Westside Close
Old Sarum, Salisbury

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design



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wessexarchaeology



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Footstep Active Living Ltd, to undertake an archaeological excavation of approximately 0.1 ha off Westside Close, Old Sarum, Salisbury, SP4 6BX. The excavation area was centred on NGR 415205 133780.

The excavation was carried out in association with a proposed residential development (planning application ref. PL/2021/09567), comprising the construction of 46 dwellings and associated works, on a site of 1.47 ha.

Trial trenching conducted in November 2021 identified an area of archaeological interest within the proposed development site. This was focussed on a small pit that contained Beaker pottery, animal bone, worked flint, burnt flint, a 'ball flint', charred hazel nut shell fragments, cereal grains and charcoal. The excavation, undertaken between 28 February and 8 March 2022, revealed two pits of potentially contemporary date in close proximity to this feature, although they contained smaller quantities of finds.

A tiny, residual sherd of Beaker pottery was also retrieved from one of two postholes during the evaluation. These features were resolved, during the excavation, to have formed part of a ring, approximately 4.5 m in diameter, of seven postholes. The post-ring was probably the remains of a small, late prehistoric (e.g., later Bronze Age/Early Iron Age) roundhouse. Small amounts of chronologically undiagnostic late prehistoric pottery, worked flint, animal bone, sparse and poorly preserved charred cereal grains, charcoal and hazel nut shell fragments also came from the postholes.

Other features encountered during the excavation included three small pits/postholes of uncertain date and function. Three larger, undated features, one of which (recorded during the evaluation) lay within the space described by the post-ring, were possibly quarry pits or tree-throw holes. Numerous natural features, mainly tree-throw holes, were also identified; none produced finds.

The results provide a relatively minor, yet valuable contribution to current understanding of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and later prehistoric occupation of the landscape north and east of Old Sarum – as revealed by other, more extensive investigations in the local area. There is little potential to gain further information through analysis of the stratigraphic records and finds. However, selective analysis of the environmental remains and scientific dating could inform on wild and domestic plant exploitation practices during the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and help to refine the regional chronology of domestic Beaker pottery. Accordingly, it is proposed that, following a limited programme of analysis, the results of the project are reported in the form of a short, illustrated article, to be submitted for publication in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine*.

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Westside Close, Old Sarum
Salisbury, Wiltshire

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Footstep Active Living Ltd ('the client'), to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising the excavation of approximately 0.1 ha off Westside Close, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6BX. The excavation area is centred on NGR 415205 133780 (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The excavation was carried out in association with a proposed residential development, comprising the construction of 46 dwellings on a site of 1.47 ha, with associated access, parking, public open space and landscaping works. A planning application for the development, submitted to Wiltshire Council, the local planning authority (LPA) in October 2021 (ref. PL/2021/09567), awaits consent (as of early July 2022).

1.1.3 The excavation was preceded by a desk-based assessment (DBA; Wessex Archaeology 2021a) and trial trench evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2021b), the latter of which identified archaeologically significant Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age remains within the development site. Accordingly, a formal consultation response issued by the Wiltshire County Archaeological Service (WCAS), the archaeological planning advisor to the LPA, advised that a condition should be attached to any subsequent grant of planning permission to secure a programme of additional archaeological work. This was recommended to entail excavation of the area of archaeological interest indicated by the trial trenching, followed by a programme of assessment, analysis, reporting and publication, commensurate with the significance of the results.

1.1.4 The scope of the excavation was established through consultation between Wessex Archaeology, on behalf of the client, and the WCAS. An approximately triangular area (Area 1) of 750 m^2 was targeted on the principal area of archaeological interest (centred on Trench 3 of the evaluation). A further two areas (Areas 2 and 3), each measuring 30 m by 4 m (120 m^2), were intended to examine the potential for the continuation of archaeological remains to the north and east.

1.1.5 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI), which detailed the aims, methods and standards to be employed for the fieldwork and post-excavation work (Wessex Archaeology 2022). The WCAS approved the WSI, on behalf of the LPA, prior to the fieldwork. The excavation was undertaken between 28 February and 8 March 2022.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 This report provides the provisional results of the excavation (and the evaluation) and assesses the potential to address the research aims outlined in the WSI. Where appropriate, it includes recommendations for further analysis, outlining the resources needed to achieve the aims (including the revised research aims arising from this assessment), leading to dissemination of the archaeological results via publication and curation of the archive.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The development site comprises a broadly rectangular area of approximately 1.4 ha within the Old Sarum residential development, some 4 km north of the centre of Salisbury. It lies north of The Portway, at the north-western end of Westside Close and immediately north-west of the Meeting House of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The north-eastern edge of the site is bounded by residential properties on Herman Way, and Partridge Way lies to the south-west. The grounds of Salisbury City Football Club are to the north-west.

1.3.2 The site is situated within a relatively flat area of land at approximately 75 m OD, with the land rising gently to the south-west and south-east.

1.3.3 The bedrock geology is Chalk of the Newhaven and Seaford Chalk Formations (British Geological Survey (BGS) 2022). No superficial deposits are recorded by the BGS.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Previous investigations

Trial trench evaluation (2021)

2.1.1 Six trial trenches were excavated within the development site in November 2021 (Fig. 1; Wessex Archaeology 2021b). The most significant feature, encountered in Trench 3, was a small pit (304; Fig 3a), 1 m in diameter and 0.3 m deep, that contained a single fill of dark greyish brown silty clay with common pea grit and chalk inclusions, and sparse flints. Fourteen sherds (81 g) of (probably coarse and fineware) Beaker pottery and three small, less closely datable prehistoric sherds (8 g) came from the pit. Other associated finds comprised animal bone (128 g, some burnt), worked flint (28 pieces, including flakes and broken flakes, two blades, two end scrapers and two other retouched pieces), burnt flint (13 pieces, 401 g), a 'ball flint' (bearing no obvious signs of use) and a fragment (250 g) of unworked, ferruginous stone. Samples of the pit's fill contained frequent charred hazel nut shell fragments, sparse and very poorly preserved cereal (wheat and barley) grains, and occasional pieces of charcoal. Two small postholes (306 and 308), 12 m to the south-west in the same trench, produced a tiny sherd of Beaker pottery (2 g), a late prehistoric (possibly later Bronze Age/Early Iron Age) sherd (7 g), and very small quantities of worked flint, burnt flint, animal bone, charcoal and charred cereal grain. Several tree-throw holes were also recorded, but the only other archaeological feature was a small, undated, east–west ditch (406) in Trench 4.

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric

2.2.1 The land between the valleys of the rivers Avon and Bourne north of Salisbury contains an extensive and complex palimpsest of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age remains. The most prominent component of this relict prehistoric landscape is the Iron Age hillfort of Old Sarum, which lies 1.5 km south-west of the site. Many other elements retaining surface expression as cropmarks or slight earthworks have been mapped across large areas via remote sensing surveys (as documented in the HER). Geophysical surveys, trial trenching and area excavations, largely undertaken in association with major residential developments, have added substantial detail to this. These include investigations immediately north-east and south-west of the site, beside the Portway (the 'Old Sarum' development; Wessex Archaeology 2004; 2006a; 2016a), and other extensive programmes of work immediately to the north-west (Longhedge; Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2013; Clarke and Mepham 2018; Wessex Archaeology 2013a–b) and 1.1 km to the south (Bishopdown/Hampton Park and

Greentrees Primary School; Wessex Archaeology 2014; 2016b). Proposals to develop the Old Sarum Airfield were also accompanied by trial trenching and geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2008; 2015). These sites predominantly await publication (Powell *et al.* forthcoming), but other, fully reported investigations include those associated with construction of the Beehive park and ride facility (Heaton 2003) and the installation of a water pipeline north of Old Sarum (Powell *et al.* 2005).

2.2.2 The earliest substantial features nearby comprise at least one, possibly two plough-levelled Early Neolithic long barrows, located approximately 1–1.2 km WSW of the site (Gill 2021). A grave containing the remains of an Early Neolithic crouched inhumation burial were identified at Bishopdown (Powell *et al.* forthcoming). Pits containing Middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware pottery, worked flints, animal bone and other finds, have also been recorded (e.g., Heaton 2003; Powell *et al.* 2005), including one with an especially rich and importance finds assemblage at the Old Sarum Airfield (Powell *et al.* forthcoming; Wessex Archaeology 2015). Another grave at the Old Sarum/Portway development site (Wessex Archaeology 2016a) held the remains of a crouched Beaker burial. Beaker pottery was also recovered in small quantities from other features on the Old Sarum/Portway site, and in greater abundance from pits at Bishopdown (Powell *et al*. forthcoming; Wessex Archaeology 2014) and the Old Sarum pipeline (Powell *et al.* 2005). Several Early Bronze Age round barrow cemeteries are recorded in the local area, mainly from aerial photographs. Four plough-levelled round barrows, associated with numerous cremation and inhumation graves, were excavated within the Old Sarum/Portway development site (Wessex Archaeology 2016a); three of the barrows, including a conjoined pair, lay 300 m south-west of the site, and the other 450 m to the north.

2.2.3 Remains of Middle–Late Bronze Age settlements, comprising numerous roundhouses, rectangular post-built structures and scatters of pits and postholes were recorded within the pipeline easement immediately north of Old Sarum (Powell *et al.* 2005) and at the Greentrees and Bishopdown/Hampton Park sites (Powell *et al*. forthcoming; Wessex Archaeology 2014; 2016b). The latter site also encompassed later Bronze Age inhumation graves and, further east, a highly unusual circular post-ring, 50 m in diameter, at the centre of which was a large roundhouse. A Late Bronze Age/Iron Age avenue of timber posts potentially extended over 1 km NNW–SSE through the Old Sarum/Portway, Greentrees and Bishopdown/Hampton Park sites (Powell *et al.* forthcoming; Wessex Archaeology 2014; 2016a–b). This partially coincided with a double 'Wessex Linear' ditch, which also continued north-west through the Longhedge site (Powell et al. forthcoming Wessex Archaeology 2015). The large scale land division is amongst the many probable later prehistoric features, including the remains of co-axial ('Celtic') field systems, recorded in this area by remote sensing techniques. Sites contemporary with the Old Sarum hillfort include an Early–Middle Iron Age enclosed settlement examined through geophysical survey and trial trenching at Longhedge (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2013; Wessex Archaeology 2013a). Similar enclosures, of varying scale, lay scattered across the landscape to the north (e.g., HER MWI10564; MWI10982; MWI10980; MWI11308; Powell 2012); although many are unexcavated, they are probably of late prehistoric or Romano-British date.

Romano-British

2.2.4 The Romano-British landscape would have been dominated by the small town (*Sorviodunum*) that developed beside the eastern entrance to Old Sarum and the roads that converged upon it. The Portway, 100 m south-east of the excavation areas, corresponds with the route of one of the Roman roads (Margary no. 4b) that extended north-east to Silchester (*Calleva Atrebatum*). Relatively little evidence of contemporary activity has been encountered during previous investigations in the vicinity of the excavations, although ditches found extending perpendicular to the Portway within the Old Sarum development

site (Wessex Archaeology 2016a) were thought to be of Romano-British date. The nature of the Ende Burgh (or Hand) barrow(s), situated beside the Portway 700 m to the north-east, is somewhat unclear (Stone 1935–37; NHLE 1005688), although it has been interpreted as a rare example of a Roman barrow.

Saxon and medieval

2.2.5 Documentary and archaeological evidence attest to later Saxon (*c*. 7th–10th century) re-occupation of Old Sarum, yet this remains poorly understood. A slightly earlier Saxon presence is evidenced by burials made around the Ende Burgh barrow(s), and others to the south-west that were possibly associated with a settlement in the Avon valley (Eagles *et al.* 2014). Old Sarum remained the focus of activity during the earlier part of the medieval period, with the construction of a Norman motte and bailey castle and cathedral inside the former hillfort, and the development of a town within and beyond its earthworks. Much of the landscape north-east of Old Sarum was probably in agricultural use (mainly pasture) before and after the foundation of the new town of Salisbury (New Sarum) in the early 13th century.

Post-medieval

2.2.6 A possible 17th-century enclosure with corner-bastions – perhaps a Civil War fortification – was identified 500 m north-west of the site at the Longhedge development site (Clarke and Mepham 2018). Remains of 20th-century military activity associated with the Old Sarum airfield (established *c*. 1917 and used throughout World War II) and a substantial temporary camp (probably used for marshalling of troops in preparation for D-Day) were also revealed at Longhedge (*ibid*.). Contemporary remains were found immediately south-east of the site prior to construction of the Meeting House (Wessex Archaeology 2006b). Map regression conducted as part of the desk-based assessment determined that, by 1842, the location of the development site was contained within a single field, set amongst a largely undeveloped expanse of agricultural land (Wessex Archaeology 2020, figs 4a–e). By 1926, a sewage works had been established in the northern corner of the site; this remained extant until at least 1946–7. Ground disturbance related to the former sewage works was recorded in the northern part of the site during a watching brief in 1995 (Wessex Archaeology 1995).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the excavation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022) and in compliance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a), were to:

- examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives;
- seek a better understanding of the resource;
- compile a lasting record of the resource; and
- analyse and interpret the results of the excavation and disseminate them.

3.2 Research objectives

3.2.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the South West Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF) (Webster 2007), the research objectives of the excavation defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022) were to:

- further investigate the activity identified in Trench 3;
- determine the extent and character of the prehistoric activity identified within Trench 3; and
- gather evidence relevant to SWARF Research Aim 28b: *The potential of 'small-scale' evidence such as pits and stake-holes needs to be realised. While individually not seemingly significant, will cumulative patterns emerge?*

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The post-excavation assessment and reporting followed advice issued by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO 2015). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.1.2 All works was undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within this WSI. Any significant variations to these methods were agreed in writing with the WCAS and the client prior to being implemented.

4.1.3 The accession number (SBYWM: 2021.54) obtained for the evaluation continued to be used for the excavation.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The excavation areas were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the same positions proposed in the WSI (Fig. 1). However, minor reductions in the excavated extent of each area (Area 1, 680 m²; Area 2, 105 m^2; Area 3, 80 m²) were required to avoid services and vegetation.

4.2.2 The topsoil/overburden was removed in level spits using a 360º excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded in level spits until the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.3 Where necessary, the surfaces of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation. A sample of natural features, such as tree-throw holes, was also investigated.

4.2.4 Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th-century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

Recording

4.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.

4.2.6 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.7 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

General

4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and CIfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 The WCAS monitored the works on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the WCAS.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

Summary of archaeological features and deposits

5.1.1 The excavation of Area 1 (Figs 1 and 2) revealed that the two postholes (306 and 308) identified in Trench 3 formed part of a small ring of seven inconclusively dated, but probably later prehistoric postholes. Four other small pits/postholes were encountered in the north-western part of Area 1. Two were undated, whilst the others, one of which was adjacent to the Beaker pit found in the evaluation (304; see section 2.2), were potentially of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. Three larger, undated features in Area 1, one of which (recorded in Trench 3) lay within the posthole ring, were recorded as possible quarry pits or tree-throw holes. The only other anthropogenic feature was a small undated pit in Area 3. Numerous natural features, mainly tree-throw holes, were identified in all three excavation areas.

Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data

5.1.2 All hand written and drawn records from the excavation have been collated, checked for consistency and stratigraphic relationships. Key data has been transcribed into a database, which can be updated during any further analysis. Preliminary phasing of archaeological features and deposits was principally undertaken using stratigraphic relationships and the spot dating from artefacts, particularly pottery.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The turf-covered topsoil across all three areas consisted of a dark brown silty clay loam, up to 0.25 m thick, with rare chalk fragments. The topsoil sealed a mid-reddish brown silty clay subsoil with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions. Finds from the topsoil included post-medieval pottery (two sherds, 15 g), animal bone (34 g), a fragment of clay pipe (1 g) and

a shard of post-medieval/modern glass (20 g). Two pieces of worked flint and a small sherd (2 g) of chronologically undiagnostic prehistoric pottery were recovered from the subsoil. The soils, which directly overlaid the Chalk substrate, were undisturbed except where patches of made-ground and modern disturbance were encountered beneath the topsoil in Area 2 and near the southern and eastern edges of Area 1. All archaeological features were cut into the upper surface of the Chalk and sealed by the subsoil.

5.3 Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (Beaker-period)?

5.3.1 Pit 728 was located in the northern part of Area 1, 1.50 m south-east of the Beaker pit (304) identified during the evaluation (Fig. 2; see section 2.2). The sub-circular pit was 0.56 m in diameter, 0.21 m deep and had irregular sides and a slightly irregular/undulating base (Figs 3b and 4). It contained a single fill of mid-greyish brown silty clay with common chalk and peagrit inclusions and sparse pieces of subangular flint. Associated finds comprise a sherd (16 g) of possible coarse Beaker pottery, another tiny (3 g) undiagnostic prehistoric sherd and four pieces of worked flint (including a possible Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age scraper). Samples of the pit's fill contained occasional fragments of charred hazel nut shell, cereal grains and charcoal.

5.3.2 Sub-ovate pit 714, 10.5 m south-west of pits 304 and 728 (Fig. 2), had vertical sides and a flat base, measured 0.72 m by 0.62 m and was 0.34 m deep (Figs 3c and 5). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown sandy silt with common chalk, subangular flint and peagrit inclusions. Although largely undiagnostic, elements of the small worked flint assemblage (13 pieces) from the pit, including a broken core, are potentially consistent with a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. Other finds comprise a piece of sarsen (possibly used as a hammerstone), a piece of burnt flint (95 g), small fragments of animal bone (17 g) and a tiny pottery sherd (1 g) of indeterminate prehistoric date. Associated samples contained charred cereal grains (some identifiable as barley and wheat), which were poorly preserved but comparatively abundant, and charcoal.

5.4 Later prehistoric

Post-ring 736

5.4.1 Five postholes (706, 709, 716, 722 and 726) in the western part of Area 1 were found to be associated with two others (306 and 308) previously recorded in Trench 3 of the evaluation (Fig. 2; see section 2.2). These were arranged semi-regularly, 1–2 m apart, in a ring with a diameter of approximately 4.5 m (front cover and Fig. 6).

5.4.2 The sub-circular/sub-ovate postholes measured 0.34–0.60 m wide and 0.13–0.34 m deep, and had steep to vertical sides and concave to sloping bases (Figs 3d–i and 7–8). They contained homogenous fills of mid-greyish brown silty clay with common pea grit, chalk fragments and sparse flint inclusions. No traces of post-pipes or packing material (e.g., stones) were apparent. Finds came from four of the seven postholes. One (306) yielded a tiny residual sherd (2 g) of Beaker pottery (part of the rim of a fineware vessel), four pieces of worked flint (two flakes and two chips) and a few small pieces of burnt (flint 57 g) and animal bone (8 g). Five sherds (33 g) of later prehistoric (possibly later Bronze Age/Early Iron Age) pottery and a small amount of animal bone (23 g) came from two others (308 and 726), and another (709) contained a piece of burnt flint (9 g). Samples from four postholes (306, 308, 722 and 726) contained sparse and poorly preserved charred cereal grains, charcoal and, in one instance (722), hazel nut shell fragments.

5.4.3 The post-ring probably formed the remains of a roundhouse, albeit one with a relatively small, yet conventional diameter (Pope 2003, 101). It is comparable in size and form to several others of Middle/Late Bronze Age date excavated 1.1 km to the south, at the

Greentrees and Bishopdown/Hampton Park sites (Wessex Archaeology 2014; 2016b; see section 8.1). There were no remains of internal structural elements or a porch/entrance structure. Any trace of the former may have been obscured by a large, undated oval feature (310; Fig. 2) recorded within the space described by the post-ring during the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2021b). This feature, 3 m by 1.7 m and approximately 0.5 m deep with an irregular profile and sterile fill, was interpreted as a possible tree-throw hole or quarry pit – similar to features 732 and 734 (see below). The atypically close-set arrangement of the southern-most postholes (306 and 308) possibly signals the position of an entrance (e.g., door-posts), although this would have been relatively narrow (1 m).

5.5 Undated

5.5.1 Sub-ovate posthole 711 (Fig. 2), in Area 1, was located approximately 2 m east of posthole ring 736 and immediately north east of possible Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pit 714. It measured 0.62 m by 0.37m, was 0.24 m deep and had moderately steeply sloping, concave sides and a concave/tapered base. No finds came from the feature.

5.5.2 Another posthole (704; Fig. 2), devoid of finds, was identified in the western corner of Area 1. It was sub-circular with steep, concave sides and a concave base, measured 0.22 in diameter and was 0.19 m deep.

5.5.3 Two more substantial, elongated features (732 and 734) – interpreted as possible quarry pits or tree-throw holes – were recorded to the south and south-west of posthole ring 736 in Area 1 (Fig. 2). Feature 732 measured 2.80 m by 1.60 m and was 0.58 m deep, and feature 734 (Fig. 9) measured 3.50 m by 1.44 m wide and was 0.43 m deep. Both had irregular sides and irregular-undulating bases, and each contained a single fill of mid-dark silty clay/silty clay loam with common chalk inclusions. The only associated find is a small fragment (2 g) of animal bone from feature 734.

5.5.4 Sub-ovate pit/posthole 718 (Fig. 2), in Area 3, measured 0.62 m by 0.44 m, was 0.08 m deep and had shallow concave sides and a concave base. It contained a single mid-greyish brown silty clay fill with common chalk inclusions. The only finds from the feature were a piece of worked flint (an undiagnostic flake) and a tiny, possibly intrusive fragment of post-medieval/modern ceramic building material.

5.5.5 Numerous tree-throw holes (e.g., Fig. 10) and other patches of bioturbation, of varied size and shape, were scattered throughout the excavation areas. Sample excavation of these features produced no finds.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A small finds assemblage amounting to approximately 1.3 kg was recovered. The assemblage ranges in date from prehistoric to modern, with a chronological focus on the prehistoric period. The finds have been cleaned and quantified by material type in each context and scanned to assess their nature, condition and potential date range. Totals by material type are presented in Table 1, along with a summary of the finds recovered from the 2021 evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2021b). This discussion refers to the material recovered during the excavation works only, whilst the combined assemblages from both evaluation and excavation stages of fieldwork are considered in the recommendations for future analysis.

Table 1 Summary of finds by material type, number and weight (g)

Material type	Evaluation		Excavation		Total	
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
Animal bone	52	165	14	76	66	241
Burnt flint	17	469	5	177	22	646
Ceramic building material	-	-	1	2	1	2
Clay pipe	-	-	1	1	1	1
Flint	33	939	25	522	58	1461
Glass	-	-	1	20	1	20
Pottery	19	98	10	63	29	161
Stone	1	250	1	321	2	571
Total	**122**	**1921**	**58**	**1182**	**180**	**3103**

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 A total of 10 sherds (63 g) was recovered from five contexts. This material dates to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, prehistoric and post-medieval periods. Sherds from each context have been sub-divided into broad ware groups based largely on dominant inclusion type(s) (e.g., shell and grog-tempered) and quantified by number and weight of pieces. Where possible, detail of vessel form and other diagnostic features have been noted and a spot date for each context has been assigned. A breakdown of the sherds by chronological period and ware type is presented in Table 2. The level of recording is consistent with the 'basic record' advocated for the rapid characterisation of pottery assemblages (Barclay *et al.* 2016, Section 2.4.5). Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs) have not been used due to the absence of any measurable rims.

6.2.2 The assemblage is in poor condition with many sherds, particularly the lightly fired prehistoric pieces, displaying surface abrasion and considerable edge damage. The poor condition is reflected in an overall mean sherd weight of 6.3 g.

Table 2 Pottery totals by chronological period and ware type

Period	Ware	No.	Wt (g)
Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age	Grog and flint-tempered ware	1	16
Prehistoric unspecified	Shell and grog-tempered ware	3	20
	Flint-tempered ware	2	9
	Grog-tempered ware	1	2
	Sand and flint-tempered ware	1	1
Preh. unsp. sub-total		*7*	*48*
Post-medieval	Redware	2	15
Total		**10**	**63**

Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age

6.2.3 The earliest diagnostic pottery comprises one sherd of coarse Beaker in a grog and flint-tempered ware from pit 728. The exterior of the sherd is decorated with finger-nail/tip impressions. The fabric and decorative techniques of this fragment are similar to sherds of coarse Beaker found within pit 304 in Trench 3 (Wessex Archaeology 2021b).

Prehistoric unspecified

6.2.4 Seven sherds could only be more broadly dated to the prehistoric period. These are present in a range of shell and grog-, flint-, grog- and sand and flint-tempered fabrics (Table 2). The majority are featureless body sherds found in pit 714, pit 728, posthole 726 and subsoil 702. Posthole 726 also contained two joining fragments from the base of a vessel in a shell and grog-tempered fabric; this vessel could possibly date to the later prehistoric (?Iron Age) period.

Post-medieval

6.2.5 Two joining sherds of post-medieval glazed redware came from topsoil 701.

6.3 Flint

6.3.1 A total of 25 pieces of worked flint was recovered from five separate contexts, of which seven pieces were unstratified (topsoil or subsoil). The remaining pieces were from pits 714 and 728 and possible pit 718. Neither of the two confirmed pits contained large assemblages, collections that predominantly comprised flakes and broken flakes. However, artefacts from these two features were notably fresher than the remaining collections, suggesting that they were contemporary with the filling of the feature.

6.3.2 The collections are difficult to date with any confidence. Artefacts are dominated by products of a flake technology, which suggest that they are of Late Neolithic or Bronze Age date. A broken core from pit 714 that has been flaked using a discoidal flaking strategy may also support a Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date.

6.3.3 The undoubted difficulties and uncertainties in dating these collections are due to the relatively small numbers of artefacts recovered. The pottery is also poorly preserved; however, the presence of Beaker sherds, albeit in small quantities, is a recurring feature and worthy of note. This thread is also supported by a scraper from pit 728, which, in isolation, cannot be dated with certainty, but may nevertheless be contemporary with and related to the Beaker sherds.

6.4 Stone

6.4.1 One item considered to derive from a portable stone object (Table 1) was collected from pit 714. It is a sub-oval fragment of sarsen with a tapering cross section broken at the wider end. A natural perforation measuring 12 by 9 mm is located close to the narrower end. The surviving curved edge shows signs of the item having been used as a possible hammerstone. Elsewhere in the local area pieces of sarsen are known to have been utilised throughout the prehistoric, including the Late Neolithic and Beaker periods, in a broad range of ways, as hammerstones, grindstones, whetstones and saddle querns (Jones and Harding forthcoming).

6.5 Animal bone

6.5.1 Fourteen fragments (76 g) of animal bone were recovered. The bones are in good condition and were assessed following current guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019).

6.5.2 A fragment of cattle mandible and three sheep/goat elements (a loose tooth and two first phalanges) were recovered from pit 714 of possible prehistoric date. A pair of femurs from a dog or fox were recovered from late prehistoric posthole 726, and an unidentifiable fragment of bone came from undated feature 734. In addition, a sheep/goat tibia was recovered from topsoil 701, the bone is from an improved modern breed.

6.6 Other finds

6.6.1 Five pieces of burnt flint were recovered (topsoil 701, posthole 709 and pit 714). This material type is intrinsically undatable but is often taken as an indicator of prehistoric activity. A single fragment of ceramic building material, probably deriving from a post-medieval/modern roof tile, was found in pit 718. Given its size this piece cannot reliably date the feature. Other finds include a stem fragment from a post-medieval clay tobacco pipe and a post-medieval/modern green glass beverage bottle rim, both from topsoil 701.

6.7 Conservation

6.7.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field or during the assessment of this material.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Four bulk samples were taken from pits and postholes of probable Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and later prehistoric date. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of environmental evidence.

7.2 Aims and methods

7.2.1 The aim of this assessment is to determine the nature and significance of the environmental remains preserved at the site, and their potential to address the project aims. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with Historic England's guidelines (English Heritage 2011).

7.2.2 The samples were on average 22 litres in volume and were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse residue fractions (>4 mm) were sorted by eye for artefactual and environmental remains and discarded. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank and manually; the flots were retained on a 0.25 mm mesh and residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The flots and fine residue fractions were examined using a Brunel BMSZ stereomicroscope at up to x40 magnification.

7.2.3 Different potential indicators of bioturbation were noted, including the percentage of modern roots and abundance of modern seeds, alongside the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g., *Cenococcum geophilum*), burrowing blind snails (*Cecilioides acicula*), earthworm eggs, and modern insects.

7.2.4 Plant remains were identified through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Carruthers and Smith 2020). Selected charcoal and wood fragments were identified through examination of the transverse, tangential longitudinal, and radial longitudinal sections at up to x400 magnification using a Kyowa ME-LUX2 microscope. Charcoal identifications were assisted by the descriptions of Gale and Cutler (2000), Hather (2000), and Schweingruber (1990), together with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereals and other cultivated crops (using traditional names).

7.2.5 Remains within flots and residues were recorded semi-quantitatively on an abundance scale: C = <5 ('Trace'), B = 5–10 ('Rare'), A = 10–30 ('Occasional'), A* = 30–100 ('Common'), A** = 100–500 ('Abundant'), A*** = >500 ('Very abundant/Exceptional').

7.3 Results

7.3.1 The results are presented in Appendix 1. The samples produced small flots containing low concentrations of wood charcoal and charred plant remains. All the flots are dominated by modern roots, modern seeds, and terrestrial molluscs, including the abundant shells of the blind burrowing snail which are exceptionally abundant. Other material comprises highly fragmented coal and clinker/cinder.

7.3.2 Pit 728 produced occasional charred plant remains, including hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragments, a poorly preserved indeterminate cereal (Triticeae) grain, and a black-bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*) seed. The hazel nutshell fragments are relatively large (>4 mm sieve fraction), although they are slightly abraded. The wood charcoal is highly fragmented.

7.3.3 Two samples from posthole group 736 (features 722 and 728) only contain trace quantities of highly fragmented charcoal and charred plant remains. This includes a tiny hazel nutshell fragment and an indeterminate cereal grain.

7.3.4 The sample from pit 714 differs in composition to other features sampled. It contains a slightly higher concentration of charcoal and charred cereal grains, most of which are in a very poor state of preservation. Identifiable cereals include several barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grains alongside some wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains. Other charred plant remains are restricted to grasses (Poaceae). The charcoal is highly fragmented, although it includes some oak (*Quercus* sp.).

8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

8.1 Stratigraphic potential

Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (Beaker-period)

8.1.1 The Beaker pit (304) from the evaluation and two other potentially contemporary pits (714 and 728) identified during the excavation seem consistent with the often insubstantial remains of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age occupation occasionally recorded in the local area. Similar pits, usually containing relatively small quantities of pottery, flint and other remains that might be characterised as debris produced by domestic activities, have been recorded at Bishopdown/Hampton Park and Greentrees (Powell *et al*. forthcoming; Wessex Archaeology 2014; 2016b), the Old Sarum pipeline (Powell *et al*. 2005) and at the southern edge of Amesbury (Powell and Barclay forthcoming). Occasional pieces of flintwork and sherds of pottery found residually in other contexts (e.g., at the Old Sarum/Portway site; Wessex Archaeology 2016a) provide further evidence of Beaker-period activity. The nature of this evidence generally seems indicative of relatively transient episodes of occupation, probably by largely itinerant groups, or involving forms of domestic activity that were unlikely to produce easily recognisable archaeological signatures.

8.1.2 More substantial Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age remains have also been excavated in the local area, including the remains of Beaker burial found 420 m to the south-west at the Old Sarum/Portway development site (Wessex Archaeology 2016a) and a truncated grave or pit at the Greentrees site containing a large assemblage of Beaker pottery, flintwork, animal bone and a basket-shaped ornament of sheet gold (Powell *et al.* forthcoming; Wessex Archaeology 2016b). Traces of Beaker-period settlement-related activity, however, remain

rare and rather poorly understood – certainly in relation to the more prominent evidence of contemporary mortuary activity and monument building in the surrounding landscape.

8.1.3 Whilst the Westside Close pits constitute a valuable addition to the recorded distribution of Beaker-period activity in this landscape, they exhibited little stratigraphic complexity or obvious indications of 'structuration' and produced only sparse finds and environmental assemblages. Consequently, there is little opportunity to gain additional information (e.g., exploring aspects of depositional practises and the nature of occupation) through further analysis of the stratigraphic information pertaining to the pits.

Late prehistoric

8.1.4 The tiny sherd of Beaker pottery from post-ring 736 – the presumed remains of a roundhouse – was almost certainly residual. Very few Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age roundhouses have been convincingly reported, although one such structure, 5.2 m in diameter, was potentially identified south-east of Amesbury (Powell and Barclay, forthcoming). Another less compelling example, of similar size, was recorded at the Greentrees site (Powell *et al.* forthcoming). In any case, at Westside Close, a more conventional, probably later Bronze Age–earlier Iron Age date is indicated by the small quantity of chronologically undiagnostic, but nevertheless later prehistoric pottery from the post-ring.

8.1.5 The post-ring is comparable in form to the remains of numerous Middle and Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age roundhouses recorded approximately 1 km to the south within the Old Sarum Pipeline, Greentrees and Bishopdown/Hampton Park sites (Powell *et al.* 2005; Powell *et al*. forthcoming; Wessex Archaeology 2014; 2016a–b). These were almost invariably of simple, single post-ring construction (with and without evidence of entrance porches) and ranged between 4–9 m in diameter. Unlike these other excavated examples, however, the suspected roundhouse at Westside Close was not surrounded by any obviously associated remains. Other features, such as insubstantial pits and postholes, could have gone undetected beyond the excavated areas and trenches, although previous work in the immediate vicinity (Wessex Archaeology 2006b; 2013c; 2016a) encountered no evidence of contemporary activity. This may imply some variability in the duration, location/distribution and character of later prehistoric occupation in the local area. Whilst this is potentially of some interest, when considered in the context of the wider landscape, there is little potential to glean additional information from further study of the post-ring. There is, for instance, no indication of structural or developmental complexity, nor for processes associated with the disuse/abandonment/decay/dismantlement of the structure or its specific date and function.

8.2 Finds potential

8.2.1 Preservation of artefacts across the site varies from poor to moderate. Chronological evidence indicates activity during the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age to post-medieval/modern periods. However, the range of material culture is limited with all categories occurring in small quantities. Analysis of the prehistoric assemblage by material type (pottery, worked flint, stone, animal bone) will contribute to understanding the chronology and character of human activity within the wider landscape.

8.2.2 The distribution and location of domestic Beaker activity is frequently difficult to predict and often occurs as small clusters of pits, as here at Old Sarum. Similar pit clusters have been found unexpectedly on the North Wiltshire (Marlborough) Downs (Gingell 1992). Dating could be refined by obtaining radiocarbon determinations on the complete pig mandible and charred plant remains from Beaker pit 304. The presence of Beaker activity, if confirmed,

will add considerably to the corpus of archaeological work that has taken place at Old Sarum and across Bishopdown (Powell and Wells, forthcoming; Wessex Archaeology 2014; 2016a–b).

8.2.3 The pottery has provided a preliminary chronological framework for the site. Given the low numbers of diagnostic vessel forms further analysis will be of limited help in refining this sequence further. However, more detailed comparison with other assemblages from the area (e.g., Wessex Archaeology 2014; Wessex Archaeology 2016a and b; Leivers forthcoming; Brook forthcoming), as well as the potential to review the group from pit 304 for which radiocarbon dates may be obtained, will help in refining the ceramic chronology for the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period.

8.2.4 The animal bones from both stages of fieldwork have been fully recorded and have limited potential to provide further information beyond that presented above.

8.2.5 The other material categories (burnt flint, ceramic building material, clay pipe, glass and stone) have limited potential to provide further information beyond that already recorded.

8.3 Environmental potential

8.3.1 There is potential for analysis of the charred plant remains from these samples, in conjunction with the samples which were previously taken during the evaluation. It is recommended that additional work primarily focuses on establishing the dating of the cereal grains recovered. This would confirm if the cereal grains are likely to be later intrusions, or if the site contains rare evidence for cereals in the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age period (cf. Pelling *et al.* 2015). Current evidence suggests that cereal cultivation may have been largely abandoned in the Late Neolithic across southern England, only to re-emerge again around the Early Bronze Age (Stevens and Fuller 2012). Very few cereal grains have been directly radiocarbon dated from Late Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age from sites within the Stonehenge World Heritage Site and surrounding region, making it difficult evaluate their importance in this period (Pelling and Campbell 2013). If any of these cereal grains return a Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date, this would be of regional significance. Quantification of the assemblage would make this dataset available for inclusion in future syntheses. Further analysis of the charred plant remains would also provide additional information on the nature of wild plant exploitation practices and the potential importance of cereal cultivation. No further work is recommended on the charcoal assemblage.

8.3.2 It is recommended that a barley grain from pit 304 (sampled during the evaluation) is submitted for radiocarbon dating, alongside a sample from the complete pig mandible from the same feature. This paired dating approach would be required to obtain an accurate date for the feature.

8.4 Summary of potential

8.4.1 The results provide a relatively minor, yet valuable contribution to understanding of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and later prehistoric occupation of the landscape north and east of Old Sarum, as revealed by more extensive investigations in the local area. Whilst there is little potential to gain further information through analysis of the stratigraphic records and finds, selective analysis of the environmental remains and scientific dating is warranted. The results are of at least local significance and merit wider dissemination.

9 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

9.1 Updated project aims

9.1.1 The original project aims have been achieved insofar as is possible. The revised aims of the project are to:

- Contextualise the excavation results through a review of the known archaeology of the local area and wider region;
- Process and analyse a selection of the paleoenvironmental samples to inform on wild and domestic plant exploitation practices;
- Obtain radiocarbon dates from Beaker pit 304 to test for evidence for Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age cereal cultivation and help to refine the chronology of domestic Beaker pottery in this region; and
- Disseminate the results of the project.

9.2 Stratigraphic evidence – recommendations for analysis

9.2.1 It is recommended that grey literature reports, published sites/excavations, synthetic studies and other relevant sources are reviewed to enable the results to be contextualised and understood more fully. No further analysis of the stratigraphic evidence is proposed.

9.3 Finds evidence – recommendations for analysis

9.3.1 The pottery has already been recorded to sufficient levels in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's guidelines (Morris 1992). This equates to a Basic Record of analysis according to the nationally recognised guidelines (Barclay *et al.* 2016, 16–17). A summary report should be compiled based on the completed assessments integrating the results from the evaluation and with reference to other comparable assemblages in the area.

9.3.2 A small selection of artefacts that are representative of the Beaker related activity (including two decorated body sherds and up to two flints yet to be selected) may be illustrated.

9.3.3 A summary of the animal bones should be included in any future dissemination of the fieldwork results.

9.3.4 No further work is recommended for the burnt, unworked flint, ceramic building material, clay pipe, glass and stone although the information gathered as part of this assessment will be adapted for use in the final publication.

9.4 Environmental evidence – recommendations for analysis

9.4.1 The selection of samples proposed for charred plant remain analysis are indicated with a 'P' in Table 3. All identifiable charred plant remains will be extracted from the flots. These remains will be fully quantified, and the analysis results tabulated. Recording will follow Antolín and Buxó (2011) for cereals and Antolín *et al*. (2016) for hazel nutshell, with a consideration of taphonomic factors (cf. López-Dóriga 2015; Bishop 2019). The identifications will be undertaken using a stereomicroscope at up to x40 magnifications through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (Cappers *et al*. 2006). Plant nomenclature will follow Stace (1997) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereals.

Table 3 Environmental evidence: analysis recommendations

Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Analysis recommendations
Pit	304	305	-	248261_1	P, C14
Posthole	306	307	-	248261_2	
Posthole	308	309	-	248261_3	
Small pit/posthole	728	729	-	248263_701	P
Posthole	726	727	736	248263_702	
Pit	722	723	736	248263_703	
Pit	714	715	-	248263_704	

9.5 Radiocarbon dating recommendations

9.5.1 Two samples will be submitted for radiocarbon dating:

- charred plant remains (cereal grain) from Beaker pit 304 (context 305);
- complete pig mandible from Beaker pit 304 (context 305; Wessex Archaeology 2021b, 10).

9.6 Proposals for publication

9.6.1 It is proposed that, following the analyses recommended above (sections 9.2–9.5), the results of the project are reported in the form of a short, illustrated article, of up to 5000 words, which will be submitted for publication in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine*.

9.7 Programme for analysis and publication

9.7.1 Analysis and publication will commence when this document and the proposals therein have been approved by the WCAS on behalf of the LPA, and the work has been commissioned in full by the client.

9.7.2 Typically, the analysis and publication programme for a project of this scale and complexity will take around 12 months but will vary depending on the availability of specialists and external laboratories. A project-specific programme will be developed and agreed at the time of commission.

9.8 Personnel and resources

9.8.1 The following Wessex Archaeology core staff are scheduled to undertake the work as outlined in the task list for post-excavation analysis and publication.

Table 4 Task list

Task no.	Task description	Days	Staff
Management and support			
1	Project management	1	T Wells
3	Environmental management	0.25	S Aerts
Pre-analysis			
4	Project meetings	0.5	All
5	Background research	0.5	All
6	Extraction of environmental materials	0.75	tbc

Draft

Task no.	Task description	Days	Staff
Analysis and specialist reporting			
Stratigraphic			
7	Stratigraphic reporting	1.5	R Fitzpatrick
Finds			
8	Pottery and other finds reporting	1	E Brook
9	Illustrations: finds	2	WA Studio
Environmental			
10	Plant remains analysis and reporting	2	E Treasure
Scientific dating			
11	Radiocarbon dates x 2	-	EXT – radiocarbon laboratory
12	Radiocarbon reporting	0.5	E Treasure
Report compilation			
13	Introduction and background	0.5	R Fitzpatrick
14	Compile and integrate report	0.5	R Fitzpatrick
15	Discussion	1	R Fitzpatrick
16	Bibliography, captions (figures, plates and tables) and prepare brief for illustrations	1	R Fitzpatrick
17	Prepare illustrations	1	WA Studio
18	Edit report	0.75	P Andrews / D McOmish
19	Revise report following internal edit	1	All
20	Revise report following curatorial and journal review and check proofs	0.5	All
21	Journal publication cost	-	EXT – *WANHM*
Archiving			
22	Third-party liaison	0.15	WA Archivist
23	Archive preparation	0.5	WA Archivist
24	Archive scan	0.15	WA Archivist
25	Finds archive check	0.15	WA Archivist
26	Environmental archive final check	0.15	WA Archivist
27	Digital archive preparation	1.25	WA Archivist
28	Transport costs	-	EXT
29	Physical archive deposition	0.25	WA Archivist
30	Museum fee (box storage grant)	-	EXT – Salisbury Museum
31	Digital archive deposition	1	WA Archivist
32	ADS fee	-	EXT – ADS

9.9 Management structure

9.9.1 The team will be headed by a Project Manager, who will assume ultimate responsibility for the execution of the project as outlined in the Updated Project Design. The Project Manager will ensure performance targets, be they academic or budgetary, are met within the agreed timetable.

9.9.2 The Project Manager may delegate specific aspects of the project to other key staff, who will supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. They may also liaise with external consultants and specialists who are contributing to the publication, and the recipient museum of the project archive.

9.9.3 The Project Manager will be assisted by the Senior Research Manager, who will ensure that the report meets internal quality standards as defined in Wessex Archaeology's guidelines.

10 STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 Museum

10.1.1 The archive resulting from the excavation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Salisbury Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code SBYWM: 2021.54. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

10.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

10.2.1 The physical archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Salisbury Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; CIfA 2014c; SMA 1995).

10.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the accession code (SBYWM: 2021.54) and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- two cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
- files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics

Digital archive

10.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata. Full details of the collection, processing and documentation of digital data are given in the project Digital Management Plan (available on request).

10.3 Selection strategy

10.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, ie the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

10.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy: available on request) and follows CIfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be

agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

10.3.3 Detailed selection proposals for the complete project archive (combining evaluation and excavation), comprising finds, environmental material and site records (analogue and digital), are made in the site-specific Selection Strategy (Appendix 2). The proposals are summarised below.

Finds

- Animal bone (66 fragments): small assemblage, future potential limited to radiocarbon dating. Retain all from securely dated contexts (Beaker pit 304 and posthole 306). Discard all from poorly dated contexts.
- Burnt, unworked flint (22 pieces): undiagnostic. Discarded
- Ceramic building material (one piece): negligible quantity, no further research potential; Do not retain
- Clay pipe (one piece): negligible quantity, no further research potential; Do not retain
- Flint (58 pieces): stratified within features of prehistoric date; further research potential. Retain all
- Glass (one piece): negligible quantity, no further research potential; Do not retain
- Pottery (29 sherds): 27 pieces Beaker and prehistoric date from stratified deposits; of local significance with some further research potential. Retain all. Two sherds post-medieval negligible quantity, no further research potential; Do not retain
- Stone (two fragments): from stratified deposits of prehistoric date; some further research potential. Retain

Environmental material

10.3.4 The material retrieved from environmental samples merits retention with the site archive for future access. The selection strategy is summarised in Appendix 2.

Documentary records

10.3.5 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

10.3.6 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

10.4 Security copy

10.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital

preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

10.5 OASIS

10.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (http://oasis.ac.uk) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 3). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the ACA WC on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

11 COPYRIGHT

11.1 Archive and report copyright

11.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

11.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

11.2 Third party data copyright

11.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Environmental assessment summary

Area	Phase	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Preservation
1	Prehistoric	Pit	728	729	-	248263_701	19	50	95%, A***, *C. acicula* A***	C	-	Triticeae	A	*Corylus avellana* nutshell frags., *Fallopia convolvulus*	<1	-	Moll-T A***, coal (A*) frag., clinker/cinder (C) frag.	Poor
1	Late prehistoric?	Posthole	726	727	736	248263_702	10	10	99%, A***, *C. acicula* A***	C	-	Triticeae grain frag.	-	-	<2mm	-	Moll-T A***, coal (A*) frag., clinker/cinder (C) frag.	Poor
1	-	Pit/posthole	722	723	736	248263_703	18	10	99%, A***, *C. acicula* A***	-	-	-	C	*Corylus avellana* nutshell (tiny)	<2mm	-	Moll-T A***, coal (A*) frag., clinker/cinder (C) frag.	Poor
1	Prehistoric	Pit	714	715	-	248263_704	40	20	99%, A***, *C. acicula* A***	A*	-	*Triticum* sp., *Hordeum* sp. Triticeae grain frags	B	Poaceae (small + medium-seeded)	1	*Quercus* sp. mature stw	Moll-T A***, coal (A*) frag., clinker/cinder (C) frag.	Poor

Key: Scale of abundance: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30–99, A = 30–10, B = 9–5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (abundance), *C. acicula* (abundance), Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs; Charcoal stw = stemwood

Appendix 2 Selection Strategy

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248263

Land at Westside Close, Old Sarum, Wiltshire

version 2, 25/07/2022

Selection Strategy

Project Information

Project Management		
Project Manager	Damian De Rosa	
Archaeological Archive Manager	Lorraine Mepham	
Organisation	Wessex Archaeology (WA)	
Stakeholders		**Date Contacted**
Collecting Institutions	Salisbury Museum Archaeology Data Service (ADS)	
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Lead: Virva Lompolo Assurance: Damian De Rosa	N/A
Landowner / Developer	TBC by client (Footstep Active Living Ltd)	
Other (external)	County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (WCAS)	
Other (internal)	WA Finds Manager (Rachael Seager Smith) WA Environmental Officer (Sander Aerts) WA Geomatics & BIM Manager (Chris Breeden) WA internal finds & environmental specialists (see WSI)	N/A; briefed as part of standard project process
Resources		
Resources required	WA Finds and Environmental specialists; WA archives team	
Context		

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This overarching selection strategy document is based on the CIfA Archives Selection Toolkit (2019) and relates to archaeological project work being undertaken by Wessex Archaeology as defined in the WSIs. It will be modified as the project progresses.

Relevant standards, policies and guidelines consulted include:

General

- *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1993)
- *Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF, revised edition 2011, section 4)
- *Salisbury Museum Guidelines and Conditions for the Preparation and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2019)

Relevant research agendas

- South West Archaeological Research Framework Resource Assessment and Research Agenda (Somerset County Council 2007)

Finds

- *Standard Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation & research of archaeological materials* (CIFA, 2014)
- *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman Pottery, Medieval Pottery Research Group 2016)

Environmental

- *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory, Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011)
- *Geoarchaeology: Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record* (Historic England 2015)
- *Guidelines for the Curation of Waterlogged Macroscopic Plant and Invertebrate Remains* (English Heritage 2008)
- *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recording, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood* (English Heritage 2010)
- *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation* (Historic England 2018)

Research objectives of the project

Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (Somerset County Council 2007), the research objectives of the excavation were to:

- further investigate the activity identified in evaluation trench 3;
- determine the extent and character of the prehistoric activity identified within trench 3;
- Research Aim 28b: The potential of “small-scale” evidence such as pits and stake-holes needs to be realised. While individually not seemingly significant, will cumulative patterns emerge? (Somerset County Council 2007)

REVIEW POINTS

Consultation with all Stakeholders regarding project-specific selection decisions will be undertaken at a maximum of two project review points:

1. End of data gathering (assessment stage)
2. Archive compilation

1 – Digital Data

Stakeholders

WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; WA Geomatics & BIM Manager; WCAS; ADS

Selection

Location of Data Management Plan (DMP)

This document is designed to link to the project Data Management Plan (DMP), which can be supplied on request.

To promote long-term future reuse deposition file formats will be of archival standard, open source and accessible in nature following national guidance from ADS 2013, CIfA 2014c and the requirements of the digital repository.

Any sensitive data to be handled according to Wessex Archaeology data policy to ensure it is stored and transferred securely. The identity of individuals will be protected in line with GDPR. If required, data will be anonymised and redacted. Selection and retention of sensitive data for archival purposes will occur in consultation with the client and relevant stakeholders. Confidential data will not be selected for archiving and will be handled as per contractual obligation.

Document type	Selection Strategy	Stakeholders	Review Points
Site records	Most records will be completed digitally on site (with the exception of registers). All will be selected for deposition.	As above	1, 2
Reports	To include WSIs, Interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports. Final versions only will be selected for deposition.	As above	1, 2
Specialist reports	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with only minimal editing (reformatting, etc), and will be selected only if the original differs significantly from the incorporated version.	As above	1, 2
Photographic media (site recording)	Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; pre-excavation images may not be selected where duplicated by post-excavation shots; working shots will be very rigorously selected to include only good quality images with potential for reuse and those integral to understanding features, their inter-relationships and location on site; site condition and reinstatement photos will not be selected.	As above	1, 2

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Photographic media (objects)	Images of individual or groups of objects, to include those of significance selected for publication and reporting. Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; all others will be selected.	As above	1, 2
Photographic media (community engagement and other activities)	General shots, promotional videos, etc. None will be selected, unless images are generated that are not duplicated in the main site record, but which have specific archaeological value.	As above	1, 2
Survey data	Site survey data will be used to generate CAD/GIS files for use in post-excavation activities. Shapefiles of both the original tidied survey data, and the final phased drawings will be selected.	As above	1, 2
Databases and spreadsheets	Context, finds and environmental data in linked databases. Final versions will be selected. Any specialist data submitted separately will also be selected.	As above	1, 2
Administrative records	Includes invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, email correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	As above	1, 2

De-Selected Digital Data

De-selected data will be stored on WA secured servers on offsite storage locations. The WA IT department has a backup strategy and policies that involves daily, weekly and monthly and annual backups of data as stated in the DMP. This strategy is non-migratory, and original files will be held at WA under their unique project identifier, as long as they remain useful and usable in their final version format. This data may also be used for teaching or reference collections by the museum, or by WA unless otherwise required by contractual or copyright obligations.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

2 – Documents

Stakeholders
WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; Salisbury Museum; WCAS

Selection
A security copy of all paper/drawn records is a requirement of CIfA guidelines. This will be prepared on completion of the project, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. If the security copy is not required for deposition by Stakeholders, it will be retained on backed-up servers belonging to Wessex Archaeology. Note that some information may be redacted to comply with GDPR legislation (personal data).

Document type	Selection Strategy	Stakeholders	Review Points
Site records	Selected records only will be completed in hard copy on site (registers, some graphics). All will be selected for deposition.	As above	1, 2
Reports	Hard copies of all reports (SSWSIs, Interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports). All will be selected for deposition, with the exception of earlier versions of reports which have been clearly superseded.	As above	2
Specialist reports & data	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with no significant editing. Supporting data is more likely to be included in the digital archive, but if supplied in hard copy and not incorporated elsewhere, this will be selected.	As above	2
Photographic media	X-radiographic plates: all will be selected.	As above	2
Secondary sources	Hard copies of secondary sources will not be selected.	As above	2
Working notes	Rough working notes, annotated plans, preliminary versions of matrices etc, will not be selected.	As above	1, 2
Administrative records	Invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, hard copy correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any hard copy correspondence relating directly to the	As above	2

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	archaeology.		

De-Selected Documents

De-selected sensitive analogue data will be destroyed (shredded) subject to final checking by the WA Archives team with the remainder recycled. Possible exceptions include records retained for business purposes, including promotional material, teaching and internal WA library copies of reports.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Material type	Artefacts (bulk and registered finds)	Section 3.	3.1

Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Finds Manager; WA internal specialists; Salisbury Museum; WCAS; landowner

Selection

Proposals have been made by WA internal specialists based on observations made during assessment; they may be modified (although probably not significantly) following analysis.

Throughout the following section, 'stratified' is taken to include topsoil deposits, while 'unstratified' indicates anything completely separated from context eg spoilheap finds, or surface finds other than those directly associated with underlying features.

Find Type	Selection Strategy	Stakeholders	Review Points
Animal bone (66 fragments)	Small assemblage, future potential limited to radiocarbon dating. Retain all from securely dated contexts (Beaker pit 304 and posthole 306). Discard all from poorly dated contexts.	As above	1, 2
Burnt, unworked flint (22 pieces)	Small quantity, undiagnostic, no further research potential; do not retain	As above	1, 2
Ceramic building material (one piece)	Negligible quantity, no further research potential; do not retain	As above	1, 2

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Clay tobacco pipes (one piece)	Negligible quantity, no further research potential; do not retain	As above	1, 2
Glass (one bottle rim fragment)	Negligible quantity, no further research potential; do not retain	As above	1, 2
Pottery (29 sherds)	27 pieces Beaker and prehistoric date from stratified deposits; of local significance with some further research potential. Retain all. Two sherds post-medieval negligible quantity, no further research potential; do not retain	As above	1, 2
Stone (2 fragments)	From stratified deposits of prehistoric date; some further research potential. Retain	As above	1, 2
Worked flint (58 pieces)	Stratified within features of prehistoric date; further research potential. Retain all	As above	1, 2

De-Selected Material

Consideration will be given to the suitability for use for handling or teaching collections by the museum or Wessex Archaeology, or whether they are of particular interest to the local community. De-selected material will either be returned to the landowner or disposed of. All will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Material type	Palaeoenvironmental material	**Section 3.**	3.2

Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Environmental Officer; WA internal specialists; Salisbury Museum; WCAS

Selection

All environmental sampling has been undertaken following Wessex Archaeology's in-house guidance, which adheres to the principles outlined in Historic England's guidance (English Heritage 2011 and Historic England 2015a) and as stated in relevant WSI. All environmental

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samples collected and suitable to address project aims and research objectives, as deemed by Wessex Archaeology's Environmental team, have been processed and assessed.

Env Material Type	Selection Strategy	Stakeholders	Review Points
Unprocessed samples	All samples taken have been processed	As above	-
Unsorted residues	All residues have been sorted	As above	-
Assessed flots with extracted materials (four samples)	All assessed flots and extracted materials will be retained	As above	1, 2

De-Selected Material
De-selected material from samples will be disposed of after processing and post-excavation recording. All processed material will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

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Appendix 3 OASIS record

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Summary for wessexar1-508343

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-508343
Project Name	Excavation at Westside Close, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire
Sitename	Westside Close, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire
Activity type	Excavation
Project Identifier(s)	248263
Planning Id	PL/2021/09567
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	28-Feb-2022 - 08-Mar-2022
Location	Westside Close, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire NGR : SU 15205 33780 LL : 51.1031223145189, -1.78421304339429 12 Fig : 415205,133780
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Wiltshire District : Wiltshire Parish : Laverstock
Project Methodology	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Footstep Active Living Ltd, to undertake an archaeological excavation of approximately 0.1 ha off Westside Close, Old Sarum, Salisbury, SP4 6BX. This was carried out in association with a proposed residential development (planning application ref. PL/2021/09567) comprising the construction of 46 dwellings and associated works, on a site of 1.47, centred on NGR 415205 133780. The scope of the excavation was established through consultation between Wessex Archaeology, on behalf of the client, and the WCAS. An approximately triangular area (Area 1) of 750 m2 was targeted on the principal area of archaeological interest (centred on Trench 3 of the evaluation). A further two areas (Areas 2 and 3), each measuring 30 m by 4 m (120 m2), were intended to examine the potential for the continuation of archaeological remains to the north and east. The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI), which detailed the aims, methods and standards to be employed for the fieldwork and post-excavation work (Wessex Archaeology 2022). The WCAS approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to the fieldwork. The excavation was undertaken between 28 February and 8 March 2022.

Person Responsible for work	Rebecca, Fitzpatrick, Virva, Lompolo
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum; Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

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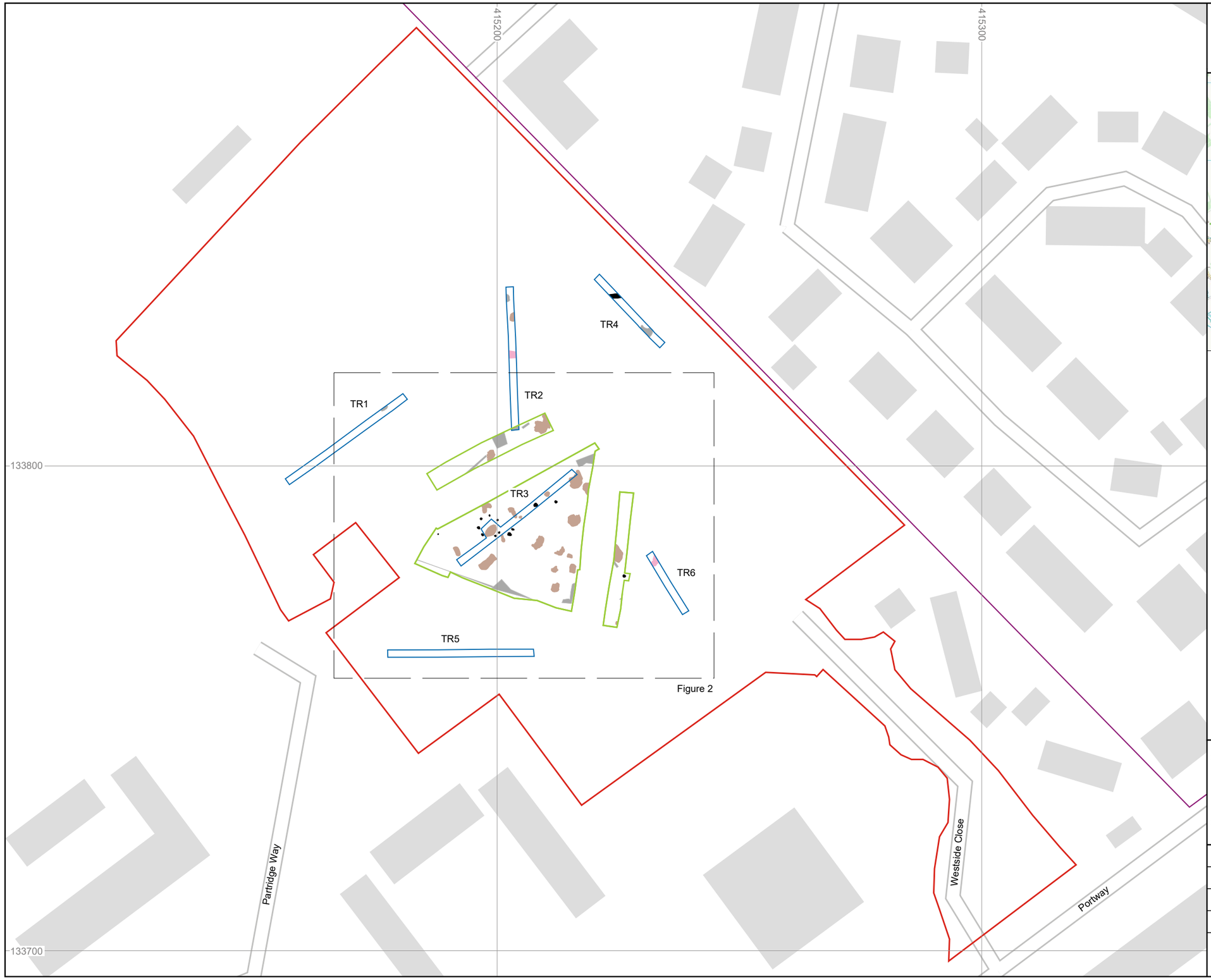

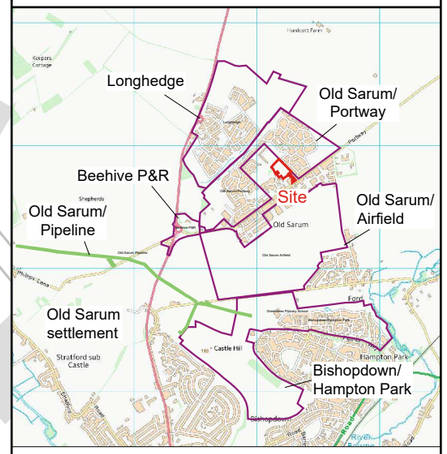

Site boundary
Mitigation area
Evaluation trench
Archaeology
Geology
Disturbance
Tree-throw hole

0 50 m

Coordinate system: OSGB36

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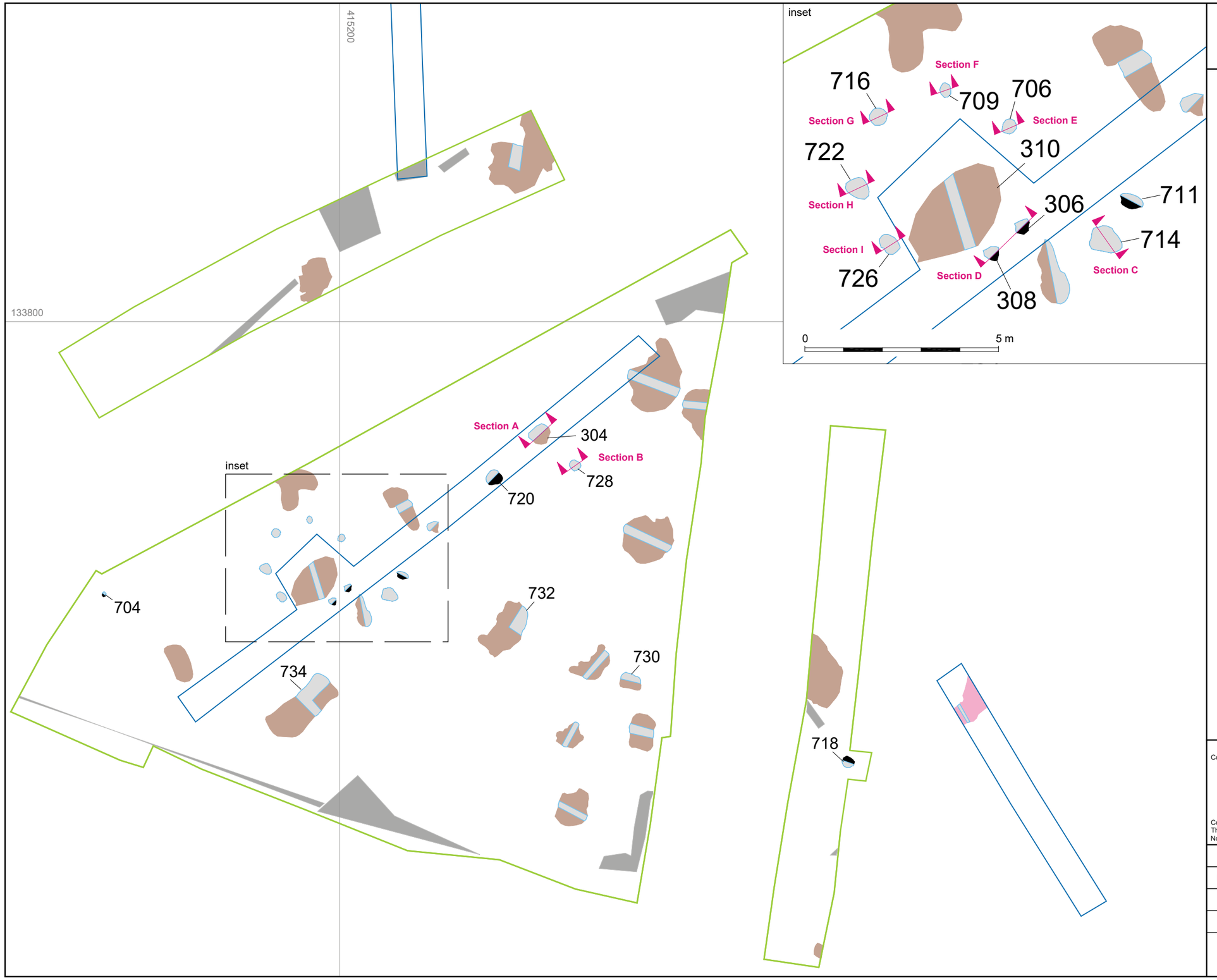
Site location, trench plan and mitigation areas

Figure 1



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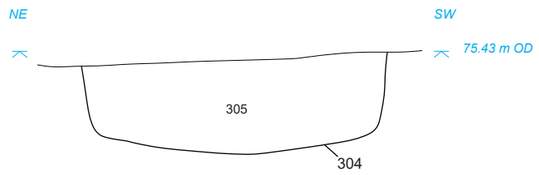
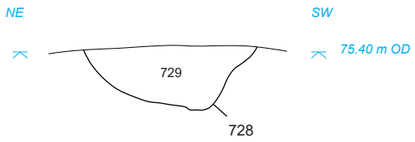
Detailed mitigation plan

Figure 2

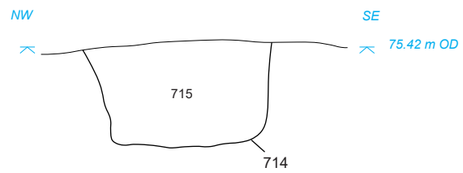
A . North-west facing section through pit 304



B. North-west facing section through pit 728



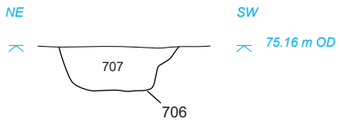
C. North-east facing section through pit 714



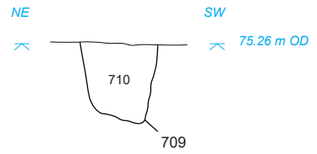
D. North-west facing section through postholes 306 and 308 (post-ring 736)



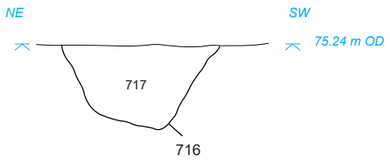
E. North-west facing section through posthole 706 (post-ring 736)



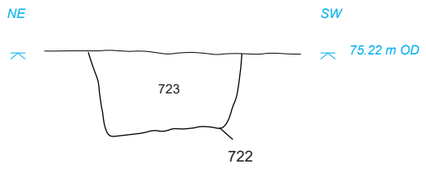
F. North-west facing section through posthole 709 (post-ring 736)



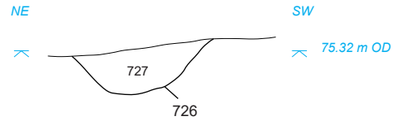
G. North-west facing section through posthole 716 (post-ring 736)



H. North-west facing section through posthole 722 (post-ring 736)



I. North-west facing section through posthole 726 (post-ring 736)





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Sections

Figure 3



Figure 4: North-west facing section through pit 728, 0.20 m scale



Figure 5: South-west facing section through pit 714, 0.50 m scale

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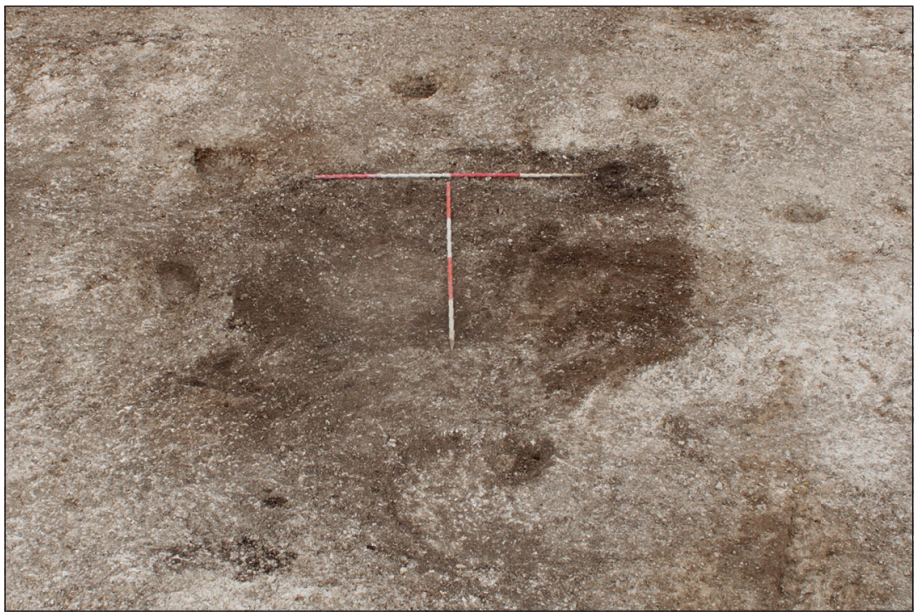

Figure 6: View of post-ring 736 (and base of Trench 3) from the south-east, 2 m scales

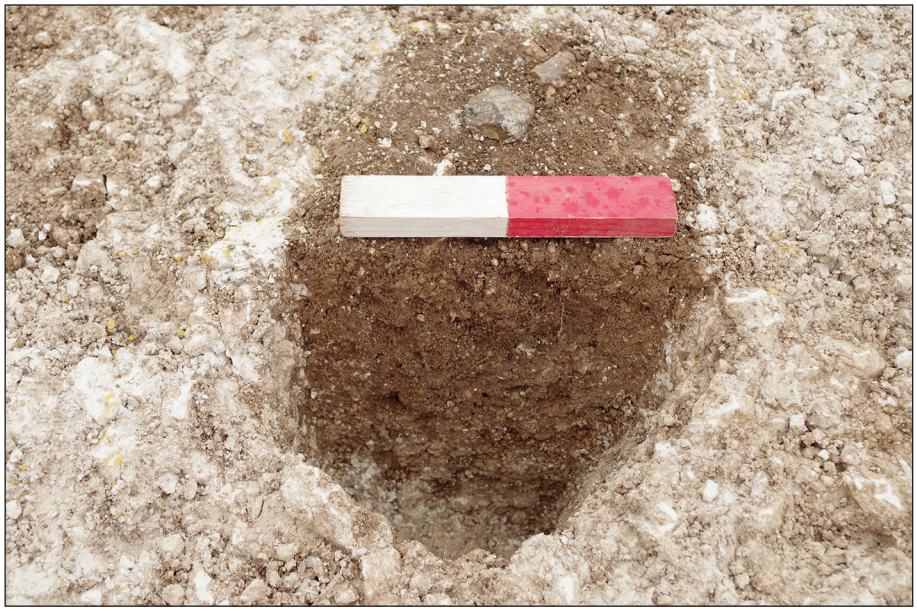

Figure 7: North-west facing section through posthole 708, 0.20 m scale

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Figure 8: North-west facing section through posthole 722, 0.20 m scale



Figure 9: North-east facing section through tree-throw hole/possible quarry pit 734, 1 m scale

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Figure 10: South-west facing view of a tree-throw hole (no context no. assigned), 1 m scale

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