

T H A M E S      V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Watergate Farm,  
Amesbury, Wiltshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Maisie Foster**

**Site Code: WFA22/175**

**(SU 1561 4322)**

# **Land at Watergate Farm, Amesbury, Wiltshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Andrew Josephs Associates**

by Maisie Foster

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WFA 22/175

**December 2022**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land at Watergate Farm, Amesbury, Wiltshire

**Grid reference:** SU 1561 4322

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 7th - 14th November 2022

**Project coordinator:** David Sanchez

**Site supervisor:** Maisie Foster

**Site code:** WFA 22/175

**Area of site:** c. 4ha

**Summary of results:** The evaluation has revealed a very dense spread of flint artefacts seemingly *in-situ* beneath a layer of alluvium. The flintwork is considered to be of Later Neolithic or Bronze Age date and to represent an area of flint procurement utilising an exposure of flint gravel on the bend of the River Avon. A number of Post-Medieval water meadow ditches were also recorded.

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

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|
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# Land at Watergate Farm, Amesbury, Wiltshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Maisie Foster

Report 22/175

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Watergate Farm, Amesbury, Wiltshire (SU 1561 4322). The work was commissioned by Mr Andrew Josephs of Andrew Josephs Associates, Fulford House, Newbold Terrace, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, United Kingdom, CV32 4EA.

Planning permission is to be sought from Wiltshire Council for the construction of an extension to an existing fishing lake, with topsoil storage. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, an initial phase of fieldwork is proposed. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021) and the Council's Policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Neil Adam, Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council, the archaeological advisor to the District.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Maisie Foster and Richard Dewhurst, between the 7th and 14th November 2022, the site code is WFA 22/175. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Salisbury Museum in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located in between the village of Durrington and town of Amesbury, on a parcel of low lying pasture and arable land enclosed by a bend of the River Avon in south-east Wiltshire (Fig. 1). The site lies on a near rectangular parcel of land that is bounded by further farmland and then the River Avon to the north, east and west and further arable land, a sewage works and Specimen pond (fishing lakes) to the south. The Late Neolithic monuments of Durrington Walls and Woodhenge lie *c.* 500m to the west across the Avon (and on the far side of the modern A345) and are parts of the 'Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites' World Heritage Site. The site lies on a gentle rise from the floodplain to the west lying at *c.* 70m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) rising to 80m aOD in the east. The underlying geology is mapped as Seaford Chalk Formation with overlying gravel and alluvium (BGS 1959). A mixture of chalk, gravel, silty clay and clay was observed in the open trenches.

## Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been detailed in a desk-based assessment (AJA 2022). In summary the site lies nearly adjacent to the designated World Heritage Site (WHS) centred on Stonehenge, on the floor of the Avon Valley, in a meander of the river. There are six Scheduled Monuments within 1km of the site, including the major henge site of Durrington Walls and Woodhenge, with associated round barrow cemetery, two additional barrows and four settlements. There is also the Long Barrow at Longbarrow Clump 500m to the east of the site, three Bowl barrows at Countess Farm, 300-350m to the west and a long barrow at Woodhenge 800m distant.

Recent fieldwork and analysis for the "Stonehenge Hidden Landscape Project" carried out by the University of Birmingham in conjunction with the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology, have revealed evidence for 20 or more massive, prehistoric shafts, measuring more than 10m in diameter and 5m deep. These shafts have been mapped, revealing a circle more than 2km in diameter and enclosing an area greater than 3 sq km around the Durrington Walls henge, and Woodhenge and the limits of Watergate Farm (Gaffney *et al.* 2020).

Outside of the boundary of the World Heritage Site, north of the River Avon, only a scattering of finds have been recovered during archaeological work, many remaining undated. To the south of the River Avon, within the confines of the meander, where the site lies, a small number of recorded finds include two undated ditches, a later prehistoric field system identified from LiDAR and an undated feature which may be part of it. Neither of these extend into the present site itself. To the east, as well as the long barrow, further evidence for extensive later prehistoric or Roman field systems, visible as crop marks. There are also some undated ditches which may be elements of this field system.

The Historic Environment Record (HER) notes the presence of late Medieval/early Post-Medieval water meadows and the main feeder (carrier) ditches are mapped on the Tithe map of 1838 with sluice gate controls depicted on the 1877 Ordnance Survey map. The layout of the channel beds or drains have been mapped from the air and presented in the HER but as the site has been subject to ploughing, these features are not now obvious at ground level nor in the geophysical survey.

The geophysical survey of the site itself revealed a modest range of anomalies of possible archaeological interest (Tigergeo 2022) (Fig. 2). Most of these appear to be ditches associated with the water meadow system recorded for the site.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development. The specific research aims of this project were:

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

The potential and significance of any such deposits located were to be assessed according to research priorities such as set out by Historic England (2017), local or thematic research priorities as necessary (Webster 2007).

Thirty trenches, each 25m long and 1.6-2m wide were to be dug using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Topsoil and any other overburden was to be removed to expose archaeologically sensitive levels. Where archaeological features are certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed would be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above, without compromising the integrity of any feature that might warrant preservation *in situ* or be better investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation. Spoil heaps were to be monitored for finds and scanned with a metal detector.

## **Results**

All thirty trenches were excavated as intended (Fig. 3) aside from Trench 1 which was extended to 33m and the addition excavation of Trenches 31, 32, and 33 after consultation with the client and county archaeological officer to better define the deposits in trench 1. The trenches ranged from 33.0m to 21m in length and 1.03m to 0.35m in depth. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadth, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

### Trench 1 (Figs 3, 4 and 5; Pls 5, 6, 15-17)

Trench 1 was aligned S - N and was 33m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy of the north end of the trench consisted of 0.40m of topsoil(50) and 0.08m subsoil (51) overlying mid green white clayey silt chalk and flint

natural geology. From the south end of the trench to 15.7m a silty clay deposit (52) with frequent flint inclusions, including infrequent struck flints was recorded. During the initial stripping of the trench, the last (ie northern) 1.5m of this deposit (52) was removed to expose another deposit (53) comprising *in-situ* flint knapping within a silty clay matrix. Underlying this was another alluvial layer (54). Over 800 struck flints were recovered from deposit 53 in a 1.5m length of exposure between 14.5m and 16m from the south end. Machining of this deposit was halted when the high density of in-situ struck flint was realised.

The exposed flints from this deposit which were not removed during the initial stripping were hand planned and photographed *in situ* (Pls 15-17).

The depth of deposits 53 and 54 above the natural geology was determined at c. 0.22m further along the trench by the use of an augur. It is not considered that deposit 53 is occupying a very large cut feature or natural hollow but is just a spread lying on the original ground surface and not protected from plough dispersal by subsequent alluviation.

#### Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 2 was aligned S - N and was 26.7m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.08m subsoil overlying mottled brown orange clay natural geology. A single piece of unstratified burnt flint was recovered. No features were observed.

#### Trench 3 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 1)

Trench 3 was aligned SE - NW and was 29.3m long and 0.53m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.4m of topsoil overlying a mix of clay, chalk gravel and brown grey clayey silt, natural geology. A carrier ditch 6.1m wide aligned SW-NE was observed between 9.5m and 15.6m the south east end. A test pit was excavated at the south-eastern end to a depth of 1.25m to confirm the correct geological sequence had been determined. No finds were recovered nor features observed.

#### Trench 4 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

Trench 4 was aligned SE - NW and was 23.5m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil overlying a mix of clay, chalk gravel and brown grey clayey silt natural geology. A carrier ditch at least 3.5m wide aligned SW-NE was observed between 20m and 23.5m from the south east end of the trench. No finds were recovered nor other features observed.

#### Trench 5 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 5 was aligned W - E and was 28m long and 0.81m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil overlying a mix of clay, chalk gravel and brown grey clayey silt natural geology. A carrier ditch 4m wide aligned S-N was observed between 18m and 22m from the west end of the trench. Four pieces of unstratified struck flint were recovered, but no other features were observed.

#### Trench 6 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 6 was aligned SW - NE and was 28m long and 0.81m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil overlying mottled brown orange clay natural geology. A single piece of unstratified struck flint was recovered, but no features were observed.

#### Trench 7 (Figs 3, 4 and 5; Pls. 7 and 8)

Trench 7 was aligned SW - NE and was 21m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.1m of subsoil overlying mid grey white silty clay with flint inclusions natural geology at the south west end of the trench. The silty clay deposit (52 with frequent flint and infrequent struck flint inclusions is recorded between 4.7m and 15m from the south west end of the trench. A carrier ditch partially exposed, at least 0.8m wide aligned SW-NE was observed at the north east end of the trench and was cut from just below the topsoil cutting the subsoil and layer 52.

Four struck flints were recorded on the surface of (52) (not collected) and a single unstratified piece of struck flint was recovered.

#### Trench 8 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 3)

Trench 8 was aligned SW - NE and was 25m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.4m of topsoil overlying a mix of clay, chalk gravel and brown grey clayey silt natural geology. A furrow, or a channel of the water meadows was recorded between 3.5m and 9.9m. Two unstratified pieces of struck flint were recovered but no features were observed.

#### Trench 9 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 9 was aligned SE - NW and was 28.6m long and 0.58m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil and 0.08m of subsoil overlying mid green white clayey silt chalk and flint and mottled brown orange clay natural geology. A carrier ditch 3.5m wide aligned S-N was recorded between 4.1m and 7.6m from the south east end from which a single piece of struck flint was recovered.



#### Trench 10 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 10 was aligned W - E and was 25.6m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil overlying 0.12m of chalk made ground and 0.12m of a mixed topsoil/subsoil overlying mottled brown orange clay natural geology. No finds were recovered nor features observed.

#### Trench 11 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 11 was aligned S - N and was 25.4m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil overlying a mix of clay, chalk gravel and brown grey clayey silt natural geology. No finds were recovered nor features observed.

#### Trench 12 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 12 was aligned SW - NE and was 28.5m long and 1.03m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.38m of topsoil overlying 0.22m of redeposited natural geology and 0.32m of modern made ground overlying a mix of clay, chalk gravel and brown grey clayey silt natural geology. A carrier ditch 0.4m wide aligned SW-NE was recorded between 19.7m and 20.1m from the south west end of the trench. No finds were recovered nor features observed.

#### Trench 13 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 13 was aligned W - E and was 25.3m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.38m of topsoil overlying chalk and clay with gravel natural geology. A carrier ditch 2.9m wide aligned S-N was recorded between 13.8m and 16.7m from the west end of the trench. No finds were recovered nor features observed.

#### Trench 14 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 14 was aligned SW - NE and was 26.4m long and 0.43m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.37m of topsoil overlying mottled brown orange clay with chalk gravel patches natural geology. No finds were recovered nor features observed.

#### Trench 15 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 15 was aligned S - N and was 26.5m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil overlying a mix of clay, chalk gravel and brown grey clayey silt natural geology. No finds were recovered nor features observed.

#### Trench 16 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 16 was aligned W - E and was 26.7m long and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.37m of topsoil and 0.03m redeposited natural and 0.08m of surviving subsoil overlying a mix of clay, chalk gravel and brown grey clayey silt natural geology. A carrier ditch 11.6m wide aligned S-N (but probably on a bend) was observed between 8.74m and 20.3m from the west end of the trench. No finds were recovered nor features observed.

#### Trench 17 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 17 was aligned SE - NW and was 24.8m long and 0.47m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil overlying a mix of clay, chalk gravel and brown grey clayey silt natural geology. No finds were recovered nor features observed.

#### Trench 18 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 18 was aligned SW - NE and was 27.6m long and 0.53m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m of topsoil overlying a mix of clay, chalk gravel and brown grey clayey silt natural geology. No finds were recovered nor features observed.

#### Trench 19 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 19 was aligned W - E and was 25m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying mid mottled brown grey silty clay natural geology. A single sherd of probable prehistoric pottery was recovered from the base of the topsoil but no associated archaeological feature was observed.

#### Trench 20 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 20 was aligned S - N and was 24.9m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying mid mottled brown grey silty clay natural geology. Two plough scars were recorded between 6.7-7.9m and 8.9-10m from the south end of the trench. Two pieces of unstratified struck flint were recovered but no features were observed.

#### Trench 21 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 21 was aligned SW - NE and was 24.9m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil overlying mid mottled brown grey silty clay natural geology. No finds were recovered nor features observed.

#### Trench 22 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 22 was aligned W - E and was 26m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying light yellow brown silty clay with flint and chalk patches natural geology. A furrow or water meadow channel was recorded at 14.2m to 13m from the west end of the trench. A single piece of unstratified struck flint was recovered but no features were observed.

#### Trench 23 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 23 was aligned SE - NW and was 24.7m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.38m of topsoil overlying mid orange clayey silt natural geology. No finds were recovered nor features observed.

#### Trench 24 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 24 was aligned close to S - N and was 28.2m long and 0.46m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.39m of topsoil yellow brown silty clay with flint and chalk patches natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

#### Trench 25 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 25 was aligned SW - NE and was 27.6m long and 0.47m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.38m of topsoil overlying yellow brown silty clay with light brown yellow gravel and silt patches natural geology. No finds were recovered nor features observed.

#### Trench 26 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 26 was aligned SW - NE and was 26.7m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying mid orange brown silty clay with gravel inclusions and chalk and silt patches natural geology. No finds were recovered nor features observed.

Trench 27 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 27 was aligned SW - NE and was 25m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.05m subsoil overlying mid orange brown silty clay with gravel inclusions natural geology. No finds were recovered nor features observed.

Trench 28 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 4)

Trench 28 was aligned SW - NE and was 26m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil overlying mid orange brown silty clay with gravel inclusions and chalk and silt patches natural geology. No finds were recovered nor features observed.

Trench 29 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 29 was aligned W – E and was 24.7m long and 0.44m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil overlying mid orange brown silty clay with gravel inclusions natural geology. No finds were recovered nor features observed.

Trench 30 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 30 was aligned S - N and was 25.5m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.31m of topsoil overlying mid orange brown silty clay with gravel inclusions and gravel and silt bands natural geology. No finds were recovered nor features observed.

Trench 31 (Figs 3, 4 and 5; Pls. 9 and 10)

Trench 31 was aligned W - E and was 7.4m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil and 0.15m subsoil overlying mid grey white silty clay with flint inclusions natural geology. Between 3.3m and 7.4m from the west end of the trench was silty clay deposit (52) with frequent flint inclusions. Sixteen struck flints were recorded (but not collected) on its surface and a further two unstratified pieces of flint were recovered from the spoilheap.

Trench 32 (Figs 3, 4 and 5; Pls. 11 and 12)

Trench 32 was aligned W - E and was 6.2m long and 0.28m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.16m of topsoil and 0.08m subsoil overlying mid grey white silty clay with flint inclusions natural geology. Between 0m and 2.5m silty clay deposit (52) with frequent flint inclusions, including infrequent struck flints was recorded. Three struck flints were recorded (but not collected) on its surface.

### Trench 33 (Figs 3, 4 and 5; Pls. 13 and 14)

Trench 33 was aligned N - S and was 12.4m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil, 0.15m subsoil and 0.18m of modern chalk made ground overlying mid grey white silty clay with flint inclusions natural geology. A carrier ditch partially exposed aligned SW-NE was observed between 0m and 10.5m from the south end of the trench truncating silty clay deposit (52) with frequent flint inclusions, including infrequent struck flints which was recorded between 0.2m and 9.38m from the south end of the trench. Eleven struck flints were recorded (but not collected) on its surface.

## **Finds**

### *Struck Flint* by Richard Dewhurst

A collection of 870 struck flints were recovered during the evaluation with 847 derived from deposit (53) in Trench 1 (See Table 1), 9 from other layers in trench 1 and just 14 items collected from the other trenches (Appendix 2).

Table 1: Summary of all struck flint recovered from evaluation

| <i>Type</i>            | <i>Number</i> |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Flakes                 | 331           |
| Narrow Flakes          | 38            |
| Spalls < 20mm          | 454           |
| Cores                  | 12            |
| Core Fragments         | 31            |
| Flake Cores            | 2             |
| Blade Core (on flake)  | 1             |
| Retouched Flakes       | 1             |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>870</b>    |
| Intact Flakes          | 151           |
| Broken Flakes          | 205           |
| Intact Blades          | 3             |
| Broken Blades          | 9             |
| Possible Broken Blades | 2             |

Table 2: Flakes and blades (narrow flakes) (assigned by eye)

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Context</i> | <i>Intact Flakes</i> | <i>Broken Flakes</i> | <i>Intact Blades</i> | <i>Broken Blades</i> | <i>Possible. Broken Blades</i> |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1             | U/S            | 3                    |                      |                      |                      |                                |
| 1             | 52             | 4                    |                      |                      |                      |                                |
| 1             | 53             | 136                  | 203                  | 3                    | 9                    | 2                              |
| 5             | U/S            | 3                    | 1                    |                      |                      |                                |
| 6             | U/S            | 1                    |                      |                      |                      |                                |
| 7             | U/S            | 1                    |                      |                      |                      |                                |
| 8             | U/S            | 1                    | 1                    |                      |                      |                                |
| 20            | U/S            | 1                    |                      |                      |                      |                                |

|    |     |   |  |  |  |  |
|----|-----|---|--|--|--|--|
| 22 | U/S | 1 |  |  |  |  |
|----|-----|---|--|--|--|--|

Where the cortex was present, it was noted exclusively that this was smooth and thin and that the flints had been made from gravel flint. A few pieces revealed internal flaws but it was considered that the flint quality was generally good and comparable to surface collection of flint directly from the chalk.

A majority of the flints are a homogeneous brownish-black, some were made from grey and reddish-brown gravel flint. Only one flint was burnt. With a few exceptions the flints from deposits 52 and 53 had varying degrees of blueish-white patination which is to be expected from a chalk-rich environment. Some of the flints have signs of weathering or being ‘rolled’ but this is mostly seen in the flints from unstratified contexts and probably a result of from ploughing whereas flints from the overlying clay deposit (52) and the underlying clay deposit (53) are relatively untouched by having relatively fresh edges and surfaces. However, it should be noted that even though the cortex and surfaces on the (53) flints show minimal post-depositional damage:

From deposit (53) approximately 85% of flakes from this assemblage were produced by a hard hammer due to their size and thickness and well defined bulb of percussion; potential soft hammer flakes were limited. 53% of the collection are spalls and micro debitage (pieces < 20mm x 20mm and < 10mm). 59% of the flakes were broken (See Table 2). Similarly, from a visual inspection, a relatively large number of the flints still retain cortex and taken together it is considered that the flints present largely represent a flint procurement site. A serious attempt at re-fitting was not attempted but two core fragments fitted back together adding a little evidence that the scatter represents in-situ production (rather than eg a midden).

A flint found in the overlying clay deposit (52) of trench 1 (52) is of interest due to being a flake with remnants of originally being part of a blade core. This is distinctive of originally being a Mesolithic or early Neolithic piece yet the context it is in, the piece being a flake, the lack of blades/narrow flakes and only the ventral side being patinated suggests it is still contemporary with the flints from the underlying clay deposit (53).

Another notable flint is a core which shows characteristics of potentially once being a rough-out for an axe-head but broke before completion and was then used as a core with the break forming the striking platform.

The number of formally retouched tools is low with few distinctive pieces. Several of the flakes had some edge damage similar to retouch, but which is more likely to have been accidental due to the stony environment in which they were produced.

### *Pottery by Cristina Mateos Leal*

The pottery assemblage comprised 2 sherds weighing 10g. There were no rims nor decoration, only a fragment of handle from the base of trench 19 (fabric P.2) and one fragment of a base from deposit 53 (fabric P.1). As a consequence dating of the assemblage is determined by the fabric. It is likely to be prehistoric but the fragments are too small to be more specific.

#### Fabric descriptions

P.1: hard handmade black core with buff light brown exterior surface with profuse well sorted red ferrous inclusions (1mm), moderate well sorted quartz and white mica (<1mm). Both surfaces are smoothed.

P.2: hard handmade grey core with buff orange exterior with moderate, moderately sorted grog inclusions (1mm), moderate well sorted quartz and white mica (<1mm).

### *Macrobotanical remains by Jo Pine*

One bulk soil sample (8L) was taken from layer 52 in Trench 1. The sample was floated and wet sieved to 0.25mm and air dried. The flot was examined under a low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x10 and x40. No charred plant or charcoal was recovered but small charcoal flecks, too small to be identified were present.

### **Conclusion**

The evaluation was successfully carried out. It has revealed one area of archaeological interest, centred on trench 1. However despite the high potential for archaeological remains over the whole site, all remaining trenches were free of any features or finds aside from the occasional piece of unstratified struck flint and a number of ditches thought to be carrier ditches of the Late Medieval or Post-Medieval water meadow system. This correlates with the paucity of anomalies of possible archaeological interest revealed by the geophysical survey.

During the evaluation, trenches 1, 7, 31, 32 and 33 revealed an alluvial deposit (52) protecting a dense struck flint deposit (53). The extent of this deposit was determined by the three extra trenches (31-33) along with trench 7, by careful removal of the overlying alluvium (52) to expose the flint bearing deposit (53) or the natural geology. Deposit 53 was defined as covering an approximate area of 31.2m by 9.4m (293.28m<sup>2</sup>), of which approximately 60m<sup>2</sup> has been truncated away by a water meadow carrier ditch (Fig. 5).

For deposit (53) 847 flints were recovered from the 1.5m x 1.8 m area of trench 1 exposed and removed by the machine bucket before trenching was halted. The struck flints were recovered from the spoil and are used to provide an estimate of the quantity of struck flint.

Of these 847 flints, 451 pieces smaller than 20x20mm have been excluded from the calculation as it is considered that these spalls or debitage are by-products of flint knapping, particularly so in a flint-rich area.

Thus 396 pieces were recovered from 2.7 sq m thus the figures need adjusting:

$$= 293.28/2.7 \quad \times \quad 396 \quad = \quad 43014$$

Thus it is estimated that the flint scatter could contain over 43000 flints (mostly flakes) with at least double the number if spalls and debitage are included though the carrier ditch will have removed c.20% of the total.

It is considered that the evaluation has revealed a flint procurement site. Such sites are to be found widely across the chalklands (and related gravel and clay-with-flint geologies) especially where monument construction such as the ditches for long barrows or round barrows have generated large amounts of fresh flint (Fasham and Ross 1978; Ford 1984; Ford and Falys 2016; Harding 1990, 99; Saville 1980) but also bespoke monuments such as flint mines (Mercer 1981), and natural accumulations of flint such as flint seam exposures as at Beer Head (Tingle 1998), or the beach cobbles on the Sussex coast near Brighton (Bell 1977). Some hard rock quarries can be comparable where the raw material is suitable for flaking (Bradley *et al.* 1986). Such sites are generally characterised by often prodigious quantities of unused, often cortical flakes made from hard hammerstones, tested nodules, much micro-debitage and with few retouched pieces. The volumes of flint produced by some of these procurement sites can be vast: millions of pieces at sites such as Grimes Graves with more modest totals of just 16000 pieces at Micheldever Wood (Fasham and Ross 1978) though the latter was exploited during the Middle *Bronze* Age. Numerous other surface procurement sites may well have been dispersed by ploughing making their recognition difficult.

It is speculated that the curvature of the river here at Amesbury has led itself to accumulate and expose a gravel source for exploitation. The site lies on the inside bend of the river and is thus a depositional environment with areas nearest the waters edge being exposed and free from vegetation and alluvium and thus readily available for use. Unlike the many times re-worked flint in the gravel terraces of the Thames or lower reaches of the Avon/proto Solent, it is possible to speculate that the gravel flint here far up the Avon Valley has been less reworked than elsewhere and thus of a better quality.



Watergate Farm lies adjacent to the designated World Heritage Site of Stonehenge and its environs, which is a unique area of chalkland, in which lies ‘the densest and most varied complex of Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments in southern England’ (Richards 1990). It is an area that has seen many research projects but it is *The Stonehenge Environs project* which has addressed the domestic component of the monuments with a field walking survey of the area in an aim to locate and define areas of prehistoric activity. An extensive surface collection of struck flints was recorded which highlighted distribution patterns which showed broad zone preferences. The surface collection comprised a 10% sample of the 7.52ha survey area and recovered 102175 flints (Richards 1990, 11-15). This equates to 1,021,750 flints on the surface. When it is considered that the surface counts reflect just 2-5% of the whole topsoil content, then at a 5% proportion, the volume of flint from the Stonehenge study area contains something of the order of 20.4 million pieces.

Harding (1990, 215) suggested that the majority of the raw material could have been met by locally sourcing surface nodules but has noted the presence of gravel flint on site W2 relatively close to the river (Harding 1990, 215). It is now possible to consider that with the discovery of Watergate Farm and the existence of other similar sites, the contribution of a gravel source to the flint use of the area is greater than previously thought.

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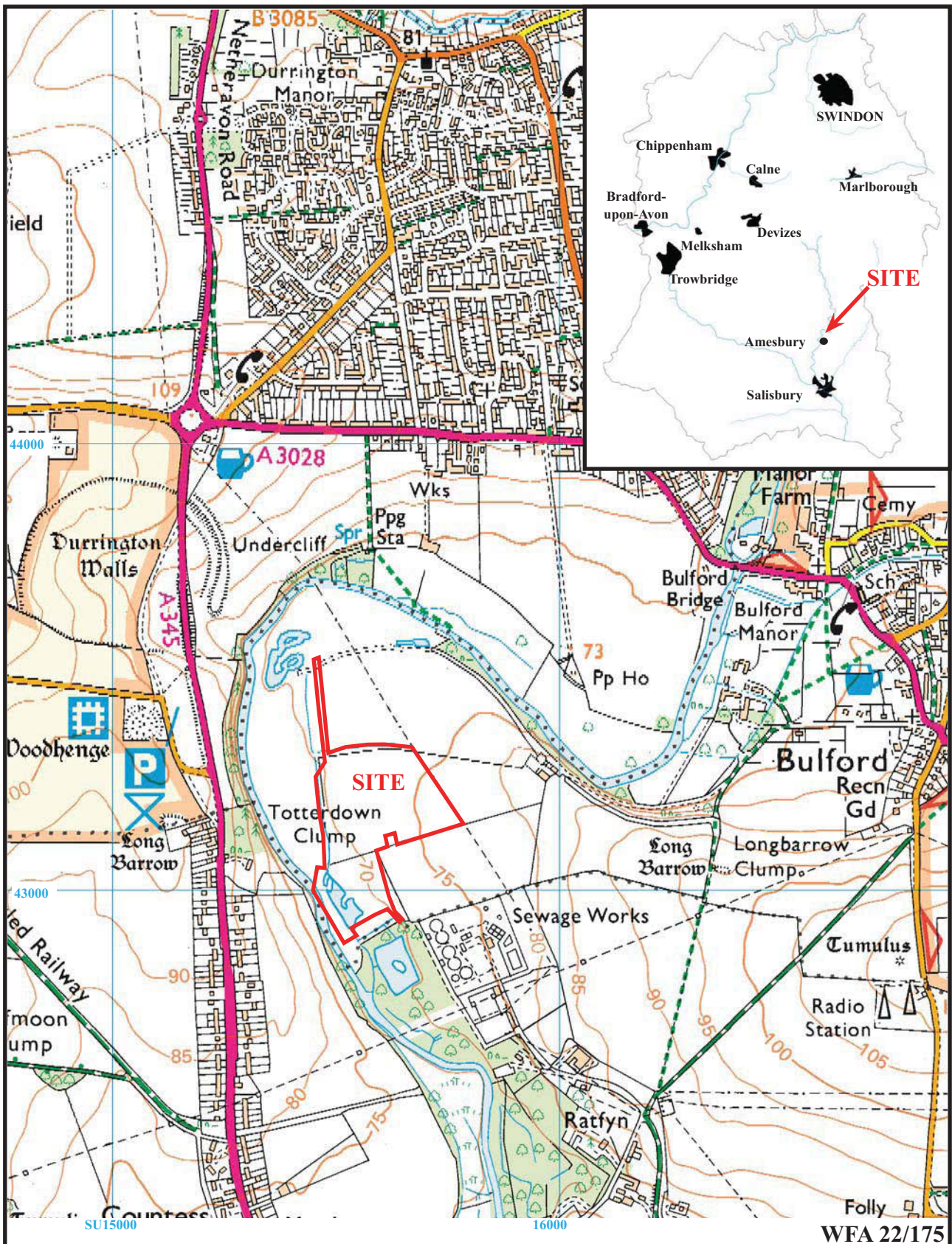
## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

| Trench | Length (m) | Breadth (m) | Depth (m) | Comment  |
|--------|------------|-------------|-----------|--|
| 1      | 33         | 1.8         | 0.55      | 0-0.4m topsoil; 0.4-0.48m mid brown grey silty clay with flint inclusions subsoil; 0.48m+ mid green white clayey silt with chalk and flint (natural geology) Silty clay deposit (52); with struck flint inclusions, alluvial deposit with in situ flint scatter (53) and alluvial layer (54) [Pls 5, 6, 15-17] |
| 2      | 26.7       | 1.8         | 0.6       | 0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ mid green white clayey silt with chalk and flint (natural geology)   |
| 3      | 29.3       | 1.8         | 0.53      | 0-0.4m topsoil; 0.4m+ mix of clay, chalk gravel and brown grey clayey silt (natural geology) Carrier Ditch observed [Pl. 1]  |
| 4      | 23.5       | 1.8         | 0.48      | 0-0.35m topsoil; 0.35m+ mix of clay, chalk gravel and brown grey clayey silt (natural geology) Carrier Ditch observed [Pl. 2]  |
| 5      | 28         | 1.8         | 0.81      | 0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32m+ mix of clay, chalk gravel and brown grey clayey silt (natural geology) Carrier Ditch observed  |
| 6      | 24.6       | 1.8         | 0.72      | 0-0.27m topsoil; 0.27-0.40m modern chalk madeground, 0.4m+ dark mottled brown grey clay with iron staining 10% (natural geology)   |
| 7      | 21         | 1.8         | 0.5       | 0-0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.3m subsoil; 0.3-0.45m modern truncation of carrier ditch; 0.45m+ mid grey white silty clay with flint nodules (natural geology) ) Silty clay deposit (52) with struck flint inclusions, truncated by carrier ditch. [Pls 7 and 8]  |
| 8      | 25         | 1.8         | 0.5       | 0-0.4m topsoil; 0.4m+ mix of dark grey brown clay, chalk gravel and brown grey clayey silt (natural geology) A furrow observed   |
| 9      | 28.6       | 1.8         | 0.58      | 0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ mid green white clayey silt with chalk and flint and dark mottled brown grey clay with iron staining 10% (natural geology) Carrier ditch observed  |
| 10     | 25.6       | 1.8         | 0.6       | 0-0.33m topsoil; 0.33-0.45m modern chalk madeground; 0.45-0.57m subsoil; 0.57m+ dark mottled brown grey clay with iron staining 10% (natural geology)  |
| 11     | 25.4       | 1.8         | 0.55      | 0-0.26m topsoil; 0.26m+ mix of clay, chalk gravel and brown grey clayey silt (natural geology)   |
| 12     | 28.5       | 1.8         | 1.03      | 0-0.38m topsoil; 0.38-0.6m redeposited mid brownish grey clay natural geology; 0.38-0.7m subsoil; 0.7m+ mix of clay, chalk gravel and brown grey clayey silt, with mid yellow brown grey sandy silt with gravel (natural geology) Carrier ditch observed   |
| 13     | 25.3       | 1.8         | 0.48      | 0-0.38m topsoil; 0.38m+ chalk and gravel (natural geology) Carrier ditch observed  |
| 14     | 26.4       | 1.8         | 0.43      | 0-0.37m topsoil; 0.37m+ mottled brown grey clay with iron staining 10% and chalk and gravel (natural geology)  |
| 15     | 26.5       | 1.8         | 0.48      | 0-0.35m topsoil; 0.35m+ mix of clay, chalk gravel and brown grey clayey silt (natural geology)   |
| 16     | 26.7       | 1.8         | 0.65      | 0-0.37m topsoil; 0.37-0.4m redeposited mid brownish grey clay natural geology; 0.4-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ mix of clay, chalk gravel and brown grey clayey silt (natural geology). Carrier ditch observed  |
| 17     | 24.8       | 1.8         | 0.47      | 0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32m+ mix of clay, chalk gravel and brown grey clayey silt (natural geology)   |
| 18     | 27.6       | 1.8         | 0.53      | 0-0.4m topsoil; 0.4m+ mix of mid brown clay, chalk gravel and brown grey clayey silt (natural geology)   |
| 19     | 25         | 1.8         | 0.55      | 0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3m+ mid mottled brown grey, silty clay with iron staining (natural geology)  |
| 20     | 24.9       | 1.8         | 0.35      | 0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3m+ mid mottled brown grey, silty clay with iron staining (natural geology) Two furrows were observed  |
| 21     | 24.9       | 1.8         | 0.42      | 0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m+ mid mottled brown grey, silty clay with iron staining (natural geology)  |
| 22     | 26         | 1.8         | 0.42      | 0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3m+ light yellow brown clayey silt with flint and chalk gravel patches (natural geology) Carrier ditch observed  |
| 23     | 24.7       | 1.8         | 0.5       | 0-0.38m topsoil; 0.38m+ mid orange clayey silt (natural geology)   |
| 24     | 28.2       | 1.8         | 0.46      | 0-0.39m topsoil; 0.39m+ light yellow brown clayey silt with flint and chalk gravel patches (natural geology)   |
| 25     | 27.6       | 1.8         | 0.47      | 0-0.38m topsoil; 0.38m+ light yellow brown clayey silt with flint and silt and gravel patches (natural geology)  |
| 26     | 26.7       | 1.8         | 0.4       | 0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3m+ mid orange brown silty clay with gravel inclusions and chalk gravel and silt patches (natural geology)   |
| 27     | 25         | 1.8         | 0.4       | 0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.3m subsoil; 0.3m+ mid orange brown silty clay with gravel inclusions (natural geology)   |
| 28     | 26         | 1.8         | 0.4       | 0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32m+ mid orange brown silty clay with gravel inclusions and chalk gravel and silt patches (natural geology) [Pl. 4]   |
| 29     | 24.7       | 1.8         | 0.44      | 0-0.35 topsoil; 0.35m+ mid orange brown silty clay with gravel inclusions (natural geology)  |
| 30     | 25.5       | 1.8         | 0.4       | 0-0.31m topsoil; 0.31m+ mid orange brown silty clay with gravel inclusions and chalk, gravel bands with silty patches (natural geology)  |
| 31     | 7.4        | 1.8         | 0.4       | 0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18-0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ mid green white clayey silt with chalk and flint (natural geology) Silty clay deposit (52) with struck flint inclusions [Pls 9 and 10]   |
| 32     | 6.2        | 1.8         | 0.28      | 0-0.16m topsoil; 0.16-0.24m subsoil; 0.24m+ mid green white clayey silt with   |

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Length (m)</i> | <i>Breadth (m)</i> | <i>Depth (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i>   |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--|
|               |                   |                    |                  | chalk and flint (natural geology) Silty clay deposit (52) with struck flint inclusions <b>[Pls 11 and 12]</b>  |
| 33            | 12.4              | 1.8                | 0.48             | 0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12-0.27m subsoil; 0.27-0.45m modern chalk made ground; 0.45m+ mid green white clayey silt with chalk and flint (natural geology) Silty clay deposit (52) with struck flint inclusions truncated by a carrier ditch <b>[Pls 13 and 14]</b> |

**APPENDIX 2: Struck Flint Catalogue by context.**

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Context</i> | <i>Flakes</i> | <i>Narrow Flakes</i> | <i>Spalls</i> | <i>Cores</i> | <i>Core Fragments</i> | <i>Blade Core</i> | <i>Flake Cores</i> | <i>Retouched Flakes</i> |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1             | Unstrat        | 3             |                      |               |              |                       |                   |                    |                         |
| 1             | 52             | 4             |                      | 1             |              | 1                     |                   |                    |                         |
| 1             | 53             | 315           | 37                   | 451           | 11           | 30                    |                   | 2                  | 1                       |
| 5             | Unstrat        | 3             | 1                    |               |              |                       |                   |                    |                         |
| 6             | Unstrat        | 1             |                      |               |              |                       |                   |                    |                         |
| 7             | Unstrat        | 1             |                      |               |              |                       |                   |                    |                         |
| 8             | Unstrat        | 2             |                      |               |              |                       |                   |                    |                         |
| 9             | Carrier        |               |                      |               |              |                       |                   |                    |                         |
| 20            | Ditch          |               |                      | 1             |              |                       |                   |                    |                         |
| 22            | Unstrat        | 1             |                      | 1             |              |                       |                   |                    |                         |
| 31            | 50             |               |                      |               | 1            |                       |                   |                    |                         |
| 31            | 52             |               |                      |               |              |                       | 1                 |                    |                         |



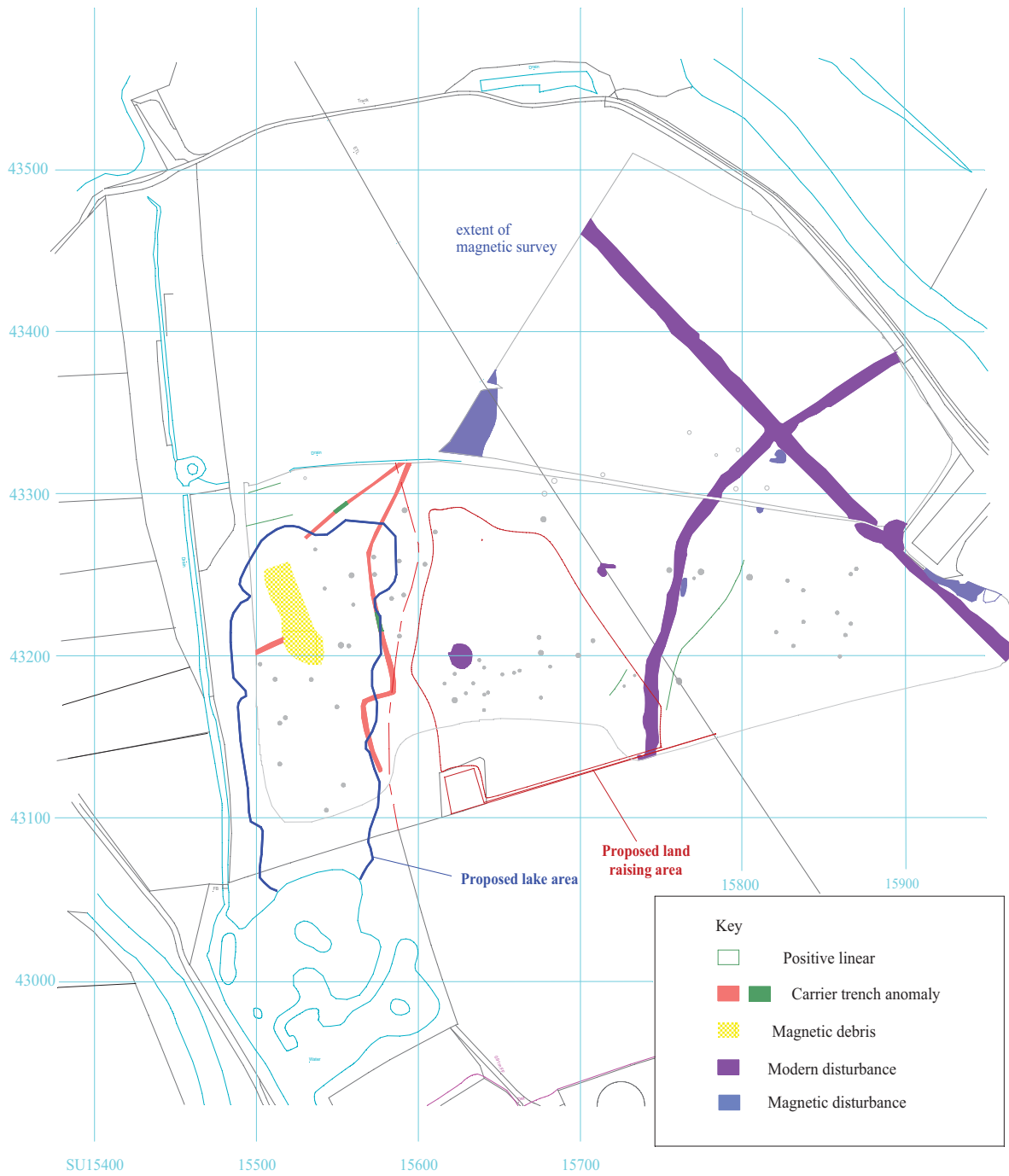
**Land at Watergate Farm, Amesbury,  
Wiltshire, 2022**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Amesbury and within Wiltshire.

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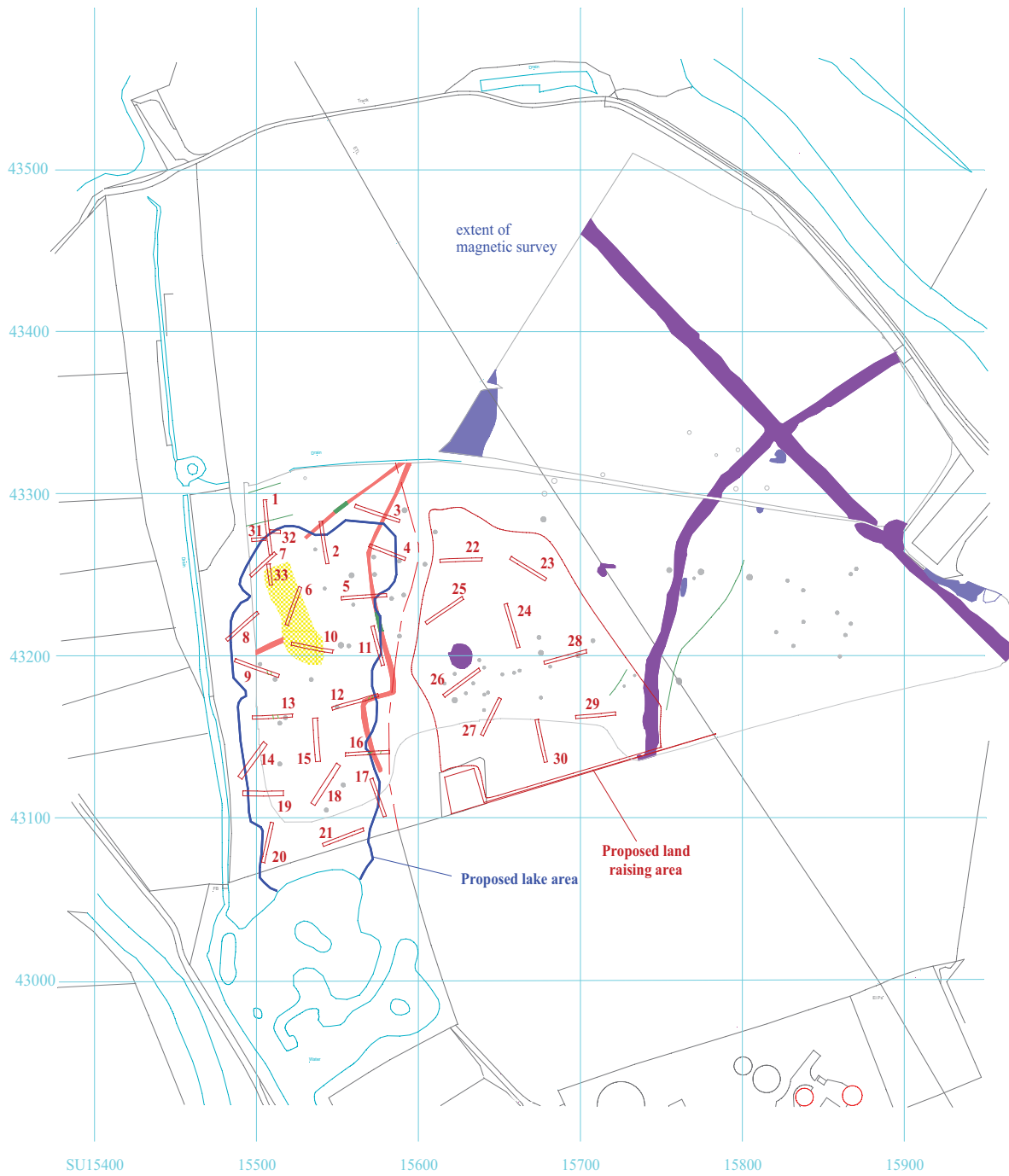


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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Location of proposed lake, and geophysical survey results.



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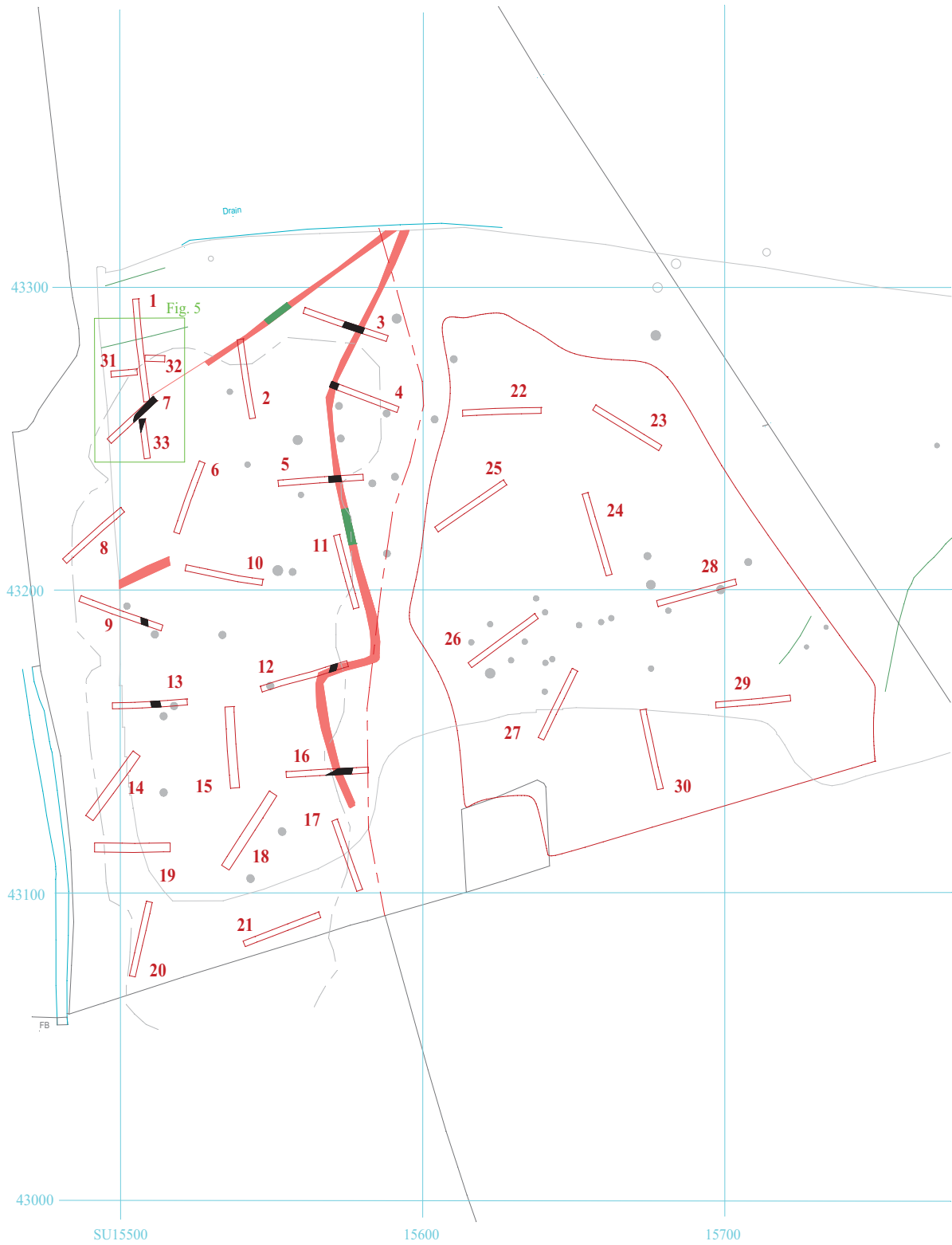
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Figure 3. Location of trenches, compared to geophysical survey.



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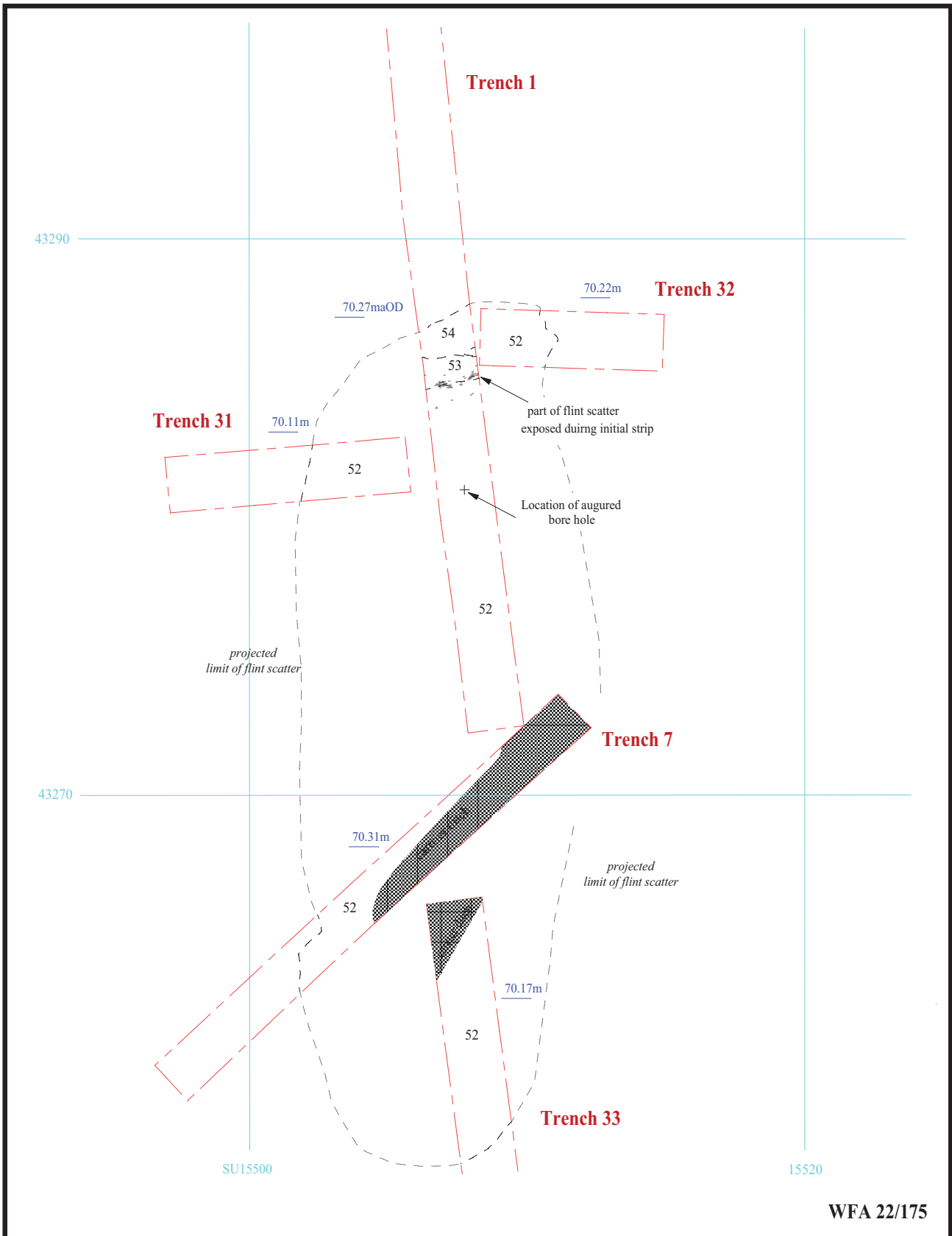


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Figure 4. Location of water meadow carrier ditches.



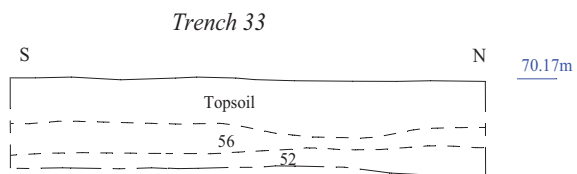
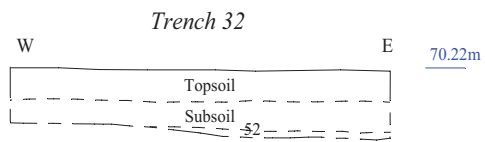
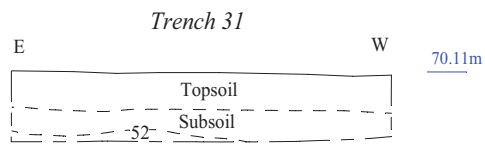
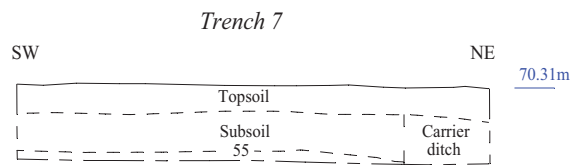
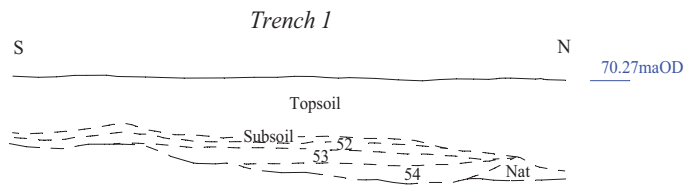
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Figure 5. Location of flint scatter deposit.





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Figure 6. Sections.





Plate 1. Trench 3, looking South East,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 4, looking South East,  
Scales: 2m, 1m, and 0.3m.



Plate 3. Trench 8, looking North East,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 28, looking South West,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

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Plates 1 to 4.

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Plate 5. Trench 1, looking North,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m



Plate 6. Section of Trench 1 showing flint scatter and alluvial deposits, looking West, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.



Plate 7. Trench 7, looking North East,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 8. Section of Trench 7 showing stratigraphy and top of alluvial deposit 52, looking North West, Scales: 2m and 0.3m.

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Plates 5 to 8.

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Plate 9. Trench 31, looking West,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 10. Section of Trench 31 showing stratigraphy and  
top of alluvial deposit 52, looking North,  
Scales: 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 11. Trench 32, looking East,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 12. Section of Trench 32 showing stratigraphy and  
top of alluvial deposit 52, looking North,  
Scales: 2m and 0.3m



Plate 13. Trench 33, looking South East,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m



Plate 14. Section of Trench 33 showing stratigraphy and  
top of alluvial deposit 52, looking West,  
Scales: 2m and 0.5m

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Plates 9 to 14.**

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Plate 15. Close up of flint scatter (1) in Trench 1, looking South, Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.



Plate 16. Close up of flint scatter (2) in Trench 1, looking South, Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.

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**Land at Watergate Farm,  
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Plates 15 to 16.

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Plate 17. Flint Scatters 1 and 2 in Trench 1, looking South, Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.



Plate 18. Site Shot towards Woodhenge and Durrington Walls (behind tree line), looking North East.

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Plates 17 to 18.

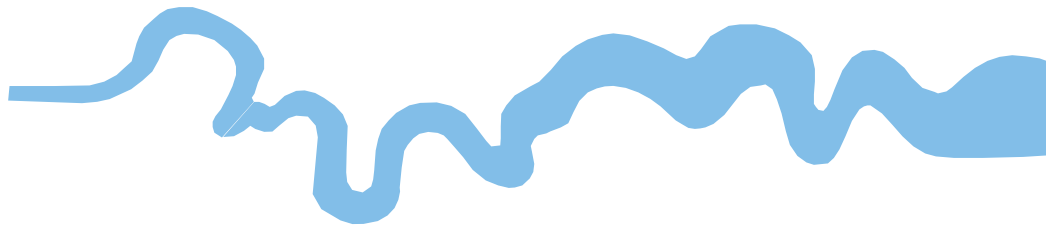
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## TIME CHART

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





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