



Chilvester Hill Calne, Wiltshire

**Field Walking
And Post Analysis/Assessment of the Finds Recovered**



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Calne Wiltshire

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the finds recovered**

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1, Introduction

This report constitutes the findings from Field Walking and post analysis/assessment of the recovered artifacts.

This project was undertaken over several weekends in September, October, November 2005 and February 2006

1.1 List of Illustrations and Tables

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1.2 Research Aims and Objectives

The Project Design was to locate any archaeological structural, to determine their extent, condition, character, quality and if possible to date any remains.

To recover artifact's to assist in defining the character, and to date human activity in the designated area.

To make available and to publish the results of the fieldwork.

1.3 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Mr.& Mrs. J. Angel, owners of the field and B. Vines owner of the Brake wood for their permission to enter onto their lands to carry out field walking and surveying.

The author would also like to thank the following:-

Brian Clarke for - Planning and surveying.

Lynn Amadio for photographing the location and the small finds.

Former Wiltshire County Archaeologist Roy Canham for his advice, encouragement and assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

Members of WANHS, Archaeological field group who undertook the field walking and post analysis/assessment.

1.4 List of Abbreviations

A.F.G.	Archaeological Field Group [WANHS]
H.E.R.	Historic Environment Record [Wiltshire]
N.G.R.	National Grid Reference
N.M.R.	National Monuments Record [English Heritage]
S.M.R.	Sites and Monument Records [Wiltshire]
W.A.N.H.S.	Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

2 Site and Location Maps

The Site is located (SMR ST97SE315) to the north east of the Brake , Ratford, Chilvester Hill, west of the town of Calne Wiltshire.
Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference Number ST39855488-17158044
Ground Survey Height of 87.4 metres above mean sea level.

2.1 Site Location Maps



Fig. 2.1 Site Location Maps - Aerial view of the search area.

2.2 Geology, Soils and Description of the site.

The field-walking site occupies the north- western facing slope of Chilvester Hill. This spur of land protrudes in a northwest to southeast direction, from Calne towards the village of Bremhill.

The underlying geology of the site is predominantly a Sandy Jurassic Limestone of Corallian or Coral Rag - water drains to the north and west towards the watercourses of the river Marden and Cowage brook.

Directly overlying the limestone were two deposits, the underlying deposit was a friable greyish brown sandy gritty soil; over which lay the topsoil a heavy, compacted, dark grayish brown, clayey silt, the soils varied in depths between 0.50 to 1.50 metres. The site is approximately 376 metres in length by 275 metres in width

2.3 Calne: Entries from Historic Environment Record (HER formerly SMR)

The Wiltshire SMR has one entry for the area under research ST97SE315, NGR 398600-171300. Height 91.44m - 3 pieces of ceramic tesserae found in 2004, also Oyster Shells have been found in the Brake Wood.



Fig. 2.2 The Brake Wood

3 Field Walking Methods and Techniques

A systematic search of the field using a 10 metre square grid pattern was performed. The base line oriented east from a known datum position (Electricity pole) NGR 984708-715195, across the complete field. The first row started ten metres east of the datum point and continued in an easterly, northerly and southerly direction across the complete field. 814 square grids were searched for any artifacts of significance archeological interest.

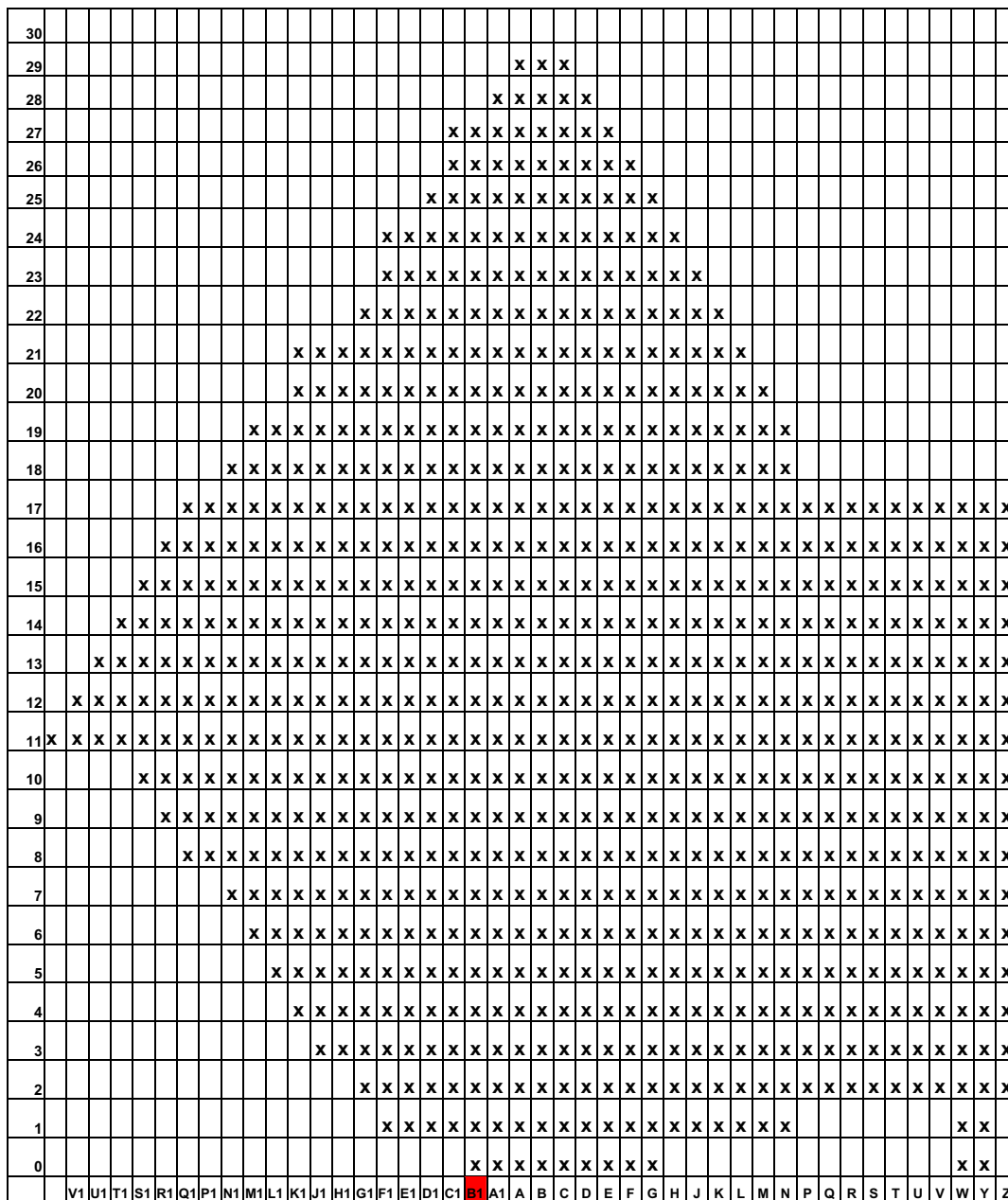


Fig. 3 Plan of the field showing the location of grid squares.

Fig. 4 Bone Objects

A collection of carved animal bones were recovered, several have been dated to the Bronze and Iron Age, but others suggest a much later date.



Fig. 4 Bone Objects



Fig. 4 Bone Objects



Fig. 4 Bone Objects



4.1 Bones

A total of 143 bones were recovered from the site, the bones were in a poor condition, pale brown in colour and very fragmented. 32 bones displayed butchery marks, 10 showed signs of being burnt. The presence of dogs or foxes is shown by gnaw marks on 9 larger bones.

This assemblage seems to reflect domestic or agricultural practices on or near the site, dating of the bones is problematic and they could originate from any period of time. The predominance of cattle recovered is to be considered normal, regardless of time period.

Species Identified	Numbers	Percentage
Bird	5	3.5
Cattle	29	20
Deer	5	3.5
Pig	10	7
Sheep	7	5
Unidentified Fragments	87	61
Totals	143	100%

Fig 4.1 Table of Bones Identified

4.2 CBM

43 fragmented pieces of CBM was recovered from 27 area squares, it was noticeable that the Romano-British items recovered came only from the southern area of the field.

Area Squares	Numbers	Description	Age
E9	1	Brick Fragments	Romano-British
E11	1	Brick Fragments	Romano-British
E13	1	Brick Fragments	Romano-British
E16	1	Brick Fragments	Romano-British
F10	2	Brick and Roof Tile Fragments	Romano-British
F13	1	Brick and Roof Tile Fragments	Romano-British
F15	1	Brick and Roof Tile Fragments	Romano-British
G8	3	Brick and Roof Tile Fragments	Romano-British
G9	2	Brick and Roof Tile Fragments	Romano-British
G14	1	Brick and Roof Tile Fragments	Romano-British
H10	1	Brick and Roof Tile Fragments	Romano-British
H12	2	Brick and Roof Tile Fragments	Romano-British
A3	1	Brick and Roof Tile Fragments	Medieval
A16	2	Roof Tile Fragments	Medieval
A18	2	Roof Tile Fragments	Medieval
B1-6	1	Floor tile Fragments	Medieval
B1-7	1	Brick Fragments	Medieval
N1-15	1	Roof Tile Fragments	Medieval
M1-15	1	Roof Tile Fragments	Medieval
E1-11	1	Brick Fragments	Post Medieval
E1-16	4	Roof Tile Fragments	Post Medieval
E1-17	3	Floor tile Fragments	Post Medieval
G1-13	2	Brick and Roof Tile Fragments	Post Medieval
P1-11	1	Roof Tile Fragments	Post Medieval
P1-12	1	Brick and Roof Tile Fragments	Post Medieval
Q1-11	3	Brick Fragments	Post Medieval
Q1-12	2	Brick and Roof Tile Fragments	Post Medieval
Total Pieces	43		

Fig. 4.2 Table of Ceramic Building Materials

4.3 Daub or Fired Clay

19, Pieces of Daub or Fired clay were recovered from 7 squares, J2, K4, L3, M2, M3, N4, P2. This might represent the remains of Wattle and Daub from a building or perhaps the remains of clay from ovens.

4.4 Clay Pipes

Fragments of Clay Tobacco Pipe were recovered from 18 area squares, in total 41 pieces of pipe was recovered, 38 stems and 3 bowls, no makers marks or names were discovered on these items, the size of the bowls, confirm a date, from the 18th or 19th century.

4.5 Coins

Only 2 Coins were found both in a very poor condition.

1 x George III Half Penny c1807 from grid A9.

1 x Victoria (Young head) Farthing, date obliterated, from grid D4.

Flints

The flint assemblage of 14 pieces of worked flint consisting of tools and cores possibly suggests a small-scale settlement or camp. The flint assemblage was recovered from a comparative small area in the south - western area of the site. The recovery of 29 pieces of burnt unworked flint is of interest, but not datable.

Type	Grid Square Numbers	Number	Age
Blade	N4,	1	Neolithic
Scraper	Q2, K5	2	Neolithic
Core	P4	1	Neolithic
Waste Flake	J1, K2,	11	Bronze Age
Primary flake	Q2,	3	Bronze Age
Blade	J3, N4,	5	Bronze Age
Primary Flint	L3, P4	2	Bronze Age
Side Scraper	M2,	4	Bronze Age
Burnt Flint	M5, Q5	29	Non Datable
Unworked	K5,	48	Non Datable
Core	M5, P4,	7	Bronze Age
Total		113	

Fig. 4.6 Table of Flints

4.6 Glass

59 fragments of vessel and window glass were recovered, of which 10% was identified as vessel glass from the Romano-British period. The remaining 20% was medieval and 70% post medieval, this material probably originated through agricultural practices.

Type	Grid Square Numbers	Numbers	Age
Vessel glass	P9, Q10, Q12, R8	6	Romano-British
Vessel glass	A1-7, A1-8	9	Medieval
Vessel glass	E1-2, E1-11, E1-15 D1-17, B1-17,	32	Post Medieval
Window Glass	A1-7, G1-8, G1-16	3	Medieval
Window Glass	A1-15, A1-18, D1-5, D1-21	9	Post Medieval
Total		59	

Fig. 4.6 Table of Glass Objects

4.7 Iron Objects

28, Iron Objects were recovered from 15 area squares. The assemblage is varied and the objects quite diverse in date and function. Many of the iron pieces were unrecognizable and have been recorded in the table as (others). Most of this assemblage cannot be closely dated, but suggests a date from the medieval till the present day.

Brief Description	Numbers
Agricultural Machinery Parts	3
Blades	2
Hasps	2
Nails	7
Other	14
Total	28

Fig. 4.8 Table of Iron Objects

4.8 Lead Objects

11, Pieces of lead was recovered from 6 Area squares, of which 7 pieces came from windows and the others pieces appear to be remains of lead roof sheeting. 1 Lead pot mend was also found.



Lead Pot Mend possible Romano-British

4.9 Oyster and other Marine Shells

Oyster and other mixed marine shell were recovered from a comparative small number of grids. There is a real possibility that some of these shells originate from the Romano-British period, but could come from any other period of time!

Square Numbers	Mussels	Others	Numbers
J9, J10,	5	2	7
L8, L9, L11	7	1	8
M9,	3	0	3
N8, N10, N11,	3	0	3
P8, P10, P12,	8	2	10
Q9, Q10	2	1	3
Totals	28	6	34

Fig. 4.10 Table of Oyster and other Marine Shells

4.10 Slag

A small amount of slag (16 pieces) was recovered from area squares F10, F13, G11, G12, G13, H13, H14, J10, J11, L10, L13, none of this slag has been characterized as Smithing slag, and therefore there is little evidence of iron working on this site

4.11 Stone

A quantity of fragmented Coral rag building stone was recovered, several blocks showed signs of being dressed.

25 Fragments of Pennant Sandstone Tiles, coarse grained, grey in colour, were recovered, this might be associated with a Roman-British building which is thought to have stood on, or to the south of this site.

41 pieces of Tesserae, small to medium sized, made from white Lias Limestone, there is a possibility these were quarried in the Radstock area of Somerset.

Several pieces of Bath stone (Great Oolite group), were recovered, some of these blocks had been clearly shaped.

Fragments of flat roofing stone with nail holes manufactured from Oolitic limestone were recovered.



Fig. 4.12 Stone Object with incised markings

5 Pottery

357 sherds of pottery were recovered from 214 grid squares of which there were 14 sherds of Bronze Age, 2 sherds of Iron Age, 153 sherds of Romano-British, 61 sherds of Medieval and 127 sherds of Post-Medieval.

5.1 Bronze Age

14 sherds of Bronze Age pottery were recovered, from 9-grid square; it was notable that the majority was recovered from grid squares, H2, L1, L5, M7, N3, P5, P8, R4, R6. None of this pottery was abraded and was identified as Deverel-Rimbury and these sherds possibly originated from funereal urns?



Fig. 5 Sherd of Deverel-Rimbury pottery

5.2 Iron Age

Two pieces of Black burnished Iron Age pottery was recovered from grid squares K2 and L4 it was not abraded.

5.3 Romano-British

A total of 153 sherds of Romano-British Pottery were recovered from 68 grid squares, it was noted that this assemblage was not abraded and came from the south- eastern area of the field; the types of pottery recovered came from several known sources:

Sources	Numbers	Percentages %
Black Burnish Wares	42	27.4
Oxford wares	36	23.5
New Forest Wares	14	9.1
Savernake Wares	25	16.3
Severn Valley Wares	21	13.7
Samian Ware	15	10
Totals	153	100%

Fig. 5.3 Table of types of Romano-British Pottery



Fig. 5.3 Base of a New Forest pot.

Fig 5.4 Table of Medieval Pottery

61 Sherds of Medieval pottery was recovered from comparatively few grid squares (29). They mostly came from known sources but 9 sherds could not be allocated to known kilns and probably originated from a local source.

Sources	Numbers	Percentages %
Minety type wares	28	46
Langley Burrell wares	2	3.3
Nash Hill wares	5	8.2
Kennet Valley wares	6	9.8
Laverstock Wares	11	18
Local Produced wares	9	14.7
Totals	61	100%



Fig. 5.4 Loom Weight

Fig. 5.5 Post Medieval

127, Sherds of Post Medieval Pottery was collected from 106 grid squares, these sherds were very abraded, with fresh damage to some pieces, this possibly represents agricultural practices.

Sources	Numbers	Percentages %
Blue transfer printed wares	35	27.6
Brown transfer printed wares	10	7.9
Ashton Keynes type wares	14	11
Cream wares	12	9.5
White wares	21	16.5
Staffordshire type wares	14	11
English Stone wares	12	9.5
German Stone wares	9	7
Totals	127	100%

6 Conclusions

Two circular curving linear features were observed on aerial photographs, which were taken in snowy and frosty conditions. These circular anomalies were located east of the Brake wood, and appear to show two circular ditches from an enclosure or perhaps from drip gullies associated with a roundhouse or structure.

On the northeastern side of the field another curving linear feature was located, this feature is apparent in the neighboring field as a low bank and possible ditch, but its purpose is unknown, but could be associated with the two circular anomalies, or the Iron Age settlement found when the northern bypass and houses were constructed in Calne.

The third feature resembles a building platform and is located in the southeastern portion of the site; there is the real possibility that this was the location of a Romano-British building. Geophysics and or test pits are required to locate any walls or other structural features that might be present, this will help to fully understand and establish exactly what is occurring in this field.

The presence of the medieval and post medieval pottery in defined areas, might suggest a houses or settlement, but despite extensive research and map regression, no record of any buildings could be found.

The evidence from the systematic field walking, clearly suggests that specific parts of this particular field may represent a record of human intervention, but most of the material recovered probably arrived or originated through agricultural practices.

7 Project Archive

The full archive including documentary and physical evidence will be deposited at The Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes Wiltshire.

A copy of the evaluation report will be deposited with Wiltshire County Archaeological Services, Calne Heritage Centre and the landowners.