Neatham Manor Farm
Alton, Hampshire

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

Planning Ref:37130/002 East Hampshire
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On behalf of	Neatham Farms Ltd (Alton)
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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Apecs Ltd, on behalf of Neatham Farms Ltd, to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising a strip, map and sample excavation covering 0.5 hectares, centred on NGR 474200 140534, at Neatham Manor Farm, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 4NP. The excavation was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition (application no. 37130/002) and was the final stage in a programme of archaeological works. It immediately following on from an archaeological evaluation that consisted of five trial trenches, which identified areas of Romano-British and medieval activity. The results of the evaluation and strip, map and sample excavation are combined in a single report here.

The earliest evidence of activity on site was provided by a small quantity of worked flint, including a fragment of an Early Neolithic polished axe, retrieved from subsoil or found residually in later features.

Two parallel ditches, aligned north-east to south-west and approximately 30 m apart, provide limited evidence for Romano-British settlement. It is possible that the ditches defined a trackway or road, rather than field boundaries, perhaps branching to the south-west from the projected course of the Silchester to Chichester Roman road just over 100 m to the east of the site, this road running south-east from the Romano-British small town at Neatham (believed to be *Vindomi*). An adjacent quarry pit, for gravel, could have been contemporary with the trackway/branch road, or it may have been a later, medieval feature.

Features broadly dated to the medieval period contained pottery assemblages spanning the 11th–15th-centuries, suggesting that at least some date as early as the 11th century, which is consistent with the reference to Neatham Manor in *Domesday Book*. Two ditches formed the north corner of an enclosure, with an entrance in the north-west side – four or five postholes perhaps forming a gate arrangement. Another ditch may have divided two further, conjoined enclosures, with recutting of one of the main enclosure ditches indicating later modification of the layout. Within the enclosure was a stone-lined probable cess pit and a cluster of postholes/small pits which, although no coherent ground plans were apparent, suggest the presence of nearby structures, probably agricultural buildings, which formed part of the manorial complex.

Post-medieval features were limited to several shallow linear features.

Further analysis of the stratigraphic and finds data collected during the fieldwork has only limited potential to yield additional information, but some further analysis of the environmental evidence is proposed, along with radiocarbon dating of one of the deposits of charred plant remains. Furthermore, the results of the fieldwork are of local significance and merit wider dissemination.

It is proposed that the principal findings outlined above will be reported on in the form of a short article (of approximately five pages) for publication in the regional journal: *Hampshire Studies: Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society.*

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to acknowledge Richard Treloar, of Apecs Ltd, for commissioning the archaeological mitigation works, and Matthew Ashton of Neatham Farms Ltd. for all his help on site. Keith, the machine driver, is also thanked for doing a very good job in difficult conditions. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Senior Archaeologist Neil Adam, who monitored the project for Hampshire County Council.

The fieldwork was directed by Piotr Orczewski, with the assistance of Dave Murdie, Marion Plumer, Hilde van der Heul, Joe Whelan, Steve Froud and Mark Stewart. Environmental processing was undertaken by Liz Foulston and Jenny Giddins, and the flot sorted by Nicki Mulhall who, with Sam Rogerson, also contributed to the environmental reporting. This report was compiled by Piotr Orczewski and edited by Phil Andrews, with additional assistance from Lorraine Mepham, Grace Perpetua Jones, Tom Wells and Philippa Bradley. The project was managed by Bill Moffat on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.

Neatham Manor Farm
Alton, Hampshire

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Apecs Ltd, on behalf of Neatham Farms Ltd, to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising an evaluation followed by a strip, map and sample excavation covering 0.5 ha, centred on NGR 474200 140534, at Neatham Manor Farm, Lower Neatham Mill Lane, Holybourne, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 4NP (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the construction of a new grain storage facility and associated drainage to supplement the facilities at Neatham Manor Farm.

1.1.3 The proposed building will be 36.8 m long by 33 m wide. There will be a full-length lean-to of 10m width added to the north elevation making a total covered area of 1582 m^2.

1.1.4 A planning application (37130/002) submitted to East Hampshire District Council was granted on the 6th of January 2020, subject to conditions. The following conditions relate to archaeology:

Condition 8: *No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological assessment in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that has been submitted to and approved by the Planning Authority. The assessment should take the form of trial trenches located within the footprints of the proposed new grain store, access areas and roads as well as the Infiltration Drainage Basin, to ensure that any archaeological remains encountered within the site are recognised, characterised and recorded.*
Reason: To assess the extent, nature and date of any archaeological deposits that might be present and the impact of the development upon these heritage assets.

Condition 9: *No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation of impact, based on the results of the trial trenching, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that has been submitted to and approved by the Planning Authority.*
Reason: To mitigate the effect of the works associated with the development upon any heritage assets and to ensure that information regarding these heritage assets is preserved by record for future generations.

Condition 10: *Following completion of archaeological fieldwork, a report will be produced in accordance with an approved programme submitted by the developer and approved in writing by the local planning authority setting out and securing appropriate post-excavation assessment, specialist analysis and reports, publication and public engagement.*
Reason: To contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past by ensuring that opportunities are taken to capture evidence from the historic environment and to make this publicly available.

1.1.5 The strip, map and sample excavation was the final stage in a programme of archaeological works and followed directly on from an archaeological evaluation. Five evaluation trenches were excavated across the footprint of the new grain store and its associated areas of hardstanding and drainage. Trenches 2, 3 and 5 contained archaeological features of Romano-British and medieval date, including ditches, gullies and pits on a variety of orientations and of various sizes (**Fig. 1**). Discussions between Wessex Archaeology and the Senior Archaeologist at Hampshire County Council determined that mitigation would be required and that this should be a strip, map and sample excavation across the footprint of the new structures. Timetable constraints – the grain store is required for this year's harvest – meant that the most efficient process would be to move immediately from evaluation to strip, map and sample excavation, and this was verbally approved by the Senior Archaeologist.

1.1.6 The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI), which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed, for both the fieldwork and the post-excavation work (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The Senior Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The evaluation was undertaken between the 15th and 17th January 2020, and the excavation followed immediately after on the 20th January and was completed on the 31st of January 2020.

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, and to assess the potential of the results to address the research aims outlined in the WSI. Furthermore, where appropriate, it recommends a programme of further analysis work, and outlines 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 excavation area is located within arable farmland immediately south of the existing farm buildings at Neatham Manor Farm, which is situated on the north–eastern slope of Copt Hill, approximately 250 m south–east of the River Wey. It is located on the southern side of the A31, south-east of Holybourne and 2 km north-east of the centre of Alton (**Fig. 1**). The town of Alton lies 15.5 km south-west of Farnham and just over 25 km north-east of Winchester.

1.3.2 The site is located in an area of high archaeological potential, just over 100 m to the west of the projected course of the Silchester to Chichester Roman road and on the southern boundary of the historic core of the medieval Neatham Manor.

1.3.3 Existing ground levels are approximately 108 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), and the underlying geology is mapped as West Melbury Chalk Formation with superficial deposits of alluvium (British Geological Survey online viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological and historical context

2.1.1 The following historical and archaeological background has been compiled using publicly available online resources. The bulk of the historical background is from the English Heritage / Hampshire County Council Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) for Alton (Hopkins 2004), supported by the Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment for the Wey Valley

(HCC 2012). The site lies within Area 4 (Neatham Manor) of the EUS's identified Areas of High Archaeological Importance (Hopkins 2004). The EUS states:

Within Area 4, there is evidence for additional settlement possibly related to the adjacent Romano-British town at Neatham. The relationship between this site and the town site at Neatham may be clarified. This is also the site of the medieval manor of Neatham, and the question of continuity of occupation must be explored.

2.1.2 A summary relating to the site is presented below, with the relevant entry numbers from the Hampshire Historic Environment Record (HER) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

Romano-British

2.1.3 Neatham is the site of a Romano-British town, believed to be *Vindomi* of the Antonine Itinerary, which is located at the junction of the Roman road that linked Winchester and London (corresponding roughly, for part of its length, with the line of the modern London Road) and the road between Chichester and Silchester. This crossroads is significant in understanding the status of the town. The Winchester to London road crosses the Chichester to Silchester road immediately in front of a large, double ditched enclosure probably enclosing a posting station or *mansio* (roadside accommodation provided for official travellers). This information places the town at a significant crossroads, which lends weight to the suggested identification as the town of *Vindomi* (Millet and Graham 1986).

2.1.4 Romano-British material has also been recovered from the site of the manor house (HER 39985) and evidence for industrial activity was found at Manor Cottages (Graham 1991). Although the evidence itself appears to have been lost, and only fragmentary records remain (David Hopkins, pers. comm.), in 1865 drainage works at the Manor House apparently revealed a mosaic pavement within the area of the formal gardens. These lie between 60 m and 200 m west of the site. The investigations at Manor Cottages revealed several phases of building, all associated with pits filled with slag. Although no furnaces or similar features were revealed, it seems that the site was associated with ironworking. Manor Cottages lie 250 m to the north-east of the site, on the other side of the Silchester–Chichester road. The line of the road passes approximately 120 m to the east of the site.

Medieval

2.1.5 The settlement of Neatham is recorded in *Domesday* as *Neteham* (HER 28387), was a Crown possession, and the principal royal estate of the area. D*omesday* records a manor here, and a market which was, at that time, the most valuable market in Hampshire, being valued at £8. That at Basingstoke, the next most valuable, was valued at 30 shillings. Similarly, the manor supported 52 ploughs and 8½ mills. These are surprisingly large figures, although they may be somewhat skewed by it being a Royal possession. They may represent values *owed* to the manor, rather than being a *part* of it. Certainly, the market was in Alton by the later 11th century. In the 13th century the manor passed to Waverley Abbey and a grange and oratory were built (HER 39129).

2.2 Previous investigations

1969–1979

2.2.1 Throughout the 1970s extensive archaeological investigations were undertaken by Martin Millet and David Graham in advance of the construction of the A31 Alton by-pass. The discovery of a Romano-British burial led to the identification of a hitherto unknown small town. The town, on the north side of the River Wey, lies on the Roman road between Silchester and Chichester, at a point where it intersects with at least two other roads. At the

time of publication, only 0.37 ha, or 2.6%, of the site had been excavated, and yet the finds constituted the largest corpus published from a Roman small town. The structures, mostly of the late 3rd and 4th centuries AD, included only two masonry buildings, with another 22 having been of timber. Ribbon development along the Roman roads was inferred with the total settlement size estimated at between 8 ha and 14 ha, with a population of 2000–4000 (Millet and Graham 1986). Two areas of the site are now Scheduled Monuments (HA489 and HA584).

1986

2.2.2 An archaeological evaluation of Nos 3 and 4 Manor Cottages, Neatham, was undertaken by David Graham in 1986. This evaluation was approximately 300 m to the north–east of the site, on the east side of the Silchester-Chichester–Roman road. The evaluation revealed evidence for occupation and ironworking from the mid-2nd to the late 4th centuries AD (Graham 1991).

2006–2008

2.2.3 Between 2006 and 2008 Wessex Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological fieldwork, comprising evaluation and excavation, on the site of a former agricultural engineering depot adjacent to London Road, Holybourne, Alton (Powell *et al.* 2014). The site contained a number of middle–late Romano-British features relating to the Roman small town at Neatham (see above). Two parallel ditches, approximately 24 m apart and aligned north–east to south–west, were identified, between which was a rectangular post-built structure following the same orientation and a pit. Relatively large numbers of Roman coins, metal objects and pottery sherds were recovered from the excavation.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the excavation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and in compliance with the CIfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a), were:

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

3.2 Research objectives

3.2.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site, the EUS (Hopkins 2004) and the Solent-Thames Regional research Framework (Hey and Hind 2014), the research objectives of the excavation were to:

- Determine the date, nature and extent of archaeological features within the site;
- Place those features within their wider landscape context; specifically their relationship to the Roman road, Neatham Manor; and, if possible to the nearby Roman small town at Neatham/Holybourne
- Consider questions of continuity (Late Iron Age – Roman – Medieval).

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 2020) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

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

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

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

Recording

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

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

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

4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

General

4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the*

Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (English Heritage 2011).

4.4 Monitoring

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

5 STRATIGRAPHIC RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

Summary of archaeological features and deposits

5.1.1 Two main phases of archaeological remains were revealed during the excavation, concentrated in the central and southern parts of site. The earlier phase comprised two parallel Romano-British ditches and possibly an associated quarry, while the medieval activity was represented by enclosure ditches, postholes and/or small pits and a stone-lined probable cess pit.

5.1.2 General stratigraphic phasing of the site was possible through clear differences in feature fill types (Romano-British ditch fills being noticeably and consistently darker in colour than those of medieval date), with a small but chronologically useful assemblage of finds providing corroborating data for this sequence.

Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data

5.1.3 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.

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

Table 1 Quantification of excavation records

Type	Quantity
Context records	126
Context registers	1
Graphics (A4 and A3)	30
Graphics registers	1
Environmental sample registers	1
Object registers	1
Digital photographs	158

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The natural deposits were generally similar across the site and consisted of reddish brown silty clay alluvium and river terrace gravels. Where exposed, the underlying geology consisted of marly chalk.

5.3 Prehistoric

5.3.1 Prehistoric activity was relatively poorly represented on the site, with no features attributed to this broad period. However, a small quantity of worked flint, including a fragment of an

Early Neolithic polished axe, was collected from subsoil or found residual in later features. With the exception of the axe fragment, this material is largely unremarkable and undiagnostic, although two pieces could also be of Early Neolithic date (see below). In addition, two very small sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered as residual finds but cannot be more closely dated.

5.4 Romano-British

5.4.1 Two parallel, shallow ditches, 717 and 718 (**Fig. 1**; **Pl. 1**), aligned north-east to south-west and approximately 30 m apart, extended diagonally across the entire width of the site. Both ditches had similar, open V-shaped profiles and measured, on average, 1.2 m wide and 0.4 m deep. These were filled with much darker soil than the later ditches and contained a few sherds of Romano-British pottery, though this is not closely datable within the period.

5.4.2 The two ditches and associated pottery provide limited evidence for Romano-British activity in the immediate vicinity and it is possible that the ditches defined a trackway or road, perhaps branching to the south-west from the projected course of the Silchester to Chichester Roman road just over 100 m to the east of the site. Alternatively, ditches 717 and 718 may have been elements of an extensive Romano-British land division system surrounding the small town at Neatham.

5.4.3 An adjacent large quarry pit (655), 2 m to the south-east of and appearing to respect ditch 717, could have been contemporary with the postulated trackway/branch road, and provided gravel for metalling (which did not survive). The only find from it was a fragment of possible *tegula*. Alternatively, quarry 655 may have been a later, medieval feature and it is described further below.

5.5 Medieval/post-medieval

5.5.1 Pottery from medieval features (**Fig. 1**), though present in only small quantities, indicates a date range from the 11th through to the 15th century.

5.5.2 Ditches 726 (**Pls 2** and **3**) and 719 (**Pl. 4**) formed the northern part of an enclosure, measuring at least 44 m by 32 m, with an entrance approximately 5 m wide in the north-west side close to its north corner. Ditch 726 was re-cut at least once and was on average 2 m wide and between 0.4 m and 0.9 m deep. Ditch 719 was represented by a single cut and measured approximately 1.5 m wide and 0.45 deep. Immediately outside the entrance to the enclosure was structure 720, comprising a rectangular arrangement (4.2 m by 2.5 m) of four substantial postholes, approximately 0.6 m in diameter and up to 0.4 m deep, all with packing stones (**Pl. 5**). A smaller, shallower posthole lay midway between the two larger postholes closest to the entrance and was perhaps associated with a gate arrangement.

5.5.3 Approximately 5 m south-east of the entrance to the enclosure and extending to the north-west of ditch 726 was ditch 722. This was at least 25 m in length, continuing beyond the limit of excavation. It was up to 1.2 m wide, and perhaps formed a boundary to one or two further enclosures.

5.5.4 Within the enclosure defined by ditches 637 and 719, and in the southern part of the exposed area was a group of postholes or pits, 724, as well as a probable cess pit 677 (**Fig. 1**). Further to the east, but still within the area encompassed by the enclosure, was a large feature interpreted as a gravel quarry (655; see below), though its phasing is uncertain.

5.5.5 The individual features within group 724 (**Pl. 6**) varied in size, the largest (622) being 1 m in diameter, the smallest examples only 0.2 m, but it is thought that most were postholes rather than small pits. No clear patterns were apparent but 638, 640 and 710 may have formed part of a north-east to south west (fence?) line at least 7 m in length, with two parallel gullies (including 647) approximately 2 m apart and 2.5 m to the north-west. The concentration suggests the possibility of other post-built structures in the vicinity.

5.5.6 Approximately 10 m to the north-east of posthole group 724 was probable cess pit 677, aligned north-east to south west and cutting Romano-British ditch 717. The stone-lined pit measured 2.16 m by 1.96 m (1.6 m by 1.4 m internally), the roughly shaped lumps of marly chalk being up to 0.6 m in size, interspersed with a few fragments of ceramic peg tile of probable medieval date (**Fig. 2**; **Pl. 7**). Excavation stopped at 0.75 m due to a rising water table and the depth of pit 677 was not ascertained. A deposit of demolition debris (679) capped a dark fill (678) which contained no datable finds, but a medieval date for the feature seems most likely, largely based on the absence of any post-medieval material within the excavated fill.

5.5.7 Probable quarry pit 655 extended beyond the site boundary to the east but measured at least 18.8 m by 14.5 m in plan. It was up to 0.65 m deep, the depth to which the natural gravel was present in this area, and suggests it was dug for gravel extraction (**Pl. 8**). A machine section cut through it revealed a slightly irregular, flat base and a homogeneous dark fill. However, the only find recovered was a piece of a possible Romano-British *tegula*, perhaps residual in this context. It is, therefore, possible that quarry 655 provided metalling for the adjacent postulated Romano-British track or road or was dug adjacent to it to facilitate transport of the extracted gravel. Alternatively, it may have provided gravel for use around the later, medieval manorial complex

5.5.8 Two later ditches, 637 (see **Pl. 3**) and 723 (**Pl. 9**), cut the top of medieval enclosure ditch 726 and extended NNE for at least 60 m, beyond the site limit, and appear to represent a partial re-alignment of the earlier enclosure system. These ditches were smaller than their predecessors, being up to 0.6 m wide and a maximum of 0.3 m deep, but ditch 650 (part of group 723) contained a rich assemblage of charred plant remains.

5.5.9 Feature 721 (**Pl. 10**), on the western edge of the site, was at least 10 m long, approximately 2.2 m wide and at in excess of 0.44 m deep. It was interpreted as a ditch, possibly an element of the medieval enclosure system.

5.5.10 An animal burial, 205, comprising the remains of a lamb, was recovered from a shallow cut in evaluation trench 2 (**Fig. 1**). This has been provisionally assigned a medieval date but is undated and may be later.

5.6 Post-medieval

5.6.1 Two shallow, parallel features, 8–12 m long, up to 2 m wide and on a north-east to south-west alignment, were recorded in the north of site (**Fig. 1**). Ditch 683 cut both the Romano-British and medieval ditches in this area and contained post-medieval brick fragments.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during the evaluation and excavation. The material has been cleaned (with the exception of the iron) and quantified by material type in each context; this information is summarised in **Table 2** and fully detailed in **Appendix 1**. A basic

record has been made of the pottery, in accordance with national guidelines (Barclay *et al.* 2016).

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

Material type	Number	Weight (g)
Pottery		
Prehistoric unspecified	*2*	*5*
Roman	*22*	*275*
medieval	*17*	*181*
Sub-total	41	461
Ceramic building material	30	3134
Iron	3	61
Worked flint	22	288
Burnt flint	32	587
Stone	1	26
Animal bone	121	1470

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 A small group of pottery (41 sherds weighing 461g) was recovered from 18 deposits. The earliest material comprises two flint-tempered body sherds (5 g), only broadly datable to the prehistoric period. These were residual in pit 638 (group 724) and ditch 647.

6.2.2 A total of 22 sherds (275 g) of Romano-British coarseware pottery was recorded from four deposits. The majority comprise greywares (19 sherds, 227 g), with a single oxidised sherd (2 g) and two sherds in an unoxidised sandy fabric (46 g). The only identifiable form was an everted rim jar from ditch 718. None are closely datable.

6.2.3 The remainder of the assemblage comprises medieval coarse sandy wares (17 sherds, 211 g), almost certainly of relatively local origin. Four sherds are scratch-marked, a surface treatment typical of 11th-/12th-century pottery in the region (Spoerry 1990). Two sherds of chalk-/flint-tempered Kennet Valley-type ware, of 11th- to 12th-century AD date (Mepham 2000), were recovered from deposit 505 and subsoil 606. A single glazed rim sherd (6 g) in a sandy ware of uncertain vessel form was recovered from deposit 509; it dates to the 14th or 15th centuries.

6.3 Ceramic building material

6.3.1 Thirty fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), weighing 3134 g, were recovered from 14 deposits. The earliest material derives from quarry pit 655 – a possible *tegula* fragment (flanged roof tile) of Roman date. Most of the group (20 pieces) comprises tile fragments of medieval or post-medieval date. A single brick fragment of probable post-medieval date was recovered from ditch 683. The remainder of the group are too fragmentary to suggest date or function.

6.4 Metalwork

6.4.1 Three items of metal, all iron, were recovered from three deposits. Two are nails of a standard form, with square shanks and round heads, which cannot be closely dated. The third item from pit 676 is too fragmentary to suggest form, function or date.

6.5 Flint

6.5.1 A small assemblage of worked flint comprising 22 pieces was recovered from 13 Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval contexts, predominantly ditches, and subsoil. The assemblage is, therefore, entirely from secondary contexts, which is confirmed by post-depositional edge damage on several pieces.

6.5.2 The assemblage includes the butt end of a well-polished Early Neolithic flint axe from deposit 606. The implement is broken, snapped at the probable entry point of the axe head into the haft. This is a common type of stone axe fracture, which results from flexion in the haft. Flint axes were often produced at specialized axe factories, which were located near sources of good quality flint, in this case the Sussex mines on the South Downs. The misfortune of breaking the axe provided an accessible source of good quality raw material and the broken fragment was adopted as a blade core. Only one blade was removed, which terminated in a hinge fracture. No further work was attempted.

6.5.3 Very little additional comment can be made on the axe or any of the other material. It is unclear whether the axe represents an isolated loss or formed part of a more general spread. Few of the worked flints can be chronologically linked to the axe; however, a blade with well-executed platform abrasion and a bladelet, which was removed from a core with opposed striking platforms, from ditches 662 and 698 respectively, may date from the Early Neolithic period.

6.5.4 The remaining material largely comprises waste flakes, which are undiagnostic and of no specific date.

6.5.5 Burnt flint (32 pieces, 587 g) was recovered from 12 features and the subsoil (502), but none in any quantity; the largest group (196 g) was residual in ditch 718. This material type is intrinsically undatable, but is frequently associated with prehistoric activity.

6.6 Animal bone

6.6.1 A total of 121 fragments (or 1.470 kg) of animal bone came from a Romano-British ditch and several medieval ditches, a quarry pit and an animal burial. Once refits and ABGs are accounted for the total falls to 36 fragments (**Table 3**).

Table 3 Animal bone: number of identified specimens (NISP)

Species	**Romano-British**	**Medieval**	**Total**
Cattle	1	15	16
Sheep/goat	-	2*	2
Pig	-	1	1
Horse	-	1	1
Dog	-	1	1
Total identified	*1*	*20*	*21*
Total unidentifiable	-	*15*	*15*
Overall total	**1**	**35**	**36**

* Sheep/goat ABG from burial 205, comprising 55 fragments (74 g)

Methods

6.6.2 The assemblage was rapidly scanned following current guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019) and the following information quantified where applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion and tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was directly recorded into a relational database (in MS Access) and cross-referenced with relevant contextual information.

Results

6.6.3 Bone preservation varies from good to moderately poor but is generally consistent within individual contexts. There is little evidence of gnawing and only limited evidence for butchery.

Romano-British

6.6.4 Part of a cattle mandible came from Romano-British ditch 718. Skinning marks are apparent on the medial aspect of the ramus.

Medieval

6.6.5 Most of the animal bones came from ditches. This material includes several cattle bones comprising fragments of skull, ribs, vertebrae and long bone shaft, part of a sheep/goat skull, a pig ulna, horse pelvis and dog tibia. Part of a cattle radius and metatarsal came from quarry pit 655 and the remains of a lamb aged between 2–6 months (mandible wear stage B, after Payne 1973) came from burial pit 205.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 One bulk sediment sample was taken from a ditch of medieval chronology and was processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence.

7.2 Aims and methods

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

7.2.2 The 35-litre sample was processed by standard flotation methods in a Siraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse fractions (>4 mm) were sorted by eye and discarded. The environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots. The flot was scanned using stereo incident light microscopy (Leica MS5 microscope) at magnifications of up to x40 for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds, and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g. *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as burrowing snails (*Cecilioides acicula*), or earthworm eggs and insects, which would not be preserved unless anoxic conditions prevailed on site. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence of other environmental remains, such as terrestrial and aquatic molluscs and animal bone, was recorded (**Appendix 2**). 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. Mollusc nomenclature follows Anderson (2005).

7.3 Results

7.3.1 The flot from the bulk sediment sample was of moderate size; there were low numbers of modern roots and seeds and only moderate numbers of the burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula* that, together, may be indicative of little stratigraphic movement and, therefore, the reduced likelihood of contamination by later intrusive elements. Environmental evidence comprised plant remains preserved (in varying states) by carbonisation, a small amount of mature wood charcoal, small animal bones, terrestrial molluscs and small fragments of unidentified marine shell.

7.3.2 The charred assemblage recovered from the sample was particularly rich, dominated by cereal remains but also containing large numbers of remains from other taxa. Cereals included *Triticum aestivum/turgidum* (naked wheat) grains and rachis segments, *Secale cereale* (rye) grains and internodes, *Hordeum vulgare* (barley) grains and tentatively identified *Avena* cf. *sativa* (large-sized oat grains, possibly from the cultivated species). Also present were grains of Poaceae (grasses, including *Poa/Phleum* (meadow grass/cat's tail)), Asteraceae (daisy family), Cyperaceae (sedges), Vicieae (vetches, including large seeded varieties) and *Polygonum* sp. (knotgrass); *Linum usitatissimum* (flax) seed capsule fragments, *Corylus avellana* (hazel) nutshell fragments, and a *Prunus spinosa* (sloe) endocarp were additionally identified.

7.4 Discussion

7.4.1 The environmental evidence is typical of by-products from early the stages of crop processing, and characteristic from agricultural activities of medieval date. The food processing activities represented in the sample would have focused on the preparation of plant products, although a small amount of remains from molluscs of likely marine origin were also present. The plant processing activities were centred on cereal products, namely naked or free-threshing wheat, rye, barley, and possibly oats, all of which are typical crops of the medieval period. Free-threshing grain (such as naked wheat, rye and naked barley) would normally arrive threshed to a medieval settlement (removal of the chaff was usually carried out away off the settlement or in separate areas), where it would be stored for final preparation and consumption as required. The relatively abundance of cereal chaff present in the sample suggests this material possibly originated in threshing floor waste. However, cereal grain and remains from other cultivated (flax) and wild plants (including possible weeds and other economic products, such as hazelnuts and sloes) were also present, suggesting admixture with waste from other processing activities.

8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

8.1 Stratigraphic potential

8.1.1 The earliest evidence of activity on site was provided by small quantity of worked flint, including a fragment of an Early Neolithic polished axe, retrieved from subsoil layer or found residual in later features.

8.1.2 Two parallel ditches, aligned north-east to south-west and approximately 30 m apart, provide limited evidence for Romano-British settlement. It is possible that the ditches defined a trackway or road, rather than field boundaries, perhaps branching to the south-west (towards Wickham?) from the projected course of the Silchester to Chichester Roman road just over 100 m to the east of the site, this road running south-east from the Romano-

British small town at Neatham (believed to be *Vindomi*). An adjacent quarry pit, for gravel, could have been contemporary with the postulated trackway/branch road, or it may have been a later, medieval feature.

8.1.3 The lack of other Romano-British features indicates that the site lay beyond the main area of settlement/roadside activity recorded during previous excavations in the vicinity.

8.1.4 The features broadly dated to the medieval period contained pottery assemblages spanning the 11th–15th-centuries, suggesting that at least some date as early as 11th century, which is consistent with the reference to Neatham Manor in *Domesday Book*. Two ditches formed the north corner of an enclosure, with an entrance in the north-west side, four or five postholes perhaps forming a gate arrangement. Another ditch may have divided two further, conjoined enclosures, with recutting of one of the main enclosure ditches indicating later modification of the layout. Within the enclosure was a stone-lined probable cess pit and a cluster of postholes/small pits which, although no coherent ground plans were apparent, suggest the presence of nearby structures, probably agricultural buildings, which formed part of the manorial complex.

8.1.5 Post-medieval features were limited to several shallow linear features.

Recommendations and proposed methodologies for analysis

8.1.6 Limited checking and revision of the stratigraphic data is proposed to confirm the chronological sequence. Subsequently, existing literature and other available sources will be reviewed in order to place the Romano-British and medieval remains within their broader context.

8.2 Finds potential

8.2.1 The pottery group is small but is nonetheless the largest datable material group recovered from the site and indicates activity from the prehistoric to medieval periods. Few vessels forms are preserved within the group, potential discussion of site activity is therefore limited. The ceramic building material also occurs in small quantities but is suggestive of nearby Roman and post-Roman activity. The worked flint group is poorly-dated, with the exception of the Early Neolithic axe, however it was derived entirely from secondary contexts. The small assemblage of animal bone offers no potential for further analysis.

8.2.2 The finds from this site occur in small quantities and contribute little to the understanding of site activities. The assemblage has been recorded to basic standards for archiving and no further work is recommended but the results presented here should be included in any future dissemination of the fieldwork results.

8.3 Environmental potential

8.3.1 The analysis of the archaeobotanical assemblage from context 649 (ditch 650), with full quantification of the charred plant remains, has the potential to provide information on the site, the local environment and local agricultural practices in the medieval period. For the analysis, 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.

8.4 Radiocarbon dating

8.4.1 It is recommended that the charred plant assemblage from context 649 (ditch 650) is radiocarbon dated as part of the analysis, to obtain a firm chronological framework for its formation and to verify its consistency. Two radiocarbon samples from short-lived plant

10.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

10.2.1 The physical archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Hampshire Cultural Trust, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014c; Brown 2011).

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

- 2 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type; and
- 1 file/document case of paper records and A3/A4 graphics

Digital archive

10.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which will include born-digital data (survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by full metadata.

10.3 Selection policy

10.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records (physical and digital) and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, ie the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

10.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows CIfA's 'Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives'. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

10.3.3 Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. These proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.

10.3.4 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Finds

10.3.5 The finds assemblage is small and as a whole contains little of intrinsic interest; much if not all of it is likely to represent redeposited material rather than primary deposits.

- *Pottery (41 sherds):* small quantities of prehistoric (generic fabric types, undiagnostic, not closely datable), Romano-British and medieval (in both cases the expected range of types for the area, nothing of intrinsic interest). Little archaeological significance; little further research potential; retain none.

- *CBM (30 fragments):* one possible Roman tile, but otherwise medieval/post-medieval roof tile and brick. Little or no archaeological significance; no further research potential; retain none.

- *Worked flint (21 pieces):* much of this small group comprises undiagnostic waste material which is not chronologically distinctive. The Neolithic flint axe, however, is an object of intrinsic interest, despite its secondary context. Little archaeological significance (focused on the axe and one or two other possible contemporary pieces); little further research potential; retain axe only.

- *Burnt flint (32 pieces):* undiagnostic fragments. No further research potential; retain none.

- *Stone (1 piece):* slate fragment, no further research potential; do not retain.

- *Metalwork (3 objects):* two undatable nails and an unidentifiable object. No archaeological significance; no further research potential; retain none.

- *Animal bone (121 pieces):* small assemblage of animal bone. No potential for further analysis or research; retain none.

Documentary records

10.3.6 Documentary records comprise site records, hard copies of site reports and site graphics. All will be deposited with the Museum.

Digital data

10.3.7 Digital data comprise site records, photographs, reports, finds records and survey data. All should be deposited with ADS, although the photographs may be subjected to selection to eliminate duplicate and poor-quality shots, and any others not considered relevant to the archaeological deposits.

10.4 Security copy

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

10.5 OASIS

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

11 COPYRIGHT

11.1 Archive and report copyright

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

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

11.2 Third party data copyright

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

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Quantification of finds by context

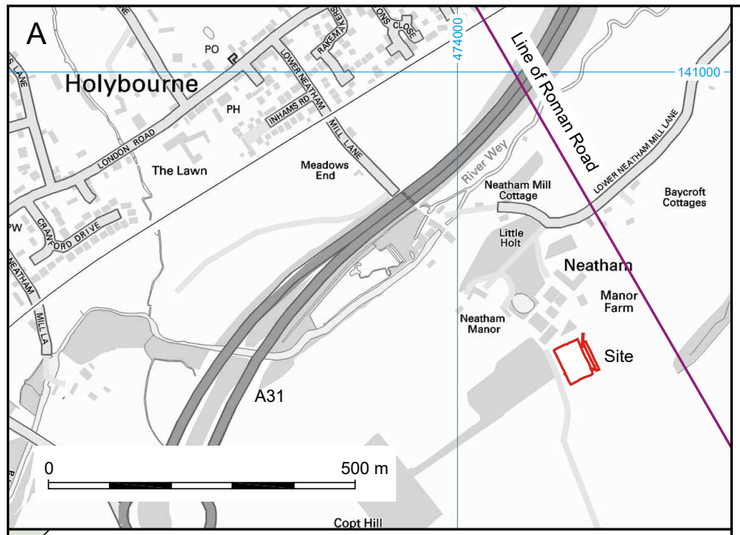
	Pottery		CBM		Iron		Flint		Burnt flint		Stone		Animal bone	
Context	*No.*	*Wg (g)*	*No.*	*Wg (g)*	*No.*	*Wg (g)*	*No.*	*Wg (g)*	*No.*	*Wg (g)*	*No.*	*Wg (g)*	*No.*	*Wg (g)*
206	1	2											55	74
502							6	59	4	95				
505	1	51												
507			1	87										
509	1	6	1	12										
511	1	2	4	82										
513	2	25												
606	1	31					1	115						
611			1	33										
617													1	54
619							2	8					1	71
625	2	9							2	72				
628							1	1	2	20				
629							1	2	3	19				
636									2	55			3	46
638	2	7					1	3	1	43				
640	2	19												
644			1	241					3	78			6	233
648	1	1	3	42					1	15	1	26		
649	1	9							5	8			2	1
652							1	1	1	6			5	41
656	2	15	6	446	1	10								
657			2	461									2	137
664	2	46					1	2	2	36			10	103
666							1	68						
668	2	12							3	35				
675	1	3							1	32				
677			2	866										
678			3	33	1	6								
679			2	95	1	45								
682			2	638										
684	17	143	1	20			3	16	1	46			11	256
695													1	33
697							1	1					3	216
699													11	38
700	1	77											6	117

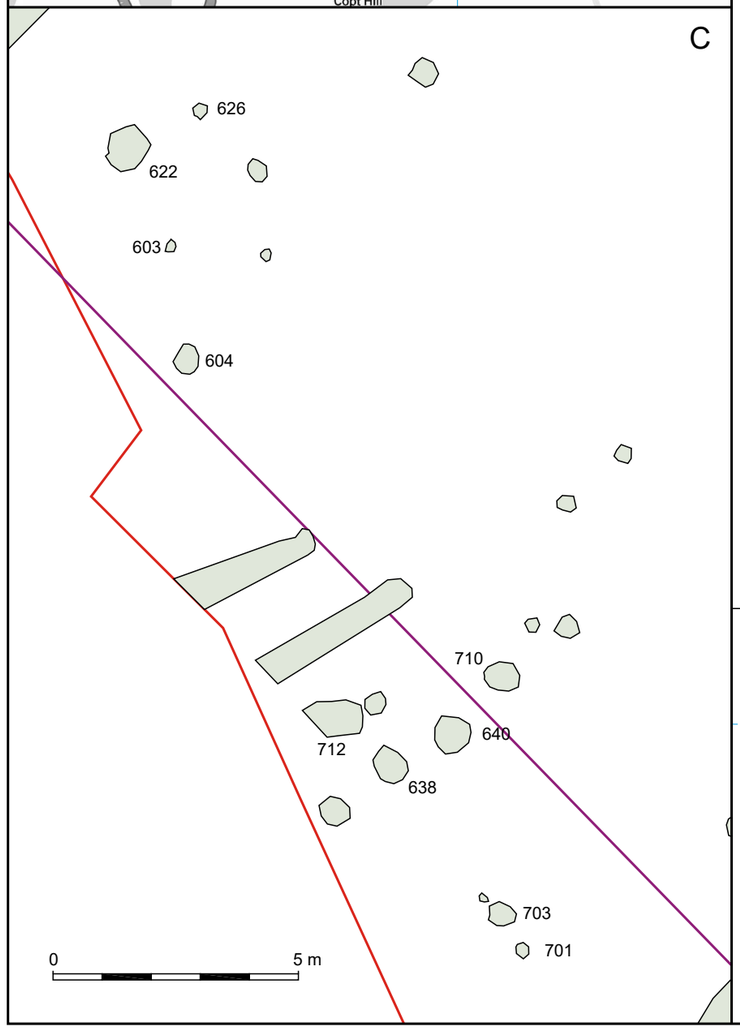
	Pottery		CBM		Iron		Flint		Burnt flint		Stone		Animal bone	
Context	*No.*	*Wg (g)*	*No.*	*Wg (g)*	*No.*	*Wg (g)*	*No.*	*Wg (g)*	*No.*	*Wg (g)*	*No.*	*Wg (g)*	*No.*	*Wg (g)*
706							1	9	1	27			1	25
713	1	3					1	3						
716			1	78									3	25
Total	**41**	**461**	**30**	**3134**	**3**	**61**	**21**	**288**	**32**	**587**	**1**	**26**	**121**	**1470**

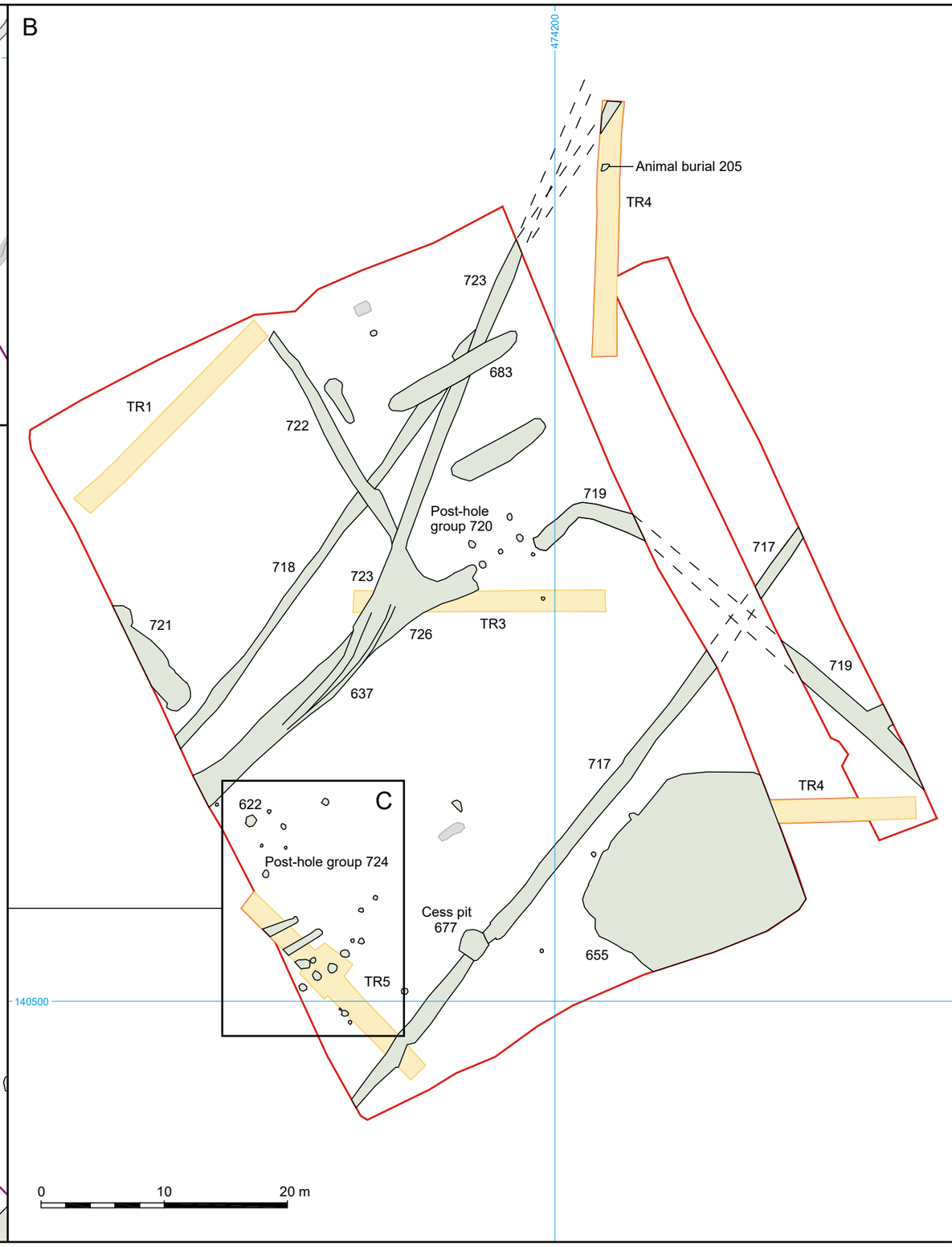
Appendix 2 Assessment of the environmental evidence

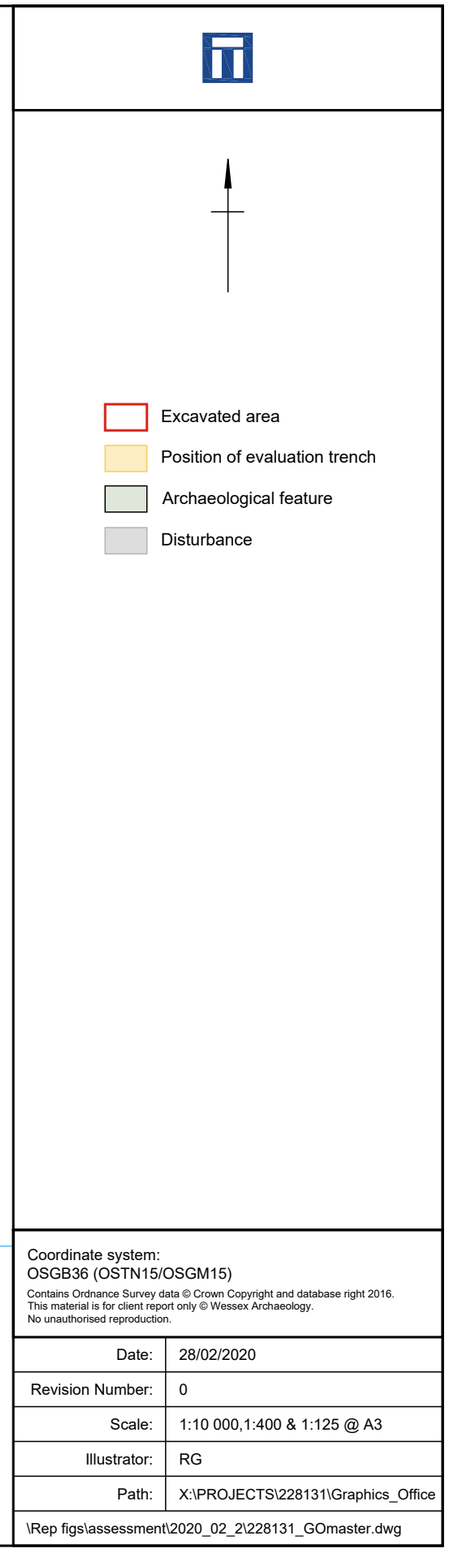
Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (l)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other (type and abundance)	Comments (Preservation: fragmentation and erosion)
650	649	1	35	125	<1%, B, *Cecilioides acicula* (A)	A***	A**	*Triticum aestivum/turgidum* grains and rachis segments, *Secale cereale* grains and internodes, *Hordeum vulgare* and *Avena* cf. *sativa* grains	A**	Poaceae (*Poa/Phleum*), *Corylus avellana, Prunus spinosa* endocarp, Asteraceae, Cyperaceae, Vicieae (inc. large seeded), *Linum usitatissimum* seed capsule frags, *Polygonum* sp.	5	Mature	Moll-t (A), Sab (C), Moll-m frags (B)	Heterogenous

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); Sab = small animal bones, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-m = marine molluscs.









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OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

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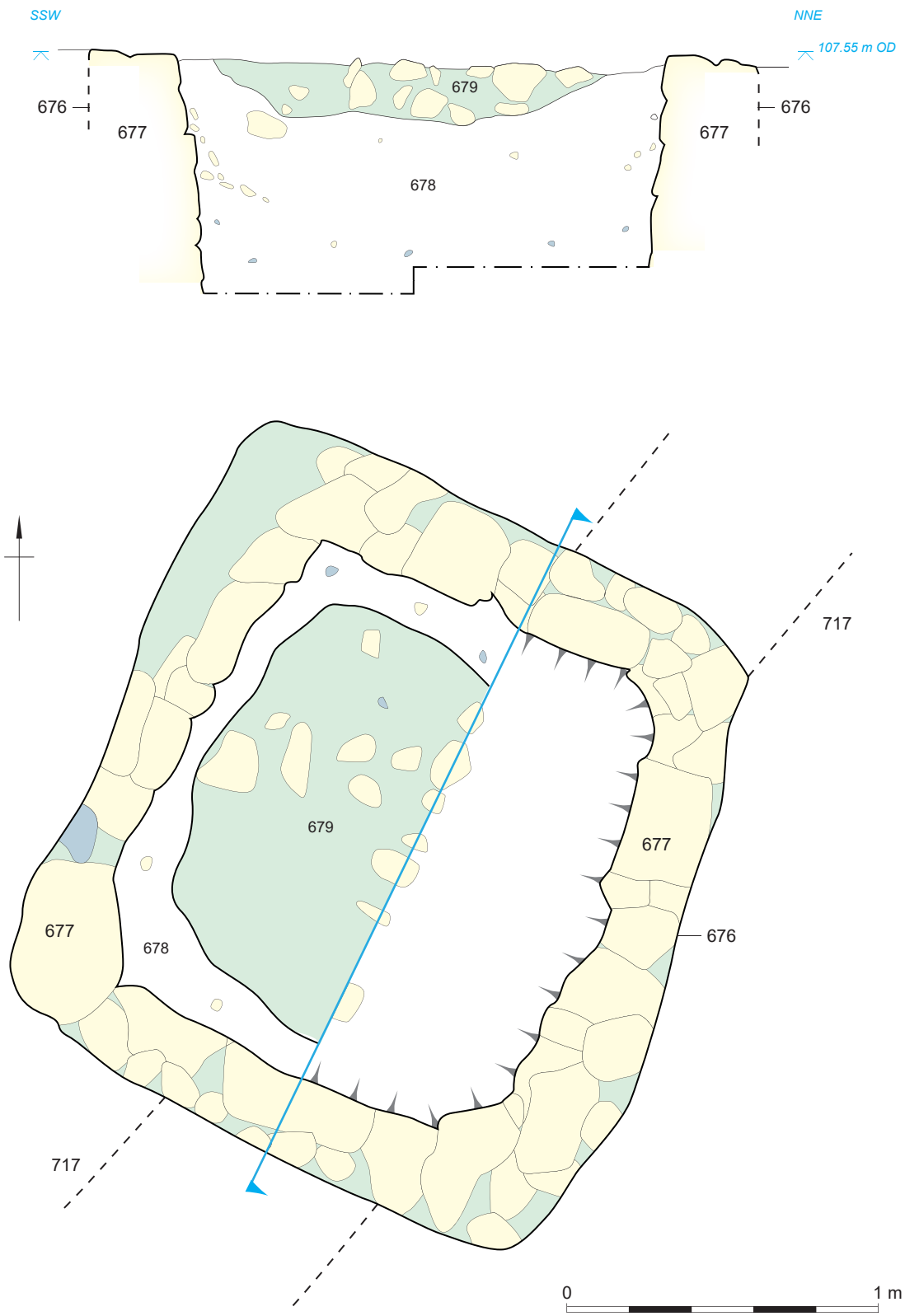
Site location and plan showing excavated area and evaluation trenches

Figure 1



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South-east facing section and plan of cess pit 677

Figure 2

Plate 1: South-west facing section through ditch 718 (1 m scale)

Plate 2: North-east facing section through ditch 726 (2 m scale)

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Plate 3: South-west facing section through ditches 726, 637 and 723 (2 m scale)

Plate 4: South-east facing section through ditch 719 terminal (1 m and 0.2 m scales)

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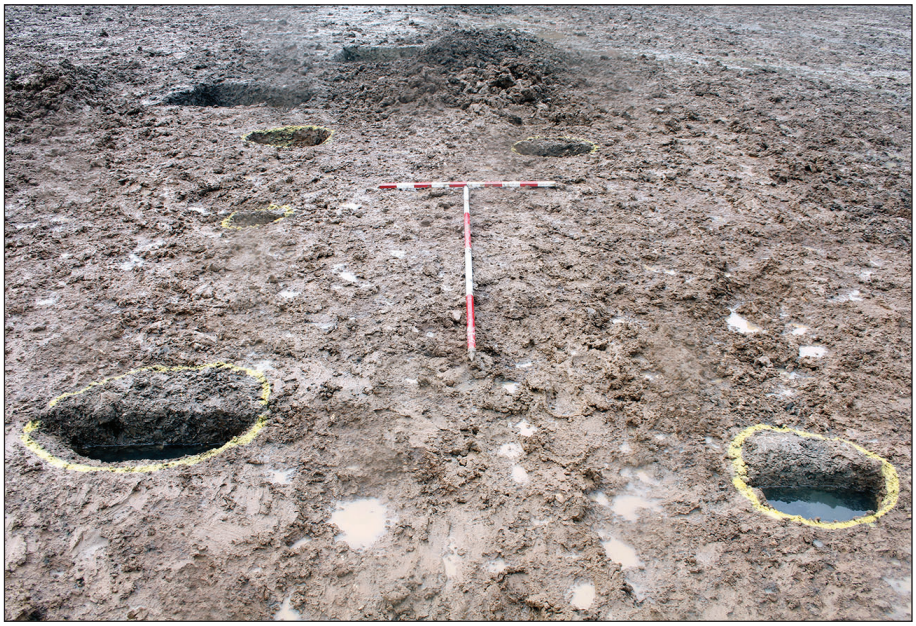

Plate 5: View from the north-east of structure 720 (2 m and 1 m scale)

Plate 6: South-east facing section through post hole 622, part of group 724 (0.5 m scale)

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Plate 7: South-east facing section through cess pit 677 (1m and 0.5 m scales)

Plate 8: North-west facing section through quarry pit 655 (2 m and 0.5 m scales)

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Plate 9: North-east facing section through ditch 723 (0.5 m scale)

Plate 10: Excavation of ditch 721, view from north

Date:	27/02/2020	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	RG
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