



# Land at Albion Road Marden, Kent

Post-excavation Assessment



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69 College Road,  
Maidstone,  
Kent  
ME15 6SX

[www.wessexarch.co.uk](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk)

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Fieldwork directed by	Lisa McCaig and William Santamaria
Project management by	Rob De'Athe
Document compiled by	William Santamaria and Jon Sanigar
Contributions from	Grace Jones (finds), Phil Harding (flint), Phil Andrews (slag), Robert Wheeldon (coins), Lorrain Higbee (animal bone), Inés López-Dóriga (environmental), Nicki Mulhall (environmental) and Samantha Rogerson (environmental)
Graphics by	Nancy Dixon

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## Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Group to undertake an archaeological evaluation and strip, map and sample (SMS) excavation of a 4ha parcel of land at Albion Road, Marden, Kent, TN12 9EF, centred on NGR 575089 144409. The SMS excavation followed the results of the second phase of evaluation that revealed Prehistoric and Romano-British remains in the eastern half of the site.

The work was carried out as part of a planning condition from Maidstone Borough Council (17/504754/FULL) for the erection of 124 dwellings with parking, vehicular and pedestrian access and associated hard standing.

The site showed no evidence signs of significant truncation and had a relatively uniform geological sequence throughout, with the exception of the northwest quadrant of the area which had been a layer of colluvium sealing the natural geology.

The first phase of evaluation within the western half of the site recorded largely undated ditches pits and postholes, although five of the postholes were broadly dated to the prehistoric period. No further investigation took place within the western half of the site.

The Phase 2 evaluation and excavation area contained three large enclosure ditches, parts of at least three roundhouses along with several other curvilinear ditches, and numerous pits and postholes. The roundhouses formed a cluster along the eastern boundary of the site, and appear to be enclosed within the enclosure complex, and are likely contemporary and reused on a seasonal basis. The roundhouses likely date to the Late Iron Age but are currently considered to be Late Iron Age/Romano-British due to the broad timescales associated with some of the recovered artefacts. The enclosure system is also dated to the LIA/RB period.

The archaeological remains probably represent low level animal husbandry or small scale farming activity on a seasonal basis evidenced by the reuse of the same area for the construction of roundhouses.

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The fieldwork was directed by Lisa McCaig and William Santamaria, with the assistance of Alin Fuior, Charlotte Porter, Lance Lewis, Martha Page, Mark Denyer, Albert Smith, Matthew Fleming, Aleksandra Bialobrewska, Finley Wood, Joanne Loader and Hilde Van der Heul. This report was written by William Santamaria and Jon Sanigar and edited by Andrew Souter and Rob De'Athe. The project was managed by Rob De'Athe on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



# Land at Albion Road, Marden, Kent

## Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Group, to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising an archaeological evaluation and strip, map and sample excavation covering c. 4ha area centred on NGR 575089 144409, at Albion Road, Marden, Kent, TN12 9EF (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.1.2 The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Maidstone Borough Council (17/504754/FULL) for the erection of 124 dwellings with parking, vehicular and pedestrian access and associated hard standing.
- 1.1.3 The evaluation and excavation were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (Wessex Archaeology WSI 2018 & 2019) and KCC specification for archaeological evaluation and excavation which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed, for both the fieldwork and the post-excavation work. The County Archaeologist for KCC approved both WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The evaluation was undertaken in two stages due to ecological constraints. Trenches 1 – 6, in the western field, were excavated between the 10th and 13th July 2018. Trenches 7 – 13 were located in the eastern field and undertaken between the 25th April and the 1st May 2019. The Senior Archaeological Officer for KCC required further investigation within the study area based on the archaeological results obtained during the evaluation phase. This comprised the strip, map and sample of a 0.6ha parcel of land located in the eastern field. The excavation was undertaken between the 3rd and the 28th June 2019.
- 1.1.4 The evaluation and excavation were the final stage in a programme of archaeological works, which had included an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (CgMs 2013).

#### 1.2 Scope of the report

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

#### 1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The site is located at the southwest corner of the village of Marden, 3.5km west-northwest from the village of Staplehurst and 7.9km east of the town of Paddock Wood. The site comprises two large fields to the east and west, divided by a large MUGA, hard standing and two sports courts. A pavilion is located in the northwest corner of the site. The excavation area is located within part of the eastern field.





- 1.3.2 The site is bounded to the north by Stanley Road and residential development, to the east by a line of trees and undeveloped farmland, to the south by orchards and a large residential property, and to the west by Albion Road and residential development.
- 1.3.3 The site is relatively flat with a gentle slope towards east. The average ground level within the western field was 31.70OD. The average ground level within the eastern field was 31m OD.
- 1.3.4 The underlying geology is mapped as Weald Clay Formation, mudstone, with superficial deposits of River Terrace Deposited, 2, sand and gravel (British Geological Survey online viewer).

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior desk-based assessment (DBA: CgMs 2013), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1 km study area of the proposed development. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

### **2.2 Previous works related to the development**

*Land at Albion Road, Marden, Kent (2018/9)*

- 2.2.1 An evaluation within the site was undertaken in two stages on July 2018 and April/May 2019. 8 of the 13 trenches contained archaeological features and deposits. Within the western field several features were identified: 3 isolated postholes, 6 postholes that possible formed part of a possible but uncertain structure, a single storage pit, 2 pits of unknown purpose, 7 possible drainage ditches with different alignments and a field boundary/hedgerow. Within the eastern field, where the SMS excavation area was later located, were two curvilinear gullies with possibly associated postholes, a broadly north to south aligned ditch and two parallel ditches. All these features will be discussed in detail later in conjunction with the results of the strip, map and sample excavation.

### **2.3 Recent investigations**

*Land at Parsonage Farm, Marden (2016/7)*

- 2.3.1 An evaluation and subsequent strip, map and sample excavation were undertaken approximately 400m west of the site. The investigations revealed extensive Bronze Age remains, including a possible structure, boundary ditches, a substantial number of pits and several placed deposits containing pottery vessels.
- 2.3.2 The evaluation recorded a single north-east to south-west aligned Romano-British ditch terminus, along with a medieval/post-medieval pit, post-medieval ditches and several pits and ditches of uncertain date.

### **2.4 Archaeological and historical context**

*Prehistoric (450,000 BC – 43 BC)*

- 2.4.1 The geology of the evaluation area contains river terrace deposits, which in other areas have provided a large amount of Palaeolithic material. However, within the 1 km study area only a single broken ovate flint tool is recorded as a surface find, while the remains of several mammoths were found in a railway cutting in 1842.

- 2.4.2 A single Neolithic flint axe was the only evidence relating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age recorded during the DBA. However, as discussed above, recent investigations have found considerably more evidence for Bronze Age settlement approximately 500m to the west of the site.
- 2.4.3 The Iron Age in the area is characterised by settlement and large-scale organisation of the landscape. An Iron Age furnace and associated pottery, slag and clinker are recorded 750m west of the site. While Weald Clay, which contains clay ironstone, underlies the site it was believed that the River Terrace Deposits capping the clay would minimise the likelihood of Iron Age iron working within the site.

*Romano-British to Modern (43 BC - Present)*

- 2.4.4 No Romano-British evidence was recorded during the DBA, however the recent excavation at Parsonage Farm to the west of the site contained a single Romano-British ditch terminus, indicating some form of Romano-British occupation to the south-west of the evaluation area.
- 2.4.5 There was no evidence of occupation during the Anglo-Saxon period in the Study Area, with Marden not present in the Domesday Book. However, the local church is listed in the *Domesday Monachorum*, indicating that it could have been constructed prior to the town at the tail end of the Anglo-Saxon period. The modern church was built in AD 1200.
- 2.4.6 It is believed that the site lay within either fields or woodland throughout the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. The 1841 Tithe Map shows the site comprising three distinct fields, remaining so until sometime between 1867 and 1895 when it was part of the site was planted as an orchard. The remainder of the site became an orchard between 1945 and 1961. By 1968 however the western part of the site had been laid out as a sports field, with the rest of the site being developed for sporting purposes between 1986 and 2013. A 2007 aerial photograph shows a football pitch within the eastern field (Google Earth Accessed: 26/06/2018).

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Aims**

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation and excavation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018 & 2019) and in compliance with the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (ClfA 2014a) and the KCC specification for archaeological evaluation and excavation, 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 the research objectives of the excavation defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019) were:

- To determine the date, nature and extent of activity within the site by expanding on the results of the archaeological evaluation.

## 4 METHODS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018 & 2019) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a) and the KCC specifications for archaeological evaluation and excavation. The methods employed are summarised below.

### 4.2 Fieldwork methods

#### *General*

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

4.2.2 Trenches 2 and 4 located in the western field had to be slightly altered due to the possible existence of an underground service. The eastern edge of the excavation area in the eastern field, had to be relocated due to the presence of protected trees in proximity.

4.2.3 Where necessary, the surface 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.

4.2.4 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.

#### *Recording*

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

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

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

### 4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

#### *General*

- 4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018 & 2019). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

### 4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The county archaeologist for KCC, 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 county archaeologist.

## 5 STRATIGRAPHIC RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction

#### *Summary of archaeological features and deposits*

- 5.1.1 A moderate quantity of archaeological features were found distributed across the excavation area with larger concentration along the eastern portion. These comprised several features which appeared to relate to former land management in the form of field boundaries, drainage ditches, rubbish and fire pits and an enclosure ditch that demarcated the location of three roundhouses formed by a curvilinear ditch with internal postholes and storage pits. The remains of three other possible heavily truncated roundhouses were also found. These features present a range of activities undertaken at the site during LIA-RB period including agricultural, domestic and livestock farming.
- 5.1.2 A small portion of the archaeological features recorded remain undated. A total of 58 pits and postholes presented sterile fills, although the majority of these are associated with other features that could provide some contextual dating.
- 5.1.3 The results of the excavation are presented below in chronological order from the earliest dated features to the most recent, with undated features discussed at the end. The archaeological features will be described in relation with those found during the evaluation phase.
- 5.1.4 Every effort was made to produce an accurate phasing for the archaeological remains that was conditioned by the lack of archaeological finds or the level of truncation caused by modern agricultural activities.
- 5.1.5 Detailed descriptions of each individual contexts are not reproduced in total in this document given its large extension. Although a full digital and physical record was created on site from each context and stored in the Wessex Archaeology Archives till the designated museum collects the archaeological archive.
- 5.1.6 The location of the evaluation trenches and the investigation area is shown on **Figure 1**. **Figure 2** shows the archaeological results within the evaluation trenches excavated in the western field. **Figure 3** shows all archaeological features recorded within the excavation area in the eastern field, including those located during the evaluation phase. **Figure 4** and **5** shows detailed plans of the roundhouses. **Figure 6** comprises a selection of the

recorded section of excavated features. Plates 1-20 show examples of a selection of the investigated archaeological features during the evaluation and excavation.

*Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data*

5.1.7 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.

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

**Table 1** Quantification of excavation records

Type	Quantity
Context records	Evaluation (123) SMS (326)
Context registers	Evaluation (1) SMS (1)
Graphics (A4 and A3)	Evaluation (23) SMS (59)
Graphics (A1)	SMS (2)
Graphics registers	Evaluation (1) SMS (1)
Environmental sample registers	Evaluation (1) SMS (1)
Object registers	SMS (1)
Digital photographs	Evaluation (568) SMS (779)

## 5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 A common stratigraphic sequence was identified across the Site (**Plate 3 & 4**). This consisted on light brownish grey silty clay topsoil, 0.15m to 0.23m thick, which overlay a mid-yellowish brown silty clay subsoil which thickness varied between 0.22m to 0.44m. This subsoil was directly overlaying the natural horizon which was encountered between 0.42m and 0.62m below ground level (BGL).

5.2.2 A 0.30m thick layer of possible colluvium was found approximately in the northwest quadrant of the excavation area. This colluvial deposit was formed by a mid orangey brown silty sand with abundant manganese flecks and ironstone nodules inclusions. All features spotted in this part of the area seemed to be sealed by this colluvium.

5.2.3 A number of natural features in the form of tree throws were observed and investigated, likely removed in the past with the intention to prepare the land for farming activities.

5.2.4 The majority of the archaeological features were cut into the natural geology and sealed by subsoil, except those features that lay beneath the colluvial deposit observed in the northwest quadrant of the excavation area.

## 6 EVALUATION RESULTS

### 6.1 Late Iron Age (100 BC – AD 43)

#### *Rubbish pit*

- 6.1.1 A single feature located in Trench 4 produced archaeological finds suitable for dating. Rubbish pit **404 (Plate 5)**, located on the West end of the trench, was oval in plan with irregular base and sides. It measured 0.52m long, 0.46m wide and 0.32m deep. Part of a plain-rimmed bowl/dish in sandstone-gritted fabric R1 of probable Late Iron Age date was found within its charcoal rich deposit.

### 6.2 Uncertain date

#### *Uncertain pits*

- 6.2.1 Within Trench 1 located in the western field was an oval pit or possible tree-throw **108 (Figs. 1 & 2)** which produced several fragments of fired clay and a single fragment of undiagnostic pottery. The possible pit was sub-circular in plan with irregular base and sides which may be the result of rooting. It measured 0.90m long, 0.77m wide and 0.29m deep. Towards the SSE end of the trench was pit **117 (Plate 6)**, located against the edge of trench and continuing beyond the limit of excavation (LOE). The pit was of uncertain shape with a concave base and moderately sloped concave sides. The pit measured 0.50m wide and 0.32m deep. The feature produced a single undiagnostic pottery sherd and ironworking slag that might have derived from an unknown hearth structure.

#### *Storage pit*

- 6.2.2 To the north of Trench 1 was a possible storage pit **104 (Plate 7)**. The feature continued beyond LOE and is likely to have been circular in plan, with 'bell' shape sides and a flat base, slightly undercut at the base. It showed a diameter of 0.81m and a depth of 0.81m. A large quantity of pottery and scarce fragments of fired clay and struck flint were retrieved from its fills. The majority of pottery retrieved corresponds to sandstone, grog and flint fabrics. Given the characteristics of the fabrics could possibly belong to the Late Iron Age period but without identifiable forms cannot be assured.

#### *Rubbish pits*

- 6.2.3 Within Trench 4 a total of 6 rubbish pits, containing abundant waste material, with similar dimensions and shape were investigated. Only pit **404** produced finds suitable for dating of LIA period. This pit has been already described above. Pit **406**, located on the west end of the trench, was oval in plan with undulating base and steep convex side at the top and undercut at the base. It measured 0.55m long, 0.40m wide and 0.37m deep. A single pottery sherd was recovered probably of LIA origin but uncertain form. Pit **408**, located to the east of **406**, was sub-circular in plan with irregular base and steep concave sides. It measured 0.50m long, 0.36m wide and 0.19m deep. Another undiagnostic body sherd was recovered within waste material. Pit **410** was located approximately in the centre of the trench featuring a sub-circular shape in plan with sloping base and moderate concave sides. It measured 0.52m long, 0.42m wide and 0.14m deep. Pit **412** located nearby to 410 was sub-circular in plan with sloping base and moderate concave sides. It measured 0.56 m long, 0.41m wide and 0.15m deep. No finds suitable for dating were found. Undated pit **416** was located immediately to the east of **410** truncating a possible field boundary or hedgerow 414. Its dimensions were incomplete as continued beyond LOE and was approximately 0.66m wide and 0.24m deep. It featured concave base with steep concave sides.

*Isolated postholes*

- 6.2.4 An undated posthole **115 (Figs. 1 & 2)** was located to the south of the intersection between ditches 110 & 112 within Trench 1. The posthole was sub-circular in plan, with a flat base and steep straight sides. It measured 0.28m in diameter and 0.23m deep.
- 6.2.5 Within Trench 2 an isolated posthole **204 (Figs. 1 & 2)** was identified. It was sub-oval in plan with concave base and steep stepped sides and measured 0.50m long, 0.38m wide and 0.40m deep. Two sherds of undiagnostic pottery were recovered from a possible postpipe within the feature.
- 6.2.6 An isolated posthole **608 (Figs. 1 & 2)** was located towards the north end of Trench 6. It was sub-circular in plan with concave base and steep concave sides and measured 0.32m long, 0.30m wide and 0.21m deep. No finds suitable for dating were recovered from the feature.

*Drainage ditches*

- 6.2.7 Approximately in the centre of Trench 1 an intersection of two linear ditches **110 & 112** was recorded (**Figs. 1 & 2**). Both features were identified as former drainage ditches that were naturally silted with eroded soil after being abandoned. The ditches continued beyond the LOE but did not seem to carry on in any surrounding trenches. Ditch **110** was aligned north-south and presented a concave base with steep concave sides. It measured 0.74m wide and 0.31m deep. No archaeological finds were retrieved from its single fill. Ditch **110** was truncated by a later ditch **112** to the north. Ditch **112** was east-west orientated with concave base and steep concave sides. The ditch measured 0.56m wide and 0.30m deep. A single undiagnostic pottery sherd and a fragment of burnt flint were retrieved. At the south-east end of trench was a linear ditch **120 (Figs. 1 & 2)**. It was aligned north-east to south-west with concave base and moderate sloped concave sides and measured 0.52m wide and 0.22m deep. It continued beyond LOE and was not recorded in any of surrounding trenches but might be related with ditch **414** located in Trench 4 and ditch **604** in Trench 6 as seem to share the same alignment. During it investigation an unidentifiable pottery sherd was retrieved.
- 6.2.8 Within Trench 5 two linear features (**Figs. 1 & 2**), that probably formed part of a former land management or drainage system, were recorded. Ditch **504** was located close to the west end of the trench on a broadly north-south alignment and showed concave base and moderate concave sides. It measured 0.70m wide and 0.21m deep. Ditch **506** was located towards the east end of the trench on a north-south alignment with concave base and moderate concave sides. It measured 0.64m wide and 0.22m deep. The two ditches were roughly parallel to each other and 35m apart. A single intrusive fragment of post-Roman roof tile found within the feature was insufficient to date it.

*Field boundaries*

- 6.2.9 A possible field boundary **414 (Figs. 1 & 2)** located in the centre of Trench 4 was north-east to south-west aligned with roughly linear shape in plan, irregular base and shallow irregular sides. It measured 1.02m wide and 0.15m deep and continued beyond LOE but was not seen in any of surrounding trenches. It might be related with ditches **120** and **604** as shared the same alignment. No finds were found associated with this feature.
- 6.2.10 Two linear features **604 & 606** were recorded within Trench 6 (**Figs. 1 & 2**). The alignment of the ditches seemed to correspond to different phases of land use. Their relationship could not be established at this stage, but they would have intersected at some point beyond the LOE. Ditch **604** was located in the approximate centre of the trench on an east-west

alignment and showed a concave base and moderate concave sides. It measured 0.35m wide and 0.36m deep and produced a single undiagnostic pottery sherd. Ditch **606** was located near **604** running on a north-south alignment with concave base and moderate concave sides. It measured 0.72m wide and 0.29m deep. No finds were spotted within the feature.

## 7 STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE RESULTS

### 7.1 Late Iron Age/Romano-British (Figs. 3, 4, 5)

#### *Enclosures*

- 7.1.1 On the eastern part of the site where the archaeological excavation was carried out two field boundaries were investigated (**Fig. 3**). Ditch group no. **2315 (Plate 8)** ran broadly on an east to west alignment along the northern edge of the excavation with steep concave sides and flat to concave base. The ditch was exposed 73.10m, continuing beyond the LOE and measured 4.60m on its widest section towards the West end and 2.60m. The depth of the ditch varied from 0.66m to the east, 0.78m in the centre and 0.57m to the west. The ditch was later recut by ditch group no. **2328** on its Eastern end.
- 7.1.2 Possibly associated with **2315** was another field boundary running along the southern edge of the excavation area. Ditch group no. **2318 (Plate 9)** ran on a broadly east to west alignment. The ditch measured 58.70m, but continued beyond the LOE, 2.60m on its wider section and 1.80m on its narrower, showing a similar depth along its run (0.61m to 0.67m deep). The ditch presented moderate to steep concave sides and concave base.
- 7.1.3 Ditches **2315 & 2318** seemed to have been used as boundary ditches of a former field that showed some internal division in form of rectangular enclosures. Ditch group no. **2316 (Plate 10)** formed a rectangular field division together with **2315 & 2318**. The ditch starting at a terminus on its broadly north to south alignment, ran 48.50m towards the south where it joined ditch **2318**. The ditch showed variable width from 0.60m wide at its northern end to 1.50m at its southern and varied as well in depth from 0.22m to the North to 0.60m in the centre. The ditch showed moderate to steep concave sides and concave base.
- 7.1.4 Ditch group no. **2317 (Plate 11)** formed a rectangular enclosure that demarcated the location of at least three roundhouses. The ditch joined ditch group no. **2328** at its northern end and ran 48m towards south before turning to the East to continue 21m to the edge of the excavation. The ditch presented moderate to steep concave sides and concave base. The ditch was 0.70m wide on its northern end increasing to 1.26m to the south and showed a variable depth from 0.24m to 0.43m.

#### *Roundhouses*

- 7.1.5 Between the field boundary **2319** and the southern edge of the excavation area a segment of a possible truncated roundhouse was investigated. Ditch group no. **2319** was previously identified during the evaluation phase. The ditch was curvilinear. The feature showed a 'v' shaped profile with straight steep sides and measured 0.34m wide and 0.22 m deep. Two postholes were found in proximity and possibly related with the curvilinear ditch. Posthole **1007** was found truncating the feature, whereas **1010** was located approximately in the centre of the curvilinear ditch. Both postholes showed a circular shape in plan with moderate concave sides, a concave base and similar dimensions. Posthole **1007** measured 0.30m in diameter and 0.17m deep. Posthole **1010** measured 0.46 m in diameter and 0.11m deep.
- 7.1.6 Within the rectangular enclosure **2317** three roundhouses and the remains of a further two were investigated (**Fig. 5**). Roundhouse group no. **2320** was found in the south of the



enclosure formed by a curvilinear gully with a possible entrance to the east. The ditch had a diameter of c. 10m with shallow to moderate concave sides and concave base. The gully dimensions varied from 0.46m to 0.70m wide and 0.10m to 0.18m deep. A single discrete feature of uncertain purpose was located internally. Pit **2245** was sub-circular in plan with steep concave sides and flat base. The pit measured 0.94m wide, 0.70m wide and 0.20m deep.

- 7.1.7 Towards the northwest of roundhouse **2320** was a crescent shaped gully group no. **2321** (Fig.5 & Plate 12). This curvilinear ditch represented the remains of another truncated roundhouse which had a probable entrance on its eastern side. The roundhouse was presumably of similar diameter as **2320** and varied slightly in dimensions from 0.30 m to 0.44m width, and 0.10m to 0.18m deep. The gully showed moderate to shallow concave sides and concave base. Within the curvilinear ditch are two internal structures, the first being a sub-oval structure comprised of ten postholes **2156, 2158, 2160, 2168, 2170, 2178, 2180, 2182, 2213** and **2215**, and two central postholes **2172** (Plates 13 & 14) and **2174**. The postholes were circular in shape with moderate concave sides and concave bases, measuring between 0.13m and 0.44m in diameter, and 0.09m and 0.2m in depth. This structure can be interpreted as the internal support structure of the roundhouse as they were positioned centrally within curvilinear ditch **2321**. The second set of postholes are arranged as a possible square structure which comprised of fourteen postholes **1218, 1221, 1223, 1226, 2164, 2166, 2186, 2217, 2219, 2225, 2227, 2229, 2231** and **2233**. The postholes were circular in shape with moderate concave sides and concave bases, measuring between 0.11m and 0.36m in diameter, and 0.01m and 0.14m in depth. The structure was positioned off-centre in relation to **2321** but could function as an internal structure in the roundhouse or possibly a separate square building once the roundhouse went out of use, although this is unlikely.
- 7.1.8 To the north of roundhouse gullies **2320** and **2321** are multiple phases of roundhouse gullies **2094, 2322, 2323**, and **2327**. Curvilinear ditch **2094** is orientated southwest to northeast with shallow concave sides and a concave base, measuring 6m in length, 0.24m in width and 0.1m in depth. The feature was later cut by roundhouse gully **2322** at its southwestern end and might be remains of an earlier phase of roundhouse construction.
- 7.1.9 Roundhouse gully **2322** was sub-oval in shape with moderate concave sides and a concave base, measuring 20m in length, between 0.33m and 0.56m in width and between 0.1m and 0.17m in dept. The gully commenced from the south from pit **2287** and continued towards north creating a semi-circular shape which later truncated ditches **2094** and **2323**. The ditch ended to the north east where it was truncated by ditch **2324**. Several internal features including post holes and pits were found demarcated by this ditch. A total of eight postholes **2209, 2273, 2275, 2277, 2279, 2281, 2283** and **2291** (Plate 15) were located within the curvilinear gully that might be the remains of an internal structure of the round house. These postholes were sub-circular to circular in shape with moderate concave sides and a concave base, measuring between 0.26m and 0.44m in diameter and 0.09m and 0.14m in depth. Another group of postholes **2297, 2300, 2302, 2307, 2309** and **2311** were arranged in a row orientated northeast to southwest, three of which have been truncated by curvilinear ditch **2324**. The features are sub-oval to sub-circular in shape with steep concave sides and a flat bases, measuring between 0.22m and 0.54m in diameter and 0.08m and 0.37m in depth. These postholes may also be associated with roundhouse **2322**.
- 7.1.10 A short segment of roundhouse gully **2323** survived from an earlier phase of roundhouse construction. The gully is orientated north to south with shallow concave sides and a concave base, measuring 7.2m in length, 0.32m in width and 0.15m in depth. The gully was later cut by roundhouse gully **2322** at its northern end, in addition pit **2130** cuts the gully.



7.1.11 Roundhouse gully **2327** was orientated northwest to southeast and curves slightly. The feature had shallow concave sides and a concave base, measuring 7.6m in length, 0.64m in width and 0.08m in depth. The gully is located to the southwest of roundhouse **2322** and is possibly the same structure of that roundhouse or the remains of an earlier roundhouse. Located between gully **2327** and **2323** to the north is a row of four postholes **2249**, **2265**, **2267** and **2269** that might be associated with the gully. These postholes are circular in shape with moderate concave sides and a concave base, measuring between 0.3m and 0.52m in diameter and 0.09m and 0.22m in depth.

#### *Pits*

7.1.12 Located close to a small cluster of pits **2107**, **2069** and **2076** are pits **2080** and **8082 (Plate 16)** that by comparison contained different fills. Pit **2080** was sub-oval in shape with shallow concave sides and a concave base, measuring 0.62m in length, 1.11m in width and 0.15m in depth. The feature contained a single deliberate backfill of greyish brown sandy silt with sparse pottery sherds and common charcoal fragments. This fill was later cut by pit **2082**. Pit **2082** was sub-oval in shape with moderate concave sides and a concave base, measuring 1.25m in length, 0.87m in width and 0.37m in depth. The feature contained six fills, the first being a primary fill and the next three being deliberate deposits of silt with abundant charcoal fragments. A fill of mid-greyish brown sandy silt seems to cap/seal the charcoal fills once they were deposited. After which two more fills containing common to abundant charcoal fragments and common pottery sherds were deposited. The five pits can be considered as a small cluster of features used to deposit waste material likely from the roundhouses to the east.

7.1.13 Located to the north of the five-pit cluster and west of the roundhouses is an isolated pit **2090**, and a small cluster of three pits **2050**, **2052** and **2059**.

7.1.14 Pit **2050** was sub-oval in shape with steep irregular sides and a concave base, measuring 0.73m in length, 0.34m in width and 0.3m in depth. The feature contained a single deliberate backfill of greyish brown sandy silt with two pottery sherds. Pit **2052** was sub-circular in shape with steep concave sides and a concave base, measuring 0.5m in length, 0.29m in width and 0.25m in depth. The feature contained a single deliberate backfill of light reddish-brown sandy silt with sparse pottery sherds and an iron nail. Pit **2059** was sub-oval in shape with steep concave sides and a concave base, measuring 1m in length, 0.28m in width and 0.17m in depth. The feature contained five deliberate backfills all of which had charcoal fragments. The last fill contained pottery sherds and fragments of fired clay. The three pits can be considered as a small cluster of features used to deposit refuse material and burning waste away from the roundhouses to the east, similar to the five pits to located to the south.

7.1.15 Pit **2090** was located to the west of the cluster of three pits. The pit was sub-oval in shape with moderate concave sides and a concave base, measuring 0.74m in length, 0.58m in width and 0.16m in depth. The feature contained three fills, the first being a primary fill. The next two are deliberate backfills, the first was a light greyish red sandy silt with common charcoal fragments. The second was a dark blackish brown sandy silt with abundant charcoal fragments.

7.1.16 Pit **2130** was cut into the upper fill of roundhouse gully **2323**. It was circular in shape with steep concave sides and flat base, measuring 0.52m in diameter and 0.2m in depth. The feature contained three deliberate backfills, the first one being a fill of mid-grey silty clay with rare charcoal flecks. The second fill being light yellowish-brown silty clay with charcoal flecks and fired clay. The third fill being a reddish orange clay with common amounts of fired clay.

- 7.1.17 Pit **2140 (Plate 17)** was cut into the upper fill of curvilinear ditch **2325**. The feature was circular in shape with steep concave sides and a concave base, measuring 0.9m+ in length, 0.82m in width and 0.48m in depth. It contained three fills, the first being a deliberate backfill of mid-greyish brown silty clay with common CBM and charcoal flecks. The second being a secondary fill of light yellowish brown, and the third being a secondary fill of mid-greyish brown silty clay with rare CBM and charcoal. The pit had been used to dispose of waste burnt material and CBM and left to naturally silt up.
- 7.1.18 Pits **2176, 2184 (Plate 18)** and **2221 (Plate 19)** were located in a cluster within roundhouse gully **2321** and amongst a large number of postholes. Pit **2176** was sub-circular in shape with steep concave sides and a flat base, measuring 0.72m in length, 0.7m in width and 0.42m in depth. The feature contained a single secondary fill of mid-greyish brown sandy silt with rare amounts of charcoal and fired clay flecks and pottery sherds. Pit **2184** was circular in shape with steep concave sides and concave base, measuring 0.91m in length, 0.89m in width and 0.55m in depth. The feature contained a single secondary fill of mid-greyish brown sandy silt with a moderate amount of charcoal flecks and rare pottery. Pit **2221** was circular in shape with steep stepped sides and a flat base, measuring 1m in length, 0.9m in width and 0.5m in depth. The feature contained a single secondary fill of mid-greyish brown sandy silt with moderate charcoal and fired clay flecks and rare pottery. Pits **2179, 2184** and **2221** may be considered as storage pits due to the lack of artefacts and waste material within them.
- 7.1.19 Pits **2211, 2263** and **2287** were located within roundhouse gully **2322**, and could be associated with this phase of roundhouse construction. Pit **2211** was sub-rectangular in shape with moderate concave sides and a flat base, measuring 0.64m in length, 0.44m in width and 0.17m in depth. The feature contained a single deliberate backfill of mid-yellowish-brown sandy silt with a moderate amount of fired clay and common charcoal fragments. Pit **2263** was oval in shape with steep concave sides and a flat base, measuring 1.33m in length, 0.64m in width and 0.14m in depth. The feature contained a single deliberate backfill of mid-greyish brown silty clay with rare amounts of slag, pottery, charcoal flecks and fired clay. Pit **2287** was circular in shape with moderate concave sides and a concave base, measuring 0.46m in diameter and 0.17m in depth. The feature contained a single deliberate backfill of mid-greyish brown silty clay with rare amounts of pottery. These pits may be considered as rubbish/refuse pits likely associated with activity related to roundhouse **2322**.
- 7.1.20 Pit **2261 (Plate 20)** was located between roundhouse gullies **2324** and **2326** but could be considered as activity associated with **2324**. Pit **2261** was sub-oval in shape with irregular stepped sides and a concave base, measuring 0.85m in length, 0.48m in width and 0.16m in depth. The feature contained a single deliberate backfill of very dark grey silty clay with some in-situ burnt clay visible on the edges of the pit cut. It is suggested that the material was deposited whilst still hot, rather than an *insitu* fire deposit.
- 7.1.21 Pit **2281** is located amongst a cluster of postholes associated with roundhouse gully **2322**. The feature is irregular in shape with moderate irregular sides and an undulating base, measuring 1.36m in length, 0.66m in width and 0.27m in depth. It contained a single secondary fill of mid-greyish brown sandy silt with sparse amounts of pottery. The pit cut undated posthole **2283**.
- Curvilinear ditches*
- 7.1.22 Curvilinear ditch **2324** curves from the north to the south and then around to the southeast where it joins waterhole **2202**. The feature measures 14.6m in length, 0.78m in width and 0.16m in depth. The ditch may be the remains of a later roundhouse as it cuts roundhouse

gully **2322** at its northern end. The ditch also cut through a group of postholes and pits **2297**, **2300**, **2302** and **2311**.

- 7.1.23 Curvilinear ditch **2325** was located at the eastern area of the site and continued beyond the LOE to the east. The ditch cuts ditch **2295** and was later cut by ring gullies **2324** and **2325**. Pit **2140** was later cut into the upper fill of the ditch. The feature had moderate concave sides and a concave base, measuring 10.8m+ in length, 1.13m in width and 0.29m in depth. The ditch became narrow at it curved to the southwest, measuring 0.27m in width and 0.13m in depth. The feature contained two fills, the first being a deliberate backfill of mid-greyish brown silty clay with common charcoal fragments and CBM, and sparse pottery sherds. The second fill being a secondary fill of light yellowish-brown sandy clay silt with sparse CBM flecks.

#### *Waterhole*

- 7.1.24 Waterhole **2202** was located near to the eastern edge of the site near to roundhouse **2322** and continues beyond the LOE to the east (**Fig. 4**). The feature was irregular in shape with steep concave sides and a concave base, measuring in length, in width and 0.75m in depth. The feature contained four secondary fills of a mixture of light grey to dark grey silty clay with one fill having rare amounts of pottery. The feature had two ditches **2324** and **2326** running into it from the west which may have directed water into the watering hole.

## 7.2 Uncertain Date

### *Isolated Postholes*

- 7.2.1 Posthole **2022** was located in isolation north of field boundary **2315**, with no other archaeological features located nearby. The feature was sub-circular in shape with vertical concave sides and a concave base. The feature contained a firmly compacted dark greyish brown silty clay with no artefacts.
- 7.2.2 Postholes **2007** and **2009** and pit **2011** were located next to one another close to the northern LOE. Posthole **2007** was sub-circular in shape with steep concave sides and a V-shaped base, measuring 0.33m in length, 0.22m in width and 0.43m in depth. The feature contained the remains of a postpipe with abundant charcoal and fired clay fragments. The fill of posthole was later cut by pit **2011**. Posthole **2009** was sub-circular in shape with steep concave sides and a concave base, measuring 0.36m in length, 0.29m in width and 0.33m in depth. The feature contained the remains of a postpipe with abundant charcoal fragments and sparse fired clay. Pit **2011** was sub-oval in shape with moderate concave sides and an undulating base, measuring 0.83m in length, 0.36m+ in width and 0.35m in depth. The feature contained a single deliberate backfill of mid-reddish-brown sandy silt and no artefacts.
- 7.2.3 Posthole **2124** was located at the southern junction of field boundaries **2316** and **2318** and cut the upper fill of ditch **2316**. Posthole **2124** was circular in shape with shallow concave sides and a flat base, measuring 0.4m in length, 0.38m in width and 0.08m in depth. The feature contained a deliberate backfill of dark blackish brown sandy clay with abundant charcoal and fired clay. At the earliest the feature is Late Iron Age/Romano-British in date due to its stratigraphic relationship with ditch **2316**.
- 7.2.4 Posthole **2162** is located along the western edge of enclosure ditch 2162. The feature is circular in shape with shallow concave sides and a concave base, measuring 0.43m in length, 0.38m in width and 0.09m in depth. It contained a deliberate backfill of mid-greyish brown sandy silt with common charcoal fragments and no artefacts.

### *Pits*

- 7.2.5 Two pits **2005** and **2015** were located close to one another in the top northeast corner of the site, north of field boundary **2315**. Pit **2005** was sub-oval in shape with moderate concave sides and a concave base, measuring 0.77m in length, 0.6m in width and 0.15m in depth. The feature contained a secondary fill of mid-greyish brown sandy silt. No artefacts were retrieved from the pit. Pit **2015** was irregular in shape with irregular concave sides and a concave base, measuring 0.85m in diameter and 0.29m in depth. The feature contained two deliberate backfills of dark greyish brown sandy silt, and no artefacts or charcoal fragments.
- 7.2.6 Pits **2018**, **2020**, **2039**, **2041** and **2073** were located north of the roundhouses but within field boundary **2315** and enclosure ditch **2317**. Pit **2018** was sub-circular in shape with steep concave sides and a concave base, measuring 0.7m in length, 0.68m in width and 0.32m in depth. The feature contained a single secondary fill with no artefacts or charcoal fragments. Pit **2020** was sub-oval in shape with shallow concave sides and a concave base, measuring 0.78m in length, 0.62m in width and 0.07m in depth. The feature contained a single deliberate backfill of dark reddish grey sandy silt with common fired clay fragments. Pit **2039** was sub-oval in shape with moderate concave sides and a concave base, measuring 0.53m in length, 0.48m in width and 0.19m in depth. The feature contained a single secondary fill of dark greyish brown sandy silt with no artefacts or charcoal. The feature was not used to dispose of waste material and was left to silt up. Pit **2041** was sub-oval in shape with steep concave sides and an undulating base, measuring 0.63m in length, 0.44m in width and 0.2m in depth. The feature contained a single deliberate backfill of dark greyish brown sandy silt with common charcoal fragments. Pit **2073** was sub-oval in shape with moderate concave sides and a concave base, measuring 1.55m in length, 0.56m in width and 0.18m in depth. The feature contained two secondary fills with no artefacts or charcoal fragments. These pits are not located within a cluster and seem to be a mixture of features used to dispose of waste and burnt material, with two of the pits left to silt up with no deliberate backfill deposits within.
- 7.2.7 Pit **2107** was located within proximity to pits **2069** and **2076**, and fire pits **2080** and **2082** to the west of the roundhouses. The pit was irregular in shape with irregular concave sides and a concave base, measuring 0.85m in length and width, and 0.29m in depth. The feature contained two deliberate backfills. The first being a dark brown in colour containing charcoal flecks and the second a dark greyish brown sandy clay. No artefacts were retrieved from the feature that could date it. Pit **2052** was sub-circular in shape with steep concave sides and a concave base, measuring 0.5m in length, 0.29 in width and 0.25m in depth. The feature contained a deliberate backfill of light reddish-brown sandy silt with pottery and an iron nail. Pit **2069** is sub-oval in shape with steep concave sides and a concave base, measuring 1.25m in length, 0.55m in width and 0.46m in depth. The feature contained a single secondary fill of reddish-brown sandy silt and no artefacts. This pit cuts the upper fill of field boundary ditch **2316**. Pit **2076** was sub-oval in shape with moderate concave sides and a concave base, measuring 1.56m in length, 1.6m in width and 0.31m in depth. The feature contained three fills, the first two were primary fills of light yellowish-brown sandy silt, and the last being a deliberate backfill of mid-greyish brown sandy silt containing rare charcoal flecks and sparse pottery sherds.
- 7.2.8 Pits **2152** and **2154** were located next to one another close to the northern edge of roundhouse gully **2321**. Pit **2152** was sub-oval in shape with shallow concave sides and a concave base, measuring 0.48m in length, 0.42m in width and 0.08m in depth. The feature contained a single deliberate backfill of dark blackish brown sandy silt with abundant charcoal and fired clay flecks, and rare pottery sherds. Pit **2154** was sub-oval in shape with shallow concave sides and a concave base, measuring 0.6m in length, 0.33m in width and



0.1m in depth. The feature contained a single deliberate backfill of dark blackish brown sandy silt with abundant charcoal fragments and fired clay flecks. These pits can be considered a rubbish pits used to dispose of waste burnt material.

- 7.2.9 Pit **2223 (Plate 19)** located directly adjacent to pit **2221** and was sub-oval in shape with shallow concave sides and a concave base, measuring 0.8m in length, 0.72m in width and 0.1m in depth. The feature contained a single deliberate backfill of dark greyish black sandy silt with moderate charcoal flecks, and rare pottery and slag. The pit could be a rubbish pit as it contained a large amount of waste burnt material.
- 7.2.10 Pit **2253** was located adjacent to the western limit of roundhouse **2322** and was irregular in shape with moderate irregular sides and a concave base, measuring 0.85m in length, 0.65m in width and 0.26m in depth. The feature contained a single deliberate backfill of mid-greyish brown silty clay with common charcoal flecks. The pit is likely a rubbish/refuse pit associated with activity related to roundhouse **2322**
- 7.2.11 Pit **2245** is located within roundhouse **2320**. The feature was sub-circular in shape with steep concave sides and a flat base, measuring 0.94m in length, 0.7m in width and 0.2m in depth. It contained a single secondary fill with no artefacts or charcoal.
- 7.2.12 Pit **2255** was located to the southeast of the east facing entrance of roundhouse **2320**. The feature was circular in shape with shallow concave sides and an undulating base, measuring 0.64m in diameter and 0.13m in depth. It contained a single deliberate backfill of dark blackish brown sandy silt with abundant charcoal fragments and sparse fragments of fired clay. The pit can be considered a feature used to dispose of waste material.
- 7.2.13 Pit **2271** located between features **2326**, **2325** and **2202**, was oval in shape with moderate concave sides and a flat base, measuring 0.4m in length, 0.35m in width and 0.15m in depth. The feature contained a single deliberate backfill of mid-greyish brown silty clay with common charcoal flecks and CBM, and rare slag and pottery.

#### *Curvilinear ditches*

- 7.2.14 Curvilinear ditch **2295** located between roundhouse gully **2324** and curvilinear linear ditch **2325** and orientated northeast to southwest. The ditch had steep concave sides and a U-shaped base, measuring 10m in length, 0.16m in width and 0.12m in depth. The feature contained a single secondary fill with rare charcoal flecks. The ditch was later cut by curvilinear ditch **2325**, and its southwestern end had been cut off by curvilinear ditch **2324**.

## **8 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE**

### **8.1 Introduction**

- 8.1.1 Approximately 18 kg of finds were recovered during evaluation and excavation at the site. The assemblage ranges in date from early prehistoric to post-medieval. All finds have been cleaned (with the exception of the metal objects) and quantified by material type in each context; this information is summarised in Table 2.

**Table 2** Quantification of finds (number/weight in grammes)

Material type	Number	Weight (g)
Pottery		
Late Iron Age/Roman	858	7689
Post-medieval	1	9
Sub-total	859	7698
CBM	1	4
Fired clay	230	1113
Flint	25	165
Burnt flint	5	28
Metalwork		
Copper alloy	4	34
Iron	15	452
Lead	1	6
Glass	1	6
Stone	14	3755
Slag	75	4820
Animal bone	15	75

## 8.2 Pottery

8.2.1 A total of 859 sherds of pottery, weighing 7698 g, was recovered from 63 features. Of these, nine contained 30 sherds or greater. The assemblage is dominated by material of Late Iron Age and Roman date, with a single post-medieval sherd. The pottery has been analysed to a basic level, in accordance with national standards (Barclay et al 2016). Rim forms have been recorded using national and regional typologies as appropriate (Dragendorff series; Thompson 1982).

**Table 3** Quantification of pottery, by fabric (number/weight in grammes)

Period/fabric	Number	Weight
<i>Late Iron Age to Roman</i>		
Flint-tempered	49	346
Grog and flint-tempered	7	36
Glauconitic sandstone-gritted	4	32
Glauconitic sandy	41	233
Glauconitic sandy with grog	1	14
Grog-tempered	504	5282
Organic-tempered	6	32
Sandstone and grog-tempered	51	494
Vesicular fabric	2	32
<i>Roman</i>		
Central Gaulish samian	10	41
South Gaulish samian	3	13
Nene Valley colour-coated ware	32	138

Greyware	124	703
Oxidised ware	5	154
Sandy	17	122
Whiteware	2	17
<i>Post-medieval</i>		
Redware	1	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>7698</b>

### *Late Iron Age*

- 8.2.2 Continuity in fabrics throughout the 1st century BC and 1st century AD makes identification of pre- and post-conquest groups notoriously problematic, but both appear to be present at Albion Road (Table 2). Fabrics that are likely to result from pre-conquest activity include a sandstone and grog-tempered fabric, flint-tempered fabrics, glauconitic sandy (including sandstone-gritted) fabrics, grog and flint mixtures and an organic-tempered fabric. Identifiable forms amongst the flint-tempered wares comprise a plain-rimmed bowl/dish that may have been used interchangeably as a bowl or lid (pit 404), a vessel of ovoid profile with in-turned rounded rim (pit 2281), three bead-rimmed jars (ditch 2315, curvilinear ditch 2325 and roundhouse 2327) and an everted rim jar (roundhouse 2321). The glauconitic fabrics include a pulled bead rim (ditch 2315) and pedestal foot (pit 2176). A round-bodied jar with bead rim is the only identifiable form amongst the few organic-tempered sherds (roundhouse 2320). Other fabrics, including one with inclusions of sandstone and grog, and the grog and flint-tempered wares, are represented by body and base sherds only.
- 8.2.3 Grog-tempered wares are the largest group in the assemblage. These became dominant in the region during the 1st century BC but continue in use into the 2nd century AD with little change in fabric or the range of forms produced. The earliest form from Albion Road is perhaps a vessel of neutral profile with rounded, undifferentiated rim (140 mm in diameter, 0.16 EVE) from roundhouse 2321, of probable 1st century BC date. Other pottery from this feature comprises a rim from an everted rim jar (Thompson 1982, C2-3) in a grog-tempered fabric, and a similar vessel in a flint-tempered ware, as well as a body sherd in a glauconitic sandy ware. A range of other grog-tempered vessels was also recorded but could not be closely dated.
- 8.2.4 Grog-tempered forms that may be of pre- or post-conquest date include a round-bodied jar with short, everted rim, decorated with a cordon at the base of the neck and a band of incised, cross-hatched decoration on the shoulder (Thompson 1982, B1-3), a jar with rippled shoulder (B2-1), plain jars (C3), a bead-rimmed jar with cordon at the neck (C4), a rounded jar with bead rim (C1-2) and everted rim jars (B1-1/C2-3). Platters include two straight-walled forms - G1-1, copying CAM 1 (ditch 2317), and two G1-11, a native form (ditches 2315 and 2317). The example from ditch 2317 has a rim diameter of 170 mm (0.45 EVE), a height of 54 mm and base diameter of 130 mm. Five joining sherds from another vessel found in ditch 2317 are vitrified and warped – indicating a firing failure or a vessel that had been burnt. Other sherds that appeared to be burnt or over-fired were noted from pits 2090, 2176, 2184, 2202 and 2281. Decorative techniques recorded amongst the body sherds include impressed comb, stamps, incised lines and lattice, scoring and cordons. Two vessels have a pitch/tar deposit on the external surface – one of these is also over the break, likely to result from the repair of a vessel (ditch 2315 and ditch 2322).



### *Romanised wares*

- 8.2.5 Imported wares comprise a small component of the assemblage (1.5% by count). They include samian from Southern Gaul (a form 30 or 37 bowl) and Central Gaul (four form 33 cups), found in pits 2059 and 2261, and ditches 2315, 2316, 2317 and 2325. British finewares are represented by a beaker with cornice rim and barbotine scale decoration, in a Nene Valley colour-coated ware (cf Perrin 1999, fig. 60, 141-2) from ditch 2316. This vessel is of probable mid to late 2nd century date. A single mortarium sherd was recorded (ditch 2317), in a buff-coloured fabric with flint and chalk grits, probably from the Canterbury industry. Resin/glue adhering to the break of the sherd indicates repair to this vessel in antiquity. All other oxidised wares survive as undiagnostic abraded body sherds. The greywares include everted rim jars, a necked jar and a bead-rimmed bowl copying a Black Burnished ware form (Monaghan 1987, form 5D1). The latter is also present in a fine sandy ware – an example from ditch 2316 has a rim diameter of 140 mm and is 37 mm high.

### *Discussion*

- 8.2.6 The range of fabrics and forms identified in the pottery assemblage is indicative of activity during the Late Iron Age and Romano-British periods. There are no obvious late Roman forms, activity may therefore have ceased in the later 2nd or 3rd century AD. The largest groups of material derive from ditches 2315, 2316, 2317 and 2318, and curvilinear ditch 2325 – all contain pottery of Late Iron Age to Roman date. Other groups of greater than 30 sherds came from roundhouse 2320, pit 2281 and pit 2287 – these did not contain Romanised wares, indicating a possible pre-conquest date for at least part of the assemblage. The bulk of the assemblage comprises coarseware forms, predominantly in grog-tempered fabrics, including jars but also some platters. This fabric type was dominant throughout, with smaller quantities of flint-tempered, rock and grog-tempered, and glauconitic fabrics present during the earlier phases, being replaced by Romanised grey and oxidised wares during the later stages, occasionally supplemented by British and imported finewares. Of note amongst the coarsewares is the presence of a number of over-fired or burnt sherds, and the evidence for vessel repair. The range of fabrics and forms present is entirely typical of sites in this area during this time.

## **8.3 Fired clay and ceramic building material**

- 8.3.1 A single fragment of ceramic building material (CBM) – a roof tile fragment (4 g) of post-Roman date, came from ditch 506.
- 8.3.2 A total of 230 fragments of fired clay, weighing 1113 g, was recovered from 18 features. Almost all are abraded, amorphous fragments likely to derive from structures or hearths. A few have one flat or slightly curved surface. The fabrics are predominantly sandy, some with argillaceous inclusions, and oxidised to an orange or red colour.

## **8.4 Flint**

- 8.4.1 Twenty-five pieces of worked flint, including three chips, were collected from 18 contexts. This small group of material offers little to indicate specific industrial or domestic activity. More positive comments can be offered in terms of chronology. The collection includes five bladelets and six pieces which show traces of platform abrasion, of which two pieces show both attributes. These observations indicate that human activity probably commenced somewhere between 10,000 and 4,000 BC. The general condition of this material suggests that it has not been moved far from its original point of discard.
- 8.4.2 Two more robust flakes from pit 2018 (fill 2019) and posthole 2307 (fill 2308) are less well-made and contrast with the high levels of technology that are required in blade manufacture. These flakes are more characteristic of worked flints that are ubiquitous on most sites in

southern England. They are conventionally placed within the Later Neolithic and Bronze Age periods and as such bridge the gap between the earlier phase of flint working and the use of metal. Irrespective of these observations the material is not present in sufficient quantities to indicate concentrated human activity.

8.4.3 Insignificant quantities of burnt flint (five pieces, 28 g) were recovered from five features.

## 8.5 Metal objects

8.5.1 Four copper alloy objects were recovered – two early Roman coins (ON 3 and 23) and two post-medieval/modern buttons (ON 8 and 12). Coin ON 3 (subsoil 2002) is a Dupondius – the obverse bust wears a radiate crown, and likely dates to the 2nd century AD. More precise dating is hampered as the accompanying legend and reverse face have worn away. Coin ON 23 (ditch 2315) is a Sestertius and bears a very clear bust of Antoninus Pius (131-168 AD). Both coins show clear signs of pre-depositional wear, suggesting that they were handled frequently and may have been in circulation for an extended period of time. The buttons came from topsoil 2001; both are disc-shaped, one has a slightly chamfered edge with central dot.

8.5.2 Fifteen iron objects were recovered. Items from the topsoil include a horseshoe fragment with rectangular nail holes of late medieval or post-medieval date; nails; a bent strip, possibly part of a bracket; curved or straight strip fragments – one riveted, and a bar fragment. Stratified items comprise three nail fragments (pits 2052 and 2082, ditch 2315) and a sheet fragment (ditch 2315).

8.5.3 A single lead item – a bale seal stamped A. B. JESS, was recovered from topsoil 2001.

## 8.6 Slag

8.6.1 A total of 4.8 kg of ironworking slag was recovered from a small number of features of certain or probable Late Iron Age–Early Romano-British date.

8.6.2 The material is generally fragmented and somewhat abraded, but all is likely to derive from iron smelting. It is dense and most is amorphous in shape, though one fragment is more 'platey' in appearance. At least two pieces have evidence of a surface flow structure, while a third has a slightly curved edge with a 'lip' on the upper surface and traces of possible furnace lining on the underside.

8.6.3 Almost half of the total weight (2274 g) came from pit 2255, with a further 1901 g from pit 2140. Smaller quantities came from pit 2263 (224 g), post-hole 2229 (55 g) and ring gully 2322 (55 g), all possibly associated with a roundhouse, ditch 2316 (124 g), subsoil 1102 (95 g), pit 2271 (38 g), ditch 2315 (19 g) and pit 117 (15 g).

8.6.4 Overall, much more slag would be anticipated from a smelting operation than the 4.8 kg recovered, but perhaps some was present in the topsoil and subsoil. Even so, the evidence indicates a relatively small-scale operation, though not unexpected in this context on the northern edge of the Weald.

## 8.7 Stone

8.7.1 The stone assemblage includes quern material from two undated features. Five fragments (2714 g) recovered from ditch 2322 derive from a disc quern or millstone in a coarse sandstone, probably Millstone Grit from the Pennines. The quern was of large diameter – approximately 800 mm, and 45 mm thick. The upper surface is roughly pecked and the grinding surface is worn. A single fragment from a second quern came from pit 2130. This

is in a grey vesicular basalt lava, however close sourcing is not possible without recourse to petrological analysis. Possible sources include the Mayen-Niedermendig area of the Eifel region of west Germany or Volvic area in the Auvergne region of France. Part of the grooved grinding surface is present; the fragment is 35 mm thick – lava querns tend to break when ground to a height around 30 mm (Kars 1980, 418).

- 8.7.2 Seven fragments of burnt fossiliferous limestone (782 g) from pit 2130 display no obvious traces of working but may derive from architectural stone. A small piece of burnt, unworked stone also came from Late Iron Age pit 104.

## 8.8 Glass

- 8.8.1 A single fragment of green modern bottle glass came from ditch 2322.

## 8.9 Animal bone

- 8.9.1 A small quantity of animal bone (15 fragments or 27 g) came from two ditches, three pits and a structural posthole of potentially Iron Age or Romano-British date. The bone is reasonably well-preserved but fragmented and some of it is burnt. The identified fragments include a fragment of sheep radius from ditch 2032, a cattle tibia shaft from ditch 2043 and a pig molar tooth from pit 2211.

## 8.10 Conservation

- 8.10.1 As potentially unstable material types, the metal objects are all stored with supportive packaging and a desiccant (silica gel) to ensure a dry environment below 35% relative humidity. They have been X-radiographed as part of the assessment phase to provide a basic record and as an aid to identification.

# 9 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

## 9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 Nineteen bulk sediment samples were taken from postholes and pits of Iron Age, Romano-British and uncertain chronology and were processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence.

## 9.2 Aims and Methods

- 9.2.1 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).
- 9.2.2 The size of the bulk sediment samples varied between 4 and 34 litres, and on average was around 21 litres. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-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 environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots. The flots were scanned using a stereo incident light microscopy (Leica MS5 microscope) at magnifications of up to x40 for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g. *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as burrowing snails, 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 and animal bone 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), 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.

### 9.3 Results

- 9.3.1 The flots from the bulk sediment samples were of variable volumes but were generally moderate to large (Table 4). There were mainly large numbers of roots and low numbers of modern seeds that may be indicative of some stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements.
- 9.3.2 Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation. Mature wood charcoal was noted in generally small quantities although two samples produced flots that were almost entirely made up of charcoal. Mussel shell fragments were noted in one sample. Two samples contained moderate amounts of unidentified burnt material with culm impressions that could possibly be peat or dung. No other environmental evidence was preserved in the bulk sediment samples. Small amounts of industrial waste were observed in two samples.
- 9.3.3 Pit 2080, deposit 2081 and pit 2082, deposit 2088 both produced similar, well preserved rich charred assemblages dominated by cereal remains. Cereals present were *Triticum spelta* (spelt wheat, grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks)), *Hordeum vulgare* (barley, grains and rachis segments) and Triticeae (unidentified cereal grains (some husked) and detached embryos). Other charred remains present were Chenopodiaceae (goosefoot), Poaceae (grasses, including *Poa/Phleum* (meadow grass/cat's tail) and *Bromus* sp. (brome)), Polygonaceae (knotweeds including *Persicaria* sp.), Cyperaceae (sedges), *Corylus avellana* (hazel) nut shell fragments and Lamiaceae (mint family).
- 9.3.4 Pits 2211, deposit 2212, 2221, deposit 2222, 2184, deposit 2185, 2279, deposit 2280, and postholes 2213, deposit 2214, 2172, deposit 2173 and 2007, deposit 2008 all produced small, mainly poorly preserved, charred assemblages containing cereal remains and wild plants. Cereals noted were wheat (including tentatively identified spelt and *T. aestivum/turgidum* (naked wheat)) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks) and unidentified cereal grain fragments. Wild species included grasses, hazel nut shell fragments, *Sambucus* sp. (elder), *Rumex* sp. (dock) and a bud of indeterminate taxon. Pit 2279, deposit 2280 and posthole 2213, deposit 2214 both contained moderate amounts of burnt material with culm impressions clearly visible which could possibly be peat or dung.
- 9.3.5 Posthole 2007, deposit 2008, and pit/posthole 2059, deposit 2060, produced only a charred dock seed and buds of indeterminate taxa. Pits 2223, deposit 2224, 2255, deposit 2256, 2261, deposit 2262, 2291, deposit 2292, 2285, deposit 2286, 2176, deposit 2177, 2130, deposit 2133, and 2090, deposits 2092 and 2093 did not contain any charred plant remains.

### 9.4 Discussion

- 9.4.1 Whilst some of the samples have provided little environmental evidence of interest, two assemblages of charred plant remains are sufficiently rich and diverse to be informative about plant exploitation activities and landscape management in the environment. Although interpretative proposals are made below, only detailed analysis, including full quantification, can allow to place firm hypotheses for the origin and nature of these deposits.

- 9.4.2 The assemblage from pits 2080 and 2082 is rich in crop-processing by-products. The taxa identified (spelt and barley) suggest a Romano-British chronology for those deposits. The apparent dominance of cereal grains in the samples, could indicate that this assemblage is part of a burnt crop store. However, chaff and arable weed seeds and other plant remains such as hazelnut shell are also abundant in the samples, suggesting a possible mixture of by-products.
- 9.4.3 The two samples from pit 2279 and posthole 2213, rich in burnt material with culm impressions, could represent burning of peat or dung at the site. Either of those can be preferred sources of fuel under specific circumstances and for specific productive activities. Two other samples, from pits 2059 and 2261, are rich in wood charcoal. Anthracological analysis would allow to determine if these deposits represent the burning of multiple woody species and are therefore informative of general availability in the local woodland or hedgerow, or whether any particular taxa was targeted for fuel use. These two types of assemblages could represent differential fuel selection for specific concurrent activities, or evolving fuel choices over time; detailed dating information could allow to ascertain this.

## **10 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL**

### **10.1 Stratigraphic potential**

- 10.1.1 Considering the broad Late Iron Age/Romano-British date given to the majority of features on the site, and the intercutting/highly associative nature of several of the roundhouse structures (2322, 2323, 2324 and 2327), along with the significant numbers of pits/postholes within them, the site has the potential for detailed stratigraphic analysis based on in-depth pottery analysis to attempt to determine the length of occupation within the site.

#### *Recommendations and proposed methodologies for analysis*

- 10.1.2 Detailed assessment of the direct stratigraphic relationships where present and a consideration of the potential for subdivision of features, particularly among the roundhouses and associated features. It is proposed that this is accomplished by undertaken a detailed assessment of the pottery remains in an effort to provide a more detailed temporal quantification.

### **10.2 Finds potential**

- 10.2.1 The finds assemblage comprises a range of materials, of which pottery is the most commonly occurring. Preservation of artefacts varies from moderate to poor. The pottery has provided a chronological framework for the site, indicating activity during the Late Iron Age and Roman periods. The finds also provide information pertaining to everyday activities include the exploitation of raw materials and crafts (fired clay, worked flint, stone and slag), structures (fired clay) and economic activities (animal bone and stone) as well as the trade/exchange of finished objects (pottery).

### **10.3 Environmental potential**

- 10.3.1 In view of the interest of the environmental evidence, a number of the samples recovered has potential for further analysis, which will be outlined below. In the absence of detailed phasing information which might be provided by artefactual or stratigraphic analysis, radiocarbon dating should be undertaken to complement the analysis for the proposed samples.

#### *Charred plant remains*

- 10.3.2 The analysis of two of the charred plant assemblages has the potential to provide information on the nature of the settlement and local agricultural practices and crop conditions in the Romano-British period.
- 10.3.3 The samples proposed for analysis are indicated with a “P” in the analysis column in Table 4. All identifiable charred plant macrofossils will be extracted from the <5.6/4 residues and the flot, which may be subsampled with the aid of a riffle box in the case of very rich assemblages. The analysis will involve the full quantification of the charred plant assemblages.

#### *Wood charcoal*

- 10.3.4 The analysis of the wood charcoal would provide information on the species composition, management and exploitation of the local woodland resource, and specific fuel choices.
- 10.3.5 The samples proposed for charcoal analysis are indicated with a “C” in the analysis column in Table 4. Identifiable charcoal will be extracted from the 2mm residue together and the flot (>2mm). Larger richer samples will be sub-sampled: up to a maximum of 100 charcoal fragments per sample will be analysed, as recommended by Keepax (1988). Only fragments greater than 2mm, and primarily those greater than 4mm, will be examined, as fragments <2mm generally lack sufficient anatomical detail and thus cannot be conclusively identified. Fragments will be prepared for identification according to the standard methodology of Leney and Casteel (1975). Charcoal pieces will be fractured with a razor blade to reveal three planes: transverse section (TS), radial longitudinal section (RL) and tangential longitudinal section (TL). They will then be examined under bi-focal epi-illuminated microscopy at magnifications of x50, x100 and x40. Identification will be undertaken according to the anatomical characteristics described by Schweingruber (1990) and Butterfield and Meylan (1980). Identification will be to the lowest taxonomic level possible, usually that of genus and nomenclature according to Stace (1997), individual taxon (mature and twig) will be separated, quantified, and the results tabulated.

### **10.4 Documentary records**

- 10.4.1 It is recommended that the archaeological records for investigations be considered for their relationships to the Late Iron Age/Romano-British activity recorded within the site. Evidence for contemporary, or directly pre/post-Late Iron Age/Romano-British occupation should be discussed in relation to its possible associations with the recorded settlement.

## **11 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN**

### **11.1 Proposals for publication**

- 11.1.1 It is proposed that the results should be published in a short statement online and along with an updated assessment report.

## **12 STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **12.1 Museum**

- 12.1.1 The material archive resulting from the excavation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury, with the physical paper archive held in Maidstone. The site is within the collecting area of Maidstone Museum, and Wessex Archaeology will endeavour to deposit the archive with the museum. 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.

## 12.2 Preparation of the archive

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

12.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **site code 209150/209151**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

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

## 12.3 Selection policy

12.3.1 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.

## 12.4 Security copy

12.4.1 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.

## 12.5 OASIS

12.5.1 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.

## 13 COPYRIGHT

### 13.1 Archive and report copyright

13.1.1 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.

- 13.1.2 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.

### **13.2 Third party data copyright**

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



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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Environmental Data

**Table 4** Assessment of the environmental evidence

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (l)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Analyses	Comments (Preservation)
2007	2008	8	34	250	10%, C	-	-	-	C	<i>Rumex</i> sp.	150	Mature, some iron coating	-		Fair
2059	2060	9	34	560	15%, A, E, I	-	-	-	C	Indet. buds	200	Mature	-		Poor, flot almost entirely charcoal
2080	2081	10	16	120	15%, C, E, I	A***	A*	<i>Triticum spelta</i> (grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grains and rachis segments, Triticeae detached embryos <i>Triticum spelta</i> (grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grains and rachis segments, Triticeae detached embryos	A**	Chenopodiaceae, Poaceae ( <i>Poa/Phleum, Bromus</i> ), Polygonaceae (inc. <i>Persicaria</i> sp.), Cyperaceae, <i>Corylus avellana</i>	10	Mature	-	P	Fair
2082	2088	11	32	350	15%, C, E, I	A***	A*	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grains and rachis segments, Triticeae detached embryos and some husked grains	A**	Chenopodiaceae, <i>Bromus</i> sp., Polygonaceae (inc. <i>Persicaria</i> sp.), Cyperaceae, <i>Corylus avellana</i> , Lamiaceae	30	Mature	-	P	Fair
2090	2092	12	4	30	70%, C	-	-	-	-	-	<1	Mature	Moll-m (mussel shell frags)	-	-
2090	2093	13	5	35	70%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	2	Mature	-	-	-
2130	2133	14	25	50	80%, B, I	-	-	-	-	-	2	Mature	-	-	-
2211	2212	15	20	60	70%, B, E, I	C	-	<i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>spelta</i> , Triticeae	C	Poaceae	4	Mature	-		Poor



Feature	Context	Sample	Volume (l)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Analyses	Comments (Preservation)
2221	2222	16	32	125	70%, B, E, I	C	-	<i>Triticum</i> sp. (inc. cf. <i>aestivum/turgidum</i> ), Triticeae	C	Indet. bud	20	Mature	-		Poor
2223	2224	17	16	175	60%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	30	Mature	-		-
2172	2173	18	12	230	20%, B, E	C	-	Triticeae	-	-	70	Mature	-		Poor
2255	2256	19	24	125	60%, B, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	15	Mature	-		-
2261	2262	20	29	1000	20%, C, I	-	-	-	-	-	400	Mature	-		flot almost entirely charcoal
2291	2292	21	9	50	90%, C, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	1	Mature	Industrial waste Burnt material (A) with culm impressions (peat/dung?)		-
2279	2280	22	15	80	70%, B, I	C	-	<i>Triticum</i> sp.	C	<i>Bromus</i> sp.	5	Mature	Industrial waste Burnt material (A) with culm impressions (peat/dung?)	P	Heterogenous
2285	2286	23	9.5	40	80%, A, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	4	Mature	Industrial waste		-
2176	2177	24	31	175	70%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	10	Mature	-		-
2213	2214	25	16	110	25%, A, E, I	C	C	<i>Triticum</i> sp. grains and chaff (glume base and spikelet fork)	C	Poaceae	15	Mature	Burnt material (A) with culm impressions (peat/dung?)	P	Poor
2184	2185	26	32	60	75%, A, E, I	C	A	<i>Triticum</i> sp. grain and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks)	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> , <i>Sambucus</i> sp.	5	Mature	-		Fair

Key: Scale of abundance: A\*\*\* = exceptional, A\*\* = 100+, A\* = 30-99, A = 30-10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), E = earthworm eggs, I = insects; Moll-m = marine molluscs.



## Appendix 2 Kent Historic Environment Record Form

<b>Site Name:</b> Land at Albion Road, Marden, Kent	
<b>Site Address:</b> Albion Road, Marden, Kent, TN12 9EF	
<b>Summary of discoveries:</b> Small LIA/RB roundhouse settlement and enclosure, assorted pits and postholes	
<b>District/Unitary:</b> Maidstone	<b>Parish:</b> Marden
<b>Period(s):</b> Iron Age, Prehistoric, Late Iron Age/Romano-British	
<b>NGR (centre of site to nearest 1m):</b> 575089 144409 <b>(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)</b>	
<b>Type of archaeological work (delete)</b> Evaluation and Excavation	
<b>Date of fieldwork (dd/mm/yy) From:</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2018 <b>To:</b> 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	
<b>Unit/contractor undertaking recording:</b> Wessex Archaeology	
<b>Geology:</b> Weald Clay Formation, mudstone, with superficial deposits of River Terrace Deposited, 2, sand and gravel (BGS online viewer)	
<b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b> Title: Land at Albion Road, Marden, Kent: Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design Authors: Guillermo Santamaria and Jon Sanigar	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)</b> The work was carried out as part of a planning condition from Maidstone Borough Council (17/504754/FULL) for the erection of 124 dwellings with parking, vehicular and pedestrian access and associated hard standing.  The site showed no evidence signs of significant truncation and had a relatively uniform geological sequence throughout, with the exception of the northwest quadrant of the area which had been a layer of colluvium sealing the natural geology.  The first phase of evaluation within the western half of the site recorded largely undated ditches pits and postholes, although five of the postholes were broadly dated to the prehistoric period. No further investigation took place within the western half of the site.  The Phase 2 evaluation and excavation area contained three large enclosure ditches, parts of at least three roundhouses along with several other curvilinear ditches, and numerous pits and postholes. The roundhouses formed a cluster along the eastern boundary of the site, and appear to be enclosed within the enclosure complex, although they may not be contemporary. The roundhouses likely date to the Late Iron Age but are currently considered to be Late Iron Age/Romano-British due to the broad timescales associated with some of the recovered artefacts. The enclosure system is also dated to the LIA/RB period; however it is likely to represent multiple different phases of use.  The archaeological remains probably represents small scale farming or animal husbandry on a seasonal basis.	
<b>Location of archive/finds:</b> Wessex Archaeology Maidstone Office	
<b>Contact at Unit:</b> Rob De'Athe	<b>Date:</b> 25/03/2020



## Appendix 3 OASIS

OASIS ID: wessexar1-389985

### Project details

Project name	Land at Albion Road, Marden
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commission to undertake an archaeological evaluation and excavation on land at Albion Road, Marden. The investigations revealed a small LIA/RB roundhouse settlement on the eastern edge of the site, a series of prehistoric pits/postholes, and a large LIA/RB enclosure. It is considered likely that the remains date to the LIA/RB periods.
Project dates	Start: 10-07-2018 End: 28-06-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/504754/FULL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	209151 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	ROUNDHOUSE Late Iron Age
Monument type	ENCLOSURE Roman
Monument type	PIT Late Prehistoric
Monument type	POSTHOLE Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Roman
Significant Finds	POTTER Uncertain
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	METALWORK Uncertain
Significant Finds	SLAG Uncertain
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT MAIDSTONE MARDEN Land at Albion Road
Postcode	TN12 9EN
Study area	4 Hectares



Site coordinates TQ 75089 44409 51.171511269078 0.50488461127 51 10 17 N 000 30 17 E  
Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology

Project brief originator RPS

Project design originator Wessex archaeology

Project director/manager Rob De'Athe

Project supervisor Lisa McCaig

Project supervisor Guillermo Santamaria

Type of sponsor/funding body Archaeological Consultant

Name of sponsor/funding body RPS

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Maidstone Museum

Physical Archive ID 209151

Physical Contents "Glass","Metal","Worked stone/lithics","Animal Bones","Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient Maidstone Museum

Digital Archive ID 209151

Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Maidstone Museum

Paper Archive ID 209151

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Land at Albion Road, Marden, Kent: Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

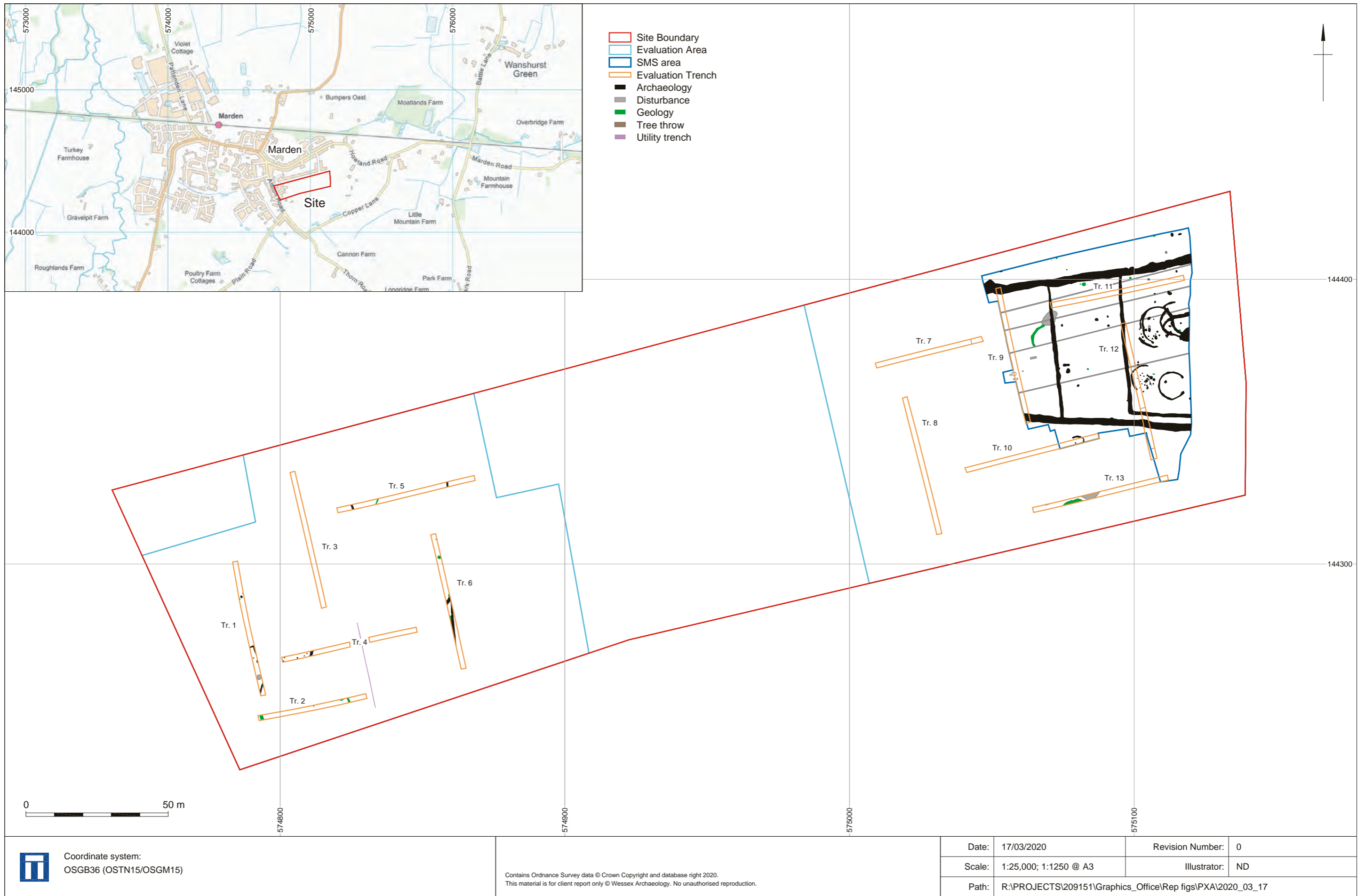
Author(s)/Editor(s) Sanigar, J

Author(s)/Editor(s) Santamaria, G



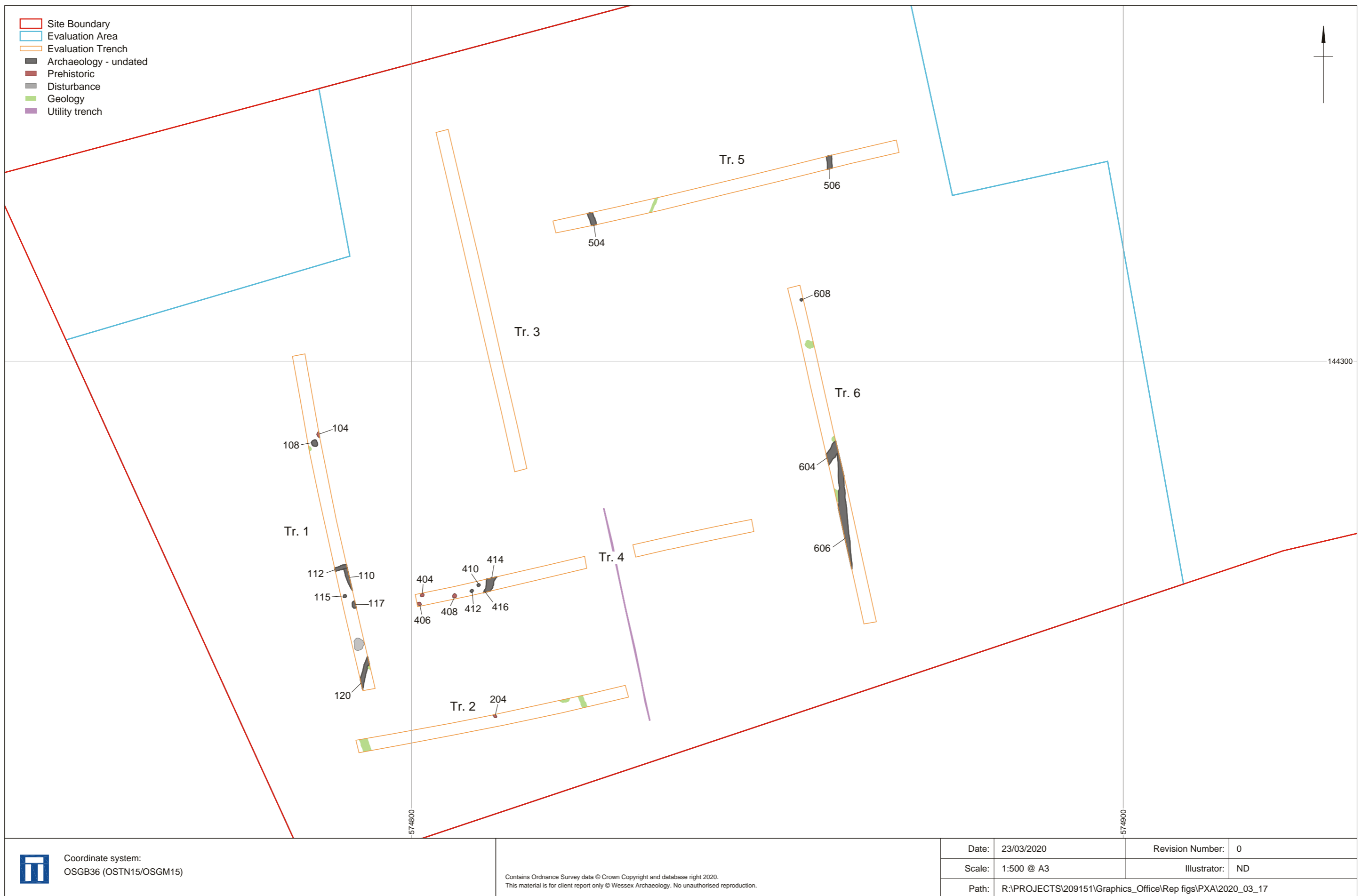
Other bibliographic details	209151.2
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Maidstone
Description	A4/A3, comb bound, clear plastic covers
Entered by	Andrew Souter (a.souter@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	25 March 2020

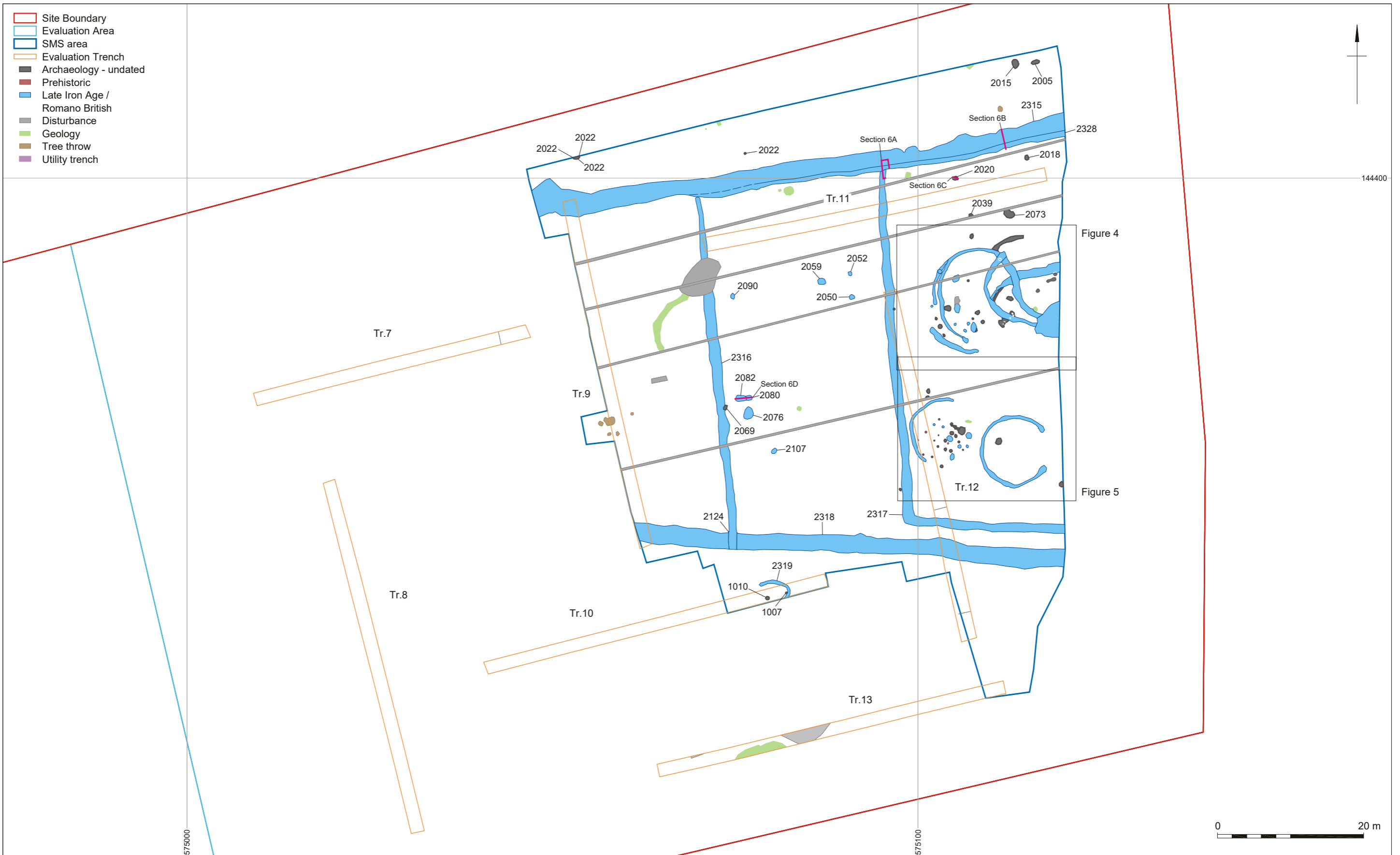




Site location plan

Figure 1

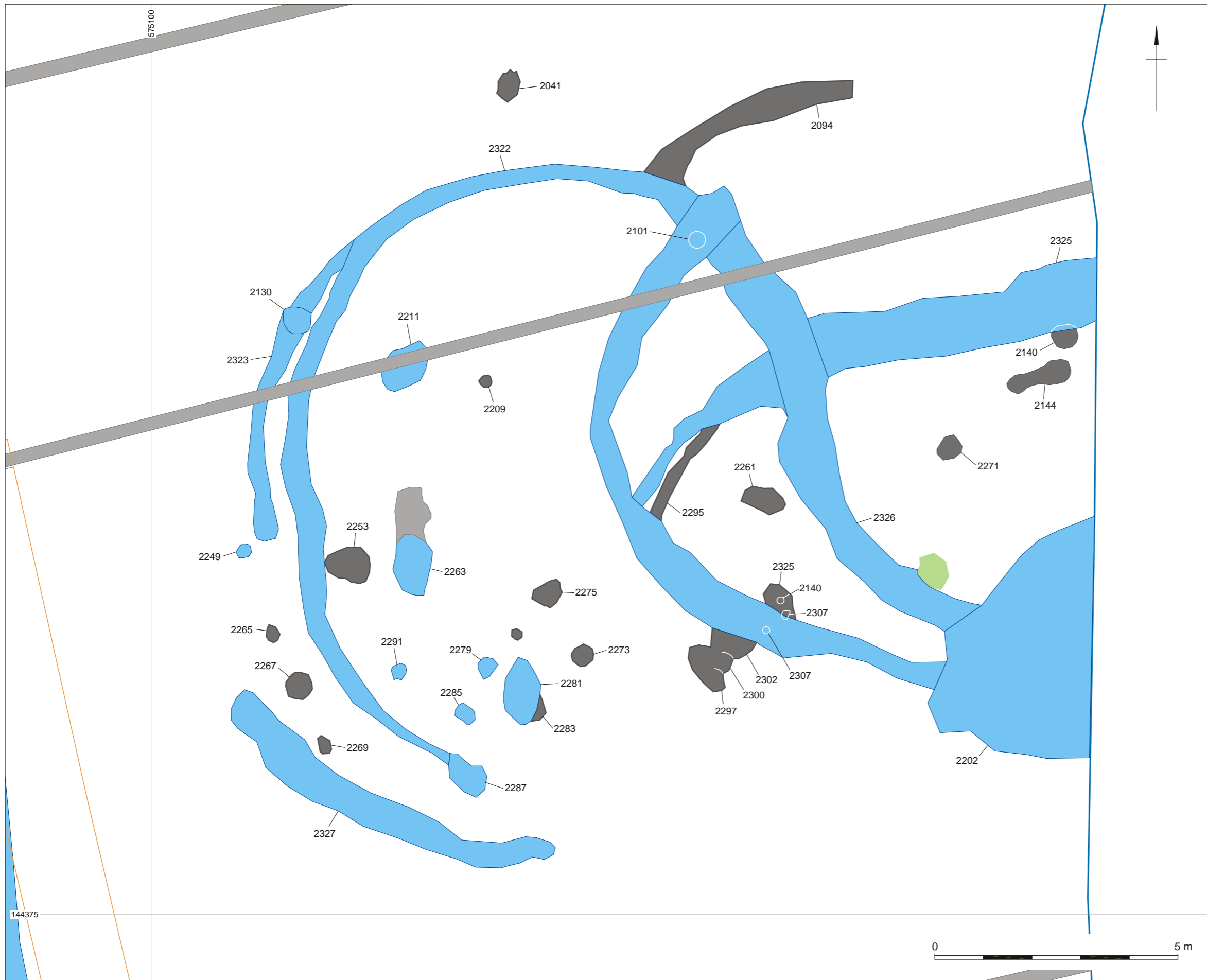




Coordinate system:  
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

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- ▭ SMS area
- ▭ Evaluation Trench
- ▭ Archaeology - undated
- ▭ Late Iron Age / Romano British
- ▭ Disturbance
- ▭ Geology

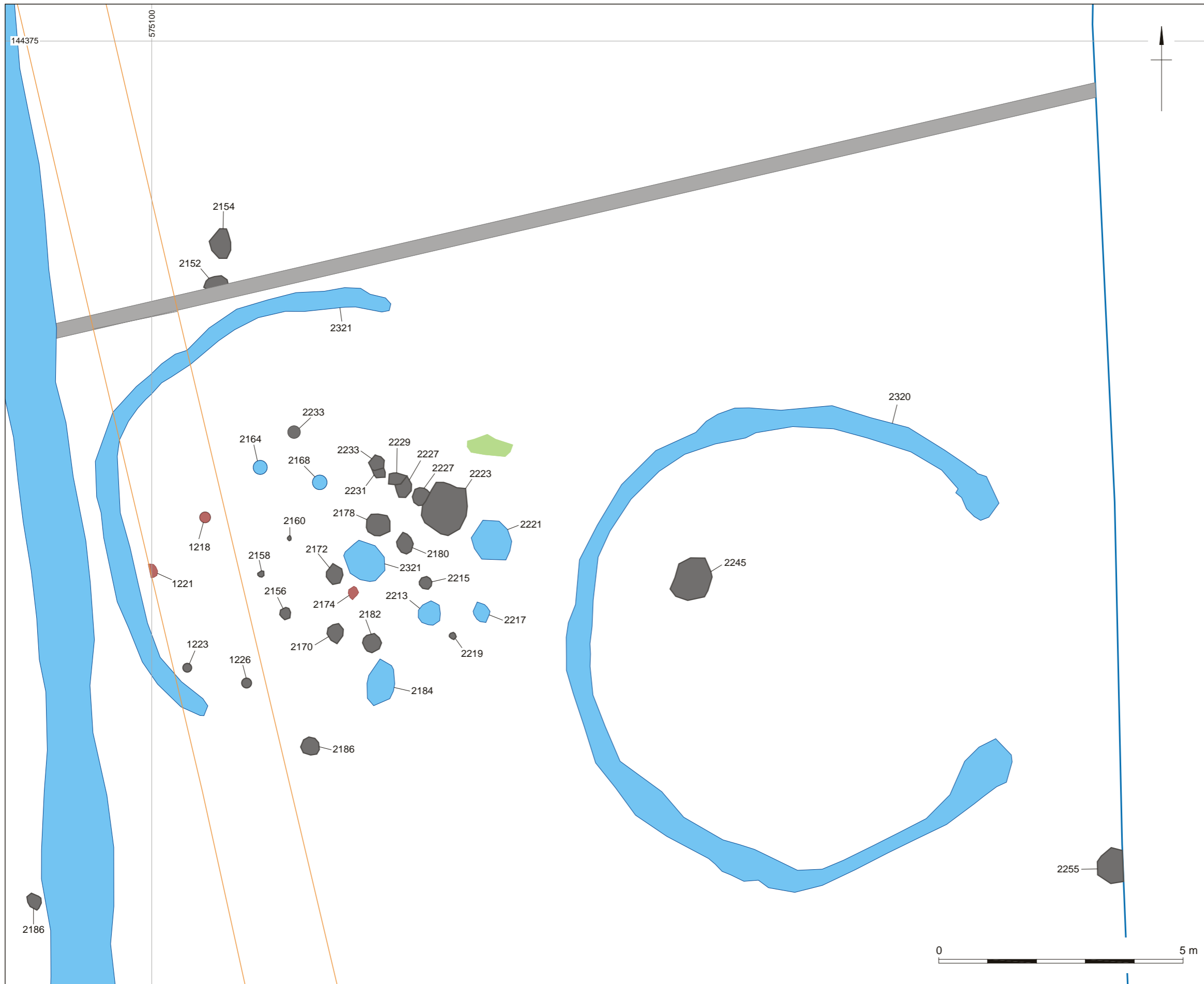
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PXA\2020_03_17209151 PXA.dwg	

Archaeological Results: Roundhouse Cluster

Figure 4



- ▭ SMS area
- ▭ Evaluation Trench
- ▭ Archaeology - undated
- ▭ Prehistoric
- ▭ Late Iron Age / Romano British
- ▭ Disturbance
- ▭ Geology

Coordinate system:  
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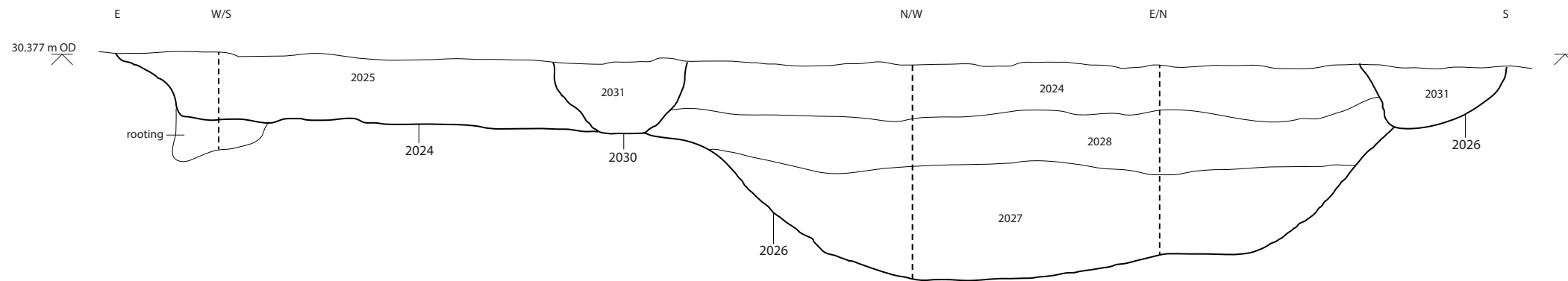
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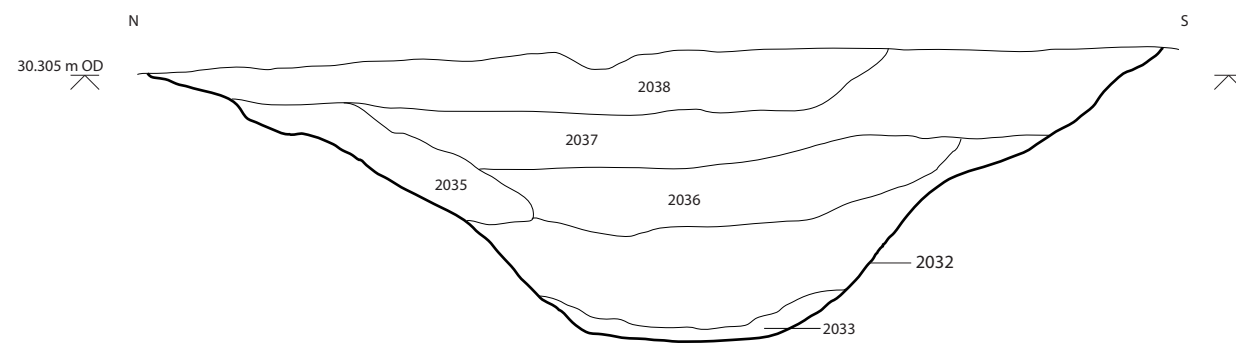
Archaeological Results: Roundhouse Cluster

Figure 5

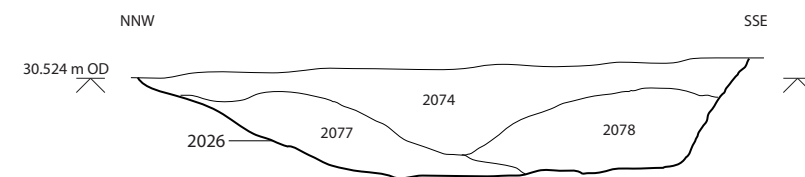
A. Wrap around section of ditches 2024, 2026, and gully 2030



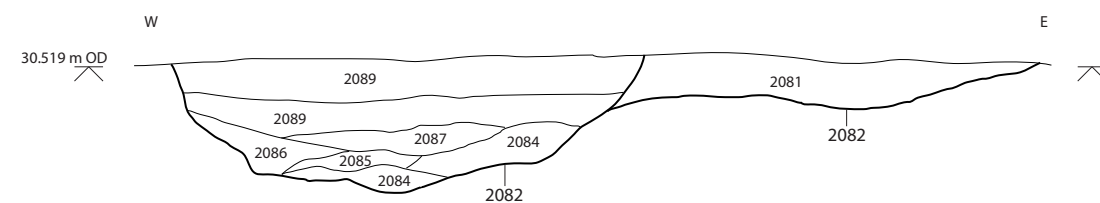
B. West facing section of ditch 2032



C. West-south-west facing section of pit 2076



D. South facing section of pits 2080 and 2082



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Plate 1: Trench 1, viewed from the south-southeast



Plate 2: Trench 5, viewed from the west-northwest


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Plate 3: North-northeast facing representative section of Trench 2



Plate 4: West-northwest facing representative section of Trench 6


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Plate 5: Postholes 404 & 406, viewed from the southeast



Plate 6: Pit 117, viewed from the west


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Plate 7: Storage pit 104, viewed from the west-northwest

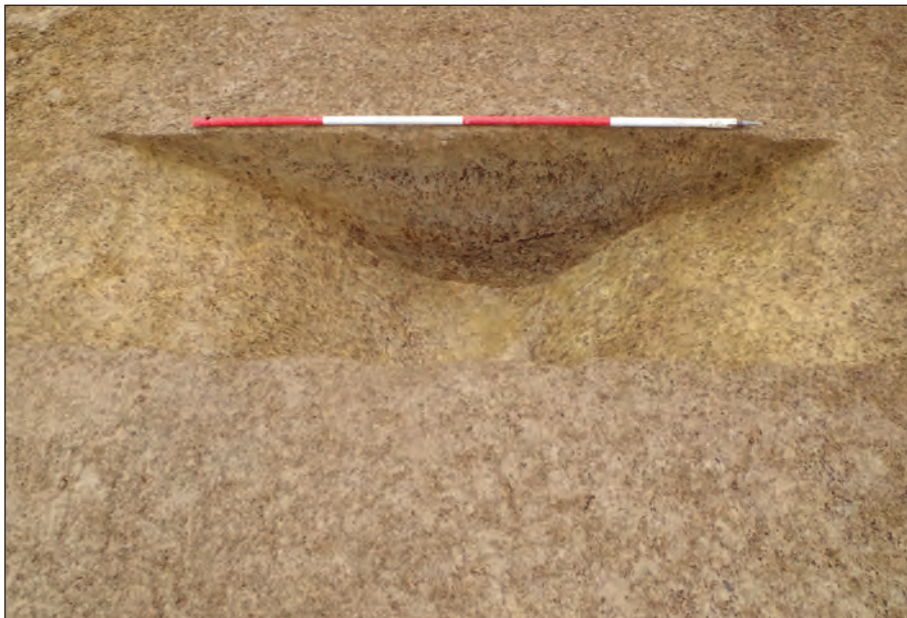


Plate 8: Ditch group 2315, viewed from the west


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Plate 9: Ditch group 2318, viewed from the south-southeast



Plate 10: Ditch group 2316, viewed from the south-southeast


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Plate 11: Ditch group 2317, viewed from the south-southeast



Plate 12: Terminus of ditch group 2321, viewed from the southeast


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Plate 13: Ditch group 2325 and pits 2140 and 2144, viewed from the northwest



Plate 14: Posthole 2172, viewed from the east


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Plate 15: Postholes 2273, 2275, 2277, 2279, 2281, 2283, 2285, 2287, 2289 and 2291 within roundhouse 2322, viewed from the east



Plate 16: Fire pits 2080 and 2082, viewed from the south


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Plate 17: Postholes 2172, 2174 and 2178 and storage pit 2176 within roundhouse 2321, viewed from the southeast



Plate 18: Storage pit 2184, viewed from the southeast



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Plate 19: Storage pit 2221, rubbish pit 2223 and postholes 2225, 2227, 2229, 2231 and 2233 within roundhouse 2321, viewed from the southeast



Plate 20: Fire pit 2261, viewed from the north-northeast

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Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB  
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

