

**Land off Storey Mews
Malmesbury
Wiltshire**

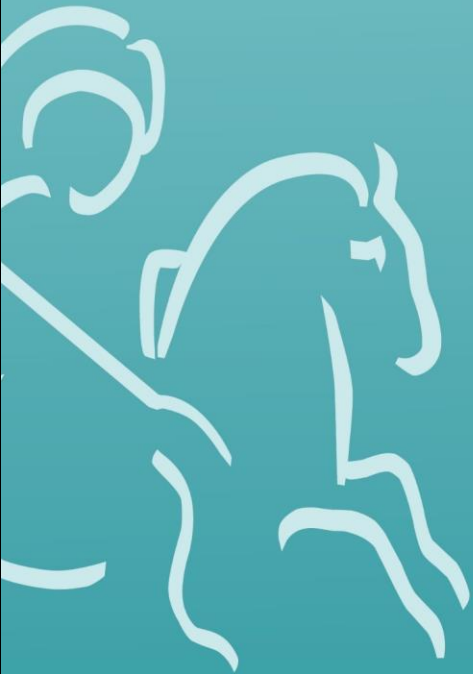
Archaeological Evaluation



for:
Newland Homes Ltd.

CA Project: CR0688
CA Reports: CR0688_1
WM accession no.: DZSWS:36-2021

December 2021



Land off Storey Mews Malmesbury Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	30 December 2021	Kinga Werner	Alex Thomson	First Issue	-	Richard Young

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Land off Storey Mews
Location:	Malmesbury, Wiltshire
NGR:	393645 186434
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	08-11 November 2021
Planning reference:	WC ref: 16/11603/OUT
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Wiltshire Museum and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Accession Number:	DZSWS:36-2021
Site Code:	STOM21

In November 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land off Storey Mews, Malmesbury, Wiltshire. A total of eight trenches were excavated.

The evaluation identified a small number of ditches and pits containing 11th to 13th-century pottery, and extensive evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In November 2021, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land off Storey Mews, Malmesbury, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 393645 186434; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for Newland Homes Ltd.
- 1.2. Wiltshire Council has granted outline planning permission for the residential development of the site (WC planning ref: 16/11603/OUT). Condition 25 of this planning permission requires the implementation of a staged programme of archaeological work in accordance with an approved WSI.
- 1.3. The scope of this evaluation was defined by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, WC. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2019) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger and Neil Adam, Assistant County Archaeologist, WC. The evaluation was monitored by Tim Havard, Assistant County Archaeologist, WC.
- 1.4. The evaluation was also undertaken 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 1ha in extent. The site currently comprises a single pasture field and is bounded to the west by the residential properties and gardens of Storey Mews, to the north-west by the premises of the Malmesbury Primary Care centre and adjacent care home, to the south by woodland, and on all other sides by further fields. The site lies at approximately 83m AOD, and is slopes gently downwards towards the west.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as mudstone of the Kellaways Clay Member, formed during the Jurassic Period (BGS 2021). The natural geological substrate identified during the course of the evaluation consisted of clay.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The site has previously been the subject of a Desk-Based Assessment (DBA; WA 2016) and geophysical survey (AS 2021). The following is a summary of these reports and further publicly available information.
- 2.2. Limited evidence of early prehistoric activity has been identified within the vicinity of the site (WA 2016). The defensive perimeter of the historic core of Malmesbury (c. 650m to the north-west) is suggested to originate in a multivallate hillfort, likely dating to the Iron Age. However, limited finds of later prehistoric date have been recorded outside of the confines of the hillfort (ibid.).
- 2.3. A geophysical survey (AS 2011) and subsequent archaeological trial-trench evaluation (NA 2011) were undertaken 375m to the north of the current site prior to the development of a Waitrose superstore. The evaluation trenching identified a number of late Iron Age/early Roman ditches and pits, indicative of settlement activity, as well as post-medieval field boundaries (ibid.).
- 2.4. A Benedictine monastery was established in Malmesbury in the 7th century, and the town was fortified as a *burgh* during the Saxon period (WA 2016). The fortifications were modified and upgraded throughout the medieval period, and the current site likely lay within the agricultural hinterland of the settlement during these periods and into the 20th century, when the surrounding developments were constructed (ibid.).
- 2.5. Aerial photographs have shown ridge and furrow earthworks throughout the wider landscape and within the current site (WA 2016), although these are likely to have been levelled/ploughed out in the later 20th century and are now no longer perceptible within the site. An evaluation undertaken directly to the north of the site recorded boundary ditches of probable modern date, as well as small quantities of probably residual worked flint and residual pottery of Roman, medieval, and post-medieval date (WA 2019).
- 2.6. The geophysical survey undertaken within the site (AS 2021) recorded a number of weak positive linear anomalies. A small group of discrete positive responses could not be confidently interpreted as relating to pit-like features and the survey area contains numerous strong, discrete, dipolar responses, some in lines which appear to relate to former fence posts (ibid.).

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 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 2021). A further objective of the project is to compile a stable, ordered, accessible project archive (see Section 7).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of eight trenches, each measuring 40m in length and 1.8m in width, equating to a 4% study of the site area, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2).
- 4.2. The trenches were located to test geophysical 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. 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*. No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.6. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

-
- 4.7. 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).
- 4.8. 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 the animal bone recovered are given in Section 7 and Appendix C.
- 5.2. The general stratigraphic sequence observed throughout the excavated trenches was broadly uniform. The natural clay substrate was encountered in all trenches at depths of between 0.5m and 0.9m below present ground level (bpgl). The natural substrate was generally overlain by silty-clay subsoil, measuring an average thickness of 0.35m, which was sealed by c. 0.25m of topsoil. Medieval and modern pottery was recovered from the topsoil horizon in Trench 1.
- 5.3. Overall, there was limited correlation between the recorded features and the geophysical anomalies identified during the preceding survey. Evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation was identified within the Trenches 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8, with medieval pottery recovered from a furrow in Trench 5. Features of archaeological interest were identified in Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 7, although these did not correlate to any highlighted geophysical anomaly. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within the remaining trenches.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

- 5.4. Two north-west/south-east aligned ditches, 103 and 105 (Fig. 3, Section AA), were identified towards the north-western end of Trench 1. These measured up to 0.7m in width, 0.24m in depth and contained undated fills 104 and 106, respectively.

Trench 3

- 5.5. North-west/south-east aligned ditch 303 was identified within the central part of Trench 3. It measured 0.73m in width, 0.15m in depth and contained fill 304, from which fragments of animal bone and three sherds of pottery dateable to the 11th to 13th centuries were recovered.
- 5.6. Identified towards the centre of Trench 3, pit 305 was ovoid in plan and measured 1.26m in length, 0.81m in width, 0.29m in depth and contained undated fill 306.

Trench 4

- 5.7. Identified cutting the subsoil horizon within Trench 4, east-west aligned ditch terminus 405 measured 1.1m in length, 0.71 in width and 0.27 in depth. Animal bone fragments and two sherds of 11th to 13th-century pottery were recovered from its fill, 406.

Trench 7 (Fig. 4)

- 5.8. In the south-eastern corner of Trench 7 sub-circular pit 703 was recorded. It measured at least 0.57m in length, 0.74 in width, 0.14m in depth and contained fill 704, from which two pieces of 11th to 13th-century pottery was recovered.
- 5.9. The linear geophysical anomaly targeted by the eastern end of the trench was not identified as an archaeological feature within the excavated trench.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. Artefactual material dating to the medieval and modern periods was hand-recovered from five deposits (fills of ditches, a pit and a furrow, and topsoil). Quantities of the artefact types are given in Appendix B and the pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Fabric codes (in parenthesis in the text) have been devised for the purpose of this report.

Pottery: medieval

- 6.2. Pottery from this date range totals 12 bodysherds (52g), recovered from five deposits. All but one sherd presents as Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware (COT), which is of 11th to 13th century date. The sherd from fill 504 of furrow 503 is Minety ware (MIN) and features combed 'wavy' decoration, which is typical of this ware type. This sherd derives from a handmade vessel, which allows it to be dated to the mid 12th to 13th centuries.

Modern

- 6.3. A single unfeathered bodysherd (14g), in an unglazed earthenware fabric of 'flowerpot' type (FPOT), was recorded from topsoil deposit 100. This is datable to the 19th to 21st centuries.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal bone

- 7.1. Six fragments of animal bone (246g) were recovered from topsoil layer 100, and deposits 304, 406 and 504, fills of ditch 303, ditch 405 and furrow 503. Artefactual material dating to the medieval period was also recovered from these features (See Table 1, Appendix C). The material was well preserved but fragmentary and as a result the only identifiable fragment was a partial cattle humerus (*Bos taurus*) recovered from furrow fill 504.
- 7.2. The low recovery of animal remains severely limits what can be said in terms of site economy and animal husbandry. However, this species was a commonly exploited domestic animal so its inclusion in an assemblage of this period is to be expected.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1. The archaeological evaluation demonstrated that there was generally limited correlation between the identified archaeological features and the geophysical survey results, and it is likely that the extensive ridge and furrow cultivation recorded across the site has masked the features identified by the evaluation.
- 8.2. The ditches and pits recorded within Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 7 contained dating evidence suggestive of a medieval origin. The ditches probably relate to localised drainage and enclosure within an agricultural setting; the adjacent pits may represent refuse pits associated with the agricultural nature of the area. These features, along with the identified ridge and furrow cultivation evidence, suggest that the site lay within the farmed hinterland of Malmesbury during this period.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Kinga Werner, assisted by Annabel Johns, Fanny Dubuc, Mark Holding, William Sibley and Beth Moreing. This report was written by Kinga Werner. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Jacky Sommerville and Andy Clarke, respectively. The report illustrations were prepared

by Krissy Moore. The project archive has been compiled by Kinga Werner, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neil. The project was managed for CA by Alex Thomson.

10. REFERENCES

- AS (Archaeological Surveys) 2011 *Land to the rear of Avon Mills, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Magnetometer Survey Report*. AS report ref: **378**
- AS 2021 *Land off Storey Mews, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Magnetometer Survey Report*, AS report ref: **J860**
- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2021 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/> Accessed 19 May 2021
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2021 *Land off Storey Mews, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*
- NA (Northamptonshire Archaeology) 2011 *Archaeological Evaluation of land at Avon Mills, Malmesbury, Wiltshire*, NA report ref: **11/254**
- WA (Wessex Archaeology) 2016 *Burton Hill, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, WA report ref: **112470.01**
- WA 2019 *Burton Hill, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation*, WA report ref: **218692.03**

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown loose silty clay	50	2	0.3
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	50	2	0.25
1	102	Natural		Natural	Mixed, Greenish Blue and yellow clay.	50	2	>0.1
1	103	Cut		Ditch	Ditch, running SW-NE.	>2	0.7	0.09
1	104	Fill	103	Fill	Mid Greyish brown silty clay, possibly residual subsoil naturally infilling feature at end of use. Sterile	>2	0.7	0.09m
1	105	Cut		Possible linear	Cut of ditch, running NW-SE.	2	0.57	0.24
1	106	Fill	105	Fill	Mid Greyish brown silty clay, mixed with natural blue yellow clay.	2	0.57	0.24
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay	50	2	0.41
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silt clay	50	2	0.51
2	202	Natural		Natural	Mixed, Greenish Blue and yellow clay	50	2	>0.1
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown loose silty clay	50	2	0.22
	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	50	2	0.41
3	302	Natural		Natural	Mixed, greenish blue and yellow clay	50	2	>0.1
3	303	Cut		Ditch	Ditch, running NW-SE.	>2	0.73	0.15
3	304	Fill	303	Fill	Mid yellowish grey clayey silt.	>2	0.73	0.15
3	305	Cut		Pit	Sub oval pit	1.26	0.81	0.29
3	306	Fill	305	Fill	Mid yellowish grey clayey silt	1.26	0.81	0.29
3	307	Cut		Plough furrow	Plough furrow. Running NW-SE. Not excavated	>2	0.79	
3	308	fill	307	Fill	Light Yellowish clayey silt.	>2	0.79	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown loose silty clay	50	2	0.35
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	50	2	0.35
4	402	Natural		Natural	Mixed, greenish blue and yellow clay. Occasional gravel	50	2	>0.1
4	403	Cut		Plough furrow	Cut of plough furrow running NE-SW.	>2	0.54	0.18
4	404	Fill	403	Fill	Mixed bluish yellow silty clay	>2	0.54	0.18
4	405	Cut		Ditch terminus/pit	Ditch terminus/pit, running NE-SW	1	0.71	0.27
4	406	Fill	406	Fill	Mid greyish yellow silty clay.	1	0.71	0.27
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown loose silty clay	50	2	0.31
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	50	2	0.28
5	502	Natural		Natural	Mixed, greenish blue and yellow clay. Occasional gravel.	50	2	>0.1
5	503	Cut		Plough furrow	Plough furrow running NW-SE.	>2	1.98	0.19
5	504	Fill	503	Fill	Light greyish brown silty clay.	>2	1.98	0.19
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown loose silty clay	50	2	0.25
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	50	2	0.23
6	602	Natural		Natural	Mixed, greenish blue and yellow clay. Occasional gravel.	50	2	>0.1
6	603	Cut		Plough furrow	Plough furrow running SW-NE	>2	0.9	
6	604	Fill	604	Fill	Light greyish brown silty clay	>2	0.9	

7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown loose silty clay	50	2	0.26
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	50	2	0.26
7	702	Natural		Natural	Mixed, greenish blue and yellow clay. Occasional gravel.	50	2	>0.1
7	703	Cut		Pit	Sub circular pit	0.57	0.74	0.14
7	704	Fill	703	Fill	Light greyish brown silty clay.	0.57	0.74	0.14
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown loose silty clay	50	2	0.29
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	50	2	0.32
8	803	Cut		Plough furrow	Plough furrow running NE-SW. Not excavated.	>2	<1.2	
8	804	Fill	803	Fill	Light greyish brown silty clay.	<2	<1.2	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
100	Medieval pottery	Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware	COT	4	12	C11-C13
	Modern pottery Coal	Unglazed earthenware (flowerpot)	FPOT	1 1	14 3	C19-C21 -
304	Medieval pottery	Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware	COT	3	11	C11-C13
406	Medieval pottery	Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware	COT	2	4	C11-C13
504	Medieval pottery	Minety ware (handmade)	MIN	1	21	MC12-C13
704	Medieval pottery	Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware	COT	2	4	C11-C13

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

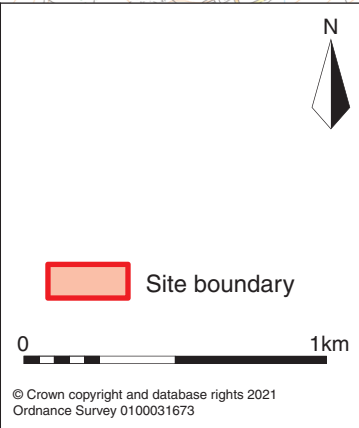
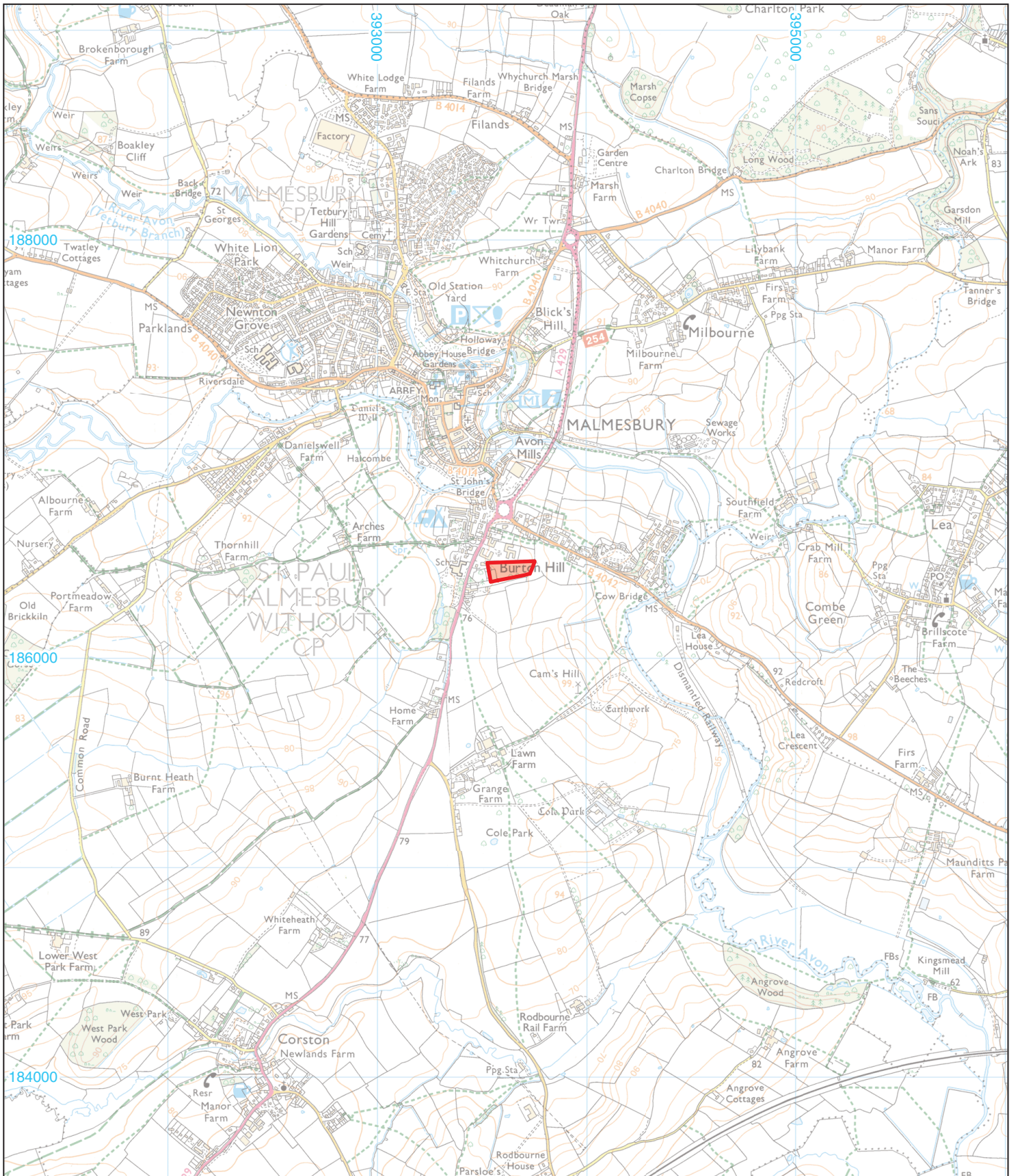
Table 1: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	BOS	LM	MM	Ind	Total	Weight (g)
Medieval							
303	304		1			1	10
405	406			1	2	3	22
503	504	1				1	185
Subtotal							
Modern							
	100	1				1	29
Total		2	1	1	2	6	
Weight		214	10	20	2	246	

BOS = cattle; LM = large size mammal; MM = medium size mammal; Ind = Indeterminate

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land off Storey Mews, Malmesbury, Wiltshire	
Short description	<p>In November 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land off Storey Mews, Malmesbury, Wiltshire. A total of eight trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The evaluation identified a small number of ditches and pits containing 11th to 13th-century pottery, and extensive evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation.</p>	
Project dates	8-11 November 2021	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-Based Assessment (WA 2016) Geophysical Survey (AS 2021)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Storey Mews, Malmesbury, Wiltshire	
Study area (m ² /ha)	1ha	
Site co-ordinates	393645 186434	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Alex Thomson	
Project Supervisor	Kinga Werner	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Wiltshire Museum: DZSWS:36-2021	Ceramics, animal bone etc
Paper	Wiltshire Museum: DZSWS:36-2021	Context sheets, etc
Digital	Wiltshire Museum: DZSWS:36-2021	Digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2021 <i>Land off Storey Mews, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation CA</i> typescript report CR0688_1		



Cotswold Archaeology

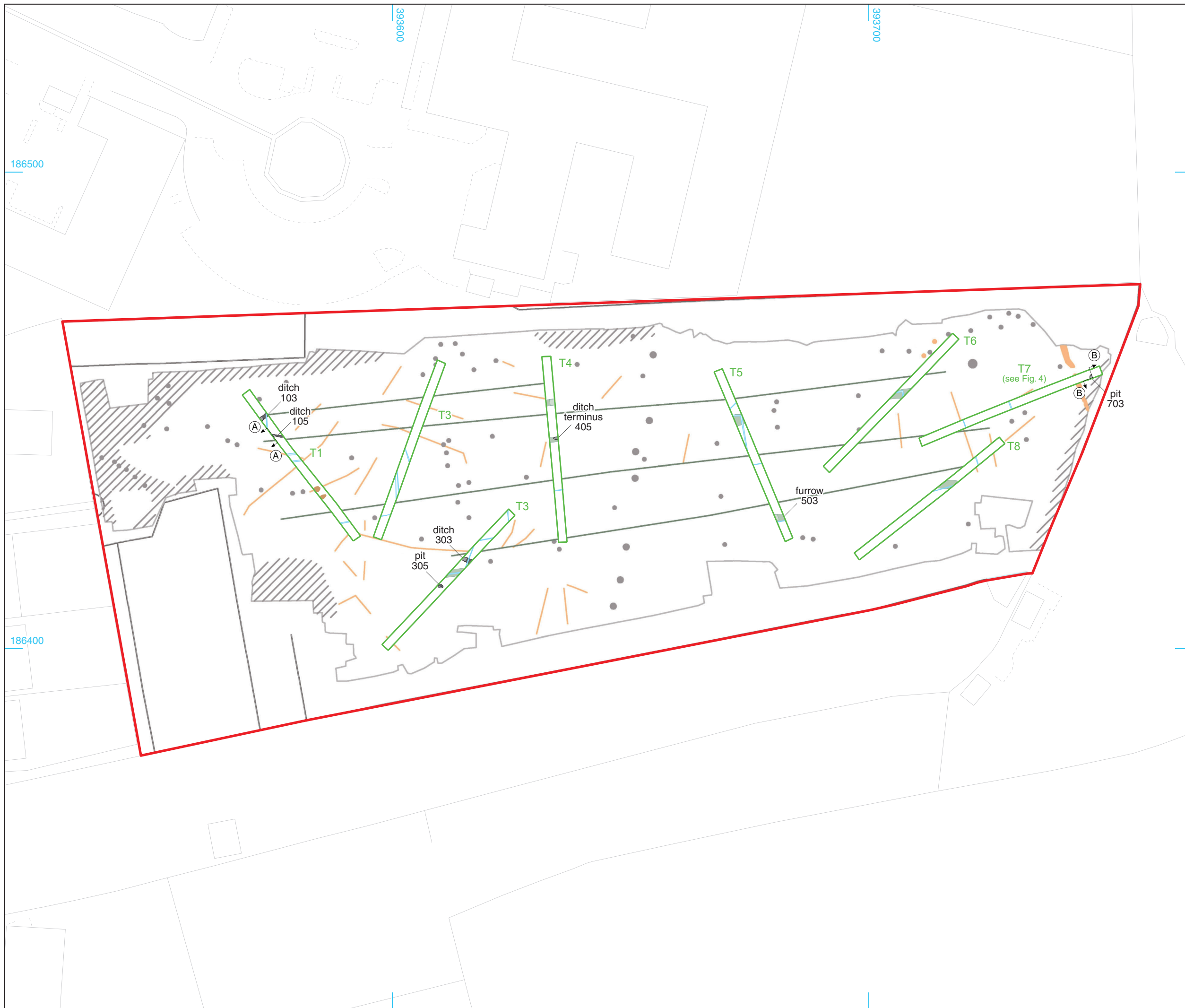
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PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Storey Mews, Malmesbury, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	KM	PROJECT NO.	CR0688	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	RP	DATE	16/11/2021	1
APPROVED BY	KW	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	

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 Ordnance Survey 0100031673



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
(excavated/unexcavated)
- Furrow
(excavated/unexcavated)
- Field drain
- Section location

**Geophysical survey data
(AS 2021)**

- Positive linear anomaly - possible ditch-like feature
- Linear anomaly - ridge and furrow
- Discrete positive response - possible pit-like feature
- Magnetic disturbance from ferrous material
- Strong dipolar anomaly - ferrous object



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Storey Mews, Malmesbury,
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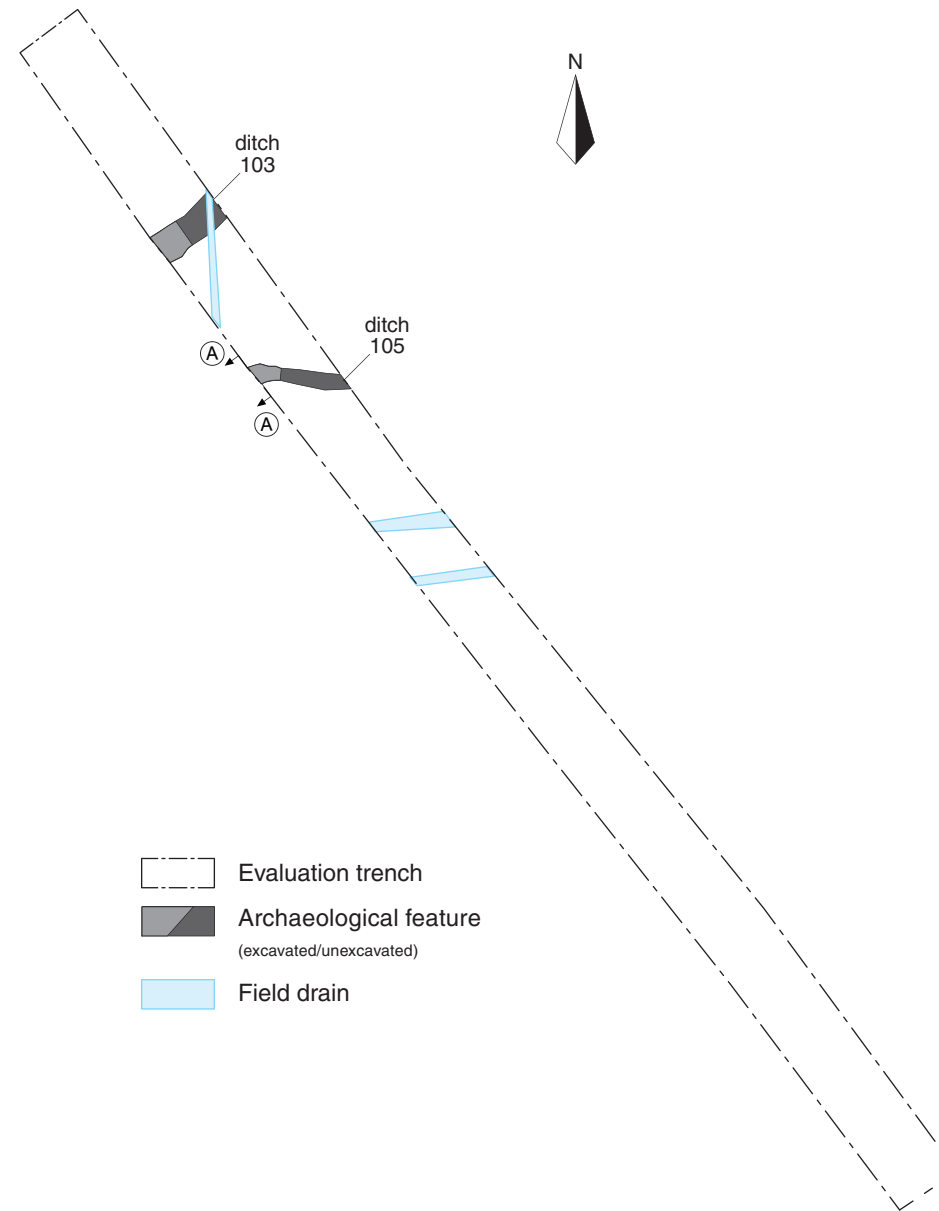
FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan showing
 archaeological features

<small>DRAWN BY</small> KM	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> CR0688	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> RP	<small>DATE</small> 09/12/2021	3
<small>APPROVED BY</small> KW	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:750	



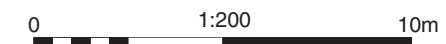
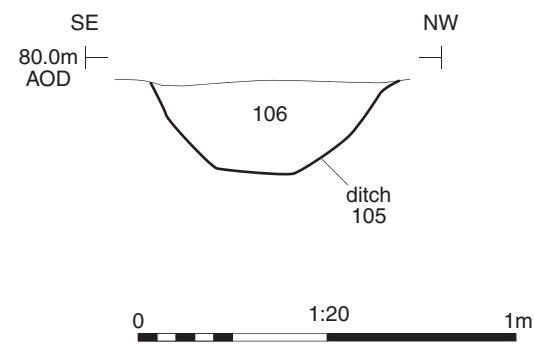
Ditch 105, looking south-west (scale 0.5m)

Trench 1, plan



- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
(excavated/unexcavated)
- Field drain

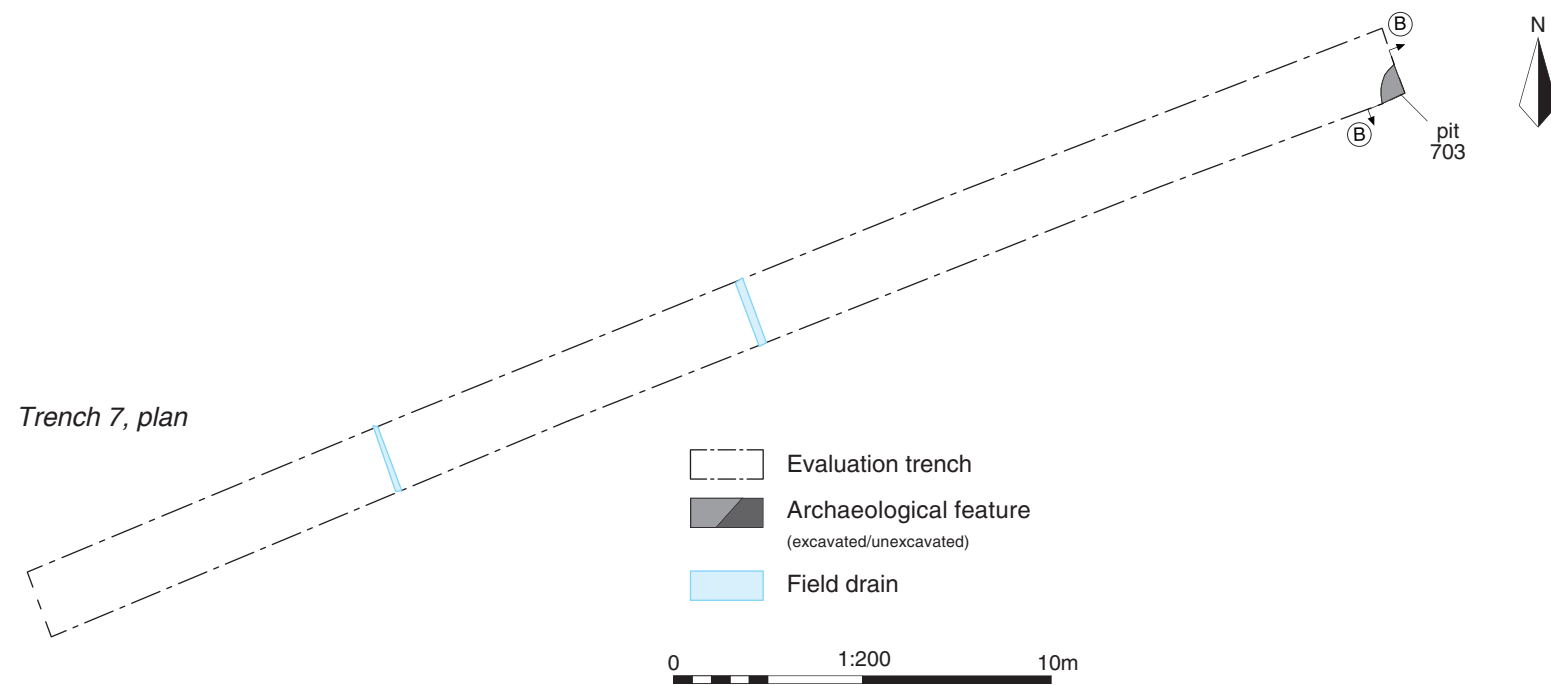
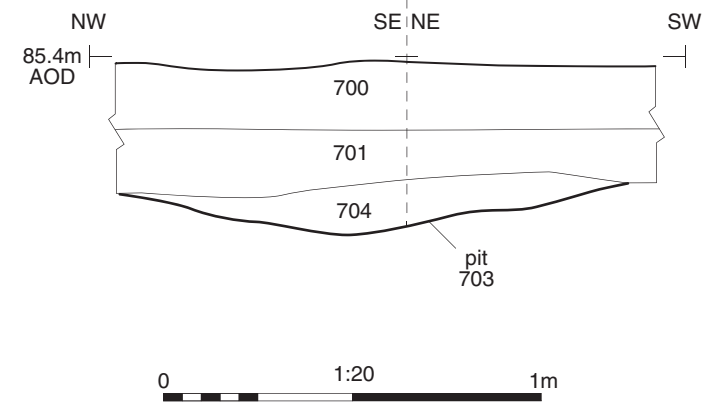
Section AA





Pit 703, looking south-east (0.5m scale)

Section BB




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PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Storey Mews, Malmesbury,
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 7: plan, section and photograph

DRAWN BY	KM	PROJECT NO.	CR0688	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	RP	DATE	16/11/2021	4
APPROVED BY	KW	SCALE@A3	1:20 & 1:200	

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