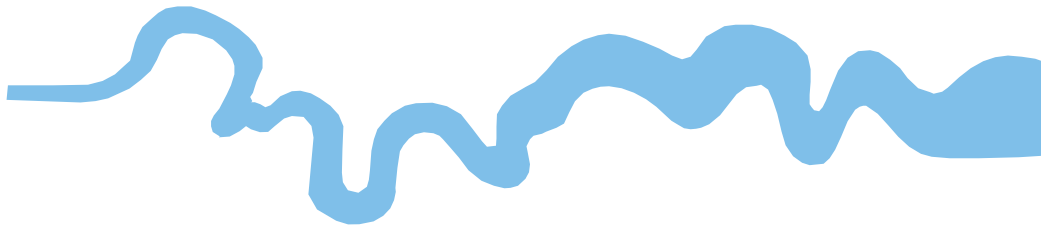


T V A S



SOUTH WEST

**The Stonehenge School, Antrobus Road,
Amesbury, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

**by Agata Socha-Paszkwicz
and Mariusz Paszkiewicz**

Site Code: SSA17/121

(SU 1608 4176)

The Stonehenge School, Antrobus Road, Amesbury, Wiltshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Wiltshire Council**

by Agata Socha-Paszkiewicz

and Mariusz Paszkiewicz

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SSA 17/121

August 2017

Summary

Site name: The Stonehenge School, Antrobus Road, Amesbury, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 1608 4176

Site activity: evaluation

Date and duration of project: 29th and 31st August 2017

Project manager: Agata Socha-Paszkwicz

Site supervisor: Mariusz Paszkiewicz

Site code: SSA 17/121

Area of site: c. 0.69ha

Summary of results: The evaluation revealed a number of cut features most of which appeared to be of fairly modern date. No deposits nor artefacts certainly of archaeological interest were recorded and the site is considered to be of low archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited at Salisbury Museum in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 19.09.17 Steve Preston ✓ 19.09.17

The Stonehenge School, Antrobus Road, Amesbury, Wiltshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz and Mariusz Paszkiewicz

Report 17/121b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at The Stonehenge School, Antrobus Road, Amesbury, Wiltshire SP4 7ND (SU 1608 4176) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Suzanne Gough of Wiltshire Council, Country Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 8JN.

Planning permission (app no. 17/05583/DP3) is to be sought from Wiltshire Council to construct a new sport building on a c.0.69 ha parcel of land. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, field evaluation has been requested by means of machine trenching prior to the determination of the planning application to determine the archaeological potential of the site and to help formulate a mitigation strategy as necessary. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Council's policy on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist of Wiltshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Mariusz Paszkiewicz and Piotr Wrobel on 29th and 31st August 2017 and the site code is SSA 17/121ev. The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited at Salisbury Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the northern suburb of Amesbury, Wiltshire,(Fig. 1). Amesbury lies in the river Avon valley on the southern fringes of Salisbury Plain. The proposal sit lies within grounds of The Stonehenge School which are bounded by residential properties fronting The Drove Road to the north-west, Holders Road to the north-east and Cold Harbour to the south-west (Fig. 2). The site is located at the eastern extent of the school complex and is used as a grassed playing field; it is flat and lies at a height of 83m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology is comprised of Seaford Chalk Formation (BGS 1976).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been documented in desk-based assessment (Baljkas 2017). In summary the proposal site lies within area that represents one of the most important archaeological landscapes in England and beyond. Although located outside of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site, the area is rich in archaeological remains of all periods. Stonehenge, itself lies 3 km to the west of the town. While there is only limited evidence for prehistoric activity within the historic core of Amesbury, such as the Iron Age material found off Salisbury Street, extensive prehistoric evidence was recorded outside of the historic core for example Neolithic inhumations, pits and finds at Millmead, Ratfyn or the multi-period site at Butterfield Down. Bronze Age round barrows are ubiquitous within the town, with an example of Ratfyn Barrow, a Scheduled Ancient Monument on the northern outskirts Iron Age features and finds have been recorded at Boscombe Road, Ratfyn and east of The Lynchets . The Roman remains have been predominately recovered to the south-east of the historic core of the Amesbury, the most significant of which are the extensive later Roman settlement at Butterfield Down. Roman coin hoards have been found in the town at Lynchets Road, Butterfield Down and New Covert. There is little direct archaeological evidence for the Saxon occupation within the historic core of the town. Isolated finds have been recorded but are rare. Part of a probable early Saxon cemetery was discovered in c. 1835 during demolition work at the junction of London Road and Countess Road.

Amesbury is known to have developed into a sizeable settlement by the 10th century. It is mentioned in Domesday Book (AD1086) as being held by King Edward (Williams and Martin 2002, 162); and has historically been considered an important river crossing area on the road from London to Warminster and Exeter.

The entries to the Wiltshire Environment Record in the immediate site include findspot of a Roman coin and two 1919-1920 experimental smallholder's dwellings are listed buildings; all entries are located west of site on Holders Road.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the evaluation were to determine the presence/ absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development.

The specific research aims of this project were:

- To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- To provide information in order to draw up and appropriate mitigation strategy if required;

It was proposed to dig a total of 7 trenches, each 25m long and 1.6-2m wide across the site. Topsoil and any other overburden was to be removed by tracked mechanical machine. A toothless ditching bucket was to be used to expose archaeologically sensitive levels, under constant archaeological supervision. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were then to be excavated or sufficiently sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project.

Results

All trenches were excavated as intended. Trenches varied from 23.70m to 26.00m in length and from 0.40m to 1.00m in depth. All were 1.8m wide. A list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. All features of possible archaeological interest were cleaned and investigated using hand tools and are described in detail below. Modern deposits were investigated and cleaned using hand tools and than, with agreement of Ms Clare King of Wiltshire Council, removed by machine. An active modern service uncovered in trenches 3 and 4 was left on plinths. Due to a high intensity of modern truncation most trenches were taken to some depth below what was considered 'natural level' to check that the geology had been correctly interpreted. A list of features investigated forms Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Figs 2, 3 and 4; Pls. 4 and 5)

Trench 1 was aligned south-west to north-east and was 25.50m long and a maximum of 0.45 m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of dark brown grey topsoil above 0.20 m of subsoil (brown clayey sand with chalk) overlying cream white chalk, natural geology. Recorded at the north-east end of the trench was Ditch 1 which cut through the subsoil. It was 1.35m wide and 0.35 deep and was filled with a deposit (53) of brown silty clay with chalk debris. Ditch 1 contained a single sherd of 19th or 20th century pottery, four fragments of brick/tile and an iron nail also of late 19th century date. Ditch 1 was detected by lidar survey (Baljkas 2017) and correlated well with one of plots shown on an Ordnance Survey map of 1937.

Two square postholes were recorded approximately 5m to the SW of Ditch 1. One was investigated and recorded as Posthole 2 which was 0.24m wide and 0.24m deep and was filled with brown grey silty sand (54) which contained one fragment of tile of possibly Post Medieval or Modern date and two iron nails of late 19th century date.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned south-east to north-west and was 25m long and a maximum of 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m and 0.15 of subsoil. The topsoil and subsoil were similar to Trench 1. Beneath subsoil was a cream white chalk, natural geology.

Trench 3 (Figs 2, 3 and 4)

Trench 3 was aligned south-west to north-east and was 26m long and a maximum of 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m and 0.10 of subsoil overlying chalk natural geology. Beneath subsoil, at c. 8m from the south-west end of the trench was Gully 3 which was 0.77m wide and 0.20 deep and was filled with dark grey brown silty clay (58) with chalk debris. Gully 3 contained no datable artefacts.

Trench 4 (Figs 2, 3 and 4 Pls 1 and 7)

Trench 4 was aligned south-west to north-east and was 25m long and a maximum of 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of dark brown grey topsoil above 0.30m of made ground (52) comprised of brown to light brown silty sand with chalk debris. Made ground extended for 13m from SW end of the trench and contained two fragments of brick/tile. Beneath the made ground was a 0.25m thickness of buried topsoil (59) which consisted of dark grey brown silty sand with chalk and modern bricks debris. In turn this overlay 0.10m of subsoil (60) which consisted of brown silty sand above cream white chalk, natural geology.

Beneath the buried topsoil and cutting the subsoil at north-east end of the trench was Ditch ,4 which was filled with deposit (61), a light brown silty clay with chalk debris which contained no datable artefacts. The ditch was 1.25m wide and 0.32 deep and appeared to be continuation of Ditch 1 in Trench 1.

Trench 5 (Figs 2 and 4, Pl. 2)

Trench 5 was aligned south-east to north-west and was 23.7m long and a maximum of 1.00m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of brown topsoil, above made ground (55) which was 0.20-0.25m thick and similar to recorded in Trench 4. Made ground overlaid 0.30m thick buried topsoil (62), above buried subsoil (63). Beneath buried subsoil was cream white chalk, natural geology.

Trench 6 (Figs 2, 3 and 5; Pl. 6)

Trench 6 was aligned east - west and was 25.50m long and a maximum of 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil, above 0.20m of subsoil above chalk, natural geology. At c. 12m from east end of trench was Gully 5 which was 0.26m wide and 0.22 deep and was filled with deposit (64) comprised of grey brown silty clay with chalk debris. It contained no datable artefacts. Gully 5 corresponded reasonably well with one of the enclosure plots shown on an Ordnance Survey map of 1937 date.

Trench 7 (Figs 2, 3 and 5; Pls. 3 and 8)

Trench 7 was aligned south-west to north-east and was 25m long and a maximum of 1.00m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil above two layers of made ground (56-7) 0.45m thick which contained two roof tiles fragments of post-medieval to modern date. Beneath was 0.25m of buried topsoil (65) above 0.08-0.22m of subsoil (66) which in turn this overlay chalk, natural geology. Pit 6 recorded at c.7m from south-west end of trench cut buried topsoil 66 and was 0.47m long and 0.27m deep and was filled with brown grey silty sand (67) with small amount of charcoal but no datable artefacts.

Finds

Modern Pottery by Andrew Weale

The pottery assemblage comprised a single sherd which weighted 15 g. The sherd was recovered from cut [1] (53) in Trench 1. The sherd was fragment the base of a refined white earthenware plate (Brears 1969), which would date from the 19th or 20th centuries.

Ceramic Building Material by Andrew Weale

A small assemblage of thirteen pieces of ceramic building material were recovered during the evaluation. Two fragments were recovered from deposit (52) and showed only one surface each and thus were undiagnostic. Cut [1] deposit (53) contained two fragments of wire cut moulded and sanded roof tile as well as two undiagnostic fragments. Cut [2] (54) contained a single fragment of wire cut and sanded roof tile however no evidence of moulding was observed on the remaining surfaces. Deposit (56) contained two large fragments of wire cut, moulded and sanded fragments of roof tile. Deposit (65) contained one fragment of wire cut, sanded and moulded roofing tile and two fragments of very weathered roofing tile with badly eroded surfaces that contained

no evidence of manufacturing techniques. None of the fragments could be closely dated although a post medieval to modern date would be likely.

Metal by Andrew Weale

The assemblage consisted of three iron nails from two different contexts, one from cut [1] (53) and two from cut [2] (54). All the nails were 65mm long with a round shaft 4mm in diameter with a round head 8mm in diameter and each weighted 5g. All the nails appeared to be wire drawn and may be considered modern. Wire nails began to compete with hand drawn wrought iron nails in England in the third quarter of the 19th century. Joseph Henry Nettlefold was making wire nails at Smethwick by 1875 (Sjögren 2013). The nail industry was almost completely automated over the next few decades. This led to the whole production machines capable of quickly producing huge numbers of inexpensive nails with little or no human intervention and the ending of the hand drawn nail.

Conclusion

The evaluation has been carried out as intended. It revealed a number of cut features most of which appeared to be of fairly modern date with a linear feature matching with a boundary shown on a 20th century Ordnance Survey map. Parts of the site had been made up, presumably to form a level playing field. No deposits nor artefacts certainly of archaeological interest were recorded and the site is considered to be of low archaeological potential.

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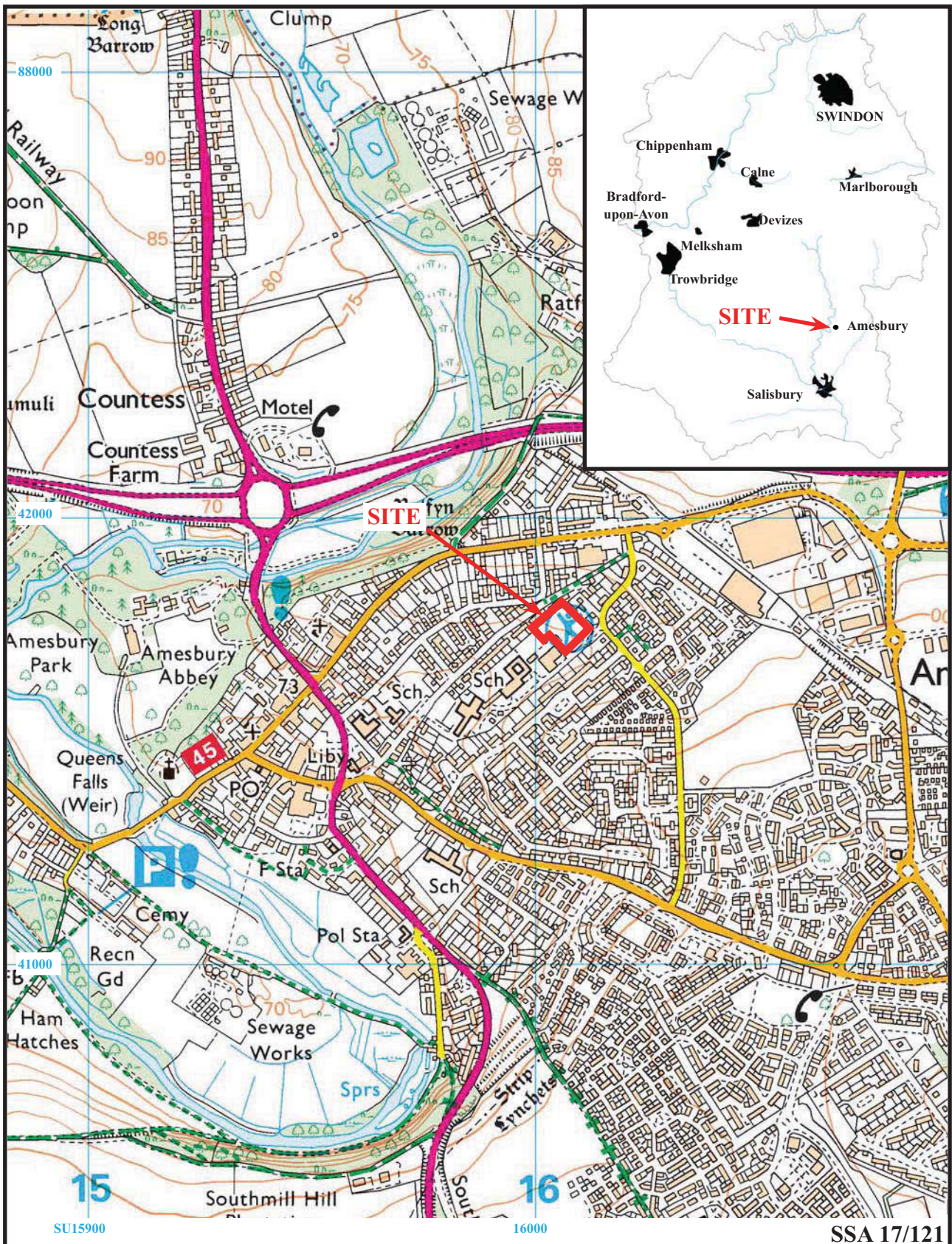
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at South, West or South West end

	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	25.50	1.80	0.40-0.45	0-0.20 Topsoil; 0.20 – 0.40 Subsoil; 0.40 + white chalk (Natural Geology). Ditch 1, Posthole 2. [Pls 4 and 5]
2	25.00	1.80	0.40	0-0.20 Topsoil; 0.20- 0.35 Subsoil; 0.35 + white chalk (Natural Geology).
3	26.20	1.80	0.40-0.50	South-west end 0-0.30 Topsoil; 0.30-0.40 Subsoil; 0.40 + white chalk (Natural Geology). North-east end 0-0.20 Topsoil; 0.20-0.30 Subsoil; 0.30 + white chalk (Natural Geology). Gully 3.
4	25.00	1.80	0.50-0.80	0-0.10 Topsoil; south-west end 0.10-0.40 Made ground (52); 0.40 – 0.65 Buried topsoil (59); 0.65-0.75 Buried subsoil (60); 0.75 + white chalk (Natural Geology). North-east end 0.10-0.35 Buried topsoil (59); 0.35-0.45 Buried subsoil (60); 0.45 + white chalk (Natural Geology). Ditch 4. [Pls 1 and 2]
5	23.70	1.80	0.85-1.00	0-0.10 Topsoil; south-east end 0.10-0.35 Made ground (55); 0.35 – 0.65 Buried topsoil (62); 0.65-0.95 Buried subsoil (63); 0.95 + white chalk (Natural Geology). North-west end 0.10-0.30 Made ground (55); 0.30-0.60 Buried topsoil (62); 0.60-0.75 Buried subsoil (63); 0.75 + white chalk (Natural Geology). [PI 2]
6	25.50	1.80	0.50-0.60	0-0.30 Topsoil; 0.30 – 0.50 Subsoil; 0.50 + white chalk (Natural Geology). Gully 5 [PI 5]
7	25.00	1.80	0.95-1.00	0-0.20 Topsoil; north-west end 0.20-0.45 Made ground (56); 0.45 – 0.70 Buried topsoil (65); 0.70-0.90 Buried subsoil (66); 0.90 + white chalk (Natural Geology). South-east end 0.20-0.50 Made ground (56); 0.50-0.80 Made ground (57); 0.80-0.90 Buried subsoil (66); 0.90 + white chalk (Natural Geology). Pit 6 [Pls 3 and 8]

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
4		52	Made ground	Modern	Modern nail
1	1	53	Ditch Ditch	Modern	Pottery
1	2	54	Posthole	Modern	Modern nails
5		55	Made ground	Modern	Stratigraphy
7		56	Made ground	Modern	Stratigraphy
7		57	Made ground	Modern	Stratigraphy
3	3	58	Gully	Undated	None
4		59	Buried topsoil	Undated	None
4		60	Buried subsoil	Undated	None
4	4	61	Ditch	Modern	Stratigraphy
5		62	Buried topsoil	Undated	None
5		63	Buried subsoil	Undated	None
6	5	64	Gully	Modern	Cartography
7		65	Buried topsoil	Modern	Roof tile
7		66	Buried subsoil	Undated	None
7	6	67	Pit	Post Medieval	Stratigraphy

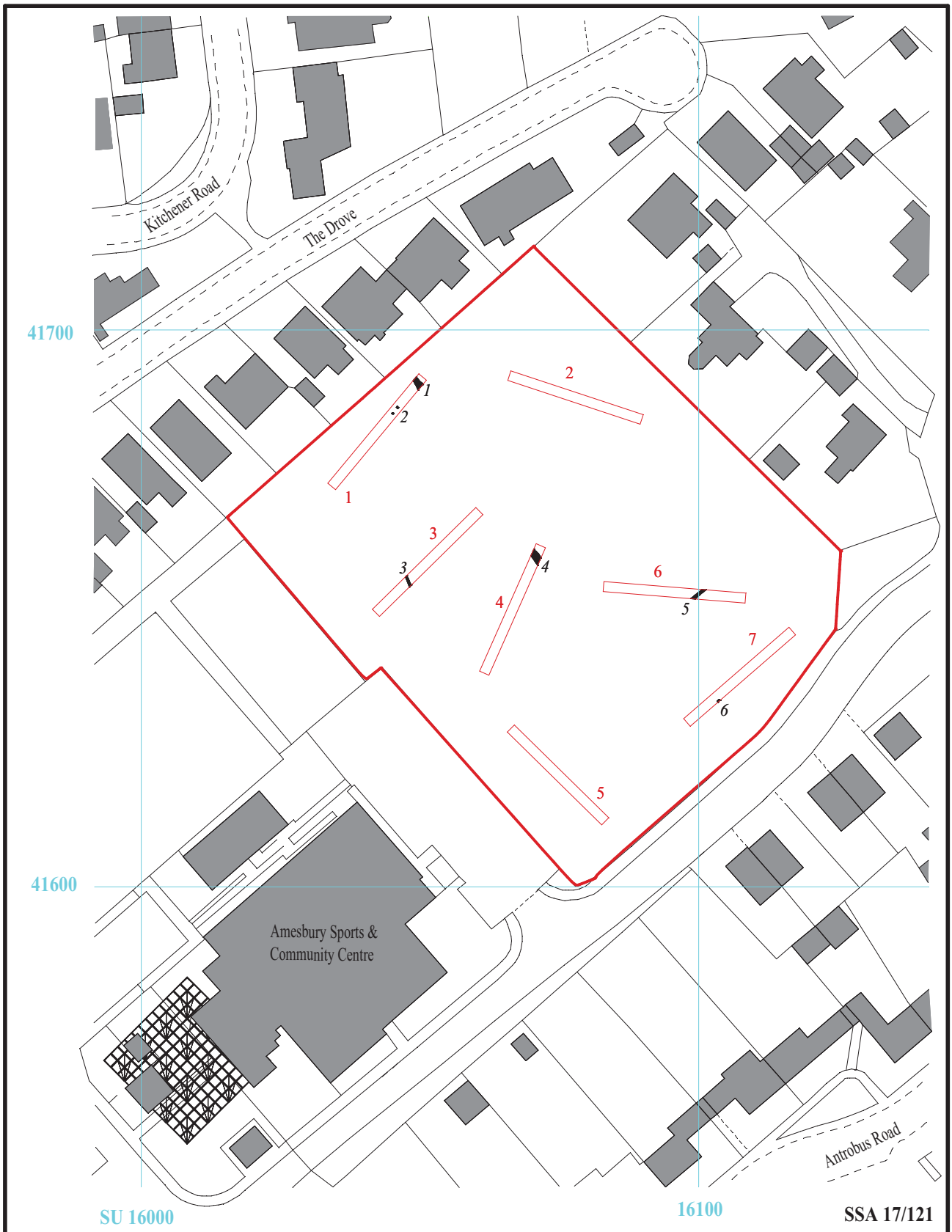


**Land at Stonehenge School, Antrobus Road,
Amesbury, Wiltshire, 2017
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Amesbury and Wiltshire.

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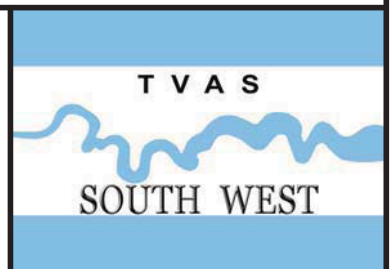


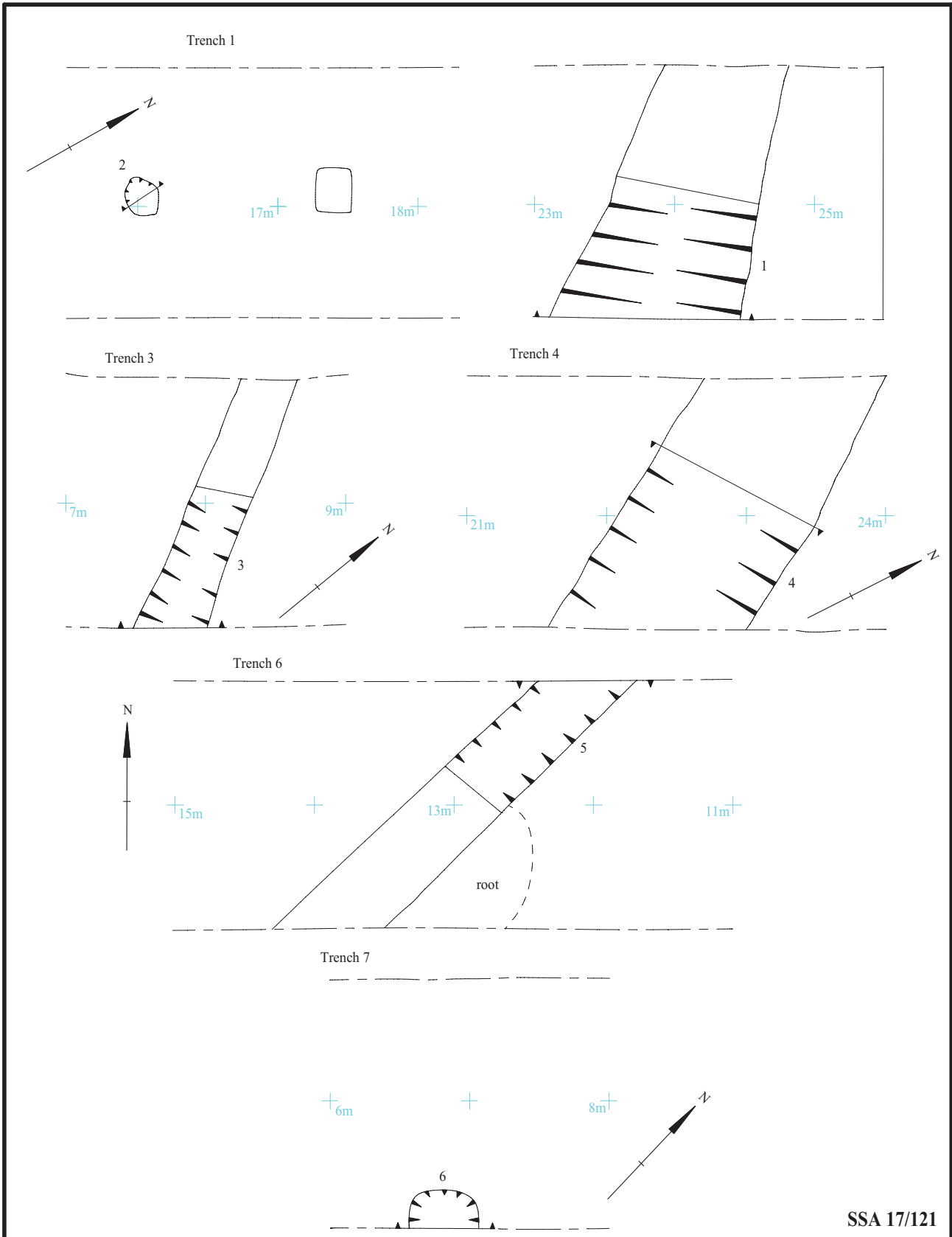


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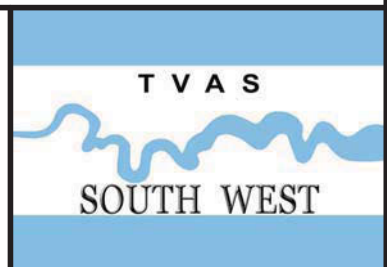
Figure 2. Location of trenches and features.

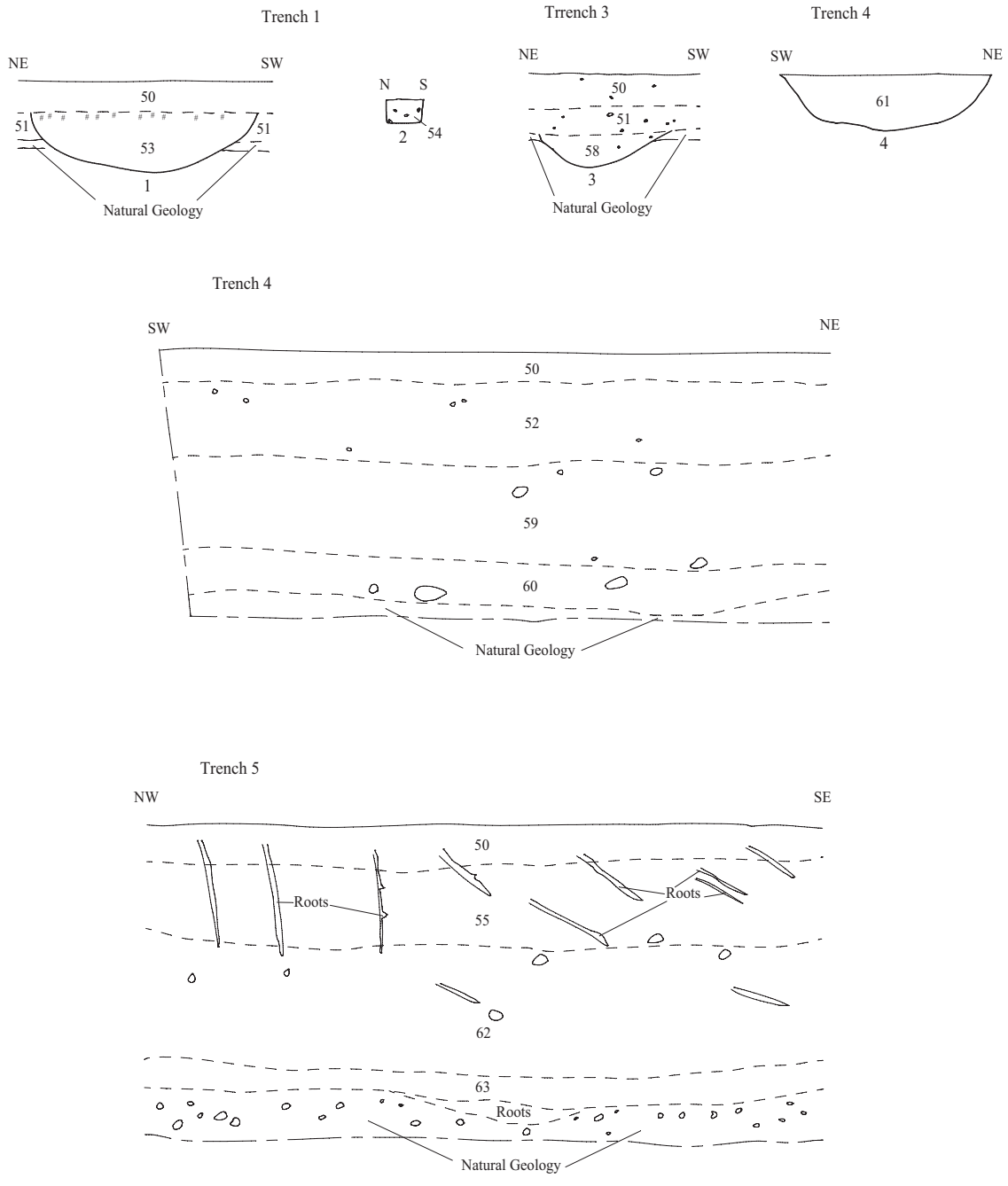




**Land at Stonehenge School, Antrobus Road,
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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Plan of Trenches





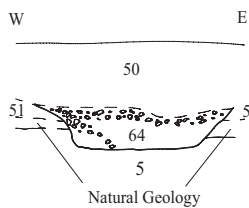
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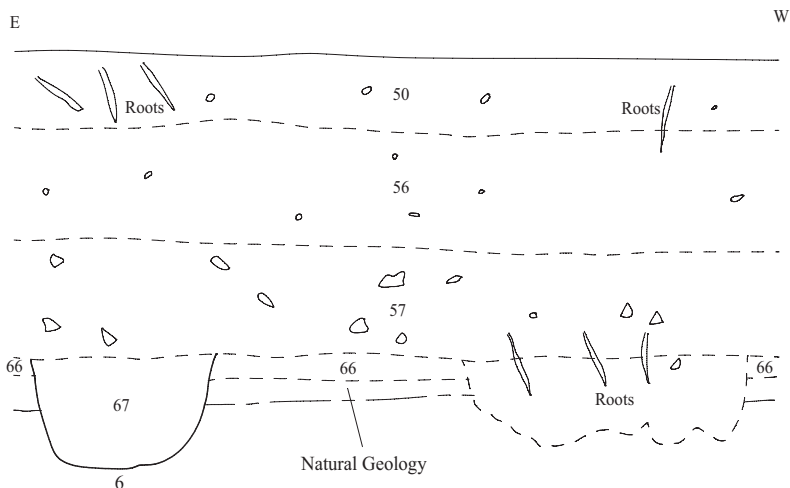
Figure 4. Sections.



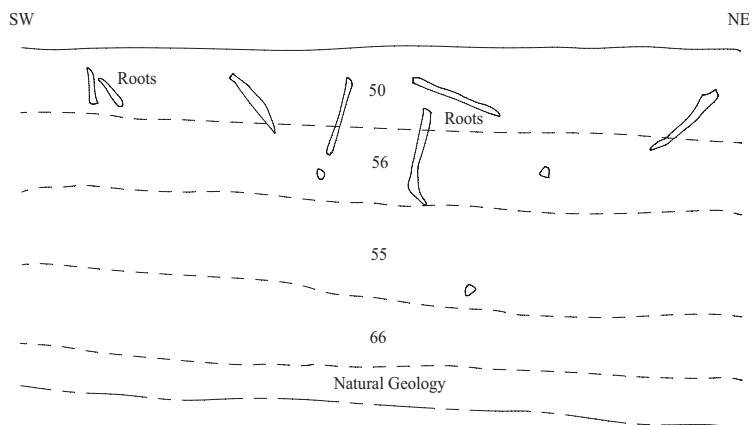
Trench 6



Trench 7



Trench 7



SSA 17/121

**Land at Stonehenge School, Antrobus Road,
Amesbury, Wiltshire, 2017
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 5. Sections.

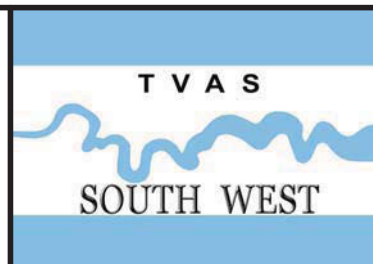




Plate 1. Trench 4, looking north east, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 5, looking north west, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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**The Stonehenge School, Antrobus Road, Amesbury,
Wiltshire, 2017
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 and 2.**

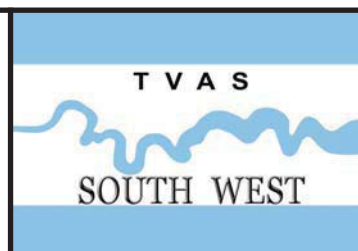




Plate 3. Trench 7, looking north east, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 1, looking south east. Ditch 1. Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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**The Stonehenge School, Antrobus Road, Amesbury,
Wiltshire, 2017
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 3 and 4.**





Plate 5. Trench 1, looking east. Posthole 2. Scales: 0.3m and 0.2m.



Plate 6. Trench 6, looking north east. Gully 5. Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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**The Stonehenge School, Antrobus Road, Amesbury,
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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 5 and 6.**





Plate 7. Trench 4, looking north west. Made ground 52, Buried topsoil 59, Buried subsoil 60.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 8. Trench 7, looking north west. Made ground 56, Buried topsoil 65, Buried subsoil 66.
Scales: 2m and 1m.

SSA 17/121

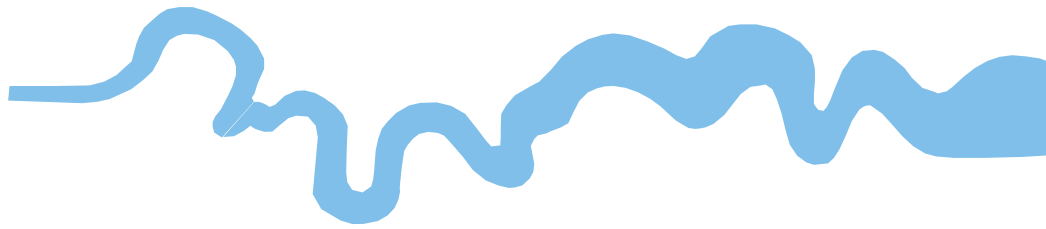
The Stonehenge School, Antrobus Road,
Amesbury, Wiltshire, 2017
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 7 and 8.



TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





**TVAS (South West),
Unit 21 Apple Business Centre,
Frobisher Way,
Taunton TA2 6BB
Tel: 01823 288284
Email: southwest@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk/southwest**

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