



Bramber Brook

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording



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Fieldwork directed by	Jay Wood and Alistair Zochowski		
Project management by	Kathryn Brook		
Document compiled by	Alistair Zochowski		
Contributions from	Dan Carter (Finds)		
Graphics by	Marijane Porter		
Document edited by	Eleanor Legg		

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Environmental Contracting Ltd, on behalf of Volker Stevin ('the client') to undertake a programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording during groundworks associated with excavation of compensatory habitat ponds. The monitored works covered 0.82 ha, centred on NGR 518744, 110944, at land just north of The Street, Bramber, Horsham, West Sussex, BN44 3WE.

A total of 2 ponds areas and a walkway strip were monitored across the site. These were recorded as 7 trenches and uncovered a sequence of alluvial deposits subsequently overlain by the modern-day topsoil. Natural features relating to rooting were uncovered within trench 1 along with evidence for the consolidation of a channel bank during the post medieval period.

No archaeological remains were found within the monitored ponds or walkway despite their close proximity to the Scheduled Monument (1015718) "Group of Salterns" situated roughly in the centre and to the south of the site.

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Bramber Brook

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Five Rivers Environmental Contracting Ltd, on behalf of Volker Stevin ('the client'), to undertake a programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (AMR) during works associated with excavation of compensatory habitat ponds. The monitored works covered 0.82 ha, centred on NGR 518744, 110944, at land just north of The Street, Bramber, Horsham, West Sussex, BN44 3WE (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The AMR was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by West Sussex County Council (DC/19/2035), as part of the Shoreham Adur Tidal Walls (SATW) flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCRM) project.
- 1.1.3 The compensatory habitat ponds were excavated in close proximity of Scheduled Monument (1015718) "Group of Salterns". These were fenced off through out the cause of the project and part of the criteria of the AMR was to conduct a condition survey to monitor the adherence to the buffer zones put in place.
- 1.1.4 The AMR was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (JBA Consulting 2023). The West Sussex County Archaeologist approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to the fieldwork.
- 1.1.5 The AMR was undertaken between 21st August and 1st October 2024.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The area of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording was located on the western floodplains of the River Adur, situated some 250 m to the north of the village of Bramber. Located roughly in the middle of the site was Scheduled Monument (1015718) a group of Salterns
- 1.3.2 Existing ground levels vary slightly across the site, with a height of 2 m aOD in the western half of the site and 2.5 m aOD in the east.
- 1.3.3 The bedrock geology is mapped as West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation, formed between 100.5 and 93.9 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period. Superficial deposits comprising of alluvial clays, silt, sand and peat formed between 11.8 thousand years ago and the present during the Quaternary period. (British Geological Survey 2024).



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historic background for the site is detailed within the WSI (JBA Consulting 2023) and is summarised below.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the development

- 2.2.1 Five archaeological investigations have taken place within 500 m of the site. However, the reports for which were not available at the time of writing. Four of these investigations identified cut archaeological features containing Medieval pottery, with the fifth finding evidence of a saltern mound within the village of Bramber dated to the 13th – 16th Century.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Palaeolithic to Anglo-Saxon (900,000 BC - AD 1066)

- 2.3.1 There is minimal evidence relating to the above periods in the near vicinity.

Medieval (AD 1066 – 1500)

- 2.3.2 Bramber Castle lies to the west of the site and was continuously occupied by the descendants of the castle's founder William de Braose from 1075 through to 1450 after which the castle fell in disrepair during the 16th century following large scale subsidence.
- 2.3.3 The castle itself began life as a 'Mote and Bailey' type later modified into an 'enclosure' type castle. Situated some 250 m east of Bramber Castle and to west and south of the site are a group of Salterns and a possible moat (1015718), also included within this scheduling are the remains of nine unevenly shaped middens that survive to 1 m in height.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (JBA Consulting 2023), were to:

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

3.2 General objectives

- 3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the watching brief, also defined in the WSI (JBA Consulting 2023), were to:
- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;

- record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (JBA Consulting 2023) and in general compliance with ClfA standards and guidance (ClfA 2023a–b). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The works to be monitored during the project comprised the mechanical excavation of 6 new compensatory habitat ponds and a topsoil strip for new bunded walkways around these ponds.
- 4.2.2 The attending archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the specified area. Where necessary, the surfaces of uncovered archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the project aims.
- 4.2.3 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.

Recording

- 4.2.4 All exposed archaeological deposits and features 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 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 Finds and environmental strategies

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (JBA Consulting 2023). 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 2014a), *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and ClfA's (n.d. a) *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 1: Description).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The West Sussex County Archaeologist monitored the watching brief on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the West Sussex County Archaeologist.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A total of seven areas of excavation were monitored during the course of the project (Figs 1 – 2). Each of these were assigned a trench number and will be discussed below. Full details of trench deposits can be found in Appendix 1.

5.2 Trench 1

- 5.2.1 Trench 1 was situated towards the western limit of the Site and took the form of a roughly oval shaped trench measuring 106 m in length, 23 m at its widest point and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.40 m below ground level (bgl), 0.78 m aOD (Figs 2-4).
- 5.2.2 The stratigraphic sequence observed within trench comprised a layer of mid yellow grey silty clay (106), which was observed at a depth of 1.00 m bgl, roughly at the same level as the water table. It was not certain if this layer represented the underlying natural or simply another alluvial deposit (Fig. 5).
- 5.2.3 Overlying (106) was a layer of mid grey silty clay (105), this layer had an average thickness of 0.20 m. Cut into this layer were several natural features indicative of root activity. These features were irregular in shape and their bases were shown to be highly undulating (Fig. 5). No archaeological artefacts were recovered from these features.
- 5.2.4 These natural features were sealed by alluvial deposit (104). This deposit consisted of a mid-yellow grey silty clay that had an average thickness of 0.30 m. Occasional patches of degraded red sandstone and iron panning were observed.
- 5.2.5 In turn (104) was overlain by a layer of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil (103) that had a thickness of 0.33 m. Again, patches of degraded red sandstone and also shells were observed as inclusions. Located at the northern end of the trench and compressed into the top of (103) was deposit (102). This layer comprised a mixture of chalk rubble with occasional fragments of CBM. This layer had a thickness of 0.08 m and was interpreted as a consolidation deposit used to stabilise the northern bank of a previously existing channel or pond.
- 5.2.6 The final deposit in the sequence was the current topsoil (101) which comprised of a mid-grey brown silty clay.

5.3 Trench 2

- 5.3.1 Trench 2 related to the raised walkways that surround the proposed new ponds that were excavated during the project. The trench was excavated in several short sections, but the stratigraphy did not change across the entirety of the trench footprint (Figs. 2 and 6)
- 5.3.2 The trench itself had an average depth of 0.20 m, reaching 2.20 m aOD, and measured a total of 408 m in length. The width of the trench varied from 7 to 10 m.
- 5.3.3 The stratigraphic sequence observed comprised a mid-yellow brown silty clay subsoil or alluvial deposit (202) that was overlain by the current topsoil (201) which comprised a mid-grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub rounded stones. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within this trench.

5.4 Trench 3

- 5.4.1 Trench 3 was excavated to form a small pond situated to the south of Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 7). The trench measured 15.30 m in length, 11 m in width and had a maximum depth of 1.40 m, 0.87m aOD.
- 5.4.2 The stratigraphic sequence observed within the trench comprised an alluvial layer (303) that was a mid-yellow grey in colour and had a minimum thickness of 0.85 m. This was overlain by a layer of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil (302) which had a thickness of 0.32 m. This was finally overlain by the current topsoil (301) present across the entire site.
- 5.4.3 No archaeological features or deposits were found in this trench.

5.5 Trench 4

- 5.5.1 Trench 4, situated in the north-eastern corner of the site measured 7.80 m in length, 5.80 m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.70 m bgl, 1.38 m aOD (Figs 2 and 8).
- 5.5.2 The stratigraphic sequence observed within the trench comprised an alluvial layer (403) that was a mid-yellow grey in colour and had a minimum thickness of 0.16 m. This was overlain by a layer of mid-yellow brown silty clay subsoil (402) which had a thickness of 0.36 m. This was finally overlain by the current topsoil (401) present across the entire site.
- 5.5.3 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within this trench.

5.6 Trench 5

- 5.6.1 Trench 5 was situated immediately to the north of trench 6 and measured 6.50 m in length, 3.70 m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.67 m bgl, 1.60 m aOD (Figs 2 and 9).
- 5.6.2 The stratigraphic sequence observed within the trench comprised an alluvial layer (503) that was a mid-yellow grey in colour and had a minimum thickness of 0.17 m. This was overlain by a layer of mid-yellow brown silty clay subsoil (502) which had a thickness of 0.30 m. This was finally overlain by the current topsoil (401) present across the entire site.
- 5.6.3 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

5.7 Trench 6

- 5.7.1 Trench 6 formed an irregularly shaped pond, located to the south of trenches 4 and 5. (Figs 2 and 10).



- 5.7.2 The trench measured 32 m in length and 40 m at the widest point. The trench itself had an overall depth of 0.70 m bgl, 1.50 m aOD.
- 5.7.3 The stratigraphic sequence observed within trench 6 mirrored that observed in trenches 4 and 5. It comprised alluvial layer (603) that was a mid-yellow grey in colour and had a minimum thickness of 0.17 m. This was overlain by a layer of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil (602) which had a thickness of 0.38 m. This was finally overlain by the current topsoil (601) present across the entire site.
- 5.7.4 No archaeological features or deposits were found during the excavation of this trench.

5.8 Trench 7

- 5.8.1 Trench 7 formed a tear drop shaped pond, situated to the east of trench 1 and the western end of trench 2 (Figs 2 and 11). The trench itself measured 26 m in length, 10 m at its widest point and was excavated to a depth of 1.40m bgl, 0.98m aOD.
- 5.8.2 The stratigraphic sequence observed within the trench comprised a mid to light blue silty clay most likely an alluvial deposit (704) which was encountered at a depth of 1 m below ground level. This was overlain by a bright yellow silty clay (703) that had patches of degraded red sandstone present within it. This layer had a thickness of 0.50 m.
- 5.8.3 Overlying (703) was a deposit of mottled yellow brown silty clay (702), this layer had a thickness of 0.30 m and closely matches the subsoil observed in other areas of site. The final deposit in the sequence was the current mid to dark grey brown silty clay topsoil (701).
- 5.8.4 Again, no archaeological features or deposits were found within this trench.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A very small quantity of finds (8533 g) were recovered from four contexts during the monitoring of the trenching for habitat ponds. All the finds have been washed, air dried, and bagged by material type within each context. The finds have also been quantified (number of pieces and weight in grammes) by material type within each context. This information is presented in Table 1.

Table 1 Summary of finds by material type (count and weight in grammes)

			Ceramic Building Material		Glass		Mortar		Pottery		Stone	
Trench	Interpretation	Cxt. No	No.	Wgt.	No.	Wgt.	No.	Wgt.	No.	Wgt.	No.	Wgt.
1	Topsoil	101	8	915	1	4	-	-	2	200	-	-
	Rubble deposit	102	4	143	-	-	-	-	1	6	1	359
2	Topsoil	201	29	6451	-	-	1	19	5	363	1	11
7	Topsoil	701	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	62	-	-
Total by Material			41	7509	1	4	1	19	9	631	2	370

- 6.1.2 The artefacts range in date from medieval to modern, and are in a reasonably good condition, with abrasion being restricted to the older material and ceramic building material. The finds were recovered from a range of topsoil, alluvial and rubble deposits.

6.2 Pottery

Medieval Pottery

- 6.2.1 Two pieces of medieval pottery were collected from the topsoil of trench 2. The pieces are both West Sussex ware jug pieces (Barton 1979) and may derive from the same vessel. One is a slashed handle, with a sparse green glaze (56 g) and the other is body sherd (12 g) with incised linear decoration under a sparse green lead glaze. The pieces are likely to be 13-14th century date but occur alongside modern pottery.

Modern Pottery

- 6.2.2 Six pieces of modern pottery were collected, which derive from five different vessels. The material can be divided into earthenware, stoneware and porcelain, with the only piece of English porcelain being a small undiagnostic body sherd (rubble deposit 102; 6 g). The only earthenware fragment is the base of a refined whiteware transfer printed jar (subsoil in trench 2; 62g). The exterior shows a limited section of a design, and the base displays the word 'Danish' within a banner above 'RD.NO.317657' within a rectangular border, all in a blue transfer print. The piece is a product of the Staffordshire area of post-1898 date, when the printed design was issued a design registration number. The piece is most likely to be a product of the Cobridge works run by the Furnival family who produced 'Blue Denmark' a transfer printed earthenware based on originals made in 19th century Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 6.2.3 Stoneware produced in England forms the largest group of modern pottery, with two fragments (286 g) of the same beverage bottle being retained from the topsoil of trench 2. This bottle was manufactured at either Bristol or London and displays black transfer printed labelling with the letters 'GINGE-' above '9 MIDDLE ST. H.S.& Co. BRIGH-' all within a hexagonal border with part of the Brighton Royal Pavilion shown in the centre. The company was owned by Henry Schilling, who operated Brighton's Royal German Spa and ran a company that produced a range of mineral waters, sodas, seltzers and ginger beers based at Middle Street, Brighton between 1834 and 1850 (Cresswell N.D.). Other English stonewares were recovered from the topsoil of trench 1 and include the base of a large flagon (197 g), again of London or Bristol manufacture, and an undiagnostic body sherd (3 g).

6.3 Ceramic Building Material

- 6.3.1 The ceramic building material ranges in date from post-medieval to modern and can be subdivided into three types: roof tile, floor tile and brick (Table 2). These artefacts occur in three different fabrics, a hard, mid-red, refined matrix with no obvious inclusions (Fabric Q1 – Table 2), a similar fabric but with rare flint of less than 10 mm in size (Fabric F1 – Table 2), and a sandy, pale-yellowish red, of softer consistency with frequent iron-rich argillaceous inclusions, and occasional pale firing textural features deriving from a poorly mixed clay (Fabric ARG1 – Table 2). The F1 fabric is the most uncommon, closely followed by the Q1 fabric, which is considered to be of modern date due to its heavily refined nature, suggesting a more industrial clay preparation procedure. The bulk of the brick and tile in the ARG1 fabric appear to be handmade in an open topped mould.

Brick

- 6.3.2 Fragments of brick were collected from topsoil deposits within trenches 1 and 2, with most of the material being recovered from trench 2. None of the examples are frogged, suggesting that a pre-1850s date for all examples is most likely. However, given the date of the associated pottery, the material is likely to be residual. Several of the collected fragments display no measurable characteristics due to their fragmentary nature, however

thickness was able to be measured for certain pieces. For the flint containing (F1) fabric, the brick thicknesses are relatively uniform at 56-7 mm thick, suggesting these are late post-medieval to modern in date, which contrasts somewhat with the ARG1 fabric group. The fragments in this fabric range in thickness from 30 to 58 mm, which could indicate that some of the thinner elements are early post-medieval in date (c.f. Ryan 1996, Appendix 1), however the thinner pieces are significantly more worn. While there is extreme variation in the thickness of the bricks, the width of the two semi-complete examples is similar at 110 mm. It is possible that the thinner fragments could derive from abraded floor tiles, but this is far from certain, as they display no bevelled edges or evidence for keys.

Floor Tile

- 6.3.3 Trimmed edges, with a bevel of approximately 30 degrees, are apparent on one plain floor tile recovered from the topsoil of trench 2. This probable post-medieval floor tile occurs in the flint containing, F1 fabric, and displays a fine red slip on the upper surface with no design and no keying on the lower surface. Remains of a lime-based mortar are apparent on the lower surfaces and the piece measures 35 mm in thickness.

Roof Tile

- 6.3.4 The vast majority of the roof tiles are undiagnostic flat pieces, that are too incomplete to ascertain if they derive from peg or nib style tiles, therefore they have been recorded here as flat roof tile (Table 2). These examples only occur in fabrics Q1 and ARG1, and appear to be predominantly handmade, with only one tile in the Q1 fabric from the topsoil in trench 2 showing signs of being mechanically extruded, making the piece of 19th century or later date. In addition to the flat roof tile, there is one hip tile with a circular perforation measuring 17 mm across.

Table 2 Ceramic Building Material by Context and Form (number and weight in grammes; dimensions in millimetres)

Context	Fabric	Form	No.	Wgt.	Brick Length (L) x Width (W) x Thickness (T)
101	ARG1	Brick	1	83	T48
101	ARG1	Brick	2	110	
101	ARG1	Brick	1	576	T55
101	ARG1	Flat roof tile	3	72	
101	F1	Brick	1	74	T56
102	ARG1	Flat roof tile	3	116	
102	Q1	Flat roof tile	1	27	
201	ARG1	Brick	4	102	
201	ARG1	Brick	1	444	T56
201	ARG1	Brick	1	251	T58
201	ARG1	Brick	1	155	T58
201	ARG1	Brick	3	257	
201	ARG1	Brick	1	386	T50
201	ARG1	Brick	1	405	T60
201	ARG1	Brick	1	350	T54
201	ARG1	Brick	1	509	T53

201	ARG1	Brick	1	137	T40
201	ARG1	Brick	1	681	W110xT45
201	ARG1	Brick	1	314	T35
201	ARG1	Brick	1	441	T40
201	ARG1	Brick	1	193	T30
201	ARG1	Flat roof tile	3	57	
201	F1	Brick	1	579	W110xT57
201	F1	Floor tile	1	652	T35
201	Q1	Flat roof tile	4	321	
201	Q1	Hip tile	1	217	
Total			41	7509	

6.4 Stone

- 6.4.1 Two fragments of stone previously employed as roofing material were recovered. The first is a fragment of a grey micaceous mudstone from deposit 102. This has the remains of a nail hole that is too fragmentary to be measured and patches of a white, lime-based, sandy mortar on the upper and lower surface, suggesting the item has been used. The second fragment was recovered from the topsoil of trench 2 and is a fragment of roofing slate. It is probably of Cornish origin and is difficult to date as Cornish slate was used as roofing material in Britain from the medieval period onwards.

6.5 Mortar

- 6.5.1 One piece of iron-stained cement-based mortar, made with a coarse sand was recovered from topsoil in trench 1. It is likely to be modern in date.

6.6 Glass

- 6.6.1 The only fragment of glass recovered is a piece of a modern green glass beverage bottle, embossed with the letters '-RA-'. The piece was collected from the topsoil of trench 1 and probably derives from a beer bottle.

6.7 Recommendations for Analysis

- 6.7.1 The material has been recorded to an adequate level for the archive and for this reason no further examination of the material is considered necessary.

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Summary

- 7.1.1 The AMR conducted during groundworks associated with the creation of habitat ponds at Bamber Brook successfully met the aims set out in the WSI.
- 7.1.2 A total of 7 trenches were excavated and showed a sequence of alluvial deposits overlain by the modern-day topsoil. Natural features relating to vegetation growing on the edge of an old water channel were uncovered during the excavation of trench 1. Evidence for the consolidation of this channel bank using chalk rubble was highlighted in the northern end of trench 1.

- 7.1.3 No features were found in any of the trenches dug that lay in close proximity to the Scheduled Monument, and artefacts were concentrated within the modern day topsoil and rubble deposit(s). Dating from the medieval to modern periods, these finds are in keeping with the local history and have likely been redistributed during agricultural and natural processes.

7.2 Discussion

- 7.2.1 The Archaeological Monitoring and Recording carried out at Bramber Brook showed that there was no activity associated with the group of Salterns (Scheduled Monument 1015718), though medieval pottery was identified within the topsoil deposit across the site, likely having been redistributed through later agricultural and/or natural processes. The works do however add to the corpus of knowledge for the local area.

8 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Horsham Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project. 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.

8.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

- 8.2.1 The physical archive will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Horsham Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; ClfA 2014b; SMA 1995).
- 8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- 1 cardboard box or airtight plastic box of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
 - 1 files/document case of paper records and A3/A4 graphics

Digital archive

- 8.2.3 The digital archive, 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.

8.3 Selection strategy

- 8.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected for retention 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).

- 8.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows ClfA's (n.d. b) *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (e.g., Wessex Archaeology's specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.
- 8.3.3 Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. The proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (e.g., museum, local authority), prior to deposition of the archive. Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Finds

- Pottery (9 sherds): While two pieces of medieval pottery were recovered, they are from a poorly stratified deposit (topsoil trench 2). The fragments are also residual occurring alongside modern pottery. For this reason, all pottery should be discarded.
- Ceramic Building Material (41 fragments): While a small portion of the material has potential to be early post-medieval, the material is residual, occurring alongside modern pottery. For this reason, all should be discarded.
- Stone (2 pieces): There is potential for the mudstone roof tile to be medieval in date, but as this occurs alongside later material this cannot be certain. Therefore, discard both pieces.
- Glass (1 shard): Modern probable beer bottle frag. Discard.
- Mortar (1 piece): Modern cement-based and iron stained. Discard.

Documentary records

- 8.3.4 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (written scheme of investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

- 8.3.5 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 that are not directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

8.4 Security copy

- 8.4.1 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.

8.5 OASIS

- 8.5.1 Given the very limited results of the fieldwork, it is considered that the site conforms to the definition of a 'sterile project' (i.e., one that produces nothing of evidential value), according to the ClfA (n.d. a) *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives* (archaeological archives from sterile projects). It is therefore recommended that only selected digital data are

deposited with the ADS, an approach commensurate with the scale and significance of the project. Deposition will involve uploading of the site report via OASIS only.

- 8.5.2 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 2). A pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the West Sussex County Archaeologist 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.

9 COPYRIGHT

9.1 Archive and report copyright

- 9.1.1 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*.
- 9.1.2 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.

9.2 Third party data copyright

- 9.2.1 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 TRENCH TABLES

Trench No 1		Length 106 m	Width 23.00	Depth 1.40 m
Easting 518666.6838		Northing 110959.4985		0.78 m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
101		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clay silty, rare small and sub-rounded stones, v.rare small and medium flint fragments, friable	0–0.17m
102		Consolidation deposit on embankment of channel to the north of trench	Mixture of small to medium chalk rubble, occasional brick and tile. Compressed into upper part of 103.	0.17–0.25m
103		Subsoil	Alluvium. Mid yellow brown silty clay, soft, mottled light grey. rare small patches of degraded red sandstone, rare fragments of seashell	0.17–0.50m
104		Alluvium	Alluvial deposit. Mid yellow grey silty clay, soft, rare small patches of red sandstone, very rare fragments of seashell	0.5–0.80m
105		Alluvium	Mid grey slightly silty clay, firm.	0.80–1.00m
106		Natural	Natural? mid yellow grey silty clay, soft. Water table around level of upper part of the deposit	1–1.40m

Trench No 2		Length 408 m	Width 7-10 m	Depth 0.25 m
Easting 518752.3308		Northing 110909.1667		2.20 m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
201		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clay silty, rare small sub-rounded stones, very rare medium flint, Friable	0–0.22m
202		Subsoil / alluvium	Subsoil, likely alluvial. Mid yellow brown silty clay, soft, very rare small shell fragments. mottled grey, rare patches of degraded red sandstone	0.22m+

Trench No 3		Length 15.30	Width 11	Depth 1.40 m
Easting 518683.0465		Northing 110893.8045		0.87 m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
301		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silty, rare small and medium sub-rounded stones, friable	0–0.22m



302		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay, very rare small sub-rounded stones, very rare small shell fragments. Soft, likely alluvial, mottled grey	0.22–0.55m
303		Alluvium	Mid yellow grey silty clay, soft occasional patches of degraded red sandstone, very rare shell fragments.	0.55m+

Trench No 4		Length 7.80 m	Width 5.80 m	Depth 0.70 m
Easting 518818.1651		Northing 110979.8723		1.38 m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
401		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clayey silty. Friable, rare small sub-rounded stones	0–0.18m
402		Subsoil / alluvium	Subsoil, likely alluvial. mid yellow brown silty clay, soft, mottled light grey patches, rare patches of degraded red sandstone, very rare seashell fragments	0.18–0.54m
403		Alluvium	Mid yellow grey silty clay, soft, occasional patches of degraded red sandstone, very rare shell fragments	0.54–0.70m+

Trench No 5		Length 6.50 m	Width 3.70 m	Depth 0.67 m
Easting 518793.9095		Northing 110973.2712		1.60 m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
501		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clay silty. Friable, rare small sub-rounded stones	0–0.20m
502		Subsoil / alluvium	Subsoil, likely alluvial. Mid yellow brown silty clay, mottled light grey, rare patches degraded red sandstone, very rare small shell fragments	0.20–0.50m
503		Alluvium	Mid yellow grey silty clay, soft , occasional patches of degraded red sandstone, very rare shell fragments	0.50–0.67m+

Trench No 6		Length 32.00 m	Width 40.20 m	Depth 0.70 m
Easting 518785.2246		Northing 110949.8678		1.50 m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
601		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clay silty, Friable, rare small sub-rounded stones.	0–0.17m
602		Subsoil / alluvium	Subsoil, likely to be alluvial. Mid yellow brown silty clay, soft, very rare shell fragments, rare patches of degraded red sandstone	0.17–0.55m



603		Alluvium	Mid yellow grey silty clay, soft, occasional patches of degraded red sandstone, very rare shell fragments.	0.56–0.70m
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Trench No 7		Length 26 m	Width 10 m	Depth 1.40 m
Easting 518694.5472		Northing 110930.8684		0.96 m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
701		Topsoil	Mid to dark grey brown silty clay, rare sub-rounded stones	0–0.20m
702		Subsoil, likely alluvial	Subsoil, likely to be alluvial. mottled yellow brown silty clay, no inclusions	0.20–0.50m
703		Alluvium	Bright yellow silty clay with occasional patches of degraded red sandstone	0.50–1.00m
704		Alluvium	Mid to light blue grey silty clay, no inclusions.	1.00–1.40m



Appendix 2 OASIS summary

OASIS Summary for wessexar1-529866

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-529866
Project Name	Watching Brief at Bramber Brook
Sitename	Bramber Brook
Sitecode	296370
Project Identifier(s)	296370
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	DC/19/2035
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	21-Aug-2024 - 01-Oct-2024
Location	Bramber Brook NGR : TQ 18744 10944 LL : 50.88579150593954, -0.313268111496609 12 Fig : 518744,110944
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : West Sussex Local Authority District : Horsham Parish : Steyning
Project Methodology	The Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (AMR) was undertaken during works associated with excavation of compensatory habitat ponds. These ponds were excavated in close proximity to Scheduled Monument (1015718) "Group of Salterns". These were fenced off through out the cause of the project and part of the criteria of the AMR was to conduct a condition survey to monitor the adherence to the buffer zones put in place. 4.2.1The works to be monitored during the project comprised the mechanical excavation of 6 new compensatory habitat ponds and a topsoil strip for new bunded walkways around these ponds. 4.2.2The attending archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the specified area. Where necessary, the surfaces of uncovered archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the project aims. 4.2.3Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.
Project Results	A total of 7 trenches were excavated across the site and uncovered a sequence of alluvial deposits subsequently overlain by the modern-day topsoil. Natural features relating to rooting were uncovered within trench 1 along with evidence for the consolidation of a channel bank during the post medieval period. No archaeological remains were found within the trenches dug in close proximity to the Scheduled Monument (1015718) "Group of Salterns" situated roughly in the centre of the site.
Keywords	Sherd - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus

Funder	Private or public corporation Five Rivers Environmental Contracting Ltd
HER	West Sussex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	K Brook
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Horsham Museum & Art Gallery;

Report generated on: 25 Nov 2024, 11:45



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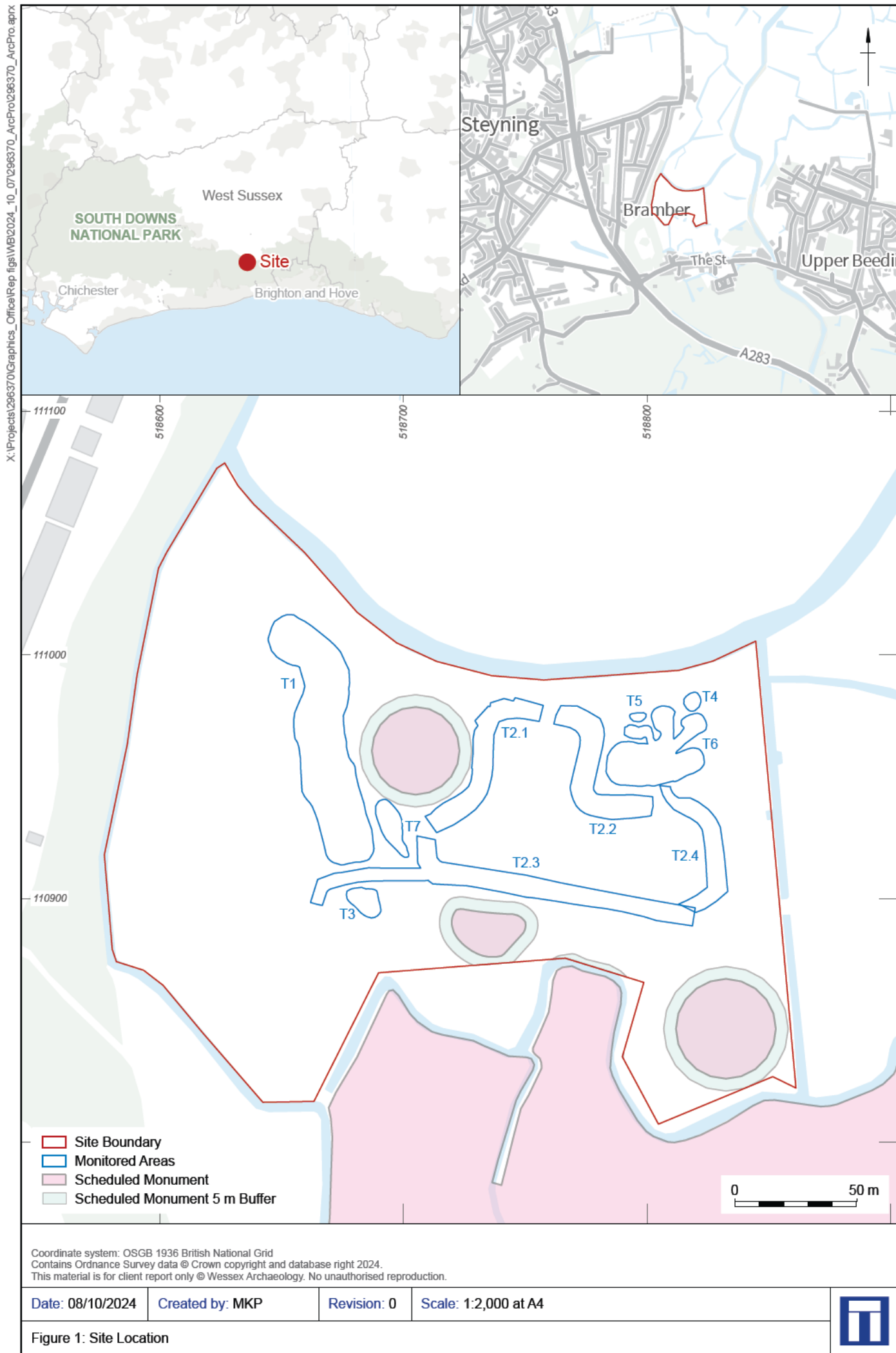
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

www.wessexarch.co.uk

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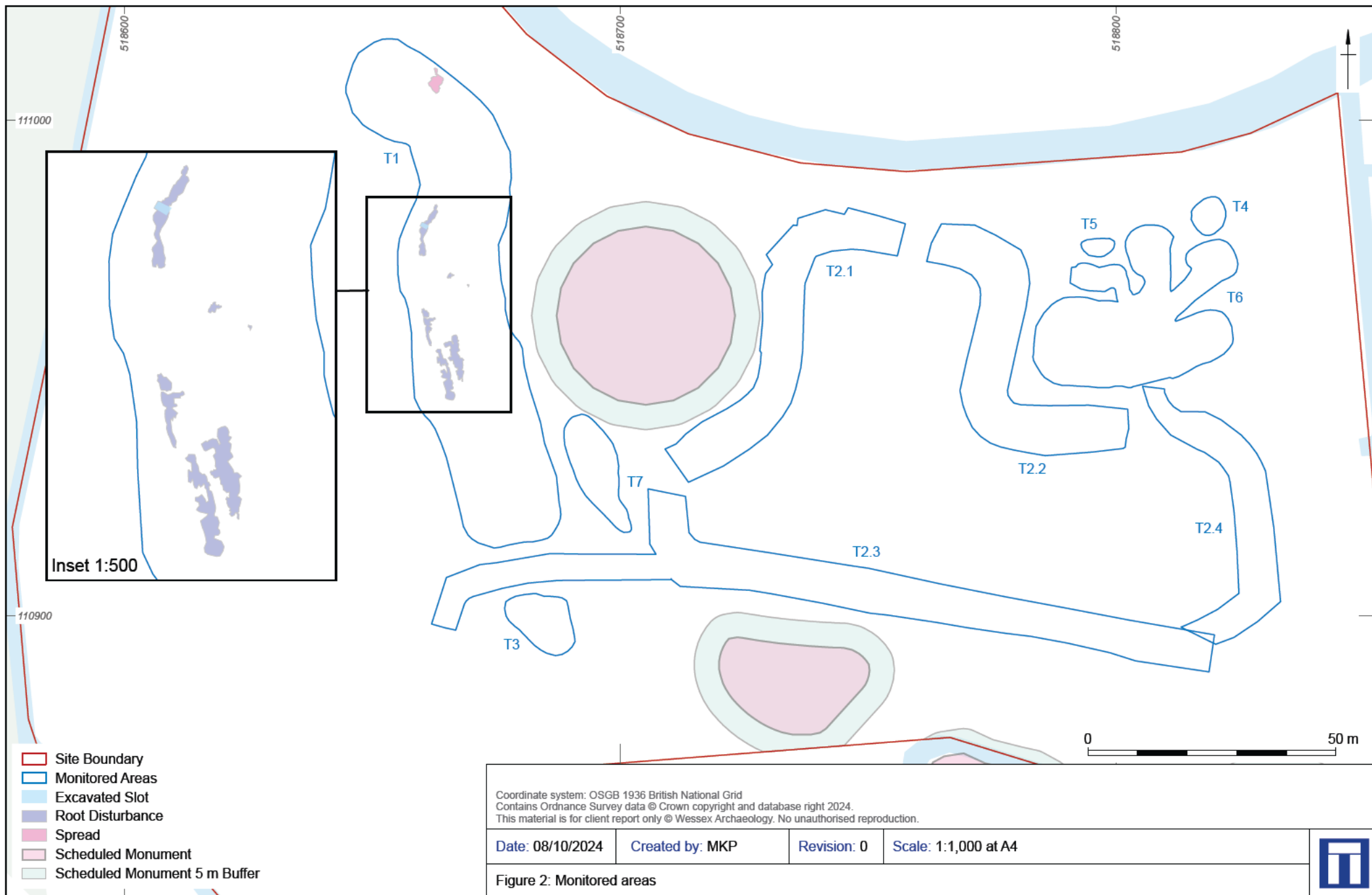




Figure 3: Trench 1, during excavation, 1 x 2 m and 1 x 1 m scale, looking north



Figure 4: Trench 1, completed excavation, looking north



Figure 5: Trench 1, natural features, 2 x 0.5 m scale, looking west



Figure 6: Trench 2, during excavation, 1 x 2 m and 1 x 1 m scale, looking west



Figure 7: Trench 3, 1 x 2 m and 1 x 1 m scale, looking south-west



Figure 8: Trench 4, 1 x 2 m and 1 x 1 m scale, looking north-east



Figure 9: Trench 5, 1 x 2 m and 1 x 1 m, looking south



Figure 10: Trench 6, 1 x 2 m and 1 x 1 m, looking north



Figure 11: Trench 6, 1 x 2 m and 1 x 1 m, looking south



Figure 12: Trench 6, 1 x 2 m and 1 x 1 m, looking east



Figure 13: Trench 7, 1 x 2 m scale, looking north



Figure 14: Trench 7, 1 x 2 m scale, looking south



Figure 15: Trench 7, 1 x 2 m scale, looking east



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