

B0644: Land to the East of
Larkhill Camp
Larkhill
Amesbury
Wiltshire

Archaeological Monitoring and
Recording

REPORT

December 2017



**B0644: Land to the East of Larkhill Camp
Larkhill
Amesbury
Wiltshire**

for

C1 project code: C1/AMR/17/LCW

Wessex Water plc

REPORT

Prepared by Dr Clare Randall, Archaeological Officer
Date 8/12/17

Approved by Dr Cheryl Green, Post-excavation Manager

Signed 

Date 13/12/17

Issue 01

PROJECT DETAILS

Client project/scheme ref.	B0644
Planning Application ref.	N/A
Local Planning Authority	N/A
Scheduled Monument Consent ref.	N/A
Historic Environment Record ref.	N/A
Collecting Museum	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum (not currently collecting)
Museum accession code	N/A
OASIS reference	contexto1-295452

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Summary

Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during the diversion of an existing watermain around a new M.O.D development site to the east of Larkhill Camp, Wiltshire. The project was commissioned by Wessex Water plc under a Term Agreement with C1.

The monitoring and recording was requested by the county Historic Environment Service (HES), Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (WCAS). The Site lies close to the designated World Heritage Site of Stonehenge and within the rich prehistoric landscape that surrounds it. Geophysical survey by Wessex Archaeology identified probable and possible archaeology across the Site, including anomalies that are prehistoric in character.

Despite this high archaeological potential, no archaeological features or deposits were observed during the monitoring project, and neither were any finds seen or recovered. However, the area observed was very narrow and the topsoil not particularly deep, immediately overlying the chalk bedrock. It may be that the areas of magnetic enhancement from the geophysical survey were generated by relatively ephemeral spreads of more magnetic material not associated with identifiable finds or substantial cut features. However, disturbance by animal burrowing and root action was also noted in the topsoil in this area, so the somewhat amorphous geophysical anomalies may well be attributable to tree/shrub roots and rabbits.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during the diversion of an existing watermain around a new M.O.D development site to the east of Larkhill Camp, Wiltshire, (the 'Site') (**Figure 1**). The project was commissioned by Wessex Water plc under a Term Agreement with C1.
- 1.2 The monitoring and recording was requested by the county Historic Environment Service (HES), Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (WCAS). Following consultation between Mr Sergio Perez (Environmental Scientist) and Ms Clare King, (Assistant County Archaeologist, WCAS), Ms King determined that this should apply to all top soil stripping and excavations. The Site lies close to the designated World Heritage Site of Stonehenge and within the rich prehistoric landscape that surrounds it. Geophysical survey by Wessex Archaeology in 2014 identified probable and possible archaeology across the Site, including anomalies that are prehistoric in character.
- 1.3 The programme of archaeological works comprised four elements: the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which sets out the project strategy; archaeological monitoring and recording; post-excavation and report production (this document); and archive preparation and deposition.
- 1.4 The requirement followed advice by Central Government as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (DCLG 2012).

2. The Site

- 2.1 The Site (centred on NGR SU 14591 44631) is located across a field between Larkhill barracks to the west and the village of Durrington to the east, approximately 3km north-north-west of Amesbury (**Figure 1**). The watermain diversion crossed the north-west quadrant of the field from approximately east-west. A driving range is situated immediately to the south within the south-west quadrant of the field, which is bounded to the north and west by further fields. Along the east side of the field is the A345 Netheravon Road and the outskirts of Durrington, while to the south is The Packway road which forms the northern extent of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site, c. 500m distant from the Site.
- 2.2 The route of the watermain diversion is situated on land that slopes from a height of c. 105m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the western end to c. 80m aOD at the eastern end. The recorded solid geology for the Site is Seaford Chalk Formation chalk (BGS 2017) and drift (superficial) geology is limited to head deposits (clay, silt and gravel) recorded in the nearby valley (*ibid.*). Soils are characterised as shallow and lime-rich over chalk or limestone (CSAIS 2017).
- 2.3 A geophysical survey carried out by Wessex Archaeology (2014) identified anomalies of likely, probably and possible archaeology, together with remnants of ploughing and agricultural trenches, and two modern services (2014, 5). Of significance are two probable round barrows and a possible long barrow in the northern extent of the field (to the north of the Site), with pit-like responses to the east and west. It was noted that one of these anomalies coincides with a cropmark noted by OGS Crawford and that the discoveries may form part of a larger barrow group (*ibid.*). A linear anomaly crossing the northern portion of the Site from east to west may possibly relate to earlier land divisions (see **4003 & 4004** on **Figure 2**). A further linear (see **4009 & 4010** on **Figure 2**) appears to correspond with a boundary depicted on historic mapping, while a further linear (see **4005** on **Figure 2**) may be archaeological, but also corresponds with the base of the dry valley and might be geological. Three large circular anomalies measuring c. 20m in diameter run across the Site from north-east to south-west, and interpreted as probably archaeology (**4006, 4007** and **4008** on **Figure 2**). Frequent small pit-like anomalies are scattered throughout the Site, although it is likely that a number of these are tree-throws as opposed to being anthropogenic (*ibid.*). Parallel anomalies **4011** and **4014** are probably agricultural in origin, either resulting from ploughing or field drains (*ibid.*, 4). Sub-circular anomalies **4012** and **4013** are visible as weakly defined trends, while other similar curvilinear trends exhibit even more ephemeral anomalies and therefore unlikely to be archaeological (*ibid.*).

- 2.4 In terms of impact, the route of the pipeline easement intersected one of the large circular anomalies **4007**; a linear **4010** which is most likely an historic boundary; and three curvilinear trends including the weakly defined trench **4013**. There was potential for more archaeological features to be encountered than those identified through geophysical survey, as small weakly magnetised features often fall below detection thresholds for magnetometry (*ibid*, 6).

3. Archaeological aims and research objectives

- 3.1 The principal aims of the archaeological monitoring were to:

- identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during groundworks;
- determine the character of the archaeological remains, where present;
- recover environmental information, which may have provided further information relating to the local historic environment of the area;
- provide sufficient information to enable further mitigation strategies to be determined, where appropriate

- 3.2 The research objectives were to:

- ground truth the probable and possible archaeology identified by the geophysical survey, and characterise these features
- identify smaller archaeological features that may have fallen below the detection thresholds of the geophysical survey
- reassess the geophysical survey results in light of these findings.

4. Methodology

- 4.1 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) (December 2014) and in accordance with the *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (CAS 1995). C1 adhered to the *Code of Conduct* of the CIfA (1985, rev. 2000, 2014), and *Regulations for Professional Conduct* (CIfA, 2014, rev. 2015) at all times. The fieldwork methodology is summarised below.
- 4.2 C1 gave notification of the commencement of the works to the HES, but it was not necessary for a representative to visit the Site and monitor archaeological fieldwork. Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the Site archive.
- 4.3 Prior to the commencement of Site works, the excavation methodology was agreed between those responsible for carrying out the groundworks and C1 to ensure that all parties were aware of the monitoring requirements.
- 4.4 The initial groundworks comprised the machine excavation of topsoil in the location of a temporary compound. An access roadway was created which involved a topsoil strip (see **Figure 1**). In the event, the pipeline did not require the preparation of an easement. Excavation of the pipe trench involved the machine excavation of a continuous trench measuring c. 1.50m wide and up to 2m deep. Machine excavations were carried out using a 14 tonne JCB slew equipped with a toothless grading bucket.
- 4.5 An archaeologist was on Site to monitor groundwork excavations with the aim of identifying and recording any archaeological features/deposits/finds present. By default, core details of the deposit sequence across the Site were recorded on C1 *pro-forma* profile forms in digital format using iPad mini tablets. The frequency with which profiles were recorded was based entirely on variation of the deposit sequence. In the event, manual excavation was not necessary however soil colours were logged using a Munsell soil colour chart. Spoil was examined for the retrieval of artefacts. The Site was levelled to Ordnance Datum with a TopCon GRS1 RTK GPS unit. A photographic record of the monitoring and recording was carried out, and involved the

sole use of digital images. This included photographs illustrating in both detail, and general context, the areas subject to monitoring and the profiles recorded within them. The photographic record also included working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

5. Results

- 5.1 The compound strip only removed the upper part of the topsoil, whereas the entire depth of topsoil was stripped along the route of the access track (**Figure 1; Plate 1**). Throughout the pipe trench (**Plate 2**) the deposit sequence was the same (**Plate 3**). The topsoil was a dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) silty clay with frequent angular chalk fragments <0.05m and moderate angular flint fragments <0.10m, measuring c. 30m deep. This directly overlay the geology, a white (10YR 8/1) chalk with gravel and occasional large, angular flint <0.20m.
- 5.2 No archaeological features or deposits were observed. This included those areas where the pipe trench crossed magnetic anomalies indicated on the geophysical survey and which were thought to represent probable archaeology. However, areas of animal burrowing and root disturbance were noted in these areas.

6. The finds

- 6.1 No archaeological artefacts or ecofactual material was seen or recovered during this project.

7. Discussion and Conclusion

- 7.1 No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the monitoring project, and neither were any finds seen or recovered. This is despite the pipeline and access track crossing an area of high potential, and where possible archaeological features were indicated from the magnetic survey.
- 7.2 The area observed was very narrow, and the topsoil not particularly deep, immediately overlying the chalk bedrock. It may be that the areas of magnetic enhancement were generated by relatively ephemeral spreads of more magnetic material which was not associated with identifiable finds or substantial cut features. However, disturbance by animal burrowing and root action was also noted within the topsoil in this area, so the somewhat amorphous geophysical anomalies may well be attributable to tree/shrub roots and rabbits.

8. Archive

- 8.1 The NPPF requires that an archaeological archive arising from development works is made publicly accessible (para. 141). The archive comprises two parts: the paper/digital archive including site records and images; and the artefact/ecofact assemblage.

Paper/digital archive

- 8.2 Where archaeological features/deposits are recorded, the archive generated from this usually comprises site records, drawings and photographs either in paper format or born-digital data. Within three months of the conclusion of a project this is normally transferred into the care of a Trusted Digital Repository such as the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) as scanned paper records or native born-digital data. The digital archive will be compiled in accordance with the standards and requirements of the ADS, as set out on their website.
- 8.3 As no archaeological evidence was encountered, all relevant data has been incorporated into this assessment report and the paper/digital archive will be stored on the C1 cloud storage server or discarded.

Physical archive

- 8.4 The artefact/ecofact assemblage is the legal property of the landowner (excluding any items that fall under The Treasure Act 1996). However, it is usual practice for the landowner to transfer ownership of this assemblage to a receiving institution (usually a museum) once it has been fully assessed and/or analysed. Receiving institutions store the assemblage and make it publicly accessible. Alternatively, the landowner can

choose to keep the assemblage but arrangements must be made to ensure its long-term curation and public accessibility in accordance with NPPF.

- 8.5 As no archaeological artefacts or ecofactual material was encountered during the monitoring and recording, there is no physical archive.

Dissemination: report

- 8.6 Copies of the report will be submitted to the following:
- client and/or agent
 - the HES so that it can be included as part of the county Historic Environment Record (HER)
 - the ADS, via OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations – <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>)

Dissemination: publication

- 8.7 A short entry will be prepared for publication in the summary section of the next county archaeological journal.

9. Bibliography

Cranfield Soils and Agrifood Institute: Soilscales (CSAIS), 2017	Available at: http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/# accessed on 27 September 2017
Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CIfA), December 2014	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . Reading: CIfA
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), December 2014 (rev. 2015)	<i>Regulations for professional conduct</i> . Reading: CIfA
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), December 2014	<i>Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . Reading: CIfA
Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) 2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> , London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office
Geology of Britain viewer - British Geological Survey (BGS), 2017	Available at: http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html? , accessed on 27 September 2017
Wessex Archaeology, October 2014	<i>Army Rebasing: Larkhill East Site, Salisbury Wiltshire. Detailed Gradiometer Survey Report</i> , Wessex Archaeology (Geoservices), Unpublished report
Wiltshire County Council (WCC), 1995	<i>Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire</i> . County Archaeological Service Wiltshire County Council Libraries, Museums and Arts

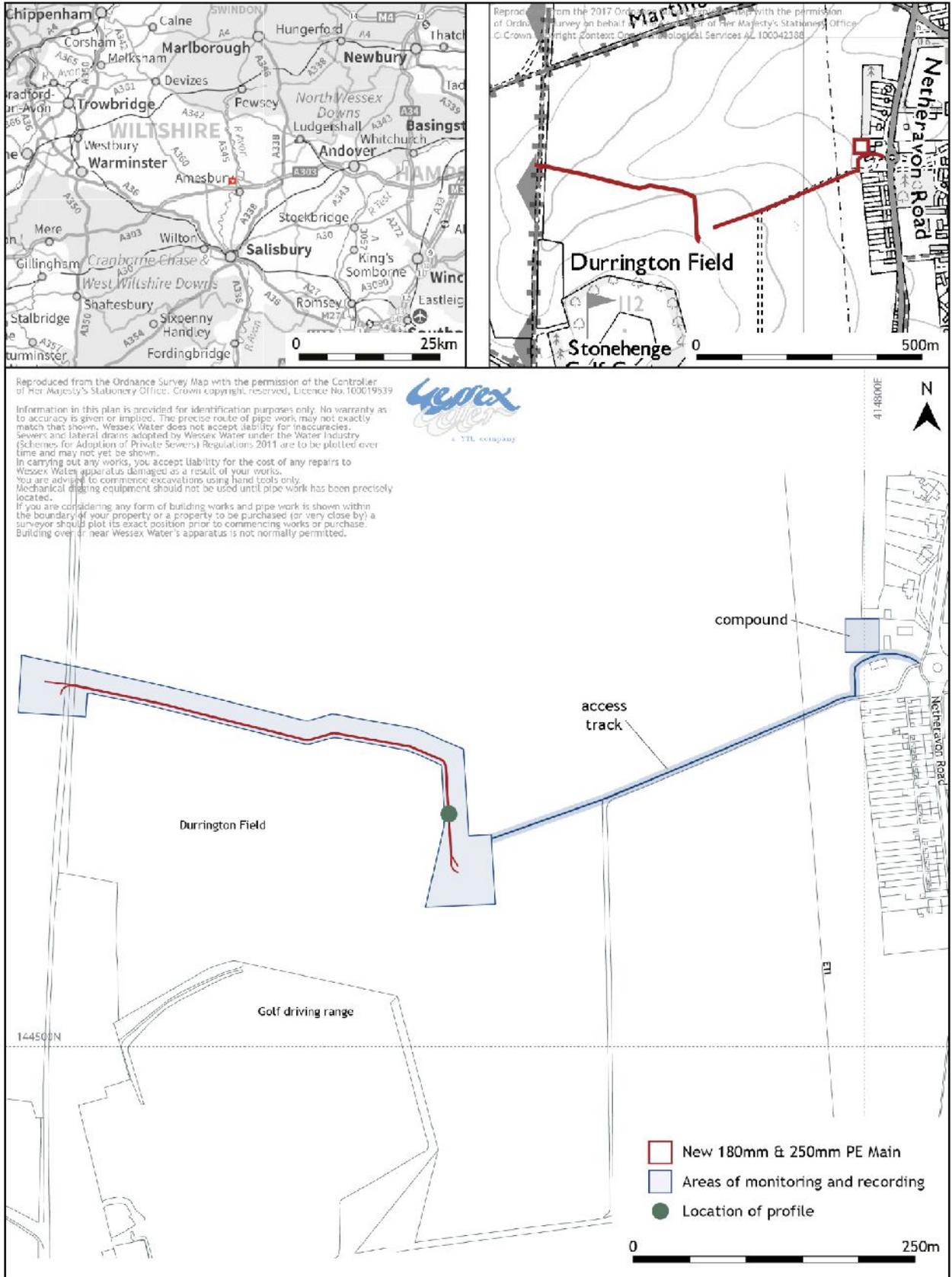


Figure 1. Site setting and area of monitoring and recording

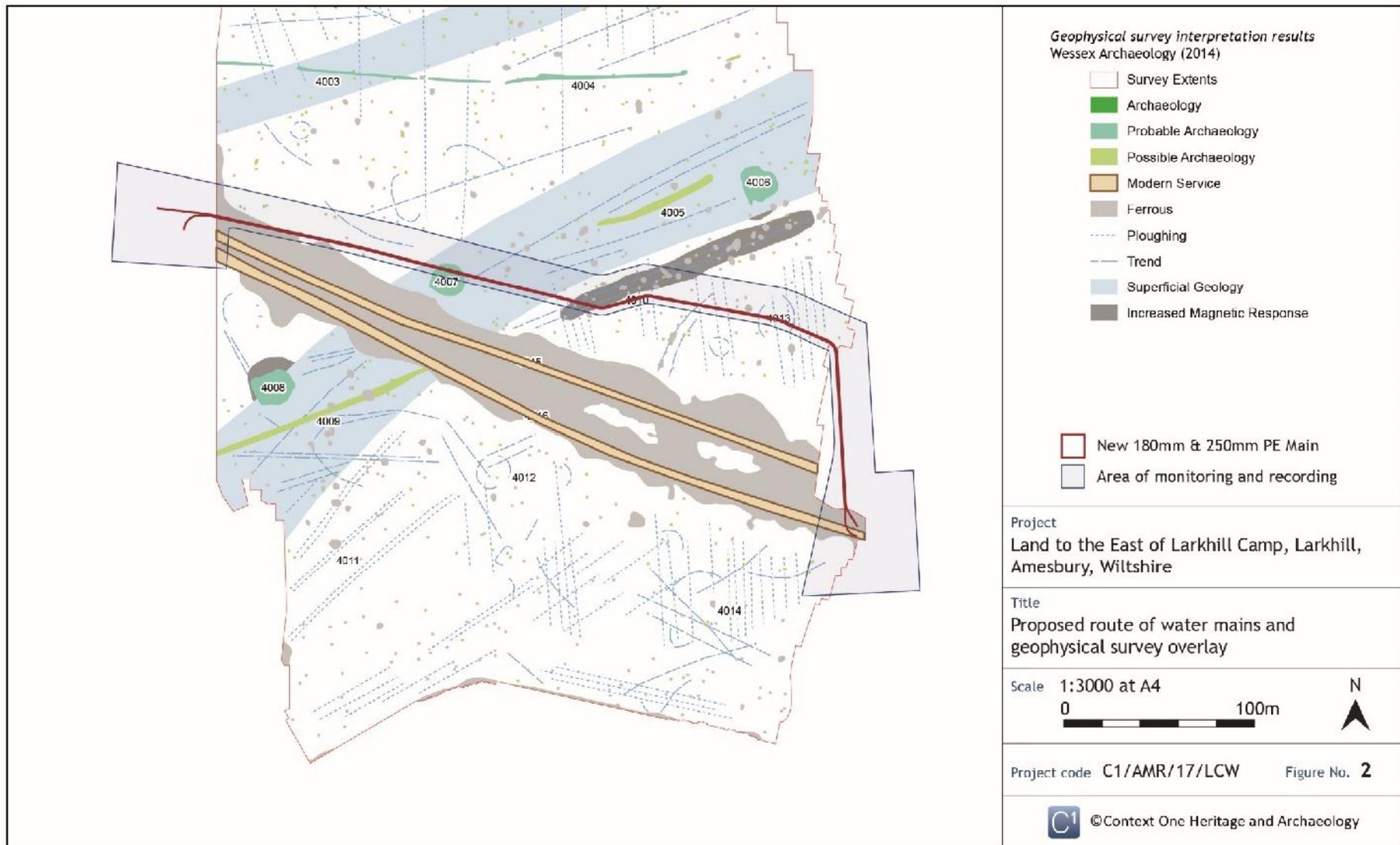


Figure 2. Proposed route of water mains & geophysical survey overlay



Plate 1. Access Track (facing NE)



Plate 2. Pipe trench (facing W)



Plate 3. Pipe trench (facing W)

Appendix 1: Context summary

CONTEXT NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	EARLIER THAN	CONTEMP. WITH	LATER THAN	LENGTH	WIDTH/DIAMETER	THICKNESS/DEPTH (m)
Profile 1									
100	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Friable dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) silty clay with frequent angular chalk fragments <0.05m and moderate angular flint fragments <0.10m	NA	-	101	-	-	0.30
101	Natural	Layer	Subsoil. Compacted white (10YR 8/1) chalk with gravel with occasional large angular flint <0.20m	100	-	NA	-	-	>1.0m

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