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Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group



# The Wylye Hoard

## Excavation Report



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WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
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## **Treasure Act 1996**

The Wylde Hoard has been declared treasure under the Treasure Act 1996. It is legal requirements of the Treasure Act that the find spot location has to remain secure, which is why the location of the hoard has to be described in the broadest terms with the known as Wylde, and detailed maps cannot be disclosed to the public.

## **Summary**

A Middle Bronze Age (1400-1300 B.C.) ornament hoard, consisting of 41 bronze objects was discovered by Stuart Gullick and Michael Barker of the West London Archaeological Searchers on the Deptford Downs near the village of Wylde, Wiltshire on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2012. The find was reported to David Dawson, Director of the Wiltshire Museum, who went out to record the discovery and liaised with the landowner and the County Archaeologist. An excavation by members of the Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group was undertaken on the 10<sup>th</sup> November to locate more of the hoard, its associated archaeological features and any other artefacts within the immediate vicinity of the site. Three test pits were opened revealing two shallow archaeological features interpreted as the pits that contained the hoard. These archaeological features were subsequently excavated revealing no further in-situ bronze artefacts.

## **Date of Investigations**

The excavation was undertaken on the Deptford Downs, Wylde, Wiltshire, on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012. The work was carried out by The Wiltshire Archaeological Field Group, a part of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.

## **Site Owner**

The Location is owned by Lucy Cassels, who not only gave permission for the archaeological investigation but actively encouraged, excavated, funded and enthusiastically supported the project.

## **Authorship**

This report was written by Jon Sanigar (B.A., M.A.), with a contribution by Robin Holley.

## **Disclaimer**

*This report has been compiled with all reasonable skill, care and attention to detail within the terms of the project design and within the general operating procedures of the Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group and WANHS. No responsibility is accepted whatsoever to third parties to whom this report or any part thereof is made known. Any such party relies upon this report at their own risk.*



## Acknowledgements

The Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group would like to thank Lucy Cassels for access to the site, and for her enthusiasm and assistance during the location and excavation of the hoard.

We would like to thank the West London Archaeological Searchers for their assistance on site and ultimately for locating the hoard itself, and to David Dawson, Director of the Wiltshire Museum for recording the discovery and liaising with the landowner.

We would also like to express our thanks and gratitude to members of the Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group - David Dawson, Brian Clarke, Jan Dando, Steven Froud, Jim Gunter, Stella Maddock and Mike McQueen - who took part in the excavation of the hoard; Richard Henry of the Portable Antiquities Scheme for Wiltshire for his valuable advice; David Dawson, Dan Miles and Jan Dando for their assistance and advice in editing this report; Mike McQueen for producing GIS plans of the test pits and maps; Robin Holley for carrying out the environment sample and writing a report; and Lucy Ellis and Neil Wilkin of the British Museum for their advice, guidance and letting the WAFG to use their published report of the hoard.

We would like to thank flint specialist James Dilley of the University of Southampton for his comments on the flint bladelet. ([www.ancientcraft.co.uk](http://www.ancientcraft.co.uk))



## 1 Location

The Wylde Hoard was discovered to the west of Yarnbury Castle on the Deptford Downs, north-north-east of the village of Wylde, Wiltshire, over-looking the A303, the village of Deptford and the river valley of the River Wylde (Figure 1). Due to the nature of the find, the location has to be described in the broadest terms as a requirement of the Treasure Act 1996.

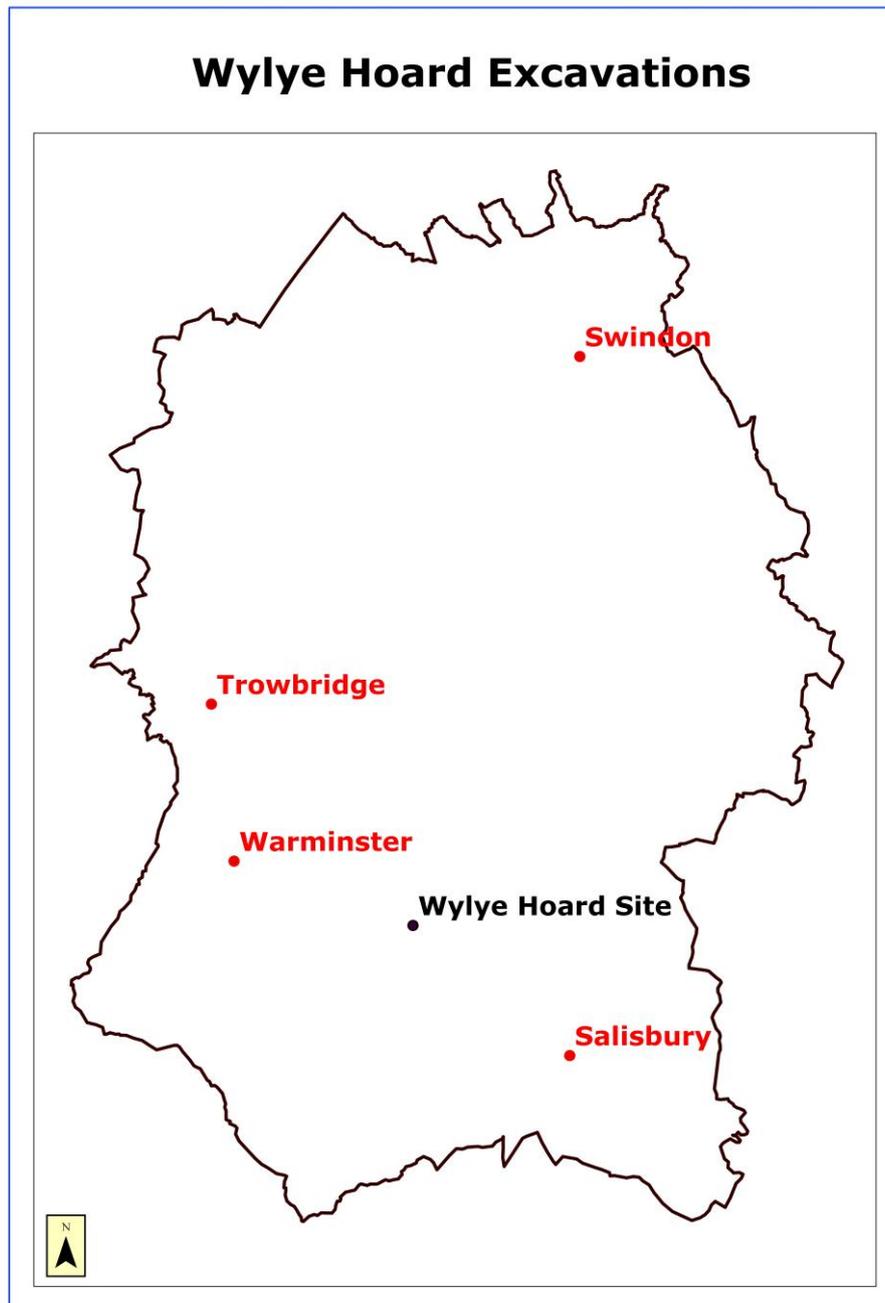


Figure 1. Map of the location of the Wylde Hoard in Wiltshire, England (map courtesy of Mike McQueen 2015; Ordnance Survey 2015).



## 2 Topography and Geology

The landscape and the natural geology of the site is an area that consists of undulating Chalk Downs (Seaford Chalk Formations and Lewes Nodular Chalk) which was observed across the excavation area, and riverine-type valleys with Zig-Zag Chalk Formations (BGS 2013), typical of southern Wiltshire. The site lies at a height of approximately 132 MASL and was used for arable farming. The River Wylde lies approximately 2km to the south.

The overlying soils across the site are from the Upton 1 association which are grey rendzinas. These consist of shallow, well-drained, calcareous, silty soils over chalk (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

## 3 Archaeological and Historical Background

The region in which the Wylde Hoard (approximately 2km radius around the find spot) was discovered is an area abundant in prehistoric archaeology, in particular a number Ancient Scheduled Monuments (Figure 2). In addition, one geophysical survey (Sabin and Donaldson 2013) and one archaeological desk-based assessment by AC Archaeology (Cox 2013) were carried out within the region of the find spot of the hoard.

The region contains a number of archaeological features and monuments, which include field systems and enclosures on Deptford Downs. These include: An oval enclosure (MWI31560); a square enclosure of probable Iron Age in date (MWI31558) (Sabin and Donaldson 2013); an oval enclosure of probable Iron Age in date (MWI31559) (Sabin and Donaldson 2013), linear features which may be field systems (MWI31561) (Sabin and Donaldson 2013); pit features of possible Iron Age in date (MWI31557); a sub-rectangular enclosure of possible Iron Age in date (MWI31556) (Sabin and Donaldson 2013; Wiltshire HER 2016). To the south of the region on lower ground is a circular ditch seen on aerial photographs (MWI6262), and a Bronze Age bowl barrow opened by M.L. Lush in c.1908 who found a primary cremation and an incense cup. The handle of a beaker was also found (MWI6206) (Pugh 1957: 204; Wiltshire HER 2016). In addition to the bowl barrow, two sherds of Grooved Ware and a sherd of Neolithic ware from mound material found during an excavation by M.L. Lush, c.1908 (MWI6137) (Pugh 1957: 204; Wiltshire HER 2016). Further finds to the south of the region include a ring ditch which could be a ploughed-out round barrow (MWI6238), a Mesolithic flint hammer head (MWI6156) and a Romano-British burial, that may be part of a cemetery (MWI6179) (Cunnington and Goddard 1934; Pugh 1957; Wiltshire HER 2016).

The find spot of the hoard is also close to several Scheduled Monuments, Yarnbury Castle (MWI7224), an Iron Age hillfort 1.4km to the east and Codford Circle or Oldbury Camp, an Iron Age oval earthwork (MWI3714), located 3.4km to the west. To the south-east of the site are three Bronze Age bowl barrows (MWI6214, MWI4215 and MWI6216) (Pugh 1957:191). The site has been mapped as being within open agricultural land since the 1887 Ordnance Survey map (Sabin and Donaldson 2013: 2).

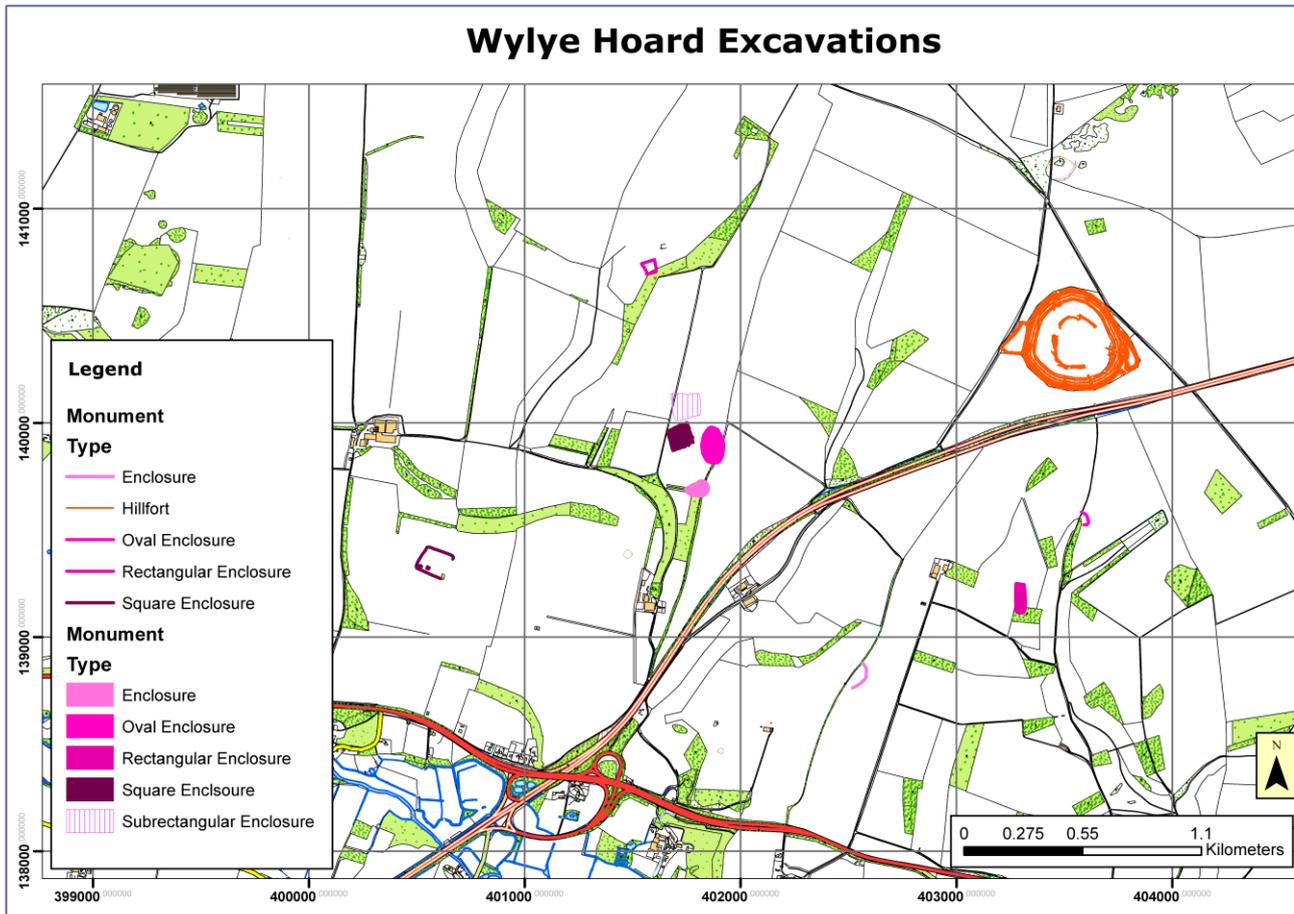


Figure 2. Map of enclosures within the wider region of the Wylde Hoard (Wiltshire and Swindon HLC and under the copyright of Wiltshire Council 2015; Ordnance Survey 2015).

## 4 Aims

The excavation had three aims:

1. To locate more of the Bronze Age hoard and
2. To locate any archaeological features which the hoards were placed into, or associated with.
3. To locate any further metallic objects within the vicinity of the hoard's location with the use of metal-detectors.

There were also two additional aims of trying to ascertain if there was any link between the two archaeological features which contained the hoard, and to assess the archaeological potential of a highly structured deposit or deposits.



## 5 Methodology

The methodology used to locate and excavate the Wylve Hoard came in two stages:

1. The hoard was located by Stuart Gullick and Michael Barker of the West London Archaeological Searchers using metal detectors on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2012. The find was reported to the Wiltshire Museum and the Director, David Dawson, visited the site that day and made an initial record of the site as dusk approached. By this stage the hoard had been removed from the ground.
2. On 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012, members of the West London Archaeological Searchers located the find spot and surveyed the field and located two areas that delivered high readings. Three test pits were dug to investigate the location of the numerous pieces of copper alloy that was uncovered during the metal-detecting survey. Two test pits were opened over the location of the two parts of the hoard discovered the week before the 10<sup>th</sup> November. A third test pit was opened over an area that had a high iron reading located on the day of excavation.

The excavation was carried out using handheld tools such as spades, shovels, trowels and hand shovels because of the delicate nature of the artefacts found, and the potential significance and importance of surviving *in-situ* archaeological features and deposits. A machine/heavy plant was not readily available, but due to the nature of the find it was decided that hand tools were to be used.

The three test pits and their archaeological features were recorded with context sheets, plans of the excavated pits on permatrace, and all contexts and fully excavated archaeological features were photographed using a Digital SLR camera. The position of the test pits was surveyed using a handheld GPS.

Any archaeological features discovered with surviving contexts within them were excavated and placed into bags as an environmental sample. These were processed at a microscopic level to extract detailed information of those contexts, for example small fragments of copper alloy.

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidelines for Archaeological Excavation 2008* and WAFG standard operating procedures.

## 6 Results

The excavation of the Wylve Hoard was carried out by opening three test pits within close proximity to one another: Test pit A at 1.5m x 1.5m, Test pit B at 2m x 1.5m, and Test pit C at 1m x 1m (Figure 3). At the beginning of the excavation, test pits A and B were opened above where the hoard was located by metal-detectorists. It was later decided that a third smaller test pit, test pit C, was to be opened above a strong metallic signal approximately 1.5m from the hoard's discovery. These test pits were stripped and excavated down to the natural chalk with the use of heavy tools, with the aim of exposing any associated archaeological features that could have contained the Bronze Age



artefacts. Two small shallow pits were located, interpreted as the base of pits within which the artefacts were buried. The ploughsoil was c.0.30m in depth, and this was visible across the whole of the site.

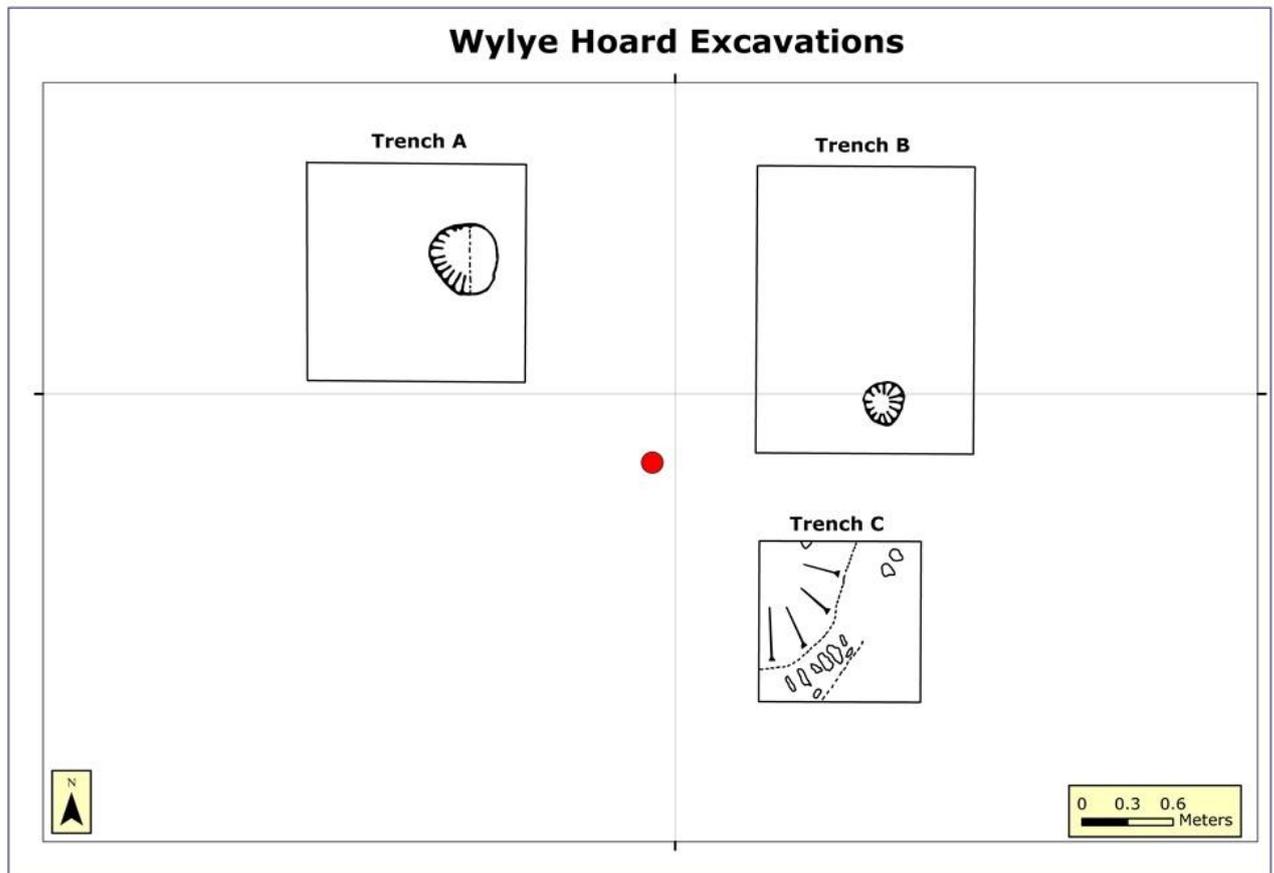
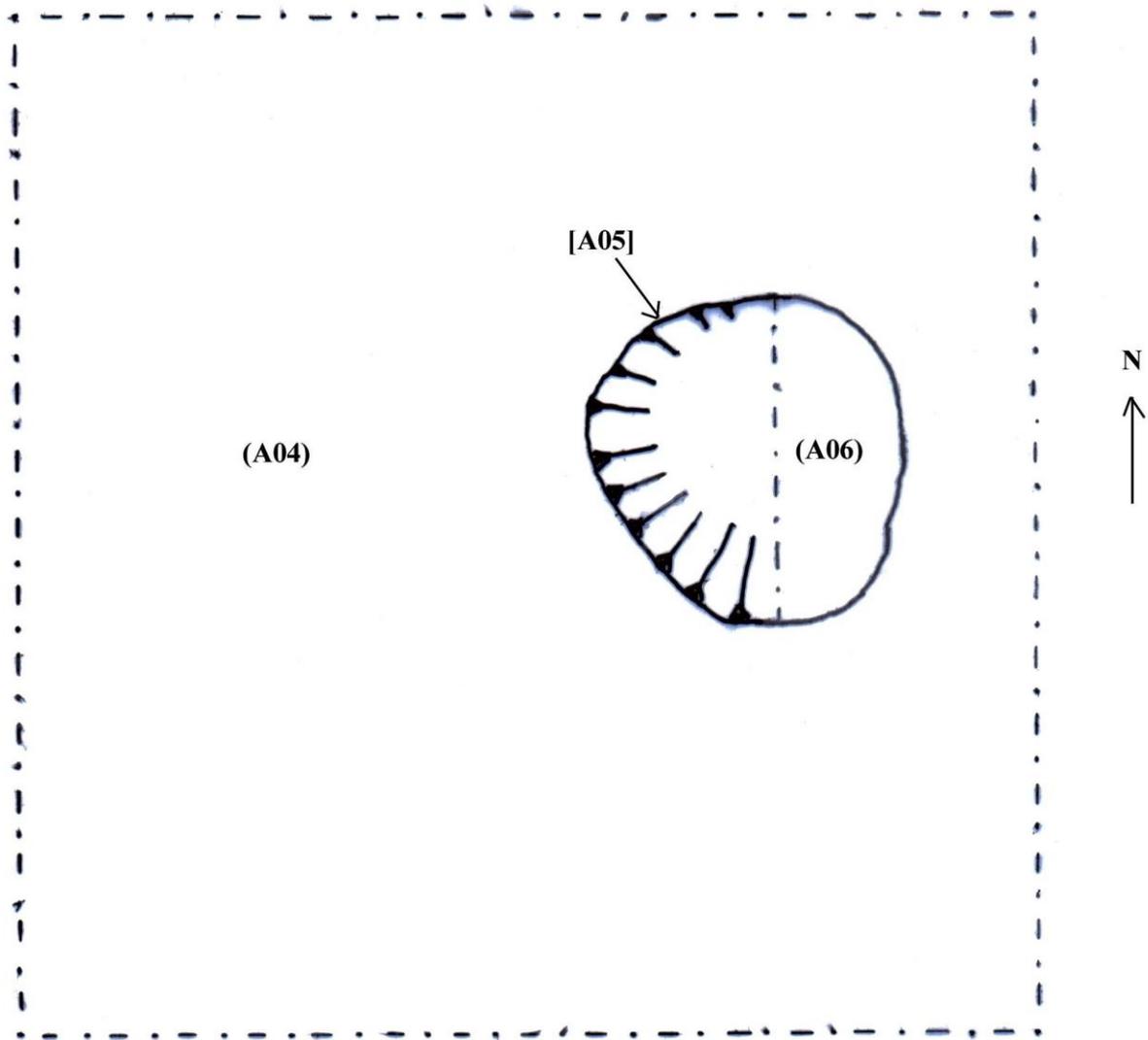


Figure 3. Plan of all three test pits excavated (plan courtesy of Mike McQueen 2015; Ordnance Survey 2015).

## 6.1 Test Pit A

Test pit A was opened above where part of the Wylde Hoard was located, measuring 1.5m x1.5m and was a maximum depth of c. 0.3m in depth (Figures 4, 5 and 6). Across the whole site there were four main contexts which are represented in test pit A; The ploughsoil (A01), subsoil (A02), peagrit/degraded chalk (A03) and the chalk bedrock (A04). Three contexts (A01, 02 and 03) were not cut or truncated by any other archaeological context, nor were any artefacts present in any of the contexts; however the natural chalk was cut by a circular pit [A05].



**CONTEXTS**

**A04 = Chalk bedrock**

**A05 = Cut of pit**

**A06 = Fill of pit**

0.5 metres

Figure 4. Plan of Test Pit A.



Figure 5. Excavation of test pit A revealing pit [A05].

### 6.1.1 Pit [A05]

The cut of the archaeological feature is 0.5m x 0.43m in length and width, with a depth of 0.09m, and can be interpreted as a shallow sub-circular pit, with moderate (approximate 45° slope) concave sides and a concave base. The fill of this feature comprised of a loose mixture of clayish silt with sparse chalk inclusions (A06) from the above contexts, caused by the earlier removal of in-situ artefacts and a mixture of subsoil and ploughsoil falling inwards to fill the feature. This feature included a small fragment of copper alloy (2mm x 2mm), and a larger fragment of copper alloy (8mm x 8mm) located in the upper part of the fill. This fragment was found with the assistance of a handheld metal detecting probe from a member of the West London Archaeological Searchers. No further artefacts were contained in this feature.

These fragments of copper alloy are a clear indicator that this feature once contained a part of the Middle Bronze Age hoard. Similarly to pit [B05], pit [A05] did not reveal any in-situ deposits within. There may have been sealed deposits within the feature; however they could have been lost when the hoard was discovered prior to archaeological excavation. It was not possible to retrieve the soil in order to take a sample as it had been spread across the site once the hoard was removed; nor was fill (A06) sampled as this comprised of a loose mixture of ploughsoil and subsoil.



Figure 6. Photograph of test pit A with pit [A05] fully excavated.



Figure 7. West facing section of pit [A06] in test pit A.



## 6.2 Test Pit B

Test pit B was opened above where another part of the Wylde Hoard was located, measuring 1.5m by 2m and was a maximum depth of c.0.28m in depth (Figures 7, 8 and 9). Within test pit B were contexts that are represented across the whole site; the ploughsoil (B01), subsoil (B02), peagrut/degraded chalk (B03) and the chalk bedrock (B04). The three contexts above the natural bedrock were not cut or truncated by any visible archaeological feature, nor were there any artefacts present in any of the contexts mentioned. However, the natural chalk (B04) revealed a feature [B05] that can be interpreted as the remains of the base of a pit.

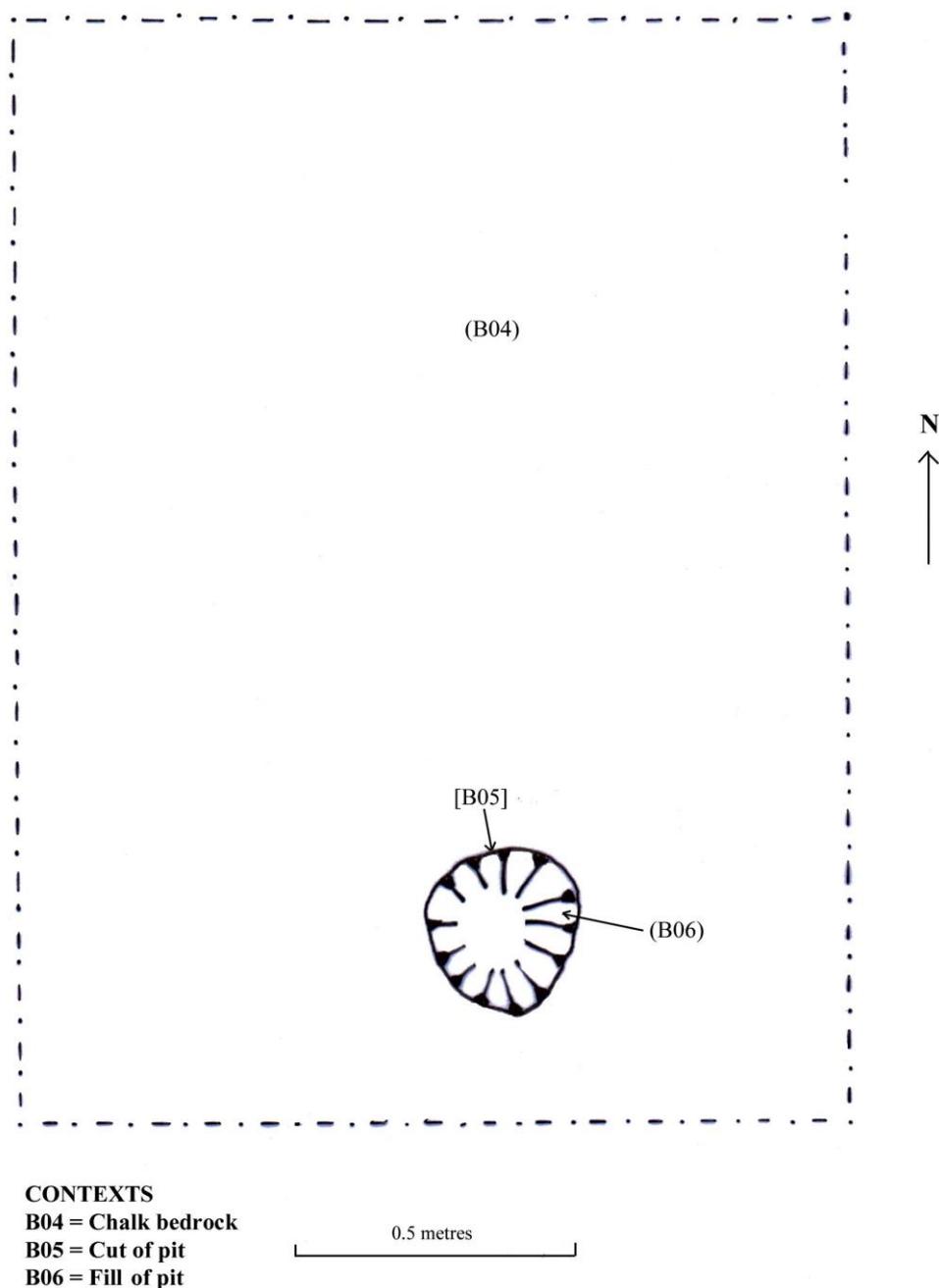


Figure 8. Plan of Test Pit B.



Figure 9. Excavation of pit [B05] with test pit C in the background.

### 6.2.1 Pit [B05]

The cut of pit [B05] is c. 0.29m in width, with a depth of c.0.1m, very similar to pit [A05]. This feature is all that remains of a sub-circular pit with shallow (less than 45°) concave sides and a concave base, that once contained the other half of the Bronze Age hoard. The fill of this feature comprised of a very loose mixture of clayish-silt with chalk inclusions from the above contexts caused by the removal of artefacts prior to archaeological investigation, and a mixture of subsoil and ploughsoil falling inwards to fill the feature. However, a small amount of in-situ fill did survive (B06), located within the north-west part of the pit. The fill was greyish in colour and had a slight texture of ash, but this fill may have also been disturbed by the removal of the hoard. This context contained sparse



charcoal fragments, which was taken as an environmental sample which recovered one worked flint flake, four fragments of copper alloy, the smallest being 3mm in size, and a larger fragment of copper alloy 1.4cm by 1.1cm and 1mm in thickness. This ash-like context can be interpreted as an in-situ deposit situated at the bottom of the feature, therefore underneath part of the Bronze Age hoard.



Figure 10. Photograph of Test Pit B.



Figure 11. West facing shot of test pit B with pit [B05] fully excavated. Note a lighter shade of grey in the feature where a layer of ash like clay with bits of charcoal was found.

### 6.3 Test Pit C

Test pit C was opened above where metal-detectorists were picking up a very high metallic signal. The test pit measured 1m x 1m and was an approximate depth of c. 0.31m. Within test pit C were contexts that are represented across the whole site; the ploughsoil (C01), subsoil (C02), peagrut/degraded chalk (C03) and the chalk bedrock (C04). These four contexts were not cut or truncated by any visible archaeological feature. The high signal located prior to the excavation of test pit C was identified as a large 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century iron nail/bolt within the ploughsoil (C01). Test pit C concluded with no further archaeological features.



Figure 12. North facing shot of test pit C.

## 7 Finds

### 7.1 The Hoard

The 41 copper alloy objects of the hoard were located and removed from their in-situ contexts prior to archaeological investigation. The Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group did not locate any further artefacts from the two pits during the course of the excavation. Although pit [A05] did reveal two small fragments of copper alloy, and within pit [B05] one worked flint flake and four fragments of copper alloy. The hoard itself underwent post-excavation analysis, and a full catalogue has been produced by Lucy Ellis of the British Museum (Ellis 2013), and can be accessed on the Portable Antiquity Scheme website: (<https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/538672>).



Figure 13. The hoard immediately after it had been discovered by the West London Archaeological Searchers. (Photo: David Dawson, copyright Wiltshire Museum).

## 7.2 Flint

A single flint blade was located in the environmental sample of context B06. The shape may suggest that it is Mesolithic in date (Dilley 2013 pers comm) and is therefore residual (Figure 13). The lack of patina on the distal end suggests that it may have been damaged in the relatively recent past, perhaps through plough damage. This may suggest that (B06) was contaminated during the discovery and removal of the hoard.



Figure 14. Mesolithic flint bladelet from pit [B05] found within the environmental sample of context (B06).

## 8 Environmental Sample, *by Robin Holley*

Environmental sample WH12, context (B06).

### 8.1 Introduction

One bag of soil was handed to the author to process and if possible to extract and to identify and environmental material in this sample.

This sample was taken from lower stratified horizon and subjected to environmental analysis. Specifically the sample was scanned for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains, charcoal, shell, small animal and fish bones.

### 8.2 Methodology

One sample was extracted from a deposit from one of the pits on the site in order to analyse the potential for charred remains. This sample was processed by standard flotation methods, the float retained on a 0.25mm (250micron sieve) mesh.

All the samples were then wet sieved to the following fractions 5mm, 2mm and 0.5mm and dried. The coarse fractions were sorted into type and bagged separately.

The flots were scanned under an x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscopes and the presence of charred remains examined.



### 8.3 Charred Plant Remains

Assessment of the material from the flotation process showed that it contained amounts of charred plant remains.

Findings consisted of a mixed deposit of charred macrofossils also present were fragments of unidentifiable charcoal, bark, and monocotyledon root material.

### 8.4 Residue

From the residue there were pieces of flint, one showing signs of flakes being struck off, four tiny fragments of Copper Alloy and a circular Copper Alloy object.

### 8.5 Summary

The samples were of some bio-archaeological interest. The small amount of charred material recovered indicates that there is potential for the preservation of larger amounts of larger bio-archaeological remains on this site.

Whether these are the remains of a woven basket or bag which the copper alloy objects were carried is problematic and not proven.

## 9 Interpretation

The archaeological evidence suggests that the hoard comprised of two individual hoards, each deposited within a small pit. The two pits were located approximately 2.1m from each other and are very shallow. The depth of the ploughsoil suggests that the objects must have been tightly packed within the features. It would seem that the field had been subject to shallow ploughing.

The hoard was placed within the two pits as two deposits, and it was noted that there was some form of structure to the deposits by the metal-detectorists when the hoard was found. The detectorist explained this in a recording made by David Dawson at the time of the discovery, and is recorded in the catalogue produced by the British Museum. The first deposit appears to have been a closed deposit, with the finders noting that the torcs were 'stacked' on top of one another within the pit (verbal communication recording). The second deposit is likely to have been disturbed by agricultural operations as the objects were dispersed across a small area (Ellis 2013).

Within one of the pits - [B05] – the remains of an in-situ deposit (B06) was recovered and environmentally sampled. This revealed a small amount of charred material. It is possible that this could be the remains of a woven basket or bag into which part of the hoard was placed cannot be proven. There was no evidence of a fire or intense burning within any of the pits, or burnt flint as a result of a fire, nor were there any visible remains of burnt material in pit [A05]. Therefore, the evidence suggests that one part of the hoard at least had been placed with burnt material. A flint bladelet was also found within context (B06), but may have been residual in the pit and fill when the hoard was removed, and can therefore not be associated with the hoard itself.



## 10 Discussion

This discussion will focus on the Wylde Hoard's wider contextual interpretation, for example its situation within its landscape context and its relation to the south coast of England. The bronze objects alone are only part of the story – the place of burial is equally worthy of consideration (Barber 2003: 60).

It is argued by Roberts that Bronze Age ornament hoards appear to have an “overwhelmingly coastal distribution” (Roberts 2007: 9), and that “even those (ornament hoards) further inland are generally located close to major navigable rivers” (Roberts 2007: 9). The Wylde hoard is located 2km (1.2 miles) north of the River Wylde, which flows to the River Nadder, into the Salisbury River Avon, and into Christchurch Harbour, Dorset, a major prehistoric harbour where trade and exchange with mainland Europe occurred frequently in prehistoric southern England. The Christchurch area was densely occupied in the third and second millennia (Cunliffe 1978: 25), and into the Iron Age. In addition, there was a settlement site at Hengistbury Head over-looking Christchurch Harbour, and all the major occupations of this site took place in periods of close relations with the continent, during the Early Bronze Age and the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition (Bradley 1984: 146). Christchurch Harbour was not the only natural harbour ideal for domestic and cross-Channel trade and exchange along the Dorset coast. Poole Harbour is located to the west of Christchurch Harbour, and appears to have been an important destination for prehistoric journeys and a terminus of prehistoric cross-Channel routes (Wilkes 2007: 124). Therefore, the location of hoard is near a navigable watercourse that flows towards the Dorset coastline. Unlike the recently discovered 'Near Lewes' hoard (2011 T192), which combined 'insular' and rare Continental objects and practices, the Wylde hoard was primarily composed of finds that are local and common in southern England (*e.g.* the quoit headed pin and spiral twisted ornaments). The hoard does, however, reflect inter-regional connections and/or trade within Southern England (Ellis 2013). The Dorset coastline with its natural harbours and access inland via rivers to the Wylde region makes this a likely place for bronze objects to have been traded and exchanged and carried inland up-river. Therefore, archaeological evidence suggests that the depositional act of the Wylde Hoard would have been in an area where the local inhabitants would have had access to the southern coast of England by means of water-transport, but this theory by no means rules out the transport of bronze items over land.

The hoard report composed by the British Museum (Ellis 2013) states that the combination of ornaments, tools and other elements and metalworking waste in the Wylde hoard is comparable to other large and 'complex' ornament hoards from Southern Britain (Rowlands 1976, 99-114; *cf.* Roberts 2007, 147-8; Ellis 2013). The overall composition of the ornaments within the Wylde hoard is generally typical of 'Ornament Horizon' hoards: dominated by armrings and bracelets (*c.*58%), with a considerable proportion of torcs (29%), and rings (*c.*10%), and pins (3%) occurring in smaller numbers (*cf.* Roberts 2007, 139; Ellis 2013). However, the variety of particular ornament types contained within the Wylde hoard is notable. Although the fragmentary nature of some objects makes comparison of hoard size (and quality) difficult, the *c.*29 ornaments from the Wylde hoard makes it one of the largest 'complex' hoards discovered, comparable to Taunton Union Workhouse, Somerset (*c.*33 ornaments) and the recently discovered 'near Lewes' hoard (*c.*28 ornaments). The overall size of the hoard (including 'tools' and 'other/unidentified' objects) is also comparable: 43 compared to *c.*51 and *c.*53 objects respectively. In terms of composition, the closest parallels among



the large, 'complex' hoards are from Somerset (the Monkswold Hoard and the Taunton Workhouse Hoard) and Norfolk (the Barton Bendish hoard). Five of the six ornament types found in the Monkswold hoard, four of the five ornament types in the Taunton hoard, and five of the five ornament types found in the Barton Bendish hoard are paralleled in the Wylde hoard. All four of these comparable 'complex' hoards combine ornaments and tools (Ellis 2013).

There is one example of a Bronze Age hoard being deposited in a similar location in Wiltshire, and that is the Manton Copse hoard, Preshute (Lawson *et al* 2011). This hoard was situated with far reaching views across the valley and the Marlborough Downs beyond are gained from the ridge, but in the area of the find the views to the south are more restricted by the undulating topography (Lawson *et al* 2011: 31). The situation of the Manton Copse hoard is similar to that of the Wylde Hoard, on a ridge facing south with restricted views of the downs on the other side of the valley; therefore the people who deposited these hoards may be following a distinct set of depositional practices.

The presence of burnt or carbonised material and four small fragments of copper-allow within a lighter ash-like layer (B06) at the bottom of pit [B05] in test pit B, may suggest that the bronze objects were placed with either the remains of a metal-casting process, a ceremony associated with the nature of the deposits, or the remains of a woven basket. There are a few fragments of possible casting waste identified in the hoard report, object number 25 (Ellis. 2013). There are known examples of hoards contained within organic containers, for example two hoards found at Petter's Sports Field, Runnymede, Surrey (Needham 1990a). These were broadly similar in content and appear to have been buried one on top of the other, underlining the possibility of such containers being used (Barber 1990: 54). On the other hand, to find ash-like deposits within a pit with a hoard is by no means an isolated incident. For example, the Manton Copse 1 hoard when it was first located in 1914, seven whole and two broken socketed axes were found lying together with ashes (Goddard 1917: 478; Lawson *et al* 2011: 35).

The archaeological evidence raises the question of which deposit came first? There is little chance of ascertaining the absolute length of time between the two acts of deposition, but because both pits were dug just a couple of metres from each other, it may have been just days or months after one part of the hoard was deposited. The hoard report does not state individual object dates, but places the hoard to the earlier centuries of the Middle Bronze Age, c.1400-1250 BC (Ellis 2013). This raises a second question, was there something in the immediate landscape to indicate where the first part of the hoard was placed, perhaps a prominent tree or a marker post? Therefore, further archaeological investigation of the find spot and surrounding landscape is recommended, as there are four enclosures positioned close to one another located on the magnetometer survey that might be associated with the hoard (Sabin and Donaldson 2013).

## 11 Conclusion

The Wylde Hoard can be considered as a very dynamic and diverse ornament hoard within the county of Wiltshire, consisting of two small hoards placed very close together in small shallow pits approximately 2.1m from each other. The hoard's overall landscape context suggests the bronze



objects and the people who deposited them may have had links with Christchurch Harbour due to its close proximity to the River Wylde, as the hoard reflects inter-regional connections and/or trade within Southern England (Ellis 2013). In addition, the hoard is set within a prehistoric landscape surrounded by Bronze Age round barrows, field systems and enclosures, which were located in a recent geophysical survey (Sabin and Donaldson 2013), therefore the hoard is possibly located within close proximity to a number of settlements; however further archaeological investigation needs to be carried out in order to confirm the dating of these enclosures. There may be a possible 'ritual' action as one part of the hoard was placed along with a small amount of burnt material, which could be the remains of a casting process or a burnt woven container. What is interesting is that the two deposits of bronze objects were placed within two pits very close to each other, suggesting that the hoard as a whole was deposited quickly in two depository actions. However, which part of the hoard was deposited first and the other second requires further investigation. Either there was a marker in the landscape to indicate the first deposit, or the person or persons who deposited the first part of the hoard returned not long after and knew the exact location in order to deposit the second part of the hoard.

## 12 Archive Location

All archive material (the hoard, artefacts, soil sample residues, paper archive, a hard copy of this report, a digital copy of this report and a digital copy on two CDs of the photographs, interview recordings with the metal-detectorists and associated paperwork) will be deposited with the Salisbury Museum, Salisbury, Wiltshire. A digital copy of this report will be deposited at the Wiltshire Museum, Wiltshire's Historic Environment Record and on the OASIS Portal.

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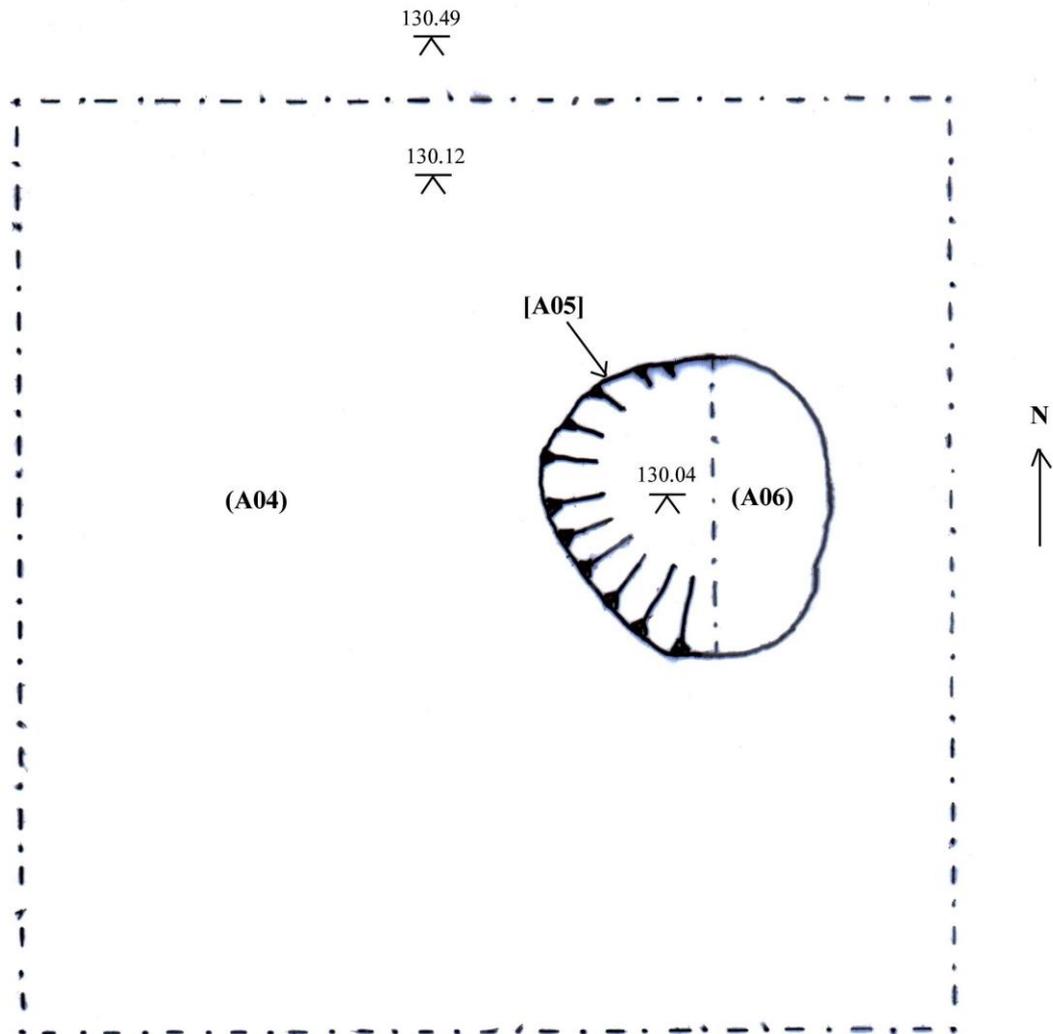
Wiltshire HER -

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/artsheritageandlibraries/museumhistoryheritage/wiltshireandswindonhistoricenvironmentrecord/wshermmap.htm> (Accessed 17/01/2016)



## 14 Appendix 1 – Graphics with Levels

**WYLYE HALL**  
**WH12**  
**Trench A**  
**Scale 1:10**  
**S Froud**  
**10.11.12**



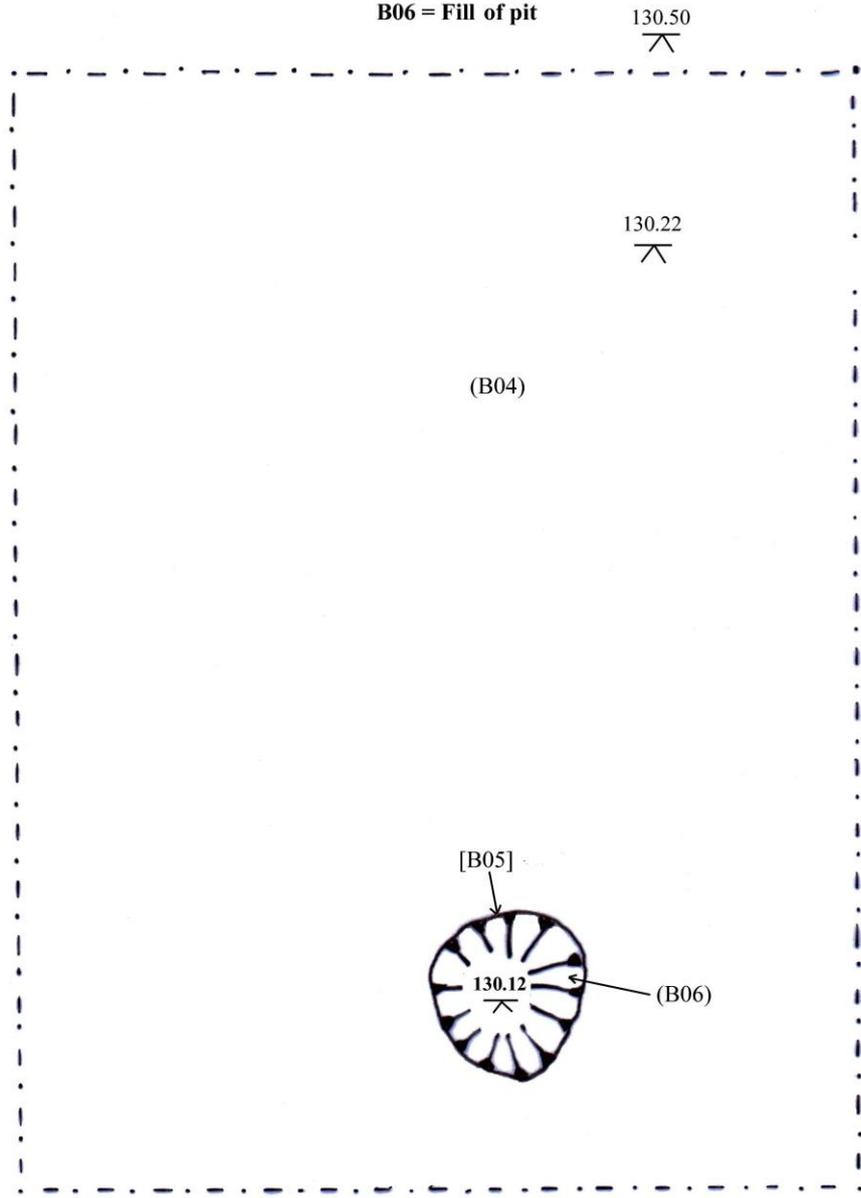
### CONTEXTS

- A04 = Chalk bedrock
- A05 = Cut of pit
- A06 = Fill of pit



**WYLYE HALL, WH12**  
**Trench B, Scale 1:10**  
**J Sanigar, 10.11.12**

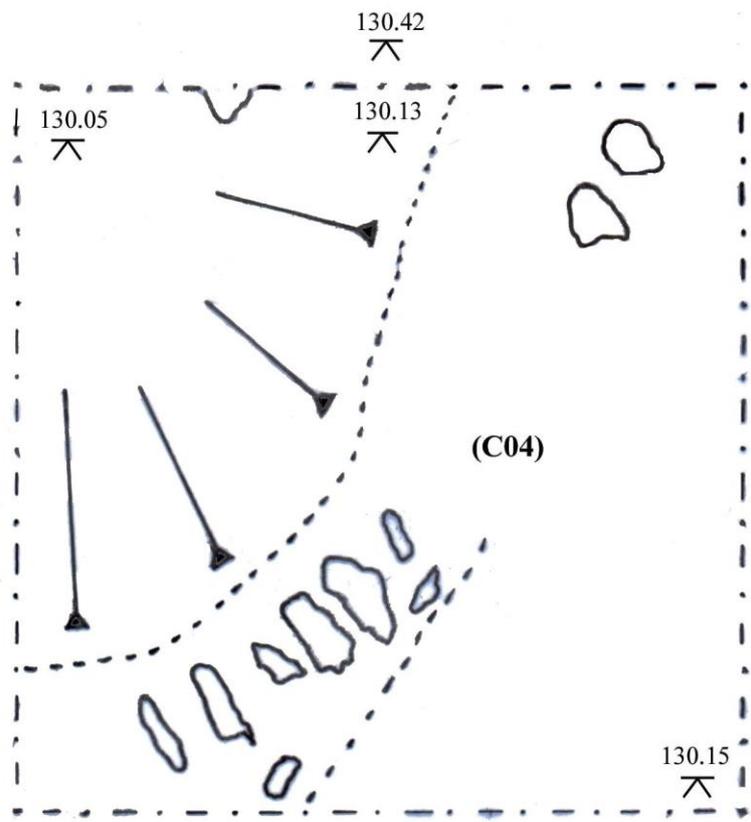
**CONTEXTS**  
B04 = Chalk bedrock  
B05 = Cut of pit  
B06 = Fill of pit



0.5 metres



**WYLYE HALL**  
**WH12**  
**Trench C**  
**Scale 1:10**  
**M McQueen**  
**10.11.12**



0.5 metres

**CONTEXTS**

**C04 = Chalk bedrock**



## 15 Appendix 2 – Trench Tables

Test Pit A		Trench Dimensions: 1.5m x 1.5 x 0.3m		Ground Level: 130.49m	
Context	Feature/Deposit Type	Description	Dimensions (m)	Depth Below Surface (m)	
A01	Layer	Ploughsoil of a dark brown silty clay texture with flint inclusions	1.5m x 1.5m	0m – 0.15m	
A02	Layer	Subsoil of a dark brown silty clay texture with flint and chalk inclusions.	1.5m x 1.5m	0.15m – 0.27m	
A03	Layer	Thin layer of degraded chalk/peagrit overlying the natural.	1.5m x 1.5m	0.27m – 0.30m	
A04	Layer	Natural chalk bedrock of an off-white colour.	1.5m x 1.5m	0.30m +	
A05	Cut of Pit	Cut of sub-circular pit with gentle sloping sides and a concave base.	0.50m x 0.43m x 0.09m	0.30m – 0.39m	
A06	Primary Fill	Primary fill of pit A05 of a brown silty clay texture and a loose compaction that once contained the hoard.	0.50m x 0.43m x 0.09m	0.30m – 0.39m	
<b>Comments:</b>		Test pit opened to locate further in-situ artefacts associated with Wylde Hoard and any archaeological features which contained those artefacts.			

Test Pit B		Trench Dimensions: 2m x 1.5m x 0.28m		Ground Level: 130.50m	
Context	Feature/Deposit Type	Description	Dimensions (m)	Depth Below Surface (m)	
B01	Layer	Ploughsoil of a dark brown silty clay texture with flint inclusions.	2m x 1.5m	0m – 0.21m	
B02	Layer	Subsoil of a dark brown silty clay texture with flint and chalk inclusions.	2m x 1.5m	0.21m – 0.26m	
B03	Layer	Thin layer of degraded chalk/peagrit overlying the natural.	2m x 1.5m	0.27m - 0.28m	
B04	Layer	Natural chalk bedrock of an off-white colour.	2m x 1.5m	0.28m +	
B05	Cut of Pit	Cut of sub-circular pit with gentle sides and an irregular base that once contained part of the	0.29m x 0.10m	0.28m – 0.38m	



		hoard.		
B06	Deliberate Fill	Primary fill of pit B05 of greyish silty clay that contained fragments of charcoal and part of the hoard.	0.29m x 0.30m x 0.10m	0.28m – 0.38m
<b>Comments:</b>	Test pit opened to locate further in-situ artefacts associated with Wylfe Hoard and any archaeological features which contained those artefacts.			

Test Pit C	Trench Dimensions: 1m x 1m x 0.31m		Ground Level: 130.42m	
Context	Feature/Deposit Type	Description	Dimensions (m)	Depth Below Surface (m)
C01	Layer	Ploughsoil of a dark brown silty clay texture with flint inclusions.	1m x 1m	0m – 0.21m
C02	Layer	Subsoil of a dark brown silty clay texture with flint and chalk inclusions.	1m x 1m	0.21m x 0.30m
C03	Layer	Thin layer of degraded chalk/peagrit overlying the natural.	1m x 1m	0.30m – 0.31m
C04	Layer	Natural chalk bedrock of an off-white colour.	1m x 1m	0.31m +
<b>Comments:</b>	Test pit opened to locate a high metallic reading detected by metal detectorists.			