



making sense of heritage

# Melksham Town FC Melksham, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Ref: 13/06739  
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June 2014



**Melksham Town FC  
Melksham, Wiltshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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## **Melksham Town FC Melksham, Wiltshire**

# **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Wiltshire Council, to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land north of Melksham Community Oak School, Bath Road, Melksham, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 392100 162910.

A planning application (13/06739/FUL) for the provision of new football and rugby facilities has been submitted to Wiltshire Council. The application included the results of an archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and geophysical survey, which had indicated a medium to high potential for archaeological remains of medieval and Romano-British date to survive within the development area. The Assistant County Archaeologist recommended an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of the site prior to the determination of the application.

The archaeological evaluation consisted of the machine excavation of 17 trenches each measuring 30m in length by 2m wide, and targeted over anomalies identified in the geophysical survey. Although the majority of the trenches did not contain any archaeological remains, Trench 9 identified a cluster of archaeological features indicative of a small Romano-British farmstead. Linear ditches, gullies, pits and/or postholes were investigated, and both roofing and box flue tile allude to a high status Roman building in the immediate vicinity.

The evaluation was undertaken between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014.



## **Melksham Town FC Melksham, Wiltshire**

# **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Acknowledgements**

The project was commissioned by Wiltshire Council, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Richard Pearce (Project Manager, Wiltshire Council) in this regard. The archaeological evaluation was monitored by Rachel Foster (Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council), on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

The evaluation was undertaken by Mike Dinwiddy, Ray Kennedy, Tom Blencowe and Natalia Hunt. This report was written and compiled by Mike Dinwiddy, with the finds assessment undertaken by Rachael Seager Smith (pottery) and Lorrain Higbee (animal bone). The report illustrations were prepared by Rob Goller. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.



# Melksham Town FC Melksham, Wiltshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Wiltshire Council ('the Client'), to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land north of Melksham Community Oak School, Bath Road, Melksham, Wiltshire (hereafter 'the Site', **Figure 1**), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 392100 162910.
- 1.1.2 A planning application (13/06739/FUL) for the provision of new football and rugby facilities, including changing rooms, a clubhouse and football stadium, together with eleven other football pitches, four rugby pitches, car parking and a new access road and junction, has been submitted to Wiltshire Council.
- 1.1.3 A Desk-Based Assessment (DBA; WA 2013) and geophysical survey (WA 2014a) have been undertaken, and were submitted with the application. The DBA established the archaeological potential of the Site, and the subsequent geophysical survey indicated the presence of anomalies of possible archaeological interest within the development area. Possible pit-like anomalies, former field boundaries and areas of increased magnetic response were identified.
- 1.1.4 The Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council requested an archaeological field evaluation was undertaken prior to the determination of the planning application to better define the archaeological potential of the Site and target trenches on the geophysical anomalies.
- 1.1.5 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological work was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; WA 2014b), which was approved by the Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council prior to works commencing. The WSI proposed the machine excavation of 17 trenches across the Site, each measuring 30m in length and 1.8m wide.
- 1.1.6 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008).

#### 1.2 Site location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The Site consists of agricultural fields, and lies 1.7km to the east of Melksham, and 9km west of the centre of Devizes.
- 1.2.2 The Site occupies five irregular shaped pasture fields of gently undulating land, lying at 40m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), gently sloping upwards to 43m aOD towards the eastern extent. The survey area is bordered by Melksham Oak Community School playing fields in the south, Thyme Road to the north, and farmland to the east and west.





- 1.2.3 The underlying geology of the Site is mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS) as Oxford Clay Formation, which comprises mudstone sedimentary bedrock. Overlying this, superficial deposits are mapped as areas of Head and Alluvium.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background has been detailed in the DBA (WA 2013), the results of which are briefly summarised below. A 1km study area around the Site was established in order to provide the context for the discussion and interpretation.

- 2.1.2 A geophysical survey (WA 2014a) has also been undertaken, which identified a limited number of anomalies.

### **2.2 Designated heritage assets**

- 2.2.1 No designated heritage assets were recorded within the Site itself.
- 2.2.2 The designated heritage assets within the study area comprise one Grade II\* and ten Grade II Listed Buildings.

### **2.3 Non-designated heritage assets**

#### *Prehistoric activity*

- 2.3.1 There are no prehistoric findspots or sites recorded within the study area. Melksham lies east of the river Avon and investigations in the area of the town have recorded a number of palaeochannels indicating that the river comprised a large braided channel system in the early prehistoric period (WA 2003, 2009). The Site itself lies south of Clacker's Brook, a tributary of the river Avon, and it is likely that the area was prone to flooding throughout the prehistoric period, which may have limited its potential to support permanent settlement.
- 2.3.2 The earliest indication of human activity in the wider landscape comprises Neolithic Peterborough ware pottery, and an assemblage of socketed spearheads of Bronze Age date recovered during the bypass bridge construction (McMahon 2004). The limited number and location of the findspots along the edge of the river Avon attesting to a nomadic, perhaps seasonal hunting and gathering existence, within what is likely to have been a mixed and diverse habitat.

#### *Later activity*

- 2.3.3 Previous excavations carried out by AC Powell in the late 1980s between Snarlton Farm and Eight Acre Plantation (Powell 1986), 900m north-east of the Site, recorded concentrations of Romano-British pottery and animal bone associated with burnt areas, a refuse pit, and a NW-SE aligned ditch. These features and finds are indicative of at least low level settlement activity on the higher ground north of Clackers Brook.
- 2.3.4 Seven Romano-British coins, including one of Constantine (306-337 AD), were found north-west of Melksham Hospital, on the western edge of the study area, although the context of the findspot is unknown.
- 2.3.5 In the medieval period, the Site lay within the agricultural hinterland between Melksham and the smaller settlements at Bromham and Rowde to the east. The Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record records a number of earthwork and cropmark sites within the study area indicative of shrunken settlements. Medieval settlement features, including enclosures, trackways, ditches and house plots, have been recorded through



aerial photography to the south-east of Snarlton Farm, west and north-east of Redstocks, and north-west of Vernon Farm. Additional undated 'village features' have been recorded south-east of Lambourne Farm.

- 2.3.6 In the post-medieval period, the dispersed rural settlement pattern established in the preceding centuries was consolidated. The expansion in agriculture and settlement within the environs of the Site is represented by the construction of farmsteads, including Woolmore Farmhouse, Bowerhill Lodge Farmhouse, Old Loves Farmhouse, and Bowerhill Farmhouse.

## **2.4 Historic map regression**

- 2.4.1 The 1838 Melksham tithe map depicts the Site as consisting of a number of irregular fields. The rural environment of the wider landscape is also illustrated, as a wide expanse of agricultural land incorporating scattered farmsteads and concentrations of settlement along the major roads. The tithe apportionment indicates that the land use within the Site was a mixture of arable and pasture.
- 2.4.2 Early editions of Ordnance Survey mapping (1886, 1924 and 1942) demonstrate little reorganisation of the land within the Site. The 1886 edition shows that the boundaries of the northern field of the application area previously comprised one small field and the eastern part of another, and were altered to form one field. No boundary changes are shown on the 1924 or 1942 editions.

## **2.5 Geophysical survey**

- 2.5.1 A geophysical survey (WA 2014a) has been undertaken within the Site, and demonstrated the presence of anomalies of possible archaeological interest, along with a region of increased magnetic response, plough trends and several modern services.
- 2.5.2 The geophysical data showed regular ploughing trends throughout the surveyed area, thought to relate to ridge and furrow activity from differing agricultural periods on the Site. Several former field boundaries were also identified, suggesting that the current field system originally comprised a patchwork of smaller fields. Several areas of increased magnetic response were also identified, some relating to agricultural activity, and some probably natural in origin. Possible pit anomalies were also present intermittently across the surveyed area.

# **3 METHODOLOGY**

## **3.1 Project aims and objectives**

- 3.1.1 With due regard to the *IfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008), the generic aims of the project 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 on anomalies identified as a result of the geophysical survey in order to clarify the nature and presence/absence of underlying archaeological remains; and
- 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.

### 3.1 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.1.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2014b), and is summarised below.
- 3.1.2 The evaluation proposed the machine excavation of 17 trenches, each measuring 30m by 1.8m (**Figure 1**). Trench 11 was shortened during the course of the fieldwork due to presence of a public footpath.
- 3.1.3 The evaluation trenches were located using GPS survey equipment. The excavation of the evaluation trenches was carried out by mechanical excavator in discrete 0.20m spits to the surface of significant archaeological features/deposits or the natural geology, whichever was encountered first.
- 3.1.4 Topsoil and subsoil/overburden deposits were stored separately and scanned for artefacts, and stored at a minimum of 1m from the trench edge. The trenches were backfilled with the excavated spoil, topsoil last in order to preserve the soil stratigraphy.
- 3.1.5 Where archaeological features were encountered, a sufficient sample of each layer/feature type was excavated by hand to establish, as far as was possible, their date, nature, character, extent and condition.
- 3.1.6 All 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 was calculated. A representative section of each trench was recorded showing the depth of the overburden deposits.
- 3.1.7 A digital photographic record was compiled showing the trenches and their location within the general context of the Site. Digital images have been subject to a managed quality control and curation process which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure the long term accessibility of the image set.
- 3.1.8 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.
- 3.1.9 A unique site code **102042** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.

### 3.2 Health and safety

- 3.2.1 Health and safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices countered archaeological considerations at all times.



- 3.2.2 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.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All of the 17 intended evaluation trenches were excavated during the course of the evaluation in their proposed positions (**Figure 1 & 2**), although one was shortened to avoid excavation partially across a public footpath.
- 4.1.2 Details of the individual excavated contexts and features are retained in the project archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1: Table 1**. Trench and context numbers are shown in bold (e.g., ditch **905** in **Trench 9**), while geophysical anomaly reference codes are shown in italics (e.g. *4015*).
- 4.1.3 Archaeological features were only recorded in **Trench 9** in the east of the Site (**Figure 3**). A tree bole and field drains were noted in a number of the trenches.

### 4.2 Natural soil sequence

- 4.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence encountered was generally uniform across the Site, and comprised approximately 0.15m of dark brown clay loam topsoil, overlying 0.15m of mid-brown grey clay subsoil (**Plate 1**).
- 4.2.2 The underlying natural geology comprised an orange brown silty clay alluvial deposit, and was present between 42.73m aOD at the eastern edge of the Site and at approximately 40.85m aOD towards the western edge of the Site. Archaeological features were identified cutting in to the underlying geology.

### 4.3 Trench 9

- 4.3.1 A cluster of archaeological features were identified within **Trench 9**, which was positioned at the eastern end of the Site, and targeted over anomaly *4015* from the geophysical survey. Two linear features, comprising a ditch and a gully, as well as two pits and two postholes, were recorded.
- 4.3.2 At the eastern end of **Trench 9**, linear ditch **905** was aligned on a north to south orientation, and correlated well with anomaly *4015*. The geophysical survey (WA 2014a) indicated the anomaly formed the eastern boundary to a sub-rectangular enclosure, measuring approximately 18m wide and 28m in length. The ditch (**905**) was clearly defined in plan, and had moderate concave sides and a wide u-shaped profile. It measured 3.2m wide and 0.32m deep, and contained four fills (**904**, **911**, **912 & 913**; **Figure 3**). A single Romano-British pottery sherd was collected from fill **904** along with ceramic building material in the form of roofing and box flue tiles, and animal bone. An environmental sample taken from ditch fill **904** identified charred cereal remains and small quantities of wood charcoal fragments.
- 4.3.3 A possible ditch terminus (**908**) was identified at the western end of the trench, and aligned on a north-west to south-east orientation. The ditch terminus measured 0.80m wide and 0.31m deep, and contained two mid orange brown clay fills with blue mottling. Charcoal was present within the uppermost fill (**910**) which contained a cattle tooth and fired clay fragments of likely structural origin.



4.3.4 A series of small pits or postholes were revealed in **Trench 9**, (**907**, **915**, **916** & **918**) and varied from 0.40m to 0.80m in diameter, and 0.10m to 0.40m in depth. The features all contained similar single fills, which comprised an orange brown silty clay with moderate to heavy charcoal flecking. An abraded sherd of medieval pottery recovered from pit **915** was the only dating evidence noted, though in the context of the adjacent Romano-British remains, this is presumed to be intrusive. An environmental sample was taken from pit **907** which noted small quantities of wood charcoal fragments within the deposit.

#### 4.4 Natural features and disturbance

4.4.1 A shallow burnt out shrub bole was recorded in **Trench 8**.

4.4.2 Across the Site, land drains were noted within most of the evaluation trenches.

### 5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

#### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Artefacts were recovered from two of the excavated trenches, and comprised a single prehistoric flint flake from the subsoil in **Trench 10**, and a small finds assemblage from archaeological features investigated in **Trench 9**, predominantly of Romano-British date.

5.1.2 All the finds have been quantified by material type within each context and this information is summarised in **Table 1** below. The assemblage was also visually scanned to gain an overall impression of the range of materials present, their condition and date range.

**Table 1: Finds summary**

Material	Total Number	Wt. (g)
Animal bone	64	167
Pottery	26	207
<i>Romano-British</i>	25	204
<i>Medieval</i>	1	3
<i>Ceramic building material</i>	8	946
Fired clay	4	58
Flint	2	10
<b>Totals</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>1,388</b>

#### 5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 The pottery provided the main dating evidence for the Site. Overall, the sherds survived in moderate condition, with a mean weight of just 7.9g. With the exception of a single, plain and rather abraded, sandy coarseware body sherd of medieval date from posthole**915**, all the pottery was of Romano-British date (1<sup>st</sup>– 4<sup>th</sup> century AD), although none of the pieces could be reliably dated within this period.

5.2.2 All were from local sources, including Savernake-type ware (4 sherds), made in the Savernake Forest (Annable 1962; Swan 1975; Hopkins 1999), at Purton and other kilns to the west of Swindon (Anderson 1979, 13-14; 1980), and a variety of dark grey/brown (18 sherds) and light grey (3 sherds) sandy fabrics. Potential sources of these include kilns in the Warminster (e.g. Chapmanslade), Westbury (Rogers and Rodham 1991) and Devizes (Wiltshire County Archaeology Service 2004, 6) areas.



5.2.3 A single rim sherd was recovered (ditch **905**), and comprised an upright- or very slightly everted rimmed jar in a dark grey/brown sandy fabric, but it is unfortunately broken just above the neck/shoulder junction, preventing a more precise identification of its form and date.

### 5.3 Ceramic building material

5.3.1 All the ceramic building material is of Romano-British date and was found in ditch **905**. One piece was from a *tegula* roof tile, while three others with combed or incised keying were from box flue or *voussoir* blocks, predominantly used in the construction of hypocaust heating systems and/or arches. The four other pieces, all featureless scraps, are made in the same fabric as one of the combed pieces, and may derive from the same block.

### 5.4 Other finds

5.4.1 The animal bone survived in poor to moderate condition, and was exclusively collected from features within **Trench 9**. Identified fragments include the proximal shaft of a pig tibia, a fragmented cattle scapula and a cattle molar from ditch **905**, and a cattle third molar from ditch **908**.

5.4.2 The fired clay, consisting of featureless fragments probably of structural origin, was also found in ditches **905** and **908**, while the head of a handmade iron nail also came from ditch **905**. Although not closely datable, the struck flint flakes from ditch **905** (2g) and, as noted above, the subsoil in **Trench 10** (8g), are indicative of generalised prehistoric activity in the area.

## 6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Two bulk samples were taken from a Romano-British ditch and pit within evaluation **Trench 9** to evaluate the presence and preservation of palaeo-environmental remains. This information can assist in providing an indication of the significance of the archaeological site as a whole. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal.

### 6.2 Charred plant remains

6.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Appendix 1: Table 2**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals.

6.2.2 The flots varied in size with moderately high numbers of roots and modern seeds. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.

6.2.3 Charred cereal remains were recovered from ditch **905**. These included barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain fragments and hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), grain and glume base fragments.



6.2.4 The assemblage is compatible with a Romano-British date and may be indicative of settlement activity in the vicinity.

### **6.3 Wood charcoal**

6.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Appendix 1: Table 2**. Small quantities of wood charcoal fragments were retrieved from these features.

## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Introduction**

7.1.1 The evaluation has successfully characterised and identified the nature and extents of the archaeological potential of the Site. The geophysical survey had indicated a relatively low potential for archaeology within the Site, and the evaluation has similarly confirmed a low density of archaeology within the majority of the proposed development area.

7.1.2 In general, possible archaeology identified in the geophysical survey related to changes in the natural geology or land drains running across the Site. Similarly, where present, pit-like anomalies were noted and represented tree boles or geological anomalies.

### **7.2 Discussion**

7.2.1 The evaluation has confirmed the sub-rectangular trend (anomaly 4015) recorded in the eastern area of the Site formed part of a wider enclosure, relating to a small settlement or farmstead on the open clay vale around Melksham. The environmental and animal bone analysis suggests some stock rearing and arable agriculture, albeit on a relatively small scale, as indicated by the small size of the finds assemblage overall.

7.2.2 The pottery and ceramic building material confirm that the activity in the vicinity of **Trench 9** is predominantly of Romano-British date. The ceramic building material also provides evidence for a substantial Romanised structure or structures in the vicinity, although the possibility that this material was brought to the area as hardcore cannot be completely excluded, given the small quantity recovered, and the small size of the pieces compared with a single complete roof tile or block, which alone can weigh c. 10-15kg (Brodrigg 1987).

## **8 STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **8.1 Museum**

8.1.1 The project archive resulting from the evaluation will be deposited with the Wiltshire Heritage Museum.

8.1.2 If/when available, deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

### **8.2 Preparation of 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 the local 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 Site code **102042**, and a full index will be prepared.

8.2.3 The archive of all records and finds will be consistent with the principles of *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE; English Heritage 2006).

### **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 Security copy**

8.4.1 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**

ADS 2013, *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice*, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

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## APPENDIX 1: STRATIGRAPHIC SUMMARIES

**Table 2: Trench Summaries**

<b>TRENCH 1</b>			
<b>Dimensions:</b> 33.5x1.8m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.30m	<b>Ground level:</b> 40.28 aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Depth (m)</b>
101	<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid grey loamy clay	0.00-0.5 bgl
102	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid brownish grey moderately compact clay	0.15-0.3 bgl
103	<i>Natural</i>	Orange brown firmly compact clay, occasional flint and stone inclusions (field drain present)	0.3+ bgl

<b>TRENCH 2</b>			
<b>Dimensions:</b> 32.1.83m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.40m	<b>Ground level:</b> 40.67 aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Depth (m)</b>
201	<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid grey moderately compact loamy clay	0.00-0.15 bgl
202	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid brownish grey moderately compact clay	0.15-30 bgl
203	<i>Natural</i>	Orange brown firmly compact clay, occasional flint and stone inclusions (field drain present)	0.30+ bgl

<b>TRENCH 3</b>			
<b>Dimensions:</b> 30.94x1.89m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.36m	<b>Ground level:</b> 40.92 aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Depth (m)</b>
301	<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid grey moderately compact loamy clay	0.00-0.15 bgl
302	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid brownish grey moderately compact clay	0.15-0.30 bgl
303	<i>Natural</i>	Orange brown firmly compact clay, occasional flint and stone inclusions (field drain present)	0.30+ bgl

<b>TRENCH 4</b>			
<b>Dimensions:</b> 32.4x1.80m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.33m	<b>Ground level:</b> 40.80aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Depth (m)</b>
401	<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid grey moderately compact loamy clay	0.00-0.20 bgl
402	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid brownish grey moderately compact clay	0.20-0.40 bgl
403	<i>Natural</i>	Orangey brown firmly compact clay, occasional flint and stone inclusions (field drain present)	0.43+ bgl

<b>TRENCH 5</b>			
<b>Dimensions:</b> 32.72x2.02m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.60m	<b>Ground level:</b> 41.27aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Depth (m)</b>
501	<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid grey moderately compact loamy clay	0.00-0.15 bgl
502	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid brownish grey moderately compact clay	0.15-0.30 bgl
503	<i>Natural</i>	Orange brown firmly compact clay, occasional flint and stone inclusions (field drains present)	0.30+ bgl

<b>TRENCH 6</b>			
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Dimensions:30.43x1.65m		Max. depth:0.36m	Ground level:41.36aOD
Context	Description		Depth (m)
601	<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid brown moderately compact loamy clay	0.00-0.15 bgl
602	<i>Subsoil</i>	Light brownish grey moderately compact clay	0.15-0.30 bgl
603	<i>Natural</i>	Orange brown firmly compact clay with occasional blue hue, occasional flint and stone inclusions (field drains present)	0.30+ bgl

TRENCH 7			
Dimensions: 30.38x1.85m		Max. depth:0.36m	Ground level:41.30.92 aOD
Context	Description		Depth (m)
701	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark greyish brown moderately compact loamy clay	0.00-0.15 bgl
702	<i>Subsoil</i>	Light brownish grey moderately compact clay	0.15-0.30 bgl
703	<i>Natural</i>	Light brownish orange compact clay, blue grey hue inclusions (field drain present)	0.30+ bgl

TRENCH 8			
Dimensions: 30.57x1.86m		Max. depth:0.55m	Ground level:41.85 aOD
Context	Description		Depth (m)
801	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark brown moderately compact loamy clay	0.00-0.15 bgl
802	<i>Subsoil</i>	Light brownish grey moderately compact clay	0.15-0.3 bgl
803	<i>Natural</i>	Orange brown firmly compact clay with occasional blue grey hue. Burnt out shrub bowl	0.3+ bgl

TRENCH 9			
Dimensions: 29.9x1.85m		Max. depth:0.50m	Ground level:43.15 aOD
Context	Description		Depth (m)
901	<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid grey moderately compact loamy clay	0.00-0.15 bgl
902	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid brownish grey moderately compact clay	0.15-30 bgl
903	<i>Natural</i>	Orangey brown firmly compact clay, occasional flint and stone inclusions (field drain present)	0.30+ bgl
904	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of, 905. Mid grey brown moderately compact clay with occasional stone inclusions, archaeological components of pot flint cbm	0.5x1.32x 0.17
905	<i>Cut</i>	Filled with 904, 911, 912, 913. N/W linear with concave sides and concave base.	0.5mx3.2 m x0.32m
906	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of 907, pale orangey grey silty clay with slight sandy element, patchy course manganese grit and staining, v distinct band of dark charcoal staining.	0.4mx0.55 mx0.38m
907	<i>Cut</i>	Filled with 906, sub circular oval in plan, steep straight sided with concave base, pit, or tree throw	0.8mx0.38 m
908	<i>Cut</i>	Filled with 909,910. Linear, NW/SE orientation steep straight sided with concave base, terminus.	3.05mx0.8 mx0.31m
909	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of 908, mid orangey brown clay with blue mottling, lower fill of gully terminus	1.1mx0.45 mx0.31m
910	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of 908, dark brownish grey silty clay, common charcoal lumps, burnt bone unburnt bone pot. Upper fill of terminus of gully.	1.1mx0.45 mx0.31m
911	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of 905, light grey soft compact silty clay, occasional iron panning inclusions.	0.5mx1mx 0.08m
912	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of 905, light brownish grey moderately compact clay.	0.5mx1.30



913	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of 905, light brownish grey moderately compact clay.	mx.0.18m 0.5mx1.44 mx0.12m
914	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of 915, bark brown to black silty clay, pot and burn material.	0.2mx0.4 mx0.1m
915	<i>Cut</i>	Filled with 914, sub circular in plan, gently sloping concave sides with irregular base. Post hole/stake hole.	0.4mx0.1 m
916	<i>Cut</i>	Filled with 917, circular in plan moderate sloped sides and a flat base, post hole,	0.45mx0.3 mx0.21m
917	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of 916, dark brownish grey silty clay, moderate to common charcoal flecks. Secondary fill to post hole.	0.23mx0.3 0mx0.21m
918	<i>Cut</i>	Filled with 919. Sub circular in plan with steep straight sides and a concave base. Small pit.	0.4mx0.25 m
919	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of 918, mid brown orangey grey mottled silty clay. Pottery fragments slight charcoal flecking in upper part of context. Finds spread throughout. Pit.	0.25mx0.4 mx0.25m

<b>TRENCH 10</b>			
<b>Dimensions:</b> 30.61x1.93m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.40m	<b>Ground level:</b> 42.56aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Depth (m)</b>
1001	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark brown moderately compact loamy clay	0.00-0.15 bgl
1002	<i>Subsoil</i>	Light brownish grey moderately compact clay	0.15-0.30 bgl
1003	<i>Natural</i>	Orange brown firmly compact clay, blue hue.	0.30+ bgl

<b>TRENCH 11</b>			
<b>Dimensions:</b> 16.82x1.85m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.50m	<b>Ground level:</b> 42.50aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Depth (m)</b>
1101	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark brown moderately compact loamy clay	0.00-0.15 bgl
1102	<i>Subsoil</i>	light brownish grey moderately compact clay	0.15-0.30 bgl
1103	<i>Natural</i>	Orange brown firmly compact clay, occasional flint and stone inclusions	0.30+ bgl

<b>TRENCH 12</b>			
<b>Dimensions:</b> 32.09x1.96m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.36m	<b>Ground level:</b> 43.22 aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Depth (m)</b>
1201	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark brown moderately compact loamy clay	0.00-0.15 bgl
1202	<i>Subsoil</i>	Light brownish grey moderately compact clay	0.15-0.30 bgl
1203	<i>Natural</i>	Orange brown firmly compact clay,	0.30+ bgl

<b>TRENCH 13</b>			
<b>Dimensions:</b> 31.42x1.94m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.50m	<b>Ground level:</b> 43.83aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Depth (m)</b>
1301	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark brown moderately compact loamy clay	0.00-0.15 bgl
1302	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid brownish grey moderately compact clay	0.15-0.30 bgl
1303	<i>Natural</i>	Orange brown firmly compact clay, occasional flint and stone inclusions	0.30+ bgl



<b>TRENCH 14</b>			
<b>Dimensions:</b> 30.84x1.82m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.38m	<b>Ground level:</b> 45.35aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Depth (m)</b>
1401	<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid dark brown moderately compact loamy clay	0.00-0.15 bgl
1402	<i>Subsoil</i>	Light brownish grey moderately compact clay	0.15-0.30 bgl
1403	<i>Natural</i>	Orange brown firmly compact clay, occasional flint and stone inclusions (field drain present)	0.30+ bgl

<b>TRENCH 15</b>			
<b>Dimensions:</b> 30.10x1.82m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.40m	<b>Ground level:</b> 45.40 aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Depth (m)</b>
1501	<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid dark brown loamy clay	0.00-0.5 bgl
1502	<i>Subsoil</i>	Light brownish grey moderately compact clay	0.15-0.3 bgl
1503	<i>Natural</i>	Orange brown firmly compact clay,	0.3+ bgl

<b>TRENCH 16</b>			
<b>Dimensions:</b> 31.4x.1.93m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.40m	<b>Ground level:</b> 45.06 aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Depth (m)</b>
1601	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark brown moderately compact loamy clay	0.00-0.15 bgl
1602	<i>Subsoil</i>	Light brownish grey moderately compact clay	0.15-30 bgl
1603	<i>Natural</i>	Orange brown firmly compact clay,	0.30+ bgl

<b>TRENCH 17</b>			
<b>Dimensions:</b> 31.60x1.90m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.38m	<b>Ground level:</b> 44.83aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Depth (m)</b>
1701	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark brown moderately compact loamy clay	0.00-0.15 bgl
1702	<i>Subsoil</i>	Light brownish grey moderately compact clay	0.15-0.30 bgl
1703	<i>Natural</i>	Orange brown firmly compact clay,	0.30+ bgl



## APPENDIX 2: ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

**Table 3: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal**

Samples				Flot								
Feature	Context	Sam ple	Vol. Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% roots	Charred Plant Remains				Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Anal ysis
						Grain	Chaff	Other	Comments			
Romano British												
Trench 9 Ditch												
905	904	1	10	50	65	B	B	-	Hulled wheat + barley grain frags, glume base frags	3/3 ml	-	-
Trench 9 Pit												
907	906	2	3	25	40	-	-	-	-	0/1 ml	-	-

Key:A\*\*\* = exceptional, A\*\* = 100+, A\* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5;

## APPENDIX 3: OASIS RECORD FORM

Melksham Town, Melksham, Wiltshire - Wessex Archaeology

**OASIS ID - wessexar1-181255**

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
<a href="#">View 1</a>	1	Sue Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	11 June 2014

Completed sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/2

Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/2

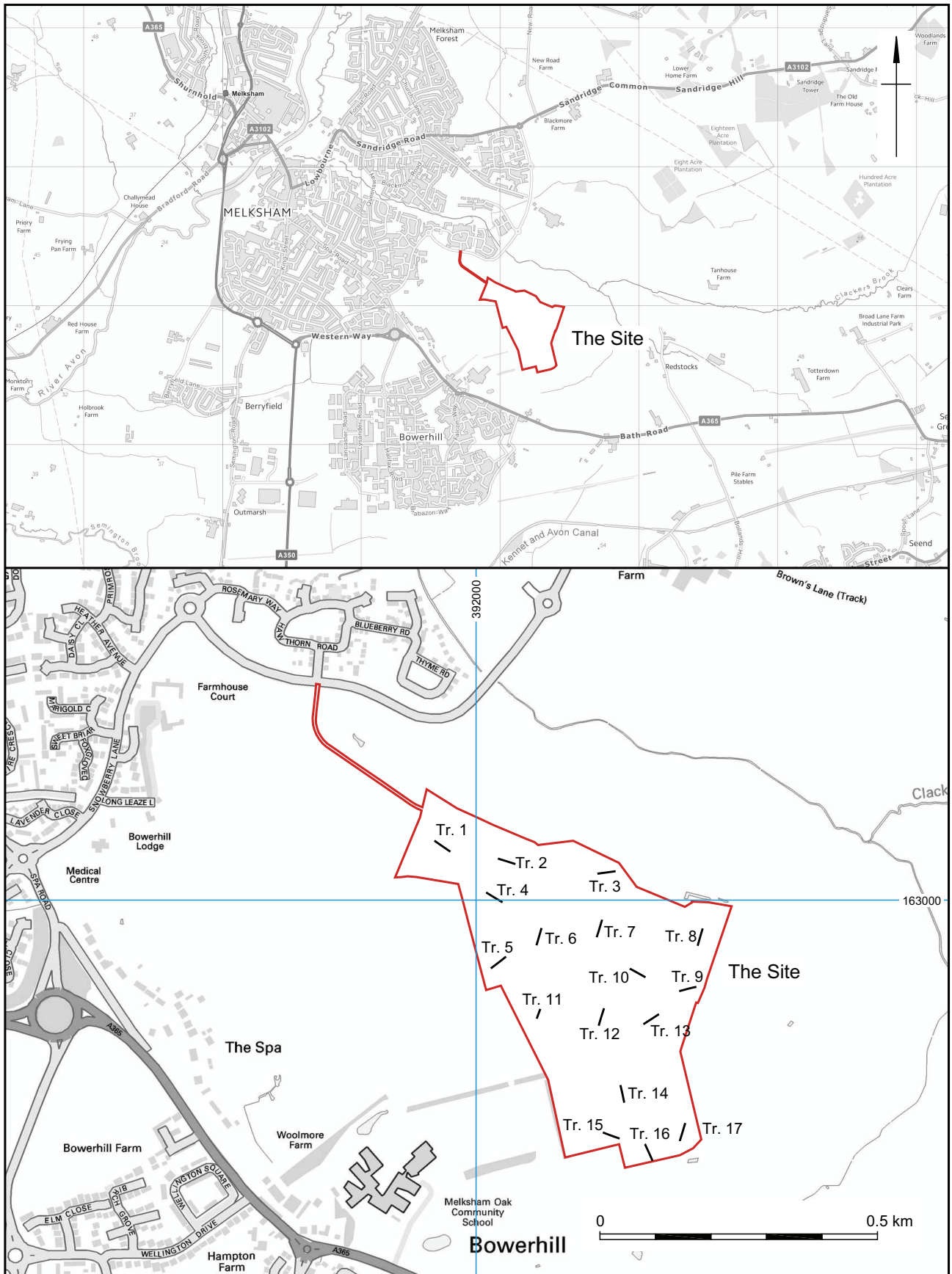
File submission and form progress

Grey literature report submitted? No Grey literature report filename/s

Images submitted? No Image filename/s

Boundary file submitted? No Boundary filename

HER signed off? NMR signed off?



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Location of site and trenches

Figure 1




Plate 1: Representative section of geology in Trench 12



Plate 2: General view of Trench 5 from the east



Plate 3: General view of Trench 11 facing south

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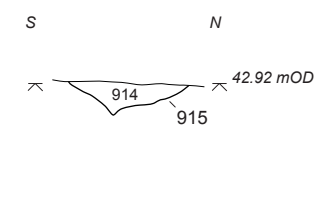
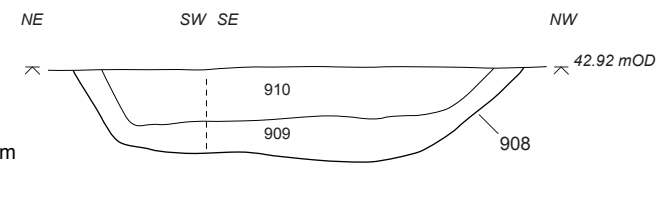
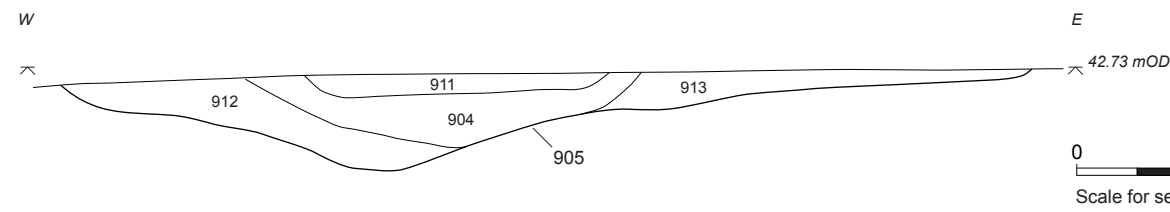
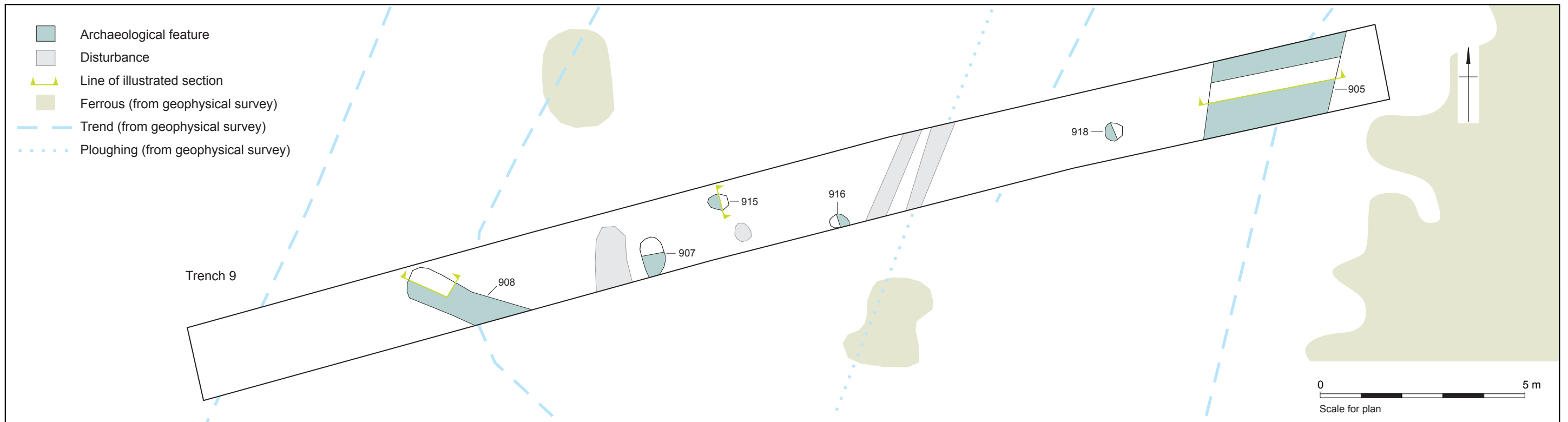


Plate 4: North-east facing section of ditch 905



Plate 5: North-east facing section of ditch 908



Plate 6: East facing section of pit/posthole 915



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salisbury rochester sheffield edinburgh

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