Cotswold Archaeology

Manor Farm
Urchfont, Devizes
Wiltshire

Archaeological Excavation

for
Redcliffe Homes Ltd

CA Project: 9207
CA Report: 15653

January 2016

Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes

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Urchfont, Devizes
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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Manor Farm
Location:	Urchfont, Devizes, Wiltshire
NGR:	SU 0412 5717
Type:	Strip, Map and Sample Excavation
Date:	24 July to 1 August 2014
Planning Reference:	Wiltshire Council ref: E/2012/0147/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Wiltshire Museum, Devizes
Site Code:	MANU 14

An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology between July and August 2014 at Manor Farm, Urchfont, Devizes, Wiltshire. The excavation area was located in the east of the development area, targeted on prehistoric features identified in a previous evaluation of the site.

The excavation identified structural evidence for utilisation of the site during the prehistoric, Roman and medieval/post-medieval periods. Mesolithic and Neolithic worked flint was also identified as residual finds indicating at least an intermittent presence at the site during these times, though no features could be assigned to these periods.

Features including an early prehistoric ditch (that had been cut by a Late Bronze Age pit), a Late Bronze Age 'work area', Roman ditches and Medieval/post-medieval ditches were identified. Modern disturbance was recorded across site. The features are indicative of the land having been enclosed and helped to drain, but evidence for houses was absent. The most convincing suggestion for nearby occupation was the recovery of sherds representing at least twelve Late Bronze pottery vessels in five different fabrics.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between 24th July and 1st August 2014, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological investigation at the request of Reddcliffe Homes Ltd at Manor Farm, Urchfont, Devizes, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 0412 5717; Fig. 1).

1.2 Planning permission (Planning ref: E/2012/0147/FUL) for the demolition of existing farm buildings and redevelopment of the site with 19 dwellings and associated garages, parking and landscaping works was granted by Wiltshire Council (WC) conditional (condition number 9) on a programme of archaeological work. These works comprised an archaeological excavation targeted upon Roman features identified within the south-east corner of the proposed development area. The archaeological condition was recommended by Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist, WC. Informed by the results of a preceding evaluation (CA 2003), a strategy of targeted excavation was recommended.

1.3 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2013) and approved by WC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2014); the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire* (Wiltshire County Council 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006). The fieldwork was monitored by Rachel Foster, including a site visit on 29th July 2014. A programme of Historic Building Recording of an agricultural building at Manor Farm was commissioned in in June 2015 (CA 2015).

The site

1.4 The development site as a whole is approximately 0.8ha in extent and is bounded to the north by the gardens of a neighbouring property, to the east and south by single track roads, The Ham and Friars Lane respectively, and to the west by a large village pond. The development area comprised a farmyard with derelict agricultural buildings (see Fig. 2) while an area of approximately 0.12ha, comprised of wasteland, located in the south-eastern part of the development area was subject to the archaeological strip, map and sample excavation. The site lies at approximately

117.5m AOD. The area to the south and east is considerably lower, with Manor Farm sitting on a plateau.

1.5 A head-water of the Bristol Avon forms part of the north-western boundary of the parish, while a head-stream of the Christchurch Avon marks part of the north-eastern boundary and a number of streams rise on the Upper Greensand on either side of the water-shed. The greensand boundary with the chalk escarpment to the south led to natural springs (the font or spring of *Eorch*? at Urchfont), from which the village derives its name (VCH 1975). The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Upper Greensand of the Cretaceous Era (BGS 2013). No superficial deposits are recorded. The natural substrate, comprising yellow green clay sand deposits, was encountered within the site during the archaeological works.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 An archaeological evaluation of the site was undertaken by CA in 2002 (CA 2003). Two ditches and a gully were identified in the south-eastern part of the development area from which a small amount (fewer than 20 pieces) of late Neolithic or Bronze Age worked flint was recovered. The condition and quantity of the worked flint suggested secondary deposition. A single residual medieval sherd (8g) of limestone/quartz/flint tempered 'Newbury B' fabric pottery was also present. The most likely source for this pottery type was the Wiltshire Kennet Valley and a 12th to 13th-century date was probable. Two fragments of post-medieval pottery (6g): glazed earthenware and tin-glazed earthenware were also recovered. No archaeological remains were present in the central part of the farmyard, which was heavily contaminated due to intensive livestock farming (CA 2003).

2.2 Manor Farm is located in an area of the village of Urchfont that may represent part of the core of the original medieval settlement. The site lies to the south of the medieval parish church and to the south-west of a farmstead with medieval origins. A record in the Domesday Book (1086) of the settlement suggests that the village has late Saxon or earlier origins. The Manor House is first mentioned in 1487, and Manor Farmhouse may be of a similar date, although the present building (Listed Grade II as Manor Farm House) is of 16th and later century date (VCH 1975; CA 2015). The village was already enclosed when the rest of the parish was enclosed in 1784 (*ibid*).

2.3 Chance finds of prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval date have been found in the vicinity of the site (CA 2003).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological mitigation were to:

- record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered
- assess the overall presence, survival and potential of structural and industrial remains
- assess the overall presence, survival, condition, and potential of artefactual and ecofactual remains.

3.2 The specific aims of the work were to:

- record any evidence of past settlement or other land use
- recover artefactual evidence to date any evidence of past settlement that may be identified
- sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use and economy.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2013). The location of the excavation area was agreed with Rachel Foster (WC), informed by the results of the archaeological evaluation (CA 2003). An excavation area measuring approximately 56m by 30m was set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4: *Survey Manual*. The excavation area was scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the CA *Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services*.

4.2 Fieldwork commenced with the removal of topsoil and subsoil from the excavation area by mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket, under archaeological supervision.

4.3 The archaeological features thus exposed were hand-excavated to the bottom of archaeological stratigraphy. All features were planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.4 Deposits were assessed for their environmental potential and five features considered to have potential for characterising the earlier phases of activity were sampled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*.

4.5 All artefacts recovered from the excavation were retained in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of finds immediately after excavation*.

5. RESULTS (FIG 2 & 3)

5.1 This section provides an overview of the excavation results; detailed summaries of the contexts, finds and environmental samples (biological evidence) are to be found in Appendices A–G.

5.2 Limited artefactual dating evidence was recovered from site. The recovered finds do however indicate that the majority of archaeological activity on site dates to the Bronze Age and Roman periods. Mesolithic and Neolithic activity within the excavation area was represented by residual finds. Stratigraphic analysis of the features has indicated six distinguishable phases of activity:

- Period 1: Early Prehistoric
- Period 2: Late Bronze Age
- Period 3: Pre-Roman
- Period 4: Roman
- Period 5: Medieval/post-medieval
- Period 6: Post-medieval/modern

5.3 Some features could not be definitively assigned a Period based on stratigraphy or artefactual evidence and remained unphased.

Geology

5.4 The natural geological substrate 005, comprising yellow green clay sand deposits, was identified across the excavation area. Natural was sealed by subsoils 004 and 003, which in turn, were sealed by modern topsoil 002 overlain by levelling deposit 001.

Period 1, Early Prehistoric (Fig. 2)

5.5 The earliest archaeological feature on site comprised Ditch C. Aligned north-east/south-west, Ditch C was approximately 0.75m in width, 0.2m in depth with a concave base. It was filled by naturally accumulated silts which were undated by artefacts. The ditch was truncated by Pit 42 to the east, Ditch D to the west and Ditch B along its southern extent (discussed below), leaving approximately 5m of Ditch C identifiable in plan.

Period 2, Late Bronze Age (Figs 2 and 3)

5.6 Pit 42 was recorded at the eastern edge of the site and was sub-circular in plan with shallow sides and a flat base. It was only partially exposed in plan (as it continued beyond the excavation area) and measured at least 4m in diameter and 0.35m in depth. It contained two naturally accumulated silty fills. Artefacts comprising 21 lithics and 10 sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery were recovered from primary fill 43, and 55 lithics and 60 sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery were recovered from secondary fill 44. These included two scrapers, one saw and one scraper/saw. The pit was truncated at its southern end by Ditch B.

Period 3, Pre-Roman (Fig. 2)

5.7 Pit 38 was sub-circular in plan with a flat base. It measured at least 0.8m in diameter, 0.18m in depth and contained a naturally accumulated silt backfill, from which one flint blade and two flint flakes were recovered. It was truncated at its north by Ditch B.

Period 4, Roman (Figs 2 and 3)

5.8 Ditch A was aligned east/west with a concave base. It was approximately 0.75m in width, 0.2m in depth and was filled by naturally accumulated silts, from which a single sherd of 2nd to 4th-century AD pottery was recovered.

5.9 Ditch D was aligned north-north-east/south-south-west, turning at its southern extent towards the south-west. Ditch D was recut along its entire length with the original cut only partially surviving in the north. Both the original profile and the recut had steep sides and a concave base and measured approximately 2.6m in width and 1.1m in depth. The ditch cuts contained naturally accumulated silt backfills. A partial double-sided composite (bone with iron) comb (Ra. 1) was recovered from the final backfill. The tooth spacing of the comb is even on both sides, which is most commonly seen in combs of Saxon date. The flat connecting plate with bevelled edge (only one remains) is, however, typical of Roman combs (MacGregor 1985, 92).

5.10 Ditches A and D were both truncated by Ditch B, which was aligned north-east/south-west. It measured approximately 1.2m in width, 0.55m in depth with steep sides and concave base. It contained naturally accumulated silts, from which a single sherd of 1st to early 2nd-century AD pottery was recovered.

Period 5, Medieval/post-medieval (Figs 2 and 3)

5.11 Ditch E was aligned east-west. It is believed that the feature to the north (truncating Ditch D) is a continuation of the eastern end of Ditch D, based on similarities in size, profile and artefacts, however, modern disturbance meant that it was not possible to definitively prove this. The ditch measured approximately 1.9m in width and 0.7m in depth with an irregular profile and contained a single backfill, from which two sherds of 12th to 14th-century pottery and medieval tile weighing 89g were recovered. A single sherd of 16th to 18th-century pottery and late medieval/post-medieval tile weighing 751g was also recovered, suggesting the earlier finds could be residual material.

5.12 Ditch F was aligned north-south and measured 1.5m in width, 0.25m in depth with shallow sides and slightly concave base. It contained a naturally accumulated silt backfill and represents the base of a heavily truncated ditch or furrow.

5.13 Pit A was circular in plan with a concave base. It measured at least 1.7m in diameter, 0.65m in depth and contained two phases of naturally occurring silt backfills. Two sherds of 12th to 15th-century pottery were recovered from upper fill 94. Pit A was truncated along its western extent by Ditch G. The latter was aligned north-west/south-east and measured approximately 0.5m in width, 0.3m in depth with a concave base. It contained a naturally accumulated silt backfill that remained undated.

Period 6, Post-medieval/modern (Figs 2)

5.14 A series of intercutting pits, linear features and an alignment of postholes were identified within the centre of site from which modern brick and tile were recovered. A number of undated postholes in this area are likely to have been contemporary with these features due to close proximity and because an alignment was observed in plan.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Finds recovered are listed in Table 1 below. They range in date from the Mesolithic to the modern period. Details are to be found in Appendices A to D.

Type	Category	Count	Weight (g)
Pottery	Prehistoric	71	564
	Roman	9	123
	medieval	6	96
	Post-medieval	*5*	*26*
	Total	***91***	***809***
Worked flint		121	1140
Greensand Chert		1	2
Metalwork	Fe other	1	-
Worked bone		1	-
Modern glass		1	0.2
Ceramic Building Material (CBM)		39	1231
Fired/burnt clay		4	9

Table 1: Summary of finds from the site

Prehistoric

6.2 The most numerous category of material was worked flint. A total of 122 worked lithics (1.42kg) was recovered. One item was recovered as an unstratified find and one from topsoil. Seventy-six items were recorded in Late Bronze Age pit fills (fills 43 and 44 of Pit 42). Twenty-nine lithics were residual in deposits dated to the

Roman or later periods. The remaining 15 items were from undated contexts. A single Greensand chert flake was also recovered. Residual flints are indicative of Mesolithic and or Late Neolithic activity in the area and others are some are consistent with Bronze Age dating. A total of 71 sherds, weighing 546g of prehistoric pottery was recovered, almost all from pit 42. A single scrap of pottery in a handmade sandy fabric, which is considered broadly 'later prehistoric' (QZ1), was a residual find from Roman-dated Ditch A (fill 27). Some 70 sherds (545g) of *Late Bronze Age* pottery were recorded from the two fills of pit 42. The condition of the group is moderately good, with minimal surface loss and mean sherd weight moderately high for a late prehistoric group (7.8g). A minimum of 12 vessels is represented in five fabrics (below) and probably including a bowl and two jars. A Late Bronze Age date is indicated for this group by characteristics of fabric and form/decoration. Stylistically the group falls within the Post Deverel-Rimbury plain wares tradition which characterises assemblages from southern Britain of *c.* 12th/11th to 10th/9th centuries BC (Barrett 1980).

Roman

6.3 The small assemblage of pottery of Roman date totalling nine sherds (123g), included Savernake grog-tempered ware, (1st and earlier 2nd centuries AD), 2nd century AD central Gaulish samian, Dorset Black-burnished ware (which when found outside the county typically dates to the second to fourth centuries) and reduced coarsewares of probable local manufacture. A partial double-sided, composite comb consists of a fragment of the tooth plate, with a small piece of connecting plate attached by an *in situ* iron rivet, in addition to three separate teeth. The tooth spacing is even on both sides, which is most commonly seen in combs of Saxon date (MacGregor 1985, 92). The flat connecting plate with bevelled edge (only one remains) is, however, typical of Roman combs (*ibid.*).

Medieval

6.4 Six (97g) medieval sherds, all likely to have been produced in Wiltshire, were all recovered from stratified deposits. They included Lacock-Nash Hill ware of late 13th to 16th-century date, Kennet Valley ware (East Wiltshire ware) dating to the 12th to early 15th centuries and sandy coarseware fabrics, of 12th to 14th-century date range. Small amounts of medieval flat roof tile, a fragment of ridge tile and 28 fragments (917g) of late medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material including peg tile were recovered.

Post-medieval

6.5 Pottery of this date amounts to five sherds (26g). It includes a bodysherd of Frechen stoneware imported from the Rhineland during the mid 16th to late 17th centuries and four sherds of glazed earthenware (of mid 16th to 18th-century date). A moderately corroded iron object was recorded in a fill which has been ascribed a medieval/post-medieval date on the basis of ceramic building material. The object is a curved, tapering bar fragment with an oval cross-section towards the (broken) narrow end. The original form and function are uncertain.

Undated

6.6 A small amount of indeterminate iron-working slag, totalling four fragments (151g) was recovered as were four fragments (9g) of fired clay although none of the fragments retain any features which might indicate a form or purpose.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 The excavation identified evidence for multiphase utilisation of the site. The presence of Mesolithic/Neolithic worked flints in later features suggests that the site was visited at least occasionally during the earlier prehistoric periods. The earliest feature (Ditch C) was either broadly contemporary with, or pre-dated, the Middle Bronze Age (earliest dated phase). Roman, medieval/post-medieval and modern features were all identified.

7.2 Ditch C was small in size and was likely to have been a drainage ditch leading towards a drop off of the plateau immediately to the east of the site boundary. No finds were recovered from the excavated ditch fills. However, residual Mesolithic/Neolithic flint was recovered from Pit 42 which truncated Ditch C. This could suggest that the ditch was early Bronze Age in date and that the finds entered Pit 42 when Ditch C was disturbed.

7.3 It is possible that separate pits 38 and 42 may have formed part of a single irregular feature that was separated in plan by Ditch B. A substantial assemblage of 79 pieces of worked flint and 60 sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery was recovered from their fills. The presence of débitage, characteristically of Bronze Age date, suggests that the feature, which appears to have been a utilised tree-throw pit, was being

used as a 'work area'. The variety of different flint sources, which included beach pebbles and the presence of residual Mesolithic/Neolithic flint (identified through soft hammer techniques used through the early prehistoric period and bladelets that are characteristically Mesolithic), suggest a community without its own flint source that relied on trade, poor sources (such as beaches), or collecting and reworking flint left from earlier periods. The recovery of Late Bronze Age pottery sherds, representing at least 12 vessels in five fabrics and including one with carbonaceous (burnt food type) residue, indicated that there was occupation of that date nearby. Pit 42 was not fully exposed in plan meaning further interpretation is not possible.

7.4 Roman Ditch D formed part of a boundary that was aligned with and immediately to the west of the edge of a plateau. The large width and depth of the ditch suggests that it represents an attempt to enclose an area, rather than it being solely for drainage. No evidence for contemporary occupation debris was identified within the excavation area, with the exception of a single bone comb in the latest backfill, or any suggestion that livestock were kept there making a definite interpretation problematic.

7.5 Ditches A and B were broadly on the same alignment and located in the same location. A single sherd of 2nd to 4th-century AD pottery was recovered from Ditch A, which itself was truncated by Ditch B and contained a single sherd of 1st to early 2nd-century AD. This evidence suggests that both features could date to the 2nd century AD, or that the sherd recovered from Ditch B was intrusive, however, without significant artefactual material, definite interpretation is not possible. It is likely these ditches were used for drainage where water was carried from the high ground to the west to where the plateau dropped away to the east. As these two features were in the same location, it is possible there was a natural feature within the landscape that was utilised to aid the drainage, possibly a small combe (that might have been removed during post-medieval/modern landscaping). This could also suggest the presence of the earlier Ditch C.

7.6 Medieval/post-medieval Ditch E formed part of a boundary within the north of the excavation area. The large size in width and depth suggests an attempt to enclose an area rather than solely for drainage. Cartographic sources (the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1886) appears to show a boundary ditch, in the approximate location of Ditch E, turning at the eastern end towards to north, mirroring the plan of Ditch E. A tree line on the same map matches the location and

alignment of Ditch G and could indicate the trees superseded an earlier boundary. Although very small amounts of medieval pottery were recovered from the site, a lack of significant evidence for occupation suggests that the feature fell outside the historic medieval and post-medieval core of Urchfont. The presence of a possible furrow (Ditch F) also suggests the site was part of the hinterland of Urchfont. The site is known to lie within the area shown to have already been enclosed before the area open fields (located to the south) were formally enclosed (VCH 1975).

8. UPDATED AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

8.1 To fulfil the potential of the site data, the following updated objectives have been set out to provide a framework for the proposed further analysis:

Objective 1: Determine the context of the evidence for later prehistoric activity in the Vale of Pewsey

8.2 To examine the context of the later prehistoric remains, particular the Late Bronze Age evidence, within a growing understanding of these periods in the Vale of Pewsey. While previously considered an under represented period in this region (Fitzpatrick 2008, 125), the publication of a number of recent sites and the reanalysis of archaeological evidence within the Vale of Pewsey has suggested it was actually a densely settled landscape in the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition period (Tubb 2011). While the finds assemblages from Manor Farm can provide no further information as to the specific activities occurring at Manor Farm, the archaeological remains do provide an opportunity to further understand the spatial distribution of later prehistoric occupation in this region light of new research. This is in accordance with Research Aim 3k of the South West Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF) (Webster 2008b, 277).

Objective 2: Establish an understating of the context of the Roman rural occupation through the examination of evidence in the surrounding area

8.3 To understand the evidence for rural occupation in the Roman period in context of contemporary sites in the Vale of Pewsey. In light of an increasing data source of Roman rural sites from developer-funded work (Holbrook 2008, 152), this analysis aids in understanding the wider context of the Roman remains of rural occupation at Manor Farm and, more generally, the evidence for non-villa rural settlement in the south west region. This is in accordance with Research Aim 29 of SWARF (Webster 2008b, 286).

Objective 3: Determine the significance of the medieval/post-medieval remains for the development of the settlement of Urchfont

8.4 To provide further information as to the medieval and post-medieval development of the village of Urchfont. Discussion of the archaeological significance of the medieval/post-medieval remains at Manor Farm will be incorporated within a historic understanding of this settlement. This analysis will additionally determine to what extent small-scale archaeological investigations can provide additional information to origins and development of medieval settlement in Wiltshire. This is in accordance with Research Aim 33 of SWARF (Webster 2008b, 287).

9. PUBLICATION

9.1 The results from the investigations of Manor Farm, Urchfont are of a local and regional significance and merit publication. Information is currently limited for occupation dating to either the later prehistoric or Roman periods within this area. However, the analysis of new archaeological investigations, such as the excavation at Manor Farm, in the context of current knowledge allows the reinterpretation of the Prehistoric and Roman landscapes of the Vale of Pewsey. Furthermore, the archaeological evidence for medieval/post-medieval periods provides an additional opportunity to add to our knowledge of the development of the village of Urchfont.

9.2 The proposed publication will be a synthesised and integrated report in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* with specialist texts included within the body of the publication and archive reports available on ADS. Editorial policy indicates a word limit of *c*. 7000 words, however, shorter note length contributions are also welcome.

Synopsis of Proposed Report

Summary Results of an Excavation at Manor Farm, Urchfont, Wiltshire, 2014

by Dan Sausins *et al*.

		Words
Abstract		125
Introduction		
Location, topography and geology		250
Project background		100
Results		850
Chronological discussion of the major phases and features of the site incorporating finds analysis and relevant background information		
Conclusion		500
Bibliography		500
	Total words	***c. 2400***
	Approximate pages @ 800 words/page	3
		Pages
Illustrations		
	Location of site	1
	Site plan with phasing	1
	Section drawings	1
Total publication estimate		**6 pages**

9.2 The analysis and publication programme will be quality assured by Martin Watts MCIfA (Head of Publications: HoP) and managed by Karen Walker MCIfA (Principal Post-excavation Manager: PXM) who will co-ordinate the work of the following personnel:

Neil Holbrook FSA MIfA (Chief Executive Officer: CEO)
Advice on Roman archaeology and contribution to overall discussion

Dan Sausins (Project Supervisor: PS):
Post-excavation phasing, draft report preparation, research and archive

Nick Garland ACIfA (Post-excavation Officer: PO)
Contribute to the discussion

Ed McSloy MIfA (Finds Officer: FO):
Specialist report preparation and liaison, post-excavation phasing.

Jacky Sommerville MA, PIfA (Finds Officer: FO):

Dan Bashford - (Illustrator: ILL):
Production of all Site plans, sections and artefact drawings (exc. pottery)

9.3 The final publication report will be edited and refereed internally by CA senior project management.

10. TASK LIST

TASK	PERSONNEL	DURATION (DAYS)
Project Management		
	SPM	0.25
Stratigraphic Analysis		
	PO	0.5
Research, comparanda		
	PO	0.5
Preparation of publication report		
Abstract and introduction	PO	0.25
Excavation results	PO	0.5
Compilation of specialist reports, tables etc.	PO	0.25
Discussion, conclusions	PO	0.5
Acknowledgements, bibliography	PO	0.25
Illustrations	SI	1.0
Submission to external referees		
Editing	SPM	0.5
Revisions	PO	0.5
SUBMISSION OF PUBLICATION TEXT		
Archive		
Research archive completion	PO	0.5
	FO	0.5
Microfilm		TBC
Deposition		TBC
Publication		
Printing	SANHS	FEE

11. TIMETABLE

11.1 A draft publication text will be completed within two months.

12. STORAGE AND CURATION

12.1 The archive is currently held at CA offices in Kemble. Upon completion of the project, and with the agreement of the legal landowners, the site archive and artefactual collection will be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes,

which has agreed in principle to accept the complete archive upon completion of the project. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix E, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

13. CA PROJECT TEAM

13.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Sausins, assisted by Noel Boothroyd, Sikko Van Der Brug, Franco Vartuca, Tony Brown, Jonathan Orellana, Michael Joyce, Ellie Buttery and Sam Bateman. The report was written by Daniel Sausins. The prehistoric pottery and metal finds reports were written by E.R. McSloy, the later pottery, worked flint and other finds reports by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Daniel Bashford. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The fieldwork was managed for CA by Richard Young and the post-excavation was managed by Karen Walker.

The assistance of Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Council, is gratefully acknowledged.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Number	Context Type	Fill of	Context Description	Feature Label	Spot Date
1	layer		Redeposited layer: Mid grey orangey, light to mid brown, sandy silt, inclusions of rubble and rubbish.		
2	layer		Topsoil layer: Dark grey sandy silt, inclusions of small stones.		
3	layer		Subsoil layer: Light brown grey mixed with dark brown grey silty sand, inclusions of small stones.		
4	layer		Intermediate layer between subsoil and natural: Light brown grey mixed with dark brown/grey sandy silt.		
5	layer		Natural layer: Mixed light green and orangey sandy clay.		
6	cut		Posthole: Circular in plan, round corners, moderately steep sides, flat base.		
7	fill	6	Posthole fill: Mid greenish grey sandy clay, inclusions of angular stones.		
8	cut		Pit: Linear in plan, squared at west end, rounded at east, steep sides, concave base, E/W orientation.		
9	fill	8	Pit fill: Mid dark brown sandy clay, inclusions of flint flakes, limestone rooftiles and charcoal.		MC16-C18
10	cut		Pit: Linear in plan, square corners, steep sides, flat base, E/SW orientation.		
11	fill	10	Pit fill: Mid to dark brown sandy clay, bone and flint inclusions.		
12	cut		Posthole: Circular in plan, rounded corners, steep to moderate sloping sides, convex base.		
13	fill	12	Posthole fill: Dark grey and mid to dark brown sandy clay, pottery, bone and glass inclusions.		
14	cut		Posthole: Circular in plan, rounded corners, steep sides, concave base.		
15	fill	14	Posthole fill: Dark grey and dark brown sandy clay, charcoal inclusions (<1%).		
16	cut		Gully: Linear and narrow in plan, parallel sides, NE/SW orientation.	Ditch C	
17	fill	16	Gully fill: Mid yellowish brown silty sand with black flecks, inclusions of charcoal, pottery and flint.	Ditch C	
18	cut		Ditch: Linear in plan, steep parallel sides, N-NE by S-SW orientation.	Ditch D	
19	fill	18	Ditch fill: Mid greyish brown sandy silt, black flecks.	Ditch D	
20	cut		Gully: Linear in plan, shallow U shaped sides with moderate slope, flat base, NE/SW orientation.	Ditch C	
21	fill	20	Gully fill: Mid grey silty sand, inclusions of bone and charcoal.	Ditch C	
22	cut		Pit: Sub-oval shape in plan, rounded corners, U shaped sides, moderate slope, NE/SW orientation.		
23	fill	22	Pit fill: Mid whitish grey silty sand, inclusions of charcoal and flint.		
24	cut		Ditch: Linear in plan, steep U shaped sides, concave base, NE/SE orientated.	Ditch B	
25	fill	24	Ditch fill: Dark brown grey silty sand, inclusions of animal bone and charcoal.	Ditch B	

Context Number	Context Type	Fill of	Context Description	Feature Label	Spot Date
26	cut		Ditch: Sub-rectangular in plan, gently concaved sides, rounded base, E/W orientation.	Ditch A	
27	fill	26	Ditch fill: Dark yellowish grey sandy silt, inclusions of bone and flint.	Ditch A	C2-C4
28	cut		Gully: Linear, narrow, shallow in plan, lightly concave north side, E/W orientation.	Ditch A	
29	fill	28	Gully fill: Mid yellowish brown silty sand, charcoal flecks and small angular fragments of limestone.	Ditch A	
30	cut		Ditch: Linear, wide, deep in plan, steep concaved sides N/E -S/W orientation.	Ditch B	
31	fill	30	Ditch fill: Mid greyish brown silty sand, charcoal flecks and small fragments of limestone.	Ditch B	
32	cut		Probable posthole: Circular in plan, steep U shaped sides, tapered base.		
33	fill	32	Posthole fill: Dark greyish black silty sand, inclusions of pottery, flint and charcoal.		MC16-LC17
34	cut		Gully: Linear in plan, feature not excavated, simply cut by posthole [32].		
35	fill	34	Gully fill: Dark brown grey silty sand, not excavated.		
36	cut		Pit: Sub-oval shape in plan, not excavated.		
37	fill	36	Pit fill: Mid whitish grey silty sand, not excavated.		
38	cut		Pit: Shallow oval shape in plan, moderately sloping sides, flat base.		
39	fill	38	Pit fill: Light brown grey silty sand, inclusions of charcoal and worked flint.		
40	cut		Ditch: Shallow, linear shape in plan, steep sloping sides, base is flat, W/E orientation.	Ditch B	
41	fill	40	Ditch fill: Mid brown grey silty sand including charcoal.	Ditch B	
42	cut		Pit: Sub-oval shape in plan, rounded corners, flatish base, U shaped sides, N/E-S/W orientation.		
43	fill	42	Pit fill: Bottom fill, light yellowish green silty sand, bottom fill.		MBA-
44	fill	42	Pit fill: Top fill, dark brownish grey silty sand including charcoal.		MBA
45	cut		Posthole: Circular in plan, steep sides, curved base.		
46	fill	45	Posthole fill: Dark brown black silty sand, inclusions of large stones and pottery.		
47	fill	49	Ditch fill: Upper fill, mid green brown silty sand, inclusions of stone and charcoal.	Ditch B	
48	fill	49	Ditch fill: Primary fill, green brown silty sand, inclusions of charcoal.	Ditch B	
49	cut		Ditch: Linear in plan, steep sloping sides, curved based, E/W orientation.	Ditch B	
50	fill	53	Ditch fill: Back fill, mottled mid to dark greyish brown silty sand.	Ditch D	
51	fill	53	Ditch fill: Secondary fill, mottled mid brown silty sand, inclusions of charcoal flecks.	Ditch D	
52	fill	53	Ditch fill: Primary fill, mid orangey brown silt sand, inclusions of animal bone.	Ditch D	

Context Number	Context Type	Fill of	Context Description	Feature Label	Spot Date
53	cut		Ditch: Linear in plan, steep sharp slopes, V shaped base, E/W orientation curving north.	Ditch D	
54	cut		Ditch: Linear, wide, deep shape in plan, convex sides, concave base, N/E-S/W orientation.	Ditch B	
55	fill	54	Ditch fill: Mid greyish brown silty sand including charcoal flecks and burnt clay.	Ditch B	MC1-
56	cut		Ditch: Linear, wide, moderately steep parallel sides, flat base, N/E orientation.	Ditch C	
57	fill	56	Ditch fill: Light to mid yellowish brown silty sand with black and pale orange flecks.	Ditch C	
58	cut		Posthole: Circular shape in plan, rounded corners, steep sides, flat irregular base.		
59	fill	58	Posthole fill: Dark grey greenish to mid brown clay sand, containing small fragments of limestone.		
60	cut		Pit: Oval shape in plan, steep sharp slopes.		
61	fill	60	Pit backfill: Green brown silty clay, inclusions of flint and chalk.		
62	cut		Pit: Oval shape in plan, steep sides.		
63	fill	62	Pit backfill: Greeny brown silty sand with black and orange streaks, inclusions of flint and chalk.		
64	cut		Pit: Linear, shallow in plan, N/W-S/E orientation.	Ditch G	
65	fill	64	Pit fill: Dark greyish yellow-brown sand.	Ditch G	
66	cut		Gully: Linear shape in plan, steep sloping sides, V shaped based, N/S orientation.		
67	fill	66	Gully fill: Mid red brown sandy silt, inclusions of stone and charcoal flecking.		
68	cut		Pit: Circular shape in plan, steep slopes, Not fully excavated.		
69	fill	68	Pit fill: Dark brown green silty sand, inclusions of stone and charcoal flecks.		
70	cut		Modern intrusion: Oval shape in plan, gentle sloping sides, slightly concaved base, N/S orientation.		
71	fill	70	Modern intrusion fill: Mid grey to dark grey brown silty sand, inclusions of charcoal.		Modern
72	cut		Gully: Linear, shallow shape in plan, gentle slightly concaved sides, concaved base, E/W orientation.		
73	fill	72	Gully fill: Mid yellowish grey silty sand including charcoal flecks and small angular limestone fragments.		
74	cut		Gully: Linear shape in plan, steep sloping sides, slightly curved flat base, N/S orientation.		
75	fill	74	Gully fill: Light brown green silty sand including charcoal flecking.		
76	cut		Gully: Linear shape in plan, rounded corners, moderately sloping sides, curved base, E/W orientation.		
77	fill	76	Gully fill: Mild brown green silty sand including charcoal flecks and limestone.		
78	cut		Boundary ditch: Linear shape in plan, steep sides, irregular slightly convex base, orientated E-S/W.	Ditch E	

Context Number	Context Type	Fill of	Context Description	Feature Label	Spot Date
79	fill	78	Boundary ditch fill: Mid brown and dark green clay sand.	Ditch E	C17-
80	cut		Modern ditch: Linear shape in plan, E-S/W orientation, not excavated.		
81	fill	80	Modern ditch fill: Dark grey sandy clay, inclusions of modern brick and concrete.		
82	cut		Terminus of ditch: Linear shape in plan, moderately steep concave sides, concave base, N/S orientation.		
83	fill	82	Terminus of ditch fill: Mid greyish brown silty sand including occasional black flecks.		C17-
84	cut		Ditch: Linear shape in plan, steep sides, concave base, N/E-S/E orientation.	Ditch G	
85	fill	84	Ditch fill: Medium grey brown/yellow matting clayish sand, including charcoal flecking, and sandstone.	Ditch G	
86	cut		Furrow/truncated ditch: Linear shape in plan, moderately sloping sides, concaved base, N/S orientation.	Ditch F	
87	fill	86	Furrow/truncated ditch fill: Mid grey-green clayish sand, inclusions of gravel.	Ditch F	C13-
88	cut		Pit: Oval shape in plan, rounded corners, moderately sloping sides, flattish base, W/E orientation.		
89	fill	88	Pit fill: Mid grey-green clayey sand including orange/brown tint.		Late medieval/post-medieval
90	cut		Modern pit: Circular shape in plan, steep N-West side, lightly concaved base, partially excavated.		
91	fill	90	Modern pit fill: Mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt, occasional black flecks.		
92	cut		Pit: Oval shape in plan, gently concaved S-E side, lightly concaved base.		
93	fill	92	Pit fill: Upper fill, light yellowish brown silty sand, occasional black flecks.		
94	fill	92	Pit fill: Lower fill, Mid greyish brown silty sand, occasional black flecks.		LC11-
95	cut		Terminus ditch: Linear shape in plan, moderately sloping sides, concaved base, S/N orientation.	Ditch F	
96	fill	95	Terminus ditch fill: Mid brownish green silty sand.	Ditch F	
97	cut		Ditch/Gully: Linear shape in plan, steep concave E side, flat base, N/W-S/E orientation.	Ditch G	
98	fill	97	Ditch/Gully fill: Mid greyish brown silty sand/clayish sand, black flecks and yellowish brown mottles.	Ditch G	
99	cut		Pit: Circular shape in plan, fairly gentle concaved sides.		
100	fill	99	Pit fill: Light yellowish brown silty sand, occasional black flecks.		

Context Number	Context Type	Fill of	Context Description	Feature Label	Spot Date
101	cut		Ditch: Linear shape in plan, moderately sloping sides, W/E orientation.	Ditch E	
102	fill	101	Ditch fill: Dark green clayey sand including black flecks.	Ditch E	C14-
103	cut		Ditch: Linear shape in plan, steep sloping sides, N/S orientation.		
104	fill	103	Ditch fill: Mid green clayey sand with yellow tint and black flecks.		
105	cut		Ditch: Linear shape in plan, steep sloping sides, E/W orientation.	Ditch E	
106	fill	105	Ditch fill: Mid brownish grey silty sand, inclusions of charcoal.	Ditch E	C13-
107	cut		Ditch: Linear shape in plan, steep sloping sides, flat base, N/S orientation.	Ditch F	
108	fill	107	Ditch fill: Brownish green silty sand, inclusions of charcoal.	Ditch F	Late medieval/post-medieval
109	cut		Ditch: Linear shape in plan, rounded corners, steep sloping sides, concave base, N/S orientation.	Ditch E	
110	fill	109	Ditch fill: Light greenish grey sandy clay, inclusions of charcoal (<1%), animal bone, CBM, flint and pottery.	Ditch E	C12-
111	fill	114	Recut ditch fill: Upper fill, mid to light orangey brown clayish sand.	Ditch D	Late Roman/ Early Saxon
112	fill	114	Recut ditch fill: Secondary fill, mid dark brownish grey clay sand, stone inclusions.	Ditch D	
113	fill	114	Recut ditch fill: Primary fill, mid orange-grey clay sand, inclusions of charcoal flecks and flint.	Ditch D	
114	cut		Ditch: Linear in shape, steep sloping sides, N/S orientation.	Ditch D	
115	fill	117	Ditch fill: Secondary fill, mid orangey clay sand, inclusions of charcoal flecks.	Ditch D	
116	fill	117	Ditch fill: Primary fill, light greyish orange clay sand.	Ditch D	
117	cut		Ditch: Linear in shape, concaved sides and flat base, N/S orientation.	Ditch D	
118	cut		Possible ditch: Shape in plan unclear, probable N/E to S/W orientation.	Ditch D	
119	fill	118	Ditch fill: Light greenish grey and orangey brown sandy clay.	Ditch D	
120	cut		Large pit: Irregular shape in plan, rounded corners, steep sides, flat base, N/W by S/E orientation.		
121	fill	120	Pit fill: Bottom fill, dark grey silty sand, inclusions of stone and CBM.		Post-medieval
122	fill	120	Pit fill: Top fill, mid greenish grey silty sand, inclusions of stone and bone.		
123	cut		Pit: Shape not visible in plan, sloping concave sides, rounded base.		
124	fill	123	Pit fill: Primary fill, dark yellowish clayey silt, inclusion of charcoal flecks.		

Context Number	Context Type	Fill of	Context Description	Feature Label	Spot Date
125	cut		Land drain: Linear in plan, vertical sides, N/E to S/W orientation.		
126	fill	125	Land drain fill: Dark brown silty sand.		
127	fill	123	Pit fill: Secondary fill, light brownish grey silty clay.		
128	masonry	Falloff	Wall: Sandstone, average size, wall footings, N/S direction.		
129	cut		Foundation cut for wall: Linear in plan, square corners, vertical sides, N/S orientation.		

APPENDIX B: POTTERY

Prehistoric pottery by E.R. McSloy

6.1 A total of 71 sherds, weighing 546g was recovered, almost all from pit 42. A single scrap of pottery in a handmade sandy fabric which is considered broadly 'later prehistoric' (QZ1) was a residual find from Roman-dated Ditch A (fill 27). The assemblage has been fully recorded; quantified by sherd count/weight per fabric and with form, rim morphology, sherd thickness and use/wear evidence detailed as appropriate. Pottery type codings are based on primary inclusion type and fabrics are described in summary below.

Pit 42: Late Bronze Age

6.2 Pottery amounting to 70 sherds (545g) was recorded from pit 42. All material was hand-recovered, the majority from upper fill 44 and the remainder from lower deposit 43 (Table 2). The condition of the group is moderately good, with minimal surface loss and mean sherd weight moderately high for a late prehistoric group (7.8g).

6.3 A minimum of 12 vessels is represented in five fabrics (below) and including three rim sherds and base sherds from two vessels. The large majority of the group occurs in fabrics characterised by quartzite inclusions (OT1–3). Single sherds also occur in a vesicular (VES) and quartz/sandstone-tempered fabrics (QZ1) the latter a body sherd from a carinated vessel form. A single decorated vessel was recorded, with a further two sherds (in finer fabric QT3) with well-smoothed surfaces. Illustrated vessel no. 1 is a small carinated vessel, probably of bowl proportions, with a broad row of fingertip impressions at its shoulder/carination. This vessel exhibits an internal carbonaceous (burnt food type) residue.

6.4 Two rim sherds in fabrics QT1 and QT3 are of similar morphology; tall and upright and with slightly-thickened, squared tops. They almost certainly derive from jars used for cooking/storage. One vessel (no. 2) exhibits an external carbonaceous residue suggesting use for cooking. Base sherds recorded from two vessels (both in fabric QT1) are of two forms; with expanded/pushed-out base angle and simple base angle. Both come from larger vessels (100-130mm base diam.), probably jars.

Dating

6.5 Late Bronze Age dating is indicated for this group by a characteristics of fabric and form/decoration. Stylistically the group falls within the Post Deverel-Rimbury plain wares tradition which characterises assemblages from southern Britain of *c.* 12th/11th to 10th/9th centuries BC (Barrett 1980). Larger, high-shouldered jars with tall necks and unadorned rims are commonly characteristic, together with some carinated 'fineware' bowls which include carinated forms. Although flint tempering appears to be most common for pottery of this tradition, use of quartzite is known locally for example from Trowbridge, Wilts (Mepham 1993, 101–2; McSloy 2013, 25–28).

Table 2: Late Bronze Age Pottery summary

Context	**27**		**43**		**44**		**Total**	
fabric	*Ct.*	*Wt.(g)*	*Ct.*	*Wt.(g)*	*Ct.*	*Wt.(g)*	***Ct.***	***Wt.(g)***
QZ1	1	1			1	15	**2**	**16**
QT1			8	39	40	421	**48**	**460**
QT2					3	14	**3**	**14**
QT3			2	9	15	46	**17**	**55**
VES					1	1	**1**	**1**
Totals	**1**	**1**	**10**	**48**	**60**	**497**	**71**	**546**

Summary Prehistoric pottery fabric descriptions

QT1.	Handmade fabric with common coarse and poorly-sorted angular quartzite (1–3.5mm).	Buff or light brown surfaces.
QT2.	Handmade fabric with common very coarse, poorly-sorted angular quartzite (3–5.5mm).	Buff or light brown surfaces.
QT3.	Handmade fabric with common very coarse, poorly-sorted angular quartzite (3–5.5mm).	Buff or light brown surfaces
QZ1.	Handmade fabric with common well-sorted sub-angular quartz (0.3–0.5mm) and sparse polycrystalline quartz (sandstone) (1-2mm).	Dark grey throughout
VES.	Handmade fabric with common rounded and plate-like voids (1-2mm).	Buff/light brown throughout

The Roman and Post-Roman pottery by Jacky Sommerville

6.6 Pottery totalling 20 sherds (246g) was hand-recovered from 11 separate deposits and as unstratified finds. The pottery was sorted by fabric type and codings for Roman fabrics, where possible, correspond to those defined in the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998), Table 3. Sherd count and

weight were recorded for each context, in addition to vessel form and rim EVEs (Estimated Vessel Equivalents), where these could be determined.

Roman

6.7 Pottery of Roman date totals nine sherds (123g) with an EVEs value of 0.03. Only two derived from Roman-dated features and a moderate degree of fragmentation is indicated by the average sherd weight of 14g.

6.8 Continental imports are represented by central Gaulish samian (LEZ SA2), which was exported to Britain during the 2nd century (Webster 1996, 3). Single sherds were retrieved from fill 9 of post-medieval dated pit 8 and as unstratified finds.

6.9 A rimsherd in Dorset Black-burnished ware (DOR BB1), from fill 27 of Ditch A, is the only regional import. The sherd is too small to allow identification of the vessel form. Black-burnished ware was produced near Poole in Dorset, and when found outside the county it typically dates to the second to fourth centuries (Davies *et al*. 1994, 107).

6.10 A total of three sherds of Savernake grog-tempered ware were recovered from: fill 9 of post-medieval pit 8; fill 55 of Ditch B; and fill 89 of late medieval/post-medieval pit 88. This type of pottery was produced at Savernake Forest and other sites in north Wiltshire during the 1st and earlier 2nd centuries AD (Tomber and Dore 1998, 191).

6.11 The remainder of the Roman assemblage comprises reduced (GWC) and oxidised (OXID, OXIDF) firing coarsewares of probable local manufacture. These are unfeatured bodysherds recovered as residual items.

Medieval

6.12 Six sherds (97g) were recovered dating to this period (Table 3). The average sherd weight of 16g is indicative of a moderate degree of fragmentation: all of this pottery was recovered from stratified deposits.

6.13 Two sherds of Lacock-Nash Hill ware (LNH) were retrieved from fill 87 of Ditch F. These consist of a thumbed base sherd from a jug and a body sherd displaying white painted decoration. This ware type was produced in Wiltshire from the late 13th to 16th centuries (McCarthy 1974, 100–1).

6.14 Two bodysherds of Kennet Valley ware (East Wiltshire ware) (KVA) from fill 94 of pit A featured an applied, thumbed, decorative strip. This type of pottery was manufactured in the Savernake/Braydon Forest region and it is commonly found in Wiltshire and Oxfordshire dating to the 12th to early 15th centuries (Mellor 1994, 100–6).

6.15 Single bodysherds in glazed (SCWG) and unglazed (SCW) sandy coarseware fabrics, of possible South-east Wiltshire origin, were retrieved from Ditch E (fills 106 and 110). Both types are expected to date in the 12th to 14th centuries range.

Post-medieval

6.16 Pottery of this date amounts to five sherds (26g) (Table 3). Fill 33 of posthole 32 produced a bodysherd of Frechen stoneware (FRE), which was imported from the Rhineland during the mid 16th to late 17th centuries. A total of four bodysherds of glazed earthenware (GLEW), of mid 16th to 18th century date, was recorded in pit 8 (fill 9), Ditch E (fill 79) and ditch terminal 82 (fill 83). Those from ditch terminal fill 83 feature slip-trailed decoration.

Table 3: Roman and later pottery fabric summary descriptions

Period	Code*	Description	Sherd	Weight (g)
Roman	**DOR BB1**	Dorset Black-burnished ware	1	1
	GWC	Coarse sandy greyware	1	21
	OXID	Oxidised fabric	1	10
	OXIDF	Fine sandy oxidised fabric	1	3
	SAV GT	Savernake Grog-tempered ware	3	77
(Continental)	**LEZ SA2**	Central Gaulish (Lezoux) samian	2	11
Medieval	LNH	Lacock-Nash Hill ware	2	58
	KVA	Kennet Valley ware	2	34
	SCW	Sandy coarseware	1	2
	SCWG	Sandy glazed coarseware	1	3
Post-medieval	FRE	Frechen stoneware	1	1
	GLEW	Glazed earthenware	4	25
Total			**20**	**246**

*Types in bold correspond to National Roman Fabric Reference codings (Tomber and Dore 1998)

APPENDIX C: LITHICS

By Jacky Sommerville

Introduction and methodology

6.17 A total of 122 worked lithics (1.42kg) was recovered from hand-excavation of 21 separate deposits. One item was recovered as an unstratified find and one from topsoil. Seventy-six items were recorded in Late Bronze Age pit fills (fills 43 and 44 of Pit 42). Twenty-nine lithics were residual in deposits dated to the Roman or later periods. The remaining 15 items were from undated contexts and none of these are in sufficient quantities to permit secure dating of those contexts based upon the lithics.

Raw material and condition

6.18 A flake of Greensand chert was recorded in fill 110 of medieval/post-medieval dated Ditch E: the remainder of the assemblage was made on flint, which was mostly (64%) moderately good quality and medium-grained. Fine-grained flints were also recorded in 22% of cases and slightly coarse to coarse in 13%.

6.19 Where cortex (the outer, chalky surface) remains (75 items) it is chalky on 72%, indicating use of a primary context (chalk or chalk with flints). On 21% of pieces it is abraded, suggesting a secondary source such as pebbles from river gravels. A quite substantial proportion of the assemblage (17%) retained earlier cortication, which demonstrates the re-use of flints worked in previous periods. This raw material procurement strategy is most typical of the Bronze Age (Edmonds 1995, 175–6).

6.20 Just over half (54%) of the recovered lithics are broken and six (5%) have been burnt. Overall, the assemblage is in variable condition, which is to be expected with a mixture of residual and stratified finds. The majority of flints are grey in colour (85%) with a small number displaying green (1%), honey (3%), brown (3%) or orange (1%) staining. None of the lithics are corticated (a white or blueish surface discoloration resulting from taphonomic processes (Shepherd 1972, 109)).

Primary technology

6.21 Débitage (flakes, blades, bladelets, chips and shatter) totals 111 items (Table 4). The majority, as on most sites, consists of unretouched flakes, however, evidence of utilisation was noted on five items of débitage.

6.22 Knapping stage of débitage was recorded unless breakage precluded this. The breakdown is: three primary (fully cortical) items (4%); 51 secondary (partially decorticated) (73%); and sixteen tertiary (fully decorticated) (23%). The prevalence of secondary flakes may be suggestive of substantial decortication of raw material at the site or may reflect a high proportion of Bronze Age débitage, as flint was worked less extensively in that period than in those which preceded (Ford *et al.* 1984, 161).

6.23 Bladelets (defined as blades measuring <12mm wide) typically date to the Mesolithic period: two bladelet fragments were recorded in fill 27 of Roman-dated Ditch A. Preparation of the striking platform, soft-hammer percussion and core rejuvenation are all knapping strategies used during the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. The former was recorded on two flakes from fill 44 of Late Bronze Age pit 42 (one of which was also detached using a soft hammer) and one from fill 43 of pit 42. Soft hammer reduction was also evidenced on a retouched flake from subsoil 3, and three flakes and one blade from fill 44 of pit 42. Fill 111 of late Roman/early Saxon Ditch D produced a residual core rejuvenation tablet.

6.24 A total of 14 cores was recovered, comprising: seven dual-platform types; six multi-platform; and one tested nodule. A mixture of technologies is represented. One of the dual-platform cores (fill 44 of pit 42) is a discoidal type, with centripetal flake removals from the upper and lower faces: this type is most common during the Later Neolithic (Edmonds 1995, 82). Four of the cores display blade/bladelet scars in addition to flakes, and the rest were used to produce only flakes. Two are recorded as unsystematically worked and two (apart from the tested nodule, which has one flake removed) feature only two or three flake scars.

Secondary technology

6.25 Few formal tool types (11) were recorded although the proportion of the assemblage, at 9%, is relatively high. Reworked items mostly comprise retouched and notched flakes and blades (Table 4). A core from fill 27 (Roman-dated Ditch A) had been steeply retouched along one short edge. The broken notched blade from fill 79 (medieval/post-medieval dated Ditch E) is a double type, with notches on

opposing lateral edges. The raw material for this item is good quality, fine grained flint and dating in the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods is most likely.

Stratified deposits

6.26 Sixty-two percent of the lithic assemblage derived from fills 43 and 44 of Late Bronze Age-dated pit 42 (Table 5). Notable differences were observed between the lithics recovered from the upper and lower fills (Table 5). The primary fill, 43, contains one core and 20 pieces of débitage. Condition is very good, with 80% of items displaying little or no rolling or edge damage. Flake thickness averages 8.7mm, which is very close to the average of 8.9mm recorded from Bronze Age sites by Ford *et al.* (1984, 163).

6.27 Fifty-five items were recovered from secondary fill 44, including five retouched tools. The same level of edge damage was recorded as for fill 43, however minimal/no edge damage was recorded on only 63% of items, suggesting that some are not *in situ*. The average flake thickness is significantly lower than for fill 43, at 7.2mm, which would be expected during periods prior to the Bronze Age. The components of débitage also differ as, although dominated by flakes, it also includes blades and bladelets. Intentionally produced bladelets, which the three present appear to be, are dateable to the Mesolithic, and blades are typically Mesolithic or Early Neolithic in date. One of the bladelets also features evidence of platform preparation (indicative of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic technology). Included amongst the tools is an obliquely-blunted point (Clark Type A1) microlith, which is a diagnostic Mesolithic tool type (Clark 1934, 56). As previously mentioned, some of the débitage from this fill has been reduced using soft hammer percussion, which features during the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods.

6.28 A proportion of the lithics from fill 44 are, however, consistent with Bronze Age dating. These include: a combined scraper/saw; a side scraper; and a miscellaneous scraper. The blanks used and the relative irregularity of the retouch suggest that these tools date to the Bronze Age.

Discussion

6.29 The lithics assemblage from Manor Farm, Urchfont comprises a mixture of unstratified, residual and *in situ* material. Of note is the material from upper fill 44 of

Late Bronze Age-dated pit 42, which incorporates both items suggestive of Bronze Age dating and residual items which indicate activity on the site during the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods.

	Number
Primary technology	
Blade	7
Bladelet	5
Chip	1
Core	14
Core rejuvenation tablet	1
Flake	81
Shatter	2
Secondary technology	
Microlith	1
Notched blade (double)	1
Notched flake	1
Retouched blade	1
Retouched core	1
Retouched flake	2
Saw	1
Scraper	2
Side scraper/saw	1
Total	122

Table 4: Breakdown of the lithics assemblage

	Fill 43 (primary)	Fill 44 (secondary)
Primary technology		
Blade		2
Bladelet		3
Chip		1
Core	1	5
Flake	19	39
Shatter	1	
Secondary technology		
Microlith		1
Saw		1
Scraper		2
Scraper/saw		1
Total	**21**	**55**

Table 5: Lithics from Late Bronze Age pit 42

APPENDIX D: OTHER FINDS

Fired clay by Jacky Sommerville

6.30 A total of four fragments (9g) of fired clay was recorded in two deposits. Those from fill 7 of posthole 6 are pale grey in colour and soft-fired with no visible inclusions. The fragments from fill 13 of posthole 12 are buff/grey, sandy and medium-fired. None of the fragments retain any features which might indicate a form or purpose.

Ceramic building material by Jacky Sommerville

6.31 Thirty-nine fragments (1.231kg) of ceramic building material were recovered from nine deposits.

Medieval/post-medieval

6.32 A total of five fragments (16g) of medieval flat roof tile was recorded in fills 106 and 110 of Ditch E. Fill 102 of Ditch E produced a fragment of ridge tile.

6.33 Late medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material totalling 28 fragments (917g) was retrieved from three deposits, and as unstratified finds. Fragments of peg tile were identified in fill 79 of Ditch E and fill 89 of pit 88, and flat roof tile in Ditch E fill 79: the remainder are too fragmentary for further classification.

Post-medieval/modern

6.34 Post-medieval ceramic building material (152g) consists of a brick fragment from fill 121 of pit 120 and an unclassifiable fragment from fill 83 of ditch terminal 82.

6.35 Fill 71 of modern intrusion 70 produced two fragments (61g) of modern date: one of brick and one of tile.

Glass by Jacky Sommerville

6.36 The glass recovered from excavation consists of a very small fragment (0.2g) of pale green window glass of post-medieval or modern date, recovered from fill 13 of posthole 12.

Worked bone by Jacky Sommerville

6.37 A partial double-sided, composite comb (Ra. 1) was recorded in fill 111 of Ditch D. No other dateable material was recovered from this deposit. The comb consists of a fragment of the tooth plate, with a small piece of connecting plate attached by an *in situ* iron rivet, in addition to three separate teeth. A horizontal groove close to the outer edge of the upper surface of the tooth plate is probably decorative. The tooth spacing is even on both sides, which is most commonly seen in combs of Saxon date (MacGregor 1985, 92). The flat connecting plate with bevelled edge (only one remains) is, however, typical of Roman combs (*ibid.*).

Iron object by Jacky Sommerville

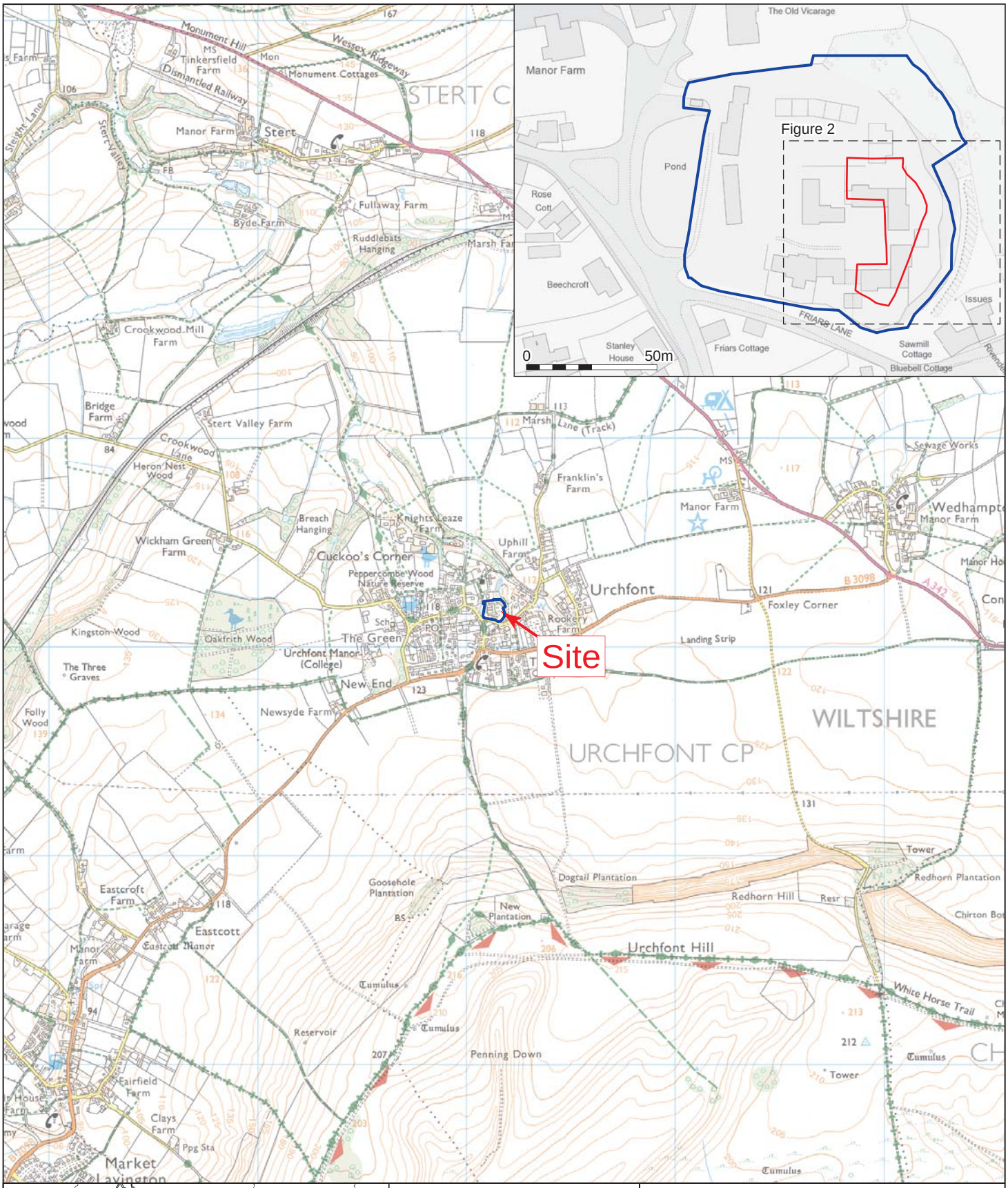
6.38 A moderately corroded object was recorded in fill 108 of Ditch F, which has been ascribed a medieval/post-medieval date on the basis of ceramic building material. The object is a curved, tapering bar fragment with an oval cross-section towards the (broken) narrow end. The original form and function are uncertain.

Industrial waste by Jacky Sommerville

6.39 Indeterminate iron-working slag, totalling four fragments (151g) was hand-recovered from fill 50 of Ditch D, fill 55 of Ditch B and fill 71 of modern intrusion 70.

APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Manor Farm, Urchfont, Devizes, Wiltshire	
Short description	An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology between July and August 2014 at Manor Farm, Urchfont, Devizes, Wiltshire. The excavation area was located in the east of the development area, targeted on Prehistoric features identified in a previous evaluation of the site. The excavation identified evidence for multi phased occupation of the site dating from the Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval/post-medieval periods. An early Prehistoric ditch, Middle Bronze Age 'work area', Roman ditches and Medieval/post-medieval ditches all identified. Modern disturbance was recorded across site. Mesolithic and Neolithic flint was also identified as residual finds indicating an even earlier presence on site though no features were identified that could be assigned to these periods.	
Project dates	24 July to 1 August 2014	
Project type	Strip, Map and Sample Excavation	
Previous work	Archaeological Evaluation (CA 2003), Written Scheme of Investigation (CA 2012)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Manor Farm, Urchfont, Devizes, Wiltshire	
Study area	Site: 0.8ha, Excavation area: 0.12ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 0412 5717	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Daniel Sausins	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Ceramics, , lithics, CBM, fired clay, composite comb, slag, glass
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Context sheets, context registers, section drawings, photo registers
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Manor Farm, Urchfont, Devizes, Wiltshire: Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation.* CA typescript report **15653**		



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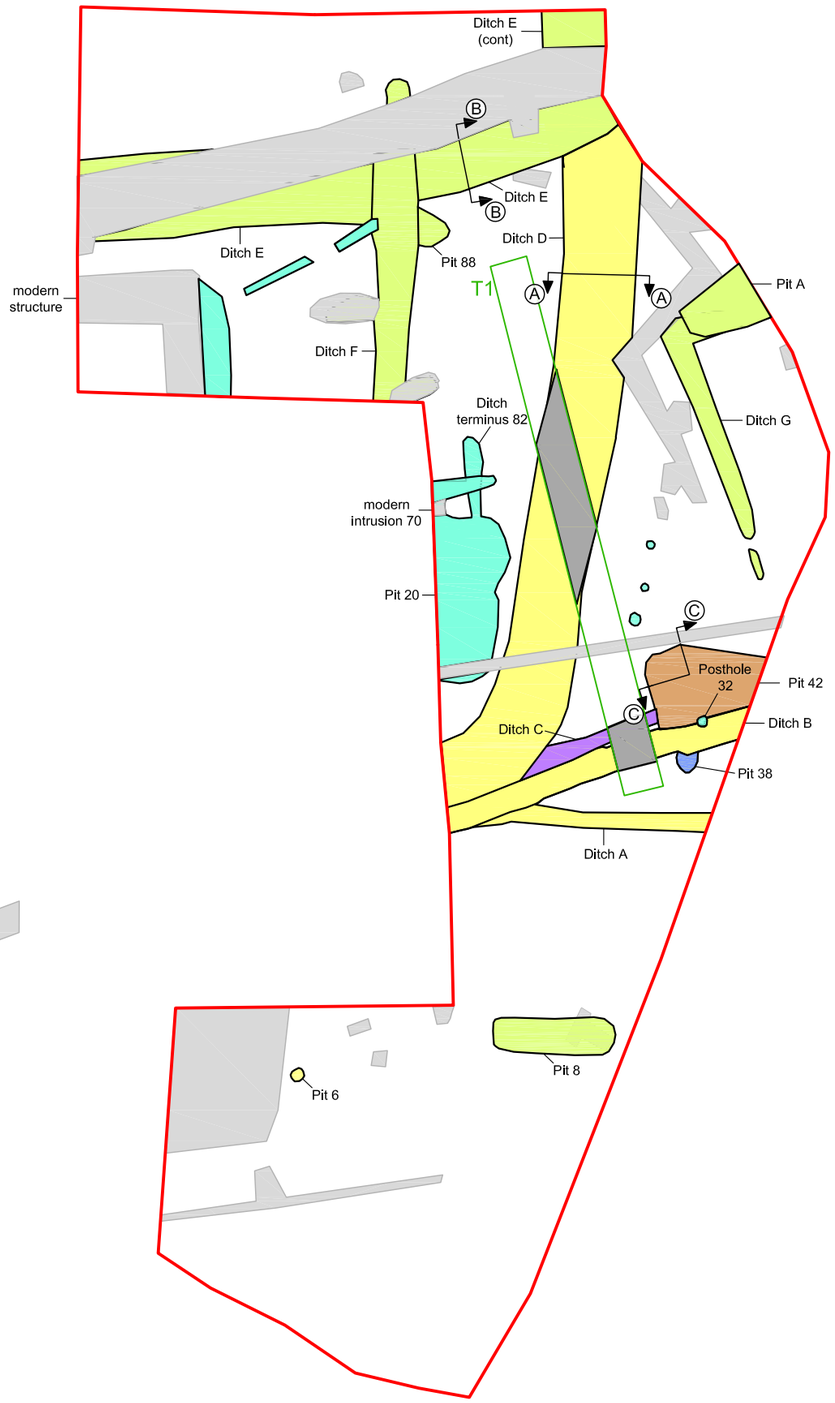
PROJECT TITLE

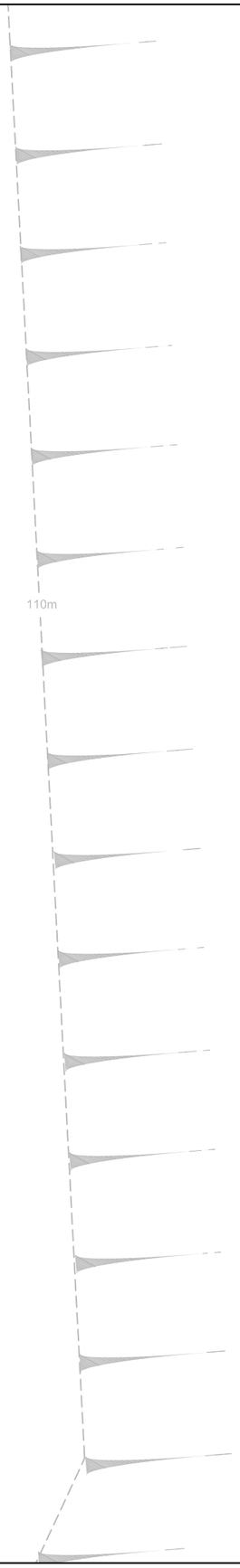
Manor Farm, Urchfont, Devizes, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY	**DJB/LJH**	*PROJECT NO.*	**9207**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**28-09-2015**	**1**
APPROVED BY	**DS**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:25,000 & 1:2000**	





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site boundary
evaluation trench
archaeological feature
early prehistoric
Late Bronze Age
Pre-Roman
Roman
medieval/post-medieval
post-medieval/modern
modern

0 10m

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PROJECT TITLE
Manor Farm, Urchfont, Devizes, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site plan showing archaeological features and phases including topography to the east of the excavation

DRAWN BY	DJB	PROJECT NO.	9207	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	27-08-2015	2
APPROVED BY	DS	SCALE@A3	1:250	

P:\9207 Manor farm Urchfont PX\Illustration\Drafts\9207 Manor Farm Urchfont Fig2.dwg

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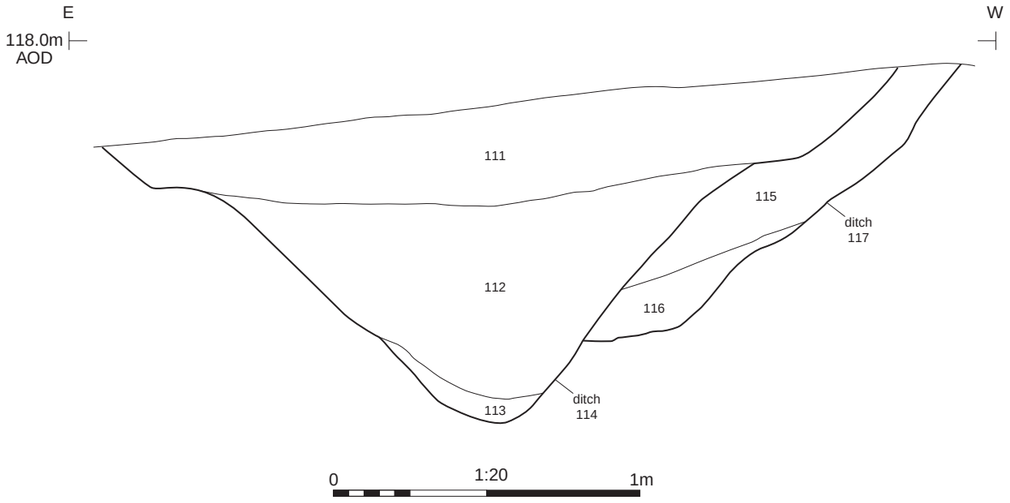
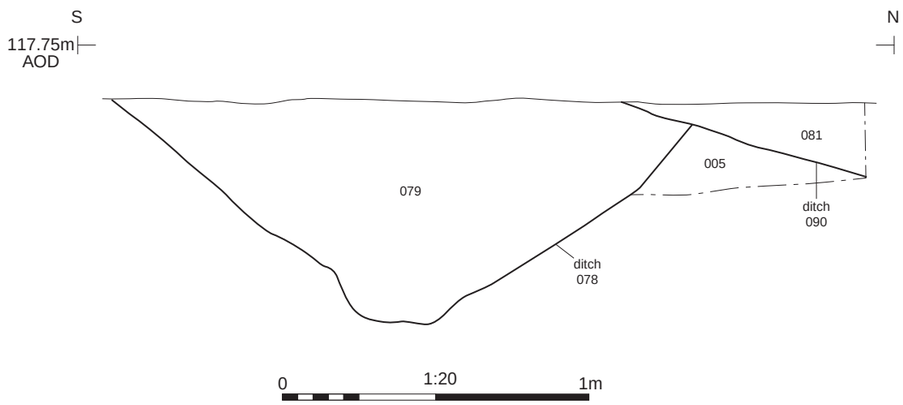
Section AA: Ditch D



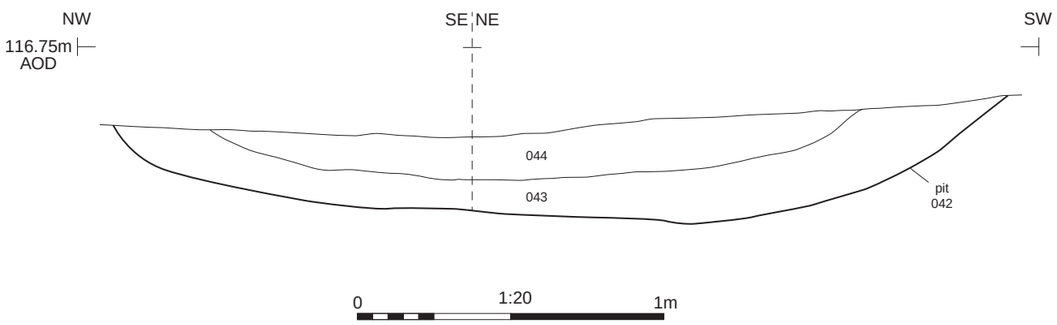
Ditch D, looking south (scale 1m)

Section BB: Ditch E



Ditch E, looking west (scale 1m)

Section CC: Pit 42



Pit 42, looking south-east (scale 1m)

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PROJECT TITLE

Manor Farm, Urchfont, Devizes, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Sections and photographs

DRAWN BY	**DJB**	*PROJECT NO.*	**9207**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**LM**	*DATE*	**27-08-2015**	**3**
APPROVED BY	**DS**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20**	

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