characteristic of chalk-derived flints and nodules could have been collected locally. The nodular flint could have also been acquired from other chalk flint sources located further afield.

5.1.4 Condition

In general, the flintwork exhibits fresh edge condition, implying that the material has undergone negligible post-depositional disturbance or that it was not exposed for a long period before burial. Light to moderate edge modification was confined to flints from ditch fill contexts [185], [197], and [4/006] (all GP1) and [199] (GP2). The condition may be caused by slight movement within the soil matrix, though it might be associated with successive redepositions.

The fill of tree throw [120] (SGP 36) produced a fragment of a bifacially worked tool in a heavily worn state. The artefact is broken and displays evidence of extensive edge damage. The poor condition could be the result of post depositional disturbance, suggesting that the artefact could be residual in a later context. However, the fact that the implement was recorticated to the same degree suggests that it was more likely re-used or deliberately broken and quite plausibly contemporary with the feature. A number of flints displayed calcium carbonate concretion. Six of the worked flints were burnt and fifteen were recorded as broken.

	Period 2 Later Neolithic	**Period 3** Beaker	**Remaining assemblage** (Period 1 - residual in Ditch GP1; Period 4 - residual in Ditch GP2; unstratified and subsoil)	**Total**
CATEGORY TYPE	Tree throw [120]	Pits [103], [164], [107], [171], [112]=[5/004]		
Flake	1	26	15	**42**
Flake fragment		5	5	**10**
Blade			1	**1**
Blade fragment		3	2	**5**
Blade-like flake		3		**3**
Blade-like flake fragment		4	1	**5**
Bladelet		2		**2**
Axe thinning flake		4		**4**
Shattered piece		2	4	**6**
Chip		3	5	**8**
Axe/core tool	1			**1**
Total	**2**	**52**	**33**	**87**

Table 3: Worked Flint Quantification

5.1.5 Provenance

Almost all the struck flints (85, or 97.7% of the total assemblage) originated from 13 archaeological cut features (ditches, pits and tree throw) and two pieces (or 2.3% of the assemblage) were collected from subsoil and unstratified contexts. The majority of contexts yielded only a small number of struck flints, but six contexts produced between seven and nineteen flints; contexts [104] (SGP 29), [165] (56), [108], [113]/[5/006] (SGP22), [172] (SGP 59) and [4/006] (SGP 17), ditch GP2.

The maximum of burnt unworked flint per context was six. Pit [120] (SGP36) was associated with later Neolithic ceramics and pits [103] (SGP29), [107] (SGP 31), [112]/[5/004] (SGP 22), [164] (SGP 56) and [171] (SGP 59) were dated to the Beaker period by the presence of ceramics. Therefore, the flint from these features will be looked at separately from the rest of the assemblage.

5.1.6 Feature associated with later Neolithic ceramics

Two worked flints were recovered from the fill [121] of tree throw [120] (SGP36). The small assemblage comprised a fragment of a bifacially worked tool and a thin narrow flake which appears to have been struck using a soft-hammer percussor. It displays several flake scar removals on the dorsal surface. As described above, the fragment of the bifacially worked tool is in a poor condition. It is broken but may represent a piece of polished axehead. The surviving portion weights 65g; it measures 63mm long, 43mm wide and it maximum thickness is 17mm. It has been ground on both sides; however, it is impossible to determine the original extend of the polished area due to the numerous flake scars. The frequent chips indicate that the implement was well used and the break could have happened during use. Several flake scar removals could have been from the initial shaping process, although some of these flakes were removed after the tool was damaged. Evidence from cortication indicates that the use, damage and re-working of this implement took place over a short period of time. The fragment of the ground bifacially worked implement can be dated to the Neolithic period and both the retouched flint and the piece of flint débitage are probably contemporary with the pit feature.

5.1.7 Features associated with Beaker Ceramics

A total of 52 worked flints were recovered from contexts [104] (SGP29), [165] (SGP 56), [108] (SGP31), [172] (SGP59) and [5/005] (SGP22) The assemblage was made entirely of unretouched types and comprised 31 flakes, three blades, seven blade-like flakes, two bladelets, four axe thinning flakes, two irregular waste pieces and three chips. The assemblage is fairly consistent and the material is in a fresh condition. The flakes are fairly broad but principally very thin. They appear to have been mainly hard hammered and platform preparation is only occasionally visible. Several flints display flake scars on the dorsal surface. Cortical surfaces and preparatory flakes were also recorded implying that the nodules could have been decorticated in the vicinity of the pits.

Four of these worked flints were burnt. Although no cores were present, the flint assemblage from these pits indicates that knapping activities were taking place on the site. Morphologically and technologically the flintwork is consistent with a Late Neolithic / early Bronze Age date. The presence of bladelets indicates a small Mesolithic component, though the latter are almost certainly residual.

5.1.8 The Remaining Assemblage

Thirty two of the remaining 33 pieces were recovered from ten numbered contexts and one piece was recovered unstratified. The condition of the flintwork varied within these deposits. The assemblage consists entirely of unretouched pieces, none of which are conclusively diagnostic.

The assemblage comprises 20 flakes, three blades, one blade-like flake, four irregular waste pieces and five chips. On technological and morphological grounds, the majority of the assemblage can be dated to the Neolithic / early Bronze Age. Nonetheless, context [160] (SGP54) GP1

yielded a long piece with parallel lateral margins on the dorsal surface. It is clear that this artefact is a product of blade-based industry and it may therefore be of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date.

5.2 **Prehistoric Pottery** by Anna Doherty

5.2.1 Introduction

An assemblage of 31 sherds weighing 190g was hand-collected during both the evaluation and excavation phases and subsequently retrieved from residues of environmental samples. The majority of the assemblage belongs to the Beaker tradition of the latest Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age. Although it is a small assemblage, it is of particular interest because it was retrieved in a broken condition from a series of associated pits, probably indicating that the assemblage relates to settlement as opposed to funerary activity.

5.2.2 Methodology

The pottery was examined using a x20 binocular microscope and assigned to a site-specific fabric type-series which was designed according to the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 1997). The pottery was fully quantified by sherd count, weight and estimated vessel number (ENV) on pro-forma sheets which will be retained in the archive.

5.2.3 Site-specific fabric type-series

CHGR1 Rare/sparse grog of c.1-2mm which is often difficult to distinguish from the surrounding silty matrix and rare/sparse chalk-like inclusions, most of c.1mm, with some examples up to 3mm; one very large flint inclusion observed (Beaker).

FLGR1 Sparse/moderate, ill-sorted flint, mostly in the size range c. 1.5-3mm (with some finer examples) and rare/sparse grog of c.1-2mm which is often difficult to distinguish from the surrounding silty matrix (Beaker).

FLIN1 Moderate, ill-sorted flint of around 1-3mm in a silty matrix with rare/sparse larger quartz grains of up to 0.4mm (?Peterborough ware).

QUAR1 Common well-sorted quartz of *c*.0.3-0.4mm and rare flint in variable sizes (Middle/Late Iron Age).

5.2.4 Possible Peterborough Ware

Two small sherds from a single vessel, recovered from a tree-throw fill, [121] (SGP36), are in a purely flint-tempered fabric, FLIN1, which varies from fabrics associated with the Beaker assemblage. The sherd comes from the shoulder/neck of a vessel and features probable deliberate finger indentations. All of the above traits suggest that this is a Peterborough ware vessel (dated broadly to c. 3500-2500BC), and the association with a

polished flint tool in the same context suggests that this material may be contemporary rather than redeposited in this feature.

5.2.5 Overview of the Beaker pottery

Most of the Beaker pottery belongs to one broad fabric category, FLGR1, containing both flint and grog inclusions, whilst two sherds are in a slightly varying fabric type, containing grog and chalk inclusions, CHGR1. Little can be said about forms: there are no rim sherds present although three sherds, possibly of the same vessel, from pit fill [113] (SGP22), seem to be from a vessel of with a carinated, fairly tall-profile.

Three main types of impressed decoration were identified. The most common, found on nine sherds is fine, square-toothed comb-stabbing. The largest sherd from context [113] (SGP22) features two rows of alternating diagonal lines of comb-stabbing, forming a chevron-like motif on the neck of the vessel. The space between the chevrons is undecorated but the whole of the body below the lower chevron appears to be in-filled with closely spaced horizontal rows of comb-stabbing. Two other sherds in the same context had very similar fabric, firing and decoration and seem likely to be part of the same vessel although they do not cross-fit; another three cross-fitting sherds from a nearby pit, [105] (SGP30), were also considered so similar as to be likely of the same vessel.

Other examples of comb-stabbing are all on very small sherds. Three sherds, all from pit fill [165] (SGP56), feature twisted cord decoration and again these might be of one vessel although they are not cross-fitting. The two larger sherds both feature several rows of alternating short diagonal lines of cord-impressions. The two remaining decorated sherds both have neatly impressed columns of paired ‘crow’s feet’ fingernail decoration.

Unusually, several of the Beaker sherds feature internal sooted residues, perhaps implying that that have been used in cooking processes. Unfortunately these are all too light to be radiocarbon dated.

5.2.6 Dating of the Beaker pottery

The Beaker tradition as a whole is now well dated to the range *c*.2500-1700BC in Britain, although the vast majority of British examples post-date a horizon of around 2250-2150BC (Needham 2005). In the absence of many diagnostic form sherds, it is difficult to date this assemblage very precisely. The presence of twisted cord decoration, which has its origins in the late Neolithic, and the absence of roughly impressed ‘rusticated’ fingernail decoration probably implies that the assemblage does not belong at the latest end of the Beaker spectrum. Hopefully radiocarbon dating of associated material will help to refine the chronology of the assemblage.

5.2.7 Context and deposition of the Beaker pottery

All of the Beaker pottery was recovered from six pits, [103] (SGP29), [105] (SGP30), [107] (SGP31), [5/004]/[112] (SGP22), [164] (SGP 56) and [171] (SGP 59), the former four being very closely spaced to the north-east of the site and the latter two located further to the west. None of the pits

contained large groups and in most cases the sherds were of small or medium size, the most substantial assemblage of seven sherds, weighing 66g, coming from pit [112]/[5/004] (SGP22).

It is of some interest that many non-cross-fitting sherds were suspected to be from the same vessels, including examples from separate pits, [112] (SGP22) and [105] (SGP30), located several metres away from each other. This might indicate that this material comes from midden waste which simply became incorporated into the backfill of the pits; however, it is notable that many of the sherds are in unusually fresh and unabraded condition, suggesting that they had been deposited fairly directly, rather than having been continually re-worked. This may imply an element of structured deposition.

The rarity of Beaker pottery from settlement contexts suggests that it may not have been entirely utilitarian in function. Although the pottery may well have been used in the domestic sphere, recent work on Early Bronze Age ceramics has tended to emphasise that both the type of tools used to impress decoration and the grog-tempered fabrics, which often recycled older vessels, may have had specific and personal meanings (e.g. Woodward 2008, 83). Increasingly it is felt that there may not have been such a sharp distinction between rational functional activities such as disposal of rubbish and 'ritual' activity involving specially placed deposits of pottery. Instead the disposal of specific objects might, for example, mark the end of a phase of settlement.

5.2.8 Middle or later Iron Age sherds

Two sherds of a single vessel, from ditch fill [187] (SGP64) (GP2), are in a hand-made fabric containing coarse quartz and some rare calcined flint inclusions. This fabric would be most typical of the Middle Iron Age, although in some areas such fabrics may have continued in use into the Late Iron Age. A literature search on local assemblages of this date may help to clarify this issue.

5.3 **The Animal Bone** by Lucy Sibun

5.3.1 Introduction

A small assemblage of poorly preserved animal bone was recovered from site and although hand collected material is present, the majority was collected as residue from environmental processing. The assemblage has been quantified and recorded in an excel spreadsheet and the identified assemblage from dated contexts is discussed below.

5.3.2 Beaker

The majority of the assemblage was recovered from contexts of this phase ([104], [106], [108], [113], [165], [172]). Most of this was collected from the environmental samples and included cattle longbone fragments, deciduous pig teeth and very small quantities of fish and small mammal bone.

5.3.1 Mid Iron Age.

The two contexts ([161] and [197]) (ditch GP 1) of this date produced a single fragment of sheep metapodial and a less than 2g of fish bone.

5.3.3 The perforated antler implement by Trista Clifford

The hand collected assemblage comprised a single implement of red deer antler, RF<1> from context [113]. The antler fragment had been shed and the burr is intact. The 1st and 2nd tines are absent from the beam but the remaining edges are rough, suggesting the tines may have been broken off rather than sawn or cut off. A single circular perforation, 20.49mm in diameter has been bored through the antler beam from medial to lateral.

The implement resembles Mesolithic antler base mattocks of Smith Type A (Smith 1985, 275), with the exception that the angled cutting edge is not present. Instead the end appears to have been roughly sawn or broken off. A similar (Type B) mattock held in the Museum of London Collections provided a C14 date of 6770-6970BC. However, other comparable perforated implements (macehead; hammer) held in the Greenwell Collections of the British Museum are listed as Neolithic/Bronze Age in date.

5.3.4 Middle Iron Age

A single fragment of sheep molar enamel was recovered from Middle Iron Age context [187].

5.5 The Land Molluscs by Trista Clifford

5.5.1 Two shells representing a juvenile and adult specimen of the species *Pomatias elegans* were hand collected from context [121] (SGP36), the fill of a tree throw. This species typical habitat is open or woodland, friable soils on chalk or limestone geology (Cameron 2003, 31)

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Karine Le Hégarat and Lucy Allott

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A total of fifteen 40L samples were collected for the recovery of palaeo-environmental remains such as charred botanical material, bones and shells as well as artefactual material. Seven samples were extracted during the evaluation work (SRV06 / 4432) and eight samples were taken during the subsequent excavation (SRV06 / 4872). Samples were collected from ditches and pits across the site. The majority of the samples came from Beaker features (Period 3) and Middle Iron Age (Period 4). An additional three samples came from deposits which are currently undated. This report characterises these assemblages by providing an overview of the sample contents and by indicating the state of preservation of the remains. The potential of the botanical remains to address questions relating to the agricultural economy, function of the features, diet of the population, fuel use and local vegetation environment is considered.

6.2 Method

Samples were processed in their entirety in a flotation tank, the flots and residues were captured on 250µm and 500µm meshes and were air dried prior to sorting. The residues were sieved through 8, 4 and 2mm geological sieves and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains (Table 4). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and an overview of their contents recorded (Table 5). Preliminary identifications of marobotancial remains have been made using modern comparative material and reference texts (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

6.3 Results

6.3.1 Sampling produced moderately large flots with ten flots measuring more than 60ml. Uncharred material was common in the majority and comprised fine rootlets and uncharred seeds such as common fumitory (*Fumaria officinalis*), knotgrass/dock (*Polygonum/Rumex* sp.), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), black-bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*) and seeds from the goosefoot (Chenopodiaceae) family. Although uncharred seeds such as these can preserve in anoxic conditions, there was no evidence for waterlogged deposits that would provide such conditions at this site. These uncharred remains are therefore considered indicators of small-scale post-depositional disturbance such as root action through which seeds are introduced and/or moved around. Botanical remains considered below are all preserved through carbonisation.

6.3.2 Period 3 – Beaker

A total of seven samples (<1001>, <1002>, <5>, <1003> ,<1004>, <1007> and <1008>) were taken from six pits dated to Period 3. Sample <1002>, [112], fill [113] (SGP22) is equivalent to sample <5> taken during evaluation from [5/006], the fill or pit [5/004]. No charred macrobotanical remains were retrieved from sample <1003> taken from the fill [165] of pit

[164] SGP56 and sample <1007> extracted from the fill [104] of pit [103] (SGP29). The remaining five samples (<5> and <1002> from pit [113] (SGP22), <1001> [107] fill [108] (SGP31), <1004> [171] fill [172] (SGP59) and <1008> [105] fill [106] (SGP30) produced small quantities of charred macrobotanical remains (fewer than 20 items per sample). Charred macrobotanical remains consisted principally of indeterminate charred cereal grains although grains of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.) were also recorded. The majority of these caryopses were pitted and very fragmented. The charred wild/weed seeds included knotgrass/dock (*Polygonum/Rumex* sp.), black-bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*) as well as some seeds from the goosefoot (Chenopodiaceae) family, wild grass seeds (Poaceae) and fragments of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*) in pits [107] and [112].

Sample <1002> from pit context [112] contained a small charred object <20mm in size. The charred substance was vesicular and pitted, exhibiting a reticulate surface pattern. There are several possible origins for this object although it is not thought to be botanical. Fragments of burnt bone and a worked antler were also recovered from the feature and both have vesicular, 'spongy' interiors similar to the burnt unidentified material. Wood charcoal fragments were moderately abundant in all the samples and include several larger pieces, >20mm in size, in the fill of pit [112]. Other classes of biological remains included unburnt and burnt mammal bones, mammal teeth, fish vertebrae and land mollusca. The residues produced small amounts of pottery as well as some pieces of struck flints, burnt and unworked flints.

6.3.4 Period 4 - Middle Iron Age

Five samples (<1005>, <2>, <6>, <1006> and <3>) were extracted from Period 4 occupation. Samples <1005>, <2> and <6> were taken from three slot trenches, [160] fill [161] (SGP54), [1/004] fill [1/005] (SGP4) and [4/004] fill [4/005] (SGP16) excavated through ditch feature G1. Samples <1006> and <3> were extracted from two slot trenches [162] fill [163] (SGP55) and [1/004] (fill [1/006] (SGP5) excavated through ditch GP2 (recut of ditch GP1). Charred plant remains were limited to scarce wood charcoal fragments (predominantly small in size (<4mm) although occasional larger pieces were present in sample <3>) and infrequent charred macroplant remains. The latter comprised a single possible degraded grain of wheat (cf. *Triticum* sp.), a single indeterminate cereal grain two poorly preserved fragments of grass caryopses (Poaceae) as well as a single glume base. A small amount of burnt mammal bone was recorded and the residues produced occasional fragments of pottery, burnt unworked flint and struck flint.

6.3.5 Currently undated

Charred botanical remains were infrequent in samples <7>, <1> and <4> extracted from three features which are currently undated. Sample <7> came from the primary fill [3/007] of pit [3/006] (SGP14), sample <1> from ditch fill [3/005] (SGP13) GP3 and sample <4> from ditch fill [2/004] (SGP9) GP4. Charred wood fragments were small, primarily <2mm in size

and infrequent. Charred macroplant remains included uncommon grains of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and indeterminate cereal grains as well as infrequent wild grass seeds such as fescue/rye-grass (cf. *Festuca/Lolium* sp.), and wild/weed seeds of possible borage (cf. *Borago officinalis*) and from the goosefoot (Chenopodiaceae) family. Small quantities of unburnt and burnt bones and some land snail shells were also recovered from these deposits. The residues produced pieces of flint.

Period	Group	SUBGROUP	Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
3		31	1001	108	Fill of pit [107]	40	40	***	<2	***	<2	**	<2	**	8			**	4			**	<2	FCF **/532g - Pottery */<2g - Flint */39g
3		22	1002	113	Fill of pit [112]	40	40	***	4	**	<2	*	<2	*	4			**	30	*	<2	**	<2	FCF ***/932g - Flint */125g
3		22	5	5/006	Secondary fill of pit [5/004]	40	40	***	12	***	8	*	<2	**	14							**	8	FCF ***/678g
3		56	1003	165	Fill of pit [164]	40	40	*	<2	**	<2			*	4					*	<2	**	<2	FCF */171g - Flint */24g - Pottery */<2g -
3		59	1004	172	Fill of pit [171]	40	40	**	<2									*	<2			**	<2	FCF */63g - Pottery */<2g - Flint **/131g
3		29	1007	104	Fill of pit [103]	40	40	***	4	***	2			*	14							**	<2	Pottery */4g - Flint **/133g - FCF **/245g

Period	Group	SUBGROUP	Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
3		30	1008	106	Fill of pit [105]	40	40			*	<2	*	<2	*	<2							**	2	FCF */33g
4	G1	54	1005	161	Fill of ditch [160]	40	40													*	<2	**	<2	FCF */13g - Flint */32g
4	G1	4	2	1/005	Primary fill of ditch [1/004]	40	40			*	<2											**	2	Flint */10g - FCF */4g
4	G1	16	6	4/005	Primary fill of ditch [4/004]	40	40			*	<2											**	<2	FCF */<2
4	G2	55	1006	163	Fill of ditch [162] (recut)	40	40															***	4	FCF */119g - Flint */121g
4	G2	5	3	1/006	Secondary fill of ditch [1/004] (recut)	40	40	*	<2	*	<2					*	<2					***	12	Pot **/6g - FCF **/96g - Flint */6g
Undated		14	7	3/007	Primary fill of pit [3/006]	40	40							*	<2							**	4	Flint */38g - FCF */<2g

Period	Group	SUBGROUP	Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
Undated	G3	13	1	3/005	Fill of ditch [3/004]	40	40	*	<2	*	<2			*	<2			*	<2			**	4	Flint */<2g - FCF */10g
Undated	G4	9	4	2/004	Fill of ditch [2/005]	40	40							*	<2							*	<2	FCF */10g - Flint **/22g

Table 4: Residue Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Period	Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Other botanical charred	Identifications	Preservation	Modern Fly Pupae from Water Treatment Works	Land Snail Shells
3	1001	108	56	175	100	5	5	** *Fumaria officinalis*, Chenopodiaceae, *Polygonum / Rumex* sp., *Sambucus nigra*	***	***	****	*	Cerealia	+	*	Chenopodiaceae	++				* FP (1)	** 10% 3 types
3	1002	113	42	95	95	10	20	** *Fumaria officinalis*, *Sambucus nigra*, Chenopodiaceae	***	***	****	*	Cerealia, cf. *Hordeum* sp.	+	**	*Fallopia convolvulus*, Poaceae, Chenopodiaceae	+ to ++				* FP (1)	*** 10% 5 types
3	5	5/006	30	65	65	10	25	*** *Fumaria officinalis*, *Rubus* sp., *Polygonum / Rumex* sp., Chenopodiaceae	**	***	****	*	Cerealia, *Triticum* sp., cf. *Hordeum* sp.	+	*	*Polygonum/ Rumex* sp., *Fallopia convolvulus,* indet. seed	++				** FP	*** 25% 5 types
3	1003	165	12	65	65	35	10	* *Fumaria offinalis*	**	**	***										* FP (1)	*** 35% 4 types

Period	Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Other botanical charred	Identifications	Preservation	Modern Fly Pupae from Water Treatment Works	Land Snail Shells
3	1004	172	28	190	100	60	5	** *Fumaria officinalis*, *Sambucus nigra*	**	**	***	*	*Hordeum* sp.	++	*	Chenopodiaceae	++				* FP (1)	*** 20% 4 types
3	1007	104	20	85	85	17	2	** *Fumaria officinalis*, *Polygonum / Rumex* sp., Chenopodiaceae	***	***	***										** FP	*** 23% 4 types
3	1008	106	10	70	70	48	2	* Fumaria officinalis, Sambucus nigra, Polygonum / Rumex sp.		*	*										** FP	*** 50% 4 types
4	1005	161	6	30	30	10	30				*											*** 60% 4 types
4	2	1/005	8	40	40	45	10	* *Fumaria officinalis*, *Polygonum /Rumex* sp.														*** 45% 6 types
4	6	4/005	18	20	20	20	70	* *Fumaria officinalis*			*	*	Cerealia	+							* FP	** 10 % 4 types

Period	Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Other botanical charred	Identifications	Preservation	Modern Fly Pupae from Water Treatment Works	Land Snail Shells
4	1006	163	22	135	100	43	7	* *Fumaria officinalis*			*				*	Poaceae (frags)	+	*	Glume base (indet.)	++		*** 50% 5 types
4	3	1/006	22	90	90	14	3	* *Fumaria officinalis*, *Sambucus nigra*, Chenopodiaceae, Caryophyllaceae			*	*	cf. *Triticum* sp.	+								*** 87% 5 types
Undated	7	3/007	18	60	60	45	45	* *Fumaria officinalis, Polygonum /Rumex* sp.			*										* FP	** 10% 6 types
Undated	1	3/005	10	45	45	55	10	* *Fumaria officinalis, Polygonum / Rumex* sp., *Fallopia convolvulus,* Chenopodiaceae				*	*Triticum* sp., Cerealia	+	*	Poaceae (small), cf. *Festuca/ Lolium* sp., cf. *Borago officilanis,* Chenopodiaceae					** FP	*** 32% 4 types

Period	Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Other botanical charred	Identifications	Preservation	Modern Fly Pupae from Water Treatment Works	Land Snail Shells
Undated	4	2/004	14	50	50	45	45	* *Fumaria officinalis*, *Sambucus nigra*, Chenopodiaceae			*											** 10% 3 types

Table 5: Flot Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

7.0 POTENTIAL & SIGNIFICANCE OF RESULTS

7.1 Realisation of the original research aims

OR1 Identifying whether there was Mesolithic/Early Neolithic activity on the site.

7.1.1 The certain the presence of residual flintwork in later features is clearly indicative of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic activity at or in the immediate vicinity of the site.

OR2 Establishing whether the Beaker pottery is a solitary residual find on the site or whether there is further evidence to suggest there is in fact a settlement or other activity of this period.

7.1.2 The majority of the datable features on site contained Beaker pottery (six features in total). Although the number of features and size of the pottery assemblage are both relatively small, the rarity of pottery of this type in a 'domestic' setting dictates significance.

OR3 Establishing whether the site was in continual use throughout the periods identified or whether there was in fact a pause or break in use.

7.1.3 The data-set does not allow the detection of hiatuses in occupation during each period. However the presence of Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age material does suggest long term re-use of the site, if not proven continuity.

OR4 Establishing whether the activity on site is anything beyond a simple enclosure; i.e. is there defining evidence for settlement activity on the site? If so what period (s)?

7.1.4 The site was clearly occupied during more than one period and it is possible/likely that the nature of occupation changed over time. Although the only Middle Iron Age pottery recovered came from a ditch (arguably itself part of a complex set of enclosures visible on aerial photographs), the Beaker occupation appears 'domestic' in nature.

OR5 To enable the County Archaeologist to make an informed decision as to the necessity for further analysis and a suitable journal for publication in order to fulfil the requirements of the archaeology condition

7.1.5 Despite the small number of features encountered at the site, the presence of Beaker pottery in a non-funerary circumstance provides justification for full publication of the results in a suitable local journal.

7.2 Significance and Potential of the individual datasets

7.2.1 The Stratigraphic Sequence

Although only a small number of features were encountered and excavated, the significance of the results should not be underestimated.

Evidence of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic activity was widespread across the site, and Later Neolithic activity was indicated by the presence of pottery and a fragment of a polished stone tool, providing evidence of activity at the site from an early date.

However, clearly the most significant features encountered at the site were the Beaker period pits, providing as yet unique evidence of Beaker domestic occupation in Hampshire. The character of the pottery assemblage and the presence of an apparently deliberately placed antler object hint at a level of structured deposition (Hill 1995).

The final use of the site appears to be in the Mid Iron Age with the excavation of a ditch which is likely to be associated ith the surrounding pattern of earthworks visible on aerial photographs. There is a small chance, however that this ditch had earlier origins if the small assemblage of flint recovered from its lower fills is not residual and is instead a reliable indication of date.

7.2.3 Worked Flint by Karine Le Hégarat

The assemblage of flintwork provides some evidence for Mesolithic, Neolithic and early Bronze Age activities in the landscape. Nonetheless, evidence for Mesolithic presence is very scarce. It is limited to infrequent flints scattered across the site and these are almost certainly residual in latter contexts. More coherent evidence for Neolithic and early Bronze Age activities was revealed. Nonetheless, as the assemblage was dominated by unretouched flints and chronologically distinctive material was very scarce, the dating is principally based on morphological and technological grounds.

The pieces of flints recovered from the pits associated with the Beaker ceramics were in a relatively fresh condition. Beaker pits were recently excavated at Popley, Basingstoke and three of these pits yielded principally an assemblage of unworked flints, though three end scrapers and two core fragments were also recovered (Bradley & Leivers 2009). The flint assemblage from Overton yielded only a single retouched piece, a fragment of a ground bifacially worked tool. The broken implement is consistent with a Neolithic date. The assemblage has provided evidence for possible flint knapping activities, however it is too limited to determine the character of the tool–using activities undertaken at the site.

7.2.4 Prehistoric Pottery by Anna Doherty

Although this is, in absolute terms, a small group of pottery it is of some limited regional significance because ‘domestic’ Beaker assemblages are

so far unknown in Hampshire (Gardiner 2007). It is therefore recommended that a short analysis report on this material should be published and that the most diagnostic feature sherds should be illustrated. Further work should include a literature search for parallels from funerary sites in Hampshire and domestic assemblages from further afield.

Further reading and discussion on the deposition of cultural material, involving an integrated approach to both pottery and the other finds from the Beaker pits is key to understanding the character of the early Bronze activity on site.

7.2.5 The Animal Bone by Lucy Sibun

With the exception of the worked antler the assemblage is small and poorly preserved and for that reason has no potential for further analysis. However, descriptions of the type of animal bones recovered from the Beaker pits should be included in the publication. Further research on parallels for the worked antler should be undertaken and a sample from it submitted for radiocarbon dating.

7.2.6 The Land Molluscs by Trista Clifford

The small assemblage of land molluscs has no significance or potential, especially given the nature of the feature from which it was retrieved, i.e. a tree throw.

7.3 Environmental Samples by Karine Le Hégarat and Lucy Allott

7.3.1 Sampling revealed evidence for a wide array of environmental remains including charred cereal crops, charred weed seeds, charcoal, burnt and unburnt mammal bones, fish bones and land snail shells. Significance and potential for further analytical work of the botanical remains is considered here while the faunal assemblages are incorporated into the finds reports.

7.3.2 Charred macroplant remains

The small assemblage of charred macroplants has confirmed the presence and probable consumption of cereal crops during the Early Bronze Age and the Middle Iron-Age periods. In Britain, during the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, emmer wheat was the main crop cultivated with hulled 6-row barley as well as naked six- and two-row barley. Infrequent grains of einkorn and free threshing wheat species have also been recorded in assemblages from other sites dated to this period (Campbell and Straker 2003). Unfortunately, the cereal grains recovered from the Beaker associated pits at this site are poorly preserved and in the absence of rachis segments, these remains present no potential to refine cereal identifications beyond the genus level.

The scarcity of the cereal remains is in fact characteristic of assemblages recovered from Neolithic / Early Bronze Age deposits not only in Hampshire (Gardiner 2007) but in Britain as a whole (Robinson 2000). The presence of hazelnut shell fragments (*Corylus avellana*) in pits [107] and [112] might provide evidence for food collected from the wild although

these small, infrequent fragments could equally derive from remains occurring naturally at the site. Recent archaeological excavations at Old Down Farm, Andover (Green 1981), Chilbolton (Green 1990) as well as Marnel Park and Merton Rise, Popley, Basingstoke (Pelling 2009) produced similarly poor assemblages.

Likewise, samples from Middle Iron Age contexts were poor in charred crop remains and although the single glume base recovered from ditch [162] at Overton confirms the presence of hulled wheat, it is too degraded to establish whether it is from emmer or spelt wheat. By the Late Iron Age, spelt wheat is thought to have slowly replaced emmer in several parts of the country (Jones 1981). However, in the South of England and more particularly in Hampshire, several patterns have been recorded. On several sites in the region such as around Danebury, emmer is scarce and interpreted as a contaminant of the spelt crop (Campbell 2000). However, recent excavation along the Barton Stacey to Lockerley Gas Pipeline, to the south west of Overton, revealed rich assemblages of emmer wheat in Iron Age deposits (Pelling, unpub.). Archaeological investigations of Iron Age deposits to the east of the site at Worting, Basingstoke revealed the presence of both emmer and spelt wheat (Allott 2008).

The macrobotanical remains assemblage also provides very limited evidence for natural vegetation growing either on the site or in the vicinity of the settlement. Infrequent charred hazelnut shell fragments in pit features containing Beaker pottery may provide evidence for the use of wild plant species. Hazel occurs as a hedgerow plant or in open woodland vegetation. Wild grass seeds, knotgrass/dock and black-bindweed are all compatible with plants of waste places and could have occurred in the site vicinity. These taxa are also common arable weeds and could equally represent species introduced to the settlement amongst crops, perhaps from further afield.

The assemblage of charred macrobotanical remains from Overton is too small and too poorly preserved to provide significant information regarding the agricultural economy, the diet of the population or the local vegetation. Remains that are evident probably represent only a small proportion of agriculture and food waste that became or was deliberately redeposited in the pit and ditch features. This limited assemblage suggests domestic and settlement activities may also have been limited in the immediate area around the archaeological features.

7.3.3 Charcoal

Wood charcoal fragments were recovered from all phases of land use, however, with the exception of a series of pit features in which sherds of Beaker pottery were also recorded, the assemblages are too small to provide significant information regarding fuel/wood use or wood resource management. Charcoal assemblages from the Early Bronze Age pit features are of particular interest, however, as they present the opportunity to examine a large assemblage associated with significant pottery assemblages.

In association with the other finds from the pits, the results might shed light on the functions of the features and provide insight into the origins of their rich infills. Although wood charcoal fragments in the pits at Overton are not within their primary deposition context the assemblage has the potential to characterise the vegetation from which wood was sourced and to examine fuel selection, fuel use and may reveal information relating to management of the local woodland. Much of the charcoal may derive from domestic fuel although it is also possible, given the association with Beaker pottery and worked antler, that wood was selected specifically for less functional activities.

This assemblage should be considered with reference to other comparable deposits where available. In two Beaker associated pits at Marnel Park and Merton Rise, Popley, Basingstoke, for example, Barnett (2009) recorded a wide array of deciduous woodland taxa including oak, hazel, alder, blackthorn/cherry, apple/hawthorn/whitebeam (Maloideae taxa), elm and ash concluding that wood was gathered from a range of woodland habitats, (both riverine and dry) without obvious preference for one wood type. When analysing charcoal from secondary rather than primary deposits such mixed assemblages can result from multiple phases of deposition or reflect the possible multiple origins of the charcoal. This will be examined further during analysis of charcoal from Overton.

7.4 Radiocarbon Dating

A programme of scientific (radiocarbon) dating will be implemented at the beginning of analysis stage of the project with the aim of refining the dating of the groups of Beaker pits and their associated pottery.

Two samples of charred plant, charcoal or faunal remains (including the antler pick) will be submitted from each context from which a date is required. This will ensure statistical consistency.

Provisionally, we will date the most find rich pits which are [112] and [164]. Pit [112] contains the antler pick and charred hazelnut shell fragments that are suitable for dating. Both pit features have moderately rich wood charcoal assemblages that may be used for dating although this is dependent on the presence of suitable taxa.

It is envisaged that four to six samples in total will be submitted for radiocarbon dating.

A report on the scientific dating, including Bayesian modelling will be prepared by Pete Marshall, Scientific Dating Consultant.

8.0 PUBLICATION PROJECT

8.1 Revised Research Agenda: Aims and Objectives

8.1.1 This section combines those original research aims that the site archive has the potential to address with any new research aims identified in the assessment process by stratigraphic, finds and environmental specialists to produce a set of revised research aims that will form the basis of any future research agenda. Original research aims (OR's) are referred to where there is any synthesis of subject matter to form a new set of revised research aims (RRA's) posed as questions below.

8.2 The Revised Research Agendas

RRA1 (OR1)
Does the make-up of the flint assemblage justify the inclusion of a Mesolithic/Neolithic period in its own right? Is it possible to separate the two?

RRA2 (OR3 and 4)
It is possible to characterise the Neolithic activity at the site from the very limited data-set? Could some of the flintwork and the pottery be broadly contemporary, suggesting occupation?

RRA3 (OR1)
Is ditch GP1 really Mid Iron Age in date is there any chance that it could be earlier (and the flint assemblage recovered from its lower fills therefore not residual)

RRA4 (OR1-4)
*H*ow different is the environmental data between GP1 and the recut GP2. Does it suggest different functions for the enclosure(s)? Are there any local parallels?

RRA5 (OR2)
Does the character of the Beaker period remains suggest 'structured deposition'? Did all of the Beaker features contain such 'Special Deposits'? Can the environmental material shed light on this? Are there any parallels for the deposition of the antler artefact in Beaker deposits? How were they interpreted?

RRA6
A close examination of the deposition sequence of each pit is needed and also a detailed analysis of the various types of artefact (pottery, animal bone, flint tools) and environmental remains (macrobotanical and charcoal) recovered from each pit. Comparisons between the pits for these aspects is important and may help to answer the most important question (RRA7):

RRA7
What was the purpose of these pits? Why were they dug?

RRA8 (OR2)

Given the possibility of structured deposition, can the Beaker pit contexts be used to reconstruct 'everyday life' at the site? Does the ritual element nullify their usefulness in examining the local Beaker environment?

RRA8
Finally, can a structured programme of scientific dating help to refine the pottery fabric dates and highlight any differences between construction dates for the pits (were they all dug in one event for example)

8.3 Preliminary Publication Synopsis

8.3.1 It is suggested that the results of the excavation should be published as a short article in the local annual archaeological journal*, Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeology Society.* This will comprise of an integrated text detailing the key elements of the site (the Beaker period pits and later prehistoric ditch). The text will include supporting specialist information, figures, photographs and artefact illustrations as necessary and will consider the site in its local and regional context. The article will also address the research questions identified in this post-excavation assessment.

The article will be in the region of 4000 words and take the following proposed format:

Introduction
Circumstance of fieldwork
Archaeological background

Results *(including selected plans, photographs, sections and artefact drawings / photographs)*

Late Neolithic activity: tree clearance?

The Beaker pits
Detailed discussion of pit formation / deposition processes and including integrated supporting specialist information: pottery, faunal remains, struck flint environmental evidence, scientific dating results

Later prehistoric land-division
Brief discussion of ditch GP 1 and 2 and including a consideration of the aerial photographic evidence

Specialist Reports
(where possible, supporting specialist information will be integrated into the site narrative (Results) section. Detailed data and thematic discussions will be presented where necessary in standalone specialist reports)

The prehistoric pottery by Anna Doherty

The environmental evidence by Karine Le Hégarat and Lucy Allott

Scientific dating by Pete Marshall

Discussion

Suggested topics to include:

- *The nature of the Beaker occupation (domestic, ritual, or both)*
- *Aspects of deposition and possible meanings (structured deposition, casual discard, why do the pits contain what they do?)*

- *Local and regional parallels for the Beaker evidence*

- *Later prehistoric landuse: interpretations of the system of land division found during the excavations and shown on the aerial photographs*

8.4 Publication Project

8.4.1 Stratigraphic Method Statement

Once the subgrouping has been finalised, the subgroups will be completely grouped and a basic land use model will be established for the site. This will provide a land-use led chronological framework for the analysis and reporting of the site.

After completion of the specialist analysis, reporting and documentary research, an integrated period-driven narrative of the site sequence will be prepared. This will draw on specialist information in order to fully address the revised research aims. The narrative will include relevant selection of period/phase plans, sections, photographs and finds illustrations.

8.4.2 Worked Flint by Karine Le Hégarat

The assemblage is not considered to have any potential for further analysis such as refitting or detailed attribute analysis. However it is recommended that a short report based on this assessment should be prepared for publication 1 day

Total **1 day**

8.4.3 Prehistoric Pottery by Anna Doherty

Literature search for parallels for the current assemblage and subsequent updates to the pottery overview 0.5 days

Prepare discussion on deposition of Beaker pottery in consultation with stratigraphic author and other specialists 0.75 days

Extract sherds for illustration and final checking of illustration 0.25 days

Total **1.5 days**

8.4.4 The Animal Bone by Lucy Sibun

No further work required for publication for the majority of the bone assemblage. A short note will be produced for integration into the publication text.

Research parallels and produce a short report on the antler implement: 2 days

Submit sample for C14 dating: 0.25 days

Total **2.25 days**

8.4.4 The Land Molluscs by Trista Clifford

No further work required for publication. A short note will be produced for integration into the publication text.

8.4.5 Environmental Samples by Karine le Hégarat and Lucy Allott

Charred macroplant remains
Charred macrobotanical remains were poorly represented and no further analytical work is recommended for the assemblage although hazel nut shell fragments and cereal grains may be used to contribute material suitable for radiocarbon dating.

Charcoal
Further analysis is recommended for charcoal assemblages from five Early Bronze Age (Period 3) pit features [107] <1001>; [112] / [5/004] <1002> & <5>; [165] <1003>; [172] <1004> and [104] <1007>.

Obtain taxonomic identifications for up to 100 fragments from each feature	2.5 days
Selection, identification and submission of samples for radiocarbon dating	0.5 day
Literature search for comparable assemblages and production of charcoal analysis report with reference to other specialist reports	1 day
Total	**4 days**

8.4.6 Illustration

Polished flint implement to be photographed and drawn	0.5 day
A total of 6 decorated pottery sherds should be illustrated	1 day
Antler implement to be photographed and drawn	1 day
Total	**2.5 days**

8.4.7 Scientific dating and report

Submit four to six samples for dating. Compile dating report.

Fee

Stratigraphic Tasks	
Finalise subgrouping, draw as many as yet unphased or undated features as possible into the phases	0.5 day
Define groups and draw date phased group matrices. Define landuse.	0.5 day
Describe landuse. Interpretative text will be written about each landuse element.	1 day
Define periods and describe periods. A textual summary, built from the landuse and group texts where appropriate, will be formed for each period. Plots of each period will be produced using Auto-Cad, GIS and/or hand-annotated plans, these will include feature conjecture.	0.5 day
Documentary research will be conducted prior to commencement of the authorship of the period-driven narrative by the principal author. This should include relevant study of archaeological features, sites and published themes of the surrounding area, region, and the southeast.	2 days
Digestion and association of finds and environmental publication reports	0.5 day
Prepare period-driven narrative of the site sequence. This task comprises the combination of the stratigraphic period descriptions and the relevant portions of completed finds, environmental, documentary and integrated analytical reports. Suitable photographic and drawn images such as sections and plans will also be selected from the archive at this point.	2 days
Total	***7 days***
Specialist Analysis	
Flintwork	1 day
Prehistoric Pottery	1.5 days
Animal Bone & Antler Implement	2.25 days
Environmental Material	4 days
Radiocarbon Dating	Lab Fee
Scientific dating report	Fee
Illustration	
Pottery and finds illustration	2.5 days
Publication figures	1.5 days
Production	
Editing	1 day
Project Management	0.75 days

Table 6: Resource for analysis and publication

8.5 Artefacts and Archive Deposition

8.5.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE. Following completion of all post-excavation work, including any publication work, the site archive will be deposited with Hampshire Museums Service under Accession No. A2011.05

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Appendix 1: Context Register

SITECODE	CONTEXT	CONTEXT_TY	INT-ID (CUD)	FEATURE_TY	PARENT_ CONTEXT	SAMPLE	SUBGROUP
SRV06	1-001	L		TS			1
SRV06	1-002	L		SS			2
SRV06	1-003	L		N			3
SRV06	1-004	C	C	D			4
SRV06	1-005	F	D	D	1-004	2	4
SRV06	1-006	F	D	D	1-004	3	5
SRV06	2-001	L		TS			6
SRV06	2-002	L		SS			7
SRV06	2-003	L		N			8
SRV06	2-004	C	C	D			9
SRV06	2-005	F	D	D	2-004	4	9
SRV06	3-001	L		TS			10
SRV06	3-002	L		SS			11
SRV06	3-003	L		N			12
SRV06	3-004	C	C	D			13
SRV06	3-005	F	D	D	3-004	1	13
SRV06	3-006	C	C	P			14
SRV06	3-007	F	U	P	3-006	7	14
SRV06	3-008	F	U	P	3-006		14
SRV06	4-001	L		TS			15
SRV06	4-002	L		SS			15
SRV06	4-003	L		N			15
SRV06	4-004	C	C	D			16
SRV06	4-005	F	D	D	4-004	6	16
SRV06	4-006	F	D	D	4-004		17
SRV06	4-007	C		SP			18
SRV06	4-008	F		SP	4-007		18
SRV06	5-001	L		TS			19
SRV06	5-002	L		SS			20
SRV06	5-003	L		N			21
SRV06	5-004	C	C	P			22
SRV06	5-005	F	U	P	5-004		22
SRV06	5-006	F	U	P	5-004	5	22
SRV06	6-001	L		TS			23
SRV06	6-002	L		SS			24
SRV06	6-003	L		N			25
SRV06	100	L		TS			26
SRV06	101	L		SS			27
SRV06	102	L		N			28
SRV06	103	C	C	P			29

SITECODE	CONTEXT	CONTEXT_TY	INT-ID (CUD)	FEATURE_TY	PARENT_ CONTEXT	SAMPLE	SUBGROUP
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SRV06	106	F	U	P	105	1008	30
SRV06	107	C	C	P			31
SRV06	108	F	U	P	107	1001	31
SRV06	109	C	C	P			32
SRV06	110	F	U	P	109		32
SRV06	111	VOID					
SRV06	112	C	C	P			22
SRV06	113	F	U	P	112	1002	22
SRV06	114	C	C	SP			33
SRV06	115	F	D	SP	114		33
SRV06	116	C		N			34
SRV06	117	F		N	116		34
SRV06	118	C	C	SP			35
SRV06	119	F	D	SP	118		35
SRV06	120	C		TH			36
SRV06	121	F		TH	120		36
SRV06	122	F		TH	120		36
SRV06	123	C		N			37
SRV06	124	F		N	123		37
SRV06	125	C		N			38
SRV06	126	F		N	125		38
SRV06	127	C		N			39
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SRV06	135	C		TH			43
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SRV06	137	C		N			44
SRV06	138	F		N	137		44
SRV06	139	C		N			45
SRV06	140	F		N	139		45
SRV06	141	C		?			46
SRV06	142	F		?	141		46
SRV06	143	C		N			47
SRV06	144	F		N	143		47
SRV06	145	VOID					
SRV06	146	VOID					
SRV06	147	C		TH			48
SRV06	148	F		TH	147		48
SRV06	149	C		N			49
SRV06	150	F		N	149		49

SITECODE	CONTEXT	CONTEXT_TY	INT-ID (CUD)	FEATURE_TY	PARENT_ CONTEXT	SAMPLE	SUBGROUP
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SRV06	152	F		N	151		50
SRV06	153	C		N			51
SRV06	154	F		N	153		51
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SRV06	156	F		N	155		52
SRV06	157	C		N			53
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SRV06	160	C	C	D			54
SRV06	161	F	D	D	160	1005	54
SRV06	162	C	C	D			55
SRV06	163	F	D	D	162	1006	55
SRV06	164	C	C	P			56
SRV06	165	F	U	P	164	1003	56
SRV06	166	C		N			57
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SRV06	170	F		N	168		58
SRV06	171	C	C	P			59
SRV06	172	F	U	P	171	1004	59
SRV06	173	C		P			
SRV06	174	F		P	173		
SRV06	175	F		P	173		
SRV06	176	F		P	173		
SRV06	177	F		P	173		
SRV06	178	C		N			60
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SRV06	180	C		N			61
SRV06	181	F		N	180		61
SRV06	182	C		N			62
SRV06	183	F		N	182		62
SRV06	184	C	C	D			63
SRV06	185	F	D	D	184		63
SRV06	186	C	C	D			64
SRV06	187	F	D	D	186		64
SRV06	188	C		N			65
SRV06	189	F		N	188		65
SRV06	190	C		N			66
SRV06	191	F		N	190		66

SITECODE	CONTEXT	CONTEXT_TY	INT-ID (CUD)	FEATURE_TY	PARENT_ CONTEXT	SAMPLE	SUBGROUP
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SRV06	193	F		N	192		67
SRV06	194	C		N			68
SRV06	195	F		N	194		68
SRV06	196	C	C	D			69
SRV06	197	F	D	D	196		69
SRV06	198	C	C	D			70
SRV06	199	F	D	D	198		70
SRV06	200	C	C	D			71
SRV06	201	F	D	D	200		71
SRV06	202	C	C	D			72
SRV06	203	F	D	D	202		72

APPENDIX 2: HER Summary Form

Site Code	SRV06					
Identification Name and Address	Overton Wastewater Treatment Works					
County, District &/or Borough	Basingstoke and Deane District, Hampshire					
OS Grid Refs.	550440 150120					
Geology	Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4872					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav. ✓	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav. Oct. 2011	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	4Delivery Limited					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso. ✓	Neo. ✓	BA ✓	IA ✓	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other		

100 Word Summary

Excavations at the site revealed a background scatter of Mesolithic/Neolithic flintwork across the site as a whole and there was limited evidence for later Neolithic activity with the recovery of two sherds of Peterborough ware from a tree throw.

Most significantly, the excavations have revealed evidence of Beaker activity at the site (dated c.2500-1700BC), the first confirmed discovery of a 'domestic' Beaker site in Hampshire. The nature of the evidence suggests the deliberate burial of 'special deposits' (structured deposition), supported by the presence of part of an antler implement in one of the Beaker period features.

The final period of datable activity was the Middle Iron Age, with the cutting of a ditch. There was no evidence of any later activity at the site.

APPENDIX 3: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-112332

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Investigations at Overton Wastewater Treatment Works, Overton, Hampshire
Short description of the project	Excavations at the site revealed a background scatter of Mesolithic/Neolithic flintwork across the site as a whole and there was limited evidence for later Neolithic activity with the recovery of two sherds of Peterborough ware from a tree throw. Most significantly, the excavations have revealed evidence of Beaker activity at the site (dated c.2500-1700BC), the first confirmed discovery of a 'domestic' Beaker site in Hampshire. The nature of the evidence suggests the deliberate burial of 'special deposits' (structured deposition), supported by the presence of part of an antler implement in one of the Beaker period features. The final period of datable activity was the Middle Iron Age, with the cutting of a ditch. There was no evidence of any later activity at the site..
Project dates	Start: 06-10-2011 End: 13-10-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	4872 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SRV06 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	HCC/2011/0122 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	PIT Late Neolithic
Monument type	PITS Early Bronze Age
Monument type	DITCH Late Prehistoric
Monument type	DITCH Middle Iron Age
Significant Finds	FLINTWORK Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Neolithic

Significant Finds	POTTERY Middle Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Middle Iron Age
Investigation type	'Full excavation'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE OVERTON Overton Wastewater Treatment Works
Postcode	RG25 3DQ
Site coordinates	SU 5044 5012 51.2475060329 -1.277244996610 51 14 51 N 001 16 38 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 101.75m Max: 105.78m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Hampshire County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	4Delivery Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Hampshire County Council Museums Service
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Worked bone','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Hampshire County Council Museums Service
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media	'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Text'

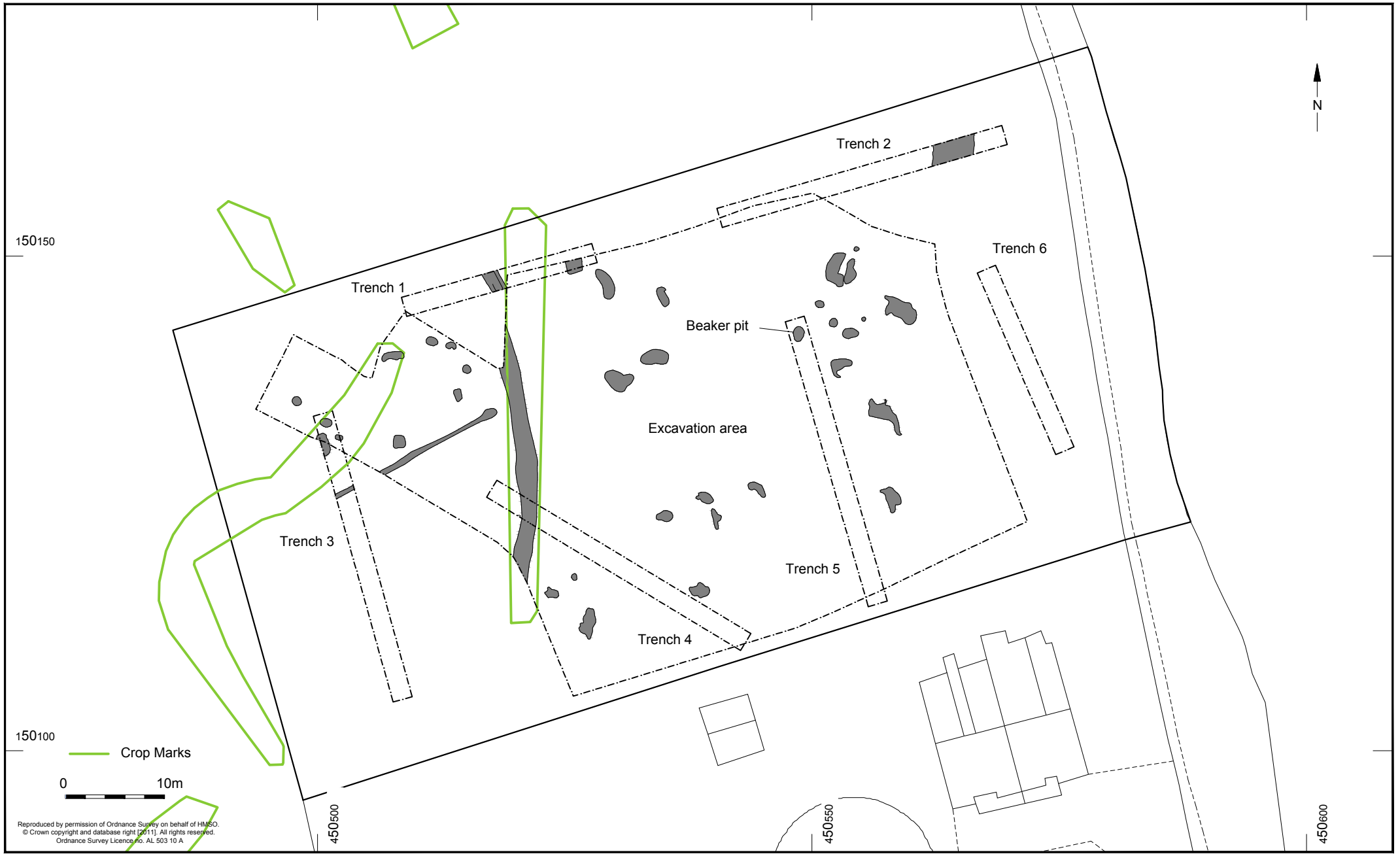
available	
Paper Archive recipient	Hampshire County Council Museums Service
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Drawing','Miscellaneous Material','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Investigations at Overton Wastewater Treatment Works, Overton, Hampshire A Post-Excavtion Assessment and Revised Project Design
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No.2011247
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, East Sussex
Description	ASE standard PXA format.

Entered by	Simon Stevens (simon.stevens@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	24 January 2012

© **Archaeology South-East**		Overton Water Treatment Works	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4872	March 2012	Site location and Hampshire County Council HER data	
Report Ref: 2011247	Drawn by: JLR		



© **Archaeology South-East**		Overton Water Treatment Works	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4872	Jan 2012	Site Plan and crop marks	
Report Ref: 2011247	Drawn by: JR/FG		

N

120

Tree throw

Section 1

120 looking south-east

Section 1

102.52mOD

N

S

121

122

120

0 0.5m

0 5m

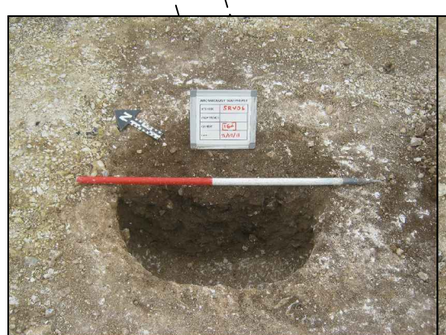
© Archaeology South-East		Overton Water Treatment Works	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 4872	March 2012	Period 2: plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2011247	Drawn by: JR/FG		

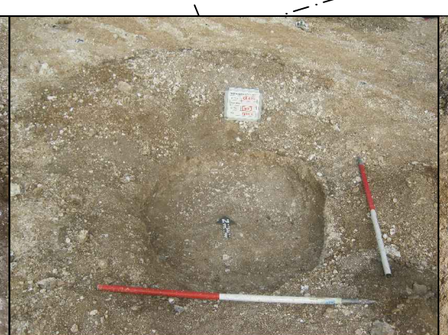
N

Section 5
103
Beaker Pit Group 1
Section 6
107
Section 4
112
105
Section 7

164
Section 3
Section 2
171
Beaker Pit Group 2

0 5m


164 looking north-east

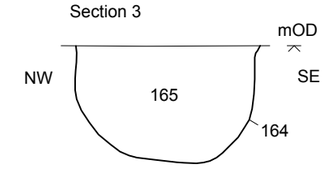

112 post excavation, looking north


103 looking west


107 looking east

Section 2

Section 3



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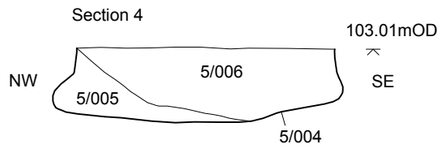

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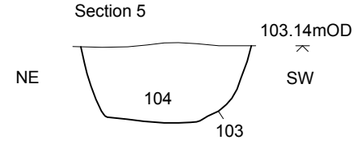

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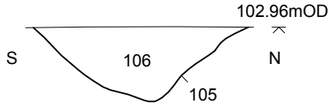

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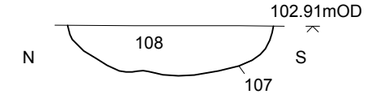


0 0.5m

© Archaeology South-East		Overton Water Treatment Works	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 4872	March 2012	Period 3: plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2011247	Drawn by: JR/FG		

N

Section 8

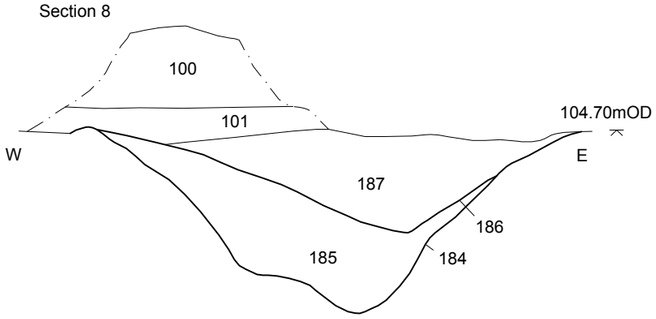
GP 1 and 2

Section 9

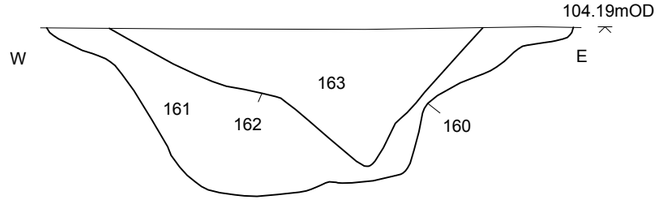
Section 10

0 5m

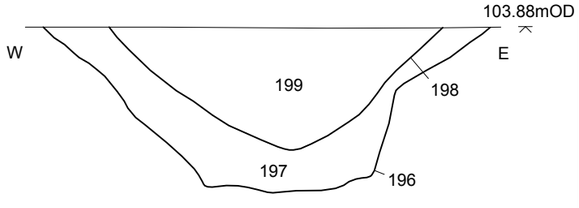
Section 8



Section 9



Section 10



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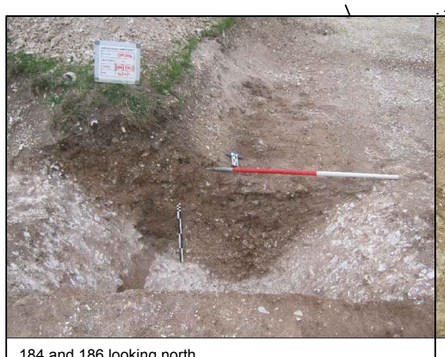
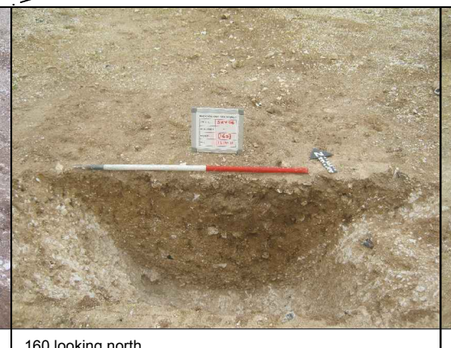


184 and 186 looking north



160 looking north

196 and 198 looking north

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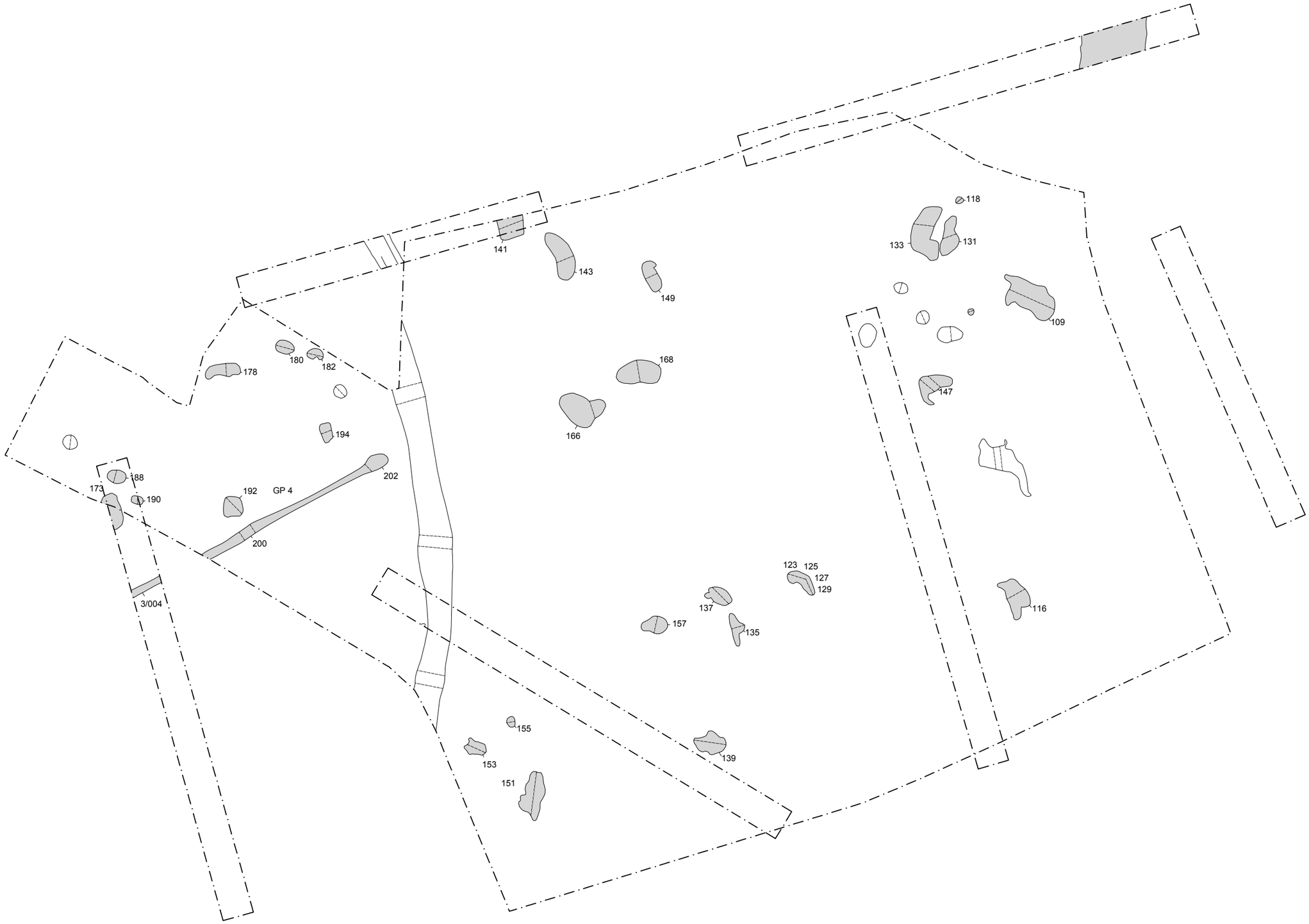
Project Ref: 4872	March 2012	Period 4: plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2011247	Drawn by: JR/FG		



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Project Ref: 4872	March 2012	Undated features	
Report Ref: 2011247	Drawn by: JR/FG		

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