

**LAND NORTH OF PAXCROFT FARM
HILPERTON
WILTSHIRE**

**VOLUME 1:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

For

ASI HERITAGE CONSULTANTS

on behalf of

TROWBRIDGE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

CA REPORT: 04216

JANUARY 2005

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 1893
CA REPORT: 04216

Author:	Richard Young
Approved:	Simon Cox
Signed:
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SUMMARY

Site Name:	Land north of Paxcroft Farm
Location:	Hilperton, Wiltshire
NGR:	ST 88234 59535
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	15-20 December 2004
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Trowbridge Museum
Site Code:	PFH 04

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2004 at the request of ASI Heritage Consultants (on behalf of Trowbridge Rugby Football Club) at land north of Paxcroft Farm, Hilperton, Wiltshire. In compliance with an approved WSI (Heaton 2004), 16 trenches were excavated across the development area.

The evaluation has revealed evidence for a possible Late Neolithic or Bronze Age ring ditch, two enclosures of prehistoric or Romano-British date, two possible Anglo-Saxon Sunken-Feature Buildings, as well as a number of undated ditches. The enclosures seem likely to have surrounded small settlements that were associated with a field system represented by the undated ditches. The Sunken-Feature Buildings appear to represent a later period of settlement activity, and are also likely to have had an associated field system. These features all lie within the south-eastern quarter of the site. The preservation of all of the archaeological features under between 0.15m and 0.2m of subsoil below the plough horizon indicates that the results of the evaluation accurately reflect the distribution of archaeological features across the site.

The evaluation indicates that the site contains archaeological remains potentially ranging in date from the late Neolithic/Bronze Age to Anglo-Saxon period at a depth of between 0.24m and 0.59m below the modern ground surface. These remains appear to be concentrated within an area in the south-eastern quarter of the site, occupying an area of approximately 3-4ha, whilst the remainder of the site appears to be devoid of archaeological features and significant geophysical anomalies.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2004 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for ASI Heritage Consultants (on behalf of Trowbridge Rugby Football Club) at land north of Paxcroft Farm, Hilperton, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: ST 88234 59535; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the development of a sports training facility at the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation prepared by Michael Heaton of ASI Heritage Consultants (Heaton 2004) and approved by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) acting on the advice of Ms Sue Farr (Wiltshire County Council (WCC)). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999), *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (WCC 1995) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects II* (EH 1991). It was monitored by Ms Farr, including a site visit on 16 December 2004.

The site

- 1.3 The site is situated to the east of the village of Hilperton on a south-west to north-east ridge between the valleys of the Paxcroft Brook and the Semington Brook and comprises 82,875 square metres of land. The site lies on the southern side of the brow of the ridge at approximately 60m AOD, with a fall of nearly 3m from the south-west corner to the south-east corner. The site is bounded to the south by Devizes Road (A 361), to the west by a public byway, and to the north and east by open fields (Fig. 2).
- 1.4 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Cornbrash limestone of the Jurassic era (BGS 2000).
- 1.5 The site is currently under arable cultivation.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 Archaeological interest in the site arises from its location on the cornbrash ridge that runs north-east from Trowbridge. Aerial photography, archaeological field evaluation, archaeological watching briefs and fieldwalking surveys have demonstrated that the archaeological remains of prehistoric, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon activity survive along the brow of this ridge (Heaton 2004, 2). Excavation to the south of Devizes Road in 1989 and 1996 (Wiltshire County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) Nos 311 and 312; (WA 1989) and (AC 1996)) revealed complex remains and a variety of artefacts that led the excavators to postulate that a Romano-British industrial complex lay in the immediate vicinity of Hilperton (ibid., 2).
- 1.7 The site lies near the centre of a complex of cropmarks identified on aerial photographs and recorded on the SMR (SMR Nos 200, 202, 603, 605, 616 and 628). Several of these cropmarks bear the characteristics of later prehistoric (SMR Nos 200 and 202) and medieval settlements (SMR No. 616), although some are possibly of geological origin. One cropmark immediately to the west of the site (SMR No. 200) was investigated during pipeline construction in 1980 and yielded prehistoric pottery, animal bone and quantities of burnt stone from a number of cut features. These features were encountered at a depth of between 0.3m and 1m below the existing ground level (Heaton 2004, 2).
- 1.8 A magnetometer survey of the site undertaken by Stratascan in December 2004 identified a number of features of possible archaeological origin (Fig. 6). These included a rectangular enclosure on the eastern side of the site, together with a number of more ephemeral linear and small circular features (interpreted as pits) spread across the site.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.9 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date, significance and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist the Local Planning Authority in making an informed judgement on the likely impact upon the archaeological resource by the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.10 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 16 trenches (numbered sequentially 1-16, and measuring 20m in length and 2.2m in width). Trenches 2-3 and 6-16 were targeted on anomalies identified during the magnetometer survey, whilst trenches 1, 4 and 5 were positioned to investigate apparently 'blank' areas in the magnetometer survey results. Trenches 1, 6 and 7 were repositioned during fieldwork away from the 11KV overhead electrical power line that runs north-east to south-west across the southern part of the site. Trench 3 was moved approximately 6m to the west to avoid the probable pipeline that runs north to south across the western half of the site.
- 1.11 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with the CA Technical Manual 1: *Excavation Recording Manual* (1996).
- 1.12 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with the CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003). No deposits worthy of palaeoenvironmental sampling were encountered during the evaluation. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with the CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.13 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive (including artefacts) will be deposited with Trowbridge Museum.

2. RESULTS

2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in appendices 1, 2 and 3 respectively. Details of the relative heights of the principal deposits and features expressed as metres Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) appear in Appendix 4.

2.2 Trenches 12, 13 and 16 contained possible prehistoric features, whilst Trench 11 contained possible Anglo-Saxon features. Trenches 6 and 14 contained undated linear features. The artefacts/ecofacts recovered from these trenches comprised only 3 sherds of prehistoric pottery and 31 fragments of animal bone. The remaining trenches did not contain archaeological deposits or artefacts/ecofacts pre-dating the modern period.

Trench 1 – 5, 7 – 10 and 15 (Figs 2 and 6)

2.3 These trenches all exhibited a similar sequence of natural cornbrash overlain by subsoil and sealed by ploughsoil. Occasional periglacial frost cracking was noted (Trenches 5, 10 and 14) as were field drains (shown on Fig. 2).

Trench 6 (Figs 2 and 6)

2.4 The earliest deposit encountered comprised natural cornbrash substrate 6002. The natural substrate 6002 was cut by two parallel north-west/south-east ditches. The westernmost ditch 6004 was the wider of the two at 1.3m. The mixed and very stony nature of the fill 6003 suggested that the feature had been deliberately backfilled. The second ditch 6006 was approximately half the width of the first at 0.56m. The fill 6005 was very similar to 6003 and also appeared to represent deliberate backfilling of the feature. The ditches were sealed by subsoil 6001. This was overlain by ploughsoil 6000. Towards the eastern end of the trench lay a north-east/south-west field drain 6007.

Trench 11 (Figs 2, 3 and 6)

2.5 The earliest deposit encountered comprised natural cornbrash substrate 11002. The natural substrate was cut by two possible Sunken-Feature Buildings (SFBs) 11004

and 11006. These features appeared to have been deliberately backfilled as the fills (11003 and 11005 respectively) were mixed and very stony. The northernmost SFB 11004 appeared to be orientated with its long axis north-east/south-west, whilst SFB 11006 appeared to be orientated with its long axis north-west/south-east. The northern and southern edges of SFB 11004 appeared to be cut by single circular postholes. Only the northern example 11008 was excavated. The relationship between the two features could not be determined as the fills appeared identical; this would suggest that the SFB and the posthole were contemporary and were dismantled and backfilled at the same time. No artefacts were recovered from these features, which were sealed by subsoil 11001. This was overlain by ploughsoil 11000.

Trench 12 (Figs 2, 4 and 6)

- 2.6 The earliest deposit encountered comprised natural cornbrash substrate 12002. The natural substrate was cut by the north/south ditch 12003. This ditch corresponded with an anomaly interpreted as an enclosure ditch during the magnetometer survey. This ditch had two fills, a silty primary fill 12005 and a mixed upper fill 12004 that appeared to represent deliberate backfilling of the feature. This upper fill contained a single undiagnostic worked flint and 30 fragments of animal bone of cow and sheep/goat. The ditch was overlain by subsoil 12001. This was sealed by ploughsoil 12000.

Trench 13 (Figs 2, 4 and 6)

- 2.7 The earliest deposit encountered comprised natural cornbrash substrate 13002. The natural substrate was cut by the north/south ditch 13006. This ditch had two fills, a mixed basal fill 13005 that appeared to represent deliberate backfilling of the feature and a silty upper fill 13004. The basal fill contained three sherds of Iron Age pottery, a single fragment of burnt stone and a single fragment of cow bone. The eastern side of the ditch cut a tree throw. The ditch was overlain by subsoil 13001. This was sealed by ploughsoil 13000. At the western end of the trench lay a pit containing a collection of modern farming debris that included a pitch fork and ploughshares.

Trench 14 (Figs 2 and 6)

- 2.8 The earliest deposit encountered comprised natural cornbrash substrate 14002. The natural substrate was cut by a north-east/south-west ditch 14004, which corresponded with an anomaly identified during the magnetometer survey. It contained a single fill 14003 that appear to represent deliberate backfilling - there was no evidence for primary silting. The ditch was overlain by subsoil 12001, below ploughsoil 12000.

Trench 16 (Figs 2, 5 and 6)

- 2.9 The earliest deposit encountered comprised natural cornbrash substrate 16002. This natural substrate was cut by a possible ring ditch 16005. The presence of this feature was suggested by the magnetometer survey although it was interpreted as two linear features crossing and not as a circular feature. The feature has two fills, a primary silt 16004 and a secondary silt 16003. This possible ring ditch was overlain by subsoil 16001, below ploughsoil 16000.

The Finds

- 2.10 Dateable artefactual material consists of a small quantity of probable Middle to Late Iron Age pottery from ditch fill 13005. Quantities of animal bone, consisting of domestic species including sheep/goat and cattle, were recovered from ditch fills 13005 and 12004. A number of sherds of modern pottery were recovered from the ploughsoil in each trench. These sherds were noted and discarded on site.

3. DISCUSSION

Introduction

- 3.1 The trial trenching has demonstrated that archaeological features survive in the south-eastern quarter of the site, in the area of trenches 6, 11-14, and possibly 16. There were notably few artefacts and ecofacts to assist in the dating or characterisation of these features, although the morphology of the features and the

relationship of the site to known archaeological remains in the vicinity have been taken into account in the interpretation offered below.

Accuracy of the geophysical survey

- 3.2 The results of the evaluation correspond well with those of the magnetometer survey and show that the geographical accuracy of the processed magnetometer plot (shown on Fig. 6) is within 2m. The interpretation of the processed plot was also reasonably accurate. The majority of the linear features excavated were correctly interpreted as of archaeological, agricultural or natural origin; only one of the excavated linear features (the ditch in Trench 14) was incorrectly interpreted as an 'agricultural mark', whilst the two parallel ditches in Trench 6 were interpreted as a single feature. The interpretation of the discrete features across the site was less successful; anomalies interpreted as clusters of 'possible pits' in the western half of the site were not representative of archaeological features. It is likely that these anomalies represent the remains of tree throws that survive only as magnetic variations within the subsoil and ploughsoil (D. Sabin, pers. comm.).

Iron Age

- 3.3 Ditch 13006 contained three sherds of slightly abraded Iron Age pottery in its basal fill. This ditch forms part of a large sub-oval enclosure with an internal diameter in excess of 100m identified on aerial photographs and recorded on the SMR (SMR No. 605). This feature is similar in size and nature to the cropmark enclosure to the west of the site that was investigated in the 1980s (SMR No. 200) and which produced prehistoric pottery, as well as animal bone and burnt stone. The basal fill of ditch 13006 also contained a fragment of burnt stone and a weathered fragment of a cow-sized humerus shaft. It is possible, therefore, that the pottery is residual within material imported to deliberately backfill a later e.g. Romano-British feature, although the similarities to the enclosure to the west suggest that a later prehistoric date is more likely. The purpose of the enclosure is unclear from the limited view afforded during the evaluation; it is equally possible that it enclosed a settlement or was a stock enclosure. The discovery of pits and postholes associated with the enclosure to the west (SMR No. 200) may, however, point to the former.

Undated features

- 3.4 Undated ditches were identified in Trenches 6, 12, 14 and 16. The position of a curving ditch in Trench 16, on the southern side of the ridge overlooking a watercourse, may be relevant as round barrows frequently occupy this type of location (Woodward 2002, 74). Round barrows are principally of Bronze Age date, although some were constructed in the Neolithic period (*ibid.*, 16). The transcription of the aerial photographs held by the SMR suggests that this feature is part of a larger sub-rectangular enclosure. Although it is possible that this feature is an enclosure similar to those to the north-east its smoothly curving outline and the very different nature of its fills perhaps favour its interpretation as a ring ditch. However, the interpretation of this feature as such must be regarded with extreme caution, given the limited area of the feature exposed during the evaluation.
- 3.5 The western enclosure identified by the geophysical survey (Fig. 6), of which ditch 12003 forms part, measures approximately 45m by 50m internally. Interpretation from the limited view afforded during evaluation is again difficult, and usage either as a stock enclosure or to define an area of settlement is possible. The form of the enclosure does, however, compare well with small enclosed farmsteads or settlements witnessed elsewhere: a square Romano-British enclosure of 2nd-4th century date evaluated at Staverton, 2.5km to the west of the site measured approximately 35m by 35m internally (CA 2004a), whilst a sub-square, low-status, enclosed farmstead of mid to late Iron Age date excavated at St Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan (CA 2004b) measured 60m by 60m internally. The latter example was almost identical in shape to the enclosure sampled in trench 12, and contained the remains of at least two roundhouses, hearths, two and four-post structures and a gated entrance.
- 3.6 The presence in enclosure ditch 12003 of 30 fragments of animal bone from domestic species, at least some of which exhibited cut marks consistent with butchery, might support the view that this was a small settlement enclosure or farmstead. The absence of pottery from the single excavated section might suggest a late prehistoric rather than Roman date: two sections placed similarly across the middle of two sides of the St Athan enclosure produced no pottery and only 14 fragments of animal bone during evaluation (CA 2003), whilst excavation produced 268 sherds of Iron Age pottery from 28 stratified contexts (Cotswold Archaeology, *in*

prep.). At St Athan the distribution of pottery was concentrated within the north-western quadrant of the enclosure adjacent to the roundhouses and enclosure entrance, and little pottery was found around the remainder of the enclosure circuit (*ibid.*).

- 3.7 Although the two cut features in Trench 11 do not contain any dating evidence, the forms of the two hollows may suggest that they represent Sunken-Featured Buildings or SFBs. However, the positions of the circular postholes associated with SFB 11004 do not follow the 'usual' layouts for SFBs of gable posts on the long axis or corner posts (Hamerow 2004, 31). It must be noted also that the full extents of the two features were not visible within the evaluation trench, so interpretation of these features must be regarded with caution.

Quantification of archaeological remains, artefacts and ecofacts

- 3.8 Quantification of the likely volumes of archaeological stratigraphy and artefacts/ecofacts present within the site is difficult, given the uncertain interpretation of a number of features, and the potential for further discrete features not identified by geophysical survey. Therefore a *detailed* quantification is not offered here. However, the geophysical survey does offer evidence for the extent of the two principal enclosures, and suggests that the circuits of these within the site area amount to a total of approximately 260 linear metres of enclosure ditch, on average 2m wide by 0.65m deep. Further lengths of likely contemporary field boundaries are likely to be present, but are difficult to disentangle from more recent activity and are therefore not quantified. Assuming, based on the paucity of finds and moderate density of features on the geophysical survey, that the site contains dispersed evidence of generally low-status settlement activity across the south-eastern quarter of the site (a 3-4ha area), the site might be expected to produce counts of pottery and bone in the low to middle hundreds, along with smaller amounts of finds from other categories (quantities based on the cited example from St Athan, an excavation of a 3ha area; Cotswold Archaeology, *in prep.*).

Conclusions

- 3.9 The evaluation demonstrates that archaeological features survive in the south-eastern quarter of the site, within an area 3-4ha in extent. The preservation of all of the archaeological features under between 0.15m and 0.2m of subsoil below the plough horizon indicates that the results of the evaluation accurately reflect the

distribution of such features across the site. The only broadly dateable feature was the easternmost enclosure previously identified on aerial photographs and geophysical survey (SMR No. 605), which may be late prehistoric in origin. Other features cannot be interpreted with a great deal of certainty, but comprise a possible Late Neolithic or Bronze Age ring ditch, an enclosure of probable prehistoric or early Roman date, two possible Anglo-Saxon Sunken-Feature Buildings, and a number of undated ditches.

- 3.10 Burials associated with the possible Late Neolithic or Bronze Age ring ditch would have the potential to provide information on not only the date and type of burial rite, but also on the people of the period through investigation of diet and disease indicators. However, the interpretation of this feature must currently be regarded with extreme caution given the limited area exposed.
- 3.11 The good preservation of the enclosure ditch in trench 12 would suggest that, if it were enclosing a small farmstead, internal settlement features within it might survive. The purpose of the eastern enclosure is less clear, although the evidence of the excavated example to the west of the site could indicate a domestic function. Such features would have the potential to provide information on the settlement and the people that inhabited the site, as well as possibly providing information on the chronology of the site, the process of change and its material culture, all themes that are highlighted in the research agenda for the British Iron Age (Haselgrove *et al.* 2001). However, whether these enclosures bears high, medium or low potential to address such issues cannot be gleaned from the limited view and uncertainty of interpretation afforded by the present evaluation.
- 3.12 The discovery of two features tentatively interpreted as Anglo-Saxon Sunken-Feature Buildings close to these enclosures, and the presence of cropmarks suggestive of medieval settlement to the north (SMR 616), suggests settlement may have continued in the vicinity of the site over a very long period, with the focus of settlement activity perhaps shifting periodically. Again, what potential these features have to address research agenda for the period cannot be gleaned given the uncertainty of dating and interpretation afforded by the present evaluation.
- 3.13 In conclusion, the evaluation indicates that the site contains archaeological remains potentially ranging in date from the late Neolithic/Bronze Age to Anglo-Saxon period at a depth of between 0.24m and 0.59m below the modern ground surface. These

remains appear to be concentrated within an area in the south-eastern quarter of the site, occupying an area of approximately 3-4ha, whilst the remainder of the site appears to be devoid of archaeological features and significant geophysical anomalies.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Young, assisted by Ben Powell, Kelly Saunders and Franco Vartuca. The report was written by Richard Young. The illustrations were prepared by Peter Moore. The archive has been compiled by Kelly Saunders, and prepared for deposition by Ed McSloy. The project was managed for CA by Simon Cox.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

1000	Ploughsoil. Loose mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small angular frags. limestone. Also occasional small frags. modern building material and rare small sherds modern pottery. Depth 0.3m
1001	Subsoil. Loose light orange yellow brown clay silt with frequent small angular frags. limestone. Depth 0.2m
1002	Natural. Moderately compact pale yellow brown, mottled with light orange brown, silty clay with frequent limestone frags. Cornbrash limestone.

Trench 2

2000	Ploughsoil. Loose mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small angular frags. limestone. Also occasional small frags. modern building material and rare small sherds modern pottery. Depth 0.25m
2001	Subsoil. Loose light orange yellow brown clay silt with frequent small angular frags. limestone. Depth 0.15m
2002	Natural. Moderately compact pale yellow brown, mottled with light orange brown, silty clay with frequent limestone frags. Cornbrash limestone

Trench 3

3000	Ploughsoil. Loose mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small angular frags. limestone. Also occasional small frags. modern building material and rare small sherds modern pottery. Depth 0.25m
3001	Subsoil. Loose light orange yellow brown clay silt with frequent small angular frags. limestone. Depth 0.2m
3002	Natural. Moderately compact pale yellow brown, mottled with light orange brown, silty clay with frequent limestone frags. Cornbrash limestone
3003	Fill of 3004. modern ceramic field drain
3004	Cut for 3003

Trench 4

4000	Ploughsoil. Loose mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small angular frags. limestone. Also occasional small frags. modern building material and rare small sherds modern pottery. Depth 0.2m
4001	Subsoil. Loose light orange yellow brown clay silt with frequent small angular frags. limestone. Depth 0.15m
4002	Natural. Moderately compact pale yellow brown, mottled with light orange brown, silty clay with frequent limestone frags. Cornbrash limestone

Trench 5

5000	Ploughsoil. Loose mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small angular frags. limestone. Also occasional small frags. modern building material and rare small sherds modern pottery. Depth 0.25m
5001	Subsoil. Loose light orange yellow brown clay silt with frequent small angular frags. limestone. Depth 0.2m
5002	Natural. Moderately compact pale yellow brown, mottled with light orange brown, silty clay with frequent limestone frags. Cornbrash limestone
5003	Frost Crack. Moderately compact mid orange brown sandy clay, light blue grey clay visible at base. Runs N-S.

Trench 6

6000	Ploughsoil. Loose mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small angular frags. limestone. Also occasional small frags. modern building material and rare small sherds modern pottery. Depth 0.25m
6001	Subsoil. Loose light orange yellow brown clay silt with frequent small angular frags. limestone. Depth 0.15m
6002	Natural. Moderately compact pale yellow brown, mottled with light orange brown, silty clay with frequent

	limestone frags. Cornbrash limestone
6003	Fill of 6004. Dark yellowish brown sandy clay, frequent frags natural limestone occasional charcoal flecks. Depth 0.14m
6004	Linear. Shallow concave profile, runs N-S parallel to 6006. Width 1.3m
6005	Fill of 6006. Dark yellow brown sandy clay evenly mixed with small fragments natural limestone. Depth 0.22m
6006	Linear. Almost vertical sides with sharp transition to flat base, runs N-S parallel to 6004. Width 0.56m

Trench 7

7000	Ploughsoil. Loose mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small angular frags. limestone. Also occasional small frags. modern building material and rare small sherds modern pottery. Depth 0.3m
7001	Subsoil. Loose light orange yellow brown clay silt with frequent small angular frags. limestone. Depth 0.2m
7002	Natural. Moderately compact pale yellow brown, mottled with light orange brown, silty clay with frequent limestone frags. Cornbrash limestone
7003	Fill of 7004. modern ceramic field drain
7004	Cut for modern ceramic field drain

Trench 8

8000	Ploughsoil. Loose mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small angular frags. limestone. Also occasional small frags. modern building material and rare small sherds modern pottery. Depth 0.25m
8001	Subsoil. Loose light orange yellow brown clay silt with frequent small angular frags. limestone. Depth 0.15m
8002	Natural. Moderately compact pale yellow brown, mottled with light orange brown, silty clay with frequent limestone frags. Cornbrash limestone

Trench 9

9000	Ploughsoil. Loose mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small angular frags. limestone. Also occasional small frags. modern building material and rare small sherds modern pottery. Depth 0.25m
9001	Subsoil. Loose light orange yellow brown clay silt with frequent small angular frags. limestone. Depth 0.2m
9002	Natural. Moderately compact pale yellow brown, mottled with light orange brown, silty clay with frequent limestone frags. Cornbrash limestone

Trench 10

10000	Ploughsoil. Loose mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small angular frags. limestone. Also occasional small frags. modern building material and rare small sherds modern pottery. Depth 0.25m
10001	Subsoil. Loose light orange yellow brown clay silt with frequent small angular frags. limestone. Depth 0.2m
10002	Natural. Moderately compact pale yellow brown, mottled with light orange brown, silty clay with frequent limestone frags. Cornbrash limestone
10003	Frost crack. Soft mid orange brown sandy clay. Runs N-S

Trench 11

11000	Ploughsoil. Loose mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small angular frags. limestone. Also occasional small frags. modern building material and rare small sherds modern pottery. Depth 0.25m
11001	Subsoil. Loose light orange yellow brown clay silt with frequent small angular frags. limestone. Depth 0.15m
11002	Natural. Moderately compact pale yellow brown, mottled with light orange brown, silty clay with frequent limestone frags. Cornbrash limestone
11003	Fill of 11004. Mid reddish brown sandy clay evenly mixed with small frags. natural limestone. Depth 0.14m
11004	Possible SFB. Sub-rectangular pit with near vertical sides and flat base. Width 2m by 2.18m
11005	Fill of 11006. Mid reddish brown sandy clay evenly mixed with small frags. natural limestone. Depth 0.04m

11006	Possible SFB. Sub-rectangular pit with shallow concave sides and base. Width 1.9m by 1.4m
11007	Fill of 11008. mid reddish brown sandy clay evenly mixed with small frags. natural limestone. Depth 0.22m
11008	Posthole. Sub-circular with vertical sides and a flat base. To northern edge of 11004, not possible to differentiate between them. Width 0.47m

Trench 12

12000	Ploughsoil. Loose mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small angular frags. limestone. Also occasional small frags. modern building material and rare small sherds modern pottery. Depth 0.2m
12001	Subsoil. Loose light orange yellow brown clay silt with frequent small angular frags. limestone. Depth 0.15m
12002	Natural. Moderately compact pale yellow brown, mottled with light orange brown, silty clay with frequent limestone frags. Cornbrash limestone
12003	Ditch. Concave sides and base, runs NW-SE. part of square enclosure picked up during the geophysical survey. Width 1.6m
12004	Secondary fill of 12003. mid pinkish brown clay silt with frequent small frags. natural limestone and occasional flecks of charcoal. Depth 0.35m
12005	Primary fill of 12003. mid yellow brown clay silt with occasional frags. of natural limestone.

Trench 13

13000	Ploughsoil. Loose mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small angular frags. limestone. Also occasional small frags. modern building material and rare small sherds modern pottery. Depth 0.25m
13001	Subsoil. Loose light orange yellow brown clay silt with frequent small angular frags. limestone. Depth 0.2m
13002	Natural. Moderately compact pale yellow brown, mottled with light orange brown, silty clay with frequent limestone frags. Cornbrash limestone
13003	Fill of 13007. modern farming debris
13004	Secondary fill of 13006. Dark grey brown silt. Natural silting. Depth 0.46m
13005	Primary fill of 13006. dark grey brown silt in 60% limestone brash. Deliberate backfill. Depth 0.44m
13006	Ditch. Initially concave and shallow, but with a sharp break to almost vertical sides and a flat base, cut into natural bedrock. Width 2.54m
13007	Cut for deposit of modern farming debris, not excavated.

Trench 14

14000	Ploughsoil. Loose mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small angular frags. limestone. Also occasional small frags. modern building material and rare small sherds modern pottery. Depth 0.25m
14001	Subsoil. Loose light orange yellow brown clay silt with frequent small angular frags. limestone. Depth 0.2m
14002	Natural. Moderately compact pale yellow brown, mottled with light orange brown, silty clay with frequent limestone frags. Cornbrash limestone
14003	Fill of 14004. medium/dark brown clay silt with occasional sub-angular stones. Depth 0.14m
14004	Ditch. Shallow concave profile, runs NE-SW. Width 0.75m
14005	Frost crack. Soft mid orange sandy clay, runs NE-SW.

Trench 15

15000	Ploughsoil. Loose mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small angular frags. limestone. Also occasional small frags. modern building material and rare small sherds modern pottery. Depth 0.2m
15001	Subsoil. Loose light orange yellow brown clay silt with frequent small angular frags. limestone. Depth 0.15m
15002	Natural. Moderately compact pale yellow brown, mottled with light orange brown, silty clay with frequent limestone frags. Cornbrash limestone

Trench 16

16000	Ploughsoil. Loose mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small angular frags. limestone. Also occasional small frags. modern building material and rare small sherds modern pottery. Depth 0.3m
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16001	Subsoil. Loose light orange yellow brown clay silt with frequent small angular frags. limestone. Depth 0.15m
16002	Natural. Moderately compact pale yellow brown, mottled with light orange brown, silty clay with frequent limestone frags. Cornbrash limestone
16003	Secondary fill of 16005. Pale reddish brown sandy silt with some iron staining. Depth 0.36m
16004	Primary fill of 16005. Mid grey brown sandy silt with some iron staining. Depth 0.41m
16005	Curvilinear feature. Steep concave side to SW, shallow irregular side to NE to concave base. Possibly part of a ring ditch. Width 1.85m

APPENDIX 2: THE FINDS BY ED MCSLOY

Recovered artefactual material is restricted to small quantities of worked flint, pottery and burnt stone.

Pottery was recovered from a single context, ditch fill 13005 and consists of three slightly abraded sherds in calcareous tempered fabrics. No forms are distinguishable. However, all sherds are handmade and this together with the fabrics, almost certainly indicates a Middle or Later Iron Age date. A flint flake from 12004 exhibits some signs of utilisation but is otherwise undiagnostic, dateable only broadly to the Neolithic to Bronze Age periods and is probably residual in its context.

The artefactual assemblage is restricted in size and of little significance beyond its use in providing chronological indicators. Little is to be gained from additional recording or analysis and no further work is recommended.

Concordance

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 13005 | 3 sherds pottery (22g): coarse oolitic limestone tempered and quartz/limestone tempered types
1 fragment burnt stone (17g)
<i>Spot-date: Iron Age</i> |
| 12004 | 1 worked flint flake (11g) |

APPENDIX 3: BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE BY SYLVIA WARMAN

Animal bone

In total 31 fragments were recovered from two contexts (see concordance). The species identified were cow and sheep/goat. Most of the material was fragmented and could only be assigned to a size group, either cow-sized or sheep sized. The humerus from context 13005 showed low to moderate weathering but all of the bone from 12004 shows more severe erosion of the bone surface resulting from a longer period of weathering indicating that this material was not rapidly buried following its discard, or that it has been redeposited. The species identified were domestic and the cut marks on the sheep humerus are the only indication of butchery within the assemblage. It is difficult to interpret such a small assemblage; however the species present and the butchery marks suggest that this is domestic waste. The mixed levels of weathering of the bone from 12004 points towards redeposition. There is little to be gained from a more detailed examination of this material thus no further work is recommended.

Description and quantification by context

- 13005 A cow-sized humerus shaft (44g). The surface shows signs of weathering.
- 12004 A cow mandible in seven pieces (60g), very weathered surface. Also a cow lower third molar from the left side (24g), which may be from the same individual as the mandible. This specimen also has a weathered surface. An additional 13 fragments of cow-sized mandible fragments weighing (17g) may also belong to the same individual; these also have very eroded surfaces. A left humerus from a sheep/goat (12g) has cut marks on the anterior part of the shaft although this is hard to see due to discoloration and a very weathered surface. Two sheep-sized shaft fragments (8g) also have very eroded surfaces. Six small unidentifiable fragments weighing less than 1 gram were also present.

APPENDIX 4: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

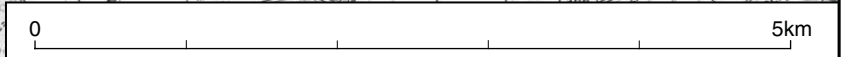
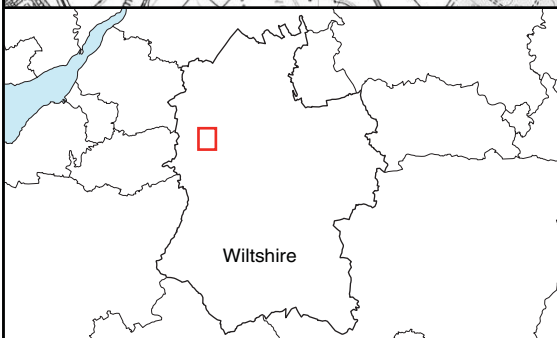
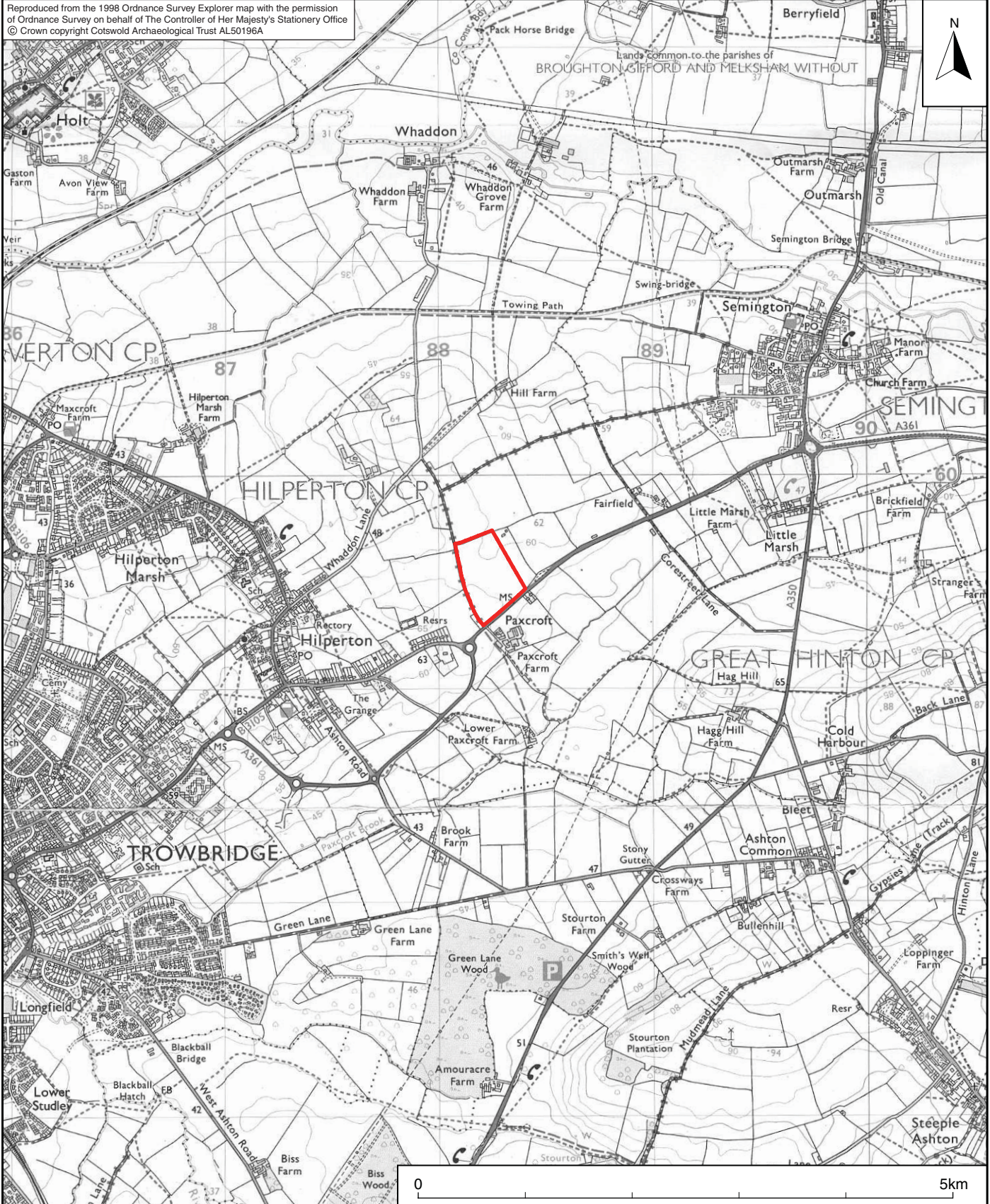
Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), calculated using the spot height located on Devizes Road (58.9m AOD).


	Trench 1	Trench 2	Trench 3	Trench 4	Trench 5	Trench 6	Trench 7	Trench 8
Current ground level	0.00m (59.84m)	0.00m (59.86m)	0.00m (58.26m)	0.00m (57.68m)	0.00m (59.61m)	0.00m (57.91m)	0.00m (58.95m)	0.00m (58.87m)
Top of archaeological features						0.43m (57.48m)		
Base of archaeological features						0.67m (57.24m)		
Top of natural substrate	0.59m (59.25m)	0.32m (59.54m)	0.52m (57.74m)	0.34m (57.34m)	0.4m (59.21m)	0.38m (57.53m)	0.46m (58.49m)	0.37m (58.50m)

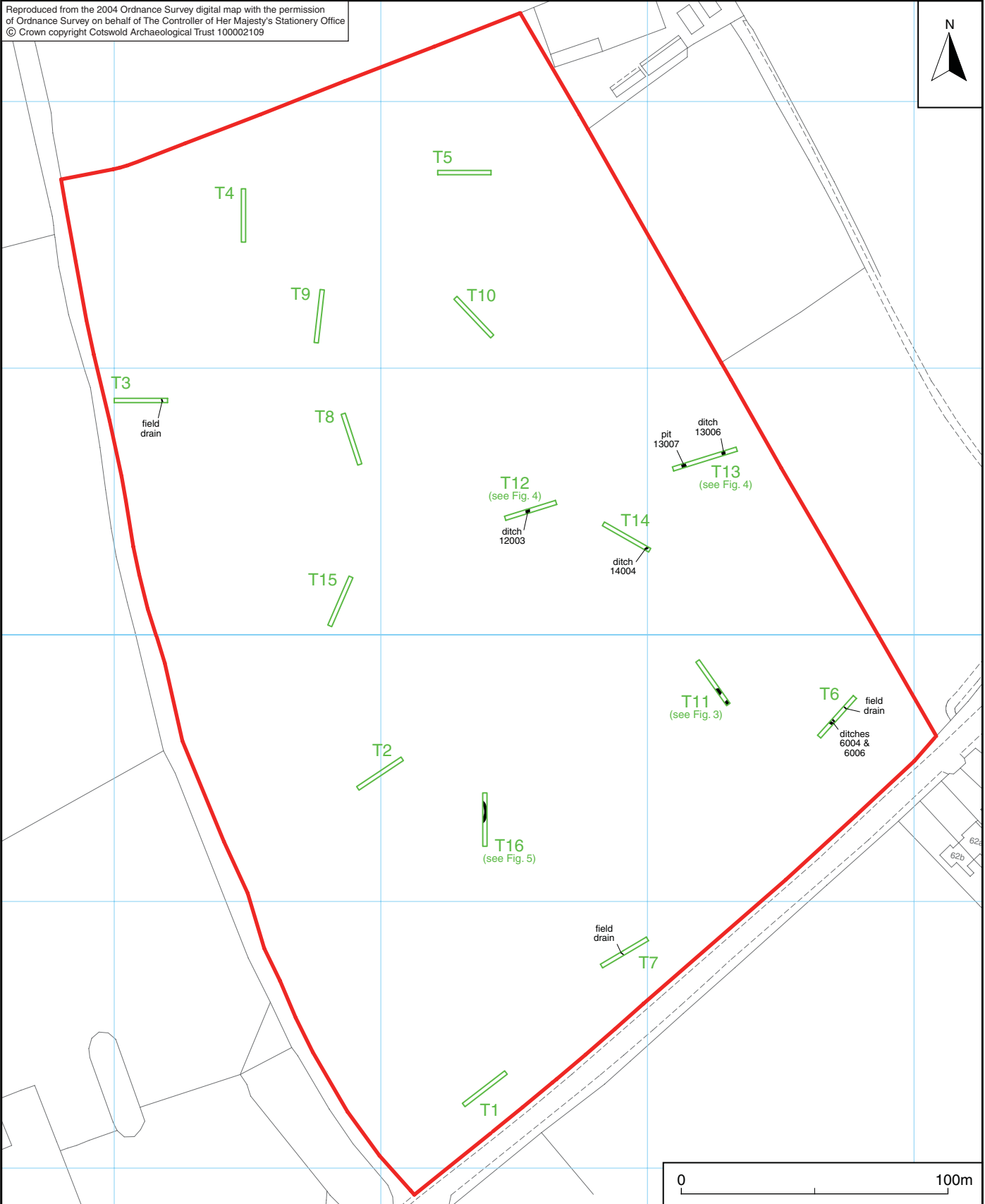
	Trench 9	Trench 10	Trench 11	Trench 12	Trench 13	Trench 14	Trench 15	Trench 16
Current ground level	0.00m (58.34m)	0.00m (59.41m)	0.00m (58.63m)	0.00m (59.15m)	0.00m (59.27m)	0.00m (59.10m)	0.00m (59.46m)	0.00m (59.66m)
Top of archaeological features			0.58m (58.05m)	0.41m (58.74m)	0.55m (58.72m)	0.59m (58.51m)		0.24m (59.42m)
Base of archaeological features			0.77m (57.86m)	0.81m (58.34m)	1.44m (57.83m)	0.73m (58.37m)		1.03m (58.63m)
Top of natural substrate	0.4m (57.94m)	0.59m (58.88m)	0.51m (58.12)	0.43m (58.72m)	0.55m (58.72m)	0.45m (58.65m)	0.31m (59.15m)	0.52m (59.14m)

Upper figures are depth below modern ground level, lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.

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 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY		
PROJECT TITLE Land north of Paxcroft Farm, Hilpertown, Wiltshire		
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan		
SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
1:25,000@A4	1893	1



- Site
- evaluation trench showing archaeological feature



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Land north of Paxcroft Farm,
Hilperton, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench location plan, showing
archaeological features**

SCALE

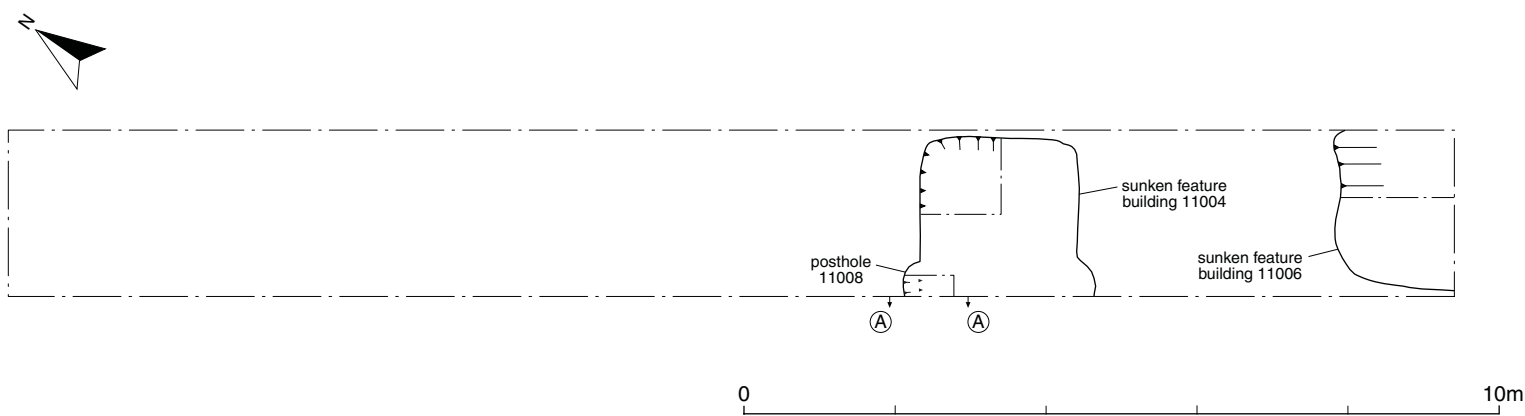
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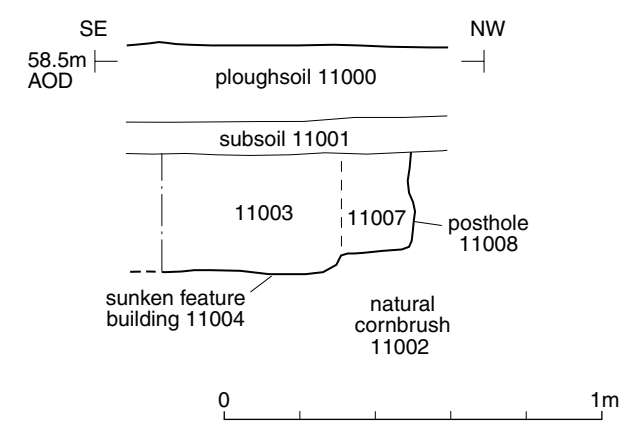
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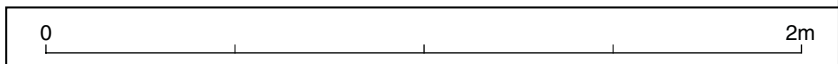
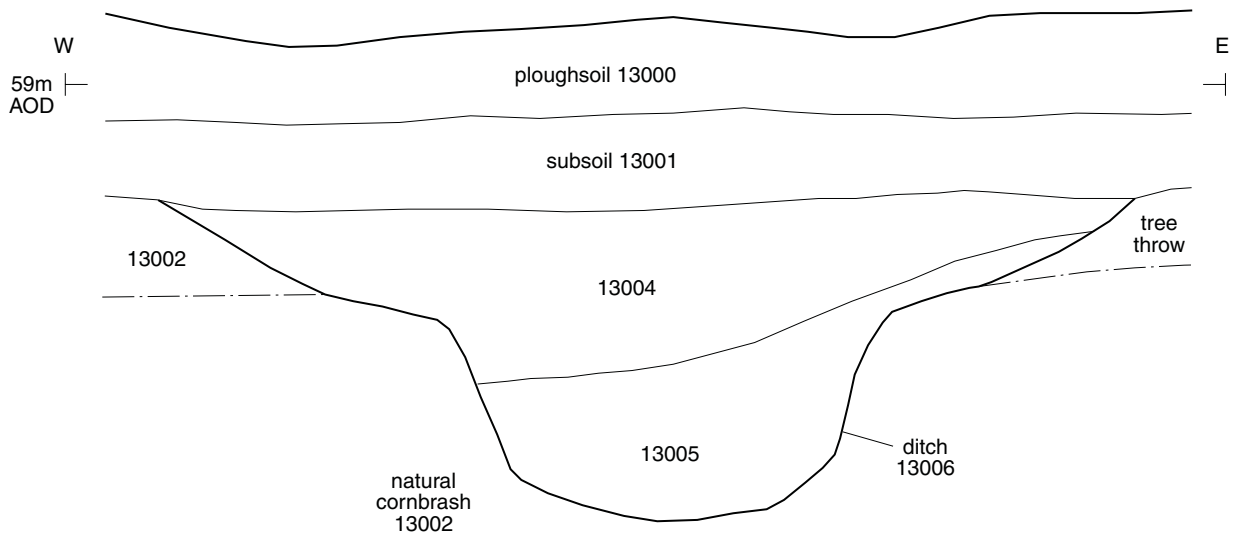
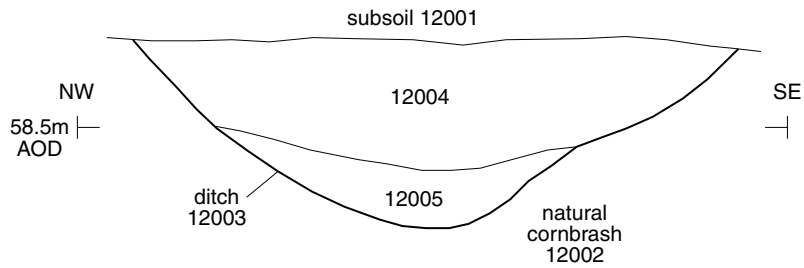
FIGURE NO.

2



Section AA





COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Land north of Paxcroft Farm,
Hilperton, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench 12; section and
Trench 13; section**

SCALE

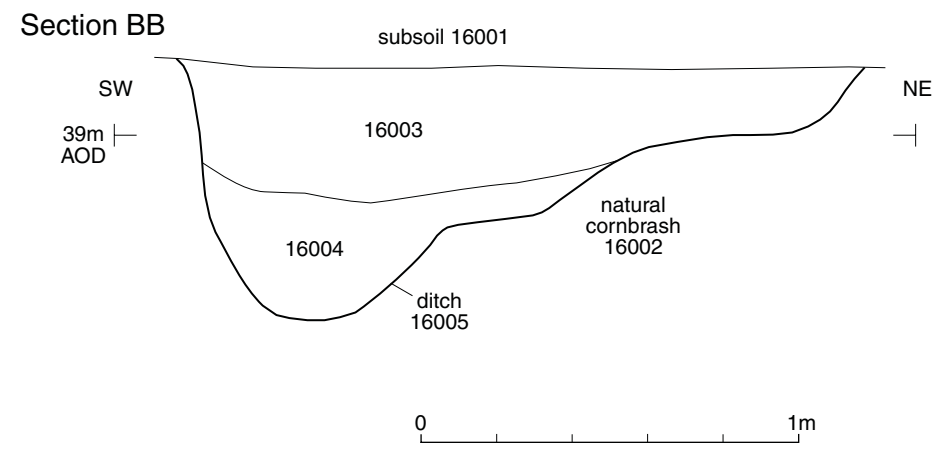
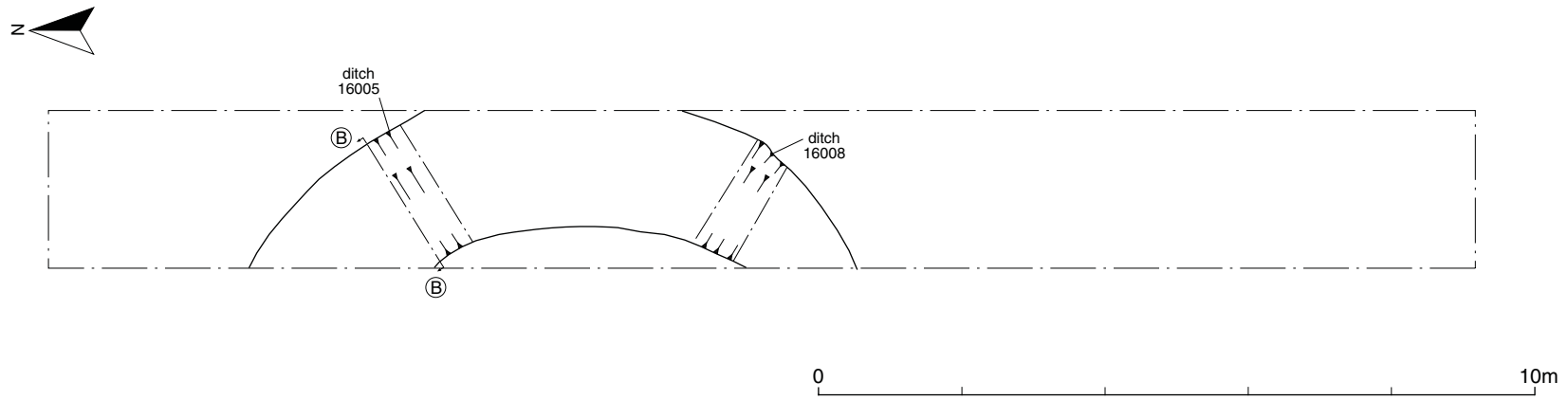
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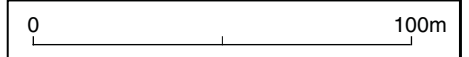
PROJECT NO.



1893

FIGURE NO.

4





-  Site
-  evaluation trench showing archaeological feature



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Land north of Paxcroft Farm,
Hilperton, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

**The excavated trenches overlaid
on a plot of the magnetometer data**

SCALE

1:2000@A4

PROJECT NO.

1893

FIGURE NO.

6