



Misery, Bursledon Southampton, Hampshire

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Foreman Homes Ltd, to undertake an archaeological Strip, Map and Sample excavation of two areas (totalling 1,800 m²) on land located at 'Misery' (National Grid Reference 448580 110707), Providence Hill, Bursledon, Southampton, Hampshire, SO31 8LP.

The work was required by the Senior Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council following an archaeological trial trench evaluation, which revealed a number of ditches and pits, and a few residual flints. One pit contained a large quantity of burnt flint, charcoal and Iron Age pottery, while another displayed signs of *in-situ* burning or heating. One ditch –part of a field system – contained a charcoal-rich deposit and a small assemblage of 11th to 12th-century pottery.

The excavation took place between the 9th and 17th May 2023.

The archaeology lay directly below the topsoil and was found to be shallow and ill-defined in places, most likely as a result of later agricultural practices and natural erosion. The remains were, therefore, also vulnerable to the effects of above ground activities and infiltration by tree and shrub roots.

Features included further ditches associated with the field system, which has provided evidence for development of the system over time. More 11th to 12th-century pottery was recovered from the same ditch, which was similarly associated with a charcoal-rich fill. An undated pit containing quantities of oak charcoal was found close to two of the three similar features recorded during the evaluation. Two residual flint bladelets were probably made in the Late Mesolithic to Early Neolithic period, further exemplifying a background of prehistoric activity in the wider vicinity of the site.

The remains of the field system have provided useful information that adds to the understanding of the chronology of the development and character of field systems across the region, during a period of considerable political and social turmoil.

The charcoal-filled pits offer insights into past woodland exploitation and land-use practices. The significance of these would be more fully appreciated if, as part of future studies, they were to be set and considered within their temporal context, achievable through a limited programme of radiocarbon dating.

This document constitutes the final report for the excavation; it, along with the preceding evaluation report, will be made publicly available online, via the Archaeological Data Service and Historic Environment Record. A brief summary of the findings will also be included in our annual fieldwork round-ups for local journals.

The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. The Hampshire Cultural Trust has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code A2022.69. An OASIS form has been provisionally completed and will be finalised at the time of deposition.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Foreman Homes Ltd (Southampton), for commissioning the archaeological mitigation works. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of the Senior Archaeologist, Thom Hayes, archaeological advisor to Hampshire County Council, who monitored the project for Eastleigh County Council, and to Guy's Plant for their cooperation and help on site.

Misery, Bursledon, Hampshire

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Foreman Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample (SMS) of two excavation areas totalling 1,800 m² on land at 'Misery', Bursledon, Southampton, Hampshire, SO31 8LP, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 448580, 110707 (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The work was carried out as a condition of outline planning permission for up to 92 dwellings, associated open space, landscaping, amenity areas and infrastructure means of access from Providence Hill, granted by Eastleigh Borough Council (Ref: O/17/81166; Condition 16). Area 1 measured c. 1055 m² and Area 2 was approximately 746 m².
- 1.1.3 The excavation was preceded by an archaeological Desk Based Assessment (DBA), an archaeological geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2023a) and a two-phase trial trench evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2023b) that identified areas of archaeological potential.
- 1.1.4 Due to an urgent need for mobilisation, the SMS excavation was undertaken according to Wessex Archaeology's ClfA compliant standard WSI for archaeological excavation, in conjunction with the site specifics of the WSI for the previous phase of works (Wessex Archaeology 2022). These identified the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed for the fieldwork and the post-excavation work. Following the approval of the Senior Archaeologist for HCC, work commenced on the 9th May and finished on site on the 17th May 2023.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 This report provides the results of the excavation, assesses their potential and significance, considers the requirement for further analysis, how the results should be disseminated, and addresses matters relating to the long term curation of the physical and digital archive.
- 1.2.2 This document and the report for the preceding evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2023b) constitute the final reports for the scheme of archaeological investigations to date.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The site comprised a series of paddocks approximately 275 m north of the village of Bursledon and 5.8 km east of Southampton, Hampshire. It lies within an area of dispersed residential development and small expanses of woodland, bounded by Windmill Lane to the north, the M27 to the east, Dodwell Lane to the south-east, and Providence Hill to the south-west.
- 1.3.2 The land is overlooked by the Bursledon Windmill, which occupies a highpoint just to west. The ground slopes gradually from 42 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north-west to 28 m aOD in the southeast, and a combe extends from north to south across the site,

leading to the deeper cut of one of the many small meandering tributaries of the nearby Hamble River and Southampton Water

- 1.3.3 The solid geology comprises Sand, Silt and Clay of the Wittering Formation across the majority of the site. A band of Clay, Silt and Sand of the London Clay Formation is present along the north-eastern border of the site. There are no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2023) and the soils are not recorded (SE Sheet 6 1983).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Previous works related to the development

- 2.1.1 An archaeological DBA was prepared by Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd (TVAS) in 2016 (revised 2018) for land at Providence Hill, which examined the recorded historic resource and the potential for the survival of buried archaeological remains within the development area and a 1 km radius wider study area. The DBA concluded that there was potential for the survival of archaeological remains of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval date within the development area.

Geophysical survey

- 2.1.2 Wessex Archaeology carried out a geophysical survey of the site from the 24th to 26th October 2022 (Wessex Archaeology 2023a). The survey did not identify any anomalies that could be interpreted as archaeology. Larger variations in resistance across the survey area were interpreted as the result of natural variations in the soil.

Evaluation

- 2.1.3 The 30 trial trenched evaluation was carried out in two stages, the first between 14th and 25th November 2022 and the second from the 13th to 15th February 2023 (Wessex Archaeology 2023b). Features comprised a number of ditches associated with a field system, six pits and two modern postholes. Evidence for earlier activity in the wider vicinity was indicated by a small quantity of worked flint of probable Neolithic/Bronze Age date, found residually in the topsoil. A modest assemblage of Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from a single pit, and several 11th–12th-century sherds were retrieved from a ditch terminus.
- 2.1.4 The environmental data recovered from a number of features, particularly a Late Iron Age pit 1003 and undated pit 2303, contained high concentrations of oak stemwood/heartwood suggesting possible industrial or craft activity, such as iron-working or charcoal-making.
- 2.1.5 Trenches excavated towards the bottom combe (Fig. 1) revealed a thick colluvial layer which covered the archaeological features. Elsewhere, the topsoil lay directly over the natural substrate and any archaeological features that had been cut into it.

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

- 2.2.1 The archaeological and historical background was reviewed as part of the DBA (TVAS 2016, revised 2018) and is summarised below, with relevant entry numbers from the Hampshire Historic Environment Record (HER), the National Heritage List for England (NHLE), historical and modern maps.
- 2.2.2 Bursledon is located within the Hampshire Basin and near the banks of the River Hamble, both of which are archaeologically rich with various sites, finds and prehistoric landscapes.

- 2.2.3 The earliest prehistoric findspots comprise Mesolithic flint cores, a scraper and waste flakes, from the construction of the M27 in 1972 (HER 25975); flints recovered from the Hamble to Botley Pipeline (HER 57408) are of Mesolithic/ Neolithic date, and a 'pick' from an unspecified location in Bursledon in 1898 is considered to be of a similar date (HER 25952).
- 2.2.4 The earliest known archaeological features in the vicinity include a number of burnt mounds, thought to be of Bronze Age date (HER 25971, 57409 and 574010). Other features include a possible gully, which held sherds of domestic Beaker pottery (HER 57407).
- 2.2.5 A small pit of possible Iron Age date (HER 25972) was found immediately to the south-east of the development area and a possible prehistoric ditch was recorded off Church Lane, 800 m to the south of the site, during an archaeological evaluation by Bournemouth University in 2016 (HER 54318). Several unspecified earthworks were recorded in the Historic Rural Settlement Survey (Hampshire County Council 2023).
- 2.2.6 It has been suggested that St Leonard's Church, approximately 1 km to the south of the site, has a Saxon predecessor – perhaps the second of two churches of Bishop's Waltham Manor mentioned in *Domesday*. The village of Old Bursledon, with its focus on the banks of the River Hamble, is not mentioned, but it is considered to have Norman origins (EBC 2012). In the first few decades of the 12th century, Benedictine Monks founded Hamble Priory, situated approximately 4 km to the south of the site (British History Online 2023).
- 2.2.7 A number of medieval features/earthworks near Church Lane (HER 50110), a hollow-way leading to St Leonard's Church (HER 50116), earthworks representing the former churchyard boundary (HER 50106) and a former parish boundary (HER 50111) ((Hampshire County Council 2023). A possible medieval field boundary was identified from aerial photographs during the South-East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey (HER 64570), and investigations at Bridge Road (HER 65965) revealed a number of features including a medieval posthole and later medieval to post-medieval field boundary ditch. A field boundary ditch also of medieval date was discovered during an archaeological evaluation to the south-east of the site, along with several late post-medieval and modern gullies and ditches (TVAS 2016).
- 2.2.8 Historic maps indicate the site remained undeveloped throughout the post-medieval period.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 With reference to the results of the evaluation and in compliance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a), the aims of the excavation, were to:
- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
 - establish, within the constraints of the investigation, and seek a better understanding of the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
 - compile a lasting record of the resource;
 - place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and

- analyse and interpret the results of the excavation, and disseminate them appropriately

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (2014a). The post-excavation assessment and reporting followed advice issued by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO 2015). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The excavation area was set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) (Fig. 1). The topsoil/overburden was removed in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded in level spits until the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.
- 4.2.2 Where necessary, the surfaces of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation. A sample of natural geological features was also investigated.
- 4.2.3 Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features were visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval.

Recording

- 4.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.
- 4.2.5 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 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 Finds and environmental strategies

General

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples and the treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The Senior Archaeologist, archaeological advisor to Hampshire County Council monitored the works on behalf of the LPA. They were regularly consulted during the fieldwork.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

Summary of archaeological features and deposits

- 5.1.1 Archaeological features were recorded in both excavation areas (Figs 1–3). Area 1 revealed further ditches associated with the previously recorded field system of likely early medieval date. A pit was uncovered in Area 2, adding to a fire pit and a charcoal-filled pit found nearby during the evaluation. Finds include two residual flint bladelets and a small assemblage of pottery.

Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data

- 5.1.2 All hand written and drawn records from the excavation have been collated, checked for consistency and stratigraphic relationships. Key data have been transcribed into a database. Phasing of archaeological features and deposits was principally undertaken using stratigraphic relationships and with reference to the spot dating from artefacts, particularly pottery.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The topsoil – a black silty clay – was consistently around 0.30 m thick and the natural substrate comprises a light yellow clay-sand. Archaeological features were revealed below the topsoil and all were cut into the natural. There was a variable but generally moderate degree of horizontal truncation across the site and the installation of a modern land drain system had caused localised disturbance, particularly the northern section of Area 1 (Fig. 2). Intrusion and bioturbation was noted and largely attributed to root activity.

5.3 Prehistoric and potentially prehistoric evidence

- 5.3.1 Two potentially Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flint bladelets were found residually in pit 4002 (Area 2) and in the topsoil, which – along with the awl, a potentially Early Bronze Age scraper and a few flakes collected during the evaluation – provide further evidence for prehistoric activity in the wider vicinity of the site.

Pit 4002

- 5.3.2 Pit 4002 was found close to two pits recorded during the evaluation (Figs 3 and 11), one of which (1006) contained sherds of Iron Age pottery and a large quantity of burnt flint. All three contained charcoal-rich fills, while the margins of pit 1003 had been altered by heat. Pit 2303, 135 m to the north-west, also showed evidence of *in-situ* heating and held a fill rich in charcoal.
- 5.3.3 Like the previously recorded pits, 4002 was sub-circular in plan with a shallow-sided, concave profile. It measured 0.74 x 0.69 m and survived to a depth of 0.15 m. The single, root-disturbed, dark grey sandy-silt fill contained a discrete (intrusive) patch of slate fragments and one of the residual flint bladelets.
- 5.3.4 The three pits were the only features encountered within the confines of Area 2 during the two phases of investigation.

5.4 Early medieval field system

- 5.4.1 A number of ditches were identified across and just beyond the development area during previous evaluations (Wessex Archaeology 2023; Sanchez 2016). The Area 1 excavation has provided further evidence for a fairly extensive system of small fields and smaller tracts that would have been in use during (at least) the 11th to 12th century AD (Figs 1 and 2).
- 5.4.2 Ditches 4004, 4044, 4045 and 4046 (Fig. 2) represent field boundaries aligned along northeast/southwest and northwest/southeast axes – most likely influenced by landscape features such as nearby waterways and contours (Fig. 1). Their alignment and similarities suggest they were probably broadly contemporaneous.
- 5.4.3 The larger L-shaped ditch (4044) was largely straight-sided and featured a concave base (Fig. 5). It measured 0.85–1.13 m in width and up to 0.47 m in depth along its length. The eastern component extended 21 m from the southern corner towards the north-east, where it terminated. The southern element of 4044 continued from the southern corner towards and beyond the limit of excavation, c. 8 m to the west, delineating the southern extent of a western ‘field’.
- 5.4.4 There were two discernible fills along most of the length of 4044, ranging from a mid yellow-brown to a grey silty clay (Fig. 5). However, the terminal end (originally investigated as 2905 during the evaluation) was re-examined and revealed four fills (Fig. 6). The two earliest deposits were most similar to those seen elsewhere in 4044, whilst the third was charcoal-rich and contained sherds of 11th–12th-century pottery. Similarly-dated pottery was also recovered from the upper fill – a mid brownish-grey clay-silt. Oak charcoal – recovered from samples taken during the evaluation – probably reflects re-deposited fuel debris.
- 5.4.5 Ditch 4046 followed the same trajectory as the southern element of 4044, emerging from the eastern limit of the excavation area, extending to the north-west for around 10.5 m. It terminated c. 6.5 m from the corner of 4044 – indicating an access route into the eastern ‘field’. This ditch was less uniform and generally shallower, varying from V-shaped to concave in profile (0.30 to 0.36 m wide) and surviving to depths of between 0.04 and 0.13 m (Fig. 10). A primary fill was identified in one section while a more substantial mid-grey to yellow-brown silty clay fill was present in both. No artefacts were recovered and there was no direct stratigraphic relationship with the other ditches to enable it to be firmly placed within the field system development sequence.
- 5.4.6 It is possible that the evaluation feature 2903 (Fig. 2) represented the northern boundary of the eastern field, and so it may be inferred that the field was approximately 25 m long.
- 5.4.7 Ditch 4045 (Figs 2 and 7) was a similarly L-shaped possible later addition or extension of ditch 4044, which delineated a further c. 6 m plot of land immediately to the south. However, the stratigraphic relationship between the two was lost due to heavy horizontal truncation.
- 5.4.8 Ditch 4045 was truncated along much of its length and survived to depths of between 0.07 and 0.17 m (although it was completely removed where it approached the corner of 4044). Its shallow, V-shaped profile was between 0.30 and 0.74 m in width, and the fill varied from mid yellow/ brown to dark grey/ brown silty clay representing gradual, natural infilling.
- 5.4.9 Ditch 4004 (Figs 1 and 2) is one of, if not the latest in the field system sequence in this part of the site. It comprised a partial recut of the southern element of 4045 (Fig. 8), then continued beyond the corner, extending approximately 17 m to the south-east, where it then extended beyond the southern limit of excavation – perhaps appearing again at the eastern end of Trench 31. Unlike the earlier ditches, 4004 does not fully respect the previously held-

to alignment, heading slightly more to the south, and seemingly curving perhaps around the natural feature recorded in the southern end of Trench 26, not far from the corner of 4045.

- 5.4.10 Ditch 4004 ranged from approximately 0.45 to 1.00 m in width and survived to a depths of 0.30 to 0.39 m. Its two fills comprised a mid yellow-brown silty clay deposit derived from initial weathering of the sides, and a mid green/grey silty clay that indicates a gradual natural infilling. As such, this ditch is more comparable to that seen some 18 m to the north-west, in Trench 24, than 4045.
- 5.4.11 It is likely that many of the ditches identified during the evaluation relate to the above-described field system.

5.5 Modern

Postholes

- 5.5.1 Two postholes were identified along the eastern edge of Area 1 (Fig. 2); both were probably modern.
- 5.5.2 The large, sub-square posthole 4005 (Fig. 12) was 0.64 m wide, 0.72 m long, and 0.52 m deep, with a vertical eastern and sloping western sides that tapered towards the base. The basal fill was redeposited natural and the rest of the contents was derived from the surrounding topsoil, indicating that the post had been extracted, rather than left to rot *in situ*.
- 5.5.3 Posthole 4026 (Fig. 13) was found in close proximity to an area of modern disturbance in the north-eastern part of the area. The flat-based sub-circular cut was more sloped on the eastern side, and measured 0.29 m in diameter and 0.24 m in depth. The single clay-silt fill contained small stones and roots.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 An assemblage totalling 203 g was recovered. The finds range in date from the Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic to medieval periods (11th–12th-century), with the chronological focus being on the latter. The finds have been cleaned and scanned to assess their nature, condition, and potential date range. Totals by material type are presented in Table 1, which also includes a summary of material recovered from the evaluation. This discussion refers to the material recovered from the excavation only, whilst the combined assemblages are considered in the recommendations for further analysis.

Table 1 Finds by material type (number of pieces/weight in grammes)

Material type	Evaluation		Excavation		Total	
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
Pottery	24	96	19	142	43	238
Flint	4	24	2	5	6	29
Burnt flint	211	2812	14	56	225	2868
Ceramic building material (CBM)	2	563	-	-	2	563
Iron	1	3	-	-	1	3
Total	243	3498	35	203	278	3939

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 A small group of pottery, amounting to 19 sherds, was recovered from four deposits within ditch 4044 and all are of medieval date. The group, which consists entirely of body and base sherds, has been recorded according to nationally accepted guidelines (Barclay *et. Al.* 2016), aimed at providing a rapid characterisation of the assemblage. Sherds were quantified (count and weight in grammes) by broad ware type based on principal inclusions (e.g. shell-tempered ware) within each context.
- 6.2.2 Three fabric types are represented (Table 2) and whilst none are equal to the Southampton fabric catalogue (Brown 2002), they are not out of place in medieval assemblages in the area. The shell and flint-tempered sherds from are likely to be locally produced and are not closely dated. The medieval coarsewares, a sandy, flint-tempered fabric, are common in the area (Clelland 2006, 155) and were recovered from three of the four fills. They are of 11th to 12th century AD date, although a cooking pot or jar base in a sandy fabric made from the 12th century onwards potentially extends the date range of this group and therefore the filling of this ditch through into the end of the medieval period.

Table 2 Summary of pottery by fabric type (by count and weight (g))

Fabric type	Count	Weight (g)
Medieval coarseware	9	58
Sandy ware	1	33
Shell and flint-tempered	9	51
Total	19	142

6.3 Flint

- 6.3.1 Two pieces of worked flint were recovered, one from the topsoil, and one found in an undated feature (pit 4002). Both are edge damaged and abraded, with iron staining on the more prominent ridges, all characteristics consistent with disturbed and redeposited material. Neither piece retains any cortex, a feature which could provide a clue as to the source of the raw material, but this is likely to be the Quaternary river terrace deposits which outcrop along the margins of the Solent 4 km to the southwest, and along the course of the river Hamble 1.5 km to the east.
- 6.3.2 The piece from the topsoil is a neat, distal blade fragment with regular laminar dorsal scars and is clearly the product of a purposeful blade technology. Refined dating is difficult, but this is perhaps most likely to be of Neolithic date and is quite possibly Early Neolithic. The piece from pit 4002 is an equally neat bladelet that has been detached with a soft (probably antler) hammer and exhibits careful platform preparation. It has been heavily burnt and it is now in three refitting segments but is also clearly the product of a blade technology, in this case more confidently dated to the Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic period when such narrow bladelets were often a major focus of production.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 One bulk sediment sample was taken from an undated pit and was processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence.

7.2 Aims and methods

- 7.2.1 The aim of this assessment is to determine the nature and significance of the environmental remains preserved at the site, and their potential to address the project aims. Appropriate recommendations for further work are provided. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with Historic England's guidelines, *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

Bulk sediment sample

- 7.2.2 The bulk sediment sample was 32 litres in volume. The sample was processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank. The flot was retained on a 0.25 mm mesh. The residue was retained on a 1 mm mesh, and was split into coarse (>4 mm) and fine (1-4 mm) residue fractions. The coarse residue fraction (>4 mm) was sorted by eye for artefactual and environmental remains. The environmental material extracted from the residue was added to the flot.
- 7.2.3 The fine residue fractions and the flot were scanned and sorted using a stereomicroscope at up to 40x magnification for uncharred and charred botanical remains, wood charcoal and wood remains, as well as other environmental and artefactual material (e.g., insects/invertebrates, molluscs, etc.). The presence of recent and/or intrusive material was noted in the samples including modern roots, modern seeds, mycorrhizal fungi, earthworm eggs and shells of the burrowing blind snails (*Ceciloides acicula*).
- 7.2.4 Plant macroremains were identified through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006). Selected wood charcoal fragments were identified through examination of the transverse tangential longitudinal and radial longitudinal sections at up to 400x magnification. Wood charcoal identifications were undertaken through comparison with Wessex Archaeology's reference collection and identification keys (Gale and Cutler 2000; Hather 2000; Schweingruber 1990). Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild taxa. For simplicity, the term 'seed' is used to refer to different types of plant macroremain (e.g., achene, fruit etc.).
- 7.2.5 Remains were recorded semi-quantitatively on an abundance scale: C = <5 ('Trace'), B = 5–10 ('Rare'), A = 10–30 ('Occasional'), A* = 30–100 ('Frequent'), A** = 100–500 ('Common'), A*** = >500 ('Abundant').

7.3 Results

- 7.3.1 The results are presented in Appendix 1. The flot from the bulk sediment sample was large. Potential indicators of bioturbation are present, indicating the possibility of contamination from later intrusive material (e.g., modern/uncharred seeds, soil fungal sclerotia).
- 7.3.2 Environmental evidence recovered includes wood charcoal and charred plant remains. Wood charcoal is abundant and the identified fragments derive from *Quercus* sp. (oak). The charred plant remains include *Rumex acetosella* (sheep's sorrel) and *Spergula arvensis* (corn spurrey) seeds.

7.4 Discussion

- 7.4.1 While pit 4002 produced a very limited amount of charred plant remains, it was rich in wood charcoal. The wood charcoal is well-preserved, and the preservation of large pieces suggests that the material remained *in-situ* at the time of excavation (i.e., it has not been re-deposited into the pit).

- 7.4.2 The material in pit 4002 resembles that uncovered in other similar features at the site during the evaluation, such as pits 1003 and 2303 (Wessex Archaeology 2023b). The high concentration of oak charcoal in all of these features may suggest that industrial activity was taking place at the site, particularly given the preference for oak as a fuel source in activities such as metal working (Gale and Cutler 2000). It is also possible that charcoal production was taking place, as has been observed at other sites from the Iron Age/Romano-British through to the medieval periods (Challinor 2008; López-Dóriga and Treasure 2022). Very similar pits containing fills which are rich in oak charcoal have been dated to the Middle to Late Iron Age and Romano-British periods at Botley Bypass (Treasure forthcoming) and at Dowd's Farm, Hedge End (Pelling 2012). It is, however, possible that these features are later in date.

8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

8.1 General

- 8.1.1 The stratigraphic complexity of the archaeology was relatively low and has been assessed and described to a level sufficient to achieve the project aims, both in this document and the evaluation report (Wessex Archaeology 2023b).
- 8.1.2 The remains of the field system discovered during the investigations have allowed insights into the development and character of agrarian features in this region, in the closing stages of the Saxon period and into the new, Norman world. As such, the findings are a useful source of information for future, wider studies relating to this period of political and social upheaval (Hey and Hinds 2014, 228–9, 255).
- 8.1.3 The charcoal-filled pits offer insights into past woodland exploitation and land-use practices. The significance of these would be more fully appreciated if, as part of future studies, they were to be set and considered within their temporal context, achievable through a limited programme of radiocarbon dating.
- 8.1.4 There is limited potential for enhancing the results through further analysis, research and radiocarbon dating, however, this is considered to be beyond the scope of the project.

8.2 Finds potential

- 8.2.1 The combined assemblage from both stages of work is relatively small (3.9 kg) and is composed of a restricted range of material types. Only burnt flint from the evaluation occurs in any quantity (73% of the assemblage by weight); this material is intrinsically undatable, but in this instance was predominantly from features of later Iron Age date. Unfortunately, the flint assemblage includes no diagnostic retouched pieces. However, two pieces exhibit technical characteristics consistent with blade manufacture typical of Late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic industries. Activity of this date is locally uncommon, but findspots of both Mesolithic and Neolithic flint have been recorded from work on a pipeline from Hamble to Botley, and work on the construction for the M27 revealed a small scatter of blades likely to be of Mesolithic date (WA 2022).
- 8.2.2 The pottery provides evidence of both later Iron Age and 11th to 12th-century activity although its potential for further research is limited by the small size of the groups and the paucity of featured sherds (just two rims, one of each period). The fabrics are all of common types within the area (McSloy 2018, Newton and Powell 2017, Seager Thomas 2015 and Clelland 2006), but the later Iron Age sherds survive in particularly poor and abraded condition with a mean weight of just 4 g.

8.2.3 This is a small group, including four pieces from the evaluation, comprising later Iron Age and medieval material. The research potential of the assemblage is limited, being both highly fragmented and with few vessel forms recovered to aid in close dating.

8.2.4 The other material types recovered from the evaluation were present in very small numbers (Table 1), and all are either undatable (burnt flint) or difficult to attribute with more than a broad date (iron and CBM), both factors which limit further research potential.

8.3 Environmental potential

8.3.1 There is no potential for further analysis of the charred plant remains, however, the assemblage wood charcoal does have some local significance. In particular, there is potential to obtain radiocarbon dates on one of the charcoal-rich pits sampled during the evaluation (1003, 2303) or the mitigation (4002). It is likely that these pits are related to industrial activity (e.g., charcoal production), and locally similar features have been dated to the Middle to Late Iron Age and Romano-British periods (Treasure forthcoming; Pelling 2012). Radiocarbon dating would improve understanding of the nature of activity at the site, as well as providing information on woodland exploitation and land-use practices.

8.4 Summary of potential

8.4.1 The 11th–12th century findings are of regional interest, as they have the potential to contribute towards a better understanding of the development and character of field systems and their relationship to settlement across the region, during this period of considerable political and social change.

8.4.2 The charcoal-filled pits (1003, 2303 and 4002) are of some significance, providing information on woodland exploitation and land-use practices. However, it would be necessary to establish their date through radiocarbon dating before this information can be fully appreciated and meaningful interpretations made.

9 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

9.1 Updated project aims

9.1.1 In addition to those described above, and in compliance with the ClfA Standard and guidance for archaeological field excavation (ClfA 2014a), the additional aims of the project are to:

- disseminate the results in a manner proportionate to their significance; and
- deposit the physical and digital archive resulting from the project with suitable repositories

9.2 Recommendations

Stratigraphic evidence and research

9.2.1 Whilst there is some scope for refinement – for example, further exploration of *‘the chronology of development and character of field systems and their relationship to settlement across the region’* in the years surrounding the Norman Conquest (Hey and Hinds 2014, 256) – the findings presented in this report are sufficient to satisfy the aims of the project.

Finds evidence

9.2.2 No further work is recommended for any of the material groups.

Environmental evidence and radiocarbon dating

- 9.2.3 No further analysis is recommended. However, obtaining radiocarbon dates on single-entity, short-life samples of wood charcoal from the charcoal-rich pits (1003, 2303 or 4002) would enable the results to be set within their temporal context. As such, this should be considered for relevant future studies.

9.3 Summary of recommendations

- 9.3.1 The results of the excavation are sufficiently recorded, described and considered within this report, and so it is recommended that the same – alongside the evaluation report and the associated archives – be made publicly accessible via the Historic Environment Record, OASIS and the Archaeological Data Service (see sections 10 and 11 below).
- 9.3.2 A summary of the findings (usually a paragraph) will be prepared as part of Wessex Archaeology's standard practices. This will appear within the annual fieldwork round-up section of an appropriate local journal, such as *Hampshire Studies*.

10 STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 Museum

- 10.1.1 The archive resulting from the excavation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Hampshire Cultural Trust has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **A2022.69**. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

10.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

- 10.2.1 The physical archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Hampshire Cultural Trust, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; ClfA 2014c; SMA 1995).
- 10.2.2 All archive elements will be marked **A2022.69**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- 1 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
 - 1 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics

Digital archive

- 10.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata. Full details of the collection, processing and documentation of digital data are available upon request.

10.3 Selection strategy

- 10.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be

retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

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

10.3.3 Detailed selection proposals for the complete project archive (combining evaluation and excavation), comprising finds, environmental material and site records (analogue and digital), are made in the site-specific selection strategy (Appendix 2).

Digital data

10.3.4 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

10.4 Security copy

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

10.5 OASIS

10.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 3). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Senior Archaeologist, archaeological advisor to Hampshire on behalf of the LPA. 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 (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

11 COPYRIGHT

11.1 Archive and report copyright

11.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.



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

11.2 Third party data copyright

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

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Assessment of environmental evidence (excavation only)

Scale of abundance: C = <5, B = 5–10, A = 10–30, A* = 30–100, A** = 100–500, A*** = >500; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), F = mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia

Area	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal notes	Preservation
2	Pit	4002	4003	4002	261092_100	32	550	modern roots <1%, modern seeds A, F	-	-	-	C	<i>Rumex acetosella</i> , <i>Spergula arvensis</i>	300	<i>Quercus</i> sp. – mature stemwood, radial cracking and vitrification	Good



Appendix 2: Selection Strategy

261090-2
Misery, Bursledon, Southampton, Hants
 version 1, 17/11/2023

Selection Strategy

Project Information

Project Management

Project Manager	Bill Moffatt & Kirsten Dinwiddy	
Archaeological Archive Manager(s)	Moira Taylor and Jessica Irwin	
Organisation	Wessex Archaeology (WA)	
Stakeholders		Date Contacted
Collecting Institution(s)	Hampshire Cultural Trust (collections@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk) Archaeology Data Service	19/10/2022
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Lead: Majbritt Bengtson Trim Assurance: Bill Moffatt/Kirsten Dinwiddy	N/A
Landowner / Developer	Foreman Homes Ltd (Southampton) Yarmouth House 1300 Parkway Solent Business Park Whiteley Fareham PO15 7AW	10/02/2022
Other (external)	Senior Archaeologist, Thom Hayes, archaeological advisor to Hampshire County Council and Eastleigh City Council	11/11/2022
Other (internal)	WA Finds Manager (Rachael Seager Smith) WA Environmental Manager (Sander Aerts) WA Geomatics & BIM Manager (Chris Breedon) WA internal finds & environmental specialists (see WSI)	N/A; briefed as part of standard project process

Resources

Resources required	WA Finds and Environmental specialists; WA Archives Team; Project Manager
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Context

This overarching selection strategy document is based on the ClfA Archives Selection Toolkit (2019) and relates to archaeological project work being undertaken by Wessex Archaeology as defined in the WSIs.

Relevant standards, policies and guidelines consulted include:

General

- *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1993)
- *Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF, revised edition 2011, section 4)
- *Hampshire Cultural Trust guidelines* (2019)

Relevant research agendas

- Solent-Thames research framework for the historic environment. Resource assessments and research agendas (Hey and Hind 2014)

Finds

- *Standard Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation & research of archaeological materials* (CIFA, 2014)
- *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman Pottery, Medieval Pottery Research Group 2016)

Environmental

- *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory, Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011)
- *Geoarchaeology: Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record* (Historic England 2015)
- *Guidelines for the Curation of Waterlogged Macroscopic Plant and Invertebrate Remains* (English Heritage 2008)
- *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recording, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood* (English Heritage 2010)
- *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation* (Historic England 2018)

Research objectives of the project

Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (Hay and Hind 2014), the research objectives of the excavation are to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- establish, within the constraints of the investigation, and seek a better understanding of the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- compile a lasting record of the resource;
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- analyse and interpret the results of the excavation, and disseminate them appropriately

REVIEW POINTS

Consultation with all Stakeholders regarding project-specific selection decisions will be undertaken at a maximum of two project review points:

1. End of data gathering (assessment stage)
2. Archive compilation

1 – Digital Data

Stakeholders

WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; WA Geomatics & BIM Manager; Hampshire Cultural Trust; Senior Archaeologist for HCC; ADS

Selection

Location of Data Management Plan (DMP)

This document is designed to link to the project Data Management Plan (DMP), which can be supplied on request.

To promote long-term future reuse deposition file formats will be of archival standard, open source and accessible in nature following national guidance from ADS 2013, ClfA 2014c and the requirements of the digital repository.

Any sensitive data to be handled according to Wessex Archaeology data policy to ensure it is stored and transferred securely. The identity of individuals will be protected in line with GDPR. If required, data will be anonymised and redacted. Selection and retention of sensitive data for archival purposes will occur in consultation with the client and relevant stakeholders. Confidential data will not be selected for archiving and will be handled as per contractual obligation.

Document type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Site records	Most records were completed digitally on site (with the exception of registers). All will be selected for deposition.	3
Reports	To include WSIs, Interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports. Final versions only will be selected for deposition.	2, 3
Specialist reports	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with only minimal editing (reformatting, etc), and will be selected only if the original differs significantly from the incorporated version.	2, 3
Photographic media (site recording)	Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; pre-excavation images may not be selected where duplicated by post-excavation shots; working shots will be very rigorously selected to include only good quality images with potential for reuse and those integral to understanding features, their inter-relationships and location on site; site condition and reinstatement photos will not be selected.	2, 3

Photographic media (objects)	Images of individual or groups of objects, to include those of significance selected for publication and reporting. Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; all others will be selected.	3
Photographic media (photogrammetry)	All terrestrial photogrammetry recording will generate orthographic photos. For those features or finds which are particularly archaeological significant, 3D models will be generated and deposited but raw photos will only be selected where models have been selected and OBJs are to be deposited, where re-processing may have some archaeological value (eg very significant features, or where the model is less accurate than the surveyed georeference targets or of lower quality and the quality of the original photos is good enough to represent a reasonable chance of better future outcomes). Aerial photogrammetry topographic surveys will generate 3D models and orthographic photos, and the final outputs in the form of the report. These will all be selected, but not the raw photos from aerial surveys.	2, 3
Photographic media (community engagement and other activities)	General shots, promotional videos, etc. None will be selected, unless images are generated that are not duplicated in the main site record, but which have specific archaeological value.	3
Survey data	Site survey data will be used to generate CAD/GIS files for use in post-excavation activities. Shapefiles of both the original tidied survey data, and the final phased drawings will be selected.	2, 3
Databases and spreadsheets	Context, finds and environmental data in linked databases. Final versions will be selected. Any specialist data submitted separately will also be selected.	2, 3
Geophysical data	RAW data and Interpretation Geo-tiffs	2, 3
Administrative records	Includes invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, email correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	3

De-Selected Digital Data

De-selected data will be stored on WA secured servers on offsite storage locations. The WA IT department has a backup strategy and policies that involves daily, weekly and monthly and annual backups of data as stated in the DMP. This strategy is non-migratory, and original files will be held at WA under their unique project identifier, as long as they remain useful and usable in their final version format. This data may also be used for teaching or reference collections by the museum, or by WA unless otherwise required by contractual or copyright obligations.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders
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2 – Documents

Stakeholders

WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; Hampshire Cultural Trust; Senior Archaeologist for HCC

Selection

A security copy of all paper/drawn records is a requirement of ClfA guidelines. This will be prepared on completion of the project, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. If the security copy is not required for deposition by Stakeholders, it will be retained on backed-up servers belonging to Wessex Archaeology.

Note that some information may be redacted to comply with GDPR legislation (personal data).

Document type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Site records	Selected records only will be completed in hard copy on site (registers, some graphics). All will be selected for deposition.	3
Reports	Hard copies of all reports (SSWSIs, Interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports). All will be selected for deposition, with the exception of earlier versions of reports which have been clearly superseded.	2, 3
Specialist reports & data	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with no significant editing. Supporting data is more likely to be included in the digital archive, but if supplied in hard copy and not incorporated elsewhere, this will be selected.	2, 3
Photographic media	X-radiographic plates: all will be selected.	3
Secondary sources	Hard copies of secondary sources will not be selected.	3
Working notes	Rough working notes, annotated plans, preliminary versions of matrices etc, will not be selected.	3
Administrative records	Invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, hard copy correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any hard copy correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	3

De-Selected Documents

De-selected sensitive analogue data will be destroyed (shredded) subject to final checking by the WA Archives team with the remainder recycled. Possible exceptions include records retained for business purposes, including promotional material, teaching and internal WA library copies of reports.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Material type	Artefacts (bulk and registered finds)	Section 3.	3.1
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Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Finds Manager; WA internal specialists; Hampshire Cultural Trust; Senior Archaeologist for HCC; landowner

Selection

All finds have been recorded to an appropriate archive level prior to any selection proposals being implemented, and the selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive. Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Throughout the following section, 'stratified' is taken to include topsoil deposits, while 'unstratified' indicates anything completely separated from context eg spoilheap finds, or surface finds other than those directly associated with underlying features.

Find Type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Burnt (unworked) flint	211 pieces: intrinsically undatable material; discarded	2, 3
Ceramic building material	2 pieces: minimal quantity with no further research potential; discard.	2, 3
Metalwork	1 piece: single, poorly dated nail; no further research potential; discard.	2, 3
Pottery	43 sherds: small group but provides evidence of later Iron Age and medieval date; retain.	2, 3
Worked flint	6 pieces: minimal assemblage but provides evidence for the earliest activity on site, possibly including Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic material; some local significance; retain.	2, 3

Uncollected Material

Finds which fall outside the categories proposed for on-site collection were noted via a general comment on site recording sheets, re. the presence and nature of large concentrations (eg building materials, modern debris)

Any uncollected material was left *in situ* or (if collected and then de-selected), re-incorporated into the site.

De-Selected Material

Consideration will be given to the suitability for use for handling or teaching collections by the museum or Wessex Archaeology, or whether they are of particular interest to the local community. De-selected material will either be returned to the landowner or disposed of. All have been adequately recorded to the appropriate level.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Material type	Palaeoenvironmental material	Section 3.	3.2
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Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Environmental Officer; WA internal specialists; Hampshire Cultural Trust; Senior Archaeologist for HCC;

Selection

All contexts suitable for environmental sampling were considered for sampling. All environmental sampling was undertaken following Wessex Archaeology's in-house guidance, which adheres to the principles outlined in Historic England's guidance (English Heritage 2011 and Historic England 2015a) and as stated in relevant WSI.

Env Material Type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Unprocessed samples	All samples have been processed	2, 3
Unsorted residues	All residues have been sorted and discarded	2, 3
Assessed flots with no extracted materials	Assessed flots with no extracted materials were considered to be devoid of any significant environmental evidence and have been de-selected.	2, 3

Assessed or analysed flots with extracted materials	small assemblage with some local significance and further research potential: retain.	2, 3	
Uncollected Material			
Any uncollected material was be left <i>in situ</i> or re-incorporated into the site.			
De-Selected Material			
De-selected material from samples has been disposed of, following processing and post-excavation recording. All processed material has been adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.			
Amendments			
Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders



Appendix 3: OASIS Summary

OASIS Summary for wessexar1-513942

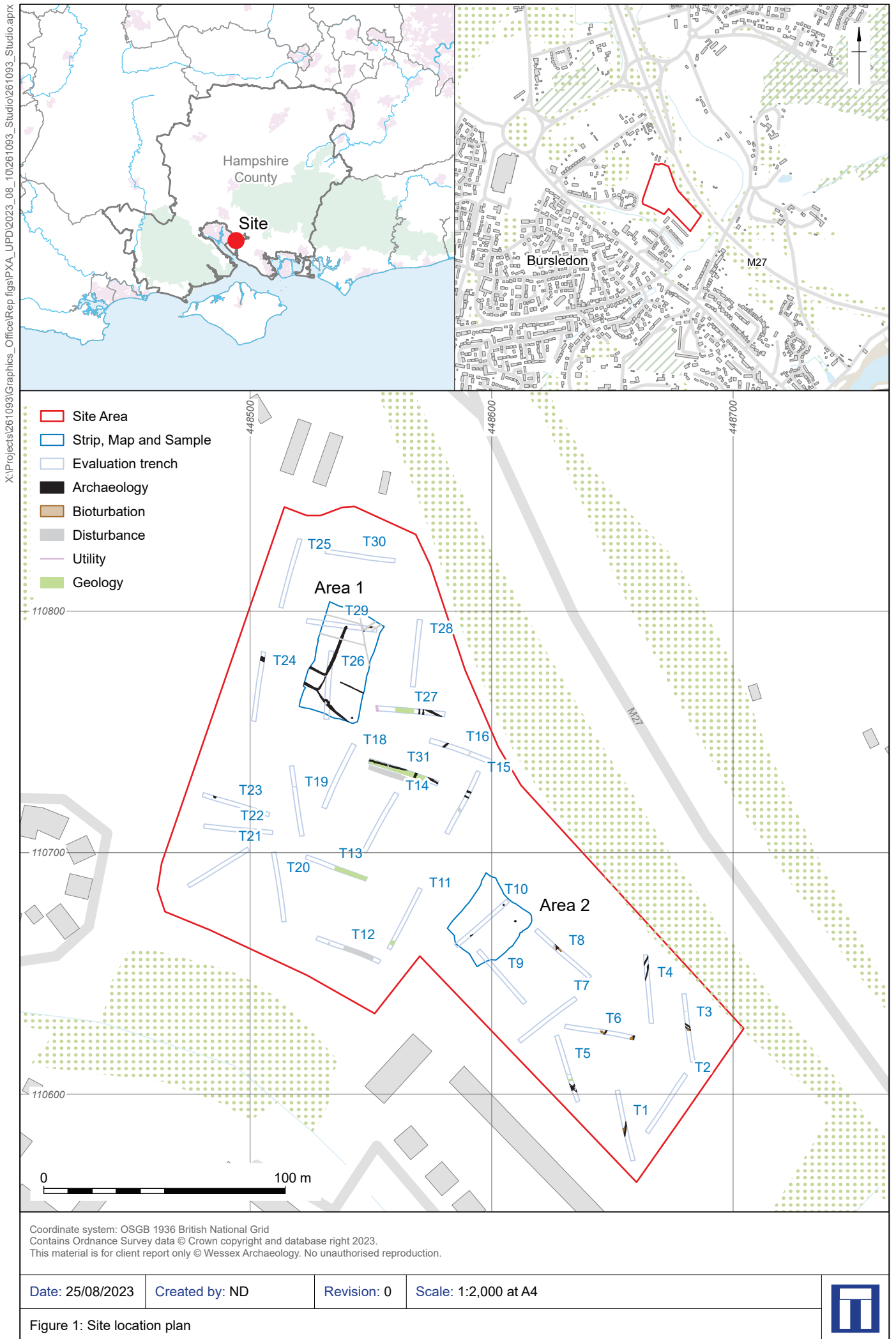
OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-513942
Project Name	Evaluation and Strip, Map and Sample at Misery' Bursledon, Southampton, Hampshire
Sitename	Evaluation at Misery, Bursledon, Southampton, Hampshire, Strip, Map and Sample at Misery, Bursledon, Southampton, Hampshire
Sitecode	261091, 261092
Project Identifier(s)	261091 - Evaluation, 261093 - Post excavation assessment and UPD, 261092 - Strip, Map and Sample
Activity type	Evaluation, Post Excavation Assessment, Strip Map And Sample
Planning Id	O/17/81166
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	14-Nov-2022 - 17-May-2023
Location	Evaluation at Misery, Bursledon, Southampton, Hampshire NGR : SU 48580 10707 LL : 50.8938093460548, -1.31064018604065 12 Fig : 448580,110707 Strip, Map and Sample at Misery, Bursledon, Southampton, Hampshire NGR : SU 48580 10707 LL : 50.89380934059049, -1.3106401460001 12 Fig : 448580,110707
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Hampshire Local Authority District : Eastleigh Parish : Bursledon

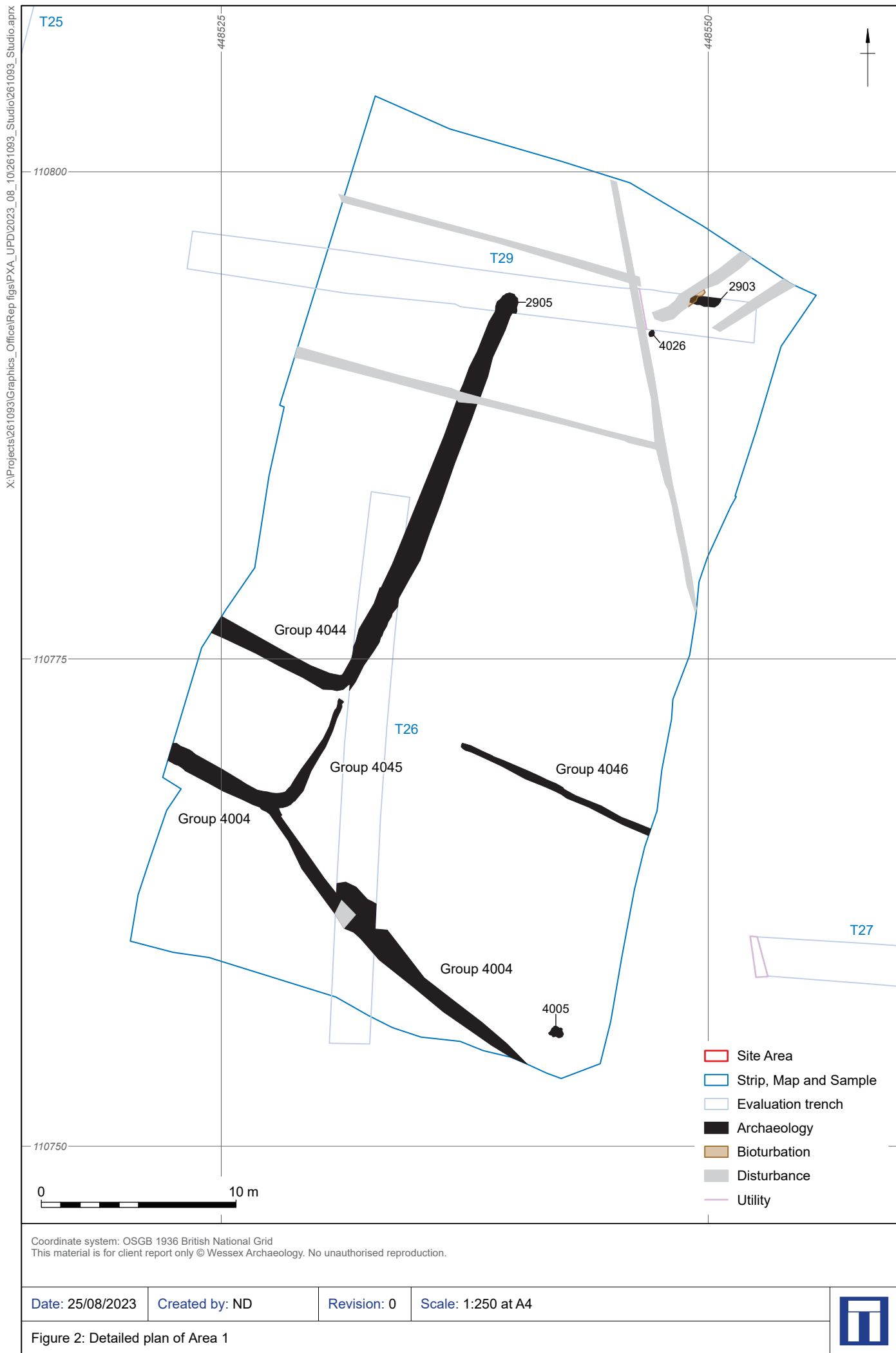
Project Methodology	The evaluation comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of 30 trial trenches (each measuring 30 m by 1.8 m), equating to a 4% sample of the proposed development area, the trial trench evaluation was undertaken and taken up again. Initially, 22 trenches were excavated between 14–25 November 2022, due to heavy rainfall, clay natural geology and the location of trenches within the valley, extremely poor ground conditions prevented the excavation of all trenches. The site was revisited 13–15 February 2023 to complete the works. 4.2.1 The excavation area was set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) (Fig. 1). The topsoil/overburden was removed in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded in level spits until the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed. 4.2.2 Where necessary, the surfaces of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation. A sample of natural geological features was also investigated. 4.2.3 Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features were visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Recording 4.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. 4.2.5 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm. 4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 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.
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Project Results	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Foreman Homes Ltd, to undertake an archaeological Strip, Map and Sample excavation of two areas (totalling 1,800 m2) on land located at 'Misery' (National Grid Reference 448580 110707), Providence Hill, Bursledon, Southampton, Hampshire, SO31 8LP. The work was required by the Senior Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council following an archaeological trial trench evaluation, which revealed a number of ditches and pits, and a few residual flints. One pit contained a large quantity of burnt flint, charcoal and Iron Age pottery, while another displayed signs of in-situ burning or heating. One ditch –part of a field system – contained a charcoal-rich deposit and a small assemblage of 11th to 12th-century pottery. The excavation took place between the 9th and 17th May 2023. The archaeology lay directly below the topsoil and was found to be shallow and ill-defined in places, most likely as a result of later agricultural practices and natural erosion. The remains were, therefore, also vulnerable to the effects of above ground activities and infiltration by tree and shrub roots. Features included further ditches associated with the field system, which has provided evidence for development of the system over time. More 11th to 12th-century pottery was recovered from the same ditch, which was similarly associated with a charcoal-rich fill. An undated pit containing quantities of oak charcoal was found close to two of the three similar features recorded during the evaluation. Two residual flint bladelets were probably made in the Late Mesolithic to Early Neolithic period, further exemplifying a background of prehistoric activity in the wider vicinity of the site. The remains of the field system have provided useful information that adds to the understanding of the chronology of the development and character of field systems across the region, during a period of considerable political and social turmoil. The charcoal-filled pits offer insights into past woodland exploitation and land-use practices. The significance of these would be more fully appreciated if, as part of future studies, they were to be set and considered within their temporal context, achievable through a limited programme of radiocarbon dating. This document constitutes the final report for the excavation; it, along with the preceding evaluation report, will be made publicly available online, via the Archaeological Data Service and Historic Environment Record. A brief summary of the findings will also be included in our annual fieldwork round-ups for local journals. The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. The Hampshire Cultural Trust has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code A2022.69. An OASIS form has been provisionally completed and will be finalised at the time of deposition.
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Keywords	Ditch - EARLY MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - LATE IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Post Hole - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - EARLY MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Sherd - EARLY MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - LATE IRON AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Flake - LATE MESOLITHIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Flake - EARLY NEOLITHIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	Private or public corporation Foreman Homes Ltd
HER	Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (AHBR) - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Bill Moffat, Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust;

Report generated on: 13 Dec 2023, 13:32





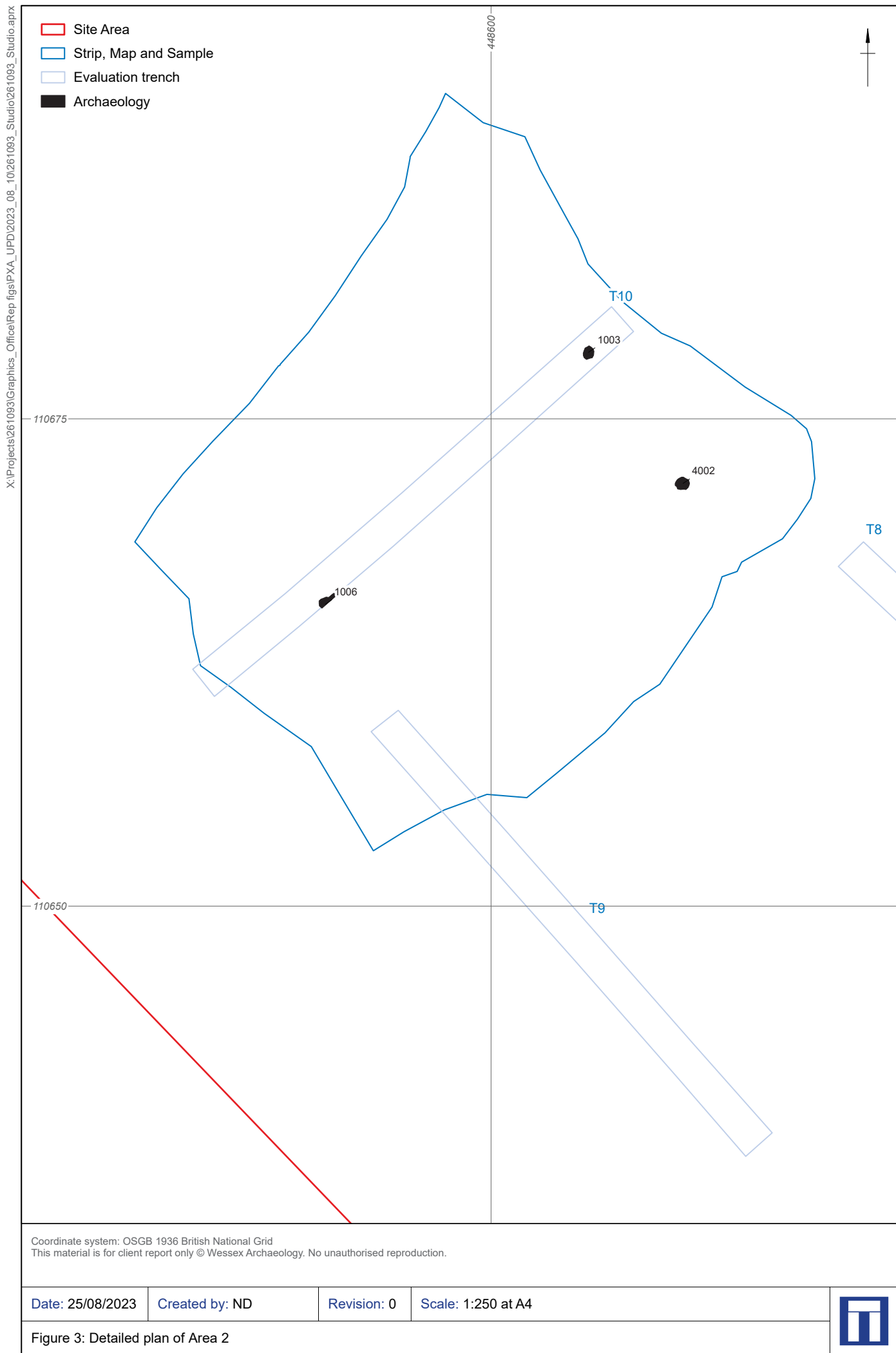




Figure 4: East facing representative section (Area 1), scale: 1 m

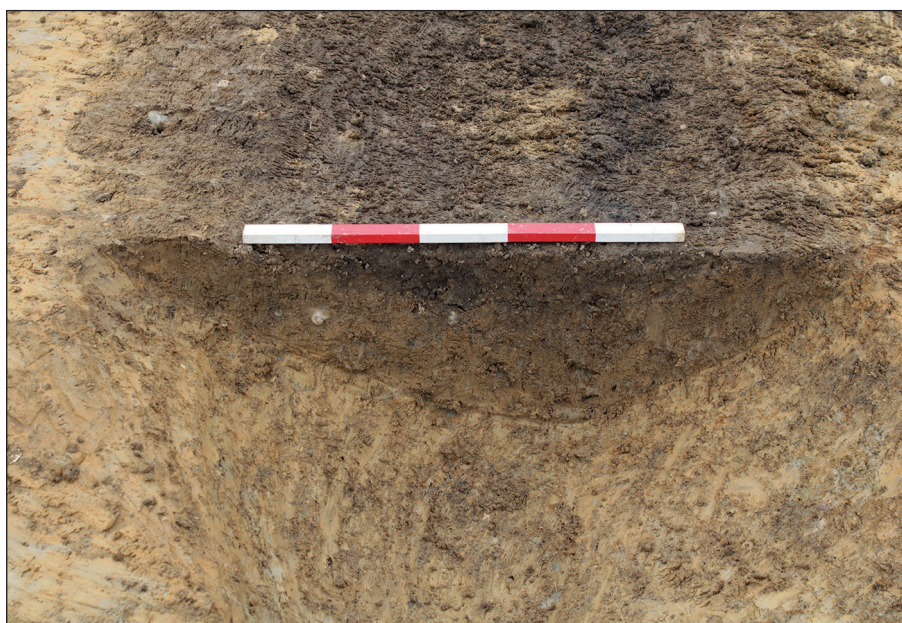


Figure 5: North-east facing section of ditch 4044, scale: 0.50 m



Figure 6: North-east facing section of ditch terminal (ditch 4044), scale: 0.50 m



Figure 7: South-west facing section of ditch 4045, scale: 0.50 m



Figure 8: South-east facing section of ditches 4045 and 4004, scale: 0.50 m



Figure 9: South-east facing section of ditch 4004, scale: 0.50 m



Figure 10: Ditch 4046 from the north-east, scale: 0.20 m



Figure 11: South facing section of pit 4002, scale: 0.50 m



Figure 12: South facing section of pit 4005, scale: 0.50 m



Figure 13: East facing section of posthole 4026, scale: 0.20 m



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