



Ramsbury Manor Visitors Centre

Evaluation Report



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by The Ramsbury Manor Foundation ('the client') to carry out a trial trench evaluation of approximately 2 ha of land located at Ramsbury Manor, Ramsbury, Marlborough, SN8 2RG. The evaluation area is centred on NGR 425832 171236).

This evaluation is part of staged approach in determining the archaeological potential of the site and follows other non-intrusive archaeological work, including geophysical survey and watching brief. The evaluation, comprising twelve trial trenches equating to a 4% sample of the proposed development, was undertaken between 23rd and 27th August 2021.

No significant archaeological features were uncovered but evidence of post-medieval ditches and a pathway was found.

The presence of trees in Areas A and C meant that some trenches were significantly curtailed. Trenches 9 and 11 were moved away from their original locations and therefore did not test the geophysics survey results.

No combination clearly matches the "possible road continuation" from the geoarchaeological survey in Area B. Ditches 504, and 804 are on the correct alignment but there is no corresponding feature in trench 6. And 403, 506 and 603 run parallel to it but do not continue as far as trench 8. The best fit is for a ditch that runs through 506, 603, 703 and 804.

Both trenches 1 and 2 in Area A contained complex layers of made ground that suggest the area has been substantially landscaped. The section in trench 11, 200m to the north east in Area C was very similar. These may be evidence of the work begun around 1775 by James Sanderson to create an informal landscape park.

A number of post medieval ditches were observed in Area B: one each in trenches 4, 6, possibly 7 and 8, and two in trench 5. While the sampled sections of ditches 504 and 804 contained some worked flint they were very abraded, which suggests they were residual in the soil and pre-date the archaeological features. The sampled sections also contained modern glass which suggests they went out of use in the post-medieval or modern periods.

Trench 10 was located across the geophysical anomaly marked as "18th century roads" and contains a flint cobbled hollow that could be described as metalled. It aligns with a corresponding hollow in the landscape leading towards the lake to the south-east. It contained animal bone, CBM, clay pipe, pottery (from the 17th to early 18th century) and a free-blown green wine bottle, probably a 'shaft and globe' form (mid-17th-century) that all suggest a post- medieval date, but long enough that a tree with a 2 m root ball has fulfilled its lifecycle. It is therefore possible that the feature was decommissioned as part of the Sanderson's landscaping carried out in the last quarter of the 18th century

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Ramsbury Manor Visitors Centre

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by The Ramsbury Manor Foundation ('the client') to carry out a trial trench evaluation of approximately 2 ha of land located at Ramsbury Manor, Ramsbury, Marlborough, SN8 2RG. The evaluation area is centred on NGR 425832 171236 (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.1.2 The client proposes the redevelopment of the existing estate yard at Ramsbury Manor in order to provide an exhibition facility for the private collection of Harry Hyam, notable property developer and avid collector.
- 1.1.3 Associated works also include the relocation of the existing estate yard to the eastern edge of the estate and creation of a car park and access point to facilitate the new use on the estate.
- 1.1.4 Wiltshire Council Archaeological Services (WCAS), archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), advised that a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation should be undertaken, area.
- 1.1.5 This evaluation is part of staged approach in determining the archaeological potential of the site, and follows other non-intrusive archaeological work, including geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2019) and watching brief (Wessex Archaeology 2021).
- 1.1.6 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2021). WCAS approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.7 The evaluation comprising twelve trial trenches equating to a 4% sample of the proposed development was undertaken between 23rd and 27th August 2021.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.
- 1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 Ramsbury Manor, park and gardens are situated 1.4 km west of the village of Ramsbury at the base of the south facing slope of the Kennet Valley. The house itself sits at the lowest

point of the park, at approximately 117 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and on the edge of an artificial lake. This forms part of the extensive water meadows which extend eastward beyond Ramsbury. North of the house, the park rises on either side of a shallow coombe to approximately 150 m aOD, where the park pale winds through Old Park Wood and Oldfield Copse.

- 1.3.2 The underlying bedrock is chalk of the Seaford Chalk Formation, sealed by Pleistocene river gravels at approximately 120 m aOD (BGS 2021). The channel of the modern Kennet has been extensively modified by water meadows but may be expected to contain similarly alluvial deposits of gravel and clay.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The reports for the previous works (Wessex Archaeology 2019 and 2021) and well as the detailed Heritage Statement (Drury McPherson 2019) provided by the client that covers the known archaeological resource, historical data and historic mapping have been used to inform the summaries below.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development

Geophysical Survey, Wessex Archaeology 2019

- 2.2.1 The geophysical survey confirmed the location and route of an 18th century road noted on historical mapping. Responses detected in the GPR results are thought to indicate wheel ruts and potential road surface compaction or metalling.
- 2.2.2 A former building noted on historical mapping was also identified. This is seen as both foundations and an area of associated rubble. In addition, the GPR survey indicated the potential for further features adjacent to the road that could indicate a small enclosure or building.
- 2.2.3 Furthermore, the gradiometer survey has highlighted the possible location of the Silchester to Bath roman road speculated to traverse the south of the site. However, there is no evidence for this in the GPR data and it is equally likely that the anomaly is caused by localised geological variation.
- 2.2.4 The gradiometer and GPR surveys have identified a large-pit like feature in the north of the site which could indicate a former extraction pit or pond associated with the significant landscaping surrounding Ramsbury Manor.
- 2.2.5 The gradiometer survey has also identified anomalies throughout the north of the site that are likely to indicate geological variation in the underlying deposits. However, it cannot be ruled out that these anomalies could indicate historic ploughing regimes as they correspond to the modern and historic pattern of land division noted on later historic maps.

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording, Wessex Archaeology 2021

- 2.2.6 During the works various structural remains pertaining to previous phases of Ramsbury Manor were identified. Comprised of brick and flint, internal and external walls and foundations were located in the southwest corner of the current car park, with wall foundations also located to the rear of the present-day manor. Backfilled remains of the ha-ha were also identified as were two postmedieval/modern pits. Clay pipe, flint debitage and building rubble were recorded and pottery dating to the post-medieval period was recovered.

2.3 Heritage Significance of the Heritage Assets

- 2.3.1 The proposed location of the new exhibition facility is adjacent to the Grade II stable block within the Grade II Ramsbury Manor Registered Park and Garden (RPG) and within close proximity of the Grade I Ramsbury Manor.
- 2.3.2 The proposed new estate yard is located on the eastern edge of the Grade II RPG on an existing green-field site.
- 2.3.3 The RPG represents a late 18th century park. It includes woodland and parkland originating from the late 17th century, surrounding Ramsbury Manor which was built in the 1680's. This RPG is part of a larger and much older deer park that once surrounded a great house of the Bishops of Salisbury, established in the 13th century.
- 2.3.4 Ramsbury Manor is listed at Grade I and was constructed in the 1680s. It was designed by Robert Hooke and built for William Jones and his heirs. It is renowned as an exemplar of a late-17th century high status house set that has been little altered to this day.
- 2.3.5 To the north-east of the Manor House, and adjacent to the development site, sits the Grade II Stable Block, which is currently part of the existing estate yard. Fragments of timber frame construction on the western range have been dendro-dated to the mid- 16th century, and a number of later phases of extension and alteration are evident in what now survives. Most recently the southern range was altered to accommodate a swimming pool by Hyman in the 20th century. This phase of alteration removed a significance amount of historic fabric, but in itself holds some value as the works of prominent interior design team, Cole and Fowler.
- 2.3.6 Further listed assets include the Grade II* East Gate and Lodge and the Grade II listed Bridge and Weir which are features of the designed landscape that creates the setting of the Manor.
- 2.3.7 Each asset mentioned above has its own individual heritage significance, with the Manor being the most important. However, collectively they tell a more complete story of the changing use, ownership and function of the estate right through from the 13th century to today. Each asset individually holds historic, evidential and aesthetic value in terms of architectural form, function and association with high profile figures throughout history. Collectively they complement and enhance these values by creating a holistic understanding of changing needs, fashions and requirements of a country house and its estate over time.

2.4 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric

- 2.4.1 There is limited evidence for prehistoric activity within the wider landscape surrounding the site. However, two parallel rows of pit alignments have been identified from aerial photographs 530 m east of the site. Similar features in the Kennet valley and elsewhere are generally Neolithic in date. A skeleton excavated in the village in 1985 is believed to have been late prehistoric in date (Croucher 1986).

Roman and Anglo Saxon (AD43–1066AD)

- 2.4.2 Margary 53 — the Roman road from Speen (on Ermin Way) via Mildenhall to Bath passes across the site, south of the house and through the courtyard itself.
- 2.4.3 Ramsbury retains a distinctively Saxon form with a high street and back lane, and the remnants, in its properties of long, narrow tofts connecting the two and reaching south

towards the river. Although evidence from the village is scant, archaeological excavation revealed possible Roman activity (Haslam et al 1980).

Medieval

2.4.4 The village was the seat of the Bishopric of Ramsbury from 909 to 1058, when the see passed to Salisbury (Sarum). However, the Bishops of Salisbury retained their ownership of the manor of Ramsbury until the Dissolution and from the middle of the 12th century until the Dissolution had a palace there within the park (Peregrine Bryant 2018).

2.4.5 No reliable record of its location exists but Leland, passing through in 1538, wrote a description that seems to echo the modern arrangement.

“The Bishop of Salisbury had a fair old place ... upon the left ripe (bank) of Kennet, that a little above a place in the meadows makes out an arm... There is a right fair and large Park hanging upon the cliff of a high hill wooded over Kennet, hard on the south side of the place.” (ibid.)

Post-medieval

2.4.6 By 1553 the manor was a possession of the Earls of Pembroke and, in 1567, a new mansion was built. The history of this is extensively described in the Heritage Statement, together with architectural descriptions and a plan, made in 1676 by William Walgrave (ibid.) This was replaced by the current house in the early 1680s (ibid). While it is impossible to be certain; there is enough similarity between elements of the Walgrave plan and the modern arrangement to suggest that the 1567 mansion occupied more or less the same site as the existing house.

2.4.7 Ramsbury Manor House (National Heritage List for England (NHLE) 1184029), is a 17th century Grade I listed Caroline double-pile building. The site is located within a Grade II listed late 18th century Registered Park and Garden (NHLE 1001242). The Registered Park and Garden area encapsulates several listed buildings, including two Grade II* listed gate piers and lodges (NHLE 1365500) 50 m south-east of the site and a Grade II listed 19th century farmhouse and barn (NHLE 1184047) 80 m north-east of the site.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021) and in compliance with the ClfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), were to:

- provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area

- establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance and
- make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

3.3 Site-specific objectives

3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework, site-specific objectives defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021) were to:

- test the results of the geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2019).

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI (**Figure 1**).
- 4.2.2 Twelve trial trenches were excavated in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.
- 4.2.3 Most trenches measured 30 m in length and 2.10 m wide. Trench 4 was planned to be 9m due to its location in the corner of Area B. Trenches 1, 10 and 11 were shortened due to tree canopies and trench 2 was amended to a 1 m by 1 m test pit due to the presence of a large copper birch tree.
- 4.2.4 Trench 3 was relocated from Area A to Area B, and trenches 9, 10 and 11 were relocated within Area C. This was again due to tree cover.
- 4.2.5 The base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.
- 4.2.6 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.
- 4.2.7 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and WCAS were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

- 4.2.8 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.
- 4.2.9 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.10 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011), and ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The WCAS monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the WCAS.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**). **Figure 1** shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches, together with the preceding geophysical survey results (Wessex Archaeology 2019).

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The natural geology was encountered at between 0.28 m and 0.35 m below ground level (bgl) and consisted of a brownish red clay loam with moderate angular and sub-angular flint and stone inclusions.
- 5.2.2 The topsoil above it was a greyish brown silty clay loam with frequent fine rooting and sparse small angular stone inclusions.
- 5.2.3 In places there were thin layers of a reddish-brown silty clay loam and patches of yellowish loam that appears to be the result of water action.



5.3 Area A

5.3.1 Due to the presence of utilities and tree canopies all trenches were amended from the original plan. Trench 1 was shortened and trench 2 was reduced to a hand dug test pit while trench 3 was relocated to Area B.

5.3.2 Both trenches 1 and 2 contained complex layers of made ground (**Plate 1**) that suggest that the area has been substantially landscaped.

5.4 Area B

5.4.1 Trenches 3 to 8 were located in this area. All were dug as planned. Trenches 4, 5, 6 and 8 had linear features running through them which were excavated in trenches 5 and 8 (**Figure 2, Plates 2 and 3**). Trench 7 was quite deep, and it is possible that the feature seen in trenches 5, 6 and 8 may run the full length of the trench.

5.5 Area C

5.5.1 Trenches 9 to 12 were located in this area. Trenches 9 and 11 were relocated due to trees. However, trench 10 was able to identify the archaeology identified in the geophysical investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2019) as a hollowed area, possibly a trackway or path associated with the garden (**Plate 4**).

5.5.2 Trench 11 also contains made ground, but quite different to that in trench 10

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during the evaluation, in a restricted range of material types. Finds derived from contexts (topsoil, made ground and feature fills) in five of the 12 trenches excavated. The assemblage is largely of post-medieval date, with a small prehistoric component.

6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1 All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Description	Animal Bone	Clay Pipe	Flint (no.)	Pottery	Other Finds
101	Topsoil					1 iron
501	Topsoil			2		
505	Ditch 504			3		
801	Topsoil			5		
806	?Ditch 804			1		1 glass
1001	Topsoil		2/10		1/9	1 CBM
1005	Hollow 1004	3/49				
1006	Hollow 1004					1 CBM
1102	Made ground		7/19		9/231	
1104	Made ground	5/95	5/18		11/196	
Total		8/144	14/47	11	21/436	

CBM = ceramic building material

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The small pottery assemblage amounts to 21 sherds, weighing 436 g. All sherds are of post-medieval date. Condition is fair to good; the assemblage is fragmentary, with no conjoining sherds noted, but levels of surface and edge abrasion are low. Mean sherd weight is 20.8 g.
- 6.2.2 The assemblage has been quantified (sherd count and weight) by ware type, and the full list by context is given in **Table 2**.

Table 2 All pottery finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Ware type	No.	Wt. (g)	Description
1001	Redware	1	9	bowl rim, slipware
1102	Redware	8	217	bowl rim, body & base sherds; jug handle, all glazed
1102	English stoneware	1	14	body sherd, cylindrical tankard?
1104	Red Border ware	6	170	jar rim, plus body & base sherds, glazed
1104	English stoneware	1	18	cylindrical tankard base
1104	Porcelain	2	4	flatware rims
1104	White salt glaze	2	4	body sherds, 1 scratch blue (tea bowl?)

- 6.2.3 This small assemblage encompasses the expected range of common ware types for the period, combining coarse redwares probably of local manufacture with regional imports (stonewares and porcelain). The redwares include one polychrome slipware of a type found in west Berkshire and the adjacent parts of Hampshire and Wiltshire; these have a possible source at Inkpen. The presence of slipware, together with the regional imports (white salt glaze and other stonewares probably from Staffordshire, and porcelain), and the absence of later refined wares, indicate a potential date range in the 17th to early 18th century.
- 6.2.4 Sherds were only recovered from three contexts: trench 10 topsoil (1001), and two made ground deposits (1102 and 1104) in trench 11. Given the provenance, all sherds may be said to have been redeposited.

6.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 6.3.1 Two pieces of CBM were recovered: a flat (peg) roof tile of late medieval or early post-medieval date from 1001, and part of an unfrosted brick in a coarse fabric, 18th-century or later, from context 1006.

6.4 Clay Tobacco Pipe

- 6.4.1 The 14 fragments of clay pipe recovered are all plain stems, one retaining the bowl spur. The latter item dates to the late 17th or early 18th century; other stems are dated broadly as 17th-century or later.

6.5 Worked Flint

- 6.5.1 Eleven pieces of worked flint were recovered and are listed in **Table 3**.

Table 3 All flint finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	No. pieces	Type	Comment
501	1	Flake	
501	1	Scraper	Side scraper
505	2	Flake	
505	1	Core	Single platform
801	1	Scraper	Small end scraper
801	1	Flake	Core thinning flake
801	3	Flake	One burnt, one broken
806	1	Core rejuvenation tablet	

6.5.2 Very little can be said to date or comment on this small collection. It represents what is likely to be multi-period activity and constitutes a 'background' of worked flints, of the type and density that can be expected in most locations on the chalk of Southern England. All artefacts show signs of extensive post-depositional edge damage, which demonstrate that they have been moved and reworked in the soil profile from their point of discard. This observation applies not only to material from the current topsoil but also from ditch fills, indicating that they pre-date the features in which they were found. All pieces are robust as might also be expected from worked flints recovered from contexts of this type. Precise dating is impossible beyond providing a broad range that is likely to extend from the Early Neolithic, most notably the core tool thinning flake, into the Bronze Age.

6.6 Other Finds

6.6.1 Other finds comprise the base of a free-blown green wine bottle, probably a 'shaft and globe' form (mid-17th century) from possible ditch 804; and an iron object, possibly a small section of gridded fencing, from topsoil 101.

6.7 Selection Strategy

6.7.1 The selection strategy for the finds should also take into account the small quantity recovered from the earlier watching brief, but the combined assemblage is still very small, of limited archaeological significance and with little or no further research value. The occurrence of prehistoric worked flint is of interest but not unexpected in the area; all pieces are likely to be redeposited, and the same can be said of much of the rest of the assemblage, which is of relatively recent date and comprised on commonly occurring and well documented types. Retention is not recommended for any of the finds.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1.1 No environmental samples were collected

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

8.1.1 No significant archaeological features were uncovered but evidence of post-medieval ditches and pathways was found.

- 8.1.2 The ditch segments observed in the trenches of Area B do not clearly match the nature of the anomalies noted in the geophysics survey as a possible continuation of the 18th century road, but within Area C, trench 10 does correspond well with the location and orientation of the previously identified roadway.
- 8.1.3 The presence of trees in Areas A and C meant that trenches 1 and 2 were significantly curtailed and trench 3 moved to Area 3. And trenches 9 and 11 were moved away from their original locations and therefore did not test the geophysics survey results, as originally planned.
- 8.1.4 A number of very abraded pieces of worked flint were recovered both from the topsoil and the ditch fills. The pottery, clay pipe and glass artefacts all date to the 17th and 18th century.

8.2 Discussion

- 8.2.1 Both trenches 1 and 2 in Area A contained complex layers of made ground that suggest the area has been substantially landscaped (**Plate 1**). The section in trench 11, 200m away in Area C was very similar. These may be evidence of the work begun around 1775 by James Sanderson to create an informal landscape park (Drury McPherson 2019).
- 8.2.2 A number of post-medieval ditches were observed in Area B: one each in trenches 4, 6, possibly 7 and 8, and two in trench 5 (**Figure 2, Plates 2 and 3**). While the sampled sections of ditches 504 and 804 contained some worked flint they were very abraded, which suggests they were residual in the soil and pre-date the archaeological features. The sampled sections also contained modern glass which suggests they went out of use in the post-medieval or modern periods.
- 8.2.3 No combination clearly matches the “possible 18th century road continuation” from the geoarchaeological survey. 504, and 804 are on the correct alignment but there is no corresponding feature in trench 6. And 403, 506 and 603 run parallel to it but do not continue as far as trench 8. The best fit is for a ditch that runs through 506, 603, 703 (the entire width and breadth of trench 7) and 804.
- 8.2.4 Trench 10 was located across the geophysical anomaly marked as “18th century road” and contains a flint cobbled hollow that could be described as metalled (**Plate 4**). It aligns with a corresponding hollow in the landscape leading towards the lake to the south-east. It contained animal bone, CBM, clay pipe, pottery (from the 17th to early 18th century) and a free-blown green wine bottle, probably a ‘shaft and globe’ form (mid-17th-century) that all suggest a post-medieval date, but long enough ago that a tree with a 2 m root ball has fulfilled its lifecycle. It is therefore possible that the feature was decommissioned as part of the Sanderson’s landscaping carried out in the last quarter of the 18th century

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Wiltshire Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code DZSWS: 22-2019. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

9.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics and artefacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Wiltshire Museum and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011).

9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **site/accession code** DZSWS: 22-2019, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 01 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 01 files/document cases of paper records

Digital archive

9.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

Finds archive

9.2.4 The finds (artefacts and ecofacts) will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Wiltshire Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011).

9.2.5 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The finds archive currently comprises the following:

- 01 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type

Documentary archive

9.2.6 The physical archive currently includes paper records (site registers only), graphics and artefacts. Born digital data include site records, finds and environmental data, photographs, survey data and reports. Physical and digital records will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011).

9.3 Selection strategy

9.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.



9.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows ClfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

9.3.3 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Finds

9.3.4 The selection strategy for the finds should also take into account the small quantity recovered from the earlier watching brief, but the combined assemblage is still very small, of limited archaeological significance and with little or no further research value. The occurrence of prehistoric worked flint is of interest but not unexpected in the area; all pieces are likely to be redeposited, and the same can be said of much of the rest of the assemblage, which is of relatively recent date and comprised on commonly occurring and well documented types. Retention is not recommended for any of the finds.

Documentary records

9.3.5 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

9.3.6 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

9.4 Security copy

9.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

9.5 OASIS

9.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 2). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the WCAS on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with



all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

- 10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

10.2 Third party data copyright

- 10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

Trench No 1		Length 9 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.90 m
Easting 425756.4375		Northing 171179.4364		m OD 125.7882
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
101		Topsoil	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silty clay loam. Frequent fine rooting. Sparse small angular stone inclusions.	0–0.2
102		Made ground	Mid brown silty clay loam. Large section with several different layers which merge throughout the layer. Clear thin strip of chalk present in the middle of the layer. CBM, brick and iron nails present throughout the layer (not retained).	0.2–0.8
103		Natural	Mid brownish red clay loam. Moderate angular-sub angular flint and stone inclusions.	,0.8–0.9+

Trench No 2		Length 1 m	Width 1 m	Depth 0.85 m
Easting 425829.2052		Northing 171219.3138		m OD 124.9737
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
201		Topsoil - brown clay loam under rich turf	Very common angular / sub-angular flints up to 15cm.	0m – 0.20m
202		Redeposited clay-with-flints with veins of topsoil-like material throughout	Made ground - likely upcast from adjacent terrace set farm buildings.	0.20m – 0.50m
203		Buried topsoil	Grey-brown silty clay loam - virtually stone free but with occasional charcoal lenses, CBM and FE nails (not kept). Could be old turf level with uppermost portion removed prior to making up the ground. Material of (204) below a little like the lower portion of the Topsoil elsewhere on site so perhaps really the same layer?	0.50m – 0.62m
204		Grey-brown silty clay loam with very common angular/sub-angular flints up to c10cm	Occasional CBM (not kept). Possibly part of old topsoil (along with (203) above ?) Or a made ground deposit.	0.62m – 0.78m



205		Natural - clay-with-flints	Natural - clay-with-flints	0.78m – 0.85m+
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Trench No 3		Length 30 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.62 m
Easting 426025.5991		Northing 171396.3119		m OD 128.7827
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
301		Topsoil	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silty clay loam. Frequent fine rooting. Moderately large angular-sub angular stone and flint inclusions.	0–0.2
302		Subsoil	Sub soil. Mid reddish brown silty clay loam. Colluvial layer. Common large angular-sub angular stone and flint inclusions. Colluvium.	0.2–0.34
303		Natural	Mid brownish red silty clay loam. Common large angular-sub angular stone and flint inclusions.	0.34–0.62+

Trench No 4		Length 10 m	Width 1.90 m	Depth 0.50 m
Easting 425935.5431		Northing 171496.8178		m OD 138.8642
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
401		Topsoil	Topsoil - brown clay silt with moderately common angular flint up to c.8cm	0m–0.25m
402		Uncategorised context	Natural - yellow brown silty clay with flints with paler, siltier NW-SE aligned bands	0.25m+
403	404	Uncategorised feature	Cut. Probable cut of post medieval ditch not immediately obvious. - weathered out later- Continuation of ditch recorded in trenches 5 & 8. Unexcavated.	0.3+
404	403	Fill	Yellow brown silty clay with common angular flint inclusions. Unexcavated.	0.3+
405		Colluvium	Yellow brown silty clay with common angular flint inclusions under topsoil and overlying natural.	0.25–0.30m

Trench No 5		Length 30 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.50 m
Easting 425963.9782		Northing 171451.9118		m OD 134.6518
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
501		Topsoil	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam. Frequent fine rooting. Moderate angular-sub angular flint and stone inclusions?	0–0.24



502		Subsoil	Sub soil. Mid reddish brown silty clay loam. Colluvium layer of soil. Moderate angular-sub angular stone and flint inclusions.	0.24–0.34
503		Natural	Brownish red clay loam. Common angular-sub angular stone and flint inclusions.	0.34–0.5+
504	505	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned NW SE with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >2.10 m. Width: 2.63 m. Depth: 0.42 m.	
505	504	Secondary fill	Mid reddish brown silty clay loam with common angular-sub angular flint and stone inclusions	
506		Ditch	Cut of ditch. Unexcavated. 2.1m+ length 1.5m width.	0.5
507		Secondary fill	Secondary fill of ditch. Unexcavated. Mid brown silty clay loam. Moderate angular-sub angular flint inclusions.	0.5

Trench No 6		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.50 m
Easting 426004.2481		Northing 171426.0659		m OD 131.1564
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
601		Topsoil	Topsoil - brown clay silt with moderately sparse angular flint up to c.8cm	0m–0.25m
602		Natural	Natural -yellow brown clay with flints. Several NW-SE aligned paler, siltier stripes, fairly linear but varying widths. Presumably geological or possibly agricultural (look more believable as trace remnant of ridge and furrow here though not obvious by any means and run with the slope	0.30m +
603	604	Ditch	Ditch cut. Unexcavated post medieval feature. Continuation of feature in trench 5 and 8. Measures 1.45m wide	0.3+
604	603	Fill	Yellow brown silty clay with common angular flint inclusions. Unexcavated post medieval ditch fill.	0.3+
605		Colluvium	Colluvium evident in section. Yellow brown silty clay with common angular flint inclusions. Under topsoil and above natural.	0.25–0.30m



Trench No 7		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.75 m
Easting 426032.9538		Northing 171417.0563		m OD 129.3988
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
701		Topsoil	Topsoil - brown clay loam with moderately sparse angular flint up to c.8cm	0m -0.28m
702		Alluvium?	Subsoil / colluvium - reddish brown clay loam with moderately common angular flint up to c.8cm - upper portion may be development of subsoil but majority notably stony. Thicker at the SE end of the trench so in keeping with some colluviation.	0.28m-0.60
703	704	Ditch	(See below) - proposed.	
704	703	Fill	Proposed.	
705		Uncategorised context	Natural - clay with flints with several vaguely linear paler, siltier stripes that are presumably geological but might be agricultural (all NW-SE with the slope).	

Trench No 8		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.72 m
Easting 426032.8408		Northing 171399.0208		128.4245
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
801		Topsoil	Topsoil. Mid brown silty clay loam. Frequent fine rooting. Moderate 15% large angular-sub angular flint inclusions.	0-0.28
802		Subsoil	Sub soil. Colluvium. Mid reddish brown silty clay loam. Common 25% large angular-sub angular flint inclusions 3-11cm. Not clear if it has some colluvial origin. Possibly associated with disturbance during landscaping.	0.28-0.58
803		Natural	Mid brownish red clay loam. Common 20% angular-sub angular flint inclusions.	0.58+
804	805, 806, 807	Ditch?	Possible linear ditch aligned SE-NW with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >1.80 m. Width: 2.75 m. Depth: 0.25 m.	
805	804	Primary fill	Reddish brown clay loam with common angular flint up to c.8cm	
806	804	Secondary fill	Brown silty clay loam with moderately sparse angular flint up to c.8cm	
807	804	Deliberate backfill?	Reddish brown clay loam with moderately common angular flint up to c.8cm	



Trench No 9		Length 30 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.52 m
Easting 426133.0048		Northing 171337.1420		m OD 119.9625
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
901		Topsoil	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown. Frequent fine rooting. Moderate angular-sub angular stone and flint inclusions.	0–0.2
902		Subsoil	Subsoil. Thin layer of reddish-brown silty clay loam. Colluvial layer. Sparse angular-sub angular stone and flint inclusions. Colluvium.	0.2–0.3
903		Natural	Mid brownish red silty clay loam. Common angular-sub angular stone and flint inclusions.	0.3–0.52+

Trench No 10		Length 14.30 m	Width 1.90 m	Depth 0.79 m
Easting 426089.6050		Northing 171372.4192		m OD 123.9476
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1001		Topsoil turf	Grey brown clay silt with few angular flint inclusions	0 –' 0.25
1002		Colluvium	Subsoil. Yellow brown silty clay with abundant angular flint inclusions.	0.25 – 0.51
1003		Natural	Yellow brown / red brown silty clay with abundant angular flint inclusions and occasional small, eroded chalk fragments.	0.51+
1004	1005, 1006	Hollow	Cut of hollow. Possible trackway, pathway, area of hardstanding or garden feature. Measures 4.35m by at least 2m (width of trench). Extends NW/SE out of trench. Aligns with visible hollow in field leading down to lake. Post medieval in date due to finds	0.30 –0.79
1005	1004	Deliberate backfill	Backfill. Layer infilling hollow directly overlying flints (1006). Comprises yellow grey brown silty clay with common angular flint and chalk inclusions. Animal bone and heavy based glass bottle fragment noted (but not retained). Onion bottle style 18- 19th century.	0.30 – 0.53

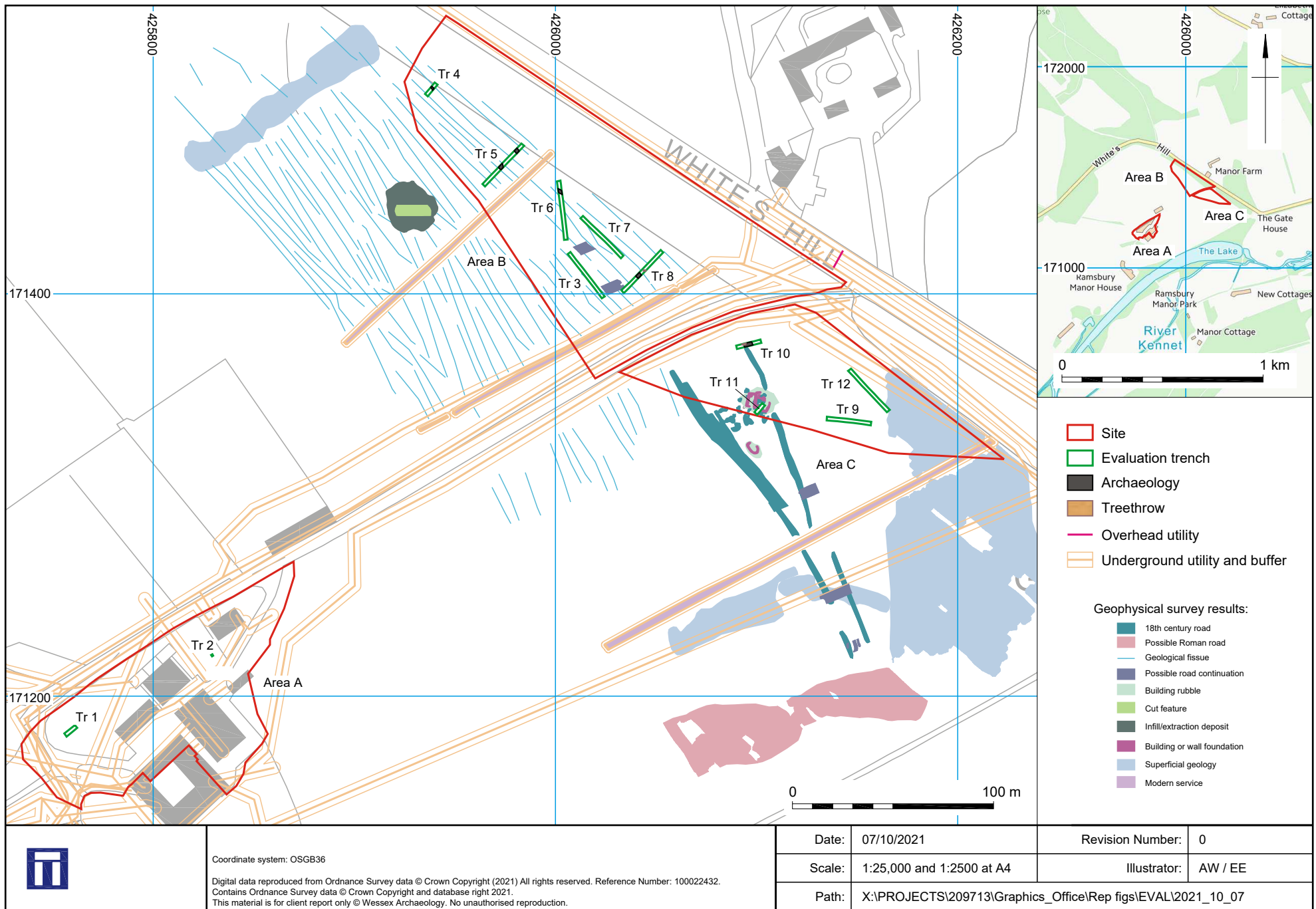


1006	1004	Layer comprising flint nodules -2 to 3 deep- within a grey cream coloured clay silt with common crushed chalk inclusions	Flints were not bonded but loosely fill (1004). Single brick fragment noted. Possible metallurgy layer for pathway / track way? If localised to trench may represent hardstanding. Geophysics suggest a linear feature crosses the trench. Hollow (1004) also appears to align with an earthwork to the south leading down (SE) to the lake. Flints measure approximately 0.20m in diameter. Many appear struck - shaped may represent a structural purpose (Wall construction etc).- repurposed materials? Post medieval feature. Cut by (1007).	0.53 – 0.79
1007	1008	Pit or Tree Throw	Tree throw / modern pit cut. Probable tree throw, extending west out of trench. Semi-circular feature, cuts (1004). Not further excavated. Measures 2.05 X 0.78m.	0.15 – 0.50+
1008	1007	Fill	Tree throw / modern disturbance fill. Dark yellow brown silty clay with occasional chalk and flint inclusions also contains degraded root material and modern rope and bailer twine.	0.15–0.50+

Trench No 11		Length 8 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.62 m
Easting 426100.2669		Northing 171339.3598		m OD 120.7195
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1101		Topsoil	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silty clay loam.	0–0.2
1102		Made ground	Greyish brown clay silt with moderate amounts of building material. Red fragments of Victorian pottery, iron nails (not retained), clay pipes and Oyster shell (not retained).	0.2–0.29
1103		Made ground	Thin layer of white chalk deposit.	0.29–0.31
1104		Made ground	Greyish brown clay silt with moderate amounts of building material, pottery (Victorian), iron nails (not retained), clay pipes and fragments of animal bone.	0.31–0.44
1105		Made ground	Layer of chalk deposit with intermittent fragments of red brick.	0.44–0.48
1106		Natural	Light greyish brown sandy loam. Abundant angular-sub angular stone and flint inclusions.	0.48–0.62+



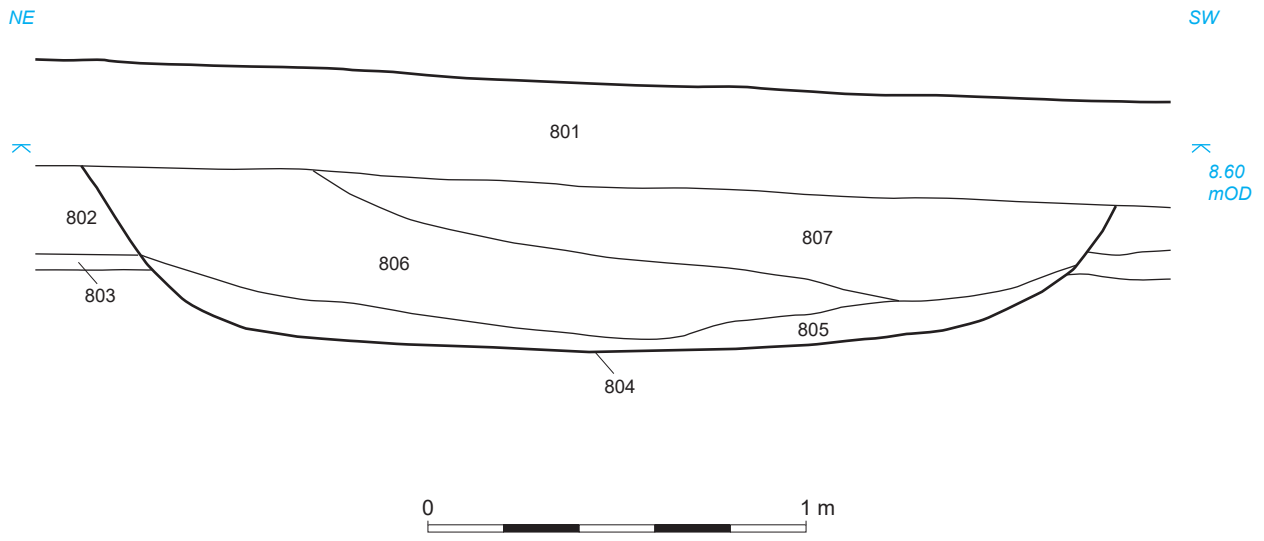
Trench No 12		Length 30 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.90 m
Easting 426143.9373		Northing 171363.2364		m OD 120.2597
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1201		Topsoil	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silty clay loam. Frequent fine rooting. Moderate angular-sub angular stone and flint inclusions.	0–0.2
1202		Subsoil	Sub soil. Mid reddish brown silty clay loam. Common large angular-sub angular stone and flint inclusions. Colluvium.	0.2–0.45
1203		Natural	Mid brownish red silty clay loam. Common large angular-sub angular stone and flint inclusions.	0.45–0.9+



Site and trench location plan

Figure 1

Section 1. North west facing section of ditch 804



North west facing section of ditch 804 (2 m scale)


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	Scale:	1:20 @ A4	Illustrator:	EE
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Plate 1: South east facing representative section of trench 2 (1 m scale)



Plate 2: Trench 5 from the south west (1 m and 2 m scale)



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Plate 3: Trench 8 from the south west (1 m and 2 m scale)



Plate 4: View of hollow 1001 from the south (1 m scales)

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Appendix 2 OASIS record

10.3 OASIS ID: wessexar1-432274

Project details

Project name	Ramsbury Manor Visitors Centre Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a trial trench evaluation of approximately 2 Ha of land located at Ramsbury Manor.</p> <p>The evaluation comprising twelve trial trenches</p> <p>Evidence of post-medieval landscaping, ditches and a pathway were found.</p> <p>Both trenches 1 and 2 contained complex layers of made ground that suggest the area has been substantially landscaped. The section in trench 11, 200m away in Area C was very similar. These may be evidence of the work begun around 1775 by James Sanderson to create an informal landscape park.</p> <p>A number of post medieval ditches were observed</p> <p>While ditches 504 and 804 contained some worked flint they were very abraded, and the presence of modern glass suggests they went out of use in the post-medieval or modern periods.</p> <p>No combination clearly matches the “possible road continuation” from the geoarchaeological survey. The best fit is for a ditch that runs through 506, 603, 703 and 804.</p> <p>Trench 10 was located across the geophysical anomaly marked as “18th century roads” and contains a flint cobbled hollow. It contained animal bone, CBM, clay pipe, pottery and a free-blown green wine bottle, probably a ‘shaft and globe’ form (from the 17th to early 18th century) but long enough ago that a tree with a 2 m root ball has fulfilled its lifecycle. It is therefore possible that the feature was decommissioned as part of the Sanderson’s landscaping carried out in the last quarter of the 18th century</p>
Project dates	Start: 23-08-2021 End: 27-08-2021
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	DZSWS: 22-2019 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	209713 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	TRACKWAY Post Medieval



Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Visitors' centre
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE KENNET RAMSBURY Ramsbury Manor Visitors Centre
Postcode	SN8 2RG
Study area	2 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 25832 71236 51.439039168982 -1.628308656876 51 26 20 N 001 37 41 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 117m Max: 150m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Bill Moffat
Project supervisor	R Whellan
Type of sponsor/funding body	Charitable Foundation
Name of sponsor/funding body	Ramsbury Manor Foundation

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Wiltshire Museum Devizes
Physical Archive ID	DZSWS: 22-2019
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	Wiltshire Museum Devizes



Digital Archive ID	DZSWS: 22-2019
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Wiltshire Museum Devizes
Paper Archive ID	DZSWS: 22-2019
Paper Media available	"Drawing","Report"
Paper Archive notes	Registers

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Ramsbury Manor Visitors Centre Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Kaines, J
Other bibliographic details	209713.03
Date	2021
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Salisbury



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