

**Vivash Park  
Hawkeridge Road and Slag Lane  
Westbury, Wiltshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

*for*

**David Wilson Homes**


CA Project: 3810  
CA Report: 12153

July 2012

VIVASH PARK  
HAWKERIDGE ROAD AND SLAG LANE  
WESTBURY, WILTSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 3810  
CA Report: 12153

|             |                                                                                     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| date        | 4 July 2012                                                                         |
| checked by  | Cliff Bateman (Project Manager)                                                     |
| date        | 6 July 2012                                                                         |
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| signed      |  |
| date        | 6 July 2012                                                                         |
| issue       | 01                                                                                  |

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Vivash Park  
**Location:** Westbury, Wiltshire  
**NGR:** ST 8652 5224  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 2 July 2012  
**Planning Reference:** W/10/03406/FUL  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes  
**Site Code:** VPW 12

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2012 at Vivash Park, Westbury, Wiltshire. Two trenches were excavated.

No deposits or artefacts predating the modern period were identified. Layers of clinker or ash, dated by glass bottles to the 19th or 20th centuries, were observed in both trenches.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2012 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for David Wilson Homes at Vivash Park, Hawkeridge Road and Slag Lane, Westbury, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: ST 8652 5224, Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the construction of 117 houses, public open space and associated landscaping, highways and drainable infrastructure.

1.2 Planning consent was granted on appeal by the Planning Inspectorate (Wiltshire Council planning ref: W/10/03406/FUL), with a condition (no.11) attached:

*No development, including the deposition of new soil, shall commence within site C (proposed urban park) until:*

*(a) A written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and*

*(b) The approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details.*

1.3 David Vaughan, Archaeological Officer, Wiltshire Council (AOWC) identified that the first stage of this programme of work should be an archaeological evaluation: *"...in line with Condition 11 of the Inspector's Appeal Decision, an archaeological investigation should be carried out on the area of the new pond. This should be in the form of trial-trenches amounting to no less than 4% of the affective area with an additional 10% contingency if required. It would be helpful, should the evaluation reveal evidence of significant heritage assets, if further work was undertaken in the form of archaeological excavation or SMR to mitigate the impact of the development on the historic environment – ie to maximise the latter's preservation by record"* (email from David Vaughan to Gail Stoten (Cotswold Archaeology), dated 9 March 2012). Accordingly, a WSI was compiled by CA (2012) to address the requirement for the evaluation trenching; if further works are subsequently required, a further WSI will be prepared and submitted for approval by Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service.

1.4 The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008), *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field*

*Evaluation* (Wiltshire County Council Archaeological Service 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Clare King (AOWC), including a site visit on 2 July 2012.

### **The site**

- 1.5 The development area as a whole is located on the northern edge of Westbury, between Station Road to the west, Slag Lane to the south and the railway lines to the north and east. It comprises three separate development areas totalling approximately 6.8ha (Fig. 1). The evaluation was carried out in the triangular parcel of land on the northern side of the site, bounded by Hawkeridge Road on its east side, and railways to the west and south (CA 2010, Fig. 2, Area C). The site lies at approximately 55m AOD, in a wide shallow, south-west draining valley.
- 1.6 The solid geology underlying the majority of the evaluation area is mapped as the Westbury Ironstone Member, a sub-division of the Jurassic Corallian group (BGS 2000), that has been quarried within and in the vicinity of the site. Evidence for quarrying within the site is discussed below. Todber Limestone partially extends into the northern part of the area. No drift geology is mapped. Exposed geological deposits comprised grey and brown clay containing fragments of red sandstone and fossilised bivalves. It is not known if this clay is the Westbury Ironstone Member.

### **Archaeological background**

- 1.7 An archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out by Cotswold Archaeology in 2010 and reference should be made to that report for the full archaeological background (CA 2010). In summary, it is probable that remains associated with a Roman settlement once extended into the site. Finds of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age date have also been recovered from the area to the north-west of the site, and prehistoric features may also extend into the site. However, disturbance is documented throughout the majority of the site, comprising quarrying associated with the Westbury Ironworks and the excavation of cuttings for tramways. The remainder of the site is likely to have been subject to similar disturbance and the dumping of slag deposits. Further material appears to have been dumped across a large part of the site in the recent past.

## **Archaeological objectives**

- 1.8 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist Wiltshire Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

## **Methodology**

- 1.9 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of two, 25m long trenches, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The trenches were positioned in the footprint of the proposed new pond. With the approval of Clare King, Trench 2 was moved to the south-west by c. 4m to avoid excavating through recent silts at the edge of an existing pond and disturbing wildlife. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using a Leica 1200 series SmartRover GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2009).
- 1.10 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.11 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003) but no deposits were identified that required sampling. No artefacts were recovered.
- 1.12 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Devizes Museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 2. RESULTS (FIGS. 2 & 3)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 2.2 An analogous sequence of deposits was identified in both trenches, with the natural clay being encountered 0.4m below the present ground level. This was sealed by subsoil, which in its turn was overlain by topsoil.
- 2.3 Layers of ash, clinker and cinders, containing 19th and 20th-century glass bottles, were present in both trenches. Within Trench 1, ashy layer 104 was revealed in the centre of the trench, overlaying the subsoil and sealed by c. 0.05m of topsoil. Layer 204, also of cinders and clinker, was identified at the north-east of Trench 2 sealing the natural clays.
- 2.4 The topsoil in the north-western end of Trench 1 was only 0.08m thick. The vegetation in this part of the site was stunted and low, and the area had possibly been terraced to accommodate a building.

## 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 No archaeological features or artefacts predating the modern period were identified during the current work. In both trenches deposits of clinker, ash or slag, with frequent glass bottles also present, were revealed. It is likely that once quarrying for ironstone was completed modern waste was tipped into the abandoned quarry and that the ashy layers exposed were either spillage from this activity or the remains of temporary haul roads or tramways.
- 3.2 A relatively flat area, with thin topsoil and poorly developed vegetation, to the north-west of Trench 1, may mark the position of a former building. A Second World War Prisoner of War Camp is recorded in the vicinity (CA 2010).





#### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jamie Wright, assisted by Noel Boothroyd. The report was written by Jamie Wright. The illustrations were prepared by Ian Atkins. The archive has been compiled by Jamie Wright, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

#### 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2000 *Frome, Solid and Drift Geology (Sheet 281)*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *Vivash Park, Hawkeridge Road and Slag Lane, Westbury, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 *Land at Vivash Park, Westbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, CA Report No. **10122**



**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Trench 1

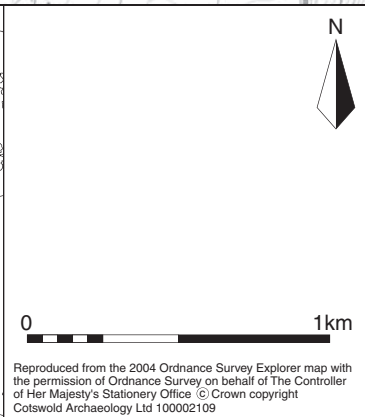
| No. | Type    | Description                                              | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|-----|---------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 101 | Topsoil | Greyish brown clay, many fine roots                      |            |           | 0.2       | Modern    |
| 102 | Subsoil | Grey/brown clay with rare chalk frags.                   |            |           | 0.2       |           |
| 103 | Natural | Grey and brown clay                                      |            |           | >0.4      |           |
| 104 | Layer   | Cinders and clinker, containing 19/20th centuries glass. |            |           | 0.1       | C19/20    |

## Trench 2

| No. | Type    | Description                                                         | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|-----|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 201 | Topsoil | Greyish brown clay                                                  |            |           | 0.2       |           |
| 202 | Subsoil | Grey and brown clay with rare chalk frags.                          |            |           | 0.2       |           |
| 203 | Natural | Grey and brown clay.                                                |            |           | >0.4      |           |
| 204 | Layer   | Ash and cinder in NE end of trench. Extended c. 4m into the trench. |            |           | 0.3       | C19/20    |

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

| <b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                         |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Project Name                             | Vivash Park, Hawkeridge Road and Slag Lane, Westbury, Wiltshire                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                         |
|                                          | An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2012 at Vivash Park, Westbury, Wiltshire. Two trenches were excavated.<br><br>No deposits or artefacts predating the modern period were identified. Layers of clinker or ash, dated by glass bottles to the 19th or 20th centuries, were observed in both trenches immediately sealing the natural substrate. |                                         |
| Project dates                            | July 2012                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                         |
| Project type                             | Evaluation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                         |
| Previous work                            | <i>Land at Vivash Park, Westbury, Wiltshire; Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment</i> CA Report No. <b>10122</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                         |
| Future work                              | Unknown                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                         |
| <b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                         |
| Site Location                            | Vivash Park, Westbury, Wiltshire                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                         |
| Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)          | 6.8ha total                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                         |
| Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference) | ST 8652 5224                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                         |
| <b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                         |
| Name of organisation                     | Cotswold Archaeology                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                         |
| Project Brief originator                 | Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                         |
| Project Design (WSI) originator          | Cotswold Archaeology                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                         |
| Project Manager                          | Cliff Bateman                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                         |
| Project Supervisor                       | Jamie Wright                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                         |
| <b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                         |
|                                          | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                         |
| <b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                         |
|                                          | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                         |
| <b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                         |
|                                          | Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc) |
| Paper                                    | Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Trench sheets, photo sheets etc         |
| Digital                                  | Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Survey data, digital photos etc         |
| <b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                         |
|                                          | CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 <i>Vivash Park, Hawkeridge Road and Slag Lane.</i> ; <i>Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>12153</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                         |




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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Vivash Park, Hawkeridge Road and  
 Slag Lane, Westbury, Wiltshire

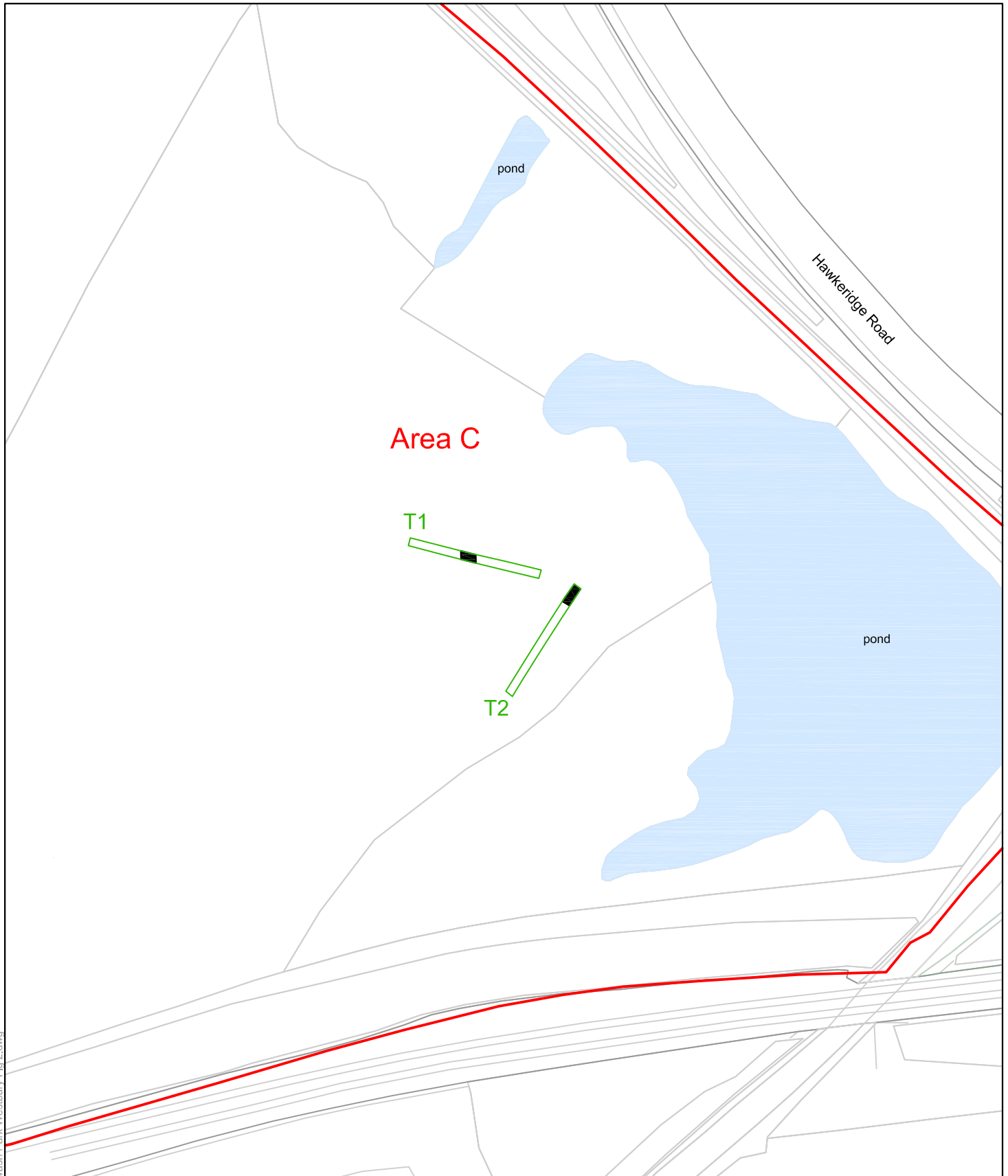
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Site location plan**

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|                  |                   |            |
|------------------|-------------------|------------|
| PROJECT NO. 3810 | DATE 04-07-2012   | FIGURE NO. |
| DRAWN BY IA      | REVISION 00       |            |
| APPROVED BY PJM  | SCALE@A4 1:25,000 | <b>1</b>   |

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-  site
-  evaluation trench
-  layer of ash, clinker etc.



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PROJECT TITLE  
**Vivash Park, Hawkeridge Road and  
 Slag Lane, Westbury, Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench location plan**

|             |      |          |            |            |
|-------------|------|----------|------------|------------|
| PROJECT NO. | 3810 | DATE     | 04-07-2012 | FIGURE NO. |
| DRAWN BY    | JA   | REVISION | 00         | <b>2</b>   |
| APPROVED BY | PJM  | SCALE@A4 | 1:1000     |            |





3

**3. Trench 1, looking east**



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*PROJECT TITLE*

Vivash Park, Hawkeridge Road and  
 Slag Lane, Westbury, Wiltshire

*FIGURE TITLE*

**Photograph**

|                    |             |                 |                   |                   |          |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------|
| <i>PROJECT NO.</i> | <b>3810</b> | <i>DATE</i>     | <b>05-07-2012</b> | <i>FIGURE NO.</i> | <b>3</b> |
| <i>DRAWN BY</i>    | <b>IA</b>   | <i>REVISION</i> | <b>00</b>         |                   |          |
| <i>APPROVED BY</i> | <b>PJM</b>  | <i>SCALE@A4</i> | <b>N/A</b>        |                   |          |