



26 Northgate Gardens Devizes, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Ref: 116920.02
June 2017



**26 Northgate Gardens,
Devizes, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Prepared for:

Heritage Planning Services,
53 Marshfield Road,
Chippenham,
SN15 1JS

Prepared by:

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

www.wessexarch.co.uk


June 2017

WA ref 116920.02



Quality Assurance

Project Code	116920	Accession Code	Tbc	Client Ref.	
Planning Application Ref.	Tbc	Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	400116 161540		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	E	PO	A D Crockett		16/6/2017
File:	X:\PROJECTS\116920_Reports\Eval				
File:					
File:					
File:					
File:					

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

DISCLAIMER

THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT WAS DESIGNED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A REPORT TO AN INDIVIDUAL CLIENT AND WAS PREPARED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THAT CLIENT. THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT DOES NOT NECESSARILY STAND ON ITS OWN AND IS NOT INTENDED TO NOR SHOULD IT BE RELIED UPON BY ANY THIRD PARTY. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY WILL NOT BE LIABLE BY REASON OF BREACH OF CONTRACT NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE (WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OCCASIONED TO ANY PERSON ACTING OR OMITTING TO ACT OR REFRAINING FROM ACTING IN RELIANCE UPON THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT ARISING FROM OR CONNECTED WITH ANY ERROR OR OMISSION IN THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE REPORT. LOSS OR DAMAGE AS REFERRED TO ABOVE SHALL BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, ANY LOSS OF PROFITS OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS DAMAGE TO REPUTATION OR GOODWILL LOSS OF BUSINESS OR ANTICIPATED BUSINESS DAMAGES COSTS EXPENSES INCURRED OR PAYABLE TO ANY THIRD PARTY (IN ALL CASES WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OR ANY OTHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE.



26 Northgate Gardens, Devizes, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Contents

Summary	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iv
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Project background	1
1.2 The Site.....	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	2
2.1 Introduction	2
2.2 Recent investigations in the area.....	2
2.3 Summary.....	2
<i>Prehistoric (900,000 BC–AD 43)</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Saxon and medieval (AD 410 – 1500).....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Post-medieval, 19th century and modern (AD 1500 – present day).....</i>	<i>4</i>
3 METHODOLOGY	5
3.1 Aims and objectives	5
3.2 Fieldwork methodology	6
3.3 Monitoring	6
3.4 Recording.....	6
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS.....	7
4.1 Introduction	7
4.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences	7
4.3 Features.....	7
5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE	7
5.1 Introduction	7
5.2 Pottery.....	8
5.3 Worked flint	8
6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE	8
7 CONCLUSIONS.....	8
8 STORAGE AND CURATION	9
8.1 Museum	9



8.2	Archive	9
8.3	Discard policy	9
8.4	Copyright.....	9
8.5	Security Copy	9
9	REFERENCES.....	10
9.1	Bibliography	10
10	APPENDICES.....	12
10.1	Appendix 1: Trench and Context Summaries	12
10.2	Appendix 3: OASIS form	14

Tables

Table 1:	Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)	8
----------	--	---

Figures

Figure 1:	Site location and trench layout.
-----------	----------------------------------

Plates

Front Cover:	Trench 2 from the SW (scale 2 m x 1 m)
Plate 1:	NE facing representative section of Trench 2 (scale 1 m)
Plate 2:	Trench 1 from the SE with the base of dew pond 108 and ditch 104 visible (scale 2 m x 1 m)
Plate 3:	NE facing section of ditch 104 (scale 2 m x 1 m)
Plate 4:	Trench 3 from the S (scale 2 m x 1 m)
Plate 5:	W facing representative section of Trench 3 (scale 1 m)
Plate 6:	Trench 4 from the W (scale 2 m x 1 m)
Plate 7:	S facing representative section of Trench 4 (scale 1 m)



26 Northgate Gardens, Devizes, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Heritage Planning Services, acting on behalf of Dr and Mrs Siggers, to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land at 26 Northgate Gardens, Devizes, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 400116 161540.

Pre-application advice was sought from Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service in relation to the proposed development. The Assistant County Archaeologist, as advisor to the Local Planning Authority, recommended a scheme of trial trenching covering approximately 5% of the proposed development area, focussing on the footprints of the four new buildings proposed.

The programme of archaeological trial trenching comprised four evaluation trenches of approximately 20m length each, though adjusted where necessary due to various on-site constraints. A single large ditch of possible medieval origin was identified, though with few associated artefacts recovered to provide positive dating evidence. It is possible that this feature is associated with a similar feature identified further to the east during redevelopment of a former snooker club on Station Road, collectively representing some form of substantial boundary feature. No other remains of archaeological significance were observed.

The evaluation took place on the 5th and 6th June 2017.



26 Northgate Gardens, Devizes, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Sam Driscoll of Heritage Planning Services for commissioning the project on behalf of [REDACTED], and for her support throughout the project. Our grateful thanks are also extended to [REDACTED] for their help and indeed interest throughout, and to Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service, who monitored the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, and provided supplementary information regarding the former Snooker Club watching brief.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Piotr Orczewski and Neil Fitzpatrick. This report was compiled by Piotr Orczewski and edited by Andy Crockett. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram, and the report illustrations were prepared by Nancy Dixon.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andy Crockett.



26 Northgate Gardens, Devizes, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Heritage Planning Services (hereafter the 'Client'), acting on behalf of [REDACTED], to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land at 26 Northgate Gardens, Devizes, Wiltshire (hereafter 'the Site') centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 400116 161540 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 A planning application is being prepared for four new detached properties within the existing plot of number 26 Northgate Gardens, to be submitted in due course to Wiltshire Council.
- 1.1.3 A heritage desk-based assessment (DBA) of the Site was undertaken in 2012, which identified potential medieval boundaries preserved to the west and south, placing the Site within the likely extent of the medieval town (Driscoll, 2012). The DBA also highlighted the potential for the boundary of the medieval park pale to bisect the site. No previous archaeological works have been carried out within the Site.
- 1.1.4 Pre-application advice was sought from Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service in relation to the proposed development. The Assistant County Archaeologist, acting on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, determined that a scheme of trial trenching, comprising approximately 5% of the proposed development area, was required.
- 1.1.5 A Written Scheme of Investigation WSI (WA 2017) setting out the methodologies and standards that were to be employed by WA in order to undertake the archaeological evaluation was submitted to and agreed by the Client and the County Archaeologist prior to fieldwork commencing. In format and content the WSI conformed with current best practice and to the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, Historic England 2015) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation* (CIfA 2014a).
- 1.1.6 This document presents the results of the archaeological evaluation, which took place on the 5th and 6th June 2017.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site comprises a subrectangular plot measuring c. 0.56 ha in area. The ground surface slopes gently from northwest to southeast, falling from c. 131 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to c. 125 m aOD. Beyond the eastern and southern boundaries, the land drops rapidly to street level, a likely result of the railway cutting in the mid-19th century.
- 1.2.2 The proposed development area is currently a green, garden space associated with 26 Northgate Gardens. There is a single property on the west of the Site which will be retained and dates to the second half of the 20th century.

- 1.2.3 The Site is situated in a predominately residential setting, albeit surrounded by buildings of historic interest, that add considerably to the character of the area. To the east is the main urban region of Devizes, whilst to the southwest the land is predominantly rural. The former Devizes Railway Station is located immediately to the south, with Station Road bounding the plot to the south. Domestic properties bound the site to the west, north and east.
- 1.2.4 The underlying bedrock geology throughout the Site is mapped as Glauconitic Sandstone of the Upper Greensand Formation, with no superficial deposit recorded (British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in detail within the desk-based assessment (Driscoll 2017) which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1 km Study Area around the site in order to place the site within its historical and archaeological context. The results of this assessment, relevant entries from the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environmental Record (WSHER) and entries from the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) are summarised below.

2.2 Recent investigations in the area

- 2.2.1 No known archaeological activity has taken place on the Site. Archaeological interventions including watching briefs, evaluations and excavations have occurred within the town of Devizes (the results of which are summarised in the Project Gazetteer and discussed below). However, it is notable that all archaeological activity from within the Study Area has occurred to the east of the Site. Whilst the town of Devizes has received growing archaeological attention, the interconnection between the rural and urban areas has not been properly explored. Whilst the later evolution of the town can be reasonably postulated through cartographic evidence, the nature and firm dating of it is difficult to elucidate without archaeological intervention.
- 2.2.2 As such, evidence relating to the Site is derived from information associated with the town rather than the rural areas.

2.3 Summary

Prehistoric (900,000 BC–AD 43)

- 2.3.1 There is no evidence for prehistoric activity directly on the Site and evidence from the Study Area is minimal. Where prehistoric activity has been discovered it has been on the outskirts of the town and in most cases, was retrieved as single finds (i.e. not through excavation).
- 2.3.2 These include Mesolithic flints found c.680 m south-southeast of the Site (Project Gazetteer No 1), a Neolithic flint knife found c.730 m east-northeast of the Site (Project Gazetteer No 3), a fragment of a Bronze Age sword found c.640 m east-northeast of the Site (Project Gazetteer No 6) and an Iron Age limestone spindle-whorl (Project Gazetteer No 8) found c.540 m NE of the Site.
- 2.3.3 The only stratified prehistoric activity within the Study Area were unpatinated flint flakes dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age, found during an evaluation at Quakers Walk, c.970m to the NE, in 2005, which probably represent redeposited material (Project Gazetteer No 5). The only prehistoric material from the town itself is the Neolithic flint flake, hammerstones (Project Gazetteer No 2) and a large flint flake with retouch from Devizes Castle (Project Gazetteer No 4).

- 2.3.4 However, the creation and subsequent expansion of the town of Devizes may conceal prehistoric activity, where it has not been damaged by urbanisation.

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

- 2.3.5 Although no Romano-British evidence has been identified from the vicinity of the Site, Roman pottery and coins have been recovered from sites to the south and east of the town. Among the finds were two coins dating to the 1st and 3rd centuries AD, recovered from the area of Hillworth Road, c. 600 m south of the Site (Project Gazetteer 10-11), ceramic sherds, recovered from allotments at Quakers Walk (Project Gazetteer 15), a hoard of Roman coins, reportedly discovered at Wick Green in 1699 and 21 statuettes found c.830 m east-southeast of the Site (Project Gazetteer 12).

- 2.3.6 The nature of some of the finds from within the Study Area, including the Romano-British bronze statuettes and the coin hoard suggest ritual practice, whilst settlement evidence is lacking. However, 2nd century AD sherds of cooking pots and platters including rims of 18 vessels, suggestive of a domestic character, have been found c.560 m south-southwest of the Site (Project Gazetteer 9).

Saxon and medieval (AD 410 – 1500)

- 2.3.7 Although Saxon material has been recorded from satellite settlements such as Potterne and Bishops Cannings, the town of Devizes has not produced any evidence suggesting an early medieval origin. Devizes is not recorded in Domesday as it does not become a town until during the medieval period (see below) and after the construction of the castle.

- 2.3.8 The place-name 'Devizes' is relatively recent (recorded as *Divisas* in AD 1135) and Old French in origin, meaning 'boundary' (Gelling 1978, 237; Ekwall 1984, 143). It is probable that a very important boundary once ran through Devizes. It is suggested that the boundary could be between the manors of Potterne and Bishops Cannings, whose former boundary passed through Devizes Castle (Tomkins 1983, 46) and through the Park Pale (deer park enclosure), which can still be observed as an earthwork to the southwest of Devizes, and was in all probability concomitant to the Castle.

- 2.3.9 The archaeological evidence for settlement in Devizes also appears to support a late date, probably due to the lack of a main/reliable water source. It would appear that the earlier medieval settlement of Devizes, with its street pattern and burgrave plots, was almost certainly arranged around the castle itself (Haslam 1976). Excavations in 1996, by Wessex Archaeology at Vale's Lane, c.550 m east-southeast of the Site at SU 00616137 (Andrews and Mephram 2000: 241-48; Project Gazetteer 28) revealed a series of six shallow pits with ceramic finds, dating to the 13th century. A further three pits contained finds dating to the 14th century.

- 2.3.10 Excavations carried out in 1990 by the University College London at New Park Street, Devizes, c.600 m east of the Site at SU 00626158, provided scant evidence of medieval activity (Russell 1993: 88), whilst Andrews and Mephram summarised that there is 'meagre archaeological evidence from Devizes' (Andrews and Mephram 2000: 246-7). However, it is possible that the archaeology has been destroyed by intensive post-medieval development throughout the town.

- 2.3.11 The original motte and bailey castle was built on a small promontory at some point prior to AD 1113, when records report that the structure burnt down. The castle was re-built c.1120 by Bishop Roger and comprised a wooden keep, rampart, entrance on the north side, with outer bailey which was defended by bank and ditch to the northeast. Excavations in 1994 revealed a large ditch beneath the Corn Exchange, c.350 m east of the Site. The ditch, c.7

m across, cut an earlier ditch and contained animal bone, but no other finds. It could be part of the Castle bailey ditch (Project Gazetteer 30).

- 2.3.12 In the later medieval period (14th – 16th centuries) the town of Devizes expanded to include a northern settlement beyond the former bailey. The Devizes Extensive Urban Survey (EUS, Wiltshire Archaeology Service 2004: 18) suggests that the extent of this growth was limited by the existence of the town's defences, but reached North Gate, just north of the Site. The name North Gate implies the medieval northern entrance to the town and it is possible that the boundary of the medieval settlement passed in close proximity to the Site (see below).
- 2.3.13 Edward Dore's map of 1759 (fig 4) shows that the western extent of the Project Site is defined by a boundary that appears to trace the southern continuation of a main route that crosses Northgate Street and continues to curve northeast, following the historic radial street plan. The route is preserved in the modern-day street plan as Northgate Gardens, leading to the Site. This resource illustrates that the boundary continues south-southeast, marking a continuation of the town defences, as identified in the Devizes EUS. Furthermore, the boundary follows the orientation of the deer park, as highlighted in the above-mentioned survey.
- 2.3.14 However, the above research charts the extent of the deer park to the east of this boundary, based on extant earthworks belonging to the park pale, identified along the route. If this proposed route is correct, then the park pale may bisect the Site. Of potential significance, here, is the inclusion of the initials C.H. on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1886, against the northern boundary of the Site. It is possible that the initials stand for 'Chase' and relate directly to the use of the site as a hunting ground/deer park. Of note, the same map also records "Supposed Town Ditch (remains of)" on the southern edge of the Site.
- 2.3.15 The absence of archaeological intervention to the west of the town, either in the vicinity of the Site or directly north, south or west of it, is a hindrance to a full understanding of the archaeological potential of this part of the Devizes. However, the potential for the boundaries of the medieval town and/or the medieval deer park pale to pass through the Site is important.

Post-medieval, 19th century and modern (AD 1500 – present day)

- 2.3.16 The continuing use of Devizes as a town beyond the medieval period obviously brought with it post-Medieval activity that is recognisable within the Study Area. However, little of this has much bearing upon the Project Site.
- 2.3.17 The nature of the Project Site in the mid-18th century is agricultural, with planned gardens/orchards bordering the site, to the north. The cartographic sources show that the small structure (probable folly) located to the north of the Site boundary (identified at the time of the site visit) was built by 1759.
- 2.3.18 The Site is undeveloped at this time, with occupation focussed along Northgate Street and Castle Street. By 1834 the plot bordering the northeast corner of the Site has been developed, with a large rectangular block, orientated northeast-southwest, abutting the corner of the site boundary (Fig 5). By 1869 (Fig 7) this structure had disappeared, and the plot to the northeast is occupied by a large Independent Chapel.
- 2.3.19 By the completion of the first edition Ordnance Survey (1886) the land to the rear of the chapel, and bordering the Site, is designated as a burial ground. The plot remains unchanged and undeveloped to the modern day.

- 2.3.20 Bordering the Site to the south, is the route of the Wiltshire, Somerset and Weymouth Railway line, opened in 1857. The railway cutting is still evident and forms the southern boundary of 26 Northgate Gardens. At the time of the site visit, it was noted that the land to the east of the garden drops sharply away. A closer inspection of the available cartographic resources appears to identify a further cut along the boundary of the Site. Modern GIS data labels the area abutting the western boundary of the modern-day St Mary's Assembly Rooms (19th Century Independent Chapel) as 'platforms', whilst the road to the west of the Site, branching off of Station Road, is known today as Great Western Close. The first edition ordnance survey map (1886), shows three large rectangular structures in the area designated 'platforms' today, and clearly identifies that the ditch which forms the Project Site's southern boundary, continued around to the west, leading to the rectangular structures. By 1923, the structures are no longer recorded on the map, however an undefined boundary is recorded, delineating the area. It is suggested here that this represents part of the railway development; however, the extent to which it was realised is not clear from the available evidence.
- 2.3.21 At the turn of the century, a small structure is recorded abutting the east facing elevation of the western boundary. The small structure is enlarged by 1923. Between 1900 and 1920 the Site boundaries underwent alterations, with the plot being divided into three. The easterly plot boundary may mark a continuation of the western boundary of the burial ground, belonging to the Independent Chapel. Although divided by a small lane, the boundary is in line with the chapel boundary. Although the plot is shown planted with trees, it is possible that this represents a plan to extend the burial ground in this direction. There is no indication of whether or not this is the case, and by the 1980s the divisions are removed and the Site boundaries returned to their 1869 proportions. However, considering the continuation of the railway cutting around this region of the site, the division may equally represent purchase of part of the Site by the railway.
- 2.3.22 It may also be worth noting here, that the first westerly division of the Site is in the region of the park pale, as identified in the Devizes EUS and, as such, may trace a historic boundary through the site. Although no such earthwork was noted at the time of the site visit, there is a linear boundary still visible in the 1940s aerial photograph of the site, which appears to represent this division. It is probably that these boundaries were removed during the modern redevelopment of the Site.
- 2.3.23 The current property on the Site, the principal development, was constructed in the second half of the 20th century.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 With due regard to the ClfA *Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation* (2014a), the generic aims of the project were to:
- *To locate, identify and to investigate and record the presence/absence of archaeological features or deposits;*
 - *To confirm, where possible, the extent, date, character, relationship, condition and significance of archaeological features, artefacts and deposits within the proposed development area;*
 - *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; and*
- *To place any identified archaeological remains within their historical context.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 In consultation with the County Archaeologist, a programme of trial trenching was agreed, comprising a 5% sample of the total Site area. The sample requested has been calculated based on areas available for evaluation (taking into account the existing property, trees other constraints etc. to be retained on site), which reduced the site area from c.0.56 to c.32 ha. The evaluation therefore comprised four approximate 20 m by 2 m trenches, each targeted on the footprint of the four proposed new developments.
- 3.2.2 Two trenches were moved slightly from their proposed locations to avoid on-site constraints. Location of Trench 2 was rotated from its proposed north west to south east alignment to north east to south west. Trench 3 new location was realigned north south.
- 3.2.3 The trial trenches were excavated using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket under constant supervision by WA staff. Machine excavation proceeded in spits to a depth at which the top of archaeological levels or the top of natural deposits were exposed, whichever was the higher. Where appropriate, hand cleaning of the trenches was undertaken to establish the nature of the deposits.
- 3.2.4 Once the level of archaeological deposits was exposed by machine, archaeological features were sampled sufficiently to address the aims of the evaluation, and recorded to professionally accepted standards. Appropriate sampling of archaeological features identified in the evaluation trenches was carried out by hand in order to characterise both date and function where feasible.
- 3.2.5 Following completion of the investigations to the satisfaction of the Client and Assistant County Archaeologist, the trenches were backfilled replacing the excavated material in the same order in which it was excavated and the surface left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

3.3 Monitoring

- 3.3.1 The evaluation was monitored by Rachel Foster (Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service), as archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority.

3.4 Recording

- 3.4.1 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using WA's *pro forma* recording system.
- 3.4.2 A complete drawn record of the excavation was compiled including both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales, and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels will be calculated and plans/sections will be annotated with OD heights. A representative section of the overlying deposits recorded within the trenches and the test pits was recorded and drawn.
- 3.4.3 A photographic record was maintained during the evaluation using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following sections provide a summary of the information held in the Site archive. Details of individually excavated contexts are retained in the Site archive and a tabulated version of these can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.1.2 The following result section should be read in conjunction with trench descriptions in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences

- 4.2.1 The overlying deposits were relatively uniform across the Site comprising topsoil/turf up to 0.34 m thick and in lower lying trenches (Trench 1 and 2) a layer of subsoil of possibly colluvial origin. This sealed natural silty sands recorded at depths between 0.33 m to 0.75 m, with colours varied from greenish to yellowish.

4.3 Features

- 4.3.1 A single probable medieval ditch was revealed during the evaluation in Trench 1 (recorded as **104**). This substantial feature was recorded as approximately 4.7 m wide (though possibly slightly narrowing to the east), and observed to a depth of at least 1.7 m below ground level (bgl). The only artefacts recovered were a small quantity of pottery sherds from the upper fill. Health & Safety constraints prevented further excavation within the confines of the ditch, so it was not possible to ascertain the full depth, nor indeed the nature of any primary fills at the base.
- 4.3.2 Though this feature is considered to be a substantial ditch, aligned broadly west-south-west to east-north-east, the complete absence of such a feature in Trench 2 (or even Trench 3) to the east, coupled with the slight narrowing to the east, does raise the possibility that either the ditch terminates between Trench 1 and 2, or the remains are actually representative of a substantial discrete feature (a quarry for instance).
- 4.3.3 At the south end of Trench 1, the infilled remains of a large shallow modern dew pond were recorded, immediately below the current topsoil. This lined with redeposited chalk, and infilled with a material that was clearly derived from the modern topsoil. It was confirmed by Dr and Mrs Siggers as a feature that was extant at the time they took possession of the property, and infilled during landscaping for the current garden.
- 4.3.4 In north part of Trench 3 two possible features were revealed, which on excavation were demonstrated to be formed through root disturbance.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A very few finds were recovered during the evaluation, comprising ten sherds of pottery and one piece of worked flint. The finds derived from two contexts (107 and 401); the details of finds by context are given in Table 1.

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

Context	Material Type	No.	Wt. (g)	Comments
107	pottery	8	38	medieval: 4 Kennet Valley B ware; 4 misc sandy wares (1 comb decorated & glazed)
107	flint	1	9	flake
401	pottery	1	19	modern: pearlware, base stamp TURNER / 5
401	pottery	1	7	medieval: glazed sandy ware

5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 The ten sherds of pottery comprise nine medieval sherds and one modern. The medieval wares are divided between four of chalk-/flint-tempered 'Kennet Valley' type, dating to the 12th or 13th century (with a widespread distribution over west Berkshire and north-east Wiltshire), and five sandy wares, possibly representing the products of more than one (uncertain) source; none match the Laverstock-type wares of the Salisbury area, but some could be Nash Hill products (McCarthy 1974, 107, fabric B). The sandy wares include at least two sherds from glazed jugs, and date between the 13th and 15th centuries.
- 5.2.2 The modern sherd (from topsoil in Trench 4) is from a pearlware plate, with a backstamp 'TURNER', probably the mark of John Turner (Turner & Co) of Longton, Staffordshire, operating c. 1762–1806 (Godden 1964, 626). Pearlware was introduced c. 1770.

5.3 Worked flint

- 5.3.1 The single piece of worked flint is a prehistoric waste flake, a residual find recovered in a slightly rolled condition from context 107.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 No contexts suitable for sampling were identified and accordingly, no samples were taken.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 The programme of archaeological trial trenching conducted at 26 Northgate Gardens, Devizes did not identify any significant evidence for pre-medieval archaeological activity, though a probable medieval ditch of substantial width and depth was recorded.
- 7.1.2 Cartographic evidence previously considered during research for the DBA (Driscoll 2012) had already established the potential for a likely substantial former ditch in the general vicinity, variously considered either a defensive/ boundary ditch for the town, or indeed a deer park pale. Moreover, a relatively recent watching brief during redevelopment of the former Snooker Club on Station Road to the east also revealed a substantial broadly co-aligned east to west ditch (Foster pers. comm.), of similar dimensions to that examined at this Site.
- 7.1.3 On balance, despite the absence of this feature from either Trench 2 or 3 at the Site, it would appear that there is sufficient evidence to suggest that a substantial (possibly intermittent, or at least interrupted) ditch, aligned broadly east to west, was formerly located to the north of Station Road. The ditch is of indeterminate function, but appears to represent some form of boundary feature, and whilst not securely dated during this evaluation, is very likely of medieval origin.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 The site falls within the collecting area of Wiltshire Museum, Devizes Museum. The museum is not currently accepting archaeological archives. Every effort will be made to identify a suitable repository for the archive resulting from the fieldwork, and if this is not possible, Wessex Archaeology will initiate discussions with the local planning authority in an attempt to resolve the issue. If no suitable repository is identified, Wessex Archaeology will continue to store the archive, but may institute a charge to the client for ongoing storage beyond a set period.

8.2 Archive

- 8.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, 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; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the project code **116920** and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:
- 1 file of paper records and A4 and A3 drawings.
- 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) (Historic England, 2015).

8.3 Discard policy

- 8.3.1 WA 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 2011).

8.4 Copyright

- 8.4.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, and conforms with the *Copyright and Related Rights regulations* 2003.

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

9.1 Bibliography

- Andrews, P. and Mephram, L., 2000. Excavations at Vale's Lane, Devizes, 1996-7. *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine* 93: 241-8.
- Archaeology Data Service [ADS], 2013. *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice*, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice
- BGS (British Geological Survey): *Devizes*: British Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales) Sheet 282
- Brown, D. H., 2011. *Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised)
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [CIfA], 2014a. *Standard and guidance: archaeological excavation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- 2014b. *Standard and guidance: archaeological watching brief*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- 2014c. *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- 2014d. *Regulations for professional conduct*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- Cunnington. R. H. Lt Col. 1947. Devizes Castle: A Suggested Reconstruction. *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine* 51: 496-499.
- Driscoll, P., 2012. *Desk-Based-Assessment: 26 Northgate Gardens, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1JY*. Absolute Archaeology report number: AArc64/12/DBA
- Ekwall, E., 1984. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford: Clarendon Press
- Gelling, M., 1978. *Signposts to the Past, Place-Names and the History of England*. London: J M Dent.
- Godden, G A, 1964 *Encyclopaedia of British Pottery and Porcelain Marks*, London: Barrie & Jenkins
- Haslam, J., 1976. *Wiltshire Towns: The Archaeological Potential. Devizes. Wiltshire*: Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.
- Haslam, J., 1980. *The excavation of the defences of Devizes, Wiltshire, 1974*. *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine* 72/73: 59-65
- Historic England, 2015, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*. Swindon, Historic England
- McCarthy, M R, 1974 The medieval kilns on Nash Hill, Lacock, Wiltshire, *Wilts Archaeol Natur Hist Mag* 69, 97–160

- McKinley, J. I., 2013. 'Cremation: Excavation, Analysis, and Interpretation of Material from Cremation-Related Contexts' in S. Tarlow and L. Nilsson Stutz (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology of Death and Burial*, Oxford University Press 147-171
- McKinley, J. I. and Roberts, C. A., 1993, *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains*, IfA Technical Paper 13, Birmingham
- Museums and Galleries Commissions, 1992, *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections*
- Society for Museum Archaeologists [SMA], 1993, *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections*, Society of Museum Archaeologists
- 1995, *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*, Society of Museum Archaeologists
- Russell, M., 1993. *Excavations at New Park Street, Devizes, 1990*. Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine 86: 88-101
- Tomkins, R., 1983. *Wiltshire Place Names*. Swindon: Redbrick Publishing
- Watkinson, D and Neal, V., 1998, *First Aid for Finds*, Rescue and United Kingdom Institute for Conservation Archaeology Section, 3rd Edition
- Watts, K., 1996. *Wiltshire Deer Parks : An Introductory Survey*. Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine 89: 88-98
- Wessex Archaeology, 2017, *26 Northgate Gardens, Devizes, Wiltshire, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*, unpublished report, ref. 116920.01



10 APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1: Trench and Context Summaries

Bgl: Below Ground Level

Trench 1	Dimensions :	29 m by 1.8 m by 0.78 m	Ground surface level:	128.38 m aOD
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
101	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with moderate tree root disturbance but no other inclusions.	0–0.33 m	
102	Subsoil	Mid to dark but pale brown grey sandy silt loam with moderate tree root disturbance.	0.33–0.75 m	
103	Natural	Light pale yellowish grey sandy silty, heavily mottled with grey brown.	0.75+ m	
104	Cut	Cut of possible substantial ditch with three visible episodes of fill deposition. Oriented west-south-west to east-north-east it was 4.7m wide. All deposits were filled in from north side of the feature (upslope). It was recorded up to a depth of 1.7m bgl where excavation stopped.		
105	Fill	Earliest visible episode of secondary deposition within ditch 104. Mid yellowish grey silty sand, it was 0.3m thick.		
106	Fill	Mid yellowish grey silty sand secondary fill of ditch 104. Recorded as 0.8m thick. Contained rare charcoal flecks.		
107	Fill	Latest recorded episode of secondary deposition within ditch 104. Mid to dark yellowish brown grey silty sand with occasional charcoal fragments and flecks. Contained small pottery sherds. It was 0.8m thick.		
108	Cut	Cut of modern dew pond.		
109	Fill	Backfill of the pond. Lower deposit consisted mostly of chalk fragments and the top was dark and topsoil derived.		

Trench 2	Dimensions :	17.0 m by 1.8 m by 0.6 m	Ground surface level:	128.18 m aOD
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
201	Topsoil	Dark grey silty loam with no inclusions but heavy tree root disturbance.	0–0.2 m	
202	Subsoil	Mid to dark brown grey silty loam with very rare charcoal fragments, quite compact, as opposed to topsoil and natural.	0.2–0.38 m	
203	Natural	Mid green grey silty sand, very soft with no inclusions.	0.38+ m	

Trench 3	Dimensions :	20.0 m by 1.8 m by 0.64 m	Ground surface level:	128.57 m aOD
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
301	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty loam with occasional CBM. Some tree roots disturbance.	0–0.34 m	



302	Subsoil	Mid green grey brown silty sand, soft with no inclusions but some tree root bioturbation.	0.34+ m	
Trench 4	Dimensions :	15.0 m by 1.80 m by 0.60 m	Ground surface level:	129.2 m aOD
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
401	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy silty loam.	0–0.30 m	
402	Subsoil	Mid yellowish grey silty sand.	0.30+ m	



10.2 Appendix 3: OASIS form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

[Printable version](#)

OASIS ID: wessexar1-287685

Project details

Project name	26 Northgate Gardens, Devizes, Wiltshire
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation in advance of proposed redevelopment of grounds, to facilitate construction of four new residential properties.
Project dates	Start: 05-06-2017 End: 06-06-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	AARC64 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	BOUNDARY DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DEWPOND Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	FLAKE Late Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE KENNET DEVIZES 26 Northgate Gardens
Postcode	SN10 1BZ
Study area	0.32 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 00118 61530 51.352345539866 -1.998305331156 51 21 08 N 001 59 53 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 125m Max: 131m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
----------------------	--------------------

Project brief originator	Wiltshire Council
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	A Crockett
Project supervisor	Piotr Orczewski
Type of sponsor/funding body	Archaeological Consultant
Name of sponsor/funding body	Heritage Planning Services Ltd

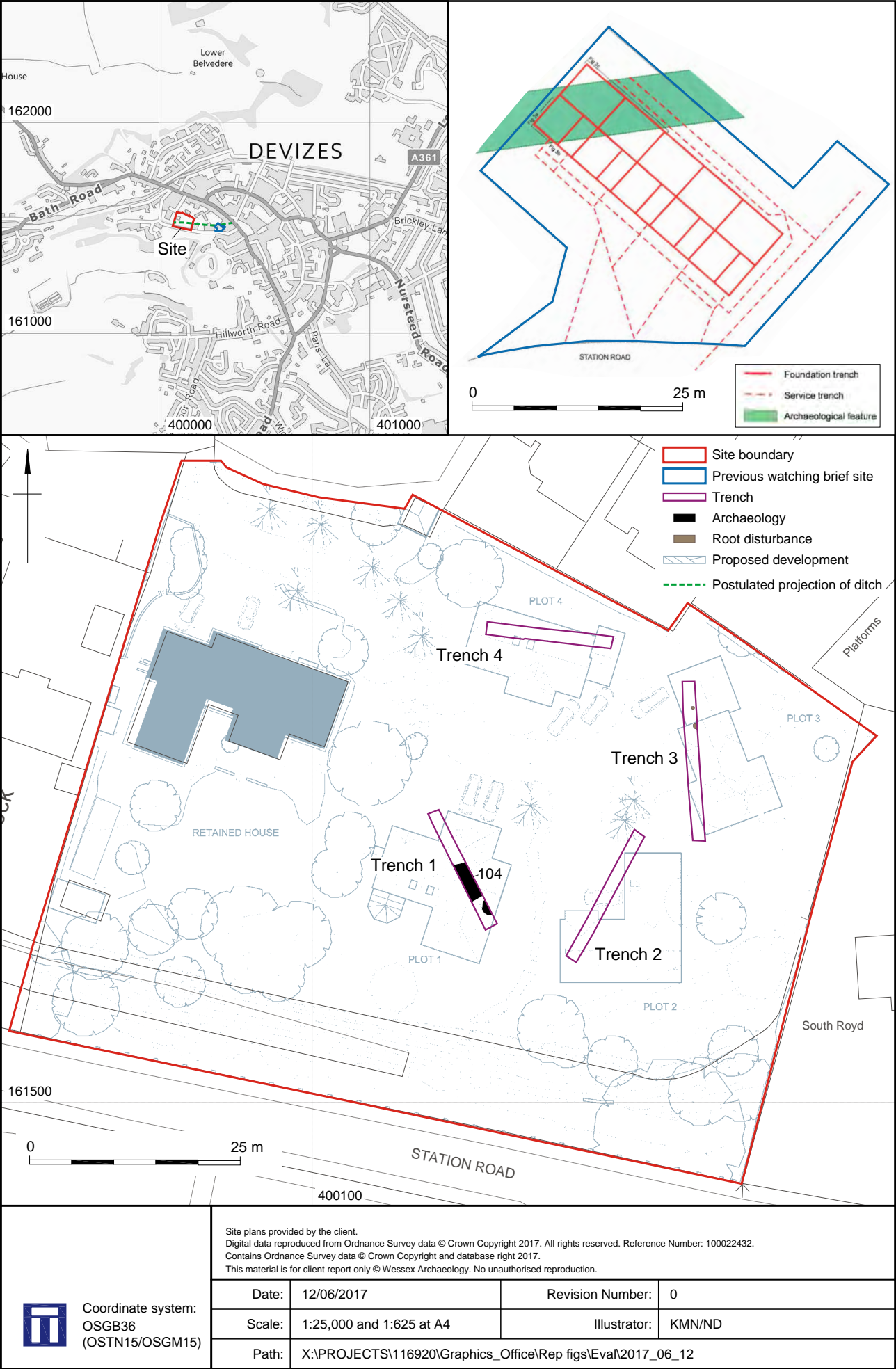
Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Devizes Museum
Physical Archive ID	tbc
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Devizes Museum
Digital Archive ID	tbc
Digital Contents	"Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Devizes Museum
Paper Archive ID	tbc
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	26 Northgate Gardens, Devizes, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Orczewski, P and Crockett, A D
Other bibliographic details	Report ref. 116920.02
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Salisbury
Description	Unpublished client report
Entered by	Andy Crockett (a.crockett@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	16 June 2017

OASIS:



Site location and proposed trenches

Figure 1



Plate 1: North-east facing representative section of Trench 2 (scale 1 m)



Plate 2: Trench 1 from the South-east with the base of dew pond 108 and ditch 104 visible (scale 2 m x 1 m)


	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.		
	Date:	21/06/2017	Revision Number: 0
	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator: ND
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\116920\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2017_06_12\116920_Plates.cdr	



Plate 3: North-east facing section of ditch 104 (scale 2 m x 1 m)



Plate 4: Trench 3 from the south (scale 2 m x 1 m)


	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.		
	Date:	21/06/2017	Revision Number: 0
	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator: ND
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\116920\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2017_06_12\116920_Plates.cdr	



Plate 5: West facing representative section of Trench 3 (scale 1 m)



Plate 6: Trench 4 from the west (scale 2 m x 1 m)



	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.		
	Date:	21/06/2017	Revision Number: 0
	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator: ND
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\116920\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2017_06_12\116920_Plates.cdr	



Plate 7: South facing representative section of Trench 4 (scale 1 m)

	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.		
	Date:	21/06/2017	Revision Number: 0
	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator: ND
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\116920\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2017_06_12\116920_Plates.cdr	



Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

