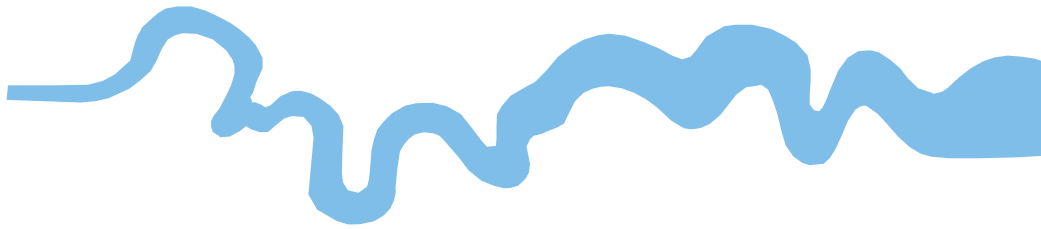


T V A S



SOUTH WEST

**Barter Farm Nurseries, Chapmanslade,
Westbury, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Nicholas Dawson

Site Code: BFC18/21

(ST 8281 4799)

**Barters Farm Nurseries, Chapmanslade,
Westbury, Wiltshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Lochailort Chapmanslade Limited**

by Nicholas Dawson

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BFC 18/21

June 2018

Summary

Site name: Barter Farm Nurseries, Chapmanslade, Westbury, Wiltshire

Grid reference: ST 8281 4799

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 29th May – 1st June 2018

Project manager: Agata Socha-Paszkwicz

Site supervisor: Nicholas Dawson

Site code: BFC 18/21

Area of site: c. 1.8ha

Summary of results: The evaluation was carried out successfully but with a few alterations to the location and number of trenches being made. However, the only cut features recorded were of late Post Medieval or modern date and the site is considered to have no archaeological potential. A few stray or residual finds of early medieval and possibly Roman pottery were recovered.

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 06.06.18
	Steve Preston ✓ 06.06.18

Barters Farm Nurseries, Chapmanslade, Westbury, Wiltshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Nicholas Dawson

Report 18/21b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Barters Farm Nurseries, Chapmanslade, Westbury, Wiltshire BA13 4AL (ST 8281 4799) (Fig 1). The work was commissioned by Mr James Croucher, of Lochailort Chapmanslade Ltd, Eagle House, 108-110 Jermyn Street, London, SW1Y 6EE.

Planning permission (18/00311/FUL) has been sought from Wiltshire Council for a residential development on the site. The application is required to include results of an archaeological evaluation in order to allow an informed decision with regard to the proposal's potential archaeological implications. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Wiltshire County Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist. The fieldwork was undertaken by Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz, Nicholas Dawson and Dominika Golebiowska between 29th May and 1st June 2018 and the site code is BFC18/21. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Wiltshire Museum (Devizes) in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located within the village of Chapmanslade some 5km to the south-west of Westbury and 5km east of Frome (Fig. 1). The proposed development site comprises an irregular but roughly rectangular outline centred on NGR ST 8281 4799, on a slight rise at an elevation of just below 129m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) that drops to around 120m aOD in the north and 126m aOD in the south. The underlying geology comprises Upper Greensand Formation sedimentary Boyne Hollow Chert Member sandstone (BGS 2011). Its current land use is that of a plant nursery though north and west portion of the site has lain disused for some time and has become overgrown. The rest of the site was still in use by the nursery and contains a number of greenhouses and is covered with a maintained scalps surface.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in the desk-based assessment (Tabor 2018). In summary the assessment identified only sparse Post-Medieval archaeology within the study area. There is no record of past activity in close vicinity to the site; however the assessment emphasized that Chapmanslade lies between the archeologically rich regions of the Mendip Hills and Salisbury Plain and the lack of archaeological records in the area may be due to a lack of archaeological investigation rather than to the genuine absence of past activity (Tabor 2018).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

Specific aims of the projects are:

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

Sixteen trenches were proposed to be dug, each measuring 25m long and 1.6m wide. These were to be dug using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Where archaeological features were identified or potentially identified, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools and sufficiently excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above, without compromising the integrity of an features or deposits which warrant preservation *in situ*, or might be better excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

Of the sixteen trenches planned, two were not opened and the locations of a further three were altered. This was due to a large proportion of the site still being used as a nursery providing a number of obstacles and constraints. The alterations were carried out after consultation with Ms Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist. The trenches ranged in length from 21.3m to 29.7m and in depth from 0.4m to 1.1m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The only

potential archaeological features were identified within Trenches 10, 11, 13 and 16. The excavated features, with dating evidence, are summarized in Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Figs 2, 3 and 4; Pls 1 and 8)

Trench 1 was aligned SSE – NNE and was 23.4m long and 1.1m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.38m of topsoil and 0.57m of subsoil overlying natural geology of grey yellow sand. At its northern end was an area of modern disturbance (1) containing waste including plastic piping, plastic sheeting and anti-weed matting.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

Aligned SE – NW, Trench 2 was 27.3m and 0.4m in depth. Its stratigraphy consisted of 0.16m of topsoil followed by 0.19m of subsoil above the natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

This trench at 29.7m in length and 0.6m deep was aligned SE – NW. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil with 0.2m to 0.35m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 4 (Fig 2; Pl. 2)

Trench 4 aligned E – W, had a length of 24.5m and depth of 0.5m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil with 0.15m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were found.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2)

Aligned SW – NE with a length of 24.4m and depth of 0.6m, the stratigraphy of Trench 5 consisted of 0.22m of topsoil and 0.28m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were found.

Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

Trench 6 had a length of 24.7m and depth of 0.4m, aligned WSW – ENE. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil with 0.1m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 7 (Fig. 2)

This trench was aligned WSW – ENE opened to a length of 21.3m and depth of 0.5m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of scalpins overlying 0.2m of topsoil and 0.1m of subsoil in the east. To the west the scalpins overlay 0.18m of buried garden soil, all overlying natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were found.

Trench 8 (Fig. 2)

Trench 8 was aligned WSW – ENE with a length of 25m and of 0.6m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of scalping over 0.15m of topsoil and 0.15m of buried garden soil all overlying natural geology. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 9 (Fig. 2)

Aligned WSW – ENE Trench 9 had a length of 23.4m and depth 0.52m. Its stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of scalpings and anti-weed matting above 0.17m of buried garden soil. This overlying natural geology. No archaeological finds or features found.

Trench 10 (Figs 2, 3 and 4; Pls. 3 and 9)

With a length of 23m and depth of 0.5m Trench 10 had an alignment of W – E. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil followed by 0.9m of subsoil overlying natural geology. At its west end the trench was crossed by a pipe. At its east end, aligned north-south was a field boundary consisting of, on the east side, a ditch (2) 1.2m wide, and on the west side a heavily root disturbed hedge line (5). From the upper fill (55) of the ditch three sherds of pottery and a single roof tile were recovered, all dating to the Post Medieval period. From the lower fill a further three fragments of pottery were found, one dating to the Post Medieval period and two sherds of Early Medieval date. A very abraded sherd of possible Roman pottery (or possibly medieval) was recovered from the subsoil.

Trench 11 (Figs 2, 3 and 4; Pl. 4)

Trench 11 aligns SW – NE with a length of 25.2m and depth of 0.56m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil overlying 0.15m of subsoil above natural geology. At its north west end aligned north-south was a continuation of the ditch (6) and hedge (7) field boundary identified within Trench 10.

Trench 12 (Fig 2; Pl. 5)

Trench 12 had a length of 25.1m aligned SW – NE and with a depth of 0.5m. Its stratigraphy consisted of 0.34m of scalpings overlying anti-weed matting. Beneath this was 0.12m of buried garden soil above natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were found.

Trench 13 (Figs 2, 3 and 4; Pls. 6, 11 and 12)

Aligned SW – NE Trench 13 had a length of 23.6m and depth of 0.86m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.09m of overgrown scalpings and anti-weed matting overlying 0.1m of levelling soil. Beneath was 0.24m of buried garden soil above another layer of scalpings 0.17m thick. Below this was 0.26m of subsoil and the natural geology of dark yellow brown sand. At the south western end aligned north-south was ditch (8) and hedge (9) - the same

field boundary seen also in Trenches 10, 11 and 16. The ditch had a width of 1.3m and was backfilled with silty clay containing modern rubble and ceramic building material. Finds from the fill (65) consist of a fragment of Post-medieval brick and a single sherd of East Somerset redware pottery dating to the 18th-19th Centuries.

A second linear feature (10) aligned east-west was also investigated. It was 0.7m wide and its fill (68) was dark grey silty clay with occasional modern rubble including a concrete post for a greenhouse frame. The feature appears to be the foundation for a previous nursery building on the site.

Trench 14

Trench 14 was not opened due to obstructions.

Trench 15

Trench 15 was not opened due to obstructions.

Trench 16 (Figs 2, 3 and 4; Pls. 7 and 10)

Trench 16 was aligned WSW – ENE with a length of 25m and depth of up to 0.65m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.16m of overgrown scalpins and anti-weed matting overlying 0.09m of buried topsoil and 0.2m of subsoil above natural geology. At its east end Trench 16 revealed the hedge (4) and ditch (3) identified in Trenches 10 and 11. At this point the ditch has reached a width of 1.5m. Finds from the field boundary ditch's (3) upper fill (58) consisted of four fragments of broadly Post-medieval tile as well as three sherds of pottery dating between the 18th to 20th centuries and a single unidentifiable redware, also of Post-medieval date. A single Early Medieval sherd was also recovered.

Finds

Pottery by Nicholas and David Dawson

A total of thirteen pottery sherds were recovered from five different contexts (Appendix 3). All but three of these sherds date to the Post-medieval period between the 18th and 19th century. From the upper fill (55) of the ditch cut (2) within Trench 10 two sherds of white stoneware jar from the 19th century and a single sherd of Verwood ware dating from the 18th-20th Centuries. From the ditch's lower fill came one sherd of creamware dating to the 19th-20th century. From the boundary ditch within Trench 13 (cut 8, fill 65) was a single fragment of East Somerset redware likely originating from either the Wanstrow, Nunney or Trudox Hill regions. From ditch cut 3 (fill 58) four sherds of Post Medieval pottery were found. These consisted of: one sherd of rim section of a Verwood dish dating to the 18th-20th Century; a base of an East Somerset redware jar or pitcher dating to the

18th-19th century; a fragment of stoneware tankard from the late 18th-19th century and a single sherd of unidentified Post-medieval redware.

Of the earlier pottery, one sherd of probable Seven Valley ware was retrieved from the subsoil of Trench 10 dating to the Roman period. However, it also has similarities to Shepton Mallet (10th to 12th century) Medieval wares. Two sherds of Early Medieval pottery were also retrieved from separate sections within the same field boundary. From the fill (56) of ditch 2 in Trench 10 came two sherds of a handmade coarseware with dissolved-out limestone and from fill (58) of ditch 3, a single sherd of heavily micaceous soft fired ware, likely from West Wiltshire.

Ceramic Building Material by Nicholas Dawson

The ceramic building materials comprised six fragments from three contexts. Fill (55) of ditch cut 2 in Trench 10 produced 1 piece of tile of 128g in a sandy fabric. Fill (58) of ditch 3 in Trench 16 produced a further 3 tile fragments of a similar sandy fabric weighing 303g; and fill (65) of ditch 8 in Trench 13 produced a single fragment of brick weighing 237g. All appear broadly Post-medieval.

Conclusion

The evaluation has successfully investigated the site with minor alterations made to the number and locations of trenches. Of the fourteen trenches opened all but trenches 10, 11, 13 and 16 were devoid of possible archaeological features and finds. The features investigated in Trenches 10, 11, 13 and 16 were all of modern or late post-medieval date and of no archaeological interest. The ditch and hedged feature compares well with a boundary depicted on the 1805 Westbury enclosure map and still shown on the 1924 Ordnance Survey map, but which had been removed during construction of the Barters Farm Nurseries in the 1970's.

A few stray or residual sherds of early medieval and possibly Roman pottery were also recorded from the fieldwork but no archaeological features of those periods were present.

On the basis of these results, the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

References

- BGS, 2011, *British Geological Survey*, 150000, Sheet E281C, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
Tabor, R, 2018, 'Barters Farm Nurseries, Chapmanslade, Westbury, Wiltshire: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep 18/21, Taunton

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at west or south end

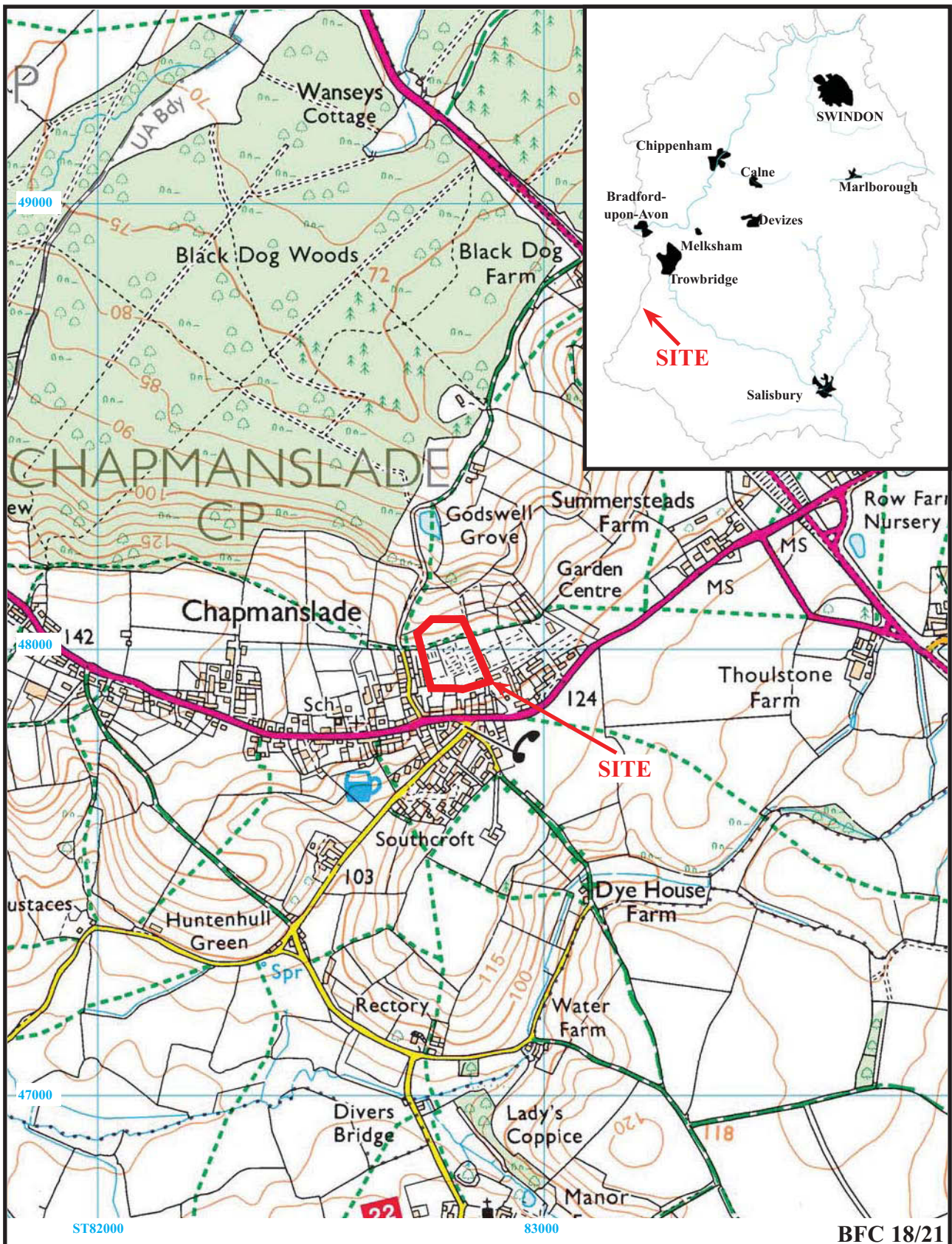
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	23.4	1.6	1.1	0-0.38m topsoil; 0.38-0.95m subsoil; 0.95m+ grey/yellow sand natural geology. Modern disturbance at north end (1) [Pls 1 and 8]
2	27.3	1.6	0.4	0-0.16m topsoil; 0.16-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ natural geology. Some modern tree root disturbance.
3	29.7	1.6	0.6	0-0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ natural geology. Some modern tree root disturbance.
4	24.5	1.6	0.5	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ natural geology. Some modern tree disturbance [Pl. 2]
5	24.4	1.6	0.6	0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ natural geology. Some modern tree root disturbance.
6	24.7	1.6	0.4	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.25m subsoil; 0.25m+ natural geology- pinkish yellow sand (east), grey yellow sand(west)
7	21.3	1.6	0.5	0-0.1m scalpins (east)- 0.1-0.2m topsoil (west); 0.1m subsoil (east)- 0.18m (west); 0.2m+ natural geology. Some root disturbance.
8	25	1.6	0.6	0-0.2m scalpins; 0.2-0.35m topsoil; 0.35-0.5m buried soil; 0.5m+ natural geology.
9	23.4	1.6	0.52	0-0.35m scalpins and anti-weed matting 0.35-0.52m buried garden soil; 0.52m+ natural geology.
10	23	1.6	0.5	0-0.26m topsoil; 0.26-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ natural geology (mottled yellow grey sand and clay. Ditch (2) and hedge (5). [Pls 3 and 9]
11	25.2	1.6	0.56	0-0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ green/brown sand natural geology.. Ditch (6) and hedge (7). [Pl. 4]
12	25.1	1.6	0.5	0-0.34m scalpins and anti-weed matting; 0.34-0.46m buried garden soil; 0.46m+ natural geology. Some modern root disturbance. [Pl. 5]
13	23.6	1.6	0.86	0-0.09m scalpins and anti-weed matting; 0.09-0.19m sand levelling deposit; 0.19-0.43m buried garden soil; 0.43-0.6m scalpins former surface; 0.6-0.86m subsoil; 0.86m+ natural geology. Ditch (8) , hedge (9), greenhouse foundation trench (10) [Pls 6, 11 and 12].
14				Not opened due to obstructions
15				Not opened due to obstructions
16	25	1.6	0.65	0-0.16m scalpins and anti-weed matting; 0.16-0.25m buried topsoil; 0.25-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ natural geology. Ditch (3) and hedge (4) [Pls 7 and 10].

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	1	52-4		Modern	Modern debris including plastic sheeting
10	2	55-6	Ditch	Post Medieval	Cartographic & pottery
16	3	58, 59	Ditch	Post Medieval	Cartographic & pottery
16	4	60	Hedge	Post Medieval	Cartographic
10	5	59, 59	Hedge	Post Medieval	Cartographic
11	6	69	Ditch	Post Medieval	Cartographic
11	7	70	Hedge	Post Medieval	Cartographic
13	8	66	Ditch	Post Medieval	Cartographic & pottery
13	9	67	Hedge	Post Medieval	Cartographic
13	10	68	Ditch	Modern	Foundation post for greenhouse

APPENDIX 3: Pottery

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>No. Sherds</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>
10		subsoil	1	7	Seven valley ware or Shepton Mallet medieval	Roman or earlyMedieval
10	2	55	2	5	White stoneware jar	19th century
			1	13	Verwood form not recognised	18th-20th century
		56	1	1	Creamware	19th-20th century
			2	1	Handmade coarse ware with dissolved out limestone	early medieval
13	8	65	1	45	East Somerset Redware (Wanstrow, Nunney or Trudox Hill)	18th-19th century
16	3	58	1	25	Rim of Verwood dish	18th-20th century
			1	63	Base of jar/pitcher East Somerset Redware	18th-19th century
			1	14	Heavily micaceous soft fire probably West Wiltshire ware	early Medieval
			1	5	Stoneware tankard	late 18th-19th century
			1	20	Unrecognisable redware	Post-medieval



**Barters Farm Nurseries, Chapmanslade,
Westbury, Wiltshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Chapmanslade and Wiltshire.

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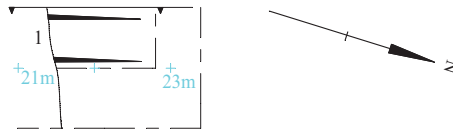
**Barter's Farm Nurseries, Chapmanslade,
Wesbury, Wiltshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Locations of trenches.

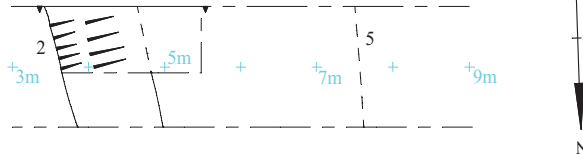


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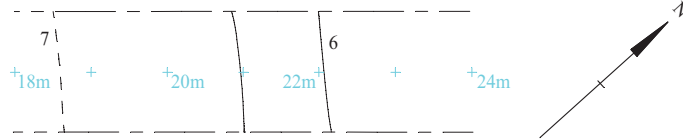
Trench 1



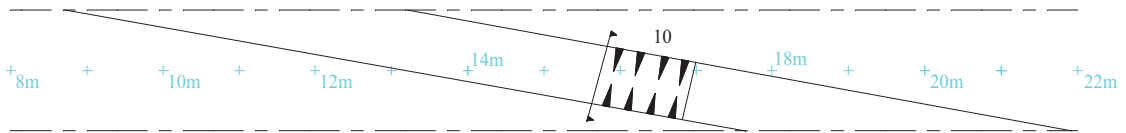
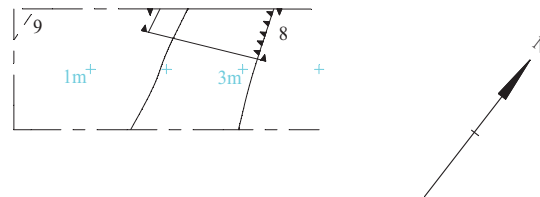
Trench 10



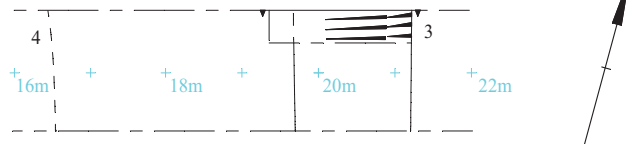
Trench 11



Trench 13



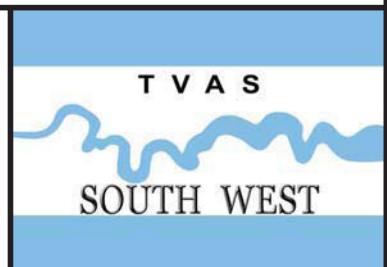
Trench 16

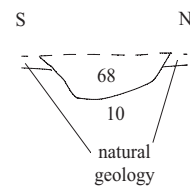
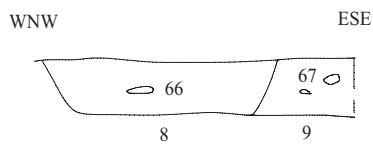
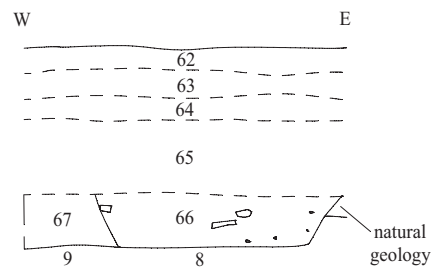
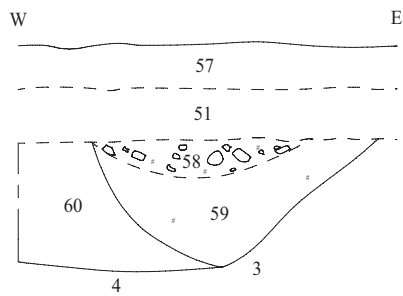
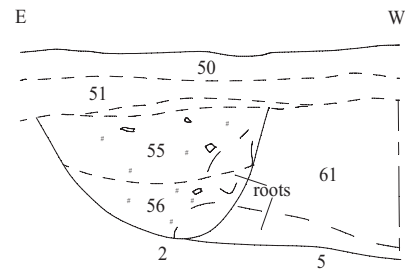
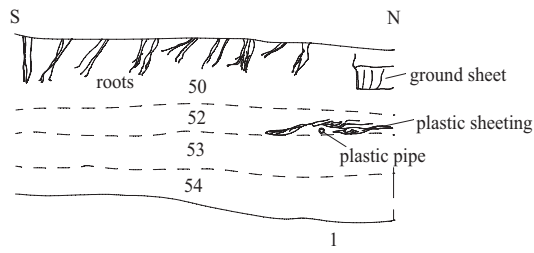


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**Barter's Farm Nurseries,
Chapmanslade, Wiltshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Detail of trenches.





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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Sections.

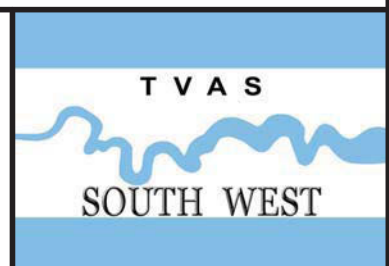




Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 4, looking west, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.

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**Barthers Farm Nurseries, Chapmanslade,
Westbury, Wiltshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 and 2.**





Plate 3. Trench 10, looking west, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 11, looking east, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.

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**Barters Farm Nurseries, Chapmanslade,
Westbury, Wiltshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 3 and 4.**





Plate 5. Trench 12, looking west, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 6. Trench 13, looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

BFC 18/21

**Barthers Farm Nurseries, Chapmanslade,
Westbury, Wiltshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 5 and 6.**





Plate 7. Trench 16, looking east, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

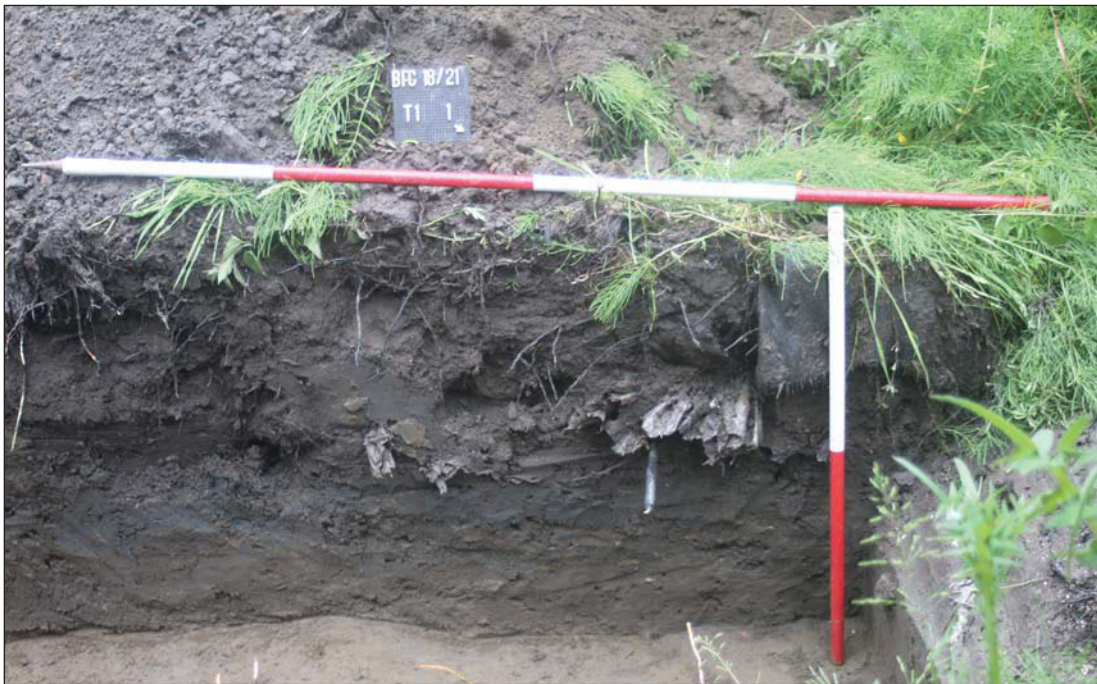


Plate 8. Trench 1, cut 1, looking west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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**Barters Farm Nurseries, Chapmanslade,
Westbury, Wiltshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 7 and 8.**





Plate 9. Trench 10, Ditch 2 and Hedge 5 looking south, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 10. Trench 16, Ditch 3 and Hedge 4, looking north, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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**Barters Farm Nurseries, Chapmanslade,
Westbury, Wiltshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 9 and 10.**





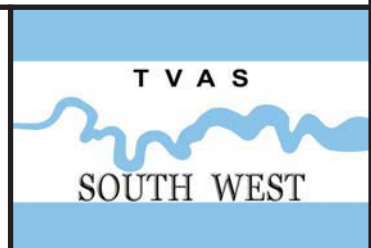
Plate 11. Trench 13, Ditch 8 and Hedge 9 looking north, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 12. Trench 13, Ditch 10, looking west, Scales: 1m and 0.2m.

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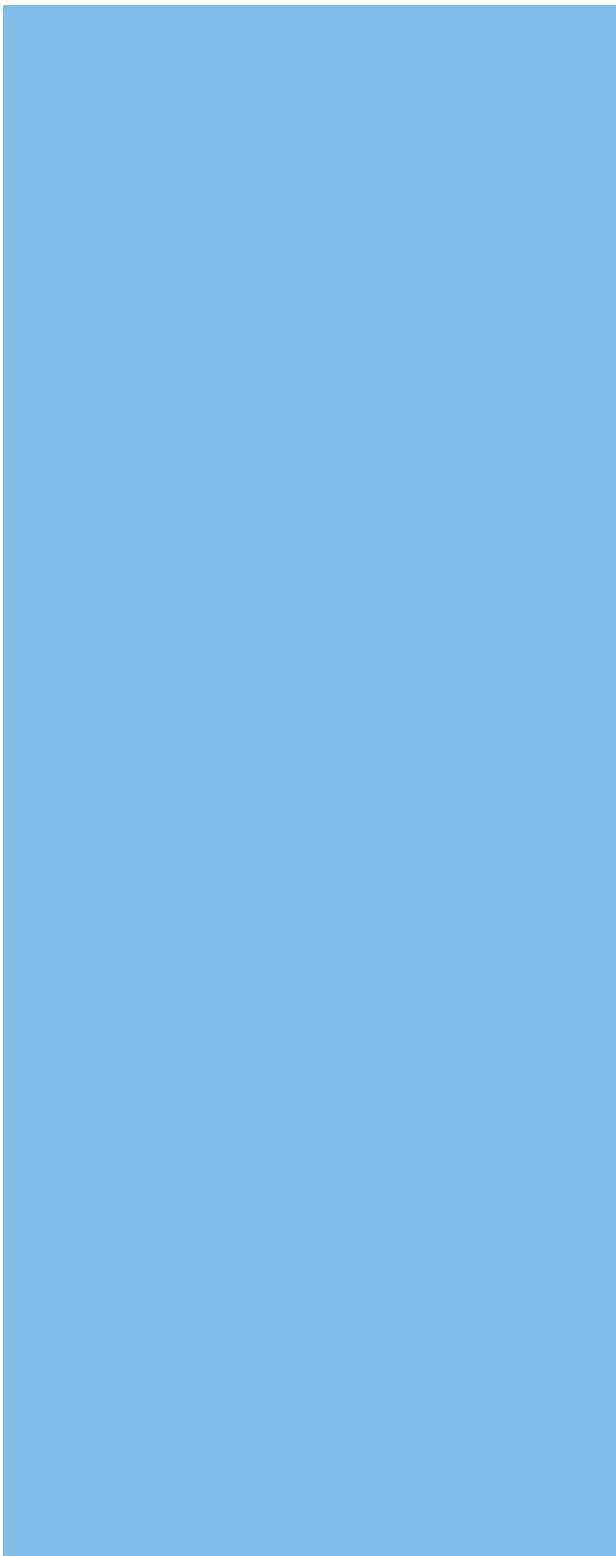
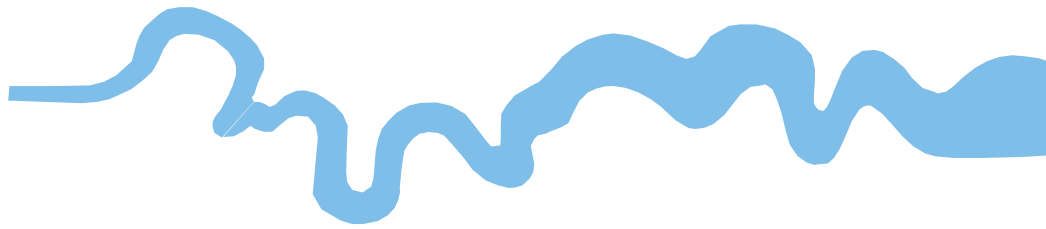
**Barters Farm Nurseries, Chapmanslade,
Westbury, Wiltshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 11 and 12.**



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





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