



Elms Field, Wokingham

Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief Report



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by McLaughlin & Harvey Limited to undertake a programme of archaeological works comprising of a strip, map, record and a watching brief within a 6.7 hectares parcel of land located at Elms Field, Wokingham, Berkshire. The strip, map, record area covered 0.36 hectares centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 480942 168503.

The two areas of mitigation followed on from previous archaeological works which included two phases of trial trench evaluation. The phase of archaeological mitigation included a targeted strip, map, record and an area set aside for preservation *in situ* over which a watching brief monitored a topsoil strip and drainage works.

The strip, map, record was targeted on a number of features identified within a single trench during the evaluation, including an Iron Age pit, and a number of post-medieval features including two inter-cutting pits, a ditch and sub-circular feature interpreted as a cess pit or well or similar.

The strip, map, record found further Iron Age features including a waterhole, a four post structure, a possible round house and intercutting ditches. Further ditches dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods were also identified, as were the footings and foundations of the former Wellington Brewery.

The watching brief was maintained on the topsoil stripping during the construction of haul roads for vehicle movement within Elms Field, which will be managed as a preservation *in situ* area: with the insertion of drainage trenches, attenuation tanks and any other services impacting on the archaeological horizon within the preservation *in situ* area. The only features identified by the watching brief were an undated ditch, a shallow modern linear and a modern posthole.

It is recommended that the results of the post-excavation are subjected to further analysis, including a detailed map regression of the area to aid interpretation of the field boundary ditches. The results of the analysis will be published in a local journal.

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The fieldwork was directed by Cordelia Laycock, with the assistance of Elena Calabria. Pete Capps and Matthew Kendall assisted in monitoring works in the area of preservation in-situ. This report was written by Rachel Williams and Cordelia Laycock and edited by Steve Beach. The project was managed by Jon Kaines on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



Elms Field, Wokingham Berkshire

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by McLaughlin & Harvey Limited, on behalf of Wokingham Borough Council and Wilson Bowden Developments, to undertake a programme of archaeological mitigation works comprising a strip, map and record (SMR) covering a 0.37 hectares area and a watching brief maintained over an area designated for preservation *in situ* (PIS), centred on NGR 480942 168503, at Elms Field, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 2NL (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.2 The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission granted by Wokingham Borough Council (153125) for a proposed development as part of the regeneration of Wokingham Town Centre. The proposed development comprises shops including a food store, financial and professional services, cafes and restaurants, drinking establishments, hot food takeaways; a cinema; a 95-bed hotel; 126 residential units; a reconfigured park; new and re-configured public car parking; partial closure of Ems Road (south); and a provision of a new road to link Wellington Road and Shute End. The planning application (153125) was subject to conditions, some of which relate to archaeological investigation.

1.1.3 Condition 40 states:

“No development, other than demolition to ground level, shall take place until:

- i) the exploratory archaeological work as set out in the ‘Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trenching’ prepared by URS and dated November 2014 (or a comparable scheme that has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority) has been implemented; and*
- ii) a programme of archaeological excavation and watching brief resulting from the exploratory archaeological work has been submitted to and agreed in writing by the local planning authority. The programme shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details; and*
- iii) a programme for post-excavation assessment, analysis, reporting, publication and archiving has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

The programme shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: the site is identified as being of archaeological potential. Investigation is required to allow preservation and recording of any archaeological features or artefacts before disturbance by the development.

Relevant policy: National Planning Policy Framework Section 12 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment) and Managing Development Delivery Local Plan policy TB25.”



- 1.1.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the SMR, watching brief and the post-excavation work (Wessex Archaeology 2018a). The Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.5 The SMR was the final stage in a programme of archaeological works detailed below (Section 2.2), which included two archaeological trial trench evaluations and archaeological watching brief when appropriate.
- 1.1.6 The previous phases of evaluation had highlighted areas of archaeological potential and a mitigation strategy which involved a mixture of preservation in situ and preservation by record.
- 1.1.7 The SMR was undertaken between the 23rd April and 1st June 2018, whilst the watching brief was undertaken in a number of stages between 16th April and 21st June and 25th – 30th October 2018.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the provisional results of the SMR, and the preceding evaluations and watching briefs, to assess the potential of the results to address the research aims outlined in the WSI and stated in Condition 40 iii of the planning application (see above). Where appropriate, to this report will provide recommendations regarding further analysis work, and outline the resources needed, to achieve the aims (including the revised research aims arising from this assessment), leading to dissemination of the archaeological results via publication and the curation of the archive.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The development area which covers 6.7 ha, is located at NGR 480942 168503, to the north of the junction between Wellington Road and Denmark Street, bisected by Elms Road. Council offices along the northern edge of the site front onto Station Road, and the remainder of the site comprises landscaped green space and car parking (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.3.2 The area of Elms Field, to the west of Elms Road was managed as an area of preservation *in situ* (PIS; **Fig. 2**) A watching brief was maintained through the topsoil strip of the haul roads and the deeper excavations of the drainage works. The SMR was located in the east part of the development area, east of Elms Road (**Fig. 3**).
- 1.3.3 The development area consists of gently sloping green space on either side of Elms Road. The topography drops steadily from north to south and eastward to a shallow declivity in which Elms Road itself sits. Ground levels drop from approximately 68 – 62 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) north to south overall and from 68 – 60 m aOD along the line of Elms Road from the north-east towards Wellington Road in the south-west.
- 1.3.4 The underlying geology is mapped as sands of the Bagshot Formation. These shallow marine deposits were formed 48 – 56 million years ago and typically produce relatively deep (500-600 mm) sandy soil profiles. (British Geological Survey online viewer).



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following section presents a summary of the archaeological and historical background of the site. This summarises the evaluation phase 2 report (Wessex Archaeology 2018b) with additional information taken from the evaluation phase 2 WSI (AECOM 2016).

2.2 Previous investigations

Archaeological evaluation (2015)

- 2.2.1 In June 2015 an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Archaeology South-East (Westall 2015) following an archaeological specification that had been prepared by AECOM (AECOM 2015).

- 2.2.2 The Phase 1 evaluation comprised the excavation of five trenches and the monitoring of two soakaway test pits. The results indicated a low level of dispersed activity possibly associated with post-medieval farming activity and possible ground levelling for construction. Potential archaeological features included two linear features (within Trenches 2 and 4), a probable tree-throw hole (within Trench 6) and a sequence of burnt material and chalk rubble (within TPST 1). Some 18th to early 20th century finds were also noted in the overburden of the trenches. The health and safety procedures of the main contractor prevented the archaeologists from accessing all but one of the trenches, meaning that a number of features remained un-investigated and undated.

Archaeological evaluation (2018)

- 2.2.3 A further phase of evaluation comprising of 12 trenches was required in order to clarify the results from the initial evaluation, and to investigate additional areas within the development that were not included during the earlier phase of work.
- 2.2.4 The Phase 2 evaluation was undertaken in three stages between 5th March and 11th April 2018 (Wessex Archaeology 2018b). The works revealed a scatter of Iron Age and Romano-British features and a cluster of post-medieval remains. The Iron Age and Romano-British material (a pit, and three ditches) suggested that localised concentrations of late prehistoric and Romano-British activity might be contained within the development area, while the post-medieval activity (pits and boundary ditches) appears to represent domestic activity in the rear areas of properties fronting onto Denmark Street. The trenches in The Paddocks car park (Trenches 7, 17 and 18: **Fig. 1**), revealed truncated natural geology with no archaeological remains. The truncation is likely to be the result of levelling of the area during the construction of the car park.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

- 2.3.1 The site lies outside the medieval core of Wokingham and has not been the focus of any in depth antiquarian or modern enquiry.
- 2.3.2 A number of archaeological evaluations and watching briefs have been carried out nearby, along Denmark Street, but their results were inconclusive with archaeologically significant features almost invariably masked by early modern and modern development. Of these works only one recovered remains that might be earlier than the 18th century, consisting of a well believed to be 16th century in date (Foundations Archaeology 2002 and TVAS 2001, 2004, 2014). This was situated to the northeast of the development area on Denmark Street.



- 2.3.3 The site is depicted as agricultural land on Rocque's map of 1762, and similarly on the Enclosure Award of 1817. Apart from one building within the development area boundary (located close to a Primitive Methodist Chapel shown on the 1842 tithe map), the only changes to the layout before the mid-1960s are represented by slight changes to land boundaries that are shown on later 19th century Ordnance Survey maps (AECOM 2016, 4).
- 2.3.4 Council offices were constructed on the site of the former St Paul's Rectory in the early 1960s (the southern part of the development area, east of Elms Road) and Elms Road was constructed later that decade. In the early 1970s an access road was constructed to the west and south of the offices from Station Road. Also, a tennis court and pitch and putt course were introduced to the southern part of the development area and in the mid-1970s an adventure playground was added to the east of the tennis courts. In the late 1990s the existing car park to the west of Ellison Way was constructed with access from Elms Road (*ibid* 5).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the excavation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018a) and in compliance with the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (ClfA 2014a), were:
- To examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives;
 - To seek a better understanding of the resource;
 - To compile a lasting record of the resource; and
 - To analyse and interpret the results of the excavation, and disseminate them.

3.2 Research objectives

- 3.2.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (Hey and Hind 2014), the research objectives of the excavation defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) were to:
- Investigate the extent and nature of post-medieval activity to the rear of Denmark Street and any evidence for boundaries in order to better understand the nature and progression of development in this area;
 - Establish the extent and nature of prehistoric, specifically Iron Age, activity on the Site, as current evidence related to the prehistoric period within Wokingham is limited;
 - Assess the potential for the recovery of environmental evidence to gather information on the origins of fields and changes in agricultural practice; and
 - Assess the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.

3.3 Watching Brief Aims and Objectives

- 3.3.1 The aims (or purpose) of the watching brief, as defined in the ClfA *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014b) were:
-



- To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
- To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
- To guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

3.3.2 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the watching brief were:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
- To record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
- To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- To make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018a) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). No significant variations to these methods were required. The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

4.3 Introduction

4.3.1 The PIS measures approximately 1.5 ha and includes all or part of evaluation Phase 1 Trenches 1 and 2 and Phase 2 Trench 15 within its boundary. An intermittent watching brief monitored the topsoil strip for the construction of haul roads and vehicle movement in this area, the only features recorded during the watching brief were deemed to be cutting the subsoil (**Fig. 2**).

4.3.2 In addition, groundworks within the PIS were monitored including drainage trenches, attenuation tanks and any other services that had the potential to impact the archaeological horizon (**Fig. 2**).

4.3.3 The SMR comprised the investigation and recording of a single area measuring 0.36 ha (**Fig. 3**). Evaluation Phase 1 Trench 3 and Phase 2 Trench 14 were located within it (**Fig. 1**). The area was opened and stripped to the archaeological horizon under archaeological supervision and all archaeological remains encountered were recorded and sampled.



4.4 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.4.1 The SMR area was set out using GPS, in the same position as that proposed in the WSI (**Fig. 3**). The topsoil/overburden was removed in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.
- 4.4.2 Where necessary, the surfaces of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. A sample of archaeological features and deposits identified was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation. A sample of natural features such as tree-throw holes were also investigated.
- 4.4.3 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

- 4.4.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections), and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.
- 4.4.5 A Leica GNSS GPS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.4.6 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.

4.5 Artefactual and environmental strategies

General

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

4.6 Monitoring

- 4.6.1 The Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, on behalf of the LPA, monitored the watching brief. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims,



were agreed in advance with both the client and the Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

Summary of archaeological features and deposits

5.1.1 Archaeological features dating from the Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval periods were within the SMR, along with possible footings from the 19th century former Wellington Brewery and a number of small pits and hollows which were obviously modern (1800 – present) (**Fig. 3**).

5.1.2 The Iron Age features include a possible four-post structure, a deep pit or waterhole, a ditch and two shallow gullies.

5.1.3 Very few features were securely dated to the medieval period but include two ditches. Most of the remaining ditches are dated as post-medieval, these ditches appear to be boundary ditches separating properties or plots.

Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data

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

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

Table 1 Quantification of excavation records

Type	Quantity
Context records	247
Context registers	9
Graphics (A4 and A3)	61
Graphics (A1)	2
Graphics registers	4
Environmental sample registers	10
Object registers	1
Digital photographs	522

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The overlying topsoil and subsoil in the PIS and the SMR were similar in nature. The topsoil in the PIS was a dark brown sandy loam with common medium pebbles and sparse sub angular flint, and in the SMR area, the topsoil was a dark brown loamy sand with rare small pebbles and sub angular flint. They were both heavily disturbed by roots and contained modern material such as glass and brick. The thickness of the topsoil in the SMR was about 0.35 m whereas it was 0.61 m in the PIS (**Plate 1**).

5.2.2 The subsoil in the PIS and SMR were also similar in nature; within the PIS it comprised a mid-brown sandy clay, orange mottling with iron panning and abundant medium pebbles and flint; in the SMR it comprised a mid-brown loamy sand with rare small pebbles and

sub angular flints. Both contained similar modern glass and brick and were roughly 0.30 m thick.

- 5.2.3 In the east corner of the SMR the overburden was slightly different, this part of the Site had recently been used as a yard (**Fig. 1**). Here the overburden comprised layers of hardcore, concrete, made ground and two separate subsoils overlying the archaeological horizon.
- 5.2.4 The natural underlying geology varied considerably across the site. In the PIS area (**Fig. 1**), the natural geology, where seen, consisted mainly of orange – yellow clay with occasional patches of orange sand with sparse blue – grey patches of sandy clay, sparse small patches of medium and large pebbles. In the SMR area (**Fig. 1**), the natural geology on the western side was orange – yellow – red sand with occasional patches of light grey – white sand. The eastern half of the SMR was orange – yellow sand. In the north-eastern corner of site, was bright orange – yellow sandy clay with occasional small pebbles.

5.3 Iron Age (700 BC–AD 43)

- 5.3.1 A small number of features were dated securely to the Iron Age. These features were situated in the western half of the SMR (**Fig. 3**).
- 5.3.2 A four-post structure (2244) is tentatively dated to the Iron Age, with posthole 2114 contained a single sherd of Iron Age pottery. The postholes formed a square feature 2.5 m across. These sub-circular postholes measured between 0.32 – 0.45 m diameter and 0.22 – 0.34 m depth, with steep, straight sides and concave bases (**Plate 2**).
- 5.3.3 A shallow (0.42 m wide, 0.14 m deep) curvilinear gully (2245) 6.7 m long curves gently from north – south tailing off towards the south-west, pottery from this gully securely dates it to the Iron Age (see section 6.2.4 below) (**Plate 3**). A second L-shaped gully (2246) (0.58 m wide, 0.22 m deep) curved from the north-west towards the southwest, this gully was slightly longer (9.4 m) and had a sharper degree of turn (**Plate 4**). Both gullies had moderate concave sides and concave bases. The similarity between the two gullies and their proximity to each other suggests they may be of a similar date.
- 5.3.4 Between the gullies and the four post structure a shallow pit 1405, which contained early – mid Iron Age pottery, burnt flint and a single piece of slag, and measured 1 m diameter, 0.15 m deep, had been excavated during the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2018b).
- 5.3.5 To the south-west of these features an L-shaped ditch (2251) extends 7.5 m from the south-west towards the north-east before turning sharply towards the east for a further 7.5 m where it is lost and truncated by Ditch 2249. Ditch 2251 may be a recut of linear 2034. Ditch 2251 measured 1.40 m wide, 0.34 m deep with steep slightly concave sides and a flat base (**Plate 5**).
- 5.3.6 A deep pit (2046), interpreted as a watering hole, was located south-east of Ditch 2251 within the crook of the bend. The oval pit (3.08 m long, 2.08 m wide, 1.15 m deep) had steep, straight sides and an irregular base and contained seven fills, the only datable material retrieved came from the uppermost fill and so may be residual (**Plate 6**).

5.4 Romano-British (AD 43 - 410)

- 5.4.1 A small number of features dating to the Romano-British period were recorded during the evaluation (**Fig. 2**). These comprised three parallel ditches with similar morphologies. Ditch 1510 measured 0.80 m wide, 0.44 m deep and contained three fills, two of the fills

contained pottery and burnt stone dating to the Romano-British period. Parallel to this and with similar profiles were two further ditches, although no datable material was retrieved from these two ditches (Wessex Archaeology 2018b).

5.5 Medieval (1066 – 1500)

- 5.5.1 Only one feature is securely dated to the medieval period (2065). However, Ditch 2038 is likely to be medieval in origin as it had a clear stratigraphic relationship with securely dated features and contained a few sherds of medieval pottery (**Fig. 3**).
- 5.5.2 The terminus of east – west orientated feature 2065 was wide (3.67 m) and deep (0.85 m +). 2065 cut north – south aligned Ditch 2038. The relationship slot was not fully excavated due to health and safety constraints, although the base was just visible when excavation stopped. The basal fill was notable due to its organic nature (**Plate 7**). Within the approximate vicinity of this feature old OS maps show a pond as recently as the 1966 1:2,500 edition.
- 5.5.3 Ditch 2038 measured 1.15 m wide and 0.44 m deep, had moderate, concave sides and a concave base and contained two fills. For the most part this Ditch aligned north – south, along the western portion of the SMR, however, south of 2065 it appeared to have been cut by a series of broadly north-west – south-east aligned ditches (discussed below), the relationship was not available for excavation due to flooding. To the south of 2065 Ditch 2038 turned slightly towards the south-west (**Fig. 3**).
- 5.5.4 The remaining feature which may be medieval was a small north-west – south-east orientated ditch segment (2168) in the furthestmost north-eastern corner of the SMR area, which was truncated by ditch (2149). However, this was again insecurely dated as the only dateable material recovered was a single potsherd recovered from the top 0.1 m of the uppermost fill, however, stratigraphically Ditch 2168 pre-dates Ditch 2149 (see below).

5.6 Post-medieval (1500-1800)

- 5.6.1 The only features clearly dated to the post-medieval period are the series of intercutting boundary ditches aligned north-east – south-west (2242) and north-west – south-east 2248 and 2249 (**Fig. 3**). A large, 4.5 m wide, north – south aligned ditch was partially excavated during the evaluation (**Fig. 2**: Wessex Archaeology 2018b).
- 5.6.2 Stratigraphically the earliest of these ditches is Ditch 2248. A north-east – south-west aligned slightly sinuous ditch between 1.5 - 2 m wide, 0.63 - 0.83 m deep 2248 had steep irregular and stepped sides and a concave base. Excavated in two slots Ditch 2248 was cut by a shallow (0.28 – 0.45 m deep) concave Ditch 2249, which measured up to 1.5 m wide. On the same alignment and likely to be contemporaneous with 2248 was Ditch 2250. This broad (between 1.55 – 1.86 m wide) ditch, had steep, irregular sides: the best-preserved slot showed a steep, straight side on the north-east side and a clear step on the south-west side, and a concave base (**Plate 8**).
- 5.6.3 Ditch 2242 aligned north-east – south-west with a sharp bend towards the north-west in the south-east portion (2043). This ditch varied between 1.58 m and 2.29 m wide and had a maximum measured depth of 0.67 m. Generally, concave in shape with the sides varying from steep to moderate (**Plate 9**). The ditch appears to break in to two branches where it bisects ditches 2248, 2249 and 2250, and continuations of these two branches are noted to the south-west (2041 and 2043). 62.8 m of unbroken length was observed (**Fig. 3**).



- 5.6.4 Ditch 2149 had a very similar profile to Ditch 2248 (2.44 m wide, 0.77 m deep, with stepped sides and a flat base) (**Plate 10**). Whilst bricks are clearly visible within the fill it is likely that this feature was an active boundary until the construction of the Brewery rendered it unnecessary, this Ditch was maintained as an active boundary ditch with at least one recut (2164) and several distinctive phases of backfilling.
- 5.6.5 A small terminus or pit (2174) was noted protruding eastwards and cut by from ditch 2242. The shallow, concave sides and irregular base along with a very bioturbated fill may indicate that this was an organically formed feature (i.e. tree by the side of the ditch which has collapsed in to the ditch).
- 5.6.6 Finally, 3.5 m of a north-east – south-west aligned linear feature (2194), 1.28 m wide, 0.46 m deep with irregular sides and base was located east of and parallel to ditch 2242 (**Fig 3**). This may be part of the former field boundary system which has been truncated away by the more recent disturbance in the eastern portion of the SMR area. No continuation for this feature remains.

5.7 Modern (1800 +)

- 5.7.1 The majority of modern features were located in the east corner of SMR (**Fig. 3**). All were mapped but only a few of these were tested following discussions with the Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology.
- 5.7.2 The modern features consisted of a number of irregularly shaped disturbances and pits spread across the yard and extended down the eastern edge of site and included pits 2176, 2198, 2206 and 2212 (**Fig 3**). As well as the ubiquitous glass, brick and china, there were instances of animal skeletons present in these disturbances as well as one in subsoil (2021) (**Plate 11**).
- 5.7.3 Some of the remnants of the wall foundations of Wellington Brewery survived and were recorded as well in the yard. Only the foundations and in some places the lowest course of bricks survived (**Plate 12**). The foundations were constructed using machine made red frogged bricks 0.21 x 0.11 x 0.05 m diameter.
- 5.7.4 Also, possibly related to the brewery were some more foundation remnants (2247) located in the northern most area of the SMR, however, this is only an assumption based on the possibility that they were located in what could have been the brewery yard.
- 5.7.5 Extending east - west across site, in the northern half of the SMR area, was a brick lined culvert (2074) (**Plate 13**).
- 5.7.6 A shallow tree-throw hole (2116), 1.76 m long, 1.46 m wide, 0.28 m deep contained three fills, roots were still clearly visible.
- 5.7.7 Two animal burials were recorded in the subsoil (2021) in the eastern part of the SMR area (**Fig 3**), the state of preservation within the subsoil indicates a modern date.

5.8 Uncertain date

- 5.8.1 There were a small number of undated features (**Fig. 3**).
- 5.8.2 Pit 2027 (0.50 m long, 0.44 m wide, 0.29 m deep) was subcircular with irregular sides and an irregular base.



- 5.8.3 Two linear features, intercutting with each other were recorded west of Ditch 2242 (**Fig. 3**) Ditch 2110 (8.83 m wide, 0.20 m deep) is cut by Ditch 2242 and cuts gully 2212 (0.24 m wide, 0.13 m deep). Both had moderate, straight sides and concave bases (**Plate 14**).
- 5.8.4 A tree-throw hole (2144) appeared to be cut by ditch 2242. This irregular shaped feature measured 5.50 m long, 0.70 m wide and 0.57 m deep.

5.9 Watching Brief Results

- 5.9.1 An intermittent watching brief was conducted in the PIS and a small number of archaeological features were noted including; a small, subcircular, shallow modern posthole/pit, 2005, which contained modern backfill with a concrete lump in it; a very shallow north - south orientated linear (0.08m deep), 2011, filled with modern glass, brick and turf clods and a possible rectangular drainage trench, 2007. All these artefacts were noted but not retained.
- 5.9.2 During the monitoring of the drainage, a partially exposed possible ditch in manhole SA15 was observed. No artefacts were recovered (**Fig. 2**).

6 FINDS

- 6.1.1 A moderate quantity of finds was recovered from the Site, augmenting a small assemblage recovered during previous evaluation trenching (Wessex Archaeology 2018). The assemblage ranges in date from late prehistoric (Iron Age) to post-medieval/modern, though no further finds of Romano-British date were added to the small number found during the evaluation (four pottery sherds).
- 6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in Table 2.

Table 2 All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Feature	Context	Animal Bone	CBM	Pottery	Other Finds
Topsoil	2001			26/291	7 clay pipe
2007	2008				
Subsoil	2021	621/1886			
2023	2025			36/331	
2031	2032			20/197	
2038	2039			1/7	
2043	2044		12/455		
2043	2045	63/889	69/4371	1/9	
2046	2047			14/97	
2043	2054	152/1447	68/5702		
2055	2058		6/268		
2059	2060		3/274		
2061	2062	3/23		1/6	
2063	2064			1/6	
2065	2066			2/59	
2076	2077			81/992	
2080	2091	1/129			



2093	2094	11/190	3/431		
2093	2096	3/39	4/445		
2100	2101			2/7	
2104	2105	18/109			
2114	2115			1/6	
2116	2117	7/434	6/791		
2128	2129	8/426	6/753	1/16	
2138	2139	1/16	10/737	2/16	
2144	2145	3/172			
2144	2146		2/351		
2147	2148	2/49	3/1228		
2164	2150	4/15		46/1220	2 clay pipe; 4 glass; 1 slag
2149	2153			1/38	
2149	2154			2/113	
2165	2166	4/195	2/203		
2168	2169		1/40	2/63	
2170	2171		2/495		
2174	2175		2/29		
2176	2177				2 glass
2178	2179		2/208		
2180	2181	1/194	3/479		1 glass
2185	2186	1/261	2/214		
2190	2191		3/425		
2194	2195		3/318	1/6	
2194	2196	4/83	1/88		
2198	2199	140/167			
2206	2207	158/249			
2212	2214	1/38			
2238	2239		1/153	1/20	
	Total	1206/7011	214/18,458	242/3500	

CBM = ceramic building material

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The pottery assemblage amounts to 242 sherds, weighing 3500 g. This includes material of Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval/modern date.
- 6.2.2 Condition of the assemblage ranges from good to poor. It is perhaps unsurprising that the earliest material (late prehistoric) is in the worst condition – sherds are generally small, and levels of surface and edge abrasion are high for these relatively soft-fired wares. Medieval sherds, too, although harder fired, are heavily abraded, although larger. Post-medieval/modern sherds, in contrast, are relatively well preserved. Mean sherd weight overall is 14.5 g, but this falls to 10.6 g for late prehistoric pottery and rises to 22.3 g for post-medieval/modern pottery.



6.2.3 The whole assemblage has been quantified (sherd count and weight) by ware type; details of diagnostic forms and other features such as decoration and surface treatment have also been recorded; levels of recording are consistent with nationally recommended minimum standards for the recording of pottery (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group *et al* 2016). The pottery is listed by context in Table 3.

Table 3 Pottery by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Ware type	No.	Wt. (g)	Additional Comments	PERIOD
2001	Coarse sandy ware	2	13	abraded	Medieval
2001	Border ware	2	34	1 yellow glazed (body sherd); 1 green glazed (pipkin rim/handle)	Post-med
2001	White salt glaze	2	3		Post-med
2001	Refined whiteware	5	16	2 banded, 2 transfer printed	Modern
2001	Pearlware	4	42	1 banded, 3 transfer printed	Modern
2001	Redware	11	183	1 pipkin tripod foot; 2 convex jar rims; 1 ?chamber pot rim	Post-med
2025	Sandy ware	36	331	1 tiny ?base; 1 rim from convex vessel	Iron Age
2032	Sandy ware	20	197	prob all 1 vessel, incl pedestal base	Iron Age
2039	Coarse sandy ware	1	7		Medieval
2045	Redware	1	9		Post-med
2047	Sandy ware	14	97	some with rare organic inclusions	Iron Age
2062	Kennet Valley ware	1	6	flint-gritted variant	Medieval
2064	Coarse sandy ware	1	6	curvilinear combing	Medieval
2066	Coarse sandy ware	2	59	1 bowl rim; 1 body sherd with combed dec	Medieval
2077	Sandy ware	81	992	several vessels (9 rims); shouldered jars/bowls; fabrics silty to coarse sandy, some with organic inclusions, some with ferruginous pellets; some conjoining sherds	Iron Age
2101	Sandy ware	2	7	silty fabric	Iron Age
2115	Sandy ware	1	6		Iron Age
2129	Border ware	1	16	green glazed	Post-med
2139	Import	1	1	micaceous whiteware, fine sandy; red slip dec + green glaze	Medieval
2139	Sandy ware	1	15	glaze spots	Late Med
2150	Refined whiteware	42	963	20 sherds from sage green washstand jug (moulded dec); 3 transfer-printed green (cup + saucer in same design); 1 plain chamber pot rim; 18 transfer-printed blue (cups, saucers, plates, serving dish: Willow pattern, Asiatic Pheasant, Wild Rose patterns)	Modern
2150	Redware	2	137	1 unglazed flowerpot; 1 convex bowl (glazed internally)	Post-med
2150	English stoneware	1	29	body sherd from jug with applied dec (harvest jug type); brown dipped	Modern
2150	Pearlware	1	91	base from washstand jug	Modern
2153	Yellow ware	1	38		Modern
2154	Refined whiteware	1	16		Modern
2154	Redware	1	97	internally glazed flared bowl rim	Post-med
2169	Coarse sandy ware	2	63	very coarse fabric; sagging base	Medieval
2195	Redware	1	6		Post-med
2239	Kennet Valley ware	1	20	jar rim, flint-gritted variant	Medieval

Iron Age

- 6.2.4 A total of 154 sherds has been identified as Iron Age, largely on the basis of fabric (a further eight were recovered from the evaluation). All sherds are in sandy fabrics, which range from very fine and silty to coarse (containing variously macroscopically visible quartz grains, ferruginous pellets and rare organic inclusions). Diagnostic sherds are scarce, but the largest group, from gully 2076, contains parts of several vessels (including conjoining sherds). There is one complete profile, from a small convex vessel, while eight other rims appear to belong to shouldered vessels, either jars or bowls, as does one further rim from ditch 2023. There is also one shallow pedestal base (ditch 2031). There is no decoration (although two rim sherds found during the evaluation carried fingertip/fingernail impressions).
- 6.2.5 Fabrics and forms suggest a date range in the Early to Middle Iron Age, but perhaps towards the earlier end of that range; there is some overlap with the Middle Iron Age assemblage from Park Farm, Binfield (Booth 1995, fig. 52), but not with the 'saucepan pot' assemblage from Southcote, Reading (Piggott and Seaby 1937). There are closer parallels with the Early-Middle Iron Age assemblage from Brighton Hill South, Basingstoke, where the slack-shouldered jars are regarded as 'archaic' (Rees 1995, fig. 24).
- 6.2.6 Apart from ditches 2023, 2031 and 2076, Iron Age sherds also came from waterhole 2046, gully 2100 and posthole 2114. In all cases Iron Age pottery provides the sole dating evidence for the feature, although apart from 2076, quantities are small.

Medieval

- 6.2.7 Twelve sherds are medieval, comprising one fineware and 11 coarsewares. The fineware sherd is a small body sherd in a micaceous whiteware (fine sandy matrix), green glazed over red slip decoration; this has been tentatively identified as a northern French import of probable 13th-century date. Two coarseware sherds are in flint-gritted fabrics typical of the 'Kennet Valley' tradition (Mephram 2000), and probably date to the 11th or 12th century. Other coarsewares are in coarse sandy fabrics of uncertain origin (although almost certainly local), with a potential date range of 12th to 14th century. There is also one late medieval (14th-/15th-century) finer sandy ware.
- 6.2.8 Besides two sherds from the topsoil, medieval sherds derived from seven ditch fills (ditches 2038, 2061, 2063, 2065, 2138, 2168 and 2238), but occurred only sporadically in these features (one or two sherds per feature). As such, the value of these sherds as firm dating evidence is severely limited.

Post-medieval/modern

- 6.2.9 The remaining 76 sherds are post-medieval/modern. These comprise a limited range of wares, encompassing earthenwares (redwares, and white-firing Border wares from the Surrey/Hampshire border industry), white salt-glazed stoneware and refined wares (tea- and tablewares, some transfer printed in common patterns such as Willow pattern, Asiatic Pheasant and Wild Rose). A broad date range of 18th to 20th century can be suggested.
- 6.2.10 Most of the post-medieval pottery came from either topsoil (24 sherds) or ditch 2149 (46 sherds). Small quantities were also recovered from ditches 2043, 2128 and 2149.

6.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 6.3.1 CBM was well represented on the site; 214 fragments were recovered, weighing 18,458 g. This consists largely of flat (peg) roof tile, with a smaller proportion of brick. The roof tile is

all made from sandy fabrics, firing orange-red. While the range present here suggests that the assemblage as a whole spans the medieval to post-medieval period, with some more crudely made and less hard-fired examples at the earlier end of the range, and harder-fired, more regularly formed examples at the later end, there are not sufficient distinctive features to enable hard and fast dating of individual fragments.

- 6.3.2 The bricks are all of post-medieval date. None survive complete, though there are a few fragments for which original width and/or depth measurements could be recorded (widths 95–100 mm, depths 50–60 mm, with one example, possibly a paviour, at 35mm). Fabrics used vary in coarseness; as far as can be ascertained, all bricks are unfrogged. One example from ditch 2043 carries a dog's paw print.

6.4 Glass

- 6.4.1 Seven fragments of glass were recovered, all of post-medieval/modern date. Four pieces from ditch 2149 are from green wine bottles, and include one kicked base and two necks. All these are from cylindrical mould-blown bottles, and the neck profiles date them to the early 19th century.
- 6.4.2 Two complete bottles were found in pit 2176. Both are rectangular bottles with chamfered corners, of the type sold by chemists from the early 20th century and containing pharmaceutical products. In both cases the remains of the cork closures remain *in situ*, with liquid contents surviving.
- 6.4.3 One small fragment from ditch 2180 is of pale greenish window glass, broadly dated as post-medieval.

6.5 Animal Bone

- 6.5.1 A total of 1219 fragments (or 7.687 kg) of animal bone came from deposits and features of Post-medieval and modern date. The assemblage includes several part or complete animal skeletons and these have been counted once so that they do not over-inflate the overall count, hence the adjusted total is just 192 fragments (**Table 4**).

Table 4 Animal bone: number of identified specimens present (or NISP) *denotes includes part or complete skeleton counted as one

Species	Post-medieval/modern
Cattle	13
Sheep/goat	24*
Horse	14
Dog	4*
Domestic fowl	1*
Cat	1
Rabbit	1
Total identified	58
Total unidentifiable	134
Overall total	192

Methods

- 6.5.2 The assemblage was rapidly scanned following established methods and guidelines (Baker and Worley 2014). The following information was quantified, where applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion and tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits.



This information was directly recorded into a relational database (in MS Access) and cross-referenced with relevant contextual information.

Preservation and fragmentation

- 6.5.3 Bone preservation varies from fair to poor but is generally consistent within individual contexts. A few of the bones recovered from subsoil layer 2021 and shallow refuse pits 2206 and 2198 show signs of physical weathering from surface exposure.
- 6.5.4 Gnaw marks were apparent on only 3 post-cranial bones, and these are from ditch 2043 and pit 2198.

Results

- 6.5.5 The remains of three sheep/goats came from subsoil layer 2021. The carcasses of these three animals had been deposited in a loose pile, probably within a shallow cut within the subsoil. All three animals lay on their side and were aged from one year to between four to six years. It is likely that these animals succumbed to disease although no signs were evident on the bones.
- 6.5.6 A relatively large number of bones came from ditches. The identified bones are mostly from sheep/goat, cattle and horse. These three species are represented by a range of different elements however there is a clear bias towards cranial fragments and limb extremities. This could indicate that much of the assemblage comprises either primary butchery waste or waste from an industrial process such as tanning. The former seems more likely given the town centre location of the site. Chop and saw marks were noted on some cattle bones, and a few of the horse bones also show signs of butchery. A few dog and cat bones also came from ditches.
- 6.5.7 A small number of sheep/goat and cattle bones came from three shallow pits, together with the skeletons of a domestic fowl and two dogs. The domestic fowl remains came from pit 2198 which also contained the part remains of a small dog with an estimated withers (or shoulder) height of only 24.5cm (after Harcourt 1974), equivalent in size to a Yorkshire terrier, Maltese or toy poodle. The other dog came from pit 2206 and is a juvenile animal with a withers height of 48cm. Both dogs appear to have been disposed of with in refuse pits containing general household waste. The apparent lack of reverence for animals that are likely to have been cherish pets, merely reflects the practicalities of waste disposal in the absence of a municipal scheme (Thomas 2005, 97).
- 6.5.8 A few sheep/goat and cattle bones also came from tree throw-holes 2116 and 2144.

6.6 Other Finds

- 6.6.1 Other finds comprise very small quantities of clay tobacco pipes (plain stem fragments) and slag (small vesicular fragment of uncertain origin).

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 Thirteen bulk sediment samples were taken from a range of pits, postholes and ditches of Iron Age, medieval, post-medieval and uncertain date, and were processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence.
- 7.1.2 The bulk samples break down into the following phase groups:



Table 5 Sample Provenance Summary

Phase	No. of bulk samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
Iron Age	4	85	Pits, waterhole, gully
Medieval	2	18	Ditches
Post medieval	2	16.5	Ditches
Uncertain	5	64	Ditch, postholes
Totals	13	183.5	

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 archaeobotanical data valuable for wider research frameworks.

7.2.2 The size of the bulk sediment samples varied between 3 and 38 litres, and on average was around 14 litres. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Syraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6/4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse fractions (>5.6/4 mm) were sorted by eye and discarded. The flots was scanned using a stereo incident light microscopy (Leica MS5 microscope) at magnifications of up to x40 for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g. *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as 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 (in cases of anoxic conditions for their preservation), was recorded. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals. Abundance of remains is qualitatively quantified (A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5) as an estimation of the minimum number of individuals and not the number of remains per taxa.

7.3 Results

7.3.1 The flots from the bulk sediment samples were of varying sizes (**Table 7 in Appendix 1**). There were variable numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of some stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. The plant macrofossil evidence was preserved by charring and waterlogging. Charred material was generally poorly preserved. The waterlogged material was generally well preserved, apart from one sample that only contained a small amount of material.

7.3.2 Wood charcoal was noted in varying quantities in both the dry and waterlogged flots. The wood charcoal was predominantly from mature wood, with only two samples containing roundwood, most of it being iron coated.

7.3.3 Remains of insects were noted in some of the waterlogged samples. No other environmental evidence was preserved in the bulk sediment samples.

Iron Age

- 7.3.4 Two bulk sediment samples from the Iron Age features contained charred remains, one sample contained *Triticum* sp. (wheat, too poorly preserved to identify further) and one sample contained a large nutshell fragment of *Corylus avellana* (hazel). One bulk sediment sample was waterlogged and contained uncharred remains of Cyperaceae (sedges), *Juncus* sp. (rushes), *Viola* sp. (violet), *Sambucus* sp. (elder) and *Urtica* sp. (nettles). *Daphnia* (water flea) egg cases were also present. One sample contained no other environmental evidence apart from a large amount of wood charcoal.

Medieval

- 7.3.5 The two medieval bulk sediment samples were both from waterlogged features. One sample contained only a small amount of poorly preserved uncharred seeds of *Juncus* sp. (sedge). The other sample contained well preserved uncharred remains of *Sambucus* sp. (elder), *Rubus* sp. (blackberry/raspberry), Asteraceae (daisy family), Poaceae (grasses), *Rumex* sp. (docks), and *Veronica* sp. (speedwell).

Post-medieval

- 7.3.6 The two post-medieval bulk sediment samples were from waterlogged features, the assemblages were well preserved and contained similar uncharred taxa to the medieval samples but, additionally, *Atriplex* sp. (orache), *Urtica* sp. (nettle), Cyperaceae (sedges), Lamiaceae (mint family), *Solanum* sp. (nightshades), *Ranunculus* sp. (buttercup family) and *Viola* sp. (violets).

Undated

- 7.3.7 Of the five undated features, only one contained any environmental evidence other than wood charcoal; the charred remains of *Hordeum vulgare* (barley) and *Corylus avellana* (hazelnut) shell. Hammerscale was also present in this sample.

7.4 Discussion

- 7.4.1 The Iron Age environmental evidence on the site indicates the existence of some background plant resource processing activities, including cereal (wheat) agriculture and wild fruit (hazelnut) gathering. However, this evidence is very limited, poorly preserved, and of little significance. A deposit with abundant charcoal fragments was identified, possibly related to industrial activities which have not been identified. The most significant evidence from this period is the waterlogged remains retrieved from the base of large pit 2046, which include abundant vegetative plant material and seeds from wet and disturbed habitats, such as sedges, rushes and nettles. Some taxa such as elder and bramble indicate the existence of hedgerow or scrub vegetation. However, there is a notable absence of woodland taxa and particularly wet-loving species such as birch, which have wind-dispersed seeds likely to be present in the record if existent in the area, indicating a wide open landscape. The presence of waterflea eggs indicate that the pit was used to keep a permanent or semi-permanent body of water and could have been used as a waterhole.
- 7.4.2 The medieval and post-medieval ditches provided assemblages of waterlogged plant remains dominated by seeds of ruderal and hedgerow vegetation which may have existed near the features, but no distinct environmental evidence directly resulting for anthropic activities was found. Woodland taxa were also absent.
- 7.4.3 The evidence from undated features was also restricted and little significance. Only one sample from a ditch identified in the evaluation (1510) contained a small amount of charred plant remains and hammerscale which are indicative of domestic activities.



8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

8.1 Stratigraphic potential

- 8.1.1 The most significant features of the SMR is the potential for the a small poorly preserved Iron Age settlement. The two gullies 2245 and 2246 appear to form the edge of a circular feature 11.2 m in diameter, with an east facing entrance and internal division. Following the research objective for this site (see 3.2 above), establishing the possibility of a round house with a nearby four post structure and pit, along with the more substantial ditch and waterhole does indicate that the area was potentially utilised and occupied in the Iron Age, but that much of any potential occupational evidence has been truncated away but later activity.
- 8.1.2 The SMR has been successful in identifying and investigating a number of boundary ditches that date to the medieval and post-medieval periods. The homogeneity of the fills means that the stratigraphic relationship between these intercutting ditches has often been guessed at. However, it does appear that these boundaries were fluid, being re-cut and re-used, possibly with an element of water management being part of their function. Detailed analysis of the stratigraphy of the ditches and comparison with a targeted map regression will enable us to more fully answer the research objectives regarding the post-medieval activity on the Site (see 3.2 above).

8.2 Finds potential

- 8.2.1 This is a relatively small finds assemblage, of which the Iron Age component (pottery, plus a possible quern fragment and one piece of ironworking slag from the evaluation) is of most interest, and has some limited research potential, although it is not considered to warrant any further analysis as part of the current project. The pottery has been recorded to an appropriate archive level (fabric and form). For the animal bone (none of which came from Iron Age contexts), detailed information relating to the age, size and butchery of livestock has been fully recorded where present but is of little further analytical value given the small size of the assemblage. Other finds (of which only CBM occurred in any significant quantity) are almost entirely of medieval date or later and have little or no further potential.

8.3 Environmental potential

- 8.3.1 No further work is recommended on the samples nor on the environmental evidence retrieved from them and they are recommended for discard.

8.4 Documentary records

- 8.4.1 Targeted map regression will help to determine the origin and function of the medieval and post-medieval ditches and features.

8.5 Summary of potential

- 8.5.1 The Site has produced some interesting Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval features. There are very few Iron Age sites in and around Wokingham, with none having been recorded by 2006 (Wessex Archaeology 2006).
- 8.5.2 The Iron Age features form a small but very important part of the site. The possibility that the two gullies form a roundhouse and the location of the four-post structure may indicate that there may have been settlement activity on the site. Further research in to these types of roundhouses in the Thames Valley area may help elucidate the potential and function of the gully features. The limited amounts of finds from the Site indicate that any



settlement or activity was brief, with the finds dating closely to the early – mid Iron Age. The environmental evidence indicates that the Site may have been used for low level agriculture and plant resourcing activities

- 8.5.3 Although the site is outside the original boundaries of medieval Wokingham the ditches may indicate that the burgage plot layout was echoed as field boundaries along Denmark Street. The north-west – south-east aligned boundaries mirror the plots on the north-western side of Denmark Street, in both length and breadth apart, these may indicate medieval strip farming on the edge of the town during the early phase of settlement. The pottery indicates two main periods of use, 12th – 14th century and 18th – 20th century. It is possible that during the period around the Black Death, in the mid-fourteenth century, that the population of the town declined sharply and consequentially the town went in to a period of contraction and this land was utilized in a different way or became shrubland as demonstrated by the environmental evidence, before new boundaries were established and possibly old boundaries recut and reused. As the town began to grow again in the post-medieval period (Keen 2003 p139). It does appear as though north-east – south-west aligned Ditch 2242 cuts through the north-west – south east aligned linears 2248, 2249 and 2250. OS mapping published in 1900 suggests that a north-east – south-west aligned boundary slowly curves in behind the properties fronting on to Denmark Street before cutting in sharply. Further map regression and documentary research may help inform when the boundaries fell in to disuse. This SMR confirms that this boundary (2242) continues through the Site and is at least post-medieval in origin.
- 8.5.4 Evidence of the more recent industry, the Wellington Brewery, was noted. No evidence of earlier buildings was recorded.

9 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

9.1 Summary of recommendations for analysis

- 9.1.1 The Iron Age results of this excavation are likely to be of local and, potentially, regional importance, the post-medieval evidence is likely to be of local importance. It is recommended that the results are published in an article in the Berkshire Archaeology Journal, considering this site in its wider context.
- 9.1.2 The most significant features of the SMR is the poorly preserved Iron Age settlement. Further stratigraphy analysis is unlikely to provide additional information regarding this site during the Iron Age, however comparisons with other settlements of this type in the locality or sub-region may add to our understanding of the site.
- 9.1.3 Several medieval or post-medieval features, including boundary ditches were identified during the project, is it recommended that a targeted historic map regression is conducted which may provide a fuller understanding of post-medieval activity on the site, in line with the original research objectives.
- 9.1.4 The finds information presented in this report could be incorporated in any publication report on the site. A small selection of pottery (complete Iron Age profile, plus up to five rim sherds) could be illustrated.
- 9.1.5 The Iron Age environmental evidence recovered from this project will add to our knowledge of Iron Age activity in the Wokingham area, and potentially add to the canon of knowledge regarding environmental change during the Iron Age in the Solent-Thames sub-region (Hey and Hind 2014, pp 149). However, given nature of the samples acquired,



it is recommended that no further analysis on the samples nor on the environmental evidence retrieved from them is required, and they are recommended for discard.

9.2 Updated project aims

9.2.1 This project has been successful in providing information which provides some response to all the original project aims (see 3.2 above). However, given the limitations of the evidence collected it is recommended that the updated project aims are focused on the presentation and dissemination of the results.

- Disseminate Iron Age stratigraphic and environmental evidence via a journal publication, to enable this information to further our understanding of Iron Age Wokingham and contribute the existing body of Iron Age evidence in Berkshire and the wider Solent-Thames sub-region.
- Conduct a limited and focussed historic map regression, to ascertain if any of the post-medieval archaeological evidence identified during the excavation, correspond with features depicted on available historical cartographic evidence, to further our understanding of the nature and progression of development of post-medieval activity to the rear of Denmark Street.

9.3 Proposals for publication

9.3.1 It is proposed that following the further analyses outlined above, the results of the fieldwork will be published as a short article in the Berkshire Archaeology Journal.

Provisional synopsis of Berkshire Archaeology Journal publication

Working title:

A possible Iron Age settlement, and post-medieval activity near Denmark Street, Wokingham, Berkshire

by Cordelia Laycock and Rachel Williams, with specialist contributions Lorraine Mephram and Inés López-Dóriga

Introduction	500 words
Results	1500 words
Finds reporting	500 words
environmental reporting	500 words
Discussion	500 words
Bibliography	500 words

Total: approximately 4000 words, 5 figures, 2 tables

9.4 Programme for analysis and publication

9.4.1 It is hoped that a journal article can be produced within six months of this report being submitted.



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, 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 site falls within the collecting area of Reading Museum. The museum is not currently accepting archaeological archives. Every effort will be made to identify a suitable repository for the archive resulting from the fieldwork, and if this is not possible, Wessex Archaeology will initiate discussions with the local planning authority in an attempt to resolve the issue. If no suitable repository is identified, Wessex Archaeology will continue to store the archive, but may institute a charge to the client for ongoing storage beyond a set period.

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 Reading Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

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

- 5 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 2 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics
- 2 A1 graphics

10.3 Selection policy

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

10.4 Security copy

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



10.5 OASIS

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

11 COPYRIGHT

11.1 Archive and report copyright

- 11.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
- 11.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

11.2 Third party data copyright

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



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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Assessment of the environmental evidence

Table 7 Assessment of the environmental evidence

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (l)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Charcoal	Other	Waterlogged vegetative parts	Waterlogged other	Invertebrates
2076	2077	2003	38	1250	10%, B, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	1200 ml	Mature + roundwood, iron coated, some large pieces	-			
1405	1404	1401	19	125	2%, C, E	C	-	<i>Triticum</i> sp.	-	-	120 ml	Mature, iron coated	-			
1405	1404	2005	19	13	5%, C, I	-	-	-	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	10 ml	Mature + roundwood, iron coated,	-			
2046	2053	2001	9	150	20%, E, F	-	-	-	-	-	A*	Mature	-	A** (Inc. wood frags/twigs)	A* - Cyperaceae, <i>Juncus</i> sp., <i>Viola</i> sp., <i>Rubus</i> sp., <i>Sambucus</i> sp., <i>Urtica</i> sp.	A - <i>Daphnia</i> sp. egg cases, indet. insect parts
2065	2070	2002	8	70	5%, F, E	-	-	-	-	-	B	Mature	-	C	A* - <i>Juncus</i> sp.	A*** - Indet. insect egg cases and insect parts
2080	2081	2004	10	60	20%, F	-	-	-	-	-	C	Mature	-	A** (Inc. woody fragments)	A* - <i>Sambucus</i> sp., <i>Rubus</i> sp., Asteraceae, Poaceae, <i>Rumex</i> sp., <i>Veronica</i> sp., A* - <i>Atriplex</i> sp., Cyperaceae, <i>Juncus</i> sp., <i>Rubus</i> sp., Lamiaceae, <i>Solanum</i> sp., <i>Ranunculus</i> sp., <i>Sambucus</i> sp., <i>Viola</i> sp., <i>Urtica</i> sp., A* - <i>Atriplex</i> sp., <i>Urtica</i> sp., Cyperaceae, Apiaceae, <i>Sambucus</i> sp., Lamiaceae	C – Indet. larval cases
2055	2058	2000	9	60	40%, F	-	-	-	-	-	A	Mature, iron coated	-	A		A – Indet. insect parts
2185	2187	2010	7.5	50	70%, F, E	-	-	-	-	-	A	Mature	-	A		C – Indet. insect parts
1510	1515	1501	3	120	1%, F	C	-	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	80 ml	Mature, iron coated	Hammerscale			
2114	2115	2006	10	25	1%, C	-	-	-	-	-	20 ml	Mature, iron coated	-			
2132	2133	2007	19	15	30%, C	-	-	-	-	-	5 ml	Mature, iron coated	-			
2134	2135	2008	20	20	80%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	1 ml	Mature, iron coated	-			
2172	2173	2009	12	10	90%, C, I	-	-	-	-	-	<1 ml	Mature, iron coated	-			



Appendix 2 OASIS form

11.3 OASIS ID: wessexar1-343847

Project details

Project name	Elms Field, Wokingham, Berkshire
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by McLaughlin and Harvey Limited to undertake a programme of archaeological works comprising of a strip, map and record (SMR) and a watching brief within a 6.7 hectares parcel of land located at Elms Field, Wokingham, Berkshire. The SMR area covered a 0.36 hectares area within Site B and was centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 480942 168503. The SMR was targeted on two earlier trial trenches excavated by Archaeology South East (ASE 2015) and Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2018) during Phase 1 and Phase 2 evaluations respectively. The trench excavated by Archaeology South East (Trench 3) did not reveal any archaeological features or deposits. The trench excavated by Wessex Archaeology (Trench 14) contained an Iron Age pit as well as two inter-cutting pits, a ditch and sub-circular feature interpreted as a cess pit, well or similar dated to the Post-medieval period. The SMR revealed further Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval features including two Iron Age shallow curvilinear gullies, a four post structure, and a series of medieval and post-medieval field boundary ditches. The footings and foundations of the former Wellington Brewery were also identified. The watching brief was maintained on the topsoil stripping during the construction of haul roads for vehicle movement within Elms Field (in Site A), which will be managed as a preservation in situ area: and the insertion of drainage trenches, attenuation tanks and any other services impacting on the archaeological horizon within the preservation in situ area.</p>
Project dates	Start: 23-04-2018 End: 30-10-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	207311 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	153125 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 4 - Regularly improved
Monument type	PIT Early Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Early Iron Age
Monument type	GULLY Early Iron Age
Monument type	POSTHOLE Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Iron Age
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval



Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation","Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE WOKINGHAM WOKINGHAM Elms Field, Wokingham, Berkshire
Postcode	RG40 2NL
Study area	0.37 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 80942 68503 51.409270352725 -0.836082589634 51 24 33 N 000 50 09 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 62m Max: 68m

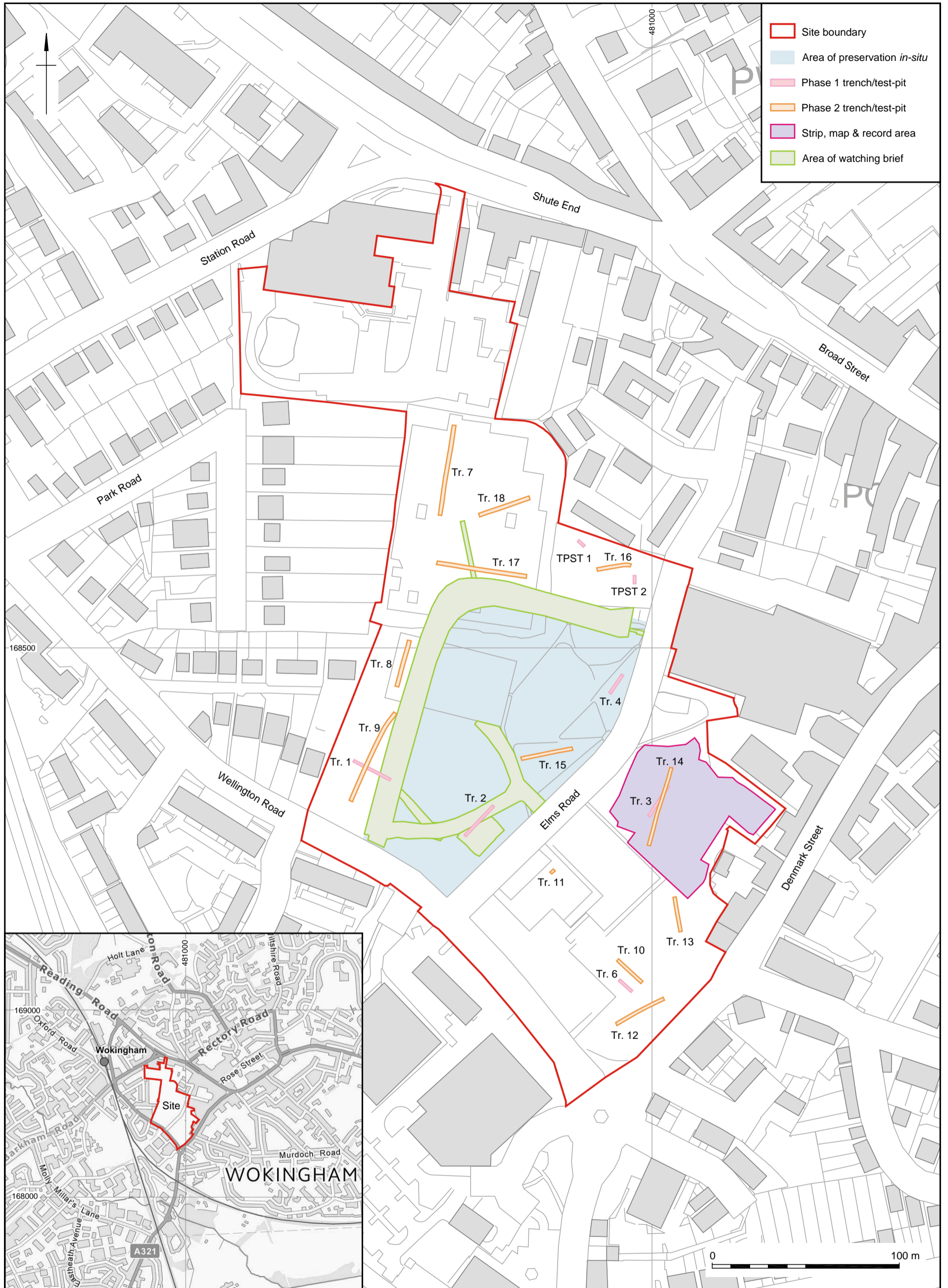
Project creators


Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project design originator	McLaughlin and Harvey Limited
Project director/manager	Jon Kaines
Project supervisor	Cordeila Laycock
Type of sponsor/funding body	Construction company
Name of sponsor/funding body	McLaughlin & Harvey Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	TBC
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	TBC
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	TBC
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Matrices","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Report","Survey "

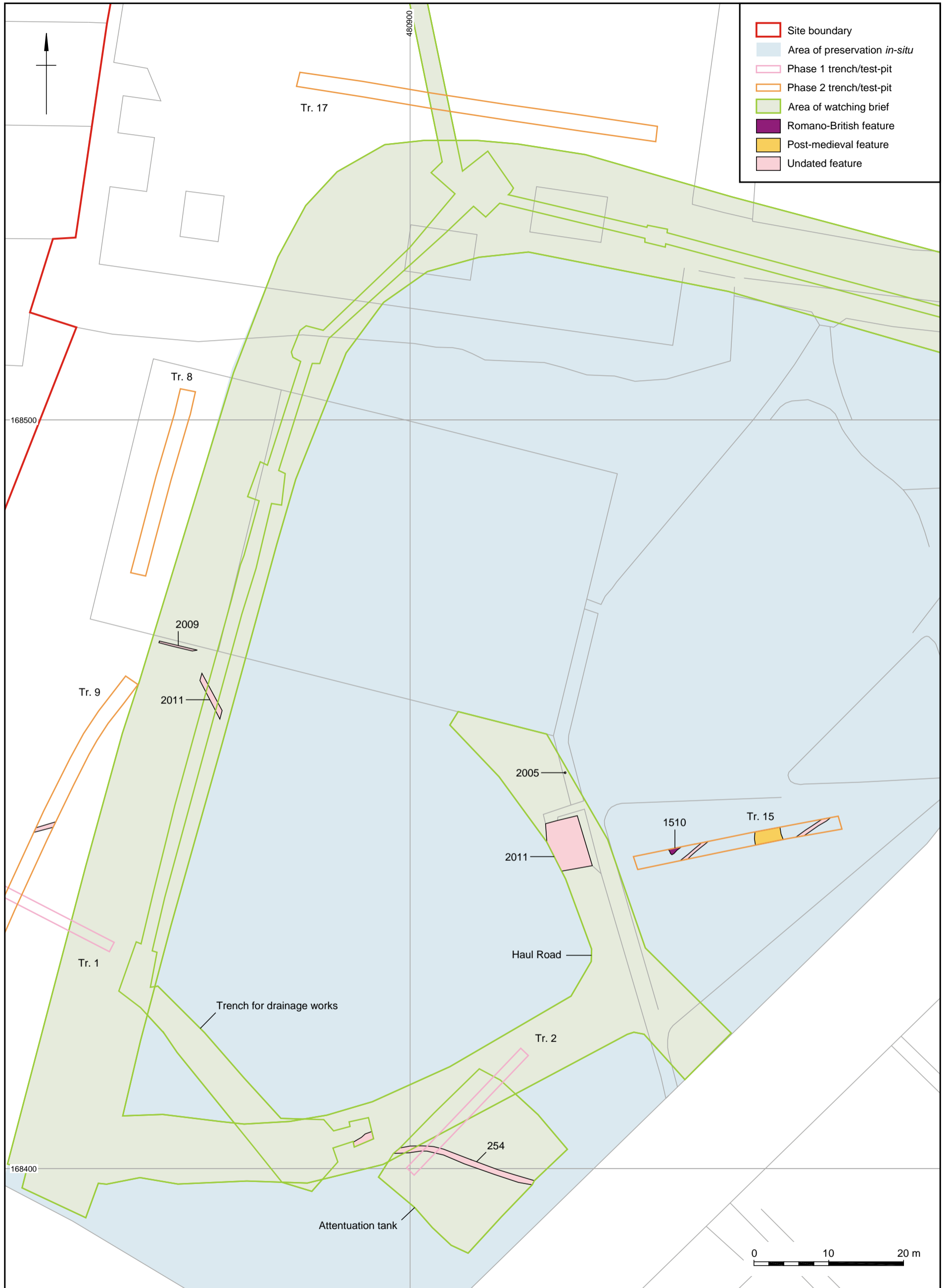
Entered by	Rachel Williams (r.williams@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	27 February 2019




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Site location and mitigation areas

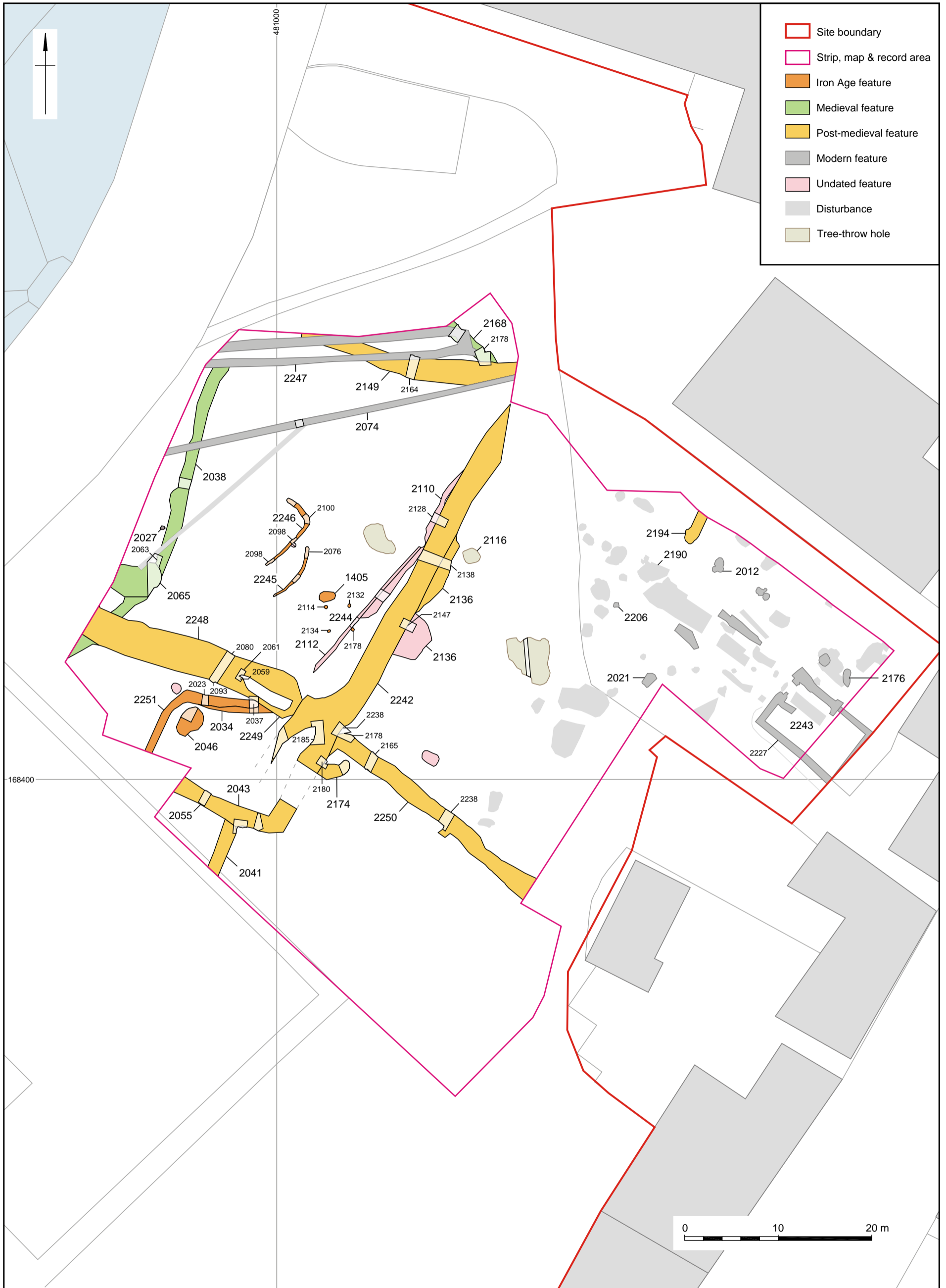
Figure 1




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Archaeological features from the watching brief

Figure 2



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Phased plan of archaeological features in the strip, map & record area

Figure 3



Plate 1: South facing representative section 2001. Scale is 1 m.



Plate 2: South-west facing section of posthole 2114 (part of group 2244). Scale is 0.2 m.


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Plate 3: North facing section of gully group 2245, slot 2076. Scale is 0.2 m.

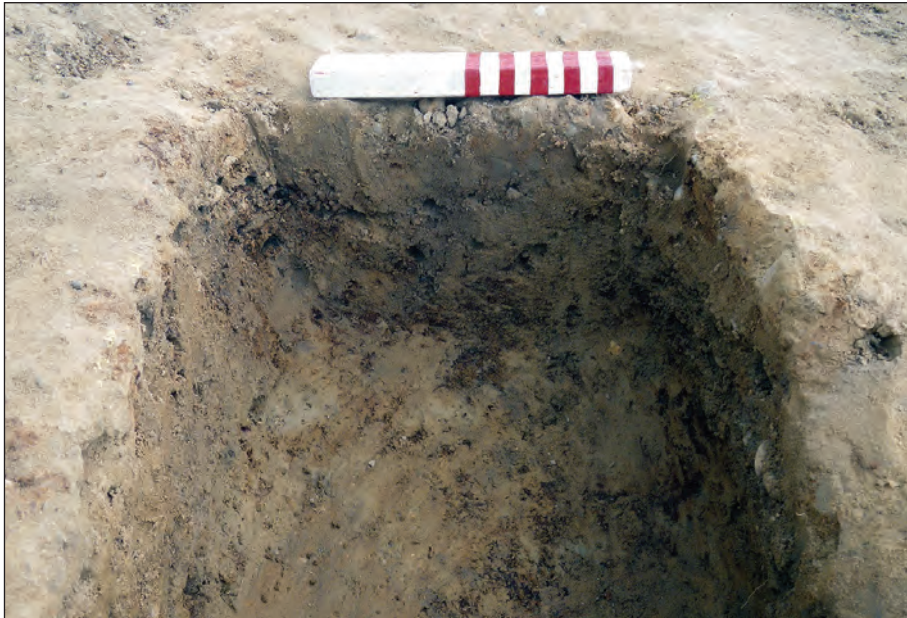



Plate 4: South-west facing section of gully group 2246, slot 2098. Scale is 0.2 m.

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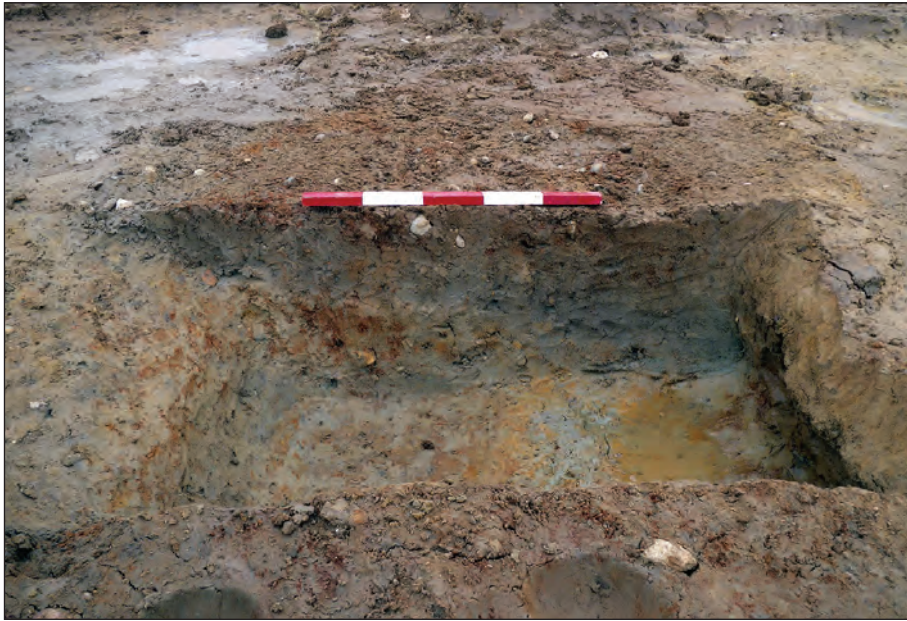


Plate 5: East facing section of ditch group 2251, slot 2023. Scale is 0.5 m.



Plate 6: North-east facing section of pit 2046. Scale is 1 m.


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Plate 7: East facing section of ditch 2065. Scale is 2 m.



Plate 8: South-east facing section of ditch group 2250, slot 2238. Scale is 1 m.


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Plate 9: South-west facing section of ditches 2136 and ditch group 2242 (slot 2138).
Scale is 1 m.



Plate 10: West facing section of ditch 2149. Scale is 2 m.


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Plate 11: Articulated animal remains in subsoil 2021, viewed from the south-west.
Scale is 1 m.



Plate 12: Structure group 2243, wall 2227 viewed from the north. Scale is 2 m.



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Plate 13: West facing section of culvert 2074. Scale is 0.5 m.



Plate 14: North-east facing section of ditches 2110 and 2112. Scale is 1 m.

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