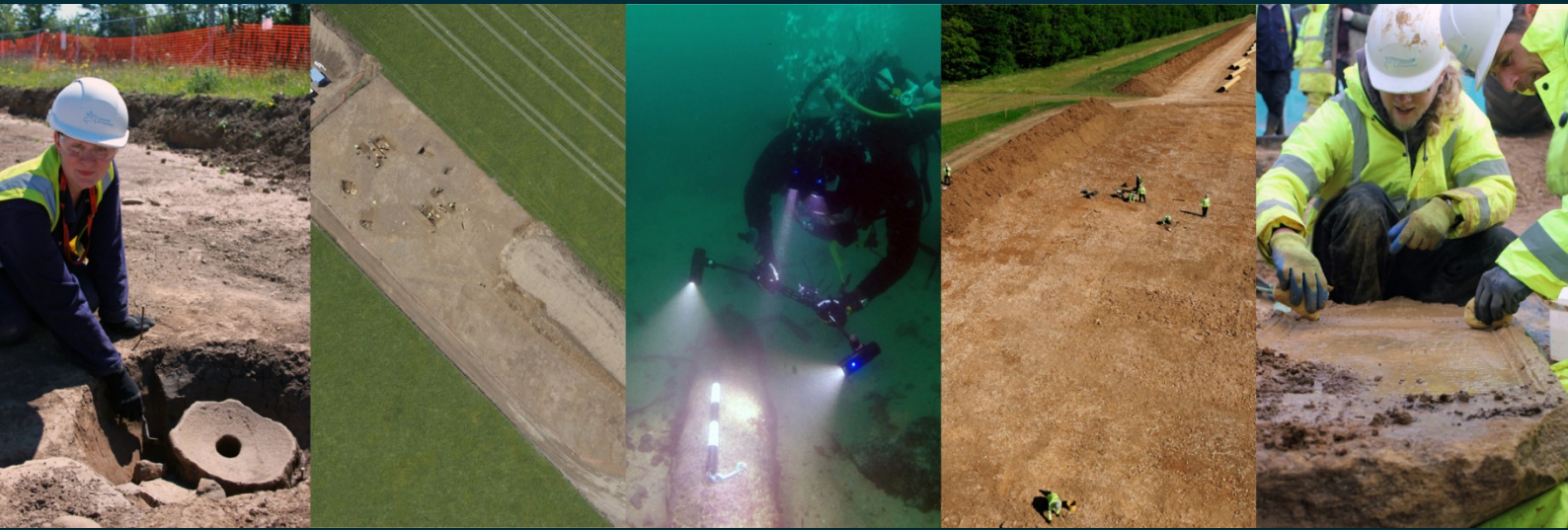


Castle Farm Ludgershall Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation



for
Bourne Valley Associates Ltd

on behalf of
WE Gordon & Sons

CA Project: 770843
CA Report: 770843_1

December 2019



Castle Farm
Ludgershall
Wiltshire

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Castle Farm
Location:	Ludgershall, Wiltshire
NGR:	426295 151268
Type:	Watching Brief/Excavation
Date:	4 – 12 November 2019
Planning Reference:	18/07963/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Wiltshire Museum
Site Code:	CAFA 19

An archaeological watching brief and subsequent excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2019 at Castle Farm, Ludgershall, Wiltshire. The excavation area was located approximately 30m to the west of the outer earthworks and Scheduled Monument of Ludgershall Castle (SM 10070).

The fieldwork identified three main phases of activity spanning the late Iron Age to Post-medieval periods, although dateable material was generally sparse. The most notable excavated feature was a substantial curvilinear defensive ditch. The limited pottery evidence suggested that the ditch was probably of late Iron Age construction and was intentionally back-filled in the early Romano-British period through the deliberate slighting of the inner bank. The ditch represents the firmest evidence to date of the pre-medieval phases of the site and adds significant weight to hypothesis of a hillfort preceding Ludgershall Castle, of which the southern enclosure earthwork may have to some extent been a part. Whilst the length of ditch exposed is relatively slight, it nonetheless adds significant further evidence to the understanding of the earlier occupation of the site.

Two parallel ditches of possible medieval date were identified in addition to other features of medieval and post-medieval date.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2019, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological investigation at the request of Bourne Valley Associates Ltd on behalf of WE Gordon & Sons, at Castle Farm, Ludgershall, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 426295 151268; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 Planning permission was granted by Wiltshire Council (ref:18/07963/FUL) for the addition of roofs to two existing feed passages, a new bedded building, and a new manure store and concrete apron. Following consultation between the client and the archaeological advisor to Wiltshire Council (WC) it has been agreed that an archaeological watching brief will be undertaken. The archaeological condition was recommended by Martin Brown, WC Assistant County Archaeologist.
- 1.3 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved by WC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Excavation* (ClfA 2014), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* and accompanying *PPN3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015). It was monitored by Martin Brown, including a site visit on 12 November 2019.

The site

- 1.4 The proposed development area is approximately 0.29ha, and comprises a farm yard and barns, bordered to the west and north by agricultural fields, and to the south and east by the earthworks and structural remains of Ludgershall Castle. The village of Ludgershall lies immediately to the south of the castle. The farm complex is located just west of the earthworks associated with Ludgershall Castle, which is owned by English Heritage, and is within the Ludgershall Conservation Area. The Castle is a Scheduled Monument (SM 10070).
- 1.5 The underlying geology is mapped as Seaford Chalk Formation, with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS 2019). This is consistent with the geology encountered on site.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The first mention of Ludgershall is in the will of *aetheling Athelstan* in AD 1015 where it is recorded as *Lutegaresheale*. At the time of Domesday it is a relatively prosperous manor under Edward of Salisbury, an Englishman and substantial holder of land within Wiltshire who was also Sheriff of the county by 1081. It is likely Edward who instigated the first building work at Ludgershall Castle (Addyman and Knightly 2000, 11) and previous archaeological investigations have shown that some early features may belong to this period (Ellis 2000).
- 2.2 The present Ludgershall Castle comprises northern and southern earthwork enclosures, with a ruined two storey tower and other foundations surviving in the north. There is some suggestion that the northern and southern earthworks are of different dates, with the southern one potentially being of prehistoric date, possibly an Iron Age hillfort but later modified. However this has not yet been fully confirmed archaeologically. It was a royal castle, fortified by 1138 when it was under the ownership of John Marshall, father of the famous William Marshall who would become Henry III's regent. It played an active part in the Anarchy in the 12th century, hosting the Empress Matilda as she fled following the siege of Winchester and continued to provide a base for John Marshall's offensive operations throughout this time. During the thirteenth century the castle was remodelled with the keep replaced by mural towers and a viewing platform on the northern defences. By the mid-13th century, Henry III undertook a programme of repair, replacing the buildings in stone, including a new great hall and enlarged royal apartments, turning the castle into a fortified country house. However, by the 15th century the castle had been neglected and had fallen down, much of the stone had been robbed and it had been replaced by a hunting lodge (Addyman and Knightly 2000).
- 2.3 John Leland visited the castle in the early 1540s where he recorded it was already a ruin but that a new lodging had been built within the grounds, perhaps most likely a renovated part of the existing castle ruin. Subsequently, the castle was incorporated into terraced and landscaped gardens as a romantic ruin (Chandler 2001; Ellis 2000). Thereafter, a number of more recent building works, including a complete house, have taken place within the earthworks of the castle. The original southern enclosure of the castle is now largely occupied by a farm complex with various associated access roads.

- 2.4 The farm, which is owned by the Ministry of Defence has been present at the site since at least 1924, and is occupied by a long-term tenant.

Archaeological Works

- 2.5 Substantial areas within the interior of the castle were excavated between 1964 and 1972 which revealed various structural remains as well as excavating a section through the inner bank and ditch. Multiple phases of both stone and timber structures were excavated. Pottery of early twelfth century from the earliest stratigraphic layers within the northern enclosure gave a good indication of its first foundation while the excavated evidence suggested that it was more or less abandoned by around 1400. Excavations within the southern enclosure revealed numerous mid-twelfth century pits and widespread evidence for lime production, along with a further stone building of 14th century date. An excavated section into the inner southern earthwork revealed two phases of medieval construction along with tentative evidence for an original prehistoric hillfort bank (Ellis 2000).
- 2.6 An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Terrain Archaeology in February 2007, during gate and fencing repairs at the public car park at Ludgershall Castle, Ludgershall. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted. The only deposits found consisted of dumps of building rubble and topsoil of post-medieval or modern date and probably associated with levelling of the area adjacent to the southern bank and ditch of the castle (Terrain Archaeology 2007).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological mitigation were to:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2018).
- 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 two deposits 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-D.
- 5.2 Two areas were excavated (Trenches 1 and 2). Trench 1 covered the entirety of the main development footprint and contained numerous archaeological features discussed below. Trench 2 only measured approximately 1.8m x 1.5m and was excavated in advance of the construction of a small soakaway. It did not contain any archaeological features.
- 5.3 Very limited dating evidence was recovered during the course of the excavation and the phasing outlined below is only tentatively presented, based on limited dateable material and inference of spatial and stratigraphic relationship between features. Stratigraphical analysis of the features has indicated five distinguishable phases of activity:

- Phase 0: Geology
- Phase 1: Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British
- Phase 2: Medieval
- Phase 3: Post-medieval
- Phase 4: Undated

5.4 Some features could not be definitively assigned a phase based on stratigraphy or spot dating evidence and remained unphased.

Phase 0, Geology

5.5 The natural geological substrate **102**, and **202**, was a weathered brownish white chalk and consistent across the site. There was evidence of bioturbation throughout. This was encountered at an average depth of 0.3m below present ground level (bpgl), sealed below a mid-yellowish brown silty clay subsoil **101**, and **201** of up to 0.18m thickness. This in turn was sealed below a dark blackish brown silty clay topsoil **100**, and **200** of up to 0.15m thick. The relatively shallow depth of the subsoil and natural substrate suggests that there may have been historic truncation on the site to some degree, perhaps during the construction of the extant farm buildings.

5.6 A number of tree throw holes and areas of bioturbation were visible across the site. Where excavated, all were irregular in plan with irregular, undulating bases. Tree throw holes **131** and **143** were both cut by the central curvilinear Ditch 1 (intervention **133** and **136** respectively) indicating that they are not of modern date.

Phase 1: Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British (Figs 5 and 6)

5.7 The most significant feature encountered on site was a substantial curvilinear ditch (Ditch 1), aligned approximately north east-south west across **Trench 1**. Two interventions were excavated, **113**, and **136**. **Ditch 1** had very steeply sloping, largely flat sides with a narrow flat base. Its maximum depth was recorded as 1m below machined level and maximum width of 2.52m. Four fills were present within slot **136**. Fill **137** was a primary fill of chalk-rich clayey silt, overlain by secondary fill **138** which consisted of mid brown clayey silt. Two sherds of pottery were recovered from **138**, one of Iron Age and one of Early Romano-British date. Sealing these was fill **139** which was a mid-brown clayey silt and chalk. Visible in section (AA) as sloping downwards to the west, **139** was interpreted as bank material backfilled as a result of the deliberate slighting of a bank to the eastern side of the ditch. Evidence

of animal burrowing was noted throughout **139**, particularly along the eastern edge. Fill **139** was subsequently sealed by tertiary fill **140** from which three sherds of Early Romano-British pottery were recovered. Fills **139** and **140** were later cut by **Ditch 2** (intervention **141**). Excavated slot **113** within **Ditch 1** was recorded as containing six fills (**114**, **115**, **116**, **117**, **118**, and **119**) although with a broadly similar sequence to **136**. Within this intervention similar bank collapse was seen as chalk rich fill **117**, sloping into the ditch from the western side. The same bank collapse was also visible as fill **135** within partial intervention **133**. It too exhibited evidence of having been partially disturbed by animal burrowing. Fill **117** sealed earlier primary and secondary fills (**114**, **115**, and **116**) and was in turn sealed below tertiary fills **118** and **119**. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery and burnt flint was recovered from fill **119**.

Phase 2: Medieval (Figs 5 and 6)

- 5.8 Two parallel ditches, **Ditch 2** and **Ditch 3** were excavated, aligned broadly north-south. **Ditch 2** in intervention **120** was 0.69m wide and had steeply sloping concave sides, a concave base surviving to a depth of 0.26m and contained two fills. The lower primary fill **121** consisted of light yellowish brown clayey silt with abundant chalk inclusions while the upper, secondary fill **122** consisted of a mid-yellowish brown clayey silt with chalk flecks and angular flint. Fill **122** also contained animal bone. **Ditch 2** was truncated at its southern end by **Ditch 4** (intervention **149**).
- 5.9 **Ditch 3** was located approximately 4m to the east of **Ditch 2**. It appeared highly truncated but had a well-defined terminal **109** at its northern end which survived to a depth of 0.12m. A single sherd of residual Iron Age pottery was recovered from terminal fill **110**. Intervention **111** within **Ditch 3** demonstrated it to be 0.78m wide and 0.12m in depth, with a single brown clayey silt and chalk rubble fill **112**. The ditch appeared to be less truncated slightly further south, where it survived to a depth of 0.21m within intervention **151**. Aside from the small sherd of residual Iron Age pottery from terminal **109** and a heavily patinated Prehistoric flint flake from fill **152**, no dating evidence was recovered from **Ditches 2** and **3**. They have been tentatively assigned to this phase principally based on stratigraphic relationship.
- 5.10 **Ditch 4** was recorded as truncating **Ditch 2**. It was not fully exposed in plan within the confines of the excavation area so the full width was not possible to determine. Where excavated (intervention **149**) it was shown to be at least 0.22m in depth. It

contained a single mid-brown clayey silt fill **150** from which a sherd of East Wiltshire Ware pottery dated broadly to the medieval period, was recovered. It did not appear to extend north beyond a large area of modern disturbance.

Phase 3: Post-medieval (Figs 5 and 6)

- 5.11 **Ditch 5** was linear in plan and aligned approximately north east-south west. Within slot **105** it measured 1.56m in width and 0.43m in depth and had slightly convex sides and a concave base. It contained a single secondary fill **106** of mid yellowish brown clayey silt, from which an undated possible mortar fragment (RA.1) was recovered, although no other dateable artefacts. The ditch has been tentatively phased principally on its position as being parallel to the modern field boundary.
- 5.12 **Ditch 5** was cut by **Ditch 6** which terminated approximately 5m from the western baulk of **Trench 1**. It had a well-defined terminal **107** which measured 1.19m in width and 0.34m in depth. It contained a single secondary fill **108** of mid yellowish brown clayey silt which contained post-medieval glass, while fill **127** within cut **128** contained glass, pottery and CBM dated to mid-16th-18th century.
- 5.13 Possible ditch terminal **155** was located against the northern baulk of **Trench 1** where approximately 1m was visible in plan. It had gently sloping concave sides and base, surviving to a depth of 0.2m. It contained mid reddish brown clayey silt fill **156** but no dateable artefacts. It appeared in section to be cut by **Ditch 5** (intervention **157**) although there was significant evidence of bioturbation throughout both features with a very diffuse interface between them, and as such this relationship and phasing remains tentative.
- 5.14 Sub-rectangular pit **123/153** was, where excavated, up to 0.4m deep and contained two fills **124** and **125**. Coal and glass was recovered from fill **124** suggestive of a post-medieval/modern date, further emphasised by the topsoil-like nature of the dark brown silty clay fill **124**. Upper fill **125** seemed to represent an intentional dump of chalk-rich material, probably for the purposes of deliberate backfilling/levelling. Pit **123/153** cut **Ditch 2** and despite being immediately adjacent to **Ditch 3**, excavation confirmed there was no direct stratigraphic relationship.

- 5.15 Posthole **145** was located immediately to the west of **Ditch 2**. It measured 0.3m by 0.28m in plan and was 0.14m deep. It contained a single mid brownish black clayey silt fill **146** from which post-medieval CBM was recovered.

Phase 4: Undated (Figs 5 and 6)

- 5.16 Possible ditch terminal or pit **103** was located against the western bank of **Trench 1** and had steeply sloping sides near vertical in the south-west with a narrow, concave base. It contained a single mid reddish brown silt fill **104** and did not contain any dateable material.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 The finds recovered are quantified in Table 1, below. Details are to be found in Appendices B and C of this report. The finds assemblage comprised pottery of Iron Age, Early Roman, Medieval and Post-medieval date with quantities of ceramic building material, flint, glass and a single piece of iron.

Context	Class	Ra No.	Description	Fabric Code	Ct.	Wt. (g)	Spot-date
106	worked stone	1	poss. Mortar		1	258	
108	glass		wine bottle		1	7	
110	Iron Age pottery		Flint-tempered	FI	1	3	IA
119	burnt flint		unworked		1	6	IA
119	Iron Age pottery		Flint-tempered	FI	1	20	
124	coal				1	48	
	glass		colourless; window/vessel		3	7	
127	CBM		brick fragment		1	189	MC16-C18
	glass		pale blue		1	12	
	iron				1	10	
	post-medieval pottery		Donyatt body	DONY	1	11	
134	medieval pottery		East Wiltshire ware	Ewilts	2	4	LC11-C15
138	Iron Age pottery		Flint-tempered	FI	1	8	ERB
	Roman pottery		Savernake ware	SAV GT	1	25	
140	Roman pottery		Savernake ware	SAV GT	3	15	ERB
146	CBM		brick		1	269	
150	medieval pottery		East Wiltshire Ware	Ewilts	1	9	LC11-C15
152	flint		flake; heavy patination		1	36	
160	burnt flint		unworked		1	31	

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

7.1 The limited biological evidence recovered is quantified in Table 2, below. Details, including assessments of macrofossil evidence are to be found in Appendices C of this report.

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Charred Other	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 1 Phase 1 - Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British Defensive Ditch - Ditch 1										
113	114	1	18	25	25	-	-	-	-/*	Moll-t (****), small coal frags <5mm
136	137	2	16	15	10	-	-	-	-/*	Moll-t (****)

8. DISCUSSION

8.1 The watching brief and excavation revealed evidence of multiple phases of activity within the site. The relatively confined nature of the excavation area meant that firm conclusions could not be drawn in regard to the overall disposition and dating of the excavated features within the wider landscape beyond the phasing tentatively presented here. There is no direct relationship discernible with any features previously excavated within Ludgershall Castle.

8.2 The earliest stratigraphic phase consists of tree throw holes 131 and 143 which were both cut by Ditch 1. This is suggestive of an initially more wooded landscape prior to the construction of the other features and perhaps even intentional clearing of trees before the excavation of Ditch 1.

8.3 The curvilinear nature of Ditch 1, as exposed within the investigation area, seems to broadly respect the curving outer earthwork of the castle, some 30m to the east of the site. Its steep sides and narrow base are suggestive of a relatively substantial defensive ditch, particularly when paired with an internal bank for which there is evidence in both excavated interventions. The slumping in of bank material (fills 117 and 139) sealing earlier primary and secondary fills suggests a deliberate slighting of the earthwork and a general re-modelling of the landscape. While the ditch is not likely to have been quite as substantial as the still extant castle earthworks it is considerably more substantial than a simple field boundary ditch, suggesting that it was possibly of a defensive nature. The crucial dating evidence for this feature comes from the two pottery sherds recovered from fill 138 which is sealed below the intentionally back-filled bank deposit 139. This gives a clear indication that the ditch

was last in use in the early Romano-British period or later. Given that a single sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from secondary fill 138, it is likely that the ditch was first constructed in the late Iron Age, and this seems to provide the first firm evidence for prehistoric activity at Ludgershall Castle, perhaps even the suggested hillfort which may have once been present (Ellis 2000, 101). Tertiary fills 119 and 140 also contained pottery of Iron Age and Early Romano-British date suggesting that the ditch was fully backfilled in the same broad period as it fell out of use.

- 8.4 The existence of an earlier hillfort is suggested in Ellis (2000, 101) based on the presence of an early bank within the lower castle enclosure earthwork which was later modified substantially in the medieval period. This bank however was not associated with any datable material recovered during 20th century excavations and could only be argued to be 12th century or earlier. The hillfort hypothesis is suggested on the basis of Ludgershall occupying a hitherto unfilled 'gap' in the general distribution of hillforts in this part of the country and the presence of 'celtic' field systems visible on aerial photographs of the fields around Ludgershall. Whilst it is not an especially prominent location, topographically, the site and wider village do occupy a low plateau which may have been attractive for early settlement. Some parallels are drawn with Chisbury Camp Hillfort some 14km to the north, although the site of Chisbury Camp is still more notably prominent than Ludgershall (Ellis 2000, 101). Perhaps significantly, there is no obvious correlation between the excavated ditch and the suggested earlier bank of the southern enclosure, indicating that the early development of the site is more complex than presently understood.
- 8.5 Ditches 2 and 3 ran parallel to one another, approximately 4m apart and have been allocated to the same phase based on this spatial relationship, although dateable but probably residual artefacts were only recovered from Ditch 3. The ditches have been tentatively phased to the medieval period on the basis that this is most likely but they could conceivably date from when Ditch 1 was fully backfilled in the early Romano-British period. It is likely that together they formed a trackway or driveway in the immediate agricultural hinterland of Ludgershall or the Castle. Ditch 2 was later truncated by Ditch 4 which was broadly medieval in date. This does not assist greatly in determining the phasing beyond suggesting that Ditch 2 was truncated by Ditch 4 by the 15th century at the latest.
- 8.6 Ditch 5 was closely aligned with the modern field boundary and may represent a slightly earlier alignment and minor shifting of boundaries in the early post-medieval

period. A linear earthwork is recorded to the south on the same alignment, in a plan produced by the RCHME (Figure 2; Ellis 2000) and it is possible that Ditch 5 was a continuation of this. Ditch 6 truncated Ditch 5 although it does not seem to relate to any features visible on historic mapping of the site.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

9.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Sam Wilson, assisted by Chris Brown and Tim Street. The report was written by Sam Wilson. The pottery and metal finds reports were written by Katie Marsden. The environmental report was written by Sarah Wyles. The illustrations were prepared by Gemma Bowen and Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The fieldwork was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy and Olly Good.

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 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 E, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Type	Fill_of	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Set
100	layer		Topsoil. Dark blackish brown silty clay with chalk flecks, modern CBM, gravel, concrete	>20.2	>14.8	0-0.15	
101	layer		Subsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay with chalk flecks	>20.2	>14.8	0.15-0.33	
102	layer		Weathered brownish white chalk	>20.2	>14.8	>0.33	
103	cut		Cut of possible terminal. Steeply sloping sides, near vertical to west with concave base	>1	1.2	0.63	
104	fill	103	Light mid reddish brown silt with chalk	>1	1.2	0.63	
105	cut		Moderately sloping convex sides with concave base	>1	1.56	0.43	Ditch 5
106	fill	105	Mid yellowish brown clayey silt with chalk and flint	>1	1.56	0.43	
107	cut		Moderately sloping concave sides and flat base	>0.81	1.19	0.34	Ditch 6
108	fill	107	Mid yellowish brown clayey silt	>0.81	1.19	0.34	
109	cut		Ditch terminal. Gently sloping concave sides and flat base	>1	0.78	0.12	Ditch 3
110	fill	109	Mid whiteish brown clayey silt and chalk rubble	>1	0.78	0.12	
111	cut		Gently sloping concave sides and flat base	>1	0.78	0.12	Ditch 3
112	fill	111	Mid whiteish brown clayey silt and chalk rubble	>1	0.78	0.12	
113	cut		Steeply sloping flat sides with narrow flat base	>1	2.52	0.93	
114	fill	113	Light brownish white chalk rubble	>1	0.55	0.22	
115	fill	113	Mid whiteish brown clayey silt with chalk	>1	0.81	0.38	
116	fill	113	Light greyish brown clayey silt with chalk	>1	0.54	0.26	
117	fill	113	Light brownish white silt and chalk rubble	>1	1.38	0.54	
118	fill	113	Light reddish brown clayey silt with chalk	>1	1.57	0.33	
119	fill	113	Mid reddish brown clayey silt with chalk flecks	>1	0.96	0.32	
120	cut		Moderately sloping slightly concave sides with concave base	>1	0.69	0.26	Ditch 2
121	fill	120	Light yellowish brown clayey silt with chalk	>1	0.4	0.1	
122	fill	120	Mid yellowish brown clayey silt with	>1	0.69	0.23	

Context	Type	Fill_of	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Set
			chalk and flint				
123	cut		Sub-rectangular in plan with steeply sloping flat sides and flat base	>1	>0.6	0.4	
124	fill	123	Dark brown silty clay with chalk	>1	>0.6	0.4	
125	fill	123	Light brownish white chalk with occasional flint	>0.6	>0.6	0.09	
126	cut		Moderately sloping concave sides and flat base	>1	1.19	0.39	Ditch 6
127	fill	126	Mid reddish brown clayey silt with chalk	>1	1.19	0.39	
128	cut		Gently sloping concave sides with flat base	>1	1.56	0.39	
129	fill	128	Mid reddish brown clayey silt with chalk	>1	1.56	0.24	
130	fill	128	Mid reddish brown clayey silt with chalk	>1	1.56	0.19	
131	cut		Irregular sides and uneven base	>1	2.54	0.43	
132	fill	131	Light reddish brown clayey silt and redeposited chalk natural	>1	2.54	0.43	
133	cut		Steeply sloping flat sides. Not bottomed.	>1	>0.71	>0.55	Ditch 1
134	fill	133	Mid reddish brown clayey silt with chalk flecks	>1	>0.71	>0.23	
135	fill	133	Light brownish white chalk rubble	>1	>0.43	>0.34	
136	cut		Very steeply sloping flat sides with narrow flat base	>1	2.33	1	Ditch 1
137	fill	136	Light yellowish brown clayey silt and chalk rubble	>1	0.7	0.28	
138	fill	136	Mid brown clayey silt with chalk flecks and occasional flint	>1	0.7	0.31	
139	fill	136	Mid brown clayey silt chalk rubble	>1	1.15	0.4	
140	fill	136	Mid brown silty clay with chalk	>1	2.33	0.42	
141	cut		Moderately sloping flat sides with concave base	>1	0.63	0.3	
142	fill	141	Mid brown clayey silt with chalk and rare angular flint	>1	0.63	0.3	
143	cut		Irregular sides and irregular base	>1	1.56	0.2	
144	fill	143	Mid brown clayey silt with chalk and occasional angular flint	>1	1.56	0.2	
145	cut		Circular in plan with vertical flat sides and flat base	0.3	0.28	0.14	
146	fill	143	Mid brownish black clayey silt	0.3	0.28	0.14	
147	cut		Moderately sloping concave sides and concave base. Not fully excavated.	>1	>0.32	>0.26	
148	fill	147	Mid yellowish brown clayey silt with chalk. Not fully excavated.	>1	>0.32	>0.26	
149	cut		Moderately sloping concave sides with concave base. Not fully excavated.	>1	>0.48	>0.22	Ditch 4

Context	Type	Fill_of	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Set
150	fill	149	Mid brown clayey silt with chalk. Not fully excavated.	>1	>0.48	>0.22	
151	cut		Steeply sloping flat sides with flat base. Not fully excavated.	>1	>0.32	0.21	Ditch 3
152	fill	151	Mid brown clayey silt with chalk and occasional angular flint. Not fully excavated.	>1	>0.32	0.21	
153	cut		Sub-rectangular in plan with gently sloping flat sides and flat base	>0.3	>0.3	>0.06	
154	fill	153	Dark brown clayey silt with chalk	>0.3	>0.28	>0.06	
155	cut		Possible terminal. Gently sloping concave sides and flat base	>1	>0.27	0.2	
156	fill	155	Mid reddish brown clayey silt with chalk	>1	>0.27	0.2	
157	cut		Steeply sloping flat sides and flat base. Not fully excavated.	>1	>0.2	0.22	
158	fill	157	Mid reddish brown clayey silt with chalk. Not fully excavated.	>1	>0.2	0.22	
159	cut		Steeply sloping slight concave side. Not fully excavated.	>1	>0.52	>0.47	
160	fill	159	Mid brown clayey silt with chalk. Not fully excavated.	>1	>0.52	>0.47	
161	cut		Steeply sloping flat side. Not fully excavated.	>1	>0.12	>0.24	
162	fill	161	Mid brown clayey silt with chalk flecks	>1	>0.12	>0.24	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

by Katie Marsden

Artefactual material recovered from the evaluation is listed in Appendix B and discussed further below. All finds have been recorded directly to an MS Excel spreadsheet. Where possible, codes matching those of the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) have been used and given in **bold** below.

Pottery

A small assemblage, comprising 11 sherds (weighing 95g), was recovered from seven deposits. The earliest material, recovered from ditches, comprises three bodysherds in a flint-tempered fabric, most likely dating to the Iron Age. A sherd recovered from Ditch 1, cut

136 (fill 138) is residual, recovered with Savernake grog-tempered ware (**SAV GT**) of Early Roman date, including a necked jar rimsherd (c. mid 1st to mid 2nd centuries AD). Savernake ware was also recovered from fill 140, as three body sherds.

Three sherds (13g) of East Wiltshire (Kennet Valley), equitable to Ludgershall Castle (Gerrard and King 2000) Fabric 2 ware were recovered from Ditch 1, cut 133 (fill 134), and Ditch 4, cut 149 (fill 150), dating from the late 11th to 15th century, were recovered from A single sherd of Donyatt glazed earthenware, dating from the mid 16th to 18th century, was recovered from Ditch 6, cut 126 (fill 127).

Other Finds

A single item of prehistoric worked flint (a flake weighing 36g) was recovered from Ditch 3 cut 151 (fill 152). The flake is heavily patinated and cannot be closely dated. An additional two fragments of unworked burnt flint were recovered from Ditch 1, cuts 113 (fill 119) and 159 (fill 160). Burnt flint has a long tradition and utilised for a variety of purposes including heating water and as a temper for pottery.

Five fragments of glass (weighing 26g) were recovered from three deposits. The earliest fragment is of post-medieval date, recovered from Ditch 6, cut 107 (fill 108). The remaining four items are of modern date and include colourless window glass from pit 123 (fill 124).

Ceramic building material comprising two brick fragments were recovered from Ditch 6, cut 126 (fill 127), and treehole 143 (fill 146). Both are brick, broadly dateable to the post-Roman period.

Ra. 1, a worked stone fragment from Ditch 5, cut 105 (fill 106) is a possible mortar fragment of uncertain date.

A single iron item was recovered from Ditch 6, cut 126 (fill 127). The item comprises a sheet element, but is too fragmentary to attribute to function or date.

Context	Class	Ra No.	Description	Fabric Code	Ct.	Wt. (g)	Spot-date
106	worked stone	1	poss. Mortar		1	258	
108	glass		wine bottle		1	7	
110	Iron Age pottery		Flint-tempered	FI	1	3	IA
119	burnt flint		unworked		1	6	IA
119	Iron Age pottery		Flint-tempered	FI	1	20	
124	coal				1	48	
	glass		colourless; window/vessel		3	7	

127	CBM glass iron post-medieval pottery		brick fragment pale blue Donyatt body		1 1 1 1	189 12 10 11	MC16-C18
134	medieval pottery		East Wiltshire ware	Ewilts	2	4	LC11-C15
138	Iron Age pottery Roman pottery		Flint-tempered Savernake ware	FI SAV GT	1 1	8 25	ERB
140	Roman pottery		Savernake ware	SAV GT	3	15	ERB
146	CBM		brick		1	269	
150	medieval pottery		East Wiltshire Ware	Ewilts	1	9	LC11-C15
152	flint		flake; heavy patination		1	36	
160	burnt flint		unworked		1	31	

Codes in **bold** equate to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998)

References

Ellis, P. (ed.) 2000 *Ludgershall Castle Wiltshire, a report on the excavations by Peter Addyman, 1964-1972* Devizes, WAHNS Monog. 2

Gerrard, C. and King, R. 2000 'The Pottery' in Ellis, P. (ed) 2000, 181-200

Tomber, R and Dore, J., 1998 *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection: a handbook*, London, Museum of London Archaeology Service

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

by Sarah F. Wyles

Single bulk soil samples were processed from the lower fill of sections 113 and 136 (samples 1 and 2 respectively) of Ditch 1 in Trench 1. Ditch 1 is thought to be a defensive ditch dating from Phase 1 (Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British). These samples were processed following standard flotation methods, using a 250µm sieve for the recovery of the flot and a 0.5mm sieve for the collection of the residue. They were assessed to ascertain the potential for further analysis of any charred remains and mollusc assemblages. 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 Tables 1 and 2.

Phase 1: Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British

The flots were relatively small with low to moderately low amounts of rooty material and uncharred weed seeds.

No charred plant remains and only a few small charcoal fragments were recorded in these samples. Small coal fragments <5mm were noted in sample 1 from section 113. There is no indication from these assemblages of any activities taking place near this part of the ditch.

A high number of mollusc shells were recovered from ditch section 136 (sample 2) and a moderate quantity from ditch section 133 (sample 1).

The assemblage from ditch section 113 was dominated by shells of the open-country species, in particular *Vallonia costata*, *Vallonia excentrica* and *Helicella itala*, and the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus*. The larger assemblage recorded from ditch section 136 was also dominated by these species, together with the shade-loving species *Discus rotundatus*, *Aegopinella nitidula*, *Aegopinella pura* and *Carychium* sp. There were also a few shells of *Acanthinula aculeata*, a species which favours open woodland.

The assemblages appear to be reflective of a well-established open environment, possibly of arable fields and pasture in the vicinity of the ditch, with some areas of longer grass in/along the ditch, particularly around ditch section 136. There is also a small indication of the presence of some open woodland environments, possibly a single tree, near this section.

There is no potential for any further work on the charred material due to the virtual absence of material recovered.

Although there is some potential for further analysis work on the mollusc assemblages to assist in determining a more detail interpretation of the local landscape, than that ascertained from the assessment, this would be limited by being from spot bulk samples and by numbers of shells in one of the assemblages. No further work is recommended.

References

- Anderson, R. 2005. *An annotated list of the non-marine Mollusca of Britain and Ireland*, *J. Conch.* **38**, 607-637
- Davies, P. 2008 *Snails Archaeology and Landscape Change*, Oxbow Books, Oxford
- Evans, J.G. 1972 *Land Snails in Archaeology*, London Seminar Press.
- Kerney, M.P. 1999 *Atlas of the Land and freshwater Molluscs of Britain and Ireland*. Colchester, Harley Books

Table 1 Environmental assessment table

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Charred Other	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 1 Phase 1 - Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British Defensive Ditch - Ditch 1										
113	114	1	18	25	25	-	-	-	-/*	Moll-t (****), small coal frags <5mm
136	137	2	16	15	10	-	-	-	-/*	Moll-t (****)

Key: * = 1-4, ** = 5-19, *** = 20-49, **** = 50-99, ***** = 100+

Table 2 Mollusc assessment table

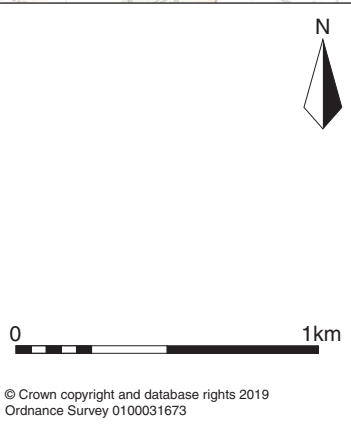
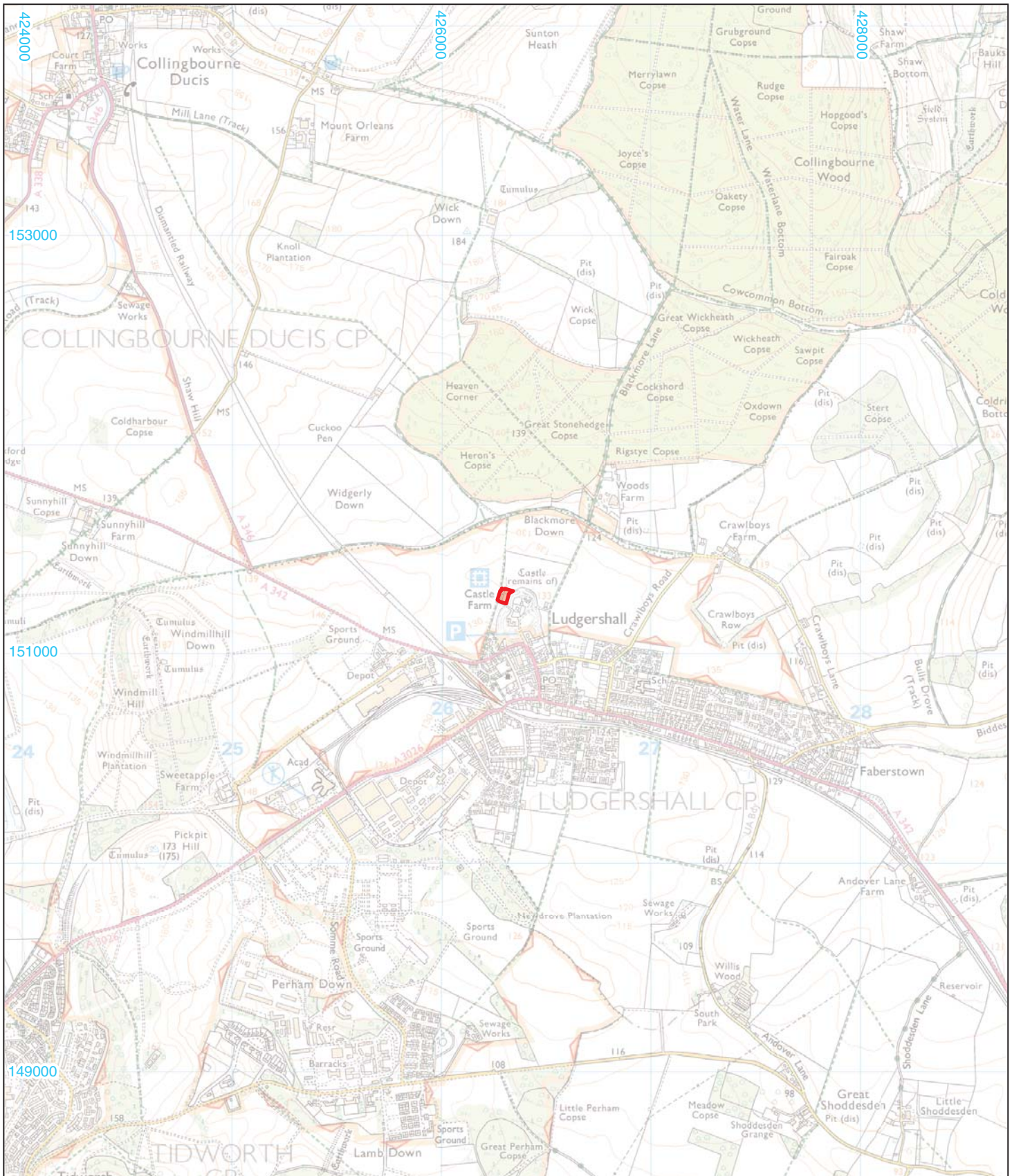
Area	Tr 1	
Phase	Phase 1 - LIA/ERB	
Feature Type	Defensive ditch - Ditch 1	
Cut Number	113	136
Context	114	137
Sample	1	2
Vol (L)	18	16
Open Country Species		
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	C	B
<i>Vertigo sp.</i>	C	B
<i>Vallonia costata</i>	B	A
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i>	B	A
<i>Helicella itala</i>	B	A
Introduced helicellids	C	-
Intermediate Species		
<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>	A	A
<i>Cepaea sp.</i>	-	B
<i>Pomatias elegans</i>	-	B
<i>Cochlicopa sp.</i>	-	C
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>	-	B
<i>Nesovitrea hammonis</i>	-	C
<i>Limax/Deroceras</i>	-	C
Shade-loving Species		
<i>Carychium sp.</i>	C	A
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	B	A
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	C	A
<i>Aegopinella pura</i>	-	A
<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i>	C	-
<i>Vitrea sp.</i>	-	B
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>	-	C
<i>Merdigera obscura</i>	-	C
<i>Acanthinula aculeata</i>	-	C
Burrowing Species		
<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>	C	C
Total	55	100+

Key: C = 1-4, B = 5-9, A = 10+

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Castle Farm, Ludgershall, Wiltshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief and excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2019 at Castle Farm, Ludgershall, Wiltshire. The excavation area was located approximately 30m to the west of the outer earthworks and Scheduled Monument of Ludgershall Castle.</p> <p>The fieldwork identified three main phases of activity spanning the late Iron Age to Post-medieval periods, although dateable material was generally sparse. The most notable excavated feature was a substantial curvilinear defensive ditch. The limited pottery evidence suggested that the ditch was probably of late Iron Age construction and was intentionally back-filled in the early Romano-British period through the deliberate slighting of the inner bank. The ditch represents the firmest evidence to date of the pre-medieval phases of the site and adds significant weight to hypothesis of a hillfort preceding Ludgershall Castle, of which the southern enclosure earthwork may have to some extent been a part. Whilst the length of ditch exposed is relatively slight, it nonetheless adds significant further evidence to the understanding of the earlier occupation of the site.</p> <p>Two parallel ditches of possibly medieval date were identified in addition to other features of medieval and post-medieval date.</p>	
Project dates	4-12 November 2019	
Project type	Watching Brief & Excavation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Castle Farm, Ludgershall, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.29ha	
Site co-ordinates	426295 151268	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Olly Good	
Project Supervisor	Sam Wilson	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	Defensive ditch	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Wiltshire Museum, Devizes	Ceramics, animal bone etc
Paper	Wiltshire Museum, Devizes	Context sheets, registers etc
Digital	Wiltshire Museum / ADS (Archaeological Data Service)	Database, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		

Cotswold Archaeology (CA) 2019 *Castle Farm, Ludgershall, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation*. CA typescript report **770843_1**



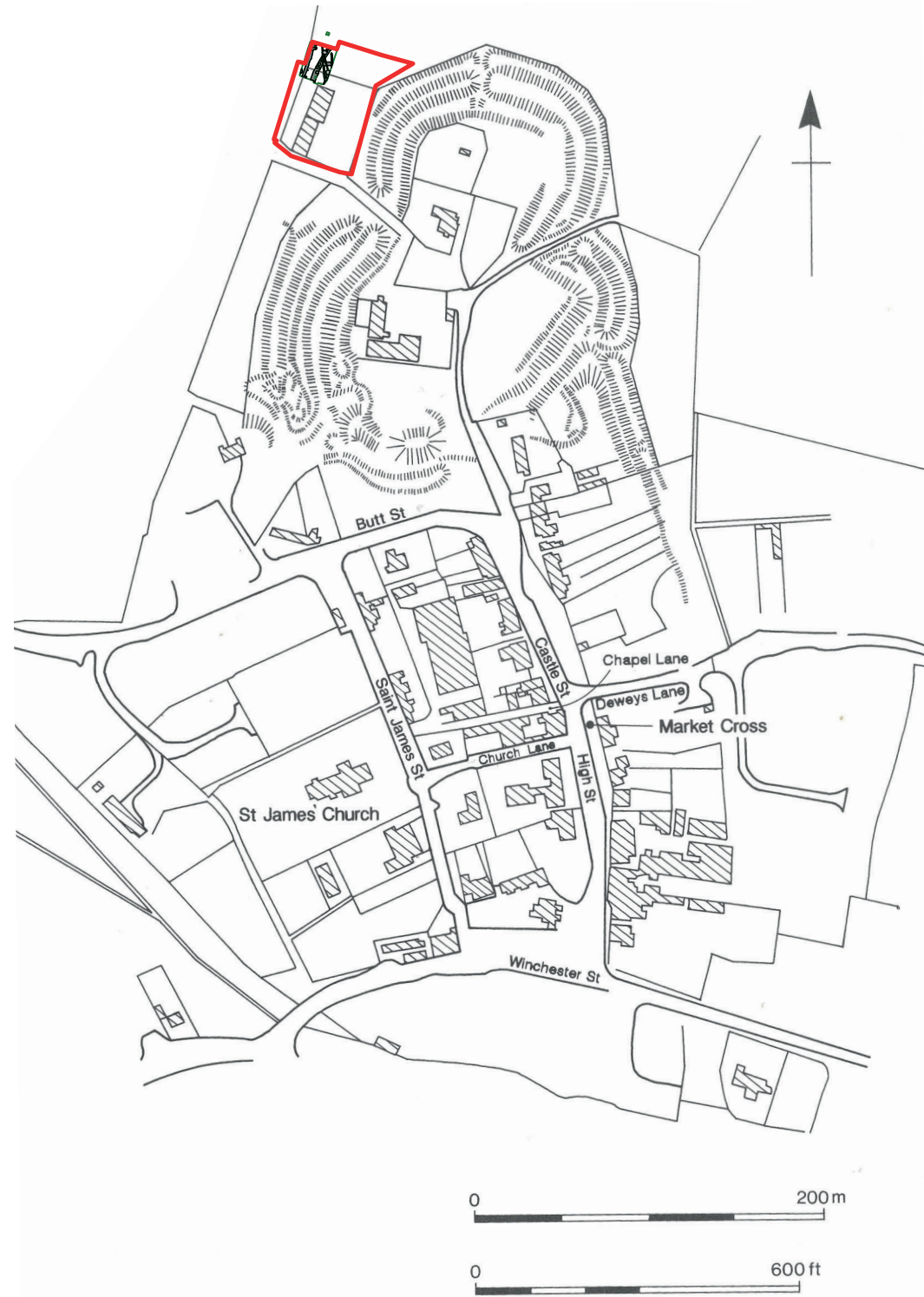
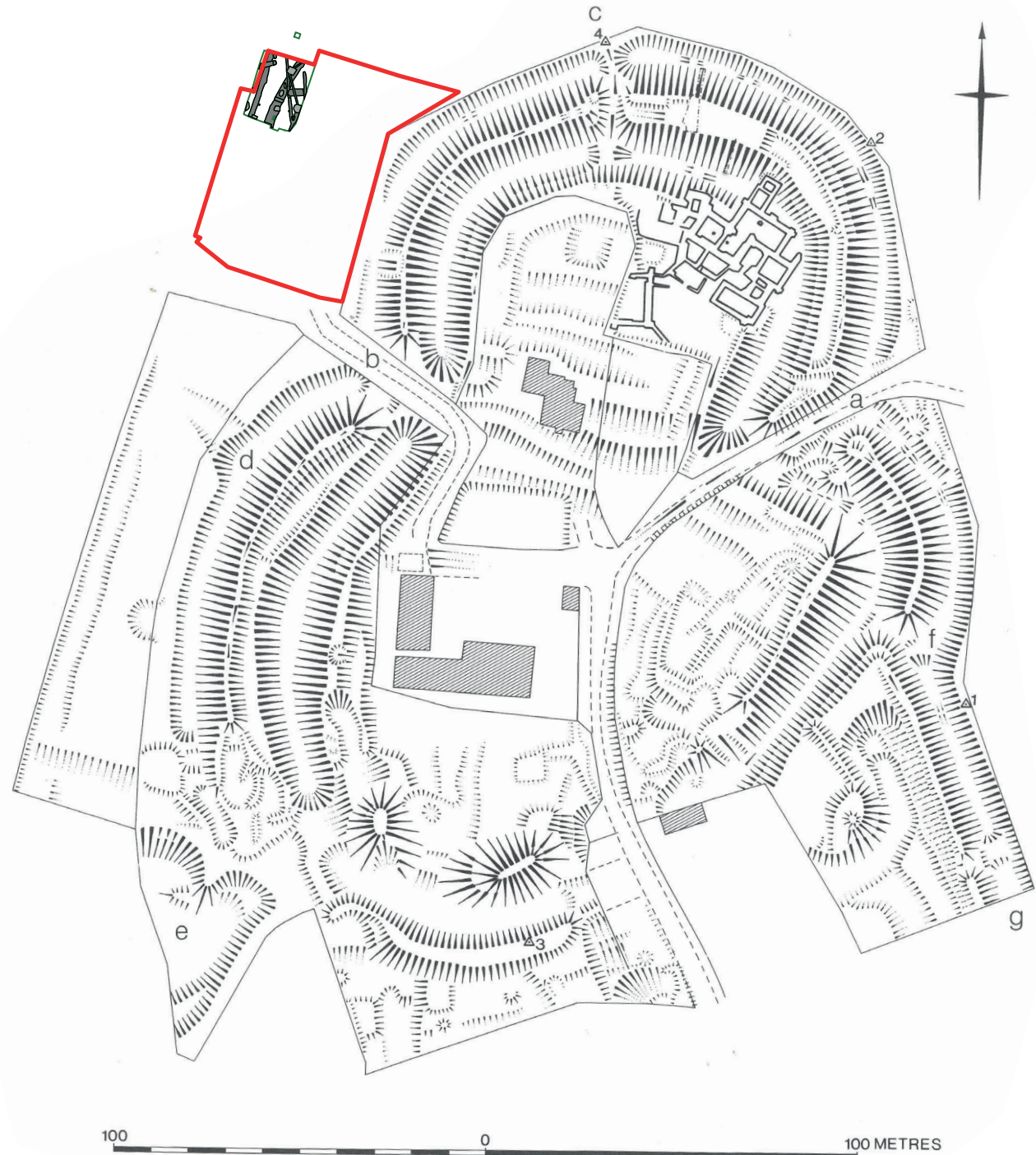

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PROJECT TITLE
 Castle Farm, Ludgershall, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	GB	PROJECT NO.	770843	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	26/11/2019	
APPROVED BY	SW	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1

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- Site boundary
- Excavated area
- Archaeological feature

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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 Historic maps

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	26/11/2019	2
APPROVED BY	SW	SCALE@A3	NA	



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Late Iron Age / Early Romano British (excavated/unexcavated)
- Medieval (excavated/unexcavated)
- Post-medieval (excavated/unexcavated)
- Modern
- Undated
- Tree-throw
- Section location



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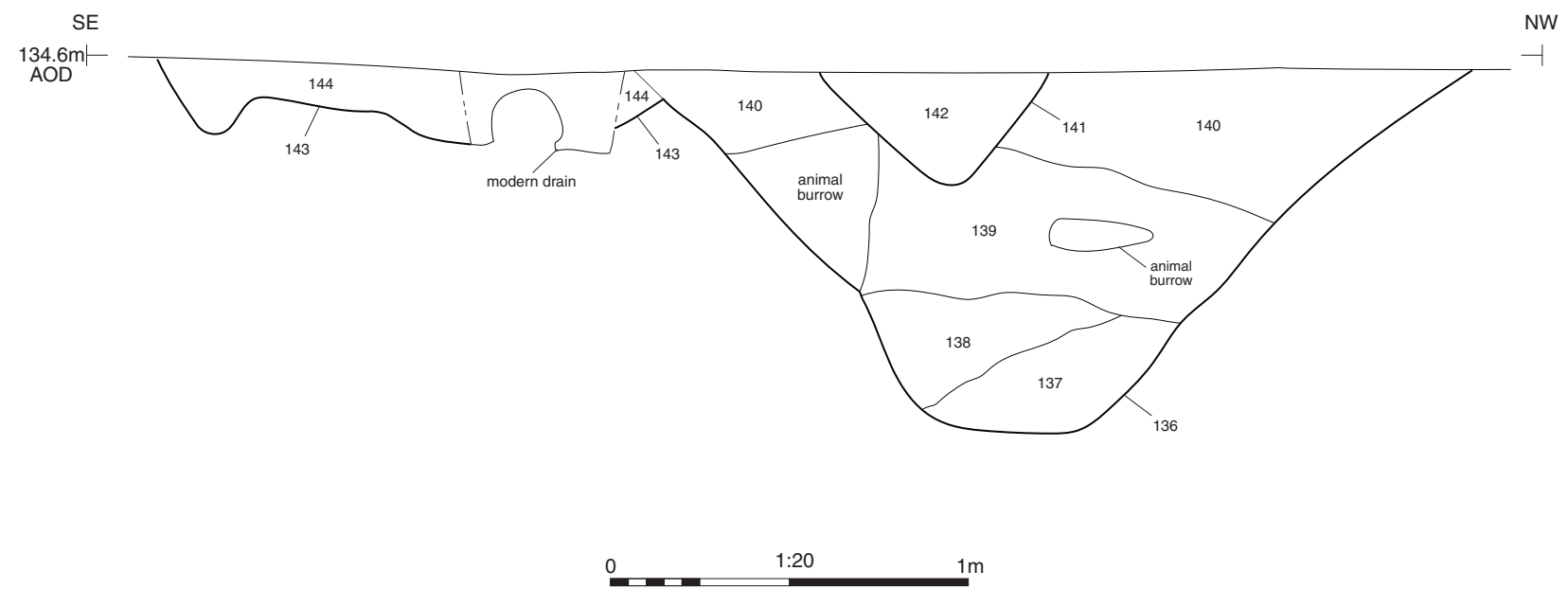
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan showing archaeological features

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	26/11/2019	3
APPROVED BY	SW	SCALE@A3	1:150	

Section AA



Ditches 1 and 2 showing interventions 136 and 141, looking south-east (1m scale)

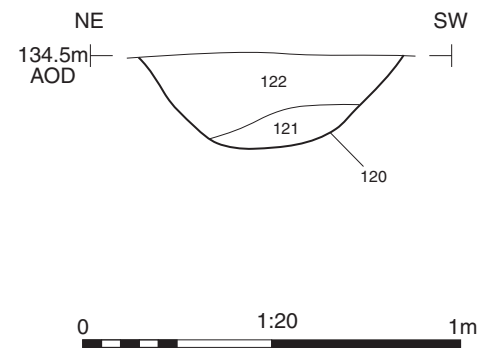

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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Ditches 1 and 2: section and photograph

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APPROVED BY	SW	SCALE@A3	1:20	

Section BB



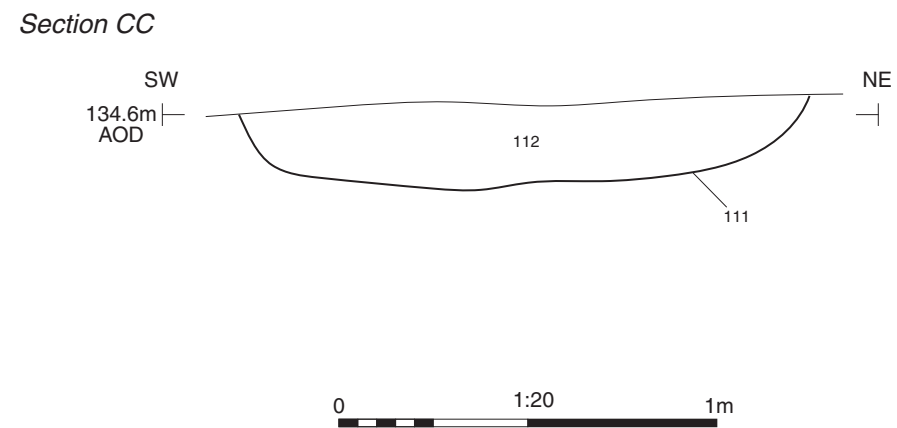
Ditch 2, showing intervention 120, looking south-east (0.5m scale)

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FIGURE TITLE
Ditch 2: section and photograph

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APPROVED BY	SW	SCALE@A3	1:20	



Ditch 3, showing intervention 111, looking north-west (0.5m scale)

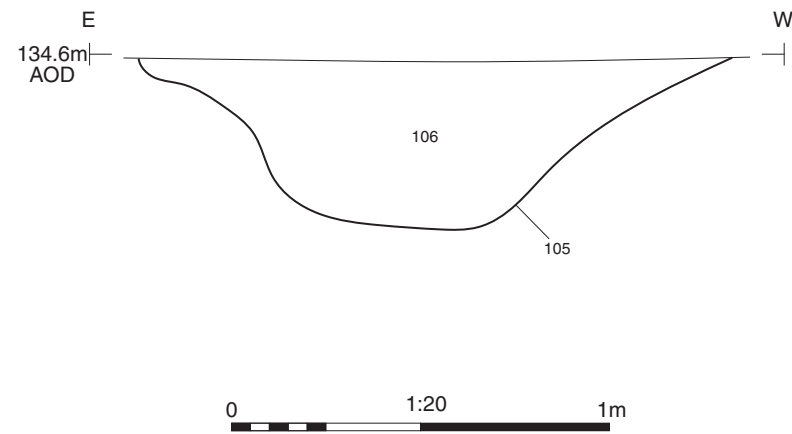

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FIGURE TITLE
Ditch 3: section and photograph

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Section DD



Ditch 5, showing intervention 105, looking south (1m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Ditch 5: section and photograph

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