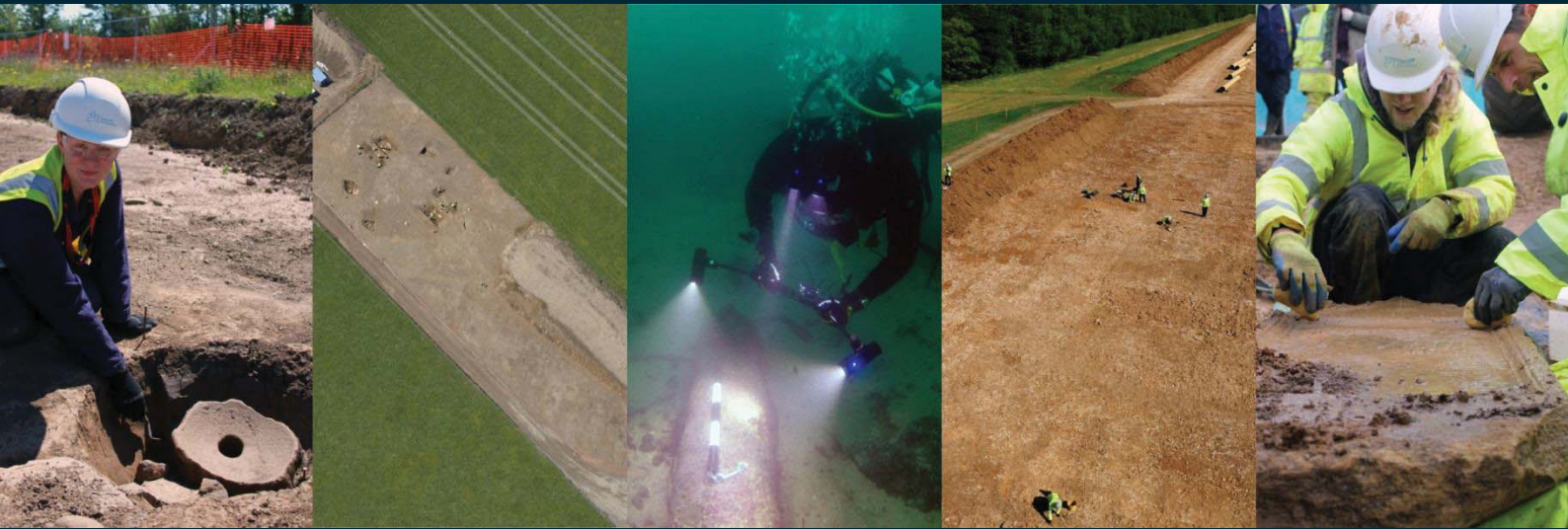


# Land at Woodrow Road Melksham Wiltshire

## *Archaeological Evaluation*



*on behalf of*  
Strategic Land  
Partnerships

CA Project: 6047  
CA Report: 16572

December 2016



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## Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 6047  
CA Report: 16572



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## Summary

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land at Woodrow Road
<b>Location:</b>	Melksham, Wiltshire
<b>NGR:</b>	ST 9110 6525
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	3-11 October 2016 & 28-30 November 2016
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Wiltshire Museum Service
<b>Site Code:</b>	WRM 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October and November 2016 on land at Woodrow Road, Melksham, Wiltshire. A total of twenty five trenches was excavated.

The evaluation identified archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. Evidence for prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the site was limited to two unstratified sherds of pottery.

Roman ditches, gullies and pits may indicate an area of possible mid to late 1st to 2nd-century settlement activity focused in the north-eastern part of the site, along with contemporary agricultural activity extending to the west. A palaeoenvironmental sample taken from a feature of Roman date suggests dumped domestic settlement waste in an environment characterised by arable farmland. Furthermore, an undated cremation is likely to also date to the Roman period, indicating funerary activity associated with the settlement.

Medieval ditches, gullies and pits are believed to be associated with a previously recorded deserted medieval settlement in the eastern part of the site. A substantial artefactual assemblage dating to the 12th to 14th centuries was recovered from these features. The arrangement of many of the ditches and gullies identified during the evaluation corresponds to recorded cropmarks believed to indicate the boundaries of medieval 'crofts' and their associated fields 'tofts' to the rear of the dwellings. Settlement along Woodrow Road is first recorded in documentary sources from the 13th century. Settlement waste compatible with a medieval date and indicative of rear of plot domestic activity, was recovered from palaeoenvironmental samples retrieved from the site. Furthermore, evidence for medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was also identified across the site. This suggests the arable cultivation of the land to the west of the settlement at Woodrow in the medieval period

Post-medieval remains comprised a backfilled field boundary ditch and pit. The boundary ditch, which is depicted on the 1838 Tithe Map, appears to have been deliberately backfilled in the modern era.

A number of features which remain undated were also identified and are likely to be contemporary with the Roman or medieval activity on the site.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October and November 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation on behalf of Strategic Land Partnerships on land at Woodrow Road, Melksham, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: ST 9110 6525; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application (ref: 16/05644/OUT) to Wiltshire Council (WC) for the development of 152 residential units, along with associated infrastructure, play space and ecological enhancements.
- 1.2 Following the completion of a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (CA 2015) and a subsequent geophysical survey (PCG 2016), Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist, WC, the archaeological advisor to Wiltshire Council, requested an archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching be undertaken to inform the application on the nature and significance of heritage assets within the site.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by Rachel Foster. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), 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 site

- 1.4 The site is approximately 13.5ha in area and is located at the northern edge of Melksham, to the east of the River Avon and to the west of Woodrow Road. The site is an agricultural field and slopes down towards the River Avon to the west; the average elevation within the site is 40m AOD. A public footpath crosses the western part of the site in a north-south direction.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as mudstone of the Oxford Clay Formation, sedimentary bedrock formed in the Jurassic Period (BGS 2016). Superficial deposits are not mapped within the immediate evaluation area, although river terrace sands and gravels and alluvium associated with the course of the River Avon are mapped nearby to the west and north respectively (ibid.). The natural substrate was exposed in all the evaluation trenches and comprised silt clay with flint inclusions.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has previously been subject of a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2015). The assessment identified a low level of prehistoric and Roman activity in the wider vicinity of the site. The topographic location of the site, overlooking the River Avon, was considered to be a potentially attractive location for prehistoric or Roman settlement and associated agricultural activity. However, no prehistoric or Roman finds or features had previously been recorded within the site.
- 2.2 A deserted medieval settlement is recorded within the site, covering the eastern third of the field, and cropmarks and earthwork features likely to be the remains of house platforms, hollow-ways and associated field systems are visible in this area on aerial photographs (Fig. 2). However, LiDAR imagery suggests that recent deep ploughing has reduced the level of any archaeological remains that may have previously existed above ground. The Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal crossed the site north to south in the western part of the field, and a lock and lock keeper's cottage are recorded within the site on historic mapping.
- 2.3 A geophysical survey of the site undertaken in 2016 (PCG 2016) revealed a small number of ditch and pit-like sub-surface anomalies of possible archaeological origin, some falling within the area of deserted medieval settlement (Fig. 2).

## 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation 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 with *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable Wiltshire Council 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).



## 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation was carried out in two phases. Initially Phase 1 comprised the excavation of 11 trenches (Trenches 1-11) in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). These trenches were 50m in length and 1.8m in width. Trench 11 was split into two segments (11A & 11B) to avoid bisecting a public footpath. Following consultation with Rachel Foster, WC, three additional trenches (Trenches 12-14) were also excavated during this phase (Fig. 2). Trenches 12, 13 and 14 measured 1.8m in width and 30m, 47m and 35m in length respectively. Phase 2 of the evaluation comprised the excavation of a further 11 trenches (Trenches 15-25) in the locations shown (Fig. 2). This phase of work was undertaken in order to more clearly define the extent and nature of archaeological remains identified during Phase 1. All Phase 2 trenches were 50m in length and 1.8m in width.
- 4.2 All 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.
- 4.3 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*.
- 4.4 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*. As a result 13 environmental samples were taken and processed from a three features within Trenches 2, 8 and 11. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with *Technical Manual 3 Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.5 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 Museum Service 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.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-15)

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 The natural geological substrate was recorded across the site at an average depth of 0.25m below present ground level (bpgl), and comprised silty clay with occasional flint inclusions. The natural was directly overlain by topsoil which comprised yellow brown clay silt in all trenches with the exception of Trench 15, where an additional deposit (1506) was recorded between the natural and the topsoil described below (para. 5.42). Unless stated otherwise, all archaeological features described below cut natural substrate and were sealed by the topsoil. During the first phase (Trenches 1-14) the excavation methodology was designed to be minimally intrusive and only a sample of identified features were excavated. With the approval of WC, attempts to characterise and date the unexcavated features were undertaken, which included the collection of all finds from the surface of the features. A number of trenches (Trenches 1-9 & 13-15) contained unstratified sherds of pottery at the base of the plough horizon sitting directly upon the natural substrate. Where finds of this nature were encountered they were ascribed to the sealing topsoil. Trenches 16-19 contained no archaeological features or deposits, and linear cropmarks recorded on the Wiltshire HER (see Fig. 2) and thought to represent medieval earthworks in the locations of Trenches 16 and 19 (CA 2015) were not identified during the evaluation.

### Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

- 5.3 No archaeological features were identified in Trench 1 with the exception of four east/west aligned furrows of probable medieval date. Whilst the presence of probable ridge and furrow cultivation was identified elsewhere on the site by the preceding geophysical survey (PCG 2016), the furrows located in Trench 1 had not been identified prior to the evaluation. Five sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from topsoil 100.
- 5.4 A possible medieval linear earthwork recorded as a cropmark (CA 2015) located at the south-western end of Trench 1, was not identified during the evaluation but corresponds to the location of a modern field drain.

### Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 5.5 Natural substrate 201 was cut by pit 202, possible pit 204, and a north-east/south-west aligned probable ditch 206. Pit 202 (Fig. 3; **AA**), which extended outside of the southern limit of the trench, measured 1.91m in width and 0.53m in depth. It contained two fills, the earlier of which 208, comprised grey silt clay and was 0.13m in depth. A palaeoenvironmental sample (sample 1) recovered from this deposit contained cereal remains, small fragments of charcoal and a small number of mollusc shells. This material is indicative of dispersed domestic settlement waste of the medieval period. The later fill 203, comprised brown grey silt clay, measured 0.44m in depth and contained 20 sherds of pottery dating to the 12th to 13th-centuries, a single sherd of residual Roman pottery and a single fragment of ironworking slag.
- 5.6 A further possible pit 204 was identified to the west of pit 202 and extended beyond the northern limit of the trench. This feature, which was not excavated, measured 5.5m in width and contained grey brown silt clay 205. A single sherd of pottery of 12th to 13th century date was recovered from the surface of fill 205. A north-east/south-west aligned probable ditch 206 was also recorded but not excavated. It measured 3m in width and was filled by grey brown silt clay 207. A sherd of post-medieval glazed earthenware was recovered from the surface of fill 207. This feature corresponds to a previously identified linear earthwork of probable medieval date (CA 2015).
- 5.7 None of the features identified in Trench 2 had previously been identified by the geophysical survey (PCG 2016).

### Trench 3 (Figs 2 & 4)

- 5.8 Five ditches or gullies, 302, 304, 306, 308, and 310, and a possible pit 312 were identified in Trench 3. Ditch 302 (Fig. 4; **BB**), was aligned north-east/south-west and measured 0.82m in width and 0.06m in depth. It was filled with yellow brown silt clay 303 which contained 37 sherds of pottery dating to the 13th to 14th-centuries. North-west/south-east aligned ditch 304 (Fig. 4; **CC**), which was located immediately to the west of ditch 302, measured 1.28m in width and 0.13m in depth and was filled with yellow brown silt clay 305. In addition to 23 sherds of 12th to 14th-century pottery, a fragment of iron, possibly from a knife blade (RA3), was recovered from this deposit.

- 5.9 Ditches 306, 308 and 310 were not excavated. Ditches 306 and 308 were aligned north-east/south-west, whilst ditch 310 was aligned north-west/south-east. Ditch 306 measured 0.45m in width and contained a grey brown silt clay fill 307, from which the full profile of a 12th to 14th-century pottery vessel (RA1) was recovered. Ditches 308 and 310 measured 0.5m and 0.95m in width respectively, and contained yellow brown silt clay fills 309 and 311. It appeared in plan that ditch 308 pre-dated ditch 310. Medieval and Roman pottery were recovered from the surface of fill 309 from ditch 308, whilst medieval pottery was retrieved from the surface of fill 311 from ditch 310.
- 5.10 Pit 312, which was not excavated, comprised an irregular elongated oval measuring approximately 0.75m in length. Three sherds of pottery dating to the 12th to 14th-century were recovered from the surface of the pits fill 313, which comprised yellow brown silt clay.
- 5.11 Ditches 306 and 310 appear to broadly correlate to cropmarks previously identified as possible medieval earthworks (CA 2015) but were not identified by the geophysical survey. None of the other features recorded in Trench 3 had been identified previously.

#### **Trench 4 (Figs 2 & 5)**

- 5.12 Seven possible linear features, three pits and a posthole were identified within Trench 4, but with the exception of ditch 414, all remain unexcavated.
- 5.13 Ditch 414 (Fig. 5; **DD**), was U-shaped in profile, measured 1.63m in width and 0.44m in depth and was orientated north-west/south-east. It contained two fills, 415 and 424. The earlier fill 415, comprised yellow grey silt clay and contained 11 sherds of pottery of 13th to 14th-century date. It was sealed by fill 424, which comprised brown grey silt sand clay measuring up to 0.29m in depth. Possible ditches 402, 406, 410, 412 and 422 were orientated on broadly similar alignments to ditch 414 but were not excavated. It is possible some of these features could represent furrows. Twelfth to 14th-century pottery was recovered from the surface of fill 403 of ditch 402, and from fill 413 of ditch 412. A further narrow linear feature 408, was recorded on a north-east/south-west alignment. Three sherds of 12th to 13th-century pottery were recovered from the fill of this feature 409, which was not excavated.

- 5.14 No dateable material was recovered from the surface of unexcavated pits 416, 418 and 420 or posthole 404. The pits appeared to be of similar size measuring between 1.4 and 1.5m in width whilst the posthole measured 0.4m in diameter.
- 5.15 Medieval ditches 402, 410 and 414 appear to correlate to linear features previously identified as possible medieval earthworks (CA 2015). None of the features in Trench 4 were identified by the geophysical survey (PCG 2016).

### **Trench 5 (Figs 2 & 6)**

- 5.16 Four ditches 502, 504, 506 and 514 on north-west/south-east alignments were recorded in Trench 5. Ditches 502, 504 and 506 had ceramic field drains cut into the uppermost fills suggesting the ditches were previously visible as earthworks during the modern era. Neither ditch 502 nor ditch 504 were excavated during the course of the evaluation. Ditch 502 measured 1.8m in width and ditch 504 measured 2.1m in width. Both contained dark brown sand silt fills, 503 and 505 respectively. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the surface of ditch 502.
- 5.17 Ditch 514 (Fig. 6; **EE**), measured 0.79m in width and 0.43m in depth, it contained two fills 515 and 516. The earlier fill 515 comprised green grey sandy clay and contained two sherds of 11th to 14th-century pottery. Thirteenth to 14th-century pottery was recovered from the later fill 516. The ditch was truncated along its south-western side by re-cut 506 which measured 1.9m in width by 0.6m in depth. The re-cut contained two fills; 513 which contained fired clay, and 507, which contained 15 sherds of 13th to 14th-century pottery.
- 5.18 Ditches 504 and 506/514 had both been identified prior to the evaluation as linear earthworks (CA 2015).
- 5.19 Two additional features, 508 and 510, which extended beyond the eastern limit of the trench were investigated and proven to be of geological origin. Seven sherds of medieval pottery recovered from the surface of feature 510, are believed to have become impressed into the top of this feature.
- 5.20 A north-west/south-east aligned furrow 512, located at the northern end of Trench 5, also contained four sherds of 12th-14th-century pottery.

### Trench 6 (Figs 2 & 7)

- 5.21 Ditch 604 (Fig. 7; **FF**), measured 1.18m in width and 0.39m in depth and was aligned north-west/south-east. It had a U-shaped profile and contained three fills 608, 605 and 609. Fill 608 comprised yellow brown silt clay and measured 0.13m in depth. It was sealed by fill 605 comprising grey silt clay, 0.21m in depth which was in turn sealed by 609, grey silt clay 0.15m in depth. Ninety-three sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from fill 605, along with fragments of fired clay.
- 5.22 Possible quarry pit 602, was recorded to the south of ditch 604. This feature, which exhibited an irregular shape in plan, measured approximately 3m in length. It was not excavated and no finds were recovered from the surface of its brown silt clay fill 603, hence it remains undated.
- 5.23 Two probable furrows were also identified towards the north-eastern end of the trench. Neither ditch 604 nor possible quarry pit 602 were had been identified prior to the evaluation, however the northernmost furrow corresponds to a possible medieval earthwork identified as a cropmark (CA 2015) and may in fact represent a continuation of ditch 414 and possible ditch 1204.

### Trench 7 (Fig. 2 & 8)

- 5.24 Trench 7 contained two pits 702 and 708, and a north-east/south-west aligned gully 704. None of these features were identified by the geophysical survey prior to the evaluation. Pit 702 which remains unexcavated, measured approximately 0.5m in diameter and was filled with a grey silty clay 703. A fragment of fired clay was recovered from the surface of this deposit.
- 5.25 No dateable material was recovered from gully 704 (Fig. 8; **GG**), which measured 0.35m in width and 0.33m in depth. It was filled by grey silty clay 705 which appeared to be cut by probable pit 708 which extended north outside of the area exposed by the trench. The pit measured 1.1m in length, 0.8m in width and 0.4m in depth and contained a single fill 709 consisting of yellow brown silt clay. Second to 4th-century pottery was recovered from fill 709, along with a flint scraper.
- 5.26 Additionally, two sherds of pottery probably dating to the late prehistoric periods (Late Bronze Age or Iron Age) were recorded from topsoil 700 in Trench 7.

**Trench 8 (Figs 2 & 9)**

- 5.27 Trench 8 contained pit 802 and cremation 804. The cut for cremation 804 (Fig. 9; **II**) was oval in shape and measured 0.4m in length and 0.17m in depth. This feature was 100% excavated in 5cm spits from which a series of palaeoenvironmental samples was taken. A small quantity of cremated human bone was recovered from deposits 805, 808 and 809 which filled the cremation pit, along with iron nails and a large lump of charred wood (RA 4), identified as oak. The feature is undated, but presumed to be Roman. No charred grain fragments, seeds or tuber fragments were recorded in the samples (samples 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13) taken from the cremation deposits, but moderate quantities of charcoal recorded, included mature and round wood fragments.
- 5.28 Pit 802 (Fig. 9; **HH**) was located approximately 2m north-west of cremation 804. This flat-bottomed pit which extended out of the trench to the north measured 0.9m in length by 0.14m in depth. Two small sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the charcoal rich fill of this pit 803. A palaeoenvironmental sample (sample 2) taken from this deposit contained no charred plant remains but a moderate quantity of charcoal fragments including mature and possible round wood fragments.
- 5.29 Two probable north-west/south-east aligned furrows were also identified. However neither of the two north-east/south-west aligned possible medieval earthworks which had been previously recorded within the site (CA 2015) were observed.

**Trench 9 (Figs 2 & 10)**

- 5.30 U-shaped ditch 902 (Fig. 10; **JJ**), was aligned broadly north-south. It measured 2m in width and 0.5m in depth and was filled with 903, grey silt clay. It was truncated by a modern field drain. Fill 903 contained a single sherd of Roman pottery and a fragment of ironworking slag. This ditch had not been identified prior to the evaluation as an earthwork or by the geophysical survey.
- 5.31 A second linear feature 904, was investigated and proven to be of natural origin. Four sherds of medieval pottery recovered from this feature appear to have become impressed into its surface. Neither of two north-west/south-east aligned earthworks which are recorded on the Wiltshire HER were observed in Trench 9.

### Trench 10 (Fig. 2)

- 5.32 Trench 10 contained three probable east/west aligned furrows, a ditch 1003 and pit a 1005 of post-medieval date. Fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), medieval and Roman pottery and burnt flint were recovered from the surface of one furrow 1007. East/west aligned ditch 1003 measured 2.3m in width and corresponds to a former field boundary identified by the geophysical survey (PCG 2016) and depicted on the 1838 Tithe Map. Its fill 1004 comprised dark grey silt which contained a large quantity of modern brick and tile fragments, which were not retained. A pit 1005, which cut the fill of the ditch on its northern side is hence also believed to date to the post-medieval/modern period.

### Trench 11 (Figs 2 & 11)

- 5.33 Trench 11 was divided into two halves to avoid a public footpath. The south-eastern part of the trench (11A) was devoid of archaeological features, however, two broadly east/west orientated ditches 1102 and 1104 were recorded in the north-western part of the trench (11B). Ditch 1102, which remains unexcavated, measured 0.8m in width and was filled with yellow brown silt clay 1103. Two sherds of Roman pottery and a silver 2nd-century *denarius* were recovered from the surface of fill 1103. Ditch 1104 (Fig. 11; **KK**), had a broad V-shaped profile and measured 2.6m in width and 0.85m in depth. It contained three fills 1105, 1108 and 1109. The earliest fill, 1105, comprised yellow brown silt clay, it was sealed by fill 1108 grey brown silt clay which was in turn sealed by the uppermost fill 1109, which comprised yellow brown silt clay. In total 176 sherds of pottery broadly dating to the 2nd century were recovered from the fills of ditch 1104, along with a single flint flake and fragments of fired clay from fill 1108. A large charred plant assemblage was recovered from a palaeoenvironmental sample taken from fill 1108 (sample 9). The cereal remains included hulled wheat, emmer or spelt, grain, glume base and spikelet fork fragments, possible free-threshing wheat grain fragments and culm nodes. The weed seeds included seeds of vetch/wild pea, rye-grass/fescue, clover/medick, goosefoot and dock. A few charcoal fragments were also noted within the sample. This assemblage is likely to be representative of the dumping of domestic settlement waste, possibly from a relatively early stage of the crop processing process, and is compatible with a Roman date. The weed seeds are generally species typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments.
- 5.34 A third linear feature 1106, located to the north-west of the ditches, proved to be disturbed natural substrate upon examination. Ten sherds of Roman pottery



appeared to have become impressed into the surface of this feature, which corresponds to a probable recently formed linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey (PCG 2016), and is depicted as an earlier route of the extant footpath on the 1838 Tithe Map (CA 2015).

- 5.35 Neither of the ditches recorded in Trench 11 had been identified prior to the evaluation.

### **Trench 12 (Fig. 2)**

- 5.36 A probable pit 1202 and a possible ditch 1204 were observed in Trench 12, but neither was excavated. Pit 1202 was greater than 2m in length and extended beyond the northern limit of the trench. Possible ditch 1204, which was cut by a later field drain, measured 1.5m in width and was orientated northwest/south-east. This feature corresponds to a linear cropmark (CA 2015) and may be the continuation of ditch 414 identified in Trench 4. No dateable material was recovered from the surface of either of these features.

### **Trench 13 (Figs 2 & 12)**

- 5.37 Trench 13 joined the southern end of Trench 12 to create a reversed L-shape. A gully 1312, and two intercutting oval pits 1308 and 1310 (Fig. 12; **LL**), were observed within the trench. Pit 1310 measured over 2.55m in length, 0.84m in width and 0.31m in depth. It contained a single grey silt clay fill 1311 with a large volume of fired clay and late 1st to 2nd-century pottery. Pit 1310 was cut by Pit 1308, which measured over 1.2m in length, 0.71m in width and 0.22m in depth. It was filled by grey silt clay 1309 which contained 25 sherds of 2nd-century pottery. The full extent of both pits remains uncertain as both extended outside of the area exposed by the trench to the south.
- 5.38 North-east/south-west gully 1312 was not excavated but a single sherd of pottery collected from the surface of its fill 1313 suggests it may also date to the Roman period. The gully measured 0.65m in width and was filled with a grey brown silty clay 1313.
- 5.39 A number of additional features were investigated in Trench 13, but found to be of natural origin, artefactual material recovered from the top of these features is believed to have become impressed into their surfaces. None of the features

observed in Trench 13 were identified by the geophysical survey prior to the evaluation.

#### **Trench 14 (Fig. 2)**

- 5.40 Trench 14 was devoid of archaeological features with the exception of a backfilled post-medieval field boundary 1402. This feature, which was not excavated, measured 2.2m in width and was filled with grey silt clay 1403. The fill contained modern artefacts, including bricks, wood and plastic, which were not retained. The ditch corresponds to the north-east/south-west side of the field boundary that was recorded in Trench 10 (1003), which had been previously identified by the geophysical survey (PCG 2016) and which is depicted on the 1838 Tithe Map.

#### **Trench 15 (Figs 2 & 13)**

- 5.41 Two parallel north-west/south-east orientated ditches 1509 and 1514, and two intercutting pits or postholes 1502 and 1505, were identified in Trench 15. Ditch 1509 had sloping sides and flat base and measured 0.9m in width and 0.17m in depth (Fig. 13; **NN**). The ditch contained two fills, 1508 and 1507, which comprised yellow brown and grey brown silty clay respectively. The earlier fill, 1508 contained six sherds of pottery dating to the 13th to 14th century, the later fill 1507 contained pottery of mid 16th to 18th-century date. Ditch 1514 was 1.76m in width and 0.7m in depth (Fig. 13; **OO**). It contained two fills, 1513 and 1512, two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the upper fill (1512) which was truncated by re-cut 1511. Ditch re-cut 1511 had a V-shaped profile, was 1.04m wide and 0.45m deep, and contained a single silty fill 1510 which yielded four sherds of mid 16th to 18th-century pottery.
- 5.42 Ditches 1509, 1514 and re-cut 1511 were sealed by deposit 1506. This layer extended approximately 6.95 in length and was between 0.1m and 0.25m thick. It comprised dark grey silty clay which contained frequent small stones, charcoal and a single sherd of residual Roman pottery. This deposit is likely to represent a levelling event after ditches 1509 and 1514 went out of use in the post-medieval period.
- 5.43 Circular pit 1502 (Fig. 13; **MM**) was recorded to the north of ditches 1509 and 1514. It was 0.43m in diameter and 0.08m deep. No datable material was recovered from the single fill 1503, of this feature, which appeared in plan to be cut by unexcavated,

possible posthole 1505. This small possible posthole was only partially exposed by the evaluation trench.

- 5.44 Ditch 1514 corresponds to the line of a cropmark interpreted as a possible medieval earthwork immediately to the west (CA 2015). None of the features identified in Trench 15 had been identified during the preceding geophysical survey (PCG 2016).

#### **Trench 23 (Figs 2 & 14)**

- 5.45 Ditch 2305 was identified at the northern end of Trench 23. The ditch, which terminated within the trench, was north-west/south-east orientated and measured 0.7m in width and 0.17m in depth (Fig. 14; **PP**). It contained a single silty fill 2304, from which one sherd of Roman pottery was recovered. This ditch had not been previously identified by the geophysical survey (ibid.).
- 5.46 A north-west/south-east aligned furrow was identified to the south of ditch 2305 which measured 1.2m in width and 0.1m in depth. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from its fill 2302.
- 5.47 A probable modern plough scar 2307 was also identified in Trench 23, but was not excavated. It measured 0.75m in length and 0.15m in width and yielded a sherd of 19th-century pottery which was recovered from the surface of its fill 2306.

#### **Trench 24 (Figs 2 & 15)**

- 5.48 Two ditches, 2405 and 2407, and two pits 2402 and 2410, were identified in Trench 24. Ditch terminus 2405 had steep sides and concave base (Fig. 15: **RR**) and measured 1.06m wide and 0.39m deep. The ditch was orientated north-east/south-west and broadly correlated to a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey (PCG 2016). It contained a sequence of three fills 2409, 2408 and 2404, which produced 18 sherds of 1st to 2nd-century pottery. Upper fill 2404 was truncated by a modern ceramic field drain.
- 5.49 Pit 2410 (Fig. 15: **QQ**) was oval in plan and measured 0.64m in width and 0.15m in depth. Its single fill 2411 was cut by circular pit 2402 which was 0.49m wide and 0.11m deep. Whilst no dateable material was recovered from these features, two fragments of animal bone were retrieved the single fill 2403, of pit 2402.

- 5.50 Ditch 2407 (Fig. 15: **SS**) was north-east/south-west aligned and measured 0.75m wide and 0.12m deep. One sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from its silt fill 2406. Ditch 2407, which had not been identified by the geophysical survey (PCG 2016), is likely to be the continuation of undated ditch 704 identified in Trench 7.

### **Trench 25 (Fig. 2)**

- 5.51 The only feature identified in Trench 25 was an infilled north-east/south-west aligned boundary ditch, 2503 (Fig. 2). It measured 3.3m in width corresponds to the north-east/south-west side of the field boundary that was recorded in Trenches 10 (1003) and 14 (1402). This feature had been previously identified by the geophysical survey (PCG 2016) and is depicted on the 1838 Tithe Map.

## **6. THE FINDS**

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

### **Pottery**

- 6.2 A total of 696 sherds (5906g) of pottery was recorded from 59 deposits and as unstratified material. Where possible, fabric codes matching those of the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) have been applied to Roman fabrics and given in bold below. The Roman-dated group is fragmented, with a mean sherd weight of 7g. The medieval and post-medieval/modern dated pottery is more robust with a mean sherd weight of 10g and 17g respectively.

#### *Prehistoric*

- 6.3 A total of two unfeathered bodysherds (31g), occurring in a coarse flint-tempered fabric, were recorded from topsoil deposit 700, probably dating to the late prehistoric periods (Late Bronze Age or Iron Age).

#### *Roman*

- 6.4 A total of 375 sherds (2896g) of pottery dating to the Roman period was recorded from 23 deposits. The majority of the assemblage comprises locally-produced coarsewares of which the North Wiltshire sandy oxidised fabric (**NW OXID**) dominates (174 sherds, 1198g). Fabrics also represented in this group include greywares (**GW**; 73 sherds, 366g), South West white slipped ware (**SOW WS**; 18 sherds, 454g) and local black sandy fabric (**LOC BS**). Ditch 604 (fill 605) produced

the majority of identifiable forms, including mortaria, a flagon, a tankard and necked jars. A mortarium was also recorded in an oxidised fabric from linear feature 1104 (fill 1108) and jars from pit fill 1309.

- 6.5 Regionally-produced coarsewares recorded were limited to Savernake grog-tempered ware (**SAV GT**; 14 sherds, 195g) and Dorset Black-burnished ware (**DOR BB1**; 17 sherds, 166g). Few identifiable vessels forms were recorded, limited to a jar of Seager Smith (1993) Type 1, recorded from ditch 604 (fill 605).
- 6.6 Imported finewares were limited to five sherds (33g) of samian ware from Central Gaul (**LEZ SA2**). Identifiable forms include a Drag 31 or 31R bowl recorded from ditch 604 (fill 605), featuring evidence of repair and a Drag 38 bowl recorded from ditch 1104 (fill 1108). A cup/dish of form 35/36 was recorded from ditch 2405 (fill 2404), dateable to the 2nd century AD.

#### *Medieval*

- 6.7 A total of 306 sherds (3131g) of pottery dating to the medieval period was recorded from 37 deposits and as unstratified material. The group is dominated by wares from the local kiln site at Lacock/Nash Hill, comprising 268 sherds (3016g). Dating is consistent between the 12th and 14th centuries, with the fine glazed 'jug' fabric (LNH 3) probably in the mid 13th to 14th century range. Three fabrics of Lacock/Nash Hill ware were identified; quartz and limestone-tempered (LNH 1; 72 sherds, 1022g), coarse, quartz-tempered (LNH 2; 185, 1801g) and a fine, sandy glazed ware (LNH 3; 26 sherds, 193g). Jugs, pitchers and jars were recorded in these types, including vessels with applied thumb strip decoration. Forms represented in fabric LNH 2 include a dish or frying pan (McCarthy 1976) recorded from ditch 1514 (fill 1512) and a cooking pot from ditch 1509 (fill 1508).
- 6.8 Other medieval fabrics represented in the group include Cotswolds type oolitic limestone-tempered fabric (CotsOo; two sherd, 14g), a quartz and oolitic limestone-tempered fabric (QzOo; two sherds, 4g) and 12 sherds (88g) of East Wiltshire ware (EWILTS). The latter type included a rim sherd from a jar, recorded from topsoil 1500.

#### *Post-medieval*

- 6.9 A total of 13 sherds (225g) of pottery dating to the post-medieval period was recorded from six deposits and as unstratified material. The majority occur in a

glazed earthenware fabric (GEW), with one unglazed sherd from pit/posthole 1502 (fill 1503). This group is broadly dateable to the mid 16th to 18th centuries. A glazed earthenware fabric from Somerset was recorded from probable ditch 206 (fill 207), of similar dating. A single sherd of coloured transfer-printed white ware (TP Wh) was recorded from pit 2307 (fill 2306), dateable to the 19th century.

### Other finds

- 6.10 A total of 21 items of fired clay was recorded from five deposits. The majority of fragments are of an indeterminable form, with the exception of a perforated object recorded from linear feature 506 (fill 513).
- 6.11 Eleven items of metal were recorded from four deposits. A single silver item, Ra. 5, was recorded from ditch 1102 (fill 1103). The coin, a *denarius* of the deified Antoninus Pius (138-161 AD) is of CONSECRATIO reverse type (four tiered funeral pyre surmounted by quadriga and dates to 161 AD). Ten items of iron were recorded from three deposits. Ra. 3, was recorded from ditch 304 (fill 305) is a rectangular strip, triangular in cross section, and possibly a knife. Eight nail or nail fragments were recovered by bulk soil sample from cremation 804 (fill 808), suggesting the remains were interred in a wooden coffin or casket before burial. A nail, was recorded from topsoil 1500 and is not closely dateable.
- 6.12 A total of three fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) were recorded from two deposits. All fragments occur in an unglazed, sandy fabric for which close dating is not possible.
- 6.13 Two fragments of ironworking slag, consisting of dense 'tap slag' relating to iron smelting, were recorded from pit 202 (fill 203) and ditch 902 (fill 903). A fragment of ironworking slag was recovered by bulk soil sample from cremation 804 (fill 808).
- 6.14 Two items of flint were recorded from two deposits; a scraper from pit 708 (fill 709) and a flake from ditch 1104 (fill 1108).
- 6.15 A single item of worked stone, a possible whetstone of uncertain date, was recorded from topsoil deposit 200.

- 6.16 A single item of glass, Ra. 2, was recorded from ditch 402 (fill 403). The pedestal base of a drinking vessel occurs in pale green 'forest glass', a mix of sand and wood ash typical of the period between the 14th and 17th centuries (Merchant 1998).

## 7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

### *Animal Bone*

- 7.1 Animal bone amounting to 86 fragments (976g) was recovered from 12 deposits dating from the Roman and medieval periods. The bone displayed a varied state of preservation and had been subject to both historical and modern damage rendering 74% of the assemblage unidentifiable to species. It was however possible to identify the remains of cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*), pig (*Sus scrofa sp*) and horse (*Equus caballus*).

### *Roman*

- 7.2 A total of 66 fragments (527g) were recovered from deposits 605, 1108, 1309 and 1311, respectively the fills of ditches 604 and 1104 and pits 1308 and 1310. The bone was only moderately well preserved and cattle and sheep/goat remains were identified only from robust fragments of meat-poor skeletal elements such as molar teeth or bones of the lower limbs. No cut and/or chop marks were present but impact damage on a sheep/goat humerus from deposit 1309 may suggest an origin in butchery waste. Despite the low recovery both species were commonly exploited domestic animals in the period and their presence is to be expected (Baker and Worley, 2014). Horse was represented by a single foot bone recovered from deposit 605.

### *Medieval*

- 7.3 The remainder of the assemblage consisted of 19 fragments (338g) recovered from deposits 303, 305 and 411 the fills of ditches 302, 304 and 410, deposits 203, 803, 2403 the fills of pits 202, 802 and 2402 and from topsoil 1500. The material was poorly preserved and highly fragmented but it was possible to identify the remains of cattle, sheep/goat and pig from partial mandibles and bones of the lower leg and feet. No evidence of butchery in the form of cut and/or chops marks were present and due to the low recovery no further information beyond species identification could be obtained.



### **Cremated Human Bone**

- 7.4 A single deposit of cremated human bone was recovered from pit 804. This feature is undated, but assumed to be Roman. Also recovered from the pit were iron nails and a large lump of charred wood (RA 4), identified as oak.
- 7.5 The total weight of the cremated bone was 101.2g. This is a very low weight of bone recovered. As the total weight of bone for an adult from modern crematoria varies from about 1000 to 3600g (McKinley 2000, 404), then this falls short of the complete individual. It is possible that the bone collected from the pyre and deposited in the pit was a token amount and may reflect the status of the individual. Experiments (McKinley 1997) have found that it is fairly easy to collect all the bones from an undisturbed pyre, which often remain in anatomical order. However, it is frequently found that 50% or less of the bone available after cremation is included in the burial (McKinley 2000).
- 7.6 The majority of bone was in the middle spits spread across the east and west quadrants (Table 4 Appendix C). This suggests the cremated bone was placed centrally in the pit. With very little bone from the uppermost spits, loss of bone through vertical truncation is likely to be small quantities.
- 7.7 The bone was consistently fully white in colour which indicates full oxidation of the bone. This is only achieved by temperatures of over 800°C for enough time, usually several hours (Shipman *et al.* 1984).
- 7.8 The edges of the bone were heavily abraded which indicates that there may have been significant erosion from the burial environment, which may contribute to loss of bone and further fragmentation.
- 7.9 The weight of bone in each fraction size was unevenly distributed with the majority in the 5-2mm fraction. This suggests a very heavily fragmented deposit, which severely impacts on identification. Most fragmentation occurs during and after excavation (McKinley 1994: 341). The maximum fragment size was 15mm. This is much below the average, 45.2mm (McKinley 1994, 340-1), and the same study found that on average 50% of the bone was over 10mm, which is not the case with this deposit of cremated bone.



- 7.10 Bone identified was a small fragment from the left frontal bone superior orbit and a few cranium fragments. Cranial fragments are easy to identify and are often the highest quantity identified. The majority of the bone fragments were not identified due to the small size.
- 7.11 The level of vertical truncation is unknown but it is likely that some quantity of the original amount deposited has been removed. Complete burial of the entire cremated individual is uncommon, as a 'token' amount appears to have sufficed in most cases.
- 7.12 There was not sufficient bone available for either age or sex estimation. There were no repeated elements or different age/size parts to suggest more than one individual.

### ***Plant Macrofossils***

- 7.13 A series of 13 environmental samples (104.5 litres of soil) were taken from a range of features within Trenches 2, 8 and 11 to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains across the area. The majority of the samples were taken from spits through cremation deposit 805 in Trench 8. The samples were taken with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of domestic, funerary or industrial activity on the site. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).
- 7.14 Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 1 in Appendix C, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al* (2012) for cereals. The presence of mollusc shells has also been recorded. Nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).
- 7.15 The flots varied in size with low to high quantities of rooty material and modern seeds. The charred material comprised varying levels of preservation.

### ***Trench 2***

- 7.16 A small charred plant assemblage was recovered from fill 208 (sample 1) within medieval pit 202. The cereal remains included grain fragments of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type). A low number of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were noted within the sample.

7.17 The few mollusc shells present in the sample included those of the open country species *Vertigo pygmaea*, the intermediate species *Cepaea* sp. and the shade-loving species *Vitrea* sp.

7.18 This assemblage is likely to be representative of dispersed domestic settlement waste and is compatible with a medieval date as free-threshing wheat became the predominant wheat in Southern Britain from the Saxon period (Greig 1991).

#### *Trench 8*

7.19 The fill 803 (sample 2) within pit 802 contained no charred plant remains but there was a moderate quantity of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm recovered from this deposit. The charcoal included mature and possible round wood fragments.

7.20 No charred grain fragments, seeds or tuber fragments were recorded in the samples (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13) from Roman cremation related deposit 804. Tubers, in particular those of false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum*) are often recovered from such cremation related deposits. Moderate quantities of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were recovered from both the east and west sections. These included mature and round wood fragments. A large piece of wood charcoal (RA 4) was recovered from the bottom of the pit and has been identified as oak (*Quercus* sp.) roundwood.

#### *Trench 11*

7.21 A large charred plant assemblage was recovered from fill 1108 (sample 9) within Roman pit 1104. The cereal remains included hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), grain, glume base and spikelet fork fragments, possible free-threshing wheat grain fragments and culm nodes. The weed seeds included seeds of vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), rye-grass/fescue (*Lolium/Festuca* sp.), clover/medick (*Trifolium/Medicago* sp.), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). A few charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were noted within the sample.

7.22 This assemblage is likely to be representative of the dumping of domestic settlement waste, possibly from a relatively early stage of the crop processing process, and is compatible with a Roman date. The weed seeds are generally species typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments.

### *Summary*

- 7.23 The environmental remains are indicative of settlement activity in the area during both the Roman and medieval periods, particularly in the vicinity of Trench 11 during the Roman period. These results would be comparable with other environmental assemblages from the wider area, in particular those from Roman deposits from sites at Melksham Football Club (Dinwiddy 2014) and Melksham to Thingley National Grid works (Wessex Archaeology 2015).

## **8. DISCUSSION**

- 8.1 The evaluation identified archaeological remains dating to the Prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. Roman remains indicative of agricultural activity and possible settlement and funerary activity, were concentrated in the north-eastern part of the site, whilst medieval remains associated with a recorded deserted medieval settlement were largely confined to the eastern part of the site. Post-medieval remains comprised a backfilled field boundary and pit. A number of features which remain undated are likely to be contemporary with the Roman or medieval activity on the site.

### *Prehistoric*

- 8.2 Evidence for Prehistoric activity on site was limited to two sherds of pottery dating to the late prehistoric periods (Late Bronze Age or Iron Age) recovered from topsoil in Trench 7. Whilst no features of this date were identified, these finds may indicate late Prehistoric activity taking place within the vicinity of the site.

### *Roman*

- 8.3 Features which are securely dated to the Roman period were recorded in Trenches 6, 7, 11, 13, 23 and 24 and comprised ditch 604, pit 708, ditches 1104 and 1102, pits 1308 and 1310 and ditches 2305 and 2405. Additionally, single sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from ditch 502, gully 1312, ditch 902, and ditch 2407. Whilst the pottery recovered from ditches 502 and 902 may be residual in later features, it is probable gully 1312 is contemporary with Roman pits 1308 and 1310, which it lies in close proximity to. A single sherd of Roman pottery recovered from ditch 2407, which is likely to represent a continuation of gully 704 in Trench 7, indicates this feature may also be of Roman date.

- 8.4 The moderately sized Roman pottery assemblage recovered from the site is dominated by North Wiltshire coarsewares and largely dates to the mid to late 1st to 2nd century. The ditches, gullies and pits recorded in Trenches 6 and 13 could indicate Roman settlement activity focused in this area, whilst the Roman features in Trenches 7, 11, 23 and 24 are suggestive of contemporary agricultural land management and division to the west. The topographic location of the site, overlooking the River Avon, would have been an attractive location for such a Roman agricultural settlement (CA 2015).
- 8.5 The objective of excavating additional Trenches 12 to 14 during Phase 1 of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of ditch 604 in Trench 6 which may form part of an enclosure, and to identify any further domestic settlement activity associated with it. However, ditch 604 was not found to extend into Trenches 12 or 14 and hence the extent, plan and function of this ditch remains uncertain.
- 8.6 No dateable material was recovered from cremation 804 but the nature and location of this feature suggests it is likely to be contemporary with Roman remains recorded nearby, and indicates funerary activity associated with the possible settlement. The burnt bone recovered from the cremation suggested the presence of a single individual.
- 8.7 The outlying Roman ditches located in Trench 1104 may suggest agricultural activity extending a considerable distance to the west of the possible settlement. The plant macrofossil assemblage retrieved from the palaeoenvironmental sample (sample 9) from ditch 11 is suggestive of dumped domestic settlement waste in an environment characterised by grassland, field margins and arable farmland. It is possible the Roman settlement and agricultural activity may have also extended further to the east but has been masked or removed by activity in the medieval period. Furthermore, with the exception of Trench 11, no trenches were excavated in the western part of the site, and whilst the preceding geophysical survey did not identify further anomalies of potential archaeological origin in this area the potential exists for further Roman remains to survive in this part of the site.
- 8.8 The heritage desk based assessment identified a low level of recorded Roman activity in the wider vicinity of the site. However, a large amount of Roman pottery from a burnt area and a Roman ditch were recorded c. 900m east of the site during

an archaeological watching brief in 1990 (CA 2015). This suggests the site was situated within a wider Roman rural landscape.

- 8.9 Whilst Roman pottery was recovered from features 1106 and 1305, investigation of these features found that they were most likely to represent natural features into which the artefactual material had been impressed. Feature 1106 probably represents the disturbed natural substrate along the compacted former route of a public footpath.

### *Medieval*

- 8.10 Medieval features were recorded in Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 15, which were largely located near the eastern limit of the site. These features comprised ditches and gullies on north-west/south-east and north-east/south-west alignments along with pits 202, 204, 312 and 802. The arrangement of many of the ditches and gullies broadly corresponds to cropmarks believed to indicate the boundaries of medieval settlement 'crofts' and their associated fields, 'tofts', to the rear, which are recorded as cropmarks or earthworks on the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER) (CA 2015). It is likely the archaeological features recorded during the evaluation, from which a substantial artefactual assemblage dating to the 12th to 14th century was recovered, relate to rear of plot activity associated with medieval 'ribbon' settlement along Woodrow Road. Settlement at 'Woodrow' is first recorded in documentary sources from the 13th century (CA 2015). Pits 202, 204 and 312 all contained material dating to the 12th to 13th century and are likely to represent domestic activity at the rear of medieval buildings, which are likely to be focussed beneath the current houses and gardens which line the road and which are outside of the site (ibid.). Domestic settlement waste compatible with a medieval date, was recovered from a palaeoenvironmental sample taken from pit 202. Furthermore, it is likely the undated ditches and pits in Trench 4, are contemporary with the medieval settlement.
- 8.11 Pit 803 contained two small sherds of pottery dating to the 11th to 14th centuries. It is possible the artefacts recovered from the pit are in fact intrusive in a Roman feature, as the pit lies outside of the area of 'crofts' and 'tofts', further to the west than other similar medieval features.
- 8.12 Evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation of possible medieval date was recorded in Trenches 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 20, 21 and 22 on east/west and north-west/south-east

alignments. Medieval ridge and furrow surrounding the settlement is recorded on the Wiltshire HER (CA 2015) and was identified on a north-west/south-east alignment in the eastern part of the site by the geophysical survey (PCG 2016). These remains suggest arable cultivation of the land to the west of the settlement at Woodrow in the medieval period.

- 8.13 Whilst pottery of 12th to 14th-century date was recovered from features 510, 904, 1302 and 1306, investigation of these features found that they were most likely to represent natural features into which the artefactual material had been impressed.

#### Post-medieval

- 8.14 Post-medieval features were recorded in Trenches 10 and 14. Trench 10 contained a backfilled boundary ditch 1003 and a small brick filled pit 1005, which cut the ditch. The boundary ditch, which had previously been identified by the geophysical survey (PCG 2016) and which is depicted on the 1838 Tithe Map was also identified in Trench 14, 1402 and Trench 25, 2503. The fill of the ditch suggests it has been backfilled in the modern era.
- 8.15 Ditch 1514 in Trench 15 appeared to have been re-cut (1511) in the post-medieval period and post-medieval pottery was recovered from the uppermost fill of parallel adjacent ditch 1509. This may suggest some of the medieval 'toft' boundaries were maintained into the post-medieval period. However, deposit 1506, which sealed ditches 1509, 1514 and re-cut 1511, suggests deliberate backfilling and/or levelling of this area either in the later post-medieval or modern eras.
- 8.16 A single sherd of post-medieval glazed earthenware was recovered from the surface of ditch 206, which was not excavated. It is possible the pottery is intrusive in an earlier feature as the ditch is not depicted on historic maps but corresponds to a possible medieval earthwork identified as cropmark (CA 2015).
- 8.17 The route of the former Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal, which was opened in 1801, crosses the central portion of the site and remains visible as a linear depression. No remains associated with the canal or its construction were recorded during the evaluation.

*Undated*

- 8.18 Features which remain undated comprising pits and ditches were recorded in Trenches 4, 6, 7, 12, 15 and 24. It is likely the features in Trenches 6, 7 and 24 relate to Roman activity on site, whilst those in Trenches 4, 12 and 15 may be contemporary with the medieval settlement.

*Correlation with the results of the Geophysical Survey, Lidar Imagery and Cropmarks*

- 8.19 With the exception of the Roman ditch identified in Trench 24, 2407, which was interpreted as probable ridge and furrow, and the post-medieval field boundary identified in Trenches 10, 14 and 25 none of the archaeological features identified during the evaluation were identified by the preceding geophysical survey (PCG 2016). The evaluation identified ditches in Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5, 12 and 15 which correspond to linear cropmarks recorded as earthworks indicating the location of a deserted medieval settlement on the Wiltshire HER. LiDAR imagery of the site only identified a 'hollow-way' on the alignment of the former field boundary recorded in Trenches 10 and 14, suggesting that modern agricultural practices have removed above ground earthworks previously visible on aerial photographs in this area. The results of the evaluation suggest that negative archaeological features associated with the earthworks that no longer survive above ground are extant within the site.
- 8.20 The geophysical survey did, however, identify a recent linear anomaly in the north-western part of the site. This feature is recorded on the 1838 Tithe Map as an antecedent of the extant footpath which runs immediately to the south-east. The evaluation found evidence of disturbed natural substrate on this alignment in Trench 11.

**9. CA PROJECT TEAM**

- 9.1 The first phase of fieldwork was undertaken by Joe Whelan, assisted by Tony Brown, Peter Busby, Jeremy Clutterbuck, Andrew Donald and Jay Wood. The second phase was undertaken by Jonathan Orellana, assisted by Anthony Beechey, Christina McClean, Holly Young and Daniel Keane. The report was written by Joe Whelan and Jonathan Orellana, and quality assured by Charlotte Haines and Simon Cox. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Katie Marsden, Sarah Wyles, Andy Clarke and Sharon Clough. The illustrations were prepared by

Sam O'Leary and Lucy Martin. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Andrew Donald. The project was managed for CA by Simon Cox.





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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Brown clay silt	50	1.8	0.27	
1	101	Layer		Natural	Yellow brown silty clay with blue grey patches	50	1.8		
1	102	Furrow		Furrow	W/E linear with dark blue grey clay fill	>1.8	2.5		
1	103	Furrow		Furrow	W/E linear with dark blue grey clay fill	>1.8	2		
1	104	Furrow		Furrow	W/E linear with dark blue grey clay fill	>1.8	2.3		
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Brown clay silt	50	1.8	0.26	
2	201	Layer		Natural	Yellow brown silty clay with blue grey patches	50	1.8		
2	202	Cut		Pit	Sub oval, flat base, concave sides	>2.0	1.91	0.53	
2	203	Fill	202	Fill of pit	Mid brown grey with light yellow brown patches and red brown mottling	>2.0	1.65	0.44	C12-C13
2	204	Cut		Pit	Irregular oval		5.5		
2	205	Fill	204	Fill of pit	Grey brown silty clay		5.5		C13-C14
2	206	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW Linear	>1.8	3		
2	207	Fill	206	Fill of ditch	Grey brown silty clay				C16-C18
2	208	Fill	202	Fill of pit	Dark grey with red brown mottling, frequent charcoal flecks	>2.0	1.62	0.13	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Yellow brown clay silt	50	1.8	0.28	
3	301	Layer		Natural	Yellow brown silty clay with blue grey patches	50	1.8	0.65	
3	302	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW linear, gently sloping sides, rounded base	>2.2	0.82	0.06	
3	303	Fill	302	Fill of ditch	Mid yellow grey brown silty clay	>2.2	0.82	0.06	C13-14
3	304	Cut		Ditch	NW-SE linear, gently sloping sides, slightly rounded base	>2.1	1.28	0.13	
3	305	Fill	304	Fill of ditch	Mid yellow grey brown silty clay	>2.1	1.28	0.13	C12-C14
3	306	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW linear	>1.8	0.45		
3	307	Fill	306	Fill of ditch	Grey brown silty clay	>1.8	0.45		C12-C14
3	308	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW linear	>1.8	0.5		
3	309	Fill	308	Fill of ditch	Yellow brown silty clay	>1.8	0.5		C12-C14
3	310	Cut		Ditch	Linear cut NW-SE alignment	>1.8	1.9		
3	311	Fill	310	Fill of ditch	Dark yellow brown silty clay	>1.8	0.9		C12-C14
3	312	Cut		Pit	Irregular elongated oval pit		0.75		
3	313	Fill	312	Fill of pit	Yellow brown silty clay		0.75		C12-C14
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Yellow brown clay silt	50	2	0.38	
4	401	Layer		Natural	Yellow brown silty clay with blue grey patches	50	2	0.02	
4	402	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE linear	>1.8	1.3		
4	403	Fill	402	Fill of ditch	Yellow brown silty clay	>1.8	1.3		C12-C14
4	404	Cut		Posthole	Circular		0.4		
4	405	Fill	404	Fill of posthole	Yellow brown silty clay		0.4		
4	406	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW linear	>1.8			
4	407	Fill	406	Fill of ditch	Yellow brown silty clay	>1.8			
4	408	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW linear	>1.8	0.45		
4	409	Fill	408	Fill of ditch	Yellow brown silty clay	>1.8	0.45		C12-C13
4	410	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE linear	>1.8	1.2		

4	411	Fill	410	Fil of ditch	Yellow brown silty clay	>1.8	1.2		
4	412	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE linear, irregular edge to the south	>1.8	0.5		
4	413	Fill	412	Fill of ditch	Yellow brown silty clay	>1.8	0.5		C12-C14
4	414	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE linear, moderately sloping sides, slightly rounded base	>2	1.63	0.44	
4	415	Fill	414	Fill of ditch	Mid yellow grey compact silty clay	>1	1.13	0.19	C13-C14
4	416	Cut		Pit	Oval		1.5		
4	417	Fill	416	Fill of pit	Light grey brown silty clay		1.5		
4	418	Cut		Pit	Oval		1.4		
4	419	Fill	418	Fill of pit	Grey brown silty clay		1.4		
4	420	Cut		Pit	Oval		1.5		
4	421	Fill	420	Fill of pit	Yellow brown silty clay		1.5		
4	422	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE linear		1.4		
4	423	Fill	422	Fill of ditch	Grey brown silty clay		1.4		
4	424	Fill	414	Fill of ditch	Dark brown grey silty sandy clay	>2	1.63	0.29	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Yellow brown clay silt	50	1.8		
5	501	Layer		Natural	Yellow brown silty clay with blue grey patches	50	1.8		
5	502	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE linear	>1.8	1.8		
5	503	Fill	502	Fill of ditch	Yellow brown clay sandy silt	>1.8	1.8		RB
5	504	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE linear	>1.8	2.1		
5	505	Fill	504	Fill of ditch	Dark brown clay sandy silt	>1.8	2.1		
5	506	Cut		Re-cut of ditch	NW/SE linear moderately sloping sides, flat base	>2	1.9	0.6	
5	507	Fill	506	Fill of re-cut of ditch	Dark grey with dark red brown mottling silty clay	>2	1.9	0.33	C13-C14
5	508	Cut		Geology	Sub circular, gradually sloping straight sides				
5	509	Fill	508	Geology	Mid grey clay, hard compaction				
5	510	Cut		Geology	Sub circular, gradually sloping straight sides	3	>1	>0.15	
5	511	Fill	510	Geology	Mid grey brown silty clay	3	>1	>0.15	C12-C14
5	512	Furrow		Furrow	NW/SE linear	>1.8			C12-C14
5	513	Fill	506	Fill of re-cut of ditch	Mid green grey and yellow with red brown mottling, silty clay	>2	1.08	0.27	
5	514	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE linear with steep convex sides and a flat base on NW-SE alignment	>2	>0.79	0.43	
5	515	Layer	514	Fill of ditch	Light greenish grey silty and sandy clay	>2	0.73	0.22	C11-C14
5	516	Fill	514	Fill of ditch	Dark grey with dark red brown mottling silty clay	>2	0.8	0.24	C13-C14
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Yellow brown clay silt	50	1.8		
6	601	Layer		Natural	Yellow brown silty clay with blue grey patches	50	1.8		
6	602	Cut		Possible quarry pit	Irregular oval	3			
6	603	Fill	602	Fill of possible quarry pit	Grey brown silty clay	3			
6	604	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE linear, shallow sides and concave base	>2	1.18	0.39	
6	605	Fill	604	Fill of ditch	Dark blue grey silty clay s	>2	0.96	0.21	C2
6	606	Furrow		Probable furrow	NW/SE linear	>1.8			
6	607	Furrow		Furrow	NW/SE linear	>1.8			
6	608	Fill	604	Fill of ditch	Light yellow brown and grey brown silty clay	>2	1.1	0.13	
6	609	Fill	604	Fill of ditch	Mid green grey silty clay	>2	1.5	0.15	

7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Yellow brown clay silt	50	1.8		
7	701	Layer		Natural	Yellow brown silty clay with blue grey patches	50	1.8		
7	702	Cut		Pit	Circular		0.5		
7	703	Fill	702	Fill of pit	Dark grey silty clay, frequent charcoal		0.5		
7	704	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW linear with concave base	>2	>0.35	0.33	
7	705	Fill	704	Fill of ditch	Mid light yellow grey silty clay	>2	>0.35	0.33	
7	708	Cut		Pit	Irregular oval, concave base	>1	0.8	0.4	
7	709	Fill	708	Fill of pit	Mid yellow brown silty clay	>1	0.8	0.4	C2-C4
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Yellow brown clay silt	50	1.8	0.25	
8	801	Layer		Natural	Yellow brown silty clay with blue grey patches	50	1.8	0.05	
8	802	Cut		Pit	Oval with moderately sloping sides and irregular base	>0.55	0.9	0.14	
8	803	Fill	802	Fill of pit	Dark grey silty clay charcoal rich	>0.55	0.9	0.14	C11-C14
8	804	Cut		Cut of cremation	Oval, steeply sloping sides and flat base	0.48	0.4	0.17	
8	805	Fill	804	Fill of cremation	Light grey yellow brown silty clay frequent charcoal flecks and cremated bone	>0.2	0.18	0.05	
8	806	Furrow		Furrow	NW/SE linear	>1.8			
8	807	Furrow		Furrow	NW/SE linear	>1.8			
8	808	Fill	804	Fill of cremation	Dark grey black clay silt with frequent charcoal	0.3	0.2	0.1	
8	809	Fill	804	Fill of cremation	Mid grey silty clay compact	0.48	0.4	0.14	
8	810	Fill	802	Fill of pit	Yellow brown silty clay, compact	0.2	0.18	0.05	
8	811	Fill	802	Fill of pit	Black clay silt, firm	0.28	0.25	0.09	
8	812	Fill	802	Fill of pit	Yellow brown grey silty clay, compact	0.48	0.4	0.14	
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Light grey brown silty clay	50	1.8	0.1	
9	901	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown turning grey compacted clay	50	1.8		
9	902	Cut		Ditch	N/S linear, shallow concave sides, concave to flat base	1.8	2	0.5	
9	903	Fill	902	Fill of ditch	Grey with orange mottling clay, compact	0.75	2	0.5	RB
9	904	Cut		Geology	N/S linear	1.8	1.7	0.15	
9	905	Fill	904	Geology	Mid yellow with orange mottling	1.8	1.7	0.15	C12-C14
9	906	Cut		Land drain	E/W linear				
9	907	Fill	906	Fill of land drain	Light grey with orange mottling				
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Brown clay silt	50	1.8	0.26	
10	1001	Layer		Natural	Yellow brown silty clay with blue grey patches	50	1.8		
10	1002	Furrow		Furrow	E/W linear	>1.8	2.8		
10	1003	Cut		Ditch	E/W linear	>1.8			
10	1004	Fill	1003	Fill of ditch	Very dark grey silty clay, frequent cbm, timber, coal	>1.8			
10	1005	Cut		Pit	Circular				
10	1006	Fill	1005	Fill of pit	Frequent cbm, timber, cinders				
10	1007	Furrow		Furrow	E/W linear	>1.8	2.4		RB
10	1008	Furrow		Furrow	E/W linear	>1.8	2.3		
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Brown clay silt	50	1.8	0.25	
11	1101	Layer		Natural	Yellow brown silty clay with blue grey patches				

11	1102	Cut		Ditch	E/W linear	>1.8	0.8		
11	1103	Fill	1102	Fill of ditch	brown silty clay unexcavated	>1.8	0.8		RB
11	1104	Cut		Ditch	E/W linear, gradual straight sides, concave base	1.96	2.6	0.85	
11	1105	Fill	1104	Fill of ditch	Mid yellowy brown silty clay firm	0.8	1.87	0.27	C2+
11	1106	Cut		Disturbed natural substrate	NE/SW linear				
11	1107	Fill	1106	Disturbed natural substrate	Blue grey clay				RB
11	1108	Fill	1104	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown orange mottling silty clay firm	0.8	2.35	0.58	M-L C2
11	1109	Fill	1104	Fill of ditch	Orange brown with brown grey mottling silty clay firm	0.8	2.6	0.16	
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay friable	30	1.8	0.2	
12	1201	Layer		Natural	Light green grey clay with large areas of mid yellow gravel sandy clay	30	1.8		
12	1202	Cut		Possible pit	Rectangular	2	1		
12	1203	Fill	1202	Fill of possible pit	Grey with orange mottling clay firm	2	1		
12	1204	Cut		Possible ditch	NW/SE linear	2	1.5		
12	1205	Fill	1204	Fill of possible ditch	Light brown grey clay	2	1.5		
12	1206	Cut		Cut	Field drain	>1.8			
12	1207	Fill	1206	Fill of field drain	Field drain	>1.8			
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay	47	1.8	0.25	
13	1301	Layer		Natural	Light greenish grey compacted clay with areas of yellow brown gravel sandy clay	47	1.8	0.05	
13	1302	Geology		Geology	Geology				
13	1303	Fill	1302	Geology	Geology				
13	1304	Geology		Geology	Geology				
13	1305	Fill	1304	Geology	Geology				
13	1306	Geology		Geology	Geology				
13	1307	Fill	1306	Geology	Geology				
13	1308	Cut		Pit	Oval, concave sides with step to straight on east side, concave base	1.2	0.71	0.22	
13	1309	Fill	1308	Fill of pit	Mid grey silty clay soft	0.25	0.3	0.22	C2
13	1310	Cut		Pit	Oval, gradual sides, irregular flat base	2.55	0.84	0.31	
13	1311	Fill	1310	Fill of pit	Mid grey silty clay soft	1.12	0.7	0.18	LC1-C2
13	1312	Cut		Gully	NE/SW linear	>1.8	0.65		
13	1313	Fill	1312	Fill of gully	Grey brown silty clay	>1.8	0.65		RB
13	1314	Fill	1308	Fill of pit	Mid yellow brown with red brown mottling silty clay soft	1.2	0.71	0.1	
13	1315	Fill	1310	Fill of pit	Mid yellow brown with red brown mottling silty clay soft	2.55	0.54	0.2	
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark yellow brown clay silt	35	1.8	0.33	
14	1401	Layer		Natural	yellow brown silty clay with rare flints	35	1.8	0.07	
14	1402	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW linear	>1.8	2.2		
14	1403	Fill	1402	Fill of ditch	Dark grey clay silt with common roots/timber	>1.8	2.2		
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brownish grey silty clay	50	1.9	0.2	

15	1501	Layer		Natural	Mid orangey grey clay	50	1.9		
15	1502	Cut		Pit/posthole	Sub-oval in plan, steep sides and concave base	>0.51	0.43	0.08	
15	1503	Fill	1502	Fill of pit/posthole	Mid greyish yellow silty clay	>0.51	0.43	0.08	pmed
15	1504	Cut		Pit/posthole	Sub-circular in plan, partially exposed	>0.26	>0.08		
15	1505	Fill	1505	Fill of pit/posthole	Mid grey silty clay with charcoal flecks	>0.26	>0.08		
15	1506	Layer		Deposit	Mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional stones	6.95	>1.9	0.25	RB
15	1507	Fill	1509	Fill of ditch	Dark greyish brown silty clay	>1.9	0.87	0.1	MC16-C18
15	1508	Fill	1509	Fill of ditch	Mid yellowish brown clay	>1.9	0.9	0.16	C13-C14
15	1509	Cut		Ditch	E/W orientated, moderate sloping sides and flat base	>1.9	0.9	0.16	
15	1510	Fill	1511	Fill of ditch	Mid brown silty clay	>1.9	1.04	0.45	MC16-C18
15	1511	Cut		Ditch re-cut	E/W orientated, steep sides and concave base	>1.9	1.04	0.45	
15	1512	Fill	1514	Fill of ditch	Light yellowish grey silty clay	>1.9	1.76	0.55	C12-C14
15	1513	Fill	1514	Fill of ditch	Light orangey brown silty clay	>1.9	0.53	0.17	
15	1514	Cut		Ditch	E/W orientated, steep sides and concave base	>1.9	1.76	0.7	
16	1600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	50	1.95	0.25	
16	1601	Layer		Natural	Firm mid brown clay with occasional chalk inclusions	50	1.95		
17	1700	Layer		Topsoil	Loose dark greyish brown silty clay	50	1.95	0.25	
17	1701	Layer		Natural	Firm light brown clay	50	1.95		
18	1800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clay silt	50	1.9	0.29	
18	1801	Layer		Natural	Mid orangey grey clay	50	1.9	0.29	
19	1900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clay silt	50	1.9	0.4	
19	1901	Layer		Natural	Mid orangey grey clay with occasional chalk inclusions	50	1.9		
20	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clay silt	50	1.85	0.3	
20	2001	Layer		Natural	Mid orangey grey clay with occasional small stones	50	1.85		
21	2100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clay silt	50	1.85	0.33	
21	2101	Layer		Natural	Mid orangey grey clay	50	1.85		
22	2200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clay silt	50	1.85	0.28	
22	2201	Layer		Natural	Mid orangey grey clay with occasional small stones	50	1.85		
23	2300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	50	1.85	0.35	
23	2301	Layer		Natural	Mid orangey grey silty clay	50	1.85		
23	2302	Fill	2303	Fill of furrow	Mid yellowish grey clay	>1.8	1.2	0.1	C12-C14
23	2303	Cut		Furrow	NW/SE orientated, moderate sloping sides and flat base	>1.8	1.2	0.1	
23	2304	Fill	2305	Fill of ditch terminus	Light yellowish grey silty clay	>0.9	0.7	0.17	RB
23	2305	Cut		Ditch terminus	NW/SE aligned, moderate sloping sides and concave base	>0.9	0.7	0.17	
23	2306	Fill	2307	Fill of pit	Mid brown silty clay with frequent charcoal and modern pottery	>0.75	0.15		C19
23	2307	Cut		Pit	Irregular in plan	>0.75	0.15		
24	2400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clay silt	50	1.85	0.4	
24	2401	Layer		Natural	Mid orangey grey clay	50	1.85		

24	2402	Cut		Pit/posthole	Circular in plan, moderate sloping sides and concave base	0.49	0.56	0.11	
24	2403	Fill	2402	Fill of pit/posthole	Mid bluish grey silty clay	0.49	0.56	0.11	C12-C14
24	2404	Fill	2405	Fill of ditch terminus	Mid yellowish grey clay silt	>2.3	0.87	0.29	M-LC1-C2
24	2405	Cut		Ditch terminus	NE/SW aligned, steep sides and concave base	>2.3	1.06	0.39	
24	2406	Fill	2406	Fill of ditch	Mid brownish grey clay silt	>1.8	0.75	0.12	RB
24	2407	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW orientated, moderate sloping sides and concave base	>1.8	0.75	0.12	
24	2408	Fill	2405	Fill of ditch terminus	Mid bluish grey clay silt	>2.3	0.34	0.04	
24	2409	Fill	2405	Fill of ditch terminus	Mid yellowish grey clay silt	>2.3	0.73	0.1	LC1-C2
24	2410	Cut		Pit/posthole	Circular in plan, moderate sloping sides and concave base	0.64	0.34	0.15	
24	2411	Fill	2410	Fill of pit/posthole	Mid bluish grey silty clay	0.64	0.34	0.15	
25	2500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clay silt	50	1.9	0.35	
25	2501	Layer		Natural	Mid orangey grey silty clay	50	1.9		
25	2502	Fill	2503	Fill of ditch	Mid brownish grey silty clay	>2	3.3		
25	2503	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW orientated	>2	3.3		



## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Class	Description	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
US	post-medieval pottery	GEW	3	68	
	medieval pottery	LNH 2	8	43	
	medieval pottery	LNH 3	1	26	
100	medieval pottery	LNH 2	3	10	C13-C14
	medieval pottery	LNH 3	2	13	
200	post-medieval pottery	GEW	1	25	MC16-C18
	medieval pottery	LNH 2	1	6	
	medieval pottery	LNH 3	1	6	
	Roman pottery	NW OXID	2	32	
	Worked stone	?whetstone	1	90	
203	medieval pottery	LNH 1	15	198	C12-C13
	medieval pottery	LNH 2	5	57	
	Roman pottery	LOC BS	1	6	
	slag	tap	1	73	
205	medieval pottery	LNH 2	1	5	C12-C14
207	post-medieval pottery	SOM GEW	1	26	C16-C18
300	medieval pottery	LNH 1	7	108	C13-C14
	medieval pottery	LNH 2	14	303	
	medieval pottery	LNH 3	10	61	
303	medieval pottery	LNH 1	18	145	C13-C14
	medieval pottery	LNH 2	16	155	
	medieval pottery	LNH 3	3	21	
305	medieval pottery	LNH 2	6	19	C12-C14
	medieval pottery	LNH 2	17	193	
	iron	Ra. 3	1	12	
307	medieval pottery	LNH 1	23	465	C12-C14
309	medieval pottery	LNH 1	1	2	C12-C14
	Roman pottery	LOC BS	1	4	
311	medieval pottery	LNH 1	3	32	C12-C14
	medieval pottery	LNH 2	1	2	
313	medieval pottery	QzFI	3	10	C12-C14
400	medieval pottery	LNH 2	4	103	C13-C14
	medieval pottery	LNH 3	1	9	
403	medieval pottery	LNH 2	5	44	C12-C14
	glass		1	52	
409	medieval pottery	LNH 1	2	53	C12-C13
	medieval pottery	LNH 2	1	4	
413	medieval pottery	LNH 2	6	67	C12-C14
415	medieval pottery	LNH 1	2	13	C13-C14
	medieval pottery	LNH 2	9	44	
500	medieval pottery	LNH 2	2	17	C12-C14

503	Roman pottery	GW	1	3	RB
507	medieval pottery	LNH 2	15	173	C13-C14
511	medieval pottery	LNH 1?	7	9	C12-C14
512	medieval pottery	LNH 2	4	22	C12-C14
513	Fired clay	object	6	74	
515	medieval pottery	QzOo	2	4	C11-C14
516	medieval pottery	LNH 2	2	52	C13-C14
600	medieval pottery	LNH 2	4	12	C13-C14
	Roman pottery	NW OXID	2	10	
605	Roman pottery	<b>DOR BB1</b>	6	112	C2
	Roman pottery	<b>LEZ SA2</b>	1	7	
	Fired clay		2	37	
	Roman pottery	LOC BS	7	157	
	Roman pottery	NW OXID	69	496	
	Roman pottery	<b>SAV GT</b>	4	53	
	Roman pottery	<b>SOW WS</b>	6	397	
700	Prehistoric pottery	coarse flint	2	31	?Pre
703	Fired clay		1	17	
709	Roman pottery	<b>DOR BB1</b>	7	20	C2-C4
	flint	scraper	1	17	
	Roman pottery	<b>SAV GT</b>	1	4	
800	medieval pottery	LNH 2	1	51	C13-C14
803	medieval pottery	CotsOo	1	2	C11-C14
	medieval pottery	LNH 1	1	6	
808 (sample 6)	Iron	Nails	8	8	
	slag	-	1	4	
900	medieval pottery	LNH 2	6	56	C13-C14
	medieval pottery	LNH 3	1	11	
903	Roman pottery	NW OXID	1	4	RB
	slag	ironworking	1	160	
905	medieval pottery	LNH 2	4	28	C12-C14
1007	CBM		2	42	RB
	medieval pottery	LNH 2	3	9	
	burnt flint		1	22	
	Roman pottery	NW OXID	1	14	
1103	silver	Ra. 5.	1	3	RB
	Roman pottery	NW OXID	1	1	
	Roman pottery	<b>SAV GT</b>	1	6	
1105	Roman pottery	NW OXID	19	186	C2+
	Roman pottery	<b>SOW WS</b>	1	6	
1107	Roman pottery	LOC BS	10	22	RB
1108	Roman pottery	<b>DOR BB1</b>	2	25	M-L C2
	Roman pottery	GW	52	259	
	Roman pottery	<b>LEZ SA2</b>	1	13	
	Fired clay		6	32	
	flint	flake	1	5	

	Roman pottery	LOC BS	35	156	
	Roman pottery	NW OXID	54	317	
	Roman pottery	<b>SAV GT</b>	2	47	
1300	medieval pottery	EWILTS	1	16	C13-C14
	CBM		1	19	
	Roman pottery	GW	3	32	
	Roman pottery	<b>LEZ SA2</b>	1	1	
	medieval pottery	LNH 2	16	111	
	Roman pottery	LOC BS	2	31	
1303	medieval pottery	LNH 2	4	39	C12-C14
1305	Roman pottery	<b>DOR BB1</b>	1	5	C12-C14
	medieval pottery	LNH 2	7	33	
1307	medieval pottery	EWILTS	1	6	C12-C14
	medieval pottery	LNH 2	9	26	
1309	Roman pottery	<b>DOR BB1</b>	1	4	C2
	Roman pottery	GW	1	4	
	Roman pottery	LOC BS	8	62	
	Roman pottery	NW OXID	8	63	
	Roman pottery	<b>SAV GT</b>	5	78	
	Roman pottery	<b>SOW WS</b>	2	6	
1311	Roman pottery	GW	5	28	LC1-C2
	Fired clay		6	223	
	Roman pottery	LOC BS	7	34	
	Roman pottery	NW OXID	12	52	
	Roman pottery	<b>SOW WS</b>	9	45	
1313	Roman pottery	NW OXID	1	16	RB
1400	medieval pottery	LNH 2	1	4	MC13-C14
	medieval pottery	LNH 2	2	34	
1500	medieval pottery	EWILTS	7	56	
	medieval pottery	CotsOo	1	12	
	medieval pottery	LNH 2	5	35	
	Iron	nail	1	7	
	shell		1	18	
1503	post-medieval pottery	UGEW	1	2	pmed
1506	Roman pottery	GW	1	7	RB
1507	post-medieval pottery	GEW	2	40	MC16-C18
1508	medieval pottery	LNH 3	6	41	C13-C14
1510	post-medieval pottery	GEW	4	63	MC16-C18
1512	medieval pottery	LNH 2	1	36	C12-C14
	medieval pottery	LNH 3	1	5	
2302	medieval pottery	LNH 2	2	8	C12-C14
2304	Roman pottery	NW OXID	1	1	RB
2306	post-medieval pottery	TP Wh	1	1	C19
2403	medieval pottery	LNH 2	1	1	C12-C14
2404	Roman pottery	GW	7	18	M-LC1-C2

	Roman pottery	NW OXID	3	6	
	Roman pottery	LEZ SA2	2	12	
2406	Roman pottery	LOC BS	1	2	RB
2409	Roman pottery	GW	3	15	LC1-C2
	Roman pottery	LOC BS	2	10	
	Roman pottery	SAV GT	1	7	

Table 2: fabric descriptions

Period	Description	Code
Roman	Grey ware	GW
	Local black sandy fabric	LOC BS
	North Wiltshire oxidised fabric	NW OXID
	South West white slip ware	<b>SOW WS</b>
	Dorset Black-burnished Ware 1	<b>DOR BB1</b>
	Savernake grog-tempered ware	<b>SAV GT</b>
	Central Gaulish (Leszoux) samian ware	<b>LEZ SA2</b>
medieval	East Wiltshire (Kennet Valley) ware	EWILTS
	Lacock Nash Hill quartz and limestone-tempered ware	LNH 1
	Lacock Nash Hill coarse quartz-tempered ware	LNH 2
	Lacock Nash Hill glazed ware	LNH 3
	Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered fabric	CotsOo
	Quartz and flint-tempered fabric	QzFI
	Quartz and oolitic limestone-tempered fabric	QzOo
post-medieval	Glazed earthenware	GEW
	Somerset glazed earthenware	SOM GEW

## APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 1: Assessment table of the palaeoenvironmental remains

Featur	Conte	Sampl	Vol (L)	Flot Size (ml)	Roots %	Grai	Chaf	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 2 Medieval Pit												
202	208	1	16	100	5	**	-	F-t wheat grain frags	-	-	*/*	Moll-t (*)
Trench 8 Pit												
802	803	2	36	150	30	-	-	-	-	-	***/**	-
Trench 8 Cremation related deposit												
804	805	3	1	5	30	-	-	-	-	-	*/*	-
804	808	4	1	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	**/**	-
804	808	5	0.5	5	15	-	-	-	-	-	*/**	-
804	808	6	6	150	5	-	-	-	-	-	***/**	-
804	809	7	6	15	40	-	-	-	-	-	*/**	-
804	812	10	3	10	50	-	-	-	-	-	*/**	-
804	811	11	3	75	5	-	-	-	-	-	***/**	-
804	811	12	6	50	20	-	-	-	-	-	*/**	-
804	810	13	5	20	70	-	-	-	-	-	-/**	-
Trench 8 Below Cremation related deposit												
	801	8	3	5	50	-	-	-	-	-	*/*	-
Trench 11 Romano-British Ditch												
1104	1108	9	18	75	5	**	***	Hulled wheat + ?f-t wheat grain frags, glume base + spikelet fork frags, culm nodes	***	<i>Rumex</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Lolium/Festuca</i> , <i>Trifolium/Medicago</i> , <i>Chenopodium</i>	*/*	-

Key: \* = 1–4 items; \*\* = 5–19 items; \*\*\* = 20–49 items; \*\*\*\* = 50–99 items; \*\*\*\*\* = >100 items, Moll-t = land snails,

Table 2: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	SUS	EQ	LM	MM	Ind	Total	Weight (g)
Roman										
604	605	8	2		1	14	10	7	42	258
1104	1108	2				8	1	8	19	255
1308	1309		1						1	9
1310	1311						4		4	5
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>527</b>
Medieval										
202	203	1				1			2	10
302	303		1	1			8		10	38
304	305			1					1	42
410	411	1							1	175
802	803				1				1	51

2402	2403	2							2	23
	300					1			1	17
	1500		1						1	12
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>368</b>
<b>Undated</b>										
	1002	1							1	81
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>86</b>	
<b>Weight</b>		<b>492</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>976</b>	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; SUS = pig; EQ = horse; LM= cattle sized mammal; MM = sheep size mammal; Ind = indeterminate

**Table 3:** cremated bone total weight per spit and by fraction size

Context	Sample number	Details	Total Weight of cremated bone (g)	<10mm (g)	10-5mm (g)	5-2mm (g)
805	3	West lowest spit	1.3		0.8	0.5
808	4	West lower mid spit	21	2.2	6.6	12.2
808	5	West mid spit	0.2			0.2
808	6	West mid upper spit	25.2		7.7	17.5
809	7	West uppermost spit	0.2			0.2
801	8	Natural interface	>0.1			>0.1
812	10	East uppermost spit	0.5			0.5
811	11	East mid upper spit	26.7	2.6	9.1	15
811	12	East lower mid spit	25.9	1.9	6.3	17.7
810	13	East lowest spit	0.2			0.2

**Table 4:** Identified cremated bone by area

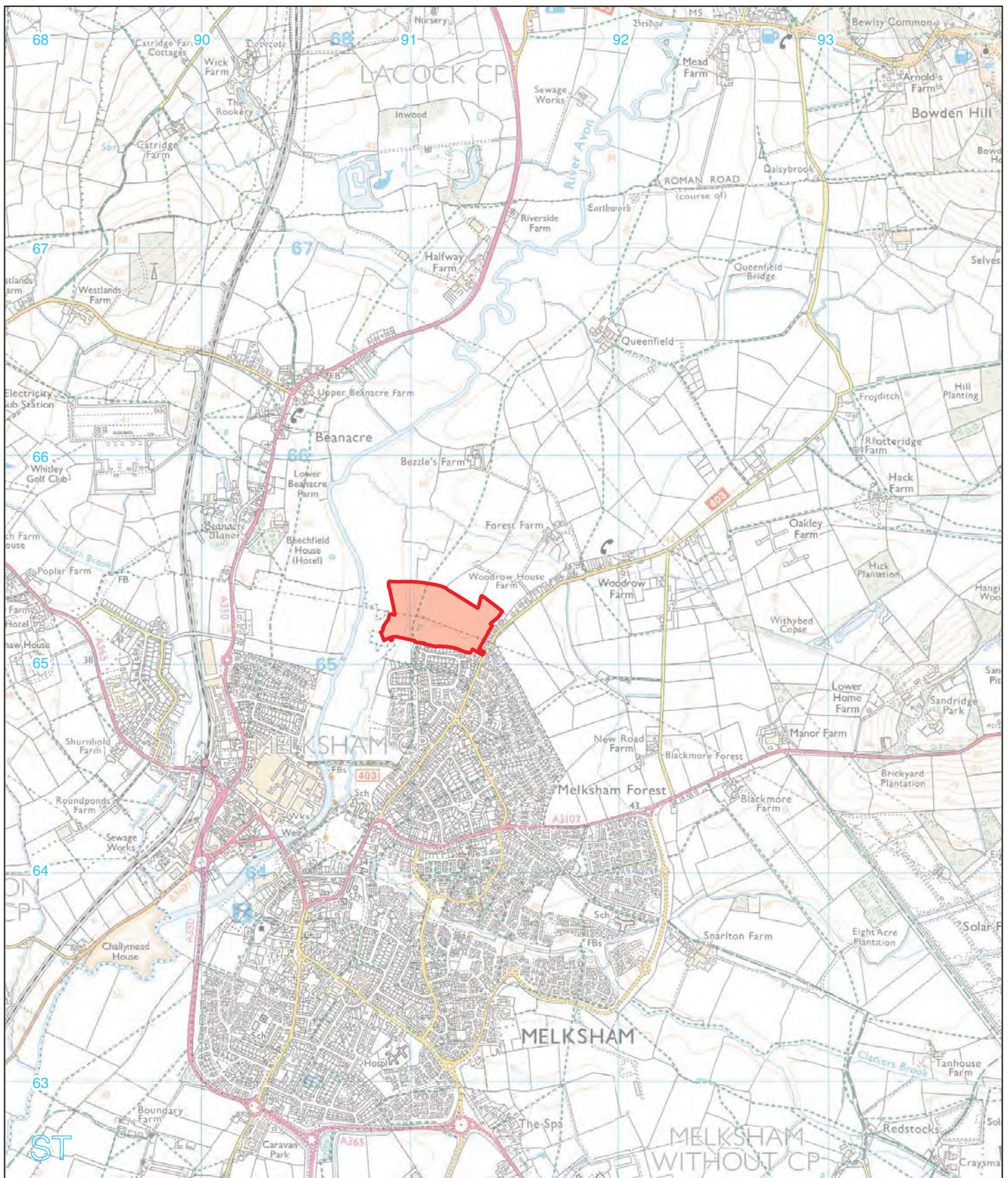
Area	Skull	Axial	Upper Limb (g)	Lower Limb (g)	Unidentified Limb (g)	Unidentified (g)
Sample 3						1.3
Sample 4	0.5					20.5
Sample 5						0.2
Sample 6						25.2
Sample 7						0.2
Sample 8						>0.1
Sample 10						0.5
Sample 11						26.7
Sample 12	1.9					24
Sample 13						0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.4</b>					<b>98.8</b>

## APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	
Project Name	Land at Woodrow Road, Melksham, Wiltshire.
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October and November 2016 on land at Woodrow Road, Melksham, Wiltshire. A total of twenty five trenches was excavated.</p> <p>The evaluation identified archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. Evidence for prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the site was limited to two unstratified sherds of pottery.</p> <p>Roman ditches, gullies and pits may indicate an area of possible mid to late 1st to 2nd-century settlement activity focused in the north-eastern part of the site, along with contemporary agricultural activity extending to the west. A palaeoenvironmental sample taken from a feature of Roman date suggests dumped domestic settlement waste in an environment characterised by arable farmland. Furthermore, an undated cremation is likely to also date to the Roman period, indicating funerary activity associated with the settlement.</p> <p>Medieval ditches, gullies and pits are believed to be associated with a previously recorded deserted medieval settlement in the eastern part of the site. A substantial artefactual assemblage dating to the 12th to 14th centuries was recovered from these features. The arrangement of many of the ditches and gullies identified during the evaluation corresponds to recorded cropmarks believed to indicate the boundaries of medieval 'crofts' and their associated fields 'tofts' to the rear of the dwellings. Settlement along Woodrow Road is first recorded in documentary sources from the 13th century. Settlement waste compatible with a medieval date and indicative of rear of plot domestic activity, was recovered from palaeoenvironmental samples retrieved from the site. Furthermore, evidence for medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was also identified across the site. This suggests the arable cultivation of the land to the west of the settlement at Woodrow in the medieval period</p> <p>Post-medieval remains comprised a backfilled field boundary ditch and pit. The boundary ditch, which is depicted on the 1838 Tithe Map, appears to have been deliberately backfilled in the modern era.</p> <p>A number of features which remain undated were also identified and are likely to be contemporary with the Roman or medieval activity on the site.</p>
Project dates	3 – 11 October 2016 & 28-30 November 2016
Project type	Field evaluation
Previous work	Geophysical survey (PCG 2016)
Future work	Unknown
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	
Site Location	Woodrow Road, Melksham, Wiltshire.
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	13.5ha
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 9110 6525
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology

Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Simon Cox	
Project Supervisor	Joe Whelan & Jonathan Orellana	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	none	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	none	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	Wiltshire Museum Service	Cremation, ceramics, animal bone, fe, silver coin glass
Paper	Wiltshire Museum Service	Context sheets, Drawings, Registers
Digital	Wiltshire Museum Service	digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Land at Woodrow Road, Melksham, Wiltshire. Evaluation Report</i> . CA typescript report <b>16572</b>		





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**PROJECT TITLE**

Land at Woodrow Road, Melksham  
Wiltshire

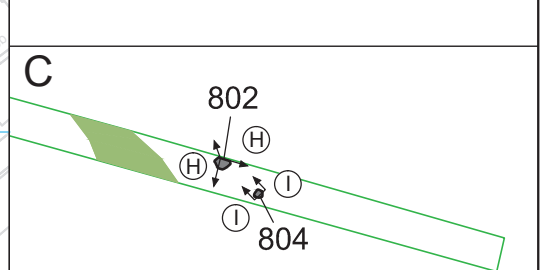
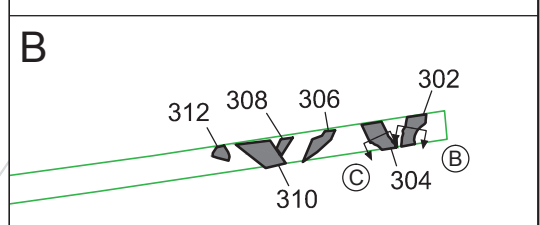
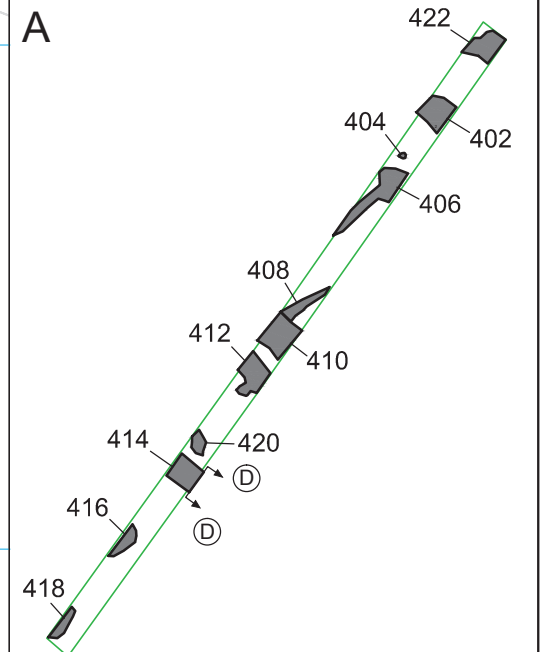
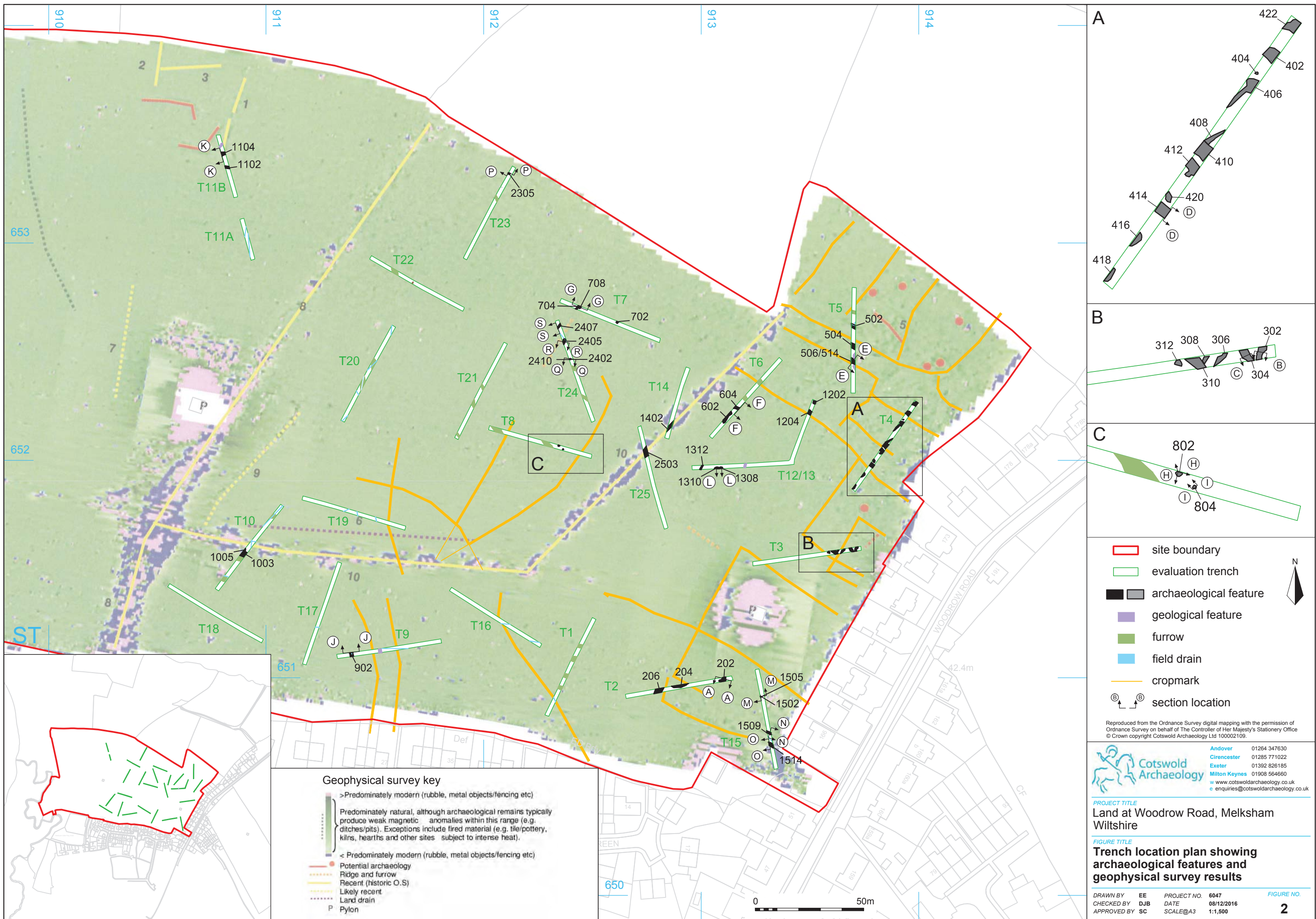
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Site location plan



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- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- geological feature
- furrow
- field drain
- cropmark
- section location

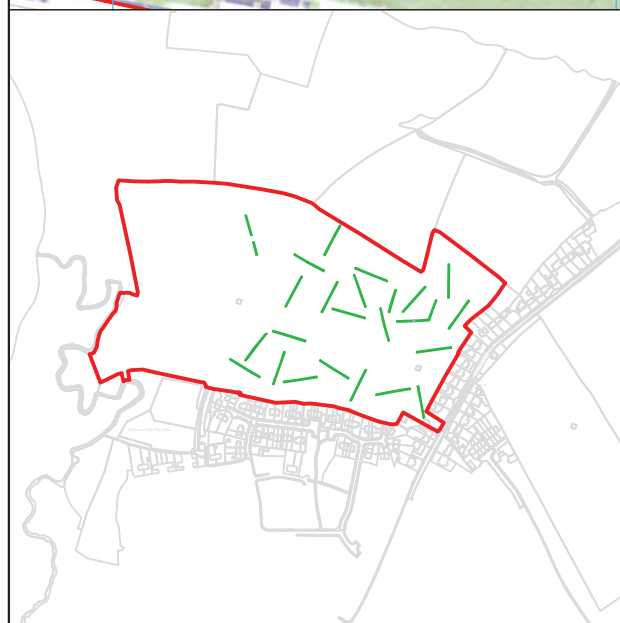
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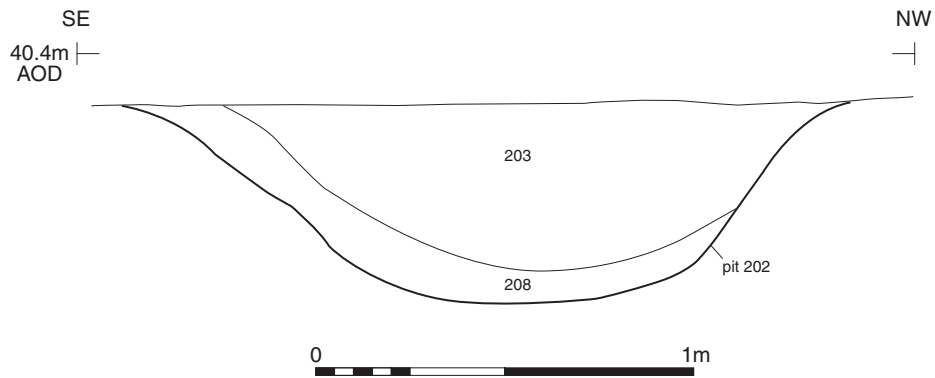
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**Trench location plan showing  
 archaeological features and  
 geophysical survey results**

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 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 08/12/2016  
 APPROVED BY SC SCALE@A3 1:1,500 **2**



- Geophysical survey key**
- > Predominately modern (rubble, metal objects/fencing etc)
  - Predominately natural, although archaeological remains typically produce weak magnetic anomalies within this range (e.g. ditches/pits). Exceptions include fired material (e.g. tile/pottery, kilns, hearths and other sites subject to intense heat).
  - < Predominately modern (rubble, metal objects/fencing etc)
  - Potential archaeology
  - Ridge and furrow
  - Recent (historic O.S)
  - Likely recent
  - Land drain
  - P Pylon

Section AA



Pit 202, looking south-west (scale 1m)



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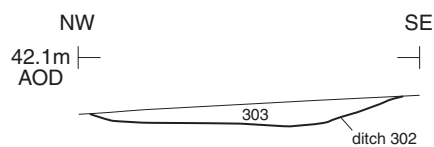
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Section BB



Section CC



Ditch 302, looking south-west (scale 1m)



Ditch 304, looking north-east (scale 1m)



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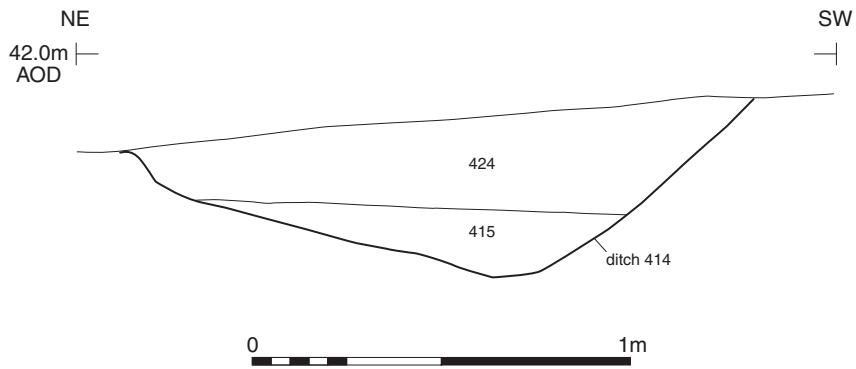
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Section DD



Ditch 414, looking south-east (scale 1m)



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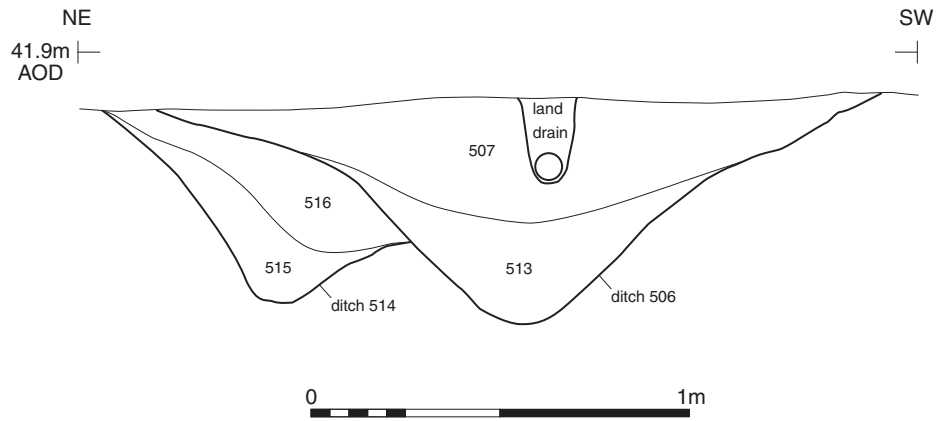
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Section EE



Ditches 514 and 506, looking south-east (scale 1m)



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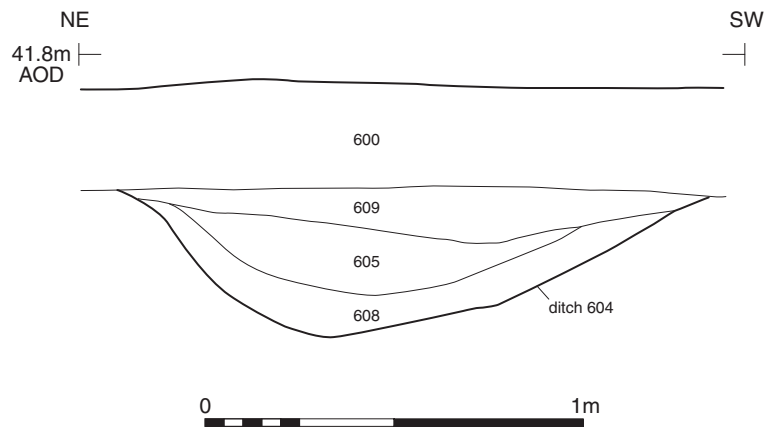
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Section FF



Ditch 604, looking south-east (scale 1m)



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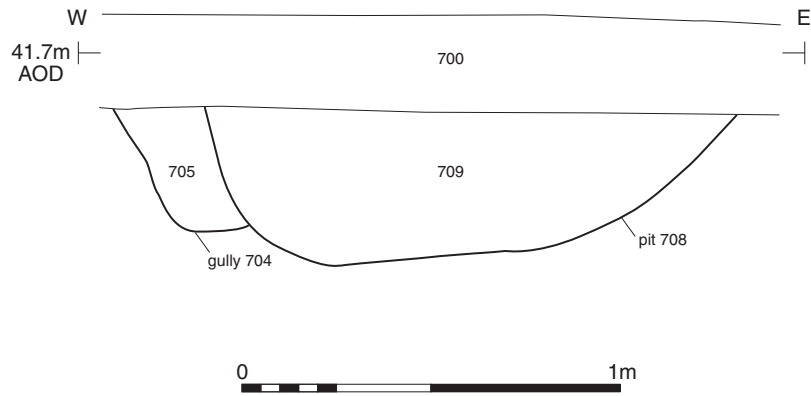
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Section GG



Pit 708 and gully 704, looking north (scale 1m)



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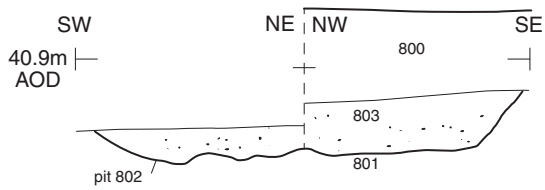
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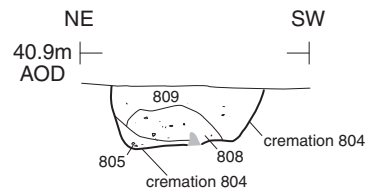
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Section HH



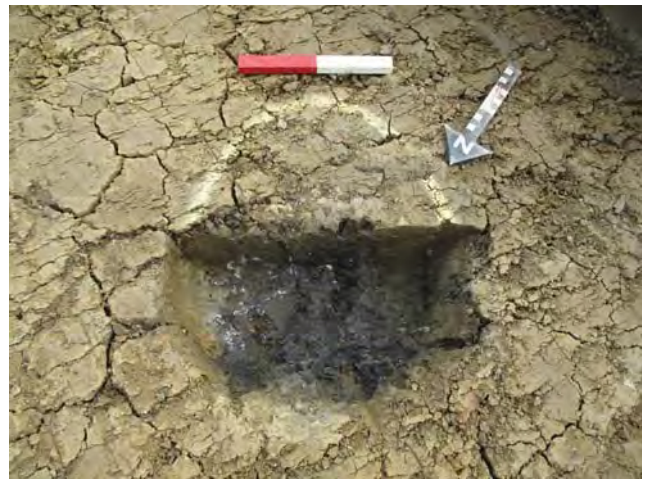
Section II



- charred wood
- cremated bone
- charcoal



Pit 802, looking north (scale 1m)



Cremation 804, looking south-east (scale 0.2m)



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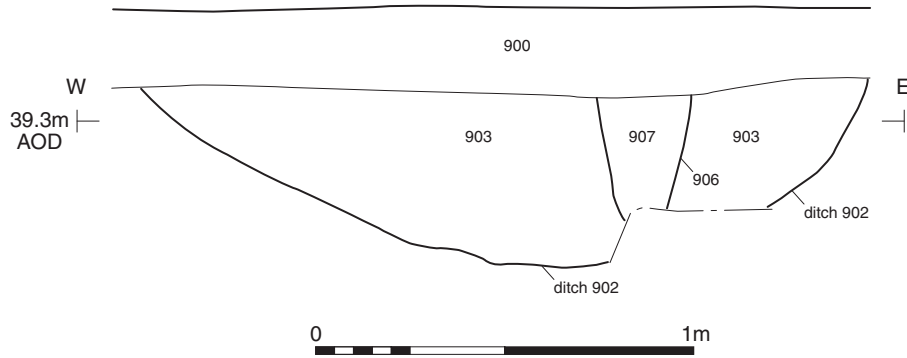
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Section JJ



Ditch 902, looking north



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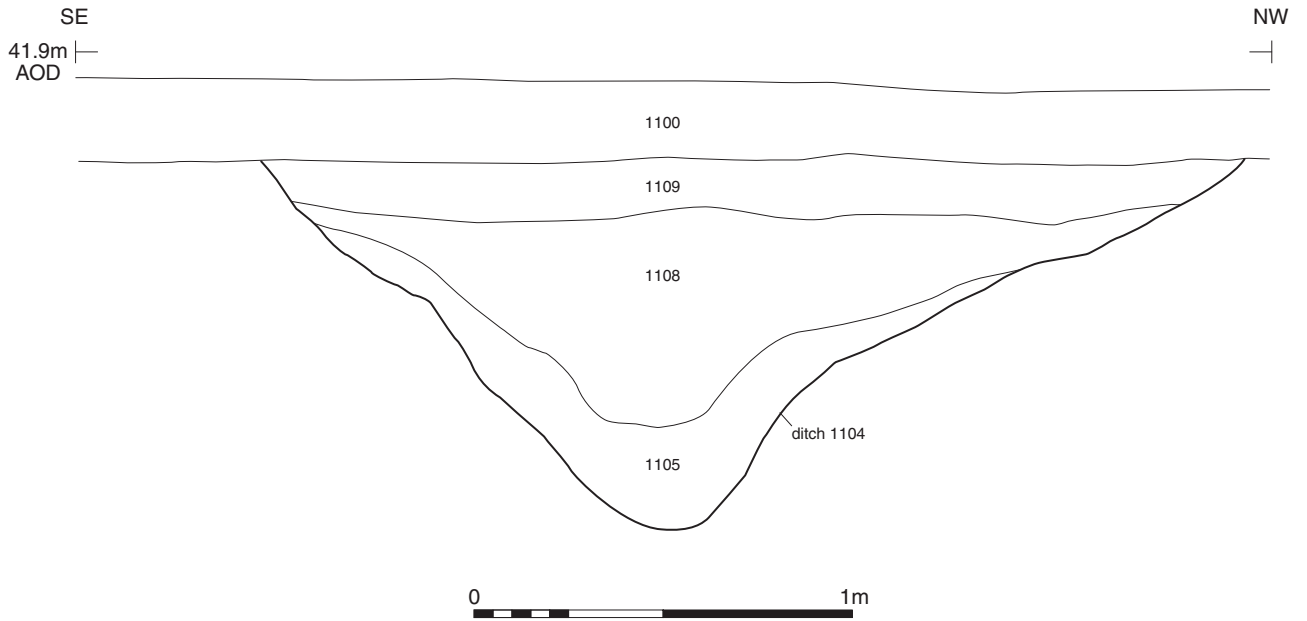
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Section KK



Ditch 1104, looking west (scale 1m)



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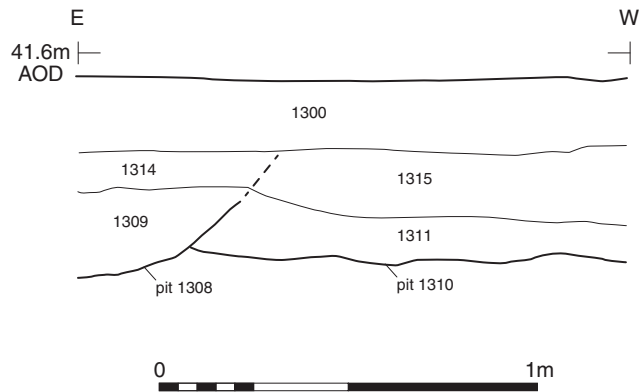
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Section LL



Intercutting pits 1308 and 1310, looking south (scale 1m)



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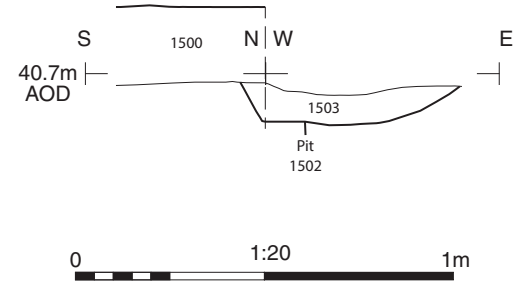
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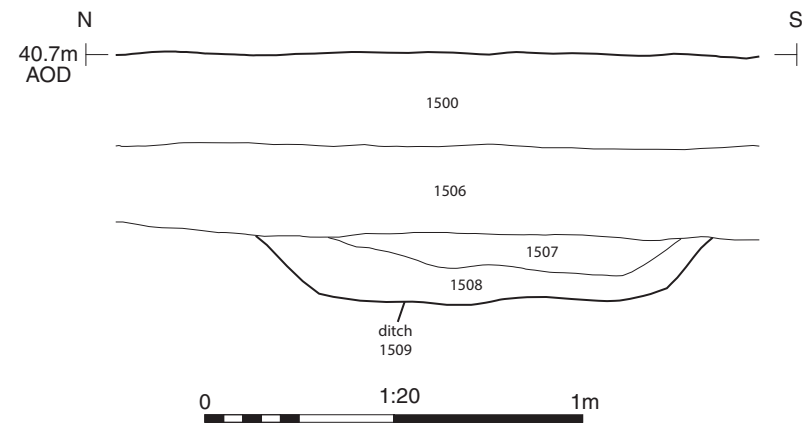
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APPROVED BY	SC	SCALE@A4	1:20	<b>12</b>

Section MM



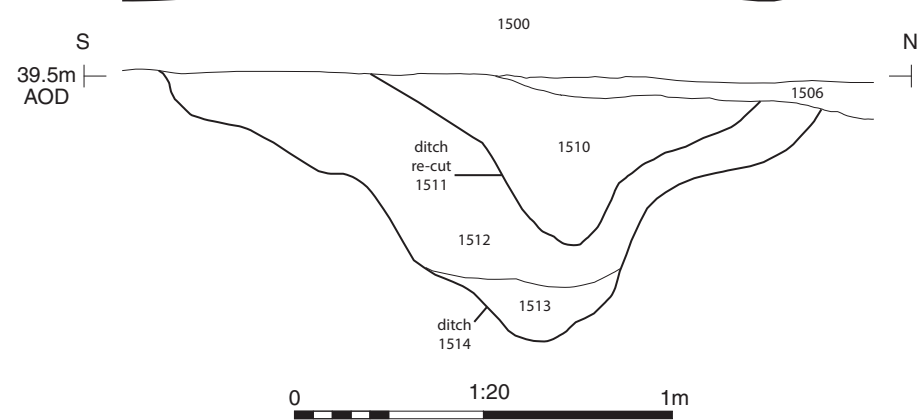
Pit 1502 looking north-west (0.3m scale)

Section NN



Ditch 1509 looking north-east (0.4m scale)

Section OO



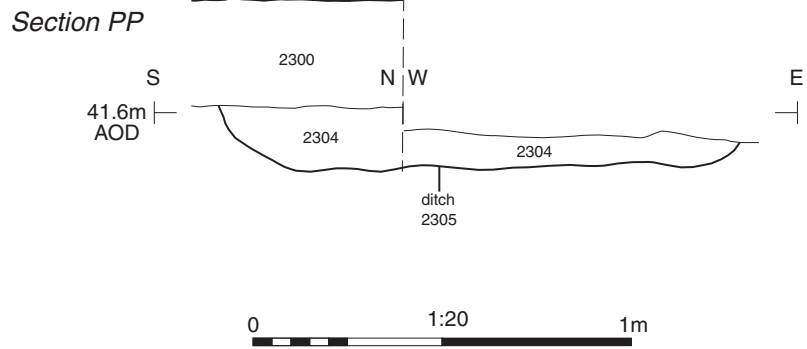
Ditch 1514 looking west (1m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE  
**Land at Woodrow Road, Melksham  
 Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 15, sections and photographs**

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	6047	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	08/12/2016	<b>13</b>
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Ditch terminus 2305 looking south (0.4m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Woodrow Road, Melksham  
 Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

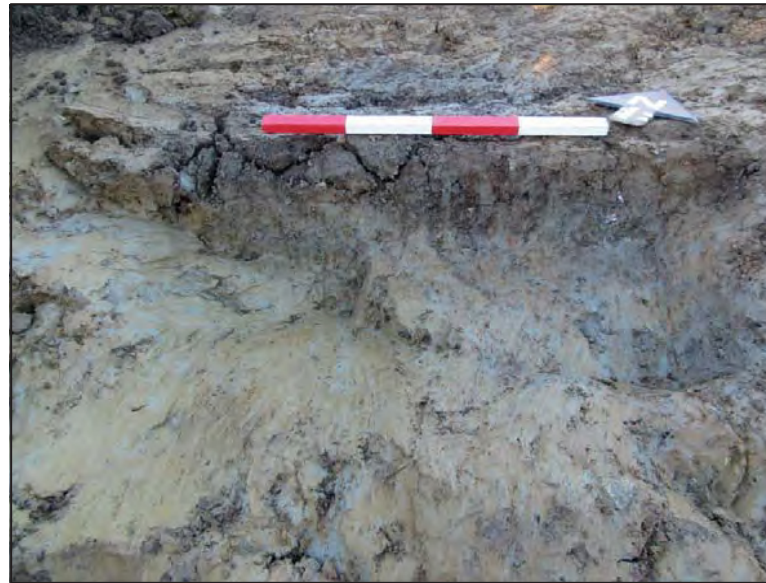
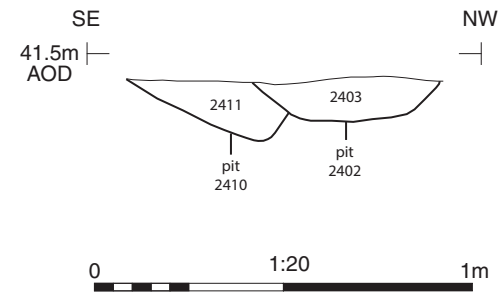
Ditch 2305, section and photograph

DRAWN BY EE PROJECT NO. 6047  
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 08/12/2016  
 APPROVED BY SC SCALE@A3 1:20

FIGURE NO.

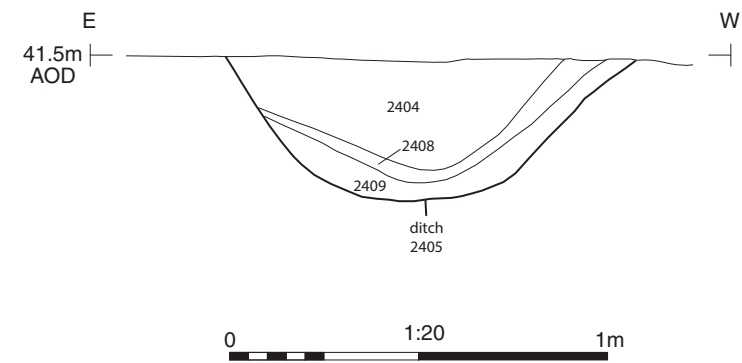
14

Section QQ



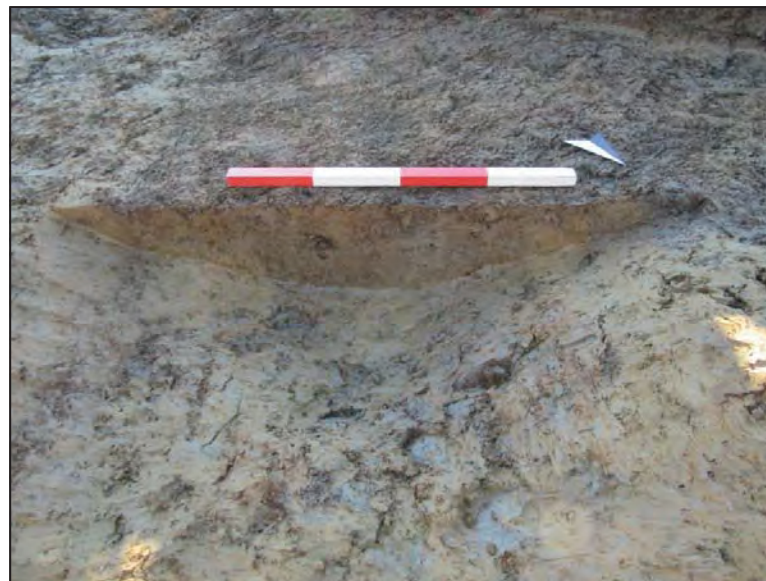
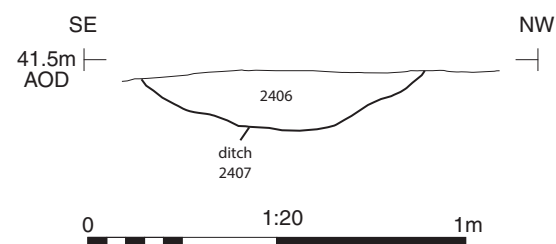
Pits 2402 and 2410 looking north-west (0.4m scale)

Section RR



Ditch terminus 2405 looking south (1m scale)

Section SS



Ditch 2407 looking south-west (0.4m scale)

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