

# Land North-West of Malmesbury Malmesbury Wiltshire

*Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
Persimmon Homes Wessex

CA Project: 5984  
CA Report: 17150

March 2017



# Land North-West of Malmesbury, Malmesbury, Wiltshire

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**CONTENTS**

SUMMARY .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	3
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
4. METHODOLOGY.....	5
5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-9).....	6
6. THE FINDS .....	9
7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE .....	11
8. DISCUSSION.....	12
9. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	14
10. REFERENCES.....	14
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS .....	17
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS.....	20
APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE.....	22
APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM .....	23

**LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS**

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing archaeological features and results of the geophysical survey (1:2,500)
- Fig. 3 Trenches 1-4 showing archaeological features and results of the geophysical survey (1:1000)
- Fig. 4 Trench 1: section (1:20) and photograph
- Fig. 5 Trench 2: sections (1:20) and photographs
- Fig. 6 Trench 2: sections (1:20) and photographs
- Fig. 7 Trench 3: sections (1:20) and photographs
- Fig. 8 Trench 3: section (1:20) and photograph
- Fig. 9 Trench 14: section (1:20) and photograph

## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land North-West of Malmesbury
<b>Location:</b>	Malmesbury, Wiltshire
<b>NGR:</b>	ST 9270 8115
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	27 February to 8 March 2017
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	16/06401/FUL
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum
<b>Site Code:</b>	NWM 17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February and March 2017 on land North-West of Malmesbury, Malmesbury, Wiltshire. Nineteen trenches were excavated.

The evaluation verified the presence of ditched enclosures of Roman date that had previously been identified by geophysical survey and confirmed that they were largely confined to a plateau of well drained ground that was slightly higher than the surrounding area. The recovered dating evidence suggests that they date from the 2nd to 4th-century AD.

A ditch of Middle to Late Bronze Age date was present in the eastern half of the site and contained a loom-weight fragment and small quantity of worked flint flakes.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February and March 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Persimmon Homes Wessex on land North-West of Malmesbury, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: ST 9270 8115; Fig. 1). An application for development of the site, including a proposed access road, has been made to Wiltshire County Council (ref: 16/06401/FUL, 14/02971/OUT) and a programme of archaeological works recommended by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016a) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger the archaeological advisor to Wiltshire Council. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), and was monitored by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, including a site visit on 3 March 2017.

### **The site**

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 12.7ha in extent. It is located on the northern outskirts of the town of Malmesbury, Wiltshire, lying south-west of the B4014 Tetbury Road. It is situated across agricultural fields, currently under pasture, and occupies an area of land between the extant Dyson factory (to the north) and the River Avon, which forms the southern site boundary.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Kellaways Clay Member – Mudstone within the northern portion of the site, and Cornbrash Formation – Limestone within the southern portion. Both bedrock types are of the Jurassic era (BGS 2016). This correlated well with the natural substrate observed throughout the evaluation trenches.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Two desk-based assessments have previously been produced for the site (CA 2013 and 2016b). In addition, the application area has also been subject to a geophysical survey (Stratascan 2015).

- 2.2 The assessments noted that although there are no confirmed prehistoric features within the site or the immediate area, cropmarks have been recorded in the fields to the east, suggesting the survival of two ring ditches, possibly Bronze Age round barrows (CA 2013 and 2016b).
- 2.3 Evidence for Roman activity was identified immediately north-west of the current application area (in close proximity to the proposed access road) during archaeological works undertaken on land off Tetbury Hill in 2014 (see Figs 2 & 3). Initially a geophysical survey revealed a small group of linear anomalies (Stratascan 2014) that evaluation trenching confirmed as four Roman ditches (CA 2014). Subsequent archaeological excavation targeting these features revealed elements of a ditched farmstead settlement of Roman date. Dating of pottery recovered from ditch fills enabled four distinct phases of settlement development to be identified, extending from the later 1st to the mid-3rd centuries AD. A later phase of activity was indicated by 4th-century material associated with possible industrial waste (CA 2015).
- 2.4 In the wider landscape, an extensive Roman settlement has been recorded by geophysical survey approximately 1.5km to the east of the site, and cropmark sites have been recorded around a Roman town south-east of Easton Grey, to the south-west of the application area. The Fosse Way, which linked the large Roman settlements of Bath (*Aquae Sulis*) and Cirencester (*Corinium*), passes 2.3km to the west of the site (CA 2013 and 2016b).
- 2.5 Evidence of medieval or early post-medieval agricultural activity within the site and its environs is present in the form of ridge and furrow cultivation earthworks (*ibid.*).
- 2.6 The preceding geophysical survey undertaken throughout the current proposed development area recorded a complex of anomalies, including probable enclosures and pits, within the western area of the site (Stratascan 2015). These are adjacent to the Roman enclosure(s) previously recorded at the Tetbury Hill site and most probably represent the remains of the associated Roman settlement. Similar features may continue to the south-west, beyond the current site (*ibid.*).

### 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 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable Wiltshire County 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 fieldwork initially comprised the excavation of 17 trenches, each measuring 50m in length by 1.8m in width in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Following on-site consultation with Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, Trench 14 was extended to the west by approximately 9m by 6m and two contingency trenches (Trenches 18 &19, both 50m in length) were excavated. 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* but 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 Wiltshire Heritage Museum 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 2-9)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and palaeoenvironmental evidence are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.
- 5.2 A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was identified throughout the site, with the natural substrate being sealed by subsoil, which varied in depth between 0.05m and 0.6m, which was in turn sealed by the existing topsoil. No archaeological features were identified in Trenches 4-8, 10-13, 15-16 and 18-19. Furrows cutting the natural substrate were identified in Trenches 2, 9, 12 and 17. Surviving ridge and furrow cultivation, clearly visible in relief, was identified in Trenches 1, 5 and 6 although the associated furrows did not penetrate into the natural substrate. All observed archaeological features cut the natural substrate and were sealed by subsoil.

### ***Trench 1 (Figs 2-4)***

- 5.3 Natural substrate 1002 comprised a stony clay and was cut by ditch 1003 (Fig. 4, Section AA) which lay on an east-west alignment. It measured 1.03m in width and at least 0.4m in depth, although safety concerns and the rapid ingress of water prevented excavation of the feature to its base. It contained a single silty clay fill, 1004, from which no artefactual material was recovered. It was sealed by sandy clay subsoil 1001 which measured up to 0.6m in depth and represented remnant ridge material associated with the extant ridge and furrow cultivation.

### ***Trench 2 (Figs 2, 3 & 5-6)***

- 5.4 Ditch 2009 (Fig. 5, Section CC) lay towards the northern extent of Trench 2 on a north-east/south-west alignment and contained a single silty clay fill, 2008, from which no artefactual material was recovered. It was re-cut as ditch 2007 (Fig. 5, Section CC) which lay on the same alignment and measured 1.6m in width and 0.39m in depth. The later ditch contained primary silty clay fill 2006 which was sealed by a second silty clay fill, 2005, which derived from gradual silting and weathering of the open ditch and from which six small sherds of Roman pottery of 2nd to 4th-century date and a small quantity of animal bone was recovered. The

location and alignment of ditches 2009 and 2007 corresponded to a large recti-linear geophysical anomaly indicative of an enclosure.

- 5.5 Ditch 2017 (Fig. 6, Section FF) lay approximately 2m to the south of ditches 2009 and 2007 on a parallel alignment. It measured 0.97m in width, 0.31m in depth and contained a single silty clay fill, 2016, from which no artefactual material was recovered. The ditch had an irregular profile suggestive of several re-cuts although this was not reflected in the fill sequence. The location of the ditch did not correspond to any anomaly identified by geophysical survey although an unexcavated ditch which lay immediately to the south corresponded to a recti-linear anomaly.
- 5.6 Ditch terminus 2004 (Fig. 5, Section BB) lay towards the centre of the trench on a north-east/south-west alignment. It measured 1m in width, 0.22m in depth and had steeply sloped sides with a flat base. It contained single silty clay fill 2003 which had formed through a combination of weathering, silting and refuse disposal in the ditch. Eighteen sherds of Roman pottery of 2nd to 4th-century date and a small quantity of animal bone, including a fragment of cattle scapula that exhibited heavy chop marks associated with cleaver based butchery, were recovered from this fill. The location of this ditch terminus correlated to the end of a linear geophysical anomaly.
- 5.7 Ditch 2013 (Fig. 6, Section DD) lay towards the southern extent of Trench 2 on a broadly north-south alignment. It measured 1.25m in width, 0.52m in depth and contained a single dark grey brown silty clay fill, 2012, from which a quantity of broadly dated Roman pottery, a small quantity of animal bone and stone rubble was recovered. The dark colour of the fill was suggestive of refuse disposal in the open ditch, the location of which corresponded to the projected course of linear geophysical anomalies which lay to the north and south.
- 5.8 Posthole 2015 (Fig. 6, Section EE) identified in the southern half of the trench, measured 0.41m in diameter, 0.22m in depth with near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained single silty clay fill 2014, with occasional limestone gravel inclusions, from which 13 sherds of 2nd to 4th-century date Roman pottery and a small quantity of animal bone was recovered.

- 5.9 In addition to the unexcavated ditch immediately to the south of ditch 2017, three other unexcavated linear features were identified in Trench 2. The location of one of these features corresponded with a linear geophysical anomaly.

#### ***Trench 3 (Figs 2-3 & 7-8)***

- 5.10 Ditch 3006 (Fig. 7, Section HH) lay towards the northern extent of the trench on a north-east/south-west alignment and corresponded to a linear geophysical anomaly. It measured 0.55m in width, 0.24m in depth and had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single dark black grey silt clay fill, 3007, from which a small quantity of animal bone and 13 sherds of late 2nd to 4th-century Roman pottery was recovered. Ditch 3008 (Fig. 7, Section HH) lay immediately to the north on a parallel alignment and measured 0.7m in width and 0.24m in depth. It had a comparable profile to that of ditch 3006 and contained a very similar fill, 3009, from which eight sherds of 2nd to 4th-century Roman pottery and a small quantity of animal bone were recovered. Although these two ditches were intercutting no relationship could be determined due to the similarity in fills.
- 5.11 Ditch 3003 (Fig. 7, Section GG) lay at the southern extent of Trench 3 on a north-east/south-west alignment and corresponded to recti-linear geophysical anomaly which denoted an enclosure. It measured 1.79m in width, 0.78m in depth and had steeply sloped sides and a rounded base. It contained primary stony clay fill 3004, from which a single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered. This was sealed by a second stony clay fill, 3005, from which seven sherds of broadly dated Roman pottery and a small quantity of animal bone was recovered. The high stone content of both fills is suggestive of the deliberate dumping into an open ditch.
- 5.12 Shallow undated pit/posthole 3011 (Fig. 8, Section II) lay towards the centre of Trench 3 and contained a single silty clay fill, 3010, from which no artefactual material was recovered.
- 5.13 Two further unexcavated ditches, both corresponding to linear geophysical anomalies, were identified in the trench but were not excavated.

#### ***Trench 4 (Figs 2 -3)***

- 5.14 A linear geophysical anomaly located towards the centre of the trench was investigated and shown to be a geological feature. No archaeological features were

identified within the trench, however, eight sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery were recovered from subsoil 4001.

#### **Trench 14 (Figs 2 & 9)**

- 5.15 Ditch 14003 (Fig. 9, Section JJ) lay towards the centre of Trench 14 on an approximate north-east/south-west alignment and corresponded to a linear geophysical anomaly. The ditch measured 0.8m in width, 0.6m in depth and had steeply sloping sides and a pointed base. It contained a single stony clay fill, 14004, from which two small sherds of pottery of probable Middle to Late Bronze Age date, a broadly contemporary fired clay loom-weight fragment and two worked flint flakes were recovered. Excavation identified a terminus to the ditch within the trench, approximately 4m to the east of the location suggested by the geophysical survey. A westward extension to the trench further confirmed the alignment of the ditch and indicated that it was not segmented.

#### **Trench 18 (Figs 2-3)**

- 5.16 A discrete geophysical anomaly located towards the centre of the trench was investigated and shown to be a geological feature. No archaeological features were identified within the trench and two linear geophysical anomalies which lay immediately to the west were not identified within the trench.

## **6. THE FINDS**

- 6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from 11 deposits (mostly ditch fills but also a posthole fill, a furrow fill and subsoil). The recovered material dates to the prehistoric and Roman periods. Quantities of the artefact types are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Recording also included form/rim morphology and a note of any evidence for use in the form of carbonised/other residues. Roman pottery fabric codes, in parenthesis in the text, are equated where possible to those used at the adjacent excavation at Tetbury Hill, Malmesbury, as defined by McSloy (2015). Where applicable, National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes are also given in Appendix B (Tomber and Dore 1998).

*Pottery: Early prehistoric*

- 6.2 Subsoil 4001 within Trench 4 produced eight sherds (74g) in a shell-tempered fabric (SH). These were joining sherds with fresh breaks and moderately good surface preservation. The good condition of this material is surprising especially given the nature of the context, and it seems likely that the sherds have been recently displaced from a sealed archaeological deposit although none were identified in the immediate vicinity. The rim had a flattened top and the body featured a low, pinched cordon with fingernail slashing. These features allow this pottery to be identified as belonging to the Deverel-Rimbury tradition of the Middle Bronze Age, c. 1700-1150 BC (Needham 1996). The form in this instance appears to be a straight-sided 'bucket' urn, a class typical for this tradition. Two unfeatured bodysherds in a shell-and-limestone tempered fabric (SHLS), from fill 14004 of ditch 14003 most probably date to the Middle to Late Bronze Age.

*Late prehistoric*

- 6.3 Pottery from this date range, which spans the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age, comprised two sherds. A sherd in a calcite-tempered fabric, from fill 2014 of posthole 2015, is likely to be of Middle to Late Iron Age date. A sherd in a shell-and-limestone tempered fabric from fill 2003 of ditch 2004 can only be broadly dated to this period.

*Roman*

- 6.4 A total of 121 sherds (871g) of Roman pottery was recovered. The average sherd weight was low at 7g, indicating a well broken-up assemblage. However, most sherds were in moderate to good condition in terms of abrasion and surface preservation. The majority (61%) are coarsewares of local manufacture and of broad Roman date: North Wiltshire reduced (WIL RE) and oxidised (WIL OX) wares, in addition to black-firing, sand-tempered fabrics (LOC BS) and greywares (GW3, GW4). Identifiable forms in the greyware fabrics were necked jars and a bead-rim (neckless) jar. Included in fabric WIL OX was a rimsherd from a tankard from fill 2012 of ditch 2013. Five sherds of micaceous greyware (MIC GW) were also recorded, a type which typically dates to the 3rd to 4th centuries.

- 6.5 Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware (DOR BB1) was represented by 34 sherds. This ware type, manufactured near Poole in Dorset, is dateable to the 2nd to 4th centuries when found outside the production area (Davies *et al.* 1994, 107). Included were rimsherds from everted rim jars and a (Seager Smith and Davies)

Type 20 plain rim dish – the latter was retrieved from fill 3007 of ditch 3006 and dates to the late 2nd to 4th centuries (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 232–3).

- 6.6 A bodysherd of south Gaulish samian (LGF SA), which was imported during the mid 1st to early 2nd centuries (Webster 1996, 2–3), was recorded from fill 2012 of 2013.

#### *Lithics*

- 6.7 Two worked flint flakes were retrieved from fill 14004 of ditch 14003. Neither was chronologically diagnostic and the moderate degree of edge damage suggests they may be residual in this deposit.

#### *Other finds*

- 6.8 A perforated fired clay fragment, also from ditch fill 14004, derives from a loom-weight, probably of cylindrical form. This type was in use during the Middle to Late Bronze Age. The fabric was moderately hard fired, pale orange in colour with a mid grey core and contained fine quartz sand inclusions.
- 6.9 Fill 2012 within ditch 2013 produced a fragment of stone roof tile of probable Roman date.
- 6.10 A fragment from a small, bent strip of iron (3g), of uncertain form and date, was also recorded from ditch fill 2012.

## 7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

#### *Animal Bone*

- 7.1 Animal bone amounting to 37 fragments (1002g) was recovered from eight deposits dating to the Roman period and one that remains undated. The bone was generally well preserved making possible the identification of cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) and pig (*Sus scrofa sp.*). Each of the species identified were represented mainly by meat-poor skeletal elements such as teeth or bones of the lower legs and feet.

#### *Roman*

- 7.2 Thirty six fragments (892g) were recovered from the fills of six ditches and one pit, associated with the Roman activity identified in Trenches 2 and 3 in the western

area of the site. Cattle, sheep/goat and pig were identified as stated above, by mainly meat-poor skeletal elements, although meat-rich elements such as fragments of the scapula and the femur were also present. Evidence of butchery, in the form of heavy chop marks, was seen on a cattle scapula recovered from fill 2003 of ditch 2004. In addition, many of the fragments bore impact damage associated with heavy, cleaver based butchery. The combination of these factors is highly indicative of the waste from primary and secondary butchery i.e. the separation of a carcass into smaller more manageable units, which are then divided into actual cuts of meat.

#### ***Undated***

- 7.3 A single fragment (110g) was recovered from fill 2016 of ditch 2017 which remains artefactually undated. It was identified as a fragment of maxilla or upper jaw of a cow.

### **8. DISCUSSION**

- 8.1 The evaluation has confirmed that the Roman activity, principally Roman enclosure ditches, identified during preceding archaeological works continue through the western part of the current site and within the southern extent of the proposed access road. The evaluation has also shown that it is unlikely that contemporary activity continues to the east of Trench 3.
- 8.2 In general there was good correlation in Trenches 2, 3 and 14 between linear geophysical anomalies and the results of the evaluation. The linear feature identified in Trench 1 was not identified by geophysical survey, although it was most probably masked by the overlying extant ridge and furrow. Linear geophysical anomalies targeted by Trenches 11, 13, 14 and 16 were not identified during the course of the evaluation suggesting these two anomalies may only have been present within the topsoil or subsoil. It is noteworthy that extant ridge and furrow was visible in the vicinity of Trenches 11, 13 and 14 but the furrows were not visible in either plan or section.

#### ***Bronze Age***

- 8.3 The evaluation identified evidence for limited Bronze Age activity within the site. Ditch 14003, within Trench 14, contained artefactual material of this date although no further contemporary features were identified within the vicinity. The seemingly

isolated, narrow but comparatively deep nature of the ditch suggested a function other than that of a simple boundary and/or drainage ditch. The possibility of the ditch being segmented was suggested by the presence of a ditch terminus within the trench, however the extension of trench to the west seemed to disprove this.

- 8.4 The possibility of further Bronze Age activity in the western part of the site was suggested by the recovery of Bronze Age pottery from subsoil 4001 in Trench 4 although it is likely the intense Roman activity in this area may have adversely affected the survival of earlier remains.

#### **Roman**

- 8.5 The intensity of activity in the western part of the site, as suggested by the geophysical survey, was confirmed by the Roman features identified in Trenches 2 and 3. These were located on a slight plateau which continued to the south-west and represented a prime location given the well-drained limestone gravel natural substrate present in both trenches. By contrast, the natural substrate in both Trenches 1 and 4 was clay rich and poorly drained. Trenches 2 and 3 both lay at approximately 85.10m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) whilst by contrast, Trench 4 lay at approximately 83.70m AOD.
- 8.6 The ditches identified in Trenches 2 and 3, when considered in conjunction with the linear and recti-linear anomalies identified by the preceding geophysical survey, are indicative of enclosures representing a farmstead settlement. The presence in both trenches of re-cut ditches indicates that these enclosures were maintained. The presence of several previously unidentified ditches, and at least one posthole in Trench 2 indicates that activity identified in this part of the current site was more intensive than that suggested by the geophysical survey alone.
- 8.7 The likely proximity of settlement was indicated by the quantity of pottery recovered from the features excavated in Trenches 2 and 3 which was more than would perhaps be expected if the enclosures identified by geophysics represented just agricultural activity. In addition, a fragment of stone roof tile was recovered from fill 2012 of ditch 2013 which also contained several stone rubble inclusions.
- 8.8 The dating evidence recovered from the Roman features in Trenches 2 and 3 appears broadly contemporary with that of the 2014 excavation immediately to the

north, although the presence of several pottery fabric types with a broad date range of use precludes more refined dating.

### **Medieval**

- 8.9 The presence of surviving ridge and furrow cultivation attests to the agricultural use of the site throughout the medieval and early-post medieval period. No further However, any other use for the site during this period is unlikely given the lack of recovered artefactual material and the absence of any other medieval features or deposits.

### **Post-medieval/modern**

- 8.10 The linear anomaly targeted, but not identified, by Trench 16 corresponds to a field boundary depicted on the 1840 Tithe Map (CA 2013, Fig. 3) but which had been removed by the time of the 1886 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (Old-Maps 2017).

## **9. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Havard, assisted by Noel Boothroyd, Chris Watts and Holly Young. The report was written by Tim Havard. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Jacky Sommerville and Andy Clarke respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	1000	layer		topsoil	mid orange brown sandy clay	>50	>1.8	0.32	
1	1001	layer		subsoil	mid yellow brown sandy clay	>50	>1.8	0.6 max	
1	1002	layer		natural substrate	mid beige stony clay	>50	>1.8	>0.5	
1	1003	cut		ditch cut	linear aligned E-W, steep sides, base unknown	>1.9	1.03	>0.4	
1	1004	fill	1003	ditch fill	mid yellow brown silty clay	>1.9	1.03	>0.4	
2	2000	layer		topsoil	mid grey brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.2	
2	2001	layer		subsoil	light grey brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.28	
2	2002	layer		natural substrate	mid yellow grey limestone gravel	>50	>1.8	>0.4	
2	2003	fill	2004	ditch fill	mid grey brown silty clay	>1.07	1	0.22	C2-C4
2	2004	cut		ditch cut	linear aligned nw-se, steep sides, flat base	>1.07	1	0.22	
2	2005	fill	2007	2nd fill of ditch	dark grey brown silty clay with frequent limestone gravel	>1.1	1.6	0.35	C2-C4
2	2006	fill	2007	1st fill of ditch	mid brown grey silty clay with frequent limestone gravel	>1.1	0.36	0.05	
2	2007	cut		ditch cut	linear aligned ne-sw, moderately sloped sides, flat base	>1.1	1.6	0.39	
2	2008	fill	2009	ditch fill	mid yellow brown silty clay with frequent limestone gravel	>1.1	0.85	0.31	
2	2009	cut		ditch cut	linear aligned ne-sw, moderately sloped sides, flat base	>1.1	0.85	0.31	
2	2010	fill	2011	furrow fill	mid grey brown silty clay	>1.8	0.81	0.06	RB
2	2011	cut		furrow	linear aligned ne-sw, shallow sides, flat base	>1.8	0.81	0.06	
2	2012	fill	2013	ditch fill	dark grey brown silty clay with occasional irregular stone rubble	>1.8	1.25	0.52	RB
2	2013	cut		ditch cut	linear aligned n/s, moderately sloped sides, concave base	>1.8	1.25	0.52	
2	2014	fill	2015	posthole fill	mid grey brown silty clay with rare limestone gravel inclusions	>0.41	0.42	0.22	C2-C4
2	2015	cut		posthole	circular in plan, near vertical sides and flat base	>0.41	0.42	0.22	
2	2016	fill	2017	ditch fill	mid brown grey silty clay with occasional limestone gravel	>1.8	0.97	0.31	
2	2017	cut		ditch cut	linear in plan, aligned n/s, irregular sides and concave base	>1.8	0.97	0.31	
3	3000	layer		topsoil	as 2000	>50	>1.8	0.21	
3	3001	layer		subsoil	as 2001	>50	>1.8	0.15	
3	3002	layer		natural substrate	orange yellow stony clay	>50	>1.8	>0.4	
3	3003	cut		ditch cut	linear aligned n/s, steep sides, rounded base	>1.8	1.8	0.78	
3	3004	fill	3003	1st fill of ditch	mid brown grey stony clay	>1	0.77	0.3	RB
3	3005	fill	3003	2nd fill of ditch	mid grey brown stony clay	>1	1.8	0.48	RB
3	3006	cut		ditch cut	linear aligned n/s, moderate to steep sides, rounded base	>1.8	0.55	0.24	
3	3007	fill	3006	ditch fill	dark black grey silty clay with rare limestone gravel	>1.8	0.55	0.24	LC2-C4
3	3008	cut		ditch cut	linear, aligned n/s, moderate to steep sides, concave base	>1.8	0.7	0.24	
3	3009	fill	3008	ditch fill	dark black grey silty clay with rare limestone gravel	>1.8	0.7	0.24	C2-C4
3	3010	fill	3010	pit/posthole fill	mid yellow brown silty clay with 20% limestone gravel	0.55	0.46	0.08	
3	3011	cut		pit/posthole cut	oval in plan, shallow sloped sides, irregular base	0.55	0.46	0.08	
4	4000	layer		topsoil	as 2000	>50	>1.8	0.2	

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
4	4001	layer		subsoil	red brown sandy clay with frequent limestone gravel	>50	>1.8	0.25	MBA
4	4002	layer		natural substrate	yellow brown sandy clay and patches of limestone gravel	>50	>1.8	>0.2	
4	4003	fill	4004	geological fill	mid red brown sandy clay	>2.8	2	0.05	
4	4004	cut		geological feature	linear aligned n/s, irregular sides and base	>2.8	2	0.05	
5	5000	layer		topsoil	mid brown grey silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.2	
5	5001	layer		subsoil/ploughed our R+F	mid grey/orange brown silty clay with rare limestone gravel inclusions	>50	>1.8	0.9	
5	5002	layer		natural at NE end of trench	light blue grey clay	>15	>1.8	>0.6	
5	5003	layer		natural substrate	limestone brash and orange brown silty clay	>35	>1.8	>0.3	
6	6000	layer		topsoil	as 5000	>50	>1.8	0.3	
6	6001	layer		subsoil	as 5001	>50	>1.8	0.8	
6	6002	layer		natural substrate	as 5003	>50	>1.8	>0.2	
7	7000	layer		topsoil	as 5000	>50	>1.8	0.3	
7	7001	layer		subsoil	as 5001	>50	>1.8	0.15	
7	7002	layer		natural substrate	limestone brash, changing to orange brown clay towards north end of trench	>50	>1.8	>0.1	
8	8000	layer		topsoil	light grey brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.3	
8	8001	layer		subsoil	mid to dark brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.1 max	
8	8002	layer		natural substrate	mid brown limestone brash with occasional clay pockets	>50	>1.8	>0.1	
9	9000	layer		topsoil	as 8000	>50	>1.8	0.2	
9	9001	layer		subsoil	mid brown sandy clay	>50	>1.8	0.15	
9	9002	layer		natural substrate	mid yellow brown gravelly clay	>50	>1.8	>0.25	
9	9003	cut		furrow	linear aligned ne/sw, shallow sides, flat base	>3.2	1.5	0.06	
9	9004	fill	9003	furrow fill	mid red brown sandy clay	>3.2	1.5	0.06	
9	9005	cut		furrow	linear aligned ne/sw, shallow sides, flat base	>3.6	1.5	0.06	
9	9006	fill	9005	furrow fill	mid red brown sandy clay	>3.6	1.5	0.06	
9	9007	cut		moled field drain	linear aligned nw/se, vertical sides, flat base	>2	0.28	0.19	
9	9008	fill	9007	field drain fill	loose mid brown silty clay with frequent irregular stone	>2	0.28	0.19	
9	9009	cut		moled field drain	linear aligned ne/sw, vertical sides, flat base	>2.45	0.33	0.35	
9	9010	fill	9009	field drain fill	loose mid brown silty clay with frequent irregular stone	>2.45	0.33	0.35	
10	10000	layer		topsoil	as 8000	>50	>1.8	0.3	
10	10001	layer		subsoil	as 8001	>50	>1.8	0.1	
10	10002	layer		natural substrate	mixed limestone brash and gravel with rare clay patches	>50	>1.8	>0.1	
11	11000	layer		topsoil	dark grey brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.2	
11	11001	layer		subsoil	mid red brown sandy clay	>50	>1.8	0.18	
11	11002	layer		natural substrate	yellow brown clay and limestone brash	>50	>1.8	>0.1	
12	12000	layer		topsoil	as 11000	>50	>1.8	0.2	
12	12001	layer		subsoil	as 11001	>50	>1.8	0.16	
12	12002	layer		natural substrate	as 11002	>50	>1.8	>0.1	
13	13000	layer		topsoil	as 14000	>50	>1.8	>0.28	
13	13001	layer		subsoil	as 14001	>50	>1.8	0.2	
13	13002	layer		natural substrate	as 14002	>50	>1.8	>0.1	

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
14	14000	layer		topsoil	dark brown clay silt	>50	>1.8	0.35	
14	14001	layer		subsoil	mid yellow brown sandy clay	>50	>1.8	0.1 max	
14	14002	layer		natural substrate	light yellow sandy clay	>50	>1.8	>0.1	
14	14003	cut		ditch cut	linear aligned ne/sw, steep sides, v-shaped profile and pointed base	>11.7	0.8	0.59	
14	14004	fill	14003	ditch fill	light red brown silty clay with 30% irregular limestone fragments	>11.7	0.8	0.59	MBA-LBA
15	15000	layer		topsoil	dark grey brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.3	
15	15001	layer		natural substrate	light white grey silty limestone gravel	>50	>1.8	>0.1	
16	16000	layer		topsoil	mid grey brown clay silt with occasional limestone fragments	>50	>1.8	0.28	
16	16001	layer		subsoil	light brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.1 max	
16	16002	layer		natural substrate	light brown sandy clay and limestone	>50	>1.8	>0.1	
17	17000	layer		topsoil	as 16000	>50	>1.8	0.3	
17	17001	layer		subsoil	light brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.1 max	
17	17002	layer		natural substrate	mixed light white grey limestone gravel and clay	>50	>1.8	>0.1	
18	18000	layer		topsoil	dark brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.2	
18	18001	layer		subsoil	mid grey brown silty clay with frequent irregular limestone	>50	>1.8	0.3	
18	18002	layer		natural substrate	mid yellow brown gravelly clay and plated limestone bedrock and brush	>50	>1.8	>0.2	
19	19000	layer		topsoil	as 14000	>50	>1.8	0.33	
19	19001	layer		subsoil	as 14001	>50	>1.8	0.1	
19	19002	layer		natural substrate	as 14002	>50	>1.8	>0.1	

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code/ NRFRC*	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
2003	Late prehistoric pottery	Shell-and-limestone tempered fabric	SHLS	1	6	C2-C4
	Roman pottery	Quartz-and-grog tempered fabric	QZGR	1	54	
	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	DOR BB1	16	32	
	Fired clay Burnt flint			12 1	43 10	
2005	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	DOR BB1	2	2	C2-C4
	Roman pottery	North Wiltshire reduced ware	WIL RE	2	3	
	Roman pottery	Micaceous greyware	MIC GW	1	1	
	Roman pottery	Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	LOC BS	1	1	
2010	Roman pottery	North Wiltshire sandy oxidised ware	WIL OX	1	9	RB
2012	Roman pottery	South Gaulish samian	LGF SA	1	3	RB
	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	DOR BB1	4	18	
	Roman pottery	Imitation Black-burnished ware		5	62	
	Roman pottery	Micaceous greyware	MIC GW	3	45	
	Roman pottery	North Wiltshire reduced ware	WIL RE	18	222	
	Roman pottery	South west white-slipped ware	SOW WS	3	31	
	Roman pottery	Fine greyware	LOC GW4	4	36	
	Roman pottery	North Wiltshire sandy oxidised ware	WIL OX	17	125	
	Roman pottery	Whiteware	WHI	1	21	
	Worked stone	Roof tile		1	33	
	Iron	Hook		1	3	
	Industrial waste			1	1	
	Late prehistoric pottery	Calcite-tempered fabric	CAL	1	7	C2-C4
2014	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	DOR BB1	3	7	
	Roman pottery	Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	LOC BS	9	39	
	Roman pottery					
3004	Roman pottery	North Wiltshire reduced ware	WIL RE	1	9	RB
3005	Roman pottery	North Wiltshire reduced ware	WIL RE	1	23	RB
	Roman pottery	Fine greyware	LOC GW4	2	6	
	Roman pottery	North Wiltshire sandy oxidised ware	WIL OX	4	18	
	Fired clay			1	1	
	Roman pottery	Quartz-and-grog tempered fabric	QZGR	1	6	
3007	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	DOR BB1	5	25	LC2-C4
	Roman pottery	North Wiltshire reduced ware	WIL RE	2	9	
	Roman pottery	Micaceous greyware	MIC GW	1	3	
	Roman pottery	North Wiltshire sandy oxidised ware	WIL OX	4	25	
	Fired clay			1	15	
	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	DOR BB1	4	12	
3009	Roman pottery	Quartz-and-grog tempered fabric	QZGR	1	8	
	Roman pottery	Buff/grey fabric with mica	LOC GW3	1	4	
	Roman pottery	North Wiltshire sandy oxidised ware	WIL OX	2	12	
	Roman pottery					
4001	Early prehistoric pottery	Shell-tempered fabric	SH	8	74	MBA

14004	Prehistoric pottery Fired clay Fired clay Worked flint	Shell-and-limestone tempered fabric Loom-weight Flake	SHLS	2 <b>1</b> <b>17</b> 2	3 <b>77</b> <b>69</b> 2	MBA-LBA
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\* National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes in bold

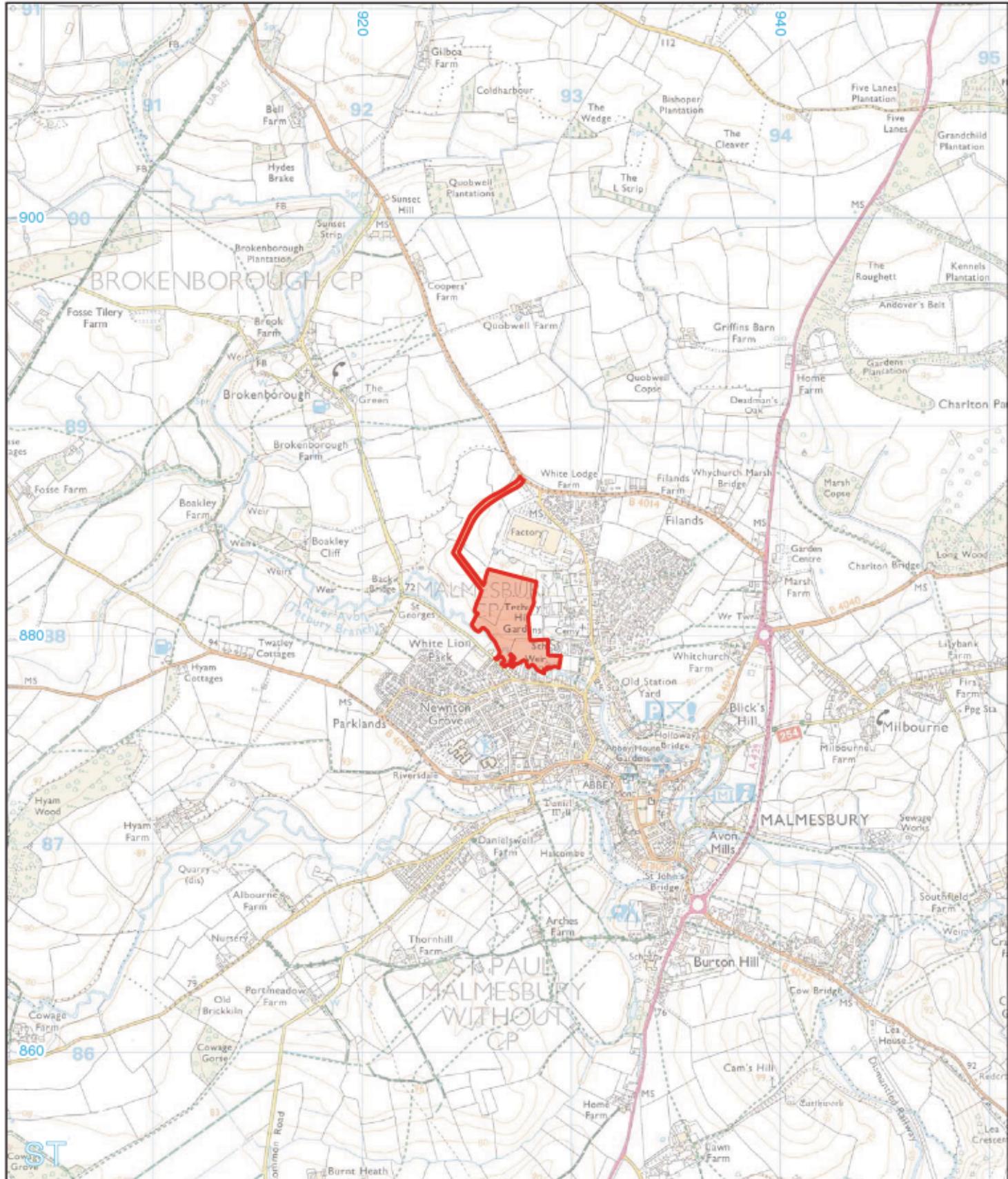
**APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE****Table 1:** Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	SUS	LM	MM	Ind	Total	Weight (g)
<b>Roman</b>									
2004	2003	2	1				1	4	93
2007	2005	2					4	6	253
2013	2012	2	2	1			8	13	297
2015	2014					1		1	6
3003	3004	1			1			2	70
3003	3005	1	1			2		4	33
3007	3007	2					2	4	66
3008	3009	2						2	74
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>892</b>
<b>Undated</b>									
2017	2016	1						1	110
<b>Total</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>37</b>	
<b>Weight</b>		<b>789</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>1002</b>	

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

## APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land North-West of Malmesbury, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February and March 2017 on land North-West of Malmesbury, Malmesbury, Wiltshire. Nineteen trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The evaluation verified the presence of ditched enclosures of Roman date that had previously been identified by geophysical survey and confirmed that they were largely confined to a plateau of well drained ground that was slightly higher than the surrounding area. The recovered dating evidence suggests that they date from the 2nd to 4th-century AD.</p> <p>A ditch of Middle to Late Bronze Age date was present in the eastern half of the site and contained a loom-weight fragment and small quantity of worked flint flakes.</p>	
Project dates	27 February to 8 March 2017	
Project type	Archaeological Evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-base Assessment (CA 2013) Geophysical Survey (Stratascan 2015)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land North-West of Malmesbury (Backbridge Farm), Malmesbury, Wiltshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	12.7ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 9270 8115	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Tim Havard	
MONUMENT TYPE		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
Physical	Intended final location of archive	Content
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Pottery, animal bone Context sheets, digital photo registers, trench recording sheets, permatrace drawings
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Digital photos, survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Land North-West of Malmesbury, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 17150		



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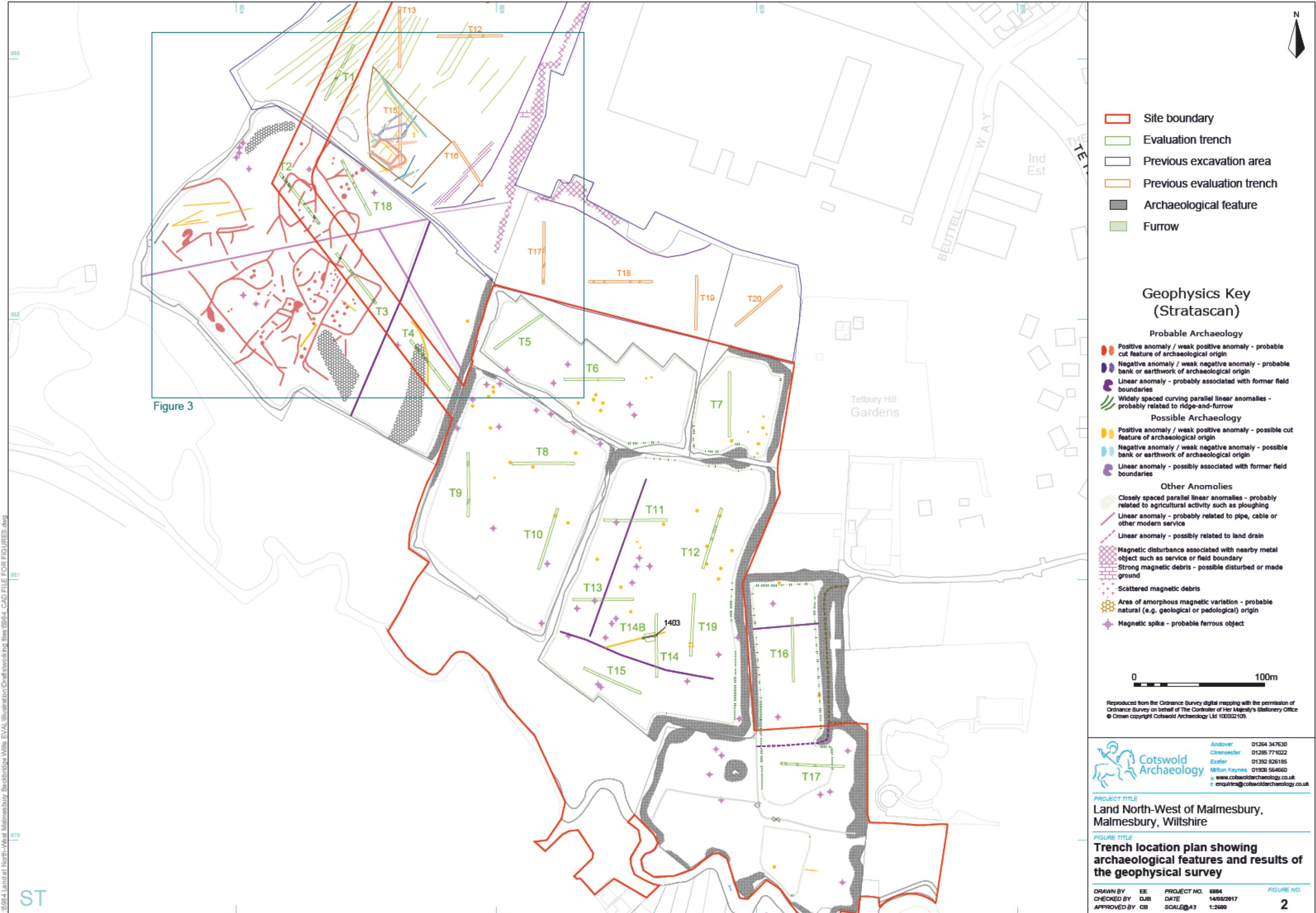
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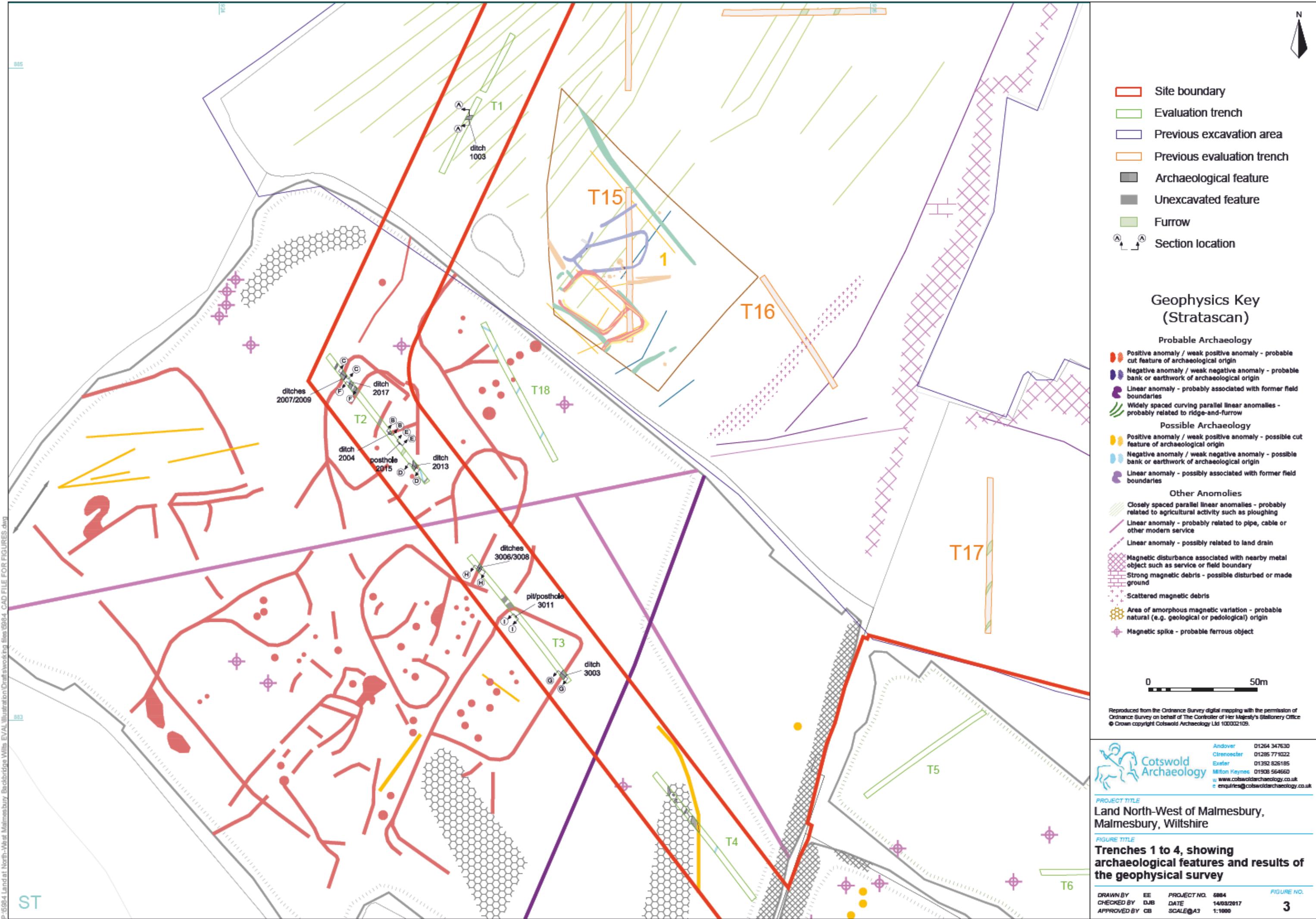
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Malmesbury, Wiltshire

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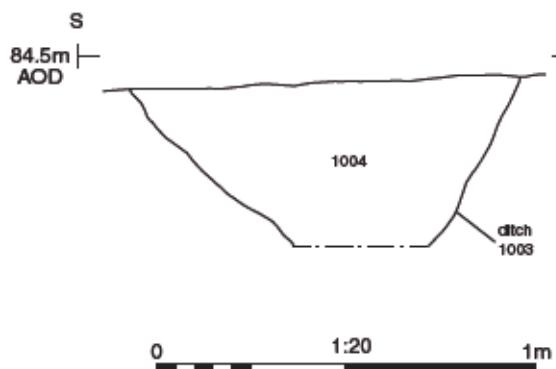
Site location plan

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**Section AA**



Ditch 1003 looking west (1m scale)



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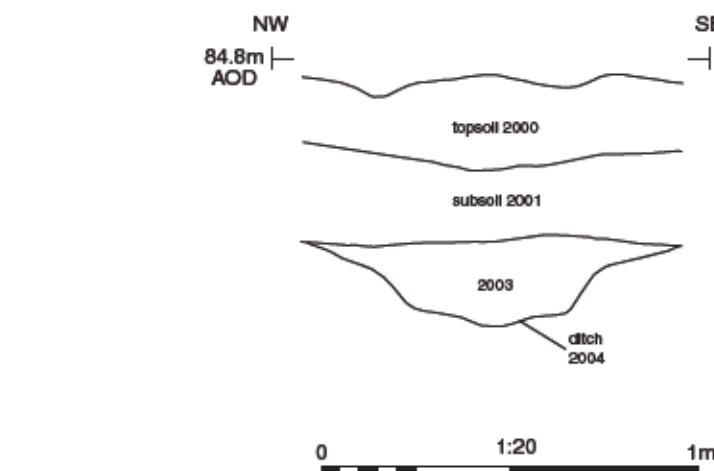
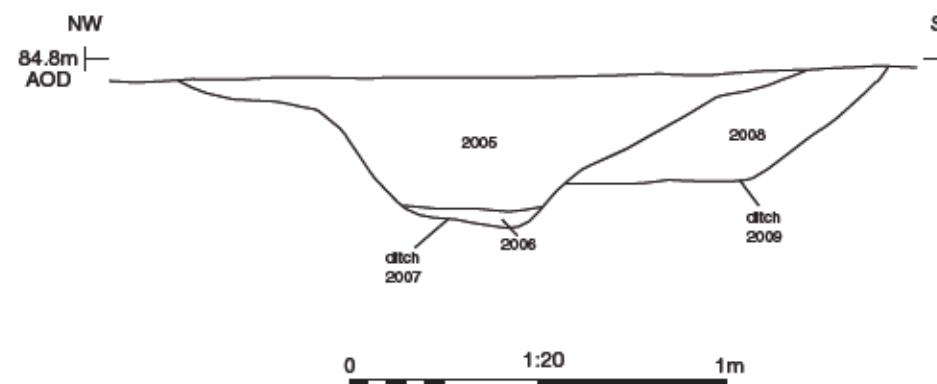
**PROJECT TITLE**

**Land North-West of Malmesbury,  
Malmesbury, Wiltshire**

**FIGURE TITLE**

**Trench 1: section and photograph**

N

*Section BB**Ditch 2004 looking north-east (0.4m scale)**Section CC**Ditches 2007 and 2009 looking north-east (0.4m scale)*

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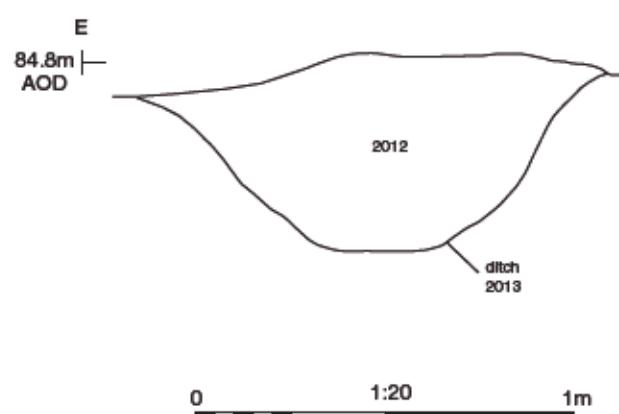
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Land North-West of Malmesbury,  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Trench 2: sections and photographs**

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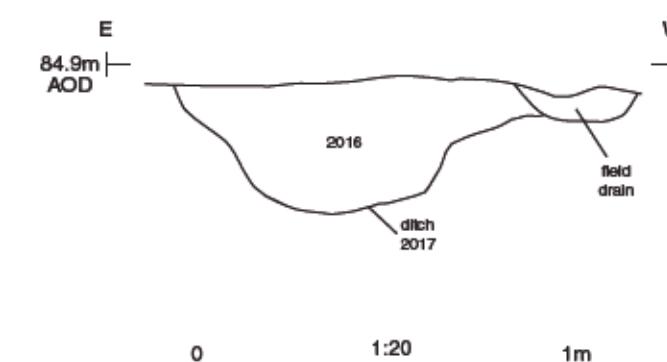
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Section DD



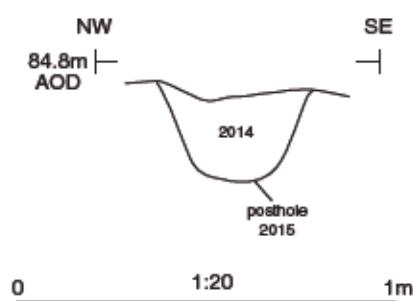
Ditch 2013 looking south (0.4m scale)

Section FF



Ditch 2017 looking south (0.4m scale)

Section EE



Posthole 2015 looking north-east (0.3m scale)

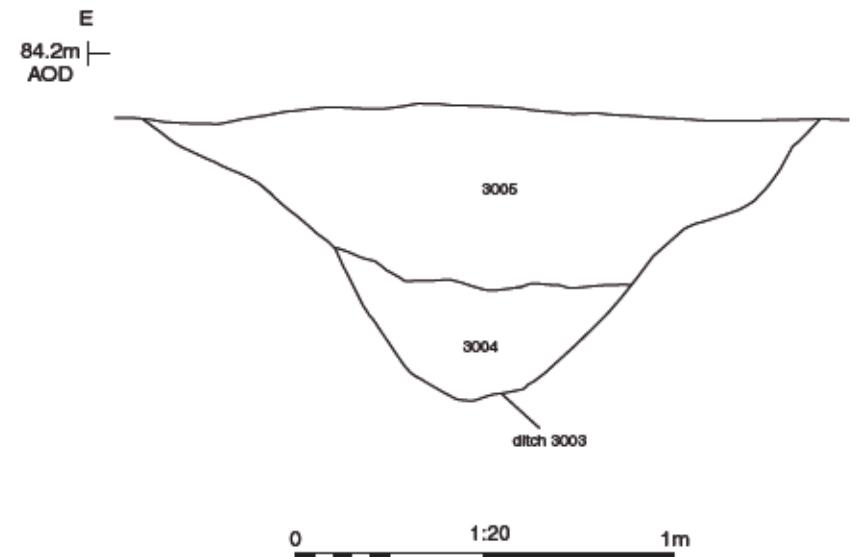
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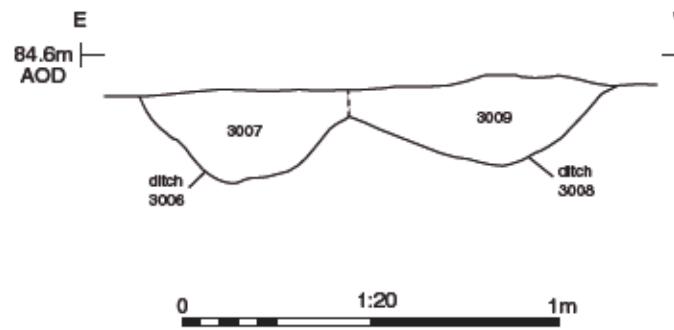
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Trench 2: sections and photographs

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**Section GG**

Ditch 3003 looking south-west (0.4m scale)

**Section HH**

Ditches 3006 and 3008 looking south (0.4m scale)

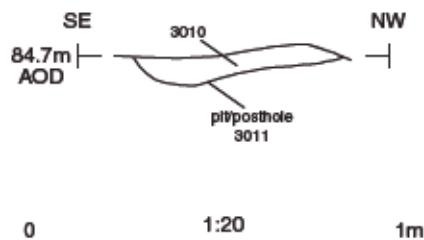
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FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 3: sections and photographs**

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*Section I-I*



*Pit/posthole 3011 looking south-west (0.3m scale)*



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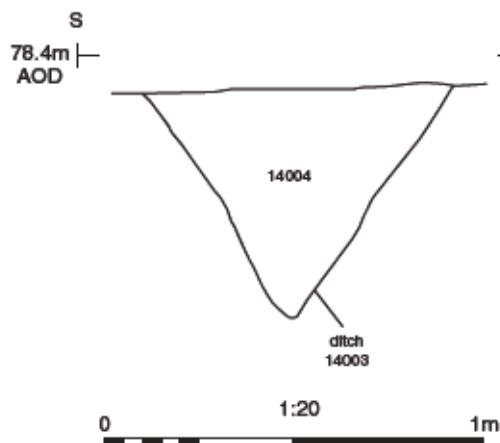
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*FIGURE TITLE*

**Trench 3: section and photograph**

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*Section JJ*



*Ditch 14003 looking west (0.4m scale)*



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**Land North-West of Malmesbury,  
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*FIGURE TITLE*

**Trench 14: section and photograph**



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