



## Land at Hudson's Field, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**LAND AT HUDSON'S FIELD,  
SALISBURY,  
WILTSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

Prepared for  
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**June 2010**

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## QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	<b>70711</b>	ACCESSION CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	<b>S/2009/108</b>	NGR	<b>414166 132093</b>

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
70711.03	F	JON MARTIN	NDT			X:\PROJECTS\70711\EVAL REPORT HUDSONS\70711_HUDSONS FIELD EVAL REPORT_CBKEW_CK COMMENTS.DOC

\* I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

**LAND AT HUDSON'S FIELD,  
SALISBURY,  
WILTSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

**Contents**

	Summary .....	iv
	Acknowledgements.....	v
<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
	1.1 Project Background .....	1
	1.2 The Site, location and geology .....	1
	1.3 General Historical and Archaeological Background .....	1
	1.4 Recent Archaeological Investigations.....	2
<b>2</b>	<b>AIMS AND OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>2</b>
	2.1 General.....	2
<b>3</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>2</b>
	3.1 Groundworks Monitoring .....	2
	3.2 Hand Excavation and Recording .....	2
	3.3 Finds Strategy .....	3
	3.4 Environmental Sampling.....	3
<b>4</b>	<b>WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
	4.1 Introduction.....	3
	4.2 Natural deposits and Soil sequence .....	3
	4.3 Archaeological Features.....	4
<b>5</b>	<b>FINDS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL.....</b>	<b>5</b>
	6.1 Introduction.....	5
	6.2 Charred Plant Remains .....	5
	6.3 Wood Charcoal.....	5
	6.4 Land Snails.....	5
<b>7</b>	<b>DISCUSSION.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>ARCHIVE.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>APPENDIX 1 .....</b>	<b>9</b>

**Figure 1 Site location plan showing Watching Brief Area**

**Figure 2 Posthole 104 and Pit 106 sections and plates**

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**LAND AT HUDSON'S FIELD,  
SALISBURY,  
WILTSHIRE****Archaeological Watching Brief Report****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Salisbury City Council ('the Client') to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief during enhancement works located at Hudson's Field, Salisbury (centred at NGR 414041 131972, hereafter 'the Site') These works include refurbishment of the entrance road to the public car park, creation of a new access road and creation of new parking spaces. The Watching Brief was carried out between the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

The Site is located 2km north of Salisbury city centre on the A345 road to Amesbury, 750m south of the multi-period hillfort of Old Sarum. The Site is currently under use as recreational playing fields.

A study of the archaeological background of the Site indicated that the proposed development lies within an area of known archaeological significance. However, a recent geophysical survey carried out by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2008) on 1.4ha of the Site did not identify any anomalies which were interpreted as being of archaeological significance within the survey area.

All construction activities which had the potential to expose archaeological remains were subject to monitoring. The groundworks were carried out using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a flat ditching bucket in order to maximise archaeological visibility. Where archaeological deposits were encountered, excavation was undertaken by hand.

Nine features were revealed and excavated during the course of the Watching Brief. A single pit was recorded at the north-eastern end of the access road strip and a further pit and three postholes were recorded at the south-western extremity of the car park strip. The north-eastern pit contained large amounts of burnt flint, the other to the south-west contained struck flint and two sherds of late prehistoric pottery. One of the three postholes contained struck flint. Four further possible postholes/pits were excavated and recorded but were interpreted as root hollows or geological features rather than of archaeological origin.

The results of the Watching Brief have confirmed the findings of the geophysical survey indicating that the Site lies on the periphery of the Roman and prehistoric settlement of Old Sarum.

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**LAND AT HUDSON'S FIELD,  
SALISBURY,  
WILTSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

**Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Salisbury City Council who commissioned this project and would like to thank Chris Stringer in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Clare King of Wiltshire Council, who monitored the project, for her advice and support and extend thanks Dean Marlow of Raymond Brown (Groundworks) for his practical help on Site.

The field work was directed by Jon Martin assisted by Darryl Freer, Dave Reay and Vikki Gallagher. The Site was surveyed by Ruth Panes. This report was researched and compiled by Jon Martin. Lorraine Mepham assessed the finds and the drawings were prepared by Ken Lymer. The environmental samples were processed by Nicola Mulhall and assessed by Sarah. F. Wyles. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Caroline Budd.

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## LAND AT HUDSON'S FIELD, SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE

### Archaeological Watching Brief Report

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

##### **1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Salisbury City Council ('the Client') to carry out an archaeological watching brief during enhancement works located at Hudson's Field, Salisbury (centred at NGR 414041 131972, hereafter 'the Site') (**Figure 1**). These works include refurbishment of the entrance road to the public car park, creation of a new access road, creation of new parking adjacent to the current pavilion and measures designed to prevent unauthorized vehicle access including the planting of new trees.
- 1.1.2 Planning permission (ref: S/2009/108) for the development has been granted with an attached archaeological condition. In consultation with the Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (WCAS), it was agreed that, given the high archaeological potential of the surrounding area, a watching brief should be undertaken on all groundwork associated with the enhancements.
- 1.1.3 The Watching Brief was carried out between the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

##### **1.2 The Site, location and geology**

- 1.2.1 The Site is located 2km north of Salisbury city centre on the A345 road to Amesbury, 750m south of the multi-period hillfort of Old Sarum (**Figure 1**). The Site lies between 55m and 75m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), with the prevailing slope running from north-east to south-west. The Site is currently under use as recreational playing fields with the majority laid to short grass
- 1.2.2 The underlying soils of the Site comprise grey rendzinas of the 342a (Upton 1) association (SSEW 1983). The underlying geology of the Site comprises Upper Chalk.

##### **1.3 General Historical and Archaeological Background**

- 1.3.1 A study of the archaeological background of the Site and its close proximity to Old Sarum, an Iron Age hillfort which dominates this area, indicates that the proposed development lies within an area of known archaeological significance.

- 1.3.2 A recent study of Old Sarum, to the north of the Site, and the Roman town of *Sorviodunum* (WCAS 2005) indicates that the extents of a postulated Roman roadside settlement, situated to the south of Old Sarum, encompassed an area of Hudson's Field and the current access road is thought to mark its southern limits (**Figure 1**). However, it is worth noting that all proposed development relating to this scheme is situated on the southern side of the access road and outside of the limits of the area identified as settlement.

## **1.4 Recent Archaeological Investigations**

- 1.4.1 A recent geophysical survey, carried out by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2008) on 1.4ha of the Site, did not identify any anomalies which were interpreted as being of archaeological significance within the survey area. However, it was suggested that any weaker anomalies of archaeological origin may have been masked by a high level of ferrous contamination which was evident throughout the survey area.

## **2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **2.1 General**

- 2.1.1 The aim of the Archaeological Watching Brief was to establish the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within the Site, and to mitigate any threat posed to them by the construction activity through preservation by record.

## **3 METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Groundworks Monitoring**

- 3.1.1 All construction activities bearing the possibility of exposing archaeological remains were subject to archaeological attendance. This entailed all excavations required for the proposed enhancement works including refurbishment of the entrance road to the public car park, creation of a new access road and creation of new parking next to the existing pavilion
- 3.1.2 The earth moving was carried out using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a flat ditching bucket in order to maximise archaeological visibility. All excavations were monitored by a qualified archaeologist.
- 3.1.3 Where archaeological deposits were encountered, excavation continued by hand. A sufficient sample of each layer/feature type was excavated in order to establish the date, nature, extent and condition of the archaeological remains. All Pits and postholes were half sectioned.
- 3.1.4 All archaeological features or deposits were mapped in relation to the construction footprint and the Ordnance Survey using a Global Positioning System (GPS) and Total Station survey devices.

### **3.2 Hand Excavation and Recording**

- 3.2.1 All archaeological features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system.

3.2.2 A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This included both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels was calculated and plans/sections were annotated with OD height.

3.2.3 A photographic record was maintained using high resolution digital images. The photographic record has illustrated both the detail and the general context of the principal features, finds excavated, and the Site as a whole.

### **3.3 Finds Strategy**

3.3.1 Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the *Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*, (as amended 2008), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

3.3.2 All artefacts were retained from excavated contexts, except features or deposits of demonstrably modern date. In these circumstances sufficient artefacts were retained to elucidate the date and function of the feature or deposit.

3.3.3 All artefacts were, as a minimum, washed, marked, counted, weighed and identified.

### **3.4 Environmental Sampling**

3.4.1 Samples were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the *Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*, (as amended 2008). The sampling policy was agreed on site in consultation with the WCAS monitor.

## **4 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 A number of archaeological features were revealed and excavated during the course of the Watching Brief. A single pit was recorded at the north-eastern end of the access road strip and a small cluster of features were recorded at the south-western extremity of the car park strip. Due to the working methods of the watching brief all archaeological features were observed at the construction formation level which resulted, in some cases, in the upper portion of the features being slightly truncated.

### **4.2 Natural deposits and Soil sequence**

4.2.1 The topsoil comprised pale brown silty loam, 0.60m deep, with small flint and chalk inclusions which overlay weathered chalk natural that contained fragments and nodules of flint. Irregularly shaped pale brown periglacial features were visible within the chalk.

### 4.3 Archaeological Features

- 4.3.1 Pit **100** (**Figure 1**) was a small, sub-circular feature located at the north-eastern end of the access road strip. It measured 0.42m in diameter and had a depth of 0.06m. There was one shallow fill (**101**) which contained 31 fragments of burnt flint. This feature had been truncated by c. 0.10m during the machine stripping.
- 4.3.2 Posthole **104** (**Figures 1** and **2**) was a component of the small cluster of features that were recorded towards the south-western extremity of the car park strip. It was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and measured 0.45m long, 0.40m wide and 0.26m deep. The fill (**105**) contained nine pieces of struck flint.
- 4.3.3 Pit **106** (**Figures 1** and **2**) was located 1.55m to the south of posthole **104**. It was sub-circular in plan with convex sides and base and measured 0.79m long by 0.65m wide with a depth of 0.37m. It had a single fill, **107**, which contained 19 pieces of struck flint and two small sherds of unidentified late prehistoric pottery.
- 4.3.4 Posthole **108** (**Figure 1**) was positioned between posthole **104** and pit **106** approximately 0.40m to the south of posthole **104**. It was irregular in plan with steep sides and measured 0.52m long by 0.50m wide with a depth of 0.29m. It had one fill which did not contain any finds.
- 4.3.5 Located 2.30m to the west of Pit **106**, Posthole **118** was a small oval shaped feature with steep sides that measured 0.22m long, 0.20m wide and 0.24m deep. There was one fill that produced no finds.
- 4.3.6 Features **110**, **112** and **116** were excavated and recorded but are thought to be root hollows or geological features. None of the fills contained any archaeological material. Tree throw hollow **114** was excavated and also contained no archaeological material.

## 5 FINDS

- 5.1.1 Very few artefacts were recovered during the watching brief. Worked flint, burnt flint and pottery were recovered, deriving from four contexts; quantities are summarised in **Appendix 1, Table 1**.
- 5.1.2 The worked flint consists entirely of waste flakes, which are not chronologically distinctive – a broad date range of Neolithic to Bronze Age is suggested. The burnt, unworked flint, all of which came from pit **100**, is of unknown date and origin; no other finds came from this context. The two sherds of pottery from pit **106** are in a soft, very friable, sandy fabric; this is not chronologically distinctive but is likely to be of Iron Age date.
- 5.1.3 Given the small quantity and limited range of finds recovered, retention for long-term curation is not recommended, and these finds will be discarded prior to archive deposition.

## 6 ENVIRONMENTAL

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Two bulk samples of 15-18 litres were taken from a pit (**106**) and a posthole (**104**) of an unknown Prehistoric date and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals.

### 6.2 Charred Plant Remains

6.2.1 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Appendix 1, Table 2**) to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

6.2.2 The flots were generally small. They both contained 30% rooty material and some modern seeds that are potentially indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.

6.2.3 Both features produced similar charred plant remain assemblages. Moderate quantities of hulled wheat, spelt or emmer (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) grain fragments but no glume fragments were recorded. The other charred plant remains recovered comprised large numbers of shell fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*). No charred weed seeds were present.

6.2.4 These assemblages are very comparable with those analysed by Stevens from the Middle Neolithic and Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age pits along the Old Sarum Water Pipeline (Powell *et al.* 2005). Wild food remains, in particular fragments of hazelnut shell have frequently been recovered in large quantities from Early Neolithic to Early Bronze Age deposits and are thought to indicate the possible exploitation of these wild food resources to form a significant part of the diet in this period (Moffett *et al* 1989; Stevens 2007).

### 6.3 Wood Charcoal

6.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Appendix 1, Table 2**. Only small amounts of wood charcoal fragments >4mm were retrieved from these features.

### 6.4 Land Snails

6.4.1 During the assessment of the bulk samples for charred plant remains and wood charcoal, snails were noted, and recorded (**Appendix 1, Table 2**), in the flots. The presence of these shells may aid in broadly characterising the nature of the wider landscape. Nomenclature is according to Kerney (1999). High numbers of the medieval burrowing snail, *Cecilioides acicula*, were recorded within both samples.

- 6.4.2 Molluscs recovered from posthole **104** include the open country species *Helicella itala*, *Vallonia* spp., *Vertigo pygmaea*, *Pupilla muscorum* and a number of Introduced Helicellids, species introduced in the Roman or later periods. There were also a number of shells of *Trichia hispida*, an intermediate species.
- 6.4.3 A similar assemblage was observed from pit **106** with the addition of the presence of the intermediate species *Cochlicopa* sp.
- 6.4.4 These assemblages are reflective of a well established open landscape in the immediate vicinity. These are similar to some of those assemblages observed by Allen within Neolithic and Bronze Age pits along the Old Sarum Pipeline (Powell *et al*, 2005)

## **7 DISCUSSION**

- 7.1.1 The Watching Brief has revealed a small number of archaeological features comprising two pits and three postholes. This result confirms that of the earlier geophysical survey (WA 2008). Both pits and one of the postholes contained material that can be tentatively assigned a late prehistoric date.
- 7.1.2 Four further possible features were also excavated and are thought to be either natural or geological in origin.
- 7.1.3 Few inferences can be drawn from what is scant evidence. The recorded features appear to represent low density settlement activity during the late prehistoric period. Given the small quantity of features and artefacts identified during the Watching Brief it can be suggested that this area at Hudson's Field lies either outside or on the periphery of the postulated extents of the Roman settlement.

## **8 ARCHIVE**

- 8.1.1 The project archive, containing site documentation, written and drawn records, photographic images, specialist reports and digitally captured data, is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's Salisbury office, under the site code **70711**. The archive, including copies of selected digital photographs (see below), will be deposited for permanent storage with the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum. The hard copies of the digital images will comprise a minimum 10 megapixel image (3648x2736) laser printed on standard paper at 600dpi.
- 8.1.2 The completed project archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990).
- 8.1.3 The digital photographic archive will be prepared for deposition with the ADS comprising a selection of digital photographs taken during the works. The selection will be based on those important images that will enable the re-interpretation of the Site by future researchers.

- 
- 8.1.4 Details of the Site will be submitted online to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) database. A copy of the OASIS form is included in the back of this report.

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## 9 REFERENCES

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**10 APPENDIX 1**

Context	Burnt Flint	Worked Flint	Pottery
101	31/1500		
103		1/10	
105		9/74	
107		19/381	2/4
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>31/1500</b>	<b>29/465</b>	<b>2/4</b>

**Table 1: Finds by context (number / weight in grammes)**

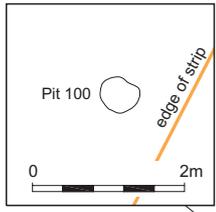
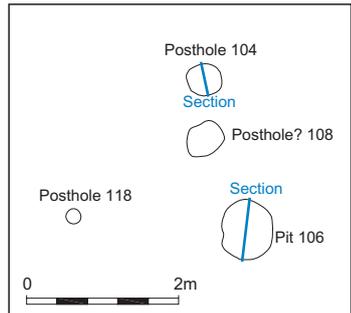
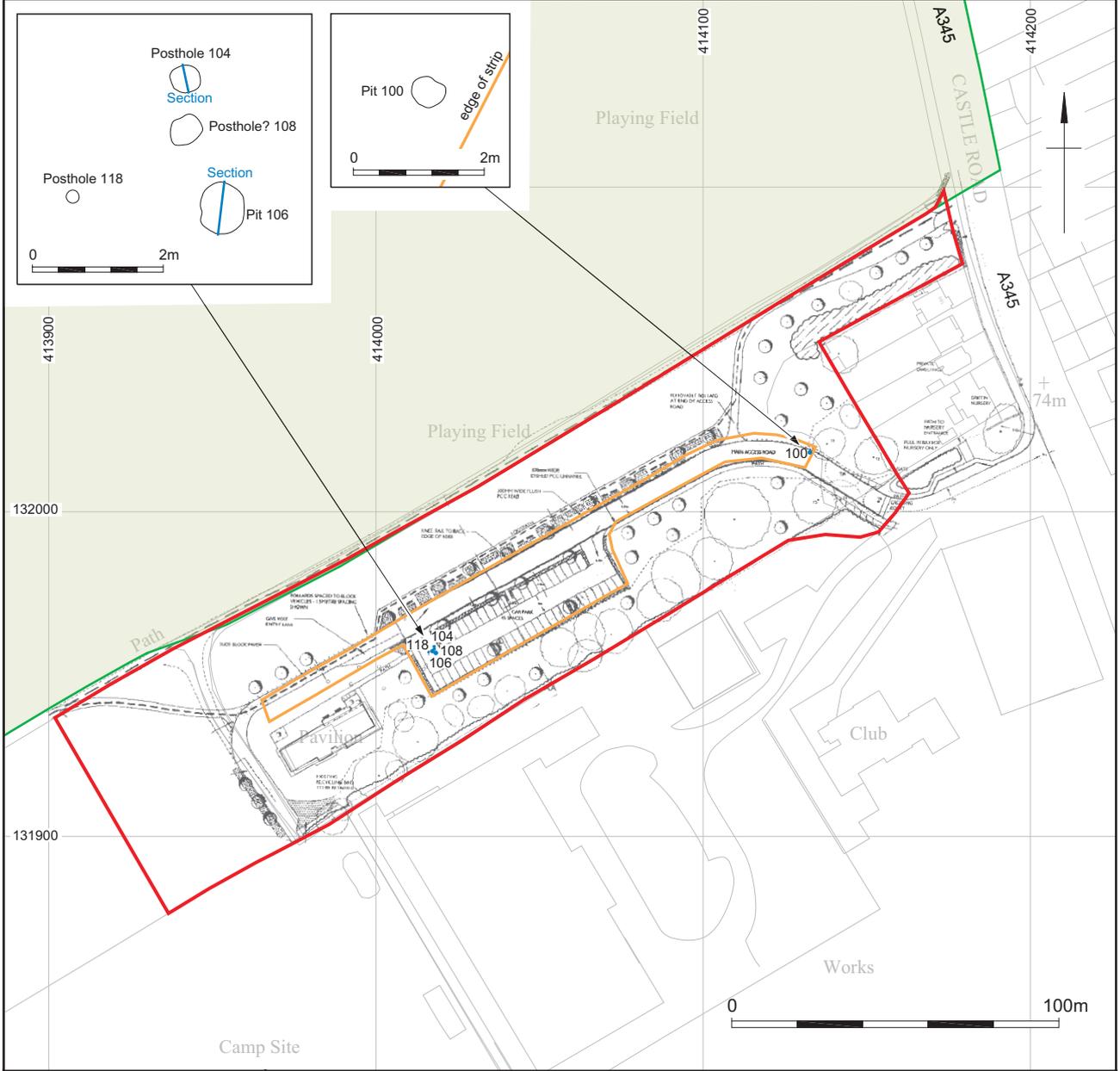
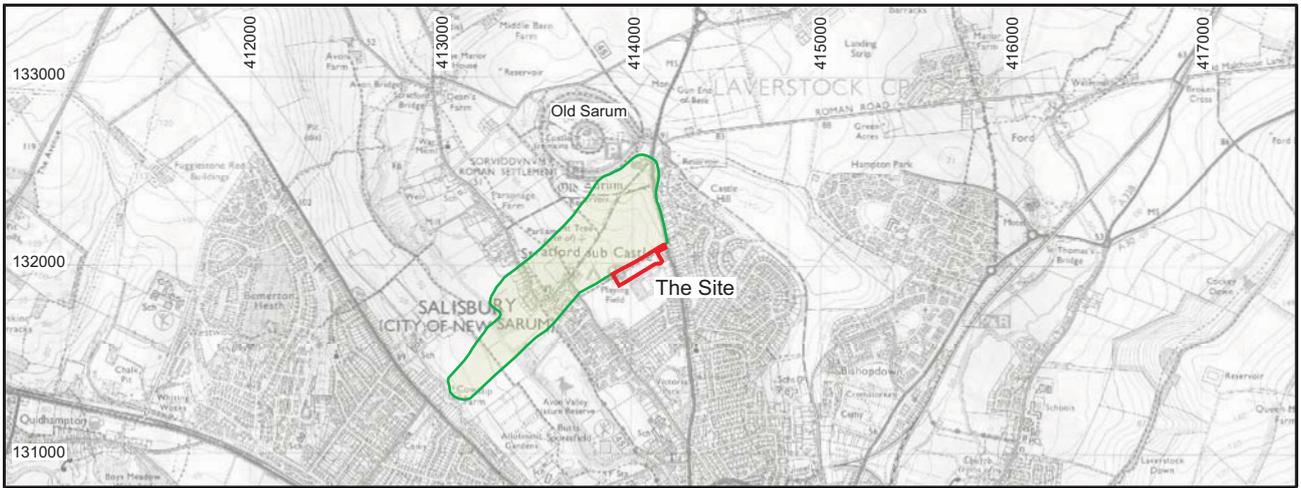
Samples				Flot							
Feature	Context	Sample	Litres	Flot (ml)	% roots	Grain	Chaff	Charred other	Seeds	Charcoal >4/2mm	Other
Prehistoric											
Posthole											
104	105	1	15	40	30	B	-	A*	?Hulled wheat grain frags, <i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags	1/1 ml	Moll-t (A*)
Pit											
106	107	2	18	50	30	B	-	A*	Hulled wheat grain frags, <i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags	1/1 ml	Moll-t (A*)

Key:

A\*\*\* = exceptional, A\*\* = 100+, A\* = 30-99, A = &gt;10, B = 9-5, C = &lt;5

Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs

**Table 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal**



- ▭ Watching brief area
- ▭ Area of strip
- ▭ Proposed development
- ▭ Area of postulated main Roman settlement

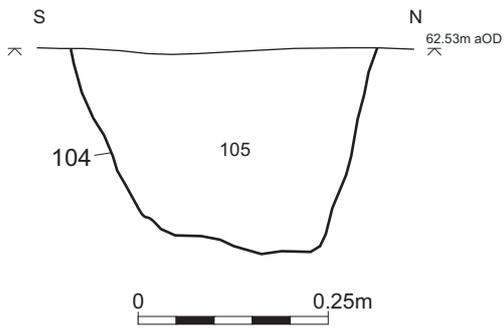
Wessex Archaeology

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Scale:	1:40000 & 1:2000 & 1:100	Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\70711\Drawing Office\Report Figs\wb\10_06\70711_wb.dwg		

Site location plan showing watching brief area

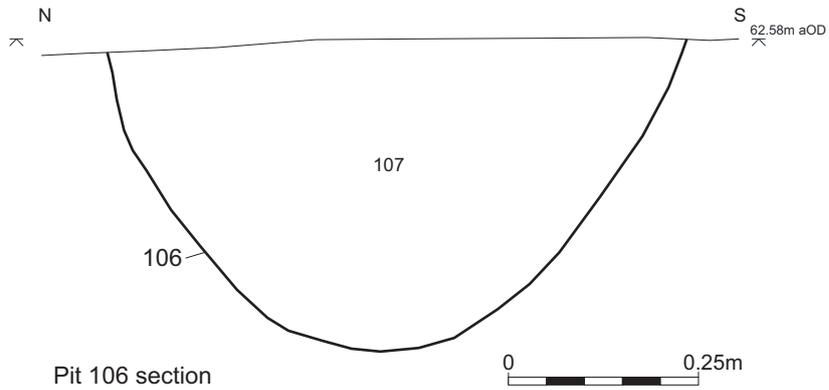
Figure 1



Posthole 104 section



Plate 1: Posthole 104, view from east



Pit 106 section



Plate 2: Pit 106, view from west

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### Project details

Project name Land at Hudson's Field, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Short description of the project Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Salisbury City Council to undertake a Watching Brief during enhancement works at Hudson's Field, Salisbury. These works include refurbishment of the entrance road to the public car park, creation of a new access road and creation of new parking spaces. The Site is located 2km north of Salisbury on the A345 road to Amesbury, 750m south of the multi-period hillfort of Old Sarum. The Site is currently under use as recreational playing fields. A study of the archaeological background of the Site indicated the proposed development lies within an area of archaeological significance. However, a recent geophysical survey did not identify any anomalies which of archaeological significance within the survey area. All construction activities which had the potential to expose archaeological remains were subject to monitoring. The ground works were carried out using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a flat ditching bucket in order to maximise archaeological visibility. Where archaeological deposits were encountered, excavation was undertaken by hand. Nine features were revealed and excavated. One pit was recorded at the north-eastern end of the access road and a further pit and postholes were recorded at the south-western extremity of the car park. The north eastern pit contained large amounts of burnt flint, the other to the south west contained struck flint and two sherds of late prehistoric pottery. One of the three postholes contained struck flint. Four further possible postholes/pits were excavated and recorded but were interpreted as root hollows or geological features. The work confirmed the findings of the geophysical survey that the Site lies on the periphery of the postulated extents of the Roman town of Old Sarum.

Project dates Start: 05-05-2010 End: 19-05-2010

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes	70711 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	S/2009/108 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	FLINT IMPLEMENT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	BURNT FLINT Uncertain
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Estate management (i.e. maintenance of existing structures and landscape by capital works and on-going maintenance)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### **Project location**

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE SALISBURY SALISBURY Hudson's Field
Study area	250.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 414041 131972 50.9161993995 -1.4109442144 50 54 58 N 001 24

39 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 55.00m Max: 75.00m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
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### Project archives

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Digital Media available	'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
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