



Melor Hall, Church Street,
Amesbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



**MELOR HALL, CHURCH STREET,
AMESBURY, WILTSHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Amesbury PCC (hereafter 'the Client') to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation for a proposed residential development on land currently occupied by Melor Hall, Church Street, Amesbury, Wiltshire, centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) 415280 141450 (hereafter 'the Site').

The Site is approximately 0.08ha and is currently occupied by the temporary structure known as Melor Hall which is proposed for demolition and a shingled area of associated car-parking to the front and a roughed grassed area to the rear. It is situated on Church Street to the west of Amesbury town centre. The Site is bounded to the north by grounds associated with Amesbury Abbey, to the east by a public car park, to the west by the Old Vicarage associated with St Mary and St Meleore's Church and to the south by Church Street.

Three evaluation trenches were excavated. Trench 1 was 6m x 1.72m and reached a depth of 1.75m. It was located to the rear of Melor Hall at the north end of the Site. Two ditches of possible medieval date were identified with a northwest-southeast orientation. Ditch (108) was 3.2m wide and at least 1m deep. Ditch (105) cut through the earlier ditch (108) and was 2m wide and 0.60m deep. A single medieval pottery sherd was retrieved along with small pieces of animal bone. Trench 2 was 5.21m x 1.75m and reached 1.21m depth. It was located towards the southwest corner of the Site. Two possible post-medieval features were identified at the south end of the trench (207) and (209). In addition, there was a 1m x 1m post-medieval pit/hollow recorded in the middle of the trench, which contained large flint nodules and medieval ceramic building material. Trench 3 was 2.2m x 2.3m and reached 1.25m in depth. It was located towards the southeast corner of the Site. A post-medieval rubbish pit (306) containing pottery and clay pipes dating to the late 17th/early 18th century was recorded in the southwest corner of the trench that was 0.65m wide and 0.82m deep.

The evaluation revealed that below a thick deposit of garden soil there was evidence for medieval and post-medieval archaeology. In particular there is evidence for the existence of post-medieval pits and levelling at the front of the Site. This is indicative of backyard activity most probably related to buildings, originating in the medieval period that used to face on to Church Street up to the middle of the 19th century. At the rear of the Site there is evidence for the existence of two intercutting boundary (burgage plot) ditches with the earliest ditch probably dating to the medieval period.

The evaluation was carried out on the 10th and 11th March 2011.

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AMESBURY, WILTSHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Amesbury PCC and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank in particular Mark Douglas Withers in this regard and for his help and assistance. Thanks are also extended to Clare King of the Wiltshire Archaeological Service (WAS)

The fieldwork was directed by Vasilis Tsamis assisted by Michael Fleming. The report was written by Vasilis Tsamis. The illustrations were prepared by Linda Coleman. The finds were assessed by Loraine Mephram and the animal bone by Lorrain Higbee. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Damian De Rosa.

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Amesbury PCC (hereafter 'the Client') to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation on land for a proposed residential development at Melor Hall, Church Street, Amesbury, Wiltshire, centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) 415280 141450 (hereafter 'the Site') (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The proposed residential development would see the demolition of the existing wooden Melor Hall building and the construction of two residential units to the front and rear of the property to provide five houses with a parking area in between.

1.1.3 Wessex Archaeology on behalf of the Client consulted with the Wiltshire Archaeological Service (WAS), the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority, in order to establish whether any archaeological investigation would be required prior to the submission and/or determination of the impending planning application for the development of the Site.

1.1.4 WAS advised that an archaeological trial trench evaluation should be undertaken in order to establish the survival and potential of any archaeological remains that could be impacted upon by any proposed development. The details of the scope of the works were agreed at an on Site meeting held with the Client, WAS and Wessex Archaeology.

1.1.5 A written scheme of investigation (WA2011) setting out the methodologies and standards that would be employed by Wessex Archaeology in order to undertake the work was submitted to and approved by the Client and WAS prior to the commencement of the fieldwork programme.

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The Site is approximately 0.08ha in area and is currently occupied by the temporary structure known as Melor Hall, which is proposed for demolition, and a shingled area of associated car-parking to the front and a roughed grassed area to the rear. It is situated on Church Street to the west of Amesbury town centre. The Site is bounded to the north by grounds associated with Amesbury Abbey, to the east by a public car park, to the west by the Old Vicarage associated with St Mary and St Meleore's Church and to the south by Church Street.

1.2.2 The Site is on a relatively flat area however, the natural topography has previously been altered to accommodate the current car parking area to the east.

1.2.3 The Site lies at approximately 68m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

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- 1.2.4 The town of Amesbury lies within the valley of the meandering River Avon and is built on the river gravels that form a promontory around which the river curves on the western side.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Recent investigations in the area

- 2.1.1 Wessex Archaeology carried out an evaluation consisting of three test trenches followed by an excavation and watching brief on the new Co-op site situated off Salisbury Street (WA 2006).
- 2.1.2 The works revealed several features of probable late Saxon date, including a number of aligned ditches (property boundaries), a dog burial within a pit and other smaller pits. Some of these features correlated with recorded documentary evidence. Medieval features included an east to west aligned ditch just to the north of the present day northern boundary wall of the former Redworth House, in conjunction with other ditches and some intercutting pits. In addition several other ditches and some quarry pits were assigned to the post-medieval and modern periods.
- 2.1.3 A small amount of evidence for earlier activity was also recovered including worked flint, and a few residual Roman and early/middle Saxon pottery sherds.
- 2.1.4 A further evaluation consisting of 19 trial pits was carried out by Wessex Archaeology on the site of the car parks of the former Co-op building off Salisbury Street and the District Council (DC) car park off the Centre (WA 2008).
- 2.1.5 No archaeological features were recorded during the evaluation. The trial pits demonstrated that, within the area of the DC car park the present ground level had been built up over a post-medieval garden soil whilst in the supermarket car parks the level of the ground surface was revealed to be the result of post-medieval levelling and demolition.

2.2 Recent investigations within the wider landscape

Iron Age (700 BC – AD 43)

- 2.2.1 Despite being located partially within the Stonehenge World Heritage Site, which is rich in prehistoric monuments and known archaeological sites, the historic core of Amesbury has produced little evidence of prehistoric activity. A Palaeolithic hand-axe was found south-east of the High Street in 1938 and a later evaluation of land off Salisbury Street produced evidence of Iron Age activity (MacMahon, 2004).

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

- 2.2.2 There is currently no evidence for Romano- British activity within the historic core of the town although evidence of occupation during this period does survive on the periphery to the south-east in the form of find spots and three poorly recorded graves (MacMahon, 2004).

Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)

- 2.2.3 Although Amesbury is known to have developed into a sizeable settlement by the 10th century, there is little archaeological evidence for the Saxon

period. There have been a handful of isolated small finds recovered from the area. A very large north to south aligned ditch possibly dating to the Saxon period was found on land to the rear of the Antrobus Arms, Church Street (Hulka and Valentin 1999), which lies to the south-east of the current Site on the opposite side of Church Street. The full depth of this ditch was not defined but its upper fills yielded pottery dating to both the Saxon and medieval periods. MacMahon (2004) postulates that the ditch may form part of the boundary to either the settlement or the abbey. Part of a probable Saxon cemetery was recorded during demolition works in 1835 at the junction of London Road and Countess Road, to the north-east of the Site. Several burials were excavated however; the extent of the cemetery was not established.

- 2.2.4 There is limited evidence for monastic activity within Amesbury during this period. The first recorded abbey was founded in c. 979, possibly located on the site of an earlier minster church. The original location of the monastery buildings is unknown but it is possible that the abbey was originally constructed either in the vicinity or on the site of the current parish church situated on the northern side of Church Street, approximately 30m from the Site.

Medieval (AD 1066 – 1500)

- 2.2.5 Despite the prosperous nature of Amesbury during the medieval period the only extant building surviving from this period is the parish church. The prosperity of the town in this period was largely dependent on the visitors and trade generated by the priory on the western side of town.
- 2.2.6 A market place is known to have existed in Amesbury since at least the 13th century and was bounded by the High Street to the north-west and by Salisbury Street to the north-east. The other extents of the market are conjectural. Pits and pottery were found to the rear of the Antrobus Arms, Church Street (Hulka and Valentin 1999).

Post-Medieval/modern (AD 1500 – present)

- 2.2.7 A brief review of the historical mapping (not reproduced) indicates that in 1726 a building facing onto Church Street was present on the Site. The map also shows a number of neighbouring buildings on this north side of Church Street set out as a series of narrow plots, which would have most probably been first set out as burgage plots sometime in the medieval period.
- 2.2.8 The Tithe map of 1846 does not indicate if there are any buildings on the Site at this time, but the size of the apportionment plot would appear to indicate that the narrow burgage plots were no longer in existence. By the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey of 1877 the Site had become part of the gardens belonging to the vicarage of the Parish Church of St Mary and St Melore's to the west.
- 2.2.9 The Site remained part of the vicarage gardens until the 1960s when the current Melor Hall was built and the Site was reduced to its current size.

3 AIMS AND METHODS

3.1 Introduction and General Objectives

3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological field evaluation are:

- 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.
- Identify whether any intact brickearth deposits are present within the evaluation trenches.
- Identify whether further evidence for Saxon and medieval activity as revealed at the Antrobus Arms opposite is present at the Site.
- Identify whether any former buildings can be identified fronting on to Church Street and whether there is any evidence for a burgage plot, such as a boundary ditch.
- Inform the design of a strategy to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on archaeological remains where present.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of 3 no trial trenches (1 no 6m x 1.6m; 1 no 5m x 1.6m and 1 no 2m x 2m) (**Figure 1**).

4.2.2 Prior to machine excavation, the trench locations were scanned by Wessex Archaeology using a cable tracing device.

4.2.3 The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision of an archaeologist. Mechanical excavation continued in spits through the overburden down to the uppermost archaeological deposits or top of natural deposits, whichever was encountered first.

4.2.4 The shingle covering the trenches to the front of the Site was carefully removed and stored separately from all other material so that it could be reused during reinstatement to cap the trenches.

4.2.5 Upcast from the evaluation trenches was heaped to the side at a minimum 1m from the trench edge.

4.2.6 Where archaeological deposits were encountered their investigation was continued by hand. A sufficient sample of each layer/feature type was excavated in order to establish, as may be possible, the date, nature, extent and condition of the archaeological remains; this included, where possible, the sample excavation of features that may provide an indication of the full depth of archaeological remains on the Site, e.g. deeply cut modern or relatively recent features.

4.2.7 The spoil from the trenches was scanned for artefacts with the use of a metal detector.

4.2.8 On completion of the evaluation programme, the trenches were backfilled and compacted down firmly. The two trenches to the front were reinstated with a capping of the excavated shingle.

4.3 Recording

4.3.1 Archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. Deposits and features were planned at an appropriate scale of 1:20 on drawing film. Single context planning will be carried out where necessary, e.g. where complex archaeological features and deposits need to be fully recorded. Sections will be drawn at 1:10 on drawing film and will include existing ground surface and overburden where appropriate in order to provide a full record and deposit column information. An overall Site plan and Harris matrix of stratigraphic information was prepared.

4.3.2 A photographic record was kept. Digital images only were taken as part of Wessex Archaeology's digital photography project in co-operation with WAS. The record included detailed images of archaeological deposits and features and other images to illustrate their location and context, and the location and context of the separate working areas. The record included images of the Site overall.

4.3.3 All interventions were located in relation to the Ordnance Survey national grid, and all archaeological features will be related to Ordnance Survey Datum. This will allow for the subsequent comparison of foundation proposals and archaeological remains and thereby contribute to meeting the aims of the evaluation.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the results based on the Site Archive. A tabulated list of contexts is produced in **Appendix 1**.

5.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences

Trench 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 (**Plate 1**) was located at the north end of the Site, within a roughly grassed area. A 0.82m thick layer of post-medieval garden soil (**101**) was identified across the trench. This overlay a thin layer of subsoil (**102**) that was 0.10m thick, mid reddish brown and with evidence for widespread root bioturbation. Below the subsoil was an alluvial layer of mid greyish white colour, 0.22m thick that was only encountered in the northwest corner of Trench 1. The Natural (**110**) was a mid yellowish white, sandy clay (**Plate 2**).

Trench 2

5.2.2 Trench 2 (**Plate 3**) was located within the parking area on the south part of the Site, fronting on to Church Street. The area was surfaced with shingle that was 0.20m deep. Below the shingle was a 0.20m thick layer of post-medieval garden soil (**202**), which overlay layer (**203**) a post-medieval deposit that was possibly used as a levelling layer. This levelling surface was rich in degraded chalk, had light brown colour, silty clay texture and was 0.18m deep. Underneath the levelling layer and located only on the north

side of Trench 2 was a mid yellowish brown alluvial layer (**204**) that was 0.24m thick. The natural deposit was a mid yellowish/white sandy clay (**205**) (**Plate 4**).

Trench 3

- 5.2.3 Trench 3 was located on the south area of the Site (**Plate 5**). Below the modern shingle surface (**301**), there was a 0.40m thick layer of post-medieval garden soil (**302**), which overlay a subsoil deposit **303** that was not present in Trench 2 immediately to the west. This layer had mid greyish brown colour, sandy clay texture and was 0.34m deep. Underneath was a mid greyish yellow post-medieval overburden (**304**), rich in charcoal and chalk but with no other finds. It was 0.26m thick and was not identified in Trenches 1 and 2. The natural was mid yellowish/white sandy clay (**305**) (**Plate 6**).

5.3 Summary of the evaluation results

Trench 1

- 5.3.1 Two ditches (**105** and **108**) were recorded in Trench 1. Ditch (**108**) was 3.34m wide and uncovered to a depth of 1.75m below current ground surface. Due this depth it was not possible to properly investigate the feature aside from the recovery of near surface finds and the recording of its edges and orientation. The ditch (**108**) had a northwest-southeast orientation and had one primary (**106**) and one secondary (**107**) fill. Animal bone fragments and a single sherd of medieval pottery, a flint-tempered 11th to 13th century Kennet Valley ware were retrieved.
- 5.3.2 Ditch **105** was 2.1m wide and 0.68m deep and had been cut through ditch **108** (**Plate 7**). Both ditches shared the same orientation and it is likely that ditch **105** is a recut of the earlier ditch (**108**) and reaffirmation of the boundary between two burgrave plots. No dating evidence was retrieved from Ditch **105**.

Trench 2

- 5.3.3 Two undated features/disturbances of probable post medieval or more recent date were identified in the south corners of Trench 2. Features (**209**) and (**211**) were located below made ground surface (**202**) and truncated levelling layer (**203**).
- 5.3.4 A post-medieval feature (**207**) was also revealed in the middle of Trench 2. It was 1m x 1m and was filled with abundant large flint nodules and some medieval ceramic building material (CBM) of flat (peg) roof tile. It should be noted though that such CBM does not provide good dating evidence due to its lengthy survival as roofing material, and frequent re-use. The remains did not appear to be structural and are maybe the remains of building material filling a shallow hollow in the natural.

Trench 3

- 5.3.5 A post-medieval rubbish pit (**306**) was recorded in the southwest corner of Trench 3. It was located underneath subsoil (**303**) and made ground deposit (**304**). It was 0.65m wide, 0.70m long and reached 0.82m depth. It was filled with household and building waste. The backfill (**307**) contained post-medieval pottery and fragments of clay pipes of late 17th/early 18th century date along with animal bones.

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The evaluation produced a small quantity of finds, deriving from contexts in all three of the trenches excavated. The small assemblage includes material of both medieval and post-medieval date

6.2 Medieval

6.2.1 Medieval finds comprise all of the ceramic building material (CBM) apart from one post-medieval brick fragment, and two sherds of pottery.

6.2.2 The medieval CBM consists of flat (peg) roof tile, in coarse fabrics, often pale-firing. Such tiles are commonly found in south Wiltshire in contexts from the 13th century onwards, but do not provide good dating evidence due to their lengthy survival as roofing material, and frequent re-use.

6.2.3 One medieval pottery sherd came from ditch (**108**), where it constituted the only datable find; this is a jar rim in a coarse, flint-tempered fabric which can be identified as Kennet Valley ware A (Mephams 2000, fabric E441). The ware type has a wide date range from at least the 11th century through to the 13th century.

6.2.4 The second sherd is a sandy coarseware of Laverstock type, with a probable date range of 13th to early 14th century; this was found in pit (**306**), together with post-medieval sherds

6.3 Post-medieval

6.3.1 The remaining datable finds (brick fragment, clay pipe, glass, pottery) are post-medieval. Most of these finds came from pit **306**.

6.3.2 The clay pipes include two datable bowls (1690-1700; 1700-20). Glass consists of one piece of window glass of early post-medieval type, with one grozed edge and a came shadow, and a green wine bottle base of 'onion' form (c. 1680-1730). The pottery includes several types (Verwood-type earthenwares from east Dorset; Crockerton-type earthenwares from north Wiltshire, including one sgraffito vessel; German Westerwald stoneware; and tinglazed earthenware). These confirm the late 17th/early 18th century date range suggested by the other finds.

6.4 Animal Bone

6.4.1 The animal bone is undatable, but is assumed to be largely or wholly of post-medieval date. Species represented include sheep/goat (mandible, vertebrae, tibiae and scapulae), cattle (vertebra, phalanx, scapula and tibia, and a calf mandible), pig (pelvis, femur, ulna) and goose (vertebrae). Butchery marks were noted on some of the bones from pit (**306**).

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1.1 Archaeological features and deposits of medieval and post-medieval date have been revealed to be surviving at the Site. At the rear and northern end of the Site two intercutting ditches (**106** and **108**) were revealed the earliest of which (**108**) based on the pottery evidence dates to the medieval period. This feature had been cut by a ditch from which no dateable material was

recovered, but is most probably a reaffirmation of a burgage plot boundary. The north-west to south-east orientation of the ditches lies parallel to the existing orientation of the current plot of land, with the latter therefore having been influenced by the establishment of burgage plots going back to the medieval period. The ditches most probably indicate the position of the burgage plots as shown on a historical map of Amesbury from 1726 (not reproduced). By the 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1877 (not reproduced) the burgage plots were no longer in existence, but the orientation of the Site had been fossilised as a result of the burgage plots.

- 7.1.2 The historical mapping also indicates that at the front of the Site buildings used to front on to Church Street. No direct evidence of structures was recorded in Trenches 2 and 3 although building material in the form of abundant flint nodules may indicate the remains of building rubble associated with demolished buildings. The post medieval rubbish pit recorded in Trench 3 indicates that this area is most probably already within a backyard area and that any surviving building remains, as possibly shown on the 1726 map of Amesbury, lie within the existing flower beds to the south east that front directly on to Church Street.
- 7.1.3 The depth of archaeological features of least 1.20m below current ground level indicates that there has been a considerable build up of made ground subsequent to the removal of any buildings within the Site. This is most probably a result of the Site having been turned into the gardens of the Vicarage sometime in the second half of the 19th century. This event saw the removal of a number of burgage plots facing on to Church Street although the orientation of the Site remained fossilised.
- 7.1.4 Due to the depth at which archaeological features and deposits have been revealed it is recommended that the need for any further archaeological mitigation will be subject to the construction design of the proposed new development. To the rear of the Site it is likely that groundwork excavation for the proposed new residential unit may reveal and impact upon the two ditches recorded in Trench 1.
- 7.1.5 At the front of the Site the proposed new residential unit is located in an area of post medieval backyard activity as shown by the pit in Trench 3, but is unlikely to have any further major impact on surviving archaeology as Trench 2 would seem to indicate limited or no archaeological potential with 19th century made ground deposits directly overlying the natural. If any remains of structures facing on to Church Street do survive they are unlikely to be impacted upon by the proposed development as they lie within flower beds, which are to be retained under the proposed scheme.
- 7.1.6 It is recommended that further consultation is undertaken with WAS in order to determine whether any further requirements for archaeological works are necessary in mitigation of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 Preparation and Deposition

-
- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive, including the finds and environmental samples and subject to the wishes of the landowner, will be deposited with the Salisbury and South Wilts Museum, Salisbury.

8.2 The Archive

- 8.2.1 The completed project archive, which will include records, plans, photos, artefacts, ecofacts and sieved residues, will be prepared to comply with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990).

8.3 Copyright

- 8.3.1 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 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 to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

8.4 Security Copy

- 8.4.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Monuments Record Centre (Swindon); a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records at the Museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

9 REFERENCES

Hulka, S. and Valentin, J. 1999, 'The proposed development of land at 15 Church Street (rear of Antrobus Arms Hotel), Amesbury, Wiltshire', *AC Archaeology, unpublished report*

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Wessex Archaeology 2008, *Former Co-op, Salisbury Street, Amesbury, Wiltshire, Archaeological Evaluation Report*, unpublished client report ref 69380.03

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APPENDIX 1: TABLE OF TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

All depths are below ground level. The order in which the deposits are listed represents their stratigraphic position, except where noted.

Trench 1	Dimensions :	6m x 1.72m x 1.75m	
	Land use:	Garden	
	Coordinates:	OS NGR: 415258, 141479	Ground level: 70.4m aOD
Context	Category	Description	Depth
(101)	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, clay silt garden soil. Loose with abundant bioturbation. Occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. Sparse sub-rounded flint inclusions <0.02m	0m-0.80m
(102)	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown, clay silt. Clear horizon. Layer is fairly loose with rare root bioturbation and chalk fleck inclusions. Also rare sub-angular flint inclusions <0.06m	0.80m-0.90m
(103)	Secondary Fill	Light yellowish brown, silty clay. Clear horizon, rare root bioturbation, loose and soft. Rare sub-angular flint inclusions <0.10m	0.90m-1.17m
(104)	Secondary Fill	Mid reddish brown silty clay. Clear horizon, rare bioturbation, loose and soft. Rare sub-angular flint inclusions <0.10m	1.17m-1.25m
[105]	Cut of ditch	Post-medieval re-cut of ditch. Clear edges and NW/SE orientation.	1.25m
(106)	Secondary Fill	Dark brown silty clay. Firm and with abundant flint inclusions <0.05m.	1.17m-1.75m+
(107)	Primary Fill	Light yellowish brown sandy clay. Loose and soft. Moderate root bioturbation.	1.25m-1.75m+
[108]	Cut of Ditch	Medieval cut of ditch. It is 3.2m wide and was not fully excavated due to its depth. It can be a boundary ditch and possibly more than 2m deep.	1.75m+
(109)	Alluvium	Light yellowish grey alluvial soil located only on the northwest corner of trench 1.	0.90m-1.23m
(110)	Natural	Light yellowish brown sandy clay.	1.50m

Trench 2	Dimensions :	5.21m x 1.75m x 1.21m	
	Land use:	Car park	
	Coordinates:	OS NGR: 415274, 141448	Ground level: 70.06m aOD
Context	Category	Description	Depth
(201)	Modern gravel	Modern gravel/shingle surface with a crushed concrete base.	0m-0.23m
(202)	Made ground	Dark brown silty clay with modern tile and brick fragments. Root bioturbation, loose and soft. Sharp boundary.	0.23m-0.46m
(203)	Overburden	Levelling of disturbed ground with a layer of degraded chalk and mid brown silty clay. Clear boundary.	0.46m-0.63m
(204)	Alluvium	Mid yellowish white silty clay loam with sand inclusions. Sharp boundary.	0.63-0.87m
(205)	Natural	Mid yellowish white sandy clay, loose and soft.	0.87-1.21m+
(206)	Secondary Fill	Mid greyish brown, silty clay, abundant flint nodules <0.30m and modern brick.	0.62m
[207]	Cut of pit	Cut of modern pit, backfilled to stabilise ground.	0.62m
(208)	Secondary Fill	Mid greyish brown, silty clay.	0.62m
[209]	Modern	Cut of modern disturbance	0.62m
(210)	Secondary Fill	Mid greyish brown, silty clay.	0.62m
[211]	Modern	Cut of modern disturbance	0.62m

Trench 3	Dimensions :	2.2m x 2.3m x 1.25m	
	Land use:	Car park	
	Coordinates:	OS NGR: 415280, 141455	Ground level: 71.01m aOD
Context	Category	Description	Depth
(301)	Modern gravel	Modern gravel/shingle surface with a crushed concrete base.	0m-0.26m
(302)	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay with modern tile and brick fragments. Root bioturbation, loose and soft. Sharp boundary.	0.26m-0.63m
(303)	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown, clay silt. Clear horizon. Layer is fairly loose with rare root bioturbation and chalk fleck inclusions. Also rare sub-angular flint inclusions <0.06m	0.63m-0.97m
(304)	Overburden	Mid greyish brown silty clay with moderate building material and moderate charcoal fleck inclusions.	0.97m-1.13m
(305)	Natural	Mid yellowish white sandy clay, loose and soft.	1.13m – 1.25m+
[306]	Cut of pit	Cut of post-medieval pit	1.76m
(307)	Backfill	Deliberate backfill of post-medieval pit.	0.96m-1.76m

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-96645

Project details

Project name Melor Hall, Church Street, Amesbury

Short description of the project Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Amesbury PCC (hereafter 'the Client') to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation for a proposed residential development on land currently occupied by Melor Hall, Church Street, Amesbury, Wiltshire, centred on OS National Grid Reference (NGR) 415280 141450 (hereafter 'the Site'). The Site is approximately 0.08ha and is currently occupied by the temporary structure known as Melor Hall which is proposed for demolition and a shingled area of associated car-parking to the front and a roughed grassed area to the rear. It is situated on Church Street to the west of Amesbury town centre. The Site is bounded to the north by grounds associated with Amesbury Abbey, to the east by a public car park, to the west by the Old Vicarage associated and to the south by Church Street. Three evaluation trenches were excavated. The evaluation revealed that below a thick deposit of garden soil there was evidence for medieval and post-medieval archaeology. In particular there is evidence for the existence of post-medieval pits and levelling at the front of the Site. This is indicative of backyard activity most probably related to buildings, originating in the medieval period that used to face on to Church Street up to the middle of the 19th century. At the rear of the Site there is evidence for the existence of two intercutting boundary (burgage plot) ditches with the earliest ditch dating to the medieval period. The evaluation was carried out on the 10th and 11th March 2011.

Project dates Start: 10-03-2011 End: 11-03-2011

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 77050 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current use Land Community Service 1 - Community Buildings

Monument type NONE

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval

Significant Finds CLAY PIPES Post Medieval

Methods & 'Measured Survey', ' Sample Trenches'
techniques

Development Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
type

Prompt Voluntary/self-interest

Position in the Pre-application
planning process

Project location

Country England

Site location WILTSHIRE SALISBURY AMESBURY Melor Hall, Church Street, Amesbury

Postcode SP4 7ES

Study area 0.08 Hectares

Site coordinates SU 415280 141450 50.9247139825 -1.409073634560 50 55 28 N 001 24 32
W Point

Height OD / Min: 68.00m Max: 70.00m
Depth

Project creators

Name of Wessex Archaeology
Organisation

Project brief Wessex Archaeology
originator

Project design Wessex Archaeology
originator

Project Damian de Rosa
director/manager

Project Vasilis Tsamis
supervisor

Type of Landowner
sponsor/funding

body

Name of Amesbury PCC
sponsor/funding
body

**Project
archives**

Physical Archive Devizes Museum
recipient

Physical Archive 77050
ID

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass'

Digital Archive Devizes Museum
recipient

Digital Archive 77050
ID

Digital Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Stratigraphic','Survey'

Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'
available

Paper Archive Devizes Museum
recipient

Paper Archive ID 77050

Paper Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Stratigraphic','Survey'

Paper Media 'Context
available sheet','Correspondence','Diary','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','
Survey ','Unpublished Text'

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title The proposed development of land at 15 Church Street (rear of Antrobus Arms
Hotel), Amesbury, Wiltshire

Author(s)/Editor(s) Hulka, S. and Valentin, J.

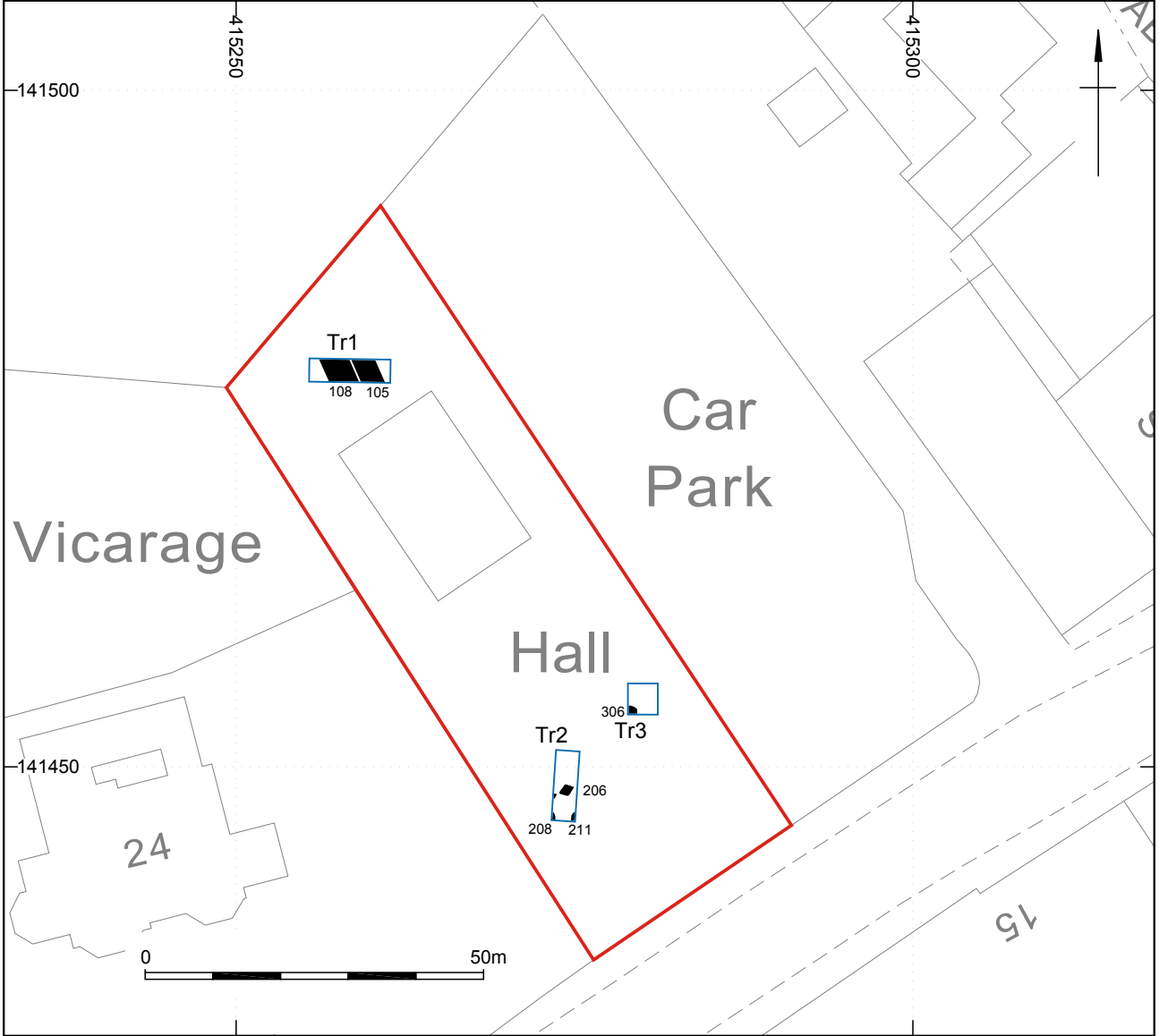
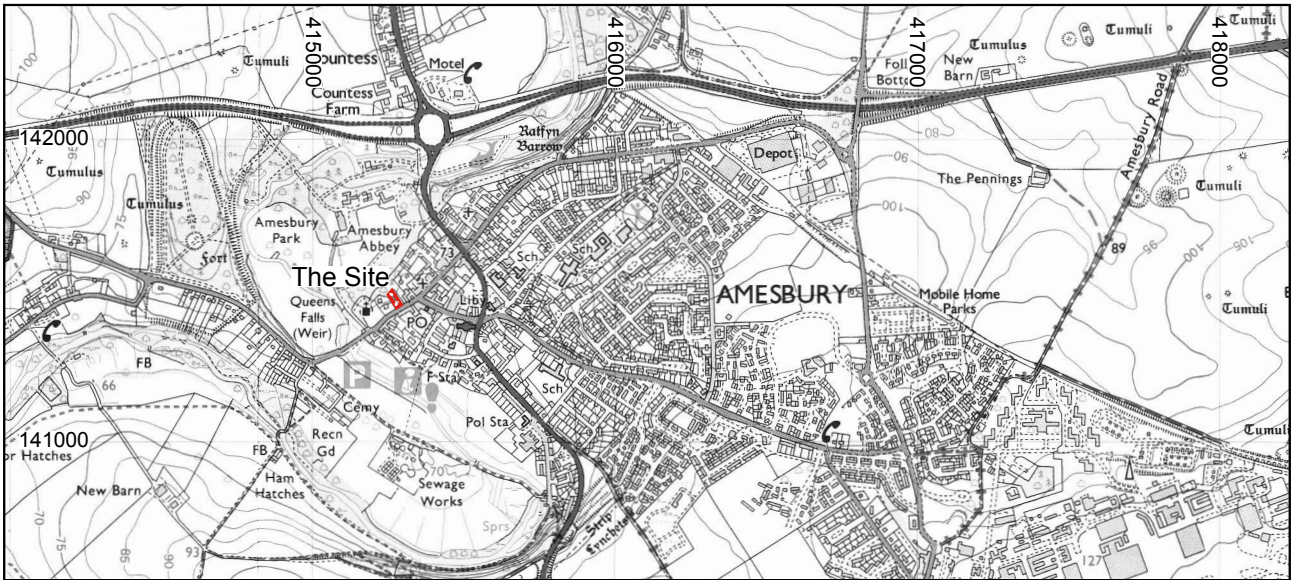
Date 1999

Issuer or AC Archaeology
publisher

Description Unpublished report

Entered by Vasilis Tsamis (v.tsamis@wessexarch.co.uk)

Entered on 21 March 2011



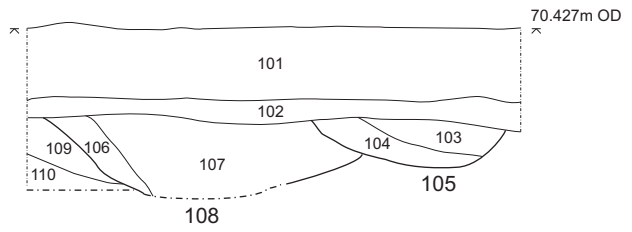
	Reproduced from the 2002 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 Explorer® map with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright, Wessex Archaeology, Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6EB. Licence Number: 100028190. Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2011 All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020449. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	25/02/11	Revision Number:	0
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Site location plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: General view of trench 1 from the southeast



South facing section of ditch cuts 105 and 108



Plate 2: South facing section of ditch cuts 105 and 108

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Plate 3: General view of trench 2 from the north



Plate 4: East facing representative section of trench 2

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Plate 5: General view of trench 3 with pit cut 306 from the west

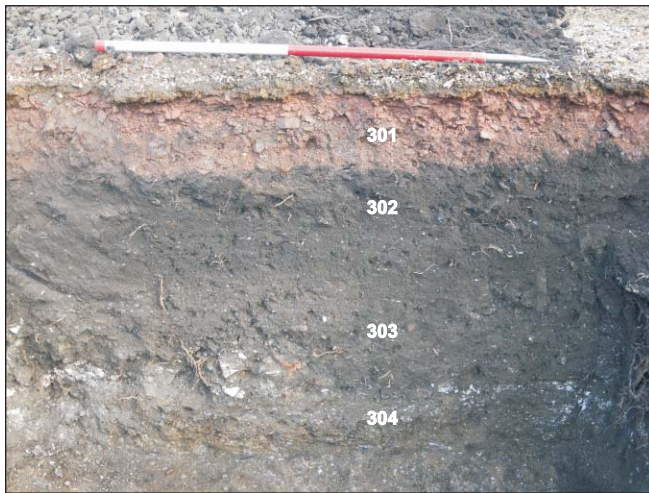


Plate 6 :South facing representative section of trench 3



Plate 7: North facing section of pit cut 306

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