

Land at Hindon Lane, Tisbury Wiltshire

An Archaeological Field Evaluation.



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An archaeological field evaluation

for

(Land and Planning Manager)
C G Fry & Son Ltd.
Litton Cheney
Dorchester
Dorset DT2 9AS

by



Brickfield Offices, Maperton, Wincanton, Somerset. BA9 8EG.
T: 01963 824696
F: 07092 259858
E: mail@contextone.co.uk
W: www.contextone.co.uk

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Project Director: Richard McConnell

Fieldwork Manager: Stuart Milby

Fieldwork team: Peter Fairclough, Lee Newton, Tara Fairclough, Stuart Milby & Richard McConnell

Research: Richard McConnell

Report: Stuart Milby

Graphics: Tara Fairclough

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Front cover image: Trench 27 from the east following excavation. © Context One Archaeological Services 2011

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Non-Technical Summary

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological works comprising a geophysical survey and an archaeological field evaluation on an area of land at Hindon Lane in Tisbury, Wiltshire (centred on NGR ST 94095 29924) (hereafter referred to as the Site). The programme of works was commissioned and funded by C. G. Fry & Son.

The programme of works was requested by Ms Claire King (Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (WCAS)), following a consultation request from Mr Richard McConnell (COAS), made on behalf of Mr David Lohfink (C. G. Fry & Son), as a requirement for the approval of reserved matters pursuant to Outline Planning Permission S/2008/0779: the erection of 90 dwellings and 3800 square metres of B1 business floor space (Planning Ref: S/2011/322/REM).

The field evaluation was carried out over twelve days between 7 and 24 June 2011 and consisted of 28 machine and hand excavated trenches, each measuring 16m x 1.6m. Excavation in all trenches revealed a similar horizontal sequence of deposits comprising only topsoil and subsoil, overlying a highly mixed natural sediment/bedrock formation. Despite a good sized assemblage of worked and waste flints having been recorded on the Site from a previous event, only a single archaeological feature was observed during the course of the evaluation.

A north-east, south-west aligned ditch was recorded running perpendicular to the centre of Trench 15. No finds were recovered from the ditch although it did share an alignment with an existing field boundary.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological works comprising a geophysical survey and an archaeological field evaluation on an area of land at Hindon Lane in Tisbury, Wiltshire (centred on NGR ST 94095 29924) (hereafter referred to as the Site). The programme of works was commissioned and funded by C. G. Fry & Son.
- 1.2 The programme of works was requested by Ms Claire King (Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (WCAS)), following a consultation request from Mr Richard McConnell (COAS), made on behalf of Mr David Lohfink (C. G. Fry & Son), as a requirement for the approval of reserved matters pursuant to Outline Planning Permission S/2008/0779: the erection of 90 dwellings and 3800 square metres of B1 business floor space (**Planning Ref: S/2011/322/REM**). In an earlier consultation letter relating to Outline Planning Permission S/2008/0779, WCAS state:

“Within the area of the proposal we have recorded a series of worked flints, including 13 scrapers, dating from the Neolithic period (4000-2300BC). To the west of the Hindon Lane a series of earthworks have been identified which probably represent the remains of medieval settlement activity.”

- 1.3 Ms King requested that a geophysical survey be undertaken to identify potential archaeological remains/features on Site. The geophysical survey was then used to assist in the location of evaluation trenches. The results of the geophysical survey (GeoFlo, 2011), along with a proposed trench location plan (COAS, 2011), were submitted to, and approved by WCAS prior to the commencement of archaeological evaluation trenching. The combined area of the proposed trenches equated to approximately 2% of the development impact area.
- 1.4 Prior to the commencement of the archaeological fieldwork, COAS submitted a *Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Works: Land at Hindon Lane, Tisbury, Wiltshire* (Milby 2011), which provided a strategy for the investigation. This was submitted to and approved by WCAS prior to the commencement of the works.
- 1.5 The requirement for the archaeological work follows advice given by *Central Government as set out in Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (2010)*; and the Local Development Framework Policy on Archaeology.
- 1.6 This report summarises the archaeological, topographical and geological setting of the Site, and presents the results of the field evaluation.

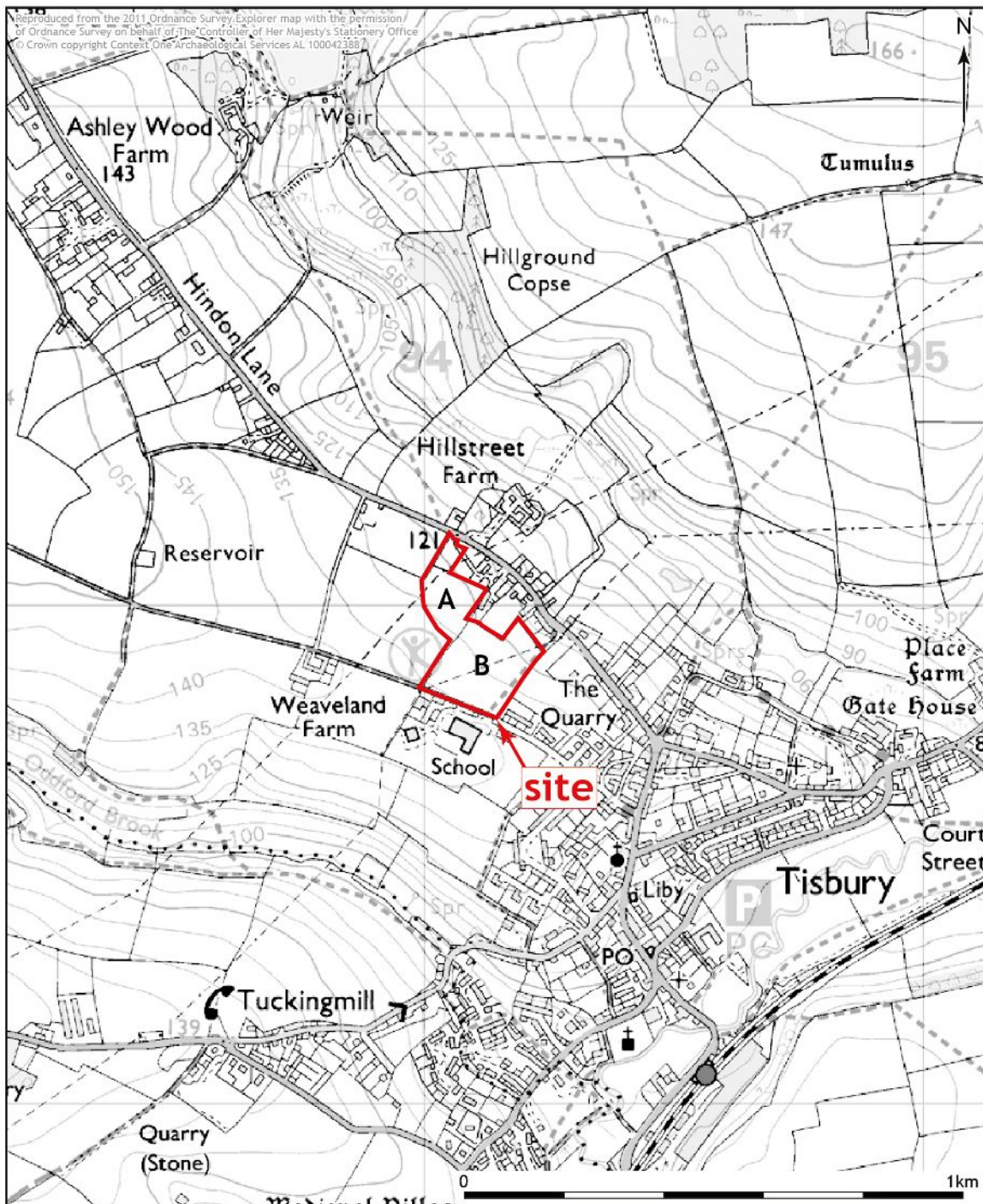
2. Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 2.1 The Site comprises two fields (Field A & Field B) (**Figure 2**) and is situated immediately to the south-west of the properties lining the south-western edge of Hindon Lane, leading into the town of Tisbury (**Figure 1**). Field B is bounded to the east and south by a public footpath. At the time of the evaluation Field A was lying fallow and Field B was under meadow grass. The Site rises from c.120m-124m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north-east to c.132m-137m aOD in the south-west.
- 2.2 According to the British Geological Survey (2011), there is no superficial (drift) geology. The underlying solid geology over much of the Site comprises Tisbury Member - interbedded sandstone and (subequal/subordinate) limestone, including fine grained glauconitic, bioclastic sandstones and limestones.

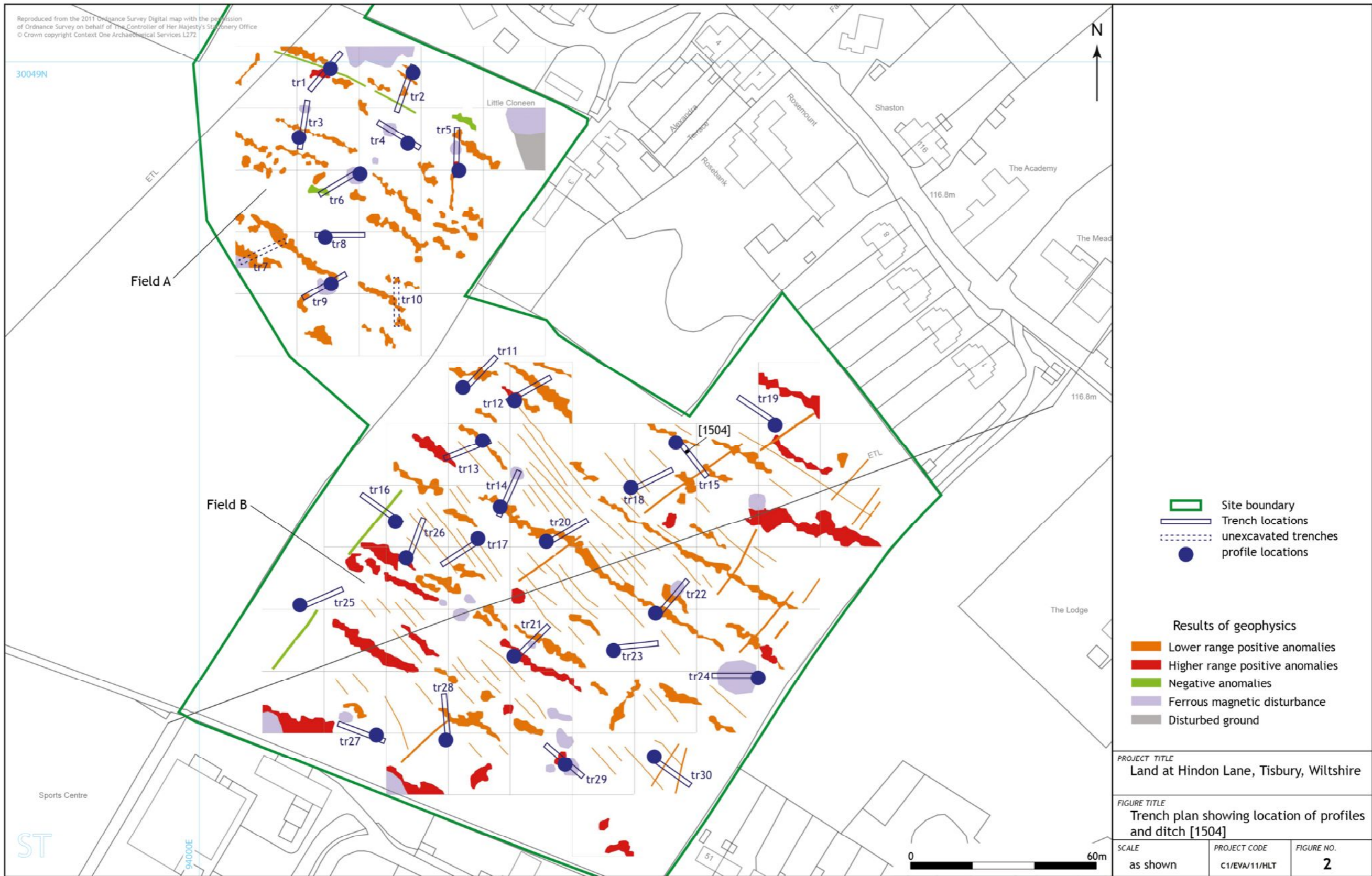
3. Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER) lists one entry for archaeological events within 500m of the Site; a Neolithic flint tool collection comprising 9 cores, 13 scrapers, 12 utilised flakes and 97 waste flakes. The assemblage is held by Devizes Museum (**Accession Number: 1976.57**) and is recorded in the Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine Vol 77, p16(24).
- 3.2 Within 1km of the Site the Wiltshire HER lists the following entries that are of interest;

HER No	Entry	Description	Direction from Site
ST92NW301	Chantry Field	A Romano-British burial in a sandstone coffin.	South-east
ST92NW550	Greens Quarry	Undated burials, which may be Iron-Age or Romano-British.	South-west
ST93SW302	Little Ridge	A Romano-British burial in a stone-lined grave.	North
ST92NW300	Tisbury Quarry	Several Romano-British skeletons, coins and a small vase.	South-west



PROJECT TITLE Land at Hindon Lane, Tisbury, Wiltshire		
FIGURE TITLE Site setting		
SCALE as shown	PROJECT CODE C1/EVA/11/HLT	FIGURE NO. 1



4. Methodology

4.1 The field evaluation was carried out in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for archaeological evaluation* published by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) in 1995 (revised 1999). COAS adhered to the *Code of Conduct* issued by the IfA in 1985 (revised 2000), and *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (1990, revised September 2000), at all times during the course of the investigation. Current Health and Safety legislation and guidelines were followed on Site.

4.2 WCAS were kept informed of progress as the evaluation proceeded; Ms King carried out monitoring visits on 7 and 23 June 2011.

Geophysical Survey

4.3 The programme of archaeological work commenced with a geophysical survey (COAS, 2011), which was carried out by GeoFlo on behalf of COAS, over three days between the 6 and 8 April 2011. In accordance with the WSI, the results of the geophysical survey were compiled in a report and submitted to WCAS. The results of the survey were then used to assist with the targeted placement of the evaluation trenches.

4.4 The geophysical survey results have been included in **Figure 2** and also demonstrate the rationale of the trench locations. The reality of the anomalies is discussed further in section **7. Discussion and Conclusions**.

Field Evaluation

4.5 The field evaluation was carried out over twelve days between 7 and 24 June 2011 and consisted of 28 machine and hand excavated trenches, each measuring 16m x 1.6m. The trenches were located based on the results of the geophysical survey carried out by COAS in April 2011. The layout of the trenches varied slightly from that shown in the WSI in order to avoid working underneath a run of overhead cables, which ran from the north-east corner to the south-west corner of Field B. Due to the absence of archaeological deposits/features and given the coarse, disturbed nature of the natural sediments in Field A, WCAS suggested that Trenches 7 & 10 need not be excavated.

4.6 A wheeled JCB-type machine equipped with a 1.60m wide toothless (grading) bucket was used to remove topsoil and subsoil under the supervision of COAS archaeological staff. Due to the absence of archaeological deposits/features within all but one trench, machine excavation continued to natural geology. A representative section of each trench was cleaned using hand tools in order to fully characterise the deposit sequence. Selective hand cleaning was also used to aid the identification of any suspected archaeological features.

4.7 All deposits were recorded using standard COAS pro-forma recording sheets and a “Harris-Winchester matrix” diagram. Soil colours were recorded using a Munsell soil colour chart. A representative profile of the general deposit sequence in each trench was recorded using standard COAS evaluation trench sheets. A photographic record of the work was prepared and involved the sole use of digital images. This included photographs of each trench in plan, representative trench sections, and general working shots to illustrate the nature of the archaeological investigation.

4.8 All trenches were initially set out using a TopCon GRS-1 RTK GPS unit. Upon completion of the evaluation but prior to backfilling, the trenches were re-surveyed to record the location and altitude of the trenches relative to the National Grid and Ordnance Datum.

4.9 On conclusion of the archaeological field evaluation, all trenches were backfilled.

5. Results

- 5.1 In the text, context numbers for cuts appear in square brackets, e.g. [1004]; layer and fill numbers appear in standard brackets, e.g. (1002). Where a feature is discussed, it is referenced with its cut and associated fill numbers.

Soil and Ground Conditions

- 5.2 The conditions on Site were fair to good, with occasional rain and fair to bright light throughout the course of the evaluation.

Soil Sequence and Geology - Field A

- 5.3 Eight of the ten proposed trenches were excavated within Field A; as no archaeological deposits/features were observed in any of the previous eight trenches and given the nature of the natural sediments in Field A, it was agreed with WCAS that Trenches 7 & 10 would not be excavated.
- 5.4 The depth of natural sediments/bedrock varied throughout Field A but was generally shallower in the north-east and south-west corners (c.0.20m) and deeper towards the centre of the field (c.0.60m).
- 5.5 A vertical sequence of sediments was recorded across Field A; these comprised mid grey brown (10YR 5/2) soft clay topsoil (100)-(600), (800), (900), overlying mid reddish brown (5YR 4/4), firm silt/clay subsoil (101)-(301), (601), (801), (901), which in turn overlay a varied and patchy natural that ranged in colour and composition from mid-reddish brown (2.5YR 4/4) silt/clay in the north-west, to mid brown (7.5YR 4/3) soft sandy clay towards the east. The horizons between layers were at times diffuse although generally clear. Subsoil was not observed within Trenches 4, 5 and 9.

Archaeology - Field A

- 5.6 All eight trenches were blank in the sense that no archaeological deposits or features of any antiquity were revealed.

Soil Sequence and Geology - Field B

- 5.7 The depth of natural sediments/bedrock varied throughout Field B, ranging from c.0.25m in the north-west corner to c.0.70m at the centre of the field. Trench 15 was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.05m in order to bottom an archaeological feature.
- 5.8 A vertical sequence of sediments was recorded across Field B; these comprised mid grey brown (10YR 5/2) soft clay topsoil (1100)-(2000), (2500)-(2700), (2900), (3000). In Trenches 21-24 and 28 the topsoil was a very dark brown (10YR 3/2) compacted silt/clay (2100)-(2400). Across Field B topsoil overlay mid reddish brown (5YR 4/4), firm silt/clay subsoil (1101)-(3001), which in turn overlay a varied and patchy natural comprising mid reddish brown (2.5YR 4/4) silt/clay interspersed with outcrops of greensand and spurs of weathered limestone.

Archaeology - Field B

- 5.9 Of the twenty trenches excavated in Field B, only Trench 15 contained archaeology. A north-east, south-west aligned ditch [1504] containing two distinct fills, grey (7.5YR 6/1) silt/clay deposit (1505), which overlay mid grey brown silt/clay deposit (1506), was recorded running perpendicular across the centre of Trench 15. Ditch [1504] was up to 1.10m in width and was a maximum of 0.37m deep. No finds were recovered from the ditch fills (1505) and (1506), although it did share an alignment with an existing field boundary.

6. The Finds

- 6.1 A single ferrous object (most likely a piece of modern farm machinery) was recovered from the topsoil of Trench 24. Although modern and of little archaeological significance, this does account for the ferrous magnetic disturbance shown on the geophysical survey results.

7. Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 Excavation in all trenches revealed a similar horizontal sequence of deposits comprising only topsoil and subsoil, overlying a highly mixed natural sediment/bedrock formation. Despite a good sized assemblage of worked and waste flints having been recorded on the Site from a previous event, only a single archaeological feature was observed during the course of the evaluation. Whilst the lack of finds recovered from the ditch in Trench 15 makes it impossible to date, its proximity to Hindon Lane together with a shared alignment with an existing, modern boundary, suggests the ditch is not particularly old.
- 7.2 With the exception of the ferrous magnetic disturbance, all of the geophysical anomalies (**Figure 2**) can be explained as either variations in the natural (outcrops of bedrock, etc) or as plough scaring from modern agricultural practices.

8. Archive

- 8.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of Context One Archaeological Services Ltd and consists of 225 digital images in .jpg format and the written paper record including 28 evaluation trench sheets, 3 pro forma context recording sheets, 1 eight page photographic register and a six page day record with Site methodology sheets. The archive will be prepared to comply with guidelines set out in *Standards in the Museums Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museum and Galleries Commission 1992) / *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991). Arrangements will be made to deposit the paper archive with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum within 12 months following the submission of this report.
- 8.2 Copies of this report will be deposited in paper and electronic format with:

Mr D Lohfink
Land and Planning Manager
 C G Fry & Son Limited
 Litton Cheney
 Dorchester
 Dorset
 DT2 9AS

Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service
 Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre
 Cocklebury Road
 Chippenham
 SN15 3QN

9. Acknowledgements

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