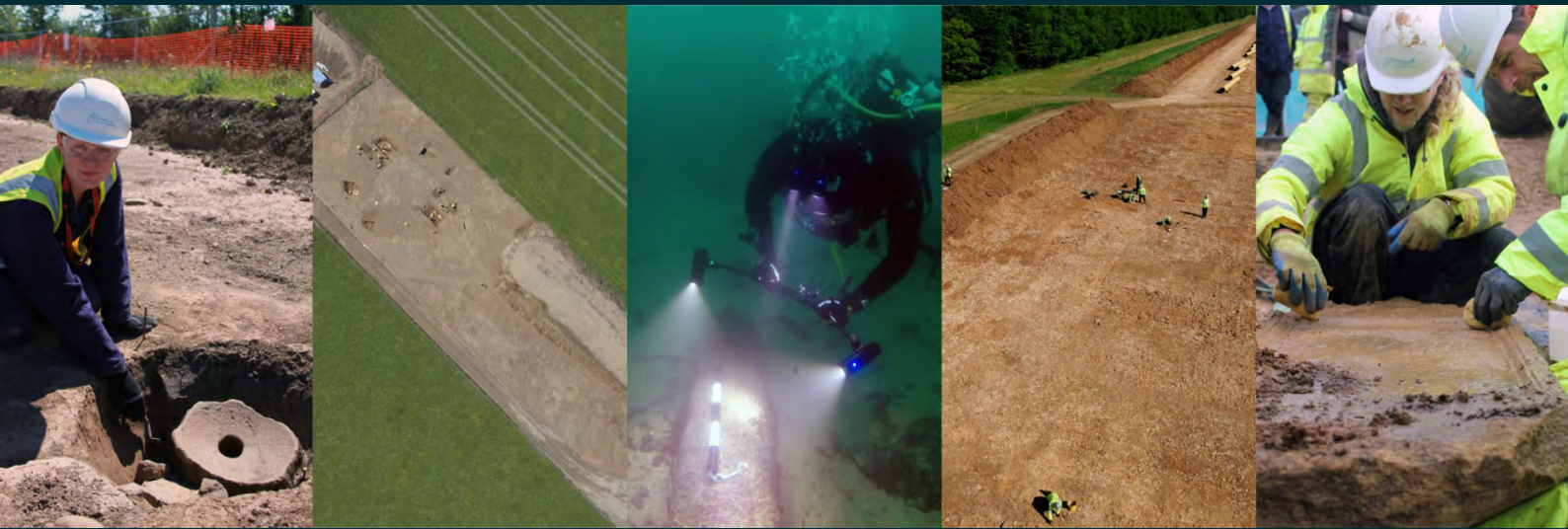


# Land off Church Road Wanborough Wiltshire

## *Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
Pegasus Group

on behalf of  
Fairwater Homes Ltd

CA Project: 5961  
CA Report: 16387

July 2016



# Land off Church Road Wanborough Wiltshire

## Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 5961  
CA Report: 16387



Document Control Grid						
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A	19 July 2016	Alison Roberts	Richard Young	Internal review		Cliff Bateman
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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Land off Church Road  
**Location:** Wanborough, Wiltshire  
**NGR:** SU 20640 82797  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 12-13 July 2016  
**Planning Reference:** S/16/0720  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery  
**Site Code:** LCR 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2016 on land off Church Road, Wanborough, Wiltshire. Nine trenches were excavated.

One medieval or later and one modern field boundary ditch were recorded, along with the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Pegasus Group, on behalf of Fairwater Homes Ltd, on land off Church Road, Wanborough, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 20640 82797; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken at the request of Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council (WC), the archaeological advisor to Swindon Borough Council (SBC), to inform the determination of a planning application made to SBC for the construction of four residential dwellings at the site (planning ref: S/16/0720).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (ClfA 2014) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* and the accompanying *PPN3: Archaeological Excavation* (HE 2015). It was monitored by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, including a site visit on 12 July 2016.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development area is 0.73ha in extent. It comprises an undeveloped plot of land situated approximately 50m to the north of Church Road that is currently occupied by rough grassland. The site is bordered by further grassland to the north and east, and by residential properties to the south and west. It lies at approximately 144m AOD, and slopes down from south to north.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Upper Greensand Formation - Calcareous Sandstone and Siltstone of the Cretaceous period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2016). A mid yellow-green clay substrate was observed in all trenches.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is located in an area of known archaeological potential. It lies approximately 0.8km south-west of Ermin Street, a major Roman road running between the 'small towns' of Wanborough (*Durocornovium*) to the north and Speen (*Spinis*) to the south

(Margary 1967, 132-4, 41b). The site is also located approximately 3km to the south-east of the site of the Roman 'small town' of Wanborough, where excavation identified evidence of substantial roadside settlement (Anderson et al 2001).

- 2.2 The site is located close to the medieval church of St. Andrew, and may be situated close to or within an early nucleus of Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement at Upper Wanborough. Undated earthworks previously suggested to be of possible Saxon and/or medieval date are located within the southern portion of the site (Wiltshire HER ref MW120202 – SU25SW406) – see Section 7.2 below. Further medieval earthworks are noted in adjacent fields, notably to the east of the site alongside Kite Hill (MN 1346952; Pastscape 2016). Ridge and furrow earthworks, possibly contemporary with medieval settlement earthworks were recorded adjacent to The Beanlands, approximately 0.5km to the north-east (Wiltshire HER ref MWI20231 - SU28SW470).
- 2.3 Medieval settlement activity, comprising two structures with stone walls and chalk floors and a thick black occupation layer, has previously been identified at The Mallards, approximately 1km to the north of the site (Wiltshire HER ref MWI20240: SU28SW525).
- 2.4 An archaeological evaluation, undertaken approximately 1km to the north of the site, revealed an undated but potentially prehistoric ditch sealed by alluvium (CA 2010). A further evaluation, undertaken approximately 1.1km to the north-east of the site, identified a number of undated ditches and pits (CA 2008).
- 2.5 A geophysical survey undertaken at the site by Pre-Construct Geophysics identified discrete linear anomalies slightly offset from, but which broadly correspond with, the earthworks in the southern portion of the site noted on the Wiltshire HER. The survey also identified an area of magnetic response within this part of the site which could relate to modern disturbance. Occasional small discrete magnetic anomalies were also detected.
- 2.6 Analysis of the freely available LiDAR data for the site by Pegasus Group suggested the presence of ridge and furrow cultivation remains on a north-north-west/south-south-east alignment across the southern part of the site.



### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (CA 2016), were 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 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). This information will inform the determination of the planning application by SBC, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork initially comprised the excavation of eight trenches, each measuring 12m by 1.6m, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Following a site visit Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, WC, archaeological advisor to SBC, requested a further trench, Trench 9, measuring 8m by 1.6m was excavated. This lay just outside the redline area of the proposed development, within an area of permitted development (planning ref: S/13/0920/TB). 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*.
- 4.2 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*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (CA 2003); no deposits were encountered that were suitable for sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 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 Swindon Museum and Art Gallery along with the site archive. A

summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## **5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)**

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- 5.2 The natural geological substrate was broadly similar throughout site and consisted of mid yellow-green clay that was revealed at an approximate depth of 0.5m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by a layer of subsoil, 0.25m thick, that was in turn overlaid by topsoil, measuring 0.25m in thickness. However, at the western end of Trench 5 two modern make-up layers were identified beneath the topsoil, both typically measuring 0.3m thick.
- 5.3 Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 9 contained no archaeological features or deposits. Trenches 1, 5 and 6 solely contained furrows correlating to the geophysical survey and LiDAR results, and aligned with the earthworks recorded on the HER.

### ***Trench 7 (Figs 2 & 3)***

- 5.4 Ditch 7006 (Fig. 3, Section AA) was aligned north-west/south-east, and measured 1.1m in width and 0.33m in depth. It had moderately sloping sides, a concave base and contained two fills. Primary fill 7007 comprised of silty clay and remained undated. This was overlain by secondary fill 7008 comprising clay silts that contained three sherds of medieval pottery.
- 5.5 Two furrows, 7004 and 7010, were identified on a north-west/south-east alignment, which correlated with that of the earthworks recorded on the HER. They contained several sherds of post-medieval pottery. Furrow 7004 was cut by a modern field drain 7002.

### ***Trench 8 (Figs 2 & 4)***

- 5.6 Ditch 8011 (Fig. 4, Section BB) was aligned east/west, and measured 1.55m in width and 0.41m in depth. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It





contained silty clay 8012, from which a single sherd of modern pottery was recovered.

- 5.7 Five furrows, all on an east/west alignment were identified within the trench. These furrows are aligned perpendicular to the ridge and furrow visible on the LiDAR and may therefore represent a headland.

## 6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material recovered during the evaluation is listed in Appendix B and discussed further below.

### Pottery

- 6.2 A total of 35 sherds (362g) of pottery was recorded from ten deposits, dating from the medieval to early modern (19th century) periods (Appendix B).

#### *Medieval*

- 6.3 A total of 17 sherds (117g) of pottery dating to the medieval period was recorded from four furrows and a ditch. The sherds are abraded and are from a narrow source range concentrated in the North Wiltshire/Gloucestershire area. Three sherds (46g) in East Wiltshire ware (Ewilts) sourced from the Savernake/Braydon Forests and dating to between the early 12th and early 14th centuries (Mellor *et al.* 1994, 102-6) were recorded from three deposits. Seven sherds (51g) of Minety ware was recovered, including one wheel-thrown sherd from furrow 7010 (fill 7011). Minety ware dates from the early 12th to mid-16th Centuries (*ibid.*, 97-100), with wheel-thrown vessels emerging in the 13th century. One sherd of leached limestone-tempered ware, possibly Minety or a Cotswold type, was recorded from furrow 6003 (fill 6004). Six sherds (16g) in an unglazed, sandy fabric were recorded from three furrows.

#### *Post-medieval and later*

- 6.4 The majority of this small group comprises glazed earthenwares (GEW), including 10 sherds (1555g) sourced from the Ashton Keynes (AK GEW) area recorded from furrow fill 7005. Three sherds of creamware (CW; 13g), a type dateable to the mid/late 18th century, was recorded from filed drain 7002 (fill 7003). A small sherd of a refined whiteware (RFW; 1g), probably dating after c. 1780/1800, was recorded

from furrow 7004 (fill 7005). A single sherd of polychrome transfer printed white ware (TP RFW) dating to the 19th century was recorded from ditch 8011 (fill 8012).

### ***Other finds***

- 6.5 Two fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) were recorded from field drain 7002 (fill 7003), comprising one post-medieval brick fragment and one miscellaneous fragment of uncertain form and function.
- 6.6 A single fragment (13g) of pale green vessel glass was recorded from furrow 7004 (fill 7005). The fragment comprises the rim and part of the neck of a pale green small bottle, probably dating to the late post-medieval or early modern periods.

## **7. DISCUSSION**

- 7.1 The archaeological evaluation successfully demonstrated that there was a good correlation between the identified geophysical survey anomalies and the archaeological features that were subsequently revealed during the evaluation trenching.

### ***Medieval to modern***

- 7.2 Two field boundary ditches were identified in Trenches 7 and 8 and were dated to the medieval or later and modern periods respectively on the basis of pottery recovered from their fills. Evidence of medieval and later ploughing is apparent throughout the site through the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation which broadly respect the current land boundaries. The mapped earthworks recorded in the Wiltshire HER (see Archaeological Background above), were determined by excavation to be part of this ridge and furrow cultivation.

## **8. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Greg Crees and Alison Roberts, assisted by Claudia Jorge. The report was written by Alison Roberts. The finds evidence report was written by Katie Marsden. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled by Alison Roberts, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

## 10. REFERENCES

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Pre-Construct Geophysics 2016 *Land at Church End, Upper Wanborough, Wanborough Wiltshire: Archaeological Geophysical Survey*



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	1000	Layer		Topsoil	mid grey brown clay silt	12	1.6	0.3	
1	1001	Layer		Subsoil	dark black brown silt clay with sandstone flecks throughout	12	1.6	0.3	
1	1002	Layer		Natural substrate	mid yellow green clay	12	1.6		
1	1003	Fill	1004	Fill of furrow	mid grey brown silty clay	2.3	1.7	0.13	C13-C15
1	1004	Cut		Furrow	NW/SE aligned, slightly rounded base	2.3	1.7	0.13	
2	2000	Layer		Topsoil	mid grey brown clay silt	12	1.6	0.25	
2	2001	Layer		Subsoil	dark black brown silt clay with sandstone flecks throughout	12	1.6	0.25	
2	2002	Layer		Natural substrate	mid yellow green clay	12	1.6		
3	3000	Layer		Topsoil	mid grey brown clay silt	12	1.6	0.22	
3	3001	Layer		Subsoil	dark black brown silt clay with sandstone flecks throughout	12	1.6	0.25	
3	3002	Layer		Natural substrate	mid yellow green clay	12	1.6		
4	4000	Layer		Topsoil	mid grey brown clay silt	12	1.6	0.27	
4	4001	Layer		Subsoil	dark black brown silt clay with sandstone flecks throughout	12	1.6	0.26	
4	4002	Layer		Natural substrate	mid yellow green clay	12	1.6		
5	5000	Layer		Topsoil	mid grey brown clay silt	12	1.6	0.22	
5	5001	Layer		Subsoil	dark black brown silt clay with sandstone flecks throughout	12	1.6	0.25	
5	5002	Layer		Natural substrate	mid yellow green clay	12	1.6		
5	5003	Layer		Make-up layer	light yellow brown modern make-up layer	12	1.6	0.3	
5	5004	Layer		Make-up layer	dark orange black modern make-up layer	12	1.6	0.35	
6	6000	Layer		Topsoil	mid grey brown clay silt	12	1.6	0.22	
6	6001	Layer		Subsoil	dark black brown silt clay with sandstone flecks throughout	12	1.6	0.25	
6	6002	Layer		Natural substrate	mid yellow green clay	12	1.6		
6	6003	Cut		Furrow	NW/SE aligned, slightly rounded base	2	1.3	0.26	
6	6004	Fill	6003	Fill of furrow	mid grey brown silty clay	2	1.3	0.26	C13-C15
6	6005	Cut		Furrow	NW/SE aligned, slightly rounded base	2	1	0.3	
6	6006	Fill	6005	Fill of furrow	mid grey brown silty clay	2	1	0.3	C13-C15
6	6007	Cut		Furrow	NW/SE aligned, slightly rounded base	2.2	0.9		
6	6008	Fill	6007	Fill of furrow	mid grey brown silty clay	2.2	0.9		C16-C18
7	7000	Layer		Topsoil	mid grey brown clay silt	12	1.6	0.22	
7	7001	Layer		Subsoil	dark black brown silt clay with sandstone flecks throughout	12	1.6	1.29	
7	7002	Cut		Pipe Cut	cut for a modern drain	0.35	0.68	0.79	
7	7003	Fill	7002	Fill of Pipe	modern drainage pipe	0.35	0.68	0.79	C18
7	7004	Cut		Furrow	NW/SE aligned, slightly rounded base	0.35	0.58	0.41	
7	7005	Fill	7004	Fill of furrow	mid grey brown silty clay	0.35	0.58	0.41	LC18-C19
7	7006	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned, moderate slope, concave base	1.6	1.11	0.33	
7	7007		7006	1 <sup>st</sup> fill of ditch	mid grey brown silty clay	1.6	1.1	0.11	
7	7008		7006	2 <sup>nd</sup> fill of ditch	dark grey brown clay silts	1.6	1.1	0.22	C12-C15

7	7009			Natural substrate	mid yellow green clay	12	1.6		
7	7010	Cut		Furrow	NW/SE aligned, slightly rounded base	1.6	2.5		
7	7011	Fill	7010	Fill of furrow	mid grey brown silty clay	1.6	2.5		C13-C15
8	8000	Layer		Topsoil	mid grey brown clay silt	12	1.6	0.28	
8	8001	Layer		Subsoil	dark black brown silt clay with sandstone flecks throughout	12	1.6	0.29	
8	8002	Layer		Natural substrate	mid yellow green clay	12	1.6		
8	8003	Cut		Furrow	E/W aligned, slightly rounded base	2.3	0.22	0.07	
8	8004	Fill	8003	Fill of furrow	dark grey brown silty clay	2.3	0.22	0.07	
8	8005	Cut		Furrow	E/W aligned, slightly rounded base	2.3	0.4	0.1	
8	8006	Fill	8005	Fill of furrow	dark grey brown silty clay	2.3	0.4	0.1	
8	8007	Cut		Furrow	E/W aligned, slightly rounded base	2.3	0.77	0.26	
8	8008	Fill	8007	Fill of furrow	dark grey brown silty clay	2.3	0.77	0.26	
8	8009	Cut		Furrow	E/W aligned, slightly rounded base	2.3	0.35	0.13	
8	8010	Fill	8009	Fill of furrow	dark grey brown silty clay	2.3	0.35	0.13	
8	8011	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned, moderate slope, concave base	2.2	1.55	0.41	
8	8012	Fill	8011	Fill of ditch	dark grey brown silty	2.2	1.55	0.41	C19
9	9000	Layer		Topsoil	mid grey brown clay silt	12	1.6	0.25	
9	9001	Layer		Subsoil	dark black brown silt clay with sandstone flecks throughout	12	1.6	0.42	
9	9002	Layer		Natural substrate	mid yellow green clay	12	1.6		

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

## Finds concordance

Context	Class	Description	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
1003	medieval pottery	EWilts	1	20	C13-C15
	medieval pottery	UGS	3	10	
6004	medieval pottery	EWilts	1	7	C13-C15
	medieval pottery	Li	1	4	
	medieval pottery	Mty	1	4	
	medieval pottery	UGS	1	5	
6006	medieval pottery	EWilts	1	19	C13-C15
	medieval pottery	Mty	2	5	
	medieval pottery	UGS	2	1	
6008	post-medieval pottery	GEW	3	60	C16-C18
7003	post-medieval pottery	CW	3	13	C18
	CBM	brick	2	702	
7005	post-medieval pottery	RFW	1	1	LC18-C19
	slag		1	61	
	Glass		1	13	
7008	medieval pottery	Mty	3	16	C12-C15
7011	medieval pottery	WT Mty	1	26	C13-C15
7015	post-medieval pottery	AK GEW	10	155	
8012	modern pottery	TP RFW	1	16	C19

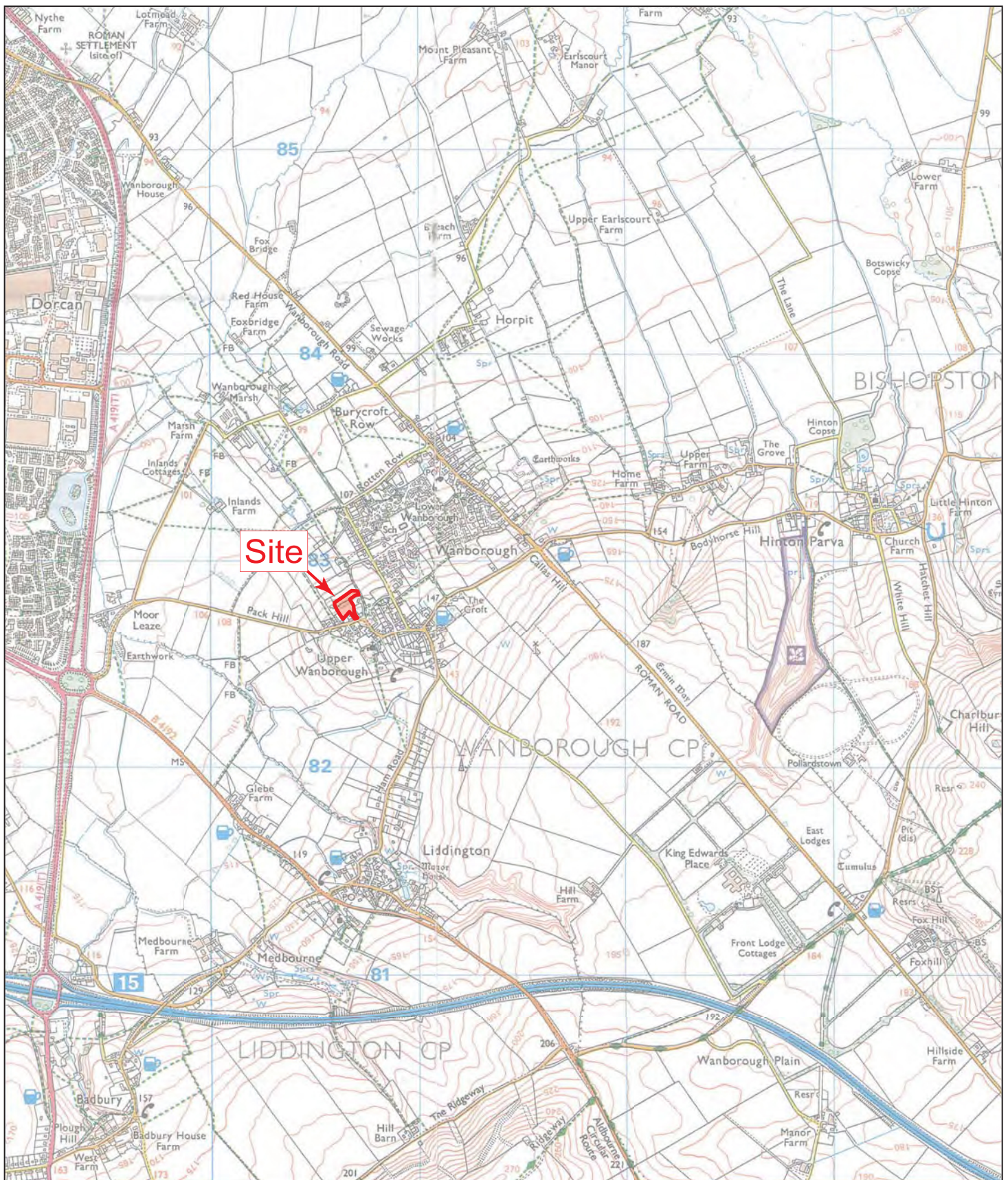
## Fabric code table

Period	Description	Code
medieval	East Wiltshire ware (flint-tempered)	EWilts
	Mintey ware (limestone-tempered)	Mty
	Wheel-thrown Minety ware	WT Mty
	Limestone-tempered fabric (Minety or Cotswold oolitic-tempered ware)	Li
	Unglazed sandy fabric	UGS
post-medieval	Ashton Keynes glazed earthenware	AK GEW
	Cream ware	CW
	Glazed earthenware	GEW
	Refined white ware	RFW
modern	Transfer printed refined white ware	TP RFW

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land off Church Road	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2016 on land off Church Road, Wanborough, Wiltshire. Nine trenches were excavated.  One medieval or later and one modern field boundary ditch were recorded, along with the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation.	
Project dates	12 – 13 July 2016	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical survey (PCG 2016)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Land off Church Road, Wanborough, Wiltshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.73ha	
Site co-ordinates	SU 20640 82797	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	-	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Greg Crees and Alison Roberts	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Pottery, animal bone, CBM
Paper	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Context sheets, trench sheets, section drawings
Digital	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photographs
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Land off Church Road, Wanborough, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>16387</b>		





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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land off Church Road, Wanborough,  
 Wiltshire

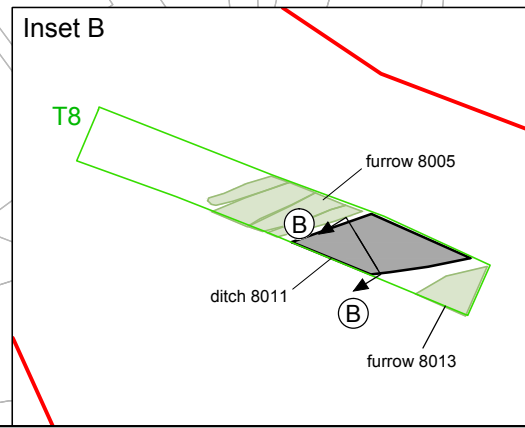
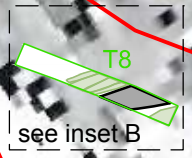
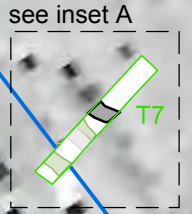
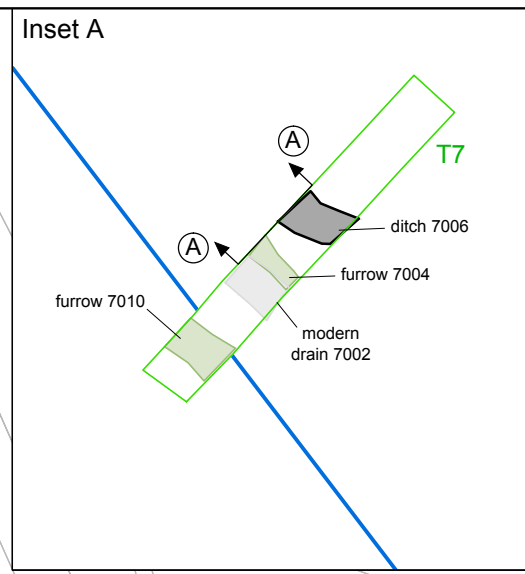
**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan



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<b>DRAWN BY</b>	LM	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	5961	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
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<b>APPROVED BY</b>	SS	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	1:25,000	<b>1</b>





- ▭ site boundary
- ▭ evaluation trench
- earthwork
- archaeological feature
- modern feature
- furrow
- A B section location



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land off Church Road, Wanborough, Wiltshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan showing archaeological features, cropmarks and geophysical survey results

<small>DRAWN BY</small> RP	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> 5961	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> LM	<small>DATE</small> 18.07.16	<b>2</b>
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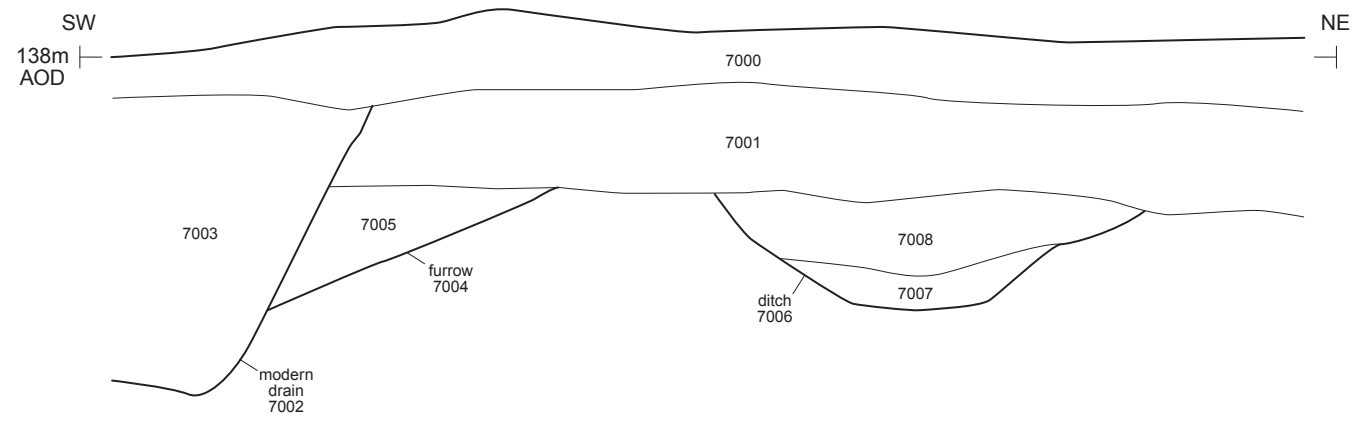
P:\5961 Land off Church Road Wanborough Wiltshire EVAL\Illustration\Drafts\5961 Wanborough WB Fig 02.dwg



CHURCH ROAD

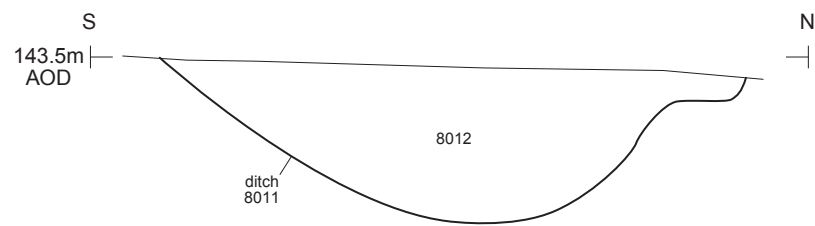


Trench 7, Section AA



Trench 7, section AA, looking north-west (scale 1m)

Trench 8, Section BB



Trench 8, section BB, looking west (scale 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE  
Land off Church Road, Wanborough, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trenches 7 and 8: sections and photographs**

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	5961	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	19.07.16	<b>3</b>
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