

WSCW/01



LAND AT WESTINGHOUSE SPORTS GROUND, CHIPPENHAM

Archaeological Evaluation

commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership
on behalf of Linden Homes Ltd

N/11/00134/FUL

January 2015

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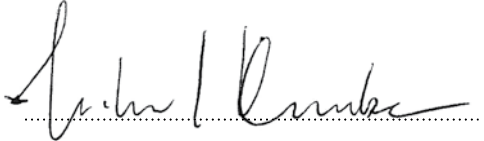
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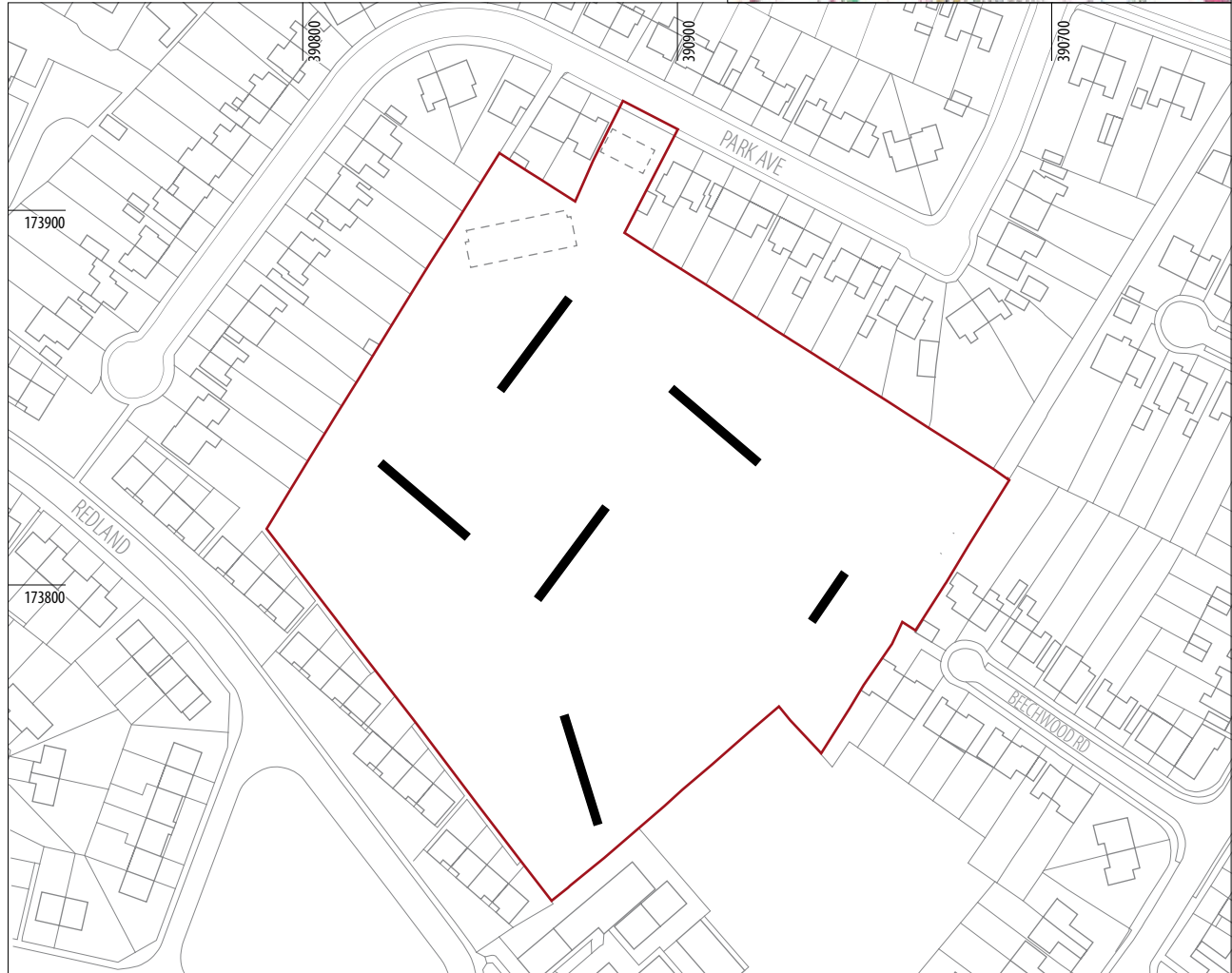
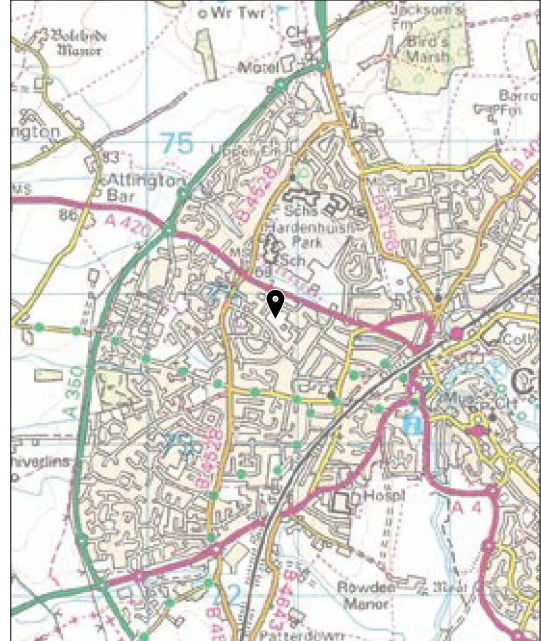
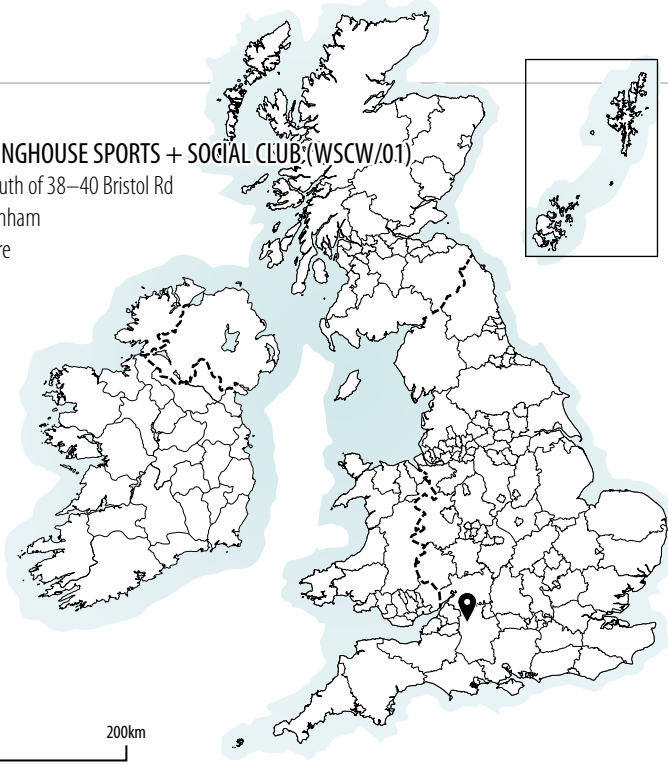
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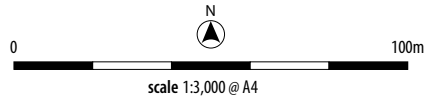
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WESTINGHOUSE SPORTS + SOCIAL CLUB (WSCW/01)

land south of 38–40 Bristol Rd
Chippenham
Wiltshire



- KEY**
- development boundary
 - trench location



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ILLUS 1
 Site location

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LAND AT WESTINGHOUSE SPORTS GROUND, CHIPPENHAM

Archaeological Evaluation

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd conducted a trial-trench archaeological evaluation on land at Westinghouse Sports Ground, Chippenham, as part of a programme of archaeological evaluative works carried out in response to a condition placed on planning consent for the redevelopment of the site. Trial trenching revealed very little archaeological evidence for past activity, with the majority of the trenches simply consisting of topsoil overlying subsoil over the undisturbed geological horizon. The only variation to this was in Trench 6, where there was evidence for a previous 20th century asphalt surface. Aside from this, no finds or features of archaeological interest were uncovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND

Planning permission has been granted for the redevelopment of land at Westinghouse Sports Ground, Chippenham (NGR 390868 173835; Planning Ref N/11/00134/FUL). This land is henceforth referred to as 'the site' and covers 1.6 hectares. An archaeological condition was placed on the planning permission which required a programme of archaeological work to be undertaken. This consisted of a geophysical survey (Webb 2014), followed by trial trenching (the results of which are outlined in this document).

The Environmental Dimension Partnership, acting on behalf of Linden Homes Ltd, commissioned Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd to carry out the trial trenching evaluation and produce a report on the results. This evaluation was carried out in order to assess the extent, nature and survival of archaeological features within the site and to inform the need (or lack thereof) for further mitigation.

The remit of the archaeological trial trenching programme was outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation, compiled by Headland Archaeology before the fieldwork started, and was agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the planning authority (Headland Archaeology 2014). A systematic array of trenches was designed to evaluate the site effectively (Illus 1).

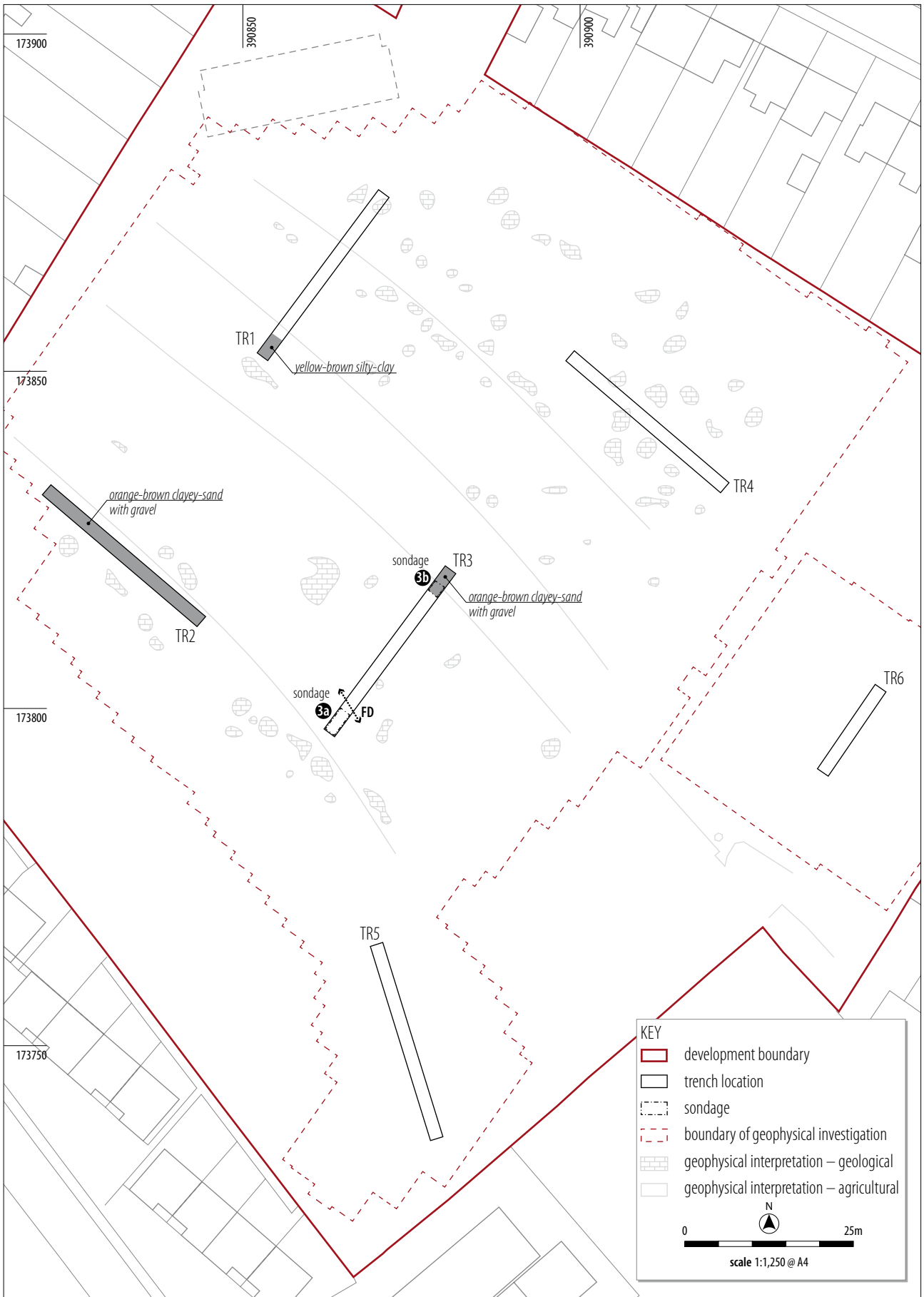
1.2 SITE LOCATION, DESCRIPTION AND SETTING

The site is located to the north-west of Chippenham town centre, to the south of (and accessed via) Bristol Road (centered on NGR 390868 173835). It is bounded by residential properties to the north, east, south, and west; with the grounds of Redland Primary School to the southeast and is broadly square in shape.

The site currently consists of sports pitches. This comprises a cricket pitch over the majority of the site, three tennis courts in the southern part; an area of former bowling green in the eastern part; car parking in the north-eastern part; and associated buildings in the north-eastern and north-western corners of the site.

The site slopes gently from approximately 66mOD in the northern corner, down to approximately 62mOD in the southern corner. There are also some more minor variations in topography across the site, with the flattening of the area of the cricket pitch, whereas the tennis courts had been raised and levelled to some degree.

The underlying geology of the site comprises limestone known as the Cornbrash, part of the Great Oolite series dating from the middle Jurassic. No superficial deposits are recorded overlying this (www.bgs.ac.uk).



ILLUS 2
Trench plan

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological background of the site has been detailed in the desk-based assessment (Etheridge 2010). The results of this are summarised here.

There is very little evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity in the vicinity of the site. The Historic Environment Record refers to two Mesolithic flint artefacts within 500m, and Romano-British pottery c.630m to the southeast. Aside from this, there is no evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity.

There is also limited evidence for medieval activity in the area. It is possible that there was a medieval settlement in Hardenhuish Park (to the north of the site), based on unpublished archaeological excavations in 1977. The earliest possible reference to this settlement occurs in a charter dating to AD854, with the first definite mention in the 1086 Domesday Book. The full extent of this settlement is unknown, however it is unlikely that it spanned the brook to the south (and therefore unlikely that it encompassed the site).

The post-medieval history of the site can be understood with reference to historic maps. The earliest detailed map is the 1772 Map of the Manor of Hardenhuish, which shows the site as comprising part of two fields, divided southeast-northwest along the centre. The 1819 Map of the Hardenhuish Estate shows the site as comprising one large field, as does the 1840 Tithe Map, the 1886 OS Map, and the 1900 OS Map. It is thought that these fields were in use for pasturage at this time. The 1912 OS Map labels the site 'Cricket Ground', with the 1923 OS Map depicting pavilions and other sports facilities in the area. By the time of the 1939 OS Map, some residential development can be seen on the northern boundary of the site, and the whole area in use as a sports ground. Changes from this date onwards consisted of further residential development around the outskirts of the site, and smaller changes to the layout of the sports grounds.

A geophysical survey of the site was undertaken by ASWYAS (Webb 2014). The survey identified an anomaly associated with a possible former boundary earthwork crossing the site on a southeast – northwest alignment, plus linear anomalies thought to relate to former ridge and furrow agriculture. Otherwise no anomalies of likely archaeological origin were identified.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The archaeological investigations were carried out in order to:

- enable the development by fulfilling the archaeological condition to the satisfaction of the planning authority;
- establish the location, extent, nature, date and integrity of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the areas proposed to be disturbed during the development;
- inform the development of an appropriate mitigation strategy;
- produce and deposit a satisfactory archive and disseminate the results of the work via grey-literature reporting and publication as appropriate.

The local and regional research contexts are provided in the South West Archaeological Research Framework. Specific questions from these frameworks will be analysed in relation to the evidence recovered from the evaluation, but may include:

Research Aim 19: Improve our understanding of wild and domesticated animals in the past;

Research Aim 21: Improve our understanding of the environmental aspects of farming;

Research Aim 43: Address the lack of knowledge of post-medieval to modern food production.

3 METHODOLOGY

The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the following documents:

- Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2000)
- Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001)

The methodology underlying of the archaeological trial trenching programme was outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Headland Archaeology 2014), and agreed with the archaeological advisor. The trench layout was designed to evaluate the site using a systematic trenching array, with the trenches spread evenly across the area.

Trial trenching was carried out on the 18th and 19th December 2014. A total of six trenches were excavated across the site, five measuring 30m in length by 1.6m in width, and one measuring 15m in length by 1.6m in width.

A 360° tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket was used to remove topsoil under direct archaeological control. Excavation continued until clean geological sediments or archaeological deposits were encountered.

Further excavation required to satisfy the objectives of the evaluation was continued by hand. A representative sample, sufficient to meet the objectives of the evaluation, of identified features was investigated by hand and all features were recorded. The stratigraphy of each trench was recorded in full.

All recording was in accordance with the code of practice of The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and in line with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Headland Archaeology 2014). All trenches and contexts were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards that conform to accepted archaeological standards. All stratigraphic relationships were recorded.

An overall site plan at an appropriate scale and relative to the National Grid was recorded by digital survey using a differential GPS.

A full photographic record comprising colour slide and black and white print photographs was taken, supplemented with digital photography. A metric scale was clearly visible in record photographs.



ILLUS 3

Photo showing the geological deposit in Trench 4, looking SE

ILLUS 4

Photo showing the geological deposit in Trench 2, looking NW

ILLUS 5

Photo showing the geological deposit in the southwestern part of Trench 3, looking NE

ILLUS 6

Photo showing section in Trench 6 looking SW and showing the previous surface in section

4 RESULTS

Full trench descriptions, including orientation, length, and depth are presented in Appendix I. Technical details of individual contexts are also presented in Appendix I. Contexts are numbered by trench number: i.e. Trench 1 (101), Trench 2 (201). Cut features are shown as [101] whilst their fills are expressed as (102), for example.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were located by the investigation. None of the geophysical anomalies were identified in the excavated trenches. The anomaly in Trench 3 may be accounted for by a change in the substrate, however this was not the case for those in Trench 1. Similarly, there was no sign of the earthwork bank in Trench 3. Instead, it is thought that this apparent bank may have been created by more modern landscaping changes associated with the creation of the sports ground, particularly the flattening of certain areas for the cricket pitch and tennis courts, and the subsequent creation of excess earth which needed to be distributed.

The majority of trenches comprised a topsoil-subsoil-geology sequence. The topsoil, a loose dark grey-brown silty-sand with rooting and occasional small stones, was between 0.15 and 0.25m in thickness. This overlay, in the majority of trenches, the subsoil deposit – an orange-brown clayey-sand with frequent small sub-angular stones. This was between 0.1 and 0.3m in thickness.

The exception to this was Trench 6, where evidence for a previous surface (potentially for a tennis court or similar) was observed. This lay directly under the topsoil and consisted of a black tarmac / hard-core layer (0.08m thick), overlying a dirty yellow silty-clay make-up deposit (0.2m thick). The subsoil deposit (the same as in other trenches across the site), was observed under this.

The geological horizon mainly comprised medium-large sub-angular / angular stones (part of the Great Oolite Group), set within an orange-grey-brown clayey-sand matrix. This was observed in Trenches 1, 4, 5, and 6, at between 0.3 and 0.6m beneath the ground-surface (the differences being accounted for by modern landscaping changes, as with Trench 6, see discussion below). Further excavation in Trench 1 revealed solid rock at around 0.8m beneath the present ground-surface.

The geological material in Trenches 2 and 3 was slightly different. In Trench 2, it consisted of a firm orange-brown clayey-sand with frequent pieces of small gravel. This deposit was also observed towards the north-eastern end of Trench 3. Elsewhere in Trench 3, the geology comprised a yellow-brown silty-clay, with some friable sandy patches. Deeper excavation into these two different types of deposit in Trench 3 revealed a yellow silty-sandy-clay, at around 0.8m beneath the present ground-surface.

5 DISCUSSION

No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified during this trial-trenching evaluation. The majority of the trenches simply consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying the substrate – the one exception to this being Trench 6 where there was evidence for a previous (20th century) surface. The changes in topography across the site (including the earthwork bank) are most likely to be associated with 20th century landscaping associated with the creation of the sports ground, rather than any earlier activity.

6 CONCLUSIONS

The local and regional research contexts are provided by the South West Archaeological Research Framework. Section 2.1 of this document states the research aims relating to the understanding of agriculture, particularly post-medieval agriculture. The results of the trial trenching evaluation did not provide any information in relation to these research aims, as no finds or features of archaeological interest were uncovered. An on-site meeting with Matthew Morgan (The Environmental Dimension Partnership) and Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (Wiltshire Council Archaeology) confirmed that the programme of works had met its objectives and that no further works were required.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- English Heritage 2011 *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from sampling and recovery to post excavation.*
- Etheridge 2010 *Site of the Westinghouse Sports Field, Chippenham: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment.*
- Headland Archaeology 2014 *Land at Westinghouse Sports Ground, Chippenham: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Work.*
- CIfA 2011 *Standards and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation.*
- Webb 2014 *Westinghouse Sports Field, Chippenham: Geophysical Survey.* ASWYAS.



8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 TRENCH REGISTER

TR	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1	NE-SW	30	1.6	0.8

Context	Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
---------	-------------	--------------------------

101	Topsoil – dark grey-brown, silty-sand, loose, very occasional small stones, rooting.	0.0-0.25
102	Subsoil – mid orange-brown, clayey-sand, loose, very frequent sub-angular / angular stones.	0.25-0.45
103	Undisturbed geology – medium-large sub-angular / angular stones, within a loose orange / grey-brown clayey-sand.	0.45-0.8m
104	Undisturbed geology – compact rock.	0.8+

No archaeology

TR	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
2	NW-SE	30	1.6	0.5

Context	Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
---------	-------------	--------------------------

201	Topsoil – dark grey-brown, silty-sand, loose, very occasional small stones, rooting.	0.0-0.15
202	Subsoil – light brown-orange, clayey-sand, loose, very occasional small stones.	0.15-0.35
203	Undisturbed geology – mid orange / red-brown, clayey-sand, firm, frequent small / medium gravel pieces.	0.35+

No archaeology.

TR	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
3	NE-SW	30	1.6	0.8

Context	Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
---------	-------------	--------------------------

301	Topsoil – dark grey-brown, silty-sand, loose, very occasional small stones, rooting.	0.0-0.25
302	Subsoil – light brown-orange, clayey-sand, loose, very occasional small stones.	0.25-0.55
303	Undisturbed geology – light orange-brown, silty-clay, compact, occasional friable sandy patches. Different at north-eastern end of trench: red-brown, sandy-clay, firm, frequent small gravel pieces.	0.55-0.8
304	Undisturbed geology – yellow, silty-sandy-clay, compact.	0.8+

No archaeology.

TR	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
4	NW-SE	30	1.6	0.5

Context	Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
---------	-------------	--------------------------

401	Topsoil – dark grey-brown, silty-sand, loose, very occasional small stones, rooting.	0.0-0.2
402	Subsoil – mid orange-brown, clayey-sand, loose, very frequent sub-angular / angular stones.	0.2-0.3
403	Undisturbed geology – medium-large sub-angular / angular stones, within a loose orange / grey-brown clayey-sand.	0.3-0.45
404	Undisturbed geology – compact rock.	0.45+

No archaeology.

TR	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
5	NNW-SSE	30	1.6	0.7

Context	Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
---------	-------------	--------------------------

501	Topsoil – dark grey-brown, silty-sand, loose, very occasional small stones, rooting.	0.0-0.2
502	Subsoil – mid orange-brown, clayey-sand, loose, very frequent sub-angular / angular stones.	0.2-0.5
503	Undisturbed geology – medium-large sub-angular / angular stones, within a loose orange / grey-brown clayey-sand.	0.5+

No archaeology.

TR	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
6	NE-SW	15	1.6	0.75

Context	Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
---------	-------------	--------------------------

601	Topsoil – dark grey-brown, silty-sand, loose, rooting.	0.0-0.25m
602	Previous surface – black, compact, pieces of tarmac and hard-core.	0.25-0.33
603	Make-up for previous surface – yellow, dirty, silty-clay, compact, with patches of dirty grey clay.	0.33-0.53
604	Subsoil – orange-brown, clayey-sand, loose, frequent small-medium stones.	0.53-0.65
605	Undisturbed geology – medium-large sub-angular / angular stones, within a loose orange / grey-brown clayey-sand.	0.65+

No archaeology.

APPENDIX 2 PHOTO REGISTER

Photo	C/S	B+W	Digital	Direction	Description
001	36	36	054	—	ID shot
002-005	—	—	055–058	SW	Site pre-excavation shots
006	—	—	059	—	Trench 1 working shot
007	—	—	060	—	Trench 1 working shot
008	35	35	061	NE	Trench 1 post-excavation plan
009	34	34	062	NW	Trench 1 section
010	33	33	063	NE	Trench 3 post-excavation plan
011	32	32	064	SW	Trench 3 post-excavation plan
012	31	31	065	NW	Trench 3 section
013	30	30	066	NW	Trench 3 section
014	29	29	067	SSE	Trench 5 post-excavation plan
015	28	28	068	SSW	Trench 5 section
016	27	27	069	NW	Trench 2 post-excavation plan
017	26	26	070	NE	Trench 2 section
018	25	25	071	SE	Trench 4 post-excavation plan
019	24	24	072	SW	Trench 4 section
020	23	23	073	SSW	Trench 6 post-excavation plan
021	22	22	074	SE	Trench 6 section
022	21	21	075	W	Trench 6 oblique section shot
023	20	20	076	SW	Trench 3 section of sondage at SW end
024	19	19	077	NW	Trench 3 section of sondage at NE end
025-030	—	—	078–083	—	Site post-excavation shots
031-038	—	—	084–091	—	Backfilled trenches



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