

M3 Junction 9 Improvement

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M3 Junction 9, Winchester Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Jacobs UK Ltd on behalf of Highways England, to conduct an archaeological evaluation of land required for a proposed road improvement scheme between the M3 motorway and A34 trunk road, Hampshire, centred on NGR 449650 131650.

The scheme comprises the construction of new A34 carriageways with direct links to the M3 carriageways to create a free flow interchange with a revised Junction 9 layout to maintain connections with the local road network.

The evaluation comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of 32 trial trenches and the monitoring of 11 geotechnical test pits. The work was carried out between 21st March and 16th April 2019.

The evaluation indicated that the eastern part of a prehistoric ring ditch that was partially excavated prior to the construction of the motorway junction in 1974, remains relatively undisturbed. The somewhat mixed finds assemblage retrieved from the ring ditch during the evaluation included a small quantity of disarticulated human bone and possibly Neolithic pottery (along with a greater quantity of later sherds). It was estimated that approximately 32.5 m (c. 35%) of the ring ditch could remain intact. The unexcavated remainder of the ring ditch, and any surviving remains associated with it, retain considerable archaeological interest.

Few other archaeological features were encountered during the evaluation. Of note, however, were two probable prehistoric pits, which suggested that there is some, albeit probably limited potential for similar discrete, prehistoric features to be present elsewhere within the footprint of the scheme. Any such features could be of at least local significance. Features corresponding with former land divisions, including a parish boundary, were also recorded during the evaluation, although these were considered of limited significance.

There was some evidence of disturbance and horizontal truncation, resulting from agricultural activity, previous archaeological excavation and, possibly, earlier construction work associated with the M3 motorway. However, this does not seem to have substantially diminished the potential for archaeologically significant remains to survive within the scheme footprint.

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The fieldwork was directed by Steve Legg and Tom Blencowe, with the assistance of Hilde van der Heul, Rachal Capps, Jon Turner, Tom Slater, Lara Tonizzo Feligioni and Dan Reeve-Brook. This report was written by Tom Blencowe and Tom Wells, and edited by Damian DeRosa. The project was managed by Damian DeRosa on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



M3 Motorway Junction 9 Winchester, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Jacobs UK Ltd on behalf of Highways England (the client), to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land located to the north of the junction between the M3 motorway and A34 trunk road, Hampshire, SO23 7FZ (hereafter 'the scheme'). The evaluation area is centred on NGR 449650 131060 (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.2 The scheme comprises the construction of new A34 carriageways with direct links to the M3 carriageways to create a free flow interchange with a revised Junction 9 layout to maintain connections with the local road network.

1.1.3 At the time of the fieldwork, the scheme had not entered the planning system. However, works of this nature are guided by the National Policy Statement for National Networks (NN NPS) (Department for Transport (DfT) 2014), which sets out the need for, and Government's policies to deliver, development of nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs) on the national road and rail networks in England. The policies for the conservation of the historic environment are set out in Chapter 5. The NN NPS states that:

The applicant should describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the asset's importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant Historic Environment Record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, the applicant should include an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation (DfT, 2014 p. 72-73).

1.1.4 This evaluation formed part of a staged approach to determining the archaeological potential of the scheme, and followed other non-intrusive archaeological work, including a desk-based assessment (DBA) (Jacobs 2018) and geophysical survey (Sumo 2018).

1.1.5 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2019). The Winchester City Council (WCC) Archaeology Officer approved the WSI on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.6 The evaluation comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of 32 trial trenches and the monitoring of 11 geotechnical test pits.

1.1.7 Monitoring of the geotechnical test pits was carried out between 21st and 26th March 2019, and the evaluation was undertaken between the 1st and 16th April 2019



1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.
- 1.2.2 The results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 A large portion of the scheme includes the current M3 and the A34, to the north-west. The surrounding landscape is urban to the west and north, and primarily rural in all other directions. Winchester is to the west of the scheme, with the village of Kings Worthy immediately north.
- 1.3.2 The landscape around the scheme consists of well drained rolling chalkland along the upper slopes of Itchen valley. It is characterised by medium and large fields, enclosed in the 18th and 19th century, with straight surveyed boundaries. The area has an open, exposed character with panoramic views across the river valley and beyond with sparse woodland cover and low, clipped hedgerows often fragmented with occasional hedgerow trees.
- 1.3.3 The River Itchen is located to the west and north of the scheme, with the A34 and M3 both crossing through the valley. The landscape to the west and north of the scheme partially comprises historic water meadows, providing a distinctive and picturesque setting largely screened from the road and urban Winchester to the west by vegetation. The South Downs National Park (SDNP) also extends outside of the scheme area to the north, east, south and some areas to the west.
- 1.3.4 The evaluated area coincides with two parcels of land, one on a narrow area of land located between the A34 and the M3, to the north of Junction 9. The second parcel of land is located to the east of the M3 and runs adjacent to the M3 from Junction 9 to the north for approximately 800 m.
- 1.3.5 Existing ground levels are between 70 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south, through an east – west aligned river valley at 50 m aOD before rising to 70 m aOD in the north.
- 1.3.6 The bedrock geology is mapped as chalk of the Seaford Chalk Formation. An east - west band of head deposits is also mapped crossing the scheme (British Geological Survey online viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Previous investigations

Excavation (1974)

- 2.1.1 A programme of excavation was undertaken in the 1974 prior to the construction of the M3 motorway (Fasham 1982). Within the scheme, a ring ditch with an internal diameter of 27.5 m and an external diameter of 32.5 m, was partially excavated. The ditch varied between 2.59 – 4.22 m wide across the top and 1.29 – 1.44 m wide across the base, with depths between 1.29 – 1.44 m. Neolithic pottery was recovered from the primary fill. Radiocarbon dates taken from a layer of ash and charcoal just above the primary fill date to 3070±120

BP (HAR-1040). Several features were excavated within the interior of the ring ditch. These, comprised a central pit containing a single cremation, five inhumation graves, four secondary cremation graves and a number of intercutting pits. Most of the features were in the central and southern part of the area enclosed by the ring ditch. The central pit (1.75 x 1.05 x 0.20 m) contained the cremated remains of a mature adult and a bronze knife dagger, fragments of a bronze rod and three amber beads. Four small oval/circular pits located within the ring ditch to the south-west of the central burial all contained burnt bone, although only one piece was positively identified as human. Numerous pits and scoops located within the south-eastern third of the ring ditch were identified as being of Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age date. Human remains were recovered from two of these; six others contained burnt bone which was unidentifiable.

- 2.1.2 External to the ring ditch, a small number of features were identified. Four undated pits were cut by the ring ditch, a single isolated pit on the southwestern side of the ring ditch contained small quantities of Neolithic pottery, to the north of the ring ditch was an east – west aligned Iron Age ditch, or depression 39 m long, 4.25 m wide, 0.26 m deep, this cut three small undated features. Finally, a small number of modern rubbish pits and post-holes were also identified.
- 2.1.3 The surviving, eastern side of the ring ditch (not removed during the construction of the M3) was targeted by the evaluation.

Desk-based assessment (DBA) (2018)

- 2.1.4 The DBA (Jacobs 2018) considered the broader historical and archaeological context in conjunction with the known archaeological remains within a 1 km study area of the scheme. This identified very high potential for unknown pre-historic archaeological remains, and high potential for unknown archaeological remains dating to the early medieval and post-medieval periods, with moderate potential for remains dating to the Romano-British and medieval periods. The results are summarised below in section 2.2, with relevant entry numbers from the Winchester City Historic Environment Record (HER).

Geophysical survey (2018)

- 2.1.5 A geophysical survey was undertaken across the accessible parts of the scheme in February 2018 (SUMO 2018). An anomaly consistent with the partial remains of the ring ditch discussed above was identified. Other anomalies were interpreted as former field boundaries, whilst discrete anomalies and trends which were unlikely to have archaeological provenance were also noted. A modern pipe is clearly visible in the survey results.

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

Neolithic (4000 – 2200 BC)

- 2.2.1 There are Neolithic long barrows on the chalk to the northwest and southeast of the Itchen Valley, and it is likely that the proportion of the valley that runs through the chalk forms part of a wider settled and farmed landscape. Settlement evidence and Neolithic pottery, have been found in the valley where it is flanked by chalk. Neolithic features also were recorded within the scheme during the 1982 excavation (see above).

Bronze Age (2200 – 700 BC)

- 2.2.2 There is Bronze Age settlement evidence in the Itchen Valley where it is flanked by chalk between Winchester and the lowland belt towards the coast, a continuity of the pattern shown throughout the Neolithic. Whilst there are few Bronze Age burial mounds in the valley itself, there are considerable numbers on the chalk flanks of the valley, and it appears that

the valley fell within a wider farmed and settled landscape (Hampshire County Council, 2012). Bronze Age funerary monuments, including a scheduled round barrow cemetery, exist within the wider area, although these are more often located on or near to the peaks of ridges, and some of which appear to have been at least partially destroyed by later developments, and by the original construction of Junction 9.

Iron Age (700 BC – 43 AD)

- 2.2.3 There is evidence for Iron Age settlement in the Itchen Valley reflecting and continuing the pattern of the wider chalk hinterland. Winchester is overlooked by two hillforts. An oppida developed in the valley here, possibly indicative of inter-regional trade, and the high status of the area during this period continued into the period of Roman occupation. The Iron Age ditch and intercutting pits discussed above demonstrate Iron Age activity on the scheme.

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

- 2.2.4 Winchester (*Venta Belgarum*) developed into a Roman civitas capital. Settlement patterns were already established and evidence for settlement in the Itchen Valley is very apparent to the south of the scheme, from Winchester along the lowland zone towards Southampton, however it is less pronounced on the east – west stretch of the Itchen towards Alresford.

Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)

- 2.2.5 A programme of geophysical survey on Easton Down, to the immediate east of the scheme, has recorded buried features that have been interpreted as a potential sunken featured building (MWC2313). It is also purported that Kings Worthy, to the north of the scheme, was the site of an early medieval royal palace (MWC2942). The presence of an early medieval cemetery at the southern extent of the scheme (MWC6625) has indicated a relatively lengthy period of use, with further settlement enclosures recorded in the same vicinity (MWC6745). Aerial photographs have also revealed what are thought to be a series of early medieval hollow ways, which are hypothesised to have resulted from lack of a defined roadway combined with increasing movement of people in and out of the valley. Although the lack of Roman roads near these features suggest a medieval date, it is possible that these tracks are prehistoric in origin (Morgan Evans 1987).

Medieval (1066 - 1500)

- 2.2.6 The 'Worthys' (Headbourne Worthy, Kings Worthy, Abbots Worthy) are thought to have been part of an estate landscape in the Micheldever Hundred. It appears the area may have been a royal estate, possibly with origins in the early medieval period.
- 2.2.7 Although archaeological evidence relating to the medieval period is less prolific in the immediate vicinity of the scheme, notable sites in the wider area include a deserted medieval village at Abbots Worthy (MWC2976) and the location of St. Gertrude's Chapel (DWC35). These were first mentioned in 1249 and lie to the west of the River Itchen.

Post-medieval (1500 - 1800)

- 2.2.8 Water meadows are a consistent historic landscape feature along the length of the Itchen and likely to have originated in the early 17th to 19th centuries around the headwaters below natural springs. They were introduced to encourage early growth of grass in the spring, and enabled early grazing and an increased the yield of hay crops. In particular, sheep were grazed on the river valley floor and taken to higher land to be folded and manure the arable, often corn crop. The years between 1640 and 1750 saw a great boom in the establishment of meadows. Water meadow types are mixed and with the decline of the water meadows in the 19th century, the river valley floor has become more wooded. The Winchester water

meadows show several periods of development, highlighting the changes in agricultural practice throughout the 17th-19th centuries (Morgan Evans 1987).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019) and in compliance with the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), were:

- To provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- To inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were:

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

3.3 Site-specific objectives

3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (Hey and Hind 2014), site-specific objectives defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019) were to:

- To test the results of the geophysical survey (SUMO 2018);
- To examine evidence for remains of a Neolithic ring ditch that exists within the site (known from the previous excavation (Fasham 1982) and geophysical survey (SUMO 2018)); and
- To identify areas of previous chalk fill (arising from the original M3/A34 junction construction) and zones of potential archaeological survival.



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 2019) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.1.2 The site was sub divided in to three distinct areas, which this report also refers to:

- Area 1 East of the A34. Four trenches (Trenches 30 to 33; Trench 32 not excavated due to badger setts exclusion zone) and one test pit (Test Pit 2)
- Area 2 Immediately west of the current M3 and east of the A34, south of Area 1. Six trenches (Trenches 24 to 29) and three test pits (Test Pits 5, 7 and 9)
- Area 3 Immediately east of the current M3. Twenty-three trenches; (Trenches 1 to 23) and seven test pits (Test Pits 3-4, 6, 8 and 10-11)

4.2 Fieldwork methods

Trial trenching

4.2.1 The evaluation was originally designed to entail the excavation, investigation and recording of 33 trial trenches (each measuring 50 m by 2 m). In the event, an oversight was made during the project set up, resulting in Trenches 1-14 and 17 (all located within Area 3) being excavated to a length of 30 m. Upon detection of this error, discussions were held with the WCC Archaeological Officer and Jacobs, the result of which (having been guided by the geophysical survey results indicating a lack of potential archaeological features within these trench footprints, the observations made at 30 m as well as other extenuating external factors) it was agreed that these 15 trenches would be recorded as they were, but that all subsequent trenching would need to achieve the 50 m specification.

4.2.2 Trenches 30 and 33 (within Areas 1 and 2 west of the M3) had to be slightly moved from their original positions due to the presence of active badger setts. The requirement to respect a 30 m buffer zone around the active badger setts and limited working space remaining, meant that Trench 32 was omitted from the programme, again following discussion and approval from the WCC Archaeological Officer and Jacobs.

4.2.3 In total, 15 no. 30 m trial trenches and 17 no. 50 m trial trenches (all measuring 1.8 m wide), were excavated and recorded during the evaluation.

4.2.4 The trenches were excavated in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.5 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits identified was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.

- 4.2.6 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. 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.
- 4.2.7 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the WCC Archaeology Officer were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated in 150 mm spits at which point reinstated material was compacted with the machine, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology.

Test pit monitoring

- 4.2.8 The fieldwork also entailed the monitoring and recording of 11 geotechnical test pits, which measured between 3.2 m and 4 m in length, and 0.7 m in width.
- 4.2.9 The WSI specified that a total of 12 geotechnical test pits were to be monitored (Wessex Archaeology 2019). However, one of these (Test Pit 1) was not archaeologically monitored as agreed with Jacobs as its proposed location coincided with the A34.
- 4.2.10 The mechanical excavation of the test pits was monitored under controlled conditions until it became apparent that there was no potential for archaeological remains (i.e. until solid geology with no potential to contain Palaeolithic or Mesolithic remains/deposits was encountered). Sufficient investigation was undertaken to ensure the identification of chalk as natural (soliflucted or solid) or redeposited (e.g. arising from the original M3 / A34 junction construction).
- 4.2.11 The WSI specified that archaeological features or deposits exposed within the geotechnical test pits were to be investigated and recorded in line with the same methodologies employed for the trial trenching. In the event, however, no archaeologically significant features or deposits were encountered in the test pits.
- 4.2.12 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. 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

- 4.2.13 All exposed archaeological deposits and features 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.
- 4.2.14 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.
- 4.2.15 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

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 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 WCC Archaeology Officer monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI were agreed with the client and the WCC Archaeology Officer.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 None of the geotechnical test pits contained any archaeologically significant features or deposits.

5.1.2 Twenty-one of the trial trenches contained no archaeological features, (Trenches 1, 2, 4, 7, 9–16, 19, 20, 23-4, 27, 29, 30-1 and 33).

5.1.3 Archaeological features were encountered in six of the trenches. These included the ring ditch (Trench 17), which had been partially excavated in the early 1980s (Fasham 1982). The same trench also contained two prehistoric pits, both of which had previously been fully excavated and backfilled during the earlier investigations.

5.1.4 Other features included a pair of probable prehistoric pits in Trench 22 and a post-medieval ditch in Trench 6. A probable former field boundary was represented by the remnants of a hedgerow in Trench 3. Trench 5 contained a ditch and the remains of an associated hedgerow; these could be correlated with the position of a parish boundary marked on late 19th century maps. The only other features were a group of undated postholes in Trench 25 and a feature of indeterminate origin in Trench 18.

5.1.5 Nine features of natural origin were recorded in seven trenches (Trenches 3, 5, 8, 18, 21, 26 and 28). These included tree-throw holes, patches of bioturbation, pockets of weathered chalk and solution hollows.

5.1.6 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed by period. Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the test pit and trench summary tables (Appendix 1). Figure 1 shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches, together with the preceding geophysical survey results (SUMO 2018).

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

Areas 1 and 2

- 5.2.1 Areas 1 and 2 were predominantly under pasture and supported a well-established turf. In most instances the topsoil directly overlaid the chalk bedrock with a clearly defined interface between the two (Plate 1). The topsoil was generally between 0.18 m and 0.4 m in thickness and consisted of a dark greyish brown silty clay loam with common sub-angular and sub-rounded chalk and flint fragments. The upper surface of the natural chalk showed signs of periglacial weathering and contained common large flint nodules.
- 5.2.2 A subsoil horizon was recorded in three trenches (Trenches 29, 31 and 33) and two test pits (Test Pits 2 and 9). This consisted of a 0.07 m to 0.27 m thick mid-grey/yellowish brown clayey silt or sandy clay loam with common chalk inclusions and occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.
- 5.2.3 Trenches 24 and 31 also contained colluvial deposits, recorded as light greyish or yellowish brown clayey silt loam with common sub-rounded flints (<100 mm) and abundant chalk fragments (<20 mm). The colluvium was confined to the southern end of Trench 24, where it was seen to attain a thickness of 0.8 m. In Trench 31, the colluvium extended below the subsoil from a depth of 0.57 m to the maximum excavated depth of the trench (1.02 m) (Plate 2). The chalk bedrock was not exposed in Trench 31, as the colluvium continued below a safe working depth. No finds were recovered from the colluvial deposits.
- 5.2.4 The subsoil in Test Pit 2 overlaid a light yellow / greyish brown sandy clay incorporating occasional sub angular flints (<95 mm), rare flint nodules (<230 mm) and common very fine pea grit. This deposit was clearly geological in origin, and was encountered at a depth of 0.5 m and extended below the maximum observed depth of the test pit (2.5 m) (Plate 3); the chalk bedrock was not exposed within the test pit. No finds were recovered from the deposit.

Area 3

- 5.2.5 Area 3 was under arable cultivation at the time of the evaluation. The ploughsoil recorded in the trenches and test-pits was typically between 0.2 m and 0.3 m thick, and consisted of a dark greyish brown, loose silty loam, which contained abundant angular and sub angular flints (<170 mm). In most instances, the ploughsoil directly overlaid the chalk bedrock, which contained common sub-angular flint nodules. Some plough scars were observed (Plate 4), though interestingly not on the highest portions of the site, but generally mid-slope, suggesting the plough has not been driven deep where the soil is thinnest.
- 5.2.6 The interface between the ploughsoil and the natural geology was often very sharp, and the paucity of weathering noted in the upper surface of the chalk alluded to prior horizontal truncation, possibly arising during the previous road construction phase (Plate 5).
- 5.2.7 A subsoil horizon was recorded beneath the ploughsoil in seven trenches (Trenches 5, 8-12 and 14) and two test pits (Test Pits 8 and 10). This generally consisted of a mid-yellowish brown silty clay or silty clay loam of variable thickness.
- 5.2.8 Colluvium was recorded beneath the ploughsoil / subsoil and above the chalk bedrock in Trenches 4 and 5. This consisted of a mid-yellow brown sandy clay loam or a mid-brown clayey silt with common sub-angular flints (<135 mm) and chalk fragments. The colluvium in Trench 4 was present only at the north-eastern end of the trench, where it was observed to be approximately 0.37 m thick. The colluvial deposits in Trench 5 attained a thickness of 0.92 m (Plate 6). Small quantities of pottery, worked flint, burnt flint and roofing slate were

retrieved from these deposits (406 and 507). None of the test pits in Area 3 contained any comparable deposits.

5.3 Prehistoric

Ring ditch & previously excavated pits – Trench 17

- 5.3.1 Trench 17 had been positioned to target the ring ditch recorded in the previous excavation (Fasham 1982), the surviving part of which had been detected by the geophysical survey (SUMO 2018). Having been partially excavated before, the evaluation was intended to establish the level of preservation and any damage caused during the intervening years.
- 5.3.2 A 1 m wide section was excavated across the ring ditch (1705) (Figure 2; Plate 7). This partially coincided with the location of a previously excavated and backfilled section through the feature (Plate 8). However, undisturbed deposits were also encountered within the southern side of the excavated slot (Plate 9). The position of the section excavated during the evaluation could be correlated with 'Section 2/3' of the 1974 excavation (Fasham 1982; figure 7, 26).
- 5.3.3 The ring ditch was 2.8 m wide and 1.14 m deep, with steep sides and flat base. Four undisturbed deposits were recorded within the ring ditch. The profile and fill sequence were very similar to those recorded during the previous excavation (compare Figure 2 and Plate 9 with Fasham 1982; figure 9, 28).
- 5.3.4 The primary fill (1707) of the ring ditch consisted of a well sorted chalk rubble, which attained a maximum thickness of 0.48 m. No finds were recovered from this deposit.
- 5.3.5 The overlying fill (1708) consisted of a moderately compacted, 0.2 m thick mid-brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions. The deposit appeared to have entered the partially infilled ring ditch from the outer, western edge (although see below). Eight sherds of pottery (66 g) and small quantities of animal bone and burnt flint were recovered from the deposit.
- 5.3.6 Deposit 1708 was overlain by 1709. This 0.2 m thick layer was similar in composition to 1708, although it contained a greater proportion of chalk fragments. It also seemed to have entered the partially infilled ring ditch from the west. Eight sherds of pottery (46 g) were retrieved from 1709, along with a single burnt flint flake, a small quantity of animal bone and 708 g of burnt flint.
- 5.3.7 The uppermost undisturbed fill of the ring ditch (1710) consisted of a 0.42 m thick, dark brown-grey, silty clay, which incorporated occasional chalk fragments, numerous large flint nodules and fragments of charcoal. This seemed to occupy the basin of deposition formed on the upper, eastern side of the partially infilled ditch by the accumulation of earlier deposits. However, an alternative interpretation is that 1710 infilled a later pit cut into the upper fills of the ring ditch, potentially reflecting the westward continuation of the Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age pitting encountered on the inner side of the ring ditch during the 1974 excavation (Fasham 1982). This may have given the false impression that the underlying deposits (1708 and 1709) had entered the ditch from the west (ie, its outer edge), as the upper parts of these deposits would have been truncated.
- 5.3.8 A bulk sample taken from context 1710 yielded a limited assemblage of palaeoenvironmental remains (see Section 7). Finds recovered from 1710 comprised 11 sherds of pottery (36 g), 83 pieces of worked flint, animal bone (331 g), burnt flint (1546 g), a stone bead (retrieved from the bulk sample), and six fragments of human bone (63 g).

- 5.3.9 The varied character and chronology of the pottery assemblage retrieved from the fills of the ring ditch (see section 6.2) suggests a degree of residuality / intrusiveness. This could probably be accounted for, at least in part, due to the coincidence of the recorded section with a previously excavated part of the ring ditch.
- 5.3.10 The section excavated through 1705 also extended across a large, slightly amorphous pit (1706), located on the inner, western side of the ring ditch (Plate 10). It measured some 2.25 m in width, and was 0.53 m deep, with moderately sloped, slightly irregular sides and a flat base. This feature had been completely excavated during the previous excavation and interpreted as a Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age pit (Fasham 1982). The modern backfill (1711) within the pit also covered the uppermost undisturbed deposits within the ring ditch and the infilled, previously excavated section through the feature. Thirteen sherds of pottery (85 g) and 2741 g of burnt flint were recovered from deposit 1711. Another small circular feature (1703) located 2.5 m west of the ring ditch was also demonstrated to be the remains of a previously excavated Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age pit. This contained only modern backfill (1704), from which a small quantity of worked flint, burnt flint and pottery was recovered.

Pits – Trench 22

- 5.3.11 Trench 22 contained two pits (2203 and 2205), both of which were half-sectioned and recorded before being fully excavated. The pits were approximately 0.5 m in diameter and less than 0.2 m in depth, circular in plan and had moderately sloped, concave sides and concave bases (Plate 11). Seventy-three pieces of worked flint were recovered from the fill (2204) of pit 2203, along with burnt flint (818 g), a single sherd of (intrusive?) late Iron Age/Roman pottery (4 g) and a small quantity of animal bone (12 g). Forty-eight pieces of worked flint were retrieved from the fill (2206) of pit 2205. Charred plant remains, including (hazel) nut shells, were recovered from bulk samples of the fills of these pits (see Section 7).

5.4 Post-medieval

Hedgerow / field boundary – Trench 3

- 5.4.1 Trench 3 contained a 2 m wide linear feature (309), which was interpreted as a former hedgerow due to its irregular profile and shape in plan. No finds were recovered from the feature, although its east to west alignment corresponded broadly with the layout of existing field boundaries.

Parish boundary – Trench 5

- 5.4.2 The northern end of Trench 5 coincided with a pair of parallel linear features (510 and 515) (Plate 12). These were orientated WNW – ENE, spaced approximately 1 m apart and were somewhat irregular in plan. The northern-most of the linear features (515) was a ditch measuring 2.25 m wide and 0.16 m deep, with shallow concave sides and a flat base. The southern edge of the ditch was slightly irregular due to bioturbation. Its counterpart to the south (510) was more irregular in profile and appeared to represent the remnants of a former hedgerow. It was 3.84 m wide and 0.5 m deep. The intervening space between the two features also exhibited signs of bioturbation.
- 5.4.3 The features were cut through an area of geological disturbance (513, filled with 514), and were overlain and partially infilled by a 0.13 m thick layer (512) of mid-greyish brown silty clay. A small quantity of burnt flint, worked flint and pottery was recovered from these contexts.

- 5.4.4 The ditch and hedgerow could be correlated with anomalies detected by the geophysical survey (SUMO 2018) and the position of the parish boundary marked on the first edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1869.

Ditch / field boundary – Trench 6

- 5.4.5 Trench 6 contained a shallow, north-west to south-east aligned ditch (608), which measured 0.4 m wide and 0.15 m in depth. Post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) and glass were retrieved from the single fill (609) of the ditch. The feature could be correlated with an area of magnetic response detected by the geophysical survey (SUMO 2018) and followed a similar orientation to the former land divisions recorded in Trench 5.

5.5 Uncertain date

Postholes – Trench 25

- 5.5.1 The north-western end of Trench 25 contained five postholes (2503, 2505, 2507, 2511 and 2513), which were arranged to form a right angle (Plate 13). A sixth possible associated posthole (2509) was recorded at the edge of the trench but was not excavated.
- 5.5.2 The five fully exposed postholes were initially half-sectioned, recorded and subsequently fully excavated. These measured approximately 0.3 m in diameter and less than 0.1 m in depth, were sub-circular in plan and had irregularly sloping sides and flat or concave bases. All contained a similar fill of mid-greyish brown, silty clay with fragments of chalk and pea grit. The features contained no intrinsically datable finds, but context 2512, the fill of posthole 2511, yielded a single piece of struck flint.

Pit(?) – Trench 18

- 5.5.3 A possible pit or geological feature (1805) was found toward the northern end of Trench 18 (Plate 14). This was circular in plan, with straight vertical sides, and measured 0.7 m in diameter. The base of the feature was not exposed, although it was excavated to a depth of 0.73 m. It contained a single deposit, consisting of a homogeneous light reddish-brown clay, from which no finds were recovered.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A relatively small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation, deriving from both test pits and trenches. In the test pits, finds came exclusively from topsoil and subsoil contexts. In the trenches, a high proportion of finds came from topsoil, subsoil and colluvial contexts. Finds also derived from a prehistoric ring ditch known from previous excavation, and two pits, in Trench 17, and from two prehistoric pits in Trench 22, as well as a ditch in Trench 6. The overwhelming majority of the assemblage, however, can be regarded as unstratified or poorly stratified.
- 6.1.2 The assemblage ranges in date from prehistoric to post-medieval/modern. The more recent finds were confined to topsoil and subsoil layers.
- 6.1.3 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in Table 1.



Table 1 All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Animal Bone	Burnt Flint	CBM	Flint (no.)	Glass	Human Bone	Metal (no.)	Pottery	Stone
TEST PITS									
201		4/169	1/38	3				2/12	
202		2/41		1					
301		2/29	1/38	4	1/2				1/4
401		4/72	3/54	14					4/40
501				3					
601		4/73	1/21	22	1/1			6/48	1/2
701		3/110		6	1/2		1 Fe	1/3	
801		10/399		44	7/31			6/18	1/8
901		3/7		2	1/2				
902		2/14		3				1/1	
1001		6/245	2/80	2	14/202		4 Fe	6/191	
1101		4/276	3/66	6				1/22	
1201	1/37	5/122	3/34	19	5/12			4/26	
TRENCHES									
205		6/129	13/236	22				5/40	3/24
305		6/119	16/294	19	4/7			3/53	2/7
405		4/21	6/113	27	4/59			2/29	1/4
406		3/131		5				1/3	1/6
505		9/468		10	1/13			3/78	2/4
506				7	1/1			3/4	
507		11/254		1				1/2	
512		9/96		5				1/4	
514		3/52		1				1/12	
606			2/134	1	1/22			1/17	
609			8/218		4/18				
705		1/130			1/4				
905	1/1	15/264	10/126	7	29/187		1 Cu	5/22	2/29
906		2/41		6	1/1				
1005		21/622	1/41	43	4/26			4/47	
1105		23/541	1/33	35	5/85			7/94	1/2
1159		1/9		1					
1205		23/447	7/136	43	4/29			8/31	
1206		38/1440		39	1/1			11/54	
1301		11/538		10	5/20				
1402								2/6	
1501				8					
1601		2/88		11					
1701		16/474		16					
1704		3/200		2				1/4	



Context	Animal Bone	Burnt Flint	CBM	Flint (no.)	Glass	Human Bone	Metal (no.)	Pottery	Stone
1708	15/90	2/42						8/66	
1709	6/28	16/708		1				8/46	
1710	16/331	36/1546		83		6/63		11/36	1/1
1711		73/2741						13/85	
1801		2/162		8					
2201				6					
2204	1/12	44/818		73				1/4	
2206				48					
2512				1					
Total	40/499	429/13638	78/1662	668	95/725	6/63	5 Fe; 1 Cu	128/1058	19/130

CBM = ceramic building material; Cu = copper alloy; Fe = iron

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The assemblage amounts to 128 sherds (1058 g), and includes material of prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval/modern date. Condition is fair; prehistoric sherds in particular (being softer-fired) have suffered higher levels of surface and edge abrasion, but the whole assemblage is fragmentary. Mean sherd weight is 8.3 g.
- 6.2.2 The assemblage has been quantified (sherd count and weight) by ware type within each context. This has been done by using a combination of wares defined by dominant inclusion type(s) (eg flint-tempered) and known ware types (eg English stoneware). Detailed fabric analysis has not been undertaken. Diagnostic sherds have been noted for all except post-medieval/modern wares. The level of recording is consistent with the 'basic record' designed to rapidly quantify and characterise assemblages (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group *et al* 2016, section 2.4.5). Table 2 lists the pottery by context, grouping post-medieval/modern wares together (details of these are in the project archive).

Table 2 Pottery by context

Context	Ware type	No.	Wt. (g)	Comments	Date range
TEST PITS					
201	All ware types	2	12		PMED/MOD
601	All ware types	6	48		PMED/MOD
701	All ware types	1	3		PMED/MOD
801	All ware types	6	18		PMED/MOD
902	All ware types	1	1		PMED/MOD
1001	All ware types	6	191		PMED/MOD
1101	All ware types	1	22	feldspathic glaze	PMED/MOD
1201	All ware types	4	26		PMED/MOD
TRENCHES					
205	All ware types	4	38		PMED/MOD
205	Greyware	1	2		RB
305	All ware types	3	53		PMED/MOD
405	Sandy ware	1	4	glazed	LMED



Context	Ware type	No.	Wt. (g)	Comments	Date range
405	All ware types	1	25		PMED/MOD
406	Sandy ware	1	3	indeterminate - could be Iron Age	RB
505	All ware types	3	78		PMED/MOD
506	All ware types	1	3		PMED/MOD
506	Flint-tempered	2	1	crumbs	LBA
507	Flint-tempered	1	2		LBA
512	Flint-tempered	1	4		LBA
514	Flint-tempered	1	12		M/LBA
606	All ware types	1	17	flowerpot	PMED/MOD
905	All ware types	5	22		PMED/MOD
1005	All ware types	4	47		PMED/MOD
1105	All ware types	7	94	1 flowerpot	PMED/MOD
1205	All ware types	8	31		PMED/MOD
1206	Greyware	2	3		RB
1206	Flint-tempered	7	40		LBA+
1206	Sandy/flint-tempered	1	5	everted rim jar	Roman
1206	Grog-tempered	1	6		Roman
1402	Flint-tempered	2	6	1 abundantly tempered	M/LBA
1704	Flint-tempered	1	4	rim from ?shouldered jar	LBA
1708	Flint-tempered	8	66	3 with rare flint & well finished; 1 coarse base/shoulder; 1 upright rim	Prehistoric
1709	Flint-tempered	8	46	1 with rare flint, burnished	Prehistoric
1710	Flint-tempered	12	36	1 small rim from ?shouldered jar	Prehistoric
1711	Sandy ware	2	3	very abraded conjoining sherds; indeterminate	LBA+
1711	Flint-tempered	11	82	2 bases, 1 poss shoulder	LBA+
2204	Grog-tempered	1	4		LIA/Roman

Prehistoric

- 6.2.3 Forty-five sherds are dated as prehistoric. Two are in sandy fabrics and the remainder are in flint-tempered fabrics with a wide range of variation in the size and frequency of inclusions, from relatively fine (sparse flints and well finished surfaces) to coarse (frequent, ill-sorted flint).
- 6.2.4 There is very little that is diagnostic here, and the pottery has been dated largely on fabric grounds alone. At the coarser end of the spectrum, a few sherds containing coarse, frequent flint inclusions, or frequent but relatively well sorted inclusions, are more likely to belong to the Middle/Late Bronze Age, falling into the Deverel-Rimbury or immediately succeeding plainware ceramic traditions. Most of the flint-tempered wares, however, contain sparser and generally finer flint, and have a wider potential date range. There is material here that probably belongs to the post-Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition of the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age, including a plain upright rim (fill 1708 of ring ditch 1705), the rim from what appears to be a shouldered jar (fill 1710 of the same feature), and another possible shoulder sherd (excavation backfill 1711 across ring ditch 1705 and pit 1706). Two flat bases from

excavation backfill also clearly belong to this period. However, four sherds from ring ditch 1705 (fills 1708 and 1709), containing sparse poorly sorted flint but with well finished, possibly burnished surfaces, could be earlier, perhaps Early Neolithic. An angled sherd from ring ditch fill 1708 could either be a flat base (in which case it dates to the Middle/Late Bronze Age), or the sharply angled shoulder from a Middle Neolithic Peterborough ware bowl. Other flint-tempered sherds are even less diagnostic, but could well include further Neolithic material. The assemblage from ring ditch 1705, therefore, appears to be chronologically mixed, while all sherds from excavation backfill 1711 are almost certainly Late Bronze Age or later.

- 6.2.5 As well as ring ditch 1705 and pit 1706, prehistoric sherds came from Trenches 5 (topsoil, colluvium, layer 512 and solution hollow 513), 12 (subsoil) and 14 (subsoil).

Late Iron Age/Romano-British

- 6.2.6 This chronological group is made up of three sandy greywares (Trench 2 topsoil, Trench 12 subsoil), two grog-tempered sherds (Trench 12 subsoil, pit 2203), one indeterminate sandy ware which could equally well be Iron Age (Trench 4 subsoil), and a sandy/flint-tempered ware from an everted rim jar (Trench 12 subsoil). The grog-tempered and sandy-flint-tempered wares suggest an early date within this range (1st century BC/1st century AD), but none of the remaining sherds can be dated more closely within the period.

Medieval

- 6.2.7 One sherd in a fine-grained sandy ware, externally glazed (context 405), is late medieval (14th/15th century).

Post-medieval/Modern

- 6.2.8 The remaining 65 sherds are post-medieval/modern and are made up of glazed and unglazed redwares (including flowerpot), stonewares (kitchenwares and containers), refined whitewares and porcelain/bone china (tea- and tablewares). Most could be accommodated within a date range of 19th to 20th century, although some of the redwares could be earlier. All these sherds came from topsoil or subsoil contexts.

6.3 Ceramic building material

- 6.3.1 This category consists of fragments of brick and tile, amounting to 78 fragments in total. One abraded fragment from Trench 4 topsoil has been tentatively dated as Romano-British (on grounds of fabric and thickness). The remainder comprises roof tile that is broadly dated as medieval/post-medieval, and post-medieval brick.

- 6.3.2 Apart from eight fragments from ditch 608 in Trench 6, all of the CBM came from topsoil or subsoil layers.

6.4 Worked flint

- 6.4.1 A total of 668 worked flints were collected (Table 3), of which 462 (69%) pieces were from unstratified ploughsoil, subsoil or unstratified modern backfill. The contribution made by this part of the collection is influenced by the inclusion of microdebitage (chips) from three sieved samples. When all microdebitage is subtracted, the remaining unstratified material accounts for 81% of the total. The unstratified component, which represents a sample of the available material, showed a clear bias in favour of more easily recognised large, robust, patinated, unbroken flakes. Most pieces were characterised by traces of post-depositional edge damage, a feature which develops and increases with prolonged periods of ploughing. Cores were largely under-represented, and no retouched tools were collected. Material of



this type contains few diagnostic features and is unlikely to contain artefacts of one period but is typical of worked flints that were dominant in the period spanning the Late Neolithic into the Bronze Age.

Table 3 Flint by context

Key	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
201							3						3
202							1						1
205							12	7		3			22
301							4						4
305		1	1				9	8					19
401		1					7	4	1		1		14
405		1					14	9		1	2		27
406							2	3					5
501								3					3
505							5	5					10
506							5	2					7
507							1						1
512			1	1			3						5
514							1						1
601		1		1			12	8					22
606							1						1
609													0
701							3	3					6
801		2					23	17	1			1	44
901								2					2
902		1					1	1					3
905			1				4	2					7
906							2	4					6
1001			1				1						2
1005				1			30	12					43
1101							4	2					6
1105							20	15					35
1159												1	1
1201		1					9	9					19
1205			3				24	16					43
1206	1		2				25	9				2	39
1301			1				7	2					10
1501		1					6	1					8
1601							9	1				1	11
1701			1				12	3					16
1704								2					2
1709								1					1
1710				1	1		40	24		17			83
1801							5	3					8
2201			2				2	2					6



Key	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Context													TOTAL
2204			2				7	10		52	1	1	73
2206		1				1	10	7		29			48
2512								1					1

KEY: 1 bladelet cores; 2 flake cores; 3 blades; 4 broken blades; 5 bladelets; 6 broken bladelets; 7 flakes; 8 broken flakes; 9 rejuvenation tablets; 10 chips/microdebitage; 11 debitage; 12 miscellaneous retouch

- 6.4.2 Small collections also resulted from stratified deposits in two pits (2203, 2205) and secondary ditch fills (1709 and 1710 in ring ditch 1705). The pits contained few flakes, although totals were amplified by recovery of microdebitage (chips) from sieved residues. This component was technologically undiagnostic; however, the significance of this material indicates that it was probably contemporary with the accompanying flakes and was dumped in as part of a single event. This is confirmed by the lack of post depositional edge damage. Microdebitage was, in contrast, relatively rare in the secondary ditch fills of the barrow but flakes, which lacked post-depositional edge damage, were proportionally more numerous. This material is unlikely to have moved far from its point of manufacture and was probably derived from the area close to the edge of the ditch, reducing its archaeological value.

6.5 Burnt flint

- 6.5.1 Burnt, unworked flint was also recovered in some quantity (13.6 kg). This material type is intrinsically undatable, although frequently used as an indicator of prehistoric activity. In this instance the distribution coincides quite closely with that of the worked flint. The distribution was relatively even across the site, from both test pits and trenches; only three contexts produced more than 1 kg of burnt flint. The largest groups came from ring ditch 1705 (2296 g) and nearby pit 1706 (2741 g).

6.6 Stone

- 6.6.1 A small globular stone bead was found in ring ditch 1705 (fill 1710). It measures 8 mm in diameter, and appears to have been formed from fossil sponge.
- 6.6.2 With the exception of two small rounded pebbles (apparently unutilised) from Trench 4 topsoil, all of the remaining stone recovered comprises fragments of roofing slate, of medieval or later date.

6.7 Glass

- 6.7.1 All of the glass recovered is of modern date, and comprises fragments of bottles, jars, drinking vessels and window. There are also two pieces of glass waste. All this came from topsoil or subsoil contexts, with the exception of four fragments from ditch 608 in Trench 6.

6.8 Metalwork

- 6.8.1 Two copper alloy and five iron objects were recovered. These include a perforated disc, a U-staple, a small strip and two fittings; all objects are of modern date, and came from topsoil contexts.

6.9 Human Bone

- 6.9.1 Six fragments of human skull were retrieved from amongst the animal bone within the upper fill (1710) of ring-ditch section 1705. The bone is in good condition (slightly root eroded) with mostly old dry-bone breaks. The remains comprise most of the right temporal (large,

rounded mastoid process), a large part of the occipital bone (marked nuchal crest, indications of lambdoid ossicles/wormian bones), and a small fragment of the anterior parietal bones featuring the sagittal and coronal sutures (unfused).

- 6.9.2 The elements represented probably derived from the skull of one individual, a young adult male (18–35 yr).
- 6.9.3 The date of the remains is unknown. The material within the upper levels of the ditch fill are believed to have derived from Iron Age features to the north of the monument but the origin of the human bone itself cannot be stated with any confidence. Following further works on the site and the recovery of any further mortuary deposits, it is recommended that the remains be dated by radiocarbon analysis.

6.10 Animal Bone

- 6.10.1 A total of 40 fragments (or 499 g) of animal bone came from Late Bronze Age ring ditch 1705, prehistoric pit 2203 and topsoil. The bones are root etched but in good condition, and several are gnawed.
- 6.10.2 Animal bones came from fills 1708–10 of ring ditch 1705, which was located at the northwest end of Trench 17. The identified bones are mostly from cattle and include several bones from the forequarters (left scapula and humerus, and right radius) and two loose mandibular teeth, possibly from the same animal. The other identified bones include a sheep/goat humerus, ulna and metacarpal, a horse radius and ulna, and a red deer tooth from the maxilla of an adult animal. The dominance of long bones from the forequarters suggests that selected meat joints or carcass parts were deposition. It is also interesting that the only deer element is an upper tooth, the size of which indicates that it is from a large male red deer. It is possible therefore that a stag skull complete with antlers, was also deposited (or displayed). A pig humerus came from pit 2203 located at the south end of Trench 22 and a cattle tooth came from topsoil in Test Pit 12.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 Three bulk sediment samples were taken from ring ditch 1705 and pits (2203 and 2205) of prehistoric date and were 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 archaeobotanical data valuable for wider research frameworks. The nature of this assessment follows recommendations set up by Historic England (English Heritage 2011).
- 7.2.2 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 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 fine residue fractions and 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 (*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. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals. Abundance of remains is qualitatively quantified (A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5) as an estimation of the minimum number of individuals and not the number of remains per taxa. Mollusc nomenclature follows Anderson (2005).

7.3 Results

- 7.3.1 The flots from the bulk sediment samples were of variable volumes (Appendix 3). There were varying numbers of roots and modern seeds and moderate numbers (where present) of the burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula* that may be indicative of some stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements.
- 7.3.2 Charred material was generally poorly preserved, although preservation was fair in the bulk sediment sample from pit 2203, deposit 2204. Wood charcoal was noted in small quantities and was from mature wood. Remains of terrestrial molluscs were also present. No other environmental evidence was preserved in the bulk sediment samples.
- 7.3.3 The bulk sediment sample from ring ditch 1705 (deposit 1710) contained the charred remains of cereals, including, tentatively identified, *Triticum cf. spelta* (spelt wheat) and cf. *Hordeum vulgare* (barley). Unidentified Triticeae (cereal) grain fragments were also present.
- 7.3.4 The bulk sediment samples from prehistoric pits 2203 (deposit 2204) and 2205 (deposit 2206) were dominated by the charred remains of *Corylus avellana* (hazel) nut shells. Also present were unidentified charred roots and stems. Pit 2203, deposit 2204 also contained a charred bud of indeterminate taxon.

7.4 Discussion

- 7.4.1 The environmental (mostly charred plant remain) assemblages are rather limited but could have potential for providing information on the nature of the settlement and plant exploitation practices in early prehistory. There is potential for further analysis, including radiocarbon dating, but further proposals should be revised once more sampling takes place and as such, recommendations for retention of environmental materials are made until further work is completed in the area.

7.5 Recommendations for future sampling

- 7.5.1 Samples should be taken for the recovery of charred plant remains where permitting from well-sealed and dateable features, especially any arising and related to settlement activities and/or structures. Features that are specifically related to burning activities, such as cremations, should also be sampled. Generally, samples should be taken covering as wide a range of feature types and phases as possible. Where available deposits permit, sample size should be of 40 litres from individual, secure contexts.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1.1 The project aims and objectives set out in the WSI were successfully achieved.

- 8.1.2 The results of the geophysical survey were largely corroborated, and a small number of additional discrete features have been successfully identified, sampled and recorded.
- 8.1.3 There was some evidence of disturbance and horizontal truncation, resulting from agricultural activity, previous archaeological excavation and, possibly, earlier construction work associated with the M3 motorway. However, this does not seem to have substantially diminished the potential for archaeologically significant remains to survive within the scheme footprint.
- 8.1.4 The evaluation indicated that the surviving part of the ring ditch (Trench 17) that was investigated prior to the construction of the motorway junction, remains relatively undisturbed outside of previously excavated sections. The profile and depositional sequence recorded during the evaluation (Figure 2; Plate 9) were remarkably similar to those documented during the previous excavation (Fasham 1982; figure 9, 'Section 2/3').
- 8.1.5 The discovery, during the evaluation, of a small quantity of disarticulated human bone in the fills of the ring ditch suggests that the unexcavated remainder of the feature (and any associated features) may contain further human remains.
- 8.1.6 The published plan of the previous excavations (Fasham 1982; figure 7, 26) indicates that the ring ditch had a circumference of approximately 92 m (measured from the centre of the ditch). Comparison with the evaluation results and geophysical survey (SUMO 2018) suggests that up to 32.5 m (c. 35%) of the ring ditch may remain relatively intact.
- 8.1.7 It is suspected that most, if not all of the discrete features in the immediate vicinity of the ring ditch (eg, pits, scoops and graves) were fully excavated during the 1974 investigations (see Fasham 1982; figure 7, 26). Nevertheless, it is conceivable that other, similar / broadly contemporary features may remain intact outside of the footprints of the evaluation trenches and the 1974 excavation area.
- 8.1.8 The 1974 excavation (Fasham 1982) demonstrated that the ring ditch was of regional importance as a well-preserved example of its type, which was of particular note due to the indications of comparatively early (ie, Neolithic) activity associated with it, and the evidence that the monument continued to be a focus of activity in later prehistory. The unexcavated remainder of the ring ditch, and any surviving remains associated with it, retain considerable archaeological interest, as future investigations could contribute to a more detailed understanding of the monument
- 8.1.9 Few other archaeological features were encountered during the evaluation. Nevertheless, the two probable prehistoric pits recorded in Trench 22 and the group of undated postholes in Trench 25 indicates that there is some, albeit probably limited potential for further small, discrete features to be present elsewhere within the footprint of the scheme. Any additional prehistoric features would be of at least local significance, as these could provide information that would help to contextualise the evidence of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age activity previously recorded in this area.
- 8.1.10 Features corresponding with former land divisions, including a parish boundary, were also recorded during the evaluation. However, these features are of limited significance as they relate to local patterns of historic land management that are documented by early cartographic sources and are relatively well understood.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Hampshire Cultural Trust has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **WINCM: AY679**. 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.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

9.2.1 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 Hampshire Cultural Trust, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the accession code **WINCM: AY679**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

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

9.3 Selection policy

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

9.3.2 In this instance, the following categories are selected to not be retained: burnt flint, CBM, modern glass, modern/post-medieval pottery.

9.4 Security copy

9.4.1 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.

9.5 OASIS

9.5.1 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.



10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

- 10.1.1 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.
- 10.1.2 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.

10.2 Third party data copyright

- 10.2.1 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 Test pit and trench summaries

NGR coordinates and OD heights taken at centre of each trench; depth bgl = below ground level
Test pit NGRs are approximate only

Geotechnical test pits

Test pit 1	N/A		NGR N/A	
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
NOT EXCAVATED				

Test pit 2	3.2 m x 0.7 m		NGR 449466 131243	
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
201	Topsoil		Yellowish brown silty clay loam with rare chalk inclusions (<15 mm) and sparse sub-angular flints (<95 mm)	0 – 0.3
202	Subsoil		Yellowish brown, slightly loamy silty clay with pea-grit rich lenses and sparse sub-angular flints (<150 mm)	0.3 – 0.5
203	Geology		Light yellow / greyish brown sandy clay with occasional sub-angular flints (<95 mm), rare flint nodules (<230 mm) and common very fine pea grit. Continued below maximum observed depth of test-pit. Chalk bedrock not exposed.	0.5 – 2.5+

Test pit 3	3.8 m x 0.7 m		NGR 449633 131244	
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
301	Ploughsoil		Mid-dark greyish brown silty clay loam with occasional chalk inclusions (<30 mm) and occasional sub-angular and nodular flints (<230 mm)	0 – 0.29
302	Natural		Chalk bedrock, upper surface disturbed by ploughscars and bioturbation	0.29+

Test pit 4	3.3 m x 0.7 m		NGR 449633 131276	
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
401	Ploughsoil		Mid-dark greyish brown silty clay loam with occasional chalk inclusions (<40 mm) and occasional sub-angular and nodular flints (<190 mm)	0 – 0.3
402	Natural		Chalk bedrock, upper surface disturbed by ploughscars. Rare nodular flints (<230 mm)	0.3+

Test pit 5	3.8 m x 0.7 m		NGR 449524 131143	
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
501	Topsoil		Yellowish brown silty clay loam with sparse chalk inclusions (<15 mm) and sparse sub-angular flints (<135 mm)	0 -0.32
502	Natural		Chalk bedrock, upper surface marked by periglacial striations	0.32+

Test pit 6	3.4 m x 0.7 m		NGR 449651 131157	
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
601	Ploughsoil		Mid-dark greyish brown silty clay loam with occasional chalk inclusions (<45 mm) and occasional sub-angular and nodular flints (<250 mm)	0 – 0.28
602	Natural		Chalk bedrock, upper surface disturbed by ploughscars. Nodular flints (<375 mm) in upper 0.5 m	0.28+

Test pit 7	3.9 m x 0.7 m		NGR 449567 131032	
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)



701	Topsoil		Yellowish brown silty clay loam with rare chalk inclusions (<25 mm) and sparse sub-angular flints (<120 mm)	0 – 0.3
702	Natural		Chalk bedrock, upper surface very degraded	0.3+

Test pit 8	3.6 m x 0.7 m		NGR 449688 131050	
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
801	Ploughsoil		Mid-dark greyish brown silty clay loam with sparse chalk (<25 mm) and occasional sub-angular and nodular flints (<180 mm)	0 – 0.24
802	Subsoil		Mid-dark yellowish brown sandy clay loam with moderate chalk inclusions (<45 mm) and occasional sub-angular and nodular flints (<125 mm)	0.22 – 0.4
803	Natural		Chalk bedrock with sparse nodular flints (<275 mm)	0.4+

Test pit 9	4 m x 0.7 m		NGR 449577 130947	
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
901	Topsoil		Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with sparse sub-angular and nodular flints (<155 mm) and rare chalk (<20 mm)	0 – 0.35
902	Subsoil		Mid-dark yellowish brown sandy clay loam with moderate chalk inclusions (<45 mm) and occasional sub-angular flints	0.35 – 0.44
903	Natural		Chalk bedrock, upper surface very degraded	0.44+

Test pit 10	3.5 m x 0.7 m		NGR 449676 130933	
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1001	Ploughsoil		Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with sparse chalk (<30 mm) and occasional sub-angular and nodular flints (<110 mm)	0 – 0.3
1002	Subsoil		Mid-dark yellowish brown sandy clay with moderate chalk inclusions (<30 mm) and occasional broken nodular flints (<135 mm)	0.3 – 0.46
1003	Natural		Chalk bedrock, upper surface marked by periglacial striations	0.37+

Test pit 11	3.4 m x 0.7 m		NGR 449724 130946	
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1101	Ploughsoil		Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with sparse chalk (<30 mm) and occasional sub-angular and nodular flints (<170 mm)	0 -0.22
1102	Natural		Chalk bedrock, upper surface marked by periglacial striations	0.22+

Test pit 12	3.5 m x 0.7 m		NGR 449738 130706	
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1201	Ploughsoil		Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with sparse-occasional chalk (<30 mm) and occasional sub-angular and nodular flints (<170 mm)	0 – 0.22
1202	Natural		Chalk bedrock, upper surface disturbed by ploughscars and bioturbation	0.22+



Evaluation Trenches

Trench 1		30 m x 2 m		NGR 449748 130688	59.68 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description		Depth bgl (m)
101	Topsoil		dark greyish brown loose clayey silt with very common angular and subangular flints <100		0 - 0.2
102	Natural		chalk with common periglacial striations running SE-NW. Irregular horizon with topsoil due to ploughing activity		0.2 - 0.28+

Trench 2		30 m x 2 m		NGR 449734 130747	56.08 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description		Depth bgl (m)
205	Topsoil		dark greyish brown loose clayey silt with very common subangular and angular flints <80mm and sparse chalk fragments <50mm		0 - 0.21
206	Natural		chalk with common SE-NW running periglacial striations and occasional plough scars		0.21 - 0.28+

Trench 3		30 m x 2 m		NGR 449741 130781	53.80 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description		Depth bgl (m)
305	Topsoil		dark greyish brown loose clayey silt with very common subangular and angular flints <50mm and sparse chalk fragments <50mm		0 - 0.24
306	Natural		chalk with NE-SW running periglacial striations and rare plough scars		0.24 - 0.3+
307	Bioturbation		irregular in plan with an irregular base and sides		
308	Fill	307	mid greyish brown silty loam with chalk and flints		
309	Hedgerow		linear in plan with an irregular base and irregular steep sides		0.24 - 0.57
310	Fill	309	mostly redeposited chalk mixed with mid brown loose clayey silt with occasional subangular flints <100mm		0.24 - 0.57

Trench 4		30 m x 2 m		NGR 449733 130803	50.72 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description		Depth bgl (m)
405	Topsoil		dark greyish brown loose clayey silt with common subangular and angular flints <100mm and occasional chalk fragments <60mm		0 - 0.23
406	Colluvium		mid brown loose clayey silt with common angular flint <50mm. Only present at NE end of trench		0.23 - 0.6
407	Natural		chalk with occasional subrounded flint nodules <200mm and periglacial striations		0.6 - 0.65+

Trench 5		30 m x 2 m		NGR 449741 130873	48.42 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description		Depth bgl (m)
505	Topsoil		dark greyish brown loose silty clay loam with occasional subangular and rounded flints <170mm		0 - 0.3
506	Subsoil		mid yellowish brown loose silty clay loam, only present at N end of trench		0.26 - 0.29
507	Colluvium		mid yellowish brown friable sandy clay loam with common sandstone and chalk fragments, common subangular flints. Only occurs at S end of trench.		0.3 - 0.86
508	Colluvium		mid-yellowish brown firm sandy clay loam with common subangular flints <135mm		0.86 - 1.22
509	Natural		pale yellow heavily degraded chalk with common worm disturbance		0.29 - 0.4+
510	Hedgerow		linear in plan with an irregular base and very steep, irregular sides		0.29 - 0.79
511	Fill	510	dark greyish brown loose clayey silt with occasional subrounded flints <60mm and sparse chalk fragments <10mm		0.42 - 0.79
512	Layer		mid greyish brown firm clayey silt with abundant subangular and subrounded flints <150mm. Contains rare pottery, 10mm and sparse worked and burnt flint <50mm. Overlies and partly slumped into hedgerow [510], solution hollow [513] and ditch [515]		0.29 - 0.42



513	Solution hollow		irregular in plan with a sloping base and irregular sides	0.29 - 0.99
514	Fill	513	mid brown loose silty clay with sparse subrounded flints <60mm	0.29 - 0.99
515	Ditch		linear in plan with a flat base and shallow, concave sides	0.29 - 0.45
516	Secondary fill	515	mid yellowish brown loose silty sand with very rare subrounded flints <100mm	0.29 - 0.45

Trench 6	30 m x 2 m		NGR 449729 130923	51.44 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
606	Topsoil		mid greyish brown loose silty clay with common subrounded and subangular flints	0 - 0.3
607	Natural		chalk with periglacial striations	0.3+
608	Ditch		curvilinear in plan with a flat base and moderate, straight sides	0.3 - 0.48
609	Secondary fill	608	light brown firm silty clay with moderate subrounded flints	0.3 - 0.48

Trench 7	30 m x 2 m		NGR 449706 130938	50.86 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
705	Topsoil		mid greyish brown firm silty loam with rare subangular and subrounded	0 - 0.25
706	Natural		chalk with abundant periglacial striations	0.25+

Trench 8	30 m x 2 m		NGR 449698 130907	48.82 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
805	Topsoil		mid greyish brown loose silty clay with common flints	0 - 0.28
806	Subsoil		mid yellowish brown firm silty clay with common chalk fragments and flints	0.28 - 0.88
807	Natural		chalk with periglacial striations	0.88 +
808	Solution hollow		suboval in plan with irregular base and sides	
809	Geology		irregular and sublinear with irregular base and sides	
810	Fill	808	Naturally deposited fill of solution hollow	0.28 - 0.44
811	Fill	809	naturally deposited fill of geological feature	0.28 - 0.79

Trench 9	30 m x 2 m		NGR 449700 130973	53.47 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
905	Topsoil		dark greyish brown loose silty clay with common flints	0 - 0.34
906	Subsoil		mid yellowish brown loose silty clay with common flints	0.34 - 0.61
907	Natural		chalk with occasional flint inclusions	0.61+

Trench 10	30 m x 2 m		NGR 449663 131006	54.83 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1005	Topsoil		mid greyish brown loose silty clay with common flints	0 - 0.46
1006	Subsoil		mid yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional flints and chalk fragments	0.46 - 0.56
1007	Natural		chalk with occasional flint nodules	0.56+

Trench 11	30 m x 2 m		NGR 449689 131019	56.59 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1105	Topsoil		mid greyish brown loose silty clay with occasional flints	0 - 0.28
1106	Subsoil		mid yellowish brown loose silty clay with rare flints	0.28 - 0.31
1107	Natural		chalk with periglacial striations	0.31+

Trench 12	30 m x 2 m		NGR 449693 131058	59.99 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)



1205	Topsoil		mid greyish brown loose silty clay with occasional flints and chalk fragments	0 - 0.28
1206	Subsoil		dark yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional flints and chalk fragments	0.28 - 0.56
1207	Natural		chalk with periglacial striations	0.56+

Trench 13	XX m x 2 m		NGR 449646 131074	59.52 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1301	Topsoil		mid greyish brown loose silty clay with common chalk fragments	0 - 0.25
1302	Natural		chalk with occasional nodules of flint	0.25 - 0.26+

Trench 14	30 m x 2 m		NGR 449668 131104	63.02 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1401	Topsoil		mid greyish brown loose silty clay with occasional chalk fragments and flints	0 - 0.28
1402	Subsoil		dark yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional flints	0.28 - 0.68
1403	Natural		chalk with periglacial striations	0.68+

Trench 15	50 m x 2 m		NGR 449643 131154	65.83 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1501	Topsoil		dark greyish brown loose clayey silt with common chalk fragments <10mm and sparse subangular flints <50mm	0 - 0.29
1502	Natural		chalk with some periglacial striations and plough scars	0.29 - 0.32+

Trench 16	50 m x 2 m		NGR 449663 131176	68.20 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1601	Topsoil		dark greyish brown loose clayey silt with sparse chalk fragments <20mm and sparse subangular flints <60mm	0 - 0.28
1602	Natural		chalk with some periglacial striations and plough scars	0.28 - 0.33

Trench 17	35 m x 2 m		NGR 449646 131206	68.67 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1701	Topsoil		mid greyish brown loose silty clay with occasional flints and chalk fragments	0 - 0.26
1702	Natural		chalk with sparse flints	0.26 - 0.33+
1703	Pit		subrounded in plan with a concave base and moderate to steep, concave sides	0.26 - 0.33
1704	Deliberate backfill	1703	mid brown firm silty sand with common subangular chalk fragments <30mm, abundant subangular and subrounded flints <10mm	0.26 - 0.55
1705	Ditch		ring ditch, partially excavated during early 1980s. Curvilinear in plan with a flat base and steep, irregular sides	0.26 - 1.33
1706	Pit		pit, with a flat base and moderate, concave sides. Previously excavated during the early 1980's and subsequently backfilled.	0.26 - 0.85
1707	Primary fill	1705	light grey redeposited chalk with very rare flints	0.94 - 1.33
1708	Primary fill	1705	mid brownish grey firm silty clay with common chalk fragments and rare flints. Contains animal and pottery	0.76 - 0.99
1709	Secondary fill	1705	light greyish brown firm silty clay with common chalk fragments and rare flints. Contains burnt flint, animal bone and pottery	0.46 - 0.71
1710	Secondary fill	1705	dark brownish grey firm silty clay with occasional flints and chalk fragments. Contains animal bone, worked flint, pottery, and charcoal	0.26 - 0.75
1711	Previous excavation backfill	1705 and 1706	mid greyish brown silty clay with common chalk gravel. Contains burnt and struck flint. Modern backfill from 1980s excavation	0.26 - 0.85

Trench 18	50 m x 2 m		NGR 449671 131230	71.39 m OD
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Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1801	Topsoil		dark greyish brown loose clayey silt with sparse rounded and angular flints <80mm and sparse chalk fragments <10mm	0 - 0.25
1802	Natural		chalk with occasional plough scars	0.25 - 0.27+
1803	Tree throw		subcircular in plan with irregular base and sides	0.25 - 0.43
1804	Fill	1803	mid yellowish brown loose clayey silt with abundant redeposited chalk	0.25 - 0.43
1805	Pit		subcircular in plan with straight, vertical/undercut sides. Not bottomed	0.25 - 0.98+
1806	Fill	1805	mid reddish brown clay with rare chalk fragments <10mm and very rare rounded flints <100mm	0.25 - 0.98+

Trench 19	50 m x 2 m	NGR 449645 131259		69.66 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
1901	Topsoil		dark greyish brown loose clayey silt with sparse subangular flints <60mm and occasional chalk fragments <30mm	0 - 0.24
1902	Natural		chalk with common plough scars and occasional periglacial striations	0.24 - 0.26

Trench 20	40 m x 2 m	NGR 449654 131293		69.84 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
2001	Topsoil		dark greyish brown loose clayey silt with sparse subangular flints <40mm and common chalk fragments <10mm	0 - 0.24
2002	Natural		chalk with common plough scars	0.24 - 0.27+

Trench 21	27.5 m x 2 m	NGR 449655 131355		67.45 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
2101	Topsoil		mid greyish brown loose silty clay with occasional flints	0 - 0.28
2102	Natural		chalk with occasional patches of brown sandy silt in geological depressions	0.28+
2103	Geology		irregular in plan with an irregular base and irregular, steep sides	0.28 - 0.75
2104	Fill	2103	natural deposit within geological feature	0.28 - 0.75

Trench 22	50 m x 2 m	NGR 449639 131332		67.77 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
2201	Topsoil		dark greyish brown loose clayey silt with sparse subangular flints <60mm and very common chalk fragments <10mm	0 - 0.2
2202	Natural		chalk with plough scars	0.1 - 0.22+
2203	Pit		circular with a flat base and moderate, concave sides	0.2 - 0.39
2204	Backfill	2203	dark greyish brown loose clayey silt with occasional subrounded flints <100mm and occasional chalk fragments <20mm. Contains pottery, microdebitage, works and burnt flint, and animal bone	0.2 - 0.39
2205	Pit		subcircular in plan with a flat base and straight, steep sides	0.2 - 0.36
2206	Backfill	2205	mid greyish brown firm silty clay with rare chalk fragments <10mm and very rare subangular flints <20mm. Contains struck flint	0.2 - 0.36

Trench 23	45 m x 2 m	NGR 449643 131407		63.97 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
2301	Topsoil		mid greyish brown loose silty clay with sparse subangular flints <60mm and common chalk nodules <60mm	0 - 0.26
2302	Natural		chalk with occasional subrounded chalk nodules <200mm	0.26 - 0.28

Trench 24	50 m x 2 m	NGR 449583 130916		43.76 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
2401	Topsoil		mid greyish brown loose silty clay with occasional flints	0 - 0.4



2402	Colluvium		light greyish brown loose sandy silt with common flints. Only present at S end of trench	0.4 - 1.2
2403	Natural		chalk with periglacial striations and common subrounded flint nodules <200mm	0.4+

Trench 25		50 m x 2 m		NGR 449565 131021	51.24 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
2501	Topsoil		mid greyish brown loose silty clay	0 - 0.32	
2502	Natural		chalk with plough scars at S end of trench	0.32 - 0.38+	
2503	Posthole		subcircular in plan with an irregular base and irregular, shallow sides	0.32 - 0.45	
2504	Fill	2503	mid greyish brown loose silty clay with very rare chalk fragments and occasional pea grit	0.32 - 0.45	
2505	Posthole		subcircular in plan with an irregular base and irregular, shallow sides	0.32 - 0.43	
2506	Fill	2505	mid greyish brown loose silty clay with very rare chalk fragments and occasional pea grit	0.32 - 0.43	
2507	Posthole		subcircular in plan with a flat base and straight, vertical sides	0.32 - 0.47	
2508	Fill	2507	mid greyish brown loose silty clay with very rare chalk fragments and occasional pea grit	0.32 - 0.47	
2509	Posthole		Partly under baulk, not excavated	0.32+	
2510	Fill	2509	mid greyish brown loose silty clay with occasional chalk fragments. Unexcavated	0.32+	
2511	Posthole		subcircular in plan with a flat base and straight, vertical sides	0.32 - 0.41	
2512	Fill	2511	mid yellowish brown loose clayey silt with common chalk fragments <20mm and one piece of struck flint	0.32 - 0.41	
2513	Posthole		subcircular in plan with an irregular base. Too truncated to describe the sides	0.32 - 0.36	
2514	Fill	2513	mid yellowish brown loose clayey silt with abundant chalk fragments <10mm and occasional pea grit <5mm	0.32 - 0.36	

Trench 26		50 m x 2 m		NGR 449556 131088	54.64 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
2601	Topsoil		dark greyish brown loose clayey silt with abundant chalk fragments <20mm and occasional subrounded flints <70mm	0 - 0.24	
2602	Natural		chalk with sparse plough scars	0.24 - 0.27+	
2603	Tree throw		suboval in plan with an irregular base and moderate, irregular sides	0.24 - 0.77	
2604	Fill	2603	dark brown loose clayey silt mixed with redeposited chalk. Heavily rooted, natural deposit	0.24 - 0.77	
2605	Geology		irregular in plan with irregular base and moderate, irregular sides		
2606	Fill	2605	mid yellowish brown loose clayey silt. Natural deposit within geological hollow		

Trench 27		50 m x 2 m		NGR 449536 131114	52.76 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
2701	Topsoil		dark greyish brown loose clayey silt with common chalk flecks <10mm and sparse subrounded chert gravel <80mm	0 - 0.31	
2702	Natural		chalk with periglacial striations	0.31 - 0.36+	

Trench 28		50 m x 2 m		NGR 449554 131123	55.76 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
2801	Topsoil		dark greyish brown loose clayey silt with common chalk fragments <50mm	0 - 0.21	
2802	Natural		chalk with some periglacial striations and occasional subrounded flint nodules <200mm	0.21 - 0.24+	
2803	Tree throw		oval in plan with an irregular base and steep, irregular sides	0.21 - 0.59	



2804	Fill	2803	mid greyish brown loose clayey silt with common chalk fragments and abundant redeposited chalk at the base	0.21 - 0.59
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Trench 29	50 m x 2 m		NGR 449560 131179	57.91 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
2901	Topsoil		dark greyish brown loose clayey silt with common chalk flecks <10mm and very rare subrounded flints <70mm	0 - 0.18
2902	Subsoil		mid greyish brown firm clayey silt with common chalk fragments <20mm	0.18 - 0.29
2903	Natural		chalk, degraded and soluted in places	0.29 - 0.38+

Trench 30	50 m x 2 m		NGR 449502 131243	46.89 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
3001	Topsoil		dark greyish brown loose clayey silt with common chalk flecks <10mm and rare subrounded and subangular flints <60mm	0 - 0.26
3002	Subsoil		mid yellowish brown firm sandy clay mixed with soluted chalk	0.26 - 0.44
3003	Natural		degraded and soluted chalk with abundant periglacial striations	0.44 - 0.5+

Trench 31	50 m x 2 m		NGR 449475 131258	43.57 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
3101	Topsoil		dark greyish brown loose clayey silt with rare subrounded flints <80mm	0 - 0.3
3102	Subsoil		mid yellowish brown loose clayey silt loam with sparse chalk fragments <10mm	0.3 - 0.57
3103	Colluvium		light yellowish brown firm clayey sand with common subrounded flints <100mm and abundant chalk fragments <20mm	0.57 - 1.02+

Trench 32	N/A		NGR N/A	m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
NOT EXCAVATED				

Trench 33	50 m x 2 m		NGR 449581 131440	60.42 m OD
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Depth bgl (m)
3301	Topsoil		dark greyish brown loose clayey silt with common chalk flecks <10mm	0 - 0.27
3302	Subsoil		mid yellowish brown firm clayey silt with common chalk fragments <20mm	0.27 - 0.34
3303	Natural		chalk with rare periglacial striations and common plough scars	0.34 - 0.39+



Appendix 2 Environmental evidence

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (l)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Comments (Preservation)
1705	1710	1712	26	110		1%, C, E, I <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**)	C	-	<i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>spelta</i> , cf. <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> , Triticeae	-	-	10	Mature	Moll-t	Poor
2203	2204	2201	33	60	50% >4- >2 mm residue	40%, C, E, I <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (A**)	-	-	-	B	<i>Corylus avellana</i> , indet. bud, stems	4	Mature	Moll-t	Fair
2205	2206	2202	40	150	25% >4- >2mm residue	60%, C, E, I	-	-	-	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> , Indet. root/stem, tuber?	3	Mature	Moll-t	Poor

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



Appendix 3 OASIS record

11 OASIS ID: wessexar1-350949

Project details

Project name	M3 Motorway Junction 9, Winchester, Hampshire
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Jacobs UK Ltd on behalf of Highways England, to conduct an archaeological evaluation of land required for a proposed road improvement scheme at the Junction 9 of the M3 and A34 trunk road interchange, Hampshire. The evaluation comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of 32 trial trenches and the monitoring of 11 geotechnical test pits. The evaluation indicated that the eastern part of a prehistoric ring ditch that was partially excavated prior to the construction of the motorway junction in the early 1980s, remains relatively undisturbed. The somewhat mixed finds assemblage retrieved from the ring ditch during the evaluation included a small quantity of disarticulated human bone and possibly Neolithic pottery (along with a greater quantity of later sherds). It was estimated that approximately 32.5 m (c. 35%) of the ring ditch could remain intact. The unexcavated remainder of the ring ditch, and any surviving remains associated with it, retain considerable archaeological interest. Few other archaeological features were encountered during the evaluation. Of note, however, were two probable prehistoric pits, which suggested that there is some, albeit probably limited potential for similar discrete, prehistoric features to be present elsewhere within the footprint of the scheme. Any such features could be of at least local significance. Features corresponding with former land divisions, including a parish boundary, were also recorded during the evaluation, although these were considered of limited significance. There was some evidence of disturbance and horizontal truncation, resulting from agricultural activity, previous archaeological excavation and, possibly, earlier construction work associated with the M3 motorway. However, this does not seem to have substantially diminished the potential for archaeologically significant remains to survive within the scheme footprint</p>
Project dates	Start: 21-03-2019 End: 16-04-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	217350 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	WINCM: AY679 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	DITCH Bronze Age
Monument type	PIT Bronze Age
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	POSTHOLE Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Bronze Age



Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Late Neolithic
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Bronze Age
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Significant Finds	METALWORK Modern
Significant Finds	HUMAN BONE Bronze Age
Development type	Road scheme (new and widening)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE WINCHESTER WINCHESTER M3 Junction 9, Winchester, Hampshire
Postcode	SO23 7TY
Study area	10 Hectares
Site coordinates	449650 131650 449650 00 00 N 131650 00 00 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Winchester City Council
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Damian De Rosa
Project supervisor	Steve Legg
Project supervisor	Tom Blencowe

Project archives

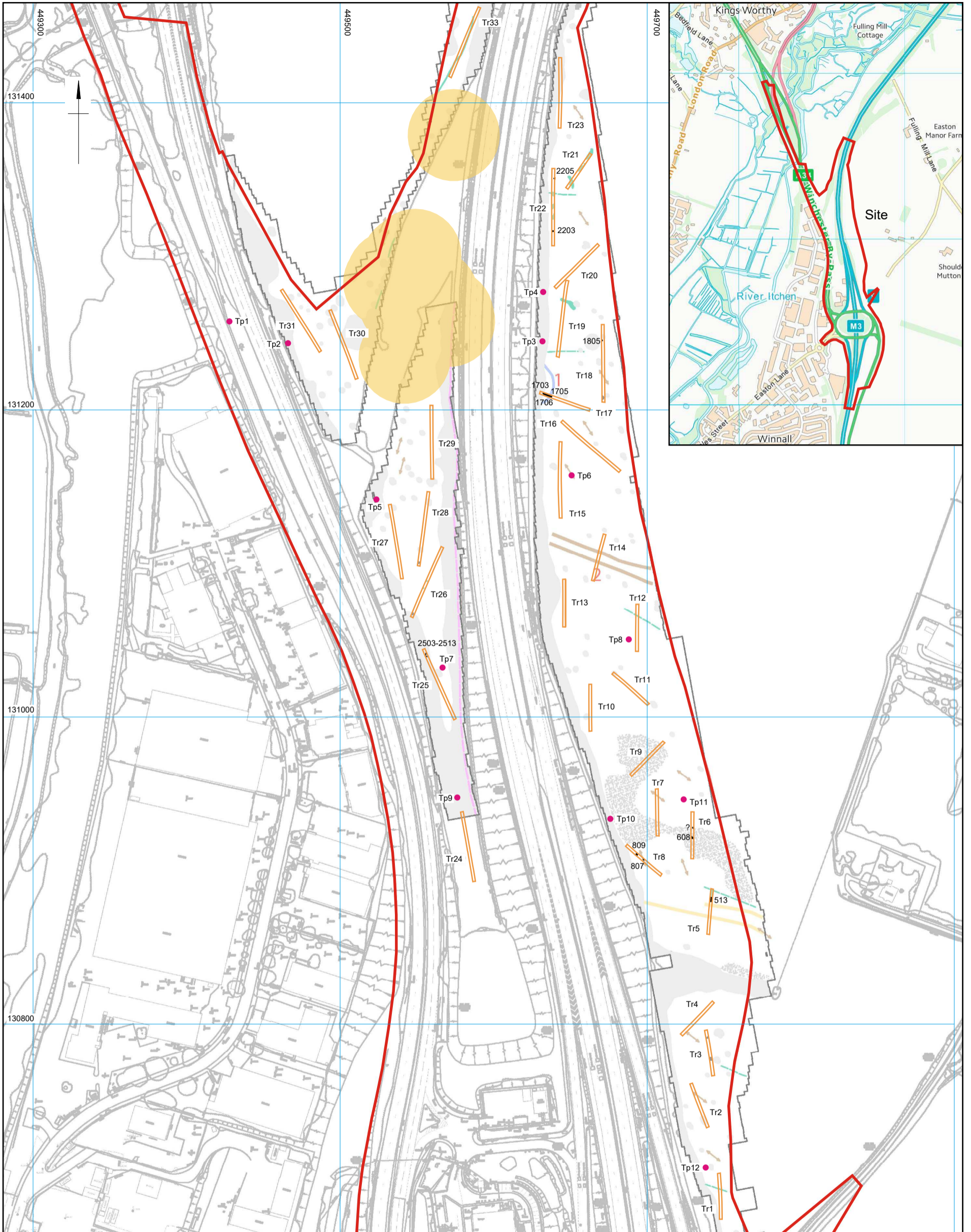
Physical Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass", "Human Bones", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass", "Human Bones", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics"



Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	M3 Motorway Junction 9, Winchester, Hampshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Blencowe, T.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Wells, T.
Other bibliographic details	217350
Other bibliographic details	AY679
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Salisbury
Description	WA standard A4 text report with figures and plates



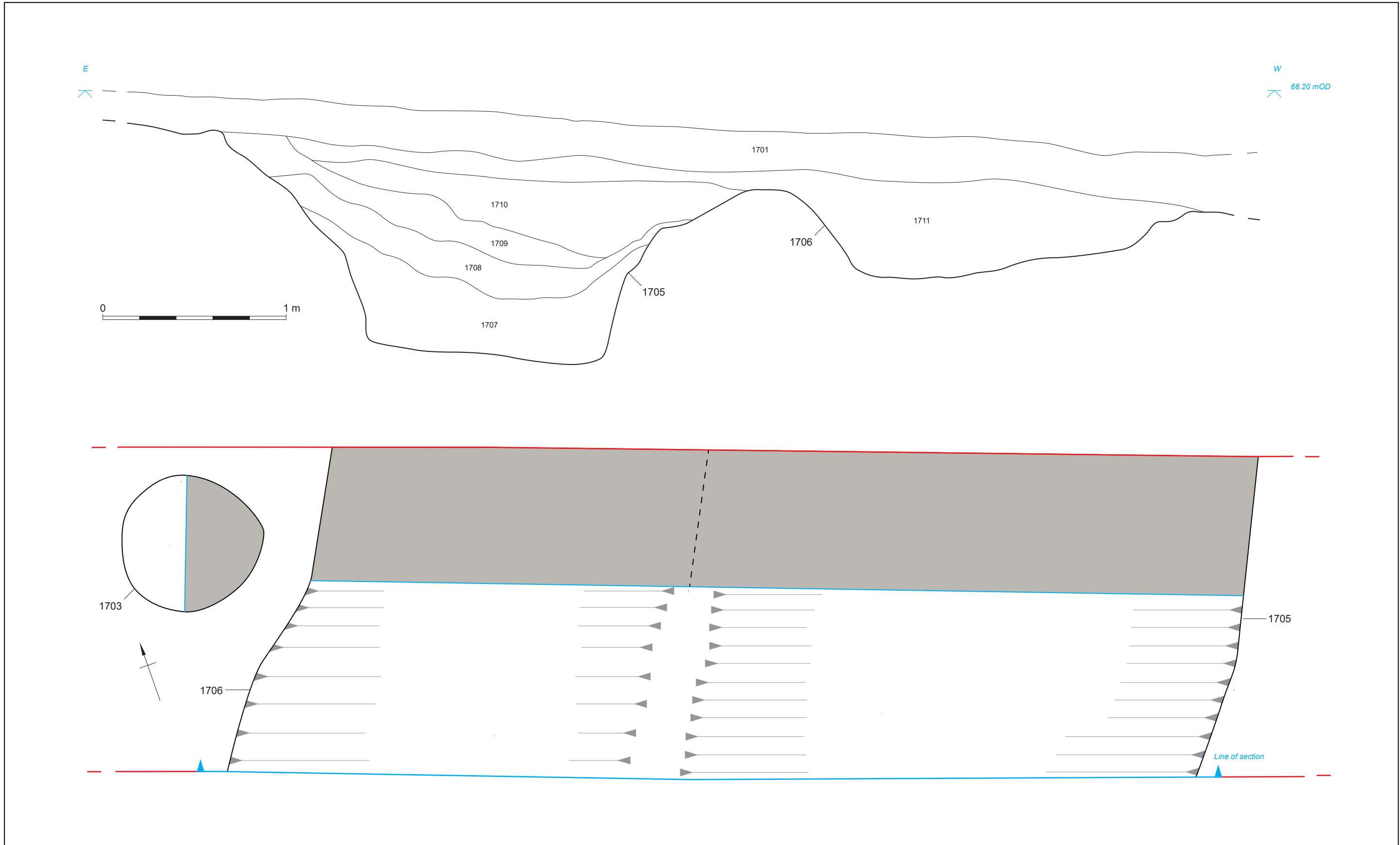
Site boundary	Excavated trench	Test pit	Badger set buffer	Excavation results	Archaeological feature	Geological feature	Disturbance	Geophysical survey results	Possible archaeology	Uncertain origin (discrete/trend)	Former field boundary (collaborated)	Former field boundary (conjectural)	Ploughing	Pipe	Magnetic disturbance	Ferrous
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Site location plan

Figure 1



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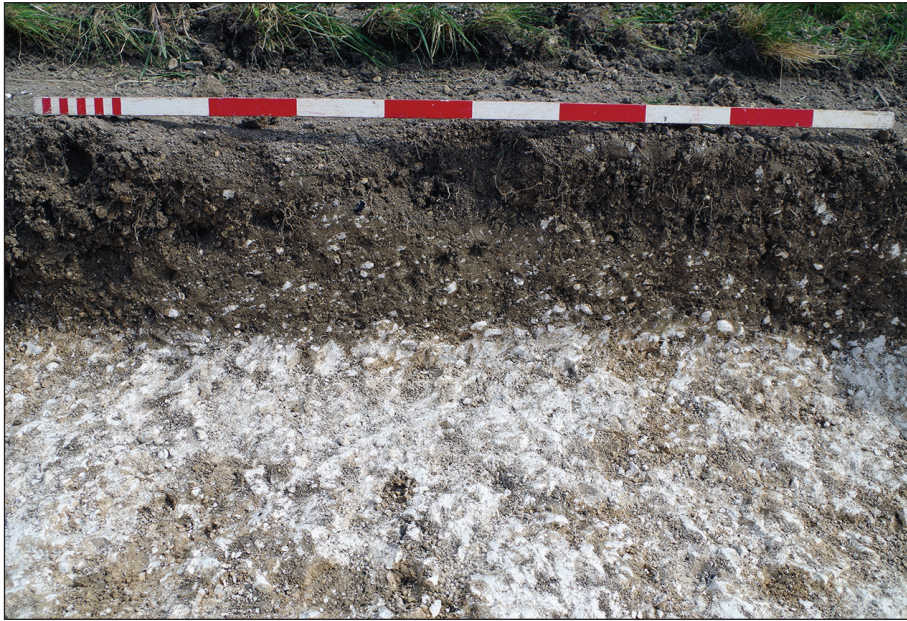


Plate 1: Representative section Trench 26 (scale 1 m)



Plate 2: Representative section Trench 31 (scale 1 m)


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Plate 3: Section through Test Pit 2 (scale 1 m)



Plate 4: Overview of Trench 2 (scale 2 m x 1 m)


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Plate 5: Overview of Trench 17 (scale 2 m x 1 m)



Plate 6: Representative section Trench 5 (scale 2 m x 1 m)


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Plate 7: Ring ditch 1705 and previously excavated pit 1706, from the north-east (scale 2 m)

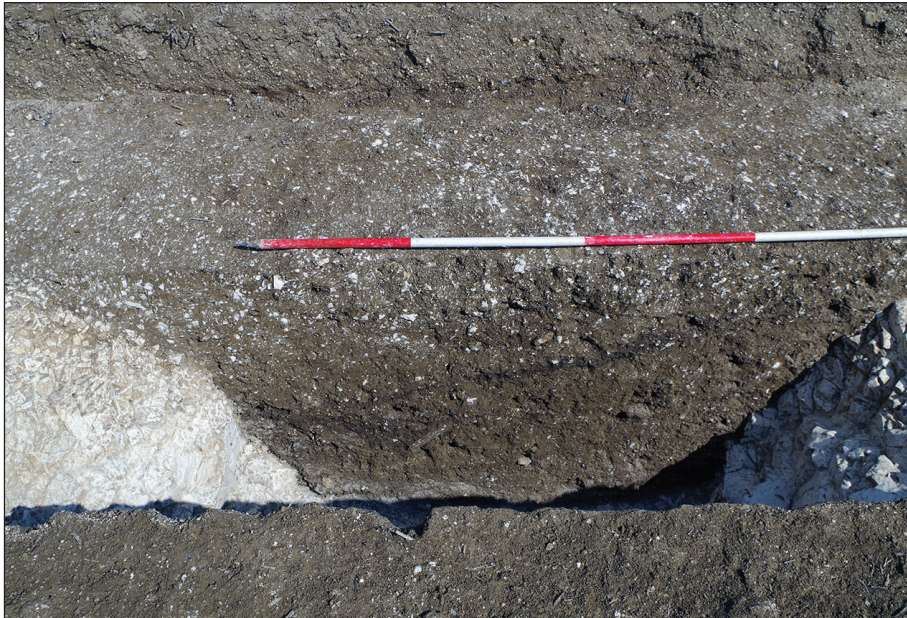


Plate 8: Modern backfill in SSW facing section through ring ditch 1705 (scale 2 m)


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Plate 9: Undisturbed deposits in NNE facing section through ring ditch 1705 (scale 2 m)



Plate 10: NNE facing section through previously excavated pit 1706 (scale 2 m)


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Plate 11: North facing section through probable prehistoric pit 2203 (scale 0.5 m)



Plate 12: Section excavated across parish boundary ditch (515) and hedgerow (510) from the north-east (scale 2 m)



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Plate 13: Postholes 2503, 2505, 2507, 2511 and 2513 in Trench 25, from the north (scale 1 m x 0.5 m)



Plate 14: South facing section through possible pit/geological feature 1805 (scale 0.5 m)

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