

**Park Farm Barrow, Beaulieu,
New Forest National Park**

**Archaeological Excavation of Possible Barrow
Written Scheme of Investigation**

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Written Scheme of Investigation

Prepared on behalf of:
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 Bournemouth University's Archaeology Consultancy (BUARC), has been appointed by New Forest National Park Authority to coordinate the excavation of a possible Bronze Age barrow site at Park Farm near Beaulieu (the 'Site'). The barrow is a 'ploughed out' feature that presents as a distinct cropmark in aerial photography. The site has not been previously investigated and has not been intrusively archaeologically investigated prior to this project as far as can be ascertained from available evidence and records. The results of the project have the potential to contribute towards answering questions posed in the 2017 New Forest Neolithic and Bronze Age Research Agenda.
- 1.1.2 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) documents the methodology and aims and objectives of the project and sets out the programme of works. The WSI has been approved by the New Forest National Park Authority Archaeologist and has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (ClfA, 2014) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England, 2015).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Site Location and Description

- 2.1.1 The Site is located at NGR SZ 39580 97615, towards the north east corner of an approximately 9ha sized flat arable field, to the south of and accessed from St Leonards Cottages. The site is within the New Forest National Park and part of the Beaulieu Estate. Park Farm on and is currently managed by tenant farmer, Arthur Rolf.
- 2.1.2 In this location the underlying geology can be expected to be Quaternary period sand and gravel river terrace deposits (BGS 2011).

2.2 Historical and Archaeological background

- 2.2.1 Park Farm is within the Beaulieu Estate which has been an entity since King John granted land to the Cistercian monks who founded Beaulieu Abbey in 1204.
- 2.2.2 Hampshire Historic Environment Record (HER) records the site as a probable barrow (ref:63617) and one of over 400 similar features, preserved in varying states of condition within the New Forest. Other cropmarks in the vicinity of the site attest to further potential Bronze Age activity. A square shaped enclosure in an adjacent field was targeted by trial trenches in 2013 and appears to date to the Roman period or later (Bournemouth Archaeology 2013). Despite the investigation the function of this feature remains enigmatic. Before the investigation and based upon the form of the cropmarks it was suggested that the feature might be a Roman temple and until further evidence to the contrary is presented, this is still a valid interpretation.
- 2.2.3 During WW2 numerous parts of the New Forest including land within the Beaulieu Estate were requisitioned by the War office for various purposes. At this time farmland at Park Farm was converted to an advance landing ground, named 'Needs Oar Point'. As a defensive measure the airfield was equipped with a battery of anti-aircraft guns that were manned by the Royal Artillery. The battery was located in the field to the immediate east of the site although there is no above ground evidence of it as was demolished by bulldozer at the end of the war. The battery site was investigated by trial trenches in 2013 at the same time as the square shaped enclosure and concluded that sub-terranean aspects of the facility are preserved in an excellent state of preservation (Bournemouth Archaeology 2013).
- 2.2.4 A magnetometer survey of the site was conducted in May 2018 by NFNPA volunteers and this identified a circular anomaly, roughly 18m in diameter which corresponds with cropmarks visible on modern aerial imagery. Historic mapping shows the barrow location bisected by a former field boundary and this feature can also be seen as a double ditched boundary in aerial imagery and the results of the geophysical survey.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 This project has been established to seeking a better understanding of the potential barrow at Park Farm to inform wider research agenda relating to monuments of this type within the New Forest with the secondary objectives of providing a hands on educational experience for volunteers engaged in NFNPA heritage programmes.
- 3.1.2 The general aims of the project as documented in the NFNPA project scheme of investigation (NFNPA 2018) can be summarised as follows:
- Confirm the presence of a barrow monument at Park Farm.
 - Provide training and instruction in archaeological excavation and survey to volunteers.
 - Produce an archaeological archive of the fieldwork undertaken.
 - Produce an archaeological report for dissemination of project results.

4 RESEARCH AGENDA

- 4.1.1 Current understanding of the typology and classification of barrows in the New Forest is minimal as relatively few have been excavated and scientifically dating such sites has been difficult. It is envisaged that this project will form part of the driving force in furthering the understanding of these monuments in the New Forest (NFNPA, 2017).
- 4.1.2 The overarching aim of the project is to establish a greater understanding of the site in question which will contribute to 'a wider understanding of changing land-use in the New Forest' (NFNPA, 2017, p. 6).
- 4.1.3 It is envisaged that the results of this excavation will significantly contribute to a review of such monuments in the landscape, alongside results of the LiDAR surveys in understanding barrow groups, distributions, forms, finds, locations, and geologies, and provide information to further gain interpretations of these monuments from a territorial and political perspective.
- 4.1.4 In respect of the type of monument, its current condition and location within an agricultural setting specific research aims for the excavation might include:
- Investigating whether evidence of a buried ground surface can be seen within the soil profile enclosed within the ring ditch, where a mound would have formerly existed. What palaeoenvironmental information can be learned from these deposits, if present.
 - What is the character of the ring ditch? Is the shape of its profile consistent or variable along its length? Is it a multi-phase feature?
 - Does evidence of the barrow's primary, central burial still exist? Is this threatened by modern agricultural practices and should it be lifted to ensure long term preservation.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 The fieldwork aspect of the project will involve excavation and geophysics, both of which will be largely undertaken by NFNPA volunteers supervised by BUARC and NFNPA staff. Methodology will be discussed by key stakeholders and agreed prior to the project commencing and during the project.
- 5.1.2 The New Forest National Park Authority has allocated the site code PF2018 to the project and this will be used on all records.
- 5.1.3 BUARC will provide all excavation and survey equipment and tools, including all *pro forma* and photographic equipment. Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own equipment and tools if they so wish.

5.2 Excavation

- 5.2.1 The excavation strategy will be devised to get the most amount of information using available resources

within the allotted timescale (1 week), Tuesday 18th to Saturday 22nd September inclusive.

- 5.2.2 It is proposed that as a minimum a 20m² sized area centred on the middle of the cropmark/geophysical anomaly will be stripped with balks left in place to provide long sections through the monument on two axes. Numerous interventions will be excavated into the ring ditch at regular intervals to characterise the feature along its length. Particular attention will be given to the centre of the monument, where the primary burial, either an inhumation or cremation would be expected to be found. A proposed trench configuration plan is presented in Figure 2.
- 5.2.3 Removal of overburden will be carried out by a mechanical excavator and will be monitored under the supervision of BUARC staff. The topsoil and subsoil will be removed to the top of 'natural' geology or the top of any significant archaeological level, whichever is the higher.
- 5.2.4 Discrete archaeological features, such as pits or post holes, will be half-sectioned in order to record their form and profile, and to aid in the recovery of dateable material. Linear features will be sectioned as appropriate within the constraints of the areas to establish variations in profile along their length. Information on dating, phasing and function, with particular attention paid to intersections and terminals. Features of significant depth (>1.5m) or extent (>2m) will not be fully excavated with a suitable sampling strategy used instead.
- 5.2.5 All features will be mapped to a grid based on the National Grid and established by GPS or Total Station with an accuracy of +/- 3mm over 25m.
- 5.2.6 The project archive will include a full digital and monochrome print photographic record. All photographs of archaeological detail will feature an appropriately-sized scale, a board indicating the site code, subject and orientation, with all details being cross-referenced and recorded in the photographic register. Each context will be recorded photographically before it is removed in whole or part, and all cross-sections will be recorded photographically.
- 5.2.7 Site drawings will be on polyester-based drawing film, at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate.
- 5.2.8 All artefacts from excavated contexts will be retained for consideration for post-excavation analysis.
- 5.2.9 Bulk environmental samples will be retained where appropriate for analysis for small artefacts, plant macrofossils, small bones and charred organic material suitable for radiocarbon dating.
- 5.2.10 In the event of palaeoenvironmental material of significance being encountered sampling will be carried out after consultation with a specialist who should advise on an appropriate strategy. Any bulk soil samples collected for environmental remains during the project will be processed by suitably qualified personnel and analysed by specialists. The results will be included in the final report following the completion of the project.
- 5.2.11 In the event of the discovery of human remains, these will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. Removal of human remains, if necessary, will be in compliance with the Burial Act 1857 as clarified by the Ministry of Justice April 2008. In the event of the discovery of human remains Bournemouth University, the client, police and local coroner and The New Forest Senior Archaeologist will be informed immediately.
- 5.2.12 Any finds defined as Treasure, according to the Treasure Act (1997), will be located and then removed to a safe place, where they will be temporarily stored according to appropriate archaeological conservation guidelines. The Local Finds Liaison Officer and Dorset County Council's Senior Archaeologist will be informed in writing within 14 days of discovery.

5.3 Geophysical Survey

- 5.3.1 It is anticipated that the project will support the training of NFNPA volunteers in undertaking a largescale landscape magnetometer and magnetic susceptibility surveys, totalling approximately 3 hectares, alongside a targeted ground-penetrating radar survey. All the training will be supported and supervised by BUARC staff as well as Bournemouth University staff where appropriate. Additionally it is anticipated that with permission from NFNPA, a small number of Bournemouth University students might be afforded the opportunity to engage with the geophysical survey and work alongside BUARC, NFNPA and volunteers in achieving the overall aims of the project.

- 5.3.2 The magnetometer survey will be conducted in 20m x 20m grids using manually operated (“traditional”) Bartington Grad601-2 magnetometer system(s). Data will be collected using a 0.125m sampling interval and 1m traverse interval along a zig-zag traverse pattern or, where possible, a parallel traverse pattern.
- 5.3.3 It is anticipated the largescale landscape magnetic susceptibility survey will be conducted on an agreed area at Park Farm, currently estimated in Figure 2. The survey will be conducted in 20m x 20m grids using a Bartington MS3 magnetic susceptibility system with MS2D field sensor. Data will be collected using a 1m sampling interval and 1m traverse interval along a zig-zag traverse pattern with a 1sec averaging time and GPS data logged at each point. Magnetic susceptibility systems measure the ability of topsoil or ploughsoil to become magnetised by a magnetic field. A Bartington MS2D field sensor measures the magnetic susceptibility of near surface materials by determining the difference between the permeability of the air (“zero measurement”) and the relative permeability of a given sample when a magnetic field is applied to it. While magnetic techniques detect notable differences in the magnetic properties of a subsurface material, particularly minerals, they can also be strongly affected by any modern ferrous objects near the survey area.
- 5.3.4 Additionally it is anticipated that a ground-penetrating radar survey will be conducted on targeted areas at Park Farm following the magnetometry and magnetic susceptibility surveys. The ground-penetrating radar surveys will serve to further clarify potential archaeological responses in the magnetic datasets.
- 5.3.5 Survey will be conducted in 10m x 10m grids using a cart-mounted MALÅ RAMAC X3M. Data will be collected using a sampling interval of 0.05m and transect interval of 0.5m. An initial assessment of the ground conditions will be made using both 500MHz and 250MHz antennas to determine which will provide the highest quality data under the weather and terrain conditions on the day of survey.
- 5.3.6 It is also envisaged that a programme of metal detecting and spoil assessment will be carried out during the fieldwork, both on exposed surfaces, excavated soil and topsoil, with training provided to NFNPA volunteers as appropriate. Topsoil finds are crucial to further our understanding of the material culture in the New Forest (NFNPA, 2017) and it is hoped this project may form part of the re-evaluation of the value of topsoil finds, and of metal detecting such deposits during fieldwork projects.

6 POST EXCAVATION

6.1 Environmental samples

- 6.1.1 The strategy and methodology for environmental sampling, recording, processing, assessment, and reporting will be done in accordance with English Heritage Centre for Archaeology Guidelines “Environmental Archaeology – A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation” (2nd edition, August 2011).
- 6.1.2 Bulk samples will be processed using a flotation tank with to separate the residue (heavy) and flot (light) material. The residue, once dry will be divided into fractions and scanned by eye along with the flot for artefacts and charred organic material. Ecofacts recovered from the samples will be assessed by an environmental specialist and subjected to further analysis if necessary.

6.2 Artefacts

- 6.2.1 All artefacts recovered from the site will be treated in a professional manner and will be recovered, marked, conserved and packaged as appropriate and in accordance with the following recognised guidelines:
- 6.2.2 Guidelines No.2: Packaging and Storage of Freshly Excavated Artefacts from Archaeological Sites (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC), Archaeology Section, 1983) ‘First Aid for Finds’ (UKIC, Archaeology Section and RESCUE 1988).
- 6.2.3 All registered finds should be processed and packaged according to standards of best practice. All should be assigned and marked with a unique identifier. Where appropriate, finds should be submitted for cleaning, stabilisation, identification and X-radiography. The register of finds will normally include all metalwork, worked bone, glass etc. with the addition of all material selected for citation in publication.

6.3 Archaeological Reports

- 6.3.1 A summary report on the results of the archaeological excavation and geophysical survey will be produced within six weeks of the fieldwork ending. This will include a quantification and assessment of the finds and environmental samples and a method statement detailing what further work will be required to achieve full publication of the results.
- 6.3.2 A full report will be produced within six months of the fieldwork ending. This will include full stratigraphic, finds and environmental analyses which will be discussed in relation to the New Forest National Park Authority Draft Research Strategy: Neolithic and Bronze Age (NFNPA, 2017).
- 6.3.3 A further short report will be submitted to the Hampshire Field club for inclusion in their annual round-up of archaeology in Hampshire.
- 6.3.4 Copies of the reports will be circulated between all key stakeholders including the Beaulieu Estate, the New Forest National Park Authority and Hampshire County Council.

7 ARCHIVING

- 7.1.1 The minimum acceptable standard for archives generated by archaeological projects has been defined by Historic England in their publication MoRPHE (Historic England, 2015).
- 7.1.2 The fieldwork archive will include all materials recovered (or the comprehensive records of such materials) and all written, drawn, and photographic records relating directly to the investigations. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It will also contain a site stratigraphic matrix, a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and palaeoenvironmental data.
- 7.1.3 The artefactual element of the site archive should consist of the following:
 - The finds themselves, correctly boxed, packaged and labelled;
 - The basic documentary record (including a digital copy);
 - The X-radiographs and other sampling or analytical reports;
 - A finds report;
 - Any drawings, photographs (prints and/or slides) and illustrations;
 - A statement of the number and sizes of boxes in which the different categories of finds are stored;
 - All samples stored in specialist laboratories should be listed along with the full address of the laboratory and a description of the sample type;
 - A list of all codes used with a full explanation;
 - A copy of every published report relating to the project.
- 7.1.4 The complete site archive, including the retained artefacts (subject to Beaulieu Estate's agreement), will be donated to their archive or the Hampshire Cultural Trust.
- 7.1.5 An OASIS data collection form will be completed and submitted upon completion of the project and an electronic copy of the report will be provided to the Archaeology Data Service.

8 MONITORING

- 8.1.1 The fieldwork will be carried out to the satisfaction of The New Forest National Park Archaeologist or their appointed representative(s). The Landowner, Beaulieu Estate and tenant farmer will be formerly notified of the start and end dates of the project and invited to visit and inspect the site at their convenience. The project will be managed by BUARC Project Manager Jonathan Monteith. The fieldwork will be directed by BUAR Project Officer Jon Milward.

9 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 9.1.1 A Risk Assessment will be carried out prior to commencement of the fieldwork and this will need to be reviewed and signed by all parties concerned with the fieldwork. BUARC will provide all information reasonably obtainable regarding any on-site risks which may be present.
- 9.1.2 In addition to statutory requirements Bournemouth University will always follow best practice for Health and Safety in Archaeology as defined in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual 'Health and Safety in Field Archaeology' (2010). Bournemouth University is a member of the Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSIP) and is a SMAS Worksafe Contractor.
- 9.1.3 During the fieldwork appropriate safety clothing will be worn and all relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice will be acknowledged. Volunteers are encouraged to wear gloves and steel toe capped boots during the excavation fieldwork. Alternatively sturdy 'walking boot' type footwear can be worn. Volunteers undertaking geophysical survey should be metal-free, and wear non-metallic clothing free of zips, clips, studs or other metal fasteners.
- 9.1.4 Access to the site is from the north off St Leonards Cottages, through a double gate. An area for parking will be provided off-road in the field. A welfare cabin and toilets will be provided for the duration of the project.

10 COPYRIGHT

- 10.1.1 Bournemouth University shall retain full copyright of any report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to New Forest National Park Authority and Hampshire County AHBR for the use of the report in all matters relating directly to the project as described in this specification. Any document produced to meet planning requirements may be freely copied for planning, development control, education and research purposes without recourse to the Copyright owner subject to all due and appropriate acknowledgements being provided.
- 10.1.2 Bournemouth University reports deposited with New Forest National Park Authority and Hampshire County AHBR may be photocopied for development control, planning, conservation and educational purposes without recourse to the originator.

11 REFERENCES

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New Forest
National Park

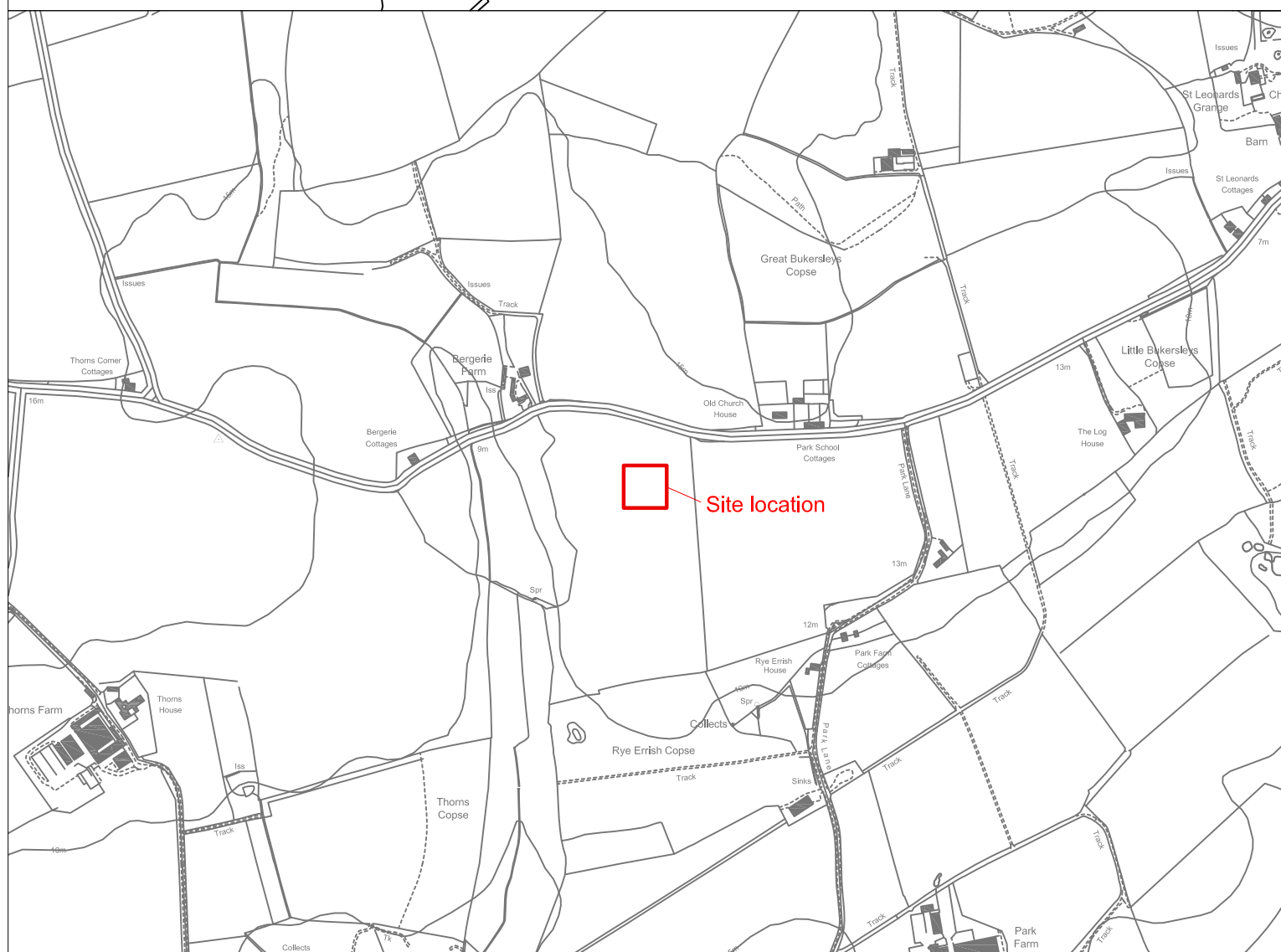
Beaulieu

Lymington

Site location

Isle of Wight

0 5km



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Key



Title

Figure 1 - Site location

Compiled by

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Site

Park Farm, Beaulieu, New Forest

Scale

1:10,000@A4

Date

7.9.18

Project

Excavation

