

Land at Whychurch Farm Malmesbury Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

CgMs Consulting
on behalf of
MJGleeson

CA Project: 5140 CA Report: 14576

December 2014

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at Whychurch Farm

Location: Malmesbury, Wiltshire

NGR: ST 93433 88516

Type: Evaluation

Date: 18–27 November 2014

Location of Archive: To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum

Site Code: WFM 14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2014 at Land at Whychurch Farm, Malmesbury, Wiltshire. Forty one trenches were excavated.

The archaeological evidence from the evaluation indicates that the site was characterised by low-scale agricultural activity in the later Iron Age, where ditches on north-east/south-west alignments may have formed land parcels.

The evaluation also identified pits and ditches dated to the medieval period, when the Site would probably have formed a part of the lands belonging to Malmesbury Abbey that were cultivated by the tenants living in the nearby hamlet of Filands.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client MJGleeson at Land at Whychurch Farm, Malmesbury, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: ST 93433 88516; Fig. 1; hereafter referred to as the Site). The evaluation was undertaken as a first phase of intrusive archaeological works in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the housing development's planning permission.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014a) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council (WC), the archaeological advisor to WC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), 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). It was monitored by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, including a site visit on 20th November 2014.

The Site

- 1.3 The Site covers an area of c. 9.6ha of land which gently undulates with a slight southerly gradient but overall is generally flat, with a height of approximately 90m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The land is currently used for pasture.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Kellaways Formation of mudstone of the Jurassic Period, with no overlying superficial deposits (BGS 2014).

Archaeological background

1.5 There is increasing evidence for the presence of low-scale agricultural activity in the landscape around Malmesbury. An excavation conducted in 2001 during the installation of a high pressure gas main near Marsh Farm, 650m east of the Site, revealed a stone-built villa dating to the 3rd or 4th century, possibly replacing an earlier timber-framed building (CA 2004). Recently excavations at Tetbury Hill (CA 2014b), 650m west of the Site, and at the site of a new superstore 1.5km south-east of the Site, have revealed small roman agricultural enclosures and buildings (M. Pomeroy-Kellinger, *pers. com.*). Residual Roman pottery has also been found within

medieval contexts inside the town of Malmesbury, indicating the potential for a Roman settlement beneath the medieval town (CA 2005).

- 1.6 The modern settlement of Malmesbury grew up around its abbey, which was founded by AD 709. The town soon became wealthy and influential, receiving its first borough charter in 937 from Aethelstan, who is reputedly buried in the abbey. In the late 9th century the town was fortified by Alfred against the Danes, and was the first Wiltshire borough covered in the Domesday survey. The Site was situated outside the walls of the medieval town, between it and the hamlet of Filands, which in the 13th century housed 14 customary tenants farming land belonging to the abbey (Freeman and Watkin 1999, 131).
- 1.7 A desk-based assessment for the Site (CgMS 2011) established that, based on current evidence, a low potential for archaeological activity of all periods was considered for the development area. From the early medieval period onwards, the Site was likely to have been situated within an agricultural landscape immediately beyond the established settlement, and is considered to have negligible potential for the presence of significant archaeological remains. Due to the absence of previous archaeological investigation within the Site, the potential for remains predating the early medieval period (i.e. prehistoric and Roman) to be present within the site, was uncertain.
- 1.8 The recent geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014) did identify some isolated, discrete responses, but most of the anomalies appear to be associated with medieval or later farming activity.

Archaeological objectives

1.9 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009). This information will enable WC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Methodology

- 1.10 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 40 trenches (Trenches 1–40) measuring 30m in length and 1.6m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). A test pit (Trench 41), measuring 5m by 5m was targeted on a geophysical anomaly. This was initially thought to be located within 10m of overhead power cables and was to be hand excavated, however it was determined on site that the test pit was actually located further from the cables and it was machine excavated. The locations of Trenches 9 and 10 were altered to avoid the route of underground mains sewers. All alterations to the trench layout and methodology from the WSI were approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2012).
- 1.11 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual (2013).
- 1.12 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites (2003) and two deposits were sampled. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation (1995).
- 1.13 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum under, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-6)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.
- 2.2 The general stratigraphy of the Site comprised natural clays overlain in **Trench 35** by undated buried soil layer **3502** and in all other trenches by a layer of subsoil, typically 0.15–0.25m thick. The subsoil was sealed in all trenches by up to 0.33m of topsoil.
- 2.3 Trenches 2, 7, 9, 10, 11, 14, 18, 25, 26, 27, 30, 32, 33, 36, 38, 39 and 41 contained no archaeological features or deposits. Trenches 12, 13, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 31 and 34 solely contained furrows. Geophysical anomalies in Trenches 18 and 41 were not reconciled with archaeological features during the evaluation.

Trench 1 (Figure 3)

- A pit, a posthole and a ditch were recorded cutting the natural substrate in **Trench 1**, all were undated. Pit **104** was identified near the south-west end of the trench. It was oval in plan, 0.81m long, 0.67m wide and 0.12m deep with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by silty clay, **105**, which contained flecks of charcoal, but no artefacts. Posthole **106** was located 1m north of the pit and was 0.25m in diameter and 0.08m deep with steep sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its fill, **107**, although charcoal and fragments of fired clay were noted.
- 2.4 At the north-east end of the trench, ditch **108** was 0.53m wide and 0.21m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single silty clay fill, in which fragments of fired clay were noted, but no artefacts were recovered. The ditch was also excavated in **Trench 4** as ditch **403**.

Trench 3 (Figures 3 & 6)

2.5 Ditch **304** (Figure 6, section AA) was aligned north-west/south-east and was 0.96m wide and 0.13m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, **305**, was a clay silt containing flecks of charcoal and degraded fired clay, from which a sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered. Ditch terminus **306** was recorded near the centre of the trench. The ditch was on a broadly east/west alignment and extended outside the trench to the east. It was 0.23m wide and 0.06m deep and had shallow, gently

sloping sides and a flat base. A piece of burnt flint was recovered from its fill, **307**, but no dating evidence.

2.6 Pit 308 was ovoid in plan, approximately 1m in diameter and 0.18m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. No cultural material was recovered from the fill, 309. The base of the feature was heavily affected by rooting, and it is possible that the pit was in fact a tree throw; however the high degree of truncation makes that interpretation tentative.

Trench 4 (Figures 3 & 6)

2.7 Ditch 403 (Figure 6, section BB) was a continuation of ditch 108. In this trench the ditch was 0.93m wide and 0.25m deep with steep sides and a concave base. No dating evidence was recovered from its fill, 404. A sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from subsoil layer 401 during machining of the trench.

Trench 5 (Figures 3 & 6)

- Two parallel north-west/south-east aligned ditches (**503** and **505**) were recorded near the east end of the trench. Ditch **503** (Figure 6, section CC) was 0.6m wide and 0.13m deep with moderately steep sides and a flat base. Ditch **505** was 0.5m wide and 0.24m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Both ditches were filled by grey silt clays (**504** and **506** respectively). There was no dating evidence from either feature, although a fragment of fired clay was recovered from fill **504**.
- 2.9 Pit **507** (Figure 6, section DD) was approximately 0.66m in diameter and 0.08m deep with moderately steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, **508**, was dark grey clay silt which contained charcoal flecks but no dating evidence.
- 2.10 Tree throw **509** was sub-circular in plan, approximately 1.1m in diameter with irregular, gently sloping sides and a heavily root-disturbed base. It single silt fill, **510**, was devoid of any cultural material.

Trench 6 (Figures 3 & 6)

2.11 Two east/west aligned ditches were identified in **Trench 6**. At the north-east end of the trench, ditch **610** (Figure 6, section EE) was 1.17m wide and 0.22m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. A sherd of 12th–14th-century pottery was recovered from its fill, **611**. Ditch **608** was located 12m to the south of ditch **610** and was 0.92m wide and 0.2m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave

base. It contained a single clay fill, **609**. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature, however its alignment and the similarity of shape and profile to ditch **610** suggests that they were contemporary.

2.12 Two undated postholes (**604** and **606**) were excavated near the south-west end of the trench. Posthole **604** was 0.18m in diameter and 0.08m deep. Posthole **606** was located 1.8m north of posthole **604** and was 0.33m in diameter and 0.07m deep. Both were filled by brown silty clays (**605** and **607** respectively), which contained flecks of charcoal, but no artefacts.

Trench 8 (Figure. 3)

2.13 Undated ditch 803 was aligned east/west and was 0.62m wide and 0.15m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. It contained two fills. Primary fill 804 derived from the erosion of the base and sides of the feature and contained a piece of burnt stone. It was sealed by upper fill 805, which contained flecks of degraded fired clay. No artefacts were recovered from either fill. Ditch 803 was probably a continuation of ditch 608, however the large distance between the two features means that this association cannot be certain.

Trench 17 (Figures 3 & 6)

- 2.14 Curvilinear ditch **1708** (Figure 6, section FF) was located near the centre of the trench and had its northern terminus within the trench. It was 0.41m wide and 0.2m deep with steep sides and a concave base. No dating evidence was recovered from its fill, **1709**. The function of the ditch remained uncertain.
- 2.15 Posthole **1706** was located 2.5m east of the terminus of ditch **1708**. It was circular in plan, 0.26m in diameter and 0.08m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It contained a dark clay fill, **1707**, which contained charcoal flecks, but no dating evidence. There were no other associated postholes in the trench.
- 2.16 Pit **1704** was rectangular in plan, 0.57m long, 0.48m wide and 0.12m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. No dating evidence was recovered from its fill **1705**; however the shape and profile of the feature suggested that it was modern.
- 2.17 A single sherd of Roman pottery, dating to the mid-1st–2nd century was recovered from topsoil **1701** during machining of the trench.

Trench 20 (Figures 4 & 6)

- 2.18 North-west/south-east aligned ditch **2006** (Figure 6, section HH) was 0.56m wide and 0.13m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single silty clay fill, **2007**, from which a sherd of 12th–14th-century pottery was recovered. Two pieces of residual worked flint (a broken flake and a chip) were also recovered from the fill.
- 2.19 Two undated pits were excavated in **Trench 20**. Pit **2004** was sub-circular in plan, 0.98m long, 0.86m wide and 0.14m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. Pit **2008** was located in the north-west corner of the trench, with only a small portion of the feature inside the trench. It appeared to be sub-circular in plan, 0.07m deep, with moderately steep sides and a flat base. No artefacts were recovered from either feature.

Trench 23 (Figure 4)

2.20 East/west aligned ditch **2303** was 0.99m wide and 0.13m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by clay silt **2304**, which contained flecks of degraded fired clay, but no artefacts.

Trench 24 (Figure 4)

- 2.21 Ditch 2403 was aligned north-east/south-west and was 0.53m wide and 0.22m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its single fill, 2404, was light bluegrey clay silt, which contained no artefacts. North/south aligned ditch 2405 was 1.15m wide and 0.11m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by clay silt 2406, which was similar in character to the fill of ditch 2303 and also contained degraded flecks of fired clay.
- 2.22 Ditches 2403 and 2405 converged near the northern edge of the trench. It was recorded in plan that ditch 2405 cut ditch 2403, however this relationship was not tested by excavation at this stage, in accordance with the WSI.

Trench 28 (Figure 5)

2.23 Two parallel, undated ditches on a north-east/south-west alignment were recorded in **Trench 28**. Ditch **2804** was 0.57m wide and 0.17m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. Ditch **2806** was 1.21m wide and 0.38m deep with steep sides and a flat base. Both ditches were filled with yellow-brown silty clays (**2805** and **2807** respectively), neither of which contained any artefacts.

Trench 29 (Figures 5 & 6)

- 2.24 Pit 2905 (Figure 6, section GG) was oval in plan, 2.3m long and 0.15m deep. It extended outside the trench to the east and the full width of the pit could not be ascertained. The pit had gently sloping sides and an uneven base. It contained two fills. Lower fill 2904 was a mottled silt deposit formed by gradual accumulation of sediment when the pit was open. It contained flecks of charcoal, fired clay and a sherd of medieval pottery. Upper fill 2903 was much darker and had the appearance of being a soil layer that formed over the partially infilled pit. It also contained charcoal and fired clay, but no artefacts.
- 2.25 A north-west/south-east aligned ditch (2907) was 2m wide and 0.05m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single silt fill, 2906, with a sherd of pottery dated to the 13th–15th century. The broadness and shallowness of the feature suggest that it may have been a sunken trackway rather than a ditch.
- 2.26 Short ditch, **2909**, was 2.2m long, 0.6m wide and 0.05m deep, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It had a single fill, **2908**, from which no finds were recovered. The function of the ditch remained unclear.

Trench 35 (Figures 5 & 6)

- 2.27 North-east/south-west aligned palaeochannel **3510** (Figure 6, section II) was 3.5m wide and 0.35m deep with gently sloping, irregular sides and an uneven base. It was filled by yellow-brown silty clay, **3509**, which contained no artefacts. Ditch **3508** and pit **3506** were both cut into the silted up palaeochannel.
- 2.28 Ditch **3508** (Figure 6, section II) was aligned north-east/south-west and was 1.15m wide and 0.1m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by clay silt **3507**, which contained charcoal flecks and, 12th–14th-century pottery, fired clay and a fragment of horseshoe.
- 2.29 Pit **3506** was oval in plan, 1.2m long, 0.75m wide and 0.4m deep, with moderately steep sides and a concave base. It contained three fills (**3504**, **3505** and **3511**), the uppermost of which, **3504**, was similar in character to that of ditch **3508** and may indicate that they were broadly contemporary.

Trench 37 (Figure 5)

- 2.30 Pit 3703 was located in the north-west corner of the trench, with only a small amount visible within the trench. The pit appeared to be sub-circular in plan, 0.13m deep, with gently sloping sides and a flat, root-affected base. It was filled by sterile clay silt, 3704. The rooting of the base and irregular shape in plan, allied with the sterile fill, suggests that the feature may have a natural derivation, possibly as a tree throw.
- 2.31 North-west/south-east aligned ditch **3705** was 0.83m wide and 0.12m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Its single fill, **3706**, was light clay that contained no finds.

Trench 40 (Figure 5)

- 2.32 North-east/south-west aligned ditch **4003** was 0.45m wide and 0.14m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, **4004**, was grey-brown clay from which no finds were recovered.
- 2.33 Ditch **4005** was aligned north-west/south-east and was 0.97m wide and 0.2m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, **4006**, contained no artefacts.

Finds

2.34 Artefactual material was recorded from 12 deposits (Appendix B). Closely dateable material was confined to small quantities of Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval pottery (below).

Pottery: Late prehistoric

2.35 A single sherd (8g) pottery belonging to this period was recorded from ditch fill **305**. The (rim) sherd from this deposit occurs in a fine sandy fabric (PR QZo). The form is identifiable as a vessel (probably a small jar), with upright neck and rounded rim. Pottery of (Early and Middle) Iron Age date is known from previous excavations in Malmesbury, the known site of a hillfort (Brown 2005). Although dating based on a single sherd must be viewed as tentative, the fabric/vessel form in this instance are consistent with an Early to Middle Iron Age date (c. 7th to 1st centuries BC).

Roman

2.36 A single abraded sherd from topsoil deposit **1701** is attributable to this period. The fabric is identifiable as Savernake ware (fabric SAV GT), a coarseware type

produced at Savernake, north-east Wiltshire and probably other centres from the mid-1st to mid-2nd centuries AD.

Medieval

2.37 Pottery from seven deposits and amounting to 16 sherds (141g) was recorded. Material from the largest group (ditch fill **3507**) and one sherd from ditch fill **611** comprises bodysherds in unglazed sandy coarsewares (fabrics QZ; QZv). The source for this type is unknown, although similar material has been noted from excavations in Malmesbury (Burchill 2006, 135). The remaining part of the assemblage comprises sherds in a calcareous gravel-tempered fabric identifiable as Minety type ware (MTY). This ware type was produced at Minety, north Wiltshire across the 12th to early 16th centuries and is typically well represented in medieval pottery assemblages from the area. All of the sherds represented are abraded and the limestone inclusions commonly leached out. Vessel forms are limited to a jar with complex/flat-everted rim from deposit **2906** and a jug from deposit **2904**. Both are types likely to date to the high or later medieval period, *c*. 13th to 15th centuries.

Other finds

- 2.38 A broken flint flake and chip from deposit 2007 may be representative of low-level earlier prehistoric activity in the area. They occurred in association with medieval pottery and are clearly re-deposited.
- 2.39 A fragmentary iron horseshoe (Registered artefact 1) is probably of later medieval type (Clark 3 or 4), dating which is consistent with pottery from this deposit.

Animal bone

2.40 A total of five fragments (31g) of bone were recovered from deposit **3507**. Identification to species level was not possible due to the poor preservation and the fragmentary nature of the bone; as such no useful interpretative inference can be made.

Palaeoenvironmental evidence

2.41 Two samples were recovered from fill **3507** within ditch **3508** (sample 1) and fill **2903** within pit **2905** (sample 2). Given the shallow nature of both features, the risk of contamination by bioturbation is high and no further work is recommended.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the low potential for archaeology indicated by the desk-based assessment (CgMS 2011) and the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014) the evaluation identified a number of features dating to the prehistoric and medieval periods. Geophysical anomalies indicating a linear feature in **Trench 18** and pits in **Trench 41** were not identified in the evaluation and are therefore thought not to be of archaeological origin.
- 3.2 Prehistoric activity is attested to by a ditch, **304**, which contained Iron Age pottery within its fill, and by residual worked flint in medieval ditch 2006. Ditch **304** was aligned north-west/south-east and it may be that two undated ditches on the same alignment in Trench 5 (**503** and **505**) are of a similar date. The presence of a sherd of Severnake pottery dating to the Roman period in the topsoil of **Trench 17** is not surprising given the relative proximity of known Roman sites (see Archaeological Background, above), however it was highly abraded and is unlikely to be indicative of Roman activity on the Site itself.
- 3.3 Medieval activity in the south-west of the Site is attested to by the presence of 12th—14th century pottery in the fill of ditch 610 and 12th—16th-century pottery in the topsoil of Trench 4. Ditch 610 shared an east/west alignment with ditches 108/403, 306 and 608/803. It is likely that these ditches formed part of the same field system during the medieval period.
- 3.4 Further medieval ditches in the north-west of the Site were recorded on a different alignment to those in the south-west. The ditches were all on north-west/south-east or north-east/south-west alignments and may have formed a series of large rectilinear enclosures. It is not clear whether the different field system layouts identified was because they belonged to a different phase of activity, or were the result of different land ownership.
- 3.5 The archaeological evidence from the evaluation indicates that the Site was characterised by low-scale agricultural activity in the later Iron Age, where ditches on north-east/south-west alignments may have formed land parcels. In the medieval period the Site would probably have formed a part of the lands belonging to Malmesbury Abbey that were cultivated by the tenants living in the nearby hamlet of Filands.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Christopher Leonard, assisted by Sara-Jayne Boughton, Nathan Chinchen and Robert Reichert. The report was written by Christopher Leonard. The finds report was written by Ed McSloy, the animal bone report by Andy Clarke and the environmental report by Sarah Cobain. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Greatorex.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context	Context	Fill	Context	Description	L	W	D	Spot-
	Number	Type	of	interpretation	P	(m)	(m)	(m)	date
1	101	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	30	1.6	0.23	
1	102	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay silt	30	1.6	0.26	
1	103	Layer		Natural	Light brown-yellow and				
		_		substrate	brown-orange clay				
1	104	Cut		Pit	Oval in plan. Moderately	0.81	0.67	0.12	
1	105	Fill	104	Pit fill	steep sides and flat base	0.81	0.07	0.12	
Į.	105	FIII	104	PILIIII	Dark yellow-brown silty clay. Occasional charcoal	0.61	0.67	0.12	
1	106	Cut		Posthole	Oval in plan. Steep sides and	0.25	0.23	0.08	
•	1.00	001			flat base	0.20	0.20	0.00	
1	107	Fill	106	Posthole fill	Mid red-brown silty clay.	0.25	0.23	0.08	
					Occasional charcoal and fired				
		_			clay				
1	108	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Moderately	>1.6	0.53	0.21	
					steep sides and concave base				
1	109	Fill	108	Ditch fill	Mid grey-brown silty clay.	>1.6	0.53	0.21	
'	103	1 !!!	100	Ditorrilli	Occasional fired clay	71.0	0.00	0.21	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 101	30	1.6	0.21	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 102	30	1.6	0.13	
2	202	Layer		Natural	Same as 103				
				substrate					
3	301	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 101	30	1.6	0.19	
3	302	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 102	30	1.6	0.12	
3	303	Layer		Natural	Same as 103				
3	304	Cut		substrate Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Gently	>1.6	0.96	0.13	
3	304	Cut		DILCII	sloping sides and flat base	71.0	0.90	0.13	
3	305	Fill	304	Ditch fill	Mid orange-brown clay silt.	>1.6	0.96	0.13	
				2.00	Occasional manganese and		0.00	00	
					fired clay				
3	306	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Gently sloping	>1.28	0.23	0.06	
					sides and flat base				
3	307	Fill	306	Ditch fill	Mid orange-brown clay silt.	>1.28	0.23	0.06	
3	308	Cut		Pit	Occasional manganese Ovoid in plan. Gently sloping	>1.1	>1.0	0.18	
3	300	Cut		FIL	sides and concave base	/1.1	71.0	0.10	
3	309	Fill	308	Pit fill	Dark grey-brown clay silt.	>1.1	>1.0	0.18	
Ü	000		000		Occasional manganese		1.0	0.10	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 101	30	1.6	0.21	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 102	30	1.6	0.15	
4	402	Layer		Natural	Same as 103				
				substrate					
4	403	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Steep sides	>1.6	0.93	0.25	
4	404	Fill	403	Ditch fill	and concave base Mid yellow-grey clay silt.	>1.6	0.93	0.25	
7	707	' '''	703	וווי ווווי	Occasional small stones and	1.0	0.93	0.23	
					manganese				
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 101	30	1.6	0.18	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 102	30	1.6	0.22	
5	502	Layer		Natural	Same as 103	1	<u> </u>		
	500	04		substrate	NNA/OF -II I AA I I I		0.0	0.10	
5	503	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Moderately steep sides and flat base	>3.6	0.6	0.13	
5	504	Fill	503	Ditch fill	Mid yellow-grey clay silt.	>3.6	0.6	0.13	
J	304	' '''	505	Dittori IIII	Occasional small stones and	- 0.0	0.0	0.15	
					manganese				
5	505	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Steep sides,	>3.9	0.5	0.24	
			1		concave base				
5	506	Fill	505	Ditch fill	Mid yellow-grey silt clay.	>3.9	0.5	0.24	
	50-	0 .	1	D''	Occasional small stones	0.05		0.0-	
5	507	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular in plan.	0.66	>0.54	0.08	
					Moderately steep sides and flat base				
	1	<u> </u>	507	Pit fill	Dark yellow-grey clay silt.	0.66	>0.54	0.08	
5	508	Fill	507	I PII IIII	I Dark Vellow-orev clay em	Unn	<i>></i> U.54	1 0 00	

Trench	Context Number	Context Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	(m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot- date
5	509	Cut		Tree throw	Sub-circular in plan. Gently sloping sides and irregular base	1.14	1.08	0.13	
5	510	Fill	509	Tree throw fill	Mid yellow-grey clay silt. Occasional small stones and manganese	1.14	1.08	0.13	
6	601	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 101	30	1.6	0.27	
6	602	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 102	30	1.6	0.21	
6	603	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 103				
6	604	Cut		Posthole	Circular in plan. Steep sides and flat base	0.19	0.18	0.08	
6	605	Fill	604	Posthole fill	Mid yellow-brown silty clay. Occasional charcoal	0.19	0.18	0.08	
6	606	Cut		Posthole	Circular in plan. Steep sides and flat base	0.33	0.33	0.07	
6	607	Fill	606	Posthole fill	Light grey-brown silty clay. Occasional charcoal flecks	0.33	0.33	0.07	
6	608	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Moderately steep sides, concave base	>1.6	0.92	0.2	
6	609	Fill	608	Ditch fill	Mid yellow-brown silty clay.	>1.6	0.92	0.2	
6	610	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Moderately steep sides and concave base	>1.6	1.17	0.22	
6	611	Fill	610	Ditch fill	Mid grey-brown silty clay	>1.6	1.17	0.22	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 101	30	1.6	0.22	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 102	30	1.6	0.08	
7	702	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 103				
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 101	30	1.6	0.23	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 102	30	1.6	0.13	
8	802	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 103				
8	803	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Moderately steep sides and concave base	>1.6	0.62	0.15	
8	804	Fill	803	Ditch fill	Lower fill. Mid brown-yellow clay silt. Occasional manganese	>1.6	0.62	0.07	
8	805	Fill	803	Ditch fill	Upper fill. Mid brown-grey clay silt. Occasional small stones, manganese and fired clay	>1.6	0.62	0.08	
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 101	30	1.6	0.22	
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 102	30	1.6	0.1	
9	902	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 103				
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 101	30	1.6	0.29	<u> </u>
10	1001 1002	Layer Layer		Subsoil Natural	Same as 102 Same as 103	30	1.6	0.13	
11	1100	Layer		substrate Topsoil	Same as 101	30	1.6	0.2	
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 102	30	1.6	0.09	
11	1102	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 103				
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy silt	30	1.6	0.28	
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay silt	30	1.6	0.19	
12	1202	Layer		Natural substrate	Light brown-yellow and brown-orange clay				
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 101	30	1.6	0.25	
13	1301	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 102	30	1.6	0.17	
13	1302	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 103				
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 101	30	1.6	0.26	
14	1401	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 102	30	1.6	0.18	
14	1402	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 103				
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 101	30	1.6	0.25	
15	1501	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 102	30	1.6	0.16	

Trench	Context Number	Context Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	(m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot- date
15	1502	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 103				
16	1600	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 101	30	1.6	0.24	
16	1601	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 102	30	1.6	0.17	
16	1602	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 103				
17	1701	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 101	30	1.6	0.21	
17	1702	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 102	30	1.6	0.22	
17	1703	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 103				
17	1704	Cut		Pit	Rectangular in plan. Vertical sides and flat base	0.57	0.48	0.12	
17	1705	Fill	1704	Pit fill	Mid yellow-brown clay	0.57	0.48	0.12	
17	1706	Cut		Posthole	Circular in plan. Steep sides and flat base	0.26	0.26	0.08	
17	1707	Fill	1706	Posthole fill	Dark grey-brown clay. Occasional charcoal	0.26	0.26	0.08	
17	1708	Cut		Ditch	Curvilinear in plan. Steep sides and concave base	>2.18	0.41	0.2	
17	1709	Fill	1708	Ditch fill	Mid grey-brown silty clay	>2.18	0.41	0.2	
18	1800	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1200	30	1.6	0.17	
18	1801	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 1201	30	1.6	0.18	
18	1802	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 1202				
19	1900	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1200	30	1.6	0.28	
19	1901	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 1201	30	1.6	0.2	
19	1902	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 1202				
20	2001	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1200	30	1.6	0.2	
20	2002	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 1201	30	1.3	0.26	
20	2003	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 1202				
20	2004	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular in plan. Moderately steep sides and concave base	0.98	0.86	0.14	
20	2005	Fill	2004	Pit fill	Dark yellow-brown silty clay	0.98	0.86	0.14	
20	2006	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Moderately steep sides and concave base	>1.6	0.56	0.13	
20	2007	Fill	2006	Ditch fill	Mid grey-brown silty clay. Occasional small stones	>1.6	0.56	0.13	
20	2008	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular in plan. Moderately steep sides and flat base	>0.58	>0.47	0.07	
20	2009	Fill	2008	Pit fill	Light grey-brown silty clay	>0.58	>0.47	0.07	
21	2100	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1200	30	1.6	0.23	İ
21 21	2101 2102	Layer Layer		Subsoil Natural	Same as 1201 Same as 1202	30	1.6	0.18	
22	2200	Lavor		substrate Topsoil	Same as 1200	30	1.6	0.29	
22	2200	Layer Layer		Subsoil	Same as 1200	30	1.6	0.29	1
22	2202	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 1202	55	1.0	0.10	
23	2300	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1200	30	1.6	0.25	
23	2301	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 1201	30	1.6	0.2	
23	2302	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 1202				
23	2303	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Gently sloping sides and flat base	>1.6	>0.99	0.13	
23	2304	Fill	2303	Ditch fill	Mid yellow-brown clay silt. Occasional small stones, manganese and fired clay	>1.6	>0.99	0.13	
24	2400	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1200	30	1.6	0.33	
24	2401	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 1201	30	1.6	0.13	1
24	2402	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 1202				
24	2403	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned. Moderately steep sides and concave base	>1.0	0.53	0.22	

Trench	Context Number	Context Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot- date
24	2404	Fill	2403	Ditch fill	Light blue-grey clay silt	>1.0	0.53	0.22	
24	2405	Cut		Ditch	N/S aligned. Gently sloping sides and flat base	>1.6	1.15	0.11	
24	2406	Fill	2405	Ditch fill	Mid grey-brown clay silt. Occasional manganese and fired clay	>1.6	1.15	0.11	
25	2500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt. Occasional small stones	30	1.6	0.18	
25	2500	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow-grey clay silt. Occasional small stones	30	1.6	0.11	
25	2500	Layer		Natural substrate	Light grey-yellow clay				
26	2600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	30	1.6	0.31	
26	2600	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay silt	30	1.6	0.11	
26	2600	Layer		Natural	Light brown-yellow and	30	1.6	0.13	
27	2700	Lover		substrate	brown-orange clay	20	1.6	0.25	
27	2700	Layer Layer		Topsoil Subsoil	Same as 2600 Same as 2601	30 30	1.6	0.25	
27	2702	Layer		Natural	Same as 2602	30	1.0	0.00	
		Ĭ		substrate					
27	2703	Cut		Bioturbation	Amorphous in plan. Gently sloping sides and uneven base	0.91	>0.86	0.05	
27	2704	Fill	2703	Bioturbation	Mid orange-grey clay silt	0.91	>0.86	0.05	
27	2705				Context void				
27	2706				Context void				
28	2801	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 2600	30	1.6	0.22	
28 28	2802	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 2601	30	1.6	0.2	
28	2803	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 2602				
28	2804	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Moderately steep sides and concave base	>1.6	0.57	0.17	
28	2805	Fill	2804	Ditch fill	Light yellow brown silty clay	>1.6	0.57	0.17	
28	2806	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Steep sides and flat base	>1.6	1.21	0.38	
28	2807	Fill	2806	Ditch fill	Mid yellow-brown silty clay	>1.6	1.21	0.38	
29	2900	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 2600	30	1.6	0.25	
29	2901	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 2601	30	1.6	0.22	
29	2902	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 2602				
29	2903	Fill	2905	Pit fill	Upper fill. Dark brown-grey clay silt. Occasional charcoal and fired clay	1.2	0.5	0.04	
29	2904	Fill	2905	Pit fill	Lower fill. Mottled light brown-yellow and orange clay. Occasional charcoal and fired clay	2.3	0.62	0.09	
29	2905	Cut		Pit	Oval in plan. Gently sloping sides and flat base	2.3	0.62	0.15	
29	2906	Fill	2907	Ditch fill	Mottled light grey-brown and orange silty clay	>1.7	2	0.05	
29	2907	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Gently sloping sides and flat base	>1.7	2	0.05	
29	2908	Fill	2909	Ditch fill	Mottled mid grey and orange- brown silty clay	2.2	0.6	0.05	
29	2909	Cut		Ditch	Rectilinear in plan. Gently sloping sides and flat base	2.2	0.6	0.05	
30	3000	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 2600	30	1.6	0.23	
30	3001	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 2601	30	1.6	0.11	
30	3002	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 2602				
31	3100	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 2600	30	1.6	0.23	
31	3101	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 2601	30	1.6	0.11	
31	3102	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 2602				
32	3200	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 2500	30	1.6	0.21	
32	3201	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 2501	30	1.6	0.12	

Trench	Context Number	Context Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	(m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot- date
32	3202	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 2502				
33	3300	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 2600	30	1.6	0.23	
33	3301	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 2601	30	1.6	0.19	
33	3302	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 2602				
34	3400	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 2600	30	1.6	0.26	
34	3401	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 2601	30	1.6	0.09	
34	3402	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 2602				
35	3500	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 2600	30	1.6	0.19	
35	3501	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 2601	30	1.6	0.21	
35	3502	Layer		Buried soil	Light grey-brown silty clay. Occasional charcoal and manganese	30	1.6	0.25	
35	3503	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 2602				
35	3504	Fill	3506	Pit fill	Upper fill. Mid yellow-grey clay silt. Occasional charcoal	0.55	0.5	0.04	
35	3505	Fill	3506	Pit fill	Lower fill. Light yellow-brown silty clay. Occasional manganese	1.2	0.75	0.25	
35	3506	Cut		Pit	Oval in plan. Moderately steep sides and concave base	1.2	0.75	0.4	
35	3507	Fill	3508	Ditch fill	Mid yellow-grey clay silt. Occasional charcoal and fired clay	>1.6	1.15	0.1	
35	3508	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned. Gently sloping sides and concave base	>1.6	1.15	0.1	
35	3509	Fill	3510	Palaeochannel fill	Light yellow-brown silty clay. Occasional manganese	>1.6	3.5	0.35	
35	3510	Cut		Palaeochannel	NE/SW aligned. Gently sloping, irregular sides and irregular base	>1.6	3.5	0.35	
35	3511	Fill	3506	Pit fill	Light blue-grey silty clay. Occasional manganese flecks	0.55	0.55	0.36	
36	3600	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 2600	30	1.6	0.31	
36	3601	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 2601	30	1.6	0.16	
36	3602	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 2602				
37	3700	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 2600	30	1.6	0.31	
37	3701	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 2601	30	1.6	0.11	
37	3702	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 2602				
37	3703	Cut		Pit	Ovoid in plan. Gently sloping sides and flat base	>0.76	>1.0	0.13	
37	3704	Fill		Pit fill	Mid orange-grey clay silt. Occasional manganese	>0.76	>1.0	0.13	
37	3705	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Steep sides and concave base	>1.8	0.83	0.12	
37	3706	Fill	3705	Ditch fill	Light blue-grey clay silt	>1.8	0.83	0.12	
38	3800	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 2600	30	1.6	0.29	
38	3801 3802	Layer Layer		Subsoil Natural substrate	Same as 2601 Same as 2602	30	1.6	0.17	
39	3900	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 2600	30	1.6	0.21	
39	3901	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 2601	30	1.6	0.35	
39	3902	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 2602				
40	4000	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 2600	30	1.6	0.14	
40	4001	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 2601	30	1.6	0.26	
40	4002	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 2602				
40	4003	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned. Moderately steep sides and concave base	>2.4	0.45	0.14	

Trench	Context Number	Context Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot- date
40	4004	Fill	4003	Ditch fill	Mid brown-grey silty clay. Occasional small stones and manganese	>2.4	0.45	0.14	
40	4005	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Gently sloping sides and flat base	>1.8	0.97	0.2	
40	4006	Fill	4005	Ditch fill	Light brown-grey silty clay. Common manganese, occasional small stones	>1.8	0.97	0.2	
41	4100	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 2500	5	5	0.19	
41	4101	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 2501	5	5	0.11	
41	4102	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 2502				

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Description (fabric*)	Ct.	Wt.	Spot-date
305	Late Prehistoric pottery: PR QZo	1	8	IA
307	Burnt flint	1	1	-
401	Medieval pottery: MTY (abr)	1	10	C12-C16
504	Fired clay	1	6	-
611	Medieval pottery: QZ	1	2	C12-C14
804	Burnt stone	1	18	-
1701	Roman pottery: SAV GT (abr)	1	4	mC1-C2
2007	Medieval pottery: MTY (abr)	1	1	C12-C14
	Worked flint: broken flake; chip	2	-	
2700	Medieval pottery: MTY (abr)	1	3	C12-C16
2904	Medieval pottery: MTY (abr.)	1	37	C12-C14+
2906	Medieval pottery: MTY (abr.)	1	11	C13-C15
3507	Medieval pottery: QZv	11	77	C12-C14
	Iron object: horseshoe fragment (Ra. 1)	1	-	
	Fired clay	2	6	

Table 2: Pottery fabrics list

Late Prehistoric

PR QZo Fine (silt-sized) quartz with sparse organic inclusions. Handmade.

SAV GT Savernake ware (Tomber and Dore 1998)

Medieval

Minety type calcareous gravel-tempered wares (c. 12th to early 16th centuries AD) Unglazed sandy coarseware. Common angular quartz MTY

QΖ

QZv Unglazed sandy coarseware. Common rounded quartz and sparsely vesicular (leached limestone?)

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

After review by Sarah Cobain, samples have not been processed (but retained) as a result of their likely contamination through bioturbation.

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Name	Land at Whychurch Farm, Malmesbury,	Wiltshire				
•	•					
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was a Archaeology in November 2014 at La Malmesbury, Wiltshire. Forty one trenche	and at Whychurch Farm,				
	The archaeological evidence from the estite was characterised by low-scale agrillron Age, where ditches on north-east/shave formed land parcels.	icultural activity in the later				
	medieval period, when the site would pr of the lands belonging to Malmesbury A by the tenants living in the nearby hamle	The evaluation also identified pits and ditches dated to the medieval period, when the site would probably have formed a par of the lands belonging to Malmesbury Abbey that were cultivated by the tenants living in the pearty hamlet of Filands				
Project dates	18–27 November 2014					
Project type	Evaluation					
Previous work	Desk-based Assessment (CgMS, 2011) Geophysical survey (Stratascan, 2014)					
Future work	Unknown					
PROJECT LOCATION						
Site Location	Whychurch Farm, Malmesbury, Wiltshire	Whychurch Farm, Malmesbury, Wiltshire				
Study area	9.6ha					
Site co-ordinates	ST 93433 88516					
PROJECT CREATORS						
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire Council					
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Manager	Richard Greatorex, Principal Fieldwork M	lanager				
Project Supervisor	Christopher Leonard, Project Officer					
MONUMENT TYPE	None					
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None					
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)				
Physical	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	ceramics, animal bone, Fe fragment etc				
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Context sheets, site drawings etc				
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Database, digital photos etc				
BIBLIOGRAPHY						
CA (Cataviald Araba aslami) 2014 La	nd at Whychurch Farm, Malmesbury, Wiltshire:	Anabasalanias Fusivation				











