Corunna Barracks
Ludgershall, Wiltshire

Post-excavation Assessment

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Fieldwork directed by	Alistair Zochowski (main excavation area) Dave Murdie (supplementary excavation area)
Project management by	Simon Cleggett
Document compiled by	Tom Wells
Contributions from	Grace Jones (pottery and other finds), Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy (human bone), Lorrain Higbee (animal bone), Phil Harding (flint), Inés López-Dóriga (environmental)
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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Lovell Partnerships on behalf of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation to undertake archaeological excavations of two discrete areas within the former Corunna Barracks, Ludgershall, Wiltshire, SP11 9RP.

The main phase of excavation, coinciding with an area of approximately 500 m^2 centred on NGR 426050 150205 was carried out between 12 March and 6 April 2018. A further phase of excavation, covering an area of 35 m^2 centred on NGR 426075 150225, was undertaken approximately 20 m to the north-east between 1 and 9 August 2018.

The excavations were precipitated by the unexpected discovery of ancient human remains during preparatory groundworks associated with the redevelopment of the site as part of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation's Army Basing Programme (ABP).

Despite widespread horizontal truncation and occasional areas of more intense modern disturbance, a limited range and number of archaeological features were identified, excavated and recorded during the fieldwork. These related to two distinct phases of activity.

The earliest of these phases was evidenced in the form of a substantial late prehistoric ditch. The date and function of the ditch could not be conclusively determined, although it is most likely to represent part of an Early–Middle Iron Age (700–100 BC) enclosure, which may have surrounded a settlement.

The second phase of activity was represented by a group of 14 graves containing inhumation burials. These formed a small cemetery of probable mid-late Romano-British date (AD 120-410), which presumably contained the remains of the inhabitants of a nearby, rural settlement.

No other features contemporary with either phase of activity were present on the site, although a small quantity of residual artefactual material, including worked flint and late prehistoric and Romano-British pottery was recovered from later depositional contexts.

The remains described here are of local and regional significance, and have the potential to enhance our understanding of the occupation of the area during late prehistory, and to add to the growing body of data regarding mortuary practises of the Romano-British period in Wiltshire and information relating to the local population at this time.

The results of the excavations will be considered within the overarching updated project design for analysis and publication for all of the ABP archaeological works, which will be prepared in due course.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Lovell Partnerships for commissioning the archaeological works on behalf of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, and in particular Kevin Busby and Yvan Massi of the former. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger of the Wiltshire County Archaeology Service, who monitored the project, and to the groundwork contractors for their cooperation on site. The main excavation was directed by Alistair Zochowski, with the assistance of Jamie McCarthy, Emma Robertson, Natalia Hunt, Peter Capps, Steven Froud and Briony Lalor. Dave Murdie carried out the fieldwork within the supplementary excavation area.

The finds were assessed by Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy (human bone), Phil Harding (flint), Lorrain Higbee (animal bone), and Grace Jones (pottery and other finds). The grave catalogue was compiled by Emma Robertson. The flots were sorted and the molluscs identified by Nicki Mulhall and the plant remains assessed by Inés López-Dóriga. This report was written by Tom Wells and edited by Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy and Matt Leivers. Nancy Dixon produced the report figures. The project was managed by Si Cleggett on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.

Corunna Barracks
Ludgershall, Wiltshire

Post-excavation Assessment

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Lovell Partnerships (the Client) on behalf of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) to undertake an archaeological excavation within the former Corunna Barracks, Ludgershall, Wiltshire, SP11 9RP.

1.1.2 The main phase of excavation, comprising an area of approximately 500 m^2 centred on NGR 426050 150205, was carried out between 12 March and 6 April 2018. A further phase of excavation, covering an area of 35 m^2 centred on NGR 426075 150225, was undertaken approximately 20 m to the north-east between 1 and 9 August 2018.

1.1.3 The excavation was precipitated by the unexpected discovery of human remains during preparatory groundworks associated with the redevelopment of the site of the former Corunna Barracks, as part of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation's (DIO's) Army Basing Programme (ABP). The development comprises the construction of 246 new dwellings to provide Service Families Accommodation (SFA), and includes land for a new primary school and community facility, public open space, play areas, landscaping, internal roads and associated infrastructure.

1.1.4 Planning permission for the development was granted by Wiltshire Council on 26 July 2016 (ref. 15/02770/FUL). The planning submission was preceded by a Desk Based Assessment (DBA) and Overarching Environmental Appraisal undertaken by URS, and a subsequent Heritage Appraisal (WYG 2015). These concluded that the potential for archaeological deposits to be present/survive within the development area was limited due to the effects of prior development on the site.

1.1.5 A condition (no. 20) attached to the planning consent specified the requirement for a programme of archaeological work to be completed. The condition was applied on the recommendation of the Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (WCAS), as issued in a series of formal consultation responses (ref. CWI15543). The condition was discharged on 16 March 2017, following the completion of a programme of historic building recording (Wessex Archaeology 2015). No other archaeological mitigation was undertaken in relation to the development prior to the start of the construction phases.

1.1.6 Upon the discovery of human remains on 9 March 2018, the Client immediately informed Wessex Archaeology, who identified at least ten grave-cuts on the site. Groundworks were temporarily halted and the area of archaeological interest was covered and protected whilst Wessex Archaeology consulted with WCAS and the Client to determine an appropriate response. This resulted in a programme of emergency excavation.

1.1.7 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed, for both the fieldwork and the post-excavation assessment work (Wessex Archaeology 2018). The WCAS approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

1.1.8 Wessex Archaeology applied to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) for a Licence authorising the exhumation of human remains prior to the start of the fieldwork. The MoJ Licence (No.18-0047) was granted on 12 March 2018.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the provisional results of the excavation, and to assess the potential of the results to address the research aims outlined in the WSI.

1.2.2 An overarching Updated Project Design is to be prepared on completion of the archaeological works associated with the Army Basing Programme. This will incorporate recommendations for further analysis of the results of the excavation, and outline the resources needed to achieve the aims (including the revised research aims arising from this assessment), leading to dissemination of the archaeological results via publication and the curation of the archive.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The excavation areas were located within the southern part of the former Corunna Barracks, which lies to the west of the settlement of Ludgershall, on the eastern edge of Salisbury Plain. At the time of the excavation, the site was undergoing preparatory groundworks for the planned redevelopment.

1.3.2 Ludgershall and the site of the former Corunna Barracks are located to the east of a pronounced ridge, which attains a maximum height of approximately 180–190 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The ridge extends south from Windmill Hill, passing between Tidworth and Perham Down and continues onwards to Furze Hill, Warren Hill and beyond. Another ridge, which occupies a similar elevation, lies to the north of the site, and extends to the east from the south–eastern edge of Collingbourne Ducis.

1.3.3 Topographical survey data, collected prior to the groundworks, indicates that the excavation areas coincided with the southern corner of a large flat rectangular parcel of land situated at a height of 140.8 m aOD. This area appears to have been artificially levelled/remodelled during prior development of the former barracks (see section 5.3).

1.3.4 The closest natural watercourse to the site is the River Bourne, which flows from north to south on the western side of the ridge between Perham Down and Tidworth.

1.3.5 The underlying geology is mapped as Cretaceous chalk of the Seaford Chalk Formation. No superficial deposits are recorded within the footprint of the excavation area, although dendritic patterns of Head deposits (Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel) are mapped across the surrounding area (British Geological Survey online viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Previous works related to the development

2.1.1 Previous archaeological works undertaken in relation to the development have been limited to the preparation of the DBA and Overarching Environmental Appraisal undertaken by URS (not available), a subsequent Heritage Appraisal (WYG 2015) and a programme of historic building recording (Wessex Archaeology 2015).

2.1.2 No intrusive archaeological investigations are known to have been carried out within the development area prior to the excavations.

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

Introduction

2.2.1 The following has been informed by the information presented in the Heritage Appraisal (WYG 2015) and the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018), and supplemented by additional research.

Prehistoric

2.2.2 Salisbury Plain is particularly notable for its relative abundance of archaeological remains derived from the Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age. Most visible in the vicinity of the site are numerous round barrows, many of which are scheduled. These include occasional isolated examples, as well as large cemetery groups on Snail Down (National Heritage List for England (NHLE) 1009351) and Cow Down (NHLE 1017933) to the west of the site. Several other round barrows, typically less well preserved above ground and often identified from aerial photographs, are recorded in the general area in the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (WSHER).

2.2.3 From the Middle Bronze Age onwards, the landscape of Salisbury Plain and the surrounding region was gradually transformed as large scale land divisions were established, and extensive field systems and enclosures began to be laid out, extended and modified throughout successive periods. Examples of large boundary earthworks lie to the west of the site on Windmill Hill (NHLE 1017933), and on Lamb Down (NHLE 1009833) to the south of Perham Down Camp. Areas of probable later prehistoric field systems have also been identified in the local area, primarily from aerial photographs (as recorded in the WSHER), although these are located some distance from the site.

2.2.4 From the latter part of the Bronze Age, significant settlement gradually became more permanent, substantial and thus more recognisable in the archaeological record. By the Early and Middle Iron Age, some individual farmsteads and larger settlements (eg, Boscombe Down West; Richardson 1951) remained unenclosed, whilst others came to be delimited by impressive banks and ditches. Hillforts also appeared as a distinctive element of the archaeological record during this period, with the example at Sidbury (NHLE no.1010138), some 4 km to the west of the former Corunna Barracks, representing perhaps the most prominent and substantial known Iron Age site in the local area.

2.2.5 The WSHER also documents some indications of late prehistoric activity to the south of Perham Down Camp, in the form of a potentially Iron Age sub-square enclosure (ref. SU24NE615/MWI1765) identified from aerial photographs near Upper Newdown Copse, in the area where a number of ‘pit dwellings’ associated with Early Iron Age pottery were apparently identified in 1915 (ref. SU24NE200/MWI1761). Nearby on Warren Hill, excavations carried out by the University of Reading in 1992 revealed a V-shaped ditch containing Early Iron Age pottery and ox skulls, apparently forming part of a sub-square enclosure previously identified from aerial photographs (WSHER ref. SU24NE616 / MWI1765; Fulford *et al* 2006 43–5).

2.2.6 In general terms, the distribution of known prehistoric sites shows a marked concentration across the undeveloped parts of Salisbury Plain to the west of the site, particularly to the west of the River Bourne. The extent to which this pattern reflects the damaging/obscuring effects of modern development at Perham Down, Ludgershall and Tidworth, and of arable cultivation beyond the grass downland of the plain is uncertain.

Romano-British

2.2.7 Evidence of Romano-British activity is widespread but limited in density and clarity in this area. The Icknield Way linking Winchester and *Cunetio* (near modern Marlborough) is situated less than 10 km east of the site, and another major route between Silchester and Old Sarum lies a similar distance to the south. No developed settlements are known in the local area, but a number of villas assumed to have served as the administrative focus of large farming estates have been recorded at Shoddesdon Grange, Thruxton, Ragged Appleshaw and Redenham (Wessex Archaeology 2005).

2.2.8 In 1917, three decapitated skeletons were found in a large, irregular pit near the modern A342 west of Ludgershall and north of the site, although the precise location is uncertain. Fragments of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the fill of the feature and surrounding ground surface (Cunnington 1932, 196). An area of 'amorphous mounds and depressions' and spreads of Romano-British pottery have also been reported in this location.

2.2.9 Other recorded evidence of Romano-British activity in the vicinity of the site is predominantly limited to reports of isolated findspots and occasionally larger assemblages of cultural material. The latter includes spreads of pottery found within the area of a field system identified from aerial photographs near Warren Hill (WSHER refs. SU24NW301/MWI1768 and SU24NW304/MWI1768), and at the northern end of Perham Down Camp (Cunnington 1932, 205). Abraded sherds of Romano-British pottery and one coin were also found during excavations at the medieval Ludgershall Castle (Ellis 2000; NHLE 1009912), approximately 1 km to the north-east of the site.

Saxon and medieval

2.2.10 Direct archaeological evidence relating to the Saxon and medieval periods is extremely limited in the vicinity of the site. A notable exception is the burial of a 'Saxon warrior' with a spearhead and shield boss, found at Perham Down Camp in 1939 (Stevens 1942). Later excavation has not revealed any further burials or disturbed grave goods, suggesting that this inhumation was a solitary interment.

2.2.11 The site lies between the settlements of Tidworth and Ludgershall, both of which were mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and are known to have had late Saxon origins, with occupation at Tidworth potentially stretching back to the early Saxon period (Godden *et al* 2002; Wessex Archaeology forthcoming). The site itself would have formed part of the agricultural hinterland of these settlements, comprising arable, pasture and woodland. Traces of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation have also been documented nearby.

Post-medieval to modern

2.2.12 The area surrounding Ludgershall retained its agricultural focus into the Post-medieval period with a high proportion of pastoral land use. In the late 18th and 19th centuries the cultivation of grain crops took precedence over the earlier grazing lands (Brown 1994).

2.2.13 Corunna Barracks had its origins in Operation Bolero, the arrival of United States forces in Britain in readiness for the invasion of occupied Europe in 1944, and was a Central Vehicle Depot (WYG 2015, 7). The vehicle depot was closed in 1997 and was used for a time by the Medical Supplies Agency before its most recent use in support of major exercises on Salisbury Plain prior to Operation Herrick deployments to Afghanistan (*ibid*.).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the excavation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) and in compliance with the CIfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a), were to:

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

3.2 Research objectives

3.2.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site, the research objectives of the excavation defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) were to:

- Determine the date, nature and extent of mortuary activity, and its local manifestations in the later Romano-British period;
- develop a clearer understanding of how the cemetery survived despite such extensive ground disturbance; and
- enhance our understanding of Romano-British populations in the locale through post-excavation analyses.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The main excavation area was set out using GPS, in the same position as that proposed in the WSI (Fig.1).

4.2.2 At the start of the fieldwork, the protective layer of material which had been used to cover the ten initially identified graves was removed by hand to fully expose and define archaeological features and deposits. Within the remainder of the excavation area, an intermittent, residual layer of overburden/loose redeposited chalk (up to 0.25 m thick) remained *in situ*. This material was removed in level spits using a 360º excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded in level spits until the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.3 Where necessary, the surfaces of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. A sample of archaeological features and deposits identified was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation. A sample of natural features such as tree hollows and areas of suspected modern disturbance were also investigated. All graves, and features suspected to be possible graves were investigated.

4.2.4 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. A metal detector was also used. All artefacts from excavated contexts were collected, bagged by context and retained, except those of modern date (19th century or later), which were recorded on site and discarded.

4.2.5 In order to aid the characterisation and interpretation of a substantial late prehistoric ditch at the south-eastern edge of the main excavation area, a further discrete episode of investigation was carried out as an expedient measure with the agreement of the Client. This entailed the hand excavation of an additional section through a relatively undisturbed section of the ditch *c* 20 m to the north-east.

Recording

4.2.6 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections), and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.

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

4.2.8 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.2.9 Photographs of the inhumation burial remains were taken using a Pentax K-50 mounting SMC Pentax-DAL AL WR 18–55 mm lens for the purpose of producing a photogrammetric model. The number of photographs, photograph overlap, lens focal length and distance to subject were adjusted to suit the subject and site conditions. All models were processed in Remake software (Autodesk, now superseded by Recap) and geo-referenced using GPS reference control points with a maximum tolerance of 30 mm. All models were exported as geo-referenced .obj files and added to the AutoCad project drawing as scaled images.

4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

General

4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

Human remains

4.3.2 The human remains were removed under the terms of a Licence for the Removal of Human Remains held by Wessex Archaeology (Ref: 18-0047, dated 12/03/18). The excavation and post-excavation assessment of human remains was in accordance with Wessex Archaeology protocols, and undertaken in-line with current guidance documents (eg, McKinley 2013) and the standards set out in CIfA Technical Paper 13 (McKinley and Roberts 1993).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 Martin Brown and Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger of WCAS monitored the excavations. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with both the Client and the WCAS.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

Summary of archaeological features and deposits

5.1.1 Despite widespread horizontal truncation and occasional areas of more intense modern disturbance, a small number of archaeological features were identified, excavated and recorded during the fieldwork. These related to two distinct phases of activity.

5.1.2 The earliest of these phases comprised a substantial late prehistoric ditch The date and function of the ditch could not be conclusively determined, although it is most likely to represent part of an Early–Middle Iron Age (700–100 BC) enclosure, which probably originally surrounded a settlement.

5.1.3 The second phase of activity comprised a group of 14 graves containing inhumation burials, forming a small cemetery of probable mid-late Romano-British date (AD 120-410).

5.1.4 No other archaeological features were present within the excavation areas, although a small quantity of worked flint and residual late prehistoric and Romano-British pottery was recovered from later contexts.

Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data

5.1.5 All hand written and drawn records from the excavation have been collated and checked for consistency and stratigraphic relationships. Key data has been transcribed into an Access database for assessment, which can be updated during any further analysis. The excavation has been phased using stratigraphic relationships and the spot dating from artefacts, particularly pottery.

5.1.6 **Table 1** (below) provides a quantification of the records from the excavation.

Table 1 Quantification of excavation records

Type	Quantity
Context records	177
Context registers	3
Graphics (A4 and A3)	34
Graphics (A1)	0
Graphics registers	3
Environmental sample registers	6

Type	Quantity
Object registers	16
Digital photographs	989

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The full sequence of overlying soils and/or overburden within the main area of investigation were not observed *in situ* as these had largely been mechanically removed prior to the start of the fieldwork.

5.2.2 At the start of the fieldwork, the main excavation area was covered by a layer of loose broken chalk (101), up to 0.25 m thick, which was derived from mechanical ground reduction to formation level. Single residual sherds of Romano-British Black Burnished Ware pottery and of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age flint tempered pottery were recovered from this deposit. The exposed upper surface of the chalk bedrock (102) was very clean and undisturbed by weathering.

5.2.3 Groundworks within the supplementary excavation area had also resulted in the removal or modification of deposits overlying the chalk bedrock prior to the start of the fieldwork. A 0.5 m thick layer of compacted chalk rubble (163) incorporating modern detritus (brick, concrete, plastic etc) had been deposited across this area by the contractors as ground levelling material prior to the excavation. This material overlaid a 0.05 m thick layer of re-deposited mid-yellowish brown silty clay (165), and a 0.15 m thick deposit of light greyish brown chalky silt (166) both of these deposits apparently also deposited as part of the ground levelling works. A possible remnant subsoil horizon (167) formed of a very light grey brown silty clay was sealed by these deposits, and in turn overlaid the clean surface of the blocky chalk bedrock (164).

5.3 Modern truncation and disturbance

5.3.1 The main excavation area had been affected by horizontal truncation, as evidenced by the very clean exposed upper surface of the chalk bedrock, although it was not possible to establish the extent / depth to which this had occurred. The possible relict subsoil horizon (167) recorded within the supplementary excavation area could indicate that this part of the site had been subject to less severe truncation. However, the clean appearance of the underlying chalk suggests that the material may have been redeposited following earlier groundworks.

5.3.2 Mechanical ground reduction undertaken immediately prior to the excavation was evidently responsible, in part, for the truncation seen across these parts of the development site. However, topographic survey data collected prior to the start of the groundwork programme suggests that the excavation areas coincided with part of the site where remodelling works had been carried out to create a level platform during an earlier phase of development. This was presumably achieved via cut and fill operations, which may have entailed widespread reduction in the level of the chalk bedrock. Conversely, however, the levels recorded during the excavation survey suggest that, in places, the levelled area recorded by the pre-construction phase survey was 1–2 m higher than that of the exposed upper surface of the chalk bedrock. This was apparently due to the importation and deposition of made ground, which could have sealed and protected the archaeological features recorded during the excavation from subsequent disturbance.

5.3.3 The upper parts of the archaeological features recorded during the excavation had been truncated to some (indefinite) degree. It is conceivable that these only survived by virtue of their relatively great depth, whilst the effects of prior development may have been

responsible for the destruction of other, shallower features and-or ephemeral archaeological remains.

5.3.4 Several localised areas of more severe modern ground disturbance were also noted both within and surrounding the excavation areas. Their relative infrequence, however, indicated that these locations had not been as intensively developed as other parts of the former Corunna Barracks site. This may have contributed to the survival of archaeological features within the excavation areas. Indeed, none of these areas of modern disturbance appear to have resulted in substantial truncation of any of the surviving archaeological features recorded during the excavation.

5.3.5 Some discrete areas of modern disturbance were initially identified as possible archaeological features due to their superficial similarity to graves in terms of their size and sub-rectangular shape in plan (see below). Subsequent investigation demonstrated that several of these were modern machine-excavated features associated with earlier phases of development (Fig. 9, Pl. 6), whilst others were shown to be shallow ruts caused by the passage of tracked excavators.

5.4 Archaeological features and deposits

Early–Middle Iron Age (700–100 BC)

5.4.1 Parts of a substantial ditch (group 178), orientated broadly north – south, and turning to the north to run north-east to south-west, were exposed within the excavation areas. The ditch was largely obscured beyond the two excavation areas due to the presence of an overlying layer of chalk rubble which had been deposited as part of the groundwork programme. Nevertheless, the observable portion of the ditch described a broad arc, which could be traced for a distance of at least 50 m (Fig. 3).

5.4.2 The ditch varied between 2.7 m and 3.3 m in width, and 1.54 m and 1.75 m in depth. It had steeply sloped, slightly convex or straight sides and a flat base. One excavated section (152; Fig. 3; Fig. 4, Pl. 1) exhibited a pronounced step in profile at the upper edge of the eastern, and presumably inner side (see below), which was not replicated elsewhere. Evidence of animal burrowing (160) was noted in the upper part of the ditch in this location, although it was uncertain if this accounted for the step in profile. The deposits infilling the upper half of ditch were also heavily disturbed by animal burrowing to the north-east (162; Fig. 3; Fig. 4, Pl. 2-3).

5.4.3 A similar sequence of deposits was observed to infill the ditch within all three excavated sections. The depositional sequence within the ditch indicates that, following its initial excavation, the feature proceeded to gradually infill via natural processes. No indications of re-cutting or maintenance of the ditch were observed within any of the excavated sections. There was also an absence of recognisable stabilisation layers or evidence of deliberate infilling within the ditch.

5.4.4 The basal fills (148, 157 and 174/175) predominantly consisted of re-deposited chalk and silt derived from the initial weathering and erosion of the ditch sides. These varied between 0.12 m and 0.5 m in thickness. Small quantities of late prehistoric and Iron Age pottery, burnt flint, animal bone and a single piece of struck flint were retrieved from these deposits.

5.4.5 The primary fills were overlain by a 0.52–0.8 m thick secondary chalk rubble fill (149/156/177). Within ditch section 162 (Fig.3), the deposit had clearly entered the open cut from the south-eastern side, suggesting that the material derived from the erosion of an

internal bank formed of upcast chalk. A small quantity of Iron Age and late prehistoric pottery, animal bone and burnt flint were recovered from this deposit.

5.4.6 The deposits directly overlying the chalk rubble fills in the central (152) and northern (162) sections through the ditch (eg, 154, 159, 176 and 168) were slightly variable, but generally appear to have been formed as a result of gradual natural silting and/or the erosion of an internal bank. Artefactual material retrieved from these deposits comprised small quantities of late prehistoric pottery, including one piece of possible Early Iron Age date, a single sherd of possibly intrusive late Roman greyware, animal bone, burnt flint and struck flint. No equivalent deposits were recorded in the southernmost section through the ditch (147).

5.4.7 In all three excavated sections, the uppermost fills of the ditch (150, 153 and 161/169) consisted of a mid-dark brown silty clay, representing a tertiary fill formed by very gradual natural silting following the stabilisation and re-profiling of the feature sides. These deposits varied between 0.4 m and 0.82 m in thickness. Finds recovered from this deposit included a mixed pottery assemblage comprising material of late prehistoric, Iron Age, Early Iron Age, Middle Iron Age and Romano-British date, as well as burnt flint, animal bone and very small quantities of fired clay, struck flint and a single iron nail.

5.4.8 In addition, an adult human skull (ON 288; see section 6) was found within one of the two upper fills (106), recorded in the northernmost section through the ditch (162). The skull was lain on its left side, and facing to the east (Fig. 4, pl. 4-5). Upon initial exposure, the skull and surrounding deposits were carefully cleaned to establish whether any articulated or associated human remains were present, and whether the skull had been placed in a separate cut feature. This conclusively determined that the skull was incorporated entirely within the upper fill of the ditch, as if either deliberately placed or discarded.

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

The cemetery

5.4.9 Fourteen graves containing *in situ* inhumation burials were recorded (Fig. 5). In three instances (graves 106, 109 and 138), the graves also contained redeposited (intrusive and residual) material derived from other burial contexts. Based on the finds assemblages and the nature of the inhumation rite employed, these are all thought to be of (probable mid-late) Romano-British date, and to constitute the remains of a small cemetery.

5.4.10 A summary of the graves and their contents is presented in Appendix 1.

5.4.11 The graves formed a relatively closely spaced cluster in the central part of the main excavation area, with a single outlier (grave 128) located approximately 6 m to the south of the main group. The graves were located at a minimum of 7 m to the west of the projected outer edge of the large Iron Age ditch, which is thought to have become largely infilled by the time the cemetery was in use.

5.4.12 Despite their close proximity to each other, few of the graves were intercut. The northern part of the cemetery, however, contained a sequence of three graves, the earliest of which was 109 (Fig. 6; Fig. 9, Pl. 8). This was cut by grave 103, which in turn was cut by grave 106 In addition, the presence of disarticulated human remains within the backfill of another example (138) appears to indicate that the grave had been re-used, or had cut through and disturbed an earlier burial (see below).

5.4.13 There was some correlation between the orientations of the graves and their position within the cemetery (Fig. 5). Four of the graves in the north-eastern part of the cemetery were orientated either WNW–ESE (112, 115 and 118) or north-west to south-east (106). The

remainder of the graves were predominantly orientated NNE–SSW or north-east to south-west. The exceptions to this were grave 112 (east to west), located near the western extremity of the cemetery, and grave 128 (north to south), the outlier to the south.

5.4.14 Preliminary assessment (see sections 6.5 and 9.2) has also revealed some spatial differentiation in the layout of the cemetery between graves containing the remains of females and males (Fig. 5).

5.4.15 Given the limited depth of some of the graves (see below; Fig. 9, Pl. 9), it is possible that other shallower examples had been lost to truncation prior to the excavation taking place. Indeed, two very shallow (less than 0.05 m deep) sub-rectangular features situated in the immediate vicinity of the cemetery could represent heavily truncated graves (Fig. 5).

5.4.16 The excavation areas contained no other cemetery-related features.

Graves

5.4.17 All of the grave cuts were sub-rectangular in plan, with steeply sloped or vertical straight sides and (predominantly) flat bases. These varied in depth from 0.13 m (grave 109) to 0.87 m (graves 124 and 132) (compare Fig 9., Pl. 6, 8 & 10), and averaged 0.45 m. There was no obvious patterning which might account for the variations in the depths of the graves (eg, due to differences in burial rite, or differential levels in truncation across the site). Excluding truncated examples (see below), the graves ranged in length from 2.31 m (grave 135) to 1.8 m (graves 118 and 138). The width of the graves averaged approximately 0.65 m, but varied from 0.92 m (grave 106) to 0.46 m (grave 112).

5.4.18 The graves were backfilled with the up-cast produced through their creation, the material comprising a mixture of surrounding soils, the underlying geology and, in the instances of intercutting examples, the contents of earlier graves. These deposits typically consisted of a mid-grey brown silty clay or silty clay loam incorporating a variable, but typically high proportion of re-deposited, and often poorly sorted chalk. The material infilling the graves was frequently loose and occasionally voided. The upper parts of these deposits were sometimes observed to have been compacted, ostensibly due to activities associated with earlier and more recent development works.

5.4.19 Grave 115 was slightly unusual in that the base of the cut contained a layer of redeposited chalk, above which the remains of the occupant (116) and associated coffin nails were found (Fig. 9, Pl. 11). This material could not be distinguished from the deposit (117) that otherwise filled the grave. Its presence suggests that the burial was made within an already partially infilled grave, such as if it had been left open prior to being used or if the freshly excavated grave was not completely emptied of spoil during its creation. Alternatively, the material might have been deliberately deposited to aid the placement of the coffin by levelling the base of the cut.

5.4.20 Residual finds of late prehistoric and Romano-British pottery, animal bone, burnt flint and undiagnostic pieces of worked flint were recovered in small quantities from the backfill of several of the graves, as well as the samples taken from the burial contexts (see section 6).

5.4.21 Disarticulated human bone and iron nails, probably originating in grave 103/burial 104, was recovered from the backfill (108) of the latest grave (106) in the sequence of three intercut examples (Fig. 6; Fig. 9, Pl. 8). Several coffin nails recovered from the backfill (111) of the earliest of the three graves (109) are thought to be intrusive, possibly deriving from the burial (104) in grave 103. A small quantity of intrusive, redeposited human bone was also retrieved from this deposit. The sequential intercutting of these graves resulted in the

truncation of the lower half of the remains of the individuals forming the earliest two burials (104 and 110).

5.4.22 Redeposited material derived from the disturbance of the remains of an earlier burial context was recovered from the backfill of grave 138. The disarticulated human bone possibly represents the remains of the original occupant of the grave, which may have been displaced and re-interred in the backfill when the grave was re-cut to accommodate burial 146 (Fig. 10, Pl. 12).

5.4.23 Several of the graves had evidently been disturbed by earlier development related activities, although typically to only a relatively minor degree. Graves affected in this manner included the three intercut examples (103, 106 and 109; Fig. 6; Fig. 9, Pl. 8), the upper parts of which were somewhat compacted. Despite their comparatively shallow depth, however, the remains of the individuals buried within these graves had not been significantly truncated as a result of the recent groundworks.

5.4.24 The remains of some of the individuals buried within other graves had been subject to minor truncation or disturbance as a result of earlier groundworks, specifically burial 122 in grave 121 (Fig. 7a; Fig 10, Pl. 17), burial 129 in grave 128 (Fig. 9, Pl. 9), and burial 136 in grave 135 (Fig. 8a). The upper eastern edge of grave 138 had also been truncated during mechanical ground reduction, although the remains of the burial it contained had not been disturbed due to the depth of the cut (0.74 m).

Burials

5.4.25 Each of the graves contained the *in situ* remains of a single individual, all of which were adults.

5.4.26 As discussed in section 6.5, the recovery of the remains of the individuals buried within the cemetery, and the preservation condition of the bone was highly variable (eg, compare Figs 7a-b). This was due primarily to differential degradation and, to a lesser extent, truncation or disturbance.

5.4.27 The presence of iron coffin nails indicates that at least ten of the burials had been made in coffins (Fig 10, Pl. 13-14). Grave 138 was the only example to contain coffin fittings other than coffin nails (see section 6.3). It is uncertain whether these were associated with the disturbed/disarticulated human remains within the backfill of the grave, or the *in situ* burial (146; Fig. 10, Pl. 12).

5.4.28 The burial positions were somewhat varied (Fig. 5). In five cases the remains of the individuals were in an extended position, whilst the remainder were either flexed (six instances) or semi-flexed (three instances). Although the remains of two individuals were supine (burial 119 / grave 118, and burial 129 / grave 128), most were laid on one side. In one case (burial 146 / grave 138), the remains of the individual were slumped into a near prone position. Others occasionally exhibited less extreme indications of slumping or shifting. The remains of burial 143 (grave 142) had a slightly unusual posture (Fig. 8b), whilst the position of burial 136 in grave 135 (Fig. 8a) was also notable; the skeleton lay tight up against the north-eastern edge of the grave cut, suggesting that the individual may have been interred within a shroud.

5.4.29 There was no obvious correlation between the orientations of the graves and the burials made within them (ie, the remains of the individuals did not always follow the same orientations within graves sharing similar alignments). Four of the individuals had been

buried with the head to the south-west or SSW, three to the north-east or NNE, three to the north-west or WNW, and one each to the ESE, east, WSW (or west) and north.

5.4.30 Hobnails were present around the feet of many of the individuals (Fig. 10, pl. 13 & 15-16), indicating that they had been buried wearing footwear. Cleats were also found in association with burial 122 in grave 121 (Fig. 7a) and burial 136 in grave 135 (Fig. 8a). Few of the burials were shown to have been accompanied by other grave goods; the principal exceptions being a single 4th century copper alloy coin (ON 67; see section 6.7) found by the right shoulder of the skeleton (119) in grave 118, and a shale spindle whorl (ON 147; see section 6.7) found in the area of the thorax of the skeleton (130) in grave 126. A nodule of iron pyrites was also recovered from a bulk soil sample taken from the pelvic area of the skeleton (107) in grave 106.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A moderate quantity of finds was recovered, of Early Iron Age to late Roman date. All finds have been cleaned (with the exception of the metalwork) and quantified by material type in each context; this information is summarised in **Table 2**. The assemblage derives mainly from the graves and enclosure ditch 178.

Table 2 Quantification of finds by feature and material type (number/weight in grammes)

	Human bone		**Iron**		**Pottery**		**Animal bone**		**Flint**		**Other finds**
Feature	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)	
Grave 103	17	160	27	276	1	1			1	1	
Grave 106	15	646	113	295							
Grave 109	4	157	3	18							
Grave 112	1	1	122	439	1	5			1	1	
Grave 115	8	81	125	358	1	5	8	85			4 x burnt flint (49g)
Grave 118	1	1	105	510							1 x copper alloy (3g)
Grave 121	1	1	106	287					2	9	1 x burnt flint (3g)
Grave 124	1	1	22	207	1	1	32	130			1 x burnt flint (1g)
Grave 126	1	1	23	149	2	24	1	2	1	9	1 x shale (12g); 4 x burnt flint (7g)
Grave 128	1	1	1	2	6	11	9	105			4 x burnt flint (76g)
Grave 132	1	1	85	430			56	1			
Grave 135	33	32	170	555			3	11	1	1	
Grave 138	133	136	132	524	6	26	2	8	1	1	
Grave 142	1	1	118	588	1	1					2 x burnt flint (2g)

Ditch 178	1	449	1	17	69	574	529	1599	14	314	2 x fired clay (45g); 212 x burnt flint (2074g)
Animal burrow in ditch 152					1	8					
Unstrat.	7	548	3	4							
Overburden					2	24					
Total	**226**	**2217**	**1153**	**4655**	**91**	**680**	**640**	**1941**	**21**	**336**	

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 A total of 82 sherds of pottery (665 g) was recovered. The assemblage is of later prehistoric to late Roman date and in moderate to poor condition, with abraded surfaces and an average sherd weight of 8.1 g. It derives from eight inhumation graves (103, 112, 115, 124, 126, 128, 138 and 142), an enclosure ditch (178), an animal burrow into the top of the ditch and as unstratified finds. The prehistoric pottery has been fully recorded, according to the *Guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group* (PCRG 2011). This data is held in an Access database for the finds and summarised below; fabrics are quantified in Table 3. The Roman pottery has been recorded to a basic level, in line with national guidance (Barclay *et al.* 2016).

6.2.2 The pottery from the graves was largely residual, each containing six sherds or fewer. The material from the fills of enclosure ditch 178 is of mixed date, with pottery of Early Iron Age to late Romano-British date recovered.

6.2.3 Pottery of Earliest to Early Iron Age date (*c.* 800–400 BC) includes a flared rim, possibly from a carinated bowl in a silty fabric, a ridged body sherd in a flint-tempered fabric, and an omphalos base in a sandy ware with common fine to medium-grained quartz, all from enclosure ditch 178 (fills 161 and 176), and a shoulder sherd with stamped circular decoration in a flint-tempered ware from overburden 101. A body sherd with irregularly applied lattice decoration, in a sandy fabric from fill 176, may be contemporary. A rim from a vessel of neutral profile with crudely formed bead rim in a fabric with very common medium to coarse-grained quartz, of Middle to Late Iron Age date, was recovered from the upper fill of ditch 178 (fill 153).

6.2.4 Body sherds in a sandy ware of Iron Age or Roman date came from overburden 101, graves 124, 128 and 142, and enclosure ditch 178. Body sherds in Iron Age sandy wares, including a glauconitic variant, came from grave 115 and enclosure ditch 178. The flint-tempered fabrics include Earliest/Early Iron Age variants, typically with sparse to moderate flint in silty/very fine sandy clay matrices and a harder fabric with common flint, of Middle to Late Iron Age date. Other later prehistoric fabrics occur in small quantities of grog-tempered wares, grog and flint-tempered fabrics and shelly wares.

6.2.5 The Romano-British assemblage (19 sherds, 148 g) includes a single sherd of New Forest colour-coated ware, of late Roman date, and a beaker rim in a colour-coated ware, probably from the north Wiltshire kilns and of AD 120-140 date; both are from grave 138. Four sherds of Black-burnished ware from the Poole Harbour/Wareham area of south-east Dorset came from grave 126, the upper fill of ditch 178 and overburden 101. Greywares and other sandy wares include a drop-flanged bowl from fill 176 of ditch 178.

Table 3 Quantification of pottery, by fabric (number/weight in grammes)

Period/fabric	No.	Wg (g)
Later prehistoric		
Sandy wares	20	224
Flint-tempered wares	13	146
Grog-tempered wares	4	21
Grog and flint-tempered wares	2	5
Shelly wares	3	3
Limestone-gritted ware	1	7
Flint and glauconitic sandy ware	1	3
Sub-total	*44*	*409*
Iron Age/Roman		
Sandy wares	28	123
Sub-total	*28*	*123*
Romano-British		
New Forest colour-coated ware	1	9
North Wilts colour-coated ware	1	9
SE Dorset Black-burnished ware	4	34
Greyware	11	84
Sandy ware	2	12
Sub-total	*19*	*148*
Total	**91**	**680**

6.3 Iron

6.3.1 The iron assemblage derives almost exclusively from the graves, with just one nail from enclosure ditch 178 (slot 147). It includes fittings from coffins (nails, strip and plate fittings) and footwear (hobnails and cleats).

6.3.2 Iron nails were recovered from 13 graves, representing burials within coffins in 11 graves (Table 4). Most contained between 20 and 33 nails, with smaller quantities from graves 106 (seven nails) and 109 (three nails), and greater numbers from graves 115 (41 nails) and 118 (49 nails).

6.3.3 Other coffin fittings were recorded from grave 138. They comprise strip and plate fragments that were fixed to the coffin using nails (cf Clarke 1979, 336–40); the plate fragment has two perforations. The pieces appear to have been displaced as a result of the truncation in this grave and may have derived from the later burial.

6.3.4 Hobnails in nine graves (**Table 4**) represent footwear buried with the individuals. In two cases (graves 121 and 135), cleats were found associated with the hobnails. These derive from the heels or soles of boots and are typically associated with late Roman contexts (Crummy 2011, 48).

6.3.5 A complete nodule of iron pyrites was recovered from a bulk soil sample of the pelvic area of skeleton 107 in grave 106. Whilst such items are a natural phenomenon, its occurrence here may be significant.

6.3.6 Graves 103, 106 and 109 were intercutting, and it is likely that the nails recorded from graves 106 and 109 derived from the burial in grave 103. Burial 139 in grave 138 had been

truncated by a later burial, 146. It has not been possible at this stage to ascertain if the coffin fittings and hobnails from this grave were associated with burial 139 or 146.

Table 4 Summary of iron from graves (by number of items)

Feature	Nail	Hobnail	Cleat	Other fittings	Pyrites	Total
Grave 103	27					27
Grave 106	4	108			1	113
Grave 109	3					3
Grave 112	30	92				122
Grave 115	41	84				125
Grave 118	49	56				105
Grave 121	18	76	12			106
Grave 124	22					22
Grave 126	23					23
Grave 128		1				1
Grave 132	27	58				85
Grave 135	27	141	2			170
Grave 138	33	93		6		132
Grave 142	32	86				118
Total	**336**	**795**	**14**	**6**	**1**	**1152**

6.4 Flint

6.4.1 Twenty-one pieces of worked flint were recovered from the excavation. The most interesting collections were made from the fill of Iron Age enclosure ditch 178 (slot 162). This assemblage, comprising eight flakes from the upper fills (161), five from the chalk rubble (176) and a single piece from the basal fills (174), was predominantly composed of core preparation flakes. All artefacts were in mint condition and of good quality raw material. Flakes from the upper fills were marked by a poorly developed light blue patina, whereas those from the chalky fills were mainly unpatinated. One broken flake from the upper fills, one from the chalk rubble and a flake from the base were more heavily patinated and were probably residual.

6.4.2 There is little that can be added to this basic description, however the discovery of struck flakes in mint condition probably represents prolonged use of flint into the Iron Age, a period by which time the stone age was effectively extinct. Evidence of this type continues to appear providing interesting insights into the Iron Age lifestyle when flint still provided sharp edges for basic tasks.

6.4.3 The remaining pieces were all collected from sieved residues from individual inhumation burials or hand excavation of the graves. All were small, undiagnostic pieces and may have resulted from impact when the graves were being dug.

6.4.4 Burnt flint (228 pieces, 2212 g) was recovered from graves 115, 121, 124, 126, 128 and 142, and enclosure ditch 178. This material is generally associated with prehistoric activity but is intrinsically undatable.

6.5 Human bone

Introduction

6.5.1 The skeletal remains from 14 inhumation burials and a small quantity of redeposited human bone were assessed. The burial remains and most of the redeposited material derive from a rural Romano-British cemetery; a coin from one of the graves dates to the late 4th century AD. A disarticulated skull was found approximately 30 m to the north-east of the cemetery, in large enclosure ditch 178 of late prehistoric origin, within the uppermost fill of probable late Romano-British or later date.

Methods

6.5.2 The bone was rapidly scanned to assess its condition (McKinley 2004), the potential for the recovery of skeletal indices and the presence of pathological lesions and morphological variations. Assessment of the age and sex of individuals was based on standard methodologies (eg, Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000).

Results

6.5.3 The results are summarised in Appendix 2.

6.5.4 Grave cuts were visible once the redeposited chalk overburden had been removed and the chalk bedrock exposed. Apart from a degree of horizontal truncation and a few examples of intrusion from later features (Fig. 2), the cemetery was relatively well-preserved. Surviving grave depths ranged between 0.13 m and 0.87 m (average 0.45 m) and fills comprised chalk rubble and silty clay.

6.5.5 In nearly all instances, disturbance of an earlier grave was avoided by those using the cemetery. Exceptions comprise a sequence of three intercutting graves and the re-use of another. Grave 109 was the first to be cut and used, followed by grave 103 and finally 106, each focused on a common centre-point but following different alignments. A small proportion of bone from the disturbed earlier burial(s) had been redeposited within the backfill(s) of the later. Bones found redeposited around the *in situ* burial remains in grave 138 suggest re-use of a single grave, the *ex situ* material potentially deriving from the grave's original occupant. The initial burial was disturbed whilst the bone was still 'semi-green' or fairly fresh and pliable, ie, after a relatively short period of time; it is not possible to be specific in this regard, as there are many factors that affect how long it takes for 'green' or 'wet' bone to become 'dry' and brittle.

6.5.6 At least ten of the characteristically Romano-British burials had been made coffined, demonstrated by the presence of iron coffin nails, and in most cases hobnailed footwear

had formed part of the burial apparel. A late 4th-century coin had been placed by the right shoulder of the corpse in one grave, and another person had been buried with a spindle whorl. The majority of the bodies had been arranged in a relaxed, extended and supine position, often slightly turned to one side. Some were flexed (regardless of presence of a coffin) and one had slumped forward after burial so as to appear almost prone.

6.5.7 The cemetery was situated within a few metres of a large enclosure ditch (162), and it is within the uppermost fills of this ditch, in a section some 30 m to the north-east, that a redeposited skull of unknown date was found.

6.5.8 The condition of the bone varies within single skeletons and across the site, ranging from excellent (grade 0) to very poor (grade 5+). Factors involved in the condition of bone are complex, eg, the state of the corpse, the circumstances and nature of the death and the subsequent rites, as well as the post-depositional environment (such as soil chemistry, water percolation, disturbance, compression). Much of the assemblage is root-etched, there is some surface erosion and trabecular bone was prone to degradation. A moderate degree of both old and more recent fragmentation was observed.

6.5.9 Skeletal recovery varied between 18–90%, although more than half of the skeleton from eight of the 14 *in situ* burials is available for examination. Bone loss was predominantly due to degradation, followed by truncation.

6.5.10 Iron residue and a mossy-green staining were noted amongst the *in situ* remains, the former deriving from proximity to iron coffin nails. The redeposited skull from the ditch had a slightly soapy sheen, which could be indicative of handling or curation (some burial environments may also produce a similar result); a linear dark stain across the frontal bone is likely to be related to fungal action.

6.5.11 The assemblage represents the remains of a minimum (MNI) of 16 Romano-British adults (14 found *in situ*) and a young adult female of uncertain date (redeposited skull). No immature remains were identified (ie, none <18 years). The Romano-British contingent comprises the remains of at least 10 females (two redeposited) and six males, the majority of whom reached or lived beyond their fourth decade.

6.5.12 Two males found in adjacent graves both had metopic sutures, a potentially genetically-linked cranial trait manifest in around 7% of the population (Berry and Berry 1967), suggesting that they may have been related. A preliminary assessment of the redeposited skull indicates that the young woman had some distinguishing facial characteristics including particularly wide or ‘high’ cheek bones.

6.5.13 Most individuals have some form of pathological lesion, the majority of which relate to advancing age (ie, joint and dental disease; Rogers and Waldron 1995; Hillson 1986). Like many rural Romano-British assemblages, there are a few signs of metabolic disease and childhood physiological stress (eg, *cribra orbitalia* and dental enamel hypoplasia; Roberts and Manchester 1995, 166–9; Lewis and Roberts 1997; Hillson 1979) and indications that most had led a physically strenuous lifestyle. Evidence for prolonged infection was identified in a small number of individuals, most commonly affecting the lower spine (possible discitis; Salter 1999, 221; Viroslav 2012). The few identified traumatic injuries are generally consistent with trips, falls and accidents (Adams 1987).

6.6 Animal bone

6.6.1 A total of 640 fragments (or 1.941 kg) of animal bone came from seven graves (115, 124, 126, 128, 132, 135 and 138) of possible late Romano-British date and an Iron Age/Romano-

British enclosure ditch (178). Once conjoins and associated bone groups (or ABGs, for definition see Grant 1984, 533; Morris 2010, 12; 2011, 12–3) are accounted for this falls to 245 fragments (**Table 5**). Most of the animal bone was recovered by hand, with a small percentage from the sieved residue of a few bulk soil samples.

6.6.2 The assemblage was rapidly scanned, and the following information quantified where applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion and tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was directly recorded into a relational database (in MS Access) and cross-referenced with relevant contextual information.

Table 5 Animal bone: number of identified specimens present (or NISP) by period

Species	Graves	Ditch	Total
Cattle	4	27	31
Sheep/goat	5	20	25
Pig	-	7	7
Horse	1	5	6
Dog	-	6	6
Badger	-	1	1
Hare	1	3	4
Rodent	1	2	4
amphibian	-	2	2
Total identified	**11**	**74**	**85**
Total unidentifiable	**2**	**156**	**160**
Overall total	**13**	**230**	**245**

Preservation condition

6.6.3 Bone preservation is generally good although a few fragments from ditch deposits show signs of weathering and abrasion consistent with having been reworked and redeposited. Gnaw marks are apparent on 7% of post-cranial bones. This is a relatively low number and indicates that the assemblage has not been significantly biased by the bone-chewing habit of scavenging carnivores.

Graves

6.6.4 A small number of bones came from the backfills of several late Romano-British graves. The identified bones are from sheep/goat, cattle and horse. The identified fragments include both cranial (eg, horn core, mandible and teeth) and post-cranial fragments. The skeleton of a mouse was recovered from the base of the grave.

Enclosure ditch 178

6.6.5 The largest concentrations of animal bones came from fills 153 and 154 in slot 152, with smaller amounts from slots 147 and 162. Cattle bones dominate the assemblage, followed by sheep/goat, pig, horse, dog, badger and hare. Cattle and sheep/goat are both represented by a range of elements, but overall meaty parts of the carcass are more numerous than cranial fragments. Pig elements show the opposite bias.

6.6.6 A few horse bones came from slots 152 and 162. The identified elements include a fragment of mandible and few ankle and foot bones. Several dog bones came from the various ditch

slots. They include an ulna from 147, a skull and humerus from 152 and a skull, atlas and scapula from 162. Three hare bones, the left and right tibiae and left pelvis, came from the upper fill of 162. In addition, the near complete skeleton of a juvenile badger and a few rodent and amphibian bones came from 152.

6.7 Other finds

6.7.1 A single copper alloy object, a Roman coin (nummus of Valens, AD 364–378), was recovered from grave 118 (Appendix 3).

6.7.2 A shale spindle whorl was recorded from grave 126 (backfill layer 127, ON 147). It is of conical form, flat on top and bottom with rounded, convex sides, with a diameter of 34 mm and height of 16 mm. The internal diameter of the perforation is 7.4 mm. It is damaged on one side and one face but appears to have been decorated with a single circle on each face. It is similar to an example from a 4th century grave at Lankhills (Clarke 1979, fig. 88, 369).

6.7.3 Two pieces of fired clay were recorded, weighing 45 g. One has a flat surface and may be part of an oven plate or structural fragment, the other is a flake without surfaces; both came from enclosure ditch 178.

6.8 Conservation

6.8.1 The metal objects will require x-radiography, to provide a basic record for these inherently unstable materials and as an aid to identification. It is unlikely that any items will require further conservation treatment.

6.8.2 The shale is currently stored wet in a refrigerator but prior to deposition it will need to be treated with polyethylene glycol before controlled drying.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 One hundred and two bulk sediment samples were taken from a range of features. Of these, 96 samples were taken from Romano-British graves and were processed for the recovery of skeletal and artefactual material. Six bulk sediment samples taken from the fills of late prehistoric ditch 178 were processed by flotation and assessed for the presence of environmental evidence.

7.2 Aims and methods

7.2.1 The purpose of this assessment is to determine the potential of the environmental remains preserved at the site to address project aims and to provide archaeobotanical data valuable for wider research frameworks.

7.2.2 The size of the bulk sediment environmental samples varied between 8 and 43 litres, and on average was around 25 litres. The bulk sediment samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Syraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>4 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were scanned using stereo incident light microscopy (Leica MS5 microscope) at magnifications of up to x40 for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (eg, *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as earthworm eggs and

insects, which would not be preserved unless anoxic conditions prevailed on site. The preservation and nature of the environmental remains was recorded.

7.2.3 Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3 and 5, 28, 65), for cereals. Abundance of remains is qualitatively quantified (A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5) as an estimation of the minimum number of individuals and not the number of remains per taxa. Mollusc nomenclature follows Anderson (2005).

7.3 Results

7.3.1 The flots were generally small (Appendix 4) and there were low numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of little stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material was poorly preserved and comprised remains of cereal grains, such as from wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and possible strawberry (Rosaceae tp. *Fragaria* sp.). Fine wood charcoal from mature wood was noted in small quantities. Relatively rich assemblages of small animal bones were present in the samples. Remains of terrestrial molluscs from both shady and sunny habitats were recovered in abundance in the samples.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Early–Middle Iron Age ditch

8.1.1 Much of the later prehistoric pottery retrieved from the fills of ditch 178 could not be precisely dated to a specific period, whilst the gradual nature of their accumulation and the abraded nature of the finds suggests that some of this material is likely to be residual. The potential for intrusive artefactual remains is also high given that its upper fills had been significantly disturbed by animal burrowing. Nevertheless, the overall assemblage of prehistoric pottery recovered from the excavation (both from the ditch itself, and the residual material in later graves) indicates a presence on the site from the Early Iron Age into the Middle Iron Age; the ditch is therefore considered most likely to derive from this period. The finds retrieved from the more slowly accumulated upper, tertiary fills suggest that the ditch had become largely infilled by the late Romano-British period; stray pieces of Romano-British pottery retrieved from lower in the fill sequence could be accounted for as intrusive material resulting from bioturbation.

8.1.2 Although the ditch was only partially exposed, its curving shape in plan suggests that it once formed a complete circuit. This, combined with its scale, profile, sequence of infilling deposits and the artefactual evidence retrieved from the excavated sections support its interpretation as an enclosure ditch with internal bank, likely surrounding a contemporary settlement site. Caution must be exercised in this regard, however, as its full extent and original shape in plan remains unknown and the putative interior of the enclosure lay outside the excavation areas. Indeed, no other contemporary features or other traces of activity that might elucidate the function of the ditch were revealed during the fieldwork, excepting a small quantity of residual late prehistoric pottery from the overburden and the backfill of the later Romano-British graves. Whether this was due to a genuine absence of such features, or the result of prior truncation of more shallow or ephemeral remains could not be determined.

8.1.3 If the exposed section of the ditch is extrapolated to define the north-western quadrant of a roughly circular enclosure, this would give an enclosed area of around 0.5 ha. In reality, however, the area delimited by the ditch and internal bank could have been considerably

larger or smaller than this. As the size and shape of the probable enclosure are unknown, it is uncertain whether the remainder of the feature (and any remains contained within its interior) extends significantly beyond, and potentially survive intact outside of the footprint of the development area.

8.2 Mid-late Romano-British cemetery

8.2.1 The Romano-British cemetery presumably contained the remains of the inhabitants of a nearby rural settlement, although the excavation produced no other substantive evidence relating to the community that interred their dead at the site. As with the late prehistoric ditch, the graves may have been the only features to survive within the development site by virtue of their depth, whilst other more shallow or ephemeral features such as stock enclosures, field boundaries, pits or postholes could have been lost to truncation. Alternatively, it may simply be the case that the cemetery lay some distance from any associated settlement. Indeed, this would not be unusual for the period, whilst the quantities of Romano-British pottery recovered from the excavated contexts are not indicative of intensive occupation in the immediate vicinity.

8.2.2 Notwithstanding the possibility that additional burials interred in more shallow graves may have been lost to truncation, the relatively nucleated distribution of the recorded graves might support the argument that the limits of the cemetery were originally demarcated in some manner, of which no material trace survived. Furthermore, it may imply that the recorded graves represented approximately the full, original extent of the cemetery. The relatively small proportion of intercut graves could suggest that at least some of these were not marked and-or that the cemetery remained in use long enough for the locations of earlier burials to have passed out of memory.

9 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

9.1 Stratigraphic potential

Early–Middle Iron Age ditch

9.1.1 The unexpected discovery of a substantial late prehistoric ditch, probably forming part of previously unknown Early–Middle Iron Age enclosed settlement, is a particularly notable result of the fieldwork. Given that it lies outside of the recorded distribution of potentially contemporary analogous sites, such as those to the west on Cow Down (Annable 1957; 1958, Anon 1961) and Coombe Down, and Warren Hill to the south (Fulford *et al* 2006), it is potentially illustrative of the extent to which previous development has obscured evidence of later prehistoric activity in the local area.

9.1.2 The probable enclosure ditch did not form the focus of the specific research objectives outlined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) as the feature only came to light during the course of the excavation. Nevertheless, the identification and investigation of the feature fulfilled the general aims of the excavation, and has furthered our understanding of the extent, distribution and character of late prehistoric activity in the local area. It also raises questions regarding the chronology, function and status of the probable enclosure, and its place in the organisation of the surrounding landscape.

9.1.3 Due to the restricted nature of the remains uncovered during the excavation, there is limited scope for further analysis of the stratigraphic sequence to yield additional information that would enable these questions to be addressed. However, a re-examination of the known archaeology of the area, undertaken through a review of published reports and available grey literature, would contribute towards the discussion and interpretation of the probable enclosure within its wider context.

9.1.4 In isolation, therefore, the evidence retrieved solely from the excavated sections of the ditch is of local significance. Whether the remainder of the enclosure ditch, or the presumed remains of the settlement it contained survive beyond the boundaries of the development site is uncertain. Should this be the case, however, any such remains could be of greater (eg, regional) significance.

Mid-late Romano-British cemetery

9.1.5 The excavation, recording and preliminary assessment of the burial contexts has contributed to the specific research objectives of the fieldwork, as defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) and reiterated in section 3.

9.1.6 The results have added to the growing corpus of evidence for mid-late Romano-British mortuary practices in the region. The discovery is particularly notable in light of the general paucity of recorded evidence for Romano-British activity in the local area which, again, is presumably due to the effects of modern development and the limited extent of previous archaeological work in the immediate vicinity.

9.1.7 A consideration of the potential of the data generated by the excavation of the cemetery is presented in section 9.3.

9.2 Finds potential

Human bone

9.2.1 The assemblage represents (a large proportion of) the individuals buried in this small cemetery, that served a (probably mid-late) Romano-British community, perhaps living in a nearby farmstead or similar settlement. While it is not uncommon to find that infants and new-borns were not buried in these formalised burial grounds – they being more typically interred in domestic or agricultural settings (Philpott 1991, 97–102; Struck 1993; Scott 1999, 115) – it is of some note that there are no immature remains at all. It is possible that some shallower graves have been lost due to truncation, though it may have been that the younger members of the community were afforded a different mortuary treatment. Low fertility rates or social and/or economic factors are also be a plausible explanations.

9.2.2 Notably, the evidence indicates some spatial differentiation within the cemetery, with females buried on the north-western side and the males (with one minor aberration) on the south-eastern side of a central axis (Fig. 5). There is a degree of variation with regard to orientation and burial rites although some of the disparity in body position is due to slumping and settling, or shifting of the corpse during transportation or interment (eg, 136 in grave 135; Fig 8a). It is not clear whether the unusual posture of the remains in grave 142 (burial 143; Fig. 8b) is due to an incorrectly-sized coffin, or if the coffin was built to accommodate a body that was not suitable for arrangement in a more ‘standard’ attitude.

9.2.3 The disarticulated and undated skull found on the top of the large enclosure ditch might initially seem to represent a well-recorded Iron Age practice (Aldhouse-Green 2001, 97–109; Armit 2012), particularly as it derives from a young adult female and has a surface texture that might suggest handling or curation. Alternative explanations include that this represents a disturbed outlier to the cemetery, or else an isolated burial of a yet-to-be-determined period.

9.2.4 The material allows for more detailed osteoarchaeological analysis and data collection, so that estimates of age and sex may be confirmed or clarified, standard measurements taken and indices calculated, and pathological lesions better understood via closer examination, recording and the generation of prevalence rates.

Other finds

9.2.5 The pottery assemblage is small and largely residual. The later prehistoric material provides an indication of an Early Iron Age presence on the site, but its potential to address research questions is limited by its provenance. The Romano-British pottery includes fabrics and forms of late 3rd to 4th century date, including one sherd from grave 138.

9.2.6 The iron objects provide evidence for grave furniture, items of dress and burial tradition. Cleats are relatively rare artefacts in Britain, but other examples have been found in central southern Britain, particularly in the late Roman period (Crummy 2011). Analysis and publication of the examples from Ludgershall will therefore provide an opportunity to further understand the use and distribution of such items and the manufacture of footwear.

9.2.7 The shale spindle whorl provides limited evidence of domestic activity on the site.

9.2.8 The animal bone assemblage is extremely small and limits its potential for more detailed study. However, the development area is part of a much larger-scale project and the results of this assessment need to be viewed in a wider context and included in any publication of the fieldwork results.

9.3 Environmental potential

9.3.1 The charred plant remains recovered may have originated in plant processing activities, but due to poor preservation, and because of the small size of the assemblage, little significant information may be extracted from them, other than the cultivation of wheat and barley in the area. The mixed assemblage of terrestrial molluscs indicates an open landscape with some scrub/wood/hedge or tall grass areas in the vicinity of the site.

9.4 Radiocarbon dating

9.4.1 The human bone from the graves and the disarticulated human skull (ON 288) from the upper fill of the enclosure ditch 178 are potentially suitable for radiocarbon dating.

9.5 Summary of potential

9.5.1 The remains described here are of local and regional significance, and have the potential to enhance our understanding of the occupation of the area during late prehistory, and to add to the growing body of data on inhumation mortuary practises of the Romano-British period in Wiltshire.

9.6 Further work

9.6.1 A list of updated research questions and projects aims, along with recommendations for further work and proposed methodologies for the same, will be included in an overarching Updated Project Design for the complete archaeological works associated with the Army Basing Programme.

10 STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 Museum

10.1.1 The archive resulting from the excavation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. In due course, the archive will be deposited with the Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes. Deposition of any finds with the receiving museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

10.2 Preparation of the archive

10.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

10.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **site code 202841**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

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

10.3 Selection policy

10.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum, and is fully documented in the project archive.

10.3.2 In this instance, the following categories are selected to not be retained: burnt flint.

10.4 Security copy

10.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

10.5 OASIS

10.5.1 An OASIS online record (http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main) has been initiated, with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

11 COPYRIGHT

11.1 Archive and report copyright

11.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved. The Client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations* 2003. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

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

11.2 Third party data copyright

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

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Grave summary

Grave Burial *fill*	**orientation (head –feet)**	**grave shape/ sides/ base**	**L (m)**	**W (m)**	**D (m)**	**burial position & type**		**skeletal recovery**	**age (approx.)**	**sex**	**grave goods**	**finds**	**stratigraphic relationship**	**location in cemetery**	**other notes**
103 104 *105*	SSW-NNE	Sub-rectangular/ straight, steep/ flat	1.93	0.6	0.24	Right side Flexed	Coffined. Forearms flexed away from body, hands together against grave edge.	55%	adult 40–50 yr	F	Coffin nails – ON 5,8,9, 117-140		106 | 111	NE	
106 107 *108*	NW-SE	Sub-rectangular/ straight, steep/ flat	1.97	0.92	0.22	Left side Flexed	Arms extended, hands by femurs, knees bent to left, left foot under right.	60%	adult 45–60 yr	M	Hobnails –- ON 101, Coffin nails - ON 4,6,7	Redep. human bone	101 | 105	NE	Redep. = MNI adult >40 yr, ??female, 18% u.l.
109 110 *111*	WSW-ENE	Sub-rectangular/ straight, steep/ flat	0.71	0.45	0.13	Right side Flexed	Up against grave cut, right arm bent up toward shoulder, left arm slumped against cut. No legs.	40% s.a. u.	adult >50 yr	F	Coffin nails - ON10,11	Redeposited human bone	103 | 102	NE	Intrusive redep. human bone in backfill 111 of MNI adult >25 yr, 1 bone and fragment l.
112 113 *114*	ESE-WNW	Sub-rectangular/ straight, near vertical/ flat	2.04	0.46	0.4	Right side Flexed	Coffined. Right leg beneath left.	30%	adult >50 yr	?M	Hobnails - ON 114, Coffin nails - ON 12-16, 79-83, 103-113, 115, 116		101 | 102	NE	
115 116 *117*	ESE-WNW	Sub-rectangular/ straight, near vertical/	2.22	0.75	0.45	Slightly on left side Slightly flexed	Coffined. Right forearm bent across abdomen, both hands on left pelvis, right knee slightly flexed to left, right foot over left.	50%	adult 40–55 yr	M	Hobnails - ON 102, Coffin Nails -	Pottery	101 | 102	NE	

Grave Burial *fill*	**orientation (head –feet)**	**grave shape/ sides/ base**	**L (m)**	**W (m)**	**D (m)**	**burial position & type**		**skeletal recovery**	**age (approx.)**	**sex**	**grave goods**	**finds**	**stratigraphic relationship**	**location in cemetery**	**other notes**
		flat									ON 17, 23-25, 27,28,39 ,41,59,6 3,75-77				
118 119 *120*	WNW-ESE	Sub-rectangular/ straight/stepped, vertical/ flat	1.8	0.8	0.42	Supine Slightly flexed	Coffined. Left knee slightly flexed right.	20%	adult 20–35 yr	F	Hobnails - ON 100, Coffin nails - ON 18-2, 29-38, 45-58, 89-99, Cu coin - ON 67		101 | 102	NE	
121 122 *123*	NE-SW	Sub-rectangular/ straight, steep/ flat	1.96	0.64	0.2	Left side Flexed	Right arm crossed over left at wrists, legs bent.	85%	adult 45–55 yr	M	Hobnails - ON 65, 66, Coffin nails - ON 68-74, 78, 85-47	1 flint flake	101 | 102	Central	
128 129 *131*	N-S	Sub-rectangular/ concave, moderate-steep/ flat	1.7	0.75	0.17	Supine Extended	Left arm across abdomen, left hand on right forearm, legs slightly flexed to left, feet together.	22%	adult 30–40 yr	M		Pottery, animal bone, burnt flint	Modern disturbance | 102	South	
126 130 *127*	SSW-NNE	Sub-rectangular/ straight, near vertical/ undulating	1.97	0.6	0.79	Right side Slightly flexed	Coffined.	18% s.a.l.	adult 45–55 yr	F	Spindle whorl - ON 147, Coffin nails - ON 143-146, 148-154, 160-166	Pottery	101 | 102	NW	

Grave Burial *fill*	**orientation (head –feet)**	**grave shape/ sides/ base**	**L (m)**	**W (m)**	**D (m)**	**burial position & type**		**skeletal recovery**	**age (approx.)**	**sex**	**grave goods**	**finds**	**stratigraphic relationship**	**location in cemetery**	**other notes**
132 133 *134*	SW-NE	Sub-rectangular/ straight, near vertical/ flat	2.14	0.61	0.87	Slightly on right side Extended	Coffined. Left arm over right and thorax, left leg prone, right leg supine.	55%	adult 30–40 yr	F	Hobnails - ON 192, 193, Coffin nails - ON 155-159, 171, 174-179, 194-198, 200-206	Rodent skeleton	101 | 102	Central	
135 136 *137*	NE-SW	Sub-rectangular/ straight, near vertical/ flat	2.31	0.6	0.45	Left side Extended	Coffined. Tightness of position suggests shrouding. Tight against the NE side of cut.	85%	adult 30–40 yr	M	Hobnails - ON 210, Coffin nails - ON 167-170, 172. 173, 180, 199, 211-219		101 | 102	Central	
138 146 *139, 140, 151*	NE-SW	Sub-rectangular/ straight, steep/ flat, dips at SW end	1.8	0.65	0.74	Right side Extended	Coffined. Slumped into near prone position.	48%	adult >45 yr	F	Hobnails - ON 267,268, Fe shoe fittings - ON 265,266, Coffin nails - ON 260-264	Pottery, animal bone, redeposited human bone Hobnails - ON 238, Coffin nails - 208, 231-237, 239, 240	101 | 102	Central	Redeposited human bone in backfill, MNI adult >45yr female, 25%

Grave Burial *fill*	**orientation (head –feet)**	**grave shape/ sides/ base**	**L (m)**	**W (m)**	**D (m)**	**burial position & type**		**skeletal recovery**	**age (approx.)**	**sex**	**grave goods**	**finds**	**stratigraphic relationship**	**location in cemetery**	**other notes**
124 141 *125*	NNE-SSW	Sub-rectangular/ straight, near vertical/ undulating	1.92	0.59	0.87	Slightly right side Extended	Coffined. Left forearm across pelvis, both hands by right femur, left knee slightly bent to right, right foot under left.	80%	adult 50–60 yr	F	Coffin nails - ON 142, 181-190, 220-229	Pottery, animal bone	101 | 102	NW	
142 143 *144*	f	Sub-rectangular/ straight, near vertical/ Flat	1.82	0.77	0.36	Left side Flexed	Coffined. Right forearm bent away from thorax, right hand laying next to left, right leg over left, feet together.	90%	adult 40–50 yr	??F	Hobnails - ON 269, Coffin nails - ON 230, 241, 270-287		101 | 102	NW	

Appendix 2 Summary of human bone assessment results

Context	cut	date	deposit type	quantification (approx.)	age/sex (approx.)	pathology	condition (grade)	comment
100	–	?RB	R (machine)	16% s.l.	MNI adult >35 yr female	op – right femur head & distal	0–2	some root etching; fresh breaks, mostly complete & near complete bones; lower limb bones clearly from one individual; some metrics incl. stature; ?=104 (?skull younger adult)
104	103 0.24 m	RB	coffined	55%	adult 40–50 yr female	amtl, calculus; dental caries, pd;?fracture – left rib, right elbow; sinusitis; Sch – Ts, Ls; oa – C2-3, right elbow (?trauma); op – Cs, Ts, Ls, S1, ribs, left acetabulum, left glenoid,1st MtC; enth – manubrium; ossified cartilage – rib (sparse); button osteomata; Mv – deviated septum, incomplete transverse foramen – C2, accessory sacral facet, suprascapular foramen	0–2	some root etching & erosion; very small individual; some metrics including stature and limited cranial (with reconstruction); 2nd in sequence of three
105	103	RB	R= 104	3 bones & scraps a.l.	adult 40–50 yr female	op - left acetabulum; pitting – left acetabulum; enth – patellae	0–2	some etching & erosion; mostly fresh breaks (circumstances of discovery); some metrics
107	106 0.22 m	RB	*in situ* (flexed on L side)	60%	adult 45–60 yr male	amtl; calculus; dental caries; periapical void; ?infection – ?T, L5-S1, ??sacroiliitis; ddd – Cs; oa – Ts, ribs, right elbow; op – right shoulder, left distal femur; pitting – right acetabulum, right clavicle; rotator cuff degeneration; enth – distal right fibula, right calcaneum; ossified cartilage – rib; Pacchonian depressions; Mv – sutural ossicles, odd fold supra-coracoid right scapula; very flat tibiae	2–5	some heavy erosion, skull bleached; moderate to heavy fragmentation, mostly old. limited metrics including stature; third (last) in sequence; hobnailed footwear
108	106	RB	R	18% u.l.	MNI 1 adult >40 yr ??female	op – left femur head & distal; enth – patellae	0–1	slight etching & erosion; old break – refits; pair of femora & artic tibia & patellae, most/all from same individual – medium sized, gracile; several metrics incl. stature; some part or 104 or 110
110	109 0.13 m	RB	*in situ*	40% s.a.u.	adult >50 yr female	amtl; calculus (abnormal); dental caries; pd; periapical void; *cribra orbitalia*; op – right elbow, distal ulna, distal left radius, carpals, finger phalanges; pitting – temporo-mandibulars, clavicles; enth – finger phalanges; Mv – extreme dental wear	2–5	some heavy erosion; moderate to heavy fragmentation, mostly old, abraded breaks; very small individual; limited metrics; first of sequence of three intercutting graves
111	109	RB	R/ intrusive	1 bone & frag l.	MNI 1 adult >25 yr		1–2	some etching/more erosion; old breaks that refit; some metrics including stature; medium-sized adult; ?=108 (also disarticulated ?104)

Context	cut	date	deposit type	quantification (approx.)	age/sex (approx.)	pathology	condition (grade)	comment
113	112 0.40 m	RB	coffined (on R side)	30%	adult >50 yr ?male	amtl; calculus; oa – acetabulae; op – T, rib, MtC head, femur head; pitting – femur head; enth – left iliac crest; Mv – metopic suture; extreme dental wear & some ante-mortem damage	2–5+	some very heavy erosion, much lost to it; old eroded breaks, moderate to heavy fragmentation but still some near complete bones; very limited metrics incl. stature; hobnailed footwear
116	115 0.45 m	RB	coffined (sl turned on L side)	50%	adult 40–55 yr male	amtl; calculus; DEH; pd; *cribra orbitalia*; trauma – right finger proximal IP (?amputation); op – L, hands, right distal femur; pitting – right acromioclavicular; enth – finger phalanges, linear asperae, right patella, right calcaneum; plastic changes – femora (bowed – activity); Pacchonian depressions; Mv – metopic suture, sutural ossicles, occipital bun	1–4	some heavy erosion and fragmentation, but mostly 2-3 and includes complete and near complete bones; large, robust individual; limited metrics incl. stature; hobnailed footwear
119	118 0.42 m	LRB	coffined (sl turned on R side)	20%	adult 20–35 yr female	calculus; DEH	2–5+, mostly 4	heavily eroded and fragmented; very limited metrics; very small individual, hobnailed footwear
122	121 0.20 m	RB	*in situ* (flexed on L side)	85%	adult 45–55 yr male	amtl; calculus; dental caries; DEH; chipped; pd; periapical void; *cribra orbitalia*; fracture – ribs, right MtC & phalanx, right distal tibia shaft, right proximal fibula shaft; trauma – right ilium; op – C1, left femur head; pitting – clavicles; enth – distal left tibia (compensatory), calcanea; plastic change – right fibula (trauma induced), right talus (fracture/dislocation); Mv – mandibular tori, extreme dental wear	1–3	some heavy fragmentation (old); skull should reconstruct; some metrics including stature. Hobnailed footwear (?with cleats)
129	128 0.17 m	RB	*in situ*	22%	adult 30–40 yr male	calculus; dental caries; op – proximal radius; enth – finger phalanges, linear asperae; left calcaneum	1–5	some heavy erosion, much heavy fragmentation; speckled dark on pinkish buff; few in any metrics; medium/large-sized; truncated & much lost to decay
130	126 0.79 m	RB	coffined (sl turned on R side)	18% s.a.l.	adult 45–55 yr female	amtl; calculus, DEH, dental caries, periapical void; *cribra orbitalia;* oa – left temporo-mandibular, left hip; button osteomata	0–5 most 1–3	some heavy erosion, moderate fragmentation, limited metrics, no stature. Spindle whorl in front of abdominal area (?hand location?)
133	132 0.87 m	RB	coffined (sl turned on R side)	55%	adult 30–40 yr female	amtl; calculus; dental caries (??dental treatment); hypercementosis; pd; periapical void; op – left acetabulum; enth – left iliac crest; Mv – dental crowding	1–4	localised heavier erosion; slight to moderate fragmentation, old; skull should reconstruct; several metrics possibly stature; iron stain – frontal

Context	cut	date	deposit type	quantification (approx.)	age/sex (approx.)	pathology	condition (grade)	comment
136	135 0.45 m	RB	coffined (on L side)	85%	adult 30–40 yr male	calculus; DEH; endocranial impressions – frontal (intracranial pressure); Sch – T; op – T, acetabulae; Mv – sacralisation	0–2	some heavy fragmentation (esp skull, fresh), some complete & near complete bones; many metrics including stature; reconstruction required. Large, robust individual, very masculine brow. completely on left side, against left side of the grave – ?tipped coffin; hobnailed footwear with ?cleats
139	138 0.74 m	RB	R (previous occupant)	25%	adult >45 yr female	amtl; *cribra orbitalia*; fracture – rib; ankylosis – sacroiliac; oa – S1; semi-green damage – frontal	1–3	moderate fragmentation, skull fairly complete; most in mixed bags that will need a bit of sorting; small individual; few, if any metrics; disturbed, some found with 146. Assumed to be one individual on-site but possibly not
141	124 0.87 m	RB	coffined (sl turned to R side)	80%	adult 50–60 yr female	amtl (edentulous mandible); calculus; dental caries; *osteochondritis dissecans* – distal femora; infection – right orbit, S1 (?discitis); ?ddd/destructive lesions – Ls; oa – right hand/fingers (?rheumatoid); op – S1, left acetabulum, left glenoid; pitting – temporo-mandibulars, right acetabulum (cysts/labrum); rotator cuff degeneration; enth – iliac crests, finger phalanges, left patella, calcanea; ossified cartilage – rib; ?button osteoma (endocranial); Mv – sutural ossicles, hyoid fused, accessory sacral facet, septal aperture	0–3	slight fragmentation, skull will need reconstruction, many complete and near complete bones; many metrics including stature. odd crush right glenoid
143	142 0.36 m	RB	coffined (flexed on L side)	90%	adult 40–50 yr ??female	amtl; calculus; dental caries; pd; periapical void; hypereruption; *cribra orbitalia;* Sch – Ts; op – Cs, acetabulae, proximal ulnae; pitting – right acromio-clavicular; enth – ischial tuberosity, proximal radii, finger phalanges, calcanea; Mv – xiphoid fused	1–3	mostly complete or near complete bones; skull fragmented, requires reconstruction; most breaks old; some erosion; many metrics including stature; mossy green staining – ribs; appears rather squeezed in to a too-short coffin; hobnailed footwear
146	138 0.74 m	RB	coffined (slumped from lying on R side to nr. prone)	48%	adult >45 yr female	amtl; fracture – right distal tibia shaft; ?infection – sacroiliitis; ddd/destructive lesion – L5–S1 (?discitis); op – knees; pitting – left temporo-mandibular; enth – calcanea; plastic change – endocranial occipital; Mv – multiple parietal foramen	2–5	some heavy erosion; moderate to heavy fragmentation; bones light; small individual; limited metrics, some reconstruction required; no photogrammetry; hobnailed footwear incl. cleats
161 (ON288)	162 (encl. ditch)	?	R (?placed)	12% s.	adult 18–30 yr ?female	*cribra orbitalia*; Mv – distinctive facial features – anterior projecting maxillary dental arch, wide malars, only supra-orbital region very female, rest of traits more ambiguous	1–2	very fragmentated but should reconstruct; some metrics may be possible; paler buff colour than most of the rest of the assemblage; slight soapy sheen; linear dark stain across frontal; clean, buffed teeth; from uppermost fill of large IA ditch

KEY: RB – Romano-British; R – redeposited; s.a.u.l. skull, axial skeleton, upper limb, lower limb (where not all skeletal regions represented); amtl - *ante mortem* tooth loss; DEH – dental enamel hypoplasia; pd - periodontal disease; Sch - Schmorl's node; ddd - degenerative disc disease; oa – osteoarthritis; op – osteophytes; enth – enthesophytes; Mv – morphological variation; C, T, L, S – cervical, thoracic, lumbar, sacral vertebrae

Appendix 3 Detail of coin ON 67

ON	Context	Object type	Period	Date from	Date to	Denomination	Status	Ruler	Mint	Reece period	Reece (ABCDE)	Obverse Legend	Obverse Description	Reverse Legend	Reverse Description	Mintmark	Die Axis	Diameter	Weight
67	119	Coin	Roman	364	378	Nummus	Regular	Valens	Uncertain	19	E	DN VALENS S[PF AVG]	Diademed bust facing right	[SECVRITAS REIPVB]LICAE	Victory advancing left	Illegible	12	18.1	2.6

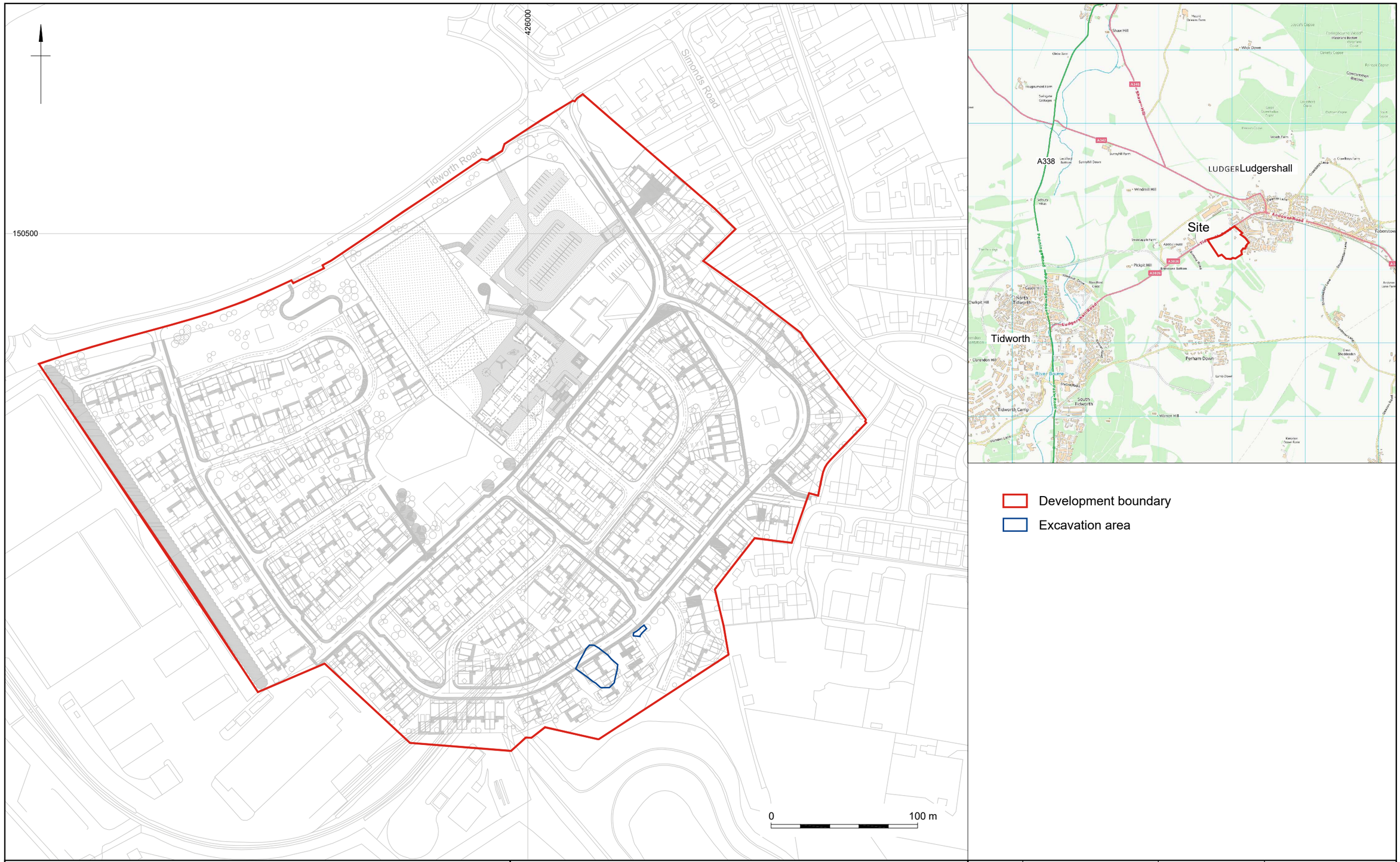
Appendix 4 Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Woodland/shade snails	Intermediate snails	Open country/grassland snails	Burrowing snails
147	148	85	8	10	10%, C, I	-	-	-	-	-	<1ml	Moll-t	*Oxychilus cellarius, Carychium tridentdatum*	*Trochulus hispidus, Cochlicopa lubrica*	*Helicela itala, Pupilla muscorum, Vallonia costata, V. excentrica*	*Cecilioides acicula*
152	153	93	43	100	<1%, C	C	-	*Hordeum vulgare*, *Triticum* sp., Triticeae	C	Rosaceae tp. *Fragaria* sp.	1ml	Moll-t (A***), Sab (A***)	*Carychium tridentatum, Punctum pygmaeum, Clausilia* sp., *Ena/Merdigera* spp., *Aegopinella* spp., *Oxychilus cellarius, Discus rotundatus*	*Cepaea Nemoralis, Cepaea sp, Trochulus hispidus, Cochlicopa lubrica*	*Candidula* spp., *Helicela itala, Pupilla muscorum, Vallonia costata, V. excentrica*	*Cecilioides acicula*
152	154	94	18	12	<1%, C	-	-	-	-	-	Trace	Moll-t (A**), Sab (A***)	*Discus rotundatus, Oxychilus cellarius*	*Trochulus hispidus*	*Helicela itala, Pupilla muscorum, Vallonia costata, V. excentrica, Vertigo pygmaea*	
152	157	95	16	2.5	<1%, C, I	C	-	Triticeae	-	-	Trace in <1mm	Moll-t, Sab	*Oxychilus cellarius*	*Trochulus hispidus*	*Candidula* sp., *Pomatias elegans, Pupilla muscorum, Vallonia costata*	*Cecilioides acicula*
162	161	101	40	70	<1%, A*, E, I	B	-	*Triticum* sp., *Hordeum*	-	-	1ml	Moll-t (A***), Sab	*Discus rotundatus, Clausilia* sp., *Acanthinula*	*Cepaea nemoralis, Trochulus hispidus,*	*Helicela itala, Candidula* spp. *Pupilla muscorum,*	*Cecilioides acicula*

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Woodland/shade snails	Intermediate snails	Open country/grassland snails	Burrowing snails
								vulgare, Triticeae					*aculeata, Carychium tridentatum, Punctum pygmaeum, Aegopinella* spp., *Oxychilus cellarius*	*Cochlicopa lubrica*	*Vallonia costata, V. excentrica, Vertigo pygmaea*	
162	174	102	30	30	<1%, C, I	-	-	-	-	-	2ml	Moll-t (A***), Sab	*Oxychilus cellarius, Ena montana, Discus rotundatus, Clausilia* sp., *Carychium tridentatum, Vitrea crystallina, Aegopinella* spp.	*Cochlicopa lubrica, Trochulus hispidus*	*Helicela itala, Candidula* spp., *Vallonia costata, V. excentrica, Pupilla muscorum, Vertigo pygmaea*	*Cecilioides acicula*

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), F = mycorrhyzal fungi sclerotia, E = earthworm eggs, I = insects; Sab = small animal bones, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs

Appendix 5 OASIS form



Coordinate system:
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

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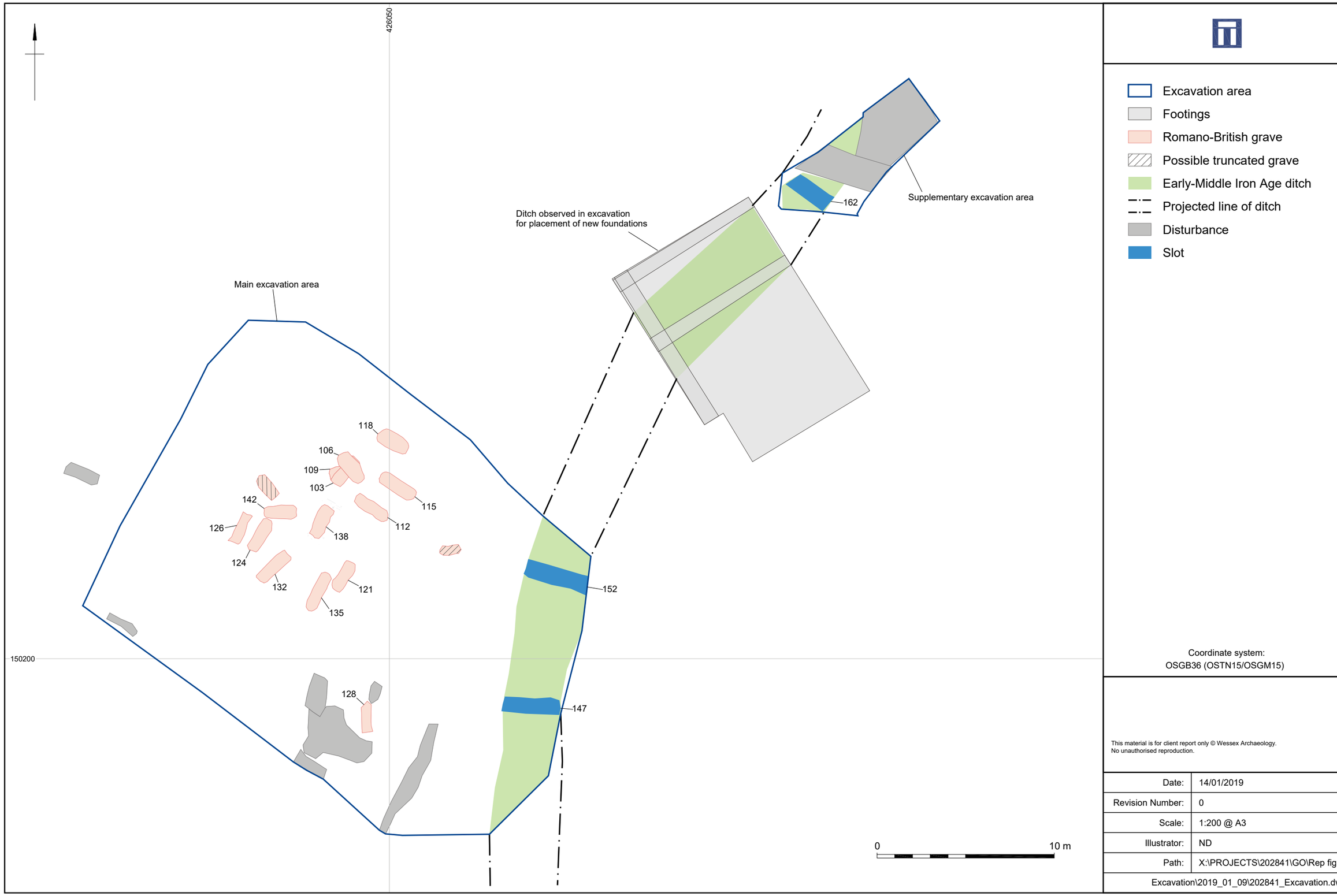
Site location and proposed development

Figure 1



Excavation area
Footings
Romano-British grave
Possible truncated grave
Early-Middle Iron Age ditch
Projected line of ditch
Disturbance
Slot

Coordinate system:
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

Date:	14/01/2019
Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:200 @ A3
Illustrator:	ND
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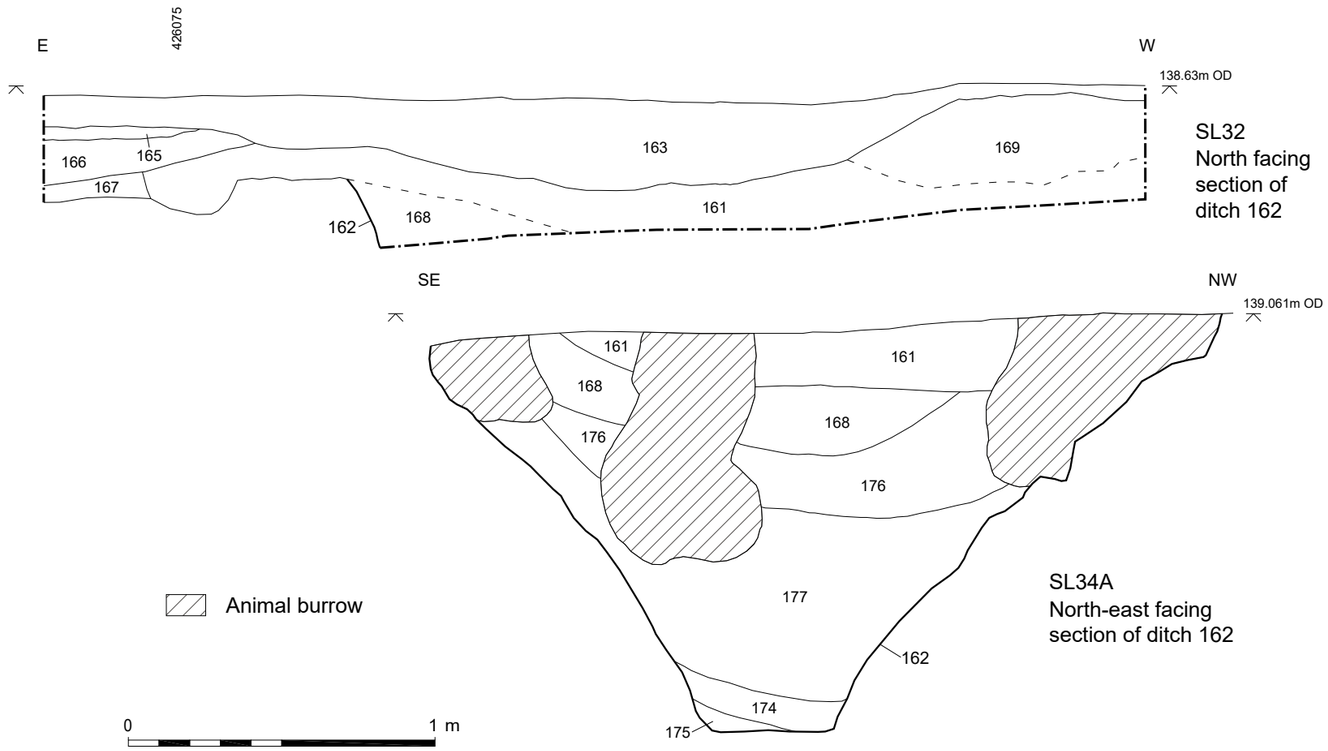
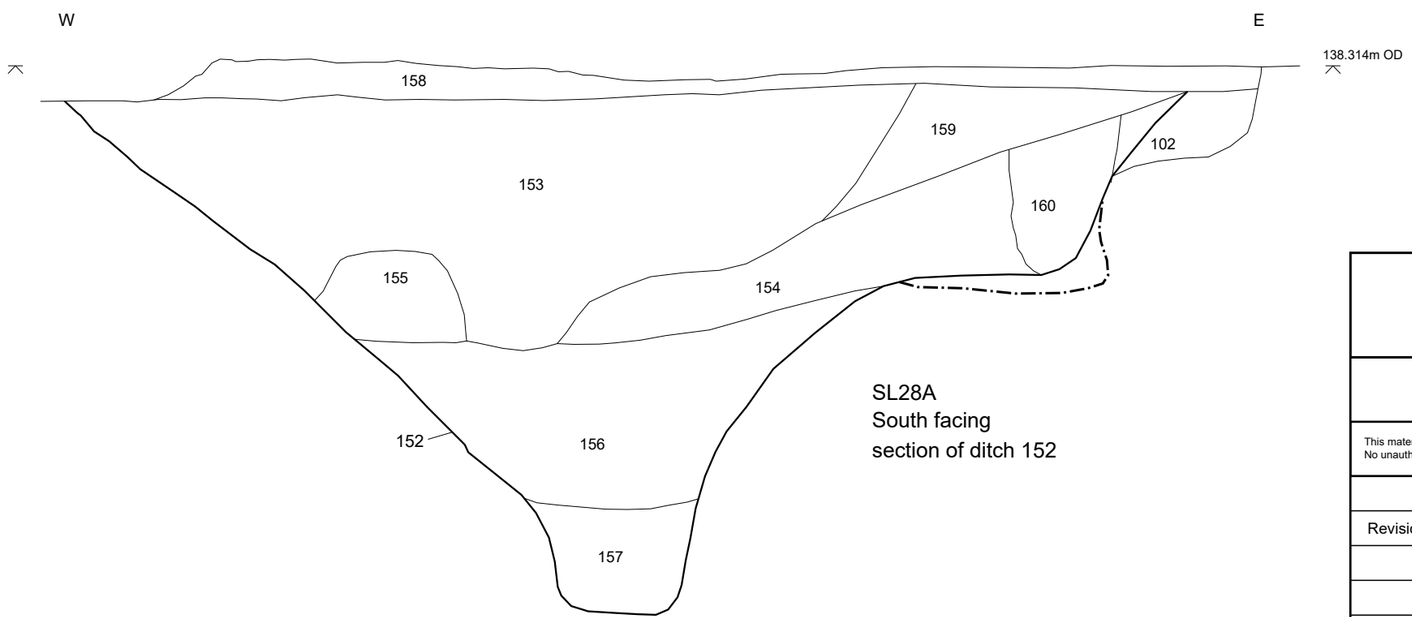
	Excavation\2019_01_09\202841_Excavation.dwg

Site plan - phased

Figure 2





Coordinate system:
OSGB36 (OSTN02/OSGM02)

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Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:200 (plan); 1:20 (sections) @ A3
Illustrator:	ND
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\202841\GO\Rep figs\
	Excavation\2019_01_09\202841_Excavation.dwg

Early / Middle Iron Age ditch

Figure 3

Plate 1: South facing section through Early – Middle Iron Age ditch 152
(scales: 2 x 1 m)

Plate 2: Early – Middle Iron Age ditch 162 viewed from the north-east
(scales: 1 x 2 m, 1 x 0.1 m, 1 x 0.5 m)

Plate 3: Early – Iron Age ditch 162 viewed from the east
(scales: 1 x 2 m, 1 x 0.1 m, 1 x 0.5 m)

Plate 4: Disarticulated human skull (ON 288) in upper part of Early – Middle Iron Age ditch 162 (scales: 1 x 2 m, 1 x 0.2 m)

Plate 5: Detail of disarticulated human skull (ON 288) in upper part of Early – Middle Iron Age ditch 162
(scales: 1 x 0.2 m)

Date:	14/10/2019	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	ND
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\202841\GO\Rep figs\Excavation\2019_01_09\202841_Fig04_Plates1-5.cdr		

Excavation area
Possible truncated grave
Disturbance
Adult female
Adult male
Unsexed adult
146 Evidence for coffin
Hobnailed footwear
Hobnailed footwear with cleats

119
110
107
104
116
143
113
130
141
146
133
122
136
129

0 2 m

Date:	14/01/2019	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:50 @ A3	Illustrator:	ND
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\202841\GO\Rep figs\Excavation\2019_01_09\202841_Excavation.dwg		

Site plan detail – Romano-British cemetery

Figure 5

0 0.5 m

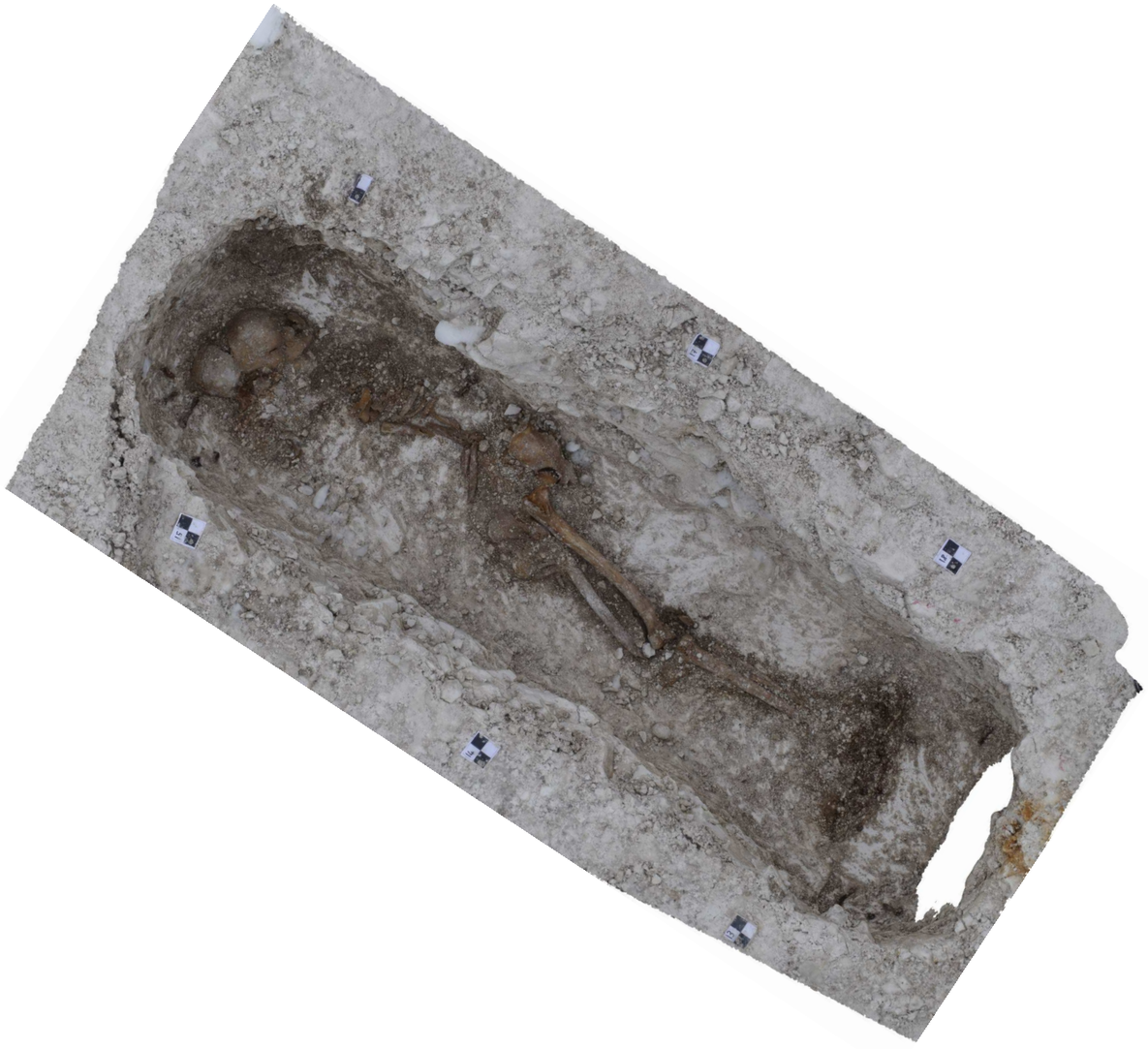
Coordinate system:
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

Date:	11/01/2019	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:12.5 @ A3	Illustrator:	ND
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\202841\GO\Rep figs\Excavation\2019_01_09\202841_Excavation.dwg		

Orthographic image of SKs 104, 107 and 110

Figure 6

A. SK 113



B. SK 122

0 0.5 m

Coordinate system:
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

Date:	14/01/2019	Revision Number:	0
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Orthographic images of SKs 113 and 122

Figure 7

A. SK 136

B. SK 143

0 0.5 m

Coordinate system:
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

Date:	11/01/2019	Revision Number:	0
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Path:	X:\PROJECTS\202841\GO\Rep figs\Excavation\2019_01_09\202841_Excavation.dwg		

Orthographic images of SKs 136 and 143

Figure 8

Plate 6: Overview of cemetery area, showing variations in depths and orientations of the graves, view from the north-east

Plate 7: Section excavated through modern feature (scale: 1 x 0.5 m)

Plate 8: Burials 104, 107 and 110 in graves 103, 106 and 109, view from the north-east (scale: 1 x 1 m)

Plate 9: Burial 129 in grave 128 (scale: 1 x 1 m)

Plate 10: Burial 133 in grave 132, viewed from the north-east (scale: 1 x 1 m)

Plate 11: Burial 116 in grave 115, showing redeposited chalk beneath skeleton, view from the north-east (no scale)

Date:	14/01/2019	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	ND
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\202841\GO\Rep figs\Excavation\2019_01_09\202841_Fig09_Plates6-11.cdr		

Plate 12: Burial 146 in grave 138 (scale: 1 x 1 m)

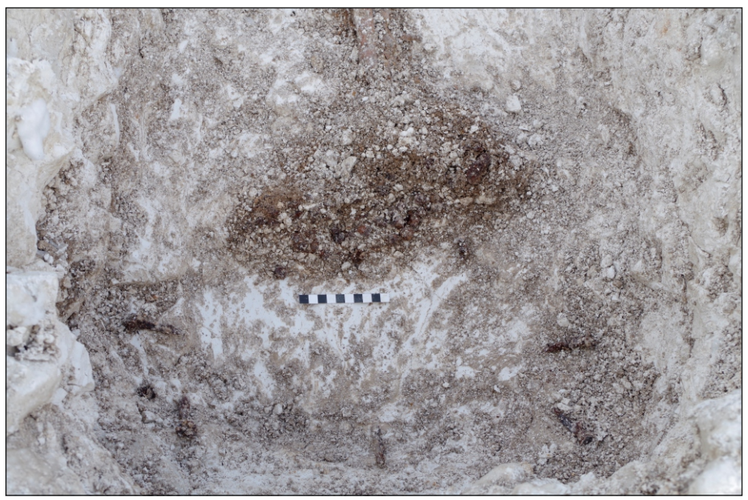

Plate 13: Detail of burial 113 in grave 112, showing coffin nails and hobnails (scale: 10 cm)

Plate 14: Detail of burial 143 in grave 142, showing coffin nails (no scale)

Plate 15: Detail of burial 122 in grave 121, showing hobnails (scale: 1 x 0.2 m)

Plate 16: Detail of burial 107 in grave 106, showing hobnails (scale: 10 cm)

Plate 17: Detail of burial 122 in grave 121 (scale: 1 x 0.2 m)

Date:	14/01/2019	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	ND
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\202841\GO\Rep figs\Excavation\2019_01_09\202841_Fig10_Plates12-17.cdr		

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