

Land off Neal Close Bishopdown Farm, Salisbury

Archaeological Evaluation



for
CgMs Consulting

on behalf of
Pearce Family Trust

CA Project: 770457
CA Report: 16548

September 2016



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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land off Neal Close, Bishopsdown Farm
Location:	Salisbury, Wiltshire
NGR:	SU 1497 3247
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	27-28 September 2016
Planning Reference:	16/06690/OUT
Location of Archive:	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Site Code:	NEAL 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2016 at Land off Neal Close, Bishopsdown Farm, Salisbury, Wiltshire. Five trenches were excavated.

The trenches were distributed across the proposed development in order to assess the archaeological potential across as wide an area as possible (partly restricted by the existing farm buildings). Despite the low to moderate potential for Neolithic archaeology and moderate to high potential for Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano British archaeology, no strong evidence was found for any specific period.

Trench 3 contained one linear, an undated boundary ditch. The form of the ditch could be interpreted as being of prehistoric origin, perhaps Bronze Age rather than Iron Age. It was orientated in an east/west direction and located on the southern edge of the site, perpendicular to the ridge of higher ground bounding the western edge of the site. Within **Trench 5** were the shallow remnants of a potential lynchet which respected the alignment of the ridge and suggested evidence of terracing within the site.

The remaining three trenches revealed no archaeological finds, features or deposits.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CgMs Consulting on behalf of the Pearce Family Trust at Land off Neal Close, Bishopsdown Farm, Salisbury (centred on NGR: SU 1497 3247; Fig. 1) hereafter referred to as the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application (ref: 16/06690/OUT) made to Wiltshire Council for the demolition of existing buildings/structures and the erection of 14 residential dwellings with modified access from the Roman road.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by Clare King, Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council (ACAWC) the archaeological advisors to Salisbury City Council (SCC). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.4 The proposed development area is approximately 1.1ha. The site is on an east facing slope dropping from c. 85m AOD along the north-western boundary to c. 80m along the eastern boundary. However, the original site profile has been severely truncated through terracing for the construction of a large farm building
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Newhaven Chalk Formation. The superficial deposits are unknown but are likely to comprise Head deposits (Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel)

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A desk-based assessment (DBA) was previously prepared in support of the planning application for development of the site (CgMs 2015). A brief summary of the findings of that report are given below.

Early Prehistoric

- 2.2 The site is located within an area that has produced extensive evidence for prehistoric remains. The site is located within a landscape that appears to have been occupied from the Neolithic onwards. The focus of activity, which continues in the later Prehistoric periods, is at Old Sarum centred 1km west of the site. Recent large scale archaeological excavation just beyond the study area c. 1.2km to the south-west have revealed an early Neolithic burial, a spread of mid-Neolithic pits, worked flints, sarsen stones, and animal bone (WA 2014).
- 2.3 The focus of Bronze Age activity is focused on and around Old Sarum centred 1km to the west of the site, though there are no known Bronze Age finds from the site itself. Assemblages of Bronze Age flint implements have been found c. 400m to the north-west of the site and 150m to the north of the site. A Bronze Age flanged axe has been recorded c. 750m to the north-east of the study site. A Bronze Age cremation is also known slightly further to the east. A Bronze Age axe was also found c. 850m to the south-east of the study site.
- 2.4 The large scale excavation c. 1.2km to the south-west of the study site have revealed a middle Bronze Age field system, three inhumation burials and an occupation area. In the late Bronze Age, the settlement expanded with a circular fenced enclosure, a number of round houses and an avenue of post holes (WA2014)
- 2.5 Although there are no assets recorded within the site the density of Neolithic and Bronze Age remains within and immediately beyond the site indicates that the area was intensively occupied throughout these two periods. Where archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the area, early prehistoric remains have generally been revealed. In light of this evidence, the site is considered to have low to moderate potential for the presence of Neolithic assets and a moderate to high potential for Bronze Age remains.

Iron Age/Roman

- 2.6 The focus of Iron Age and Roman settlement in the area was Old Sarum, centred 1km to the west of the site. In the Roman period three roads converged on this point with the Salisbury to Winchester Roman road passing east-west c. 250m to the north of the site.

- 2.7 Extensive cropmarks identified on Old Sarum Airfield and located c. 600m to the north-west of the site are indicative of intensive Iron Age agricultural activity/land division however, no settlement enclosures have been identified. Cropmarks to the east of the study site are also considered to date to the Iron Age. However, no evidence for settlement has been found although the cropmarks indicate intensive agricultural land division.
- 2.8 The study site's western boundary is adjacent to an area of late (Iron Age) prehistoric settlement where over 70 postholes, some forming 4 post structures, were excavated. Pits and a burial found in association with the postholes are dated to the Iron Age. A fairly significant Iron Age settlement is located 550m to the south-east of the site and excavations proved longevity of use into the Roman period.
- 2.9 Two Iron Age burials are recorded c. 600m to the south-west of the site and these are located approximately equidistant between the settlement described above and two further settlements. The settlements are c. 600m to the south-west of the site.
- 2.10 As mentioned above the focus of Roman settlement was at/around Old Sarum. However, a significant Roman settlement is located along the Salisbury to Dorchester Roman Road 1.2km to the south-west of the site. No Roman assets are recorded on the site or within its immediate vicinity. Roman coins found along the line of the Roman road (linking Salisbury to Winchester) to the north of the site are 'chance' finds most probably dropped by travellers using the road. A pit 14 feet in diameter and 9 feet deep feature is recorded c. 450m to the south-east of the site contained an inhumation accompanied with Roman vessels.
- 2.11 The density of Iron Age and Romano-British remains within and immediately beyond the study area indicates that the area was densely occupied throughout these two periods. In light of this evidence, particularly the adjacent late prehistoric settlement, the study site is considered to have moderate to high potential for later prehistoric and a moderate potential for the presence of Romano-British heritage assets.

Saxon - Early Medieval

- 2.12 The site and the immediate vicinity contain no records of Saxon or Early Medieval assets. The site is located away from nearby settlements that may have had Saxon

origins. Therefore, it is considered to have low/nil potential for Saxon remains. The focus of Saxon and Early Medieval settlement was at Old Sarum located 1km to the west of the site.

Medieval

- 2.13 There are no medieval remains recorded within the study site or within the immediate vicinity. At this time the focus of medieval activity was shifting from Old Sarum, located c. 1km to the west, to the present urban centre of Salisbury, located c. 4km to the south of the site. The site was located away from the nearby medieval settlements and would have been within the open field agricultural regime of Old Sarum. Consequently, the site is considered to have low/nil potential for medieval remains.

Post Medieval and Modern

- 2.14 There are no post-medieval medieval remains recorded within the site.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable the Salisbury City 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 comprised the excavation of five trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig 2). All trenches were 20m long and 1.8m wide. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and, no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-4)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- 5.2 Despite the archaeological potential of the site as identified in the WSI (CA2016) only a single undated archaeological feature was recorded in **Trench 3**, with a potential feature, a possible lynchet, identified in **Trench 5**. Within the remaining trenches no archaeological features or deposits were recorded and they were all archaeologically sterile.

- 5.3 No superficial head deposits of clay, silt, sand or gravel were encountered on site but chalk was revealed in **Trench 5** in the south-west of the site and downslope to the north-east of site at in **Trench 1**. This was overlain in most places except the southern ten metres of **Trench 2** and **3** by a silty clay subsoil averaging 0.3m deep with a maximum depth of 0.43m in **Trench 5**. Overlying the subsoil was an average of 0.16m of dark greyish-brown silty clay topsoil.

Trench 3 (Figures 2 & 3)

- 5.4 **Trench 3** contained an east/west aligned ditch (**303**) measuring 2.2m wide and 0.58m deep and had a slightly asymmetrical u-shaped profile. It contained three fills (**304**, **305** and **306**) but produced no finds. The form of the ditch is suggestive of a pre-historic origin, perhaps Bronze Age rather than Iron Age.

Trench 5 (Figs 2 & 4)

- 5.5 **Trench 5** contained the shallow remnants of a linear feature (**503/505**) that was inconsistent in width but followed the alignment of the ridge running up the western edge of the site. At its greatest extent the feature (**503/505**) was over 1m wide and 0.06m in thickness. It had an imperceptible break of slope. It has been identified as a partially eroded lynchet associated with possible terracing of the site.

6. THE FINDS

By Katie Marsden

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

Pottery

- 6.2 Two small and featureless sherds (2g) of pottery were recorded from tree throw **205** (fill **206**). Both occur in South East Wiltshire sandy fabrics, dateable from the 12th to 14th centuries.

Other finds

- 6.3 A total of eight items (165g) of flint, all flakes for which close dating is not possible, was recorded from three deposits (**100**, **201** and **206**).
- 6.4 Two fragments (20g) of ceramic building material (CBM) were recorded from two deposits. A fragment of glazed ridge tile was recorded from subsoil **201**, dateable to the medieval period. A small fragment (1g) occurring in an unglazed sandy fabric from tree throw **205** (fill **206**) is not closely dateable.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal Bone

- 7.1 A single animal bone (3g) was recovered from deposit **206**, the fill of tree throw **205**. The bone was very poorly preserved and unidentifiable to species. No useful interpretative data was obtained and it is more than likely that the fragment is residual in nature.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the site due to previous finds of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano British artefacts in the vicinity, the only archaeological features identified during the course of the evaluation were a single undated ditch and a possible lynchet. However, as indicated above, the ditch, in view of its form, maybe of Bronze Age origin.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jeremy Clutterbuck, assisted by Emily Stynes and Nida Bhunnoo. The report was written by Jeremy Clutterbuck and Ray Kennedy. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Katie Marsden. The illustrations were prepared by Tilia Cammegh. The archive has been compiled by Andrew Donald, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Greatorex.

10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Land off Neal Close, Bishopsdown Farm, Salisbury, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CgMs 2015, *Land off Neal Close, Bishopsdown Farm, Salisbury, Wiltshire, Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*

ClfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) 2014 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Reading)

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No	Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable silty clay with occasional subangular flint inclusions	19.2	1.8	0.14
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown friable clayey silt with occasional sub angular flint and chalk inclusions	19.2	1.8	0.22
1	102	Layer		Natural	Chalk with occasional large flints	19.2	1.8	>0.12
1	103	Cut		Tree Throw	Irregular shallow pitted feature	>0.83	>0.3	0.12
1	104	Fill	103	Secondary Fill	Mid to dark brown clayey silt	>0.83	>0.3	0.12
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid to dark friable clayey silt with fine rooting throughout. Occasional sub angular flint and chalk	20.1	1.9	0.25
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid to light brown friable clayey silt, natural chalk rubble and small natural flint inclusions	20.1	1.9	0.23
2	202	Layer		Natural	Compact chalk	20.1	1.9	>0.14
2	203	Cut		Tree Throw	Irregular shallow pitted feature	>0.96	>0.76	0.22
2	204	Fill	203	Secondary Fill	Mid to dark brown clayey silt	>0.96	>0.76	0.22
2	205	Cut		Tree Throw	Irregular shallow pitted feature	>1.7	0.55	0.27
2	206	Fill	205	Secondary Fill	Mid to dark brown clayey silt	>1.7	0.55	0.27
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable silty clay with occasional subangular flint inclusions	20	1.8	0.11
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown friable clayey silt	20	1.8	0.37
3	302	Layer		Natural	Compact chalk	20	1.8	>0.05
3	303	Cut		Boundary Ditch	Asymmetrical u-shaped ditch with moderate break of slope and flat base orientated east/west	>2	2.28	0.58
3	304	Fill	303	Tertiary Fill	Light brown silty clay with 10% sub rounded ≤150mm flint and 1% chalk	>2	1.67	0.27
3	305	Fill	303	Primary Fill	Light brown silty clay with 50% chalk and 5% ≤80mm sub angular flint	>2	2.28	0.37
3	306	Fill	303	Secondary Fill	Light brown silty clay with 1% ≤40mm sub angular flint and chalk	>2	1.04	0.19
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable silty clay with occasional subangular flint inclusions	20	1.8	0.12
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown friable clayey silt	20	1.8	0.25
4	402	Layer		Natural	Compact chalk	20	1.8	>0.12
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable silty clay with occasional subangular flint inclusions	21	1.8	0.16
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown friable clayey silt	21	1.8	0.43
5	502	Layer		Natural	Compact chalk	21	1.8	>0.03
5	503	Cut		Lynchet	Shallow linear feature with inconsistent width and gradual break of slope	>15	>0.5	0.04

5	504	Fill	503	Primary Fill	Light yellowish brown clayey silt with moderate chalk	>15	>0.5	0.04
5	505	Cut		Lynchet	Shallow linear feature with inconsistent width and gradual break of slope	>15	>0.87	0.06
5	506	Fill	505	Primary Fill	Light yellowish brown clayey silt with moderate chalk	>15	>0.87	0.06

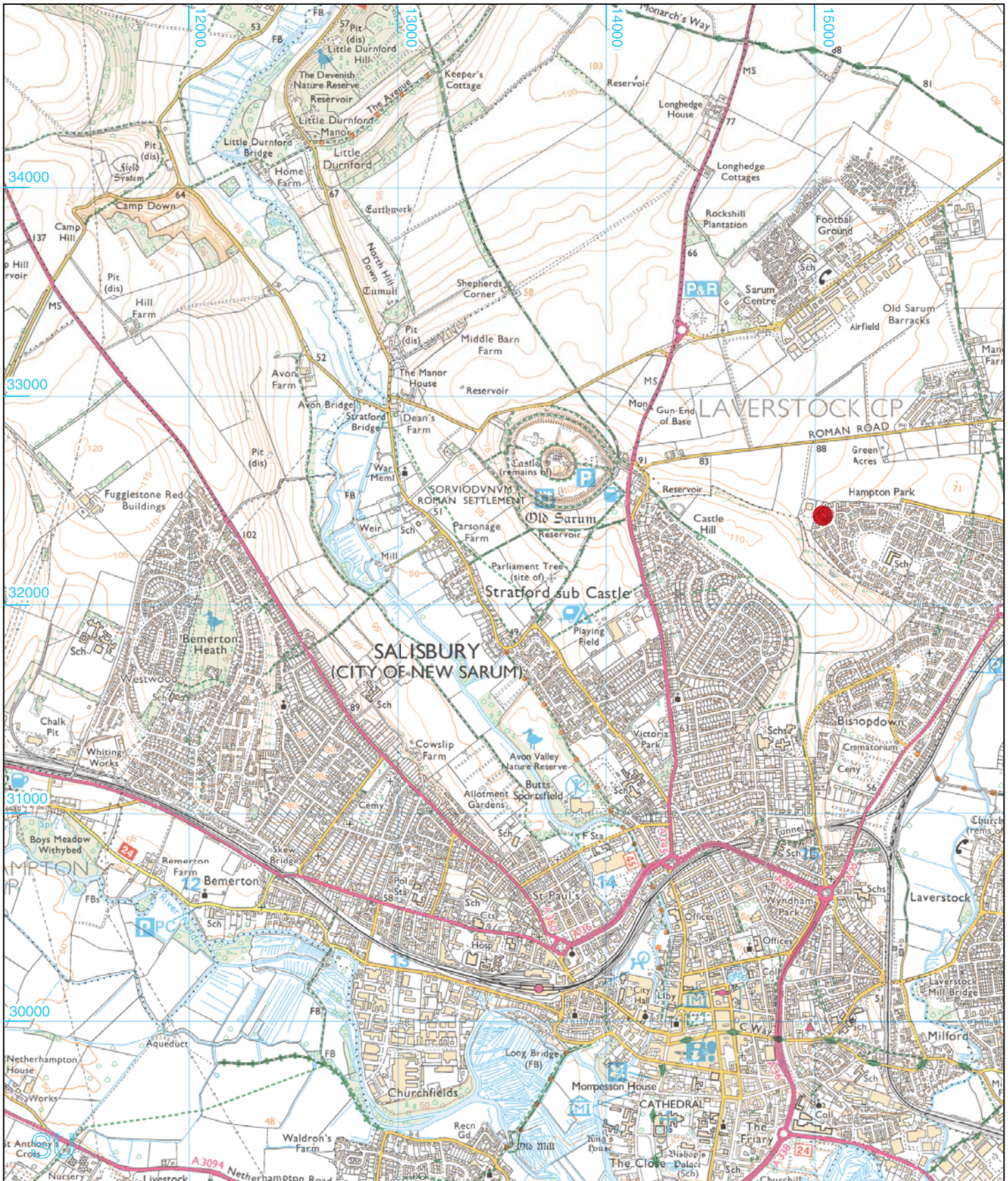
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Class	Description	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
100	Flint	flakes	5	40	
201	Flint	flake	1	4	
	CBM	ridge tile	1	19	med
206	medieval pottery	SE Wilts	2	2	C12-C14
	CBM		1	1	
	Flint	flakes	2	121	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	Land off Neal Close, Bishopsdown Farm
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2016 at Land off Neal Close, Bishopsdown Farm, Salisbury, Wiltshire. Five trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The trenches were distributed across the proposed development in order to assess the archaeological potential across as wide an area as possible. Despite the low to moderate potential for Neolithic archaeology and moderate to high potential for Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano British archaeology, no strong evidence was found for any specific period.</p> <p>Trench 3 contained one linear, an undated boundary ditch. It was orientated in an east/west direction and located on the southern edge of the site, perpendicular to the ridge of higher ground bounding the western edge of the site. Within Trench 5 were the shallow remnants of a potential lynchet which respected the alignment of the ridge and suggested evidence of terracing within the site.</p> <p>The remaining three trenches revealed no archaeological finds, features or deposits.</p>
Project dates	27 – 28 September 2016
Project type	Evaluation
Previous work	No previous work on the site
Future work	Unknown
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	Bishopsdown Farm, Salisbury, Wiltshire
Study area (M ² /ha)	1.1 ha
Site co-ordinates	SU 1497 3247
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Brief originator	Clare King, Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Manager	Richard Greatorex
Project Supervisor	Jeremy Clutterbuck
MONUMENT TYPE	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) Salisbury and South Wilts Museum
Physical	Worked and burnt flint, bone and pottery
Paper	Context sheets, matrices
Digital	Archaeology database
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Database, digital photos

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Land off Neal Close, Bishopsdown Farm, Salisbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA typescript Report: 16548



● Site location



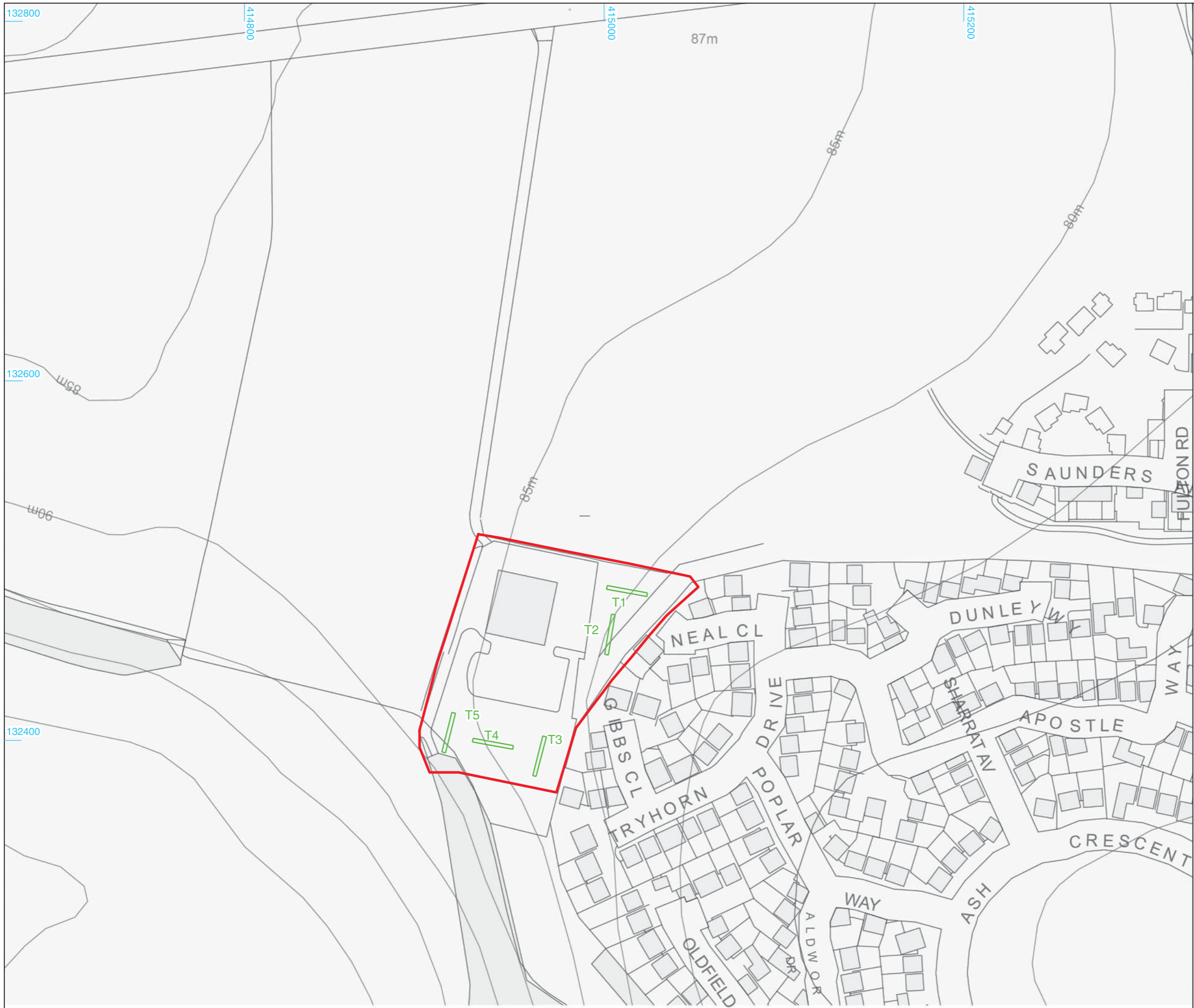
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PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Neal Close, Bishopsdown Farm
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FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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DRAWN BY	TC	PROJECT NO.	770457	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	12/10/2016	
APPROVED BY	JC	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1



- Site area
- Evaluation trench



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Neal Close, Bishopsdown Farm
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan

DRAWN BY	TC	PROJECT NO.	770457	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	12/10/16	2
APPROVED BY	JC	SCALE @A3	1:2000	

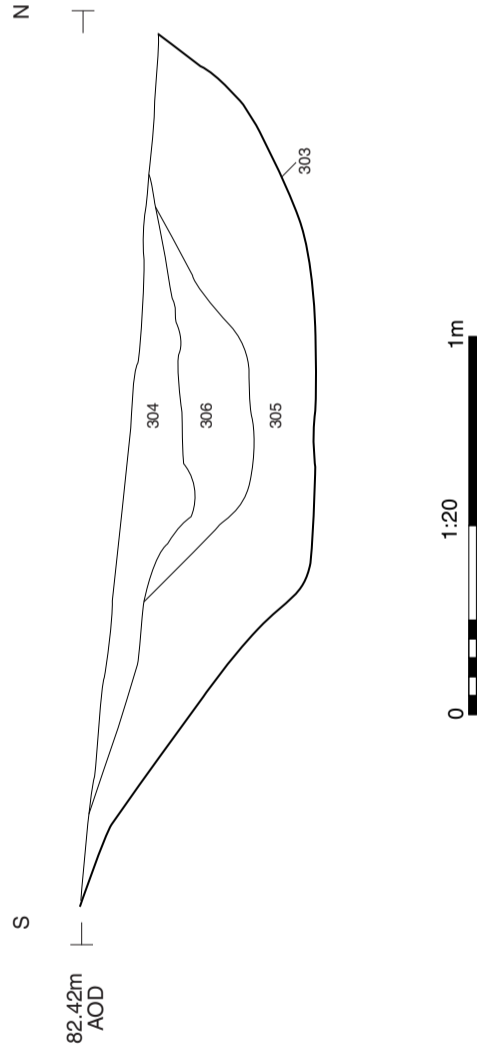


Plan of trench 3 (2m)



East facing section of 303 (2m)

Section AA





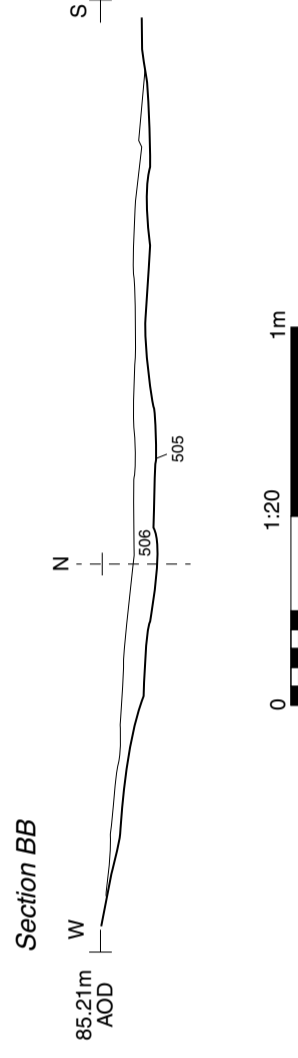
South facing section of lynchet 505 showing substantial subsoil 501 at the foot of the ridge (2m)



Plan of trench 5 (2m)



West facing section of lynchet 505 (2m)



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