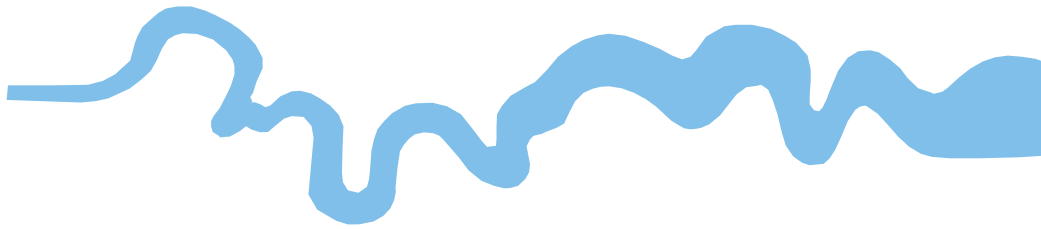


T V A S



SOUTH WEST

**Walford Bridge Garage, East Borough,
Wimborne Minster, Dorset**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Agata Socha-Paszkwicz

Site Code: WBG17/81

(SU 0096 0059)

**Walford Bridge Garage, East Borough Road,
Wimborne Minster, Dorset**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for WYG Group**

by Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WBG 17/81

May 2017

Summary

Site name: Walford Bridge Garage, East Borough Road, Wimborne Minster, Dorset

Grid reference: SU 0096 0059

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 9th May 2017

Project manager: Agata Socha-Paszkwicz

Site supervisor: Agata Socha-Paszkwicz

Site code: WBG 17/81ev

Area of site: c.0.2ha

Summary of results: The evaluation revealed linear features and a pit certainly and probably of medieval date all within a single trench on the site. It is considered that part of site has archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS South West in Taunton and will be deposited at Dorset Museum in due course

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 25.05.17 Tim Dawson ✓ 25.05.17
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Walford Bridge Garage, East Borough Road, Wimborne Minster, Dorset An Archaeological Evaluation

by Agata Socha-Paszkievicz

Report 17/81

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Walford Bridge Garage, East Borough, Wimborne Minster, Dorset (SU 0096 0059) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr. Alex Godden on behalf of WYG Group, The Pavilion, Botleigh Grange Office, Hedge End, Southampton, SO30 2AF.

Planning permission 03/15/1046/FUL has been gained from East Dorset District Council to demolish the existing open air car sales and motor repair workshop and erect 27 sheltered apartments for the elderly on a c 0.2ha parcel of land. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which can be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, field evaluation has been requested by means of machine trenching prior to the determination of the planning application to determine the archaeological potential of the site and to help formulate a mitigation strategy as necessary. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and Council's policy on archaeology,

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Steve Wallis, Senior Archaeologist of Dorset Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Agata Socha-Paszkievicz and Mariusz Paszkiewicz on 9th May 2017 and the site code is WBG 17/81ev. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services South West, Taunton and will be deposited at Dorset County Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the northern fringe of Wimborne Minster at the northern end of East Borough (Figs 1 and 2). To the north the site is bounded by the River Allen, to the west is the petrol station forecourt and shop and to the east the playing fields of Allenbourn Middle School (Fig. 2). The site is currently occupied by an L-shaped complex of buildings surrounded by Tarmac-surfaced car parks; it is relatively flat and lies at a height of 69m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology is comprised of clay and silt belonging to the West Park farm member and associated with river Allen, superficial deposits of alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel) are also present (BGS 2004).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been documented in desk-based assessment (Webb 2015). In summary, evidence of small scale prehistoric activity has been recovered along the ridge between the Rivers Stour and Allen, as well as along the southern slopes of Colehill to the south-east. There have also been unsubstantiated reports of Bronze Age cinerary urns found at Wimborne Cemetery to the west of site, and it has been suggested that a late prehistoric field system is fossilised in modern road and field alignments along the Alley Valley. There is evidence for Iron Age and Roman occupation at Badbury Rings 5km to the north-west of present town.

Wimborne Minster was established during Saxon times when King Ine founded a monastery here by AD705, with his sister Cuthburgh as abbess. Following its destruction by Danish raiders during 10th century, the town was re-founded by Edward the Confessor as a house of secular canons during the 11th century. Wimborne Minster is not listed as one of the Dorset Boroughs in Domesday Book (1086). It does however, have a reference to Burgesses and complex tenurial arrangements reminiscent of Borough status. The medieval town appears to have expanded into suburbs in The Leaze and West Borough. The town grew during the 17th and 18th centuries and the coming of the railway in 1847 led to rapid suburban expansion to the east of the River Allen.

The proposed development lies on the fringes of the Medieval suburb of “The Borough” and within the immediate setting of a number of Grade II and Grade II* Listed Buildings with Walford Bridge (a Scheduled Monument and Grade II* Listed Building) located immediately to the north-west. Post-Medieval cartographic evidence shows the site occupied by irregular plots with gardens and orchards, with a well to the south-east and Pound to the north.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the evaluation were to determine the presence/ absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of an archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development,

The specific research aims of this project were:

- To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- To provide information in order to draw up and appropriate mitigation strategy if required;

As such, archaeological investigations at the site have the potential to answer the following research questions

as described in the Dorset Historic Towns Survey report for Wimborne Minster (2011):

- What is the nature of the prehistoric activity in the area?
- Can further evidence be found for a potential Bronze Age settlement in the vicinity of Wimborne Cemetery as suggested by reported, though uncorroborated, finds of cinerary urns?
- Can any evidence be recovered to support or refute the theory that the Allen Valley was divided into a rectilinear field system by the late prehistoric period?
- What physical traces of 18th century industrial activity within the town still survive? Are there any remains of former cloth works, breweries, tanneries or mills and their ancillary buildings and structures?

It was proposed to dig a total of 2 trenches, each 15m long and 4m wide across the site. Topsoil and any other overburden was to be removed by a tracked mechanical machine. A toothless ditching bucket was to be used to expose archaeologically sensitive levels, under constant archaeological supervision. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were then to be excavated or sufficiently sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project.

Results

Trenches were excavated as intended. Trenches varied from 14.30m to 14.50m in length and from 1.10m to 1.20 in depth. Both were 4m wide. A list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. All features of possible archaeological interest were cleaned and investigated using hand tools and are described in detail below. Modern deposits were investigated and removed by machine in consultation with the Dorset archaeological officer (Mr Steve Wallis). A list of feature investigated forms Appendix 1.

Trench 1 Figs 2 and 3; Pls. 1 and 2:

Trench 1 was aligned south-east to north-west and was 14.30m long and a maximum of 1.20m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.07 of Tarmac, above 0.15m of scalpins. Beneath was modern feature 1 which was a maximum of 6.5m wide and filled with 0.90m deep mottled dark grey to black brown silty clay (55) with large amount of modern bricks, glass and scrap metal (not retained). Modern feature 1 cut 0.26 deep made ground (52) comprised of dark grey to black silty clay which contained large amount of modern bricks and Tarmac fragments. Made ground overlaid 0.26m deep buried topsoil (53) comprised of dark grey to black silty clay which contained finds assemblage comprised of 3 sherds of earthenware of mid 19th to early 20th century date and 3 sherds of Derbyshire Stoneware dated between 1800 to 1875+.

Buried topsoil lay over 0.45m deep buried subsoil (54) comprised of dark grey brown silty clay with

gravel. Beneath was brown silty clay with frequent gravel natural geology. At c. 4.7m from the north-west end of trench was Ditch 2 which was aligned south-west to north-east. Ditch 2 was 0.73m wide and 0.26m deep and was filled with dark grey silty clay with gravel (56) which contained 4 sherds of pottery of mid 13th - 16th century date. Some 1.1m to the south-east from Ditch 2 and running parallel was Ditch 3. This was 0.83m wide and 0.22m deep and was filled with similar to Ditch 2 deposit (57) which contained some animal bone. Although no datable artefacts were recovered it is considered that Ditch 3 is broadly of the same date as Ditch 2.

Ditch 3 cut pit 4 which was 0.78m wide and 0.52m deep. Pit 4 was filled with 0.42m deep grey silty clay (58) with gravel and a little charcoal above 0.05m deep white grey clay (59) above 0.08m deep light white green silt (60) with moderate amount of charcoal and small amount of fragmented animal bones. No datable artefacts were recovered from pit 4.

Trench 2 Figs 2 and 3; Pl 3 and 4:

Trench 2 was aligned south-west to north-east and was 14.50m long and a maximum of 1.10m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.05m of Tarmac, above 0.17m of scalpins. Beneath was 0.31m deep made ground similar to trench 1 (61), which overlaid 0.30m deep made ground (62) comprised of dark grey to black silty clay with small amount of modern brick and Tarmac fragments (not retained) . Made ground (62) lay above brown silty clay with frequent gravel natural geology. No archaeological deposits were revealed.

Finds

Medieval pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 4 sherds with a total weight of 54g. They are all medieval, and occurred in a single context, [2] (56). The following fabric types were noted:

Dorset Quartz-rich Sandy Ware, mid 13th–mid 14th century (Brown 2002, 16). 3 sherds, 32g.

Laverstock Ware, mid 13th – 16th century , (Musty et al. 1969). 1 sherd, 22g.

The range of fabrics is typical of sites in the region. The sherds are mostly fairly large and in good condition, and appear reliably stratified. The sherd of Laverstock Ware has splashes of glaze on both surfaces, while the Dorset Sandy Ware sherds are unglazed. One of the latter is a rimsherd from a jar.

Modern Pottery by Andrew Weale

The pottery assemblage comprised 6 sherds with a total weight of 106 g. They all occurred in a single context (53) in Trench 1. Two of the sherds (17g) are fragment of a refined white earthenware plates. One with blue transfer-printed decoration (1g) the other in green transfer-printed decoration (15g), and are of mid 19th - early 20th century date. One fragment, a body sherd of an earthenware flower-pot of similar date (23g). (Brears 1969). Three fragments are of Derbyshire Stoneware, a smooth, highly vitrified fabric grey in colour the interior of the ware is buff to brown green coloured, while the exterior is brown. Two fragments are body sherds (16g) the third is a jug base (51g). Derbyshire Stoneware has a date range from 1800 to 1875+. (Askey 1998)

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

A small collection consisting of four struck flints was recovered from the site. All four pieces were flakes. Three came from Medieval ditch 2 (56) and one from probable medieval ditch 3 (57). None are closely datable in themselves but are likely to be of later neolithic or Bronze Age date.

Animal bone by Danielle Milbank

A small assemblage of fragmented disarticulated animal bone comprising 13 pieces (59g) was hand collected from three contexts encountered in the evaluation, including fragments from two sieved soil samples. The condition of the pieces from deposits 56 and 57 was moderate, with moderate fragmentation but little surface erosion, and the bone fabric was fairly hard. In addition, a total of thirty small fragments of animal bone weighing a total of 1g were recovered from the residue of a sieved soil sample (1) taken from feature 4, deposit 60. All of the fragments recovered from this sample were in poor condition and of insufficient size for identification.

The identifiable bone was categorised according to animal size, large (cattle, horse), medium (sheep/goat, deer, pig) or small (rodent, bird, cat, dog) and where possible identified by species.

From features 2 (56), five fragments were recovered, comprising three sheep/goat mandible and tooth pieces and right sheep/goat metatarsal, with one small cut possibly representing a butchery mark.

Feature 3 (deposit 57) contained fragments weighing 32g, comprising a fragment of pig mandible and six further small pieces which are likely to reprint pig vertebra or atlas and cranium pieces.

Due to the lack of duplicated skeletal elements, the minimum number of individuals present in the

assemblage was found to be; 1 sheep/goat, 1 pig. No other notable characteristics were noted and no other information could be recovered from the fragmented remains, with the assemblage probably representing domestic consumption.

Macrobotanical plant material and charcoal by Andrew Weale

One sample <1> from cut [4] deposit (60) of 10L was processed from deposits recovered during the evaluation. The flot was wet sieved to 0.25mm and air dried. The flot was examined under a low-power magnifying glass at magnifications between x10. The sample contained small amounts of charred plant material it also contained a single indeterminate weed seed. The charcoal that was present in sample <1> was very fragmented and is unlikely to enable species identification.

Conclusion

The evaluation has been carried out as intended and successfully revealed archaeological deposits in one of the two trenches dug comprising linear features and a pit certainly and probably of medieval date. It is considered that parts of the site have archaeological potential.

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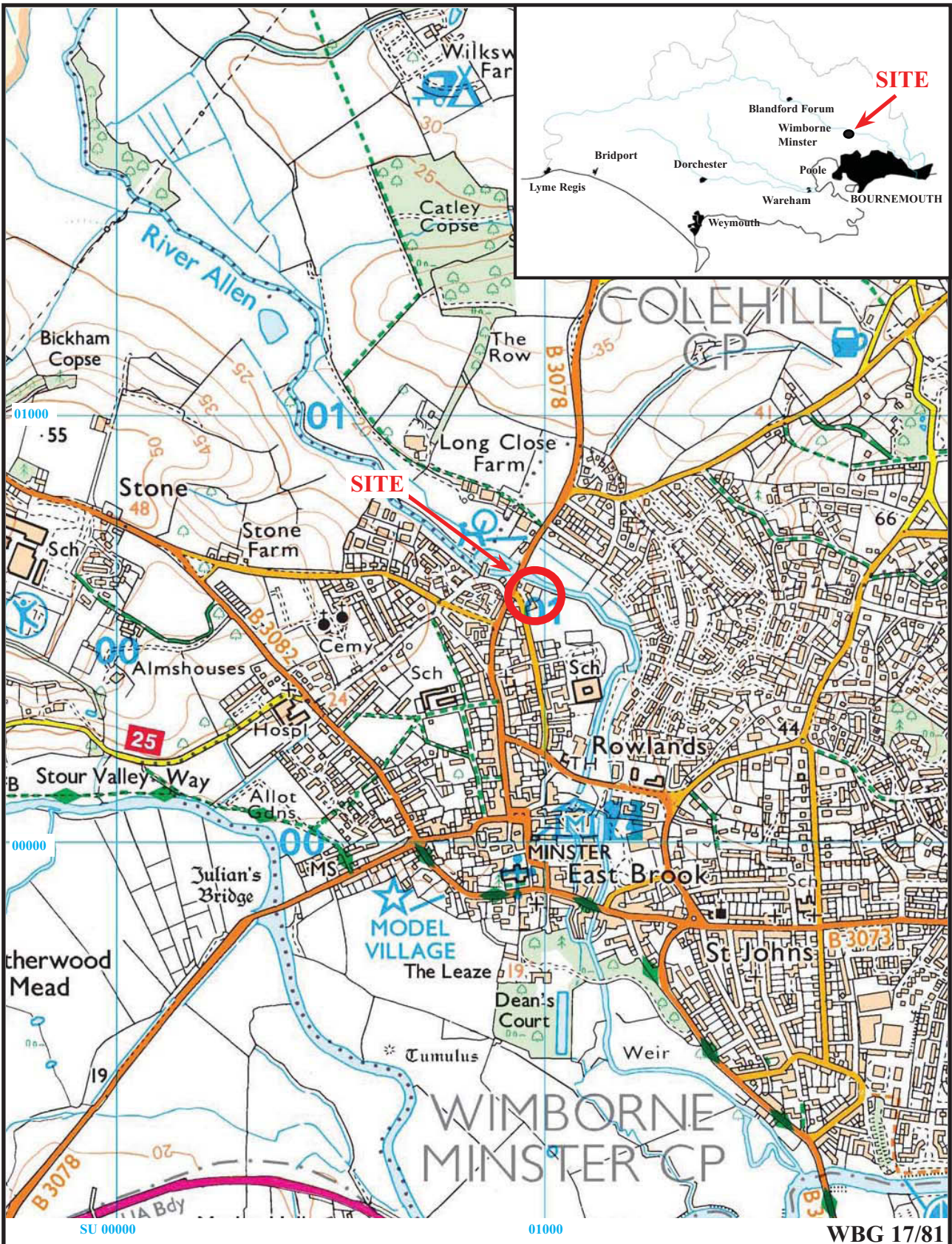
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	14.30	4.00	1.20	0–0.08 Tarmac; 0.08-0.20 Scalpins; 0.20-0.45 Made ground (52); 0.45-0.68 Buried topsoil (53); 0.68-1.07 Buried subsoil (54); 1.07 + yellow brown silty clay with gravel (Natural Geology). Modern feature 1, Ditch 2 and 3, Pit 4. [Pls. 1 and 2]
2	14.50	4.00	1.10	0-0.05 Tarmac; 0.05- 0.20 Scalpins; 0.20 – 0.52 Made ground (61); 0.52 – 0.88 Made ground (62); 0.88 + yellow brown silty clay with gravel (Natural Geology) [Pls. 3 and 4]

0m at South end

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1		52	Made ground	Modern	Modern brick
1		53	Buried topsoil	Modern	Pottery
1		54	Buried subsoil	Modern	Stratigraphy
1	1	55	Modern Feature	Modern	Modern glass
1	2	56	Ditch	Medieval	Pottery
1	3	57	Ditch	Undated	None
1	4	58, 59, 60	Pit	Undated	None
2		61	Made ground	Modern	Modern brick
2		62	Made ground	Modern	Tarmac fragments

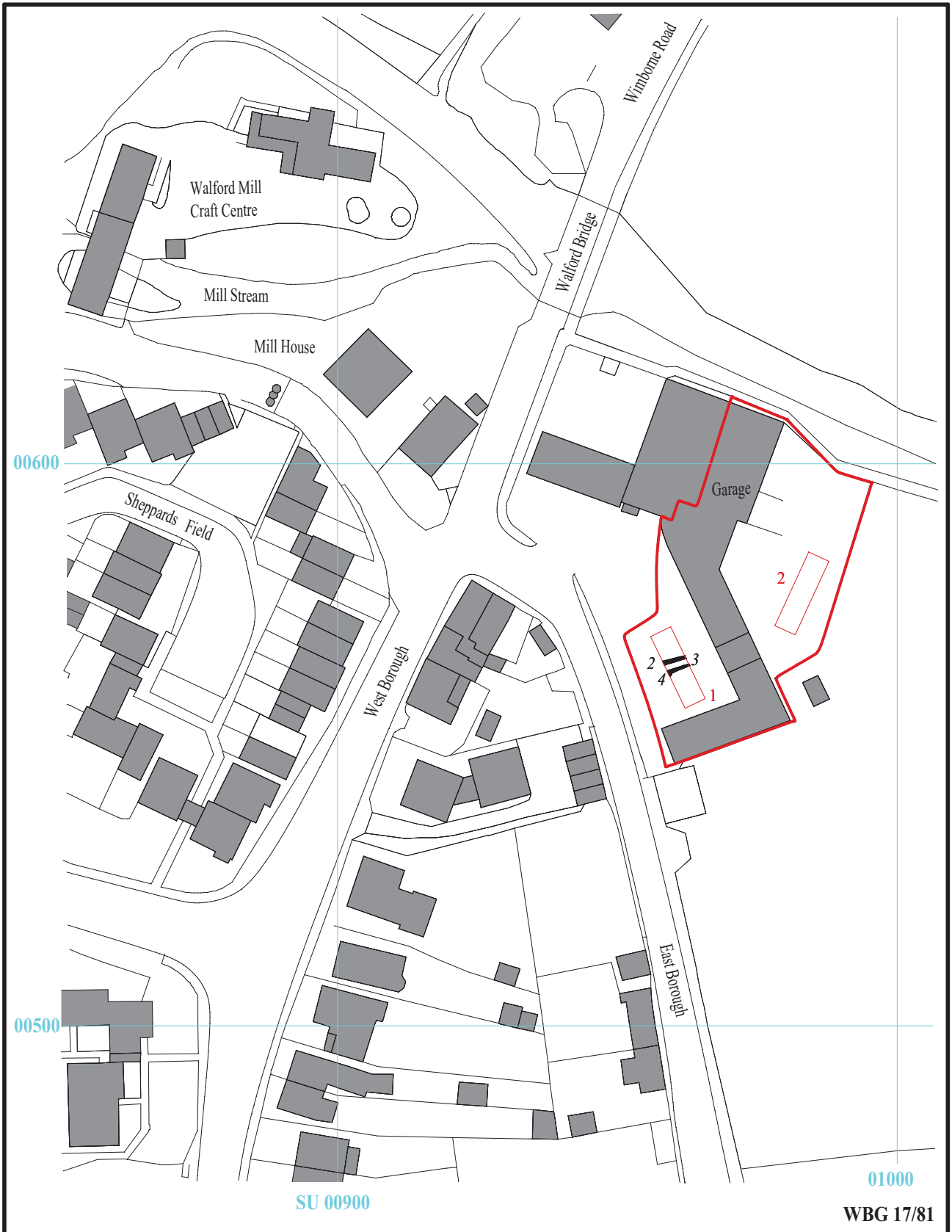


**Walford Bridge Garage, East Borough,
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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Wimborne Minster and Dorset.

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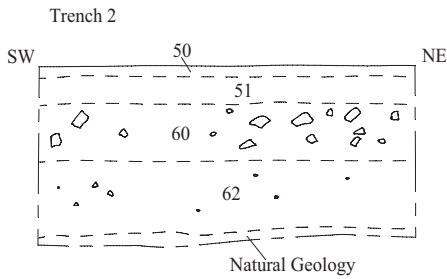
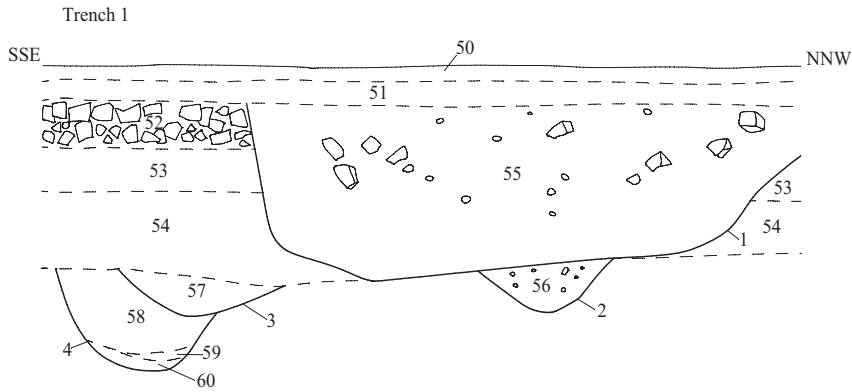
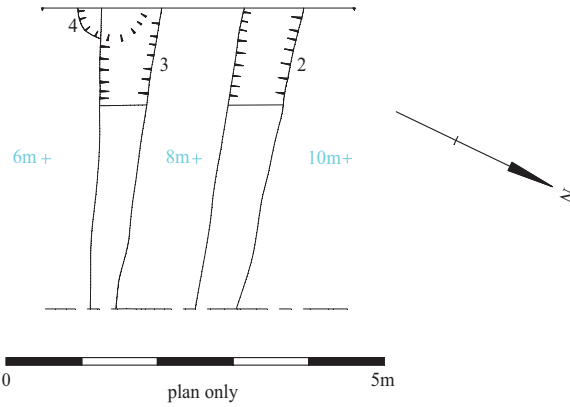
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Figure 2. Site plan.

0 50m



Trench 1



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Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Plan and sections of trench 1.

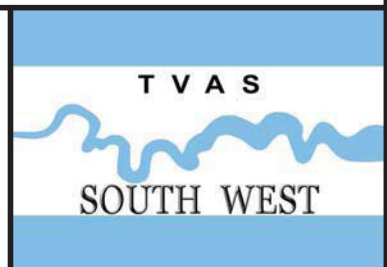




Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north west. Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 1, looking south west. Modern feature 1, Ditch 2 and 3, Pit 4.
Scales: 2m, 1m, 0.3m and 0.2m.

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**Walford Bridge Garage, East Borough,
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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 and 2.





Plate 3. Trench 2, looking north east. Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 2, looking north west. Made ground 61 and 62. Scales: 2m and 1m.

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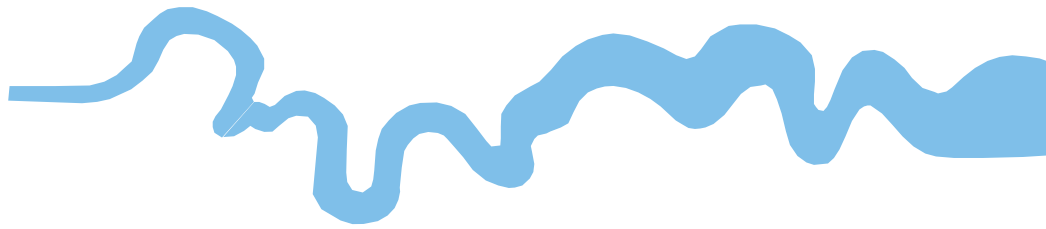
**Walford Bridge Garage, East Borough,
Wimborne Minster, Dorset, 2017**
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 3 and 4.



TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





**TVAS (South West),
Unit 21 Apple Business Centre,
Frobisher Way,
Taunton TA2 6BB
Tel: 01823 288284
Email: southwest@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk/southwest**

*Offices in:
Reading, Brighton, Stoke-on-Trent and Ennis (Ireland)*