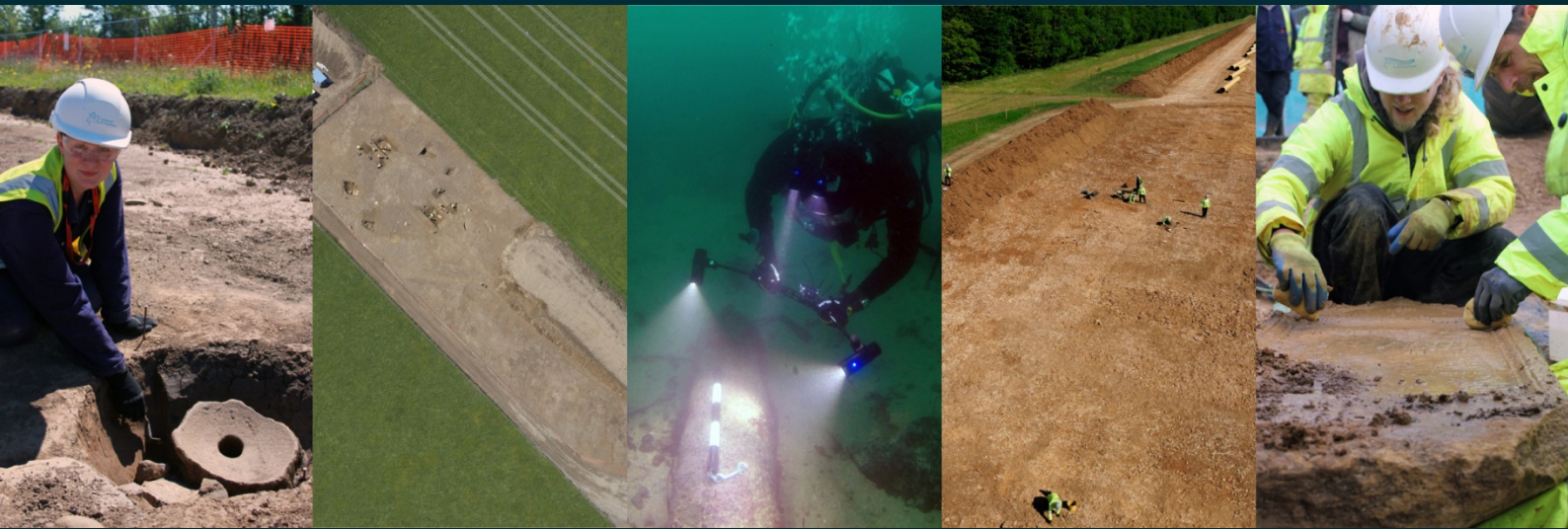


Land at Washpool Nr Lydiard Millicent Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
RPS Consulting Services Ltd

CA Project: 6635
CA Report: 18285

June 2018



Land at Washpool Nr Lydiard Millicent Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	11 June 2018	Peter Busby	Laurent Coleman	Final		Clifford Bateman

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Washpool
Location:	Nr Lydiard Millicent, Wiltshire
NGR:	410602 185819
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	21-24 May 2018
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code:	WASH 18

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2018 on land at Washpool, Nr Lydiard Millicent, Wiltshire. A total of 15 trenches was excavated.

An undated north-east/south-west orientated ditch was identified in the western part of the site, along with a number of poorly preserved furrows. No artefacts were retrieved during the evaluation.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for RPS Consulting Services Ltd on land at Washpool, Nr Lydiard Millicent, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 410602 185819; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to inform a planning application for the construction of residential accommodation and associated infrastructure along with new woodland, allotments and a linear park.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a WSI prepared by RPS Planning and Development for archaeological evaluation (RPS 2018) and a subsequent Method Statement (MS) produced by CA (2018). Both were approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council (WC), archaeological advisor to Swindon Borough Council (SBC), prior to the start of fieldwork. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, including a site visit on 23 May 2018.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 19.2ha in extent and comprises several fields in arable and pasture cultivation. The site is bounded to the south-east by a road known as The Elms, to the east by a road known as Washpool and to the north and west by agricultural land. The site lies at approximately 110m AOD, with the ground level dropping downwards to the north-west into a shallow valley containing an un-named stream, before rising again towards the north-western boundary of the site.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Ampthill Clay Formation and Kimmeridge Clay Formation (undifferentiated) – mudstone on the higher ground in the southern part of the site and Stanford Formation – limestone on the lower ground in the northern part of the site with Alluvium – clay, silt, sand and gravel noted adjacent to the stream itself (BGS 2018). The natural substrate encountered during the evaluation comprised clays and limestone gravels, consistent with the mapped deposits

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A desk-based assessment is currently being prepared for the site and a geophysical survey has previously been completed (Sumo Survey 2018). The WSI (RPS 2018) provides background archaeological information and is summarised below:
- 2.2 The site contains no known archaeological activity. Archaeological activity has been identified c. 250m to the south: This was identified from aerial photographs and appeared to comprise field boundary ditches, ridge and furrow earthworks and areas of medieval settlement. The eastern part of this area has been subject to geophysical survey and trial trenching. These works identified intercutting pits and ditches of Roman date and probable clay extraction pits, together with the remains of ridge and furrow earthworks. An area to the west of the site has been subject to geophysical survey; no anomalies of archaeological interest were identified.
- 2.3 The geophysical survey identified no anomalies of definite archaeological interest. Within Area 1 (the eastern part of the site) linear anomalies probably represent the remains of former field boundaries. Within Area 2 (the western part of the site) further linear anomalies were identified together with a possible former trackway. Two parallel linear anomalies of uncertain origin were identified in the northern part of the survey area. These features correspond to features visible on aerial photographs of the site (Sumo Surveys 2018).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable WC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).



4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 15 trenches, each 30m long by 1.8m wide, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). All of the trenches (with the exception of Trench 9, which was moved eastwards to avoid a foul drain, and Trench 12, which was moved eastwards to avoid a fence line), were laid out in accordance with the MS (CA 2018). The trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* but no deposits were identified that required sampling. No artefacts were identified during the evaluation despite searching the spoil heaps and scanning the surface of the ploughed western-most field.
- 4.4 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2 and 3)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was recorded throughout the site. The natural substrate, which was encountered typically between 0.23m and 0.47m below present ground level (bpgl), comprised light yellow-brown clay in the southern trenches (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10 and 15), with limestone gravel in the northern

trenches (Trenches 6, 11, 12 and 13), overlooking the stream. The surface of the natural substrate in the western field was heavily scaped by modern ploughing and subsoiling and in Trenches 5, 6 and 7 by furrows which were clearly visible in the surface of the ploughed field as soil marks.

- 5.3 In Trenches 2, 5, 6, 7, 10, 13, 14 and 15 the natural substrate was overlain by grey brown silty clay subsoil typically between 0.04m and 0.23m thick, which in Trenches 5, 6 and 7 was also identified infilling the furrows. The subsoils were sealed by modern ploughsoil.
- 5.4 In the eastern field, at the north-eastern end of Trench 13, the natural substrate was overlain by up to 0.55m of red-brown clay silt alluvium, 1303. In the north-eastern part of Trench 12 a palaeochannel, 1204, was observed which corresponds to the edge of the valley bottom. Modern demolition rubble encountered at the western end of Trench 10 immediately below the topsoil corresponds to the geophysical anomaly (magnetic disturbance) in the south-western corner of the eastern field (see Fig. 2 for location and extent) and is the remains of farm buildings demolished c. 1972 (Ordnance Survey mapping). In Trenches 9, 10, 11, 14 and 15 an upper grey brown clay silt subsoil was also observed measuring between 0.16m to 0.21m thick. The plough scarring on the surface of the underlying layers suggest that the eastern field, which is currently a meadow had been ploughed in recent times and the upper relict plough soil is a subsoil developed from the modern plough soil within this field. The upper relict plough soil was sealed by a 0.16m to 0.28m thick, dark grey brown topsoil.
- 5.5 No archaeological features were identified in Trenches 1-5 and 7-15. Furrows were identified in Trenches 5, 6 and 7 and tree throws in Trench 15. No finds were observed during the evaluation, despite the searching of the spoil heaps and surface of the western-most ploughed field.

Trench 6 (Figs 2 and 3)

- 5.6 Undated north-east/south-west aligned ditch 604 was observed at the north-western end of the trench. It was 0.77m wide, 0.26m deep with irregular, steeply sloping sides and an irregular base. It contained single fill 605 which was sealed by subsoil 602, which also infilled the north-west/south-east orientated furrow, which ran the length of the trench. The ditch corresponded to a linear geophysical anomaly initially interpreted as part of a track way (Sumo Survey 2018). However, the anomaly

thought to represent the south-eastern side of the track way was not identified in Trench 6, or in Trench 7 to the north-east.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the area (see Section 2 above), the evaluation only identified a single undated ditch, 604, and the remains of a number of furrows in the same area. No artefacts were identified despite the monitoring of spoil heaps and the surface of the ploughed western-most field.
- 6.2 There was a good correlation with the preceding geophysical anomalies (Sumo Survey 2018) with regard to the furrows, which were clearly visible as soil marks on the surface of the ploughed western-most field during the site visit on 23 May 2018. However, only the linear anomaly in Trench 6, ditch 604, had an archaeological expression, suggesting that the other linear geophysical anomalies identified within the survey are either geological in origin or variations within the current top and plough soils of the site. Ditch 604 does not appear to represent the remains of a track way; the geophysical survey anomalies which were interpreted as the trackway (and which are visible on aerial photographs) may represent agricultural activity of relatively recent date.
- 6.3 The inclusion of natural clays and gravels, as well as fragments of ceramic land drain on the surface of the western-most field suggests that modern cultivation is currently cutting into the natural substrate and that this may have truncated and/or removed any archaeological features in this part of site. However, the lack of artefacts also suggests that there may have been very limited or no settlement activity within the site.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Busby, assisted by Jess Stevens and Matt Coman. The report was written by Peter Busby. The illustrations were prepared by Charlotte Patman. The archive has been compiled by Peter Busby and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 25 May 2018

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 *Land at Washpool, Nr. Lydiard Millicent, Wiltshire: Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation*

RPS Planning & Development 2018 *Land at Washpool, Nr Lydiard Millicent, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an Archaeological Evaluation*. Project no. **JAC23357**

Sumo Survey 2018 *Land at Washpool, near Lydiard Millicent, Wiltshire: Geophysical Survey Report*. Report no. **12213**



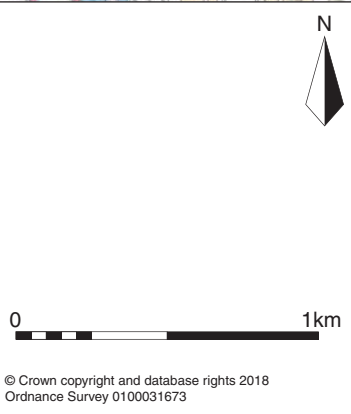
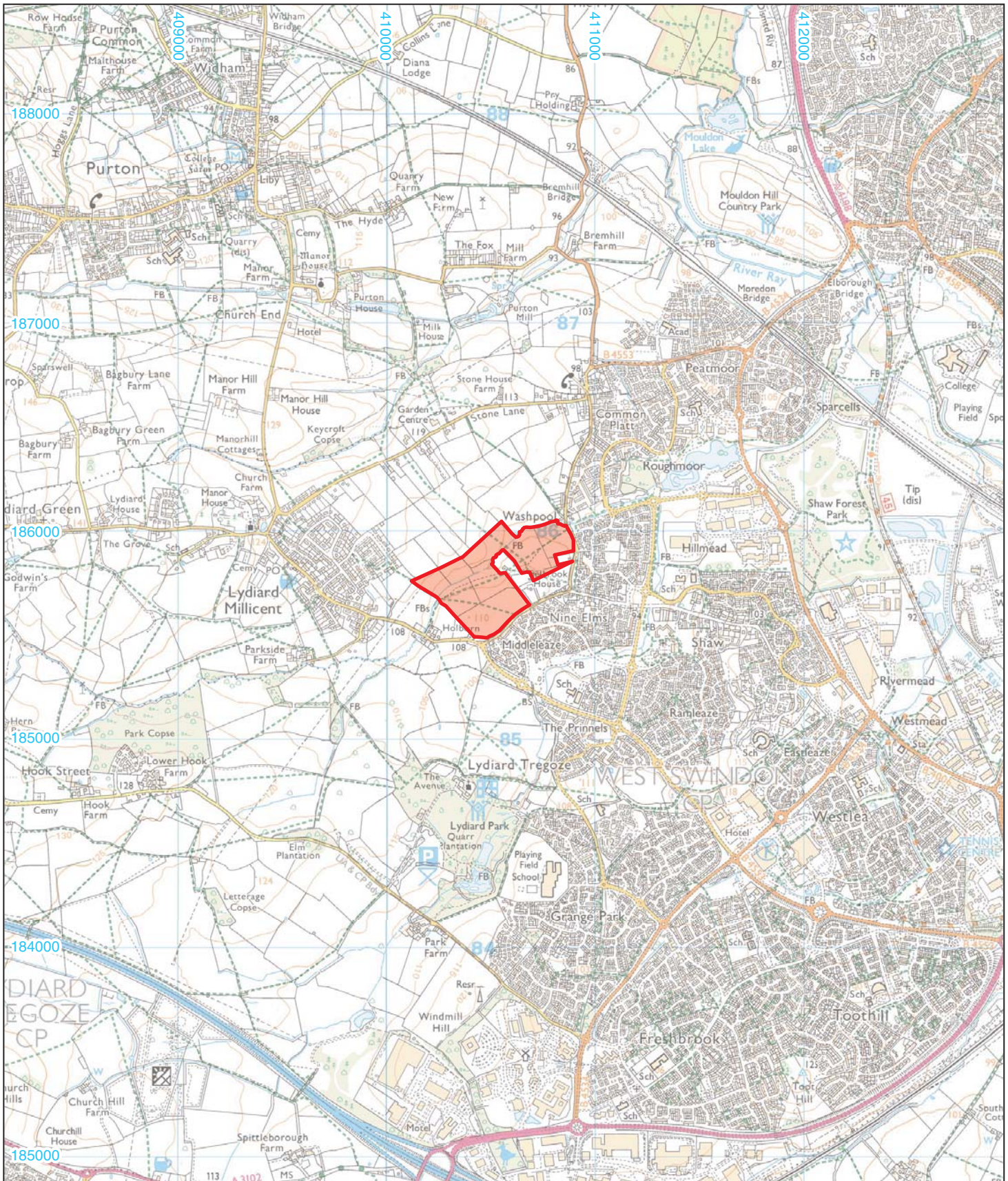
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	101	Layer		Plough soil	Dark brown clay silt with 1% modern brick, concrete and crushed rock	>30	>1.8	0.28
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow brown clay with large lenses of light yellow brown gravel clay	>30	>1.8	>0.15
2	201	Layer		Plough soil	Dark brown clay silt with 1% modern brick, concrete and crushed rock	>30	>1.8	0.23
2	202	Layer		Relict plough soil	Light orange brown silt clay with 5% gravel	>30	>1.8	>0.11
3	301	Layer		Plough soil	Dark brown clay silt with 1% modern brick, concrete and crushed rock	>30	>1.8	0.28
3	302	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow brown clay with large lenses of light yellow brown gravel clay	>30	>1.8	>0.18
4	401	Layer		Plough soil	Dark brown clay silt with 1% modern brick, concrete and crushed rock	>30	>1.8	0.23
4	402	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow brown clay with large lenses of light yellow brown gravel clay	>30	>1.8	>0.17
5	501	Layer		Plough soil	Dark brown clay silt with 1% modern brick, concrete and crushed rock	>30	>1.8	0.26
5	502	Layer		Subsoil	Light orange brown silt clay with 5% gravel	>30	>1.8	0.23
5	503	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow brown clay with large lenses of light yellow brown gravel clay	>30	>1.8	>0.1
6	601	Layer		Plough soil	Dark brown clay silt with 1% modern brick, concrete and crushed rock	>30	>1.8	0.28
6	602	Layer		Subsoil	Light grey brown silt clay with 10% gravel	>30	>1.8	0.19
6	603	Layer		Natural substrate	Grey brown clay limestone gravel overlying grey limestone	>30	>1.8	>0.27
6	604	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW orientated linear with steep irregular sides and irregular rounded base	>1.8	0.77	0.26
6	605	Fill	604	Ditch fill	Orange brown silt clay	>1.8	0.77	0.26
7	701	Layer		Plough soil	Dark brown clay silt with 1% modern brick, concrete and crushed rock	>30	>1.8	0.26
7	702	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow brown clay with large lenses of light yellow brown gravel clay	>30	>1.8	>0.16
7	703	Layer		Subsoil	Light orange brown silt clay with 5% gravel	>30	>1.8	0.19
8	801	Layer		Plough soil	Dark brown clay silt with 1% modern brick, concrete and crushed rock	>30	>1.8	0.23
8	802	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow brown clay with large lenses of light yellow brown gravel clay	>30	>1.8	>0.35
9	901	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.16
9	903	Layer		Subsoil	Grey brown clay silt clay with 15% gravel	>30	>1.8	0.22
9	903	Layer		Natural substrate	Mixed grey brown clay with 50% limestone gravel and yellow clay	>30	>1.8	>0.21
10	1001	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.18
10	1002	Layer		Subsoil	Light grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.13

10	1003	Layer		Subsoil	Grey brown clay silt clay with 15% gravel	>30	>1.8	0.04
10	1004	Layer		Natural substrate	Grey brown clay limestone gravel overlying grey limestone	>30	>1.8	>0.1
11	1101	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.22
11	1102	Layer		Subsoil	Light grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.16
11	1103	Layer		Natural substrate	Light grey limestone gravel and small cobbles	>30	>1.8	>0.12
12	1201	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.26
12	1202	Layer		Natural substrate	Light grey limestone gravel and small cobbles	>30	>1.8	>0.08
12	1203	Fill	1204	Paleochannel fill	Dark brown silt with 30% limestone gravel	>6	>1.5	0.23
12	1204	Cut		Paleochannel	Irregular E/W linear with an irregular moderately sloping S side	>6	>1.5	0.23
13	1301	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.28
13	1302	Layer		Subsoil	Grey brown silt clay with 25% rounded limestone gravel	>30	>1.8	0.17
13	1303	Layer		Alluvium	Red brown clay	>9.5	>1.8	0.55
13	1304	Layer		Natural substrate	Light grey limestone gravel and small cobbles	>30	>1.8	>0.2
14	1401	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.16
14	1402	Layer		Subsoil	Light grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.18
14	1403	Layer		Subsoil	Grey brown clay silt clay with 15% gravel	>30	>1.8	0.22
14	1404	Layer		Natural substrate	Grey brown clay limestone gravel overlying grey limestone	>30	>1.8	>0.05
15	1501	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.19
15	1502	Layer		Subsoil	Light grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.21
15	1503	Layer		Subsoil	Grey brown clay silt clay with 15% gravel	>30	>1.8	0.11
15	1504	Layer		Natural Substrate	Slightly grey orange clay	>30	>1.8	>0.14
15	1505	Cut		Tree throw	An irregular cut with uneven sides and base	1.4	>0.8	0.12
15	1506	Fill	1504	Tree throw fill	Light grey yellow brown silt clay	1.4	>0.8	0.12

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Washpool	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2018 on land at Washpool, Nr Lydiard Millicent, Wiltshire. A total of 15 trenches was excavated.</p> <p>An undated north-east/south-west orientated ditch was identified in the western part of the site, along with a number of poorly preserved furrows. No artefacts were retrieved during the evaluation</p>	
Project dates	21-24 May 2018	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical survey; Sumo Survey 2018 <i>Land at Washpool, near Lydiard Millicent, Wiltshire: Geophysical Survey Report</i> . Report no. 12213	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Nr. Lydiard Millicent, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	19.2ha	
Site co-ordinates	410602 185819	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	RPS Planning & Development (WSI), Cotswold Archaeology (Method Statement)	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Peter Busby	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	None	None
Paper	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Trench and context sheets, photo index
Digital	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photos and drawings
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>Land at Washpool, Nr Lydiard Millicent, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 18285		



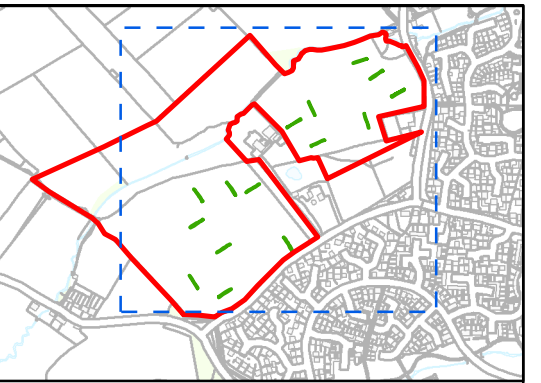
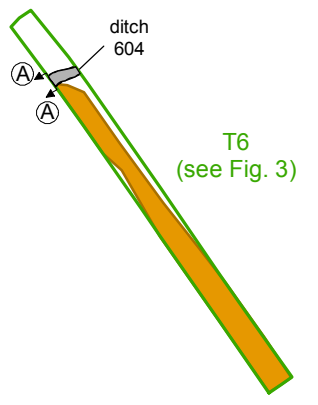
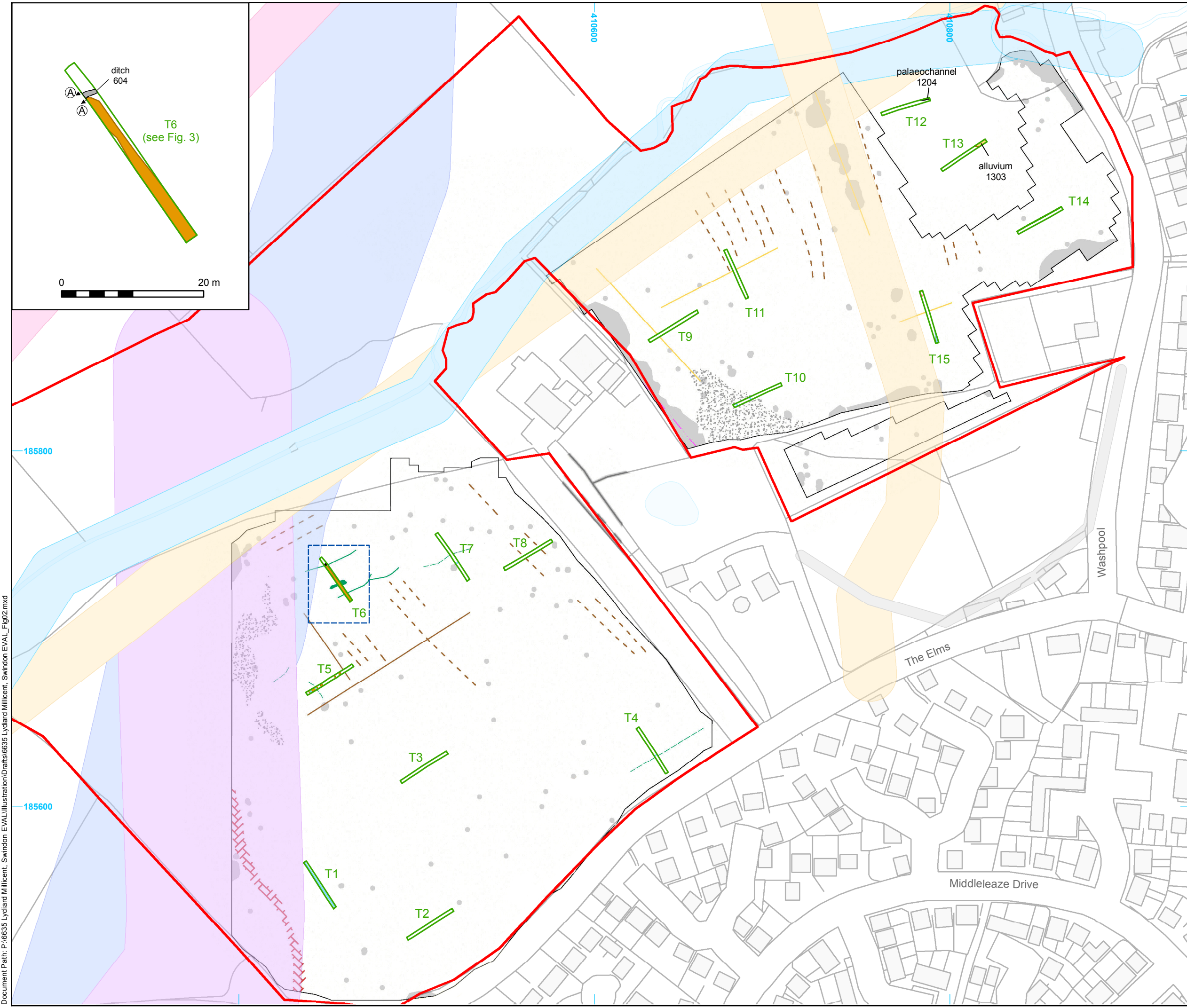

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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Washpool Nr Lydiard Millicent,
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FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 29/05/2018
 APPROVED BY LC SCALE@A4 1:25,000 **1**

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- ▭ Site Boundary
- ▭ Evaluation trench
- Cut feature
- Excavated intervention
- Deposit/fill
- Furrow
- Modern
- Field drain
- Treethrow
- 11kv OH 15m
- Buried Service 3m
- CLH 50m
- ESSO 50m
- HV OH 15m
- LV Electric 3m

**Geophysics Key
(Sumo Survey 2018)**

	Uncertain Origin (discrete anomaly / trend)
	Trackway (corroborated)
	Former field boundary (corroborated)
	Former field boundary (conjectural)
	Agriculture (plough)
	Magnetic disturbance
	Service
	Ferrous



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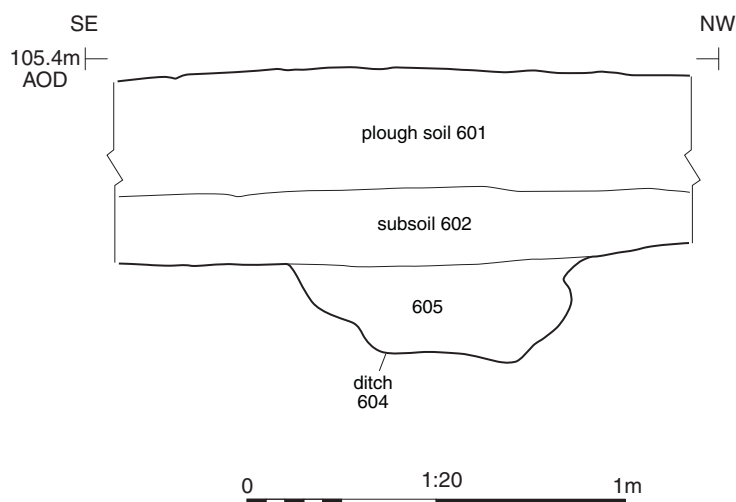
PROJECT TITLE
Land at Washpool Nr Lydiard Millicent, Wiltshire

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

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 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 07/06/2018
 APPROVED BY LC SCALE@A3 1:2,000 and 1:500 **2**

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Section AA



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



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Washpool Nr Lydiard Millicent,
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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 6: section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

3

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