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Melksham Campus Development Melksham, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



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archaeology



Melksham Campus Development, Melksham, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Prepared for:

Strategic Property Services Wiltshire Council County Hall Bythesea Road Trowbridge BA14 8JN

Prepared by:

Wessex Archaeology Portway House Old Sarum Park SALISBURY Wiltshire SP4 6EB

www.wessexarch.co.uk

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Wiltshire Council to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Melksham House, Melksham, Wiltshire centred on National Grid Reference 390230 163590. 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.

This evaluation followed a desk-based assessment and geophysical survey (WA 2012) which had established a potential for the presence of buried archaeological remains potentially relating to the medieval and later development of Melksham. The evaluation was undertaken between the 5th and the 8th August 2013.

The evaluation, which consisted of four trenches, identified a number of archaeological features potentially relating to the use of the site in the medieval period. These consisted of a number of ditches, gullies and pits, suggesting possible domestic and agricultural activity from the 12th to the 14th century.

In general, the archaeological features lay at a depth in excess of 0.5m below the current ground level beneath modern and buried soil deposits. In the eastern part of the site, a buried soil horizon thought to be medieval in date was identified at around 0.35m below the current ground level.

The fieldwork both confirmed the presence of archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey (WA 2012) and also identified features in areas where the extant metal fixtures had obscured the geophysical data.

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The project was commissioned by Wiltshire Council and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Richard Pearce in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Rachel Foster (Assistant County Archaeologist) for all her advice and assistance.

The fieldwork was carried out by Piotr Orzewski assisted by Tina Tapply. This report was written and complied by Naomi Brennan with specialist reports by Lorraine Mepham (finds) and illustrations by Ken Lymer. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wiltshire Council ('the Client'), to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Melksham House, 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, which will bring together many of the services currently provided in the wider Melksham area and include the library, youth centre, sports facilities, pool and other services.
- 1.1.3 Following discussions with the Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service, a Desk-Based Assessment and geophysical survey (WA 2012) were undertaken. These established there was 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 agricultural activity. The geophysical survey also confirmed the presence of associated archaeological features across the Site.
- 1.1.4 The Wiltshire Assistant County Archaeologist recommended an archaeological evaluation be undertaken ahead of the determination of the planning application to assess the archaeological potential of the Site and to 'ground truth' the anomalies identified in the geophysical survey.
- 1.1.5 The evaluation was undertaken between the 5^{th} and the 8^{th} August 2013.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site comprises a sub-rectangular plot of land measuring approximately 5.62 ha. It is located in the centre of Melksham, to the west of the Market Place, and lies within the 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 reminder 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 a 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 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 A Desk-Based Assessment (WA, 2012) has been completed, which details the archaeological and historical background to the Site. A summary is provided below.
- 2.1.2 An *Extensive Urban Survey* (Mcmahon 2004) has also been prepared for Melksham and details the archaeological and historical development of Melksham town centre. The Site lies within the study area for this assessment.

2.2 Designated sites

- 2.2.1 There are no Scheduled Monuments within the Site. The nearest Scheduled Monument is the site of the medieval settlement at Whaddon, located approximately 2.7km to the south-west of the Site.
- 2.2.2 The Site is situated within the Melksham Conservation Area.
- 2.2.3 Designated heritage assets within the Site comprise a Grade II Listed Building, Melksham House. 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). 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.
- 2.2.4 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 and east entrance to Melksham House. Both designated heritage assets are of 18th century date and comprise square piers made of limestone.
- 2.2.5 Two Grade II* Listed Buildings within the immediate vicinity comprise the Church of St Michael *c*. 30m to the north of the Site and the Turner Memorial in the churchyard *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.

2.3 Archaeological Background

- 2.3.1 There is evidence for human activity within the vicinity of the Site 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 (Mcmahon 2004) and a second flake is recorded further down the river, *c*. 220m to the north-west.
- 2.3.2 Although there is no evidence for Mesolithic activity within the vicinity, a number of palaeochannels (old river channels) were excavated during several investigations undertaken nearby (WA 2003 and 2009). The remains of the palaeochannels indicate the River Avon formed a large braided dynamic river system, with a number of tributary streams at this time.



- 2.3.3 There is little indication within the Site for Neolithic and Bronze Age activity, however, Neolithic Peterborough ware pottery was identified *c*. 180m to the north and north-west of the Site and an assemblage of metalwork comprising socketed spearheads of Bronze Age date were recovered approximately 190m to the north-west during the bypass bridge construction (Mcmahon 2004).
- 2.3.4 There is similarly sparse evidence for Romano-British activity in Melksham or its environs. The recorded finds comprise pottery retrieved during the bridge construction, *c*. 170m to the north of the Site and two sherds of pottery excavated at Church Walk, *c*. 100m to the north.
- 2.3.5 Although there is similarly limited evidence for Saxon activity, 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 2009).
- 2.3.6 The later 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. 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 (Mcmahon 2004).
- 2.3.7 St Michael's Church is situated *c*. 30m to the north of the Site and although the earliest surviving elements of the building date to the 12th century, the majority of the structure dates to the 14th and 15th centuries (*ibid*.).
- 2.3.8 Rectory Manor, c. 15m to the north of the Site, formed part of the early medieval estate belong to 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 proximity indicates that it might have extended into the northern part of the Site.
- 2.3.9 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, immediately to the east of the Site.
- 2.3.10 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 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.
- 2.3.11 The early editions of Ordnance Survey mapping (1886, and 1900-1901) 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 and east 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.
- 2.3.12 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, which also illustrates the 1920s additions to Melksham House. The subsequent editions (1936, 1942 and later) depict additional playing fields, ancillary buildings and modern extensions to Melksham House.

2.3.13 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. Due to the proximity of the burial to St Michael's Church, 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.

2.4 Geophysical Survey

- 2.4.1 A gradiometer survey has been undertaken within the Site (WA 2012) and identified anomalies of possible archaeological interest, along with a number of modern services (**Figure 1**).
- 2.4.2 Within the northern part of **Area A** (the current cricket pitch), 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, were observed. This complex comprised rectilinear anomalies (**4000**, **4001**, **4002** and **4003**) which are 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 distinct.
- 2.4.3 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.
- 2.4.4 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.
- 2.4.5 Areas B and C are dominated by strong magnetic disturbance. Only small windows of coherent data, **4016** and **4017**, are visible.
- 2.4.6 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.
- 2.4.7 **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.
- 2.4.8 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.

2.4.9 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.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 1.1.1 The aims of the archaeological field evaluation were to:
 - Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be impacted by development.
 - Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character and condition of any surviving remains within the Site.
 - Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.
 - Target trenches both on anomalies identified as a result of the geophysical survey and blank areas in order to clarify the nature and presence/absence of underlying archaeological remains.
 - Produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential.

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2013) and is summarised below.
- 3.2.2 Seven evaluation trenches were proposed, of varying lengths and targeted both on the results of the geophysical survey and areas where clear geophysical readings were not possible. Two of the trenches could not be excavated due to the area being in constant use.
- 3.2.3 The trenches were excavated using a JCB type mechanical excavator fitted with a wide toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation continued in spits through topsoil and subsoil down to either the uppermost archaeological features or natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. Any topsoil was separated from subsoil and any other arisings, and stored at a minimum of 1m from the trench edge. The spoil from the trenches was scanned for artefacts.
- 3.2.4 Where archaeological features were encountered they were investigated by hand, with a sufficient sample of each layer/feature type excavated in order to establish, as may be possible, their date, nature, character, extent and condition.
- 3.2.5 Any archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Archaeological features and deposits were hand-drawn at either 1:10 or 1:20, including both plans and sections; these were referred to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The



Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels were calculated. A representative section of each trench was recorded showing the depth of the overburden deposits.

- 3.2.6 A photographic record was compiled using digital images. The record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the principal features and the site as a whole. Digital images have been subject to a managed quality control and curation process which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and ensures the long term accessibility of the image set.
- 3.2.7 The survey was carried out with a Leica Viva series GNSS unit using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.
- 3.2.8 Upon completion of the fieldwork and recording the trenches were backfilled with the excavated spoil, topsoil last in order to preserve the soil stratigraphy.
- 3.2.9 A unique project code **100580** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.

3.3 Health and Safety

- 3.3.1 Health and Safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices override archaeological considerations at all times.
- 3.3.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act* 1974 and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations* 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

3.4 Best practice

3.4.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Only five of the proposed seven trenches were excavated during this stage of the fieldwork. **Trenches 2 and 3** were not opened as this part of the Site was in use at the time of the fieldwork (**Figure 1**).
- 4.1.2 In all five trenches the archaeology was preserved beneath a fairly substantial depth of overburden. The natural geology encountered was a sandy clay loam. Full details of the stratigraphic sequence can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.1.3 Trench 1 was situated within the south-western part of the Site. Beneath deep modern (101, 102) and buried soil deposits (103) a shallow east-south-east west-north-west aligned ditch 106 (Plate 1) was recorded. This contained a single secondary fill 104. At the south-eastern end of the trench were two shallow, criss-crossing gullies (108, 110) which may be the base of field drains. All these were undated.
- 4.1.4 Within **Trench 4**, two pits were identified (**408**, **410**). The most southerly of these, **408**, was a steep sided flat based feature with a number of deposits, including two distinct lenses of charcoal rich material (**404** and **406**) and is most likely a storage or refuse pit



(Section 1). Pit 410 in contrast was much wider but shallower with a more concave profile with two secondary deposits (411 and 412) (Plate 2). Both pits produced a number of fragments of animal bone but no dateable material.

- 4.1.5 **Trench 5** was situated over a north-east to south-west aligned geophysical anomaly. This confirmed that this was a wide but relatively shallow ditch **504**, containing a single secondary fill **505** (**Plate 3**). This feature remained undated though the geophysical survey suggests it may be related to the rectilinear enclosure seen further to the south.
- 4.1.6 Within both **Trenches 6 and 7** was a buried medieval soil (**610** and **710**) (**Front cover**, **Section 2**). The archaeology in these trenches could be seen to cut the base of this deposit suggesting they are largely contemporary. Indeed pottery recovered from both the buried soil and the features suggest activity in the 12th to 14th century.
- 4.1.7 Trenches 6 and 7 were in close proximity to each other and two shallow parallel north-east south-west gullies seen in Trench 6 (607 and 609) may continue into Trench 7 (705 and 707). Equally, potential gully terminus 605 may also be a continuation of gully 607. These two parallel and possibly discontinuous gullies are suggestive of a former field boundary though it is absent on the 19th century mapping suggesting it is earlier in date. Finds recovered from gully 705 suggest a potential 13th-14th century date for the activity.
- 4.1.8 At the eastern end of **Trench 6** and within the upper part of layer **610** was an area of angular stone rubble which may be related to demolition or tumble from a nearby structure, which was cleaned and recorded, but left *in situ* (**Front cover**). A slot excavated through layer **610** adjacent to this located a possible pit or posthole **611**.
- 4.1.9 A large steep sided pit **708** was located within **Trench 7** (**Plate 4** and **Section 2**). This feature, which had a diameter of 1.5m was not fully excavated (to adhere to health and safety) but was over 0.75m in depth. Although only a single deposit was identified within it (**709**), lenses of lighter material in the southern part of the feature suggests that there may be several episodes of infilling. Its size and vertical profile suggest it is a large storage pit or possibly a well. Both animal bone and pottery was recovered from this feature including a number a glazed 13th or 14th century sherds.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The evaluation produced a small quantity of finds, consisting mostly of animal bone and pottery, with one piece of worked flint. Apart from the worked flint, presumed to be of prehistoric date, datable material (pottery) is exclusively of medieval date.

Context	Animal Bone	Flint	Pottery
103		1/11	
403	12/83		
405	2/17		
412	9/131		
505	2/35		
604	2/16		1/5
610			5/48
704			1/3

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

-	TOTAL	52/718	1/11	23/276
	710			7/76
	709	25/436		9/144

5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 The 23 sherds of pottery recovered came from contexts in Trenches 6 and 7. All sherds are medieval, with a potential date range of 12th to 14th century. The majority of sherds (14) are in sandy fabrics of varying degrees of coarseness. At the finer end of the spectrum, four of these sherds are externally glazed, in two cases over a white slip, and in one case over slip decoration, and all these probably derive from jugs of 13th or 14th century date (layer **610**, gully terminal **705**, pit **708**); the most likely source is Nash Hill, Lacock (McCarthy 1974, fabric B, 118-24). The coarser sandy wares, occurring only as undiagnostic body sherds, are comparable to wares commonly found in the Bath area, and for which a source in the Avon Valley has been suggested (Vince 1979, fabric A).
- 5.2.2 Four sherds, two in micaceous fabrics and two containing quartz and greensand inclusions (layers **610** and **710**), can be compared to wares recorded in Warminster and presumed to originate from the Crockerton production site outside the town (Smith 1997).
- 5.2.3 Two sherds, including one jar rim (layer **610**, pit **708**), are in coarse fabrics containing flint and chalk, and fall within the widespread (and long-lived) ceramic tradition of 'Kennet Valley' wares. Another sherd (also a jar rim) in a coarse sandy fabric containing sparse flint inclusions is superficially similar, but is more likely to derive from another, unknown source (layer **710**).

5.3 Animal Bone

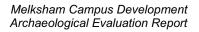
- 5.3.1 The assemblage comprises 52 fragments (or 718g) of animal bone. Once conjoins are taken into account this figure falls to just 30 fragments. Bone was recovered from six separate contexts of likely medieval date located in Trenches 4-7. Half of the recovered fragments are identifiable to species and skeletal element. All of the identified remains belong to livestock species.
- 5.3.2 Bone was recovered from two pits located in Trench 4; identified remains include a sheep/goat tibia and metatarsal, and a pig scapula from **408**, and a cattle mandible and cervical vertebra, and sheep/goat humerus from **410**. A single sheep tibia was recovered from ditch **504** in Trench 5, while pit **708** in Trench 7 yielded a cattle humerus, and several pig bones including a pair of mandibles, four metatarals and a fragment of maxilla. All of the pig bones appear to be from the same animal and represent waste elements from primary butchery of the carcass

5.4 Worked Flint

5.4.1 One piece of worked flint, a waste flake, constituted the only find from buried soil **103** in Trench 1. The flake is in relatively fresh condition.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1.1 No environmental samples were taken during the course of this evaluation.



7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 The evaluation identified a number of archaeological features potentially relating to use of the Site in the medieval period. These consisted of a number of ditches, gullies and pits suggesting possible domestic and agricultural activity from the 12th to the 14th century.
- 7.1.2 In general the archaeological features lay at a depth in excess of 0.5m below the current ground level beneath modern and buried soil deposits. In the eastern part of the Site a buried soil horizon thought to be medieval in date was identified at around 0.35m below the current ground level.
- 7.1.3 The fieldwork both confirmed the presence of archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey (WA 2012) and also identified features in areas where the extent metal fixtures had obscured the geophysical data.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Trowbridge Museum. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project currently under the project code **100580**. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

8.2 Archive

- 8.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Trowbridge Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the project code **100580**, and a full index will be prepared

8.3 Discard policy

- 8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 8.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

8.4 Copyright

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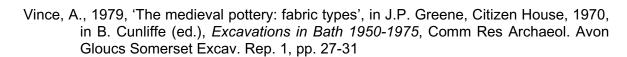
8.5 Security Copy

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

9 **REFERENCES**

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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

bgl = below ground level

Dimensio	ons: 18.70x1.50	m Max. depth: 0.90m	Ground level: 38.00-3	8.08m aOD			
Easting: 390048 Northing: 163567							
Context	Description			Depth (m)			
101	Topsoil		Modern topsoil. Dark brown sandy loam. <1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Fairly loose and friable. Homogeneous. Bioturbated. Inder grass Clear interface with 102 Overlies 102				
102	Layer	Modern made ground. Dark grey black si Occasional CBM fragments. Fairly lo homogeneous. Clear interface with 103.	ose and friable. Fairly	0.19-0.33 bgl			
103	Layer	Buried soil. Mid brown sandy loam. <1% 2cm. Homogeneous. Moderately co interface with 104. Overlies 104.	0.32-0.75 bgl				
104	Natural	Natural geology. Mid orange-brown san patches of flint and gravel. Compact.	Natural geology. Mid orange-brown sandy clay loam. Occasional patches of flint and gravel. Compact.				
105	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of ditch 106 . Dark grey-br sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Occasional homogeneous. Moderately compact.	0.15 deep				
106	Ditch	East-south-east – west-north-west a 105. Concave shallow sides, concave 104.		0.15 deep			
107	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of linear 108 . Mid grey-bro sub-rounded, <1cm. Fairly homogeneous		0.15 deep			
108	Feature	North – south aligned possible field of 107. Concave, moderate sides, fla Relationship to 110 unclear. Cuts 104.	Irain or gully filled with	0.11 deep			
109	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of linear 110 . Mid grey-bro sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Fairly homogeneo Unexcavated.	-				
110	Feature	East – west aligned possible field d 109. Unexcavated. 0.40m wide. Relat Cuts 104.		-			

Trenches 2 and 3 were not excavated

TRENCH 4						
Dimensions: 18.20x1.50m Max. depth: 0.75m Ground level: 38.63-38.8						
Easting: 3	390202			Northing: 16	3621	
Context	Description					Depth (m)
401	Topsoil	<1-2cm.	Modern topsoil. Dark brown sandy loam. <1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Fairly loose and friable. Homogeneous. Bioturbated. Under grass. Slightly diffuse interface with 402. Overlies 402.			
402	Subsoil	<1-3cm.	Modern subsoil. Mid brown sandy loam. <1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Homogeneous. Moderately compact. Slightly diffuse interface with 409. Overlies 409.			0.18-0.59 bgl
403	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of pit 408 . Mid grey silty clay. 2% stone, sub- angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Fairly homogenous. Compact. Slightly diffuse interface with 404. Overlies 404.			0.68 deep	
404	Secondary fill	Possible deliberate deposit, charcoal lens within pit 408 . Dark grey black silt. Abundant charcoal. Slightly diffuse interface with 405. Overlies 405.			0.12 deep	
405	Secondary fill	Seconda	ry fill of pit 408	. Dark grey silty	clay. <1% stone, sub-	0.12 deep



412	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of pit 410 . Dark brown silty clay. 5% stone, sub- angular - sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Occasional chalk and charcoal flecks. Fairly homogenous. Compact. Fairly clear interface with 410 . Overlies 410 .	0.37 deep
411	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of pit 410 . Mid brown silty clay. 2% stone, sub- angular - sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Rare chalk and charcoal flecks. Fairly homogenous. Moderately compact. Slightly diffuse interface with 412. Overlies 412.	0.23 deep
410	Pit	Sub-oval pit (not fully seen in plan), filled with 411 and 412. Concave, moderate sides, concave, slightly undulating base. Potentially cuts base of subsoil.	0.60 deep
409	Natural	Natural geology. Mid orange-brown sandy clay loam. Occasional patches of flint and gravel. Compact.	0.59+ bgl
408	Pit	Possible storage or refuse pit, filled with 403-407. Sub- circular (though not fully seen in plan). Straight, near vertical sides, flat base. 1.44m wide, 0.68+m long.	0.95 deep
407	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of pit 408 . Mid grey-brown silty clay. <1% stone, sub-angular - sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Fairly homogenous. Compact. Clear interface with 408 . Overlies 408 .	0.95 deep
406	Secondary fill	Possible deliberate deposit, charcoal lens within pit 408 . Dark grey black silt. Abundant charcoal. Slightly diffuse interface with 407. Overlies 407.	0.05 deep
		rounded, <1cm. Frequent charcoal flecks. Fairly homogenous. Compact. Slightly diffuse interface with 406. Overlies 406.	

TRENCH	TRENCH 5						
Dimensions: 8.70x1.50m Max. depth: 0.75m Ground level: 38.90-39.08r							
Easting:	Easting: 390190 Northing: 163694						
Context	Description			Depth (m)			
501	Topsoil	Modern topsoil. Dark brown sandy loam. < <1-2cm. Fairly loose and friable. Hom Under grass. Slightly diffuse interface with	0.00-0.28 bgl				
502	Subsoil	Modern subsoil. Mid brown sandy loam. 2 <1-3cm. Homogeneous. Moderately co interface with 503. Overlies 503.	0.25-0.60 bgl				
503	Natural	Natural geology. Mid orange-brown sandy patches of flint and gravel. Compact.	clay loam. Occasional	0.60+ bgl			
504	Ditch	North-east – south-west aligned ditch filled with 505. Straight, 0. shallow sides, concave base. 2.28m wide. Potentially cuts base of subsoil.					
505	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of ditch 504 . Dark brown si angular - sub-rounded, <1-2cm. R Homogenous. Moderately compact. Fairly Overlies 504 .	are charcoal flecks.	0.54 deep			

TRENCH 6							
Dimensions: 19.40x1.50m			Max. depth: 0.86m G		Ground level: 39.26-3	Ground level: 39.26-39.31m aOD	
Easting: 390317				Northing: 16	3661		
Context	Description					Depth (m)	
601	Modern				ng stone chippings.	0.00-0.23	
	overburden	Homoge	Homogeneous. Compact. Clear interface with 602. Overlies 602. bgl				
602	Layer		Probable buried soil. Dark grey-brown silty clay. <1% stone, sub- 0.18-0.52				
		rounded, <1-2cm. Homogeneous. Moderately compact. Slightly bgl					
		diffuse interface with 610. Overlies 610.					
603	Natural	Natural g	geology. Mid orange	e-brown sandy	clay loam. Occasional	0.75+ bgl	
		patches	of flint and gravel. C	ompact.			
604	Secondary fill	Seconda	ary fill of probable gu	ully terminus 6	05 . Mid grey silty clay.	0.08 deep	



		<1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Homogeneous. Moderately	
		compact. Fairly clear interface with 605 . Overlies 605 .	
605	Gully	Probable south-western – north-eastern aligned gully	0.08 deep
	-	terminus filled with 604. Shallow, concave sides, concave	-
		base. 0.4m wide. Potentially cuts base of layer 610.	
606	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of probable gully terminus 607 . Mid grey silty clay.	0.06 deep
		1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Homogeneous. Moderately	
		compact. Fairly clear interface with 607 . Overlies 607 .	
607	Gully	North-eastern – southern-western aligned gully terminus	0.06 deep
		filled with 606. Shallow, concave sides, concave base. 0.4m	
		wide. Potentially cuts base of layer 610.	
608	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of probable gully terminus 609 . Mid grey silty clay.	0.05 deep
		1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Homogeneous. Moderately	
		compact. Fairly clear interface with 609 . Overlies 609 .	
609	Gully	North-eastern – southern-western aligned gully terminus	0.05 deep
		filled with 608. Shallow, concave sides, concave base. 0.38m	
		wide. Potentially cuts base of layer 610.	
610	Layer	Pale grey silty clay. 2% stone, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. At eastern	0.35-0.86
		end of the trench there is a concentration of angular stones, 5-	bgl
		20cm - possible wall tumble. Fairly homogeneous. Moderately	
		compact. Very slightly diffuse interface with 603. Overlies 603.	
611	Pit	Possible pit or posthole, full extent not seen in plan, filled	0.23 deep
		with 612. Concave, moderate sides, concave base. 0.35m+	
		wide, 0.30m+ long. Cuts 602.	
612	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of possible pit or posthole 611 . Mid grey silty clay.	0.23 deep
		<1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Homogeneous. Moderately	
		compact. Fairly clear interface with 611. Overlies 611.	

TRENCH	7				
Dimensions: 19.00x1.50m Max. depth: 0.66m Ground level: 39.27-39					
Easting:	390320	Northing: 163678			
Context	Description		Depth (m)		
701	Modern overburden	Modern tarmac surface and underlying stone chipping Homogeneous. Compact. Clear interface with 702. Overlies 702.			
702	Layer	Probable buried soil. Dark grey-brown silty clay. <1% stone, sub- rounded, <1-2cm. Contains localised lens of gravel. Homogeneous. Moderately compact. Slightly diffuse interface with 710. Overlies 710.0.20-0.35 bgl			
703	Natural	Natural geology. Mid orange-brown sandy clay loam. Occasion patches of flint and gravel. Compact.	al 0.66+ bgl		
704	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of probable gully terminus 705 . Mid grey silty cla <1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Homogeneous. Moderate compact. Fairly clear interface with 705 . Overlies 705 .			
705	Gully	Possible north-eastern – southern-western aligned gul terminus filled with 704, only partially seen in plan. Shallow concave sides, concave base. 0.54m wide. Potentially cu base of layer 710.	v,		
706	Secondary fill	Secondary fill of feature 707 . Mid grey silty clay. 1% stone, su rounded – sub-angular, <1-3cm. Homogeneous. Moderate compact. Fairly clear interface with 707 . Overlies 707 .			
707	Feature	North-eastern – southern-western aligned feature filled wi 706, not fully seen in plan. Shallow, concave sides, flat bas 0.54m wide. Potentially cuts base of layer 710.			
708	Pit	Sub-circular pit filled with 709. Straight, vertical sides. N fully excavated. 1.5m in diameter. Potentially cuts base layer 710.	of		
709	Secondary fill	Secondary fill or possible deliberate backfill of pit 708. Mid gro	ey 0.75+ deep		



		silty clay. 1% stone, sub-rounded – sub-angular, <1-3cm. Lenses of mid yellow sandy clay loam on southern edge may indicate several episodes of infilling. Moderately compact. Not fully excavated.	
710	Layer	Pale grey-brown silty clay. 2% stone, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Fairly homogeneous. Moderately compact. Very slightly diffuse interface with 703. Overlies 703.	

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-162084

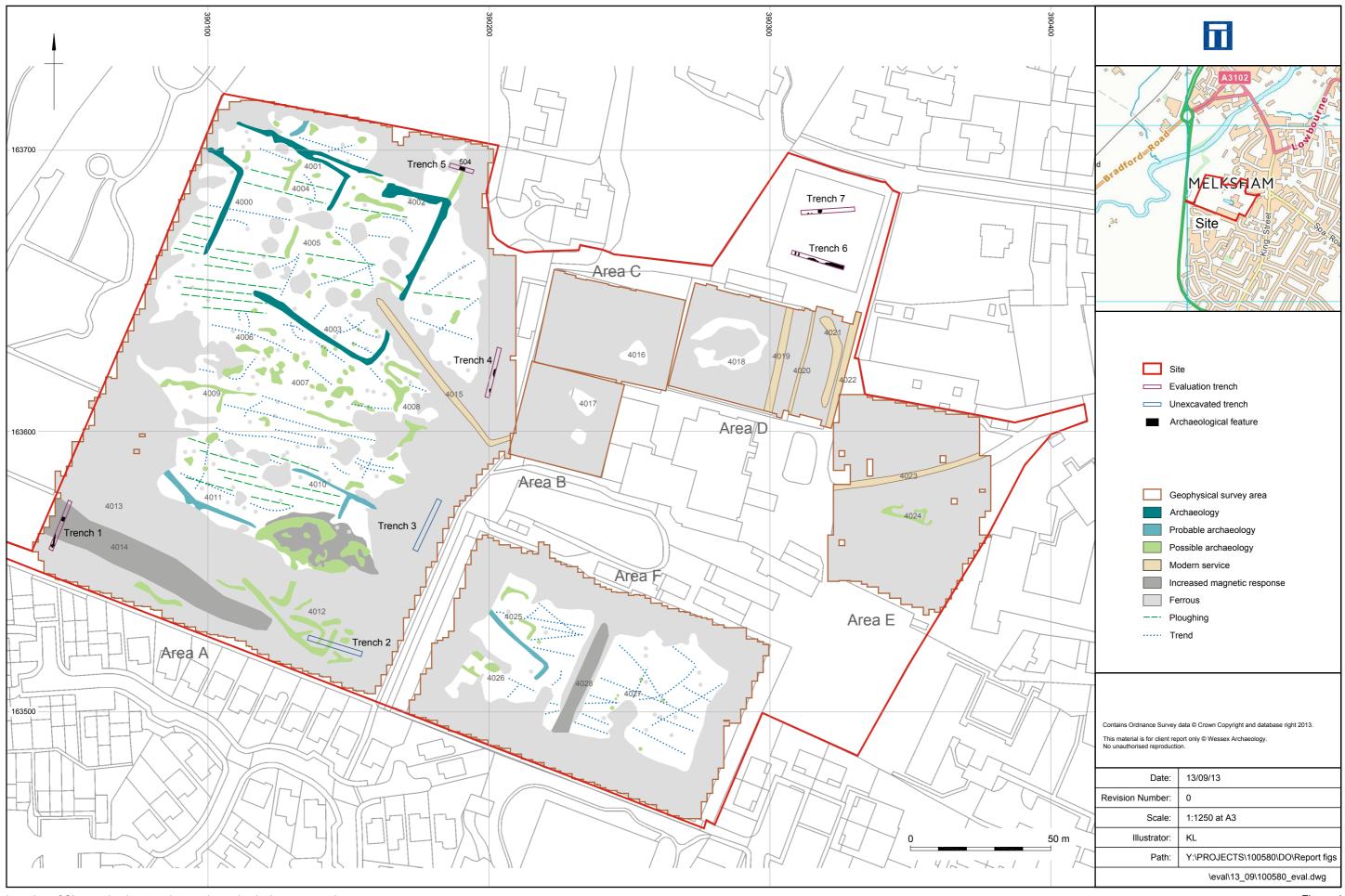
assessment and geophysical survey (WA 2012) which had established a potential for the presence of buried archaeological remains potentially relating to the medieval and later development of Melksham. The evaluation was undertaken between the 5th and the 8th August 2013. The evaluation was undertaken between the 5th and the 8th August 2013. The evaluation, which consisted of four trenches, identified a number of archaeological features potentially relating to use of the Site in the medieval period. These consisted of a number of ditches, gullies and pits suggesting possible domestic and agricultural activity from the 12th to the 14th century. In general the archaeological features lay at a depth in excess of 0.5m below the current ground level beneath modern and buried soil deposits. In the eastern part of the Site a buried soil horizon thought to be medieval in date was identified at around 0.35m below the current ground level. The fieldwork both confirmed the presence of archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2012) and also identified features in areas where the extent metal fixtures had obscured the geophysical data.Project datesStart: 05-08-2013 End: 08-08-2013Previous/future workNot known / Not knownAny associated project reference codesStart: 05-08-2013 End: 08-08-2013Type of projectField evaluationCurrent Land useCommunity Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildingsMonument typeDITCH UncertainMonument typeDITCH UncertainMonument typeDITCH MedievalSignificant FindsANIMAL REMAINS UncertainProject locationANIMAL REMAINS UncertainCountryEngland	Project details	
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	Postcode	

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Study area	5.62 Hectares		
Site coordinates ST 390230 163590 50 -2 50 56 34 N 002 52 04 W Point			
Project creators			
Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology		
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body		
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology		
Project director/manager	Sue Farr		
Project supervisor	Piotr Orczewski		
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer		
Project archives			
Physical Archive recipient	Trowbridge Museum		
Physical Archive ID	100580		
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"		
Digital Archive recipient	Trowbridge Museum		
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey"		
Paper Archive recipient	Trowbridge Museum		
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section"		
Project bibliography 1			
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)		
Title	Melksham Campus Development, Melksham, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report		
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Brennan, N.		
Other bibliographic details	report number 100580		

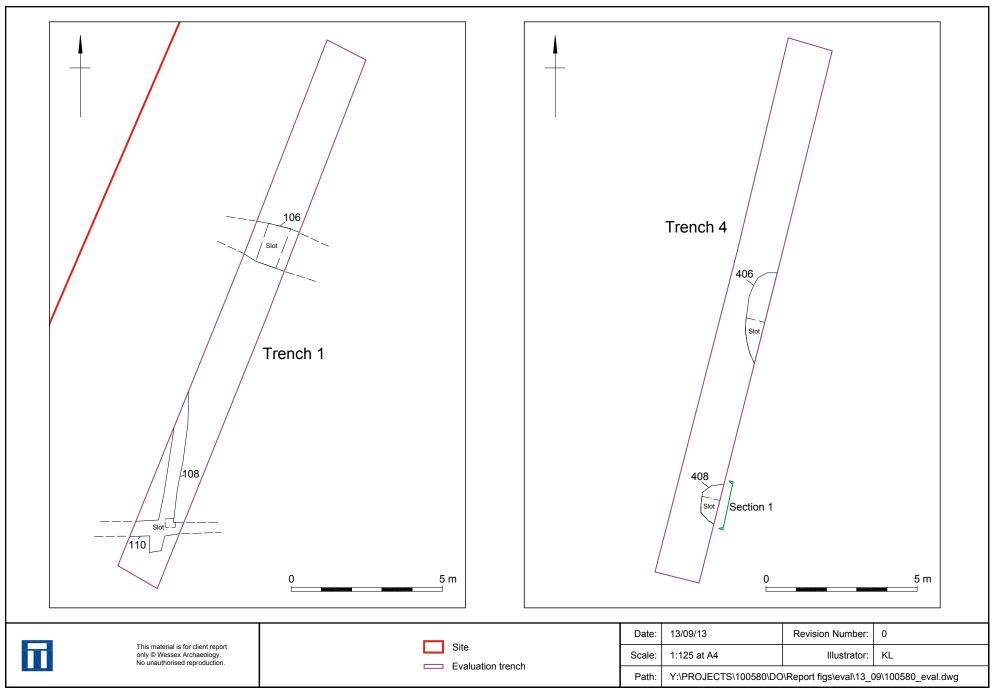
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Location of Site, evaluation trenches and geophysical survey results

Figure 1



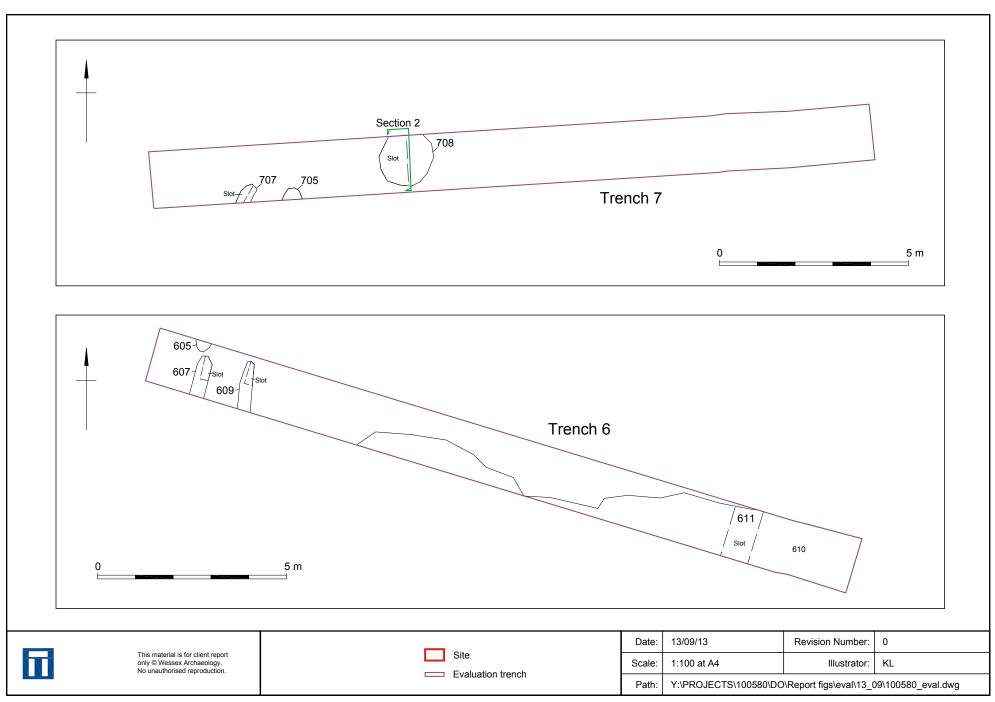




Plate 1: West-north-west facing section of ditch 106

Plate 2: North-west facing section of pit 410

Charcoal deposit

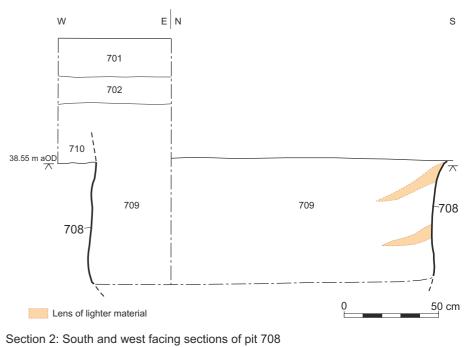
Section 1: North-west facing section of pit 408



Plate 3: North-east facing section of ditch 504



Plate 4: Oblique view of pit 708, view from the south-west





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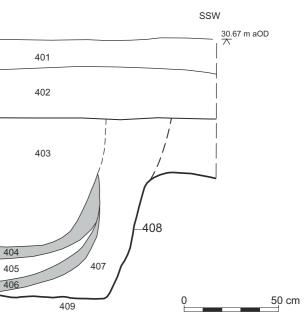


Figure 4





salisbury rochester sheffield edinburgh

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