



Land South West of West Farm, Knook

Archaeological Watching Brief



Planning Ref: 17/03868/FUL

Ref: 89872.02

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Document Information

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On behalf of Selwood Housing Society Ltd
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Site location Land south west of West Farm, Knook
County Wiltshire
National grid reference (NGR) 393962 142026 (ST 93947 42026)
Planning authority Wiltshire Council
Planning reference 17/03868/FUL
Museum name Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
WA project code 89872
Date of fieldwork 30/08/18 – 03/09/18
Fieldwork directed by Eva Estela, Pete Capps
Project management by Ruth Panes
Document compiled by Bianca Williams-San Martin
Graphics by Rob Goller

Quality Assurance

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Pipefix Ltd, on behalf of Selwood Housing Society Ltd to undertake archaeological mitigation works during groundworks in association with a new sewage treatment plant on land located on the south west of West Farm, Knook, Wiltshire. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 393962 142026.

The archaeological mitigation was carried out in the form of a watching brief and comprised the archaeological monitoring of several drainage trenches for a proposed drainage field, excavation of an area to locate a new pumping station and septic tank, and trenches to connect the works to adjacent properties. The works were undertaken in association with planning application 17/03868/FUL. The programme of work was carried out intermittently between the 30th August and the 4th September 2018.

One pit was uncovered in the southern end of the site and one north-east to south-west orientated ditch was identified in the centre of the site. The ditch was observed in three trenches and is the same feature as that observed in an earlier phase of archaeological works, during the archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site. The pit contained medieval coarseware pottery and one invention through the ditch revealed a single sherd of medieval pot. A second intervention through the ditch revealed animal bone fragments but no dating evidence. The two archaeological features are most likely medieval and relate to the shrunken medieval settlement which lies directly to the south of the site.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Pipefix Limited, for commissioning the archaeological watching brief, in particular Stewart Matthews. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Martin Brown and Rachel Foster, the Assistant County Archaeologists, who monitored the project for Wiltshire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Eva Estela and Pete Capps. This report was written by Bianca Williams-San Martin. The project was managed by Ruth Panes on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



Sewage Treatment Plant Knook

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Pipefix Ltd, on behalf of Selwood Housing Society Ltd, to undertake archaeological mitigation works during groundworks for a new sewage treatment plant on land located to the south west of West Farm, Knook, Wiltshire, BA12 0JG. The monitored works covered an area approximately 200 m² in size, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 393962 142026 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 An initial planning application (W/12/01534/FUL) was submitted to Wiltshire Council, the Local Planning Authority (LPA), in 2013 for construction of a new sewage treatment plant, a service pipe and drainage system. The development was located within the western edge of the playing fields, adjacent to the A36 and West Farm and situated just north of a known deserted shrunken medieval settlement.
- 1.1.3 An archaeological evaluation was recommended in advance of determination of planning application W/12/01534/FUL, to assess the archaeological potential of the site. The evaluation was undertaken in 2013 and uncovered a number of pits and ditches within the southern half of the site. Where datable pottery was recovered, all the material comprised medieval coarseware fabrics, dating to the 11th to 13th centuries (Wessex Archaeology 2013).
- 1.1.4 The results of the 2013 evaluation confirmed that there was a high probability for further archaeological remains associated with the adjacent known medieval village to be present within the proposed development area, particularly in the southern part. Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service (WCAS) subsequently recommended for archaeological mitigation in the form of a Strip, Map and Record (SMR) excavation and for an archaeological condition to be included with associated planning permission for the development.
- 1.1.5 In April 2017, planning application (17/03868/FUL) was submitted to Wiltshire Council for the replacement of an existing foul effluent septic tank serving two properties with a packaged treatment plant and drainage field.. This application was for a development very similar to that detailed within application W/12/01534/FUL and the development footprint and archaeological impact area identical for both applications. Planning application 17/03868/FUL was granted planning permission by Wiltshire Council in June 2017, subject to conditions.
- 1.1.6 The following condition, Condition 2 applies to archaeology;
- The approved programme of archaeological work as per the Written Scheme of Investigation agreed in July 2013 for an Archaeological Strip, Map and Record excavation prior to construction of the foul effluent septic tank and Archaeological Watching Brief during construction of the pipeline shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.



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

1.1.7 Following further consultation with Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service (WCAS) and the client following engineering constraints associated with the construction of the drainage field, it was agreed to undertake a watching brief on the drainage trenches for the drainage field in place of a strip, map and record excavation of the drainage field area. The primary concern in relation to the SMR excavation was the negative impact the excavation would have on the subsequent drainage of the development.

1.1.8 The watching brief was maintained throughout the individual pipe trenches and the application of the new sewer line from the adjacent properties. Where archaeological features were identified, an appropriate extended area was stripped to ensure sufficient archaeological information was recovered. The watching brief was undertaken intermittently between 30th August and 4th September 2018.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The site is located on the edge of the historic line of the River Wylye, situated within the village of Knook, some 6.5 km to the south east of Warminster and around 1 km to the north west of Upton Lovell. The site is bounded to the north by fields, to the south by the road which serves the village and to the west by residential houses.

1.3.2 Existing ground levels are relatively flat with visibly low earthworks with an average height of approximately 94 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as River Terrace Deposits of sand and gravel, which overlies the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been detailed in the WSI, the results of which are briefly summarised below (Wessex Archaeology 2017).

2.2 Previous investigations related to the development

Wessex Archaeology [1992]

2.2.1 During the road improvements along the A36 between Codford and Heytesbury, Wessex Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological evaluations (Wessex Archaeology 1992). As part of these works, two pits and a ditch were identified 120 m to the south of the site containing Bronze Age material (Wilts and Swindon HER ST94SW150/1) and Romano-British pot sherds (Wilts and Swindon HER ST94SW303).

Wessex Archaeology [2013]

2.2.2 A trial trench evaluation was targeted on the proposed development. Two trenches measuring 8m x 1.6m targeted on the main filtration system and one trench, measuring 5m x 1.6m, targeted on the location of the pumping station.



2.2.3 Of the three excavated trenches: no archaeological features were found in the northernmost trench, while archaeological features were uncovered in the central and southernmost trench. The remains are thought to represent the northern edge of the main medieval settlement area with dating from the features consistent with previous findings supporting this.

2.3 Known sites

2.3.1 The Site lies immediately to the north of a large deserted shrunken medieval settlement (Wilts and Swindon HER ST94SW455), over approximately 10 ha in size, which today comprises of both extant and below-ground elements.

2.3.2 The Domesday Book records two manors at Knook, held by the Lords of Wardour and Heytesbury, and the church (Wilts and Swindon HER ST94SW402) contains decorative elements of the late 10th – early 11th centuries that possibly come from an earlier building (Wiltshire Council website).

2.3.3 This large settlement, or settlements, appears to have fallen into decline, perhaps due to the mid-14th century plague outbreak, and by 1377 only one remaining manor was recorded with the village remaining relatively small to the present day.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological mitigation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017) and as defined in the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), were:

- To enable the preservation by record of any archaeological features or deposits uncovered and to establish the extent (where possible), date, character, relationship, condition and significance of surviving archaeological features, artefacts and deposits within the area to be impacted by construction work;
- To place any identified archaeological remains within their historical context, particularly with reference to the known medieval and prehistoric and Romano-British features and finds found in the immediate and wider area.

3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the watching brief, also defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017), were:

- To investigate and confirm, where possible, the extent and nature (whether domestic or agricultural) of the medieval activity within the site and its potential relationship with the known nearby medieval settlement.
- To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- To make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.



4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 Intrusive groundworks included the stripping of ten trenches. The watching archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the specified area. Where necessary, the surface of uncovered archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits identified was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the watching brief.

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

Recording

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

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

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

4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017). 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) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 The Assistant County Archaeologist, on behalf of the LPA, monitored the watching brief. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with both the client and the Assistant County Archaeologist.



5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The following section provides a summary description the archaeological watching brief results. Details of individually excavated trenches are retained in the site archive. **Figure 1** shows the overall location of each trench within the site.
- 5.1.2 During the groundworks trenching, the watching brief revealed a small number of archaeological features.
- 5.1.3 In Trench 1 a circular pit 103 was uncovered along the north east edge of the trench. Pit 103 contained a single secondary fill 104 with fragments of medieval coarsewares and charcoal flecking (**Plates 1 to 3**).
- 5.1.4 A north west – south east aligned possible boundary ditch 105 was located in Trench 2 (**Plates 4 to 5**). It contained a topsoil derived primary fill 106, a weathering and stabilisation primary fill 107 and secondary fill 108 (**Plate 6**). Secondary fill 108 was created from multiple silting events, homogenised by natural processes. Fill 108 contained 1% rare charcoal flecking and abraded sherds of medieval pottery, suggesting domestic debris. This boundary ditch appears to continue in Trench 4 as ditch 111, but was not investigated (**Plates 7 to 8**).
- 5.1.5 No archaeological features or deposits were located in Trenches 3, 5, 6, 7, 9 or 10 (**Plates 9 to 10**). Although Trench 5 contains modern disturbance from a previous evaluation (**Plate 9**), an undated ditch 205 was present in the report for Trench 2 (Wessex Archaeology 2013).
- 5.1.6 A north west – south east aligned ditch 109 was uncovered in Trench 8 (**Plate 11**). It contained a single secondary fill 110 with small amounts of fragmentary animal bone, but no dateable material (**Plate 12**). Ditch 109 is on the same alignment as ditch 105 and ditch 111 and are likely related.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The stratigraphy across the site, as recorded in the machine trenches, was relatively consistent. In all ten trenches, the current topsoil horizon directly overlaid the natural geology.
- 5.2.2 A dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil (between 0.60 to 0.70 m thick) of loose compaction, with 3% sparse sub rounded flint and chalk inclusions overlay the natural geology characterised by light greyish white degraded chalk with 1% rare sub rounded flint inclusions.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 Very small quantities of finds were recovered. The four sherds (11 g) of medieval coarseware pottery found in pit 103 and the single scrap (1 g) from ditch 105 cannot be closely dated but indicate that these features were out of use and filling or filled up by the 11th to 13th centuries. The sherds are all in fabrics of the local “West Wiltshire-type” made around Crockerton, to the south-west of Warminster (Smith 1997, 20-9) and are directly comparable with the pottery recovered during the previous archaeological investigations at Knook (Mephram 1993; Wessex Archaeology 2013).



- 6.1.2 The only other artefact consists of seven broken fragments (5 g) from a single sheep sacrum found in ditch 109. No other material was found in this feature.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1.1 No material suitable for environmental analysis was present within the monitored areas.

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1.1 The watching brief revealed a small number of archaeological features. Ditch 105 contained archaeological finds suggesting a medieval date and appears to align with ditch 111 and the undated ditch 205, which was uncovered in a previous archaeological trench evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2013). Ditch 109 uncovered in Trench 8 follows the same north west – south east alignment as ditches 105, 111 and 205 and is likely to have also functioned as a medieval boundary ditch.
- 8.1.2 No archaeological features were discovered to the north of these ditches, which could suggest that these linear features mark the boundary of the medieval settlement known to lie to the south. One discrete feature was uncovered to the south of these boundary ditches, suggesting the southern area of the site shows occupation within the 11th to 13th centuries.
- 8.1.3 However, the minimal amount of archaeological features and deposits suggests that the site was on the northern periphery of the deserted shrunken medieval settlement. These results support the initial conclusions drawn from the archaeological evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2013).

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum is the designated recipient museum for the area, however this museum is currently not accepting archives. The archive will therefore be stored at the Wessex Archaeology Salisbury office until it can be transferred.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

- 9.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the project code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- 1 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type;
 - 1 file of paper records and A3/A4 graphics;

9.3 Selection policy

- 9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by



the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum, and is fully documented in the project archive.

9.4 Security copy

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

9.5 OASIS

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

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

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

10.1.2 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.

10.2 Third party data copyright

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



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APPENDIX 1: OASIS RECORD

OASIS ID: wessexar1-350080

Project details

Project name	Sewage Treatment Plant, Knook
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Pipefix Ltd, on behalf of Selwood Housing Society Ltd to undertake archaeological mitigation works during groundworks in association with a new sewage treatment plant on land located on the south west of West Farm, Knook, Wiltshire. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 393962 142026. The archaeological mitigation was carried out in the form of a watching brief and comprised the archaeological monitoring of several drainage trenches for a proposed drainage field, excavation of an area to locate a new pumping station and septic tank, and trenches to connect the works to adjacent properties. The works were undertaken in association with planning application 17/03868/FUL. The programme of work was carried out intermittently between the 30th August and the 4th September 2018. One pit was uncovered in the southern end of the site and one north-east to south-west orientated ditch was identified in the centre of the site. The ditch was observed in three trenches and is the same feature as that observed in an earlier phase of archaeological works, during the archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site. The pit contained medieval coarseware pottery and one invention through the ditch revealed a single sherd of medieval pot. A second intervention through the ditch revealed animal bone fragments but no dating evidence. The two archaeological features are most likely medieval and relate to the shrunken medieval settlement which lies directly to the south of the site.
Project dates	Start: 30-08-2018 End: 04-09-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	89872 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 1 - Allotment
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Investigation type	"Part Excavation", "Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE WEST WILTSHIRE KNOOK Sewage Treatment Plant, Knook
Postcode	BA12 0JG
Study area	200 Square metres



Site coordinates SU 393962 142026 50.925381566575 -1.439400453682 50 55 31 N 001 26 21
W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 94m Max: 94m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Wiltshire Council Archaeology
Project design originator	Wessex archaeology
Project director/manager	Ruth Panes
Project supervisor	Eva Estela Jaume
Type of sponsor/funding body	Utility supplier
Name of sponsor/funding body	Pipefix

Project archives

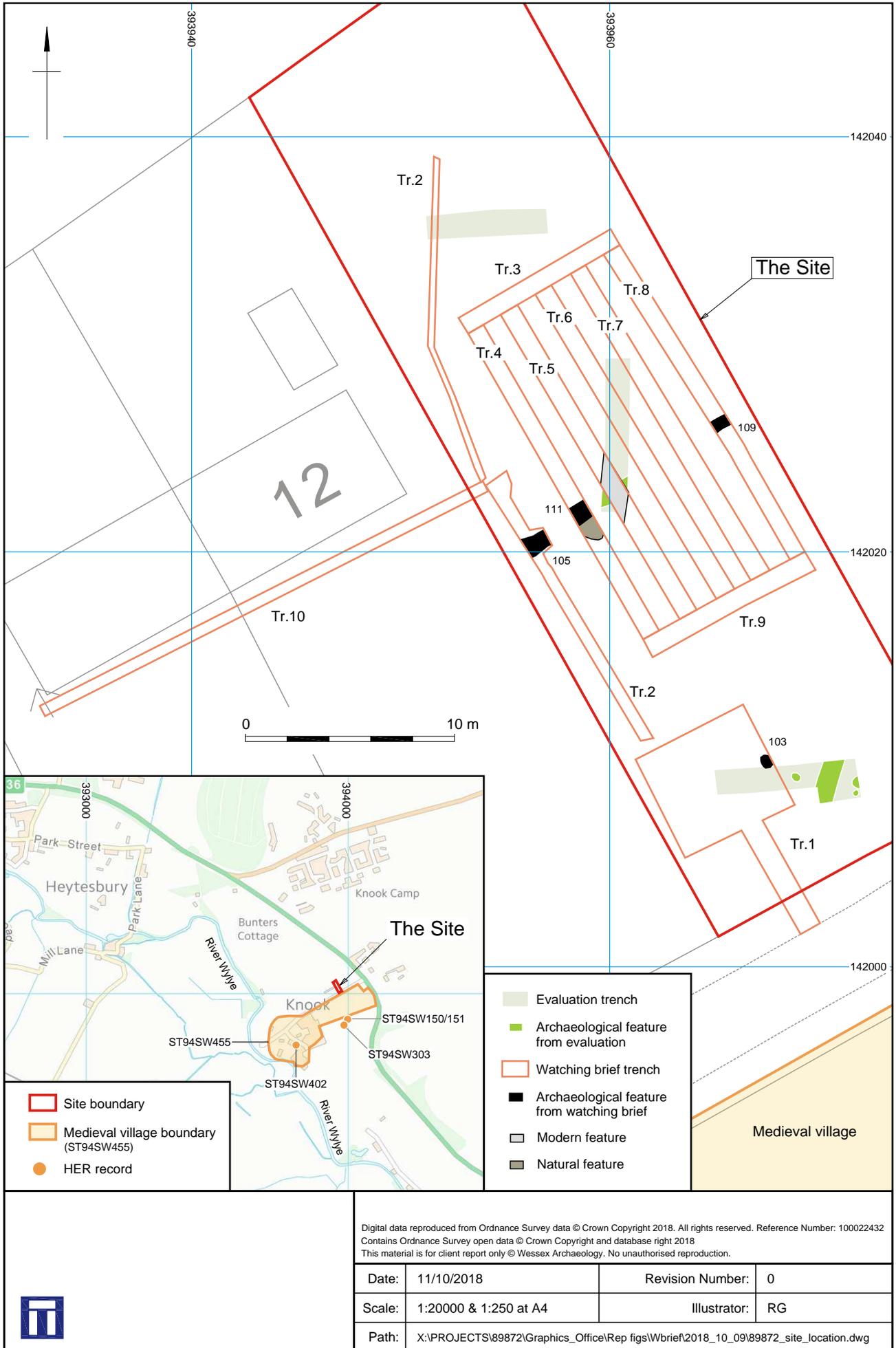
Physical Archive recipient	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Physical Archive ID	89872
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Digital Archive ID	89872
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Paper Archive ID	89872
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Sewage Treatment Plant, Knook
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Wessex Archaeology



Other bibliographic details 89872.02
Date 2019
Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication SALISBURY
Description A4 client report
URL www.oasis.ac.uk



Site plan, showing location of trenches

Figure 1



Plate 1: Trench 1, view from north west (1 x 0.5 m, 1 x 1 m)



Plate 2: South west facing section of pit 103 (1 x 0.5m)

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Plate 3: Plan of pit 103 protruding from the limit of excavation on the north east edge of Trench 1 (1 x 0.5m)



Plate 4: Trench 2, view from south east of the southern end of the trench (1 x 0.5 m, 1 x 1 m)

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Plate 5: Trench 2, east facing section of the northern end of the trench (1 x 1 m)



Plate 6: North west facing section of ditch 105 (1 x 0.5 m, 1 x 1 m)

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Plate 7: Trench 4, view from north west (1 x 0.5 m, 1 x 1 m)



Plate 8: Plan view of unexcavated ditch 111 (1 x 0.5 m)

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Plate 9: Trench 5, view from north west, showing modern disturbance of previous trench evaluation (1 x 0.5 m, 1 x 1 m)



Plate 10: Trench 7, view from south east (1 x 0.5 m, 1 x 1 m)

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Plate 11: Trench 8, view from north west (1 x 0.5 m, 1 x 1 m)



Plate 12: South west facing section of ditch 109 (1 x 1 m)

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