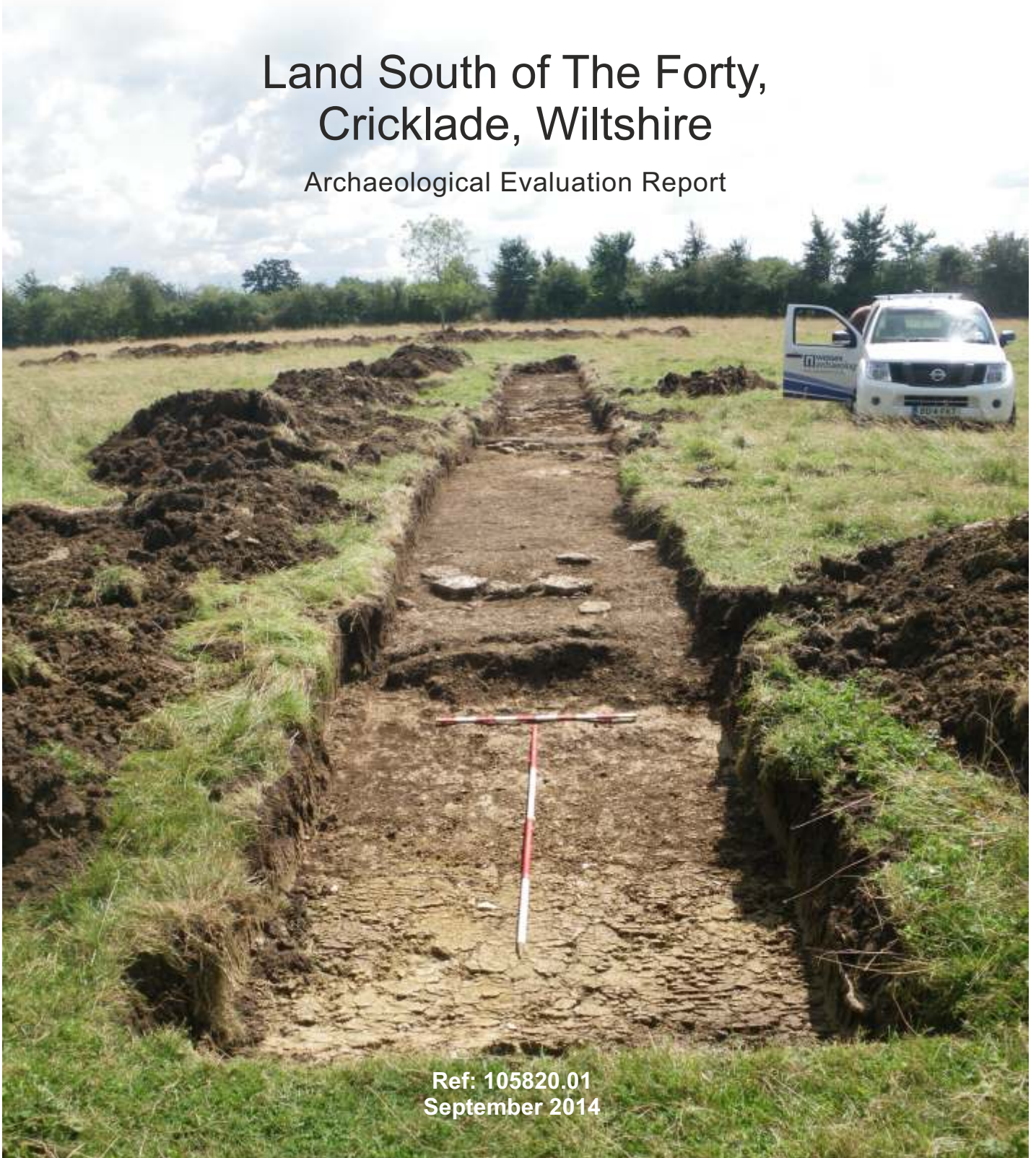




making sense of heritage

Land South of The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Ref: 105820.01
September 2014



**Land south of The Forty,
Cricklade, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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September 2014

Ref: 105820.01



Quality Assurance

Project Code	105820	Accession Code		Client Ref.	OXF7962
Planning Application Ref.		Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	409660 193100		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	I	<i>Piotr Orczewski</i>			02/09/14
File:	X:\PROJECTS\105820_Reports\superseded\105820_Evaluation_Report_PO_020914				
v02	F	<i>Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy</i>	<i>A D Crockett</i>		22/9/2014
File:	X:\PROJECTS\105820_Reports\105820_Evaluation_Report_final				
v03	F	<i>Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy</i>	<i>A D Crockett</i>		24/9/2014
File:	X:\PROJECTS\105820_Reports\105820_Evaluation_Report_final				
v04	F	<i>Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy</i>	<i>A D Crockett</i>		01/10/2014
File:	X:\PROJECTS\105820_Reports\105820_Evaluation_Report_final				
v05	F	<i>Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy</i>	<i>A D Crockett</i>		14/10/2014
File:	X:\PROJECTS\105820_Reports\105820_Evaluation_Report_final				

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

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Land south of The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Planning and Development on behalf of Beechcroft Land Limited to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on a 2.94 hectare piece of land south of The Forty residential development, Cricklade, Wiltshire, National Grid Reference (NGR) 409660 193100, prior to the determination of a planning application. The proposals are for a development comprising residential properties and associated infrastructure and landscaping. Previous investigations on the Site comprises a Heritage Assessment prepared by RPS (2013) and subsequent geophysical survey by Stratascan (2014).

The evaluation, which took place between the 30th of July and the 5th of August 2014, comprised 14 machine-stripped trial trenches approximately 30m by 1.8m, *i.e.* c. 2.5% of the proposed development site. Trenches were located so as to target geophysical anomalies as well as to provide even coverage across the Site.

Ridge and furrow earthworks are present to varying degrees across the site, and featured clearly on the geophysical survey as well as within several of the trenches. Ridge and furrow is known to differentially affect the underlying archaeological resource, preserving remains under the ridges and often truncating those below the furrows.

A concentration of Romano-British features and deposits was situated in the eastern field, close to the centre. These included parts of a field system, a buried soil and two possible pits. Though more agricultural in nature, the quantity of Romano-British artefacts suggests some form of settlement existed nearby. Romano-British debris was distributed thinly across the Site, mostly within the topsoil and subsoil.

Towards the north-west of the area trenches revealed the remnants of masonry walls and associated surfaces, probably related to the medieval settlement known to have existed in the area (**Figure 1**). The post-medieval material recovered from here may suggest continuation of the medieval settlement into the later period, though there is a generous scatter of post-medieval material across the whole Site – most likely related to field manuring. The results confirmed the presence of the post-medieval field boundary identified in the geophysical survey.

The evaluation established some potential for Romano-British agricultural and possibly settlement activity within the Site, and the remnants of medieval to post-medieval settlement (including structural elements) towards the northern part of the Site.



Land south of The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire

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Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Mick Rawlings of RPS Planning and Development for commissioning the work on behalf of Beechcroft Land Limited. Thanks are also due to Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (Wiltshire Council County Archaeologist) for her guidance and advice.

The fieldwork was carried out by Piotr Orczewski, assisted by Peter Capps, Dave Murdie and Rachel Williams. The project was managed by Andy Crockett.

This report was collated by Piotr Orczewski and Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy; the finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram and the illustrations were prepared by Kitty Foster. The final report was edited by Matt Leivers and Andy Crockett.



Land south of The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Document scope

1.1.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation for the project (WSI; RPS 2014) and guidance given in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2006), and the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation and Evaluation* (Revised 2008), except where superseded by statements below.

1.2 Project background

1.2.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Planning and Development, on behalf of Beechcroft Land Limited, to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land south of The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 409658 193102 (hereafter 'the Site', **Figure 1**).

1.2.2 The archaeological evaluation forms part of a programme of archaeological and heritage investigations devised to inform decisions with regard to a planning application (see below). The proposed development comprises residential properties with associated infrastructure and landscaping.

1.2.3 The WSI (RPS 2014), which sets out the strategy and methodology for the archaeological evaluation, was approved by the County Archaeologist prior to the commencement of the fieldwork.

1.2.4 The fieldwork was carried out between the 30th of July and the 5th of August 2014.

1.3 The Site

1.3.1 The Site comprises two adjoining fields (c. 3 ha) located immediately to the south of the current town of Cricklade (**Figure 1**).

1.3.2 The Site is bounded to the north by residential housing and to the south and west by farmland used for permanent pasture. The B4553 road, which leads south from Cricklade to Purton and Swindon, delineates the eastern Site boundary. There is a modern agricultural building in the northwest corner.

1.3.3 Currently the land within the proposal site is used for permanent pasture. Field boundaries are mostly hedges with adjacent drainage ditches.

1.3.4 The Site is fairly level at approximately 80m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying basal geology of the proposal site and the surrounding area is Oxford Clay of the Jurassic period.



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A detailed description of the known archaeological and historical background is presented within the Heritage Assessment submitted in support of the planning application for the proposed development (RPS 2013). The findings are summarised below.

2.2 Recent investigations in the area

Heritage Assessment

2.2.1 The Heritage Assessment (RPS 2013) found no overriding heritage constraints likely to prohibit development. There was no potential for any physical impact upon any of the designated heritage assets identified in the assessment.

2.2.2 It identified a potential loss of some archaeological resource within the Site, though it suggested that this may be ameliorated by a programme of further archaeological investigation prior to any groundworks and/or construction.

2.2.3 In terms of the National Planning Policy Framework, all of the identified effects on heritage assets are considered to be of less than substantial harm.

Geophysical survey

2.2.4 The geophysical survey (gradiometer; Stratascan 2014) identified the ridge and furrow earthworks and a linear anomaly that corresponds with a known former field boundary.

2.2.5 The magnetic signal, particularly in the eastern field, was particularly strong and may have 'masked' any other weaker signals that potentially indicative of archaeological remains preserved beneath the ridge and furrow.

2.3 Known archaeology

Introduction

2.3.1 The Heritage Assessment found no archaeological features or findspots within the Site, the following summarises those from the wider vicinity.

Romano-British

2.3.1 Romano-British material was found on the western edge of the B4553 road (Figure 1), and may well indicate that the route persists from one present during the Romano-British period (RPS 2013).

2.3.2 The town of Cricklade is thought to have Romano-British origins (*ibid*).

Anglo-Saxon

2.3.3 The historic core of Cricklade comprises a later 9th century burgh, or defended town. The surviving elements of the defensive circuit and intramural settlement are designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMN: **1002997** and **1004679**).

Medieval to modern

2.3.4 An area of medieval settlement c. 200m x 100m is recorded as existing between The Forty and the Site. Part of this settlement, purported to be associated with the De La Fortye family (hence 'The Forty') encroaches into the very north of the Site (**Figure 1**). The full extent of this former medieval settlement is not established with any degree of accuracy, however its presence in this general area is not in doubt.

- 2.3.5 Extant ridge and furrow earthworks extend across much of the Site, though only those in the western half are noted in the Historic Environment Record. Both fields are recorded in the Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) as being within an area of medieval 'strip fields', and part of 'Enclosed Land' common in the vicinity.
- 2.3.6 The well-preserved earthworks of a 13th-14th century moated site (SAMN **1013353**) can be found c. 1.5km to the south-west of the Site, just south of the Chelworth Industrial Estate.
- 2.3.7 Part of the North Wiltshire Canal route (opened 1819) passes approximately 120m to the west of the Site. The east and south-west field boundaries delineating part of the Site have remained unchanged since being recorded on maps produced in 1824. The line of the Swindon and Cheltenham Extension Railway, opened in 1883, passes c. 150m to the east of the Site.
- 2.3.8 The probable structural remains evidenced on the eastern side of the Site in the geophysical survey are almost certainly 20th century in date, and agricultural in nature.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological work were to:

- *clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be threatened by development;*
- *identify within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth 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.*

3.1.2 By targeting the results of the geophysical survey and undertaking a sample of the blank areas the aim was to tie down specific areas of the Site, in order to determine recommendations for further archaeological mitigation and/or for preservation *in situ* of archaeological remains.

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 In accordance with the WSI (RPS 2014) and in consultation with Wiltshire Council's (WC) County Archaeologist, acting on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), a programme of trial trenching was agreed on the basis of the results of the Heritage Assessment and the geophysical survey.

3.2.2 The fieldwork methodology is detailed in the WSI. In summary the evaluation comprised a series of 14 trenches measuring 30m x 1.80 m, representing a c. 2.5% sample of the Site. The positioning of the trenches was determined through consultation with the WC County Archaeologist; trenches were located over geophysical anomalies and trends, and over apparent 'blank' areas (**Figure 1**).

3.2.3 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the guidance and standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008).



- 3.2.4 Trenches were set-out according to the WSI and in consideration of health and safety. A Leica Viva series GNSS unit was used, which utilised the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of $\leq 30\text{mm}$. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.
- 3.2.5 All trench locations were scanned by WA using a cable avoidance tool (CAT) prior to excavation.
- 3.2.6 The trial trench excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of a qualified archaeologist. All overburden (topsoil and subsoils) was carefully removed in spits using a wheeled mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket (1.8m wide). Stripping continued to the top of the uppermost archaeological horizon or solid geological deposits (Oxford Clay), whichever was encountered first. The arisings were stored at a minimum of 1m from the trench edge, and visually examined for archaeological material. Where appropriate a metal detector was used to enhance artefact recovery.
- 3.2.7 Each trench was cleaned by hand where appropriate and planned prior to hand-excavation. All pre-modern stratified deposits were excavated by hand. A representative section, not less than 1m in length, of deposits through each trench from ground surface to the top of the natural deposits was recorded.
- 3.2.8 A sample of each feature type was excavated and recorded, selected on the basis of their form, fill, and stratigraphic relationship, in order to ensure a broad characterisation and satisfy the aims of the investigation.
- 3.3 Monitoring**
- 3.3.1 The fieldwork was monitored by the County Archaeologist (Wiltshire Council), and by the nominated RPS Project Manager.
- 3.4 Recording**
- 3.4.1 A number unique to the site (**105820**) has been clearly marked on all documentation relating to the evaluation.
- 3.4.2 All features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's standard methods and *pro forma* recording system, with all features and deposits being assigned a unique number. Details are available upon request.
- 3.4.3 A complete drawn record of excavated and archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This includes both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections). The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels were calculated; plans/sections are annotated with OD heights.
- 3.4.4 Trench locations and all recorded archaeological features revealed were digitally surveyed using GPS within the OS NGR system, and including heights above Ordnance Datum (Newlyn). The electronic survey record will be retained within the site archive.
- 3.4.5 A full photographic record was maintained using digital camera 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. The photographic record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the Site, features and trenches.



3.5 Reinstatement

- 3.5.1 Once trenches were completed to the satisfaction of the County Archaeologist they were backfilled using the excavated material in the sequence in which they were excavated and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

3.6 Specialist strategies

Artefact

- 3.6.1 Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 1999), the UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines Conservation Guideline No 2 and the Museums and Galleries Commissions *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (1991) excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.
- 3.6.2 All artefacts were retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date. These were washed, weighed, counted and identified. Suitable material, *i.e.* the pottery, was scanned to assess the date range of the relevant assemblages
- 3.6.3 All artefacts recovered during the excavations on the Site are the property of the landowner. They have been suitably bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, *Conservation Guidelines no. 2* and will be deposited with the relevant museum, with the landowner's permission.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following section provides a summary description of the results of the archaeological evaluation. Details of individually excavated contexts and features are retained in the Site archive; detailed trench summaries are tabulated in **Appendix 1**. Note that context numbers are defined to indicate the trench they were recorded in (*e.g.* contexts 200-299 from Trench 2, contexts 400-499 from Trench 4 *etc.*).
- 4.1.2 The Site features an extensive network of extant earthworks associated with ridge and furrow cultivation. Within the trenches other archaeological remains include Romano-British pits and ditches, and medieval to post-medieval structural and agricultural related features and deposits.
- 4.1.3 **Trenches 5, 7, 8, 10 and 12** contained no features of archaeological interest. **Trenches 11 and 13** only revealed the remnants of ridge and furrow. However, archaeological artefacts (mostly residual) were recovered from each trench.

4.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences

- 4.2.1 Grass-topped heavy, greyish-brown silty clay to sandy clay loam topsoil (*c.* 0.08–0.27m thick, mean 0.18m) was present in all trenches. Inclusions of flint gravel, chalk flecks and iron staining of varying proportions were noted.
- 4.2.2 A thin (usually 0.10m) layer of 'subsoil' representing a horizon between the natural geology and topsoil, and comprising generally mid greyish-brown clay loam with small rounded stones and frequent pea grit was recorded in **Trenches 3–14**.
- 4.2.3 The natural geology (encountered at between 0.20m and 0.53m below ground level) comprised greyish-green, reddish-brown and yellowish-brown Oxford Clay, with sporadic patches of flint gravels and chalk flecks.

4.3 Prehistoric

- 4.3.1 A few residual pieces of worked flint were retrieved from context **203** and **901**. No features of this date were encountered.

4.4 Romano-British

- 4.4.1 Two trenches located in the eastern field (**Trenches 9 and 14**) contained features and deposits representing Romano-British activity.
- 4.4.2 An approximately 1.22m x 1.04m x 0.08m spread was recorded at the southern end of **Trench 9**. The deposit (**904**) comprised greyish-brown clay silt with small gravel inclusions. Recovered artefacts include Romano-British pottery and flue tile fragments. The deposit probably represents the remains of a Romano-British soil horizon, preserved beneath a ridge element of the ridge and furrow earthworks.
- 4.4.3 Two possible pits (**906** and **910**) were recorded in **Trench 9**. The small oval features were 0.64m x 0.95m and 0.85m x 1.12m respectively; **906** was 0.12m deep with a flat base and concave sides. Alternatively these may be remnants of the Romano-British soil horizon, protected within natural hollows (see above).
- 4.4.4 The remains of four ditches were revealed in **Trench 14**, three oriented north-northwest-south-southeast (**1404**, **1406** and **1408**), and one (terminus **1410**) appeared to align northeast-southwest. The widths ranged between 1.0m and 2.48m, and depths varied from 0.10m to 0.27m – the lowest values being the terminus. All were filled with similar greyish-brown silty clay with rare gravel inclusions, and contained Romano-British pottery. These features probably represent a Romano-British agricultural field system, with some form of settlement nearby.

4.5 Medieval and post-medieval

- 4.5.1 In **Trench 3** the remnants of two linear arrangements of large stones were recorded (**309** and **310**). The parallel features are approximately 6.3m apart, and respect the orientation the field boundary (northwest-southeast) which lies approximately 10m to the north. The stone blocks are roughly shaped and varied in size, measuring 100–400mm in width and 100mm high. These appear to represent the remains of robbed-out walls or stone footings of a rectangular structure, or part thereof. Artefacts from associated contexts (**304**) suggest proximity to, if not use as, a more domestic setting, rather than an isolated agricultural building for example.
- 4.5.2 **Trenches 1, 2, 3, and 6** – in the northwest corner of the Site – contained deposits identified as possible buried land surfaces, or alternatively bedding layers for a more formal surface (**103**, **203**, **304**, **307**, and **604**). The c. 0.05m thick deposits overlay the natural clay directly below the topsoil; they consisted of very fine flint, limestone and sandstone gravels. A relative abundance of medieval and post-medieval material (mainly pottery, but also metal objects, glass and clay pipe stems) was retrieved. Layer **304**, more likely medieval than post-medieval, was found between and around the wall remnants and may therefore be directly associated with the structure they represent.
- 4.5.3 Recorded in **Trench 9**, the 0.95m wide and 0.30m deep U-profile ditch (**908**), was confirmed as a post-medieval field boundary ditch, as identified in the geophysical survey ('2' on **Figure 1**).



4.6 Features of uncertain date

4.6.1 Ditch **405** was a 1m wide west-northwest–east-southeast linear feature in **Trench 4**. No finds were recovered from the fills, though material of Romano-British, medieval, and post-medieval date, including building debris, was recovered from other deposits in the trench.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The evaluation produced a small quantity of finds, deriving from contexts in all 14 of the trenches excavated, with small concentrations in **Trenches 2, 3 and 14**. Within the trenches, finds derived largely from topsoil, subsoil and possible occupation layers, with few finds coming from cut features. The assemblage ranges in date from prehistoric to post-medieval, with a focus on the Romano-British and medieval periods.

5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Artefact quantification (no./ grammes)

Context	Animal Bone	CBM	Clay Pipe	Glass	Metal (no.)	Pottery	Other finds (no.)
101					1 Fe		
103	1 / 9		3 / 6	1 / 3	3 Fe	4 / 66	
201			1 / 11				
203	8 / 90	2 / 25	9 / 15	2 / 30	7 Fe	22 / 549	1 flint
304	4 / 94		1 / 2		1 Fe	89 / 937	
307			2 / 6	4 / 38	1 Cu	4 / 68	
401	1 / 21	1 / 18	1 / 3	2 / 7		2 / 22	1 stone
402	1 / 120	1 / 166	1 / 6			6 / 28	
502						2 / 4	
604	2 / 17		11 / 32	3 / 23	1 Cu; 1 Fe	7 / 42	
701	1 / 11		4 / 14	1 / 1		7 / 107	1 fired clay
702	3 / 7	1 / 8				10 / 60	
801		1 / 7				2 / 5	
802	1 / 43					2 / 9	1 shell
901	1 / 7		2 / 5	1 / 2	1 Fe	15 / 239	1 flint; 1 shell; 1 stone
902	1 / 7	1 / 30				8 / 66	1 shell; 2 stone
904		1 / 177			1 Fe	11 / 181	
907	1 / 5					3 / 12	
909	3 / 1					4 / 60	
911						3 / 15	
1001	1 / 18	1 / 25		2 / 17	1 Fe	13 / 109	
1102	2 / 31					1 / 14	
1106	2 / 33						
1202						1 / 19	
1302						2 / 2	



Context	Animal Bone	CBM	Clay Pipe	Glass	Metal (no.)	Pottery	Other finds (no.)
1303					1 Fe		
1304					4 Cu		
1305	1 / 21					2 / 26	
1401	1 / 2		8 / 36	2 / 54	3 Fe	16 / 140	
1402	1 / 3	4 / 200				22 / 178	
1405					1 Fe	30 / 130	
1407	5 / 84				1 Fe	24 / 209	
1411						6 / 20	
Totals	41 / 624	13 / 656	43 / 136	18 / 175	6 Cu; 22 Fe	318 / 3317	

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 The pottery assemblage includes material of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date. The whole assemblage has been quantified (count and weight) on a context by context basis by ware type (e.g. creamware) or by broad ware group (e.g. Romano-British greywares). Totals by ware type/ group are given in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type/ group

Period	Ware	No. sherds	Wt. (g)
ROMANO-BRITISH	Black Burnished ware	17	103
	RB grog-tempered ware	18	344
	RB oxidised ware	6	25
	Samian	2	21
	RB greyware	75	449
	<i>sub-total Romano-British</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>942</i>
MIEVEAL	Kennet Valley ware	32	374
	Minety-type ware	86	806
	Medieval calcareous ware	1	6
	Medieval fine sandy ware	4	26
	<i>sub-total medieval</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>1212</i>
	POST-MEDIEVAL	Post-medieval redware	56
Frechen stoneware		1	6
Westerwald stoneware		1	1
Staffs-type slipware		1	28
Staffs-type manganese mottled ware		1	6
Tinglazed earthenware		1	47
Porcelain		1	7
Creamware		4	19
Pearlware		1	12
Refined whiteware		10	32
<i>sub-total post-medieval</i>		<i>77</i>	<i>1163</i>
OVERALL TOTAL		318	3317

5.2.2 Condition of the pottery varies from fair to poor. The assemblage is highly fragmented, and the Romano-British and medieval sherds in particular have suffered high levels of surface and edge abrasion, consistent with the reworking and redeposition of these

sherds in later contexts (e.g. topsoil layers). Mean sherd weight overall is 10.4g; this drops to 9.9g for medieval sherds, and 8.0g for Romano-British sherds.

Romano-British

- 5.2.3 The Romano-British assemblage includes a restricted range of ware types, and most sherds fall within 'catch-all' groups of sandy greywares and oxidised wares, the most likely source for which is the Oxfordshire production centre, and grog-tempered wares, which fall into a widespread tradition ('Savernake-type') covering much of north Wiltshire, south Gloucestershire and south Oxfordshire and with one known source in the Savernake Forest near Marlborough, Wiltshire. There are few diagnostic sherds; the greywares and grog-tempered wares occur only in jar forms, while the oxidised wares (some of which may originally have been colour coated, though abrasion has removed any surface treatments) were used for bowls/ dishes and flagons.
- 5.2.4 Alongside these broad groups, there are two sherds of samian, both undiagnostic, and 17 sherds of south-east Dorset Black Burnished ware (BB1), the latter including two everted rim jars and a shallow 'dog dish'.
- 5.2.5 There is little here to inform any discussion of chronology except in broad terms. The vessel forms are not chronologically distinctive, and the Oxfordshire and Black Burnished ware industries were both long-lived. The samian is central Gaulish (2nd century AD), and the Black Burnished ware 'dog dish' dates from the 2nd century AD onwards, but the grog-tempered ware tradition has a Late Iron Age origin and these sherds could therefore be slightly earlier.
- 5.2.6 Much of the Romano-British assemblage occurred as residual sherds in medieval and later contexts (topsoil and subsoil contexts), but sherds do provide the only dating evidence for ditches **908**, **1404** and **1410**, pit **906**, cut **910**, and possible buried soil horizon **904**.

Medieval

- 5.2.7 The medieval assemblage belongs almost exclusively to two ceramic traditions: calcareous/ flint-tempered wares of 'Kennet Valley' tradition, and oolitic-tempered wares of Minety-type. The Kennet Valley tradition is widespread over west Berkshire, north Wiltshire and south Oxfordshire; there is one known source outside Newbury in Berkshire, and another putative source (based on place-name evidence) in the Savernake Forest. There are likely to have been other kilns active within the wide distribution area, possibly at different times, as the tradition has a lengthy currency spanning the medieval period. The calcareous/ flint-tempered variant appeared by the late 12th century, and apparently continued in use into the 15th century, although its *floruit* lay in the 13th and 14th centuries (Vince 1997, fabric group B; Mephram 2000). Diagnostic forms here are limited to four jar rims.
- 5.2.8 Minety-type wares, characterised by their oolitic temper, are found across north Wiltshire and south Gloucestershire, and into south Wales, but the industry has never been fully investigated. Wasters found at Minety itself (about 8km south-west of Cricklade) have been dated to the 14th or 15th centuries on typological grounds (Musty 1973), but examples of the ware type from Bristol and Chepstow, for example, indicate that the industry had an earlier inception (Vince 1984), and Minety-type wares are found in south Oxfordshire (as fabric OXBB) from the 12th century (Mellor 1994, 99-100). Vessel forms seen here are mainly jars (most of which have short, sharply everted rims), with one jug and one acute-angled base sherd, probably from a 'West Country' or inturned dish (most of these diagnostic sherds came from context **304**).

- 5.2.9 Also present are four sherds in fine sandy glazed wares, of uncertain source(s), two slip decorated and with a probably date range between the 13th and 14th centuries; and a single coarse calcareous (shelly?) sherd of unknown date and source.
- 5.2.10 Overall, while the dating for the two wares is fairly broad, this assemblage can probably be dated between the late 12th and late 14th centuries.
- 5.2.11 The majority of the medieval pottery (89 sherds out of a total of 123) was recovered from a possible buried ground surface recorded across several trenches (Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 6) and containing large quantities of pottery as well as other domestic refuse. The medieval pottery is clearly residual within these contexts, which also contained pottery and other artefacts suggesting a date range of 17th/ 18th century. Medieval sherds do, however, provide the only (albeit sparse) dating evidence for subsoil contexts in Trenches **5, 8, 11, 12** and **13**, and also for furrow **1305** and ditch **1406**.

Post-medieval

- 5.2.12 The post-medieval assemblage is dominated by coarse redwares, including slipwares and sgraffito wares of West Country type. The nearest known source for the redwares is at Ashton Keynes, about 5km to the west of Cricklade, where kilns were operating from the 16th to 18th centuries (Vince 1984; McSloy 2002/ 3). There is no record, however, of slipwares being produced at Ashton Keynes, and these wares are more likely to have come from further afield, for example from the Crockerton industry near Warminster (Smith 1997, 29-30).
- 5.2.13 Other wares dating from the 17th and 18th centuries comprise German stonewares (Frechen and Westerwald), Staffordshire-type feathered slipware and manganese mottled ware, porcelain and tinglazed earthenware. The manganese mottled ware (buried ground surface **307**), from either Bristol or Staffordshire, comes from a straight-sided mug or tankard, and bears what appears to be an ale-measure mark ('Excise stamp') in the form of an AR monogram beneath a crown. Such marks are generally only seen on stonewares from the early 18th century (following the Act of 1700: see Green 1999, 271-2). The tinglazed earthenware sherd (buried ground surface **203**) appears to belong to the rectangular base of a decorative vessel or item in monochrome white.
- 5.2.14 These 17th and 18th century wares provide the dating evidence for the buried ground surface recorded in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 6, supported by bottle glass (see below) - one very small sherd of a modern refined whiteware in layer 604 may be intrusive.
- 5.2.15 Wares from the later 18th century and later (creamware, pearlware and refined whitewares) are otherwise confined to topsoil contexts.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 5.3.1 Most of the CBM is of Romano-British date, and includes four fragments of combed box flue tile (contexts **402, 904** and **1402**), the remainder comprising undiagnostic flat fragments (which could include further flue tile and roof tile), and completely undiagnostic fragments.
- 5.3.2 There is one fragment of a post-medieval floor tile, white-slipped and glazed (Trench 4 topsoil).

5.4 Clay Tobacco Pipe

- 5.4.1 The clay pipe consists almost entirely of plain stem fragments. There are two bowls, both of the same spurred form, dating c. 1690-1700 (topsoil in Trenches 2 and 14 respectively).

5.5 Stone

- 5.5.1 Four pieces of stone were recovered. Two are fragments of roofing slate (Trench 4 topsoil and subsoil **902**). The third is a symmetrically tear-shaped fragment of limestone with a perforation at the pointed end, which appears to have been reworked from a roof tile, though for what purpose is unknown (Trench 9 topsoil). The fourth is a fragment probably from a whetstone, in a fine-grained micaceous stone (subsoil **902**). None of these objects is closely datable.

5.6 Glass

- 5.6.1 The glass includes both vessel and window glass. This small assemblage is dominated by fragments of green wine bottle. All these fragments are heavily oxidised and some badly abraded. They are likely to belong to bottles of the later 17th or early 18th centuries: two rim/ neck fragments are from 'onion' or 'mallet' bottle forms of this period. A folded footing from a thin-walled drinking vessel in clear glass (buried ground surface **307**) is likely to be of similar date. There are also a few fragments from modern vessels, and one fragment from the folded footing of a drinking vessel.
- 5.6.2 The window glass consists of small fragments in glass with a pale greenish tinge; this is of post-medieval date, but not closely datable.

5.7 Metalwork

- 5.7.1 The copper alloy comprises a coin, a spoon, and four fragments from a small strip of unknown function, with two rivets *in situ* at one end.
- 5.7.2 The coin (buried ground surface **307**) is a farthing of Charles II, while the spoon (buried ground surface **604**) is probably of early 17th century date. This is complete, with fuculate (fig-shaped) bowl and a stele (narrow handle) with a plain slip-top (chamfered end). This type of spoon seems to have originated sometime during the later 15th century and was a long-lived type, continuing in use through the early 17th century; it was the predominant base metal spoon type (Moore 1999, 133, 175); the shallow bowl profile of this example indicates a date towards the end of this range (*ibid.*, 136 and 168 for early/ mid-17th century examples). There appears to have been a maker's mark stamped in the bowl close to the junction with the stele, but this has almost completely worn away and is illegible.
- 5.7.3 Ironwork consists largely of nails (17 examples) and other structural items (two possible hinge pivots); these are not closely datable – the nails could be any date from Romano-British onwards. There is also one horseshoe, probably modern (Trench 1 topsoil).

5.8 Animal Bone

- 5.8.1 Condition of the bone is fair to good. One fragment is burnt, and five fragments of a single bone from ditch **1407** have a heavy (?calcareous) surface concretion.
- 5.8.2 Approximately half of the total could be identified to species, and these are almost equally divided between cattle (long bones, ribs, teeth) and sheep (long bones, scapula). There is one horse rib, and a deer metatarsal. Other bones could only be identified as 'medium mammal' or 'large mammal', or were completely unidentifiable. No butchery marks were observed.



5.9 Other Finds

- 5.9.1 Other finds comprise very small quantities of fired clay (uncertain date and origin); worked flint (prehistoric waste flakes, not chronologically distinctive); and shell (oyster).

6 CONCLUSIONS AND FURTHER POTENTIAL

6.1 Stratigraphic

- 6.1.1 The stratigraphic information as it stands requires no further work.

6.2 Artefacts

- 6.2.1 There are no requirements for further work on the artefactual material.

6.3 Site

Introduction

- 6.3.1 The evaluation demonstrated that zones of locally significant Romano-British and medieval to post-medieval archaeological remains exist in reasonable condition on the Site. This is in spite of the extensive ridge and furrow and despite their virtual nonappearance in the geophysical survey.

Prehistoric

- 6.3.2 The residual finds suggest a general background of prehistoric activity in the vicinity. There is a low potential for the presence of significant remains of prehistoric date within the confines of the Site.

Romano-British

- 6.3.3 Overall there is a light scattering of Romano-British artefacts across the Site, though concentrations are slightly higher around the features more solidly dated as Romano-British.
- 6.3.4 Romano-British activity is manifest as a series of ditches, possible pits and a preserved soil horizon. These are located towards the central portion of the eastern field, and likely represent agricultural and perhaps settlement activity. Findspots of Romano-British material have been recorded in the vicinity and there is some suggestion that the nearby thoroughfares and town have Romano-British precursors. Though residual fragments of ceramic building material of this date have been recovered, they are of insufficient quantity and preservation to infer the existence of a substantial building in the vicinity.
- 6.3.5 There is some potential for the Romano-British remains to continue across the central proportion of the eastern field, particularly around **Trenches 9 and 14**.

Medieval

- 6.3.6 The medieval remains are concentrated in the northern part of the site, and predominantly related to stone walls and associated surfaces (**Trench 3**). It appears that a proportion of the remains have been 'robbed' to the bedding layers and foundations, at least within the areas revealed by the evaluation. The features and deposits suggest that the predicted area of medieval settlement does indeed continue into the Site, perhaps more to the south and west than anticipated.
- 6.3.7 There is some potential for the continuation of the identified archaeological activity in the northern part of the western field, particularly around **Trench 3**.

Post-medieval

- 6.3.8 There is a considerable scatter of finds of post-medieval date across the whole site, particularly material of late 17th century date. The various artefacts indicate nearby occupation, agricultural and possibly craft activity, though much of the material was probably deposited during field manuring, using midden material from the vicinity. It appears quite likely that the medieval settlement continued to be occupied into the earlier part of this period.
- 6.3.9 The more significant post-medieval remains are closely associated with the area of suggested medieval settlement, and as such would be dealt with concurrently. The scatters of material, being *ex situ*, are considered of low significance and require no further mitigation.

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

- 7.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with the Devizes Museum. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project. Deposition of any finds will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

7.2 Preparation of archive

- 7.2.1 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 Devizes Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 7.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/ accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:
- *5 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts & ecofacts, ordered by material type*
 - *1 files/ document case of paper records & A3/ A4 graphics*

7.3 Discard policy

- 7.3.1 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.
- 7.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

7.4 Copyright

- 7.4.1 The full copyright of the written/ illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by WA Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The Heritage Centre, however, will be granted 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 to the *Copyright and Related Rights* regulations 2003.



7.5 Security Copy

- 7.5.1 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.

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9 APPENDIX 1: Trench Summary Tables

(bgl = below ground level)

Trench 1			Co ordinates	409658.9680, 193102.7720
Dimensions: 30.4m by 1.8m		Max Depth: 0.5m	Ground Surface	80.6m aOD
Context	Description			Depth bgl
101	Topsoil	Dark reddish grey silty loam with very rare stone inclusions (sub angular 1-2cm.) and grass roots.		0-0.2m
102	Natural	Mixed brownish yellow and grey silty Oxford Clay with occasional stone (sub angular 0.05-3cm) inclusions.		0-0.2m
103	Layer	Remnants of possible occupational layer, surface or bedding for a surface.		0.2m+

Trench 2			Co ordinates	409708.9240, 193123.2620
Dimensions: 30.2m by 1.8m		Max Depth: 0.5m	Ground Surface	80.6m aOD
Context	Description			Depth bgl
201	Topsoil	Dark reddish grey silty loam with very rare stone inclusions (sub angular 1-2cm.) and grass roots.		0-0.2m
202	Natural	Mixed dark red brown and yellow silty Oxford Clay with occasional stone (sub angular 0.05-3cm) inclusions.		0-0.2m
203	Layer	Remnants of possible occupational layer, surface or bedding for a surface.		0.23m+
204	Cut	Cut of furrow		
205	Fill	Fill of furrow		

Trench 3			Co ordinates	409740.5600, 193103.0640
Dimensions: 30.3m by 1.8m		Max Depth: 0.4m	Ground Surface	80.45m aOD
Context	Description			Depth bgl
301	Topsoil	Dark reddish grey silty loam with very rare stone inclusions (sub angular 1-2cm.) and grass roots.		0-0.21m
302	Subsoil	Olive green Oxford Clay with occasional gravel inclusions.		0.21-0.31m
303	Natural	Olive green Oxford Clay with occasional gravel inclusions.		0.31m+
304	Layer	Thin layer of limestone, sandstone and flint very fine gravel. Probable remains of occupational layer, surface or bedding for surface, now robbed. Layer is darker and contained more medieval material towards North of the trench and around stone remnants 310.		0.27-0.35m
305	Fill	Fill of a channel.		
306	Cut	Cut of channel.		
307	Layer	Layer similar to 304, containing post medieval material, including 17 th cent. coin.		
308	Layer	Possible clay bedding for wall footing 309, but more likely natural clay.		
309	Wall	Remnants of possible sandstone wall footing, likely to be contemporary with layer 304.		0.2m
310	Wall	Remnants of possible sandstone wall footing, similar to 309, but likely robbed and scattered across layer 304.		0.2m



Trench 4			Co ordinates	409785.8310, 193074.1940
Dimensions: 30.5m by 1.8m		Max Depth: 0.5m	Ground Surface	80.4m aOD
Context	Description			Depth bgl
401	Topsoil	Dark reddish grey silty loam with very rare stone inclusions (sub angular 1-2cm.) and grass roots.		0-0.2m
402	Subsoil	Mixed dark red brown and yellow silty clay with occasional stone (sub angular 0.05-3cm) inclusions.		0.2-0.3m
403	Natural	Olive green with occasional patches of iron stained orangey brown, occasional flint gravels and limestone, Oxford Clay.		0.3m+
404	Fill	Blue grey and olive green clay base fill of drainage channel.		0.45m+
405	Cut	Cut of drainage channel		

Trench 5			Co ordinates	409765.5490, 193082.7470
Dimensions: 30.0m by 1.8m		Max Depth: 0.4m	Ground Surface	80.7m aOD
Context	Description			Depth bgl
501	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty sandy loam. Moderate pea grit and small rounded stones, heavily rooted, well established turf.		0-0.2m
502	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sandy clay. Moderate pea grit and small rounded stones.		0.2-0.3m
503	Natural	Light orangey brown clay with patches of very dark rooting and light yellowish grey clay. Common sub angular stones.		0.3m+

Trench 6			Co ordinates	409701.5280, 193089.9140
Dimensions: 29.1m by 1.8m		Max Depth: 0.38m	Ground Surface	80.6m aOD
Context	Description			Depth bgl
601	Topsoil	Dark grey clay loam, fine rooting throughout and rare, sub angular stones.		0-0.15m
602	Subsoil	Mid brown with orange hue clay with rare sub angular stones.		0.15-0.38m
603	Natural	Mottled mid yellowish grey brown clay, rare stone inclusions.		0.38m+
604	Layer	Remnants of possible occupational layer, surface or bedding for a surface, located at the north end of the trench Contained a 17 th cent. spoon.		0.2m

Trench 7			Co ordinates	409726.5690, 193041.2190
Dimensions: 31m by 1.8m		Max Depth: 0.4m	Ground Surface	80.65m aOD
Context	Description			Depth bgl
701	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty sandy loam. Common pea grit and small rounded stones, heavily rooted, well established turf.		0-0.08m
702	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sandy clay. Moderate pea grit and small rounded stones.		0.08-0.23m
703	Natural	Light yellowish brown sandy clay. Common sub rounded and angular stones.		0.23m+



Trench 8			Co ordinates	409758.9970, 193014.5610
Dimensions: 27.5m by 1.5m		Max Depth: 0.4m	Ground Surface	80.8m aOD
Context	Description			Depth bgl
801	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown heavy silty clay, occasional iron mottle, occasional flint gravel.		0-0.2m
802	Subsoil	Pale olive brown clay silt, bioturbated surface of natural clays.		0.2-0.28m
803	Natural	Olive green natural oxford clay, occasional flint gravels.		0.28m+

Trench 9			Co ordinates	409806.8820, 193002.0370
Dimensions: 38.5m by 1.8m		Max Depth: 0.55m	Ground Surface	80.7m aOD
Context	Description			Depth bgl
901	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay loam with sparse pebbles. Contained a range of artefacts.		0-0.27m
902	Subsoil	Mid brown clay with sparse sub angular flint.		0.27-0.40m
903	Layer	Pale olive brown clayey silt with occasional flint gravels (1-4cm). Probable furrow up-cast forming ridge. Similar to sub soil. Seals remnant Romano British soil horizon 904.		0.25-0.45m
904	Layer	Greyish brown clay silt with occasional small flint gravels. Only 0.08m deep, it was 1.04m wide and 1.22m long. Probable remnant Romano British soil horizon. Very irregular in plan. Recovered artefacts include box flue tile, red and grey ware pot sherds. Survives probably due to being sealed by ridge of ridge and furrow.		0.45-0.53m
905	Natural	Olive green brown natural oxford clay with occasional flint gravel and chalk flecks.		0.53m+
906	Cut	Cut of possible, small and shallow, sub oval pit. 0.95m wide and 0.64m long it was 0.12m deep. Possibly a natural feature or remnant of Romano British soil horizon.		
907	Fill	Mid yellowish brown silty clay secondary fill of pit 906. Very rare stone inclusions. Contained small quantity of pot sherds and animal bone.		
908	Cut	U-shaped ditch, 0.3m deep and 0.95m wide. Most likely a post medieval field boundary identified by a geophysical survey.		
909	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 908. Dark grey with orange hue clay. Rare, small sub angular flint. Contained rare finds of CBM and pot sherds.		
910	Cut	Cut of possible small pit or remnant soil horizon. Not excavated.		0
911	Fill	Fill of 910.		

Trench 10			Co ordinates	409871.5730, 193014.3410
Dimensions: 30m by 1.8m		Max Depth: 0.4m	Ground Surface	80.50m aOD
Context	Description			Depth bgl
1001	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, occasional flint gravel and chalk flecks.		0-0.25m
1002	Subsoil	Pale yellowish brown clay silt with occasional flint gravels.		0.25-0.35m
1003	Natural	Greenish brown oxford clay with patches of flint gravels.		0.35m+



Trench 11			Co ordinates	409905.6110, 192992.3930
Dimensions: 30.1m by 1.8m		Max Depth: 0.4m	Ground Surface	80.1m aOD
Context	Description			Depth bgl
1101	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty sandy loam. Heavily rooted with well-established turf. Common pea grit.		0-0.1m
1102	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sandy clay with common pea grit. Moderate small rounded stones.		0.1-0.23m
1103	Natural	Yellowish light brown clay. Abundant poorly sorted gravel patches. Moderate patches of chalk flecks.		0.23m+
1104	Furrow			
1105	Furrow			
1106	Furrow			

Trench 12			Co ordinates	409886.4040, 192936.1790
Dimensions: 29.5m by 1.8m		Max Depth: 0.32m	Ground Surface	80.0m aOD
Context	Description			Depth bgl
1201	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sandy loam. Heavily rooted with occasional pea grit.		0-0.12m
1202	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown clay loam. Some rooting and sparse small rounded stones.		0.12-0.2m
1203	Natural	Light yellowish brown clay with moderate sub angular flint and chalk flecks.		0.2m+

Trench 13			Co ordinates	409857.5390, 192989.2210
Dimensions: 29.2m by 1.8m		Max Depth: 0.4m	Ground Surface	80.4m aOD
Context	Description			Depth bgl
1301	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty sandy loam. Heavily rooted with well-established turf. Occasional pea grit.		0-0.15m
1302	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown clay loam. Some rooting, sparse small rounded stones and common pea grit.		0.15-0.4m
1303	Natural	Light yellowish brown clay with moderate sub angular flints and common chalk flecking.		0.4m+
1304	Furrow			
1305	Furrow			
1306	Furrow			
1307	Furrow			

Trench 14			Co ordinates	409797.7980, 192976.6750
Dimensions: 30.2m by 1.8m		Max Depth: 0.4m	Ground Surface	80.6.33m aOD
Context	Description			Depth bgl
1401	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty sandy clay loam. Heavily rooted with well-established turf. Moderate small, rounded stones and pea grit.		0-0.2m
1402	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sandy clay with common pea grit. Moderate small rounded stones.		0.2-0.32m
1403	Natural	Yellowish light brown clay. Common small to medium, sub angular stones.		0.32m+



1404	Cut	Shallow, concave ditch cut. 0.27m deep and 0.27m wide, contained RB grey ware. Possible part of Romano British field system.	0.33m
1405	Fill	Light greyish brown silty clay with sparse rounded stones secondary fill of ditch 1404.	
1406	Cut	Shallow, concave ditch 0.21m deep and 1.36m wide. Probably part of Romano British field system.	
1407	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay with rare small sub rounded stones secondary fill of 1406 ditch. Contained pottery, animal bone and metal object.	
1408	Cut	Cut of ditch. Possibly part of Romano British field system. Not excavated.	
1409	Fill	Fill of 1408.	
1410	Cut	Cut of shallow concave ditch terminus. 0.1m deep, 1.75m of it was exposed in the trench. Likely to be part of Romano British field system.	
1411	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay with sparse sub rounded stones secondary fill of ditch 1410. Contained pottery.	



Site and trench location

Figure 1

Baseplan courtesy of RPS.

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Date:	24/09/2014
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Scale:	1:1000 (inset 1:25,000) @A3
Illustrator:	KJF
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Plate 1: View of N end of Trench 3 with remnant walls 309 and 310



Plate 2: W facing section showing layer 304 (to the left) and remnant wall 309



Plate 3: Layer 203 in Trench 2, view from W



Plate 4: N facing section of ditch 1404



Plate 5: SE facing section of ditch 1406



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