

Wavin Factory site, Parsonage Way, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

An Archaeological Excavation



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for

IGR Project Management Ltd on behalf of UDC Manchester Ltd

by



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Non-technical summary

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological excavation at the Wavin Factory site, Parsonage Way, Chippenham, Wiltshire (the 'Site'), over 16 days between 9 May and 9 June 2016. The project was commissioned by IGR Project Management Ltd on behalf of UDC Manchester Ltd.

The excavation represented the post-determination phase of a programme of archaeological works required as a condition of planning consent for a development proposal to construct car park and storage area for use by the Wavin Factory. Prior to the excavation, archaeological works comprising a desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and field evaluation were carried out on the Site in support of the planning application. These works identified a number of features of archaeological interest, including a rubble surface and a small assemblage of late medieval/post-medieval pottery.

The excavation has revealed the full extent of the rubble surface identified during the evaluation and located a stone-built culvert, which is probably contemporary with the surface. A shallow post-medieval pit and a ditch were also identified. An area of ridge-and-furrow in the south of the Site, corresponding with undulations visible on the surface of the field, was also observed. Late medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from the culvert and the level above the rubble surface, dating the use of the features to between the 14th and 18th century. The purpose of the rubble surface is uncertain, but it may have formed part of an area of agricultural hard-standing or a trackway put in place to allow movement of people and animals across a low-lying area. The presence of the pottery, butchered animal bone, glass fragments (including imported items) and iron objects within the layer above the rubble surface and culvert indicate an extended period of settlement in the vicinity from the medieval period onwards.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological excavation at the Wavin Factory site, Parsonage Way, Chippenham, Wiltshire (the ‘Site’), over 16 days between 9 May and 9 June 2016. The project was commissioned by IGR Project Management Ltd on behalf of UDC Manchester Ltd
- 1.2 The excavation represented a programme of post-determination archaeological works relating to a planning application (Wiltshire Council application number: 15/04763/FUL) that was granted in full for the construction of a car park and storage area. The programme follows archaeological works comprising a desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and field evaluation that were carried out on the Site in support of the planning application.
- 1.3 A desk-based assessment carried out by COAS (Prestidge 2015) and geophysical survey of the Site (Stratascan SUMO 2015) identified a number of probably cut features including a potential enclosure feature in the centre of the Site, along with an area of ridge-and-furrow in the east. Following this, an archaeological field evaluation was carried out by COAS (Prestidge 2015). These works identified the following:

“Two of the trenches (5 and 6) produced archaeological evidence immediately below the subsoil, in the form of a compacted stone rubble layer possibly representing a rough floor and indicative of domestic and/or agricultural activity. Pottery recovered from the subsoil layer above dated the features to the late medieval/early post-medieval period and these findings correspond with the location of the known medieval agricultural landscape that forms the eastern extents of the Site, and also borders the Site to the north. Other features comprised silt-filled linears, a dark deposit and a small burned deposit. The remaining seven trenches were archaeologically sterile.”

- 1.4 Based on the results of the previous works and subsequent discussions between COAS and Ms Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (WCAS)), it has been agreed that the most appropriate mitigation for the development proposal is to carry out a targeted excavation of the most prominent archaeological features identified during the field evaluation works. The requirement for the work is in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Framework Policy (DCLG 2012) and the *North Wiltshire Local Plan* (Wiltshire Council 2011).
- 1.5 These requirements are outlined in the *Notification of Full Planning* document issued by Wiltshire Council to Ian Jewson Planning on 10 December 2015. Section 16 stated:

*“No development shall commence within the area indicated [top part of the southern field (trenches 5 and 6) Context One Archaeological Field Evaluation Dated 22/10/2015] until:
a) further archaeological recording (strip, map and record excavation) of this area has taken place and a report of the process and findings has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. REASON: To enable the recording of any matters of archaeological interest.”*

- 1.6 The programme of archaeological works comprised four elements: the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which set out the project strategy (Prestidge 2016); a strip, map and record excavation of the targeted site area; post-excavation and report production; and archive deposition. The WSI was approved by Ms Pomeroy-Kellinger on 9 February 2016 prior to the commencement of any Site works.

2. Site location and topography

- 2.1 The Site (centred on ST 92837 74765) covers approximately 625 square metres and is located c. 1.6km to the north-east of Chippenham town centre (**Figure 1**), directly north of the current Wavin Plastics factory site on Parsonage Way. The entrance track, wooded grounds, and house of Kilvert’s Parsonage border the Site to the north, with Maud Heath’s Causeway (the B4069 road) to the west and a small area of farmland and the Great Western Main Line railway to the west. Currently

comprising two fields of pasture, the Site is abutted by farmland on three sides with the outskirts of Chippenham to the south. The topography is gently undulating, with the south-east of the Site recorded at c. 70m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) rising to c. 75m aOD in the centre of the Site, and further rising to c. 79m aOD in the north-west.

- 2.2 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2016), the underlying geology is Sandstone, part of the Kellaways Sand member. There are no recorded superficial (drift) deposits. The soils are characterised by slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes>).

3. Archaeological and historical background

Mesolithic (10000 BC - 4001 BC)

- 3.1 A single findspot (MWI3646) dating to the Mesolithic has been recorded c. 330m south south-west of the Site, directly to the south of Cocklebury Lane. The assemblage consisted of flint cores, scrapers, flakes and waste pieces.

Bronze Age (2350 BC - 701 BC)

- 3.2 Directly north of the site (c. 150m) two excavations carried out in 1886 and the 1950s revealed an imperfect ellipse of stones, human bones and a small pewter disc. This feature is thought to be a barrow (MWI5274) and may be contemporary with the earthwork banks on the Site, one of which is still visible. The name of Barrow Farm, c. 520m to the north-west of the site suggests further presence of Prehistoric funerary activity in the area.

Bronze Age - Roman (2350 BC - AD 409)

- 3.3 Two areas to the north-east of the site exhibit evidence of Bronze Age agricultural and possible settlement activity. Earthworks thought to relate to a banked field system and rectilinear enclosures (MWI64435) were visible on aerial photographs dating from 1981, and appear to remain extant upon consultation of modern aerial photographs.

Medieval (AD1066 - 1547)

- 3.4 On the same site as the possible barrow, an oval stone enclosure (MWI5274) (13 on Figure 2) with associated stone pitchings has been identified (Pugh 1957; Ordnance Survey 1966). Initially thought to be a prehistoric hut circle, it is more likely to be medieval, although its purpose is uncertain. More comprehensive medieval activity has been recorded c. 250m north-west of the Site, to the west of Maud Heath's Causeway (the B4069 Road). The causeway itself (MWI5102) has medieval origins, and was the result of money left by a Maud Heath of Langley Burrell in 1474, to facilitate the construction of a causeway from Wick Hill to Chippenham (Marsh 1903). The route of the causeway largely survives as built, and the best preserved section (which is listed) survives as a raised footpath supported by 64 brick built arches. This section, visible as the road crosses the River Avon approaching Chippenham, was an 1811 improvement by the causeway trust. East of the causeway, earthworks thought to relate to a medieval settlement (MWI5109) have been identified through aerial photography and fieldwork. Five sherds of late medieval pottery were found during fieldwork (undated but likely 1980's) conducted by Chippenham College Archaeology Group, and the settlement is a possible location for the site of the village Langhelei, thought to be a precursor of the present village of Langley Burrell and mentioned in the Domesday Book of AD 1086 (King 1981).
- 3.5 The village of Langley Burrell itself (MWI5104), some 450m north of the Site, has well documented medieval origins. The village is first recorded as Langeleah (meaning Long Meadow) in AD 940 and the Burrell element of the name is thought to be derived from the family of Borel who were lords of the manor from AD 1070-1300 (*ibid*).

Post-medieval & Modern (AD1547 - present)

- 3.6 Two sites of post-medieval date are present in the vicinity of the Site. North of the possible barrow (MWI5274), aerial photographs show linear features comprising a bank with one major and several minor holloways running alongside. The features are possible early tracks converging on the stream, and may have been formed as a result of clay digging for use at a pottery kiln site (*ibid*).

The site of the 19th century farmstead of Upper Cocklebury (MWI66179) is located c. 400m to the south of the Site, abutting Cocklebury Lane. The farmstead and all historic buildings have been demolished and little evidence of their presence remains (Edwards & Lake 2014).

- 3.7 The area of the Site is first identifiable on the Andrews and Dury's 1772 map of Wiltshire, and is shown as unenclosed and undeveloped land. The 1838 Enclosure Awards for Langley Burrell show the Site as enclosed farmland, with the west of the Site owned by a Reverend Robert Ashe (the Vicar of Langley Burrell), with a Mr John Nicholls owning the east of the Site. This remains the case in 1842 according to the Langley Burrell tithe map of that year (see below).
- 3.8 Previous archaeological interventions within the area have revealed archaeological evidence from varying periods. The English Heritage Archive index lists 4 events within a 500m radius of the Site. These include a desk-based assessment (EWI6882) (Jordan 2010) and evaluation (EWI6883) (Joyce 2010) of Land East of Chippenham which found evidence for intercutting Bronze Age ditches as well as evidence for Roman settlement activity. Evidence of ridge-and-furrow ploughing, associated with both medieval and post-medieval agricultural practice was also recorded. A 2009 evaluation (EWI6835) (Bennett 2009) carried out to the east of the Site identified cut features dating to the Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods. An area of 2nd and 3rd century AD Roman settlement activity was identified in the northern part of the evaluation area and two Roman pits were identified to the south of the evaluation area. Medieval activity was identified in the north-eastern part of the evaluation area with contemporary features also identified in the central and north-western parts of the area. A geophysical survey (EWI7468) (Sabin & Donaldson 2014) was also carried out to the north of the site in 2014. The survey located a number of positive linear and discrete anomalies, as well as a number of positive anomalies and patches of magnetic debris along the north-eastern edge of the survey area. These patches corresponded to spreads of possible building material and medieval and post-medieval pottery visible on the ground surface at the time of survey, and were thought to relate to former dwellings and land plots.
- 3.9 The geophysical survey conducted on the Site (Stratascan SUMO 2015) identified a number of anomalies that were focused on the undulations identified during the desk-based assessment walkover survey of the Site. A number of weaker features were also identified within the vicinity, and were thought to possibly represent further cut features of archaeological origin, although they could also have been of natural or agricultural origin. Ridge-and-furrow was identified in the eastern field of the Site. These all confirm the findings of the desk based assessment (Prestidge 2015), and are likely related to a past agricultural landscape. The remaining features are all modern in origin, and include a buried service, magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metallic objects, and scattered ferrous debris.
- 3.10 Despite the archaeological potential of the Site identified through the earlier desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, the results of the 2015 COAS evaluation (Prestidge 2015) were limited to a few late medieval/early post-medieval features within two of the nine trenches in the centre of the Site. These features did, however, correspond with the strong anomalies visible on the geophysical survey (Slater 2015), as well as with observations made during the walkover survey conducted as part of the desk-based assessment (Prestidge 2015).
- 3.11 A stone rubble spread feature was exposed within both Trenches 5 and 6 (see **Figure 2**) and its composition and compaction is indicative of a rough floor layer. The pottery recovered from the subsoil layer directly above the features dates the use of the surface from the late medieval through to the early post-medieval period and the presence of this small assemblage is indicative of domestic activity within the vicinity. The presence of butchered animal bone, some small glass fragments and iron objects within the same layer also likely represents a period of habitation or at least extended human presence. The location of the feature within an area of known medieval agricultural activity also raised the possibility of the floor layer forming part of an agricultural structure, and the rough nature of the feature may support this. The presence of a dark deposition layer and burnt feature within Trench 6, which may represent a pit, was also indicative of concentrated domestic or agricultural activity. It was therefore considered that further features of the late medieval/early post-medieval period could be encountered during the proposed development groundworks in the direct vicinity of Trenches 5 and 6.

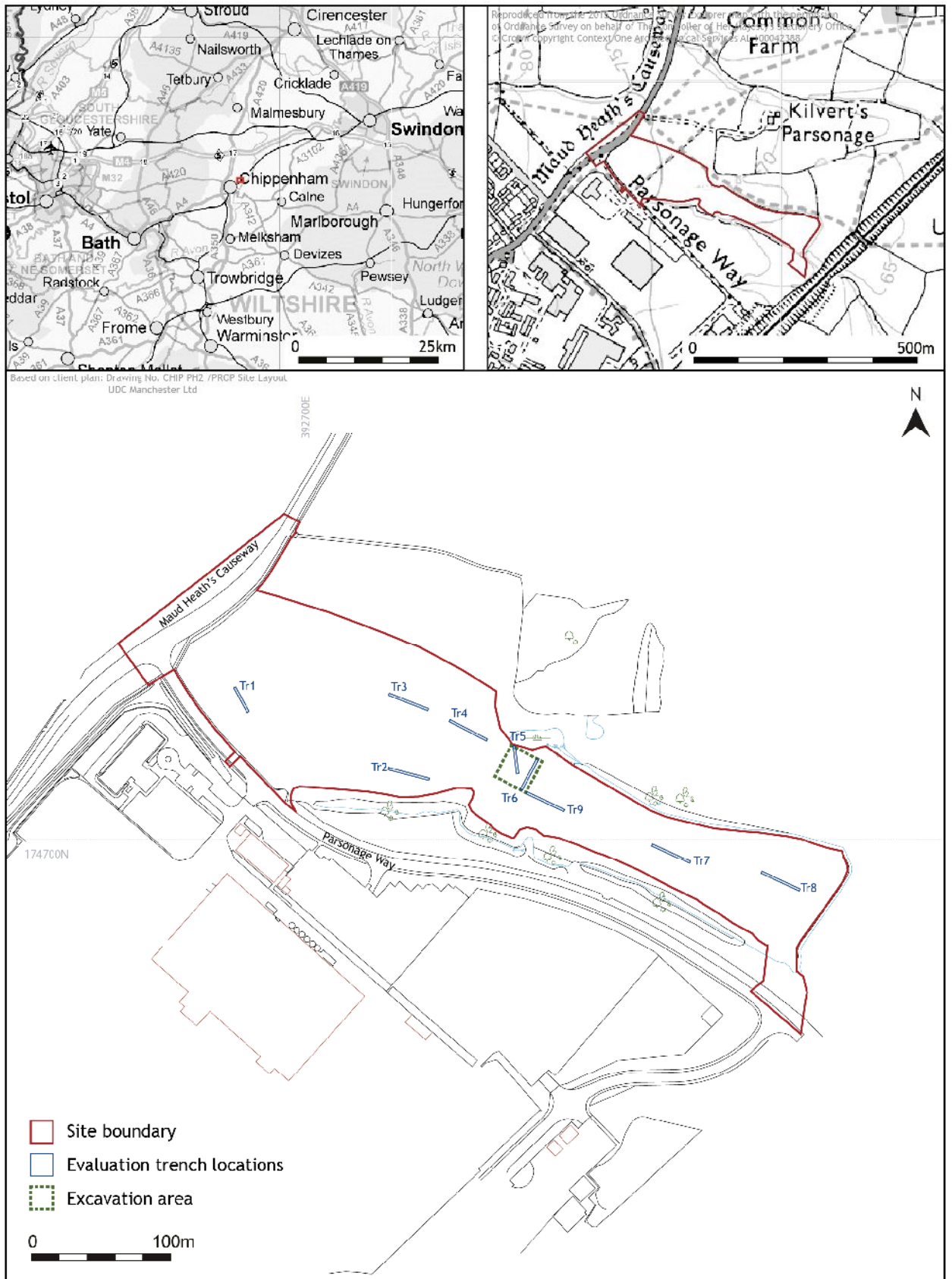


Figure 1. Site setting

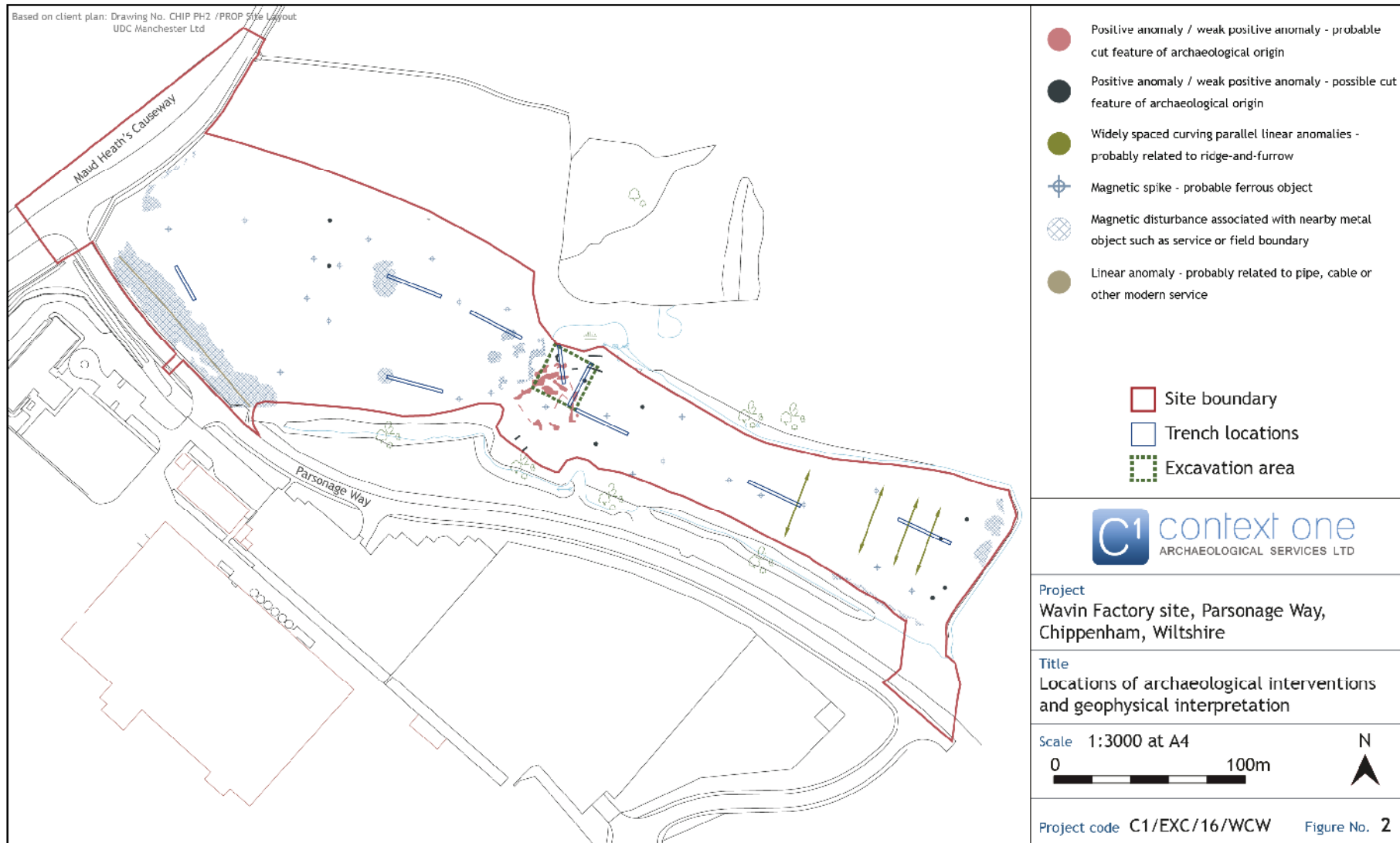


Figure 2. Locations of archaeological interventions and geophysical interpretation

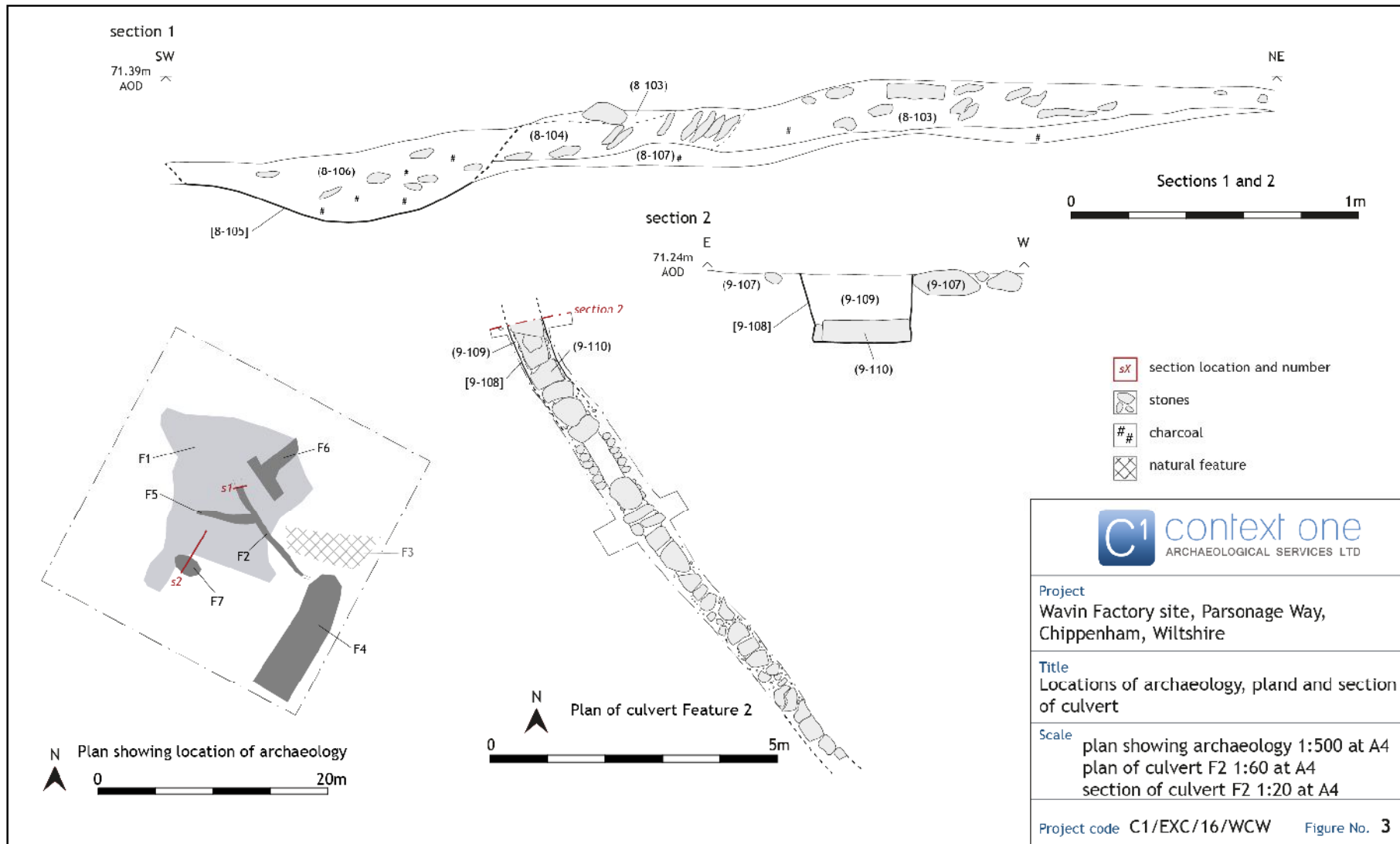


Figure 3. Location, plan and sections of archaeological features

4. Methodology

- 4.1 The programme of archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the codes, standards and guidelines set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), formerly the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) (December 2014). Current Health and Safety legislation and guidelines were followed on site.
- 4.2 The excavation area comprised a 25m x 25m square plot (**Figure 1**) focused on the geophysical survey anomalies identified during the 2015 survey (Slater 2015) and the archaeological features identified through the preceding evaluation works (Prestidge 2015). A 360 degree tracked machine equipped with a 1.60m toothless bucket was used to strip the topsoil layers across the excavation area whereupon hand excavation commenced to reveal the archaeological features.
- 4.3 All trenches were laid out using a TopCon GRS-1 Global Positioning System pre-loaded with Ordnance Survey grid co-ordinates derived from the WSI excavation plan.
- 4.4 Features and slots in the excavation area were cleaned by hand to define the sequence of deposits. All deposits were recorded as individual contexts and ascribed a unique number. A representative section was then recorded using COAS *pro forma* recording sheets in digital format. A digital photograph was also taken of each section. All photographs included an appropriate scale.
- 4.5 All archaeological remains were sampled by manual excavation to establish stratigraphic relationships, recover sufficient artefacts to establish 'absolute' dates, determine feature/deposit morphology and character, and to recover any palaeoenvironmental indicators.
- 4.6 All deposits were recorded as individual contexts and ascribed a unique number. Contexts referenced in this report are presented in standard terms, prefixed with each excavator's unique number, e.g. (1-100), (1-203). Exceptions to this are the topsoil, subsoil and natural which have no prefix.
- 4.7 The location, extent and altitude of archaeological features and deposits were mapped relative to the National Grid and Ordnance Datum using a TopCon GRS-1 Global Positioning System receiving real-time calibrations to produce accuracies of 1-2cm.
- 4.8 A photographic record of the fieldwork comprised digital images in .jpg format. As a minimum, the record included photographs of excavated area, individual features and working shots to illustrate the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 4.9 All finds were removed from Site for processing in preparation for assessment and archiving/discard.
- 4.10 Prior to assessment, all recovered finds, excluding metalwork, were first washed, air-dried and re-bagged. None of the finds required specialist treatment by a conservator. The finds were then separated into artefact types and quantified by context number, quantity and weight in grams. Specialist reports of the artefact assemblages were compiled using both descriptive and tabular formats (see **section 6**).

5. Results

Deposit sequence

- 5.1 Development excavations varied between 0.55m and 0.70m deep and demonstrated a similar deposit sequence across the Site. This comprised a c. 0.20m layer of very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) silty clay topsoil (100) overlying c. 0.25m of brownish yellow (10YR 6/6) silty sand subsoil (101). The natural, which comprised a yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6) silty, sandy clay (102), was encountered at 0.60 - 0.70m below the ground surface. Where the rubble surface (7-103, 8-103, 8-105, 8-107, 8-112, 9-107, 9-112) (Feature 1) was present, a c. 0.10m layer of yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) silty sandy clay (7-102) overlay the surface below the subsoil layer (101).

Archaeological features and deposits

- 5.2 The excavation identified a number of archaeological features across the excavation area. These comprised two large areas of compacted limestone rubble surface (Features 1 and 6), a stone culvert (Feature 2), a shallow ditch (Feature 5) and a shallow pit (Feature 7) (see **Figure 3**). These features were largely concentrated in the centre and north of the excavation area, with evidence of ridge-and-furrow (Feature 4) visible within the section in the south of the Site. A further feature (Feature 3) was originally identified as a ditch during a pre-excavation survey, but was later found to be a natural soil variation and was not recorded.
- 5.3 The rubble surface (7-103, 8-103, 8-105, 8-107, 8-112, 9-107, 9-112) (Feature 1) which had first been observed in the 2015 evaluation trenches, was located at c. 0.55 - 0.60m below the ground surface and comprised a c. 0.10m deep horizontal deposit of angular limestone cobbles (**Plates 1 - 3**). The cobbles sat directly on the natural silty, sandy clay (102) and were sealed with a further layer silty, sandy clay (7-102) which contained the majority of the finds, and appeared to comprise an occupation deposit. A second area of the rubble spread (9-107) (Feature 6) was identified to the east of Feature 1, and although similar in form, was recorded as a separate feature due to being separated from Feature 1 by an area of disturbed ground.
- 5.4 A stone culvert (8-108, 9-108) (Feature 2) was also identified in the centre of the site, bisecting the rubble surface (**Plates 3 - 5**). The feature was curvilinear in shape and had straight sides, a flat base and was constructed of angular limestone slabs. The excavated length of the feature measured c. 9.50m and it averaged c. 0.40m in width. The depth of the feature averaged c. 0.25m, although it started to become deeper towards the western edge of the excavation area, which suggests the direction of the drainage flow. The feature was filled with a silty, sandy clay (9-109), containing some animal bone, and likely the result of silting following the culverts disuse.
- 5.5 A small, shallow east-west oriented ditch (9-105) (Feature 5) was also recorded in the north of the excavation area (**Plates 6 - 7**). The ditch exhibited an irregular shape in plan, had moderately steep sides, and measured c. 0.77m wide and c. 0.14m deep. A terminus intervention (9-103) into the feature was carried out at its western end.
- 5.6 A small, shallow (c. 0.30m deep) pit (8-105) (Feature 7) was identified towards the southern edge of the rubble surface (Feature 1) (**Plate 8**). Whilst the cut of the feature appeared clear in plan, no visible cut was observed adjacent to the edge of Feature 1. The feature does not appear to continue under the rubble surface and no continuation to the south was visible. The fill of the feature (8-106, 8-107) provided an abundance of pottery similar to that found in the layer above the rubble surface. A number of limestone cobbles were also observed within the fill, suggesting that Feature 7 may be contemporary to Feature 1.



Plate 1. The rubble surface (Feature 1) (from N; 1m scales)



Plate 2. The rubble surface (Feature 1) (from NE; 1m scale)



Plate 3. The culvert (Feature 2) crossing the rubble surface (Feature 1) (from SW; 1m scales)



Plate 4. The culvert (Feature 2) (from NE; 1m scale)



Plate 5. The culvert (Feature 2) post-excitation (0.3m scale)



Plate 6. Ditch (Feature 5) pre-excitation (from E; 1m scale)



Plate 7. Section through ditch (Feature 5) (from SE; 1m scale)



Plate 8. Section through pit (Feature 7) (from ESE; 1m and 0.3m scales)

6. The finds

- 6.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the excavation and comprised medieval and post-medieval material including pottery, animal bone, ferrous metal objects, inscribed stone and glass. The majority of these were recovered from the layers directly covering the rubble surface (7-102) (9-102) (8-105) with a further small assemblage, largely comprising pottery and animal bone, recovered from the stone culvert (9-110).

Pottery, by Rachel Hall

- 6.2 A total of 325 sherds weighing 6547g, were recovered from seven layers from the site (see Table 1). The majority of the assemblage comprises Post-medieval wares. A small amount of Late Medieval sherds were also identified. The sherds are all in an abraded condition ranging from fair to poor with an average sherd size of 20.14g.

Late Medieval (AD 1300-1500)

- 6.3 A small amount of calcareous tempered sherds were recovered from culvert [9-108], layers (7-102), (9-102). These are generally unglazed diagnostic sherds including a spout, lugs and abraded body sherds. These are locally made, domestic vessels. A couple of thin walled, darker green glazed sherds were also recovered from layer (9-102). These include a base and plain rim sherd in a reduced, mica fabric. Other body and cordoned rim sherds were recovered from layer (7-102) and ditch [9-105]. These could be 13th century French imports.

Post-Medieval (AD 1500-1799)

- 6.4 The majority of this group comprises sandy, oxidized earthenware fabrics with partial or complete glazing. The glazes are predominantly green, with a smaller amount of yellow and brown recorded. There are several vessel types identified, including open bowls, jugs, pitchers and cooking pots. The limited range and lack of decoration suggest a low status, domestic settlement. The decoration comprises thumbled decoration around base sherds and under jug rims and a small amount of incised swirling lines on open bowl/platter rims. Cordoning on the shoulder or under rims is the main form of decoration identified on many sherds. Many of these plain earthenwares were probably locally sourced but some Verwood Wares from Dorset were also identified.
- 6.5 A single body sherd of trailed slipware was also recovered from layer (7-102), possibly made in Bristol and dates to the 17-18th century.
- 6.6 A small amount of stoneware was also recovered with bases and rims from jugs. Of particular note are two white stoneware sherds recovered from layer (7-102). They are dated to the late 16th-17th century. One sherd comprises a Bellarmine style face pot, the other has incomplete applied/stamped letters, "...RGES". The last letter "S" is actually placed backwards. A single sherd of cobalt blue stoneware was also recovered from this context. These sherds are all dated to the late 16th- 17th century

FEATURE	CONTEXT	FABRIC	DATE	NUMBER	WEIGHT (g)
	U/S	earthenwares	PM	15	169
F1	7-102	sandy	LM	3	38
F1	7-102	earthenwares	LM	191	3573
F1	7-102	stoneware	PM	7	96
F7	8-105	earthenwares	PM	30	1211
F7	8-105	Calcareous	LM	1	11
Layer	9-102	earthenwares	PM	39	766
Layer	9-102	Calcareous	LM	1	36
F5	9-104	earthenwares	PM	7	56
F5	9-106	earthenwares	PM	4	137
F6	9-107	earthenwares	PM	6	76
F2	9-110	Calcareous	LM	17	323
F2	9-110	sandy	LM	1	8
F2	9-110	earthenwares	PM	3	47
TOTAL				325	6547

Table 1. Pottery by Feature, Context, Fabric, Date, Number and Weight (g). PM - Post-medieval; LM (Late Medieval).

Further Work

- 6.7 No further work is required on this assemblage. A small number of sherds can be illustrated if deemed necessary;

1. Incised swirling lines on rim sherd; (7-102). Post-medieval bowl
2. Stoneware face pot and stamp; (7-102). 16-17th century x2 sherds
3. Thumb decorated jug rim sherd; (8-105). Late medieval
4. Thin walled cordoned jug rim; (9-102) Dark green glazed,
5. Unglazed spout; (9-102) Late medieval
6. Unglazed lug/handle (9-110) Late medieval

Animal bone, by Dr Clare Randall (COAS)

- 6.8 The assemblage comprised a total 32 fragments of disarticulated and co-mingled animal bone from three features and an accumulation layer (Table 2). The methods used are provided in the archive. All of the material has been assigned to a single post-medieval phase, the majority of the material from the culvert F2, and the spread over the rubble. The condition of the bone was poor-average to average. However, whilst there were a number of fragments which displayed dog gnawing, and a single burnt fragment, none of the material displayed indications of weathering.

Species	Layer 7-102	F2 Culvert	F5 Ditch	F6 Rubble	Totals
Cattle	3	5		1	9
Sheep/goat	6	1			7
Pig		2			2
Horse				1	1
Cattle Sized	5	2	1		8
S/G sized	1				1
Unidentified	2	2			4
Total	17	12	1	2	32

Table 2. Species abundance by stratigraphic unit

Species and distribution

- 6.9 The species identified were cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse. A few fragments could be assigned to cattle-sized and sheep-sized mammals. Cattle were the most numerous by NISP, with nine fragments to seven sheep/goat fragments, two pig fragments and a single horse tooth. Cattle may have been the most abundant species when the number of cattle size fragments are taken into account (8 fragments compared to only one sheep-sized example). When the minimum number of individuals is considered, both cattle and sheep/goat fragments were contributed by a MNI of two for each species, and both pig and horse a single individual.

Cattle

- 6.10 A total of nine fragments were identified as cattle and eight fragments were from cattle-sized animals. The minimum number of individuals was two, with a minimum of one adult and one juvenile. Aging information is extremely limited, although a single porous fragment and an almost unworn deciduous fourth premolar indicate the presence of young animals; older beasts are represented by fused phalanges and two worn permanent molars. Teeth, axial and limb bones were represented. No butchery or indicators of deliberate fragmentation were noted on cattle bone, but two cattle-sized rib fragments showed cut marks which appear to represent the portioning of ribs. One cattle and three cattle-sized fragments had been gnawed by dogs. Measurements were taken from a single metatarsal which is included in the archive.

Sheep/goat

- 6.11 Seven fragments of sheep/goat bone were identified, one of them positively identified as sheep. A single fragment of sheep-sized mammal bone was also recorded. This material was contributed by a minimum number of two adult animals. Aging data is limited and there were no porous fragments. Two humeri were fused distally, relating to animals over the age of 10 months. A single mandible gave a Grant Mandible Wear Stage of 37, Payne Stage G; a loose third molar would also be consistent with Stage G, 4-6 years of age. A few head and limb elements were represented. There were no examples of butchery but one sheep-sized fragment showed signs of deliberate fragmentation. There were no taphonomic indicators noted, but one humerus was measurable and is included in the archive.

Pig

- 6.12 Two fragments of adult pig bone were recovered from the culvert (F2). A fused ulna related to an animal over the age of 36-42 months. A humerus had been gnawed.

Horse

- 6.13 A single loose horse canine was recovered. This was slightly worn, and tends to indicate a male animal, although these can develop in elderly females.

Comment

- 6.14 This small assemblage confirms the consumption of livestock species in the area, including some evidence for carcase processing. It probably represents domestic consumption. The assemblage is too small to consider methods of husbandry, although there is a hint that cattle were the most abundant species. Both young and older cattle were present, but sheep/goat, pig and horse were only represented by mature animals. It is not possible to consider the distribution of material on the Site, or the representation of elements. Horses were also evidently present, as were dogs; whilst there was no dog bone recovered they evidently had access to discarded bone. This assemblage provides little information with respect to site use or economy, apart from attesting to household consumption. However, the condition of the material and the range of information preserved indicates that locations in the vicinity may be likely to produce bone of suitable quality for analysis. No further work is required on this assemblage.

Metalwork, by Dr Cheryl Green (COAS)

- 6.15 A total of 73 iron (Fe) objects weighing 2205g and a single copper alloy (Cu) object, were recovered from eight contexts from the Site. The objects were examined visually and the results for the Fe objects presented in **Table 3**, while the Cu alloy object is discussed separately below. The function groups used in this report follow Crummy (1983, 5-6).

FEATURE	CONTEXT	QTY	WEIGHT (g)	OBJECT TYPE	DESCRIPTION	FUNCTION GROUP
-	7-102	1	8	Hook	Small rounded hook with broken attachment	Fitting/building /agricultural
-	7-102	1	68	?handle	Elaborately shaped handle-size object, possibly for a window mechanism. Otherwise a piece from an agricultural tool	Fitting/building /agricultural
-	7-102	1	24	Work piece	One end flat & wide, central part round, with other circular end narrowing - resembles a drill bit	Tool
-	7-102	2	52	Strip	Long rectangular strips	Fitting/building /agricultural
-	7-102	1	6	Strip	Small section of rectangular strip	Fitting/building /agricultural
-	7-102	1	22	Buckle	Rectangular buckle with cross-bar	Personal
-	7-102	1	8	Chess piece	Circular disc with figure above - stands upright	Leisure
-	7-102	1	116	Rivet	Square shaft measuring 250mm in length	Fitting/building /agricultural
-	7-102	1	15	Uncertain	Twisted piece with triangular part - possibly from an agricultural tool	Tool/ agricultural
-	7-102	1	39	Strip	Flat strip bent over and terminating twisted, bulbous end	Fitting/building /agricultural
-	7-102	1	34	Blade	Part of elliptical blade with small semi-circular notch - from an agricultural tool	Agricultural
-	7-102	33	260	Nail	Variety of sizes & types with round-headed, flat-headed & square-headed	Fitting/building /agricultural
-	7-102	7	76	Rivet	Square-profiled rivets of varying sizes	Fitting/building /agricultural

1	8-103	1	29	Buckle	Rectangular buckle with cross-bar & pin	Personal
7	8-105	2	22	Nails	One has a head but too corroded to decipher form	Fitting/building /agricultural
7	8-105	1	41	Rod	Flat rod with triangular end at one end attached to flat side	Tool
-	9-102	2	50	Strip	L-shaped long rectangular strips	Fitting/building /agricultural
-	9-102	2	43	Hook	Larger hook has round attachment plate possibly with central hole (corroded) extending into rounded hook with pointed end. The other is a small hook with rounded end	Fitting/building /agricultural
-	9-102	1	16	Bolt	Round-headed with square shaft	Fitting/building /agricultural
-	9-102	2	22	Rivets	Rivets	Fitting/building /agricultural
-	9-102	1	9	Nail	Round-headed	Fitting/building /agricultural
-	9-102	1	1	Blade	Tip of triangular blade	Tool
5	9-104	2	11	Nail	Round-headed x 1; flat-headed x 2	Fitting/building /agricultural
5	9-106	1	5	Nail	Shaft only	Fitting/building /agricultural
5	9-106	1	45	Rivet	Long rectangular flat rivet	Fitting/building /agricultural
5	9-106	1	1064	Weight	Rectangular base with handle of square-profile. The handle rises upwards from one end of the base and slopes down to meet the other end of the base. Possible a weight	Tool
6	9-107	1	11	Nail	Flat-headed	Fitting/building /agricultural
2	9-110	1	77	Uncertain	Rectangular flat-sided piece	Uncertain
2	9-110	1	31	Hoop	Hoop/ collar measuring 30mm diameter. Possible pipe joint fixing	Fitting/building /agricultural
TOTAL					73	2205g

Table 3. Fe by Feature, Context, Quantity, Weight (g) & type

- 6.16 The majority of the Fe objects came from a post-medieval occupation deposit 7-102, with most of the items identified as fittings (rivets, nails, strips, a hook and a handle) which either derived from a building/s or from agricultural practices. One item is identified as a tool (possibly a drill bit from a hand drill) and two other pieces may be fragments of an agricultural tool. There is also a personal item in the form of a buckle, and a small object that appears to be a chess piece. Another buckle complete with pin was recovered from cobbled surface 8-103. The remaining objects recovered from contexts 8-105 (x 2), 9-102 (x 8), 9-104 (x 2), 9-106 (x 2), 9-107 (x 1) and 9-110 (x 1) are dominated by fittings (rivets, nails, strips, a hook, a bolt and a hoop) which either derived from a building/s or from agricultural practices. The remaining objects comprise a tool from context 8-105, a tip of a blade from context 9-102, and a weight with a handle from context 9-106.
- 6.17 The single Cu alloy object comes from context 9-107 (Feature 6) and is part of a buckle weighing 3.6g. The fragment represents one end of a square buckle, with the stub of the central cross bar remaining, and is crudely decorated with pairs of diagonally incised lines at irregular intervals. It is similar in form to post-medieval buckles and is likely to date to this period.

Discussion and Recommendations

- 6.18 The assemblage is consistent in date with the post-medieval dates attributed to the contexts from which the material was recovered. The items are dominated by fittings either associated with a building/s or agricultural activity (perhaps from an agricultural building), with several tool fragments and also a couple of personal dress items (buckles) and a leisure item (the supposed chess piece). Some of the more diagnostic objects, such as the buckles, would be more closely dateable following specialist analyses should this be deemed necessary.

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Glass, by Dr Rachel Tyson

- 6.19 Fourteen fragments of glass were submitted for assessment. They came from three contexts (7-102, 9-102 and 9-106) plus one unstratified fragment. All were in relatively good condition from post-medieval potash glass vessels of different shades of green or blue glass. They have been catalogued and given temporary reference numbers for the purpose of this report.
- 6.20 The majority of the fragments are from drinking vessels. A complete base circumference (G4), and two body fragments (G5), come from blue-green cylindrical beakers with thin-cut trailing dating to the late 16th to mid-17th century (Willmott 2002, 41). On the complete base there is also an applied base ring decorated with rigaree trailing. This style of beaker, a lower quality version of a colourless form that originated in the Low Countries, was quite common and likely to have been made on furnace sites across England (Willmott 2002, 40-41). For example, fragments were found at the furnace site at Rosedale in North Yorkshire which was archaeomagnetically dated to the end of the 16th century (Charleston 1972, 132, 137, nos 18-22), and at a furnace site of similar date at Woodchester near Stroud (*ibid.*, 137). Cylindrical beakers are shown in Dutch paintings and described in documents as having been used for ale or beer (Willmott 2002, 36).
- 6.21 Six fragments come from pedestal bases (G1, G8, G9, G11, G12), most likely to come from pedestal beakers, which have a tall foot that is folded underneath and pushed up to form a kick, leaving a double-folded thickness and a hollow base rim (Willmott 2002, 45-50). G8 appears to flare inwards a little more to form a narrower stem and may come from a pedestal goblet (Willmott 2002, 68-9), although the base rim is irregular and the diameter is not certain. G11 has optic-blown wrythen ribs visible on the foot, which would have continued on the body; while the remaining fragments show no decoration, it may have been present higher up the vessels. Pedestal beakers also date to the second half of the 16th century and 1st half of the 17th century, and were made on English furnace sites including Rosedale and Hutton in North Yorkshire, Haughton Green and Kimmeridge (although also made in the Low Countries). They were the most commonly used glass drinking vessel at this date and likely to have held beer (Willmott 2002, 45-6).
- 6.22 A small section of green glass shows the central join of a relatively narrow vessel with a separately attached foot (G10). This could have been a drinking vessel such as a 'fluted beaker', a tall narrow beer beaker again dating to the late 16th to early 17th century, which sometimes had a separately joined foot (Willmott 2002, 50-1), although green glass examples are scarce. Known finds of this type appear to have been imported from the Low Countries, northern Germany or Scandinavia, and they are relatively rare in England (Willmott 2002, 50-51). However, these examples are not green, and it is possible that green versions were made in England although lacking in the archaeological record.
- 6.23 A slightly inturned greenish rim fragment with an optic-blown design (G6) is also likely to come from a 16th to early 17th-century type of drinking beaker. The optic-blown design on the Chippenham rim fragment is not one of the most common designs; it is similar to the pattern seen on a footed beaker of the first half of the 16th century from Maastricht, thought to have been made in the Netherlands or northern France (Henkes 1994, 100, 24.3). A smaller rim fragment has a similar optic-blown design with a V-shape visible, which could come from more than one known design of similar 16th-century date.
- 6.24 A rim of green-blue glass with a rim diameter of only c. 25mm (G2) probably comes from a case bottle or flask. Case bottles had flattened sides and had the advantage that they could be packed

efficiently into available space for transport. Case bottles and cylindrical flasks were made on English furnace sites in the late 16th and 17th centuries (Willmott 2002, 97-88); case bottles were also exported from the Low Countries containing spirits such as brandy or gin (Henkes 1994, 241-3).

- 6.25 One small flat greenish fragment was found, 2.6 - 2.8mm thick (G3). While it is possible that this is window glass it may equally be the flat side of bottle such as a case bottle (Willmott 2002, 87-88).
- 6.26 All of these vessels can all be associated with drinking, either as different types of drinking beakers for ale or beer, or in the case of the bottle/flask neck likely to have held alcohol. In the course of the 16th century glass vessels changed from being a rare luxury restricted to the richest in society, to a more commonly produced commodity that filtered further down the social scale (Willmott 2002, 31-32). William Harrison in his *Description of England* in 1587 remarked that while the richest in society preferred Venetian glass to gold and silver, ‘...The poorest also will have glass if they may; but sith the Venetian is somewhat too deer for them, they content themselves with such that are made at home of fern and burned stone’ (Harrison 1994, 128). This refers to the potash or forest glass made in English glasshouses such as Rosedale and Hutton in North Yorkshire, Woodchester near Stroud, and the Surrey/Sussex Weald. Many of the glassmakers on English sites were immigrants from the Low Countries in the later 16th century, so it can be difficult to differentiate between local and imported glass of similar types. While the archaeological record does not suggest that the ‘poorest’ in society had glass, excavations show a great increase amongst urban populations of reasonable means.

Recommendations

- 6.27 This glass is datable and known to have been relatively common amongst the urban ‘middling types’ in the late 16th and early 17th centuries, although there are some less common types among it that require a little more research. The author is not aware of any glass of a similar (or earlier) date from Chippenham, making it significant in a local context. In a national context it is an interesting and relatively well-preserved small group of a ‘middling sort’ in a provincial town.

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Inscribed stone, by Orlando Prestidge and Raquel Lopez

- 6.29 Three pieces of inscribed slate were recovered from the layer (7-102) directly overlying the compacted rubble surface (Feature 1). The slates weighed a total of 53.6g and measured a minimum of 3.5cm wide and a maximum of 6.5cm wide. The slates featured inscriptions, scratched into the surface, that comprised stylised animal imagery, other figures and shapes and a number of horizontal and vertical tally marks (Plates 9 - 12). Due to the simple nature of the inscriptions, the slates are thought to be late medieval or post-medieval in date and likely the work of a child.



Plate 9. Stylised animal imagery on slate



Plate 10. Tally marks and amorphous figure on slate



Plate 11. Tally marks on slate



Plate 12. Tally marks on slate

7. Discussion

- 7.1 Following the 2015 evaluation works, where a small number of medieval and post-medieval features were recorded, the excavation works exposed a large area of the limestone rubble surface, as well as revealing a previously unknown stone-built culvert. The works also revealed an area of ridge-and-furrow and a shallow ditch and pit. Pottery dating from between the 13th and 15th century, recovered from the layer directly above the rubble surface, dated the feature to the late medieval period, and similar pottery from within the fill of the culvert dated the feature similarly. The culvert bisected the rubble surface layer and appears to have been constructed integrally to the surface, likely indicating that they were of a contemporary construction.
- 7.2 The shallow ditch was located to the eastern edge of the rubble surface and appeared to be of a later construction, cutting the surface itself. The shallow pit abutted the rubble surface to the south and did not appear to carry on underneath. Pottery and other domestic refuse recovered from both features dated them to the post-medieval period.
- 7.3 A small assemblage of 325 pottery sherds were recovered from the Site, with the majority of the comprising post-medieval wares. A small amount of late medieval sherds were recovered from the fills of the rubble surface and the culvert, the most notable of these consisting of possible 13th century French imports. Assessment of the animal bone has revealed that the main livestock species were represented, with both young and older cattle present, and evidence of butchery. This was apparently a domestic assemblage. Post-medieval bottle glass (mostly from drinking vessels) was also recovered, with some of the glass likely dating to the late 16th century, and probably imported from the low countries, which is of interest. Three fragments of inscribed slate from the layer above the rubble surface are likely to be post-medieval in date. The metalwork assemblage is consistent with domestic and/ or agricultural activity, with several tool fragments and also a couple of personal dress items (buckles) and a leisure item (the supposed chess piece).

The slate was notable due having been inscribed with depictions of animals, figures and with tally marks, possibly the work of children.

8. Conclusion and Recommendation

- 8.1 The excavation has revealed the full extent of the rubble surface identified during the evaluation and located a stone-built culvert, which is probably contemporary with the surface. A shallow post-medieval pit and a ditch were also identified. An area of ridge-and-furrow in the south of the Site, corresponding with undulations visible on the surface of the field, was also observed. Late medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from the culvert and the level above the rubble surface, dating the use of the features to between the 14th and 18th century. The purpose of the rubble surface is uncertain, but it may have formed part of an area of agricultural hard-standing or a trackway put in place to allow movement of people and animals across a low-lying area. The presence of the pottery, butchered animal bone, glass fragments (including imported items) and iron objects within the layer above the rubble surface and culvert indicate an extended period of settlement in the vicinity from the medieval period onwards.
- 8.2 Whilst the archaeological features observed were not particularly substantial, the Site has provided an assemblage of artefacts, in particular the glass, which are interesting at a regional scale and a useful addition to our knowledge of the period in the area. It is therefore recommended that a short article should be prepared for publication in the county journal, focussing on the unusual finds. This should include specialist analysis of the few metal objects identified above as suitable for further examination, illustration of the medieval ceramics, and illustration and discussion of the glass as outlined by the specialist. The additional work would also be incorporated into a final grey literature report.

9. Archive

- 9.1 An ordered and integrated site archive has been prepared to comply with guidelines set out in *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 2001) and *Standards in the Museums Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museum and Galleries Commission 1992) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England 2015).

- 9.2 The project archive is currently held by COAS and consists of the following:

Item	Number	Format
Context record sheets	8	.PDF
Feature record sheets	10	.PDF
Drawings	8	Permatrace
Digital images	161	.JPG

- 9.3 The paper archive has been scanned as a single file in .PDF format and will form part of the physical Site archive to be deposited with Salisbury Museum.
- 9.4 Copies of this report will be deposited with the client/agent and included as part of the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record. A digital copy of the report will also be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service, via OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations - <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>). The OASIS entry will also be completed to include details of the archive contents.

10. COAS acknowledgements

- 10.1 We would like to thank the following for their contribution to the successful completion of this project:

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Appendix 1: Context summary

CONTEXT NO.	FEATURE	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	EARLIER THAN	CONTEMP . WITH	LATER THAN	LENGTH	WIDTH/ DIAMETER	THICKNESS/ DEPTH
100	NA	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown silty clay.	-	-	101	-	-	0.20m
101	NA	Modern	Layer	Subsoil. Brownish yellow silty, sandy clay.	100	-	103	-	-	0.30m
102	NA	Natural	Layer	Natural. Yellowish brown silty, sandy clay.	101	-	NA	-	-	0.10m
7-102	Layer	Post-med	Fill	Dark grey brown sandy silt. Layer over cobbles.	101	-	7-103	20.0m	10.0m	0.20m
8-103	F1	Post-med	Deposit	Horizontally deposited layer of rounded limestone cobbles.	101	-	102	-	-	-
9-102	NA	Post-med	Layer	Layer above cobbles	101		8-103			
9-103	F5	Post-med	Cut	Terminus intervention into ditch [9-105].	9-104	-	102	0.50m	0.39m	0.13m
8-104	F1	Post-med	Deposit	Area of pitched angular limestone cobbles.	103	-	103, 8-107	3.20m	2.50m	0.10m
9-104	F5	Post-med	Fill	Dark greyish brown, silty clay fill of [9-105]. Contained frequent charcoal inclusions and sherds of post-medieval pottery.	101	-	9-103	0.50m	0.39m	0.13m
8-105	F7	Post-med	Cut	Irregular shaped shallow pit, with gently sloping convex sides and a flat base. E-W orientation.	8-106	-	102	-	-	-
9-105	F5	Post-med	Cut	Small, shallow E-W orientated ditch. Irregular shape in plan with moderately steep sides.	9-106	-	102	0.54m	0.77m	0.14m
8-106	F7	Post-med	Fill	Dark brown silt and fine sand fill, covering [8-105]	101	-	8-105	-	-	-
9-106	F5	Post-med	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay fill of [9-105]. Frequent charcoal inclusions.	101	-	9-105	0.54m	0.77m	0.14m
8-107	F7	Post-med	Deposit	Horizontally deposited layer of angular limestone cobbles.	101	9-104	103	-	-	-
9-107	F6	Post-med	Deposit	Unsorted layer of angular limestone rubble, stones frequently lying flat.	101	-	102	-	-	-
8-108	F2	Post-med	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated linear feature comprising straight sides, flat base and covered with limestone slabs. Culvert.	8-110	9-108	102	9.00m	0.40m	0.25m
9-108	F2	Post-med	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated linear feature comprising straight sides, flat base and covered with limestone slabs. Culvert.	9-109	8-108	102	9.00m	0.40m	0.25m
8-109	F2	Post-med	Fill	Yellowish brown silty, sandy clay. Fill of culvert cut [8-108].	101	9-109	8-108	9.00m	0.40m	0.25m
9-109	F2	Post-med	Fill	Yellowish brown silty, sandy clay. Fill of culvert cut [9-108].	101	8-109	9-108	9.00m	0.40m	0.25m
8-110	F2	Post-med	Fill	Yellowish brown silt sand and trace clay with frequent bioturbation. Separate from culvert cut and possibly representative of subsoil.	101	-	8-108	-	-	0.15m
9-110	F2	Post-med	Deposit	Flat limestone blocks of culvert [9-108].	9-109	-	9-110	9.00m	0.40m	0.25m

CONTEXT NO.	FEATURE	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	EARLIER THAN	CONTEMP . WITH	LATER THAN	LENGTH	WIDTH/ DIAMETER	THICKNESS/ DEPTH
9-111	F2	Post-med	Fill	Greyish brown silty, sandy clay. Re-deposited natural within the culvert, containing some animal bone.	-	-	9-110	0.50m	0.15m	0.17m
8-112	NA	Post-med	Deposit	Horizontally deposited layer of angular limestone cobbles.	8-113	9-112	103	3.65m	1.20m	0.20m
9-112	NA	Post-med	Deposit	Limestone rubble layer located at E end of culvert, seen in section and plan.	101	8-112	102	-	-	-
8-113	NA	Post-med	Fill	Horizontally deposited layer of silty sandy clay	101	9-113	8-112	3.65m	1.20m	0.05
9-113	NA	Post-med	Fill	Fill above rubble layer [9-112]	101	8-112	9-112	-	-	-