Land at Hunters Moon
Easton Lane, Chippenham, Wiltshire

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Bloor Homes South West to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising a strip, map and sample excavation of eight areas covering a total of 0.28 ha (2830 sq. m) at Hunters Moon, Easton Lane, Chippenham, Wilshire, centred on NGR 390280 171670. The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Wiltshire Council on 18 December 2017 (ref. 16/12493/FUL), for a residential development on a site comprising 29.9 ha of agricultural land.

The excavation was undertaken between 5 February and 17 April 2018.

Archaeologically significant features were predominantly confined to two of the excavated areas (Area 1a and Area 2). The dating evidence provided by the artefactual and palaeo-environmental assemblages was somewhat inconclusive. In many cases, however, features could be broadly assigned to distinct phases of activity based on form, associations and stratigraphic relationships.

Area 1a contained a ring ditch, which probably represented the remains of an earlier Bronze Age round barrow. A small quantity of re-deposited cremated human bone recovered from the ring ditch may have derived from a disturbed grave within its interior. The ring ditch was superimposed over an earlier, small oval / open ended enclosure gully of uncertain date or function. Many small pits and postholes, some of which contained late prehistoric pottery, were distributed around these features.

Area 2 contained an incomplete ring gully, which was associated with several postholes. These appeared to form the remains of a late prehistoric circular structure, or roundhouse. The ring gully contained another smaller curvilinear, or C-shaped gully of less certain function. Numerous other pits and postholes were also encountered in this area. Little dateable cultural material was recovered from the features, although prehistoric/late prehistoric pottery was present in small quantities.

The few archaeological features in the remaining excavation areas were predominantly thought to be related to the development of the late post-medieval agricultural landscape or were undated and could not be accurately characterised.

The imprecisely resolved chronology of the excavated features and the sparse and poorly preserved nature of the artefactual and palaeo-environmental assemblage limits the research potential of the recorded evidence. Nevertheless, the results of the excavation of Area 1a and Area 2 are of at least local significance. Accordingly, further, limited analysis is proposed to address the research aims of the project, which were revised in light of the assessment. It is recommended that, following this programme of analysis, the results are reported on in the form of a short article to be submitted for publication in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine*.

Acknowledgements

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The fieldwork was directed by Darryl Freer, with the assistance of Amelia Weatherill, Anna Smaldone, Bethany Pratt, Bianca San Martin, Elena Calabria, Eva Estela Jaume, Hannah Finn, Marion Plumer, Matthew Whelan, Tom Dawkins and Virva Lompolo. The finds were assessed by Phil Harding, Lorrain Higbee, Grace Jones, and Jacqueline McKinley. The palaeo-environmental remains were assessed by Inés López-Dóriga. This report was compiled by Tom Wells and edited by Phil Andrews. The figures are by Kitty Foster. The fieldwork was managed by Andrew Manning on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.

Land at Hunters Moon, Easton Lane Chippenham, Wiltshire

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Bloor Homes South West to undertake a strip, map and sample excavation of eight areas covering a total of 0.28 ha (2830 sq. m) at Hunters Moon, Easton Lane, Chippenham, Wilshire, centred on NGR 390280 171670 (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Wiltshire County Council on 18 December 2017, for development proposals submitted under a hybrid planning application (ref. 16/12493/FUL), consisting of:

An Outline Planning Application for the demolition of existing buildings & structures & mixed-use development comprising up to 450 dwellings, up to 2.41 ha of employment (B1, B2 & B8) development, public open space, landscaping, & all associated infrastructure works (with all matters reserved other than access); with a Full Planning Application for the first phase of the development comprising 140 dwellings, open space, 10 no. B1 employment units, drainage works including attenuation pond; & associated infrastructure. (All Matters Reserved Except Access)

1.1.3 The excavation was the final stage in a programme of archaeological works which had included the preparation of a heritage statement (Wessex Archaeology 2016), geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2012a) and trial trench evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2012b). It was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) detailing the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed for the fieldwork and the post-excavation work (Wessex Archaeology 2017). The County Archaeologist at the Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (WCAS) approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.4 The excavation was undertaken between 5 February and 17 April 2018.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the provisional results of the excavation and to assess the potential of the results to address the research aims outlined in the WSI. It also sets out recommendations for a programme of further analysis, outlining the resources needed to achieve the aims (including the revised research aims arising from this assessment), leading to dissemination of the results via publication and the curation of the archive.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The excavation areas coincided with the southern and central parts of the development site, which encompasses 29.9 ha of agricultural land, divided into ten fields ('Fields A – J'). The site is located south-east of the junction of the A4 Bath Road and A350 West Cepen Way, some 2.5 km south-west of Chippenham town centre.

1.3.2 A canalised stream flows eastwards through the southern part of the development site, between Field F to the north and Fields H and I to the south, joining the River Avon approximately 1.3 km to the east. The development site is bounded to the north-west by Easton Lane, to the south-west by the A350 West Cepen Way, and to the east by Saltersford Lane, with the London Paddington to Bristol Temple Meads railway line beyond. The development site also includes a 1 ha strip of land between Saltersford Lane and the railway embankment.

1.3.3 The development site coincides with a small hill (Hunter's Moon Hill), the highest point of which lies at approximately 75 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), with the land falling gently in all directions to approximately 55 m aOD at the boundaries of the site.

1.3.4 The bedrock geology predominantly consists of Kellaways Formation - Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone, with Cornbrash Formation – Limestone recorded in the southern part of the development site. No superficial deposits are mapped in this area (British Geological Survey online viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological and historical context

2.1.1 A heritage statement was compiled in 2016 to inform the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process for the development (Wessex Archaeology 2016). This followed earlier desk-based appraisals of the archaeological potential of the development site (TVAS 2009; Wessex Archaeology 2000). The heritage statement included a detailed assessment of the archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. This is summarised below, with added references to published and unpublished sources, and relevant Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (HER) entries.

Prehistoric (c.1,000,000 BC – AD 43)

2.1.2 Mesolithic worked flints were found to the west of the development site during excavations associated with the Chippenham bypass (MWI2222). The works also identified a cluster of probable Bronze Age pits, gullies and stake holes (MWI2228) (Cotswold Archaeology 1998a; 1998b). Small quantities of Iron Age pottery were recovered during a watching brief on a pipeline near the junction of the A4 and A350 (MWI2229).

2.1.3 Investigations in 1999 at Showell Farm, to the south-east of the development site, also produced Mesolithic finds (MWI3650), along with a broken Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead (MWI3656), assemblages of Bronze Age worked flint (MWI3661 and MWI3662) and small quantities of Iron Age pottery (MWI5221) (Cotswold Archaeology 2003; Young and Hancocks 2006). Amongst the most notable discoveries at the site were two shallow / truncated ring ditches (MWI3663 and MWI5219), one associated with Beaker pottery. Numerous other possible ring ditches had been identified near Showell Farm from aerial photographs (eg, MWI5287–95), although the excavations in 1999 revealed no corresponding traces of some of these features. Two inhumation burials and two cremation deposits (MWI5272), thought to be of either prehistoric or Romano-British date, were also found at the site.

2.1.4 Extensive trial trenching at Rowden Park, to the north-east of the development site, revealed a substantial Early to Middle Bronze Age ditch and large Iron Age enclosure ditch along with several smaller ditches and a small number of late prehistoric cremation graves (Cotswold Archaeology 2014). Subsequent evaluation and excavation uncovered the

remains of two Bronze Age barrows, an inhumation grave containing a near complete Beaker vessel and cremation graves (Cotswold Archaeology 2017a; 2018).

2.1.5 Some indications of Neolithic, earlier Bronze Age and Iron Age activity were recorded during investigations at Showell Nurseries in the late 20th century (OAU 1991; Anon 1993). A possible ring ditch was identified in close proximity to a probable round house ring gully during later trial trenching at Showell Nurseries (Cotswold Archaeology 2017b).

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

2.1.6 The investigations at Showell Farm also produced evidence for several phases of earlier Romano-British agricultural and settlement activity, in the form of ditches, field systems, pits and a crop dryer (MWI5228) (Cotswold Archaeology 2003; Young and Hancocks 2006). As noted above, inhumation burials and cremation deposits at the site may have been of Romano-British date.

2.1.7 A second focus of Romano-British activity, previously identified from aerial photographs, was recorded during excavations at Showell Nurseries (MWI5224) (OAU 1991; Anon 1993). This was represented by trackways, ditches and gullies containing domestic debris.

2.1.8 Field system and enclosure ditches uncovered during later investigations further to the north at Rowden Park may represent the continuation of Iron Age and Romano-British agricultural activity associated with the Showell Farm/Showell Nurseries sites (Cotswold Archaeology 2014; 2017a; 2018).

2.1.9 Other indications of activity during the period include findspots of two brooches and a Neronian coin. Ditches containing Romano-British pottery were also recorded during a watching brief on a pipeline (MWI2238) and excavations associated with the Chippenham Bypass (MWI2240) (Cotswold Archaeology 1998a; 1998b).

Saxon and medieval (AD 410 – 1500)

2.1.10 Although the development site historically lay within Corsham parish, its location is closer to the town of Chippenham. Both settlements are of Saxon origin and appear to have been of some importance, with Corsham being in the possession of both Saxon and Norman kings (Aubrey and Jackson 1862). Chippenham is known to have existed by the mid-9th century and has several references to royal connections, including as a hunting seat belonging to the kings of Wessex (Platts 1947). Chippenham is later recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as the royal holding of *Chipeham*, comprising a large manor with extensive farmland and woodland.

2.1.11 Little direct archaeological evidence of Saxon or medieval activity has been recorded during nearby investigations, although a sunken-featured building was identified approximately 800 m north-west of the development site (TVAS 2009). The area probably formed part of the agricultural hinterland of Chippenham throughout much of the medieval period. Indeed, vestigial traces of ridge and furrow cultivation have been identified within the development site and surrounding area from aerial photographs and LiDAR survey (MWI74085 and MWI74087).

Post-medieval to modern (AD 1500 – present day)

2.1.12 The development site and much of the surrounding landscape presumably remained largely agricultural throughout the post-medieval period. By the 19th century, numerous farmsteads were scattered across this area. These included a now demolished farm (MWI66069), formerly located within the eastern part of the development site. Historic map regression indicates that many of the extant field boundaries within the development site had been

established by the mid-19th century. Subsequent cartographic sources record some minor re-organisation and loss of field boundaries throughout the later 19th and 20th centuries.

2.1.13 A Royal Observer Corps (ROC) monitoring post (MWI31708) is known to have been located within the development site. This had been destroyed by the time of the Defence of Britain survey, although traces of disturbance were detected in this area by the rapid gradiometer scanning survey (Wessex Archaeology 2012a; see below).

2.2 Previous works related to the development

Geophysical survey 2012

2.2.1 A geophysical survey of the development site was undertaken in 2012 (Wessex Archaeology 2012a). Some 23 ha was subject to rapid gradiometer scanning to enable an initial identification of areas of archaeological potential. This was followed by a detailed gradiometer survey of 5.7 ha (Fig. 1).

2.2.2 No anomalies of definite archaeological interest were identified. Anomalies identified as being of probable archaeological interest were largely consistent with former field boundaries. Some of these shared alignments with extant land divisions, strengthening their interpretation as such. More weakly defined anomalies were defined as being of possible archaeological interest, although a natural origin could not be excluded. Numerous pit-like responses were also identified towards the southern extent of the development site. Whilst some of these were interpreted as potentially being of archaeological interest, it was considered that the anomalies were predominantly likely to be of geological origin. Several regions of increased response and magnetic disturbance were interpreted as being related to modern agricultural activity.

Trial trench evaluation 2012

2.2.3 The geophysical survey was followed, later in 2012, by a trial trench evaluation. Seventy-five trenches were excavated, representing a 2.5% sample of the development site (Fig. 1; Wessex Archaeology 2012b).

2.2.4 Relatively few archaeological features were encountered during the evaluation. These included pits and possible postholes, which occurred as isolated examples and small groups, scattered mainly across the southern and central parts of the development site. Most of these features were undated. Several ditches were also recorded. Many of these conformed to the layout of extant hedgerows, suggesting that they represented former field boundaries, probably of post-medieval date.

2.2.5 Trenches in the northern part of the development site were largely devoid of archaeological remains. A curvilinear geophysical anomaly in this area had been identified as of possible archaeological interest due to the nearby presence of Early Bronze Age ring ditches at Showell Farm. However, no trace of any corresponding archaeological feature was recorded by the evaluation. A large feature identified in three trenches in this area was interpreted as a modern quarry pit. This could be correlated with the geophysical survey results. The only archaeological features in this area comprised a pair of undated parallel ditches, thought to have been associated with agricultural activity.

2.2.6 A small cluster of undated pits was recorded in the central part of the development site, along with three ditches interpreted as former field boundaries.

2.2.7 Several small pits were recorded in the south-eastern part of the development site. Later prehistoric and Romano-British pottery was recovered from one of the pits, together with a

small quantity of worked flint. Elsewhere in this area, two parallel gullies and a series of lynchets were interpreted as relating to medieval or post-medieval agricultural activity.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the excavation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017) and in compliance with the CIfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a), were to:

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

3.2 Research objectives

3.2.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site, the research objectives of the excavation, as defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017), were to:

- locate, identify, investigate and record the presence/absence of archaeological features within the seven defined areas of clustered archaeological features; and
- determine the date, extent and character of landscape organisation, and its development from the Middle Bronze Age to the Romano-British period.

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 2017) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.1.2 The WSI specified that seven areas of archaeological interest, identified on the basis of the evaluation results (Wessex Archaeology 2012b), would be subject to strip, map and record excavation ('Areas 1 – 7'). Provision was made to extend the excavation areas beyond their initially defined limits to expose and investigate archaeological remains to the satisfaction of the County Archaeologist, and in sufficient detail to address the aims of the project. In the event, two excavation areas (Areas 1 and 2) were extended. At the request of the County Archaeologist, an additional small area (Area 1b) was also stripped to establish whether any features associated with a ring ditch in Area 1a continued further to the west. With the agreement of the County Archaeologist, the excavated extent of Area 7 was reduced due to the paucity of significant archaeological remains in the initially stripped area and difficulties experienced during mechanical excavation caused by the saturated ground conditions. The total area covered by the strip, map and record excavation was approximately 0.28 ha (2830 sq. m).

4.1.3 The locations of the excavated areas are shown on Figure 1, with further details provided in Table 1.

Table 1 Excavation area locations, extents and rationale

Excavation Area (on-site sub-division)	Location (NGR)	Elevation (m OD)	Initial excavation area (sq. m)	Rationale / targeted on	Final excavated area (approx. sq. m)
Area 1a (Trench 79 N & S)	Field F (390420 171600)	72	100 (10 m x 10 m)	A shallow pit at the north-east end of Trench 49, which contained a sherd of late prehistoric pottery and a sherd of Romano-British greyware	880
Area 1b (Trench 79a)	Field E (390392 171620)	72.7	N/A	Intended to establish whether remains associated / contemporary with a ring ditch in Area 1 extended to the west	50
Area 2 (Trench 80)	Field F (390430 171445)	53	100 (10 m x 10 m)	A small undated pit or posthole, from which burnt animal bone was recovered, in Trench 54	700
Area 3 (Trench 77)	Field E (390230 171776)	74.4	100 (10 m x 10 m)	Three small undated pits located at the north-west end of Trench 26	100
Area 4 (Trench 78)	Field E (390261 171709)	74.3	100 (10 m x 10 m)	A possible undated pit found at the eastern side of Trench 31	100
Area 5 (Trench 81)	Field F (390289 171506)	54.8	100 (10 m x 10 m)	A small undated pit in Trench 56	100
Area 6 (Trench 82)	Field F (390138 171561)	55.3	100 (10 m x 10 m)	A small undated pit in Trench 58	100
Area 7 (Trench 83)	Field G (389997 171672)	58.8	2,000 (50 m x 40 m)	An undated pit, a possible large Romano-British pit or ditch terminal, and an undated linear feature recorded in Trenches 22 and 23	800

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The excavation areas were initially set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) in the locations proposed in the WSI (Figure 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 surfaces of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation. A sample of natural features, such as tree-throw holes, was also investigated.

4.2.3 Spoil derived from 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. 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

4.2.4 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 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 OSTN15 and OSGM15, 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 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* (CIfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

Human remains

4.3.2 The human remains were removed under the terms of a Licence for the Removal of Human Remains held by Wessex Archaeology (Ref: 18-0036 dated 02/03/2018). The excavation and post-excavation assessment of human remains was in accordance with Wessex Archaeology protocols and undertaken in-line with current guidance documents (eg, McKinley 2013) and the standards set out in CIfA Technical Paper 13 (McKinley and Roberts 1993).

4.4 Monitoring

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

5 STRATIGRAPHIC RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

Summary of archaeological features and deposits

5.1.1 Archaeological features were predominantly restricted to Area 1a and Area 2. In many cases, features could be broadly assigned to distinct phases of activity based on form, associations and stratigraphic relationships. The dating evidence provided by the artefactual assemblages was somewhat inconclusive, as much of the recovered pottery was evidently prehistoric, but was often poorly preserved, fragmentary and rarely sufficiently diagnostic to assign it to a specific period. The palaeo-environmental remains recovered from bulk samples of a selection of the excavated features were typically sparse and poorly preserved and provided little indication of their date or the nature of activity associated with them.

5.1.2 In general, the results of the excavation did not correspond closely with the geophysical survey, particularly in relation to prehistoric features. This could be explained as a result of masking by colluvial deposits, the idiosyncrasies of the local geology, and the frequently insubstantial nature of many of the earlier features.

5.1.3 Area 1a contained a ring ditch, which was superimposed over an earlier, small oval / open ended enclosure gully. No dating evidence was recovered from these features, although the form of the ring ditch suggested that it probably represented the remains of an earlier Bronze Age round barrow. A small quantity of cremated human bone recovered from the ring ditch may have derived from a disturbed grave within its interior. Numerous small pits and postholes, some of which contained prehistoric or late prehistoric pottery, were distributed around, and cut into these features.

5.1.4 Area 2 contained an incomplete ring gully, which was associated with several postholes. These appeared to form the remains of a late prehistoric circular structure, or roundhouse. The ring gully coincided with another smaller curvilinear, or C-shaped gully of less certain function. Numerous pits and postholes were also encountered in the western part of the excavation area. Little dateable cultural material was recovered from any of the features, although prehistoric or late prehistoric pottery was present in small quantities.

5.1.5 Few archaeological features were present in the remaining excavation areas. Area 1b coincided with a line of postholes representing a former fence line, probably of comparatively recent / post-medieval date, and an undated pit. Areas 3 and 4 contained no archaeological features or deposits, whilst Area 5 contained a single prehistoric pit. Areas 6 and 7 contained a few linear gullies and ditches; none of these produced datable artefacts, although they were likely to have been associated with post-medieval agricultural activity. Area 6 also contained two postholes and a small pit of uncertain date or function. Several other features throughout the excavation areas were demonstrated to be the result of bioturbation (eg, tree-throw hollows) or geological disturbance.

5.1.6 Whilst some archaeological features were relatively shallow, probably due to truncation caused by historical agricultural activity, the effect of this did not seem to have been unusually severe. The sporadic accumulation of later colluvial deposits may have contributed to the survival of archaeological features in some areas. No other forms of disturbance (eg, due to natural processes, or modern activities such as service installations or drainage works) had significantly affected the archaeological remains.

5.1.7 Inclement weather lead to accumulation of surface water and saturation of the excavation areas, giving rise to particularly challenging working conditions (Plates 1–2 & front cover). Difficulties were also imposed by localised areas of bioturbation and the nature of the geology, the similarity of the some of the feature fills to the local geology, and the presence of residual patches of colluvium, all of which necessitated careful hand cleaning to define archaeological features in plan. Nevertheless, these factors did not impede the ability of the excavation team to accurately identify, excavate and record the archaeological features or to establish key stratigraphic relationships.

5.1.8 As it was not possible to confidently correlate evidence for distinct phases of activity between the different excavation areas, the results are discussed below first by area and, where possible, subsequently by phase.

Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data

5.1.9 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. Preliminary phasing was undertaken using stratigraphic relationships and the spot dating from artefacts, particularly pottery.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 A uniform mid-greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil, which varied between 0.08 m and 0.3 m thick, was present across the excavation areas. This overlaid a typically mid-yellow or grey brown silty clay, or silty clay loam, subsoil. The subsoil ranged between 0.13 m and 0.25 m in thickness. No subsoil was present in Area 3, where the topsoil directly overlaid the natural substrate.

5.2.2 Colluvium was encountered below the subsoil in the excavation areas on the southern and eastern flanks of Hunters Moon Hill (Areas 1–2 and 5–7). This generally consisted of a light-mid-grey or yellow brown silty clay loam. The colluvium attained a maximum recorded thickness of around 0.35 m in Area 5 (Plate 3). The colluvium sealed all archaeological features. As expected, no colluvial deposits were present in Areas 3 and 4, which were located nearer the summit of the hill.

5.2.3 The appearance and composition of the natural substrate was somewhat variable, but this generally consisted of a light to mid-orange or yellow brown silty clay, often with blue-grey mottles, and occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions.

5.3 Area 1a

Prehistoric phase 1 – gully 8697 and oval enclosure gully 8698

5.3.1 A 6 m long, shallow east to west gully (8697) was potentially the earliest feature in Area 1a (Plate 4; Figs 2 and 3). This was slightly irregular in plan and had moderate or gently sloping straight sides and a concave base. It was between 0.22 m and 0.4 m wide and averaged just 0.05 m in depth, although it was somewhat deeper to the west (cut 8612; 0.18 m deep). The gully contained a single fill, probably formed by natural silting processes, from which no finds were recovered. Its function and date were uncertain.

5.3.2 Gully 8697 appeared to bisect the interior of ring ditch 8693 (see below) and coincided with a pit located at its centre (8699). However, the ring ditch and pit were clearly stratigraphically later than the gully (Fig. 8). The eastern end of gully 8697 was also thought to be cut by another gully (8698), which appeared to enclose a small oval area. Gully 8697 did not continue to the east beyond its intersection with gully 8698. This might indicate that the

features were broadly contemporary, particularly as the stratigraphic relationship was slightly ambiguous due to their shallow depth and the similarity of their fills.

5.3.3 Gully 8698 (Plates 5 and 6; Fig. 3) was difficult to define in plan, partially as it was somewhat insubstantial, but also because it coincided with patches of bioturbation, geological variation and several later pits and / or postholes (7974, 7981 and 7991; see below). It was also cut by ring ditch 8693, the eastern side of which was superimposed over the middle of the enclosure gully.

5.3.4 The area enclosed by gully 8698 measured 3.7 m east to west and up to 1.6 m north to south, being slightly wider at its open, eastern end. Its southern terminal turned to the north to partially block the eastern end of the enclosed area, whilst the northern terminal turned outwards to the north. Whether the opening was a genuine entrance, or a result of truncation could not be established due to the shallow depth of the gully.

5.3.5 The profile of gully 8698 was variable, although this may be partially explained by its shallow depth (Fig. 8). It ranged varied between 0.1 m and 0.5 m in width, and between 0.1 m and 0.21 m in depth, being particularly narrow and shallow to the south-west. It contained a single fill, which was generally interpreted as having formed through natural silting. No finds were recovered from the gully. The interpretation of enclosure gully 8698 was inconclusive due to its unusual morphology and lack of dating evidence.

5.3.6 A single potentially associated feature was located within the space enclosed by gully 8698 This was a small, very shallow pit (7946), which measured 0.52 m by 0.42 m across and 0.05 m deep. The pit was initially interpreted as the base of a possible heavily truncated unurned cremation grave due to the presence of occasional charcoal flecks and fragments of burnt bone in its fill. However, subsequent examination of the bone (total weight 7 g) established that this was derived from an animal. The only other finds recovered from this feature were five tiny fragments (4 g) of undiagnostic pottery and a piece of worked flint. This feature may have been contemporary with the extensive pitting belonging to a subsequent phase of activity (see below) rather than enclosure 8698.

Prehistoric phase 2 – ring ditch 8693 and internal features

5.3.7 The central part of Area 1a contained ring ditch 8693 (Plate 7 and front cover; Fig. 3), which was thought to represent the remains of a round barrow, probably of earlier Bronze Age date. As with oval enclosure gully 8698, it was not detected by the geophysical survey or evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2012a–b), and was poorly defined in plan upon initial exposure, requiring several episodes of hand cleaning to fully establish its extent. Approximately 50 % of the feature was excavated by hand.

5.3.8 The ditch varied between 0.3 m and 0.84 m in width, and 0.2 m and 0.44 m in depth. It was generally narrower and shallower in its south-eastern quadrant. The ditch had steeply or moderately sloping concave or straight sides and a flat or slightly concave base (Plate 4; Fig. 8). Although the eastern side of the ditch was disturbed by later pitting (see below), it appeared to form a continuous circuit, enclosing a circular space with a diameter of 6.8 m.

5.3.9 The ditch typically contained two or three fills, which were probably formed through natural silting processes. A single fill was recorded within more shallow sections of the ditch to the south-east. No conclusive evidence for any corresponding bank or internal mound was apparent within the fill sequence of the ditch or the overlying deposits. However, the excavators suggested that the fills may have accumulated within the ditch through the erosion of a central mound.

5.3.10 A small quantity of redeposited cremated human bone (60 g) was found in the secondary fill on the southern side of the ring ditch (cut 8595; context 8596). This material appeared to have entered the ditch from the north (Plate 8), possibly having eroded in from a disturbed grave within the interior of the ring ditch (perhaps originally inserted into a central mound). Other finds recovered from the ditch fills comprised 14 pieces of worked flint (including at least one piece of residual Mesolithic material; see Harding, below) and a tiny fragment of animal bone (1 g).

5.3.11 A sub-circular pit (8699) was located in the centre of the space enclosed by ring ditch 8693 (Fig. 3). Two opposing quadrants of the pit were initially excavated and recorded. The remaining quadrants were then fully excavated (Plate 9). The pit had moderately sloping straight sides and a flat base. It measured 0.94 m by 0.84 m and was just 0.13 m deep. It contained a single fill, consisting of a light-mid grey sandy loam with orange mottles. The only finds from the feature were a tiny fragment of animal bone (1 g) and a piece of worked flint. Given its size, shape and position in relation to the ring ditch, the 'pit' (8699) may have been an empty inhumation grave; the absence of human bone perhaps due to the nature of the local geology.

5.3.12 Two other small pits or postholes were located within the interior of the ring ditch. One of these (8624), located near its southern edge, was 0.3 m in diameter and 0.18 m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. A very small quantity of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery (one sherd, 4 g) and a piece of worked flint were recovered from the single fill of the feature. The other feature (8672) was situated immediately inside the north-eastern quadrant of the ring ditch. It was of a similar shape and size to 8624 but produced no finds. These features may have been contemporary with other, later pits and postholes (see below) in the immediate area, rather than the ring ditch.

Prehistoric phase 3 (Early Iron Age?) – pits and postholes

5.3.13 Area 1a contained numerous, usually small and shallow discrete features, most of which were inconclusively dated (Figs 2 and 3). These were interpreted as either pits or postholes. In many instances, however, it was not possible to definitively categorise these features based on their morphology or fill sequences. These were generally half-sectioned, recorded and then fully excavated. Bulk samples were taken from the fills of a selection of these features. Several examples were initially identified as possible cremation graves (7956, 7962, 7966, 7970, 7987, 7964, 7998, 8503, 8511, 8513, 8516, 8544, 8553 and 8683). These were excavated in quadrants and their fills comprehensively sampled. However, subsequent assessment identified no human bone amongst the artefactual assemblages retrieved from the features, and it seems doubtful that any of these contained any cremation related deposits. Consequently, these features were reinterpreted as either pits or postholes.

5.3.14 In total, 72 features were assigned to this phase (refer to Appendix 1). A shallow pit in Trench 49 of the preceding evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2012b) may have also been associated with these features.

5.3.15 The features were typically sub-circular in plan and varied from 0.04 m to 0.4 m in depth (only five examples were more than 0.3 m deep), and between 0.11 m and 0.57 m in diameter. Most contained a single fill, usually interpreted either as a secondary fill or deliberate backfill, although a few contained two or three deposits.

5.3.16 The specific chronology and sequence of the features could not be resolved, largely due to the relatively undiagnostic character of the pottery assemblage. Forty-three examples contained pottery that could be assigned a broad prehistoric or late prehistoric date. Only

two of these features (7960 and 8553) produced sherds that could be confidently dated to a specific period. Probable shallow pit 8553 contained the remains of an Early Iron Age vessel (Object Number (ON) 3; 162 sherds, 768 g) (Plate 10) in addition to seven other sherds (56 g). Posthole 7960 (Fig. 9) contained two sherds (12 g) of probable Early to Middle Iron Age date, along with 18 sherds of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery (25 g). A worked shale bracelet (ON 2) of probable Iron Age date was also retrieved from the base of posthole 8585 (Fig. 9), which contained no other finds.

5.3.17 Pottery was generally recovered in small quantities (<50 g) from the pits and postholes assigned to this phase, although slightly larger assemblages were also retrieved from 7924 (150 sherds, 173 g) (Plate 11) and 8685 (10 sherds, 97 g) (Plate 12; Fig. 9). Other finds recovered from the features included animal bone, burnt flint, fired clay, worked flint and tiny quantities of probable fuel ash slag. These materials were typically only present in very small quantities, with the principal exception of fired clay from 8520 (161 g) and 8558 (148 g).

5.3.18 Twenty-six features assigned to this phase contained no artefactual material. However, these examples, along with others that produced no datable finds, were considered likely to be contemporary due to their similarity in form and spatial clustering / associations.

5.3.19 More than one phase of activity may have been represented by the features, particularly given their density and occasional instances of intercutting (eg, 8562, 8558 and 8560, or 8564 and 8566; Fig. 9). Some of the more inconclusively dated examples could have been contemporary with the earlier oval enclosure (8698) or ring ditch (8693), although most, if not all seem to have been created during a subsequent phase (or phases) of activity. Two examples (8662 and 7991) were cut into the upper fills of ring ditch 8693, whilst others (8676 and 7981) were cut through oval enclosure gully 8698, indicating that these earlier features had been at least partially infilled by the time the pits/postholes were dug.

5.3.20 The pits and postholes were predominantly clustered to the east of ring ditch 8693 and oval enclosure 8698 (Fig. 3), their frequency rapidly decreasing towards the edges of excavation area (Fig. 2). At least two broad trends could be distinguished within the distribution of those to the east of the ring ditch. One group, which appeared to form an arc with a diameter of around 9–10 m, possibly represented the remains of a structure (Fig. 3). The arrangement of other pits to the east of ring ditch 8693 exhibited a marked linearity, with several closely spaced examples following a north-west to south-east alignment (Fig. 3). Due to the density of features in this area, other potentially genuine spatial associations, or sub-groups could not be readily discerned. Another group of 15 pits and / or postholes, more dispersed, less numerous and often comparatively large, lay to the north-west, west and south-west of ring ditch 8693. These did not seem to be arranged in any obviously coherent / structural pattern.

Features of uncertain date

5.3.21 The south-western part of Area 1a (Fig. 2) contained two intersecting gullies (8700 and 8694) of uncertain date and function, the earliest of which was 8694. These were slightly irregular and sinuous in plan, and were of similar proportions, measuring on average 0.2 m to 0.3 m in width and 0.2 m in depth. No finds were recovered from the gullies.

5.3.22 A further irregular linear feature (8696), some 5 m long, was located approximately 6.5 m south-east of gullies 8700 and 8694 (Fig. 2). This varied between 0.55 m and 1.4 m in width and was up to 0.48 m deep. It had steep, straight sides and an irregular base. No finds were recovered from this feature. The interpretation of 8696 was uncertain; it was possibly associated with undated gullies 8700 and 8694, although the excavator considered that a geological origin was likely.

5.3.23 Five small, shallow postholes (7916, 7918, 7920, 7922 and 7944) were excavated in the south-east corner of Area 1a (Fig. 2). These were typically less than 0.2 m deep and varied between 0.14 m and 0.42 m in diameter. The postholes formed a right-angle in plan, suggesting that they may have once formed part of a fenced enclosure. These features may have been of broadly similar (ie, later prehistoric) date to those clustered around ring ditch 8693 in the centre of the excavation area. However, none produced any datable finds and, since these lay some distance from the main concentration of prehistoric features, may have derived from another phase of activity. Another undated feature (7937), some 0.9 m long, 0.38 m wide and 0.12 m deep, was also located nearby, although this was thought to have possibly been of natural origin due to its irregular profile.

Natural features

5.3.24 Several excavated features were interpreted as tree-throw hollows or the result of other forms of bioturbation (7904, 7912, 7974, 7976, 7985, 8556, 8600, 8614, 8620 and 8622; Figs 2 and 3). Small quantities of fired clay and prehistoric pottery were recovered from tree-throw hollows 7904 and 8622. Tree-throw hollow 8556, in the eastern part of the excavation area, also produced late prehistoric and prehistoric pottery (four sherds, 35 g) as well as a small quantity of worked flint and fired clay. No finds were recovered from the other natural features.

5.4 Area 1b

Features of uncertain (post-medieval?) date

5.4.1 Area 1b (Plate 13; see Fig. 6) contained a linear group of 14 small, shallow postholes, of which seven were excavated (8540, 8542, 8549, 8551, 8691, 8687 and 8689). The postholes were spaced approximately 1 m apart and appeared to form part of a NNE – SSW fence line (8695), which was at least 15 m long. The postholes were sub-circular in plan and ranged between 0.3 m and 0.6 m in diameter and 0.1 m and 0.16 m in depth. The only find from the postholes was a single sherd (5 g) of late prehistoric pottery from 8542. However, the sherd may have been residual, as the fence line followed the same orientation as the adjacent field boundary, suggesting that they were broadly contemporary (ie, post-medieval).

5.4.2 The only other feature excavated in Area 1b was a sub-circular pit (8547), located to the south of the postholes. This measured 1.08 m in length, 0.78 m in width and was 0.2 m deep. It had moderately sloping concave sides and a concave base. The pit contained a single fill, from which no finds were retrieved.

5.5 Area 2

Later prehistoric – ring gully 9596 / posthole group 9597 and potentially associated features

5.5.1 The central part of Area 2 contained a concentration of features (Figs 4 and 5), which had not been identified by the geophysical survey or evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2012a-b). These were sealed by a thin, residual layer of colluvium (8003) and partially obscured by patches of bioturbation (eg, 9582/9586 and 9590). The colluvium was removed, and the area carefully cleaned by hand to accurately define the features. A small quantity of probable (residual) Early Bronze Age pottery (11 sherds, 58 g) and several post-medieval sherds were retrieved from the colluvium.

5.5.2 The features in the central part of Area 2 included an incomplete ring gully (9596) (Plates 14 and 15; Fig. 5) with an internal diameter of 6.5 m, which was interpreted as the remains of a later prehistoric circular structure, or roundhouse. The gully was between 0.3 m and

0.6 m wide, and 0.05 m and 0.23 m deep. It generally had moderately sloping, concave sides and a flat or slightly concave base (Plate 16; Fig. 10). The gully contained a single fill, probably formed by natural silting, from which a small quantity of prehistoric pottery (five sherds, 10 g), worked flint and animal bone was recovered.

5.5.3 The 'terminals' of ring gully 9596 typically had gradually sloping edges which, combined with its overall shallow depth, suggested that differential truncation accounted, at least in part, for the intermittent nature of its eastern half. Whilst it was uncertain if the ring gully originally formed a complete circuit, a gap in the north-eastern side may have coincided with the position of an entrance. Equally, the ring gully may have once had an entrance to the south-east, if a short segment of gully (excavated slots 9542, 9544 and 9546) formed part of a separate curvilinear gully (9598; see below) rather than the continuation of 9596.

5.5.4 Five postholes (9503, 9505, 9515, 9517 and 9538; Plate 16; Fig. 10) were cut through the northern and eastern parts of ring gully 9596, whilst two further examples (8013 and 8015) occupied a gap on the eastern side of its circuit (Fig. 5). Although seemingly cut through the fill of the ring gully, these postholes (grouped together as 9597) were potentially contemporary with it. The postholes (9597) may indicate that the ring gully was a structural element (ie, that it originally held structural posts / mass-bearing walls) rather than a drainage gully.

5.5.5 The postholes were generally between 0.09 m and 0.21 m in depth, although one (9515) attained a depth of 0.55 m. They ranged between 0.32 m and 0.8 m across, and were sub-circular or oval in plan, with steep, straight sides and flat or concave bases. Each contained a single fill; no post-pipes or packing were evident. Comparatively large assemblages of late prehistoric pottery were recovered from two of these features; posthole 8013 (42 sherds, 120 g) and, particularly, posthole 8015 (441 sherds, 497 g). No finds were recovered from the other five postholes.

Later prehistoric(?) – other pits and postholes in area of ring gully 9596

5.5.6 The area enclosed by ring gully 9596 contained a scatter of seven other postholes (9554, 9556, 9564, 9566, 9568, 9573 and 9580; Fig. 5). These were all very small and shallow, typically measuring less than 0.1 m in depth and less than 0.5 m in diameter. Most were sub-circular in plan, although one example (9568) was somewhat elongated, which prompted the excavator to suggest that this may have been a pit or small beamslot rather than a posthole. The features typically contained a single fill, from which no finds were recovered. The postholes possibly represented the remains of structural components, internal partitions or other elements forming part of the roundhouse represented by ring gully 9596. Equally, some of these could have been associated with gully 9598 (see below) or may have been unrelated to either feature.

5.5.7 Two other similar, very shallow postholes (9519 and 9523) were located immediately outside the north-eastern edge of ring gully 9596. The only finds recovered from these features were a tiny fragment of prehistoric pottery (1 g) from 9523, and five pieces (7 g) of prehistoric pottery from 9519. The postholes may have also been related to the roundhouse represented by ring gully 9596 (eg, possibly representing structural supports used in its construction/repair or associated with some other form of contemporary activity).

5.5.8 An amorphous, shallow feature (9582/9586), some 2.4 m by 1.4 m across, was also located within the interior of ring gully 9596. This was initially thought to represent a potentially anthropogenic feature (eg, an eroded hollow formed during the use of the roundhouse), although subsequent excavation lead to its interpretation as a tree-throw hollow.

Later prehistoric(?) – curvilinear gully 9598

5.5.9 A small and shallow, curvilinear, or C-shaped gully (9598) coincided with the space enclosed by the projected circumference of ring gully 9596 (Plates 14 and 15; Fig. 5). It was not possible to establish the sequence in which gully 9598 and ring gully 9596 were formed as there was no physical contact between them and the finds recovered from the features could only be ascribed a broad prehistoric date.

5.5.10 Gully 9598 was intermittent, again possibly because of truncation. Projection of the arc described by the gully indicated that this may have once formed a complete circuit, enclosing a space around 4 m across. A small break recorded in the western side of the gully may have been due to truncation and / or a reflection of the difficulty in distinguishing the fills of the shallow feature from an underlying tree-throw hollow (9582/9586; see above). The gully had a larger gap in its south-eastern side, possibly coinciding with the position of an entrance (Plate 17). A short section of gully recorded as part of ring gully 9596 (see above; excavated slots 9542, 9544 and 9546) could, alternatively, have formed part of the eastern side of 9598.

5.5.11 Gully 9598 varied between 0.25 m and 0.67 m in width and 0.06 m and 0.22 m in depth. It had moderately or shallow sloping, concave sides and a concave or flattish base (Fig. 10). The gully generally contained a single fill, derived from natural silting, although two fills were recorded in deeper sections. A section excavated through the northern side of the gully (9578) contained the only finds recovered from the feature, comprising small quantities of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery (five sherds, 15 g), fired clay (1 g), animal bone (1 g) and four pieces of worked flint.

5.5.12 Gully 9598 may have formed the remains of another late prehistoric circular structure (along with that represented by ring gully 9596), which would indicate that two phases of buildings were constructed on approximately the same footprint. However, at just 4 m across internally, this would have been a particularly small structure, suggesting that it may have fulfilled an ancillary rather than domestic function, or that alternative interpretations are more plausible.

Later prehistoric(?) – other pits and postholes

5.5.13 Area 2 contained numerous other, typically small and shallow discrete features that were predominantly interpreted either as pits or postholes (Fig. 4; refer to Appendix 2). These were usually half-sectioned and recorded; some were fully excavated to aid finds recovery. Most of these features could not be conclusively dated or phased, largely due to a lack of chronologically diagnostic finds. However, it was suspected that most, if not all of these were of later prehistoric date, given their relative proximity to ring gully 9596 and other datable features. A small undated pit or posthole recorded in Trench 54 of the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2012b) may have also been associated with these features.

5.5.14 Two main groups could be discerned in the distribution of the pits and postholes. One of these comprised 11 examples scattered around ring gully 9596, mostly on its southern or eastern sides. These did not seem to form any coherent (ie, potentially structural) pattern. Eight of the features (8009, 8011, 8032, 8097, 9548, 9558, 9560 and 9562) contained no artefactual material. Postholes 8007 and 8017, located south-east and ENE of the ring gully, respectively, produced small quantities of prehistoric pottery, animal bone, fired clay and worked flint. A larger, sub-circular pit (9550) (Plate 18; Fig. 10) just over 2 m south of the ring gully contained animal bone (17 g), burnt flint (76 g), fired clay (1 g), a single worked flint and 23 tiny fragments of prehistoric pottery (26 g). It was infilled with a single deposit, which was interpreted as a deliberate backfill.

5.5.15 The other main group of pits and postholes was located in the western part of Area 2 (Fig. 4); all of these were confined to an area north-west of undated gully 9599 (see below). This group of features included 28 postholes, which were predominantly less than 0.3 m in diameter and 0.15 m in depth, and typically contained a single fill. One slightly larger example (8079), which measured up to 0.4 m across and 0.17 m deep (Fig. 10), contained several unworked stones, probably representing the remains of post-packing material. Five tiny sherds of prehistoric pottery (3 g) and a small quantity of animal bone (58 g) were retrieved from 8079. The only other finds recovered from these postholes comprised a piece of worked flint from 8069 and a small quantity of fired clay (6 g) from 8071. The distribution of the postholes exhibited a degree of regularity and linearity, suggesting that they originally formed parts of fenced enclosures and / or one or more rectangular post-built structures, although none could be clearly defined.

5.5.16 Two pits were also interspersed amongst the cluster of postholes in the western part of Area 2. Pit 8025, which measured 0.8 m in diameter and 0.14 m deep, contained a single deposit, probably a deliberate backfill (Plate 19; Fig. 10). It contained 10 sherds (27 g) of late prehistoric (possibly Middle/Late Bronze Age) pottery, a small quantity of animal bone (5 g), 65 pieces of fired clay (106 g), a piece of worked flint, a use-polished/worked stone object (ON 1) and several other pieces of unworked stone (not retained). The other pit (8027) was similar but slightly deeper and contained a primary fill which was overlain by a deposit interpreted as a deliberate backfill. The only finds from pit 8027 comprised three tiny sherds (1 g) of prehistoric pottery.

Features of uncertain date

5.5.17 A slightly curvilinear gully or shallow ditch (9599) crossed the central part of Area 2 (Fig. 4). It was around 0.5 m wide and extended roughly NNE – SSW for approximately 6.5 m before turning to the north-west at its northern end for another 3.5 m. Given its shallow depth of just 0.08 m, the feature may have been lost to truncation beyond its 'terminals'. No finds were recovered from the fill. The gully appeared to enclose the cluster of mostly undated postholes and pits in the western part of Area 2 (see above), suggesting that it may have been contemporary with them, although this may have been coincidental.

5.5.18 Another gully (9600) extended to the SSW for 7 m from the northern limit of Area 2. This was up to 0.4 m wide and, again, was very shallow at no more than 0.12 m deep. A very small quantity of potentially residual prehistoric pottery (1 g) was recovered from the fill. The gully intersected with another very shallow undated feature (9501), probably representing a truncated section of a separate gully or a pit, although the stratigraphic relationship between these features could not be established. The function of these features was unclear.

5.5.19 The eastern part of Area 2 contained a further short section of gully (8005). This was orientated WNW – ESE and was just 3.7 m long, presumably as a result of truncation. It was 0.54 m wide and 0.13 m deep. No finds were retrieved from the gully. Its date and function were uncertain.

Natural features

5.5.20 Area 2 contained several features that were interpreted as being of natural origin, none of which contained any artefactual material. These included a very shallow and irregular north to south aligned linear feature (8030), which was probably a channel formed by water erosion. A similar, unexcavated WNW – ESE feature crossed the southern edge of Area 2. The eastern side of ring gully 9596 was also cut through an amorphous area of geological variation (9590). Other natural features (8085, 8089, 9552, 9582 and 9586) were recorded as tree-throw hollows or localised areas of bioturbation.

5.6 Areas 3 and 4

Natural features

5.6.1 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered in Area 3 (Plate 20) and Area 4 (Fig. 6), although both areas contained patches of geological variation and bioturbation. These were tested by excavation in Area 4, which identified four features as tree-throw hollows or areas of root disturbance (7804, 7806, 7808 and 7810). The only finds recovered from Areas 3 and 4 were three pieces of CBM from tree-throw hollow 7806.

5.7 Area 5

Prehistoric(?) pit 8105

5.7.1 Area 5 (Fig. 6) contained a single archaeological feature. This was a small pit (8105), measuring 0.7 m in diameter and 0.17 m in depth, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It contained two fills, from which two pieces of worked flint and four small sherds (7 g) of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery were retrieved.

5.8 Area 6

Features of uncertain (post-medieval?) date

5.8.1 Ditch 8205 crossed the northern part of Area 6 (Fig. 6) on a WNW – ESE orientation. It was 0.8 m wide and 0.32 m deep, with moderately sloping concave sides and a concave base (Plate 21). No finds were recovered from the ditch. It ran parallel to the existing boundary dividing Fields E and F to the north and the canalised stream at the edge of Field H to the south. Given these shared alignments, the ditch was thought to have been of broadly similar date to the existing land divisions (ie, post-medieval) and probably associated with agricultural activity.

5.8.2 Area 6 also contained two small postholes (8207 and 8209), which were spaced 1.1 m apart. Both had steeply sloping sides and flat bases and measured approximately 0.24 m in diameter and 0.2 m in depth. A small oval pit (8215) was located nearby. This was 0.62 m long, 0.52 m wide and 0.16 m deep and had more gradually sloping, concave edges. The only other archaeological feature in Area 6 was another small pit (8211), which was situated slightly further to the west. This was 0.9 m long, 0.48 m wide and 0.12 m deep, and again had moderately sloping concave sides. No finds were recovered from any of these features. Their date and function were uncertain.

Natural features

5.8.3 Area 6 also coincided with a relatively large, amorphous feature (8213), which was interpreted as a possible pond or natural hollow. Its profile and shape in plan could not be established as the excavation area was almost immediately flooded due to heavy rainfall. The feature intersected slightly with pit 8211, although the presence of surface water prevented the stratigraphic relationship between these features from being established. No finds were recovered from 8213. Another small, irregular feature (8217) in Area 6 was thought to have either been a natural hollow or an area of bioturbated ground.

5.9 Area 7

Features of uncertain (post-medieval?) date

5.9.1 The north-western part of Area 7 (Plate 22; Fig. 7) contained a pair of shallow, intermittent, north-east to south-west aligned gullies (8331 and 8313), which were spaced 3 m apart. A further section of gully (8307) to the south-west probably represented the continuation of 8313. The gullies were of similar dimensions, measuring approximately 0.5 m wide and typically less than 0.2 m deep. No finds were recovered from the gullies. Gullies 8331 and

8313 appeared to be cut by a slightly larger north-west to south-east aligned ditch (8330). This was up to 0.8 m wide, 0.28 m deep and at least 17 m long. No finds were retrieved from the ditch. Although no dating evidence was recovered from these features, they conformed to the orientations of extant land divisions, suggesting that they had broadly contemporary (ie, probably post-medieval) origins and were likely associated with agricultural activity.

Natural features

5.9.2 The northern part of Area 7 contained an amorphous natural hollow (8321), which measured some 16 m by 11 m across and up to 0.34 m in depth. This was infilled with colluvial material, from which two pieces of worked flint were recovered. The deposit appeared to seal gully 8331. Three other small features (8309, 8317 and 8319) were tested through excavation and shown to have been the result of bioturbation. One of these (8317) was cut through ditch 8330. No finds were recovered from these natural features.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A small finds assemblage was recovered during the excavation. It is of Mesolithic to post-medieval date, but the largest component derives from later prehistoric activity. The finds have been cleaned (with the exception of the metal object) and quantified by material type in each context; this information has been summarised in Table 3. The condition of the material is very poor.

Table 2 Finds by material type (number of pieces/weight in grammes)

Material	No.	Wg (g)
Pottery *Prehistoric* *Romano-British* *Post-medieval*	1050 *1045* *1* *4*	2706 *2646* *11* *49*
Fired clay	97	626
Fuel ash slag	35	12
CBM	3	413
Flint	96	438
Burnt flint	189	87
Stone	1	706
Iron	1	12
Cremated human bone	-	56.5
Animal bone	227	207

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 A total of 1050 sherds of pottery, weighing 2706 g, was recovered. The pottery has been recorded to a Basic Level, in accordance with national guidelines (Barclay *et al* 2016). The assemblage is in extremely poor condition – the inclusions in the fabrics have leached, presumably the result of an aggressive burial environment, leaving highly abraded, pitted surfaces, poor edge definition, and a mean sherd weight of just 2.6 g. The assemblage is of prehistoric to post-medieval date, with the vast majority deriving from activity during the later prehistoric period. It derives from 70 contexts across 59 features, and layers of colluvium and subsoil. Only five features contained greater than 30 sherds, and of these, two contained less than 50 g. Of all contexts with more than 10 sherds recorded (with the

exception of post-medieval 8003), only two have a mean sherd weight greater than 4 g – pit 8511 (4.2 g) and pit 8553 (4.9 g).

Fabrics

6.2.2 The inclusions in most sherds had leached, but for the most part appear to have been calcareous; 13 sherds may have contained grog or calcareous inclusions. The inclusions in most of the calcareous fabrics are likely to have been shelly limestone (82.1% of the calcareous fabrics by count, 65.3% by weight), however an oolitic limestone fabric is also present (16.6% by count, 31.3% by weight). Most of the oolitic sherds were found in a single feature (pit 8553). The vessel forms recorded in the leached calcareous fabrics suggest a later prehistoric date for the wares. Other fabrics comprise sandy wares (2.4% of the number and 4.1% of the weight) and grog-tempered wares (2% of the number and 4.4% of the weight). Half of the grog-tempered sherds, from colluvial layer 8003 (Area 2), are of possible Early Bronze Age date.

6.2.3 A single sherd of Romano-British pottery, an oxidised ware, came from subsoil 7902. Four sherds of post-medieval redware were recorded from colluvium 8003.

Table 3 Quantification of pottery fabrics

Fabric	No.	Wg (g)
Prehistoric		
Leached (calcareous fabric)	807	1534
Leached (oolitic fabric)	166	775
leached (calcareous fabric, sandy matrix)	13	85
Leached (calcareous or grog)	13	22
Grog-tempered ware	21	118
Sandy ware	13	56
Fine sandy ware	12	56
Romano-British		
Oxidised ware	1	11
Post-medieval		
Redware	4	49
Total	**1050**	**2706**

Forms and distribution

6.2.4 Perhaps the earliest form is represented by a plain, rounded and undifferentiated rim from a tub-shaped vessel in a leached calcareous fabric, of possible Middle to Late Bronze Age date. It was found in pit 8025, located in the north-western part of Area 2.

6.2.5 The largest group of pottery derives from pit 8553 (169 sherds, 824 g), located approximately 2.6 m to the north-east of ring ditch 8693. Most (162 sherds, 768 g, ON 3) derive from a shouldered jar with upright rim and slightly concave neck, decorated with fingertip impressions on the shoulder (Brown 1984, form JB2) and broadly of Early Iron Age date (*c.* 600-400 BC). Burnt residue was noted on four of its sherds. Upright rims with a range of rim top profiles (flat, rounded, pointed), 180-220 mm diameter, may also derive from shouldered jars. These are in leached calcareous fabrics and were recovered from tree-throw hollow 8556 (three vessels) and pit 7906, both located approximately 12 m to the

east of ring ditch 8693. A jar of slightly convex profile with flattened rim top in a fine sandy fabric with smoothed surfaces came from posthole 7960, located 3 m to the east of the ring ditch. It is of Early to Middle Iron Age date. Two thin-walled, tripartite bowls, with internally bevelled rim, in leached calcareous fabrics, were recovered from pit 7931 and posthole 7939, located 15 m to the east and 15 m to the south-east, of ring ditch 8693 respectively. The rim diameter of the example from pit 7931 is 120-130 mm, the example from posthole 7939 was too incomplete to measure. A plain, rounded rim from another thin-walled vessel in a leached calcareous fabric, possibly a bipartite bowl, came from pit 7924, found 5 m to the south-east of the ring ditch.

6.2.6 Two externally expanded rims (in leached calcareous fabrics), flattened on top, came from postholes 8013 and 8015 of roundhouse 9596 in Area 2 and a third (in a sandy fabric) from colluvium layer 8003. They are broadly of later prehistoric date but too little survives to ascertain the vessel profile and refine the date range. A rather unusual sherd was recovered from pit 9550, Area 2. It has been quite crudely made but appears to be part of a square or rectangular shallow dish, with walls 17 mm high and up to 5 mm thick; the base is 7 mm thick. It is of similar appearance to lamps of the Romano-British period but the date of this particular vessel is uncertain. Of interest amongst the plain body sherds is the impression of a cereal spikelet (cannot be more closely identified) within a leached calcareous sherd from pit/posthole 8511.

6.3 Fired clay and fuel ash slag

6.3.1 The fired clay assemblage (97 pieces, 626 g) derives from 15 contexts (seven pits/postholes, three gullies, two tree-throw hollows and colluvium deposits). Most are small, abraded and amorphous fragments, likely to derive from oven/hearth linings or upstanding structures of prehistoric date. The fabric of the pieces is fine and sandy in texture and a marly yellowish brown colour. Two joining fragments from pit 8025 have one curved surface, however it is not possible to ascertain if they derive from a structure or a portable object such as a loomweight. The fired clay occurs in low concentrations, with only three features containing greater than 100 g (pit 8520, 27 pieces, 161 g; pit 8558, three pieces, 148 g; pit 8025, 15 pieces, 106 g).

6.3.2 Tiny pieces of fuel ash slag were recovered from bulk soil samples of four features: pits/postholes 8558, 8574, 8583 and 9550. These derive from a high temperature activity but are present here in insignificant quantities (maximum 4 g) and it is not possible to ascertain the nature of this activity.

6.4 Ceramic building material

6.4.1 Three fragments from curved ceramic roof tiles were recovered from tree-throw hollow 7806. They are in a hard, sandy orange fabric, 12–14 mm thick, and broadly of medieval to post-medieval date.

6.5 Flint

6.5.1 Fifty-two individual contexts produced a total of only 96 pieces of worked flint. This figure is inflated by the 23 chips, which were recovered from sieved residues and exaggerate the density of worked flint from the site.

6.5.2 Small nodules of poor-quality flint occur at the site and probably originate from fluvial or colluvial activity. Most of the raw material for tool production is likely to have been introduced or scavenged from local sources. This material is of good quality with no apparent thermal fractures.

6.5.3 The assemblage contains 44 flakes, 12 blade/lets and four scrapers, including a small, well-made end scraper from pit 7998. The largest collection of worked flints, comprising 14 individual pieces, was recovered from the fills of ring ditch 8693. A total of 23 pieces was recovered from postholes (11 features) and 20 from pits (15 features), however these totals include 15 chips and five chips respectively.

6.5.4 The relatively low density of material and the related poor quality of the contexts limits the information that can be extracted from the data. The most diagnostic individual artefact comprises a microburin from ring ditch 8693, which demonstrates Mesolithic activity at the site and confirms evidence from previous work in the area. It is possible that the 12 blade/lets and broken blade/lets from various contexts and a small core from the colluvium in Area 5 (8103) were also related to this activity. No other material merits comment.

6.5.5 A small quantity of burnt flint (189 pieces, 87 g) was recorded from pits 7956, 8520 and 9550, and colluvium in Area 2 (8003). The material is intrinsically undatable but is frequently associated with prehistoric activity.

6.6 Stone

6.6.1 A single stone object was recovered, in a fine-grained sandstone, from pit 8025 (ON 1). It is broadly rectangular in shape but tapering towards one end. It measures 120 mm x 55–80 mm x 40 mm. Two surfaces and one edge are very smooth and worn; the ends also show some damage that may result from use for pounding/grinding. The piece may therefore have been a multi-purpose implement, of uncertain date.

6.7 Shale

6.7.1 A shale bracelet was recovered from posthole 8585 (ON 2). It is quite a small example, with an external diameter of 70 mm and internal diameter of 50 mm. It is of probable Iron Age date and likely to derive from the Kimmeridge area of southern Dorset, located approximately 95 km to the south of the site.

6.8 Iron

6.8.1 A single iron object came from topsoil 8301 – a loop-headed spike of probable post-medieval date. It is 130 mm in length, the shank is square-sectioned and 5 mm thick, the head is 20 mm in diameter.

6.9 Human bone

6.9.1 Cremated human bone was found within a single context from the SSW segment (8595) excavated through ring ditch 8693 in the Area 1a. The form and location of the deposit (8596) suggest it represents redeposited material – rather than a discrete placed deposit – potentially derived from within the area described by the ring ditch. There is no artefactual evidence associated with the cremated remains, or from elsewhere within the ring ditch which, on the basis of stratigraphic evidence, is believed to be Bronze Age in date.

6.9.2 Fragments of charred or well oxidised animal bone were recovered from various deposits elsewhere on the site. In some instances, the few fragments found were too small and morphologically indistinct (heavily eroded) to state with confidence if they were animal or human in origin, but they were deduced to most likely represent the former.

Methods

6.9.3 The remains were subject to a rapid scan to assess the condition of the bone, demographic data, and the presence of pathological lesions. The type of cremation-related deposit

represented was assessed from the combined osteological and site context data. Assessments of age and sex were based on standard methodologies (Beek 1983; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000).

Results

6.9.4 Fragments of cremated bone were visible at surface level and distributed throughout the 0.22 m depth of the deposit together with very sparse inclusions of fine particle fuel ash. The majority (86%) of the 56.5 g of bone recovered lay in the upper 0.1 m of the fill; consequently, it is possible that some further bone could have been lost due to horizontal truncation, but given the overall small quantity of bone and observed distribution this is unlikely to have been substantial.

6.9.5 The bone is in exceptionally poor condition, being heavily eroded with a chalky appearance, and very little trabecular bone was recovered; at least some of the latter is likely to have been subject to taphonomic loss within the acid silty clay soil matrix.

6.9.6 The remains – which include fragments of tooth root, skull vault, petrous temporal, finger phalanges, and upper and lower limb bone shaft – represent those of a minimum of one adult >18 years of age. No readily observable sexually dimorphic traits were recorded, and no pathological lesions were observed in this rapid scan.

6.9.7 The bone is uniformly white in colour, indicative of full oxidation of the organic components. Although many of fragments are <10 mm in size this is likely to reflect the influence of taphonomic factors rather than any deliberate fragmentation of the bone after cremation.

6.9.8 Although the deposit is not considered to represent *in situ* burial remains, its presence does indicate that the mortuary rite of cremation was being undertaken in the area. The absence of other than very sparse inclusions of fuel ash suggest 8596 does not represent redeposited pyre debris, and the remains are likely to have derived from burial remains, a *memento mori* deposit or some other form of cremation-related deposit made in the immediate vicinity (McKinley 2013).

6.10 Animal bone

6.10.1 A total of 227 fragments (or 207 g) of animal bone came from features in Areas 1a and 2, including ring ditch 8693, roundhouse gully 9596 and numerous pits and postholes. Most are small undiagnostic fragments of burnt (calcined) eroded bone, a few, including those from roundhouse gully 9596, are unburnt teeth from cattle and sheep.

6.10.2 None of the animal bones are suitable for radiocarbon dating. Basic criteria (i.e. bones in articulation, mandibles retaining teeth and post-cranial elements with unfused epiphysis) used to identify securely stratified material for this purpose has not been met.

6.11 Conservation

6.11.1 The iron object will be x-rayed in accordance with current practise, however it does not warrant further conservation.

6.11.2 The shale will need to be treated with polyethylene glycol before controlled drying, prior to museum deposition.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Two hundred and forty-six bulk sediment samples were taken from a range of features of prehistoric chronology, such as ditches, gullies, pits and postholes, 130 of which were processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence at this stage. The samples break down into the following phase groups:

Table 4 Sample provenance summary

Phase	No. of bulk samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
Bronze Age	12	121.8	Ring ditches, pits
Early Iron Age	1	11	Pit
Prehistoric	11	148	Pits, gullies, postholes
Late Prehistoric	106	631.7	Pits, gullies, postholes
Totals	**130**	**912.5**	

7.2 Aims and methods

7.2.1 The purpose of this assessment is to determine the potential of the environmental remains preserved at the site to address project aims and to provide data valuable for wider research frameworks. The nature of this assessment follows recommendations set up by Historic England (Campbell *et al*. 2011).

7.2.2 The size of the bulk sediment samples varied between 0.15 and 39 litres, and on average was around 6.5 litres. The majority of the samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank, with the smaller samples being processed by bucket flotation; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6/4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse fractions (>5.6/4 mm) were sorted by eye and discarded. The flots were scanned using stereo incident light microscopy (Leica MS5 microscope) at magnifications of up to x40 for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds, the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g. *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as burrowing snails (*Cecilioides acicula*), or 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 of other environmental remains such as terrestrial and aquatic molluscs, animal bone and insects, 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. Mollusc nomenclature follows Anderson (2005).

7.3 Results

7.3.1 The flots from the bulk sediment samples were generally small and poorly preserved (Appendix 3). There were varying numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of some stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements.

7.3.2 Iron coated mature wood charcoal was noted in generally varying quantities and the remains of terrestrial molluscs were also present in some samples.

7.3.3 No other environmental evidence was preserved in the bulk sediment samples.

7.3.4 Small fragments of probable fuel ash slag were noted in some samples, and one sample contained a possible fragment of amber.

7.3.5 Only ten bulk sediment samples produced small assemblages of charred plant remains, these included wild and cultivated species.

7.3.6 Both samples from pit 9550, deposit 9551, contained *Hordeum vulgare* (barley) grains. One also produced *Triticum* sp. (wheat) grains and a glume base. *Corylus avellana* (hazel) nut shell was noted in the other.

7.3.7 Posthole 8015, deposit 8016, and curvilinear gully 9598 (cut 9578), deposit 9579, also produced barley grains, with wheat present in feature 8015. Posthole 8007, deposit 8008, contained only charred wheat grains.

7.3.8 Pits/postholes 7946, deposit 7947, 7958, deposit 7957, 8558, deposit 8559 and 8503, deposit 8504 were all mainly dominated by *Galium* sp. (bedstraw). Feature 7958, deposit 7957 contained unidentified Triticeae (cereal) grain fragments, and *Poa/Phleum* (meadow grass/cat's tail) was noted in feature 8503, deposit 8504. Posthole 8013, deposit 8014, produced only hazel nut shell fragments.

7.4 Discussion

7.4.1 Although the charred plant assemblages recovered from the bulk sediment samples were small and poorly preserved, the presence of cereal remains does indicate the existence of some domestic crop processing taking place on the site. The presence of hulled wheat suggests the assemblage is consistent with prehistoric agricultural activities, but the small number of remains does not allow further characterisation. Hazel nuts are a commonly exploited wild crop and charred shell fragments are typical of prehistoric pit depositional practices.

7.4.2 Wood charcoal recovered from samples containing charred plant remains may indicate domestic fires.

7.4.3 Terrestrial mollusc shells noted in two features are unlikely to provide any extra information regarding change of environment over time, due to the small size of the assemblages and lack of sampling sequence.

8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

8.1 Stratigraphic potential

8.1.1 The excavations produced evidence for several, albeit generally poorly dated phases of prehistoric activity within Area 1a and Area 2. The areas were extended sufficiently to be reasonably confident that remains associated with these episodes of activity were fully exposed, investigated and recorded in line with the aims and objectives outlined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017).

8.1.2 Although its date and function are uncertain, the small oval enclosure gully (8698) in Area 1a was amongst the earliest and potentially most interesting features recorded during

the work. The enclosure gully clearly pre-dated ring ditch 8693, which appears to have represented the remains of a round barrow, probably of earlier Bronze Age date. The juxtaposition of these features seems unlikely to be coincidental, suggesting that the enclosure may have influenced the siting and development of the later monument.

8.1.3 There is little potential for the interpretation of the ring ditch or the earlier enclosure to be enhanced by detailed examination of the stratigraphic data, due to the limited evidence for the original form of these features (or the monuments they formed a part of), a lack of dating evidence, and the paucity of artefactual remains or indications of associated (eg, funerary) activity. However, further consideration of their landscape context, particularly their position in relation to the local topography and other prehistoric remains, including two Early Bronze Age ring ditches recorded nearby at Showell Farm (Young and Hancocks 2006) and others at Rowden Park (Cotswold Archaeology 2018), could provide some insight into their use and development. Comparison with other excavated sites may also yield parallels that would provide some basis for the interpretation of the oval enclosure and its association with the later ring ditch. Radiocarbon dating of the cremated human bone found in the ditch would provide information relating to the use of the monument but would not establish the date of its construction.

8.1.4 Numerous pits and postholes in Area 1a are thought to have largely derived from one or more phases of later prehistoric (ie, Middle/Late Bronze Age – Iron Age) activity. The distribution of the pits and postholes suggest that the monument represented by ring ditch 8693 and, possibly, enclosure 8698 may have retained some surface expression and acted as the focus of this activity. Again, the published results from other excavations may provide comparisons that would enable this relationship to be more clearly understood.

8.1.5 Due to the density of the pits and postholes in Area 1a, it was not possible to conclusively distinguish meaningful interpretative groups or spatial patterning within their distribution at the assessment stage. However, more detailed examination of the site archive might identify subtle variations amongst the individual features that would enable a more refined assessment of their sequence and function. For example, it may be possible to establish whether the arc of pits / postholes immediately east of the ring ditch (Fig. 3) represented the remains of a post-built structure. Further information could also be provided by a consideration of the processes or activities leading to the incorporation of artefactual remains in some of these features. For example, are there indications of purposeful deposition or dumping of waste associated with domestic occupation (eg, postholes 8013 and 8015) and can specific zones of activity be identified?

8.1.6 Late prehistoric (ie, probable later Bronze Age – Iron Age) remains were also recorded in Area 2, although it was not possible to determine whether these were contemporary with the pits and postholes recorded some 120 m north in Area 1a. The later prehistoric features in Area 2 are consistent with small-scale domestic occupation. These comprised the remains of a probable roundhouse, possibly another smaller circular structure of similar date built on approximately the same footprint, and a scatter of pits containing broadly datable finds. Numerous other postholes and a few pits and gullies may have been associated with these features, although these could not be dated.

8.1.7 The potential for further analysis of the stratigraphic evidence from Area 2 is limited by the relatively sparse and undiagnostic nature of the finds assemblage, the frequently insubstantial nature of the features and the indistinct character their fills. Nevertheless, a modest improvement in the understanding of the results from Area 2 might be achieved through a review of other published and unpublished later prehistoric settlement sites in the surrounding area.

8.1.8 Few other traces of prehistoric activity were recorded elsewhere during the investigations, with the principle exception of an isolated pit in Area 5. The only indication of Romano-British activity was provided by a single piece of greyware from a pit in Trench 49 of the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2012b) and a single sherd from the excavation. The paucity of Romano-British remains is in marked contrast to the evidence recovered from other sites investigated nearby (eg, OAU 1991; Anon 1993; Cotswold Archaeology 1998a; 1998b; 2014; 2017a; 2018; Young and Hancocks 2006). This seems to provide a genuine reflection of variability in the distribution and character of activity in the local area during this period.

8.1.9 Other archaeological features recorded in Area 1b and Areas 3–7, and elsewhere within the development site during the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2012b), were either undated and could not be accurately characterised, or were thought to be related to the development of the late post-medieval agricultural landscape. These are of negligible significance, and subsequent analysis of the stratigraphic evidence produced by their investigation has no potential to yield additional information.

8.1.10 Based on the results of the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2012b), the original research objectives specified in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017) were focused on the development and utilisation of the landscape throughout the Middle Bronze Age to Romano-British period. Whilst significant later prehistoric (ie, later Bronze Age / Iron Age) remains were encountered, notable evidence for potentially earlier phases of activity, which had not been anticipated, was also recorded. Conversely, virtually no traces of Romano-British activity were evident. Consequently, the research aims of the project have been revised to reflect this (see section 9.2).

8.2 Finds potential

Pottery

8.2.1 The potential of the pottery to address the research aims of the project is limited by its condition and distribution. Only two features contained greater than 30 sherds, and the vast majority of the material is highly abraded and leached. The more diagnostic elements of the assemblage are indicative of later prehistoric activity on the site, probably during the Early Iron Age.

Human bone

8.2.2 Full analysis of the bone might provide more detailed demographic data regarding the age and sex of the individual. Radiocarbon dating of a sample of bone from the deposit will not only assist in establishing the date of the cremation itself, and thereby the potential nature and function of 8596 within the mortuary process, but will also help clarify the date of the ring ditch.

Animal bone

8.2.3 The animal bone has no potential for further analysis – the assemblage is the product of poor preservation conditions and offers no opportunity for radiocarbon dating to enhance the site chronology.

Other finds

8.2.4 The worked flint has demonstrated Mesolithic activity on site, but the bulk of the assemblage occurs in low concentrations and has limited potential for further analysis. The fired clay, burnt flint and stone implement derive from domestic activity during the prehistoric period. The iron object and ceramic tile fragments provide very limited evidence of post-medieval activity.

8.3 Environmental potential

Charred plant remains

8.3.1 The small size and poor preservation of the charred plant assemblages means they have little potential to provide any extra information on the nature of the site, the local environment, local agricultural practices, and crop husbandry techniques and their evolution over time. The presence of weed seeds can help to characterise crops but, as they are present in such small quantities, it is unlikely in this case.

Wood charcoal

8.3.2 Analysis of the wood charcoal has little potential due to the imprecise prehistoric chronology and uncertain nature of the activities occurring at the site.

8.4 Summary of potential

8.4.1 The research potential of the stratigraphic data is restricted by the imprecisely resolved chronology of the excavated features and the sparse and poorly preserved nature of the artefactual and palaeo-environmental assemblages. Nevertheless, the results of the work have the potential to enhance existing understanding of prehistoric activity in the surrounding area, and to aid the contextualisation of previous and future discoveries.

8.4.2 Whilst the evidence of later prehistoric occupation in Area 2 is of local significance, the phases of activity recorded in Area 1a are of greater interest. The siting of the ring ditch in this area, probably the remains of an earlier Bronze Age round barrow, appears to have been influenced by a pre-existing, small oval enclosure and, in turn, seems to have endured as a focus of activity into later prehistory. Whilst not unprecedented, such instances of sequential phases of activity have the potential to provide valuable insights, rendering the evidence from Area 1a of possible regional importance. Consequently, the potential significance of the results, which could be realised through the recommendations outlined in Section 9, merits dissemination through publication.

9 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

9.1 Recommendations and proposed methodologies for analysis

Stratigraphic evidence

9.1.1 Limited re-examination of the stratigraphic evidence and spatial analysis is recommended. It is proposed that this would primarily focus on the dense concentration of pits and / or postholes in Area 1a, with the aim of refining the sequence and interpretation of these features and the forms of activity they represent. The project database, begun at assessment stage, will require updating (re-phasing, re-grouping etc.).

9.1.2 It is also recommended that a review of published and unpublished excavations is undertaken to place the results of the work in context and to enhance the interpretation of the stratigraphic evidence. This would entail an attempt to find parallels that would aid the interpretation of the small oval enclosure (8398) in Area 1a. The later ring ditch (8693) would be compared with similar features recorded elsewhere, including those at Showell Farm and Rowden Park (Young and Hancocks 2006; Cotswold Archaeology 2018). Incidences of sequential phases of prehistoric activity that could be analogous to that seemingly manifested by the oval enclosure, ring ditch and later pits and postholes in Area 1a would also be sought. Finally, the character and distribution of later prehistoric settlement in the local area would be reviewed to contribute to a discussion of the remains recorded in Area 2 (and potentially also Area 1a).

9.1.3 The overall landscape context of the remains identified in Area 1a and Area 2 should also be examined and described with reference to aspects of the natural environment (eg, local topography, position in relation to watercourses) and other potentially contemporary sites recorded in the local area (eg, Young and Hancocks 2006; Cotswold Archaeology 1998a; 1998b; 2014; 2017a; 2017b and 2018).

Finds

Pottery

9.1.4 The condition of the pottery is such that further analysis is considered unwarranted. The data collected during this assessment should be incorporated into any future reporting, and the assemblage discussed in its regional setting. Three vessels may be illustrated.

Human bone

9.1.5 Analysis of the cremated bone will follow the writer's standard procedures (McKinley 1994, 5–6; 2004). The unsorted <4mm residues will be subject to a rapid scan at this stage to extract any identifiable material, osseous or artefactual.

9.1.6 The age of the individual will be further assessed using standard methodologies (Beek 1983; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). Sex will be assessed from the sexually dimorphic traits of the skeleton (Bass 1987; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Gejvall 1981). Pathological lesions will be recorded in text and via digital photography.

9.1.7 The form and nature the deposit will be further considered in light of the osteological and other finds data, together with the full context data. Aspects of pyre technology and the cremation mortuary rite will be discussed within the appropriate temporal context. In order to clarify the latter, it is strongly recommended that a radiocarbon date is be obtained on a sample of bone.

Other finds

9.1.8 The other finds have been recorded to a sufficient level and no further analysis is proposed, although the information presented here will be incorporated into any future reporting. The stone object and shale bracelet should be illustrated.

Environmental evidence

9.1.9 The charred plant remains and charcoal assemblages have little potential and require no further analysis, but the results should be included in any future publication. The extracted charred plant remains and the flots are recommended for retention, the residues and unprocessed samples for discard.

9.2 Updated project aims

9.2.1 The revised project aims are to:

- determine, through scientific methods, the date of the cremated human remains from the ring ditch in Area 1a;
- gain a better understanding of the sequential phases of prehistoric activity represented by the oval enclosure, ring ditch and later pits / postholes recorded in Area 1a; and
- place the evidence from Area 1a and Area 2 in its local and regional context through discussion of the results in relation to comparable sites.

9.6 Management structure

9.6.1 Wessex Archaeology operates a project management system. The team will be headed by a Post-excavation Manager, who will assume ultimate responsibility for the implementation and execution of the project specification as outlined in the Updated Project Design, and the achievement of performance targets, be they academic, budgetary, or scheduled.

9.6.2 The Post-excavation Manager may delegate specific aspects of the project to other key staff, who will both supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. They may also undertake direct liaison with external consultants and specialists who are contributing to the publication report, and the museum named as the recipient of the project archive. The Post-Excavation Manager will have a major input into how the publication report is written. They will define and control the scope and form of the post-excavation programme.

9.6.3 The Post-excavation Manager will be assisted by the Senior Research Manager and Publications Manager, who will help to ensure that the report meets internal quality standards as defined in Wessex Archaeology's guidelines.

10 STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 Museum

10.1.1 The archive resulting from the excavation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. It is intended that the archive will be deposited with the Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes on completion of the project. An accession code will be obtained from the museum on deposition. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

10.2 Preparation of the archive

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

10.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- four cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
- seven files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics
- two 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 fully documented in the project archive.

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

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

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Area 1a: prehistoric phase 3 – pits/postholes

Cut	Fills	Finds	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Initial interpretation	Location
7906	7907	Flint, pottery	0.64	0.50	0.29	Pit	E of ring ditch 8693
7908	7909	Pottery	0.25	0.23	0.10	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693
7910	7911	Fired clay	0.44	0.35	0.24	Pit	E of ring ditch 8693
7914	7915	Pottery	0.27	0.23	0.14	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693
7924	7925	Animal bone, fired clay, flint, pottery	0.56	0.54	0.18	Pit	E of ring ditch 8693
7926	7927	None	0.38	0.30	0.20	Pit	E of ring ditch 8693
7928	7929-30	Flint, pottery	0.52	0.40	0.25	Pit	E of ring ditch 8693
7931	7932	Pottery	0.84	0.52	0.29	Pit	E of ring ditch 8693
7933	7934	Pottery	0.28	0.30	0.18	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693; part of arc or ring of similar features?
7935	7936	Pottery	0.36	0.40	0.28	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693; part of arc or ring of similar features?
7939	7940, 7943	Pottery	0.70	0.79	0.36	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693
7941	7942	None	0.59	0.32	0.18	Pit	E of ring ditch 8693
7946	7947	Animal bone, flint, pottery	0.52	0.42	0.05	Posthole / pit	E of ring ditch 8693; within interior of oval enclosure 8698
7948	7949-51	Flint, pottery	0.47	0.46	0.30	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693; part of arc or ring of similar features?
7952	7953	Prehistoric pottery	0.66	0.66	0.34	Pit	E of ring ditch 8693; part of arc or ring of similar features?
7954	7955	Prehistoric pottery	0.34	0.31	0.21	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693; part of arc or ring of similar features?
7956	7957	Animal bone, burnt flint, fired clay, flint, prehistoric / late prehistoric pottery	0.62	0.57	0.18	Posthole / pit	E of ring ditch 8693
7958	7959	Animal bone, flint, pottery	0.54	0.45	0.13	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693
7960	7961	Prehistoric / late prehistoric pottery	0.64	0.38	0.26	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693
7962	7973	Prehistoric pottery	0.36	0.35	0.08	Posthole / pit	E of ring ditch 8693
7964	7965	None	0.44	0.36	0.09	Posthole / pit	E of ring ditch 8693
7966	7967	None	0.27	0.27	0.04	Posthole / pit	E of ring ditch 8693
7968	7969	Late prehistoric pottery	0.38	0.30	0.18	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693
7970	7971	Prehistoric pottery	0.00	0.00	0.00	Posthole / pit	E of ring ditch 8693
7972	7973	None	0.20	0.17	0.12	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693
7979	7980	Animal bone, prehistoric pottery	0.38	0.36	0.17	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693
7981	7982	None	0.47	0.46	0.07	Pit	E of ring ditch 8693, cut into oval enclosure gully 8698
7983	7984	None	0.43	0.40	0.10	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693
7987	7988	Animal bone, flint, prehistoric pottery	0.37	0.37	0.26	Posthole / pit	E of ring ditch 8693
7989	7990	None	0.34	0.24	0.10	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693

Cut	Fills	Finds	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Initial interpretation	Location
7991	7992-3	Flint, prehistoric / late prehistoric pottery	0.52	0.60	0.20	Posthole	Cut into E side of ring ditch 8693; part of arc or ring of similar features?
7994	7995	Flint, prehistoric pottery	0.44	0.42	0.13	Pit	E of ring ditch 8693
7996	7997	None	0.80	0.44	0.16	Pit	E of ring ditch 8693
7998	7999	None	0.28	0.28	0.12	Posthole / pit	E of ring ditch 8693
8501	8502	Prehistoric pottery	0.57	0.53	0.06	Pit	E of ring ditch 8693
8503	8504	Animal bone, flint, prehistoric pottery	0.45	0.30	0.21	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693
8505	8506	None	0.42	0.38	0.14	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693
8507	8508, 8510	None	0.53	0.40	0.14	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693
8511	8512	Late prehistoric pottery	0.43	0.41	0.17	Posthole / pit	W of ring ditch 8693
8513	8514-5	Animal bone	0.73	0.42	0.40	Posthole / pit	NW of ring ditch 8693
8516	8517	Prehistoric pottery, slag	0.23	0.23	0.19	Posthole / pit	NW of ring ditch 8693
8520	8521	Burnt flint, fired clay, flint, prehistoric pottery	0.63	0.22	0.14	Pit	W of ring ditch 8693
8522	8523	Animal bone, flint, prehistoric / late prehistoric pottery	0.52	0.32	0.14	Pit	W of ring ditch 8693
8526	8527-8	None	0.46	0.48	0.18	Posthole	NW of ring ditch 8693
8529	8530-1	Prehistoric / late prehistoric pottery	0.45	0.55	0.14	Posthole	NW of ring ditch 8693
8532	8532	None	0.30	0.26	0.14	Posthole	SW of ring ditch 8693
8534	8535	None	0.20	0.20	0.11	Posthole	SW of ring ditch 8693
8536	8537	Pottery	0.48	0.25	0.13	Posthole	W of ring ditch 8693
8538	8539	None	0.37	0.46	0.16	Posthole	W of ring ditch 8693
8544	8545-6	Flint, pottery	0.49	0.47	0.15	Posthole	NW of ring ditch 8693
8553	8554-5	Flint, Iron Age pottery (including Early Iron Age vessel; ON 3)	Not defined	Not defined	0.10	Posthole / pit	E of ring ditch 8693
8558	8559	Animal bone, fired clay, flint, pottery, slag	0.46	0.46	0.19	Pit	E of ring ditch 8693
8560	8561	Prehistoric pottery	0.26	0.26	0.26	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693
8562	8563	None	0.34	0.24	0.08	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693
8564	8565	None	0.32	0.27	0.24	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693; part of arc or ring of similar features?
8566	8567	Late prehistoric pottery	0.00	0.39	0.15	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693; part of arc or ring of similar features?
8568	8569	Prehistoric pottery	0.25	0.24	0.20	Posthole	SW of ring ditch 8693
8570	8571	None	0.20	0.20	0.10	Posthole	SW of ring ditch 8693
8572	8573	None	0.21	0.22	0.05	Posthole	SW of ring ditch 8693
8574	8575	Animal bone, flint, prehistoric pottery, slag	0.39	0.37	0.16	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693; part of arc or ring of similar features?

Cut	Fills	Finds	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Initial interpretation	Location
8576	8577	None	0.42	0.34	0.18	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693; part of arc or ring of similar features?
8578	8579	None	0.30	0.20	0.25	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693; part of arc or ring of similar features?
8583	8584	Prehistoric / late prehistoric pottery, slag	0.38?	0.38	0.12	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693; part of arc or ring of similar features?
8585	8500	Shale bracelet (ON 2)	0.28	0.24	0.16	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693
8602	8603	Stone	0.20	0.18	0.17	Posthole	SW of ring ditch 8693
8624	8625	Flint, prehistoric pottery	0.31	0.29	0.18	Posthole	Within interior of ring ditch 8693
8651	8652	None	0.22	0.22	0.19	Pit	Immediately NE of ring ditch 8693
8662	8663-4	Prehistoric pottery	0.60	0.60	0.23	Posthole	Cut into E side of ring ditch 8693; part of arc or ring of similar features?
8672	8673	None	0.20	0.20	0.20	Posthole	Within interior of ring ditch 8693
8676	8677	None	0.24	0.24	0.05	Posthole	E of ring ditch 8693, cut into oval enclosure gully 8698
8683	8684	Animal bone, pottery	0.21	0.11	0.04	Posthole / pit	E of ring ditch 8693
8685	8686	Animal bone, prehistoric pottery	0.00	0.62	0.30	Pit	E of ring ditch 8693; part of arc or ring of similar features?

Appendix 2. Area 2: later prehistoric(?) pits/postholes

Cut	Fills	Finds	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Initial interpretation	Location
8007	8008	Fired clay, flint, prehistoric pottery	0.34	0.32	0.11	Posthole	SE of ring gully 9596
8009	8010	None	0.60	0.66	0.12	Pit	E of ring gully 9596
8011	8012	None	0.68	0.50	0.13	Posthole	E of ring gully 9596
8013	8014	Prehistoric / late prehistoric pottery	0.32	0.32	0.19	Posthole	Part of group 9597; cut into ring gully 9596
8015	8016	Late prehistoric pottery	0.80	0.44	0.21	Posthole	Part of group 9597; cut into ring gully 9596
8017	8018	Animal bone, prehistoric pottery	0.33	0.30	0.05	Posthole	E of ring gully 9596
8019	8020	None	0.21	0.19	0.05	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8021	8022	None	0.20	0.19	0.07	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8023	8024	None	0.19	0.14	0.04	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8025	8026	Animal bone, fired clay, late prehistoric pottery, stone (polished stone object; ON 1)	0.82	0.78	0.14	Pit	W of gully 9599
8027	8028-9	Prehistoric pottery	0.92	0.64	0.21	Pit	W of gully 9599
8032	8033-4	None	1.44	0.90	0.24	Pit	SW of ring gully 9596
8035	8036	None	0.35	0.26	0.11	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8037	8038-9	None	0.28	0.38	0.09	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8042	8043	None	0.18	0.18	0.07	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8044	8045	None	0.20	0.20	0.10	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8046	8047	None	0.20	0.20	0.09	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8048	8049	None	0.26	0.26	0.14	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8050	8051	None	0.21	0.21	0.07	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8052	8053	None	0.18	0.18	0.09	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8054	8055	None	0.26	0.26	0.09	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8056	8057	None	0.30	0.30	0.07	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8058	8059	None	0.32	0.32	0.11	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8060	8061	None	0.26	0.26	0.08	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8062	8063	None	0.22	0.22	0.09	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8064	8065	None	0.18	0.18	0.04	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8067	8068	None	0.26	0.18	0.09	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8069	8070	Flint	0.28	0.25	0.10	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8071	8072	Fired clay	0.34	0.34	0.12	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8073	8074	None	0.38	0.48	0.17	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8075	8076	None	0.56	0.50	0.16	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8077	8078	None	0.22	0.22	0.14	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8079	8080	Animal bone, fired clay, prehistoric pottery, stone	0.40	0.34	0.17	Pit / posthole	W of gully 9599
8081	8082	None	0.44	0.28	0.12	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8083	8084	None	0.18	0.26	0.15	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8087	8088	None	0.24	0.24	0.23	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8091	8092	None	0.20	0.20	0.06	Posthole	W of gully 9599
8097	8098	None	0.62	0.58	0.10	Pit	N of ring gully 9596

Cut	Fills	Finds	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Initial interpretation	Location
9503	9504	None	0.44	0.44	0.16	Posthole	Part of group 9597; cut into ring gully 9596
9505	9506	None	0.42	0.18	0.09	Posthole	Part of group 9597; cut into ring gully 9596
9515	9516	None	0.36	0.30	0.55	Posthole	Part of group 9597; cut into ring gully 9596
9517	9518	None	0.46	0.40	0.09	Posthole	Part of group 9597; cut into ring gully 9596
9519	9520	Prehistoric pottery, stone	0.30	0.30	0.07	Posthole	Immediately NE of ring gully 9596
9523	9524	Pottery	018	0.18	0.05	Posthole	Immediately NE of ring gully 9596
9538	9539	None	0.35	0.16	0.19	Posthole	Part of group 9597; cut into ring gully 9596
9548	9549	None	1.22	1.12	0.25	Pit	S of ring gully 9596
9550	9551	Animal bone, burnt flint, fired clay, flint, prehistoric (and possibly Romano-British) pottery, slag, stone	0.83	0.83	0.18	Pit	S of ring gully 9596
9554	9555	None	0.30	0.30	0.06	Posthole	Interior of ring gully 9596
9556	9557	None	0.24	0.24	0.05	Posthole	Interior of ring gully 9596
9558	9559	None	0.44	0.44	0.08	Posthole	S of ring gully 9596
9560	9561	None	0.40	0.42	0.06	Pit	S of ring gully 9596
9562	9663	None	0.22	0.22	0.11	Posthole	S of ring gully 9596
9564	9565	None	0.42	0.28	0.01	Posthole	Interior of ring gully 9596
9566	9567	None	0.20	0.20	0.01	Posthole	Interior of ring gully 9596
9568	9569	None	0.54	0.15	0.04	Posthole / pit / beamslot?	Interior of ring gully 9596
9573	9574-5	None	0.52	0.52	0.12	Posthole	Interior of ring gully 9596
9580	9581	None	0.21	0.21	0.10	Posthole	Interior of ring gully 9596

Appendix 3. Environmental data

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Comments (preservation)
8595	8596	8693	79222	18.4	20	70%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	4	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8608	8609	8693	79236	35	20	50%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	4	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8638	8639	8697	79245	3	10	95%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8638	8639	8697	79246	2	1	95%	-	-	-	-	-	Trace in smaller fractions	Mature	-	-
8646	8647	8698	79242	9	4	90%, C	-	-	-	-	-	Trace in smaller fractions	Mature	-	-
8653	8654	8698	79265	9	4	50%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	2	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8667	8668	8698	79256	25	15	50%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	3	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8674	8675	8698	79263	9	20	80%, C, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	2	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8640	8641	8699	79254	27	35	50%, C, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	15	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8640	8641	8699	79255	23	35	60%, E	-	-	-	-	-	10	Mature, iron coated	-	-
9507	9508	9596	80010	8	20	80%, C, I	-	-	-	-	-	1	Mature, some iron coating	-	-
9534	9535	9596	80022	38	30	80%, B, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	<1	Mature, some iron coating	-	-
8013	8014	9597	80002	16	35	50%, C, E	-	-	-	C	*Corylus avellana*	1	Mature, some iron coating	-	Poor (very small shell fragment)
8015	8016	9597	80003	20	20	60%, C, E, I	C	-	*Hordeum vulgare, Triticum* sp.	-	-	4	Mature, some iron coating	Moll-t	Poor
9578	9579	9598	80028	38	30	80%, C, E	C	-	*Hordeum vulgare*	-	-	1	Mature, some iron coating	-	Poor
7698	7969		79039	5	20	60%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	4	Mature, iron coated	-	-

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Comments (preservation)
7924	7925		79266	20	110	15%, E	-	-	-	-	-	70	Mature, some iron coating	-	-
7946	7947		79001	-	15	80%, E	-	-	-	C	*Galium* sp.	2	Mature, iron coated	-	Poor
7948	7949		79005	5	20	40%, E	-	-	-	-	-	7	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7948	7950		79047	9	30	20%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	10	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7952	7953		79006	26	60	30%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	25	Mature, iron coated	Indet	Poor
7954	7955		79007	7	20	80%, C	-	-	-	-	-	2	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7958	7957		79009	9	25	40%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	10	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7958	7957		79010	4	15	15%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	5	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7958	7957		79011	6.5	20	20%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	4	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7958	7957		79012	3	15	15%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	7	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7958	7957		79013	5	20	20%, C, E	C	-	Triticeae	C	*Galium* sp.	7	Mature, iron coated	Fuel ash slag	Poor
7958	7957		79014	3	20	10%, C	-	-	-	-	-	15	Mature, iron coated	Fuel ash slag	-
7958	7957		79015	4	25	10%, E	-	-	-	-	-	20	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7958	7957		79016	2.5	10	10%, E	-	-	-	-	-	3	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7958	7959		79041	6	20	70%, C, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	3	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7958	7959		79042	3	15	80%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	2	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7958	7959		79043	5	25	80%, C, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	3	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7960	7961		79018	1.7	3	50%, C	-	-	-	-	-	<1	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7960	7961		79019	1.5	3	50%	-	-	-	-	-	1	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7960	7961		79020	10	25	25%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	10	Mature, iron coated	-	-

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Comments (preservation)
7962	7963		79031	-	10	50%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	2	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7968	7969		79037	1.2	4	50%	-	-	-	-	-	1	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7968	7969		79038	1	3	90%, E	-	-	-	-	-	Trace	Mature, iron coated		
7970	7971		79050	1	3	90%	-	-	-	-	-	<1	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7970	7971		79051	1	4	70%, C	-	-	-	-	-	1	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7970	7971		79052	3	15	80%, C	-	-	-	-	-	1	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7979	7980		79058	1	4	15%, E	-	-	-	-	-	1	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7979	7980		79059	1	3	15%, E	-	-	-	-	-	<1	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7979	7980		79060	7	20	15%, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	7	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7987	7988		79081	17.3	50	15%, C, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	30	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7991	7992		79087	5	25	40%, I	-	-	-	-	-	8	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7991	7992		79088	10	30	30%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	15	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7991	7992		79089	10	35	15%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	20	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7991	7992		79090	9	35	15%, E	-	-	-	-	-	20	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7991	7992		79091	10	30	20%, C, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	20	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7994	7995		79099	2	15	10%	-	-	-	-	-	8	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7994	7995		79100	2	15	30%, I	-	-	-	-	-	4	Mature, iron coated	-	-
7994	7995		79101	7	25	30%, C	-	-	-	-	-	7	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8007	8008		80001	6	4	1%	C	-	*Triticum* sp.	-	-	<1	Mature	-	Poor
8026	8027		80004	26	45	60%, C, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	2	Mature, some iron coating	-	-

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Comments (preservation)
8079	8080		80006	10	15	90%, C, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	Trace in smaller fractions	Mature	-	-
8079	8080		80007	4	2	90%, C, I	-	-	-	-	-	Trace in smaller fractions	Mature	-	-
8079	8080		80008	3	3	90%, C, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	Trace in smaller fractions	Mature	-	-
8501	8502		79119	4.1	20	70%, C, I	-	-	-	-	-	2	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8503	8504		79127	16.7	40	40%, B, E, I	-	-	-	C	*Galium* sp., *Poa/Phleum*	15	Mature, iron coated	-	Poor
8511	8512		79133	2.5	30	5%, C, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	20	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8511	8512		79134	4	50	5%, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	40	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8511	8512		79135	8.5	60	15%, E	-	-	-	-	-	35	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8511	8512		79136	7	50	10%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	40	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8516	8517		79129	1	20	10%, E	-	-	-	-	-	10	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8516	8517		79130	1	35	5%, C	-	-	-	-	-	30	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8516	8517		79131	1	50	5%, E	-	-	-	-	-	40	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8520	8521		79141	5	50	10%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	35	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8520	8521		79142	2	15	30%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	7	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8520	8521		79143	18	150	5%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	125	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8522	8523		79165	6	20	10%, C, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	4	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8522	8523		79166	6	15	40%, C, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	4	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8522	8523		79167	10	20	40%, C, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	3	Mature, iron coated	-	-

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Comments (preservation)
8529	8530/8531		79156	3	20	25%, E	-	-	-	-	-	10	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8529	8530/8531		79157	2	25	15%, E	-	-	-	-	-	15	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8544	8545		79189	5	40	40%, C, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	20	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8544	8545		79190	7.5	60	50%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	30	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8544	8546		79191	4	30	40%, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	10	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8544	8546		79192	6	40	60%, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	5	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8558	8559		79185	2	4.5	40%	-	-	-	-	-	2	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8558	8559		79186	2	15	40%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	4	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8558	8559		79187	10	40	30%, E	-	-	-	C	*Galium* sp.	20	Mature, iron coated	Fuel ash slag, small frag of amber	Poor
8568	8569		79206	11	20	50%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	8	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8574	8575		79215	8	20	5%, E	-	-	-	-	-	10	Mature, iron coated	Fuel ash slag	-
8574	8575		79216	5	15	5%, E	-	-	-	-	-	10	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8574	8575		79217	9	30	2%	-	-	-	-	-	15	Mature, iron coated	Fuel ash slag	-
8624	8625		79239	3	10	80%	-	-	-	-	-	<1	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8624	8625		79240	3	4	15%	-	-	-	-	-	1	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8624	8625		79241	8	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	5	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8683	8684		79258	0.8	15	2%	-	-	-	-	-	10	Mature, iron coated	-	-
8685	8686		79267	16	50	5%, C, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	35	Mature, iron coated	-	-
9519	9520		80016	2	3	70%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	1	Mature, iron coated	-	-

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Comments (preservation)
9550	9551		80023	38	30	80%, B, E, I	C	-	*Hordeum vulgare*	C	*Corylus avellana*	<1	Mature, some iron coating	Fuel ash slag	Fair
9550	9551		80031	39	30	80%, A, E, I	C	C	*Triticum* sp. grains and glume base, *Hordeum vulgare* grains	-	-	<1	Mature	Moll-t, Fuel ash slag	Poor
	8554		79268	11	25	80%, E	-	-	-	-	-	2	Mature, iron coated	-	-

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

Appendix 4 OASIS record

OASIS ID: wessexar1-363740

Project details

Project name	Document title Land at Hunters Moon, Easton Lane, Chippenham, Wiltshire
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Bloor Homes South West to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising a strip, map and sample excavation of eight areas covering a total of 0.28 ha (2830 sq. m) Archaeologically significant features were predominantly confined to two of the excavated areas (Area 1a and Area 2). The dating evidence provided by the artefactual and paleoenvironmental assemblages was somewhat inconclusive. In many cases, however, features could be broadly assigned to distinct phases of activity based on form, associations and stratigraphic relationships. Area 1a contained a ring ditch, which probably represented the remains of an earlier Bronze Age round barrow. Area 2 contained an incomplete ring gully, which was associated with several postholes. These appeared to form the remains of a late prehistoric circular structure, or roundhouse. The few archaeological features in the remaining excavation areas were predominantly thought to be related to the development of the late post-medieval agricultural landscape or were undated and could not be accurately characterised.
Project dates	Start: 05-02-2018 End: 17-04-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	86510 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	ROUND BARROW Early Bronze Age
Monument type	ROUND HOUSE Uncertain

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE NORTH WILTSHIRE CHIPPENHAM Land at Hunters Moon, Easton Lane, Chippenham, Wiltshire
Postcode	SN14 0GT
Study area	0.28 Hectares
Site coordinates	ST 390280 171670 50.950160535864 -2.868083844193 50 57 00 N 002 52 05 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 55m Max: 75m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology

Project brief originator	Bloor Homes
Project design originator	Wessex archaeology
Project director/manager	Andrew Manning
Project supervisor	Darryl Freer

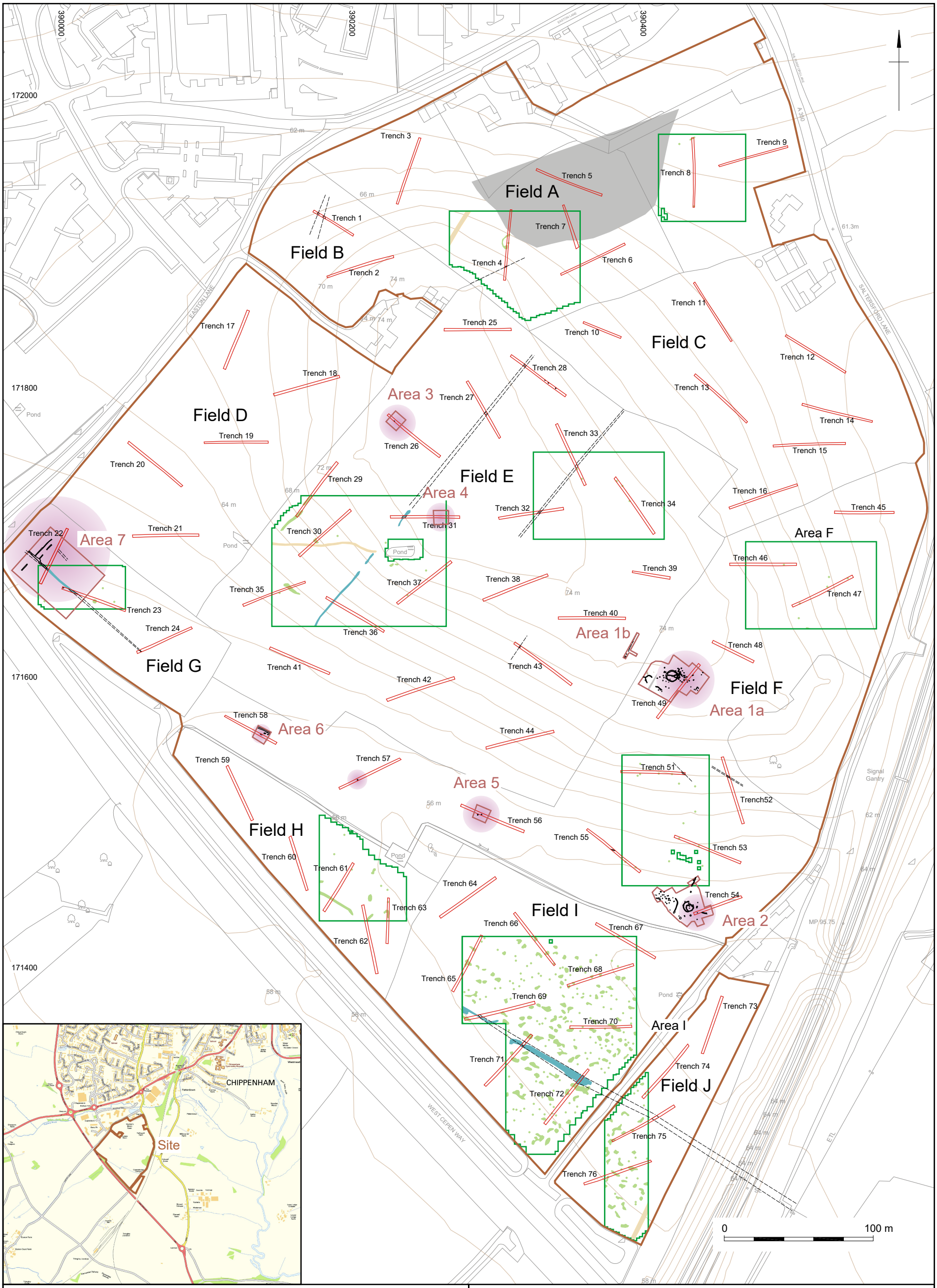
Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Wiltshire Museum Devizes
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Human Bones","Industrial","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Wiltshire Museum Devizes
Paper Archive recipient	Wiltshire Museum Devizes

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Document title Land at Hunters Moon, Easton Lane, Chippenham, Wiltshire,Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Wells, T
Other bibliographic details	86513.3
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Wessex Archaeology - Salisbury
Description	A4 bound, unpublished client report contains colour figures and plate

Entered by	Piotr Orczewski (p.orczewski@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	15 August 2019



Site
Excavation Area
Previous evaluation trench
Zone of archaeological activitity
Archaeological feature
Modern disturbance
Geophysical survey area
Geophysical interpretation:
Probable archaeology
Possible archaeology
Modern service

Date:	22/08/2019	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:40,000 & 1:2500 at A3	Illustrator:	KL/KJF
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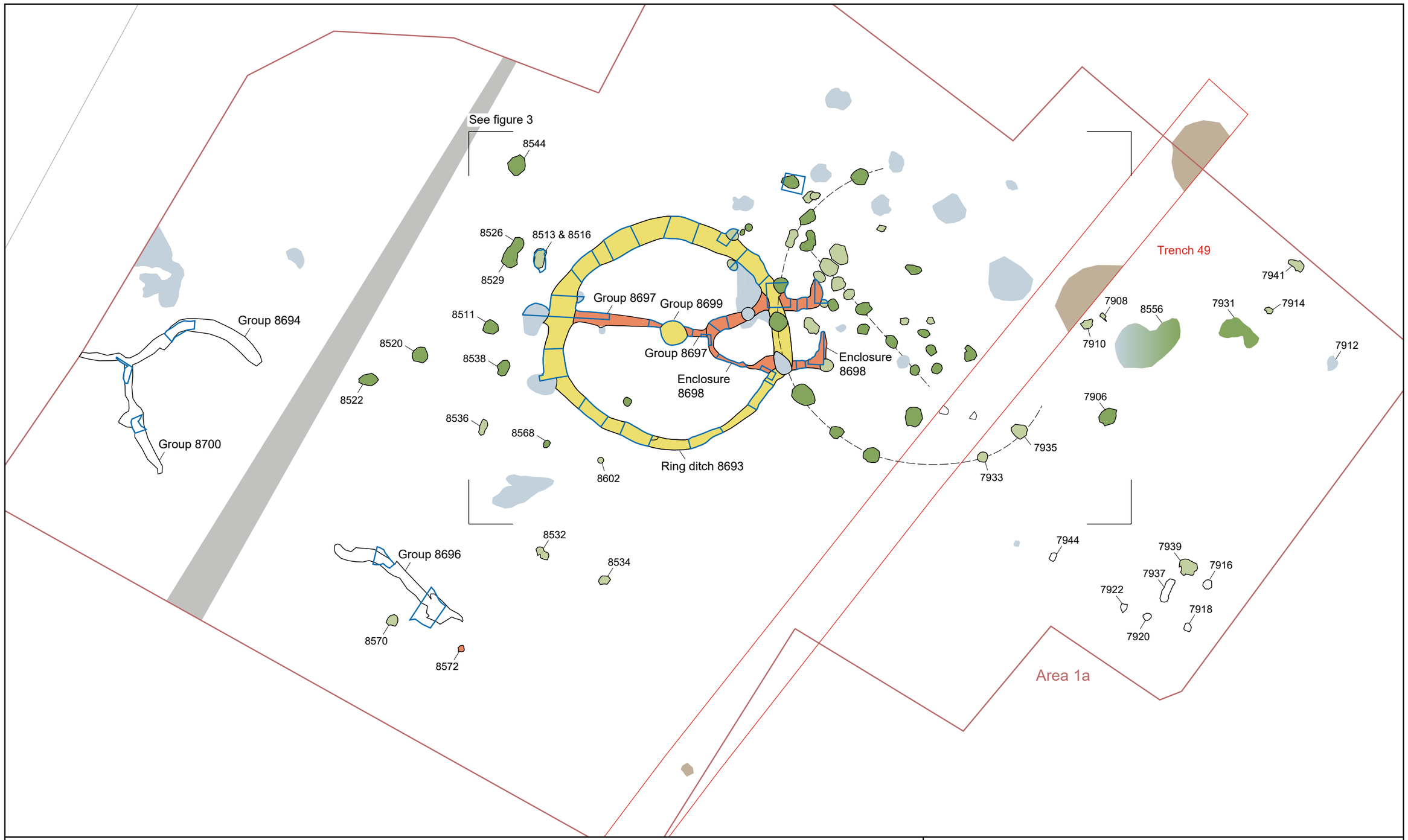
Site location plan, detailing geophysical survey, previous trenches and excavation areas

Figure 1



Coordinate system:
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

0 5 m

- Excavation Area
- Slot
- Previous evaluation trench
- Modern disturbance
- Tree throw
- Natural feature
- Prehistoric phase 1
- Prehistoric phase 2
- Prehistoric phase 3
- Prehistoric phase 3 (?)
- Undated feature

Date:	12/07/2019	Revision Number:	0
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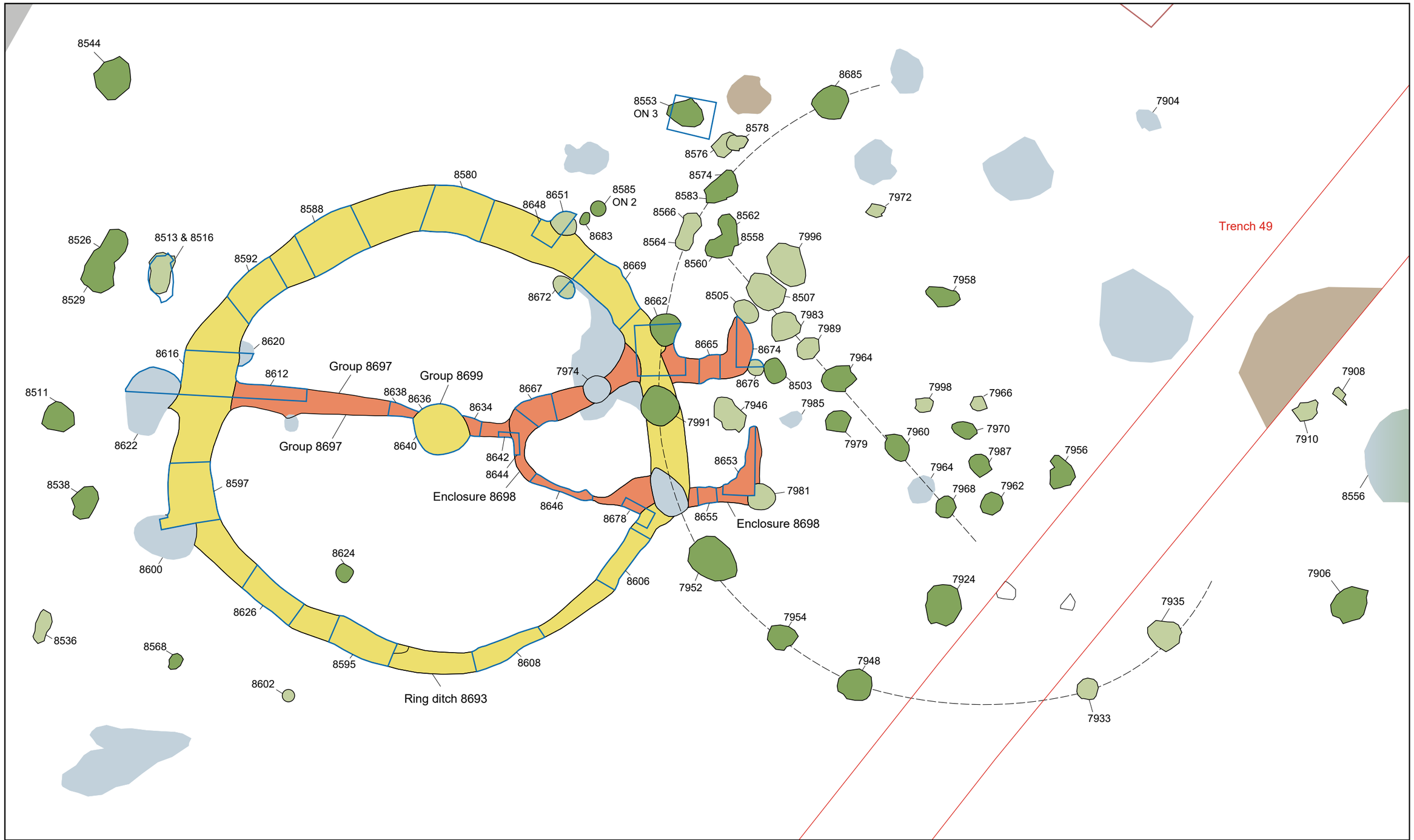
Plan of excavated features in Area 1a

Figure 2



Coordinate system:
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

0 5 m

- Excavation Area
- Slot
- Previous evaluation trench
- Modern disturbance
- Tree throw
- Natural feature
- Prehistoric phase 1
- Prehistoric phase 2
- Prehistoric phase 3
- Prehistoric phase 3 (?)
- Undated feature

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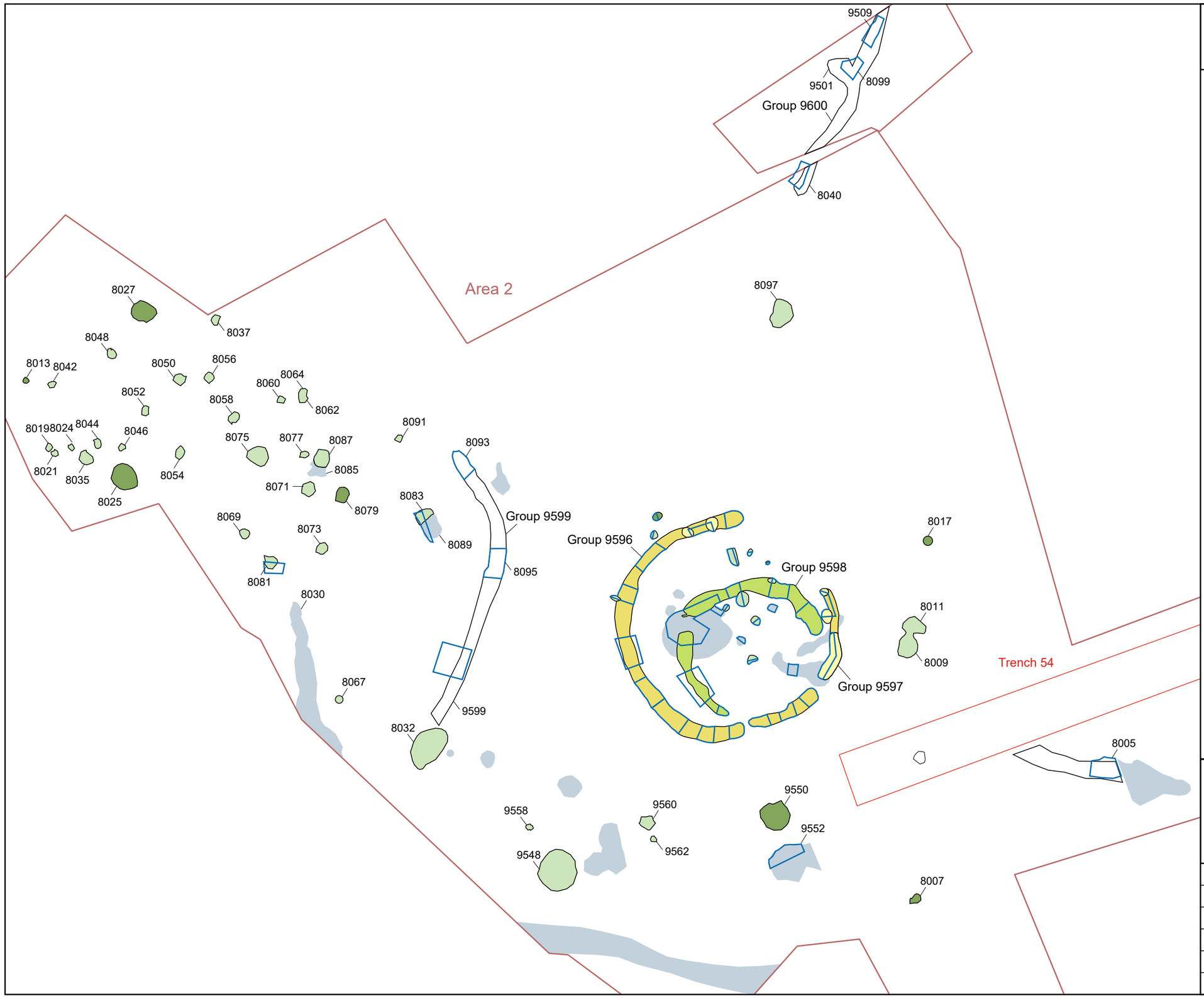
Detail of excavated features in Area 1a

Figure 3



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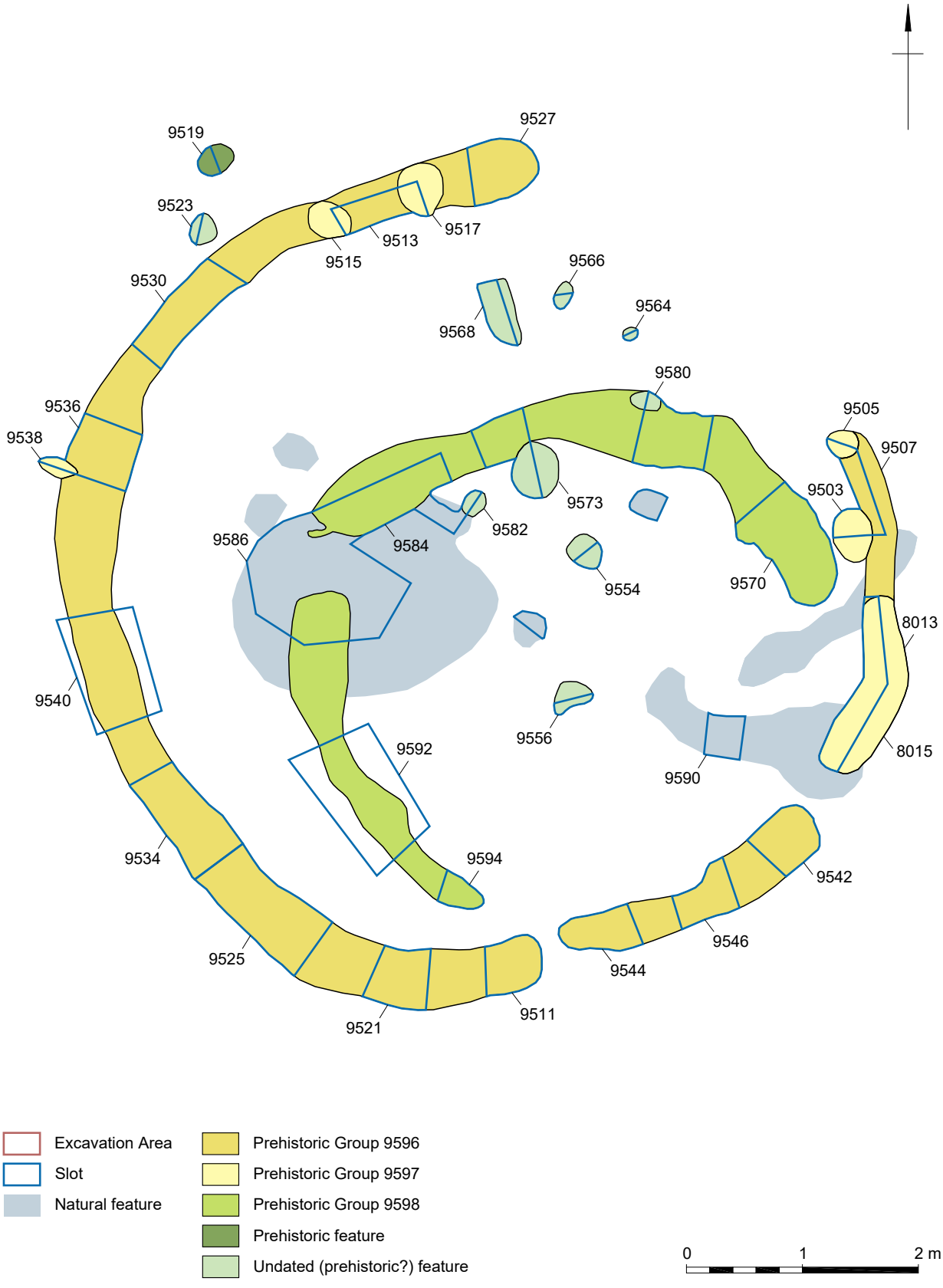
Plan of excavated areas in Area 2

Figure 4



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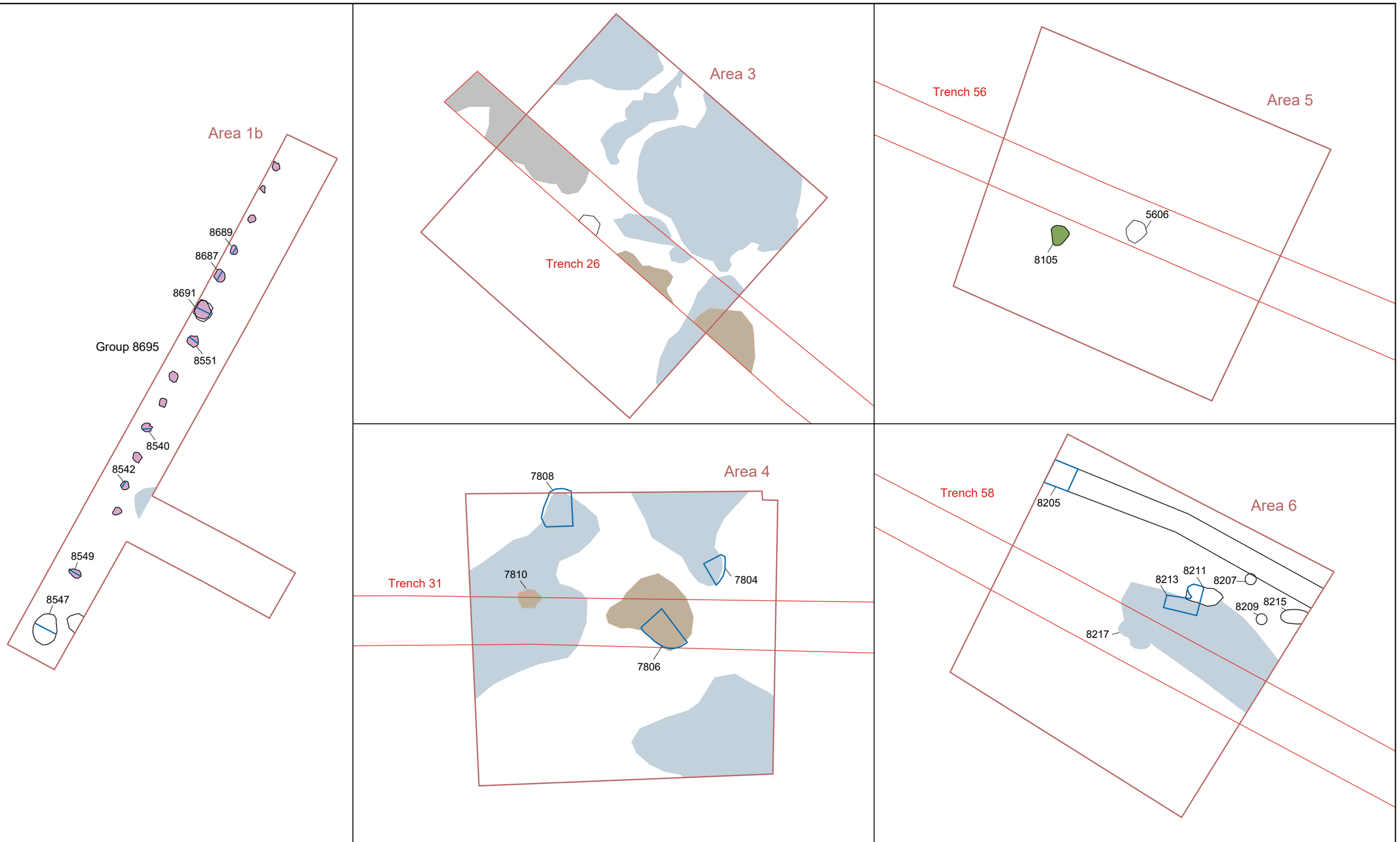
Detail of excavated features in Area 2

Figure 5



Coordinate system:
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

0 5 m

- Excavation Area
- Slot
- Previous evaluation trench
- Prehistoric feature
- Undated (post-medieval ?) feature
- Undated feature
- Modern disturbance
- Tree throw
- Natural feature

Date:	12/07/2019	Revision Number:	0
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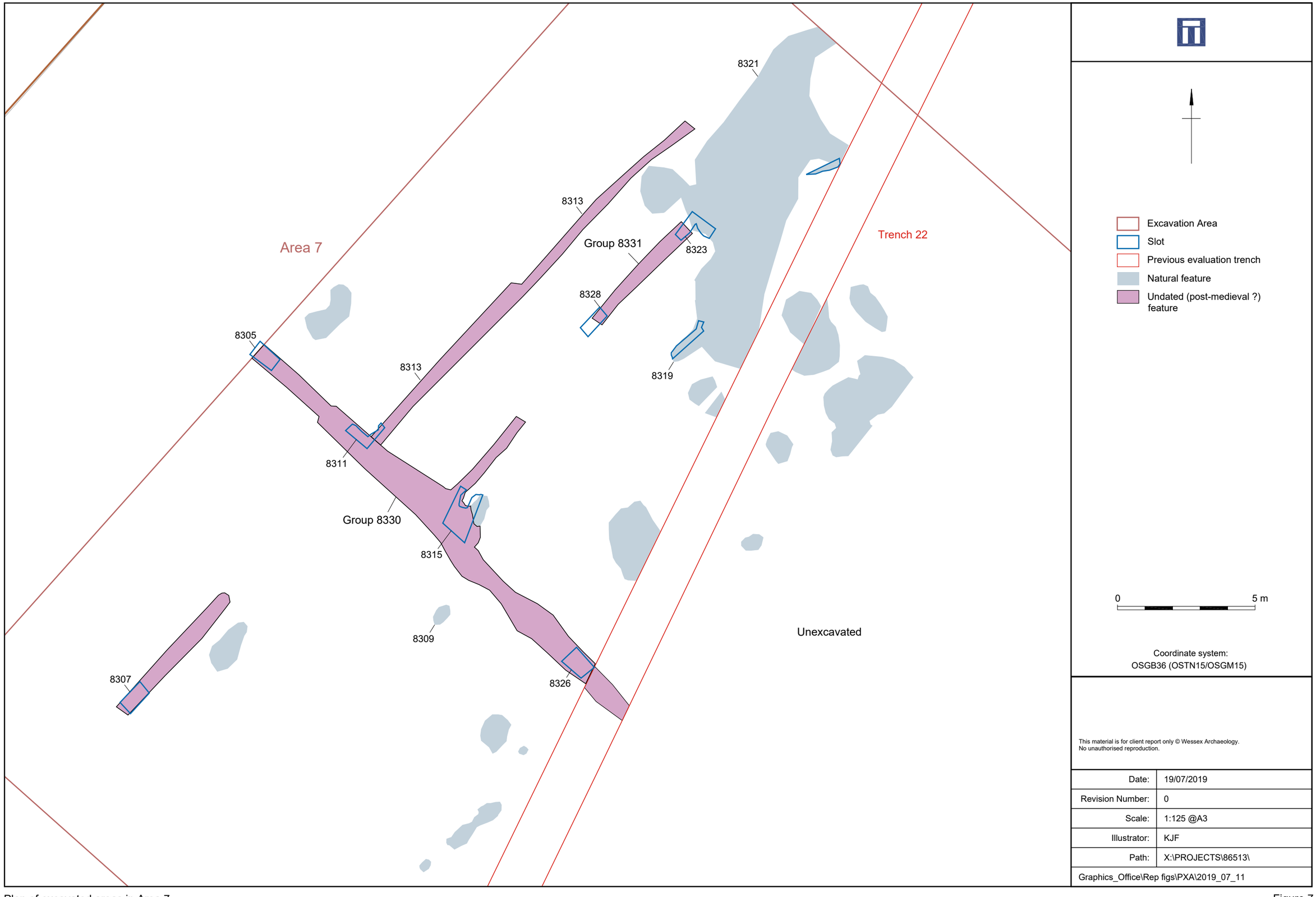
Plan of excavated features in Area 1b, 3, 4, 5 and 6

Figure 6



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Illustrator:	KJF
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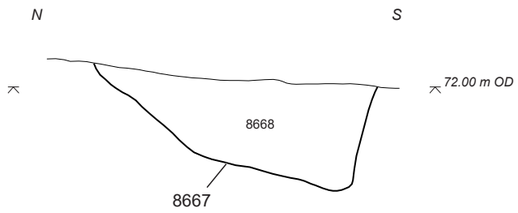
Plan of excavated areas in Area 7

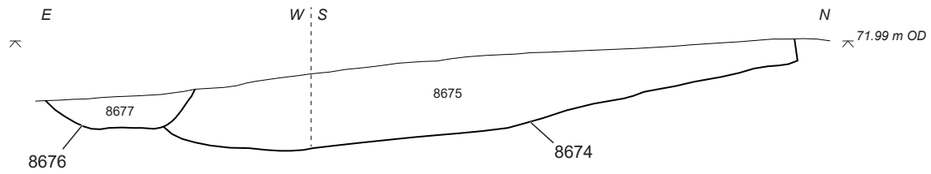
Figure 7

Oval enclosure gully 8698

West facing section through oval enclosure gully 8698 (cut 8667)

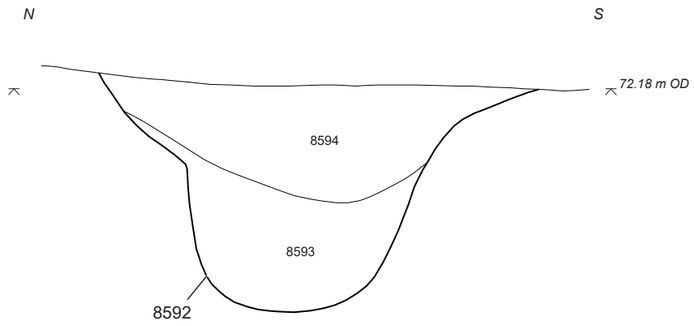


Longitudinal section through oval enclosure gully 8698 (cut 8674) and pit/posthole 8676

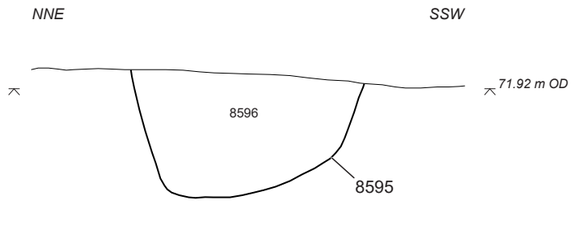


Ring ditch 8693

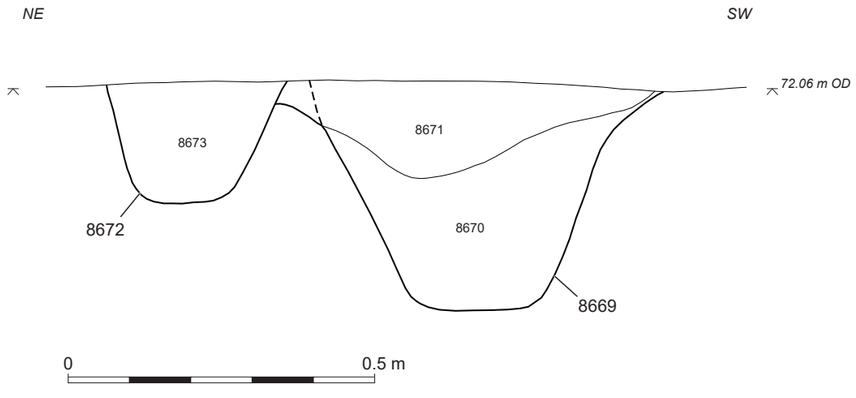
South-west facing section through ring ditch 8693 (cut 8592)



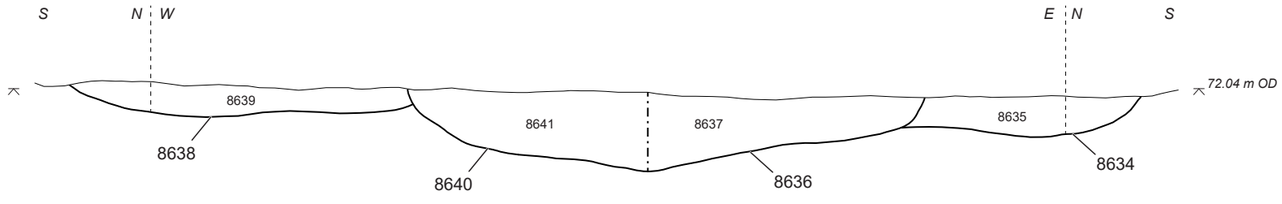
WNW facing section through ring ditch 8693 (cut 8595)



South-east facing section through ring ditch 8693 (cut 8669) and pit/posthole 8672



Section through gully 8697 (cuts 8634 and 8638) and pit 8699 (cuts 8636 and 8640; possible empty inhumation grave) in centre of ring ditch 8693



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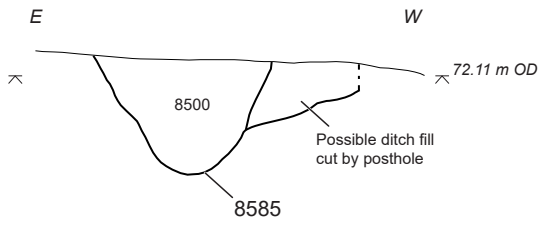
Area 1a sections

Figure 8

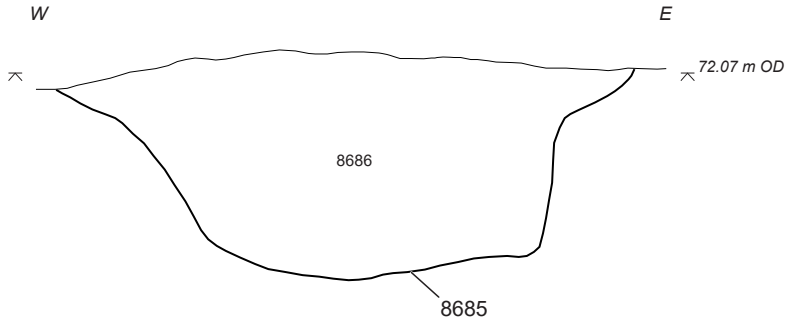
Pits / postholes

North facing section through posthole 8585

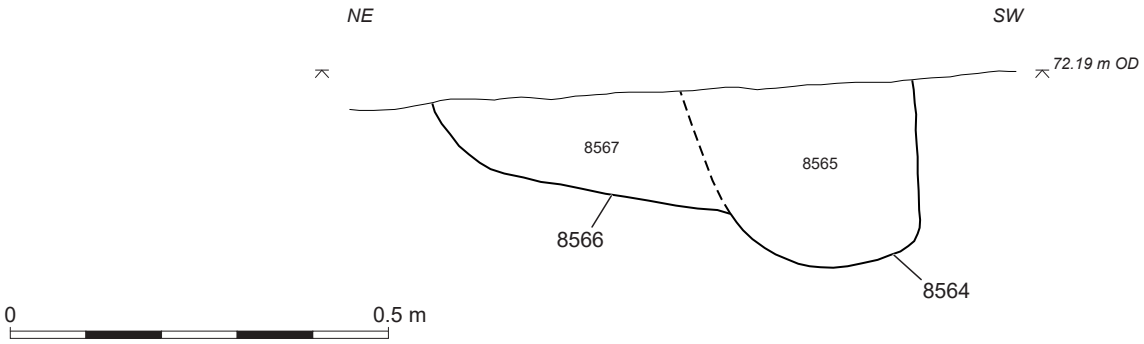


South-west facing section through posthole 7960

South facing section through pit/posthole 8685



South-east facing section through intercut pits/postholes 8564 and 8566



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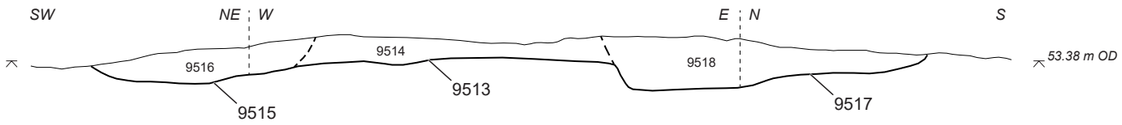
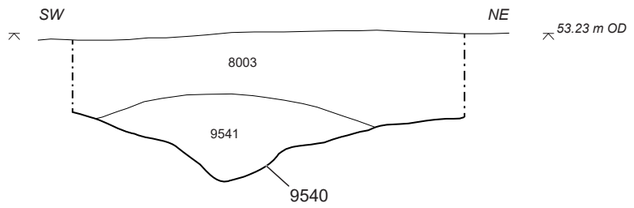
Ring gullies / associated postholes

Section through ring gully 9596 (cut 9515) and associated posthole group 9597(cuts 9513 and 9517)



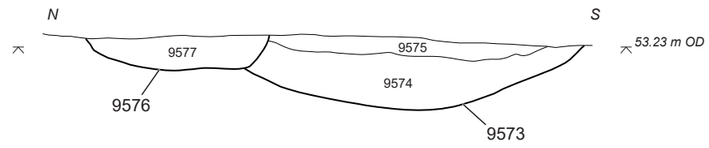
South facing section through ring gully 9596 (cut 9540)



East facing section through ring gully 9596 (cut 9521)

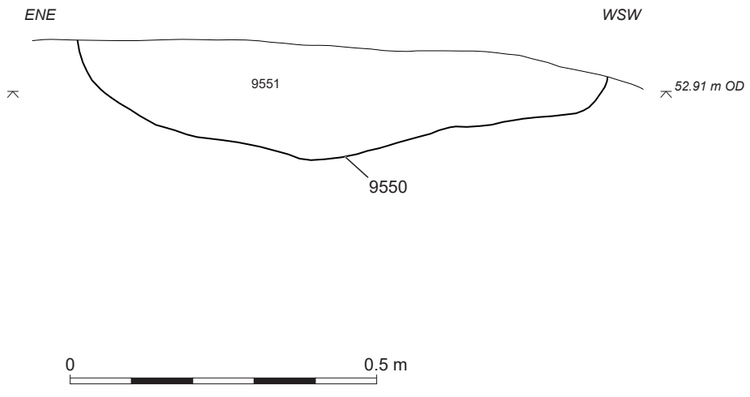
South-east facing section through curvilinear gully 9598 (cut 9570)

West facing section through curvilinear gully 9598 (cut 9576) and pit/posthole 9573



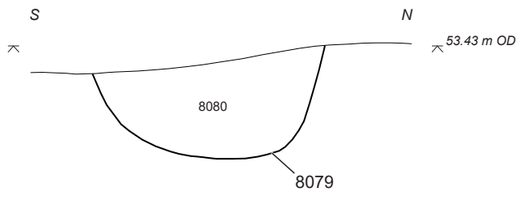
Pits / postholes

North-facing section through pit 9550



South-east facing section through pit 8025

East-facing section through posthole 8079



Date:	29/11/2019	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:10 @ A3	Illustrator:	KJF
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\86513\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\PXA\2019_07_11		

Area 2 sections

Figure 10

Plate 1: Inclement weather during excavation of Area 1a

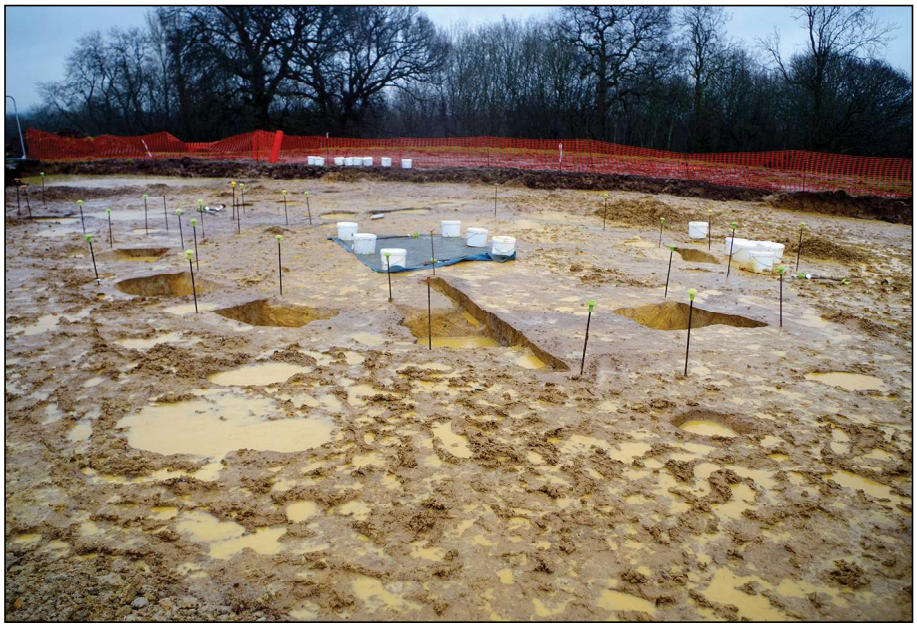


Plate 2: Inclement weather during excavation of Area 1a (ring ditch 8693)

Date:	22/08/2019	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	KJF
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\86513\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\PXA\2019_07_11		

Plate 3: Section through colluvium in Area 5 (scale: 1 m)

Plate 4: North facing section through gully 8697 and ring ditch 8693 (Area 1a) (scale: 2 m)

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Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	KJF
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\86513\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\PXA\2019_07_11		

Plate 5: Oval enclosure gully 8698 (Area 1a) from the west (scales: 2 m)

Plate 6: Oval enclosure gully 8698 (Area 1a) from the south (scales: 2 m)

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Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	KJF
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Plate 7 Ring ditch 8693 (Area 1a) from the NNW, prior to excavation (scales: 1m and 2 m)

Plate 8: West facing section of ring ditch 8595 (Gp 8693) (Area 1a), showing re-deposited cremated human bone on the surface and northern side of the feature (scale: 0.2 m)

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Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	KJF
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\86513\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\PXA\2019_07_11		

Plate 9: Fully excavated pit / possible empty inhumation grave 8699 (Area 1a) from the west (scale: 1 m)

Plate 10: Remains of Early Iron Age vessel (ON 3) in pit 8553 (Area 1a), exposed prior to lifting (scale: 0.2 m)

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Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	KJF
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Plate 11: South-east facing section through pit 7924 (Area 1a) (scale: 0.5 m)

Plate 12: South facing section through pit/posthole 8685 (Area 1a) (scale: 0.5 m)

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Plate 13: Area 1b from the SSW (scales: 1m and 2 m)

Plate 14: View of ring gully 9596 and curvilinear gully 9598 (Area 2) from the north (scales: 2 m)

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Plate 15: View of ring gully 9596 and curvilinear gully 9598 (Area 2) from the north-east (scales: 2 m)

Plate 16: NNE facing section through posthole 9538 (Gp 9597) and ring gully 9536 (Gp 9596) (Area 2 (scale: 0.5 m)

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Plate 17: South-west facing longitudinal section through curvilinear gully 9570 (Gp 9598) (scale: 0. 5m)

Plate 18: North facing section through pit 9550 (Area 2) (scale: 0.5 m)

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Plate 19: North-west facing section through pit 8025 (Area 2) (scale: 0.5m)

Plate 20: Area 3 from the south-east (scales: 2 m)

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Plate 21: Area 6 from the south (scales: 2m)

Plate 22: Area 7 from the south-west (no scale)

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