

**Amesbury History Centre,  
Amesbury  
Wiltshire**  
*Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
Amesbury Town Council

CA Project: AN0067  
CA Report: AN0067\_1

November 2019



# Amesbury History Centre, Amesbury Wiltshire

## Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: AN0067  
CA Report: AN0067\_1



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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Amesbury History Centre
<b>Location:</b>	Amesbury, Wiltshire
<b>NGR:</b>	415264 141470
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	16-17, 24-30 October 2019
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	16/09558/FUL
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Salisbury Museum
<b>Accession Number:</b>	SBYM2019.41
<b>Site Code:</b>	AHC19

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2019 at Amesbury History Centre, Amesbury, Wiltshire. One trench was excavated.

Further to the Wessex evaluation in 2011 which found evidence of a medieval 'Burgage' plot on the site fronting Church Street, the current investigation revealed both medieval and post-medieval domestic waste pits, and a ditch/pit. These findings are synonymous with the utility of such plots, with a perpendicular post-medieval wall, probably acting as a later sub-division of the plot. A 'robbed out' wall trench and a chalk wall foundation of a similar date were also noted.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Amesbury Town Council at Amesbury History Centre, Amesbury, Wiltshire centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 415264 141470, hereafter referred to as ‘the site’ (see Figure 1).
- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning permission granted by Wiltshire (ref: 16/09558/FUL) for the demolition of the existing single storey History Centre, and the construction of a new two storey replacement History Centre and associated landscaping works, conditional on a programme of archaeological works.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2019) and approved by Martin Brown (County Archaeologist), the archaeological advisor to the Wiltshire Council. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Martin Brown, including a site visit on 25 October 2019.

### ***The site***

- 1.4 The proposed development area is approximately 907m<sup>2</sup>, and comprised the temporary structure known as Melor Hall, which was demolished during the watching brief phase of the current work (**Trench 1**), with a shingled area of associated car-parking to the front and a roughed grassed area to the rear. It is situated on Church Street to the west of Amesbury town centre. The Site is bounded to the north by grounds associated with Amesbury Abbey, to the east by a public car park, to the west by the Old Vicarage associated with St Mary and St Melor’s Church and to the south by Church Street. The site lies at approximately 70m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Seaford Chalk Formation with superficial deposits of river terrace gravels (BGS 2019), – the latter not being corroborated by the current findings (section 5.2).



## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Below there is a summary of the archaeological background of the area taken from an archaeological evaluation of the proposed development carried out by Wessex Archaeology (2011) and the Extensive Urban Survey of Amesbury (McMahon, 2004)

### *Prehistoric*

- 2.2 Despite being located partially within the Stonehenge World Heritage Site, which is rich in prehistoric monuments and known archaeological sites, the historic core of Amesbury has to-date produced little evidence of prehistoric activity. A Palaeolithic hand-axe was found south-east of the High Street in 1938 and a later evaluation of land off Salisbury Street produced evidence of Iron Age activity (McMahon, 2004). More recently, the site of Blick Mead has found a plethora of Mesolithic flint debitage 600m to the north-west of the site very close to the south side of the A303, showing a persistent return to the same place from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> millennia BC (Jacques and Phillips 2014).

### *Roman*

- 2.3 There is currently no evidence for Romano-British activity within the historic core of the town although evidence of occupation during this period does survive on the periphery to the south-east in the form of find spots and three poorly recorded graves (McMahon, 2004). Sherds of Roman pottery were found by Wessex Archaeology in 2006 during an archaeological evaluation and watching brief carried out on the new Co-op site situated off Salisbury Street (WA, 2006).

### *Saxon*

- 2.4 Although Amesbury is known to have developed into a sizeable settlement by the 10th century, there is little archaeological evidence for the Saxon period other than a handful of isolated finds. A large north-south aligned ditch possibly dating to the Saxon period was found on land to the rear of the Antrobus Arms, Church Street (Hulka and Valentin 1999), which lies to the south-east of the site on the opposite side of Church Street. The full depth of this ditch was not defined, but its upper fills yielded pottery dating to both the Saxon and medieval periods. Part of a probable Saxon cemetery was recorded during demolition works in 1835 at the junction of London Road and Countess Road, to the north-east of the site. Several burials were excavated; however the extent of the cemetery was not established (WA 2011).

- 2.5 Saxon features were recorded by Wessex Archaeology off Salisbury Street (WA, 2006): these included a number of aligned ditches, pits and residual pottery sherds.

### ***Medieval***

- 2.6 Despite the prosperous nature of Amesbury during the medieval period the only extant building surviving from this period is the parish church, The Abbey Church of St Mary and St Melor. The prosperity of the town in this period was largely dependent on the visitors and trade generated by the priory on the western side of town.
- 2.7 A market place is known to have existed in Amesbury since at least the 13th century and was bounded by the High Street to the north-west and by Salisbury Street to the north-east. The other extents of the market are conjectural. Pits and pottery were found to the rear of the Antrobus Arms, Church Street (Hulka and Valentin 1999).
- 2.8 Medieval features were discovered by WA (2011) on site and included a north-west/south-east aligned ditch, which was later recut, and thought to delineate the former 'burgage' plot boundary, which was an alignment clearly fossilised by extant plot boundaries fronting on Church Street immediately adjacent to site.

### ***Post-medieval and Modern***

- 2.9 Several pits dating to the post-medieval period were found during Wessex Archaeology's work on the current site (WA, 2011) and were thought to be a continuation of the use of the 'burgage' plot backyard for domestic waste.
- 2.10 Historic mapping (Figure 3) shows that in 1726 a building facing onto Church Street was present on the Site. The map also shows a number of neighbouring buildings on this north side of Church Street set out as a series of narrow plots, which would have most probably been the aforementioned 'burgage' plots sometime in the medieval period.
- 2.11 The Tithe map of 1846 does not indicate if there are any buildings on the site at this time, but the size of the apportionment plot would appear to indicate that the narrow burgage plots were no longer in existence. By the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey of 1877 the site had become part of the gardens belonging to the vicarage of the Parish Church of St Mary and St Melor's to the west.
- 2.12 The Site remained part of the vicarage gardens until the 1960s when the current Melor Hall was built and the Site was reduced to its current size. Modern



landscaping on the south side of site was also noted during the Wessex evaluation (2011)

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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

### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of two trenches (**Trench 1**; 15.84m x 10.35m and **Trench 2**; 23.54m x 1.54m) in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2). **Trench 1** comprised the cleaned-up demolished footprint of the History Centre Building, known as Melor Hall. **Trench 2** was an evaluation trench across the footprint of the proposed new building to assess the archaeology potential within the site. The location of **Trench 2** was re-orientated due to a water main running down the eastern side of the site from what was Melor Hall to the pavement of Church Street, with the approval of Martin Brown. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and, three feature deposits (section 7) were sampled and processed. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with the Salisbury Museum under accession number SBYM2019.41 along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix E, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-7)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively. **Trench 1** only cut into the topsoil by 0.25m so the focus in this section is **Trench 2** which for the most part was cut to an average depth of 0.8m where the archaeological horizon was most clear.

### **Geology**

- 5.2 Natural chalk (**244**) was revealed at a depth of 1.42m below present ground level at the base of pit **231**, at approximately 68.55m aOD. Above this, to a depth of 0.9m, lay natural mid brown clayey sand and silt with patches of white sand (**206**); the predominant natural geological deposit found across **Trench 2**. In turn, approximately 0.3m thick dark brown/grey clay/silt (a post-medieval garden soil, **204/205**) lay above, and also sealed all archaeological features except for pit **237** and wall **214**, which cut through it. A mixture of dark brown/grey topsoil and made ground (**200**) was lastly laid on top of this to an average depth of 0.25m.

### **Archaeological sequence**

- 5.3 The earliest feature was medieval ditch/pit **208** which cut natural geology **206** and lay roughly aligned to the boundary indicated by the ditches of Wessex's (2011) *Trench 1*. This was then cut by a medieval pit, **217**, at its north end and overlain by

chalk wall foundation, **216**, at its southern end on the same boundary alignment. Probable robbed-out wall cut, **225**, in turn cut through pit, **217**, before all features were universally covered by post medieval garden soil **204/205**. This garden soil also covered isolated pits **231**, **240** and **242**; the former dated to the post-medieval period and given the similarity in size, shape and location of the latter two pits to the post-medieval pits of *Trench II* and *III* of the Wessex evaluation (*ibid.*), these were probably of a similar date, though no dating evidence was recovered. Lastly flint and brick-built post-medieval/early modern wall, **214**, was cut through the garden soil perpendicular to the former alignment of the plot and was respected by later pit, **237**, which might be associated with wall, **214**'s, construction.

### **Medieval**

- 5.4 Ditch/pit, **208**, correlated with the alignment of the ditch in the Wessex (*ibid.*) evaluation but also had similarly few finds and seemingly natural, as opposed to deliberate, infilling of the feature. However, at both ends of the feature the eastern edge appeared to curve slightly to the west to suggest a very large pit (it was only partially exposed in plan within the trench – see Figure 2). The problem of defining the feature's function was further compounded by the instability of the natural geology on the site (as with all the deep-cut features on site), where the extent of features was difficult to ascertain due to the primary fills being very hard to discern from the collapsed edges of the natural surrounding geology (in this case fill **209**) and the considerable quantities of collapse noted in in pit **231**.
- 5.5 Ditch/pit **208** measured >1.27m wide and >6m long; however due to health and safety considerations the feature could not be excavated to its full depth. It had an excavated depth of >0.87m. Ditch/pit, **208** was filled with four fills: predominantly mid-brown clay/sand primary fill, **209**, with minor inclusions of brown/grey silt/clay and subsequently two secondary fills of grey/brown silt/clay (**210**, **211**), the former distinguished by lenses of white calcareous silt/clay possibly derived from weathered natural geology. The final fill was tertiary fill, **212**, described below (section 5.8)
- 5.6 Pit, **217**, cut ditch/pit, **208**, (note **208** was numbered **229** on the north side of wall **214**) at its northern end. It measured >4.13m by >2m and was larger than the trench itself and was cut by possible robber trench, **225**, on its north-west side. It was filled with six fills, the latter two being post-medieval. All the fills were dumped deposits except the initial primary fill (**218**) and such fills are usually more suggestive of pit

deposits; note the base of the feature could not be reached due to the depth of the trench. The excavated depth of the pit, **217**, was 0.58m.

- 5.7 Pit **217** was filled with light green/brown silt/clay primary fill, **218**, and black, humic, silt, **219**, as the lowest deposits in the sequence. Overlying these was a 0.51m thick deposit of light brown/grey clay/silt (**220**), which contained medieval pottery and may have been a dumped deposit but had an otherwise sterile homogenous appearance not unlike secondary fill (**211/230**). In turn a light green/brown and grey/brown silt/clay dumped deposit (**221**) of domestic refuse was laid and subsequently black and dark grey, humic, silt/clay (**222**). The last two dumped deposits were post-medieval in date (**223**, **224**) and described below in section 5.8.

### *Post-medieval*

- 5.8 The final fill of ditch/pit **208** comprised compact tertiary gravel in a grey/brown silt/clay matrix (**212**) and contained post-medieval pottery, as did the final two dumped fills of pit **217**. These latter two fills were mid-grey/brown silt/clay (**223**) and light yellow/ brown calcareous silt/clay (**224**).
- 5.9 Possible chalk wall foundation, **216**, lay atop tertiary fill, **212**, and was sealed by post-medieval garden soil **205**. It measured >2.5m by 0.58m and was only partially exposed from the western baulk with a north-west/south-east orientation matching the 'burgage' plot alignment. It had a depth of 0.2m in profile.
- 5.10 Probable robber trench, **225**, was quite distorted in plan due to the last episode of backfilling (**228**) but had vertical sides lower down its profile and might conceivably have had a perpendicular alignment to the 'burgage' plot axis. It was dated relationally according to its cutting of pit, **217**, (specifically fill **220**) and its being below post-medieval garden soil **204**; it may represent a similar phase to foundation **216**. It measured 1.17m wide at the top and was >0.57m deep, where similar to pit **217**, the depth of the trench made it unsafe to dig the feature any deeper. The first two fills of pit **225** resembled redeposited natural geology: light yellow/brown and mid-grey/ brown silt/clay (**226**) and soft chalk (**227**). The last fill was a mixed dumped deposit of dark brown/grey silt/clay (**228**) with lenses of natural chalk.
- 5.11 Pit, **231**, lay isolated at the north end of the trench below the post-medieval garden soil **204** measuring 2.54m long by 2.4m wide and disappeared into the baulk on either side of the trench. It had a depth of 1.09m and because of the steepness of its

original sides, there was a large amount of primary fill collapse (**232, 234, 235**), leaving a negative incline to the northern edge of the feature. It had five fills including a dumped deposit of dark brown/grey humic clay/silt (**233**) containing post-medieval pottery deposited after the initial primary filling (**232**) and after the subsequent collapse of two primary fills (**234** and **235**), a final larger dump of dark brown/grey clay/silt (**236**) was deposited within the pit, included within, some post-medieval pottery.

- 5.12 Two smaller pits at the southern end of the trench (**240, 242**) were thought to be of a similar date just beneath the post-medieval garden soil given their proximity to- and morphological affinity with- the small post-medieval pits in Wessex trenches II and III (2011).
- 5.13 After the build-up of the post-medieval garden soils (**204** and **205**) a wall **214** was cut through, perpendicular to the 'burgage' plot axis and parallel with Church Street (north-east/south-west). It measured 0.53m wide by 0.7m deep, which mostly constituted the remnant of the foundations. The face of the wall even upon the flint foundation, was finished down to the basal level on the north-west side of the wall, where at this level on the opposite side, the stone work had occasional patches of mortar but was not finished to a flat face. A soldier course of bricks was begun atop 0.4m of vaguely coursed flint, with occasional pieces of sandstone and limestone.
- 5.14 The wall (**214**) was respected on the north-west side by a parallel, shallow linear pit feature (**237**) which was partially exposed within the trench, disappearing into both baulk sections and overlying pit, **217**. It measured 4.14m wide by 0.32m deep and was filled by a number of dumped, levelling deposits (**201, 202, 203, 238**) perhaps associated with or contemporary with wall, **214**.

## 6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material recovered from the evaluation is listed in Appendix B (Table 1) and discussed further below. All finds have been recorded directly to an MS Excel spreadsheet.

### *Pottery*

- 6.2 A small assemblage, comprising 26 sherds (weighing 677g), was recovered from ten deposits. A single sherd (2g), recovered from disturbed natural layer **207** is of

probable prehistoric date and is highly abraded. The remainder of the group is of medieval or post-medieval date.

- 6.3 Ten sherds, weighing 168g, of medieval-dated pottery were recovered from six deposits. Three fabrics are represented, with the majority being bodysherds of East Wiltshire (Kennet Valley) ware, of late 11th to 15th century date, or glazed bodysherds of Lacock/Nash Hill products, dateable from the late 13th to 16th centuries. A single sherd of glazed Saintonge ware, imported from southwest France and of 13th to 15th century date, was recovered from garden soil layer **205**.
- 6.4 The remaining 15 sherds (507g) are of post-medieval date and comprise glazed earthenwares, broadly dateable from the mid-16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Verwood products, of 17th to 18th century date, comprise eight sherds (232g).

#### ***Other Finds***

- 6.5 A total of 62 fragments (weighing 5965g) of ceramic building material were recovered from 11 deposits. The majority comprises fragments of flat tile, with medieval or later dated peg tile recovered from garden soil layer **205**, pit **217** (fill **222**) and pit **231** (fill **233**). The exception is a fragment of curved tile, probably for drainage, recovered from pit **217** (fill **222**).
- 6.6 Five items of prehistoric worked flint (35g) were recovered from two deposits. All are flakes, which cannot be closely dated.
- 6.7 Eight fragments (30g) of clay tobacco pipe, all stem fragments, were recovered from three deposits. In the absence of diagnostic features such as the bowl or decoration, the pipe can only broadly be dated from the late 16th to late 19th centuries.
- 6.8 A single glass item, a jar or bottle base fragment in pale blue/green colour of post-medieval date, was recovered from garden soil layer **204**.
- 6.9 A total of eight items (319g) of metal were recovered from six deposits. The group comprises seven items of iron and one of copper alloy, and is characterised by high fragmentation and heavy corrosion which precludes identification of function and date.

## 7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

### ***Palaeoenvironmental evidence***

- 7.1 Three environmental samples ('1', '2' and '3' -18 litres of soil) were processed from three pits (**217**, **208**, and **231** respectively) within **Trench 2** (Table 2, Appendix C). This was done with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site and to also assist in confirming the dating of the pits. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No.2).
- 7.2 Fill **219** (Sample 1) of pit **217** contained a high number of charred indeterminate cereal grains, low quantities of hulled wheat (emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*)) grains which showed some signs of vitrification and abrasion, a single barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain, which is still in its husk, and a large number of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) grains. Some of the free-threshing wheat grains were still in their husks and showed signs of germination on approximately 20% of the free-threshing wheat assemblage. A small number of rye (*Secale* sp.) grains were also noted during assessment and showed signs of abrasion. Alongside the high number of grains, a large quantity of culm fragments and rachis fragments were recorded. A small number of charred seeds were noted, including those of bedstraw (*Galium* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.) and a possible plantain (*Plantago* sp.) seed. A small number of terrestrial snail shells belonging to the open country species *Vallonia* sp. were also present within the assemblage.
- 7.3 This assemblage is likely to be representative of a dump of crop processing waste due to the large number of grains, culm and rachis fragments. The presence of culms may suggest that it included waste from an early stage of processing. The amount of traces of germination that appears on some of the free-threshing wheat grains is not enough to clearly suggest that malting was taking place in the vicinity but is more likely to indicate that the crop was perhaps of poor quality or poorly stored. The assemblage from pit **217** is compatible with a medieval date as free-threshing wheat is the dominant wheat species in Southern Britain from the post-Roman period onwards (Greig 1991).
- 7.4 Sample 2 (fill **210**) of pit/ditch **208** contained a small number of charred indeterminate grains and no other charred plant remains. Pit **208** is likely to be representative of wind-blown/dispersed material and does not aid in the dating of the

pit and does not provide any insight into whether domestic or industrial activity was taking place.

- 7.5 Fill **233** (Sample **3**) of pit **231** contained a moderately low number of charred indeterminate cereal grains alongside a small number of hulled wheat grains that were very abraded. No other charred plant remains were recovered from within pit **231**. A small number of terrestrial snail shells belonging to the open country species *Vallonia* sp. were also noted during assessment. This environmental assemblage is likely to be indicative of wind-blown/dispersed domestic waste material and does not aid in confirming the date of the pit **231**.

#### Summary

- 7.6 Due to the high quantities of free-threshing wheat and chaff present within pit **217** (Sample **1**), it can be suggested that that domestic settlement activity, including crop processing, was taking place in the vicinity of this pit during the medieval period. As the small quantity of hulled wheat recovered from the pits, **217** (Sample **1**) and **231** (Sample **3**) was poorly preserved and abraded, it suggests that the hulled wheat grains are residual from an early phase of activity in the general area.

#### **Animal Bone**

- 7.7 Animal bone amounting to 75 fragments (3489.7g) was recovered via hand excavation and bulk soil sampling from ten deposits. Artefactual material dating from the medieval to post-medieval period was also recovered from these deposits (See Table **3**, Appendix **D**). The material was fragmentary but well preserved enough to make possible the identification of cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*), pig (*Sus scrofa* sp.) and horse (*Equus caballus*). A limited amount of bird and fish bone was also recovered but it was not in good enough condition to identify to species level.

#### *Medieval*

- 7.8 Thirty-four fragments (456.2g) were recovered from ditch/pit **208** and pit **217** and of these, ten were identifiable to species. The remains of sheep/goat were most common with 10 fragments (153g), pig was identified from two (95g) and cattle one (21g). Each was identified from fragments of meat-poor bones commonly seen in the waste from the early stages of butchery. Although no cut marks or impact





damage to suggest such an origin were observed, each were common domestic animals and their presence is to be expected in an assemblage of this period.

#### *Post-medieval*

- 7.9 Forty fragments (3033.5g) were recovered from garden soil layers **204** and **205**, fill **226** of robber cut **225**, and from deposits **233** and **236**, fills of pit **231**. The majority of this bone came from pit **231** with 30 fragments (2891.5g) recovered. Cattle and sheep/goat were identified by both meat-poor and meat-rich bones, many of which displayed cut marks indicative of butchery, specifically the separation of a carcass into separate cuts of meat. Six horse bones (1849g) were also identified, a humerus, radius and ulna, two tibia and a first phalange, all of which are of similar size, maturity and condition to originate from the same animal. One of the tibiae is notable as it displays many repeated chop marks. While horse remains are common in this period, there is no clear explanation as the location of the marks appear random, showing no pattern common to the slaughter or dismemberment of an animal. Sheep/goat was the only species identified in the garden soil layers, but no evidence of butchery was observed.

## 8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The presence of medieval to post-medieval domestic waste pits and walls (the latter respecting the plot alignment indicated by the ditches from the Wessex (2011) evaluation) further substantiates the use of the site as a 'burgage' plot within this chronology. The finds and biological reports show that meat and cereals were processed on site and that the general environmental evidence in the soils was consistent with such a plot. The amount of germinated grain in the pits was not sufficient to suggest any malting taking place on site.

## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jeremy Clutterbuck, assisted by Tim Street. The report was written by Jeremy Clutterbuck. The finds, palaeoenvironmental and faunal evidence reports were written by Katie Marsden, Emma Aitken and Andy Clarke respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The

archive has been compiled by Richard Paxford, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No	Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark Grey-Brown. Clay Silt.	15.84	10.35	0.25	Mod
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark Grey-Brown. Clay Silt.	23.54	1.85	0.3	Mod
2	201	Fill	237	Tertiary fill	Mid greyish brown, Clayey silt	3.28	> 2	0.1	Post Med - Early Mod
2	202	Fill	237	Redeposited natural/Dumped deposit	Mid brown Silty Clay with white flecking	2.74	> 2	0.12	Post Med - Early Mod
2	203	Fill	237	redeposited natural/Dumped deposit	Light brown calcareous clayey sand.	1.46	> 2?	0.14	Post Med - Early Mod
2	204	Layer		Garden soil	Dark brownish grey Clayey silt	11	1.85	0.4	Post Med
2	205	Layer		Garden soil	Dark brownish grey Clayey silt	11	1.85	0.43	Post Med
2	206	Layer		Upper natural	Mid brown clayey sand + silt with patches of white sand	23.54	1.85	0.9	
2	207	Layer		Disturbed natural	Light yellowish brown Clayed sand	1.23	0.53	> 0.28	Pre
2	208	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear, rounded, steep broken sharply. NW/SE, base not found, partly exposed	> 6	>1.27	> 0.87	
2	209	Fill	208	Primary fill	Mid brown and brownish grey clayey sand and silty clay	> 0.8	> 0.83	0.27	
2	210	Fill	208	Secondary fill	Light greyish brown and white silty clay	> 0.62	>0.8	0.19	
2	211	Fill	208	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown Silty clay	> 0.62	> 0.99	0.43	Med
2	212	Fill	208	Tertiary fill	Mid greysh brown silty clay with subangular flints	> 0.7	> 1.05	0.35	Post Med
2	213	Cut		Cut for wall	Linear, not seen in plan, vertical broken sharply. Flat base, NE/SW	>2	1.01	0.62	Post Med - Early Mod
2	214	Masonry	213	Wall	Brick-built wall though predominantly flint foundation, also lime mortar, sandstone and limestone. Direction of face: NW	> 2	0.53	0.7	Post Med - Early Mod
2	215	Cut		Cut for chalk foundation	linear, imperceptible, flat base, NW/SE	> 2.5	0.58	0.2	
2	216	Masonry	215	Chalk foundation	rubble finish, random uncoursed, face not possible to determine.	> 2.5	0.58	0.2	
2	217	Cut		Cut of pit	Not fully exposed, one curved edge, rounded, steep broken sharply, base not reached.	> 4.13	> 2	> 0.58	
2	218	Fill	217	Primary fill	Light greenish brown silty clay	0.65	> 2	0.15	
2	219	Fill	217	Dumped deposit	Black Humic silt, charcoal rich	> 0.75	> 0.6	>0.08	Med
2	220	Fill	217	Secondary fill	Light brownish grey clayey silt	>2.74	> 0.6	0.51	Med
2	221	Fill	217	Dumped deposit	Light greenish brown and greyish brown silty clay	1.22	> 0.6	0.34	Med
2	222	Fill	217	Humic dumped deposit	Black and dark grey humic silty clay	2.25	> 2	0.17	Med
2	223	Fill	217	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown Silty clay	2.11	> 2	0.19	Post Med
2	224	Fill	217	Dumped deposit	Light yellowish brown calcareous silty clay	1.99	> 2	0.2	Post Med
2	225	Cut		Robbed out wall cut	irregular linear, rounded, steep to vertical with sharp break, base not found. NE/SW	> 2	1.17	0.57	
2	226	Fill	225	Dumped deposit	light yellowish brown and mid greyish brown silty clay	> 0.6	0.73	0.32	
2	227	Fill	225	Dumped deposit	white chalk	> 0.6	0.5	0.12	

Trench No	Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
2	228	Fill	225	Dumped deposit	Dark brownish grey with white lenses silty clay	> 2	1.17	0.31	
2	229	Cut		Cut of ditch/pit	Linear, rounded, Same as 208. Unexcavated	> 0.65	> 1.08	> 0.1	
2	230	Fill	229	Secondary fill?	Mild greyish brown silty clay, possibly same as 211	> 0.65	> 1.08	>0.1	
2	231	Cut		Domestic waste pit	irregular blob, rounded, sharp break to steep even negatively inclined sides, broken sharply to chalk base.	2.54	2.4	1.09	Post Med
2	232	Fill	231	Primary fill	mid greyish brown clayey silt	>0.8	0.68	0.2	Post Med
2	233	Fill	231	Dumped deposit	Dark brownish grey clayey silt, humic	>0.8	1.31	0.21	Post Med
2	234	Fill	231	Primary fill	light brownish white calcareous clayey sand	>0.8	1.21	0.1	Post Med
2	235	Fill	231	Primary fill	Mid brown Silty Clay	0.89	> 0.8	0.42	Post Med
2	236	Fill	231	Dumped deposit	Dark brownish grey clayey silt. Lot of oyster shells	> 0.8	1.29	0.59	Post Med
2	237	Cut		Cut for pit	Linear pit, though obscured by baulks. Asymmetrical steep at SE, gradual gradient from NW. Flat base. NE/SW	4.14	>2	0.32	Post Med – Early Mod
2	238	Fill	237	Dumped deposit	light brownish grey silty clay	2.04	> 2	0.24	Post Med – Early Mod
2	239	Fill	213	Structural cut backfill	dark brownish silty clay	> 2	0.44	0.62	Post Med – Early Mod
2	240	Cut		Unexcavated pit		0.75	0.35		
2	241	Fill	240	Dumped deposit	mid brownish grey silty clay	0.75	0.35		
2	242	Cut		Unexcavated pit		> 0.5	> 0.5		
2	243	Fill	242	Dumped deposit	mid brownish grey silty clay	> 0.5	> 0.5		
2	244	Layer		Natural	Soft chalk bedrock	23.54	1.85	>0.3	

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS BY KATIE MARSDEN

Table 1: Table of artefactual material recovered

Context	Class	Ra No.	SS. No.	Description	Fabric Code	Ct.	W. (g)	Spot-date
204	CBM			tile		2	194	C17-C18
	clay tobacco pipe			stem		5	19	
	Glass			pale blue/green		1	22	
	Iron			fragment		1	25	
	post-medieval pottery			Verwood	VER	3	27	
205	CBM			tile inc peg		7	1018	LC13-C16
	clay tobacco pipe			stem		2	8	
	copper alloy			sheet		1	16	
	medieval pottery			Lacock body	LNH	1	13	
	medieval pottery			Saintonge; body	SAI	1	1	
207	Prehistoric pottery?			Sandy quartz fabric	Qz1	1	2	Pre?
210	CBM			tile		4	124	-
	CBM		2	tile		1	34	
	Iron		2	fragment		1	2	
211	medieval pottery			East Wilts bodysherds	Ewilts	3	29	LC11-C15
212	CBM			tile		1	21	C17-C18
	Iron			fragment		1	15	
	post-medieval pottery			Verwood	VER	1	3	
220	CBM	1		tile		31	81	LC13-C16
	Flint			flakes		1	6	
	Iron			fragment		1	234	
	medieval pottery			Lacock/Nash Hill; thumbbed base	LNH	1	7	
	medieval pottery			East Wilts; body	Ewilts	1	16	
222	CBM			tile inc peg		5	142	LC13-C16
	medieval pottery			Lacock/Nash Hill; thumb strip body	LNH	1	91	
223	CBM			tile		6	359	MC16-C18
	post-medieval pottery			Glazed earthenware bowl; sooted outer	GEW	4	81	
226	CBM			tile		3	62	-
233	CBM			tile inc peg		8	466	C17-C18
	Flint		3	flakes		4	29	
	Iron			fragment		1	9	
	Iron		3	fragment		2	18	
	medieval pottery		3	Lacock/Nash Hill	LNH	1	8	
	post-medieval pottery			Glazed earthenware; bowl	GEW	2	68	
	post-medieval pottery			Verwood	VER	1	37	
235	post-medieval pottery			Glazed earthenware; base	GEW	2	129	MC16-C18
236	CBM			tile; mortar both sides		1	198	C17-C18
	CBM			tile		21	3266	
	clay tobacco pipe			stem		1	3	
	post-medieval pottery			Verwood? Bifid rim bowl	VER	3	165	

## APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE BY EMMA AITKEN

Three environmental samples ('1', '2' and '3' -18 litres of soil) were processed from three pits (217, 208, and 231 respectively) within Trench 2. This was done with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site and to also assist in confirming the dating of the pits. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No.2).

Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 2, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al* (2012) for cereals. The presence of mollusc shells has also been recorded, following nomenclature according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).

The flots varied in size from small to large with low numbers of rooty material and uncharred seeds. The charred material comprised poor levels of preservation. Even though the preservation levels were quite poor, some species identification of the charred plant remains was possible. Much of the charcoal was impregnated with silt which also inhibits wood species identification.

**Table 2** Assessment of the palaeoenvironmental remains

Feature	Context	Sample	Volume (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Pits												
225	219	1	5	195	1	*****	*****	indet grain (v. abraded, vitrified); hulled wheat; f-t wheat***** (some still in husks, germination present); barley (still in husk); rye culm frags; rachis	**	<i>Galium;</i> <i>Rumex;</i> c.f. <i>Plantago</i>	**/**	brnt bn**; sab*; f-bn**; moll-t*
208	210	2	6	2	10	**	-	indet grain	-	-	*/*	f-bn*
231	233	3	7	20	<1	***	-	indet grain; hulled wheat (v. abraded)	-	-	**/**	sab**; f-bn*; hammerscale*; moll-t*

Key: \* = 1–4 items; \*\* = 4–20 items; \*\*\* = 21–49 items; \*\*\*\* = 50–99 items; \*\*\*\*\* = >100 items

moll-t = terrestrial mollusc, moll-a = aquatic mollusc, sab = small animal bone, brnt bn = burnt bone, f-bn = fish bone

## APPENDIX D: ANIMAL BONE BY ANDY CLARKE

Table 3: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight (g) and context.

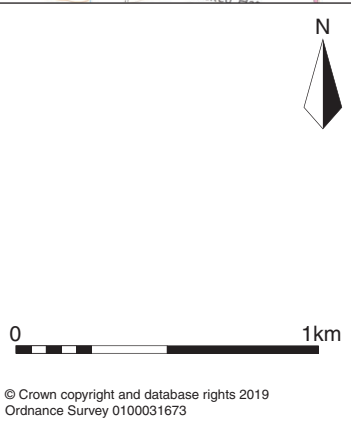
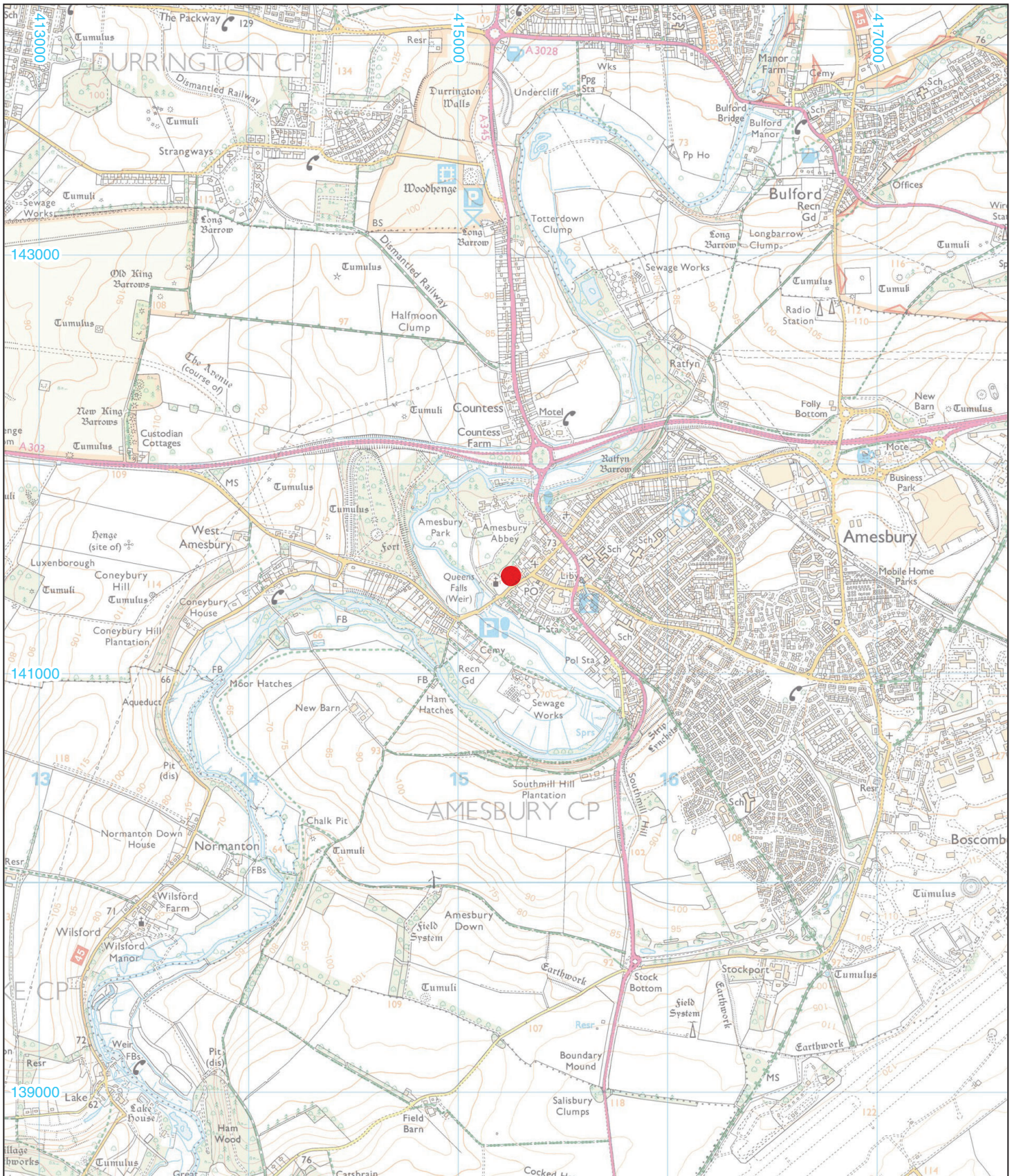
Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	SUS	EQ	Fish	Bird	LM	MM	Ind	BB SS	Total	Weight
<b>Medieval</b>													
208	210		2						1			3	20
217	219										1	1	0.2
217	220		2						2	1		5	40
217	222	1	1	1			1	3	2			9	166
217	223		2	1				5	8			16	230
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>456.2</b>
<b>Post-medieval</b>													
	204		1					3				4	52
	205		3				2	1				6	86
225	226						1					1	4
231	233		1			4			1			6	7.5
231	236	9	4		6			3	2			24	2884
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>41</b>	<b>3033.5</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>75</b>	
<b>Weight</b>		<b>948</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>1849</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>3489.7</b>	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; SUS = pig; EQ = horse; MM = medium sized mammal; Ind = indeterminate; BB SS = unidentifiable burnt bone from bulk soil samples



## APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

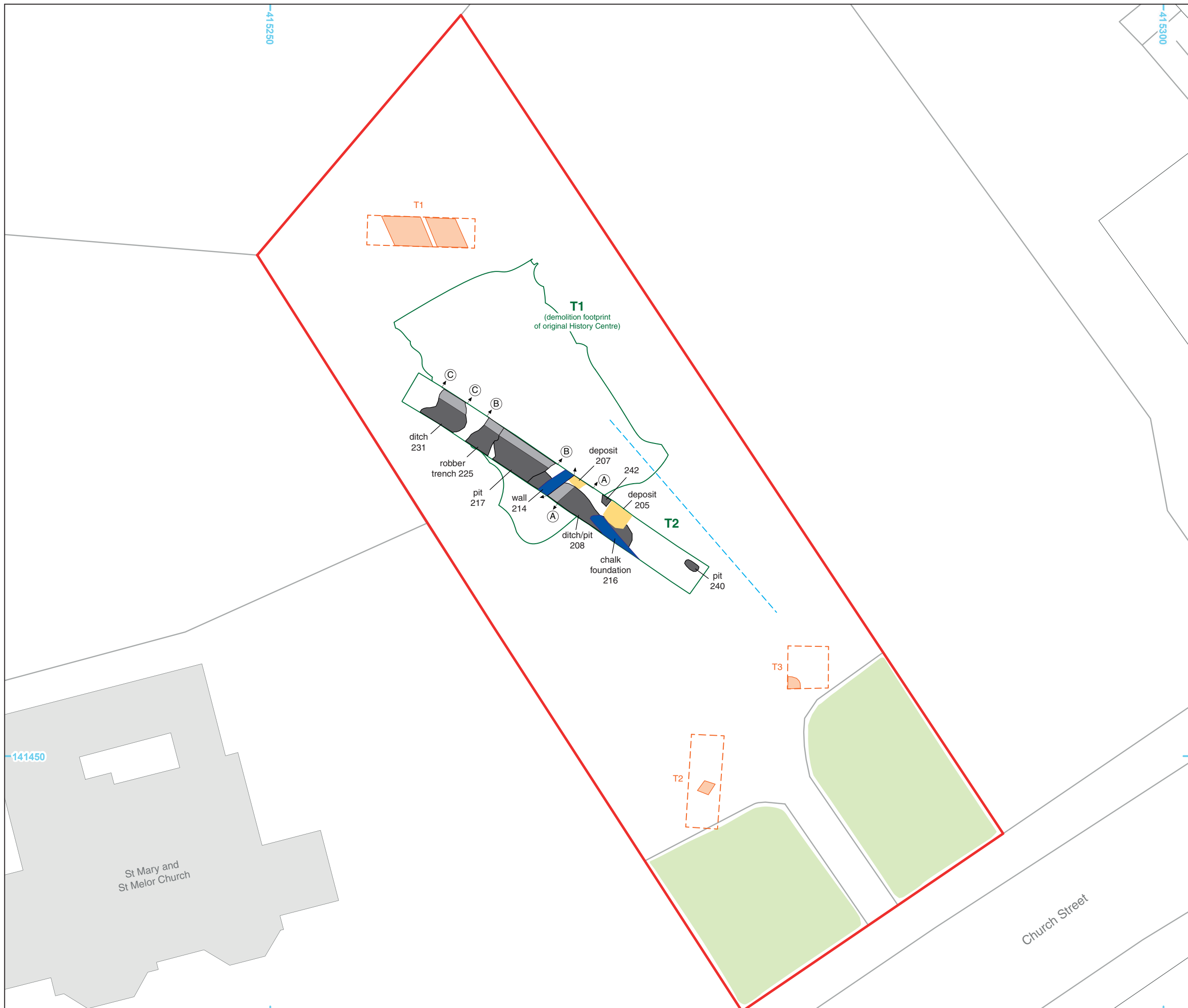
<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Amesbury History Centre	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2019 at Amesbury History Centre, Amesbury, Wiltshire. One trench was excavated.</p> <p>Further to the Wessex trenches on site in 2011 which found evidence of a medieval 'Burgage' plot fronting Church Street, the current investigation revealed both medieval and post-medieval domestic waste pits and a ditch/pit, synonymous with the utility of such plots, as well as a perpendicular post-medieval wall, probably as a later sub-division. A perhaps 'robbed out' wall trench and a chalk wall foundation were also found within this chronology.</p>	
Project dates	16-17, 24-30 October 2019	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Wessex Archaeology 2011, <i>Melior Hall, Church Street, Amesbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report</i> ; typescript report N: <b>77050.02</b>	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Amesbury History Centre, Amesbury, Wiltshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	415264 141470	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Martin Brown (Wiltshire County Archaeologist)	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor	Jeremy Clutterbuck	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	Cotswold Archaeology Andover Office	Pottery, CBM, Animal Bone, Metal
Paper	Amesbury Museum Services SBYM2019.41	Context sheets, drawings
Digital	Amesbury Museum Services SBYM2019.41	Database, digital photos etc
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019. <i>Amesbury History Centre, Amesbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation CA</i> typescript report <b>AN0067_1</b>		




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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Amesbury History Centre, Amesbury,  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan  
**DRAWN BY** EE **PROJECT NO.** AN0067 **FIGURE NO.**  
**CHECKED BY** DJB **DATE** 20/11/2019  
**APPROVED BY** RK **SCALE@A4** 1:25,000 **1**

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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Previous evaluation trench (WA 2011)
- Previous evaluation archaeology
  
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Structure
- Deposit
- Section location
  
- Water service
- Grass verge



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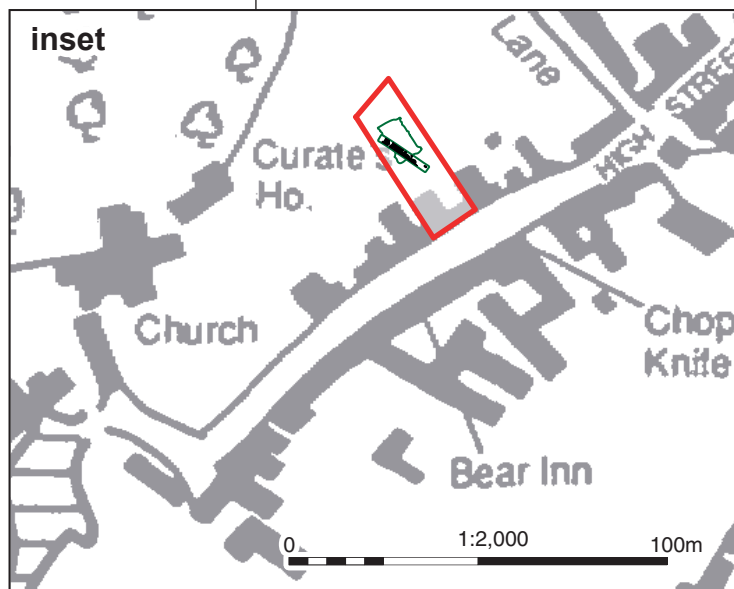
FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench location plan**

DRAWN BY CHECKED BY APPROVED BY	EE DJB RK	PROJECT NO. DATE SCALE@A3	AN0067 20/11/2019 1:200	FIGURE NO. <b>2</b>
---------------------------------------	-----------------	---------------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------



Church Street

AMESBURY - the town in 1726



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PROJECT TITLE

Amesbury History Centre, Amesbury,  
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FIGURE TITLE

Trench location overlain over 1726 map

19th century redrawing of a map of Amesbury, Crowley 1995.

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Trench 2, post-excavation view, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 2, post-excavation view, looking south-east (1m scales)

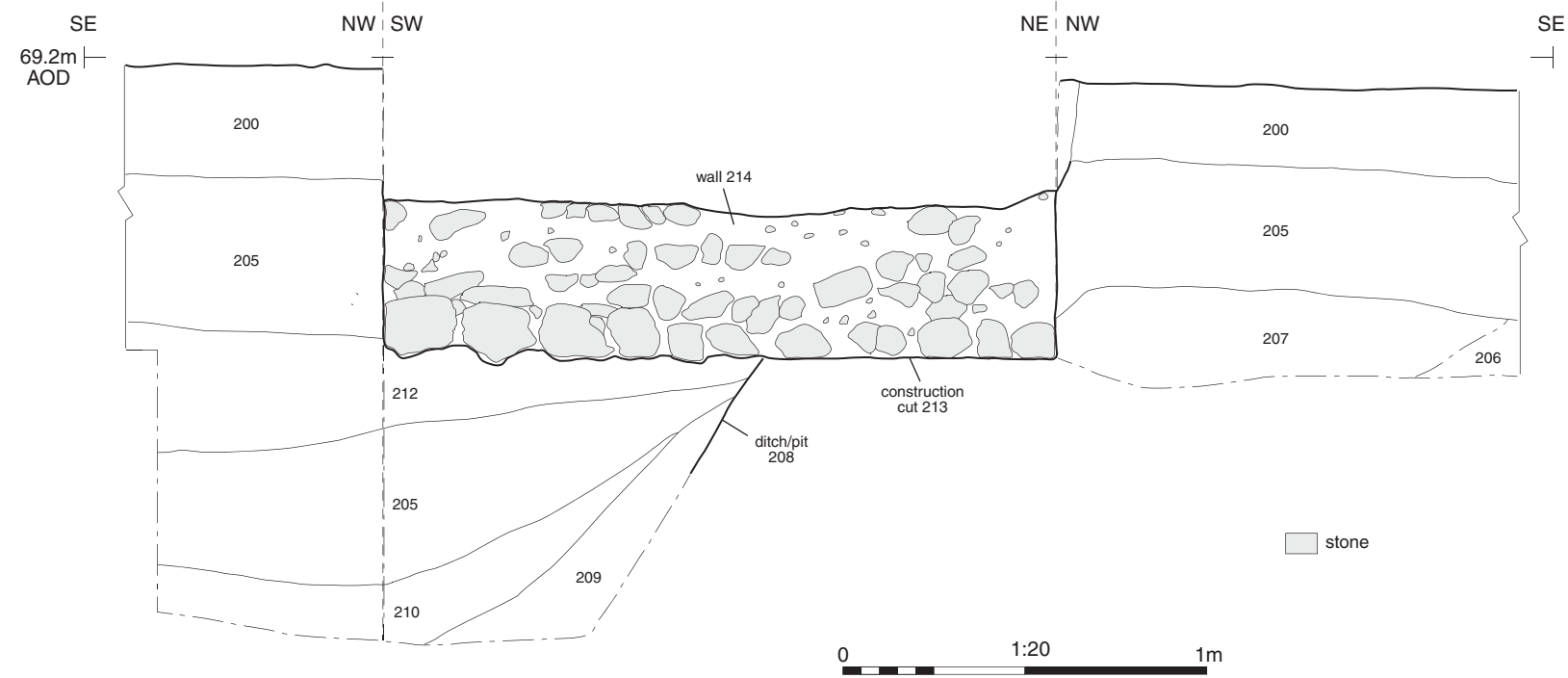
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench 2, post-excavation photographs

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<b>CHECKED BY</b>	DJB	<b>DATE</b>	20/11/2019	<b>4</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	RK	<b>SCALE</b>	@A3 NA	

Section AA



Wall 214 and profile of ditch/pit 208, looking north-west (1m scale)

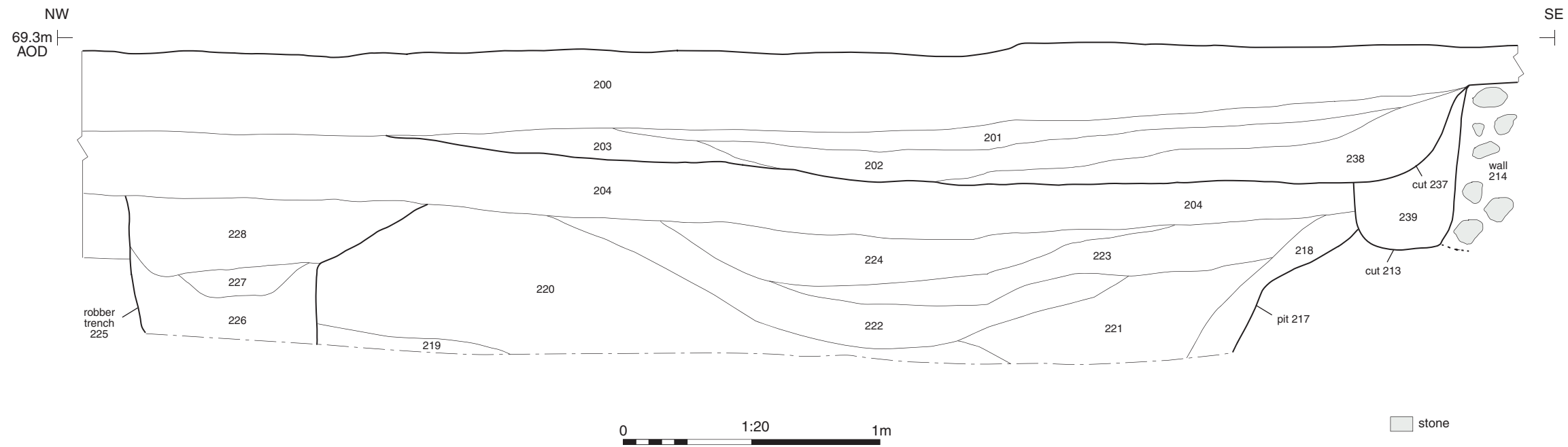

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FIGURE TITLE  
**Wall 214 and ditch/pit 208, section and  
 photograph**

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	20/11/2019	
APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE@A3	1:20	<b>5</b>

Section BB



Pit 217 and robber trench 225, looking east (2m scale)

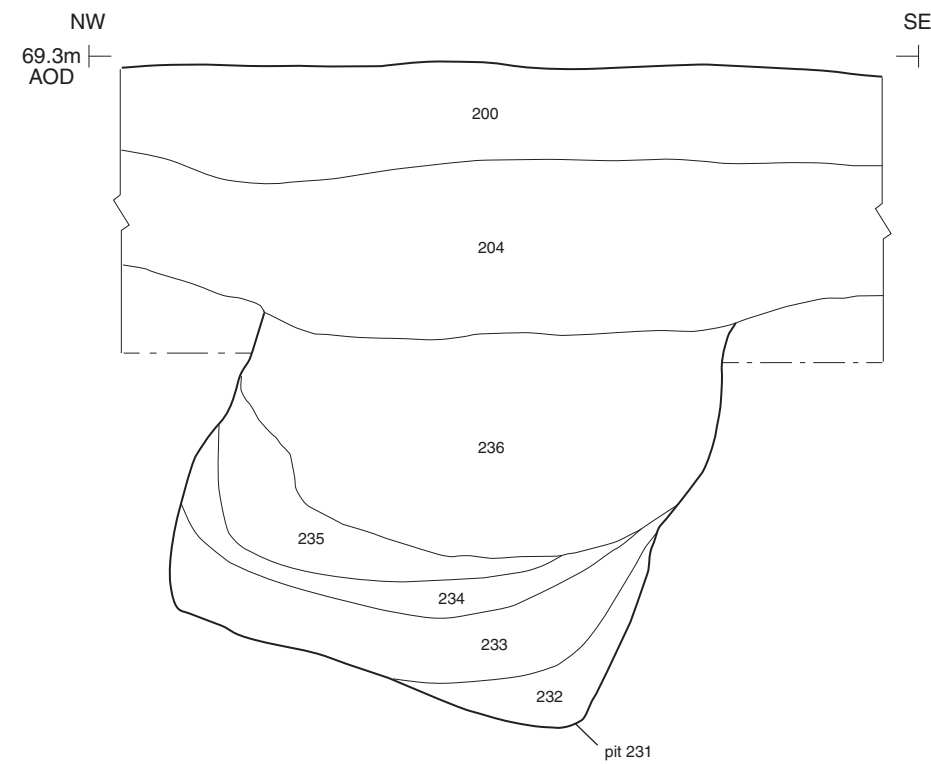
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FIGURE TITLE  
**Pit 217 and robber trench 225, section  
 and photograph**

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	20/11/2019	6
APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE@A3	1:20	

Section CC



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FIGURE TITLE  
Pit 231, section and photograph

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