



Harnham Park, Netherhampton Road Salisbury, Wiltshire

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned Bellway Homes Ltd, to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising an archaeological strip, map and record excavation covering 0.18 hectare centred on NGR 412548 129099, at Harnham Park, Netherhampton Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 8PF. The excavation and recording were undertaken between 16th November 2020 and 14th January 2021.

The archaeological work was undertaken in relation to a planning application for the construction of up to 82 dwellings and associated works such as installation of services, landscaping and creation of access routes. The overall development area comprises 3.8 hectares. Outline planning permission was granted on 27th March 2019, subject to conditions.

Prior to the excavation, a full heritage assessment identified the potential for archaeological interest, but also highlighted probable truncation by later land use at the northern extent of the development. In response to the likely disturbance a report on the aerial photography and LiDAR resources for the development area was undertaken. This confirmed that 2.1 hectares on the north side had been impacted by previous development in the 1960s. Here the ground level had been reduced compared to the adjacent road and land surface to accommodate industrial buildings and associated storage facilities. Less disturbance was apparent to the south and was considered to have the most potential for archaeological remains, subsequent fieldwork was accordingly focussed in this area.

The archaeological investigation at Harnham Park identified features and deposits including buried soils, pits, a ditch, postholes, a gully, tree-throw holes and bioturbation features. Modern disturbance was present across the area which had in places truncated the archaeological features and deposits. The earliest artefacts came from the buried soil and a pit dated to the Middle Neolithic, these sherds of Peterborough Ware pottery reflect activity at the site during the later 4th to early 3rd millennia BC. The most significant features were four Neolithic pits, two of which are securely dated to the Late Neolithic (2850–2200 BC) and contained important artefact assemblages and deposits of charred plant remains. As well as the Neolithic pits, prehistoric material was recovered from a probable prehistoric ditch and a buried soil.

The results from the Late Neolithic pits are of regional significance and have the potential to improve our understanding of Neolithic activity and landscape use in this part of Wiltshire. Further analyses of the cultural material from the pits (artefacts and charred plant remains) will allow for an appreciation of the timescale of activity, the range of materials, variety of both wild and domesticated plants and animals, and the diversity of landscapes utilised by people in the late 4th to 3rd millennia BC. Radiocarbon dating the material from the pits will help to refine the date of the activity within the wider chronological framework of Neolithic Wiltshire. Scientific dating of the Late Neolithic activity has the potential to add to wider (regional and potentially national) debates around the spread of particular styles of pottery (e.g., Woodlands) and the roles of domesticated cereals and wild food during this period.

It is proposed that the results of the excavation and further analyses are published in *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine*.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Bellway Homes Ltd, for commissioning the archaeological mitigation works, in particular Paul Bathgate. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of the Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service, who monitored the project for Wiltshire Council, and to McCoy's for their cooperation and help on site.



Harnham Park, Netherhampton Road, Salisbury

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Bellway Homes Ltd to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising an archaeological strip, map and record excavation covering 0.18 hectare (ha) centred on NGR 412548 129099, at Harnham Park, Netherhampton Road, Salisbury Wiltshire, SP2 8PF (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The excavation was carried out in relation to a planning application (ref. 18/04067/OUT), submitted to Wiltshire Council, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for construction of up to 82 dwellings and associated works such as installation of services, landscaping and creation of access routes. The overall development area comprises 3.8 ha. Outline planning permission was granted on 27th March 2019, subject to conditions, the following related to archaeology:

Condition 21:

No development shall commence within the area indicated (proposed development site) until:

A written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and the approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details.

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

Further Recommendations: The work should be conducted by a professional recognised archaeological contractor and there will be a financial implication for the applicant.

INFORMATIVE

The area has high potential for later prehistoric deposits or features to be present in undisturbed areas. In order to better target the areas requiring monitoring, the applicant's archaeologist should include an aerial photographic search, using the Wiltshire HER collection and, where appropriate, the Historic England Archive to determine the extent of disturbance.

- 1.1.3 The excavation was preceded by a full heritage assessment (Heaton 2018), undertaken and submitted alongside the planning application. It identified the potential for heritage assets of archaeological interest, but also highlighted potential truncation by later land use at the northern extent of the site. In response to this, and detailed in the planning condition, a report on aerial photography and LiDAR resources was undertaken (Wessex Archaeology 2020a). This confirmed that 2.1 ha on the north side had been impacted by previous development in the 1960s. Here the ground level had been reduced compared to the adjacent road and land surface to accommodate industrial buildings and associated storage facilities.



- 1.1.4 Less disturbance was apparent in the southern part of the development area, although topsoil stripping had occurred and stockpiles were positioned in this area during demolition and landscaping in the early 2000s. This part of the development area was considered to have the most potential for archaeological remains.
- 1.1.5 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 work (Wessex Archaeology 2020a). The Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The excavation was undertaken between 16th November 2020 and 14th January 2021.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the provisional results of the strip, map and sample excavation and to assess the potential of the results to address the research aims outlined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020a), and builds on the results presented in the interim statement (Wessex Archaeology 2021). Where appropriate, it includes recommendations for a programme of further analysis, outlining the resources needed to achieve the aims (including the revised research aims arising from this assessment), leading to dissemination of the archaeological results via publication and the curation of the archive.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The development is located just to the south of Netherhampton Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, and occupies approximately 3.8 ha of former industrial land, centred on NGR 412548 129099 (Fig. 1). The site is currently landscaped former industrial land, an access road runs through the area from north–south to the Booker wholesale building. An electrical substation lies on the western boundary with further industrial and commercial buildings to the east and north-west of the area.
- 1.3.2 Within the development area the ground surface slopes gently down from south to the north, where it fronts onto Netherhampton Road, with surface heights between 52–48 m above Ordnance Datum (OD). Prior to the archaeological work, the excavation area had been used to stockpile material, consequently existing ground levels varied between 48 m OD and 53 m OD.
- 1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Newhaven Chalk Formation and Superficial deposits as River Terrace deposits, sand and gravel (British Geological Survey accessed April 2022). The wider topography is characterised by the floodplains of the River Nadder to the north and chalk downland to the south.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior Archaeological and Historical Assessment (Heaton 2018) and summarised within the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Wessex Archaeology 2020a). To avoid repetition, a summary of the results is presented below. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.



2.2 Previous works related to the development

Aerial photography and LiDAR report (Wessex Archaeology 2020b)

- 2.2.1 A review of evidence from aerial photographs and LiDAR data was carried out to ascertain which areas had been affected by previous development and the extent of this effect. The survey consulted Environment Agency LiDAR data, aerial photographs from Historic England and Wiltshire Council archives and modern imagery.
- 2.2.2 The review concluded that the northern part of the development area had been subjected to significant disturbance and had been reduced in relation to the surrounding land. This diminished the potential for archaeological remains to be present within this area, and indicated that any surviving remains were likely to have been damaged or disturbed. The southern part of the proposed development had been subjected to less disturbance, although topsoil stripping had occurred, this was deemed to have the most potential, particularly within the area under the large spoil heap.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

- 2.3.1 The development lies within a landscape of high archaeological potential and the archaeological and historical assessment concluded '*The available evidence suggests that the north-facing slopes of Harnham Hill and the southern margins of the floodplain have been subject to relatively dense land use and possibly settlement from the Neolithic period until the establishment of Salisbury in the early 13th century*' (Heaton 2018, 8). The following provides a summary.

Prehistoric to Romano-British (970,000 BC–AD 410)

- 2.3.2 To the east of Harnham, some 3 km from the site, archaeological work undertaken ahead of the proposed Salisbury Southern Bypass identified evidence for the earliest known activity in the area and dates to the Palaeolithic c. 250,000 BP. A cluster of handaxes was identified on the ploughed field surface and subsequent fieldwork investigated an area of occupation focussed on a riverbank with evidence of handaxe manufacture along with large mammal bones (Bates *et al.* 2014).
- 2.3.3 Aerial photographs and cropmark features indicate that from the Neolithic onwards the wider Harnham and Netherhampton area was a focus for prehistoric activity. The local area contains a variety of archaeological features including prehistoric barrows, field systems and enclosures. Evidence of such has been recorded at Salisbury Livestock Market, 800 m to the west of the development, where Early and Late Neolithic pits, a Bronze Age ditch, Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pits and undated features were recorded (RPS 1996). More recent evaluations immediately to the west and north of the development area recorded evidence of 12 ring-ditches dating between the Early to Late Bronze Age that represent former barrows, an infant inhumation burial dating to the Beaker period, an Iron Age enclosure with a complex sequence of pits and roundhouses as well as Bronze Age field ditches or land divisions (Headland Archaeology 2019a and b).
- 2.3.4 A Roman road aligned north-east to south-west is depicted on Ordnance Survey maps, approximately 1.2 km to the west of the site, and runs towards the Roman settlement of *Sorviodvnm*, but few features are known from the local area.

Medieval to modern (AD 410–present)

- 2.3.5 Although not individually recorded in the 1086 Domesday Survey there is evidence of Anglo-Saxon and medieval activity in the area of East Harnham. Anglo-Saxon remains seem to be concentrated around the historic core of Harnham and its northern margins. An early



Saxon cemetery was excavated on Harnham Hill in the 19th century (Akerman 1853), and closer to the river gravel or clay extraction features have been recorded along the inner edge of the floodplain (Heaton 2018).

- 2.3.6 The villages of Netherhampton and Harnham were established in the 12th–13th centuries AD and both lie within the important medieval settlements of Wilton and Salisbury. The area of the development seems to have remained unaltered farmland, between Netherhampton and Harnham until the 1960s. The wider agricultural landscape dates to the later medieval and post-medieval periods, which has developed throughout the 16th–19th centuries with evidence of water meadows and parkland landscapes.
- 2.3.7 More recently the development area has been used as a Southern Electric Board compound, these buildings and associated infrastructure were cleared from the site in the early 2000s.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the excavation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020a) and in compliance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a), were to:

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

3.2 Research objectives

3.2.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site, the research objectives of the excavation defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020a) were to:

- determine whether the prehistoric mortuary archaeology identified in sites nearby extends into this area;
- determine whether the prehistoric and later settlement archaeology identified in sites nearby extends into this area; and
- confirm that this area did not form part of the water meadows in the past.

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 2020a) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The post-excavation assessment and reporting followed advice issued by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO 2015). The methods employed are summarised below.



- 4.1.2 The stripped area differed from that outlined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020a), it measured 0.18 ha and extending further to the north than the proposed investigation. This variation was agreed during an on-site meeting attended by the Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Archaeology Service and Wessex Archaeology, and was deemed necessary due the presence of a large spoil heap across the southern part of the proposed area of investigation, the lack of spoil storage space on site, the height of the spoil heap and, the depth of the overlying soils above the archaeological horizons.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The excavation area was set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the same position as that proposed in the WSI (Fig. 1). The topsoil/overburden was removed in level spits using a 360° 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.
- 4.2.2 Where necessary, the surfaces of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation. A sample of natural features, such as tree-throw holes, was also investigated.
- 4.2.3 Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. A metal detector was also used. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.

Machine stripping

- 4.2.4 The area to be investigated was occupied by a spoil heap at the commencement of the archaeological field work. The spoil heap was removed as part of the archaeological machine stripping process. Archaeological attendance was maintained during removal of the spoil and directed by the on-site archaeologist once the depth of the overburden had been reduced.

Buried soil

- 4.2.5 Following machine stripping the surface of the buried soil was cleaned by hand, photographed and its extents mapped. The deposit was then excavated via alternate test pits in a 1 by 1 m grid pattern, in total 18 grid squares were excavated. Test pit sections were cleaned and photographed with a continuous transverse and longitudinal sections drawn. Within the test pits a 10 litre bulk sample was taken from each identified deposit and kubiena samples were taken across soil horizons.

Neolithic pits

- 4.2.6 The four Neolithic pits were either half sectioned or excavated in quadrants. Three pits were divided into quadrants and individual context numbers assigned by quadrant, following excavation contexts that were demonstrably the same deposit were grouped. This approach was adopted to allow potential variations in densities of artefacts and environmental remains to mapped across the pits. The pit fills were 100% sampled for the recovery of artefacts and environmental remains.

Recording

- 4.2.7 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made,



including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.

- 4.2.8 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.9 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

General

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020a). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Archaeology Service monitored the works on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Assistant County Archaeologist.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

Summary of archaeological features and deposits

- 5.1.1 The archaeological investigation at Harnham Park identified features and deposits and includes buried soils, pits, a ditch, postholes, gully, tree-throw holes and bioturbation features (Figs 1–2). Modern disturbance was present across the area which had in places truncated the archaeological features and deposits. Sherds of Middle Neolithic pottery from one pit and the buried soil suggest activity during the later 4th to early 3rd millennia BC, and the earliest cut features may date to this or the Late Neolithic period. Two pits contained important deposits of Late Neolithic cultural material including pottery, animal bone, worked flint and bone tools and charred plant remains; two additional pits also belong to this broad period. Prehistoric material was also recovered from the ditch and buried soil, although the date of these features remains uncertain. The recorded features add to the overall understanding of local and regional Neolithic activity and will allow for further refinement of the chronology of the period.

Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data

- 5.1.2 All handwritten and drawn records from the excavation have been collated, checked for consistency and stratigraphic relationships. Key data has been transcribed into a database, which can be updated during any further analysis. Preliminary phasing of archaeological



features and deposits was principally undertaken using stratigraphic relationships and the spot dating from artefacts, particularly pottery.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 At surface level the southern half of the area was occupied by a large spoil heap, up to 2 m high, whereas to the north modern made ground was recorded. Both were removed by mechanical excavator, with an archaeologist in attendance, to the top of undisturbed deposits.
- 5.2.2 In the southern half of the area, below the spoil heap, was a mid-reddish brown, slightly gravelly, silty clay colluvium (hillwash). This was up to 1.1 m thick and deepest towards the east. Below the modern made ground, in the northern half of the area, a dark grey brown silt loam buried topsoil (0.2 m thick) was recorded above the colluvium. Across the excavation area the colluvium sealed the underlying valley deposits and a further buried soil (004, 031 and 041).
- 5.2.3 The underlying valley deposits (present from 50–49 m OD) comprised poorly sorted, sub-rounded to rounded chalky gravel with flint nodules in a light yellow brown silty clay matrix. These deposits probably represent solifluction gravels that accumulated at the base of the valley sides and at the edge of the floodplain, some of which may have been reworked into the river channel. Four pits and a ditch were cut into this material.

Buried soil

- 5.2.4 An area of buried soil, covering approximately 36 m², was preserved along one edge of the site beneath the colluvium (Figs 2–4). The full extent of the deposit, which reached a maximum depth of approximately 0.40 m in the south but feathered out to the north, was not established. The remnant was hand cleaned (004) and sampled in a series of alternate blocks on a 1 m grid. The deposit, which was extensively bioturbated throughout (Fig. 4), comprised an upper unit of dark brown clay loam with common poorly sorted sub-angular flint (031) which overlay and diffused into dark/mid-brown clay loam (041). This material similarly blended into the basal coombe rock which comprised an undulating surface where solution pockets and pipes indicated that the surface and much of the overlying soil was derived from decalcified coombe rock.
- 5.2.5 Small groups of artefacts comprising both worked and burnt flints with some small fragments of pottery were collected from across the gridded area. Worked and burnt flints were also present in the lower sediments suggesting that artefacts had migrated down through the soil profile with no stratigraphic separation between the two units.
- 5.2.6 The date of the deposit remains uncertain; the artefact assemblages are predominantly prehistoric, and the environmental remains suggest the deposit was significantly disturbed by later activity and bioturbation (see Section 7.4.2).

5.3 Neolithic (4000–2200 BC)

- 5.3.1 The main period of activity recorded at Harnham Park dates to the Neolithic, with a focus on the later part of this period. Four pits have been phased to the Neolithic and worked flint recovered from features across the site may also date to this period of activity. Two pits have been securely phased to the Late Neolithic and two are more broadly phased to the period.

Late Neolithic

- 5.3.2 Pit 044 was located 2.3 m from pit 027 and was circular, 1.30 m in diameter, with steep concave sides and a flat base (Figs 2 and 5–6). The south side was cut through by a later, likely modern, feature 043. The pit fills were heavily bioturbated, blurring clear transitions within the stratigraphic sequence. The primary fill (096 and 095) comprised dark grey/black silty clay which included scattered charcoal flecks. These primary deposits, which measured approximately 0.25 m thick, were domed in the centre, suggesting that the deposits had been tipped in. They contained a large artefact assemblage, which accounted for 92% of the entire pit contents and included Late Neolithic Grooved Ware pottery (103 sherds 164 g) and animal bone (401 g) with worked (No. 582) and burnt (No. 309) flints.
- 5.3.3 The primary deposits diffused into a layer of mid-grey/grey brown, sandy clay with chalk (074) which was more prevalent on the north side of the pit, apparently continuing around the east side as (081) and thinning in the centre. This deposit, which contained a small number of artefacts that may have been derived from the primary deposits, probably represents deliberate backfilling using upcast from the formation of the pit. Activity of this type, using arisings from the pit to seal primary deposits, has been recorded in many Neolithic pits including examples where deposits have subsequently undergone extensive decalcification. In instances where stratigraphy is better preserved, it is clear that pits were often only partially backfilled creating a distinctive weathering cone into which other artefacts migrated. A less likely scenario suggests that this deposit results from natural weathering or collapse from the pit edge.
- 5.3.4 The secondary fills graded into an upper deposit of dark grey, silty clay with occasional natural flints (094) which filled the weathering cone and completed the sedimentary process. This deposit, some of which may also have been derived from pit upcast, contained a modest collection of artefacts, which accounted for 7% of the finds assemblage, and included small fragments of Middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware from sieved residue (3 sherds, 1 g), worked flints and animal bone. There was nothing to suggest that these artefacts resulted from deliberate deposition but were probably derived from the surrounding land surface.
- 5.3.5 A second Late Neolithic pit, 097, located in the north-eastern corner of the excavation area was a bowl-shaped feature, approximately 0.5 m deep (Figs 2 and 7–11). The deposits were heavily bioturbated and decalcified making the transition between individual contexts poorly defined. The pit was 'lined' by a narrow band of mid-red brown silty clay with natural flints (112), 0.05 m thick, which extended to the surface of the excavation. The distinctive red brown colour and distribution of this narrow 'lining' suggests that it may have been partially formed by decalcification of the surrounding gravel. It contained a small collection of artefacts. Most of this assemblage is likely to have been derived from the main pit fill; however, a fragment of modern glass is probably intrusive and may have entered the pit near the rim.
- 5.3.6 The main fill of the pit comprised dark black/brown silty clay with natural flint fragments (111). The deposit contained a large assemblage of Late Neolithic Grooved Ware pottery (Fig. 10), including diagnostic sherds of the Woodlands sub-type. A large sherd was found near the rim of the pit on the upper surface of the deposit in the north-east quadrant. Other material included worked flints, animal bones and a scallop shell (Fig. 11). These artefacts, which when combined with totals from the underlying deposit 112 accounted for 90% of the assemblage, were primarily concentrated on the north side of the pit suggesting deposition from this direction. The deposit also included several unworked stones which created a barrier, restricting the effects of bioturbation on sediments below them and preserving the charcoal rich appearance of the underlying deposit. The pit was apparently partially

backfilled with redeposited gravel, a small quantity of which survived in the base of the weathering cone, most notably in the south-east quadrant of the excavated pit. It seems likely that this deposit may originally have been more extensive than the archaeological record suggests, extending across the main pit deposit to preserve the large sherd of Late Neolithic pottery near the rim.

- 5.3.7 The upper tertiary fills comprised heavily bioturbated mid-red brown silty clay (110). Contact between this deposit and underlying material was poorly defined, most notably across the eastern side of the pit, which suggests that some of the artefacts from this deposit may have formed part of the principal fill of the pit.

Neolithic

- 5.3.8 Pit 029 comprised a shallow circular feature, approximately 0.58 m in diameter and 0.07 m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 2). It was filled with homogeneous mid-brown silty clay and natural flints (030) and contained a small collection of animal bone (1 g), pottery (8 sherds, 5 g), two struck flints and rare charcoal flecks. The pottery included fragments of Middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware with other sherds of possible Late Neolithic date, reducing the accuracy with which the feature could be dated. Furthermore, the shallow nature of the pit and effects of bioturbation made it impossible to identify the mechanics of deposition although the composition and range of the artefacts suggested that some of the assemblage probably resulted from deliberate, primary deposition.
- 5.3.9 Pit 027 was oval, measuring 0.78 m long and 0.66 m wide with shallow, concave sides that descended to a flat base, 0.12 m deep (Figs 2 and 12–13). The feature was filled with dark brown silty loam that included a small quantity of natural flints (028). A modest assemblage of artefacts, predominantly worked flints (No. 132) and animal bone (114 g), also included a bone awl (ON 28).

5.4 Uncertain date

Ditch

- 5.4.1 A linear ditch (115) aligned north-east to south-west crossed the centre of the site and was excavated at three separate locations (007, 023 and 032) along its length (Figs 2 and 14–15). The ditch was cut with a V-shaped section and narrow, slightly concave base, which was covered with dark grey brown silty clay that may have been derived from rapid collapse of topsoil. The remaining fills were of slightly differing character but resulted from natural weathering of the chalky coombe rock/gravel supplemented by plough soil from the surrounding land surface. Quantities of medium chalk rubble, in a brown/yellow-brown silty clay matrix, fined upwards to largely chalk-free material near the surface. Deposits in ditch section 023 were markedly eccentric hinting that they may have been derived from a hedge bank on the west side. The sequence was capped by mid-grey brown silty clay.
- 5.4.2 Artefacts were collected from the secondary and tertiary fills of all sections. These groups of material were dominated by worked flints. The collections included a small number of blades with a microdenticulate which may be linked to the activity surrounding the Late Neolithic pits. Two scraps of pottery were also recovered from ditch section 023.
- 5.4.3 This feature undoubtedly represents a continuation of a ditch that was found by Headland Archaeology during evaluation of land immediately to the south and west of the site (Headland Archaeology 2019b). These conjoining ditch segments form part of a field system defined by sub-parallel boundary ditches which extend across the land to the west. The ditch at Harnham Park remains undated, a conclusion that mirrors results by Headland Archaeology, across a much wider landscape and selection of excavated examples



(Headland Archaeology 2019b). That work suggested a possible Bronze Age date for ditches of the wider field system (*ibid.* 53) and a prehistoric or Bronze Age date for the ditch at Harnham Park seems likely.

Postholes

- 5.4.4 To the west of ditch 115 were five undated, circular or oval possible postholes that averaged 0.25 m in diameter and 0.11 m deep, although one measured only 0.03 m deep (posthole 008; Fig. 2). Four were aligned (north-west to south-east) suggesting that they were likely to be related and were therefore grouped together, with the fifth situated 1.6 m to the north-east; however, pockets of decalcified coombe rock were prevalent on the site and may mimic postholes in appearance.

Gully and natural features

- 5.4.5 Four meters to the west of Late Neolithic pit 097 was an NNE–SSW aligned gully (114; Fig. 2). The gully extended for 5 m and had a shallow concave profile (0.95 m wide and 0.09 m deep), it contained a single mid-greyish brown, slightly gravelly primary fill with no finds. This feature may represent either the base of a truncated feature, an area of biturbation or potentially a remnant of the buried soil. A similar area of bioturbation was recorded towards the south of the excavation area. The bioturbation feature (085) had an irregular elongated oval shape in plan (2.06 m by 0.52 and 0.12 m deep) and contained a single dark brown silty clay that produced a small assemblage of animal bone (1 g) and burnt flint (No. 17). Elsewhere two tree-throw holes (approximate 2.8 m in diameter) were recorded to the west of ditch 115, these features were unexcavated.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Approximately 16.3 kg of finds was recovered. The assemblage ranges in date from prehistoric to modern, with a chronological focus on the Neolithic period. The finds have been cleaned and quantified by material type in each context and scanned to assess their nature, condition and potential date range. Totals by material type are presented in Table 1.

Table 1 Summary of finds by material type (no. and wt. in grammes)

| Material | No. | Wt. (g) |
|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Animal bone | 662 | 1316 |
| Burnt flint | 306 | 3448 |
| Clay pipe | 1 | 1 |
| Fired clay | 2 | 3 |
| Flint | 1583 | 10674 |
| Glass | 1 | 1 |
| Pottery | | |
| <i>Middle Neolithic</i> | 4 | 7 |
| <i>Late Neolithic</i> | 207 | 679 |
| <i>Neolithic unspecified</i> | 12 | 13 |
| <i>Prehistoric unspecified</i> | 12 | 30 |
| Sub-total | 235 | 729 |
| Shell | 1 | 68 |
| Worked bone | 3 | 35 |
| Total | 2794 | 16275 |

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 A total of 235 sherds (729 g) was recovered from 22 contexts. The assemblage predominantly dates to the Neolithic period, with a small quantity dated more broadly to the prehistoric period. Sherds from each context have been sub-divided into broad ware groups based largely on dominant inclusion type(s) (e.g., shell-tempered) and quantified by number and weight of pieces. Where possible, detail of vessel form and other diagnostic features have been noted and a spot date for each context has been assigned. A breakdown of the sherds by chronological period and ware type is presented in Table 2. The level of recording is consistent with the 'basic record' advocated for the rapid characterisation of pottery assemblages (Barclay *et al.* 2016, section 2.4.5). Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs) have not been used due to the absence of any measurable rims.
- 6.2.2 The assemblage is in poor condition with many sherds, particularly the more lightly fired Neolithic pieces, displaying surface abrasion and considerable edge damage. The poor condition is reflected in an overall mean sherd weight of 3.1 g.

Table 2 Quantification of pottery by fabric and chronological period

| Period | Ware | No. | Wt. (g) |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Middle Neolithic | Flint-tempered ware | 4 | 7 |
| Late Neolithic | Shell-tempered ware | 207 | 679 |
| Neolithic unspecified | Flint-tempered ware | 6 | 12 |
| | Shell-tempered ware | 6 | 1 |
| <i>Neo unsp. sub-total</i> | | 12 | 13 |
| Prehistoric unspecified | Flint-tempered ware | 7 | 10 |
| | Grog and flint-tempered ware | 1 | 3 |
| | Sand and flint-tempered ware | 2 | 13 |
| | Shell-tempered ware | 1 | 2 |
| | Vesicular ware | 1 | 2 |
| <i>Preh. sub-total</i> | | 12 | 30 |
| Total | | 235 | 729 |

Middle Neolithic

- 6.2.3 The earliest diagnostic pottery comprises four flint-tempered sherds of Middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware. Two pieces derive from the rim of a vessel decorated with twisted cord and finger-nail impressions (pit 029) and two body sherds found during cleaning of the buried soil (layer 004) have whipped cord decoration on their exterior surfaces.

Late Neolithic

- 6.2.4 The majority of the pottery (88% by count; 93% by weight) dates to this period and belongs to the Grooved Ware ceramic tradition. The sherds are present in a range of fabrics tempered with coarse crushed fossil shell. The largest quantity (by weight) came from pit 097 which contained 103 sherds (511 g) most likely deriving from a single vessel (ON 35; Fig. 10). The exterior of the vessel is decorated with a combination of grooved lines and multiple applied fine cordons, some of which converge, with applied pellets of clay placed at the junctions. Some cordons are decorated with fine transverse incised lines. The sherds from pit 044 (103 pieces; 164 g) include two base angle fragments, one of which has diagonal grooved line decoration on the exterior of the wall. A single abraded body sherd from buried soil layer 031 has also been tentatively dated to the Late Neolithic on fabric grounds alone.



- 6.2.5 The range of fabrics represented are comparable to those identified elsewhere in the Wessex area (Cleal 1995; Wessex Archaeology 2020c) whilst the decorative elements on the vessel from pit 97 are typical of the Woodlands substyle of Grooved Ware, with local parallels known from the type site of Woodlands, Amesbury (Stone and Young 1948; Stone 1949) and Bulford (Wessex Archaeology 2020c).

Neolithic unspecified

- 6.2.6 A further twelve sherds (13 g) predominantly in coarse flint-tempered fabrics have been more broadly dated to the Neolithic period. Three of these pieces are decorated with tooled impressions probably made with a bone implement and could possibly be further examples of Peterborough Ware; they were found residually within Late Neolithic pit 044. The remaining pieces came from pits 029 and 097.

Prehistoric unspecified

- 6.2.7 The remaining twelve sherds of pottery comprise abraded, featureless fragments in a range of flint-, grog-, shell- and vesicular- tempered fabrics (Table 2). One piece in a leached vesicular fabric is of probable early prehistoric date (buried soil 031) whilst eight could only be more broadly dated to prehistoric (buried soil 004, ditch 023 and buried soil 031).

6.3 Worked flint

- 6.3.1 A large quantity of worked flint was recovered (Table 1), with key groups found principally within Neolithic pits 027, 044 and 097. Pit 097 contains a selection of artefacts including microdenticulates (saws) and other pieces with edge use traces (i.e., the edges are visibly dulled). The pit also contained a retouched flake to which one of the flakes, removed in the process of manufacture, could be refitted. This indicates that the pit contents are likely to be broadly undisturbed. The worked flint from pit 044 includes further microdenticulates, a series of chisel arrowheads of which one was rejected in manufacture, providing more evidence for tool production, and several nicely made end scrapers. Both microdenticulates and chisel arrowheads in particular have been identified as key components of the flint tool kits found in association with Woodlands style Grooved Ware in the area (Stone and Young 1948; Stone 1949; Wessex Archaeology 2020c).

6.4 Burnt flint

- 6.4.1 Burnt, unworked flint was recovered from 34 contexts within four pits (027, 029, 044 and 097), ditch 115 and three layers (buried soils 004, 031 and 041). This material type is intrinsically undatable but is often taken as an indicator of prehistoric activity. The largest quantity was found within buried soil 031 (165 pieces, 1.9 kg).

6.5 Animal bone

- 6.5.1 The total quantity of animal bone is provided in Table 1, once refits are considered the figure falls to 391 fragments (Table 3). Bone preservation is generally good, although root etching on the cortical surfaces of some bones has effaced fine details such as butchery marks.

- 6.5.2 The assemblage has been fully recorded following current guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019).

Results

- 6.5.3 Most of the animal bones recovered from possible Neolithic pit 027, are from pigs. They comprise a range of post-cranial elements, together with several loose teeth, including canines from a sow and large male. The post-cranial bones are mostly from juvenile pigs, although an atlas vertebra from a perinatal animal was also recovered. The proximal end of



a roe deer metacarpal and a worked red deer metacarpal (see worked bone) were also recovered from the pit.

Table 3 Animal bone: number of identified specimens present (or NISP) by feature

| Species | Pit 27 | Pit 29 | Pit 44 | Pit 97 | Ditch 85 | Buried soil 49 | Total |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------|------------|------------|----------|----------------|------------|
| Cattle | - | - | 9 | 9 | - | 1 | 19 |
| Sheep/goat | - | - | 2 | 6 | - | - | 8 |
| Pig | 24 | - | 56 | 54 | - | - | 134 |
| Red deer | 1 | - | - | 2 | - | - | 3 |
| Roe deer | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | - | 3 |
| Badger | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Total identified | 26 | - | 69 | 72 | - | 1 | 168 |
| Total unidentifiable | 38 | 1 | 103 | 79 | 2 | - | 223 |
| Overall total | 64 | 1 | 172 | 151 | 2 | 1 | 391 |

- 6.5.4 A single unidentifiable fragment of burnt animal bone came from Neolithic pit 029.
- 6.5.5 A large group of animal bones was recovered from Late Neolithic pit 044. Once again, the assemblage is dominated by pig bones, mostly post-cranial elements but also fragments of skull, mandible, and loose teeth, including a canine tooth (ON 2) from a large boar. Most of the pig bones are from immature animals, although some perinatal and neonatal bones were also recovered from fill 096. Three calf bones were also recorded, these comprise a fragment of skull, the shaft of a radius and a third phalanx. The scapula from fully mature cattle, together with a few teeth were also recorded. The scapula shows signs of butchery along the spine of the blade. The other identified bones comprise a shed roe deer antler and part of a skull (zygomatic) from fill 095, and a sheep/goat tooth and worked bone (see below) from fill 096.
- 6.5.6 Grooved Ware pit 097 also contained a relatively large number of bone fragments. Most of the identified bones are from pigs and include a wide range of cranial and post-cranial elements, mostly from juvenile and immature animals but also a few from neonates. A group of articulating bones from the left forequarter of an immature pig were noted from fill 111. The pit also contained small numbers of cattle and sheep/goat bones, comprising both cranial and post-cranial elements, together with the proximal end of a red deer femur and first phalanx, and a badger tooth. Patches of light charring/scorching were noted on the midshaft of the red deer femur, this type of evidence is consistent with the application of direct heat to fracture the bone and gain access to the marrow (Serjeantson 2011, 60–2). In addition, a small piece of worked bone or antler was also recovered (see below).
- 6.5.7 Two rodent vertebrae were recovered from a likely bioturbation related feature 085.

6.6 Worked bone

- 6.6.1 A bone awl (ON 28, 32 g) made from the proximal end and shaft of a red deer metacarpal, was recovered from Neolithic pit 027. The bone is split lengthways, and the shaft section smoothed and shaped to give the shank a rounded cross-section that tapers to a point at the distal end. The awl is longer, at 203.5 mm, than similar examples recorded from other Late Neolithic pits in the local area (Montague 1995; Wainwright and Longworth 1971; Smith 1965; Seager Smith in prep; Wessex Archaeology 2020c).
- 6.6.2 A second bone awl (ON 16, 1 g) was recovered from adjacent pit 044. The object is made from the proximal end of a sheep/goat (or possibly roe deer) metacarpal, split, and shaped



in a similar way to ON 28. These smaller types of awls are relatively common and have also been recorded from several Late Neolithic pits in the local area (*ibid*).

- 6.6.3 A small fragment of worked bone or antler (2 g) was recovered from pit 097. The fragment is from the shank of a finely worked pin and show signs of charring at one end.

6.7 Other finds

- 6.7.1 A single featureless fragment of fired clay was recovered from Late Neolithic pit 097. It is in a soft, predominantly oxidised fabric containing sparse chalk inclusions. This pit also contained an almost complete valve from a scallop shell. Items of shell within pits of Neolithic date have been found elsewhere in the region such as at Ratfyn, Amesbury and West Amesbury (Stone 1935; Roberts *et al.* 2020) where they formed part of collections of material intentionally selected for deposition. Given the large size (130 mm by 110 mm) and near completeness of the Harnham Park scallop shell it is unlikely that this was accidentally 'lost' and highly likely that it too was carefully selected to be deposited in the pit.

- 6.7.2 Other finds include a plain stem fragment of clay tobacco pipe found within the backfill of modern trench 043 and an intrusive fragment of modern window glass from Late Neolithic pit 097.

6.8 Conservation

- 6.8.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field or during the scan.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 Sixty-three bulk samples were taken from two Late Neolithic pits, two Neolithic pits, a prehistoric buried soil, a prehistoric (possibly Bronze Age) ditch, and an undated ditch. The bulk samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of environmental evidence.

- 7.1.2 Nine Kubiena samples were taken from the buried soil and stored for potential soil micromorphological analysis at a later stage.

- 7.1.3 The samples break down into the following phases/feature groups:

Table 4 Sample provenance summary

| Phase | Feature type | No. of Kubiena samples | No. of bulk samples taken | No. of bulk samples processed | Volume of processed bulk samples (litres) |
|----------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Neolithic | Pits | - | 5 | 5 | 47 |
| Late Neolithic | Pits | - | 20 | 20 | 681 |
| Prehistoric | Buried soil | 9 | 36 | 16 | 150.5 |
| Prehistoric | Ditch | - | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| Undated | Ditch | - | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Totals | - | 9 | 63 | 43 | 1093.5 |

7.2 Aims and methods

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



- 7.2.2 The size of the bulk sediment samples varied between 2 and 67 litres, with an average volume of approximately 21 litres. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank; the flots retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, whilst residues were generally fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The flots and fine residue fractions were examined using a Brunel BMSZ stereomicroscope at up to x40 magnification.
- 7.2.3 Different potential indicators of bioturbation were noted, including the percentage of modern roots and abundance of modern seeds, burrowing blind snails (*Cecilioides acicula*), earthworm eggs, and modern insects.
- 7.2.4 Plant remains were identified through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006). Selected charcoal fragments were identified through examination of the transverse, tangential longitudinal, and radial longitudinal sections at up to x400 magnification using a Kyowa ME-LUX2 microscope. Charcoal identifications were assisted by the descriptions of Gale and Cutler (2000), Hather (2000), and Schweingruber (1990), together with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereals and other cultivated crops (using traditional names).
- 7.2.5 Remains were recorded semi-quantitatively on an abundance scale: C = <5 ('Trace'), B = 5–10 ('Rare'), A = 10–30 ('Occasional'), A* = 30–100 ('Common'), A** = 100–500 ('Abundant'), A*** = >500 ('Very abundant/Exceptional').

7.3 Results

- 7.3.1 The results are presented in Appendix 1. Most samples produced small flots containing varying concentrations of charcoal and charred plant remains, with the majority of the material recovered from Late Neolithic and Neolithic pits 027, 029, 044, and 097. Modern roots, modern seeds, and burrowing blind snails are abundant in the flots due to bioturbation. Other material comprises burnt/calced animal bone, small animal bone, fish bone, and flint, together with fragmented coal and clinker/cinder. There is a high possibility that some of the environmental remains present will be later intrusive contaminants.
- 7.3.2 The four Late Neolithic and Neolithic pits sampled (027, 029, 044, 097) are broadly similar in composition, and contain varying quantities of well-preserved charcoal, hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell, and cereal grains. The cereals are in poor to good states of preservation, with identifiable grains corresponding to wheat (*Triticum* sp.), free-threshing wheat (*T. aestivum/turgidum*), and barley (*Hordeum* sp.). Other plant remains include a single garden pea (*Pisum sativum*) and seeds of wild taxa. Pits 044 and 097 are notably richer in hazel nutshell and charcoal, with selected fragments identified as hazel and oak (*Quercus* sp.).
- 7.3.3 The samples from the buried soil (group 031) only contain trace quantities of charred plant remains, including cereal grains (indeterminate, wheat, free-threshing wheat) and tiny hazel nutshell fragments. Charcoal is present in small quantities and highly fragmented (<2 mm).
- 7.3.4 Very few remains are present in the ditches sampled. The uncertain prehistoric ditch 032 (group 115) only contains trace quantities of highly fragmented charcoal, whilst undated ditch 085 produced a single free-threshing wheat grain and highly fragmented charcoal.

7.4 Conclusions

- 7.4.1 The varying quantities of charred hazel nutshell fragments and charcoal recovered from the four Late Neolithic and Neolithic pits (027, 029, 044, 097) reflects a typical assemblage for this period (Anderson-Whymark and Thomas 2012). Comparable evidence has been

recovered from later Neolithic pits in the local area at Old Sarum (Powell *et al.* 2005) and Bulford (Wessex Archaeology 2020c), as well as the broader region (Pelling and Campbell 2013; Roberts and Marshall 2020). It is very likely that most – if not all – the cereal grains and the garden pea recorded are more recent intrusions since there is considerable evidence for later disturbance within these samples. In particular, the abundant remains of the burrowing blind snail, together with fragmented (<4 mm) coal and clinker/cinder, is indicative of medieval/post-medieval contamination. There is currently only scant evidence for cereals in the Late Neolithic across southern England, with particularly free-threshing wheat grains overwhelmingly demonstrated to be later intrusions (Stevens and Fuller 2012; Pelling *et al.* 2015). However, it is unclear if all the cereal grains present are later intrusions. For example, previous work at Bulford indicated that most cereal grains were medieval/post-medieval contaminants, although one barley grain returned a Middle Neolithic date (Wessex Archaeology 2020c). Whilst there is evidence for later contamination, the high concentrations of charcoal and charred hazel nutshell fragments in pits 044 and 097 probably reflect the most secure deposits of Late Neolithic cultural debris on the site.

- 7.4.2 The buried soil (031) contains very little evidence of diagnostic value and there are clear indicators of disturbance throughout this deposit, making it likely that most of the material has been reworked and the cereal grains are probably all intrusive. Samples from the uncertain prehistoric ditch 032 (group 115) and undated ditch 085 do not contain evidence of interpretative value.

8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

8.1 Stratigraphic potential

- 8.1.1 The excavation at Harnham Park has produced evidence for activity at the site dating from the Neolithic and broader prehistoric periods. The Neolithic remains are the most significant and will add to our understanding of the use and chronology of this part of Wiltshire's prehistoric landscape. The broadly dated prehistoric features are of local interest but have limited potential to add to the understanding of this period.
- 8.1.2 The four Neolithic pits recorded during the fieldwork, have the most potential for further work. The pits have the potential to add to our understanding of the character of occupation during the late 4th to early 3rd millennia BC. Further study of the form of the pits, their contents (artefacts and charred plant remains) and their depositional sequences will allow for an appreciation of the range of activities, variety of resources and the landscapes zones utilized by these early communities. For example, the scallop shell suggests contacts or visits to coastal zones, while the bone awl made from a red deer metacarpal and assemblage of pig bones indicate a mixture of wild and domesticated animals, a similar picture may also be suggested for the charred plant remains (hazelnut). The nature of the pit deposits, presence of possible exotic materials (scallop shell), and the assemblage of Grooved Ware pottery can add to local discussions on Neolithic pit deposits (see papers in Anderson-Whymark and Thomas 2012; Roberts and Marshall 2020). A programme of radiocarbon dating will allow the detailed chronology of the pits and their deposits to be understood, such work will set the features within local and national temporal frameworks established at sites such as Bulford, Wiltshire (Wessex Archaeology 2020c).

8.2 Finds potential

- 8.2.1 The finds assemblage from Harnham Park, particularly the groups from Neolithic pits 027, 029, 044 and 097, is of high archaeological significance. Analysis of this material with reference to the stratigraphic sequence will contribute to a better understanding of the chronology and character of human activity within the wider later Neolithic landscape. These

activities may include the exploitation of raw materials (flint), the trade/exchange of finished objects (pottery, worked bone, shell) as well as economic activities (animal husbandry) and the consumption of food (animal bone). There is also the potential to review key feature groups associated with deposits for which radiocarbon dates are recommended to be obtained to refine the ceramic chronology for the Late Neolithic period in particular. This would also allow for a detailed comparison with other assemblages from the area. Recent excavations at Bulford (Wessex Archaeology 2020c) have provided the most comprehensive set of radiocarbon dates from southern Britain which show that Woodlands style Grooved Ware pottery was being made at about 2950 BC. The identification of similar material in the locality is a welcome discovery, not least because it provides an opportunity, through radiocarbon dating, to establish whether the activity at Harnham Park is earlier, contemporary or later than the dates at Bulford and therefore refine the chronology.

8.3 Environmental potential

- 8.3.1 No further work is recommended on the samples from possible prehistoric ditch 032, undated ditch 085, and the buried soil (031) due to the effective absence of remains. There is no potential for soil micromorphological analysis to be undertaken on the Kubiena samples from the buried soil (031) since it is clearly significantly disturbed by later activity and bioturbation. No additional work is recommended on the terrestrial molluscs due to the shallow depths of the archaeological features and the evidence for later contamination.
- 8.3.2 There is potential for further analysis of the charred plant remains and charcoal from the four Late Neolithic and Neolithic pits (027, 029, 044, 097). Samples with the highest potential for analysis derive from Late Neolithic pits 044 and 097 since these contain the highest concentrations of charcoal and hazel nutshell fragments, suggesting that they reflect comparatively secure, well-sealed deposits. Charred hazel nutshell fragments and/or charcoal from short-lived species from these features would therefore be good candidates for radiocarbon dating to support the analysis of the charred plant remains/charcoal and to refine site phasing. A cereal grain from pit 097 should also be submitted for radiocarbon dating to confirm if it is a later intrusion. It is not recommended that radiocarbon dates are obtained on the free-threshing wheat and the garden pea since these are likely to be later intrusions, given the considerable evidence for later contamination. Radiocarbon dating of free-threshing wheat in Neolithic contexts would be better directed at sites where grains of these species derive from well-sealed deposits with minimal evidence for later contamination.
- 8.3.3 Further analysis of the charred plant remains and charcoal from a selection of samples from the Neolithic pits would provide information on the nature of activity at the site, wild plant exploitation practices and the local environment. This would be a valuable comparison to evidence from other sites in the local area, such as Old Sarum (Powell *et al.* 2005) and Bulford (Wessex Archaeology 2020c), as well sites across the broader region (Pelling and Campbell 2013).

9 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

9.1 Updated project aims

- 9.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2020a) included broad aims and research objectives for the project. The investigation has been successful in its aims and objectives and the archaeological resource within the development area has been examined, which has allowed for a better understanding of and, a lasting record of the remains to be compiled. The results of the investigation have the potential to inform the following:



- to seek a better understanding of the resource;
- to analyse and interpret the results of the excavation, and disseminate them; and
- determine whether the prehistoric and latter settlement archaeology identified in sites nearby extends into this area, further consideration of the uncertain prehistoric/Bronze Age dated ditch may be relevant here.

9.1.2 The Neolithic remains also have the potential to directly address themes identified in the South West England archaeological research assessment, agenda and action plan (Webster 2008; Grove and Croft 2012), such as:

- Theme A; Settlement Sites and Landscapes: Aim 28 – Improve understanding of Neolithic settlements and landscapes
- Theme C; Environment and dating: Aim 16d/h – Scientific dating in development control projects, and Aim 20 – Improve understanding of wild and cultivated plants
- Theme D; Social Identity and Change: Aim 49a – Improve knowledge of Neolithic social life
- Theme E; Economies and Subsistence: Aim 39 – Understand better the relationship of Neolithic people to plants

9.1.3 Given the sites proximity to the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site it is also possible to consider areas of interest from the Research Agenda and Strategy (Leivers and Powell 2016). The results from Harnham Park allow for a consideration of two broad themes, '*Connected Landscapes*' and '*Daily Life*' and specific period-based questions such as: was mixed farming a feature of the Late Neolithic; and to better understand the chronologies of key artefact types, especially those of the middle and earlier part of the Late Neolithic (research questions C.4 and C.6 Leivers and Powell 2016, 15–16).

9.1.4 In regard to the above research strategies the analysis and publication will seek to:

- date the Late Neolithic activity through a programme of radiocarbon dating, this will be focussed on dating the Grooved Ware pottery assemblage to allow for comparison across the local region;
- gain an understanding of the material culture used at the site in the Late Neolithic, what can the range of materials (pottery, worked flint, and animal bone) and objects (scallop shell, bone awl, flint tools) tell us about the activity and the site's wider connections; and
- investigate the range of wild and domesticated plant resources used and consumed during the Late Neolithic and to what extent this can inform us about the role of cereals and wild plants in the 3rd millennium BC.

9.2 Stratigraphic evidence – recommendations for analysis

9.2.1 The phasing presented within this report is based on the assessment of stratigraphic relationships and the dating of finds (principally pottery). It is presented as provisional although few further changes are envisaged. Refinement of the date of the Neolithic pits will be possible following the intended programme of radiocarbon dating.

9.2.2 The stratigraphic remains from the excavation are well understood and require little further work. This report will be edited and updated following the proposed analyses with key data incorporated into the text. A review of the sites sequence in relation to contemporary local and regional Neolithic sequences, such as those at Bulford (Wessex Archaeology 2020c), Old Sarum Pipeline (2005), Boscombe Down (Wessex Archaeology 1996) or from across the county (Roberts and Marshall 2020), will increase our understanding of depositional sequences on a broader, landscape scale. This approach may also allow insights on wider national debates around Neolithic pits and their contents (e.g., Garrow 2007) to be considered.

9.3 Finds evidence – recommendations for analysis

9.3.1 It is recommended that the prehistoric pottery be recorded in full, in accordance with the nationally recognised guidelines for a 'detailed record' (Barclay *et al.* 2016, section 2.4.6). Provision should be made for the illustration of up to three vessels.

9.3.2 At the time of writing this report, the worked flint recovered from environmental samples has not yet been recorded – time must therefore be allowed for quantifying and updating the finds records with any sample retrieved material. A number of pieces of worked flint (yet to be selected) are to be illustrated.

9.3.3 The animal bone assemblage has been fully recorded and the resulting dataset will form the basis for a publication report detailing the animal bone evidence. The report will aim to place the assemblage within a wider local context, particularly regarding the evidence from pit 097 which is associated with Woodlands style Grooved Ware pottery.

9.3.4 Full catalogue descriptions will be compiled, and parallels sought for the worked bone tools; these items will be illustrated.

9.3.5 No further work is recommended for the other finds (burnt flint, clay pipe, glass) but as a minimum this report should be adapted for inclusion in any future dissemination of the results.

9.4 Environmental evidence – recommendations for analysis

9.4.1 Further analysis of the charcoal and charred plant remains is recommended on Late Neolithic pits 044 and 097.

9.4.2 The selection of samples proposed for charred plant analysis are indicated with a "P" in Appendix 2. All identifiable charred plant remains will be extracted from the flots and fine residue fractions. These remains will be fully quantified and the analysis results tabulated. Recording will follow Antolín and Buxó (2011) for cereals and Antolín *et al.* (2016) for hazel nutshell, with a consideration of taphonomic factors (cf. López-Dóriga 2015; Bishop 2019). The identifications will be undertaken using a stereomicroscope at up to x40 magnifications through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006). Plant nomenclature will follow Stace (1997) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereals.

9.4.3 The selection of samples proposed for charcoal analysis are indicated with a "C" in Appendix 2. Identifications will be undertaken through examination of the transverse, tangential longitudinal, and radial longitudinal sections at up to x400 magnification using a Kyowa ME-LUX2 microscope. Comparison will be made to a modern charcoal reference collection held by Wessex Archaeology and identification keys (Gale and Cutler 2000; Hather 2000; Schweingruber 1990). Additional notes will be made on growth ring curvature,



growth ring width and other factors (e.g., insect degradation, radial cracking, vitrification, etc.). Identifications will focus on the ≥ 4 mm and 2–4 mm sieve fractions to identify wood from small shrubs/twigs. Up to 100 fragments will be identified from each pit (e.g., 25 fragments from 4 associated samples/contexts). Nomenclature will follow Stace (1997).

9.5 Radiocarbon dating recommendations

9.5.1 Further analysis and discussion of the pit assemblages will be greatly enhanced through radiocarbon dating. It is recommended that radiocarbon dates be obtained on appropriate materials (animal bone/charred plant remains) from deposits within pits 027, 029, 044 and 097, where possible. The following deposits contain animal bones and charred plant remains that meet the established criteria for sample selection:

Table 5 Radiocarbon dating proposals

| Context | Feature | Material | Reason for proposal |
|---------|---------|---|--|
| 096 | 044 | Pig radius - unfused proximal epiphysis present, or pig mandible retaining teeth | Good candidate, fits criteria for sampling and will provide absolute date for pit and associated Grooved Ware |
| 083 | 044 | Charred plant remain: <i>Corylus avellana</i> (Hazel) nutshell fragment, or Wood charcoal: to be identified (short-lived) | High concentration of charcoal and charred hazel nutshell, secure deposit, to support analysis of charcoal/charred plant remains, and improve site phasing |
| 111 | 097 | Pig left forelimb | Good candidate, fits criteria for sampling and will provide absolute date for pit and associated Grooved Ware (Woodlands style) |
| 098 | 097 | C14 candidate 1: Charred plant remain: <i>Corylus avellana</i> (Hazel) nutshell fragment, or Wood charcoal: to be identified (short-lived) C14 candidate 2: Charred plant remain: Cereal grain | High concentration of charcoal and charred hazel nutshell, secure deposit, to support analysis of charcoal/charred plant remains, and improve site phasing Cereal grain C14 date to confirm if intrusive or Neolithic |



10.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

- 10.2.1 The physical archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by The Salisbury Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011).
- 10.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the **SBYWM: 2020.85**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- Four cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
 - One files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics

Digital archive

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

10.3 Selection strategy

- 10.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving museum.
- 10.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy: available on request) and follows ClfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.
- 10.3.3 Detailed selection proposals for the complete project archive, comprising finds, environmental material and site records (analogue and digital), are made in the site-specific Selection Strategy (Appendix 3). The proposals are summarised below.

Finds

- 10.3.4 All finds have been recorded to an appropriate archive level prior to any selection proposals being implemented, and the selection process will be fully documented in the project archive. Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.
- Animal bone (662 fragments): majority from Late Neolithic contexts, including significant amount associated with Woodlands style Grooved Ware. Some future



research potential, particularly regarding scientific techniques (e.g., C14 and isotopes). Retain all.

- Burnt flint (306 fragments): intrinsically undatable. Discarded;
- Clay pipe (1 piece): negligible quantity, no archaeological significance, no further research potential. Do not retain;
- Fired clay (2 pieces): from stratified deposit of Neolithic date. Retain;
- Flint (1583 pieces): mostly from stratified deposits of Neolithic date. Further research potential. Retain all;
- Glass (1 fragment): of modern date, no further research potential. Recommended for discard;
- Pottery (235 sherds): Neolithic and prehistoric. Of local significance with further research potential. Retain all;
- Shell (1 piece): from stratified deposit of Neolithic date. Retain;
- Worked bone (3 pieces): from stratified deposits of Neolithic date, further research potential. Retain.

Palaeoenvironmental material

- 10.3.5 Some of the material retrieved from environmental samples merit retention with the site archive for future access.
- 10.3.6 The kubiena samples have no further potential and will be discarded.
- 10.3.7 Unprocessed samples from the buried soil will not be retained.
- 10.3.8 Unsorted residues from assessed samples not proposed for further analysis will not be retained. Residues from analysed samples will be discarded after sorting.
- 10.3.9 Assessed flots with some further potential beyond the scope of the current project will be retained, including samples from pits 027, 029, 044 and 097. All remaining assessed flots will not be retained.
- 10.3.10 All analysed materials will be retained.

Digital data

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

10.4 Security copy

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



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

10.5 OASIS

10.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 4). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

11 COPYRIGHT

11.1 Archive and report copyright

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

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

11.2 Third party data copyright

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



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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Environmental Data

| Phase | Feature Type | Feature | Context | Group | Sample Code | Sample vol. (l) | Flot vol. (ml) | Bioturbation proxies | Grain | Chaff | Cereal Notes | Charred Other | Charred Other Notes | Charcoal >2mm (ml) | Other |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------|---------|-------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--|-------|-------|---------------------------------------|---------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| Neolithic | Pit | 29 | 30 | - | 227641_1 | 13 | 10 | 10%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**) | C | - | <i>Triticum cf. aestivum/turgidum</i> | A* | <i>Corylus avellana</i> (nutshell (A*)), <i>Rumex</i> sp. | Highly frag. <2 mm | Moll-t (A*) |
| Uncertain - Prehistoric | Ditch | 32 | 33 | 115 | 227641_2 | 7 | 5 | 90%, uncharred seeds, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (B) | - | - | - | - | - | Trace, highly frag. <2 mm | Moll-t (A*), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 39 | 31 | 227641_4 | 10 | 10 | 50%, uncharred seeds (C), E, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**) | - | - | - | - | - | Highly frag. <2 mm | Moll-t (A*), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 45 | 31 | 227641_6 | 10 | 10 | 50%, uncharred seeds (C), E, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A***) | - | - | - | C | <i>Corylus avellana</i> (nutshell, tiny) | Highly frag. <2 mm | Moll-t (A*), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 48 | 31 | 227641_9 | 10 | 10 | 50%, uncharred seeds (A), E, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A***) | - | - | - | - | - | <1 | Moll-t (A*), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 52 | 31 | 227641_11 | 9.5 | 5 | 50%, uncharred seeds (A), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A*) | - | - | - | - | - | Highly frag. <2 mm | Moll-t (A*), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 55 | 31 | 227641_14 | 2 | 1 | 50%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A*) | - | - | - | - | - | Highly frag. <2 mm | Moll-t (A*), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 58 | 31 | 227641_17 | 10 | 10 | 50%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A*) | C | - | <i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i> | - | - | Highly frag. <2 mm | Moll-t (A*), coal (C), |



| Phase | Feature Type | Feature | Context | Group | Sample Code | Sample vol. (l) | Flot vol. (ml) | Bioturbation proxies | Grain | Chaff | Cereal Notes | Charred Other | Charred Other Notes | Charcoal >2mm (ml) | Other |
|-----------|--------------|---------|---------|-------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--|-------|-------|---|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | clinker/cinder (C) |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 60 | 31 | 227641_19 | 10 | 10 | 50%, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A*) | - | - | - | - | - | Highly frag. <2 mm | Moll-t (A*), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 61 | 31 | 227641_20 | 10 | 5 | 50%, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**) | C | - | <i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i> , Triticeae | - | - | Highly frag. <2 mm | Moll-t (A*) |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | | 64 | 31 | 227641_23 | 10 | 15 | 50%, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**) | - | - | - | - | - | Highly frag. <2 mm | Moll-t (A*), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | | 67 | 31 | 227641_26 | 10 | 10 | 50%, Uncharred seeds (B), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**) | - | - | - | - | - | Highly frag. <2 mm | Moll-t (A*), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | | 70 | 31 | 227641_29 | 10 | 10 | 50%, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**) | C | - | <i>Triticum</i> sp., Triticeae | - | - | Highly frag. <2 mm | Moll-t (A*), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 72 | 31 | 227641_31 | 9 | 5 | 50%, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**) | - | - | - | - | - | Highly frag. <2 mm | Moll-t (A*), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 75 | 31 | 227641_34 | 10 | 5 | 50%, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**) | - | - | - | - | - | <1 | Moll-t (A*), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 76 | 31 | 227641_35 | 10 | 5 | 50%, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**) | - | - | - | - | - | <1 | Moll-t (A*), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 77 | 31 | 227641_36 | 10 | 5 | 50%, uncharred seeds (B) <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**) | C | - | <i>Triticum cf. aestivum/turgidum</i> | C | Poaceae (cf. <i>Avena</i>) | <1 | Moll-t (A*), coal (C), |



| Phase | Feature Type | Feature | Context | Group | Sample Code | Sample vol. (l) | Flot vol. (ml) | Bioturbation proxies | Grain | Chaff | Cereal Notes | Charred Other | Charred Other Notes | Charcoal >2mm (ml) | Other |
|----------------|--------------|---------|---------|-------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|---|-------|-------|---|---------------|--|--------------------|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | clinker/cinder (C) |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 79 | 31 | 227641_38 | 10 | 5 | 50%, uncharred seeds (B), insects (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**) | C | - | <i>Triticum cf. aestivum/turgidum</i> , Triticeae | - | - | Highly frag. <2 mm | Moll-t (A*), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 44 | 51 | - | 227641_39 | 25 | 30 | 5%, uncharred seeds (B), I, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**) | - | - | - | C | <i>Corylus avellena</i> (nutshell) | 20 | Moll-t (A**), coal (C), Sab |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 44 | 82 | - | 227641_40 | 30 | 70 | 10%, uncharred seeds (B), I, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**) | C | - | Triticeae | A | <i>Corylus avellena</i> (nutshell) | 30 | Moll-t (A**), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C), Sab/f (B), bone |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 44 | 83 | - | 227641_41 | 40 | 90 | 5%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**) | C | - | <i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i> | A | <i>Corylus avellena</i> (nutshell) | 40 | Moll-t (A**), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C), Sab/f (B), bone |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 44 | 74 | - | 227641_42 | 14 | 20 | <1%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**) | - | C | Triticeae (rachis frag) | C | <i>Corylus avellena</i> (nutshell) | Highly frag. <2 mm | Moll-t (A***), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 44 | 50 | - | 227641_43 | 45 | 20 | 5%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**) | C | - | Triticeae | C | <i>Corylus avellena</i> (nutshell), Poaceae | 1 | Moll-t (A***), clinker/cinder (C), plastic (C) |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 44 | 84 | - | 227641_44 | 40 | 30 | 5%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**) | C | - | <i>Triticum</i> sp., Triticeae | C | <i>Corylus avellena</i> (nutshell), Rubiaceae | 5 | Moll-t (A***), clinker/cinder (C), plastic (C) |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 87 | - | 227641_49 | 20 | 70 | 5%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**) | C | - | Triticeae | B | <i>Corylus avellena</i> (nutshell), <i>Pisum sativum</i> | 30 | Moll-t (A**), Sab/f (B) |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 44 | 88 | - | 227641_50 | 38 | 80 | 10%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**) | C | - | Triticeae | B | <i>Corylus avellena</i> (nutshell) | 25 | Moll-t (A**), Sab/f (B) |



| Phase | Feature Type | Feature | Context | Group | Sample Code | Sample vol. (l) | Flot vol. (ml) | Bioturbation proxies | Grain | Chaff | Cereal Notes | Charred Other | Charred Other Notes | Charcoal >2mm (ml) | Other |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------|---------|-------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|---|-------|-------|--|---------------|--|--------------------|---|
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 44 | 89 | - | 227641_51 | 30 | 60 | 10%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**) | C | - | <i>Triticeae</i> , <i>Hordeum</i> sp. | A | <i>Corylus avellana</i> (nutshell) | 30 | Moll-t (A**), Sab/f (C) |
| Uncertain - Prehistoric | Ditch | 85 | 86 | | 227641_57 | 8 | 20 | >95%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**) | C | - | <i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>aestivum/turgidum</i> | - | - | Highly frag. <2 mm | Moll-t (A**), Sab (C), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Neolithic | Pit | 27 | 91 | - | 227641_58 | 9 | 15 | 10%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A***) | - | - | - | A | <i>Corylus avellana</i> (nutshell) | Highly frag. <2 mm | Moll-t (A**), Sab (C) |
| Neolithic | Pit | 27 | 90 | - | 227641_59 | 9 | 20 | 10%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A***) | - | - | - | A* | <i>Corylus avellana</i> (nutshell) | <1 | Moll-t (A**), Sab (C), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Neolithic | Pit | 27 | 92 | - | 227641_60 | 7 | 10 | 50%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A***) | C | - | <i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>aestivum/turgidum</i> | A | <i>Corylus avellana</i> (nutshell) | Highly frag. <2 mm | Moll-t (A**), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Neolithic | Pit | 27 | 93 | - | 227641_61 | 9 | 10 | 10%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A***) | - | - | - | A | <i>Corylus avellana</i> (nutshell) | <1 | Moll-t (A***), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 98 | - | 227641_62 | 62 | 200 | 50%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A***) | C | - | <i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i> | A* | <i>Corylus avellana</i> (nutshell) | 50 | Moll-t (A***), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 99 | - | 227641_63 | 24 | 100 | 90%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A***) | C | - | <i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i> , <i>Triticeae</i> | C | <i>Corylus avellana</i> (nutshell) | <1 | Moll-t (A***), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 100 | - | 227641_64 | 20 | 80 | 90%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A***) | - | - | <i>Triticum</i> sp., <i>Triticeae</i> | C | <i>Corylus avellana</i> (nutshell) | 10 | Moll-t (A***), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 101 | - | 227641_65 | 36 | 80 | 90%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A***) | C | - | <i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i> | C | <i>Corylus avellana</i> (nutshell), <i>Fabacaeae</i> (>2 mm) | 30 | Moll-t (A***), clinker/cinder (C) |



| Phase | Feature Type | Feature | Context | Group | Sample Code | Sample vol. (l) | Flot vol. (ml) | Bioturbation proxies | Grain | Chaff | Cereal Notes | Charred Other | Charred Other Notes | Charcoal >2mm (ml) | Other |
|----------------|--------------|---------|---------|-------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|---|-------|-------|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 102 | - | 227641_66 | 25 | 70 | >95%, uncharred seeds (A), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A ^{***}) | C | - | <i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i> | C | <i>Corylus avellena</i> (nutshell) | <1 | Moll-t (A ^{***}), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 107 | - | 227641_67 | 26 | 60 | >95%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A ^{***}) | - | - | - | A | <i>Corylus avellena</i> (nutshell) | 10 | Moll-t (A ^{***}), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 108 | - | 227641_68 | 40 | 120 | >95%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A ^{***}) | C | - | <i>Triticum</i> sp | B | <i>Corylus avellena</i> (nutshell) | 5 | Moll-t (A ^{***}), coal (C), clinker/cinder (C), Sab (C), Burnt bone (C) |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 109 | - | 227641_69 | 29 | 80 | >95%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A ^{***}) | C | - | <i>Hordeum</i> sp. | C | <i>Corylus avellena</i> (nutshell) | 5 | Moll-t (A ^{***}), clinker/cinder (C) |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 104 | - | 227641_70 | 25 | 100 | >95%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A ^{***}) | - | - | - | C | <i>Corylus avellena</i> (nutshell) | 5 | Moll-t (A ^{***}), coal (C), clinker/cinder (B) |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 105 | - | 227641_71 | 67 | 200 | >95%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A ^{***}) | C | - | <i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i> | C | <i>Corylus avellena</i> (nutshell) | 20 | Moll-t (A ^{***}), coal (C), clinker/cinder (B) |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 106 | - | 227641_72 | 45 | 100 | >95%, uncharred seeds (C), <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A ^{***}) | - | - | - | C | <i>Corylus avellena</i> (nutshell) | 5 | Moll-t (A ^{***}), coal (C), clinker/cinder (B) |

Key: Scale of abundance: A^{***} = exceptional, A^{**} = 100+, A^{*} = 30–99, A = 30–10, B = 9–5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), E = earthworm eggs, I = insects; Sab/f = small animal/fish bone, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs



Appendix 2 Environmental Evidence: analysis potential and recommendations

| Phase | Feature Type | Feature | Context | Sample Code | Analysis potential | Analysis recommendations | C14 |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------|---------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Neolithic | Pit | 29 | 30 | 227641_1 | P | - | - |
| Uncertain - Prehistoric | Ditch | 32 | 33 | 227641_2 | - | - | - |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 39 | 227641_4 | - | - | - |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 45 | 227641_6 | - | - | - |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 48 | 227641_9 | - | - | - |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 52 | 227641_11 | - | - | - |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 55 | 227641_14 | - | - | - |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 58 | 227641_17 | - | - | - |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 60 | 227641_19 | - | - | - |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 61 | 227641_20 | - | - | - |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 64 | 227641_23 | - | - | - |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 67 | 227641_26 | - | - | - |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 70 | 227641_29 | - | - | - |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 72 | 227641_31 | - | - | - |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 75 | 227641_34 | - | - | - |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 76 | 227641_35 | - | - | - |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 77 | 227641_36 | - | - | - |
| Uncertain | Buried soil | - | 79 | 227641_38 | - | - | - |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 44 | 51 | 227641_39 | P, C | P, C | - |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 44 | 82 | 227641_40 | P, C | P, C | - |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 44 | 83 | 227641_41 | P, C | P, C | C14 – <i>Corylus avellana</i> (Hazel) nutshell or short-lived charcoal |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 44 | 74 | 227641_42 | P, C | P, C | - |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 44 | 50 | 227641_43 | P, C | P, C | - |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 44 | 84 | 227641_44 | P, C | P, C | - |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 87 | 227641_49 | P, C | P, C | - |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 44 | 88 | 227641_50 | P, C | P, C | - |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 44 | 89 | 227641_51 | P, C | P, C | - |
| Uncertain - Prehistoric | Ditch | 85 | 86 | 227641_57 | - | - | - |
| Neolithic | Pit | 27 | 91 | 227641_58 | P | - | - |
| Neolithic | Pit | 27 | 90 | 227641_59 | P | - | - |
| Neolithic | Pit | 27 | 92 | 227641_60 | P | - | - |
| Neolithic | Pit | 27 | 93 | 227641_61 | P | - | - |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 98 | 227641_62 | P, C | P, C | C14 – <i>Corylus avellana</i> (Hazel) nutshell or short-lived charcoal |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 99 | 227641_63 | P, C | P, C | - |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 100 | 227641_64 | P, C | P, C | - |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 101 | 227641_65 | P, C | P, C | - |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 102 | 227641_66 | P, C | P, C | - |



| Phase | Feature Type | Feature | Context | Sample Code | Analysis potential | Analysis recommendations | C14 |
|----------------|--------------|---------|---------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 107 | 227641_67 | P, C | P, C | - |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 108 | 227641_68 | P, C | P, C | - |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 109 | 227641_69 | P, C | P, C | C14 – <i>Hordeum</i> sp. (Barley) grain |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 104 | 227641_70 | P, C | P, C | - |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 105 | 227641_71 | P, C | P, C | - |
| Late Neolithic | Pit | 97 | 106 | 227641_72 | P, C | P, C | - |



Appendix 3 Selection Strategy

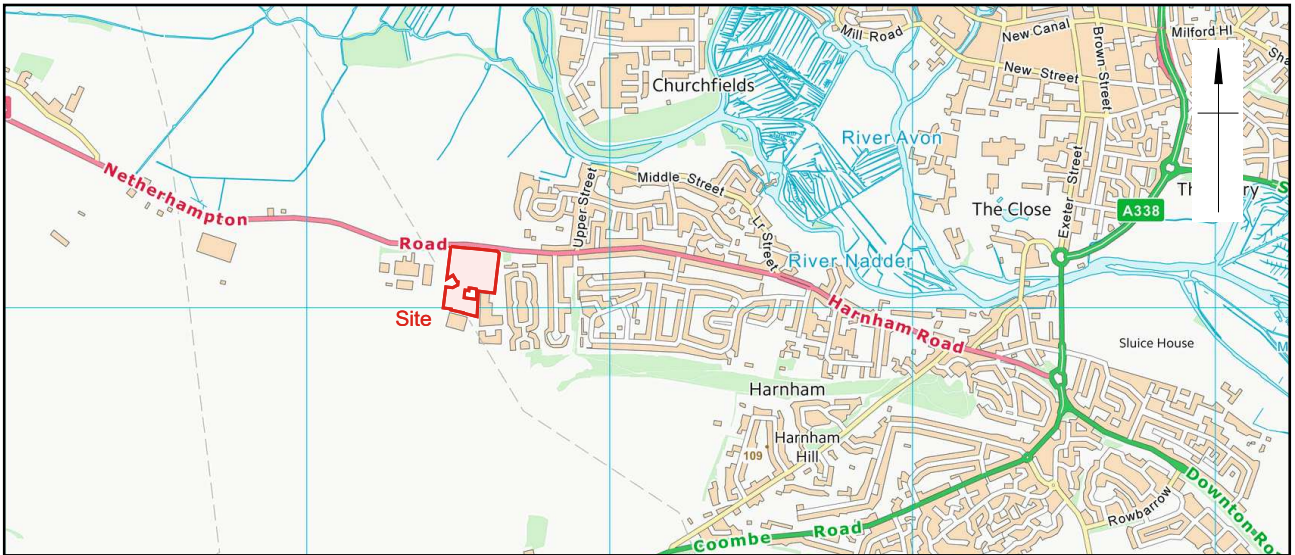



Appendix 4 OASIS record wessexar1-506253

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| OASIS ID (UID) | wessexar1-506253 |
| Project Name | Harnham Park, Netherhampton Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England |
| Site name | |
| Activity type | Excavation, Strip Map and Sample |
| Project Identifier(s) | 227641 |
| Planning Id | 18/04067/OUT |
| Reason For Investigation | Planning: Post determination |
| Organisation Responsible for work | Wessex Archaeology |
| Project Dates | 16-Nov-2020 - 14-Jan-2021 |
| Location | Harnham Park, Netherhampton Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England NGR: SU 12589 28975 LL: 51.059974, -1.821735; 12 Fig: 412589,128975 |
| Administrative Areas | Country: England County: Wiltshire District: Wiltshire Parish: Netherhampton |
| Project Methodology | <p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Bellway Homes Ltd, to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising an archaeological strip, map and record excavation covering 0.18 hectare centred on NGR 412548 129099, at Harnham Park, Netherhampton Road, Salisbury Wiltshire, SP2 8PF. The excavation was preceded by a full heritage assessment, undertaken and submitted alongside the planning application. It identified the potential for heritage assets of archaeological interest, but also highlighted potential truncation by later land use at the northern extent of the site. In response to the potential for disturbance identified by the heritage assessment, and detailed in the planning condition, a report on aerial photography and LiDAR resources was undertaken. This confirmed that the northern 2.1 ha of the development area had been impacted by previous development in the 1960s. Here the ground level had been lowered when compared to the adjacent road and land surface to accommodate industrial buildings and associated storage facilities. The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed, for both the fieldwork and the post-excavation work. The excavation area was set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System, in the same position as that proposed in the WSI. The topsoil/overburden was removed in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Where necessary, the surfaces of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation. A sample of natural features, such as tree-throw holes, were also investigated.</p> |
| Project Results | <p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising an archaeological strip, map and record excavation covering 0.18 hectare centred on NGR 412548 129099, at Harnham Park, Netherhampton Road, Salisbury Wiltshire, SP2 8PF. The archaeological work was undertaken in relation to a planning application for construction of up to 82 dwellings and associated works such as installation of services, landscaping and creation of access routes. The overall development area comprises 3.8 hectares. Outline planning permission was granted on 27th March 2019, subject to conditions. Prior to the excavation, a full heritage assessment identified the site's potential for archaeological interest, but also highlighted probable truncation by later land use at the northern extent of the development. In response to the likely disturbance a report on the aerial photography and LiDAR resources for the development area was undertaken. This confirmed that the northern 2.1 hectares of the development had been impacted by previous development in the 1960s. Here the ground level had been lowered when compared to the adjacent road and land surface to accommodate industrial buildings and associated storage facilities. Less disturbance was apparent to the south and was considered to have the most potential for archaeological remains, subsequent fieldwork was accordingly focussed in this area. The archaeological investigation at Harnham Park identified buried features and deposits including buried soils, pits, a ditch, postholes, a gully, tree-throw holes and bioturbation features. Modern disturbance was present across the area which had in places truncated the archaeological features and deposits. The earliest artefacts came from the buried soil and a pit and date to the Middle Neolithic, these sherds of Peterborough Ware pottery reflect activity at the site during the later 4th to early 3rd millennia BC. The most significant features were four Neolithic pits, two of which are securely dated to the Late Neolithic (2850–2200 BC) and contained important artefact assemblages and</p> |



| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| | deposits of charred plant remains. As well as the Neolithic pits, prehistoric material was recovered from a probable prehistoric ditch and a buried soil. The results from the Late Neolithic pits are of regional significance and have the potential to improve our understanding of Neolithic activity and landscape use in this part of Wiltshire. Further analyses of the cultural material from the pits (artefacts and charred plant remains) will allow for an appreciation of the timescale of activity, the range of materials, variety of both wild and domesticated plants and animals, and the diversity of landscapes utilised by people in the late 4th to 3rd millennia BC. Radiocarbon dating the material from the pits will help to refine the date of the activity within the wider chronological framework of Neolithic Wiltshire. Refining the date of the Late Neolithic activity has the potential to add to wider (regional and potentially national) debates around the spread of particular styles of pottery and the roles of domesticated cereals and wild food during this period. |
| Keywords | Pit - LATE NEOLITHIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - NEOLITHIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Post Hole - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Buried Soil Horizon - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - EARLY PREHISTORIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Lithic Implement - NEOLITHIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Ceramic - NEOLITHIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Animal Remains - NEOLITHIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Hazel Nut - NEOLITHIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus |
| Funder | Bellway Homes Ltd |
| HER | Wiltshire and Swindon HER - unRev - STANDARD |
| Person Responsible for Work | |
| HER Identifiers | |
| Archives | Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with The Salisbury Museum |



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Site location plan with archaeological results

Figure 1



Detailed site plan showing phased archaeological features and deposits

Figure 2



Figure 3: Buried soil during 031 excavation, scale: 2 m



Figure 4: South facing section of buried soil 031, scale: 1 m


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Figure 5: South-west facing section of Late Neolithic pit 044, scales: 1 and 0.5 m

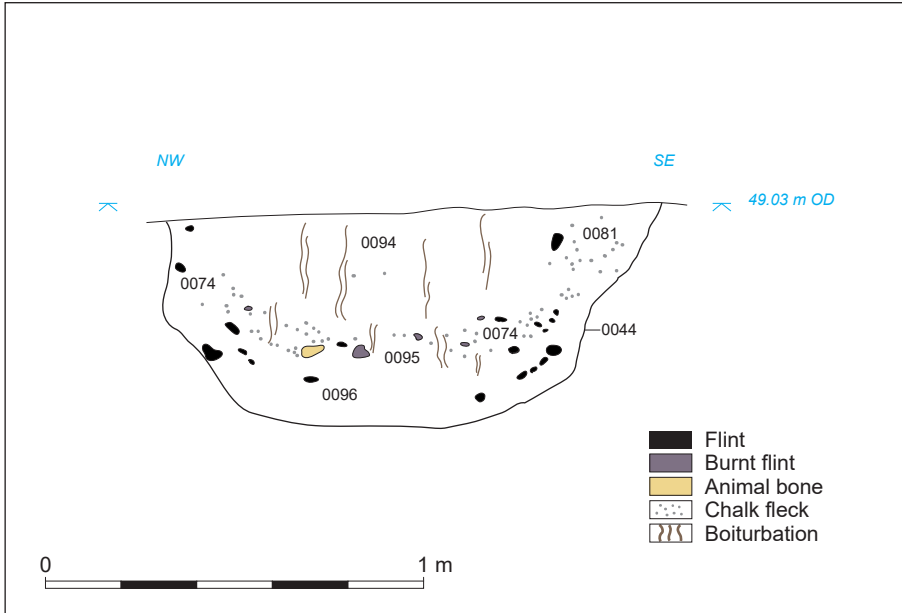


Figure 6: South-west facing section drawing of Late Neolithic pit 044



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Figure 7: West facing sections of Late Neolithic pit 097, scales: 0.5 m



Figure 8: East facing sections of Late Neolithic pit 097, scales: 0.5 m and 0.2 m

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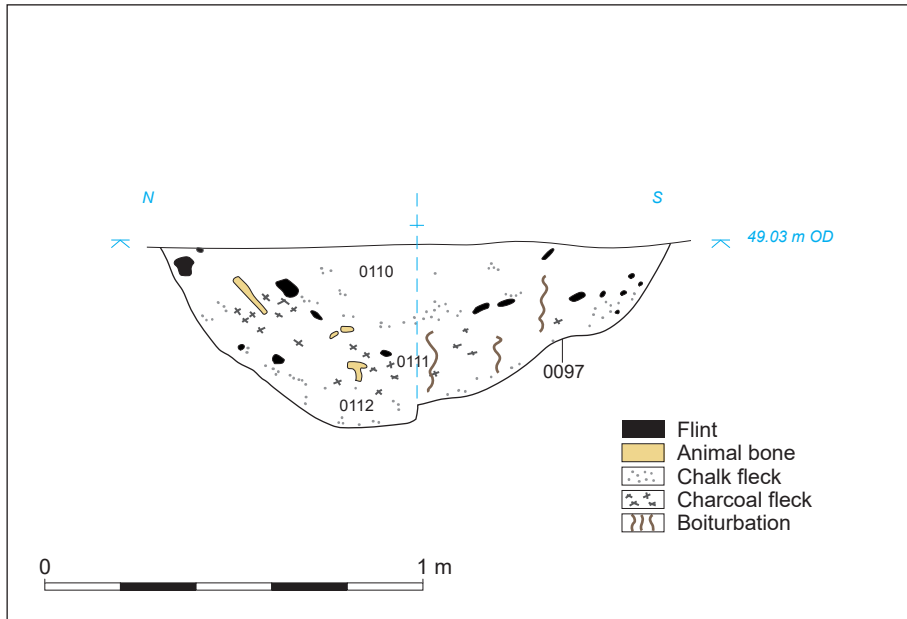


Figure 9: West and east facing section drawing of Late Neolithic pit 097


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Figure 10: Grooved Ware pottery in Late Neolithic pit 097, scale: 0.2 m



Figure 11: Scallop shell in Late Neolithic pit 097, scale: 0.2 m


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Figure 12: South facing section of Neolithic pit 027, scale: 0.2 m

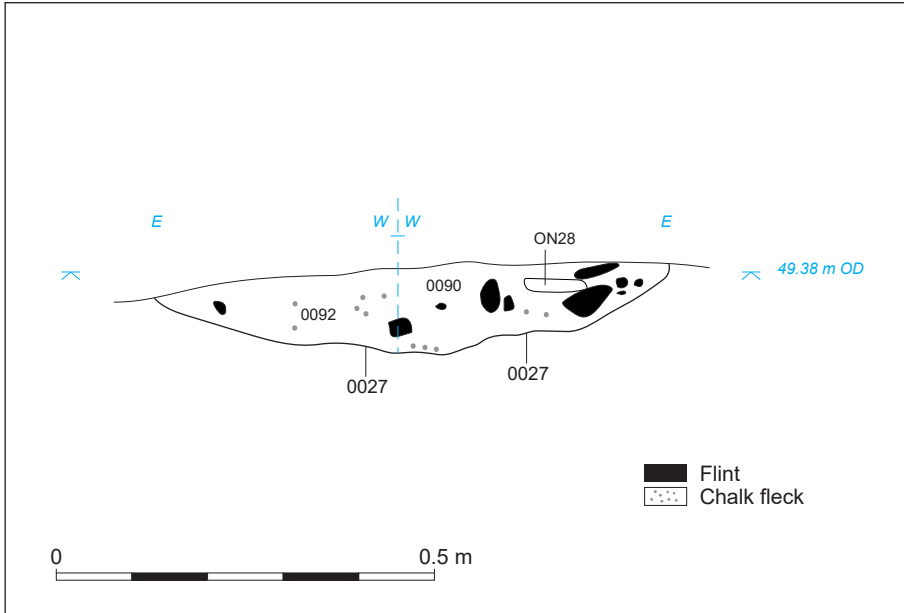


Figure 13: North and south facing section drawing of Neolithic pit 027


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Figure 14: North-east facing section of possible prehistoric ditch 115, scale: 2 m

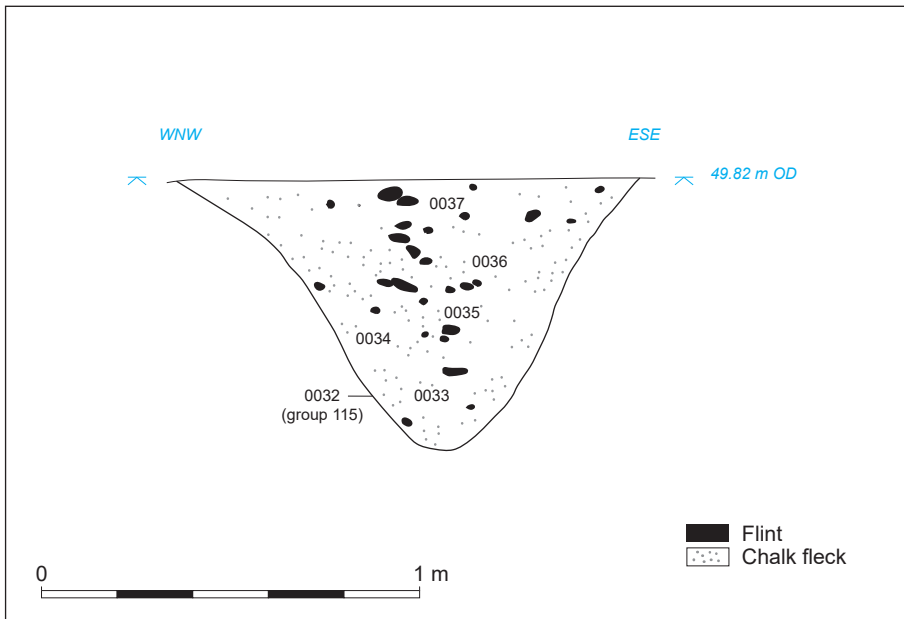



Figure 15: South-west facing section drawing of ditch 115

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