



Melksham House Service Campus
Melksham, Wiltshire

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment





**MELKSHAM HOUSE SERVICE CAMPUS
MELKSHAM
WILTSHIRE**

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wiltshire Council to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Melksham House Service Campus, Melksham, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference 390230 163590. The proposed development within the site comprises the improvements to the leisure and sports facilities.

The Wiltshire and Swindon Sites and Monuments Record was consulted within a 500m study area around the site in order to provide the context for the discussion and interpretation of the known and potential historic environment resource.

The Site lies within Melksham Conservation Area. The designated heritage asset within the site, Grade II Listed Melksham House and its setting may be impacted upon by the development. The proposed development is to comprise demolition of the late 20th century additions to the building and its renovation, which may cause some loss of historic fabric to the designated structure. The Grade II Listed St Michael's Church and The Grange, located beyond the site, are considered to be potential sensitive receptors to the proposed development. The proposed development may have the potential to cause an adverse impact to the settings of the designated heritage assets located both within and beyond the site.

This assessment has established that there is an archaeological interest within the site, defined as the potential for the presence of buried archaeological remains potentially relating to the medieval and later development of Melksham and to the agricultural activity. The geophysical survey has confirmed the presence of archaeological features across the Site.

This assessment has established that some of the outbuildings within the Site selected for demolition are related to the post-medieval development of Melksham House.

It is considered that any potential loss of historic fabric from Melksham House and the total loss of the unlisted structures associated with it may be mitigated through a programme of building recording prior to construction/demolition. It is considered that potential impacts to the settings of designated heritage assets both within and beyond the Site could be partially or fully mitigated through design iteration of the proposed development. The geophysical survey has demonstrated the presence of anomalies of definite, probable and possible archaeological interest and areas of strong magnetic disturbance. It is likely that additional archaeological investigations, such as trial trench evaluation may be required within areas of major impact. The need for, scale, scope and nature of any further archaeological works should be agreed through consultation with the statutory authorities.

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Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Wiltshire Council and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Richard Pierce in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Wiltshire Council for supplying the Historic Environment Record data.

The report was researched and compiled by Julia Sulikowska. The geophysical survey was carried out by Hannah Brown, Laura Andrews and Ben Urmston. The data was interpreted by Ben Urmston, who also compiled the geophysics sections of this report. The illustrations were prepared by Linda Coleman and Julia Sulikowska. Rob Armour Chelu managed the project on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.

**MELKSHAM HOUSE SERVICE CAMPUS
MELKSHAM
WILTSHIRE****Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment****1 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wiltshire Council to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment, including geophysical survey, of land at Melksham House Service Campus, Melksham, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 390230 163590 (hereafter, 'the Site', **Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The Site has recently been acquired by Wiltshire Council, who are planning to redevelop the Site in order to provide modern leisure and service hub facilities.
- 1.1.3 Following discussions with Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service, the need for archaeological investigations, comprising a desk-based assessment and a geophysical survey has been identified at this initial stage of the design.
- 1.1.4 An *Archaeological Survey Brief* has been prepared for the Site by DKA (2012) detailing the required investigations and the reporting format. The results of the surveys will be used to determine the need for and scope of further archaeological work required prior to the submission of planning application to Wiltshire Council.

1.2 The Site, location and geology

- 1.2.1 The Site, a sub-rectangular plot of land of approximately 5.62 ha, is located in the centre of Melksham, to the west of Market Place, and lies within Melksham Conservation Area. It is occupied by a number of sports fields, along with extant buildings, car parks and lawns. The eastern part of the Site is centred upon the Grade II Listed Melksham House, with further buildings located to the north and south. The remainder of the Site comprises a pond, bowling greens, tennis courts, pitches for football, rugby and cricket, formal parkland and surfaced car parks.
- 1.2.2 The Site is bounded to the west and north by municipal cemetery, to the north by the grounds of St Michael's Church and old church school buildings, to the east by modern care homes and a swimming pool and to the south by residential development and tennis courts,
- 1.2.3 The Site rises gradually from west to east, with the river Avon located c. 100m to the west, and is located at an elevation of approximately 35m above Ordnance Datum (aOD)
- 1.2.4 The underlying geology of the Site comprises mudstone of the Jurassic Oxford Clay Formation, which is overlain by Quaternary River Terrace Deposits of sand and gravel (British Geological Survey).

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims and scope

2.1.1 The aim of this study is to assess the known heritage resource of the Site, and the significance of this resource, as well as to establish the archaeological potential of the Site by making use of available resources and of that potential. The assessment will present the Site's baseline conditions in the form of a preliminary statement of the archaeological and heritage implications of the proposed development.

2.2 Study Area

2.2.1 The recorded historic environment resource within a 500m Study Area around the Site was considered in order to provide a context for the discussion and interpretation of the known and potential resource within the Site (**Figure 1**).

2.3 Sources

2.3.1 A number of publicly accessible sources of primary and synthesised information were consulted. A brief summary of the sources consulted is given below.

Sites and Monuments Record

2.3.2 The Wiltshire and Swindon Sites and Monuments Record (WSMR), maintained by Wiltshire Council, was consulted for information pertaining to the historic environment resource within the Study Area. The WSMR is a database of all recorded archaeological sites, findspots, archaeological events and historic landscape character areas within the county and was consulted for this study in July 2012. Information from the WSMR, along with that from the additional sources, has been reviewed and synthesised for the purposes of this report and is summarised in gazetteer format in **Appendix 1**.

Documentary sources

2.3.3 A search of other relevant primary and secondary sources was carried out digitally and in the Wessex Archaeology's own library. Recent volumes of local journals were consulted, and both published and unpublished archaeological reports relating to excavations and observations in the area around the Site were studied. The sources consulted are listed in the **References** section below.

Cartographic sources

2.3.4 A search of historic maps, including Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, was undertaken digitally and in the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Chippenham. Maps and associated historical sources can clarify the archaeological potential of the Site in two ways. Firstly, by suggesting aspects of historic land use prior to any modern development. Secondly, it identifies areas within the Site that, because of that development, are likely to have become archaeologically sterile. All maps consulted in the preparation of this document are listed in **References** below and a number are included as **Figure 3**.

2.4 Site Visit

2.4.1 The Site was visited on 1st August 2012. The aim of the visit was to assess the general aspect, character, condition and setting of the Site. Weather conditions were overcast. A digital photographic record of the visit is held in the project archive; selected images are included in this report.

2.5 Geophysical survey

2.5.1 The geophysical survey was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology's in-house geophysics team between 1st and 2nd August 2012. The Site was divided into six areas (**Areas A-F**) for the purposes of the geophysical investigation. Field conditions at the time of the survey were satisfactory, with portions of the survey being undertaken over extant sports pitches (**Area A** – rugby and cricket pitches and **Area F** – football pitch). A number of the survey areas comprised tennis courts (**Areas B and C**), a bowling green (**Area D**) and landscaped parkland (**Area E**); modern services, areas of hard-standing and steel mesh fences were evident within these areas.

2.5.2 Individual survey grid nodes were established at 30m x 30m intervals using a Leica Viva RTK GNSS system, which is precise to approximately 0.02m and therefore exceeds English Heritage (EH) recommendations (2008).

2.5.3 The magnetometer survey was conducted using a Bartington Grad 601-2 fluxgate gradiometer instrument, which has a vertical separation of 1m between sensors. Data was collected at 0.25m intervals along transects spaced 1m apart with an effective sensitivity of 0.03nT, in accordance with EH guidelines (2008). Data was collected in the zigzag method.

2.5.4 Data from the survey was subject to minimal data correction processes. These comprise a zero mean traverse function (± 5 nT thresholds) applied to correct for any variation between the two Bartington sensors used, and a de-step function to account for variations in traverse position due to varying ground cover and topography. These two steps were applied to all survey areas, with no interpolation applied.

2.5.5 Further details of the geophysical and survey equipment, methods and processing are described in **Appendix 3**.

2.6 Chronology

2.6.1 Where referred to in the text, the main archaeological periods are broadly defined by the following date ranges:

- Palaeolithic 650,000-9500BC
- Early Post-glacial 9500-8500BC
- Mesolithic 8500-4000BC
- Neolithic 4000-2200BC
- Bronze Age 2200-700BC
- Iron Age 700BC-AD43
- Romano-British AD43-410
- Saxon AD410-1066
- Medieval 1066-1499
- Post-medieval 1500-1799
- 19th century 1800-1900
- Modern 1900-present

2.7 Best practice

2.7.1 This assessment has been carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for desk-based assessment* (IfA 2011). The geophysical survey was conducted in accordance with English Heritage guidelines *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008).

2.8 Assumptions and limitations

2.8.1 Data used to compile this report consists of secondary information derived from a variety of sources, only some of which have been directly examined for the purposes of this assessment. The assumption is made that this data, as well as that derived from other secondary sources, is reasonably accurate.

2.8.2 The WSMR is not records of all surviving elements of the historic environment resource, but represent records of the discovery of a wide range of archaeological and historical components. The information held within it is not complete and does not preclude the subsequent discovery of further elements of the historic environment that are, at present, unknown.

2.9 Copyright

2.9.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. The end-user is reminded that they remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Policy framework

3.1.1 There is national legislation and guidance relating to the protection of, and proposed development on or near, important archaeological sites or historical buildings within planning regulations as defined under the provisions of the *Town and Country Planning Act 1990*. In addition, local authorities are responsible for the protection of the historic environment within the planning system.

3.1.2 The overarching national policy covering the effects of development on the historic environment is the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF).

3.1.3 *The Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016*, policies of which cover the whole of Wiltshire, was adopted in 2006 and expired in 2009. A number of policies, including policies regarding the historic environment, were saved by the Secretary of State beyond that point in a *Direction* issued in 2009.

3.1.4 The Site is located in Wiltshire. Wiltshire Council is in the process of preparing its Local Development Framework (LDF), in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. As it has not yet been finalised, specific policies of the *West Wiltshire District Plan 1st Alteration*

(2004), produced by the former District Council and inherited by the Unitary Authority, Wiltshire Council (Saved Policies), were retained by the Secretary of State's *Directive* (2007) and remain in force. A number of policies regarding the historic environment were included in the Saved Policies.

- 3.1.5 The national and local policies relevant to the present scheme are detailed in **Appendix 2**.

4 BASELINE RESOURCE

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following section provides a brief summary of the archaeological and historical development of the Site and the Study Area, compiled from sources listed above. The aim is to establish the known and potential resource which could be affected by the development.

4.1.2 All heritage assets identified are listed in **Appendix 1**. The WSMR and selected National List entries are listed by number within the text and in **Figures 1 and 2: 1-5 and 39** (Listed Buildings) and **6-38** (archaeological records). Entries are given a **WA** prefix in the text for ease of reference. Features recorded during the geophysical survey are listed within the text and in **Figure 6** by numbers **4000 – 4028**.

4.2 Previous studies

4.2.1 An *Extensive Urban Survey* (McMahon 2004) was prepared for Melksham and discussed in detail the archaeological and historical development of the Melksham town centre. The Site lies within the study area for this assessment.

4.2.2 A brief summary of the designated heritage assets within the Site and the archaeological potential was included in the *Archaeological Survey Brief* (DKA 2012).

4.2.3 Only a small number of archaeological investigations have been carried out previously within the Study Area. The results investigations which yielded archaeological remains are discussed in appropriate sections below.

4.2.4 Archaeological investigations carried out at the ADSA store to the north of the Site (**WA 6**) and at Gower House to the east (**WA 31**) revealed no archaeological features.

4.3 Statutory and local heritage designations

4.3.1 The designated heritage assets are illustrated in **Figure 1**.

4.3.2 There are no Scheduled Monuments within the Site or Study Area. The nearest Scheduled Monument is the site of the medieval settlement at Whaddon, located approximately 2.7km to the south-west of the Site.

4.3.3 The Site and the majority of the 137 Listed Buildings within the Study Area are situated within Melksham Conservation Area.

4.3.4 Designated heritage assets within the Site comprise a Grade II Listed Building, Melksham House (**WA 5, Plate 1**). This country house is of 18th

century date with later alterations, although a late 17th century date has also been suggested (DKA 2012, Wiltshire Council 2011). It is a two storey structure with an attic, built of stone with a slate hipped roof. The building is fronting towards east and its eastern façade is of significance due to its architectural values. After the First World War, the House and grounds were acquired by Cooper Tires in order to create a sports and social club and the Site has been used for leisure purposes since. In 1920, Melksham House was badly damaged by fire and subsequently restored and extended. Throughout the latter half of the 20th century, the Listed Building was subject to further extensions and ancillary buildings were constructed in the vicinity (**Plate 2**).

- 4.3.5 Two Grade II Listed Buildings associated with Melksham House are situated in the vicinity of the Site. They comprise gate piers located by the north (**WA 2**) and east entrance (**WA 4**) to Melksham House. Both designated heritage assets are of 18th century and comprise square piers made of limestone.
- 4.3.6 The two Grade II* Listed Buildings within the Study Area comprise the Church of St Michael (**WA 1, Plate 4**, c. 30m to the north of the Site) and Turner Memorial in the churchyard (**WA 3**, c. 15m to the north). The church, set in extensive grounds, has Norman origins, although the present building is of late medieval date with major remodelling undertaken in 1845 by T.H. Wyatt. The memorial is a 19th century limestone chest tomb. Immediately to the west of the churchyard and to the north of the Site a Grade II Listed Building, The Grange (**WA 39, Plate 4**) is situated, which was built as a vicarage in the late 17th century.
- 4.3.7 The remaining 131 Listed Buildings are all of Grade II. They comprise predominantly memorials within the churchyard and town houses alongside High Street, Church Street and Church Walk.

4.4 Archaeological and historical context

- 4.4.1 The archaeological records obtained from WSMR and other sources are illustrated in **Figure 2** and listed in **Appendix 1**.

Prehistoric and Romano-British

- 4.4.2 There is evidence for human activity within the Study Area from the Palaeolithic period onwards. Two Palaeolithic flakes have been recovered from the River Avon gravels. A large flake with retouch along one edge has been retrieved during the bypass bridge construction, c. 140m to the north-west of the Site (**WA 21**, McMahon 2004) and a second flake is recorded further down the river, c. 220m to the north-west (**WA 26**).
- 4.4.3 Although there is no evidence for Mesolithic human activity within the Study Area, a number of palaeochannels (old river channels) were excavated during several investigations undertaken in the vicinity of the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2003 and 2009). The remains of the palaeochannels (**WA 13, 18** and **25**, approximately 320m, 180 and 90m to the north of the Site, respectively and **WA 18**, c. 340m to the west) indicate that throughout the Mesolithic period, the River Avon formed a large braided dynamic river system, with a number of tributary streams.
- 4.4.4 There is little indication regarding the human activity during the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. However, Neolithic Peterborough ware pottery (**WA 14**

and **16**, c. 180m to the north and north-west of the Site, respectively) and an assemblage of metalwork comprising socketed spearheads of Bronze Age date (**WA 17**, approximately 190m to the north-west) have been recovered during the bypass bridge construction (Mcmahon 2004).

- 4.4.5 There is little evidence for Romano-British activity in Melksham and its environs. The recorded finds comprise pottery retrieved during the bridge construction (**WA 15**, c. 170m to the north of the Site) and two sherds of pottery excavated at Church Walk, c. 100m to the north (**WA 27**).

Saxon and medieval

- 4.4.6 The settlement of Melksham has its origins in the Saxon period and its name is thought to have derived from an Old English word *meoloc* meaning 'milk' (Mcmahon 2004). During that period, it was situated within pastoral landscape, and is likely to have been associated with dairy farming. Although there is little archaeological evidence for Saxon activity within the Study Area, it is likely that the settlement would have been focused on a higher ground overlooking the River Avon valley, likely in the vicinity of St Michael's Church (**WA 30**). It has been suggested that the present church might have been built on site of a former, wooden structure (Wiltshire Council 2011). Residual Saxon pottery has also been retrieved during investigations to the north of the Site (**WA 24**, Wessex Archaeology 2009).
- 4.4.7 Melksham grew in importance and it is first recorded in the Domesday Survey (1086) as *Melchesa* (**WA 23**, immediately to the east of the Site). At that time, it is referred to as the capital manor and the centre of a hundred. It was held by Earl Harold at the time of the Conquest (1066) and in 1086 it was divided between the Crown (town) and Rumold the priest (church). Melksham was a very large settlement, comprising 234 households and valued at £111, with a church and several mills (Mcmahon 2004, Pugh and Crittall 1953).
- 4.4.8 The settlement developed alongside the north-south aligned High Street and Bank Street, from Market Place in the south to the River Avon in the north (**WA 23, Figure 2**). The eastern edge of the Site, immediately to the west of Market Place, is thought to have been located within the medieval core of Melksham.
- 4.4.9 St Michael's Church is the best preserved medieval structure in Melksham (**WA 1**). It is situated c. 30m to the north of the Site and although the earliest surviving elements of the building date to the 12th century (**WA 30**), the majority of the structure dates to the 14th and 15th centuries (Mcmahon 2004).
- 4.4.10 Rectory Manor (**WA 32**, c. 15m to the north of the Site) was located to the south-west of St Michael's Church and formed part of the early medieval estate of Rumbold the priest, which developed into an agricultural estate, of which a 15th century tithe barn is documented. The extent of the manor is unknown, however, its location in the vicinity of the Site indicates that it might have extended into the northern part of the Site. In 1200, the manor was granted by the King to Salisbury Cathedral (Mcmahon 2004) and in 1220 the church (**WA 30**) and vicarage (**WA 22**) were detached from the estate. The present vicarage building is located approximately 110m to the

north of the Site and is known to have been constructed on site of a medieval structure.

- 4.4.11 The Capital Manor estate (**WA 33**, c. 75m to north-east of the Site) was held by the crown until the mid-13th century and numerous royal visits to the manor are recorded. In 1257 it was granted to Countess of Devon, who leased it to the Amesbury Priory. Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the manor passed into secular hands and in the 16th century a manor house, known as Place House, was built in the north-western corner of the Market Place. It fell into disrepair and was demolished in 1864 (Mcmahon 2004, Pugh and Crittall 1953). The post-medieval depictions of the manor indicate that it might have extended into the northern part of the Site.
- 4.4.12 Melksham was granted market and fair rights in 1219 and a second grant was issued in 1250 (Mcmahon 2004). The markets would have been held in Market Place (**WA 35**), immediately to the east of the Site.
- 4.4.13 There is a reference in 1415 to a Great Bridge at Melksham over the River Avon (**WA 7**, c. 450m to the north of the Site). The present bridge is of 19th century date and is a Grade II Listed Building.
- 4.4.14 Throughout the medieval period the Site is thought to have formed the immediate surroundings of Melksham. Although the northern part of the Site may have been located within the Rectory Manor or Capital Manor and the medieval settlement core is likely to have extended into the eastern part of the Site, it is considered that the majority of the Site lay within agricultural landscape, probably used for pasture.

Post-medieval and modern

- 4.4.15 During the early post-medieval period, Melksham was subject to limited growth and the construction of Melksham House within the Site is considered to be one of the chief developments during that period (Mcmahon 2004). Melksham House (**WA 5**) is situated within the north-eastern part of the Site and was designed within parkland forming its immediate setting. A 17th century date for the house is mentioned (Wiltshire Council 2011), although the surviving structure is thought to be of early 18th century date. The remainder of the Site retained its rural character in the post-medieval period.
- 4.4.16 The earliest cartographic depiction of the Site consulted for this study is the 1838 Melksham tithe map (**Figure 3**). It illustrates Melksham House in the centre of a parcel of land located in the north-eastern corner of the Site, however, the map does not depict the details of the landscaped gardens. The remainder of the Site lies within a large pasture field, owned by the Reverend William Wrey and farmed by William Cottle. The field was dissected by footpaths running from the countryside in the south towards St Michael's Church.
- 4.4.17 The early editions of Ordnance Survey mapping (1886, **Figure 3** and 1900-1901, not reproduced) illustrate in detail Melksham House and the late 19th century layout of the grounds. The Listed Building was surrounded by a park to the west, north and east and by outbuildings, glasshouses and a pond to the south. The park comprised alignments of trees arranged alongside alleys

and two of the alleyways leading to the gates to the north (**WA 2**) and east (**WA 4**) are still extant. Some of the other park alleyways are preserved as boundaries between the tennis courts and the bowling green. The pond, although poorly maintained, is still extant, as are some of the outbuildings situated to the east of the pond. Another pond was situated to the west of the Site, in the area of the present rugby pitch.

- 4.4.18 Although the weaving industry is mentioned in Melksham in the mid-14th century, the growth of the town and the development of industry is related to the construction of the Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal (**WA 36**, c. 320m to the east of the Site) in 1801 and the opening of the Great Western Railway in 1848 (c. 520 m to the north-west). The industries which flourished during the 19th century comprised corn milling, brass and iron foundries, rope and twine manufacture and milk condensing (Mcmahon 2004) and there is evidence for industrial development within the Study Area.
- 4.4.19 The majority of the recorded post-medieval industries within the Study Area were situated approximately 400m to the north of the Site, indicating that the industrial development of Melksham concentrated within the town's northern outskirts. They comprised a brass foundry (**WA 8**) and a cloth mill (**WA 9**), both of late 19th century date, a gas company (**WA 10**), established in the mid-19th century, a cloth factory of the mid-18th century origins (**WA 11**) and an iron foundry of the 19th century date (**WA 12**). A former cloth drying oven of 18th century date, located c. 360m to the north-east of the Site, was converted into houses in the late 20th century (**WA 19**) and a second oven of this type is recorded in Church Street (**WA 29**), c. 80m to the north. The site of the former rope and twine works, operating from the mid-19th century (**WA 38**) is situated c. 400m to the east of the Site and has been developed into housing.
- 4.4.20 A Society of Friends (Quaker) cemetery (**WA 37**) and chapel, situated c. 60m to the east of the Site, were established at the end of the 17th century.
- 4.4.21 Melksham House and surrounding land was acquired after the First World War by Cooper Tires (formerly Avon Rubber Company) and converted into a Sports and Social Club. Soon after the opening, the leisure facility was damaged by fire and the reconstruction of Melksham House comprised new extensions (DKA 2012). The football and cricket grounds are first shown on the 1924 edition of Ordnance Survey map (**Figure 3**), which also illustrates the 1920s additions to Melksham House. The subsequent editions (1936, 1942 and later, not illustrated) depict additional playing fields, ancillary buildings and modern extensions to Melksham House.

Unknown

- 4.4.22 A number of undated finds and features are recorded within the Study Area. The undated finds comprise spearheads retrieved during the bridge construction (**WA 20**, c. 120m to the north of the Site). An undated ditch was recorded c. 100m to the north of the Site (**WA 24**, Wessex Archaeology 2009).
- 4.4.23 Within the northern part of the Site, an undated inhumation burial has been recovered during gravel extraction on the site of a former Palace House orchard (**WA 34**). Due to the proximity of the burial to St Michael's Church (**WA 1** and **30**), a prolonged tradition of the use of this area for

funerary/sacral purposes, which may have originated in the pre-Christian period, has been suggested.

4.5 Geophysical Survey

Introduction

4.5.1 The gradiometer survey has been successful in identifying anomalies of possible archaeological interest across the Site, along with a number of modern services. The results are presented in a series of greyscale and XY plots and archaeological interpretations, at a scale of 1:1250 (**Figures 4 to 6**). The data are displayed at -2nT (white) to +3nT (black) for the greyscale image and ± 25 nT at 25nT per cm for the XY trace plots.

4.5.2 The interpretation of the datasets highlights the presence of potential archaeological anomalies, ferrous/burnt or fired objects, and magnetic trends (**Figure 6**). Full definitions of the interpretation terms used in this report are provided in **Appendix 4**.

4.5.3 Numerous ferrous anomalies are visible throughout the detailed survey dataset. These are presumed to be modern in provenance and are not referred to, unless considered relevant to the archaeological interpretation.

Results and Interpretation

4.5.4 Within the northern part of **Area A**, a series of linear ditches oriented north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west, approximately parallel with the northern and western boundaries, is observed. This complex comprises rectilinear anomalies (**4000, 4001, 4002 and 4003**) which are definitely of archaeological origin and are interpreted as an enclosure or a field system. Further linear and pit-like responses (**4004 and 4005**) are seen within the enclosures, however, they are weaker and less distinctly defined when compared with the stronger enclosure ditch anomalies.

4.5.5 A band of varying magnetic texture extends approximately east to west across the centre of **Area A**, to the south of the enclosure. Numerous, amorphous, pit-like and linear anomalies (**4006, 4007 and 4008** respectively) appear within a background of negative responses. Whilst these anomalies have been interpreted as being of possible archaeological interest, it is noted that areas of strong magnetic disturbance appear to the east and west, which may indicate a more modern origin.

4.5.6 In the southern portion of **Area A**, rectilinear anomalies **4009, 4010 and 4011** may indicate a network of small enclosures or field systems. It is unclear whether they are associated with the more definite ditches further north and their form is somewhat narrower. It is possible that responses at **4012** are associated with **4009 to 4011**, although their interpretation is hampered by the extensive magnetic disturbance nearby.

4.5.7 Between **4010** and **4012**, a region of increased magnetic responses contains a number of amorphous anomalies forming a flattened oval oriented approximately east to west along its major axis. The origin of these anomalies is unclear, although they are different in character to any others nearby and are considered to be of possible archaeological interest.

- 4.5.8 Two linear bands of increased magnetic response **4013** and **4014** are distinct from the general magnetic disturbance at the southern extent of **Area A**. Oriented parallel to the southern boundary of the Site, they are consistent with modern intrusion; it is possible that **4013** is associated with a service, whereas **4014** may relate to an access track.
- 4.5.9 Modern service **4015** extends north-west from the centre of the eastern boundary of **Area A** towards the extant cricket pitch, indicated in the dataset by a rectangular group of strong ferrous anomalies around **4005**. It is possible that the service is associated with either power or water supply.
- 4.5.10 **Areas B** and **C** are dominated by strong magnetic disturbance. Only small windows of coherent data, **4016** and **4017**, are visible.
- 4.5.11 The dataset from **Area D** is similar in character to those from **B** and **C**, with a small area of data (**4018**) less affected by the magnetic disturbance. Four probable modern services, **4019** to **4022**, are oriented approximately north-northeast to south-southwest, although their function is unclear.
- 4.5.12 **Area E** is similarly disturbed, with modern service **4023** extending east to west across the survey area. A possible curvilinear anomaly **4024** may be of archaeological interest, although this interpretation is tentative due to the presence of extensive magnetic disturbance.
- 4.5.13 Within **Area F**, a series of rectilinear anomalies **4025** are consistent with ditches and may represent part of a field system or enclosures. Isolated anomalies **4026** lie close by, although within a region of magnetic disturbance. A number of pit-like responses **4027** are seen in the eastern part of **Area F**, where the magnetic background is markedly quieter. A linear band of increased magnetic response **4028** across the centre of the survey area is consistent with a modern service, although it lacks characteristic dipolar responses.
- 4.5.14 Strong magnetic disturbance is seen throughout each of the survey areas, ranging from small discrete ferrous responses to extended regions masking any other anomalies. The majority of this disturbance relates directly to the extant features within the survey areas, e.g. sports equipment within the playing fields and tennis courts and covered stands around Melksham Town Football Club.
- 4.5.15 Linear trends within **Area A** are consistent with the remnants of ploughing or drainage. They have been interpreted as being ploughing trends given the lack of a ceramic component to their responses.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Judgements on the value of the heritage resource and the scale of any likely impact resulting from the proposed development are informed by the following policy documents and guidance:

- National Planning Policy Framework (2012)

- The setting of heritage assets – English Heritage guidance (English Heritage 2011);
- Seeing the history in the view – a method for assessing heritage significance within views (English Heritage 2011);
- Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (CPPG; English Heritage 2008); and
- Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Volume 11 Section 3 Part 2 HA 208/07: Cultural Heritage.

5.2 Identified heritage assets and sensitive receptors

5.2.1 NPPF (Annex 2: Glossary) defines a heritage asset as: *A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage assets include designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).*

5.2.2 This assessment has identified a number of designated and undesignated heritage assets within the Site and the Study Area, some of which may be considered sensitive receptors likely to be affected by the proposed development.

Designated heritage assets

5.2.3 The Site and the majority of the Listed Buildings within the Study Area are situated within Melksham Conservation Area (**Figure 1**). As the proposed development comprises improvements to the existing sports facilities rather than an entirely new scheme, it is considered that the setting of these heritage assets is unlikely to be affected by the development. Consequently, the Site is not considered to contribute to the setting of these heritage assets in any material way and they are excluded from further discussion here.

5.2.4 Melksham House, a Grade II Listed Building, is situated within the Site (**WA5, Figure 1, and Plates 1-2**).

5.2.5 The recognised significance of Melksham House lies predominantly in the architectural and aesthetic values of the eastern façade and the slate roof. The Listed Building is considered to be a good example of an early 18th century house despite the 20th century additions. Following a fire in the 1920s, the heritage asset was restored and enlarged, with the new extensions considered to complement the original structure. The late 20th century additions, however, are of no aesthetic value and are considered to impact upon the Listed Building. Originally, the building was set within landscaped grounds and elements of the park, including the original layout, survive to the east of the House. The significance of the building is further derived from the group value of Melksham House, its landscaped surroundings, the surviving associated Grade II Listed gate piers (**WA 2 and 4**) and unlisted outbuildings.

5.2.6 Grade II* St Michael's Church (**WA 1**) and Grade II The Grange (**WA 39**) are situated immediately to the north of the Site and as a consequence the Site forms part of the immediate setting of the designated heritage assets.

Undesignated heritage assets

- 5.2.7 Undesignated heritage assets also require consideration in the planning process. The degree to which the assets identified here are a consideration will depend in part on their significance.
- 5.2.8 For the purpose of this study, the non-designated heritage assets are defined as potential archaeological remains and built heritage.

Potential archaeological remains

- 5.2.9 This assessment has identified evidence for human activity within the Site and its environs from the Palaeolithic period onwards.
- 5.2.10 Prehistoric and Romano-British activity, evident as findspots of Palaeolithic and later date, is recorded within the Study Area. Consequently, there is a potential for further sites and finds to be present within the Site.
- 5.2.11 The main focus of activity within the Study Area relates to the medieval and post-medieval development of Melksham.
- 5.2.12 The Site is situated in the vicinity of St Michael's Church and burial ground, which were in use since the early medieval period. An undated inhumation burial recorded within the northern part of the Site is thought to have been related to pre-Christian activities, indicating early Saxon or Romano-British funerary practices within the area. As a consequence, further evidence for funerary activities may be located within the Site.
- 5.2.13 Although the majority of the Site is thought to have been situated on the outskirts of the medieval settlement of Melksham, it is likely that the northern part of the Site was situated within the early medieval Manors: Rectory and Capital, while the eastern edge of the Site may have been located within the settlement core. Consequently, features and structures related to the medieval and later development of the manors and the settlement may be present within the Site. Across the remainder of the Site, medieval and later field boundaries and other agricultural features may be present. Features related to the post-medieval development of Melksham House may also be encountered in the north-eastern part of the Site.
- 5.2.14 Although the majority of the industrial development of Melksham in the late 18th and 19th century was located at a significant distance from the Site, the presence of archaeological remains relating to the industrial activities cannot be excluded.
- 5.2.15 The results of the geophysical survey have demonstrated the presence of anomalies of definite, probable and possible archaeological interest in **Areas A and F**. These anomalies form a network of enclosures or field systems and, if all of the anomalies are associated, extend at least 170m north to south by at least 100m east to west. Extensive magnetic disturbance precludes more definitive interpretation, however, and it is not possible to ascribe a date to these anomalies. It is, however, presumed that the anomalies predate the 19th century development within the Site as they do not correspond with boundaries and pathways recorded on the historic maps.

- 5.2.16 Elsewhere, isolated linear and pit-like anomalies suggest the presence of more extensive archaeological activity, although the confidence in the interpretation is weakened by the magnetic disturbance seen in close proximity to these responses.
- 5.2.17 It should be noted that the magnetic disturbance is of sufficient magnitude to have masked the responses from any weaker archaeological anomalies, and the likelihood of the presence or absence of archaeological features cannot be assessed accurately areas of disturbance, e.g. **Areas B to E**.

Built heritage

- 5.2.18 The review of historic mapping and site visit indicate that some of the outbuildings depicted on the late 19th century mapping may still be extant to the south of the Grade II Listed Melksham House. Although unlisted, these structures are valued through association with the 18th or 19th century development of Melksham House and its surroundings. However, no closer investigation of these structures was undertaken at this stage of the assessment.

5.3 Impact assessment

- 5.3.1 The management and mitigation of change to the heritage resource resulting from development is based on the recognition within Government planning objectives that *...heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource...* (NPPF para. 126). Impacts to the historic environment and its associated heritage assets arise where changes are made to their physical environment by means of the loss and/or degradation of their physical fabric or setting, which in turn leads to a reduction in the significance of the historic environment record and its associated heritage assets.

Assessment of survival and previous impacts

- 5.3.2 The majority of the Site had been located within agricultural land until its conversion to recreation grounds in the 1920s and was subject to little post-medieval or later development. Given the open character of the majority of the Site, comprising former agricultural fields converted into sports fields, any damage to potential archaeological features would have been limited to deep ploughing associated with farming and drainage related to the maintenance of playing fields.
- 5.3.3 The north-eastern part of the Site was developed in the post-medieval period as Melksham House and grounds and during the 20th century ancillary buildings were constructed in the vicinity of the Listed Building. The construction of buildings, access ways and large scale tree planting are likely to have had an adverse impact on the survival and/or potential for future identification of previously unrecorded archaeological remains from within the footprints of the structures, roads and areas of mature vegetation. The extent of the impact of the structures is at present unknown, however, damage associated with the excavation of building foundations, drainage or landscaping is likely to have occurred.
- 5.3.4 The 1920s additions to Melksham House, constructed in conjunction with the reconstruction works following the fire, are considered to complement the Listed Building. However, the post-Second World War extensions are of

limited architectural and aesthetic qualities and are only valued for the range of facilities they provide.

- 5.3.5 The value of the surviving outbuildings to the south of Melksham House is thought to have been affected by the 20th century alterations and the setting of these buildings is thought to have been affected by the construction of new structures in the vicinity.

Proposed development

- 5.3.6 The redevelopment of the Site will comprise improvements to the extant sports and leisure facilities.
- 5.3.7 The provisional development proposal prepared for the Site includes the demolition of late 20th century structures adjoining the Melksham House and the group of outbuildings located to the south. The Listed Building is to be refurbished. New buildings providing site facilities will be located within former tennis courts to the west of Melksham House (Service Campus) and within the football ground to the south (Leisure Centre). The landscaped grounds in the vicinity of Melksham House and pond will be improved. It is considered that the majority of the impact on archaeological resource will be related to the new built Service Campus and Leisure Centre.
- 5.3.8 A new location off-site will be provided for Melksham Town Football Club.
- 5.3.9 Construction works at the Site will include some or all of the following ground disturbance and excavations associated with the development:
- demolition and site investigation works;
 - piling and/or excavation of new foundation trenches;
 - excavation of trenches associated with services;
 - roads and infrastructure; and
 - hard and soft landscaping works (levelling, remodelling etc.).

5.4 Impacts on cultural heritage resource

Designated heritage assets

- 5.4.1 The proposed development may affect the designated heritage asset within the Site. Melksham House is a significant heritage asset of 18th century date surviving in Melksham together with the associated gate piers and landscaped grounds.
- 5.4.2 It is considered that renovation or alteration works proposed in relation to Melksham House have the potential to result in a loss of historic building fabric, and as such to result in an adverse effect to their significance. However, the removal of the unattractive late 20th century additions to the structure and improvements to its maintenance will be beneficial to the character of the Listed Building.
- 5.4.3 St Michael's Church and The Grange Listed Buildings lie immediately to the north of the Site. The setting of the designated heritage assets located within and beyond the Site is also considered to be of importance to their significance. The proposed development will introduce new buildings in the vicinity of the designated heritage assets, which may potentially result in an

adverse effect to their significance. However, it is considered that both the sympathetic design of new structures not overwhelming to the heritage assets and the improvements to the landscaped surroundings of Melksham House have the potential to reduce the adverse effects of the development on the Listed Buildings.

Undesignated heritage assets

- 5.4.4 The construction of the proposed development has the potential to result in the damage to or loss of and buried archaeological features which may be present within the Site. This would in turn result in a total or partial loss of significance of these heritage assets.
- 5.4.5 The development comprises the demolition of the unlisted buildings to the south of Melksham House, resulting in total loss of the historic structures identified as outbuildings associated with the 19th century development of the property.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 The effect of the development proposals on the identified historic environment resource will be a material consideration in determination of the planning application. This study has established that there is an archaeological and cultural heritage interest within the Site, including the Grade II Listed Melksham House, with associated grounds and outbuildings. The nature of any proposed development in the vicinity of the designated heritage asset should be carefully considered.
- 6.1.2 The Grade II Listed St Michael's Church and The Grange have been identified as potential sensitive receptors to the proposed development, which may potentially alter the settings of designated heritage assets.
- 6.1.3 This assessment has established that there is an archaeological interest within the Site. This interest is defined as the potential for the presence of buried archaeological remains within the Site, especially relating to the medieval and later development of Melksham and agricultural activity. Moreover, the geophysical survey confirmed the presence of archaeological features across the Site.
- 6.1.4 This assessment has established that some of the outbuildings within the Site are related to the post-medieval development of Melksham House.

6.2 Mitigation

- 6.2.1 It is considered that any loss of historic fabric from Listed Buildings within the Site might be mitigated through a programme of building recording prior to construction, secured as a condition attached to any planning consent(s) which may be granted.
- 6.2.2 It is considered that potential impacts to the settings of designated heritage assets both within and beyond the Site could be partially or fully mitigated through appropriate design.

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- 6.2.3 The geophysical survey has demonstrated the presence of anomalies of definite, probable and possible archaeological interest within the Site, although due strong magnetic disturbance, the presence or absence of archaeological features cannot be assessed accurately in parts of the Site. It is likely that additional archaeological investigations may be required by the Wiltshire County Archaeology Service in order to inform the planning process. These investigations may include a trial trench evaluation and/or monitoring of geotechnical investigations within the football pitch and tennis court to the west of Melksham House, where the new buildings will be located.
- 6.2.4 It is considered that the loss of the unlisted historic buildings within the Site may be mitigated through a programme of building recording prior to demolition.
- 6.2.5 The need for, scale, scope and nature of any further archaeological works should be agreed through consultation with the statutory authorities.

7 REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliography

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<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=115464>
- Wessex Archaeology 2003: *The Bear Public House, Bath Road, Melksham, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report*, client report ref. 53924.02
- Wessex Archaeology 2009: *Land to the West of Sainsbury's Store, Bath Road, Melksham: Archaeological Evaluation Report*, client report ref. 72030.03
- Wiltshire Council 2011: *Wiltshire Community History: Melksham*,
<http://history.wiltshire.gov.uk/community/getcom.php?id=158>

7.2 Historic Environment Records

- Wiltshire and Swindon Sites and Monuments Record (WSMR)
Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre (WSHC)

7.3 Cartographic and Documentary Sources

- 1814 Melksham Inclosure map (WSHC ref. EA/93)
1838 Melksham Tithe map (WSHC ref. TA Melksham)
1838 Melksham Tithe apportionment (WSHC ref. TA Melksham)

Ordnance Survey maps:

- 1886 25" (WSHC ref. sheet 33/9 and 33/5)
1900 25" (WSHC ref. sheet 33/9)
1901 25" (WSHC ref. sheet 33/5)
1924 25" (WSHC ref. sheet 33/9 and 33/5)
1936 25" (WSHC ref. sheet 33/9)
1942 25" (WSHC ref. sheet 33/5)
1960-1961 1:10.560

1970 1:2,500

1985 1:2,500

British Geological Survey

http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html

7.4 Online resources

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk>

<http://www.domesdaybook.co.uk/hampshire1.html#bedhampton>

<http://domesdaymap.co.uk/>

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2116950.pdf>

<http://www.hants.gov.uk/landscape/detaileddefinitions.html#field>

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/chr/default.aspx>

<https://www.fareham.gov.uk/pdf/planning/corestrategy/CoreStrategyAdopted.pdf>

<http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/>

<http://www.magic.gov.uk>

<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/index.html>

<http://www.pastscape.org.uk/>

APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF INFORMATION SUMMARISED FROM THE WSMR AND OTHER SOURCES

HER Numbers: WSMR or National List

WA No.	HER No.	Name	Monument type	Period	Description	Easting	Northing
1	1021707	Church of St Michael	Grade II* Listed Building	Medieval to Post-medieval	Anglican parish church. Norman origins, late Medieval with extensive remodelling in 1845 by T.H. Wyatt. Ashlar, Welsh slate roof with coped verges and saddlestones. Plan: west tower, 5-bay nave with aisles, chancel with south side chapel, north porch. 4- stage rectangular west tower was moved from the crossing in 1845, corner buttresses and Perpendicular-arched door with hood mould having carved terminals, third stage has single lancet, fourth stage has cusped. Lady chapel on south east side has three 4- light Perpendicular windows with hood moulds, and square headed door with moulded plinth raised over lintel, battlemented parapet and pinnacles. Chancel has corner buttresses, one with Medieval sundial and 2 and 3-light Perpendicular windows with hood moulds. North aisle of chancel has gabled C19 vestry with 3-light Perpendicular window, and one 4-light square-headed window to right.	390287	163731
2	1194321	Gate piers to north entrance to Melksham House	Grade II Listed Building	Post-medieval	Gate piers. C18. Limestone. Square 2-fielded panels to main sides. Corniced top with tall finials. Group value with Melksham House (q.v.) 27 Market Place, see also gate piers in Church Walk.	390346	163684
3	1021708	Turner Memorial in the Churchyard	Grade II* Listed Building	Post-medieval	Chest tomb. Early C19. Limestone with slate inscription panel. Acanthus leaf decoration to top, urn and drapery either side of panels. To James Turner; date illegible.	390265	163678
4	1364144	Gate piers and gates to Melksham House	Grade II Listed Building	Post-medieval	Gate piers and gates. C18. Limestone. Square piers. Plinth, 3- fielded panels to front, moulded capping cornice and base for finials. Wrought iron gates.	390424	163612
5	1285783	Melksham House	Grade II Listed Building	Post-medieval	Detached house with side wing, now sports and social club. Early C18 with C19 alterations. Rubble stone, stone slate hipped roof, ashlar stacks with moulded capping. 2 storeys and attic, 6 windows. Central 2-storey porch is C19 addition with round-arched opening with keystone, imposts and square drip mould, door inside has flanking Tuscan columns. To right are two plate glass sashes and	390280	163592

WA No.	HER No.	Name	Monument type	Period	Description	Easting	Northing
					to left are plate glass sashes and one 2-light beaded mullioned window. Continuous string course, also on porch. Porch has 3- light chamfered mullioned window to front and 2-light mullioned windows to side, on first floor, either side are cross windows. Moulded eaves cornice porch has pierced parapet and ball finials. Three hipped dormers with casements to roof. Right return has sash to ground floor and cross window to first. Wing to left is C18 with C20 alterations, rubblestone with stone slate hipped roof. 2- storeys, windows. Ground floor has cross windows and C20 insertions. First floor has four hollow chamfered 2-light mullioned windows and projecting chimney stack. Rear has large C20 attached sports complex. Interior not inspected. Included despite C20 alterations and rear additions, as good early C18 house.		
6	EWI6907	Archaeological Watching Brief at the ASDA Store Site, Western Way, Melksham	EVENT	Negative Evidence	An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of a new ASDA store. An intermittent layer of clayey silt was revealed, containing flinty gravel and occasional fresh water snails, probably representing flood episodes across the floodplain from the River Avon. Two very small, heavily abraded sherds of unidentified pottery were recovered from this context.	389937	164160
7	MWI4952	Bank Street	BRIDGE	Post-medieval	Melksham's 'Great Bridge' over the Avon is first referenced in 1415 when a sum was bequeathed for its maintenance. It was out of use in 1637 and the people of the town were compelled to repair it. The ancient bridge was swept away by floods in 1809 and the present bridge constructed soon afterwards.	390380	164139
8	MWI4963	New Broughton Road	INDUSTRIAL SITE	Post-medieval	Site of former brass foundry, in use in the later 19th century, which after closure became the garages of Wiltshire United Dairies	390157	164132
9	MWI4961	New Broughton Road	INDUSTRIAL SITE	Post-medieval	Site of former dye-house of adjacent cloth mill (MK021/ST96SW529). This closed in 1888 along with the mill, and was subsequently occupied by Wiltshire United Dairies until 1900, when the dye-house was demolished and a large, purpose-built condensery built on the site.	390313	164125

WA No.	HER No.	Name	Monument type	Period	Description	Easting	Northing
10	MWI4968	Bank Street	INDUSTRIAL SITE	Post-medieval	Former site of the Melksham Gas, Light and Coke Company established in the mid 19th century and which produced the town's gas until the arrival of north sea gas in the 1960s. The site has been cleared of gas industry remains.	390465	164077
11	MWI4958	W of Bank Street	INDUSTRIAL SITE	Post-medieval	Site of former Ark cloth factory, in existence between c.1751 and c.1865, when it is thought to have been demolished, clothmaking having ceased in the 1850s	390349	164076
12	MWI4964	Bank Street	INDUSTRIAL SITE	Post-medieval	Site of former iron foundry, active in later 19th century but now closed. The site is now that of Wiltshire Farmers.	390472	164032
13	MWI31372	Palaeochannels, Adjacent to the River Avon	PALAEOCHANNEL	Mesolithic	A possible palaeochannel was identified through bore hole survey, 60 metres from the River Avon. The channel is unlikely to have been a former course of the Avon and is more likely to have formed a parallel channel. A number of relic channels, adjacent to the River Avon, were revealed during a watching brief. The form of the channels, 2-3 metres wide, suggest a braid within a larger river course, and the clean calcareous gravel indicates a relatively dynamic river system. A small palaeochannel was revealed during evaluation excavation at Bath Road. It is possible that this feature represents a small channel of the river or a tributary. The edge of a palaeochannel, or the edge of the natural river terrace, was revealed during evaluation excavation. Pottery, dated to the 11th-14th century, was recovered from a deposit that may have formed from the slow moving waters in the palaeochannel, or may represent the old ground surface on a terrace leading to the river	390397	164013
14	MWI4920	Bypass Bridge	FINDSPOT	Neolithic	Rim sherd of Abingdon type recovered from gravels during by-pass bridge construction	390102	163902
15	MWI4928	Near Bypass Bridge	FINDSPOT	Romano-British	Handle and neck of a ring-necked jug	390100	163902
16	MWI4922	Bypass Bridge	FINDSPOT	Neolithic	Rim sherd of Abingdon type recovered from gravels during by-pass bridge construction	390055	163887
17	MWI4923	New Road Bridge	FINDSPOT	Bronze Age	3 bronze socketed spearheads, a dirk blade, and two iron spearheads were found during bridge construction. Also found were	390014	163881

WA No.	HER No.	Name	Monument type	Period	Description	Easting	Northing
					three bronze phalerae, two of which display ritual damage		
18	MWI31372	Palaeochannels, Adjacent to the River Avon	PALAEOCHANNEL	Mesolithic	See WA13	390213	163881
19	MWI4956	Lowbourne	INDUSTRIAL SITE	Modern	Former cloth-drying oven of 18th century date, octagonal in plan, converted into a dwelling in the later 20th century. A block adjoining the drying oven is thought to have formerly been used as a clothier's workshop in the 18th and 19th centuries	390660	163870
20	MWI4972	New Road Bridge	FINDSPOT	Unknown	2 undated spearheads found during bridge construction	390100	163852
21	MWI4919	Bypass Bridge	FINDSPOT	Palaeolithic	Large flake with ochreous stain. Retouch along one edge may be original	390003	163817
22	MWI4949	Church Street	VICARAGE	Medieval	Site of the vicarage of St. Michael's Church, formerly, until 1220 part of Rectory Manor (MK014), when it was detached from that estate along with the church. Although there is no evidence for a Medieval building on the present site, it is known that the current building replaces a much earlier one.	390289	163813
23	MWI4938	Melksham	TOWN	Medieval	Town with Medieval origins. It was Melchesha AD1086. B) The name has often been explained as meaning 'homestead (or enclosure) of milk', but another interpretation suggests that it might come from the Old or Middle Breton 'Melchi', princehound or princely hound. The name seems to refer to a Breton whose homestead (or enclosure) it was. Melksham was a substantial royal possession in 1066 and gave its name to a hundred		
24	MWI31373		DITCH	Unknown	Ditches, a post medieval water culvert and gullies containing Saxon pottery were revealed during evaluation excavation	390182	163807
25	MWI31372	Palaeochannels, Adjacent to the River Avon	PALAEOCHANNEL	Mesolithic	See WA13	390183	163805
26	MWI1840	Bypass Bridge	FINDSPOT	Palaeolithic	Large flake with ochreous stain. Retouch along one edge may be original	389900	163800
27	MWI4931	2 Church Walk	FINDSPOT	Romano-British	Two fragments of Romano-British pottery	390295	163797
28	MWI31372	Palaeochannels, Adjacent to the River Avon	PALAEOCHANNEL	Mesolithic	See WA13	389774	163796
29	MWI4955	Church Street	INDUSTRIAL SITE	Post-	The Roundhouse in Church St. is a former drying oven of	390388	163755

WA No.	HER No.	Name	Monument type	Period	Description	Easting	Northing
				medieval	probable 18th century date, part of the town's cloth industry heritage		
30	MWI4946	St Michael's Church	CHURCH	Medieval	The church of St Michael, Church Walk (grade II*) is Norman in origin though mainly late Medieval. In plan it has a west tower, 5-bay aisled nave and chancel with south side chapel, and north porch. The church was extensively remodelled in 1845 by TH Wyatt	390289	163729
31	EWI6784	Gower House, 1 Place Road, Melksham	EVENT	Negative Evidence	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a garage and conservatory at Gower House, 1 Place Road, Melksham, Wiltshire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered	390434	163698
32	MWI4948	Church Street	TITHE BARN, VICARAGE	Medieval	This site is thought to be the centre of the former Rectory Manor or Canonhold, which is thought to have originated as the Domesday holding of Rumbold the Priest. In 1200 the church and its holdings were granted by King John to Salisbury Cathedral, and in 1220 all but the church and vicarage house passed to the canons of the cathedral. In this way the estate avoided being broken up in the Dissolution and remained dean and chapter property until the 19th century. A tithe barn survives on the site, of 15th century date.	390211	163691
33	MWI4947	High Street	BUILDING	Medieval	Site of former house of the Capital Manor of Melksham, an estate which can be traced to the Saxon period. A manor house, however, is only certainly known from the mid 16th century, although it is thought that this was built on the site of an earlier house. The manor house, known as Place House, faced the market place on the site now occupied by Place Road junction with High Street. The house gradually fell into dereliction and in 1864 was bought by a syndicate of local people and demolished.	390446	163676
34	MWI4971	Near the Grove	BURIAL	Unknown	During gravel extraction on the site of a former orchard attached to the demolished Place House, a single burial, aligned	390315	163669

WA No.	HER No.	Name	Monument type	Period	Description	Easting	Northing
					North-South, was discovered. Little else is known of this find, but the site lies in close proximity to St. Michaels churchyard and may imply the continuity of use of this area as a sacred/burial site from earlier, pre-Christian times		
35	MWI4950	Market Place	SETTLEMENT	Medieval	Melksham's market place probably dates to the 13th century, when in 1219 the first recorded market and fair was granted. By 1888 the fair had lapsed and markets were held on alternate weeks and sporadically thereafter until 1939 when it finally ceased.	390470	163610
36	MWI9472	Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal	CANAL	Post-medieval	The Thames and Severn Canal has a junction with the Wiltshire and Berkshire branch of the Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal at Latton, giving access to Swindon and thence to the Kennet and Avon Canal at Semington. Both canals fell into disuse with the coming of the Great Western Railway in 1841. There are fragments surviving at Westleaze near Swindon and at Pewsham near Chippenham. A restoration and management plan is being devised. The former Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal passed through Melksham town southeast of the Market Place. It was authorised in 1795 and during the 19th century carried considerable traffic. After the arrival of the railway, canal traffic dwindled and it was finally closed in 1910. The course of the canal through Melksham town has been completely filled in, and the line of its course, although preserved in places by property boundaries, is disappearing under new developments.	390784	163668
37	MWI4970	King Street	CEMETERY	Post-medieval	A Society of Friends (Quaker) burial ground and chapel in use by 1695. The present building was erected in 1776		
38	MWI4965	Spa Road	INDUSTRIAL SITE	Post-medieval	Former site of Maggs' Rope and Twine works, which operated from this site from the mid 19th century to the later 20 th century. The site is now occupied by housing	390761	163456
39	1021696	The Grange	Grade II Listed Building	Post-medieval	Vicarage, now children's home. Late C17 house remodelled in 1877 by G.E. Street. Rubblestone, stone slate roof with coped verges, ashlar stacks. 2-storeys and attic, 4-windows. Central door is recessed with C19 porch and has Perpendicular style case.	390226	163672

APPENDIX 2: NATIONAL AND LOCAL HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT POLICIES

National planning policy

Policy Ref.	Title	Scope
n/a	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended)	Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Areas of Importance (AAIs or their equivalent) are afforded statutory protection and the consent of SoS (DCMS), as advised by English Heritage (EH), is required for any works.
n/a	Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	Works affecting Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas are subject to additional planning controls administered by Local Planning Authorities (LPAs). EH are a statutory consultee in works affecting Grade I or II* Listed Buildings.
NPPF	Conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Para. 128	In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.
NPPF	Conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Para. 129	Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.
NPPF	Conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Para. 132	When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be.
NPPF	Conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Para. 135	The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the

Policy Ref.	Title	Scope
		significance of the heritage asset.
NPPF	Conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Para. 137	Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites and within the setting of heritage assets to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance of the asset should be treated favourably
NPPF	Conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Para. 139	Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.
NPPF	Conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Para. 141	Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible

Local planning policy: Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016: Saved Policies (2009)

Policy	Title	Content
HE 2	Other Sites of Archaeological or Historic Interest	Features of archaeological or historic interest and their settings should be protected from inappropriate development. Where nationally important archaeological or historic remains, whether scheduled or not, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation "in situ".
HE 7	Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings	The architectural and historic heritage of the plan area will be safeguarded from inappropriate development. Development proposals should preserve or enhance the character of Conservation Areas. Development involving Listed Buildings should have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building, its setting and any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

Local planning policy: West Wiltshire District Plan 1st Alteration (2004): Saved Policies (2007)

Policy	Title	Content
C 15	Archaeological Assessment	Archaeological assessment will be required for development proposals within the Areas of Archaeological Interest, or affecting an area of 1 hectare or more within Areas of Higher Archaeological Potential, as shown on the Proposals Map. The results should be submitted with the planning application.
C17	Conservation Areas	The special character or appearance of the designated conservation areas and their settings in West Wiltshire, including those shown on the Proposals Map and listed in Appendix A will be preserved and enhanced.
C 18	New Development in Conservation Areas	Proposals for new development in a conservation area will be permitted only if the following criteria are met:- A The development will preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the conservation area; B The plot layout, scale, form and detailed designs are characteristic of the area; C Historically important boundaries and street patterns, trees, walls, railings and other means of enclosure which contribute to the area's character are retained; D Open spaces and views into, out of and within the area, which are important to its character, are protected; E Materials and colours which blend with their setting are used. Traditional local materials will be expected, except in locations away from public view.
C 19	Alterations in Conservation Areas	Proposals to alter an unlisted building in a conservation area which require planning permission will be permitted only if the following criteria are met:- A The alteration will preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the conservation area; B The design is sympathetic to the scale, form and fenestration of the building, and the alteration retains features of the existing building which are important to the character of the area; C Matching materials, characteristic of the local area, are used; D Open spaces, means of enclosure, trees and other features which contribute to the character of the street scene are retained or enhanced.
C 21	Planning Permission in Conservation Areas	Planning permission will not be granted in outline form for development in conservation areas or their immediate settings or where it would affect a listed building or its setting. All applications in such cases should be submitted in detail.
C 22	Demolition in Conservation Areas	Consent will only be granted for the demolition of buildings in conservation areas where the proposed demolition and any replacement development will not adversely affect the character or appearance of the conservation area. Proposals to rebuild demolished buildings will be expected to include the reuse of old building materials where appropriate.
C 26	Maintenance of Buildings	The maintenance of buildings listed as being of architectural or historic interest and others within conservation areas will be sought through the application of the following:- A Continued support for schemes of grant aid for buildings in Bradford on Avon, Melksham, Trowbridge and Warminster; B Permitting appropriate development proposals which utilise vacant floorspace within buildings, particularly in

Policy	Title	Content
		<p>town centres;</p> <p>C Subject to other planning policies, permitting proposals for change of use where this will secure its future maintenance, and its character, appearance, features of historic interest and setting will not be adversely affected;</p> <p>D Subject to the availability of resources, maintaining the condition of buildings of architectural or historic interest and using statutory powers to ensure that they do not fall into a state of disrepair as a result of neglect;</p> <p>E Consideration of the possible relaxation of other planning policies, in special circumstances, if this would secure the retention of a building of architectural or historic interest provided the proposal would not be detrimental to the local environment or to the character of the building.</p>
C 28	Alterations and Extensions to Listed Buildings	<p>Alterations and extensions to a building listed as being of Special Architectural or Historic Interest will only be permitted provided the following guidelines are followed:-</p> <p>A The essential form of the building is not adversely affected;</p> <p>B Features of architectural or historic interest are retained unaltered;</p> <p>C The loss of or damage to the historic fabric of the building is minimised;</p> <p>D Any new details are designed so as to match or be in keeping with, and respect, the character of the building;</p> <p>E Materials to be used match those of the existing building, or exceptionally are of a colour and finish sympathetic to the existing materials.</p>

APPENDIX 3: SURVEY EQUIPMENT AND DATA PROCESSING

Survey Methods and Equipment

The magnetic data for this project was acquired using a Bartington 601-2 dual magnetic gradiometer system. This instrument has two sensor assemblies fixed horizontally 1m apart allowing two traverses to be recorded simultaneously. Each sensor contains two fluxgate magnetometers arranged vertically with a 1m separation, and measures the difference between the vertical components of the total magnetic field within each sensor array. This arrangement of magnetometers suppresses any diurnal or low frequency effects.

The gradiometers have an effective resolution of 0.03nT over a ± 100 nT range, and measurements from each sensor are logged at intervals of 0.25m. All of the data is stored on an integrated data logger for subsequent post-processing and analysis.

Wessex Archaeology undertakes two types of magnetic surveys: scanning and detail. Both types depend upon the establishment of an accurate 20m or 30m site grid, which is achieved using a Leica Viva RTK GNSS instrument and then extended using tapes. The Leica Viva system receives corrections from a network of reference stations operated by the Ordnance Survey and Leica Geosystems, allowing positions to be determined with a precision of 0.02m in real-time and therefore exceed the level of accuracy recommended by English Heritage (2008) for geophysical surveys.

Scanning surveys consist of recording data at 0.25m intervals along transects spaced 10m apart, acquiring a minimum of 80 data points per transect. Due to the relatively coarse transect interval, scanning surveys should only be expected to detect extended regions of archaeological anomalies, when there is a greater likelihood of distinguishing such responses from the background magnetic field.

The detailed surveys consist of 20m x 20m or 30m x 30m grids, and data is collected at 0.25m intervals along traverses spaced 1m apart. These strategies give 1600 or 3600 measurements per 20m or 30m grid respectively, and are the recommended methodologies for archaeological surveys of this type (EH 2008).

Data may be collected with a higher sample density where complex archaeological anomalies are encountered, to aid the detection and characterisation of small and ephemeral features. Data may be collected at up to 0.125m intervals along traverses spaced up to 0.25m apart, resulting in a maximum of 28800 readings per 30m grid, exceeding that recommended by English Heritage (2008) for characterisation surveys.

Post-Processing

The magnetic data collected during the detail survey is downloaded from the Bartington system for processing and analysis using both commercial and in-house software. This software allows for both the data and the images to be processed in order to enhance the results for analysis; however, it should be noted that minimal data processing is conducted so as not to distort the anomalies.

As the scanning data is not as closely distributed as with detailed survey, they are georeferenced using the GPS information and interpolated to highlight similar

anomalies in adjacent transects. Directional trends may be removed before interpolation to produce more easily understood images.

Typical data and image processing steps may include:

- Destripe – Applying a zero mean traverse in order to remove differences caused by directional effects inherent in the magnetometer;
- Destagger – Shifting each traverse longitudinally by a number of readings. This corrects for operator errors and is used to enhance linear features;
- Despike – Filtering isolated data points that exceed the mean by a specified amount to reduce the appearance of dominant anomalous readings (generally only used for earth resistance data)

Typical displays of the data used during processing and analysis:

- XY Plot – Presents the data as a trace or graph line for each traverse. Each traverse is displaced down the image to produce a stacked profile effect. This type of image is useful as it shows the full range of individual anomalies.
- Greyscale – Presents the data in plan view using a greyscale to indicate the relative strength of the signal at each measurement point. These plots can be produced in colour to highlight certain features but generally greyscale plots are used during analysis of the data.

APPENDIX 4: GEOPHYSICAL INTERPRETATION

The interpretation methodology used by Wessex Archaeology separates the anomalies into two main categories: archaeological and unidentified responses.

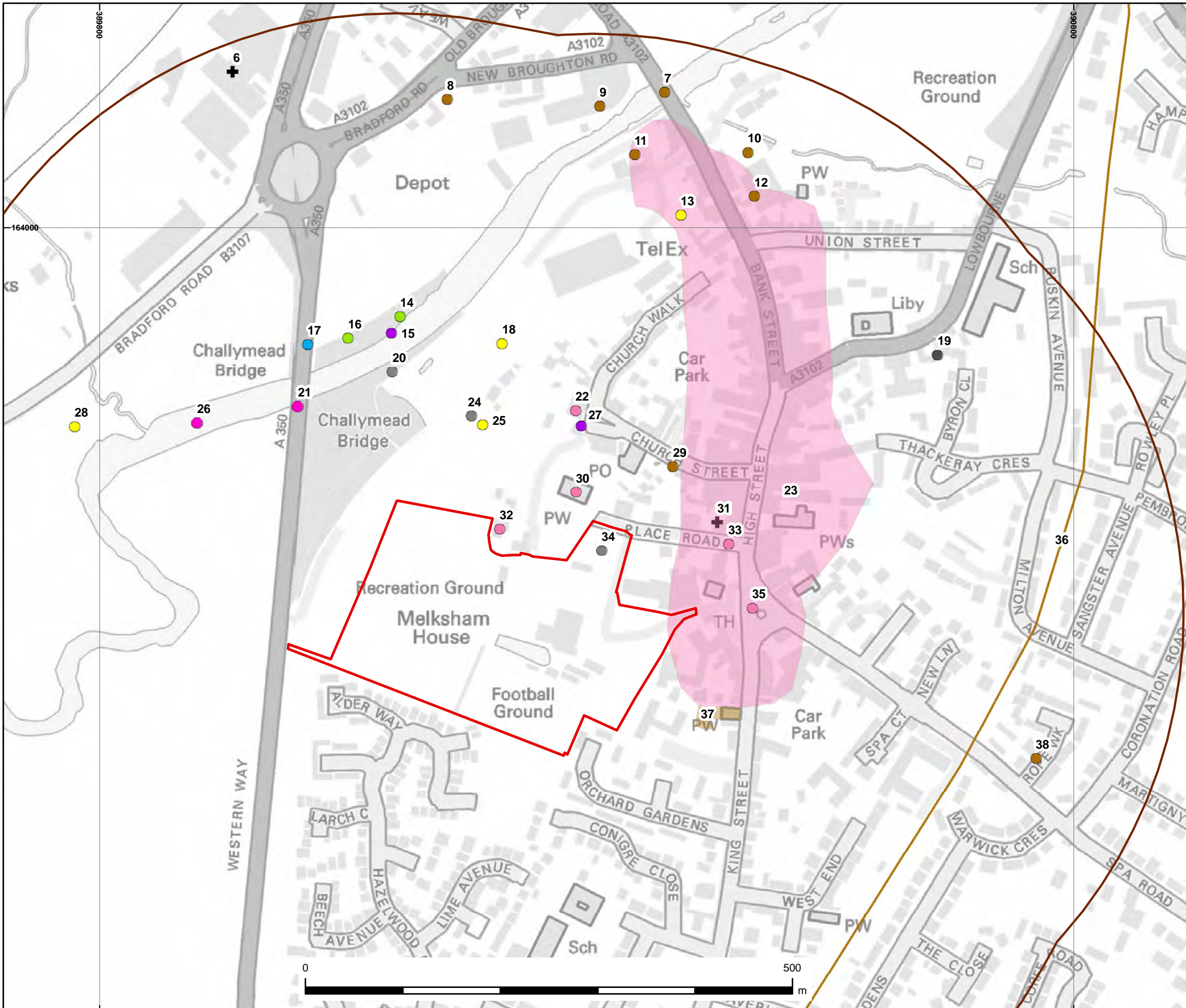
The archaeological category is used for features when the form, nature and pattern of the anomaly are indicative of archaeological material. Further sources of information such as aerial photographs may also have been incorporated in providing the final interpretation. This category is further sub-divided into three groups, implying a decreasing level of confidence:

- Archaeology – used when there is a clear geophysical response and anthropogenic pattern.
- Probable archaeology – used for features which give a clear response but which form incomplete patterns.
- Possible archaeology – used for features which give a response but which form no discernable pattern or trend.

The unidentified category is used for features when the form, nature and pattern of the anomaly are not sufficient to warrant a classification as an archaeological feature. This category is further sub-divided into:

- Increased magnetic response – used for areas dominated by indistinct anomalies which may have some archaeological potential.
- Trend – used for low amplitude or indistinct linear anomalies.
- Ferrous – used for responses caused by ferrous material. These anomalies are likely to be of modern origin.

Finally, services such as water pipes are marked where they have been identified.



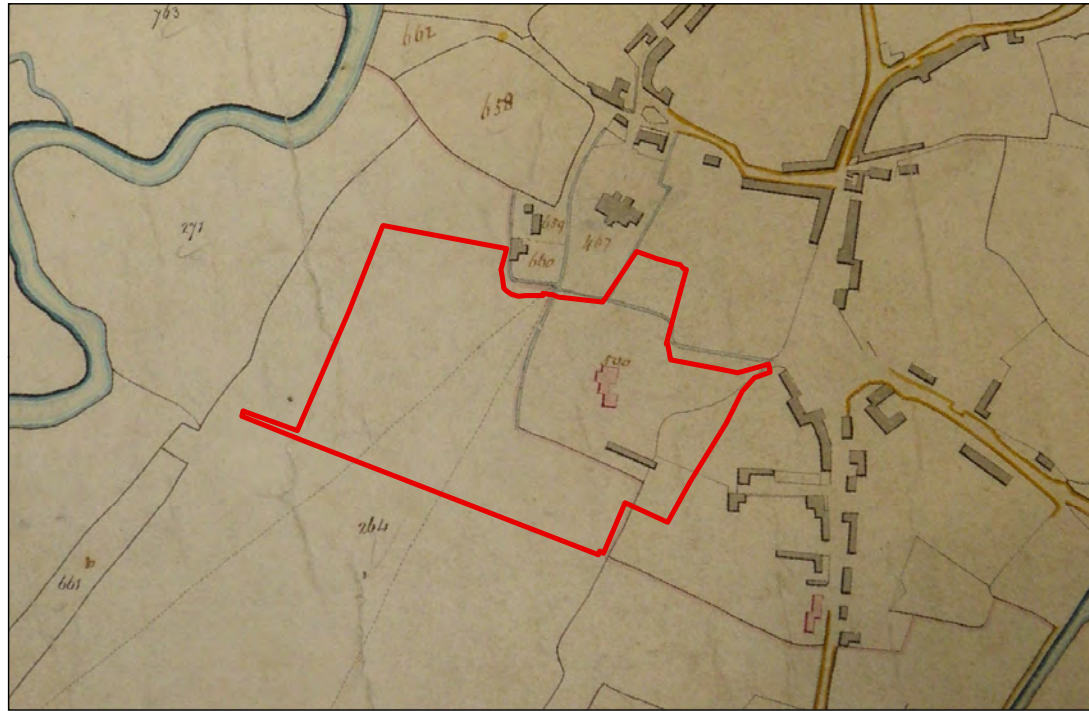
- Study Area
- Site
- Archaeological Records
- Period
- Palaeolithic
- Mesolithic
- Neolithic
- Bronze Age
- Romano-British
- Medieval
- Post-medieval
- Modern
- Unknown
- Post-medieval
- Medieval
- Post-medieval
- + Negative Evidence

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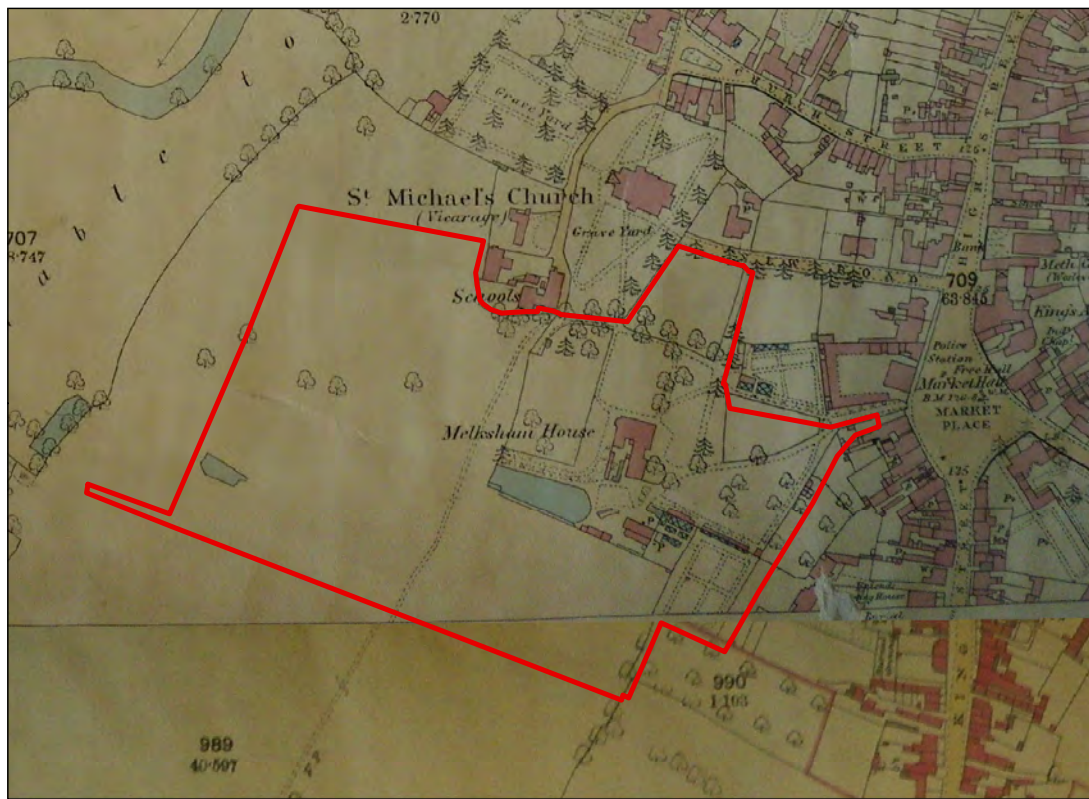
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Known archaeological resource within the Study Area (based on WSMR and other sources)

Figure 2



1838 Melksham Tithe map



1886 Ordnance Survey 25" map



1924 Ordnance Survey 25" map

 Site



Historic maps



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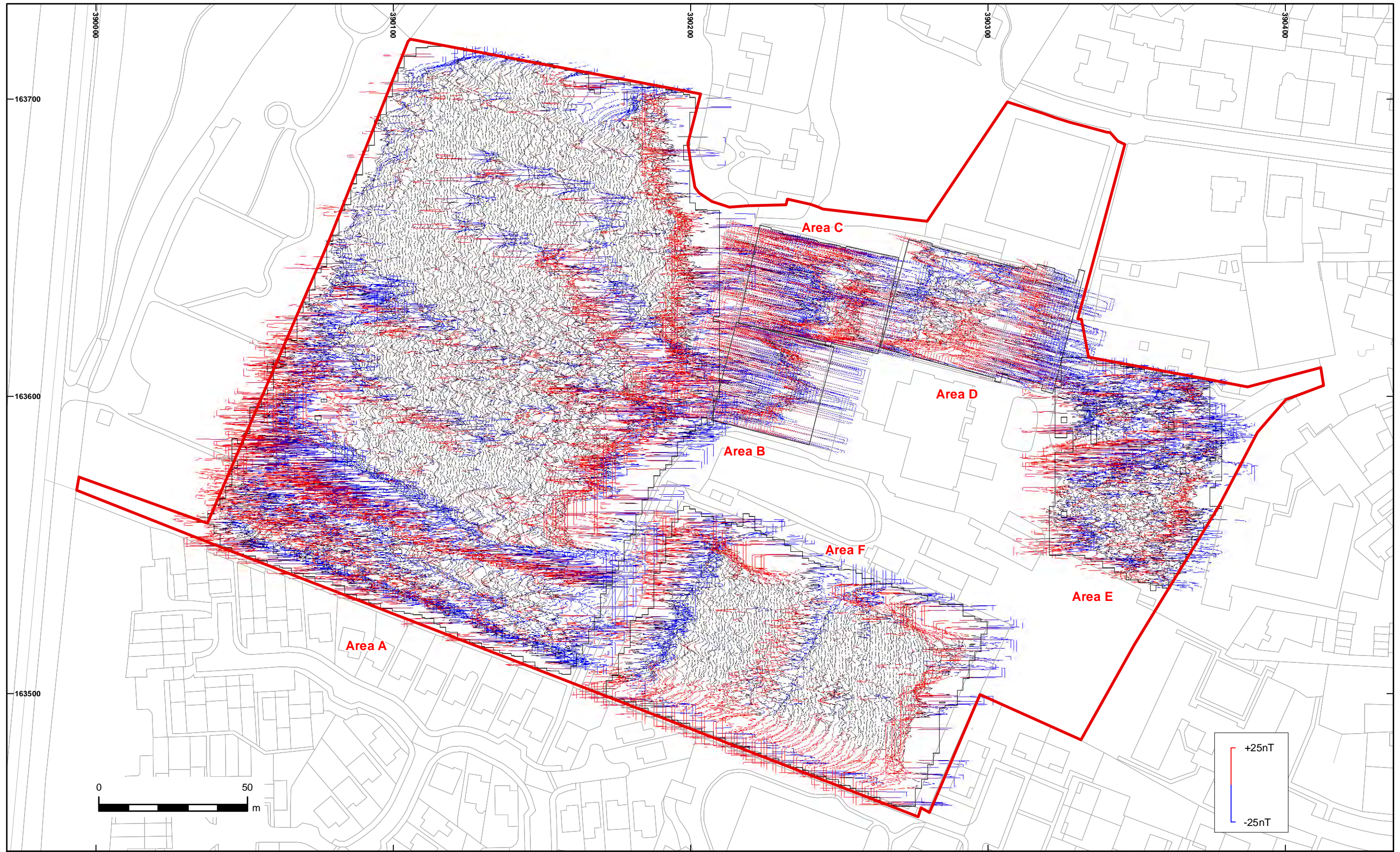


- Study Area
- Site
- Geophysical survey extents



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- Study Area
- Site
- Geophysical survey extents

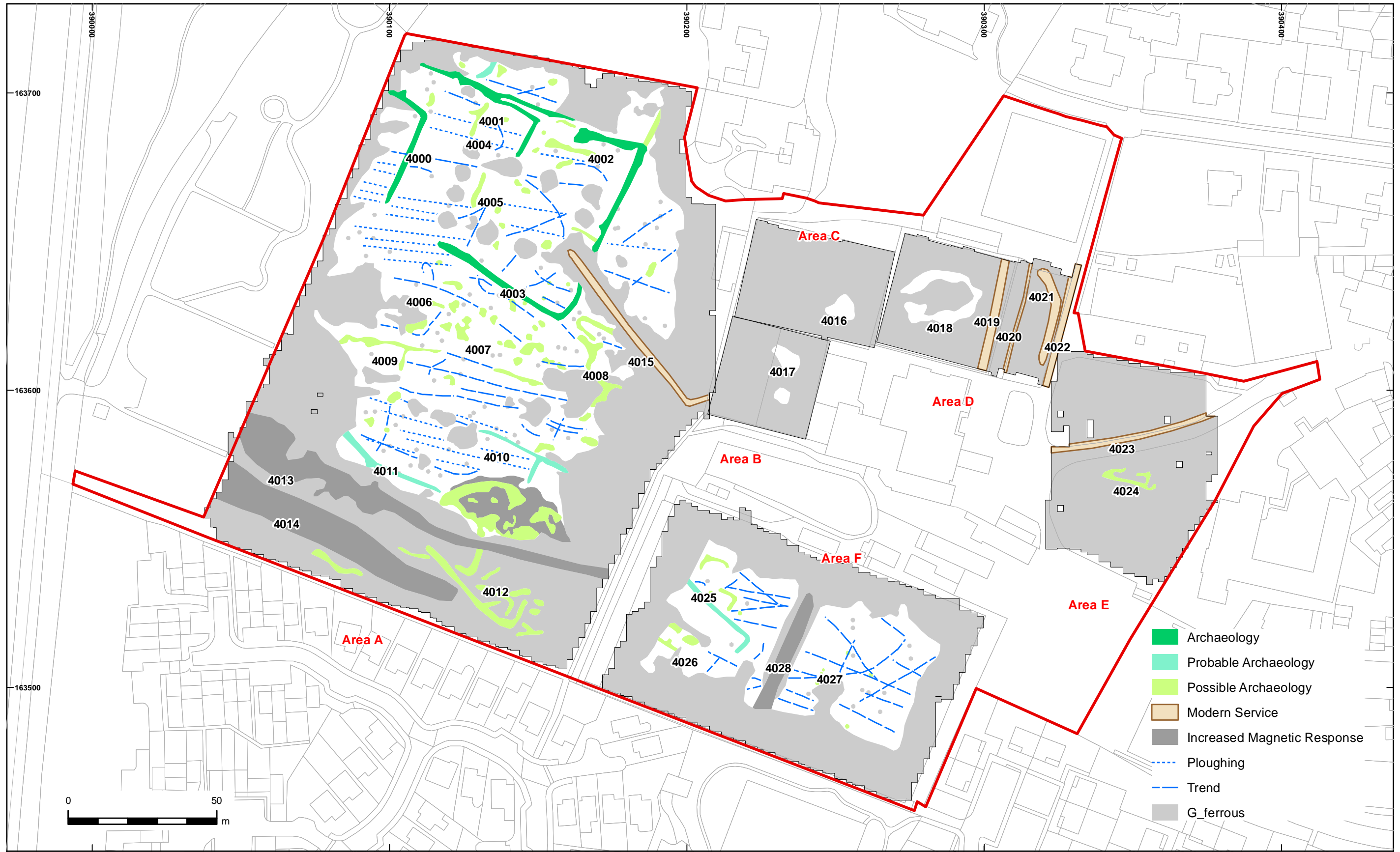


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XY Trace plot

Figure 5



- Study Area
- Site
- Geophysical survey extents
- G_ferrous



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Plate 1: Melksham House, view from south-east



Plate 2: Melksham House with 1920s and late 20th century extensions, view from north

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Plate 3: St Michael's Church and the Grange, view from south

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