Cotswold Archaeology

St Mary's Primary School
Marlborough
Wiltshire

Archaeological Excavation

on behalf of
Kier Construction Central

CA Project: 779022
CA Report: 17107

August 2017

Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes

St Mary's Primary School
Marlborough
Wiltshire

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	St Mary's Primary School
Location:	Marlborough, Wiltshire
NGR:	SU 19140 68780
Type:	Excavation
Date:	19 July to 2 August 2016
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An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology between July and August 2016 on land at St Mary's Primary School, Marlborough, Wiltshire. Two areas were excavated in the eastern part of the development site, which targeted features revealed during a previous archaeological evaluation. The excavation identified three phases of activity occurring between the Late Neolithic and post-medieval periods.

Five pits of Late Neolithic date were uncovered along the southern edge of the site. From these, a large assemblage of pottery and worked flint and two deliberately broken axehead fragments were recovered. The latter were made from stone probably derived from Cornwall and southwest England. The presence of fragments of different axeheads is suggestive of deliberate deposition rather than residual inclusion. The Late Neolithic pottery, the majority of which was recovered from a single pit, included over four hundred sherds representing at least 19 vessels. The pits are probably contemporary with the Marlborough Mound, located 500m to the west. Although there is no provable direct connection between the two sites, it is possible that the pits and their deposits may have been associated with its construction and/or use.

A single possible quarry pit of Anglo-Saxon date was uncovered in the centre of the site. This contributes to the otherwise scant excavated evidence for this period in the Marlborough area. Several areas of post-medieval and modern truncation, resulting from the use of the site as arable field and allotment gardens, were also revealed.

A summary of this report will be submitted for publication in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine*.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July to August 2016, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological investigation of Land at St Mary's Primary School, Marlborough, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 19140 68780; Fig. 1) at the request of CgMs Consulting on behalf of Kier Construction Central.

1.2 Planning permission (16/01263/FUL) for the demolition of existing primary school building and associated structures and the erection of new primary school building, car parking and external landscaping was granted by Wiltshire Council, conditional on a programme of archaeological work. The archaeological condition, consisting of an archaeological strip, map and sample investigation on the eastern area of the site, was recommended by Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council, and was informed by the results of a preceding evaluation (CA 1997).

1.3 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a brief produced by Wiltshire Council (2009) and a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016), approved by Rachel Foster. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2014); the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* and accompanying *PPN3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015a, 2015b). It was monitored by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger and Clare King.

The site

1.4 The development site (hereafter, the Site) as a whole is approximately 0.7ha in extent and is located on the southern edge the town of Marlborough, to the east of the St Mary's Marlborough Primary School. At the time of excavation, the Site comprised three green fields, each separated by a small fence, flanked by Van Diemens Close to the east and by Isbury Road to the south. Residential housing is located to the north, east and south of the Site. The Site lies on sloping ground falling from 138m AOD on the southern extent to 131.6m AOD in the north towards the southern bank of the River Kennet. The ground slopes evenly down to the north apart from a slight terrace, which runs east-west across the centre of the Site.

1.5 The underlying geology is mapped as Lewes Nodular Chalk formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation, which formed 71 to 94 million

years ago in the Cretaceous Period (BGS 2016). Geotechnical borehole investigations undertaken at the site, as well as the preceding archaeological evaluation (CA 1997), indicate that the Upper Chalk bedrock lies at a depth of *c.*1.50m below ground level (BGL) at the southern end of the site and *c.*1.10m at the northern boundary. The chalk is capped by superficial natural deposits of Clay with Flint, which occurs at 0.30m to 0.40m below ground level, which is in turn overlain by topsoil.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 A detailed archaeological background of the Marlborough area was compiled and included in the written scheme of investigation (WSI) (CA 2016). The following background incorporates information from the WSI, previous investigations undertaken at the site and the results of recent fieldwork projects conducted in the surrounding area. Marlborough lies in the wider environs of the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site and relevant details from the recently published research framework for the area (Leivers and Powell 2016) have been incorporated below.

Earlier Prehistoric (500,000 – 2400 BC)

2.2 Approximately 40 find spots of Palaeolithic flint implements have been uncovered across the Marlborough Downs, with 14 found within a 5km radius of the village of Avebury. A single findspot of Palaeolithic date is currently known in the area surrounding Marlborough, located 2-3km to the north-west of the village. The majority of these findspots represent single isolated surface finds and are concentrated within the ancient and modern river valleys (Scott-Jackson 2016, 78).

2.3 There is currently limited evidence for Mesolithic activity in the Avebury area, however, it is possible that this area was exploited by human groups based on evidence found elsewhere in the Kennet valley (George 2016, 80). Activity in the Neolithic period is dominated by the large monumental complex surrounding the village of Avebury, consisting of Avebury henge, the West Kennet and Beckhampton megalithic avenues and Silbury Hill (Cleal and Pollard 2016, 81). Much closer to the Site, the scheduled Marlborough Mound (1005634), located c.700m to the west, is of prehistoric origin and may be contemporary with Silbury Hill. Recent archaeological investigation of the mound including excavation of a number of boreholes and

subsequent radiocarbon analyses of recovered charcoal has dated its construction to second half of the 3rd millennium BC (Leary *et al.* 2013, 156).

Later Prehistoric (2400 BC – AD 43)

2.4 The later prehistoric period in this area remains poorly represented in the archaeological record and little understood. The sparse evidence for Middle Bronze Age occupation, including the settlement at Preshute Down located 5km to the north of Marlborough village, suggests the organisation of an agricultural landscape during this period (Mullin 2016, 99). Early Iron Age occupation has been uncovered at Overton Down, located several kilometres to the west of Marlborough, as well as the presence of hillforts at OIdbury Castle (also to the west) and Barbury (to the north-west) (Fitzpatrick 2016, 101-103). The hillfort at Forest Hill approximately 1.5km east of the site, overlooking the Kennet Valley, may be of Late Iron Age date (Corney and Payne 2006 133-4; Corney 1997).

Roman (AD 43 – 410)

2.5 The major focus for Roman settlement in the area Marlborough lies c.2km to the east, near Mildenhall. Known as *Cunetio*, this settlement represents the largest town in Roman Wiltshire and dates from the 2nd to early 5th century AD. A Roman road, running east-west along the Kennet Valley is believed to have been situated to the north side of the present High Street, located 300m to the north of the Site. It is thought that Roman surveyors may have used Marborough Mound and Silbury Hill as markers to construct this road, which travels between the two (Leary *et al*. 2013, 140), however, the exact position of the road is currently unknown. Limited archaeological remains dating to the Roman period have been found in the Marlborough area, however, a number of Roman coins have been uncovered associated with Marlborough Mound, suggesting its reuse during this period.

Early medieval/Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)

2.6 Evidence for early medieval settlement from the 6th century onwards has been uncovered to the south-west of Avebury Henge, located 8km to the west of the Site. Archaeological evidence for occupation of this period in the surrounding area is currently poorly represented, however, some evidence for settlement has been uncovered at Yatesbury to the west, Litttlecote to the east and Liddington and Swindon to the north (Reynolds 2016). Marlborough itself is first mentioned in Domesday (1086) as *Merleberge*, although little detail is given about the settlement apart from the presence of a church (WCAS 2004, 7). There is some suggestion that

the church mentioned in Domesday may have been Preshute Church (Baggs *et al.* 1983). The *Extensive Urban Survey* of the town indicated that Saxon activity may have been focused around St. Mary's Church (WCAS 2004), situated *c.* 0.5km from the Site. Finds evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation in Marlborough is scant, previously limited to two sherds of pottery and an unprovenanced *sceat* (coin).

Medieval (1066 – 1539)

2.7 Following the Norman Conquest Marlborough was in the Kings Hands (Baggs *et al.* 1983) motte and bailey castle was constructed, *c.*750m to the west of the Site, utilising the pre-existing Marlborough mound. Throughout this period, the medieval settlement of Marlborough expanded and developed and by the end of the 12th century, a planned layout was established, forming the High Street and market area. This layout linked an earlier settlement established at the eastern end of Marlborough, with the civil settlement associated with the Norman Castle.

2.8 The Site lies *c.*400m to the south of the High Street and is indicated on the Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1886 as located within an area marked as 'Site of St Margaret's Priory (Gilbertine)'. The most important of Marlborough's religious houses, the Priory of St Margaret of Antioch was a Gilbertine priory and was located to the east of the Site, around Salisbury Road. The priory's meadows are today commemorated by the St Margaret's Mead housing estate, located to the east of the Site. The earliest mention of the meadow is a list of houses, which King John took under his protection in 1199-1200 but may date from the reign of King Henry II (1154-89). In 1337 the priory was robbed and partly burned by 50 men. The priory suffered a further violent attack in 1486 and was dissolved in 1539. The property was given to Anne of Cleeves as part of her divorce settlement from King Henry VIII. During the medieval period the site was likely used as agricultural land lying to the west of the priory.

Post-medieval (1540 - 1800)

2.9 Historic Ordnance Survey (OS) maps of the area indicate that in 1886 the site was an open field, with a small lane forming the western boundary and what is known today as Van Diemens Close forming the eastern boundary. By 1900 the site is indicated to have been in use as allotment gardens, divided by a central east to west path. By this period a Police Station had also been constructed to the north of the Site. Although the occupation of the Site remained the same on the 1923 OS map, residential housing is shown to the north on George Lane. By 1938 Isbury Road had

been constructed along the southern boundary of the Site along with further residential housing. There was no change within the site boundary until the OS map of 1978 when the current school, which is to be replaced as part of the current development, was constructed at the western end of the Site. At this point, the eastern part of the Site, including the area of archaeological investigation, was still shown as allotment gardens. Prior to the current development this area was in use as school playing fields.

Previous Investigation

2.10 The proposed development area was subject to archaeological evaluation in 1997 (CA 1997) ahead of an earlier proposal for development. Of the eleven trenches excavated, five (1-3, 6 and 7) contained archaeological features and were each located in the south-eastern corner of the site. Among these features firm dating evidence was only recovered from a single linear feature in Trench 1. Twenty-six body sherds and five rims of late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age pottery (representing at least two recognisable vessels) were recovered from the linear feature, as well as a flint arrowhead and a core re-used as a hammer stone. A number of other features recorded in Trenches 2 and 7 did not produce any pottery, but contained fills with charcoal and flint cobbles. Shallow pits recorded in Trenches 3 and 6 within the northern part of the site did not recover any dateable finds. The remaining six trenches, located on the western half of the site, were archaeologically sterile. The results of this fieldwork were subsequently published as short report in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* (Harrison 2001).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological mitigation, as outlined in the WSI (CA 2016), were to:

- record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered;
- assess the overall presence, survival and potential of structural and industrial remains;
- assess the overall presence, survival, condition, and potential of artefactual and ecofactual remains;
- to gain a better understanding and clarify the nature, date and chronology of the archaeological features identified during the archaeological evaluation.

3.2 The specific aims of the work were to:

- record any further evidence of Prehistoric evidence that may relate to past settlement, funerary activity, industrial activity or other land use;
- recover artefact evidence to further refine the extent, nature and dating of archaeological features that were identified during the evaluation;
- sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use and economy;
- to identify any remains and evidence that may relate to St Margaret's Priory.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2016). The location of the excavation areas were agreed with Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (WC), informed by the results of the archaeological evaluation (CA 1997). The archaeological excavation comprised two areas. Area 1 measured 2700m^2 and was located in the south-eastern part of the site, around the location of Trenches 1 and 2 from the previous evaluation (CA 1997). Area 2 measured 265m^2 and concentrated on the northern part of the site around the area of an attenuation pond. Each area was set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4: *Survey Manual*. The excavation area was scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the CA *Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services*.

4.2 Fieldwork commenced with the removal of topsoil and subsoil from the excavation area by mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket, under archaeological supervision.

4.3 The archaeological features thus exposed were hand-excavated to the bottom of archaeological stratigraphy. All features were planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.4 Deposits were assessed for their environmental potential and five features considered to have potential for characterising the earlier phases of activity were

sampled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*.

4.5 All artefacts recovered from the excavation were retained in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of finds immediately after excavation*.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 3–7)

5.1 This section provides an overview of the excavation results; detailed summaries of the contexts, finds and environmental samples (biological evidence) are to be found in Appendices A-I.

5.2 The phasing is based on artefacts recovered from the fills of identified features (where present), and/or on defined stratigraphic sequences. The finds assemblage recovered from across excavation was fairly extensive, making the phasing relatively straightforward in most instances. A small number of features contained limited or no artefactual evidence or had no stratigraphic relationship to other features, but have been assigned to a period based upon morphological characteristics and/or proximity to other features. Some features could not be definitively assigned a phase based on stratigraphy or spot dating evidence and remained unphased.

- Period 1: Late Neolithic (3000 BC - 2400 BC)
- Period 2: Early medieval/Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 - 1066)
- Period 3: Post-Medieval and Modern (1539 onwards)
- Undated

Geology

5.3 The natural substrate across the suite was comprised of a yellow-brown silty clay with abundant flint and gravel inclusions (1201, 2001) overlying the natural chalk (1202). Across both excavation areas the natural horizon was sealed by a layer ploughsoil, a greyish brown clayey silt (1200, 2000), which measured 0.3m in thickness.

Period 1: Late Neolithic (3000 BC - 2400 BC)

5.4 The earliest phase of archaeological activity on site comprised a small number of probable Late Neolithic pits, located in the south-eastern corner of Area 2 (Fig. 3). Six small irregular pits/tree throw-holes (1203, 1208, 1211, 1213, 1215, 1295) produced an extensive assemblage of Late Neolithic pottery and worked flint (Appendix B-D). The pits were each sub-rectangular in shape and measured between 0.46-1.51m in length, 0.6-0.97m in width and 0.05-0.37m in depth. Details of the finds assemblage from each of the pits/tree throw-holes is discussed below.

5.5 A large assemblage of worked flint and twenty-four sherds of later Neolithic pottery were recovered from both of the fills (1204, 1205) within pit 1203. The flint assemblage comprised 287 pieces including three scrapers, three broken knives and a large number of chips and flakes (Appendix C). A moderate assemblage (thirty-four) of worked flint was also recovered from the two fills (1209, 1210) of pit 1208. Two sherds of late Neolithic pottery and a large quantity of burnt flint (7.5kg) and burnt clay were also recovered from the upper fill (1210) of pit 1208.

5.6 The majority of artefacts recovered from the excavation were found within the single fill of pit 1211. A total of 402 sherds of later Neolithic pottery and 491 pieces of worked flint were recovered from the single fill (1212) of pit 1211. While the pottery likely originated from a number of different vessels, the worked flint assemblage was extremely varied and included a large number of flakes and chips, as well as three transverse arrowheads, two saws and two scrapers (Appendix C). Furthermore, the fragments of two non-local stone axeheads, one made of igneous rock and the other of sandstone, were also recovered from the fill of pit 1211. It has been suggested that each of these axeheads may have been deliberately broken before being placed within the pit (Appendix D).

5.7 Of the remaining features dated to the Late Neolithic, two pieces of worked flint were recovered from the single fill (1214) of pit 1213 and two sherds of later Neolithic pottery and sixty-five pieces of worked flint were recovered from the single fill (1216) of tree throw/pit 1215. A single shallow pit (1295), located in far south-western corner of Area 2 contained a charcoal rich fill with evidence of burnt animal bone. Nine sherds of Late Neolithic pottery and two pieces of worked flint were recovered from a single fill (1296/1297). The eastern half of the pit fill (1296) had been subjected to some modern intrusion.

5.8 A small assemblage of charred plant material was recovered from the fills of pits 1203, 1208, 1215 and 1295 (Appendix H). These assemblages may be indicative of domestic waste associated with food preparation and consumption within the vicinity of these features. The predominance of hazelnut fragments and other wild food remains, as recorded from other Neolithic deposits in Southern Britain, may suggest the exploitation and general reliance on these wild food resources during this period. Small assemblages of charcoal were also recovered from pits 1203, 1208, 1211 and 1215 (Appendix I). These assemblages are typical of the Late Neolithic period and, in the absence of evidence for *in situ* burning, are likely to represent deposits or accumulation of fuelwood debris from domestic type activities. The presence of charred hazelnut shells in some samples may suggest that the charcoal comes from cooking activities.

5.9 In each instance these features appear to have been subject to some post-medieval and/or modern intrusion, represented by the presence of small quantities of clay tobacco pipe, ceramic building material (CBM), coal, glass and miscellaneous items within the fills of the five pits (Appendix E). Although no truncation of these features was observed during excavation, it is probable that the use of this area as arable fields during the 18th-19th centuries, and later as allotment gardens in the 20th century (section 2.8), may have led to the introduction of this intrusive material into the fills of these pits. This intrusion may have been caused either through deep ploughing or bioturbation.

Period 2: Early medieval/Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 - 1066)

5.11 A single large pit (1284) of probable early medieval date was uncovered in the central part of Area 2 (Fig. 3-4). The pit was oval in shape, has steeply sloping irregular sides and measured approximately 9.1m in diameter and 2.2m in depth. The pit contained six distinct fills that represent a series of dumped deposits placed into the pit over time (Fig. 4). The size of the feature suggests that it represents a large quarry pit, however, it is currently uncertain whether it was excavated to extract clay or flint.

5.12 A number of artefacts were recovered from two fills of the pit. A single worked flint flake and a small quantity of burnt flint were recovered from fill 1291, the second fill deposited in the pit, however, the majority of artefacts were recovered from fill 1287, the 4th fill deposited into the pit. These finds included a single sherd of redeposited late Neolithic pottery and three sherds of redeposited Roman pottery (two sherds of

Oxfordshire Red-slipped ware, one of South-East Dorset Black-burnished ware), as well as four sherds of organic-tempered, pottery, typically datable to some point between the 5th and 8th centuries AD (Appendix B). One of the vessels (23) has a pierced 'lug', used for suspending the vessel over a fire (Myres 1977). Two fragments of an 'annular' type loomweight were also recovered from fill 1287 (Appendix F). The loomweights were probably made at some point between early 5th to mid 7th century AD.

5.13 A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from four fills (1285, 1287, 1291, 1292) within the pit (Appendix G). The assemblage was predominantly represented by cattle remains but also included sheep/goat and goose. A small charred plant assemblage and a low number of mollusc shells were also recovered from fill 1287 (Appendix H). This material represents dispersed settlement waste and suggests that the landscape surrounding the pit was open grassland.

Period 3: Post-Medieval/Modern (1801 onwards)

5.14 Two features of possible post-medieval or modern date were uncovered with Area 2 (Fig. 3). A single oval pit (1221), measuring 0.7m in length, 0.52m in width and 0.31m in depth, was located in the southern half of the area. A number of finds of post-medieval date were recovered from the first fill (1222) of the pit. This included three sherds of pottery, dating from the mid 16th to 19th centuries (Appendix B), a bone button, a small quantity of CBM and some fragments of window glass (Appendix E). A single modern drainage ditch (1206) was also recorded along the eastern edge of the site.

Undated

5.15 Two small pits (1217, 1293) were also uncovered along the southern edge of the Area 1. No dating evidence was recovered from the fills of these pits and therefore they are considered undated. Pit 1217 was sub-rectangular in shape, had steeply sloping sides with a flat base and measured 1.6m in length, 0.87m in width and 0.27m in depth. The pit contained three fills (1218, 1219, 1220), one of which contained a large dump of burnt flint (1219). Pit 1293 was oval in shape with steeply sloping sides and measured 0.7mn in length, 0.48m in width and 0.3m in depth. Although no finds were recovered from the fills of these features, each of the pits were similar in size and shape to the Late Neolithic pits described above (section 5.4-5.10) and they may have been contemporary in date.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Finds recovered are listed in Table 1 below. Details are to be found in Appendices B-F.

Type	Category	Count	Weight (g)
Pottery	Late Neolithic	441	1209
	Roman	3	61
	Anglo-Saxon	4	134
	Post-medieval	3	6
	Total	*451*	*1410*
Worked flint		996	2347
Stone axehead fragments		2	171
Clay tobacco pipe		1	21
Glass		16	>1
Worked bone	Button	1	>1
CBM		2	188
fired/burnt clay		196	174

Table 1: Overall finds summary

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Biological evidence recovered is listed in Table 2 below. Details are to be found in Appendices G-I.

Type	Category	Count
Animal bone	Fragments (Identified to species)	12
Samples	Environmental	10

Table 2: Overall biological evidence summary

8. DISCUSSION

8.1 The archaeological investigations at St Mary's Primary School, Marlborough, have recorded the presence and survival of archaeological remains across the site and allowed the investigation of the evidence for past occupation. The site stratigraphy has been analysed as far as the evidence allows and features have been dated by associated finds, stratigraphic relationships and spatial logic where possible. The survival and intelligibility of the site stratigraphy was good with archaeological remains having survived as negative features. However, post-medieval agricultural activities and modern truncation, caused by the use of the site as an arable field and

allotments gardens, has introduced some modern material into the fills of earlier features.

8.2 Evidence for Later Neolithic occupation within the Site is comprised of small pits, uncovered along the southern edge of the site. While the features themselves are typical of the period and, in most instances, represent small pits with one or two fills, the extensive assemblage of pottery and worked flint recovered from within the features suggest that they were of some importance during the Late Neolithic. Two undated pits of a similar size and shape, may also represent activity dating to this period.

8.3 The Late Neolithic pottery forms recovered from the pits included, where identifiable, small drinking vessels and a possible bowl, indicating the storage and consumption of food. There is limited evidence to suggest that vessels were used for cooking, and it may be that domestic activities took place outside of the excavation area. Although Grooved Ware pottery is not uncommon in Wiltshire (e.g. Durrington Walls - Longworth 1971; the Stonehenge Environs - Richards 1990) it was not until the evaluation of the site in 1997 that Late Neolithic pottery was found in Marlborough (Harrison 2001). Until recently, this small assemblage had been described as the best evidence for Neolithic activity in Marlborough (Leary *et. al.* 2013). Since this discovery, other small assemblages (less than 30 sherds) of Grooved Ware have been recorded from the Salisbury Road area of Marlborough (e.g. WA 2012). The range and variety in this assemblage strengthens the argument for a far more substantial Late Neolithic community in this area than has been previously been identified.

8.4 The association of lithics, including transverse arrowheads, with Grooved ware in pits, postholes and other features of Late Neolithic date is not an uncommon phenomenon (Woodhenge - Pollard 1995, 141–2; Firtree Field, Cranborne Chase, - Barrett *et al.* 1991, 77; Marden Henge - Wainwright 1971, 188–9), and many of these are accepted as examples of possible 'structured deposition'. The two axe fragments are from middle sections of stone axeheads. They are believed to have come from implements made from greenstone (the closest comparison is with the Group 1 greenstone axeheads that are believed to come from Cornwall), and sandstone of lithic arenite type, with a most likely source in southwest England. It is possible that they both came from broadly similar source areas and were both broken deliberately prior to deposition. The presence of fragments of different

axeheads within the same pits is suggestive of deliberate deposition rather than residual inclusion. Group 1 axeheads have been shown to have a noted association with Grooved Ware pottery and they are often found in pits and they are also associated with ceremonial monuments in Wiltshire (Roe 1999, Table 7.22; Smith 1979, 17).

8.5 The presence of post-medieval and modern material in each of the pits may dispute the dating of these features (section 5.9). Despite this uncertainty, the presence of large quantities of pottery and worked flint of Neolithic date in some of the pits (particularly 1203 and 1211) does support the assertion that these features were originally constructed in the Late Neolithic and that they reflect actual occupation of this area during this period.

8.6 The analysis of the artefactual assemblage above suggests that some of this material may represent 'odd' or structured deposits (as defined by Garrow 2012) within the Late Neolithic pits. Pit 1211, for example, produced a large lithic assemblage, two deliberately broken stone axehead fragments, large quantities of Late Neolithic pottery (including sherds from multiple vessels) and charcoal. The combination of these materials and the inclusion of unusual items (including three arrowheads and the fragments of two different axehead types), marks out pit 1211 as distinctive and suggests that the material recovered was not the result of rubbish disposal. Similar 'odd' deposits are also present within pit 1203, which contained a small quantity of Neolithic pottery, 287 pieces of worked flint, including three scrapers and three broken knives, and a large quantity of burnt flint.

8.7 Evidence for Late Neolithic activity in the immediate vicinity comes from the recent scientific dating of the initial construction phase of the Marlborough Mound to 2580–2470 cal BC (Leary *et al*. 2013, 155). This substantial monument, believed to be the second largest of its type from Britain (Leary *et al.* 2013, 156) and located 500m to the west of the site, is clearly suggestive of significant activity in the area during the Late Neolithic period. As far as the dating evidence allows, it appears that Marlborough Mound and the site at St. Mary's Primary school are contemporary, albeit located on opposite sides of the River Kennet. The small group of pits uncovered at the Site indicates evidence for both domestic activities, visible in the pottery forms and environmental evidence, and ritual practices, suggested by the evidence for 'odd' deposits, and they contribute to the wider understanding of this area during the Late Neolithic.

8.8 A single pit of probable Anglo-Saxon date, possibly utilised for quarrying the underlying clay and flint geology, was uncovered during the excavation. The pit contained a series of dumped deposits from which a small assemblage of Anglo-Saxon pottery and two fragmentary loomweights were recovered. While there has previously been limited Anglo-Saxon material recovered from Marlborough, it is possible that a Saxon precursor to St. Mary's Church, located 450m to the north of the Site, formed the centre of settlement in this area during this period (section 2.6). Furthermore, it has been suggested that Marlborough Mound may have been associated with late Saxon use, possibly in advance of the construction of a motte and bailey castle. Although the evidence from the Site is limited, it forms part of a growing understanding of Anglo-Saxon activity within the wider area.

8.9 Only two post-medieval/modern features were uncovered with the excavation area, including a small oval pit (1221) and a drainage ditch (1206). Historic OS maps of the site suggest that from the 1900 onwards the site was utilised as allotment gardens divided by a central east to west path and later as a school playing fields. It is probable that these features, and the intrusion of modern material noted in the earlier features (discussed above), originate from activities in this period and were associated with the maintenance and use of the allotment gardens.

9. PROJECT TEAM

9.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Alex Thomson, Oliver Good, Joe Whelan, Nida Bhunoo and Natasha Djukic. The report was written by Nicky Garland. The pottery, mixed finds and fired clay reports were written by Katie Marsden, the worked flint report by Jacky Sommerville, the faunal remains report by Matilda Holmes and the stone axehead report by Katherine Walker and Mik Markham. The plant macrofossils and mollusc report was written by Sarah Wyles and the charcoal report by Dana Challinor. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The fieldwork was managed for CA by Damian De Rosa and the post-excavation was managed by Karen Walker.

9.2 The generous assistance and advice of Elaine Morris and Josh Pollard, of the University of Southampton with regard to the pottery is gratefully acknowledged, as is the assistance of the Archaeology Service ,Wiltshire.

10. STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 The archive is currently held at CA offices in Andover whilst post-excavation work proceeds. Upon completion of the project, and with the agreement of the legal landowners, the site archive and artefactual collection will be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes, which has agreed in principle to accept the complete archive upon completion of the project. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix J, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

11. PUBLICATION PROPOSALS

11.1 A short summary report will be published in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* to bring these results to the attention of the local readership, and to draw wider attention to the fact that this report will be made available on-line. The publication will be quality assured by Martin Watts MCIfA (Head of Publications) and managed by Karen Walker MCIfA (Principal Post-Excavation Manager).

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Number	Context Type	Fill of	Context Description	Feature type
1201	layer		Yellow brown flinty silt clay	Natural strata
1202	layer		Grey white chalk natural	Natural strata
1203	cut		Ovoid pit with steeply sloping sides to a rounded break of slope and a concave base	Pit
1204	fill	1203	Secondary fill. Yellow grey brown silty clay, friable with occasional flint inclusions	Pit
1205	fill	1203	Grey brown silty clay, friable with frequent flint inclusions	Pit
1206	cut		Linear cut of modern drainage ditch with steep sides to a rounded break of slope and a concave base.	Ditch
1207	fill	1206	Grey brown clay silt, friable to loose with frequent flint inclusions and modern waste	Ditch
1208	cut		Ovoid cut of pit with rounded sides steeply sloping to a rounded break of slope and a concave base	Pit
1209	fill	1208	Dark grey black clay silt, very frequent flint pebbles, rare charcoal flecking	Pit
1210	fill	1208	Grey brown clay silt, frequent flint pebbles	Pit
1211	cut		Sub oval in plan, steep concave sides, mostly flat base, NW-SE alignment	Pit
1212	fill	1211	Secondary fill. Mid dark yellowish brown silty clay, 20% angular stone, 5% charcoal, 70% rooting	Pit
1213	cut		Sub oval in plan, shallow sides, irregular base, E-W alignment	Tree hole
1214	fill	1213	Secondary fill. Mid dark yellowish brown silty clay, sub-angular/angular flint, 90% rooting	Pit
1215	cut		Sub circular in plan, steep sides, concave base, SE-NW alignment	Pit
1216	fill	1215	Dark greyish brown silty clay, 20% charcoal, 10% sub-angular, angular and sub-rounded flint, ≥1% rooting	Pit
1217	cut		Oval in plan, steep concave sides, sub concave base, E-W alignment	Pit
1218	fill	1217	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt, 15% burnt flint, ≤0.4 diameter; <1% charcoal flecking	Pit
1219	fill	1217	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, >80% burnt flint, 1% charcoal, 0.03 diameter	Pit
1220	fill	1217	Secondary fill. Mid yellowish brown sandy silt, 5% burnt flint, ≤0.67 diameter	Pit
1221	cut		Sub oval in plan, irregular steep concave sides, concave base, NE-SW alignment	Pit
1222	fill	1221	Secondary fill. Dark blackish grey silty clay, sub-angular/angular flint, 50% charcoal, 10% rooting	Pit
1283	fill	1221	Secondary fill. Mid dark orange brown silty clay, 5% rooting, 20% sub-angular flint inclusions	Pit
1284	cut		Quarry pit. Irregular/oval in shape, steeply sloping sides.	Pit
1285	fill	1284	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 15% flint inclusions, 1% charcoal flecks	Pit
1286	fill	1284	Mid to dark brownish grey silty clay, <5% flint inclusions	Pit
1287	fill	1284	Dark blackish brown silty clay, 5% flint nodules, large quantities of charcoal inclusions	Pit
1288	fill	1284	Mid reddish brown silty clay. Occasional natural flint and chalk inclusions. Small amounts of charcoal flecking	Pit
1289	fill	1284	Secondary fill. Mid greyish brown clayey silt. 60% flint inclusions	Pit
1290	fill	1284	Primary fill? Mid brown silty clay. Natural chalk nodules >2%, some natural flint.	Pit
1291	fill	1284	Dark brownish grey silty clay. 70% natural sub-angular flint, >1% charcoal flecks	Pit
1292	fill	1284	Dark greyish brown clayey silt. <25% charcoal flecks. <1& sub-angular flint	Pit

Context Number	Context Type	Fill of	Context Description	Feature type
1293	cut		Oval pit with rounded corners and steeply sloping concave sides. Previously excavated in evaluation phase	Pit
1294	fill	1293	Dark grey clayey silt. 30% flint nodule inclusions	Pit
1295	cut		Cut of cremation pit? Circular features with rounded concave sides.	Pit
1296	fill	1295	Dark blackish brown charcoal fill	Pit
1297	fill	1295	Dark blackish brow charcoal fill	Pit
1200	layer		Grey brown clay silt	Natural strata
2000	layer		Topsoil. Grey brown clayey silt with frequent gravel inclusions. Depth 0.3m	Natural strata
2001	layer		Natural - Yellow brown silty clay with abundant flint gravel and occasional chalk inclusions.	Natural strata

APPENDIX B: POTTERY

By Katie Marsden

An assemblage of 450 sherds of pottery, weighing 1399g, was recovered from the Site (Table 3). The vast majority of sherds are of Late Neolithic date, with small quantities of Roman, Anglo-Saxon and post-medieval pottery also present. The material derives from hand-excavated features (153 sherds, 1018 g) and bulk soil samples (297 sherds, 381 g), the former with a mean sherd weight (MSW) of 6.7 g, but much smaller sherds coming from the samples (MSW: 1.3 g). The pottery was fully recorded in accordance with the Guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 2010). Each sherd, or group of related sherds, was given a unique pottery record number and recorded to an Access database. Details include fabric, vessel form (profile) and rim morphology, decoration and evidence for vessel use. Where applicable, fabric codes matching those of the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) have been applied to Roman fabrics.

Table 3: Fabric concordance

Period/fabric	**Fabric Code**	**Ct.**	**Wt. (g)**
Late Neolithic			
Finely grog-tempered fabric	G1	41	155
Medium grog-tempered fabric	G2	41	212
Fine to medium grog-tempered fabric	G3	9	49
Coarse grog-tempered fabric	G4	7	31
Grog-tempered and glauconitic fabric	G5	6	42
Misc. grog-tempered fabric	GX	214	126.4
Quartz sand fabric	Q1	8	35.5
Tufa-rich and grog-tempered fabric	U1	115	558
Sub-total		*441*	*1209*
Roman			
South-East Dorset Black-burnished ware	DOR BB1	1	9
Oxfordshire red-slipped ware	OXF RS	2	*52*
Sub-total		*3*	*61*
Anglo-Saxon			
Organic-tempered fabric	O1	4	134
Post-medieval			
Sand-rich fabric	PM1	1	2
Frechen stoneware	Frechen	1	2
Refined whiteware	RWW	1	2
Sub-total	RWW	*3*	*6*

Table 4: pottery totals by context and period

			Neolithic		*Roman*		*Anglo-Saxon*		*Post medieval*	
Feature	**Cut**	**Fill**	**Ct**	**Wt. (g)**	**Ct**	**Wt. (g)**	**Ct**	**Wt. (g)**	**Ct**	**Wt. (g)**
pit	1203	1204	10	8.1	0	0	0	0	0	0
pit	1203	1205	14	39.3	0	0	0	0	0	0
pit	1208	1210	2	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0
pit	1211	1212	402	1120	0	0	0	0	0	0
pit	1215	1216	2	10.7	0	0	0	0	0	0
pit	1221	1222	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6.7
quarry pit	1284	1287	1	1.8	2	52	4	134	0	0
quarry pit	1284	1292	0	0	1	9	0	0	0	0
pit	1295	1296	2	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0
pit	1295	1297	7	28	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Total	**440**	**1208.5**	**3**	**61**	**4**	**134**	**3**	**6.7**

Late Neolithic

The Late Neolithic assemblage (441 sherds, 1209 g) derives from six features, with the vast majority recovered from pit 1211 (Table 4). A single small sherd found in pit 1284 was residual. The pottery is moderately fragmented for this period, the hand-excavated material having a mean sherd weight of 5.7g. This is consistent with contemporary assemblages from Popley, Basingstoke (Barclay 2009) and at Bishops Cannings Down (Cleal 1992). Despite this, it was possible to identify 19 different potential vessels. Amongst the group, four rim types and four base types have been defined. Fabric code GX has been used for grog-tempered sherds recovered from bulk soil samples, where the condition or size impedes further identification.

Fabrics

A total of seven fabrics are defined amongst the Late Neolithic group (Table 3). Fabric group 'G' comprises five fabrics with varying sizes of grog temper: fine (G1, G5), medium (G2), fine-medium (G3) and coarse (G4). Fabric G5 contains a rare to spare amount of rounded, glauconitic pellets which suggests that this fabric may derive from a clay deposit near the Selbornian beds of Gault clay and Upper Greensand, located less than 3 km from the Site, along the Vale of Pewsey (Osborne White 1925, 37). The other grog-tempered fabrics are unsourced, but were probably made fairly locally to the site.

The unusual U1 fabric, gritted with grog and probable tufa inclusions, may come from one of several possible sources in this part of Wiltshire, including from within the Marlborough area itself. Tufa was found at Marlborough College (Osborne White 1925) as well as around Cherhill, located 16km to the west of Marlborough (*Evans et. al* 1983, fig. 6, 51). In addition to tufa, fabric U1 also contains rare sarsen inclusions, a sandstone found within Eocene deposits; such beds are thought to have extended across the Upper Chalk layers of the Marlborough Downs (Osborne White 1925). This range of inclusions indicates the fabric could have been locally-produced.

Rare to very rare amounts (1% or less) of calcined flint were recorded in five fabrics (G1, G2, G3, Q1 and U1). The majority of these pieces are flint-knapping debris (Pollard, *pers. comm.*), and their inclusion in the vessel fabrics is likely to have been accidental. The lack of flint within the fabrics is surprising, as the local Clay-with-flints is thought to have been exploited to make pottery found at nearby Silbury Hill (White and Canti 2011). However, as this clay is a reddish or 'chocolate-coloured' (Chatwin 1960), it could have been utilised for vessels

in fabric G4 with heavy processing to remove the natural, non-calcined flint. The eight sherds (35.5g) occurring in a quartz-rich fabric Q1 cannot be closely sourced.

Grog-tempered fabrics

G1: A moderate amount (10-15%) of fine grog-temper, up to 2mm in size, with the majority 1mm or less, in a fine, slightly micaceous (1-2%) irregular grey-off white clay matrix with very rare (<1%) calcined flint

G2: A common amount (20-25%) of medium grog-temper, up to 5mm in size, with the majority 3mm, in a slightly sandy, slightly micaceous buff/off-white clay matrix with very rare (<1%) tufa and calcined flint

G3: A moderate to common amount (15-20%) of grog-temper , 2-3mm, sub-angular, well-sorted, in a fine, orange clay matrix with rare (1-3%) flint

G4: A common to very common amount (25-30%) of coarse grog-temper, up to 5mm in size, poorly-sorted, in a sandy, red-brown clay matrix

G5: A spare to moderate amount (5-10%) of fine grog-temper, well-sorted, 1-3mm; rare (2-3%) tufa; in a red-brown clay matrix with a sparse to moderate of glauconite

GX: A grog-tempered fabric, unclassified further due to size or condition (used exclusively for sample finds)

Quartz sand fabric

Q1: A common to very common amount (25-30%) of fine, quartz sand (measuring less than 0.25mm) with a rare amount (1%) of calcined flint, measuring 3mm or less, in an orange clay matrix

Tufa-rich and grog-tempered fabric

U1: A common amount (20-25%) of tufa inclusions, measuring 3mm or less, sub-angular; a moderate amount (10-15%) of medium grog, 2-3mm in size and rare (1%) calcined flint, sandstone, iron-oxide and flint inclusions in a soft, dark grey or orange-brown clay matrix.

Vessel form and decoration

Four rim types were recorded, which is low in comparison to similarly-dated assemblages; 34 types were defined from the larger Durrington Walls assemblage of 840 sherds (Longworth 1971). Rims are generally upright and plain, with type R1 rounded and R3 pinched and narrowed. Rim types R2 and R4 are squared, with R4 having a bevelled top and thickened internal lip. The bases, however, are comparable to those from Durrington, with three types recorded. Types B2 (e.g. PRN 1090) and B3 (e.g. PRN 1054) are equitable to Longworth's 'simple' class; base form B1 (e.g. PRN 1034) is equitable to the 'protruding class'; the 'concave' classification is not represented in this assemblage (*ibid,* fig. 22, pg. 58). Bases are exclusively flat. The combination of flat bases, plain and upright rims and moderately straight or slightly-convex body sherds indicates that Vessels 1, 3, 8, 10 and 19 are 'straight to barrel-sided vessels' (Longworth 1971), a form likely to have been used for food storage.

Evidence of vessel use is limited to pitting on the interior of Vessel 1, suggesting that this vessel at least was used to store contents of an acidic nature. The size of this vessel is unknown as no rim or base sherds survive.

Rim diameters appear to indicate vessels of small to moderate size, with a range of 80-240mm. Most however were small in size, measuring less than 120mm in diameter. The smallest vessels (vessels 4 and 9) both occur in fine grog-tempered fabric G1, and are likely to indicate forms used for drinking (cups, beakers etc.). A thin-walled body sherd in a fine grog-tempered fabric G1, may derive from a shallow bowl (Vessel 16). .

Amongst the hand-recovered assemblage, 31 sherds (21%), derive from six of the nineteen vessels identified, display elements of decoration, the styles of which are limited to just two; applied cordons and impressed decoration. Given the small numbers of sherds recovered per vessel in some instances (e.g. Vessels 6, 13 etc.), it is possible that only sherds from the plain zones have survived deposition and/or recovery. Comparably, only 17% of Grooved Ware sherds from the Stonehenge Environs Project were decorated (Raymond 1990).

Of the motifs recorded, applied cordon is by far the most common, although this may be skewed in part by the larger numbers of sherds that comprise Vessels 1 and 3 (Fig. 5). This is in keeping with similar sites, for example cordon decoration was the second most commonly recorded type at Durrington Walls, behind grooving (Longworth 1971). Twisted cord decoration was present on sherds from Vessels 4 and 5 (Fig. 5). The impressions are very faint, particularly in the case of Vessel 4 which could suggest wool or other soft fibres were used (Gibson and Woodward 1997). Fingernail impressions were recorded on one sherd from Vessel 3 (Fig. 5). However, given the faint impression and the low occurrence of this style amongst the assemblage, it is more likely that this is accidental and a product of the hand-made pottery production process. Two joining sherds recovered by bulk soil sample of pit 1211 (fill 1212), occurring in fabric G1, display applied cordons with fingernail impressions at regular intervals, perhaps to give the impression of cord decoration, a technique that is stylistically different to the decoration of vessels 4 and 5.

Roman

Three sherds (61g) of Roman pottery were recovered from quarry pit 1284. They comprise two sherds of Oxfordshire Red-slipped ware and one of South-East Dorset Black-burnished ware. All derived from the bases of the vessels but their form could not be ascertained.

Anglo-Saxon

Four sherds (135g) dateable to the Anglo-Saxon period were also recorded from quarry pit 1284 (fill 1287). The group comprises two rim sherds (Fig. 7, PRN 1124 and PRN 1139) and two plain body sherds, with a mean sherd weight of 33.8g. All four sherds are organic-tempered, typical of the 5th to 8th centuries AD (ACA 2017). The rims are of simple rounded form (R1), and derive from two globular-shaped, burnished vessels. One (Vessel 23) has a pierced 'lug', used for suspending the vessel over a fire and commonly seen on plain vessels dating from the 6th century or later (Myres 1977).

Post-medieval

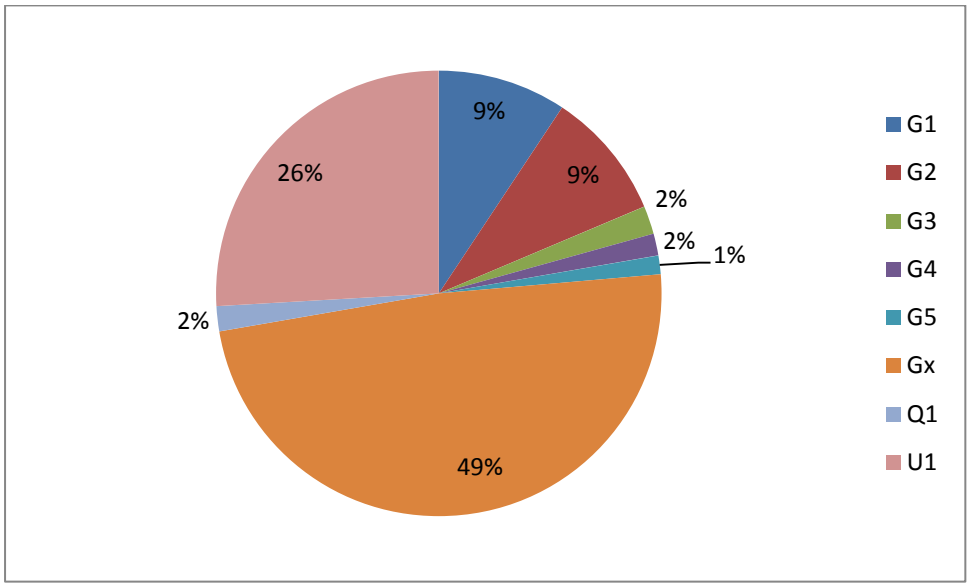
A total of three sherds of pottery dating to the post-medieval period were recovered by bulk soil sampling of pit 1221 (fill 1221). A single sherd of Frechen stoneware is dateable from the mid 16th to 18th century and a sherd of refined whiteware (RWW) is of late 18th to 19th century date. The remaining sherd occurs in an unidentified sandy fabric.

Discussion

It is the prehistoric pottery that has the potential to contribute the most to our understanding of the archaeology of the town. The fabric composition of the assemblage (Chart 1) is in keeping with other Late Neolithic assemblages

in the Wessex region, with high percentages of grog-tempered fabrics, lower percentages of sandy fabrics and a lack of flint-tempering (Cleal 1995, fig. 16.2). All of the fabrics may have been produced locally, using raw materials available within 5km of the site (Arnold 1985). What is perhaps interesting is the lack of shell inclusions from St Marys, in contrast to the shell-tempered vessels recorded at Durrington Walls and Coneybury Henge (Cleal 1995). At these sites, both geological and marine shell sources are 50km away, indicating that vessel importation to the sites was occurring but no such evidence was recorded from St. Mary's. The evaluation of the site produced 26 sherds of Grooved Ware pottery, including unusual bone-tempered vessels, although no such tempering was found during the excavation phase (Timby 1997).

Chart 1: Neolithic fabrics by percentage of sherd number



The forms, where identifiable, indicate storage and consumption of food, evidence for the latter including small drinking vessels and a possible bowl. Little evidence is present to suggest that vessels were used for cooking, although this could be due to depositional processes (survivability of residues for instance). Another possible reason for the low recovery of cooking vessels is that domestic activities took place outside of the excavation area.

Although Grooved Ware pottery is not uncommon in Wiltshire, as large excavations at Durrington Walls (Longworth 1971) and across the Stonehenge Environs (Richards 1990) amongst others demonstrate, it was not until the evaluation of this site in 1997 that Grooved Ware was found in Marlborough (Harrison 2001). During these investigations just 26 sherds were recorded, representing two vessels (Timby 1997). Until recently, this small assemblage had been described as the best evidence for Neolithic activity in Marlborough (Leary et. al. 2013). Since this, small assemblages (less than 30 sherds) of Grooved Ware have been recorded from the Salisbury Road area of Marlborough (e.g. WA 2012). This makes the assemblage at St. Mary's School considerably important for expanding our understanding of prehistoric Marlborough. Recent work has revealed that Marlborough Mound is the second largest Neolithic mound in Britain (possibly even Europe), second only to Silbury Hill (Leary *et. al.* 2013). The Mound and the site at St. Mary's appear to be contemporary and may be associated with the construction or use of the monument. The range and variety established in this assemblage strengthens the argument for a far more substantial Late Neolithic community in the environs than has been identified in over two centuries of antiquarian and archaeological exploration in Marlborough.

The Roman dated pottery is a small assemblage and its significance is minimal as Roman activity is known in the town and a known Roman road runs through the Kennet valley between Silbury Hill and Marlborough (Field et. al 2001). However, the Anglo-Saxon material is important given the lack of finds of this date previously recorded in the town. Evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation through excavation in Marlborough is scant, limited to two sherds of pottery and an unprovenanced *sceat* (coin). An urban survey of the town indicated that Saxon activity may have focused around St. Mary's Church (WCAS 2004), situated *c.* 0.5km from the excavation area, and the presence of Saxon-dated pottery in the area would seem to strengthen this argument.

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APPENDIX C: WORKED FLINT

By Jacky Sommerville

Introduction and methodology
A total of 996 worked flints (2.347kg) and a substantial amount of burnt, unworked flint (see below) was recovered from the excavation of 15 separate deposits (Table 5). Of the worked flints, 677 were recovered via bulk soil sampling of seven deposits, including 175 chips (debitage with a maximum dimension of no greater than 10mm). Lithics were recorded according to broad artefact/debitage type and catalogued directly onto a Microsoft Access database. Attributes recorded included dimensions, weight, colour, cortex description (the outer surface of a flint nodule or pebble), degree of edge damage (micro-flaking), rolling (abrasion), breakage, burning and recortication. The latter presents as a white or blueish surface discoloration resulting from chemical change within the burial environment (Shepherd 1972, 109). For flakes and blades butt and termination types, and knapping stage, were also recorded unless breakage prevented this.

Raw material, provenance and condition
The raw material was flint in all cases. Most was brown or grey in colour and relatively fine-grained, although a significant proportion featured coarser inclusions. Of the 354 flints with cortex present, it was chalky on 96% and abraded on 3%. Limited evidence for reworking of items knapped in an earlier period was present as five pieces (1%) with working partially removing previously recorticated (and worked) surfaces. This breakdown demonstrates a clear reliance on flint from chalk or chalk-with-flints sources: this is unsurprising as the site lies on the Marlborough Downs.

A small proportion of the flints (12%) had been redeposited in Period 3 (post-medieval/modern) pit 1221, Period 2 (early medieval) quarry pit 1284 and from topsoil 2000. The remainder of the assemblage was retrieved from Late Neolithic (Period 1) pits 1203, 1208, 1211, 1213 and 1215 (Table 6). The lithics (excluding chips) from these pit fills were in particularly good condition: 92% featured little to no edge damage and 86% displayed little to no rolling. As might be expected, the figures were lower for the residual lithics – 78% and 62% respectively.

Range and variety

Burnt flint

A total of 20 fragments (49g) of burnt, unworked flint was collected from four deposits. A further 100 litres of burnt flint was discarded on site, after having been scanned to ensure that none of it was worked. The discarded burnt flint came from Period 1 pit 1211 (30%), Period 2 quarry pit 1284 (10%) and Period 3 pit 1217 (60%).

Primary technology

Debitage totalled 794 items excluding chips (flakes, blades, bladelets and shatter). Blades constituted only 1% of flake/blade removals. Blades are defined as debitage items which are at least twice as long as they are wide and were produced using deliberate blade technology, as evidenced by the dorsal scar pattern. They were most typical during the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods, when they would be expected to make up 15 to 44% of the debitage. Later Neolithic assemblages tend to feature less than 13% blades (Ford 1987, 79). Flakes became broader in relation to length over time so the breadth:length index of all intact flakes was calculated (breadth/length). The resulting breakdown (Table 7) very closely matched the results produced by Pitts for typical Late Neolithic and Bronze Age assemblages, based on his analysis of 46 assemblages (Pitts 1978, 187).

The knapping stage was determined on 504 flakes and blades: the remainder were too fragmentary to identify. Only 2% were primary; 58% were secondary; and 40% were tertiary. These figures suggest that the earliest stages of decortication were carried out elsewhere but that flintworking did take place on-site. Terminations were mostly feathered (86%), with 14% hinged. Feathered terminations are considered to be the most desirable type to the knapper (Whittaker 1994, 17). They produce thin, sharp edges suitable for cutting tools but can also be easily retouched into other tools. The majority of butts were recorded as plain (55%), crushed (19%) or cortical (19%).

Chips (microdebitage) totalled 180, 175 of which were retrieved via bulk soil sampling. In addition, the 2mm residues from the bulk soil samples from the four main Neolithic pits were retained for examination as they were flint-rich. The residues were scanned but individual chips were not retrieved. Each contained at least several hundred chips (including pit 1208, which had produced only 34 hand-recovered lithics) and over 1000 each were estimated from pits 1203, 1211 and 1215. However, the sample residues from Period 2 quarry pit 1284 (which was 9.1m in diameter) and Period 3 pit 1221 were similarly flint-rich. These too were scanned and both also produced hundreds of flint chips. Ordinarily, substantial numbers of chips in a feature are taken as evidence of in situ flintworking. However, their abundance as residual finds across the site at St Mary's Primary School, may indicate that the prehistoric activity, including flintworking, was much more extensive than is suggested by the surviving Period 1 features.

A total of ten cores and one core fragment were retrieved, all from the Period 1 pits. All were flake cores, mainly of multi-platform type. However, a single-platform core, a dual-platform core and a tested nodule were also recorded. The multi-platform cores did not form a homogenous or closely dateable group, as they varied in the number of flakes removed and in the regularity of knapping strategy.

Secondary technology

Retouched items totalled 27, equivalent to 3% of the assemblage when excluding chips.

Arrowheads

Pit 1211 produced three transverse arrowheads.

1 Ra. 2 (Fig. 6, plate 1) was a British oblique arrowhead, which most closely matched Green's Type d (Green 1980, 102). Most of the reworking was focused on the dorsal face, which has regular, semi-abrupt retouch on the base, fine, nibbled retouch along the left edge and irregular, rather crude retouch along the right edge. Retouch on the ventral face was regular and semi-abrupt on the base, and shallow and slightly irregular on the left edge. The tip was missing.

2 Ra. 3 (Fig. 6, plate 2) was an intact (Green) Type e British oblique arrowhead (*ibid*). The dorsal face displayed shallow to semi-abrupt, semi-invasive, regular retouch on all three edges, which covered most of the face. A little shallow, irregular retouch was also noted along the base and the right lateral edge of the ventral face.

3 The chisel arrowhead (*ibid.*, 101) (Fig. 6, plate 3) was also complete but had been much less finely made than the two oblique types. Retouch along the right dorsal edge was steep; that on the right ventral edge was semi-abrupt: all was rather irregular.

Both types of arrowheads represented are particularly common in three areas of England, one of which is Wessex (*ibid*., 103). They are often found in association with Late Neolithic Grooved ware pottery (ibid., 108), which dates to c. 2900–2100 cal BC in southern Britain.

Knives

All three of the knives in the assemblage were recorded from fill 1205 of pit 1203 and all were broken.

4 One was made on the distal fragment of a thin flake with shallow, semi-invasive retouch along the left dorsal edge and possible shallow, slightly irregular, retouch on the right dorsal edge (not illustrated).

5 Another was made on a medial fragment, also from a thin flake, with semi-abrupt, regular retouch along the left dorsal edge (not illustrated).

6 The third example – a possible knife – consisted of a small flake fragment (2g) with shallow retouch along one lateral edge (the fragment could not be orientated) (not illustrated).

Saws

Two saws were retrieved from fill 1212 of pit 1211.

7 One was made on a tertiary flake blank, (Fig. 6, plate 4) with three serrations 8–10mm apart on the left dorsal edge and four serrations 5mm apart on the left side of the distal dorsal edge.

8 The other saw was made on a secondary flake with a hinged termination. It was more crudely made than the first and featured uneven serrations on the left ventral edge (not illustrated).

Scrapers

Seven scrapers were recovered, in addition to one end scraper/knife combination tool, all of which had been made on flake blanks. The majority were recovered from Period 1 pits. The scrapers consisted of three end scrapers, one side scraper and three end-and-sides scrapers.

9 The end scraper from topsoil 2001 was made on a secondary flake blank, with steep, quite fine retouch on the distal dorsal end (not illustrated).

10 The end-and-sides scraper from Period 1 pit 1213 (fill 1214) (Fig. 6, plate 5) was made on a tertiary flake which featured an incipient cone of percussion, caused by a mis-hit. The retouch, along the right, left and distal dorsal edges, was quite regular and abrupt to semi-abrupt.

Period 1 pit 1211 (fill 1212) produced an extended end scraper and an end-and-sides scraper, both made on tertiary flake blanks.

11 The extended end scraper displayed quite regular abrupt to semi-abrupt retouch on the distal dorsal edge, which was shallower as it extended partway along the left dorsal edge (not illustrated).

12 The end-and-sides scraper (Fig. 6, plate 6) featured relatively regular, steep retouch along the distal, right and left dorsal edges.

Three of the scrapers were retrieved from Period 1 pit 1203 (fills 1204 and 1205).

13 The side scraper was made on a thick, tertiary flake blank and the retouch, along the right dorsal edge, was steep and irregular (not illustrated).

14 The end scraper was broken but the blank appeared to be a tertiary flake. It featured fine, regular, steep retouch on the distal dorsal edge. Evidence of utilisation presented as traces of gloss on the ventral dorsal edge (not illustrated).

15 The end-and-sides scraper (Fig. 6, plate 7) was made on a flake blank and a small portion had broken off the distal end of the right ventral edge. It had been reworked around c. 65% of the circumference on the dorsal face, with regular, semi-abrupt retouch.

16 The end scraper/knife, Ra. 1 from Period 1 pit 1203 (Fig. 6, plate 8), featured steep, regular retouch on the distal dorsal edge and semi-abrupt retouch along the left and right dorsal edges: a break surface at the proximal end had also been partially retouched.

The stratified assemblage: Period 1 pits

A total of 787 worked flints was recovered from four Period 1 pits: 1203, 1208, 1211 and 1215 (Table 6). The vast majority were retrieved from pit 1212 which also produced 134 sherds of Late Neolithic Grooved Ware pottery.

A refitting exercise was carried out on items over 2mm and no refits were discovered, either within or across the Neolithic pit fills. Fill 1212 of pit 1211 contained one flake in two pieces: however, the colour of the surfaces and the break suggest that it had broken recently – possibly during excavation.

The flints from pit 1211 exhibited some variability. Almost all of the unrecorticated flints were brown or grey – only three flakes were honey-coloured. A degree of recortication was observed on 20% of items (mostly small flakes), which was mostly moderate to heavy. Most of the flints were mid brownish-grey with some paler, cherty

inclusions and cream coloured, chalky cortex. However, some opaque, pale to mid grey, very fine-grained flint was also included and two flakes displayed abraded cortex.

Some aspects of the Period 1 group correspond with the concept of structured deposition within Neolithic pits, evidence for which has been discussed by Thomas (1999, 73–4). Most convincing as an example of this is pit 1211, a feature which produced a large lithic assemblage (Table 6), two deliberately broken stone axehead fragments, quantities of Grooved Ware pottery, which included sherds from multiple vessels, and burnt material (charcoal). This combination of materials, and the inclusion of 'special' items (including three arrowheads) marks out pit 1211 as distinctive, its contents seemingly not the result of rubbish disposal.

Discussion

The association of lithics, including transverse arrowheads (a grouping which includes oblique arrowheads, as well as chisel and petit tranchet types), with Grooved ware in pits, postholes and other features of Late Neolithic date is not an uncommon phenomenon, and many of these are accepted as examples of structured deposition. Sites in Wiltshire include: Woodhenge, where the lithics from Pit 6 included two transverse arrowheads (Pollard 1995, 141–2); Firtree Field, Cranborne Chase, where pits containing Grooved ware also produced high proportion of retouched flints (Barrett *et al.* 1991, 77); and Marden Henge, where the ditch termini contained Grooved ware and a third of all of the flint recovered from the site (Wainwright 1971, 188–9).

The evaluation of the site, uncovered a number of features, including a ditch containing Grooved Ware and worked flints (Harrison 2001). The lithics from a posthole uncovered in Trench 2 included an arrowhead described as a triangular type (Walker 2001, 222, Fig. 3), which closely resembles Ra. 3 from Period 1 pit 1211. Alternative identification of the Duck's Meadow arrowhead as a variant form of Green's Type e British Oblique is thought more likely and would accord with Green's later interpretation of triangular forms (1984, 31). Evidence for Late Neolithic activity in the more immediate vicinity comes from the recent scientific dating of the initial construction phase of the Marlborough Mound to 2580–2470 cal BC (Leary *et al.* 2013, 155). This substantial monument, believed to be the second largest of its type from Britain (Leary *et al.* 2013, 156) is clearly suggestive of significant activity in the area during the Late Neolithic period.

Table 5: Breakdown of the lithic assemblage

	Hand recovered	From bulk soil samples	Total
Primary technology			
Blade	3	2	5
Bladelet		2	2
Chip	5	175	180
Core	4	6	10
Core fragment		1	1
Flake	110	623	733
Shatter	2	36	38
Secondary technology			0
Arrowhead (chisel)	1		1
Arrowhead (oblique)	2		2
Knife	2	1	3
Miscellaneous tool	1	2	3
Notched flake	1		1
Retouched blade	2		2
Retouched flake	2	3	5
Saw	2		2
Scraper (end)	3		3
Scraper (end-and-sides)	2	1	3
Scraper (side)	1		1
Scraper/knife	1		1
Total	**144**	**852**	**996**

Table 6: Lithics from Late Neolithic pits

	Pit 1203	Pit 1208	Pit 1211	Pit 1213	Pit 1215	Total
Blade	1		4			5
Bladelet			2			2
Chip	120	5	6		0	131
Core	2	1	5		1	9
Core fragment	1					1
Flake	149	28	435	1	58	671
Shatter	1		28		6	35
Arrowhead			3			3
Knife	3					3
Miscellaneous tool	1		1			2
Notched flake	1					1
Retouched blade	2					2
Retouched flake	2		3			5
Saw			2			2
Scraper (end)	1		1			2
Scraper (end-and-sides)	1		1	1		3
Scraper (side)	1					1
Scraper/knife	1					1
Total	**287**	**34**	**491**	**2**	**65**	**877**

Table 7: Breadth/length index of flakes

	No. of assemblages	Breadth:length index (%)					
		<0.2	0.21-0.4	0.41-0.6	0.61-0.8	0.81-1.0	>1.0
Early Mesolithic	4	2	43	27	13	6.5	9
Later Mesolithic & Early Neolithic	18	0.5	12.5	32	26.5	14.5	14
Late Neolithic & Bronze Age	24	0	3	16	25	23	33
St Mary's Primary School	1	0	2	15	25	22	35

(Adapted from Pitts 1978, 187)

APPENDIX D: STONE AXEHEADS

By Katharine Walker and Mik Markham

Introduction

Fragments of two stone axeheads of different materials were found during the St Mary's Primary School, Marlborough excavations. Each of the fragments was recovered from the single fill (1212) of pit 1211. These were both recovered from the same pit in association with Grooved Ware pottery. Determining the rock types and where possible their sources of origin, assessing form and finish, and considering their depositional contexts and find locations, can lead to inferences about contacts and socio-political aspects of life in the past.

Macroscopic examination

Axehead fragment 1

Metrics

Length:	44mm
Width:	43mm
Thickness:	30mm
Weight:	125g

Form and finish

The fragment is from the middle part of the body of the axehead, between the butt and the blade. It has a broadly oval to circular cross section and would, when complete, have had a pointed butt. The breakages can be seen at either end of the fragment and there has been no reworking post-breakage. It is difficult to explain these characteristics as a reflection of breakage sustained during use. Rather, the pattern suggests that this axehead was broken deliberately. The finish is finely pecked, rather than ground, and it has not been polished.

Mineralogy

Visual and hand lens (x10 and x60) examination reveals the axehead part is grey-green and speckled with abundant sub-millimetre, generally round, black mineral grains that stand proud of the surface. The rock is non-porphyritic medium grained, crystalline interlocking with three, possibly four main minerals. Some of the black grains have parallel striations, probably cleavage, which are parallel to the long edge of the euhedral crystals when seen; occasional cleavage intersections at around 60°/120° suggest these crystals are amphibole after pyroxene. Creamy white millimetre sized grains with a powdery surface are likely to be feldspar, with the powdery surface created through impact damage when pecking out the shape of the implement. Occasional millimetre sized, grey glassy grains of quartz are also seen.

The mineralogy and grain size indicate this rock is an intermediate igneous rock, a dolerite, probably a metadolerite, though a thin section would be necessary to confirm this as there are no obvious metamorphic textures visible, other than the possible alteration of the original pyroxenes to amphiboles.

Provenance

The closest comparison is with Group 1 greenstone axeheads that are believed to come from Cornwall. Assuming that this axehead is Cornish Group I, the rock originates in West Cornwall. The precise source is unknown but the current published source for IPG Group 1 is 'Mount's Bay area, near Penzance, Cornwall' (Clough & Cummins 1988). This is based on petrological similarities in both mineralogy and texture, between

implements and greenstone rocks collected between Penzance and Mousehole (Keiller *et al*. 1941, Stone and Wallis 1951). It is possible that the source may well be on a land surface which has become submerged (Evens *et al*. 1962, 211) (OS Grid: SW 490300 ±10km). Two specimens from Gear Rock, a partly submerged exposure of greenstone approximately 1km south of Penzance harbour (Grid ref. SW479293) were examined and found to be 'near to Group I' but not an exact match (Evens *et al*. 1972). Mik Markham attempted to find the precise source of Group 1 axeheads and the results of his investigations support Keiller *et al.* (1941) in their assumptions, adding Long Rock, within Mount's Bay, as the possible source, but indicated that it is unlikely that a single exposure provided the material for all Group 1 axeheads (Markham 2000, 2009).

Parallels

Group 1 is the second largest petrological Group, with 384 axeheads, or 10% of all axeheads assigned to a petrological group by the last national survey (Clough and Cummins 1988). Its resilience to repeated percussion and its toughness mean this an ideal rock for making axeheads (Markham 1997). The form of this axehead is similar to a number of those from Group 1. A parallel exists in the form of a butt fragment with a similar cross section from Wylye, Wiltshire (WIL129), held by Salisbury Museum (SSWM117153) (Evens *et al*. 1962).

Axehead fragment 2

Metric

Length:	42mm
Width:	23mm
Thickness:	33mm
Weight:	46g

Form and finish

The fragment is from the middle section of the axehead, between the butt and the blade, and has also broken across the short section. The original cross section would have been ovoid and the axehead would have had a pointed butt. The extent and pattern of breakage may indicate that it was broken deliberately. A negative flake scar is present on the surface towards the butt end.

Mineralogy

Visual and hand lens (x10 and x60) examination of this axehead fragment reveal a well cemented, buff-ochrish coloured, fine grained fragmental rock which is texturally mature and mineralogically immature. The rock has a grain supported texture, with well rounded and well sorted, sub- millimetre sized grains, composed mainly of lithic fragments with the occasionally recognised feldspar and quartz grain. There are occasional up to 2mm sized oval or rounded black lithic grains of indeterminate mineralogy and there is no visible sedimentary laying or structure visible in the axehead fragment.

The rock texture and composition indicate that this rock is a sandstone, specifically a lithic arenite, with the immature composition implying a high rate of sedimentation and short transport from the source. The well-sorted nature of the rock implies fluvial or deltaic environments.

Provenance

Lithic arenites are extremely common; however in this case the nearest source to the find location may well be the finer grained rocks within the Triassic rocks of Devon. This is further borne out by the colour of the fragment suggesting iron staining and/or deposition in an arid environment prevalent in the Triassic. There are only three

IPG sandstone groups: Group XV, a greywacke, possibly from Cornwall; Group XIX, greywacke, again from Cornwall; and Group XXVII, a greywacke from southern Scotland. None of these has the same description as this axehead fragment, making this an ungrouped example.

Parallels

Despite sandstones being common, there are comparatively few axeheads which have been recorded as made from it, possibly due to it being a less suitable material than many other choices. Davis *et al.* (1988, Table 7) recorded 31 ungrouped sandstone axeheads in southwest England. Darvill (1989, fig. 2) illustrated an example from north Wiltshire.

Discussion and dating

Grooved Ware pits in the south of England appear to contain domestic material of a variety of types, and the axeheads found in them almost always exist as fragments (Roe 1999, 228), as is the case here. Stone axeheads appear to have generally been preferred to flint ones by the makers of Grooved Ware. It appears these non-flint stones went out of and then came back into fashion in the Later Neolithic, accompanied by new meanings for the materials and objects themselves (Bayliss *et al.* 2011, 794). Fiona Roe listed over 30 stone axeheads with Grooved Ware associations (1999, Table 7.22) of which eight were Group 1 or near Group 1 and were often found in pits. In southern England, where Group 1 is the primary material of imported axeheads (Cummins 1979, 8, fig. 3), this is especially true (Shaffrey and Roe 2010, 76). Isobel Smith (1979, 17) also noted the presence of Group I axeheads in association with Grooved Ware from Essex and Wessex, and with ceremonial monuments in Wiltshire (Evens *et al*. 1972, 253). Axeheads with Grooved Ware associations occur, for example, at Woodhenge (Wainwright and Longworth 1971). In view of this association between Grooved Ware and Group I, it might be a suitable moment to recall that at least eight mace-heads of the ovoid and Thames pestle varieties, as well as an unperforated pestle-shaped object, probably an unfinished macehead, were ascribed to the group (Smith 1979, 18).

Date-wise, the precise start and end of exploitation of Cornish greenstones is unknown due to the lack of working sites having been identified, though models have been presented (e.g., Mercer 1986). However, Group 1 is believed to have had a relatively long period of exploitation (Smith 1979, 14), so this site only represents a brief episode during the use of the material concerned. A Grooved Ware association supports a Late Neolithic date and the presence of fragments of different axeheads within the same pits is suggestive of deliberate deposition rather than residual inclusion. Fiona Roe (1999 Table 7.2.3) has listed all known radiocarbon dates in association with Grooved Ware pits containing axeheads. Group 1 axeheads also occur in post-Neolithic contexts where it is likely that they were either residual or recognised by later societies as being special objects.

Sandstone axeheads occur rarely in Grooved Ware pits. It is one of the most difficult materials to source petrographically and it is rare to be able to attribute objects made from it to a specific source. For this reason, it is impossible to give a date range for its use. The similarity of the cross section of this axehead compared with the fragment of probable Group 1 origin may suggest that they are broadly contemporary in date.

Summary

The fragments from the middle sections of the two stone axeheads analysed are believed to have come from implements made from Cornish greenstone, probably Group 1, and sandstone of lithic arenite type with a most likely source in southwest England. The parallels in their form may be linked to their geographical origin or a particular 'fashion' linked to date; however at this time dating evidence for British stone axeheads is not secure

enough to be able to ascertain this. It is possible that they came from broadly similar source areas and were both broken deliberately prior to deposition.

APPENDIX E: MIXED FINDS

By Katie Marsden

Ceramic Building Material

A total of 23 fragments (21g) of ceramic building material was recovered by bulk soil sample of modern-dated deposit 1221 (fill 1222). The fragments occur in a hard orange fabric and are unfeatured. The further identification of this material by 'class' or close dating are not possible.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

A single stem fragment of clay tobacco pipe was recovered by bulk soil sample of pit 1203 (fill 1204). Clay pipes date broadly from the late 16th to late 19th centuries and no refinement of such dating is possible for this fragment.

Glass

A total of 16 fragments of glass (weighing less than 1g) was recovered by bulk soil sample of six deposits. In addition, a single glass object, a possible pin head, was recorded as an unstratified item. The fragments are of window glass and some are intrusive (including one fragment from pit 1211, fill 1212). The opaque blue glass object is broadly ovoid, with a circular perforation which does not pass all the way through the body. The remains of solder around the non-perforated end suggest a decorative finial was attached to the top, probably of metal. It is a probable head from a hat pin or similar, of 19th or 20th century date.

Worked Bone

A single item of worked bone, a button, was recovered by bulk soil sample of modern-dated deposit 1221 (fill 1222). The button is a plain disc with single central perforation and no off-set rim. It is a Hume Type 15, dateable to the 19th century (Hume 1969).

APPENDIX F: FIRED CLAY

By Katie Marsden

A total of four fragments (149g) of fired clay were hand recovered from two deposits and an additional 192 fragments (25g) by bulk soil sample of six deposits. All material was recorded from pits and no forms were recorded amongst the material recovered by bulk soil sample.

Two fragments of an 'annular' type loomweight (Hurst 1959) were recorded from quarry pit 1284 (fill 1287) (Fig.8). Loomweights of this form are dateable to the early Anglo-Saxon period, early 5th to mid 7th century (Jarrett 2005), which is consistent with pottery recorded from the deposit. A fragment of a second loomweight,

also of probable annular form, was recorded from quarry pit 1284 (fill 1292) along with a small fragment of indeterminable function.

APPENDIX G: ANIMAL BONE

By Matilda Holmes

A very small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from three fills (1287,1291 and 1293) of Anglo-Saxon quarry pit 1284. Cattle remains were most common but sheep/ goat and goose were also represented (Table 8). Two of the cattle pelvis fragments had been sawn through to disarticulate the skeleton, and one of the radii was from a neonatal animal. The assemblage is too small for further comment.

Table 8: Species representation (fragment count)

Element	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Goose
Loose maxillary tooth	1		
Scapula	1		
Humerus			1
Radius	3		
Pelvis	3		
Femur		1	
Metatarsal	2		
Total	10	1	1

APPENDIX H: PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND MOLLUSCS

By Sarah F. Wyles

A total of ten bulk soil samples were analysed from a range of features in Area 2. Eight samples were taken from Phase 1 pits/tree throw-holes 1203, 1208, 1211, 1215 and 1295, a sample from Phase 2 pit 1284 and a further sample from Phase 3 pit 1221. Charred plant remains were recovered from seven of these samples and mollusc assemblages from five of them.

These samples were processed following standard flotation methods, using a 250µm sieve for the recovery of the flot and a 1 mm sieve for the collection of the residue. All identifiable charred plant remains were identified following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al* (2012) for cereals. Nomenclature for the mollusc assemblages follows Anderson (2005) and details of the ecological preferences of the species follow Evans (1972), Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008). The results are recorded in Table 9.

Phase 1: Late Neolithic (3000 BC - 2400 BC)

Charred plant remains

Single grains of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) were recovered from fills 1209 (sample 3) of pit 1208 and 1216 (sample 6) of pit/ tree throw 1215, and a possible grain of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) from fill 1297 (sample 10) of pit 1295. A seed of oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.) was noted in sample 2 from fill 1204 of pit 1203, while fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) were recorded from pits 1203 (samples 1 and 2) and 1208 (samples 3 and 4), and pit/tree throw 1215 (sample 6).

These small assemblages may be indicative of domestic waste associated with food preparation and consumption in the vicinity. The predominance of hazelnut fragments within the assemblages has been recorded from other Neolithic deposits in Southern Britain and this dominance of hazelnut fragments and other wild food remains may be indicative of the exploitation and general reliance on these wild food resources during this period (Moffett et al 1989; Stevens 2007; Robinson 2000). The assemblages from this site are similar to others of this period in the area (Stevens and Wyles 2016). On the mainland cereal agriculture generally appears to have been rare or absent in the later Neolithic (Stevens and Fuller 2012) and these assemblages appear to fit this pattern. The grain of free-threshing wheat is likely to be later contaminants as seen in within other Neolithic assemblages (Pelling *et al* 2015).

Mollusc remains

The few shells recovered from fill 1204 (sample 2) of pit 1203 were those of the open country species *Vallonia costata* and the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus*, while those from pit 1295 (samples 9 and 10) included those of the open country species *Vallonia excentrica, Pupilla muscorum, Vertigo pygmaea* and *Helicella itala*, and the shade-loving species *Aegopinella nitidula*. These small assemblages give a broad indication of an open landscape but are too small to assist in determining a detail interpretation of the local landscape.

Phase 2: Late Roman to Early medieval / Anglo-Saxon (AD 200 - 1066)

Charred plant remains

Fill 1287 (sample 8) of pit 1284 produced a small charred plant assemblage. These remains included grains of barley and free-threshing wheat, seeds of oat/brome grass and vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), a hazelnut shell fragment and a hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) stone fragment.

This assemblage may be representative of dispersed settlement waste. The assemblage is compatible with the date as there is a general transition from spelt wheat to free-threshing wheat in the post Roman period in Southern Britain (Greig 1991). The few weed seeds are typical of those recovered from grassland, field margins and arable environments.

Mollusc remains

The moderately low number of shells recovered from fill 1287 (sample 8) of pit 1284 was dominated by shells of the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus*. Other shells included those of the open country species *Vallonia excentrica, Vallonia costata, Pupilla muscorum, Vertigo pygmaea* and *Helicella itala,* the intermediate species *Cochlicopa* sp. and *Cepaea* sp., and the shade-loving species *Vitrea* sp., *Oxychilus cellarius* and *Clausilia bidentata*. This assemblage appears to be indicative of an open landscape, possibly of grassland in the vicinity of the pit.

Phase 3: Post-Medieval/Modern (1801 onwards)

Charred plant remains

No plant remains were recorded from fill 1222 (sample 7) of pit 1221.

Mollusc remains

A single shell of the open country species Helicella itala was noted from fill 1222 (sample 7) of pit 1221.

Table 9 Charred plant and mollusc Identifications

Phase		Phase 1 Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age								Phase 2 Saxon	Phase 3 Post med/modern
Feature type		Pit		Pit		Pit/tree throw	Pit/tree throw	Pit		Pit	Pit
Cut		1203		1208		1211	1215	1295		1284	1221
Context		1205	1204	1209	1210	1212	1216	1296	1297	1287	1222
Sample		1	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	8	7
Vol (L)		14	31	13	13	40	13	1	1	28	16
Flot size		80	225	120	40	200	60	25	20	50	250
%Roots		30	25	35	40	70	20	10	5	20	20
Cereals	**Common Name**										
Hordeum vulgare L. *sl* (grain)	barley	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Triticum turgidum/aestivum (grain)	free-threshing wheat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cf.1	1	-
Cereal frag. (est. whole grains)	cereal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Other Species											
Corylus avellana L. (fragments)	hazelnut	1	12	4	3	-	17	-	-	1	-
Crataegus monogyna Jacq.	hawthorn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Vicia L./*Lathyrus* sp. L.	vetch/wild pea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Avena L./*Bromus* L. sp.	oat/brome grass	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Charcoal > 4/2mm		***/****	***/****	**/****	**/***	***/***	**/***	*/**	*/***	**/***	*/***
Molluscs											
Cochlicopa spp.		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Vertigo pygmaea (Draparnaud)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Pupilla muscorum (Linnaeus)		-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Vallonia costata (Müller)		-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Vallonia excentrica Sterki		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-
Vitrea contracta (Westerlund)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Aegopinella nitidula (Draparnaud)		-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Oxychilus cellarius (Müller)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Clausilia bidentata (Ström)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Helicella itala (Linnaeus)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
Trochulus hispidus (Linnaeus)		-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-
Cepaea/Arianta sp.		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

APPENDIX I: WOOD CHARCOAL

By Dana Challinor MA (Oxon), MSc

Introduction and Methodology

Charcoal from five pits and tree throw-holes of Late Neolithic was examined in order to assess the use of fuel and woodland sources. Other samples were too sparse to merit analysis. Standard identification procedures were followed using identification keys (Hather 2000, Schweingruber 1990) and modern reference material. The charcoal was fractured and examined at low magnification (up to X45), with representative fragments examined in longitudinal sections at high magnification (up to X400). A minimum of 50 fragments per feature was identified, with the exception of pit 1295 where a scan of the sparse material was sufficient. Observations on maturity and other features were made where appropriate. Classification and nomenclature follow Stace 1997.

Results

The preservation of the charcoal was generally poor, with small fragments, heavy sediment infusion and high levels of vitrification which obscured anatomical features. Five taxa were positively identified (Table 10);

Quercus sp., oak

Corylus avellana, hazel

Maloideae, incl. *Malus,* apple; *Sorbus,* service tree/whitebeam/rowan, *Crataegus,* hawthorn

Prunus spinosa, blackthorn

Fraxinus excelsior, ash.

It is likely that the undifferentiated *Alnus/Corylus* fragments were all hazel since no alder was positively identified and the texture/appearance of the fragments appeared consistent. It is possible that more than one species of the Maloideae was represented as some fragments exhibited faint spiral thickenings, while others did not; however, the condition was too poor to be certain.

Few roundwood fragments were recorded, although fragments were frequently too small to establish maturity. Some *Quercus* sp. (oak) sapwood was observed in most samples, with rare evidence of tyloses. The sparse and small material in both samples of the cremation pit [1295] was all oak, but too comminuted (and <1 growth ring) to determine maturity and did not merit quantification.

Table 10: Charcoal from Late Neolithic pits and tree throw-holes

	Feature number	1203		1208		1211	1215
	Context number	1205	1204	1209	1210	1212	1216
	Sample number	1	2	3	4	5	6
Quercus sp.	oak		1s	20 (s)	17	12 (s)	35 (sh)
Corylus avellana L.	hazel	2 (r)	3	5 (r)		7	5
Alnus/Corylus	alder/hazel			2			
Prunus spinosa L.	blackthorn					2	
Maloideae	hawthorn group	28 (r)	46	3	3	24 (r)	9 (r)
Fraxinus excelsior L.	ash						1
Indeterminate	diffuse porous					5	
Total		**30**	**50**	**30**	**20**	**50**	**50**

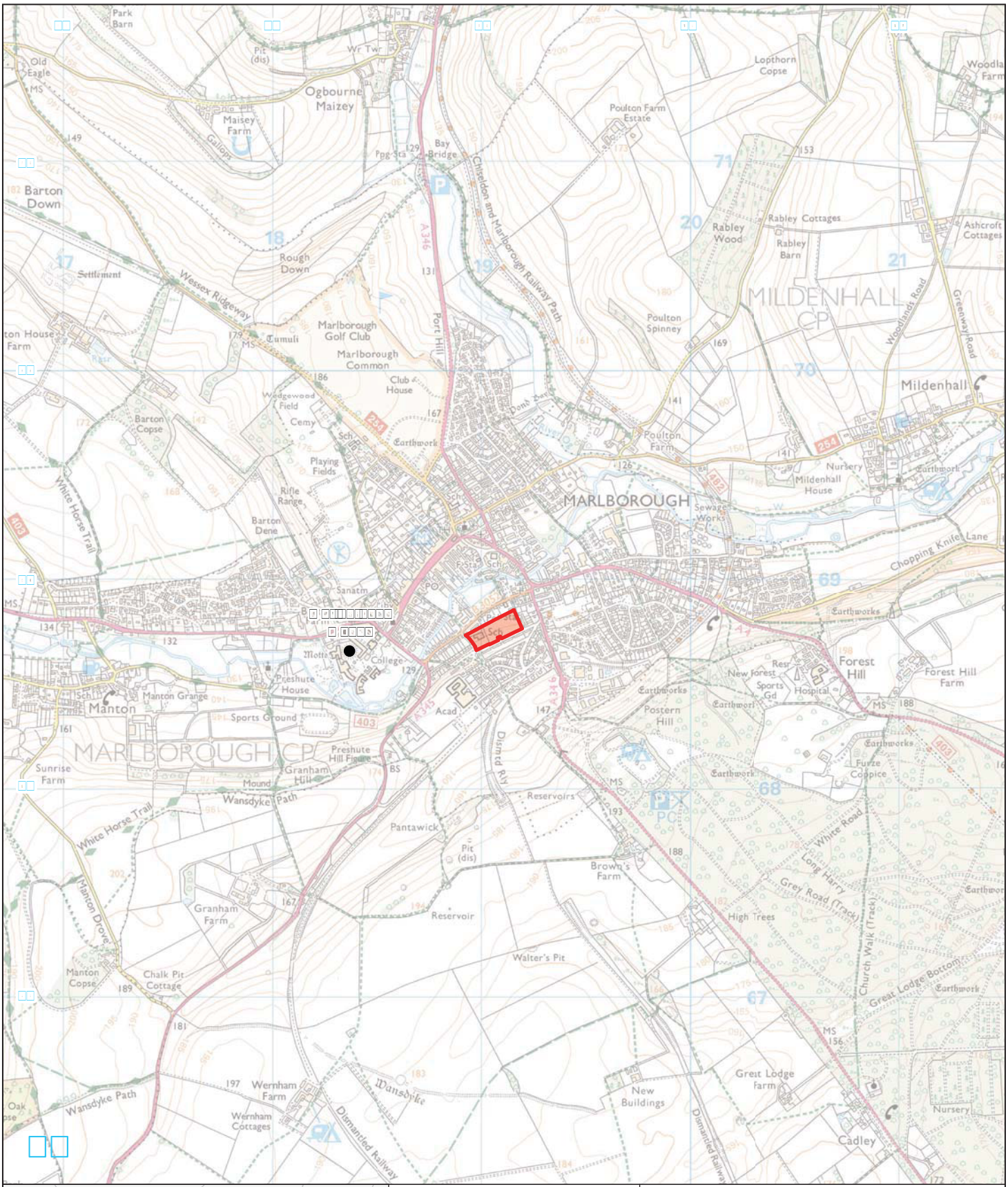
s=sapwood; r=roundwood; h=heartwood; brackets denotes occasional presence

Discussion

In the absence of evidence for burning *in situ*, the provenance of the charcoal in these pits and tree throw-holes is likely to be deposits or accumulation of fuelwood debris from domestic type activities. The presence of charred hazelnut shells in some samples may suggest a cooking origin. The paucity of material suggests small-scale activity and, potentially, efficiency of burning if only fine ashes were deposited. The taxa identified are fairly typical for the Late Neolithic period, when the landscape of the Wessex downs presented a mosaic of localised environments, including small scale clearances with areas of grassland and mixed deciduous woodland (Wilkinson & Straker 2007, 67-8); including oak and ash (and possibly whitebeam or apple), and understorey trees such as hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn. A similar (albeit wider) range of charcoal taxa were identified from the Stonehenge Environs Project (Gale 1990, 252-3) and Amesbury (Barnett in prep). The strong component of Maloideae (hawthorn group) at the St Mary's site, along with the traces of ash and blackthorn (light demanding) suggests that the immediate area was relatively open, with predominantly scrub type vegetation supplying fuel for domestic activities.

APPENDIX J: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	St Mary's Primary School, Marlborough, Wiltshire	
Short description	An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology between July and August 2016 at land at St Mary's Primary School, Marlborough, Wiltshire. Two areas were excavated on the eastern part of the development site, which targeted features revealed during a previous evaluation of the site. The archaeological investigation identified three phases of activity between the Late Neolithic to post-medieval periods. Five pits of later Neolithic date were uncovered along the southern edge of the site, from which a large assemblage of pottery and worked flint, including two deliberately broken axeheads, was recovered. These features are probably contemporary with the Marlborough Mound, located 500m to the west, and may represent unusual deposits associated with its construction and/or use. A single possible quarry pit of Anglo-Saxon date was uncovered in the centre of the site, contributing to the scant evidence for this period in the Marlborough area. Several areas of post-medieval and modern truncation, resulting from the use of the site as arable field and allotment gardens, were also revealed.	
Project dates	19 July to 2 August 2016	
Project type	Excavation	
Previous work	Field evaluation (CA 1997)	
Future work	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	St Mary's Primary School, Marlborough, Wiltshire	
Study area (M^2/ha)	0.7 ha	
Site co-ordinates	SU 19140 68780	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Damian De Rosa	
Project Supervisor	Oliver Good, Joe Whelan	
MONUMENT TYPE	Pit – Anglo-Saxon Tree throw - Neolithic	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Pottery – Late Neolithic Flint implement – Late Neolithic Axehead – Late Neolithic Loomweight – Anglo-Saxon	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes	Ceramics, animal bone, worked flint, environmental residues, worked stone
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes	Context sheets, matrices, photo registers, samples sheets
Digital	Archaeology Data Service	Database, digital photos, digital survey
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *St Mary's Primary School, Marlborough, Wiltshire: Archaeological Excavation.* CA typescript report **17107**		



Cotswold Archaeology

PROJECT TITLE

St Mary's Primary School, Marlborough, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

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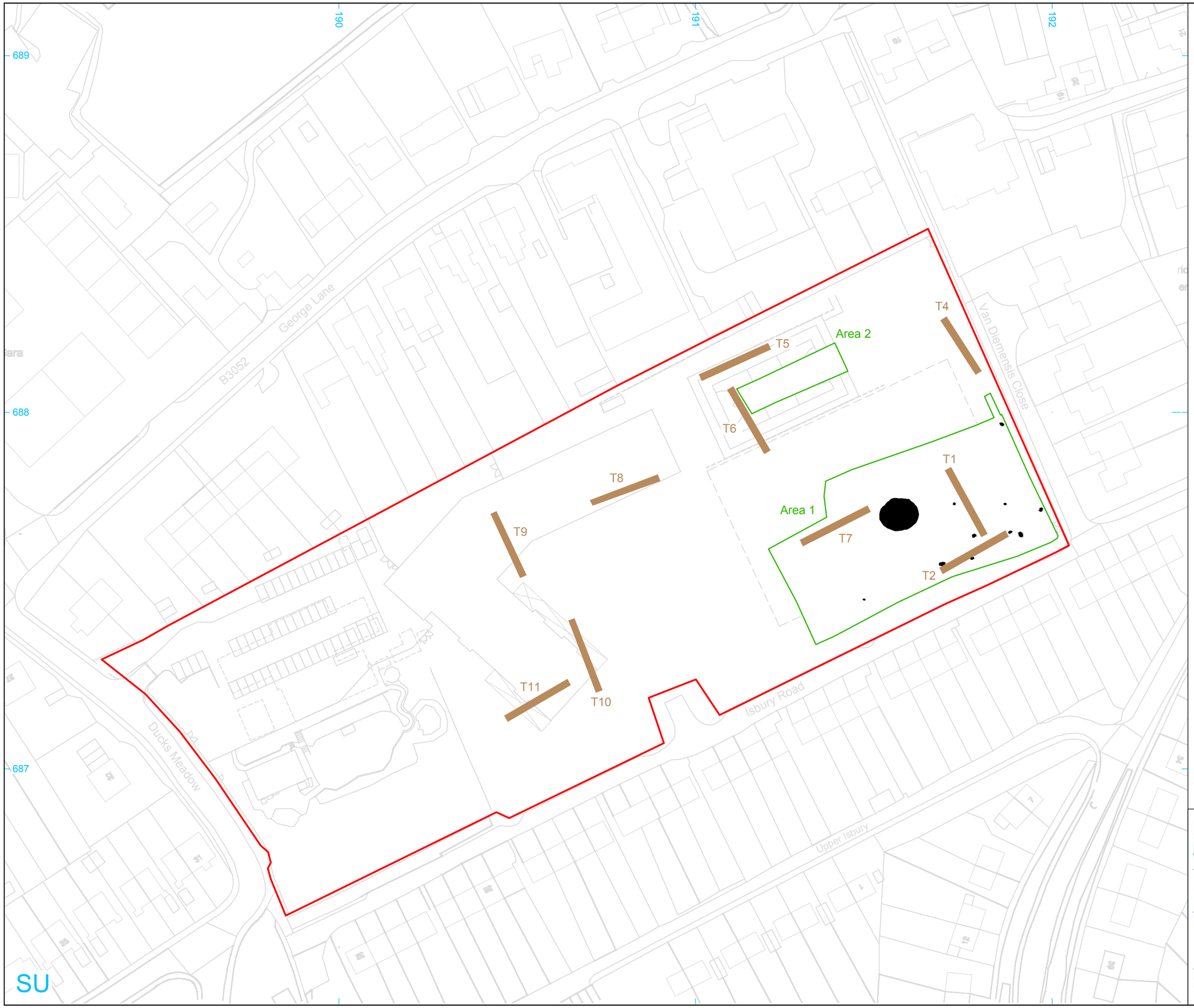
APPROVED BY	**KW**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:25,000**	



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PROJECT TITLE
St Mary's Primary School, Marlborough, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

DRAWN BY	SO/AO	PROJECT NO.	779022	FIGURE NO.
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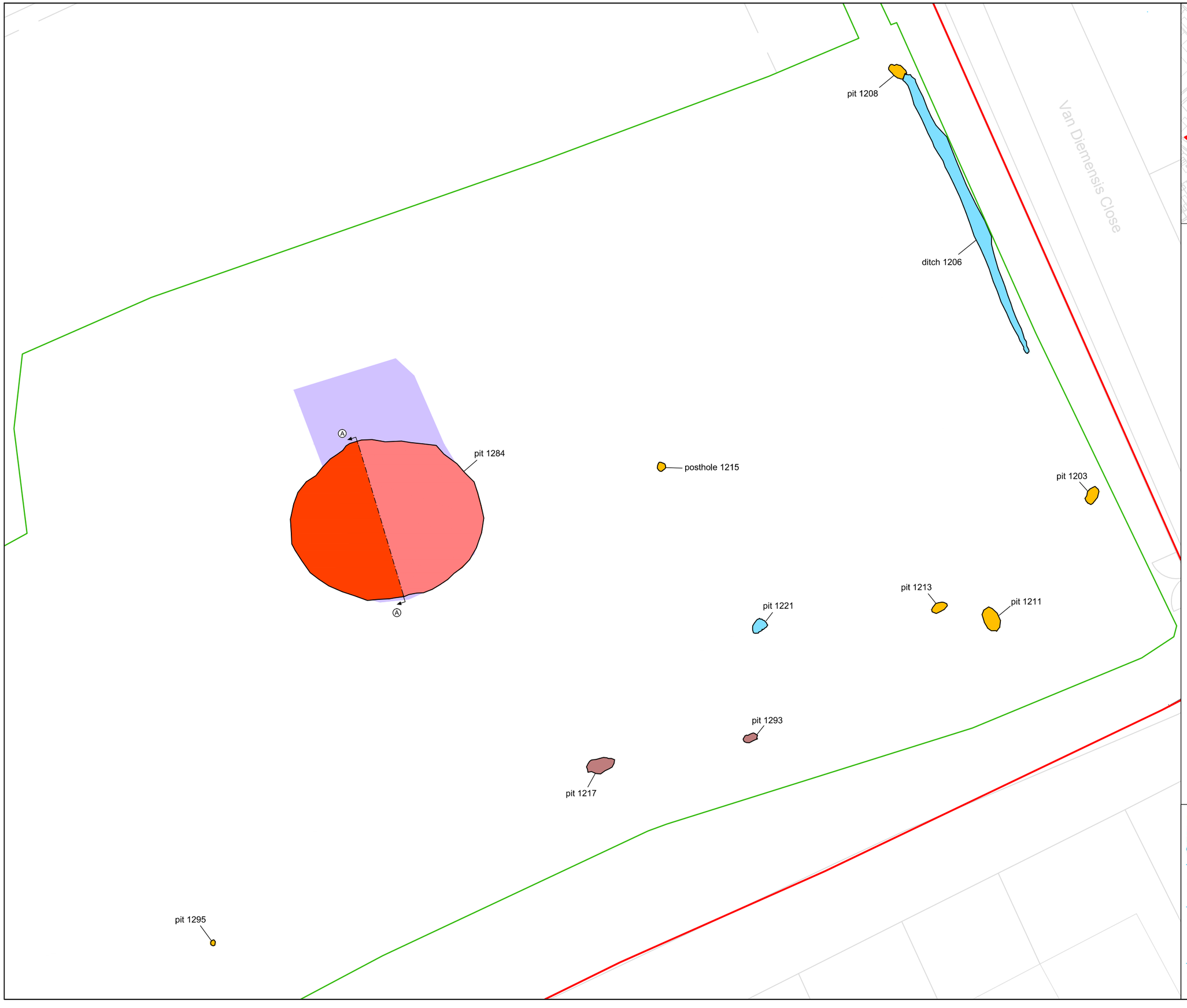

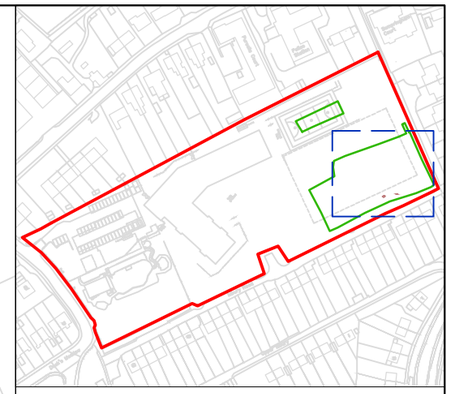

N

site boundary
excavation area
geological feature
section location

Period 1 - Late Neolithic
Period 2 - Early medieval/Anglo-Saxon
Period 3 - Post-medieval/ Modern
Undated

0 1:200 10m

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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Area 1 phase plan

				FIGURE NO.
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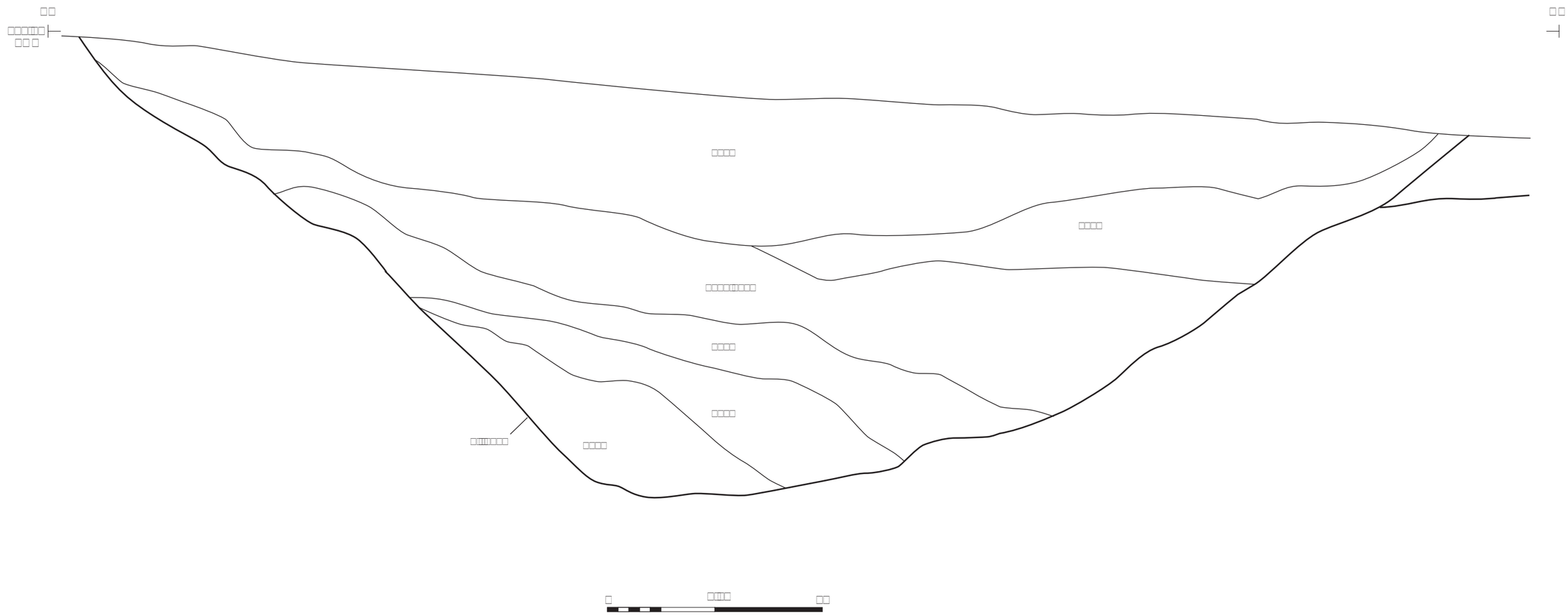
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	16/03/2017	
APPROVED BY	KW	SCALE@A3	1:200	

Section AA



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PROJECT TITLE

St Mary's Primary School, Marlborough, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Pit 1284 - north-east facing section

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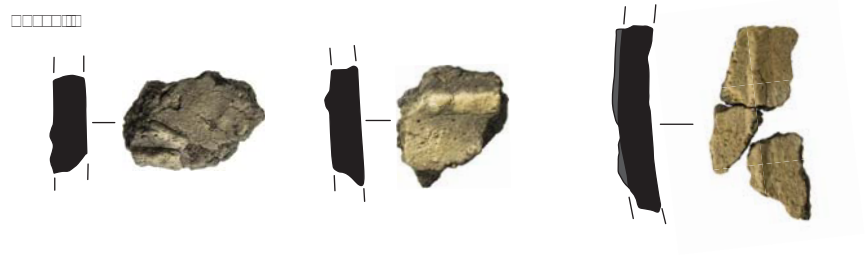
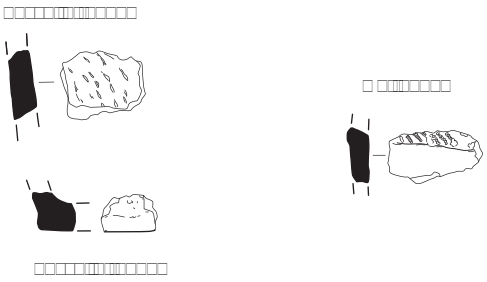
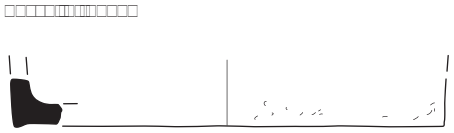
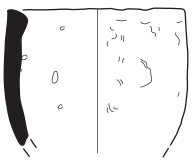
APPROVED BY	**KW**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20**	









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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Neolitic pottery

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	30/03/2017	5
APPROVED BY	KW	SCALE@A4	1:3	

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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Photographs of worked flint

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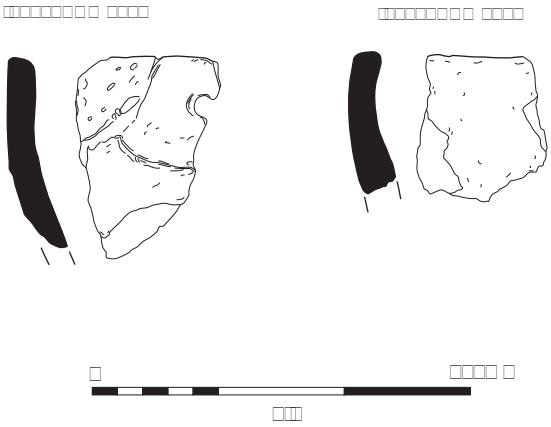

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FIGURE TITLE

Saxon pottery

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PROJECT TITLE

St Mary's Primary School, Marlborough, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Fired clay loomweights

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