

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Saxon and Medieval activity at Manor Farm,
Winterbourne Monkton, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Excavation

**by Pierre-Damien Manisse and
Anne-Michelle Huvig**

Site Code: MFWM14/10

(SU 0976 7183)

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An Archaeological Excavation

for Rivar Ltd

by Pierre-Damien Manisse and Anne-Michelle Huvig

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site code: MFWM 14/10

December 2020

Summary

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

Grid reference: SU 0976 7183

Site activity: Excavation

Date and duration of project: 6th January to 16th January 2020

Project coordinator: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Pierre-Damien Manisse

Site code: MFWM 14-10

Area of site: c. 1242 sq. m.

Summary of results: Three targeted areas were excavated, focusing on features revealed during previous evaluation. The fieldwork confirmed and complemented those earlier results. The site appears to show two main phases. An initial occupation is testified in the southern part of the site, in the form of seemingly unorganized post holes which must form a structure of some kind, not readily defined, and a few pits, providing very rare potsherds. While this pottery mainly appears to be early Saxon, it cannot be ruled out that it is Iron Age. A pit in the northern area, containing the remains of a horse and a rabbit skeleton, is probably of Medieval in date or later. All three zones were crossed by ditches and gullies of various orientations that confirm some activities (livestock management? field partition? drainage?) during Medieval and post-Medieval times.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Devizes Museum in due course under accession code DZSWS:23-2019.

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by Pierre-Damien Manisse and Anne-Michelle Huvig

Report 14/10c

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological excavation carried out on land at Manor Farm, Winterbourne Monkton, Wiltshire, SN4 9NW (SU 0974 7185) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr James Bull of Rivar Limited, 5 West Milles, Newbury, West Berkshire, RG14 5HG.

Planning permission (16/00151/FUL) has been granted by Wiltshire Council for a new residential development on the site, following demolition of some old structures and retention of others. The consent was subject to a condition, requiring a programme of archaeological works on the site, to comprise a watching brief to be carried out during the soil stripping on the access road, drives and parking areas, and three zones of excavation targeting features located in earlier evaluation trenches (Manisse 2019). This was in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the County Council's policies on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council Archaeological Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Pierre-Damien Manisse, assisted by Anne-Michelle Huvig, Camilla Carvalho, Emily Gibson and Luciano Cicu, from 6th to 16th January 2020. The site code is MFWM 14/10. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Devizes Museums in due course, with accession number DZSWZ: 23-2019.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on land at Manor Farm, on the south-western edge of Winterbourne Monkton village (Fig. 1). It is sited between the river Kennet and the road A4361 on the direction of the Avebury World Heritage site and in close proximity to the windmill Hill Scheduled Monument. The overall development area is directly south of St Mary Magdalene's Church which is a Grade II Listed Building, while Manor Farm, previously known as West Farm before the 1920's, had two local buildings of heritage significance, the Long Barn and Stables, though undesignated (Fig. 2). Several derelict buildings on the site had been demolished prior to the beginning of the fieldwork. Despite being close to river Kennet, where the geology is Quaternary sand and gravel terrace

deposits, the site lies on slightly higher ground at c.157-158m above Ordnance Datum (OD) on Lower Chalk deposit of the Upper Cretaceous (BGS 1974).

Archaeological background

The site's archaeological potential was highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Tabor 2014) and confirmed by the results of an archaeological evaluation (Manisse 2019). The potential for this site lies in its close proximity to well-known archaeological sites of national significance: the Windmill Hill bowl barrows complex is 1100m to the east-south-east, while 1700m to the south are the Avebury henge and stone circles. As such the likelihood to find Neolithic or Bronze Age remains was considered to be high. The proximity of the church, of 13th-14th century date for its oldest parts (but significantly remodelled in the 19th century), and of the core of the village highlights the potential for a Medieval occupation of the site. In the historical record, the manor was granted to Glastonbury Abbey from the 10th century until the Dissolution, in 1542. Of the four trial trenches of the evaluation investigation, three testified of the existence of some archaeological deposits. Unfortunately there was no dating evidence but they were sealed by post-Medieval deposits.

Objectives and methodology

The general purpose of the excavation was to sample, excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within three areas selected to target the locations of the features encountered in the evaluation. This was intended to:

- produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site;
- establish the character of these deposits in attempt to define functional areas on the site such as industrial, domestic, etc. and to
- produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations or palaeoenvironmental studies in the region.

Specific research objectives for the site are to address the following questions:

- When was the site first occupied?
- When was the site abandoned?
- What activities were taking place on the site?

The fieldwork divides into two parts. A watching brief was to be maintained on removal of overburden (topsoil and subsoil, or made ground) from the area of the main access roads, proposed driveways and car parking areas. Any archaeological features or deposits revealed there were to be investigated and recorded with the same methodology as the excavation areas. Based on the results of these, a decision would be made on whether monitoring of the house plots groundwork (footings and service trenches) would also be required.

Secondly, topsoil and any other overburden were to be mechanically removed from three 20m x 20m areas totalling *c.* 1200 sq m under continuous archaeological supervision. All archaeological features would then be planned and sectioned as a minimum objective, with full excavation or further sampling to follow to an agreed fraction depending on the nature and significance of the deposits present.

Results

It soon became apparent that the level of stripping for the access road and associated work, would not reach the relevant archaeological level. As this work started after the completion of the excavation phase it was deemed that any later watching brief observation would not add any more information to the results already obtained. Consequently, the remainder of the watching brief was cancelled after consultation with Ms Rachel Foster.

The excavation was carried out almost as planned with site constraints inducing only a minor modification. Three areas were opened (Areas 2-4) around the corresponding trenches (2-4) which had shown some potential. Their respective surface areas were 445, 400 and 397 sq m. Area 4's layout was modified (about 15 x 26m) to avoid disrupting the only site working access road.

A 360° tracked excavator (8 tons JCB), equipped with toothless grading buckets, either 1.50m or 0.80m wide, was used throughout the project. A metal detector (Fischer F5) was used to enhance metal finds recovery, both on site and on subsoil, but with meagre results.

The fieldwork took place usually under poor weather conditions. Thus, the conditions cannot be considered optimal. The results will be presented by area. Site stratigraphy varied little between areas. The lowest deposit encountered was the top geological horizon, a chalk layer mixed with some brownish grey clay that matches the upper layer of the geology as recorded on maps. In places, there were some brown clay patches. Unless otherwise specified the fill of the features was generally a mid to dark brownish grey silty clay to clay with rare to occasional small stones, flints and bits of chalk.

Area 2 (Fig. 3; Plates 1-2)

This was the northernmost excavated area, around evaluation trench 2. There were many traces of the recent occupation and lots of modern disturbance, which fortunately did not affect the understanding of the archaeological horizon. Only two discrete features were observed (pits 219 and 223). The rest consisted of ditches and gullies.

Pit 219 had initially been considered as a possible terminus for one of the intermingled linear ditch/ gullies 104-106 but having been fully excavated it turned out it was a pit located at the end of gully 106. It was circular with a diameter of about 1.06m. It had steep sides and a flattish base, 0.35m deep. its single fill (272), a firm mid brownish grey clay, with rare bits of chalk and very rare charcoal, did not yield any finds.

The other pit, 223, had seen its north edge truncated by a modern cut. As a result the skeleton of the horse it contained (Pl. 2) had lost its pastern and coffin bones. It was a full mare of small size. Below one of its legs a single precious pottery sherd was found in fill 277, attesting a possible Medieval date for the burial (11th-13th century?) although given the level of disturbance this cannot necessarily be secure dating, and the sherd was both small and badly abraded. The pit was 2.20m x 1.60m and rather shallow, not exceeding 0.12m deep from the level of stripping. The pit also contained much of the skeleton of a rabbit, regarded as a late 12th-century introduction to England, but this might have burrowed into the pit as there was no sign of butchery or skinning. The size of the horse also suggests this feature might be later than the pottery.

Almost north-south aligned was gully 102. Its linear shape and concave profile were ascertained through two slots, 203 and 213. Its width was between 0.58–0.65m and its depth did not exceed 0.15m. Only the north and south part of this linear were well defined, the central part being obscured by other features or rendered invisible due to its shallowness.

Sharing approximately the same orientation was the group of ditch and gullies 104-106, 9.4m to the east. Ditch 104 had a rounded terminus, 218 (Pl. 1), with irregular steep sides. It was 0.49m deep and 0.90m wide. Further slots (207, 220) confirmed the size and shape. This feature had already been identified during the evaluation (cut 4). Just beside it to the east was a gully, 105, examined through slots 221, 12, 206 and 217 (Pl. 1). It terminated near 104's end, suggesting a contemporary date. It was 0.50-0.61m wide and its depth did not exceed 0.27m at most. Gully 106 was probably a re-cut of those two though its end could not be properly seen. It was distinguished from the earlier cuts only by a slightly darker infill. Its breadth varied greatly, from 0.65m to 1.03m with a concave profile. Its depth was around 0.21-0.27m. Only animal bones came from these features.

Similarly to ditch 104 and gully 105 being placed side by side, ditch 100 was seconded by a gully, 101. They were aligned south-east/north-west for 5m in the south-west corner before turning sharply to a perpendicular orientation, before being lost below ditch 120 at the north edge of excavation. Gully 101 had already started to become very diffuse before reaching this point. It had also been missed during the evaluation where a single cut, 1, had been attributed to 100. This was no surprise as 101 was considerably shallow, about 0.04-0.09m deep and 0.34-0.40m wide. Ditch 100 was not much more deeper, with a fill 0.13-0.21m thick. It

was larger though, with a breadth around 0.80-1m overall. It had a flattish base and irregular sides. Neither feature contained any finds.

North-south ditch 103 was the most substantial feature in this area, with a width of 1.57m and a depth of 0.63m. It had moderate to steep sides and a flattish base. Three fills (264, 267-268) were defined on site though after some consideration it is more likely that only two infill episodes should be recognized, only varying in the quantity and size of chalk nodules, more present towards the base. Despite its size, it contained no finds.

Finally, ditch 120 was a linear feature seen near the north baulk, aligned west-south-west to east-north-east. A terminus was considered, 200, but might not qualify to be considered as such. It might just due to the feature being very shallow and having been stripped in the north-west quadrant that we are missing its continuation. There seemed indeed to be a concave cut in the west site baulk that could match with it. The fill was slightly more grey than those of 100, 101 and 103, giving in plan a clear indication that the other features were truncated by it. It was at least 0.85m wide and 0.08m deep. Two pieces of an orange glazed pottery found in it suggest a 16th-17th-century date (or later).

Area 3 (Fig. 4; Pls 3-4)

This area centred on evaluation trench 3. Area 3 contained two pits (300 and 304), the rest being six gullies (108-112) and a substantial ditch (107). The eastern side saw a modern service going north-south while 8 squarish footings likely defined the position of piles of a former rectangular barn, filled with concrete or demolition rubble. They truncated partially ditch 107 as well as pit 304.

Ditch 107 (Pl. 4) entered the excavation area aligned WNW-ESE near the north edge of area 3 and then turned almost due N-S. A couple of gullies (313 and 112) seemed to branch off it. This ditch had already been documented during the evaluation (slot 6) and further slots were made to better appreciate it (303, 312, 314, 316, 310). Its sides were irregular: in slot 303 they were moderate then the slope accentuated greatly, in 314 the feature had a V-profile while 310 (Pl. 4) offered a more concave appearance. Base was flattish or slightly rounded. Its width is comprised between 0.58m to 0.94m at most. Two clearly distinct fills were seen in slots 303 and 314. An upper deposit with only rare stone/flint or chalk inclusions and a basal part with a greater abundance of those. In 310 only the former was seen. It was 0.40m wide. One sherd of pottery suggested a Saxon (6th -8th century) date while another point rather towards a late 10th – 11th century infilling date.

Gully 313 was a gully going south-north from ditch 107, so only marginally within the excavation area. The relationship slot with the latter was inconclusive due to similar infills. It was 0.30m deep and 0.75m wide. Similarly, gully 112 was a short length extending west from ditch 107. It had a rounded concave end, 311, 0.34m

wide and 0.10m deep. According to slot 317 it was seemingly interrupted by ditch 107. Its total visible length did not exceed 1.33m but it could have continued to the east.

Gully 108 was a slightly curved gully alongside ditch 107. It terminated just before joining with gully 111 (slot 315). It was 0.42m wide and 0.10m deep with a concave profile and gentle slopes. After it merged with 107 (slot 309; Pl. 4), it became slightly deeper, reaching 0.20m. Similarly its width extended to 0.50m. It soon resumed a shallow course (0.10m deep on the opposite section of slot 309) diverging from the ditch.

Gullies 110 and 111 seem to form a parallel pair. Gully 110 was aligned WNW-ESE south of gully 111. During the evaluation, gullies 110 and 111 had been misinterpreted as a single ill-defined entity 11. From its surviving depth (0.07-0.11m), more plausibly this was just the basal part of a feature appearing much higher (and consequently more recent too). It was 0.35-0.40m wide. Both terminus (307, 308) were rounded. Gully 111 was a WNW-ESE gully just north of 110, but with a slightly different axis. It might have been contemporary with gully 108, as they terminated close to each other and could delimit a rectangular area. At the other end (west), a terminus was excavated but it was more like a feature petering out rather than a proper end and this gully might have continued further west (though no clear cut was visible in the west baulk of area 3). The same note as for gully 110 can be made regarding its date, neither need be very old. At the level of stripping, this feature was *c.* 0.42m wide and 0.04-0.09m deep. Rare animal bones were collected in it.

Pit 300 (Pl. 3) was sub-circular, 0.52 x 0.62m and 0.13m deep. It had steep to near vertical sides and a flat base. Fill 350 was a sterile a dark grey silty clay with rare charcoal flecks and rare small burnt stones (<0.05m).

Pit 304 was an oval about 0.55 x 0.90m. It was 0.14m deep. It had irregular sloping sides and base. Some animal bones were recovered from fill 355.

Gully 109 was a faint gully disappearing out of the south edge of the excavation and not extending much further north. As it had not been seen during the evaluation phase and judging from its shallow depth at the level of stripping it probably relates to a relatively recent feature. In fact it appears just below the demolition level according to section seen in the south baulk of Area 3 where a depth of 0.30m can be discerned and a width of twice that size.

Similarly, feature 5 observed in the evaluation is now considered a natural patch and not archaeological.

Area 4 (Fig. 5; Pls 5-8)

This area's initial layout was changed to permit vehicular access. On the western edge there were some modern service trenches while on the east appeared the concrete footings of a recently demolished building. During the course of the fieldwork this area was flooded and had to be pumped. The excavation revealed three ditches (418,

116, 117), four gullies (113-115, 118), five pits (119, 408-409, 421, 427) and 13 post holes (402, 407, 410, 413-416, 420, 424-426, 428, 431).

Ditch 418 was marginally visible along the north side of area 4. A single slot demonstrated that it truncated gully 114. The ditch was at least 1.18m wide: it is undated but there is a suspicion that it was fairly recent.

Gully or shallow ditch 113 was 3.90m long with a maximum breadth of 0.22m. This elongated segment had two rounded ends and was orientated NNE-SSW. Again its upper fill was almost devoid of inclusions and a lower deposit contained far more flecks or small nodules of chalk.

Gully 114 (slot 419) was truncated by (or terminated at) ditch 418 and on the opposite SSE end it ended just before reaching gully 113 (slot 430), leaving it only 2m long. It was 0.50m wide and 0.10m deep at maximum with a single sterile fill.

Gully 115 was sited in between ditches 116 and 117. The relation with 116 was unclear (slot 432) as they had the same fill. It is possible that it merged with or was crossed 116, as a slot in the latter further to the WNW revealed another cut, 411, under the cut belonging to 116, 412, but on the north side of it this time. No trace of gully cut by the ditch had been seen in the evaluation trench. It was about 0.40m wide and 0.2m deep with a concave profile.

Ditches 116 and 117 were parallel, almost NW-SE. They had been checked during the evaluation (with respective slots 10 and 9). Ditch 116 extended outside the limit of excavation but the north-west terminus of 117 was identified (404). 116 had a width of 0.65-0.80m and a depth of 0.35m. It had a concave profile with steep sides in slot 404 while slot 412 presented it with a v-shaped profile with gentler slopes.

Located south of ditch 117, 118 was a south-north gully. It had two rounded terminals (401 and 417). It was 9.4m long and 0.45-0.55m wide. It was really shallow, the infill thickness comprised between 0.08-0.10m. It was apparently cut by post hole 416. It had an irregular base. It is possible that this was a continuation of gully 113 but their fills were very different and this therefore seems unlikely.

Pit 408 was one of the rare dated features. It was oval-shaped. Its dimensions were 1.40 x 1.05m and a depth of 0.18m. A single potsherd was collected in fill (459). It had moderate to steep sides and a flattish base.

Pit 119 was a bean- or banana-shaped pit, already recognized during the evaluation (slot 8). It measured about 3.5m long and was 0.94m wide. A depth of 0.32m was attained. Fill 450 was totally sterile.

Feature 409 (Pl. 5) was a small isolated amorphous pit, vaguely oval with irregular sides. As fill (460) yielded no finds it would not be surprising if this was just a natural dip rather than a man-made feature. It was 0.92m x 0.50m and 0.20m deep.

Pits 421 and 427 shared the same pattern and dimensions. Both pits were shouldered on one side by a post hole (respectively 420 and 426). 421 was sub-circular, measuring 0.57x0.63m and 0.24m deep while 427, also sub-circular, was 0.56x0.62m and 0.10m deep. They contained no finds.

Postholes

There was no recognizable pattern in the distribution of post holes east and west of gully 118. One could draw a circular feature, 7.3m in diameter passing by post holes 416, 413, 402, 410 and 414 but we are missing a few to get a complete post-built structure. Vaguely rectangular patterns are also discernible, but none remotely convincing, though it is assumed there must be a structure of some description here. The poor observation conditions on site alone cannot explain this. The table below gives the details of the post holes.

Table 1: details of post holes in area 4

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Dimension (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Finds</i>
402	452	0.30x0.28	0.30	Sub-vertical sides, flattish base	IA/ESax pottery
407	458	0.24x0.21	0.09	Irregular sides and base	Animal bones
410	461	0.28x0.30	0.31	Vertical sides, rounded base	
413	464	0.27x0.34	0.29	Near vertical sides, slightly rounded base	
414	465	0.40x0.45	0.26	Steep side at east, near vertical at west, concave base	Burnt stones (not kept)
415	467	0.25	0.12	Steep sides, slightly rounded base	2 very degraded sherds IA/ESax
416	468	0.24x0.28	0.23	Near vertical sides, flattish base	
420	472	0.31	0.18	Steep sides, concave base	
423	476	0.28	0.13	Steep sides, concave base	[Pl. 7]
424	477	0.30x0.35	0.10	Steep irregular sides, concave base	
425	478	0.24	0.13	Vertical sides, irregular flattish base	
426	479	0.32x0.35	0.10	Steep sides, irregular base	
428	481	0.40	0.17	concave	4 IA/ESax potsherd
431	484	0.22x0.20	0.22	Steep sides, tapered rounded base	

Finds

Pottery by Sue Anderson

Twenty-two sherds of pottery weighing 146g were collected from eleven contexts during the excavation. Table 1 shows the quantification by fabric and a summary catalogue by context is included as Appendix 2.

Table 2. Pottery quantification by fabric in approximate date order.

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date range</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>eve</i>	<i>MNV</i>
Handmade fine sandy with abundant mica	HMSM	Iron Age or Early Saxon?	4	10		2
Handmade coarse shelly limestone	HMCS	Iron Age or Early Saxon?	6	11		3
Handmade sparse shelly and sandy	HMSS	Iron Age or Early Saxon?	1	2		1
Handmade flint and fine sand	HMFL	Iron Age or Early Saxon?	2	17		2
Handmade fine flint	HMFF	Iron Age or Early Saxon?	1	6		1
Handmade coarse white quartz	HMQZ	Iron Age or Early Saxon?	1	3		1
Early Saxon organic-tempered	ESO1	6th-8th century AD?	2	5		1
Early Saxon organic and sand-tempered	ESO2	6th-8th century AD?	1	6		1
Saxo-Norman sandy wares	SXNO	Late 10th-11th century	1	25		1
West Wiltshire micaceous sandy ware	WWM	11th-13th century?	1	2		1
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	Late 16th-18th century.	2	59	0.04	2

Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight, estimated vessel equivalent (EVE) and minimum number of vessels (MNV). Methods follow MPRG recommendations (MPRG 2001) and form terminology

follows MPRG (1998). The results were inputted onto an Access database, which forms the archive catalogue. Most of the pottery was recovered from post-holes and linear features. Only small quantities of pottery were recovered from any of the features, and much of it was abraded. Confidence in dating individual contexts is therefore low, but the handmade wares from a concentrated group of features in Area 4 suggests that these were contemporary.

Handmade pottery

Eighteen sherds of handmade pottery representing twelve vessels were recovered from areas 3 and 4. All sherds were body fragments in hard, well-fired fabrics, the majority fully reduced, but there were no particularly diagnostic features other than fabric to aid with dating.

Three small sherds from ditch 316 in Area 3 were organic-tempered (ESO1, ESO2) and likely to be of Early/Middle Saxon date, and another sherd from the same area (gully 311) was tempered with sparse fairly coarse unburnt flint and quartz (HMFL) and may be contemporary. Two of the ESO1 fragments were joining sherds and appeared to be either a carination fragment from a small thick-walled vessel or, more likely, a fragment of a ceramic spindle whorl.

In Area 4, fourteen handmade sherds were recovered from a group of post-holes and a nearby ditch section. The sherds were in a variety of fabrics containing typical local and regional inclusions such as angular flint, angular white quartz/quartzite, shelly limestone and abundant mica. This group included a very fine sherd with a rounded carination, which could be interpreted as part of a fine sub-biconical vessel of Early Anglo-Saxon date. One other body sherd (ESFL) had a possible coarse slip, or *Schlickung*, on the surface, a technique which was relatively common in 5th-century Essex and the south-east (Hamerow 1993; Jervis *et al.* 2016) but is not commonly recorded further west; the sherd was very similar to the fragment of the same fabric from 311.

Later wares

A large body fragment of a Saxo-Norman sandy ware was recovered from ditch 310. The fabric was off-white but this may have been due to over-firing, as the matrix was very hard and appeared similar to Pingsdorf-type ware in section. The sherd is similar to Late Saxon Michelmersh-type wares from south Hampshire (e.g. Mephram and Brown 2007), but is likely to be from another source.

A small, abraded body sherd of early medieval West Wiltshire micaceous sandy ware was found in horse burial 223.

Two sherds of post-medieval glazed red earthenware were recovered from ditch 250. One fragment was a bowl/dish rim and the other was a body sherd of a similar vessel, both with orange glaze internally.

Discussion

The majority of this assemblage comprises handmade wares in a variety of local fabrics. With the exception of the grass-tempered sherds, which can be dated to the 6th century or later (*e.g.* Mephram 1991; Timby 2012, 49), the handmade group could be of either Iron Age or Early Saxon date. Unfortunately, there are few published large Early Saxon assemblages in the area with which to make comparisons. Two main fabric groups were recorded in the Early Saxon assemblage from Market Lavington (Mephram 1991) – organic-tempered and sandy – but no details of the twelve distinct fabrics are provided. Similarly, an assemblage from Old Down Farm, Andover was divided into three fabric categories – sandy, sandy with flint (sometimes very fine), and organic (Davies 1980, 170), and the pottery from the large cemetery at Portway, although dominated by organic-tempered wares, included one vessel with ‘small quantities of crushed irregular flint chips’ (Cook and Dacre 1985, 104). At Cowdery’s Down, Hampshire, pottery from the settlement included organic- and sand-tempered fabrics, but one fabric is noted as containing some shell, and another has abundant mica (Brisbane 1983, 254–6). A small group from Broad Blunsdon, to the north of Swindon, comprised largely sandy or organic wares, but there were a few sherds in a limestone-tempered fabric (Blinkhorn 2012, 55, Fabric F3). Clays containing shelly limestone were certainly in use in this part of Wiltshire in the medieval period, and are thought to be derived from the Cotswold area. It is likely that the relatively high proportion of shelly wares in this small assemblage reflects the position of the site, which is closer to the limestone belt than any of the other sites named above, apart from Broad Blunsdon. Handmade shelly limestone wares from Fairford, Gloucestershire, have been identified as possibly mid–late Anglo-Saxon in date (Timby 2007), but shelly limestone-tempered wares are just as likely to be identified as Iron Age on sites in north Wiltshire and the Upper Thames Valley (*e.g.* McSloy 2008), although these are perhaps more likely to be oxidized than reduced (*e.g.* Timby 2013, 9).

Based on this brief survey, the fabrics identified in the small assemblage from Manor Farm could fit within the broad range of Early Saxon pottery found in the broader region. The presence of possible *Schlickung* on one sherd would perhaps be unusual in this area, but might suggest a 5th-century date. One of the vessels, in a particularly fine (but still flint-tempered) fabric, was probably a sub-biconical form, which would suggest perhaps later 5th to 6th century, and the organic-tempered fragments could be contemporary with this.

Single sherds of later pottery appear to date to the Late Saxon and early medieval periods, and there were two fragments of post-medieval redware in one of the later ditches in Area 2.

The small group of pottery is of local importance as it provides further evidence for the types of pottery used in this part of Wiltshire.

Metalwork by Danielle Milbank

A small metal object was recorded in post-medieval ditch 120, slot 200 (250), weighing 11g. The metal type is not easily discernible, though likely to contain iron, and it is badly corroded. It is 43mm long and 14mm wide at the head and 5mm wide at the mid-point of the bow, which is sub-rectangular in section. The shape is a short, slightly uneven bow with a wide head and a tapering foot, though the end of the foot is slightly flared, and the form is suggestive of a simple bow brooch of Roman or Saxon date.

Animal Remains by Matilda Holmes

A small assemblage of animal remains was recovered (Appendix 3). The bones were in good condition, but largely from undated or poorly dated features. The exceptions to this were the horse and rabbit skeletons recovered from pit 223 (context 277), tentatively dated to the 11th-13th centuries AD. Only this deposit will be considered in any detail. The archive contains more detail on the undated (204 NISP) or poorly dated (42) bones.

Bones were identified using the author's reference collection. Details of methodologies and identification guides used are in the archive report, along with a full catalogue by context. Quantification of taxa used a count of all fragments (NISP – number of identified specimens) and calculation of horse wither heights followed Kiesewalter (1888).

Bones were in good condition, with few fresh breaks or refitted fragments. A minimal amount of gnawing indicates that bones were most likely buried soon after discard. A few butchery marks were observed, but there were no deposits to indicate specific butchery, skin-processing or craft-working waste.

Most of the material came from aceramic features that could not be dated, or from those containing pottery that could be Iron Age or Saxon. Cattle and sheep/goats were recovered in similar proportions from these features, with a few pig, equid (horse or donkey) and one domestic fowl bone also present (Appendix 3). Poor dating and small sample sizes mean that further analysis is not warranted.

Pit 223 (context 277) was the only feature that contained bones and dating evidence, albeit only a single sherd of pottery, dated to the 11th to 13th centuries. The pit contained two partial skeletons, a horse and a rabbit. The horse skeleton comprised the vertebrae, fore- and hind legs and was skeletally mature. It is notable that the head and distal phalanges were not recovered, and it may have been skinned prior to burial, although no butchery marks were evident. Several pathologies were observed in the form of pitting and eburnation to the articular surface of the thoracic and caudal vertebrae, eburnation of the humeral heads, eburnation and lipping of the femoral head, and fusion of the lateral metapodials to all four metacarpals and metatarsals. Pathological changes such as these are likely to be age-related. Although it was not possible to sex, the horse was large, standing c.1.67m tall at the withers (16.2hh), which is larger by several centimetres than the tallest horses from contemporary sites (Clark 2004; Thomas *et al.* 2018). Animals of this size are not commonly recorded until the post-medieval period, and it is therefore more likely to be of a later date than the ceramic dating evidence found in the pit.

The other skeleton was that of a juvenile rabbit, comprising the head, vertebrae, fore and hind limbs. There were no butchery marks to indicate it was food waste, and it is possible it was intrusive. Rabbits were not introduced to England until the late 12th century and would have been kept by the elite in the early decades following their introduction (Sykes and Curl 2010).

Charred Plant Remains by Elspeth St. John-Brooks

Bulk soil samples were taken from thirty-three contexts for wet sieving by standard flotation methods. All samples were passed through a 0.25mm mesh and air-dried. The resultant flots were examined under a low power microscope. Charcoal was present in thirteen of these samples, with 1 fragment of <0.50mm found in the gully terminus 224, 21 fragments of 5–15mm in size from pit 300 and 1 fragment of 20mm from ditch 422. Few of these fragments were identifiable however, a small selection of these, although poorly preserved show some characteristics of *Quercus*, oak. No seeds were found in any of the contexts apart from gully 309. Seven seeds in this gully were all identified as cereal grains in the form of wheat (*Triticum* sp.). Although poorly preserved, these were identified through their overall morphological characteristics.

Conclusion

The excavation confirmed most of the hypothesis suggested by the evaluation, which is that the site holds evidence for a certain amount of activity but nothing outstanding.

There is an important uncertainty regarding the dating of the first occupation of the site due to the non-diagnostic character of some of the pottery and the lack of other finds and of material suitable for scientific dating. Most of the sparse pottery could be either Iron Age or early Saxon, and there is some reason to doubt that the medieval pottery really dates pit 223. There is a possibility of an Iron Age occupation in the south area 4 (and marginally in area 3) in the form of a cluster of postholes and a ditch which yielded rare potsherds. Hypothetically, any and all of the undated features aside could be of similar date. No obvious organization can be deciphered from the post holes though any ground plan looks more likely to have been rectangular (?Saxon) than round (?Iron Age). And it is wholly unclear which of the gullies belonged together: radiocarbon dating was considered but given the difficulty of interpreting any of the site, dating of individual features seemed to offer little scope for further reliable interpretation of the rest.

Equally, the thin artefactual evidence might be interpreted as Early Saxon. This would be more in accordance with the three more definitely Early/Middle Saxon sherds found in a ditch in area 3. This light occupation could span up to the Late Saxon/Early Norman period with another ditch in the same sector. This fits well with what is known from the historic records (VCH 1983). There is evidence that Winterbourne Monkton was already occupied in AD928 as *mansiones* were granted to Glastonbury Abbey, originally from king Athelstan. A charter by king Ethelred even mentioned some plots of land at Winterbourne in AD869. The actual St Mary Magdalen Church was built later, in AD1133.

The horse burial can tentatively attest of a presence on this site a few centuries later (at face value the pottery suggests a date in the 11th to 13th centuries, but one sherd is meagre enough dating evidence and the horse itself is notably taller than previously recorded in this period). There is then a large gap before activity resumes, not earlier than in the 16th or 17th century in area 2.

Though only an incomplete view is offered to our eyes, there were definitely different organisations of the site that happened during the ?Saxon, ?Medieval and post-Medieval periods in regards to the various orientations observed for the linear features. The archaeological team was the first witness that rainwater can easily make this field impracticable. So a drainage purpose for some of the ditches and gullies is not to be ruled out, besides likely stock management and land division. Being so close to the core of the village, this land could have been devoted to pasture and animal grazing. No traces of ridge and furrow were observed.

Though the site's originally considered potential, stemming from its proximity to the Avebury and Windmill Hill complexes can now be seen to have been deceptive, the site nonetheless has kept some limited

traces of earlier occupation, which allow a better documentation of landuse in this area, albeit the chronology is uncertain.

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APPENDIX 1: Feature details (includes summary of evaluation features)

<i>Group</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
100	1	53	Ditch		
103	2	54	Ditch		
	3	55	Gully		
104	4	56	Gully		
	5	58	Pit/Natural feature		
107	6	59-68	Ditch	Saxon or Early Medieval	Association
	7	60-65-66	Pit		
119	8	62-75	Pit		
117	9	63	Ditch	Iron Age or Early Saxon	Association
116	10	64	Ditch		
	11	70-71	Ditch and natural feature?		
105	12	73	Gully		
103?	13	74	Ditch		
120	200	250	Ditch	Post-Medieval (16th-17th C.)	Pottery
100	201	251	Ditch		
101	202	252	Gully		
102	203	253	Ditch		
120	204	254	Ditch	Post-Medieval(16th-17th C.)	Pottery
100	205	255	Ditch		
105	206	256	Gully		
104	207	257	Ditch		
106	208	258	Ditch		
101	209	259	Gully		
100	210	260	Ditch		
120	211	261	Ditch	Post-Medieval(16th-17th C.)	Association
103	212	262	Ditch		
102	213	263	Gully		
	214	264-267-268	Ditch		
101	215	265	Gully		
100	216	266	Ditch		
105	217	269	Gully terminus		
104	218	270-271	Ditch terminus		
	219	272	Pit		
104	220	273	Ditch		
105	221	274	Gully		
106	222	275	Gully		
	223	277	Horse deposit	Medieval? (11th – 13th C.?)	Pottery
	224	276	Gully terminus		
	300	350	Pit		
109	301	351	Gully		
109	302	352	Gully		
	303	353	Ditch		
	304	354	Pit		
111	305	356	Gully terminus		
111	306	357	Gully terminus		
110	307	358	Gully terminus		
110	308	359	Gully terminus		
108	309	360	Gully		
107	310	361	Ditch	Saxon or Early Medieval	Pottery
112	311	362	Gully	Iron Age or Early Saxon	Pottery
107	312	363	ditch	Saxon or Early Medieval	Association
	313	364	Gully		
107	314	365-366	Ditch	Saxon or Early Medieval	Association
108	315	367	Gully terminus		
107	316	368	Ditch	Saxon or Early Medieval	Association
112	317	369	Gully	Iron Age or Early Saxon	Association
119	400	450	Pit		
118	401	451	Gully		
	402	452	Posthole	Iron Age or Early Saxon	Pottery
113	403	454	Gully terminus		
117	404	455	Ditch terminus	Iron Age or Early Saxon	Association
116	405	456	Ditch		
115	406	457	Ditch		
	407	458	Posthole		
	408	459	Pit	Iron Age or Early Saxon	Pottery
	409	460	Pit		

<i>Group</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
	410	461	Posthole	Iron Age or Early Saxon	Pottery
115	411	462	Gully		
116	412	463	Ditch		
	413	464	Posthole		
	414	465-466	Posthole	Iron Age or Early Saxon	Pottery
	415	467	Posthole	Iron Age or Early Saxon	Pottery
	416	468	Posthole		
118	417	469	Gully		
	418	470	Ditch	Iron Age or Early Saxon	Pottery
114	419	471	Gully		
	420	472	Posthole		
	421	473	Pit		
117	422	474-475	Ditch	Iron Age or Early Saxon	Pottery
	423	476	Posthole		
	424	477	Posthole		
	425	478	Posthole		
	426	479	Posthole		
	427	480	Pit		
	428	481	Posthole	Iron Age or Early Saxon	Pottery
113	429	482	Ditch		
114	430	483	Gully terminus		
	431	484	Posthole		
115	432	485	Gully		
116	433	486	Ditch		

APPENDIX 2: Pottery summary

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>FType</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>MNV</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Spot date</i>
200	250	Ditch	GRE	1	31	1	dish/bowl rim, orange-glazed int	Late 16th-17th century
200	250	Ditch	GRE	1	28	1	orange-glazed int	Late 16th-17th century
223	277	Horse burial	WWM	1	2	1		11th-13th century?
310	361	Ditch	SXNO	1	25	1	sim to PING, but could just be overfired	Late 10th-11th century?
311	362	Gully	HMFL	1	11	1		Iron Age or Early Saxon
316	368	Ditch	ESO1	2	5	1	carinated, thick, poss a small pot but more likely a frag of spindle whorl	6th-8th century?
316	368	Ditch	ESO2	1	6	1		6th-8th century?
402	452	Posthole	HMCS	3	8	1		Iron Age or Early Saxon
410	461	Posthole	HMFL	1	6	1	similar to (362); <i>Schlickung?</i>	Iron Age or Early Saxon
414	466	Posthole	HMQZ	1	3	1		Iron Age or Early Saxon
415	467	Posthole	HMCS	2	1	1	surfaces lost	Iron Age or Early Saxon
422	474	Ditch	HMSS	1	2	1		Iron Age or Early Saxon
422	474	Ditch	HMFF	1	6	1		Iron Age or Early Saxon
422	474	Ditch	HMCS	1	2	1	poss same as (452)	Iron Age or Early Saxon
428	481	Posthole	HMSM	1	3	1	sub-biconical? Thin-walled, well potted	Iron Age or Early Saxon
428	481	Posthole	HMSM	3	7	1	fairly coarsely made	Iron Age or Early Saxon

Fabrics

ESO1 Organic tempered

GRE hard orange fine sandy

HMCS moderate shelly limestone with occasional coarse angular flint/quartz

HMFF abundant fine grey angular flint

HMFL flint & quartz, fairly coarse

HMQZ common fairly fine angular white quartz

HMSM Very fine sandy matrix, occasional quartz conglomerates

HMSS sparse shell in fine sandy matrix

SXNO abundant ms in off-white hard matrix

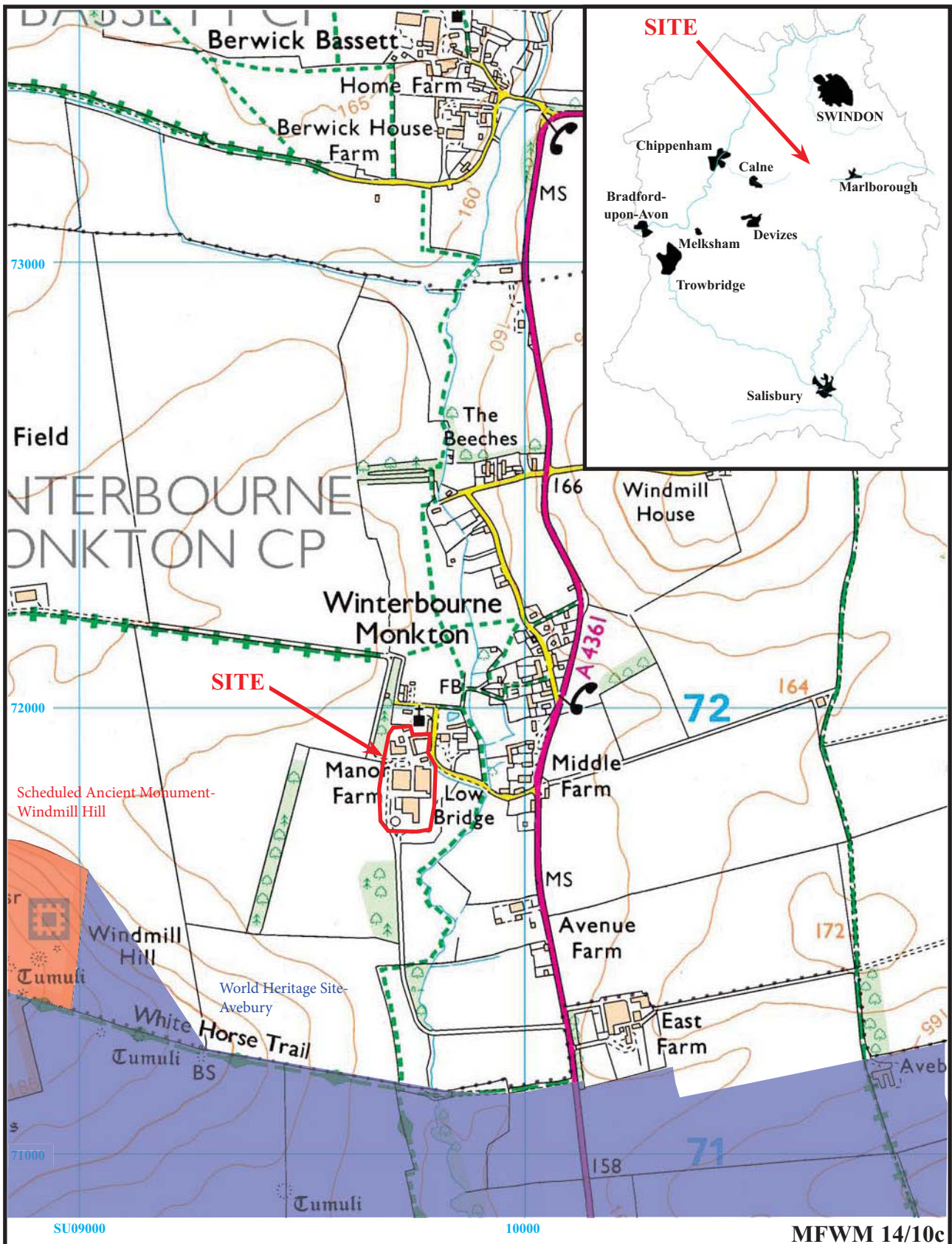
WWM gritty micaceous

APPENDIX 3: Animal bone

Table 2: Species representation (NISP) of hand collected assemblage. H= hand collected; S= samples

Taxa	Iron Age or early Saxon	11-13th Century		Undated
		H	S	
Cattle	3			11
sheep/ goat	2			11
Sheep				1
Pig	1			4
Horse		1*		2
Rabbit			1*	
Domestic fowl				1
Total identified	6	1	1	30
Unidentified mammal				1
Large mammal	18			61
Medium mammal	18			112
Total	42	1	1	204

* Associated bone groups included as a count of 1



SU09000

10000

MFWM 14/10c

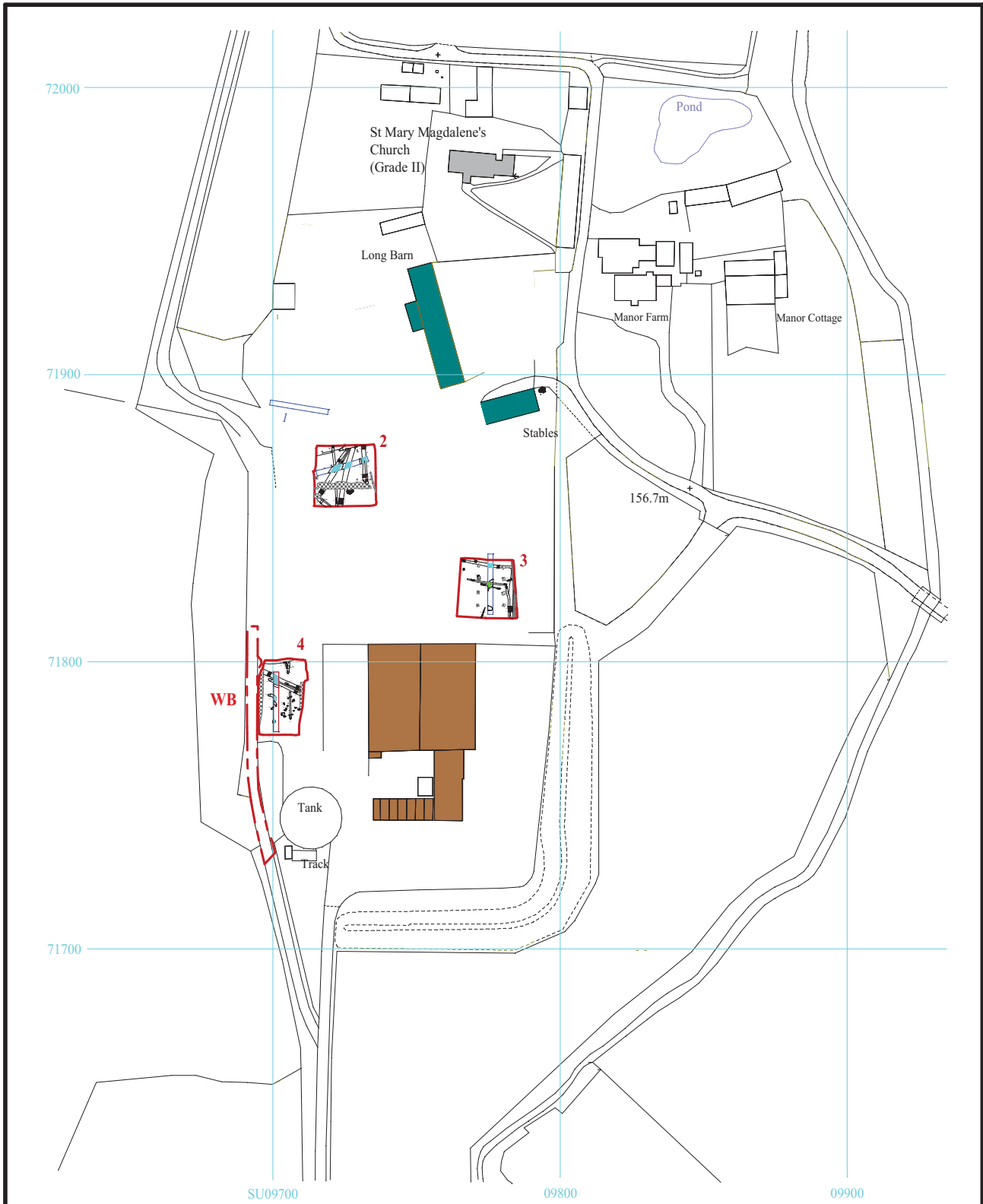
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Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief

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

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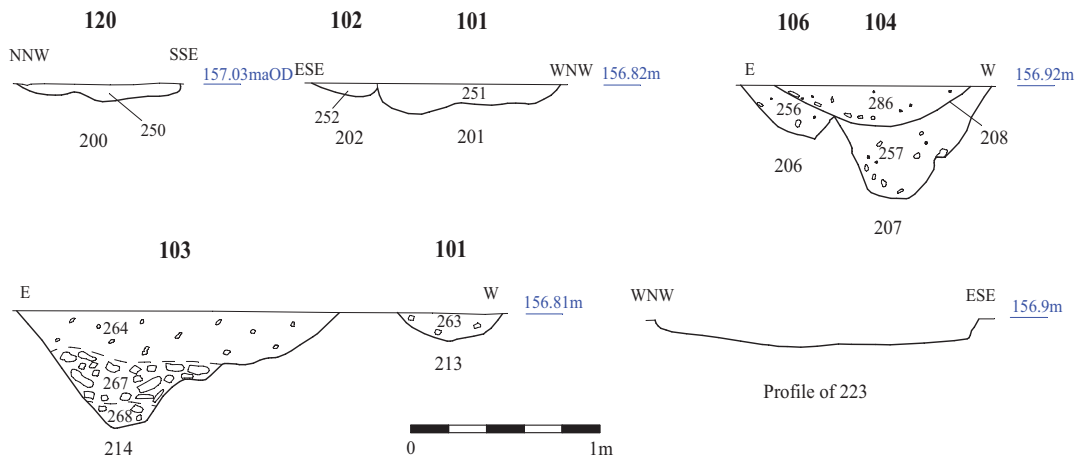
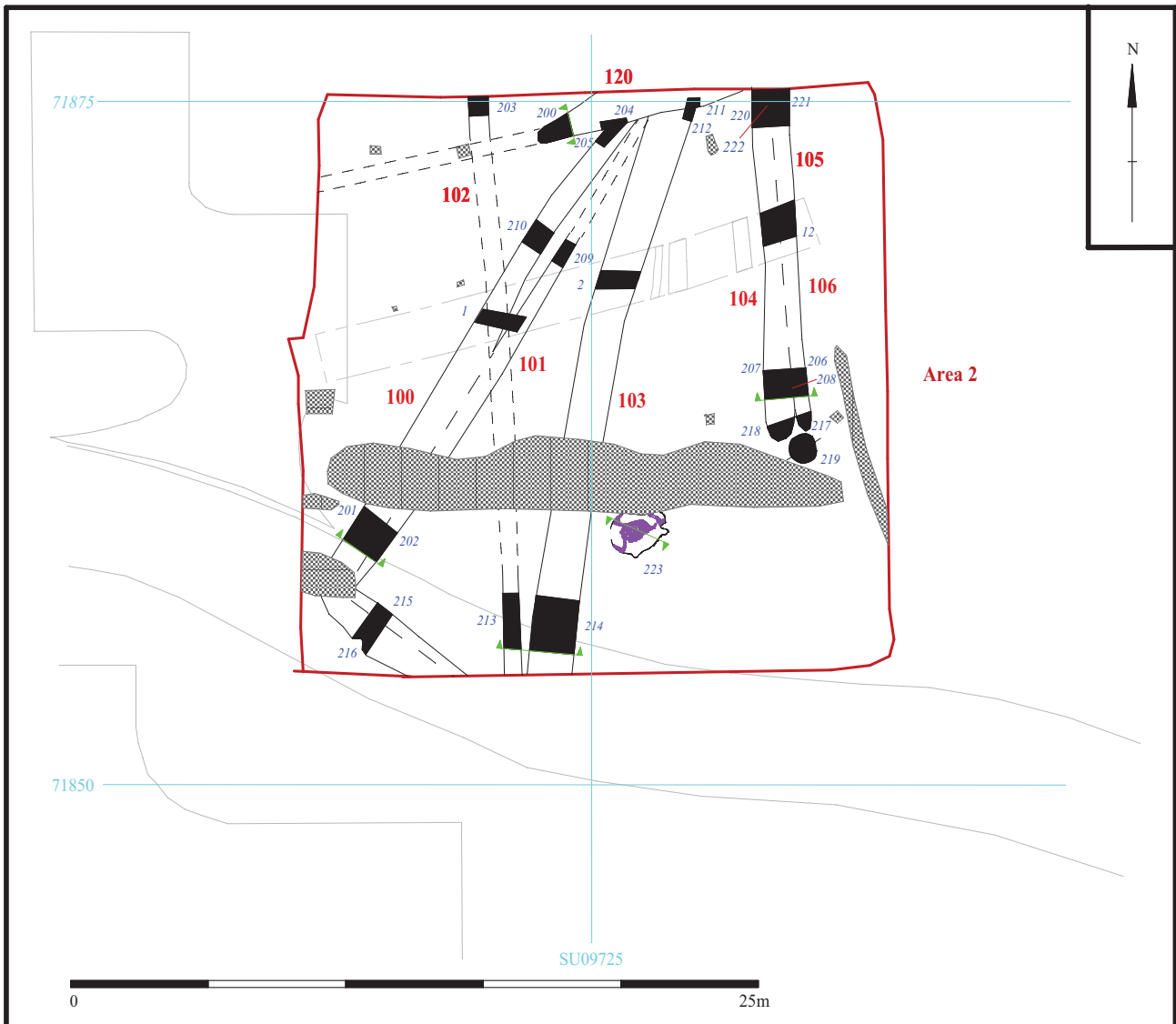
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Figure 2. Location of excavation areas (red outline) and watching brief (red outline, proposed on grey)



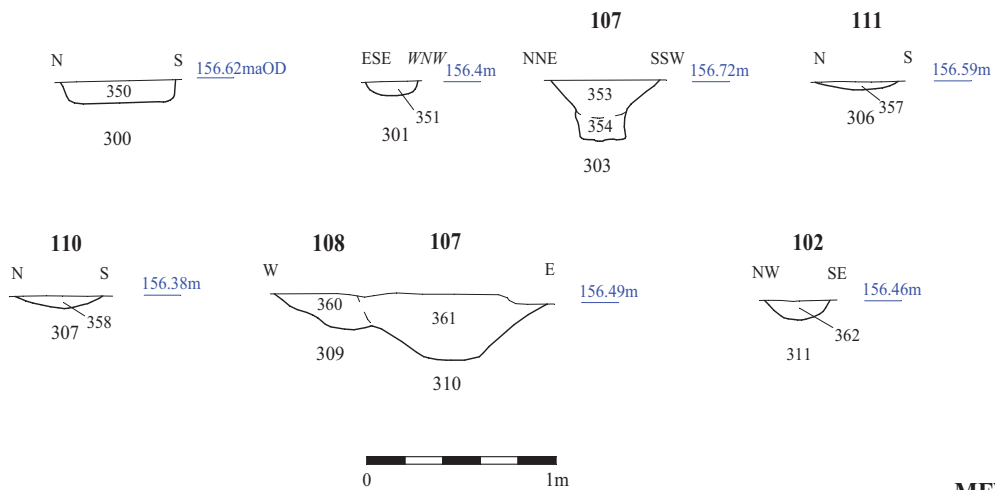
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Figure 3. Area 2.

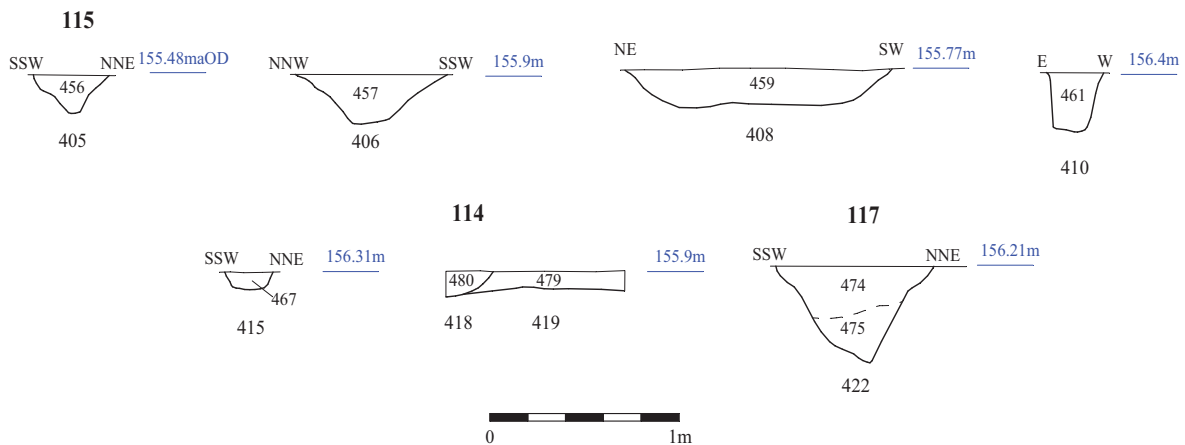
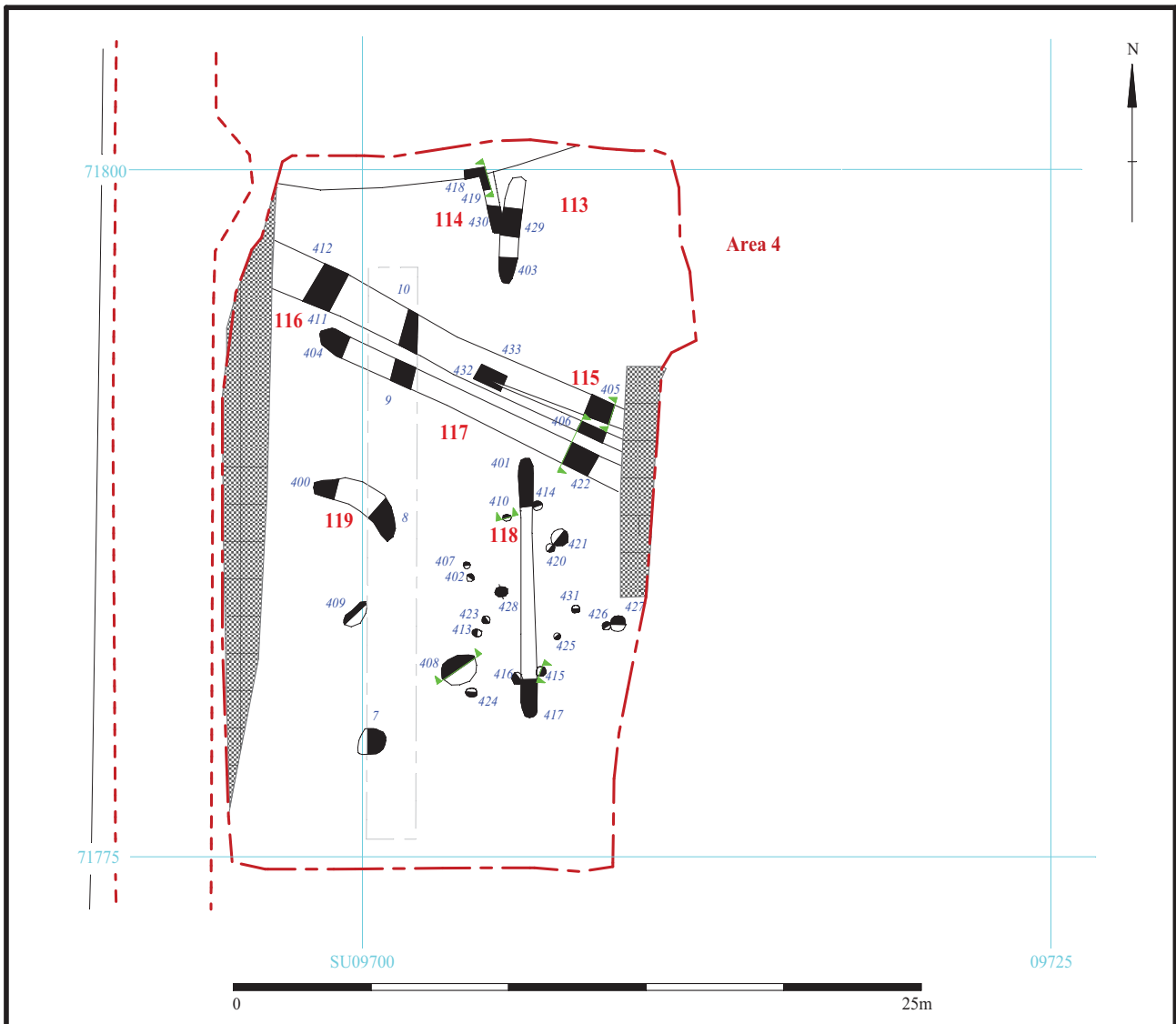


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Figure 4. Area 3.

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Figure 5. Area 4.



Plate 1. Ditch [217], Gully [218], NW view,
Scales: 1x1m, 1x0.3m, 1x0.5m, 1x0.1m



Plate 2. Horse skeleton [223], S view,
Scales: 2x1m



Plate 3. Pit [300], SE view,
Scales: 1x0.4m, 1x0.1m



Plate 4. Gully [309], Ditch [310], N view,
Scales; 1x1m, 1x0.3m, 1x0.1m

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Plates 1 to 4.

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Plate 5. Pit [409], ESE view,
Scales: 1x0.5m, 1x0.1m



Plate 6. Ditch [422], NW view,
Scales: 1x1m, 1x0.3m



Plate 7. Posthole [423], NE view,
Scales: 1x0.3m, 1x0.1m



Plate 8. working shot area 4

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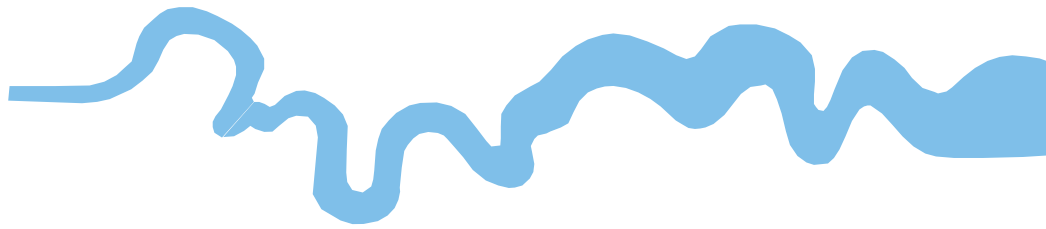
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TIME CHART

	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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