

making sense of heritage

46 Wilton Road Salisbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Application Ref: 15/02506PREAPP Report Ref: 109390.03 August 2015





46 Wilton Road Salisbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Quality Assurance

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* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Huw Morgan to carry out a trial trench and test pit evaluation on land at 46 Wilton Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire. The work was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a single dwelling with associated groundworks. The work was carried out as part of a pre-application mitigation (pre-application reference number 15/02506PREAPP). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 413276 130535. The fieldwork was undertaken on the 20th of August 2015.

The evaluation comprised of the machine excavation of one 8 m by 2 m trial trench and one 2 m by 2 m test pit. The trial trench established the presence of natural brickearth as well as a small number of quarry pits excavated into these deposits. The test pit established the depth and nature of the brickearth deposits supporting and supplementing earlier archaeological evaluation and geotechnical survey results in the vicinity of the Site. These have previously demonstrated that brickearth deposits still survive despite being heavily impacted by post-medieval quarrying, probably during the 19th century.

No archaeological features of deposits of note were recorded that pre-date the post-medieval period. A small assemblage of residual finds was recorded from the backfill in the quarry pits.

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Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Mr Huw Morgan for commissioning the work, for his help and assistance during the course of the works. Thanks are also due to Harvey Mills of HM Property Consultant, also in this regard. We acknowledge Kevin Turner of Kevin Turner Groundworks for his help and cooperation. Thanks are also offered to Clare King, Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council Archaeology Services (WCAS), for her interest and support.

The evaluation was directed by John Powell with the assistance of Rachel Williams. The report was written and compiled by Rachel Williams. The illustrations were prepared by Karen Nichols. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Gareth Chaffey, who also edited this report.

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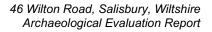
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) were commissioned by Mr Huw Morgan (hereafter 'the Client'), to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land at 46 Wilton Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 413276 130535 (Figure 1). The proposed works will comprise the construction of a single dwelling with associated groundworks (pre-application reference number 15/02506PREAPP).
- 1.1.2 A Heritage Statement (WA 2015a) for the Site established that there is an archaeological interest within the Site, including the potential for the presence of buried archaeological remains, particularly of prehistoric date. Significant Palaeolithic artefact-bearing brickearth deposits have previously been identified in the vicinity of the Site.
- 1.1.3 The Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service (WCAS), Clare King, has stated that the Site has the potential to contain heritage assets of archaeological interest and that a pre-determination field evaluation will be required prior to determination of the application. Should the results prove positive a further programme of works may be required as an appropriate planning condition (to be carried out prior to development), to be determined by WCAS.
- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing the scope of the archaeological investigations was prepared by WA and submitted to, and approved by, Clare King prior to the commencement of any ground works (WA 2015b).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The Site comprises a sub-rectangular parcel of land of approximately 1 ha located on Wilton Road some 1.5 km north-west of Salisbury city centre. The land is currently undeveloped, partly turfed and partly under tarmac, serving as an ancillary access to the residential development to the west. The Site is bounded by private residences to the north and south, and to the east by an access road leading from Wilton Road to these properties.
- 1.2.2 The Site is located on a gentle south facing slope at an approximate elevation of 56 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology of the Site is mapped as Cretaceous Chalk of the Newhaven Chalk Formation, overlain by river terrace deposits of sand, silt and clay laid down during the Quaternary period (British Geological Survey). The river terrace deposits in this area are often colloquially known as 'brickearth' and are of particular significance due to documented occurrences of Palaeolithic material, as described below.



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 A detailed archaeological and historical background for the Site has been presented previously (WA 2015a), and as such will not be repeated here.
- 2.1.2 In summary, the Pleistocene river terrace or 'brickearth' deposits which cap the chalk bedrock underlying the Site are considered to be of National importance in terms of Palaeolithic archaeology. Significant quantities of handaxes and other lithic artefacts have been recorded from gravel and clay pits in the area of Fisherton Anger (the historic parish in which the Site is situated). This includes a collection of Palaeolithic material discovered at Highbury Avenue, 85 m north-west of the Site (WA 2012).
- 2.1.3 Apart from some minor investigations of the Fisherton area brickearth quarry pits in the 19th century, little geoarchaeological works have investigated the Quaternary sedimentary sequences of this area aside from the 1970s and 1980s (Delair and Shackley 1978; Green *et.al.* 1983). The sequences as well as the brickearth itself, which contain archaeologically important artefactual and palaeo-environmental material of Palaeolithic date, have great potential to give greater understanding and contextualisation of regionally and nationally important Palaeolithic evidence in the Salisbury area.
- 2.1.4 In addition, the local stratigraphic sequence is also of considerable significance as it was in Fisherton Anger that 'one of the most complete faunal assemblages yet discovered in *British Pleistocene strata came to light ... in 'brickearth' deposits....*' (Delair and Shackley 1978). Observations in the 19th century of exposed sections through the Fisherton deposits revealed that the brickearth deposits extended up to 5.5 m in depth, though some variation was evident across the wider area (Delair and Shackley 1978). The brickearth deposits, composed of several distinct strata, were also frequently capped with soliflucted material and coombe rock. These deposits have also been observed to overlie river terrace gravels. A detailed survey of the strata of the brickearth was carried out by Thames Valley Archaeology Services (TVAS) as part of an archaeological excavation at the former Highbury and Fisherton Manor Schools in 2013 (TVAS 2013).
- 2.1.5 The survival of brickearth deposits has been demonstrated by a number of recent archaeological investigations in a number of places north of Wilton Road. Excavation of trial trenches at Llangarran, approximately 150 m east of the Site, identified brickearth deposits which had been substantially truncated by post-medieval extraction, with undiagnostic worked flint knapping waste within the backfilled quarry pits (WA 2011).
- 2.1.6 Archaeological investigations carried out at Highbury School, 25 m north of the Site, recorded a single mineralised and unidentified animal bone from the coombe rock capped brickearth deposits, in addition to molluscs and fragments of charcoal. The evaluation was followed by the excavation of a series of test pits which attempted to define and characterise the brickearth deposits in this area (WA 2012). Brickearth was found to survive at relatively shallow depth where it had not been impacted by post-medieval quarrying, although no lithic or faunal remains were encountered during the evaluation.
- 2.1.7 With the exception of isolated findspots of Romano-British and post-medieval coins the majority of the data recorded in the WSHER in the vicinity of the Site relates to 19th century excavations in the area of Highbury Road. An Iron Age settlement site was identified some 200 m to the north and investigated between 1866 and 1869. Comprising a large number of pits containing La Tene material, later enclosed by a late Iron Age 'Belgic' ditch which defined an area of approximately 6.5 ha, the settlement appears to have been occupied between the 5th century BC and possibly continuing until the 3rd century AD.



- 2.1.8 Excavations during the 19th century discovered sherds of late Bronze Age pottery and a Romano-British coin hoard, indicating the extended continuity of occupation at the Highfield site.
- 2.1.9 From at least the 18th century onwards the geology of Fisherton led to mineral extraction and other industrial activities taking place in the area. Early editions of Ordnance Survey mapping note a number of clay and chalk pits north of Wilton Road, and it is likely that smaller, earlier examples existed across the area prior to this. The extent of the brickpits in the mid-19th century has been assessed by Shackley and Delair (1978), based upon a previously unpublished sketch map of the brickpits held by the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum. The map suggests that none of the major 19th century brickworks were located within the Site, although this was proved not to be the case.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 The general aims and objectives of the archaeological field evaluation were to:
 - To locate, identify and to investigate and record the presence/absence of archaeological features or deposits;
 - The evaluation, where possible, will confirm the extent, date, character, relationship, condition and significance of archaeological features, artefacts and deposits within the area impacted, and to inform the scope and nature of any requirements for any potential further fieldwork (whether additional watching brief, excavation or post-excavation work;
 - To enable the preservation by record of any archaeological features or deposits uncovered;
 - To place any identified archaeological remains within their historical context, particularly with reference to the known prehistoric features found in the immediate and wider area;
 - To determine the presence of brickearth deposits and, if present, their depth (where possible within the limitations of the evaluation).

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in the agreed WSI (WA 2015b) and comprised the excavation of one machine-excavated trial trench, measuring 8 m in length and 2 m wide, located in the north of the Site and one machine excavated test pit, measuring 2 m by 2 m, in the south of the Site. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a).
- 3.2.2 The trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator employing a toothless ditching bucket, under the constant supervision by an experienced archaeologist. Machine levels were determined by the presence of the remaining brickearth in the trench and the underlying chalk geology in the test pit. All arisings from the trenches was scanned for artefacts.
- 3.2.3 All deposits were recorded using WA's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts.
- 3.2.4 A full photographic record was maintained during the evaluation using a digital camera equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. The record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the principal features, finds excavated, 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.

3.2.5 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 30 mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system. A unique site code **109390** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following section provides a summary description of the results of the archaeological trial trench evaluation. Details of individual contexts are retained within the project archive and a tabulated version of these can be found in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences

4.2.1 The stratigraphy across the Site was observed as being fairly uniform in terms of layer types but varied in depth; a short turf-layer overlay topsoil of between 0.12-0.28 m below ground level (bgl), this in turn capped a subsoil horizon situated between 0.12 and 0.47 m blg. Natural brickearth deposits were reached at an average depth of 0.90 m.

4.3 Trenches

Trench 1

- 4.3.1 Trench 1 (**Plate 1**) measured 7.6 m by 2.20 m and was located in the northern half of the Site. The stratigraphy of the trial trench comprised of brickearth which were overlain by a clearly demarcated subsoil of clay loam (0.19 m thick) and a top soil of clay loam (0.28 m thick) which was covered turf.
- 4.3.2 Three quarry pits (105, 106 and 108) were noted as cutting into the brickearth deposits. One was sampled excavated and a nominal depth of 0.04 m recorded (Plate 1). The quarry pits and their impact on the brickearth geology were clearly visible in section (Plate 2). Although undated, the pits are most likely relate to post-medieval quarry pitting of probable 19th century date.

Trench 2

- 4.3.3 Trench 2 was a test pit measuring 2 m by 2 m located in the southern half of the Site (**Plate 3**). Brickearth was noted at a depth of 0.90 m, below which natural chalk was reached at the base of the test pit at a depth of 1.90 m. The chalk deposit was characterised as light brown, yellow and dark grey with common flint inclusions ranging up to 150 mm in size. It was noted that the chalk might have been slightly geologically affected as the chalk dipped in the central area.
- 4.3.4 A post-medieval quarry pit was clearly visible on the eastern trench section (**Plate 4**) and contained redeposited brickearth with inclusions of charcoal and ceramic building material (CBM). The redeposited brickearth was overlain by a clearly demarcated subsoil of clay loam of 0.22 m in depth. This was capped by a topsoil of clay loam 0.28 m in depth and covered with short turf.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1.1 A limited quantity of artefactual evidence was recovered during this evaluation.



5.1.2 Finds were recovered from two contexts in Trench 1: subsoil 102 and fill 103 of quarry pit 105. These are listed in Table 1. All datable finds are post-medieval/modern, with the exception of a single prehistoric flint flake, clearly residual in the quarry pit.

Context	Material	No.	Wt. (g)	Additional Comments
102	GLASS	1	464	Egg bottle, plain, top broken; 19 th C
102	POTTERY	2	64	Modern (19 th /20 th C): 1 redware flowerpot; 1 refined whiteware pot-lid
102	SLAG	1	14	Fuel ash slag, undated
102	ANIMAL BONE	1	167	Large mammal long bone, sawn at both ends
102	GLASS	1	11	Modern: waste, slightly melted, probably window glass
102	STONE	1	337	Rounded pebble; no obvious signs of working
103	WORKED FLINT	1	26	Prehistoric waste flake, burnt
103	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL	2	371	Post-medieval brick fragments
103	BURNT FLINT	3	134	Unworked, undated

Table 1:Finds by context

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1.1 No material suitable for environmental analysis was present within the monitored areas, accordingly no samples were taken.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 The evaluation was successful in locating the presence of brickearth and characterising the nature of the deposits, as well as supporting and supplementing earlier geotechnical and archaeological evaluation results from previous investigations in the immediate vicinity of the Site.
- 7.1.2 The Heritage Statement (WA 2015a) identified a number of historic brick fields in the immediate area of the Site. However, the evaluation noted a total of four separate examples of quarrying within the small percentage of trenching, likely to be post-medieval quarrying of probable 19th century date. The pits were noted to be subsequently backfilled in the post-medieval period.
- 7.1.3 The natural brickearth deposits survive at an average depth of 0.90m. The quarry pits observed were irregular in size and shape, however, the trenches did not allow for a full evaluation of the quarry pits. It appears that the top of the quarry pits has been truncated by a more recent levelling. No paleo-environmental material of Palaeolithic date was found during the course of the evaluation.
- 7.1.4 The presence and depths of the brickearth compares with a number of other sites excavated within a 250 m radius of the Site, particularly at Highbury Avenue (WA 2012). The levels of brickearth deposits can be directly compared. Those at Highbury Avenue were at a depth of 57.35 m aOD, but at a depth of 53.86 m aOD on this Site.



- 7.1.5 The proposed development would directly impact upon the intact brickearth if groundwork extends beyond *c*. 0.90 m in depth.
- 7.1.6 Except for some minor investigations of the Fisherton area brickearth quarry pits in the 19th century, little geoarchaeological works, aside from the 1970s and 1980s (Delair and Shackley 1978; Green *et a.* 1983) have investigated the Quaternary sedimentary sequences of this area. The sequences as well as the brickearth itself, which contain archaeologically important artefactual and palaeo-environmental material of Palaeolithic date, have great potential to give greater understanding and contextualisation of regionally and nationally important Palaeolithic evidence in the Salisbury area.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum. The Museum is currently a closed repository. Should the Museum accept the project archive on completion of the project it will recorded under the WA project code **109390** with the accession code to be subsequently confirmed. 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 Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; Archaeological Data Service (ADS) 2013). An OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/ will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creator Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the Wiltshire HER. A copy of the OASIS entry form has been included in this report (**Appendix 2**).

8.3 Discard policy

- 8.3.1 WA follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA) 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 2011)

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**



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10 APPENDIX 1: TRENCH TABLES

Trench 1	Co-ordinate Ground leve	Dimensions: 7.6m x 2.20m Max depth: 0.92m	
Context	Description		Depth bgl (m)
101	Layer	Topsoil. Very dark grey clay loam, moderately loose with a diffuse horizon with 102. Fine inclusions of rare modern pottery and CBM covered with short turf and finely rooted throughout	0.0 -0.12
102	Layer	Subsoil. Mid- dark grey clay loam. Moderately loose with a clear horizon with 103. Inclusions of modern CBM chalk, plastic, glass, china, animal bone, slate and rare sub angular flint cobbles and gravels poorly sorted. Some small rooting.	0.12 –0.45
103	Deliberate backfill. Mid brown sandy clay moderately loose with a		0.45 – 0.91
104	Layer	Natural. Mid – light brown sandy clay (brickearth)	0.91 +
105	Cut	Cut of brickearth quarry pit. Filled with 103	0.45 - 0.91+
106	Cut	Cut of brickearth quarry pit. Filled with 107	0.45 – 0.91 +
107	Deliberate backfill. Deliberate backfill. Mid brown sandy clay		0.45 – 0.91
108	Cut	Cut of brickearth quarry pit. Filled with 109	0.45 – 0.91 +
109	Fill	Deliberate backfill. Deliberate backfill. Mid brown sandy clay moderately loose with a clear horizon with 104. Inclusions of charcoal, CBM, chalk and flint, possibly including struck flint	0.45 –0.91

Trench 2	Co-ordinate	Dimensions: 2.05m x 2m Max depth: 2.2m		
Context	Description		Depth bgl (m)	
201	Layer Topsoil. Very dark grey clay loam, moderately loose. Covered with short turf and finely rooted throughout			
202	Layer	Subsoil. Mid- dark grey clay loam. Moderately loose with common small sub-rounded stone inclusions and flint grits. Some chalk and brick present in the lower 0.1 m – possibly evidence of made ground. Some small rooting.	0.25 – 0.47	
203	Layer	0.44 – 0.98		
204	Layer	0.90 – 2.05		
205	Layer Chalk. Light brown yellow with grey hue with common sub- rounded flint grits.		1.9 – 2.2	
206	Cut	Cut of brickearth quarry pit	0.6 – 1.9	
207	Fill	0.6 – 1.9		

12 **APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM**

OASIS ID: wessex	OASIS ID: wessexar1-221982					
Project details						
Project name	46 Wilton Road, Salisbury					
Short description of the project	of Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Huw Morgan to carry out a trial trench investigation and test pit on land at 46 Wilton Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire. This evaluation was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a single dwelling with associated groundworks. The work was carried out as part of a pre-application mitigation (pre-application reference number 15/02506PREAPP). The Site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 413276 130535. The fieldwork was undertaken on the 20th of August 2015. The evaluation comprised of the machine excavation of one 8 m by 2 m trial trench and one 2 m by 2 m test pit. The trial trench established the presence of brickearth and the presence of quarry pits in the brickearth. The test pit established the depth and nature of the brickearth deposits supporting and supplementing earlier archaeological evaluation and geotechnical survey results in the vicinity of the Site. These have previously demonstrated that brickearth deposits still survive despite being heavily impacted by post-medieval quarrying, probably in the 19th century. No archaeological features of deposits of note were recorded from the backfill in the quarry pits.					
Project dates	Start: 20-08-2015 End: 20-08-2015					
Previous/future work	No / No					
Any associated project reference codes	109390 - Contracting Unit No.					
Type of project	Field evaluation					
Site status	None					
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential					
Monument type	BRICK EARTH PIT Post Medieval					
Significant Finds	N/A None					
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches","Test Pits"					
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)					
Prompt	Planning condition					
Position in the planning process	Pre-application					
Project location						

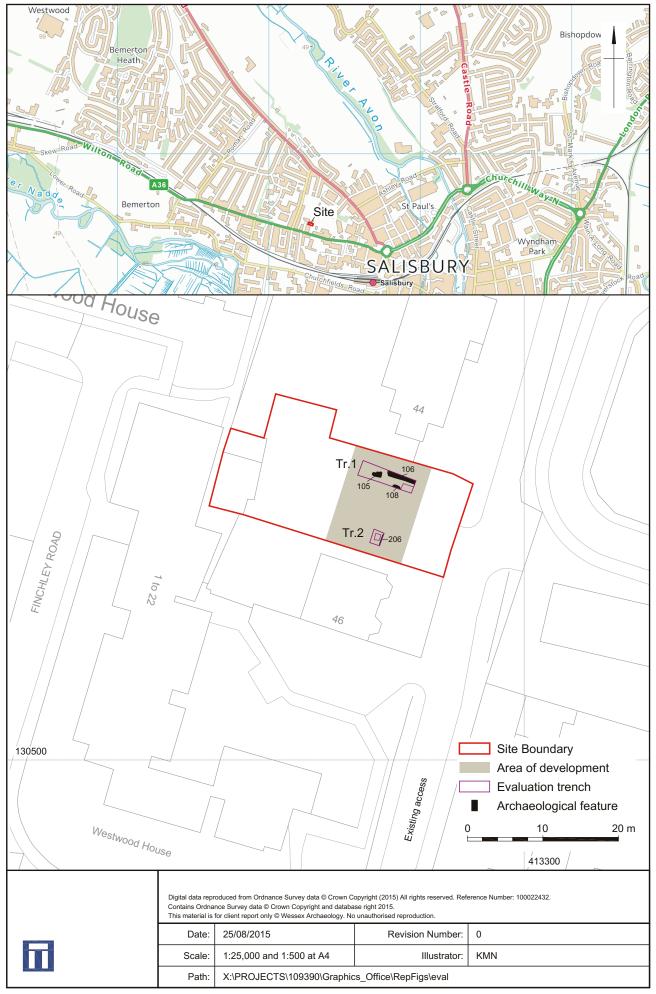
Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE SALISBURY WILTON 46 Wilton Road, Salisbury
Postcode	SP2 7ES

Study area	1 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 413276 130535 50.914912601397 -1.412048802072 50 54 53 N 001 24 43 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.9m Max: 0.91m
Project creators Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Wiltshire County Council
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Gareth Chaffey
Project supervisor	John Powell
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Huw Morgan
Project archives	
Project archives Physical Archive recipient	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Physical Archive	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Physical Archive recipient	
Physical Archive recipient Physical Archive ID	109390
Physical Archive recipient Physical Archive ID Physical Contents Digital Archive	109390 "Animal Bones","Glass","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Physical Archive recipient Physical Archive ID Physical Contents Digital Archive recipient	109390 "Animal Bones","Glass","Worked stone/lithics","other" Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
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Site and trench location plan



Plate 1: Trench 1, view from west



Plate 2: South facing representative section of Trench 1, 1x2m, 1x0.5m

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Plate 3: North facing section of Trench 2, 1x2m, 1x1m



Plate 4: West facing section of Trench 2, 1x2m, 1x1m

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