

**Land south-west of Park Road  
Malmesbury  
Wiltshire**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

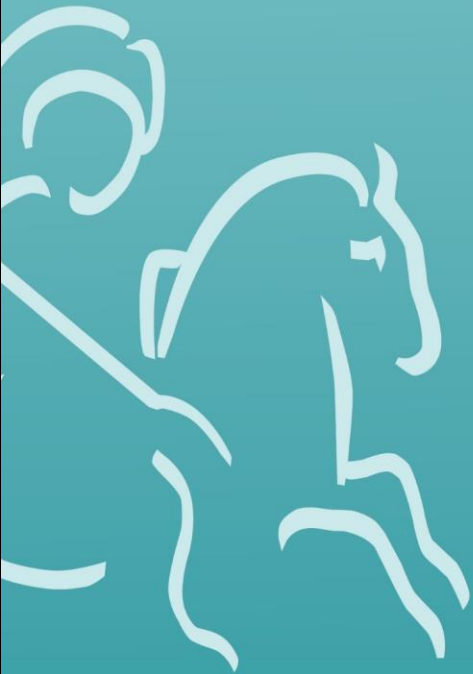


*for:*  
Orion Heritage

*on behalf of:*  
Hannick Homes

CA Project: CR0689  
CA Report: CR0689\_1  
WM Accession No.: DZSWS:26-2021

June 2021



# Land south-west of Park Road Malmesbury Wiltshire

## *Archaeological Evaluation*

CA Project: CR0689  
CA Report: CR0689\_1  
WM Accession No.: DZSWS:26-2021

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## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	4
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	4
4. METHODOLOGY.....	5
5. RESULTS.....	6
6. DISCUSSION.....	6
7. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	7
8. REFERENCES.....	7
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS .....	8
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	9

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 Trench location plan, showing LiDAR imagery (1:500)

Fig. 3-5 Photographs

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project name:</b>	Land south-west of Park Road
<b>Location:</b>	Malmesbury, Wiltshire
<b>NGR:</b>	392546 187893
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	24 – 26 May 2021
<b>Planning reference:</b>	WC ref: 20/08341/OUT
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Wiltshire Museum and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
<b>Accession Number:</b>	DZSWS:26-2021
<b>Site Code:</b>	PARM 21

In May 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land south-west of Park Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire. A total of seven trenches were excavated.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, except for a bank of probable early modern date that correlated with an extant earthwork and a track depicted on historic mapping.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In May 2021, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land south-west of Park Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 392546 187893; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for Orion Heritage, who were acting on behalf of Hannick Homes.
- 1.2. A planning application for residential development has been submitted to Wiltshire Council (WC; planning ref: 20/08341/OUT). During discussions, WC's archaeologists advised that an archaeological evaluation would be required prior to determination of the application.
- 1.3. The scope of this evaluation was defined by Mike Cepak, former Assistant County Archaeologist, WC. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI), prepared by Orion Heritage (2021), and a *Method Statement*, prepared by CA (2021). Both of these documents were approved by Neil Adam, Assistant County Archaeologist, WC.
- 1.4. The evaluation was also completed 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

- 1.5. The proposed development site is approximately 0.8ha in extent. It comprises a single field, bounded to the north-east by Park Road, to the north-west by an agricultural field and to the south-east and south-west by residential properties. It is located on a north-east facing slope, with a height above ordnance datum (AOD) of 77m at the south-western boundary, dropping to 75m AOD at the north-eastern boundary.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as limestone of the Cornbrash Formation across the south-western half of the site, with mudstone of the Forest Marble Formation across the north-eastern half, both formed during the Jurassic period (BGS 2021). The natural geological substrate recorded during the

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course of the evaluation consisted of brown-orange sandy-clay and patches of grey-blue clay.

## **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 archaeological desk-based assessment, incorporating a Lidar survey (DBA; Orion 2020) and a trial trench evaluation was undertaken directly to the west (CA 2020). These assessments are summarised below.
- 2.2. The site has a moderate potential to contain buried remains from the prehistoric and Roman periods (Orion 2020). 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 Roman enclosures, ditches, and pits.
- 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. Available historical mapping shows that the site has remained as a single parcel of land since the 19th century.
- 2.4. The presence of an earthwork ridge within the site is highlighted within the DBA, which is likely to be the remains of a path that is depicted on late 19th (e.g., the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886) and early 20th-century mapping, and which is probably associated with the agricultural management of the site during the post-medieval period.
- 2.5. The evaluation undertaken directly to the west recorded a single broken flint flake of broad prehistoric date, a single pit of possible Roman date, post-medieval agricultural evidence, and undated features (CA 2020).

## **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely 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 proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict

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between heritage asset conservation and the development proposals, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

- 3.2. The specific objective of the evaluation was to investigate the earthwork ridge located within the site.

## 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised of the excavation of seven trenches, each measuring 25m in length and 1.8m in width, representing a 4% sample of the site area (Fig. 2).
- 4.2. The trenches have been located to test a number of the LiDAR anomalies and to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site.
- 4.3. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. They were scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT and genny equipment, in accordance with the *CA Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services*. 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.
- 4.4. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.5. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*, but no deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.6. CA will make arrangements with the Wiltshire Museum for the deposition of the project archive, under accession number DZSWS:26-2021. 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).



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- 4.7. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, 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.
- 5.2. The general stratigraphic sequence recorded throughout the excavated trenches was broadly uniform. The natural geological substrate was identified within all excavated trenches at a typical depth of 0.21m below present ground level (bpgl).
- 5.3. A colluvial deposit (103), measuring c. 0.51m in thickness, was identified sealing the natural substrate in Trench 1, within the lowest part of the site. This was overlain by 0.09m of subsoil and this, and the natural substrate within all other trenches, was overlain by c. 0.21m of topsoil.
- 5.4. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within the excavated trenches, except in Trench 4.

### Trench 4 (Figs 2 and 3)

- 5.5. North-east/south-west aligned bank 402 was identified in the north-western part of Trench 4, correlating to an extant earthwork and a feature visible on LiDAR imagery. It directly overlies the natural substrate, and consisted of bank material 402, butted by deposits of clay and stone on either side (403 and 404). Fragments of modern pottery and metalwork were recovered from bank material 402 but were not retained. Consolidation deposit 401 sealed the north-western side of the bank and was in turn sealed by topsoil.

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1. Despite the archaeological potential of the site (see *Archaeological Background*, above), the evaluation identified no archaeological remains within any of the excavated trenches, except for the bank recorded within Trench 4.
- 6.2. The bank identified in Trench 4 correlates very closely with the line of a path/track depicted on historic cartographic sources and is likely of early modern date.
- 6.3. The absence of any further archaeological deposits may indicate that the nearby Prehistoric and Roman activity does not extend as far as the site.



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## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Joseph Price, assisted by Nicole Burkhardt. This report was written by Joseph Price. The report illustrations were prepared by Krissy Moore. The project archive has been compiled by Joseph Price and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Alex Thomson.

## 8. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2021 *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/> Accessed 28  
May 2021

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2020 *Land at Park Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation*, CA typescript report **CR0481\_1**

CA 2021 *Land south-west of Park Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation*

Orion Heritage 2020 *Land Southwest of Park Road, Malmesbury: Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment*

Orion Heritage 2021 *Land Southwest of Park Road, Malmesbury: Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation*

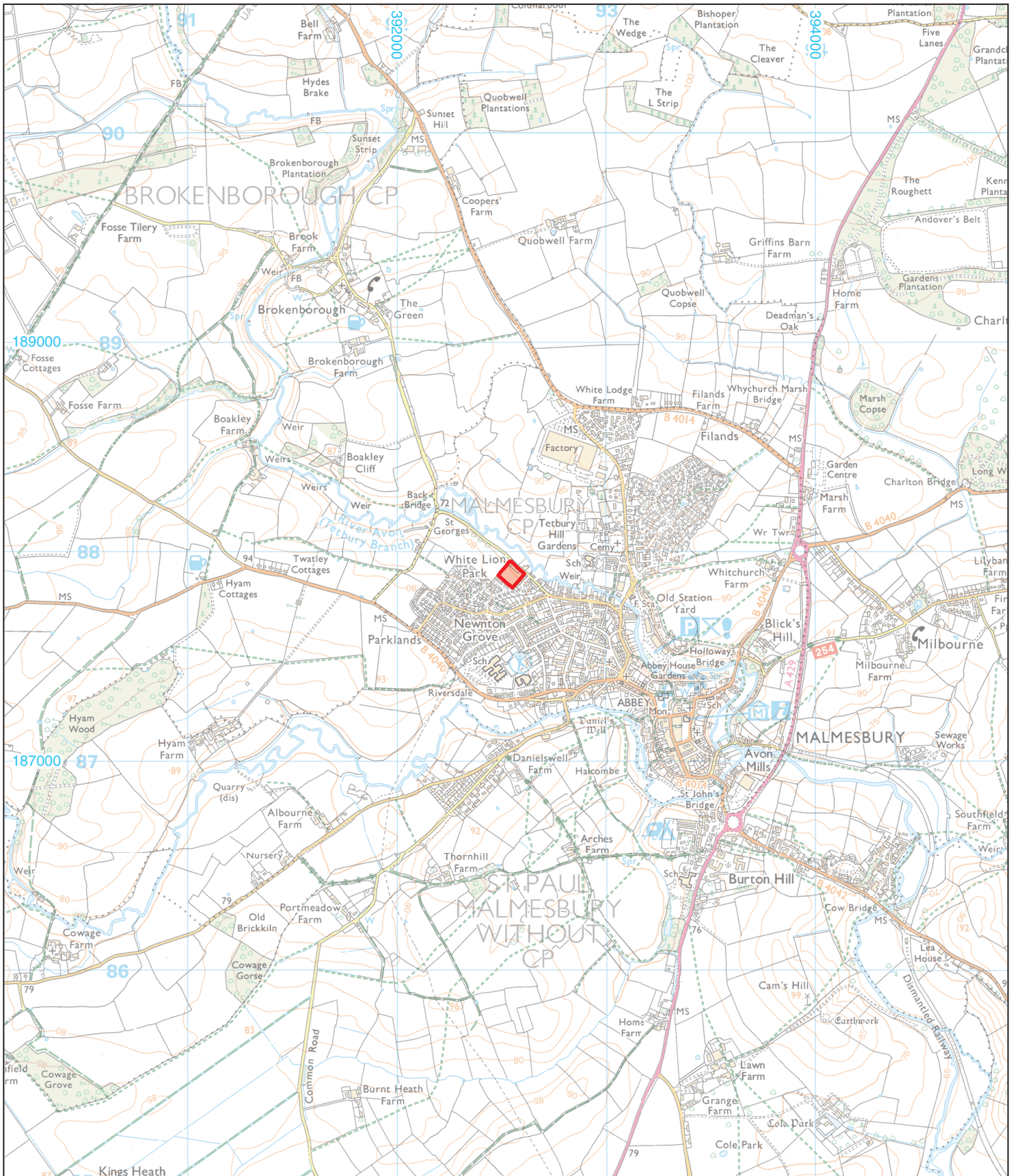
## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	101	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-black, slightly clay silt, loose. Frequent modern waste inclusions.	>25	>1.8	0.2
1	102	Layer		Subsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown, clay silt, moderate compaction.	>25	>1.8	0.09
1	103	Layer		Colluvium	Mid green-brown, clay silt, friable. Occasional limestone flecks and gravel inclusions.	>25	>1.8	0.51
1	104	Layer		Natural	Mixed brown-orange sand and gravel with patches of yellow-blue clay. Occasional limestone flecks.	>25	>1.8	>0.06
2	201	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark brown-black, slightly clay silt, loose. Frequent rooting.	>25	>1.8	0.22
2	202	Layer		Natural	Mid brown-orange, sand clay with patches of grey-blue clay. Frequent small angular limestone inclusions.	>25	>1.8	>0.09
3	301	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark brown-black, slightly clay silt, loose. Frequent rooting.	>25	>1.8	0.31
3	302	Layer		Natural	Mid brown-orange, sand clay with patches of grey-blue clay. Frequent small angular limestone inclusions.	>25	>1.8	>0.13
4	401	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark black-brown, slightly clay silt, loose.	>25	>1.8	0.19
4	402	Deposit		Bank material	Mid brown-grey, slightly clay silt, friable-loose. Frequent small limestone inclusions.	>1.8	2	0.55
4	403	Deposit		Bank material	Mid orange-brown, silt clay, friable. Rare small angular limestone inclusions.	>1.8	1.2	0.54
4	404	Deposit		Bank material	Light brown-yellow, clay sand, compact. Frequent medium-large limestone inclusions.	>1.8	0.4	0.3
4	405	Deposit		Bank material	Light brown-yellow, clay sand, compact. Frequent medium-large limestone inclusions.	>1.8	0.4	0.3
4	406	Layer		Natural	Mid brown-yellow, sand clay. Frequent small angular limestone inclusions.	>25	>1.8	>0.05
5	501	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark brown-grey, slight clay silt, moderate compaction. Occasional limestone flecks.	>25	>1.8	>0.23
5	502	Layer		Natural	Mid-light slight brown-yellow, sand clay with patches of grey-blue clay. Frequent small angular limestone inclusions.	>25	>1.8	>0.05
6	601	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark brown-grey, slight clay silt, moderate compaction. Occasional limestone flecks.	>25	>1.8	0.24
6	602	Layer		Natural	Mid brown-orange, sand clay with patches of grey-blue clay. Frequent small angular limestone inclusions.	>25	>1.8	>0.08

7	701	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark brown-grey, slight clay silt, moderate compaction. Occasional limestone flecks.	>25	>1.8	0.19
7	702	Layer		Natural	Mid grey-green clay with patches of mid-light orange yellow sandy clay. Occasional small angular limestone chunks.	>25	>1.8	>0.07

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Land south-west of Park Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire.	
Short description	<p>In May 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land south-west of Park Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire. A total of seven trenches were excavated.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, except for a bank of probable early modern date that correlated with an extant earthwork and a track depicted on historic mapping.</p>	
Project dates	24 – 26 May 2021	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-Based Assessment (Orion 2020)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site location	Park Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire.	
Study area (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.8ha	
Site co-ordinates	392546 187893	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Orion Heritage	
Project Manager	Alex Thomson	
Project Supervisor	Joseph Price	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Intended final location of archive</b>	<b>Content</b>
Paper	Wiltshire Museum - DZSWS:26-2021	Context sheets, trench recording forms, photographic registers and permatrace drawings
Digital	Wiltshire Museum - DZSWS:26-2021	Database, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Cotswold Archaeology 2021 <i>Land south-west of Park Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire</i> . CA typescript report <b>CR0689_1</b>		



 Site boundary

0 1:25,000 1km

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PROJECT TITLE  
Land south-west of Park Road,  
Malmesbury, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE  
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	KM	PROJECT NO.	CR0689	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	RP	DATE	02/06/2021	1
APPROVED BY	AT	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	





- Site boundary
- Trench
- Bank deposit
- Modern
- Field drain



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land south-west of Park Road,  
 Malmesbury, Wiltshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan, showing LiDAR  
 imagery

<small>DRAWN BY</small> KM	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> CR0689	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> RP	<small>DATE</small> 02/06/2021	<b>2</b>
<small>APPROVED BY</small> AT	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:500	





3

Bank 402, looking south-west (scale 1m)



4

Trench 5, looking east (scales 1m)



5

Trench 6, looking west (scales 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land south-west of Park Road,  
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FIGURE TITLE

**Photographs**

DRAWN BY	KM	PROJECT NO.	CR0689
CHECKED BY	RP	DATE	02/06/2021
APPROVED BY	AT	SCALE@A4	N/A

FIGURE NO.

**3-5**



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