

Land at Park Road Malmesbury Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for:
EDP (Cirencester)

on behalf of:
White Lion Land (Malmesbury)

CA Project: CR0481
CA Report: CR0481_1

October 2020



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SUMMARY

Project name:	Land at Park Road
Location:	Malmesbury, Wiltshire
NGR:	392465 187945
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	28 September - 6 October 2020
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Wiltshire Museum and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Site Code:	PRDM 20

In September and October 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of Land at Park Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire. A total of 20 trenches were excavated.

A single, broken, flint flake of broad prehistoric date was recovered from the subsoil within a trench excavated in the south-eastern part of the site. A single sherd of pottery of broad Roman date was recovered from a partially exposed pit, identified towards the centre of the site. The function of this pit remains unclear, although it may relate to quarrying or extraction activity. Seven further sherds of pottery of broad Romano-British date were recovered from the subsoil within a trench excavated in the north-western part of the site.

Evidence of medieval and/or post-medieval agricultural practice, comprising the ploughed-out remains of ridge-and-furrow cultivation, was identified in the north-western and south-eastern parts of the site. A small ditch/gully and two postholes, identified cutting the subsoil in trenches excavated in the south-eastern part of the site, may relate to post-medieval/modern agricultural activity. An undated pit and a partially exposed pit/ditch terminal were identified cutting the natural substrate in a trench excavated in the south-central part of the site. The function of these features remains unclear due to the sterile nature of their fills and their isolated nature within the trench.

A probable palaeochannel, possibly associated with a former course of the River Avon, was identified in two trenches excavated in the north-western part of the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In September and October 2020, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Park Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 392465 187945; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken for EDP (Cirencester), who were acting on behalf of White Lion Land (Malmesbury).
- 1.2. The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a forthcoming planning application for residential and associated development of the site, which will be made to Wiltshire Council (WC).
- 1.3. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by CA (2020) and approved by Michal Cepak, Assistant County Archaeologist, WC. The evaluation was also undertaken in line with *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014; updated June 2020); the *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 investigation area measures approximately 5ha in extent and currently comprises an area of agricultural land. The site is bounded to the north-east by Park Road, to the north-west by Park Lane and to the south-east and south-west by further agricultural land and residential development (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 80m AOD at its southern extent, with ground level dropping gradually towards the north.
- 1.5. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Cornbrash Formation - Limestone of the Jurassic era (BGS 2020). The natural substrate, comprising compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches, was identified in all the excavated trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The site has been subject to archaeological assessment (EDP 2019) and geophysical survey (AS 2020). The results of these assessments are summarised below.
- 2.2. At Tetbury Hill, c. 250m to the east of site, a mid to late Bronze Age ditch was identified and approximately 400m to the north of this lies a series of Romano-British enclosures, ditches, and pits (EDP 2019).
- 2.3. The site is likely to have been within the agricultural hinterland of Malmesbury since the medieval period, although no ridge-and-furrow earthworks were apparent within it (EDP 2019). Available historical mapping shows that the site has remained as a single parcel of land since the 19th century AD.
- 2.4. The remains of former out-farm buildings are located in the southern corner of the site, under dense vegetation (EDP 2019). The buildings date to at least the 19th century, as depicted on the earliest available historical mapping (1886).
- 2.5. The geophysical survey (AS 2020) identified a broadly curving linear anomaly possibly relating to a former fluvial feature with possible quarrying along its sides in the south-western part of the site, along with a number of anomalies suggestive of ridge and furrow agriculture and a small number of pit-like anomalies of uncertain origin.

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 WC to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the forthcoming planning application upon those assets 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 20 trenches, each measuring 50m in length and 1.8m in width (Fig. 2). Some trenches were targeted on anomalies identified from the geophysical survey (AS 2020).
- 4.2. The 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*. Records were maintained 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 June 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 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; details of biological evidence recovered are given in Section 7 and Appendix C.

5.2. The natural substrate comprising compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches was encountered in all the excavated trenches. This was overlain by between 0.1m and 0.34m thickness of subsoil. In Trenches 2, 4, 5, 7, 15, 18 and 19 the subsoil was cut by a series of evenly spaced, north-west/south-east-aligned plough furrows, all of which correlate closely to linear anomalies depicted by the geophysical survey (AS 2020). Where investigated, these measured up to 2.05m in width and had a maximum depth of 0.23m. The fills of the furrows were subsequently sealed by between 0.17m and 0.32m thickness of topsoil.

5.3. Other archaeological features were identified in a total of six trenches.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 3)

5.4. Sub-square posthole 205 (Fig. 3, Section AA) was identified cutting subsoil towards the north-western half of the trench. It was c. 0.4m² and 0.13m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base and contained a single undated fill, 206.

Trench 3 (Figs 2 & 4)

5.5. North-west/south-east-aligned ditch/gully 303 (Fig. 4, Section BB) was identified cutting the subsoil towards the centre of the trench. It was at least 2m long, was 0.86m wide and 0.21m deep, and correlates closely to a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. It had an irregular profile and contained a single fill, 304, from which a single sherd of pottery of 18th to 19th-century date was recovered, along with a single cattle bone.

Trench 9 (Figs 2 & 5)

5.6. A pit/ditch terminal 904 (Fig. 5, Sections CC and DD) was identified cutting the natural substrate towards the north-western end of the trench. It had steeply sloping sides and a flat base and measured c. 1m in length, 0.72m in width and 0.17m in depth. It contained a single undated fill, 903. Immediately to the north-west, small sub-circular pit 906 was identified cutting the natural substrate. Pit 906 (Fig. 5,

Section EE) had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 0.45m in width and 0.08m in depth, and contained a single undated fill, 905.

- 5.7. Sub-square posthole 908 was identified cutting subsoil towards the centre of the trench. It remained unexcavated as it is thought to be a modern feature.

Trench 13 (Figs 2 & 6)

- 5.8. Large Irregular pit 1304 (Fig. 6, Section FF) was partially exposed cutting the natural substrate towards the north-eastern end of the trench. It measured 2.2m in length, 1.48m in width and 0.66m in depth, and contained a single fill, 1303, from which a single sherd of heavily abraded pottery of broad Roman date was recovered, as well as 4 fragments of horse bone. It correlates with part of an anomaly of uncertain origin identified by the geophysical survey.

Trench 14 (Fig. 2)

- 5.9. Feature 1406 was identified in the north-western half of the trench. It measured 17.8m in width and remained unexcavated within the trench. It correlates closely to a curvilinear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey and appears to represent a continuation of feature 1603, identified in Trench 16.

Trench 16 (Figs 2 & 7)

- 5.10. Feature 1603 (Fig. 7, Section GG) was aligned north-west/south-east and was identified in the north-eastern half of the trench. It had an irregular profile and base and measured 16.34m in width and 1.88m in depth. It contained a series of five sterile fills, 1604, 1605, 1606, 1607 and 1608, all of which appeared to have formed through a process of natural silting. It correlates closely to a curvilinear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey and appears to represent a continuation of feature 1406, identified in Trench 14.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. Artefactual material was hand-recovered from five deposits. The recovered material dates to the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval/modern 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.

Pottery

- 6.2. Roman pottery totals eight unfeatured bodysherds (36g) from two deposits. A heavily abraded sherd from fill 1303 of pit 1304 presents in a fine oxidised fabric (OXF). The sherds from subsoil deposit 1601 are in a sandy oxidised fabric (OXS). This pottery cannot be dated more narrowly than to the Romano-British period.
- 6.3. A heavily abraded unfeatured bodysherd (3g) of Kennet Valley ware (KVW) was recorded from subsoil deposit 1601. This unglazed coarseware fabric was manufactured in the East Wiltshire/West Berkshire region during the late 11th to 15th centuries.
- 6.4. Fill 304 of gully 303 produced a sherd of brown-glazed earthenware (5g), dateable to the 18th to 19th centuries.

Lithics

- 6.5. A broken flint flake (2g) of broad prehistoric date was retrieved from subsoil deposit 601.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1 Animal bone amounting to five fragments (71g) was recovered from deposits 304 and 1303, the fills of ditch/gully 303 and pit 1304 (See Table 1, Appendix C). Artefactual material dating to the Romano-British and post-medieval periods were also recovered from these features. The material was fragmentary but preserved well enough to identify the presence of cattle (*Bos taurus*) from a partial first phalanx, and horse (*Equus caballus*.) from an incisor tooth and from fragments of three hind foot bones, namely the astragalus, metatarsal and second phalanx. No cut marks or impact damage indicative of butchery waste was observed which, when coupled with the low recovery, limits what can be said about this assemblage in terms of site economy and animal husbandry. However, both species were commonly exploited domestic animals so their inclusion in an assemblage of either period is to be expected.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1. The evaluation identified a number of archaeological features within the site. Features identified as plough furrows were located in Trenches 2, 4, 5, 7, 15, 18 and 19. Other features were located in Trenches 2, 3, 9, 13, 14 and 16. Where linear archaeological features were encountered there was a moderate correlation with the results of the geophysical survey (AS 2020). However, the targeting of geophysical anomalies in a number of other trenches (Trenches 1, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 17 and 20) revealed no archaeological features.

Prehistoric

- 8.2. A single, broken, flint flake of broad prehistoric date was recovered from the subsoil within Trench 2. Whilst some, limited, evidence of prehistoric activity is recorded in the area surrounding the site (see *Archaeological background* above) the limited evidence provided by the current evaluation does little to enhance our understanding of activity during this period.

Roman

- 8.3. Partially exposed pit 1304, identified in Trench 13, contained a single sherd of pottery of broad Roman date, although the limited quantity and heavily abraded nature of this material does not preclude the possibility that it was residual, and four fragments of horse bone. The function of this pit remains unclear due primarily to its isolated nature and limited exposure within the trench; however, its apparent size and irregular form suggests that it may relate to quarrying or extraction activity.
- 8.4. Seven further sherds of pottery of broad Romano-British date were recovered from the subsoil within Trench 16.

Medieval/post-medieval

- 8.5. Evidence of medieval and/or post-medieval agricultural activity, comprising the ploughed out remains of ridge-and-furrow cultivation, was identified in Trenches 2, 4, 5, 7, 15, 18 and 19. The results of the evaluation support the findings of the archaeological assessment (EDP 2019), which suggested that the proposed development area had remained in agricultural usage from the medieval period onwards.
- 8.6. Ditch/gully 303, identified cutting the subsoil in Trench 3, contained a single sherd of pottery of 18th to 19th-century date, as well as a fragment of cattle bone. The

precise function of this ditch/gully remains uncertain although its form suggests that it relates to agricultural land management, drainage or division. An agricultural function (stock management or land division) is also considered likely for sub-square postholes 205 and 908, identified cutting the subsoil in Trenches 2 and 9 respectively.

Undated

- 8.7. Pit 906 and pit/ditch terminal 904, identified cutting the natural substrate in Trench 9, remained undated. The function of these features remains unclear due to the sterile nature of their fills and their isolated nature within the excavated trench.
- 8.8. The form and nature of the fills contained within substantial curving feature 1406/1603, identified in Trenches 14 and 16 respectively, suggests that it may represent a palaeochannel or similar fluvial feature, perhaps associated with the River Avon, situated to the north-east and north-west of the site.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Sara-Jayne Boughton, assisted by Christian Day. This report was written by Sara-Jayne Boughton. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The report illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The project archive has been compiled by, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Alex Thomson and Steven Sheldon.

10. REFERENCES

- Archaeological Surveys 2020 *Land off Park Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Magnetometer Survey Report* Ref. no. **J826**
- British Geological Survey 2020 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/> Accessed 9 October 2020
- EDP (Cirencester) 2019 *Land off Park Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Assessment Report* ref. **edp1168_r009a** Unpublished
- MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government) 2019 *National Planning Policy Framework*

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 brown-grey silt-clay; friable	>50	>2	0.24	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; compact with frequent limestones	>50	>2	0.12	
1	102	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches	>50	>2	-	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silt-clay; friable	>50	>2	0.23	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; compact with frequent limestones	>50	>2	0.16	
2	202	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches	>50	>2	-	
2	203	Cut		Furrow	NE/SW aligned furrow with gradually sloping, stepped sides and tapered base	>2	0.63	0.23	
2	204	Fill	203	Fill of furrow	Light yellow-grey sand-clay, friable with frequent gravel	>2	0.63	0.23	
2	205	Cut		Posthole	Square in plan with steep sloping sides and flat base	0.42	0.36	0.13	
2	206	Fill	205	Fill of posthole	Mid yellow-brown sand-clay, friable with frequent gravel	0.42	0.36	0.13	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silt-clay; friable	>50	>2	0.24	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; compact with frequent limestones	>50	>2	0.14	
3	302	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches	>50	>2	-	
3	303	Cut		Ditch/gully	NW/SE aligned gully with gently sloping sides and concave base	>2	0.86	0.21	
3	304	Fill	303	Fill of ditch/gully 303	Light grey-brown silt-clay, compact with frequent limestone fragments	>2	0.86	0.21	C18-C19
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silt-clay; friable	>50	>2	0.28	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; compact with frequent limestones	>50	>2	0.16	
4	402	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches	>50	>2	-	
4	403	Cut		Furrow	NE/SW aligned furrow with gently sloping sides and flat base	>2	2.05	0.11	
4	404	Fill	404	Fill of furrow	Mid orange-brown sand-gravel; friable	>2	2.05	0.11	Prehistoric
4	405	Cut		Furrow	NE/SW aligned furrow with gently sloping sides and flat base	>2	1.58	0.07	
4	406	Fill	405	Fill of Furrow	Mid orange-brown sand-gravel, friable	>2	1.58	0.07	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silt-clay; friable	>50	>2	0.26	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; compact with frequent limestones	>50	>2	0.18	
5	502	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches	>50	>2	-	

6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silt-clay; friable	>50	>2	0.19	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; compact with frequent limestones	>50	>2	0.16	
6	602	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches	>50	>2	-	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silt-clay; friable	>50	>2	0.2	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; compact with frequent limestones	>50	>2	0.19	
7	702	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches	>50	>2	-	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silt-clay; friable	>50	>2	0.22	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; compact with frequent limestones	>50	>2	0.16	
8	802	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches	>50	>2	-	
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silt-clay; friable	>50	>2	0.23	
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; compact with frequent limestones	>50	>2	0.21	
9	902	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches	>50	>2	>0.02	
9	903	Fill		Fill of pit/ditch terminal	Mid grey-brown silt-clay, compact with frequent gravel	>0.97	0.72	0.17	
9	904	Cut		Pit/ditch terminal	NE/SW aligned linear terminus with steep sloping sides and flat base	>0.97	0.72	0.17	
9	905	Fill		Fill of pit	Mid grey-brown silt-clay, compact with frequent gravel	0.45	0.42	0.08	
9	906	Cut		Pit	Circular in plan with gently sloping sides and concave base	0.45	0.42	0.08	
9	907	Fill		Fill of posthole	Dark yellow-grey silt-clay, friable	0.45	0.38	-	
9	908	Cut		Posthole	Square in plan, unexcavated, similar to 205	0.45	0.38	-	
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silt-clay; friable	>50	>2	0.26	
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; compact with frequent limestones	>50	>2	0.16	
10	10020	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches	>50	>2	-	
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silt-clay; friable	>50	>2	0.22	
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; compact with frequent limestones	>50	>2	0.18	
11	1102	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches	>50	>2	-	
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silt-clay; friable	>50	>2	0.26	
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; compact with frequent limestones	>50	>2	0.12	
12	1202	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches	>50	>2	-	
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silt-clay;	>50	>2	0.28	

					friable				
13	1301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; compact with frequent limestones	>50	>2	0.12	
13	1302	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches	>50	>2	-	
13	1303	Fill		Fill of pit	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with frequent, large limestone fragments and gravel	2.2	>1.48	0.66	RB
13	1304	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular in plan, partially exposed with asymmetrically sloping sides and flat base	2.2	>1.48	0.66	
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silt-clay; friable	>50	>2	0.24	
14	1401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; compact with frequent limestones	>50	>2	0.19	
14	1402	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches	>50	>2	-	
14	1403	Fill	1406	Fill of ?fluvial feature	Dark black-grey clay, compact with frequent lenses of purple and red clay	>2	2.3	-	
14	1404	Fill	1406	Fill of ?fluvial feature	Light red-brown gravel, compact	>2	13.7	-	
14	1405	Fill	1406	Fill of ?fluvial feature	Mid pink-red clay, compact with frequent manganese flecks	>2	1.8	-	
14	1406	Cut		?Fluvial feature	N/S aligned segment of curvilinear fluvial feature, not excavated, same as 1603	>2	17.8	-	
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silt-clay; friable	>50	>2	0.21	
15	1501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; compact with frequent limestones	>50	>2	0.1	
15	1502	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches	>50	>2	-	
16	1600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silt-clay; friable	>50	>2	0.32	
16	1601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; compact with frequent limestones	>50	>2	0.34	
16	1602	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches	>50	>2	>0.08	
16	1603	Cut		?Fluvial feature	NW/SE aligned segment of curvilinear fluvial feature with gradually sloping sides and concave base	>2	16.34	1.88	
16	1604	Fill	1603	Fill of ?fluvial feature	Mid pink-red clay, compact with frequent manganese flecks	>2	2.48	<0.32	
16	1605	Fill	1603	Fill of ?fluvial feature	Light yellow-brown clay, compact with gravel inclusions	>2	<5.82	<0.32	
16	1606	Fill	1603	Fill of ?fluvial feature	Dark black-grey clay, compact with frequent lenses of purple and red clay	>2	9.96	<0.56	
16	1607	Fill	1603	Fill of ?fluvial feature	Mid yellow-grey clay, compact with frequent flecks of manganese	>2	1.10	<0.42	
16	1608	Fill	1603	Fill of ?fluvial feature	Light red-brown gravel, compact	>2	15.08	<0.4	
17	1700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silt-clay; friable	>50	>2	0.28	
17	1701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; compact with frequent limestones	>50	>2	0.15	

17	1702	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches	>50	>2	-	
18	1800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silt-clay; friable	>50	>2	0.23	
18	1801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; compact with frequent limestones	>50	>2	0.14	
18	1802	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches	>50	>2	-	
19	1900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silt-clay; friable	>50	>2	0.17	
19	1901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; compact with frequent limestones	>50	>2	0.15	
19	1902	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches	>50	>2	-	
20	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silt-clay; friable	>50	>2	0.26	
20	2001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; compact with frequent limestones	>50	>2	0.17	
20	2002	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact yellow-orange gravels with occasional sand and limestone patches	>50	>2	-	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
304	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Brown-glazed earthenware	BGE	1	5	C18-C19
601	Flint	Flake		1	2	-
1303	Roman pottery	Fine oxidised fabric	OXF	1	3	RB
1601	Roman pottery Medieval pottery	Sandy oxidised fabric Kennet Valley ware	OXS KVW	7 1	33 3	LC11-C15

APPENDIX C: THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

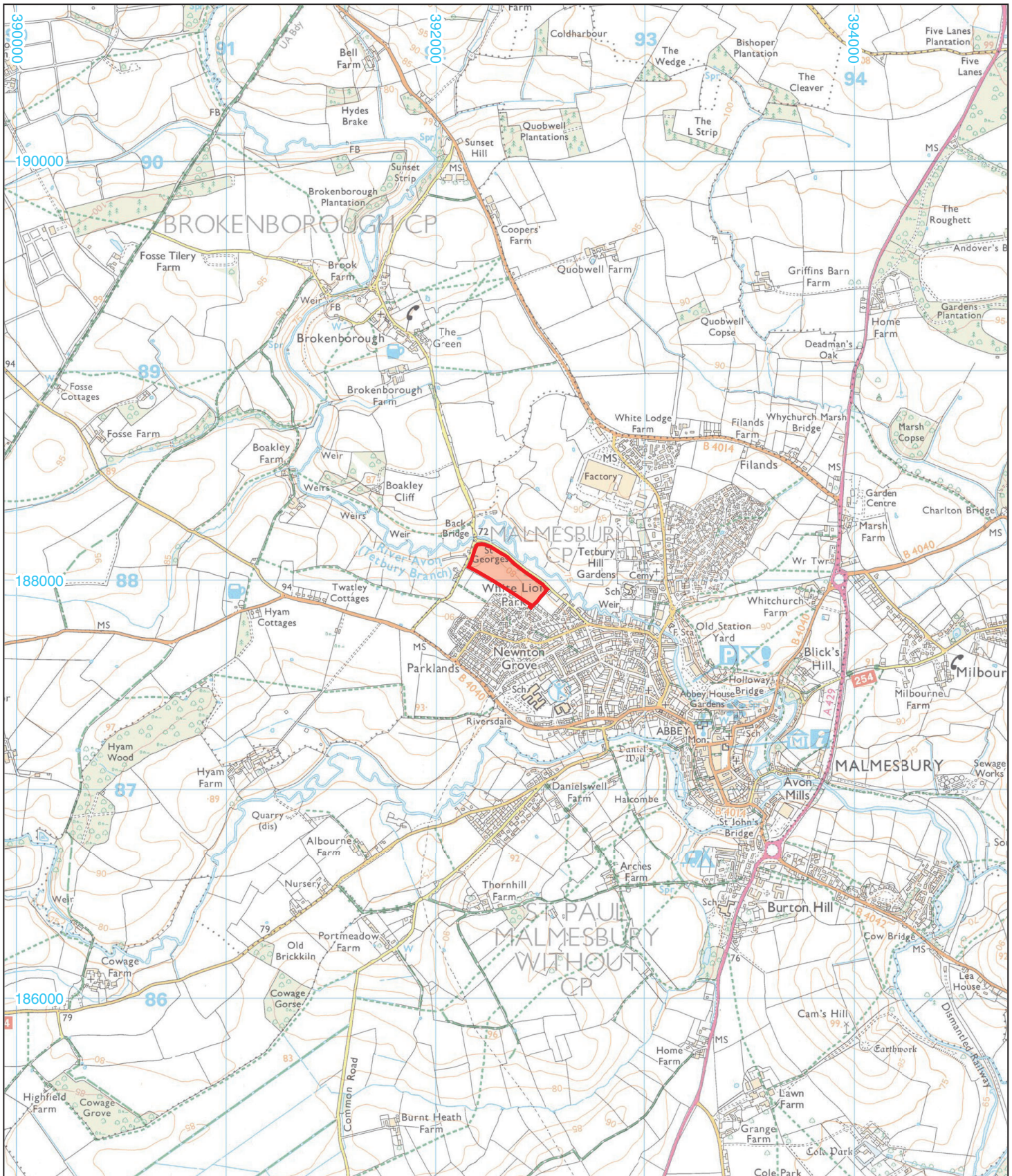
Table 1: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	BOS	EQ	Total	Weight (g)
Romano-British					
1304	1303		4	4	46
Post-medieval					
303	304	1		1	25
Total		1	4	5	
Weight		25	46	71	

BOS = Cattle; EQ = horse

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land at Park Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire	
Short description	<p>In September and October 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of Land at Park Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire. A total of 20 trenches were excavated.</p> <p>A single, broken, flint flake of broad prehistoric date was recovered from the subsoil within a trench excavated in the south-eastern part of the site. A single sherd of pottery of broad Roman date was recovered from a partially exposed pit, identified towards the centre of the site. The function of this pit remains unclear, although it may relate to quarrying or extraction activity. Seven further sherds of pottery of broad Romano-British date were recovered from the subsoil within a trench excavated in the north-western part of the site.</p> <p>Evidence of medieval and/or post-medieval agricultural practice, comprising the ploughed-out remains of ridge and furrow cultivation, was identified in the north-western and south-eastern parts of the site. A small ditch/gully and two postholes, identified cutting the subsoil in trenches excavated in the south-eastern part of the site, may relate to post-medieval/modern agricultural activity. An undated pit and a partially exposed pit/ditch terminal were identified cutting the natural substrate in a trench excavated in the south-central part of the site. The function of these features remains unclear due to the sterile nature of their fills and their isolated nature within the trench.</p> <p>A probable palaeochannel, possibly associated with a former course of the River Avon, was identified in two trenches excavated in the north-western part of the site.</p>	
Project dates	28 September - 6 October 2020	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	Archaeological Assessment (EDP 2019) Geophysical Survey (Archaeological Surveys 2020)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Malmesbury, Wiltshire	
Study area (m ² /ha)	5ha	
Site co-ordinates	392465 187945	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Alex Thomson/Steven 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 Heritage Centre	Pottery
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Centre	Context sheets, trench recording forms, permatrace drawings, photographic registers
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Centre	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2020 <i>Land at Park Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report CR0481_1		



N

Site boundary

0 1km

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Ordnance Survey 0100031673

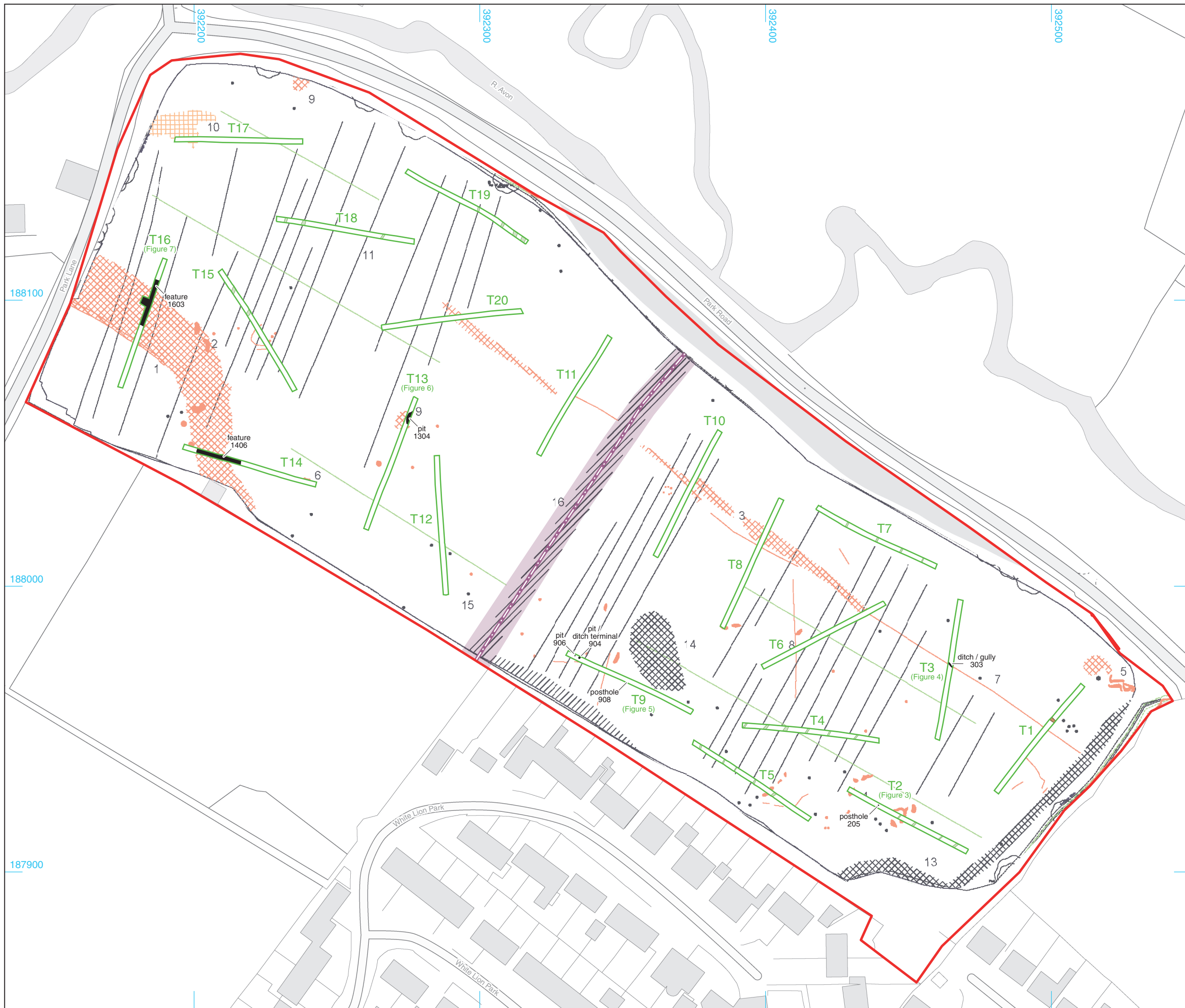
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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Park Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	CR0481	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	14/10/2020	
APPROVED BY	SJB	SCALE	@A4 1:25,000	1



- Site boundary
 - Evaluation trench
 - Archaeological feature
 - Furrow
 - Natural feature
 - Constraint (and buffer)
- Geophysical survey results (Archaeological Surveys 2020)**
- Positive linear anomaly (possible ditch-like feature)
 - Linear anomaly (agricultural)
 - Linear anomaly (ridge and furrow)
 - Discrete positive response (possible pit-like feature)
 - Magnetically variable anomaly (uncertain origin)
 - Magnetic debris (spread)
 - Magnetic disturbance from ferrous material
 - Strong dipolar linear response (possible cable)
 - Strong dipolar anomaly (ferrous object)

0 1:1250 50m

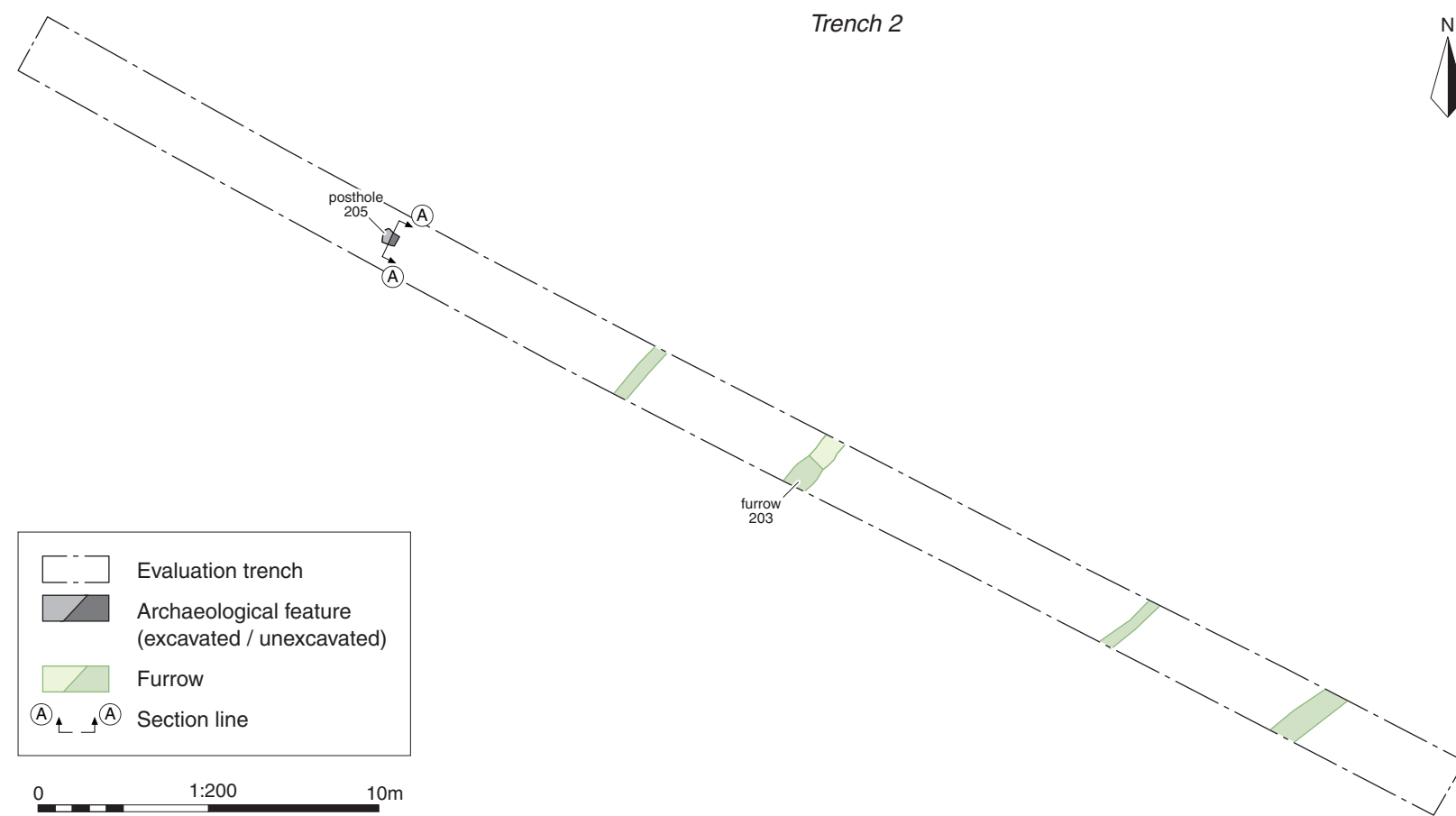
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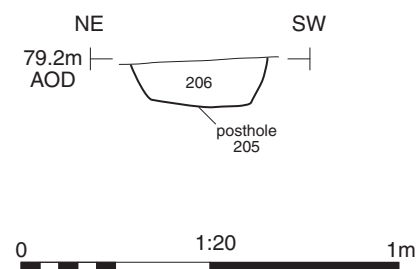
PROJECT TITLE
Land at Park Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire

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

<small>DRAWN BY</small> RW	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> CR0481	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 14/10/2020	2
<small>APPROVED BY</small> SJB	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:1250	



Section AA



Posthole 205, looking south-east (0.2m scale)


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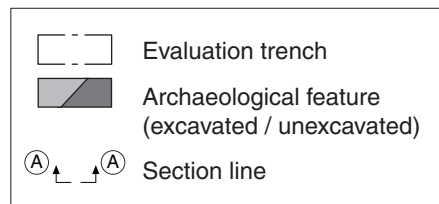
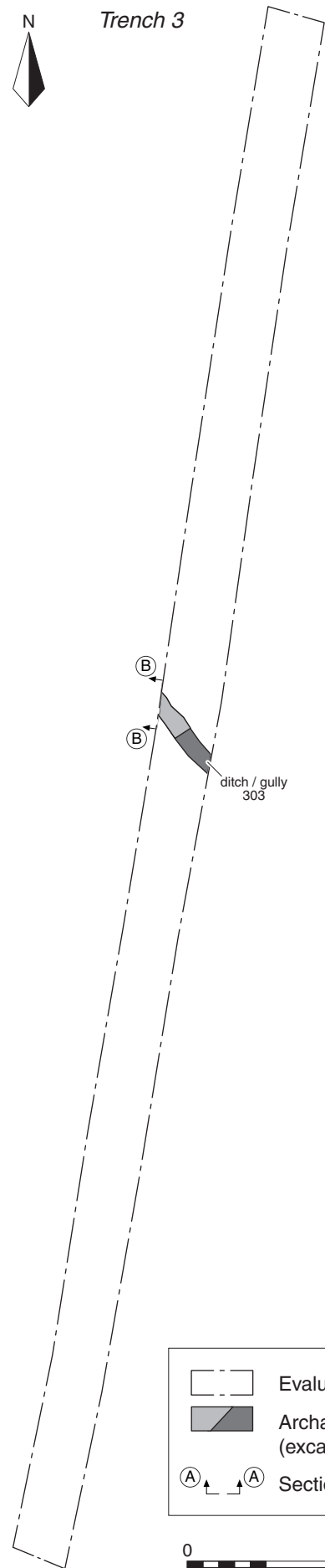
PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Park Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 2: plan, section and photograph

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	CR0481	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	14/10/2020	3
APPROVED BY	SJB	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	

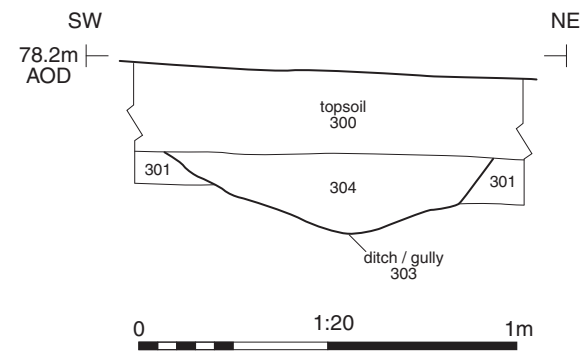


Trench 3



0 1:200 10m

Section BB



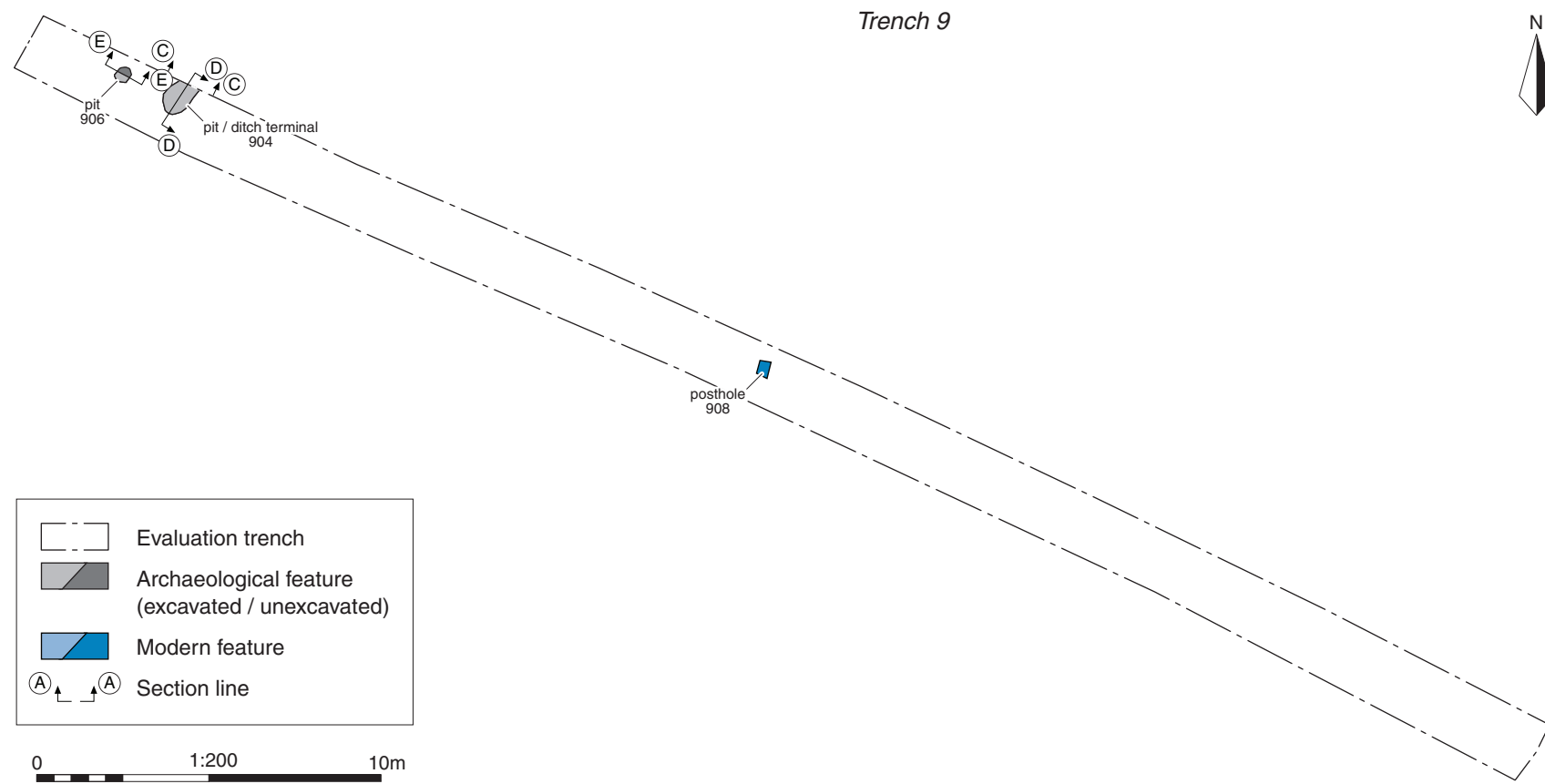
Ditch / gully 303, looking south-east (0.3m scale)

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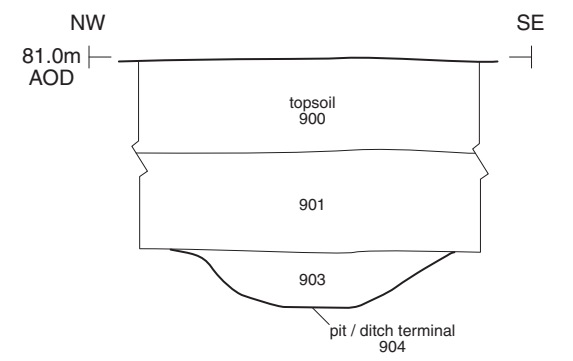
PROJECT TITLE
Land at Park Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 3: plan, section and photograph

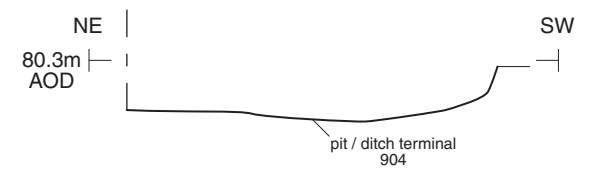
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CHECKED BY DJB DATE 14/10/2020
APPROVED BY SJB SCALE@A3 1:200, 1:20 4



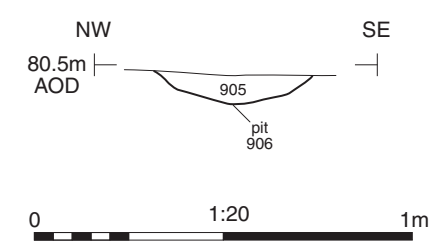
Section CC



Section DD



Section EE



- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated / unexcavated)
- Modern feature
- Section line



Pit / ditch terminal 904, looking north-east (0.5m scale)



Pit 906, looking north-east (0.2m scale)

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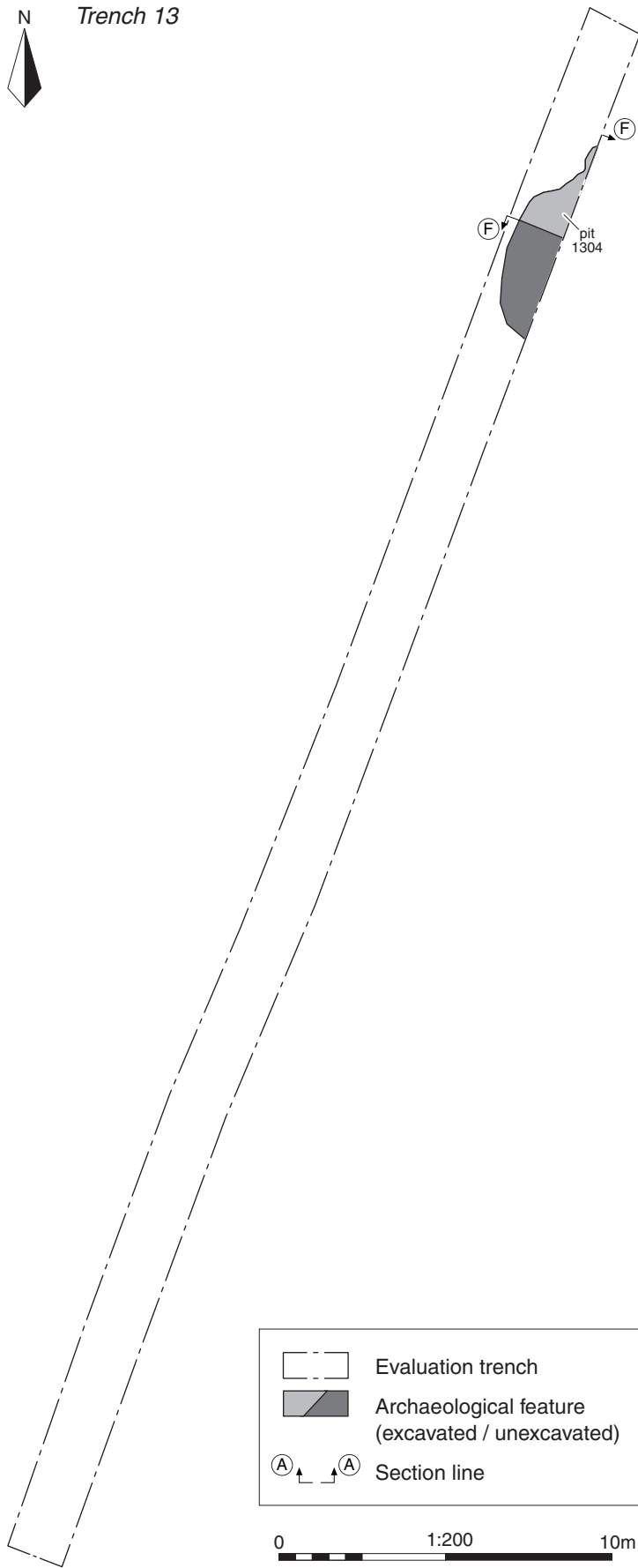
PROJECT TITLE
Land at Park Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 9: plan, sections and photographs

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	CR0481	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	14/10/2020	5
APPROVED BY	SJB	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	



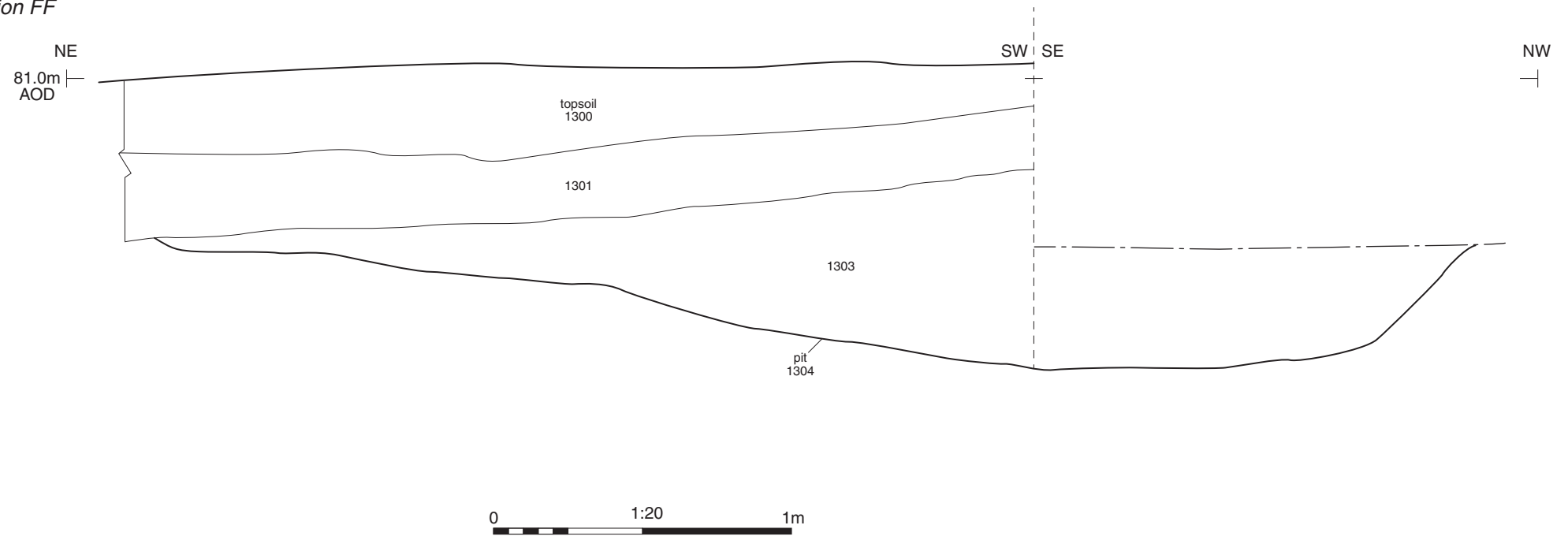
Trench 13



Evaluation trench
 Archaeological feature (excavated / unexcavated)
 Section line



Section FF



Pit 1304, looking south (1m scale)

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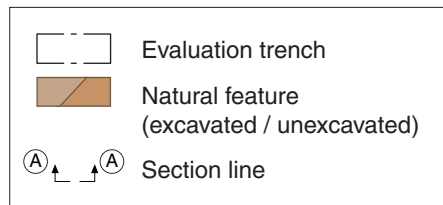
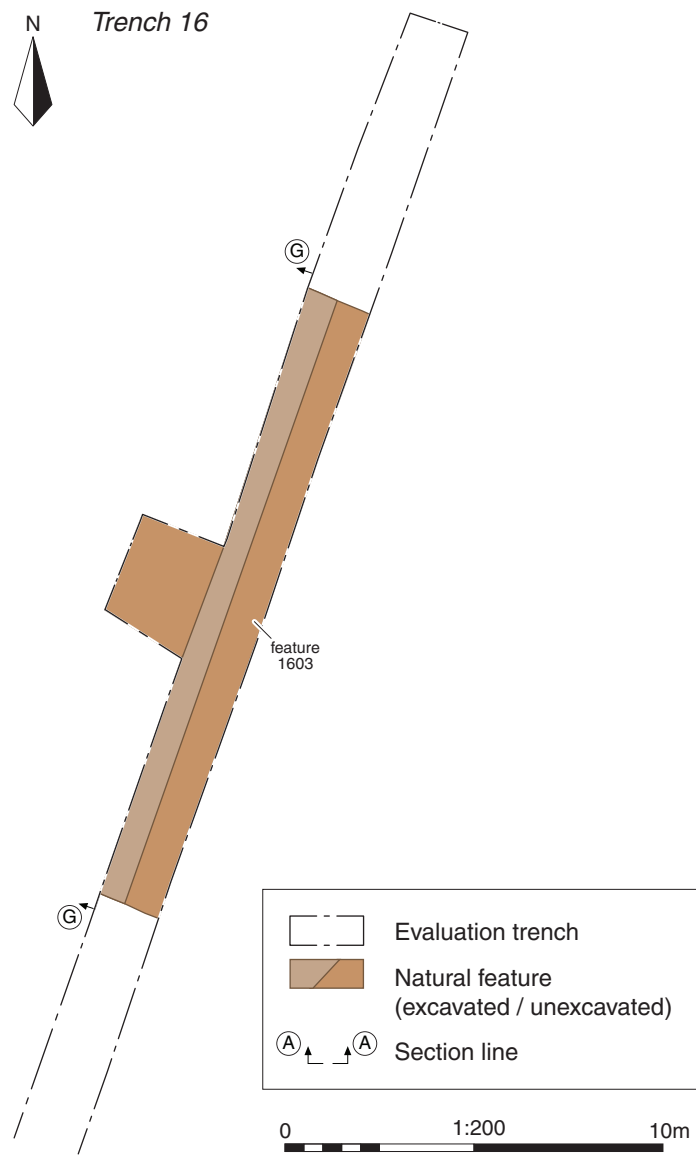
PROJECT TITLE
Land at Park Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 13: plan, section and photograph

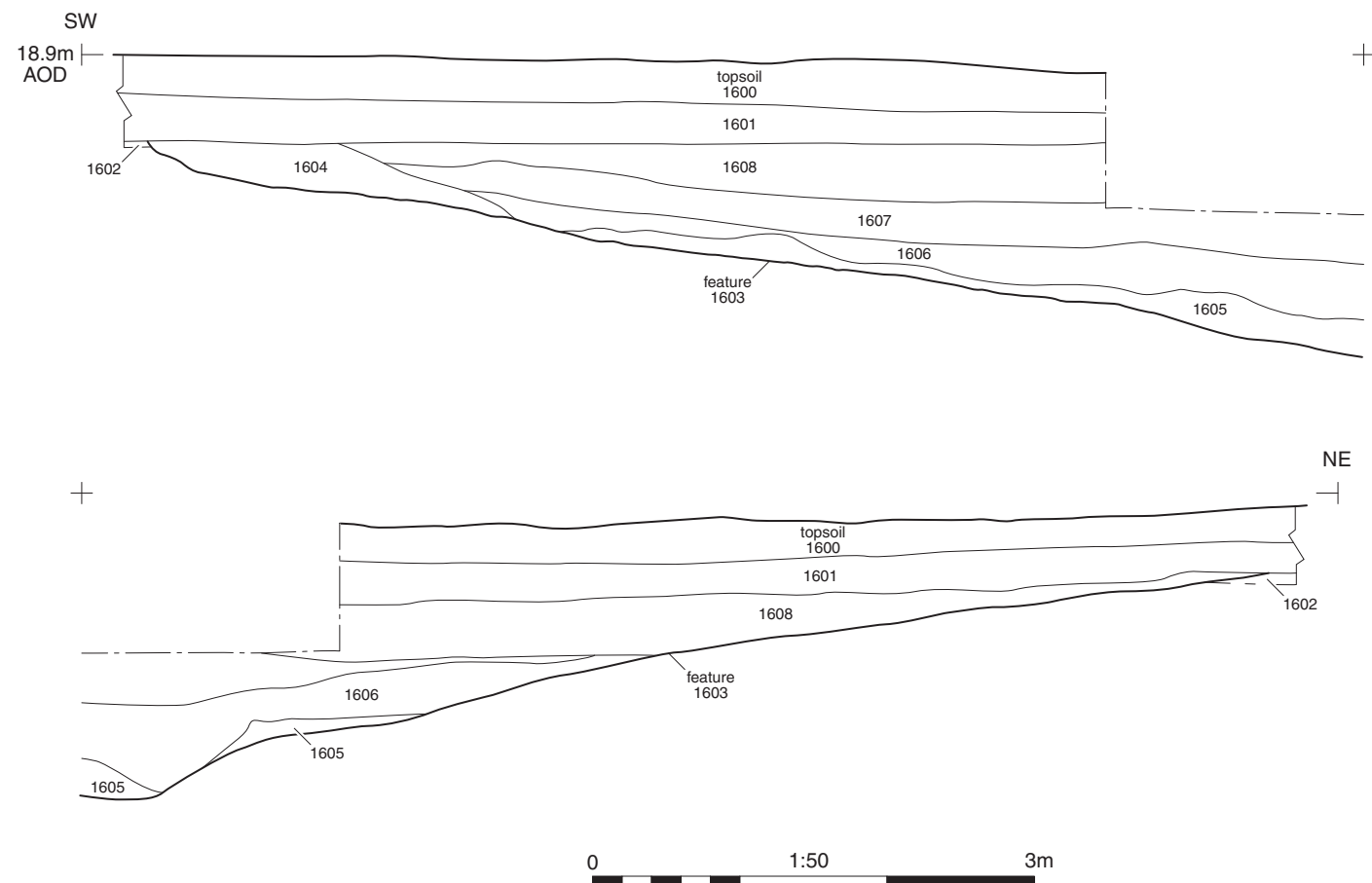
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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	14/10/2020	6
APPROVED BY	SJB	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	



Trench 16



Section GG



Feature 1603, looking north (1m scales)



Feature 1603, looking west (1m scales)

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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 16: plan, section and photographs

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	CR0481	FIGURE NO.
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APPROVED BY	SJB	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:50	

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