B0524: Dean's Farm, Phillips Lane, Stratford Sub Castle, Salisbury, Wiltshire

A Programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

Assessment Report

context one
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

B0524: Dean's Farm, Phillips Lane, Stratford Sub Castle, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Assessment Report

for

Wessex Water plc

by

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April 2013

Front cover image: The pipeline route viewed towards Dean's Farm. © Context One Archaeological Services 2013

Contents

Non-technical Summary

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the installation of a water supply main at Dean's Farm, Phillips Lane, Stratford Sub Castle, Salisbury, (from NGR SU 13697 33280 to SU 13815 33109) over ten days during March and April 2013. The investigation was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water plc under a Term Agreement contract with COAS.

The archaeological works were requested by Ms Clare King (Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Archaeology Service) following consultation with Mr Phillip Martin (Assistant Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water plc) due to the proximity of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery and a later Prehistoric or Romano-British field system and other linear features.

An undated, truncated ditch was identified in one section of the pipe trench, sealed by a probable cultivation horizon. The ditch orientation suggests it may have been related to the Bronze Age barrow cemetery as opposed to the later Prehistoric/Romano-British field system. No finds were collected or observed during the course of the project.

1. Introduction

1.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the installation of a water supply main at Dean's Farm, Phillips Lane, Stratford Sub Castle, Salisbury (hereafter referred to as the Site) over ten days between 18 March and 2 April 2013. The investigation was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water plc under a Term Agreement contract with COAS.

1.2 The level and scope of archaeological works were requested by Ms Clare King (Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (WCAS)), following a consultation request from Mr Phillip Martin (Assistant Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water plc). In an email dated 6 February 2013 Ms King stated:

> *"In addition to the Old Sarum SM* (Scheduled Monument)*, there are a number of other HER records in the immediate vicinity of the proposed works. These include five ring ditches (the remains of Bronze Age barrows) and a number of settlement features and field systems that are likely to date to the prehistoric or Roman periods. There is therefore a strong likelihood that the works will encounter archaeological features. Given the close proximity of the barrows, it is possible that these could include human remains."*

1.3 In a further email to Ms Rebecca Howell (Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water plc) dated 20 February 2013 Ms King added:

> *"I would suggest that a watching brief would be the most appropriate archaeological response.... Given the very close proximity to the ring ditches, I would suggest that the groundworks (especially the easement) be kept to a minimum in order to reduce the risk that significant archaeological remains (which might include human remains) are encountered. However, given that moling may be problematic, an open cut - which would then ensure that any archaeological remains have been recorded at this point - would be acceptable."*

1.4 At the request of Ms King, COAS issued a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Milby 2013), which provided a strategy for the archaeological works. This was submitted to and approved by Ms King prior to the commencement of the archaeological monitoring and recording. Ms King was kept fully informed of progress on site as the investigation proceeded. In this instance, it was not deemed necessary to carry out a site monitoring visit.

1.5 The request for archaeological work follows advice given by Central Government as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and the Wiltshire Core Strategy (2012).

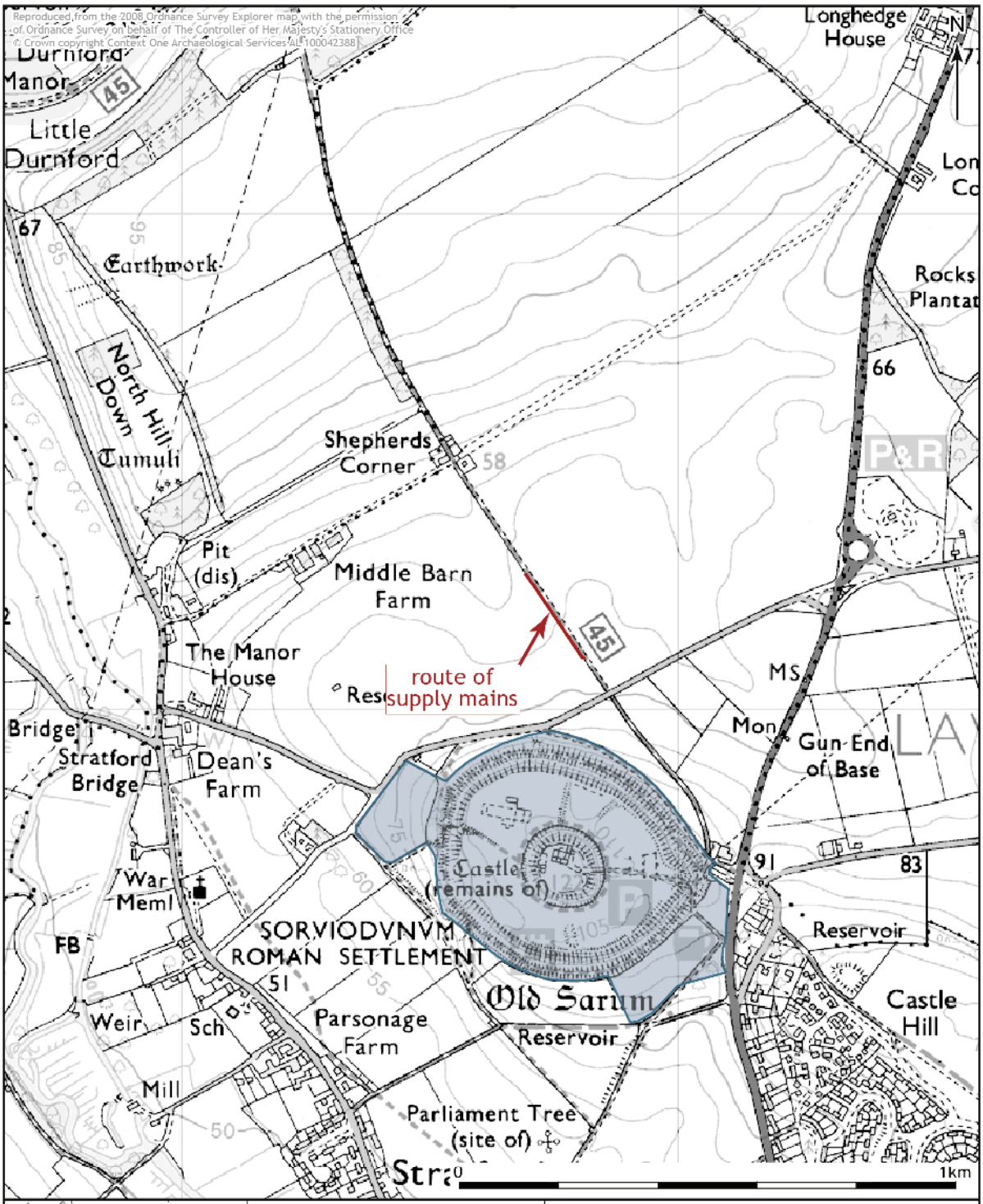
2. Site Location, Topography and Geology

2.1 The route of the pipeline was along a south-south-east to north-north-west oriented track (SU 13697 33280 to SU 13815 33109) starting *c*. 300m north of the multiperiod defended hilltop of Old Sarum and *c*. 2.5km north of the centre of Salisbury, Wiltshire (**Figures 1** and **2**). The fields on either of the track were under cultivation during the course of the investigation. Over a distance of *c*. 210m the ground fell from *c*. 71m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the south end to *c*. 66m aOD at the north end, terminating on a gentle slope approaching Dean's Farm. The farm was situated at the head of a small dry valley perpendicular to the River Avon.

2.2 The underlying geology consists of Newhaven Formation Cretaceous sedimentary chalk (BGS 2013) parenting lime-rich, free-draining soils of moderate fertility (NSRI 2013).

3. Summary of relevant archaeological background

3.1 The archaeological background for the Site has been drawn exclusively from the Extensive Urban Survey publication concerned with Old Sarum (Moffat 2009) and is summarised here in view of its local and national importance and relevance to the present project.


Reproduced from the 2008 Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Context One Archaeological Services AL 100042388
Longhedge House
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North Hill Down Tumuli
Shepherds Corner
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Rocks Plantat
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Pit (dis)
Middle Barn Farm
The Manor House
route of supply mains
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Gun End of Base
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Dean's Farm
War Meml
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Castle (remains of)
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83
Reservoir
SORVIODVNVM ROMAN SETTLEMENT
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Old Sarum
Castle Hill
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Parsonage Farm
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Mill
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Scheduled Ancient Monument 26715 - Old Sarum
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C1/AMR/13/DFS
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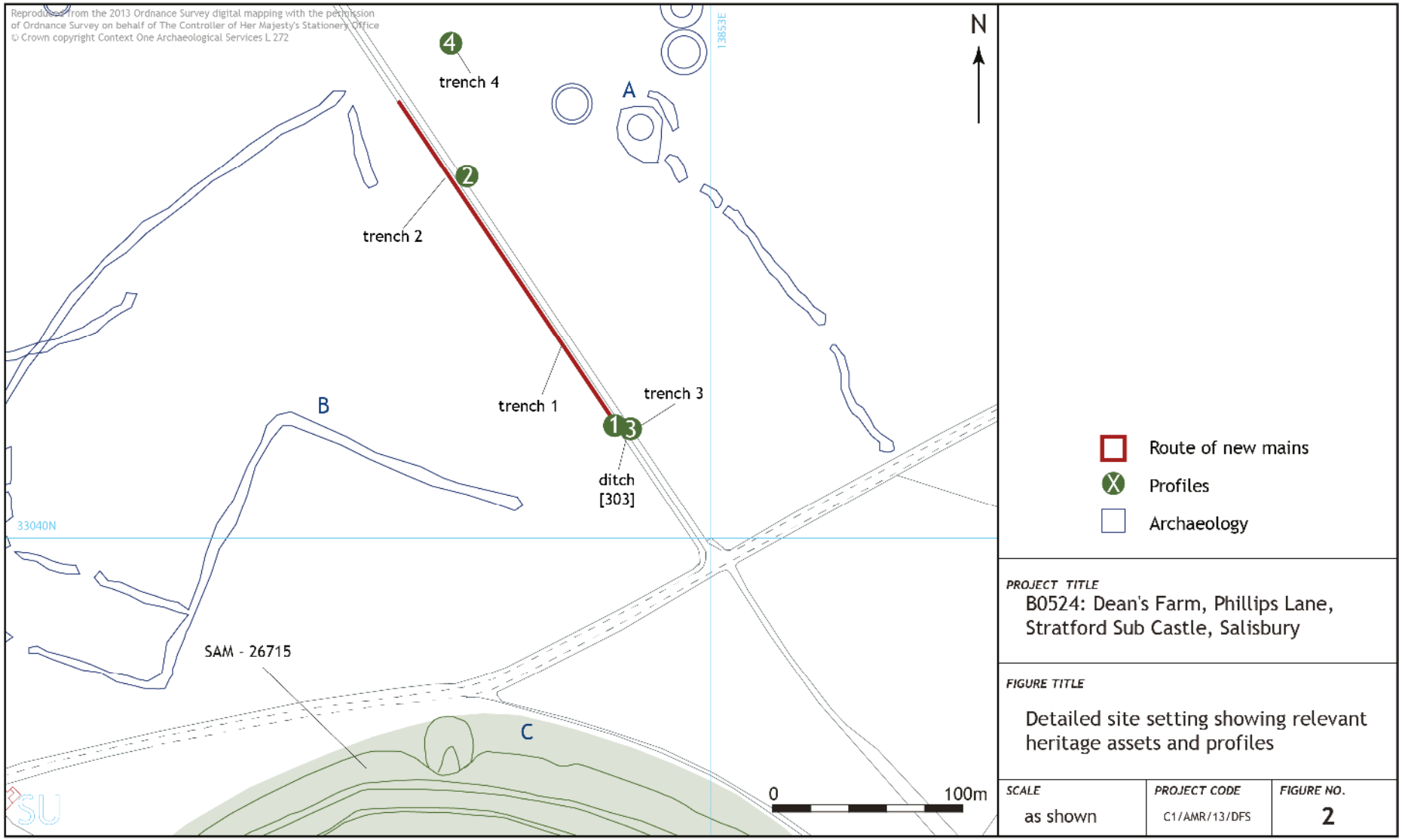
1


Reproduced from the 2013 Ordnance Survey digital mapping with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Context One Archaeological Services L 272
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Route of new mains
Profiles
Archaeology
PROJECT TITLE
B0524: Dean's Farm, Phillips Lane, Stratford Sub Castle, Salisbury
FIGURE TITLE
Detailed site setting showing relevant heritage assets and profiles
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FIGURE NO.
2

3.2 A Bronze Age barrow *c*. 80m east of the pipeline route represents the nearest member of a group at the north end of the Site (**Figure 2**, A; Moffat 2009, figs. 4, 8, 9 and 10). At the same end, the nearest element of a later prehistoric or Romano-British field system lies 25m to the west of the route (**Figure 2**, B). The south end of the Site is situated *c*. 300m north of the multi-period defended hilltop of Old Sarum (**Figure 2**, C; **Plate 1**). A Roman cemetery which developed outside the hilltop's north-west defences and expanded during the Saxon period lies *c*. 400m west-south-west of the Site (not shown).

4. Methodology

Wessex Water Methodology

4.1 The total length of the pipeline under archaeological observation was *c*. 200m, varying in width from *c*. 0.30m to *c*. 1.50m (**Figures 1** and **2**). A 360 degree tracked machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket excavated the trench to depths varying from *c*. 1m to *c*. 1.70m.

Archaeological Methodology

4.2 The programme of archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the codes, standards and guidelines set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 1985, rev. 2012; 1990, rev. 2008; 1994, rev. 2008) and practice guidelines issued by Wiltshire County Council (WCC 1995) at all times during the course of the investigation. Current Health and Safety legislation and guidelines were followed on site.

4.3 The machine excavation of the pipeline trench was carried out under the supervision of COAS field staff. For the purposes of archaeological recording, all areas exposed through development excavations were systematically scanned for features/deposits. There were four areas of trenching labelled nominally from one to four.

4.4 All significant deposits and archaeological features exposed in section were cleaned by hand to establish stratigraphic relationships. They were recorded using standard COAS *pro-forma* context sheets, indicating stratigraphic relationships on a 'Harris-Winchester matrix' diagram. In addition, COAS *pro-forma* profile sheets were used to show the deposit sequence and depths across the Site. These were annotated to define the depths of each observed deposit. In addition, context forms summarise the character of each layer with entry fields for the profile locations and photographic references. The frequency with which profile sections were recorded was based entirely on any variation of the deposit sequence or depth of exposure.

4.5 A digital photographic record comprised shots of the excavated area, individual features and working shots to illustrate the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

4.6 The location, extent and altitude of the archaeological work, features and deposits were mapped relative to the National Grid and Ordnance Datum using a handheld GPS unit capable of <3m.

5. Results

5.1 The weather varied from overcast with light showers to sunny. The ground conditions were generally good.

5.2 The deposits and features encountered during fieldwork are listed and described in **Appendix 1**. In the text, context numbers for cuts appear in square brackets, e.g. [104]; layer and fill numbers appear in standard brackets, e.g. (102). Where a feature is discussed, it is referenced with its cut and associated fill numbers.

5.3 For the most part, the pipeline ran to the side of a farm track (**Figure 2**, trenches 1 to 3) along a route with a very consistent soil sequence. An additional area was opened to the north-east to expose a junction (**Figure 2**, trench 4). The *c*. 0.30m deep topsoil was of darkish brown soft silt, (100) to (400) (**Plates 2** to **4**), and overlay a yellowish mid-brown silt of similar texture, (101) to (401), varying in depth from 0.15m to 0.25m. Both layers included sparse flecks and small lumps of chalk. The subsoil had formed from the solid chalk, (102) to (402), which lay directly underneath.

5.4 A roughly north to south oriented, linear cut was identified in trench 3, where it crossed the track at the south end (**Figure 2**, trench 3). This measured *c*. 0.70m wide and *c*. 0.25m deep with a splayed U-profiled cut [303] filled with slightly reddish dark brown soft silt (304) which included fragments of flint and lumps of chalk.

5.5 No finds were collected or observed during the course of the project.

6. Discussion

6.1 A ditch was identified within one section at the southern end of the pipe trench, the fill sealed by the subsoil which probably represents a cultivation horizon. The ditch had been severely truncated by ploughing which limits assessment of its relationship with the major features within this landscape. The orientation indicates the ditch is parallel with a linear which appears related to the Bronze Age barrow cemetery as opposed to any connection with the later Prehistoric/Romano-British field system. However, the lack of any finds renders discussion of date largely speculative.

6.2 The ploughing may have destroyed or truncated any further archaeological features or deposits particularly at the higher south end of the Site where the ploughing is likely to have impinged upon the natural.

Plate 1. Pipeline route with Old Sarum in the background (from N)

Plate 2. Trench 2, profile (from E; 1m scale)

Plate 3. Trench 4, general view (from N; no scale)

Plate 4. Trench 3, ditch [303] (from NNW; 0.5m scale)

7. Archive

7.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of Context One Archaeological Services Ltd and consists of the written paper record of two context sheets, five COAS *pro forma* profile log sheets, three day record sheets, a sketch plan, 88 digital images in .jpg format and related registers. Arrangements will be made to deposit the archive with Wiltshire Heritage Museum within 12 months following the submission of this report.

7.2 Copies of the monitoring and recording report will be deposited with:

Wessex Water plc
Claverton Down Road
Claverton Down
Bath
BA2 7WW

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

8. COAS Acknowledgements

8.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd would like to thank Mr Phillip Martin (Assistant Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water plc), for his kind assistance throughout the course of the investigation and Ms Clare King (Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Archaeology Service), for information and advice.

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Appendix 1. Context Summary

Context no.	Period	Type	Description	Earlier than	Contemp. with	Later than	Length	Width/ Diameter	Thickness/ Depth
100	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brown soft silt including sparse to frequent flint and other stone rubble sparsely flecked with chalk			101		0.30m exc	c. 0.30m exc
101	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish mid brown soft silt including sparse chalk fragments	100		102		0.30m exc	c. 0.25m exc
102	Geology	Layer	Natural. White compacted chalk	101				0.30m exc	c. 0.28m exc
200	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brown soft silt including sparse to frequent flint and other stone rubble sparsely flecked with chalk			201		0.30m exc	c. 0.30m exc
201	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish mid brown soft silt including sparse chalk fragments	200		202		0.30m exc	c. 0.20m exc
202	Geology	Layer	Natural. White compacted chalk	201				0.30m exc	c. 0.50m exc
300	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brown soft silt including sparse to frequent flint and other stone rubble sparsely flecked with chalk			301			c. 0.31m
301	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish mid brown soft silt including sparse chalk fragments	300		305			c. 0.20m
302	Geology	Layer	Natural. White compacted chalk	303					c. 1.10m exc
303	Undated	Cut	Ditch. Roughly north to south oriented, played U-profiled, linear cut	304		302		<0.70m	<0.25m
304	Undated	Fill	Ditch fill of [303]. Slightly reddish, yellowish dark brown soft silt including sparse flint nodules (<0.10m) chalk fragments	306		303		<0.70m	<0.25m
400	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brown soft silt including sparse to frequent flint and other stone rubble sparsely flecked with chalk			401		0.30m exc	c. 0.30m exc
401	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish mid brown soft silt including sparse chalk fragments	400		402		0.30m exc	c. 0.19m exc

Context no.	Period	Type	Description	Earlier than	Contemp. with	Later than	Length	Width/ Diameter	Thickness/ Depth
402	Geology	Layer	Natural. White compacted chalk	401				0.30m exc	c. 0.50m exc