Burton Hill
Malmesbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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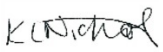
1	15/10/2019	Draft submitted to client	RH	

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by GreenSquare Homes Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 0.75 ha parcel of land located in Burton Hill, near Malmesbury, Wiltshire centred on NGR 393670 186565.

The evaluation comprised five trenches (2 trenches measuring 40 m by 2 m, 2 trenches measuring 30 m by 2 m and 1 trench measuring 20 m by 2 m), equating to a 4% sample of the site. The trenches were targeted on the results of a geophysical survey of the proposed development area.

Three of the five trenches (Trenches 1, 2 and 5) revealed archaeological features comprising boundary ditches of probable modern date. Residual finds were recovered from topsoil and subsoil deposits and included pottery, ceramic building material, glass, animal bone and struck flint ranging in date from the Mesolithic to modern era.

Features, including stone filled and ceramic land drains, relating to recent agricultural activity were also identified.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank GreenSquare Homes Ltd, for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, in particular Tim Bircher. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of the Wiltshire County Archaeologist, who monitored the project for Wiltshire County Council, and to Matt Park for his co-operation and help on site.

The fieldwork was directed by Ray Holt, with the assistance of Roy Krakowicz. This report was written by Ray Holt, with specialist contributions from Lorraine Mepham and Rachael Seager Smith, and edited by Kirsty Nichol. The project was managed by Kirsty Nichol on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.

Burton Hill, Malmesbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by GreenSquare Homes Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 0.75 ha parcel of land located at Burton Hill near Malmesbury, in the County of Wiltshire. The evaluation area was centred on NGR 393670 186565 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 A residential development proposed for the land has been granted permission subject to Conditions (Planning application 16/11603/OUT). The development will comprise up to 59 dwellings, a warden's flat, communal building and associated roads, car parking and landscaping. Condition 25 imposed on the application relates to a staged approach in determining the archaeological potential of the site.

1.1.3 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 2019b). The Wiltshire County Archaeologist approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.4 The evaluation, comprising five trial trenches (2 trenches measuring 40 m by 2 m, two trenches measuring 30 m by 2 m and one trench measuring 20 m by 2 m), equating to a 4% sample of the proposed development area, was undertaken between 2 and 4 September 2019.

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 The evaluation area is located to the east of the village of Burton Hill, 1.2 km south-east of Malmesbury and 12 km north north-east of Chippenham in the County of Wiltshire.

1.3.1 Existing ground levels slope from 82 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the western edge of the site to approximately 88 m aOD at the eastern edge.

1.3.2 The underlying geology is mapped as mudstone of the Kellaways Clay Member, with no overlying superficial geological deposits recorded, although strands of alluvium are noted along water courses to the north and west adjacent to the River Avon (British Geological Survey online viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was considered in a previous desk-based assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2016), which included the recorded historic environment resource within a 2 km radius of the proposed development. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (WHER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development

Detailed Gradiometer Survey

2.2.1 A detailed gradiometer survey was successful in detecting anomalies across the site (**Figure 1**). Many of these corellate with those identified in a topographic survey (see below). An example of this is that the gradiometer survey identified a weak, linear trend, traversing the centre of the proposed development area on a broadly east to west alignment. The same feature was also visible in the topographic data as a positive feature. This is thought to correspond with the location of a former footpath noted on historic Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping dating to 1886.

2.2.2 Two poorly defined NNE-SSW aligned, linear anomalies could be attributed to topographic undulations. These are not recorded on any historic mapping of the area, but given the strong magnetic character, it is possible that these are infilled with modern debris. The shared alignment with extant boundaries in the area may also suggest that they may be relatively modern in origin.

2.2.3 The remaining anomalies from the geophysical survey are modern in provenance, pertaining to an underground service and peripheral interference from ferrous objects and boundary fencing. The underground service, though very clear in the geophysical survey, was not identified in the topographic survey.

Topographic Survey

2.2.4 The topographic features are likely to be associated with known earthworks to the east and south of the site, currently presumed to be either medieval or post-medieval in origin.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric

2.3.1 Three fragments of undated flint tools were recovered from land adjacent to Malmesbury sewage treatment works. In addition, numerous undated earthworks, pits and ditches are recorded on the WHER as cropmarks from aerial imagery.

Medieval

2.3.2 To the north of the site within Malmesbury, there are several scheduled monuments. This includes the Benedictine monastery known as Malmesbury Abbey (NHLE 1010136), which has its origins in the early 7th century within the Saxon hilltop burgh. A nunnery is documented to have been founded here in c. 603 AD, although this is thought more likely to be 637 AD, when a hermitage was established at Malmesbury. By the 10th century, a house of the Benedictine order had been established and partially survives as the Abbey Church of St Mary and St Aldhelm (NHLE 1269316).

2.3.3 Elsewhere in Malmesbury there are a large number of Grade I, II and II* Listed structures. These consist of buildings and historic monuments including the Market Cross (NHLE 1005660), St John's Almhouses (NHLE 1005632) and the tower and site of the Church of St Paul (NHLE 1004682). In addition, the development site is located approximately 550 m south-south-east of Malmesbury town defences, which are in the process of being scheduled (NHLE 1004681). These are thought to have their origin in the 13th century. Most of those structures listed as Grade II are located throughout the settlement of Malmesbury and pertain to 15th – 19th-century domestic properties.

2.3.4 A scheduled monument is also located approximately 850 m south-east of the development site, which is described as a ringwork on Cam's Hill, 500 m north-east of Lawn Farm (NHLE 1021288). This consists of an upstanding earthwork comprising a circular enclosure bank up to 18 m wide at the base, approximately 1.8 m high. A substantial ditch is noted surrounding the bank. The monument is thought to have its origins in the Anglo-Saxon period.

2.3.5 Earthworks recorded to the south of the scheduled monument are thought to be evidence of ploughing headlands and a possible medieval siege castle from the siege of Malmesbury, dating from the 12th century).

2.3.6 Aerial photographs have shown ridge and furrow earthworks throughout the wider landscape and within the development site (Wessex Archaeology 2016). It is likely that the site was in agricultural use during the medieval and post-medieval periods (ibid.). Aerial photographs also show an area of undated settlement earthworks 200 m to the east. Findspots associated with medieval coins, pottery and other artefacts are also common in the area.

Post-medieval

2.3.7 Closer to the site, there are four Grade II listed buildings. These consist of the Burton Hill High School (NHLE 1418394) and three residential properties. The 1886 published edition 25" Ordnance Survey map and the 1900 published edition 25" Ordnance Survey map show a footpath traversing approximately east-west across the centre 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 2019b) and in compliance with the CIfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a), were:

- To provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- To 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;
- To establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- To 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, the site-specific objectives of the evaluation are:

- To investigate and, where possible date, anomalies identified by the geophysical and topographic surveys.

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 2019) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using GPS (**Figure 1**), in the approximate positions as those proposed in the WSI.

4.2.2 The five trial trenches, two measuring 40 m in length, two measuring 30 m in length, one measuring 20 m in length and 2 m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 360º 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 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits identified was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.

4.2.4 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Where found, 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.

4.2.5 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the Wiltshire County Archaeologist 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

4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both 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. The Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.

4.2.7 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 OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.8 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 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 Artefactual and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 The Wiltshire County Archaeologist monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI were agreed in advance with both the client and the Wiltshire County Archaeologist.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Three of the five trial trenches contained archaeological features and deposits (**Figure 1**).

5.1.2 The archaeological features comprised two ditches of probable post-medieval or modern date. Small quantities of worked flint of Mesolithic/early Neolithic and Early Bronze Age date, and pottery of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date found residually in the subsoil.

5.1.3 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed by period. 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 2019a).

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 All five trenches revealed a similar sequence of deposits. The natural substrate (102, 202, 302, 402, 502) consisted of a firm yellow-orange silty clay containing occasional natural flint and manganese flecks. It was revealed at a depth of between 0.3 m and 0.5 m below present ground level (bpgl **Plate 1**).

5.2.2 The natural substrate was cut by a possible wide, shallow paleochannel at the eastern end of Trench 5. The fill of the paleochannel, 504, consisted of an artefactually sterile pale grey silty clay containing occasional sub rounded stones.

5.2.3 The natural deposits and possible paleochannel were overlain by a subsoil of yellow-brown clay rich silt containing rare sub-angular stones up to coarse gravel size (101, 201, 301, 401, 501). This layer measured an average of 0.15 m in thickness. The subsoil was sealed by 0.15 m to 0.25 m thick topsoil (100, 200, 300, 400, 500) consisting of grey-brown silt containing occasional sub-rounded stones up to coarse gravel size. Modern pottery, glass, ceramic field drain fragments and ceramic building material were recorded within the topsoil but not recovered.

5.2.4 The topsoil and subsoil deposits showed no evidence of recent cultivation suggesting the field has been under pasture for a considerable period of time.

5.3 Prehistoric (8500 BC–AD 43)

5.3.1 Residual worked flint was recovered from the subsoil in Trenches 2, 4 and 5. These comprised six flakes, one broken blade and a small ‘thumbnail’ scraper. On morphological grounds the scraper is probably Early Bronze Age, and the blade is suggestive of a Mesolithic or early Neolithic date; the remainder could not be closely dated.

5.3.2 Although the presence of flint artefacts suggests some degree of prehistoric activity in the area, there is very little archaeological evidence for such early activity in the vicinity of the site. However, numerous undated earthworks, pits and ditches are recorded in the WHER as cropmarks on aerial imagery and although unsubstantiated, could potentially be prehistoric in origin.

5.4 Romano-British (AD 43-410)

5.4.1 A small quantity of residual Romano-British pottery was recovered from the subsoil in Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5. The Romano-British sherds ranged in date from the later 1st to 4th century AD.

5.4.2 No Romano-British activity has been identified in the immediate vicinity of the site. This combined with the limited number of sherds may suggest these represent residual intrusions.

5.5 Medieval (1066-1500)

5.5.1 Moderate quantities of residual medieval pottery were recovered from the subsoil in Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5. The pottery has been tentatively dated to the 12th-13th-century and consists entirely of sherds in oolitic-tempered Minety-type ware.

5.5.2 The pottery probably represents manuring scatter possibly relating to the ridge and furrow earthworks shown on aerial photographs throughout the wider landscape and within the site (Wessex Archaeology 2016). This also confirms the site was probably in agricultural use during the medieval period.

5.5.3 Aerial photographs show an area of undated settlement earthworks 200 m to the east of the site which may be the origin for the pottery. Find spots associated with medieval coins, pottery and other artefacts are common in the area.

5.6 Post-medieval (1500-1800)

5.6.1 Sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from subsoil in Trenches 1 and 4 and are of probable 16th-17th-century and 17th-18th-century date. A clay tobacco-pipe fragment was also recovered from the fill of ditch 203. These artefacts probably also represent manuring scatter.

5.7 Modern (1800-present)

5.7.1 A broadly WNW-ESE aligned ditch, 103/203 (**Plates 2 & 3**), was bisected by Trenches 1 and 2 which corresponds well with a linear trend identified by the preceding geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2019a). Measuring between 2.2 m and 3.3 m in width and 1m in depth, the ditch had moderate sloping sides to a flat base and was cut through the subsoil 101/201, which is believed to represent a medieval plough soil (**Figures 1 & 2**).

5.7.2 The fills of the ditch consisted of a lower primary fill of mid-grey clay (104) derived from initial edge collapse, a secondary infilling of mid brown-grey clay rich silt (105/205) containing ceramic building material and a tertiary fill of mid-brown sandy silt with frequent small gravel sized stone fragments (106/204) containing modern pottery (not recovered).

5.7.3 Although no field boundaries are illustrated on historic mapping for the site, ditch 103/203 is aligned parallel with, and immediately to the north of, a footpath illustrated on the 1886 and 1900 Ordnance Survey maps (Wessex Archaeology 2016).

5.7.4 A slightly raised east-west aligned ridge measuring an average of 4 m in width and up to 0.2 m in height was observed immediately to the south of the ditch. This earthwork feature could be observed throughout the length of the field and probably originated as upcast from the digging of the ditch, which was then used to form higher, drier, ground for the footpath.

5.7.5 A north-south orientated ditch (504, **Plate 5**) was revealed at the eastern end of Trench 5 (**Figure 1**). This feature corresponds with a field boundary illustrated on the 1842 Malmesbury Tithe Map (Wessex Archaeology 2016), the ditch measured 3.56m wide and was cut through subsoil 501.

5.7.6 Ditch 504 contained a lower secondary fill (505) consisting of pale grey silty clay with common stones up to coarse gravel size. The ditch had been backfilled with a deliberate dump of stone rubble (506) containing occasional dressed blocks along with modern pottery, ceramic building material and glass bottle fragments (not collected). This upper backfill also incorporated a modern ceramic field drain.

5.7.7 Modern ceramic and stone filled land drains related to the sites recent agricultural use were identified in Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 5 (**Figure 1**).

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The evaluation produced a small quantity of finds, consisting largely of pottery, and ranging in date from prehistoric to post-medieval. Finds were recovered from four of the trenches excavated (no finds were recovered from Trench 3) and came largely from topsoil and subsoil layers.

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	Flint (no.)	Pottery	Other Finds
101		17/148	
200		1/6	
201	1	19/143	1 clay pipe
205			1 fired clay; 1 iron
401	4	35/200	
501	3	6/108	1 iron
Total	**8**	**78/605**	

6.2 Worked Flint

6.2.1 Eight pieces of worked flint were recovered. These comprise six flakes (one burnt and one broken), one broken blade and a small 'thumbnail' scraper. The raw material is gravel flint, with the exception of one of the flakes, which is made from an orange-brown cherty raw material. A few pieces are lightly patinated. On morphological grounds the scraper is probably Early Bronze Age, and the blade is suggestive of a Mesolithic or early Neolithic date; the remainder cannot be closely dated. All pieces were clearly residual in topsoil or subsoil contexts.

6.3 Pottery

6.3.1 The pottery assemblage amounts to 78 sherds (weighing 605 g). The assemblage is largely of medieval date, but also includes some Romano-British and post-medieval sherds. Condition ranges from fair to poor; all sherds have suffered at least some surface/edge abrasion, and this is consistent with their provenance in topsoil and subsoil layers – these represent reworked deposits rather than primary refuse. Mean sherd weight is noticeably small, at 7.8 g.

6.3.2 The pottery has been quantified (sherd count and weight) by ware type within each context. This classification combines known ware types (Minety-type ware) with broader 'catch-all' wares (Romano-British greyware) which may include the products of more than one source. Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs) have not been calculated owing to the small number of measurable rims. Instead, the Estimated Number of Vessels (ENV) has been calculated, counting conjoining sherds, or same-vessel groups, as 1 (the ENV total of 74 illustrates well the level of fragmentation of the assemblage). The level of recording accords with the 'basic record', aimed at producing a rapid characterisation of the assemblage and a comparative dataset (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group et al 2016, section 2.4.5). A full list of pottery by context is given in Table 2.

Table 2 Pottery by context

Context	Ware type	No.	Wt. (g)	ENV	Additional Comments	Date
101	Minety-type ware	15	111	15	1 jar rim (sharply everted, thickened)	Medieval
101	Whiteware	1	22	1	bowl rim; mottled brown (manganese?) glaze; Surrey?	Post-medieval
101	Oxidised ware	1	15	1	platter/dish rim	Roman
200	Staffs-type slipware	1	6	1	cup base; internally slip-dec	Post-medieval
201	Whiteware	1	45	1	very abraded basal angle, possible Oxon mortarium	Roman
201	Minety-type ware	18	98	18	3 jar rims; 1 West Country dish base	Medieval
401	Minety-type ware	33	168	30	1 jug handle; 2 jar rims; 1 ??skillet rim/handle	Medieval
401	Black Burnished ware	1	31	1	dropped flange bowl rim	Roman
401	Redware	1	1	1	tiny glazed rim, overfired? Small, thin-walled vessel (cup?)	Post-medieval
501	Minety-type ware	5	106	4	1 jar rim; 1 jug rim/strap handle	Medieval
501	Greyware	1	2	1	body sherd	Roman

6.3.3 The pottery has been quantified (sherd count and weight) by ware type within each context. This classification combines known ware types (Minety-type ware) with broader 'catch-all' wares (Romano-British greyware) which may include the products of more than one source. Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs) have not been calculated owing to the small number of measurable rims. Instead, the Estimated Number of Vessels (ENV) has been calculated, counting conjoining sherds, or same-vessel groups, as 1 (the ENV total of 74 illustrates well the level of fragmentation of the assemblage). The level of recording accords with the 'basic record', aimed at producing a rapid characterisation of the assemblage and a comparative dataset (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group *et al* 2016, section 2.4.5).

Romano-British

6.3.4 There are three Romano-British sherds. The most diagnostic is a dropped flange bowl rim in south-east Dorset Black Burnished ware (BB1) from Trench 4, dated mid-3rd to 4th century AD. A thick-walled whiteware base from Trench 2 could be from a mortarium (the internal surface is too worn to show the presence of trituration grits), possibly Oxfordshire (and, if so, probably later 1st or 2nd century AD). The third sherd (Trench 1) is from the rim of a dish or platter in a fine oxidised ware, again possibly an Oxfordshire product.

Medieval

6.3.5 The majority of the assemblage of 73 sherds is medieval, and this consists entirely of sherds in oolitic-tempered Minety-type ware.

6.3.6 Wasters found at Minety have been dated typologically to the 14th or 15th century (Musty 1973), but it is apparent that similar oolitic wares were circulating earlier, identified, for example, at Bristol, Cirencester, Gloucester and south Oxfordshire from at least the early 12th century (Ireland 1998, fabric F200, 104; Mellor 1994, fabric OXBB, 99–100). Early handmade wares (including tripod pitchers) were augmented by wheelthrown jars from the 13th-14th century (Vince 1984). In this instance the sherds are too small and abraded to determine manufacturing technique, but it is likely that most if not all are handmade. Diagnostic pieces are confined to seven jar rims, a 'West Country' (inturned) jar base, a jug

handle and a possible skillet handle. This small group is therefore tentatively dated as 12th-13th century.

Post-medieval

6.3.7 The remaining two sherds are post-medieval; these comprise one small, overfired redware rim, possibly from a cup, and probably of 16th-17th-century date; and a base sherd from a cup in Staffordshire-/Bristol-type yellow slipware, of 17th–18th-century date.

6.4 Other Finds

6.4.1 Other finds comprise one fragment of clay tobacco-pipe stem; a small undiagnostic fragment of fired clay, possibly very abraded ceramic building material; and two unidentifiable iron objects. Apart from the clay pipe (post-medieval), none of these finds are datable, and thus there is no firm dating for the fill of ditch 203.

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Summary

7.1.1 The evaluation identified a limited number of archaeological features within the site, with features revealed in three of the five trenches.

7.1.2 Where archaeological features were revealed they were observed to cut through the subsoil deposit suggesting late post-medieval or modern origins relating to field boundaries and drainage features.

7.1.3 Artefacts recovered from the topsoil in Trenches 1, 2, and 4, and subsoil in Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5 were residual and likely to have originated through the manuring of agricultural fields using midden material.

7.2 Discussion

7.2.1 The evaluation has established that the surviving archaeology across the site is of later post-medieval or modern date.

7.2.2 Residual finds from the subsoil deposits suggests activity dating from Mesolithic / Early Neolithic, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval periods in the locale.

8 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum and Preparation of the archive

8.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Bristol. Wiltshire Museum in Devizes has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project. 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.

8.1.2 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Wiltshire Museum in Devizes, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

8.1.3 All archive elements will be marked with the **accession code**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 cardboard box or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type;
- 1 file/document case of paper records and A3/A4 graphics;

8.2 Selection policy

8.2.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4), with the aim of retaining only those finds which are considered to have further research potential, or which fulfil other criteria within the Museum's collecting policy.

8.2.2 In this instance, while the finds were almost exclusively redeposited in topsoil or subsoil layers, and their condition is not particularly good, the pottery and flint are of local significance and at the very least add a useful findspot. These finds should be retained, but the remainder (clay pipe stem, undiagnostic fired clay, unidentified iron objects) do not warrant retention.

8.2.3 All finds have been recorded to an appropriate archive level. The selection policy will be agreed with the Museum, and will be fully documented in the project archive.

8.3 Security copy

8.3.1 In line with current best practice (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.

8.4 OASIS

8.4.1 An OASIS online record (http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main) has been initiated (**wessexar-1 348478**), with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. 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 ArchSearch catalogue.

9 COPYRIGHT

9.1 Archive and report copyright

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

NGR coordinates and OD heights taken at centre of each trench; depth bgl = below ground level

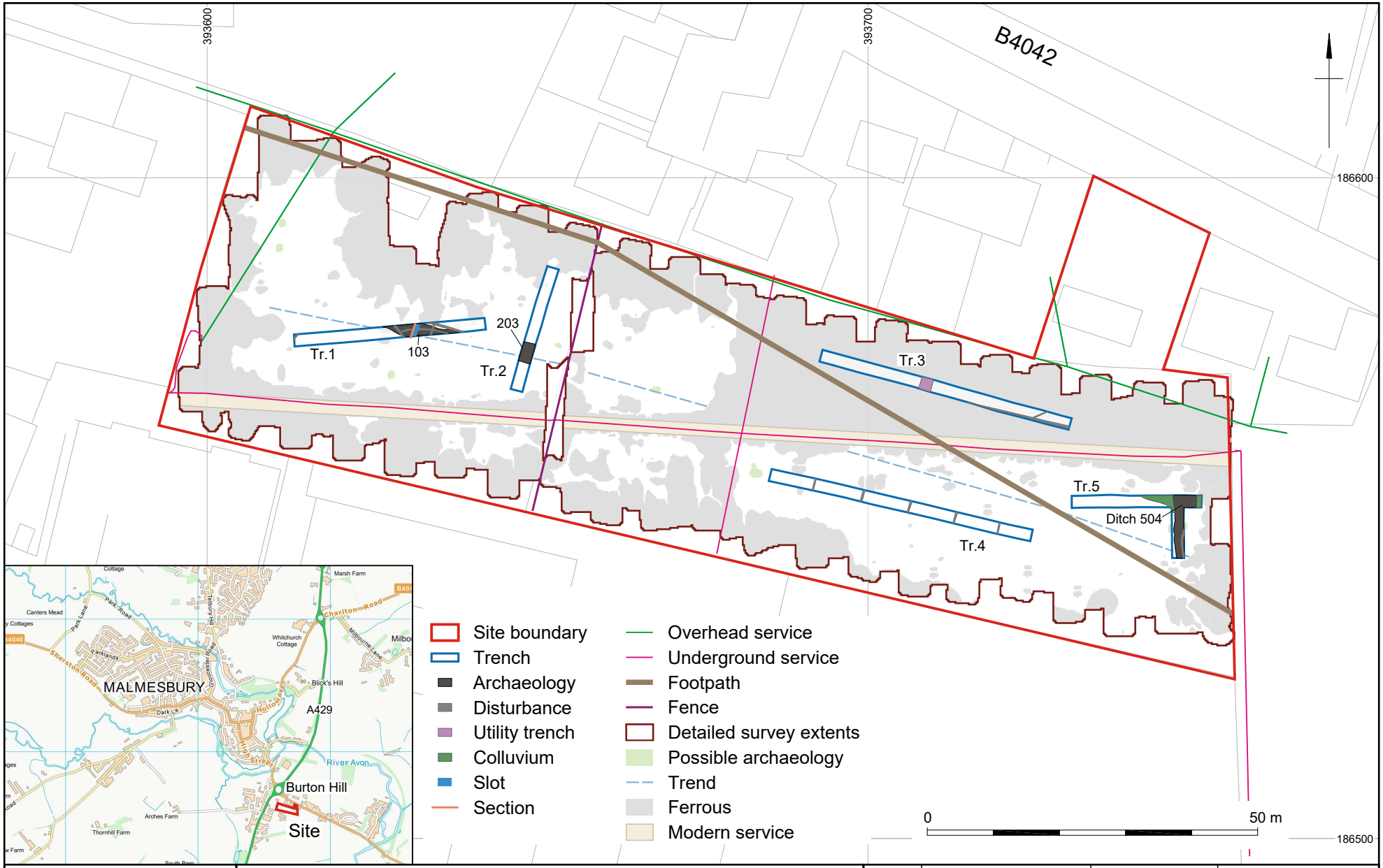
Trench 1	***31 m x 2 m***		**NGR 393146 186547**	***83.04 m OD***
Context	***Interpretation***	***Fill of***	***Description***	***Depth bgl (m)***
100	Topsoil		Mid greyish brown silt containing rare sub-rounded stones up to coarse gravel size	0-0.2
101	Subsoil		Mid yellowish-brown clayey silt containing rare sub-angular stones up to coarse gravel size	0.2-0.3
102	Natural substrate		Mid yellowish orange silty clay containing occasional flint pebbles and moderate manganese flecks	0.3+
103	Ditch		WNW-ESE aligned ditch measuring 2.2 m in width, 1 m in depth with moderate sloping sides to a flat base. Cut through subsoil 101. Same as 203	0.2-1.2
104	Primary fill	103	Lower fill of ditch consisting mid-grey clay	1-1.2
105	Secondary fill	103	Middle fill of ditch consisting mid-brownish grey clayey silt	0.4-2
106	Tertiary fill	103	Upper fill of ditch consisting mid-brown sandy silt containing frequent small gravel sized stone fragments	0.2-0.42

Trench 2	***31 m x 2 m***		**NGR 393649 186577**	***83.8 m OD***
Context	***Interpretation***	***Fill of***	***Description***	***Depth bgl (m)***
200	Topsoil		Mid-greyish brown silt containing rare sub rounded stones up to coarse gravel sized	0-0.25
201	Subsoil		Mid-yellowish-brown clayey silt containing rare sub angular stones up to coarse gravel sized	0.25-0.4
202	Natural substrate		Mid-yellowish orange silty clay containing occasional flint pebbles and moderate manganese flecks	0.4+
203	Ditch		WNW-ESE aligned ditch measuring 3.3 m wide, over 0.48 m in depth with moderate sloping sides. Full depth not ascertained. Cut through subsoil 201. Same as 103	0.25-0.73+
204	Tertiary fill		Upper fill of ditch consisting mid brown sandy silt containing frequent small gravel sized stone fragments	0.25-0.54
205	Secondary fill		Mid yellowish-brown clay containing rare charcoal flecks	0.3-0.73+

Trench 3	***31 m x 2 m***		**NGR 393711 186567**	***85.85 m OD***
Context	***Interpretation***	***Fill of***	***Description***	***Depth bgl (m)***
300	Topsoil		Mid-greyish brown silt containing rare sub rounded stones up to coarse gravel size	0-0.25
301	Subsoil		Mid-yellowish-brown clayey silt containing rare sub angular stones up to coarse gravel size	0.25-0.35
302	Natural substrate		Mid-yellowish orange silty clay containing occasional flint pebbles and moderate manganese flecks	0.35+

Trench 4	***31 m x 2 m***		**NGR 393705 186550**	***85.39 m OD***
Context	***Interpretation***	***Fill of***	***Description***	***Depth bgl (m)***
400	Topsoil		Mid-greyish brown silt containing rare sub rounded stones up to coarse gravel sized	0-0.15
401	Subsoil		Mid-yellowish-brown clayey silt containing rare sub angular stones up to coarse gravel sized	0.15-0.3
402	Natural substrate		Mid-yellowish orange silty clay containing occasional flint pebbles and moderate manganese flecks	0.3+

Trench 5	***31 m x 2 m***		**NGR 393742 186551**	***86.92 m OD***
Context	***Interpretation***	***Fill of***	***Description***	***Depth bgl (m)***
500	Topsoil		Mid-greyish brown silt containing rare sub-rounded stones up to coarse gravel sized	0-0.25
501	Subsoil		Mid-yellowish-brown clayey silt containing occassional sub-angular stones up to coarse gravel sized	0.25-0.5
502	Natural substrate		Mid-yellowish orange silty clay containing occasional flint pebbles and moderate manganese flecks	0.5+
503	Spread		Fill of possible wide, shallow paleochannel. Consists of pale grey silty clay containing occasional sub rounded stones	0.5-0.7
504	Ditch		North-south aligned ditch measuring 3.56 m in width. Cut through subsoil 501.	0.25-0.7+
505	Secondary fill	504	Lower fill of ditch consisting pale grey silty clay containing frequent stones up to coarse gravel size	0.25+
506	Deliberate backfill	504	Upper deliberate backfill of ditch with stone rubble containing occasional dressed blocks and modern ceramic field drain	0.5+



Coordinate system:
OSGB36
(OSTN15/OSGM15)

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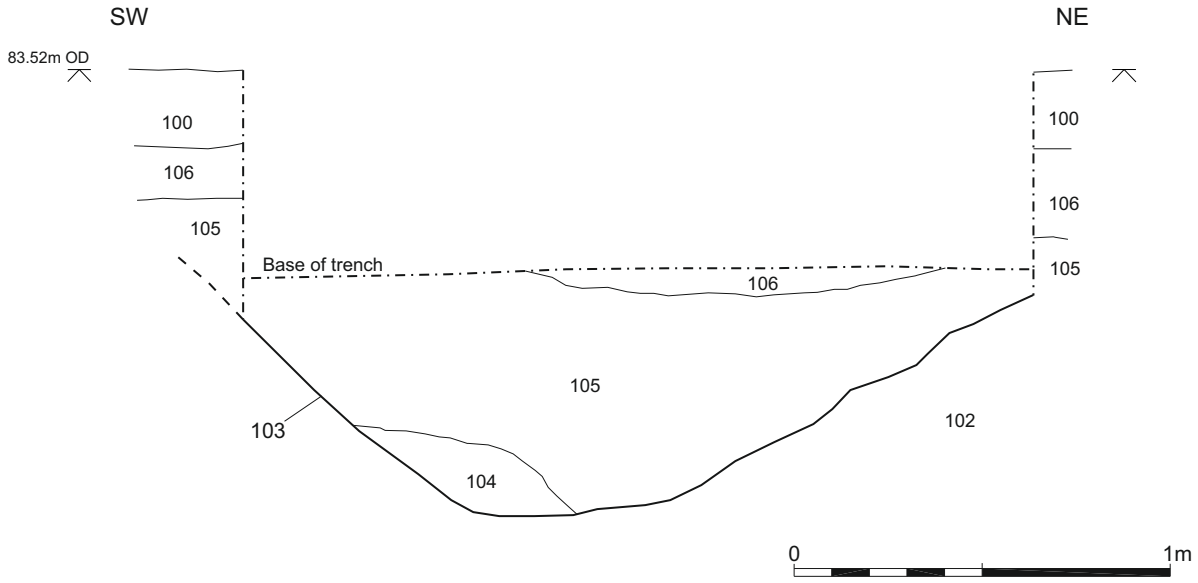
Site location and plan of trenches showing results of geophysical survey

Figure 1

South-east facing section of ditch 103



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Section of ditch 103

Figure 2

Plate 1: Trench 1 looking west

Plate 2: Trench 1, ditch 103 looking north-west

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Plate 3: Trench 2 looking north-east

Plate 4: Trench 3 looking west-north-west

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Plate 5: Trench 4 looking east-south-east

Plate 6: Trench 5, ditch 504 looking north

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