

Land to the South of Woodrow Road Melksham Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for:
RPS Consulting

CA Project: CR0506
CA Report: CR0506_1

November 2020



Land to the South of Woodrow Road Melksham Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: CR0506
CA Report: CR0506_1

Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	27 November 2020	Sara-Jayne Boughton	Steven Sheldon	Internal review	–	Martin Watts
B	1 December 2020	Sara-Jayne Boughton	Steven Sheldon	Draft	RPS Comment	Martin Watts

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

Cirencester Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771 022	Milton Keynes Unit 8, The IO Centre Fingle Drive Stonebridge Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK13 0AT t. 01908 564 660	Andover Stanley House Walworth Road Andover Hampshire SP10 5LH t. 01264 347 630	Exeter Unit 1, Clyst Units Cofton Road Marsh Barton Exeter EX2 8QW t. 01392 573 970	Suffolk Unit 5, Plot 11 Maitland Road Lion Barn Industrial Estate Needham Market Suffolk IP6 8NZ t. 01449 900 120
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk				

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	3
1. INTRODUCTION	4
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
<i>Prehistoric and Roman</i>	5
<i>Medieval</i>	5
<i>Post-medieval and modern</i>	5
<i>Geophysical Survey</i>	5
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	6
4. METHODOLOGY	6
5. RESULTS	7
6. THE FINDS	11
7. DISCUSSION	11
8. CA PROJECT TEAM	12
9. REFERENCES	13
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	14
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS	16
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM	17

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing archaeological features, cropmarks and geophysical survey results (1:1500)
- Fig. 3 Trench 2: plan (1:300)
- Fig. 4 Trench 2: sections (1:20) photographs
- Fig. 5 Trench 3: plan (1:300), sections (1:20) and photographs
- Fig. 6 Trench 4: plan (1:300), sections (1:20) and photographs
- Fig. 7 Trench 6: plan (1:300)
- Fig. 8 Trench 6: sections (1:20) and photographs
- Fig. 9 Trench 7: plan (1:300)
- Fig. 10 Trench 7: sections (1:20) and photographs
- Fig. 11 Trench 8: plan (1:300), sections (1:20) and photographs
- Fig. 12 Trench 9: plan (1:300), sections (1:20) and photographs
- Fig. 13 Trench 12: plan (1:300), sections (1:20) and photographs
- Fig. 14 Trench 13: plan (1:300), section (1:20) and photograph

SUMMARY

Project name:	Land to the South of Woodrow Road
Location:	Melksham, Wiltshire
NGR:	391610 165040
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	19-23 October 2020
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Wiltshire Museum and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Accession Number:	DZSWS:39-2020
Site Code:	MELK 20

In October 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of Land to the South of Woodrow Road, Melksham, Wiltshire. A total of 13 trenches were excavated.

A single, highly abraded, sherd of pottery of broad Roman date was recovered as a residual find from the fill of a furrow identified in a trench excavated in the north-western part of the site.

A single sherd of medieval (late 13th to 16th-century) pottery was recovered from the fill of a posthole identified within a trench excavated in the central part of the site. A further, undated, posthole was also identified in this trench and is likely to be broadly contemporary. The function of these postholes remains unclear, although they may relate to agricultural stock management or land division. Further evidence of medieval and/or post-medieval agricultural activity, comprising the ploughed-out remains of ridge-and-furrow cultivation, was identified in the south-eastern and north-western parts of the site.

A number of undated ditches/gullies and pits were identified in trenches excavated within the northern, western and south-eastern parts of the site. The precise function of these features remains unclear but the absence of artefactual and faunal material within the fills of these features suggests that they lay at an appreciable distance from any areas of former settlement, and are therefore most likely to have been associated with agricultural activities.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In October 2020, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of Land to the South of Woodrow Road, Melksham, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 391610 165040; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for Neil Wright of RPS Consulting, on behalf of Robert Hitchins Ltd.
- 1.2. The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a forthcoming outline planning application for residential and associated development of the site, which will be submitted to Wiltshire Council (WC).
- 1.3. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by CA (2020) that was approved by Neil Adam, Assistant County Archaeologist, WC. The evaluation was also in line with *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.4. The proposed development area is approximately 6.4ha in extent and lies to the south of Woodrow Road. The site currently comprises parts of two agricultural fields and is bounded to the north-west by Woodrow Road, to the south-west by the gardens of properties fronting Savernake Avenue, and to the north-east and south-east by further agricultural land. The site lies at approximately 42m AOD and is broadly level.
- 1.5. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Oxford Clay Formation – Mudstone of the Jurassic Period (BGS 2020). No superficial deposits are recorded (ibid.). The natural substrate, comprising compact light blue-grey clay with occasional patches of light brown-orange sand and gravel, was identified in all of the excavated trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The site, and a wider study area measuring 1km from the centre of the site, has previously been subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment (RPS 2020). A geophysical survey (Magnitude 2020) of the site has also been undertaken. The following is a brief summary of the results of these assessments.

Prehistoric and Roman

- 2.2. No evidence of prehistoric or Roman activity has been identified within the site. However, a geophysical survey and subsequent evaluation undertaken c. 75m to the west of the site identified a number of pits of prehistoric date. Romano-British features, seemingly relating to late-1st century AD settlement activity, have also been recorded c. 75m to the west of the site. Fragments of Roman pottery were recovered during archaeological monitoring on the Lower Woodrow Pipeline, c. 800m north-east of the site.

Medieval

- 2.3. No evidence of early medieval activity is recorded within the site or the wider study area, and although Melksham itself is recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086, the current site is situated away from the historic core of this settlement.
- 2.4. During the later medieval period the site lay within the Royal Forest of Melksham, located to the east of the medieval town. The shrunken medieval settlement of Woodrow is recorded at least 75m to the north of the site, and it is currently considered likely that the current site formed part of the agricultural hinterland of this settlement during the medieval period.

Post-medieval and modern

- 2.5. The earliest available mapping of the site is provided by Andrew's and Dury's map of Wiltshire of 1773. It shows the site lying within undeveloped enclosed land to the north-east of Melksham, bounded by Woodrow Road to the north. The 1886 First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) Map shows the site divided into two fields. The site remains unchanged on subsequent maps up to 1973, after which it is further sub-divided into three fields, similarly arranged to those seen today.

Geophysical Survey

- 2.6. The geophysical survey (Magnitude 2020) identified a small number of linear, curvilinear and discrete anomalies which may indicate archaeological activity,

although the precise origin of these anomalies remains uncertain. An area of probable extraction/quarrying was also identified in the south-western part of the site.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable Wiltshire Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposals, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 13 trenches, some of which targeted anomalies identified by the preceding geophysical survey (Magnitude 2020). Each trench measured 50m in length and 1.8m in width (see Fig. 2 for locations). Following site discussions between CA, RPS and Neil Adam, Trench 8 was extended slightly to fully expose the extent of pit 807.
- 4.2. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which archaeological features were first encountered.
- 4.3. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.4. 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*. No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.5. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

-
- 4.6. CA will make arrangements with Wiltshire Museum for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).
- 4.7. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the archaeological evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B.
- 5.1. The natural substrate, comprising compact light blue-grey clay with occasional patches of light brown-orange sand and gravel, was encountered in all of the excavated trenches. All archaeological features identified, with the exception of furrows, cut the natural substrate and were overlain by between 0.08m and 0.23m of subsoil. In trenches 6, 8, 10 and 11 the subsoil was cut by a series of north-west/south-east and north-east/south-west-aligned furrows, most of which broadly correlate to linear anomalies depicted by the geophysical survey (Magnitude 2020). In Trench 1, the subsoil was cut by a pit containing modern concrete, red brick and metal fragments. The fill of this pit and the fills of the furrows were subsequently sealed by between 0.14m and 0.32m thickness of topsoil.
- 5.2. Archaeological features were identified in a total of nine trenches.

Trench 2 (Figs 2, 3 and 4)

- 5.3. North-east/south-west-aligned ditch terminal/pit 203 (Fig. 4, Section AA) was identified in the north-eastern half of the trench. It had steeply sloping sides and a concave base, measured at least 1.7m in length, 0.84m in width, 0.25m in depth, and contained a single undated fill, 204.
- 5.4. Pit 205 (Fig. 4, Section BB) was also identified in the north-eastern half of the trench. It was irregular in plan and measured 1.96m in length, at least 0.62m in width

and 0.19m in depth. It had gently sloping sides, a flat base and contained a single undated fill, 206.

- 5.5. Sub-oval pit 207 (Fig. 4, Section CC) was identified towards the centre of the trench. It measured 0.74m in length, 0.42m in width and 0.07m in depth, had gently sloping sides, a concave base and contained a single undated fill, 208.

Trench 3 (Figs 2 & 5)

- 5.6. North-east/south-west-aligned ditch/gully 303 (Fig. 5, Section DD) was identified in the north-western half of the trench. It had steeply sloping sides and a concave base and correlates closely to a linear anomaly identified by the preceding geophysical survey. It measured at least 1.8m in length, 0.7m in width, 0.21m in depth and contained a single undated fill, 304.

- 5.7. Sub-circular pit 305 (Fig. 5, Section EE) was identified towards the south-eastern end of the trench. It had steeply sloping sides and a concave base, measured 0.48m in length, 0.42m in width, 0.2m in depth and contained a single undated fill, 306.

Trench 4 (Figs 2 & 6)

- 5.8. Two sub-circular postholes, 403 (Fig. 6, Section FF) and 405 (Fig. 6, Section GG), were identified in the south-eastern half of the trench. Both had steeply sloping sides and concave bases. A single sherd of pottery of late 13th to 16th-century date was recovered from fill 404 of posthole 403. Posthole 405 remained undated.

Trench 6 (Figs 2, 7 and 8)

- 5.9. North-east/south-west-aligned ditch terminal 605/607 (Fig. 8, Sections II and JJ) had steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It measured at least 2.9m in length, 0.59m in width, 0.28m in depth and contained a single undated fill, 608/606.
- 5.10. Sub-circular pit 609 (Fig. 8, Section JJ) had steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 0.42m in length, at least 0.19m in width and 0.08m in depth and contained a single undated fill, 610, which was cut by ditch terminal 605/607.
- 5.11. North-west/south-east-aligned furrow 603 (Fig. 8, Section HH) was identified towards the centre of the trench, cutting subsoil 601. It had a shallow irregular profile and measured 1.93m in width and 0.17m in depth. It contained a single fill, 604, from which a single sherd of heavily abraded pottery of broad Roman date was recovered.

Trench 7 (Figs 2, 9 and 10)

- 5.12. Broadly east/west-aligned ditch/gully 703 (Fig. 10, Section KK) was identified towards the north-eastern end of the trench and broadly correlates to a linear anomaly depicted by the preceding geophysical survey. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It measured at least 2m in length, 0.75m in width and 0.17m in depth, and contained a single undated fill, 704.
- 5.13. North-west/south-east-aligned ditch/gully 705 (Fig. 10, Section LL) was identified towards the centre of the trench and broadly correlates to a linear anomaly depicted by the preceding geophysical survey. It had gently sloping sides and an uneven base. It measured at least 1.8m in length, 1.15m in width and 0.2m in depth, and contained two fills, 706 and 707, both of which remained undated.
- 5.14. Sub-oval pit 708 (Fig. 10, Section MM) was identified in the south-western third of the trench. It measured 1.14m in length, 0.62m in width and 0.11m in depth, and contained a single undated fill, 709.
- 5.15. North-east/south-west-aligned ditch/gully 710 (Fig. 10, Section NN) had gently sloping sides and a flat base. It measured at least 2m in length, 0.67m in width and 0.11m in depth, and contained a single undated fill, 711, which was cut by north-east/south-west-aligned gully 712.
- 5.16. North-east/south-west-aligned ditch/gully 712 (Fig. 10, Section NN) terminated in the trench and had steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It measured at least 2.3m in length, 0.67m in width and 0.19m in depth, and contained a single undated fill, 713.

Trench 8 (Figs 2 & 11)

- 5.17. Broadly east/west-aligned ditch/gully 803 (Fig. 11, Section OO) was identified towards the southern end of the trench. It had an irregular 'U'-shaped profile, measured at least 1.8m in length, 0.56m in width and 0.2m in depth, and contained a single undated fill, 804.
- 5.18. Broadly east/west-aligned ditch/gully 805 (Fig. 11, Section PP) was identified in the southern half of the trench. It had an irregular 'V'-shaped profile, measured at least 1.8m in length, 0.79m in width and 0.31m in depth, and contained a single undated fill, 806.

-
- 5.19. Sub-circular pit 807 (Fig. 11, Section QQ) was identified towards the centre of the trench. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base, measured 0.82m in length, 0.66m in width and 0.17m in depth, and contained a single undated fill, 808.

Trench 9 (Figs 2 & 12)

- 5.20. East/west-aligned ditch 903 (Fig. 12, Section RR) was identified towards the north-western end of the trench. It had gently sloping sides and a flat base. It measured at least 2m in length, 1.1m in width and 0.23m in depth, and contained a single undated fill, 904, which was cut by ditch 905.
- 5.21. North-east/south-west-aligned Ditch 905 (Fig. 12, Section RR) had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It measured at least 1.7m in length, 0.79m in width and 0.17m in depth, and contained a single undated fill, 906.
- 5.22. Slightly curving north-west/south-east-aligned ditch/gully 907 (Fig. 12, Section SS) was identified towards the centre of the trench and broadly correlates with a linear anomaly depicted by the preceding geophysical survey. It had an open 'U'-shaped profile, measured at least 2.4m in length, 0.44m in width and 0.27m in depth, and contained a single undated fill, 908.

Trench 12 (Figs 2 & 13)

- 5.23. North-west/south-east-aligned ditch 1205 (Fig. 13, Section UU) was identified towards the south-western end of the trench and correlates closely with a linear anomaly depicted by the preceding geophysical survey. It had an open 'U'-shaped profile and measured at least 1.8m in length, 1.46m in width and 0.49m in depth. It contained a single undated fill, 1206.
- 5.24. Sub-oval pit 1203 (Fig. 13, Section TT) was identified towards the centre of the trench. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base and measured 0.78m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.07m in depth. It contained a single undated fill, 1204.

Trench 13 (Figs 2 & 14)

- 5.25. North-west/south-east-aligned ditch 1303 (Fig. 14, Section VV) was identified towards the south-western end of the trench. It measured at least 1.8m in length, 1.15m in width and 0.16m in depth, had gently sloping sides and a concave base, and contained a single undated fill, 1304.

6. THE FINDS

Pottery

- 6.1. Artefactual material was hand-recovered from two deposits (posthole and furrow fills). The recovered material dates to the Roman and medieval periods, and quantities of the artefact types are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric and the fabric codes (in parenthesis in the text) have been devised for the purpose of this report.

Roman

- 6.2. A heavily abraded unfeathered bodysherd (3g) of North Wiltshire oxidised ware (NWO) was recorded from fill 604 of furrow 603. This ware type is of broad Roman date.

Medieval

- 6.3. An unfeathered bodysherd (5g) of probable Lacock/Nash Hill ware (LNH) from fill 404 of posthole 403 is dateable to the late 13th to late 16th centuries.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1. The evaluation has identified a small number of archaeological features, comprising pits, postholes, and ditches/gullies, within the proposed development area. The majority of these features remained undated despite 100% excavation of their fills within the evaluation trenches.

- 7.2. Where linear features were encountered there was moderate correlation with the results of the geophysical survey (Magnitude 2020). However, the targeting of geophysical anomalies in a number of trenches (Trenches 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 10) revealed no archaeological features.

Roman

- 7.3. A single, highly abraded, sherd of pottery of broad Roman date was recovered from the fill of furrow 603, identified in Trench 2. Whilst some evidence of Roman activity is recorded within the surrounding area outside the proposed development site (see *archaeological background* above) the limited evidence from this current evaluation does little to enhance our understanding of activity during this period.

Medieval

- 7.4. Evidence of medieval and/or post-medieval agricultural activity, comprising the ploughed-out remains of a ridge and furrow field system, was identified in Trenches 6, 8, 10 and 11.
- 7.5. A single sherd of late 13th to 16th-century pottery was recovered from the fill of posthole 403, identified in Trench 4. A further posthole, 405, was also identified within Trench 4 and is likely to be broadly contemporary due to its close proximity. The function of these postholes remains unclear, although they may relate to agricultural stock management or land division.
- 7.6. Overall the results of the evaluation support the findings of the desk-based assessment (RPS 2020) which suggested that the proposed development site had been in agricultural usage from the medieval period onwards.

Undated

- 7.7. The function of undated ditches/gullies 203, 303, 605/607, 703, 710, 712 803, 805, 903, 905, 907 and 1205 identified in Trenches 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 12 remains unclear. However, the absence of artefactual and faunal material within the fills of these features suggests that they lie at an appreciable distance from areas of settlement and are therefore most likely represent the remains of field boundaries or were associated with other small-scale agricultural activities.
- 7.8. Pits 205, 305, 708, 807 and 1203 identified in Trenches 2, 3, 7, 8 and 12 also remained undated. The function of these pits remains unclear due primarily to their isolated nature within the excavated trenches; however, it remains possible that they were also associated with agricultural activity.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 8.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Sara-Jayne Boughton, assisted by Krissy Moore, Majbritt Bengtson and Alice Krausova. This report was written by Sara-Jayne Boughton. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The report illustrations were prepared by Amy Wright. The project archive has been compiled by Sara-Jayne Boughton and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

9. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2020 *Geology of Britain*

Viewer <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/> Accessed 25 November 2020

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2020 *Land to the South of Woodrow Road, Melksham, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

Magnitude (Magnitude Surveys) 2020 *Land to the South of Woodrow Lane, Melksham, Wiltshire: Geophysical Survey Report*, Report No. **MSST759A**

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government 2019 *National Planning Policy Framework*

RPS Consulting 2020 *South of Woodrow Road, Melksham, Wiltshire: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*, RPS Report No. **JAC26499**

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay-silt	50	1.8	<0.29	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow-brown silt-clay	50	1.8	<0.13	
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact light blue-grey clay with occasional patches of light brown-orange sand and gravel	50	1.8	-	
1	103	Cut		Pit	Modern pit	>3	>1.8	>0.13	
1	104	Fill	104	Fill	Single fill of pit 103. Dark grey-brown silt-clay; frequent red brick, concrete and metal fragments	>3	>1.8	>0.13	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay-silt	50	1.8	<0.31	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow-brown silt-clay	50	1.8	<0.23	
2	202	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact light blue-grey clay with occasional patches of light brown-orange sand and gravel	50	1.8	-	
2	203	Cut		Ditch terminal/pit	NW/SE aligned, steeply sloping sides and a concave base	>1.7	0.84	0.25	
2	204	Fill	203	Fill	Light yellow-grey sand-clay	>1.7	0.84	0.25	
2	205	Cut		Pit	Irregular pit with gently sloping sides and a flat base	1.92	0.62	0.19	
2	206	Fill	205	Fill	Light yellow-grey sand-clay	1.92	0.62	0.19	
2	207	Cut		Pit	Oval pit with gently sloping sides and a concave base	0.9	0.42	0.07	
2	208	Fill	207	Fill	Mid grey-brown silt-clay	0.9	0.42	0.07	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay-silt	50	1.8	<0.32	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow-brown silt-clay	50	1.8	<0.23	
3	302	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact light blue-grey clay with occasional patches of light brown-orange sand and gravel	50	1.8	-	
3	303	Cut		Ditch/gully	NE/SW aligned gully with steep sloping sides and a concave base	>1.8	0.7	0.21	
3	304	Fill	303	Fill	Mid brown-grey silt-clay	>1.8	0.7	0.21	
3	305	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular pit with steep sloping sides and a concave base	0.48	0.42	0.2	
3	306	Fill	305	Fill	Mid brown-grey silt-clay	0.48	0.42	0.2	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay-silt	50	1.8	<0.26	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow-brown silt-clay	50	1.8	<0.14	
4	402	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact light blue-grey clay with occasional patches of light brown-orange sand and gravel	50	1.8	-	
4	403	Cut		Posthole	Circular posthole with vertically sloping sides and a tapered base	0.23	0.23	0.17	
4	404	Fill	403	Fill	Mid brown-grey silt-clay	0.23	0.23	0.17	LC13-LC16
4	405	Cut		Posthole	Circular posthole with vertically sloping sides and a tapered base	0.25	0.25	0.26	
4	406	Fill	405	Fill	Mid brown-grey silt-clay	0.25	0.25	0.26	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay-silt	50	1.8	<0.3	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow-brown silt-clay	50	1.8	<0.08	
5	502	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact light blue-grey clay with occasional patches of light brown-orange sand and gravel	50	1.8	-	
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay-silt	50	1.8	0.2	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow-brown silt-clay	50	1.8	0.1	
6	602	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact light blue-grey clay with occasional patches of light brown-orange sand and gravel	50	1.8	-	

6	603	Cut		Furrow	NW/SE aligned furrow with irregular sides and base	>1.8	1.93	0.17	
6	604	Fill	603	Fill of furrow	Mid yellow-brown silt-clay	>1.8	1.93	0.17	
6	605	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch terminal with steep sloping sides and a concave base	>2.9	0.59	0.28	
6	606	Fill	605	Fill	Mid orange-brown sand-silt	>2.9	0.59	0.28	
6	607	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch terminal with steep sloping sides and a concave base	>0.68	>0.31	0.16	
6	608	Fill	607	Fill	Mid orange-brown sand-silt	>0.68	>0.31	0.16	
6	609	Cut		Pit	Circular pit with steep sloping sides and a concave base	0.42	0.19	0.08	
6	610	Fill	609	Fill of pit	Light orange-grey silt-sand	0.42	0.19	0.08	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay-silt	50	1.8	0.12	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow-brown silt-clay	50	1.8	0.12	
7	702	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact light blue-grey clay with occasional patches of light brown-orange sand and gravel	50	1.8	-	
7	703	Cut		Ditch/gully	NW/SE aligned gully with gently sloping sides and a concave base	>2	0.75	0.17	
7	704	Fill	703	Fill	Mid grey-brown clay-silt	>2	0.75	0.17	
7	705	Cut		Ditch/gully	NW/SE ditch with gently sloping sides and an uneven base	>1.8	1.15	0.2	
7	706	Fill	705	Fill	1 st fill of ditch/gully 705. Dark grey-brown silt-clay	>0.72	1.13	0.2	
7	707	Fill	705	Fill	2 nd fill of ditch/gully 705. Mid brown-grey silt-clay	>0.72	0.38	0.07	
7	708	Cut		Pit	Oval pit with gently sloping sides and concave base	1.14	0.62	0.11	
7	709	Fill	708	Fill	Mid brown-grey silt-clay	1.14	0.62	0.11	
7	710	Cut		Ditch/gully	NE/SW aligned gully with gently sloping sides and a flat base	>2	0.67	0.11	
7	711	Fill	710	Fill	Mid orange-brown silt-clay	>2	0.67	0.11	
7	712	Cut		Ditch/gully terminal	NE/SW aligned gully terminal with steep sloping sides and a concave base	2.3	0.67	0.19	
7	713	Fill	713	Fill	Mid orange-grey silt-clay	2.3	0.67	0.19	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay-silt	50	1.8	0.2	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow-brown silt-clay	50	1.8	0.18	
8	802	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact light blue-grey clay with occasional patches of light brown-orange sand and gravel	50	1.8	-	
8	803	Cut		Ditch/gully	E/W aligned gully with steep sloping sides and a tapered base	>1.8	0.56	0.2	
8	804	Fill	803	Fill	Mid yellow-brown silt-clay	>1.8	0.56	0.2	
8	805	Cut		Ditch/gully	E/W aligned gully with steep sloping sides and a tapered base	>1.8	0.79	0.31	
8	806	Fill	805	Fill	Mid yellow-grey silt-clay	>1.8	0.79	0.31	
8	807	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular pit with steep sloping sides and a flat base	0.82	0.66	0.17	
8	808	Fill	807	Fill	Dark brown-grey silt-clay with frequent flecks of charcoal and CBM	0.82	0.66	0.17	
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay-silt	50	1.8	0.17	
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow-brown silt-clay	50	1.8	0.3	
9	902	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact light blue-grey clay with occasional patches of light brown-orange sand and gravel	50	1.8	-	
9	903	Cut		Ditch/gully	E/W aligned ditch with gently sloping sides and a flat base	>1.8	1.1	0.23	
9	904	Fill	903	Fill	Mid grey-brown silt-clay	>1.8	1.1	0.23	
9	905	Cut		Ditch/gully	NE/SW aligned ditch with gently sloping sides and a concave	>1.7	0.79	0.17	

					base				
9	906	Fill	905	Fill	Mid grey-brown silt-clay	>1.7	0.79	0.17	
9	907	Cut		Ditch/gully	NW/SE aligned gully with steep sloping sides and a concave base	2.4	0.44	0.27	
9	908	Fill	907	Fill	Mid grey-brown silt-clay	2.4	0.44	0.27	
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay-silt	50	1.8	0.26	
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow-brown silt-clay	50	1.8	0.11	
10	1002	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact light blue-grey clay with occasional patches of light brown-orange sand and gravel	50	1.8	-	
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay-silt	50	1.8	0.14	
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Light orange-brown silt-clay	50	1.8	0.2	
11	1102	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact light blue-grey clay with occasional patches of light brown-orange sand and gravel	50	1.8	-	
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay-silt	50	1.8	0.21	
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Light orange-brown silt-clay	50	1.8	0.20	
12	1202	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact light blue-grey clay with occasional patches of light brown-orange sand and gravel	50	1.8	-	
12	1203	Cut		Pit	Sub-oval pit with gently sloping sides and a flat base	0.78	0.5	0.07	
12	1204	Fill	1203	Fill	Mid grey-brown silt-clay	0.78	0.5	0.07	
12	1205	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned ditch with steep sloping sides and a concave base	>1.8	1.46	0.49	
12	1206	Fill	1205	Fill	Mid grey-brown silt-clay	>1.8	1.46	0.49	
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay-silt	50	1.8	0.28	
13	1301	Layer		Subsoil	Light orange-brown silt-clay	50	1.8	0.09	
13	1302	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact light blue-grey clay with occasional patches of light brown-orange sand and gravel	50	1.8	-	
13	1303	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned ditch with gently sloping sides and a concave base	>1.8	1.15	0.16	
13	1304	Fill		Fill	Mid orange-grey silt-clay	>1.8	1.15	0.16	

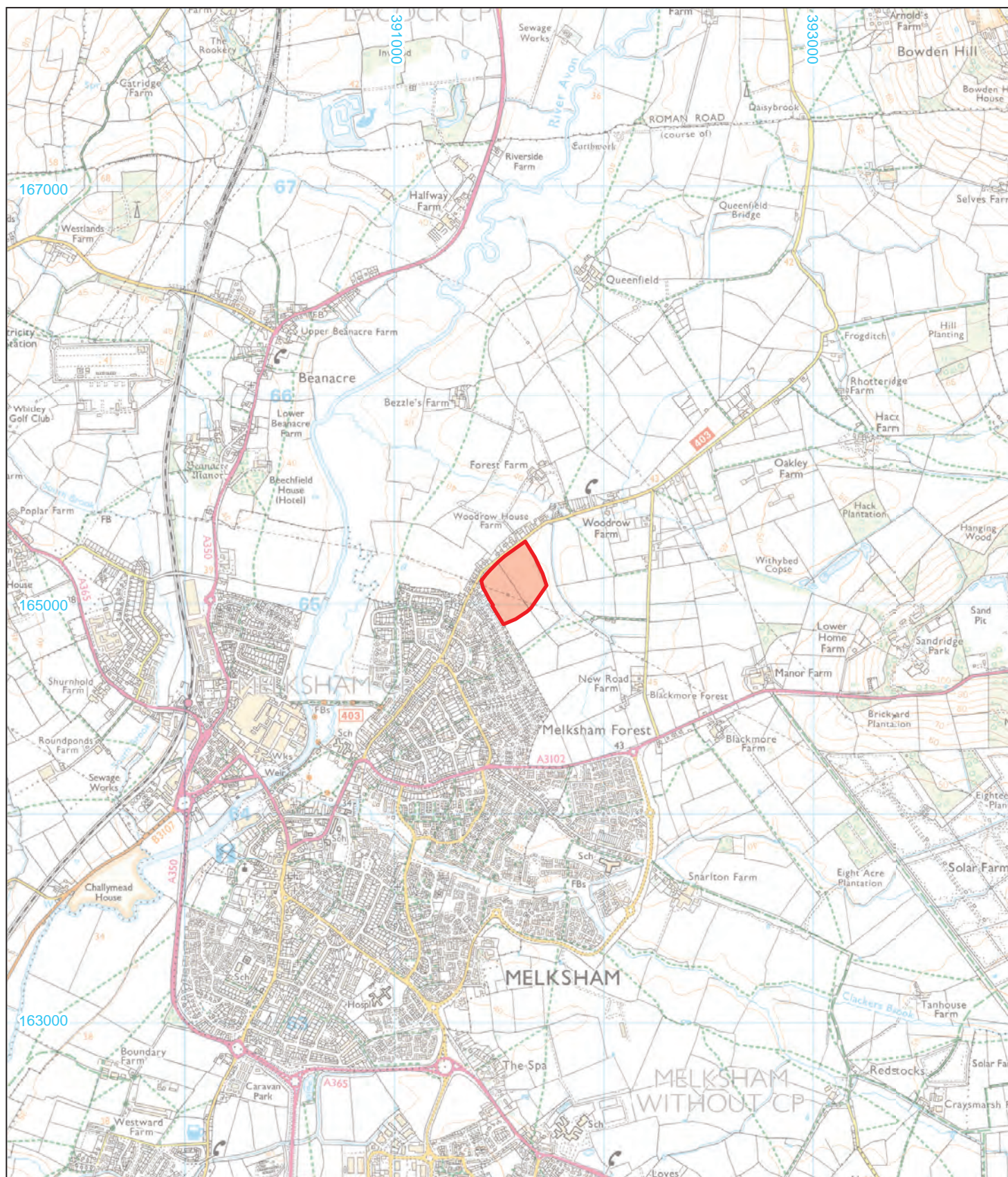
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
404	Medieval pottery	Lacock/Nash Hill ware	LNH	1	5	LC13-LC16
604	Roman pottery	North Wiltshire oxidised ware	NWO	1	3	RB

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land to the South of Woodrow Road, Melksham, Wiltshire	
Short description	<p>In October 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of Land to the South of Woodrow Road, Melksham, Wiltshire. A total of 13 trenches were excavated.</p> <p>A single, highly abraded, sherd of pottery of broad Roman date was recovered as a residual find from the fill of a furrow identified in a trench excavated in the north-western part of the site.</p> <p>A single sherd of medieval (late 13th to 16th-century) pottery was recovered from the fill of a posthole identified within a trench excavated in the central part of the site. A further, undated, posthole was also identified in this trench and is likely to be broadly contemporary. The function of these postholes remains unclear, although they may relate to agricultural stock management or land division. Further evidence of medieval and/or post-medieval agricultural activity, comprising the ploughed-out remains of ridge-and-furrow cultivation, was identified in the south-eastern and north-western parts of the site.</p> <p>A number of undated ditches/gullies and pits were identified in trenches excavated the northern, western and south-eastern parts of the site. The precise function of these features remains unclear but the absence of artefactual and faunal material within the fills of these features suggests that they lay at an appreciable distance from any areas of former settlement, and are therefore most likely to have been associated with agricultural activities.</p>	
Project dates	19 - 23 October 2020	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-Based Assessment (RPS 2020) Geophysical Survey (Magnitude 2020)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Melksham, Wiltshire	
Study area (m ² /ha)	6.4ha	
Site co-ordinates	391610 165040	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steve Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Sara-Jayne Boughton	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content:
Physical	Wiltshire Museum/ DZSWS:39-2020	Pottery
Paper	Wiltshire Museum/ DZSWS:39-2020	Trench sheets, context sheets, photographic registers, permatrace drawings, report
Digital	Wiltshire Museum/ DZSWS:39-2020	Digital photographs, report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2020 <i>Land to the South of Woodrow Road, Melksham, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report CR0506_1		



Site boundary

0 1km

© Crown copyright and database rights 2020
Ordnance Survey 0100031673



Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 573970
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land to the South of Woodrow Road,
Melksham, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

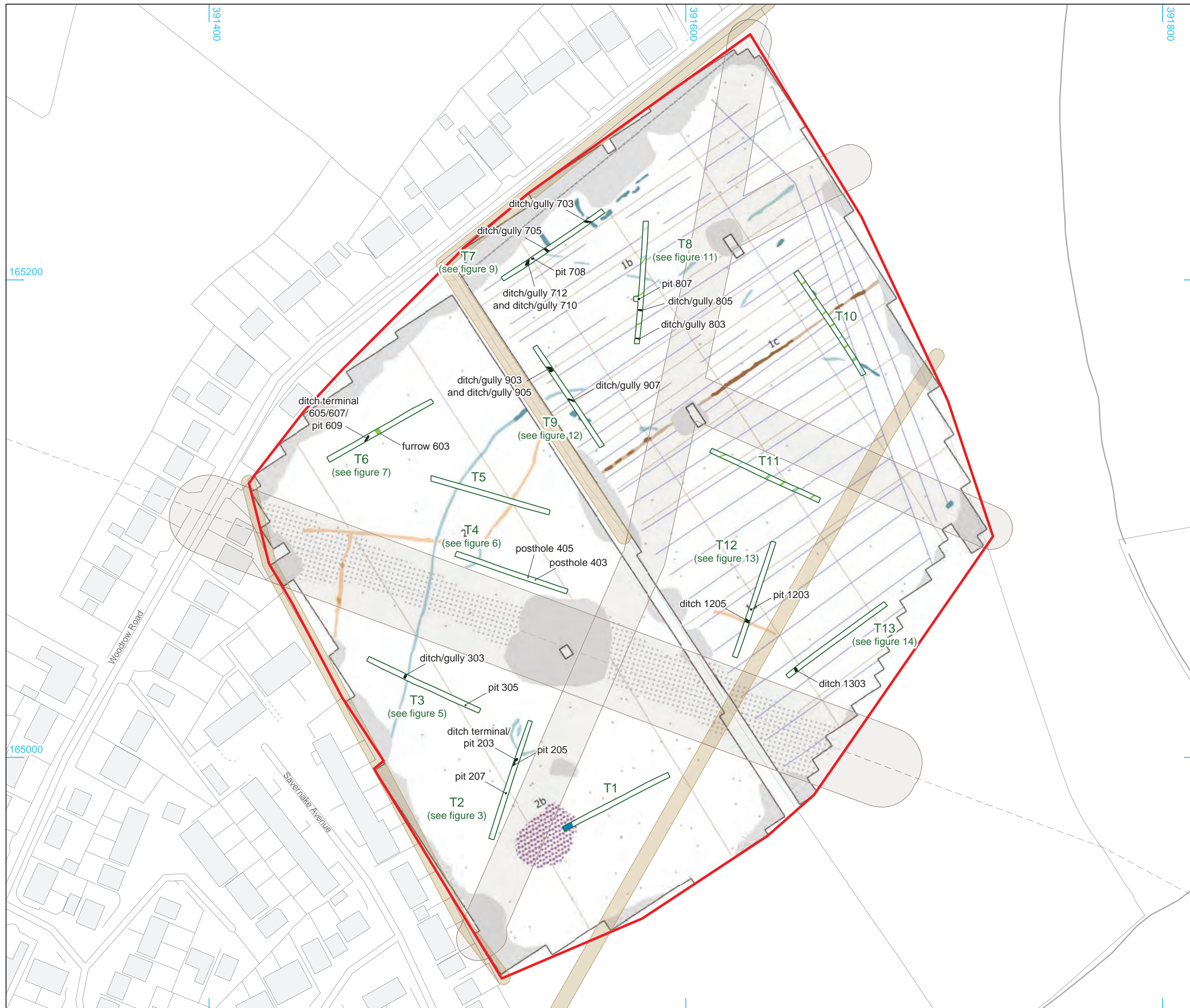
Site location plan

DRAWN BY AW
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY MAW

PROJECT NO. CR0506
DATE 30.10.20
SCALE @A4 1:25,000

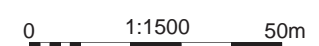
FIGURE NO.

1



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Modern
- Furrow
- Field drain
- Electricity buffer
- Sewage buffer

- Geophysical survey results**
(??)
- Possible archaeology (strong)
 - Possible archaeology (weak)
 - Agricultural (strong)
 - Agricultural (weak)
 - Extraction/quarry
 - Magnetic disturbance
 - Ferrous/debris (spread)
 - Undetermined (strong)
 - Undetermined (weak)
 - Agricultural (trend)
 - Drainage feature
 - Ferrous (spike)



© Crown copyright and database rights 2020 Ordnance Survey 0100031673



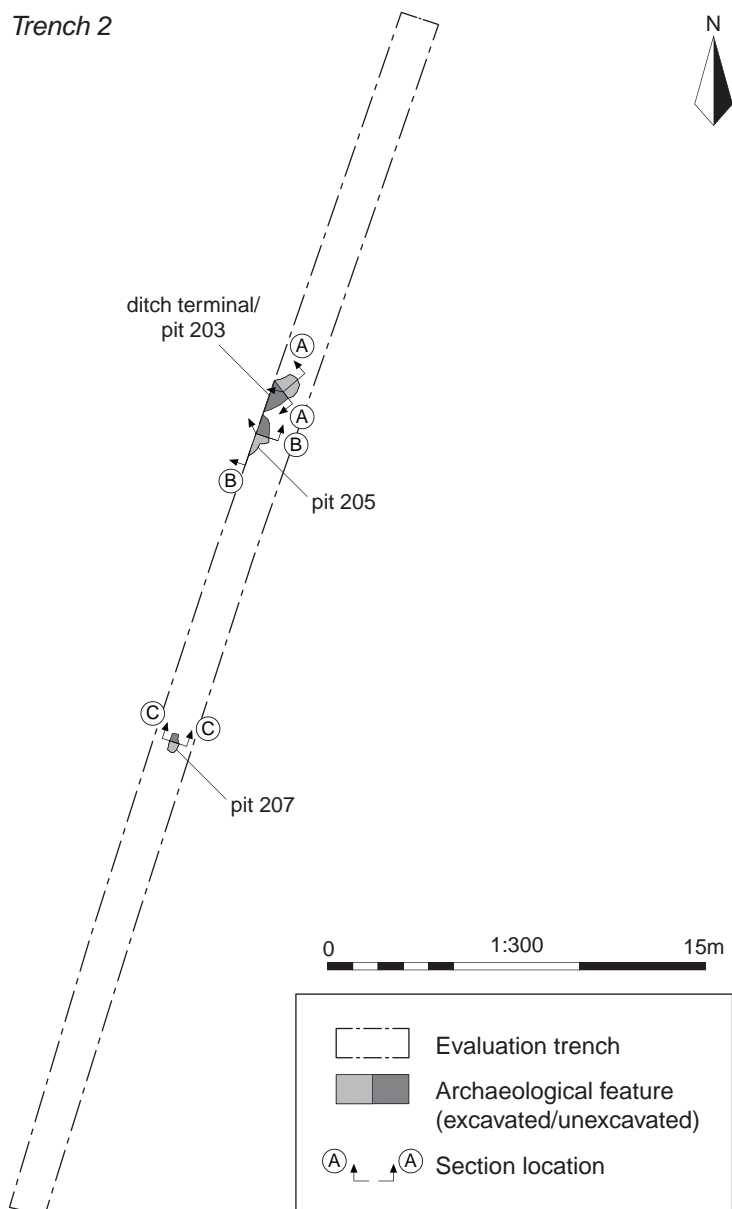
Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 573970
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Land to the South of Woodrow Road,
Melksham, Wiltshire

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

DRAWN BY	AW	PROJECT NO.	CR0506	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	28.10.20	2
APPROVED BY	MAW	SCALE @A3	1:1500	



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land to the South of Woodrow Road,
 Melksham, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 2: plan

DRAWN BY AW PROJECT NO. CR0506
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 30.10.20
 APPROVED BY MAW SCALE@A4 1:300

FIGURE NO.

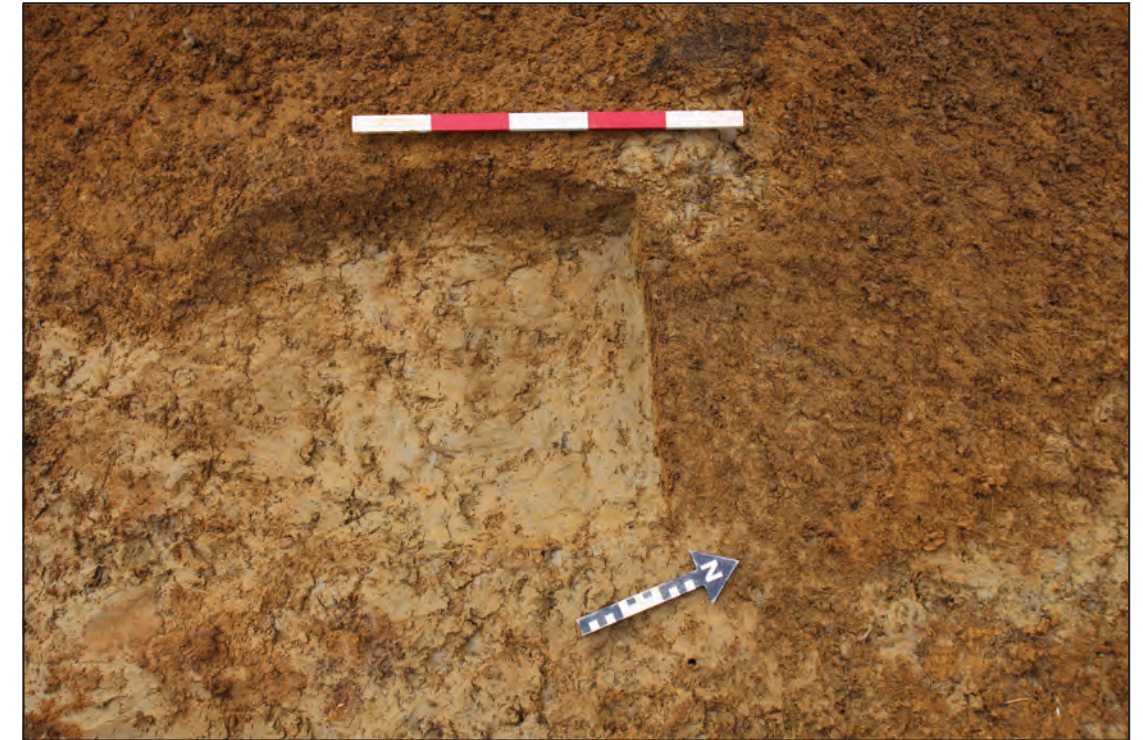
3



Ditch terminal/pit 203, looking south-west (0.5m scale)

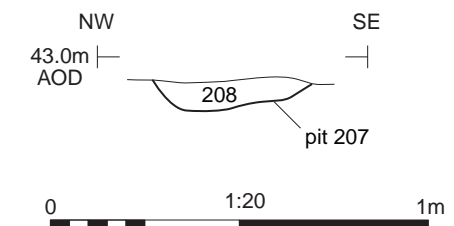


Pit 205, looking north-east (0.5m scale)

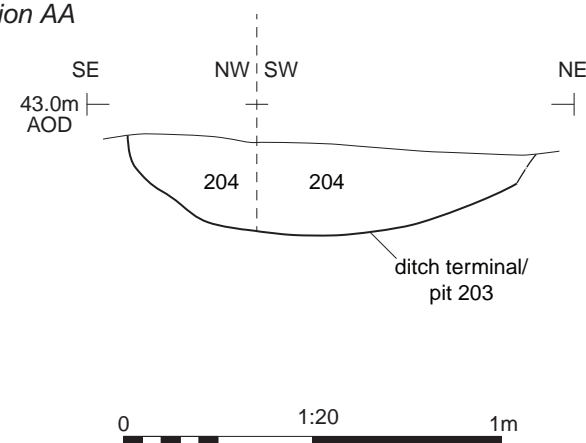


Pit 207, looking north-east (0.5m scale)

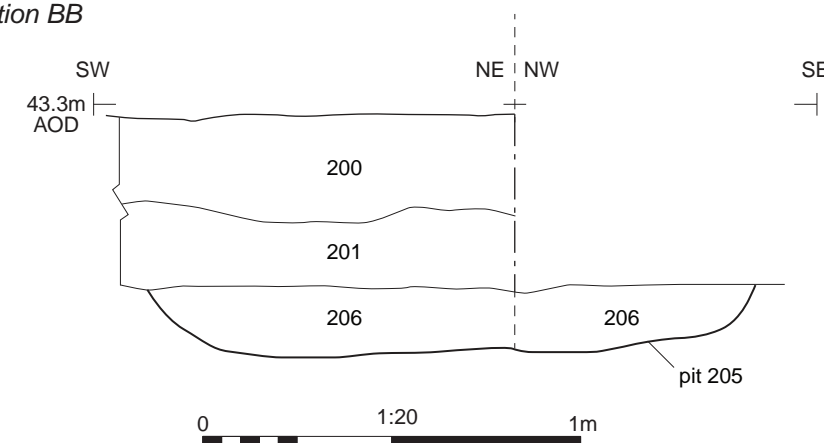
Section CC

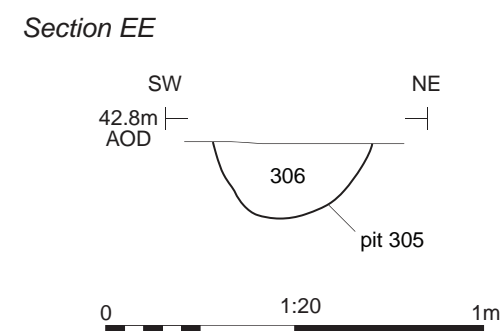
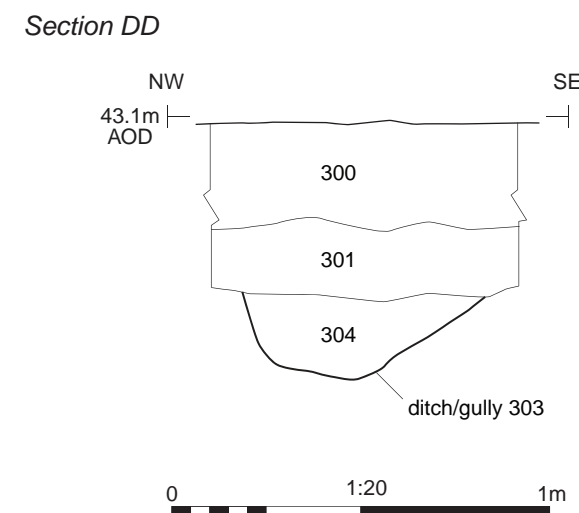
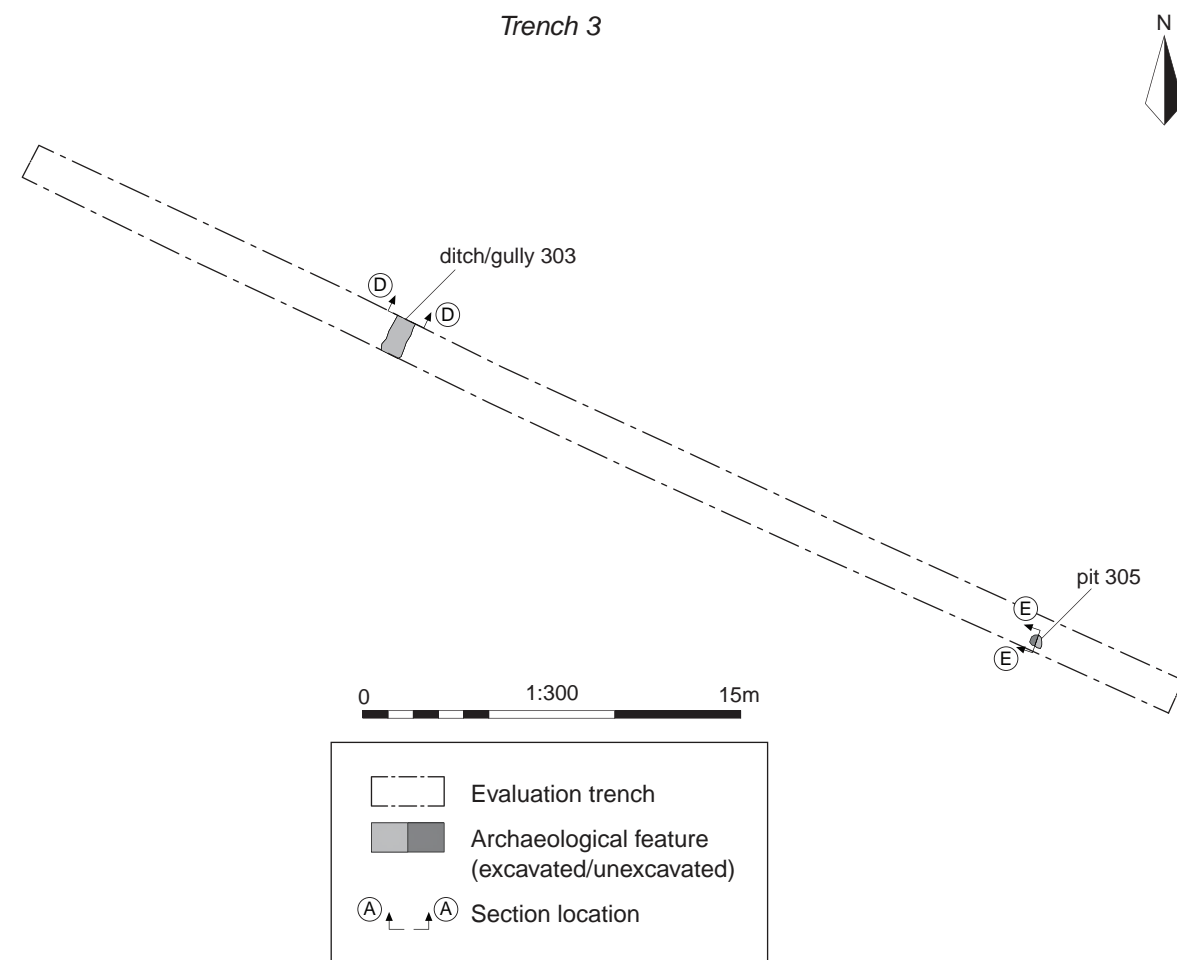


Section AA



Section BB

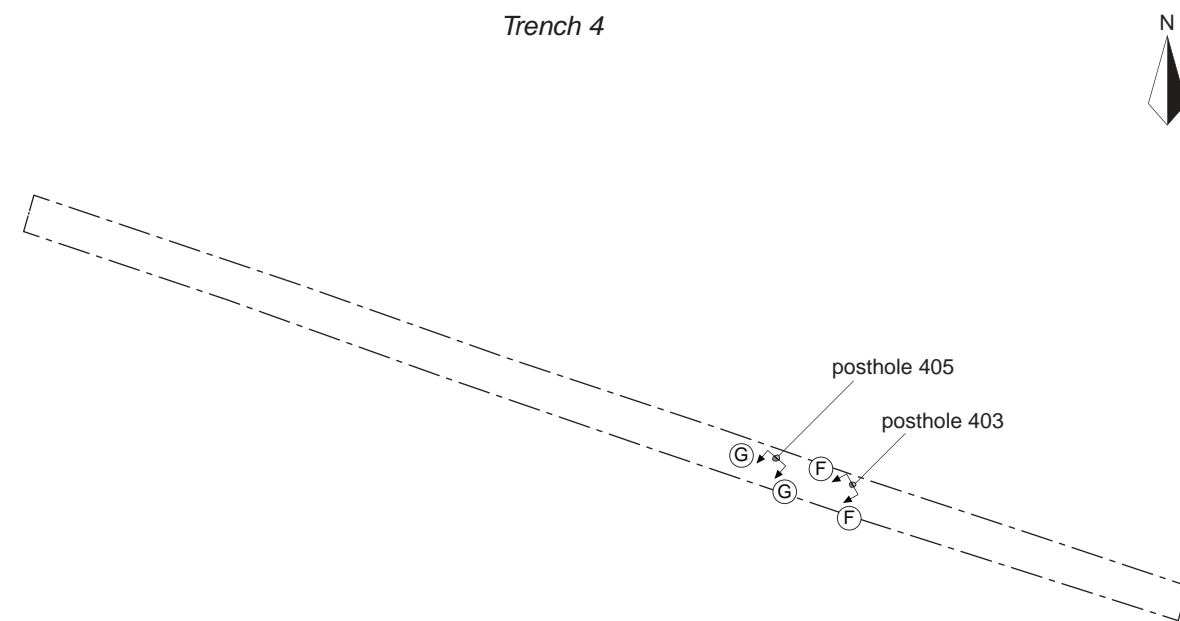




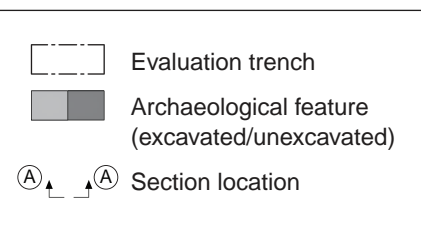
Ditch/gully 303, looking north-east (1m scale)



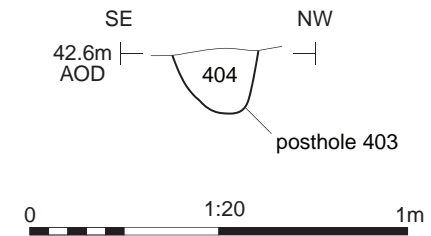
Pit 305, looking north-west (0.3m scale)



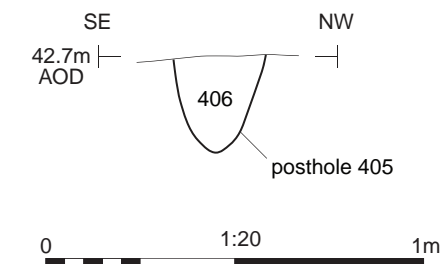
0 1:300 15m



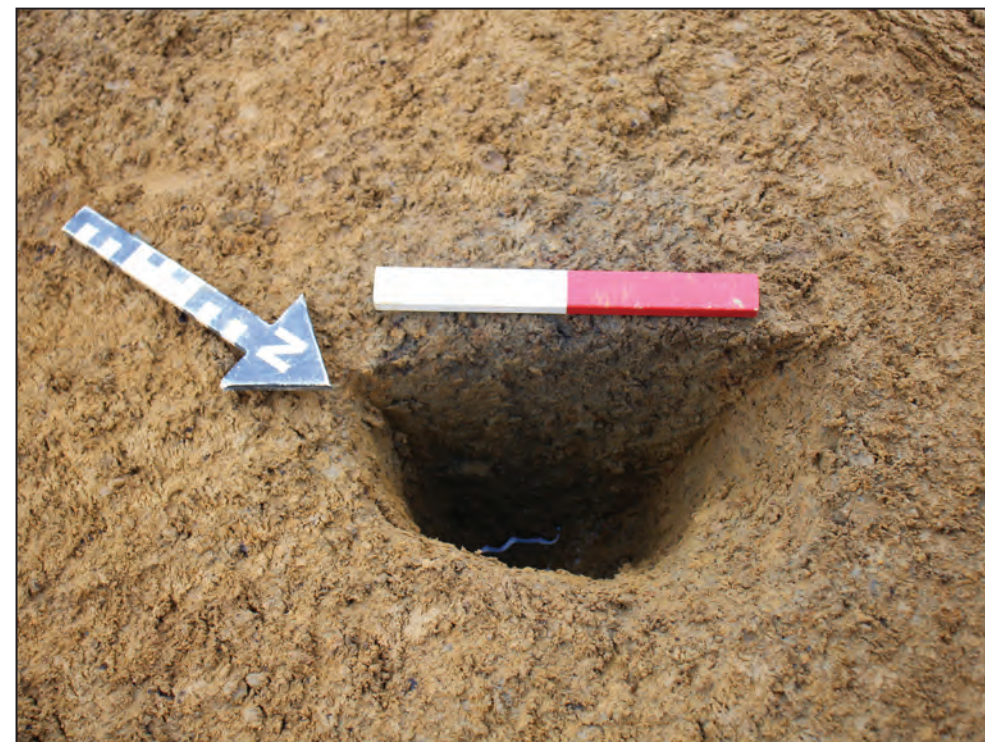
Section FF



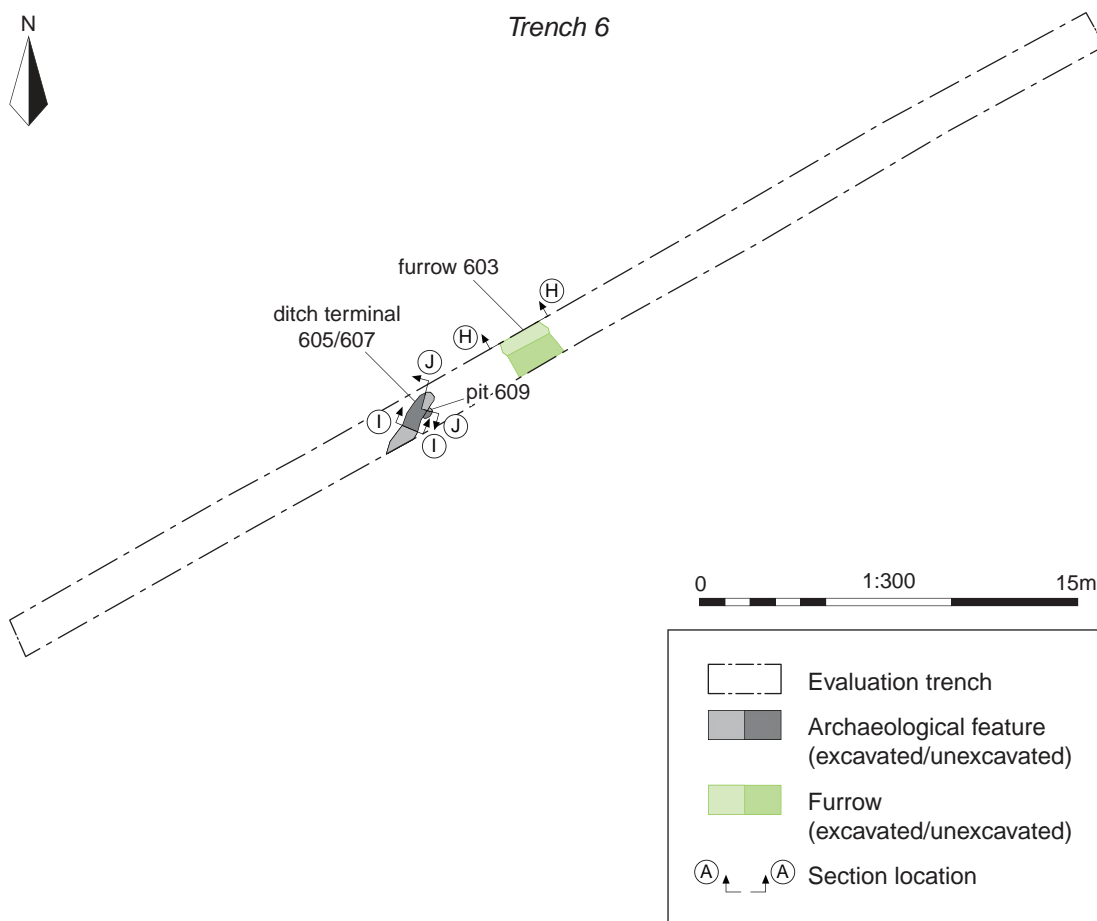
Section GG



Posthole 403, looking south-west (0.2m scale)



Posthole 405, looking south-west (0.2m scale)



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land to the South of Woodrow Road,
Melksham, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 6: plan

DRAWN BY AW PROJECT NO. CR0506
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 30.10.20
 APPROVED BY MAW SCALE@A4 1:300

FIGURE NO.

7



Furrow 603, looking north-west (1m scale)

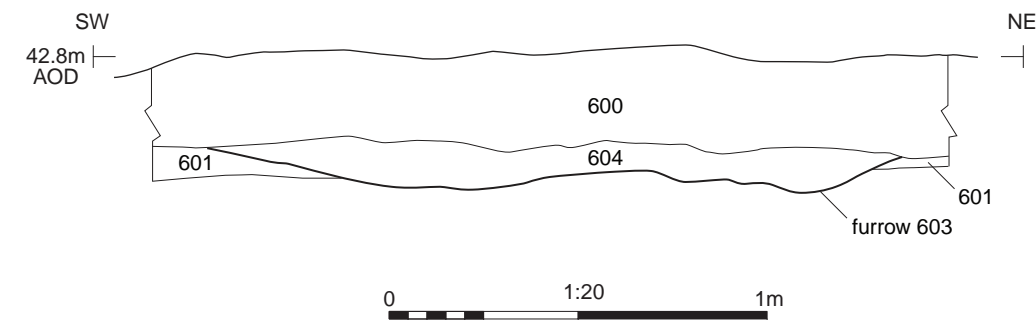


Ditch terminal 605/607 and pit 609, looking north-west (0.4m scale)

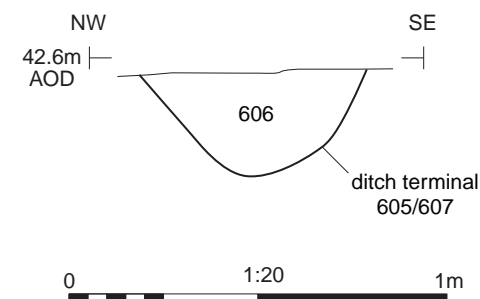


Ditch terminal 605/607, looking north-east (0.4m scale)

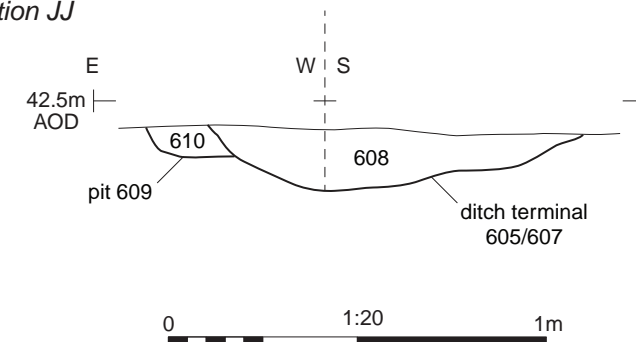
Section HH

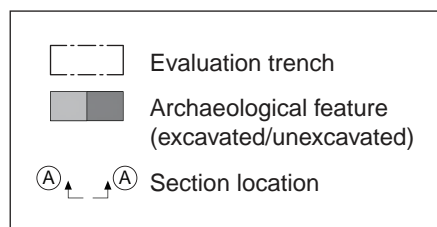
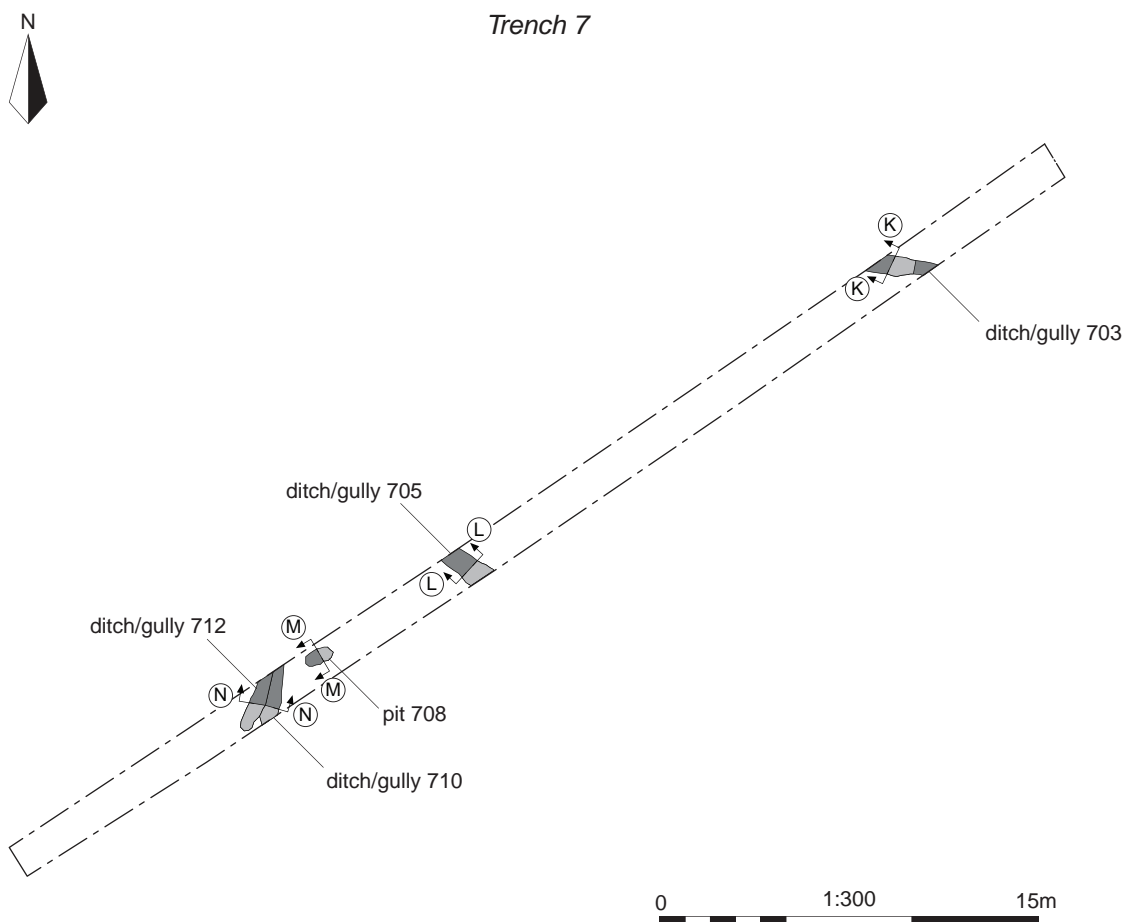


Section II



Section JJ





Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land to the South of Woodrow Road,
 Melksham, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 7: plan

DRAWN BY **AW** PROJECT NO. **CR0506**
 CHECKED BY **DJB** DATE **30.10.20**
 APPROVED BY **MAW** SCALE@A4 **1:300**

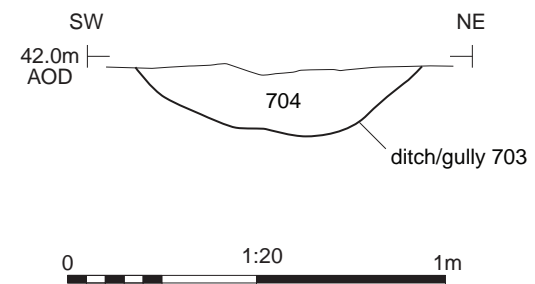
FIGURE NO.

9

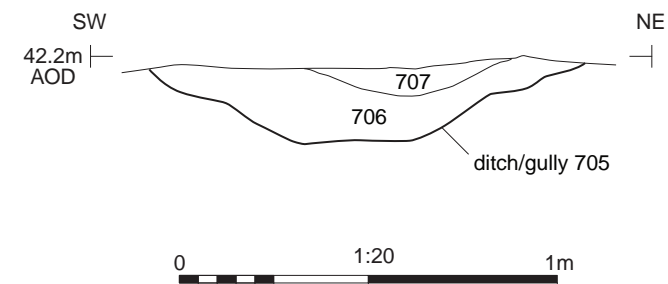


Ditch/gully 703, looking west (0.5m scale)

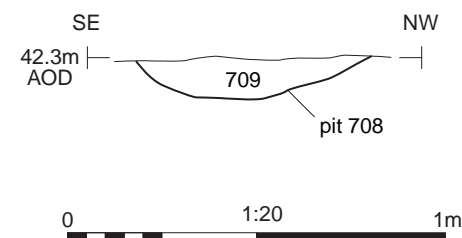
Section KK



Section LL



Section MM



Section NN

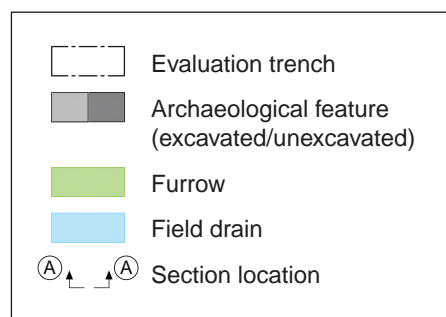
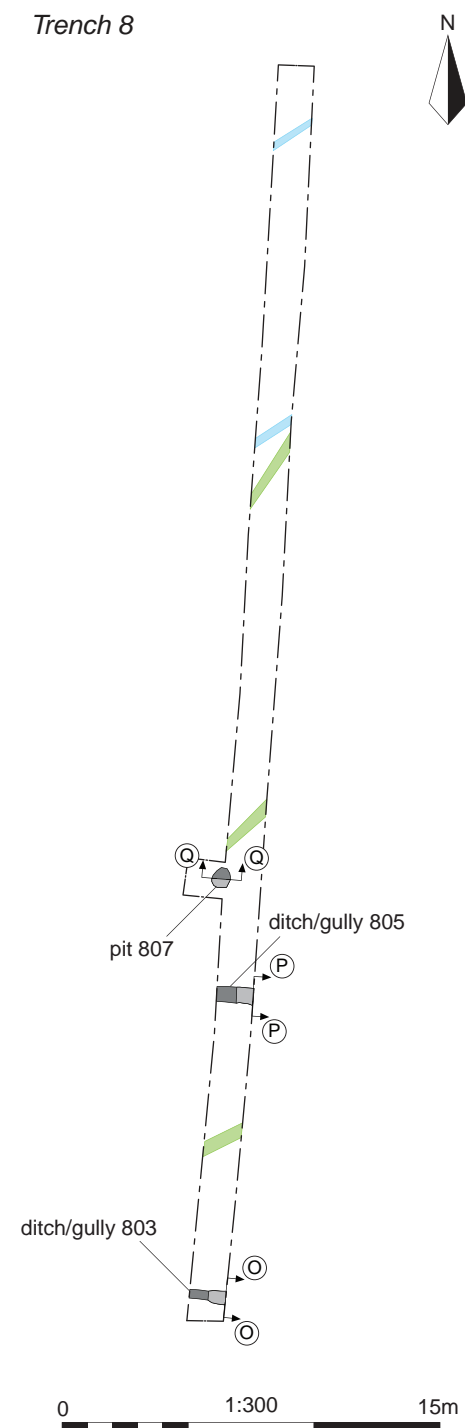


Ditch/gully 705, looking north-west (0.5m scale)



Ditch/gully 710 and ditch/gully 712, looking north (0.5m scale)

Trench 8



Ditch/gully 803, looking east (0.5m scale)

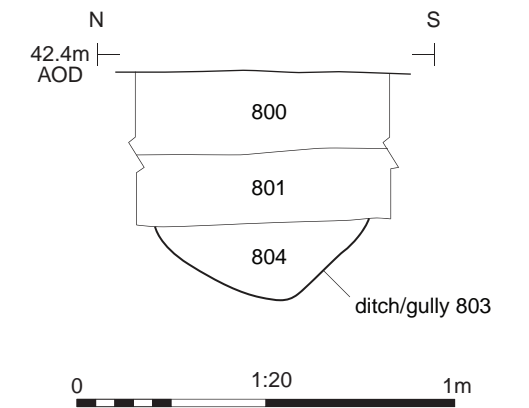


Ditch/gully 805, looking east (0.5m scale)

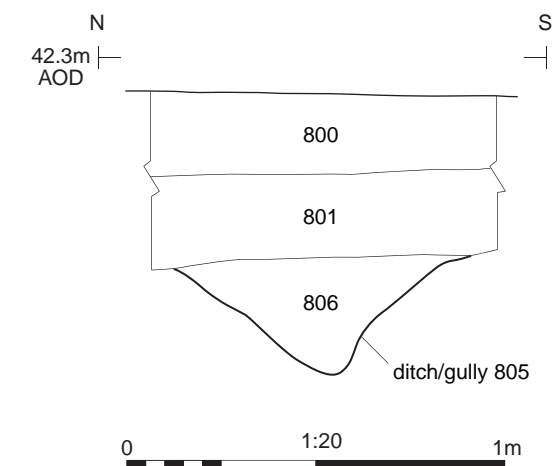


Pit 807, looking north (0.4m scale)

Section OO



Section PP



Section QQ



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

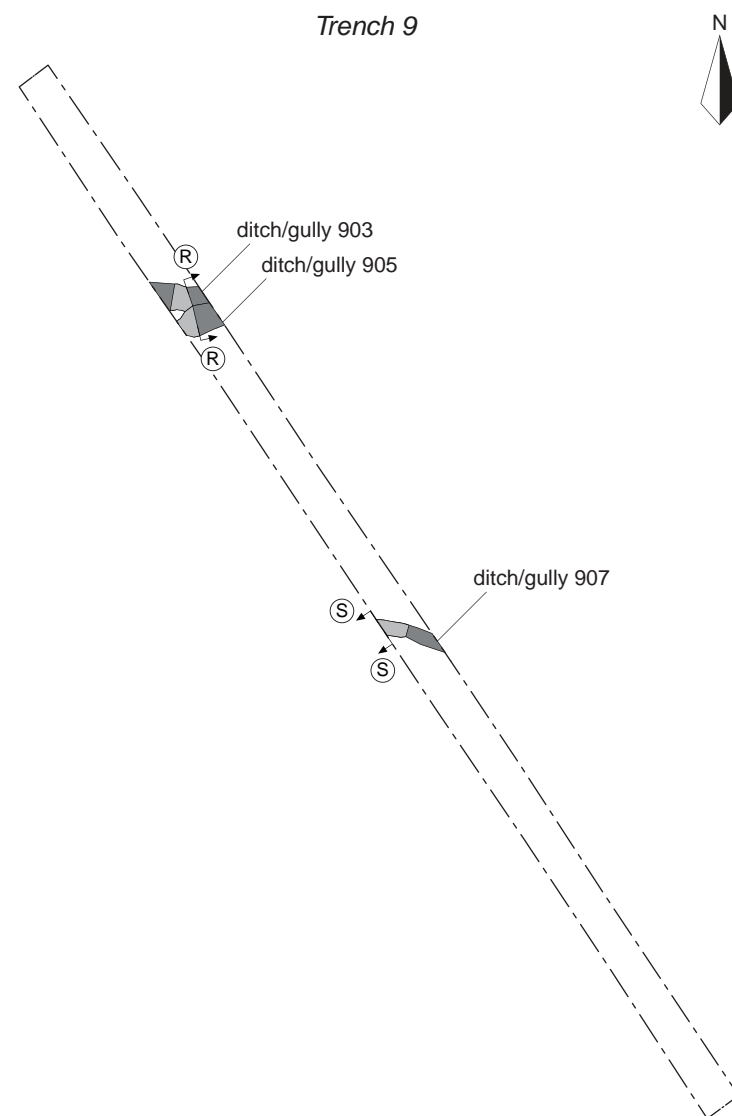
PROJECT TITLE

Land to the South of Woodrow Road,
 Melksham, Wiltshire

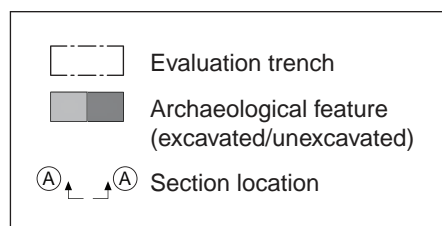
FIGURE TITLE

Trench 8: plan, sections and
 photographs

DRAWN BY AW PROJECT NO. CR0506 FIGURE NO.
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 29.10.20
 APPROVED BY MAW SCALE @A3 1:300; 1:20 11

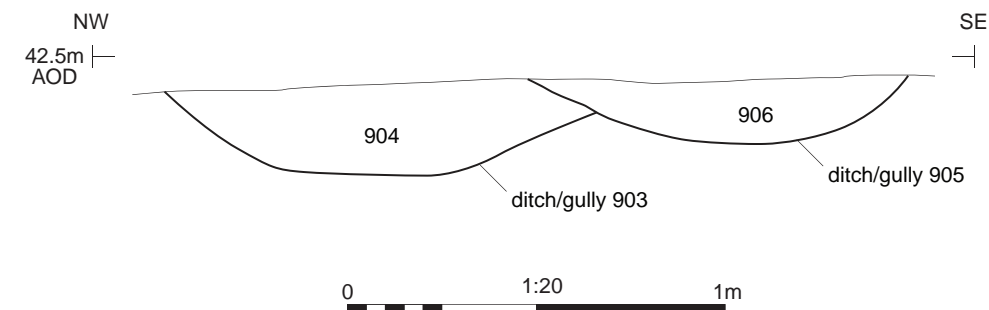


0 1:300 15m

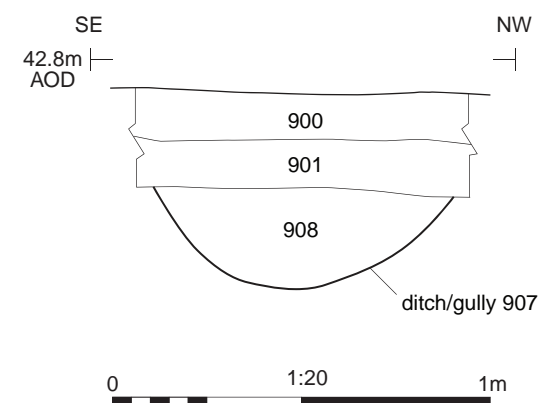


Ditch/gully 903 and ditch/gully 905, looking south-east (1m scale)

Section RR

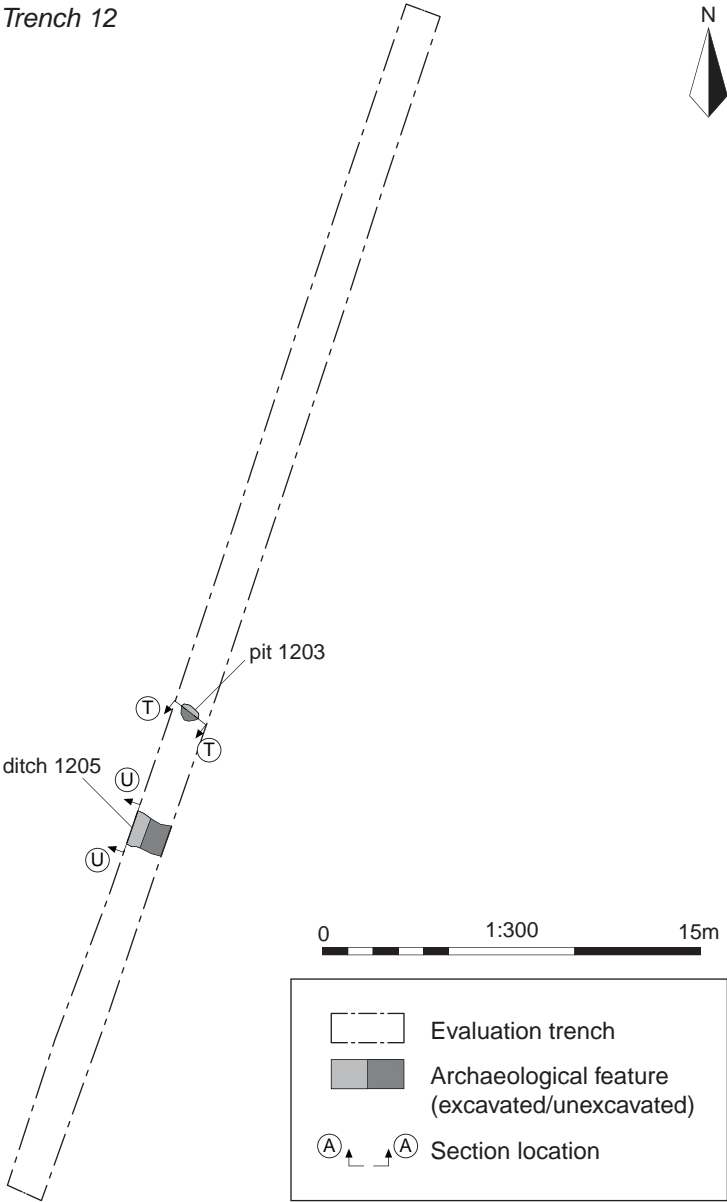


Section SS



Ditch/gully 907, looking west (1m scale)

Trench 12

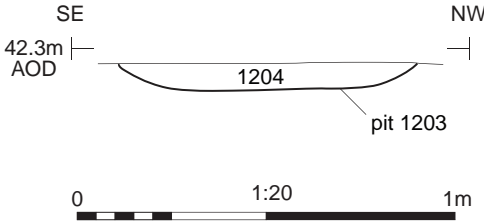


Pit 1203, looking south-west (0.5m scale)

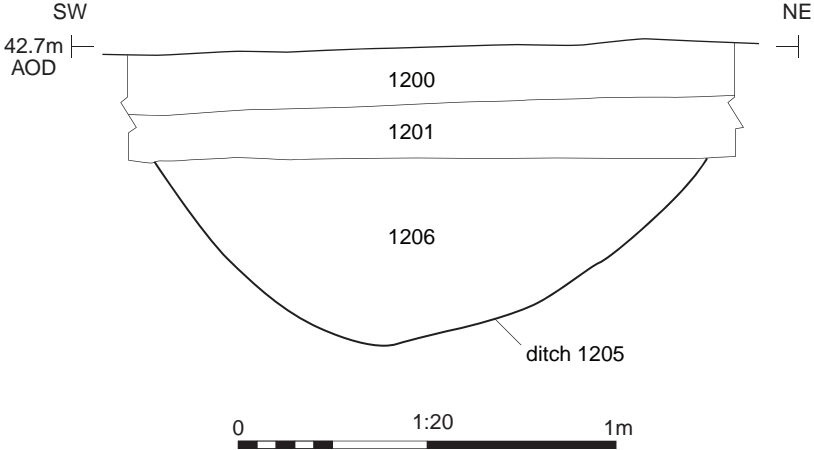


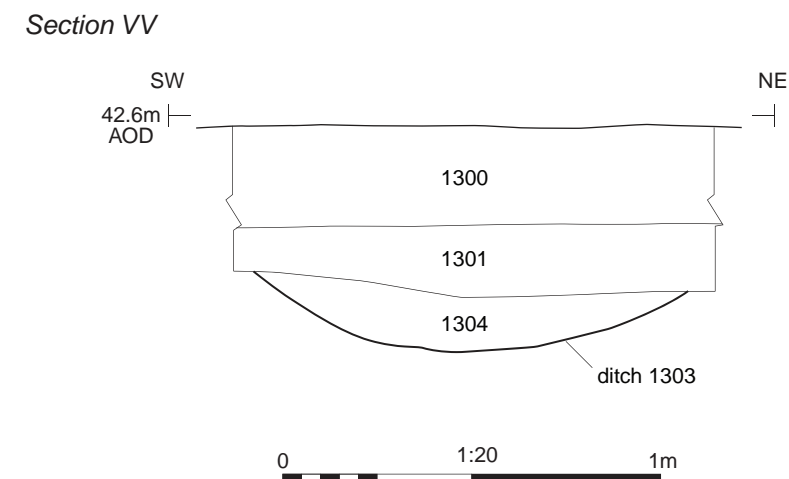
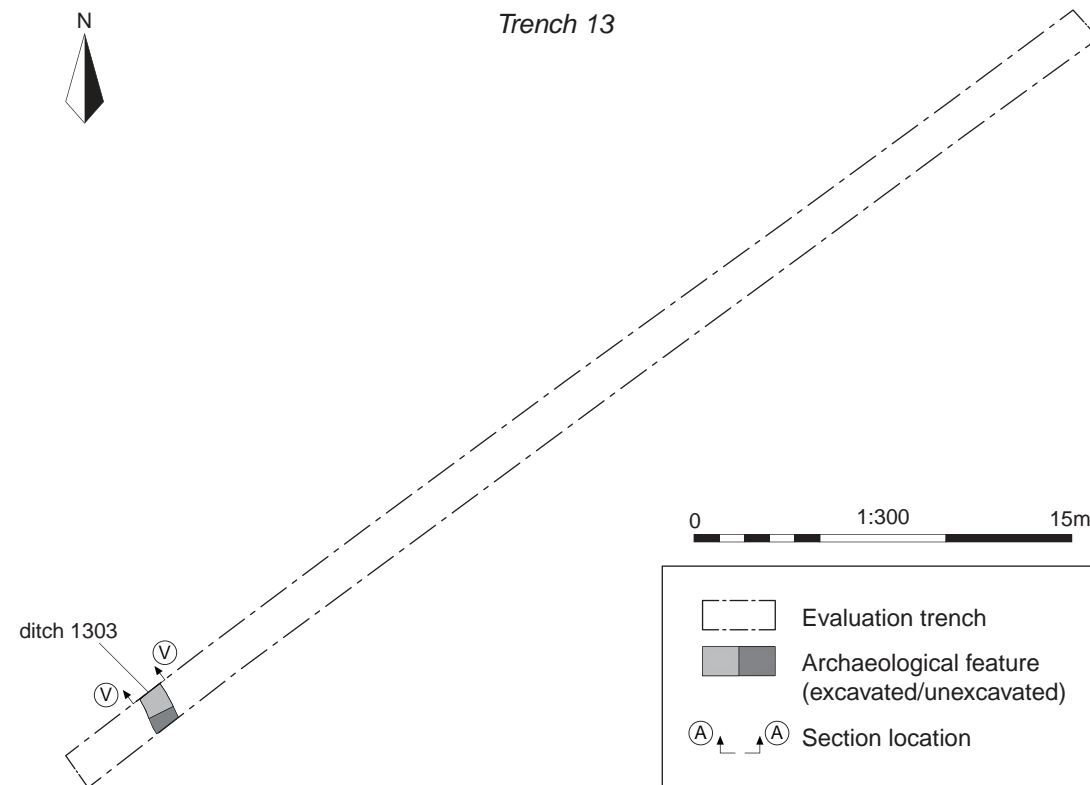
Ditch 1205, looking north-west (1m scale)

Section TT



Section UU





Ditch 1303, looking north-west (1m scale)

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 1, Clyst Units
Cofton Road
Marsh Barton
Exeter
EX2 8QW

t: 01392 573970

Milton Keynes Office

Unit 8 - The IO Centre
Fingle Drive, Stonebridge
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

Suffolk Office

Unit 5, Plot 11, Maitland Road
Lion Barn Industrial Estate
Needham Market
Suffolk
IP6 8NZ

t: 01449 900120

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

