Kings Gate Primary School
Amesbury, Wiltshire

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

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Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

List of Tables

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wiltshire Council and Halsall Construction Ltd to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising an archaeological strip, map and record excavation, and post-excavation assessment of a 0.68 ha parcel of land in the playing fields of the new Kings Gate Primary School located within the Kings Gate development, Amesbury, Wiltshire, centred on NGR 416033 140513.

The site and wider Kings Gate and Archer's Gate development areas have been the subject of an extensive series of archaeological investigations which revealed features of Mesolithic to recent Second World War date, including Late Neolithic monumental features such as a pit-circle and separate palisade, Beaker and other Early Bronze Age burials and funerary deposits, including two round barrows, and numerous prehistoric pit deposits. Significant evidence has also been found of Early Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement, and of later prehistoric landscape organisation, including Wessex Linears and other ditches, as well as Romano-British settlement and economic activity, and late Romano-British cemeteries.

The features indetified within the Kinggate Primary School mitigation area were relatively small in number, and comprised a single grave, prehistoric pits, apparently short linear features and post-holes. The most significant of the features being a Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pit containing numerous finds, including fragmentent of burnt wooden planks, and single Romano-British grave containing the skeletal remains of a child.

It is proposed that following the further stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental analyses, and the obtaining of radiocarbon dates, the results of the Kings Gate Primary School mitigation works will be incorporated and published within two separate documents;

- Prehistoric elements will be incorporated within the forthcoming Wessex Archaeology Occasional Paper *Prehistoric burial, settlement and deposition on the King's Gate development, Amesbury Down*, and;
- The Romano-British burial will be incorporated as an appendix with the forthcoming Wessex Archaeology monograph *A Roman Settlement and neighbouring cemeteries to the southeast of Amesbury, Wiltshire*.

The fieldwork was undertaken between August and September 2018.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Halsall Construction Ltd. for commissioning the archaeological fieldwork and Wiltshire Council for commissioning the post-excavation and publication works. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger who monitored the project on behalf of Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service (WCAS).

The fieldwork was directed by Darryl Freer and Jamie McCarthy, with the assistance of Rachael Sawyer, Pete Capps, Robbie Trevelyan, Rebecca Hall and Jenny Giddins. The environmental samples were processed by Sam Rogerson, Liz Foulston and Jenny Giddins. The flots were sorted by Nicki Mulhall and assessed by Inés López-Dóriga. The graphics were produced by Nancy Dixon. This report was written and complied by Stephen Beach, with contributions by Grace Jones and Elina Brook (pottery, CBM, iron and fuel ash slag), Jacqueline McKinley (human bone) Phil Harding (stone), Erica Gittins (flint) and Lorraine Higbee (animal bone). The report was edited by Bob Clarke. The project was managed by Andrew Manning and Simon Cleggett on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.

Kings Gate Primary School
Amesbury Wiltshire

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Halsall Construction Ltd. and Wiltshire Council to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising an archaeological strip, map and record excavation, and post-excavation assessment of a 0.68 ha parcel of land in the playing fields of the new Kings Gate Primary School located within the Kings Gate development, Amesbury, Wiltshire, SP4 7FY. The excavation area is centred on NGR 416033 140513 (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.2 The site is part of a wider development site comprising residential housing and community infrastructure. The outline planning application for the development was approved by Wiltshire County Council in February 2017 (15/02530/OUT), subject to conditions. The following conditions relate to archaeology:

Condition 34: *No development shall commence on site until a detailed programme for the analysis, reporting and publication of the archaeological fieldwork that has been undertaken on this site has been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The archaeological fieldwork shall be published in accordance with the approved programme.*

Reason: to ensure the archaeological remains excavated and recorded are properly reported on and published.

Condition 35: No development shall take place on the Country Park or new school site phases of the development (as identified on the approved Land Use Plan (Ref: PARP-LU-01 Rev D) until a detailed management plan to ensure the preservation in situ of the areas of archaeological importance which have been identified within these areas has been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: The area is known to be of archaeological importance and to ensure that any matters of archaeological interest are preserved

Condition 36: Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and County Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended or any order revoking or re-enacting or amending those Orders with or without modification), no development permitted within Class A of Part 12 shall take place within the area of land identified on the submitted Masterplan (Ref: MP-01 Rev G as the Country Park.

Reason: In the interests of preserving the archaeological features/remains of very high archaeological importance identified beneath the site of the proposed country park.

1.1.3 The strip, map and record excavation was the final stage in a programme of archaeological works within the playing fields of Kings Gate Primary School which had included a

geophysical survey and watching brief (Wessex Archaeology 2012 and 2017a). This strip, map and record excavation represents one part of many previous investigations have occurred within the surrounding Kings Gate and Archer's Gate developments site and a programme of staged publication is currently on-going.

1.1.4 Works within or immediately adjacent to the site include: geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2007 and 2012); evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2011a; 2011b); excavation and post-excavation assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2013a; 2013b); and a watching brief (Wessex Archaeology 2017a). In consultation with Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service (WCAS), it has been recommended, given the high archaeological potential of the wider site and archaeological features suggested in the geophysical survey, that a strip map and record take place within the boundaries defined in **Fig. 2**.

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 2018). The Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The excavation was undertaken between 13/08/2018 and 12/09/2018.

1.1.6 The management plan (Condition 35) is the subject of other documentation and consultation and will not be discussed here.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the provisional results of the excavation, to assess the potential of the results to address the research aims outlined in the WSI. Where appropriate, to recommend a programme of further analysis work, and outline the resources needed, to achieve the aims (including the revised research aims arising from this assessment), leading to dissemination of the archaeological results via publication and the curation of the archive.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The site comprised an irregular block of open ground on the south side of Amesbury. It lies immediately east of the Salisbury to Amesbury road (A345), north of the new link road running off the A345, west of the completed Archer's Gate residential development, and south of Southmill Hill (**Fig. 1**).

1.3.2 The Site is located between 101 m to 108 m above Ordnance Datum largely within the upper edge of a plateau area which slopes gently to the west. The northern part of the site contains a dry valley which extends to the south-west, with another dry valley lying to the south. The underlying geology of the area is Upper Chalk of the Cretaceous Period (British Geological Survey online viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Concise archaeological and historical background and previous works

1.1.1 The archaeological background of the wider development area has been fully described in previous assessment reports (Wessex Archaeology 2008b etc.) and is not repeated in detail here.

1.1.2 In summary, the long programme of archaeological works has revealed features of Mesolithic to post-medieval date, including Late Neolithic monumental features such as a

post-circle and post-line, Beaker and other Early Bronze Age burials and funerary deposits, including two round barrows, and numerous prehistoric pit deposits. Significant evidence has also been found of Early Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement, and of later prehistoric landscape organisation, including Wessex Linea's and other ditches, as well as Romano-British settlement and economic activity, and late Romano-British cemeteries. In addition, an Iron Age settlement has been identified by cropmarks and an evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2011b) on Southmill Hill, to the north-west of the site.

1.1.3 A flight of four strip lynchets lying across the north west facing slope of Southmill Hill, to the north-west of the site, has been designated a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1015220). Geophysical survey and limited targeted evaluation of the Southmill Hill area (Wessex Archaeology 2011b) confirmed the presence of an enclosed Iron Age settlement including possible roundhouse, former barrows and concentrated clusters of pits and boundary ditches. The evaluation, although relatively small in extent, also appeared to support the results of the previous geophysical survey in suggesting that the area immediately to the south of the enclosed settlement, and within the lower slopes of Southmill Hill, contained relatively little archaeological activity (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.4 Further to the south, where the land rises up the south edge of a dry coombe and into the main housing development site, evaluation and subsequent excavation (Wessex Archaeology 2011a and 2013b) had identified significant archaeological activity, including Bronze Age and Romano-British burials, chalk quarry pits and an Iron Age settlement (with domestic and storage structures) which is known to extend across the northern edge of the modern residential development (referred to as King's Gate 460 units (Phase 1 and 2 of the main contractor's Phase 3 works) and Parcel Q), and which is likely to be associated with the enclosed settlement, immediately to the north (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.5 Although the south half of the proposed new school site (**Fig. 2**) has been completely stripped and archaeologically mitigated as part of the programme of works at Kings Gate, the northern half of the ground investigation area, which is proposed for a playing field, occupies a buffer area, which remains largely un-investigated, with the exception of the previous geophysical survey (2007) and small scale evaluation (2011b) and recent ground investigation pits (2017a).

1.1.6 Although the geophysical survey of the Southmill Hill area in 2007 showed that the density of archaeological features significantly diminished southwards of the enclosing Iron Age settlement ditch, a number of potential features were mapped. While many of these are likely to be tree-throws, there is clearly the potential for low density prehistoric activity, including pits and posthole features and potential burials, which would be closely associated with the remains investigated within the former Phase 1 excavations and the settlement at Southmill Hill.

1.1.7 Previous below ground archaeological investigation within the northern half of the new school foot print were limited. The targeted trenching in 2011 and subsequent monitoring of the ground investigation pits in 2017 did not identify any archaeological features but did confirm that the archaeological horizon was relatively shallow, at a depth of between 0.20 to 0.30m below the current ground surface.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

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

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

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018). Any significant variations to these methods, if necessary, were agreed in writing with the County Archaeologist and the client, prior to being implemented.

4.1.2 The excavation comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of a single area measuring approximately 0.68 ha, which was a slightly larger (extending further to the south-east) than the area depicted in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) (**Fig. 2**). Although archaeological mitigation has already been carried out on the southern part of the site, it had been agreed that the north east area would be further investigated.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The excavation area was set out using GPS, in the same position as that proposed in the WSI (**Fig. 1**). The topsoil/overburden was removed in level spits using a 360º excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded in level spits until the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.2 Where necessary, the surface of archaeological deposits was cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. A sample of archaeological features and deposits identified was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation. A sample of natural features such as tree-throw holes were also investigated.

4.2.3 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. A metal detector was also used. Where found, artefacts were collected and bagged by context.

Recording

4.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The

Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.

4.2.5 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.

4.2.6 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

General

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

Human remains

4.3.2 The human remains were removed under the terms of a Licence for the Removal of Human Remains held by Wessex Archaeology (OPR/072/153 dated 20 August 2018). The excavation and post-excavation assessment of human remains were in accordance with Wessex Archaeology protocols and undertaken in-line with current guidance documents (eg, McKinley 2013) and the standards set out in CIfA Technical Paper 13 (McKinley and Roberts 1993).

4.4 Monitoring

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

5 STRATIGRAPHIC RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

Summary of archaeological features and deposits

5.1.1 Archaeological features dating to the Late Bronze Age or Iron Age and Romano-British periods were identified during the excavation.

5.1.2 The Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age component comprised a relatively large pit (66027) containing dumped pieces of wood.

5.1.3 The Romano-British component comprised a supine child inhumation burial, place within a rectangular grave (66017).

5.1.4 Several other features likely to originate from the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age or Romano-British periods included an additional (apparently empty) rectangular pit, which

may have been intended to be a grave (66015), 7 post-holes (largely arranged in pairs), 3 intercutting ditch segments or liner pits and an isolated pit.

5.1.5 Approximately 100 tree throws were also identified within the site. While these natural features were present across the entire site, slightly greater concentrations were noted to the north and along the southern site boundary (**Fig. 2**).

Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data

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

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

Table 1 Quantification of excavation records

Type	Quantity
Context records	97
Context registers	4
Graphics (A4 and A3)	26
Graphics (A1)	0
Graphics registers	2
Environmental sample registers	4
Object registers	1
Digital photographs	261

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The topsoil (66001) within the excavation area was approximately 0.25 m thick and comprised mid-grey-brown clay with sub-angular flint and small chalk rubble components.

5.2.2 Sub-soil was present within the excavation area, and a clear horizon was in evidence between the top and sub-soil. The sub-soil was approximately 0.23 m deep and comprised relatively lighter grey-brown clay with increased small chalk rubble components, but much reduced flint rubble components.

5.2.3 The underlying geology comprised chalk of the Seaford Chalk Formation, containing rare flint nodules.

5.3 Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age (1100-400BC)

5.3.1 One feature within the site was dated to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age (LBA/EIA). Pit 66027 (**Fig. 2** and **Plates 2**, **3** and **4**) was located near the northern tip of the site, close to the southern “extents” (*c*.10 m south-east) of the Iron Age settlement at Southmill Hill.

5.3.2 Pit 66027 was roughly oval and measured 2.52 m × 1.96 m and 0.78 m deep. The pit contained 26 distinct fills or deposits, including 18 pieces of charred wood (66034-66038, 66053-66054 and 66064-66074), which were situated near the base of the pit; the wooden “plank” fragment being separated from the base of the pit by a narrow 0.05 m thick deposit (66059), of silty clay containing flecks of fired clay and charcoal (potentially derived from the overlying pieces of charred wood).

Table 2 Dimensions of the charred wood "planks"

Context Number	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)
66034	0.68	0.17	0.06
66035	0.37	0.15	0.06
66036	0.09	0.04	0.04
66037	0.44	0.15	0.06
66038	0.25	0.09	0.01
66053	0.09	0.07	0.05
66054	0.36	0.12	0.08
66064	0.38	0.17	0.07
66065	0.3	0.09	0.03
66066	0.21	0.11	0.05
66067	0.09	0.09	0.02
66068	0.45	0.15	0.03
66069	0.9	0.27	0.05
66070	0.12	0.1	0.06
66071	0.22	0.1	0.07
66072	0.16	0.07	0.05
66073	0.18	0.11	0.04
66074	0.38	0.15	0.05

5.3.3 The recorded lengths of these burnt and charred wood fragments ranged from 0.09 m to 0.90 m, with an average length of 0.32 m. Widths ranged between 0.04 m and 0.27 m, with an average of 0.12 m, although, approximately 60% of the fragments were between 0.10 m and 0.17 m wide. The depths of the fragments ranged between 0.01 m and 0.08 m with an average of 0.05 m. Over 70% of the fragments were between 0.04 m and 0.06 m thick.

5.3.4 The silt-clay matrix (66043) surrounding the charred wood fragments, exhibited some signs of (post-depositional?) colour change,, this might indicate the charred fragments were still hot when they were deposited.

5.3.5 An edge derived slumping event (66046) occurred during or relatively soon after the deposition of the charred wood fragments and was followed by various dumping events represented by contexts 66052, 66047, 66045, 66044, and 66033. All these dumping events contained burnt flint and worked flint (66052 and 66033 notably containing 357 and 353 pieces of burnt flint respectively). Animal bone was present in all the dumping events. Slag was found within dumps 66045 and 66052. Three of the dumping events contained pottery dated to the LBA/LIA period (66047, 66045 and 66033). Another dump (or possibly an edge derived slump) of silty clay with abundant chalk rubble (66032) containing animal bone, worked flint and pottery, sealed part of the western side of the pit. This was then followed by the main and final backfill of the pit (66028), which contained LBA/LIA pottery, animal bone, worked flint and burnt flint.

5.4 Romano-British (AD 43-410)

5.4.1 One feature was firmly dated to the Romano-British period. Inhumation burial 66018 (**Plate 1**) was placed within grave 66017. The burial was apparently isolated and comprised the remains of a juvenile. The identification of iron nails around the skeletal remains was indicative of the presence of a coffin, within which the body was placed. The grave was orientated north-west to south-east, and measured 1.54 m × 0.73 m and was 0.73 m deep.

A more detailed description of the burial rite and the skeletal remains, are provided below (Section 6.8).

5.4.2 Inhumation burial 66018 was situated *c.* 200 m north-west of the 'cenotaph' cemetery (Wessex Archaeology 2005 and 2008a), *c*. 50 m north-west of three Romano-British inhumation burials identified during Phase 1 (61240,61246 and 61321), *c*.150 m north-west of isolated inhumation burial 61198, and *c*.170 m north-north-west of another isolated burial (61311) (Wessex Archaeology 2013a).

5.4.3 A possibly unfinished grave was identified within the south-eastern part of the site (66015). The feature was orientated north-west to south east and measured 1.34 m × 0.67 m and was 0.54 m deep, at the deepest level. The base of the feature stepped reducing the depth by 0.17 m approximately 0.70 m from the north-western end. The "backfill" of this feature (66016) appears to correspond with a rapid backfill (predominantly chalk rubble). This is a rather interesting, if troublesome feature; the apparent isolation, the lack of a burial, and the unusual step halfway along the length of the base, does not appear to particularly support the 'grave' hypothesis, and it could conceivably be the result of bioturbation caused by a fallen tree (a tree throw); however, isolated Romano-British burials are not exceptional at Boscombe Down (Wessex Archaeology 2013a), nor indeed are empty "graves", such as the 'cenotaph' and associated burials *c*. 300 m to the east (Wessex Archaeology 2005 and 2008a), in terms of size, depth and orientation 66015, is certainly within parameters when compared to near-by graves, and is particularly similar in dimension to grave 61240, in Phase 1, which contained an infant burial (Wessex Archaeology 2013a).

5.5 Uncertain date – possibly Iron Age (700BC-AD 43)

5.5.1 Seven relatively small post-holes were identified with the site, all were situated near the north (Southmill Hill) edge of the site.

Table 3 Post-holes

Post-hole Number	Maximum Diameter (m)	Depth (m)	Notes
66013	0.30	0.15	Isolated post-hole
66007	0.36	0.07	Single post-hole may be related to 66010. Post packing evident.
66010	0.35	0.10	Single post-hole may be related to 66007. Post packing evident.
66060	0.27	0.06	Grouped with 66062
66062	0.28	0.11	Grouped with 66060
66075	0.25	0.08	Grouped with 66077
66077	0.32	0.11	Grouped with 66065

5.5.2 Post-hole 66013 was the only post-hole situated in the north-western part of the site, *c*.17 m north-east of pit 66025. In isolation its purpose or function is unclear.

5.5.3 Post-holes 66007 and 66010 were situated approximately 4 m south of pit 66027, and approximately 4 m apart, which might not suggest any obvious relationship; however, both post-holes were very similar in diameter and depth and both demonstrated evidence of a post-pipe, perhaps suggesting the resident posts rotted *in-situ*. The similarities of scale, and apparent disuse between these two post-holes could easily be contemporaneous.

5.5.4 Post-holes 66060 and 66062 were located within 1 m of each other. They were both of similar diameter, but 66062 was nearly twice as deep as 66060. Because of the proximity of these post-holes, it is assumed they are probably contemporary.

5.5.5 Post-holes 66075 and 66077, were situated less than 0.50 m apart and next to the south-eastern edge of pit 66027. Post-hole 66075 was of a larger diameter than 66077, but again it is considered likely they are contemporary with each other, given the proximity of these two features. It is not clear if there is any relationship, structural or otherwise, with pit 66027.

5.5.6 Other than pit 66027, shallow pit 66025 was the only other pit located within the excavation area. Pit 66025 was situated in the north-western corner of the excavation area, and measured 1.27 m in maximum diameter, but only 0.22m deep. Despite being 100% excavated, no finds were recovered from this pit.

5.5.7 An intercutting group of parallel linear features, measuring up to 24 m in length, were located in the south-western part of the site. The full extent of these features is not known, as they extended beyond the excavation area, and beyond any ground disturbance related to this development. The function of these linear features is also rather obscure, although it might be assumed they fulfilled a boundary like function and that this function endured long enough for multiple phases of re-cutting to be required.

Table 4 Linear features

Linear feature	Component cut numbers	Average width (m)	Average depth (m)	Notes
66095	66020	1.23	0.37	Terminal end of feature
	66092			**Plate 6**
	66079			Truncated by 66082
66096	66082	1.43	1.02	9g of Iron Age pottery, worked flint, burnt flint, animal bone
	66039			**Plate 5**
66097	66029	1.80	0.57	11g of Iron Age pottery, 4g Late prehistoric pottery, worked flint, burnt flint, CBM, fossil beads (×2); **Plate 6**
	66089			-

5.5.8 Stratigraphically and therefore (presumably) chronologically, linear feature 66095 was the earliest, and linear feature 66097 the latest. Finds from these features were very limited, indeed, the only pottery recovered, was from linear feature 66097 within intervention 66029. This limited quantity of artefactual evidence may indicate these features were situated somewhat away from any settlement nuclei.

5.6 Natural features

5.6.1 There were approximately 100 tree throws across the excavation area. All were tested with an investigative mattock slot to confirm a natural origin. Although these features were present across the excavation area, there was perhaps a slightly greater concentration towards the north, and a potential line of tree throws in the northern half of the site (which extended east-north-east to west-south-west) may be indicative of an old boundary feature such as a hedge.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A small quantity of finds were recovered from five features. The assemblage is of prehistoric to Romano-British date. The finds have been cleaned (with the exception of the metal objects) and quantified by material type in each context; this information is summarised in Table 5.

Table 5 Quantification of finds by material type

Material	Number	Weight (g)
Pottery	252	2378
Ceramic building material	1	5
Flint	114	966
Burnt flint	1165	7429
Iron	21	128
Slag	70	22
Stone	11	1553
Human bone		1 individual

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 Pottery was recovered from three features: pit 66027 (246 sherds, 2354 g), ditch 66097 (five sherds, 15 g) and ditch 66096 (one sherd, 9 g). A Basic Record has been made of the assemblage, in line with national guidelines (Barclay *et al* 2016). Sherds have been assigned to a broad fabric group in each context (Table 6), and details of form, surface treatment and evidence of use recorded to an Access database.

Table 6 Quantification of pottery fabrics

Fabric	Number	Weight (g)
Flint and shell-tempered ware	39	562
Flint-tempered	48	362
Sand and shell-gritted ware	8	45
Sandy ware	7	27
shelly ware	150	1382
Total	**252**	**2378**

6.2.2 The most commonly occurring fabric is a shell-gritted ware, found only in pit 66027. Forms include a flat-topped rim from a long-necked vessel; two in-turned, rounded rims, possibly from hooked jars, and two short, out-turned rims from vessels of unknown profile. Many of the sherds in this fabric had coarse, vertical wiping/finger-smeared marks on their external surface; the underside of a base had organic impressions. Associated fabrics include one with inclusions of flint and shell, and one tempered solely with flint. The shell and flint-tempered ware is represented by body sherds, many with vertically wiped external surfaces. Amongst the flint-tempered sherds is a short, out-turned rim from a round-shouldered vessel

(similar to a vessel from Burderop Down - Gingell 1992, 102, fig. 75, 1); an in-turned rim, possibly from a necked vessel, and rounded rims, from vessels of large circumference. Bases include plain and pinched examples. Some of the flint-tempered sherds also have coarse, vertical wiping. Traces of sooting and burnt residue survive on some sherds in shell-gritted and flint-tempered fabrics. Minor fabrics include a sand and shell-gritted fabric from pit 66027 and sandy wares from ditches 66096 and 66097. The range of fabrics and forms identified from pit 66027 is indicative of a LBA/EIA date for this group, whilst the sandy wares recovered from ditches 66096 and 66097 are most likely to be Iron Age in date, but these occur in insignificant quantities.

6.3 Ceramic building material

6.3.1 A small fragment of ceramic building material, with one surface remaining, was recovered from ditch 66097. It is undiagnostic and undated.

6.4 Flint

6.4.1 A total of 104 pieces of worked flint was recovered from 11 contexts. The raw material was mixed but largely grey in colour with cherty inclusions and a medium off-white cortex. The source of this material is likely to have been the local geology. A number of pieces show significant patina, ploughzone damage, rolling and concretions. There are some fresher pieces mixed in within fill 66028 of pit 66027.

6.4.2 The bulk of the assemblage consists of flake debitage, which appears to have resulted from core and blank reduction. There are some other technological indicators present in the form of two flake cores, one apparent bladelet core on a flake, two blades, and indications of blades and bladelets as scars on flake surfaces. There are also two possible projectile point blanks from context 66028, which might be considered as attempted leaf points, but this is not secure dating.

6.4.3 This material is inherently undatable but would not look out of place in a Neolithic assemblage. It is likely that this assemblage is entirely re-deposited.

6.4.4 Most of the burnt flint (1134 pieces, 7249 g) was recovered from pit 66027, with smaller quantities from grave 66017 (63 g), ditch 66096 (53 g) and ditch 66097 (64 g). With the exception of five flakes and a core fragment from fill 66028 of pit 66027 none of this was worked but is generally indicative of prehistoric activity within the area.

6.5 Iron

6.5.1 Eighteen coffin nails were recorded from inhumation grave 66017 (14 from context 88018 and four from backfill 66019; ON 16001-16014). The heads and tips of most are damaged, but they appear to be flat-headed types (Manning 1985, type 1B) of medium size (*c* 50-65 mm in length). Mineralised traces of wood and textile survive on some. A small tack or hobnail was also recovered from the burial (ON 16014).

6.6 Fuel ash slag

6.6.1 Small fragments of fuel ash slag came from pit 66027 (70 pieces, 22 g). These derive from a high temperature activity of unspecified type.

6.7 Stone

Fossil beads

6.7.1 Three, unbroken, spherical, perforated fossil sponges were found in LBA/EIA pit 66027, with two more of virtually identical form and size from the secondary fill of ditch 66029. All

examples were extracted from soil sample residues. Four measured between 6 mm and 9 mm in diameter, with a larger example, which is not completely perforated, that is 16 mm in diameter.

6.7.2 Identical examples were found in Late Neolithic pits at Bulford (Wessex Archaeology 2019) which were identified by Prof Rory Mortimore as naturally occurring globular or biconical fossils of the Porosphaera globularis family. These relatively small fossils, which frequently exist as examples 9 mm across but do occur in larger forms, have central holes, which naturally extend three quarters of the way through the fossil as a tube which could be extended to produce a bead.

6.7.3 Bulford and Kings Gate are both located on or close to the Newhaven Chalk (crinoid zones and Offaster pilula Zone) in which all these fossils are common.

6.7.4 Mortimore's comments confirmed that these distinctive fossils occur naturally within the local Chalk, but conceded that Neolithic communities, who undoubtedly shared an affinity with geology, may have collected and modified them as beads. It remains possible that this might be equally applicable to Late Bronze Age communities. Fossil sea urchins have accompanied inhumation burials (McNamara 2007, Andrews et al 2019) from many periods in prehistory, but may also have been collected for their distinctive character, in the case of the biconical examples, to be adapted for use as beads.

Sarsen/sandstone

6.7.5 Four objects of sarsen or sandstone were found in the back fill of pit 66027. They comprise a trapezoidal tabular rubber fragment, measuring 80 mm long, 70 mm wide and 23 mm thick, which weighs 214 g. Both sides have been smoothed through use and it is possible that at least one end has been adapted for use as a light hammer. Objects of similar character, composition and size were catalogued from Later Bronze Age sites on the Marlborough Downs (Gingell 1992) where they were listed as sandstone.

6.7.6 A similar object made from a snapped, oval, pebble of sarsen was also found. This object measures 93 mm long, 68 mm wide, 21 mm thick and weighs 216 g. The rounded end is broken by scars which show clear conchoidal features, indicating use as a hammer. It is also possible that the stone may also have functioned as a rubber; some aretes on both sides appear to be truncated.

6.7.7 A fragment of a sarsen quern stone was also found. This object, which measures 135 mm long, 99 mm wide and 56 mm thick, weighs 835 g. The principal grinding surface is well worn, and one edge is similarly worn smooth. None of the fractured surfaces show any traces of conchoidal fracture although it is likely that the quern was broken up at the end of its working life. Quern stones of this type are known to have been manufactured in considerable numbers on the Marlborough Downs, where sarsen boulders are prolific, during the Late Bronze Age.

6.7.8 The contents of the pit were supplemented by a miscellaneous fragment of unworked sarsen, weighing 147 g, a nodule of iron pyrite, which weighs 114 g and an angular fragment of iron stone.

6.7.9 Taken together the individual components of this small assemblage compare exactly with similar objects from Late Bronze Age collections on the Marlborough Downs.

6.8 Human bone

6.8.1 Human bone was recovered from an isolated inhumation grave 66017, situated towards the northeast corner of the area of investigation (**Fig. 1**). The Romano-British coffined burial (66018), made with the body laid supine and extended, featured no grave goods. The grave lay some 55 m west-northwest of the most easterly of a series of eight, predominantly late, Romano-British cemeteries (Cemetery 8: **Fig. 1** showing relative location of latter & grave 61311). The latter extended east to west across some 890 m of Amesbury Down, a further eight lone graves or singletons (e.g. grave 61311 **Fig. 1**) being found in dispersed locations to the south and north of the cemeteries (McKinley in prep.). Grave 66017 appears to form a further example of an ostensibly isolated singleton within this mortuary landscape, and is likely to represent the most westerly funerary deposit.

Methods

6.8.2 The remains were subject to a rapid scan to assess the condition of the bone, demographic data, potential for indices recovery and the presence of pathological lesions. Assessments were based on standard ageing and sexing methods (Beek 1983; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). Grading for preservation of the unburnt bone is in accordance with McKinley (2004, fig 6).

Results

6.8.3 The grave had survived to a substantial depth (0.73 m) and there was no disturbance to the burial deposit. The bone is in variable condition (Grade 2–3), the trabecular bone having suffered preferentially together with skeletal elements from the right side of the body. Much of the right upper limb did not survive, including the hand bones, and few of the right ribs remained. Only the lower vertebrae and pelvic bones survived in the axial area of the skeleton. The surviving bones from the right side, including the skull (which lay on its right side), were more heavily degraded than those on the left. Overall skeletal recovery is about 78%.

6.8.4 The remains are those of an infant, of around 3 years of age. Lesions observed in the orbital vaults – cribra orbitalia – are generally believed be associated with iron deficiency anaemia though other contributory factors such as parasitic infection, are also recognised (Molleson 1993; Roberts and Manchester 1995, 166–9). A child with this condition would have an increased susceptibility to severe infections (Aufderheide and Rodríguez-Martín 1998, 349; Roberts and Cox 2003, 307).

6.9 Animal bone

A total of 847 fragments (or 435 g) of animal bone came a LBA/EIA pit 66027, late prehistoric ditch 66096 and tree throw-hole 66048. The bones are well-preserved and include a few charred and/or calcined fragments.

Methods

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

Results

6.9.2 The identified bones from LBA/EIA pit 66027 are mostly from sheep and include several ankle and foot bones, fragments of pelvis, femur, tibia and vertebra. Butchery marks

consistent with disarticulation at the ankle joint and division of the carcass were noted (Table 7). A few cattle and pig bones were also identified from this feature. Some burnt bone fragments are present, these include several sheep/goat bones and a cattle metatarsal.

Table 7 Animal bone: number of identified specimens present (or NISP)

Species	Pit 66027	Ditch 66096	Tree throw-hole 66048	Total
Cattle	2		2	4
Sheep/goat	9	1	-	9
Pig	3		-	3
Total identified	**14**	**1**	**2**	**17**
Total unidentifiable	**45**	**604**	**-**	**649**
Overall total	**59**	**605**	**2**	**666**

6.9.3 A concentration of calcined bone fragments came from deliberate dump 66083 on the base of ditch 66096. The 29 identified bones are all from a single animal, they include fragments of skull and horn core, mandible, vertebrae, long bones from the forequarter, ankle and foot bones from young adult sheep/goat. There are no signs of skinning or butchery on any of the bones therefore it is unclear if the whole carcass or just the bones were incinerated. The burnt remains might have held special significance given their location on the base of the ditch.

6.9.4 Two cattle teeth came from tree throw-hole 66048.

6.10 Worked bone

6.10.1 Two pieces (or 3 g) of worked bone came from pit 66027. The first (ON 160015) is a bone point made from a fragment of sheep/goat metatarsal shaft. The point is extremely fine, and the surface is highly polish from repeated use. A second bone point is much finer and probably also made from the shaft of a sheep/goat bone. It has a triangular-shaped head that merges into the shank and a high degree of surface polish. Based on the criteria put forward by Barclay *et al* (1999, 235), ON 66027 can be classified as an awl and the other point, as a pin.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

1.1.1 A total of 65 samples were taken (Table 8). Of these, 46 were wood samples from a series of timbers found at the bottom of pit 66027, the remainder being bulk sediment samples. Thirteen bulk sediment samples were taken from Iron Age pits and a ditch and were processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence. Six samples from two Romano-British inhumation burials were processed by wet-sieving for the recovery of skeletal material.

Table 8 Environmental samples taken

	No. of samples taken
Wood	46
Bulk	13
Skeleton	6

Aims and Methods

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

1.1.3 The size of the bulk sediment samples varied between 5 and 60 litres, and on average was around 30 litres. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Syraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The skeleton samples were processed by wet-sieving on a 9 mm and a 1 mm size meshes. The coarse fractions (>4 mm for bulk, >9 mm for skeleton) were sorted by eye and discarded. The flots were scanned using a stereo incident light microscopy (Leica MS5 microscope) at magnifications of up to x40 for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g. *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as earthworm eggs and insects, which would not be preserved unless anoxic conditions prevailed on site. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence/absence of other environmental remains such as terrestrial and aquatic molluscs, animal bone and insects (in cases of anoxic conditions for their preservation), was recorded. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals. Abundance of remains is qualitatively quantified (A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5) as an estimation of the minimum number of individuals and not the number of remains per taxa

Results

1.1.1 The flots from the bulk sediment samples were generally small to medium (Table 10; Appendix 1). There were varying numbers of roots and modern seeds and fairly large numbers of the burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula* that may be indicative of some stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements.

1.1.2 Charred material was comprised varying degrees of preservation. Wood charcoal was noted in generally varying quantities, mostly from mature wood with some samples containing long rectangular pieces. Some roundwood was also observed. Remains of terrestrial molluscs and small animal bones were also present in some samples. No other environmental evidence was preserved in the bulk sediment samples. Slag/industrial waste was also noted in some samples.

1.1.3 The bulk sediment samples were dominated by the charred remains of weed seeds, predominantly *Galium* sp. (bedstraw) but also included Chenopodiaceae (goosefoot), Caryophyllaceae (pink/carnation family), Trifolieae (clovers), Poaceae (grasses, including *Avena* sp. (oats), and *Poa/Phleum* (meadow grasses)), Polygonaceae (knotweed/dock family, including *Polygonum* sp. and *Persicaria* sp.), Vicieae (vetches, including large seeded species), *Sherardia arvensis* (field madder), *Sambucus* sp. (elder), Cyperaceae (sedges), *Fumaria* sp. (fumitory), *Ranunculus* sp. (buttercups), *Malva* sp. (mallow), *Plantago lanceolata* (ribwort plantain), *Papaver* sp. (poppy), *Odontities* (bartsia), Lamiaceae (mint family) and a seed of indeterminate taxon. The flots also contained varying numbers of charred cereal remains, mainly *Hordeum vulgare* (barley) but also *Triticum* sp. (wheat, including *Triticum dicoccum* (emmer)), unidentifiable cereal fragments (Triticeae) and a Triticeae culm node. Charred parenchymatic tissue was present in one sample.

8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

8.1.1 Although this phase of fieldwork has not yielded the same quantity of features, or finds as previous phases, new information which will be added to our knowledge of the later prehistoric and Romano-British archaeology of the larger development area has been recovered and will help answer a number of key issues listed in the research aims (see Aims and Methods).

8.2 Stratigraphic potential

8.2.1 The LBA/EIA and possibly Iron Age features appear to be an extension of the settlement previously recorded on the King's Gate Phases 1 and 2 excavation to the north-east, such as pits and post-holes, although no obvious four-post granary-type structures or roundhouses were identified, perhaps indicating this was more a peripheral zone.

8.2.2 The pit containing charred fragments of wood may be of particular interest, especially if these fragments prove to be structurally related and shed light on local building practices and materials.

8.2.3 Six of the seven post holes identified were arranged in pairs. Although no obvious structures, such as four-post 'granaries' were identified (Wessex Archaeology 2016), and structural interpretation 'pairs' of post holes might be considered somewhat perilous, although it might tentatively be speculated pairs of post holes could be the remnant of drying racks (Wainwright 1979) or even related to manufacturing processes, such as the base of a woodturners pole-lathe.

8.2.4 Romano-British inhumation burial although apparently isolated both features fit within the previously identified pattern of a 'mortuary zone' to the immediate south of the Wessex Linear ditch, and settlement activity to the north (Seager Smith et al in prep.).

Recommendations and proposed methodologies for analysis

8.2.5 Spatial analysis of the features identified during this phase of excavation, compared to previously identified features during identified during earlier phases of work on Amesbury Down, should enable a better understanding of the context of these features.

8.3 Finds potential

8.3.1 The finds assemblage augments material recovered during the archaeological investigations in 2012 (Wessex Archaeology 2013) and 2015/16 (Wessex Archaeology 2016). Analysis of the finds from Kings Gate Primary School, in conjunction with the other assemblages from this area, will enhance our knowledge of prehistoric and Romano-British activity at the site.

Human bone

8.3.2 Full analysis will provide more detailed demographic data, confirming the age of the child and, with the use of specialised scientific analysis (see below), their sex. More detailed analysis may reveal further pathological lesions, the study of which might assist in a more considered assessment of the health of the child.

8.3.3 This singleton forms part of an extensive and important Romano-British mortuary landscape (totalling 261 inhumation graves), the previously recovered remains have already been subject to full analysis, and the various reports pertaining to this have already been substantially prepared for publication (Seager Smith et al in prep.). One of nine singletons within this broader assemblage from Amesbury Down, the remains from grave 66017

represent the only child within this part of the assemblage, and that this burial should have been made in what appears to be the most liminal location within the mortuary group is intriguing.

Recommendations and proposed methodologies for analysis

Pottery

8.3.4 The pottery should be fully analysed in accordance with national guidelines (Barclay *et al* 2016). Up to five vessels may be illustrated.

Human bone

8.3.5 Taphonomic factors potentially affecting differential bone preservation will be assessed. The age of the child will be confirmed using standard methodologies (Beek 1983; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000), and via comparison with similarly aged individuals with the rest of the assemblage (with particular reference to long bone development and the potential detrimental effects of stress-related illness on bone growth). The sex of immature individuals cannot generally be ascertained from skeletal morphology, though newly developed techniques will be applied (Lewis pers comm.), and peptide analysis of the tooth enamel might be advisable (Stewart et al 2017). Where possible a standard suite of measurement will be taken (Brothwell and Zakrzewski 2004) and non-metric traits recorded (Berry and Berry 1967; Finnegan 1978). Pathological lesions are recorded in text and via digital photography; some lesions are likely to warrant photographing for publication purposes.

Animal bone

8.3.6 The animal bones recovered from pit 66027 and ditch 66047 will be analysed following established methods and guidelines (Baker and Worley 2014). It will consider current research priorities (Serjeantson 2011) and the results integrated in to the overall report for Kings Gate phase 4 works (Wessex Archaeology 2017b).

8.3.7 A sample of animal bone from LBA/EIA pit 66027 could be radiocarbon dated to clarify the ceramic dating of this feature and establish where it fits into the overall site chronology.

Other finds

8.3.8 The other finds have been recorded to a sufficient level, but this data should be considered in relation to finds from the other investigations at the site and the wider region. The worked bone objects and perforated fossil beads should be illustrated.

8.4 Environmental potential

8.4.1 Relatively well-preserved and informative environmental assemblages, and particularly the charred plant remains and the wood charcoal, were recovered from the site. The charred plant remain assemblage from pit 66027 is a typical by-product of the latter stages of crop-processing activities, dominated by clean dehusked grains and wild plant seeds, most of which can be identified to persistent crop weeds. Although chaff is more susceptible to destruction by fire in comparison to grains, the good preservation of other easily destroyed wild plant seeds, suggests the absence of chaff (spikelet forks, glume bases, culm nodes) is more probably reflecting a true absence from the original depositional assemblage rather than a preservation bias. This absence of chaff suggests that the grains were not stored in the pit for further processing and consumption, but rather they were present there as waste in secondary position and therefore not directly associated to the use of the pit before it's reuse as rubbish pit. Unfortunately, the rarity of plant remains from chronologically diagnostic species does not allow a reliable ascription of the deposit to a specific period,

but the presence of emmer is consistent with an Early Iron Age chronology, as suggested by the artefactual evidence. The assemblage from the ditches is probably residual or reworked from other deposits and little informative.

Recommendations and proposed methodologies for analysis

8.4.2 The analysis of the charred plant assemblages from a selection of samples from pit 66027 has the potential to provide information on the nature of the settlement, local agricultural practices and crop husbandry techniques. The results of this analysis would provide a comparison with the data from other features in the site and the wider area, and it is particularly interesting due to the good preservation of the remains.

8.4.3 The samples proposed for analysis are indicated with a "P" in the analysis column in Table 10 (Appendix 1). All identifiable charred plant macrofossils will be extracted from the <5.6/4 residues and the flot, which may be subsampled with the aid of a riffle box in the case of very rich assemblages. The analysis will involve the full quantification (Antolín *et al*. 2016) and taphonomic assessment of the charred plant assemblages.

8.4.4 The presumed LBA/EIA chronology of the assemblage should be confirmed by radiocarbon dating of two cereal grains. This would also allow to ascertain the consistency of the assemblage, as charred plant remains are sometimes susceptible to intrusion and residuality (Pelling et al. 2015).

8.4.5 The assessed and analysed samples (flots and extracted plant remains) from pits are recommended for retention and the samples from ditches and unsorted residues not required for analysis are suggested for discard.

8.4.6 The analysis of the samples of wood charcoal would provide information on the species composition and woodland exploitation. Identifiable charcoal will be extracted from the 2mm residue together and the flot (>2mm). Larger richer samples will be sub-sampled. Fragments will be prepared for identification according to the standard methodology of Lenny and Casteel (1975). Charcoal pieces will be fractured with a razor blade so that three planes can be seen: transverse section (TS), radial longitudinal section (RL) and tangential longitudinal section (TL). They will then be examined under bi-focal epi-illuminated microscopy at magnifications of x50, x100 and x40. Identification will be undertaken according to the anatomical characteristics described by Schweingruber (1990) and Butterfield and Meylan (1980). Identification will be to the lowest taxonomic level possible, usually that of genus and nomenclature according to Stace (1997), individual taxon (mature and twig) will be separated, quantified, and the results tabulated.

8.5 Scientific dating

8.5.1 A total of 2 short-lived radiocarbon samples from pit 66027 will be submitted to the 14CHRONO Centre, Queen's University, Belfast. The dates will be calculated using the IntCal13 calibration curve (Reimer et al. 2013) and the computer program OxCal (v4.2.3) (Bronk Ramsey and Lee 2013) and cited at 95% confidence.

9 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

9.1 Summary of recommendation for analysis

9.1.1 The following is a summary of the recommendation for further analysis

Stratigraphic

- Analysis of the stratigraphy of pit 66027, including the burnt wood deposits in contexts 66034-38, 66053. 66054 and 66064-74.
- Spatial analysis of the features identified during this phase of excavation, compared to previously discovered features noted during earlier phases of work on Amesbury Down, should enable a better understanding of the context of these features.

Finds

- Analysis of the human bone recovered from the child burial, including peptide analysis of the tooth enamel.
- Analysis of animal bone from pit 66027 and ditch 66047.
- Pottery analysed in accordance with national guidelines. Up to five vessels may be illustrated.
- Other finds considered in relation to finds from the other investigations at the site and the wider region. The worked bone objects and perforated fossil beads should be illustrated.

Environmental data

- Analysis of the charred plant assemblages from a selection of samples 3 from pit 66027.
- Analysis of the 19 samples of wood charcoal from pit 66027.

Scientific dating

- Radiocarbon dating of 2 short-lived radiocarbon samples from pit 66027.

9.2 Updated project aims

9.2.1 *The analysis and publication will address the following updated project aims:*

Late Bronze Age and Iron Age

- The discoveries of Late Bronze Age and Iron Age date extend the pattern of pit deposition that has been found in previous areas of the Archer's Gate and King's Gate development. Finds from the pits will be directly compared with those from previously discovered, similar, features.
- The investigations at King's Gate are adding new information to our understanding of the Bronze/Iron Age transition at about 800 BC and any apparent changes in economy, settlement pattern, material culture. The Iron Age in and around the Stonehenge part of the World Heritage Site is poorly understood (Leivers and Powell 2016, 20-21) and some of the findings from King's Gate are likely to make a significant contribution to our understanding of local and regional settlement patterns and inter-settlement social connections;

Romano-British

- The single child inhumation grave forms part of an extensive and important Romano-British mortuary landscape (total 261 inhumation graves), and one of nine singletons (and only child) within this broader assemblage from Amesbury Down. Information pertaining to this inhumation grave should be added to the substantially

- 2 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics;
- 3 A1 graphics.

10.3 Selection policy

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

10.4 Security copy

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

10.5 OASIS

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

11 COPYRIGHT

11.1 Archive and report copyright

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

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

11.2 Third party data copyright

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

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Appendix 1: Environmental Data

Table 10 Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (l)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Comments (Preservation)
66029	66031	12008	20	60	80%, A*, I, *Cecilioides acicula* (A**)	C	-	*Triticum* sp.	-	-	Trace	Mature	Moll-t		Poor
66027	66034	12009													
66027	66028	12010	40	50	50%, A, I, *Cecilioides acicula* (A**)	A	-	*Hordeum vulgare, Triticum* sp., Triticeae	A	*Galium* sp., Chenopodiaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Trifolieae	3	Mature	Moll-t		Heterogenous (grains poor, weeds fair)
66027	66033	12011	40	60	15%, A, I, *Cecilioides acicula* (A*)	A	-	*Hordeum vulgare* (A), *Triticum* sp. (C), Triticeae	A	*Galium* sp., Chenopodiaceae, Trifolieae, *Poa/Phleum,* Caryophyllaceae, Polygonaceae (inc. *Polygonum* sp.), Vicieae	30	Mature + roundwood (Some long rectangular pieces)	Moll-t, Sab		Heterogenous (grains poor, weeds fair)
66027	66045	12012	18	60	5%, C, *Cecilioides acicula* (A*), I	A	-	*Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	A*	*Sherardia arvensis*, Trifolieae, *Galium* sp., *Sambucus* sp., Vicieae (inc. large seeded), Chenopodiaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Cyperaceae, Polygonaceae (inc. *Persicaria* sp.)	20	Mature (Some long rectangular pieces)	Moll-t, Sab		Heterogenous (grains poor, weeds fair)
66027	66052	12013	60	175	5%, B, I, *Cecilioides acicula* (A)	A	-	*Hordeum vulgare (A)*, *Triticum* sp. (inc. *dicoccum,* C), Triticeae	A*	*Galium* sp., Polygonaceae, Chenopodiaceae, *Fumaria* sp., *Ranunculus* sp., Vicieae, Trifolieae, Cyperaceae	30	Mature + roundwood (Some large and long rectangular pieces)	Moll-t, slag/industrial waste	P	Fair

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (l)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Comments (Preservation)
66027	66028	12014	38	60	20%, A*, E, I, *Cecilioides acicula* (A**)	A	-	*Hordeum vulgare* (A), *Triticum* sp. (C), Triticeae	A	*Galium* sp., Vicieae, Cyperaceae, Trifolieae, *Poa/Phleum*	20	Mature (Some large and long rectangular pieces)	Moll-t, Sab		Heterogenous (grains poor, weeds fair)
66027	66032	12015	37	25	60%, A, I, *Cecilioides acicula* (A*)	B	C	*Hordeum vulgare* (C), *Triticum* sp. (B), Triticeae culm node	A	*Galium* sp., Cyperaceae, Chenopodiaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Trifolieae, *Poa/Phleum, Avena* sp.	1	Mature	Moll-t		Heterogenous (grains poor, weeds fair)
66027	66044	12016	11	60	2%, C, I, E, *Cecilioides acicula* (A)	A	-	*Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	A	*Galium* sp., Cyperaceae, Vicieae, Chenopodiaceae, Polygonaceae	20	Mature (Some long rectangular pieces)	Moll-t, slag/industrial waste		Heterogenous (grains poor, weeds fair)
66027	66047	12017	38	25	15%, A, I, *Cecilioides acicula* (A*)	B	-	*Hordeum vulgare, Triticum* sp. (cf. *spelta),* Triticeae	C	*Galium* sp., Cyperaceae	<1	Mature	Moll-t		Heterogenous
66027	66043	12070	5	60	2%, I, *Cecilioides acicula* (B)	A	-	*Hordeum vulgare* (A), *Triticum* sp. (inc. *dicoccum,* C), Triticeae	A*	*Galium* sp., *Sherardia arvensis*, Lamiaceae, Chenopodiaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Polygonaceae, Cyperaceae, *Malva* sp., indets	20	Mature	Moll-t	P	Fair
66027	66059	12071	39	60	20%, C, I, *Cecilioides acicula* (A)	A	-	*Hordeum vulgare* (A), *Triticum* sp. (inc. *dicoccum,* C), Triticeae	A**	*Galium* sp., Trifolieae, *Plantago lanceolata,* Chenopodiaceae, Polygonaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Cyperaceae, Poaceae,	4	Mature	Moll-t	P	Fair

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (l)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Comments (Preservation)
										Papaver sp., *Odontites* sp., Lamiaceae, Vicieae (inc. large seeded)					
66082	66088	12072	40	125	75%, A**, E, I, *Cecilioides acicula* (A*)	C	-	Triticeae	C	Vicieae, Trifolieae	Trace	Mature	Moll-t		Poor
66082	66083	12073	10	40	1%, C, I, *Cecilioides acicula* (A)	C	-	Triticeae	A	*Galium* sp., indet. parenchymatic tissue	15	Mature	Moll-t, burnt bone		Fair

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), E = earthworm eggs, I = insects; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs; Analysis: P = plant.

- Phase 1 and 2
- School Site boundary
- King's Gate Phase 4 (658 unit) area
- Phase 4a (143 unit) area
- Phase 3 (460 unit) area
- Initial Phase 4 works (Jan 2014 - Aug 2015)
- Phase 4b (515 unit) area
- Already mitigated (Aug 2018)

- No Access
- Green Area
- Parcel Q
- Parcel T - Evaluation
- Parcel S - Evaluation
- Parcel R - Evaluation
- Parcel R - Strip, map and record
- Area of modern disturbance

- Geophysical survey area
- Archaeology
- Probable archaeology
- Possible archaeology
- Increased magnetic response
- Ferrous
- Modern services

Revision Number:	0
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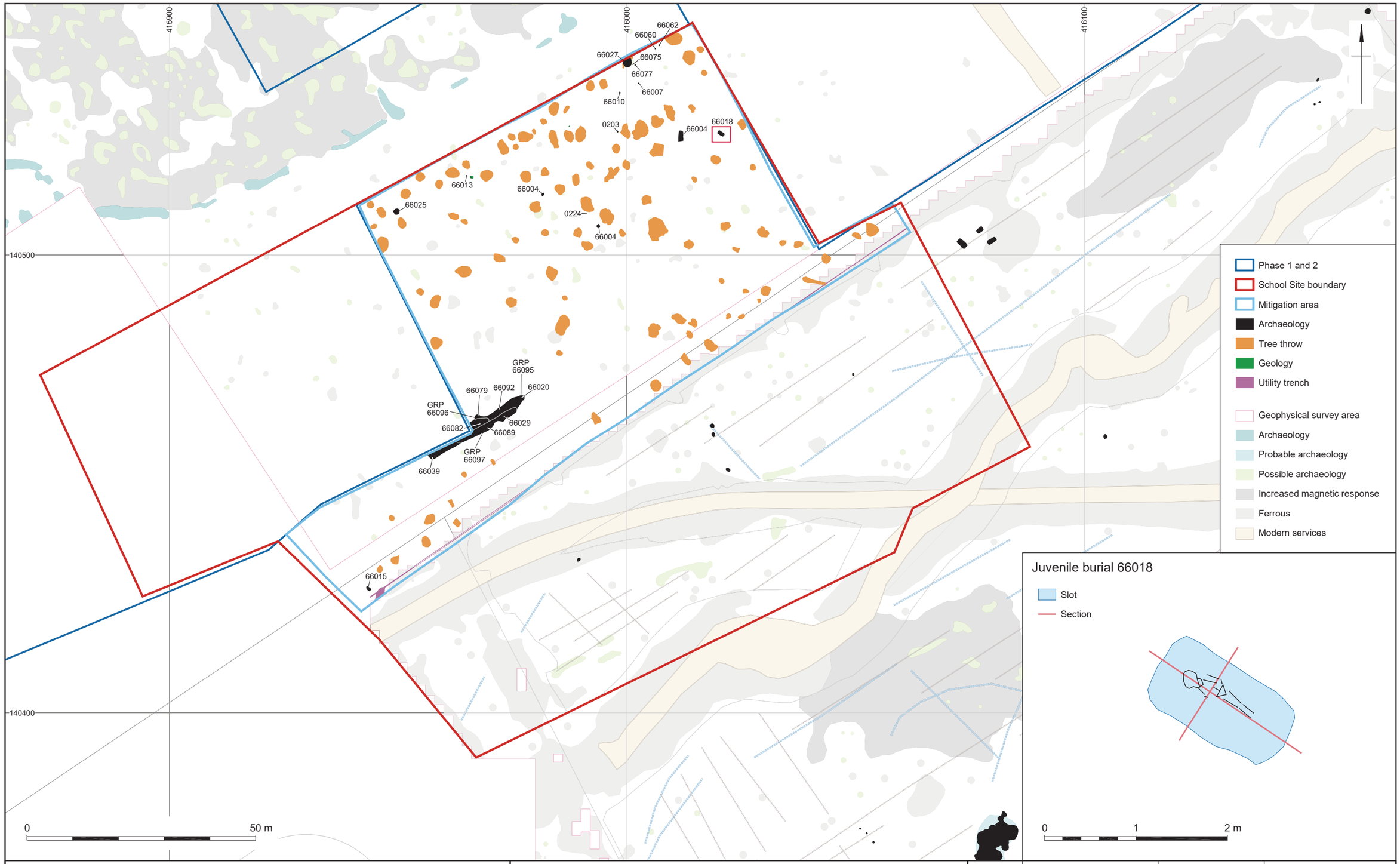
Site location with surrounding archaeology

Figure 1



Coordinate system:
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

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The Site

Figure 2

Plate 1: Juvenile burial 66018. Scale is 1 m

Plate 2: View of pit 66027 during excavation from the south. Scale is 0.5 m

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Plate 3: View of pit 66027 during excavation from the south-east. Scale is 0.5 m

Plate 4: Post-excavation view of pit 66027 from the south. Scales are 0.5 m and 0.25 m

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Plate 5: View of ditch 66039 from the south-east.
Scale is 0.5 m

Plate 6: View of ditches 66029 and 66092 from the north-east. Scale is 2.0 m

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