

BK250: Donhead St Andrew  
Reservoir  
Woodlands Lane  
Berwick St John  
Wiltshire

Archaeological Monitoring and  
Recording

**REPORT**

August 2018



**BK250: Donhead St Andrew Reservoir**  
**Woodlands Lane**  
**Berwick St John**  
**Wiltshire**

for

**C1 project code: C1/AMR/18/DSW**

**Wessex Water plc**

#### REPORT

Prepared by Clare Randall, Archaeological Officer  
 Date 06/08/2018

Approved by Cheryl Green, Post-Excavation Manager

Signed

Date 13/08/2018

Issue 01

#### PROJECT DETAILS

Client project/scheme ref.	BK250
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
Museum accession code	N/A
OASIS reference	contexto1-318979

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## Summary

*Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during topsoil stripping of a compound area associated with works at Donhead St Andrew Reservoir, Wiltshire. In addition, C1 demarcated the Scheduled Monument Berwick Coombe round barrow so that protective fencing could be erected to avoid ingress during the works. The project was commissioned by Wessex Water plc under a Term Agreement contract with C1.*

*The Site is situated within Cranborne Chase, a chalkland area renowned for the survival of concentrated and diverse archaeological remains, in particular Neolithic and Early Bronze Age sites. The Berwick Coombe round barrow (Historic England (HE) List Entry 1005586) is situated immediately east of the proposed reservoir works. Further to the north is Berwick Coombe ditch (HE List Entry 1005587), a Bronze Age cross ridge dyke, running across the southern summit of White Sheet Hill overlooking Berwick Coombe valley. Historic aerial photography of the Site has identified former ridge and furrow cultivation whilst historic map regression assessment shows several former field boundaries.*

*The Berwick Coombe round barrow was successfully located and fenced to prevent encroachment by machinery during the works to the nearby reservoir. The stripping of the works compound was observed, but this only impacted the top portion of the ploughzone, and no archaeological features or deposits were observed, although the full depth of the topsoil was not removed. No archaeological finds were observed or collected.*

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during topsoil stripping of a compound area associated with proposed works at Donhead St Andrew Reservoir, Wiltshire (the 'Site') (**Figure 1**). In addition, C1 demarcated the Scheduled Monument Berwick Coombe round barrow so that protective fencing could be erected to avoid ingress during the works. The project was commissioned by Wessex Water plc under a Term Agreement contract with C1.
- 1.2 The Site is situated within Cranborne Chase, a chalkland area renowned for the survival of concentrated and diverse archaeological remains, in particular Neolithic and Early Bronze Age sites. The Berwick Coombe round barrow (Historic England (HE) List Entry 1005586) is situated immediately east of the reservoir works. Further to the north is Berwick Coombe ditch (HE List Entry 1005587), a Bronze Age cross ridge dyke, running across the southern summit of White Sheet Hill overlooking Berwick Coombe valley.
- 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 (Green 2018); archaeological monitoring and recording; post-excavation and report production (this document); and archive preparation and deposition.
- 1.4 The requirement follows 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 ST 93766 23109) is located in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, c. 400m north of Berwick St John and c. 3.5km south-east of Donhead St Andrew. The reservoir works and Berwick Coombe round barrow are located in a field c. 900m north-west of the compound area and accessed via a track, c. 400m south of White Sheet Hill (**Figure 1**). The compound area was also within the field, bounded to the south-east by Woodlands Lane, and is situated on level ground at an average height of c. 150m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the northern end, dropping to c. 145m aOD at the southern end. The recorded geology for the Site is West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation, with superficial deposits of clay and silt (BGS 2018). The soils are characterised as shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone (CSAIS 2018). Prior to development works, the Site comprised agricultural land.
- 2.2 The Site lies within the rich archaeological landscape of Cranborne Chase. Of particular renown is the rare combination of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age sites which include one of the largest concentrations of burial monuments in England, the largest known cursus, and numerous henge monuments. In addition, there are a variety of enclosures, settlements, field systems and linear boundaries which perpetuate into the Romano-British and medieval periods. The high level of archaeological survival is in part owed to the utilisation of the Chase as a Royal Hunting Ground from at least Norman times, and subsequently associated laws controlling land-use up until 1830. As such, the Chase has attracted the attention of notable antiquarians and pioneering archaeologists including General Pitt-Rivers, Sir Richard Colt Hoare and Edward Cunnington.
- 2.3 Immediately adjacent to the proposed reservoir works is the Scheduled Berwick Coombe round barrow; although the HE List Entry (1005586) provides no details, it is recorded elsewhere as the site of a Bronze Age bowl barrow. To the north of the barrow, across the southern summit of White Sheet Hill is Berwick Coombe ditch (HE List Entry 1005587), also a Scheduled Monument. This is one of several notable well-preserved cross ridge dykes in Cranborne Chase, defined as substantial linear earthworks up to 1km in length running across ridges and spurs in upland locations, and from the Middle Bronze Age onwards, often subsequently reused, dating between the mid-2<sup>nd</sup> millennium and later 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC. They had roles as territorial boundary markers, trackways, cattle droeways or defensive earthworks. In addition, the slight earthwork remains of an Iron Age cross dyke (Monument No. 210727) and a probable Iron Age cross dyke (Monument No. 210730), both associated with a track system, are recorded within a 500m radius of the Site.

### 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 provide further information relating to the local historic environment of the area;
- provide sufficient information to enable further mitigation strategies to be determined, where appropriate
- provide protection for Berwick Coombe round barrow during the reservoir works

3.2 The research objectives were to:

- determine whether there is any evidence specifically relating to the rich archaeological landscape of Cranborne Chase

### 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 *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 Wiltshire County Historic Environment Service (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 groundworks comprised the machine excavation of topsoil in the location of the temporary compound. An archaeologist was on Site to monitor this operation with the aim of identifying and recording any archaeological features/deposits/finds present. Spoil was examined for the retrieval of artefacts. Manual excavation was not required.

4.8 The soil profile was recorded utilising standard C1 proformas direct onto an iPad mini-tablet. Soil colours were logged using a Munsell soil colour chart. 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 archaeological work, and included working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

### 5. Results

5.1 The Berwick Coombe round barrow was located and protected from the inadvertent encroachment of machinery with a screen of Heras fencing throughout the duration of the works. The stripping of the compound area (**Figure 1**) was observed. This only involved the removal of the turf (**Plate 1**). The topsoil was light grey (10 YR 7/1) soft silty chalk with frequent angular to rounded chalk fragments (<0.10m) and occasional flint fragments (<0.10m), more than 0.10m deep. The subsoil was not exposed or seen. No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

## 6. The finds

- 6.1 No archaeological artefacts or ecofacts were observed or recorded.

## 7. Discussion and Conclusion

- 7.1 The Berwick Coombe round barrow was located and fenced to prevent encroachment by machinery during the works to the nearby reservoir. The stripping of the works compound was observed, but this only impacted the top portion of the ploughzone, and no archaeological features or deposits were observed, although the full depth of the topsoil was not removed. No archaeological finds were observed or collected.

## 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 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.
- 8.5 No artefacts or ecofacts were collected during the course of this project.

### 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 By default, a short entry will be prepared for publication in the summary section of the next county archaeological journal or equivalent periodical.

## 9. Bibliography

British Geological Survey (BGS), 2018

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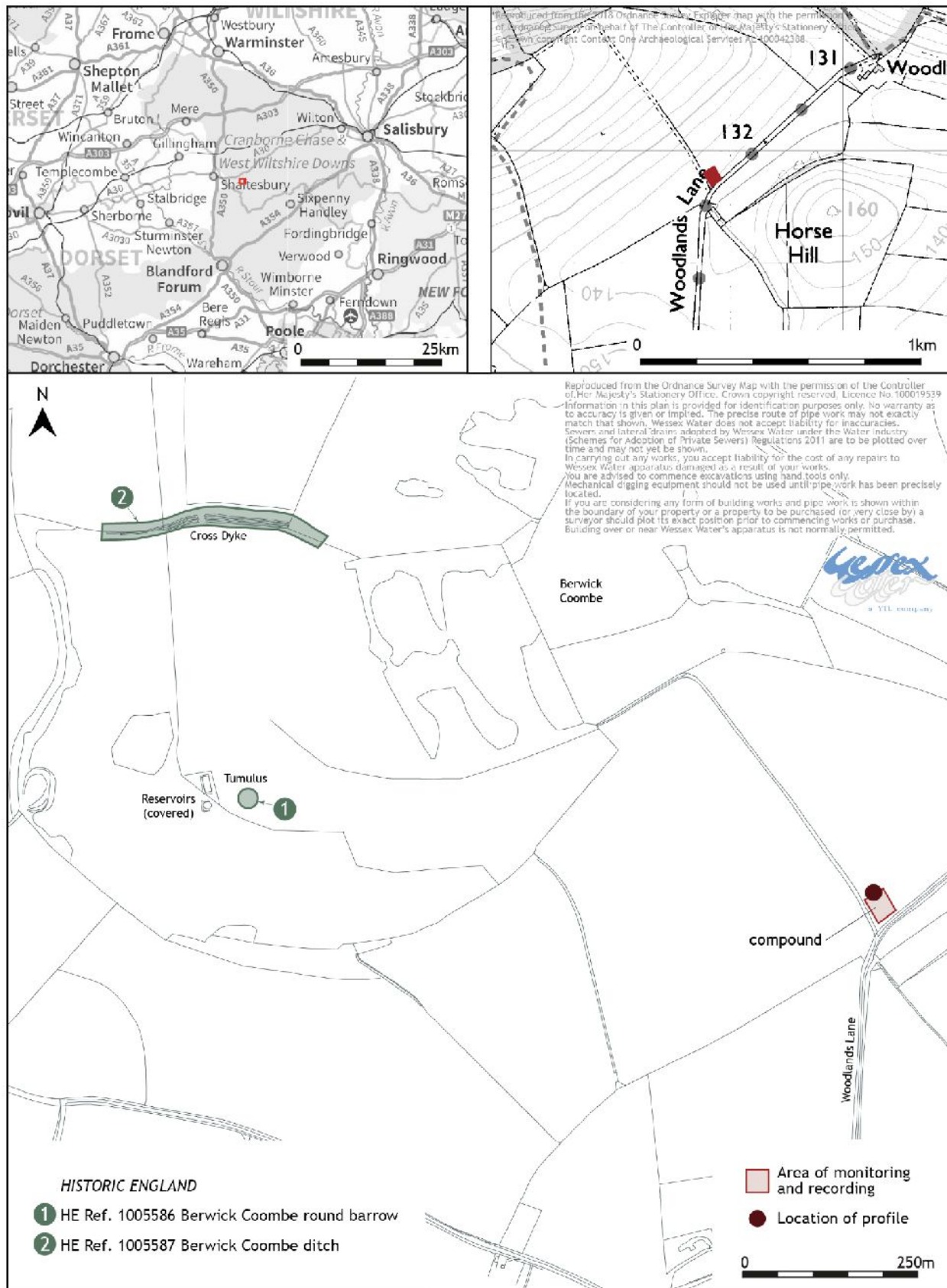


Figure 1. Site setting with location of heritage assets and area of monitoring and recording.





Plate 1. Compound with turf removed (facing S)

Hillside : Hunger Hill : East Stour : Gillingham : Dorset : SP8 5JS  
1 Emperor Way : Exeter Business Park : Exeter : Devon : EX1 3QS

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