



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP & RECORD
EXCAVATION
AT
PLOT 100, SOUTHPOINT BUSINESS PARK
PATTERDOWN ROAD
CHIPPENHAM**

AUGUST 2025

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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological strip, map and record excavation at Plot 100, Southpoint, Chippenham, Wiltshire (NGR ST 907 711 centred), which successfully investigated the enclosure observed during earlier geophysical surveys. Additionally, one ring gully, most likely associated with a roundhouse, as well as a four-post structure dating to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period were uncovered. One small pit containing what was originally interpreted as a possible cremation was also discovered in the south terminus of the ring gully. The development site is located to the south-west of the 1990s Cotswold Archaeology excavation that located two Bronze Age round houses and multiple Iron Age and Roman boundaries and ditches, with Plot 100 most likely to be part of the wider activity of the area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site lies to the south of Chippenham, immediately east of the main railway line, with the A350 (West Cepen Way) on the south boundary and the B4528 running from that, northwards to Chippenham forming the eastern and northern boundaries (ST 907711 centred).

The underlying geology across the southern half of the site is mapped as Cornbrash, with Kellaway Clay to the north (British Geological Survey 1990). Topographically, the ground level slopes very gently towards the A350 to the east, with the exception of the north-eastern part of the site which lies on a gentle rise at approximately 54-55m AOD. The site is partly in agricultural use and partly under pasture.

1.2 Planning Background

Outline planning permission has been granted by Wiltshire Council for Employment Development comprising 50,000sqm incorporating Class B1(b), Class B1(c), B2 With Ancillary B1(a), B8 & Ancillary B1(a) Uses Including Means of Access, Car Parking, Servicing, Associated Landscaping & Works (N/13/00308/OUT). Due to the potential of the site to contain archaeological remains a condition has been attached:

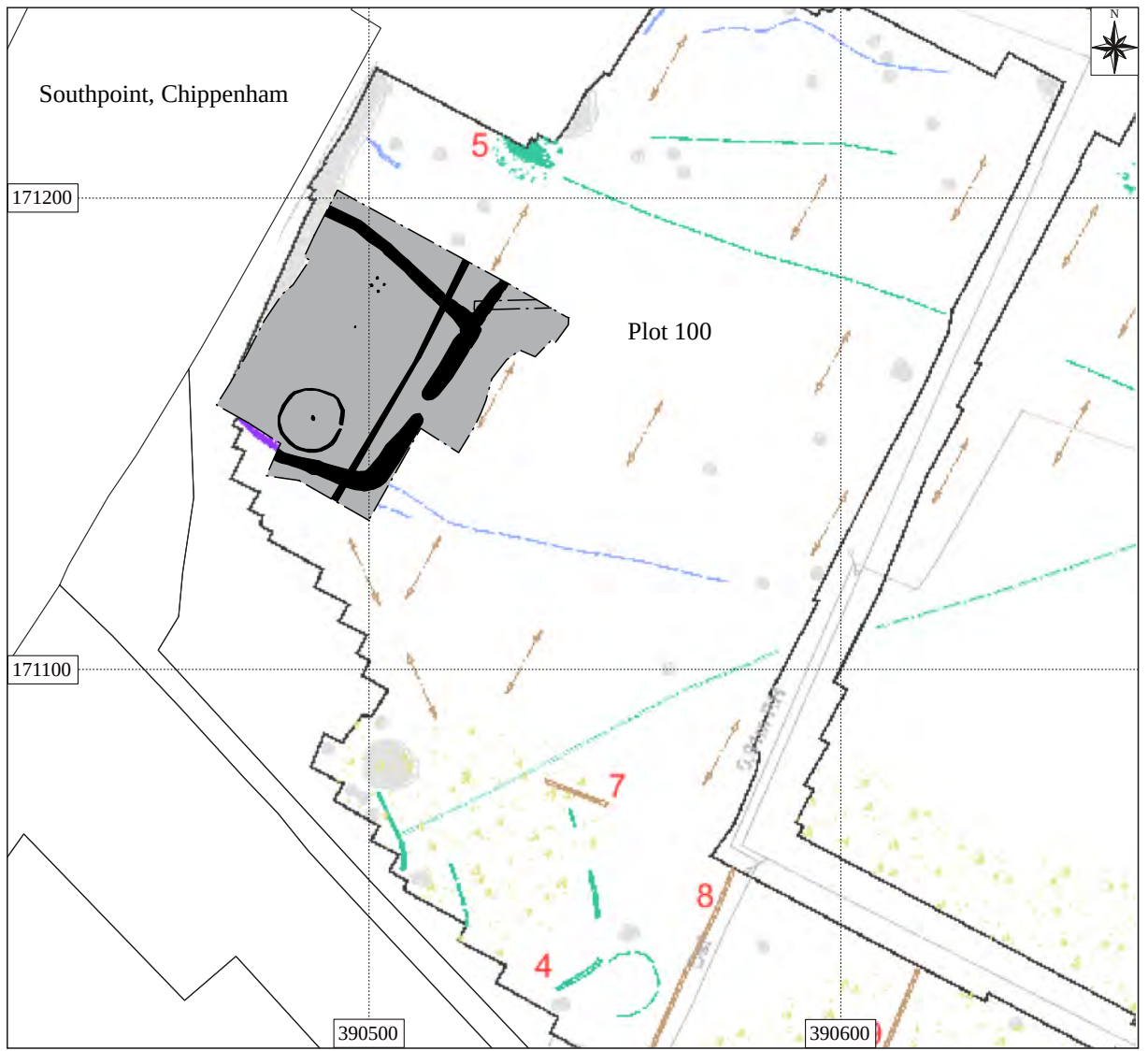
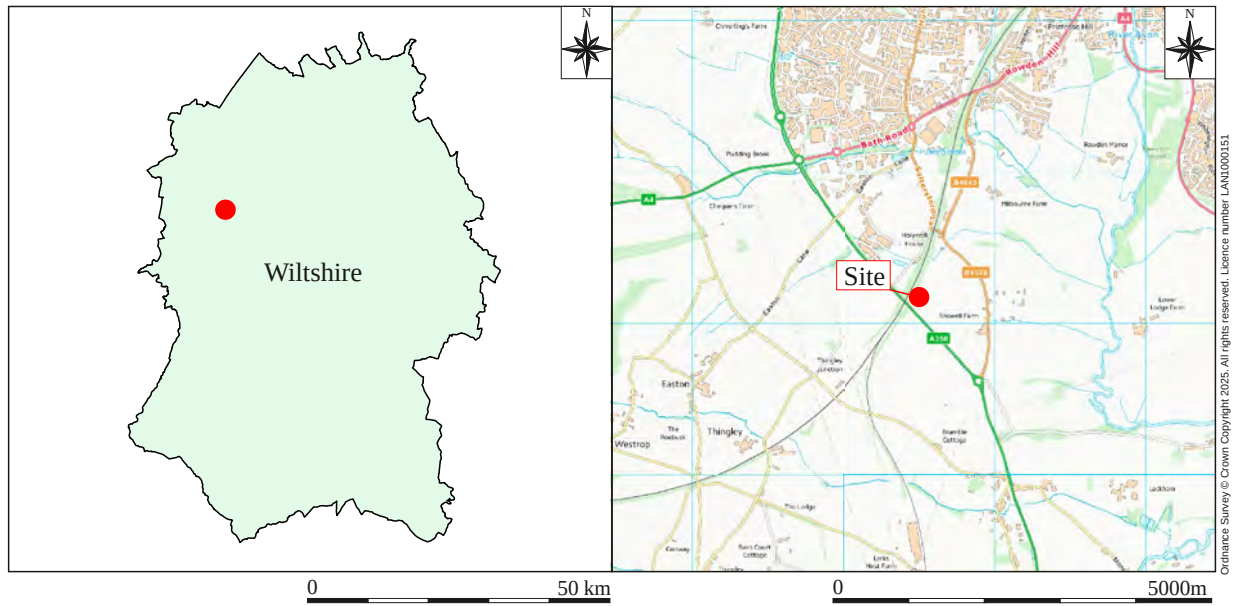
5. *No development shall commence within the site until:*

a) A written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and

b) The approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To enable the recording of any matters of archaeological interest.

An Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (JMHS 2019) has been agreed with Wiltshire Council in relation to the above condition. A Detailed Method Statement for Stage 3 monitoring and recording prior to and during work for Plots 100 and 200 (JMHS 2024) has been agreed with the Assistant County Archaeologist.



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Key

- Site boundary
- Excavated area
- Archaeological features
- Former field boundary
- Probable archaeology
- Possible archaeology
- Uncertain origin
- Natural
- Magnetic disturbance
- Agriculture (Ridge and furrow)

Figure 1: Site location

1.3 Archaeological Background

The following summary of the previous work undertaken on the site is taken from Young and Hancock's *Early Bronze Age ring ditches and Romano British agriculture at Showell Farm, Chippenham: Excavations in 1999*, which provides a detailed analysis and interpretation of the archaeology encountered (Young and Hancock 2006, p.10- 50).

Several phases of archaeological investigation had been carried out since 1998, the first being an archaeological desk-based assessment that accompanied the initial planning application (N/98/02692/OUT) This document (Young and Hancock 2006, p.10) identified that there was potential for archaeological remains to be located within the site, based on the known archaeology of the wider area. Following this report, a 30 trenches evaluation was completed in order to further establish the archaeological potential of the site. The evaluation demonstrated that there were two areas of interest; Area A, located in the centre of the site, and Area B, located in the north-west; four trenches in the north-east of the site, located beyond the current site boundary, were excavated at a later date due to access problems. This became Area C (Young and Hancock 2006, p.12).

Area A

A grid of 28 test pits, each 25m apart, was excavated over an area measuring 120m in length by 80m in width in order to determine the nature of two flint scatters recorded during the evaluation.

Each test pit was excavated down to the underlying geology, typically a depth of c. 0.25m, and 20% of the excavated material from each test pit was sieved. A total of 37 worked flints were recovered as a result of the sieving, though no archaeological features or deposits were recorded. The majority of the flint dated to the Mesolithic and, given the lack of any associated features, is considered to be evidence of a short term hunting camp (Young and Hancock 2006, p.12).

Area B

An area of c.8100 m² was subject to excavation. Topsoil and colluvium had resulted in a higher level of preservation in the north-west of the trench, where 0.5m of overburden was present above the archaeology; this dropped to 0.25m towards the south-east, where the site lay on a slight rise. The prior evaluation had established that archaeological features only survived where they had been cut into the natural geology.

Activity dating to the Early Bronze Age (2460–2030 BC) and the Early Roman (Mid-1st century to Late 2nd-Early 3rd century) periods was recorded (Young and Hancock 2006, p.12).

Phase 1: Early Bronze Age (2460-2030 BC)

Two ring ditches 1 and 2, were recorded. Of these, ring ditch 1 was the best preserved; this was sub-circular, with an internal diameter of c.10.5m and a north-east facing entrance 1.3m in width. The ditches were U-shaped and measured c.0.4m in width by 0.1m in depth. Early Bronze Age Beaker pottery, a Neolithic leaf shaped arrowhead and a human heel bone were recovered from the primary fill of the ditch;

two separate radiocarbon dates were obtained, giving dates of WK-15448: 2460-2140 cal BC and WK-15449: 2300-2030 cal BC. Ring ditch 2 was undated, though it had been truncated by later features. This had an internal diameter of c.7m; the ditches, c.0.3m in width and 0.2 to 0.04m in depth, had a steeper profile than those of ring ditch 1 and showed evidence of at least one recut (Young and Hancocks 2006, pp 12-14).

Initially interpreted as roundhouses, these features have subsequently been interpreted as ritual or funerary monuments due to the assemblage recovered from the fill of ring ditch 1; the location of the monuments and lack of domestic activity perhaps lends support to this (CAT 1999, Young and Hancocks 2006, p.45).

Phase 2: Early Roman

There was significantly more evidence for Early Roman activity within the excavated area; this was sub-divided into five phases on the basis of stratigraphic relationships, fill characteristics, form and artefactual analysis (Young and Hancocks 2006, p.15). Artefactual evidence, supported by radiocarbon dating, indicates activity commenced in c.50 to 100 AD, continuing until the site was abandoned in the Early 3rd century. The ceramic assemblage was relatively low status, while the concentration of ceramic building material across the area of excavation perhaps indicates that the focus of the settlement was located beyond the site boundary to the north-west; the excavated remains therefore appear to represent the organised agricultural landscape associated with such a settlement. Evidence of both stock management and cereal processing was recorded, demonstrating a mixed economy (Young and Hancocks 2006, p.46).

Phase 2a

This phase, dated to c.50-140/150 AD, comprised a series of shallow gullies on a north-west to south-east alignment. These were up to 1m in width and had shallow U-shaped profiles; their function is unclear; however, the semi-regular layout perhaps indicates that they were boundary markers separating small agricultural plots. Several of these gullies extended out of the area of excavation to the north, east and west. Associated features included small, less regular gullies, pits and a crouched inhumation. An AMS date from the burial provided a Late Iron Age to Early Roman date of WK-15450: 170 cal BC to 60 cal AD (Young and Hancocks 2006, p.15).

Phase 2b

An alignment of three linear gullies truncated several gullies of Phase 2a; these linear gullies had a slightly different alignment and form to those of the earlier phase. The interpretation of this phase is uncertain; however, it is evident from the alignment of the features that this was not part of the earlier field system (Young and Hancocks 2006, p.15-17).

Phase 2c

This phase dated between 140/150 and 200/210 AD. A ditch truncated three gullies belonging to Phase 2a and the later gullies of Phase 2b; this ditch had a maximum width of 2.3m and was aligned north-east to south-west, extending beyond the area of excavation to the north-east. Associated with the ditch were a series of pits and postholes that extended to the north-west from its northern side. Charred plant remains recovered from one of these contained a high concentration of chaff and weed seeds relative to the number of cereal grains, indicating the presence of cereal

processing waste. The layout of these features was thought to indicate activity occurring within an enclosure, the southern boundary of which was demarcated by the ditch (Young and Hancocks 2006, p.17-20).

Phase 2d

This phase is represented by the creation of a field system and trackway defined by ditches more substantial and regular in form than those encountered previously. This phase could not be separated from Phase 2c on the basis of artefactual evidence; however, there is a clear stratigraphic definition. Spatially the most notable aspect of this phase was a ditched trackway that ran on an east-west alignment across the area of excavation; this trackway was defined by two ditches c. 8m apart that were up to 2.5m wide and 0.8m in depth. Ditches extended perpendicular to the trackway from both its north and south side and further ditches ran perpendicular to these, parallel to the trackway. As such, the land on either side of the trackway had been divided into a series of rectilinear enclosures. The ditches of the trackway and field system extended beyond the limit of the excavation on all sides. Within these enclosures, several discrete features were identified, including gullies, shallow pits, a well and a drying oven. An inhumation and two cremations were also found; however, these were undated and thus may have belonged to an earlier phase (Young and Hancocks 2006, p.17-20).

Phase 2e

The last phase of activity dating to the Roman period was the addition of a second trackway, again assigned a different phase based on stratigraphic evidence; this was located on the western side of the excavated area and extended north from the earlier trackway. The trackway was formed through the use of an existing ditch and the construction of a new ditch to the west. The trackway extended beyond the area of excavation to the north. A waterhole was dug to the west of the new trackway ditch, which may have replaced the former well (Young and Hancocks 2006, p.21). The artefactual evidence recovered from the features of Phases 2c, d and e demonstrate that occupation is likely to have ended during the early 2nd century but prior to c.240 AD, due to the lack of common Late Roman wares such as Oxfordshire colour-coated wares, while two brooches recovered are likely to date to the first half of the 2nd century (Young and Hancocks 2006, p.21).

Area C

This area is located to the north-west of the current site boundary. Four evaluation trenches were opened, of which two contained archaeological features. The interpretation and phasing of these was limited by the restricted area of excavation; however, it is evident that the activity seen in Area B extends north into this area. Several gullies were recorded in Trench 1 that were similar in form to those associated with Phase 2a of Area B, perhaps suggesting that the system of boundaries associated with this phase extended north. A north-south gully recorded in the trench may belong to the field system of Phase 2d. In Trench 2 a ditch, ditch terminus and an alignment of postholes were recorded; artefactual evidence recovered from this ditch dates to the Late 2nd or Early 3rd century (Young and Hancocks 2006, p.21).

Archaeological Background: Wider Landscape

A search of the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record was made with a radius of 500m from the site's boundary in order to place the archaeology previously encountered within the site in the context of the wider landscape. The results are listed in chronological order.

Neolithic

Sherds of pottery and worked flint dating to the Late Neolithic were found in a curved ditch during an evaluation at Showell Nurseries in 1991, 600m east of the site's eastern boundary.

Bronze Age

Bronze Age roundhouses, sherds of pottery, including Beaker pottery, and worked flint were recorded during the same evaluation at Showell Nurseries.

Iron Age

A ditch and pit containing Iron Age pottery were also recorded during archaeological evaluation at Showell Nurseries. Approximately 230m northwest of the site a shallow pit containing Iron Age pottery was recorded during an evaluation in 2017.

Prehistoric

A series of eight possible ring ditches have been identified within the site from an RAF aerial photograph dating to 1949. These are clustered towards the northern end of the site near excavation Area B. Evaluation trenches excavated in this area did not record any evidence of these; in particular trench 12 which was excavated in the proposed location of three of these features. However, two ring ditches were recorded during excavation in Area B, as discussed above.

A 2017 geophysical survey and subsequent evaluation to the west of Showell Nurseries recorded a ring ditch of probable prehistoric date. Worked flint was recovered from the fill of the ditch, though a specific date could not be established. This was located adjacent to a larger undated ring ditch while the fragment of another ring ditch was located approximately 30m north.

Flint fragments were found on the south-western boundary of the site during archaeological evaluation of the route of the A350; two serrated flint blades were also found approximately 250m southeast of the site.

Roman (Romano-British)

Evidence of Romano-British occupation was recorded during an evaluation at Showell Nurseries. Features recorded included ditches, gullies and pits dating to the Late 1st and Early 2nd centuries. In this area the cropmarks of an extensive rectilinear field system has been identified through aerial photography; the remains encountered are therefore likely to be part of this system. At least two phases are evident based on their differing alignment and fragments of further ditches, likely to be part of the same system, are seen to the north-west of the nursery. To the north of the field system are the cropmarks of a probable settlement. These features appear morphologically similar to those recorded within the site and share a similar alignment to the field system of Phase 2d.

Six sherds of Romano-British pottery were found approximately 250m south of the site.

Medieval

Extensive areas of ridge and furrow are visible as slight earthworks on LIDAR and aerial photographs within the site itself and to the north, to the east and west of the site. A medieval gully was recorded through the 1991 evaluation at Showell Nurseries.

Post-Medieval

A former post-medieval field boundary is visible as an earthwork on LIDAR immediately south of the site. Showell Farm, located immediately south-east of the site boundary, is a partially extant 17th century farmstead; the farm buildings are laid out in a regular courtyard plan. Listed buildings associated with the farmstead include Showell Farmhouse, a barn and a granary.

Undated

Numerous undated pits, ditches and gullies were recorded during archaeological evaluation undertaken across several fields to the north of the railway line, between 100 to 600m from the site. Some of the ditches identified appeared to be on the same alignment as the extant field boundaries, suggesting a post-medieval date.

An undated ditch, gullies and postholes were recorded during a 2017 evaluation at Showell Nurseries, approximately 120m east of the site. These were found in association with three probable prehistoric ring ditches and so may be contemporary with these or the later Romano-British field system known to be present in the area.

Geophysical survey undertaken to the east of Showell Nurseries recorded a series of anomalies likely to represent ditches; due to their location these are most probably part of the Romano-British field system recorded to the west.

A series of undated linear and curvilinear features are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs approximately 330m south-west of the site and a possible rectangular enclosure is visible as a cropmark in fields 450m west.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Detailed Method Statement were as follows:

- To make a record of any archaeological remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.

In particular:

- To record the extension of Early Bronze Age and Early Roman features that extend outside of the already excavated Area B to add knowledge to the results of those previously investigated.

- To date the rectilinear enclosure known to exist in Plot 100 and to examine the features in order to understand the enclosure's function, development and status.
- How does the enclosure compare to others in the wider area?

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Timothy Havard (JMHS 2024), County Archaeologist to the Wiltshire Council.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2023a, 2023b).

3.2 Methodology

The first stage of the investigations comprised four evaluation trenches placed across the development area, excavated with a 360° mechanical excavator under continuous archaeological supervision. This allowed for the verification of the geophysical survey results and an initial assessment of the density of archaeological remains. Following the initial trenching, the excavation area was stripped down to the archaeological horizon using the same methods and supervision. The excavation area had to be extended along the south-west edge to fully encompass the enclosure ditch. There was some restriction to the excavation in the south-west corner of the site due to overhead cables.

Where archaeological horizons were encountered, they were cleaned by hand and excavated appropriately. Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was also produced. The initial trenching, site lay out and surveying was carried out using a sub-cm RTK GNSS system. The resultant spoil from the works was visually scanned, especially for finds relating to the Iron Age and Roman periods.

4 RESULTS (Figures 2-4)

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts, numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material, while numbers in bold indicate structural features.

General Deposits

The earliest deposit encountered across the site was the natural geology (109), a loose, light-brownish yellow, silty limestone (Figure 2; Figure 3, Section 112; Figure 4 Section 101; Plates 1-3).

The uppermost deposit encountered across the site was a friable, light-orangey brown, silty loam topsoil (108) (Figure 2; Figure 3, Section 112; Figure 4 Section 101; Plate 1), with frequent limestone inclusions and abundant grass rooting.

4.1 Late Iron Age-Early Roman

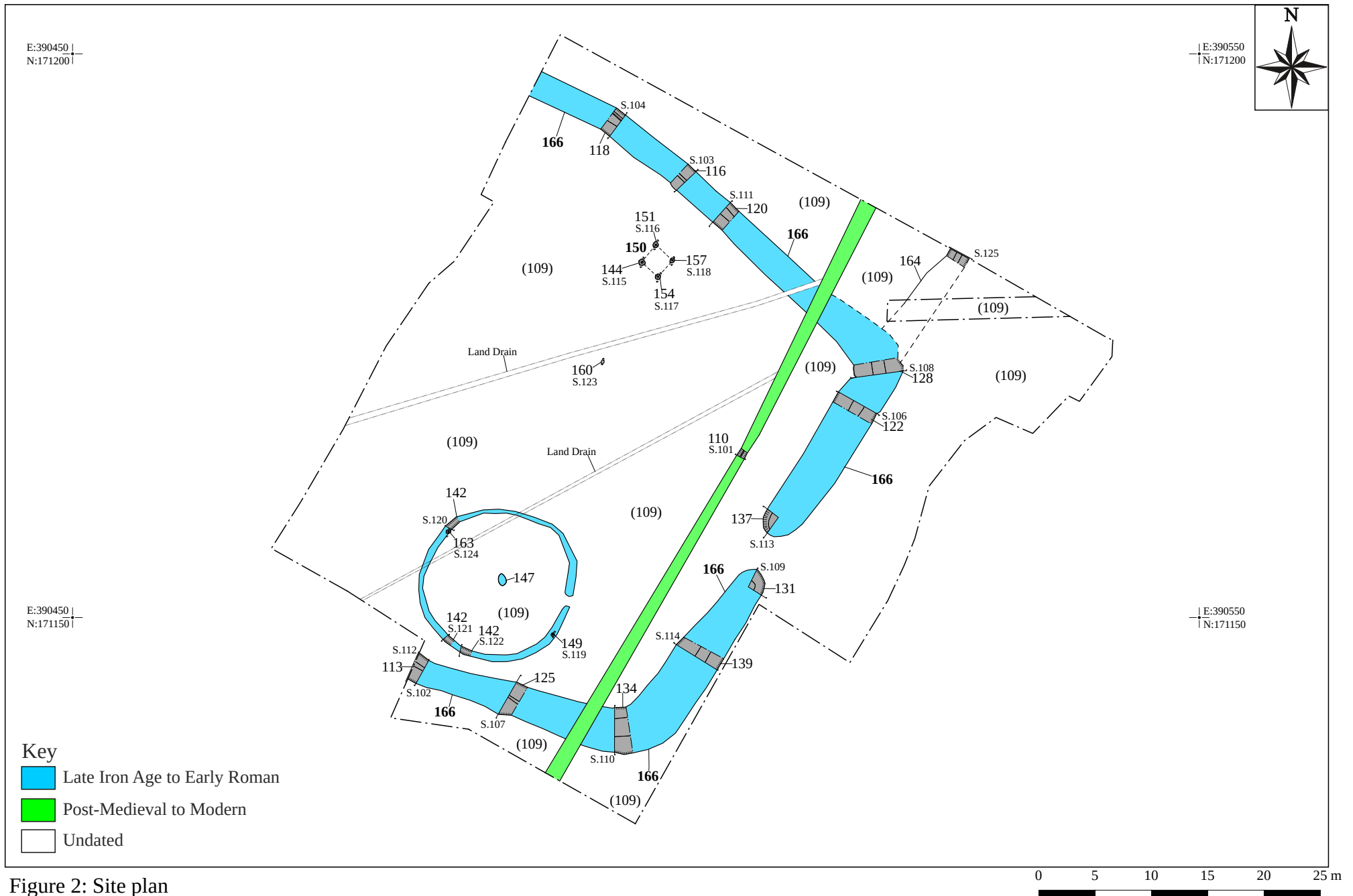
Enclosure Ditch 166

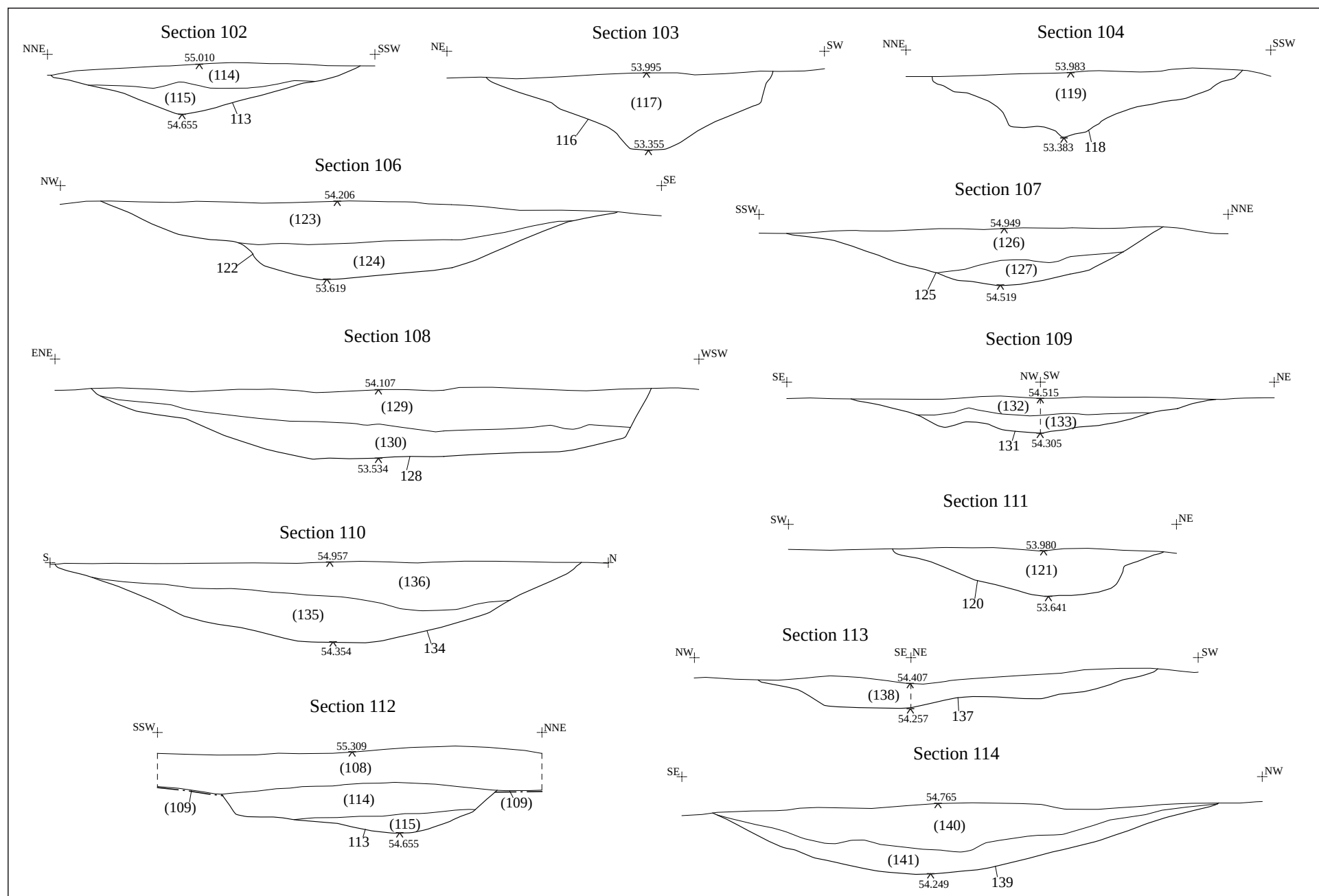
Enclosure ditch **166** had been identified during a geophysical survey of the area and was the main target during the excavation stage of works. The enclosure ditch (Figure 2; Figure 3, Sections 102 to 114; Plate 1) was extended beyond the north-west limit of excavation, and was orientated north-west to south-east before turning south-west and subsequently terminating to create an entrance. Enclosure ditch **166** then continued south-west before turning north-west and extending beyond the north-western limit of excavation, creating an enclosure sub-rectangular in plan. The overall observed length of the feature was greater than 88m.



Plate 1: Enclosure ditch 166, S.114. Looking south-west

The enclosure ditch profile had a gradual break of slope top, concave sides, a gradual break of slope base and a flat base. The ditch was recorded with a width ranging between *c.*2.10m to *c.*4.30m and a depth of *c.*0.24m to *c.*0.60m. In most of the interventions the enclosure was recorded as having two fills. The earliest deposit encountered was a soft mid-yellowish brown silty clay with occasional limestone inclusions with a thickness ranging from *c.*0.20m to *c.*0.34m. Overlying this was a firm, mid-reddish brown with frequent stone inclusions with a thickness ranging from *c.*0.13m to *c.*0.60m. The pottery assemblage collected from both lower and upper deposits dated to the Late Iron Age-Early Roman period, while the worked flint was considered to be Mesolithic or Neolithic. Animal bone was also present. Soil samples collected from these fills contained low concentrations of wood charcoal fragments and charred plant remains, including barley, wheat and wild grasses.



Figure 3: Enclosure ditch **166** sections

0 2 m

Ring Gully 142 and internal features

To the south-west of the site and within the enclosure was ring gully 142 (Figure 2; Figure 4, Sections 120 to 122; Plate 2), measuring c.40m in length and defining one sub-circular area c.13.50m in diameter. A gap measuring approximately 1m in width and located on its eastern side formed its entrance. The gully was between 0.58m and 0.84m wide, and c.0.15m deep; a single fill of a loose mid-brownish grey silty loam (143), with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent limestone inclusions, was present. Animal bone and pottery dating to the Late Iron Age to the Early Roman period were hand-recovered from this feature. Soil sample <5> contained very low concentrations of wood charcoal fragments.



Plate 2: Ring gully 142, S.121. Looking north-west Plate

Located within ring gully 142 and near its south-eastern terminus, was a small pit 149 (Figure 2; Figure 4, Section 119; Plate 3), originally interpreted as a possible cremation due to the presence of charcoal and charred bone, which was subsequently found to be animal.



Plate 3: Pit 149, S.119. Looking south-east

Pit 149 was sub-circular in plan, with a sharp break of slope top, concave sides, sharp break of slope base and a concave base. It measured 0.30m by 0.22m and had a depth of 0.10m. Pit 149 had a single fill of a loose dark-blackish brown silty clay (148), with moderate sub-angular limestone inclusions, from which one soil sample <9> was collected. The deposit contained charcoal and remains of a vessel (SF 1), originally interpreted as a possible urn, of uncertain, albeit prehistoric, date.

Evidence of a hearth 147 (Figure 2) was also observed within ring gully 142, approximately 6m from the entrance. Heat-affected stone was clearly visible in this area, though barely any material was left of the hearth itself; The feature was recorded in written record and through GPS survey, no further investigation of this feature was possible due to its poor state of preservation. The hearth was recorded as measuring 1.50m by 1.3m and a depth of 0.05m.

Posthole 163 (Figure 2; Figure 4, Section 124) was also located within the ring gully. It was sub-oval in plan with a gradual break of slope at the top and base, concave sides, and a concave base, and measured 0.54m by 0.27m with a depth of 0.12m. Posthole 163 contained a single fill comprised of a soft mid-reddish brown silty clay (162), with sub-angular limestone inclusions. Pottery dated between the Late Iron Age and Early Roman periods was recovered from it. Evidence of ash charcoal and charred wheat was observed in soil sample <16>, collected from this deposit.

Four Post Structure 150

Situated towards the northern extent of the excavation area were four sub-rounded postholes (Figure 2; Figure 3, Sections 115 to 118; Plate 4), sub-rounded in shape and forming a square in plan. The postholes ranged in diameter to between 0.42m and 0.65m; each contained a central post pipe with surrounding packing material.



Plate 4: Four post structure 150. Looking north-west

The fills of the post pipes were friable to soft dark-reddish brown silty-clay with occasional charcoal flecks. The packing deposits around the post pipes were a firm, mid-reddish brown clay silt with frequent limestone inclusions. Pottery was collected from one of the post pipe packings dated to the Late Iron Age-Early Roman period. This feature was interpreted as a possible grain store.

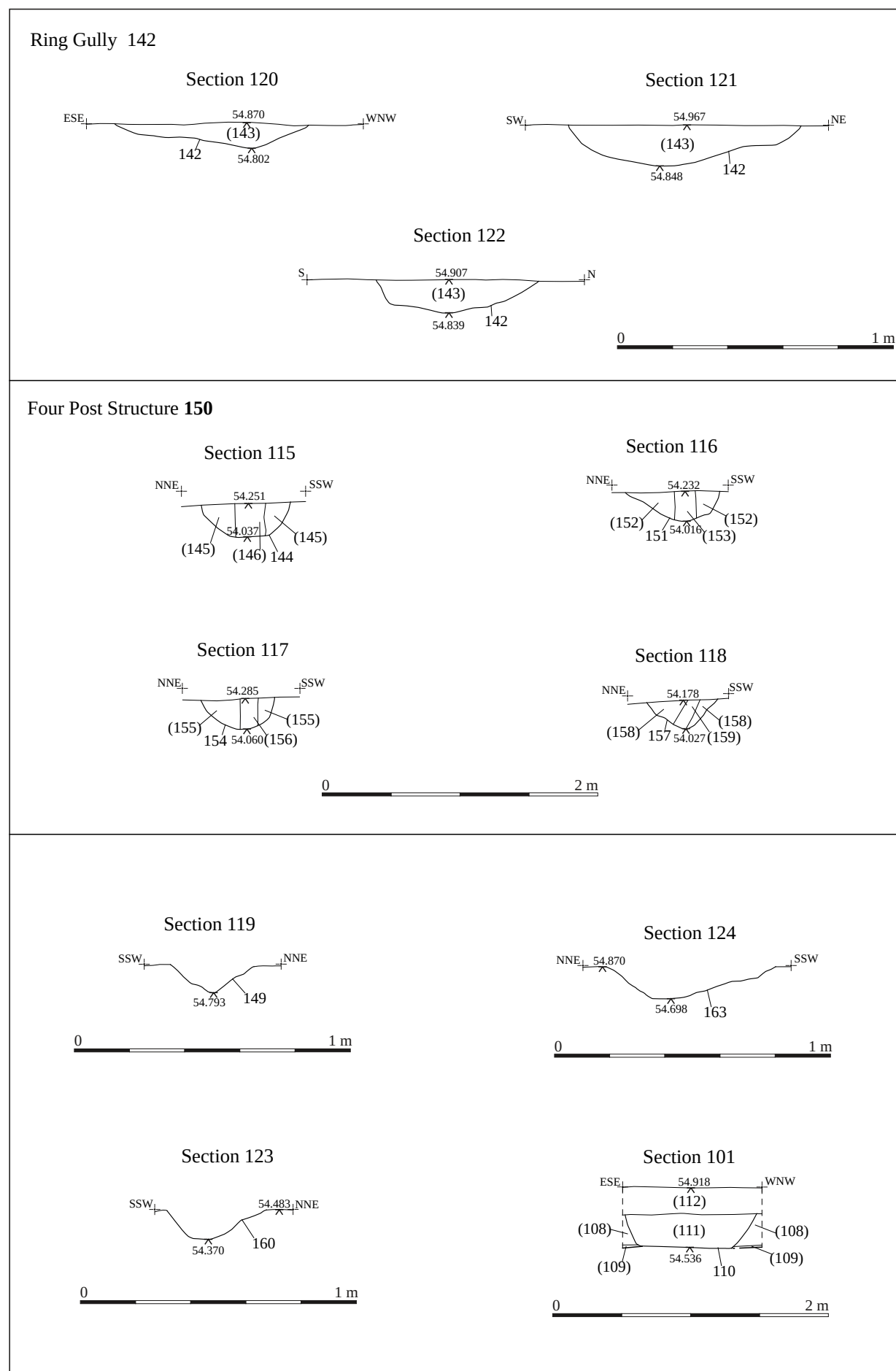


Figure 4: Ring gully 142, Four-post Structure 150 and Post-Medieval to Modern sections

Posthole 160

Posthole 160 was located within the centre of the enclosure ditch **166**, south of possible grain storage structure **150** (Figure 2; Figure 4, Section 123). Posthole 160 was sub-oval in plan and had gradual break of slope at the top and base, concave sides, and a flat base. It measured 0.35m in length, 0.24m in width and 0.11m in depth. Posthole 160 was filled with a friable mid-reddish brown silty clay deposit (161), with frequent sub-angular stone inclusions, from which a single fragment of pottery dating to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period was collected.

4.2 Post-Medieval to Modern

Two stone land drains were observed running through the site, both with a similar south-west to north-east orientation (Figure 2). The southern land drain truncated ring gully **134**, while the northern stone land drain was cut enclosure ditch **166**. Both features, likely to be dated to the Post-medieval period, were recorded in plan and not further investigated.

One modern ditch 110 (Figure 2; Figure 4, Section 101), oriented north-east to south-west and extending beyond the limit of excavation, was observed to a length of 58.5m. With a width of 0.95m and a depth of 0.24m, ditch 110 was filled by a loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt (111) with occasional sub-angular limestone inclusions. A stone land drain was present within the ditch, along glass fragments which were not collected.

Extending beyond the northeastern limit of excavation was linear ditch 164 (Figure 2). With a north-east to south-west orientation, it had a gradual break of slope top, concave sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. This was filled by a friable mid-yellow brown clay sand (165), with occasional stone inclusions. No physical relationship between ditch 164 and enclosure ditch **166** could be seen in section, and no dating material was recovered from it. A possible modern date for this feature was suggested, based on the similar orientation to modern ditch 110.

5 FINDS

5.1 Ceramics

The largest component of the pottery and fired clay assemblages was hand-recovered; however, additional fragments of both materials were observed within the soil samples processed through floatation.

Hand-Collected Pottery by Jane Timby

The hand-collected assemblage comprised approximately 423 sherds of pottery (Table 1), weighing c.2.065 kg, dating to the Prehistoric and Roman periods.

The condition of the assemblage is generally poor, with very small, fragmentary sherds and very few featured pieces. Despite this there are clearly multiple sherds from single vessels. The overall average sherd weight for the material is just 4.8g. Surface preservation is variable with the loss of some surface finishes. Table 1 provides a summary of the assemblage with provisional dates. Details of the methodology can be found in Appendix 1.

Pottery was recovered from five defined features with the bulk of the material coming from a large boundary ditch 166. This produced some 299 sherds, 71% of the assemblage.

Table 1: Hand-collected pottery quantification

Context	LISH	Sandy	SACA	GR	FL	Sam	Amp	OO	Total No	Weight (g)	Date
115	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	LIA-ER
117	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	8.5	LIA-ER
119	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	33.5	LIA-ER
123	4	5	57	2	0	0	0	17	85	266	LIA-ER
124	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	10	LIA-ER
126	1	11	0	3	0	0	0	0	15	55.5	LIA-ER
129	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	25	LIA-ER
130	0	4	32	0	1	0	0	0	37	212.5	LIA-ER
135	7	34	0	0	0	2	0	13	56	143.75	LIA-ER
136	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	5	66.5	M-LIA
138	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Undetermined
140	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	8	LIA-ER
143	57	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	71	319.5	LIA-ER
145	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	18	LIA-ER
148	117	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	117	849	?BA or IA
161	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	LIA-ER
162	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2.5	LIA-ER
Total	197	93	94	5	1	2	1	30	423	2026.25	

No ancillary research has been carried out at this stage to place the assemblage in its local or regional context.

Early Prehistoric

Approximately 117 sherds were recovered from a single vessel from pit 149, initially interpreted as a possible cremation. The sherds are from the base of a large thick-walled jar. The fabric contains medium-fine fragments of fossil shell and limestone which have dissolved on the interior surface leaving voids. The interior has possibly been burnt or subjected to heat.

A broadly similar fossil shell and limestone fabric appears to be used for sherds dated to the Late Iron Age component of the assemblage so it is uncertain whether this is the base of a Bronze Age urn or a particularly large Iron Age storage vessel. There are no other featured sherds present in the assemblage suggesting a Bronze Age date.

Late Iron Age-Early Roman

Most of the assemblage appears to date to the Late Iron Age-Early Roman period. There are two imports in the group, a small sherd of amphora of unknown type and

two extremely small flakes of South Gaulish samian (LGF SA) with no surviving surfaces. The amphora is quite thin-walled and beige in colour with protruding grits (0.5-1mm) producing a pimply surface and including biotite mica, feldspar and quartz amongst other inclusions.

The remaining coarse-ware assemblage can be divided into five broad fabric groups: fossil shell and limestone; sandy; sandy with sparse calcareous inclusions; grog-tempered and flint-tempered.

Sandy wares and sandy wares with rare calcareous inclusions dominate followed by the limestone and shell fabric with other wares present in minor amounts.

There is one decorated jar with a triple line incised chevron from ditch **166** otherwise sherds are undecorated. The only forms present are jars including one cordon-necked example. There are at least two examples of vessels with shallow pedestal bases.

These wares feature in enclosure ditch **166** and postholes 144, 160 and 163 suggesting contemporaneity.

The presence of the imports raises the status of the assemblage. Both the samian and amphora could be Late Iron Age or Early Roman in date. The coarse-wares similarly are typical Late Iron Age forms and fabrics that could well continue into the pre-Flavian period.

The assemblage potentially suggests a Late Iron Age site of some status with access to higher status imports. It is unclear at present whether feature 149, interpreted as a possible cremation, and with a single fragmented base from a large vessel, should be seen as of Bronze Age date or later. The generally limited range of forms and features restricts further interpretation.

The assemblage has value in terms of dating and characterising the site. It is recommended that it should be retained and integrated into any future work at the location but at this stage does not warrant any further work.

Pottery from Soil Samples by Adam Sutton

Six sherds of pottery weighing a total of 9g were recovered from soil samples of three fills.

Table 2: Quantification of pottery from soil samples

Context	Sample no.	Fabric	No.	Weight (g)	Date Range
123	<3>	SHC	1	1	800 BC-40 AD
124	<4>	GROG/SAV GT	4	7	100 BC-200 AD
146	<7>	SHM	1	1	800 BC-40 AD
Total			6	9	

From sample <3> of fill (123) came a single highly abraded and undiagnostic sherd in a coarse shell-gritted fabric likely to be of Iron Age date.

From sample <4> of fill (124) came four small sherds in a grog-tempered fabric. The sherds are too small and featureless for more precise identification, but it is near-certain that they will belong either to the Late Iron Age or Early Roman Aylesford-

Swarling (previously ‘Belgic’) tradition (Thompson, 1982), or to Savernake-type ware (Tomber and Dore, 1998, fabric SAV GT). Aylesford-Swarling grog-tempered ware was current across much of southern Britain during the first century BC and Early to Mid-1st century AD, while Savernake ware was current regionally during the Mid to Late 1st and 2nd centuries (e.g. Hodder, 1974). As such, a date range of c.100 BC-AD 200 is broadly appropriate.

From sample <7> of fill (146) came a single abraded sherd in a similar shell-gritted fabric to that from (123). This sherd has one rounded edge which may have originally been part of a rim, but given its abraded state it is impossible to be certain of this. Again, a broad Iron Age date is likely for a sherd in such a fabric.

Overall, this small assemblage provides evidence for the background occupation of the area of the site during the Iron Age and Early Roman periods. Given its poor state it is likely that the entire assemblage has been redeposited.

Fired Clay by Adam Sutton and Jane Timby

A total of 52 pieces of fired clay, of a weight of 132.5g combined (Table 3), were recovered during the investigation. Twenty of the fragments were hand-collected, while the remaining 32 were recovered through the flotation of two soil samples.

Sample <5> of fill (143) produced 30 pieces of fired clay (plus innumerable tiny crumbs). These were exclusively thoroughly oxidised in nature, and made from a highly friable and finely silty clay with common inclusions of angular calcareous matter likely to be chalk. The fragments are essentially featureless and amorphous, though one preserves the c.90 degree corner of what might be two original, broadly flat, surfaces. It is possible that these fragments are very poorly preserved ceramic building material, and although they have no obvious direct parallel in the fabric descriptions such material from Wanborough, the angular chalk inclusions may be similar to inclusions of ‘finely comminuted calcareous rock’ referred to as a feature of Wanborough ceramic building material fabric E (Darvill, 2001). However, given the abundance of chalk and other calcareous materials in the regional geology, this should not be seen as a firm parallel. Alternatively, the fragments could derive from a portable object of some sort – for instance a loom weight or kiln bar – or have formed part of a structure such as an oven, furnace, or pottery kiln.

Table 3: Fired clay quantification

Context	Sample No.	No.	Weight (g)
123		9	27
130		1	7
135		4	15.5
138		2	12
143		4	15
143	<5>	30	54
146	<7>	2	2
Total		52	132.5

The fired clay has limited research potential owing to its poor preservation and lack of diagnostic features, and is therefore not recommended for retention.

5.2 Faunal Remains

The vast majority of faunal remains was hand-collected; however, additional fragments were recovered from the soil samples processed through floatation.

Animal Bone by Rebecca Gordon

A total of 184 animal bone fragments (Table 4) were recovered during the investigations. The remains were in poor condition, which was reflected in the high number of unidentifiable fragments within the assemblage. The post-cranial remains were limited, consisting primarily of equid long bone elements (radius, tibia, humerus) and a single cattle metatarsal fragment. The majority of identifiable specimens comprised teeth, due to their durability compared to skeletal elements in poor soil conditions.

Table 4: Species representation (NISP) of hand-collected bones

Context	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Horse/ donkey	Unidentified Large Mammal	Unidentified Medium Mammal	Total
115		2	1	47	2	52
117				1		1
119				1		1
121			1	8		9
123	2	1	2	19	3	27
124	1			2	1	4
126				2		2
129			1	9		10
130			2	26	1	29
135	1		1	7		9
136	1	1		3		5
138				1		1
140				7		7
143			1	25		26
145					1	1
Total	5	4	9	158	8	184

The specimen recovered from various deposits within enclosure ditch **166** included two sheep/goat mandibular teeth, recovered alongside an equid radius and a large mammal ulna fragment from fill (115); a single equid long bone fragment identified in fill (121); one equid tibia and humerus fragments, two cattle maxillary teeth, and one sheep/goat mandibular tooth found in deposit (123), and a single cattle metatarsal from fill (124). Deposits (129), (130), (135), and (136) yielded predominantly tooth remains, including equid and cattle maxillary teeth and sheep/goat mandibular teeth.

The assemblage collected from fill (143) of ring gully 142 comprised, similarly, predominantly teeth.

Should further mitigation take place at the site, it should be noted that the survival rate of bones may be poor due to taphonomic conditions. The assemblage offers limited potential for detailed zoo-archaeological analysis beyond basic species identification.

Animal Bone from Soil Samples by Jessica Waterworth

A total of 51 fragments (70g) of animal bone were recovered via sieved residues of bulk soil samples; after refits are accounted for, the number of fragments recovered falls to 41.

The animal remains were identified to element, side and to as low a taxonomic level as possible using the in-house reference collection and assessed following current guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019).

Bone preservation was poor across the assemblage, with high levels of fragmentation. A total of 36 fragments were recorded as having been calcined, all of which were recovered from context (148), and include a sheep/goat metacarpal and a single rabbit tooth. Only one other bone was able to be identified to species, a cattle tibia shaft fragment, which was recovered from context (124). All other remains were only able to be assigned to the relevant size categories due to the high levels of fragmentation and the lack of any diagnostic features on the bones.

The assemblage is not recommended for retention, as it offers limited future research potential.

5.3 Flint by Rebecca Devaney

Just two pieces of worked flint were recovered during archaeological investigations (Table 5). Both pieces are from fills associated with enclosure ditch **166** which also contained Late Iron Age to Early Roman pottery, indicating that the flint is likely to be residual.

Table 5: Summary of worked flint

Flint category	123	135	Total
Flake	1	1	2
Total	1	1	2
Total weight (g)	7	13	20

The worked flint was catalogued according to a standard debitage, core or tool type (as published by Butler 2005) with information recorded regarding burning, breaks, condition, raw material and technology (as published by Inizan 1999).

The flake from context (123) is a hard hammer struck flake with a pronounced bulbar cone and partially retained dorsal cortex on the left edge. It has parallel dorsal scars indicating removal from a neatly worked core. New damage to the distal left cuts the heavy cortication, and there is old corticated damage on the distal right.

The flake from context (135) is a thicker removal with partially retained dorsal cortex and damage to the faceted butt. It also exhibits a moderate to heavy cortication.

The worked flint is chronologically undiagnostic; however, the presence of neat parallel dorsal removals and a faceted butt suggest the potential for association with Mesolithic or Neolithic flint working. The small size of the assemblage limits the interpretative value of the material and further analysis is not recommended.

All worked flint should be kept and archived according to standard local practice.

5.4 Environmental Remains *by Ed Treasure*

A total of 16 soil samples were collected during the archaeological investigations. The flots are generally dominated by rootlets. They contain low concentrations of wood charcoal fragments and charred plant remains, including cereal grains and seeds of wild *taxa*. Terrestrial molluscs are present in high concentrations in some of the samples, although many of the shells may be recent intrusions in the deposits. This is suggested by the presence of shells from the blind snail (*Ceciloides acicula*) which is thought to have been introduced in the medieval period (Pelling *et al.* 2015). The assessment results are outlined in Appendix 2, Table 6.

The samples from four-post structure 150 contain very low to moderate concentrations of wood charcoal, mainly consisting of fragments of oak (*Quercus* sp.). Sample <7> is notably richer in charcoal (oak stemwood), although the overall concentration of fragments is still low. Charred cereal grains occur rarely, and these mainly derive from barley (*Hordeum distichon/vulgare* undiff.), although wheat (*Triticum* sp.) is also present. There are low numbers of seeds of wild *taxa*, with evidence for mallows (*Malva* sp.), grasses (Poaceae), spike-rushes (*Eleocharis* sp.), dead-nettles (Lamiaceae) and black-bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*).

The four samples from enclosure ditch 166 contain very low concentrations of wood charcoal fragments and charred plant remains, including cereal grains (barley, wheat) and seeds of wild *taxa* (grasses). The wood charcoal fragments derive from oak and other (unidentified) *taxa*.

Sample <5> from ring gully 142 contain very low concentrations of wood charcoal fragments. One sample from a later posthole 163 contains a charred wheat grain and very small fragments of wood charcoal, with evidence for ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and other (unidentified) *taxa*.

Few conclusions can be drawn from the scant evidence provided by the small assemblage of wood charcoal and charred plant remains recovered from the site. Due to the high proportions of rootlets in many of the samples, it is likely that some of the environmental material recovered has been re-worked (residual or intrusive) across the site. A degree of medieval or later contamination is also indicated by the presence of shells of *Ceciloides acicula*.

The analysis did not clarify if the charcoal from pit 149, originally interpreted as a possible cremation, derives from a pyre; however, analysis of the charred bone recovered from the feature revealed the material was animal in origin, suggesting the

charcoal is more likely to be associated with other activities (e.g., domestic fuel waste).

The general character of the samples suggests that they contain mixtures of settlement refuse, including small quantities of fuel waste and debris associated with crop-processing or food preparation. Barley and wheat are widely recorded in settlements dating to the Late Iron Age and Early Roman periods, although the specific wheat species cultivated at the site is unknown (Lodwick 2017). Most of the wild taxa recorded are likely to have been arable weeds, with the evidence for spike-rush suggesting the cultivation of poorly drained soils on the floodplain of the River Avon (Stevens and Fuller 2018). One of the samples from four-post structure 150 are notably richer in charcoal, with frequent fragments of oak stemwood noted. It is possible that the feature sampled contained an *in situ* charred post.

There is no potential to undertake further analysis on the wood charcoal and charred plant remain assemblage due to the low concentrations of remains in most of the samples. It is likely that most of the terrestrial molluscs in the samples are later intrusions.

Material which could be used for radiocarbon dating is present in some of the samples, however, there is a high probability that some of the environmental material has been re-worked. Due to this, radiocarbon dating is not recommended.

The flots are not recommended for inclusion in the final project archive.

6 DISCUSSION by *Alessandro Guaggenti*

The archaeological investigation at Plot 100, Chippenham, significantly expanded upon the knowledge gained from earlier excavations conducted just north of the site. This development area, historically part of Showell Farm, was previously investigated by Cotswold Archaeology in the late 1990s. Their work uncovered a multiphase site with activity spanning from the Mesolithic era to the Roman period. Crucially, the earlier excavations revealed two Bronze Age ring ditches containing pottery and human bone, with evidence strongly associated with funerary rites, which is particularly relevant to the findings at Plot 100. Additionally, they identified numerous gullies, boundary markers, and enclosure ditches dating to the Roman period.

The excavation at Plot 100 revealed clear evidence of a small Late Iron Age to Early Roman farmstead. A prominent feature was a four metre wide, c.0.60m deep enclosure ditch with an entrance facing south-east. Inside the enclosure was a ring gully, most likely the drip-gully of a roundhouse, which contained evidence of heat affected stone suggesting the presence of a central hearth. This ring gully also possessed an eastern entrance, and the remains of a possible cremation in urn were located at its southern terminus. To the north, within the enclosure, a four-post structure, likely an elevated grain store, was also discovered.

The recorded sections of this enclosure ditch did not allow for a clear interpretation regarding the location of an associated bank to be made. However, the short distance between a ring gully, located at a distance of just 1.48m north of the southern arm of the enclosure ditch, would suggest that an associated bank would likely have been

located on the enclosure ditch's outer edge. The ditch itself shows no evidence of recutting, the stratigraphy is not complex, and the fills are substantial and homogeneous. Taken together, these factors suggest that the ditch was likely maintained in a relatively clean state throughout its use and was deliberately backfilled once this area of habitation was abandoned.

The artefactual assemblage from Plot 100, though limited in quantity, yielded several significant items that provided crucial insights into the site's past activities. Notably, samian and amphora fragments suggest the occupants possessed considerable status, as evidenced by their access to high-status imported goods. While most of the other pottery fragments dated to the Late Iron Age to the Early Roman periods, the base of a potential cremation urn may date to the Bronze Age. This is particularly relevant given the recovery of Bronze Age pottery from roundhouses investigated in the 1990s. Additionally, two small pieces of worked flint, dated to the Mesolithic or Neolithic periods, were recovered from the enclosure ditch. Although these are clearly residual, found in contexts containing Later Iron Age to Early Roman material, it is pertinent to note the discovery of Mesolithic worked flint during the 1990s excavation as well.

Across the site, evidence of post-medieval stone land drains and two post-medieval to modern ditches was noted. Interestingly, despite the enclosure ditch's good preservation, the ring gully and cremation were discovered at a very shallow depth, their poor condition likely a result of extensive agricultural activity such as ploughing.

The archaeological investigation at Plot 100 successfully achieved its stated aims; the Late Iron Age to Early Roman activity was evident on the site, most likely forming part of the wider activity seen in Area B of the Cotswold Archaeology excavation. Crucially, the enclosure ditch, identified on the geophysical survey, has now been successfully dated to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period.

Further development is planned to take place at Plot 200 which lies between the two excavations; to the north of Plot 100 and to the south of the Cotswold Archaeology excavation.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

Written Scheme of Investigation
Project Report
Primary Site Records

Physical record

Finds

Digital record

Digitised primary records
Digitised drawings
Synthesised registers
QGIS files
Digital photographs
Report text files

The documentary and material archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Chippenham Museum with accession number CHIYH:01-2021 The digital archive will be transferred to the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

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Appendix 1. Pottery Analysis Methodology

The pottery was recorded using recommendations outlined in Barclay *et al.* (2016). To this end it was examined macroscopically and sorted into fabrics based on inclusions present, the frequency and grade of the inclusions and the firing colour. Prehistoric wares are coded using letters to denote the main fabric constituents as recommended in PCRG (1997). Known or traded Roman wares are coded with reference to the National Roman fabric reference series (Tomber and Dore 1998) whilst other local wares are coded more generically. Rims were additionally identified to form where possible. Very small crumbs are classified under the code OO. Sherds from each context were sorted according to fabric, these groups being further subdivided where sherds could be deemed to have derived from the same vessel.

The data was recorded on to an MS Excel spread-sheet a copy of which is deposited with the site archive.

Appendix 2. Environmental Assessment Methodology and Results

The environmental assessment has been undertaken in accordance with Historic England's guidelines outlined in *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

Reporting conforms to CIfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting*, Type 2 (Appraisal). It includes appropriate quantification, characterisation and assessment of significance and potential.

Sample processing was undertaken by JMHS. The samples were processed by flotation using a 0.5 mm mesh for the flot ('light fraction'), and a 1 mm mesh for the residue ('heavy fraction'). The heavy fractions were subsequently manually sorted with the aid of tweezers and a magnifying glass, to maximise recovery of materials. Extracted material (e.g., charcoal) was placed in a separate bag, and the residues were discarded following sorting. The flots, and extracted material from the residues, were submitted for environmental assessment.

The flots were rapidly scanned using a stereomicroscope at up to 40x magnification for charred plant remains and charcoal, as well as other environmental material (e.g., terrestrial molluscs, marine shell, fish bone, etc.). Plant remains were identified through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006). Selected wood charcoal fragments were identified through examination of the transverse, tangential longitudinal, and radial longitudinal sections at up to 400x magnification. Wood charcoal identifications were undertaken through comparison with Wessex Archaeology's reference collection and identification keys (Gale and Cutler 2000; Hather 2000; Schweingruber 1990). Nomenclature follows Stace (2019) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereals, using traditional names. All remains were recorded on an abundance scale.

Table 6: Environmental assessment results

Key: A*** = >500 ('Abundant'), A** = 100–500 ('Common'), A* = 30–100 ('Frequent'), A = 10–30 ('Occasional'), B = 5–10 ('Rare'), C = <5 ('Trace')

Feature	Context	Sample	Sample Volume (l)	Flot Volume (ml) % rootlets	Wood charcoal >2 mm (ml)	Notes	Analysis Potential
Enclosure 166	136	1	40	200 99% rootlets		Flecks of wood charcoal (<i>Quercus</i> sp.), charred plant remains rare, including cereal grain (<i>Hordeum distichon/vulgare</i> undiff., indet. cereal); Root-dominated flot, modern/uncharred seeds (A*), terrestrial molluscs (A*** - inc. <i>Cecilioides acicula</i>)	None
	135	2	40	100 90%		Terrestrial molluscs abundant, inc.	None

Feature	Context	Sample	Sample Volume (l)	Flot Volume (ml) % rootlets	Wood charcoal >2 mm (ml)	Notes	Analysis Potential
				rootlets		<i>Cecilioides acicula</i> ; modern/uncharred seeds (A*)	
	123	3	40	300 99% rootlets		Flecks of wood charcoal, charred plant remains rare inc. cereal grain (0 <i>Hordeum distichon</i> /vulgare undiff); Root-dominated flot, modern/uncharred seeds (A*), terrestrial molluscs (A** - inc. <i>Cecilioides acicula</i>)	
	124	4	40	50 95% rootlets	1	Trace of wood charcoal (0 <i>Quercus</i> sp., other taxa), charred plant remains rare, inc. cereal grain (<i>Hordeum distichon</i> /vulgare undiff., <i>Triticum</i> sp.) and wild taxa (Poaceae); Root-dominated flot, modern/uncharred seeds (A*), terrestrial molluscs 0 (A** - inc. <i>Cecilioides acicula</i>)	None
Ring Gully 142	143	5	40	150 99% rootlets		Flecks of wood charcoal; Root-dominated flot, modern/uncharred seeds (A**), 0 <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**)	None
Four-Post 150	145	6	20	100 90% rootlets	5	Occasional wood charcoal, well-preserved but small fragments (0 <i>Quercus</i> sp. stemwood), charred plant remains rare, inc. cereal grain (<i>Hordeum distichon</i> /vulgare undiff.) and wild taxa (<i>Eleocharis</i> sp., <i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> , Poaceae); Root-0 dominated flot, modern/uncharred seeds (A), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (B)	None
	146	7	5	40 50% rootlets	20	Wood charcoal frequent (0 <i>Quercus</i> sp. dominant, stemwood), charred plant remains rare, inc. cereal grain (<i>Hordeum distichon</i> /vulgare undiff., <i>Triticum</i> sp.) and wild taxa (<i>Malva</i> sp., Polygonaceae, Lamiaceae, indet. seed); Low numbers of 0 modern/uncharred seeds (C) and <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (C)	None
Hearth 147	147	8	10	50 99% rootlets		Flecks of wood charcoal; Root-dominated flot, modern/uncharred seeds (A), 0 <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A*), small frags. of coal	None
Pit 149	148	9	5		5	No flot; Occasional wood charcoal fragments in residue (<i>Quercus</i> sp., <i>Corylus avellana</i> , Maloideae)	None
Four-Post 150	152	10	10	50 99% rootlets	1	Trace of wood charcoal (0 <i>Quercus</i> sp. stemwood); Root-dominated flot, modern/uncharred seeds (A), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A)	None

Feature	Context	Sample	Sample Volume (l)	Flot Volume (ml) % rootlets	Wood charcoal >2 mm (ml)	Notes	Analysis Potential
	153	11	5	50 99% rootlets		Flecks of wood charcoal, charred plant remains rare (indet cereal grain); Root-dominated flot, modern/uncharred seeds (A)	None
	155	12	10	200 99% rootlets		Flecks of wood charcoal, charred plant remains rare, inc. cereal grain (0 <i>Hordeum distichon/vulgare</i> undiff.) and wild taxa (<i>Malva</i> sp.); Root-dominated flot, modern/uncharred seeds (A*), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A)	None
	156	13	5			No flot; one wood charcoal fragment in residue (0 <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	None
	158	14	10	50 99% rootlets	1	Trace of wood charcoal (0 <i>Quercus</i> sp. stemwood), charred plant remains rare, including cereal grain (<i>Hordeum distichon/vulgare</i> undiff.); Root-dominated flot, modern/uncharred seeds (A), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A)	None
	159	15	5	20 50% rootlets	5	Wood charcoal rare (0 <i>Quercus</i> sp. dominant, stemwood), charred plant remains rare, incl. cereal grain (<i>Hordeum distichon/vulgare</i> undiff., indet grain) and wild taxa (<i>Malva</i> sp.); Very small piece of calcined bone; Modern/uncharred seeds (A), 0 <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (B)	None
Posthole 163	162	16	10	50 99% rootlets	1	Trace of wood charcoal (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , other taxa), charred plant remains rare, inc. cereal grain (<i>Triticum</i> sp.); Root-dominated flot, modern/uncharred seeds (A), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A*)	None



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**PLOTS 100 & 200
SOUTHPOINT BUSINESS PARK
PATTERDOWN ROAD
CHIPPENHAM**

STAGED PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN AND SELECTION STRATEGY

JUNE 2024

Document Information	
Title	Data Management Plan and Selection Strategy
Author	Simona Denis
Description	This document describes the type of data that was acquired and generated during the archaeological project, the way the data will be selected, managed and stored, and the mechanisms to preserve and share the data; it also describes the criteria for the selection of the data, documents and materials to be included in the final project archive

Document History				
Version	Status	Date	Author	Changes from the previous version
1	Final	23/08/2023	Simona Denis	Not applicable
2	Draft	24/06/2024	Simona Denis	Project-specific edits

Document Control Grid					
Revision	Status	Date	Author	Checked by	Reason for revision
1.1	Final	30/08/2023	Simona Denis		Edits to table formatting
2.1	Final	03/01/2024	Simona Denis		Data acquisition standards update Selection criteria revision Bibliography
2.2	Draft	11/08/2025	Simona Denis		Edits to reflect fieldwork results

Section 1 – Administrative Data		
Data Set ID	Site Code	CHPR 20
	JMHS Project No.	5064
	OASIS ID	johnmoor1-511674
	ADS ID	TBC
	Accession No.	CH1YH:01-2021
Project Name	Chippenham, Patterdown Road, Southpoint Business Park	
Data Set Description	Nature of Project	Archaeological Monitoring & Recording
	Aims of Investigation	To record the extension of Early Bronze Age and Early Roman features that extend outside of the already excavated Area B to add knowledge to the results of those previously investigated and to date the rectilinear enclosure known to exist in Plot 100 and to examine the features in order to understand the enclosure's function, development and status
	Investigation Techniques	The first stage of the investigations comprised four evaluation trenches placed across the development area, excavated with a 360° mechanical excavator under continuous archaeological supervision. This allowed for the verification of the geophysical survey results and an initial assessment of the density of archaeological remains. Following the initial trenching, the excavation area was stripped down to the archaeological horizon using the same methods and supervision. The excavation area had to be extended along the south-west edge to fully encompass the enclosure ditch. There was some restriction to the excavation in the south-west corner of the site due to overhead cables.
	Purpose	Employment Development Comprising 50,000sqm incorporating Class B1(b), Class B1(c), B2 With Ancillary B1(a), B8 & Ancillary B1(a) Uses Including Means of Access, Car Parking, Servicing, Associated Landscaping & Works
Project Funder	Baylis Estates LTD	
Project Manager	John Moore	Director, John Moore Heritage Services
Principal Investigator	Aimee Skillen-Thompson	Project Officer, John Moore Heritage Services
Data Contact Person	Simona Denis	Archive Manager, John Moore Heritage Services
Data Management Policies and Guidance	Archaeology Data Service, 2022 <i>Instructions for Depositors</i> Australian Research Data Commons, 2022 <i>Data Management Plans</i> Barnett, M., 2019 <i>Guidelines and Conditions for the Preparation and Deposition of Archaeological Archives</i>. Chippenham Town Council Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Historic England, 2019 <i>Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives</i> Digital Curation Centre, 2013 <i>Checklist for Data Management Plan</i> v.4.0 Edinburgh Digital Preservation Coalition, 2015 <i>Digital Preservation Handbook</i>, 2nd Edition. Technical Solutions and Tools Duranti, L., Suderman, J. and Todd, M., 2005 <i>A Framework of Principles for the Development of Policies, Strategies and Standards for the Long-term Preservation of Digital Records</i>. The InterPARES 2 Project Foster, M., 2019 <i>Work digital/think archive. A guide to managing digital data generated from archaeological investigations</i>. DigVentures Historic England, 2018 <i>Historic England Excavation Recording Manual</i> Historic England, 2019 <i>ADAPT: The Archaeological Digital Archiving Protocol Toolkit</i> International Standards Organization, 2003 standards: <i>Reference Model (ISO 14721:2003)</i> John Moore Heritage Services, 2023 <i>POL0006: Quality Control Policy Statement</i> John Moore Heritage Services, 2025 <i>POL0010: Digital Archives Preservation Policy Statement</i> John Moore Heritage Services, 2023 <i>POL0014: Data Protection Policy Statement</i> John Moore Heritage Services, 2025 <i>Archive Guidelines</i> John Moore Heritage Services, 2024 <i>N/13/00308/OUT – Land at Showell Farm, Patterdown Road, Chippenham Staged Programme of Archaeological Investigation. Updated Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation</i> The National Archives, 2011 <i>Digital Preservation Policies: Guidance for archives</i> Thomas, S., 2009 <i>A Guide to Archival and Related Standards</i>. Society of Archivists Data Standard Group Whyte, A., Wilson, A., 2010 <i>How to Appraise and Select Research Data for Curation</i>. DCC How-to Guides. Edinburgh: Digital Curation Centre	

Section 2 – Data Collection		
Assessment of Existing Data	Existing quantitative and qualitative data provided by third parties as well as non-proprietary data were accessed, re-used and re-evaluated, and the generated information supplemented the data collected during the project. Selected generated data was incorporated in the final report text included in the project archive	
Data Collection Standards and Methodologies	Analogue data sets acquisition standards	Mitchell, P. D., and Brickley, M. (eds), 2017, <i>Updated Guidelines to the Standard for Recording Human Remains</i>. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists/British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology. Reading Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 <i>Standards and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> English Heritage, 2011 <i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation</i>. 2nd Edition English Heritage, 2015 <i>Digital Image Capture and File Storage</i> John Moore Heritage Services, 2022 <i>Field Handbook</i>. Draft

		Museum of London Archaeology Service, 1994 <i>Archaeological Site Manual</i> . Third Edition		
	Digitised data sets acquisition standards	The National Archives, 2016 <i>Digitisation at The National Archives</i> Thomas, S., 2009 <i>A Guide to Archival and Related Standards</i> . Society of Archivists Data Standard Group		
	Born-Digital data creation standards	Archaeology Data Service/Digital Antiquity, 2011 <i>Guides to Good Practice</i> Cole, S., 2015 <i>Digital Image Capture and File Storage. Guidelines for Best Practice</i> . English Heritage		
	External specialists were required to include data standards and metadata with individual reports			
Created Data	This table summarises the data types, formats and estimated archive volume for this project			
	File		Data Archive Estimated Volume	
	Type	Format	No. of Files	No. of Bytes
	Text	.odt	None	
		.doc	None	
		.docx	2	25,000,000
		.pdf	4	6,500,000
	Spreadsheet	.xlsx	None	
		.ods	1	100,000
	Raster Image	.jpg	120	600,000,000
	Vector Graphic	.svg	4	9,500,00
		.dxf	None	
	Photogrammetry	.obj/.mtl/.jpg	None	
	Geospatial Vector Data	shp/.shx/.dbf	6	86,000
		.qgz	1	405,000
Data Storage and File Naming System	The working project archive is stored in a dedicated project folder in the ‘Projects’ partition of JMHS’s server. All files were: - renamed following JMHS’s file naming format, based on ADS standard and including version control, as laid out in JMHS’ <i>Archive Guidelines</i> - organised following JMHS’s project folder structure laid out in JMHS’ <i>Archive Guidelines</i> All files included in the working project archive indicate: - Company’s project identifier or Site Code - File descriptor - Version number			
Quality Control	- All mechanical and electronic equipment used in the collection of data was calibrated prior to use - All collected data was checked during project delivery			

Section 3 – Documentation and Metadata		
Data Documentation	Data documentation will be compliant with the Written Scheme of Investigation, Chippenham Museum and ADS requirements and will be provided via: - Collection-level metadata providing a detailed overview of the collection - File-level metadata providing details of each data group and individual files All data included in the final project archive will be migrated to: - widely supported international standards - most recent format version	
Metadata	All metadata will be created in compliance with relevant ADS standards	
	Metadata for all files include	File name File format Language Creation/conversion software and version
	Text Metadata for text files include	Title Abstract Name of creator(s) and/or contributor(s) Page count Publishing details
	Metadata for spreadsheet files include	Title Description Name of the creator(s) and/or contributor(s) Copyright holder Period of creation Worksheet name

		Worksheet description Number of rows in each worksheet Field name Description of field contents
	Metadata for raster image files include	Caption Subject keywords Period Terms Period Dates Name of creator(s) Copyright holder details Location Date of the capture of the image
	Metadata for vector graphic files include	Caption Description Conventions used in the illustration Name of the illustrator(s) Copyright holder Period of creation Location
	Metadata for geospatial vector data files include	Description Name of the creator(s) and/or contributor(s) Copyright holder Period of creation Location Scale of data capture Scale of data storage Assessment of data quality Method of data capture Purpose of data creation Coordinate system used Data type Source Hardware Supporting documentation

Section 4 – Ethics and Intellectual Property	
Legal and Regulatory Framework	Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998 General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) 2019 The Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 Current best practice
Collected Personal Data	Donor - Name - Address Project Team Members - Name External Specialists - Name
Personal Data Management	Management of personal data is carried out in compliance with JMHS' Data Protection Policy Statement (available upon request). Written consent to process and share with the repository personal data will be secured for the use specified below: - Donor: Name and address will be included in the transfer of title documentation - Project Team Members: Names are included in the project archive - External Specialists: Names are included in the project archive and in the licence of copyright documentation Files containing personal data are: - Securely stored on a server partition with restricted access - Kept only as long as necessary for the relevant, valid purposes
Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)	- Copyright Holder: JMHS is the copyright holder of any collected and created data included in the project archive in all forms of records and media - Permission to Reuse Third-Party Data: formal consent to include, reuse and share data generated by external specialists was secured - Licence of Copyright: JMHS will grant to the Chippenham Museum and ADS perpetual and royalty-free licence throughout the world to: - reproduce all or any part of the project archive for the purposes of research, study, conservation or publicity relating to the Chippenham Museum and ADS - display copies of all or part of the project archive in any medium - publish any part of the project archive in any form or medium - permit third parties to do any of the above

Section 5 – Storage and Backup	
Storage System Details	Long-term preservation of electronic records is ensured by storage on magnetic media on a Synology NAS server device with a storage capacity of 5.4TB - The device is part of a network based on the client-server model with servers situated in separate geographical locations (JMHS's main office in Wheatley and the Director's office in Launton, Bicester) - The system is managed via Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) - The system is set as a Redundant Array of Independent Disks (RAID) and failover
Security Copies	- Back-up of raw digital data generated during fieldwork was provided by secure remote access to JMHS's server - Digital copies of the primary records were made immediately on completion of fieldwork and stored on JMHS's server - Security copies of all archive records and born-digital files were made in digital format and stored on JMHS's server
Data Storage and Access	Data storage - Main and secondary servers are set up to constantly synchronise, effectively creating two copies of each file at any time - Two additional copies of all files are created via backups: - The main server backs up to the Synology C2 Cloud Backup Server daily, starting at 17:30 - The secondary server backs up to a local drive daily, starting at 17:30 - Versioning of files and backups is available for 30 days - Multiple recovery methods are used, depending on the nature of the failure Data access - JMHS's server is accessible through a secure log-in by authorised staff on and off-site, via any web browser - Secure access to the server is granted by a two-factor authentication method. Access to server's partitions containing sensitive data is restricted to authorised users through role-based access control

Section 6 – Selection and Preservation	
Appraisal and Selection of Data	All data generated by all stages of the project is stored on JMHS's server. An appraisal of the digital data will be carried out prior to the completion of the project, in order to select data for long-term curation. The assessment of each dataset's value will be carried out by the Post-Excavation Team and will be based on the following criteria: - Relevance - Scientific and/or historic value - Uniqueness - Non-replicability - Potential for redistribution - Economic case The selection of data will be agreed with all relevant stakeholders
Data Reuse	The project results are provide new research data regarding the Later Iron Age to Early Roman occupation in the area. The results might be: - included in the Historic Environment Record - reused to conduct new studies - used to validate research findings - used to aid the future management of the archaeological site
Selection Review Points	Data Management Plan and Selection Strategy are revised in consultation with the relevant stakeholders and updated at the following stages: - Project Design - Project Reporting - Archive Preparation Prior to the transfer, Data Management Plan and Selection Strategy will be finalised in agreement with all stakeholders
Selected Data Preparation	Selected data will be normalised and organised in standardised folders, to guarantee consistency and retrievability, and to prevent data loss. Normalisation will include: - Format migration to widely supported international standards - Version migration to most recent format version - File naming normalisation to ADS standards - Organisation in the predefined file structure Metadata compliant with ADS standards will be generated for all selected data
Long-Term Preservation of Selected Data	- Physical archive: documentary and material project archives will be transferred to the Chippenham Museum - Digital data: selected data will be prepared for long-term curation and transferred to the CoreTrustSeal certified ADS, via ADS-Easy. A further copy of the full digital archive will be maintained on JMHS's servers; additionally, selected digital archives will be made publicly available upon direct request Contact was made with the repository regarding the deposition of the project archive
Long-Term Preservation of Deselected Data	- Long-term preservation of electronic records will be ensured by storage on magnetic media on a server device. The device is part of a network based on the client-server model, available online and securely accessible remotely via any web browser - The digital archives preservation strategy ensures that two copies of all born-digital items as well as digital

	surrogates of primary records are made available on two different server devices (server and backup) situated in separate locations (JMHS's main office in Wheatley and the Director's office in Launton, Bicester)
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Section 7 – Data Sharing	
Data Accessibility	Final Results will be made available within 12 months from the completion of fieldwork - Project final results will be made publicly available in digital format via the OASIS Index of Archaeological Investigations - Summaries will be made publicly available via submission to relevant local, regional or period journals, to be included in the 'round-up' sections Primary and Digital Data will be made available after the completion of the documentation process - All selected data will be made available upon direct request for reuse, re-analysis, re-interpretation, and re-publication by secondary researchers
Intellectual Property	JMHS holds the copyright of any collected and created data included in the project archive in all forms of records and media - Digital elements of the project archive disseminated via ADS will be licenced under a creative commons licence - A data sharing agreement will regulate the access and use of data by secondary researchers as appropriate
Long-Term Access	Long-term access to data will be granted via deposition with the Chippenham Museum and ADS; additionally, selected digital data will be made accessible to the public via JMHS's website or upon direct request

Section 8 – Responsibilities and Resources		
Responsibilities	Fieldwork Project Team Members	Collection and storage of analogue data sets
	Post-Excavation Project Team Members	Storage and backup of analogue data sets, creation of digitised and born-digital data sets, data quality, data archiving and metadata production for all data sets
	Oxford Mac Solutions Ltd	Data storage and backup management
	Post-Excavation Manager	Implementation of relevant policies, implementation, review and revision of the DMP, supervision of collection, production, storage, backup and management of all data sets, management of data selection, archiving and metadata production for all data sets, data sharing, project archive transfer
Stakeholders	Project Manager	John Moore, John Moore Heritage Services
	Archive Manager	Simona Denis, John Moore Heritage Services
	Collecting Institutions	Chippenham Museum Archaeology Data Service
	County Archaeological Services	Wiltshire Council
	Project Funder	Baylis Estates LTD
	Specialists	Jane Timby Adam Sutton Rebecca Gordon Jessica Waterworth Rebecca Devaney Ed Treasure
Resources	Resources required to prepare selected data and implement the DMP were covered by standard John Moore Heritage Services resources and project budget; No unusual resources were required in addition to JMHS normal operating equipment and staff. - Repository charges were estimated using the Chippenham Museum charges list and included in the project budget. - Digital Repository charges were estimated using the ADS Costing Calculator and included in the project budget	

Section 9 – Digital Data Selection Strategy				
Selected Digital Data	Digital files will be reviewed following the approval of the final report by Wiltshire Council and only the most recent versions will be retained. Files will be made available to the public upon request (to admin@jmheritageservices.co.uk) and via deposition with Archaeology Data Service. Security copies of all primary records were made in digital format and stored on the Company's server, together with final versions of all born-digital files. The procedure is outlined in the DMP Section 6 and JMHS POL0010 Digital Archives (available upon request)			
De-Selected Digital Data	The procedure is outlined in Section 6 and in the JMHS POL0010 Digital Archives (available upon request)			
Amendments	Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders
	11/08/2025	Retention strategy revision	Revision following the completion of the final report	JMHS Archaeology Data Service

Section 10 – Documents Selection Strategy

Selected Documents	All primary records with the exception of superseded documents were selected for inclusion in the final project archive			
De-Selected Documents	Superseded documents were scanned and preserved in digital copy. After completion of the project, the files will be revised and de-selected files will be managed according to the procedure as outlined in Section 6 and in the JMHS POL0010 Digital Archives (available upon request)			
Amendments	Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders
	11/08/2025	Retention strategy revision	Revision following the completion of the final report	JMHS Chippenham Museum

Section 11 – Bulk Finds Selection Strategy

Selection of the working project archive will be guided by the aims and objectives of the project as outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation, Method Statement, South-West Archaeological Research Framework, the Chippenham Museum and material-specific guidance				
Uncollected Materials	Modern materials were noted on the primary records and not collected			
Selected Materials	- All materials recovered during fieldwork were returned to JMHS offices for cleaning and assessment. - The material archive will be reviewed and selected based on the results and recommendations of the specialists, the Chippenham Museum collection policy and the South-West Archaeological Research Framework recommendations. The selection will take place during the archive completion - Materials recommended for retention in the final archive include: - Pottery - Flint			
De-Selected Materials	- All bulk finds were assessed and recorded to appropriate standards - Materials not selected for retention will be returned to the landowner, retained for reference purposes and/or reburied in a geo-located position to prevent re-entering the archaeological record - Materials not proposed for retention in the final archive include: - Fired Clay - Animal Bone			
Amendments	Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders
	11/08/2025	Retention strategy revision	Revision following the completion of the final report	JMHS Chippenham Museum Wiltshire Council

Section 12 – Environmental Remains Selection Strategy

Selected Materials	Remains extracted from the processed samples were sent to the relevant specialist for assessment			
De-Selected Materials	- The environmental remains are not proposed for retention - The material will be reburied in a geo-located position to prevent re-entering the archaeological record			
Amendments	Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders
	11/08/2025	Retention strategy revision	Revision following the completion of the final report	JMHS Chippenham Museum Wiltshire Council

OASIS Summary**OASIS ID (UID)**

johnmoor1-511674

Project Name

Southpoint, Patterdown Road, Chippenham

Sitename

Southpoint, Patterdown Road, Chippenham

Sitecode

CHPR 20

Project Identifier(s)

4197, CHPR 20, CHIYH:01-2021, 5064, 5068, 5233, 5306

Activity type

Watching Brief, Strip Map And Sample, Evaluation

Planning Id

N/13/00308/OUT

Reason For Investigation

Planning requirement

Organisation Responsible for work

John Moore Heritage Services

Project Dates

12-Apr-2022 - 11-Jun-2025

Location

Southpoint, Patterdown Road, Chippenham

NGR: ST 90170 71422

LL: 51.4417035247129, -2.14282211642465

12 Fig: 390170,171422

Administrative Areas

Country: England

County/Local Authority: Wiltshire

Local Authority District: Wiltshire

Parish: Chippenham

Project Methodology

April 2022: A total of six evaluation trenches, of varying lengths, were excavated across the proposed site at the Land at Showell Farm. Trench 1 measured 30m by 1.65m and reached a maximum depth of 1.01m. Trench 2 and 3 measured 15m by 1.65m. Trench 2 reached a maximum depth of 0.86m and Trench 3 reached a maximum depth of 0.43m. Trench 4 measured 35m by 1.65m with a maximum depth of 0.78m. Trench 5 measured 25m by 1.65m and reached a maximum depth of 0.48m. Trench 6 measured 35m by 1.65m and reached a maximum depth of 0.40m.

Two areas of potential flint scatters were identified during evaluation trenching that took place in 1999. These areas will be subsequently identified as Square 1 and Square 2. Both areas were situated in the south-eastern extent of the site. Square 1 was the south-western-most area which measured 36m by 30m. It was orientated north to south. The existing grass and roots was initially removed via careful machine stripping to expose the ploughsoil deposit below. A total of 27, 2m by 2m test pits were chosen at random throughout the Square 1 area and were excavated down to the natural geology. The total thickness of the ploughsoil deposit was up to 0.35m and the natural geology layer was observed to exceed 0.05m in depth.

Square 2 was situated 32m to the north-east of Square 1. Square 2 measured 24m by 32m and was orientated north-west by south-east. It was treated through the same methods as Square 1, whereby the grass and root horizon was carefully removed to expose the underlying ploughsoil. A total of 19, 2m by 2m test pits were excavated into the ploughsoil, down to the natural geology. Within Square 2, the maximum depth of the ploughsoil was 0.40m and the geology layer exceeded 0.05m also.

A total of 20% of each test pit was sieved using a 5mm sieve in order to recover lithics. The remaining 80%, although not sieved, was carefully excavated by hand, and hand sorted, to retrieve additional lithics.

June-September: 2022 The groundworks undertaken included the removal of topsoil, subsoil, and made-up ground, down to the archaeological or natural horizon in three areas: the compound, the roundabout and one area to the south

of the existing A350 road. Within the stripped compound area several anomalies were identified; the compound area was then extended to the south. Work progressed to the southwest, to the area of the proposed roundabout. The stripping of a curved east to west pathway connecting the compound area to the roundabout area was also monitored. The area to the south-west of the existing A350 road was the final area being watched starting from the southeast and working towards northwest. In areas where overburden was known to be of significant depth, topsoil over laying patches of made-up ground and natural were partially stripped over night with no archaeological monitoring. Test pits to establish the depth of the final strip were excavated, two of these in the south-eastern part of this area were dug at night without notice to John Moore Heritage Services. This was later rectified and the two open test pits were recorded in full and the remaining test pits were dug with an archaeologist present. During the final part of the strip a modern concrete platform was also exposed as well as modern cables, a drain and a man hole, which had extensively truncated the area.

October-December 2024: The first phase was the excavation of a new underground electric cable to replace the overhead line which ran across the entire site. This was excavated west to east, during quite wet weather. When the cable trench reached the eastern side of site the terrain dropped down to an area near a stream. Here the trenches were being pulled and immediately filled with water. It was here in this east area that an existing old concrete farm yard surface was also partly excavated to contact the water services. An area to the west of the new north-east to south-west spine road was stripped for the setup of a new site compound and haul road. The next stage of works involved the excavation of the new north-east to south-west spine road which included a new roundabout. The southern part of the spine road and roundabout was excavated in piecemeal sections and small amount of the spine road and the roundabout was not monitored by an archaeologist as JMHS were not notified of the works. The excavations at the southernmost part of the new spine road had already been truncated by the existing site access road and where the site joins the main roundabout and was not monitored due to this. As the road goes to the north the strip was jumped to avoid the live overhead cables then carried on as a complete strip to the roundabout on the other side of the site. The section that had to be jumped was excavated once the overhead cables had been disconnected. Subsequently, groundworks associated with the development of plots 400/500 to the east of the new north-east to south-west spine road were monitored (Figure x). This included three areas of excavation: a large area to the south, an area for a pond to the east, and an area along the northern boundary of the plot. Initially the monitoring area included the southernmost portion of plot 500, however upon consideration, pre-existing extensive truncation of the area due to earlier groundworks precluded the need for monitoring in this area and was agreed with the county archaeologist. An intermittent watching brief was agreed with the county archaeologist for plot 400/500. This included intermittent monitoring of topsoil removal. Removal of subsoil onto superficial geology within the three areas was constantly monitored by an archaeologist. All groundworks monitored were completed by an excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket.

December 2024- February 2025: The groundworks were monitored in four stages, and measured a combined total of an area 193m long by approximately 215m wide. All monitored groundworks were undertaken using an excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Upon consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist, the final area to the north was no longer considered necessary to monitor given the paucity of archaeological remains observed across this part site that was being monitored.

May-June 2025: The first stage of the investigations comprised four evaluation trenches placed across the development area, excavated with a 360° mechanical excavator under continuous archaeological supervision. This allowed for the verification of the geophysical survey results and an initial assessment of the density of archaeological remains. Following the initial trenching, the excavation area was stripped down to the archaeological horizon using the same methods and supervision. The excavation area had to be extended along the south-west edge to fully encompass the enclosure ditch. There was some restriction to the excavation in the south-west corner of the site due to overhead cables.

Project Results

June-September 2022: Despite good evidence of Prehistoric, Bronze Age and Roman activity revealed during previous archaeological investigations carried out to the north of the monitored area, no additional remains were uncovered during the archaeological evaluation carried out in 2020. The picture of the historic environment as revealed by the results of the evaluation was confirmed during the watching brief stage of works. A single archaeological feature was revealed in the northeast area of the development site, within what became the compound area. Here, one north-south ditch 08=12 was uncovered. The function and date of the ditch could not be determined, due to the lack of artefactual evidence and an absence of other features nearby to offer comparative insight. No remains of ditch 08=12 were observed on the southern side of the A350; this could be due to the fact the ditch had

already been truncated when the existing A350 was constructed, or that the ditch terminated or run outside of the monitored area. It is of importance to note that the archaeological monitoring which took place during the construction of the A350 failed to identify a ditch in this area. Heavy truncation was observed throughout the southern side of the A350, most likely as a consequence of the construction of the existing A350 itself; multiple made-up ground and levelling layers having been identified along with a concrete platform and modern services. This could potentially explain the absence of archaeology in this area; however, during the investigations immediately north of the road, little modern truncation seems to have occurred. A series of natural deposits were observed across the development area, demonstrating the geological processes which formed the landscape; additionally, several anomalies proved to be natural features were also identified.

October-December 2024: The archaeological monitoring of the enabling works, which included the new underground electric cable, compound area, new spine and access road and ponds failed to reveal any archaeological feature or deposit. Groundworks for Plots 300A, 400 and 500 were also monitored. A single possible ditch was recorded as a result of monitoring. The density of archaeological remains is therefore very low, particularly when compared to areas of archaeology noted to the west and northwest of the site. This may be partly due to the low-lying central area within the site being prone to waterlogging, which may have precluded archaeological activity. It is possible that the amorphous northern edge of ditch 105 was a result of bioturbation linked with its possible use as a hedgerow boundary. This would be in keeping with the known agricultural use of the site. Additionally, geophysics conducted in the site area revealed a modern boundary ditch with a similar orientation. This was visible during the monitoring works. A possible archaeological anomaly noted in the geophysics report in the northern area of the site matches the change in naturals seen across the site.

May-June 2025: The archaeological investigation at Plot 100, Chippenham, significantly expanded upon the knowledge gained from earlier excavations conducted just north of the site. This development area, historically part of Showell Farm, was previously investigated by Cotswold Archaeology in the late 1990s. Their work uncovered a multiphase site with activity spanning from the Mesolithic era to the Roman period. Crucially, the earlier excavations revealed two Bronze Age ring ditches containing pottery and human bone, with evidence strongly associated with funerary rites, which is particularly relevant to the findings at Plot 100. Additionally, they identified numerous gullies, boundary markers, and enclosure ditches dating to the Roman period.

The excavation at Plot 100 revealed clear evidence of a small Late Iron Age to Early Roman farmstead. A prominent feature was a four meter wide, c.0.60m deep enclosure ditch with an entrance facing south-east. Inside the enclosure was a ring gully, most likely the drip-gully of a roundhouse, which contained evidence heat affected stone suggesting the presence of a central hearth. This ring gully also possessed an eastern entrance, and the remains of a possible cremation in urn were located at its southern terminus. To the north, within the enclosure, a four-post structure, likely an elevated grain store, was also discovered.

The artefactual assemblage from Plot 100, though limited in quantity, yielded several significant items that provided crucial insights into the site's past activities. Notably, samian and amphora fragments suggest the occupants possessed considerable status, as evidenced by their access to high-status imported goods. While most of the other pottery fragments dated to the Late Iron Age to the Early Roman periods, the base of a potential cremation urn may date to the Bronze Age. This is particularly relevant given the recovery of Bronze Age pottery from roundhouses investigated in the 1990s. Additionally, two small pieces of worked flint, dated to the Mesolithic or Neolithic periods, were recovered from the enclosure ditch. Although these are clearly residual, found in contexts containing Later Iron Age to Early Roman material, it is pertinent to note the discovery of Mesolithic worked flint during the 1990s excavation as well.

Across the site, evidence of post-medieval stone land drains and two post-medieval to modern ditches was noted. Interestingly, despite the enclosure ditch's good preservation, the ring gully and cremation were discovered at a very shallow depth, their poor condition likely a result of extensive agricultural activity such as ploughing.

The archaeological investigation at Plot 100 successfully achieved its stated aims; the Late Iron Age to Early Roman activity was evident on the site, most likely forming part of the wider activity seen in Area B of the Cotswold Archaeology excavation. Crucially, the enclosure ditch, identified on the geophysical survey, has now been successfully dated to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period.

Further development is planned to take place at Plot 200 which lies between the two excavations; to the north of Plot 100 and to the south of the Cotswold Archaeology

Keywords

Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types

Enclosure - LATE IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types

Gully - LATE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Post Built Structure - LATE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types

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Wiltshire and Swindon HER - unRev - STANDARD

Person Responsible for work

J Moore

HER Identifiers

Archives

Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Chippenham Museum & Heritage Centre;

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