

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Manor Farm,
Winterbourne Monkton, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Pierre-Damien Manisse and Andrew Mundin

Site Code: MFWM14/10

(SU 0975 7184)

Land at Manor Farm, Winterbourne Monkton, Wiltshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

For Rivar Limited

by Pierre-Damien Manisse and Andrew Munda

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MFWM 14/10

October 2019

Summary

Site name: Land at Manor Farm, Winterbourne Monkton, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 0975 7184

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 22nd to 24th October 2019

Project coordinator: Danielle Millbank

Site supervisor: Pierre-Damien Manisse

Site code: MFWM 14/10

Area of site: 2.35ha

Summary of results: The evaluation revealed a number of cut features of possible archaeological interest, but a lack of dating evidence renders their significance unclear. However, they pre-date the now demolished post-medieval farm complex and their nature suggests that they may be of medieval or earlier date. It is considered therefore that the site has some archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Wiltshire Museum, Devizes, in due course.

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

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Land at Manor Farm, Winterbourne Monkton, Wiltshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Pierre-Damien Manisse and Andrew Munda

Report 14/10b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at land at Manor Farm, Winterbourne Monkton, Wiltshire (SU 0974 7185) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr James Bull of Riva Limited, 5 West Mills, Newbury, West Berkshire, RG14 5HG.

Planning permission (16/00151/FUL) has been granted by Wiltshire Council to construct new housing on the site of Manor Farm, after demolition of a number of the buildings at the south of the site, but retaining some of 19th century character, namely the Long Barn and Cartshed. The consent is subject to a two-part condition (7a and 7b), relating to archaeology. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by development, field observation has been requested as detailed in the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the council's policies on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council Archaeological Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Emily Gibson, Anne-Marie Huvig and Pierre-Damien Manisse from 22nd to 24th October 2019 and the site code is MFWM 14/10.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Wiltshire Museum, Devizes or The Alexander Keiller Museum, Avebury, dependant on material, in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located at Manor Farm, which formed much of the western part of the village, adjacent to the A4361 (Fig. 1). The site is made up of a number of buildings, two of which are deemed to have local heritage significance, the Long Barn and Stables (Fig. 2). Much of Winterbourne Monkton lies on Quaternary sand and gravel terrace deposits in the valley bottom of the eastern of two head streams of the River Kennet. The deposits overlie undifferentiated Cretaceous Lower Chalk (BGS 1974). The site lies at c.157m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

Archaeological background

The potential of the site was discussed in an archaeological desk-based assessment (Tabor 2014). Winterbourne Monkton lies less than 1km from the north edge of the Avebury World Heritage Site (UID100097), which contains a number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments and significant prehistoric monuments and deposits. Though several features, such as the causewayed enclosure at Windmill Hill, 0.8km away and the henge at Avebury 1.7km away are physically some distance from the site, there is some visibility to the village and the site specifically. Outside the World Heritage site, there is still a high potential for prehistoric features, with evidence from survey and excavation which found a mortuary enclosure to the north of the Windmill Hill plateau (Whittle 1994). A sarsen stone in the churchyard was also thought to be from a nearby chambered tomb called Shelving Stones, thought to have been destroyed between 1825 and 1849, though past interpretations that the church was located on such a monument are now thought unlikely.

There is documented ownership of Manor Farm itself from earlier control by the Abbey of Glastonbury, after the Dissolution of the Monasteries under King Henry VIII in 1542. The manor was given to Edward Seymour, Earl of Hertford, later Duke of Somerset in 1547. The earliest local building is the Church of St Mary Magdalene, (Grade II) which had 14th-century origins but was thoroughly rebuilt in 1878 (Pevsner and Cherry 1975, 591). The rest of village contains buildings of mixed dates, with later pre-fabricated buildings to the south, and timber-framed buildings belonging to West Farm to the north. They were later part of a group known as Manor Farm before 1924 (Tabor 2014; fig. 10). The farm is of a dispersed, multi-yard plan with different phases of development evident within its buildings. Two other farm buildings are early 19th century, though not formally protected by Listing, are key parts of the original farm grouping (the threshing barn, cart shed, granary and stables) forming part of a typical downland farm, and are being retained in the development.

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.

The specific research aims for this project were:

to determine if archaeological relevant levels have survived on the site;

to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present;

to provide information in order to draw up an appropriate mitigation strategy if required; and

to report on the findings of the evaluation.

In total, four trenches were intended to be excavated, each 1.6m wide and 20m long. This was to be effected by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed will be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above without, compromising the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation..

Results

All four trenches were dug more or less in the intended locations, though rotated slightly to retain access (Fig. 2). They were all 1.8m wide and ranged between 20.8m and 21.6m long and 0.5m-0.95m deep. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Fig. 2; Pl. 8)

Trench 1 was aligned west-east and was 20.8m long and up to 0.95m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of demolition debris above 0.37m of grey brown silty clay subsoil overlying chalk natural geology. The natural geology at the eastern end of the trench from 11m had been truncated. No deposits of archaeological interest were revealed.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2-4; Pls 1 and 3)

Trench 2 was aligned WSW–ENE and was 20.9m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of demolition debris above 0.2m of buried topsoil directly overlying chalk natural geology. Five certain or possible features of archaeological interest were revealed.

Ditch 1 was aligned north – south and was 1.6m wide but only 0.2m deep with an irregular bowl-shaped profile. It contained a single fill with chalk flecks (53) and produced a single fragment of fired clay. Ditch 2 was 1.44m wide and 0.6m deep with a steep-sided, flat based profile. It contained two fills (54, 73) with the lower fill (73) containing much chalk. Gullies 3 and 13 were parallel to each other and also aligned north-south but at a slight angle to ditch 2. Gully 3 was 0.6m wide and only 0.25m deep with a bowl-shaped profile. It contained a single clayey fill (55). Gully 13 was 0.42m wide and 0.26m deep with a bowl-shaped profile. It also contained a single, clayey fill (74). Gully 4 was aligned north-south and was 0.8m wide and only 0.18m deep with a bowl-shaped profile. It also contained a single, clayey fill (56) with some animal bone. Gully 12 was aligned north-south and was 0.35m wide and 0.3m deep with a bowl-shaped profile. It contained a single, clayey fill (72).

Trench 3 (Figs 2-4; Pl. 2, 4 and 5)

Trench 3 was aligned north–south and was 21.6m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil above 0.2m of subsoil overlying chalk natural geology. Three certain or possible features of archaeological interest were revealed. Possible pit 5 was 1.8m across but only 0.17m deep with an irregular shallow bowl-shaped profile and plan. It contained a single clayey fill (58). It is considered to be a natural feature. Possible Ditch 11 was up to 2.2m wide but of variable width and with a slight curve. It was up to 0.4m deep with an irregular bowl-shaped profile. It contained two asymmetrical fills (70, 71) with the lower fill (71) containing much chalk. The feature is probably of natural origin, possibly the root hole of a fallen tree and had been further disturbed by an animal burrow (67). Gully 6 was 0.9m wide and only 0.3m deep with a deep bowl-shaped profile. It contained two fills (59, 68) with the lower fill (68) containing chalk pieces and a single flint (or chert) flake.

Trench 4 (Figs 2-4; Pl. 6 and 7)

Trench 4 was aligned north–south and was 21m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of gravel car park surface directly overlying chalk natural geology. This trench contained four features: a pit and three ditches. Pit 7 was 0.88m in diameter and 0.72m deep with a steep-sided and curved base profile. It contained three fills (60, 65, 66). The lower fill (65) contained many chalk lumps but the upper layers were clayey and stone free. No datable finds were recovered but a flint core and a lump of sarsen came from the middle fill (66). Possible ditch terminal 8 was 0.84m wide and 0.33m deep with two stone-free clayey fills (62, 75). It had a curving, slightly irregular plan and might be a natural feature. Ditches 9 and 10 lay adjacent and parallel to each other aligned south-east to north-west. Ditch 9 was 0.7m wide and 0.47m deep with steeply sloping sides and flat base. It contained a single fill with many chalk pieces (63). Ditch 10 was 1.08m wide and 0.45m deep with a deep bowl-shaped profile. It too contained a single, largely stone-free fill (64), with some animal bone present.

Finds

None of the deposits excavated contained any closely datable artefacts, such as pottery, but a few contained animal bone and struck flint.

Struck flint by Steve Ford

Two struck flints were recovered. A flint (or possibly chert) flake was recovered from ditch 6 (59) and a core was recovered from pit 7 (66). They cannot be closely dated but are probably prehistoric.

Stone by Steve Ford

A single unworked fragment of sarsen (705g) was recovered from pit 7 (66).

Fired clay by Steve Ford

A single fragment of fired clay was recovered from ditch slot 1 (53).

Animal Bone

A small assemblage of fragmented disarticulated animal bone comprising 38 (322g) was hand collected from several contexts encountered in the evaluation, and recovered from one sieved soil sample. The condition of the pieces was variable, with the fragments from some contexts in fair condition, with fragmentation but little erosion, and some fragments highly eroded and weaker.

The bone was categorised according to animal size: large (cattle, horse), medium (sheep/goat, deer, pig), and where possible identified by species. Identified fragments are discussed and the material is summarised in Appendix 3.

From ditch slot 6 (deposits 58 and 68), several pieces were recovered which were identified as cattle (tooth and a mandible fragment) and a rib fragment and pieces of long bone from a medium-sized animal, including an unfused left sheep/goat radius-ulna (proximal end).

Ditch slot 9 contained two pieces of medium sized animal (probably sheep/goat) scapula and further pieces likely to represent further medium-sized animal elements.

Ditch slot 10 contained a single, very abraded piece of badly abraded bone, possibly from a long bone of a medium or large sized animal.

Ditch slot (/natural feature?) 11 contained two co-joining pieces representing a right cattle metacarpal (distal end).

Due to the lack of duplicated skeletal elements, the minimum number of individuals present in the assemblage was found to be; one sheep/goat and one cattle animal. No butchery marks were identified and the pieces have no notable characteristics, and are likely to represent domestic consumption.

Sieved soil samples

Ten bulk soil samples were taken, and 8L sub-samples of each were floated and wet sieved using a 0.25mm mesh to recover charred plant remains and small artefacts. With the exception of sample 1 from pit 7 (60) which produced a few very small flecks of charcoal, no charred plant remains were recovered. Two struck flints, and fragments of bone and fired clay were found.

Conclusion

The evaluation has revealed a number of cut features comprising ditches gullies and a pit of possible archaeological interest (and distinct from a number of natural features), but an absence of dating evidence renders their significance unclear (the struck flints could easily be residual). The locations of the features beneath the now demolished post-medieval farm complex suggest that they are earlier than the 18th century and the compact, 'mature' infill of the features suggests they may be much older. It is considered therefore that the site has some archaeological potential.

References

- BGS, 1974, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 266 (Marlborough), Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Hillson, S, 1992, *Mammal Bones and Teeth*, London
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept of Communities and Local Government, London
- Pevsner, N and Cherry, B, 1975, *The Buildings of England: Wiltshire*, London
- Tabor, R, 2014, 'Land at Manor Farm, Winterbourne Monkton, Marlborough, Wiltshire: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl client rep **14/10**, Reading
- Whittle, A, 1994, Excavations at Millbarrow Neolithic Chambered Tomb, Winterbourne Monkton, North Wiltshire, *Wiltshire Archaeol Natur Hist Mag* **87**, 1-53

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at South or West end

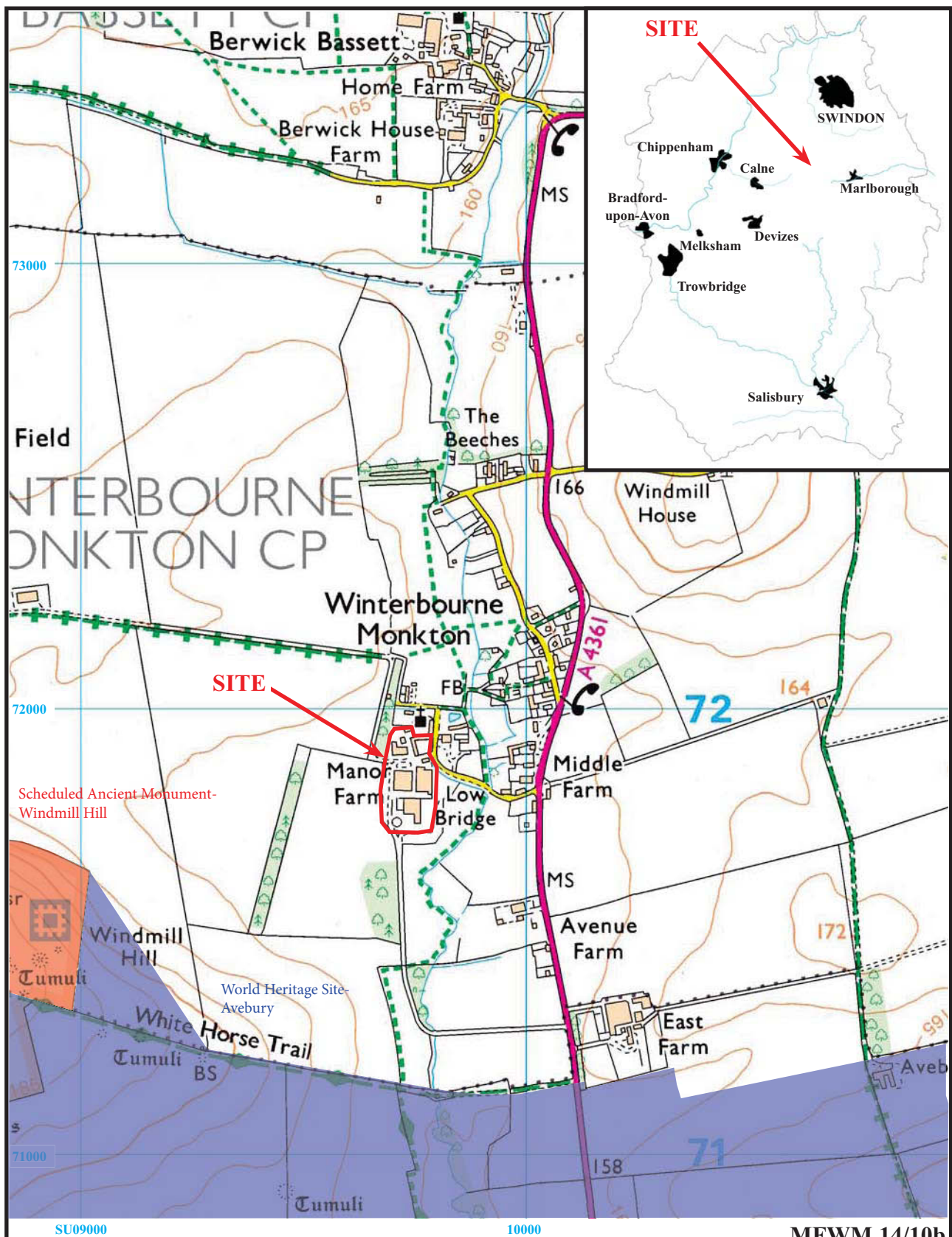
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	20.8	1.8	0.95	0–0.28m demolition debris; 0.28–0.65m grey brown silty clay (subsoil); 0.65m+ chalk natural geology. The eastern end of the trench from 11m had been truncated. [Pl. 8]
2	20.9	1.8	0.72	0–0.3m demolition debris; 0.3–0.5m buried topsoil; 0.5m+ chalk natural geology. [Pls 1 and 3] , Features 1-4, 12, 13
3	21.6	1.8	0.50	0–0.3m Topsoil; 0.3–0.5m grey brown silty clay (subsoil); 0.5m+ chalk natural geology. [Pls 2, 4 and 5] Features 5, 6, 11
4	21.0	1.8	0.50	0–0.3m Gravel (made ground); 0.3m+ chalk natural geology. [Pls 6 and 7] Features 7-10

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
2	1	53	Ditch	-	Fired clay
2	2	54, 73	Ditch	-	
2	3	55	Gully	-	
2	4	56	Gully	-	
3	5	58	Pit?/Natural feature	-	
3	6	59, 68	Ditch	-	Flint flake
4	7	60, 65-6	Pit	-	Flint core
4	8	62, 75	Gully terminal?/Natural feature	-	
4	9	63	Ditch	-	
4	10	64	Ditch	-	
3	11	70, 71 (67)	Ditch?/Natural feature	-	
2	12	72	Gully	-	
2	13	74	Gully	-	

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of animal bone

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>No Frags</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Sheep/ goat</i>	<i>Unid</i>
2	4	56	1	1		1		
3	6	59	7	45	2	1	1	3
3	6	59 <5>	1	4				1
3	6	68	1	5		1		
4	9	63	25	161		1	1	23
4	10	64	1	5				1
3	11	67	2	101	2			
Total			38	322	4	4	2	28



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10000

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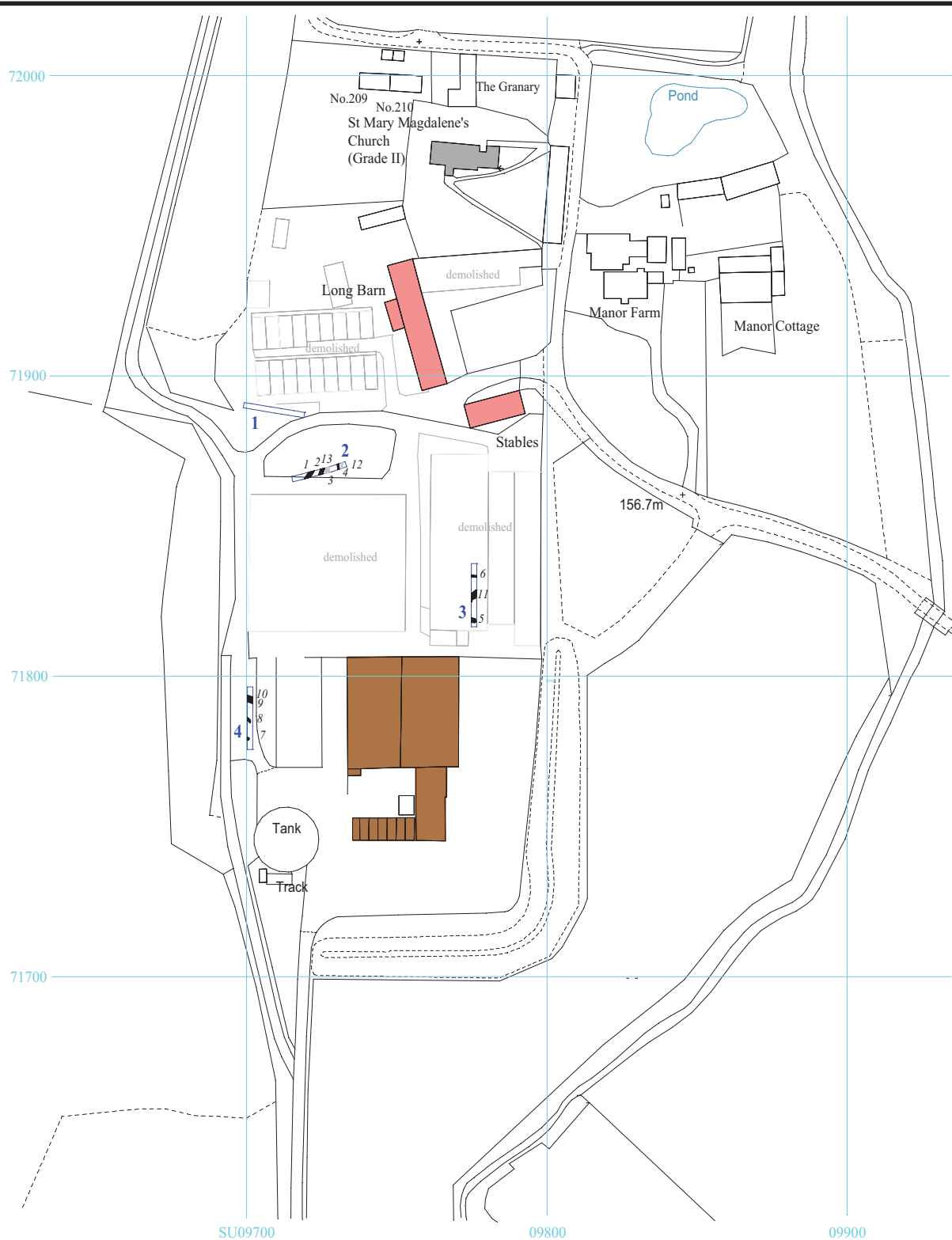
**Manor Farm, Winterbourne Monkton,
Wiltshire, 2019**

Archaeological Evaluation

**Figure 1. Location of site within Winterbourne Monkton and
Wiltshire.**

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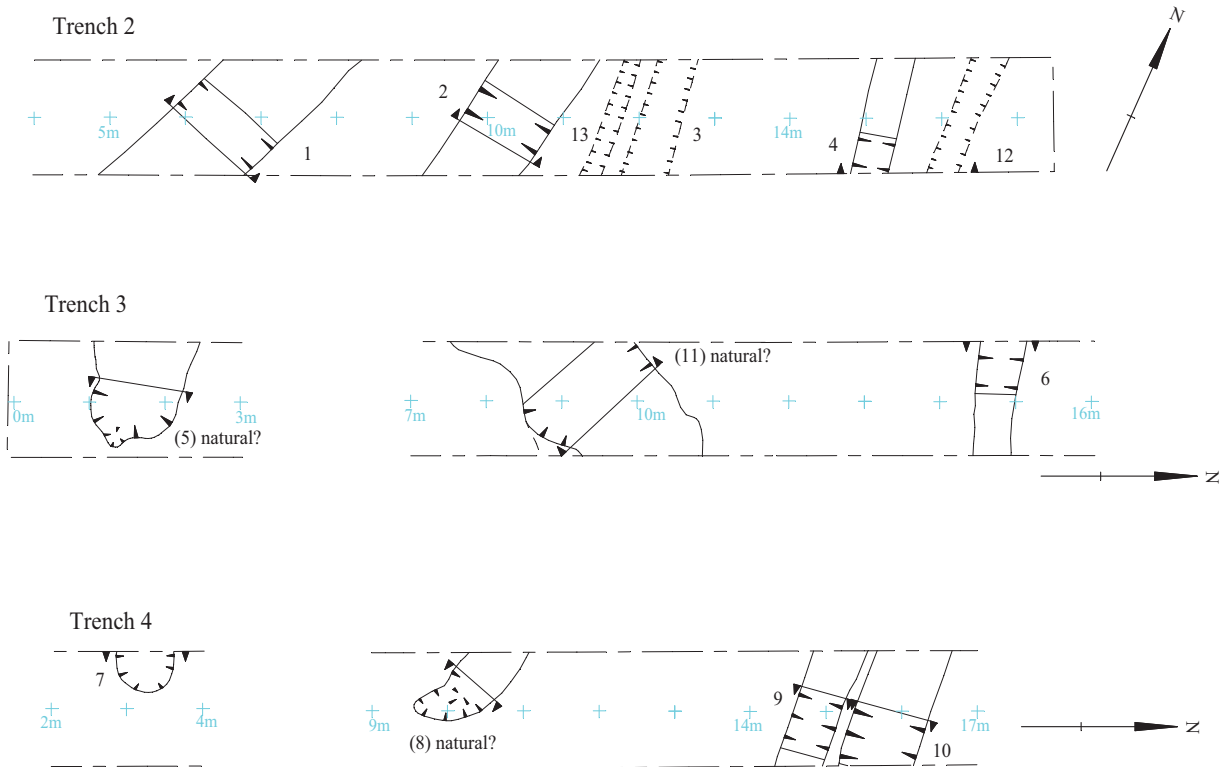
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**Manor Farm, Winterbourne Monkton,
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Figure 2. Location of trenches.

0 100m

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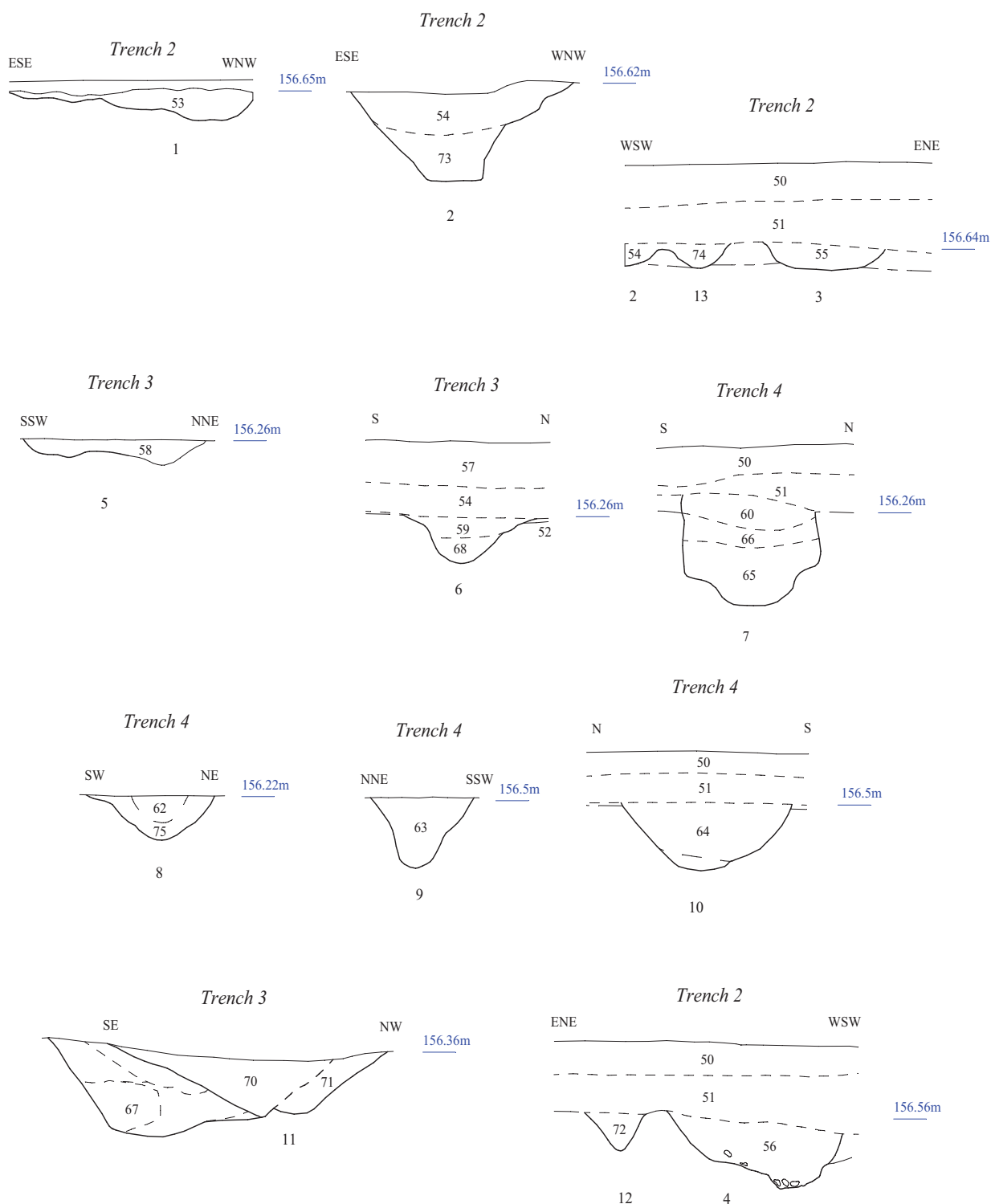
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Figure 3. Detail of trenches.



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Figure 4. Sections.



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Plate 1. Trench 2, looking north west, Scales: 1m x2.



Plate 2. Trench 3, looking north, Scales: 1m x2.

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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 2, ditch 2, looking south, Scales: 1m and 0.4m.



Plate 4. Trench 3, pit 5, looking north west, Scales: 1m and 0.1m.

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Plates 3 and 4.

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Plate 5. Trench 3, ditch 6, looking west, Scales: 1m and 0.4m.



Plate 6. Trench 4, ditch 9 and 10, looking north west, Scales: 1m, 0.4m and 0.3m.

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**Land at Manor Farm, Winterbourne Monkton,
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Plates 5 and 6.

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Plate 7. Trench 4, , looking north, Scales: 1m x2.



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

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**Land at Manor Farm, Winterbourne Monkton,
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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 7 and 8.

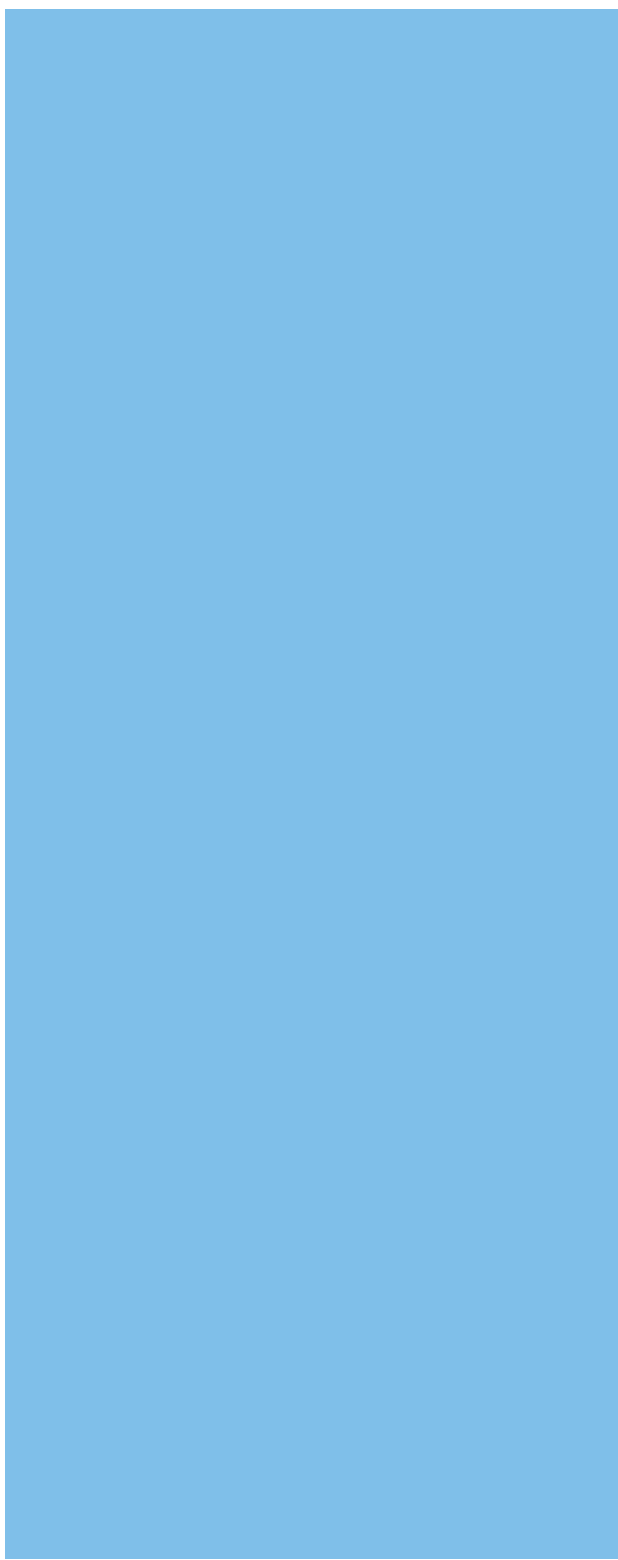
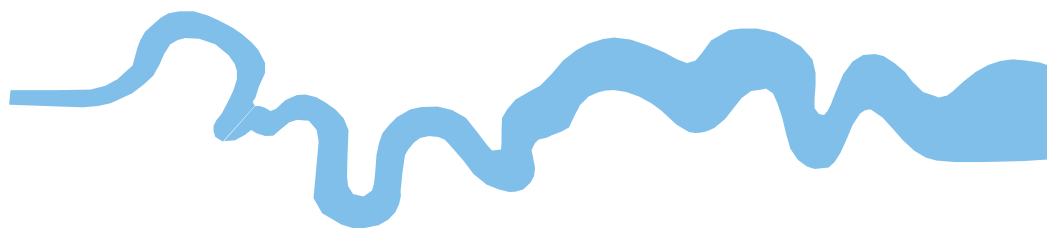
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TIME CHART

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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