

White Horse Country Park Westbury Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
White Horse Country Park

Planning Ref:
W/13/00376/WCM

CA Project: 5565
CA Report: 5565.1

January 2018



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SUMMARY

Project Name: White Horse Country Park, Coach Road, Westbury, Wiltshire
Location: Westbury, Wiltshire
NGR: 388368,152097
Type: Watching Brief
Date: November 2017 to June 2018
Planning Reference: W/13/00376/WCM
Location of Archive: Wiltshire Heritage Museums
Site Code: WHW16

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during the first stage of groundworks associated with construction of an irrigation lake for an extension to the golf course at White Horse Country Park, Westbury, Wiltshire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2017 and June 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for White Horse Country Park at the white Horse Country Park Golf Course (centred at NGR: 388368,152097; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the first stage groundworks in the construction of an irrigation lake (Planning ref: W/13/00376/WCM).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by the LPA acting on the advice of Rachel Foster - Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The site covers land to the north of Bratton road on the north east side of Westbury (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 70m AOD.
- 1.4 The whole site covers 24.1 hectares with the area for the stage one groundworks of the irrigation lake covering c.3ha.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as comprising of head deposits of silts, sands and clays, overlying mudstone from the Gault Formation. This is Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 100 to 112 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. The Local environment would previously have been dominated by shallow seas.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is close to the line of the previously proposed Westbury Bypass that was the subject of extensive archaeological investigations between 2002 and 2008. Of particular note in the vicinity was the presence of cropmark enclosures and extensive evidence for prehistoric cremation burials in small pits (Wessex



Archaeology, 2004). This included a number of evaluation trenches which lie within the western and south western parts of the overall application area.

- 2.2 A geophysical survey of an area immediately north of the site was undertaken in February 2012. This identified a positive rectilinear anomaly on the western part of the site (Archaeological surveys Ltd., 2012). An archaeological trench evaluation was subsequently undertaken by AC Archaeology Ltd. A single archaeological feature was identified, probably a former field boundary (Hughes, 2012).
- 2.3 A geophysical survey (Sabin & Donaldson, 2013) was undertaken in September 2013 within Areas A and E of the application area (Appendix C – Fig 1). The survey identified a number of anomalies of potential archaeological origin. These included possible pit-like features, fragmented linear anomalies, a number of recently removed land boundaries, a buried pipeline and possible evidence for former ridge and furrow (Sabin & Donaldson, 2013).
- 2.4 An archaeological evaluation (AC 2014) was undertaken within Areas A and E (Appendix C – Figs 1 and 2). Area A corresponds to the location of the Stage 1 proposed Irrigation Lake. The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of 33 trenches, each 2.1m wide and 30m in length. The majority of these were positioned to target anomalies interpreted from the geophysical survey as being of potential archaeological origin. Many trenches revealed parallel furrows, considered to be the results of medieval cultivation, but occasional linear features, pits and postholes were present. Dateable artefacts were rare, but included Later Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pottery and worked flint.
- 2.5 The trenches located within the footprint of the Stage 1 irrigation lake (Area A – Appendix C – Figs 1 and 2) recorded entirely negative results with no archaeological features and or deposits revealed.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:



- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2015). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks which stripped the topsoil and a partial strip of the underlying subsoil over the area of the irrigation lake (Fig. 2).
- 4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner it will be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museums. 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.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 5.1 The natural geological substrate consisted of clay, was revealed at an average depth of 0.30m below present ground level. This was overlain by a silty clay subsoil averaging 0.1m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by topsoil which measured 0.2m thick.



5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Timothy Sperring. The report was written by Adam Howard. The illustrations were prepared by Tom Brown. The archive has been compiled by Zoe Emery, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Oliver Good.

8. REFERENCES

Archaeological Surveys Ltd, 2012. Land East of Coach Road, Westbury, Wiltshire: Magnetometer Survey Report. Unpublished report for AC Archaeology Ltd. Ref no. 389. February 2012.

AC Archaeology Ltd 2012. White Horse Country Park, East of Coach Road, Westbury, Wiltshire, NGR ST883522: Results of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching. Unpublished report for. Document No: ACW418/2/0. March 2012.

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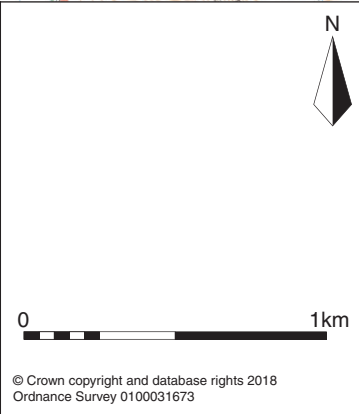
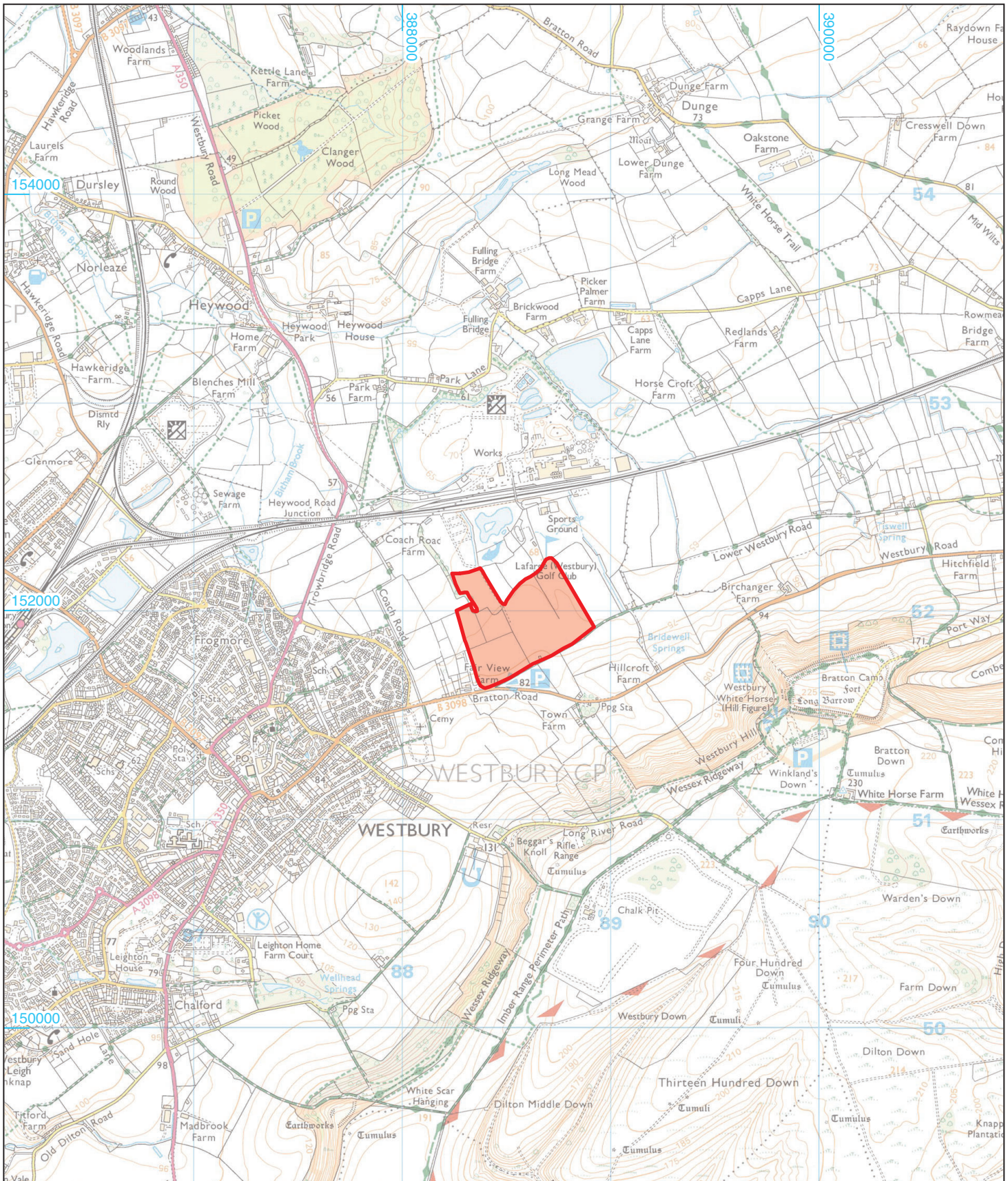


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clay silt	-	-	0.2	modern
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown clay silt	-	-	0.1	
1	102	Layer		Natural	Yellowish brown clay	-	-	-	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	White Horse Country Park, Westbury, Wiltshire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during the first stage of groundworks associated with construction of an irrigation lake for an extension to the golf course at White Horse Country Park, Westbury, Wiltshire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	November 2017 and June 2018	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Archaeological Investigations (Wessex 2004) Geophysical Survey (Archaeological surveys Ltd., 2012). Geophysical Survey (Sabin & Donaldson, 2013). 33 Trench Archaeological Evaluation (AC 2014)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	White Horse Country Park, Westbury, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.3ha at stage one.	
Site co-ordinates	SU 3883 1520	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Olly Good	
Project Supervisor	Tim Sperring	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Wiltshire Heritage Museums	None
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museums	Trench sheet and photo register
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Museums	Digital Photographs and survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Add reference this report only, for example: CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 <i>White Horse Country Park, Westbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 5565.1		




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PROJECT TITLE
 White Horse Country Park, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	TB	PROJECT NO.	5565	FIGURE NO.	1
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	03.01.19		
APPROVED BY	OG	SCALE@A4	1:25,000		



- Site boundary
- Current excavation area
- Previous archaeology**
- Wessex Archaeology, 2004
- AC Archaeology, 2014




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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

DRAWN BY	TB	PROJECT NO.	5565	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	03.01.19	2
APPROVED BY	OG	SCALE@A3	1:2500	

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General view of excavation area, looking north-east (1m scales)



View of excavated area, looking north-east (1m scale)



General view of excavated area, looking south



General view of excavated area, looking south-east


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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 Watching brief on irrigation lake photographs

DRAWN BY	TB	PROJECT NO.	5565	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	03.01.19	
APPROVED BY	OG	SCALE	@A3 NA	3

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