# B0404: Compton, Netheravon and Durrington, Wiltshire

## A programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

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## A programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

for

## Wessex Water plc.

by

Brickfield Offices, Maperton, Wincanton, Somerset. BA9 8EG.
T: 01963 824696
E: mail@contextone.co.uk
W: www.contextone.co.uk

**COAS references:** C1/AMR/13/CND, C1/WBF/12/LRD & C1/AMR/13/LDW
**National Grid References:**
Compton: SU 13335 52020
Netheravon: SU 14743 47843
Durrington: SU 15473 44010
**Wessex Water plc scheme reference:** B0404
**Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum Accession code:** COAS site codes
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**COAS project team:**
**Project Director:** Richard McConnell
**Fieldwork Manager:** Stuart Milby
**Post-excavation Manager:** Dr Cheryl Green
**Fieldwork:** Peter Fairclough, Luke Jarvis and Sophie Wood
**Report:** Dr Cheryl Green and Orlando Prestidge
**Illustration:** Tara Fairclough

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**Front cover image:** General trench shot at Netheravon, from south-east. © Context One Archaeological Services 2014

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*Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the construction of a mains supply pipeline forming part of Wessex Water's Compton scheme in Wiltshire. Sections applicable to the project ran through Compton (Pewsey), Netheravon and Durrington (Salisbury), and were monitored over 35 days between 13 July 2012 and 24 April 2014. The project was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water plc under a Term Agreement with COAS.*

*The monitoring and recording programme was requested by Ms Clare King (Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (WCAS)), following a consultation request from Mr Phillip Martin (Assistant Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water plc). The scheme passed through a rich archaeological landscape with known remains present alongside each of the three sections of pipeline. This includes three Scheduled Monuments comprising a Roman villa, a Romano-British and early medieval occupation site and the prehistoric site of Durrington Walls, the latter forming part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Stonehenge. Unscheduled remains include Bronze Age tumuli, an additional Roman villa and a settlement site.*

*A single large Iron Age pit, containing pottery sherds, worked flints and animal bone, was identified and recorded during the Netheravon section of the recording and monitoring programme. The nature of the contents indicate this is likely to have been used for the deposition of waste materials in the mid-late Iron Age. The finds indicate two episodes of backfilling, the first probably resulting from a consumption event and the second possibly representing a more gradual accumulation. The Iron Age flint appears to represent a group and hence a potentially useful closed sample for research purposes. With the exception of a single Neolithic sherd, the pottery typifies assemblages dating from the second half of the 1st century BC and the first half of the 1st century AD in Central Southern Britain. The animal bone also fits well with the general picture for southern Britain in the Iron Age. Although the pit is located within an area of archaeological potential, there are no recorded archaeological events of the same date within the close environs. This either suggests that there are further remains of the same date in the vicinity or that this was an isolated feature perhaps associated with a temporary camp.*

*Despite the archaeologically rich landscape, no further features or deposits were identified during the monitoring programme and only a few additional finds were recovered from the topsoil along the Netheravon section. No finds were collected from the Durrington and Compton areas although modern objects were observed in the topsoil.*

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the construction of a mains supply pipeline forming part of Wessex Water's Compton scheme in Wiltshire. The three sections applicable to this project comprised Compton (Section 1); Netheravon (Section 2), and Durrington (Section 3) ('The Site). The archaeological monitoring took place over 35 days between 13 July 2012 and 24 April 2014. The project was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water plc under a Term Agreement with COAS.

1.2 The monitoring programme was requested by Ms Clare King (Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Archaeological Service (WCAS)), following a consultation request from Mr Phillip Martin (Wessex Water plc) as a condition for the construction of the mains supply pipeline. The requirement followed advice by Central Government as set out in paragraph 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

1.3 The scheme passed through a rich archaeological landscape with known remains present alongside each of the three sections of pipeline identified for monitoring (see **Figures 2, 3** & **4)**. This includes three Scheduled Monuments comprising a Roman villa, a Romano-British and early medieval occupation site and the prehistoric site of Durrington Walls, the latter forming part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Stonehenge. Unscheduled remains include Bronze Age tumuli, an additional Roman villa and a settlement site.

1.4 The programme of archaeological works comprised four elements: the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which set out the project strategy; monitoring and recording of the three areas of pipeline excavation during development groundworks; post-excavation and report production; and archive deposition. The updated WSI was approved by Ms King on 5 March 2014.

## 2. Site location and topography

2.1 The Site comprised three sections along the pipeline route covering a total length of *c*. 4.4km (**Figure 1**), and passed through Compton (centred on NGR SU 13335 52020) (**Figure 2**), Netheravon (centred on SU 14743 47843) (**Figure 3**), and Durrington (centred on SU 15473 44010) (**Figure 4**). The pipeline followed the route of the A345 Salisbury road to Durrington, along the south-western extents of the town and directly south of the A3038. The Site was largely situated on level ground, although the average height above Ordnance Datum (aOD) varied along the route. The Compton pipeline began in the west at *c*. 100m aOD and gently undulated between *c*. 100m - *c*. 95m aOD before reaching the main Salisbury Road at *c*. 95m aOD. The Netheravon section started in the north at *c*. 80m before rising sharply to *c*. 90m aOD at the southern end. The Durrington section commenced in the west at *c*. 105m aOD and fell to *c*. 93m aOD in the east before finally descending to *c*. 78m aOD. Prior to development works, the Site mostly consisted of pasture land.

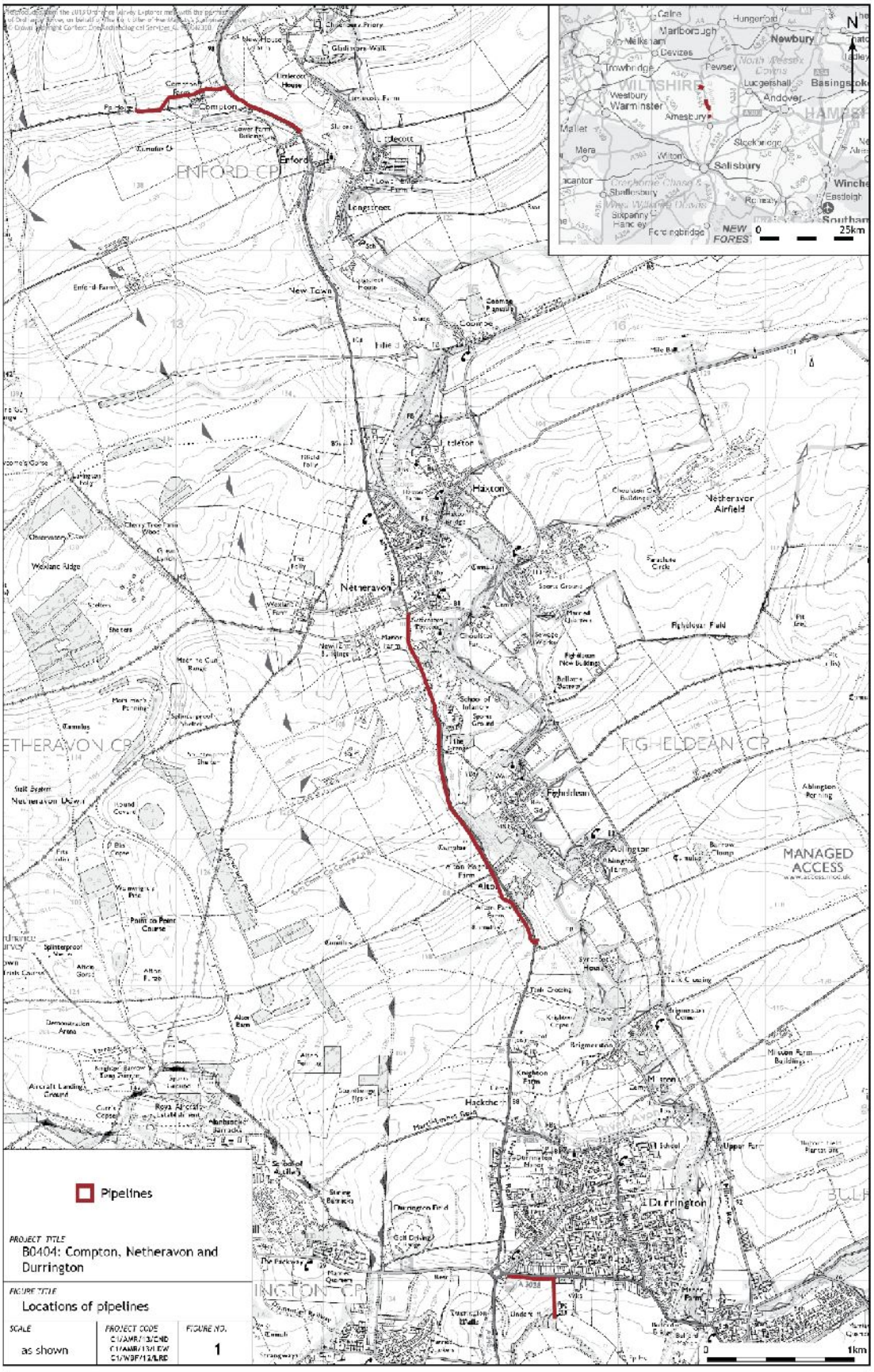


**Figure 1.** Site setting

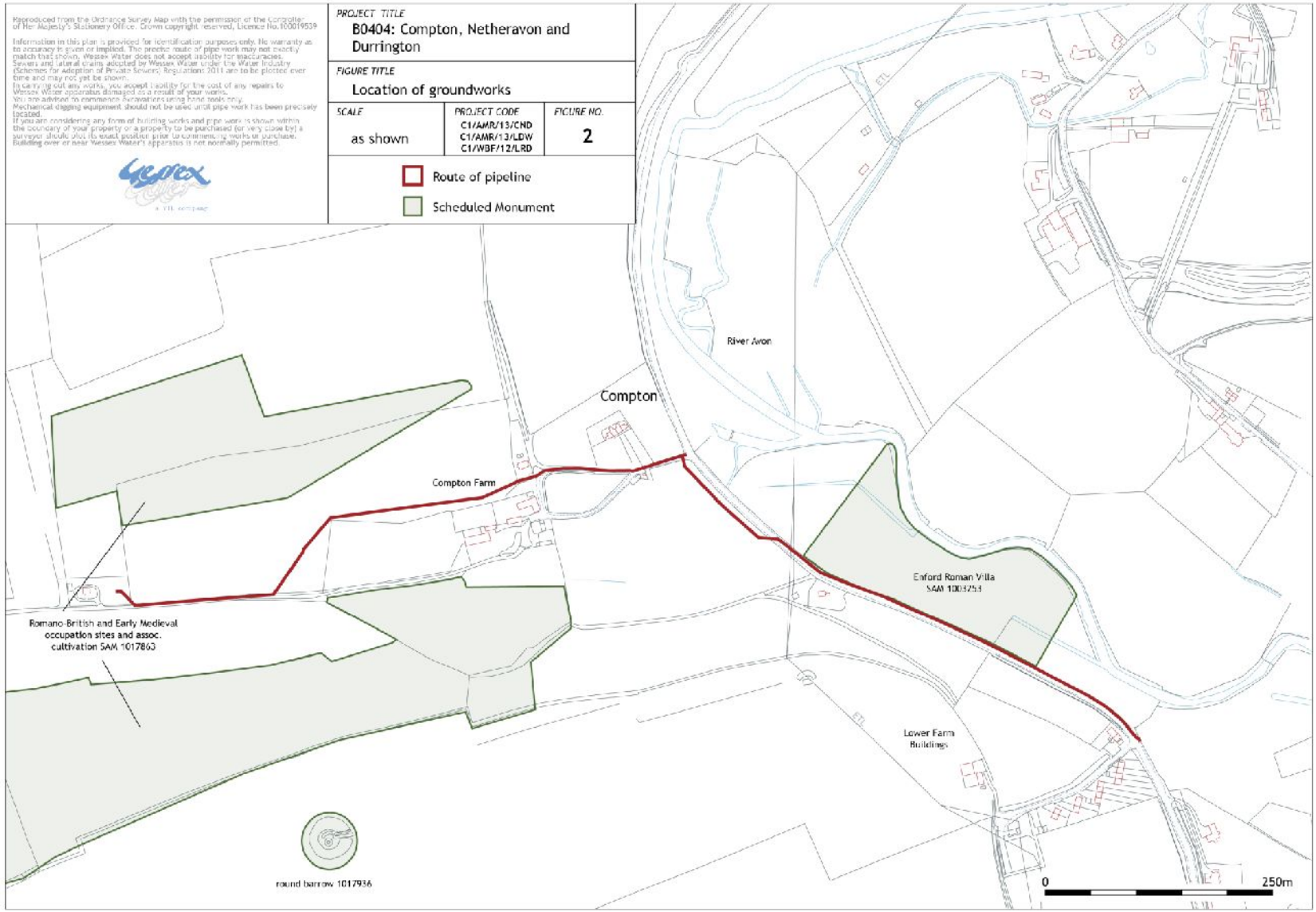


Figure 2: Site Setting - Compton

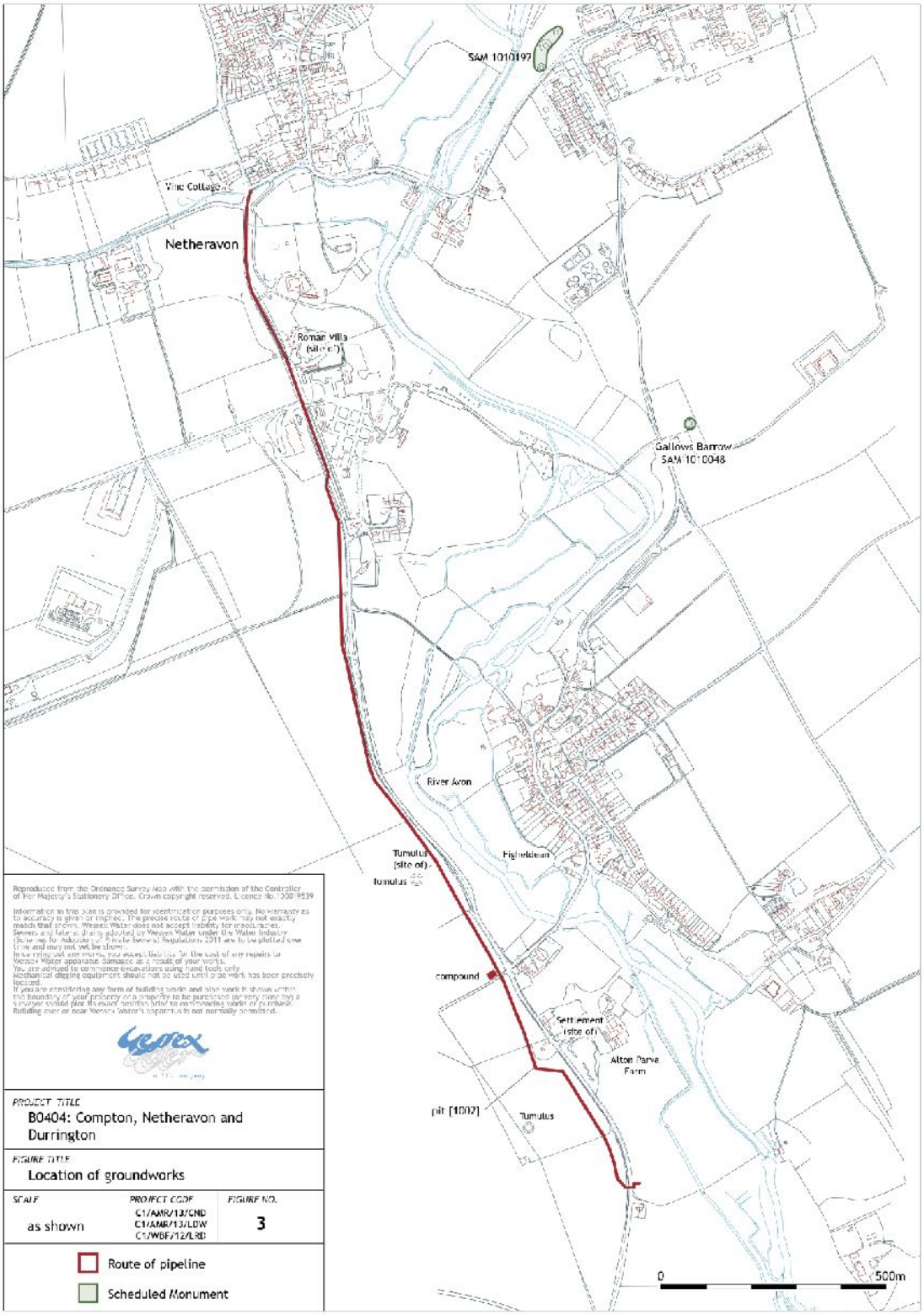


**Figure 3.** Site setting – Netheravon

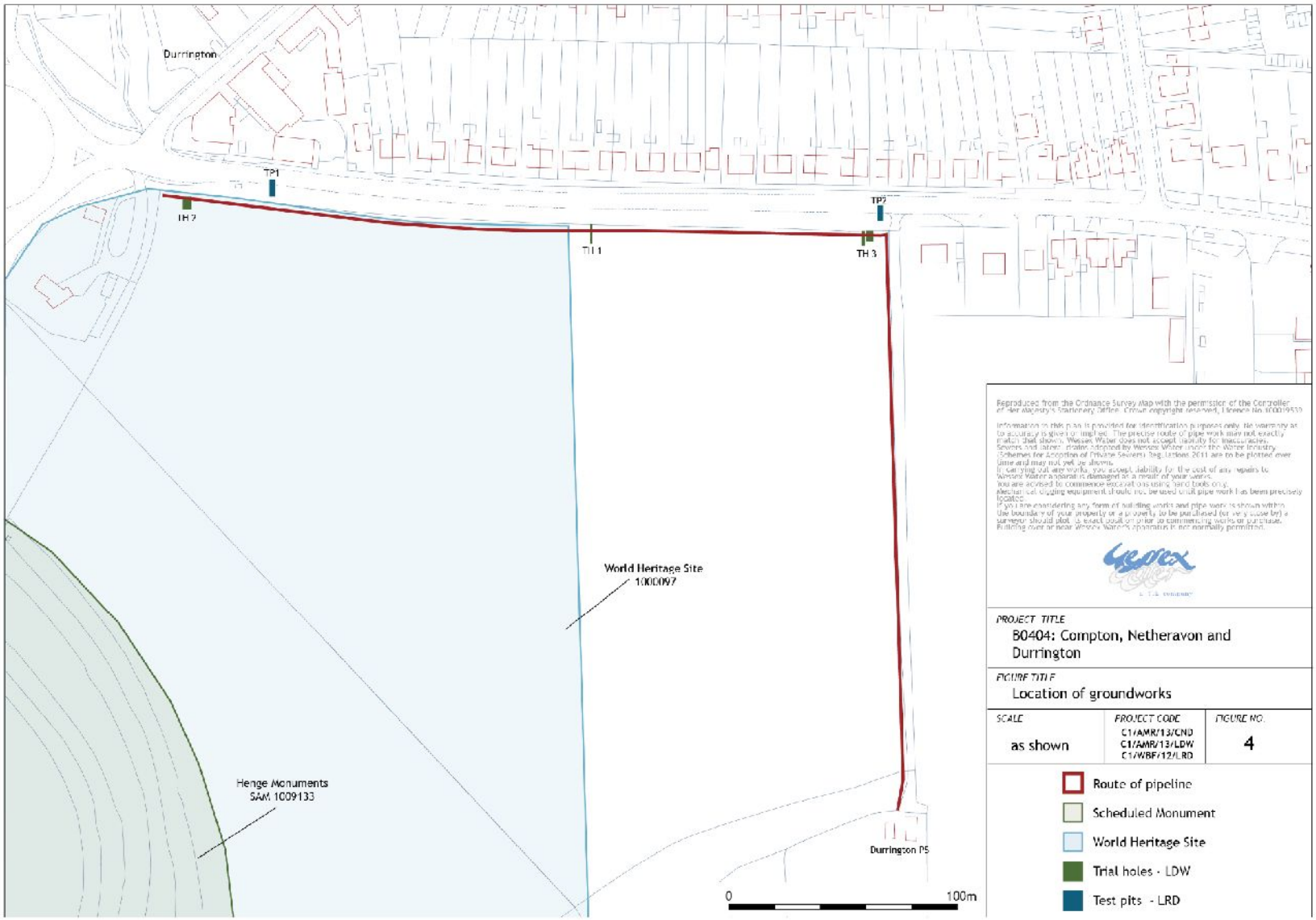


Figure 4: Site setting - Durrington

## 3. Methodology

**Wessex Water groundworks methodology**

3.1 The removal of topsoil to a maximum depth of *c*. 0.30m was carried out by a machine equipped with a toothless bucket to establish a Site compound (30m x 50m) (**Figure 3**) and create a pipeline easement, *c*. 12m wide (**Figures 2, 3** & **4**). The new pipe trench was generally positioned along the centre of the easement and machine excavated with a toothless bucket to a maximum depth of 1.20 and a maximum width of 0.70m.

**Archaeological methodology**

3.2 The programme of archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* issued by Wiltshire County Council in 1995, and the codes, standards and guidelines set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 1985, rev. 2012; 1990, rev. 2008; 1994, rev. 2008). Current Health and Safety legislation and guidelines were followed on site.

3.3 Removal of the compound and easement topsoil was monitored for archaeological features/deposits. Where easement soil stripping did not expose undisturbed deposits or a clean horizon, it was necessary to monitor the pipe trenching to ensure that any underlying archaeological features/deposits were identified and adequately recorded.

3.4 Profile sections of the deposit sequence across the Site were recorded using standard COAS *pro forma* profile sheets to illustrate the soil morphology. Each profile was recorded as a graphical representation accompanied by a brief description and a photograph including a suitable scale. The frequency with which profile sections were recorded was based entirely on any variation of the deposit sequence.

3.5 A single archaeological feature was cordoned off to permit investigation and recording. The archaeological remains were sampled by manual excavation to establish stratigraphic relationships, recover sufficient artefacts to establish 'absolute' dates, determine feature/deposit morphology and character. The feature was drawn on dimensionally stable media at a scale of 1:20 (plan) and 1:10 (section). All features/deposits were recorded using standard COAS *pro-forma* recording sheets. Stratigraphic relationships were recorded using a “Harris-Winchester matrix” diagram. Soil colours were logged using a Munsell soil colour chart.

3.6 Artefacts collected from archaeological features/deposits were bagged using a combination of site code and context numbers. All finds from the Site were retained for processing in preparation for further analysis and archiving. Specialist reports of the artefact assemblage were compiled using both descriptive and tabular formats (see section 5.).

3.7 The location, extent and altitude of the archaeological feature was mapped relative to the National Grid and Ordnance Datum using a TopCon GRS-1 Global Positioning System receiving real-time calibrations to produce accuracies of 1-2cm.

3.8 A photographic record of the work was prepared and involved the use of digital images and monochrome prints. This included shots of the excavated area, the individual feature and working shots to illustrate the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

## 4. Results

4.1 In the text, context numbers for cuts appear in square brackets, e.g. [1004]; layer and fill numbers appear in standard brackets, e.g. (1002). Where a feature is discussed, it is referenced with its cut and associated fill numbers.

4.2 A pit was exposed within the open cut trenching at the southern end of the Netheravon area (Section 2; **Figure 3**). The pit [1002] was cut through the natural chalk bedrock (1001) and measured 1.3m in diameter and a maximum of 0.80m deep with three distinct fills (**Plate 1, Figure 5**). The basal fill (1003) was greyish brown silt with frequent chalk bedrock fragments throughout,

overlain by a rich black deposit (1004) which was notably deeper at the south-east end of the pit. The deep upper fill (1005) was also greyish brown silt with frequent chalk bedrock fragments, similar in composition to the basal fill (1003), and was sealed by the topsoil (1000). The middle fill (1004) and upper fill (1005) contained a total of 92 pottery fragments and 59 worked flints (see **section 5**).

4.3 No visible features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered during the monitoring programme within the Durrington and Compton areas (Sections 1 and 3).

4.4 The general deposit sequence through the Netheravon area (Section 2) comprised 0.15m of dark brown silt topsoil (1000) above degraded chalk natural (1001) (**Plate 2**). The deposit sequence in the Compton area (Section 1) consisted of approximately 0.25m of grey silty clay topsoil (201) over degraded chalk natural (202) (**Plate 3**). In the Durrington area (Section 3), the depth of excavations varied between 0.50m and 2.00m deep and demonstrated a similar deposit sequence comprising c. 0.20m of dark brown loose silt topsoil (100) above chalk bedrock geology (101) (**Plate 4**).

**Plate 1. Netheravon - pit [1002] (from SW; 1m scale)**

**Plate 2. Netheravon - NE facing profile (from NE; 1m scale)**

**Plate 3. Compton - view along trenching (from N)**

**Plate 4. Durrington - view along trenching (from N)**

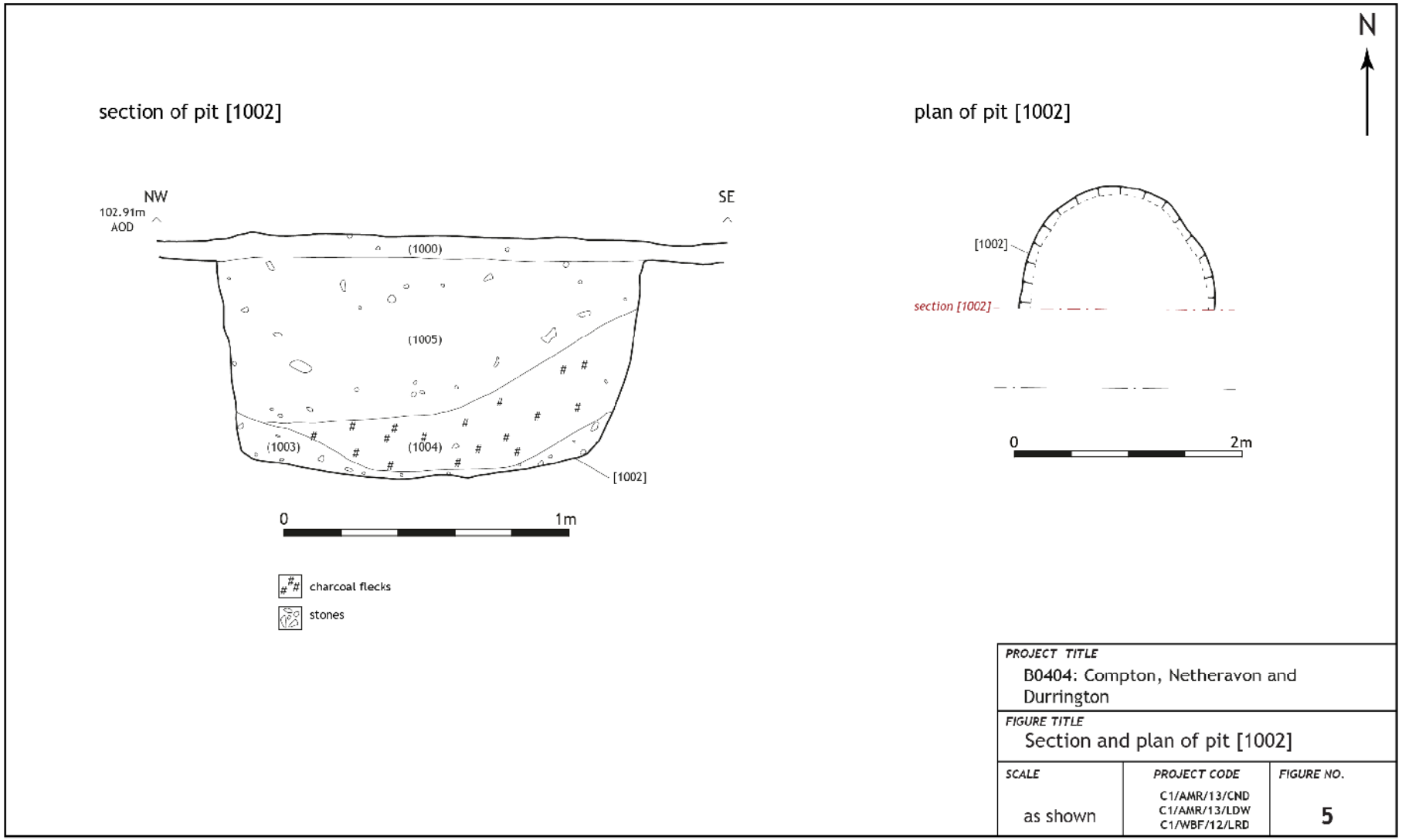


Figure 5: Section and plan of pit [1002] - Netheravon

## 5. The finds

### The flint, by Richard Tabor

5.1 A total of 63 pieces of flint weighing 974.5g were collected from the Netheravon area (**Table 1**). Four were from the topsoil (1000) whilst the remaining 59 pieces were divided between two fills (1004) and (1005) of a single pit. Given the demonstrably Late Iron Age date for the narrow contextual range from which they are derived this should be regarded as a fairly large assemblage if of that date. The overall percentage of identifiable tools within the assemblage is 11% and as such unremarkable, or possibly even slightly higher should the assemblage be regarded as almost exclusively Iron Age.

| | 1000 | | 1004 | | 1005 | | Retouch | Total | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Flakes | No | Wt (g) | No | Wt (g) | No | Wt (g) | | No | Wt (g) | Mean (g) |
| Primary | | | 0 | 0 | 2 | 65 | | 2 | 65 | 32.5 |
| Secondary | 2 | 12 | 5 | 27 | 14 | 105.5 | 2 | 21 | 144.5 | 6.9 |
| Tertiary | | | 1 | 4 | 11 | 104 | 1 | 12 | 108 | 8.3 |
| other | | | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | | 2 | 7 | 3.5 |
| Scrapers | | | | | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 6.0 |
| Points | | | 1 | 5 | 3 | 18 | 4 | 4 | 23 | 5.8 |
| Knives | | | | | 2 | 74 | 1 | 2 | 74 | 37.0 |
| Pebbles | | | 2 | 66 | | | | 2 | 66 | 33.0 |
| Nodule frags | | | 4 | 136 | 1 | 184 | | 5 | 320 | 64.0 |
| Lumps | 2 | 30 | 4 | 42 | 6 | 89 | | 12 | 161 | 13.4 |
| Total | 4 | 42 | 17 | 283 | 42 | 649.5 | | 63 | 974.5 | 15.5 |
| Mean weight | | 10.5 | | 16.7 | | 15.5 | 9 | | | |

**Table 1.** Summary of the assemblage by context

5.2 All pieces were recorded according to their surface condition, broadly, the extent to which the colour of the non-cortex raw material was visible when held up to a light. Individual pieces were rated '1' if fresh-looking, '2' if surfaces were cloudy but the colour still discernible and '3' if either due to the extent of re-cortication or burning the original colour could not be ascertained. The results are summarized in **Table 2**. Although only 33.3% of pieces were judged to be burnt the colour could not be determined for 73% of the material. Only one piece was in optimal condition and many of those categorized as '2' were very cloudy. Two colours, sepia brown and amber were dominant when viewed against the light and there were probably no more than two sources of raw material, excluding the sources of two flint pebbles. The upper New Pit chalk is nodular, as is the neighbouring Lewes chalk, either or both of which are likely to have been utilized. All 21 complete flakes were categorised according to their breadth:length ratios (**Table 3**) and the widths of all butts were measured where present (**Table 4**). Irregular dorsal scarring of the flakes was a dominant trait and irregular lumps and nodule fragments gave a combined total of 32, 52% of the 59 pieces from within the pit.

| Condition | 1 | % | Burnt | 2 | % | 3 | Tert | % | Burnt |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1000 | 0 | 0 | | 2 | 50 | | 2 | 50 | (2) |
| 1004 | 0 | 0 | | 6 | 33.3 | (5) | 12 | 67.7 | (7) |
| 1005 | 1 | 2.2 | | 8 | 19.5 | | 32 | 78.0 | (7) |
| Total | 1 | 1.59 | (0) | 16 | 25.4 | (5) | 46 | 73.0 | (16) |

**Table 2**. Condition of the material

| Ratio | No | % |
|---|---|---|
| 1:1.8 to 1:2.4 | 3 | 14.3 |
| 1:1.5 to 1:1.7 | 3 | 14.3 |
| 1:1.1 to 1:1.4 | 9 | 42.9 |
| 1:0.7 to 1:1 | 6 | 28.6 |
| | | |
| Total | 21 | |

**Table 3**. Categorised breadth:length ratios of complete flakes

| Butt width | No | % |
|---|---|---|
| <1mm | 3 | 9.4 |
| 1mm to 3mm | 10 | 31.3 |
| 4mm to 6mm | 9 | 28.1 |
| >7mm | 10 | 31.3 |
| Total | 32 | |

**Table 4**. Categorised butt widths

**Tools**

5.3 The single scraper was formed by slightly invasive inverse retouch on the distal end of a three 'pronged' flake. Direct retouch on a side prong formed a point. Two other flakes had retouch and one denticulation at their distal ends to form points, whilst retouch on a fourth formed a side point. One of two large knives was discoidal with wear along one edge and with cortex on one side providing a partial back. The second knife was formed by denticulation along one side giving a saw edge. One point tools was from the lower fill (1004), the other six were all from the upper fill (1005). The apparent lack of cores and hammerstones, as well as the low incidence of primary flakes might suggest that knapping did not take place in the immediate vicinity, although it should be noted that some of the irregular lumps may have served as cores.

**Assessment of the assemblage**

5.4 Although the sample is small comparisons would be made usefully with assemblages where post Middle Bronze Age use of flint has been taken into account. A very crude comparison may be made of the mean weights, for instance. Unfortunately, even where it is recognised that flint in an Iron Age context may not be residual its recording may not be sufficiently detailed to make meaningful comparisons (i.e. Morris 1989, 65-6). In a spatially selective study at Maiden Castle the number of flakes and weights were recorded for all periods. The mean weights for all flint from Early Neolithic to Bronze Age contexts were between 5g and 7g whilst that for the Middle Iron Age contexts rose to 11g. That figure is likely to have been reduced by the inclusion of residual material without which it would have been significantly closer to the mean of 15.5g for Compton (**Table 1**).

5.5 More detailed studies are rare but even changes in characteristics from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age are informative. At Maiden Castle the breadth:length ratios of 58.01% of complete flakes were equal to or greater than 1:2.5 from Early Neolithic contexts (Phase 2) and 52.89% from later Neolithic contexts (Phase 3). The balance shifted sharply for Bronze Age contexts (Phase 4) for which only 33.07% of the flakes fell within that range. However, 64.64% of the assemblage fell within ratios of 1:1.7 to 1:5 (Edmonds and Bellamy, table 76a). The reasons for the reduction of the ratio may be twofold. On the one hand the knappers may have aimed to produce flakes suited to fashion implements of similar proportions; on the other hand the decline in core preparation and the tendency to use hard hammers almost exclusively would lead to reduced precision in direction and focus of the strike. In the former case an increase in tools with invasive retouch might be expected but that it is not evident in this assemblage, suggesting that the latter explanation is more probable.

5.6 At Compton the maximum ratio of 1:2.4 for the assemblage is less than that of the majority of flakes from Maiden Castle's Neolithic contexts. Indeed, the 28.6% within an upper range of 1:1.5 to 1:1.24 (**Table 3**) is less than half of the of the 64.64% flakes that fell within an upper range of 1:1.7 to 1:5 from Bronze Age contexts at Maiden Castle, although residual flakes would made up a significant part of that assemblage.

5.7 Butt widths on struck pieces tend to become broader over time and to show less evidence of preparation in the form of abrasion. An analysis of two stratified assemblages from the South Dorset Ridgeway found that 52% of butts from Early Neolithic horizons had widths exceeding 3mm. This rose to 70% of material from Late Neolithic/Early Bronze horizons whilst material from four different Middle to Late Bronze Age horizons showed consistency in varying from 76% to 79% (Harding 1991, table 9, flake platform width). At Compton only 59.4% of the assemblage fell within that range, implying that it might be largely residual. In addition, heavy recortication is often treated as a symptom of long term exposure of the material and hence as indicative of greater age. However, this is at odds with the dates of the stratified contexts at Compton and with some of the other technological characteristics of the assemblage.

5.8 Young and Humphrey have published a list of characteristics most of which they assert should feature in later Bronze Age and Iron Age assemblages. Those supporting an Iron Age date for this assemblage include: 1) use of a hard hammer for a simple core/flake technology; 2) lack of knapping skill demonstrated by irregular dorsal scar patterns and a high incidence of chips and chunks; 3) a restricted range of tool types (although the small size of the assemblage might be the determining factor in this instance); and 4) a predominance of secondary and tertiary flakes (Young and Humphrey 1999, 232-3). Two of their criteria appear to undermine the late date: the proportional lack of wide butts compared with the earlier assemblages from Maiden Castle; and the low proportion of flakes with a breadth:length ratio of 1:1. In this case the Maiden Castle data shown above is supportive of a later date.

5.9 There is a strong coherence in the overall appearance of the assemblage in terms of the irregularity of form of most pieces and the prevalence of re-cortication. There is a low instance of flake use evidenced by retouch and wear. The assemblage is likely to derive from a brief episode and has remained a group or large part of a group which has not been dispersed. As such it seems likely that it is closely contemporary with the infilling of the pit and hence should be treated as a comparatively rare, and hence potentially useful closed sample.

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**The pottery, by Richard Tabor**

5.10 The assemblage comprises 92 sherds weighing 2366.5g, giving a mean weight 25.7g. A minimum number of 15 vessels were present. The bulk of the material was in fresh condition. One small Beaker fragment and one probable Middle Iron Age sherd were present but the remaining material is likely to date from the 1st century BC or the first half of the 1st century AD. All of the sherds were from the two fills of a single pit (**Table 5**).

| | assemblage | | mean | | 1004 | | | | | 1005 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | sherds | Wt(g) | loss | wear | BC3.3 | JC3.1 | JD3.1 | JE4.2 | BS5.4 | Bk | BC3.3 | JC3.1 | JD3.0 | JE4.2 | BS5.4 |
| A1 | 1 | 22 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A2 | 1 | 12 | 3 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F1 | 2 | 47 | 1 | 1.5 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F2 | 3 | 116 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| G1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M1 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| M2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Q1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| S2 | 18 | 400.5 | 1.2 | 1.3 | | | | | | | 1 | | | 2 | 2 |
| S3 | 23 | 352 | 1.1 | 1.6 | 2 | | | | | | 3 | | | 1 | 1 |
| S4 | 1 | 24 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S5 | 8 | 281 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| S6 | 2 | 63 | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| S7 | 8 | 204 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| S8 | 5 | 178 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 2 | | | | | | |
| S9 | 2 | 107 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S10 | 3 | 133 | 1 | 1.3 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| S11 | 3 | 133 | 1 | 1.3 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| S12 | 1 | 71 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| S13 | 1 | 45 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S14 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S15 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S16 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S17 | 1 | 82 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| S18 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tot | 92 | 2366.5 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 |

**Table 5**. Summary of the pottery fabrics, forms condition

5.11 All sherds were inspected using a hand-held lens with 8x magnification. A fabric series was created for the site but the coded form typology has been based on that used at Danebury and elsewhere (Brown 2000). The condition of each sherd was assessed on scales of 1 to 3 to show the extent to which inclusions had been lost and to which edges and surfaces had been abraded, where 1 indicated least loss and least abrasion (**Table 5**).

**Fabrics**

5.12 A total of 26 different fabrics were identified (**Table 5**). The dominant fabrics were of very fine sand with varied combinations of inclusions such as grog, fine black grit and flint. Generally sparse orange or brown iron oxides were common in several groups, but much rarer were dark brown or black angular grits of up to 4mm. Several fabrics included a fairly soft white material which was presumed to be calcareous and either crushed chalk or partially dissolved shell. In a few sherds where shell impressions were visible the material has been classified as shell (Fabrics A1 and A2). In the cases of fabrics S4, S5, S8, S11 and S14 this inclusion should be regarded as ambiguous.

| | Summary | | | Condition mean | | Production characteristics % | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | sherds | Wt(g) | Mean wt | loss | wear | wheel | hand | uncertain | wiped |
| 1004 | 38 | 1432.0 | 37.7 | 1.1 | 1 | 26.3 | 65.8 | 7.9 | 39.5 |
| 1005 | 54 | 934.5 | 17.3 | 1.1 | 1.5 | 37.0 | 46.3 | 16.7 | 7.4 |

**Table 6**. Variation in general characteristics between contexts (1004) and (1005)

**Sherd summary**

5.13 **Shelly ware**

A1 Moderately well fired, shelly fabric.

A2 Moderately well fired, shelly fabric including sparse grog.

**Flint gritted wares**

F1 Moderately well fired, moderately hard blocky fabric including moderate flint grits (<2mm) and rare reddish brown iron oxides and pink grog.

F2 Moderately well fired, moderately hard fine sandy fabric including sparse to moderate flint grits (<2mm).

F3 Moderately well fired, moderately hard fine sandy fabric including moderate black grits and sparse to moderate flint grits (<2mm).

G1 Well fired, moderately hard, silty fabric, including abundant grog and moderately micaceous sand. Buff orange throughout.

**Micaceous wares**

M1 Moderately well fired, moderately hard, micaceous silty fabric including sparse grey and reddish brown grog and rare iron oxides. Buff orange core and exterior, with medium to dark grey interior surface.

M2 Well fired, moderately hard fabric, micaceous sand including moderate fine rounded quartz and rare iron. Buff orange throughout.

**Quartzitic wares**

Q1 Well fired, abundant subangular and rounded fine clear quartz including sparse flint <1mm. Dark grey throughout. Poole Harbour product.

**Fine sandy wares**

S1 Moderately well fired, moderately hard, fine sand including moderate white chalky material, possibly semi-dissolved shell, and rare grog and small angular flint. Dark grey fabric with buff orange exterior and dark grey interior surfaces.

S2 Well fired, moderately hard, fine sand often including rare to spare iron oxides. Grey to buff pink fabric with buff pink to dark grey surfaces.

S3 Well fired, moderately hard, fine quartz sand including sparse to moderate grog and sometimes rare iron oxides. Grey, sometimes pale grey fabric with grey to dark grey surfaces.

S4 Well fired, moderately hard, fine sand including sparse to moderate black grits (<1mm) and sometimes rare iron oxides or chalky white material, possibly dissolving shell. Grey to pale grey, with grey surfaces.

S5 Well fired, moderately hard, fine sand including grog (<2mm) and white chalky material, possibly dissolving shell. Grey to pale grey, with grey surfaces.

S6 Well fired, moderately hard, fine sand including rare to sparse iron-rich angular grits (<4mm) and sometimes rare iron oxides. Grey to pale grey, with grey surfaces.

S7 Well fired, moderately hard, fine sand including sparse to moderate grog (<3mm), sparse black grits (<1mm) and sometimes rare iron oxides. Grey to pale grey, with grey surfaces.

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S8 Moderately well-fired, slightly crumbly, fine sand including abundant angular flint (<3mm) and rare to sparse white chalky material, possibly semi-dissolved shell. Grey fabric with buff orange exterior and dark grey interior surfaces.

S9 Well fired, moderately hard, fine sand including sparse to moderate grog, rare to sparse iron-rich angular grits (<4mm) and sometimes rare iron oxides. Grey to pale grey, with grey surfaces.

S10 Well fired, moderately hard, fine sand including sparse grog (<3mm) and rare flint (2mm). Grey to pale grey, with grey surfaces.

S11 Well fired, moderately hard, fine sand including sparse black grit (<1mm) and rare to sparse white chalky material, possibly dissolving shell. Grey to pale grey, with grey surfaces.

S12 Well fired, moderately hard, fine sand, including sparse to moderate grog, sparse black grit (<1mm) and rare flint. Grey to pale grey, with grey surfaces.

S13 Well fired, moderately hard, fine sand, including moderate fine clear quartz (<1mm). Grey to pale grey, with grey surfaces.

S14 Well fired, moderately hard, fine sand, including moderate black grit (<1mm), rare flint (<2mm) and rare white chalky material, possibly dissolving shell and rare flint. Grey to pale grey, with grey surfaces.

S15 Well fired, moderately hard, fine quartz sand, including sparse to moderate black grit (<1mm). Grey to pale grey, with grey surfaces.

S16 Well fired, moderately hard, fine quartz sand, including sparse to moderate black grit (<1mm) and angular dark brown or black grits (<4mm). Grey to pale grey, with grey surfaces.

S17 Well fired, moderately hard, fine sand, including rare to sparse angular dark brown or black grits (<4mm) and flint (<2mm). Grey to pale grey, with grey surfaces.

S18 Well fired, moderately hard, fine sand, including sparse to moderate black grit (<1mm) and rare to sparse flint (<2mm). Grey to pale grey, with grey surfaces.

5.14 A similar range of fabrics occurred in Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery from within an enclosure at Figheldean, also in the Avon valley (Mepham 1993) and there appears to overlapping with fabrics identified at various sites excavated during the Danebury Environs Project (Brown 2000). Several of the fine sandy fabrics listed above are likely to be of Savernake type, notably those

including grog pellets and red iron oxides (Swan 1975, 42).

5.15 Most of the pottery is likely to be fairly local, deriving from in or around the Avon Valley. An exception is the sherd in Fabric Q1 which is a Poole Harbour product. The dearth of similar South East Dorset products might suggest that the assemblage is not of the latest Iron Age as it made up between 10% and 40% of Late Iron Age pottery at the Hampshire sites of Houghton Down, Woolbury, Suddern Farm and Nettlebank Copse (Brown 2000, 129).

**Forms**

5.16 With the exception of a single Beaker sherd the vessel forms have been classified according to the system adopted for the Danebury Environs Project Brown (2000, 85-91) and elsewhere.

**Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age**

5.17 **Beaker**

A sherd in Fabric S1 was decorated with squared comb impressions and was clearly of a Beaker type.

**Late Iron Age**

5.18 **Jars**

JC3.1 High shouldered jars beaded or short upright rounded rims. First appear in the mid-1st century BC but continue into the Romano-British period.

JD3.1 Wide-bodied, 'S'-profiled globular jars with out-curving rims. Middle Iron Age, current until the mid-1st century AD. One sherd was decorated with acute lines zoned within two broader horizontal lines on shoulder. The upper part of the acute lines was bisected by a third horizontal linear. On another sherd slightly curved, otherwise acute, lines were incised above a linear marking the lower boundary of a rusticated shoulder zone. Middle Iron Age, current until the mid-1st century AD.

JD3.0 Unspecified 'S'-profiled globular jars. The single sherd of this type has a line of horizontal stab marks on the shoulder with slanting lines of stab marks above it. It is likely to derive from a JD3.3 type vessel. Middle Iron Age, current until the mid-1st century AD.

JE4.2 High-shouldered necked jars. The rims in this group are slightly everted with one example thickened. First appear in the mid-1st century BC but continue into the Romano-British period.

**Bowls**

BC3.3 Bowls with curving profiles. Rims were beaded with varying degrees of definition ranging from sharp incision to a narrow but gentle curve. Examples included upright round rims and rims with a slightly convex curved internal bevel. Mid-1st century BC to mid-1st century AD.

**Bases**

BS5.4 Flat, wide angled bases typically from BC3.3 and JD3 type vessels during the later Iron Age. No other base forms were present.

**Production, treatment and condition**

5.19 Sherds were also recorded according to whether or not they had been thrown or finished on a wheel and whether or not the outer surface had been wiped or burnished (Table 2). In the case of the latter the absence of recorded wiping means that it was not discernible, and is not a firm indication that it had not been executed. Given the consistency of forms and fabrics across the two contexts the 9.7% difference in wheel production between the two may not be significant. It may be explained by taphonomic factors which strongly suggest that the material in (1005) was exposed for a longer period than that in (1004). The difference in mean sherd weight is very marked at 20.4g, and as is the mean variation in wear at just under 0.5 on a scale of 1 to 3 (around 16% variation). The wear is likely to account for the decrease in certainty concerning use of the wheel and the wiping of the surface.

**Discussion**

5.20 The range of forms is typical for assemblages of the second half of the 1st century BC and the first

half of the 1st century AD in Central Southern Britain. The significant presence of JD3 forms suggests that the group was deposited during the earlier part of the time span, particularly in view of the freshness of the sherds, most notably those from the lower fill (1004). The condition of the sherds in the higher deposit (1005) suggests that there may have been a short delay before the filling of the pit was completed.

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**Animal bone, by Clare Randall**

5.21 This report presents and discusses a small assemblage of faunal remains recovered from a single late Iron Age pit. The pit comprised a number of contexts, two of which produced animal bone, with more material in the lower fill.

**Methods**

5.22 Each bone fragment was identified where possible to element and species, and where this was not possible Large Mammal (e.g. cattle sized), Medium Mammal (e.g. sheep sized, but potentially pig) and Unidentified mammal categories. All data were recorded in an Access relational database. Identification was carried out using comparative collections and with reference to Hillson (1992) Schmid (1972) and Hillson (2005) for domestic mammals. Zones were recorded where possible for each anatomical element using the Maltby/Hambleton method (n.d.). Where available cattle, sheep/goat and pig toothwear was assessed using Grant (1982), and Payne (1973, 1982). Hambleton (1999) and Halstead (1985) were also used in assigning categories. Fusion was recorded for each fragment and assigned to age ranges (Silver 1969). Bone porosity was recorded for all fragments, and each fragment examined for fusion information. The percentage of the element present was estimated and recorded to the nearest 5% for all identified fragments. Each fragment was also examined for pathological changes, breakage patterns, gnawing and weathering indicators. Burnt bone was recorded by colour (buff, brown, grey, black and calcined). The condition of all fragments was assessed on a five-point scale through poor, poor-average, average, average-good and good. Measurements were taken in accordance with von den Driesch (1976).

**Results**

5.23 A total of 3 contexts produced a total of 118 fragments of disarticulated bone. One fragment was from the topsoil and is not considered further. 82 fragments were recovered from the secondary fill of the pit (1004), and 35 fragments from the upper fill (1005). No associated bone groups were noted.

5.24 The assemblage as a whole is fragmented, but generally well preserved, with taphonomic indicators, modification of bone and pathological change preserved in addition to information on age, sex and size. 51% of the entire assemblage was identified to species which is relatively high. The identified material comprised 10% loose teeth, which is relatively low. Overall quality of the bone is given in **Table 7**. The majority of the assemblage scored average or better bone condition. However, there is a marked difference between the material from the upper fill (1005) and the

secondary fill (1004). Much more of the bone from (1005) scored poor-average. There were also a couple of cases of weathering of this bone, whereas none occurred in the material from (1004) (**Tables 8** & **9**). This included root etching, and implies that the weathering has occurred sub-aerially rather than on the surface. However, there are three examples of gnawing from the upper fill, which proportionately is greater than the material in (1004), so some of this may have spent longer on the surface. The bone in context (1004) is of very fresh appearance, but also has a very high proportion of burnt fragments in a range of colours, including some part-burnt fragments with singeing at the ends of long bones. In this case it may imply cooking with the areas protected by the meat not becoming burnt. Even the burnt fragments are not eroded, and the assemblage has the appearance of having been rapidly incorporated, without having spent much time on the surface. Two examples of dog gnawing were however noted.

| | Good | | Average-Good | | Average | | Poor-Average | | Poor | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (1004) | (1005) | (1004) | (1005) | (1004) | (1005) | (1004) | (1005) | (1004) | (1005) |
| **Cattle** | | | 1 | | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | | |
| **Sheep/Goat** | 5 | | 13 | | 12 | 6 | | 3 | | |
| **Pig** | | | 1 | | 5 | 2 | | 1 | | |
| **Horse** | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| **Large Mammal** | 1 | | | | 7 | 1 | | 5 | | |
| **Medium Mammal** | 4 | | 2 | | 23 | 1 | 1 | 6 | | |
| **Unidentified** | | | | | | 2 | | 3 | | |

**Table 7.** Bone condition by species

| | Gnawing | | Weathering | | Burned | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Species** | **NISP** | **% of species** | **NISP** | **% of species** | **NISP** | **% of species** |
| Cow | 1 | 20.0 | | | | |
| S/G | 1 | 3.3 | | | 9 | 30.0 |
| Pig | | | | | 4 | 66.7 |
| LMA | | | | | 3 | 37.5 |
| MMA | | | | | 21 | 67.8 |
| **Total** | **2** | | | | **37** | |

**Table 8**. Taphonomic markers by species, context (1004)

| | Gnawing | | Weathering | | Burned | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Species** | **NISP** | **% of species** | **NISP** | **% of species** | **NISP** | **% of species** |
| Cow | 1 | 16.7 | 1 | 16.7 | | |
| S/G | 1 | 11.1 | | | | |
| Pig | 1 | 33.3 | 1 | 33.3 | | |
| LMA | | | 2 | 33.3 | | |
| MMA | | | | | | |
| **Total** | **3** | | **4** | | | |

**Table 9.** Taphonomic markers by species, context (1005)

| | Lower Fill (1004) | | Upper Fill (1005) | | Topsoil | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Species** | **NISP/No** | **MNI** | **NISP/No** | **MNI** | **NISP/No** | **MNI** | **NISP/No** | **MNI** |
| Cattle | 5 | 2 | 6 | 1 | | | 11 | 1+1 |
| Sheep/Goat | 30 | 2+2 | 9 | 1+1 | | | 39 | 2+2 |
| Pig | 6 | 1 | 3 | 1 | | | 9 | 1 |
| Horse | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 |
| ***Domestic total*** | ***41*** | | ***19*** | | | | ***60*** | |
| ***Wild Total*** | ***0*** | | ***0*** | | | | | |
| Large mammal | 8 | | 6 | | | | 14 | |
| Medium mammal | 31 | | 7 | | 1 | | 39 | |
| Small mammal | 2 | | 3 | | | | 5 | |
| Unidentified | | | | | | | | |
| ***Unidentified Total*** | ***41*** | | ***16*** | | ***1*** | | ***58*** | |
| ***Main total*** | ***82*** | | ***35*** | | ***1*** | | ***118*** | |

**Table 10.** Species abundance, NISP and MNI

5.25 All of the species identified (**Table 10**) were domestic mammals, with cattle, sheep/goat (only sheep were positively identified) and pig most abundant. The assemblage, whilst a very respectable collection from a single feature, is too small to carry out a great deal of analysis. Species proportions calculated from assemblages of less than 100 identified specimens are likely to be unreliable. However, in this case the proportions (Cattle 19%, Sheep/goat 66%, Pig 15%, N=59) are very much in line with what might be expected in this area during the Iron Age, with sheep/goat the most abundant species (by NISP and MNI). The absence of wild species, which only

occur in very low percentages in Iron Age assemblages, is unsurprising from a single feature (Hambleton 2008).

***Cattle***

5.26 A total of 11 cattle bones were recorded, with a total MNI of 2. The relatively low proportion of cattle is mirrored in the incidence of larger mammal bone. Elements came from various parts of the body (**Tables 11** & **12**), and all of the material was fragmented, although only one instance of a helical break indicative of deliberate fragmentation was noted (**Table 13**) and there was no other indication of butchery. A couple of cattle bones had been gnawed by dogs, but in context (1004), where much of the bone had been burned, this had not effected the cattle bone, hinting at a different mode of preparation and cooking than for the sheep/goat.

Information on sex was not available, with very limited data relating to age. A single humerus fragment indicates an animal less than 12-18 months of age (**Table 15**). No metrical or pathological information was recorded.

| | Cattle | Sheep/goat | Pig | Horse | Dog | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Horncore | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Cranium | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Maxilla | | | | | | |
| Mandible | 3 | 1 | | | | 4 |
| Atlas | | | | | | |
| Axis | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Cervical Vertebra | | | | | | |
| Thoracic Vertebra | | 6 | | | | 6 |
| Lumbar Vertebra | | | | | | |
| Sacrum | | | | | | |
| Ribs | | 4 | | | | 4 |
| Innominate | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| Scapula | | 3 | 1 | | | 4 |
| Humerus | 3 | 2 | | | | 5 |
| Radius | | 6 | 2 | | | 8 |
| Ulna | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| Carpal | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| Metacarpal | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 |
| Femur | | 2 | | | | 2 |
| Tibia | | 2 | | | | 2 |
| Patella | | | | | | |
| Calcaneus | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| Tarsal | | | | | | |
| Astragalus | | 2 | | | | 2 |
| Metatarsal | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 |
| Phalanges | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Incisor | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Canine | 1 | | 1 | | | 3 |
| Mandibular tooth | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 |
| Maxillary tooth | | 2 | | | | 2 |

**Table 11.** Element representation (NISP) for domesticates, contexts (1004) and (1005)

| | Cattle | | | Sheep/Goat | | | Pig | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Element** | **Left** | **Right** | **Unsided** | **Left** | **Right** | **Unsided** | **Left** | **Right** | **Unsided** |
| Horncore | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| cranium | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| maxilla | | | | | | | | | |
| mandible | | | 3 | 1 | | | | | |
| atlas | | | | | | | | | |
| axis | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| cervical vertebra | | | | | | | | | |
| thoracic vertebra | | | | | | 6 | | | |
| lumbar vertebra | | | | | | | | | |
| sacrum | | | | | | | | | |
| ribs | | | | | | 3 | | | |
| innominate | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | |
| scapula | | | | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | |
| humerus | 1 | 1+1 | | | 1 | | | | |
| radius | | | | 1+1 | 1+2 | | 1 | 1 | |
| ulna | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| carpal | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| metacarpal | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | |
| proximal phalange | | | | | | | | | |
| intermediate phalange | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| distal phalange | | | | | | | | | |
| femur | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| tibia | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| fibula | | | | | | | | | |
| patella | | | | | | | | | |
| calcaneus | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| tarsal | | | | | | | | | |
| astragalus | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| metatarsal | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | |

**Table 12.** Minimum number of elements, contexts (1004) and (1005)

| | (1004) | | | (1005) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Species** | **Helical break** | **Longitudinal** | **% of species** | **Helical break** | **Longitudinal** | **% of species** |
| Cattle | 1 | | 20.0 | | | |
| Sheep/goat | | | | | | |
| Pig | | | | | | |
| Horse | | | | | | |
| LMA | 1 | | 12.5 | | | |
| MMA | 2 | 2 | 12.9 | 1 | | 14.3 |
| Unidentified | | | | | | |
| **Total** | **4** | 2 | | 1 | | |

**Table 13.** Deliberately fragmentation by species, contexts (1004) and (1005)

| Species | Element | Cut type | No of cuts | Direction* | Comment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sheep/goat | Femur | LC | 6 | --- | Disarticulation |
| Sheep/goat | Scapula | LC | 2 | / | Disarticulation |

**Table 14.** Butchery, all context (1004)

| Fusion date | Element | Fused | Unfused |
|---|---|---|---|
| Early Fusing (7-10 mths) | Scapula | | |
| (7-10mths) | Pelvis | | |
| (12-18mths) | Humerus, distal | | 1 |
| (12-18mths) | Radius, proximal | | |
| Later fusing (24-30mths) | Metacarpal, distal | 1 | |
| (27-36mths) | Metatarsal, distal | | |
| (24-30mths) | Tibia, distal | | |
| Late fusing (36-42mths) | Calcaneus | | |
| (42-48 mths) | Humerus, proximal | | |
| (42-48mths) | Radius, distal | | |
| (42-48mths) | Ulna | | |
| (42 mths) | Femur, proximal | | |
| (42-48mths) | Femur, distal | | |
| (42-48mths) | Tibia, proximal | | |

**Table 15.** Fusion information for cattle, all context (1004)

***Sheep/goat***

5.27 A total of 39 sheep/goat fragments were recorded, with a total MNI of 4, the majority of the bone coming from the secondary fill (1004). No goats were positively identified, but four instances of sheep were noted. This is in keeping with the general picture of a dominance of sheep in southern Britain in the Iron Age (Hambleton 2008; Randall 2010). The proportion of sheep/goat to other livestock species is mirrored in the numbers of medium mammal fragments. As with cattle, elements from all areas of the body are represented (**Tables 11** and **12**), although the range of elements is wider. Whilst the number of fragments limits comment, there does appear to be some emphasis on the meat bearing bones of the axial skeleton and the limbs, with few head or foot elements. The material is again fragmented but with no examples of deliberate fragmentation. There are however five fragments of medium mammal bone which display helical or longitudinal breaks when fresh (**Table 13**), and two sheep/goat fragments displayed light cut marks consistent with disarticulation of the carcase (**Table 14**). In context (1004), a fair proportion of the sheep/goat and particularly the medium mammal fragments have been burned (**Tables 8** and **9**) implying a different method of cooking and consumption of the smaller livestock. A couple of fragments had been gnawed by dogs.

| Context | Toothwear Scores | MWS | Payne Score | Age Range |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (1004) | f; e; C | 22 | D | 1-2 years |

**Table 16.** Toothwear for sheep/goat, Grant (1982) and Payne (1982)

5.28 No information on the sex of animals was available, and aging information is limited. A single mandible provided a mandible wear score of 22, an animal of 1-2 years (**Table 16**). Epiphyseal fusion data indicates a range of ages (**Table 17**), with an animal of under 10 months up to one of over 36-42 months. Several instances of porous bone were noted. It is not possible to make further comment on the likely culling profile or herd management strategy. A number of sheep/goat elements were measurable (**Table 18**), although the numbers mean that no further analysis is possible and withers heights could not be calculated. A case of mild silicaceous calculus was noted in a sheep mandible, and a non-specific infection of a medium mammal rib (**Table 19**).

| Fusion date | Element | Fused | Unfused |
|---|---|---|---|
| Early Fusing (6-8mths) | Scapula, glenoid | 2 | |
| (6-10mths) | Pelvis, acetabulum | | |
| (10mths) | Humerus, distal | 1 | |
| (10mths) | Radius, proximal | 2 | 1 |
| Later fusing (18-24mths) | Metacarpal, distal | | |
| (20-28mths) | Metatarsal, distal | | 1 |
| (18-24mths) | Tibia, distal | 2 | |
| Latest fusing (30-36mths) | Calcaneus | 1 | |
| (36-42 mths) | Humerus, proximal | | |
| (36mths) | Radius, distal | | 3 |
| (30mths) | Ulna | | |
| (30-36mths) | Femur, proximal | | 1 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (36-42mths) | Femur, distal | 1 | |
| (36-42mths) | Tibia, proximal | | |

**Table 17.** Fusion in sheep/goat, all context (1004)

| Sp | Element | BG | GLP | LG | SLC | Bd | BT | HT | Bp | Dp | Bdf | Dd | Ddf | GLl | SD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S/G | Metacarpal | | | | | | | | 11.6 | 11.5 | 13.3 | | 8.4 | | 5.5 |
| S/G | Scapula | 16.6 | 26.5 | 21.5 | 15.4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| S/G | Scapula | 17.8 | 28.8 | 22.4 | 16.9 | | | | | | | | | | |
| S/G | Radius | | | | | | | | 25.5 | 13 | 22.8 | | 14.5 | | 13.1 |
| S/G | Humerus | | | | | 22.8 | 23.9 | 15.7 | | | | | | | |
| S/G | Tibia | | | | | | | | | | | 17 | | | |
| S/G | Tibia | | | | | 22.9 | | | | | | 17.2 | | | |
| S/G | Astragalus | | | | | 15.8 | | | | | | | | 25.1 | |

**Table 18.** Measurements. All in (mm), all from context (1004)

| Species | Element | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Sheep/goat | Mandible | Slight silicaceous calculus |
| Medium Mammal | Rib | Non-specific infection ventral and dorsal. Periostitis |

**Table 19.** Pathological fragments

***Pig***

5.29 A total of 9 pig fragments were noted, with a total MNI of 1. Elements come from all areas of the body and are fragmented, but with no evidence for butchery or deliberate fragmentation. Four fragments of pig bone in context (1004) were burned however. A single pig canine from (1005) was from a male. Aging information is particularly limited with no toothwear data. However for the four bones which provide epiphyseal fusion information (**Table 20**) are all unfused, including one animal younger than a year. It might imply that the pig population was generally slaughtered at a younger age than the sheep/goat, and this would be in keeping with other southern British Iron Age practice (Hambleton 2008), focussing on pig as a purely meat bearing animal. No metrical or pathological data was recorded.

| Fusion date | Element | Fused | Unfused |
|---|---|---|---|
| Early Fusing (12mths) | Scapula , glenoid | | |
| (12mths) | Pelvis, acetabulum | | |
| (12mths) | Humerus, distal | | |
| (12 mths) | Radius, proximal | | 1 |
| Later fusing (24 mths) | Metacarpal, distal | | |
| (27 mths) | Metatarsal, distal | | |
| (24mths) | Tibia, distal | | |
| Late fusing (24-30 mths) | Calcaneus | | **(1)** |
| (42 mths) | Humerus, proximal | | |
| (42mths) | Radius, distal | | 1 |
| (36-42 mths) | Ulna | | 1 |
| (42mths) | Femur, proximal | | |
| (42mths) | Femur, distal | | |
| (42mths) | Tibia, proximal | | |

**Table 20.** Fusion of pig elements, contexts (1004) and (1005) (in bold)

***Horse***

5.30 A single tooth from an adult horse was noted from the upper fill (1005).

**Discussion**

5.31 Whilst small this is an interesting assemblage. In character, it entirely reflects the prevalent proportions of cattle, sheep/goat and pig in southern Britain at the end of the Iron Age. However, whilst the material from the upper fills may have accumulated over a longer period of time, and been exposed either on the surface or within the pit, the material from the secondary fill (1004) is much fresher. Evidence from the bone condition, fragmentation butchery, element selection and burning appears to indicate a rapidly deposited collection of probably cooking waste which mainly involved sheep/goat but included cattle and pig bone. Deposition of faunal remains in Iron Age pits is complex, often associated with other materials and frequently deliberately structured (Hill 1995; Randall 2006). Consequently, despite the small scale of the overall assemblage, as a representation of a single event, it has value.

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**Other finds, by COAS**

5.32 A further six finds were recovered from the topsoil (1000) in the Netheravon area (Section 2). These comprised one sherd of samian ware; two sherds of post-medieval pottery and one undiagnostic sherd; one Fe nail; and a small fragment of ceramic building material (CBM). Small fragments of animal bone (some noticeably burnt) were also present within the lower fill (1004) of the pit feature of Netheravon, although these were too small and degraded for analysis to be carried out. Within the Durrington and Compton areas (Sections 1 and 3) no finds were collected although modern objects were observed in the topsoil.

## 6. Discussion

6.1 A single pit [1002] was identified during the archaeological programme of works. The absence of any finds from the shallow basal fill (1003) reveals that this deposit accumulated from natural erosion/ slumping and therefore the pit was not immediately backfilled. By contrast, the overlying fill (1004) and the upper fill (1005) yielded a large assemblage of pottery dated to the mid- to late Iron Age, a small number of worked flints and a small assemblage of animal bone. The concentration of fresh pottery sherds in the lower of these fills (1004) suggests that this represents an initial episode of backfilling. This is supported by the animal bone analysis which indicates this layer was the result of a rapidly deposited collection of cooking waste or refuse from a single consumption event. The dark humic composition of the soil and noticeable burning on some of the flint and animal bone supports this hypothesis. Material from the upper fill of the pit appears to have accumulated more slowly and is coterminous with two stages of back-filling.

6.2 The pottery sherds belonged to a number of different vessels, including a single sherd from a Neolithic beaker, and the range of forms typifies assemblages dating from the second half of the 1st century BC and the first half of the 1st century AD in Central Southern Britain, with a leaning towards the earlier part of this time span. The worked flints (knives, points and scrapers) are also dated to the Iron Age due to their style of manufacture (Tabor 2014). It is considered that the flint represents a group deriving from a brief episode which was closely contemporary with the infilling of the pit. As such, it is a comparatively rare, and hence potentially useful closed sample. The species proportions of the animal bone, with the majority of material relating to sheep/goat, fits well with the general picture for southern Britain in the Iron Age. Although the pit is located within an area of archaeological potential, with a Bronze age barrow mound located 110m to the south-west and a prehistoric skeleton 30m to the north, there are no recorded archaeological events of the same date within the close environs. This either suggests that there are further remains of the same date in the vicinity or that this was an isolated feature perhaps associated with a temporary camp.

6.3 Despite the archaeologically rich landscape, no further features or deposits were identified during the monitoring programme. A few finds, including Roman and post-medieval pottery and a small number of worked flints, were recovered from the topsoil along the Netheravon section, however as these were recovered in isolation they are considered to be of no further research value. No finds were collected from the Durrington and Compton areas although modern objects were observed in the topsoil.

## 7. Archive

7.1 The project archive is currently held by COAS and consists of the following:

| Item | Number | Format |
|---|---|---|
| Profile record sheets | 24 | Paper |
| Photographic register | 9 | Paper |
| Digital images | 198 | .JPG |

7.2 The paper archive has been scanned as a single file in .PDF format and will form part of the physical Site archive to be deposited with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum.

7.3 Copies of this report will be deposited with the client/agent and included as part of the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record.

## 8. COAS acknowledgements

8.1 We would like to thank the following for their contribution to the successful completion of this project:

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